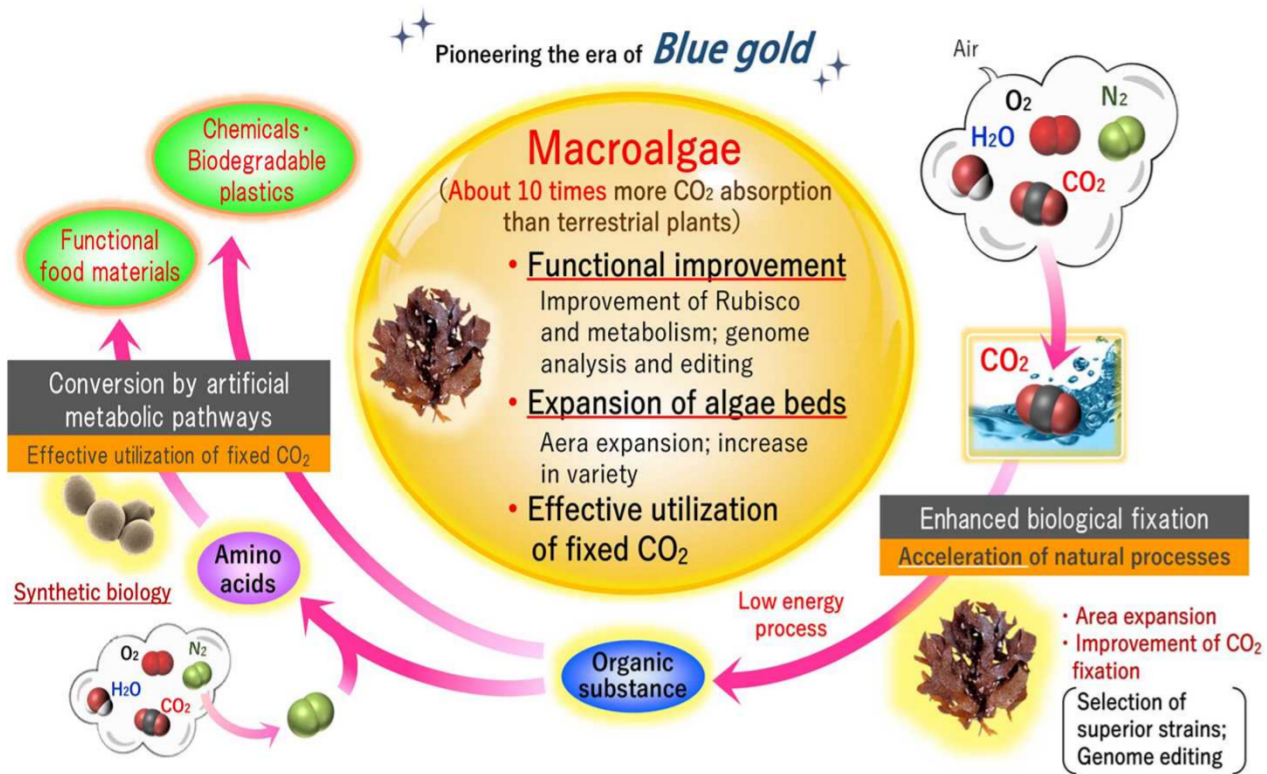


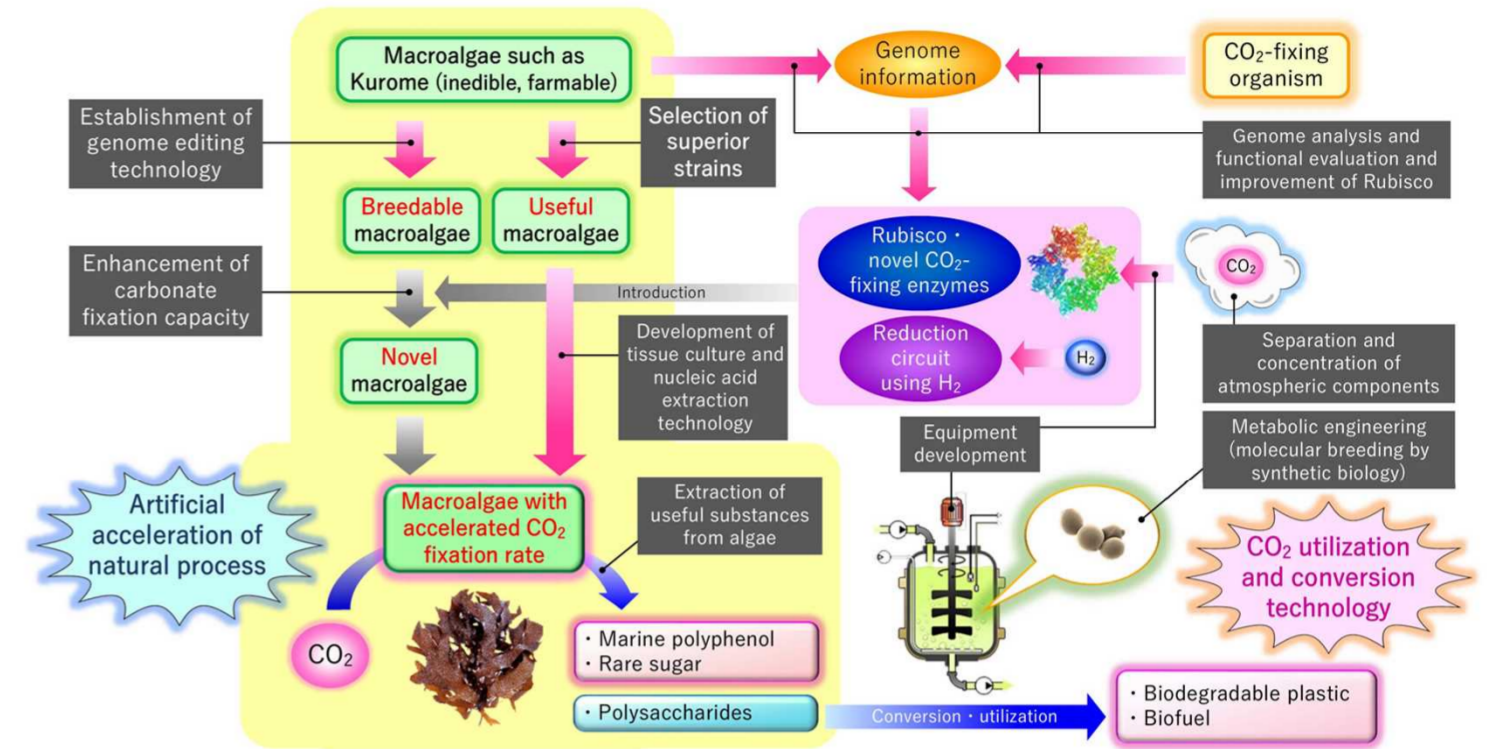
Nature Positive// Nature Best Solution



Blue Carbon Fixation & Negative Emission



Implementation structure & period(2022-2024)



Basic Technologies



2011-2017
CREST PJ: Development of biological technologies for complete utilization of macroalgae

2021
NEDO-pioneer research PJ: Development of basic technologies for complete utilization of macroalgae



Establishment of breeding technologies of all macroalgae (natural and artificial cultures)

Final targets (2029)



	Starch-Sugar(1G)	Lignocellulose (2G)	Algae (3G)		Algae(3G)
Raw materials	Agriculture products	Forest	Microalgae	Macroalgae	Macroalgae
Productivity (t/ha/y)	11	9	10~20	30	100
CO2-fixation rate (kg-CO2/m2/y)	1.6	0.84	1.5~2.9	3.3	6.0
CO2fixation ratio	2.3	1	7.6	13	130
Biomass energy production process	simple	complicated (Removal of lignin)	simple	simple (Key-alginate)	simple
Problems	Competing with food	Using lands	Using lands, Contamination risk, High cost	Enlargement of algae beds	No problem
Production conditions	Sunlight, CO2	Sunlight, CO2, Freshwater, Land, Fertilizer, Pesticides	Sunlight, CO2, Freshwater/ Brackish water, Land	Sunlight, CO2, Seawater	Sunlight, CO2, Seawater

Equipment development - functional improvements & enlargement of algal farms



Collaborations with Offshore Wind Power Projects

Collaborations of Airports on Sea

Venti-Japan (Akita) & Mitsubishi



(Shunan, Akita, Noshiro Ports)



