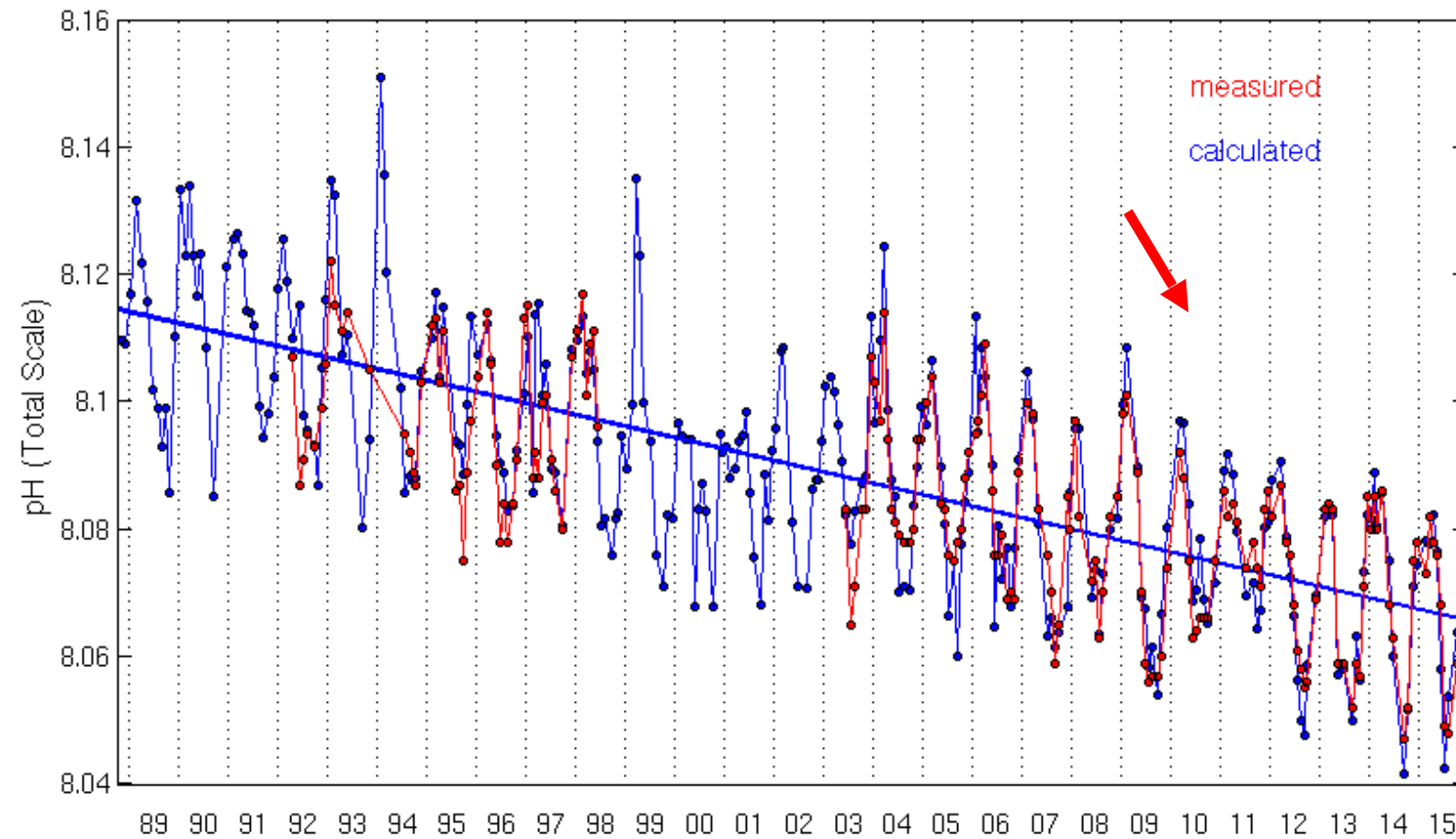
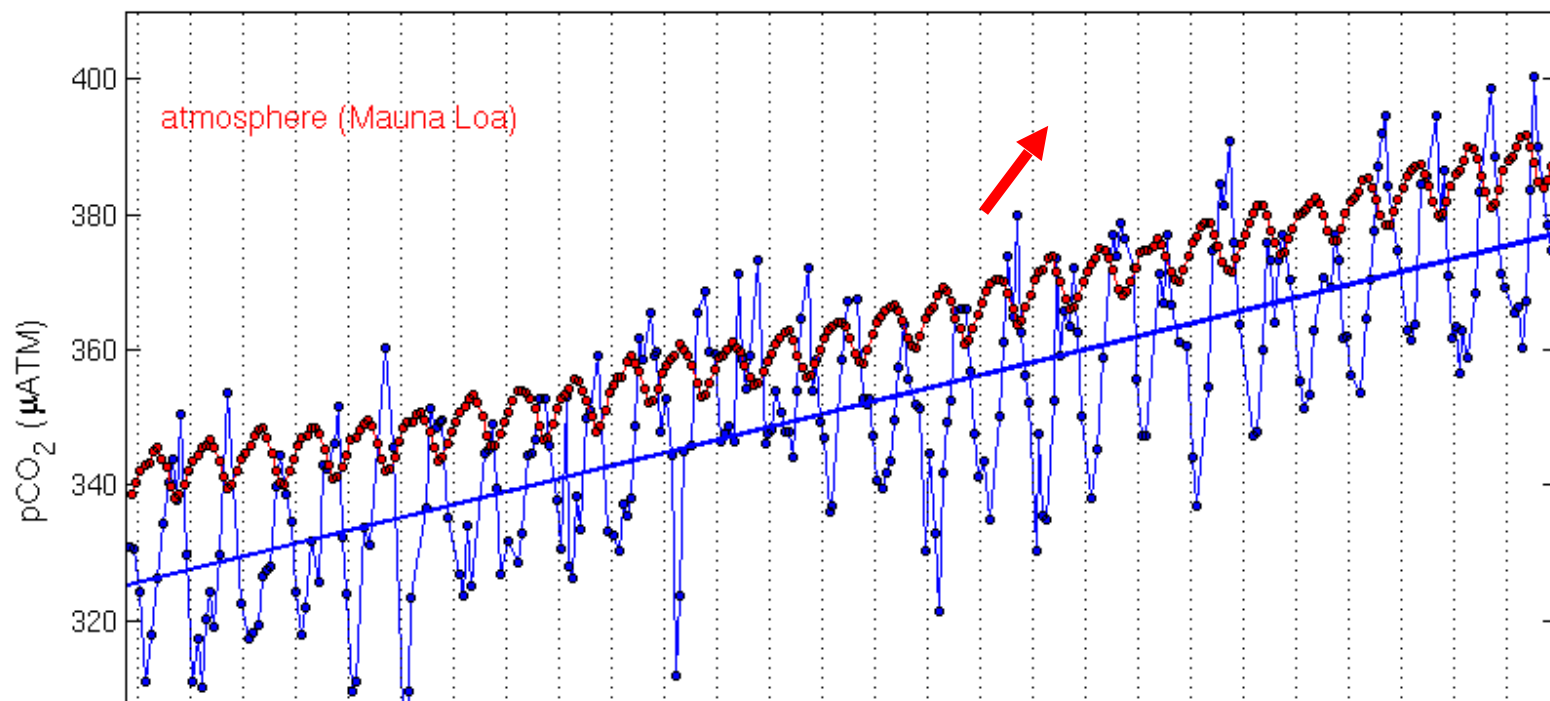


# Effects of Ocean Acidification on Primary Producers

Kunshan GAO

*State Key Laboratory of Marine Environmental Science  
(Xiamen University)*

Partial Pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>



CO<sub>2</sub>

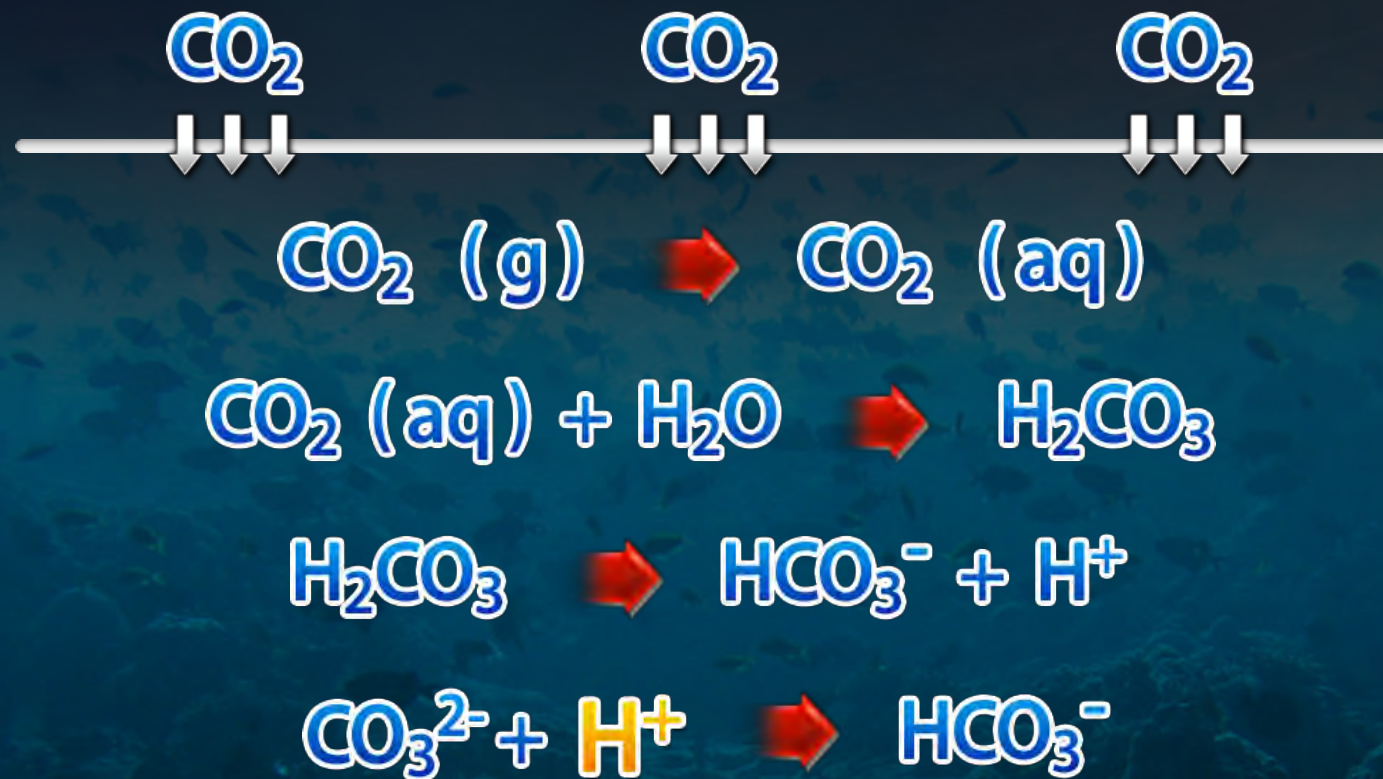
pH

“Ocean  
Acidification”  
*Nature* (2003)

**Hawaii Ocean Time Series**  
<http://hahana.soest.hawaii.edu/hot/>



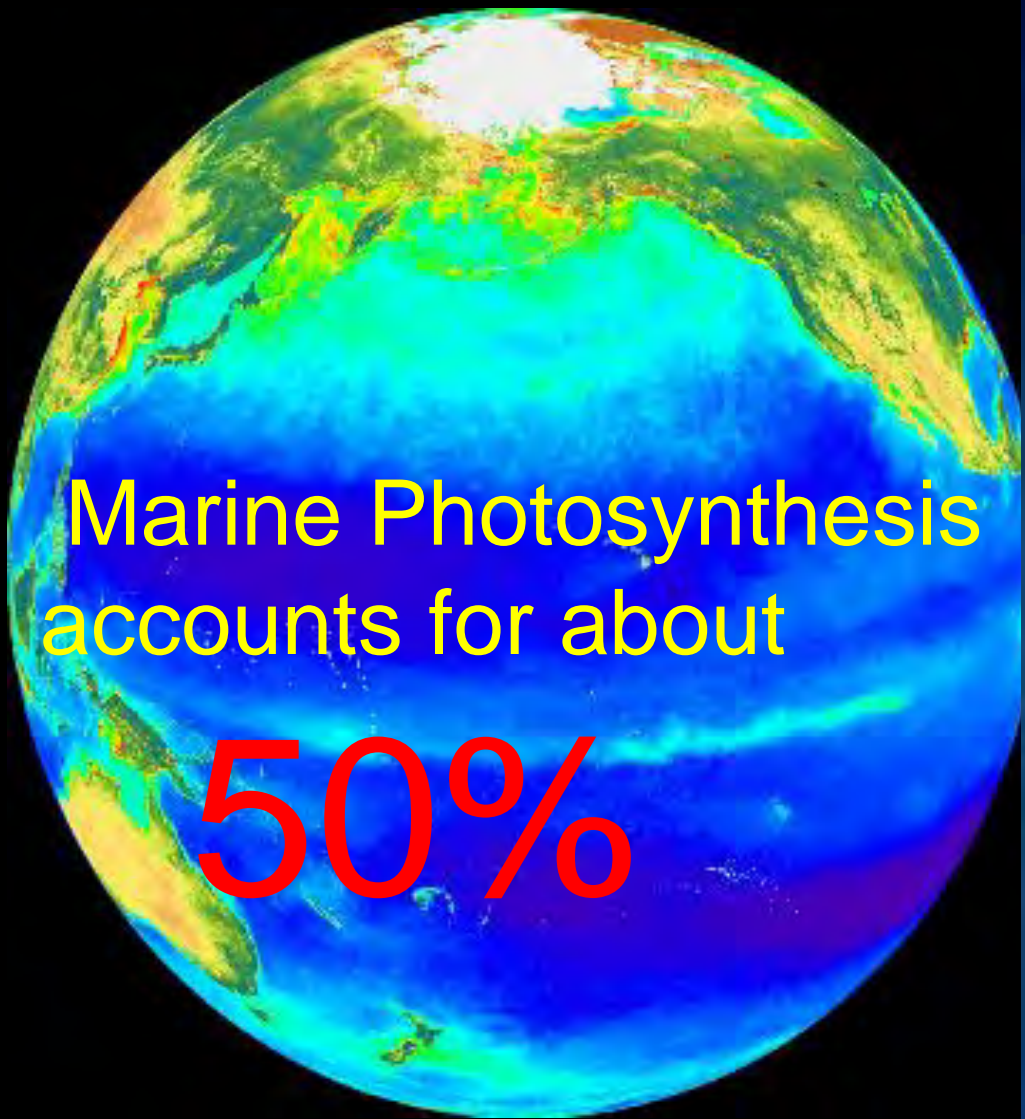
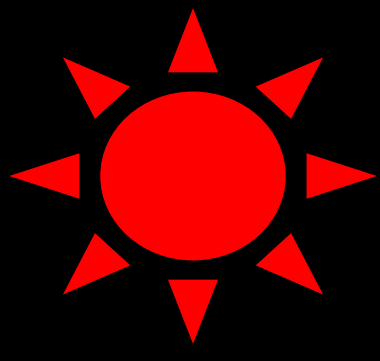
# Ocean acidification alters carbonate chemistry



$\uparrow \text{H}^+ \text{ 150\%}$       0.4,      40%,      10%  
**pH**  $\downarrow$      $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$   $\downarrow$      $\text{HCO}_3^-$   $\uparrow$

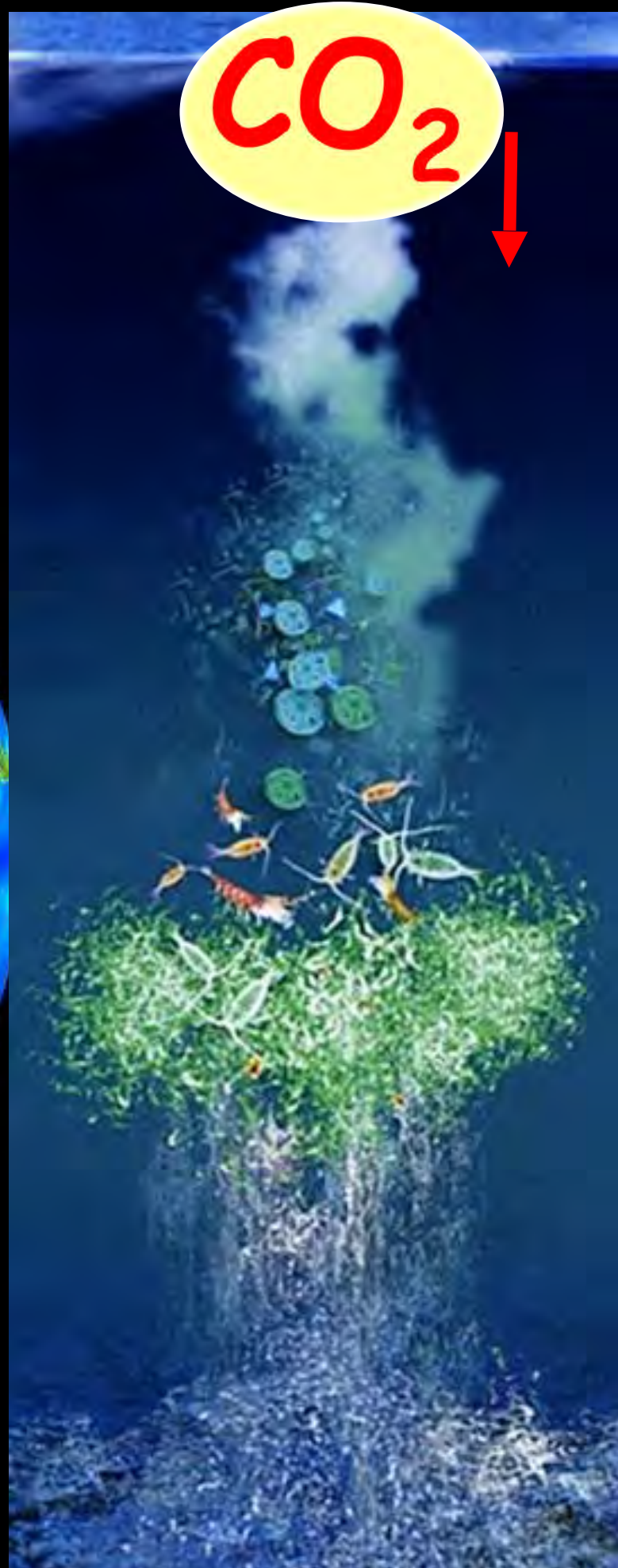
$\Omega = [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{MEAS}} / [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{CAL}} \quad \downarrow \text{40\%}$





Marine Photosynthesis  
accounts for about

**50%**



Marine  
Photosynthesis  
drives oceanic  
**biological CO2**  
**pump** that takes  
up (**per hr**) over  
**100** million tons of  
fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub>

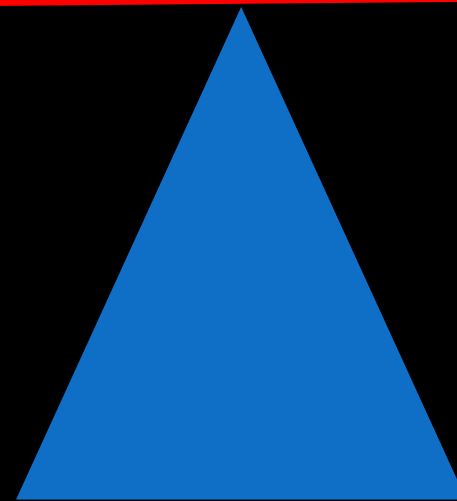
About 1272 papers on responses of marine photosynthetic organisms to OA  
till **Jul. 1, 2018** (OA-ICC bibliographic database)

*Nature 1997,*  
*Science 2008*  
*PNAS 2016.....*

*Nature 2000, 2011;*  
*Nat Clim Change 2012*  
*Science 2017.....*

● **Stimulating**                      **Neutral**                      **Inhibitive**

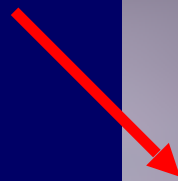
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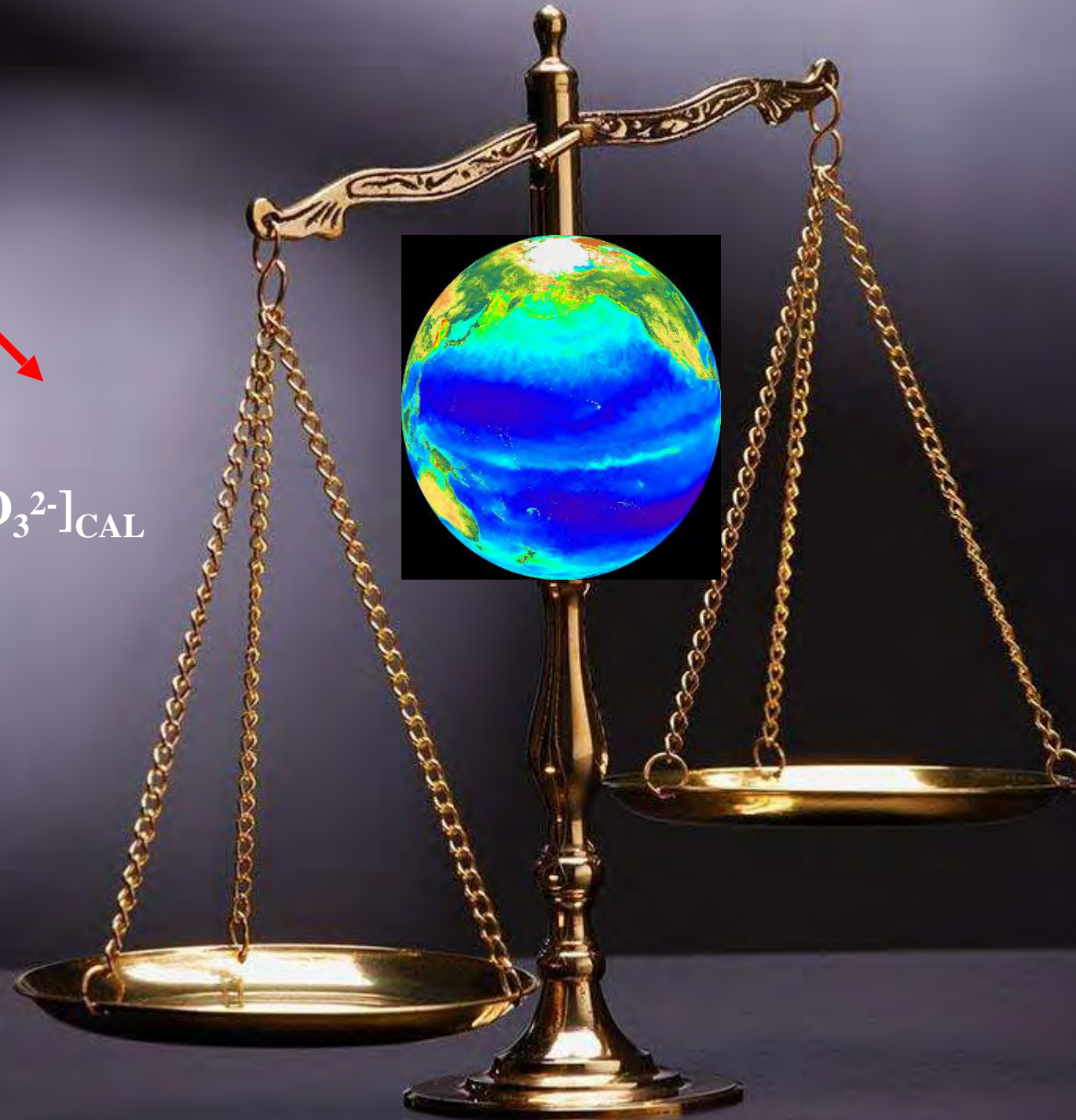
**G**rowth/**P**hotosynthesis/**R**espiration/**C**alcification/**N**<sub>2</sub> fixation



pH



$$\Omega = [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{MEAS}} / [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{CAL}}$$



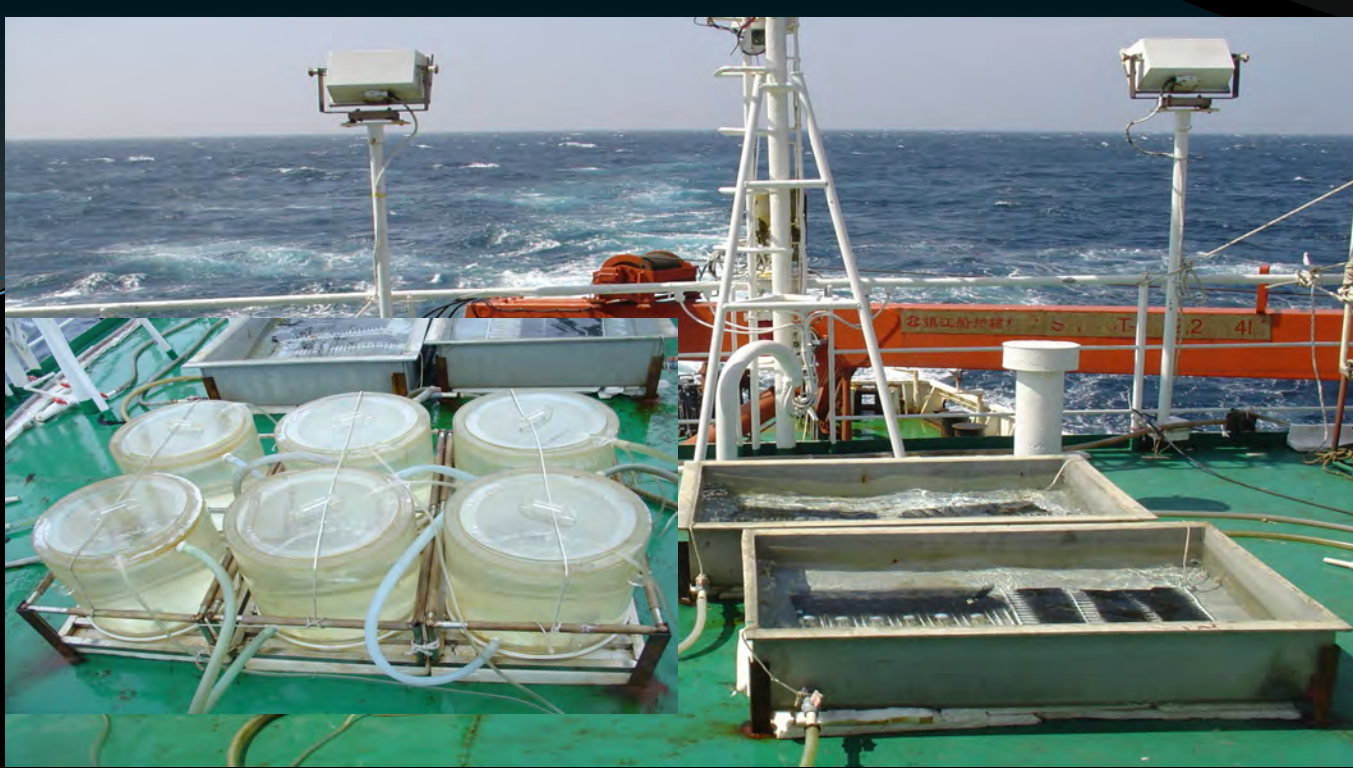
CO<sub>2</sub>



Effects of ocean acidification?

CO<sub>2</sub> rise and acidic stress: double edged?





# FOCE: Free Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment Exp.









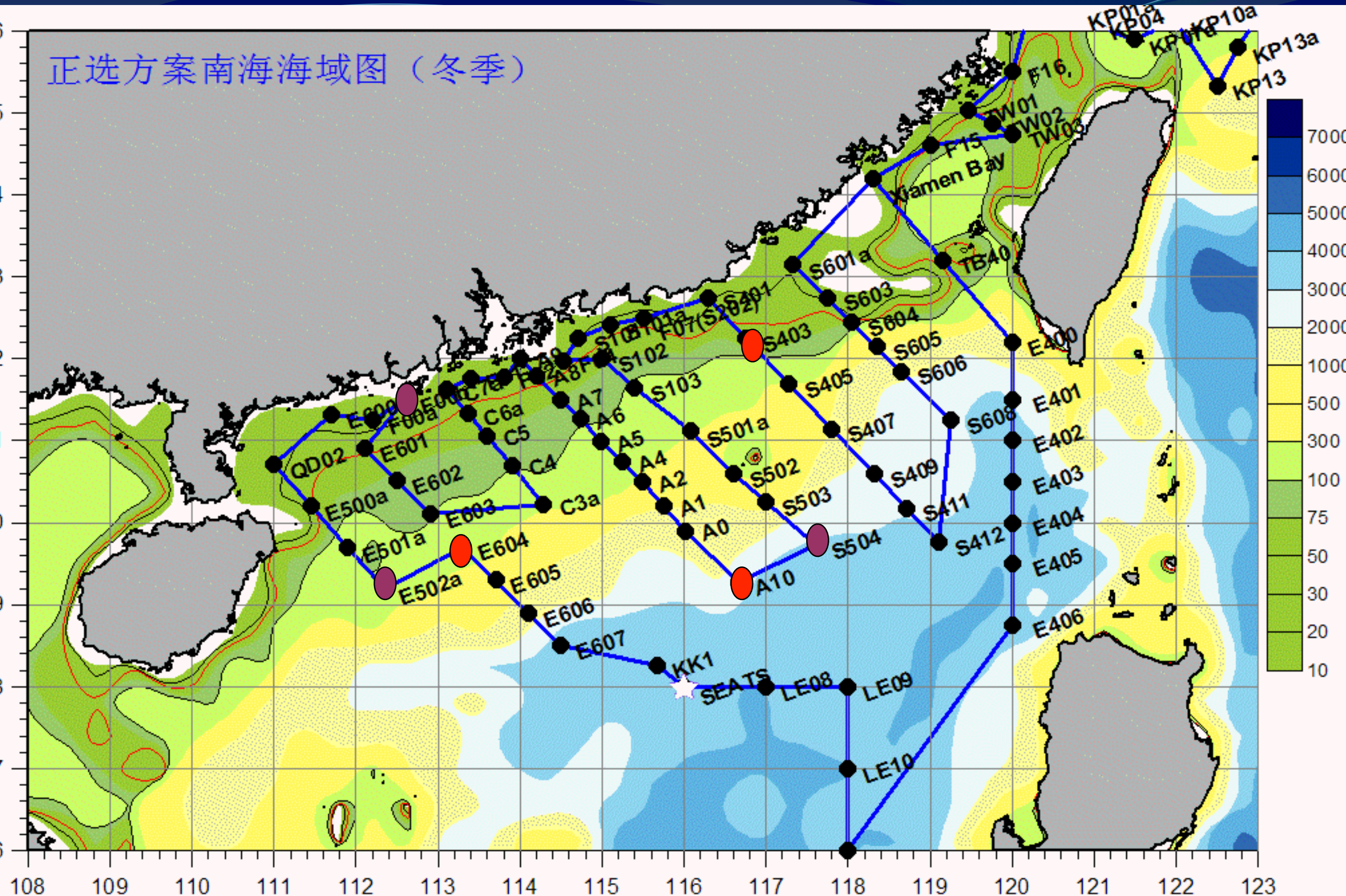


# Responses

- 1. Photosynthesis / Growth**
2. Metabolic Pathways
3. Calcification (calcifying algae)
4. Combined impacts with other stressors



# 正选方案南海海域图 (冬季)





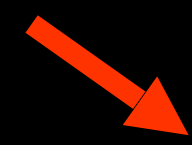
Supplementary Table 2. Locations of the stations, cruise information, sea surface temperature (SST, °C) and  $pH_T$ ,  $NO_3^- + NO_2$  (N,  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) and  $PO_4^{3-}$  (P,  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ), solar PAR (mean,  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) during  $^{14}\text{C}$ -traced incubations, incubation time (h), surface seawater chlorophyll a concentration (Chl a,  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ), chlorophyll a concentration ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) of phytoplankton assemblages grown for 6-7 days under low  $\text{CO}_2$  (LC, 385  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) and high  $\text{CO}_2$  (HC, 800  $\mu\text{atm}$  for all stations except SEATS and C3, where 1000  $\mu\text{atm}$   $\text{CO}_2$  was applied), and the primary productivity (PP, triplicate incubations,  $\mu\text{g C L}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$ ) by the phytoplankton assemblages grown in the low  $\text{CO}_2$  microcosms at the end (day 7) of the growth-out in the microcosms. BLQ stands for "below the limit of quantification". The concentrations of the nutrients were determined by the chemistry group of Xiamen Univ. during the cruises. Chlorophyll a concentration in the microcosms at station PN07 was not measured (nd).

