



1 **Carbon concentrating mechanisms maintain bloom biomass and CO<sub>2</sub> depletion in**  
2 **eutrophic lake ecosystems**

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22 **Abstract**

23 Harmful phytoplankton blooms are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration in  
24 aquatic ecosystems worldwide. In many eutrophic lakes, these high levels of primary  
25 productivity correspond to periods of CO<sub>2</sub> depletion in surface waters. Cyanobacteria and other  
26 groups of phytoplankton have the ability to actively transport bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) across their  
27 cell membrane when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are limiting, possibly giving them a competitive  
28 advantage over algae not using carbon concentrating mechanisms (CCMs). To investigate  
29 whether CCMs can maintain phytoplankton bloom biomass under CO<sub>2</sub> depletion, we measured  
30 δ<sup>13</sup>C signatures of dissolved inorganic carbon (δ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>DIC</sub>) and phytoplankton particulate organic  
31 carbon (δ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>phyto</sub>) in sixteen mesotrophic to hypereutrophic lakes during the ice-free season of  
32 2012. We used mass balance relationships to determine the dominant inorganic carbon species  
33 used by phytoplankton under CO<sub>2</sub> stress. We found a significant positive relationship between  
34 phytoplankton biomass and phytoplankton δ<sup>13</sup>C signatures, as well as a significant non-linear  
35 negative relationship between water column ρCO<sub>2</sub> and isotopic composition of phytoplankton,  
36 indicating a shift from diffusive uptake to active uptake by phytoplankton of CO<sub>2</sub> or HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>  
37 during blooms. Calculated photosynthetic fractionation factors indicated that this shift occurs  
38 specifically when surface water CO<sub>2</sub> drops below atmospheric equilibrium. Our results indicate  
39 active HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> uptake via CCMs may be an important mechanism maintaining phytoplankton  
40 blooms when CO<sub>2</sub> is depleted. Further increases in anthropogenic pressure, eutrophication, and  
41 harmful cyanobacteria blooms are therefore expected to contribute to increased bicarbonate  
42 uptake to sustain primary production.

43 **Key words:** Eutrophication, carbon cycling, Cyanobacteria, CCM, stable isotopes



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## 45 **1. Introduction**

46 Harmful cyanobacteria blooms (HCBs) resulting from anthropogenic eutrophication are  
47 among the greatest current threats to inland water ecosystems, altering carbon cycling and  
48 ecosystem function, impairing water quality, and endangering human health (Brooks et al., 2016;  
49 Paerl et al., 2011; Visser et al., 2016). Forecasting models and macrosystem-scale analyses  
50 suggest the occurrence of HCBs is driven by the interactive effects of land use, nutrient inputs  
51 (nitrogen and phosphorus), climate, weather, and in-lake processes (Anneville et al., 2015;  
52 Michalak et al., 2013; Persaud et al., 2015; Rigosi et al., 2014). Mechanisms determining  
53 variability in timing and duration of these events in lakes, however, remain poorly understood  
54 (Brooks et al., 2016), and it is unclear what the large scale feedbacks of sustained primary  
55 production are on lake carbon cycling by phytoplankton. While temperate lakes have generally  
56 been considered net sources of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere (Tranvik et al., 2009), eutrophic systems  
57 can maintain both high levels of primary production and negligible concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in  
58 surface water (Balmer and Downing, 2011; Gu et al., 2010; Laas et al., 2012), possibly  
59 increasing the flow of dissolved inorganic C to organic C. Identifying drivers of the temporal  
60 variability of bloom formation and maintenance will contribute to a better understanding of  
61 carbon dynamics in lakes with high productivity.

62 Cyanobacteria have developed a suite of diverse strategies for obtaining and fixing carbon  
63 and nutrients at growth-limiting concentrations. In addition to fixing atmospheric nitrogen, they  
64 are able to maintain metabolic processes under severe CO<sub>2</sub> depletion by use of a carbon  
65 concentrating mechanism (CCM; Badger and Price 2003; Raven et al. 2008). CCMs are present



66 in many groups of aquatic photoautotrophs including green algae (Spalding, 2008) and diatoms  
67 (Hopkinson et al., 2016), as well as some higher plants. These mechanisms are thought to have  
68 evolved independently in eukaryotic algae and the cyanobacteria, corresponding to a large  
69 decrease in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and doubling of O<sub>2</sub> approximately 400 million years BP (Badger  
70 and Price, 2003; Raven et al., 2008). Compared to less efficient eukaryotic CCMs, many  
71 cyanobacteria can concentrate dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) to intracellular levels 1000  
72 times greater than ambient concentrations (Raven et al., 2008).

