Ocean acidification impacts bacteria-phytoplankton coupling at low nutrient-conditions

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Abstract

The oceans absorb about a quarter of the yearly produced anthropogenic atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2), resulting in a decrease in surface water pH, a process termed ocean acidification (OA). Surprisingly little is known about how OA affects the physiology of heterotrophic bacteria or the coupling of heterotrophic bacteria to phytoplankton when nutrients are limited. Previous experiments were, for the most part, undertaken during productive phases or following nutrient additions designed to stimulate algal blooms. Therefore, we undertook an *in situ* large-volume mesocosm (~55 m^3) experiment in the Baltic Sea by simulating different fugacities of CO_2 (fCO_2) extending from present to future conditions. The study was conducted in July-August after the nominal spring-bloom, in order to maintain low-nutrient conditions throughout the experiment. This resulted in phytoplankton communities dominated by small-sized functional groups (picophytoplankton). There was no consistent fCO_2-induced effect on Bacterial Protein Production (BPP), cell-specific BPP (csBPP) or biovolumes (BVs) of either FL or PA heterotrophic bacteria, when considered as individual components (univariate analyses). Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA) revealed a significant effect of the fCO_2-treatment on entire assemblages of dissolved and particulate nutrients, metabolic parameters and the bacteria-phytoplankton community. However, distance-based linear modelling only identified fCO_2 as a factor explaining the variability observed amongst the microbial community composition, but not for explaining variability within the metabolic parameters. This suggests that fCO_2 impacts on microbial metabolic parameters occurred indirectly through varying physiochemical parameters and microbial species composition. Cluster analyses examining the co-occurrence of different functional groups of bacteria and phytoplankton further revealed a separation of the four fCO_2-treated mesocosms from both control mesocosms, indicating that complex trophic interactions might be altered in a future acidified ocean. Possible consequences for nutrient cycling and carbon export are still largely unknown, in particular in a nutrient limited ocean.

Key words

Ocean acidification, CO_2 enrichment, trophic interaction, Baltic Sea, KOSMOS mesocosm experiment, bacterial production, phytoplankton

1 Introduction

Since the industrial revolution the oceans have absorbed ca. one half of the anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO_2). This has resulted in a shift in carbonate equilibria and pH (Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Raven et al., 2005; Sabine et al., 2004), with potential consequences for organismal physiology (Fabry et al., 2008, Taylor et al., 2012). In principal, autotrophs should be fertilized by an enhanced CO_2 availability, increasing the production of particulate (POM) and dissolved organic matter (DOM) (Hein and Sand-Jensen, 1997; Egge, et al., 2009; Losh et al., 2012; Riebesell et al., 2007). However, most CO_2 enrichment experiments studying natural plankton assemblages under variable nutrient conditions do not reveal a consistent response of primary production to elevated CO_2 (e.g. Engel, et al., 2005; Riebesell et al., 2007; Hopkinson et al., 2010). Both the amount and the stoichiometric composition of algal DOM and POM can be affected by changes in fCO_2. For example, Riebesell et al. (2007) and Maat et al. (2014) reported an increased stoichiometric drawdown of carbon (C) to nitrogen (N) at higher levels of fCO_2, most likely as a result from C-overconsumption (Toggweiler, 1993).

Heterotrophic bacteria, in oligotrophic systems, are largely dependent on phytoplankton derived organic carbon (e.g. Azam, 1998), and as such respond to alterations in both the quantity and quality of phyotplankton derived DOM and POM (e.g. Allgaier et al., 2008; Grossart et al., 2006a, de Kljijver et al., 2010). Availability and competition for nutrients, however, can substantially impact fCO_2-induced changes in activity and biomass of phytoplankton and subsequently of heterotrophic bacteria. In nutrient-depleted or nutrient-limited systems, bacteria are restricted in their utilization of phytoplankton derived organic carbon (Hoikkala et al., 2009; Lignell et al., 2008; Thingstad and Lignell, 1997). Consequently, fCO_2 dependent increases in inorganic C-availability for autotrophs may not stimulate heterotrophic activity, causing a decoupling of heterotrophic and autotrophic processes (Thingstad et al., 2008). The accumulation of bioavailable dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and particulate organic carbon (POC), as a consequence of this decoupling in nutrient limited oceanic surface waters, may have profound consequences for nutrient cycling and the nature of the oceanic carbon pump (Cauwet et al., 2002; Mauriac et al., 2011; Søndergaard et al., 2000; Thingstad et al., 1997). Given that various studies have reported on limitation of bacterial growth by inorganic nutrients in several parts of the Baltic Sea (e.g. Hoikkala et al., 2009; Kivi et al., 1993; Kuparinen and Heinänen, 1993; Zweifel et al. 1993), we sought to

91 evaluate the effects of enhanced fCO_2 on activity and biomass of free-living (FL) as well as
92 particle associated (PA) bacteria during a period characterised by low nutrients and low
93 productivity.

94

95 ## 2 Methods

96 ### 2.1 Experimental setup, CO_2 manipulation and sampling

97 Nine floating, pelagic KOSMOS (Kiel Off-Shore Mesocosms for future Ocean Simulations;
98 Riebesell et al., 2013a, Riebesell, et al., 2013b) mesocosms (cylindrical, 2 m diameter, 17 m
99 long with conical sediment trap extending to 19 m depth) were moored on 12th June 2012 (day
100 -10 = t-10; 10 days before CO_2 manipulation) at 59°51.5´N, 23°15.5'E in the Baltic Sea at
101 Tvärminne Storfjärden on the south-west coast of Finland. Exposed mesocosm bags were
102 rinsed for a period of five days, covered on the top and bottom with a 3 mm net to exclude
103 larger organisms. Thereby, the containing water was fully exchanged with the surrounding
104 water masses. Five days prior the start of the experiment (t-5), sediment traps were attached to
105 the bottom of each mesocosm at 17 m depth. In addition, submerged mesocosm bags were
106 drawn 1.5 m above the water surface, enclosing and separating ~55 m^3 of water from the
107 surrounding Baltic Sea and meshes were removed. Mesocosms were covered by a
108 photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) transparent roof to prevent nutrient addition from birds
109 and freshwater input from rain. Additionally, existing haloclines were removed in each
110 mesocosm as described in Paul et al. (2015), thereby creating a fully homogeneous water
111 body.

112 The experiment was conducted between 17th June (t-5) and 4th August (t43) 2012. To
113 minimize environmental stress on enclosed organisms CO_2 addition was performed stepwise
114 over three days commencing on day t0. CO_2 addition was repeated at t15 in the upper mixed
115 7 m to compensate for outgassing. Different fCO_2 treatments were achieved by equally
116 distributing filtered (50 µm), CO_2-saturated seawater into the treated mesocosms with a water
117 distributor as described by Paul et al. (2015). Control mesocosms were also manipulated with
118 the water distributor and 50 µM pre-filtered water without CO_2. CO_2 amendments resulted in
119 ca. 0.04-0.35 % increases in the total water volume across mesocosms (Paul et al. 2015).
120 Integrated water samples (0-17 m) were collected from each mesocosm and the surrounding

seawater using depth-integrated water samplers (IWS, HYDRO-BIOS, Kiel). Samples for activity measurements were directly subsampled from the IWS on the sampling boat without headspace to maintain in-situ fCO_2 concentrations during incubation.

Unfortunately, three mesocosms failed during the experiment, as a consequence of welding faults, resulting in unquantifiable water exchanges with the surrounding waters. Therefore, with reference to the six remaining mesocosms, CO_2 concentrations defining each treatment are reported as the mean fCO_2 concentration determined over the initial 43 days (t1-t43) as described in Paul et al. (2015). The control mesocosms (two replicates) had 365 µatm and 368 µatm fCO_2, respectively. The four treatment mesocosms each had 497 µatm, 821 µatm, 1007 µatm and 1231 µatm fCO_2, respectively. Detailed descriptions on the study site, mesocosm deployment and system, performance of the mesocosm facility throughout the experiment, CO_2 addition, carbonate chemistry, cleaning of the mesocosm bags as well as sampling frequencies of single parameters are given in Paul et al. (2015).

2.2 Physical and chemical parameters

Physical measurements (i.e. temperature and salinity) were performed using a CTC60M memory probe (Sea and Sun Technology, Trappenkamp, Germany) and are calculated as the mean, integrated over the total depth. Photosythetic active radiation (PAR) was measured with a PAR sensor (LI-COR LI-192) at the roof of Tvärminne Zoological Station.

Samples for dissolved inorganic carbon concentrations (DIC) and total pH were gently pressure-filtered (Sarstedt Filtropur PES, 0.2 µm pore size) using a membrane pump (Stepdos). Total pH was determined as described in Dickson et al. (2007) on a Cary 100 (Varian) spectrophotometer in a temperature-controlled 10 cm cuvette using a *m*-cresol indicator dye (Mosley et al., 2004). DIC concentrations were determined by infrared absorption using a LI-COR LI-7000 on an AIRICA system (MARIANDA, Kiel). Total pH and DIC were used to calculate carbonate chemistry speciation using the stoichiometric equilibrium constants for carbonic acid of Mehrbach et al. (1973) as refitted by Lueker et al. (2000).

Samples for dissolved organic carbon (DOC), total dissolved nitrogen (TDN) as well as dissolved silica (DSi) and dissolved inorganic phosphate (DIP) were filtered through pre-combusted (450 °C, 6h) GF/F filters (Whatman, nominal pore size of 0.7 µm). Concentrations

of DOC and TDN were determined using a high-temperature catalytic combustion technique with a Shimadzu TOC-TN V analyser following Badr et al. (2003). DSi concentrations were determined using standard colorimetric techniques (Grasshoff et al. 1983) at the micromolar level with a nutrient autoanalyser (Seal Analytical, Quattro). DIP concentrations were determined with a colorimetric method using a 2 m liquid waveguide capillary cell (Patey et al., 2008, Zhang and Chi, 2002) with a miniaturised detector (Ocean Optics Ltd).

