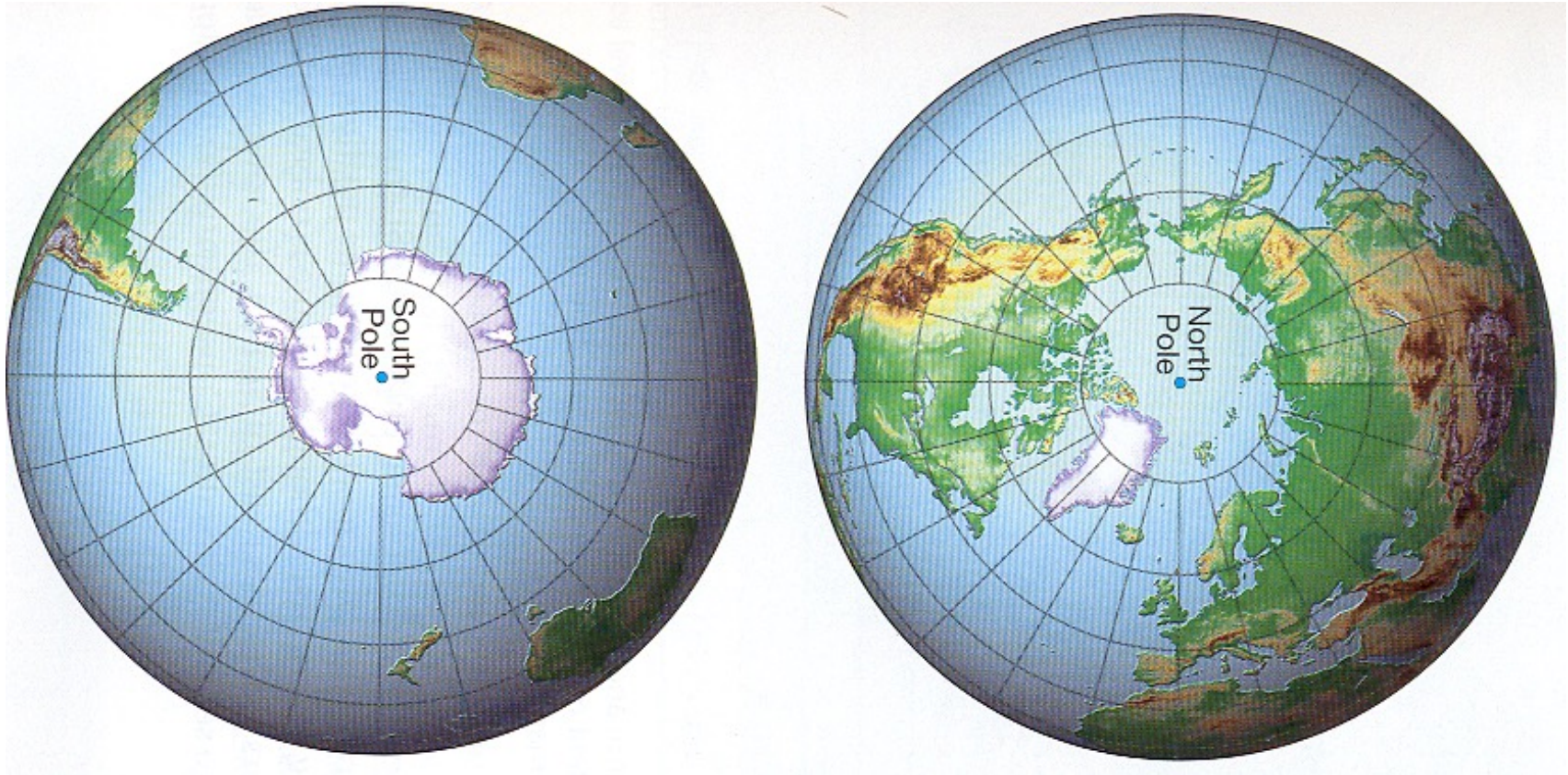
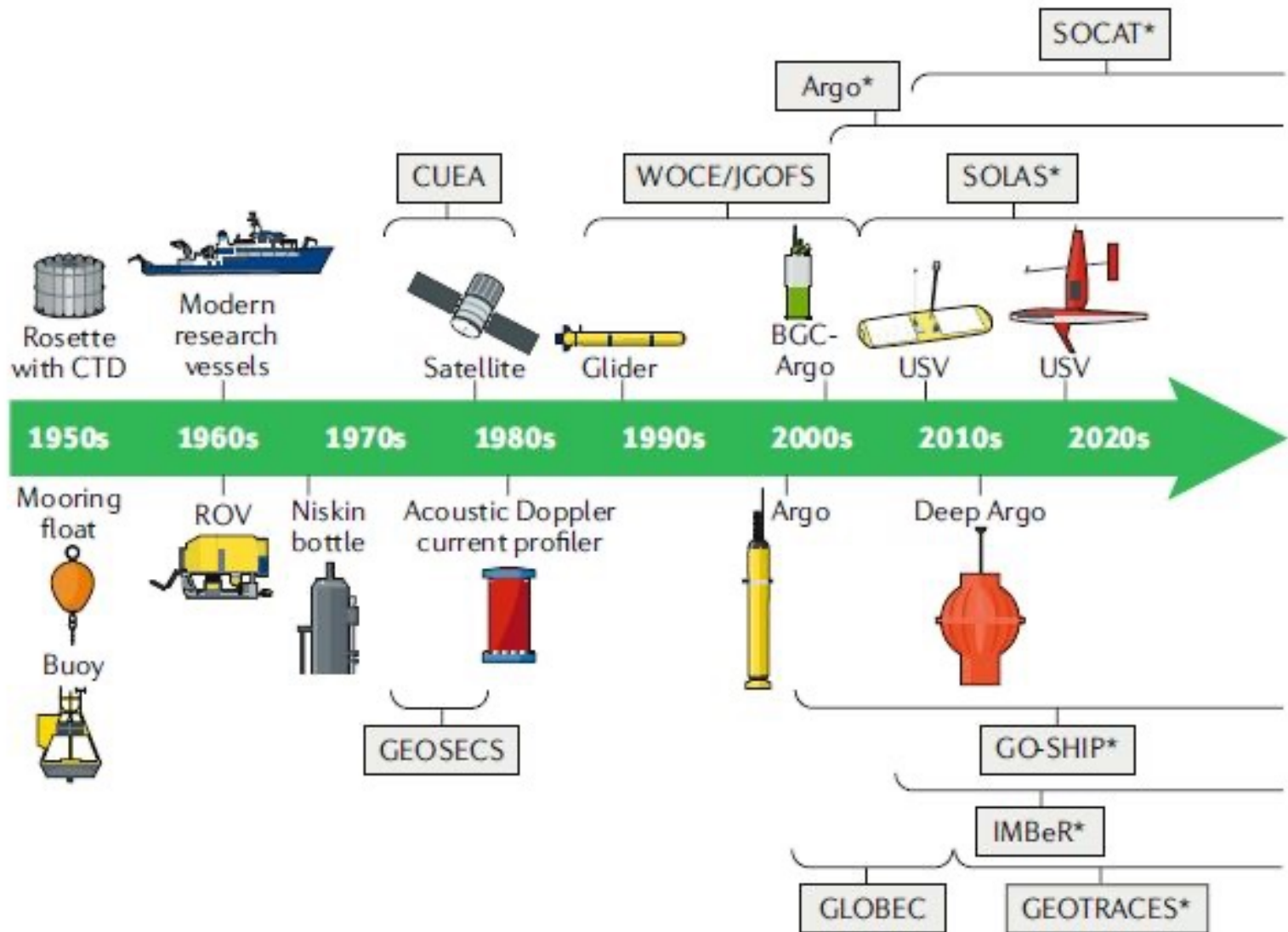


What is the color of phytoplankton ecology?



Aurea Maria Ciotti – ciotti@usp.br
Centro de Biologia Marinha da USP ([CEBIMar](#) – click to find me)

Plataforms to observe the biogeochemistry of the oceans



Changes in ocean color by “*phytoplankton*”

- O₂ -50%-, major global biogeochemical player, climate, HABs
- Base of marine food webs.
- VIP – very importante processes / products

Typical values 10 to 60 mg C m⁻³ or 1 to 2 g C m⁻²

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = C \cdot \underbrace{(P + M - R)}_{\text{Carbon-specific carbon acquisition by photosynthesis \& mixotrophy, less respiratory costs}} - \underbrace{G}_{\text{Loss by grazing}} + \frac{d}{dz} \left(k^z \frac{dC}{dz} \right) + \frac{d(w_s C)}{dz}$$

