

Responses to reviewers' comments

Anonymous Referee #2

The present paper adds to the growing body of literature that explores the effects on changing environmental drivers on marine phytoplankton.

I appreciate the effort that was taken in the experimental design, particularly the prolonged acclimation phases for each treatment and the gradient design to retrieve functional response curves to each driver. Obviously, the experimental design was flawless and all analysis have been conducted appropriately. Generally, I also appreciate the usefulness of culture experiments, despite their limitations, as I think a lot can be learned about physiological mechanisms that are relevant for the “bigger picture”.

However, regarding the present paper, I am not quite sure what the main conclusions and the “new lessons learned” actually are, and what the paper should be highly cited for. Certainly, the study provides some nice physiological information on two species, which might certainly be of some use e.g. to compare to other culture experiments.

The main message seems to be that the diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* might be favored under global warming relative to *Phaeocystis antarctica*, due to its higher optimum temperature and thermal tolerance. However, the fact that different species and/or functional groups have different thermal response curves is not new. It is quite obvious that this might lead to some degree of reorganization of community structure or spatial shifts of species distributions. However, I don't see such new insights from the present study. I would have loved to read about possible physiological mechanisms behind the observed responses, for instance, the interactive effects of temperature and CO₂ on *P. subcurvata*. There are several recent studies that discussed responses to multiple stressors in much more detail (e.g. Brennan & Collins 2015).

Response to Anonymous Referee #2

Thanks for the comments. We agree that the effects of temperature and CO₂ have been examined on certain phytoplankton. Our research aimed to add to this body of literature by testing how interactions between these two global change factors may affect the composition of two dominant phytoplankton groups in the Ross Sea, Antarctica, with the intention of shedding light on potential climate change-driven changes in this pristine polar food web and the biogeochemical cycles of C, N, P and Si in the Ross Sea. Thus, while we agree that determining mechanistic physiological drivers for these observed responses is something that should be done,

for this Biogeosciences paper our emphasis is on documenting net effects on ecology biogeochemistry.

We do appreciate the suggestion to consider the possible mechanisms of interactive effects of these two variables on our two model species. New discussion and references on general interactive effects of temperature and CO₂ on the enzyme efficiencies, protein translation, and growth of phytoplankton have been added on lines 438-446.

Furthermore, the authors state that CO₂ effects on elemental composition were negligible, and mention several other studies that observed differential effects. However, no possible explanations for these contrasting results, e.g. based on physiology or differences in experimental setup, is provided.

We cite literature and discuss this subject on lines 447 – 477. As the reviewer noted, there have been contrasting results observed in various studies of CO₂ effects on phytoplankton elemental composition. We added some explanation on lines 459– 477 that the effects of CO₂ on elemental ratios might be related to changes in biochemical composition, or to species-specific and experimental design effects.

One critical aspect that I'm missing in particular is the role of nutrient status. Responses to temperature and CO₂ have been tested in semi-continuous cultures with permanent nutrient replete conditions in this study. The authors state that CO₂ effects were negligible, which is indeed in agreement with earlier studies that were conducted under nutrient-saturated conditions. However, a number of recent studies have demonstrated, that physiological responses to CO₂, as well as temperature, tend to be much stronger under nutrient-limited conditions (e.g. *Sala et al., 2015*) or in the transition from exponential to stationary growth (e.g. *Taucher et al., 2015*). This is particularly true for elemental ratios, which are also prominently discussed in the present paper.

Therefore, I wonder how relevant and representative the results of the present study might be? What do the authors think, how might the response have looked like under more realistic nutrient conditions, e.g. a transition to nutrient depletion? Furthermore, how relevant is *P. subcurvata* in the study region at all (in terms of biomass)? And what about other important diatom species in the study region? Without discussing such aspects, I find it hard to justify larger- scale

extrapolations to phytoplankton community structure or even biogeochemical cycles, as done by the authors.

We intentionally did the experiment with replete nutrients, because the Ross Sea is typically an HNLC area, with plenty of macronutrients throughout much of the growing season. This HNLC situation occurs throughout all of the spring and most of the summer in McMurdo Sound where these cultures were isolated, however by late fall nutrients have usually been depleted to fairly low levels. The culture medium was based on real Ross Sea water with additional nutrients added, so we think that our experiments are relevant relative to the dominant nutrient-replete condition. Our experiments should thus be representative of most of the growing season in this area, and we have added a new paragraph and a reference to support this on lines 363-366. We agree experiments with nutrient-limited phytoplankton would also be interesting from a physiological point of view, but they may arguably be less ecologically relevant for most of the season in this particular regime. We added text to say this, as well as the Sala et al and Taucher et al references on lines 366-371.

*Although we don't have an estimate of the exact relative abundance of *P. subcurvata* in Ross Sea phytoplankton communities, it is one of the commonly encountered species there. For instance, it was found to be dominant in Ross Sea incubations published by Tortell et al. (2008), and in our own experimental warming incubations conducted in the Ross Sea (currently being prepared for publication).*

In fact, the tendency to extrapolate the findings from the culture experiments to large-scale biogeochemical cycling (e.g. export flux) seems rather far-fetched. What about possible food-web effects resulting from a transition from *Phaeocystis* to diatoms? Particularly with regard to predictions on future export, it seems odd that the discussion goes straight from physiological responses (under artificial constant exponential growth conditions) to predictions on future export, without mentioning possible shifts in food web structure. For instance, how might the grazer community respond to a shift from *Phaeocystis* to diatoms? And how might this in turn influence export patterns?

*If our warming experiments prove to be predictive, we think there may indeed be large biogeochemical changes as diatoms like this one replace the less warm-adapted *Phaeocystis*. As we note in the text, the influences of these two phytoplankton groups on biogeochemical cycling of carbon and nutrients are quite different. However, we do agree with the reviewer that we should have done a better job of considering food web effects as well. New discussion about this point has been added on lines 398-401.*

Besides, I generally agree with the other reviewers that the writing style of the paper is rather tiresome. The results section reads very generic and large parts of the discussion are somewhat repetitive as they just state the same as already said in the results. I think a more focused and in-depth discussion combined with a more appealing writing style would make the paper a lot better.

Thanks for the comments, we have tried to edit the manuscript to make it easier to read, and have added next text on points of interest raised by the reviewers (see below).

Responses to the specific comments:

- The 8°C treatment is a rather unrealistic scenario. Of course, it is desirable to observe an effect in such experiments, but I wonder about the environmental relevance of this treatment, as such temperature cannot be expected for the near future.

*Just as the reviewer commented, we aimed to observe an effect in this experiment, and we agree that the temperature of the Ross Sea won't increase to 8°C any time soon. However, the large temperature increase may provide information about the responses of these two groups of phytoplankton to warming that cannot be easily detected over smaller scales of temperature increase. The use of this high temperature also led us to an interesting observation, which is one of our major points in the Discussion: the fact that the growth rates of *P. subcurvata* increased as temperature increased up until 8°C means that this species is currently growing well below its optimum temperature. In contrast, growth rates of *P. antarctica* decreased quickly above 8°C, and are instead closer to optimal at current (and near-future) Ross Sea temperatures. The diatom thus seems to be 'pre-adapted' to outcompete the prymnesiophyte in a warmer Ross Sea. We re-emphasized this with new text on p. 336-343.*

- Q10 values for growth of 2.11 and 3.17 seem rather high. Usually, values of 1-2 have been reported for autotrophic processes. It might be worthwhile to embed the presented findings with earlier studies on temperature responses.

It has been known for some time that Q10 values for polar marine organisms are typically much higher than the canonical value of 2, with rates often doubling with a temperature increase of 4°C or less (Clarke, A. 1983. Life in cold water: the physiological ecology of polar marine ectotherms. Oceanogr. Mar Biol. Annu. Rev. 21, 341–453). We added this reference and some

discussion on lines 328-330. Even in temperate environments, there are higher reported Q10 values for phytoplankton, For instance, Zhu et al. (2017) observed that the Q10 value of Pseudo-nitzschia australis was 3.3, and Tadonl  k   et al. (2010) observed that the Q10 value of photosynthetic rates of phytoplankton in a lake could be 2.41.

- Elemental ratios at different temperatures might be difficult to interpret, as the cultures experienced differences in length of growth period (i.e. number of cell divisions) and nutrient uptake, with differences in left- over nutrients at the end of the incubations. Thus, they might not be in the same physiological state

We agree that the two phytoplankton species would have a different number of cell divisions at different temperatures. However, we used semi-continuous culture techniques, which means that all the phytoplankton were maintained in continual exponential growth stage, and so all treatments were sampled at the same growth stage. Thus, the physiological state of the phytoplankton in the different temperatures was relatively similar. We added some text to make this point more clearly in the Methods (lines 115-177).

- Competition: Why does *P. subcurvata* outcompete *Phaeocystis* at 0  C ? According to the thermal response curves, *Phaeocystis* should have a higher growth rate. Was there any difference in experimental conditions compared to the thermal response experiments?

It is true that P. subcurvata slightly increased its abundance relative to Phaeocystis even at 0C, although obviously this shift was much more pronounced at 6C. The experimental conditions were as identical as we could make them for the thermal response experiment and co-incubation experiment. The growth rates of the P. subcurvata and Phaeocystis cultures were not significantly different at 0C in unialgal cultures (Fig. 1), but it is certainly possible that there were other types of competitive interactions not related to temperature when these two phytoplankton were grown together. For instance, the nutrient uptake and utilization strategy of P. subcurvata could have provided it with an advantage in the co-incubation, which may be worth further research. We added some new text to discuss this on lines 336-343.

