

# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Résumé</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Marine plankton . . . . .	3
1.2 What are mixoplankton? . . . . .	6
1.2.1 Mixoplankton functional types and role in marine ecosystems . . . . .	6
1.3 Cryptophytes:	
the <i>Teleaulax/Plagioselmis/Geminigera</i> clade . . . . .	10
1.4 The ciliate <i>Mesodinium</i> . . . . .	12
1.5 The dinoflagellate <i>Dinophysis</i> . . . . .	16
1.6 The cryptophyte- <i>Mesodinium-Dinophysis</i> complex . . . . .	21
1.7 Modelling biological processes . . . . .	23
1.8 Research aim . . . . .	25
<b>2 Material and Methods</b>	<b>28</b>
2.1 System dynamics modelling approach . . . . .	28
2.2 Sensitivity Analyses . . . . .	29
2.2.1 Steady State Sensitivity Analysis . . . . .	30
2.2.2 Dynamic Sensitivity Analysis . . . . .	30
2.3 Tuning . . . . .	31
2.4 Validation . . . . .	31
2.5 Experimental methods . . . . .	32
2.5.1 Experimental set-up . . . . .	32
2.5.2 Cell numbers and biovolume . . . . .	33
2.5.3 Chl a . . . . .	34
2.5.4 Inorganic carbon uptake - $^{14}\text{C}$ incorporation . . . . .	34
2.5.5 Dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) . . . . .	35
2.5.6 Cellular organic carbon, nitrogen & phosphorous (C, N, P) . . . . .	36
2.5.7 Dissolved inorganic nitrogen and phosphorous . . . . .	37

<b>3 Niche separation between different functional types of mixoplankton: results from NPZ - style N - based model simulations</b>	<b>38</b>
3.1 Introduction . . . . .	40
3.2 Methods . . . . .	41
3.2.1 protoZ variant . . . . .	44
3.2.2 protP, Alg1 and Alg2 variants . . . . .	45
3.2.3 CM variant . . . . .	46
3.2.4 GNCM variant . . . . .	46
3.2.5 SNCM variant . . . . .	47
3.2.6 Simulations . . . . .	48
3.3 Results . . . . .	48
3.3.1 Results Sensitivity analyses . . . . .	48
3.3.2 Functional dependence . . . . .	49
3.3.3 Dynamic simulations . . . . .	50
3.3.4 protoZ . . . . .	50
3.3.5 GNCM . . . . .	54
3.3.6 SNCM . . . . .	54
3.3.7 CM . . . . .	55
3.3.8 protP . . . . .	55
3.3.9 General results . . . . .	56
3.3.10 Physiological features . . . . .	57
3.4 Discussion . . . . .	57
3.4.1 Model overview . . . . .	57
3.4.2 Ecological and biogeochemical implications . . . . .	62
3.4.3 Niche separation between protist types . . . . .	64
3.4.4 protoZ and protP . . . . .	64
3.4.5 GNCM and SNCM . . . . .	65
3.4.6 CM . . . . .	67
3.4.7 Further model development . . . . .	68
<b>4 Acquired phototrophy and its implications for bloom dynamics of the cryptophyte-<i>Mesodinium-Dinophysis</i>-complex</b>	<b>69</b>
4.1 Introduction . . . . .	70
4.2 Methods . . . . .	72
4.2.1 Mixoplankton food web of the model . . . . .	73
4.2.2 Model modifications from Anschütz and Flynn (2020) . . . . .	75
4.2.3 Sub-model additions to the model by Anschütz and Flynn (2020) . . . . .	75
4.2.4 Model parametrisation . . . . .	76
4.2.5 Dynamic Sensitivity Analysis . . . . .	81
4.2.6 Simulations, caveats and general settings . . . . .	82
4.3 Results . . . . .	82

