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Abstract: To analyze various effects of prolonged darkness on phytoplankton population dynamics, we developed a dynamic model of darkness tolerance for phytoplankton and investigated its characteristics. To construct the basic concepts of the model, we categorized various changes in abundance of phytoplankton during prolonged darkness and after reillumination into several patterns, and then considered the physiological processes producing these patterns. The nature of darkness tolerance was considered to incorporate previously experienced light conditions, including darkness, as a physiological activity, and members of the same phytoplankton species exhibit different dynamics even in identical light conditions due to such career effects. Taking this into consideration, we developed a cell quota model in relation to darkness tolerance. State variables

for abundance were indicated by cell numbers and physiological condition by three intracellular carbon pools with different physiological functions.

Using our model, we analyzed the various changes in abundance of phytoplankton in relation to exposure to prolonged darkness. Various responses in terms of phytoplankton abundance to prolonged darkness and after reillumination were successfully reproduced by the model that simply assumed that deterioration of physiological mechanics, such as photosynthetic functions, was due to a prolonged dark condition. Based on the results of calculation and assumptions for the model, we discuss the limitations, problems, and effectiveness of the model.

Response to Reviewers: Attached file include the response to comments.

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August 24, 2008.

Dr. Koen Martens

Editor-in-Chief, *Hydrobiologia*

Re: Submission of revised manuscript (HYDR3230)

Dear Dr. Martens,

Thank you very much for your letter of June 24, 2008, with regard to our manuscript, “A dynamic model of darkness tolerance for phytoplankton: model description” (HYDR3230), and sending the comments from the reviewers.

I am attaching our revised manuscript, together with responses to the reviewers’ comments.

We hope that the manuscript has been improved satisfactorily for publication in *Hydrobiologia*.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

EIICHI FURUSATO

Corresponding Author

HYDR 3230: A dynamic model of darkness tolerance for phytoplankton: model description

Incorporation of reviewers' comments in the revised manuscript

Table 1 Response to general comments

Reviewers' comment	Response of authors
General comments of Reviewer #2	Thank you for your interest in our research and fruitful comments. We agree with your comments. We have modified the manuscript substantially, as described below. [Balanced presentation of advantages and novelties] According to the comment, we have corrected 1 st . paragraph of "Discussion" for balanced presentation.

Table 2 Responses to specific comments of Reviewer #2

No.		Reviewers' comments	Response of authors
1	Page 4 line 5	"Succession" or "success"?	What we meant was that we are referring "succession" stand the sentence as the ecological concept. However, if this is not suitable, we should modify it.
2	P4 L 9	Replacement	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
3	P5 L 19	Replacement	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
4	P 6 L 13	Repeat	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
5	P 7 L 7-8	Synchronizing the tense	The tenses have been synchronized.
6	P 10 L 22	"model of Geider et al. (1996)"	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
7	P 13 L 16-17	Eq. 2	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
8	P 30 L 2	Add a ".".	We modified the sentence according to the comment.
9	P 32 L 17	Eulerian approach	We modified the sentence according to the comment.

We wish to thank you for your guidance and comments, which were invaluable in improving the manuscript.

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2

3 A dynamic model of darkness tolerance for
4 phytoplankton: model description

5

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12 Key words: Phytoplankton, darkness tolerance, dynamic
13 model, cell quota, catastrophic death, lag phase

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22 This paper has not been submitted elsewhere in identical
23 or similar form, nor will it be during the first three months
24 after its submission to *Hydrobiologia*.

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Abstract

3 To analyze various effects of prolonged darkness on phytoplankton population
4 dynamics, we developed a dynamic model of darkness tolerance for phytoplankton and
5 investigated its characteristics. To construct the basic concepts of the model, we
6 categorized various changes in abundance of phytoplankton during prolonged darkness
7 and after reillumination into several patterns, and then considered the physiological
8 processes producing these patterns. The nature of darkness tolerance was considered to
9 incorporate previously experienced light conditions, including darkness, as a
10 physiological activity, and members of the same phytoplankton species exhibit different
11 dynamics even in identical light conditions due to such career effects. Taking this into
12 consideration, we developed a cell quota model in relation to darkness tolerance. State
13 variables for abundance were indicated by cell numbers and physiological condition by
14 three intracellular carbon pools with different physiological functions.

15 Using our model, we analyzed the various changes in abundance of phytoplankton in
16 relation to exposure to prolonged darkness. Various responses in terms of phytoplankton
17 abundance to prolonged darkness and after reillumination were successfully reproduced
18 by the model that simply assumed that deterioration of physiological mechanics, such as
19 photosynthetic functions, was due to a prolonged dark condition. Based on the results of
20 calculation and assumptions for the model, we discuss the limitations, problems, and
21 effectiveness of the model.

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Introduction

3 Prolonged darkness is one of the important ecological factors relating not only to the
4 dynamics of a phytoplankton population and community but to also the management of
5 water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The avoidance of loss is necessary for survival of
6 populations and for competitive advantage. The general loss processes of phytoplankton
7 are hydraulic wash out, sedimentation, grazing, and infection (Reynolds, 1984, 1997).
8 Death due to prolonged darkness is also one of the loss factors (Reynolds, 1997).
9 Recently, programmed cell death (PCD) in phytoplankton induced by prolonged
10 darkness has been reported (Segovia et al., 2003; Franklin & Berges, 2004).

11 The vertical distribution of phytoplankton is often highly heterogeneous (Moll &
12 Stoermer, 1982; Reynolds, 1984; Klausmeier & Litchman, 2001). The prominent
13 vertical aggregations of phytoplankton in oligotrophic and mesotrophic water bodies are
14 deep chlorophyll maxima (DCM) due to limitation of nutrients, which are often
15 supplied from below (Moll & Stoermer, 1982; Klausmeier & Lichtman, 2001). DCM
16 has been observed in lakes (Tilzer et al., 1977; Abbott et al., 1984; Coon et al., 1987;
17 Gervais, 1997) and in the oceans (Takahashi et al., 1989; Moore et al., 1998; Jochem,
18 1999). These deep layers are often below the level of 1% surface light intensity in
19 oligotrophic lakes (Kiefer et al., 1972; Vincent, 1978; Moll & Stoermer, 1982) and
20 oceans (Antia, 1976; Murphy & Cowles, 1997; Peters, 1996). In ice-covered polar seas
21 and lakes, light is absent during the polar night, yet the presence of various
22 phytoplankton such as diatoms (Wright, 1964; Bunt & Lee, 1972; Palmisano & Sullivan,
23 1982), Cryptophyceans (Morgan & Kalff, 1975), Chrysophyceans (Rodhe, 1955),
24 cyanobacterias, and Chlorophyceans (McKnight et al., 2000) beneath the ice have been

1 reported. Furthermore, thick ice and snow cover prevent light penetration. Thus, these
2 phytoplanktons survive in darkness. In addition to such natural conditions, artificial
3 circulation systems (Pastorok et al., 1982) installed in eutrophic reservoirs for prevention
4 of cyanobacterial bloom entrain surface phytoplankton into deep aphotic layers by
5 density currents (Visser et al., 1996; Furusato et al., 2004). The succession of a
6 phytoplankton community will depend on the relationship between hydraulic conditions
7 and the ecophysiological characteristics of phytoplankton. Furusato et al. (2004)
8 suggested that *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a typical bloom-forming and harmful
9 cyanobacterium, has low darkness tolerance. Conversely, Wu et al. (2008) reported that
10 *M. aeruginosa* has endurance and the ability to adapt to the stress of darkness.
11 Clarification of the characteristics of the darkness tolerance of undesirable cyanobacteria
12 can provide important information for water quality management. Furthermore, darkness
13 tolerance is an important factor in facilitating stock culture maintenance (Antia & Cheng,
14 1970).

15 From the ecological viewpoint, we need to pay attention to the effects of prolonged
16 darkness on population dynamics of the autotrophic vegetative cells of phytoplankton.
17 Among the several mechanisms known for the survival of phytoplankton in dark
18 condition are formation of resting stages, heterotrophic nutrition, and reduced respiratory
19 activity (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989). In addition to the formation of resting spores by
20 diatoms (Sicko-Goad et al., 1989), akinetes by cyanobacteria (Li et al., 1997), and cysts
21 by dinoflagellates (Rengefors & Anderson, 1998), altered energy acquisition modes such
22 as heterotrophy (White & Shiro, 1975) and phagotrophy (Bird & Kalff, 1987) are active
23 strategies of adaption to darkness. However, Gibson & Smith (1982) suggested that
24 heterotrophic growth of phytoplankton is impossible *in situ* because the rate of organic

1 material uptake becomes a limiting factor. Besides, the formation of resting stages and
2 availability of heterotrophic nutrition are not always shown. In such conditions, the
3 darkness tolerance of autotrophic vegetative cells affects the dynamics of the
4 phytoplankton community and competition. In this paper, we use the term “darkness
5 tolerance” to mean the tolerance of an autotrophic vegetative cell to prolonged darkness
6 without formation of resting stages.

7 The time scale of darkness investigated in this study was from a few days to several
8 weeks. The effects of variations in light intensity including darkness in periods of less
9 than several hours on phytoplankton have been extensively studied as photoacclimation
10 or photoadaptation (Woods & Onken, 1982; Falkowski et al., 1985; Lande & Lewis,
11 1989; Takahashi et al., 1989; Geider et al., 1996, 1998; Cianelli et al., 2004). However,
12 periods of darkness longer than a few hours sometimes occur *in situ* in natural (Smayda
13 & Mitchell-Innes, 1974; Morgan & Kalff, 1975; Vincent, 1978; McKnight et al., 2000)
14 and artificial conditions (Furusato et al., 2004). Some studies suggest the distinct
15 differences in darkness tolerance among various phytoplankton were confirmable after a
16 few days or weeks of darkness (Peters, 1996; Peters & Thomas, 1996; Furusato et al.,
17 2004). Thus, this study covered periods of darkness from a few days to several weeks.

18 Conflicting reports of changes in abundance of phytoplankton not only during
19 prolonged darkness but also after reillumination have been reported. Generally, specific
20 mortality rates under certain external conditions like at constant temperature appear to
21 be constant. However, the rate of decrease in cell numbers during prolonged darkness is
22 not constant. Phytoplankton cell numbers do not always decrease immediately after the
23 transition to darkness (Handa, 1969; Selvin et al., 1988; WRDPC, 1989; Gervais, 1997;
24 Franklin & Berges, 2004). Short-term increases in abundance during periods of

1 darkness (Handa, 1969; Griffiths, 1973; White & Shiro, 1975; Peters, 1996; Peters &
2 Thomas, 1996; Gervais, 1997; Berges & Falkowski, 1998; Jochem, 1999; Furusato et al.,
3 2004) and retention of abundance during certain periods of darkness have also been
4 reported (Hellebust & Terborgh, 1967; Griffiths, 1973; Selvin et al., 1988; Dehning &
5 Tilzer, 1989; Gervais, 1997; Berges & Falkowski, 1998; Jochem, 1999; Furusato et al.,
6 2004). Further, logarithmic growth does not always start immediately after
7 reillumination (Peters, 1996; Murphy & Cowles, 1997; Jochem, 1999; Furusato et al.,
8 2004), but often starts after a lag phase (Griffiths, 1973; Dehning & Tilzer, 1989;
9 WRDPC, 1989; Peters, 1996; Peters & Thomas, 1996; Gervais, 1997; Jochem, 1999;
10 Franklin & Berges, 2004; Furusato et al., 2004). In addition, several studies reported
11 that growth did not occur after reillumination (Antia, 1976; WRDPC, 1989; Gervais,
12 1997; Jochem, 1999; Franklin & Berges, 2004). These conflicting patterns suggest the
13 variety of darkness tolerances of phytoplankton. However, little is known about the
14 characteristics of tolerance in response to prolonged darkness.

