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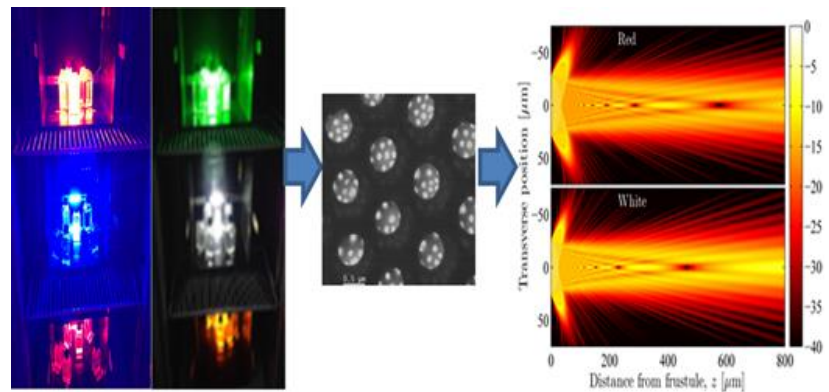
Implications for photonic applications of diatom growth and frustule nanostructure changes in response to different light wavelengths

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Light treatment → Frustule morphology → Photonic properties

A novel method for modification of frustule nanostructure was developed and tested based on combination of six light wavelengths and two light intensities. Numerical simulations confirmed that the morphological changes obtained were sufficient to induce clear differences in the photonics properties of the frustule.

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ABSTRACT

Diatoms are unicellular algae enclosed in intricate bio-silicified walls with repetitive nanostructures in a size range which makes them potentially relevant for a broad spectrum of industrial applications. How to optimize the nano-scale structures of the frustule for utilization of diatoms in nanotechnology is one of the technological challenges for these applications. Light is one of the most important abiotic factors for algal photosynthetic growth, and the frustule may play an important role in mediating light for these biological functions, as well as being central for its nano-technological applications. In this study, we tested the influence of light quality on the nanostructure of the frustule of *Coscinodiscus granii* and compared this to growth rate response. The results showed that colored light (red, yellow, green and blue) at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ resulted in a statistically significant change in nanostructure compared to white light. Green light at 100 $\mu\text{mol photon m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ led to a significant decrease in mean frustule diameter and mean foramen diameter. Numerical simulations confirmed that the morphological changes obtained were sufficient to induce clear differences in the photonics properties of the frustule. The wavelength had no effect on the growth rate at high light intensity (300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$). However, at 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, yellow, red-orange and green light resulted in significantly lower maximum growth rates than the other wavelengths. This response of the frustule structure to different light treatment indicates the possibility of a light-based frustule nanostructure manipulation method, which is simple and environmentally friendly.

1. Introduction

Diatoms are a major group of eukaryotic, unicellular algae that are ubiquitously found in almost every water habitat on earth. It is estimated

that they may contribute up to 40% of primary productivity in marine ecosystems and 20% of global carbon fixation [1, 2]. The number of recognized diatom species is 10.000-20.000, but it is estimated that there may be more than 200.000, with cell

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diameters ranging from 2 μm to ca. 1 mm [3]. Diatoms are thus one of the most successful groups of organisms in the world, appearing first in the fossil record about 200 million years ago [4, 5]. Compared with other unicellular algae, the hallmark of diatoms is their intricate cell walls made of hydrated amorphous silica [4, 6]. The frustule is composed of two parts, each including one transparent petri-dish like valve with repetitive nanostructures [6, 7]. Due to the special optical properties of their frustule structure, diatoms are regarded as a green nanomaterial and may have properties of natural photonic crystals with broad industrial application potential, such as micro lenses, UV protection, optical sensors for volatile substances [8-10]. Utilization of these frustules could reduce the production cost compared with traditional artificial crystal materials. Previous studies have indicated that the proposed diatom photonic applications depend on their precise nanostructure [11-13]. Therefore control and manipulation of the nanostructures is presented as one of the key technical challenges [9, 14]. Previous studies have tested chemical modification methods such as atomic layer deposition, addition of certain metal ion (Ge and Ni) into the medium [15], etching by hydrofluoric acid or strong alkali treatment [16-19]. However, these chemical-based methods might cause secondary contamination, thus possible biological modification methods are preferable. Frustule biosilicification processes have been investigated in detail at the molecular level [5], but few studies focus on the influence of abiotic factors which affect diatom growth, on the frustule morphology [20, 21]. Light is an essential environmental factor for photosynthetic organisms and although little is known about the biological functions of the frustule [22], one possibility is that it plays a role related to light such as selecting confined light to pass the frustules or focusing the light to benefit photosynthesis [10, 23, 24]. If this is the case, we would expect different light conditions, especially light wavelengths, to affect the self-assembled nanostructure of the frustule.