Station	Location	Season*	SST	$pH_T$	N	P	Solar PAR	Incubation time (h)	Chl a	Chl a (LC)	Chl a (HC)	PP
LE04	(18.0°N, 113.0°E)	Summer	29.5	8.03	BLQ	0.014	1681	6	0.05	0.15	0.13	0.10±0.08
PN07	(30.0°N, 124.5°E)	Summer	29.6	8.03	BLQ	0.019	1371	6	0.71	Nd	nd	0.18±0.12
A4	(20.8°N, 115.2°E)	Autumn	25.5	8.04	BLQ	0.156	794	6	0.44	1.08	0.69	2.73±0.32
E606	(18.9°N, 114.1°E)	Autumn	25.3	8.06	BLQ	BLQ	821	6	0.34	0.82	0.20	4.74±0.10
SEATS	(18.0°N, 116.0°E)	Spring	28.7	8.04	BLQ	0.037	1251	12 (24)	0.10	0.49	0.59	2.08±0.14 (19.80±1.09)**
C3	(20.6°N, 114.2°E)	Spring	28.5	8.03	BLQ	0.032	1027	12 (24)	0.21	0.42	0.36	1.83±0.06 (16.28±0.73)**

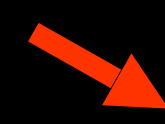




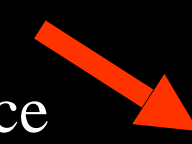
Per volume of seawater



Per Chl. a

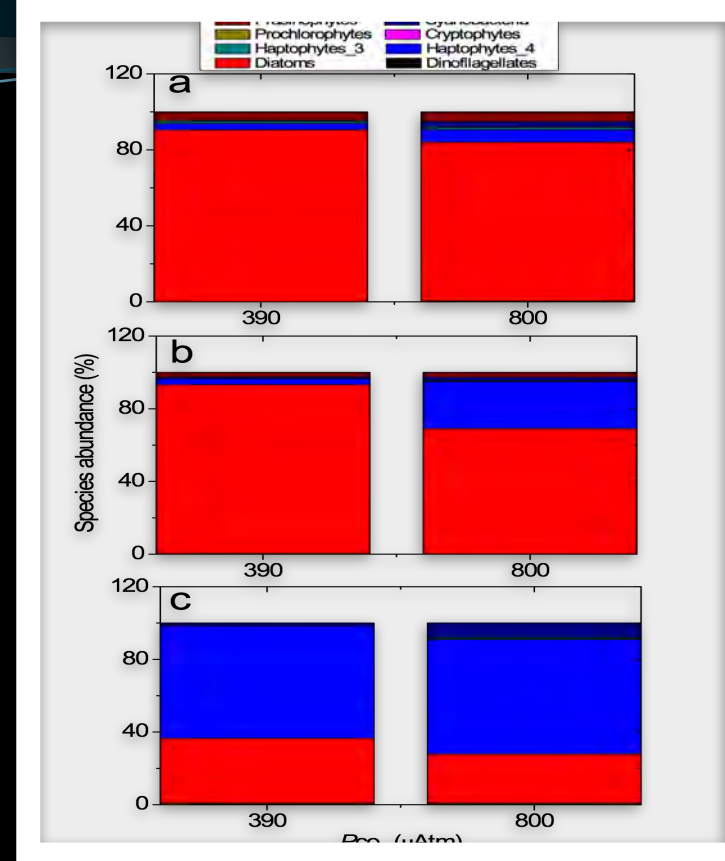
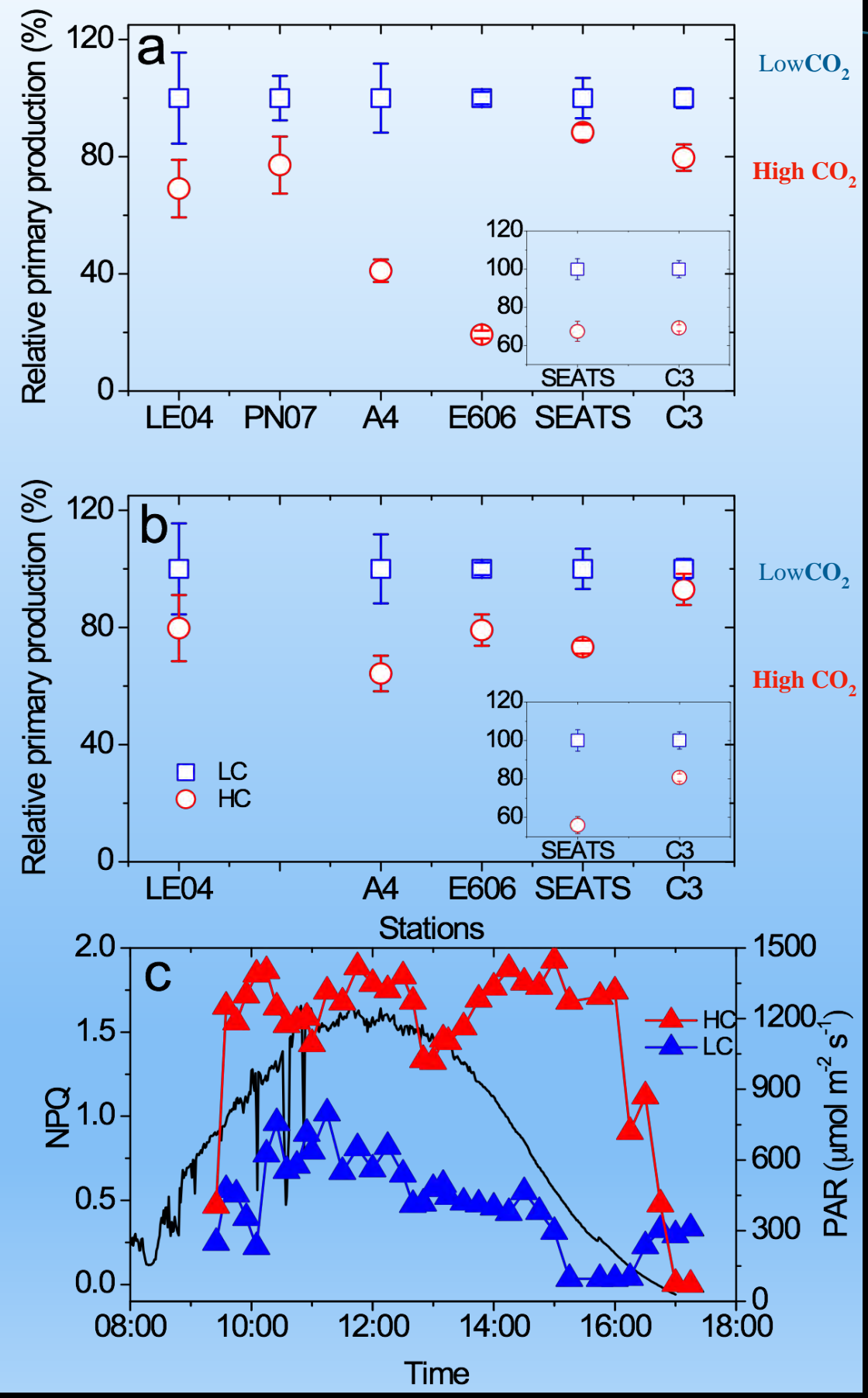


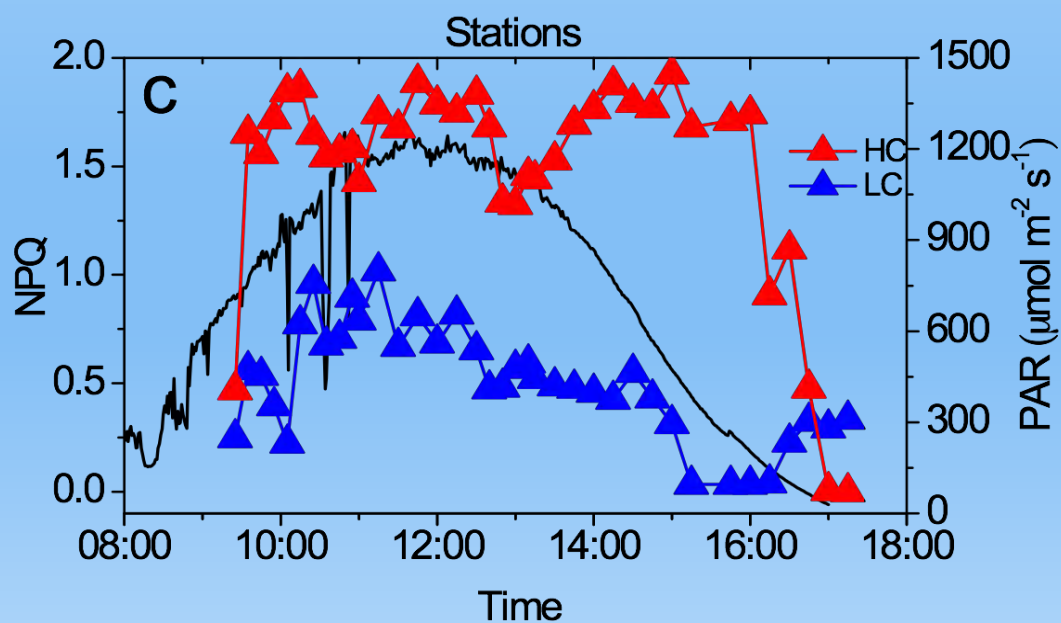
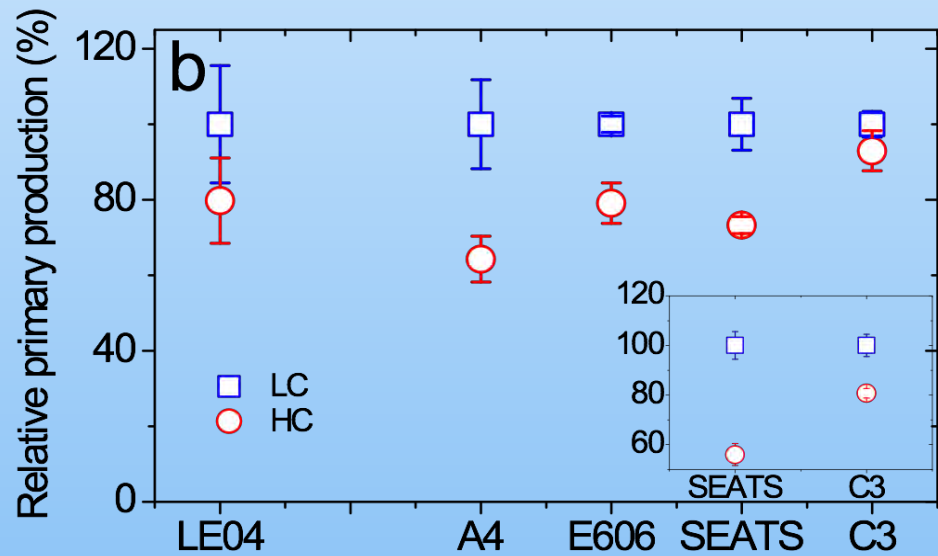
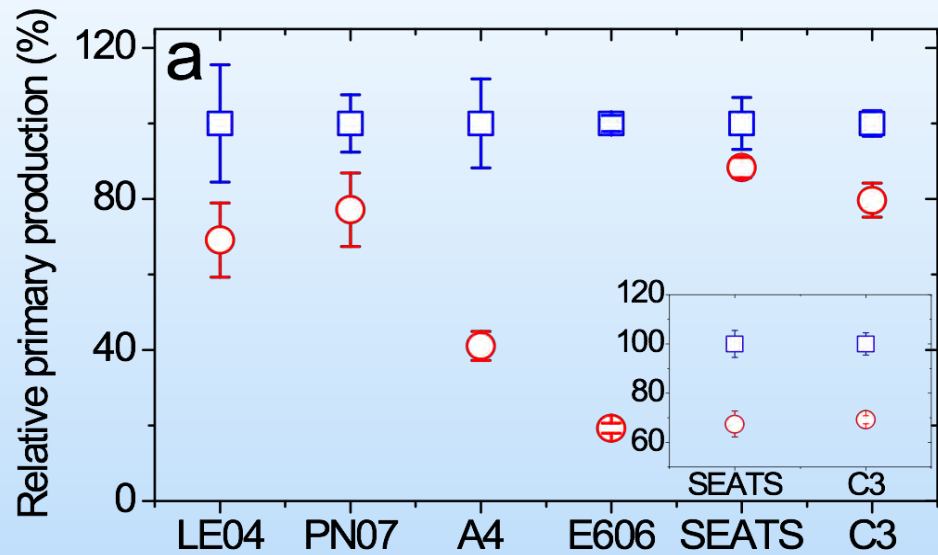
Diatom abundance



NPQ  
High light-stress

Gao et al. 2012 *Nature Climate Change*



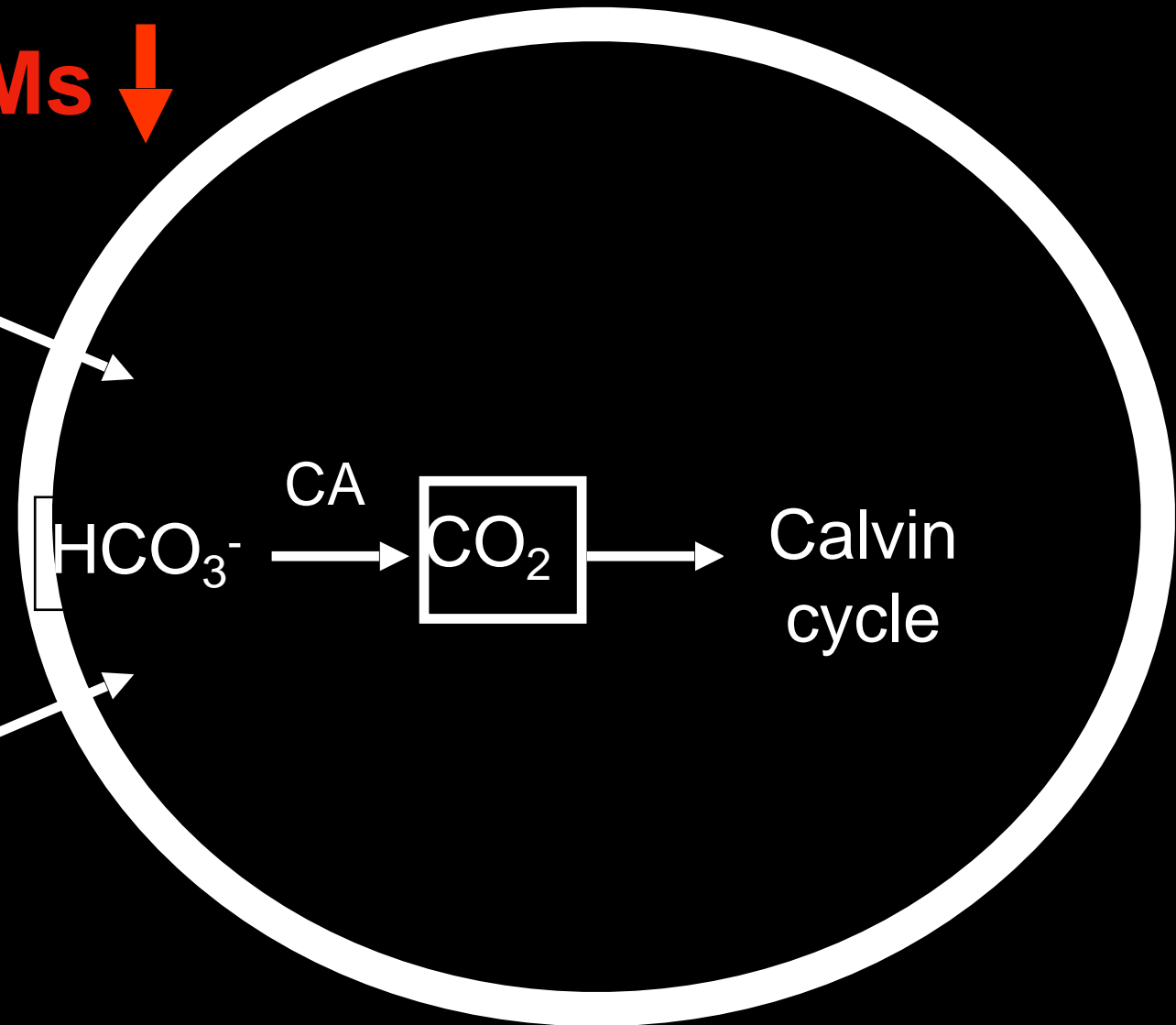


intracellular dissolved inorganic carbon concentration up to **1000** times that of milieu

**CCMs** ↓

$\text{HCO}_3^-$

$\text{CO}_2$



Acidic stress + photorespiration  
Primary production

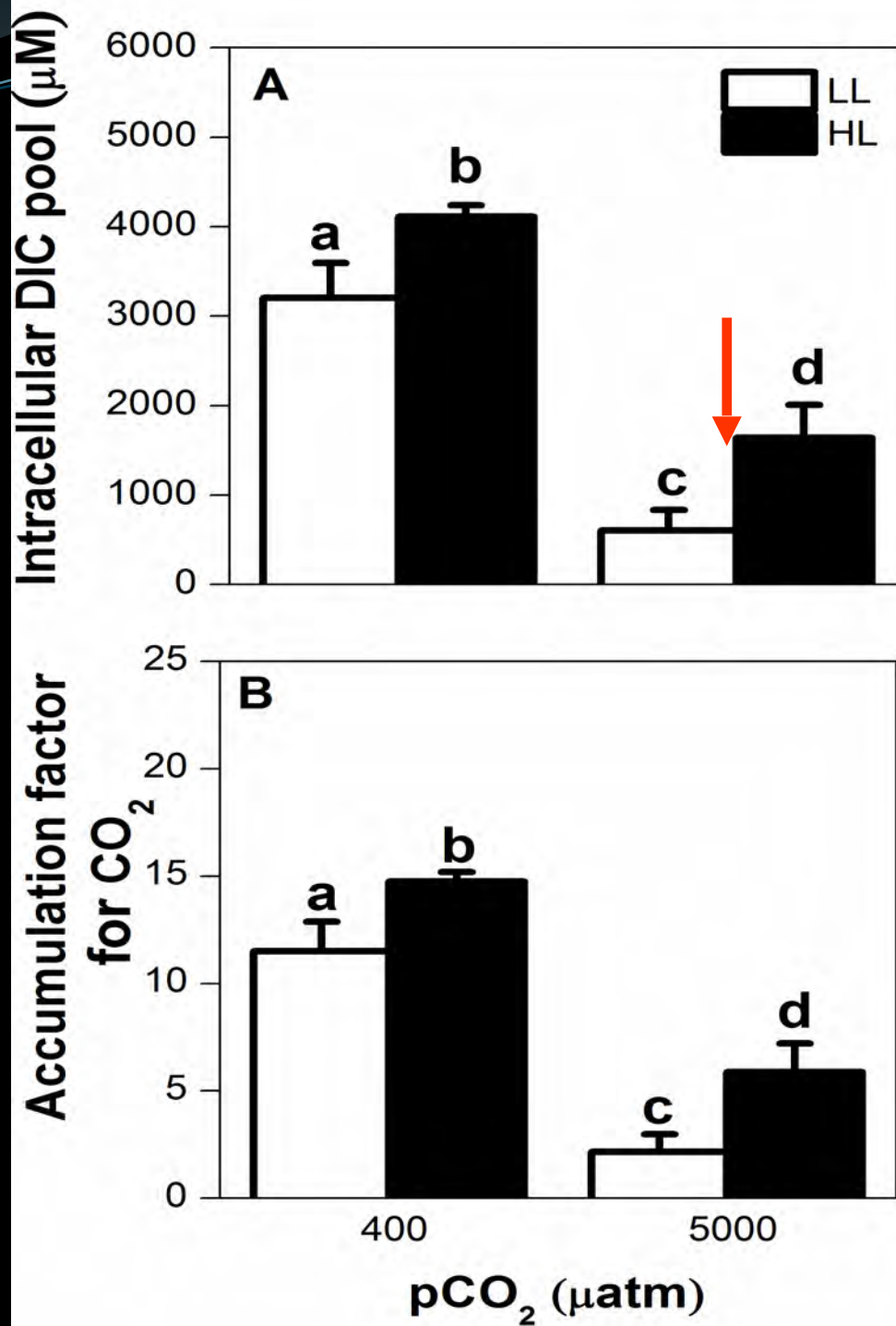


**High-CO<sub>2</sub> grown**

*Phaedactylum  
constatum*

**Lower (3-4 times)**

**intracellular DIC**

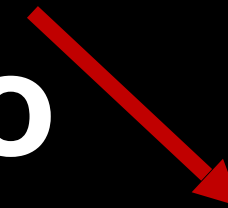


Rubisco



Carboxylation  
Oxygenation

Intracellular  $CO_2/O_2$  ratio

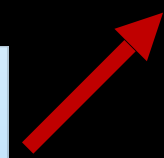


Oxygenation



Photorespiration

因此，光呼吸的重要功能之一即为在光合CO<sub>2</sub> 缺少时保持卡尔文循环的运转



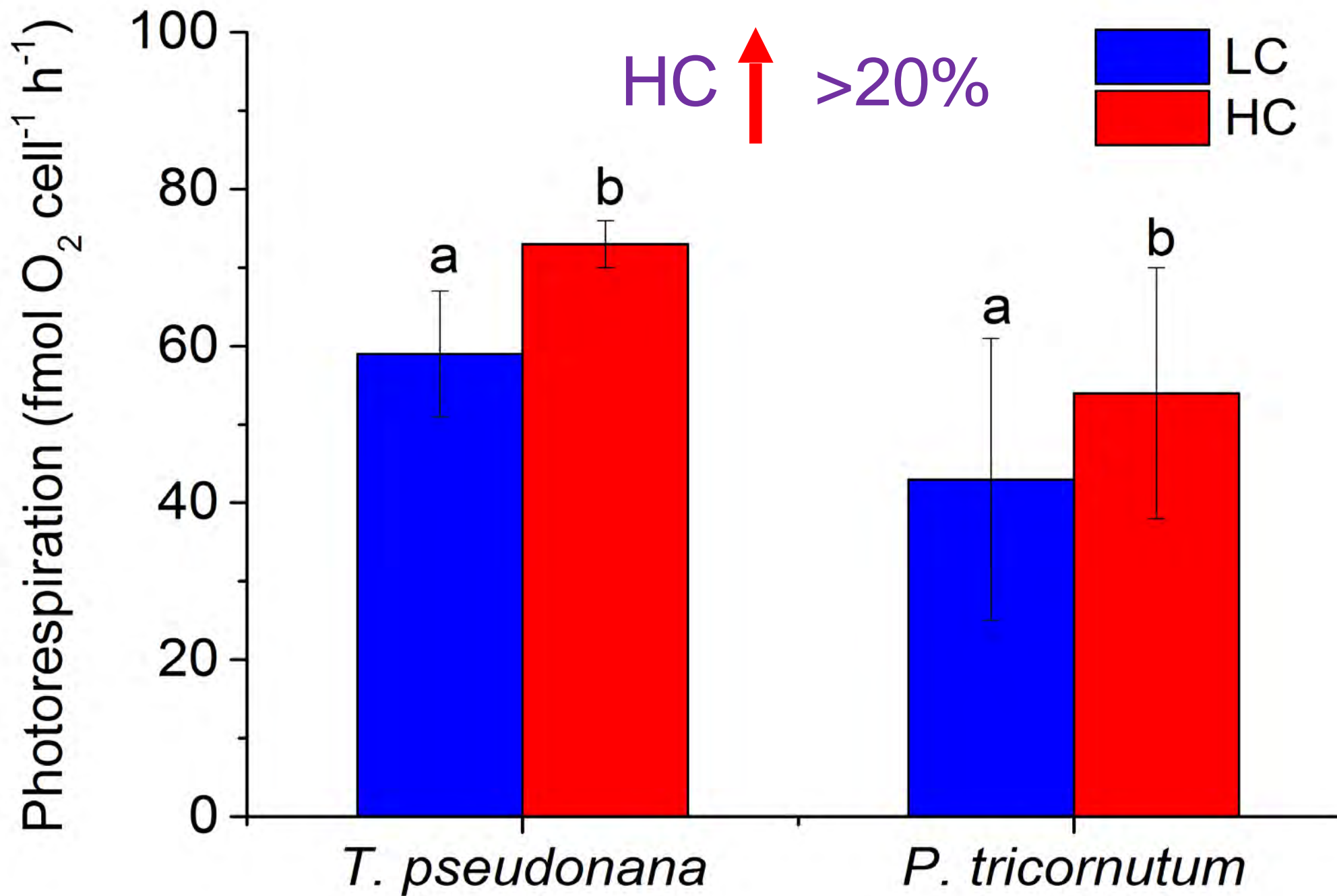
Photorespiration alleviates  
energy, releases

