

Mycorrhizal specificity of non-green plants – the *Thismia* example

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Abstract

Some mycoheterotrophic plants have been shown to be extremely specialized towards narrow lineages of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. However, extreme Mycorrhizal specificity has never been examined over the entire distribution range of a plant species and in relation to the surrounding vegetation. *Thismia* in Australia (and New Zealand) provides an interesting example to study this in detail: (1) *Thismia* is a potential mycorrhizal specialist; (2) it is relatively common and widespread, so many populations can be sampled; (3) it occurs in habitats with relatively low plant diversity.

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