Bottom-up Top-down Loss due to sinking

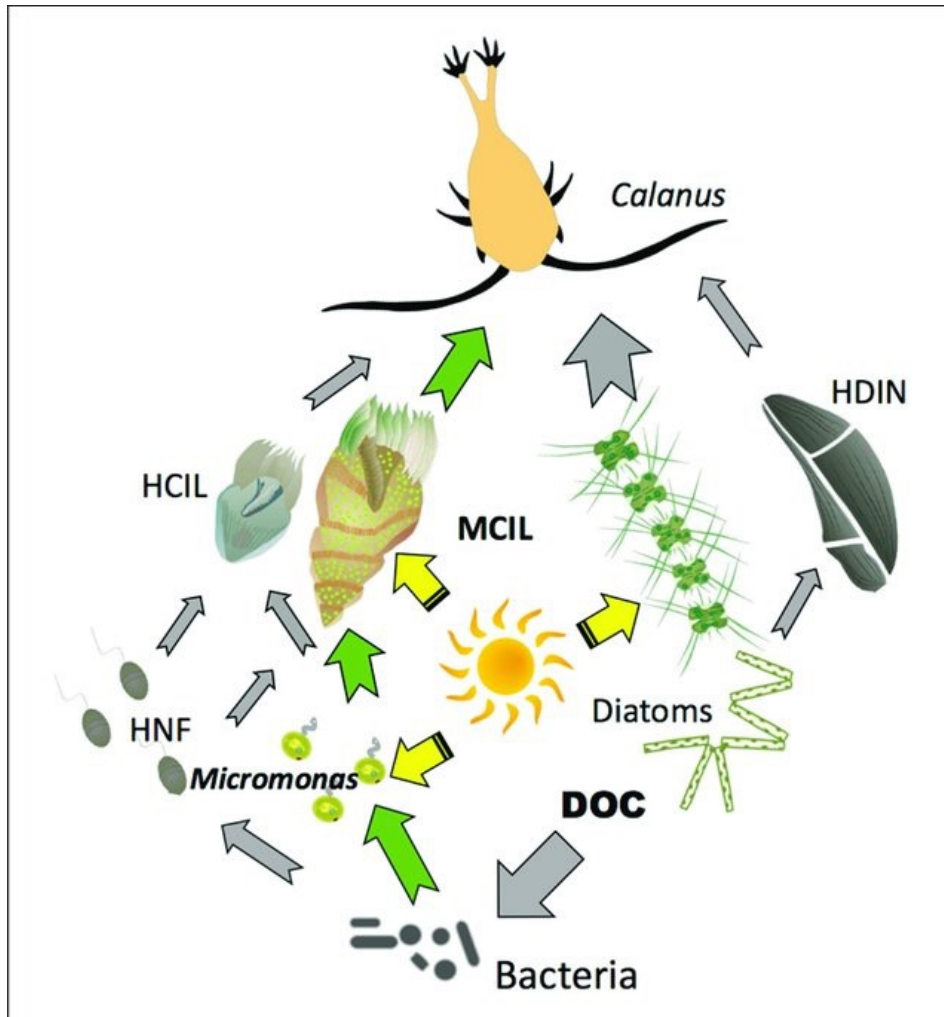
Standing stock Gain/loss due to mixing

Rate of change in cell carbon → Loss by grazing

Modified of Riley, Stommel and Bumpus (1949)

Typical values 10 to 100 mg C m⁻³ d⁻¹ or 100 to 1000 mg C m⁻² d⁻¹

Dichotomy “phytoplankton” and “microzooplankton”



Microbial loop

FIGURE 3 | Conceptual model of Arctic food web with mixotrophy. Yellow arrows indicate flow of energy from the sun to photosynthetic organisms (autotrophs and mixotrophs); Gray arrows indicate flow of carbon to heterotrophs; Green arrows indicate major pathways of carbon flow to or from mixotrophs. HCIL, Strictly heterotrophic ciliates; MCIL, Mixotrophic ciliates; HNF, Heterotrophic nanoflagellates; DOC, Dissolved organic carbon; HDIN, Heterotrophic dinoflagellates.

Mixotrophy

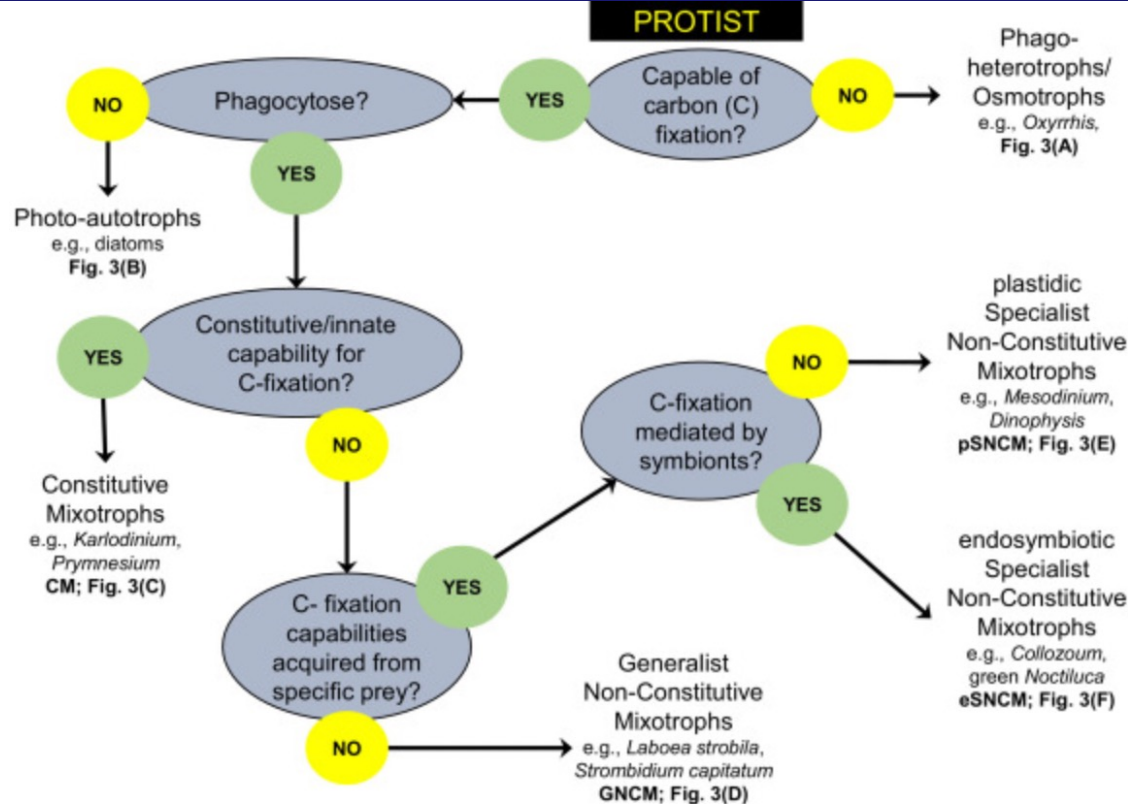
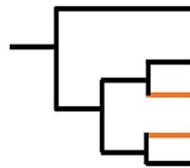
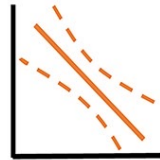
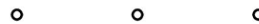


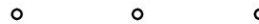
Fig. 1 Summary of our outlined mixoplankton and phago-mixotrophy research priorities. Icons by Holly Moeller.



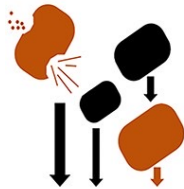
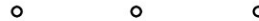
Evolution of Mixoplankton: Phago-mixotrophy has arisen in many lineages across the tree of life, studying its evolution can reveal common ecological selection pressures and evolutionary constraints that shape the history and future of mixotrophs.



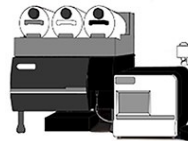
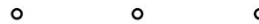
Phago-Mixotrophy Trade Offs: To understand why cells are not all mixoplankton, we need to unveil the mechanisms and dynamic tradeoffs between the traits that determine photoautotrophy and phagotrophy under different aquatic conditions.



Biogeography and Ecological Determinants of Phago-Mixotrophy: Collecting and synthesizing observations of mixoplankton and phago-mixotrophy will expand our understanding of the ecological and physicochemical controls on biogeography.



Biogeochemistry and Trophic Transfer: The need to understand the role of mixoplankton as conduits of energy and nutrients, in terms of both their own growth and their impacts on, and contributions to, lower and higher trophic levels.



In situ Detection of Phago-Mixotrophy: Improved quantification of mixoplankton abundance, rates of grazing, rates of photosynthesis in the field.

[Millette et al., 2023](#)