73 The cyanobacterial CCM mechanism facilitates active transport of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> across the  
74 plasma membrane, where it is accumulated in the cytosol, transferred to Rubisco-containing  
75 carboxysomes, and converted to CO<sub>2</sub> via carbonic anhydrases (Raven et al., 2008). In  
76 freshwaters, cyanobacteria use form 1B Rubisco, which facilitates acclimation to inorganic  
77 carbon depletion via high cellular affinity for CO<sub>2</sub> and HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (Raven and Beardall, 2016; Raven  
78 et al., 2008; Shih et al., 2015). In addition to inorganic carbon availability, cyanobacterial CCMs  
79 are triggered by photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) and nitrogen availability. Because  
80 CCMs are energetically costly (Raven and Beardall, 2016), decreased PAR lowers cellular  
81 affinity for inorganic carbon (Giordano et al., 2005). Affinity increases with depletion of nitrate  
82 and iron, but decreases with depletion of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, and does not have a consistent response to  
83 phosphorus limitation (Raven et al., 2008). CCM activation under carbon and nutrient stress  
84 thus may confer a competitive advantage to cyanobacteria via efficient carbon fixation when  
85 CO<sub>2</sub> is low (Badger and Price, 2003; Price et al., 2008).

86 Shifts to alternative carbon assimilation strategies result in measureable changes in  
87 isotopic fractionation. Stable isotopic signatures of phytoplankton are dependent both on the  
88 isotopic composition of their DIC source and the physiological mechanism used to acquire it.



89 When phytoplankton use passive diffusion to take up ambient CO<sub>2</sub>, photosynthetic fractionation  
90 resembles that of C<sub>3</sub> terrestrial plants (Yoshioka, 1997), resulting in typical mean δ<sup>13</sup>C signatures  
91 between -27‰ to -30‰ (Bade et al., 2004; Erez et al., 1998; O’Leary, 1988). In cyanobacteria  
92 and other phytoplankton, carbon fixation can be equally limited by carboxylation and active  
93 inorganic carbon transport into the cell. Cyanobacteria that are actively concentrating inorganic  
94 carbon via HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> uptake can have elevated δ<sup>13</sup>C values as high as -8 to -11‰ (Sharkey and  
95 Berry, 1985; Vuorio et al., 2006). This is largely attributable to the isotopic signature of source  
96 material (Kaplan and Reinhold, 1999), as well as decreased carbon efflux when CCMs are  
97 active, resulting in reduced photosynthetic fractionation (-1‰ to -3‰; Sharkey and Berry 1985;  
98 Erez et al. 1998). Further, isotopic fractionation associated with active HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> uptake is  
99 negligible (Sharkey and Berry, 1985; Yoshioka, 1997). In other words, discrimination due to  
100 passive diffusion is reduced or negligible when active HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> uptake is occurring (Giordano et  
101 al., 2005). Thus, if CCMs are activated during cyanobacteria blooms in eutrophic lakes, we  
102 would expect the δ<sup>13</sup>C signature of the phytoplankton to increase as ambient CO<sub>2</sub> is depleted, and  
103 photosynthetic fractionation factors to decrease as the community approaches a monoculture of  
104 phytoplankton using CCM.

105 The purpose of this study was to evaluate the importance of CCMs in maintaining high  
106 phytoplankton biomass during CO<sub>2</sub> depletion in eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes. We  
107 hypothesized that photosynthetic fractionation would be tightly coupled with inorganic carbon  
108 limitation, resulting in decreased fractionation with shifts from atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to mineral  
109 HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> in the water column. We further hypothesized that phytoplankton isotopic composition  
110 and photosynthetic fractionation would correspond to CO<sub>2</sub> depletion in the water column,  
111 reflecting CCM activation during blooms that are intense enough to lower water column CO<sub>2</sub>.