植物在强光下，“光反应”使叶绿体内积累大量的ATP 和 NADPH + H<sup>+</sup>，如果 CO<sub>2</sub> 供应不足或植物处于逆

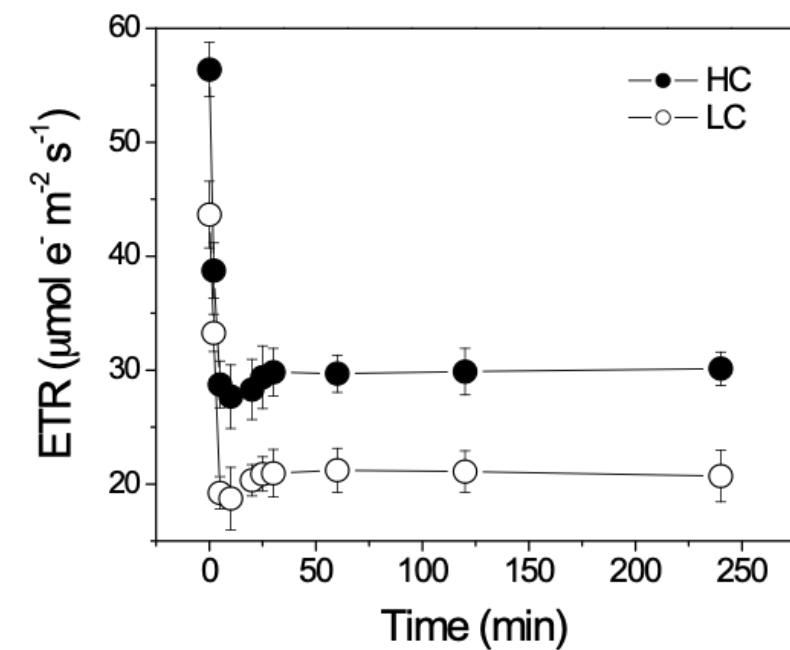
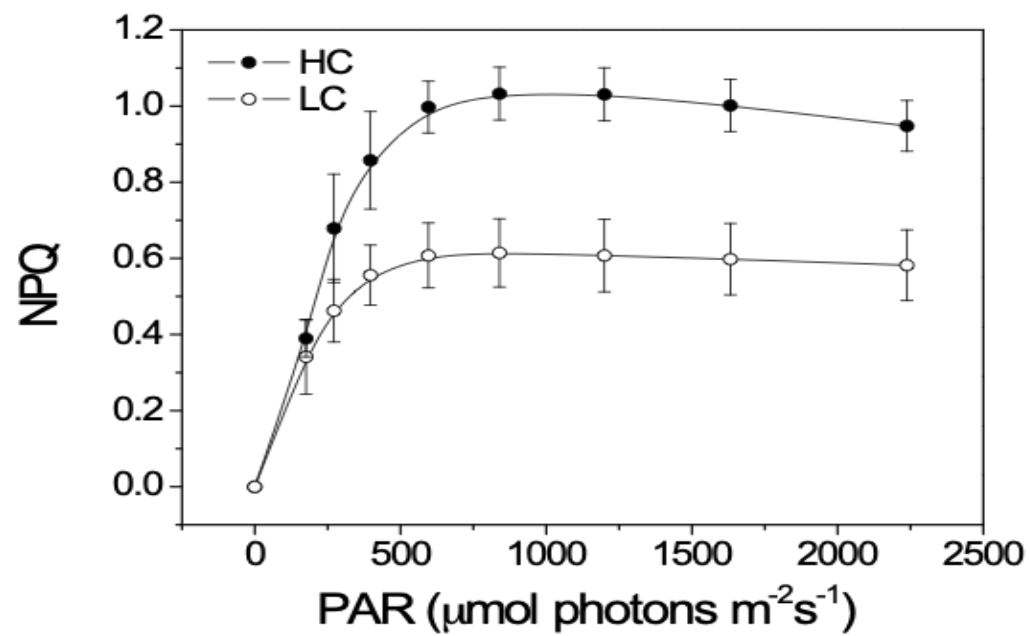
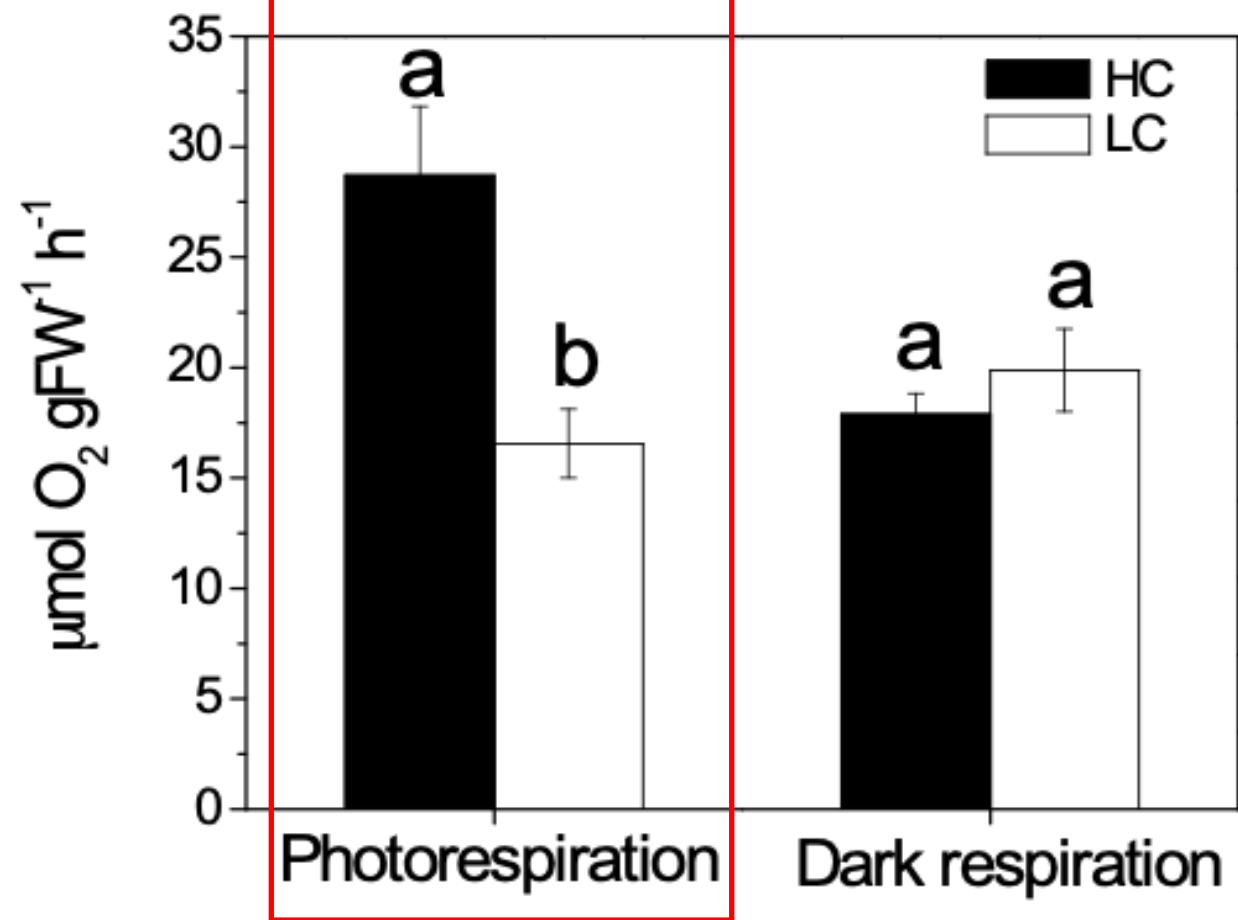
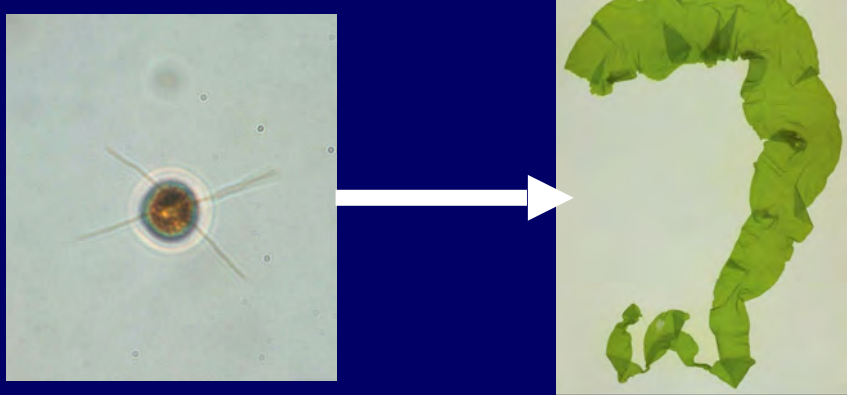
costs extra



# Photorespiration



CO<sub>2</sub>  
HC 1000  
LC 390  $\mu\text{atm}$





**Energetic costs: CCMs ↓, acidic stress/photo-stress ↑**

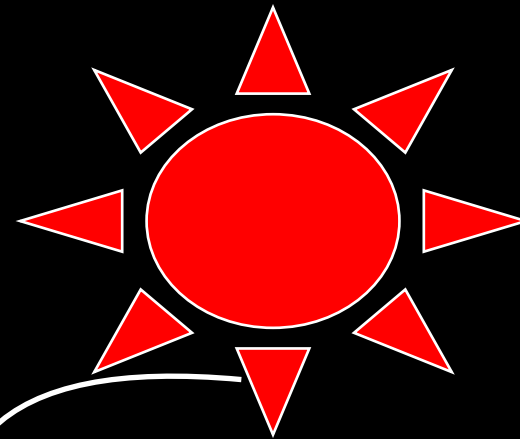
**CO<sub>2</sub>-fertilization: CO<sub>2</sub>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> ↑**

**Low light**



**Enhance**

**High Light**



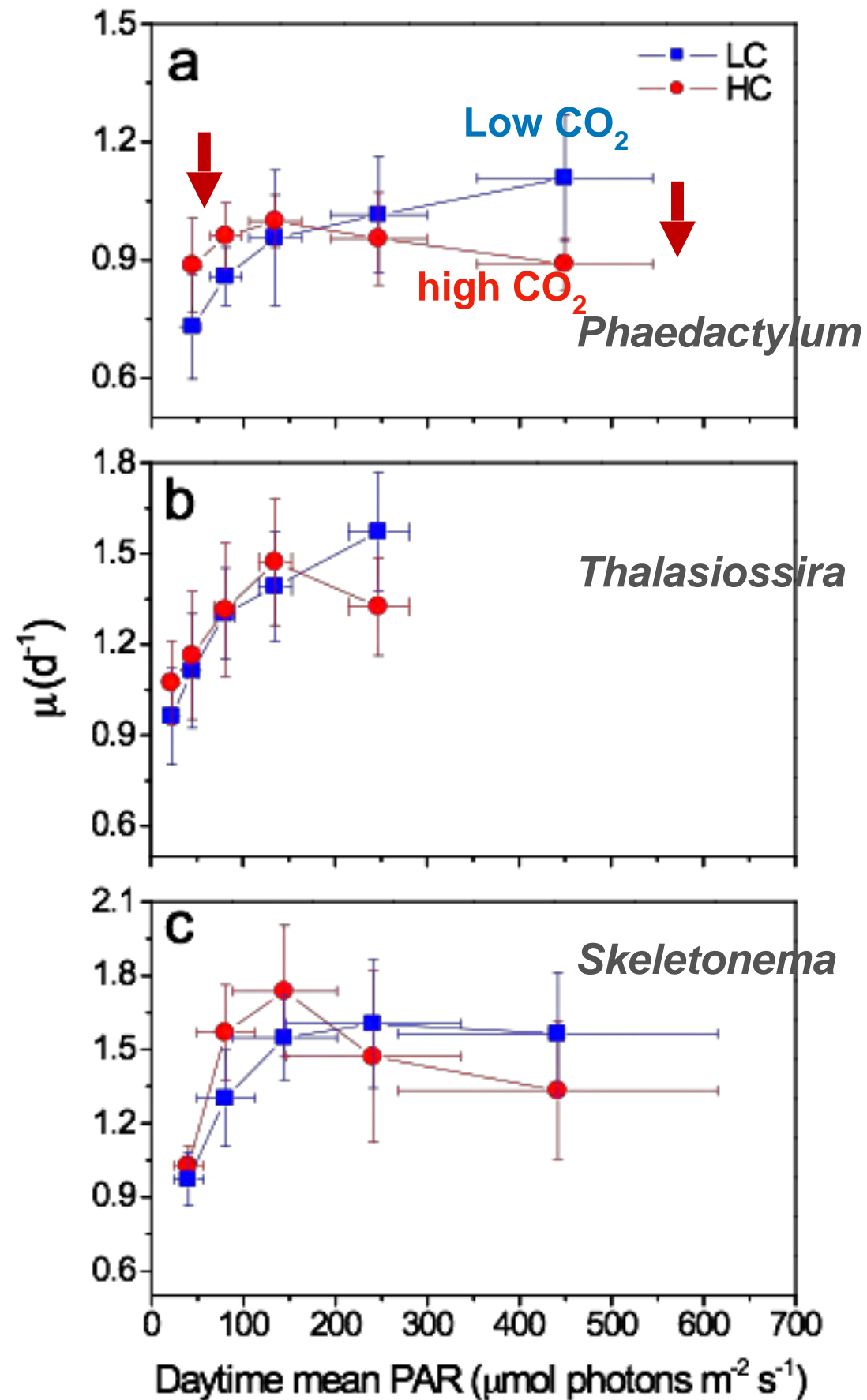
**Inhibit**

**Photorespiratory CO<sub>2</sub> ↑**

**Photosynthesis or Growth**



# Diatoms



Growth rate reversed at higher PAR levels, with the PAR thresholds (daytime mean PAR levels) at the reversion points being about 160, 125 and 178  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  for *P. tricornutum*, *T. pseudonana* and *S. costatum*, respectively.

These light levels correspond to 22-36 % of incident surface solar PAR levels and are equivalent to PAR levels at 26-39 m depth in the South China Sea



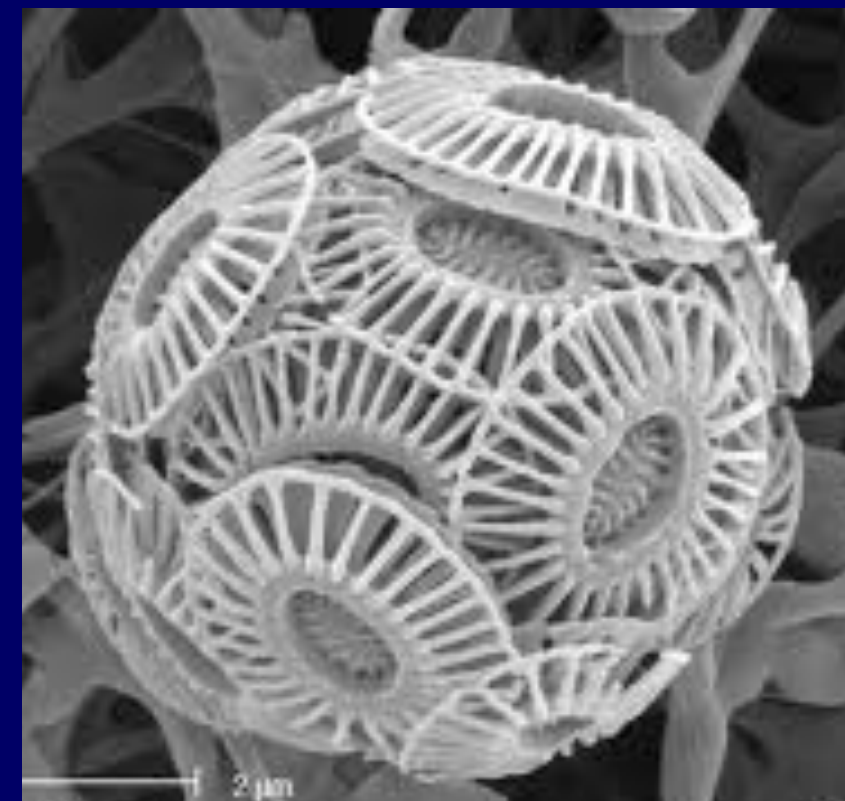
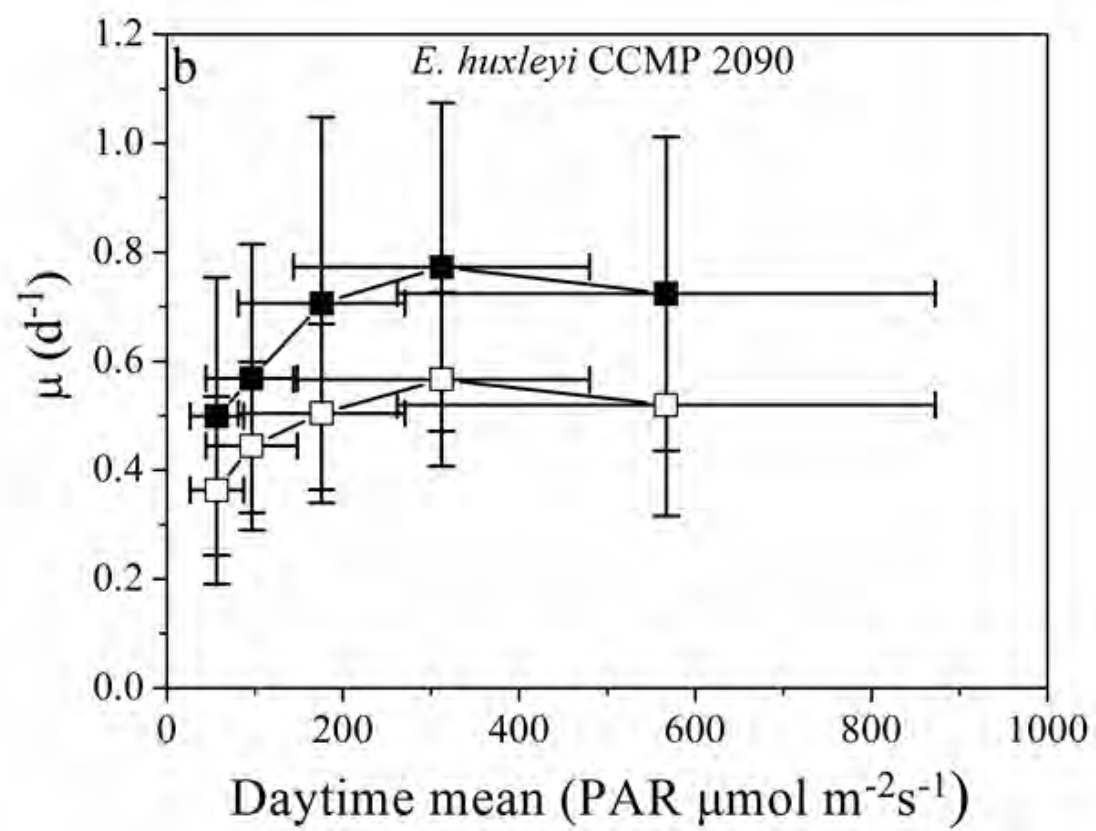
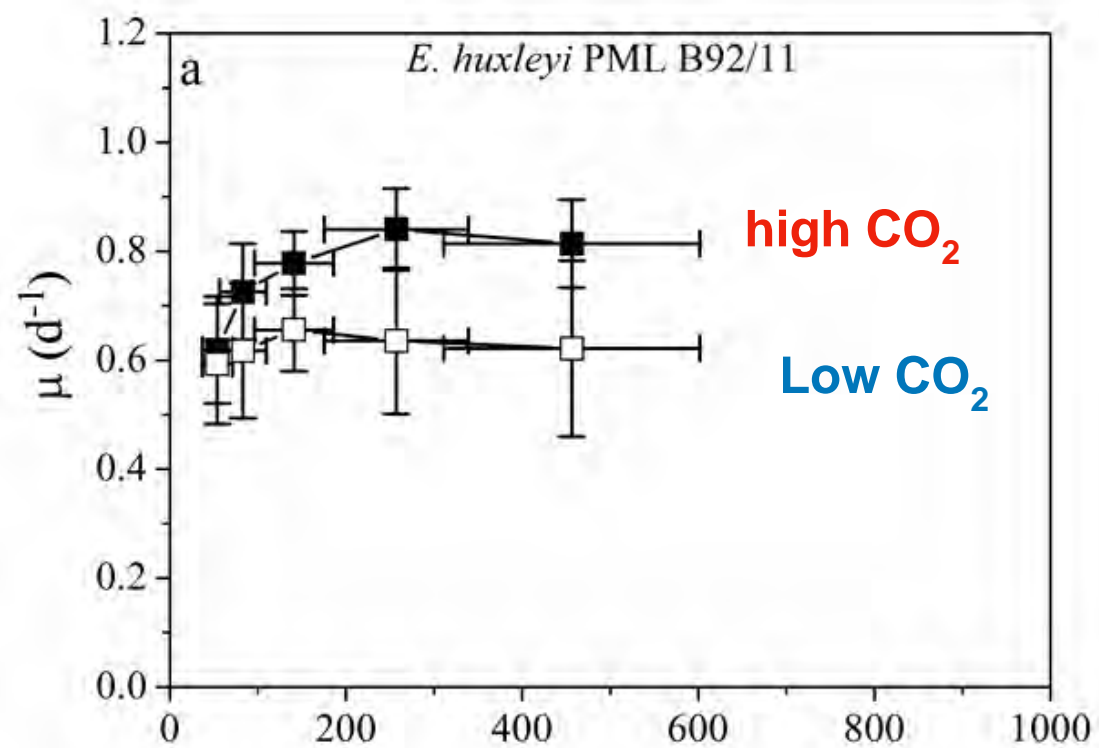
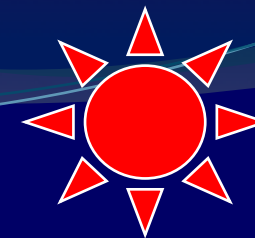
**Ocean acidification (OA)** down-regulates **CCMs**, reducing intracellular "CO<sub>2</sub>"

**photorespiration** ↑

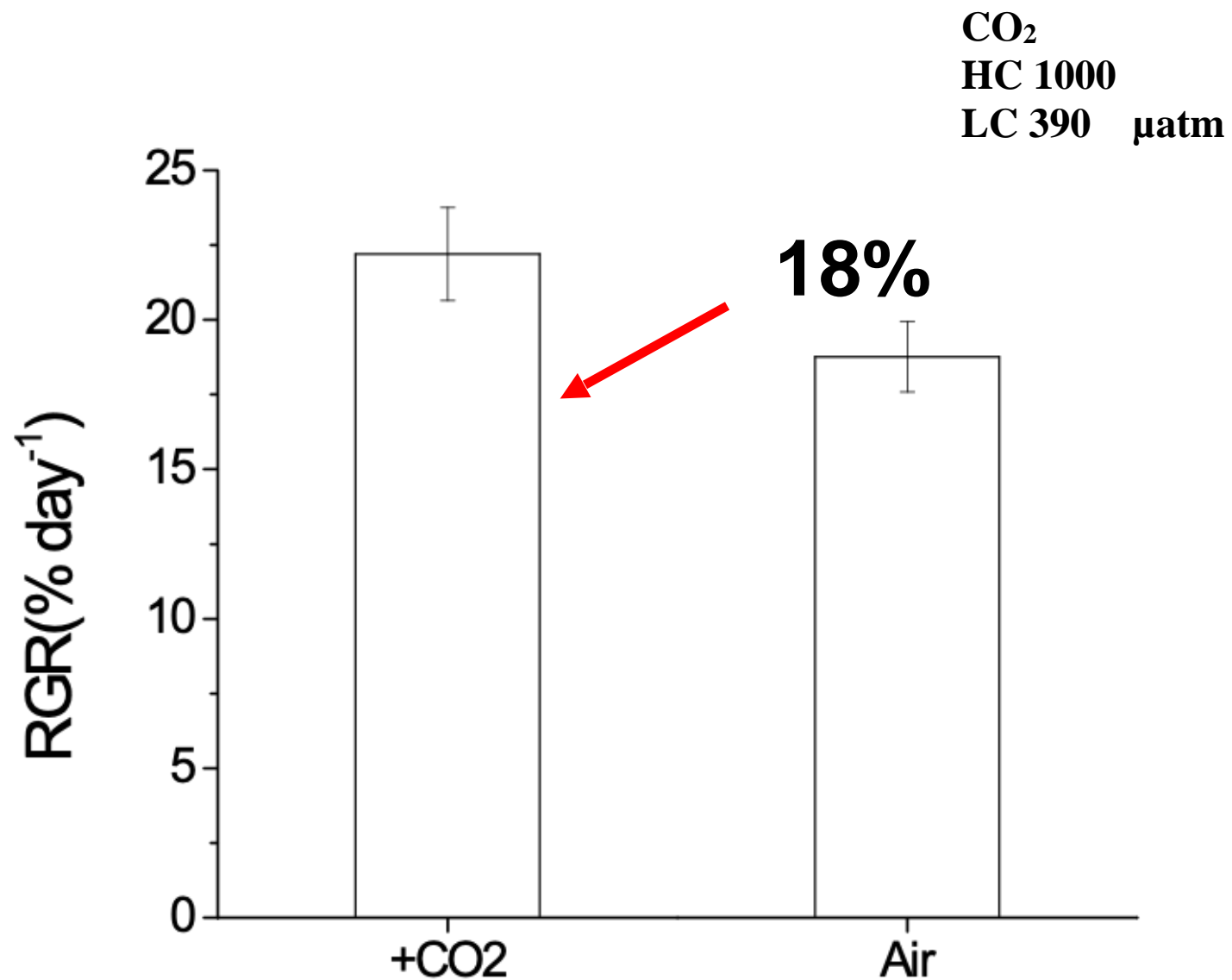
Primary productivity of the SCS oligotrophic surface seawaters ↓

Diatom **growth** response to OA

, **depending on sunlight exposures**, faster under low but slower under high sunlight levels.







CO<sub>2</sub> → Growth



The RGR of the young sporophytes *Ulva prolifera* grow under low and high CO<sub>2</sub> condition.

From the same batch of conchospores

1 6 0 0 p p m C O <sub>2</sub>

3 5 0



1 0 0 0



50 individuals each treatment

Gao et al. 1991



# Responses

1. Photosynthesis / Growth
- 2. Metabolic Pathways**
3. Calcification (calcifying algae)
4. Combined impacts with other stressors

# Changes in Energetics

- Growth
- Maintenance

Physiological tipping point



Increased  $p\text{CO}_2$

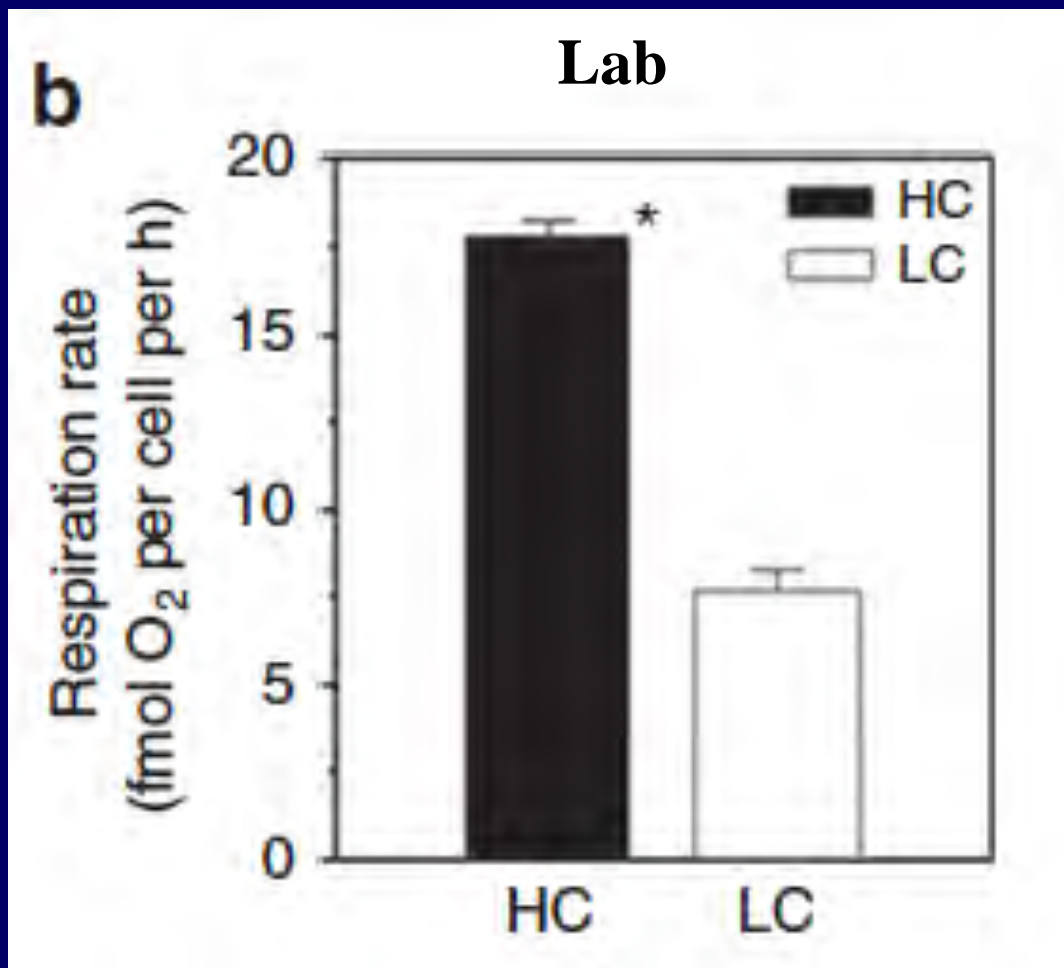
8.1 8.0 7.9 7.8 7.7 7.6 7.5 7.4 7.3 7.2

Acidification



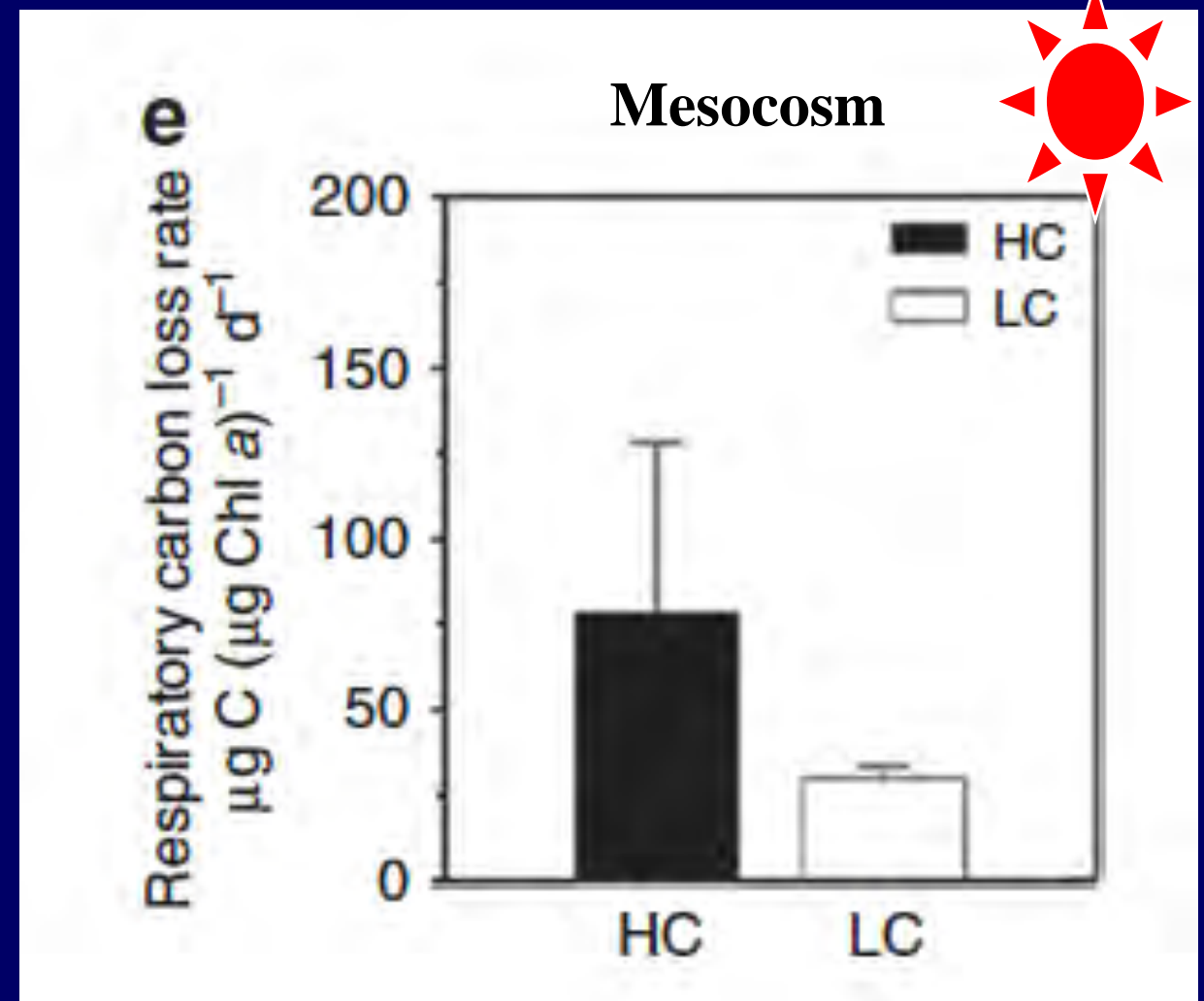


# Respiration rate in phytoplankton under OA and control



130% ↑

*Emiliana huxleyi*



160% ↑

Phytoplankton assemblages



# Hypothesis

To cope with the **acidic** stress induced by elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, microalgae need **extra energy** and may alter their **metabolic pathways**