Diazotrophic cyanobacteria

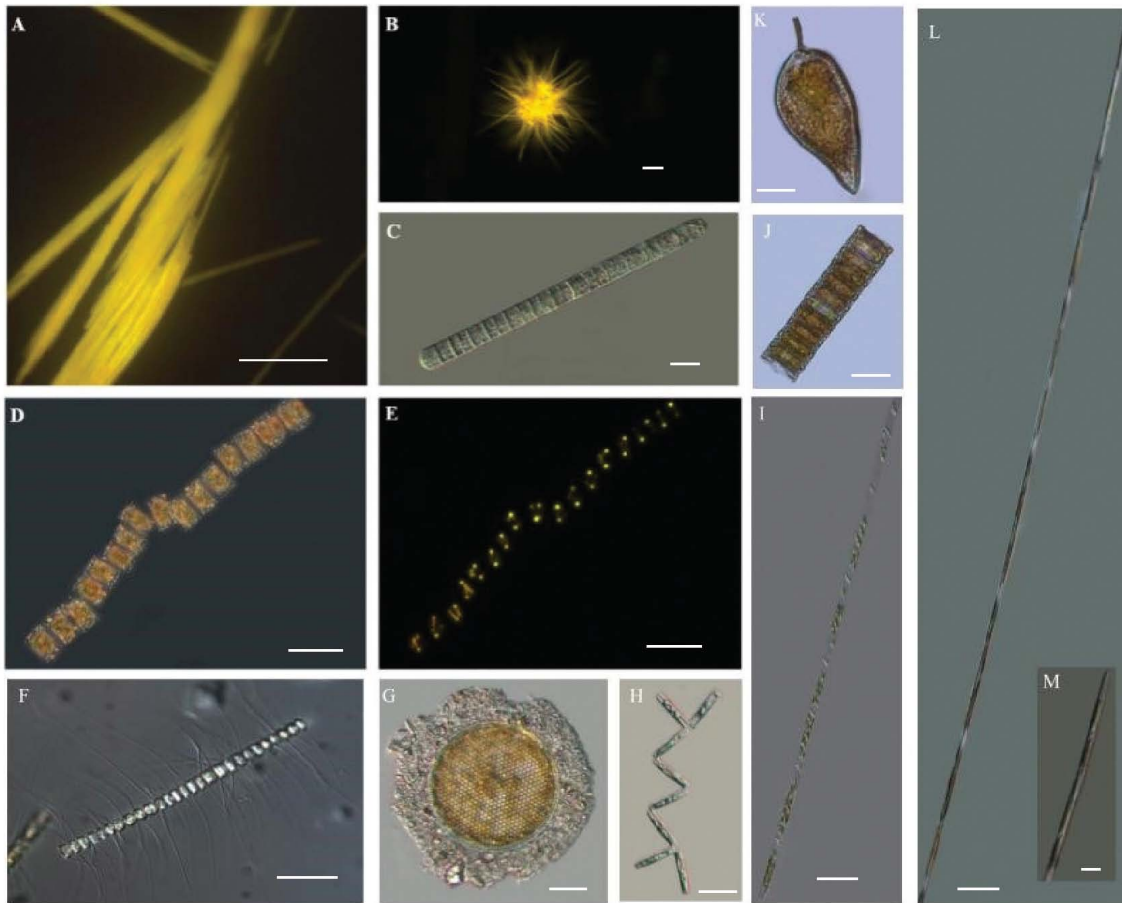
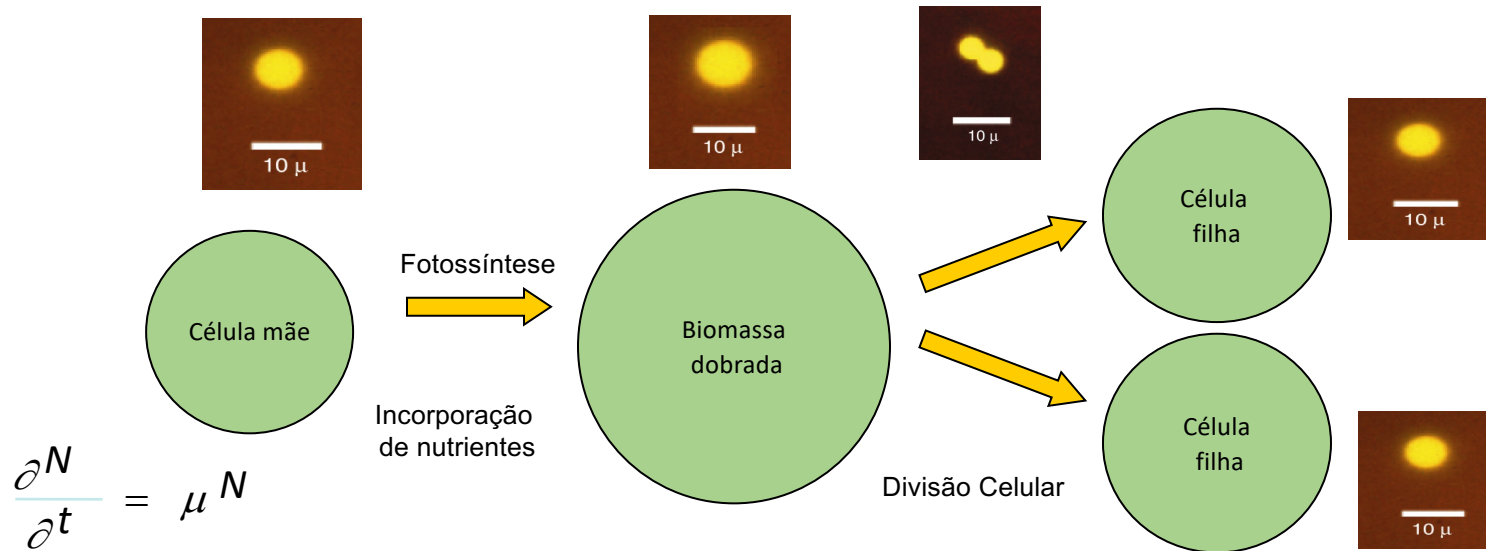


Figure 3. Diazotrophic cyanobacteria of the genus *Trichodesmium*, aggregates in bundles know as “tuffs” (A), in spherical “puffs” (B) and as a single trichome (C). Diatom *Hemiaulus membranaceus* (D) and diazotrophic cyanobacteria *Richelia intracellularis* (E) within it. Diatoms *Chaetoceros* cf. *debilis* (F), *Thalassiosira* sp.1 (G), *Leptocylindrus danicus* (I) and *Paralia sulcata* (J). Diatoms *Thalassionema nitzschioides* (H), *Pseudo-nitzschia “seriatacomplex”* sp.1 (see methods for definition) (L, M). Armored Dinoflagellate *Prorocentrum micans* (K). A, B epifluorescence microscopy image at 10x magnification; E epifluorescence microscopy image at 20x magnification; I, LDIC microscopy image at 200x magnification and C, F, G, H, M at 40x magnification; D, K, J phase-contrast microscopy image at 400x magnification. Scale bar: A, B, D, E, F = 50 μm ; C, G, H, I, J, K, L = 10 μm ; M = 05 μm .

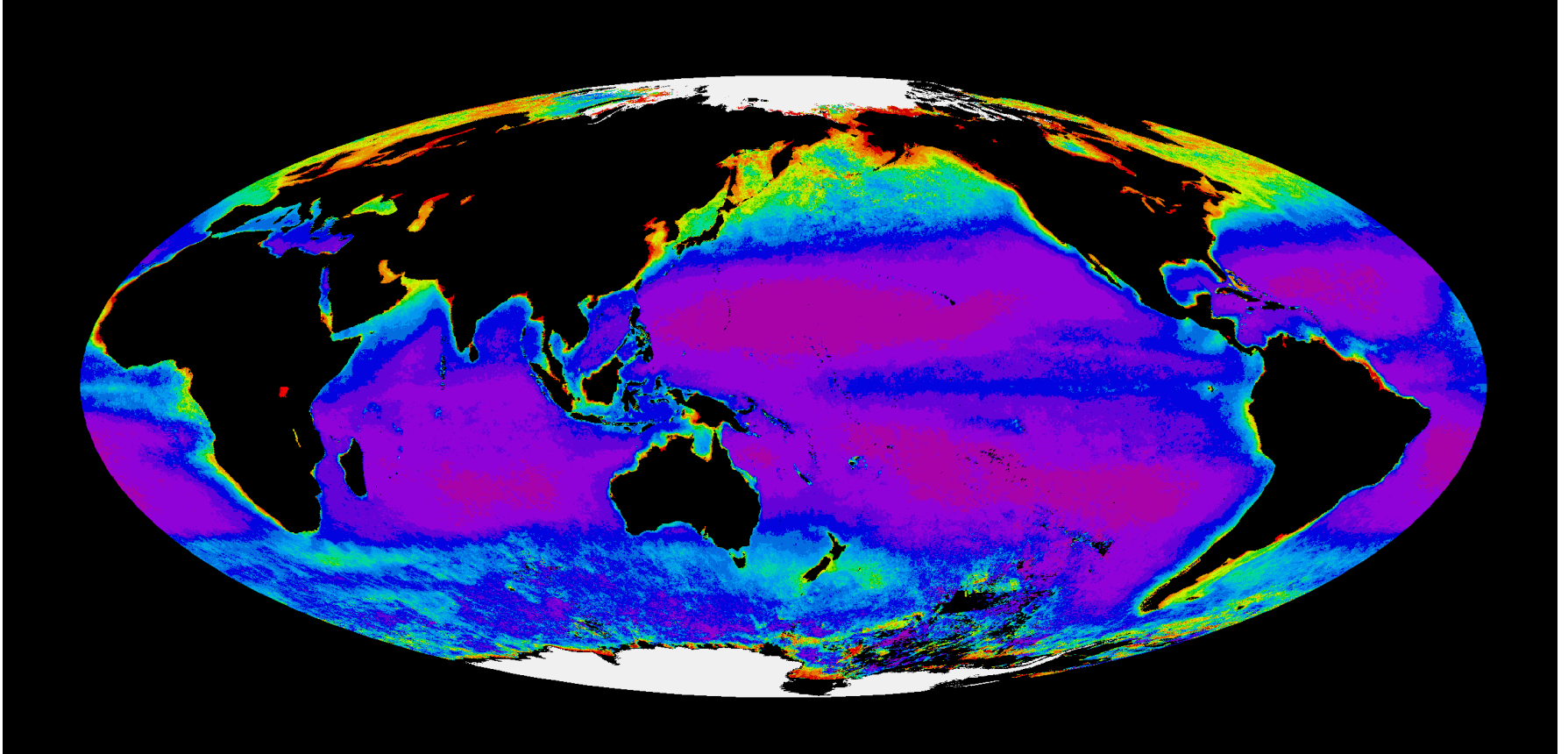
“Phytoplankton” growth – cell division – studies in cultures - drivers



Measurements in cultures (ml)

- Increase in cell density, chlorophyll, particulate carbon
- Decrease in nutrients (N, P, Si)

Costal to open ocean gradients of faster loss of blue compared to green lighth (Rrs) has been documented as a global feature (CZCS)



