Physical transport, biogeography and diversity of phytoplankton

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Ocean model: "species richness"

Clayton et al, L&O:F&E (2013)



Chl a from remote sensing and simulation



SeaWiFS Chl

Simulation

Clayton et al, L&O:F&E (2013)

Contributions from numerous phytoplankton types



Model's richness: α diversity



α

Number of co-occuring phytoplankton types above threshold biomass (Clayton et al, 2013; Barton et al, 2010)

Are the hotspots real? AMT data



Cermeño et al (2009)

Are the hotspots real? AMT data



Does the confluence of biomes cause hotspots?



Barton et al (2010), D'Ovideo et al (2010)

Model: Oliver Jahn

Cavendar-Bares et al DSR (2001): Gulf Stream transport of *Prochlorococcus*



Does immigration cause hotspots? Test in model...



$$\frac{\partial B_i}{\partial t} = \mu_{net,i} (B_i, T, R, I, Z) - \underline{u} \cdot \nabla B_i$$
net biological source physical transport
$$0 + - \text{locally adapted}$$

$$0 - + \text{immigrant}$$

Clayton et al (2013)



Sources of diversity

Sinks of diversity



Sources of diversity

Sinks of diversity

WBC hotspots are sources, not sinks, of diversity: WHY?



Pelegri and Csanady (1991)

Anecdotal support: *Ostreococcus* clades at the Kuroshio Front:

Sophie Clayton (UW), Alex Worden (MBARI), Yun-Chi Lin (MBARI), Takeyoshi



Clayton et al (2014; in prep)

Ostreococcus



- Abundant oceanic picoeukaryote
- Two physiologically distinct clades, identified genetically
 - OI coastal (yellow)
 - Oll oceanic (grey)
- Typically do not co-occur (Demir-Hilton et al, 2011)

Ostreococcus clades at the Kuroshio Front



Color scale: Ostreococcus abundance (log₁₀ copies ml⁻¹) Contours: salinity (psu)

Clayton et al (2014, in prep)

Ostreococcus clades at the Kuroshio Front



- Genetically identified clades co-occur at the front
- Both at/close to highest observed abundance >10⁴ copies ml⁻¹
- Confluence of genotypes and resources?

Looking forward: Efficiently test for hypothesized gradients using molecular tools?



Predicted α-diversity



- Are there "hotspots"?
- Can we identify contributions from remote sources using genetic tags?
- Can we identify who is "happy" and who is not with molecular tools?



Example question:

Massive bloom and export of diatoms:

• Where does seed population come from?

Key Points

- Biogeography of individual "species"/ecotypes and patterns of biodiversity reflect a balance between biological processes and physical transport
- Testable hypotheses emerging from models and sparse observations
- Molecular tools provide an efficient means with which to address hypotheses, in combination with understanding of physical transport

Extras...

"Biomes" of global model



Is it plausible? Diversity vs biomass



Data compilation: Irigoien et al (2004)

Model

Lateral transport and confluence of biomes

• D'Ovideo et al (2010) – view from space, PHYSAT



dominant functional group

Chlorophyll a

Hotspots of α diversity



α

Number of co-occuring phytoplankton types above threshold biomass (Clayton et al, 2013; Barton et al, 2010)



Ecological model: Simplified prognostic equations

$$\frac{\partial B_i}{\partial t} = \mu_{oi} \frac{R}{R + K_{Ri}} B_i - G_{ij}(B_i, Z_j) - \underline{u} \cdot \nabla B_i \quad \text{Phyto}$$

Local rate of change of biomass Resource limited growth

Grazing

Physical transport

$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial t} = -\sum_{i} \mu_{oi} \frac{R}{R + K_{Ri}} B_{i} + S_{R} - \underline{u} \cdot \nabla R$$
Resource

+ grazers, detritus etc...





Kuroshio Extension

 α_{I}

Peruvian upwelling α_{I}



Eddy Kinetic Energy

Variance of SST





Locally Adapted

Immigrants

Shannon-Weaver (high-res)



α diversity

Shannon-Weaver index

Alex Worden, Yun-Chi Lin

Ostreococcus Clades I and II are the key players in the local picoeukaryote population (i.e. in Kuroshio data set)