- Fig 5: It would be helpful if the scale of the y-axis would be identical in all panels.

Thanks for this helpful comment. All the panels have been changed to the same y-axis scale.

References:

- Tortell, P. D., Payne, C. D., Li, Y., Trimborn, S., Rost, B., Smith, W. O., ... & DiTullio, G. R. (2008). CO₂ sensitivity of Southern Ocean phytoplankton. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 35(4).
- Zhu, Z., Qu, P., Fu, F., Tennenbaum, N., Tatters, A. O., & Hutchins, D. A. (2017). Understanding the blob bloom: Warming increases toxicity and abundance of the harmful bloom diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia* in California coastal waters. *Harmful Algae*, 67, 36-43.
- Tadonléléké, R. D. (2010). Evidence of warming effects on phytoplankton productivity rates and their dependence on eutrophication status. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 55(3), 973-982.

1 **Individual and interactive effects of warming and CO₂ on *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and**
2 ***Phaeocystis antarctica*, two dominant phytoplankton from the Ross Sea, Antarctica**

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7
8 **Abstract:** We investigated the effects of temperature and CO₂ variation on the growth and
9 elemental composition of cultures of the diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and the
10 prymnesiophyte *Phaeocystis antarctica*, two ecologically dominant phytoplankton species
11 isolated from the Ross Sea, Antarctica. To obtain thermal functional response curves, cultures
12 were grown across a range of temperatures from 0°C to 14°C. In addition, a co-culturing
13 experiment examined the relative abundance of both species at 0°C and 6°C. CO₂ functional
14 response curves were conducted from 100 to 1730 ppm at 2°C and 8°C to test for interactive
15 effects between the two variables. The growth of both phytoplankton was significantly affected
16 by temperature increase, but with different trends. Growth rates of *P. subcurvata* increased with
17 temperature from 0°C to maximum levels at 8°C, while the growth rates of *P. antarctica* only
18 increased from 0°C to 2°C. The maximum thermal limits of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica*
19 where growth stopped completely were 14°C and 10°C, respectively. Although *P. subcurvata*
20 outgrew *P. antarctica* at both temperatures in the co-incubation experiment, this happened much
21 faster at 6°C than at 0°C. For *P. subcurvata*, there was a significant interactive effect in which
22 the warmer temperature decreased the CO₂ half saturation constant for growth, but this was not
23 the case for *P. antarctica*. The growth rates of both species increased with CO₂ increases up to
24 425 ppm, and in contrast to significant effects of temperature, the effects of CO₂ increase on the

29 **1 Introduction**

30 Global temperature is predicted to increase 2.6°C to 4.8°C by 2100 with increasing
31 anthropogenic CO₂ emissions (IPCC, 2014). The temperature of the Southern Ocean has
32 increased even faster than global average temperature (Meredith and King, 2005), and predicted
33 future climate warming may profoundly change the ocean carbon cycle in this region (Sarmiento
34 et al., 1998). The Ross Sea, Antarctica, is one of the most productive area in the ocean, and
35 features annual austral spring and summer algal blooms dominated by *Phaeocystis* and diatoms
36 that contribute as much as 30% of total primary production in the Southern Ocean (Arrigo et al.
37 1999, 2008; Smith et al., 2000, 2014a). The responses of phytoplankton in the Ross Sea to future
38 temperature change (Rose et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2016) in combination with
39 intensified stratification (Sarmiento et al., 1998) could lead to intensified future diatom blooms
40 (Smith et al. 2014b), and the physiological effects of warming may partially compensate for a
41 lack of iron throughout much of this region (Hutchins and Boyd, 2016).

42 In the Ross Sea, the colonial prymnesiophyte *Phaeocystis antarctica* typically blooms in
43 austral spring and early summer, and diatoms including *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and
44 *Chaetoceros* spp. bloom later in the austral summer (Arrigo et al., 1999, 2000; DiTullio and
45 Smith, 1996; Goffart et al., 2000; Rose et al., 2009). Both diatoms and *P. antarctica* play an
46 important role in anthropogenic CO₂ drawdown and the global carbon cycle; additionally, they
47 contribute significantly to the global silicon and sulfur cycles, respectively (Arrigo et al., 1999
48 Tréguer et al., 1995; Schoemann et al., 2005). Furthermore, the N: P and C: P ratios of *P.*
49 *antarctica* are higher than those of diatoms, and thus they contribute unequally to the carbon,
50 nitrogen, and phosphorus cycles (Arrigo et al., 1999, 2000). Diatoms are preferred by many
51 planktonic herbivores over *P. antarctica*, and so the two groups also differentially influence the
52 food webs of the Southern Ocean (Knox 1994; Capon et al. 2000; Heberman et al. 2002).

56 dominant groups of phytoplankton. Smith and Jones (2015) presented evidence for the
57 importance of deep mixing and the critical depth for the timing of transitions from *P. antarctica*
58 to diatom blooms. Zhu et al. (2016) observed that a 4°C temperature increase promoted the
59 growth rates of several dominant diatoms isolated from Ross Sea, including *P. subcurvata*,
60 *Chaetoceros* sp., and *Fragilariopsis cylindrus*, but not the growth rates of *P. antarctica*. In
61 addition, both field and laboratory research has suggested that temperature increase and iron
62 addition can synergistically promote the growth of Ross Sea diatoms (Rose et al., 2009; Zhu et
63 al., 2016; Hutchins and Boyd, 2016). Thus, it is possible that phytoplankton community structure
64 in this region may change in the future under a global warming scenario.

65 In addition to temperature increases, ocean uptake of 30% of total emitted anthropogenic
66 CO₂ has led to a 0.1 pH unit decrease in surface water, corresponding to a 26% increase in
67 acidity (IPCC, 2014). The global CO₂ concentration is predicted to increase to around 800 ppm
68 by 2100, which will lead to a further decrease in surface seawater pH of 0.3–0.4 units (Orr et al.,
69 2005; IPCC, 2014). CO₂ increases have been found to promote the growth and affect the
70 physiology of many but not all phytoplankton species tested (Fu et al., 2007, 2008; King et al.,
71 2011; Xu et al., 2014; Hutchins and Fu 2017).

72 Research on the effects of CO₂ increases on *Phaeocystis antarctica* and Antarctic diatoms
73 is still scarce. Xu et al. (2014) suggested that future conditions (higher temperature, CO₂, and
74 irradiance) may shift phytoplankton community structure towards diatoms and away from *P.*
75 *antarctica* in the Ross Sea. Trimborn et al. (2013) discovered that the growth rates of *P.*
76 *antarctica* and *P. subcurvata* were not significantly promoted by high CO₂ relative to ambient
77 CO₂ at 3°C. In contrast, Wang et al. (2010) observed that the growth rates of the closely related
78 temperate colonial species *Phaeocystis globosa* increased significantly at 750 ppm CO₂ relative
79 to 380 ppm CO₂.

83 and warming on the growth of phytoplankton from the Ross Sea (Rose et al., 2009; Zhu et al.,
84 2016; Hutchins and Boyd 2016). Thus, an important goal of phytoplankton research is to also
85 gain an understanding of how global warming together with ocean acidification may shift the
86 phytoplankton community in the Ross Sea (Arrigo et al., 1999; DiTullio et al., 2000). This study
87 aimed to explore the effects of increases in temperature and CO₂ availability, both individually
88 and in combination, on *P. antarctica* and *P. subcurvata* isolated from the Ross Sea, Antarctica.
89 These results may shed light on the potential effects of global change on the marine ecosystem
90 and the cycles of carbon and nutrients in the highly productive coastal polynyas of Antarctica.

91

92 **2 Materials and Methods**

93 **2.1 Strains and growth conditions**

94 *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* were isolated from the ice edge in McMurdo Sound
95 (77.62° S, 165.47° E) in the Ross Sea, Antarctica during January 2015; *P. antarctica* cultures
96 grew as small colonies (~4-12 cells) in all the experiments. All stock cultures were grown in
97 Aquil* medium (100 μmol L⁻¹ NO₃⁻, 100 μmol L⁻¹ SiO₄⁴⁻, 10 μmol L⁻¹ PO₄³⁻) made with 0.2 μM
98 filtered seawater that was collected from the same Ross Sea locale as the culture isolates (Sund
99 et al., 2005). Stock and experimental cultures were grown in Fe-replete Aquil medium (0.5 μM
100 Although phytoplankton in the open Ross Sea polynya are generally proximately iron-limited
101 (Ryan-Keogh et al. 2017), these culture conditions are relevant to the coastal McMurdo Sound
102 ice edge environment in the early spring when Fe is relatively abundant, and typically not
103 limiting. This ‘winter reserve’ iron is then drawn down in this nearshore environment over the
104 course of the seasonal algal bloom to eventually reach limiting levels (Sedwick et al., 2011;
105 Bertrand et al., 2015). Our experiments address warming and acidification responses in *P.*
106 *subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* in the absence of any differential effects of Fe availability;

111 For thermal functional response curves, experimental cultures of both phytoplankton
112 were grown in triplicate 500 ml acid washed polycarbonate bottles and gradually acclimated by
113 series of step-wise transfers to a range of temperatures, including 0°C, 2°C, 4°C, 6°C, 8°C, and
114 10°C (*P. antarctica* died at 10°C) under the same light cycle as stock cultures. Cultures were
115 diluted semi-continuously following Zhu et al. (2016), allowing them to be maintained in
116 continuous exponential growth and so facilitating comparisons between treatments in the same
117 physiological growth stage. All of the cultures were acclimated to their respective temperatures
118 for 8 weeks before the commencement of the experiment. At this point, after the growth rates
119 were verified to be stable for at least three to five consecutive transfers, the cultures were
120 sampled 48 h after dilution (Zhu et al., 2016).