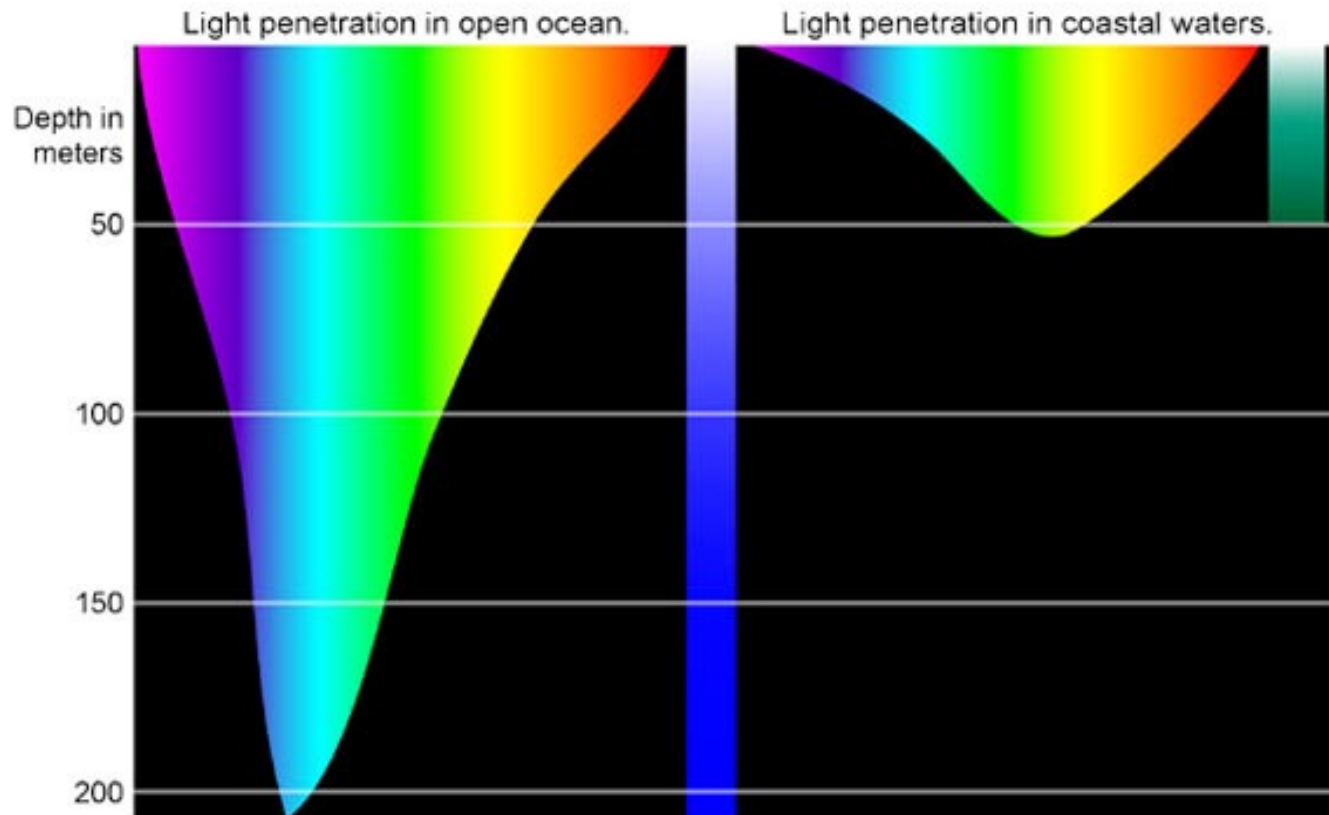
Bulk measurements/estimates

- chlorophyll / HPLC
- Phytoplankton carbon

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t}$$

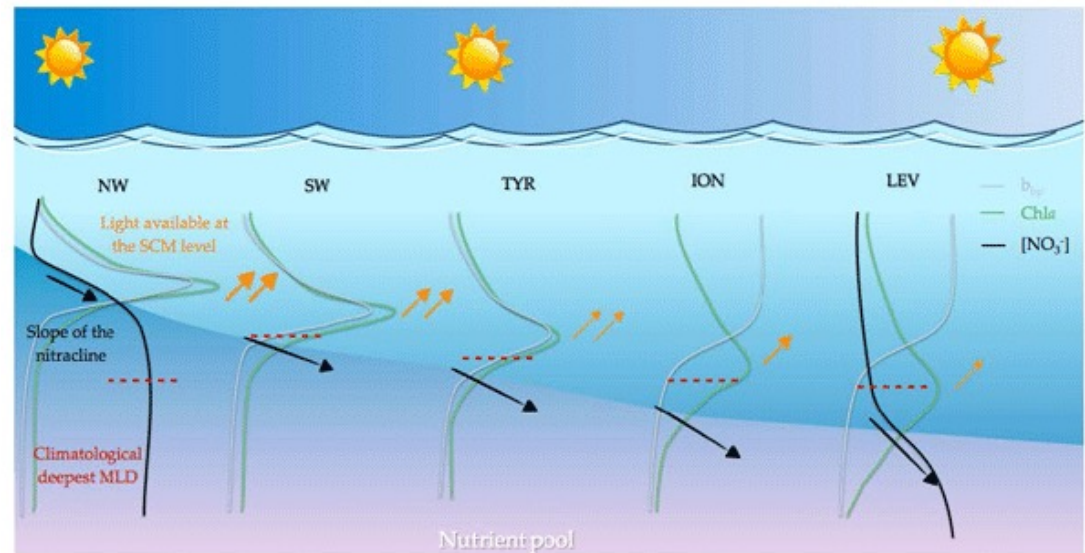
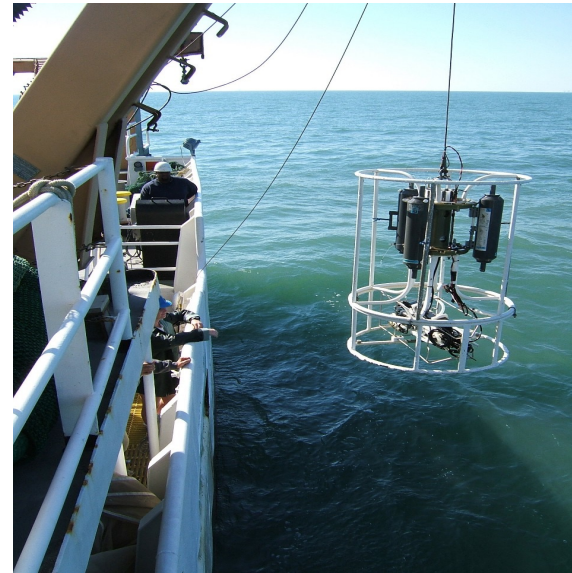
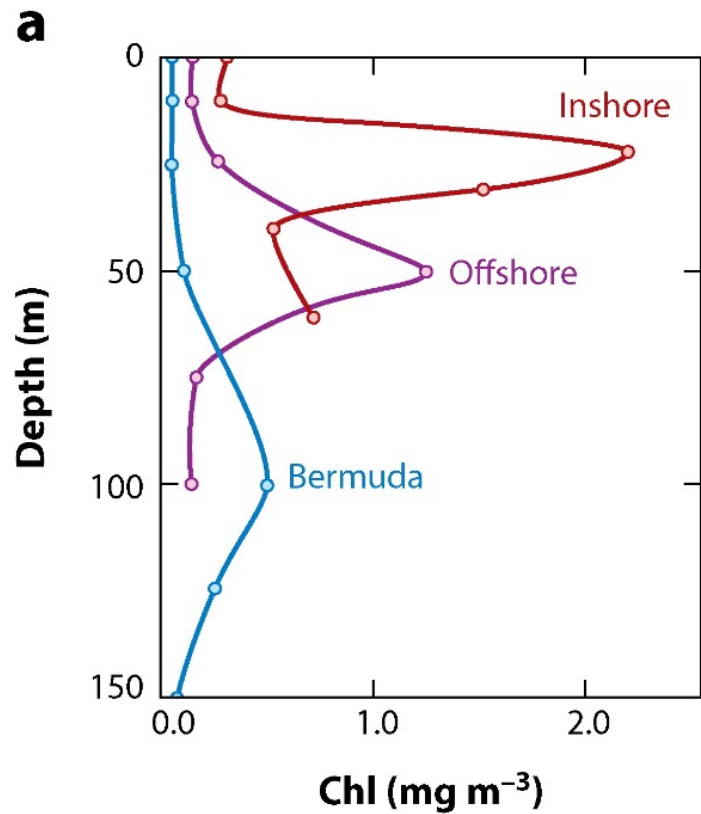
- C¹⁴ incorporation; O₂ production;
- Estimation of ETR – variable fluorescence