In this study, for the first time, the responses of the frustule nanostructure to different light wavelengths within the visible light range at two intensities were studied. Diatom growth rate was tested to determine if there is a link between the morphological changes

in nanostructure and growth rate, e.g. whether the changes are driven merely by changes in division rate. Furthermore, growth rate is an important parameter for future industrial production of diatom frustules. Light conditions which have significant effect on the frustule morphology and/or growth rate were identified. To test the significance of the observed changes in frustule nanostructure for future photonic applications, simulations of light propagation through simple models of frustules were carried out. Controlling light wavelengths could be an alternative method to manipulate the frustule morphology of the diatom, thereby broadening the application possibility and accelerating its industrial application.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1 The influence of light wavelength and intensity on growth rate

The growth pattern under all six different wavelengths was quite similar at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (Fig. 1a), and the mean maximum growth rates at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ were statistically similar (analysis of variance, ANOVA, $p \geq 0.05$). As shown in Fig. 1(b), at 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, the fastest growth was achieved under B, and the mean maximum growth rate in declining order was Blue (B) > Red (R) > White (W) > Green (G) > Red-Orange (RO) > Yellow (Y) (see supplementary information). Significant difference was found among them (ANOVA, $p \leq 0.05$). Post hoc tests (Bonferroni-Holm) showed the growth rate at B to be significantly higher than at G, RO and Y light ($p \leq 0.05$), and no significant difference existed between B, R and W. Previous studies have found that responses in algal growth, pigment concentration and photosynthesis rate to different light wavelengths varied, being species-specific and depending on the size of the cells [25, 26]. Similar to our study, growth rate and photosynthesis efficiency for *Coscinodiscus radiatus* and *Thalassiosira pseudonana*, were highest at violet-blue to blue light compared with other light treatments in the previous work [11, 25, 27]. One of the underlying reasons for this phenomenon might be enhancement of chlorophyll synthesis by blue light due to the light adaptation in natural water [28,

29]. Besides, based on the evolutionary history of microalgae, *Keeling* reported the preference of microalgae to grow under either blue (420–470 nm) or red (660 nm) [30]. *Schulze et al.* also reported that the major growth favorable wavelengths for chlorophyll-a containing microalgae are within the range of 420–470 nm (B) and/or 660–680 nm (R) [31]. This correlates well with our results.

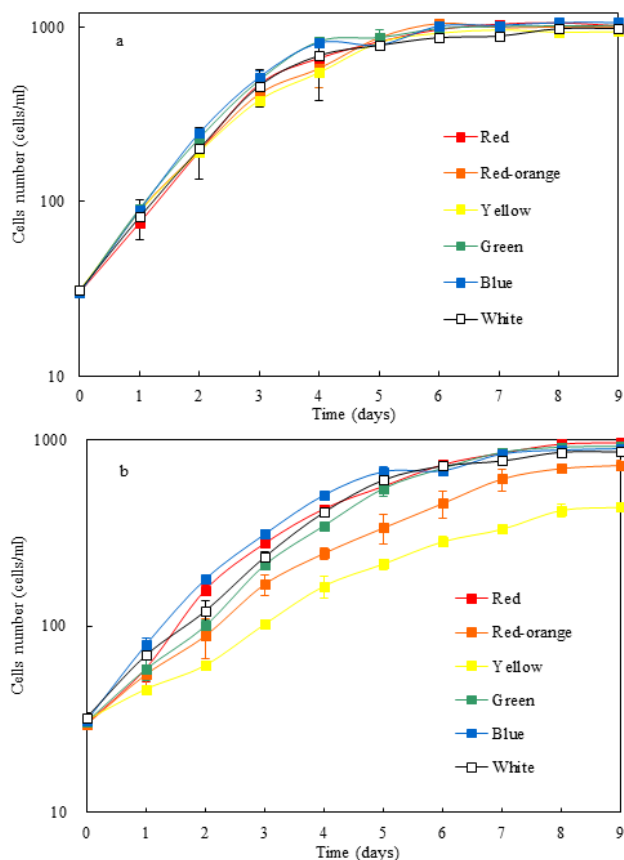


Figure 1 Growth curve of *C. granii* under six different light wavelengths at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (a) and 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (b). Error bars indicate standard deviation ($n=3$).

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are a promising, more sustainable light source for algal growth as they are mercury-free, long-lasting, and have fast-response and high conversion efficiency from electrical energy to photon energy [31, 32]. In this study, no significant difference in maximum growth rate was found between B and R light at both 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$. As red LED is more energy efficient than blue (yielding more photons per watt) [33], R light may be important for future industrial use of the diatom frustules demanding a production of diatoms in high quantities as it can support high

grow rate and has low energy consumption. More importantly, R light at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ led to the lowest foramen density and visible changes in photonics properties (see below).