15 As far as we know, no mathematical model for darkness tolerance has been reported to
16 date. Many of the studies cited above have reported on the vegetative reproduction of
17 phytoplankton cells in an autotrophic metabolic state under several dark conditions.
18 However, they were confined to laboratory experiments and field observations.

19 Under such circumstances, we propose a dynamic model of autotrophic vegetative
20 phytoplankton cells, which enables the estimation of the effects of darkness over several
21 days on phytoplankton population dynamics. Because this model would be a first
22 attempt to analyze phytoplankton dynamics in relation to prolonged dark conditions on
23 a time scale of a few days to several weeks, we focused only on the effects of light,
24 including prolonged darkness. Thus, the effects of other factors such as temperature and

1 nutrients on physiological processes were not considered in the present version of the
2 darkness-tolerance model. Our present model assumes nutrient-saturated conditions and
3 a constant temperature. The extension of the model will be discussed in the Discussion
4 section.

5

6 **Materials and Methods**

7 *Categorization of darkness tolerance*

8 We proposed a novel categorization of the changes in abundance of phytoplankton, as
9 shown in Fig. 1, and used it as the basis for a darkness-tolerance model. Various changes
10 in abundance of phytoplankton, not only during prolonged darkness but also after
11 reillumination have been reported (Table 1), but very few attempts have been made to
12 classify the diversity of phytoplankton dynamics from a comprehensive viewpoint. Here,
13 we suggest a new categorization. The tolerance patterns under prolonged darkness were
14 divided into three types: D1, D2, and D3. Type D1 is typified by an increase in abundance
15 immediately after the transition to darkness, and then cell numbers decrease or remain
16 constant. D2 is characterized by preservation of the initial abundance of cells for a certain
17 period after the transition to darkness. D3, which seems to be the most general pattern, is
18 characterized by a rapid decrease immediately after the transition to darkness. Changes in
19 cell numbers during regrowth after reillumination were also divided into three types: L1,
20 L2, and L3. In type L1, regrowth at a rate similar to that before the transition to darkness
21 starts immediately after reillumination. Type L2 is characterized by the presence of a lag
22 phase in which the growth rate is low. Finally, there is type L3, in which regrowth does
23 not occur after reillumination, and the population ultimately disappears. Type L3 is an

Fig. 1

Table 1

1 interesting case where the light history affects phytoplankton dynamics.

2 We assumed that each darkness-tolerance type has several phases of simple
3 physiological conditions, which are shown in Fig. 1. Types D1, D2, and D3 comprise
4 basically a tolerant phase and a catastrophic phase. In the tolerant phase, cell numbers do
5 not decrease rapidly and physiological states do not deteriorate due light deficiency. The
6 tolerant phase includes short-term cell division. We assumed the catastrophic phase to be
7 the condition in which cell numbers decrease rapidly. Like the prolonged darkness types,
8 the combination of a lag phase and a logarithmic regrowth phase characterizes types L1,
9 L2, and L3 after reillumination. We assumed that the lag phase is a state that does not
10 represent the growth rate expected from the ambient light intensity, even after
11 reillumination.

12 ***Model description***

13 In the model, state variables of abundance and physiological state were separated.
14 These were cell number and three cellular carbon contents, respectively. We assumed that
15 a history of having experienced darkness periods in the past accumulates in the
16 intracellular physiological conditions, that physiological phases were due to these
17 conditions, and that these phases determine the changes in abundance without direct
18 response to external light conditions. Hence, to analyze darkness tolerance, it is necessary
19 to represent the effects of darkness on the integrity and degradation of the physiological
20 state and define the rates of increase and decrease in abundance corresponding to
21 intracellular physiological conditions. Fig. 2 shows the relationship among these
22 components, cell numbers, and several important processes in the model. List of
23 definitions of variables and parameters is shown in Table 2.

Fig. 2

1 Changes in cell number were assumed to consist of cell division and death, given by
2 Eq. (1).

$$3 \quad \frac{dN}{dt} = (G_{div} - M) \cdot N \quad (1)$$

4 where N is the number of cells, G_{div} is the rate of cell division, and M is the mortality
5 rate. Because the cell number is not decreased by respiration metabolism itself, a term for
6 respiration is not included. To focus on darkness tolerance, grazing by zooplankton was
7 ignored in this study.

8 The cell division rate is related to intracellular carbon concentration using the Droop
9 formula (Droop, 1973).

$$10 \quad G_{div} = G_{div.m} \cdot \left(\frac{E - E_{min}}{E} \right) \quad (2)$$

11 where $G_{div.m}$ is the maximum cell division rate, E is the intracellular carbon
12 concentration of the biosynthetic apparatus, and E_{min} is the minimum value of E for cell
13 division. Generally, the Droop model has been used to represent the effects of the cell
14 quota on growth rate (Droop, 1973). Although the Droop model was often applied to
15 nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus (Janse et al., 1992; Cerco et al., 2004; Mooij
16 et al., 2007) and vitamins (Droop, 1973), we used the cell carbon concentration as the
17 cell quota in the Droop model. There have been several studies dealing with the
18 relationship between the cell carbon concentration and growth rate under not only
19 CO₂-limited conditions (Goldman & Graham, 1981) but also CO₂-replete conditions
20 (Falkowski et al., 1985; Thompson et al., 1991). Klausmeier et al. (2004) used a
21 multiple resources version, including the cell carbon concentration, of Droop's model

1 for phytoplankton growth, with equations for cell number. Rhee (1978) reported that
2 cell protein, RNA, and free amino acids were all related to the growth rate by a
3 saturation function. Because the relationship between the quantity of E and the organic
4 nitrogen concentration was implicitly assumed to be linear function in our model, these
5 chemical components correspond to E . Thus, we postulated the dependence of the cell
6 division rate on E .

7 We modeled the discontinuous increase in the mortality rate under prolonged darkness
8 as Eq. (3).

$$9 \quad M = \begin{cases} M_0 & \text{if: } E \geq E_{th.c} \\ M_c & < E_{th.c} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

10 where $E_{th.c}$ is the threshold value of E for the catastrophic phase, M_0 is the mortality rate
11 in the tolerant phase, meaning the physiological integrity state, and M_c is the mortality
12 rate in the catastrophic phase. The transition from tolerant to catastrophic phases due to
13 deterioration of the metabolic state was represented as changes in the mortality rate
14 according to $E_{th.c}$. Morgan & Kalff (1975) reported that the death rate of *Cryptomonas*
15 *erosa* was shown to increase according to a decrease in cell volume. Dehning & Tilzer
16 (1989) reported that the mortality rate increased when the intracellular carbon content
17 decreased to a certain point. Thus, we assumed that the mortality rate changes according
18 to $E_{th.c}$.

19 The intracellular carbon concentration, which regulates the rate of increase and
20 decrease of abundance, of the three functional groups was represented by the allocations
21 of photosynthates to each carbon pool and the respiratory loss.

1
$$\frac{dE}{dt} = (P^E \cdot \rho_E - r_0) \cdot E \quad (5)$$

2
$$\frac{dL}{dt} = P^E \cdot \rho_L \cdot E - r_0 \cdot L \quad (6)$$

3
$$\frac{dR}{dt} = P^E \cdot \rho_R \cdot E - r \cdot R \quad (7)$$

4 where P^E is the E -specific rate of photosynthesis, ρ_E is the proportion of photosynthates
 5 allocated to the synthesis of E , r_0 is the maintenance metabolic rate, r is the respiratory
 6 consumption rate of reserve material, ρ_L is the proportion of photosynthates allocated to
 7 synthesis of L , and ρ_R is the proportion of photosynthates allocated to synthesis of R .

8 Different respiration rates were used to describe the variations in each component
 9 according to its properties. The respiration rate is the sum of the maintenance metabolic
 10 rate independent of growth and the increase in the growth rate, being equivalent to
 11 biosynthesis costs, as will be more fully described later. Reserve carbohydrates are
 12 consumed for biomass synthesis during short-term cell division after transfer to darkness,
 13 although other cellular components, such as protein and Chla, do not decrease (Handa,
 14 1969; Foy & Smith, 1980). Thus, we used a distinct respiration rate for R .

15 *Photosynthetic rate*

16 Asymptotic exponential equation type models (Geider et al., 1996) were used to
 17 describe the PI curve, and deterioration of the photosynthetic ability in the lag phase was
 18 represented as a change in the maximum photosynthetic rate according to $E_{th.lag}$. The
 19 photosynthetic rate was represented as Eq. (8).

$$\begin{aligned}
& P^E = P_m^E \left[1 - \exp\left(\frac{-\sigma \cdot I \cdot L}{P_m^E \cdot E}\right) \right] \\
& \text{if: } E < E_{th.lag} \quad P_m^E \equiv P_{m.lag}^E
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

2 where $E_{th.lag}$ is the threshold value of E for the lag phase, P_m^E is the maximum E -specific
 3 rate of photosynthesis, $P_{m.lag}^E$ is the P_m^E in the lag phase, σ is the functional cross-section
 4 of L , I is the irradiance, and σ corresponds to the initial slope of the PI curve. The
 5 maximum photosynthetic rate is changed from P_m^E to $P_{m.lag}^E$ when E is less than the
 6 threshold value of E for the lag phase ($E_{th.lag}$). Generally, temperature and nutrients affect
 7 the photosynthetic rate. However, because the main aim of our investigation was the
 8 development of a model focusing on light conditions, including prolonged darkness, only
 9 light intensity was considered as a limiting factor for photosynthesis.

10 The lag phase is an important factor for representing various types of darkness
 11 tolerances in reillumination. The lag phase after prolonged dark conditions is
 12 characterized by a reduction in the cell division rate compared to that of sound cells. The
 13 effect of accumulations of the history of past light conditions on the cell division rate can
 14 be expressed by Eq. (2). In addition to this effect, a decline in the maximum
 15 photosynthetic rate (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989), degradation in the dark reaction of
 16 photosynthesis (Griffiths, 1973; Franklin & Berges, 2004), and declining maximum
 17 quantum yield (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989; Franklin & Berges, 2004) have been reported.
 18 Thus, these decreases in photosynthetic potential and the reduction in the photosynthetic
 19 rate itself have to be included in a darkness tolerance model. Griffiths (1973) and
 20 Dehning & Tilzer (1989) stated that the lag phase after reillumination includes periods of
 21 repair and reconstruction of the photosynthetic function, which is damaged by prolonged
 22 darkness. Griffiths suggested that the deterioration of photosynthetic capacity is largely

1 due to a decrease in the enzymatic components of the photosynthetic machinery. Thus, if
2 a physiologically faithful model is to be developed, the amount of photosynthetic and
3 biosynthetic apparatus has to correlate with the maximum photosynthetic rate (P_m^E).
4 However, little is known about the relationship between photosynthesis and biosynthesis
5 and the maximum photosynthetic rate (P_m^E). Therefore, we assumed that the maximum
6 photosynthetic rate under saturated light intensity in the lag phase changes from P_m^E to
7 the rate decreased by darkness deterioration ($P_{m.lag}^E$).