Oligotrophic to Eutrophic Environment – more chlorophyll , larger cells



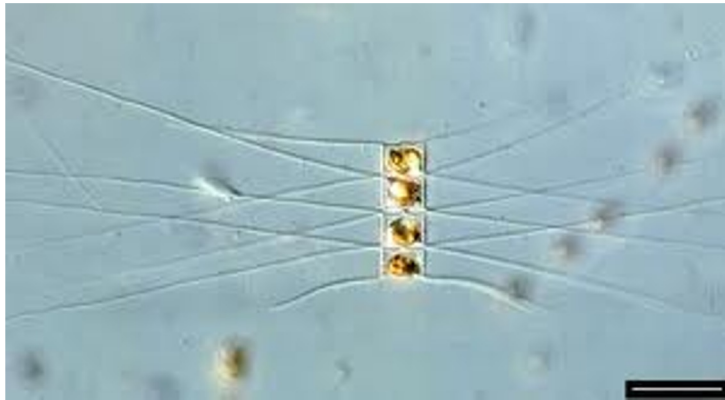
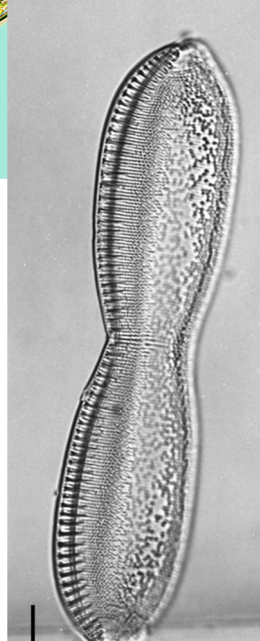
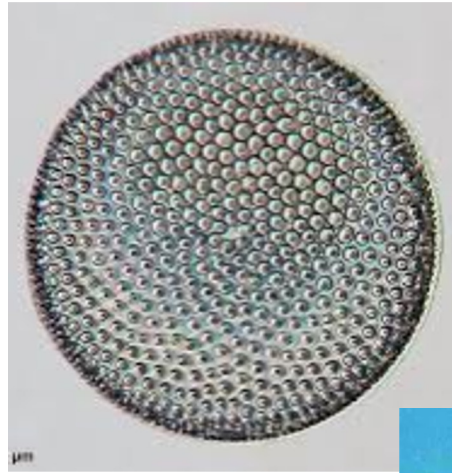
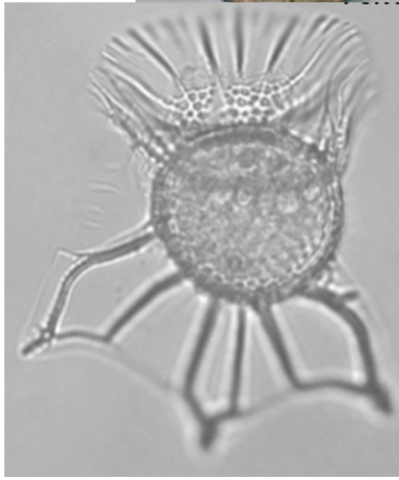
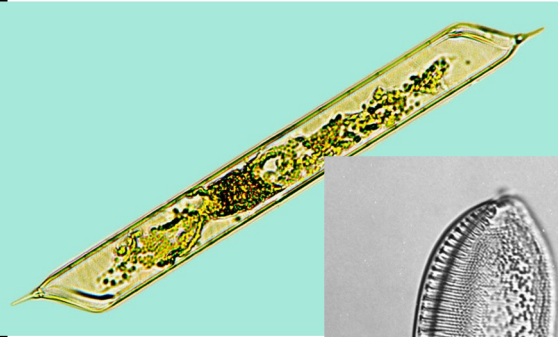
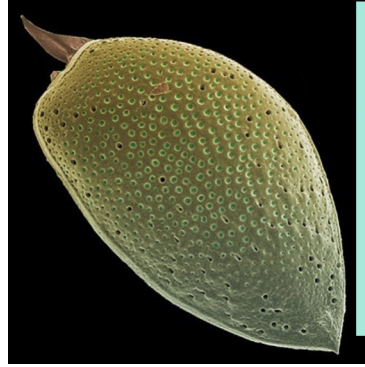
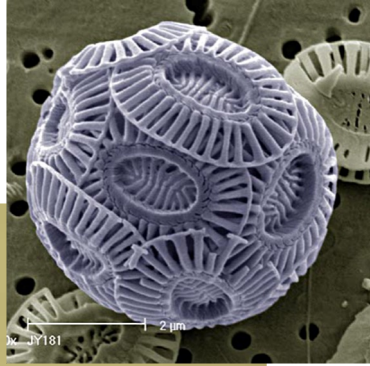
Bulk light absorption by communities –
Does it vary linearly with chlorophyll concentration (?)

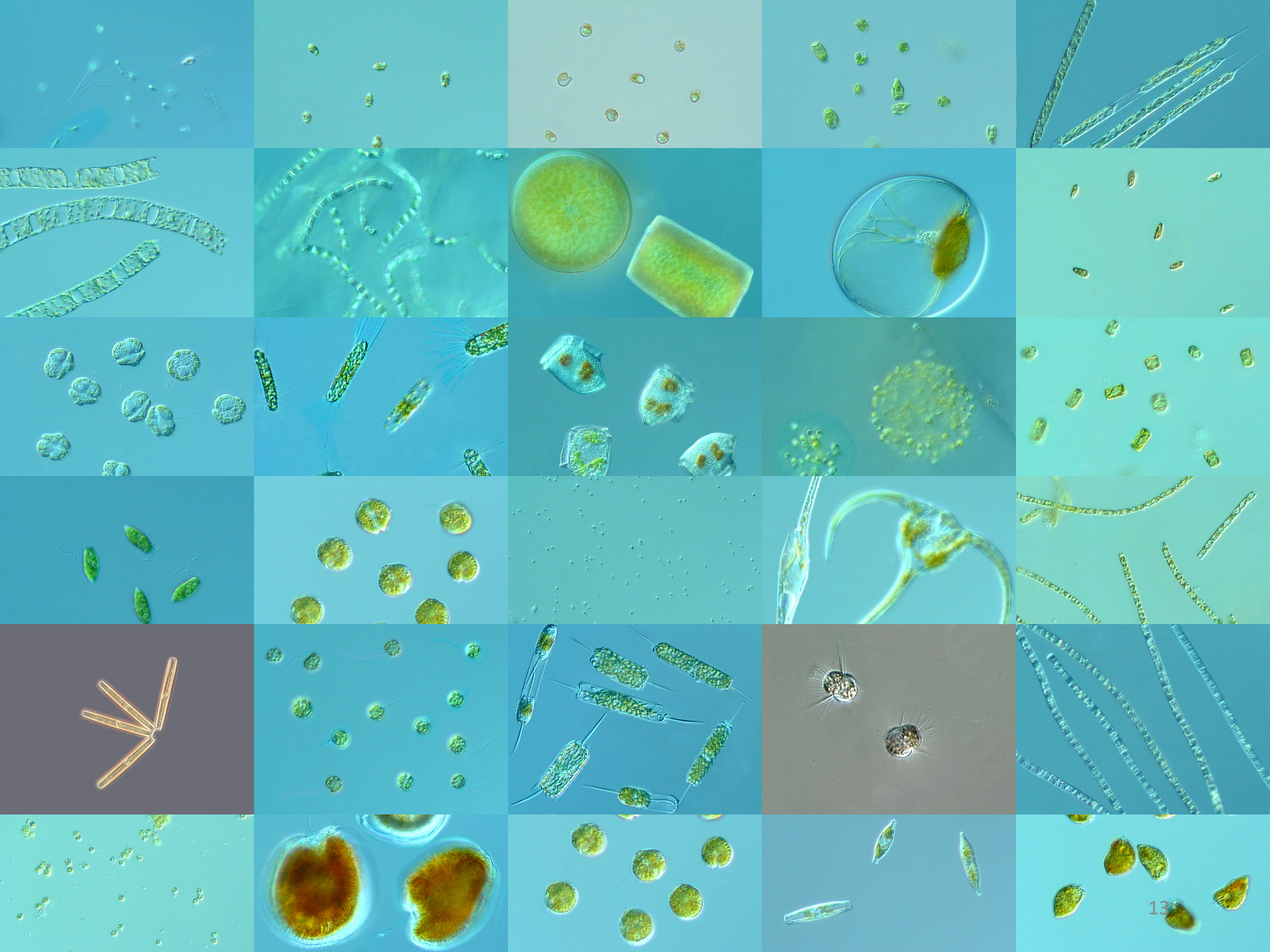
Optical measurements – physics and biology observed in similar scales



Cullen 2015 Doi:
[10.1146/annurev-marine-010213-135111](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-marine-010213-135111)

Barbieux et al. DOI: 10.5194/bg-16-1321-2019





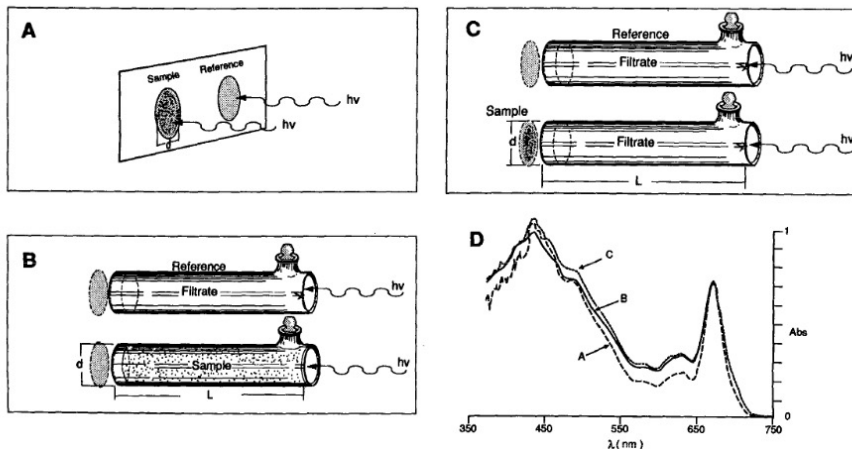
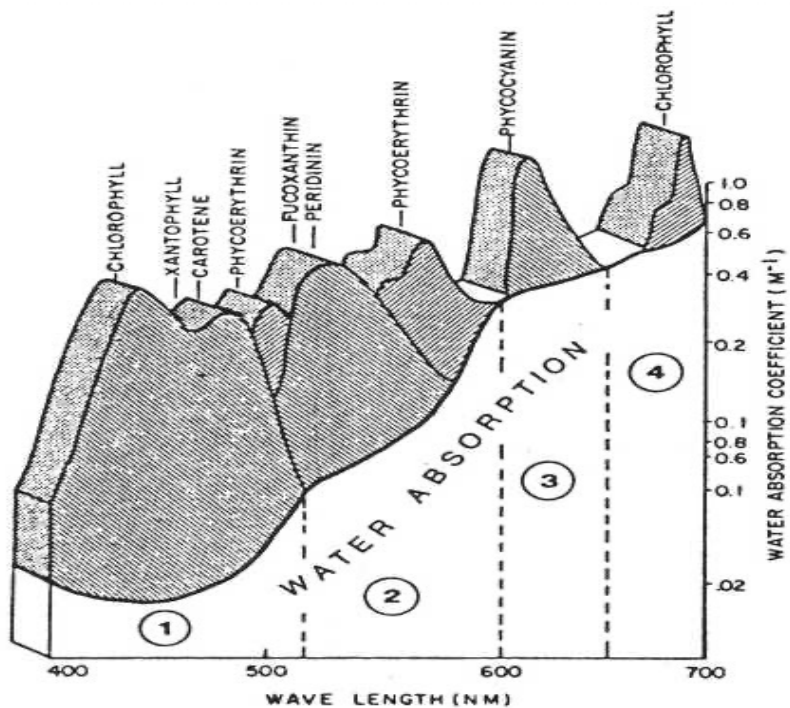


Fig. 2. Cuvette calibration for the filter technique. A. Filter technique used at sea. B. Cells in a 10-cm cuvette, 1.9-cm i.d., with blank filters (GFF) for diffusers. C. Cells on filter at exit of cuvette; blank filter is diffuser reference. D. Absorption spectra of panels A-C for *Phaeodactylum tricoratum*. Filtered media used in reference cuvette.



