

Cell-based measurements to assess physiological status of Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries, a toxic diatom

Aurélie Lelong, Helene Hegaret, Philippe Soudant

▶ To cite this version:

Aurélie Lelong, Helene Hegaret, Philippe Soudant. Cell-based measurements to assess physiological status of Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries, a toxic diatom. Research in Microbiology, 2011, 162 (9), pp.969-981. 10.1016/j.resmic.2011.06.005. hal-00648976

HAL Id: hal-00648976 https://hal.univ-brest.fr/hal-00648976

Submitted on 15 Dec 2011

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

1	Cell-based measurements to assess physiological status of Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries, a
2	toxic diatom
3	
4	Authors: Aurélie Lelong ^a , Hélène Hégaret ^a , Philippe Soudant ^{a*}
5	
6	^a LEMAR (UMR6539), IUEM, Place Nicolas Copernic, 29280 Plouzané, France
7	
8	aurelie.lelong@univ-brest.fr
9	helene.hegaret@univ-brest.fr
10	philippe.soudant@univ-brest.fr *Correspondance and reprints

Abstract

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Diatoms of the genus *Pseudo-nitzschia* are potentially toxic microalgae, which blooms can trigger Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning. The purpose of this study was to test and adapt different probes and procedures to assess the physiological status of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* at the cell-level, using flow cytometry. To perform these analyses, probes and procedures were first optimized for concentration and incubation time. The percentage of dead *Pseudo-nitzschia* cells, the metabolic activity of live cells and their intracellular lipid content were then measured following a complete growth cycle. Additionally, chlorophyll autofluorescence and efficiency of photosynthesis (quantum yield) were also monitored. The concentration and viability of bacteria present in the medium were also assessed. Domoic acid (DA) was quantified as well. Just before the exponential phase, cells exhibited a high metabolic activity, but a low DA content. DA content per cell became most important at the beginning of the exponential phase, when lipid storage was high, which provided a metabolic energy source, and when they were surrounded with a high number of bacteria (high bacteria/P. multiseries ratio). These physiological measurements tended to decrease during exponential phase and until stationary phase, where P. multiseries cells did not content any DA nor stored any lipids and started to die.

28

- Keywords: flow cytometry; cell physiology; domoic acid; *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries*;
- 30 bacteria; fluorescent probes

1. Introduction

Pseudo-nitzschia is a potentially toxic diatom genus with a worldwide distribution.
Some species are able to produce domoic acid (DA), an amnesic shellfish toxin leading to
food poisoning (Sierra-Beltrán et al., 1998) with a few cases of mortality to humans (Wright
et al., 1989), plus hundreds of sea bird (Sierra-Beltrán et al., 1997, Work et al., 1993) or
marine mammal mortalities (Scholin et al., 2000, Fire et al., 2009, de la Riva et al., 2009).
These poisonings often occurred following a bloom of Pseudo-nitzschia spp. The reasons
why these blooms occurred are poorly known. Some studies tried to create models to predict
there occurrence (Anderson et al., 2009, Lane et al., 2009), but the determinism of each
bloom seems different. Although factors enhancing or decreasing Pseudo-nitzschia cell
toxicity have been intensively studied, they still remain unclear. The study of Pseudo-
nitzschia spp. physiology may help to understand why a bloom appears and becomes toxic.
Tools to assess the physiological status of microalgae are still fairly scarce. Photosynthetic
capacities of Pseudo-nitzschia spp. have been studied under different conditions (Ilyash et al.
2007, El-Sabaawi and Harrison, 2006) but do not provide enough information to assess cell
physiological status. Besides photosynthetic parameters and chlorophyll content, others
parameters have sometimes been studied in diatoms, e.g. silicification (Leblanc et al., 2005,
Kroger and Poulsen, 2008) or carbohydrate levels (De Philippis et al., 2002, Magaletti et al.,
2004), but these are also insufficient to characterize the physiological processes occurring
inside the cell. It is therefore important to develop and then simultaneously measure several
different physiological parameters that may help to better understand the factors or status
associated with toxin production.

Assessment of cell physiology using fluorescent probes is a well-known subject in medicine (Greenspan et al., 1985, Knot et al., 2005). Among the numerous fluorescent probes

available to assess cell physiology, some can be adapted to cultures of unicellular organisms. They allow measurements of different physiological parameters such as metabolic activity (with fluorescein diacetate, FDA), intracellular lipid content (Nile Red and BODIPY), total DNA (SYBR Green) or mortality (SYTOX Green). Some of these probes have been used in microalgal studies for several years but are often limited to microscopic observations or spectrofluorimetric methods (Dempster and Sommerfeld, 1998, Okochi et al., 1999). The latter allow measurement of an entire population, but differences between cells can not be observed. Microscopic observations allow cell-by-cell analyses but are time consuming and fluorescence quantification is difficult. On the other hand, flow cytometry (FCM) allows a rapid analysis of the morphological and fluorescence characteristics of unicellular organisms or individual cells. Even though FCM has a long history of routine use in medical analyses, the first experiments to use FCM on microalgae were run only about thirty years ago (Olson et al., 1983, Yentsch et al., 1983) and the approach still remains only a minor component for measuring the physiology of phytoplankton. Some probes have already been tested on microalgae using FCM, such as FDA (Dorsey et al., 1989, Brookes et al., 2000, Jochem, 1999), SYTOX Green (Veldhuis et al., 1997) or SYBR Green (Marie et al., 1997). Each of these probes provides new insights for understanding how cells react under different conditions, e.g. dark adaptation (Jochem, 1999), but they have never been applied simultaneously to assess physiological status in a more comprehensive manner.

75

76

77

78

79

80

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

This study aims to assess the physiological status of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* using a set of cell-based measurements. To reach this objective, different measurements were developed and adapted to this species (i) to better understand its physiology under culture conditions and (ii) to seek the relationship between the production of DA and cell physiological status. The morpho-functional characteristics of *P. multiseries* cells were

81 assessed by FCM, using different fluorescent probes (FDA, BODIPY 493/503, Nile Red, 82 SYTOX Green, SYBR Green and propidium iodide) and the measurement of chlorophyll 83 autofluorescence. Quantum yield (QY), which is a measurement of the efficiency of 84 photosynthesis, was measured using a pulse amplitude modulated (PAM) fluorometer. Dissolved and particulate DA were measured on each culture using an ELISA assay. DA is a 85 86 secondary metabolite, thus supposed to be produced when cells have more energy than 87 necessary for the primary metabolism. Thus primary metabolism was assessed using FDA 88 and esterases activity. The availability of energy was assessed by measuring storage lipids, as 89 extra-energy is stored by microalgae under lipid form. The concentration of bacteria may 90 influence DA production by P. multiseries, as they are known to enhance DA production 91 (Bates et al., 1995). Chlorophyll and QY measurements allow knowing if the culture is 92 healthy and were completed by the measure of dead cells percentage.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Cultures

Strain CCAP 1061/32 of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* (isolated in 2007 in England) was used for the experiments,. Cultures (n=6) were grown in sterilized f/2 medium (Guillard and Hargraves, 1993) at 15.6°C (±0.2°C), and 131 ± 16 µmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ (light:dark photoperiod of 12:12 h). Seawater used for f/2 medium was first filtered at 0.22µm, to eliminate any remaining bacteria (which was confirmed by flow cytometric measurements, as described below) and then autoclaved. Cultures were xenic and grown without antibiotics. Before each sampling, cultures were homogenized by gentle manual stirring. Almost all the cells were present as single cells in our cultures; sometimes cells were forming 2 cells chains. For the flow cytometry analysis, they were all considered as single cells.

2.2. Physiological measurements

Measurements were made with a FACScalibur flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA USA), using an argon blue laser (488 nm). Three fluorescence signals can be detected by the flow cytometer: FL1 (green, 530 nm), FL2 (orange, 585 nm) and FL3 (red, 670 nm). Red fluorescence is linearly linked to the chlorophyll content of the cells and was used as a discriminating characteristic to detect the microalgae (Fig. 1). Bacteria were detected on the FL1 channel (Fig. 2), with different settings to those used for microalgae analysis. Cell counts were estimated from the flow-rate measurement of the flow cytometer (Marie et al., 1999) as all samples were run for 45 s. The flow rate from the FCM was controlled every two days. Forward Scatter (FSC, light scattered less than 10 degrees) and Side Scatter (SSC, light scattered at a 90 degree angle) were also measured. FSC is commonly related to cell size and SSC to cell complexity. The same instrument settings were used for the entire duration of the experiment to allow comparison between days.

Bacteria. Quantification of free-living bacteria in the *P. multiseries* culture and the percentage of dead bacteria in the culture were assessed by adding SYBR Green I (Molecular probes, Invitrogen, Eugene, Oregon, USA) at a final concentration of 1/10000 of the commercial solution, and propidium iodide (PI, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) at 10 μg ml⁻¹ to each sample. During analyses, aggregates of bacteria were taken into account with correction according to aggregate size (Fig. 2). Bacterial counts were estimated as described for *Pseudonitzschia* cells, using FL1 as a discriminating characteristic (due to SYBR Green fluorescence staining).

