



1 **Effect of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  on trace gas production during an**  
2 **ocean acidification mesocosm experiment**

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26 **Abstract**

27 A mesocosm experiment was conducted in Wuyuan Bay (Xiamen), China to investigate the effects of elevated  
28  $p\text{CO}_2$  on phytoplankton species and production of dimethylsulfide (DMS) and dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP)  
29 as well as four halocarbon compounds ( $\text{CHBrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2$ , and  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ ). Over a period of 5 weeks, *P.*  
30 *tricornutum* outcompeted *T. weissflogii* and *E. huxleyi*, comprising more than 99% of the final biomass. During the  
31 logarithmic growth phase (phase I), DMS concentrations in high  $p\text{CO}_2$  mesocosms (1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) were 28.2% lower  
32 than those in low  $p\text{CO}_2$  mesocosms (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ ). Elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  led to a delay in DMSP-consuming bacteria  
33 attached to *T. weissflogii* and *P. tricornutum* and finally resulted in the delay of DMS concentration in the HC  
34 treatment. Unlike DMS, the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  did not affect DMSP production ability of *T. weissflogii* or *P.*  
35 *tricornutum* throughout the 5 week culture. A positive relationship was detected between  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  and *T. weissflogii*  
36 and *P. tricornutum* during the experiment, and there was a 40.2% reduction in mean  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  concentrations in the  
37 HC mesocosms.  $\text{CHBrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$ , and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2$  concentrations did not increase with elevated chlorophyll *a* (*Chl a*)  
38 concentrations compared with DMS(P) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ , and there were no major peak in the HC or LC mesocosms. In  
39 addition, no effect of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  was identified for any of the three bromocarbons.

40 **Keywords:** ocean acidification, dimethylsulfide (DMS), dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP), halocarbon,  
41 phytoplankton, bacteria

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## 47 1. Introduction

48 As a result of human activity, anthropogenic emissions has increased the fugacity of atmospheric  
49 carbon dioxide ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ) from the pre-industrial value of 280  $\mu\text{atm}$  to the present-day value of over  
50 400  $\mu\text{atm}$ , and these values will further increase to 800–1000  $\mu\text{atm}$  by the end of this century  
51 according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014). The dissolution of  
52 this excess  $\text{CO}_2$  into the surface of the ocean directly affects the carbonate system and has lowered  
53 the pH by 0.1 units, from 8.21 to 8.10 over the last 250 years. Further decreases of 0.3–0.4 pH  
54 units are predicted by the end of this century (Doney et al., 2009; Orr et al., 2005), which is  
55 commonly referred to as ocean acidification (OA). The physiological and ecological aspects of the  
56 phytoplankton response to this changing environment can potentially alter marine phytoplankton  
57 community composition, community biomass, and feedback to biogeochemical cycles (Boyd and  
58 Doney, 2002). These changes simultaneously have an impact on some volatile organic compounds  
59 produced by marine phytoplankton (Liss et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2017), including the climatically  
60 important trace gas dimethylsulfide (DMS) and a number of volatile halocarbon compounds.

61 DMS is the most important volatile sulfur compound produced from the algal secondary  
62 metabolite dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP) through complex biological interactions in marine  
63 ecosystems (Stefels et al., 2007). Although it remains controversial, DMS and its by-products,  
64 such as methanesulfonic acid and non-sea-salt sulfate, are suspected to have a prominent part in  
65 climate feedback (Charlson et al., 1987; Quinn and Bates, 2011). The conversion of DMSP to  
66 DMS is facilitated by several enzymes, including DMSP-lyase and acyl CoA transferase  
67 (Kirkwood et al., 2010; Todd et al., 2007); these enzymes are mainly found in phytoplankton,  
68 macroalgae, *Symbiodinium*, bacteria and fungi (de Souza and Yoch, 1995; Stefels and Dijkhuizen,