121 For CO₂ functional response curves, *P. antarctica* and *P. subcurvata* were also grown in
122 triplicate in a series of six CO₂ concentrations from ~100 ppm to ~1730 ppm in triplicate 500 ml
123 acid washed polycarbonate bottles at both 2°C and 8°C using same dilution technique as above.
124 The CO₂ concentration was achieved by gently bubbling with 0.2 µm filtered air/CO₂ mixture
125 (Gilmore, CA) and carbonate system equilibration was ensured by pH and dissolved inorganic
126 carbon (DIC) measurements (King et al., 2015, see below).

127 An additional experiment tested whether temperature-related trends in growth rates
128 observed in monocultures were maintained when both species were grown together in a simple
129 model community. For this examination of thermal effects on the growth of *P. antarctica* and
130 *subcurvata* in co-culture (pre-acclimated to respective temperatures), the isolates were mixed at
131 equal Chl *a* (chlorophyll *a*) concentrations and grown together for 6 days in triplicate bottles at
132 both 0°C and 6°C. These temperatures chosen to span the optimum growth ranges of both
133 species (see Results, below). The relative abundance of each phytoplankton was then calculated

138 immediately were preserved with Lugol's (final concentration 2%) and stored at 4°C until
139 counting. Specific growth rates (d^{-1}) were calculated following Eq. (1):

$$140 \quad \mu = (\ln N_1 - \ln N_0)/t, \quad (1)$$

141 where N_0 and N_1 are the cell density at the beginning and end of a dilution period, respectively,
142 and t is the duration of the dilution period (Zhu et al. 2016). The Q_{10} of growth rates was
143 calculated following Chauv-Berlinck et al. (2002) as Eq. (2):

$$144 \quad Q_{10} = (\mu_2 / \mu_1)^{10 / (T_2 - T_1)}, \quad (2)$$

145 where μ_1 and μ_2 are the specific growth rates of the phytoplankton at temperatures T_1 and T_2 ,
146 respectively. The growth rates were fitted to Eq. (3) to estimate the thermal reaction norms of
147 each species:

$$148 \quad f(T) = ae^{bT} (1 - ((T-z)/(w/2))^2), \quad (3)$$

149 where specific growth rate f depends on temperature (T), temperature niche width (w), and other
150 empirical parameters z , a , and b were estimated by maximum likelihood (Thomas et al., 2012;
151 Boyd et al., 2013). Afterwards, the optimum temperature for growth and maximum growth rate
152 were estimated by numerically maximizing the equation (Boyd et al., 2013). The growth rates
153 all the species at all the CO_2 levels were fitted to Michaelis-Menten equation as Eq. (4):

$$154 \quad \mu = \mu_{\max} S / (K_m + S), \quad (4)$$

155 to estimate maximum growth rates (μ_{\max}) and half saturation constants (K_m) for CO_2
156 concentration (S). In the CO_2 curve experiments growth rates for both these autotrophic species
157 were assumed to be zero at 0 ppm CO_2 , and in the thermal curve experiments growth rates were
158 assumed to be zero at $-2^\circ C$, approximately the freezing point of seawater.

159 **2.4 Elemental and Chl *a* analysis**

160 Culture samples for particulate organic carbon/nitrogen (POC/PON) and particulate

161 organic phosphorus (POP) analyses were filtered onto pre-combusted ($500^\circ C$ for 2 h) GF/F

165 followed Fu et al. (2007), and BSi analysis followed Paasche et al. (1973). An aliquot of 30 to
166 ml from each treatment replicate was filtered onto GF/F filters and extracted with 90% acetone
167 -20°C for 24 h for Chl *a* analysis. The Chl *a* concentration was then determined using the non-
168 acidification method on a 10-AUTM fluorometer (Turner Design, CA) (Fu et al., 2007).

169 **2.5 pH and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) measurements**

170 pH was measured using a pH meter (Thermo Scientific, MA), calibrated with pH 7 and
171 10 buffer solutions. For DIC analyses, an aliquot of 25 mL was preserved with 200 μ L 5% Hg
172 and stored in the dark at 4°C until analysis. Total DIC was measured using a CM140 Total
173 Inorganic Carbon Analyzer (UIC Inc., IL). An aliquot of 5 mL sample was injected into the
174 sparging column of Acidification Unit CM5230 (UIC Inc., IL) followed by 2 ml 10% phospho
175 acid. By using flow rates controlled pure nitrogen as carrier gas, and the CO₂ released from the
176 DIC pool in the sample was quantified with a CM5015 CO₂ Coulometer (UIC Inc., IL) using
177 absolute coulometric titration. The carbonate buffer system was sampled for each of the triplic
178 bottles in each treatment at the beginning and end of the experiments; reported values are final
179 ones. The p CO₂ in growth media was calculated using CO2SYS (Pierrot et al., 2006). These
180 carbonate system measurements are shown in Table 1, along with the corresponding calculated
181 p CO₂ values calculated. Kinetic parameters were calculated using the individual calculated p C
182 values for each replicate (see above), but for convenience, the CO₂ treatments are referred to in
183 the text using the mean value of all experimental bottles, rounded to the nearest 5 ppm: these
184 values are 100 ppm, 205 ppm, 260 ppm, 425 ppm, 755 ppm, and 1730 ppm.

185 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

186 All statistical analyses and model fitting, including student t-tests, ANOVA, Tukey's
187 HSD test, two-way ANOVA, and thermal reaction norms estimation were conducted using the
188 open source statistical software R version 3.1.2 (R Foundation)

191 Temperature increase significantly affected the growth rates of both *P. antarctica* and *P.*
192 *subcurvata*, but with different trends ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 1). The specific growth rates of *P.*
193 *subcurvata* increased from 0°C to 8°C ($p < 0.05$), and then significantly decreased at 10°C ($p <$
194 0.05) (Fig. 1). The growth rates of *P. antarctica* significantly increased from 0°C to 2°C, and
195 plateaued at 4°C and 6°C, and then significantly decreased from 6°C to 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 1).
196 *P. antarctica* and *P. subcurvata* stopped growing at 10°C and 14°C, respectively (Fig. 1A). The
197 specific growth rates of *P. subcurvata* were not significantly different from those of *P. antarctica*
198 at 0°C, 2°C and 4°C, but became significantly higher than *P. antarctica* at 6°C, and remained
199 significantly higher than *P. antarctica* through 8°C and 10°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 1A). The optimum
200 temperatures for growth of *P. antarctica* and *P. subcurvata* were 4.85°C and 7.36°C,
201 respectively, both well above the current temperature in the Ross Sea, Antarctica (Table 2). In
202 addition, the estimated temperature niche width of *P. subcurvata* (-2°C – 12.19°C) is wider than
203 that of *P. antarctica* (-2.0°C to 9.52°C) (Table 2); calculated minimum temperatures estimated
204 from the thermal niche width equation were less than -2.0°, the freezing point of seawater, and
205 growth is assumed to terminate at -2.0°. The Q10 value of the growth rate of *P. antarctica* from
206 0°C to 4°C is 2.11, which is lower than the Q10 values 3.17 for *P. subcurvata* over the same
207 temperature interval ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2).

208 3.2 Temperature effects on elemental composition

209 The C: N and N: P ratios of *P. subcurvata* were unaffected by changing temperature (Fig.
210 2A, B), but the C: P, C: Si, and C: Chl *a* ratios of this species were significantly affected ($p <$
211 0.05) (Fig. 2C, D, Fig. 3). The C: P ratios of *P. subcurvata* were slightly but significantly lower
212 in the middle of the tested temperature range. They were higher at 8°C and 10°C than at 2°C,
213 4°C, and 6°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 2C), and also significantly higher at 10°C than at 0°C (Fig. 2C).
214 The C: Si ratios of *P. subcurvata* showed a similar pattern of slightly lower values at mid-range

218 of the thermal gradient. At 0°C, 8°C and 10°C, C: Chl *a* ratios were significantly higher than at
219 2°C, 4°C, and 6°C ($p < 0.05$), and also significantly higher at 10°C than at 0°C and 8°C (Fig. 3).

220 The C: N, N: P, C: P, and C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. antarctica* were not significantly different
221 across the temperature range (Fig. 2A, B, C, Fig. 3). The N: P ratios of *P. antarctica* were
222 significantly higher than those of *P. subcurvata* at 2°C, 6°C, and 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 2B).
223 Additionally, the C: P ratios of *P. antarctica* were significantly higher than those of *P.*
224 *subcurvata* at 6°C and 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 2C), and the C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. antarctica* were
225 significantly higher than values of *P. subcurvata* at all the temperatures tested ($p < 0.05$) (Fig.