In the present study, the lowest growth rate was obtained at Y light at an intensity of 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, similar to previous studies using *Haslea ostrearia* [11, 25]. However, at high irradiance (300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), the different wavelengths had no significant effect on the mean maximum growth rates. A possible explanation is that at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ the intensity has passed saturating light intensities [34], thus, all the wavelengths used here support optimal diatom growth.

The maximum growth rate of *C. granii* was highest at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at all six wavelengths, indicating that although 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ is a relatively high level of irradiance, it did not lead to lower growth rate than 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ by photoinhibition. These differences in the growth rates between 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ are significant ($p \leq 0.05$), except for W light ($p \geq 0.05$). It has previously been reported that for W light, 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ with continuous illumination was the optimum light intensity for *C. granii* [34]. This agrees with our finding of no significant difference in maximum growth rate between at 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ at W light. Compared to white light, cells grown in mono spectral light may need a higher intensity to supplement the deficiency in the other wavelengths.

2.2 The influence of light wavelengths on diatom morphology

The species-specific morphology of the silica frustule is the main diagnostic character for identifying diatom species. *Coscinodiscus granii* is a typical radial centric symmetric diatom (Fig. 2) with a circular valve and numerous foramens regularly distributed in an approximately hexagonal pattern, while also radiating out from the center on the surface of valve. The external part of the areola is covered by a silica membrane perforated by smaller pores (Fig. 2c). Three parameters, namely frustule diameter (Fig. 2a), foramen number in 10 μm (Fig. 2b) and foramen diameter (Fig. 2c) were measured on TEM

micrographs and the detailed results are summarized in Fig. 3.

At 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, colored light caused a slight decrease in frustule diameter compared to the control (W) light (Table S2 in supplementary material), but only the difference between frustule diameter of W ($64.44\pm 41.09 \mu\text{m}$) and frustule diameter of G ($42.70\pm 5.71 \mu\text{m}$) light was statistically significant (Kruskall Wallis, $p\leq 0.05$). At 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, no significant differences were found in mean diameter (Kruskall Wallis, $p\geq 0.05$). The repeatability of the results was shown by statistical analysis of two batches of experimental data by ANOVA or Kruskal Wallis test, which showed that no significant difference was found between the two data sets ($p\geq 0.05$, Table S2). Differences in valve size may be driven by a gradual decrease in size during each cell division, with restitution to the initial sizes by auxospore formation [6], but as there was no direct relationship between high growth rate and small frustule diameter, the size reduction seen in this study is not only driven by division rate. Thus, for example, compared with control (W) light, G light led to 33.74% smaller average frustule diameter although no significant difference was found in maximum growth rate under W and G light ($p\geq 0.05$). For R, RO, G, B and W light, the mean diameter of frustules cultivated at 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ seemed to be larger than at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, but the difference was not significant ($p\geq 0.05$). The largest frustule diameter of *C. granii* obtained in this study was around 105 μm , which is within the size spectrum previously reported of 40–200 μm [35]. Small cells generally have higher growth rates, a larger surface/volume ratio, and inherently superior ability to harvest light and nutrients under equilibrium conditions than larger cells, while larger algae cells may experience a lower stress by grazers [36]. It has previously been reported that a reduction in size is a common response when diatoms grow under stress conditions [36, 37]. Therefore, the slight size reduction of *C. granii* may be a consequence of environmental stress caused by colored light and high irradiance.