69 1996; Steinke and Kirst, 1996; Bacic and Yoch, 1998; Yost and Mitchelmore, 2009). Several  
70 studies have already reported the sensitivity of DMS-production capability to ocean acidification.  
71 Majority of these experimental studies revealed negative impact of decreasing pH on  
72 DMS-production capability (Hopkins et al., 2010; Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Archer et al., 2013;  
73 Webb et al., 2016), while others found either no effect or a positive effect (Vogt et al., 2008;  
74 Hopkins and Archer, 2014). Several assumptions have been presented to explain these contrasting  
75 results and attribute the pH-induced variation in DMS-production capability to altered physiology  
76 of the algae cells or of bacterial DMSP degradation (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2010,  
77 Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Archer et al., 2013; Hopkins and Archer, 2014; Webb et al., 2015, 2016).  
78 Halocarbons also play a significant role in the global climate because they are linked to  
79 tropospheric and stratospheric ozone depletion and a synergistic effect of chlorine and bromine  
80 species has been reported that they may account for approximately 20% of the polar stratospheric  
81 ozone depletion (Roy et al., 2011). In addition, iodocarbons can release atomic iodine (I) quickly  
82 through photolysis in the atmospheric boundary layer and I atoms are very efficient in the catalytic  
83 removal of O<sub>3</sub>, which governs the lifetime of many climate relevant gases including methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)  
84 and DMS (Jenkins et al., 1991). Compared with DMS, limited attention was received about the  
85 effect of OA on halocarbon concentrations. Hopkins et al. (2010) and Webb (2015) measured  
86 lower concentrations of several iodocarbons, while bromocarbons were unaffected by elevated  
87 pCO<sub>2</sub> through two acidification experiments. In addition, an additional mesocosm study did not  
88 elicit significant differences from any halocarbon compounds at up to 1,400 μatm pCO<sub>2</sub> (Hopkins  
89 et al., 2013).

90 The combined picture arising from existing studies is that the response of communities to OA



91 is not predictable and requires further study. Here, we report a mesocosm experiment conducted to  
92 study the influence of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  on the biogeochemical cycle of a laboratory-cultured  
93 artificial phytoplankton community of diatoms and coccolithophores that had been previously  
94 examined for the response to elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Our objective was to assess how changes in the  
95 phytoplankton community driven by changes in  $p\text{CO}_2$  impact dimethyl sulfur compounds and  
96 halocarbons (including  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ ,  $\text{CHBrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$ , and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2$ ) release.

## 97 **2. Experimental method**

### 98 *2.1 General experimental device*

99 The mesocosm experiments were carried out on a floating platform at the Facility for Ocean  
100 Acidification Impacts Study of Xiamen University (FOANIC-XMU, 24.52°N, 117.18°E) in Wu  
101 Yuan Bay, Xiamen (for full technical details of the mesocosms, see Liu et al. 2017). Six  
102 cylindrical transparent thermoplastic polyurethane bags with domes were deployed along the  
103 south side of the platform. The width and depth of each mesocosm bag was 1.5 m and 3 m,  
104 respectively. Filtered (0.01  $\mu\text{m}$ , achieved using an ultrafiltration water purifier, MU801-4T, Midea,  
105 Guangdong, China) *in situ* seawater was pumped into the six bags simultaneously within 24 h. A  
106 known amount of NaCl solution was added to each bag to calculate the exact volume of seawater  
107 in the bags, according to a comparison of the salinity before and after adding salt (Czerny et al.,  
108 2013). The initial *in situ*  $p\text{CO}_2$  was about 650  $\mu\text{atm}$ . To set the low and high  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels, we  
109 added  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution and  $\text{CO}_2$  saturated seawater to the mesocosm bags to alter total alkalinity  
110 and dissolved inorganic carbon (Gattuso et al., 2010; Riebesell et al., 2013). Subsequently, during  
111 the whole experimental process, air at the ambient (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ ) and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  (1000  $\mu\text{atm}$ )  
112 concentrations was continuously bubbled into the mesocosm bags using a  $\text{CO}_2$  Enricher (CE-100B,



113 Wuhan Ruihua Instrument & Equipment Ltd., Wuhan, China). Because the seawater in the  
114 mesocosm was filtered, the algae in the coastal environment and their attached bacteria were  
115 removed and the trace gases produced in the environment did not influence the mesocosm trace  
116 gas concentrations after the bags were sealed.

