

Physiological characterization of *dunaliella* sp. (chlorophyta, volvocales) from çamalti saltworks (izmir-turkey)

Fatih Aksoy¹ Edis Koru²

¹*Katip Çelebi University Fisheries Faculty Dept. of Aquaculture, Çiğli, 35620, İzmir, Turkey*

²*Ege University Fisheries Faculty Dept. of Aquaculture Bornova, 35100, İzmir, Turkey*

E-mail: fatih.aksoy@ikc.edu.tr

Abstract

Dunaliella (Cyanophyceae) microalgae is a species used for feeding live baits that are used in larval fish production. *Dunaliella* species are intensively cultivated in algal biotechnology. Because of the nutritional value and chemicals this microalgae contains, it is commonly used in industries such as pharmacy, cosmetics and bait industry. From this point of view, it can be said that this algae species has high economic value. It can be found in areas between ‰ 10 and ‰ 200 salinity content rate. In Turkey this species can be found in salinas near coasts and salty-soft drink lakes. In this research, *Dunaliella* sp. species which is in Turkey's biggest marine based saltworks "İzmir Çamaltı Saltworks" ecosystem isolated and cultivation in controlled circumstances determined. As a part of this research, physicochemical parameters such as optimum light, saltiness, density, biomass and pigment determined.

Keywords : *Dunaliella* sp., saltworks, microalgae, Çamaltı, Izmir, Turkey.

1. INTRODUCTION

Microalgae produce biomass and specific biomass in gradients from solar irradiation at high degrees so that it is possible to produce economically feasible materials by microalgae.

The genus *Dunaliella* are wall-less eukaryotic algae and found in saline environments. They are flagellate and consist of 23 species. They exhibit ideal growth at various salt concentrations. In those conditions, their colours become orange-red (Massyuk, 1973). *Dunaliella* belongs to the phylum Chlorophyta and family Polyblepharidaceae. It is halotolerant and green (Avron and Ben-Amotz 1992; Garcia et al., 2007). It can live in aquatic condition between 0,5-5 M NaCl salinities (Shariati & Hadi, 2000, Phadwal & Singh, 2003; Jahnke & White, 2003). *Dunaliella* species produce some chemicals such as carotenoids (Hosseini Tafreshi & Shariati, 2006; Hadi et al., 2008), glycerol (Hadi et al., 2008), vitamins and proteins (Ghoshal et al., 2002) tough conditions (Hosseini Tafreshi & Shariati, 2006; Hadi et al., 2008). The reason how it can adapt in various salt concentrations is that it can change the intracellular concentration of glycerol (Raja et al., 2007). People use glycerol in automotive, leather, pharmaceutical, paint, cosmetic, food, pulp and paper, textile industries and in the manufacture of microbial fermentation or it can be synthesized from petrochemical raw materials. It can also be produced from soap manufacture of fats the amount of glycerol produced in the world is 600,000 t/year (Wang et al., 2001; Taherzadeh et al., 2002).

Dunaliella species are considered to be the most known microalgae in the autotrophic production of glycerol (Borowitzka and Borowitzka, 1992). *Dunaliella* sp. are known as the most halotolerant eukaryotic living and they can adapt even to low salt saturated conditions

such as 0.2%. On the other hand, it is the only eukaryotic photosynthetic organism found in extremely concentrated saline lakes (Ben-Amotz and Avron, 1990).

Dunaliella salina, *D. viridis* are mostly found microalgae species in salty conditions (Davis, 1990). *D. salina* accumulates high amounts of β -caroten when there is a lack of nitrogen sources or in high salinities and in high levels of irradiance. β -caroten is a pigment and it is added to health food products and is used as a food coloring agent (anti-cancer and antioxidant agent) (Ben-Amotz and Avron, 1990).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Dunaliella spp. were isolated from the Çamaltı solar saltworks and cultivated (Izmir, Turkey). The Çamaltı Saltwork is the largest one in Turkey. It is in Izmir City which experiences marine conditions. Its coordinates are 38°28'N and 26°50'E near the Izmir Bay. The reservoir initial in the saltworks is found approximately in 2-3 inches depth of water. The density of water is about 3 oBe – 5 oBe in November-May. Then, the water is pumped from the sea and the salinity increases by 6-8 oBe. After that the density goes on increasing up to 22–24 oBe. During this process micro algae appear and exhibit different colors. At higher concentrations micro algae collapse. The temperature varied between 6-7°C (December), 4-5°C (February), 20-22 °C (April) to 28-30 °C (June), 38-40 °C (August) throughout the year.

We used single-cell isolation by micropipette. *Dunaliella* sp. were incubated and stored without any process during two months. Then 1L flasks were incubated and reproduced. And then different salinities determined growth parameters. *Dunaliella* sp. strain was cultivated at four NaCl concentrations (‰40, ‰100) in 1L flasks. Laboratory's temperature was 24±1 °C, and lights were 1200 lux. Experiments were observed for 20 days. We used f/2 medium for experiments.