226 Temperature change significantly affected the cellular carbon (C) quotas, cellular
227 nitrogen (N) quotas, cellular phosphorus (P) quotas, cellular silica (Si) quotas, and cellular Chl
228 quotas of *P. subcurvata* ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3). The cellular C and N quotas of *P. subcurvata* were
229 significantly higher at 8°C than at 0°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3), the cellular P quotas of *P.*
230 *subcurvata* were significantly higher at 4°C than at 0°C, 2°C, and 10°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3), and
231 the cellular Si quotas of *P. subcurvata* were significantly higher at 8°C than at 0°C and 2°C. Si
232 quotas were also significantly higher at 4°C and 6°C than at 0°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3). The
233 extreme temperatures significantly decreased the cellular Chl *a* quotas of *P. subcurvata*, as the
234 cellular Chl *a* quotas of this species were significantly higher at 4°C, 6°C, and 8°C than at 0°C
235 and 10°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3).

236 Temperature change significantly affected the cellular P quotas and cellular Chl *a* quotas
237 of *P. antarctica* ($p < 0.05$), but not the cellular C and N quotas ($p > 0.05$) (Table 3). The cellular
238 P quotas of *P. antarctica* were significantly higher at 0°C than at 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3), and
239 the Chl *a* quotas of the prymnesiophyte were significantly lower at 8°C than at 0°C, 2°C, and
240 6°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 3).

241 3.2 Co-incubation at two temperatures

244 prymnesiophyte at both temperatures by day 6, this increase was larger and happened much
245 faster at 6°C (from 31% to 72%) relative to 0°C (from 31% to 38%) ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 4).

246 **3.4 CO₂ effects on specific growth rates at two temperatures**

247 The carbonate system was relatively stable across the range of CO₂ levels during the
248 course of the experiment (Table 1). CO₂ concentration significantly affected the growth rates of
249 *P. subcurvata* at both temperatures (Fig. 5). The growth rates of the diatom at 2°C increased
250 steadily with CO₂ concentration increase from 205 ppm to 425 ppm ($p < 0.05$), but were
251 saturated at 755 ppm and 1730 ppm (Fig. 5A). Similarly, the growth rates of *P. subcurvata* at
252 8°C increased with CO₂ concentration increase from 205 ppm to 260 ppm ($p < 0.05$), and were
253 saturated at 425 ppm, 755 ppm and 1730 ppm (Fig. 5B). The growth rates of the diatom at all
254 CO₂ concentrations tested at 8°C were significantly higher than at 2°C ($p < 0.05$); for instance,
255 the maximum growth rate of *P. subcurvata* at 8°C was 0.88 d⁻¹, significantly higher than the
256 value of 0.60 d⁻¹ at 2°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 4). In addition, the *p*CO₂ half saturation constant ($K_{1/2}$)
257 of *P. subcurvata* at 8°C was 10.7 ppm, significantly lower than 66.0 ppm at 2°C ($p < 0.05$)
258 (Table 4). Thus, temperature and CO₂ concentration increase interactively increased the growth
259 rates of *P. subcurvata* ($p < 0.05$).

260 CO₂ concentration also significantly affected the growth rates of *P. antarctica*
261 at both 2°C and 8°C. The growth rates of the prymnesiophyte at both 2°C and 8°C increased with
262 CO₂ concentration increase from 100 ppm to 260 ppm ($p < 0.05$), and were saturated at 425 ppm
263 and 755 ppm (Fig. 5C, D). The growth rates of *P. antarctica* at 2°C decreased slightly at 1730
264 ppm relative to 425 ppm and 755 ppm ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 5C). The maximum growth rate of *P.*
265 *antarctica* at 8°C was 0.43 d⁻¹, significantly lower than the value of 0.61 d⁻¹ at 2°C ($p < 0.05$)
266 (Table 4). The *p*CO₂ half saturation constants of *P. antarctica* at 2°C and 8°C were not

267 significantly different (Table 4), and thus no interactive effect of temperature and CO₂ was

270 CO₂ concentration variation didn't affect the C: N, N: P, or C: P ratios of *P. subcurvata*
271 either 2°C or 8°C. The C: Si ratios of *P. subcurvata* were significantly higher at 1730 ppm
272 relative to lower *p*CO₂ levels, except at 755 ppm at 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). The N: P ratios of
273 *P. subcurvata* at 8°C were significantly higher than at 2°C at all the CO₂ levels tested except 10
274 ppm ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). The C: P ratios of *P. subcurvata* at 8°C were significantly higher than
275 at 2°C at all the CO₂ levels tested ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). The C: Si ratios of *P. subcurvata* at CO₂
276 levels lower than 755 ppm at 8°C were significantly lower than at 2°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). The
277 higher temperature also significantly increased the C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. subcurvata* at all the CO₂
278 levels tested ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). Additionally, the temperature increase and CO₂ concentration
279 increase interactively decreased the C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. subcurvata* ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5).

280 The CO₂ concentration increase did not affect the C: N, N: P, and C: P ratios of *P.*
281 *antarctica* at either 2°C or 8°C. The carbon to Chl *a* ratios of *P. antarctica* were significantly
282 higher at 1730 ppm than at all lower CO₂ concentrations at 2°C. Similarly, at 8°C the carbon to
283 Chl *a* ratios of this species also were significantly higher at 425 ppm, 755 ppm, and 1730 ppm
284 than at lower CO₂ concentrations ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5), and significantly higher at 1730 ppm than
285 at 425 ppm and 755 ppm ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5).

286 The warmer temperature significantly decreased the C: N ratios of *P. antarctica* at 260
287 ppm and 755 ppm CO₂ ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5), and C: P ratios also decreased at 100 ppm and 205
288 ppm ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). The C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. antarctica* at CO₂ levels higher than 205 ppm
289 were significantly higher at 8°C relative to 2°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 5). Temperature and CO₂
290 concentration increase interactively increased the C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. antarctica* ($p < 0.05$)
291 (Table 5).

292 The CO₂ concentration increase didn't affect the cellular C, N, P, or Si quotas of *P.*

297 cellular Si quota of *P. subcurvata* at all the CO₂ levels tested except 1730 ppm ($p < 0.05$) (Table
298 6). Additionally, warming and CO₂ concentration interactively decreased the cellular Si quotas
299 *P. subcurvata* ($p < 0.05$) (Table 6).

300 The C, N, and P quotas of *P. antarctica* were not affected by CO₂ increase at 2°C, and
301 and P quotas were not affected by CO₂ increase at 8°C, either. However, the C quota of *P.*
302 *antarctica* at 1730 ppm CO₂ was significantly higher than CO₂ levels lower than 755 ppm at 8°C
303 ($p < 0.05$) (Table 6). The Chl *a* per cell of *P. antarctica* at 1730 ppm CO₂ was significantly less
304 than at lower CO₂ levels at both 2°C and 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 6). For *P. antarctica*, the Chl *a*
305 per cell values at 100 ppm, 205 ppm, and 755 ppm CO₂ at 8°C were significantly lower relative
306 to 2°C ($p < 0.05$) (Table 6). Temperature increase and CO₂ concentration increase interactively
307 increased the C and N quotas of *P. antarctica* ($p < 0.05$) (Table 6).

308 **4 Discussion**

309 As has been documented in previous work, the diatom *P. subcurvata* and the
310 prymnesiophyte *P. antarctica* responded differently to warming (Xu et al., 2014; Zhu et al.
311 2016). In the Ross Sea as elsewhere, temperature determines both phytoplankton maximum
312 growth rates (Bissinger et al., 2008) and the upper limit of growth (Smith, 1990) in a species-
313 specific manner. Thermal functional responses curves of phytoplankton typically increase in a
314 normally distributed pattern, with growth rates increasing up to the optimum temperature range
315 and then declining when temperature reaches inhibitory levels (Boyd et al., 2013; Fu et al., 2011;
316 Xu et al., 2014; Hutchins and Fu, 2017). Specific growth rates of *P. subcurvata* reached optimum
317 levels at 8°C, demonstrating that this species grows fastest at temperatures substantially above
318 any temperatures found in the present-day Ross Sea. In contrast, growth rates of *P. antarctica*
319 saturated at 2°C. This suggests that *P. subcurvata* may be a superior competitor over *P.*

320 *antarctica* in any realistically foreseeable warming scenario.

324 Pa CO₂, 150 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹) relative to the “current condition” (2°C, 39 Pa CO₂, and 50
325 μmol photons m⁻² s⁻¹) and the “year 2060 condition” (4°C, 61 Pa CO₂, and 100 μmol photons
326 m⁻² s⁻¹). In our study, the Q10 value of *P. subcurvata* from 0°C to 4°C was 3.11, nearly 50%
327 higher than the Q10 value of *P. antarctica* across the same temperature range (2.17), and similar
328 to the Q10 values observed for different strains of these two species in Zhu et al. (2016). Such
329 Q10 values that substantially exceed the canonical value of 2 are often observed in polar marine
330 organisms (Clarke et al. 1983, Hutchins and Boyd 2016). Our results showed that the maximal
331 thermal limit of *P. antarctica* was reached at 10°C, as was also observed by Buma et al. (1991),
332 while *P. subcurvata* did not cease to grow until 14°C. Clearly, *P. subcurvata* has a superior
333 tolerance to higher temperature compared to *P. antarctica*.

