

ENHANCE  
MICROALGAE



**ENHANCE**  
MICROALGAE



**Interreg**  
**Atlantic Area**  
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

# EnhanceMicroAlgae Project

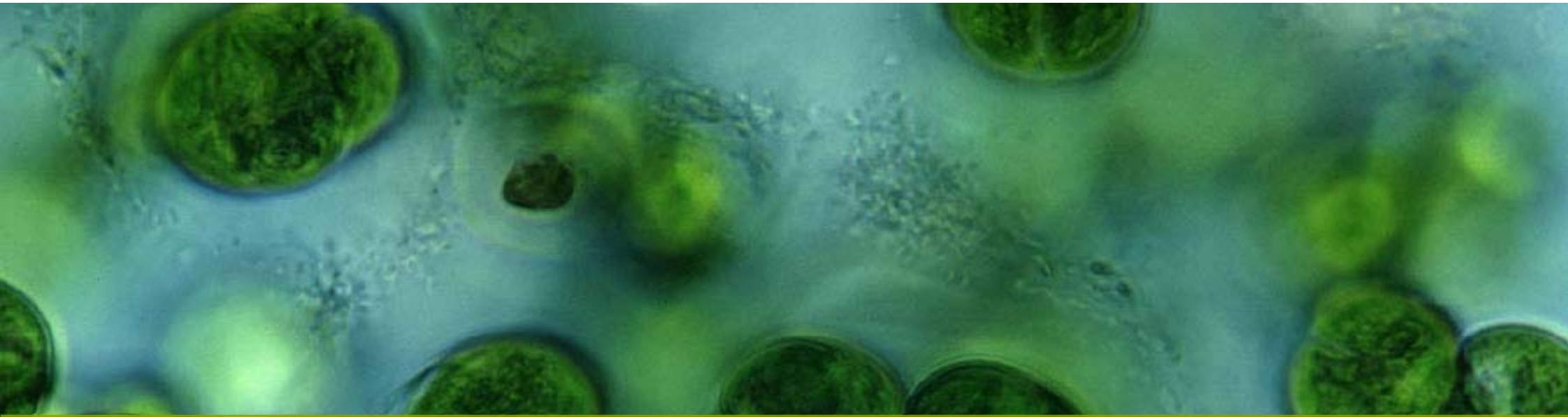
High added-value industrial opportunities for microalgae in the Atlantic Area

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Asterio Sánchez Mirón. University of Almería



La Rochelle, 10/20/2022



# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

# Marine microalgae Biotechnology Research Group



- Chemical Engineering Department
- Engineering treatment of bioprocesses

Members: **21**

Ph.D.: 16

Master: 5



Since late 1980s

>410 Papers in indexed Journals

44 Books/book chapters

> 440 Congress communications

> 180 Thesis/Master Thesis

58 Contracts (private and public organizations)

100 Research Projects

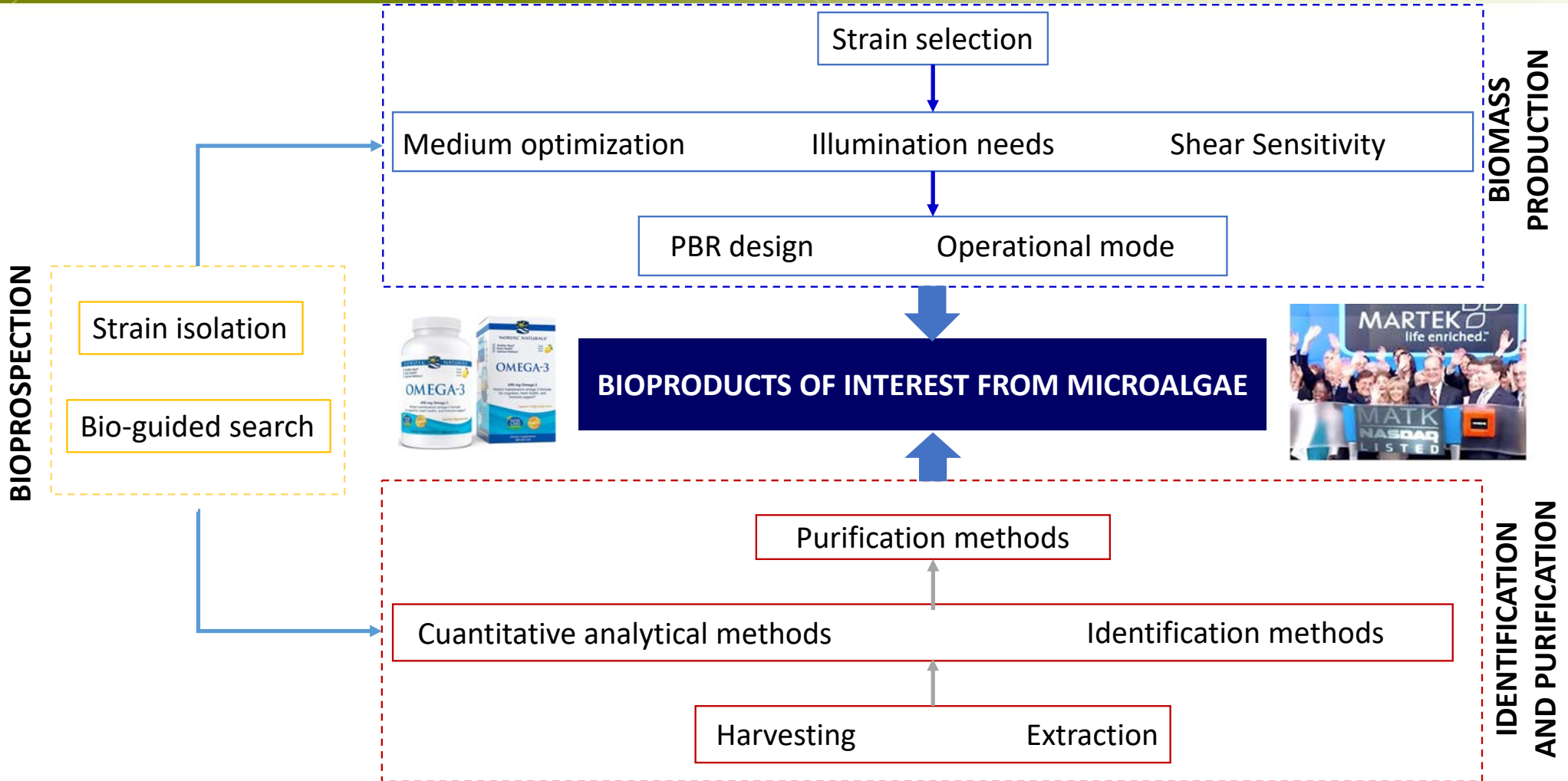
16 Patents

- Laboratory and pilot scale facilities to produce microalgal biomass indoor or outdoor using open and closed photobioreactors
- Technologies for biomass harvesting, dewatering and downstream processing
- Equipment for extraction, fractionation and quantification of biomolecules from microalgae

- i. Industrial exploitation of microalgae for fine chemicals and food/feed ingredients (PUFAs, antioxidants, and other biomass fractions) (FI).
- ii. Use of different effluents for growing microalgae.
- iii. Photobioreactor (PBR) engineering and scale up (including anti-biofouling materials).
- iv. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) for PBR improvement.
- v. Downstream and biorefinery-based production strategy.
- vi. Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) and techno-economic analysis (TCA) of microalgal processes.
- vii. Production of high value lipids for food ingredients / bioactives (Long chain PUFA concentrates from marine oils; Polar lipid concentrates from microalgae oils, Tailored lipids by enzyme technology from vegetable / marine oils)
- viii. Bio-based screening programs for biodiscovery.
- ix. Bioprocess development for marine dinoflagellates and non-conventional microalgae for reference standards and medical research.

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Bioprocess concept



# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Medium optimization



1. Glucose
2. Glycerol
3. Fructose
4. Lactose
5. Sacarose
6. Acetate
7. Ammonia
8. Urea
9. Ammonia+nitrate

■ Positive effect  
■ Neutral effect  
■ Negative effect

Species	Diatomea		Chlorophyceae		Prymnesiophyceae	Eustigmatophyceae	Dinophyceae			
	Phaeo	Hae	Scen	Chlo pr	Iso	Nanno	Prot	Pro	Karl	Amphi
Nutritional regime	Photoautotrophy									
	Mixotrophy	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1	1 2 3		1 2 3	2			2 7 8
	Heterotrophy	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		1 2 3						
N:P Relation	5									
	5-15									
	5-30									
	60-90									
[NO <sub>3</sub> ]	≤2mM									
	4mM									
	8mM									
	10mM									
	12mM									
Genetic Algorithm/Neural Network	Macronutrients									
	Micronutrients									
	Vitamins									
Low-cost medium	Macronutrients									
	Micronutrients									
	Vitamins									
Recycled medium	25%									
	50%									
	75%									
	100%									

**Chlorella protothecoides:** grows heterotrophically accumulating lipids for biodiesel production

**Protoceratium and Karlodinium:** Improvement of growth media using GA and NN

**Phaeodactylum tricornutum:** can grow mixotrophically obtaining productivity 5 times higher than in autotrophy

**Isochrysis galbana, Nannochloropsis gaditana y Amphidinium carterae:** Low-cost media and cultures with recycled media

of culture medium with fisheries effluents

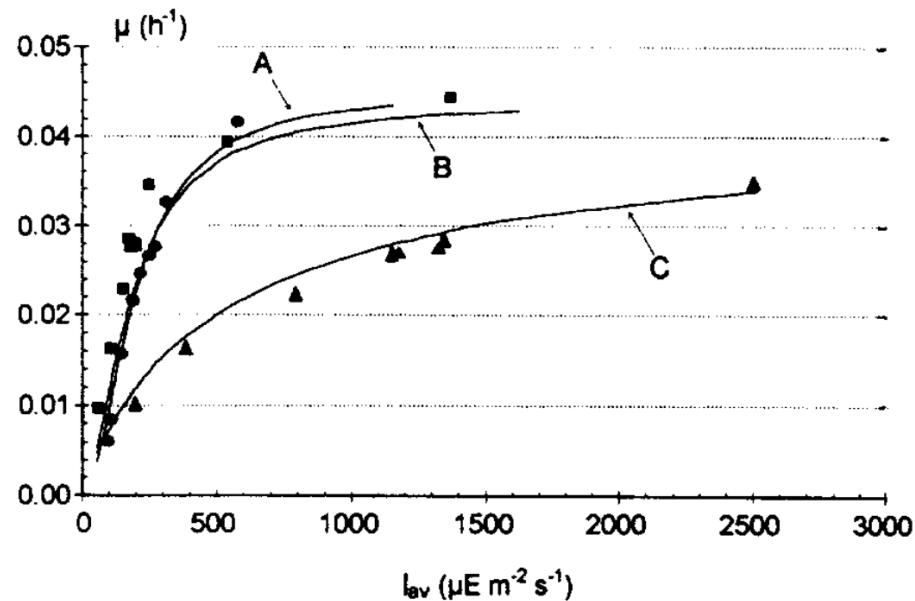
■ Phaeo *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*   
 ■ Scen *Scenedesmus almeriensis*   
 ■ Iso *Isochrysis galbana*   
 ■ Prot *Protoceratium reticulatum*   
 ■ Karl *Karlodinium veneficum*  
■ Hae *Haematococcus pluvialis*   
 ■ Chlo pr *Chlorella protothecoides*   
 ■ Nanno *Nannochloropsis gaditana*   
 ■ Pro *Prorocentrum beliceanum*   
 ■ Amphi *Amphidinium carterae*

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Illumination needs

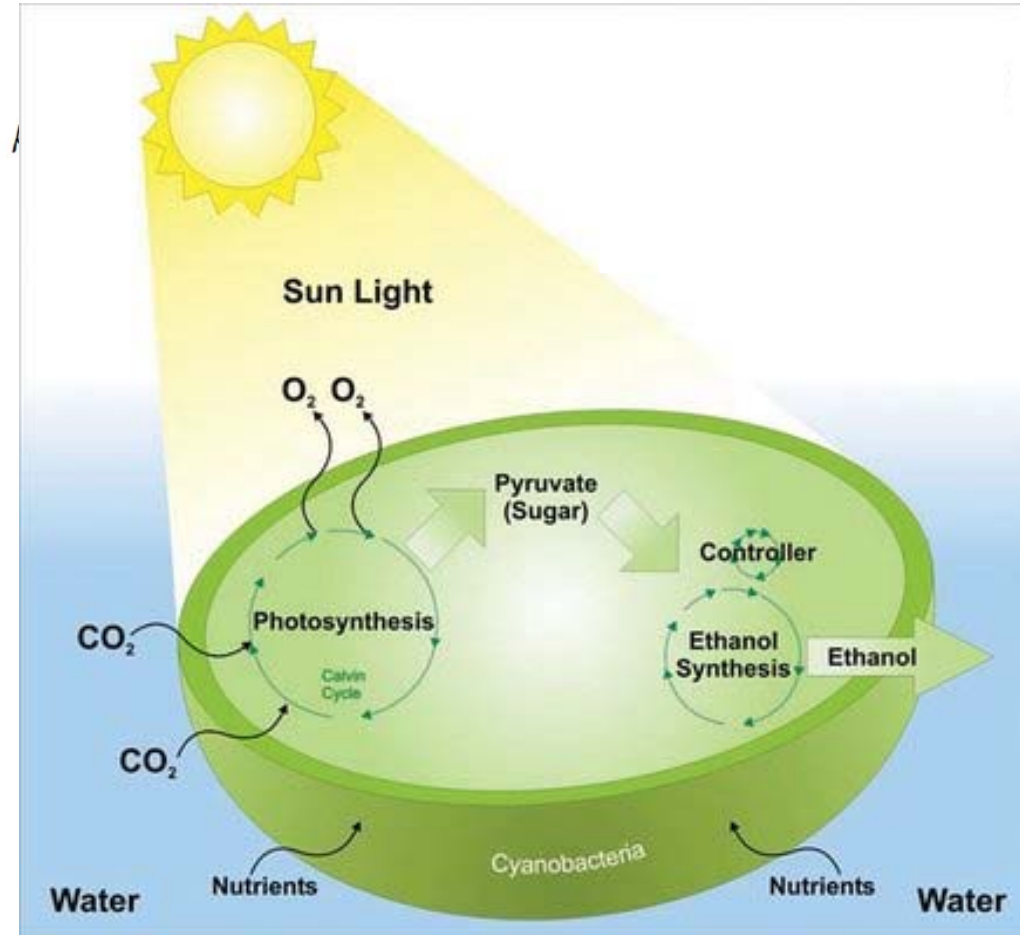


Limitation and inhibition Growth Model



$$\mu = \frac{\mu_{max} I_{av}^{(n_2/I_o)}}{\left( I_k + (I_o/K_1)^{n_1} \right)^{(n_2/I_o)} + I_{av}^{(n_2/I_o)}}$$

Molina-Grima et al. (1996). J. Biotechnology 45, 59-69



Molina Miras et al. (2018). Algal Research 31, 87-98

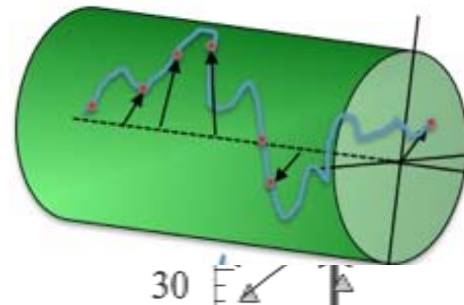
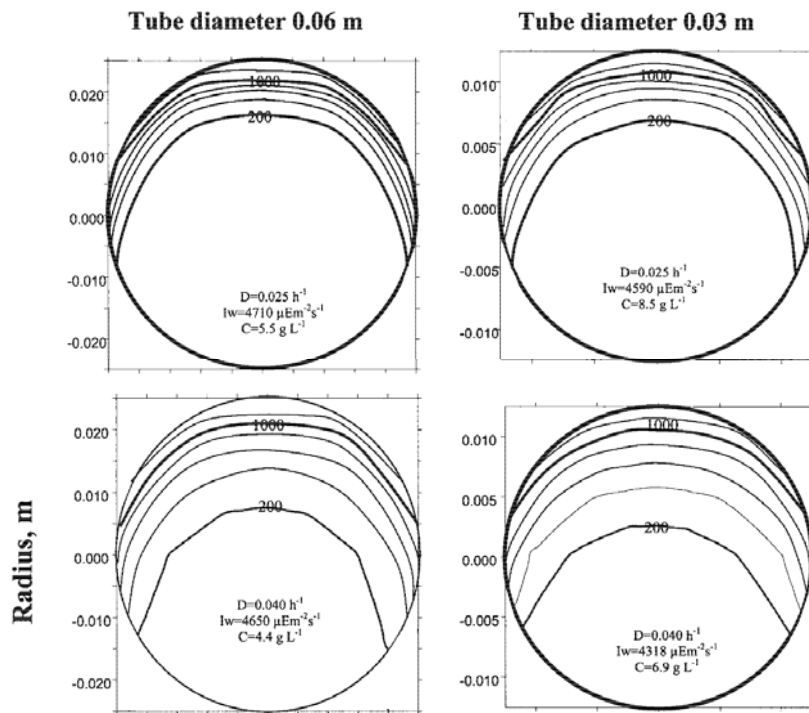


