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PII: S1439-1791(17)30228-1
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.baae.2018.03.002
Reference: BAAE 51094

To appear in:

Received date: 21-7-2017
Accepted date: 2-3-2018

Please cite this article as: { https://doi.org/

PopBio 2017 Special Feature

No evidence for nutrient foraging in root-sprouting clonal plants

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Abstract

Clonality is defined as vegetative reproduction via the production of ramets, which are, at least initially, connected by spacers. In general, there are three types of spacers of two origins. Whereas stolons are aboveground spacers, rhizomes are belowground spacers; however, both of stem origin. The third type of spacers are roots in root-sprouting plants. The possibility of foraging in clonal plants has attracted broad interest among ecologists but has been experimentally documented only for stoloniferous clonal plants foraging for light. Foraging for belowground resources has yet to be demonstrated, perhaps because tests of foraging have focused on clonal plants that spread laterally via stolons or rhizomes, i.e. stem