## 112 2. Methods

113 16 lakes were chosen based on Iowa State Limnology Laboratory long-term survey data  
114 (total phosphorus and phytoplankton community composition, 2000-2010, data publically  
115 available at: <http://limnology.eeob.iastate.edu/lakereport/>) including lakes with flashy watersheds  
116 (Fraterrigo and Downing, 2008) and those with high and low interannual variability in  
117 Cyanobacteria dominance. Long term survey data were used only for site selection. Duplicate  
118 stable isotope samples for particulate organic and dissolved inorganic analyses were collected  
119 once following ice off in 2012, weekly May-July, bi-weekly in August, and monthly September-  
120 November ( $n=196$ ). Standard physical, chemical, and biological parameters were measured at  
121 each sampling event using US-EPA certified methods, including total nitrogen (TN), total  
122 phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll a (Chl a), alkalinity, vertical depth profiles of temperature, pH,  
123 conductivity, and dissolved oxygen (DO), as well as meteorological data (air temperature, wind  
124 speed, barometric pressure). Aqueous carbon dioxide concentration was measured at 1 m using a  
125 Vaisala GMT2220 probe modified for water measurements (Johnson et al., 2009). Partial  
126 pressure of carbon dioxide ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ) was determined using temperature, depth, and pressure  
127 corrections described in Johnson et al. (2009). Specifically, because pressure and temperature  
128 respectively increase and decrease sensor output relative to their calibration, measurements were  
129 reduced by 0.15% per unit increase hPa relative to calibration (1013 hPa), and increased 0.15%  
130 per unit hPa decrease. An additional correction for depth was added to the barometric pressure  
131 correction, because pressure is increased 9.81 hPa per 10 cm depth. Measurements were taken  
132 at 1 m, equivalent to a 98.1 hPa increase. Similarly, measurements were increased by 0.3% per  
133 degree Celsius increase in water temperature above instrument calibration (25°C).



134 All water chemistry was performed in the Iowa State Limnology Laboratory using United  
135 States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) certified methods. Total nitrogen was  
136 determined using the second derivative method described in (Crumpton et al., 1989). Total  
137 phosphorus was determined colorimetrically using the molybdate blue method (APHA, 2012).  
138 Samples for Chl a analysis were filtered onto GF/C filters which were frozen then extracted and  
139 sonicated in cold acetone under red light. Samples were then analyzed fluorometrically (Arar and  
140 Collins, 1997; Jeffrey et al., 1997). Alkalinity was determined by acid titration and reported as  
141 mg CaCO<sub>3</sub> L<sup>-1</sup> (APHA, 2012). Field measurements of temperature, DO, pH, and conductivity  
142 were taken with a YSI multi-parameter probe.

143 Samples were analyzed by standard isotope ratio mass spectrometry methods (IRMS),  
144 and reported relative to the Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite in ‰ (Equation 1).

$$145 \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Sample}} = \left[ \left( \frac{^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}}{^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}} \right)_{\text{sample}} / \left( \frac{^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}}{^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}} \right)_{\text{VPDB}} - 1 \right] \times 1000 \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

146 Samples collected for isotopic analysis of dissolved inorganic carbon ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ ) were filtered to  
147 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  in the field using a syringe filter and cartridge containing a combusted GF/F prefilter  
148 (Whatman) and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  polycarbonate membrane filter (Millipore). Samples were then injected  
149 into helium gas-flushed septa-capped vials with H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> to cease biological activity and to sparge  
150 CO<sub>2</sub> (Beirne et al., 2012; Raymond and Bauer, 2001).  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  samples were measured via a  
151 Finnigan MAT Delta Plus XL mass spectrometer in continuous flow mode connected to a Gas  
152 Bench with a CombiPAL autosampler. Reference standards (NBS-19, NBS-18, and LSVEC)  
153 were used for isotopic corrections, and to assign the data to the appropriate isotopic scale.  
154 Average analytical uncertainty (analytical uncertainty and average correction factor) was  $\pm 0.06$   
155 ‰.