200 km²



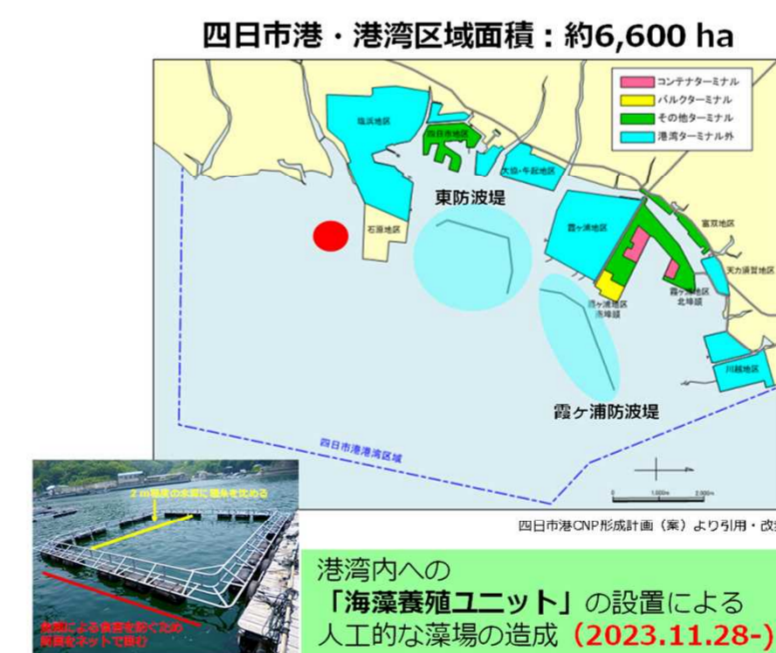
Kansai-Air Port

Biomass and Energy Production in Japan

Yokkaichi Port - Carbon Neutral Program



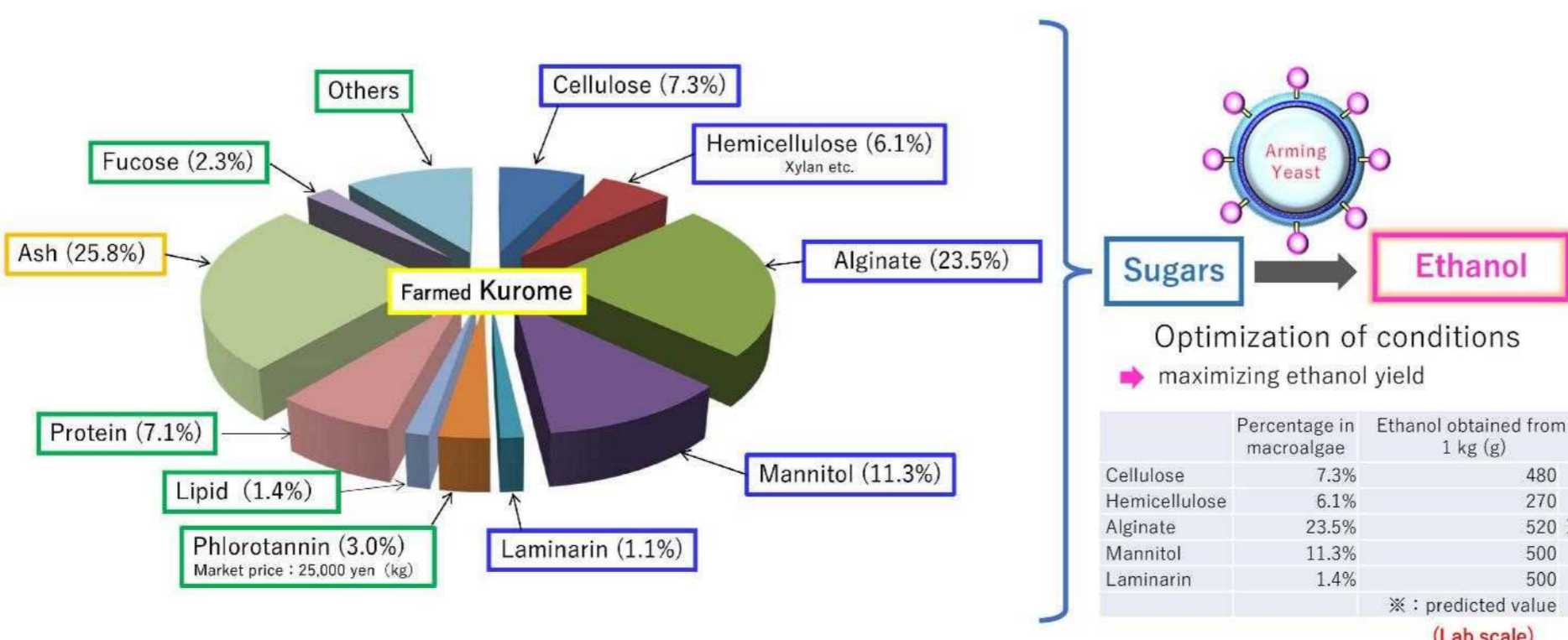
Coupling with Carbon Neutral Port Programs



「四日市港CNP計画」対象範囲内の年間CO2排出量
 港湾ターミナル内: 約0.57万トン
 出入船舶・車両: 約8.1万トン
 港湾ターミナル外: 約1687万トン (コンビナート)

2,200 haの海域 (1/3に相当) で海藻養殖を行った場合の試算値
 現行の優良選定株養殖技術の導入 (210 トン/ha/年)
 50万8200 トン-CO2/年
 → 港湾ターミナル内, 出入り船舶・車両の合計CO2排出量に対して**目標達成は確実!**
 MS研究開発事業による海藻養殖の技術革新 (420 トン/ha/年)
 101万6400 トン-CO2/年

⑦ Practical application of ethanol fermentation as part of a cascade production process from macroalgae



Objective

Our goal is to identify and evaluate the enzymatic properties of CO₂-fixing enzymes from macroalgae. We also aim to isolate autotrophic microorganisms to identify useful enzymes for application.

③-1. Functional evaluation of CO₂-fixing enzymes from macroalgae

Target enzymes

- Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (**Rubisco**)
- Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (**PEPCK**)
- Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (**PEPC**)

③-2. Screening/characterization of Rubiscos from autotrophic microorganisms

Chemoautotrophic microorganisms are screened by utilizing H₂/O₂ as an energy source and bicarbonate as the sole carbon source.

Summary of progress

③-1. Functional evaluation of CO₂-fixing enzymes from macroalgae

○ PEPCK

Kinetic analysis of five purified recombinant PEPCK proteins have been completed and their kinetic parameters were compared with PEPCKs from other organisms.

○ PEPC

Five PEPC genes were expressed, and two were obtained as soluble recombinant proteins. Protein purification and enzymatic analyses are ongoing.

○ Rubisco

Soluble recombinant proteins were obtained, and Rubisco activity was detected in partially purified proteins.

③-2. Screening/characterization of Rubiscos from autotrophic microorganisms

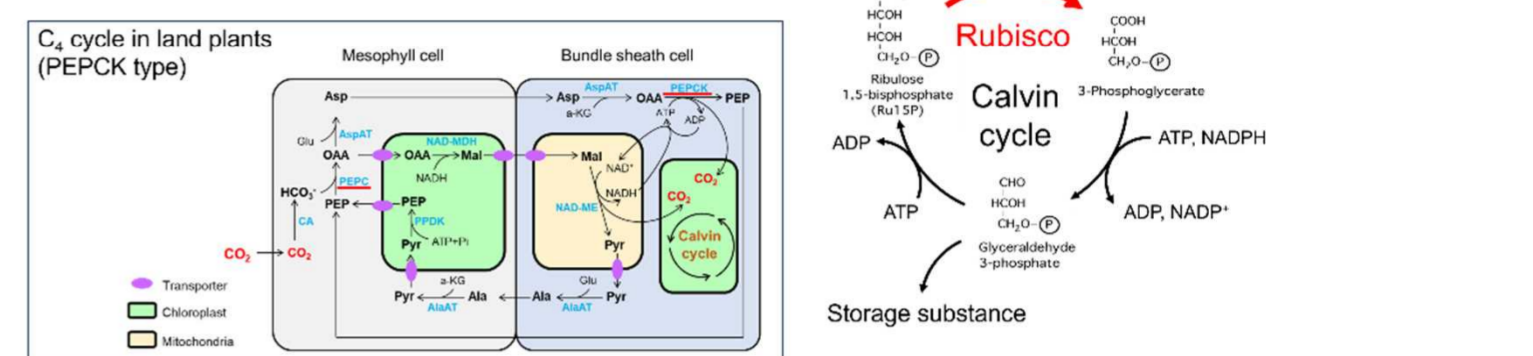
Microorganisms grew under autotrophic condition from 8 samples. Isolation and genome analysis are ongoing.

Background

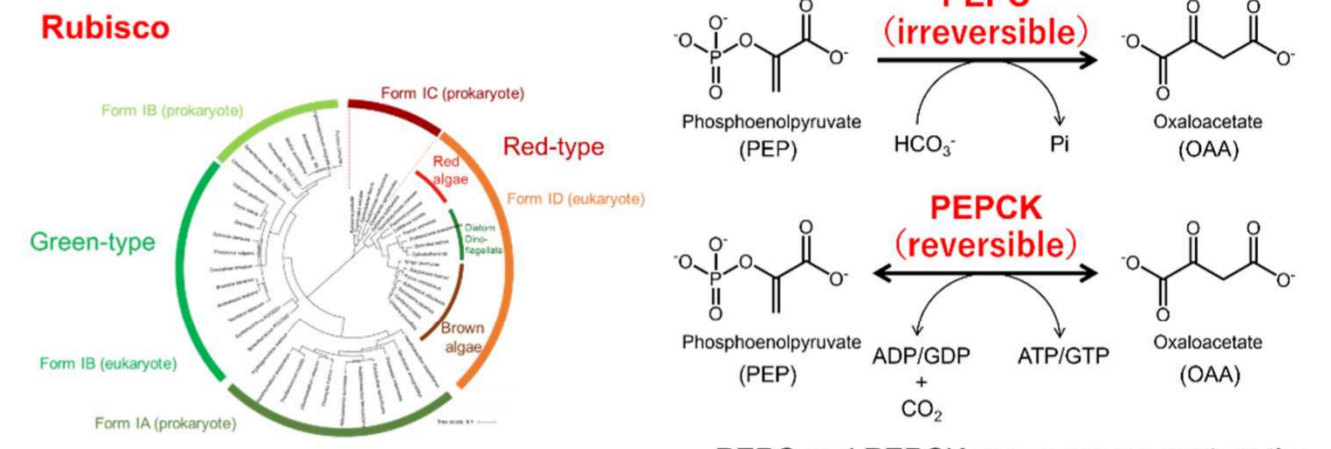
CO₂-concentrating metabolism in plants and algae

CO₂ concentrating mechanisms (CCMs) supply high concentrations of CO₂ to Rubisco to enhance its CO₂-fixation activity.