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Illumination needs

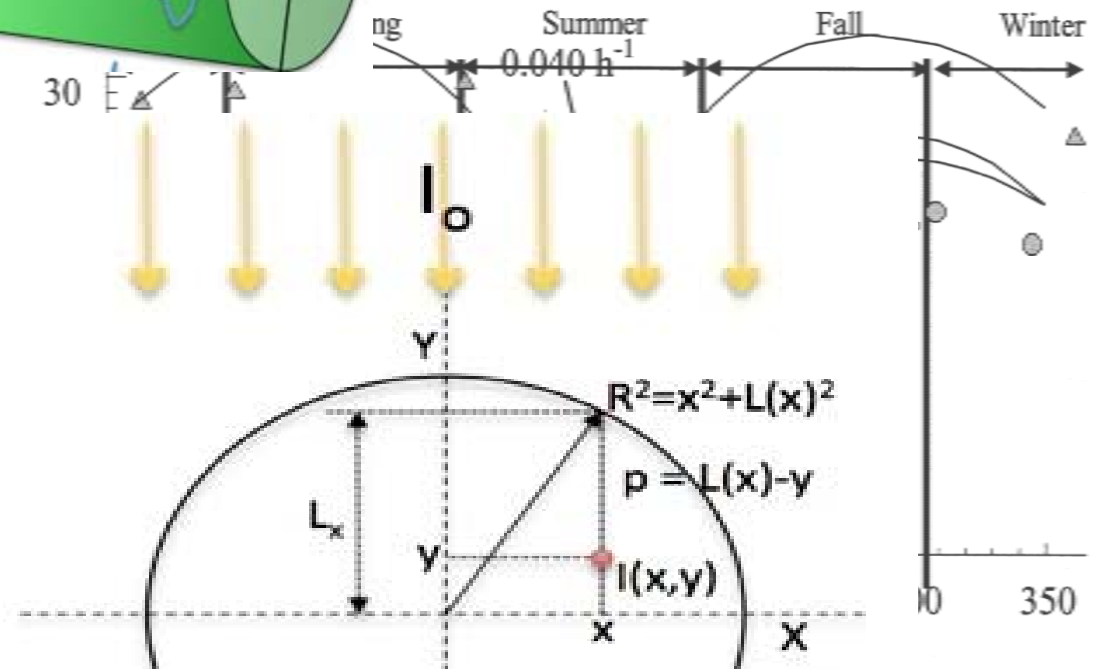


### Light distribution inside PBRs



f productivities throughout the year

$$I(x, y) = I_0 \cdot e^{-k_a \cdot C_b \cdot (\sqrt{R^2 - x^2} - y)}$$

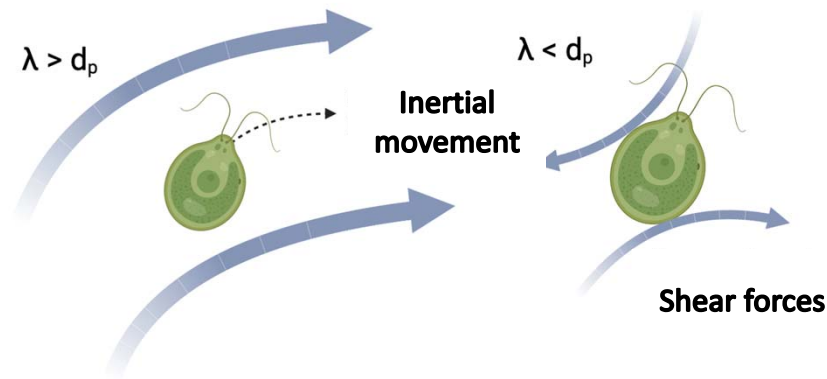


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

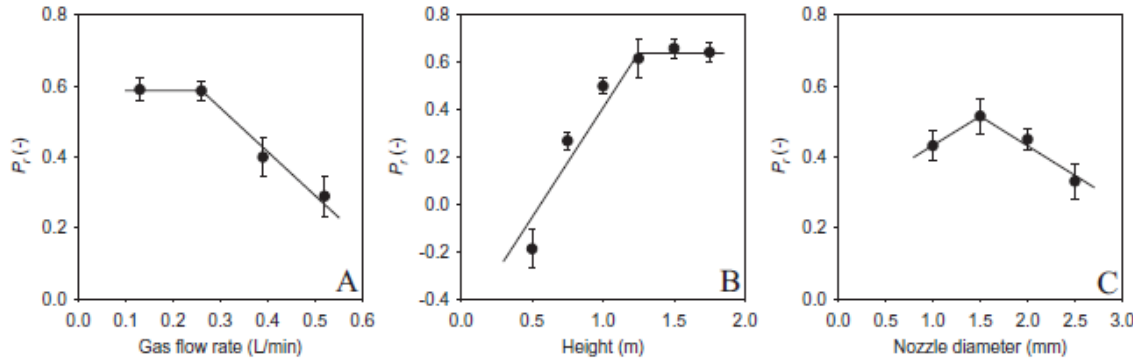
## Shear Sensitivity



Influence of PBR design and operational conditions

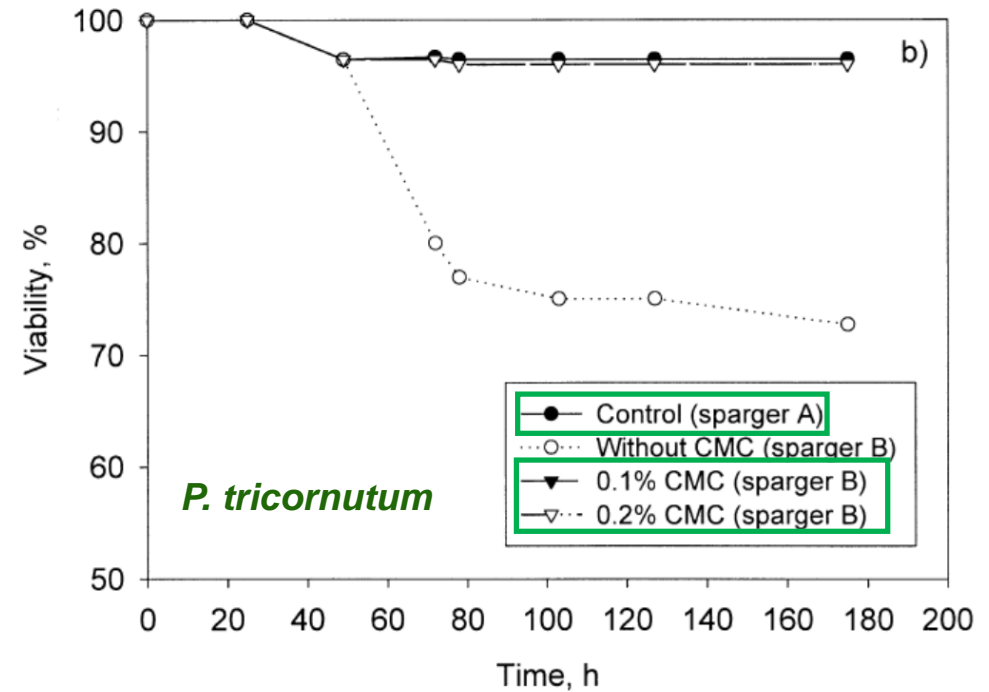


*K. veneticum*



López-Rosales et al. (2015). *Biores. Technol.* 197, 375-382

Alleviation by the use of protectants



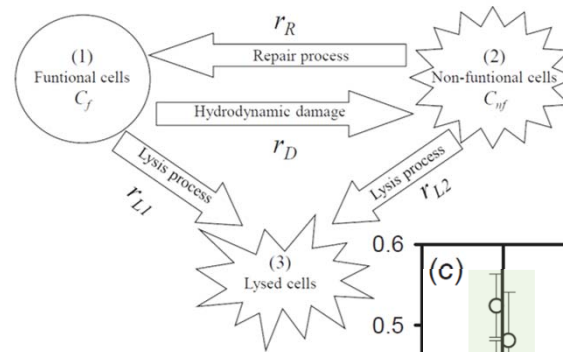
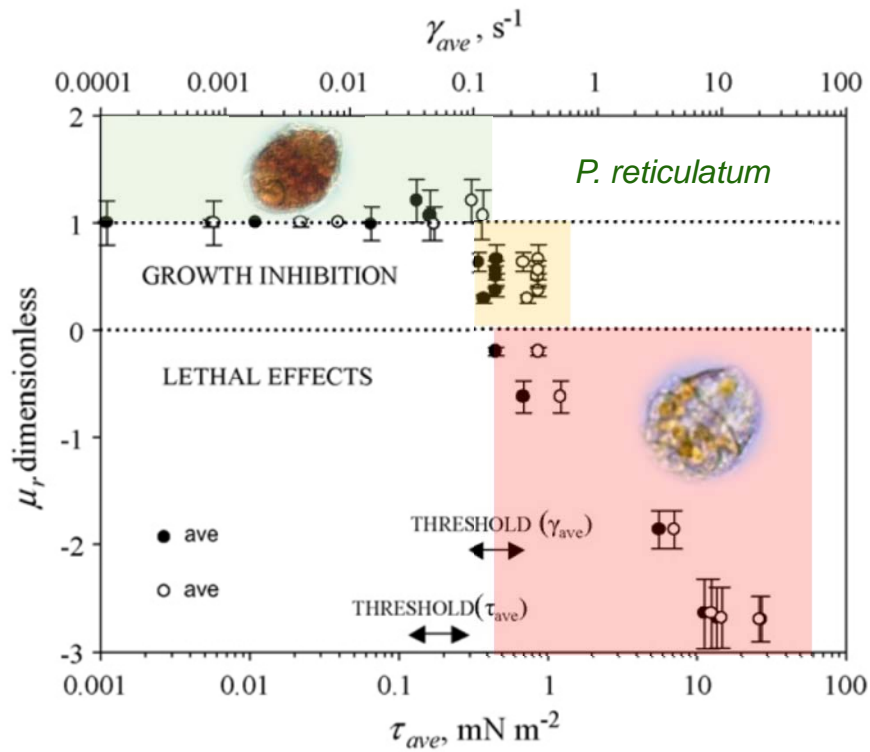
García-Camacho et al. (2001). *Enz. Microb. Technol.* 29, 602-610

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Shear Sensitivity

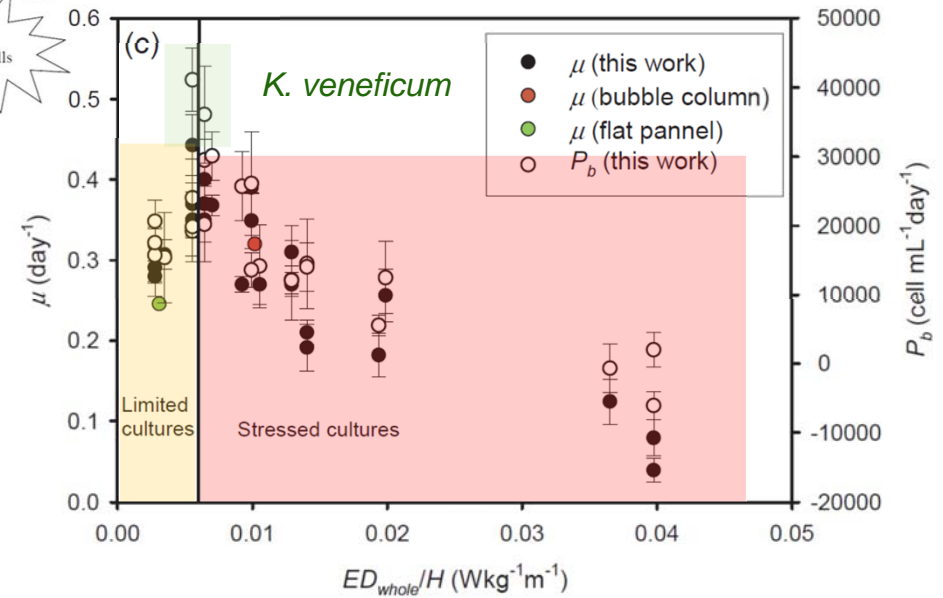


### Protocols to characterize shear sensitivity



Model for cell damage

### Evaluation in different PBRs

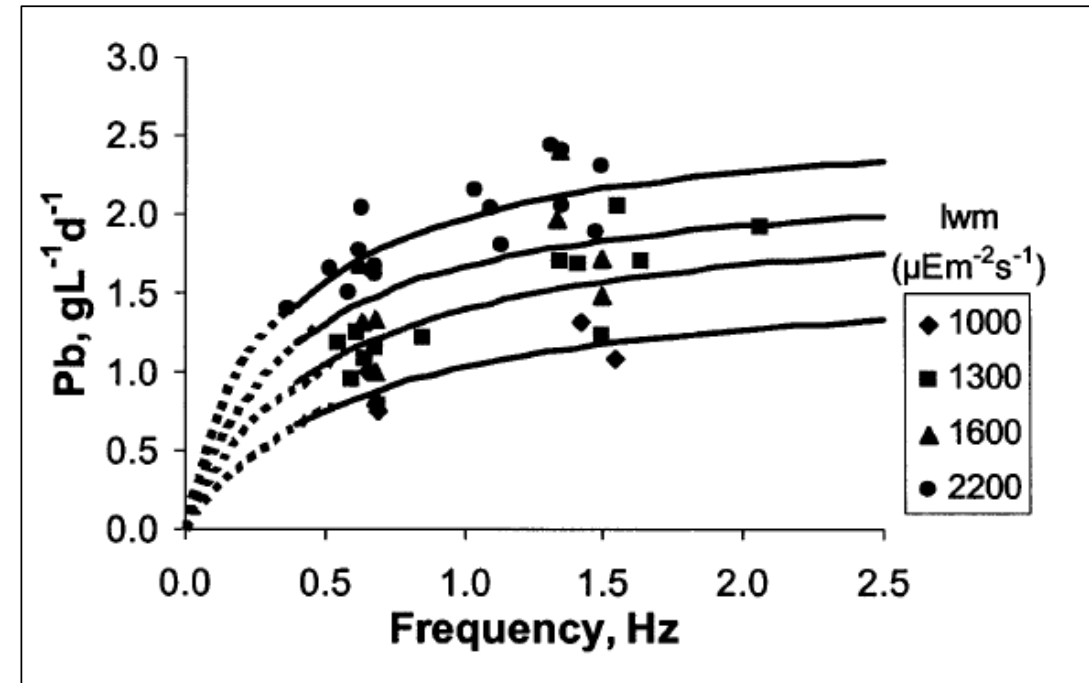
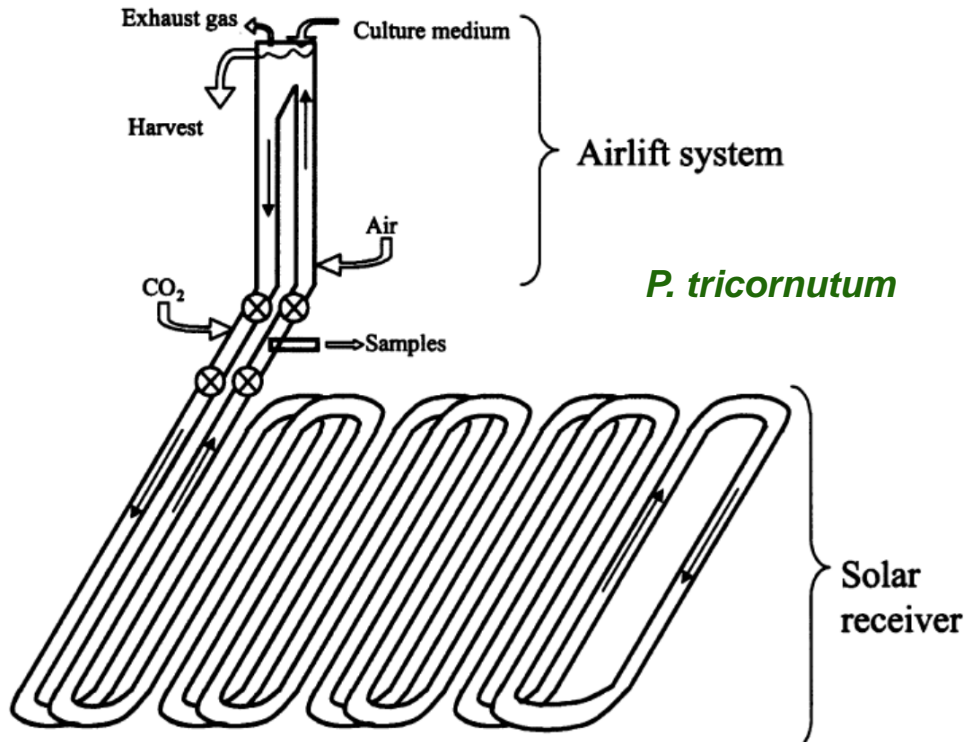