334 The co-incubation experiment with *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* at 0°C and 6°C
335 confirmed that the diatom retained its growth advantage at the higher temperature when growing
336 together with *P. antarctica*. Although the growth rates of the *P. subcurvata* and *Phaeocystis*
337 cultures were not significantly different at 0°C in unialgal cultures (Fig. 1), the diatom slightly
338 outcompeted the prymnesiophyte even at this temperature. It is possible that there were other
339 types of competitive interactions not related to temperature when these two phytoplankton were
340 grown together. For instance, the nutrient uptake and utilization strategy of *P. subcurvata* could
341 have provided it with an advantage in the co-incubation. However, the competitive advantage
342 enjoyed by the diatom was clearly largest at the higher temperatures, so thermal effects on
343 competition are still evident from this experiment. Although we do not know what role (if any)
344 competition for resources like nutrients may have played in determining the outcome of this
345 experiment, it did demonstrate clearly that thermal growth response trends in simple model
346 communities are in general consistent with those seen in unialgal cultures. Xu et al. (2014)

347 observed that the diatom *Fragilariopsis cylindrus* was dominant over *P. antarctica* under “un-

351 often dominant in cooler waters in the springtime, while diatoms often dominate in summer
352 (DiTullio and Smith, 1996; Arrigo et al., 1999; DiTullio et al., 2000; Liu and Smith, 2012).

353 Besides temperature, mixed layer depth and irradiance also likely play a role in the
354 competition between diatoms and *P. antarctica* (Arrigo et al., 1999; Arrigo et al., 2010, Smith
355 and Jones 2015). Arrigo et al. (1999) observed that *P. antarctica* dominated the southern Ross
356 Sea region with deeper mixed layers, while diatom dominated the regions with shallower mixed
357 layer depths. The niches of these two groups of phytoplankton are difficult to define by either
358 light or by temperature, since shallow surface stratification tends to promote both solar heating
359 and high irradiance, while deep mixing often lowers both light and temperatures. It is worth
360 considering whether these two phytoplankton groups are each best adapted to a different
361 environmental matrix of both variables. This concept of different light/temperature niches for
362 Ross Sea diatoms and *P. antarctica* is worthy of further investigation.

363 Our experiments used nutrient-replete conditions, which are relevant to most of the Ross
364 Sea HNLC region throughout most of the growing season. However, major nutrients sometimes
365 become depleted late in the season on McMurdo Sound, the origin of our culture isolates, as Fe
366 inputs are somewhat higher in these nearshore waters (Bertrand et al. 2015). Experiments using
367 nutrient-limited phytoplankton frequently find differing responses to CO₂ and temperature
368 compared to those of nutrient-replete cells, including sometimes enhanced effects of these global
369 change factors on elemental ratios (Taucher et al. 2015, Sala et al. 2016). Our experiments under
370 high nutrient, Fe-replete conditions thus are likely to best predict possible biological effects of
371 future high CO₂ and temperature during the first half or more of the Ross Sea growing season.

372 Temperature change affected the C: P, N: P and C: Si ratios of *P. subcurvata*, due to the
373 combined effects of the different responses of cellular C, P, and Si quotas. The C: P and N:P

374 ratios of *P. subcurvata* increased at the two highest temperatures tested. This might be due to

378 temperatures have been documented in other studies as well (Xu et al., 2014; Boyd et al., 2015;
379 Hutchins and Boyd, 2016). This result suggests that the amount of carbon exported per unit
380 phosphorus by *P. subcurvata* (and perhaps other diatoms) in the Ross Sea may increase as
381 temperature increases in the future (Toseland et al., 2013).

382 In contrast, the decreasing trend of C: Si ratios in *P. subcurvata* appears to be largely due
383 to higher cellular Si quotas at temperatures at and above 4°C. Although the physiological
384 reason(s) for increased silicification with warming are currently not understood, this trend also
385 may have biogeochemical consequences. This decrease of cellular C: Si ratios at higher
386 temperature may tend to enhance Si export, with the qualification that biogenic Si
387 remineralization rates also increase with temperature (Ragueneau et al. 2000), and thus could
388 potentially offset this trend.

389 Previous studies have shown that nutrient drawdown by diatoms and *P. antarctica* are
390 different, due to differing elemental ratios of these two groups (Arrigo et al., 1999; Smith et al.,
391 2014a; Xu et al., 2014). Our results generally corresponded to this trend, as the N: P ratios of *P. antarctica*
392 *antarctica* were higher than *P. subcurvata* at 2°C, 6°C and 8°C and C: P ratios of *P. antarctica*
393 were higher than *P. subcurvata* at 6°C and 8°C ($p < 0.05$) (Fig. 2). Although elemental ratios of
394 the prymnesiophyte were largely unaffected by temperature, a predicted increase of diatom and
395 decrease of *P. antarctica* contributions to phytoplankton production caused by warming will
396 likely change nutrient export ratios (Smith et al., 2014a, b). It is possible that N and C export per
397 unit P may decrease with a phytoplankton community shift from *P. antarctica* dominance to
398 diatom dominance (Arrigo et al., 1999; Smith et al., 2014a, b; Xu et al., 2014). [However, food
399 web effects may compensate for the effects of temperature on the biogeochemical cycles, as
400 diatoms are a preferred food resource for zooplankton grazers, compared to *Phaeocystis*](#)

401 ([Keeney, 1994; Coiro et al., 2000; Heberman et al., 2003](#))

405 pCO₂ can sometimes drop to very low levels (Tagliabue and Arrigo, 2016). However, at CO₂
406 concentrations beyond current atmospheric levels of ~400 ppm, growth rates of *P. subcurvata*
407 *P. antarctica* were CO₂-saturated. Although a general model prediction suggests that an
408 atmospheric CO₂ increase from current levels to 700 ppm could increase the growth of marine
409 phytoplankton by 40% (Schippers et al., 2004), our results instead correspond to previous studies
410 which showed negligible effects of elevated CO₂ on various groups of phytoplankton (Goldman et al.,
411 1999; Fu et al., 2007; Hutchins and Fu 2017). In particular, Trimborn et al. (2013) found that
412 increasing CO₂ had no effect on growth rates of Southern Ocean isolates of *P. subcurvata* and
413 *antarctica*. The minimal effects of changing CO₂ levels on many phytoplankton groups have
414 been suggested to be due to efficient carbon concentrating mechanisms (CCMs) that allow them
415 to avoid CO₂ limitation at low pCO₂ levels (Burkhardt et al., 2001; Fu et al., 2007; Tortell et al.,
416 2008). For instance, both *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* have been shown to strongly
417 downregulate activity of the important CCM enzyme carbonic anhydrase as CO₂ increases
418 (Trimborn et al. 2013). Clearly, though, for our two species their CCM activity was not sufficient
419 to completely compensate for carbon limitation at low pCO₂ levels. Although speculative, it is
420 possible that *P. antarctica* could have an ability to subsidize growth at very low CO₂ levels
421 through oxidation of organic carbon from the colony mucilage. Our results also showed that
422 very high CO₂ (1730 ppm) significantly reduced the growth rate of *P. antarctica* relative to 420
423 ppm and 755 ppm at 2°C; negative effects of high CO₂ on an Antarctic microbial community
424 were also observed by Davidson et al. (2016). This inhibitory effect might be due to the
425 significantly lower pH at 1730 ppm (~7.4), which could entail expenditures of additional energy
426 to maintain pH homeostasis within cells.

427 Warming from 2°C to 8°C had a significant interactive effect with CO₂ concentration in

428 *P. subcurvata*, as maximum growth rates were higher and the half-saturation constant ($K_{0.5}$) for

432 future additional competitive advantage over *P. antarctica* in the late growing season when pCO₂
433 can be low (Tagliabue and Arrigo, 2016) and temperatures higher, although temperatures are
434 generally never as high as 8°C in the current Ross Sea (Liu and Smith, 2012). The interactive
435 effects of temperature and CO₂ on *P. subcurvata* might be due to the elevated enzyme and
436 protein translation efficiencies and translation efficiency at higher temperature, which may
437 decrease the CO₂ requirement in of the Calvin cycle and facilitate allocation of fixed carbon to
438 growth (Toseland et al., 2013, Hutchins and Boyd 2016). On the other sidehand, 8°C might be
439 clearly close to the upper thermal limit of *P. antarctica*, thus the growth rates of *P. antarctica*
440 decreased at 8°C not increased, suggesting that it's biochemical efficiencies decline rapidly above
441 this temperature. The CO₂-K_{1/2} of *P. antarctica* for CO₂ at 2°C was however significantly lower
442 than that of *P. subcurvata* at 2°C at this temperature, which may be advantageous to the
443 prymnesiophyte when water temperatures are low in the spring.

444 The effects of pCO₂ variation on the elemental ratios of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica*
445 were minimal relative to those of temperature increase. Previous research on the effects of CO₂
446 on the elemental ratios of phytoplankton has shown that the elemental composition of
447 phytoplankton may change with CO₂ availability (Burkhardt et al., 1999; Fu et al., 2007, 2008;
448 Tew et al., 2014; reviewed in Hutchins et al., 2009). Hoogstraten et al. (2012) found that CO₂
449 concentration change didn't change the cellular POC, PON, C: N ratios, or POC to Chl *a* ratios
450 of the temperate species *Phaeocystis globosa*. In contrast, Reinfelder (2014) observed that the
451 C: N and P quotas of several diatoms decreased with increasing CO₂ and led to increased C: N, N: P
452 and C: P ratios. King et al. (2015) found that high CO₂ could increase, decrease or not affect the
453 C: P and N: P ratios of several different phytoplankton species. Our results resemble those of
454 studies with other phytoplankton that found that the effects of CO₂ concentration can be

455 negligible on C: N, N: P, or C: P ratios (Fu et al., 2007; Hutchins et al., 2009; Hoogstraten et al., 2012; King et al., 2015; Reinfelder, 2014; Tew et al., 2014).