Most of the CO₂ exists as HCO₃⁻ in water, and conversion of HCO₃⁻ to CO₂ plays an important role



CO₂-fixation genes in macroalgae



- PEPC and PEPCK genes are present on the genomes of brown algae
- PEPCK from extracts of brown algae shows high activity

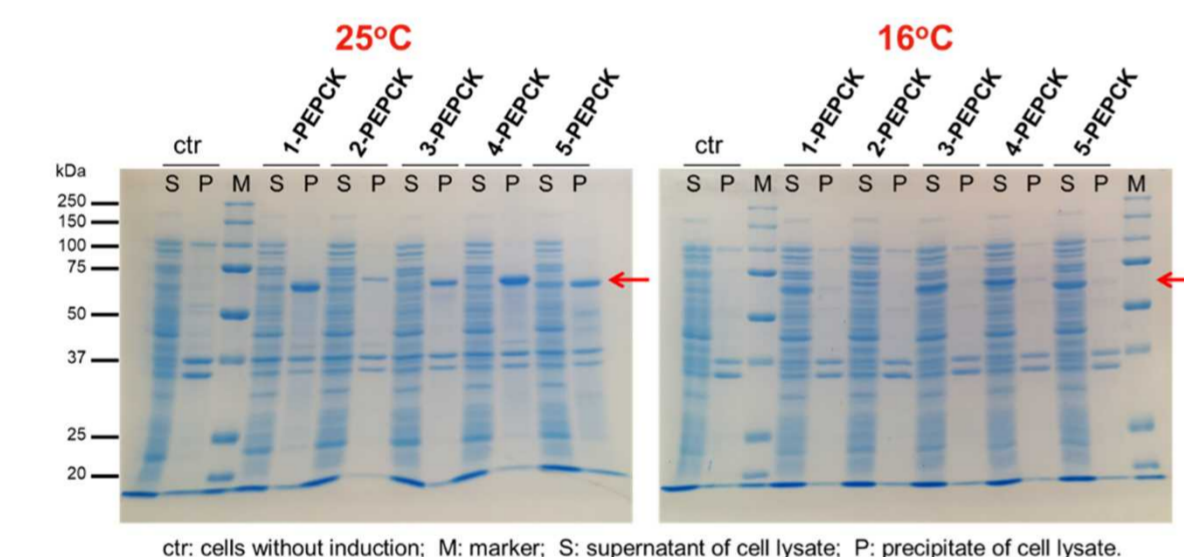
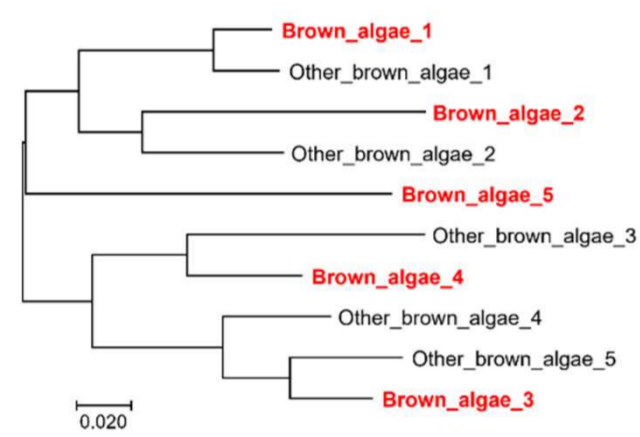
Does a C4 cycle-like CCM exist?

PEPCK

Expression of PEPCK genes from brown algae

Selected brown algae species (based on phylogenetic tree)

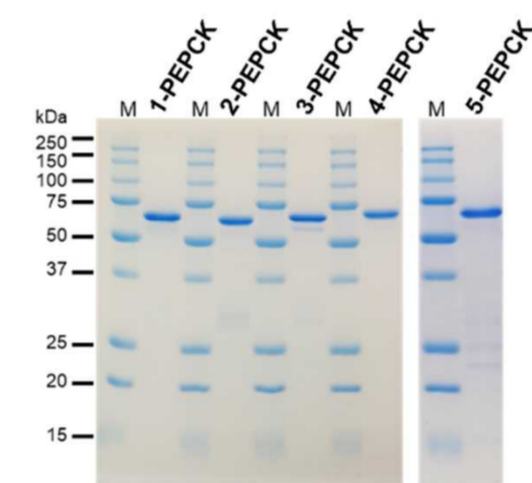
- Brown_algae_1 (1-PEPCK)
- Brown_algae_2 (2-PEPCK)
- Brown_algae_3 (3-PEPCK)
- Brown_algae_4 (4-PEPCK)
- Brown_algae_5 (5-PEPCK)



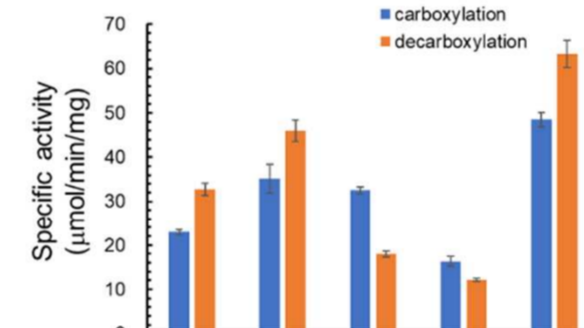
Five recombinant PEPCK proteins were obtained in soluble form by cultivating cells at 16°C.

Purification and specific activity measurement of PEPCKs from brown algae

SDS-PAGE analysis of purified proteins

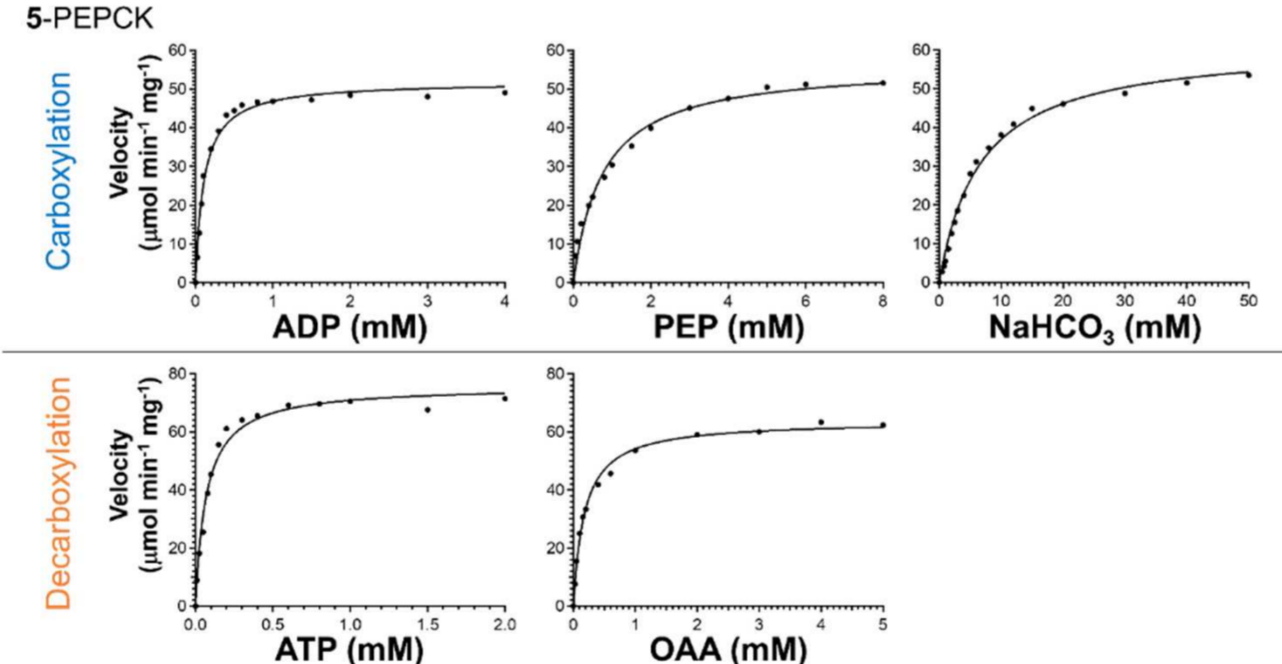


Specific activities of carboxylation and decarboxylation



Substrates: Carboxylation: 2 mM ADP, 16 mM PEP, 50 mM NaHCO₃; Decarboxylation: 2 mM ATP and 4 mM OAA

Kinetic analysis of PEPCKs from brown algae



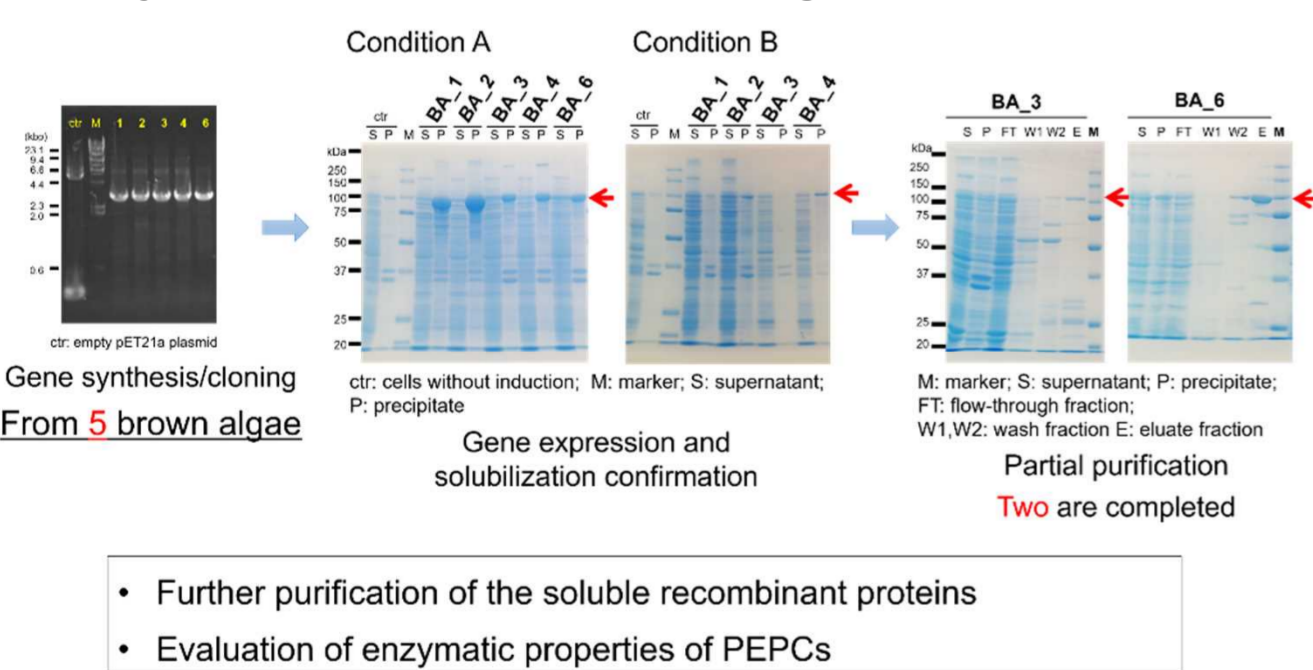
Activity comparison of PEPCKs from various organisms

Organism	V _{max} or specific activity (mmol min ⁻¹ mg protein ⁻¹)	Carboxylation	Decarboxylation
C3 plant, ATP-type	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	3.2	5.4
C3 plant, ATP-type	<i>Oryza sativa</i> (rice)	-	10
C3 plant, ATP-type	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> (cucumber)	48	-
C4 plant, ATP-type	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (sorghum)	-	20
C4 plant, ATP-type	<i>Zea mays</i> (maize)	-	23
C4 plant, ATP-type	<i>Megathyrsus maximum</i>	41.6	51
CAM plant, ATP-type	<i>Ananas comosus</i> (pineapple)	8.1	17
Green alga, ATP-type	<i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i>	6.0	9.6
Diatom, ATP-type	<i>Skeletonema costatum</i>	0.037	-
Diatom, ATP-type	<i>Phaeodactylum tricoratum</i>	0.041	-
Yeast, ATP-type	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	16.3	20
Bacterium, ATP-type	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	3	26
Brown alga, ATP-type	<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>	33.03	-
Brown alga, ATP-type	Brown_algae_1	23.6	32.7
Brown alga, ATP-type	Brown_algae_2	39.2	45.9
Brown alga, ATP-type	Brown_algae_3	34.3	18.0
Brown alga, ATP-type	Brown_algae_4	17.8	12.2
Brown alga, ATP-type	Brown_algae_5	61.6	75.8
Human, GTP-type	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	43.8	39.4
Bacterium, GTP-type	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	4.7	22.5
Archaeon, GTP-type	<i>Thermococcus kodakarensis</i>	76.9	44.4
Amoeba, PP _i -type	<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	34	-

The PEPCKs from brown algae display high activity.