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design



### Tubular PBRs



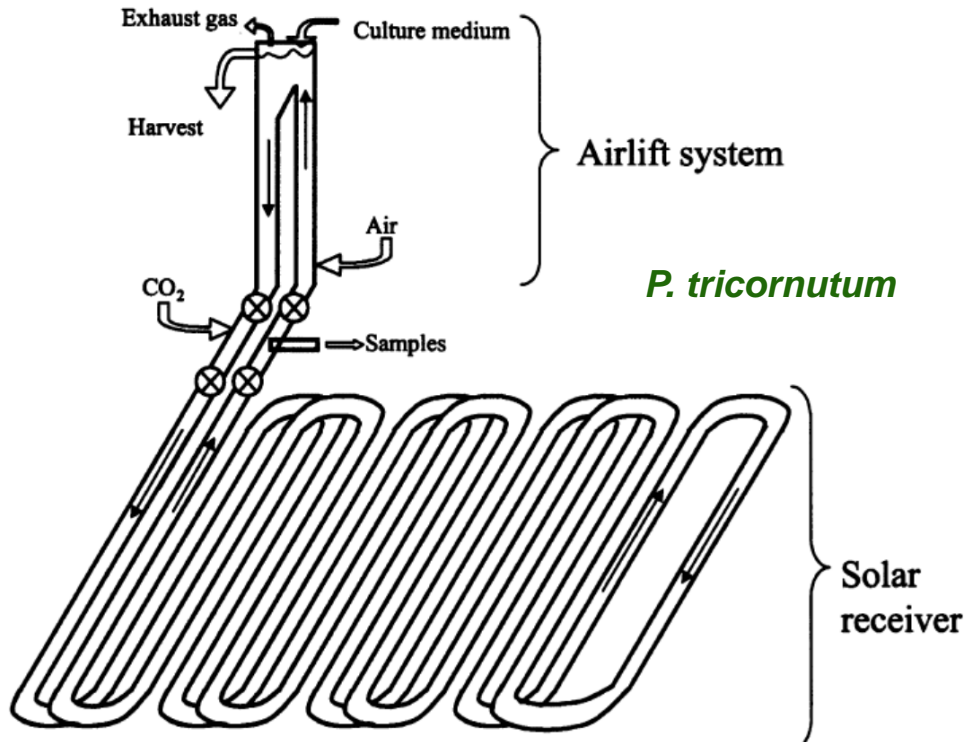
Molina-Grima et al. (2001). J. Biotechn. 92, 113-131

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

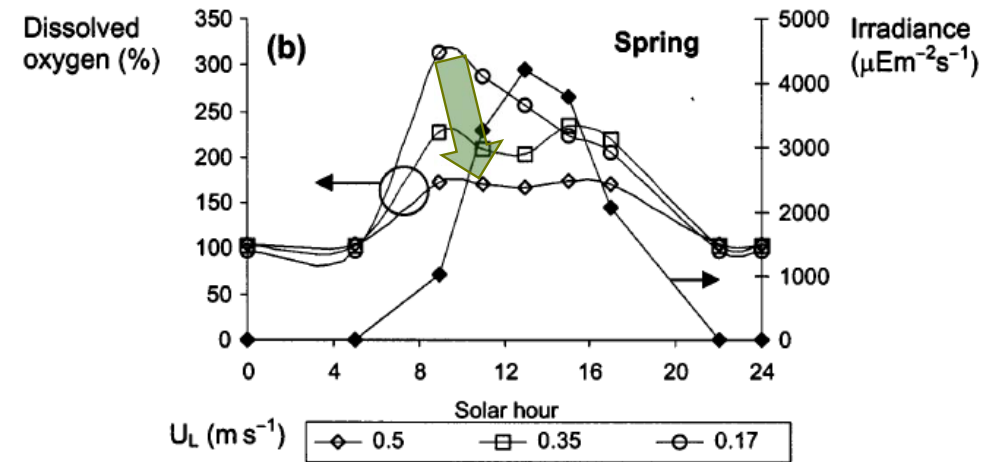
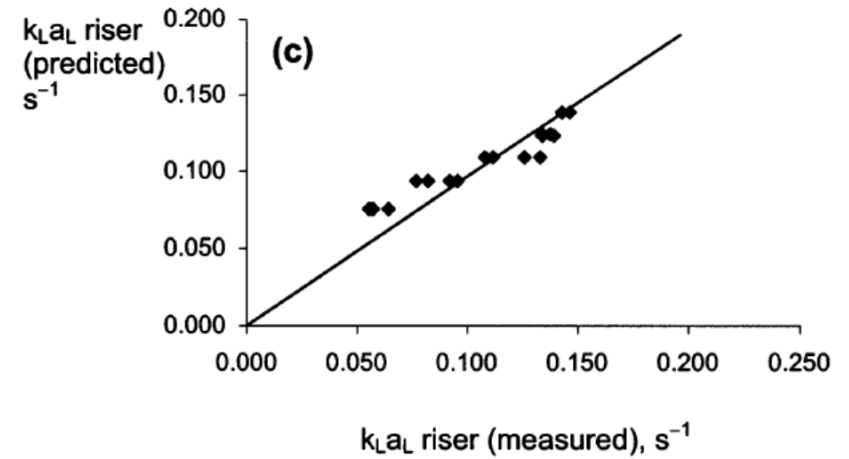
## Photobioreactor design



### Tubular PBRs

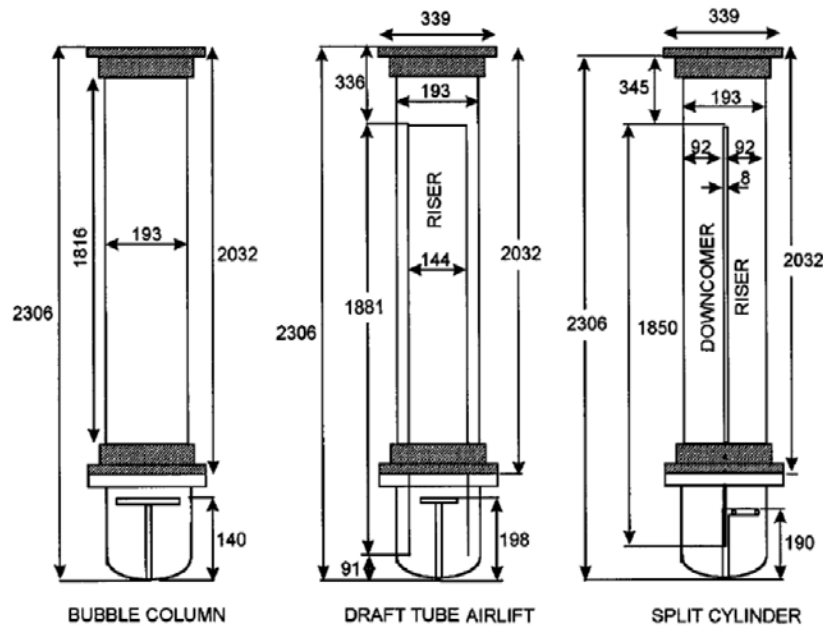


Molina-Grima et al. (2001). J. Biotechn. 92, 113-131

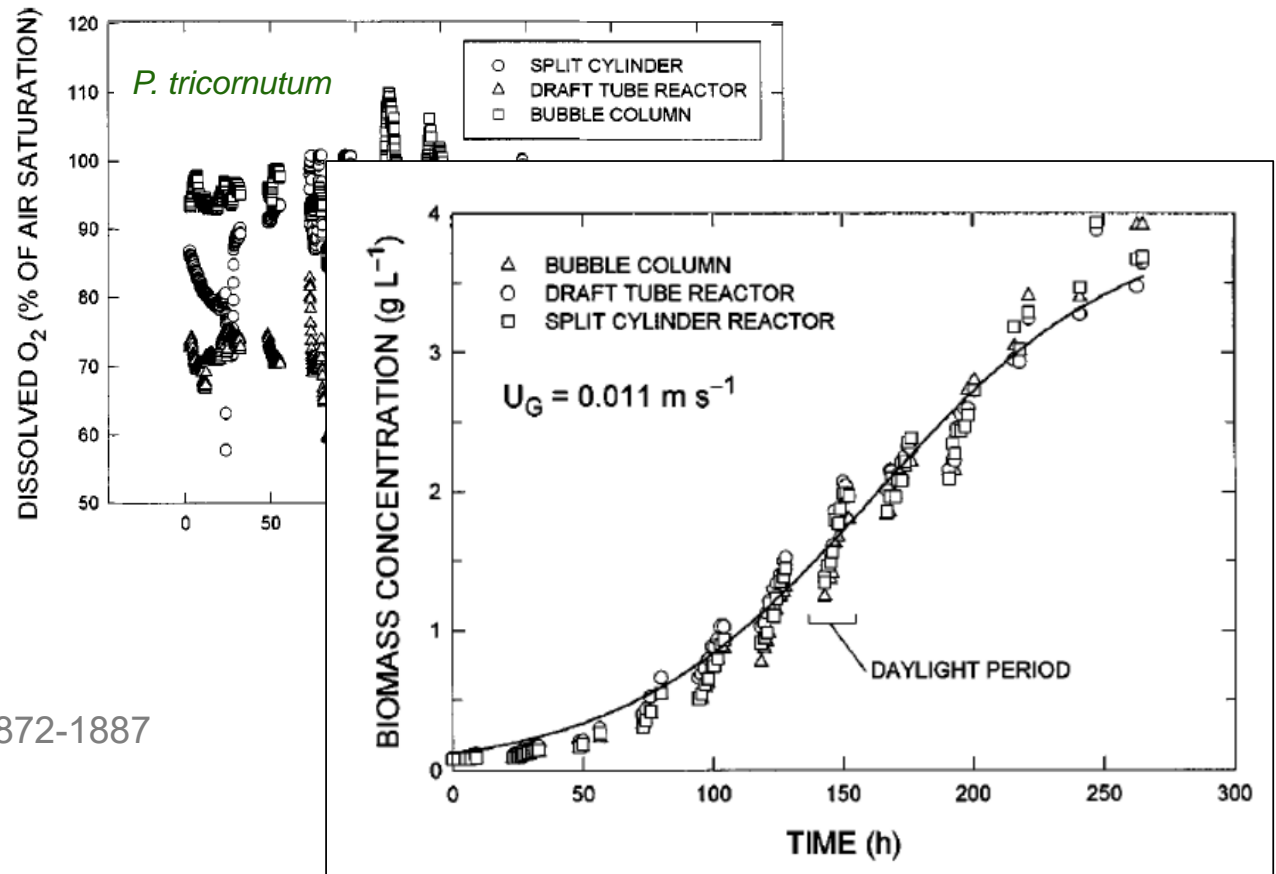


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design



### Airlift vertical PBRs



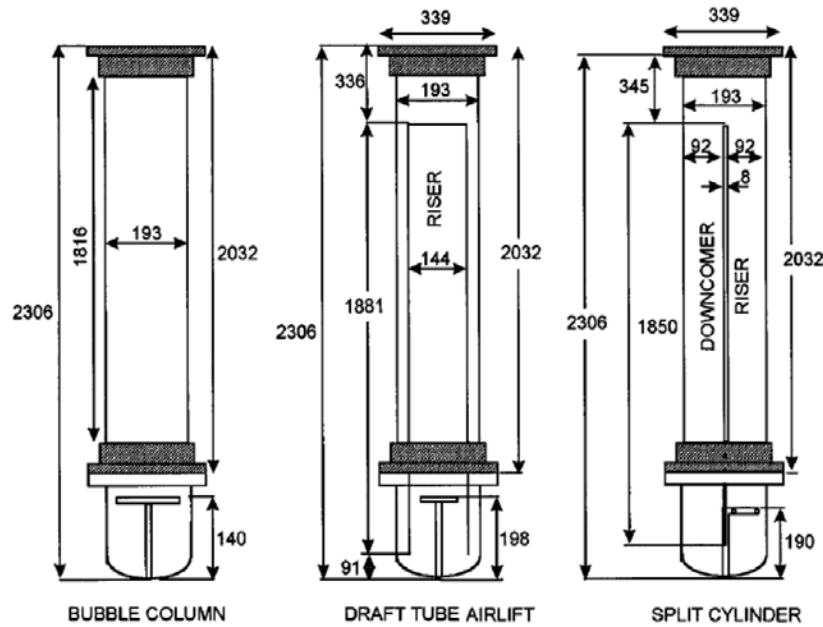
Sánchez-Mirón et al. (2000). Aiche J. 46(9), 1872-1887

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design

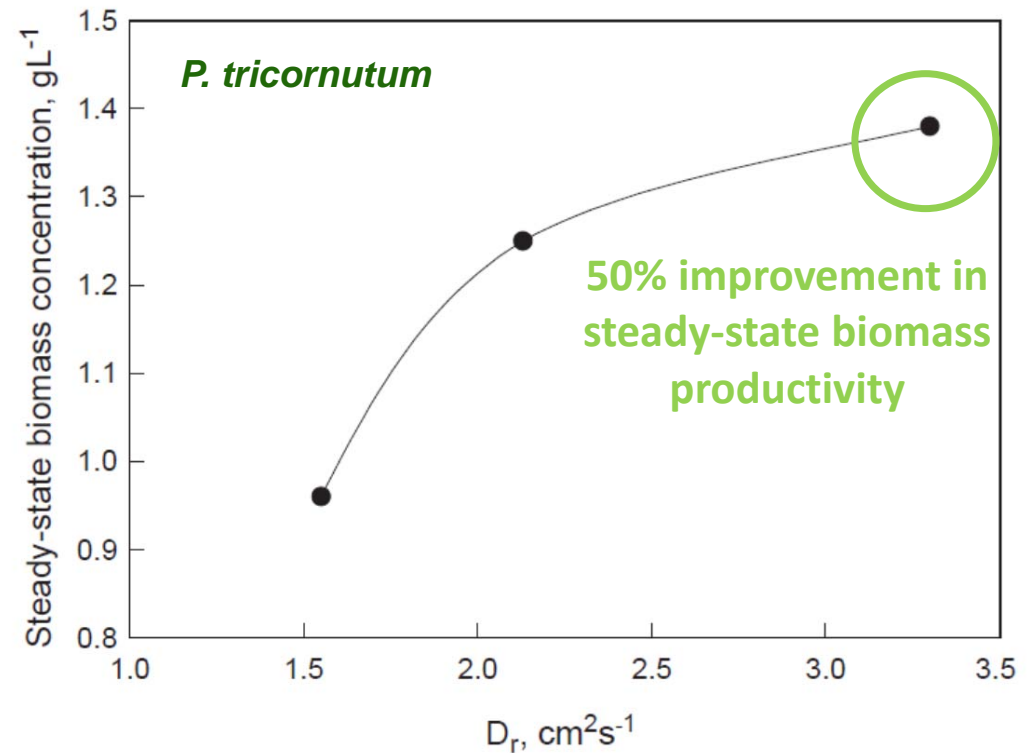


### Airlift vertical PBRs



### BUBBLE COLUMN RADIAL DISPERSION

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D_z \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z^2} - \frac{U_L}{\varepsilon_L} \frac{\partial C}{\partial z} + \frac{D_r}{r} \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} + D_r \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2}$$