# Physiological test in different systems

Mixed phytoplankton species



Phytoplankton assemblages



Single species



Mesocosm

Microcosm

Lab

4000L

30L

1L

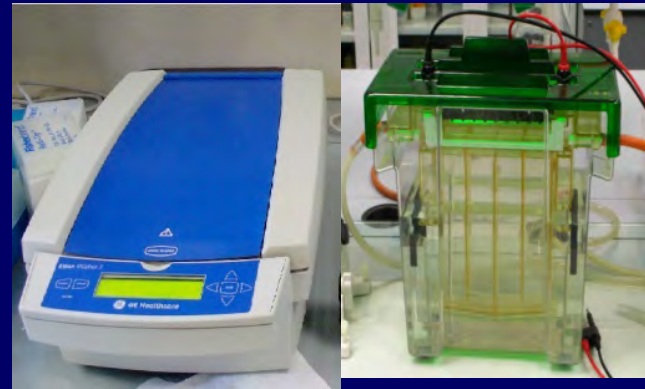


# Protein analysis

## Sample preparation



## Protein separation



## Image acquisition



TOF 5800  
Proteomics Analyzer



Protein spotting



Protein lyse



Spot cut

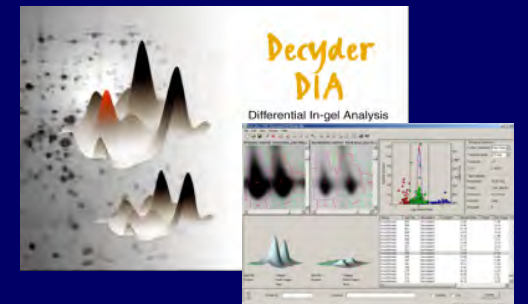


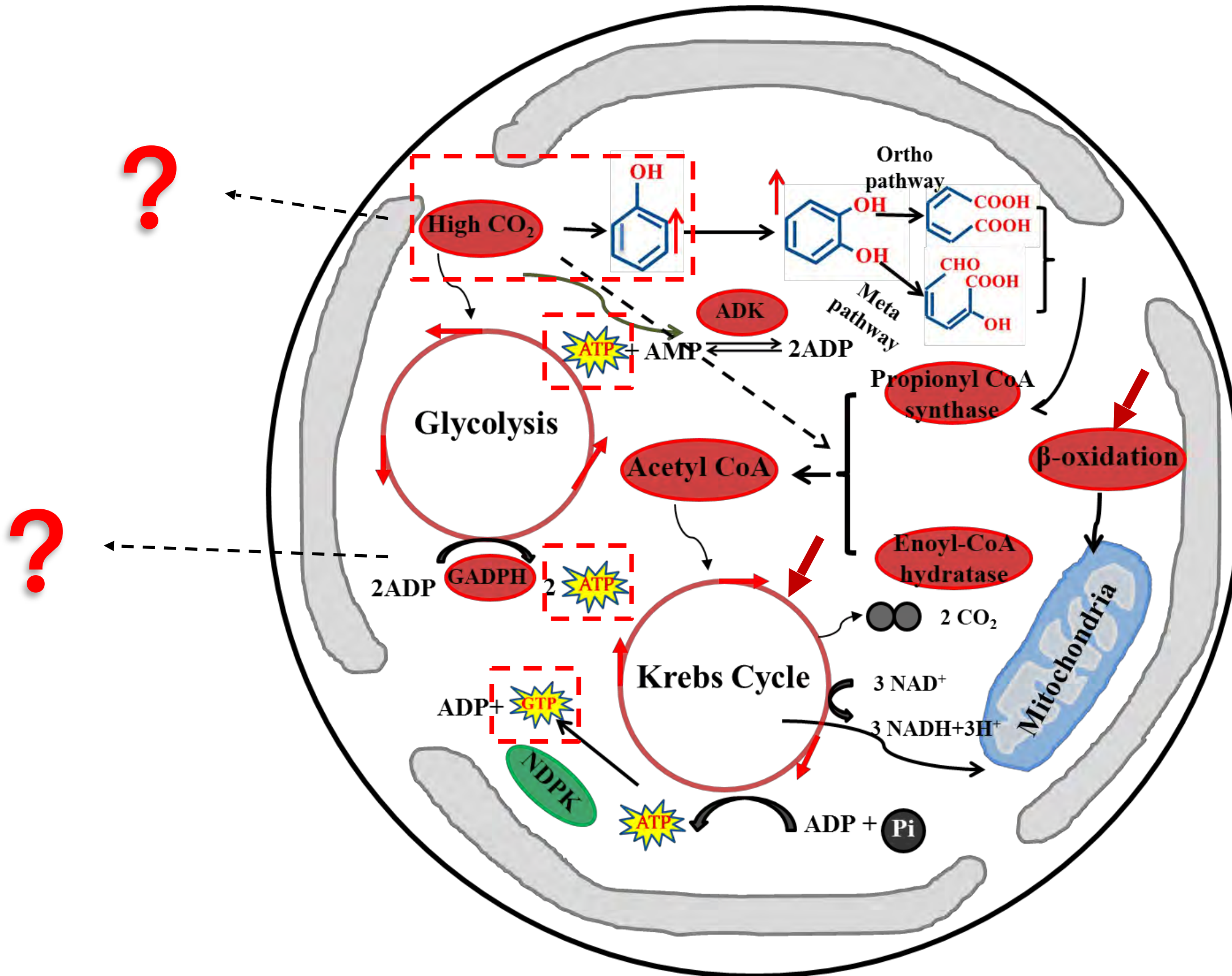
Image analysis



# Various proteins, that showed statistically significant alterations in abundance greater than 2-fold, in HC and LC treatments

Spot Id.	Protein identity	GI number	Protein score C.I. (%)	Total Ion C. I. %	Protein score (peptides)	MW/pI	Fold change		Function
							High CO <sub>2</sub>	Low CO <sub>2</sub>	
3	Propionyl CoA synthase	239994558	100	100	357(14)	69708.5/5.51	2.33	1.00	β-oxidation
4	Serine protein kinase	239995429	100	99.946	177(15)	74347.3/5.31	2.82	1.00	Protein kinase, signal transduction
9	Hypothetical protein AmacA_2	223994739	100	100	805(22)	51069.6/5.61	2.01	1.00	Unknown
11	Hypothetical protein MDMS009_211	254489880	100	100	440(11)	447891.1/4.87	1.00	4.34	Unknown
12	Methane/ phenol/ toluene hydroxylase	148260382	100	100	238(5)	39315.7/5.76	3.40	1.00	Phenol biodegradation
13	Acyl-CoA dehydrogenase family protein	83943662	100	100	438(18)	44108.4/5.55	1.00	2.66	β-oxidation
14	Chloroplast glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	77024139	100	100	336(7)	44096.1/5.2	2.92	1.00	Glycolysis
15	Conserved hypothetical protein (bacterium S5)	288797257	100	99.996	166(7)	21306.1/4.87	2.50	1.00	Unknown
17	Enoyl-CoA hydratase	83955054	99.996	98.89	115(8)	28178.9/5.51	3.82	1.00	β-oxidation
19	Adenylate kinase	239993306	100	100	600(16)	23693/4.99	2.12	1.00	ATP synthesis
21	TRAP-T family protein transporter periplasmic binding protein	83943788	100	100	811(17)	39967.7/4.56	3.04	1.00	Substrate-binding protein (SBP)-dependent secondary transporters
24	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase	114765301	100	100	352(6)	15293.7/4.93	1.00	2.10	Catalyze the transfer of a phosphate from a NTP to NDP

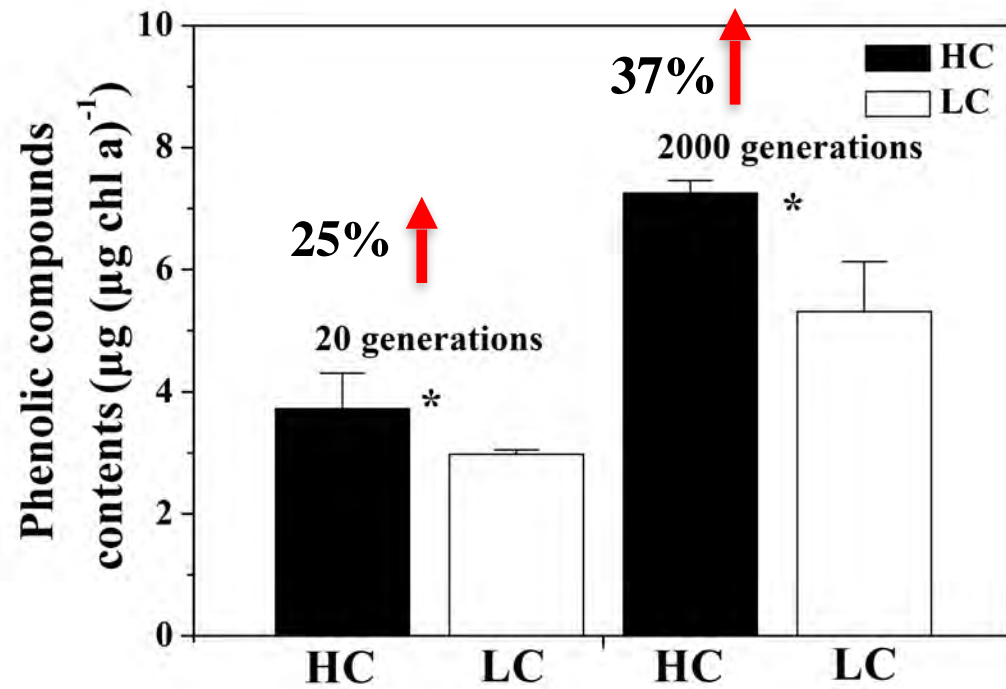
# Altered metabolic pathways under OA



# Contents of phenolic compounds in phytoplankton

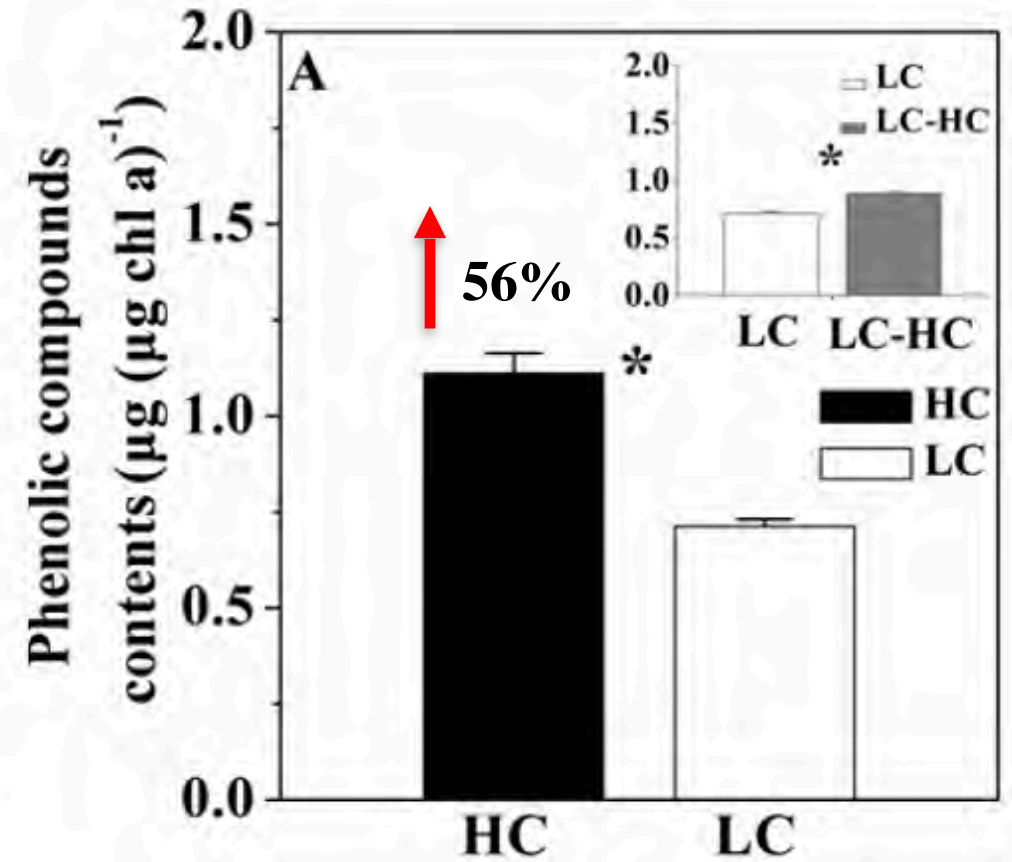
## Lab test

### *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*



Former Ph D student: Yahe Li

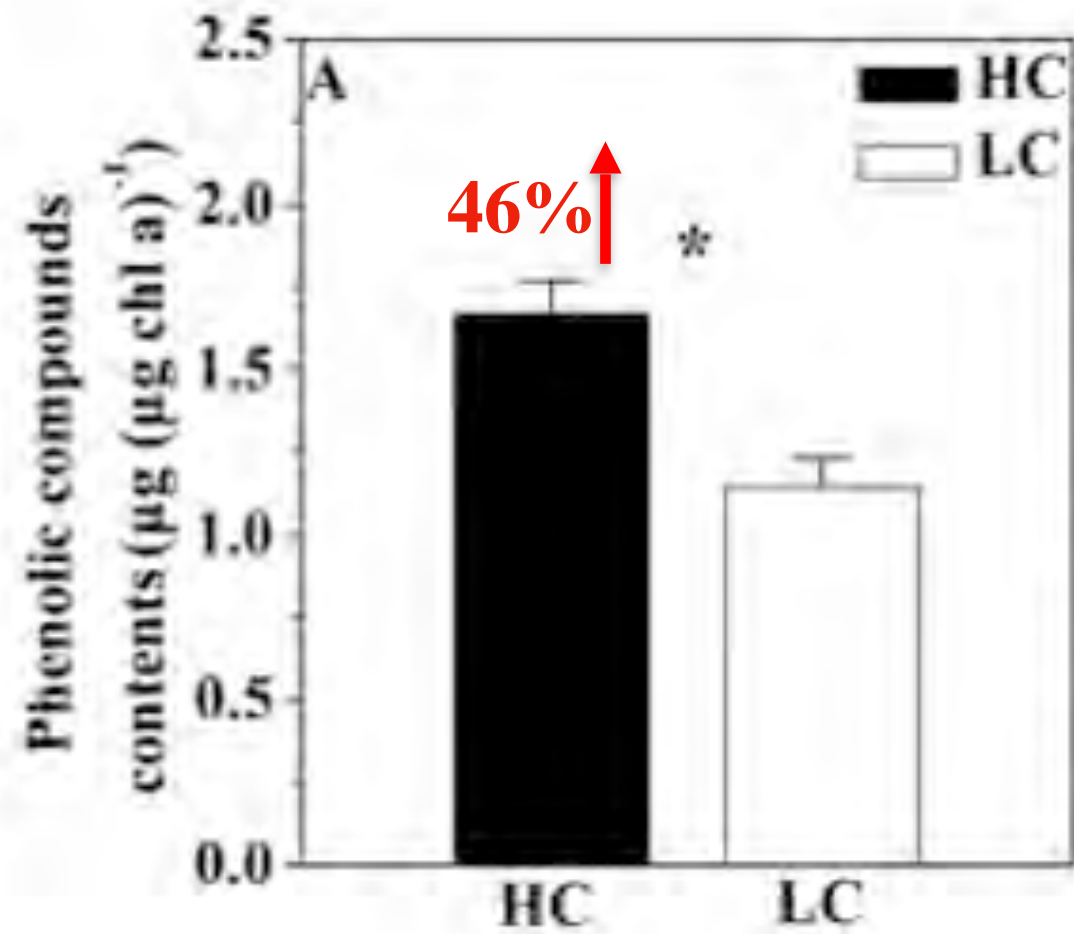
### *Emiliana huxleyi*



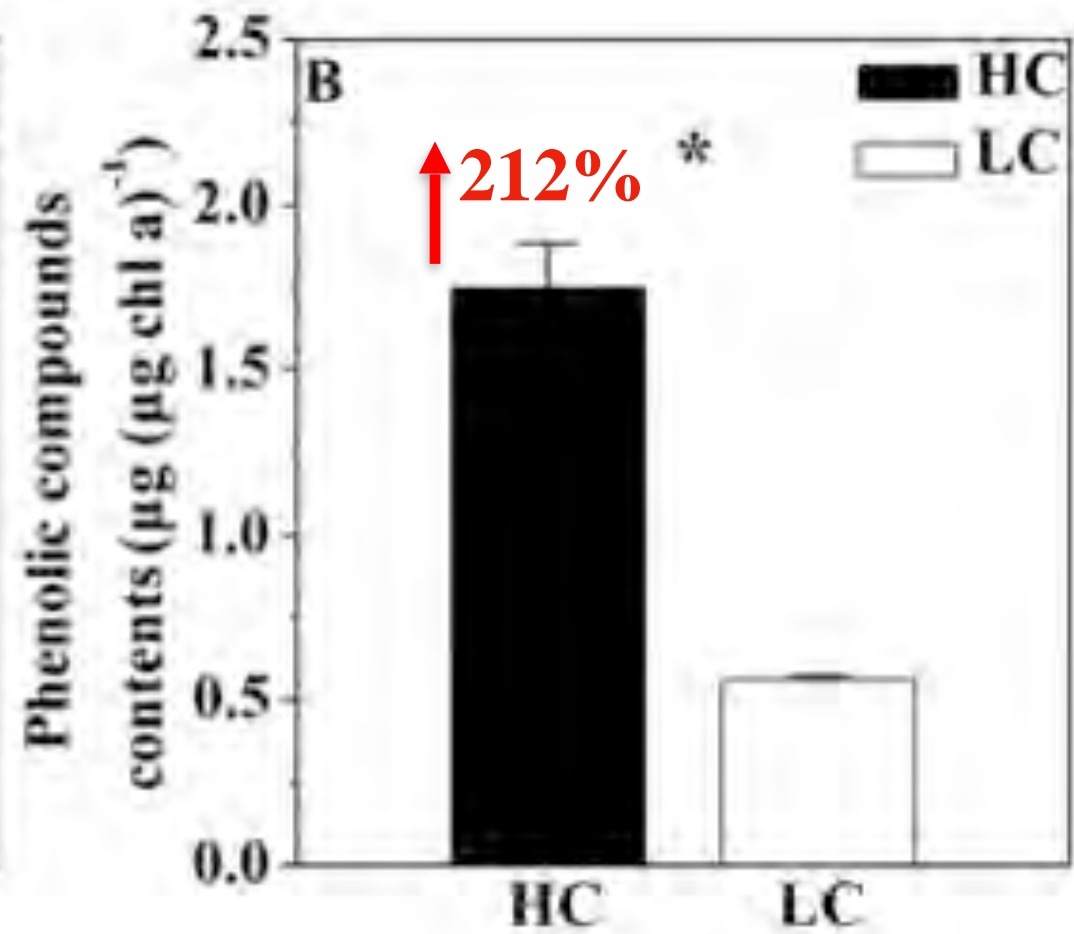
Former Ph D student: Peng Jin



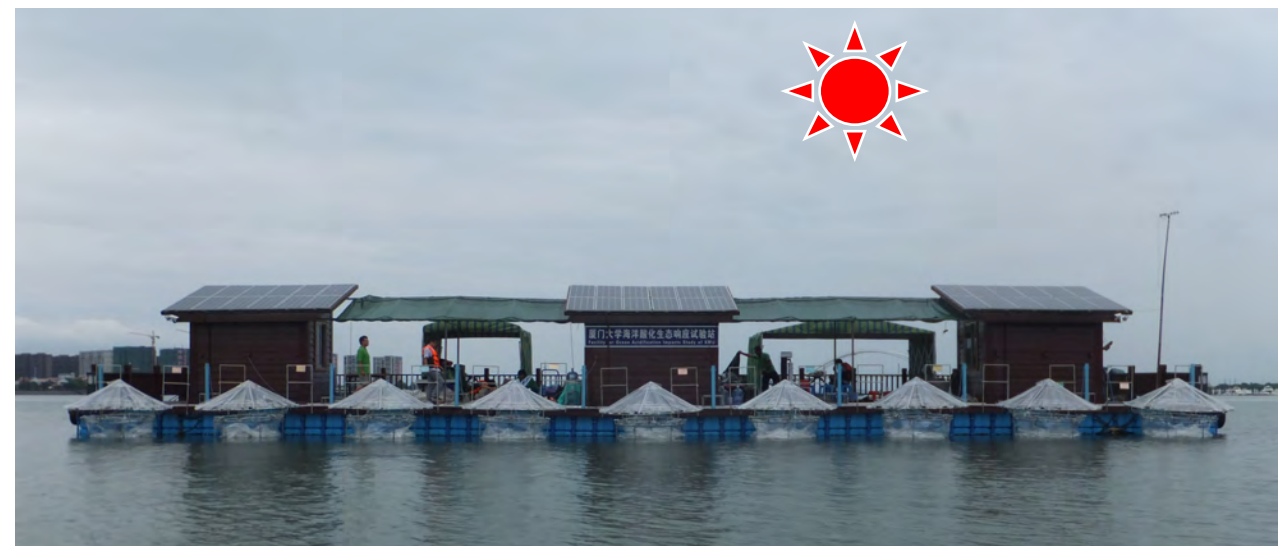
Microcosm (30L)

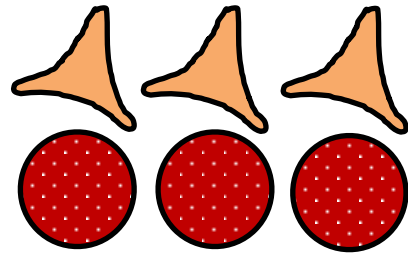


Mesocosm (4000L)

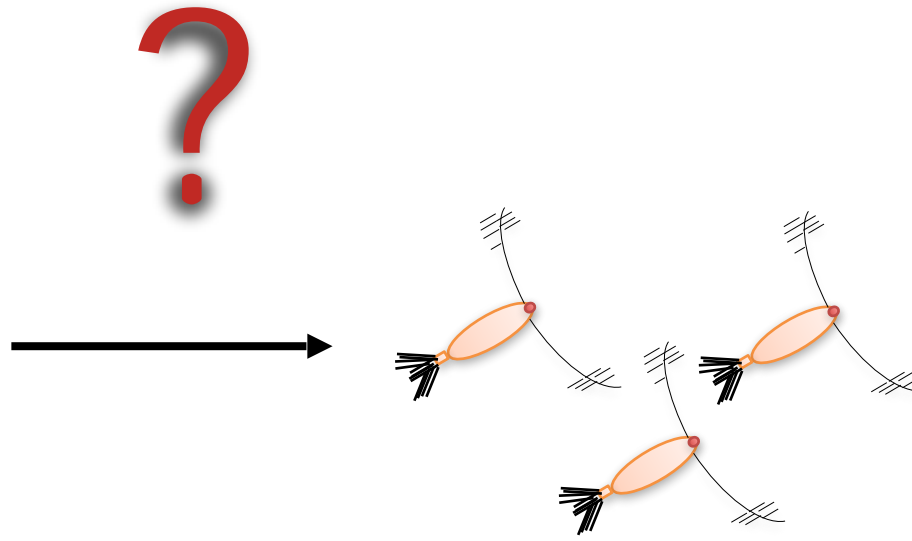


- **Kreb cycle and  $\beta$ -oxydation pathways are upregulated under OA, leading to higher contents of toxic phenolics**





Phytoplankton



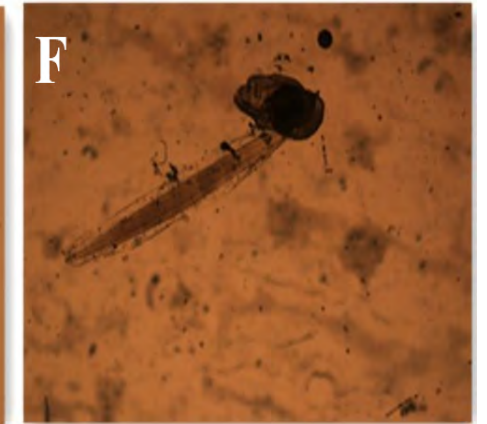
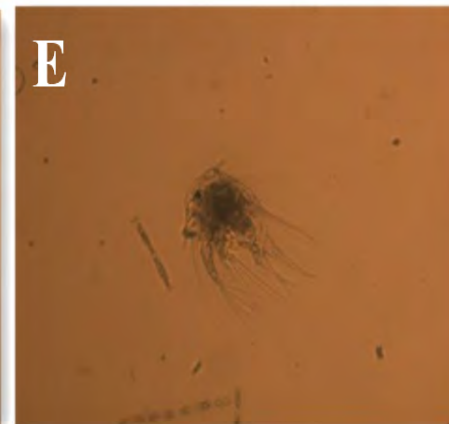
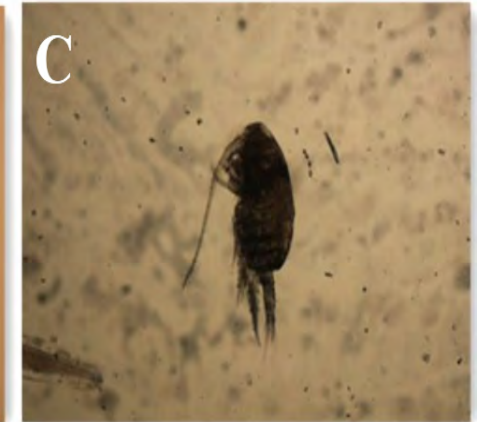
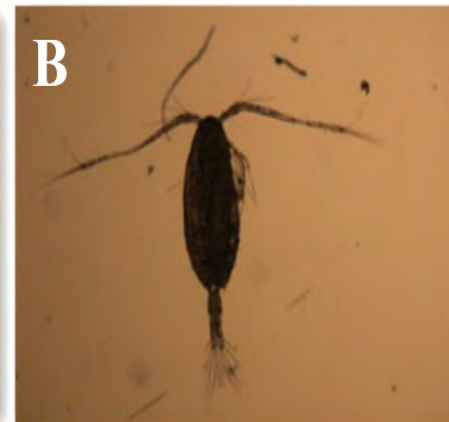
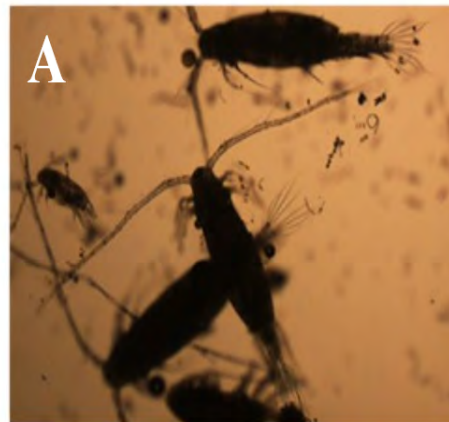
Zooplankton

