

Grazing experiment 6: Cell size measurements of low-high pCO₂ acclimated Rhodomonas (E Hux Response to pCO₂ project)

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/669931>

Data Type: experimental

Version:

Version Date: 2016-12-12

Project

» [Planktonic interactions in a changing ocean: Biological responses of *Emiliana huxleyi* to elevated pCO₂ and their effects on microzooplankton](#) (E Hux Response to pCO₂)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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Table of Contents

- [Dataset Description](#)
 - [Methods & Sampling](#)
 - [Data Processing Description](#)
- [Data Files](#)
- [Parameters](#)
- [Instruments](#)
- [Deployments](#)
- [Project Information](#)
- [Funding](#)

Dataset Description

Related Reference:

Still, Kelly Ann, Microzooplankton grazing, growth and gross growth efficiency are affected by pCO₂ induced changes in phytoplankton biology. (Masters Thesis) Western Washington University. <http://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1490&context=wwu>

Methods & Sampling

The phytoplankton *Rhodomonas* sp. CCMP 755 was grown semi-continuously in atmosphere controlled chambers at three different CO₂ treatment concentrations; Ambient (400ppmv), Moderate (750ppmv), and High (1000ppmv). Cultures were diluted daily starting day 4 with pre-equilibrated media containing f/50 nutrients. On days 8,10, and 16, *Rhodomonas* cells from the treatments were mounted live on a microscope slide and 50 cells from each treatment replicate were imaged using RSImage software under 400X magnification on an Olympus CHA microscope. ImageJ software was used to measure *Rhodomonas* length and width. *Rhodomonas* cells are described as having a prolate spheroid shape. The volume was calculated using: $V_{prolate}(\mu m^3) = (4/3)\pi a^2 b$. Where $a=1/2$ width and $b=1/2$ length of the *Rhodomonas* cell.

Data Processing Description

These data are unprocessed cell sizes as calculated above.

BCO-DMO Processing Notes:

- added conventional header with dataset name, PI name, version date
- modified parameter names to conform with BCO-DMO naming conventions
- combined day 8, day 10, and day 16 data
- added day column

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Data Files

File
expt6_cell_size.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 55.14 KB) MD5:2c75fc4ec491f7e47fea5b97502e0fdf
Primary data file for dataset ID 669931

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
day	experiment day	day
expt_day_treatment_rep_cell_number	sample identifier: individual cell measured: experiment day_pCO2 level_replicate_cell number	unitless
length	cell length	micrometers
width	cell width	micrometers
volume	cell volume	micrometers

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Instruments

Dataset-specific Instrument Name	Olympus CHA microscope
Generic Instrument Name	Microscope - Optical
Dataset-specific Description	Used to measure Rhodomonas cells
Generic Instrument Description	Instruments that generate enlarged images of samples using the phenomena of reflection and absorption of visible light. Includes conventional and inverted instruments. Also called a "light microscope".

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Deployments

Lab_Olson_B

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/521277
Platform	WWU
Start Date	2011-03-31
End Date	2016-09-15
Description	laboratory experiments

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Project Information

Planktonic interactions in a changing ocean: Biological responses of *Emiliana huxleyi* to elevated pCO₂ and their effects on microzooplankton (E Hux Response to pCO₂)

Description from NSF award abstract:

The calcifying Haptophyte *Emiliana huxleyi* appears to be acutely sensitive to the rising concentration of ocean pCO₂. Documented responses by *E. huxleyi* to elevated pCO₂ include modifications to their calcification rate and cell size, malformation of coccoliths, elevated growth rates, increased organic carbon production, lowering of PIC:POC ratios, and elevated production of the active climate gas DMS. Changes in these parameters are mechanisms known to elicit alterations in grazing behavior by microzooplankton, the oceans dominant grazer functional group. The investigators hypothesize that modifications to the physiology and biochemistry of calcifying and non-calcifying Haptophyte *Emiliana huxleyi* in response to elevated pCO₂ will precipitate alterations in microzooplankton grazing dynamics. To test this hypothesis, they will conduct controlled laboratory experiments where several strains of *E. huxleyi* are grown at several CO₂ concentrations. After careful characterization of the biochemical and physiological responses of the *E. huxleyi* strains to elevated pCO₂, they will provide these strains as food to several ecologically-important microzooplankton and document grazing dynamics. *E. huxleyi* is an ideal organism for the study of phytoplankton and microzooplankton responses to rising anthropogenic CO₂, the effects of which in the marine environment are called ocean acidification; *E. huxleyi* is biogeochemically important, is well studied, numerous strains are in culture that exhibit variation in the parameters described above, and they are readily fed upon by ecologically important microzooplankton.

The implications of changes in microzooplankton grazing for carbon cycling, specifically CaCO₃ export, DMS production, nutrient regeneration in surface waters, and carbon transfer between trophic levels are profound, as this grazing, to a large degree, regulates all these processes. *E. huxleyi* is a model prey organism because it is one of the most biogeochemically influential global phytoplankton. It forms massive seasonal blooms, contributes significantly to marine inorganic and organic carbon cycles, is a large producer of the climatically active gas DMS, and is a source of organic matter for trophic levels both above and below itself. The planned controlled study will increase our knowledge of the mechanisms that drive patterns of change between trophic levels, thus providing a wider array of tools necessary to understand the complex nature of ocean acidification field studies, where competing variables can confound precise interpretation.

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-0961229

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]