### 117 2.2 Algal strains

118 Three phytoplankton strains were inoculated into the mesocosm bags, at  $4 \times 10^4$  cells  $L^{-1}$  each *P.*  
119 *tricornutum* (CCMA 106) and *T. weissflogii* (CCMA 102) were obtained from the Center for  
120 Collections of Marine Bacteria and Phytoplankton of the State Key Laboratory of Marine  
121 Environmental Science (Xiamen University). *P. tricornutum* was originally isolated from the  
122 South China Sea in 2004 and *T. weissflogii* was isolated from Daya Bay in the coastal South China  
123 Sea. *E. huxleyi* PML B92/11 was originally isolated in 1992 from the field station of the  
124 University of Bergen (Raunefjorden; 60°18'N, 05°15'E).

### 125 2.3 Sampling for DMS(P) and halocarbons

126 DMS(P) and halocarbons samples were generally obtained from six mesocosms at 9 a.m., then all  
127 collected samples were transported into a dark cool box back to the laboratory onshore for analyse  
128 within 1 h. For DMS analysis, 2 mL sample was gently filtered through a 25 mm GF/F (glass fiber)  
129 filter and transferred to a purge and trap system linked to a Shimadzu GC-2014 gas  
130 chromatograph (Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a glass column packed with 10% DEGS on  
131 Chromosorb W-AW-DMCS (3 m × 3 mm) and a flame photometric detector (FPD) (Zhang et al.,  
132 2014). For total DMSP analysis, 10 mL water sample was fixed using 50 µL of 50 % H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and  
133 sealed (Kiene and Slezak, 2006). After > 1 d preservation, DMSP samples were hydrolysed for 24  
134 h with a pellet of KOH (final pH > 13) to fully convert DMSP to DMS. Then, 2 mL hydrolysed



135 sample was carefully transferred to the purge and trap system mentioned above for extraction of  
136 DMS. For halocarbons, 100 mL sample was purged at 40 °C with pure nitrogen at a flow rate of  
137 100 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for 12 min using another purge and trap system coupled to an Agilent 6890 gas  
138 chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) equipped with an electron capture  
139 detector (ECD) as well as a 60 m DB-624 capillary column (0.53 mm ID; film thickness, 3 µm)  
140 (Yang et al., 2010). The analytical precision for duplicate measurements of DMS(P) and  
141 halocarbons was > 10%.

#### 142 *2.4 Measurements of chlorophyll a*

143 Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) was measured in water samples (200–1,000 mL) collected every 2 d at 9  
144 a.m. by filtering onto Whatman GF/F filters (25 mm). The filters were placed in 5 ml 100%  
145 methanol overnight at 4 °C and centrifuged at 5000 r min<sup>-1</sup> for 10 min. The absorbance of the  
146 supernatant (2.5 mL) was measured from 250 to 800 nm using a scanning spectrophotometer (DU  
147 800, Beckman Coulter Inc., Brea, CA, USA). Chl *a* concentration was calculated according to the  
148 equation reported by Porra (2002).

#### 149 *2.5 Statistical analysis*

150 One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), Tukey's test, and the two-sample *t*-test were carried out  
151 to demonstrate the differences between treatments. A *p*-value < 0.05 was considered significant.  
152 Relationships between DMS(P), halocarbons and a range of other parameters were detected using  
153 Pearson's correlation analysis via SPSS 22.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

### 154 **3. Results and Discussion**

155 *3.1 Temporal changes in pH, Chl a, P. tricornutum, T. weissflogii, and E. huxleyi during the*  
156 *experiment*



157 During the experiment, the seawater in each mesocosm was well combined, and the temperature  
158 and salinity were well controlled, with a mean of 16 °C and 29 in all mesocosms, respectively  
159 (Huang et al., 2018). Meanwhile, we observed significant differences in  $p\text{CO}_2$  levels between the  
160 two  $\text{CO}_2$  treatments on days 0–11, but the differences disappeared with subsequent phytoplankton  
161 growth (Fig. 1-A). The phytoplankton growth process was divided into three phases in terms of  
162 variations in Chl *a* concentrations (Fig. 1-B) in the mesocosm experiments: i) the logarithmic  
163 growth phase (phase I, days 0–12), ii) a plateau phase (phase II, days 12–22, bloom period), and iii)  
164 a secondary plateau phase (phase III, days 22–33) attained after a decline in biomass from a  
165 maximum in phase II. The initial chemical parameters of the mesocosm experiment are shown in  
166 Table 1. The initial mean dissolved nitrate (including  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ),  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  and silicate  
167 ( $\text{SiO}_3^{2-}$ ) concentrations were  $54 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $20 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $2.6 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  and  $41 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  for the LC  
168 treatment and  $52 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $21 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ,  $2.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  and  $38 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  for the HC treatment,  
169 respectively. The nutrient concentrations ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and phosphate) during phase I were  
170 consumed rapidly and their concentrations were below or close to the detection limit during  
171 phase II (Table 1). Meanwhile, Chl *a* concentration increased rapidly and reached 109.9 and 108.6  
172  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  in the LC and HC treatments, respectively. In addition, although DIN ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  
173  $\text{NO}_2^-$ ) and phosphate were depleted, Chl *a* concentration in both treatments (biomass dominated  
174 by *P. tricornutum*) remained constant over days 12–22, and then declined over subsequent days as  
175 shown in Liu et al. 2017.