**Microcosm  
(HC, LC)**

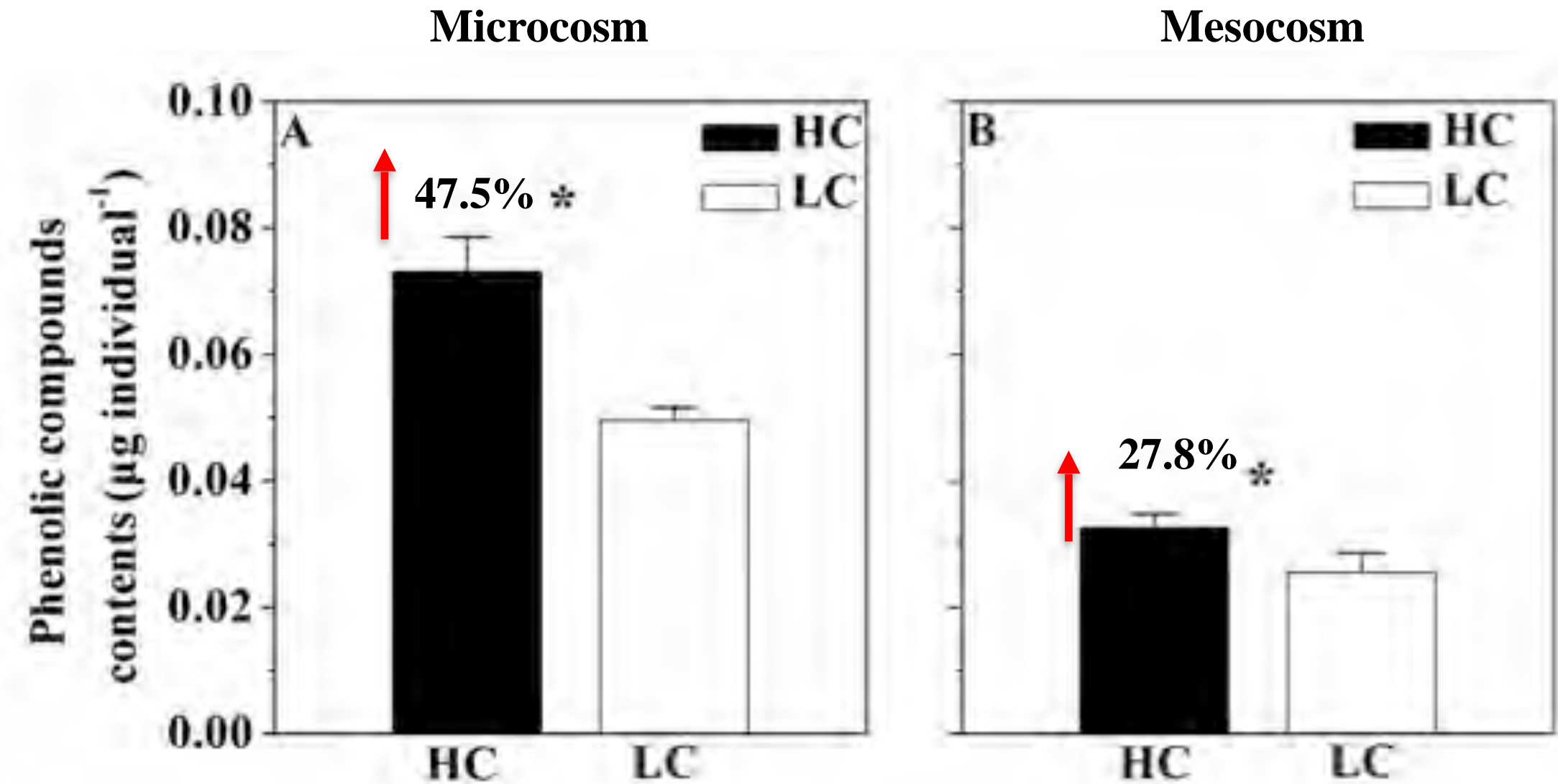
**Fed to**



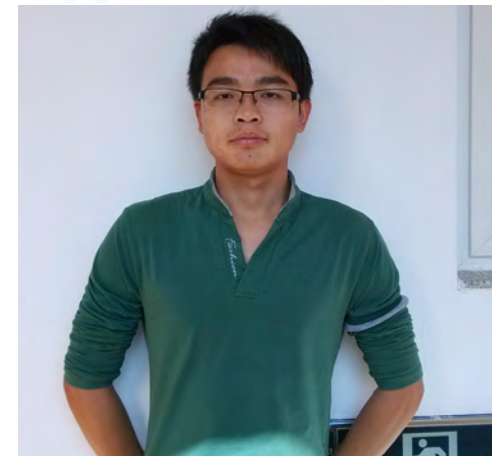
**Mesocosm  
(HC, LC)**



# Contents of phenolic compounds in zooplankton that were fed on phytoplankton (HC, LC) from microcosm and mesocosm systems



Former Ph D student: Peng Jin



Ph D student: Tifeng Wang



ARTICLE

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OPEN

# Ocean acidification increases the accumulation of toxic phenolic compounds across trophic levels

Peng Jin<sup>1,†</sup>, Tifeng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Nana Liu<sup>1</sup>, Sam Dupont<sup>2</sup>, John Beardall<sup>3</sup>, Philip W. Boyd<sup>4</sup>,  
Ulf Riebesell<sup>5</sup> & Kunshan Gao<sup>1</sup>

## Ecological implications:

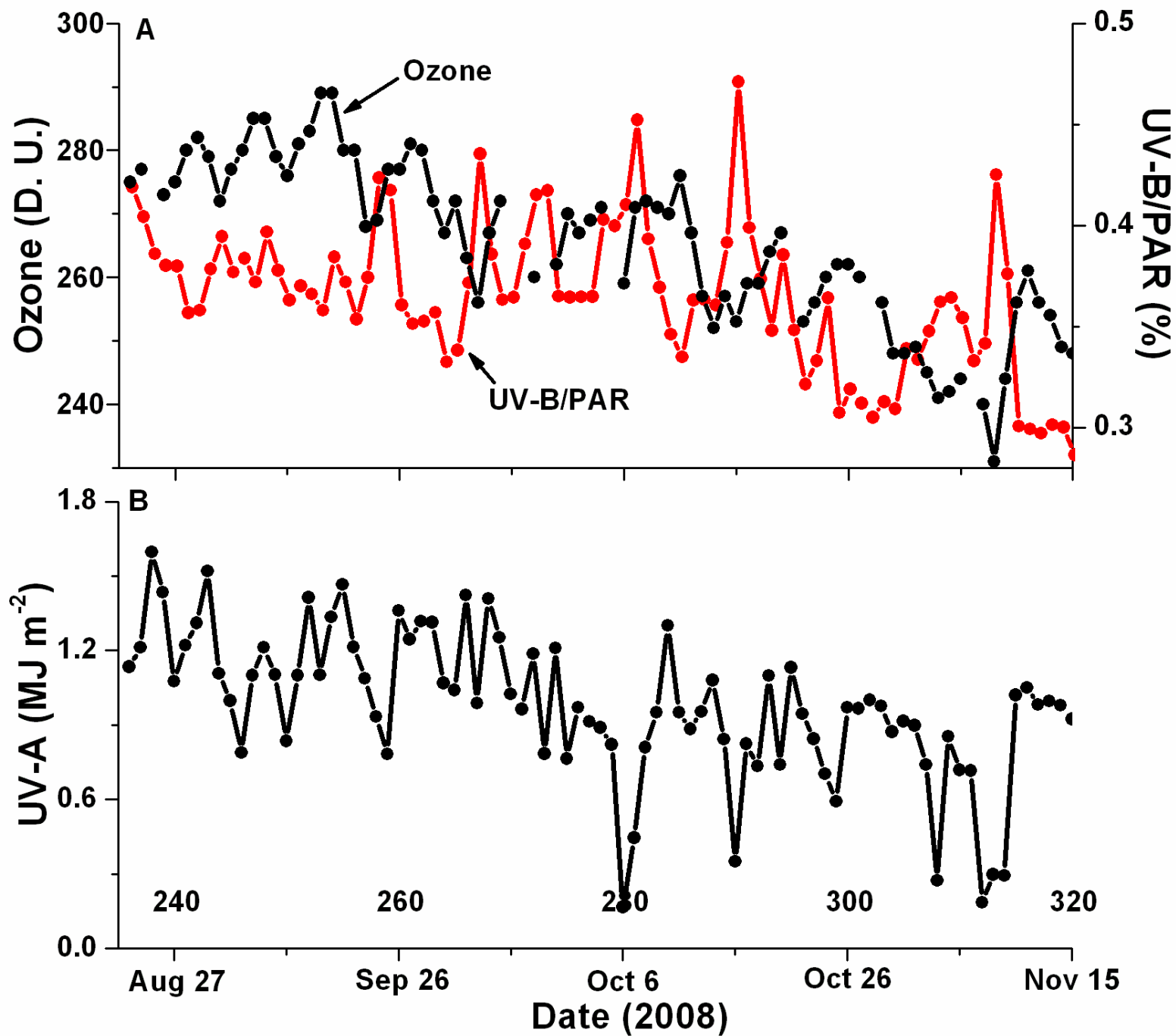
Increased accumulation of **phenolic compounds** in phytoplankton and zooplankton, implying a food chain impact.

# Responses

1. Photosynthesis / Growth
2. Metabolic Pathways
- 3. Combined impacts with other stressors  
(UV & Virus)**

# Xiamen

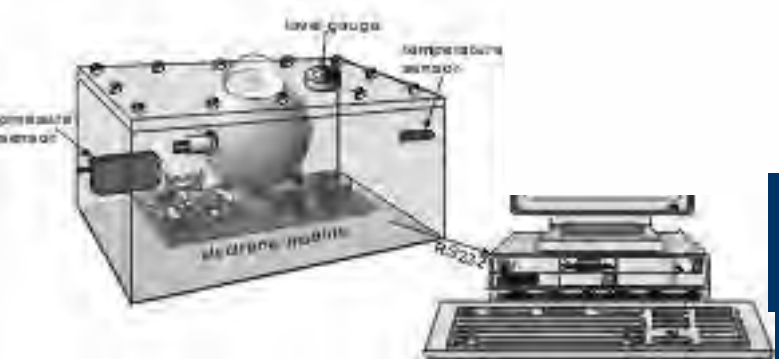
Monitored every second



UVB/PAR

UVA

UV penetration deep down to 50-70 m





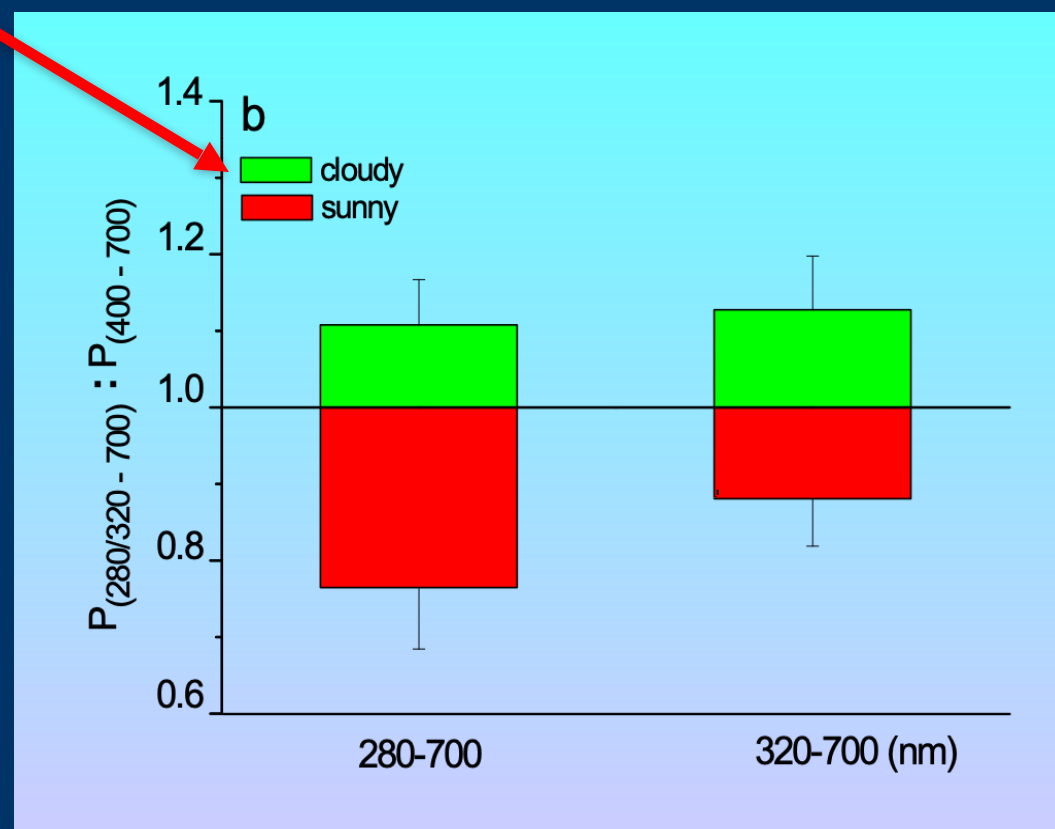
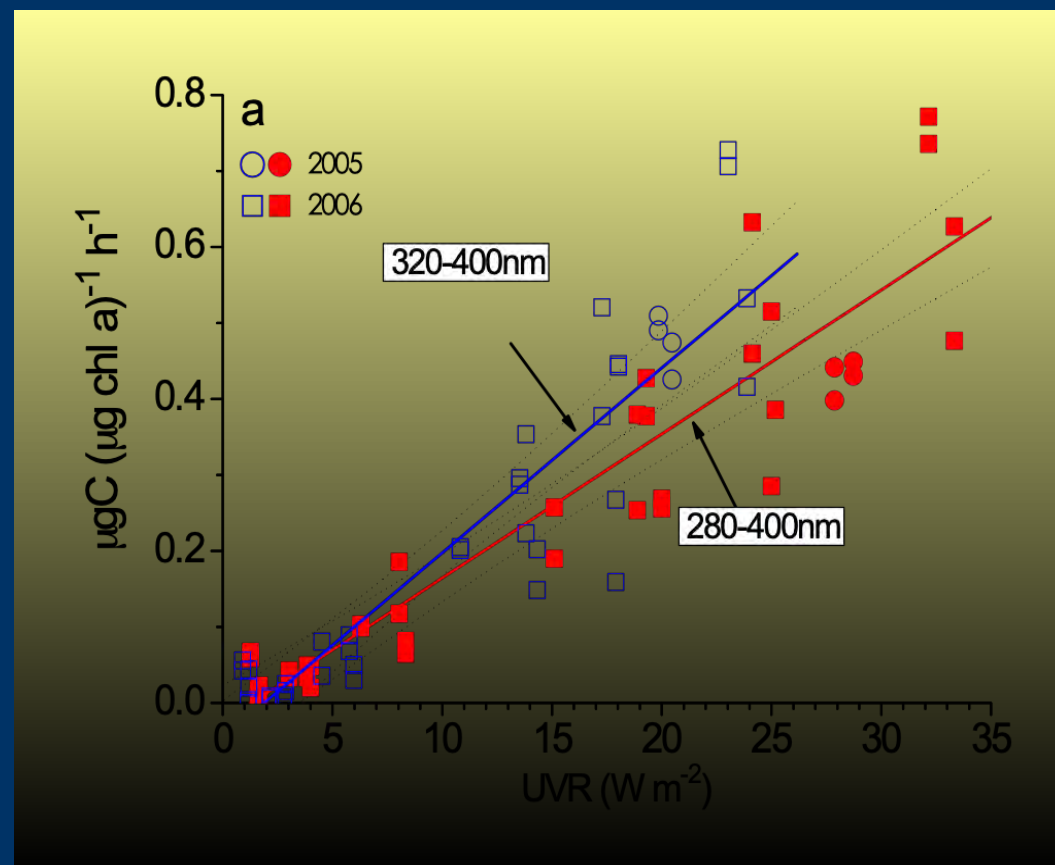
1. Evidence that UV-A alone drives photosynthesis
2. UV-A enhances photosynthetic carbon fixation on cloudy days

UV-A

“+”

“—”

UV-B “—”



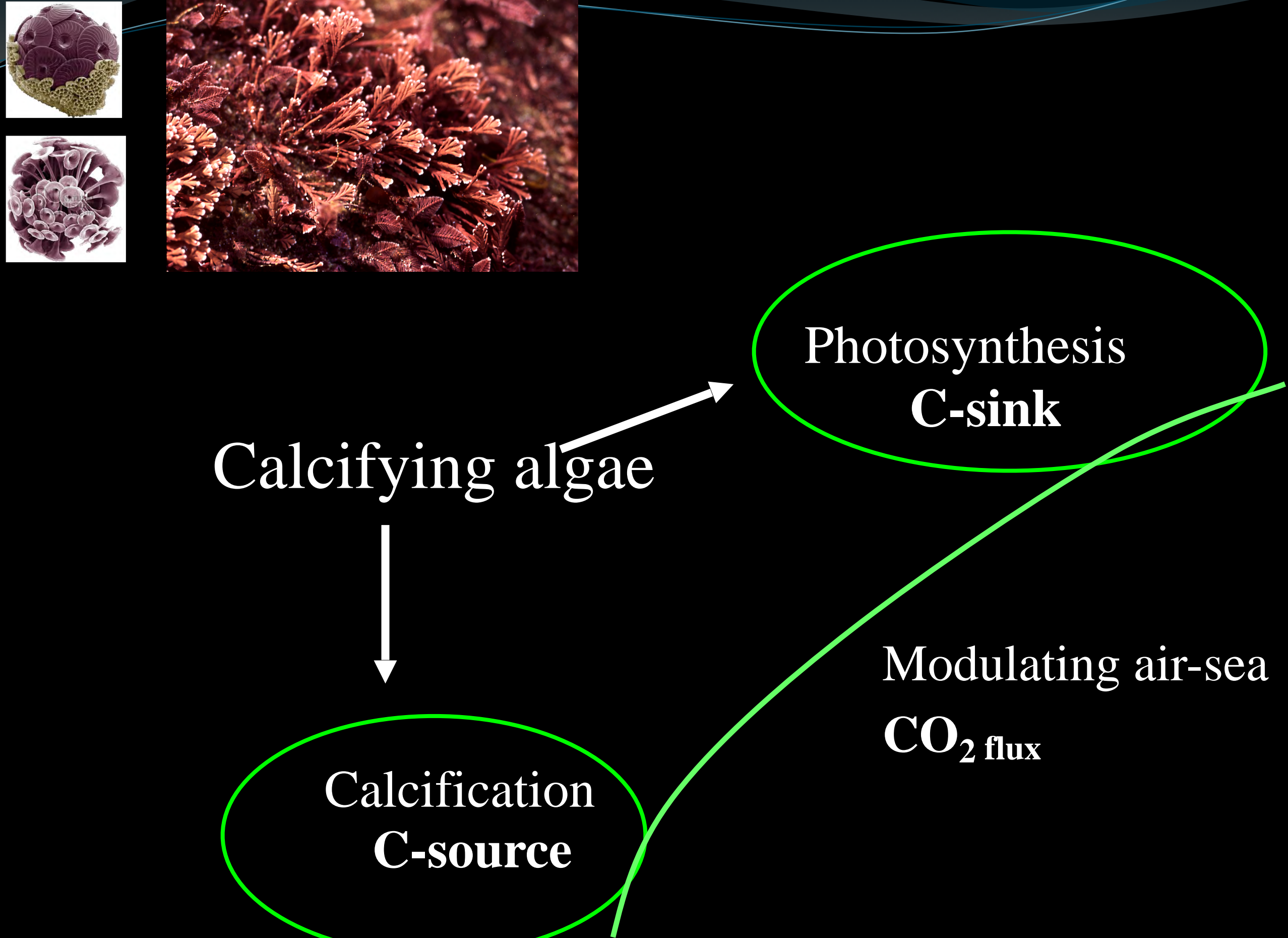


Calcifying algae

Photosynthesis  
C-sink

Calcification  
C-source

Modulating air-sea  
CO<sub>2</sub> flux



# Hypothesis

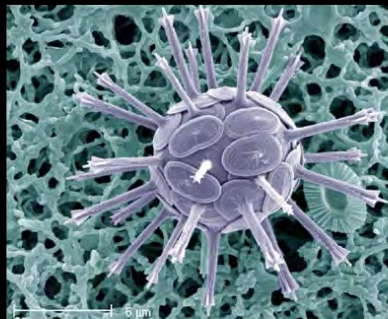
**Calcified** layer or “**shell**” of calcifying algae may play protective roles **against** UV

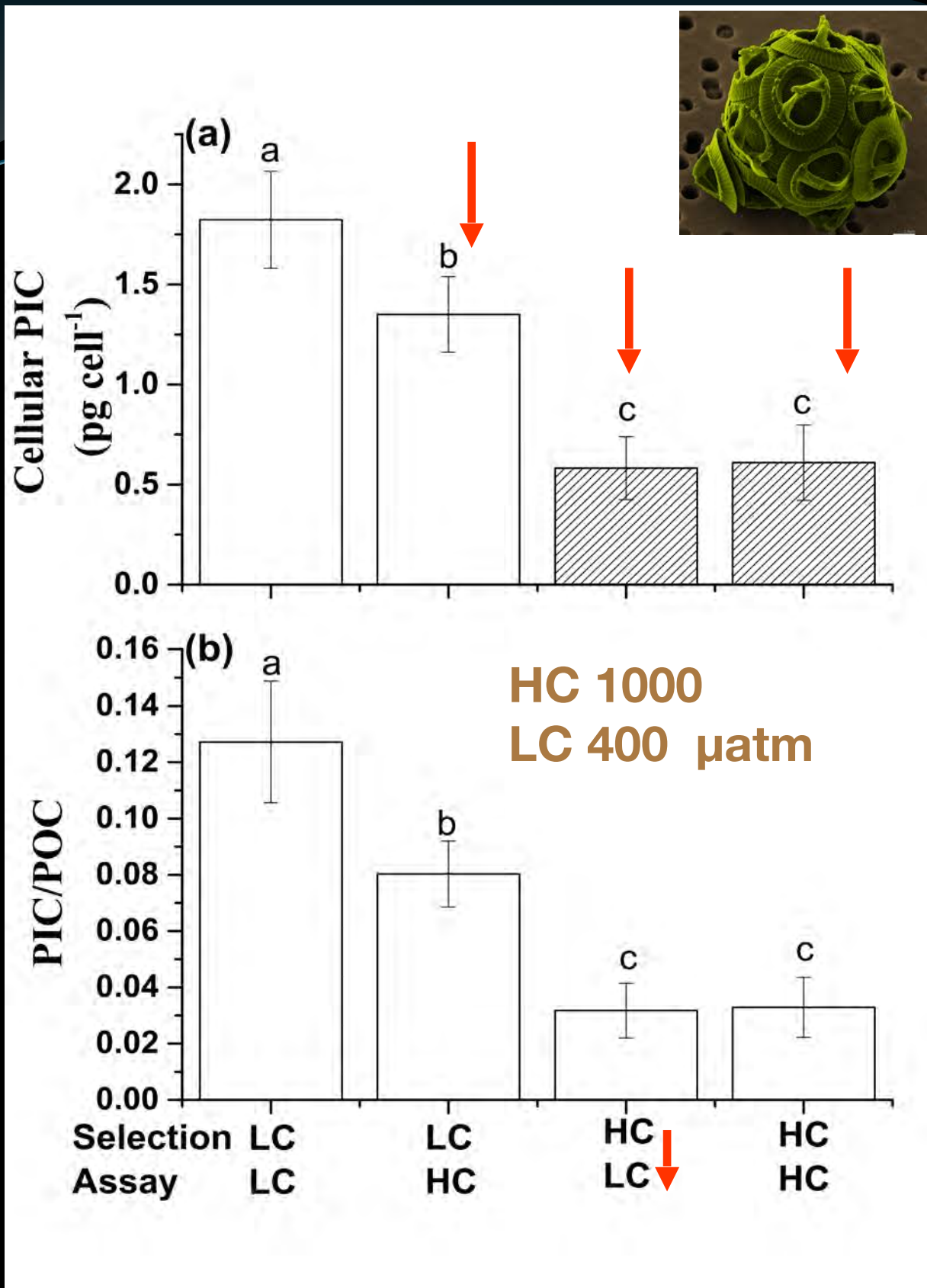
Decreased carbonate ions associated with **OA** may **decrease** calcification

Synergistic impacts of **OA + UV** are expected

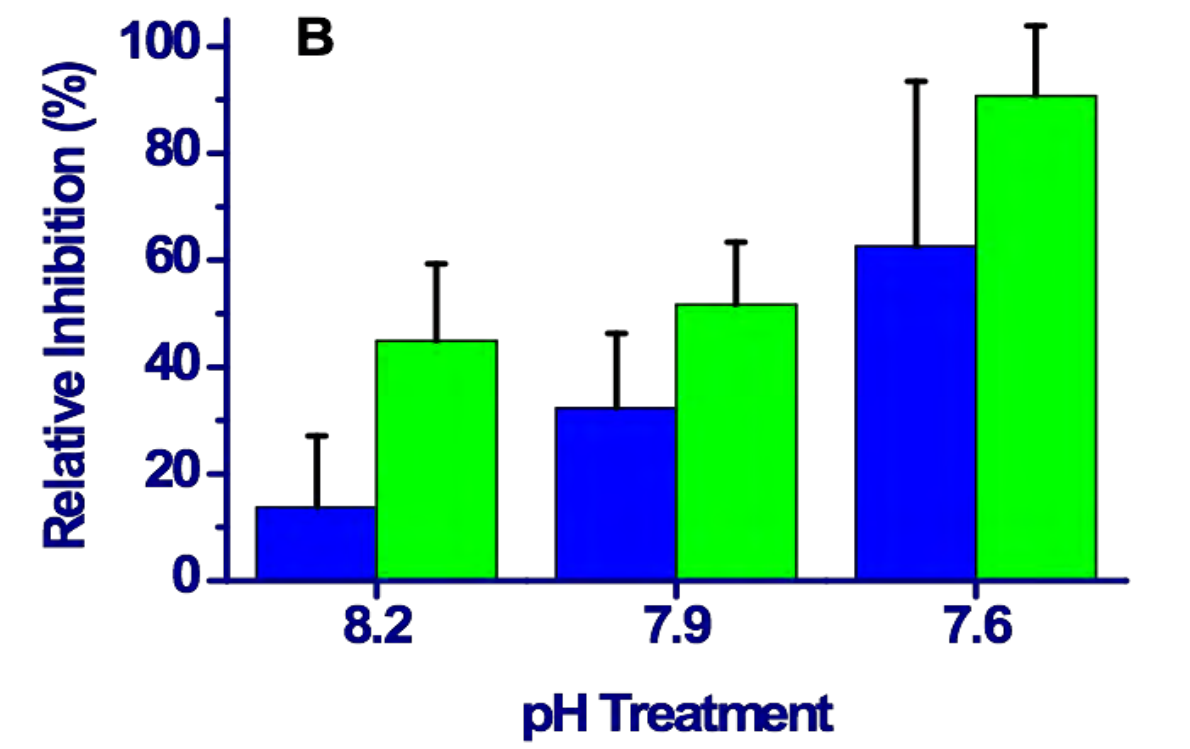
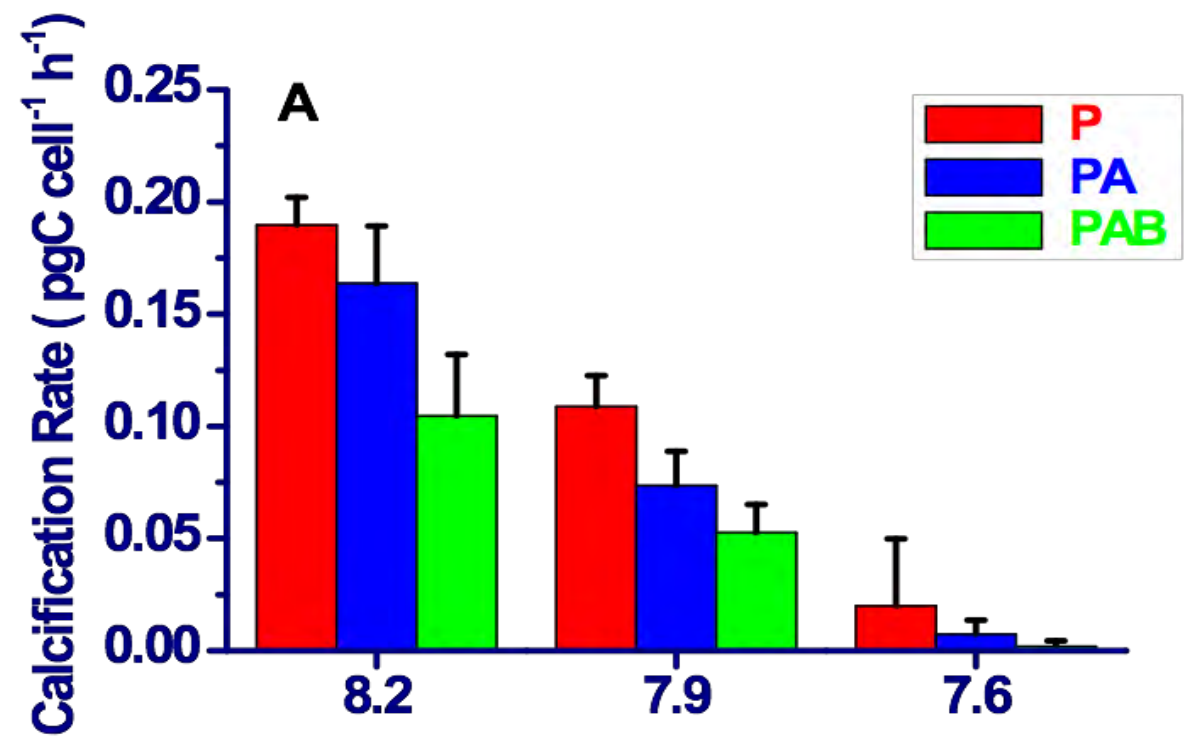
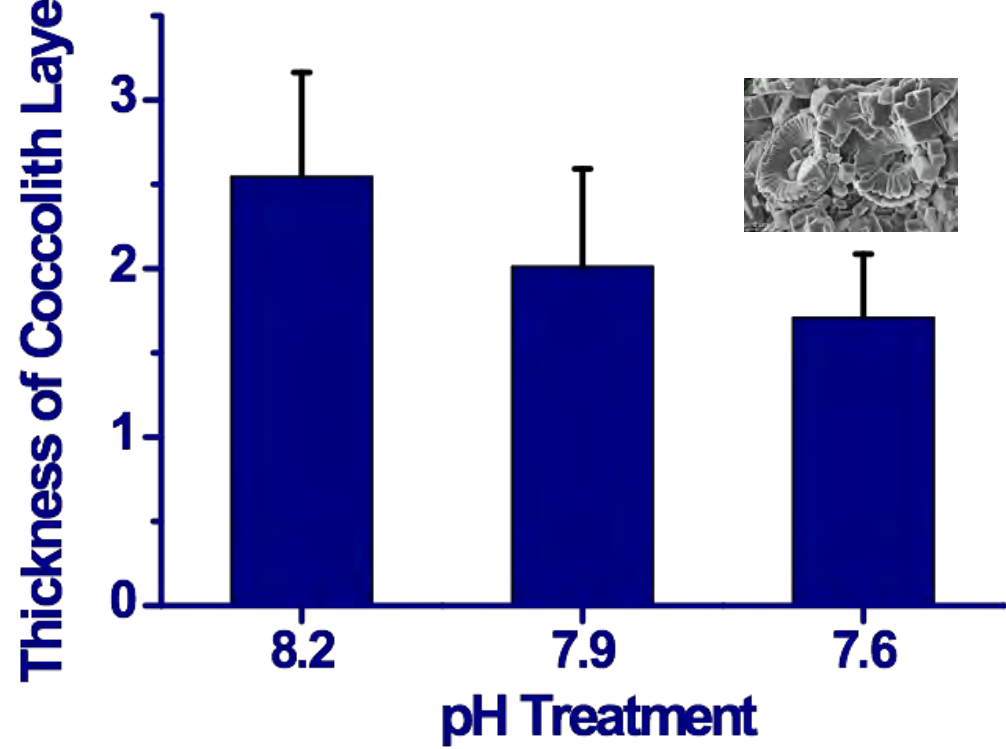
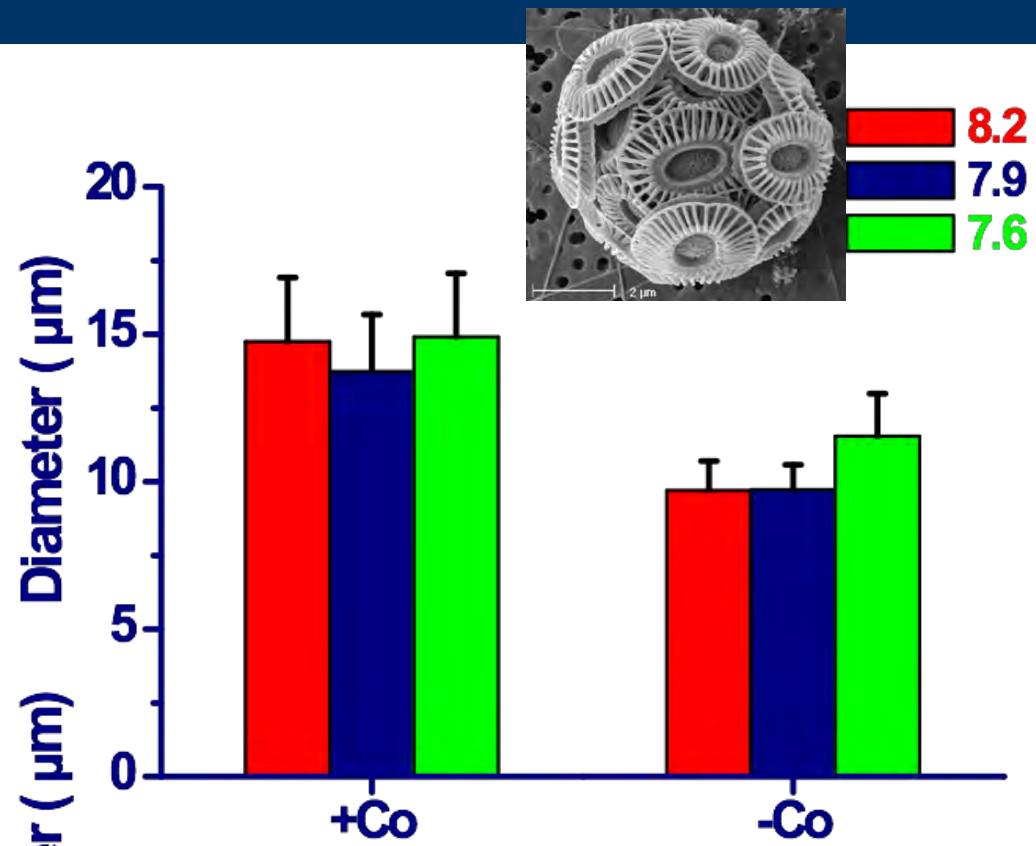


