

Marine Microalgae Biotechnology (Biotechnological potential of marine dinoflagellates)





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Marine Microalgae Biotechnology Research Group (BIO173)











- Chemical Engineering Department
- Engineering treatment of bioprocesses

Members: **21** Ph.D.: 16 Master: 5



Since late 1980s >410 Papers in indexed Journals 44 Books/book chapters > 440 Congress communications > 180 Thesis/Master Thesis 58 Contracts (private and public organizations) 100 Research Projects 16 Patents



- **1.** Overview
- 2. Objectives
- 3. Strategies
- 3.1 Improvement of culture media
- 3.2 Modelling the growth of dinoflagellates with ANNS
- 3.3 Optimization of culture conditions
- **3.4 Recycling recourses**
- 3.5 Scale-up of the bioprocess
- 4. Conclusions



1.-Camacho, F. G., Rodríguez, J. G., Mirón, A. S., García, M. C., Belarbi, E. H., Chisti, Y., & Grima, E. M. (2007). Biotechnological significance of toxic marine dinoflagellates. Biotechnology advances, 25(2), 176-194.

2.-Gallardo-Rodríguez, J., Sánchez-Mirón, A., García-Camacho, F., López-Rosales, L., Chisti, Y., & Molina-Grima, E. (2012). Bioactives from microalgal dinoflagellates. Biotechnology advances, 30(6), 1673-1684.

3.-García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Gallardo-Rodríguez, J., López-Rosales, L., Chisti, Y., & Molina-Grima, E. (2014). Culture of microalgal dinoflagellates. In Seafood and Freshwater Toxins: Pharmacology, Physiology, and Detection (pp. 551-566). CRC Press Boca Raton.



1. Overview

Marine Dinoflagellates

Photoautotrophic unicellular microorganisms

OUTLINE

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High duplication speed





Microalgae







Marine Dinoflagellates

Microalgae producing bioactive substances



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Prices of commercial biotoxins from dinoflagellates

High structural complexity (no chemical synthesis) om 2006 catalogues. The prices are **arge scale cultivation** - producing species indicated by suppliers were *Prorocentrum concavum*, *Ptychodiscus*



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Drawbacks in the culture of marine dinoflagellates

- •Very low bioactive titers (µg L⁻¹)
- •Low cell densities (mg L⁻¹ or 10⁴⁻⁵ cell ml⁻¹)
- •Low growth rates
- •Complex metabolism
- •Nutritional requirements





Comparison of the damaging thresholds of specific energy dissipation rate reported for various orders of dinoflagellates and the average damage threshold reported for various kinds of animal and plant cells cultured in bioreactors.

•Shear-sensitive species

media 3.2 Modelling the growth of dinoflagellates with ANNS

3.1 Improvement of culture

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Amounts of product needed in a pharmaceutical application

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2. OBJECTIVES





Photobioreactors typically used for culturing **non-dinoflagellate microalgae** at different scales of operation



How can bioactives from marine dinoflagellates become in drugs?

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How can bioactives from marine dinoflagellates become in drugs?

- 1. Implementation of strategies for improving the culture medium formulation.
- 2. Analysis of **nutrient interactions** and evaluation of their **relative impact** on cell growth.
- 3. Study of **sensitivity** of dinoflagellate microalgae to turbulence developed in PBRs (energy dissipation rate, *EDR*).
- 4. Optimization of engineering factors influencing to **hydrodynamics** of bubblue column PBRs for shear-sensitivity microalgae.
- 5. Pilot-plant scale-up of the culture in pneumatically agitated PBRs (indoor /outdoor conditions).

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3.1.Improvement of culture media



López-Rosales, L., García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., & Chisti, Y. (2015). An optimal culture medium for growing Karlodinium veneficum: progress towards a microalgal dinoflagellate-based bioprocess. Algal Research, 10, 177-182.