459 other cellular components), or to differences in experimental design, which can make inter-
460 comparisons problematic (Hutchins and Fu 2017)species-specific.

461 In contrast to C: N: P ratios, we observed that the C: Si ratios of *P. subcurvata* were
462 significantly higher at 1730 ppm compared to almost all of the lower CO₂ levels. This increase
463 C: Si ratios was due to a decrease in cellular Si quotas at 1730 ppm CO₂. Milligan et al. (2004)
464 observed that the silica dissolution rates of a temperate diatom increased significantly in high
465 CO₂ relative to in low CO₂ cultures. Tatters et al. (2012) found a similar trend in the temperate
466 toxic diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia fraudulenta*, in which cellular C: Si ratios were higher at 765 pp
467 than at 200 ppm CO₂. This suggests that future increases in diatom silicification at elevated
468 pCO₂ could partially or wholly offset the decreased silicification and higher dissolution rates of
469 silica observed at warmer temperatures (above); to fully predict net trends, further interactive
470 experiments focusing on silicification as a function across a range of both temperature and pCO₂
471 are needed.

472 In conclusion, our results indicate that *P. subcurvata* from the Ross Sea are better adapted
473 to higher temperature than is *P. antarctica*. Diatoms are a diverse group, but if their general
474 thermal response is similar to that of this *Pseudo-nitzschia* species, they may thrive under future
475 global warming scenarios while the relative dominance of *P. antarctica* in this region may wane.
476 In contrast, another recent study has suggested that warming might indirectly favor *P. antarctica*
477 springtime dominance by leading to large areas of open water at a time when incident light
478 penetration is low and mixed layers are still relatively deep (Ryan-Keogh et al. 2017). Because
479 of the differences in elemental ratios in the two groups, ecological shifts that favor diatoms may
480 significantly increase the export of phosphorus and silicon relative to carbon and nitrogen, which
481 increased *P. antarctica* dominance will increase carbon export relative to nutrient fluxes, as well
482 as enhancing the organic sulfur cycle. Our conclusions must be qualified as they were obtained

486 consider in both the present and future in this region (Smith and Jones, 2015). Thus, in addition
487 to warming and CO₂ increases, the interactive effects of light and Fe with these two factors
488 should also be considered (Xu et al., 2014; Boyd et al., 2015; Hutchins and Boyd 2016; Hutchins
489 and Fu 2017). Considering the differences between the responses of the diatom and *P. antarctica*
490 to warming and ocean acidification seen here, as well to warming and Fe in previous work (Zhu
491 et al., 2016), models attempting to predict future changes in community structure and primary
492 production in the Ross Sea polynya may need to realistically incorporate a complex network of
493 interacting global change variables.

494

495 **Author contribution**

496 Z. Zhu, F. X. Fu, D. A. Hutchins designed the experiments, Z. Zhu, P. Qu, and J. Gale carried
497 them out, and Z. Zhu and D. A. Hutchins wrote the manuscripts.

498 **Competing interests**

499 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Table 1. The measured pH and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), and calculated $p\text{CO}_2$ of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* at 2°C and 8°C in each treatment. Values represent the means and errors are the standard deviations of triplicate bottles.

	<i>P. subcurvata</i>		<i>P. antarctica</i>	
	2°C	8°C	2°C	8°C
pH				
	8.36±0.04	8.51±0.04	8.40±0.03	8.45±0.03
	8.25±0.04	8.36±0.01	8.22±0.04	8.29±0.01
	8.07±0.01	8.17±0.01	8.09±0.02	8.14±0.00
	7.86±0.02	7.99±0.01	7.85±0.01	7.94±0.00
	7.68±0.01	7.79±0.02	7.65±0.01	7.75±0.00
	7.35±0.01	7.46±0.02	7.34±0.01	7.45±0.00
DIC (µmol/kg)				
	1890.1±26.6	1846.5±15.8	1847.1±30.0	1831.1±22.7
	2049.1±10.8	1985.7±2.1	2033.9±15.0	2014.2±19.9
	2131.3±9.4	2067.5±4.7	2136.6±5.6	2085.3±15.3
	2190.4±2.8	2156.1±13.9	2168.1±12.4	2167.4±21.5
	2260.0±22.2	2234.8±10.3	2252.1±11.5	2238.7±12.0
	2340.1±19.4	2334.5±18.8	2338.2±12.1	2323.7±11.5
$p\text{CO}_2$ (ppm)				
	109.1±9.3	94.4±10.1	96.6±9.5	108.8±8.8
	158.6±15.5	150.3±3.6	171.2±14.4	183.6±4.2
	263.1±5.9	254.2±9.9	246.4±9.9	280.3±0.6
	450.2±17.3	414.9±12.0	462.2±12.1	480.9±4.7
	740.9±10.6	708.8±23.5	786.9±10.3	784.1±4.8
	1751.2±35.9	1675.3±49.4	1769.9±59.5	1720.3±18.3

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Table 2. Statistical comparison of the results for each of the three thermal traits: Optimum temperature (°C), Maximum growth rate (d⁻¹) and temperature niche width (W)* of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica*.

Species	Optimum temperature (°C)	Maximum growth rates (d ⁻¹)	W upper CI	W lower CI	Q ₁₀
<i>P. subcurvata</i>	7.36	0.86	12.19	< -2.0	3.17
<i>P. antarctica</i>	4.85	0.66	9.52	< -2.0	2.11

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* The statistical results for the lower bound of temperate niche width in both species were lower than -2.0°C, the freezing point of seawater

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Table 3. The effects of temperature on the C quota (pmol cell⁻¹), N quota (pmol cell⁻¹), P quota (pmol cell⁻¹), Si quota (pmol cell⁻¹), and chl *a* per cell (pg cell⁻¹) of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica*. Values represent the means and errors are the standard deviations of triplicate bottles.

	<i>P. subcurvata</i>	<i>P. antarctica</i>
C quota		
0°C	1.91±0.14	2.64±0.34
2°C	2.11±0.19	2.49±0.41
4°C	2.15±0.12	2.50±0.23
6°C	2.07±0.13	2.26±0.18
8°C	2.33±0.14	2.17±0.22
10°C	2.17±0.13	
N quota		
0°C	0.27±0.03	0.39±0.03
2°C	0.29±0.03	0.36±0.02
4°C	0.33±0.02	0.40±0.01
6°C	0.31±0.01	0.35±0.02
8°C	0.36±0.05	0.34±0.03
10°C	0.33±0.04	
P quota		
0°C	0.02±0.00	0.03±0.00
2°C	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00
4°C	0.03±0.00	0.03±0.01
6°C	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00
8°C	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00
10°C	0.02±0.00	
Si quota		
0°C	0.23±0.02	
2°C	0.23±0.06	
4°C	0.30±0.01	
6°C	0.30±0.03	
8°C	0.34±0.01	
10°C	0.28±0.04	
Chl <i>a</i> per cell (pg/cell)		
0°C	0.48±0.01	0.23±0.03
2°C	0.57±0.07	0.22±0.02
4°C	0.64±0.01	0.20±0.01
6°C	0.68±0.05	0.21±0.00
8°C	0.58±0.03	0.17±0.02
10°C	0.46±0.03	

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728 Table 4. Comparison of the curve fitting results for maximum growth rate (d^{-1}) and half saturation
 729 constants (K_m), calculated from the CO_2 functional response curves of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica*
 730 $2^\circ C$ and $8^\circ C$. Values represent the means and errors are the standard errors from fitting.

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Species	Maximum growth rates (d^{-1})	K_m
<i>P. subcurvata</i>		
$2^\circ C$	0.60 ± 0.18	66.4 ± 10.39
$8^\circ C$	0.88 ± 0.02	9.8 ± 5.34
<i>P. antarctica</i>		
$2^\circ C$	0.61 ± 0.02	26.4 ± 8.23
$8^\circ C$	0.41 ± 0.02	22.1 ± 11.15

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Table 5 The effects of CO₂ on the C: N, N: P, C: P, C: Si, and C: Chl *a* ratios of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* at 2°C and 8°C. Values represent the means and errors are the standard deviations of triplicate bottles.