156 To determine the isotopic composition of phytoplankton organic carbon ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}}$ ),  
 157 samples were filtered onto pre-combusted GF/C filters. Zooplankton and detritus were removed  
 158 manually from filtered samples using a dissecting microscope. Samples were gently fumed in a  
 159 desiccator for 24 h with 1N HCl to remove inorganic carbon, dried in a low temperature oven,  
 160 then pulverized using a mortar and pestle and analyzed with standard methods (above IRMS  
 161 connected to a Costech Elemental Analyzer). For organic isotope samples, three reference  
 162 standards (Caffeine [IAEA-600], Cellulose [IAEA-CH-3], and Acetanilide [laboratory standard])  
 163 were used for isotopic corrections, and to assign the data to the appropriate isotopic scale. The  
 164 average combined uncertainty for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  was  $\pm 0.17\text{‰}$  (1 sigma, VPDB). For all isotopic  
 165 measurements, at least one reference standard was used for every six samples.

166 Photosynthetic fractionation factors were calculated using published temperature  
 167 dependent fractionation factors between carbon species following methods described in  
 168 Trimborn et al. 2009 (Mook, 1986; Trimborn et al., 2009); inorganic carbon fractions and total  
 169 DIC concentration were calculated using discrete  $\text{CO}_2$ , alkalinity, and pH measurements:  
 170

$$171 \quad \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{HCO}_3^-} = \frac{\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}} [\text{DIC}] - (\epsilon_a [\text{CO}_2] + \epsilon_b [\text{CO}_3^{2-}])}{(1 + \epsilon_a * 10^{-3}) [\text{CO}_2] + [\text{HCO}_3^-] + (1 + \epsilon_b * 10^{-3}) [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

$$172 \quad \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2} = \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{HCO}_3^-} (1 + \epsilon_a * 10^{-3}) + \epsilon_a \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

$$173 \quad \epsilon_p = (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2} - \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}}) / (1 + (\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}} / 1000)) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

174 In order to test the hypothesized relationships between phytoplankton isotopic  
 175 composition, photosynthetic fractionation, and ambient  $\text{pCO}_2$  (n=196), we used a nonlinear  
 176 dynamic regression and ran 199 model iterations (SigmaPlot 12, Systat Software) resulting in  
 177 100% model convergence. The same approach was used to test the relationship between  
 178 photosynthetic fractionation ( $\epsilon_p$ ) and the isotopic composition of the DIC pool. The relationship





179 between phytoplankton biomass as chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) and phytoplankton isotopic  
180 composition was analyzed using linear regression. Prior to analyses, data were tested for  
181 normality using a Shapiro Wilk test.

### 182 3. Results

183 Phytoplankton  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  signatures in this study ranged from  $-29.86\text{‰}$  to  $-13.48\text{‰}$  with an  
184 average  $-25.26 \pm 2.8\text{‰}$ . The highest values were measured when algal biomass peaked (i.e.,  
185 during blooms). We found a significant positive linear relationship between phytoplankton  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$   
186 and phytoplankton biomass ( $\mu\text{g Chl } a \text{ L}^{-1}$ ,  $R^2 = 0.35$ ,  $P < 0.001$ , Figure 1), suggesting a shift  
187 from diffusive to active uptake of inorganic carbon during blooms. Over the course of this study,  
188 bloom conditions, defined as  $> 40 \mu\text{g Chl } a \text{ L}^{-1}$  (Table 1; Bachmann et al. 2003), were observed  
189 in 46% of our observations with varying degrees of intensity.

190 We found a significant, positive, non-linear relationship between the stable isotopic  
191 composition of the DIC pool and photosynthetic fractionation ( $\epsilon_p$ ,  $R^2=0.72$ ,  $P<0.001$ , Figure 2).  
192 Specifically, the lowest  $\epsilon_p$  was observed when the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  values were less than  $-8\text{‰}$ , or  
193 atmospheric levels. Below this level,  $\epsilon_p$  decreased exponentially toward zero.

