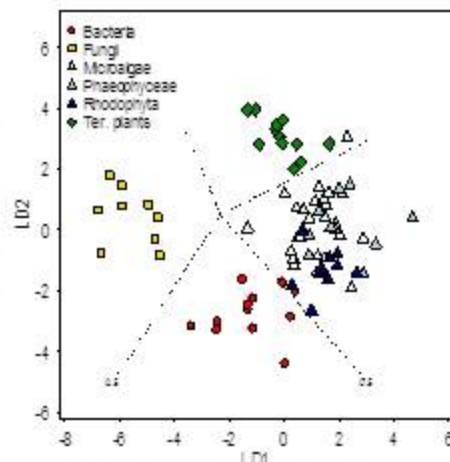


Characterizing trophic links in pelagic ecosystems with stable isotope fingerprinting of amino acids



Early life oceanic squid caught in the Sargasso Sea during RV *Maria S Merian* cruise MSM 41 in April 2015



Linear discriminant function analysis based on $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{EAA}}$ values (Larsen et al., 2013)

Isotope fingerprinting of amino acids can be used to assign biosynthetic origins of algae, bacteria, fungi and plants based on naturally occurring $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variability among essential amino acids. This approach is particularly suited for tracing food sources in situ or for identifying and quantifying symbiotic supplementation of nutrients to host. In a recent project we will apply this to the micro-nektonic community of the Sargasso Sea, focusing on early life stages of cephalopods.

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