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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 osmotic agents ("osmolytes"). 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, [Craig Cary, Scripps Institution of
Oceanography, La Jolla, California 92037]
Editor's Summary

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