Total particulate carbon (TPC), particulate organic nitrogen (PON) and total particulate phosphorus (TPP) samples were collected onto pre-combusted (450 °C, 6h) GF/F filters (Whatman, nominal pore size of 0.7 µm) using gentle vacuum filtration and stored in glass Petri dishes at -20 °C. Biogenic silica (BSi) samples were collected on cellulose acetate filters (0.65 µm, Whatman) using gentle vacuum filtration (< 200 mbar) and stored in glass Petri dishes at -20 °C. Filters for TPC/PON analyses were dried at 60 °C, packed into tin capsules and measured on an elemental analyser (EuroEA) according to Sharp (1974), coupled by either a Conflo II to a Finnigan Delta^{Plus} isotope ratio mass spectrometer or a Conflo III to a Thermo Finnigan Delta^{Plus} XP isotope ratio mass spectrometer. Filters for TPP were treated with oxidizing decomposition reagent (MERCK, catalogue no. 112936) to oxidise organic phosphorus to orthophosphate. Particulate silica was leached from filtered material. Concentrations of dissolved inorganic phosphate as well as dissolved silica were determined spectrophotometrically according to Hansen and Koroleff (1999).

Samples for chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) were filtered on GF/F filters (Whatman, nominal pore size of 0.7 µm) and stored at -20 °C. Chl *a* was extracted in acetone (90 %) and samples homogenized. After centrifugation (10 min, 800 x g, 4 °C) the supernatand was analysed on a fluorometer (TURNER 10-AU) to determine concentrations of Chl *a* (Welschmeyer, 1994).

Further details on the determination of physical parameters, concentration of Chl *a* as well as dissolved and particulate nutrients can be obtained from Paul et al. (2015).

2.3 Microbial standing stock

Abundance of free-living (FL) heterotrophic prokaryotes (HP) and photoautotrophic prokaryotic (*Synechococcus* spp.) as well as eukaryotic cells (<20 µm) were determined by flow cytometry (Crawfurd et al. 2016). Briefly, phytoplankton were discriminated based on their chlorophyll red autofluorescence and/or phycoerythrin orange autofluorescence (Marie

et al., 1999). In combination with their side scatter signal and size fractionation the phytoplankton community could be divided into 6 clusters, varying in size from 1 to 8.8 µm average cell diameter (Crawfurd et al., 2016). Three groups of picoeukaryotic phytoplankton (Pico I-III), 1 picoprokaryotic photoautotroph (*Synechococcus* spp.) and 2 nanoeukaryotic phytoplankton groups were detected. Biovolume (BV) estimations were based on cell abundance and average cell diameters by assuming a spherical cell shape. The BV sum of Synechococcus and Pico I-III is expressed as BV_{Pico}. The BV sum of Nano I and II will be referred as BV_{Nano}.

Abundances of FL prokaryotes were determined from 0.5 % glutaraldehyde fixed samples after staining with the nucleic acid-specific dye SYBR green I (Crawfurd et al. 2016). Unicellular cyanobacteria (*Synechococcus* spp.) contributed maximally 10% of the total counts. Two additional groups were identified based on their low (LDNA) and high (HDNA) fluorescence. This identification was based on gating of SYBR green I fluorescence against the side scatter signal (Brussaard, 2004 with adaptation according to Mojica et al., 2014). Particle-associated (PA) prokaryotes were enumerated by epifluorescence-microscopy on a Leica Leitz DMRB fluorescence microscope with UV- and blue light excitation filters (Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany). Fresh samples were gently mixed to prevent particle settling and a 15 mL subsample was filtered on a 0.1-% Irgalan Black coloured 5.0 µm polycarbonate-filter (Whatman, Maidstone, UK) (Hobbie et al., 1977). Filters were fixed with glutaraldehyde (Carl Roth, Karlsruhe, Germany, final conc. 2 %) and stained for 15 min with 4´6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI, final conc. 1 µg mL^{-1}) (Porter and Feig, 1980) directly on the filtration device and rinsed twice with sterile filtered habitat water before air-drying and embedding in Citifluor AF1 (Citifluor Ltd, London, UK) on a microscopic slide (Rieck et al., 2015). Counts were made based on 15 random unique squares as observed at a magnification of 1000x. The total number of heterotrophic PA prokaryotes was enumerated by subtracting Chl *a* autofluorescent cells from DAPI-stained cells.

BV of FL and PA prokaryotes were calculated separately. For FL prokaryotes we estimated BVs on the basis of an average cell volume of 0.06 μm^3 (Hagström et al., 1979). BV of PA prokaryotes were calculated from measurements of 1600 cells across 3 different mesocosms (346 µatm, 868 µatm, 1333 µatm) and three time points (t0, t20, t39) throughout the experiment (Massana et al., 1997). A resulting average BV of 0.16 μm^3 per cell was used to calculate BV of PA prokaryotes derived from cell abundances. We subsequently adopted the

term “heterotrophic bacteria”, since bacteria account for the majority of non- photosynthetic prokaryotes in surface waters (Karner et al., 2001; Kirchman et al. 2007).

2.4 Metabolic parameters

Rates of bacterial protein production (BPP) were determined by incorporation of ^{14}[C]-leucine (^{14}C-Leu, Simon and Azam, 1989) according to Grossart et al. (2006a). Triplicates and a formalin-killed control were incubated with ^{14}C-Leu (213 mCi mmol^{-1}; Hartmann Analytic GmbH, Germany) at a final concentration of 165 nM, which ensured saturation of the uptake systems of both FL and PA bacteria. Incubation was performed in the dark at *in situ* temperature (between 7.8 °C and 15.8 °C) for 1.5 h. After fixation with 2% formalin, samples were filtered onto 5.0 µm (PA bacteria) nitrocellulose filters (Sartorius, Germany) and extracted with ice-cold 5% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) for 5 min. Thereafter, filters were rinsed twice with ice-cold 5% TCA, once with ethanol (50% v/v), and dissolved in ethylacetate for measurement by liquid scintillation counting (Wallac 1414, Perkin Elmer). Afterwards, the collected filtrate was filtered on 0.2 µm (FL bacteria) nitrocellulose filters (Sartorius, Germany) and processed in the same way as the 5.0 µm filters. Standard deviation of triplicate measurements was usually <15%. The amount of incorporated ^{14}C-Leu was converted into BPP by using an intracellular isotope dilution factor of 2. A conversion factor of 0.86 was used to convert the produced protein into carbon (Simon and Azam, 1989). Cell-specific BPP rates (csBPP) were calculated by dividing BPP-rates by abundances of FL prokaryotes and PA HP.

Community respiration (CR) rates were calculated from oxygen consumption during an incubation period of 48 hours at *in situ* temperature in the dark by assuming a respiratory quotient of 1 (Berggren et al., 2012). Thereby oxygen concentrations were measured in triplicate in 120 mL O_2 bottles without headspace, using a fiber optical dipping probe (PreSens, Fibox 3), which was calibrated against anoxic and air saturated water.

Primary production (PP) was measured using radio-labeled $NaH^{14}CO_3$ (Steeman-Nielsen, 1952) from 0-10 m depth integrated samples. After incubation of duplicate samples with 10 µL of ^{14}C bicarbonate solution (DHI Lab, 20 µCi mL^{-1}) in 8 mL vials at 2,4,6, 8 and 10 m for 24 h, samples were acidified with 1 M HCl to remove remaining inorganic ^{14}C. Radioactivity was determined by using a scintillation counter (Wallac 1414, Perkin Elmer).

PP was calculated knowing the dark-control corrected ^{14}C incorporation and the fraction of the ^{14}C addition to the total inorganic carbon pool according to Gargas (1975). Further descriptions on the measurement of CR and PP are given by Spilling et al. (2016a).

2.5 Statistical analyses

Permutational multivariate analysis of variance – PERMANOVA (Anderson, 2001, McArdle and Anderson, 2001) was used to determine associations between physical/chemical variables and biotic variables. PERMANOVA (perm=9999) was performed to test for significant differences in variance over time and between fCO_2-treated mesocosms (Anderson et al., 2008). Environmental data were normalized according Clarke and Gorley (2001). Biotic abundance data were log(x+1) transformed (Clarke and Green, 1988). PERMANOVA partitions the total sum of squares based on the experimental design and calculates a distance based pseudo-*F* statistic for each term in the model. Distance-based linear modeling (DistLM) was implemented to relate physical/chemical predictor variables and the multivariate assemblage of biotic variables (Supplementary Table S1) (Legendre and Anderson, 1999; McArdle and Anderson, 2001; Anderson et al., 2008). The DistLM routine was based on the AIC model selection criterion (Akaike, 1973, Akaike, 1974, Burnham and Anderson, 2004) using a step-wise selection procedure. In case of equally AIC-ranked models (difference <1), a model with fewer parameters was preferred. Unconstrained ordination methods were used to visualize and determine effects of fCO_2 on biotic and physical/chemical variables in multivariate space, thereby maximizing the total overall variation (Anderson et al., 2008). A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed on normalized chemical data to identify chemical gradients and patterns between the differently fCO_2-treated mesocosms over time (Mardia et al., 1979; Venerables and Ripley, 2002). Distance based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) was used for visual interpretation of the DistLM in multi-dimensional space (Anderson et al., 2008). Multivariate analyses of physicochemical, metabolic and community data were performed on a reduced data set comprising 10 time points (t5-t29, every 3rd day, t31), containing all measured activity variables (BPP, areal PP and CR). Missing values of nutrient data or abundance data (based on every other day measurements) were estimated as means of the preceding and following measurement day. No activity data were interpolated or data extrapolated in general.

Cluster analyses were performed based on Spearman´s rank correlation coefficients calculated for each mesocosm between all possible combinations of LDNA, HDNA, pico- and nanophytoplankton abundances as well as total Chl *a*. Thereafter, *p*-values were corrected for multiple testing according Benjamini and Hochberg (1995). The R-package pvclust was used to assess the uncertainty in hierarchical cluster analysis (Suzuki and Shimodeira, 2015). For each cluster, AU (approximately unbiased) *p*-values (between 0 and 1) were calculated via multiscale bootstrap resampling (Suzuki and Shimodaira, 2015).