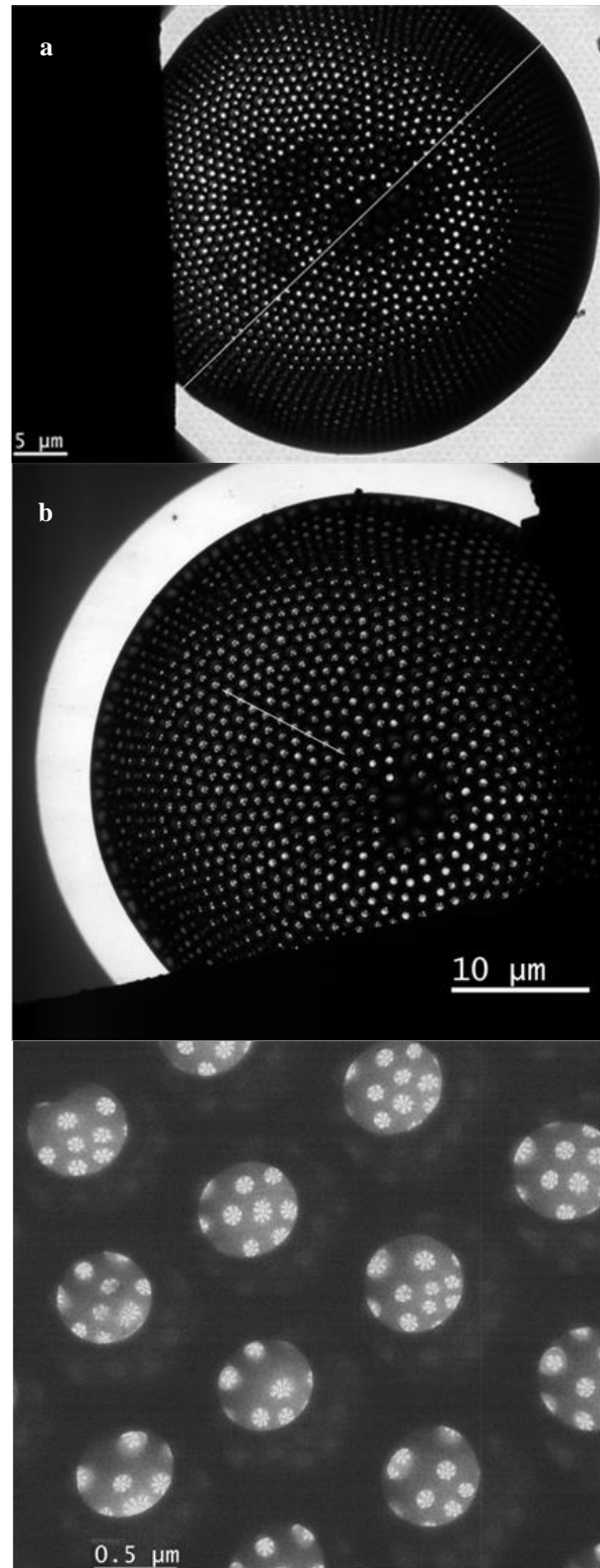


Figure 2 Transmission electron micrograph (TEM) image of internal surface of *C. granii*. (a) The frustule diameter; (b) Foramen number in 10 μm ; (c) The size of the foramen.

The foramen density (Fig. 3b) showed a general trend

of higher light intensity resulting in lower foramen density, except for W light. The W light source applied here has a broad spectrum that consists of all the visible wavelengths of light. The difference between such a W light source and a monochromatic source might explain the reversed trend in foramen density. The influence of the light intensity on the foramen density was also analyzed by a Kruskal Wallis test, which showed that for R, Y, G, B and W light, the differences between 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ were significant. At 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, no statistically significant differences were found among the different wavelengths (Kruskal Wallis, $p \geq 0.05$). At high irradiance (300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), there were significant differences between R ($8.25 \pm 1.08/10 \mu\text{m}$) and W ($9.39 \pm 0.59/10 \mu\text{m}$) light, Y ($8.44 \pm 0.60/10 \mu\text{m}$) and W light, G ($8.36 \pm 0.78/10 \mu\text{m}$) and W light, B ($8.73 \pm 0.42/10 \mu\text{m}$) and W light as shown in Fig. 3b (ANOVA, $p \leq 0.05$). Based on the above results, high irradiance (except with W light) will decrease the foramen density relative to lower light, and R, Y, G and B light at high irradiance will significantly decrease the foramen density, relative to white light. This offers a potential method to manipulate foramen density. Besides, all the wavelengths which led to significant change in frustule nanostructure supported high growth rate (shown in Fig. 1a). Although a significant effect on mean foramen density was obtained, there was a range of variability within each treatment (Fig. 3b). The simulations (see later) indicate that the achieved differences in mean foramen density have implications for the photonic properties of the frustule, but it is at present not clear what the implications of the range of variability are for these properties. It is notable that the variability in frustule diameter at RO and G light at both light intensities and at B and W light at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ were relatively low (less than 10 μm), and the lowest variability in foramen density was found at B light at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, which means that relatively fixed frustule types were formed at these light treatments.