# Coccolithophores (calcifying marine phytoplankton)





After growth under OA condition for **1000** generations, declined calcification could not be recovered even after transferred to ambient low CO<sub>2</sub> conditions and grown for 20 generations, reflecting an **evolutionary response**



**P: PAR**  
**PA: PAR+UVA**  
**PAB: PAR+UVA+B**



# Corraline algae



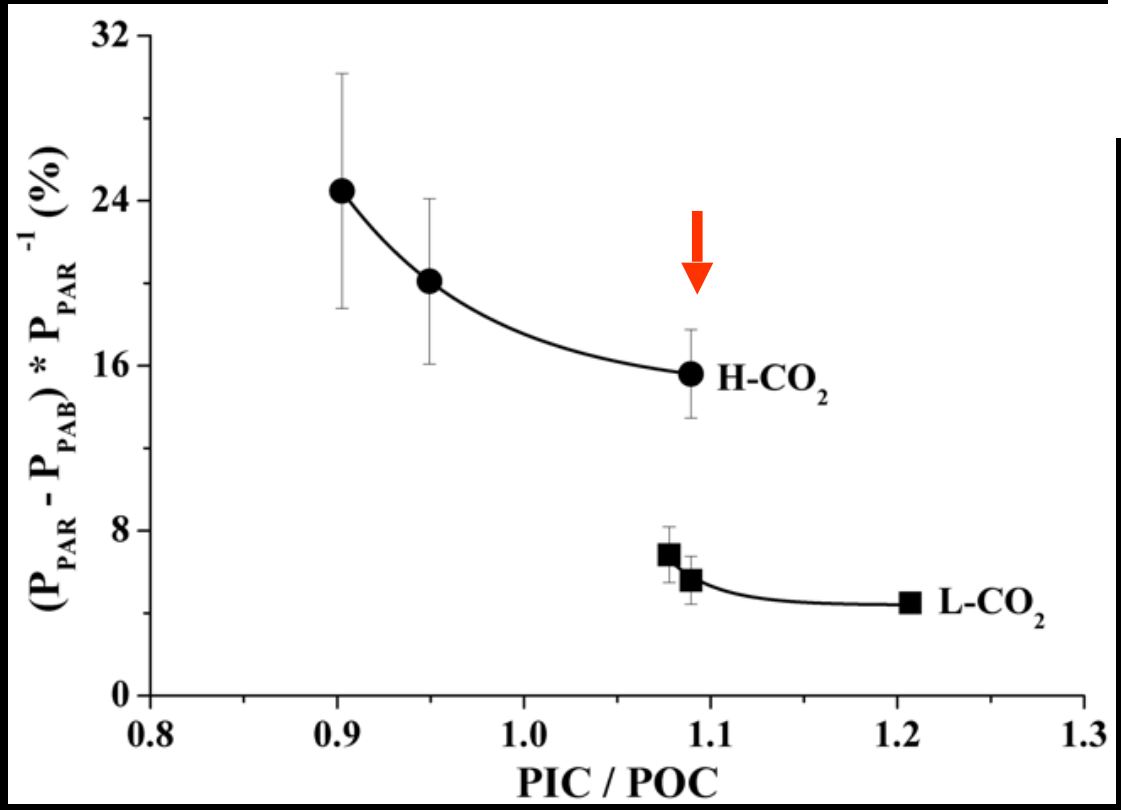
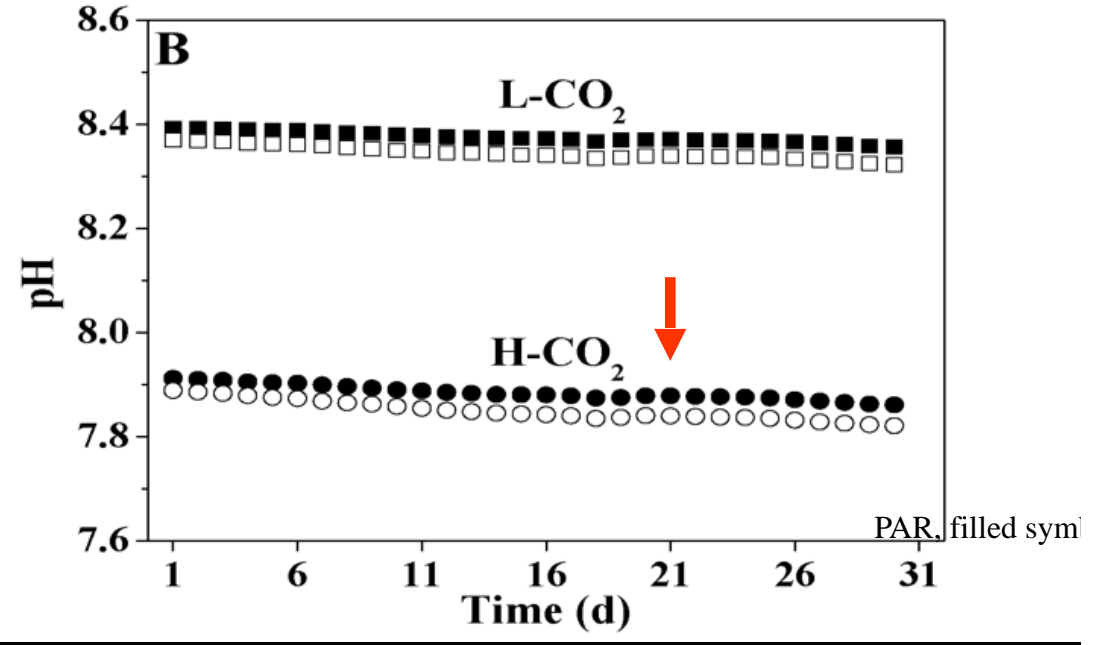
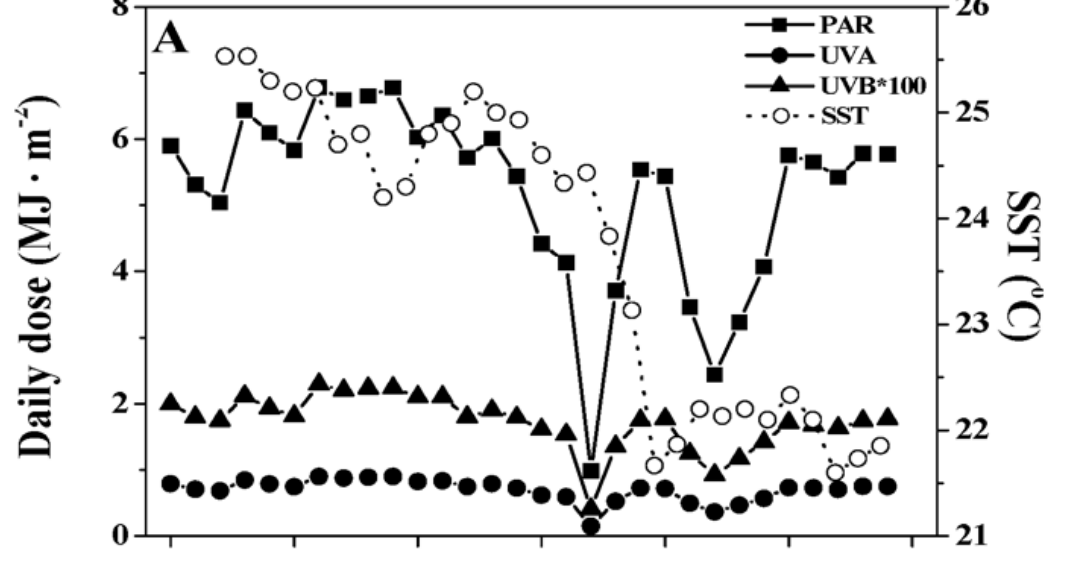
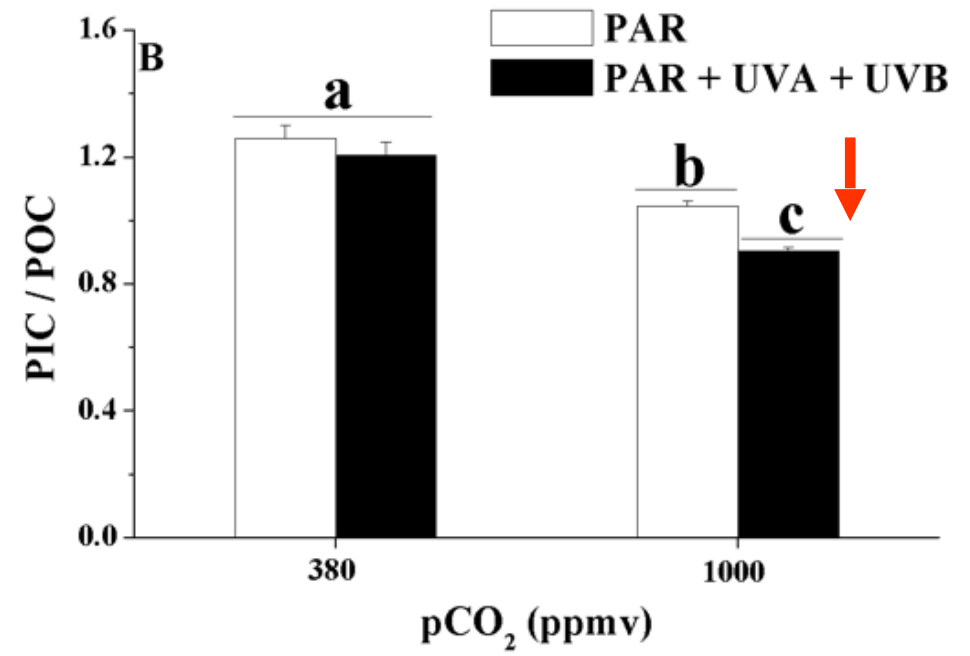
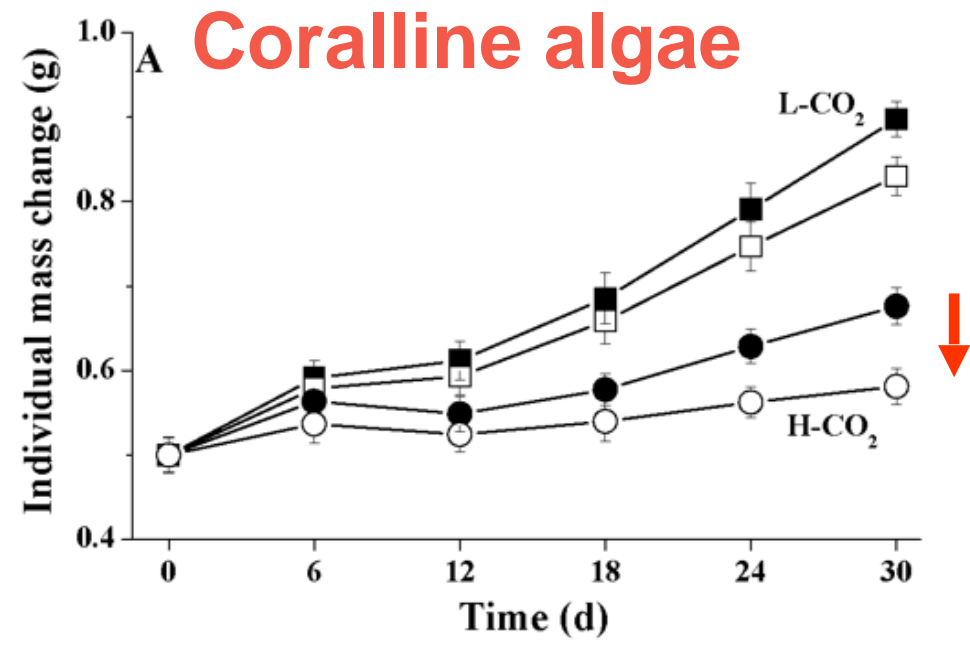




Less growth

Lower calcification

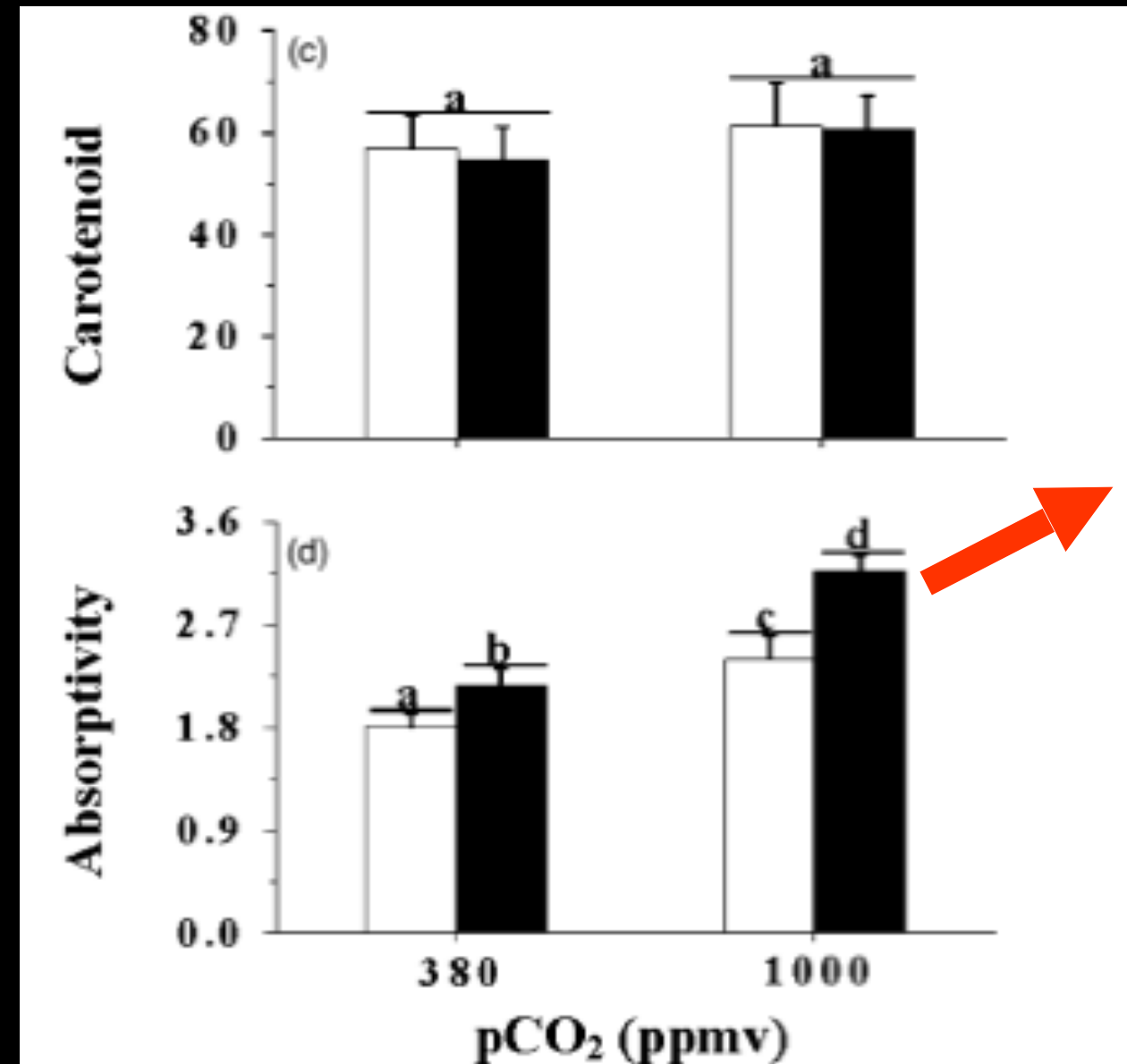
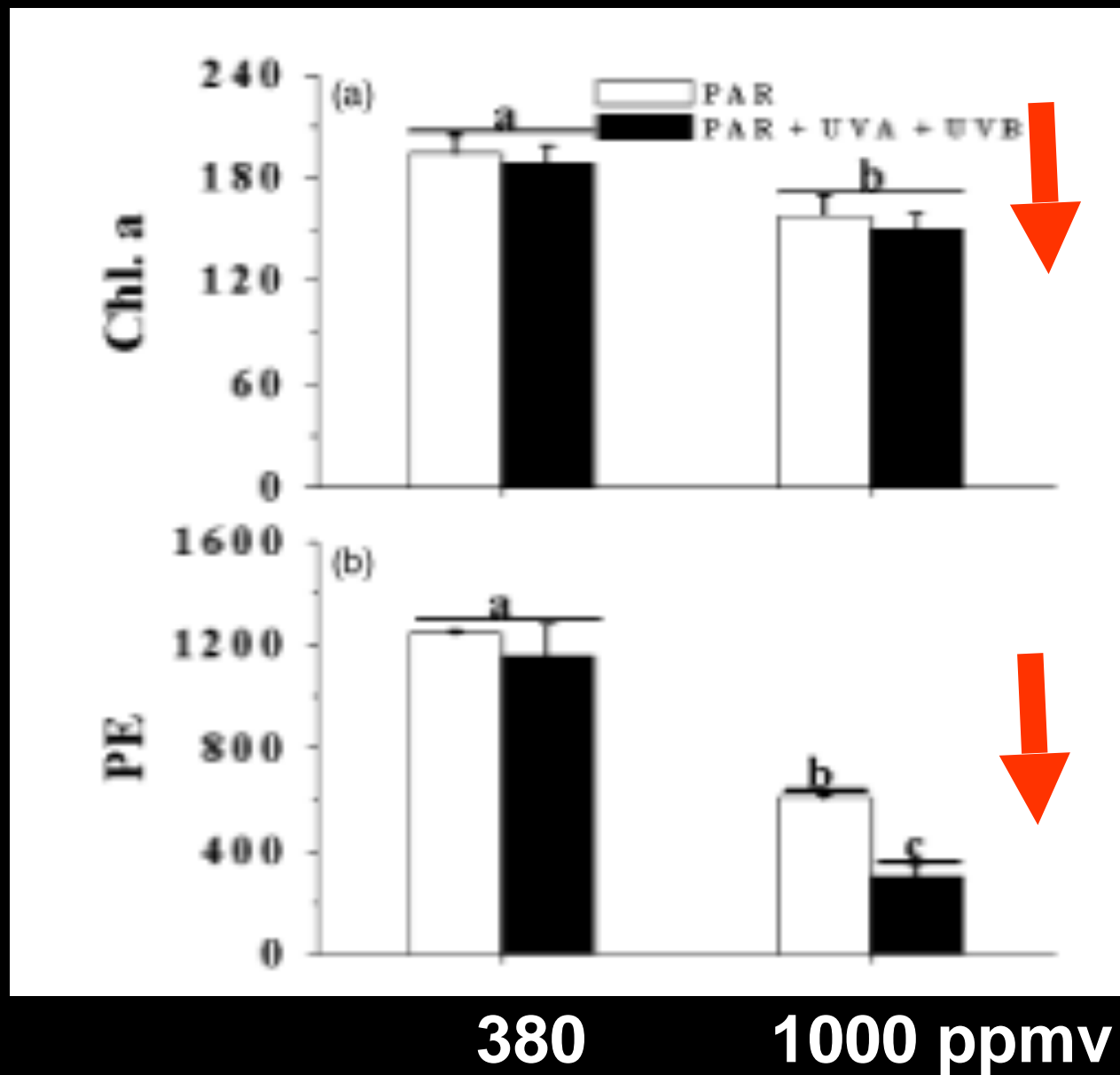
# Coralline algae



UV-induced photosynthetic inhibition

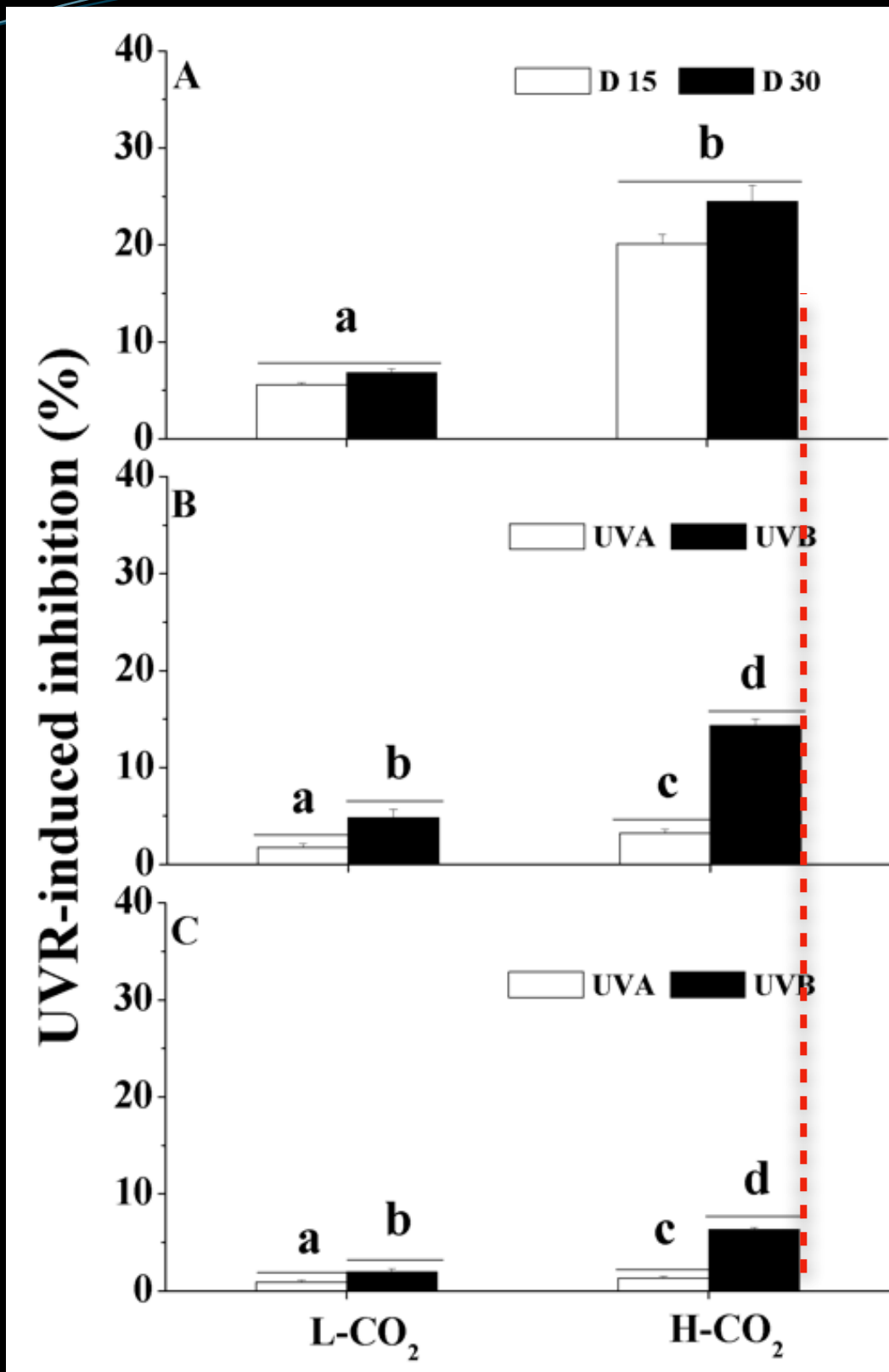
# UV-absorbing compounds

## Photosynthetic pigments





UVB (0.5-0.8% of PAR in terms of energy) results in higher inhibition than UVA (14-16% of PAR) under influence of ocean acidification



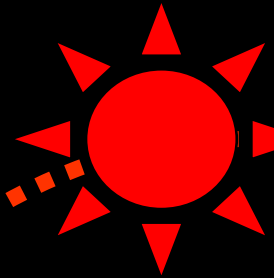
Photosynthesis

Calcification



OA

Calcification

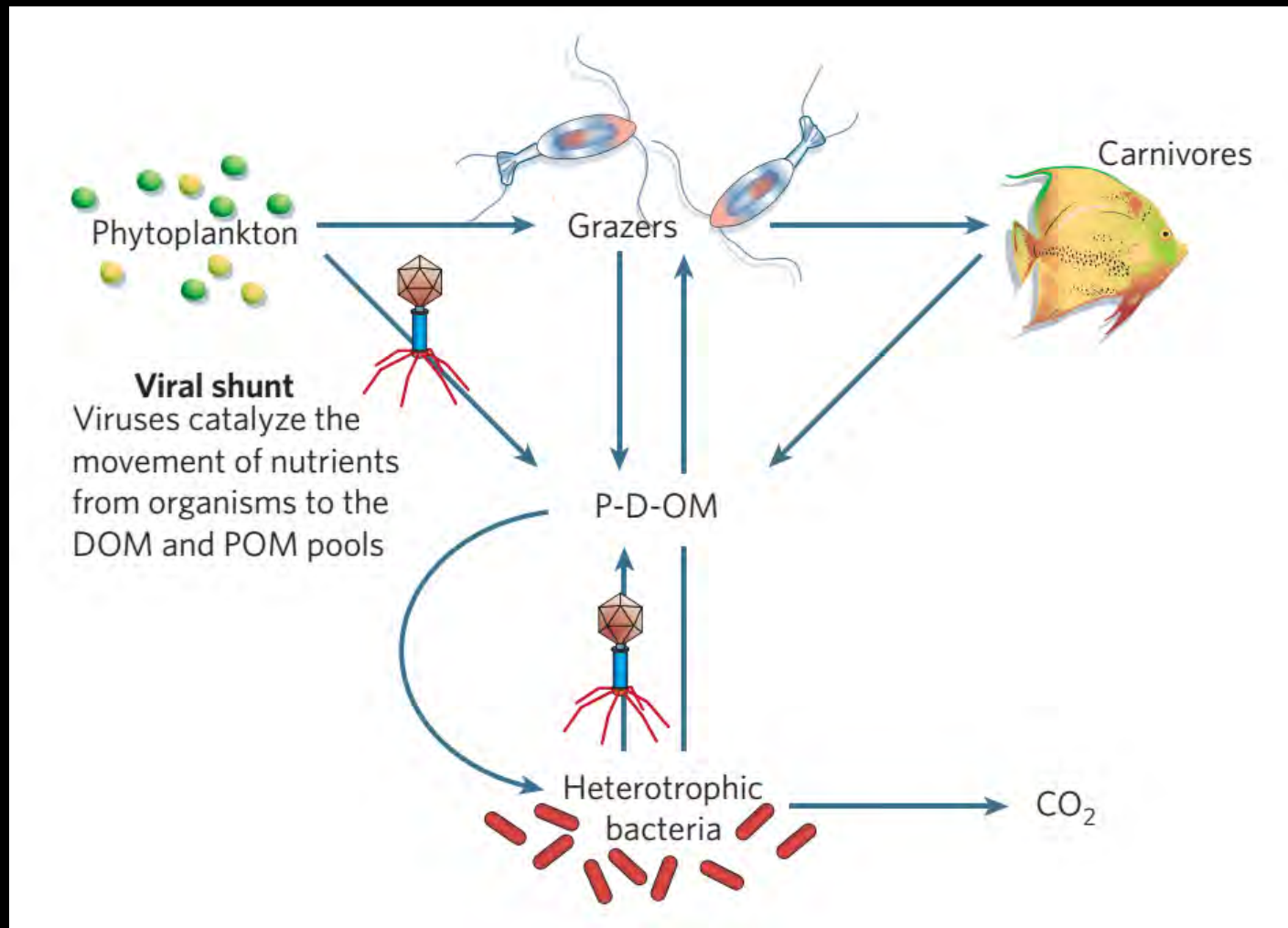


OA+UV

Pigments (bleaching)  
Carbon fixation

**Ocean acidification decreases calcification of calcareous algae, enhancing solar exposures, leading to bleaching and further decrease in calcification**