PERMANOVA, distLM and dbRDA were carried out using Primer 6.0 and PERMANOVA + for PRIMER software (Clarke and Gorley, 2006, Anderson et al., 2008). All other analysis, including PCA and the visualisation of result was performed with R 3.2.5 (R Core Team, 2016) using packages Hmisc (Harrell et al., 2016), vegan (Oksanen et al., 2016), pvclust (Suzuki and Shimodeira, 2015), gplots (Warnes et al., 2016) and ggplot2 (Wickham, 2009).

3 Results

3.1 Bacterial production (BPP) and biovolume (BV)

Heterotrophic bacterial BV was comprised predominantly of FL bacteria. PA bacteria contributed maximally $2 \pm 0.7 - 10 \pm 0.7$ % (mean 4.8 ± 0.6 %) of total bacterial BV. PA bacteria, however, accounted for a substantial fraction of overall BPP ($27 \pm 1 - 59 \pm 7$ %, mean 39 ± 4 %). There was no significant effect of fCO_2 on BPP, csBPP or BV of neither FL nor PA heterotrophic bacteria ($p_{perm} > 0.05$), however a significant temporal effect was observed ($p_{perm} < 0.05$). Both bacterial size-fractions had distinct dynamics in abundance, BPP and csBPP during the course of the experiment. BPP and bacterial abundances were closely related to Chl *a* and BV of nano- and picophytoplankton, trending along with Chl *a* until t10 and then continuing to increase with BVs of nanophotoautotrophs and Chl *a.* The period between t16 and t26, following a sharp decrease in Chl *a* at t16 revealed highest BPP rates across the experiment with lower rates at higher fCO_2 for PA as well as FL bacteria. CsBPP-rates were lower at elevated fCO_2 for only the FL bacteria during this period. Additionally, BVs of FL and PA bacterial revealed contrasting dynamics (Fig. 1, Fig. S1). PA bacterial BVs declined with the decay of Chl *a*, whereas FL BVs increased strongly associated with an increase in BV of picophotoautotrophs during this period. The ratio of

HDNA:LDNA prokaryotes, which both making up FL bacteria, showed also differences between the experimental treatments. Between t14-t25 the ratio of HDNA:LDNA was lower at higher fCO_2.

3.2 Phytoplankton dynamics

Chl *a* concentration exhibited distinct maxima at two time periods (t5 and t16). The second maximum was associated with an increase in the BV of nanophotoautotrophs (BV_{Nano}) (Fig. 2). This increase was reduced in mesocosms containing higher concentrations of fCO_2 between t13-t17. The differences in BV_{Nano} between the treatments were reflected in lower concentrations of Chl *a* in the 3 highest fCO_2-treated mesososms at t16. Chl *a* and BV_{Nano} concentrations declined after t16. In contrast, BV of picophotoautotrophs (BV_{Pico}) increased after t11, associated with an increase in BV of *Synechococcus* spp., which accounted for 31 ± 2 % to 59 ± 2 % of BV_{Pico} across the period of this study (Fig. S2). All four groups of picoautotrophs distinguished by flow cytometry, exhibited time-dependent positive or negative relationships with fCO_2 (Fig. 3, Fig. S2, Fig. S3). The Pico I (~1 µm) and Pico II taxa infrequently exhibited strong fertilization effects in response to the fCO_2-treatment. In contrast, *Synechococcus* spp. and Pico III were infrequently negatively affected by the fCO_2-treatment.

3.3 Relation between functional heterotrophic and autotrophic groups

A cluster analysis of pairwise Spearman correlations between functional bacterial and phytoplankton groups revealed a separation based on fCO_2-treatment. Specifically the four CO_2 amended mesocosms were readily distinguishable from the control treatments. Multiple bootstrap resampling (Suzuki and Shimodaira, 2015) supported this, but only significantly for the two highest fCO_2-treated mesocosms. The two highest fCO_2-treatments revealed a positive correlation of LDNA bacteria and Pico I, which could not be observed in any other experimental treatment. In all CO_2-treated mesocosm we observed positive correlations between *Synechococcus* spp. and Pico III as well as *Synechococcus* spp. and Pico I, which were not present in both control mesocosms. In contrast positive correlations between LDNA and HDNA were not detected in any fCO_2-treatement. Additionally positive correlations between Pico and Nano II as well as HDNA and Cyanobacteria were only present in both controls and the lowest fCO_2-treatment (Fig. 4).

After t10, the ratio between heterotrophic prokaryotic BV and Chl *a* varied between the fCO_2-treatments, but did not show a consistent pattern. After t17, however, the control mesocosms revealed a higher ratio compared to all fCO_2-treated mesocosms (Fig. 5).

3.4 Multivariate physicochemical characterisation

Integrated water temperature and PAR ranged between 8.0 - 15.9 °C and 11.2 - 66.8 mol m^{-2} day^{-1} during the experiment, respectively. Integrated water temperature reached the maximum at t15 and dropped again to 8.2 °C at t31.

PERMANOVA results (Table 1) on a multivariate assemblage of dissolved (DOC, TDN, Phosphate, Bsi) and particulate (TPC, PON, POP, PBsi) nutrients showed significant temporal (Time-$F_{9,10}$=11.1, p=0.0001) and spatial variations along the fCO_2-gradient (fCO_2-$F_{4,10}$=2.6, p=0.02). PCA ordination of the same chemical dataset strongly reflects the temporal pattern, separating the initial time points before t11 from other time points of the experiments along the first PCA axis (Fig. 6). Thereby, Eigenvectors of TPC and PON loaded highest on PCA axis 1 (Table 2). PCA axis two was mainly characterized by high eigenvectors of dissolved phosphate as well as dissolved and particulate silica. The first two PCA axes explained 69 % of variation and cumulatively 80% with including axis three (Table 2).

3.5 Multivariate characterisation of metabolic parameters

PERMANOVA on the resemblance matrix of normalized metabolic variables (BPP, areal PP, CR) revealed significant temporal (Time-$F_{9,10}$=6.7, p=0.0002) and spatial variations along the fCO$_2$-gradient (fCO$_2$-$F_{4,10}$=2.64, p<0.03) (Table 3). DistLM identified significant effects of Temperature (p<0.03), Phosphate (p<0.02), DOC (p<0.05) and PBsi (p<0.02) on the multivariate assemblage of metabolic variables (Table 4). The step-wise procedure selects PAR, temperature, DOC and phosphate as determining factors (AIC=59.6; R^2=0.26; number of variables=4). The dbRDA ordination separates the temporal development. Thereby, 92 % of the variability in the fitted model and 24 % of the total variation is explained by the first two dbRDA axes (Fig. 6).

3.6 Multivariate characterisation of the bacterioplankton and phytoplankton community

PERMANOVA on the resemblance matrix of a multivariate assemblage comprising variables of bacterial and phytoplankton communities (abundances of Pico I-III, Nano I-II, FL bacteria (HDNA, LDNA), PA bacteria, Cyanobacteria and Chl *a*) revealed significant temporal (Time-$F_{9,10}$=56.8, p=0.0001) and spatial variations along the fCO$_2$-gradient (fCO$_2$-$F_{4,10}$=14.9, p=0.0001) (Table 5). DistLM identified significant effects of fCO$_2$ (p<0.02), Temperature (p<0.001), Phosphate (p<0.003), TPC (p<0.001), PBsi (p<0.001) and POP (p<0.001) on the multivariate assemblage of bacterial and phytoplankton community (Table 6). The step-wise procedure selects fCO$_2$, temperature, TPC and phosphate as determining factors (AIC=67.2; R^2=0.44; number of variables=4). The dbRDA reveals a separation along the gradient of fCO$_2$ on the second dbRDA axis. The first dbRDA axis represents the overall temporal development. Thereby the first two dbRDA axis capture 74 % of the variability in the fitted model and 32 % of the total variation.

4 Discussion

Although OA and its ecological consequences have received growing recognition during the last decade (Riebesell and Gattuso, 2015), surprisingly little is known about the ecological effects on heterotrophic bacterial biomass, production or the coupling of bacterio- and

phytoplankton at nutrient limited conditions. Previous experiments were, for the most part, conducted during productive phases of the year (e.g. phytoplankton blooms), under eutrophic conditions (e.g. coastal areas) or with nutrient additions (Grossart et al., 2006a; Allgaier et al., 2008; Brussaard et al., 2013; Lindh et al., 2013; Bach et al, 2016). However, large parts of the oceans are nutrient-limited or experience extended nutrient-limited periods during the year (Moore et al., 2013). Thus, we conducted our experiment in July-August, when nutrients and phytoplankton production were relatively low in the northeastern Baltic Sea (Hoikkala et al., 2009; Lignell et al., 2008) and exposed a natural plankton community to different levels of CO_2.

4.1 Phytoplankton-bacterioplankton coupling at low nutrient conditions

Heterotrophic bacteria are important recyclers of autochtonous DOM in aquatic systems and play an important role in nutrient remineralisation in natural plankton assemblages (Kirchman 1994, Brett et al., 1999). BV and production of heterotrophic bacteria are highly dependent on quantity and quality of phytoplankton-derived organic carbon and usually are tightly related to phytoplankton development (Grossart et al., 2003; Grossart et al., 2006b; Rösel and Grossart, 2012; Attermeyer et al., 2014; Attermeyer et al., 2015). During this study, low nitrogen availability limited overall autotrophic production (Paul et al., 2015, Nausch et al., 2016). This resulted in a post spring bloom phytoplankton community, dominated by picophytoplankton (Paul et al., 2015). This is consistent with previous reports of picophytoplankton accounting for a large fraction of total phytoplankton biomass in oligotrophic, nutrient poor systems (e.g. Platt et al., 1983; Agawin et al., 2000). Chl *a* dynamics indicated two minor blooms of larger phytoplankton during the first half of the experiment, although picophytoplankton still accounted for mostly >50 % of the total Chl *a* during this period (Paul et al., 2015, Spilling et al., 2016b). The phytoplankton development was also reflected in the PCA ordination of dissolved and particulate nutrients, clearly separating the preceding period before t11, including the first peak of Chl *a*, from the other observations during the experiment on principal component 1 (Fig. 6). The separation was primarily driven by concentrations of particulate matter (Table 2), which decreased until t11 and subsequently sank out of the water column (Paul et al., 2015).