194 To evaluate the predicted shift in algal carbon assimilation strategies below atmospheric  
195 equilibrium, we used a nonlinear dynamic model to analyze the relationships between ambient  
196  $\text{pCO}_2$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}}$  across lakes and sampling events. We found that while no relationship existed  
197 between these variables above atmospheric equilibrium, there was a rapid, significant increase in  
198  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}}$  (Figure 3;  $R^2=0.58$ ,  $P<0.001$ ) and decrease in fractionation (Figure 4,  $R^2=0.66$ ,  
199  $P<0.001$ ) as  $\text{CO}_2$  was depleted below atmospheric equilibrium (393 ppm, NOAA Earth System  
200 Research Laboratory, <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/>).



201

#### 202 **4.Discussion**

203 Our results indicate that alternative carbon assimilation strategies may be an important  
204 mechanism sustaining HCBs in anthropogenically eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes. While  
205 previous studies found no predictive relationship between ambient pCO<sub>2</sub> and photosynthetic  
206 fractionation (Bade et al., 2006), others have shown long term relationships between pCO<sub>2</sub> and  
207 the isotopic composition of phytoplankton (Smyntek et al., 2012). Here we demonstrate that the  
208 relationship between pCO<sub>2</sub> and photosynthetic fractionation exists only when pCO<sub>2</sub> drops below  
209 atmospheric equilibrium during blooms. We found a similar clear breakpoint below atmospheric  
210 equilibrium between pCO<sub>2</sub> and phytoplankton isotopic composition, together suggesting that  
211 CCM mechanisms are switched on in phytoplankton communities when ambient water column  
212 CO<sub>2</sub> is depleted below atmospheric levels.

213 The range of values for both  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{phyto}}$  and  $\epsilon_p$  associated with these trends is consistent with  
214 previous laboratory and marine field studies demonstrating shifts from diffusive to active  
215 inorganic carbon assimilation via CCM activation (Boller et al., 2011; Cassar, 2004; Erez et al.,  
216 1998; Trimborn et al., 2009). Calculated photosynthetic fractionation was lowest during blooms,  
217 consistent with phytoplankton CCM utilization. While other freshwater studies have  
218 demonstrated similar variability in phytoplankton isotopic composition (Vuorio et al., 2006),  
219 ours is the first to demonstrate the co-occurrence of decreased fractionation with CO<sub>2</sub> depletion  
220 during blooms in eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes. This mechanism likely provides a  
221 competitive advantage to bloom-forming taxa when high productivity depletes ambient CO<sub>2</sub>.

222  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  values presented in Bade et al. (2006) were more negative than those measured in  
223 our study, attributable to heterotrophic degradation of terrestrial organic matter in northern



224 temperate oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes (Bade et al., 2007). In contrast,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  in our study  
225 was relatively enriched in  $^{13}\text{C}$  across all lakes and sampling events, with values ranging from -  
226 12.5 to + 5.8 ‰, within the range of previously measured values for eutrophic lakes in the same  
227 region (de Kluijver et al., 2014). Values in this range can be attributable to mineral dissolution  
228 and geochemical fractionation of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  at high pH values (Mook 1986; Boutton 1991; Bade et  
229 al. 2004), and to biogenic methane production via acetate fermentation (Drimmie et al., 1991;  
230 Simpkins and Parkin, 1993; Stiller and Magaritz, 1974). In oligotrophic/ mesotrophic lakes, these  
231 differences correspond to higher average photosynthetic fractionation. In eutrophic/  
232 hypereutrophic lakes, however, fractionation decreased with active uptake of mineral bicarbonate  
233 (Sharkey and Berry, 1985).

234 We found a significant positive relationship between photosynthetic fractionation and  
235  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ , which is opposite of what is generally expected in lakes. In other words, fractionation is  
236 expected to increase with decreasing  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  values. Across trophic gradients (e.g.,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$   
237 values between -30 ~ + 5 ‰, Bade et al. 2004; de Kluijver et al. 2014, this study), these  
238 relationships would be driven by decreased  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  with increasing biomass (i.e., blooms), and  
239 decreased fractionation as CCMs are induced (Sharkey and Berry, 1985). In eutrophic and  
240 hypereutrophic lakes, however, the range of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  values are enriched overall. Our results  
241 suggest that CCMs are functioning and fractionation is lowest when the DIC pool is sourced  
242 from mineral dissolution and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  is the predominant species (~ -15 to 0 ‰, Boutton 1991).  
243 Fractionation increased in these lakes as  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$  became more positive, possibly indicating a  
244 groundwater –sourced  $\text{CO}_2$  generated from organic acid decomposition prior to microbial  
245 methanogenesis (Simpkins and Parkin, 1993).