8 *Respiration rate*

9 The respiration rate was expressed as a linear function of G_{div} (Eq. (9)).

$$10 \quad r = r_0 + k_r \cdot G_{div} \quad (9)$$

11 where r_0 is the maintenance metabolic rate, and k_r is a coefficient of the effect of the cell
12 division rate on the respiratory rate. r_0 is the respiration rate under the conditions in which
13 growth does not occur and represents the basic maintenance metabolism necessary to
14 sustain physiological activity. k_r is the cost of synthesis of new cell components (Geider
15 & Osborne, 1989). The respiration rate has important effects on the survival of
16 phytoplankton in prolonged darkness (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989; Peters, 1996; Peters &
17 Thomas, 1996). Generally, the respiration rate equals only 10% of the photosynthetic rate
18 (Parsons et al., 1984) under a nutrient-replete condition. However, the respiration rate
19 actually changes by multiples of 10 or more according to the growth rate, even in the
20 same species and at the same temperature (Geider & Osborne, 1989). The reason is that
21 assimilated carbohydrate catabolism enables growth by synthesis of various cellular
22 materials such as proteins and enzymes. Thus, the respiration rate should be a function
23 of the rate of conversion of R to E and L . However, our present model assuming simple

1 physiological processes does not include this metabolism. Thus, we represent the
 2 respiration rate as a function of growth. Obviously, cell division is one of the phases of
 3 the cell cycle, consisting of protein synthesis, replication of DNA, spindle formation,
 4 and chromosome alignment. Thus, this process is not expensive. However, in our model,
 5 the cell division rate are treated like the growth rate because we use cell number as a
 6 variable state of abundance. Thus, we modeled respiration processes relating to cell
 7 division.

8 *Allocation rate of photosynthates*

9 The proportions of photosynthates directed to synthesis of each cellular carbon
 10 component were specified as follows (Geider et al., 1996):

11
$$\rho_E = \kappa_E \tag{10}$$

12
$$\rho_L = \kappa_L \cdot \frac{P^E \cdot E}{\sigma \cdot I \cdot L} \tag{11}$$

13
$$\rho_R = \kappa_L \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P^E \cdot E}{\sigma \cdot I \cdot L} \right) \tag{12}$$

14 where κ_E is the constant proportion of photosynthates directed to synthesis of the
 15 biosynthetic apparatus, and κ_L is the maximum proportion of photosynthates directed to
 16 synthesis of the light-harvesting component. Conservation of mass requires that $\kappa_E + \kappa_L =$
 17 1.0.

18 We used Eqs. (10), (11), and (12) regardless of the dark condition. $P^E \cdot E$ and $\sigma \cdot I \cdot L$ in
 19 the above equations are equivalent to carbon fixation and light harvesting, respectively.
 20 Thus, the rates of allocation to the storage pool (R) and photosynthetic apparatus (L)

1 depend on the balance of dark and light reactions. Geider et al. (1996) used 0.6 as κ_E and
2 0.4 as κ_L for two distinct phytoplanktons, and we followed this. Although little is known
3 about the effects of darkness on the allocation of photosynthates, taking the results for
4 *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (Griffiths, 1973) into consideration, we assumed that
5 prolonged darkness did not affect the allocation of photosynthates to some intracellular
6 components.

7 ***Parameterization***

8 The parameters used for analysis (Table 4, 5) were based on the calculated values
9 from experimental results and the theory of allometry as described below. Experimental
10 results using *Scenedesmus acuminatus* (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989), *Cryptomonas*
11 *phaseolus* (Gervais, 1997), and *Phormidium* sp. PC type (WRDPC, 1989) were selected
12 as examples of phytoplankton dynamics in a prolonged dark condition. *Microcystis*
13 *aeruginosa* (Furusato et al., 2004) was selected as an example of several darkness
14 periods and after reillumination.

Table 4

Table 5

15 Because not only cell number data but also carbon and protein cell concentrations
16 have been measured for *S. acuminatus*, the parameter values for this alga were
17 calculated using experimental data. Cell number data were used for definition of $G_{div.m}$,
18 M_0 , and M_c . Cell carbon concentration data were used for estimation of r_0 , which has
19 important effects on dynamics in darkness. $E_{th.c}$, which sets transition timing from the
20 tolerant phase to the catastrophic phase, was defined by experimental protein values at
21 the end of the tolerant phase. Transformation from protein to carbon was obtained using
22 a general ratio of carbon to protein (0.5 [pg C pg⁻¹ protein]) (Geider et al., 1996).
23 Although lipid, as the main component of thylakoids in *E*, cannot be neglected in the
24 estimate of $E_{th.c}$, values transformed from protein were used in this analysis.

1 Because the experimental results for *Phormidium* sp. and *C. phaseolus* did not
2 include a carbon cell quota, only parameters for variation in cell number, such as $G_{div.m}$,
3 M_0 , and M_c , were defined by experimental data. Values of $E_{th.c}$, E_{min} , and r_0 were
4 estimated by fitting them to cell number changes.

5 The parameters of *Microcystis aeruginosa* used to model dynamics of phytoplankton
6 in darkness and reillumination were defined as described below. The value of $G_{div.m}$ was
7 estimated based on the allometric equation ($G_{div.m} = 1.142 (S V^{-1})^{0.375}$) (Reynolds,
8 1997): cell volume (*M. aeruginosa*), $101 [\mu\text{m}^3 \text{ cell}^{-1}]$ (Imamura & Yasuno, 1981);
9 corresponding diameter, $3.5 [\mu\text{m}]$; and corresponding to surface/volume ratio (S / V),
10 $0.86 [\mu\text{m}^{-1}]$. In the laboratory culture, colonies have not been formed, and the single cell
11 volume was used. M_0 and M_c were calculated by changes in abundance of experiments.
12 The value of P_m^E corresponding to $G_{div.m}$ through κE ($G_{div.m} = \kappa E \cdot P_m^E$) was used.
13 The value of P_m^E was assumed to be half of $P_{m.lag}^E$. Each threshold value for E , such as
14 E_{min} , $E_{th.c}$, and $E_{th.lag}$, and r_0 was estimated by fitting it to cell number changes. σ was
15 calculated from Reynolds (1997) ($\sigma = 0.257(m S V^{-1})^{0.236}$), where $m = 3.5 [\mu\text{m}]$ and $S V$
16 $^{-1} = 0.86 [\mu\text{m}^{-1}]$. The value of κ_r from the literature was used (Geider & Osborne, 1989).

17 ***Initial conditions***

18 Tables 4 and 5 show the initial conditions defined as below described.

19 ***Scenedesmus acuminatus***

20 The initial cell number was defined based on the experimental value. The initial
21 cellular carbon concentration was calculated from the following assumptions based on
22 laboratory experiments (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989). Total cellular carbon ($IC = 21.35 [\text{pg}$
23 $\text{C cell}^{-1}]$) was calculated from their experimental value of the dry weight of cells (49.6

1 [pg D.W. cell⁻¹]) using the general carbon/D.W. ratio (0.43 [g C g⁻¹ D.W.] (Strickland,
2 1965)) of Chlorophyceae. The initial value of E was calculated from the experimental
3 value (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989) of protein (26.4 [pg protein cell⁻¹]) using the above
4 carbon/protein ratio (0.5 [g C g⁻¹ protein]). These values correspond closely to κ_E (0.6).
5 The initial value of L was calculated from the experimental values of Chla (0.72 [pg
6 Chla cell⁻¹]) (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989) using the general Chla/carbon ratio (0.2 [g Chla
7 g⁻¹ C]) of the light harvesting apparatus (Geider et al., 1996). R is the remainder of the
8 cellular carbon components.

9 ***Phormidium sp.***

10 The initial cell number was defined based on the experimental value (WRDPC,
11 1989). In defining the cellular carbon concentration, the cellular volume (22.11 [μm^3
12 cell⁻¹]) of *P. tenue* (Imamura & Yasuno, 1981) was used because the original
13 experiments focused on 2-methylisoborneol production in a eutrophied reservoir in
14 Japan. The initial value of the total cellular carbon concentration (IC) (3.63 [pg C
15 cell⁻¹]) was calculated by the D.W. and cell volume transformation equation (D.W. =
16 $0.47 V^{0.99}$) (Reynolds, 1984), and the general carbon/D.W. ratio in cyanobacteria (0.36
17 [g C g⁻¹ D.W.] (Strickland, 1965). E was calculated using κ_E (0.6). The initial value of
18 L was calculated by an empirical equation of the relationship between the cell volume
19 (V) and cell Chla of cyanobacteria ($\log \text{Chla} = 1.00 \log V^{-2.261}$) (Reynolds 1984) and by
20 using the general Chla/carbon ratio (0.2 [g Chla g⁻¹ C]) of the light harvesting apparatus
21 (Geider et al., 1996). R is the remainder of the cellular carbon components of this
22 phytoplankton.

23 ***Cryptomonas phaseolus***

24 The initial cell number was defined based on an experimental value (Gervais, 1997).

1 For definition of cellular carbon concentrations, the cell volume ($250 \text{ } \mu\text{m}^3 \text{ cell}^{-1}$) of *C.*
2 *erosa* was used (Imamura & Yasuno, 1981). Like *P. tennue*, the initial values of *E*, *L*,
3 and *R* were estimated from cell volume.

4 ***Microcystis aeruginosa***

5 The definitions of the initial conditions of *M. aeruginosa* were similar to those of
6 *Phormidium* sp.

7 **Results**

8 From the experimental results, including the changes in abundance under prolonged
9 darkness over several days and after the transition to reillumination, representative
10 examples of each darkness-tolerance type (Dehning & Tilzer, 1973; WRDPC, 1989;
11 Gervais, 1997; Furusato et al. 2004) were selected for simulations. In all these
12 experiments, different inorganic mediums were used and evidence of resting stages, such
13 as cyst and akinetes formation, was not observed. Thus, these experimental results can be
14 used to analyze the effects of prolonged darkness on the changes in abundance of
15 autotrophic vegetative cells of phytoplankton. Discrete approximations in time to the
16 differential equations were solved with a fourth order Runge-Kutta method. Time steps
17 were adjusted by trial and error to be small enough that doubling the time steps did not
18 significantly change the simulation results. This resulted in a time step of 1 hour for the
19 model.

20

21 ***Sensitivity analysis***

22 A sensitivity analysis was performed to investigate the effects of the model parameters

1 on the results by changing them $\pm 50\%$. The index below was used to determine
2 sensitivity (Jørgensen & Bendoricchio, 2001).

$$3 \quad S = \frac{\left| \frac{\Delta C}{C} \right|}{\left| \frac{\Delta P}{P} \right|} \quad (13)$$

4 where C is the logarithm of the number of cells, and P is the parameter value. The
5 logarithm was used because we observed extreme variations in cell numbers. If the S
6 value was equal to 10, C varied by 500% because P values were changed by 50%.

7 Analyses were performed separately for darkness and reillumination because it was
8 envisioned that the sensitivity to the parameters values differed in both prolonged
9 darkness and reillumination. Table 6 shows the results of sensitivity analysis. As might be
10 expected, the effects of photosynthetic parameters are limited to reillumination. In
11 prolonged darkness, we found that the model was the most sensitive to M_c , and the S
12 values of r_0 and $E_{th,c}$ were the next largest. On the other hand, parameters relating to
13 photosynthesis and cell division tended to be highly sensitive during reillumination. In
14 spite of the use of cell number as state variable under consideration, the S value of the
15 parameters, which directly regulates the changes in cell number, such as $G_{div,m}$, was not
16 the largest. That P_m^E and κ_E had a larger S value than $G_{div,m}$ is a reflection of
17 importance of the cell carbon quota in the darkness-tolerance model.