Improvement of culture media

✓ Genetic algorithms (GA). A class of stochastic search strategies inspired by the process of natural selection. GA are commonly used to **optimization** and search problems by relying on bio-inspired operators such as mutation, crossover and selection





Improvement of culture media (Karlodinium veneficum)

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Improvement of culture media (Karlodinium veneficum)

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Improvement of culture media (Karlodinium veneficum)

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Fig.. Relative hemolytic activity (RHA) per per milliliter of culture supernatan for the five best media formulations of each generation. The dashed line indicates the RHA for the L1 control culture.

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3.2. Modelling the growth of dinoflagellates with artificial neural networks

García-Camacho, F., López-Rosales, L., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Belarbi, E. H., Chisti, Y., & Molina-Grima, E. (2016). Artificial neural network modeling for predicting the growth of the microalga Karlodinium veneficum. Algal Research, 14, 58-64.



López-Rosales, L., Gallardo-Rodríguez, J. J., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Contreras-Gómez, A., García-Camacho, F., & Molina-Grima, E. (2013). Modelling of multi-nutrient interactions in growth of the dinoflagellate microalga *Protoceratium reticulatum* using artificial neural networks. Bioresource technology, 146, 682-688.





What does Artificial Neural Network (ANN) mean?

- It is a **computational model** based on the structure and functions of **biological neural networks**.
- ANNs solves problems that would prove impossible or difficult by human or statistical standards
- ANN has **self-learning capabilities** that enable it produce better results as more data becomes available.
- The structure of the ANN is function of Information that flows through it (i.e. typology of the inputs and outpus)
- ANNs are considered **nonlinear statistical data modeling tools** where the **complex** relationships between inputs and outputs are modeled or patterns are found.





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$\underbrace{y_N}_{i=1} \varphi_0 \left(\sum_{j=1}^m Z_j \cdot \varphi_H \sum_{i=1}^k W_{ij} \cdot I_i + b_{1j} \right) + b_2 \xrightarrow{\text{es de}}_{ación}$ у—у_{_min__}__ $y_{N} = 2$ - $\frac{C_t}{C_0} = 0.5 (y_N + 1)(y_{max} - y_{min}) + y_{min}$ en layer (j) Output layer N = nodos capa o $y_{max} - y_{min}$ N = nodos capa oculta $N \leq \frac{1}{\left(N^{I}+1\right)}$ N^I= n^o variables entrada W_{ii} N^{TR}= n^o ensayos Normalized Normalized 3 Output inputs 4 $\varphi_H = \tan sig(x) = \frac{2}{1 + \exp(-2x)} - 1$ m \mathbf{b}_2 K $\varphi_0 = \log sig(x) =$ $\frac{1}{1+\exp(-x)}$ as

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ANNmodeling for predicting the growth of the microalga *Karlodinium veneficum*

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ANN input variable. a matrix (k x m) whose columns were vectors with the concentrations (μ M) of 25 components selected, initial cell concentration (C0) and culture time (t). Target variable: vector with C_t/C₀.