Bacterial BV and BPP paralleled phytoplankton development during this period. With the decay of the initial phytoplankton bloom, a second bloom event comprised primarily of

409 nanophytoplankton and picophytoplankton resulted (Crawfurd et al., 2016). A decrease in
410 nanophytoplankton BV and Chl *a* concentrations after t16/t17, benefitted both FL
411 heterotrophic bacteria and picophotoautotrophs. The increased availability of DOM, resulting
412 from cell lysis and remineralisation of POM was associated with increases in the BV of both
413 groups and bacterial production levels (Fig. 1, Fi. S1). We attributed these increases to the
414 cells of Picoplankton which, due to their high volume to surface ratio as well as a small
415 boundary layer surrounding these cells, are generally favoured compared to larger cells in
416 terms of resource acquisition at low nutrient conditions (Raven, 1998; Moore et al., 2013). If
417 cell size is the major factor determining the access to dissolved nitrogen and phosphorous,
418 bacteria should be able to compete equally or better with picophytoplankton at low
419 concentrations (Suttle et al., 1990; Drakare et al., 2003). However, when phytoplankton is
420 restricted in growth due to the lack of mineral nutrients, a strong comensalistic relationship
421 between phytoplanktonic DOM production and bacterioplanktonic DOM utilization may
422 evolve (Azam et al., 1983; Bratbak and Thingstad, 1985, Joint et al., 2002). Although
423 heterotrophic microbes may indirectly limit primary production by depriving phytoplankton
424 of nutrients, they would not be able to outcompete autotrophs completely since this would
425 remove their source of carbon and energy substrate (Bratbak and Thingstad, 1985, Joint et al.,
426 2002). Such a relationship might explain the paralleled increase in FL bacterial and
427 picophytoplankton BV.

428 PA bacteria are typically impacted to a lesser extent by nutrient limitation due to consistently
429 higher nutrient availability at particle surfaces (e.g. Grossart and Simon, 1993). This was
430 reflected in this study by the maintenance of high csBPP rates associated with PA
431 heterotrophic bacteria throughout the experiment. Overall, PA bacteria contributed only a
432 minor fraction (maximal 10 ± 0.7 %) to the overall bacterial BV, which is typical for
433 oligotrophic or mesotrophic ecosystems (Lapoussière et al., 2010). Nevertheless, the
434 substantial contribution of PA heterotrophic bacteria to overall BPP emphasizes their
435 importance, especially during such low productive periods (e.g. Simon et al., 2002; Grossart,
436 2010). PA heterotrophic bacteria are essential for the remineralization of nutrients from
437 autotrophic biomass, which would otherwise sink out from surface waters (Cho and Azam,
438 1988; Turley and Mackie, 1994). Leakage of hydrolysis products and the attachment and
439 detachment of bacteria to and from particles stimulate production amongst free-living bacteria
440 (Cho and Azam, 1988; Smith et al., 1992; Grossart et al., 2003) and picophytoplankton.

4.2 Effects of fCO_2/pH on phytoplankton-bacterioplankton coupling at low nutrient conditions

The response of heterotrophic bacteria to changes in fCO_2 have been previously shown to be related to phytoplankton rather than being a direct effect of pH or CO_2 (e.g. Allgaier et al., 2008, Grossart et al., 2006a). Here, neither BPP nor BV of neither FL nor PA bacteria suggested a direct effect of CO_2 (PERMANOVA). Differences in FL bacterial BV, BPP, and the ratio of HDNA/LDNA, occurred along the gradient of fCO_2, but were limited to short time periods. Furthermore, these changes were not consistent with fCO_2 resulting in both increases and decreases of a particular variable at specific times (Fig. 1). Periods where effects were apparent comprised periods with high organic matter turnover (e.g. breakdown of Chl *a* maximum). However, Paul et al. (2015) could not reveal any effect of fCO_2 on the export of carbon, neither across the study period nor at individual time points. Thus it is reasonable to speculate that these small fCO_2-related differences in bacterial variables were a consequence of other altered components of the aquatic food web, and thereby did not manifest as changes in carbon export.

Given the inability to relate individual aspects of microbial metabolism or community composition to fCO_2 concentrations, we sought to determine whether an impact was evident using a multivariate approach. Chemical, metabolic and community matrices were shown to exhibit large variations in relation to a strong temporal effect throughout the whole sampling period ($p<<0.01$, Table 1, Table 3, Table 5). In addition, an effect of the fCO_2-treatment was also evident in all three multivariate assemblages, albeit explaining far less of the observed variability in chemical and metabolic variables ($p<0.03$, Table 1, Table 3, Table 5). However, when relating physiochemical to metabolic variables (DistLM, Table 4), neither fCO_2 nor pH were suitable to explaining the observed variability. In contrast, fCO_2 contributed to explaining the variability amongst the bacterioplankton-phytoplankton community (DistLM, Table 6). Taken together, this suggests that effects of fCO_2-treatments manifest indirectly, through either altering physiochemical parameters or more likely the composition of the microbial community, as an impact on microbial metabolism.

4.3 fCO_2/pH effects on phytoplankton alter indirectly phytoplankton-bacterioplankton coupling at low nutrient conditions

Autotrophic organisms can be fertilized by an enhanced CO_2 availability, altering growth conditions of phytoplankton and increasing the production of particulate (POM) and dissolved organic matter (DOM) (Hein and Sand-Jensen, 1997; Egge, et al., 2009; Riebesell et al., 2007; Losh et al., 2012). As a consequence of this increased photosynthetic fixation rate, both quantity and quality of dissolved organic matter (DOM) available for heterotrophic bacteria are impacted, with potential implications for the nature of coupling between phytoplankton and bacterioplankton at low nutrient conditions (Azam et al., 1983; Bratbak and Thingstad, 1985). So far, CO_2 enrichment experiments examining natural plankton assemblages (e.g. Engel, et al., 2005; Hopkinson et al., 2010; Riebesell et al., 2007; Bach et al., 2016) did not reveal a consistent pattern of species response or primary production to elevated CO_2. Spilling et al. (2016a) could not detect any effect of increased CO_2 on total primary production, even though Crawfurd et al. (2016) reported effects of CO_2 on several groups of picophytoplankton. During our study, although one larger picoeukaryote (Pico III) was negatively impacted by fCO_2, two small picoeukaryotes (Pico I, Pico II) benefitted from the CO_2 addition, yielding significantly higher growth rates and BVs at higher fCO_2 (Crawfurd et al., 2016). This is consistent with recent evidence suggesting a positive impact of enhanced fCO_2 on the abundance of small picoeukaryotic phytoplankton (Brussaard et al., 2013; Newbold et al., 2012; Endo et al., 2013; Sala et al., 2015, Bach et al., 2016). Both picoeukaryotic groups were identified as variables explaining the separation along the gradient of fCO_2 on the second and third dbRDA-axis in the DistLM ordination of the bacteria-phytoplankton community. Specifically, Pico I was highly negatively correlated (r_s=-0.67) to dbRDA axis two. However, dbRDA indicated also opposing effects of fCO_2 on Pico II (r_s=0.54) and HDNA prokaryotes (r_s=-0.31), being positively or negatively correlated with axis three. Indeed, sharp increases in $BV_{Pico\ II}$ at high fCO_2 between t14-17 were associated with decreases in BV_{HDNA}.

Although we are not able to draw conclusions on the interaction of these two particular groups of organisms, a cluster analysis of pairwise Spearman correlations between functional groups of bacteria and phytoplankton revealed a distinct clustering with mesocosms based on fCO_2 concentration (Fig. 4). We also detected a change in the ratio of heterotrophic bacterial BV to Chl *a* between the different fCO_2-treatments, though this change was not visible for the entire

study duration and not consistent with fCO_2. These results strongly suggest that trophic interactions between functional groups of bacteria and phytoplankton might be changing in a future acidified ocean.

In nutrient poor systems, variable growth rates of phytoplankton, DOM quality and quantity, but also losses of phyto- and bacterioplankton due to grazing or viral lyses may potentially contribute to this observed decoupling of phytoplankton and bacterioplankton at high fCO_2 (Azam et al., 1983; Bratbak and Thingstad, 1985; Caron et al., 1988; Sheik et al., 2014). The viral shunt or bacterivory may release phytoplankton from competition with bacteria for limiting nutrients (e.g. Bratbak and Thingstad, 1985; Caron and Goldman, 1990). How increased fCO_2 will affect these processes (e.g. viral lysis and bacterial grazing) under nutrient limited conditions remains so far uncertain. Bacterial grazing by mixotrophs, which would also directly benefit from increased CO_2 availability (Rose et al., 2009), may provide a mechanism for recycling of inorganic nutrients, otherwise bound in bacterial biomass, as a means for supporting phytoplankton growth (Sanders, 1991; Hartmann et al., 2012; Calbet et al., 2012; Mitra et al. 2014). However, other studies examining bacterial grazing under different nutrient conditions reported conflicting positive and negative results of increased fCO_2 (e.g. Brussaard et al., 2013; Rose et al., 2009; Suffrian et al., 2008). Although we are unable to draw defined conclusions on how this myriad of complex biological processes are impacted by fCO_2, it is likely that an impact of these processes is likely and may thus account for a portion of the unexplained variance we observed in our mulitvariate analyses.

5 Conclusion

The use of large-volume mesocosms allowed us to test for multiple fCO_2-related effects on dynamics of heterotrophic bacterial activity and their biovolume in a near-realistic ecosystem by including trophic interactions from microorganisms up to zooplankton. Complex interactions between various trophic levels, which can only be properly addressed at the scale of whole ecosystems, are important for understanding and predicting fCO_2-induced effects on aquatic food webs and biogeochemistry in a future, acidified ocean. We examined these impacts in a nutrient-depleted system, which is representative for large parts of the oceans (Moore et al., 2013). Heterotrophic bacterial productivity was, for the most part, tightly coupled to the availability of phytoplankton-derived organic matter. When accounting for

temporal development and taking into account trophic interactions using multivariate statistics, changes in nutrient composition, metabolic parameters and bacteria-phytoplankton communities revealed a significant effect of the fCO_2-treatment. Although not consistent throughout the experiment, differences in the ratio of heterotrophic bacterial BV to Chl *a* during the last half of the experiment suggest that a future ocean will become more autotrophic during low productive periods as a result of altered trophic interactions between functional groups of bacteria and phytoplankton. There is additional support for this conclusion from examining the atmospheric exchange of CO_2 (Spilling et al., 2016b). During the limited time-scale of this study, the observed effects of fCO_2 did not manifest as altered carbon export (Paul et al., 2015). However, over several years, maintained changes in nutrient cycling, as a consequence of a permanent decoupling between bacteria and phytoplankton, may arise and impact the nature of the carbon pump.