Table 6

18 ***Simulation results***

19 ***Prolonged darkness***

20 Figs. 3 and 4 show the calculated results of the three types of darkness tolerance (D1,
21 D2, and D3). The parameter values shown in Table 4 were used. *Scenedesmus*
22 *acuminatus* (Chlorophyceae) represents a typical type D2 pattern (Dehning & Tilzer,

Fig. 3

1 1989). In this experiment, dark incubation was done for about 50 days in two water
2 temperature conditions to investigate the effects of prolonged darkness on the physiology,
3 as well as cell morphology and changes in cell number. The cell number after
4 reillumination was not determined. Because various cellular organic materials were
5 analyzed in this study, values converted from the protein concentration were used for
6 simulation as observed *E*. Parameter values were defined by calculation and conversion
7 from observed data such as cell numbers and *E* (Table 4). Our model successfully
8 represented the results of the experiment, which are a decrease in the cellular carbon
9 concentration for the maintenance of metabolism at a uniform rate through the
10 experimental periods and a rapid decrease in cell numbers after certain darkness periods

11 The next calibration was conducted for dark incubation data of *Cryptomonas*
12 *phaseolus* (Cryptophyceae) (Gervais, 1997) as a representative example of type D3 (Fig.
13 4A). *Cryptomonas* produces deep chlorophyll maxima in mesotrophic or eutrophic lakes
14 (Gervais, 1997). Changes in abundance during 10 days of darkness were studied by
15 culture experiments.

Fig. 4

16 We defined several parameters, such as the respiration rate and threshold values
17 related to *E*, by calibration because this study did not directly analyze intracellular
18 organic carbon. The cell number started to decrease immediately after the transition to
19 darkness. It decreased particularly rapidly after 6 days of darkness. Assuming that the
20 tolerant phase shifted to the catastrophic phase at 6 days of darkness, we aimed to
21 represent the phenomenon by changes in the mortality rate. As shown in Fig. 4A, the
22 calculation results showed the tendency of *C. phaseolus* to correspond to type D3.

23 Fig. 4B shows the results of a simulation using cyanobacteria (*Phormidium* sp. PC

1 type) (WRDPC, 1989) as an example of type D1. This species dominates in eutrophicated
2 reservoirs and causes a musty odor. To study the effects of artificial circulation on
3 prevention of growth of this cyanobacterium, it was maintained in darkness in the
4 laboratory for 20 days. The cell number had increased by approximately 10% 3 days after
5 the transition to darkness, but it decreased rapidly after that. The threshold values of the
6 intracellular carbon concentration were determined by tuning because intracellular
7 materials were not measured in this study. The results in Fig. 4 show that the model was
8 able to successfully reproduce the dynamics of this species.

9 ***Reillumination after several periods of prolonged darkness***

10 We analyzed the characteristics of darkness tolerance after reillumination by using
11 laboratory experiment results for *Microcystis aeruginosa* (Furusato et al., 2004) (Fig. 5)
12 as a typical cyanobacterium causing water-bloom in eutrophied water bodies. Artificial
13 circulation using a bubble plume, also referred to as destratification, is a general
14 measure for prevention of cyanobacterial bloom in eutrophic fresh water (Hawkins &
15 Griffiths, 1993). Furusato et al. (2004) suggested that the entrainment of phytoplankton
16 to an aphotic layer was one of the mechanisms of the measure. To evaluate the effects of
17 darkness on the dynamics of this phytoplankton in artificial circulation, changes in cell
18 number during 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 days of darkness and after reillumination were
19 obtained in the experiment. The temperature was 25°C.

Fig. 5

20 This experiment demonstrated that types L1 and L2 can occur even in the same species
21 depending on the length of the period of darkness. In prolonged darkness, three phases,
22 consisting of a gradual increase, gradual decrease, and rapid decrease in cell numbers,
23 occurred and each lasted 5 days. This is consistent with type D1. After reillumination,
24 growth resumed (type L1), and cell numbers reached the same maximum regardless of

1 the period of darkness. However, more than 10 days of darkness resulted in the
2 occurrence of a lag phase (type L2).

3 Calculation was done continuously from darkness to reillumination by using the same
4 parameters, which were based on allometry (Reynolds, 1984, 1997) and tuning (Table 5).
5 Saturation in abundance in the stationary phase after reillumination, corresponding to
6 carrying capacity, was represented by the saturation density function.

Table 6

7 By using the same parameter values, our model was able to reproduce the various
8 changes in cell number of each different darkness period. Fig. 5 shows a comparison
9 between calculation results and observations. Some deviations remain because of simple
10 assumptions about metabolic mechanics in our model. For example, there was a
11 remarkable decrease in cell number over 10 days of darkness, a decrease after the
12 stationary phase in the control and 10 days darkness, and gradual growth after
13 reillumination in the cases of 15 and 20 days darkness. However, it is considered that this
14 model can represent the behaviors of types L1 and L2 occurring after reillumination
15 periods, in addition to the changes in abundance of type D1 in 20 days of darkness.

16

17 **Discussion**

18 The model provides a conceptual framework for describing and modeling darkness
19 tolerance. It summarizes and incorporates all present knowledge into a system, which
20 helps to understand phytoplankton on the population-scale. Although the model depends
21 on the simple assumption that the quantitative conditions of phytoplankton cells
22 (intracellular carbon concentrations of some functional pools) represent qualitative

1 factors (integrity of metabolism), the calculation results replicated various changes in
2 abundance relating to darkness tolerance. However, the model remains hypothetical, not
3 only because many remaining factors need to be verified but also because other
4 assumptions may produce equally good simulations. Thus, more research measuring the
5 internal carbon concentrations by laboratory methods is needed. However, in some
6 situations, simplified (semi-theoretical) models are easier to apply to an actual system
7 than a full-fledged model that uses a lot of unrecognizable parameters. Furthermore, as
8 described below, simple assumptions used in this study (Fig. 6) may well represent the
9 intrinsic mechanism of various darkness-tolerance types.

10 ***Expression mechanism of darkness tolerance***

Fig. 6

11 ***Prolonged darkness***

12 The physiological activity immediately after the transition to darkness causes various
13 patterns of change in abundance. It has been reported that the degrees of physiological
14 senescence in the pre-culture (Antia & Cheng, 1970) and the growth condition before the
15 transition to darkness (Griffiths, 1973; Gervais, 1997) affect the dynamics after the
16 transition. This agrees with the simple assumptions of our model. The relationship
17 between E and E_{min} or $E_{th.c}$ before the transition to darkness determines which type of
18 darkness tolerance occurs. If E is greater than E_{min} immediately after the transition to
19 darkness, a short-term increase in cell number (type D1) due to cell division can occur in
20 our model. Furthermore, circadian rhythm and synchronized cell division are considered
21 to be two of the causes of this type of cell division. In the converse condition, cell
22 division cannot occur (type D2). When $E_{th.c}$ is greater than E , type D3 behavior occurred.

23 After a certain period from the transition to darkness, these two parameters, E_{min} and

1 $E_{th,c}$, also determine the dynamics. For type D1, the decrease in E continues not only by
2 respiration but also by biomass synthesis for cell division. When E becomes lower than
3 E_{min} , cell division is terminated in our model. Some laboratory experiments showed a
4 rapid decrease in organic matter corresponding to short-term cell division after the
5 transition to darkness (Handa, 1969; Peters, 1996), and cell division in prolonged
6 darkness was confined to the immediate aftermath of the transition to darkness (Griffiths,
7 1973; Peters, 1996; Gervais, 1997; Berges & Falkowski, 1998; Jochem, 1999; Furusato et
8 al., 2004). These observations also agree with the mechanics of our model. For type D1 as
9 well as for D2, when E fell below E_{thrM} , cell numbers rapidly decreased as the
10 catastrophic phase. Because the decrease of E is determined by R_0 , these mechanics of
11 darkness tolerance indicate the importance of R_0 .

12

13 ***After reillumination***

14 The physiological condition or integrity immediately before the transition to
15 reillumination determines the dynamics after reillumination. If E is greater than E_{min} , cell
16 division starts immediately after the transition to reillumination (type L1). In the converse
17 condition, a lag phase occurs until E exceeds E_{min} due to photosynthesis (type L2).
18 Further, if E is lower than $E_{th.lag}$, the lag phase is prolonged because the increase in E itself
19 is delayed by the low photosynthetic rate ($P^E_{m.lag}$). The lag phase is terminated and shifts
20 to the logarithmic regrowth phase when the E increased by the low photosynthetic rate in
21 the lag phase reaches E_{min} . Incidentally, phytoplankton sometimes totally disappears due
22 to a continuation of the decrease in cell number without regrowth after reillumination
23 (type L3). When E cannot increase because of a degraded photosynthetic rate that is lower
24 than the respiration rate and a slow cell division rate that is lower than the mortality rate in

1 the catastrophic phase, no further regrowth after reillumination occurs, even in light
2 conditions. These mechanics of the model agree with the effects of the length of darkness
3 (Peters, 1996; Peters & Thomas, 1996; Furusato et al., 2004; Franklin & Berges, 2004),
4 light intensity (Morgan & Kalff, 1975; Gervais, 1997) and light-dark cycle (Hellebust &
5 Terborgh, 1967) before the transition to darkness on the growth after reillumination. Thus,
6 our model based on simple physiological assumptions is able to analyze the various
7 responses of phytoplankton to not only prolonged darkness but also after reillumination.

8

9 ***Physiological accuracy of model***

10 The reliability and accuracy of the model depend on the assumptions for model
11 formulation and the parameter values, defining the physiological conditions of each
12 phase for darkness tolerance. Generally, the Droop model is applied to limiting nutrients.
13 In our model, the cellular carbon concentration of biosynthetic machinery (E) was used
14 for Droop model (Eq. (2)). Droop (1983) stated that carbon is not suitable for use in the
15 Droop model. The reason is that the yield of carbon to cellular weight remains
16 unchanged compared to other nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. However, our
17 model uses the carbon concentration per cell, which varies according to the
18 physiological state. Thus, Eq. (2) is consistent with Droop's conditions. Whether
19 inorganic carbon is a limiting factor for primary production or not is the debatable
20 question. Inorganic carbon is decreased by photosynthesis itself, so some studies
21 reported a carbon limitation in ocean (Goldman & Graham, 1981; Riebesell et al., 1993)
22 and fresh water (Talling, 1976; Shapiro 1990; Maberly, 1996). On the other hand, a
23 number of CO₂-concentrating mechanisms, which compensate for low affinity of
24 ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase as one of the causes of carbon

1 limitation, have been found among the different groups of phytoplankton (Badger &
2 Price, 1992; Giordano et al., 2005). However, these focused on the dynamics of
3 inorganic carbon in the euphotic layer. Because the present model is geared toward the
4 phytoplankton dynamics in not only euphotic zones but also the aphotic layer, the
5 assumption of carbon limitation cannot always be applied. Thus, representation of the
6 dynamics of the inorganic carbon concentration in water and parameterization by
7 considering carbon acquisition mechanisms depending on species will be needed for a
8 more accurate model.