Camacho-Rubio et al. (2004). Chem. Eng. Sci. 59, 4369-4376

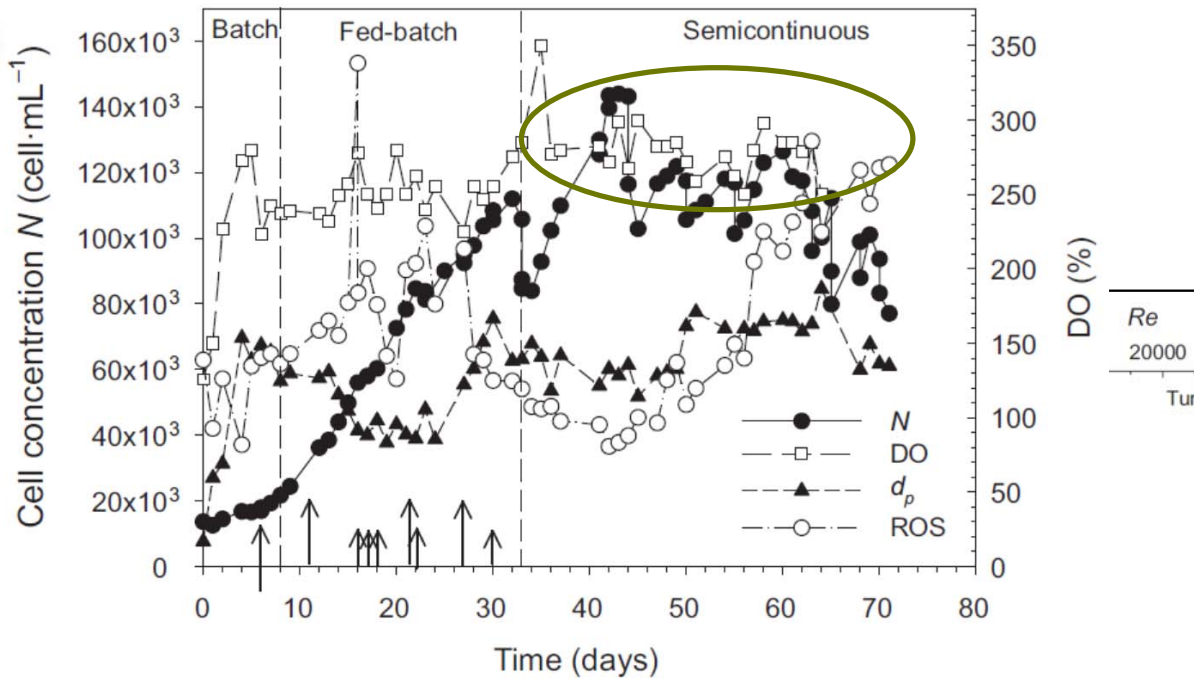
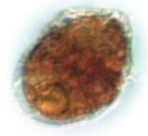
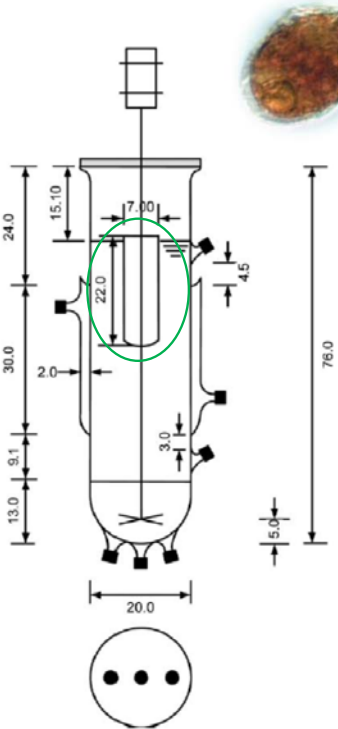
# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design

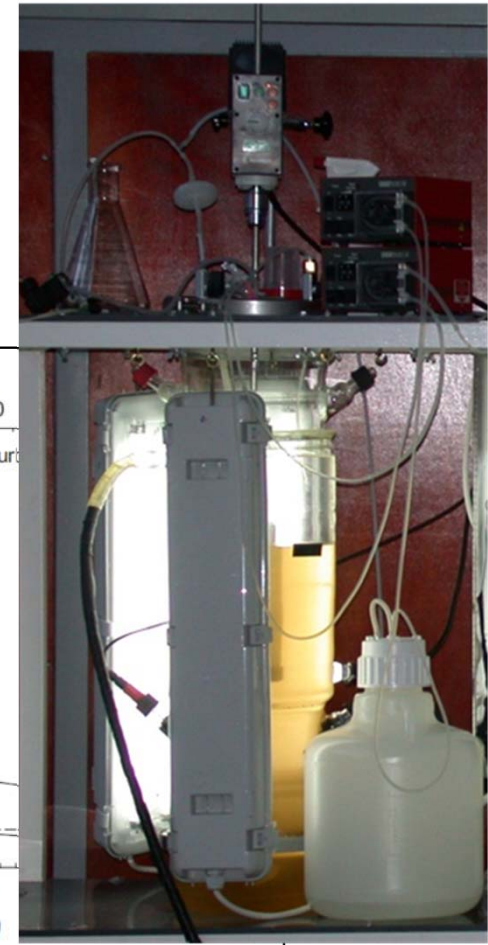
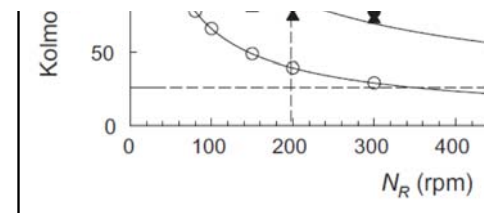


*P. reticulatum*

Very shear-sensitive microalgae



García-Camacho et al. (2011). Proc. Biochem. 46, 936-944



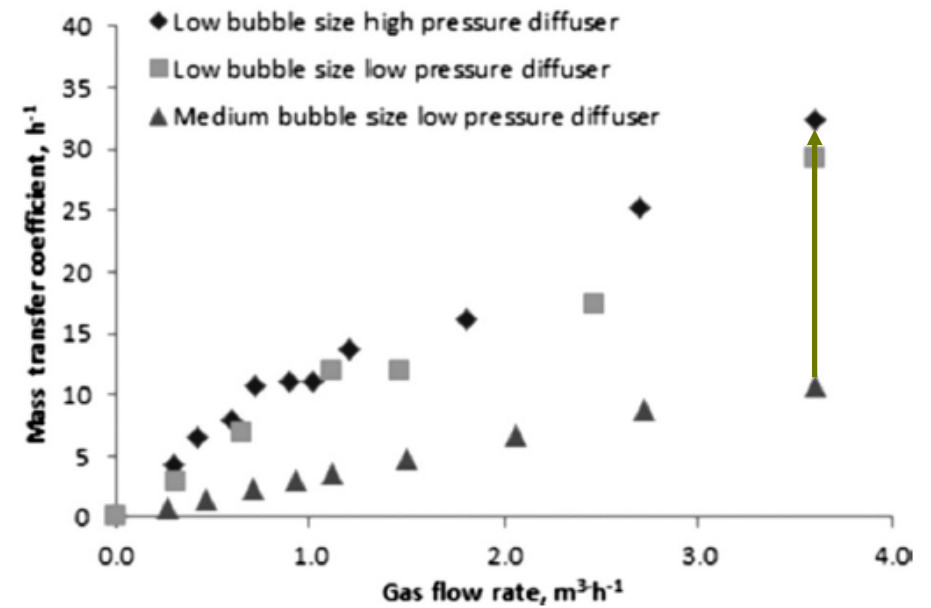
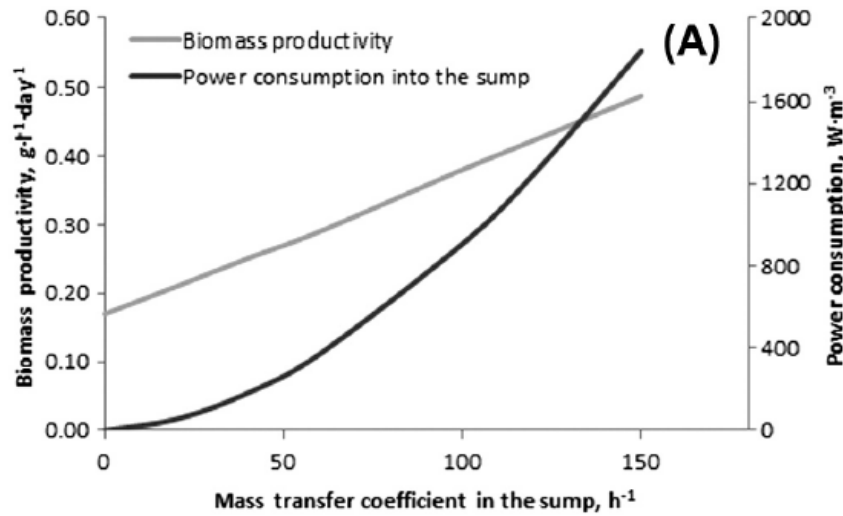
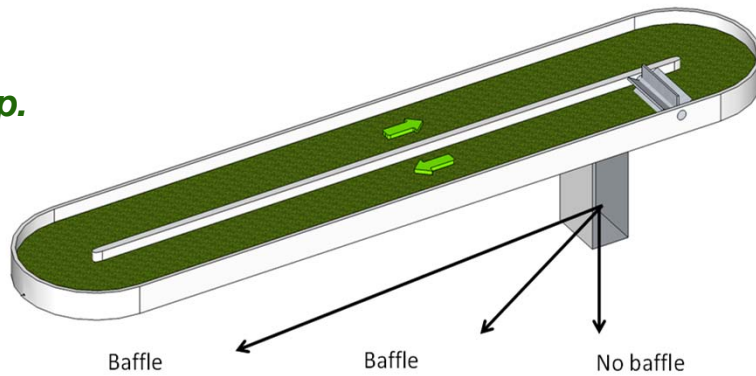


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design



*Chlorella sp.*



Mendoza et al. (2013). Biores. Techn. 137, 188-195

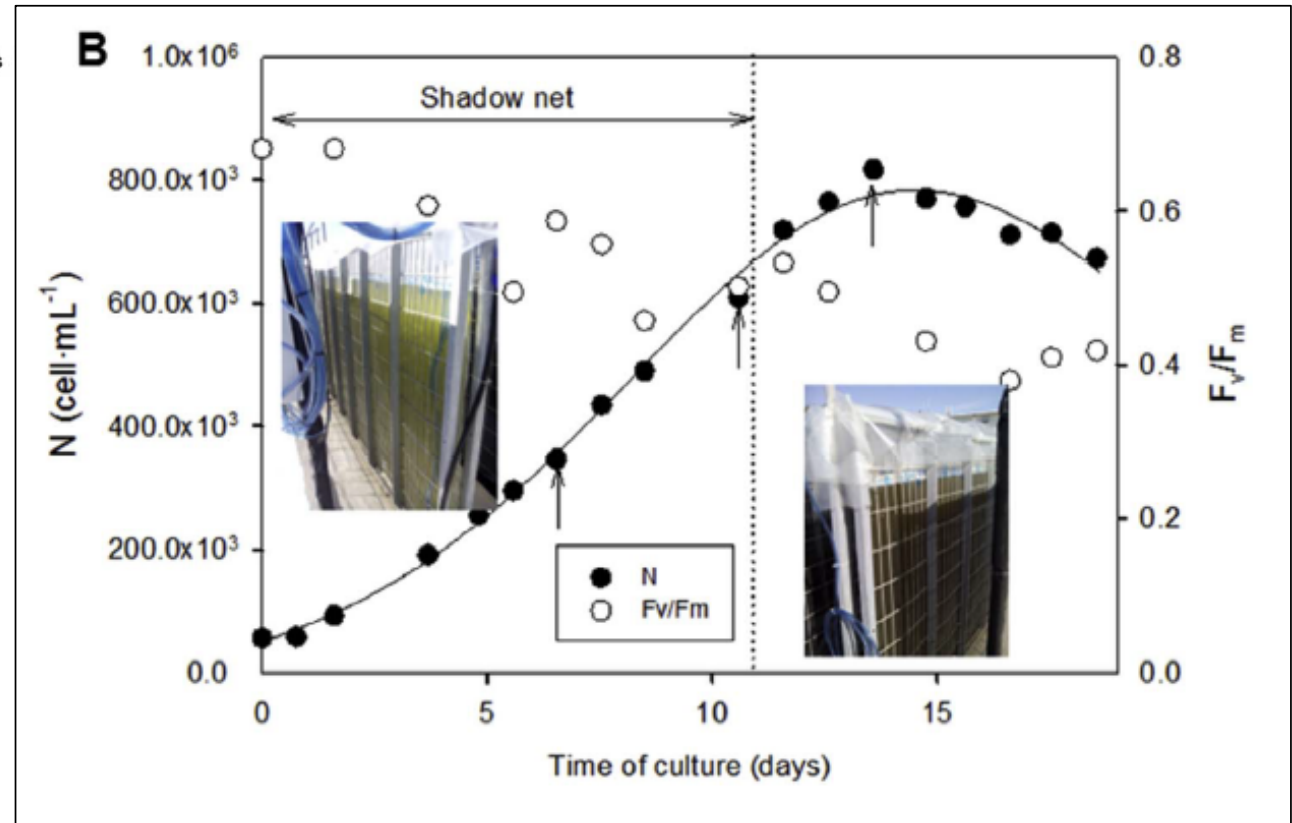
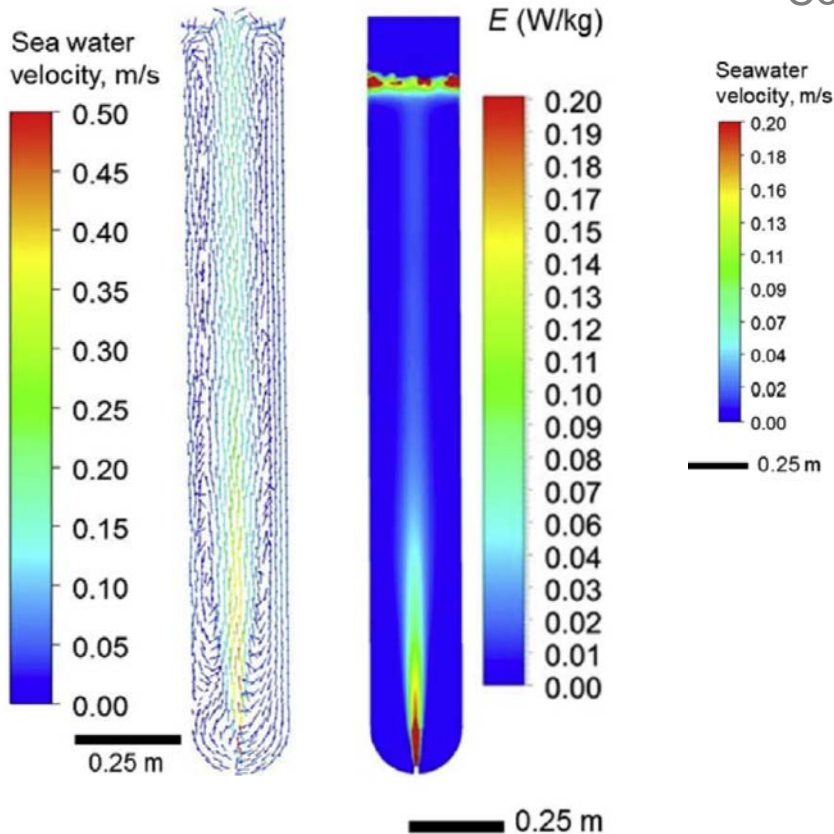
# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design



Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

*K. veneticum*



# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Photobioreactor design



### Antifouling surfaces

The aim of this project is to **develop** a new **transparent** and **non-toxic** surface to avoid microalgae **cell adhesion** to build an **efficient closed-PBR**

