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COVER

Giant bladder kelp, Macrocystis pyrifera. Marine plants and animals, as well
as other organisms that encounter water stress, utilize a small number of
organic molecules as the dominant intracellular osmolyte agents ("osmo-
lytes"). Polyhydric alcohols, amino acids and their derivatives, urea, and
methylamines are the major osmolytes in virtually all water-stressed species
except the halophilic bacteria. The selective advantages of these organic
osmolyte systems include the establishment of a cellular microenvironment
compatible with macromolecular structure and function. See page 1214.
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