PEPC and Rubisco

Analysis of PEPCs from brown algae

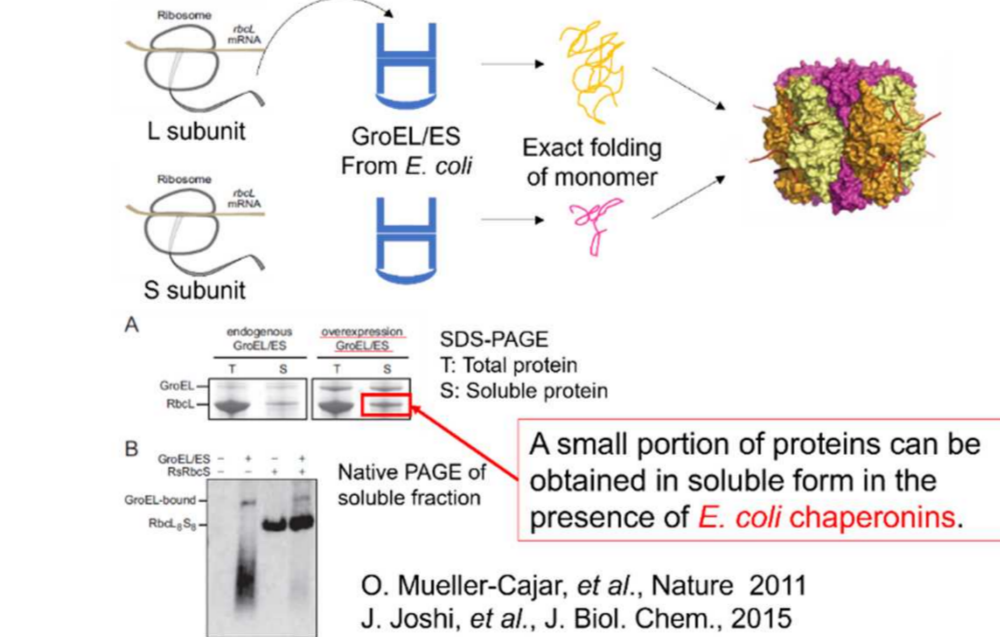


- Further purification of the soluble recombinant proteins
- Evaluation of enzymatic properties of PEPCs

Expression strategy of brown algal Rubisco in E. coli

We adopted the strategy for Form IC Rubisco, which displays relatively high identity to brown algal Form ID Rubisco.

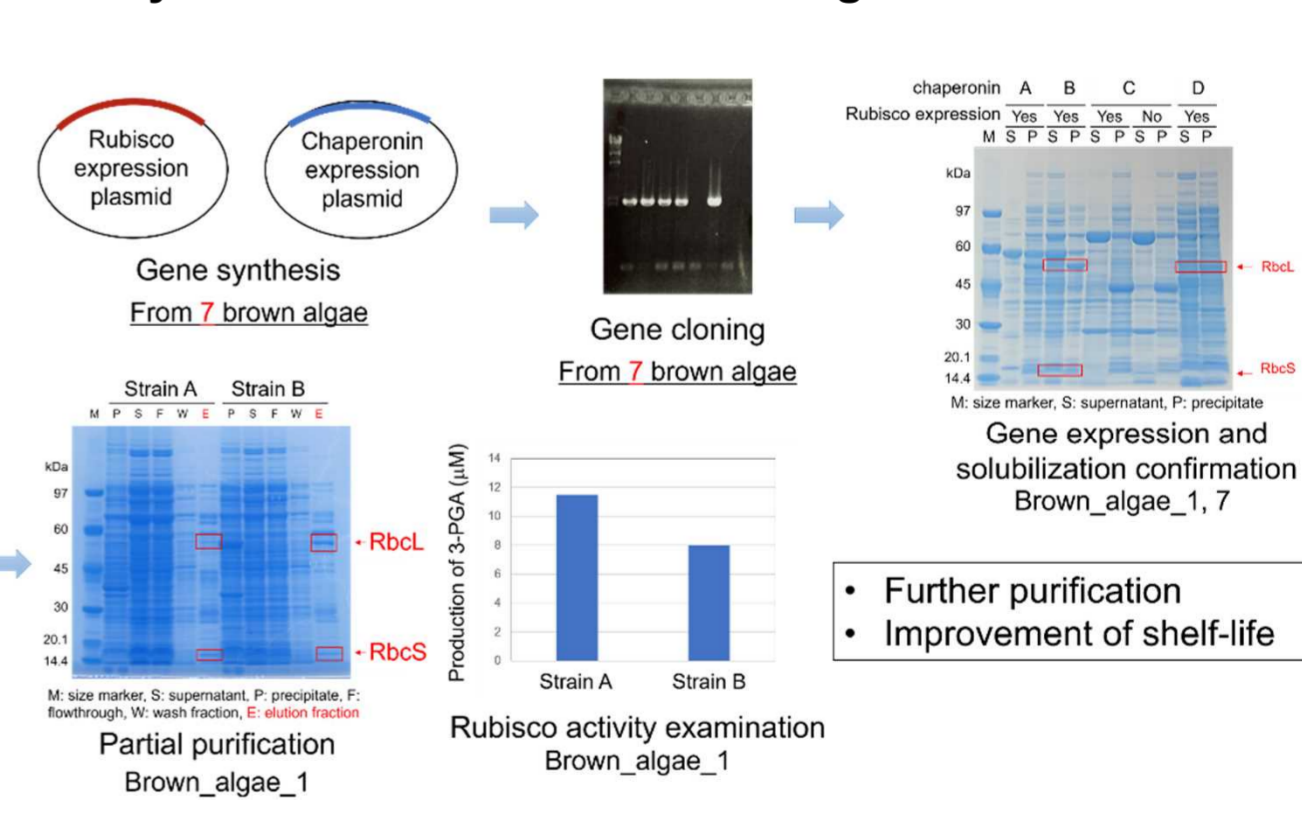
Form IC (Purple non-sulfur bacterium *Cereibacter sphaeroides*)



A small portion of proteins can be obtained in soluble form in the presence of *E. coli* chaperonins.

O. Mueller-Cajar, et al., Nature 2011; J. Joshi, et al., J. Biol. Chem., 2015

Analysis of Rubisco from brown algae



- Further purification
- Improvement of shelf-life

Cultivation of chemoautotrophic microorganisms

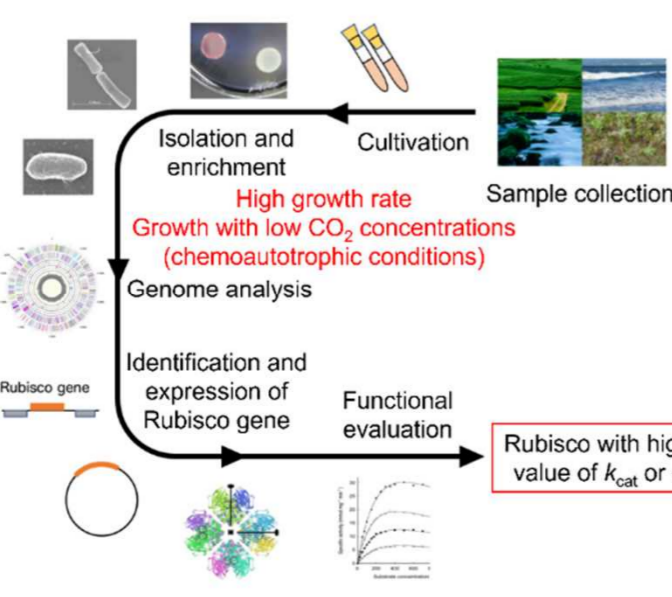
Screening/characterization of Rubiscos from autotrophic microorganisms

Screen for chemoautotrophic microorganisms from environmental samples, and identify Rubiscos with superior enzymatic properties.