176 *E. huxleyi* was only found in phase I and its maximal concentration reached  $310 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$   
177 according to the results of microscopic inspection (Fig. 2-C). *T. weissflogii* was found throughout  
178 the entire period in each bag, but the maximum concentration was  $8,120 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$ , which was far





179 less than the concentration of *P. tricornutum* with a maximum cell density of about 1.5 million  
180 cells mL<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 2-A and Fig. 2-B). *P. tricornutum* accounted for at least 99% of all of the biomass  
181 by the time the populations had entered the plateau phase (phase II). We did not detect any  
182 significant enhancement in elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> due to the large variation. However, significant  
183 differences between the two *p*CO<sub>2</sub> treatments were found on days 23 (*p* = 0.006) and 25 (*p* = 0.007)  
184 (Fig. 2-A), when the cell concentration declined. Although we did not observe any difference  
185 between the two *p*CO<sub>2</sub> treatments during the rapid growth period (days 8–15), a longer period of  
186 persistent cell growth and a slower pace during the decrease in population size in phase II were  
187 recorded under the HC condition compared to the LC condition (Fig. 2-A).

### 188 3.2 Impact of elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> on DMS and DMSP production

189 Several studies have already reported the sensitivity of DMS-production capability to decreases in  
190 seawater pH. However, these studies did not come to a unified conclusion (Vogt et al., 2008;  
191 Hopkins et al., 2010; Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Archer et al., 2013; Hopkins and Archer, 2014; Webb  
192 et al., 2016). Fig. 3 (A-B) shows the mean DMS and DMSP concentrations for the HC and LC  
193 treatments during the mesocosm experiment. At the beginning of the experiment, the mean DMS  
194 and DMSP concentrations were low in both treatments due to the low concentrations of DMS and  
195 DMSP in the original fjord water and possible loss during the filtration procedure. DMS and  
196 DMSP showed slightly different trends during growth in the mesocosm experiment. The DMSP  
197 concentrations in the HC and LC treatments increased significantly along with the increase in Chl  
198 *a* and cell concentrations, and stayed relatively constant over the following days. A significant  
199 positive relationship was observed between DMSP and phytoplankton in the experiment ( $R^2 =$   
200 0.92 *p* < 0.01 for *P. tricornutum*,  $R^2 = 0.36$  *p* < 0.01 for *T. weissflogii* in LC treatment;  $R^2 = 0.94$  *p*



201 < 0.01 for *P. tricornutum*,  $R^2 = 0.36$   $p < 0.01$  for *T. weissflogii* in HC treatment). Mean  
202 concentrations of DMS in the HC and LC treatments did not increase significantly (1.03 and 0.74  
203  $\text{nmol L}^{-1}$  for the LC and HC treatments, respectively) during phase I, but began to increase rapidly  
204 beginning on day 15. The two treatments peaked on days 25 ( $112.1 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ ) and 30 ( $101.9 \text{ nmol}$   
205  $\text{L}^{-1}$ ), respectively, and then began to decrease during phase III. A significant positive relationship  
206 was observed between DMS and phytoplankton throughout the experiment ( $R^2 = 0.65$   $p < 0.01$  for  
207 *P. tricornutum*,  $R^2 = 0.80$   $p < 0.01$  for *T. weissflogii* in LC treatment;  $R^2 = 0.54$   $p < 0.01$  for *P.*  
208 *tricornutum*,  $R^2 = 0.73$   $p < 0.01$  for *T. weissflogii* in HC treatment).