9 Parameter values calculated from experiments and theoretical values based on
10 allometry were used. However, in addition to M_c and $E_{th.c}$ determining the characteristics
11 of the catastrophic phase in darkness, $P_{m.lag}^E$ and $E_{th.lag}$, which determine the
12 characteristics of the lag phase after reillumination, had to be defined by fitting them to
13 cell number changes. These include highly sensitive parameters in sensitivity analysis.
14 Because our model depends on the simple assumption that the physiological condition of
15 cells is represented by the cellular carbon contents, these parameters are important.

16 If the catastrophic phase is the result of a loss of integrity (Dehning & Tilzer, 1989;
17 Franklin & Berges, 2004) or homeostasis of cells (Furusato et al., 2004), the inherent
18 parameters of each phytoplankton cannot be defined and the validity of the model will be
19 reduced. However, taking into consideration recent findings on PCD in phytoplankton
20 (Segovia et al., 2003; Franklin & Berges, 2004), we are able to determine the parameters
21 relating to the catastrophic phase. PCD, one of the methods of resistance to infection that
22 occurs in cells of higher plants and animals, results in apoptotic and paraptotic
23 morphotypes. One cause of PCD is environmental stresses. Recently, it has been
24 reported that prolonged darkness caused rapid PCD in phytoplankton (Berges &

1 Falkowski, 1998; Franklin & Berges, 2004). Franklin & Berges (2004) stated that cell
2 death as PCD triggered by energy limitation is probably a significant process in the
3 structuring of phytoplankton populations. If the catastrophic phase is caused by PCD,
4 each phytoplankton possibly has its own inherent expression condition. Although what
5 triggers PCD is unknown, if the expression mechanisms of PCD are revealed in the future,
6 the catastrophic phase can be analyzed by relating it to the regulation rules of our model.

7 Parameter values such as $E_{th.lag}$ and E_{min} reflect intrinsic species characteristics of the
8 lag phase as a darkness-tolerance property. Peters (1996) and Peters & Thomas (1996)
9 reported that the lag phase is used to repair the photosynthetic function that had
10 deteriorated in prolonged darkness. Thus, a species has an inherent physiological
11 machinery of the lag phase, although more physiological research is needed.

12 ***Darkness periods experienced by phytoplankton in situ***

13 In periods of darkness longer than the time scale we assumed, distinct physiological
14 functions have to be included in the model. The spatial distribution of phytoplankton is
15 determined by hydraulic phenomena. In addition, the penetration of light into aquatic
16 ecosystems is affected by absorption and scattering processes that are affected by the
17 water quality (Kirk, 1994). Thus, the light conditions experienced by phytoplankton
18 vary according to the physical and chemical conditions of water bodies. Deep-living
19 phytoplankton in the aphotic layer below the thermocline will be entrained to a surface
20 euphotic zone by vertical mixing due to not only winter cooling but also strong winds.
21 Vincent (1978) reported that the length of residence of an aphotic phytoplankton
22 population in Lake Tahoe might exceed 12 months because of the absence of such
23 vertical mixing. Sea-ice and pelagic phytoplankton in polar regions must survive long
24 periods of winter darkness (Smayda & Mitchell-Innes, 1974). Density currents caused

1 by artificial circulation in eutrophic reservoirs will entrain surface phytoplankton into
2 deep aphotic layers in periods from a few days to several weeks (Furusato et al., 2004).
3 Although our model focused on the time scale of a few days to several weeks, different
4 processes will occur during longer periods of darkness. Diatoms living in polar regions
5 and having a strong tolerance for darkness often become resting cells without
6 morphological differences from vegetative cells by reducing their cellular metabolism
7 (Peters, 1996; Peters & Thomas, 1996). Thus, physiological processes, which have to be
8 included in a darkness-tolerance model, depend on the length of prolonged darkness. To
9 analyze this phenomenon, further studies are needed.

10 ***Extension of the model***

11 The effects of darkness tolerance on the competition among populations depend on the
12 inherent characteristics of each water body. In order to estimate this, a comprehensive
13 phytoplankton model (e.g., Janse et al., 1992; Mooij et al., 2007) that includes various
14 factors (physical, geochemical, and ecological processes) is effective. However, to
15 extend the model, not only improvement in the accuracy of the values of physiological
16 parameters but also consideration of the problems outlined below are needed. These are
17 other factors relating to darkness tolerance in addition to light, such as water temperature,
18 nutrients, the effects of externally caused death, such as those due to predation and
19 infection on the death processes, and the limitations of the Eulerian model for analyzing
20 darkness tolerance.

21 ***Temperature***

22 Water temperature is important factor in phytoplankton ecophysiology from the
23 viewpoint of not only governing the rate of almost all metabolic processes but also

1 darkness tolerance. There are many studies that have pointed out the effects of
2 temperature on the strength of darkness tolerance (e.g., Smayda & Mitchell-Innes,
3 1974) as temperature affects all biochemical reactions. This is because respiration plays
4 an important role in preservation of stored energy for survival. Wu et al. (2008)
5 suggested that the difference in the response of *Microcystis aeruginosa* to darkness in
6 their study compared to those of Furusato et al. (2004) depends on water temperature.
7 Furthermore, the vertical profile of light intensity is closely tied to water temperature.
8 Thus, the transitions from light to dark and inverse conditions often accompany changes
9 in temperature. To extend the model relating to water temperature to analyze
10 phytoplankton dynamics *in situ*, the function of temperature in photosynthesis and
11 respiration will have to be included. All the rates and time constants should be
12 temperature-dependent in an enhanced, temperature-aware model.

13 ***Nitrogen***

14 Chemical factors, particularly nitrogen, have to be related to the darkness-tolerance
15 model. In addition to physical factors besides the length of periods of darkness, such as
16 water temperature (Griffiths, 1973; Antia, 1976; Dehning & Tilzer, 1989), the effects of
17 chemical conditions such as medium composition, pH, and salinity (Antia & Cheng,
18 1970) on darkness tolerance have been suggested by some experimental laboratory
19 studies. In particular, nitrogen plays important role in not only general physiological
20 processes but also the characteristics of darkness tolerance. Under N-limitation,
21 synthesis of amino acids, protein, and various cellular organelles becomes suppressed.
22 On the other hand, the carbohydrate concentration will increase simultaneously. Thus,
23 N-limitation leads to a reduction in the allocation rate for *E* and *L* components.
24 Furthermore, it also decreases the maximum photosynthetic rate (Geider et al., 1998). In

1 addition to the above processes, some studies suggest the importance of nitrogen in
2 darkness tolerance. The induction of specific proteases in the catastrophic phase (Berges
3 & Falkowski, 1998) and the decrease in cellular protein and photosynthetic enzymes in
4 the lag phase (Griffiths, 1973; Dehning & Tilzer, 1989) have been observed.
5 Additionally, if a phytoplankton includes sufficient carbohydrate reserves in its cell, it
6 will be able to take up nitrogen even in the aphotic layer. Our present model assumes a
7 N-replete condition. However, if we consider various environmental conditions *in situ*,
8 particularly nitrogen, extensions of the model described below will be necessary. One is
9 the separation of nitrogen uptake and growth. Another is representation of the effects of
10 nitrogen quota on both allocation rate to synthesis of the three-carbon components and
11 subsequent photosynthetic ability. Like the photoacclimation model (Geider et al.,
12 1998), the cellular carbon-nitrogen ratio plays an important role in various physiological
13 processes.

14 ***Pathogenic infection***

15 External causes of death, such as pathogenic infection, have to be considered in
16 analyzing darkness tolerance. Although our study dealt with internal mortality, the death
17 of phytoplankton *in situ* is affected by external factors such as predation by zooplankton.
18 Pathogenic infection of physiologically deteriorated cells is another external cause of
19 death (Reynolds, 1984). Jochem (1999) reported that cell death increased more during
20 prolonged dark incubation with bacteria than without bacteria. Generally, the death
21 process tends to be modeled simply in dynamic phytoplankton models. However, a
22 mathematical term for infection will be needed because of the importance of the death
23 process in darkness tolerance. Pathogenic infection depends on the rate of contact
24 between the host cells and pathogens (Proctor & Fuhrman, 1991; Beltrami & Carroll,

1 1994). The burst size of pathogens, particularly viruses or phages, is also one of the
2 factors affecting the infection process (Brown et al., 2006). Several infection models
3 dealing with the interaction between virus and phytoplankton have been proposed
4 (Beltrami & Carroll, 1994; Chattopadhyay & Arino, 1999; Singh et al., 2004).

5 ***Limitations of Eulerian model***

6 By adding state variables relating to intracellular carbon components, a
7 comprehensive ecosystem model including physical, chemical, and biological processes
8 will allow analysis of phytoplankton dynamics relating to darkness tolerance in various
9 natural conditions. Most of the differences in the underwater environment in which
10 phytoplankton exists from the terrestrial ecosystem is that water movements define the
11 distribution and transport of phytoplankton. In particular, hydraulic conditions determine
12 prolonged dark conditions experienced by phytoplankton. If mixed depth exceeds
13 euphotic depth, phytoplankton experiences darkness for a certain period. Conversely, in
14 stable stratified water bodies having shallower mixed depth, phytoplankton suffers from
15 prolonged darkness after settling out, except for motile phytoplankton such as
16 cyanobacteria and dinoflagellate. Thus, the mixing process is important to analyze
17 darkness tolerance. Such biological-physical interactions have been modeled in 2
18 fundamentally different ways, that is to say, the Eulerian model and the Lagrangian
19 model. Eulerian formulations treat phytoplankton populations in terms of their bulk
20 properties, and the averaged photosynthetic response is computed at fixed grid points in
21 the water column. Alternatively, Lagrangian formulations compute phytoplankton
22 growth along the trajectories of individual phytoplankton cells. Traditionally, the
23 Eulerian models are used for analyzing physicochemical and biological processes in
24 comprehensive ecosystem models. Many of the processes that determine the growth and

1 survival of individual phytoplankton cells are non-linear. The Eulerian continuum
2 method will generally be less accurate than Lagrangian methods because it will
3 basically average non-linear equations (Woods & Onken, 1982). However, the reduced
4 computation requirement and the easier evaluation of aggregated/population properties
5 are advantages of the Eulerian approach.

6 The Lagrangian approach to simulating phytoplankton dynamics minimizes the
7 errors arising from this non-linearity by simulating the dynamics of many individual
8 phytoplankton cells. Furthermore, it is not too computing-intensive to be used in an
9 ecosystem model (Ross & Sharples, 2007). Some studies have analyzed the
10 photoadaptive response and turbulence-induced vertical displacement (Woods & Onken,
11 1982; Lizon et al., 1998; Cianelli et al., 2004) and the dynamics of motile
12 phytoplankton (Broekhuizen, 1999) by Lagrangian model. In particular, considering
13 that the characteristics of darkness tolerance are the result of the accumulation of the
14 effects of the history of past experiences of darkness, the Lagrangian model, dealing with
15 individual phytoplankton cells as particles in fluid, is suitable to analyze darkness
16 tolerance.