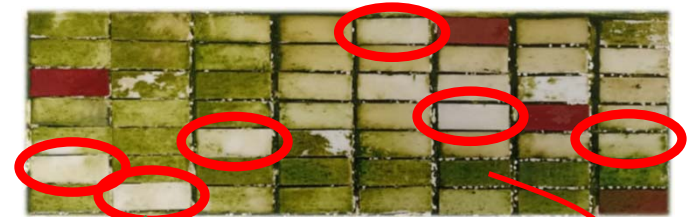


#### Biofouling consequences:

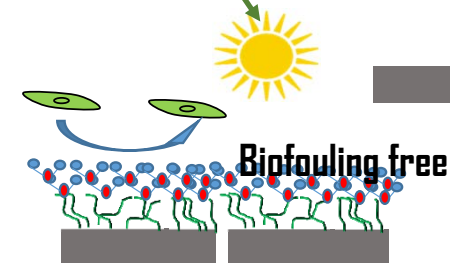
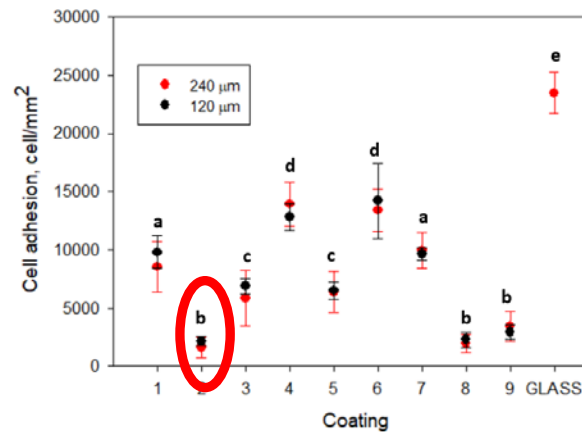
- Decrease solar radiation
- Negatively affect culture quality
- Less production
- Increase process cost



Day 0



8 months



Biofouling free



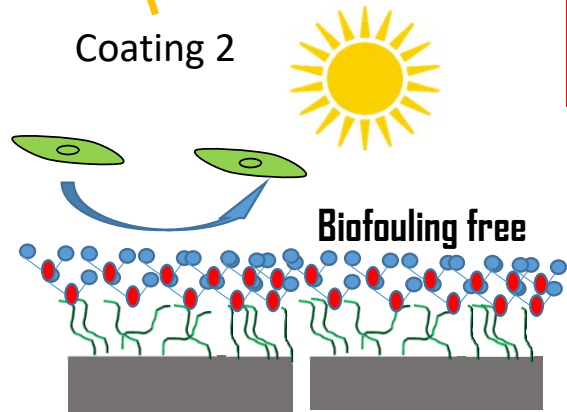
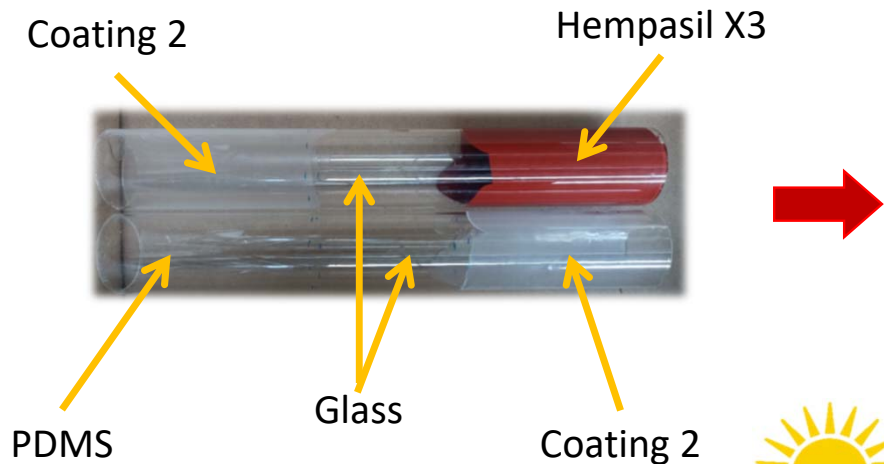
Biofouling

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

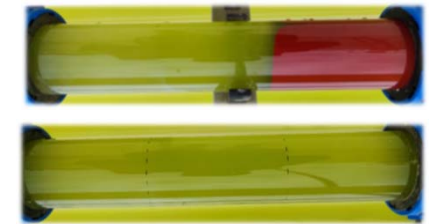
## Photobioreactor design



### Antifouling surfaces



Testing at Pilot Scale



Day 0



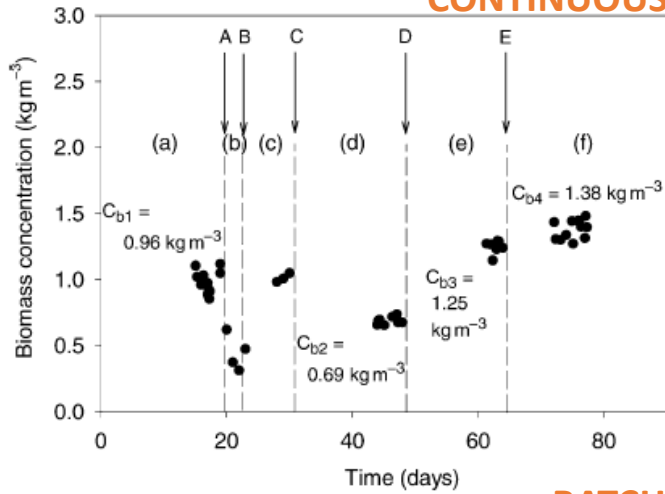
Day 30

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Operational mode



### CONTINUOUS



### Yield-based selection of operational mode

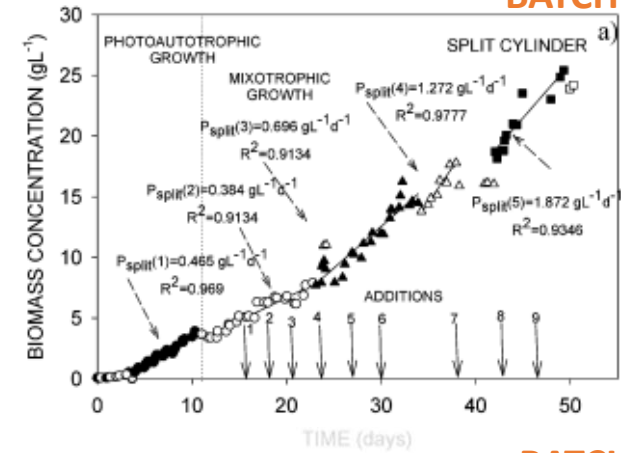
Sánchez-Mirón et al. (2003). Biochem. Eng. J. 16, 287-297

*P. tricornutum* for PUFAs

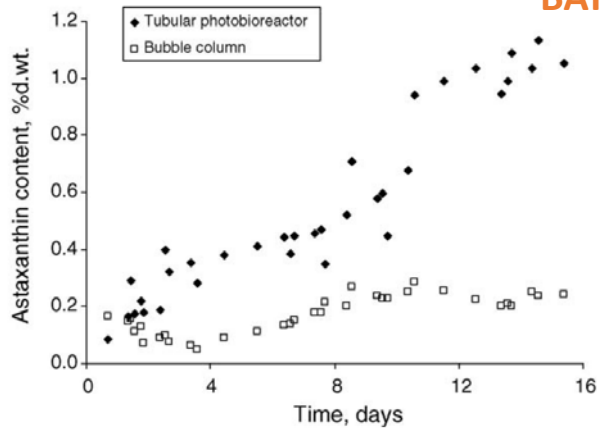
Fernández Sevilla et al. (2004). Biotechnol. Prog. 2004, 20, 728-736

*P. tricornutum* for PUFAs and pigments mixotrophically

### BATCH



### BATCH



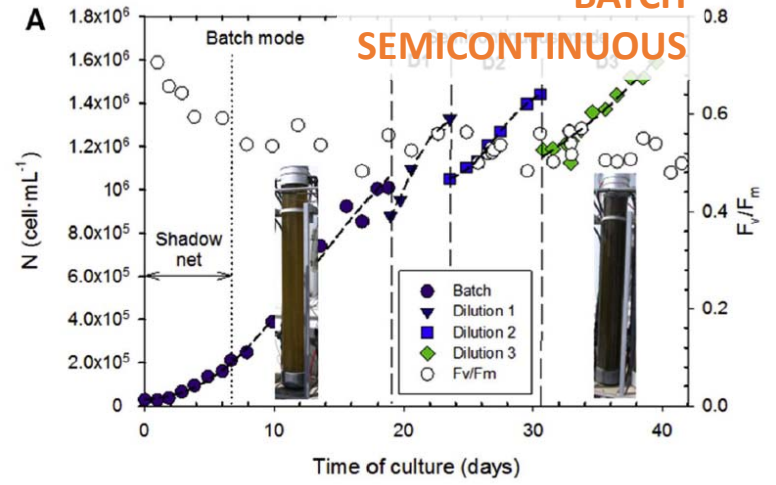
García-Malea et al. (2006). J. Technol. 123, 329-342

*H. pluvialis* for astaxanthin photoautotrophically

López-Rosales et al. (2018). Biores. Techn. 253, 94-104

*K. veneticum* for karlotoxins

### BATCH

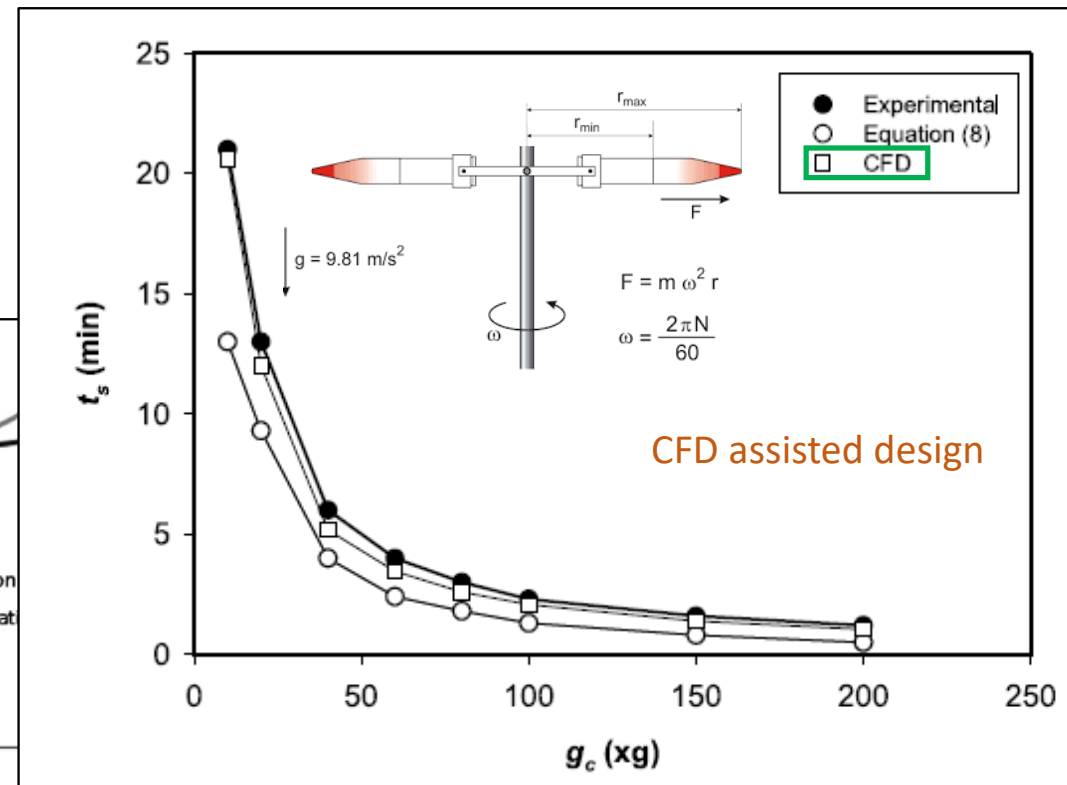
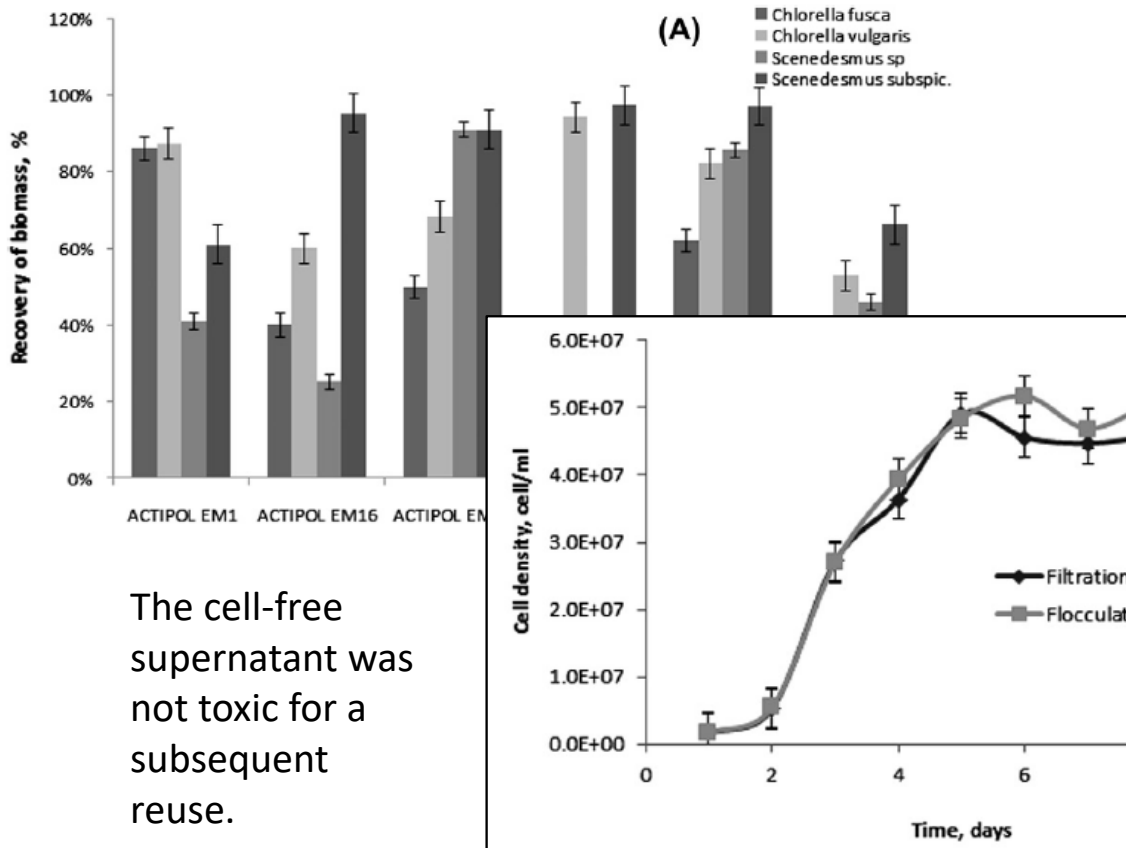


# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Harvesting



### Scalable harvesting methods



Granados et al. (2012). *Biores. Techn.* 118, 102-110

Molina-Miras et al. (2019). *Algal Res.* 44, 101677

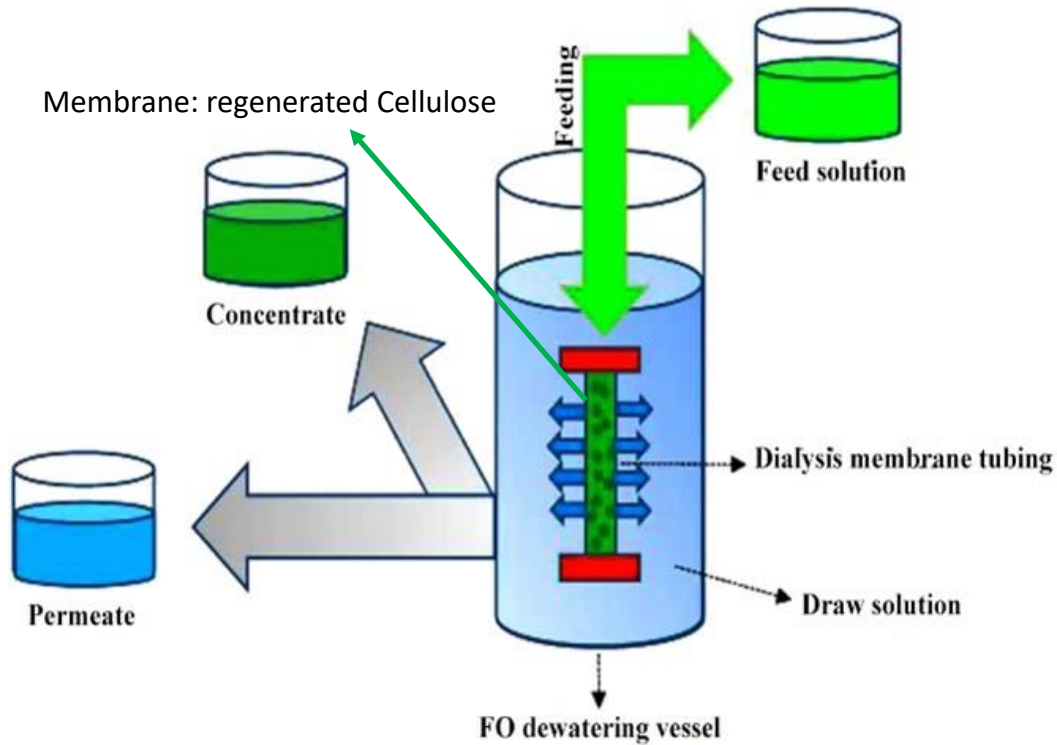
# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Harvesting

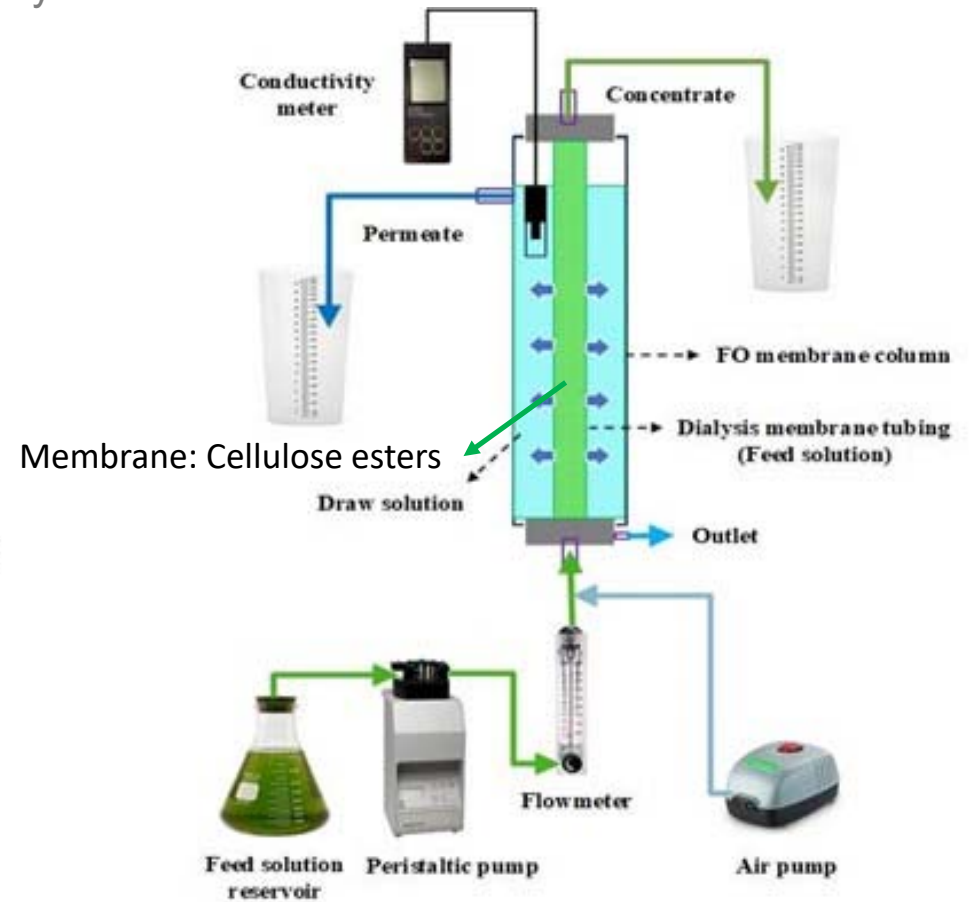


### Osmotic dehydrator

Patent: P201400232



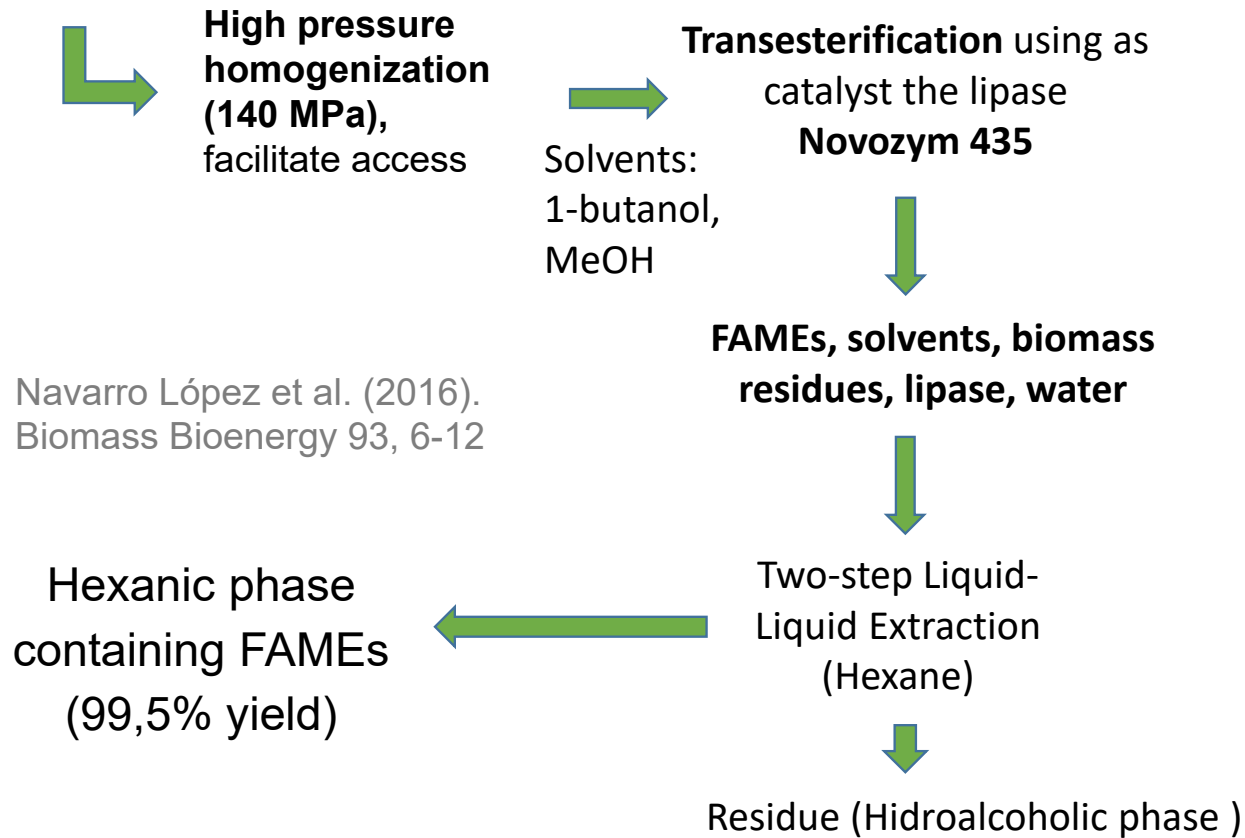
Concentration factor = 3



Concentration factor = 3

### Direct enzymatic transesterification of wet biomass

#### *N. gaditana*



Navarro López et al. (2016).  
Biomass Bioenergy 93, 6-12

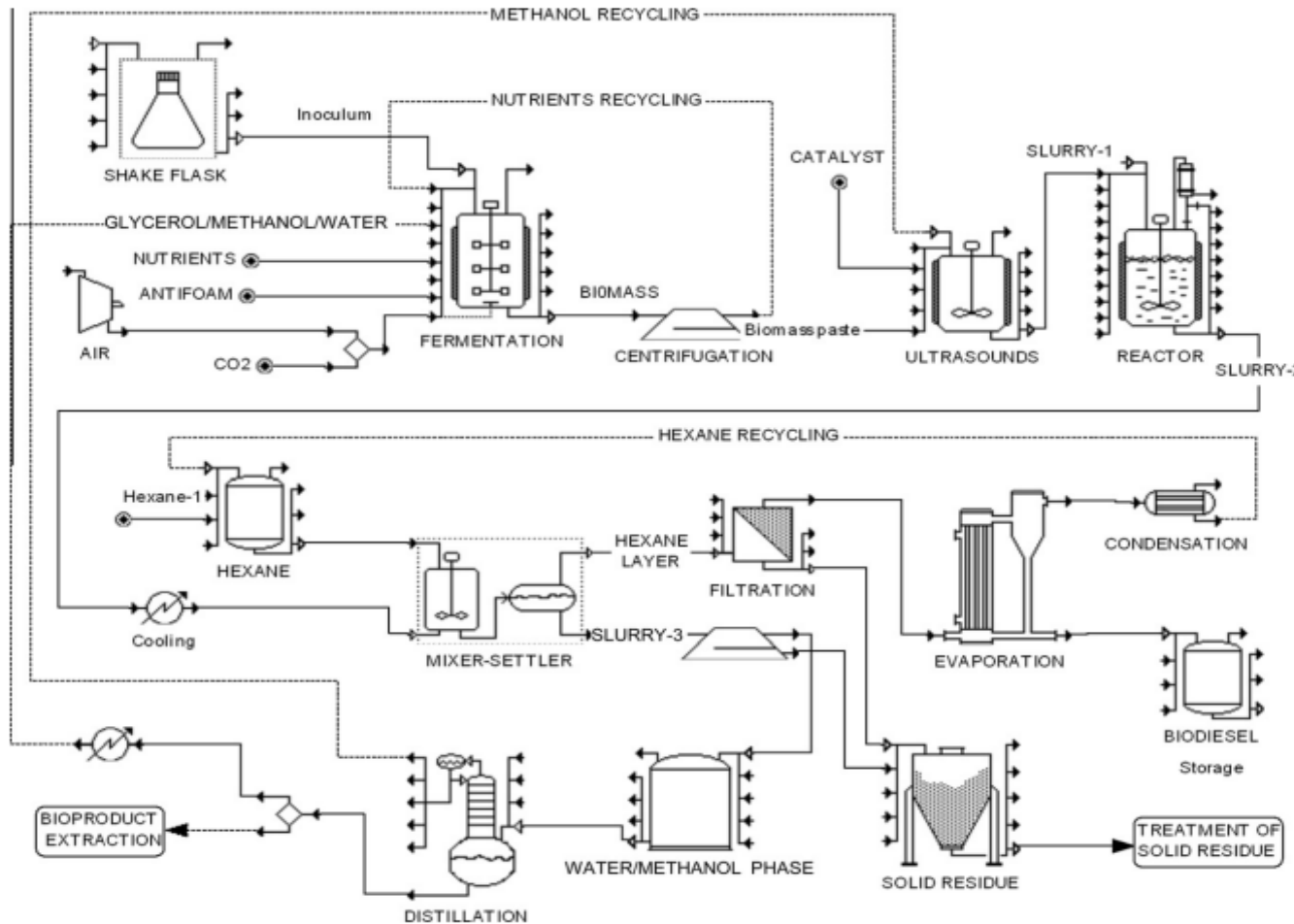


Optimization of the production of FAMEs (biodiesel)



# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Extraction



Optimized process for *C. protothecoides* heterotrophic biomass

Fatty acids	%
C16:0	9.0
C16:1	1.4
C18:0	4.5
C18:1	66.1
C18:2	11.9
C18:3	1.0



# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

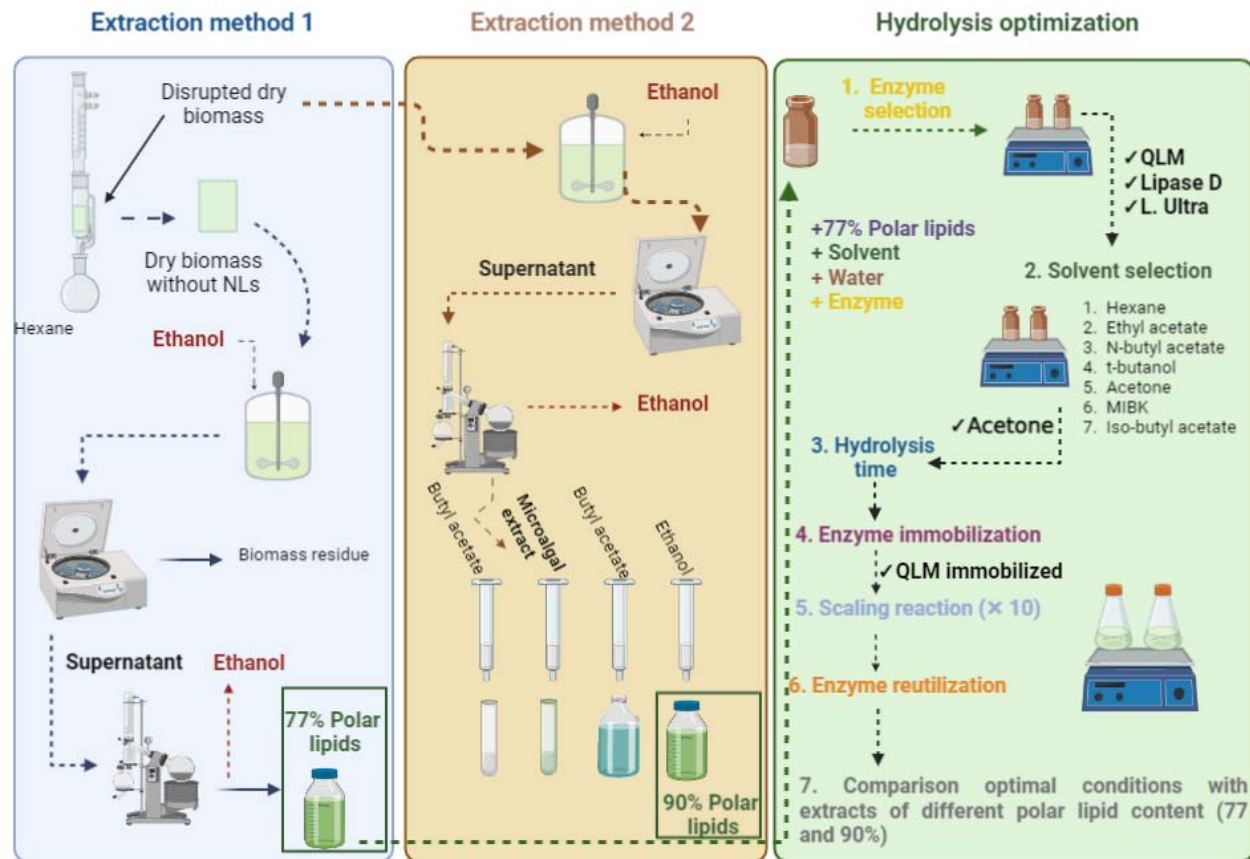
## Extraction



EPA in polar lipids

Process comprising:

- Simultaneous extraction and fractionation from *Nannochloropsis* sp.
- Silica-gel chromatography using non-toxic solvents
- Lipase catalysed hydrolysis



Jiménez et al. (2020) J Appl. Phycol. 32, 1117-28; Macías et al. (2022). Biomass Conv. Bioref. (2022) doi.org/10.1007/s13399-022-02520-2

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Extraction



### Biostimulants and fitosanitarias

#### PLANT BIOSTIMULANT

*Scenedesmus sp.*

Wet biomass from *Scenedesmus sp.*  
grown in pig manure

High pressure homogenization  
(HPH)

Incubation  
(30 °C 2 h, 300 rpm)