HPLC system



Please, remember Sasha's class

My appeal to you:

PLEASE USE PIGMENT DATA RESPONSIBLY!!!

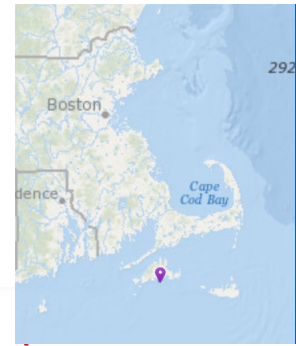
NASA

Sasha J. Kramer (MBARI)

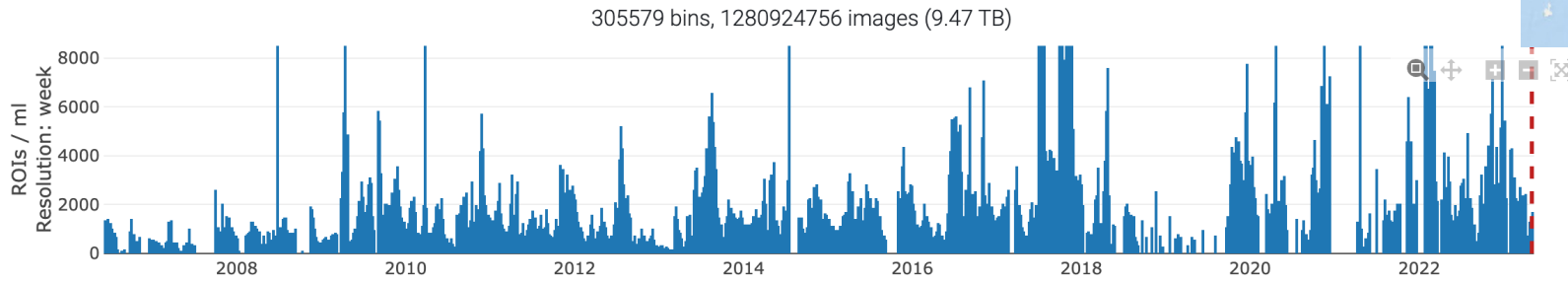


Heidi Sosik

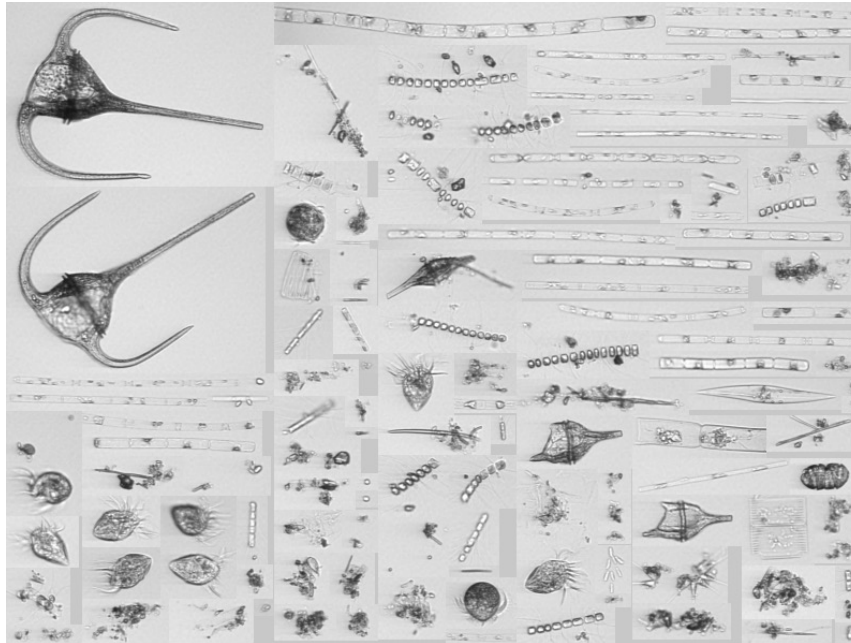
We can compute $\frac{\partial N}{\partial t}$ in nature now



<https://ifcb-data.whoi.edu/timeline?dataset=mvco>

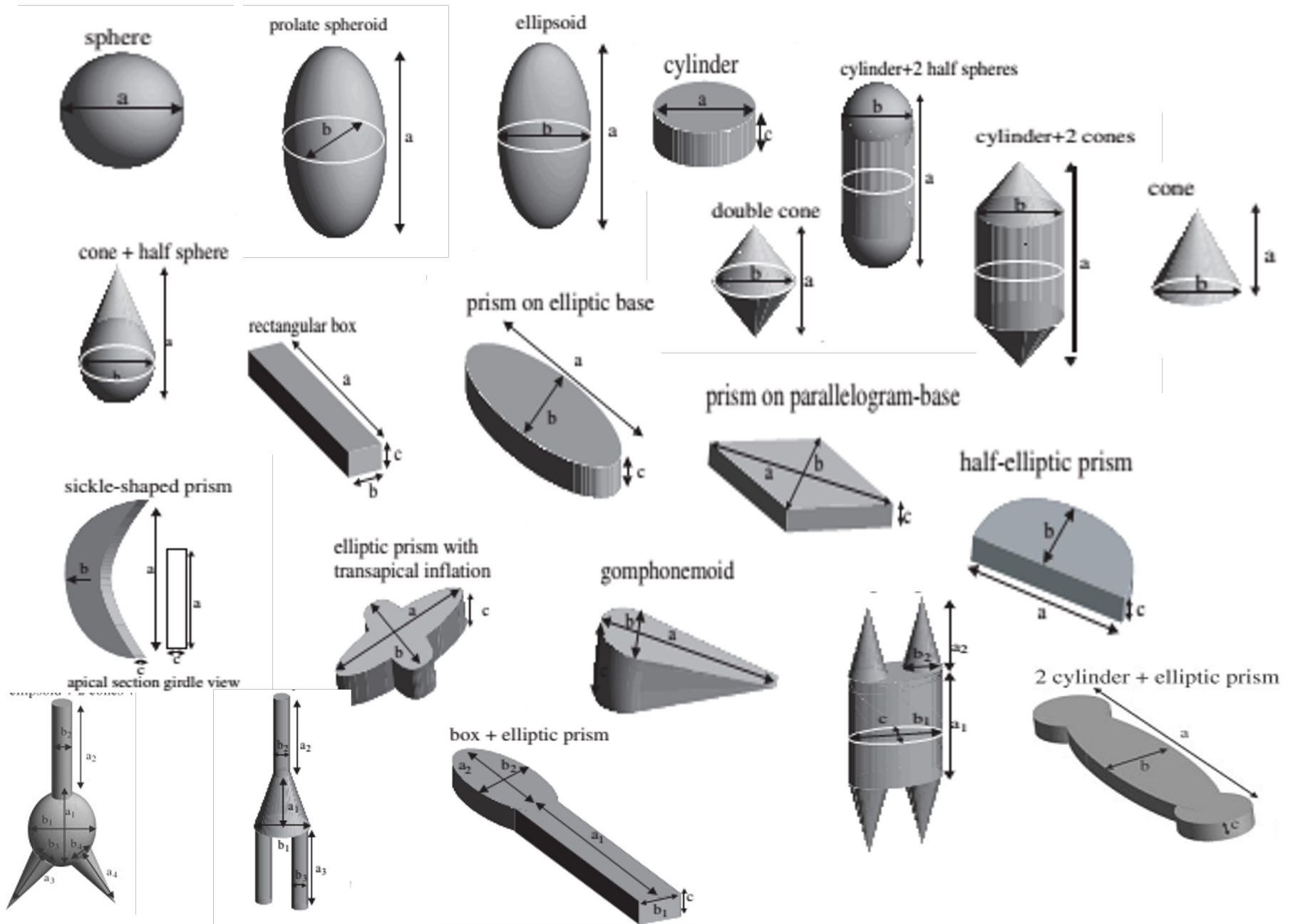


How does the cell C compare here?



Basic Info

Date/Time: 2023-05-03
 18:12:31 UTC
 (an hour ago)
 Instrument: **IFCB10**
 Triggers: 7550
 Images: 6597
 Triggers / s: 6.308
 Volume Analyzed: 2.689 ml
 ROIs / ml: 2452.969
 Size: 34.35 MB
 Latitude: 41.325
 Longitude: -70.5667
 Depth: 4



Dealing with phytoplankton diversity

Community structure : species richness, number of individuals per specie
(uniformity/ stability)

[Reynolds et al.,2002 doi:10.1093/plankt/24.5.417](https://doi.org/10.1093/plankt/24.5.417)

Groups (dominance)

Association (different groups co-occurring)

Functional Groups or Types (objective oriented)

[Anderson 2005 DOI: 10.1093/plankt/fbi076](https://doi.org/10.1093/plankt/fbi076)

IOCCG (2014). Phytoplankton Functional Types from Space.