246 In eutrophic lakes, both phytoplankton isotopic composition and fractionation appear to be  
247 strongly related to  $p\text{CO}_2$  availability below a critical equilibrium point. In less productive  
248 northern temperate lakes, however,  $\text{CO}_2$  is a poor predictor of photosynthetic fractionation  
249 (Bade et al., 2006). Our lowest modeled fractionation values reflected active uptake of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  
250 supported by elevated phytoplankton isotopic values. In contrast, northern temperate lakes had a  
251 narrower range of phytoplankton isotopic composition (more negative on average), and much  
252 higher ambient  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations, both attributable to heterotrophic degradation of terrestrial  
253 carbon. These results indicate inorganic carbon availability drives photosynthetic fractionation in  
254 eutrophic lakes, but that other processes likely control it (e.g., temperature) in low-nutrient ones.

255 Our results have important implications for how HCBs may be sustained in  
256 anthropogenically eutrophic systems. It is well established that high nutrient concentrations  
257 result in high phytoplankton biomass (Heisler et al., 2008). It is less clear, however, what  
258 mechanisms cause variability in timing and duration of blooms among eutrophic and  
259 hypereutrophic lakes. CCMs may provide a competitive advantage to Cyanobacteria when high  
260 primary productivity depletes ambient  $\text{CO}_2$ . This mechanism may allow blooms to be sustained  
261 for weeks to months at a time with negligible concentrations of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the water column  
262 (Cotovicz et al., 2015). While nutrient reduction is ultimately critical in the prevention of blooms  
263 (Heisler et al., 2008; Rigosi et al., 2014), the mechanism presented here provides insight into  
264 causes of bloom duration and intensity at high nutrient concentrations.

265 Our results show that eutrophic lakes function substantially differently than less impacted  
266 surface waters. Temperate lakes are generally considered sources of  $\text{CO}_2$  to the atmosphere  
267 (Tranvik et al., 2009). We demonstrate that phytoplankton CCM use allows dense phytoplankton  
268 to grow at low  $\text{CO}_2$  and may facilitate extended periods of high primary production,  $\text{CO}_2$



269 depletion, and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in surface waters. These processes may increase  
270 sediment C burial and the export of autochthonous organic C (Heathcote and Downing, 2011;  
271 Pacheco et al., 2014), and may have the potential to increase methane emissions from anoxic  
272 sediments (Hollander and Smith, 2001). Our work demonstrates fundamental differences in  
273 inorganic carbon utilization between northern temperate and agricultural, eutrophic lakes.  
274 Because the extent of impacted, high nutrient lakes is predicted to increase with the food  
275 demands of a growing human population (Foley et al., 2005), understanding mechanisms driving  
276 carbon cycling in these systems will be critical in evaluating the impact of HCBs on global  
277 carbon cycles.

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444 **Author contributions** AMMW and JAD jointly conceived the study. AMMW wrote the  
445 manuscript, conducted field sampling and laboratory analysis, and analyzed data. ADW  
446 contributed stable isotope methodology and laboratory analyses. JAD supervised the project. The  
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459 **Figure legends**

460 **Figure 1** Linear relationship between phytoplankton  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and chlorophyll *a*, indicating isotopic  
461 enrichment increased with phytoplankton biomass. Dashed line indicates phytoplankton bloom  
462 conditions, defined here as  $>40 \mu\text{g Chl } a \text{ L}^{-1}$  (Bachmann et al., 2003).

463 **Figure 2** Relationship between the stable isotopic signature of the ambient DIC pool and  
464 photosynthetic carbon fractionation. Vertical line indicates an atmospheric DIC source (7.8 ‰,  
465 VPDB).

466 **Figure 3** Relationship between the stable isotopic ambient  $\text{pCO}_2$  concentration in surface water  
467 and the stable carbon isotopic signature of the phytoplankton community. The vertical line  
468 indicates atmospheric equilibrium when samples were collected (393 ppm).