Mortality. To assess Pseudo-nitzschia cell mortality, we used a cell membrane-impermeable dye, SYTOX Green (Molecular probes, Invitrogen, Eugene, Oregon, USA) prepared at a working solution of 5 μ M. A mix of live/dead cells was prepared to confirm that SYTOX Green stained only dead cells (Veldhuis et al., 2001) and to calibrate the measurement. Cells from a dead culture (killed by heating for 15 min at 100°C) were mixed with those from a live culture to give a range of 0 to 100% dead cells (increments of 10%) and stained with SYTOX Green at 0.1 μ M (final concentration) for 30 min. The percentage of measured dead cells (those stained with SYTOX Green) was then compared to the theoretical percentage of dead cells present in the mixture.

Metabolic activity. To assess metabolic activity, esterase activity was measured using fluorescein diacetate (FDA, Molecular probes, Invitrogen, Eugene, Oregon, USA). FDA is a probe that is cleaved by esterases inside the cells, resulting in fluorescein accumulation over time (Jochem, 1999). A 5 mg ml⁻¹ stock solution of FDA was prepared by diluting the commercial powder in DMSO. A fresh 300 μM working solution was prepared before each

experiment by adding stock solution directly into distilled water cooled on ice. The working solution was kept in darkness and on ice during the experiment and was agitated to prevent the formation of aggregates.

Lipids. To assess the intracellular lipid content, two probes were tested on *P. multiseries*. A 10 mM stock solution of BODIPY 493/503 (4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7,8-pentamethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene, Molecular probes, Invitrogen, Eugene, Oregon, USA) was made by diluting the commercial powder in DMSO. A 1 mM working solution was then prepared by a 10-fold dilution of the stock solution in distilled water. A 1 mg ml⁻¹ stock solution of Nile Red (NR, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) was prepared by diluting 100-fold the commercial powder in acetone and then 10-fold in distilled water to obtain a working solution of 0.1 mg ml⁻¹.

Each of these measurements had to be optimized for *P. multiseries*. Thus, final probe concentrations and incubation times were chosen following two rules: (i) the concentration had to be as low as possible to avoid toxic effects of the probe itself (and of the DMSO contained in stock solutions of the probes) and (ii) the staining had to be homogeneous (all of the cells had to be stained or only the dead cells for SYTOX Green), relatively stable over time and reproducible between analytical replicates. For each probe, fluorescence measurements were performed every 5 min during 1 h on the FL1 (or FL2 for NR) channel of the flow cytometer. Concentrations of 0.5, 1.0, 2.5 and 5.0 μg ml⁻¹ were tested for NR; 1.0, 2.5, 5.0 and 10 μM for BODIPY; 0.75, 1.50 and 3.00 μM for FDA and 0.025, 0.05, 0.1 and 0.2 μM for SYTOX Green.

Quantum yield (QY), a measurement of the efficiency of photosynthesis, was measured using an AquaPen-C AP-C 100 (Photo Systems Instruments, Czech Republic) pulse amplitude modulated (PAM) fluorometer. QY = $(F_m-F_0)/F_m$, where F_0 and F_m are the minimum and maximum fluorescence of cells, respectively, after 30 min of dark adaptation. To ensure that there was no background fluorescence, *P. multiseries* supernatant and f/2 medium were used as blanks.

Domoic acid (DA) was quantified using the ASP ELISA kit (Biosense Laboratories, Bergen, Norway), according to the manufacturer's protocol. Cultures (cells and supernatant) were sonicated and filtered at $0.22~\mu m$ to measure total DA. Supernatant (culture filtered at $0.22~\mu m$) was used to measure dissolved DA. Intracellular DA was measured by subtracting dissolved DA to total DA.

2.3. Monitoring the physiology of P. multiseries over a growth cycle

Six *P. multiseries* cultures of the same strain were sampled every day from day 4 to 21. The following were assessed on each sampling day: *P. multiseries* morphology, concentration and mortality, bacterial concentration and mortality, total and dissolved DA concentrations, quantum yield, chlorophyll fluorescence, intracellular lipid content and metabolic activity. Growth rate was measured during exponential phase following the formula: μ (d⁻¹) = ln(N1/N0)/ Δ t (in days). Fluorescence measurements were performed using the optimal concentrations obtained in the previous experiments: 0.1 μ M SYTOX Green, 3 μ M FDA, 1 μ g ml⁻¹ Nile Red and 10 μ M BODIPY. FDA measurements were performed precisely after 6 min of incubation, and SYTOX Green and BODIPY measurements after 30 min. Bacteria were stained with SYBR Green and PI for 15 minutes.

192	2.4.	Statistics

Results were analyzed statistically with simple regressions, One-Way ANOVA with time as the main factor, as well as with principal component analysis (PCA) followed by a factorial plan. For all statistical results, a probability of p<0.05 was considered significant. Statistical analyses were performed using StatGraphics Plus (Manugistics, Inc, Rockville, MD, USA).

3.	Results
----	---------

3.1. Optimization of probe concentration

Mortality. A 0.1 μ M final concentration of SYTOX Green allowed a good distinction between dead and live cells (Fig. 1). Incubation time was optimal at 30 min. The best correlation (y=0.95x, R² = 0.99, P<0.01) between the measured and theoretical percentages of dead cells in the mixtures of dead/live *P. multiseries* was established at a SYTOX Green concentration of 0.1 μ M, which was therefore applied for the further analyses.

Bacteria. Free-living bacteria are able to form aggregates that can be distinguished after SYBR Green staining (Fig. 2A). Each aggregates exhibited a fluorescence that was equivalent to the fluorescence of one bacteria x number of bacteria in the aggregate. The number of total free-living bacteria can thus be deduced and measurements of FSC and SSC can be done for each aggregate size (Fig. 2B).

Metabolic activity. Concentrations of FDA lower than 3.0 μ M exhibited a low fluorescence, indicating that there was little accumulation of the probe (data not shown). At 3.0 μ M, fluorescein accumulated within the cells (Fig. 3I), in a linear manner during the 15 first min (y=35.9x+133.1, R² = 0.9964, p<0.001), and then reached a plateau (Fig. 4). For the further analyses, fluorescein accumulation was measured after 6 min of staining within the linear part of the curve.

Lipids. A final concentration of 10 μM BODIPY 493/503 and 1 μg ml⁻¹ of Nile Red (NR) allowed the best staining of all cells (one distinct population of cells, not a diffuse cloud

223 of cells, can be seen on the cytograms, data not shown). After 30 min, all cells were well 224 stained and the fluorescence was stable (Fig. 3B, C, E, F). 225 226 3.2. Monitoring of morpho-functional characteristics during P. multiseries growth 227 The exponential growth phase of *P. multiseries* started after a 7-d lag phase, giving a growth rate of 0.24 ± 0.01 d⁻¹, and then the stationary phase was reached after day 17 (Fig. 5). 228 A maximal concentration of ~8 x 10⁴ cells ml⁻¹ was observed at days 17 and 19, after which 229 230 the cell concentration rapidly declined. 231 232 Bacteria within the *P. multiseries* culture started their exponential growth phase on 233 day 7 and were still growing steadily until the end of the experiment (Table 1), exhibiting a growth rate of 0.07±0.01 d⁻¹. The bacteria/P. multiseries cell ratio decreased during the 234 235 exponential phase of *P. multiseries*, remained stable between days 14 to 20, and then 236 increased again on the last day of the experiment, when P. multiseries numbers declined (Fig. 237 5, Table 1). Proportions of bacteria in aggregates of one, two or more cells did not change 238 with growth phases. The percentage of dead bacteria decreased between days 4 and 12 (from 239 $5.8\% \pm 0.6$ to $2.0\% \pm 0.2$) and then remained stable between 1.9 and 2.5% until day 21 (Table 1). Values of FSC and SSC for the bacterial community (free-living bacteria that were not 240

242

243

244

245

246

241

The percentage of dead P. multiseries cells averaged 28% throughout the entire experiment (Table 1) and decreased from 30.3% on day 12 to 18.9% at day 16, after which it increased to 43.8% on day 20 (stationary phase). FSC values for P. multiseries continuously decreased during the experiment, almost linearly with culture age (R^2 =0.76, p<0.01). SSC

forming aggregates) decreased steadily during the course of *P. multiseries* culture (Table 1).

values decreased until day 13 (mid-exponential phase) and became stable between day 13 and the end of the experiment (Table 1).

Total DA in the *P. multiseries* culture, expressed as pg ml⁻¹, increased steadily from day 7 (200±21 pg ml⁻¹) until day 14 (798±164 pg ml⁻¹) during exponential growth. Total DA in the culture then decreased sharply, reaching a concentration below 100 pg ml⁻¹ on day 21. Total DA content was highest on days 13 and 14, during the mid-exponential phase, and decreased steadily after day 14, when it reached late-exponential phase and stationary phase (Fig. 5). The amount of dissolved DA was low and remained constant throughout the culture, from 41.3 (±2.9) pg ml⁻¹ on day 6 to 103.0 (±7.3) pg ml⁻¹ on day 12, representing 11 to 40 % of total DA.

FL3 values (related to chlorophyll content) were measured on live cells, discriminated from dead cells using SYTOX Green staining. FL3 values sharply decreased from day 4 to 6, remained stable between days 6 (590±12) and 9 (593±10), and then slightly decreased from day 9 to 20 (506±12), stationary phase, Fig. 6). Quantum yield (QY) values increased between days 5 (0.46±0.01) and 8 (0.59±0.01), became relatively stable until day 14 (0.62±0.00), and then decreased in mid-exponential phase after day 14 (Fig. 6). Day 11 exhibited a significant decrease of both FL3 and QY. Supernatant and media did not exhibit QY values or were below the detection threshold of the fluorometer.