Implementation of the ANN model formulation in Matlab

| r | - | ~ | - · · | | 10 | | ~~1 | | ~ 1 | - | - | | | - | |
|--|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|---------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Generation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | |
| t, days | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| [Co], cells/mL | 33000 | 31333.33 33 | 32666.66 67 | 33000 | 33666.66 67 | 27666.663 67 | 30333.33 33 | 28666.66 67 | 31000 | 30333.33 33 | 31000 | 18666.66 67 | 29000 | 32000 | |
| NaNO ₃ | 0 | 0 | 2700 | 5400 | 3600 | 900 | 8100 | 2700 | 882 | 1800 | 8100 | 3600 | 4500 | 6300 | |
| Urea | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 50 | 40 | |
| Glicerophosphate | 99.2 | 148.8 | 74.4 | 24.8 | 49.6 | 74.4 | 173.6 | 74.4 | 0 | 173.6 | 173.6 | 173.6 | 99.2 | 74.4 | , |
| PO₄- ³ | 64 | 115.2 | 25.6 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 89.6 | 115.2 | 128 | 36.2 | 76.8 | 128 | 12.8 | 102.4 | 115.2 | m = 1200 |
| SiO ₄ -2 | 42.4 | 42.4 | 169.6 | 42.4 | 169.6 | 42.4 | 84.8 | 42.4 | 106 | 127.2 | 127.2 | 169.6 | 42.4 | 84.8 | m= 1388 |
| CO ₃ -2 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 80 | 20 | 100 | 20 | 100 | 0 | 60 | 60 | 20 | 60 | 100 | L |
| Na ₂ EDTA·2H ₂ O | 36.46 | 109.38 | 182.3 | 0 | 145.84 | 109.38 | 0 | o | 11.7 | 145.84 | 145.84 | 36.46 | 36.46 | 145.84 | |
| Fe(NH4)2(SO4)2·6H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 0 | 89 | 178 | 89 | 44.5 | 0 | 133.5 | 44.5 | 0 | 44.5 | 44.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| FeCl ₃ ·6H ₂ O | 4.68 | 11.7 | 7.02 | 2.34 | 9.36 | 9.36 | 11.7 | 0 | 11.7 | 0 | 0 | 7.02 | 4.68 | 9.36 | |
| Fe-Na-EDTA·3H ₂ O | 7.02 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 7.02 | 2.34 | 7.02 | 4.68 | 9.36 | 0 | 7.02 | 7.02 | 7.02 | 7.02 | 4.68 | |
| CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.04 | |
| MnCl ₂ ·H ₂ O | 20 | 60 | 80 | 70 | 70 | 0 | 90 | 30 | 0.91 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 20 | 50 | |
| ZnSO₄·7H₂O | 2.674 | 3.056 | 1.91 | 3.82 | 2.292 | 1.528 | 0.382 | 3.438 | 0.08 | 2.292 | 2.292 | 1.528 | 2.674 | 2.292 | |
| CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O | 0.056 | 0.056 | 0.042 | 0.07 | 0.056 | 0.042 | 0.056 | 0.028 | 0.05 | 0.014 | 0.042 | 0.014 | 0.056 | 0.014 | 1-27 |
| NiSO ₄ ·6H ₂ O | 0.008 | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.01 | 0.006 | 0.008 | 0.002 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0 | 0.002 | 0.006 | 0.008 | 0.004 | K=Z / |
| H ₃ BO ₃ | 74 | 74 | 111 | 148 | 37 | 111 | 74 | 185 | 0 | 148 | 0 | 111 | 74 | 111 | |
| Na ₂ MoO ₄ ·2H ₂ O | 1.072 | 0.804 | 0 | 1.34 | 0 | 1.34 | 0.268 | 1.072 | 0.0822 | 1.072 | 0.804 | 0.536 | 1.072 | 0.536 | |
| (NH ₄) ₆ Mo ₇ O ₂₄ ·4H ₂ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 0.00728 | 0.01456 | 0.02184 | 0.01456 | 0 | 0.02912 | 0.02912 | 0.02184 | 0 | 0.02184 | 0 | 0.00728 | 0.00728 | 0.02184 | |
| H ₂ SeO ₃ | 0.005 | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0.0025 | |
| Na ₃ VO ₄ | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.03 | |
| K ₂ CrO ₄ | 0 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.015 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | |
| Riotin | 0 | 2.964 | 0 | 4.94 | 4.94 | 2.964 | 0.988 | 4.94 | 0.296 | 3.952 | 0.988 | 0 | 0 | 2.964 | |
| Vitamin B | 0.00712 | 0.01246 | 0.01424 | 0.01424 | 0.00356 | 0.01068 | 0.00356 | 0.01424 | 0.002045 | 0.01424 (| 0.00356 | 0.01424 | 0.00/12 | 0.00356 | |
| | 0.000296 | 0.000296 | 0 | 0.000296 | 0.000888 | 0.0002960 | 0.001332 | 0.000888 | 0.000369 | 0.0011840 | .000592 | 0.000/40 | 1.0002960 | 1.000888 | |
| Citric Acid·H ₂ O | 32.5 | 130 | 0 | 65 | 65 | 97.5 | 97.5 | 97.5 | 0 | 32.5 | 97.5 | 65 | 32.5 | 97.5 | |

^{3.1} Improvement of culture media



ANNmodeling for predicting the growth of the microalga *Karlodinium veneficum*



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A parity plot comparison of the predicted and the measured (experimental) dimensionless cell concentrations for the training runs, the test runs and all the runs combined.



