Interesting facts (about characteristics of seaweed)

1. What are the characteristics of seaweed?

Seaweed are not plants; they come under algae. They are classified as red algae (**Rhodophyta**), green algae (**Chlorophyta**), and brown algae (**Phaeophyta**). Parts such as roots, leaves, and stems are absent in seaweed. They have a stalked organ that helps them with the attachment of objects such as rocks. They have laminae in place of leaves that help in photosynthesis. Stipes, which are a stem-like part, help them with support. They also have an air-filled bladder, called a pneumatocyst, that helps them float on the water surface. They suck up nutrients and water from the surrounding environment by using their entire surface and carry out photosynthesis. Their size varies according to species, habitat, and structure. A habitat that is enriched with nutrients supports high growth, while a structure that helps foster support is also responsible for high growth. Generally, their size varies between 30 and 50 meters, while some species can develop up to 200 meters. Species such as Macrocystis pyrifera (brown algae) can reach up to 60 meters, while Nereocystis can reach up to 30 meters and Ascophyllum nodosum can reach up to a height of 2 meters. There are about 12000 species of seaweed.

2. What are the unique properties of seaweed?

There are some unique features of seaweed that distinguish it from terrestrial plants. It has incredibly fast growth and can develop without requirements such as freshwater, fertilizer, and pesticides that are essential for terrestrial plants to thrive properly. Although they look like plants, they are not true plants. Seaweed creates forests for underwater life.

3. What is the lifespan of seaweed?

The lifespan of seaweed varies from species to species. Other factors, such as nutrients, environment, and light, also affect their lifespan. Generally, most species have a lifespan of about 7 to 15 years. Species such as Sargassum can live 3 to 4 years, while coralline algae are able to live for a decade.

References

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