The metabolic activity of the *P. multiseries* cells, as measured with the FDA assay after 6 min of incubation, increased rapidly from day 6 to 7 and then just as rapidly decreased after day 7, to values just below the initial level, on day 9 (Fig. 7). The percentage of stained cells after 6 min of incubation increased between day 8 (72.5% \pm 1.6) and 16 (87.9% \pm 1.0)

and decreased on day 20 (74.7% \pm 5.4). The percentages of live cells, as measured with the SYTOX Green and FDA assays, were significantly correlated, even though the correlation remained quite weak (R^2 =0.67 p<0.001, Fig. 7).

The amount of intracellular lipids, interpreted from BODIPY fluorescence, increased between days 4 and 6, decreased from days 6 to 14 (during the exponential phase), stayed stable until day 16, and finally increased during the stationary phase (Fig. 8). NR fluorescence, the traditional indicator of lipid content, decreased between days 9 and 20, with one higher fluorescence value on day 11 (Fig. 8).

PCA showed that DA content of cells (total DA) had coordinates really close to those of Nile Red, SSC and bacteria/*Pseudo-nitzschia* ratio, knowing that components 1 and 2 explained 74 % of the variability (Fig. 9). FSC and BOPIDY uptake were also closely correlated with these previous parameters, indicating that increased DA production was associated with a higher intracellular lipid content. A factorial plan (Fig. 10) was developed from the previous PCA, plotting the age of the *P. multiseries* culture, in exponential and stationary phases from day 9 to 20. Days follow a consistent trend, from high component 1 and low component 2 (i.e. high lipid concentration, high DA content, high cell/bacteria ratio, low esterases activity,), towards lower component 1 and higher component 2 (i.e. high esterases activity, low DA content and low lipid concentration, ...). Day 20 was the only days which did not follow this trend, on the extremities of the factorial plan (extremely low components 1 and 2, i.e. driven mainly by the high *P. multiseries* mortality and high number of bacteria).

4. Discussion

The first aim of this study was to test and optimize several methods and probes to assess *Pseudo-nitzschia* physiological status. The percentage of cell mortality in the cultures was determined using SYTOX Green, which only penetrates cells that have lost their membrane integrity, and are thus considered as dead cells (Veldhuis et al., 1997). A final concentration of 0.1 µM was optimal for staining *P. multiseries* dead cells and is in good agreement with those found in the literature for other phytoplankton species (Veldhuis et al., 2001, Binet and Stauber, 2006, Ribalet et al., 2007, Miller-Morey and Van Dolah, 2004, Lawrence et al., 2006).

Fluorescein diacetate (FDA) has previously been used to measure metabolic activity (Jochem, 1999, Regel et al., 2002, Brookes et al., 2000) as well as viability of microalgae (Lawrence et al., 2006, Dorsey et al., 1989, Jansen and Bathmann, 2007). It penetrates the cells passively and once within the cell is hydrolyzed by non-specific esterases into fluorescein and two acetate molecules. The more metabolically active the cells are, the more esterases they produce, resulting in a greater amount of fluorescein accumulation within the cells. The probe will not be cleaved within dead cells, as esterases are inactive. Moreover, if the probe is hydrolyzed by any remaining esterases, the fluorescein will leak out of the cells, as the membranes are permeable. Thus, unstained cells are considered as dead cells. In the literature, measurement of fluorescein released from FDA inside the cells most often occurs between 5 and 20 min of incubation (Jochem, 1999, Regel et al., 2002, Dorsey et al., 1989, Jamers et al., 2009). FDA was only accumulated linearly during the first 15 to 20 min, as previously observed by Gilbert et al. (1992). Accordingly, based on our results and supported by the above publications, measurements were performed after 6 min of incubation. A final concentration of 3 µM was optimal for this assay and is consistent with some publications

(Dorsey et al., 1989, Gilbert et al., 1992) but lower than others (Regel et al., 2002, Jamers et al., 2009). Higher concentrations of FDA were not tested, as 3 µM provided satisfactory staining and higher concentrations of FDA and DMSO may become toxic to the cells.

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

320

321

322

BODIPY 493/503 and Nile Red (NR) were tested to localize and quantify intracellular lipids in *P. multiseries* cells. NR has been used traditionally to stain lipids of microalgae (Cooksey et al., 1987), whereas this is the first time that BODIPY 493/503 has been used to study microalgal lipids. NR fluorescence of microalgal lipids, measured by FCM, has been shown to be linearly correlated to the lipid content of cells (de la Jara et al., 2003). Lipids of P. multiseries, revealed by BODIPY and NR, were observed to form vacuoles inside the cells (Fig. 3), and NR gave a lower fluorescence intensity than BODIPY. These vacuoles are likely to contain reserve lipids, as BODIPY and NR are reported to stain neutral lipids (Gocze and Freeman, 1994). Such vacuoles have previously been described within microalgae (Eltgroth et al., 2005, Liu and Lin, 2001, Remias et al., 2009, Cooper et al., 2010), although lipidstaining BODIPY and NR did not reveal a specific distribution of these vesicles. Both BODIPY and NR were used to quantify intracellular lipid contents by FCM, in the green (FL1) and orange (FL2) channels respectively. In the present study, NR was used at a final concentration of 1 µg ml⁻¹, which is the same as used in previous studies on microalgae (Chen et al., 2009, Chen et al., 2010, Liu et al., 2008, Huang et al., 2009, McGinnis et al., 1997). BODIPY was used at a final concentration of 10 µM. This concentration allowed the detection of subtle variations in the intracellular lipid content of *P. multiseries* grown, for example, in culture media with or without nitrate (data not shown), whereas lower concentrations did not. Higher concentrations were not tested, as 10 µM provided satisfying staining and higher concentrations of BODIPY and DMSO may become toxic to the cells. The concentration used was 100 times higher than the one used for fungus (Saito et al., 2004)

but in agreement with those on human muscle (Wolins et al., 2001) and lower than the one used on amoeba (Kosta et al., 2004).

The development of these methods allowed the physiological status of P. multiseries cells to be monitored over a complete growth cycle. The lag phase of P. multiseries lasted 7 days, which is long compared to other studies on the same species, but not the same strain (Thessen et al., 2009, Lundholm et al., 2004, Kudela et al., 2003, Kotaki et al., 1999, Bates et al., 2000). The P. multiseries growth rate (0.24 \pm 0.01 d⁻¹) was lower than those previously reported in the literature (Thessen et al., 2009, Lundholm et al., 2004, Kudela et al., 2003, Kotaki et al., 1999, Bates et al., 2000). This might be explained by the age of the isolate (isolated in 2007, more than 2 years ago) and the short cell length (\sim 20 μ m); Amato et al. (2005) reported a slight decrease in the growth rate of P. delicatissima with a decrease in apical cell length. Culture conditions were the same or close to studies using Pseudonitzschia cultures (media, irradiance and temperature) and thus could not explain differences in growth rates.

FSC and SSC values of *P. multiseries* decreased during the entire experiment, by 17% and 22%, respectively. FSC and SSC result from the diffraction of the laser by the cell surface. Their decrease in *P. multiseries* may be related to changes in external morphology, cell size and internal cell complexity. During growth, cells undergo asexual reproduction and thus decrease in cell length. FSC and SSC values were, however, similar to values measured over the last year (data not shown) at both the beginning (during the lag phase) and end of experiments. This indicates that FSC and SSC values changed very little over the last year, possibly because this strain isolated in 2007 was already quite old. Inoculation of *P. multiseries* into a new medium resulted in a return to high FSC and SSC values. Because

diatoms cannot increase their cell size, the changes in FSC and SSC values are more likely related to both surface membrane and cytoplasmic modifications than cell size modifications, thus modifying the diffraction of the laser. This hypothesis is based on the correlation between SSC and both BODIPY and NR fluorescences ($R^2 = 0.77$ and 0.64, respectively, at p<0.01). It may possible that when cells had a lot of lipid vesicles within their cytoplasm, this increased cell complexity was reflected by the changes in FSC and SSC values.

376

377

378

379

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

370

371

372

373

374

375

Bacterial community counts and morphological changes within Pseudo-nitzschia cultures were estimated for the first time by FCM. In this microalgal culture, the growth rate of the bacteria was 0.07 d⁻¹, which remained constant over the course of the experiment; the bacteria did not reach stationary phase during the 20 days of the experiment. This growth rate is in the lower range of bacteria grown in adapted culture media, that can grow from 0.01 h⁻¹ (Kemp et al., 1993) to 1.5 h⁻¹ (Makino et al., 2003). These differences may be due to the competition with *P. multiseries* for some nutrients or the fact that they may not have all the nutrients they need and that are usually added in agar plates. The highest bacteria/P. multiseries ratios were measured during the lag phase (day 4 to 7) and at the beginning of the exponential phase (day 7 and 8). Bacteria measured are the free-living bacteria contained in the medium; however, some bacteria can also be attached directly to P. multiseries cells (Kaczmarska et al., 2005), these attached bacteria were not taken into account (their signal was confounded within these of *P. multiseries*). The decrease in the number of bacteria per *P.* multiseries cell during the exponential phase of P. multiseries (from 922 to 180) is explained by a faster growth rate of *P. multiseries* compared to bacteria. The increase in the bacteria/*P.* multiseries ratio during the senescent phase of P. multiseries may be a result of bacteria taking advantage of organic materials released from dead P. multiseries cells (Kaczmarska et al., 2005). Stewart et al. (1997) found between 7 and 10 bacteria per P. multiseries cell,

which is about 20 to 80 times lower than our values. This difference may be explained by (i) a high residual percentage of dead *P. multiseries* cells present during the entire experiment, or (ii) the age of our isolate, which provided sufficient time (two years) for the bacterial community to adapt to the culture conditions of *P. multiseries*. Differences found in bacterial communities over time in culture, for non-toxic *Pseudo-nitzschia pungens* support this possibility (Sapp et al., 2007), but Wrabel and Rocap (2007) found no shifts in bacterial assemblages in a *Pseudo-nitzschia* culture over its initial nine months (Wrabel and Rocap, 2007). Nevertheless, shift in the bacterial community may appear after 9 months in culture. FSC and SSC values of the bacterial community decreased during the experiment. These values are related to size and complexity of bacterial cells. This may reflect a shift in species composition of the bacterial community to smaller bacteria or a decrease in bacterial cell size. Between 1.9 and 5.8% of the bacteria in our cultures were dead, with the highest percentage at day 4. The percentage of dead bacteria remained quite low (1.9-2.7%) until the end of the experiment, as they were still in exponential phase.