At all wavelengths the mean foramen diameters were below 550 nm (Fig. 3c) and a common trend for all six different wavelengths was that higher light intensity led to a smaller foramen diameter, but significant differences in foramen diameter were

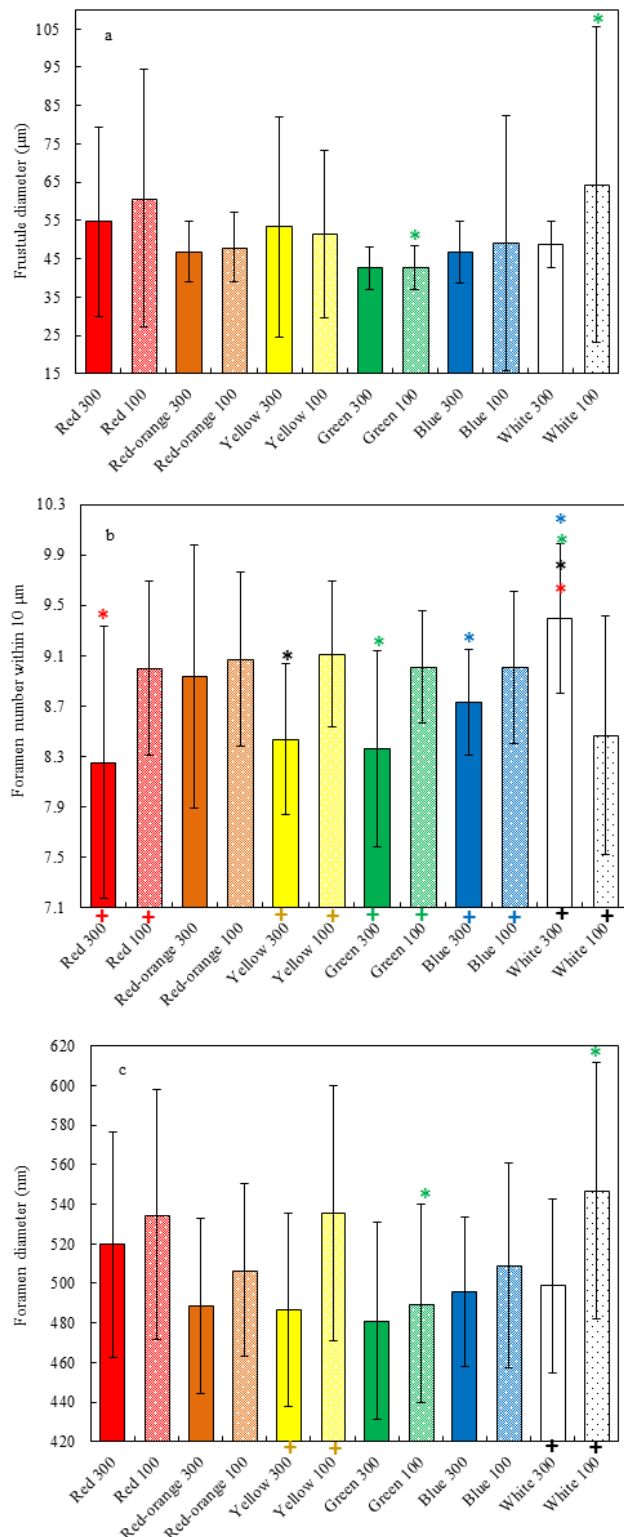


Figure 3 Frustule morphology of *C. granii* cultivated under different light wavelength at 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ($n=20$ valves). (a) Frustule diameter; (b) Foramen number within 10 μm on internal porous layer (foramen density); (c) Foramen diameter (internal porous layer). The symbol (*) in the same color over histograms indicates that there was significant

difference between each other. The symbol (+) below light treatments indicates that there were significant differences ($p \leq 0.05$) between the 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ irradiance of same wavelength.

found only between W (546.81 ± 64.92 nm) and G (489.66 ± 50.22 nm) light at 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (Kruskall Wallis, $p \leq 0.05$). For different light intensities, statistical differences were found between 100 and 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ for Y and W light. The smallest mean foramen diameter was found with G light at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ while the largest foramen diameter was found with control (W) light at 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$.

Few studies are available on morphological changes other than frustule size, especially biologically based frustule modification. Hansen *et al.* reported that increasing the temperature from 4 °C to 15 °C led to a reduction of about 20% in foramen density for the pennate diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia seriata* [20]. In *P. multiseriata*, the number of foramen rows decreased from 3–4 at 5 °C and 15 °C, to 2–3 rows at 25 °C [21]. In *Thalassiosira antarctica* and *Porosira glacialis*, the foramina were greatly constricted at -1.5 °C compared with at 4 °C with open foramina [38] and in *Thalassiosira weissflogii*, a decrease in environmental pH caused a non-significant reduction in pore radius and valve porosity on the inner side of the valve [39]. In the pennate diatom *Cocconeis placentula*, an increase in salinity from 67 to 100 caused an increase in the size of pores located on the external valve from length = 490 ± 6 nm and width = 108 ± 2 nm to length = 517 ± 8 nm and width = 148 ± 2 nm [40]. In the present study, temperature was controlled throughout the experiment, and salinity will not change during a short term experiment at moderate temperature. Relevant differences in pH are not expected, as the growth rates and the maximum cell concentration are not very different among the treatments. Therefore, temperature, pH and salinity can be excluded as the cause for the observed changes in nanostructure. Frustule nanostructural changes, either foramen density reductions or size reductions, might be related to the variation in silica deposition patterns as silicification is affected by cell growth and hence also by abiotic factors like light [4, 20, 41]. Controlling the light condition or other abiotic factors offers a possibility for manipulating frustule structure. It is thus clear

that we may use abiotic factors to modify frustule patterns, but the implications for potential applications of the variability within each parameter are still unclear. Low variation in central morphological parameters may be an important criterion in selecting potential diatom species for optical application.