6 Data availability

The primary production and respiration data can be found in Spilling et al. (2016b; doi: 10.1594/PANGAEA.863933). Other variables from the experiment (e.g. total particulate and dissolved nutrients) can be found in Paul et al. (2016; doi:10.1594/PANGAEA.863032).

Data of Bacterial Protein Production and bacterial abundances will be available with final publication. A PANGEA data repository will be created.

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Table 1: Results of two-factor permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA)[(*)] on a resemblance matrix (Euclidian distance) of normalized chemical varables (Phosphate, DOC, TDN, DSi, TPC, PON, POP, PBsi). Time (Ti); fCO_2-treatment (fCO_2); Residuals (Res).

Source of variation	***df***	**SS**	**MS**	**Pseudo-*F***	***p (perm)***	**Unique perms**
Time	9	309.93	34.436	11.118	**0.0001**	9920
fCO_2 [(**)]	4	31.974	7.9936	2.5808	**0.0246**	9936
Time x fCO_2	36	80.177	2.2271	0.71906	0.8794	9904
Res	10	30.973	3.0973			
Total	59	472				

[(*)] Permutation was performed with unrestricted permutation of raw data.

[(**)] Pair-wise test could only be performed for control-mesocosms (n=2) with each fCO_2-treatment (n=1), due to missing replication for each fCO_2-treatment. Pair-wise comparison was only significant between control and the highest fCO_2-treatment (p_{perm}=0.029).

Table 2: Eigenvectors and -values of the first four axes of a PCA on normalized variables of dissolved and particulate nutrients. Ordination of the PCA is visualized in Fig. 6.

Variable	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4
DOC	-0.4	-0.23	0.04	0.68
TDN	0.39	0.21	0.21	0.47
Phosphate	-0.1	0.48	-0.74	0.35
DSi	0.3	0.52	-0.03	-0.24
TPC	0.48	-0.06	0.03	0.13
PON	0.46	-0.05	-0.05	0.16
POP	0.36	-0.39	-0.04	0.21
PBsi	0.17	-0.51	-0.63	-0.22
% variation	49.2	19.7	11.4	7.2
cum. % variation	49.2	68.9	80.4	87.6

Table 3: Results of two-factor permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA)(*) on a resemblance matrix (Euclidian distance) based on normalized metabolic variables (bacterial protein production (BPP), areal primary production (PP) and community respiration (CR)). Time (Ti); fCO_2-treatment (fCO_2); Residuals (Res).

Source of variation	***df***	**SS**	**MS**	**Pseudo-*F***	***p (perm)***	**Unique perms**
Time	9	92.128	10.236	6.73	**0.001**	9931
fCO_2 (**)	4	16.044	4.011	2.637	**0.023**	9944
Time x fCO_2	36	42.721	1.1867	0.78018	0.792	9904
Res	10	15.21	1.521			
Total	59	182.46				

(*) Permutation was performed with unrestricted permutation of raw data.

(**) Pair-wise test could only be performed for control-mesocosms (n=2) with each fCO_2-treatment (n=1), due to missing replication for each fCO_2-treatment. Pair-wise comparisons were significant between control and all fCO_2-treatments (p_{perm}<0.04).

Table 4: Summary of a DistLM procedure for modelling the relationship between physicochemical variables and a resemblance matrix based on a multivariate assemblage comprising normalized data of bacterial protein production (BPP), areal primary production (PP) and community respiration (CR). Non-redundant physicochemical variables were removed prior analysis. Therefore PON and pH were excluded from the subsequent analysis due to high correlations (r_s>0.9) to TPC and fCO_2, respectively.

Variable	SS (trace)	Pseudo-*F*	*p*	Prop.
***f*CO$_2$**	5.0551	1.6527	0.1759	0.03
Temp$^{(*)}$	10.209	3.4376	**0.0229**	0.055
PAR$^{(*)}$	6.2466	2.056	0.1067	0.034
DOC$^{(*)}$	8.6228	2.8769	**0.0474**	0.047
TDN	4.7628	1.5545	0.1984	0.026
Phosphate$^{(*)}$	12.319	4.1994	**0.0111**	0.068
DSi	0.26167	0.083	0.9648	0.001
TPC	7.7827	2.5842	0.0613	0.004
POP	5.0171	1.6399	0.1818	0.027
PBsi	11.688	3.9696	**0.0111**	0.064

$^{(*)}$ variables selected in step-wise procedure based on AIC.

Table 5: Results of two-factor permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA)[*] on a resemblance matrix (Bray Curtis similarity) based on log(X+1) transformed abundances of Pico I-III, Nano I-II, FL bacteria (HDNA, LDNA), PA bacteria, Cyanobacteria and Chl *a*. Time (Ti); fCO_2-treatment (fCO_2); Residuals (Res).

Source of variation	*df*	SS	MS	Pseudo-*F*	*p (perm)*	Unique perms
Time	9	201.83	22.426	56.754	**0.0001**	9923
fCO_2 [**]	4	23.631	5.9077	14.951	**0.0001**	9940
Time x fCO_2	36	19.859	0.55164	1.396	0.151	9915
Res	10	3.9515	0.39515			
Total	59	271.01				

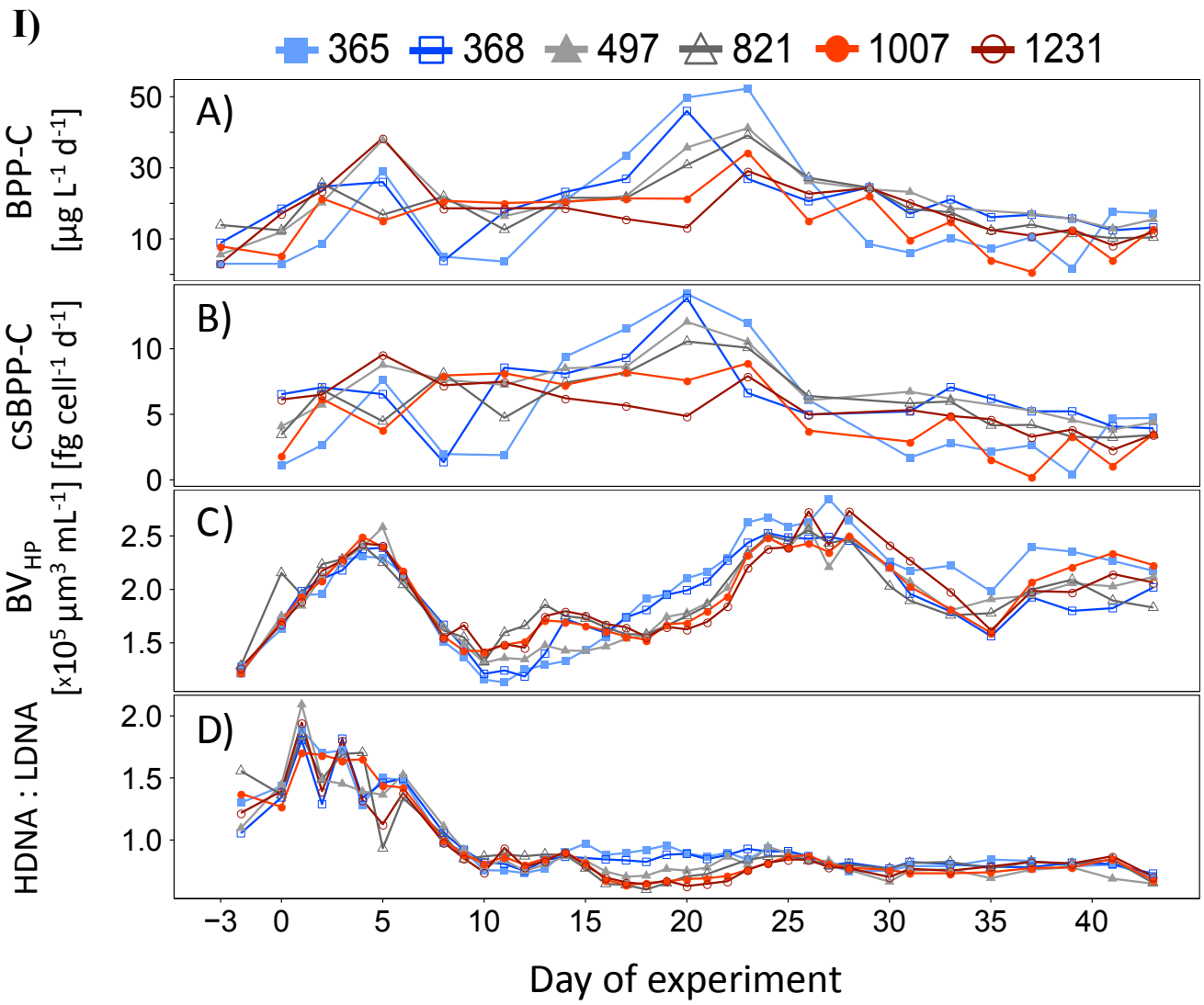
[*] Permutation was performed with unrestricted permutation of raw data.

[**] Pair-wise test could only be performed for control-mesocosms (n=2) with each fCO_2-treatment (n=1), due to missing replication for each fCO_2-treatment. Pair-wise comparisons were significant between control and all fCO_2-treatments ($p_{perm}<0.01$).

Table 6: Summary of a DistLM procedure for modelling the relationship between physicochemical variables and a multivariate assemblage comprising variables of the bacterial and phytoplankton community. The resemblance matrix (Bray Curtis similarity) was based on log(X+1) transformed abundances of Pico I-III, Nano I-II, FL bacteria (HDNA, LDNA), PA bacteria, *Synechococcus* spp. and Chl *a*. Non-redundant physicochemical variables were removed prior analysis. Therefore PON and pH were excluded from the subsequent analysis due to high correlations (r_s>0.9) to TPC and fCO_2, respectively.