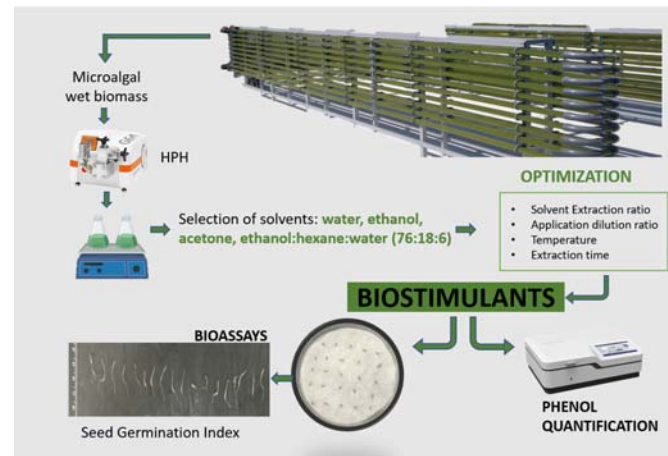
Enzymatic  
hydrolysis

Centrifugation  
12000 rpm, 5 min

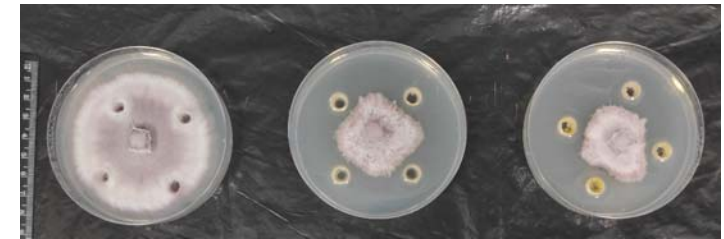
Pellet

**BIOSTIMULANTS**

**BIOFERTILIZERS**



200 bar Germination Index >10%



① Número de publicación: **2 908 029**  
 ② Número de solicitud: 202031068  
 ③ Int. Cl.:  
**A01N 65/03** (2009.01)  
**A01N 25/02** (2006.01)

⑫ SOLICITUD DE PATENTE A1

⑭ Fecha de presentación:  
26.10.2020

⑮ Fecha de publicación de la solicitud:  
27.04.2022

⑰ Solicitantes:  
**BIORIZON BIOTECH, S.L. (100.0%)**  
Albert Einstein 15 Parque Científico Tecnológico  
de Almería  
04130 EL ALQUÍAN (Almería) ES

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**ACIEN FERNÁNDEZ, Francisco Gabriel;**  
**FERNÁNDEZ SEVILLA, José María;**  
**CERÓN GARCÍA, M<sup>te</sup> Del Carmen;**  
**ROJAS CRESPO, Elisa;**  
**GARCÍA LÓPEZ, Juan José y**  
**POZO DANGRA, Joaquín**

⑳ Agente/Representante:  
**GONZÁLEZ PECES, Gustavo Adolfo**

㉑ Título: Proceso para la obtención, a nivel industrial, de un extracto concentrado en compuestos bioplaguicidas a partir de microalgas y/o cianobacterias, extracto así obtenido y uso del mismo

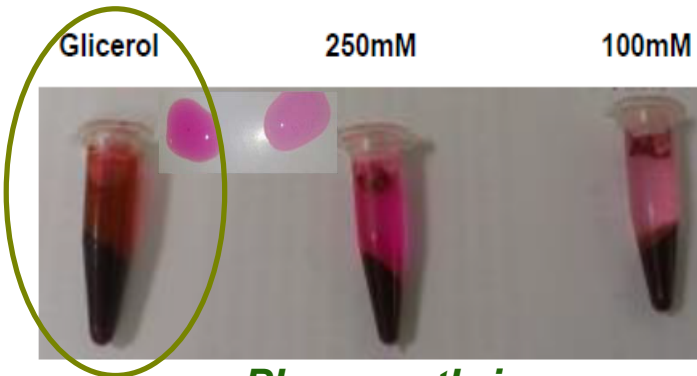
**AGRICULTURE  
ANTIFUNGAL**

Navarro López et al. (2020) Algal Res. 52, 102123

### Phycobiliproteins using glycerol

Comparison of glycerol-acetate buffer from fresh biomass

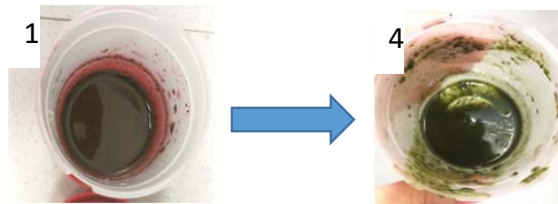
Comparison glycerol + successive acetate buffer from fresh or frozen biomass



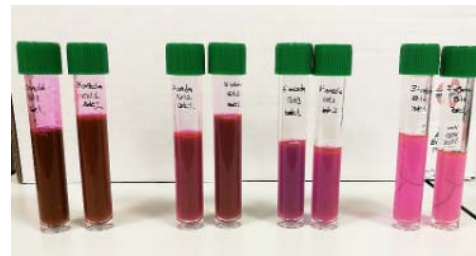
*Phycoerythrin*  
*P. purpureum*

Improved extraction from fresh biomass (5 times better)

Patent: P201600100

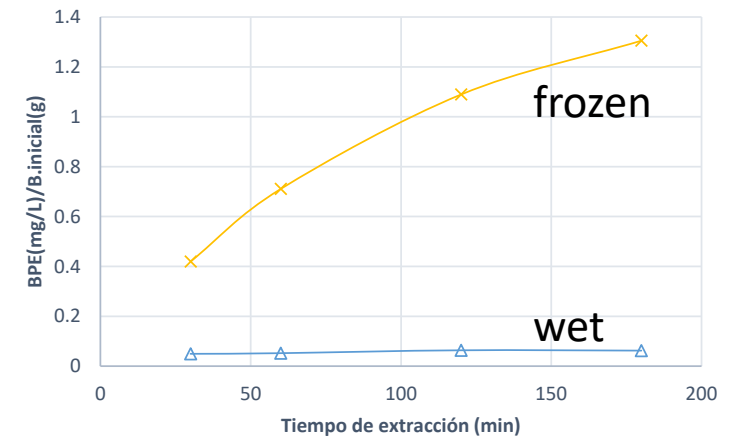


Initial extractant mixture      residual biomass



1      2      3      4

Number of extractions



Even better from frozen biomass

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Extraction



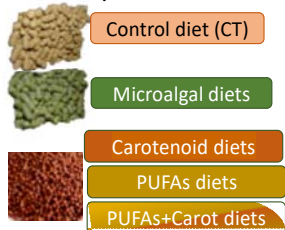
■ Positive effect  
■ Neutral effect  
■ Negative effect

Microalgae biomass      Microalgae extracts

### Microalgae



Experimental diets



FISH DIETS

	Microalgae biomass												Microalgae extracts					
	Sc				Iso		Na		Sc		Tetra		Iso		Arthro		Na	
	12	20	25	39	15	15	15	15	5	10	5	10	2	4	SL	NSL	SL	NSL
<b>Growth</b>																		
Fish final wt.																		
SGR																		
FCR																		
PER																		
<b>COMPOSITION</b>																		
Protein																		
Lipids																		
PUFAs																		
<b>Digestive enzyme</b>																		
Alcaline Protease																		
Tripsine																		
Quimotripsine																		
Amilase																		
Laminopeptidase																		
A. phosphatase																		
<b>Intestinal mucose</b>																		
Villi Long																		
Microvilli longi																		
Microvilli diam																		
Enterocyte apical area																		
Total absorptive area																		
<b>COLOR</b>																		
Fish aspect																		

✓ Positive effect on health state of the gut mucose favouring the absorption of the nutrients.

✓ Improvement of fish meat quality (EPA).

Vizcaíno et al. (2014). Aquaculture. 431, 34-43; Vizcaíno et al. (2016). J. Appl. Phycol. 28(5), 2843-2855; Vizcaíno et al. (2018). Fish Physiol. Biochem. 44(2), 661-667; Sales et al. (2021). Algal Res. 53, 102162

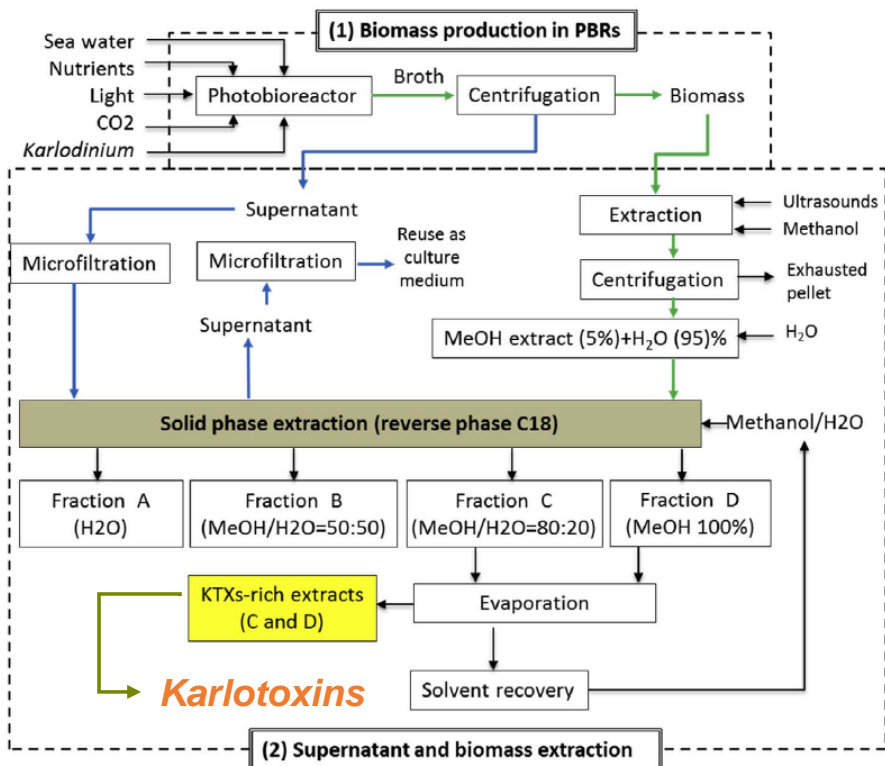
# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts

## Purification



### Scalable purification processes of bioactives and high value compounds

#### *K. veneticum*



#### *S. almeriensis*

**Patented**

OFICINA ESPAÑOLA DE PATENTES Y MARCAS  
ESPAÑA

① Número de publicación: **2 319 950**  
② Número de solicitud: 200703145  
③ Int. Cl.:  
C07C 403/24 (2006.01)  
C09B 61/00 (2006.01)  
C09B 67/54 (2006.01)  
B01D 11/02 (2006.01)  
B01D 11/04 (2006.01)

SOLICITUD DE PATENTE

④ Fecha de presentación: 13.11.2007  
⑤ Fecha de publicación de la solicitud: 14.05.2009  
⑥ Fecha de publicación del folleto de la solicitud: 14.05.2009

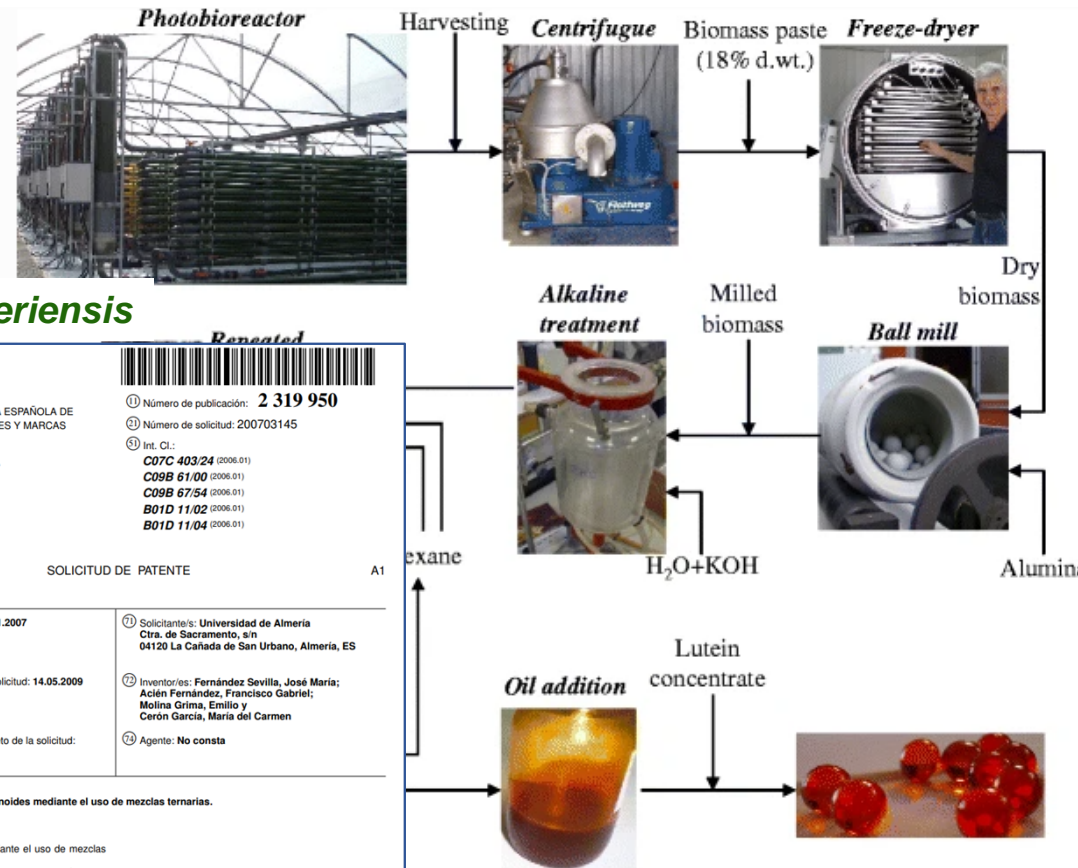
⑦ Solicitante/s: Universidad de Almería  
Ctra. de Sacramento, s/n  
04120 La Cañada de San Urbano, Almería, ES

⑧ Inventor/es: Fernández Sevilla, José María;  
Ación Fernández, Francisco Gabriel;  
Molina Grima, Emilio y  
Ceron García, María del Carmen

⑨ Agente: No consta

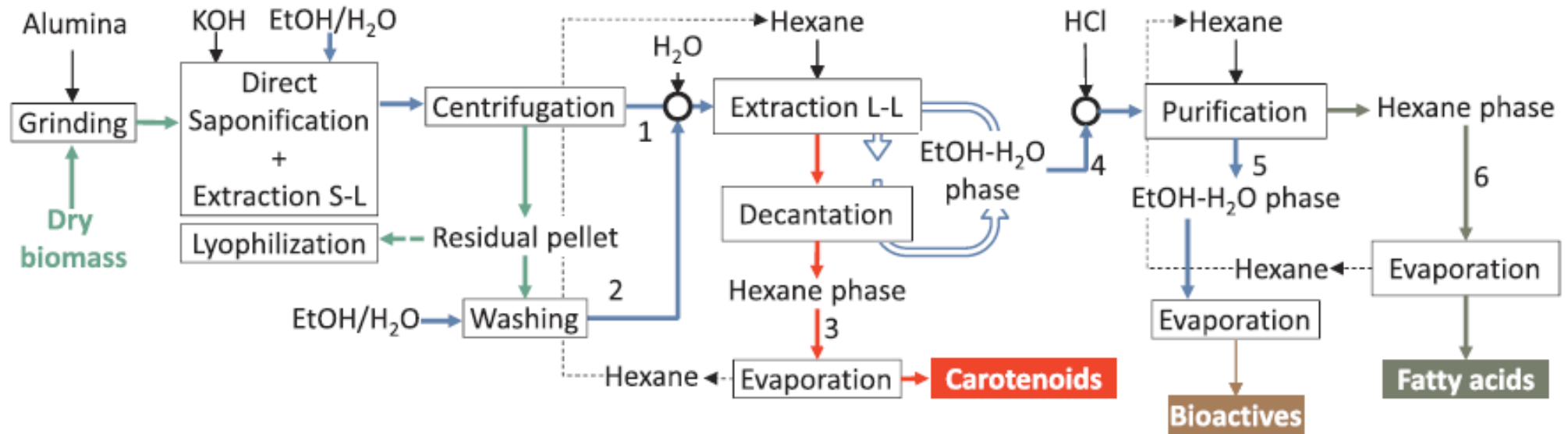
⑩ Título: Extracción de carotenoides mediante el uso de mezclas ternarias.

