



Box plot of juvenile (a) and intermediate (b) leaf number in *P. oceanica* shoots.

Figure 2S, Supplementary data.

The non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was performed to verify the presence of significant differences in number of juvenile and intermediate leaves among the three sampling location (North, Centre and South). The test highlighted significant differences in the number of juvenile ($p < 0.001$) and intermediate ($p < 0.001$) leaves. Following Kruskal-Wallis results, the Mann-Whitney post hoc pairwise comparison test was performed; it highlighted the lowest values of the juvenile leaf number and, at the same time, the highest values of the intermediate leaf number in the central area (Centre) compared to the other two location.

The adult leaves number had no significant differences among the different locations (Kruskal-Wallis, $p = 0.0525$).