Values of FL3 (related to the chlorophyll content) decreased slightly during the entire experiment, with a greatest decrease between days 4 and 6. The chlorophyll content of *P. multiseries* decreased only slightly during the exponential phase. Nevertheless, cells with more chlorophyll may not necessarily have the most efficient photosynthesis. Indeed, QY, a measure of the efficiency of photosynthesis, was not well correlated to FL3 values, as QY decreased during the stationary phase when FL3 remained high. QY increased at the beginning of the exponential phase and remained high during the remaining exponential phase, with cells having an efficient photosynthesis with a lot of energy produced. Such an increase of QY during the exponential phase has been shown for other microalgal species, e.g. *Symbiodinium* sp. (Rodriguez-Roman and Iglesias-Prieto, 2005), and is currently used as

a measure of algal culture health. As the QY value is not affected by the percentage of dead cells in the cultures (Franklin et al., 2009), it can be speculated that at the end of the stationary phase, live *P. multiseries* cells still contained high amounts of chlorophyll, but with a poor photosynthetic efficiency.

424

425

426

427

428

429

430

431

432

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

420

421

422

423

During the entire experiment, the percentage of dead *P. multiseries* cells was relatively high, ranging from 19% to 54%. Nevertheless, our cultures reached a maximum cell concentration of 8 x 10⁴ cells ml⁻¹, which is consistent with some previous studies (Mengelt and Prézelin, 2002, Bates and Richard, 1996, Lewis et al., 1993, Kotaki et al., 1999) but lower than the results of the majority of the studies (Bates and Richard, 1996, Kotaki et al., 1999, Mengelt and Prézelin, 2002), suggesting that our cultures were not in good health, which also explains the low growth rate and the high percentage of dead cells. Generally, in healthy and young cultures of *Pseudo-nitzschia* sp., the percentage of dead cells has been described under 5% (Mengelt and Prézelin, 2002). The increase in dead cells at the end of the experiment may be due to the limitations in nutrients and associated with the beginning of the stationary phase. Such a consistently high percentage of dead cells in the culture may be explained by the age of the isolate. The percentage of dead cells assessed with FDA was significantly but not perfectly correlated ($R^2 = 0.67$, p<0.01) to those obtained with SYTOX Green and appeared slightly lower than when measured with SYTOX Green. Cells can have a compromised cell membrane, and be considered as dead when assessed with SYTOX Green, but they may still have active esterases. These false-positive cells (dead but stained with FDA) have been shown to represent 1.6% of total cells of Chlamydomonas reinhardtii (Jamers et al., 2009). Such differences between SYTOX Green and FDA have also been previously observed in Heterosigma akashiwo (Lawrence et al., 2006). Using these two probes not only provides the percentage of dead versus live cells but also provides an

indication of the way cells are dying. In our cultures, cells most likely died by loss of membrane integrity prior to inactivation of esterases, which was also observed by Lawrence et al. (2006) in cultures of *H. akashiwo*. Thus, SYTOX Green and FDA provide useful information and could both be used in physiological measurements.

449

450

451

452

453

454

455

456

457

458

459

460

461

462

463

464

465

466

467

468

469

445

446

447

448

Lipid-related fluorescence assessed with BODIPY was high during the lag phase, indicating that the cells contained energy stored as neutral lipids. BODIPY fluorescence decreased during the entire exponential phase, suggesting that cells were using these stored lipids to grow, in addition to the energy produced by photosynthesis. Cells stopped growing at the stationary phase, and energy was once again stored as lipids, as evidenced by the increase in BODIPY fluorescence. Although no data are available between days 4 and 6, NR fluorescence decreased during the remainder of the experiment, with the exception of a high value on day 11. There was a weak correlation between BODIPY and NR fluorescence during the exponential phase (between days 7 and 18; $R^2 = 0.65$, p<0.01). During the stationary phase, however, BODIPY fluorescence is higher than that of NR, which confirms that these two probes may not actually stain the same compounds during that period. This emphasises the importance of using both lipid probes. These differences may be explained by the chemical properties of the two probes. BODIPY 493/503 stains intracellular lipids more effectively than NR, with a higher sensitivity and lower background (Kacmar et al., 2006). BODIPY 493/503 also stains intracellular lipid droplets more specifically than does NR (Gocze and Freeman, 1994). NR is an uncharged hydrophobic molecule whose fluorescence is strongly influenced by the polarity of its environment. As well as lipids, NR interacts with many, but not all, native proteins (Sackett and Wolff, 1987) and can undergo changes in fluorescence intensity when it binds to certain proteins (Brown et al., 1995). The fact that NR binds proteins may explain its lower sensitivity to small variations in lipid content, as

measured by BODIPY. This is especially evident during the stationary phase, when differences in lipid staining were observed between the two probes. Thus, the combined use of BODIPY and NR probes is of interest as they may reflect different physiological changes.

473

474

475

476

477

478

479

480

481

482

483

484

485

486

487

488

489

490

491

492

493

494

495

472

470

471

The maximum of total DA per cell was observed on days 9 and 10, in early exponential phase, and it decreased during the remainder of the exponential phase, and the stationary phase. The same pattern of DA production has been observed for *Pseudo-nitzschia* calliantha (Besiktepe et al., 2008) and Pseudo-nitzschia pseudodelicatissima (Pan et al., 2001), where the maximum DA production was observed during the early exponential phase. All studies of *P. multiseries*, however, have found a maximum DA production during the stationary phase (Kotaki et al., 1999, Bates et al., 2000, Lewis et al., 1993, Osada and Stewart, 1997). Maybe old cultures of *P. multiseries* exhibit a shift of DA production from stationary phase to early exponential phase, which is difficult to prove, as one strain has never been studied throughout its lifetime in laboratory. Moreover, strains exhibiting DA production during early exponential phase seem to have a lower DA content per cell (Besiktepe et al., 2008, Pan et al., 2001). In our study, total cellular DA varied between 0 and 192 fg cell⁻¹, which is low compared to previous studies on *P. multiseries*, where DA attained 1.2 to 45 pg cell⁻¹ (Bates et al., 2000, Thessen et al., 2009). Our values are more consistent with those of *P. calliantha* (Álvarez et al., 2009) or *P. pseudodelicatissima* (Pan et al., 2001), which had a maximum toxicity of 10 and 36 fg cell⁻¹, respectively, but these species have a smaller cell volume. Our strain of P. multiseries was really short (around 20 µm length here, whereas cells can be 100 µm long just after sexual reproduction, which may explain the low values of DA it produced. DA intracellular content started to decrease from day 11 to the end of the stationary phase. This decrease of DA may also coincide with a physiological stress. Unfortunately, bacteria were not measured that day. Nevertheless, day 11 exhibited surprising values of NR, FL3 and QY (i.e. out of the trend). Cells might have undergone a stress, with

loss of chlorophyll and thus decreased QY, thus energy was stored under lipid form and DA production was stopped. Dissolved DA was particularly low but remained constant over time, with cells excreting 11 to 40 % of their total DA. This low DA release may be due to the age of the strain, isolated in 2007, and its consequent smaller size.