Tablo 1. f/2 Medium (Guillard and Ryther 1962)

Component	Stock Solution	Quantity	Molar Concentration in Final Medium
NaNO ₃	75 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	8.82 x 10 ⁻⁴ M
NaH ₂ PO ₄ H ₂ O	5 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	3.62 x 10 ⁻⁵ M
Na ₂ SiO ₃ 9H ₂ O	30 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	1.06 x 10 ⁻⁴ M
trace metal solution		1 mL
vitamin solution		0,5 mL

f/2 Trace Metal Solution

Component	Primary Solution	Stock	Quantity	Molar Concentration in Final Medium
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FeCl ₃ 6H ₂ O	3.15 g	1.17 x 10 ⁻⁵ M
Na ₂ EDTA 2H ₂ O	4.36 g	1.17 x 10 ⁻⁵ M
CuSO ₄ 5H ₂ O	9.8 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	3.93 x 10 ⁻⁸ M
Na ₂ MoO ₄ 2H ₂ O	6.3 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	2.60 x 10 ⁻⁸ M
ZnSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	22.0 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	7.65 x 10 ⁻⁸ M
CoCl ₂ 6H ₂ O	10.0 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	4.20 x 10 ⁻⁸ M
MnCl ₂ 4H ₂ O	180.0 g/L dH ₂ O	1 mL	9.10 x 10 ⁻⁷ M

f/2 Vitamin Solution

Component	Primary Solution	Stock	Quantity	Molar Concentration in Final Medium
thiamine HCl (vit.B1)		200 mg	2.96 x 10 ⁻⁷ M
biotin (vit. H)	0.1 g/L dH ₂ O		10 mL	2.05 x 10 ⁻⁹ M
cyanocobalamin (vit.B12)	1.0 g/L dH ₂ O		1 mL	3.69 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ M

For the extraction of chlorophyll-a, 5 ml of cultures incubated was taken daily from each flask. Absorbance measurements were made by using a spectrophotometer. Algal growth was monitored by counting number of cells in a counting chamber (Thoma Counting chamber).

3.RESULTS

Growth of *Dunaliella* sp. Çamaltı strain at different salinities is shown in Fig. 1. Maximum cell density for *Dunaliella* sp. was obtained in 100 ‰ salinity and the lowest concentration was found in 40 ‰ salinity.

Salinity clearly affected the cell density in *Dunaliella* sp. The optimum salinity for growth of *Dunaliella* sp. strain was around 100 ‰ salinity.

A high salinity (100‰) was establishment chlorophyll-a (621,3 pg cell/1), a low salinity (40‰) (347,1pg cell/1). (Fig.2)

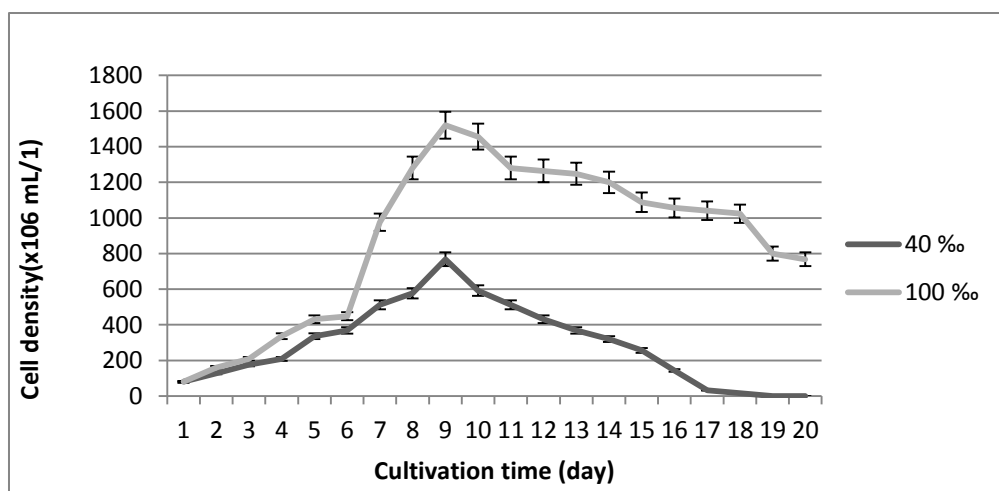


Fig. 1: Increase in cell density under the conditions of different salinities and 25 °C temperatures