209 A significant 28.2% reduction in DMS concentration was detected in the HC treatment  
210 compared with the LC treatment ( $p = 0.016$ ) during phase I and this reduction in DMS  
211 concentrations may be attributed to greater consumption of DMS and conversion to DMSO (Webb  
212 et al., 2015). In contrast, no difference in mean DMSP concentrations was observed between the  
213 two treatments, indicating that elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  had no significant influence on DMSP production in  
214 *P. tricornutum* and *T. weissflogii* during this study. In addition, the peak DMS concentration in the  
215 HC treatment was delayed 5 days relative to that in the LC treatment during phase II (Fig. 3-A).  
216 This result has been observed in previous mesocosm experiments and it was attributed to small  
217 scale shifts in community composition and succession that could not be identified with only a  
218 once-daily measurement regime (Vogt et al., 2008; Webb et al., 2016). However, this phenomenon  
219 can be explained in another straightforward way during this study. Previous studies have showed  
220 that marine bacteria play a key role in DMS production and the efficiency of bacteria converting  
221 DMSP to DMS may vary from 2 to 100% depending on the nutrient status of the bacteria and the  
222 quantity of dissolved organic matter (Simó et al., 2002, 2009; Kiene et al., 1999, 2000). All of these



223 observations point to the importance of bacteria in DMS and DMSP dynamics. During the present  
224 mesocosm experiment, DMSP concentrations in the LC treatment decreased slightly on day 23,  
225 while the slight decrease appeared on day 29 in the HC treatment (Fig. 3-B). In addition, the time  
226 that the DMSP concentration began to decrease was very close to the time when the highest DMS  
227 concentration occurred in both treatments. Moreover, DMSP-consuming bacterial abundance  
228 peaked on days 19 and 21 in the LC and HC treatments, respectively, as shown in Fig. S1 (Yu et  
229 al., unpublished data). DMSP-consuming bacterial abundance was also delayed in the HC  
230 mesocosm compared to that in the LC mesocosm. Taken together, we inferred that the elevated  
231  $p\text{CO}_2$  first delayed growth of DMSP-consuming bacteria in the mesocosm, then the delayed  
232 DMSP-consuming bacteria abundance postponed the DMSP degradation process, and eventually  
233 delayed the DMS concentration in the HC treatment. In addition, considering that the algae and  
234 their attached bacteria were removed through a filtering process before the experiment and the  
235 unattached bacteria were maintained in a relatively constant concentration during this mesocosm  
236 experiment (Huang et al., 2018), we further concluded that the elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  controlled DMS  
237 concentrations mainly by affecting DMSP-consuming bacteria attached to *T. weissflogii* and *P.*  
238 *tricornutum*. Moreover, the inhibition of elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  to DMSP-consuming bacteria might be  
239 another important reason for the reduction of DMS in the HC treatment during phase I.

### 240 3.3 Impact of elevated $p\text{CO}_2$ on halocarbon compounds

241 The temporal development in  $\text{CHBrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$ , and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2$  concentrations is shown in Fig. 3  
242 (C–E) and the temporal changes in their concentrations were substantially different from those of  
243 DMS, DMSP, *T. weissflogii*, and *P. tricornutum*. The mean concentrations of  $\text{CHBrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$  and  
244  $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2$  for the entire experiment were 8.58, 7.85, and 5.13  $\text{pmol L}^{-1}$  in the LC treatment and 8.81,



245 9.73, and 6.27 pmol L<sup>-1</sup> in the HC treatment. The concentrations of CHBrCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>Br, and CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>  
246 did not increase with the Chl *a* concentration compared with those of DMS and DMSP, and no  
247 major peaks were detected in the mesocosms. In addition, no effect of elevated *p*CO<sub>2</sub> was  
248 identified for any of the three bromocarbons, which compared well with previous mesocosm  
249 findings (Hopkins et al., 2010, 2013; Webb, 2016). No clear correlation was observed between the  
250 three bromocarbons and any of the measured algal groups, indicating that *T. weissflogii* and *P.*  
251 *tricornutum* did not primarily release these three bromocarbons during the mesocosm experiment.  
252 Previous studies have reported that large-size cyanobacteria, such as *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae*,  
253 produce bromocarbons (Karlsson et al. 2008) and significant correlations between cyanobacterium  
254 abundance and several bromocarbons have been reported in the Arabian Sea (Roy et al., 2011).  
255 However, the filtration procedure led to the loss of cyanobacterium in the mesocosms and finally  
256 resulted in low bromocarbon concentrations during the experiment, although *T. weissflogii* and *P.*  
257 *tricornutum* abundances were high.