500

501

502

503

504

505

506

507

508

509

510

511

512

513

514

515

516

517

518

519

520

496

497

498

499

DA is a secondary metabolite and is thus believed to be produced when cells have excess energy that is not used for primary metabolism (Bates, 1998). Meanwhile, extra energy is stored as lipids when cells are not able to use it for primary metabolism. In this study, the measure of FDA provided information regarding primary metabolism and QY (photosynthetic efficiency) was measured to estimate the production of energy. There was no clear relationship between DA production (total or dissolved) and QY or FDA hydrolysis. Conversely, a positive correlation was observed between total DA content and NR after PCA analysis (Fig. 9). Cells of *P. multiseries* seemed to produce more DA when they had more lipids, thus more available stored energy, which is in agreement with some studies (Whyte et al., 1995) but not all (Pan et al., 1996). Indeed, Pan et al. (1996) made the hypothesis that DA and lipid synthesis shared some precursors as Acetyl-CoA, so when DA is produced, lipids can not be stored. Bacteria are also known to play a role in DA production, by enhancing DA production through unknown mechanisms (Bates et al., 1995, Stewart et al., 1997). In this study, the ratio of bacteria per P. multiseries cell was also weakly correlated to DA content, as the variable coordinates are quite close in the PCA analysis (R²=0.49, p<0.001, Fig. 9). Cells seemed to produce more DA when more bacteria per *P. multiseries* cell were present in the culture, possibly indicating that more DA was produced either when competition with bacteria was greater or if bacteria produced toxin-enhancing compounds. FSC and BOPIDY uptake were also closely correlated with DA content, SSC, NR and ratio bacteria/Pseudonitzschia, indicating that increased DA content is associated with a higher intracellular lipid

content. This lipid increase can cause an increase in the amount and/or the size of lipid vacuoles within the cells, which could also explain the increase observed in FSC and SSC of the *P. multiseries* cells. A factorial plan (Fig. 10) was developed from the previous PCA, which plots the incubation time of the *P. multiseries* culture, from day 9 to 20 (values included in the previous PCA). The position of the days included on this factorial plan clearly demonstrates and summarizes our findings: the gradual and continuous shift of the culture from low algal concentration, high bacteria/algal ratio, large SSC, high lipid and DA content in early stationary phase, towards increasing concentrations, reaching a maximum at the end of the exponential phase, to finally showing a high percentage of dead algal cells and bacteria in late stationary phase.

FCM has been previously used on microalgae, mainly to cell count or measure of only one physiological parameter per experiment. Here, we developed a set of physiological measurements, which provides a more complete description of the physiological status of the microalgae. This technique has been applied to one species of *Pseudo-nitzschia* but can be broadened to other microalgal species, whether or not they are toxic or diatoms. Developing cell-based physiological measurements with FCM will help to further our understanding of phytoplankton physiology and its responses to environmental changes, both biotic and abiotic.

541	Acknowledgements
542	The authors would like to thank S.S. Bates for his constructive comments and English
543	corrections. This work was supported by the national program EC2CO MicrobiEN, the
544	"Région Bretagne" and the French ministry of research (MENRT grant).
545	

References

547

- Álvarez, G., Uribe, E., Quijano-Scheggia, S., López-Rivera, A., Mariño, C., Blanco, J., 2009.
- 549 Domoic acid production by Pseudo-nitzschia australis and Pseudo-nitzschia calliantha
- isolated from North Chile. Harmful Algae.8,938-945.
- Anderson, C. R., Siegel, D. A., Kudela, R. M., Brzezinski, M. A., 2009. Empirical models of
- toxigenic *Pseudo-nitzschia* blooms: Potential use as a remote detection tool in the Santa
- Barbara Channel. Harmful Algae. 8,478-492.
- Bates, S. S., (1998) Ecophysiology and metabolism of ASP toxin production. In:
- Physiological ecology of harmful algal blooms. D. M. Anderson, A. D. Cembella and G. M.
- Hallegraeff (eds). Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, pp. 405-426.
- Bates, S. S., Douglas, D. J., Doucette, G. J., Leger, C., 1995. Enhancement of domoic acid
- production by reintroducing bacteria to axenic cultures of the diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia*
- 559 *multiseries*. Natural Toxins.3,428-435.
- Bates, S. S., Douglas, D. J., Doucette, G. J., Léger, C., 1995. Enhancement of domoic acid
- production by reintroducing bacteria to axenic cultures of the diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia*
- 562 *multiseries*. Natural Toxins.3,428-435.
- Bates, S. S., Leger, C., Satchwell, M., Boyer, G. L., (2000) The effects of iron on domoic
- acid production by *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries*. In: 9th International Conference on Harmful
- Algal Blooms. G. A. Hallegraeff, S. I. Blackburn, C. J. Bolch and R. J. Lewis (eds). Hobart,
- Tasmania: Intergov. Oceanogr. Comm., Paris, pp. 320–323.
- Bates, S. S., Richard, J., (1996) Domoic acid production and cell division by *P. multiseries* in
- relation to a light: dark cycle in silicate-limited chemostat culture. In: 5th Canadian
- Workshop on Harmful Marine Algae. . Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic
- 570 Sciences, pp. 140-143.
- Besiktepe, S., Ryabushko, L., Ediger, D., Yimaz, D., Zenginer, A., Ryabushko, V., Lee, R.,
- 572 2008. Domoic acid production by *Pseudo-nitzschia calliantha* Lundholm, Moestrup et Hasle
- 573 (bacillariophyta) isolated from the Black Sea. Harmful Algae.7,438-442.
- Binet, M. T., Stauber, J. L., 2006. Rapid flow cytometric method for the assessment of toxic
- 575 dinoflagellate cyst viability. Marine Environmental Research.62,247-260.
- 576 Brookes, J. D., Geary, S. M., Ganf, G. G., Burch, M. D., 2000. Use of FDA and flow
- 577 cytometry to assess metabolic activity as an indicator of nutrient status in phytoplankton.
- 578 Marine and Freshwater Research.51,817-823.
- Brown, M. B., Miller, J. N., Seare, N. J., 1995. An investigation of the use of Nile Red as a
- long-wavelength fluorescent probe for the study of alpha(1)-acid glycoprotein drug
- interactions. Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis.13,1011-1017.
- 582 Chen, W., Sommerfeld, M., Hu, Q., 2010. Microwave-assisted Nile red method for in vivo
- quantification of neutral lipids in microalgae. Bioresource Technology.In Press, Corrected
- 584 Proof
- 585 Chen, W., Zhang, C., Song, L., Sommerfeld, M., Hu, Q., 2009. A high throughput Nile red
- method for quantitative measurement of neutral lipids in microalgae. Journal of
- 587 Microbiological Methods.77,41-47.
- Cooksey, K. E., Guckert, J. B., Williams, S. A., Callis, P. R., 1987. Fluorometric
- determination of the neutral lipid content of microalgal cells using Nile Red. Journal of
- 590 Microbiological Methods.6,333-345.
- Cooper, M. S., Hardin, W. R., Petersen, T. W., Cattolico, R. A., 2010. Visualizing "green oil"
- in live algal cells. Journal of Bioscience and Bioengineering. 109, 198-201.

- de la Jara, A., Mendoza, H., Martel, A., Molina, C., Nordstron, L., de la Rosa, V., Diaz, R.,
- 594 2003. Flow cytometric determination of lipid content in a marine dinoflagellate,
- 595 Crypthecodinium cohnii. Journal of Applied Phycology.15,433-438.
- de la Riva, G. T., Johnson, C. K., Gulland, F. M. D., Langlois, G. W., Heyning, J. E., Rowles,
- T. K., Mazet, J. A. K., 2009. Association of an unusual marine mammal mortality event with
- 598 Pseudo-nitzschia spp. blooms along the southern California coastline. Journal of Wildlife
- 599 Diseases.45,109-121.
- De Philippis, R., Sili, C., Faraloni, C., Vincenzini, M., 2002. Occurrence and significance of
- 601 exopolysaccharide-producing cyanobacteria in the benthic mucilaginous aggregates of the
- Tyrrhenian Sea (Tuscan Archipelago). Annals of Microbiology.52,1-11.
- Dempster, T. A., Sommerfeld, M. R., 1998. Effects of environmental conditions on growth
- and lipid accumulation in *Nitzschia communis* (Bacillariophyceae). Journal of
- 605 Phycology.34,712-721.
- Dorsey, J., Yentsch, C. M., Mayo, S., McKenna, C., 1989. Rapid analytical technique for the
- assessment of cell metabolic-activity in marine microalgae. Cytometry. 10,622-628.
- 608 El-Sabaawi, R., Harrison, P. J., 2006. Interactive effects of irradiance and temperature on the
- 609 photosynthetic physiology of the pennate diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia granii* (Bacillariophyceae)
- from the northeast subarctic Pacific. Journal of Phycology. 42.778-785.
- Eltgroth, M. L., Watwood, R. L., Wolfe, G. V., 2005. Production and cellular localization of
- 612 neutral long-chain lipids in the haptophyte algae *Isochrysis galbana* and *Emiliania huxleyi*.
- 613 Journal of Phycology.41,1000-1009.
- 614 Fire, S. E., Wang, Z., Leighfield, T. A., Morton, S. L., McFee, W. E., McLellan, W. A.,
- 615 Litaker, R. W., Tester, P. A., et al., 2009. Domoic acid exposure in pygmy and dwarf sperm
- whales (Kogia spp.) from southeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S. waters. Harmful Algae.8,658-
- 617 664.
- 618 Franklin, D. J., Choi, C. J., Hughes, C., Malin, G., Berges, J. A., 2009. Effect of dead
- 619 phytoplankton cells on the apparent efficiency of photosystem II. Marine Ecology-Progress
- 620 Series.382,35-40.
- 621 Gilbert, F., Galgani, F., Cadiou, Y., 1992. Rapid assessment of metabolic activity in marine
- 622 microalgae Application in ecotoxicological tests and evaluation of water quality. Marine
- 623 Biology.112,199-205.
- 624 Gocze, P. M., Freeman, D. A., 1994. Factors underlying the variability of lipid droplet
- fluorescence in MA-10 leydig tumor cells. Cytometry. 17,151-158.
- 626 Greenspan, P., Mayer, E. P., Fowler, S. D., 1985. Nile red: a selective fluorescent stain for
- intracellular lipid droplets. Journal of Cell Biology. 100,965-973.
- 628 Guillard, R. R. L., Hargraves, P. E., 1993. Stichochrysis immobilis is a diatom, not a
- 629 chrysophyte. Phycologia.32,234-236.
- Huang, G.-H., Chen, G., Chen, F., 2009. Rapid screening method for lipid production in alga
- based on Nile red fluorescence. Biomass and Bioenergy.33,1386-1392.
- 632 Ilyash, L. V., Belevich, T. A., Ulanova, A. Y., Matorin, D. N., 2007. Fluorescence parameters
- of marine plankton algae at the assimilation of organic nitrogen. Moscow University
- 634 Biological Sciences Bulletin.62,111-116.
- Jamers, A., Lenjou, M., Deraedt, P., Van Bockstaele, D., Blust, R., de Coen, W., 2009. Flow
- 636 cytometric analysis of the cadmium-exposed green alga Chlamydomonas reinhardtii
- 637 (Chlorophyceae). European Journal of Phycology.44,541-550.
- Jansen, S., Bathmann, U., 2007. Algae viability within copepod faecal pellets: evidence from
- 639 microscopic examinations. Marine Ecology-Progress Series.337,145-153.
- Jochem, F. J., 1999. Dark survival strategies in marine phytoplankton assessed by cytometric
- measurement of metabolic activity with fluorescein diacetate. Marine Biology.135,721-728.