2.3 Influence of morphology on the photonic properties of frustules

It has been suggested earlier that the microstructure of the foramen results in multiple interference points if coherent monochromatic laser light is transmitted through a single frustule [42]. R and W light at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ resulted in the lowest and the highest foramen density, respectively (Fig. 3b). Therefore, the morphological parameters of frustules grown under these two light conditions were chosen for the simulation study to test whether the differences in morphology would induce a significant difference in the photonic properties of the frustules.

Figure 4 (a) shows a cross section of the light intensity from a plane wave at z distance after a frustule; the models of the frustules grown at R and W light were used in the top and bottom plot, respectively. The interference points of the microstructure are clearly visible at transverse position 0 μm , and the difference between the two frustule models is identified by the difference in distance of the interference points from the frustule at $z = 0$ μm in each plot. The color scale is in dB relative to the input light intensity. In the top plot of Fig. 4b, where the relative light intensity of both simulations is plotted on a linear scale vs. z from 100 μm – 800 μm , the difference between the results of the two frustules is clearly visible: the intensity of the W light grown frustule (solid black) oscillates faster than that of the R light grown frustule (dashed red). Also, the light scattered by the latter is diffracted more outwards, so the intensity is lower than that of the W light grown frustule. In the bottom of Fig. 4b, the three insets show: (1) the model of the W light grown frustule used in the simulations, where white denotes the transparent holes and black denotes the opaque glass; (2) a zoom on the mask that shows the hexagonal pattern of the holes; and (3) the field

intensity distribution in a plane parallel to and at a distance $z = 300 \mu\text{m}$ from the W light grown frustule. These results show that the changes in mean morphological parameters induced by growth in monochromatic light are not only statistically significant but also are of a magnitude large enough to induce measurable effects on the photonic properties of the frustules.

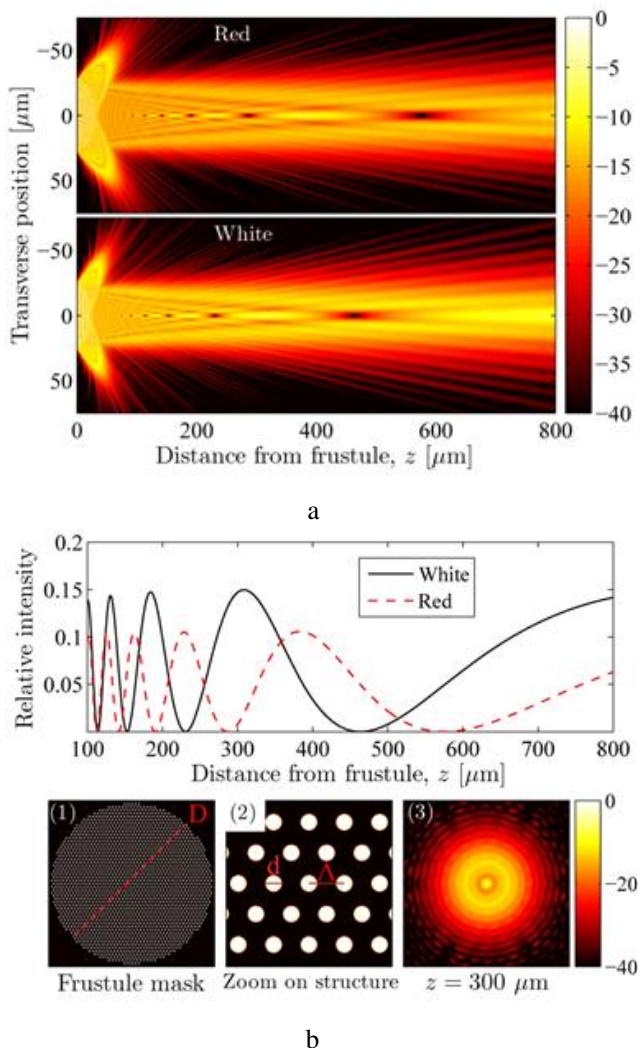


Figure 4 Simulations of light propagation through a simplified frustule model. (a) Cross sections of the light intensity after each frustule ($300 \mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ R and W); (b) The top plot shows intensity relative to the input intensity vs. distance to each frustule at transverse position $0 \mu\text{m}$ in A. Inset (1) shows the simplified frustule hole pattern used for the simulation of the frustule grown in white light; inset (2) a zoom on the structure to visualize the hexagonal pattern; and inset (3) an image of the intensity in the transverse plane at distance $z = 300 \mu\text{m}$ from the frustule. The color scales are in dB relative to the input intensity.