Examples of growth kinetics simulated by FBN model for different formulations of culture mediaSolids circles represent experimental data. Predictions of the FBN model are shown as solid lines.



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3.3.Optimization of culture conditions

López-Rosales, L., García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Contreras-Gómez, A., & Molina-Grima, E. (2015). An optimisation approach for culturing shear-sensitive dinoflagellate microalgae in bench-scale bubble column photobioreactors. Bioresource technology, 197, 375-382.



López-Rosales, L., García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Contreras-Gómez, A., & Molina-Grima, E. (2017). Modeling shear-sensitive dinoflagellate microalgae growth in bubble column photobioreactors. Bioresource technology, 245, 250-257.





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An optimisation approach for culturing *K*. *veneficum* in bench-scale bubble column PBRs

✓ Bank of bench-scale bubble column photobioreactors (4.4 cm internal diameter) to find an optimal combination of values for the culture parameters gas flow rate, culture height, and nozzle sparger diameter E_{Eactor} Units Range of variation Step-width



| Factor | Units | Range of variation | Step-width |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Air flow rate (Q) Culture height (H) | L min ⁻¹ m mm | 0.1–0.5 0.50–1.75 1–2.5 | 0.13 (4) 25 (6) 0.5 (4) |
| u_{0} | | 1-2,5 | 0.5 (+) |

The numbers in parentheses represent the number of possible levels for each factor. The product of these values gives the total number of possible experiments $(4 \times 6 \times 4 = 96)$.





An optimisation approach for culturing *K. veneficum* in bench-scale bubble column PBRs





An optimisation approach for culturing *K*. *veneficum* in bench-scale bubble column PBRs

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| Work window | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Q(Lpm) | H(m) | do(mm) | | | | | | | | | |
| <0.26 | >1.25 | 1.5 | | | | | | | | | |

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3.4. Recycling recourses

L. López-Rosales, P. López-García , M.A. Benyachou , A. Molina-Miras , J.J. Gallardo-Rodríguez , M.C. Cerón-García , A. Sánchez Mirón , F. García-Camacho(2022). Treatment of secondary urban wastewater with a low ammonium-tolerant marine microalga using zeolite-based adsorption. Bioresource Technology 359

A Molina-Miras<mark>, L López-Rosales,</mark> MC Cerón-García, A Sánchez-Mirón<mark>, A Olivera-Gálvez</mark>, F García-Camacho, Molina-Grima (2020) .Acclimation of the microalga Amphidinium carterae to different nitrogen sources: potential application in the treatment of marine aquaculture effluents. Journal of applied phycology





Journal of Applied Phycology https://doi.org/10.1007/s10811-020-02049-9

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Acclimation of the microalga *Amphidinium carterae* to different nitrogen sources: potential application in the treatment of marine aquaculture effluents

A. Molina-Miras¹ · L. López-Rosales¹ · M. C. Cerón-García¹ · A. Sánchez-Mirón¹ · A. Olivera-Gálvez² · F. García-Camacho¹ · E. Molina-Grima¹

The initial treatment of wastewater is necessary to lower the concentration of ammoniacal nitrogen.