17 **Conclusion**

18 This paper proposes a dynamic model of autotrophic vegetative cells of phytoplankton.
19 This model enables estimation of the effects of darkness over several days on
20 phytoplankton population dynamics. In the construction of the basic concepts of the
21 model, we categorized the results of many experiments dealing with darkness into several
22 types of changes in abundance, and we assumed several physiological phases consisting
23 of these various types. Then, assuming that these phases correspond to the physiological

1 integrity, we developed a model in which degrees of health were connected with
2 quantitative conditions of intracellular functional components. Descriptions of both
3 sound and deteriorated physiological states relating to darkness tolerance were
4 formulated by the traditional framework of phytoplankton population dynamics. In the
5 sensitivity analysis, we found that the parameters relating to regulation of carbon cell
6 quota, particularly E , tended to be more sensitive to changes in abundance than the
7 parameters that directly regulate cell number, such as $G_{div.m}$. Taking these tendencies
8 into consideration, a simulation was done using several experimental laboratory data in
9 which prolonged darkness caused various changes in abundance. The model successfully
10 represented the various changes. Furthermore, we discussed the limits and extensibility of
11 the model. Although in this paper we described the characteristics of responses to only
12 light conditions as a submodel, we expect further extension to a whole biogeochemical
13 model that includes various physical, chemical, and biological factors such as
14 temperature, nutrients, and pathogens. This will make it possible to analyze competition
15 corresponding to the strength of darkness tolerance of each phytoplankton. In addition,
16 the simple physiological assumptions in the model are expected to be useful in
17 problem-finding studies on darkness tolerance.

18

19

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

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Legend to figures

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Figure 1. Diagrammatic representation of various changes in phytoplankton abundance during prolonged darkness and reillumination.

Figure 2. Diagrammatic representation of regulation of cell division rate and physiological state in dynamic model of darkness tolerance. Boxes with thick line: state variables, boxes with thin line: parameters, solid arrows: positive effects, dashed arrows: negative effects.

Figure 3. Comparison of model simulations and observations of *Scenedesmus acuminatus* during dark incubation (observation data of Dehning & Tilzer, 1989). A: Simulations and observations of changes in cell number, and B: cellular carbon concentration of biosynthetic apparatus. Each figure contains values simulated at 22°C (solid lines) and at 7°C (dashed line) and values observed at 22°C (black circles) and at 7°C (white circles).

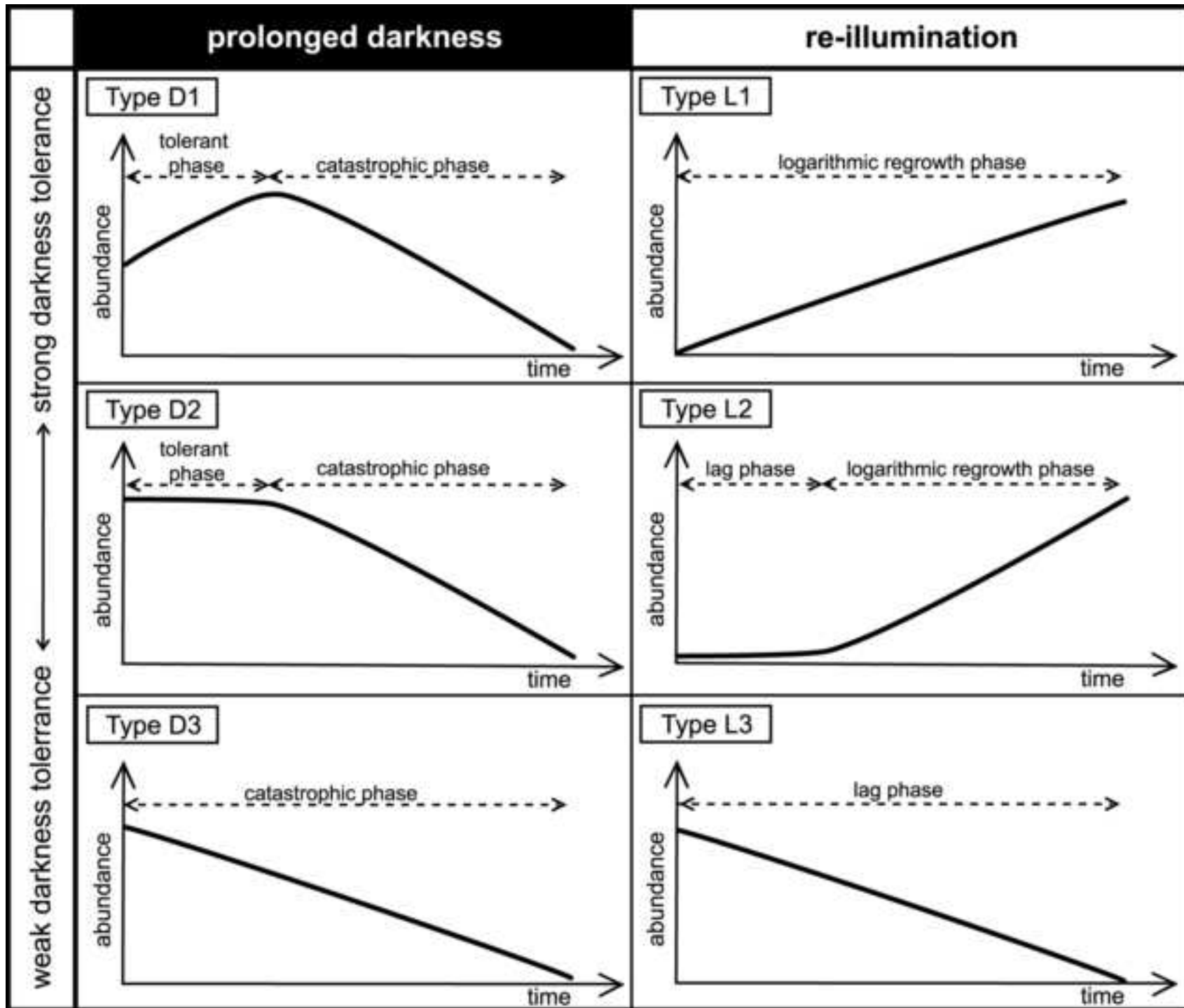
Fig. 4. Comparison of model simulations (solid lines) and observations (black circles) of changes in abundance during dark incubation. A: *Cryptomonas phaseolus* (Gervais, 1997) as a representative of type D3. B: *Phormirium* sp. PC type (WRDPC, 1989) as a representative of type D1.

Figure 5. Comparison of model simulations (solid lines) and observations (white circles) of changes in cell numbers for *Microcystis aeruginosa* in a dark and reilluminated batch culture (data from Furusato et al., 2004). A: control L-D cycle, B: 5 days of darkness, C: 10 days of darkness, D: 15 days of darkness, E: 20 days of darkness. Shaded area represents dark incubation.

Figure 6. Relationship between cellular carbon concentration and physiological state in darkness-tolerance model.