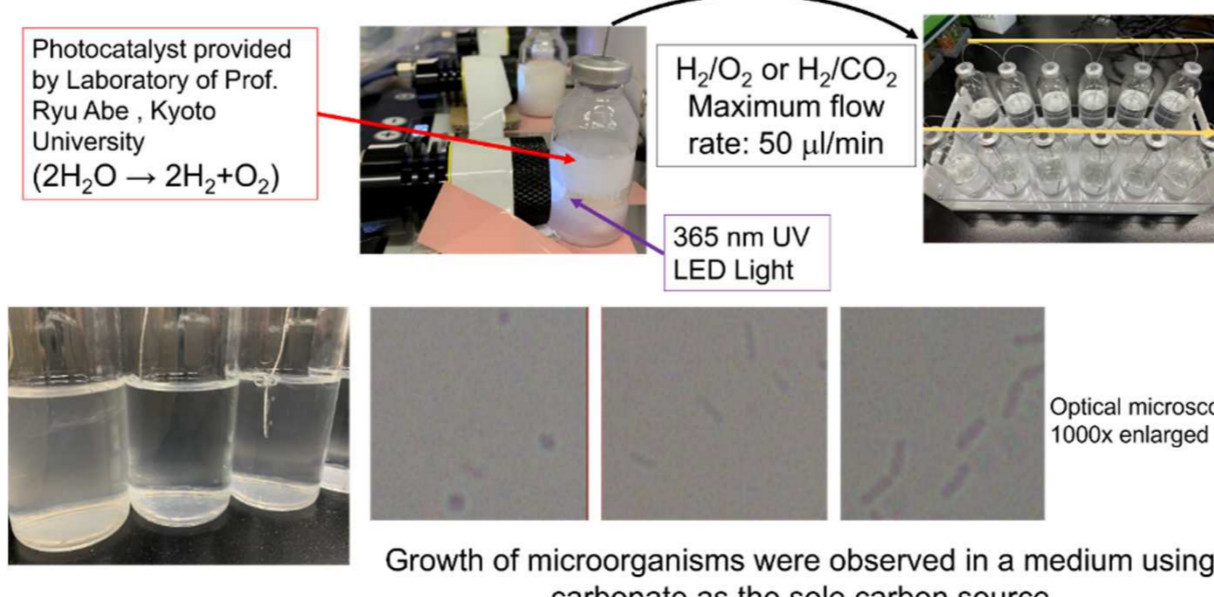
Calvin-Benson-Bassham cycle is used by a large number of aerobic autotrophs



Target microorganisms: utilize the produced ΔG due to the formation of H₂O from H₂ and O₂



Chemoautotrophic microorganisms that use H₂ oxidation as an energy source



16S rDNA sequence analysis of various samples

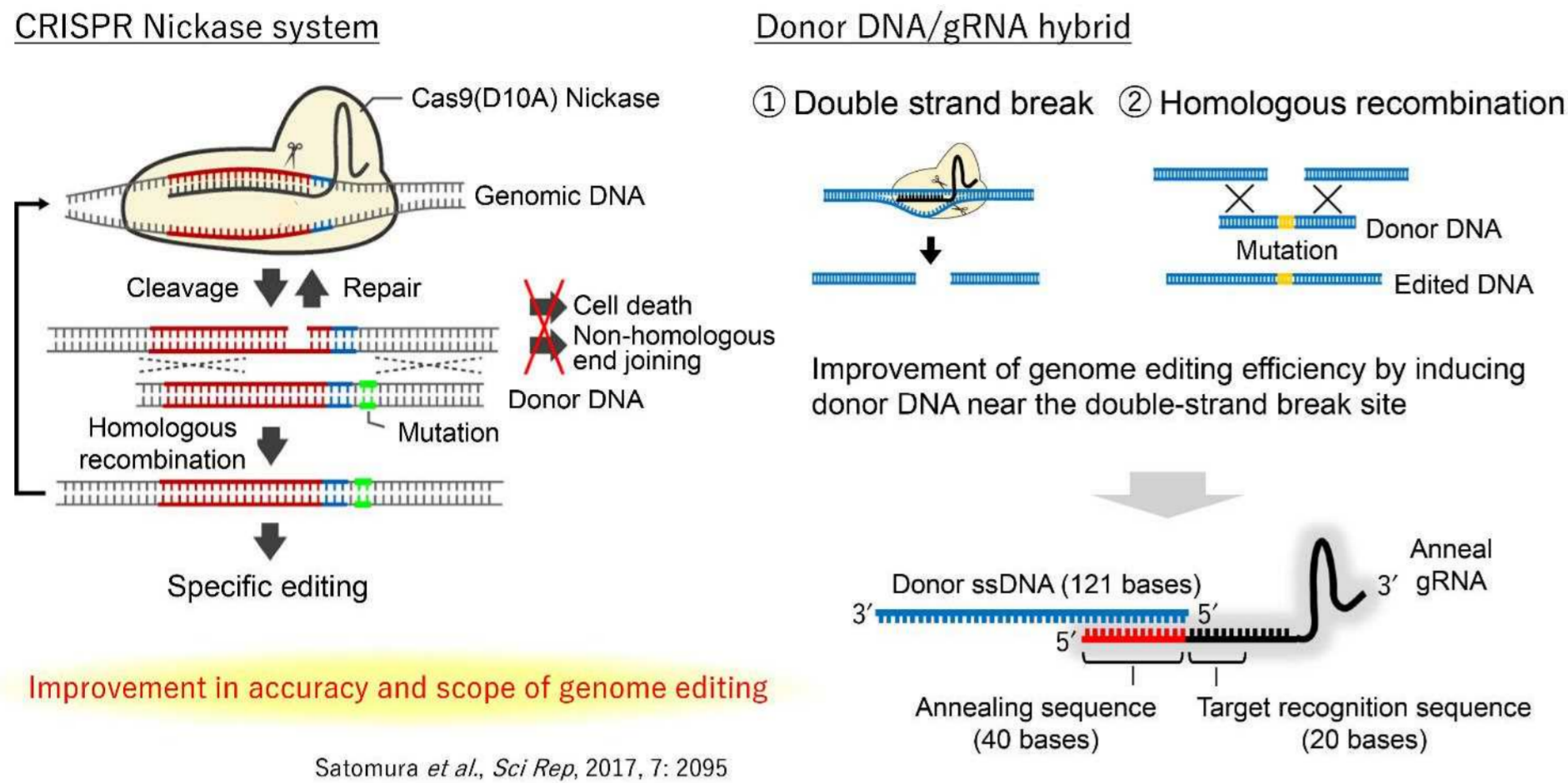
- No. 2 *Hydrogenophaga sp.* (over 99% identical)
- No. 12 *Cupriavidus necator* (over 99% identical)
- No. 13 *Cupriavidus necator* (over 99% identical) (same to No. 12)
- No. 16 *Acinetobacter tjernbergiae* (100% identical)
- No. 17 *Acinetobacter oleivorans* (100% identical)
- No. 18 *Acinetobacter johnsonii* (over 99% identical)

Samples No. 19 and No. 20 contain several major sequences and further enrichment is necessary.

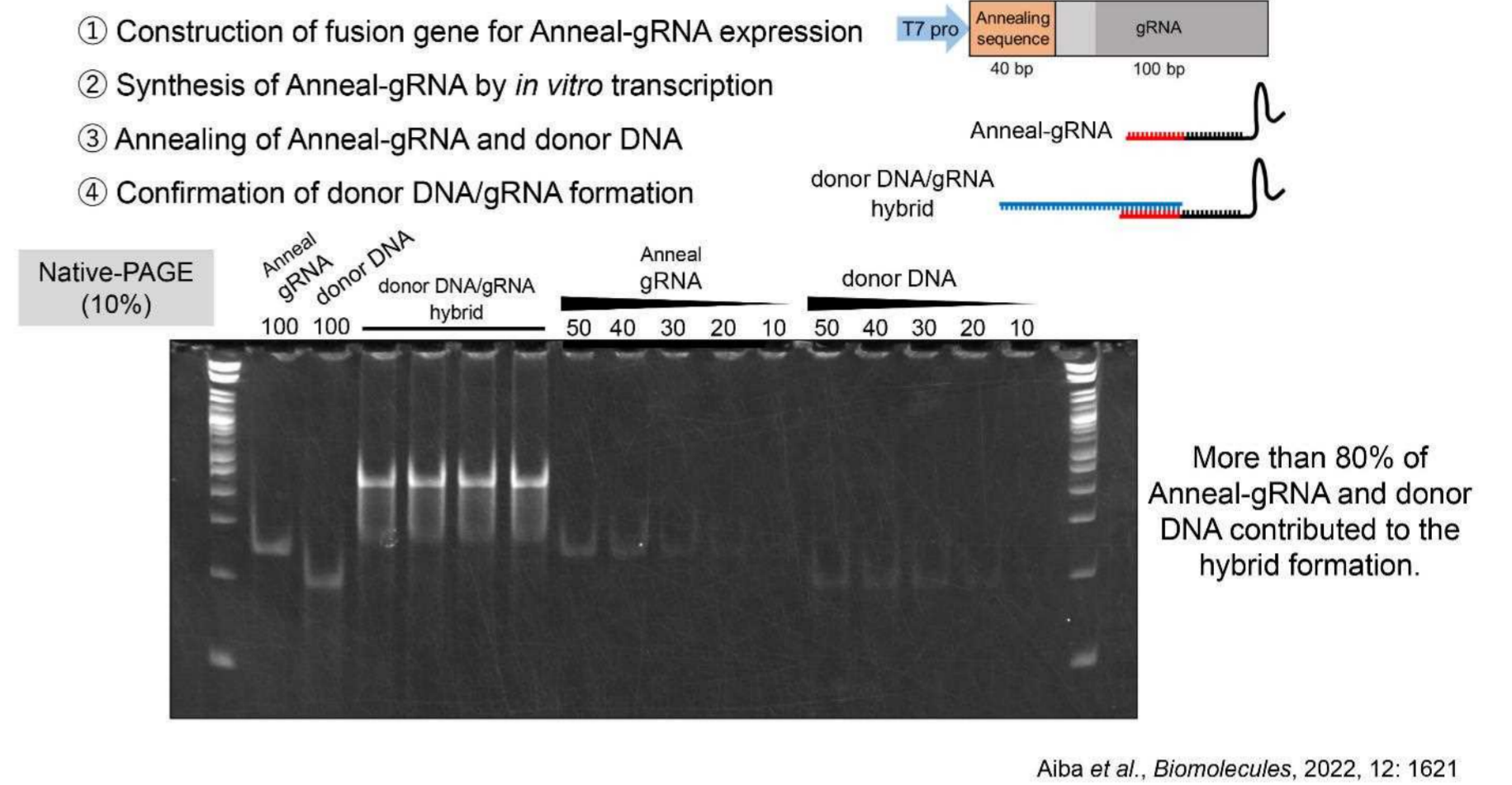
Growth of CO₂-fixing microorganisms from the above 8 samples was observed

Isolation and genomic analysis are ongoing.