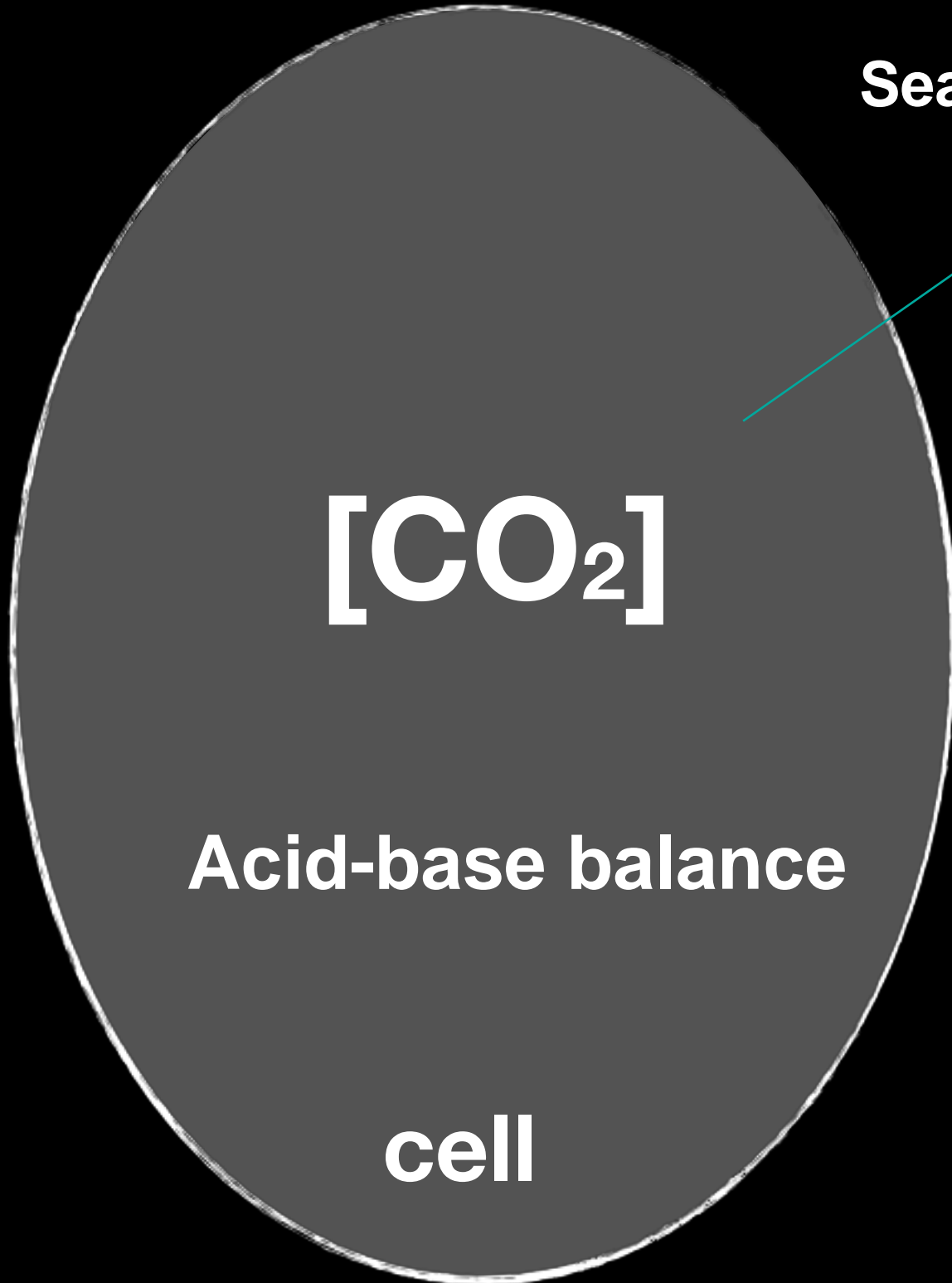
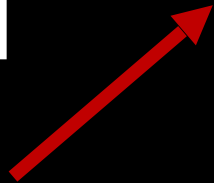
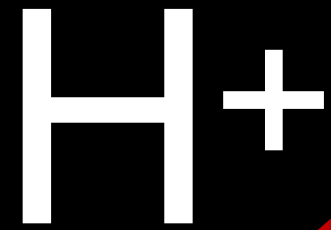
# Virus as a bio-stressor



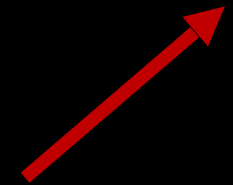
**Viral abundance in natural seawater  $10^4$ - $10^8$  particles mL<sup>-1</sup>**



**Periplasmic  
Redox**



**Seawater**



**Rising pCO<sub>2</sub>,  
“fertilization”  
effects?**

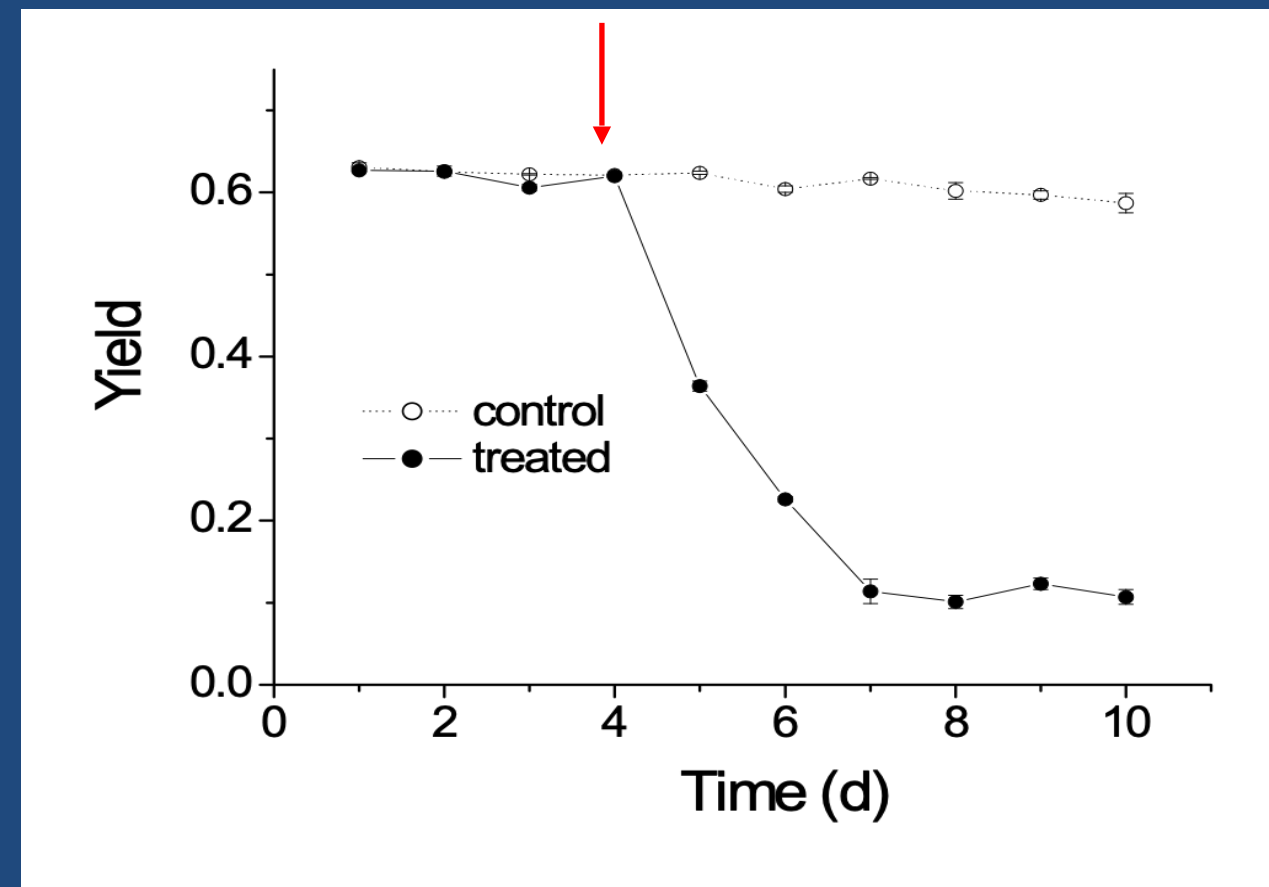
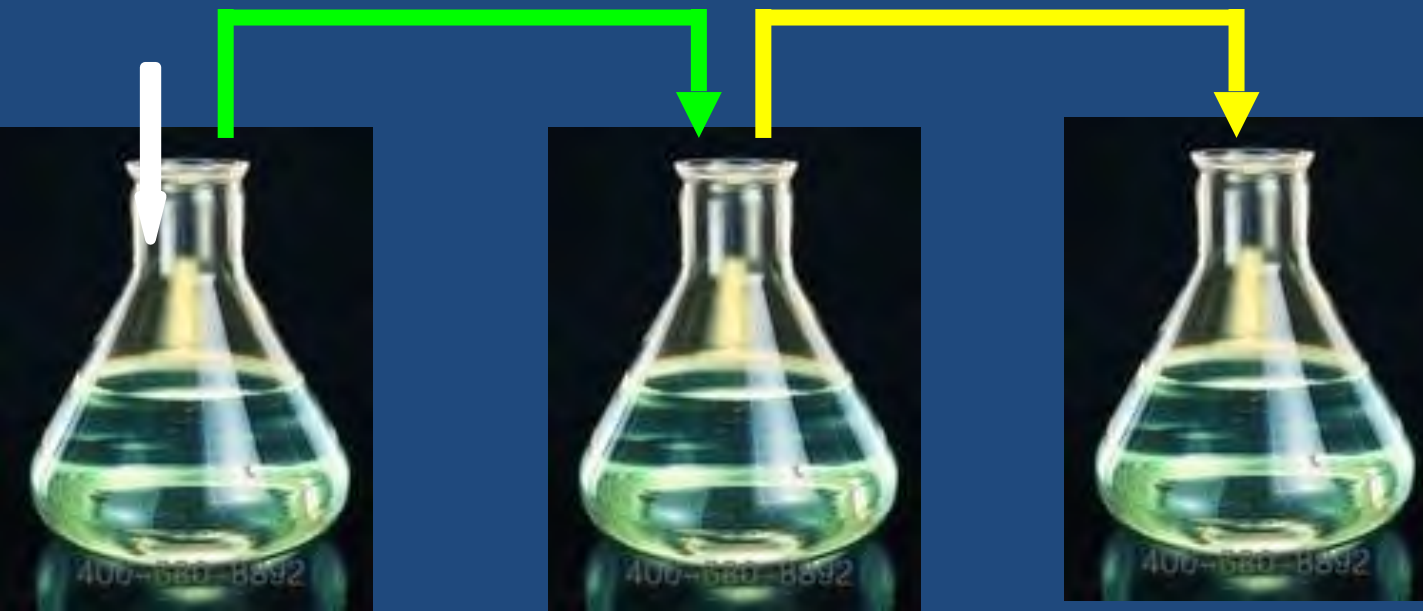
**Acid-base balance**

**cell**

## General hypothesis

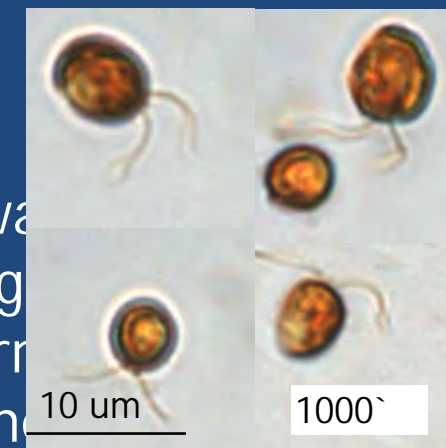
- Changes in carbonate chemistry, induced by OA, can influence **Redox** activity at cell surface
- Such changes may affect **viral** attack to the host

# Isolation and cloning of PgV



Viruses of *Phaeocystis globosa* (PgVs) were isolated, in November 2007, from the coastal waters of Shantou (23.3 °N, 116.6°E), when the algal bloom occurred. Seawater (10 L) was sampled at the end point of the algal bloom and filtered through 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  pore-size cellulose acetate filters. The filtrate was then concentrated, by an ultrafiltration disc to 100 mL. The concentrated virus-size fraction was used for inocula, and the clonal isolate of PgV was obtained by a modified serial infection procedure.

Modified serial infection procedure: The virus-size fraction concentrate was added to exponentially growing cultures of *P. globosa* at 1% (vol/vol) and incubated for 10 days, during which time algal growth was monitored via *in vivo* chlorophyll fluorescence. Samples from cultures in which lysis occurred were filtered through 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  pore-size cellulose acetate filters and a crude PgV lysate was obtained. The lysate was added at 10% (vol/vol) to exponentially growing *P. globosa* cultures and incubated for 7 days, during which time algal growth was monitored again as above. The clonal lysate was obtained after the above procedure was repeated six times.





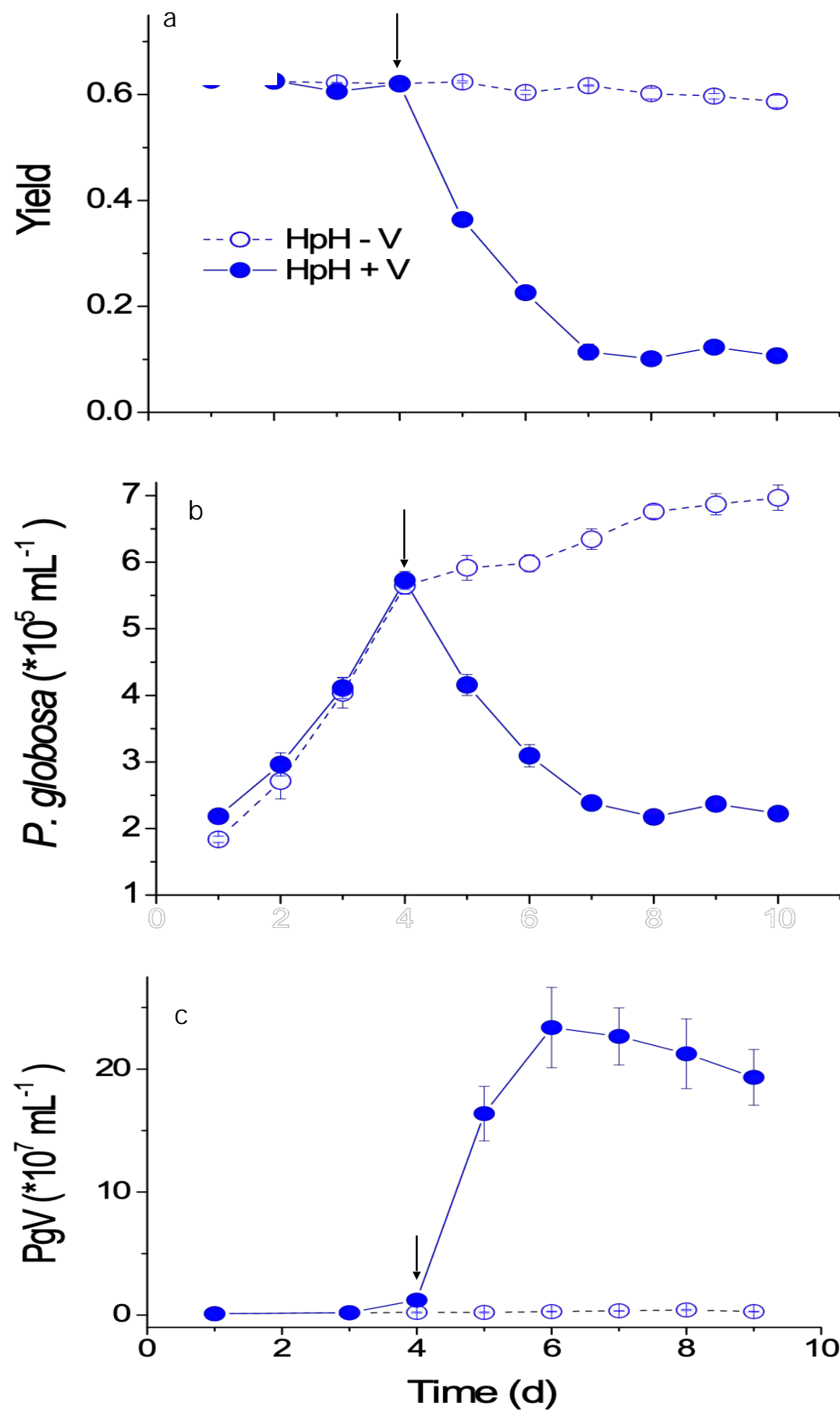


Fig. S2 Effective photochemical quantum yield (a) and cell density (b) of *P. globosa* and abundance of PgV (c) during viral infection of ambient-air-grown cultures. Open symbols represent uninfected cultures, while the solid symbols represent cultures to which PgVs were added at the time indicated by the arrows. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SD (n=3, triplicate cultures).

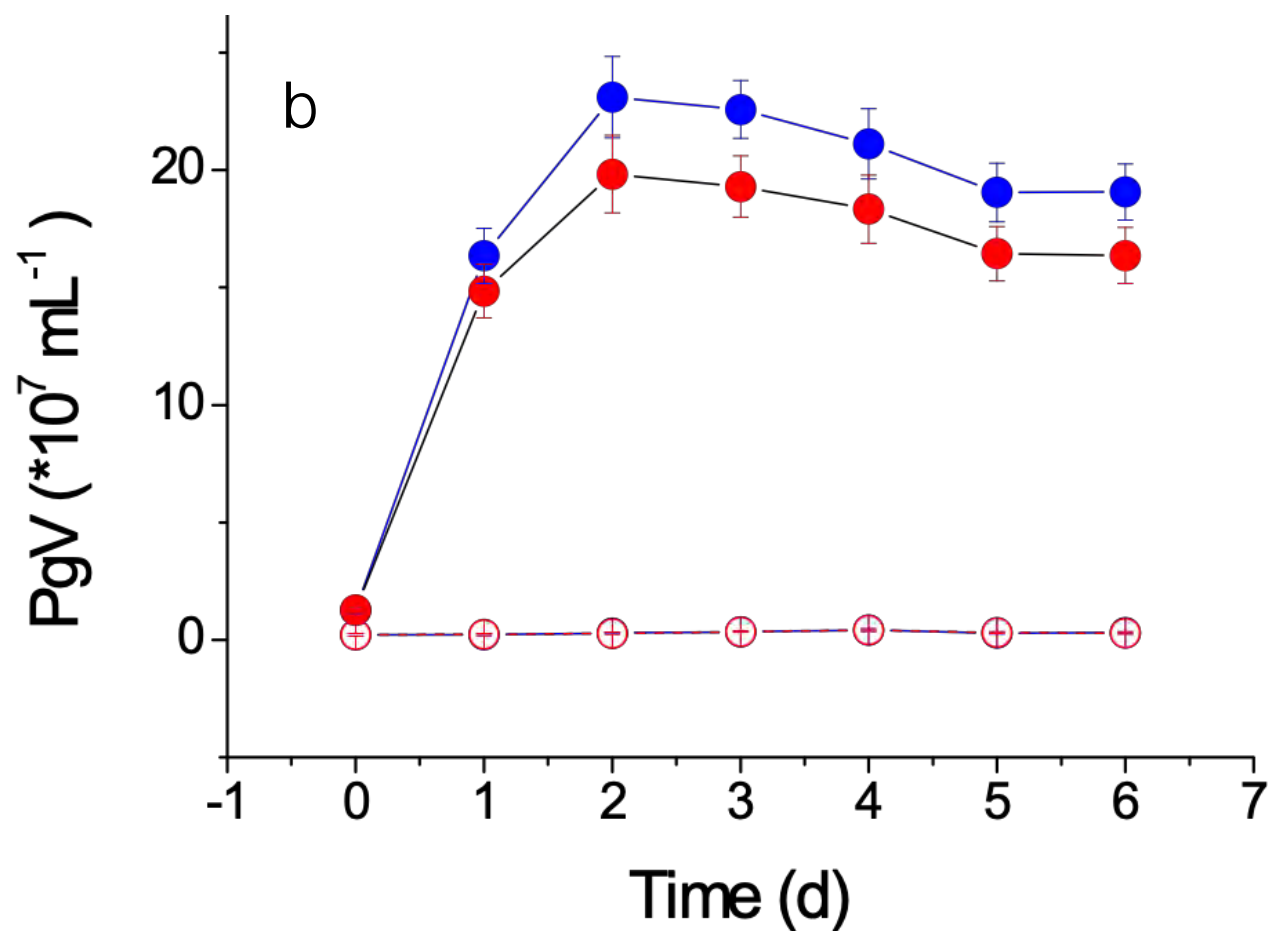
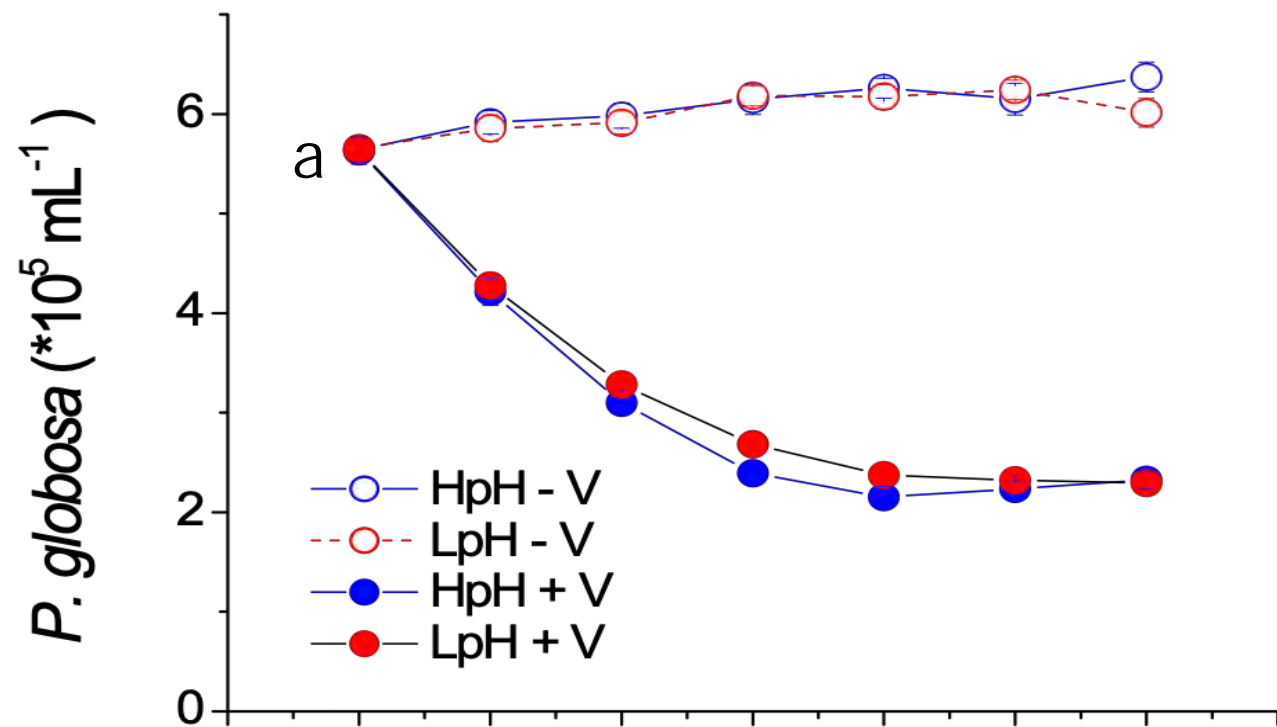
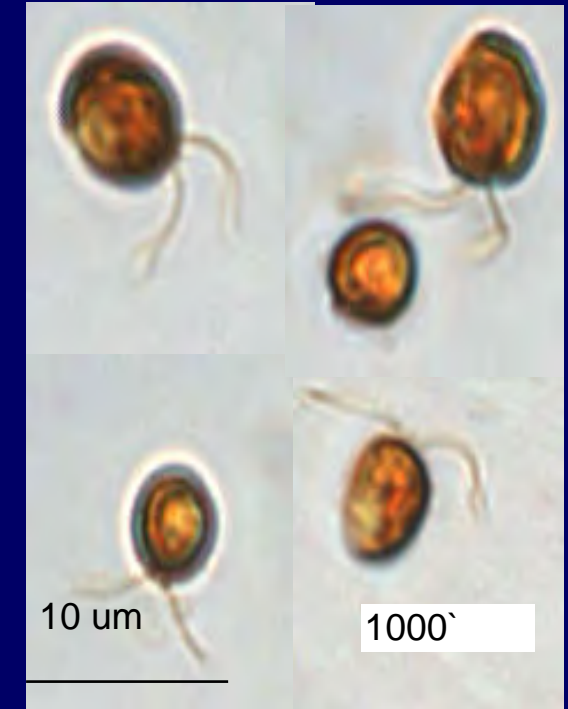
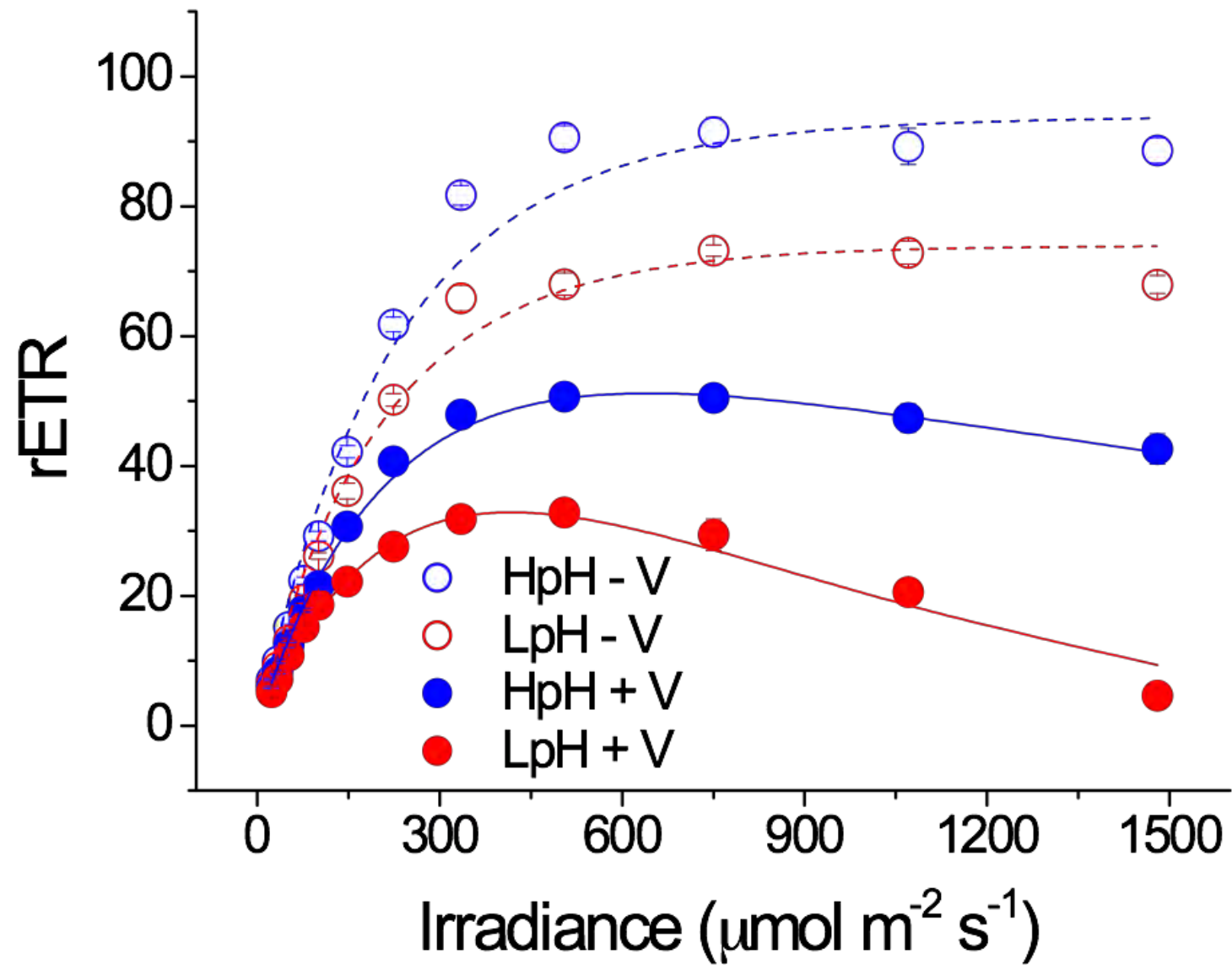


Fig. 3 Changes in cell (a) and virus (b) concentration of *P. globosa* during the burst size determination under different  $\text{CO}_2$  (pH) treatments. HpH (= ambient  $\text{CO}_2$ ) represents  $\text{pH}_{\text{nbs}} 8.07$ ; LpH (=high  $\text{CO}_2$ ),  $\text{pH}_{\text{nbs}} 7.70$ ; V, virus. The data represent mean  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ , triplicate cultures).