The possible mechanism behind the morphological change might be a reaction of the diatom under the

environmental stress because of the monochromatic light. The numerical simulation work can further show that under the illumination of different light wavelength, the diatom can change its frustule nanostructure to adjust the light distribution in its cell. This might play an important role in diatom evolution. The underlying molecular mechanism behind this response may be tested by e.g. gene expression analyses in the future.

3. Conclusions

This study demonstrated the response of frustule morphology and growth rate to different combinations of six light wavelengths and two intensities. The use of different light conditions was shown to be a potential method for manipulating the nanostructure of diatom frustules. Numerical simulations confirmed that the morphological changes obtained were sufficient to induce clear differences in the photonic properties of the frustules. This study provides a unique example of how cell culture systems can be light directed to produce natural materials with different nanostructures. This light stimulated method has the advantages of not needing additional chemicals compared with chemical based methods and being a simple operation of changing irradiance condition during diatom growth. In addition, the use of wavelength specific LED lights for growth may reduce the cost of cultivating diatoms for industrial application.

4. Materials and methods

4.1 Cultures

The genus *Coscinodiscus* has been explored for its potential in optical applications [9, 43], and was chosen in this study for its large frustule size and flat valve. The diatom species *Coscinodiscus granii* (strain K-1834) was obtained from the Scandinavian Culture Collection of Algae & Protozoa. The strain was kept at $20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $100 \mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (Panasonic FL40ss Enw/37, Japan) with a light/dark cycle of 16h/8h. The growth medium was L1 medium with a salinity of 30 prepared with autoclaved seawater [44].

4.2 Experimental setup and operation

LEDs with five different light wavelengths including B (455 nm), G (528 nm), Y (590 nm), RO (617 nm) and R (654 nm) (OSRAM, UK), which cover the range of visible light, were employed as illumination. The White light (W) was used as control. The LEDs were mounted at the back of lightproof boxes (Fig.5). For each wavelength, two light intensities (300 and 100 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$) were investigated (measured with universal light meter, ULM-500, WALZ, Germany). The boxes were placed in incubators (MLR-352, Panasonic, Japan) at a stable temperature (20 ± 1 °C) throughout the test. After one week of acclimation at each combination of wavelength and light intensity, triplicate BD Falcon flasks with 50 ml of L1 medium (salinity =30) at an initial pH of 8.0 were inoculated with *C. granii* cells from exponentially growing cultures. The initial concentration was 30 ± 2 cells ml^{-1} .

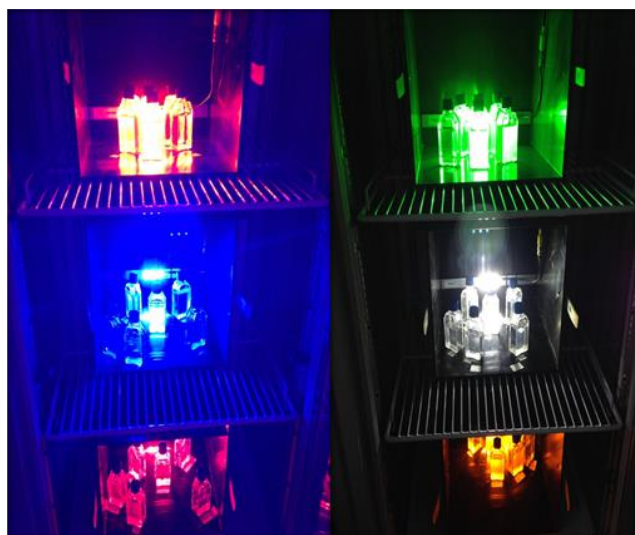


Figure 5 Photoimage of diatom culture system under different light conditions.

4.3 Diatom growth, morphology analysis with TEM

Subsamples of 1.2 ml were taken daily and fixed in Lugol's solution (final concentration 2%). The fixed samples were counted in a Sedgewick rafter. The maximum growth rate (μ) was calculated for each flask using the algorithm $\mu = \ln(N_{t2}/N_{t1}) / (t_2 - t_1)$, where N_{t2} and N_{t1} represent cell numbers at times t_2 and t_1 , using only the steepest part of the exponential growth curve. For each combination of wavelength

and light intensity, mean and standard deviation was calculated based on growth rates of the triplicates.