4.3.1	Dynamic Sensitivity Analysis . . . . .	82
4.3.2	Biotic interactions . . . . .	84
4.3.3	Abiotic interactions . . . . .	89
4.4	Discussion . . . . .	93
4.4.1	Eutrophication . . . . .	95
4.4.2	Predator-prey ratio . . . . .	96
4.4.3	Irradiance . . . . .	96
4.4.4	Temperature . . . . .	97
4.4.5	Mixed layer depth . . . . .	98
4.4.6	Current input and advection . . . . .	98
4.5	Conclusion . . . . .	99
<b>5</b>	<b>Growth and stoichiometry of <i>T. amphioxiae</i> in phosphorous limiting conditions – a combined experimental-modelling approach</b>	<b>101</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	102
5.2	Methods . . . . .	104
5.2.1	Cultures and culture conditions . . . . .	104
5.2.2	Experiment . . . . .	104
5.2.2.1	Cell numbers and biovolume . . . . .	104
5.2.2.2	Bacterial cell numbers . . . . .	105
5.2.2.3	Inorganic carbon uptake - $^{14}\text{C}$ incorporation . . . . .	105
5.2.2.4	Dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) . . . . .	105
5.2.2.5	Dissolved inorganic nitrogen and phosphorous . . . . .	106
5.2.2.6	Cellular organic carbon, nitrogen & phosphorous (C, N, P)	106
5.2.2.7	Chl a . . . . .	106
5.2.3	Model . . . . .	106
5.2.3.1	Model description . . . . .	106
5.2.3.2	Configuration of the "Perfect Beast" model as <i>T. amphioxiae</i> . . . . .	109
5.2.3.3	Tuning the model to the experimental data . . . . .	111
5.2.3.4	Dynamic Sensitivity Analysis of the "Perfect Beast" model configured as <i>T. amphioxiae</i> . . . . .	114
5.2.3.5	Effect of phosphorus stored in bacteria on growth and biomass yield of <i>T. amphioxiae</i> . . . . .	114
5.3	Results . . . . .	115
5.3.1	Effect of bacteria as prey on nutrient levels and <i>T. amphioxiae</i> biomass . . . . .	115
5.3.2	Dynamic Sensitivity Analysis . . . . .	117
5.3.3	Model fit to biomass data . . . . .	117
5.3.4	Model fit to external nutrients and internal stoichiometry . . . . .	120
5.3.5	Chlorophyll to carbon ratio and photosynthesis . . . . .	120

5.3.6 Potential contribution of bacterivory to growth in <i>T. amphioxoia</i> . . . . .	123
5.4 Discussion . . . . .	125
5.5 Conclusion . . . . .	127
<b>6 Global discussion</b>	<b>129</b>
6.1 Introduction . . . . .	129
6.2 Niche separation of mixoplankton functional types (chapter 3) . . . . .	130
6.3 Implications of nutrient and prey availability for the mixoplankton types in the TMD complex (chapter 4) . . . . .	132
6.4 The first variable stoichiometric model of the CM <i>T. amphioxoia</i> tuned to experimental data (chapter 5) . . . . .	134
6.5 Perceptions of the modelling process . . . . .	136
6.6 Limitations of study . . . . .	137
6.6.1 Future study of mixoplankton . . . . .	139
6.7 What next? . . . . .	140
6.7.1 Possible implications of mixoplankton for environmental management . . . . .	142
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>A Supplementary Material for N-based TMD-model - model equations</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>B Supplementary Material for the CNP <i>Teleaulax</i> model - model equations</b>	<b>206</b>