258 CH<sub>3</sub>I production is usually involve to “biogenic”, as it is released directly by macroalgae and  
259 phytoplankton, and indirectly generated via a photochemical degradation with organic matter  
260 (Moore and Zafiriou, 1994; Archer et al., 2007; Laturmus, 1995). The CH<sub>3</sub>I concentrations in the  
261 HC and LC treatments are shown in Fig. 3-F. The maximum CH<sub>3</sub>I concentrations in the HC and  
262 LC treatments were both observed on day 23 (12.61 and 8.78 pmol L<sup>-1</sup> for the LC and HC  
263 treatments, respectively). A positive relationship was detected between CH<sub>3</sub>I and Chl *a* in both *T.*  
264 *weissflogii* and *P. tricornutum* ( $R^2 = 0.35$   $p < 0.01$  in LC treatment;  $R^2 = 0.76$   $p < 0.01$  in HC  
265 treatment for *P. tricornutum*;  $R^2 = 0.48$   $p < 0.01$  in LC treatment;  $R^2 = 0.48$   $p < 0.01$  in HC  
266 treatment for *T. weissflogii*;  $R^2 = 0.54$   $p < 0.01$  in LC treatment;  $R^2 = 0.53$   $p < 0.01$  in HC



267 treatment for Chl *a*). This result agrees with previous mesocosm (Hopkins et al., 2013) and  
268 laboratory experiments (Hughes et al., 2013; Manley and De La Cuesta, 1997) identifying diatoms  
269 as significant producers of CH<sub>3</sub>I. Moreover, similar to DMS, the maximum CH<sub>3</sub>I concentration  
270 also occurred after the maxima of *T. weissflogii* and *P. tricornutum*, at about 4 d (Fig. 3-F). This  
271 was similar to iodocarbon gases measured in a Norway mesocosm conducted by Hopkins et al.  
272 (2010) and chloriodomethane (CH<sub>2</sub>ClI) concentrations measured in another Norway mesocosm  
273 conducted by Wingenter et al. (2007). Furthermore, the CH<sub>3</sub>I concentrations measured in the HC  
274 treatment were significantly lower than those measured in the LC treatment during the mesocosm,  
275 which is in accord with the discoveries of Hopkins et al. (2010) and Webb et al. (2015) but in  
276 contrast to the findings of Hopkins et al. (2013) and Webb et al. (2016). Throughout the mesocosm  
277 experiment, there was a 40.2% reduction in the HC mesocosm compared to the LC mesocosm.  
278 Considering that the phytoplankton species did not show significant differences in the HC and LC  
279 treatments during the experiment, this reduction in the HC treatment was likely not caused by  
280 phytoplankton. Apart from direct biological production via methyl transferase enzyme activity by  
281 both phytoplankton and bacteria (Amachi et al., 2001), CH<sub>3</sub>I is produced from the breakdown of  
282 higher molecular weight iodine-containing organic matter (Fenical, 1982) through photochemical  
283 reactions between organic matter and light (Richter and Wallace, 2004). Both bacterial methyl  
284 transferase enzyme activity and a photochemical reaction may have reduced the CH<sub>3</sub>I  
285 concentrations in the HC treatment but further experiments are needed to verify this result.

#### 286 **4. Conclusions**

287 In this study, the effects of increased levels of *p*CO<sub>2</sub> on marine DMS(P) and halocarbons release  
288 were studied in a controlled mesocosm facility. A 28.2% reduction during the logarithmic growth