NH4⁺-N_{UWW}=54mg/L

NH4⁺-N_{tox≈}≈ 6mg/L





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| | Culture media | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Characteristics | CTLO | CTL1 | CTL2 | CTL3 | CTL4 | ZS25 | Z25 | ZS50 | Z50 | ZS75 | Z75 | ZS100 | Z100 | UWWS | UWW |
| UWW (%) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 | 100 |
| Zeolite-treated UWW (%) | - | - | 100 | 50 | - | 25 | 25 | 50 | 50 | 75 | 75 | 100 | 100 | - | - |
| Seawater (%) | 100 | 100 | - | 50 | - | 75 | 75 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 25 | - | - | - | - |
| Zeolite-treated SW (%) | - | - | - | - | 100 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Salinity Adjustment | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Salinity (‰) | 38.0 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 38.0 | 28.9 | 38.0 | 19.7 | 38.0 | 10.6 | 38.0 | 1.4 | 38.0 | 1.4 |
| [NH ₄ ⁺ -N] _{o,} mg L ⁻¹ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 54.4 | 54.4 |
| [NO ₃ -N] _{o,} mg L ⁻¹ | 12.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| $N_{T0}, mg L^{-1}$ | 12.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.3 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 16.9 | 16.9 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 21.6 | 21.6 | 56.5 | 56.5 |
| $[PO_4^{-3}-P]_{o}$, mg L ⁻¹ | 5.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| [TOC] _{o,} mg L ⁻¹ | 11.2 | 10.8 | 23.2 | 17 | 13.9 | 14.6 | 14.6 | 18 | 18 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 24.9 | 24.9 | 31.6 | 31.6 |



- No statistically significant differences between ZS50 and ZS75
- Without growth in the media that does not adjust the saline content
- The culture medium formulated with 75% urban wastewater treated with zeolites (7 mg/L NH4+-N) adjusting the salinity obtained the best results in productivity of maximum biomass generated

Batch culture

(2)

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CRT-PBR-1.2.R ZS75-PBR

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- 3.1 Improvement of culture media

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- 3.2 Modelling the growth of dinoflagellates with ANNS
- **3.3 Optimization of culture** conditions

3.4 Recycling recourses

3.5 Scale-up of the bioprocess 4. Conclusions

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- Significant increase in biomass compared to the control culture
- No differences between the control culture and ZS75 in terms of dry \geq weight percentage of biocompounds, but in terms of productivity

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3.5. Scale-up of the bioprocess

López-Rosales, L., García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Contreras-Gómez, A., & Molina-Grima, E. (2015). An optimisation approach for culturing shear-sensitive dinoflagellate microalgae in bench-scale bubble column photobioreactors. Bioresource technology, 197, 375-382.



López-Rosales, L., García-Camacho, F., Sánchez-Mirón, A., Contreras-Gómez, A., & Molina-Grima, E. (2017). Modeling shear-sensitive dinoflagellate microalgae growth in bubble column photobioreactors. Bioresource technology, 245, 250-257.



Pilot-scale photobioreactors illuminated with LEDs

Bubble column





Each LED was a multi-chip LED with the ability to provide multiple colors.

L. López-Rosales et al., 2016

Criteria of scale-up of bubble column and flat panel PBRs



H > 1.25 m and $d_c/d_o \approx$ 20 assured freedom from damaging levels of hydrodynamic stress so long as the superficial aeration velocity (v_s) remained below a species-dependent threshold value. Absorption spectra of all the key pigments matchs with the emission spectrum of the LEDs used. Therefore, LEDs had the potential to support algal photosynthesis

LEDs grouped

550

Wavelenght (nm)

Zeasanthi

600

400

Е

Absorption (-)

450

Direct sunlight

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Pilot-scale outdoor flat panel photobioreactor



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Some of the secondary metabolites isolated from our cultures so far



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Conclusions

The use of genetic algorithms (GAs) has been shown as an efficient strategy for developing complex culture media and optimization of culture conditions in bubble columns

The use of artificial neural networks (ANNs) in modeling the growth of dinoflagellates allowed to determine the relative importance of nutrient medium on growth

Optimization of small-scale culture conditions is necessary to study the growth and production of biocompounds. Due to the high sensitivity to hydrodynamic stress of dinoflagellates, it is necessary to pay attention to the operating conditions of the PBR.

Water treatment bioprocesses can be adapted to cultivate dinoflagellates and obtain high added value products.

>The scale-up of bioprocesses based on dinoflagellates is possible. Robust and stable cultures can be achieved..

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