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Microcommunities of algae on a *Sphagnum* mat

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The algal epiphytes of three species of *Sphagnum* from the mat edge of an acid bog were quantitatively sampled over three months. On the basis of differences in total algal abundance, algal diversity, and the growth of certain algal species and species groups, two significantly different algal communities were recognized. While these communities were only centimeters apart, they differed in physical, biological and nutrient parameters, with lower, moister plots having more algae, higher algal diversity, and lower concentrations of phosphate, ammonium, and silicate ions.

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