- Kacmar, J., Carlson, R., Balogh, S. J., Srienc, F., 2006. Staining and quantification of poly-3-
- 643 hydroxybutyrate in Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Cupriavidus necator cell populations
- using automated flow cytometry. Cytometry Part A.69A,27-35.
- Kaczmarska, I., Ehrman, J. M., Bates, S. S., Green, D. H., Léger, C., Harris, J., 2005.
- 646 Diversity and distribution of epibiotic bacteria on *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries*
- 647 (Bacillariophyceae) in culture, and comparison with those on diatoms in native seawater.
- 648 Harmful Algae.4,725-741.
- Kemp, P. F., Lee, S., Laroche, J., 1993. Estimating the growth rate of slowly growing marine
- bacteria from Rna content. Applied and Environmental Microbiology. 59,2594-2601.
- Knot, H. J., Laher, I., Sobie, E. A., Guatimosim, S., Gomez-Viquez, L., Hartmann, H., Song,
- 652 L. S., Lederer, W. J., et al., 2005. Twenty years of calcium imaging: Cell physiology to dye
- 653 for. Molecular Interventions.5,112-127.
- Kosta, A., Roisin-Bouffay, C., Luciani, M. F., Otto, G. P., Kessin, R. H., Golstein, P., 2004.
- Autophagy gene disruption reveals a non-vacuolar cell death pathway in *Dictyostelium*.
- 656 Journal of Biological Chemistry.279,48404-48409.
- Kotaki, Y., Koike, K., Sato, S., Ogata, T., Fukuyo, Y., Kodama, M., 1999. Confirmation of
- domoic acid production of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* isolated from Ofunato Bay, Japan.
- 659 Toxicon.37,677-682.
- Kroger, N., Poulsen, N., 2008. Diatoms-From cell wall biogenesis to nanotechnology. Annual
- 661 Review of Genetics. 42,83-107.
- Kudela, R., Roberts, A., Armstrong, M., (2003) Laboratory analyses of nutrient stress and
- 663 toxin production in *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. from Monterey Bay, California. In: Harmful Algae
- 664 2002. K. A. Steidinger, J. H. Landsberg, C. R. Tomas and V. G.A. (eds). Florida and Wildlife
- 665 Conservation Commission, Florida Institute of Oceanography, and Intergovernmental
- Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, pp. 136–138.
- Lane, J. Q., Raimondi, P. T., Kudela, R. M., 2009. Development of a logistic regression
- model for the prediction of toxigenic *Pseudo-nitzschia* blooms in Monterey Bay, California.
- Marine Ecology-Progress Series. 383, 37-51.
- 670 Lawrence, J. E., Brussaard, C. P. D., Suttle, C. A., 2006. Virus-specific responses of
- 671 Heterosigma akashiwo to infection. Applied and Environmental Microbiology.72,7829-7834.
- Leblanc, K., Hare, C. E., Boyd, P. W., Bruland, K. W., Sohst, B., Pickmere, S., Lohan, M. C.,
- Buck, K., et al., 2005. Fe and Zn effects on the Si cycle and diatom community structure in
- 674 two contrasting high and low-silicate HNLC areas. Deep-Sea Research Part I-Oceanographic
- 675 Research Papers.52,1842-1864.
- 676 Lewis, N. I., Bates, S. S., McLachlan, J. L., Smith, J. C., (1993) Temperature effects on
- growth, domoic acid production, and morphology of the diatom *Nitzschia pungens* f.
- 678 multiseries. In: Toxic Phytoplankton Blooms in the Sea. T. J. Smayda and Y. Shimizu (eds).
- 679 Amsterdam (Netherlands): Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., pp. 601-606.
- 680 Liu, C. P., Lin, L. P., 2001. Ultrastructural study and lipid formation of *Isochrysis* sp
- 681 CCMP1324. Botanical Bulletin of Academia Sinica.42,207-214.
- 682 Liu, Z.-Y., Wang, G.-C., Zhou, B.-C., 2008. Effect of iron on growth and lipid accumulation
- 683 in *Chlorella vulgaris*. Bioresource Technology.99,4717-4722.
- Lundholm, N., Hansen, P. J., Kotaki, Y., 2004. Effect of pH on growth and domoic acid
- production by potentially toxic diatoms of the genera *Pseudo-nitzschia* and *Nitzschia*. Marine
- 686 Ecology-Progress Series.273,1-15.
- Magaletti, E., Urbani, R., Sist, P., Ferrari, C. R., Cicero, A. M., 2004. Abundance and
- chemical characterization of extracellular carbohydrates released by the marine diatom
- 689 Cylindrotheca fusiformis under N- and P-limitation. European Journal of Phycology.39,133-
- 690 142.

- Makino, W., Cotner, J. B., Sterner, R. W., Elser, J. J., 2003. Are bacteria more like plants or
- animals? Growth rate and resource dependence of bacterial C: N: P stoichiometry.
- 693 Functional Ecology.17,121-130.
- Marie, D., Partensky, F., Jacquet, S., Vaulot, D., 1997. Enumeration and cell cycle analysis of
- 695 natural populations of marine picoplankton by flow cytometry using the nucleic acid stain
- 696 SYBR Green I. Applied and Environmental Microbiology.63,186.
- Marie, D., Partensky, F., Vaulot, D., Brussaard, C., 1999. Enumeration of phytoplankton,
- bacteria, and viruses in marine samples. Current Protocols in Cytometry. 11.11.11-11.11.15.
- 699 McGinnis, K. M., Dempster, T. A., Sommerfeld, M. R., 1997. Characterization of the growth
- and lipid content of the diatom *Chaetoceros muelleri*. Journal of Applied Phycology.9,19-24.
- Mengelt, C., Prézelin, B. B., (2002) Dark survival and subsequent light recovery for *Pseudo-*
- 702 nitzschia multiseries. In: Harmful Algae 2002. K. A. Steidinger, J. H. Landsberg, C. R.
- 703 Tomas and G. A. Vargo (eds). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida
- 704 Institute of Oceanography, and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO,
- 705 Paris, pp. 388-390.
- Miller-Morey, J. S., Van Dolah, F. M., 2004. Differential responses of stress proteins,
- antioxidant enzymes, and photosynthetic efficiency to physiological stresses in the Florida
- 708 red tide dinoflagellate, Karenia brevis. Comparative biochemistry and physiology.
- 709 Toxicology & pharmacology: CBP.138,493-505.
- Okochi, M., Taguchi, T., Tsuboi, M., Nakamura, N., Matsunaga, T., 1999. Fluorometric
- observation of viable and dead adhering diatoms using TO-PRO-1 iodide and its application
- 712 to the estimation of electrochemical treatment. Applied Microbiology and
- 713 Biotechnology.51,364-369.
- Olson, R. J., Frankel, S. L., Chisholm, S. W., Shapiro, H. M., 1983. An inexpensive flow
- 715 cytometer for the analysis of fluorescence signals in phytoplankton chlorophyll and DNA
- distributions. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology.68,129-144.
- Osada, M., Stewart, J. E., 1997. Gluconic acid/gluconolactone: physiological influences on
- 718 domoic acid production by bacteria associated with *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries*. Aquatic
- 719 Microbial Ecology.12,203-209.
- Pan, Y. L., Parsons, M. L., Busman, M., Moeller, P. D. R., Dortch, Q., Powell, C. L.,
- Doucette, G. J., 2001. Pseudo-nitzschia sp. cf. pseudodelicatissima a confirmed producer of
- domoic acid from the northern Gulf of Mexico. Marine Ecology-Progress Series.220,83-92.
- Pan, Y. L., Subba Rao, D. V., Mann, K. H., 1996. Changes in domoic acid production and
- 724 cellular chemical composition of the toxigenic diatom Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries under
- 725 phosphate limitation. Journal of Phycology.32,371-381.
- Regel, R. H., Ferris, J. M., Ganf, G. G., Brookes, J. D., 2002. Algal esterase activity as a
- biomeasure of environmental degradation in a freshwater creek. Aquatic Toxicology.59,209-
- 728 223.
- Remias, D., Holzinger, A., Lutz, C., 2009. Physiology, ultrastructure and habitat of the ice
- alga Mesotaenium berggrenii (Zygnemaphyceae, Chlorophyta) from glaciers in the European
- 731 Alps. Phycologia.48,302-312.
- Ribalet, F., Berges, J. A., Ianora, A., Casotti, R., 2007. Growth inhibition of cultured marine
- phytoplankton by toxic algal-derived polyunsaturated aldehydes. Aquatic Toxicology.85,219-
- 734 227.
- Rodriguez-Roman, A., Iglesias-Prieto, R., 2005. Regulation of photochemical activity in
- 736 cultured symbiotic dinoflagellates under nitrate limitation and deprivation. Marine
- 737 Biology.146,1063-1073.
- Sackett, D. L., Wolff, J., 1987. Nile red as a polarity-sensitive fluorescent probe of
- hydrophobic protein surfaces. Analytical Biochemistry. 167,228-234.