After 10 days, 10 ml of cells from each combination of growth conditions were acid cleaned in order to remove the organic matter and the frustules were collected for morphological studies [45, 46]. The material was mounted on copper grids, and the cleaned frustules examined using a JEM-1010 (Jeol, Japan) Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM). The test was repeated twice. Frustule diameter, foramen number in 10 μm (foramen density) and the diameter of the foramen were measured on 20 frustules (10 frustules for each batch) from each light treatment and average values were calculated. Morphometric data were analyzed by ANOVA or by Kruskal Wallis test, if the data were not normally distributed (IBM SPSS Statistics).

4.4 Numerical simulation

A wavelength of 632.8 nm (He-Ne red) was used to simulate the propagation of light in free space through a frustule of average proportions grown at 300 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ in red and white light, respectively. The simulations are based on a full diffraction algorithm [47] in which the usual simplifying analytical approximations (Fresnel and Fraunhofer) are not made. In the simplistic picture applied, a frustule is modelled as a circular shaped array with a diameter D of holes in a hexagonal pattern. The parameters of the two aforementioned frustules were used. For R light, D (frustule diameter) = 54.65 μm , d (foramen diameter) = 519.6 nm and Λ (periodicity of adjacent foramen) = 1.212 μm ; for the frustule grown in W light, D = 48.72 μm , d = 498.7 nm and Λ = 1.065 μm . The holes are assumed to be completely transparent, while the non-hole area is assumed opaque, and a resolution of 32 pixels per μm was used.

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Electronic Supplementary Material: Supplementary material (Table S1: maximum growth rates under different light treatments and Table S2: frustule morphology parameters under different light

treatments) is available in the online version of this article at [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12274-***-***-*](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12274-***-***-*.). (automatically inserted by the publisher).

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Electronic Supplementary Material

Implications for photonic applications of diatom growth and frustule nanostructure changes in response to different light wavelengths

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Table S1. Maximum growth rate under different light treatment. The numbers indicated mean \pm SD.

Light intensity ($\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)	Red	Red-orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	White	Significant
300	0.914 \pm 0.017	0.872 \pm 0.010	0.837 \pm 0.010	0.932 \pm 0.005	0.948 \pm 0.041	0.892 \pm 0.089	No
100	0.826 \pm 0.052	0.656 \pm 0.046	0.486 \pm 0.098	0.690 \pm 0.016	0.874 \pm 0.022	0.709 \pm 0.047	Yes

Table S2. Frustule morphology parameters under different light treatment. The numbers indicated mean \pm SD. p value in bracket indicated the significance between the results of repeated examination by ANOVA or Kruskal Wallis test. Critical value (α) is 0.05.

	$\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$	Red	Red-orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	White	Significant
Frustule diameter (μm)	300	54.65 \pm 24.61 (p=0.78)	46.76 \pm 7.89 (p=0.95)	53.34 \pm 28.85 (p=0.77)	42.61 \pm 5.60 (p=0.53)	46.79 \pm 8.05 (p=0.73)	48.72 \pm 6.19 (p=0.48)	No
	100	60.80 \pm 33.58 (p=0.80)	48.01 \pm 9.17 (p=0.93)	51.45 \pm 21.94 (p=0.89)	42.70 \pm 5.71 (p=0.77)	49.16 \pm 33.28 (p=0.67)	64.44 \pm 41.09 (0.72)	Yes
Foramen density (/10 μm)	300	8.25 \pm 1.08 (p=0.67)	8.93 \pm 1.04 (p=0.64)	8.44 \pm 0.60 (p=0.92)	8.36 \pm 0.78 (p=0.39)	8.73 \pm 0.42 (p=0.64)	9.39 \pm 0.59 (p=0.49)	Yes
	100	9.00 \pm 0.69 (p=0.83)	9.07 \pm 0.69 (p=0.81)	9.12 \pm 0.58 (p=0.71)	9.01 \pm 0.45 (p=0.43)	9.01 \pm 0.61 (p=0.66)	8.47 \pm 0.95 (p=0.12)	No
Foramen diameter (nm)	300	519.57 \pm 56.82 (p=0.73)	488.71 \pm 44.40 (p=0.76)	486.47 \pm 48.87 (p=0.81)	481.08 \pm 49.89 (p=0.90)	495.77 \pm 37.51 (p=0.70)	498.72 \pm 44.09 (p=0.85)	No
	100	534.80 \pm 63.15 (p=0.91)	506.66 \pm 43.59 (p=0.80)	535.52 \pm 64.37 (p=0.89)	489.66 \pm 50.22 (p=0.69)	508.86 \pm 51.75 (p=0.84)	546.81 \pm 64.92 (p=0.81)	Yes

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