Trait	Pico-autotrophs	Nitrogen-fixers	Calcifiers	Silicifiers	DMS-producers
Cell size (μm)	0.7-2.0	Variable	5-10	20-200	5
Light	High	High	Low	Low	High-Low
Nutrient required		N_2 gas	Calcium	Silica	
Iron	Low	High	High	High	High
Loss	Grazing	Viral lysis	Sinking	Sinking	Lysis, grazing
Bio-optical properties	High a_B^*	a_B^* high in UV, High b_{bB}^*	High b_{bB}^*	Low, flat a_B^*	?
Remote sensing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

[Bracher et al., 2017 10.3389/fmars.2017.00055](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00055)



Ramon Margalef

Mandalas- representation of recurring order

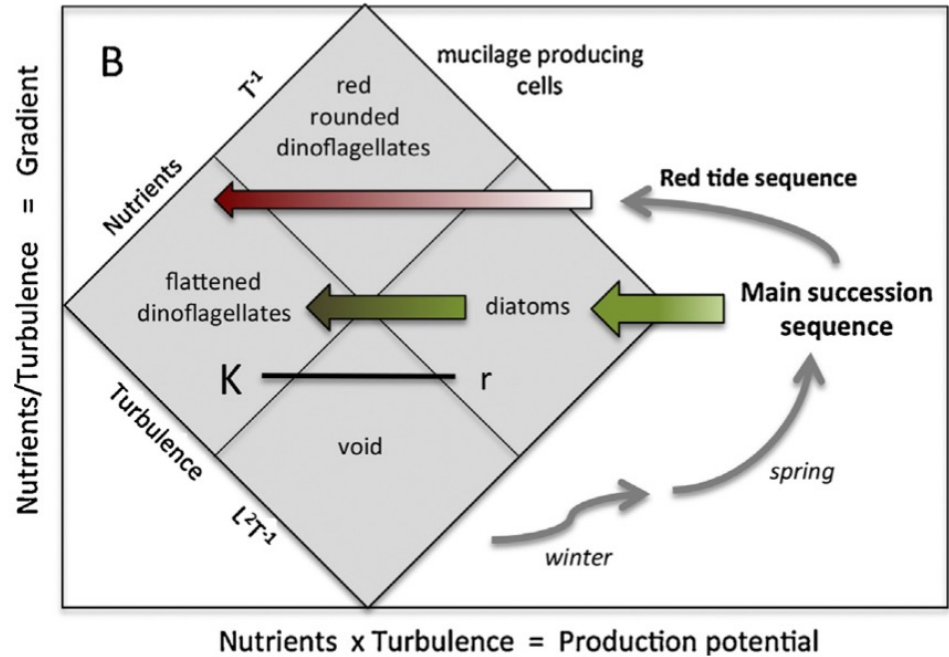


Fig. 1. Margalef's mandala. The mandala (B) was developed from the original conceptual understanding of the trajectory of phytoplankton responses to nutrients and turbulence (A). Note that the mandala illustrates both a generalized winter- spring bloom sequence and a "red tide" sequence. (A) Redrawn from [Margalef et al. \(1979\)](#); (B) reproduced from [Smayda and Reynolds \(2001\)](#) with permission of the Journal of Plankton Research.

Traits

Nutrient acquisition ,
size and motility

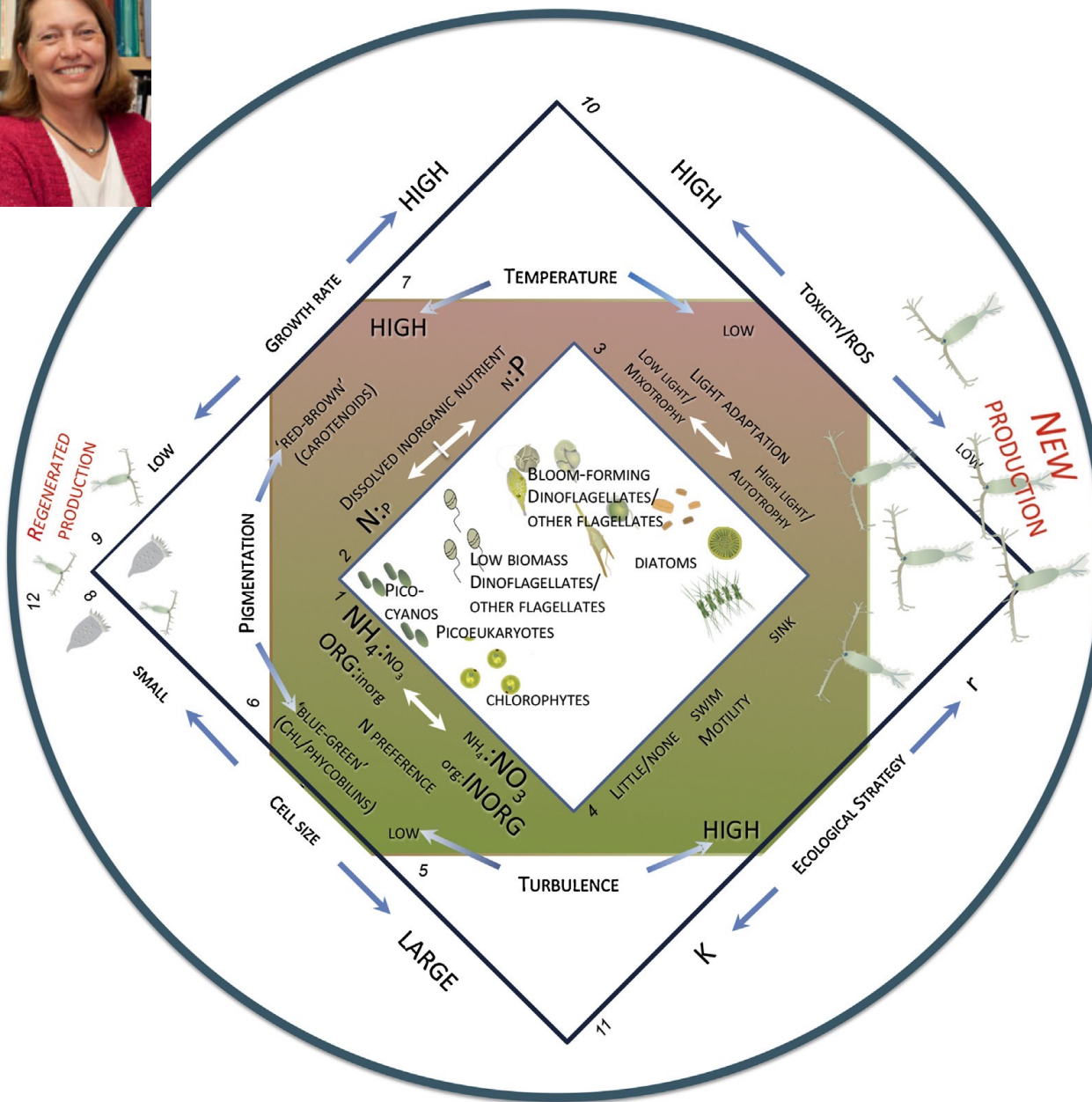
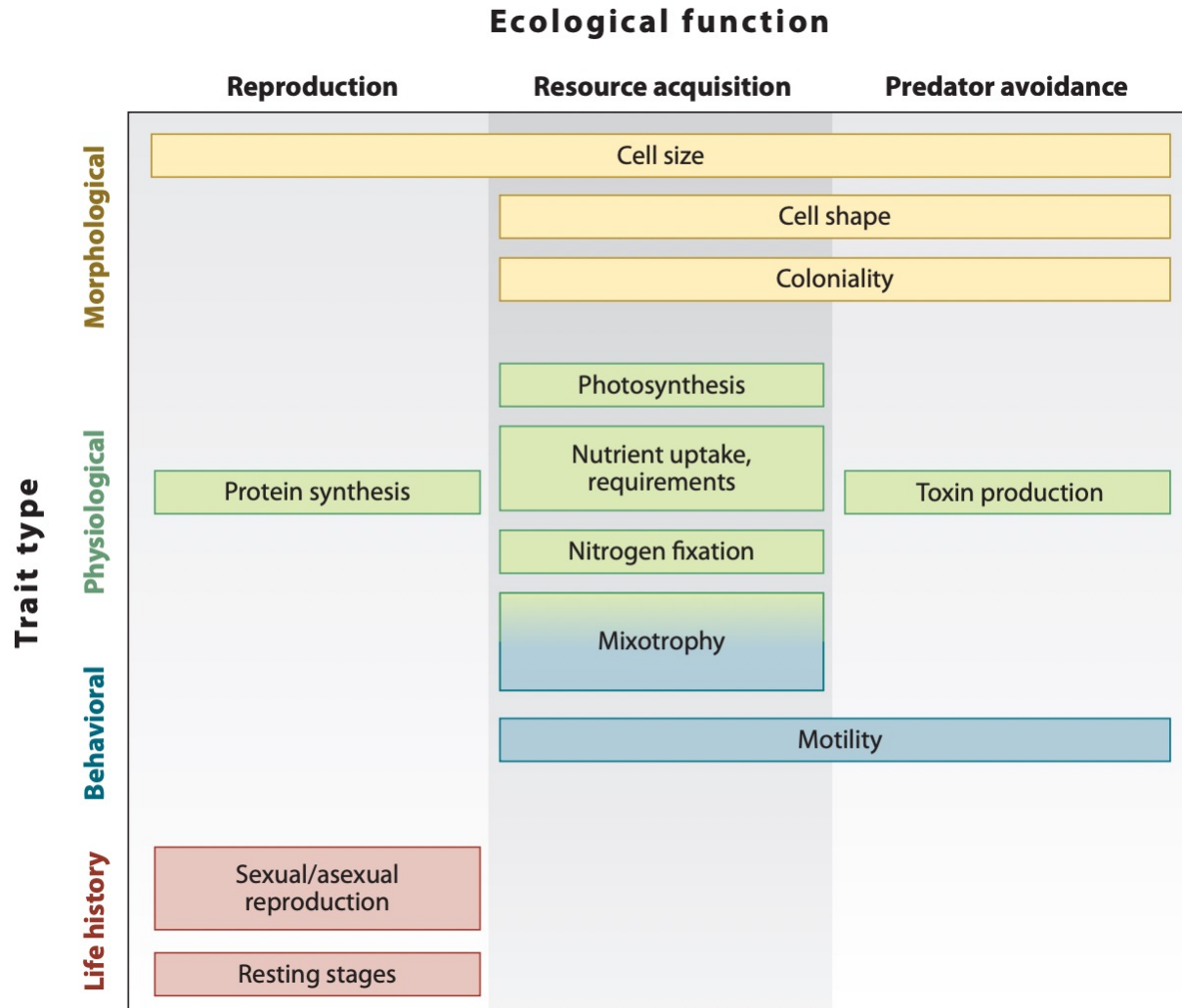


