

**HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS AND SUGAR TRANSPORT IN PLANTS: AN
ECOLOGICAL SCALING PERSPECTIVE**

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Research on phloem transport has seen a resurgence in recent years, partly for the interest of this topic in the context of ecological research on the carbon transfer from plants to soil and partly because of recent methodological and conceptual advances.

I will highlight some of the most important underlying themes of these current research efforts with an emphasis on showing the integrative nature of xylem and phloem transport, which act as natural message conveyor belts between sources and sinks of water and carbon in the plant.