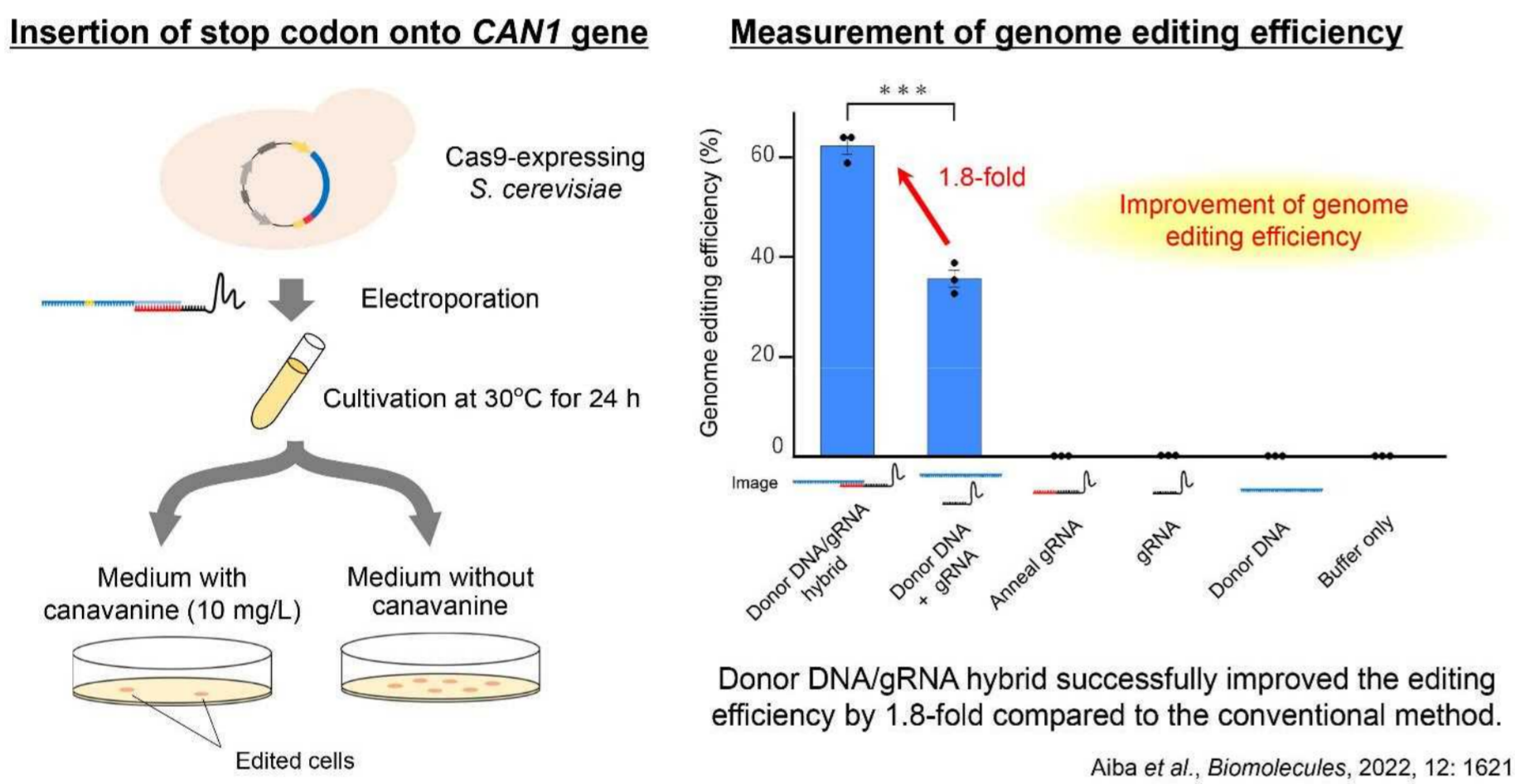
① Strategies to improve genome editing efficiency in CRISPR/Cas9 system



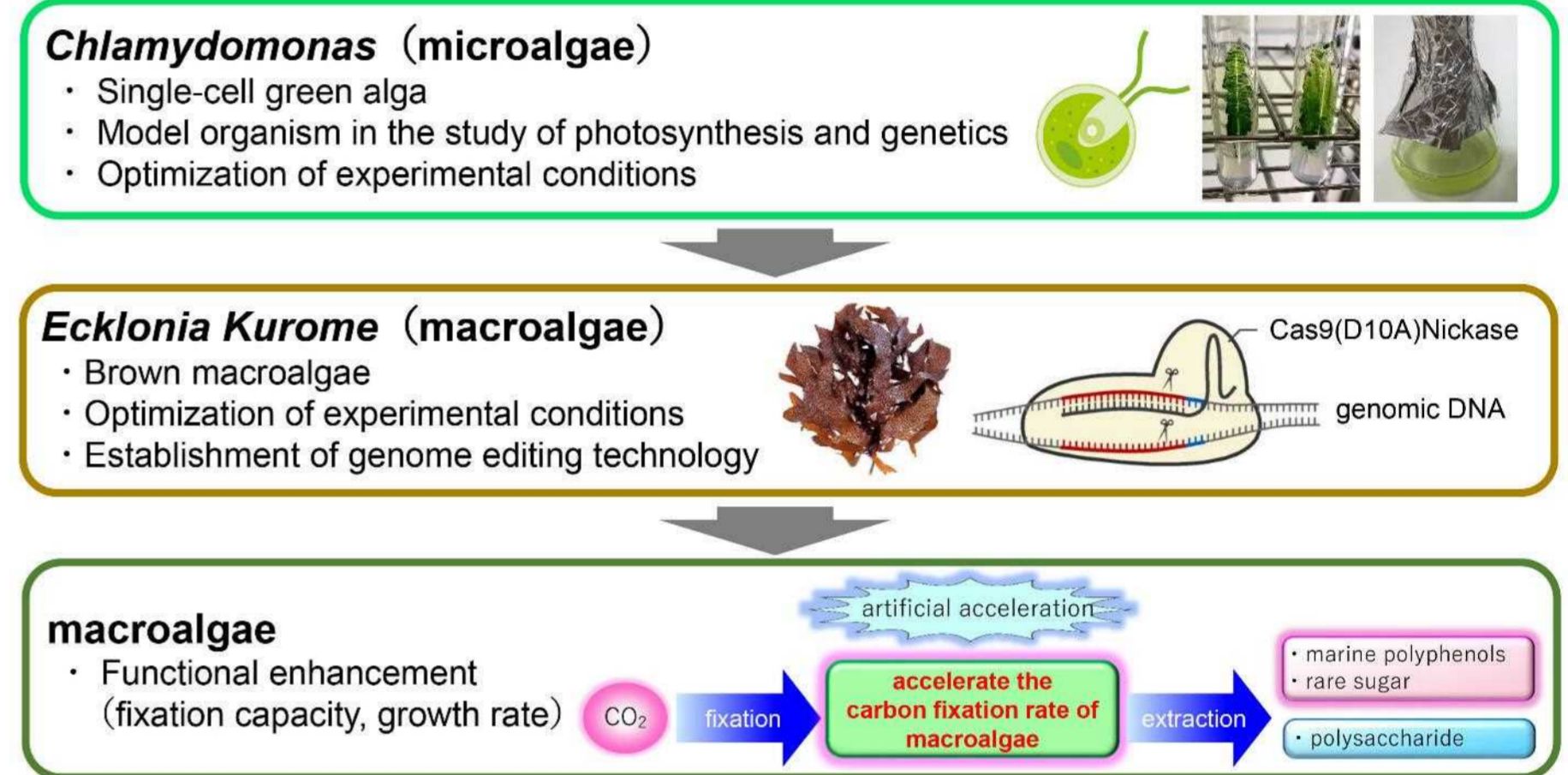
② Preparation of donor DNA/gRNA hybrid



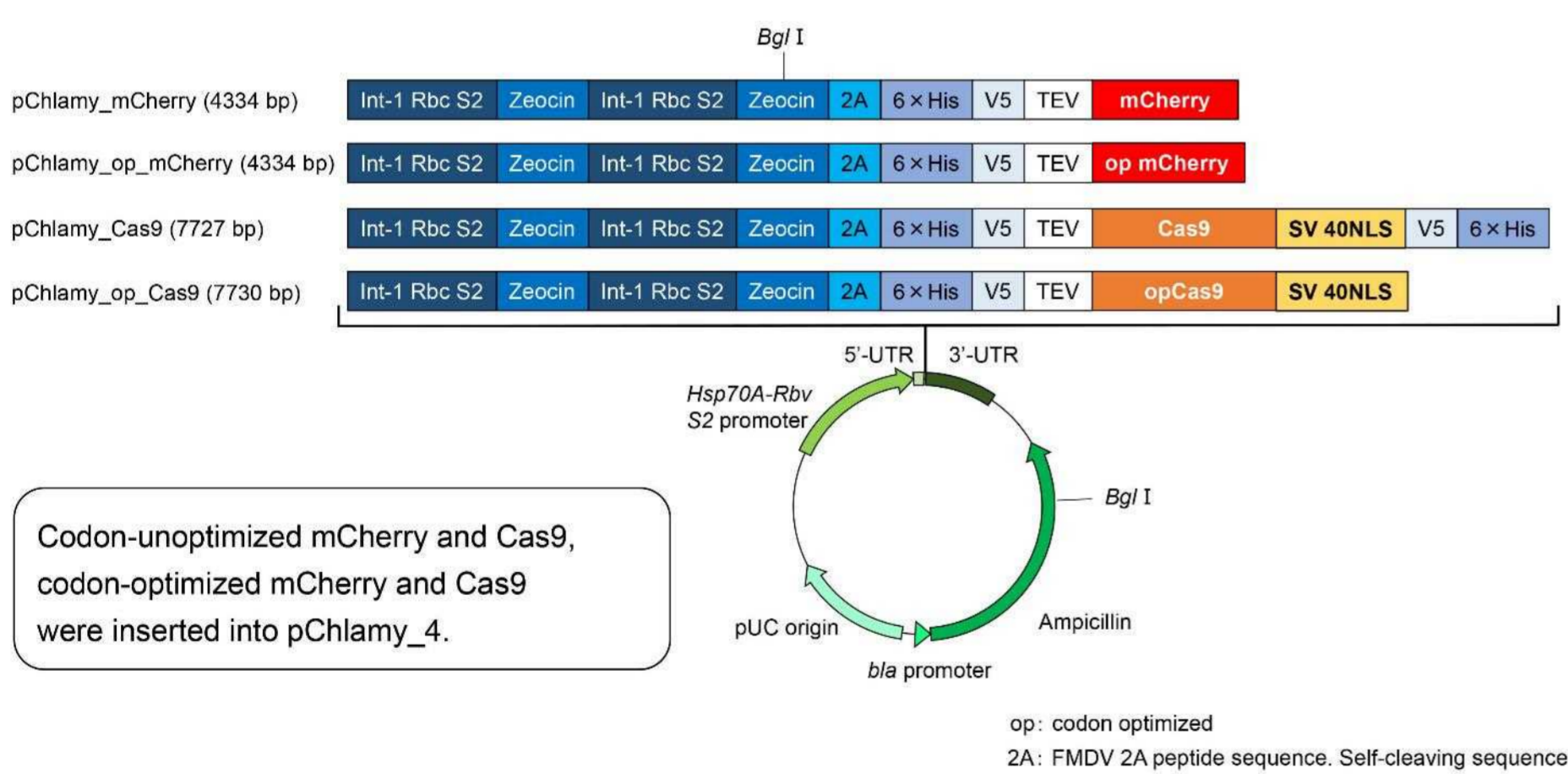
③ Improvement of genome editing efficiency by donor DNA/gRNA hybrid