	<i>P. subcurvata</i>		<i>P. antarctica</i>	
	2°C	8°C	2°C	8°C
C: N				
100 ppm	6.6±0.26	7.1±0.68	7.22±0.50	6.95±0.35
205 ppm	6.7±0.24	7.5±0.32	7.74±0.21	6.56±1.15
260 ppm	6.7±0.32	7.3±0.18	8.07±0.52	6.99±0.27
425 ppm	6.7±0.05	6.6±0.05	7.21±0.81	6.19±0.13
755 ppm	6.8±0.20	7.1±0.68	7.98±0.44	6.79±0.22
1730 ppm	7.1±0.82	7.4±1.07	8.15±0.48	7.05±0.91
N: P				
100 ppm	10.4±0.85	14.5±2.28	16.4±1.24	13.9±0.20
205 ppm	10.8±1.01	13.3±0.42	16.6±1.12	15.7±2.77
260 ppm	10.3±1.28	14.0±0.56	14.3±1.24	14.5±2.38
425 ppm	11.3±0.84	16.5±0.28	17.1±1.83	17.2±1.98
755 ppm	9.9±0.28	14.3±1.34	14.2±2.60	11.6±4.11
1730 ppm	10.4±1.02	15.5±1.84	15.5±0.56	15.1±1.85
C: P				
100 ppm	68.6±3.10	101.0±6.43	117.7±4.08	96.7±4.86
205 ppm	72.7±4.82	99.3±7.05	128.2±5.98	101.0±1.91
260 ppm	69.1±7.68	103.0±4.88	115.5±7.25	101.0±13.04
425 ppm	76.3±5.19	109.0±2.20	122.3±4.85	106.0±11.14
755 ppm	67.2±1.38	101.0±5.80	113.5±22.50	78.6±27.09
1730 ppm	73.4±1.22	114.0±5.99	126.2±12.10	105.0±6.26
C: Si				
100 ppm	7.8±0.80	5.6±0.32		
205 ppm	7.4±0.30	5.6±0.24		
260 ppm	7.3±0.23	6.1±0.38		
425 ppm	7.5±0.23	6.1±0.06		
755 ppm	7.4±0.66	6.3±0.36		
1730 ppm	8.0±0.88	7.1±0.47		
C: Chl <i>a</i> (µg/µg)				
100 ppm	43.6±1.14	70.7±5.01	160.4±6.68	197.4±29.35
205 ppm	45.2±2.91	67.3±4.42	157.5±4.95	194.0±17.14
260 ppm	41.6±3.31	60.1±9.45	138.3±15.19	169.8±9.20
425 ppm	37.2±2.58	72.5±2.35	180.2±20.10	232.4±20.47
755 ppm	42.2±3.62	68.7±6.29	167.5±5.06	282.5±15.30
1730 ppm	46.3±2.23	85.3±15.70	276.5±36.57	460.3±15.21

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Table 6 The effects of CO₂ on the C quota (pmol cell⁻¹), N quota (pmol cell⁻¹), P quota (pmol cell⁻¹), Si quota (pmol cell⁻¹), and chl *a* per cell (pg cell⁻¹) of *P. subcurvata* and *P. antarctica* at 2°C and 8°C. Values represent the means and errors are the standard deviations of triplicate bottles.

	<i>P. subcurvata</i>		<i>P. antarctica</i>	
	2°C	8°C	2°C	8°C
C quota				
100 ppm	2.0±0.15	2.64±0.06	2.57±0.03	2.15±0.22
205 ppm	2.1±0.12	2.67±0.31	2.72±0.28	2.35±0.19
260 ppm	1.9±0.04	2.28±0.18	2.51±0.36	2.21±0.04
425 ppm	1.8±0.04	2.43±0.15	2.31±0.05	2.28±0.46
755 ppm	2.1±0.09	2.26±0.05	2.47±0.17	2.81±0.15
1730 ppm	2.1±0.30	2.47±0.18	2.43±0.10	2.96±0.30
N quota				
100 ppm	0.30±0.03	0.38±0.04	0.36±0.03	0.31±0.03
205 ppm	0.30±0.03	0.36±0.03	0.35±0.03	0.36±0.06
260 ppm	0.29±0.01	0.31±0.02	0.31±0.06	0.32±0.02
425 ppm	0.27±0.01	0.37±0.06	0.32±0.03	0.37±0.05
755 ppm	0.30±0.02	0.32±0.03	0.31±0.03	0.41±0.01
1730 ppm	0.29±0.05	0.34±0.06	0.30±0.03	0.43±0.10
P quota				
100 ppm	0.03±0.00	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00
205 ppm	0.03±0.00	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00
260 ppm	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00
425 ppm	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.01
755 ppm	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.04±0.02
1730 ppm	0.03±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.02±0.00	0.03±0.00
Si quota				
100 ppm	0.26±0.02	0.47±0.04		
205 ppm	0.28±0.02	0.48±0.07		
260 ppm	0.27±0.01	0.37±0.03		
425 ppm	0.25±0.01	0.40±0.04		
755 ppm	0.28±0.03	0.36±0.03		
1730 ppm	0.26±0.01	0.35±0.05		
Chl <i>a</i> per cell (pg/cell)				
100 ppm	0.54±0.05	0.45±0.04	0.19±0.01	0.13±0.02
205 ppm	0.54±0.04	0.48±0.05	0.21±0.02	0.15±0.02
260 ppm	0.56±0.03	0.46±0.04	0.22±0.04	0.16±0.01
425 ppm	0.60±0.04	0.40±0.04	0.16±0.02	0.12±0.01
755 ppm	0.59±0.06	0.40±0.03	0.18±0.01	0.12±0.00
1730 ppm	0.53±0.06	0.35±0.05	0.11±0.02	0.08±0.01

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750 **Figure legends**

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Fig. 1. Thermal functional response curves showing specific growth rates (and fitted curves) of *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and *Phaeocystis antarctica* across a range of temperatures from 0°C to 14°C. Values represent the means and error bars represents the standard deviations of triplicate samples.

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Fig. 2. The C: N ratios (A), N: P ratios (B), and C: P ratios (C) of *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and *Phaeocystis antarctica* and (D) the C: Si ratios of *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* from the thermal response curves shown in Fig. 1 for a range of temperatures from 0°C to 10°C. Values represent the means and error bars represents the standard deviations of triplicate samples.

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Fig. 3. The C: Chl *a* ratios of *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* and *Phaeocystis antarctica* from the thermal response curves shown in Fig. 1 for a range of temperatures from 0°C to 10°C. Values represent the means and error bars represents the standard deviations of triplicate samples.

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Fig. 4. The relative abundance of *Pseudo-nitzschia subcurvata* in a 6 day competition experiment with *Phaeocystis antarctica* at 0°C and 6°C. The competition experiments were started with equal Chl *a* concentrations for both species, and the relative abundance was calculated based on cell counts. Values represent the means and error bars represents the standard deviations of triplicate samples.

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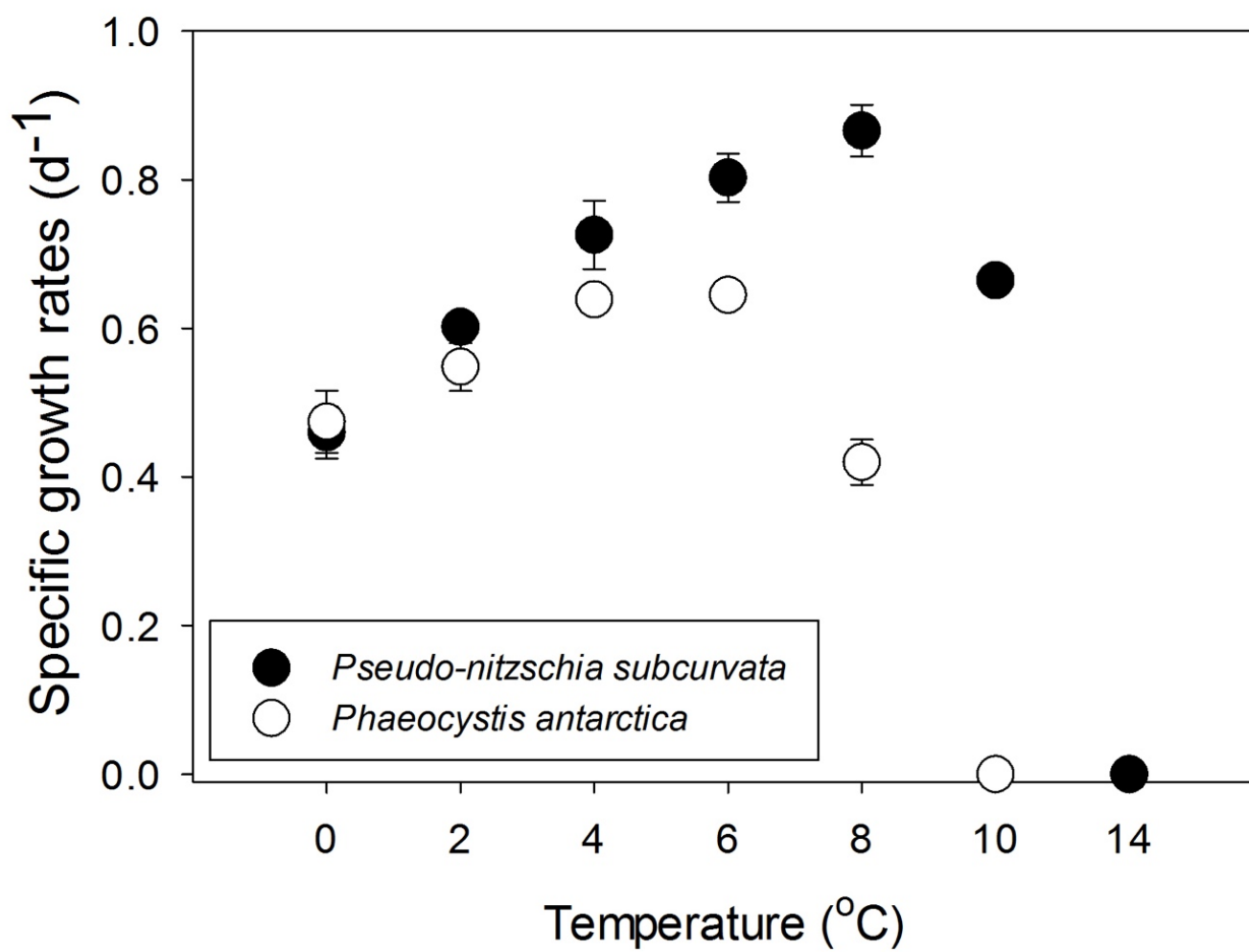
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Fig. 5. CO₂ functional response curves showing specific growth rates (and fitted curves) across a range of CO₂ concentrations from ~100 ppm to ~1730 ppm at 2°C and at 8°C. *Pseudo-nitzschia*