# List of Figures

1.1 Schematic of the plankton size spectrum . . . . .	3
1.2 Schematic of a general foodweb . . . . .	4
1.3 Schematics of dichotomous plankton paradigm vs mixoplankton paradigm . . . . .	6
1.4 Schematic of protist functional types by Flynn et al. 2019 . . . . .	8
1.5 Comparison of food web models by Flynn et al. (2019) . . . . .	10
1.6 Illustrations of species of <i>Teleaulax</i> . . . . .	11
1.7 Species that prey on <i>T. amphioxiae</i> . . . . .	13
1.8 Schematic of <i>Mesodinium</i> and pictures of <i>Mesodinium</i> spp. containing kleptochloroplasts . . . . .	14
1.9 Schematic of <i>Dinophysis</i> and pictures of different species of <i>Dinophysis</i> . . . . .	16
1.10 Schematic of the mixoplankton food chain of the <i>Teleaulax-Mesodinium-Dinophysis</i> complex . . . . .	22
2.1 Forrester diagram of a conceptual model . . . . .	29
2.2 Experiment set-up of the <i>T. amphioxiae</i> experiment . . . . .	33
2.3 Schematic of Coulter counter measurement . . . . .	34
2.4 Schematic of Chl a measurement . . . . .	34
2.5 Schematic of inorganic carbon uptake - $^{14}\text{C}$ incorporation . . . . .	35
2.6 Schematic of DIC measurement . . . . .	36
2.7 Schematic of analysis of organic carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous (CNP) and DIN and DIP . . . . .	37
3.1 Schematic representations of the five protist functional type configurations . . . . .	43
3.2 Schematic of the main NPZ- style model and its state variables . . . . .	43
3.3 3D-mesh plots showing the relationship between growth rate ( $\mu$ ; day $^{-1}$ ) and sources of energy supplied as light . . . . .	51
3.4 3D-mesh plots providing niche comparisons between pairs of protist variants . . . . .	52
3.5 niche comparisons between protP and the other protist configurations . . . . .	53
3.6 Changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations in simulated systems of different nutrient loading . . . . .	58
3.7 Daily averaged (of light and dark) biomass specific growth rates . . . . .	59
3.8 General NPZ-model: Daily averaged rates of inorganic nitrogen uptake by the phototrophic protist variants . . . . .	60
3.9 General NPZ-model: Variation in the NCM prey ingestion index . . . . .	61

4.1	TMD model: schematic of the main model and its state variables . . . . .	74
4.2	Results from the DSA . . . . .	83
4.3	TMD-model: changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations at different nutrient loadings . . . . .	86
4.4	Comparison of the N-based TMD model with a grazer for <i>Dinophysis</i> . . . . .	87
4.5	TMD-model: changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations at different organism inoculum . . . . .	88
4.6	TMD-model: changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations at different irradiances . . . . .	90
4.7	TMD-model: changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations at different temperatures . . . . .	91
4.8	TMD-model: changes in biomass and nutrient concentrations at different MLDs . . . . .	92
4.9	Global distribution of <i>Teleaulax</i> sp., <i>Mesodinium</i> sp. and of mixoplankton <i>Dinophysis</i> species . . . . .	94
5.1	Conceptual model of the "Perfect Beast" model (Flynn and Mitra, 2009) . . . . .	108
5.2	Schematic of the food web in Mitra et al. (2014) . . . . .	108
5.3	Food web schematic of configured <i>T. amphioxeia</i> model . . . . .	110
5.4	Analysis on bacterial phosphorous impact: results . . . . .	116
5.5	DSA: results . . . . .	117
5.6	Fit of the "Perfect Beast" model to experimental data of <i>T. amphioxeia</i> biomass . . . . .	119
5.7	Fit of the "Perfect Beast" model to experimental data of <i>T. amphioxeia</i> stoichiometry . . . . .	121
5.8	Fit of the "Perfect Beast" model to experimental data of photosynthesis by <i>T. amphioxeia</i> . . . . .	122
5.9	Comparison of model fit of experimental data of <i>T. amphioxeia</i> with and without prey . . . . .	124
6.1	Bottom-up benefits of mixoplankton research to coastal management . . . . .	132

# List of Tables

3.1	Definition of mixoplankton types, with examples of species . . . . .	42
3.2	Functionality of the protist model in each variant setting . . . . .	42
4.1	Published models on <i>Dinophysis</i> and <i>Mesodinium</i> . . . . .	71
4.2	Literature values for the configuration of the organisms in the TMD model .	77
4.3	DSA: varied abiotic parameters . . . . .	79
4.4	List of physiological values of different species of <i>Dinophysis</i> . . . . .	80
4.5	DSA: varied values . . . . .	81
4.6	Tested assumptions for dynamic sensitivity analysis . . . . .	81
5.1	Configuration of the "Perfect Beast" model to experiment conditions and organism . . . . .	110
5.2	Initial nutrient concentrations and inoculum of the experiment . . . . .	112
5.3	Tuned physiological constants of the "Perfect Beast" model (Flynn and Mitra, 2009) configured as <i>T. amphioxiaeia</i> . . . . .	113
5.4	DSA: tested constants . . . . .	114
5.5	DSA: tested conditions . . . . .	114
A.1	Complete equations of the TMD model . . . . .	165
B.1	Complete equations of the "Perfect Beast" model configured as <i>T. amphioxiaeia207</i>	