

Enhance Growth and Biochemical Composition of *Nannochloropsis oceanica*, Cultured under Nutrient Limitation, Using Commercial Agricultural Fertilizers

Ashour M* and Abd El-Wahab K

National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt

Abstract

Microalgae culture media should be economic, allow for high growth, satisfy the needs of microalgal cells and easy to prepare. In this study, we evaluate the effect of different media formula prepared from commercial agricultural fertilizers (CAGF), comparing to F/2 Guillard standard medium as a control medium, on growth (cell density, CD; μm^2) and biochemical composition (lipid, protein, and carbohydrate) of *Nannochloropsis oceanica*. Comparing to N/P ratio (9.6) and actually quantity (12.36 g/l and 1.29 g/l, respectively) of F/2 standard medium, six N/P ratios (19.2, 9.6, 9.6, 4.8, 3.2 and 1.6) were prepared from Nitric Acid (N-Ni) or Ammonium Sulphate (N-Am), as a nitrogen source, with phosphoric acid (P), as a phosphorus source, for culturing media of *N. oceanica*. The results showed that the growth and biochemical composition of *N. oceanica* were significantly affected by the N/P ratios and actually atom concentrations. Finally, the use of CAGF constitutes a viable alternative of F/2 medium to reduce the production costs *N. oceanica*.

of tested parameter, T: mean value of recorded treatment prepared from CAGF, and F: mean value of recorded F/2 Guillard medium.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using analysis of variance (ANOVA). Differences among means were considered significant at $p < 0.05$ multiple range of post hoc comparisons were performed using the least significant difference (LSD) to resolve the differences among the means of replication according to Duncan, (1955) [15] using SPSS (2007) [16].

Results

The effect of different nutrient medium prepared from CAGF, comparing to F/2 medium, on the growth and biochemical composition of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* were shown in Table 2. The results investigated that some CAGF media achieved significant ($P < 0.05$) growth and biochemical composition higher than F/2 while other CAGF media achieved significant ($P < 0.05$) growth and biochemical composition lower than

division/day, M% -61), N-Am50+P100 (0.234 division/day, M% -65), N-Nt100+P300 (0.228 division/day, M% -66) and N-Am100+P300 (0.201 division/day, M% -70), as shown in Table 2.

Biochemical composition

Total lipid observed in cultured on F/2 medium was 30.70%. Treatment N-Am100+P300 (which achieved the lowest significant μ) achieved the highest significant (P = 0.05) total lipid (46.12%, M% 59), followed by N-Nt50+P100 (42.84%, M% 40), N-Am50+P100 (39.21%, M% 28), N-Am100+P50 (37.21%, M% 21), N-Nt100+P300 (36.00%, M% 17) and N-Am50+P50 (32.01%, M% 4), while the lowest significant total lipid was observed by N-Nt50+P300 (18.4%, M% -40), followed by N-Nt100+P100 (19.72%, M% -36, which achieved the highest significant μ), as shown in Table 2.

Total protein observed in cultured on F/2 medium was 14.46%. Only three treatment media, based on ammonium sulphate, through all experimented media were achieved total protein significantly (P = 0.05) lower than F/2 control, these three media were N-Am100+P100 (10.64%, M% -26), N-Am50+P50 (10.27%, M% -29) and N-Am50+P100 (12.93%, M% -11). On the other hand, the highest significant (P = 0.05) protein was achieved by N-Nt100+P300 (28.46%, M% 97) and N-Am100+P50 (28.4%, M% 96).

Carbohydrates observed in

biochemical composition lower than F/2. These significant differences may be due to N/P ratios, concentrations and sources. However, to optimize the production of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* for aquaculture purposes in marine hatcheries, CAGF should be used with advantages of reduced cost media, high productivity and easy to prepare of culture medium. Our suggestions were in agreement with Guzman-Murillo et al. who suggested that, CAGF media may be used to improve the biochemical composition of microalgae for the purposes of aquaculture, production of bioactive materials and biotechnology. Bae and Hur, (2011) found that the growth of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* cultured on fertilizer medium was similar to that of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* cultured in F/2 medium. On the other hand, our results disagree with Simental and Sanchez-Saavedra (2003) [22] who pointed that, comparing to F/2 medium, the using of liquid CAGF did not achieve any significant differences in cell concentration and growth rate of *Nannochloropsis oceanica* and *Chlorella vulgaris*. This disagree may be due to the experiment conditions, N/P ratios, concentrations and sources

In F/2 medium, the nitrogen (in form of sodium nitrate) and phosphorus (in form of sodium hydrogen orthophosphate.) concentrations in medium stock solution were 12.36 g/l and 1.29 g/l, respectively, and 0.0124 g/l and 0.0013 g/l in microalgae culture solution, respectively, with ratio N/P (9.6). Hsieh and Wu [23] reported that nitrogen sources were strongly affecting microalgae quality and quantity.

Our study investigated that in the case of nitric acid, the treatment medium N-Nt100+P100, which has the same N/P ratio and concentrations of F/2 medium, achieved growth (cell density, dry weight and specific growth rate) higher than F/2 and/or ammonium sulphate-nitrogen based media. Until now, there is no recorded data available about using of nitric acid as nitrogen source in medium composition of marine microalgae. To date, nitrate is a commonly studied as a nitrogen source used to understand nutrient limitation to induce lipid accumulation