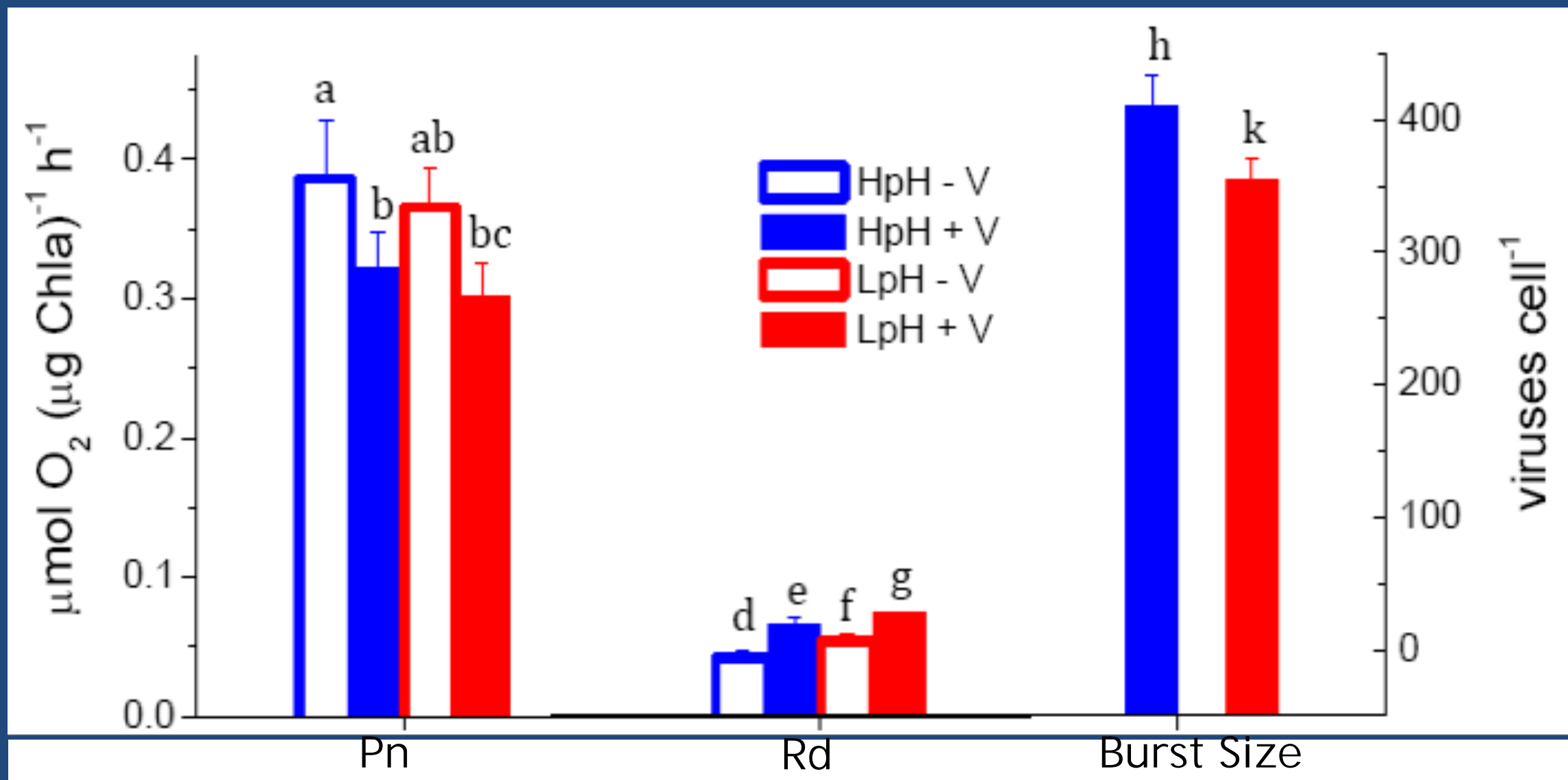
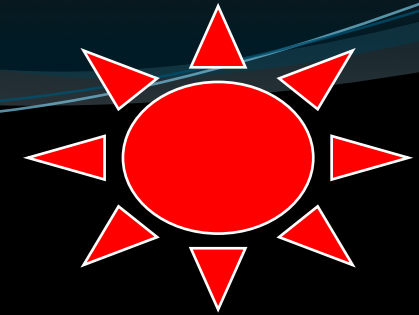


Fig. 2 Effects of ocean acidification on the interaction of *P. globosa* with its virus. HpH represents  $\text{pH}_{\text{nbs}} 8.07$ ; LpH,  $\text{pH}_{\text{nbs}} 7.70$ ; V, virus;  $P_n$ , net photosynthesis;  $R_d$ , dark respiration. Different superscript letters represent significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) among the treatments. The data represent means  $\pm$  SD ( $n = 3$ ).

Viral infection reduced the  $P_n$  by 16.6% in the high-pH and by 16.7% in the low-pH grown *P. globosa*. Both Low pH treatment and viral infection significantly increased the alga's mitochondrial respiration by 28.6% and 56.7%, respectively. In high ambient  $\text{CO}_2$  grown cells, the stimulation of respiration following infection was 57.4%, but in the high  $\text{CO}_2$  grown cells, the stimulation after infection was 26.0%.

# Summary



- Ocean acidification (**OA**) (pCO<sub>2</sub> rise) **enhances** diatoms growth under low and **inhibits** it under high levels of solar radiation
- OA increases **phenolics contents** in micro algae, stimulating Krebs cycle and  $\beta$ -oxidation
- OA and **UV synergistically** reduce calcification of coralline algae and coccolithophores
- Seawater acidification **exacerbates virus attack** to the red tide alga



**Funded by**

**NSF-C  
MOST**



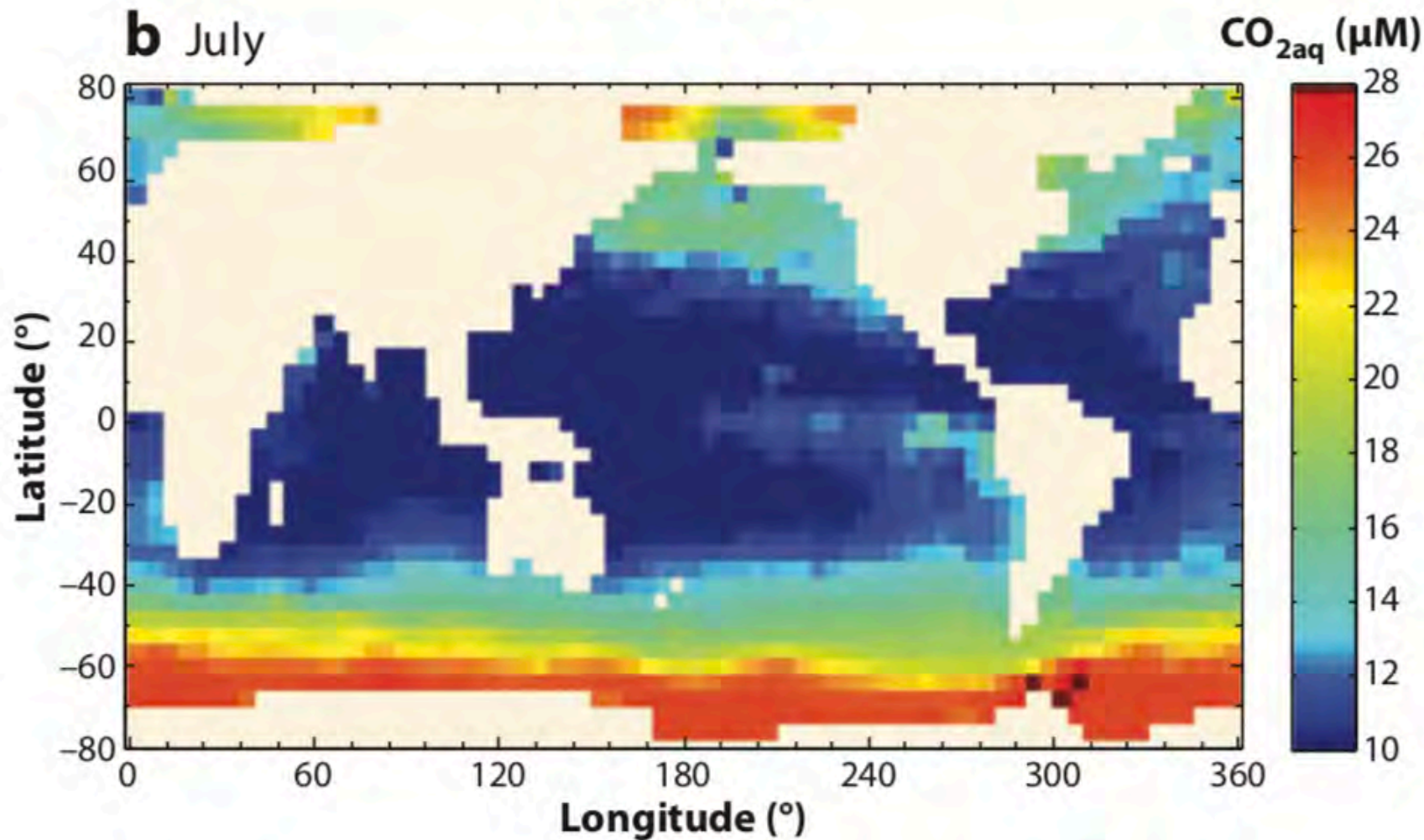
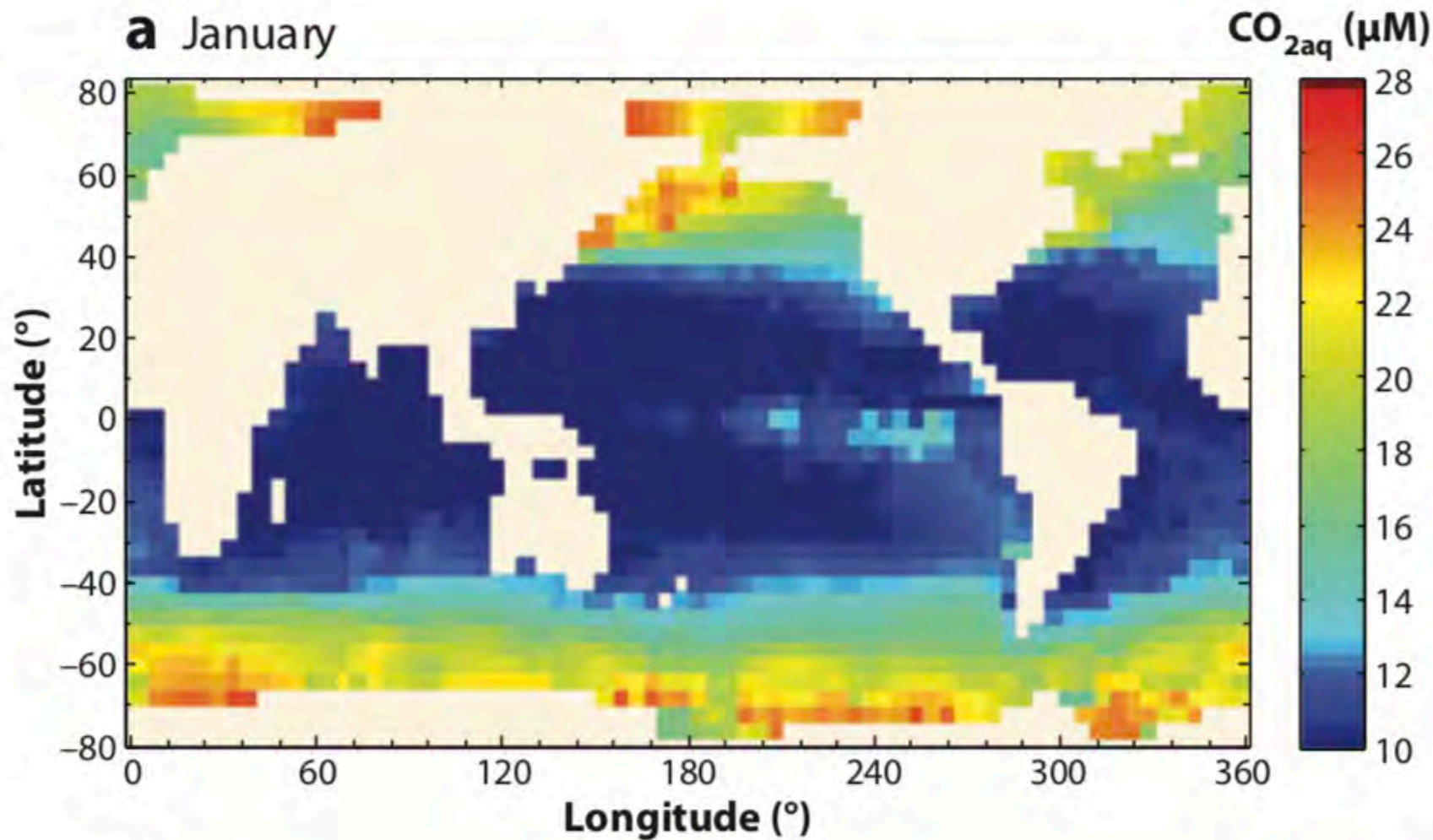
**2018 FOCE mesocosm Experiment (involved 12 Labs from 2 Universities)**



# Surface Seawater pCO<sub>2</sub>

July, much of the area of high CO<sub>2aq</sub> in the

Southern Ocean south of 60 S is under ice

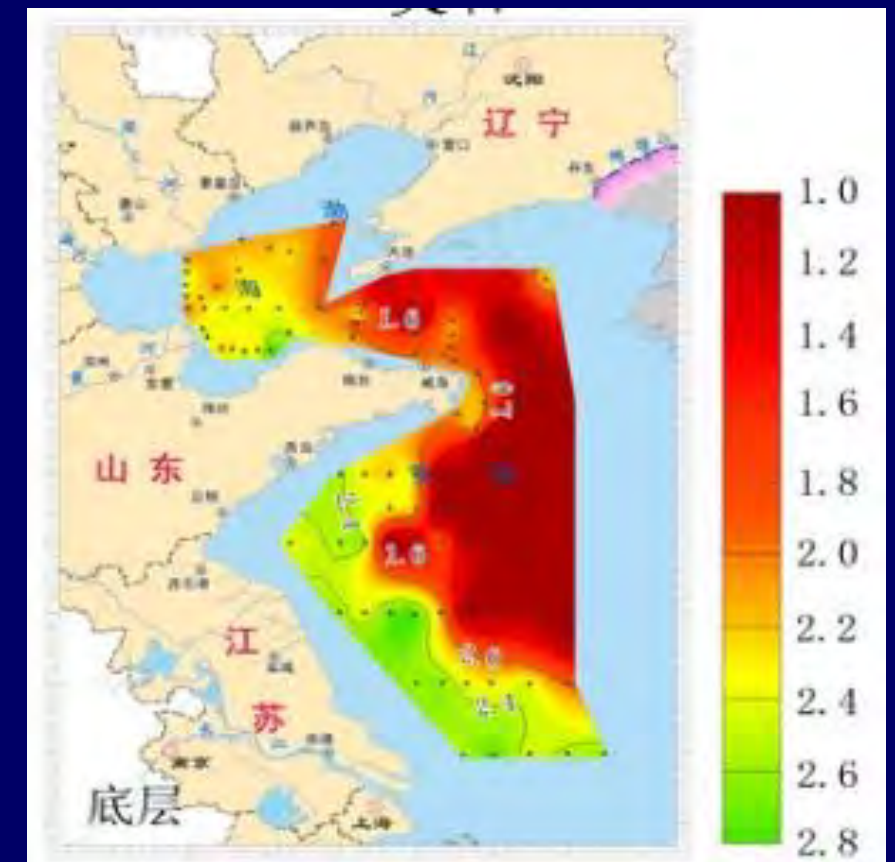


Reinfelder 2011  
*Ann Rev Mar Sci*

# Documented low pH in the Chinese coastal waters

Regions	Low pH
The Bohai Sea ( <i>Chinese Science Bulletin</i> 2012)	7.64 H <sup>+</sup> rise by 220%
The Yellow Sea ( <i>Biogeosciences</i> 2014)	7.80
The East China Sea ( <i>Biogeosciences</i> 2013)	7.80

Ocean acidification is occurring in the Chinese waters.



The Northern South China Sea ( <i>JGR</i> 2011)	7.9
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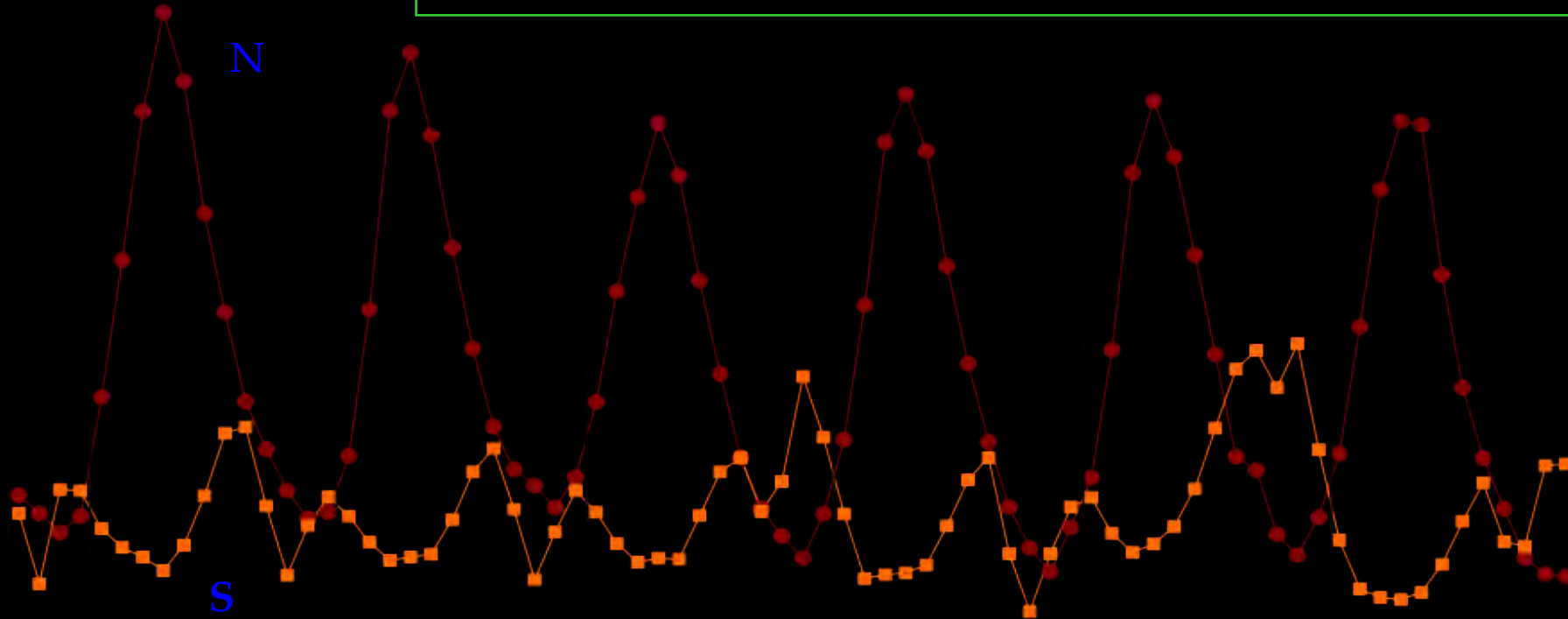
“中国海洋环境公报 2012”

China marine Environ Report

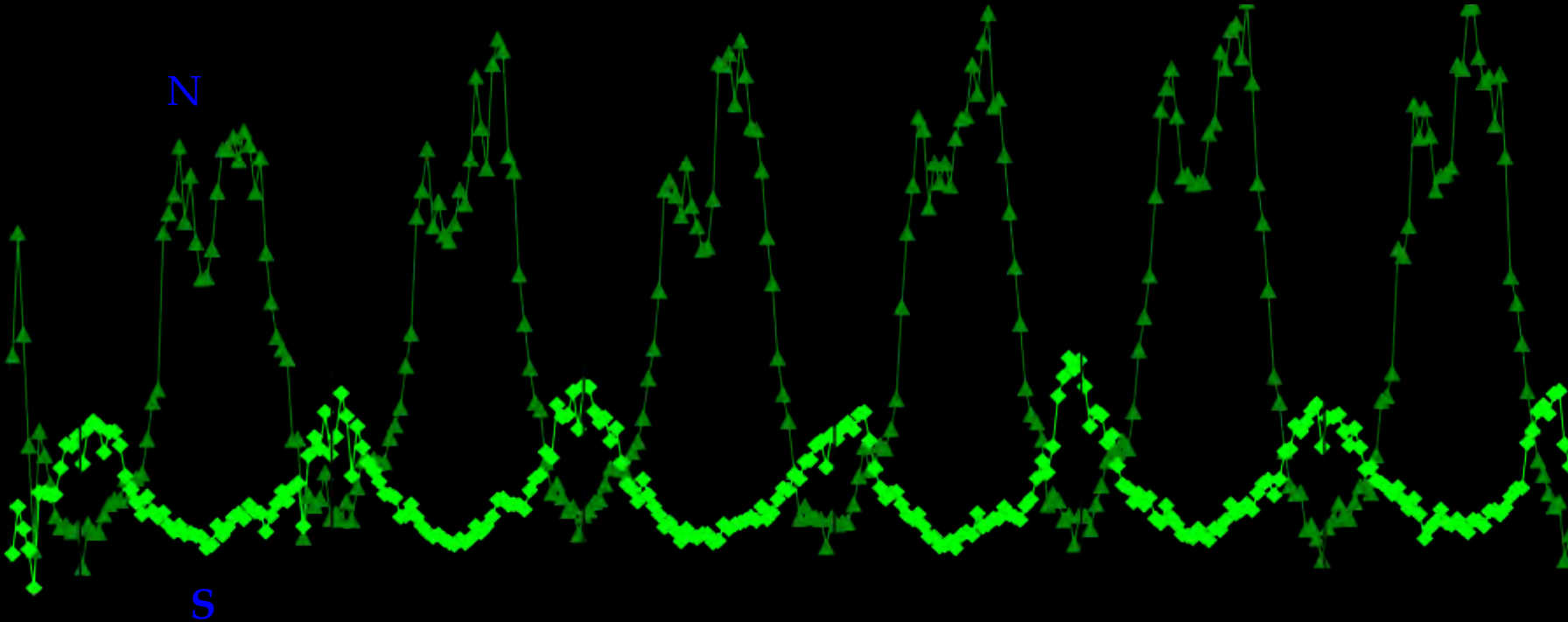


—●— Ozon Nord —■— Ozon Süd

N=Northern hemisphere, S=Southern hemisphere



Chl. a



NASA

1997



2003



Enhanced **UV-B** (280-315 nm, **<1%** solar PAR) due to ozone depletion is harmful to most organisms

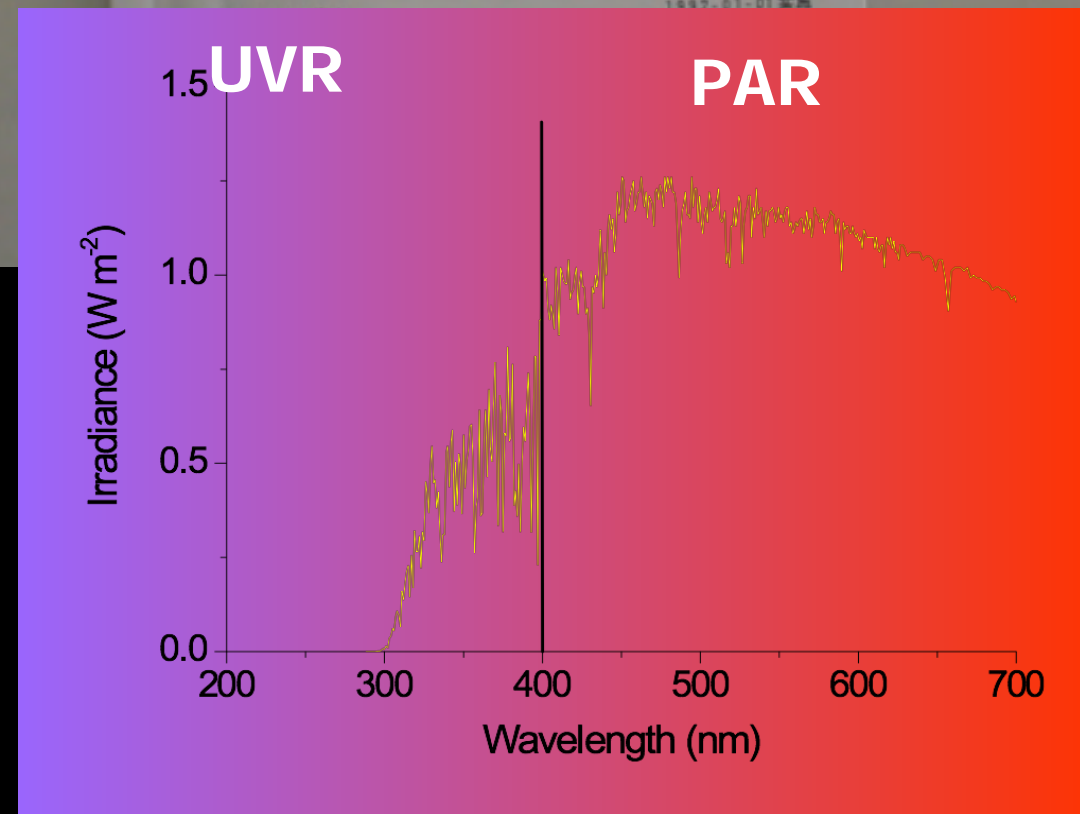
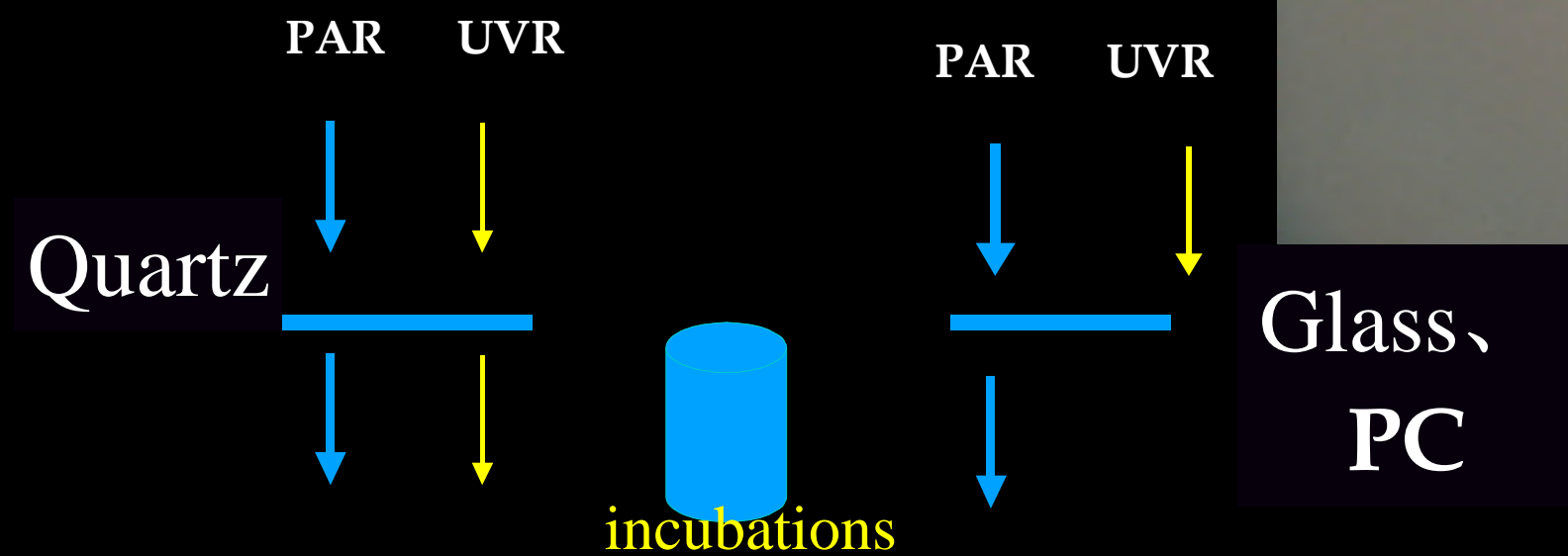
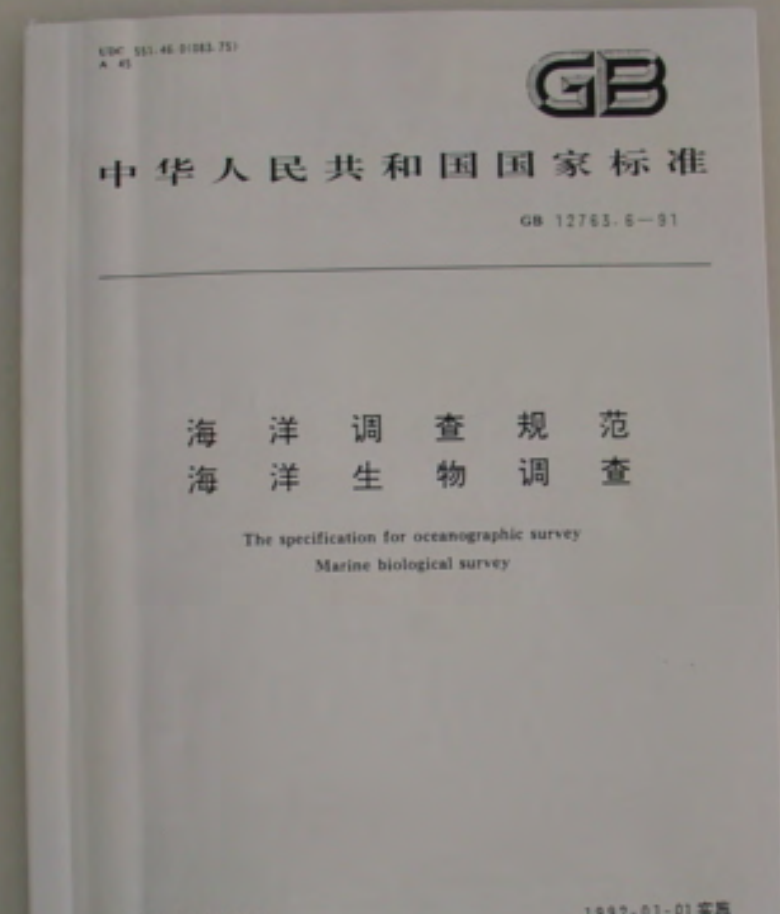
Normal levels of solar UV-B is also **harmful**, damage biomolecules/DNA

Solar **UV-A** (315-400 nm, about **14-16%** solar PAR) could be **harmful or stimulative** in terms of repairing UV-B-induced damages and enhancing photosynthesis, depending on its exposure levels

Chapter 19. Primary Production by  $^{14}\text{C}$

1.0 Scope and field of application

5.8 *Incubation Bottles:* Polycarbonate 0.25 l bottles are used for the productivity incubations. New bottles are soaked for 72 hours in a 5% solution of Micro detergent. Bot-



Marine Primary productivity investigation protocols have neglected UV radiation