④ Genome editing in algae

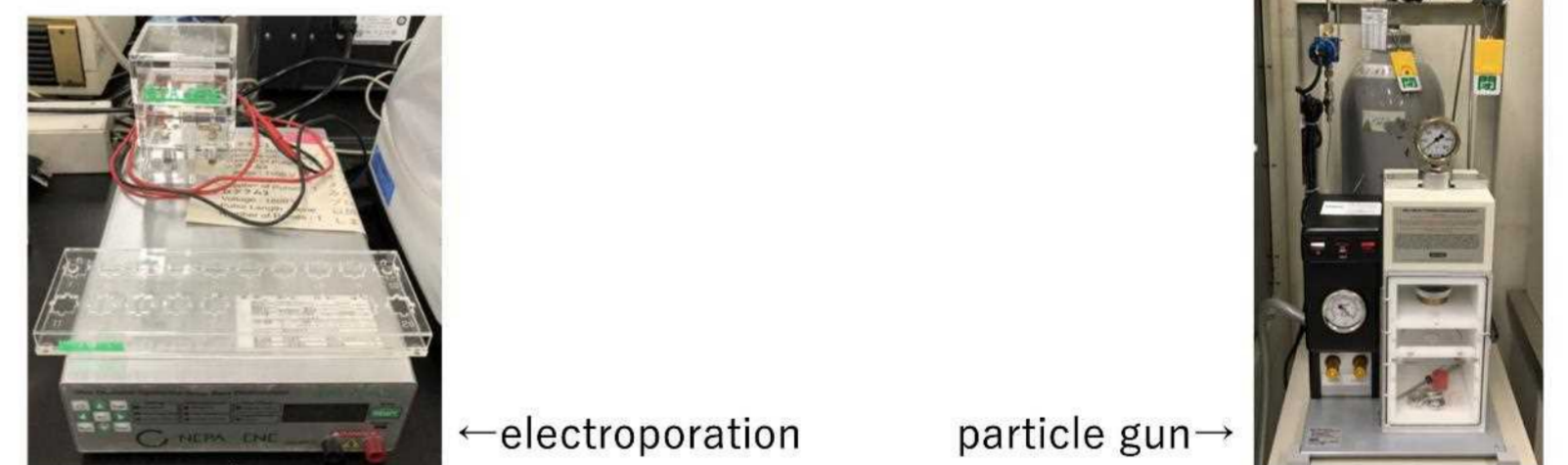


⑤ Plasmid construction



⑥ Gene transfer into Chlamydomonas

- Gene transfer by electroporation and particle gun**
- Expression of fluorescent protein and Cas9 protein (Optimization of expression vectors and gene transfer methods)
- Cas9-fluorescent protein expression, transfer gRNA
- Confirmation of gene editing (Evaluation of editing efficiency)



⑦ Particle gun : Result

- Chlamydomonas* 2236 (5 µg/mL Zeocin, 0.6 µm Tungsten)

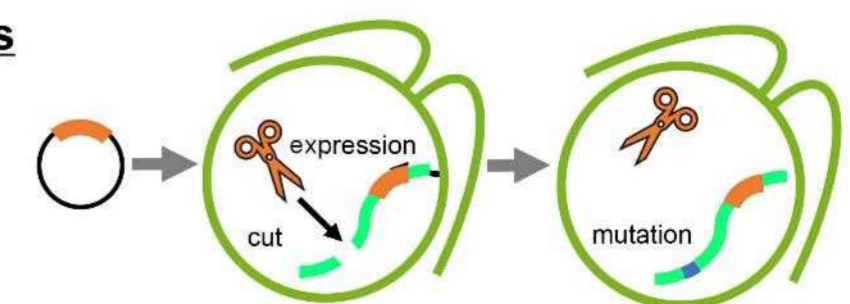
Negative Control	pChlamy_mCherry	pChlamy_op_mCherry	pChlamy_Cas9	pChlamy_op_Cas9
number of colonies				
2	47	36	40	21

For *Chlamydomonas* transformants with pChlamy_mCherry or pChlamy_op_mCherry, mCherry expression will be confirmed by fluorescence microscopy.

⑧ Culture location depending on genome editing content

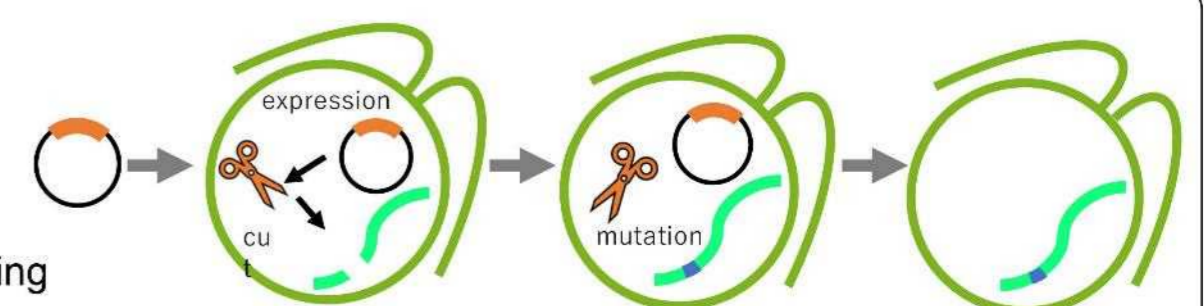
Currently experimental methods

Stable expression system by genome integration
↓
Onshore culture



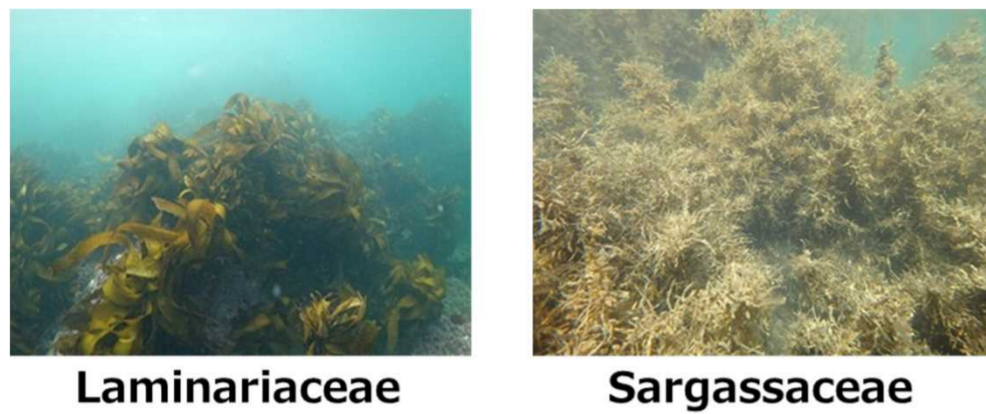
Ultimate goal

Transient expression system
↓
Introduction of sequences identified in nature
• Deletion of Cas9 gene after editing
• Sea culture



Selection of macroalgae with excellent CO₂ absorption and fixation ability, and development of their tissue culture and seedling production technology

Aims



In order to drastically increase the amount of CO₂ absorbed and fixed, it will be select useful macroalgae and developed their seedlings production technology.

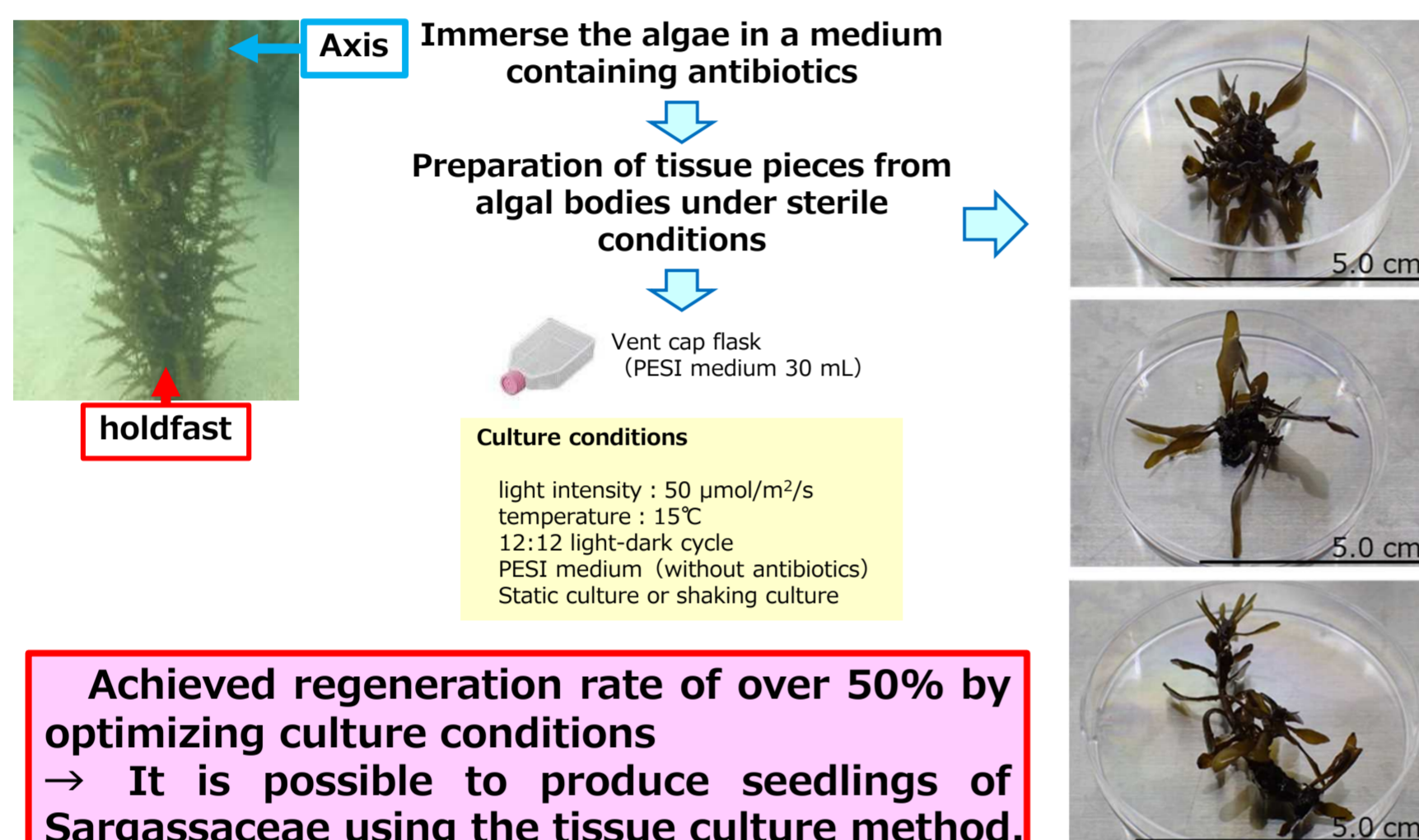
Selection of useful macroalgae by measuring ETR value