469 **Figure 4** Relationship between photosynthetic fractionation ( $\epsilon_p$ ) and  $\text{pCO}_2$ . Vertical line  
470 indicates atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  equilibrium when study was conducted (393 ppm).

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477 Table 1. Summary data for lakes included in this study. Total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen  
 478 (TN), and chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) are reported as average values of all sampling events (ice free  
 479 season, April to November 2012)± standard deviation.

<i>Lake</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>TP</i> ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )	<i>TN</i> ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )	<i>Chl a</i> ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )
Arrowhead	42.297218	-95.051228	25 ± 8	0.8 ± 0.1	10 ± 6
Badger	42.586161	-94.192562	58 ± 35	9.4 ± 5.7	33 ± 34
Beeds	42.770320	-93.236436	75 ± 48	7.4 ± 4.5	48 ± 40
Big Spirit	43.479377	-95.083424	46 ± 22	1.1 ± 0.3	22 ± 22
Black Hawk	42.296334	-95.029191	225 ± 118	2.4 ± 0.5	78 ± 35
Center	43.412607	-95.136293	104 ± 50	1.8 ± 0.2	41 ± 36
East Osceola	41.032548	-93.742649	195 ± 77	1.9 ± 0.4	80 ± 47
Five Island	43.145274	-94.658204	106 ± 50	2.1 ± 0.3	67 ± 37
George Wyth	42.534834	-92.400362	62 ± 22	1.0 ± 0.2	26 ± 7
Keomah	41.295123	-92.537482	106 ± 105	1.4 ± 0.6	44 ± 52
Orient	41.196669	-94.436084	397 ± 286	2.3 ± 1.2	144 ± 105
Lower Gar	43.352299	-95.120186	95 ± 35	1.6 ± 0.2	50 ± 23
Rock Creek	41.736936	-92.851859	115 ± 44	1.7 ± 0.4	52 ± 49
Silver (Dickinson)	43.439162	-95.336799	161 ± 85	2.1 ± 0.9	35 ± 58
Silver (Palo Alto)	43.030775	-94.883701	339 ± 206	2.5 ± 0.6	117 ± 60
Springbrook	41.775930	-94.466736	38 ± 25	1.8 ± 0.9	17 ± 14

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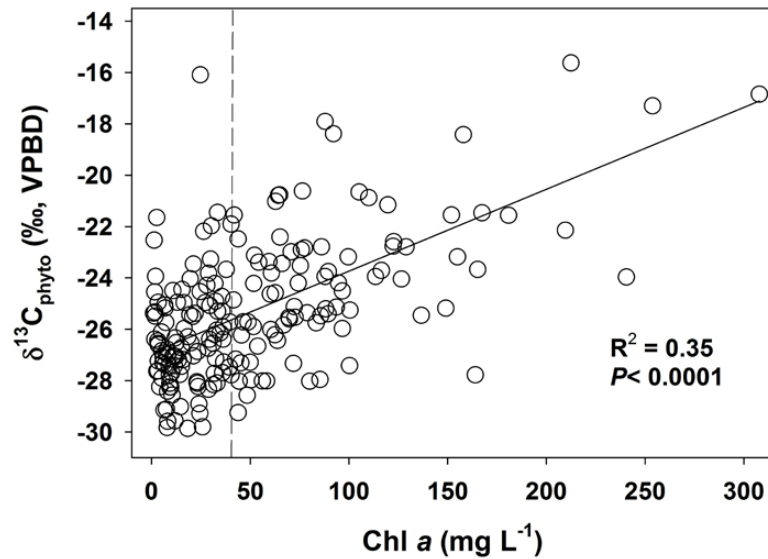
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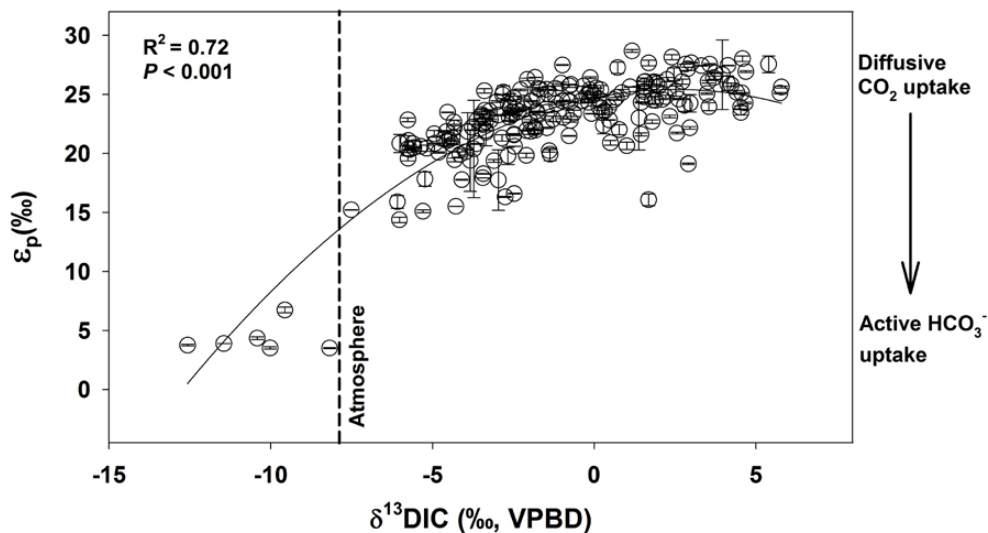
488 **Figure 1**



