

# Colonisation and growth strategies in two *Codium* species (Bryopsidales, Chlorophyta) with different thallus forms

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In clonal macroalgae, evidence of guerrilla and phalanx growth strategies has been related to a differential response due to a heterogeneous habitat. However, some species of the green algal genus *Codium* may exhibit different growth strategies at different times of their development. Since the crustose species *C. bernabei* and the erect *C. fragile* had different thallus forms as well as ecological and geographic distributions, we used them to test the idea that despite morphological and growth differences, both species exhibited a similar propagation strategy. We cultured, under controlled conditions, individuals of both species to determine, first, if isolated utricles can function as propagation units; second, the type of growth at different stages of development; and, third, if species show differences in specific growth rate. Our results indicated that isolated utricles could be used for propagation because they had the ability to regenerate young mat-forming thalli in both species.