- Saito, K., Kuga-Uetake, Y., Saito, M., 2004. Acidic vesicles in living hyphae of an arbuscular
- 741 mycorrhizal fungus, *Gigaspora margarita*. Plant and Soil.261,231-237.
- Sapp, M., Wichels, A., Gerdts, G., 2007. Impacts of cultivation of marine diatoms on the
- associated bacterial community. Applied and Environmental Microbiology.73,3117-3120.
- Scholin, C. A., Gulland, F., Doucette, G. J., Benson, S., Busman, M., Chavez, F. P., Cordaro,
- J., DeLong, R., et al., 2000. Mortality of sea lions along the central California coast linked to
- a toxic diatom bloom. Nature.403,80-84.
- Sierra-Beltrán, A. P., Cruz, A., Nunez, E., Del Villar, L. M., Cerecero, J., Ochoa, J. L., 1998.
- An overview of the marine food poisoning in Mexico. Toxicon.36,1493-1502.
- 749 Sierra-Beltrán, A. P., Palafox-Uribe, M., Grajales-Montiel, J., Cruz-Villacorta, A., Ochoa, J.
- 750 L., 1997. Sea bird mortality at Cabo San Lucas, Mexico: Evidence that toxic diatom blooms
- 751 are spreading. Toxicon.35,447-453.
- 752 Stewart, J. E., Marks, L. J., Wood, C. R., Risser, S. M., Gray, S., 1997. Symbiotic relations
- between bacteria and the domoic acid producing diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* and the
- 754 capacity of these bacteria for gluconic acid/gluconolactone formation. Aquatic Microbial
- 755 Ecology.12,211-221.
- Thessen, A. E., Bowers, H. A., Stoecker, D. K., 2009. Intra- and interspecies differences in
- 757 growth and toxicity of *Pseudo-nitzschia* while using different nitrogen sources. Harmful
- 758 Algae.8,792-810.
- 759 Veldhuis, M. J. W., Cucci, T. L., Sieracki, M. E., 1997. Cellular DNA content of marine
- phytoplankton using two new fluorochromes: Taxonomic and ecological implications.
- 761 Journal of Phycology.33,527-541.
- Veldhuis, M. J. W., Kraay, G. W., Timmermans, K. R., 2001. Cell death in phytoplankton:
- correlation between changes in membrane permeability, photosynthetic activity, pigmentation
- and growth. European Journal of Phycology.36,167-177.
- Whyte, J. N. C., Ginther, N. G., Townsend, L. D., 1995. Formation of domoic acid and fatty
- acids in *Pseudonitzschia pungens* f *multiseries* with scale of culture. Journal of Applied
- 767 Phycology.7,199-205.
- Wolins, N. E., Rubin, D., Brasaemle, D. L., 2001. TIP47 associates with lipid droplets.
- 769 Journal of Biological Chemistry.276,5101-5108.
- 770 Work, T. M., Barr, B., Beale, A. M., Fritz, L., Quilliam, M. A., Wright, J. L. C., 1993.
- 771 Epidemiology of domoic acid poisoning in brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) and
- Brandt's cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) in California. Journal of Zoo and Wildlife
- 773 Medicine.24,54-62.

- Wrabel, M. L., Rocap, G., (2007) Specificity of bacterial assemblages associated with the
- toxin-producing diatom, *Pseudo-nitzschia*. In: 4th Symposium on Harmful Algae in the U.S.
- 776 Woods Hole, MA, pp. 191.
- Wright, J. L. C., Boyd, R. K., de Freitas, A. S. W., Falk, M., Foxall, R. A., Jamieson, W. D.,
- 778 Laycock, M. V., McCulloch, A. W., et al., 1989. Identification of domoic acid, a
- neuroexcitatory amino-acid, in toxic mussels from eastern Prince Edward Island. Canadian
- 780 Journal of Chemistry. 67, 481-490.
- Yentsch, C. M., Mague, F. C., Horan, P. K., Muirhead, K., 1983. Flow cytometric DNA
- determinations on individual cells of the dinoflagellate Gonyaulax tamarensis var excavata.
- Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology.67,175-183.

Legends to figures

- Figure 1. Cytograms of 50/50 dead/live cells of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* stained with
- 788 SYTOX Green. A. Cytogram of FSC and SSC (morphological parameters, expressed in
- arbitrary units, AU) of *P. multiseries*. B. Cytogram of FL1 and FL3 fluorescence of *P*.
- 790 multiseries. FL1 is the green fluorescence due to SYTOX Green, FL3 is the red fluorescence
- due to chlorophyll (AU). R1 are unstained cells (considered as live cells, in red) and R2 are
- stained cells (considered as dead cells, in green).
- Figure 2. Bacteria stained with SYBR Green and propidium iodide. A. Histogram of FL1
- 794 (green) fluorescence of bacteria; 1 to 7 representing aggregates of 1 to 7 or more bacteria.
- 795 FL1 is the green fluorescence due to SYBR Green. B. Cytograms of morphological
- parameters of bacteria (FSC and SSC, expressed in arbitrary units, AU). Each colour
- represents one aggregate size (light green=one bacteria, dark blue=2 bacteria, pink=3
- bacteria, light blue=4 bacteria, yellow=5 bacteria, red=6 bacteria, dark green=7 or more
- 799 bacteria).
- Figure 3. Photomicrographs of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* cells in white light (A, D, G),
- epifluorescence light with filter "BP 515/560 / BS 580 / LP 590" (B, E, H), and filter "BP
- 802 450-490 / BS 510 / LP 515" (C, F, I). A, B, C) Cells stained with BODIPY. D, E, F) Cells
- stained with Nile Red. G, H, I) Cells stained with FDA. Scale bar=10 µm.
- Figure 4. Green fluorescence of *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* cells (in arbitrary units, AU)
- stained with 3.0 µM of fluorescein diacetate (FDA) and measured on FL1 detector of a flow
- 806 cytometer (n=3, mean \pm SD).
- Figure 5. A- Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries growth curve (y-axis) and bacteria/P. multiseries
- ratio (z-axis, n=6, mean \pm SE). The exponential growth phase of *P. multiseries* is framed with
- a black-lined rectangle. B- Concentration of total and dissolved domoic acid (DA) in the
- whole culture (y-axis, pg ml⁻¹) and cellular DA in fg cell⁻¹ (z-axis, n=6, mean \pm SE).
- 811 Exponential growth phase of *P. multiseries* is framed with a black-lined rectangle.

812	Figure 6. Chlorophyll fluorescence (FL3, in arbitrary units, AU, y-axis) and Quantum Yield
813	(QY, z-axis) of live <i>Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries</i> cells as a function of culture age. FL3 was
814	measured using flow cytometry on live cells, as determined by SYTOX Green staining (n=6,
815	mean \pm SE). The exponential growth phase of <i>P. multiseries</i> is framed with a black-lined
816	rectangle.
817	Figure 7. Fluorescein diacetate (FDA) uptake (FL1 fluorescence of live cells, y-axis) and
818	percentage of Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries live cells stained by FDA (z-axis) and detected
819	using flow cytometer FL1 detector (n=6, mean \pm SE). Exponential growth phase of P .
820	multiseries is framed with a black lined rectangle. Correlation between the percentages of live
821	cells measured with the SYTOX Green and FDA assays is indicated in the small graph (in
822	arbitrary units, AU).
823	Figure 8. Green and orange fluorescences of <i>Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries</i> cells stained with
824	BODIPY 493/503 and Nile Red (indicators of lipid content) and detected by the FL1 (y-axis)
825	and FL2 (z-axis) detectors, respectively, on a flow cytometer, in arbitrary units (n=6, mean \pm
826	SE). Exponential growth phase of <i>P. multiseries</i> is framed with a black lined rectangle.
827	Figure 9. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) plot of all physiological measurements
828	between days 9 and 20 (D9 to D20) of the <i>P. multiseries</i> culture (n=52).
829	Figure 10. Factorial plan issued from the previous PCA and plotting days of culture of <i>P</i> .
830	multiseries, from day 9 to day 20 (D9 to D20, n=52).
831	

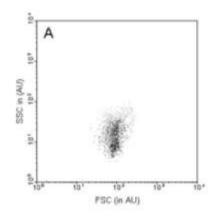
Table 1. *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseries* and associated bacteria concentration (of live cells),
morphological parameters (FSC and SSC, in arbitrary units), percentage of dead *P*. *multiseries* measured using SYTOX Green and percentage of dead bacteria assessed using

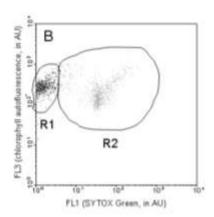
SYBR Green - propidium iodide double staining (n=6, mean ± SE).