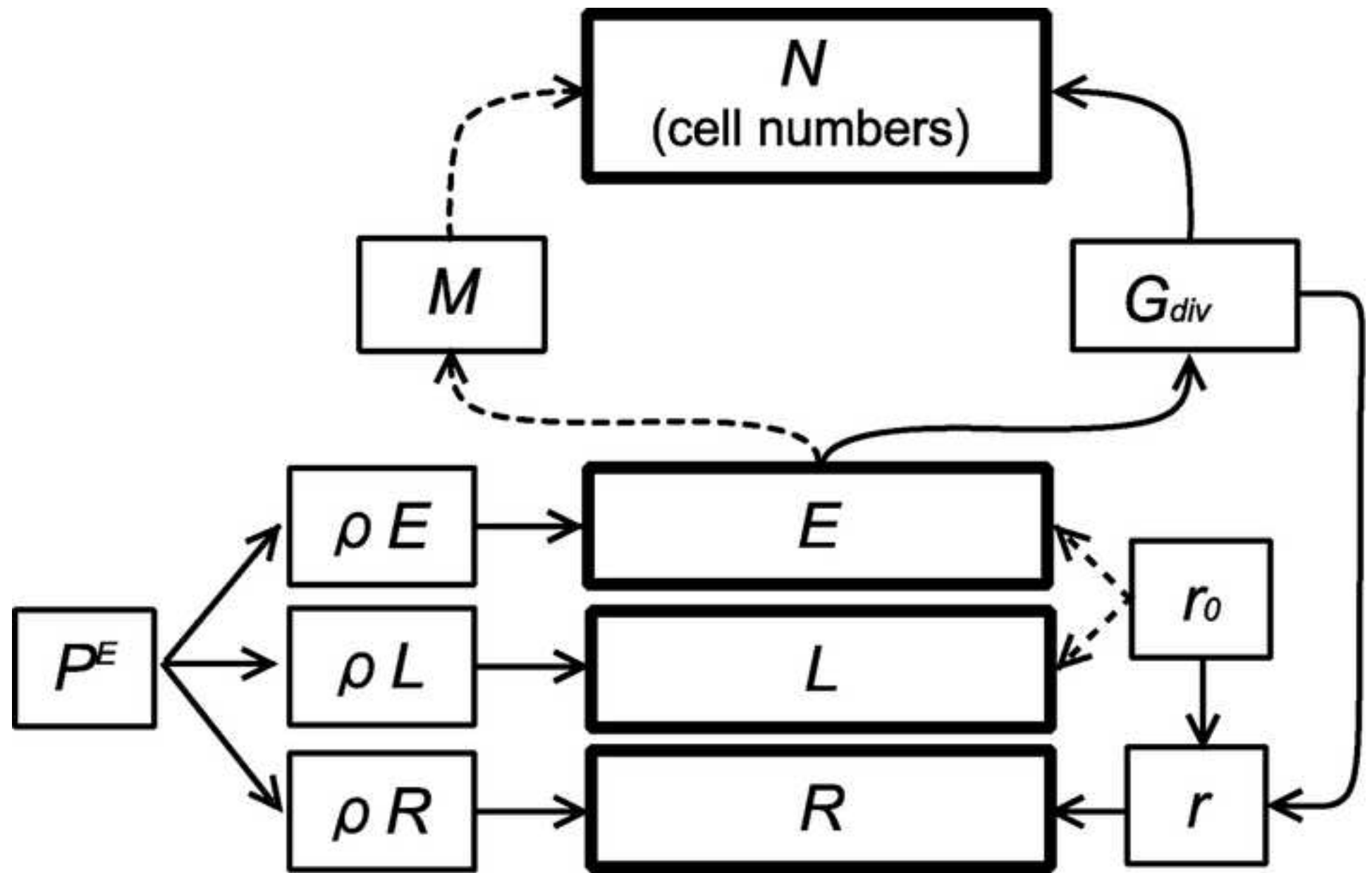
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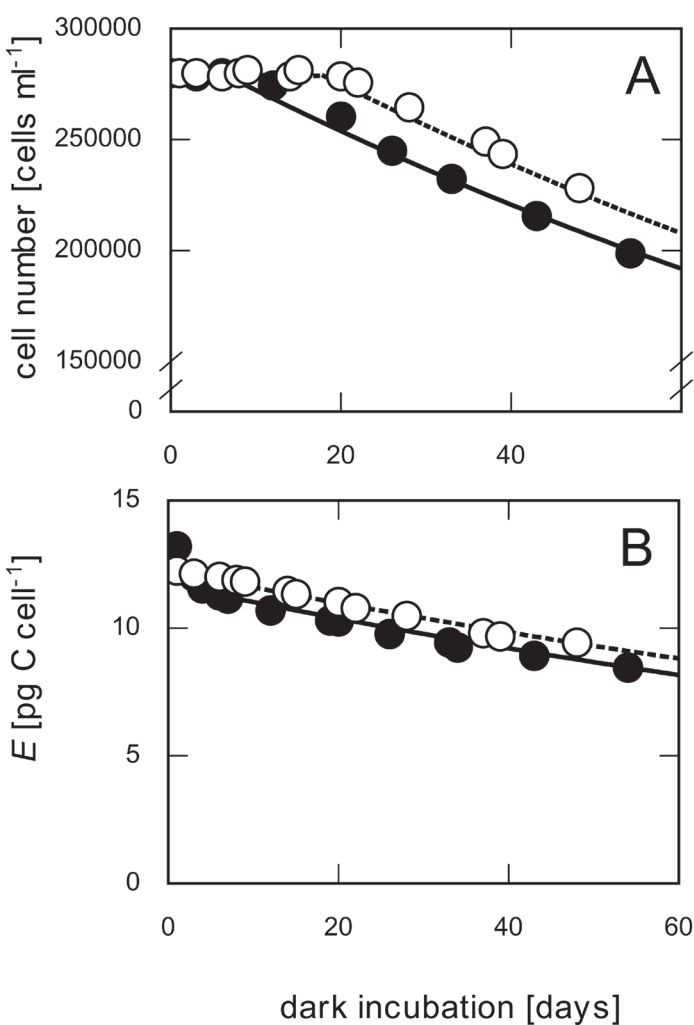
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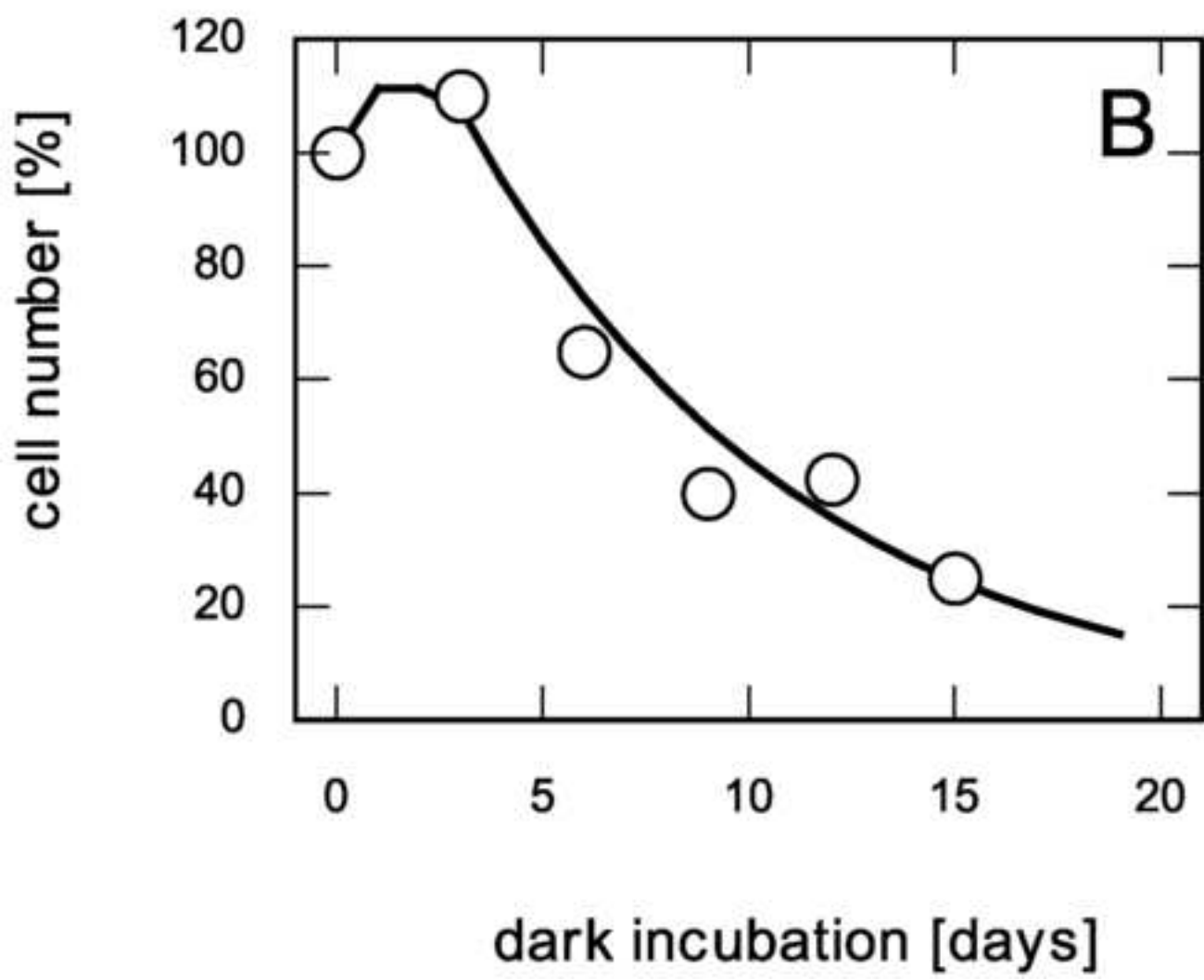
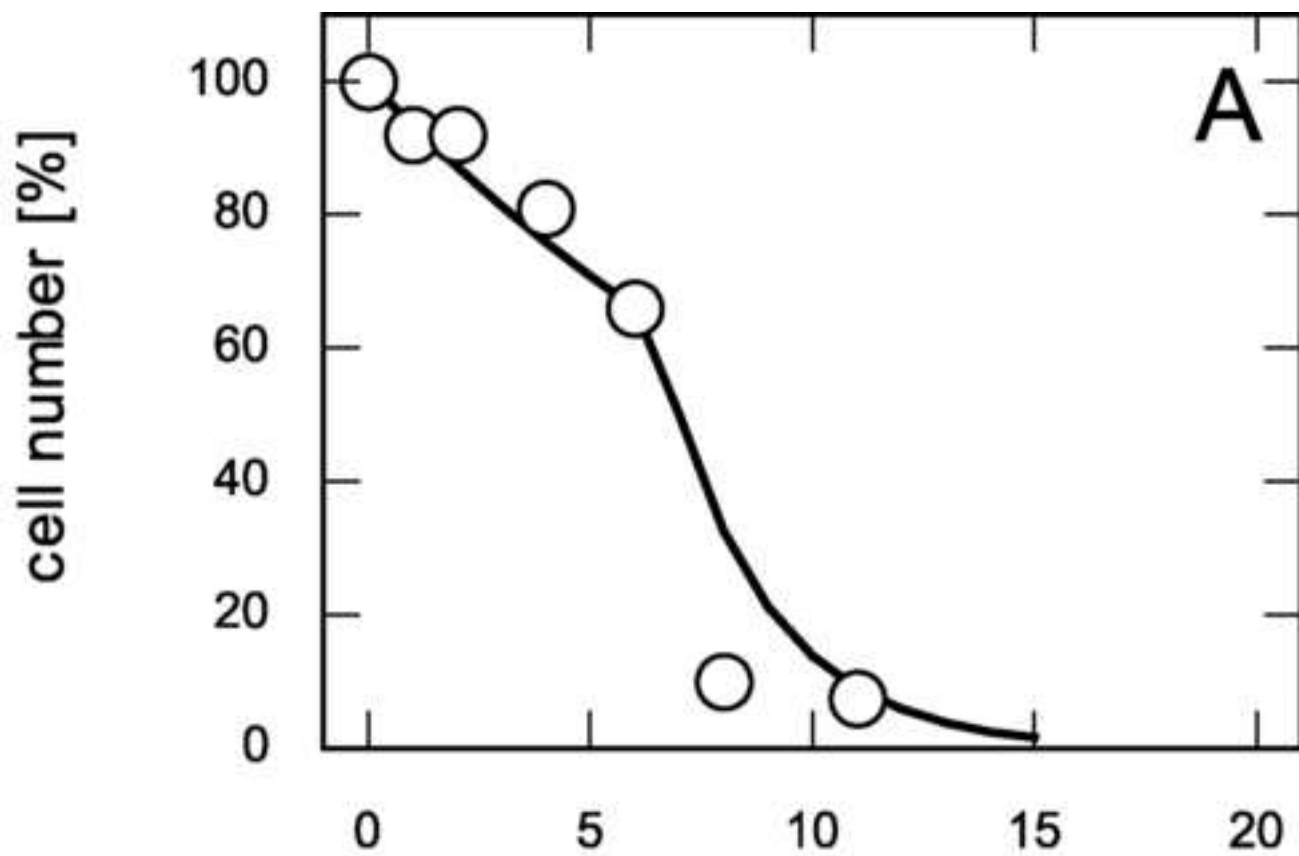
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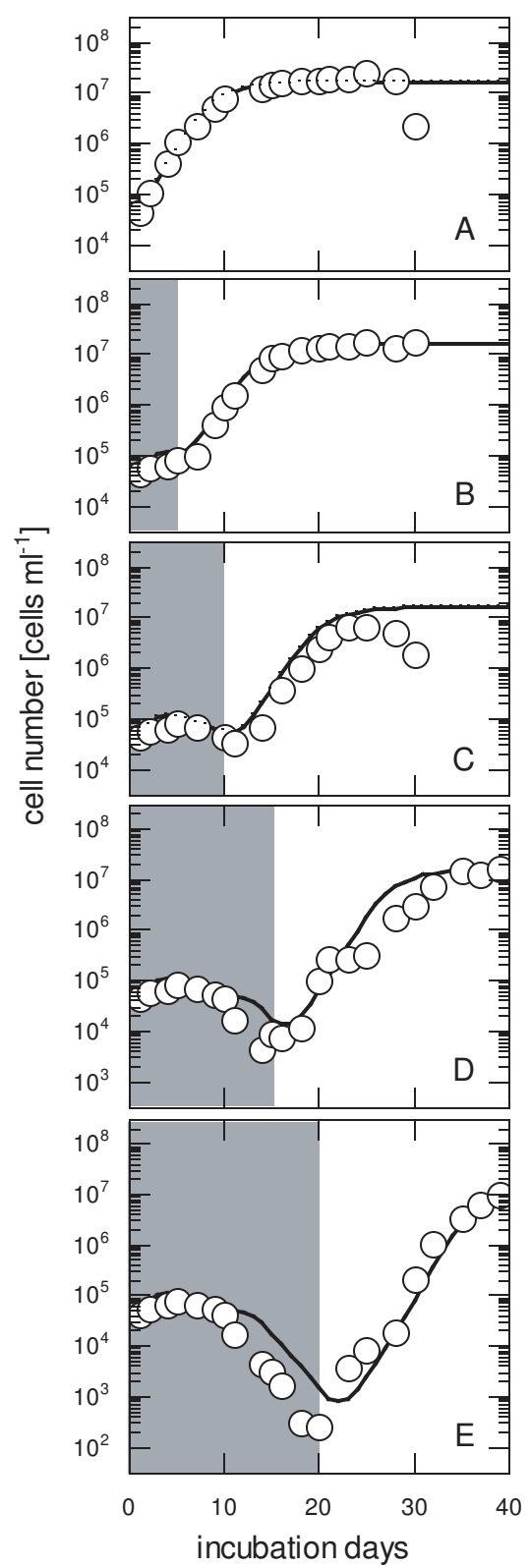