289 phase and a 5 d delay in DMS concentration was observed in the HC treatment due to the effect of  
290 elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$ . Because the seawater in the mesocosm was filtered, the algae in the coastal  
291 environment and their attached bacteria were removed and the trace gases produced in the  
292 environment did not influence the mesocosm trace gas concentrations after the bags were sealed.  
293 Therefore, we attribute this phenomenon to the DMSP-consuming bacteria attached to *P.*  
294 *tricornutum* and *T. weissflogii*. More attention should be paid to the DMSP-consuming bacteria  
295 attached to algae under different pH values in future studies. Three bromocarbons compounds  
296 were not correlated with a range of biological parameters, as they were affected by the filtration  
297 procedure and elevated  $p\text{CO}_2$  had not effect on any of the three bromocarbons. The temporal  
298 dynamics of  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ , combined with strong correlations with biological parameters, indicated  
299 biological control of the concentrations of this gas. In addition, the production of  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  was  
300 sensitive to  $p\text{CO}_2$ , with a significant increase in  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  concentration at higher  $p\text{CO}_2$ . However,  
301 without additional empirical measurements, it is unclear whether this decrease was caused by  
302 bacterial methyl transferase enzyme activity or by photochemical degradation at higher  $p\text{CO}_2$ .

303 Author contribution: Gui-peng Yang and Kun-shan Gao designed the experiments. Sheng-hui  
304 Zhang and Qiong-yao Ding carried out the experiments and prepared the manuscript. Hong-hai  
305 Zhang and Da-wei Pan revised the paper.

### 306 **Acknowledgements**

307 This study was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant  
308 Nos. 41320104008 and 41576073), the National Key Research and Development Program of  
309 China (Grant No. 2016YFA0601301), the National Natural Science Foundation for Creative



310 Research Groups (Grant No. 41521064), and AoShan Talents Program of Qingdao National  
311 Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (No. 2015 ASTP). We are thankful to Minhan Dai  
312 for the nutrient data and to Bangqin Huang for the bacterial data.

313 Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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439 East China Sea during summer and its contribution to atmospheric sulfate aerosol. *Sci. Total Environ.*,

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### Figure captions

447 Fig. 1. CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ) and mean chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) concentrations in the HC

448 (1,000  $\mu\text{atm}$ , solid squares) and LC (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ , white squares) mesocosms (3,000 L).

449 Fig. 2. Temporal changes of *Thalassiosira weissflogii*, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* and *Emiliana*

450 *huxleyi* cell concentrations in the HC (1,000  $\mu\text{atm}$ , solid squares) and LC (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ , white

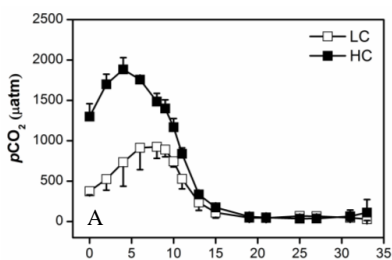
451 squares) mesocosms (3,000 L).

452 Fig. 3 Temporal changes in DMS, DMSP, CHBrCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>Br, CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>I concentrations in

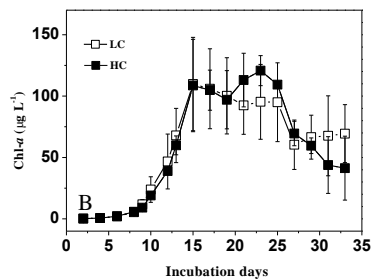
453 the HC (1,000  $\mu\text{atm}$ , black squares) and LC (400  $\mu\text{atm}$ , white squares) mesocosms (3,000 L).



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457 **Fig. 1.** CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ) and mean chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) concentrations in the HC (1,000 µatm, solid

458 squares) and LC (400 µatm, white squares) mesocosms (3,000 L). Data are mean ± standard deviation, n = 3

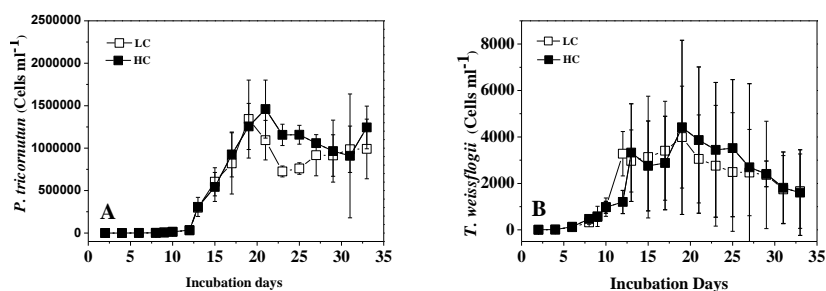
459 (triplicate independent mesocosm bags) (Origin 8.0).