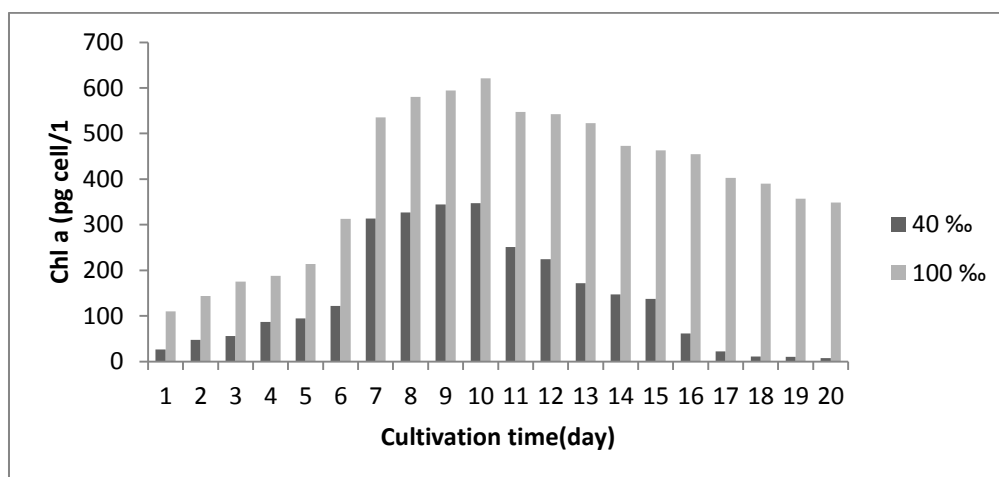


Fig. 2: Maximum chlorophyll-a concentration per cell in *Dunaliella* sp. grown at different salinities

Optical density was directly proportional the density of the cell. It is shown that a high optical density observed at high salinity. Increasing salinity caused optic density to increase (Fig. 3)

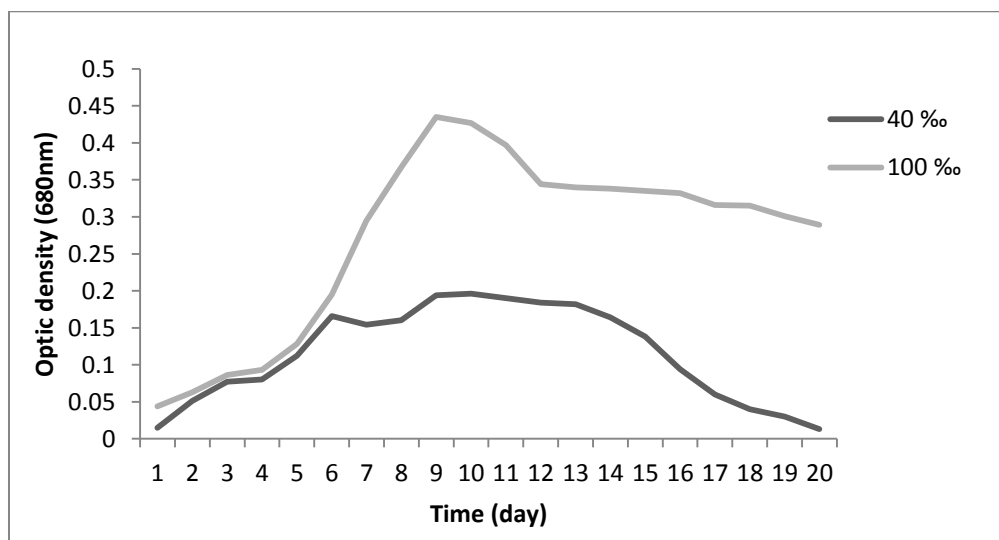


Fig. 3: The optical density of different salinities

At 40 ppt, culture had reached the logarithmic and stationary growth phase on day 3rd and 6th, respectively. On day 20, culture collapsed at 40 ppt. At 100 ppt, culture had reached the logarithmic and stationary growth phase on day 5th and 9th. The highest physiological development in *Dunaliella* sp. was obtained at 100 ppt.

4. DISCUSSION

The *Dunaliella* species isolated from the solar saltworks on the Çamaltı Izmir differed in their capacity for growth and physiological acclimation to varying culture conditions. In the present study, the effect of salinity intensity, cell intensity, optic density, chlorophyll-a, on growth of *Dunaliella* sp. Çamaltı strain was determined. It has been observed to grow optimum at salinity around 100 ‰.

Gibor (1956), Jimenez and Niell (1990) reported that the optimum temperature for the growth of *Dunaliella viridis* was around 30°C. Ak (2008) reported that the highest growth of *D. viridis* of Çamaltı saltworks was found 25°C. Our study shown that the temperature was 25°C the high salinity the best growing.

In the study held by Durmaz et al in the year of 2006, they isolated *Dunaliella* salina cells from Konya Salt Lake by the method of dilution. They monitored their growth in different salinities (0.62M, 0.85, 1.25 ve 1.71M). In this study, the most convenient salt concentration was observed to be 1.71M NaCl. In 1.71M NaCl, more cell number and higher B-carotene values were found out.

In the study held by Dudu et al in 2001 on different NaCl (10%, 15 % and 20%) concentrations, they announced that they attained the most growth in NaCl 10 % concentration.

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