Variable	SS (trace)	Pseudo-*F*	*p*	Prop.
fCO_2 $^{(*)}$	20.469	4.7386	**0.0119**	0.075
Temp$^{(*)}$	51.838	13.718	**0.0001**	0.191
PAR	10.791	2.4051	0.0813	0.039
DOC	11.14	2.4864	**0.0769**	0.041
TDN	9.4456	2.0945	0.1078	0.034
Phosphate$^{(*)}$	25.649	6.063	**0.0029**	0.095
DSi	9.5766	2.1246	0.103	0.035
TPC$^{(*)}$	36.038	8.8955	**0.0002**	0.133
POP	52.171	13.827	**0.0001**	0.193
PBsi	36.439	9.01	**0.0005**	0.134

$^{(*)}$ variables selected in step-wise procedure based on AIC.


I)
365
368
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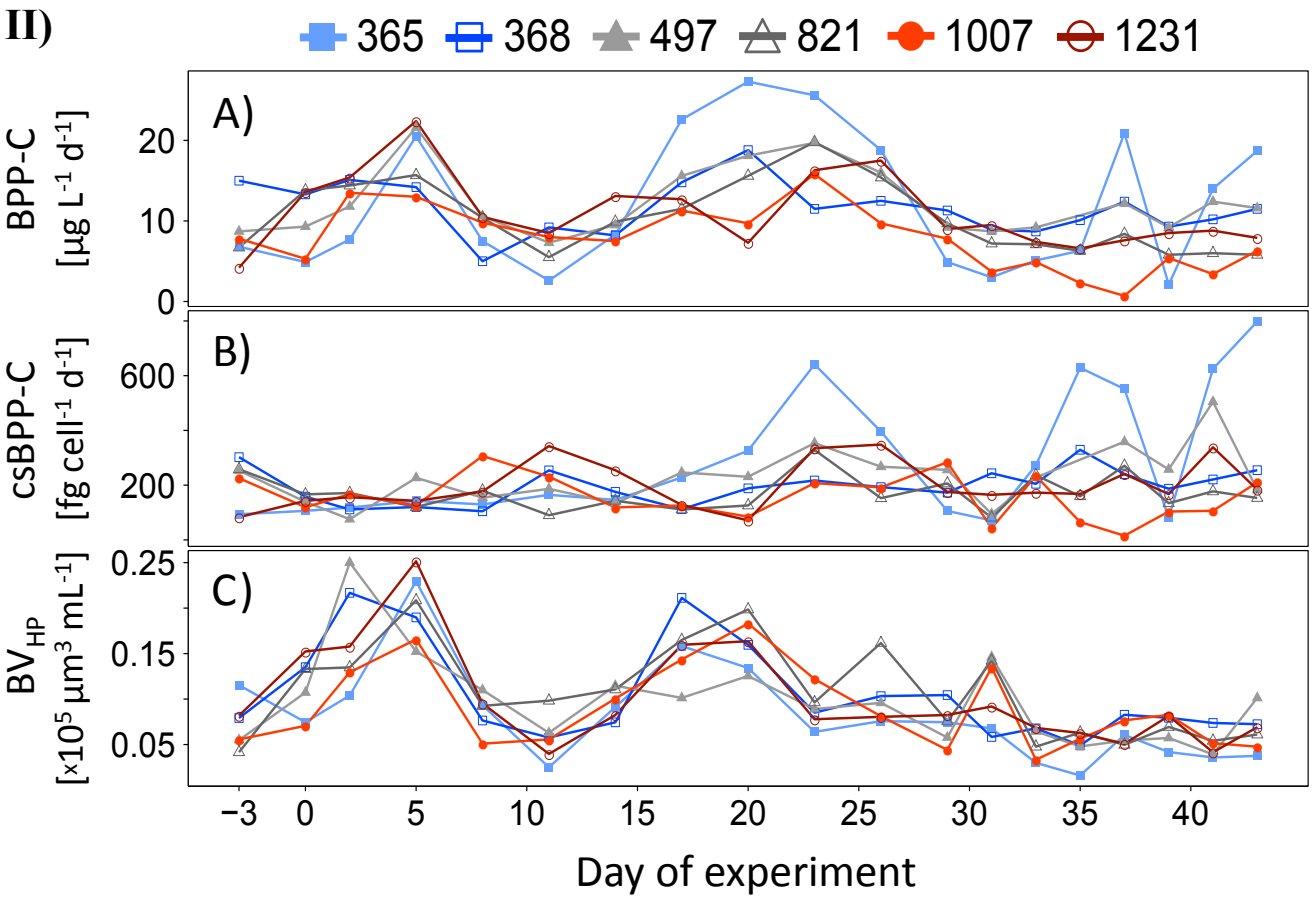
821
1007
1231
A)
B)
C)
D)
BPP-C [µg L-1 d-1]
csBPP-C [fg cell-1 d-1]
BVHP [×10^5 µm^3 mL-1]
HDNA : LDNA
Day of experiment


II)
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A)
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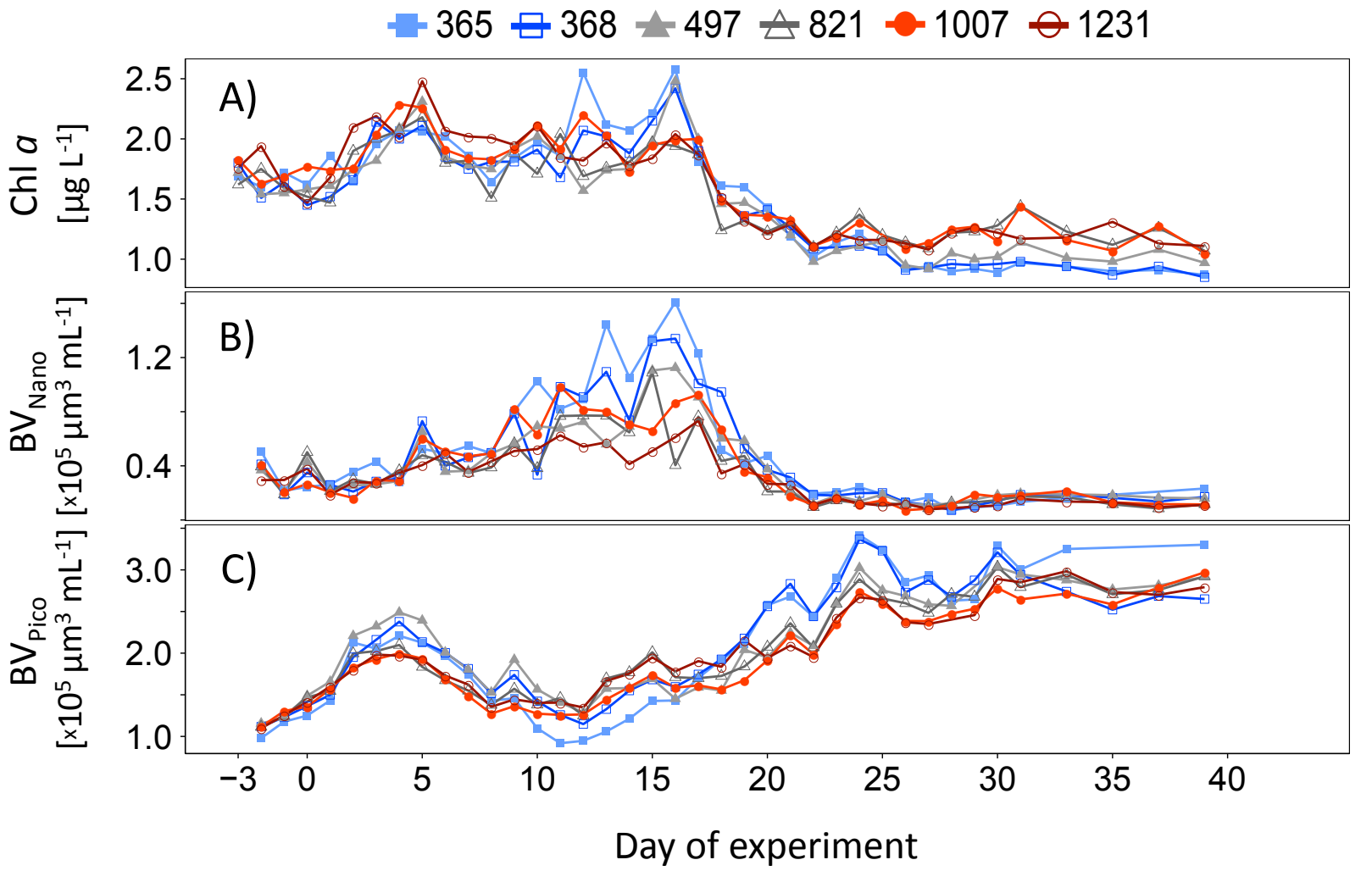
C)
BPP-C [µg L-1 d-1]
csBPP-C [fg cell-1 d-1]
BVHP [×10^5 µm^3 mL-1]
Day of experiment

