

Models of photosynthetic membranes modified by selective pigment extraction

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Some organic solvents can selectively remove certain carotenoids and other pigments from the complexes in dry PVA films. Such film is a good model of photosynthetic membranes. The effects of pigment extraction can be seen in room as well as low temperature spectra. Absorption, fluorescence excitation and fluorescence emission spectra of photosynthetic complexes before and after treatment were measured. Pigments extracted by different solvents may also be measured by HPLC technique. Such modified membranes are very useful for pigment-pigment and pigment-protein interaction studies in the light-harvesting photosynthetic complexes of different plants.