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Culture Density Influence on the Photosynthetic Efficiency of Microalgae Growing under Different Spectral Compositions of Light

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Abstract

A density in algal suspension causes a significant change in the intensity and spectral composition of light reaching individual cells. Measurements of chlorophyll fluorescence allow us to observe any general changes in the bioenergetic status of photosynthesis. The aim of the study was to determine the effect of cultivation density on the PSII photochemical efficiency of three species of algae (*Chlorella vulgaris*, *Botryococcus braunii* and *Chlorella emersonii*), each with a different rate of growth – high, medium and low – respectively. The cell density of algae in suspension differentiated through the cultivation time (2, 4, and 8 days) and the spectral composition of light. The results showed that the density of cultivation led to change in the photosynthetic apparatus of algae. The differences described between each day of cultivation (2, 4, and 8) in the kinetics of chlorophyll *a* fluorescence intensity in cells of the algal strains under study probably resulted from the different phases of growth of these cultures. In addition the results showed the beneficial effect of far red light on the photosynthetic apparatus and the growth of biomass in investigated algal strains.

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