Figure 1. A) Bacterial Protein Production (BPP-C) [$\mu g\ L^{-1}\ d^{-1}$], B) cell-specific Bacterial Protein Production (csBPP-C) [$fg\ cell^{-1}\ d^{-1}$] and C) biovolume of heterotrophic prokaryotes (BV_{HP}) [$x10^5\ \mu m^3\ ml^{-1}$] of size fractions I) 0.2-5.0 µm (free-living bacteria) and II) >5.0 µm (particle-associated bacteria) during the course of the experiment. I-D) Ratio of high versus low nucleic acid stained prokaryotic heterotrophs (HDNA:LDNA), which both made up free-living BV_{HP}, revealed from flow cytometry. Colours and symbols indicate average fCO_2 [µatm] between t1-t43.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A)
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Chl a [µg L-1]
BVNano [x105 µm3 mL-1]
BVPico [x105 µm3 mL-1]
2.5
2.0
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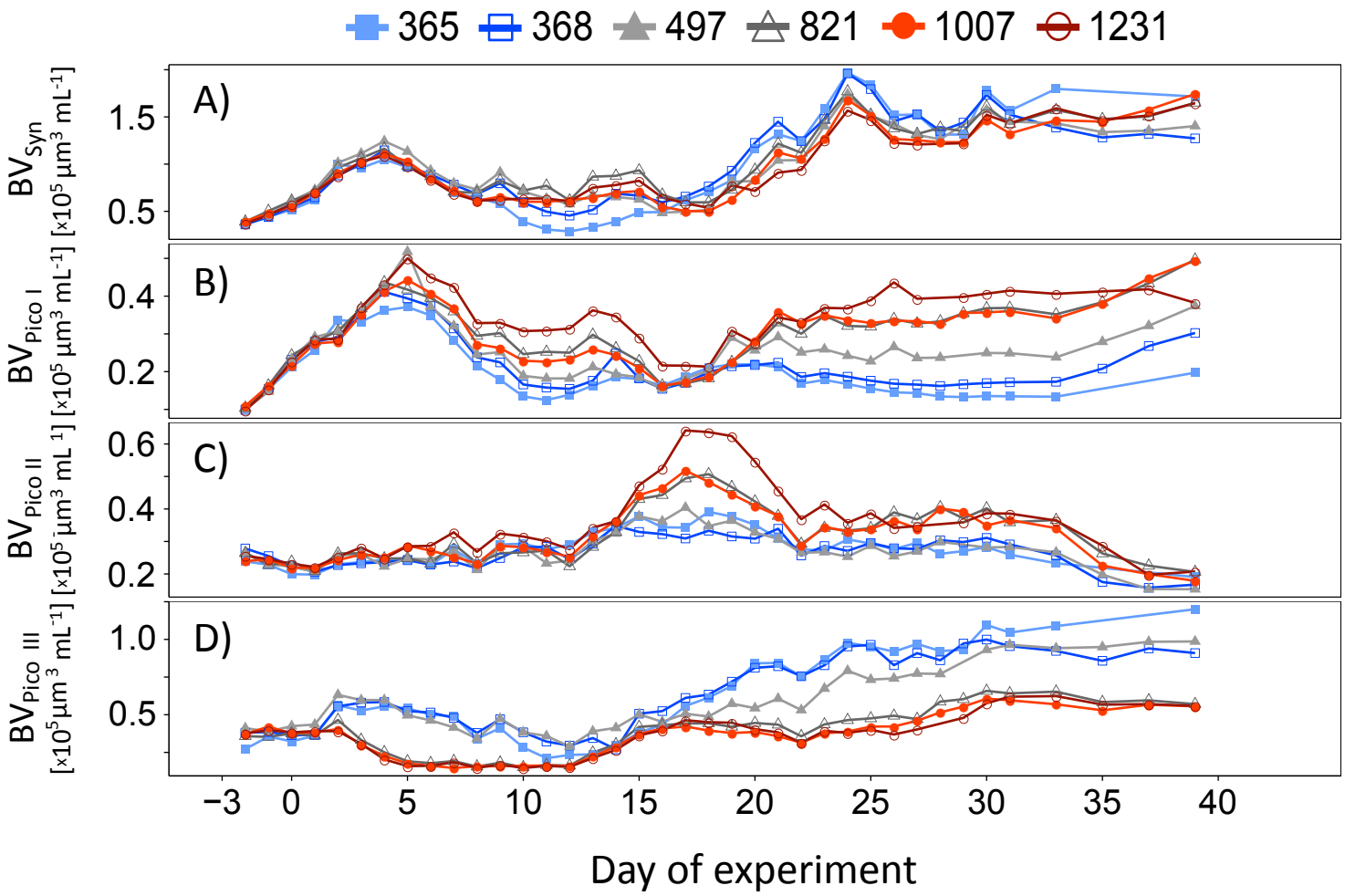
Day of experiment

Figure 2. A) Concentration of chlorophyll *a* [µg L^{-1}], B) biovolume of nanophytoplankton (Nano I and Nano II) [x10^5 µm^3 ml^{-1}] and C) biovolume of picophytoplankton (*Synechococcus* spp., Pico I-III) [x10^5 µm^3 ml^{-1}] during the course of the experiment. Colours and symbols indicate average fCO_2 [µatm] between t1-t43.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A)
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BV Syn [x10^5 µm^3 mL^-1]
BV Pico I [x10^5 µm^3 mL^-1]
BV Pico II [x10^5 µm^3 mL^-1]
BV Pico III [x10^5 µm^3 mL^-1]
1.5
0.5
0.4
0.2
0.6
0.4
0.2
1.0
0.5
−3
0
5
10
15
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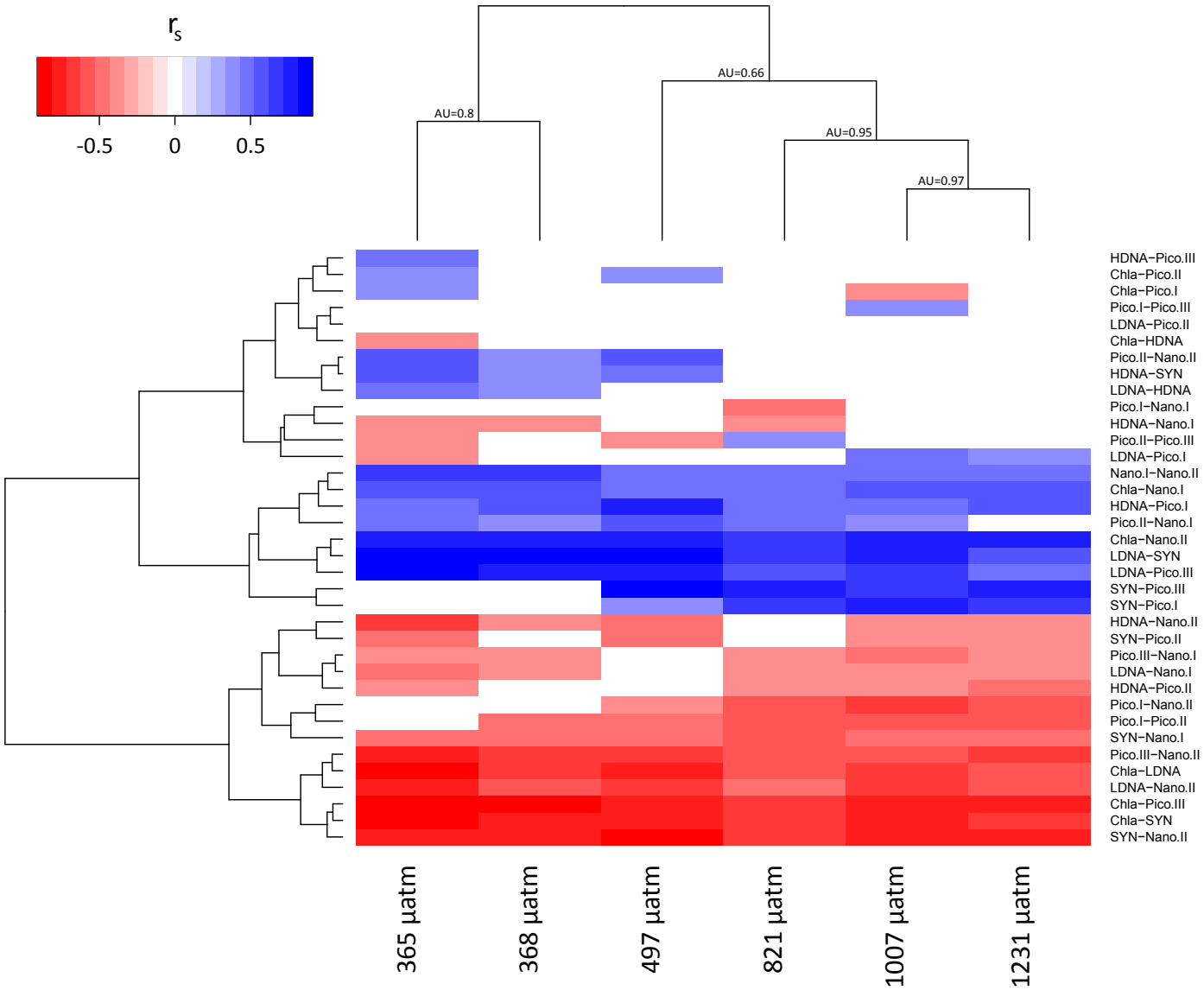
25
30
35
40
Day of experiment

Figure 3. A) Biovolume of *Synechococcus* spp. [$x10^5\ \mu m^3\ ml^{-1}$] and B-D) biovolume of picoeukaryote groups I-III (Pico I-III) [$x10^5\ \mu m^3\ ml^{-1}$] during the course of the experiment. Colours and symbols indicate average fCO_2 [µatm] between t1-t43.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0
0.5
AU=0.8
AU=0.66
AU=0.95
AU=0.97
HDNA−Pico.III
Chla−Pico.II
Chla−Pico.I
Pico.I−Pico.III
LDNA−Pico.II
Chla−HDNA
Pico.II−Nano.II
HDNA−SYN
LDNA−HDNA
Pico.I−Nano.I
HDNA−Nano.I
Pico.II−Pico.III
LDNA−Pico.I
Nano.I−Nano.II
Chla−Nano.I
HDNA−Pico.I
Pico.II−Nano.I
Chla−Nano.II
LDNA−SYN
LDNA−Pico.III
SYN−Pico.III
SYN−Pico.I
HDNA−Nano.II
SYN−Pico.II
Pico.III−Nano.I
LDNA−Nano.I
HDNA−Pico.II
Pico.I−Nano.II
Pico.I−Pico.II
SYN−Nano.I
Pico.III−Nano.II
Chla−LDNA
LDNA−Nano.II
Chla−Pico.III
Chla−SYN
SYN−Nano.II
365 µatm
368 µatm
497 µatm
821 µatm
1007 µatm
1231 µatm

Figure 4. Heatmap and cluster analysis based on significant Spearman`s rank correlation coefficients calculated for each mesocosm between all possible combinations of abundances between different functional heterotrophic prokaryotic and phytoplanktonic groups (high and low nucleic acid stained prokaryotic heterotrophs (HDNA; LDNA), *Synechococcus* spp. (SYN), picoeukaryotes I-III (Pico I-III), nanophytoplankton I-II (Nano I-II)) and Chl *a* based on daily measurements between t1 and t39. Colours indicate the Spearman`r rank coefficient (r_s) between two variables. *P*-values of correlations were corrected for multiple testing according Benjamini and Hochberg (1995). Uncertainty in hierarchical clustering was assessed with multiscale bootstrap resampling using approximately unbiased (AU) *p*-values (between 0 and 1) (Suzuki and Shimodeira, 2015). Clusters of the three highest fCO_2-treatments are significantly different at the 0.05 level. Numbers indicate the fCO_2-treatment with average fCO_2 [µatm] between t1-t43.