	P. multiseries							Bacteria								
Day	FSC (AU)		SSC (AU)		% dead cells		Concentration (cell ml ⁻¹)		FSC (AU)		SSC (AU)		% dead cells		Concentration (10 ⁶ bact ml ⁻¹)	
	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE	mean	±SE
4	196.3	2.6	76.8	0.7	25.0	1.2	4 526	190	226.4	10.8	23.5	0.7	5.8	0.6	3.01	0.07
5	203.5	0.7	76.9	1.4	27.9	1.7	4 574	255	207.3	9.1	23.1	0.5	4.2	0.3	4.14	0.15
6	186.0	1.3	80.0	1.8	22.6	0.9	5 452	214	179.1	5.2	22.9	0.4	4.0	0.3	3.80	0.13
7	197.6	2.7	71.2	1.6	32.7	0.7	3 533	93								
8	183.7	2.9	72.6	1.5	30.6	8.0	6 226	275	177.4	2.8	23.0	0.2	3.5	0.3	5.61	0.04
9	185.2	1.5	72.1	1.0	32.6	2.0	7 711	677	179.1	4.6	24.5	0.3	2.6	0.3	5.33	0.23
10	190.5	2.0	67.5	1.3	28.5	2.7	9 059	1 179	168.9	7.5	24.3	0.4	2.7	0.2	5.15	0.20
11	190.5	1.6	62.9	0.7	54.5	9.4	12 393	1 730								2
12	186.3	1.4	63.3	0.9	30.3	3.8	15 863	2 716	127.6	5.0	23.2	0.4	2.0	0.2	6.09	0.21
13	180.4	1.3	59.1	8.0	22.8	3.0	23 837	5 343	186.5	18.7	23.0	1.5	1.9	0.1	6.60	0.12
14	177.4	2.0	58.7	1.1	22.9	2.9	30 726	6 223	171.4	26.7	20.2	0.6	2.2	0.2	6.80	0.21
15	173.5	0.9	59.7	1.3	19.1	0.7	33 796	4 967	193.3	7.7	21.1	0.7	2.2	0.1	7.71	0.23
16	171.1	1.9	60.0	1.3	18.9	1.6	36 148	2 064	225.9	18.1	22.7	1.4	2.2	0.1	8.19	0.16
17	185.4	0.9	57.3	1.2			77 322	3 718								
18	173.9	3.1	60.2	1.3	27.4	4.2	49 222	4 818	99.2	5.9	19.3	0.7	1.9	0.1	8.72	0.55
19	174.9	2.1	56.3	0.7			78 730	10 135								
20	168.8	1.3	60.3	0.3	43.8	5.5	55 889	8 682	177.9	8.6	19.0	0.7	2.0	0.1	11.31	0.97
21	163.7	2.3	59.7	0.5			40 163	2 226	25.1	0.7	17.3	0.4	2.1	0.2	13.30	0.81

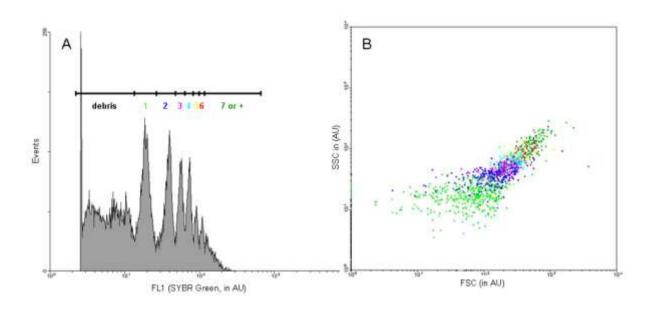
Figures

838 Fig. 1

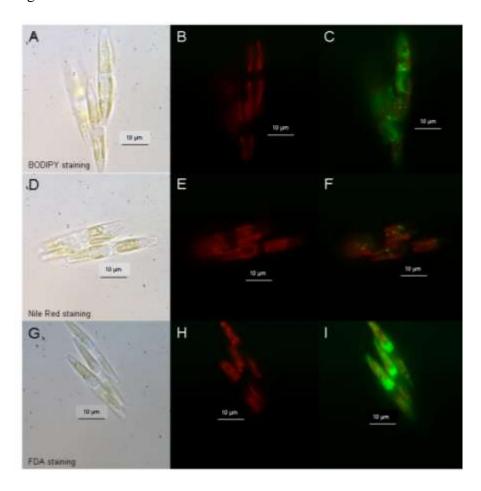




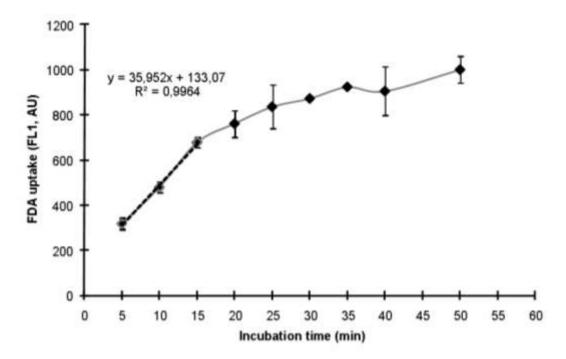
840 Fig. 2



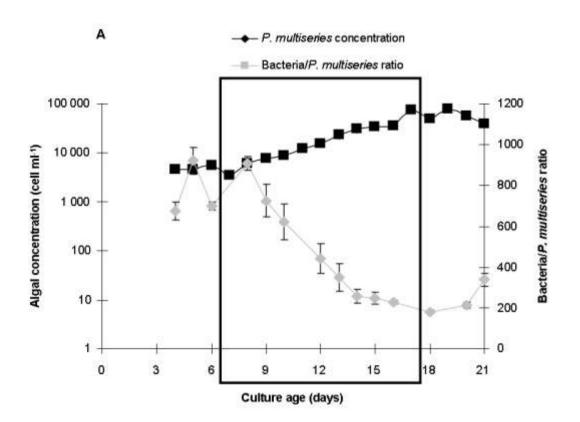
843 Fig. 3

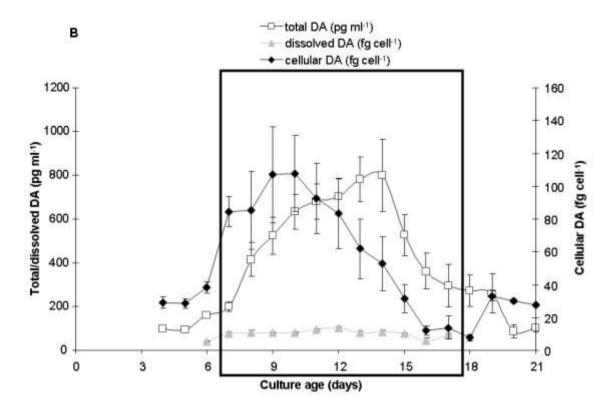


846 Fig. 4

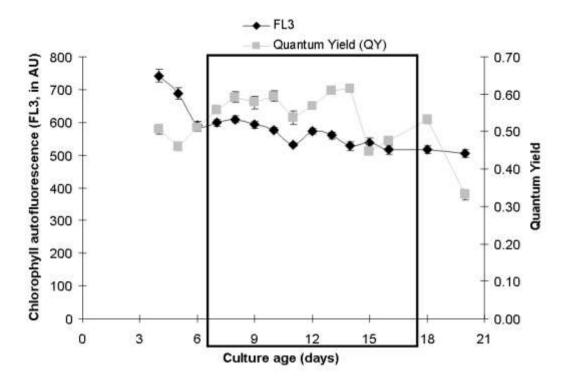


848 Fig. 5

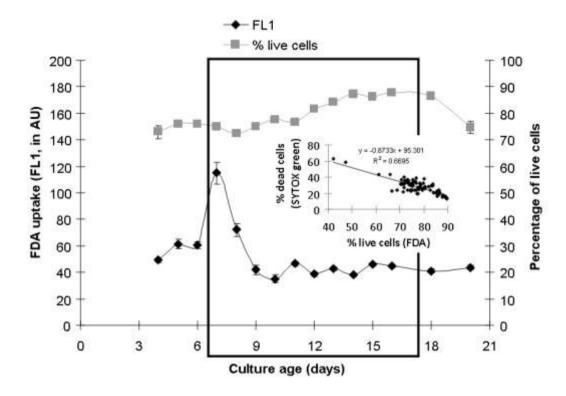




850851 Fig. 6

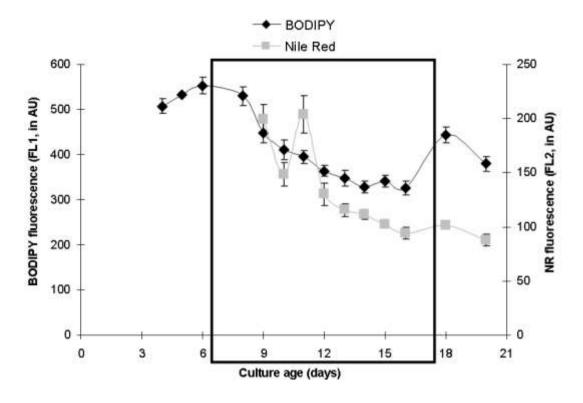


854 Fig. 7



855

856 Fig. 8



857858 Fig. 9

861 Fig. 10