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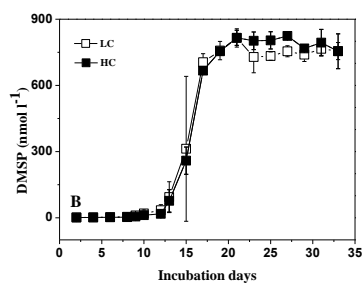
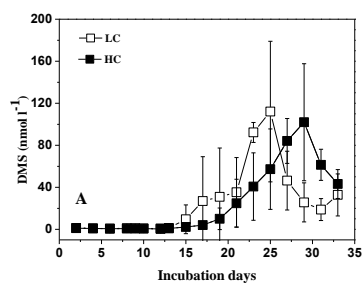
465 **Fig. 2.** (A) *Thalassiosira weissflogii* cell concentrations; (B) *Phaeodactylum tricoratum* cell concentrations; (C)  
466 *Emiliana huxleyi* cell concentrations. White squares represent the LC (400 μatm) treatment. Data are mean ±  
467 standard deviation, n = 3 (triplicate independent mesocosm bags) (Origin 8.0).

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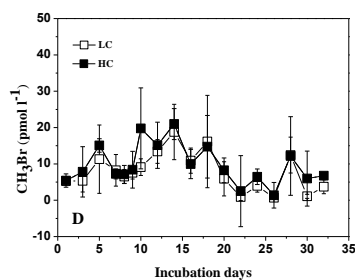
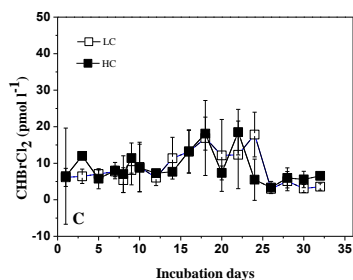




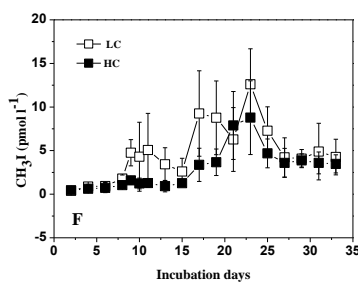
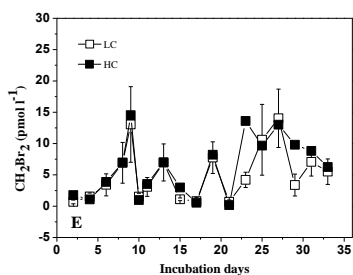
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473 **Fig. 3** Temporal changes in DMS, DMSP, CHBrCl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>Br, CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub>I concentrations in the HC (1,000

474 μatm, black squares) and LC (400 μatm, white squares) mesocosms (3,000 L). Data are mean ± standard deviation,

475 n = 3 (triplicate independent mesocosm bags) (Origin 8.0).

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477 **Table 1.** The conditions of DIC,  $pH_T$ ,  $pCO_2$  and nutrient concentrations in the mesocosm  
 478 experiments. “-” means that the values were below the detection limit.

		$pH_T$	DIC ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ )	$pCO_2$ ( $\mu\text{atm}$ )	$NO_3^-+NO_2^-$ ( $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )	$NH_4^+$ ( $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )	$PO_4^{3-}$ ( $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )	$SiO_3^{2-}$ ( $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ )
day 0	LC	8.0±0.1	2181±29	1170~1284	52~56	19~23	2.6±0.2	38~40
	HC	7.5±0.1	2333±34	340~413	51~55	19~23	2.5±0.2	38~39
Phase I	LC	7.9~8.4	1825~2178	373~888	15~52	1.6~20	0.5~2.6	31~38
	HC	7.4~8.2	2029~2338	1295~1396	47~54	0.2~21	0.7~2.5	34~39
Phase II	LC	8.4~8.5	1706~1745	46~749	-- 15.9	-	0.1~0.5	10~24
	HC	8.4~8.6	1740~1891	59~1164	1.1~25	-	--0.1	29~30
Phase III	LC	8.5~8.8	1673~1706	30~43	-	-	-	10~16
	HC	8.6~8.7	1616~1740	34~110	-	-	--0.3	24~25

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