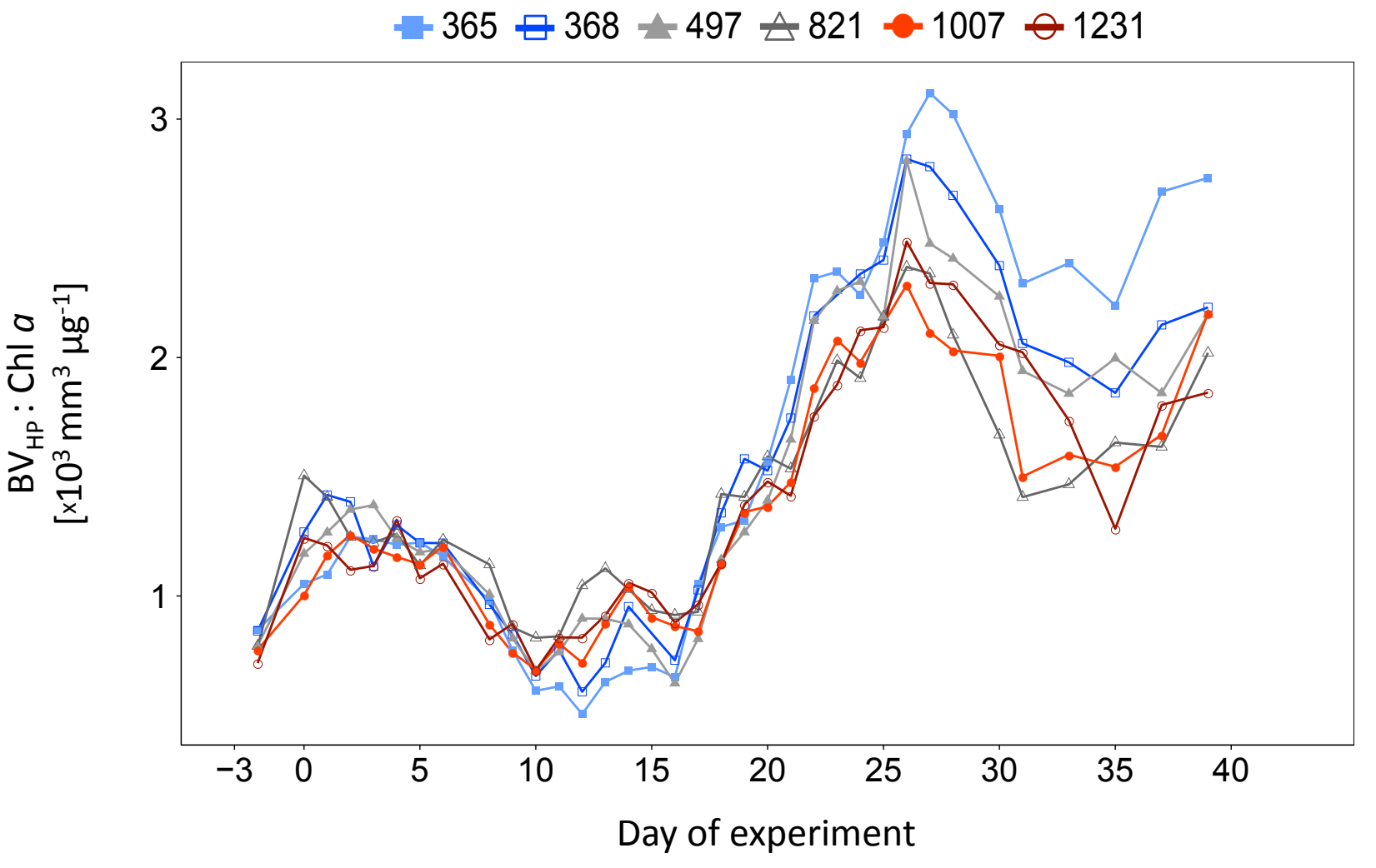
365
368
497
821
1007
1231
3
2
1
BV$_{HP}$: Chl *a*
[x10^3 mm^3 µg^{-1}]
−3
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
Day of experiment

Figure 5. Standardisation of heterotrophic prokaryotic biovolume to total Chl *a* (BV_{HP} : Chl *a*) during the course of the experiment. PA BV_{HP} was interpolated using splines with software R (R Core Team, 2016) for time-points, where no data were available. Colours and symbols indicate average fCO_2 [µatm] between t1-t43.

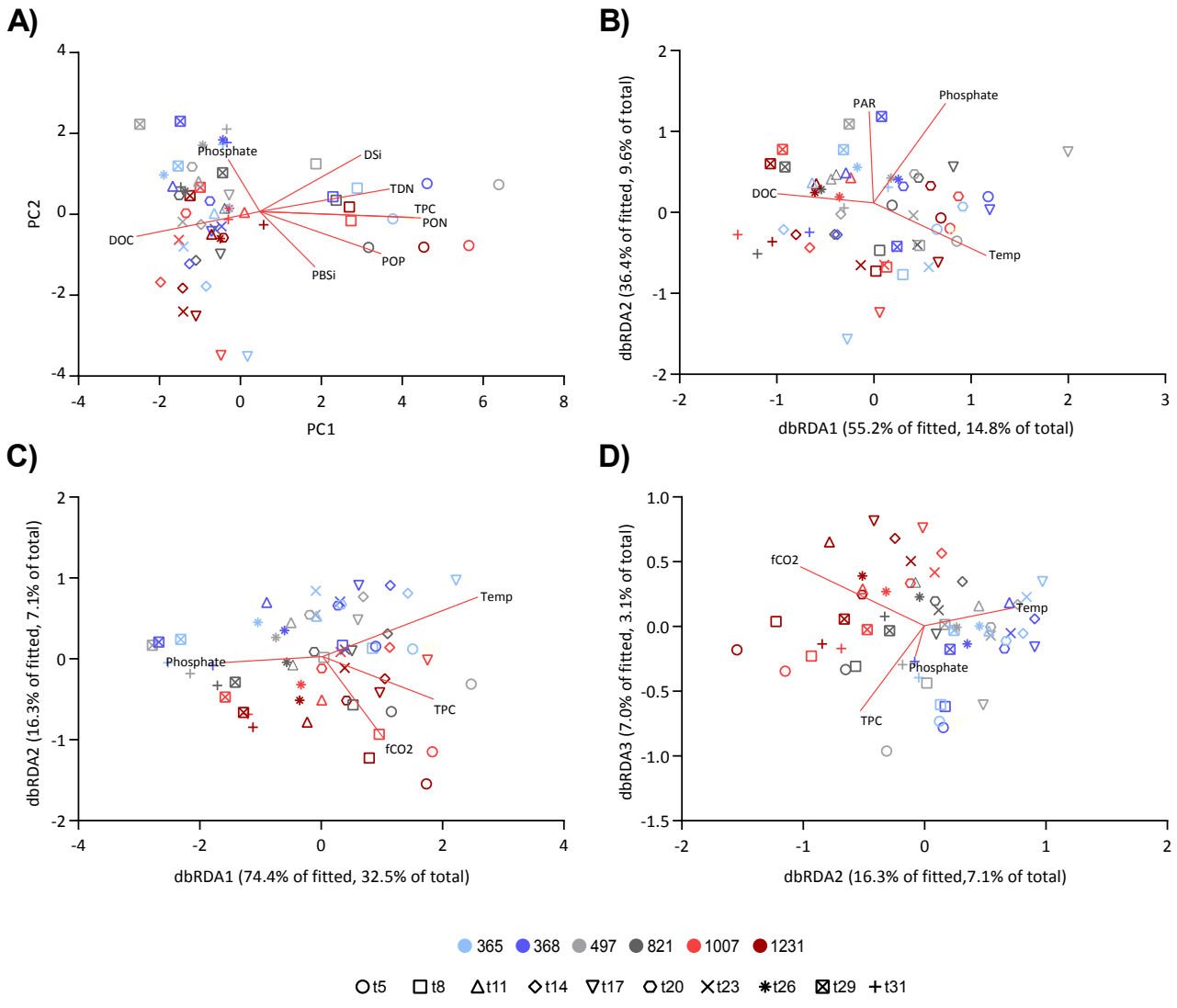
A)
PC2
PC1
Phosphate
DSi
TDN
TPC
PON
POP
PBSi
DOC
B)
dbRDA2 (36.4% of fitted, 9.6% of total)
dbRDA1 (55.2% of fitted, 14.8% of total)
PAR
Phosphate
DOC
Temp
C)
dbRDA2 (16.3% of fitted, 7.1% of total)
dbRDA1 (74.4% of fitted, 32.5% of total)
Temp
Phosphate
TPC
fCO2
D)
dbRDA3 (7.0% of fitted, 3.1% of total)
dbRDA2 (16.3% of fitted,7.1% of total)
fCO2
Temp
Phosphate
TPC
365 368 497 821 1007 1231
t5 t8 t11 t14 t17 t20 t23 t26 t29 t31

Figure 6. A) First and second axis of a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) calculated on normalized variables of dissolved and particulate nutrients (n=60). The set of variables and the eigenvectors and –values of the first four axes can be derived from Table 2. B) Ordination of a distance-based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) for visual interpretation of distance-based linear modelling (DistLM) between physical/chemical predictor variables and metabolic variable as well as C-D) abundances of functional bacterial and phytoplankton groups. A Table comprising the set of variables used for DistLM can be derived from the Supplementary (Table S1).