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778 Fig. 1

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808 Fig. 2

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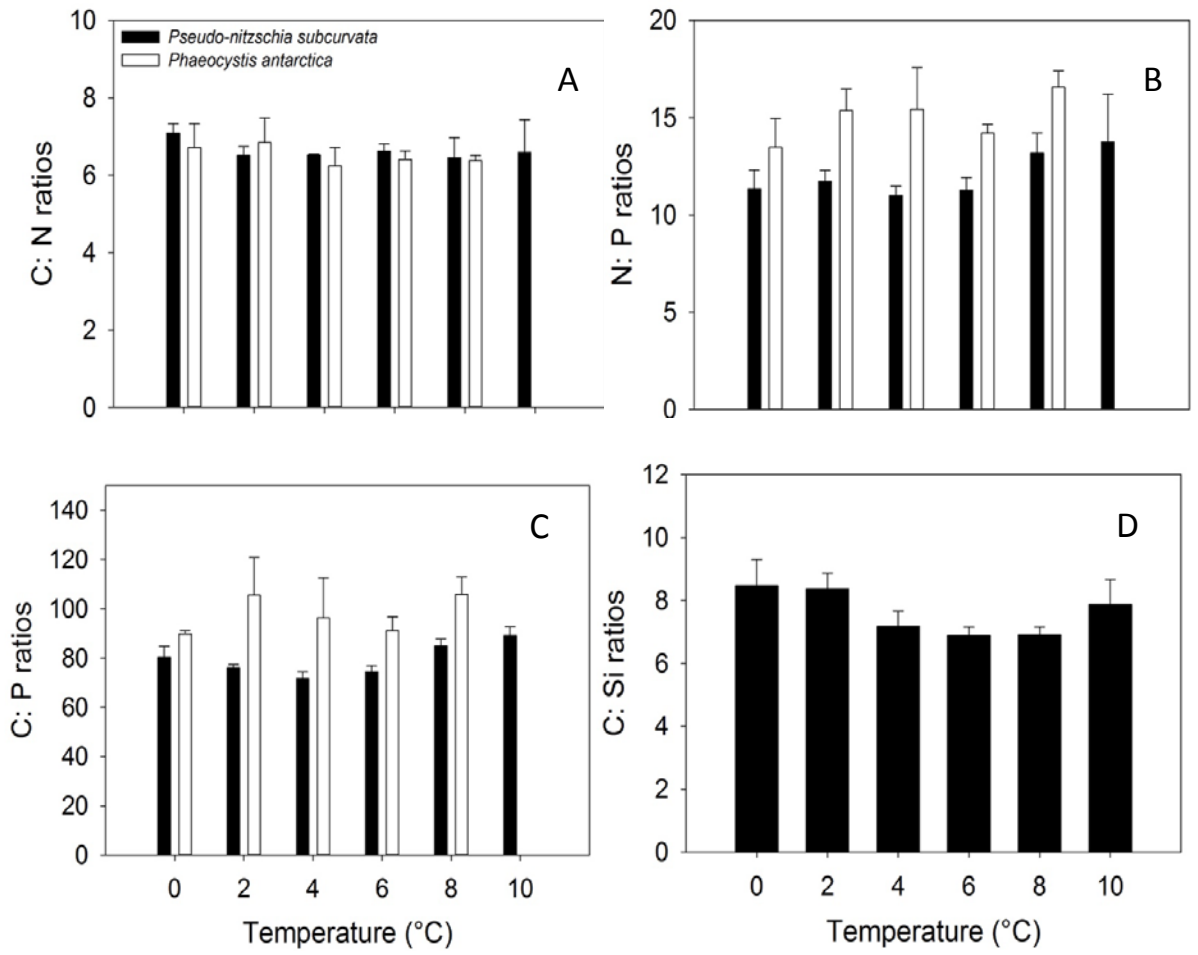
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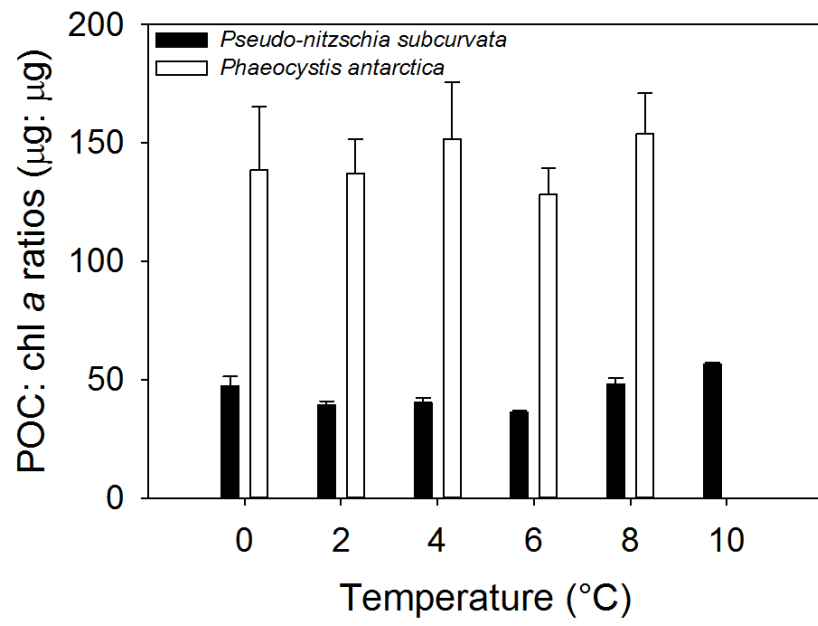
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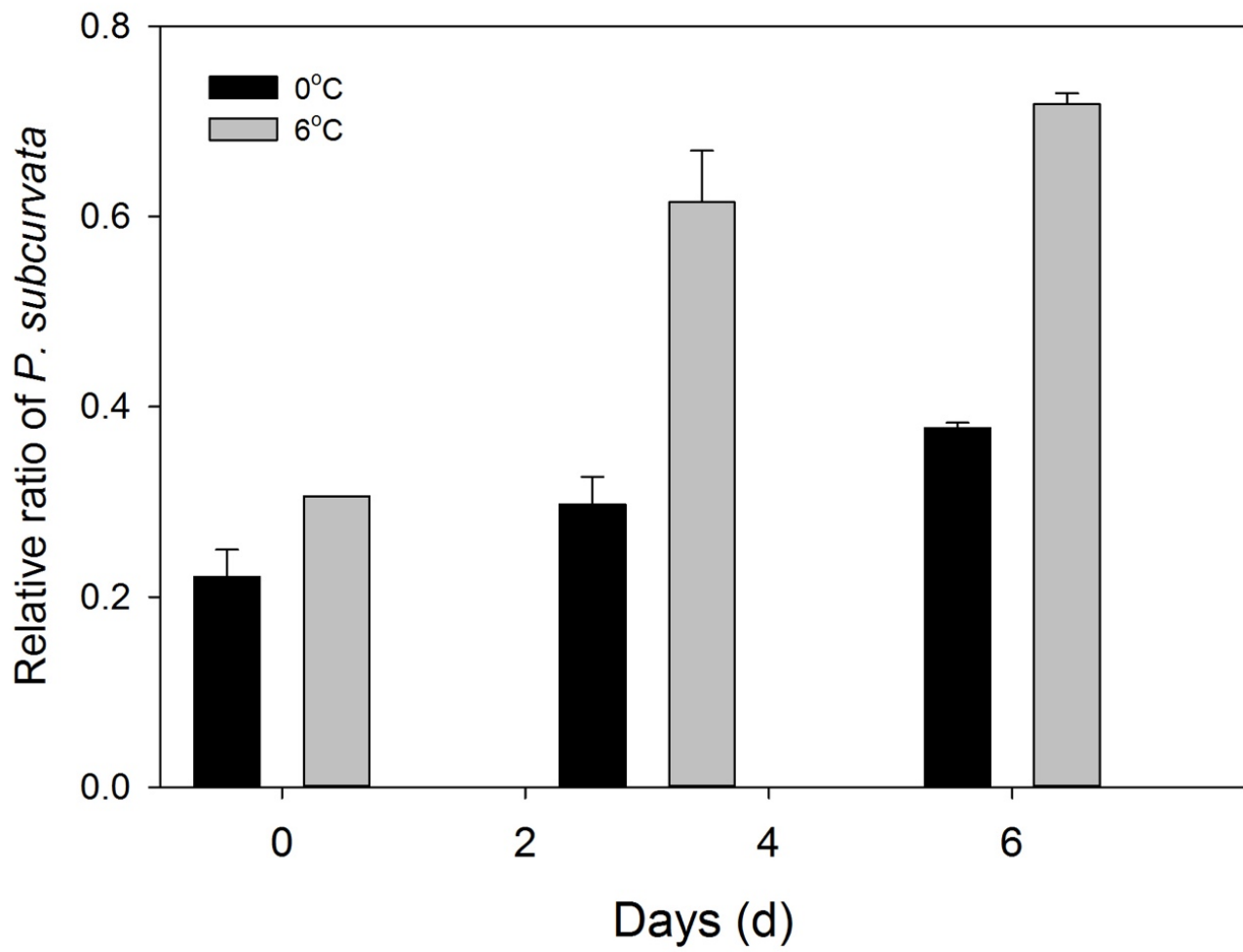
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825 Fig. 3



826 Fig. 4



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