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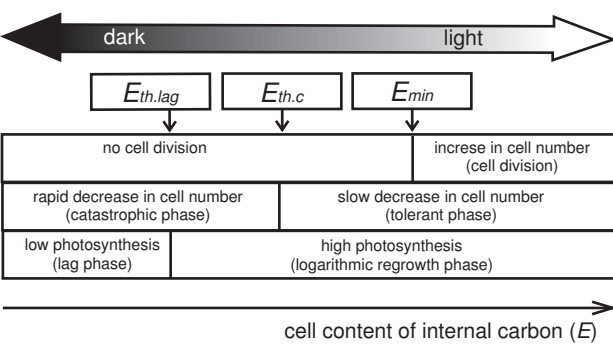






line figure (fig. 6)

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Tables

Table 1 Types of darkness tolerance of various phytoplankton^a

Type	CLASS	Species ^b	Reference
D1	CYANOPHYCEAE	<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> (10)	Furusato et al. (2004)
		<i>Plectonema boryanum</i> (5)	White & Shiro (1975)
	CHLOROPHYCEAE	<i>Dunaliella tertiolecta</i> (6)	Berges & Falkowski (1998)
		<i>Scenedesmus quadricauda</i> (>20)	Furusato et al. (2004)
	BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Ditylum brightwellii</i> (>60)	Peters (1996)
		<i>Phaeodactylum tricorutum</i> (>7)	Griffiths (1973)
		<i>Proboscia inermis</i> (>74)	Peters & Thomas (1996)
		<i>Rhizosolenia setigera</i> (20)	Peters (1996)
		<i>Skeletonema costatum</i> (>10)	Handa (1969)
		<i>Thalassiosira antarctica</i> (>74)	Peters (1996)
		<i>Thalassiosira tumida</i> (>74)	
		<i>Thalassiosira punctigera</i> (>60)	
	CRYPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Thalassiosira weissflogii</i> (>13)	Berges & Falkowski (1998)
		<i>Cryptomonas rostratiformis</i> (2~4)	Gervais (1997)
	HAPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Cryptomonas cf. ovata</i> (2)	
		<i>Chrysochromulina hirta</i> (10)	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Pavlova lutheri</i> (11)	
D2	CHLOROPHYCEAE	<i>Prymnesium parvum</i> (9)	
		<i>Brachiomonas submarina</i> (10)	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Dunaliella tertiolecta</i> (>7)	Hellebust & Terborgh (1967)
	BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Scenedesmus acuminatus</i> (10~15)	Dehning & Tilzer (1989)
		<i>Bacteriastrum</i> sp. (11)	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Melosira ambigua</i> (>20)	Furusato et al. (2004)
		<i>Phaeodactylum tricorutum</i> (>3)	Griffiths (1973)
	CRYPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Thalassiosira weissflogii</i> (>63)	Murphy & Cowles (1997)
		<i>Cryptomonas cf. ovata</i> (2)	Gervais (1997)
	D3	DINOPHYCEAE	<i>Cryptomonas phaseolus</i> (2)
CYANOPHYCEAE		<i>Protogonyaulax affinis</i> (>6)	Selvin et al. (1988)
		<i>Phormidium</i> sp. (PCType)	WRDPC ^c (1989)
L1	CRYPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Phormidium</i> sp. (PEType)	
		<i>Chroomonas</i> sp.	Gervais (1997)
	DINOPHYCEAE	<i>Cryptomonas phaseolus</i> ,	
		<i>Cryptomonas undulata</i>	
		<i>Amphidinium carterae</i>	Franklin & Berges (2004)
L2	CHLOROPHYCEAE	<i>Gymnodinium catenatum</i>	Selvin et al. (1988)
	BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Scenedesmus quadricauda</i>	Furusato et al. (2004)
L1	BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Bacteriastrum</i> sp.	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Ditylum brightwellii</i>	Peters (1996)
	HAPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Melosira ambigua</i>	Furusato et al. (2004)
		<i>Thalassiosira weissflogii</i>	Murphy & Cowles (1997)
		<i>Chrysochromulina hirta</i>	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i>	Furusato et al. (2004)
L2	CYANOPHYCEAE	<i>Phormidium</i> sp. (PCType)	WRDPC ^c (1989)
		<i>Phormidium</i> sp. (PEType)	
	CHLOROPHYCEAE	<i>Brachiomonas submarina</i>	Jochem (1999)
		<i>Scenedesmus acuminatus</i>	Dehning & Tilzer (1989)

Table 1 Types of darkness tolerance of various phytoplankton^a (continued)

Type	CLASS	Species ^b	Reference	
L2	BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Ditylum brightwellii</i>	Peters (1996)	
		<i>Phaeodactylum tricornutum</i>	Griffiths (1973)	
		<i>Proboscia inermis</i>	Peters & Thomas (1996)	
		<i>Rhizosolenia setigera</i>	Peters (1996)	
		<i>Thalassiosira antarctica</i>	Peters & Thomas (1996)	
		<i>Thalassiosira punctigera</i>	Peters (1996)	
		<i>Thalassiosira tumida</i>	Peters & Thomas (1996)	
		CRYPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Cryptomonas phaseolus</i>	Gervais (1997)
			<i>Cryptomonas undulata</i>	
		L3	DINOPHYCEAE	<i>Amphidinium carterae</i>
CYANOPHYCEAE	<i>Phormidium</i> sp. (PC type)		WRDPC ^c (1989)	
HAPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Pavlova lutheri</i>		Jochem (1999)	
	<i>Prymnesium parvum</i>			
BACILLARIOPHYCEAE	<i>Rhizosolenia setigera</i>		Peters (1996)	
CRYPTOPHYCEAE	<i>Cryptomonas phaseolus</i>		Gervais (1997)	
	<i>Cryptomonas undulata</i>			
DINOPHYCEAE	<i>Amphidinium carterae</i>	Franklin & Berges (2004)		

^a Data presented were selected from experiments in which changes in abundance were confirmed. The results of experiments in which only the possibility of regrowth after reillumination was studied (Antia & Cheng 1970; Smayda & Mitchell-Innes 1974; Antia 1976) were excluded.

^b Type D1 and D2 values in parentheses mean periods of tolerance phase[d].

^c Water Resource Development Public Corporation (Japan)

Table 2 List of definitions of variables and parameters

Variable	Definition	Typical units
E	Cellular carbon content of biosynthetic machinery	pg C cell ⁻¹
E_{min}	Minimum E Content	pg C cell ⁻¹
$E_{th.c}$	Threshold value of E to catastrophic phase	pg C cell ⁻¹
$E_{th.lag}$	Threshold value of E to lag phase	pg C cell ⁻¹
G_{div}	Cell division rate	day ⁻¹
$G_{div.m}$	Maximum cell division rate	day ⁻¹
IC	Cellular carbon content	pg C cell ⁻¹
I	Irradiation	mol photons m ² day ⁻¹
k_r	Coefficient of respiratory rate on growth rate	-
L	Cellular carbon content of photosynthetic apparatus	pg C cell ⁻¹
N	Cell number	cells ml ⁻¹
M	Mortality rate	d ⁻¹
M_0	Mortality rate at tolerant phase	d ⁻¹
M_c	Mortality rate at catastrophic phase	d ⁻¹
P^E	E specific rate of photosynthesis	d ⁻¹
P_m^E	Maximum E specific rate of photosynthesis	d ⁻¹
$P_{m.lag}^E$	Maximum E specific rate of photosynthesis at lag phase	d ⁻¹
R	Cellular carbon content of storage pool	pg C cell ⁻¹
r	Respiratory consumption of reserve material rate	d ⁻¹
r_0	Maintenance metabolic rate	d ⁻¹
κ_E	Proportion of biosynthate allocated to synthesis of E	-
κ_L	Maximum proportion of biosynthate allocated to synthesis of L	-
ρ_E	Proportion of photosynthetate allocated to synthesis of E	-
ρ_L	Proportion of photosynthetate allocated to synthesis of L	-
ρ_R	Proportion of photosynthetate allocated to synthesis of R	-
σ	Functional cross-section of L	m ² mol ⁻¹ photons

Table 3 Three intracellular components of darkness-tolerance model

Component	Symbol	Property	Response to light intensity
Biosynthetic apparatus	<i>E</i>	Machinery of biosynthesis and cell replication, including Calvin cycle enzymes	Independent of light intensity
Light-harvesting apparatus	<i>L</i>	Chloroplasts, photosynthetic pigment-protein complexes, and supporting membranes	Increases in low irradiance (photoadaptation)
Energy storage reserves	<i>R</i>	Polysaccharides and lipids serving as energy storage reserves	Increases in high irradiance

Table 4 Parameters and initial conditions used to model dynamics of phytoplankton in prolonged darkness
^a (see Materials and Methods in the text)

Parameter or initial condition	Units	<i>S. acuminatus</i>		<i>P. sp</i> (PC type)	<i>C. phaseo- lus</i>
		22°C	7°C ^b		
Parameters					
$G_{div.m}$	d ⁻¹	-	-	1.14	-
M_0	d ⁻¹	0.0	0.00025	-	0.069
M_c	d ⁻¹	0.007	0.007	0.123	0.43
$E_{th.c}$	pg C cell ⁻¹	11.29	11.03	1.3	14
E_{min}	pg C cell ⁻¹	-	-	1.7	-
r_0	d ⁻¹	0.0060	0.0055	0.15	0.1
Initial conditions					
N	cells ml ⁻¹	28,000		164,000	10,000
IC	pg C cell ⁻¹	21.35		3.63	44.98
E	pg C cell ⁻¹	13.2		2.18	26.64
L	pg C cell ⁻¹	3.6		0.61	9.7
R	pg C cell ⁻¹	4.55		0.84	8.64

^a The maximum cell division rate ($G_{div.m}$) and other related parameters of *S. acuminatus* and *C. phaseolus*, in which cell division in darkness was not confirmed in each experiment, are not defined.

^b Similar initial conditions were used for case: 22°C and 7°C.

Table 5 Parameters and initial conditions of *Microcystis aeruginosa* used to model dynamics of phytoplankton in darkness and reillumination (see Materials and Methods in the text)

Parameter or initial condition	Units	Values
Parameter		
$G_{div.m}$	d ⁻¹	1.04
M_0	d ⁻¹	0.125
M_c	d ⁻¹	0.49
P_m^E	d ⁻¹	1.6
$P_{m.lag}^E$	d ⁻¹	0.8
E_{min}	pg C cell ⁻¹	2.3
$E_{th.c}$	pg C cell ⁻¹	0.8
$E_{th.lag}$	pg C cell ⁻¹	0.2
σ	m ² mol ⁻¹ photons	0.39
r_0	d ⁻¹	0.125
k_r	-	0.1
Initial condition		
N	cells ml ⁻¹	164,000
IC	pg C cell ⁻¹	16.34
E	pg C cell ⁻¹	9.8
L	pg C cell ⁻¹	2.78
R	pg C cell ⁻¹	3.76

Table 6 Results of sensitivity analysis

Parameter	S		
	Dark conditions	Reillumination	Average
$G_{div.m}$	0.000	0.213	0.107
M_0	0.001	0.001	0.001
M_c	1.452	0.026	0.739
P_m^E	0.000	0.528	0.264
$P_{m.lag}^E$	0.000	10.613	5.306
E_{min}	0.099	0.157	0.128
$E_{th.c}$	0.106	0.004	0.055
$E_{th.lag}$	0.000	0.031	0.015
σ	0.000	0.567	0.283
r_0	0.145	1.693	0.919
k_R	0.000	0.002	0.001
κE	0.000	6.402	3.201