Fig. 2. Revised phytoplankton mandala. Phytoplankton functional types are depicted along 12 axes (shown by the small numbers in the corner of each axis). The axes include: (1) the gradient of N forms preferentially used by the phytoplankton, from NH₄⁺ to NO₃⁻ and/or from organic to inorganic forms; (2) the gradient of dissolved inorganic N:P available to the phytoplankton (the tic mark on the gradient arrow represents the Redfield proportion); (3) adaptation to high vs low light and the tendency to be autotrophic vs mixotrophic (herein generally meaning phagotrophic); (4) motility of the cells, ranging from no motility to swimming (flagellated) to cells with sink/float vertical migration strategy; (5) turbulence from low to high; (6) pigmentation of the cells, from higher relative proportion of carotenoids to higher relative proportion of phycobiliproteins and/or chlorophylls; (7) temperature, plotted on inverse scale from high to low; (8) cell size, from small to large; (9) growth rate from low to high; (10) propensity of the cells to be toxic or to produce other bioreactive compounds such as reactive oxygen, plotted on inverse scale from high to low; (11) ecological strategy along the K to r spectrum; and (12) propensity for the resulting production to cycle through either the microbial loop (regenerated production) or to constitute new production. Note that all scales are relative and no dimensions are implied. All responses within relative space are representative and not meant to imply that all species or individuals within a given response surface will respond similarly. Icons of the organisms are from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Integration and Application Network symbol library.



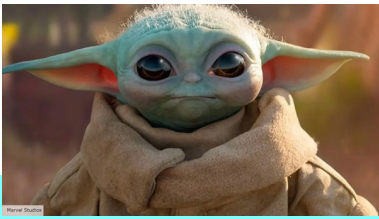
Elena Litchman



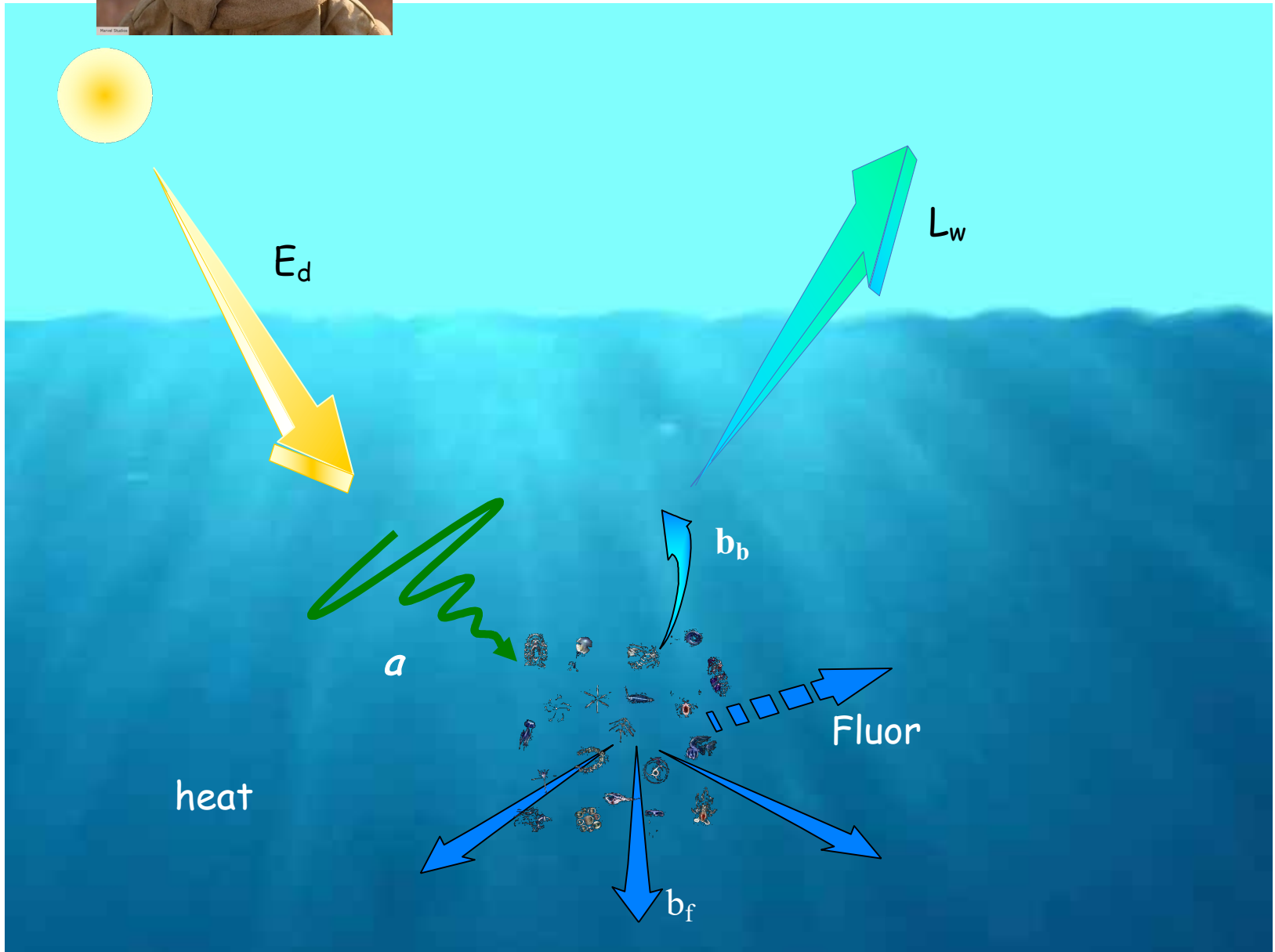
Litchman and Klausmeier DOI: 10.1146/annurev.ecolsys.39.110707.173549

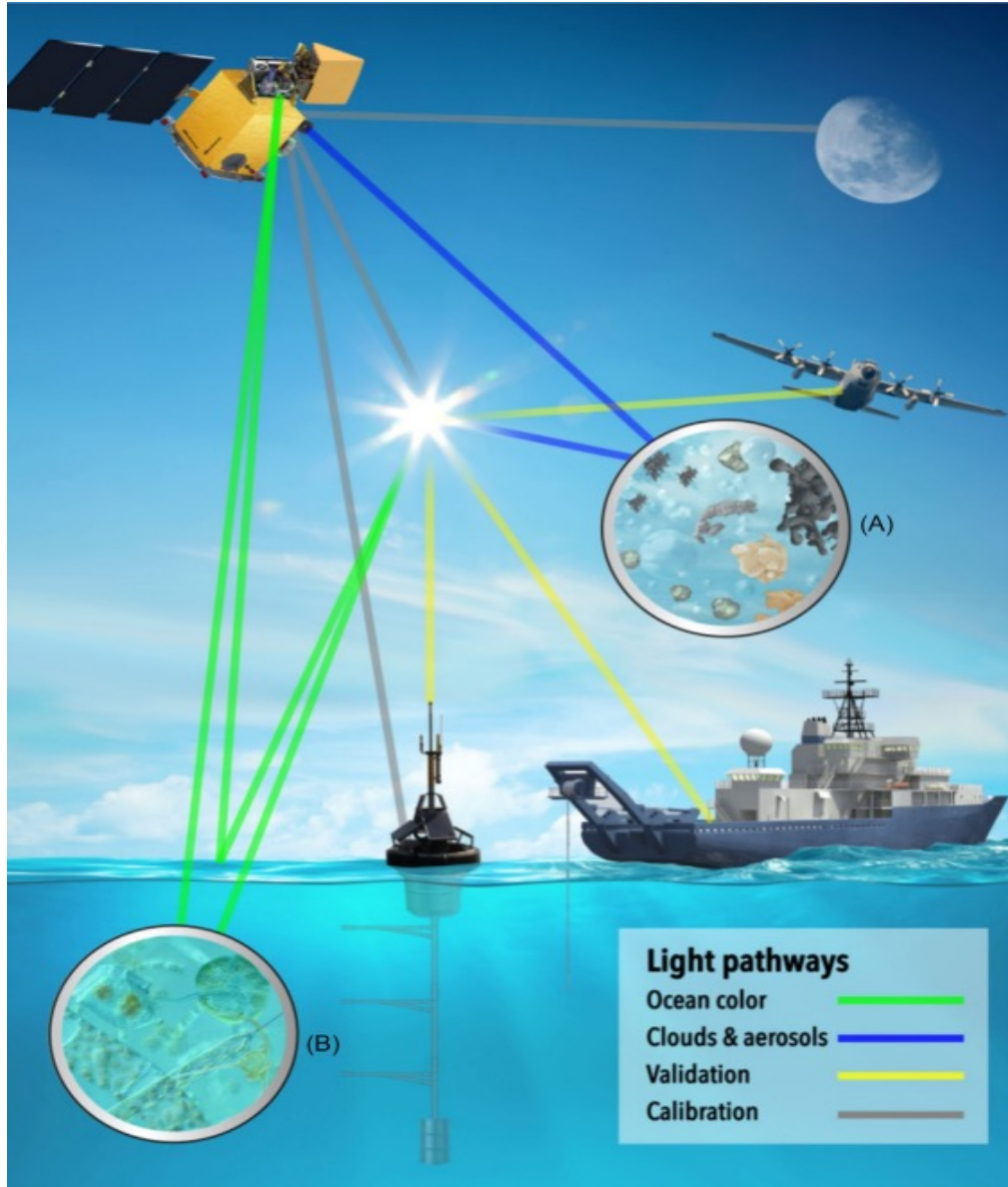
Kruk et al 2009 DOI:10.1111/j.1365-2427.2009.02298.x

Yoda



Teach you will. The machine will learn.





My appeal to you: use size fractions, traits and PFTs responsibly