⑪ Resumen:  
Extracción de carotenoides mediante el uso de mezclas ternarias.  
Se ha desarrollado una mezcla extractante para la separación de carotenoides, aplicable a cualquier materia pri-



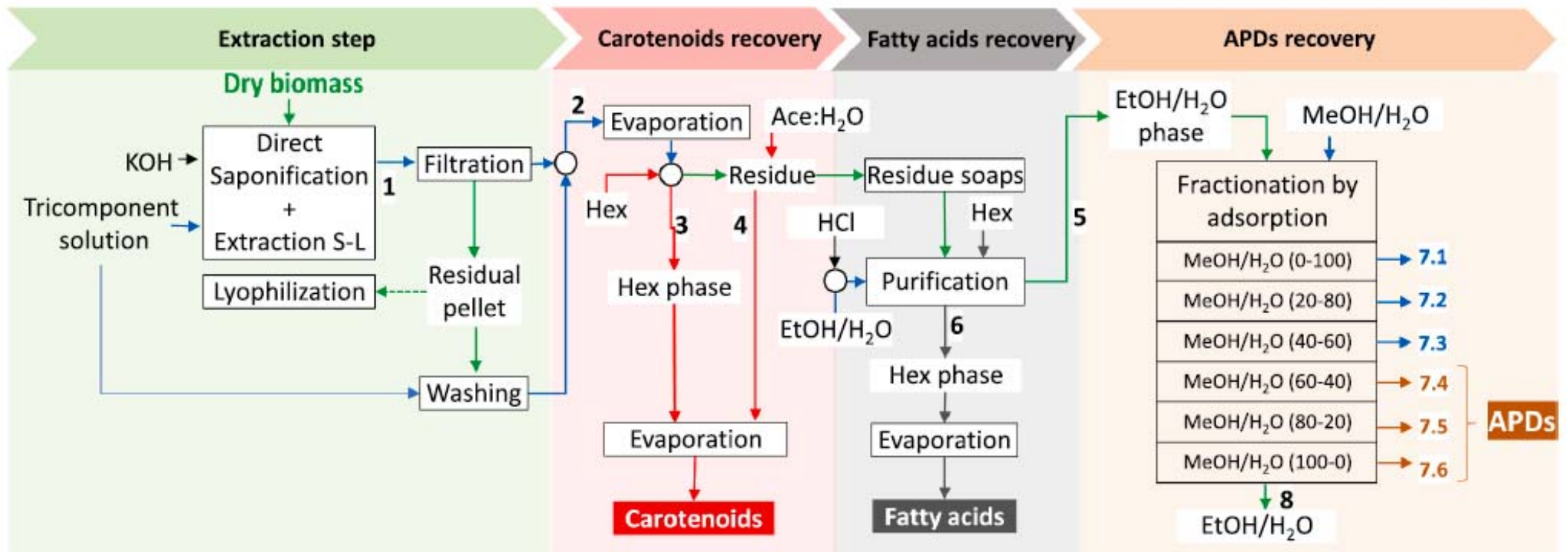
### *A. carterae*

### Purification of the main bioproducts



### *A. carterae*

### Purification of the main bioproducts



López-Rodríguez et al. (2019). *Biores. Techn.* 282, 370-377

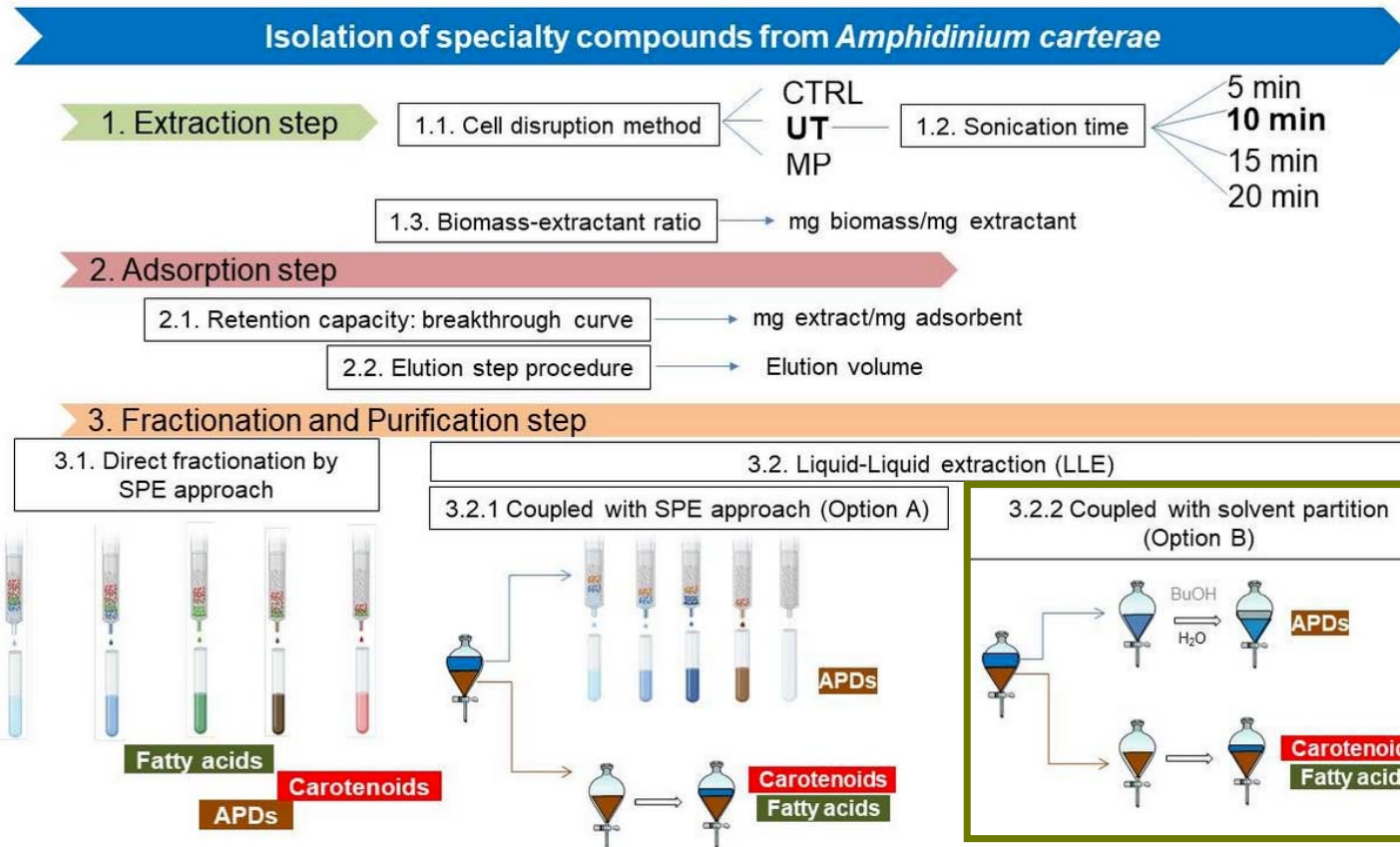
López-Rodríguez et al. (2021). *Biores. Techn.* 342, 125922

López-Rodríguez et al. (2022). *Toxins*, 14(9), 593



### *A. carterae*

### Purification of the main bioproducts



*APDs rich extract were purified at a 70% concentration (w/w)*



Solvent partition in an only process obtained the best results for the three families of compounds, carotenoids, fatty acids and APDs.

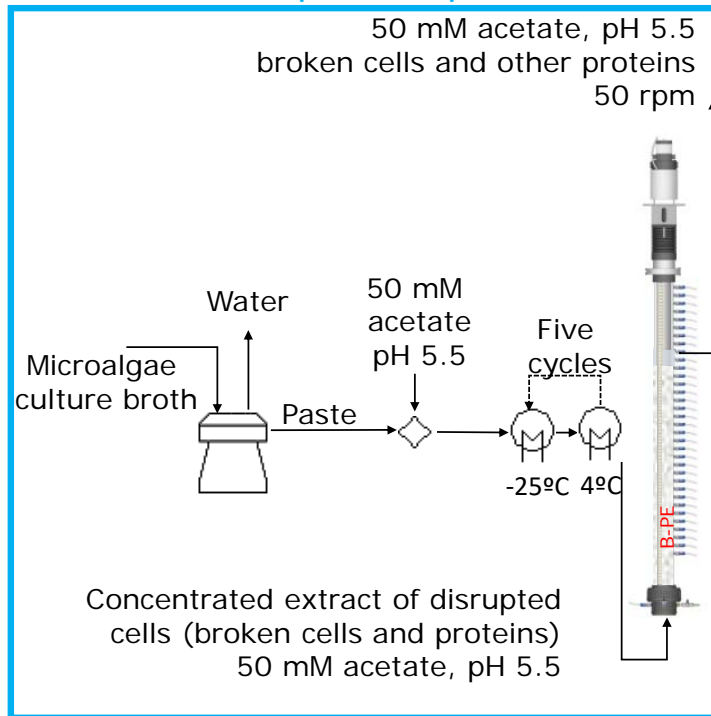
López-Rodríguez et al. (2019). *Biores. Techn.* 282, 370-377

López-Rodríguez et al. (2021). *Biores. Techn.* 342, 125922

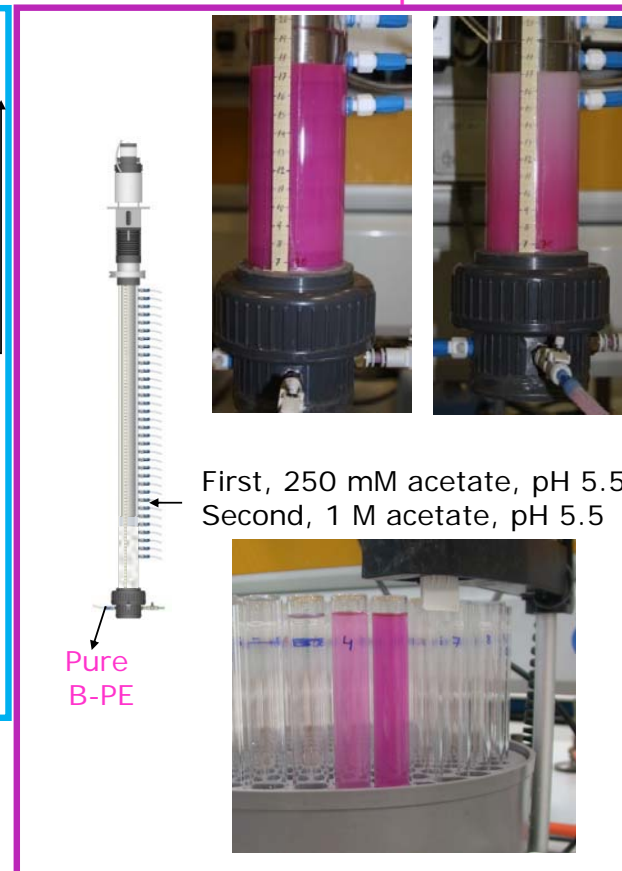
López-Rodríguez et al. (2022). *Toxins*, 14(9), 593

### Vortex Flow Reactor: expanded bed chromatography

#### Adsorption step



#### Elution step



Purification of

## $\beta$ -Phycoerythrin

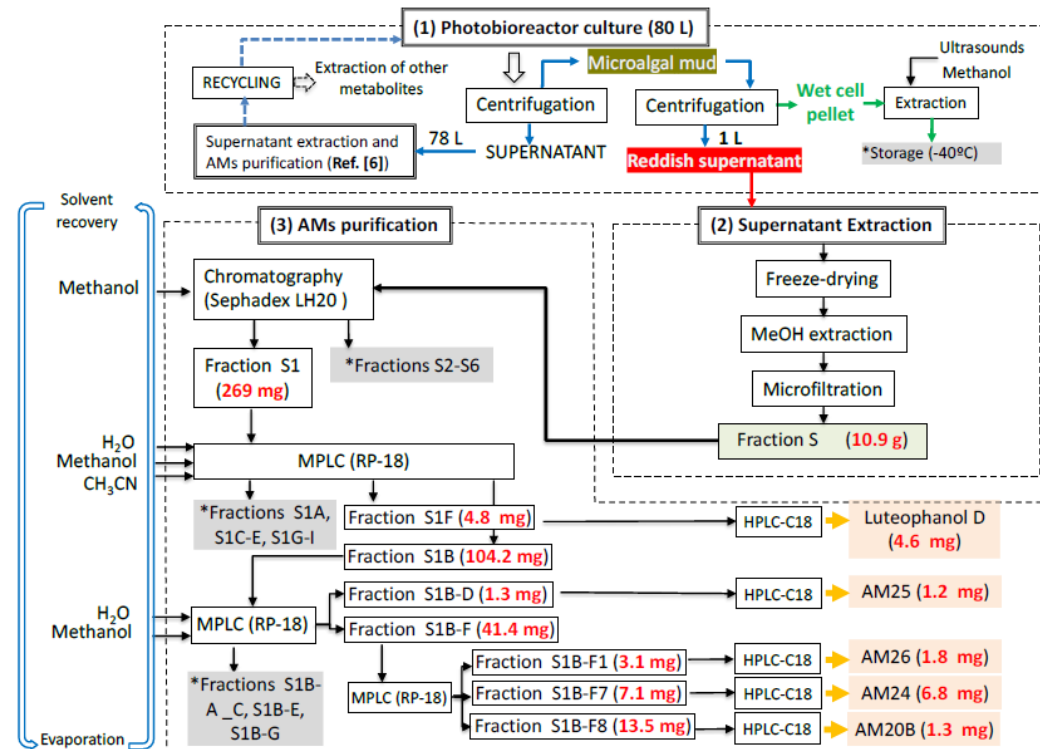
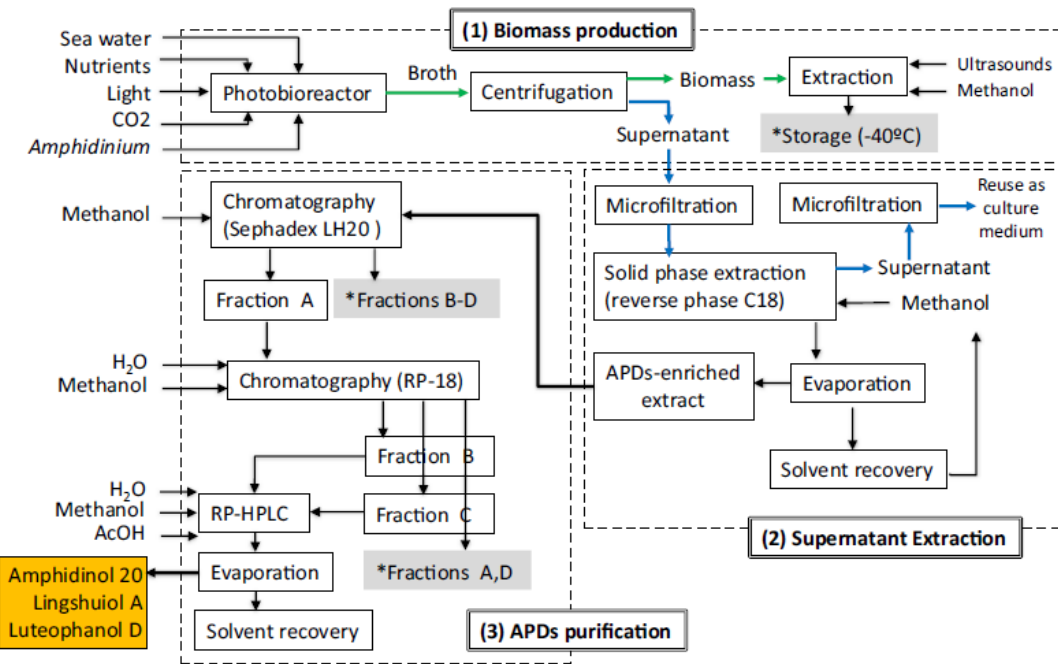
Expanded bed vortex flow reactor unit operation in the downstream process eliminates the previous filtration step

# Microalgae-based bioprocesses and bioproducts Identification



## Identification of different bioactives

### *A. carterae*



Molina-Miras et al. (2018). Algal Res. 31, 87-98

Morales-Amador et al. (2021). Mar. Drugs 19, 432

# Thank you!

e-mail: [asmiron@ual.es](mailto:asmiron@ual.es)



**ENHANCE**  
MICROALGAE



**Interreg**  
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European Regional Development Fund



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