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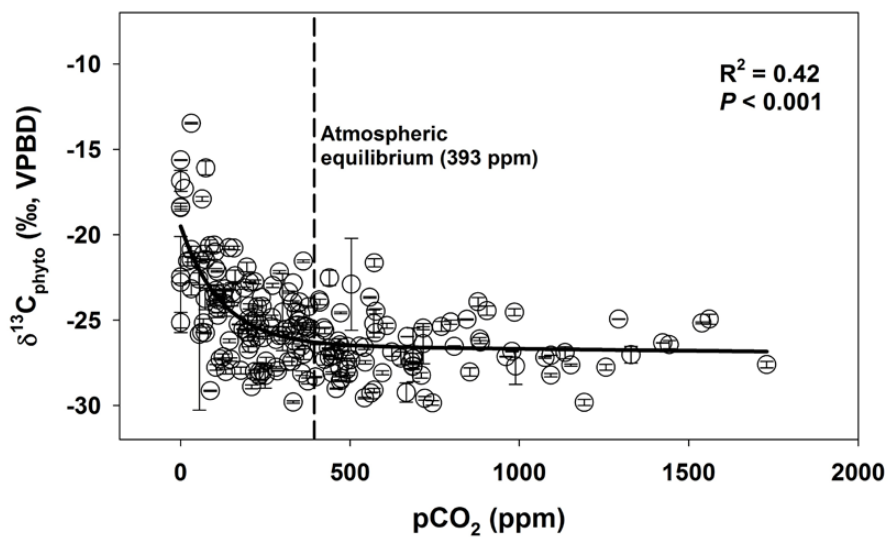


490 **Figure 2**



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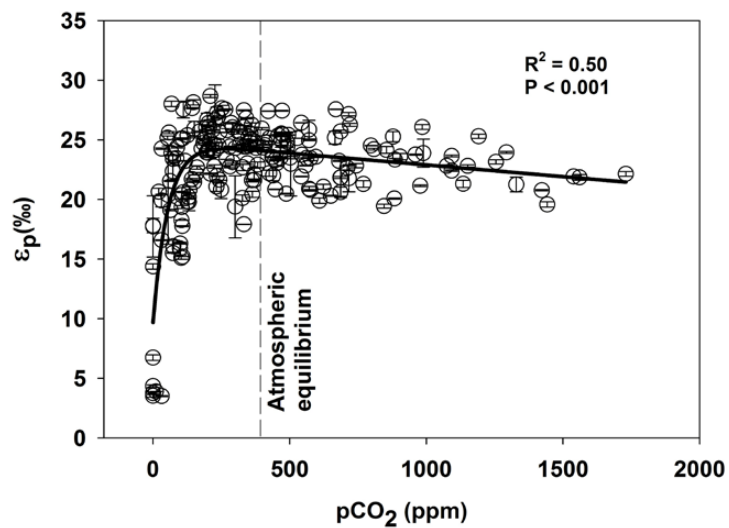
492 **Figure 3**



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494 **Figure 4**



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