ETR*	($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)
<i>Sargassum horneri</i>	7.9
<i>Sargassum miracanthum</i>	6.6
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	3.0
<i>Sargassum autumnale</i>	5.7
<i>Sargassum patens</i>	8.3
<i>Sargassum coreanum</i>	6.0
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	10.9
<i>Sargassum nigrifolium</i>	10.4
<i>Myagropsis myagroides</i>	7.0
<i>Sargassum confusum</i>	11.1
<i>Sargassum yendoii</i>	5.4

ETR (electron transport rate) value indicates the rate at which electrons transfer from the most upstream to the downstream during photosynthesis. → The ETR value is thought to be correlated with the CO₂ absorption and fixation ability of the measurement sample.

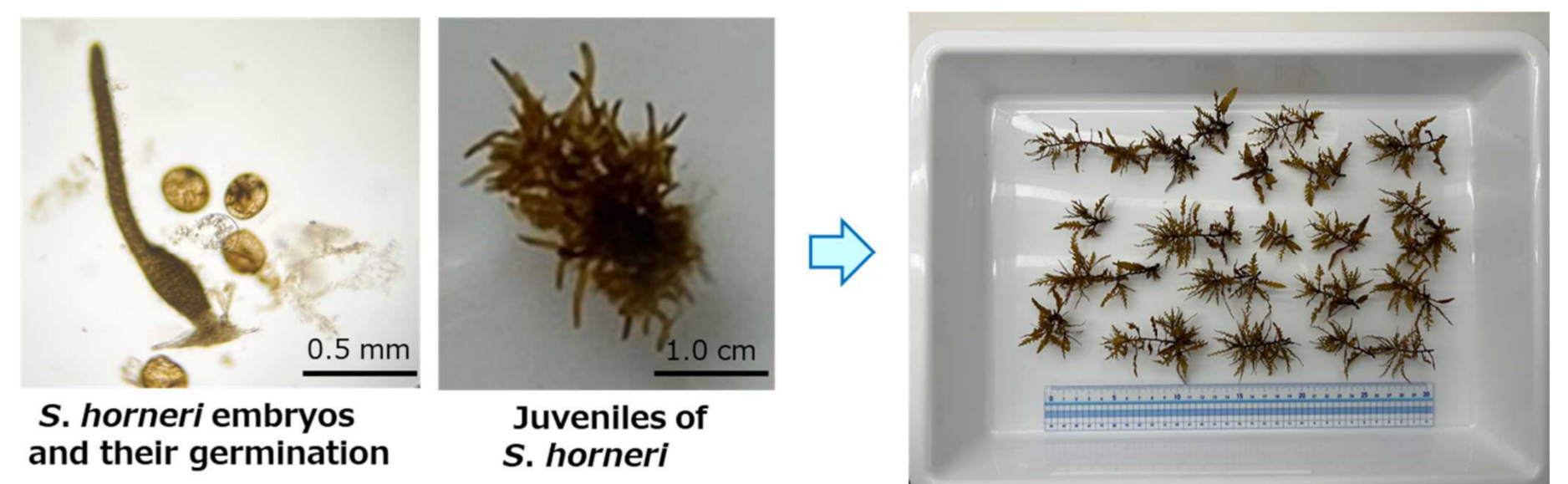
The ETR value of the sample was compared with that of *U. pinnatifida*, a macroalgae belonging to the Laminariaceae. → Sargassaceae were selected as useful macroalgae.

Preparation of tissue pieces from Sargassaceae and their regeneration by culturing



Achieved regeneration rate of over 50% by optimizing culture conditions → It is possible to produce seedlings of Sargassaceae using the tissue culture method.

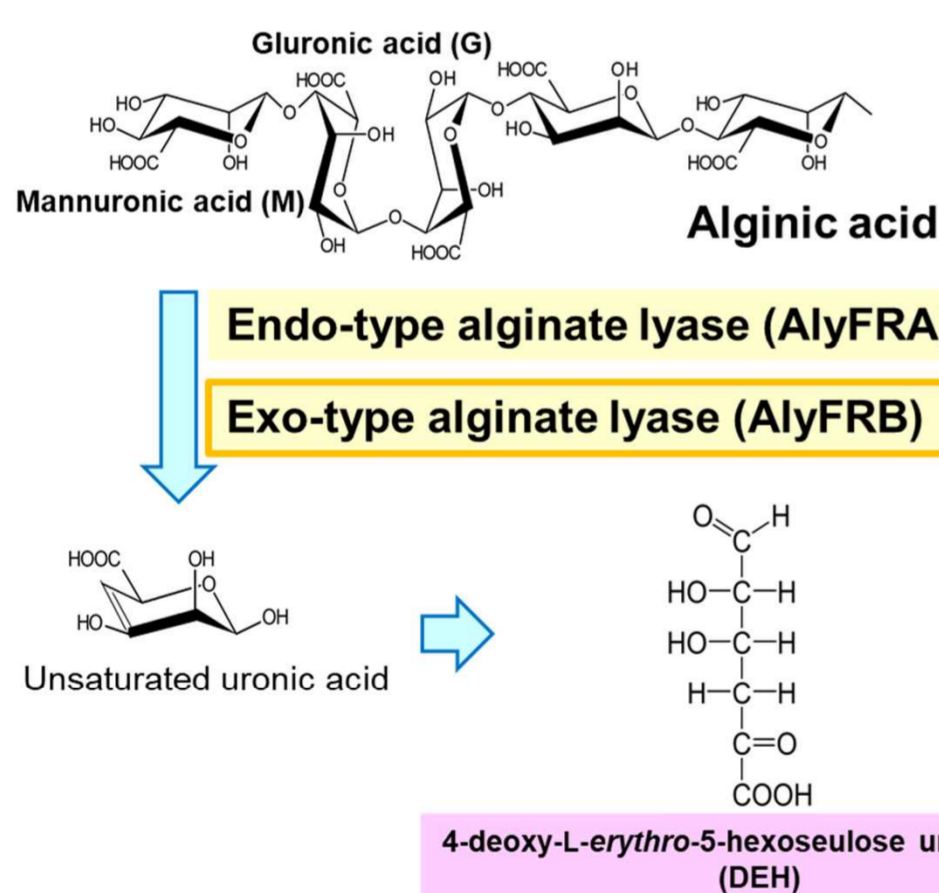
Collection of fertilized eggs from *S. horneri* and production of their juveniles by culturing in a closed system



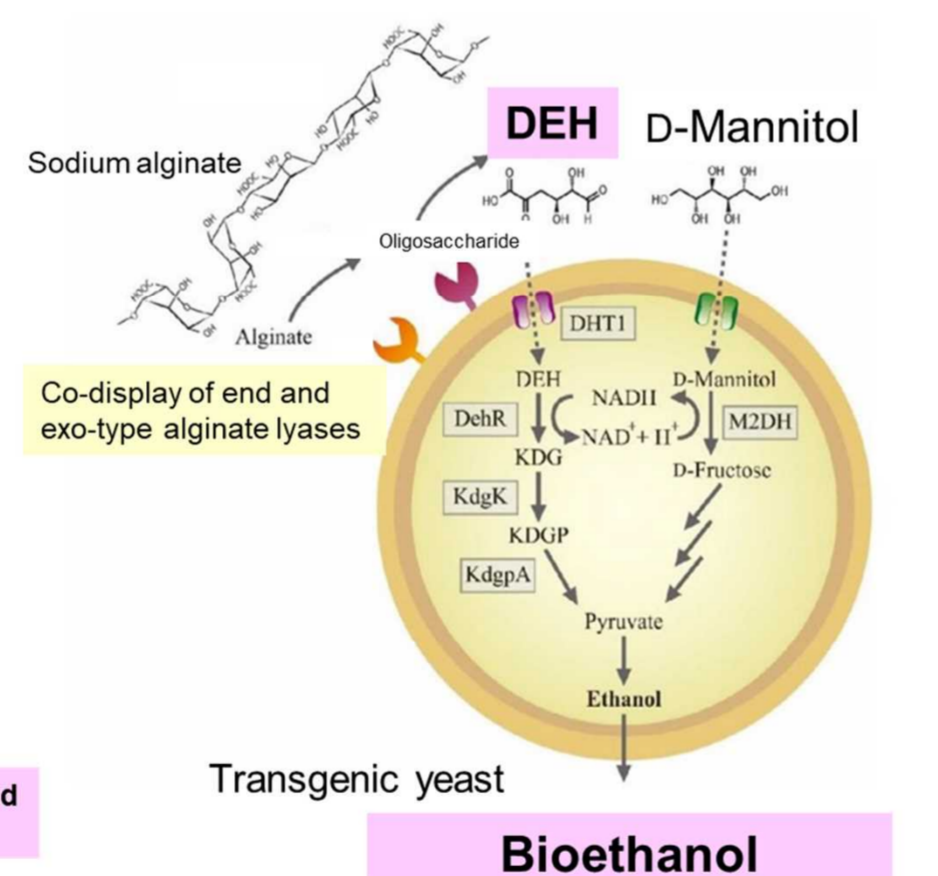
The technology for producing seedlings of *S. horneri* in a closed system has been completed.

Development of a cascade-type material production process combined with microbial pretreatment methods

Previous Studies



WO2017175694 (2021)
Tanaka Y. et al., *Molecules*, 27, 3308, (2022)



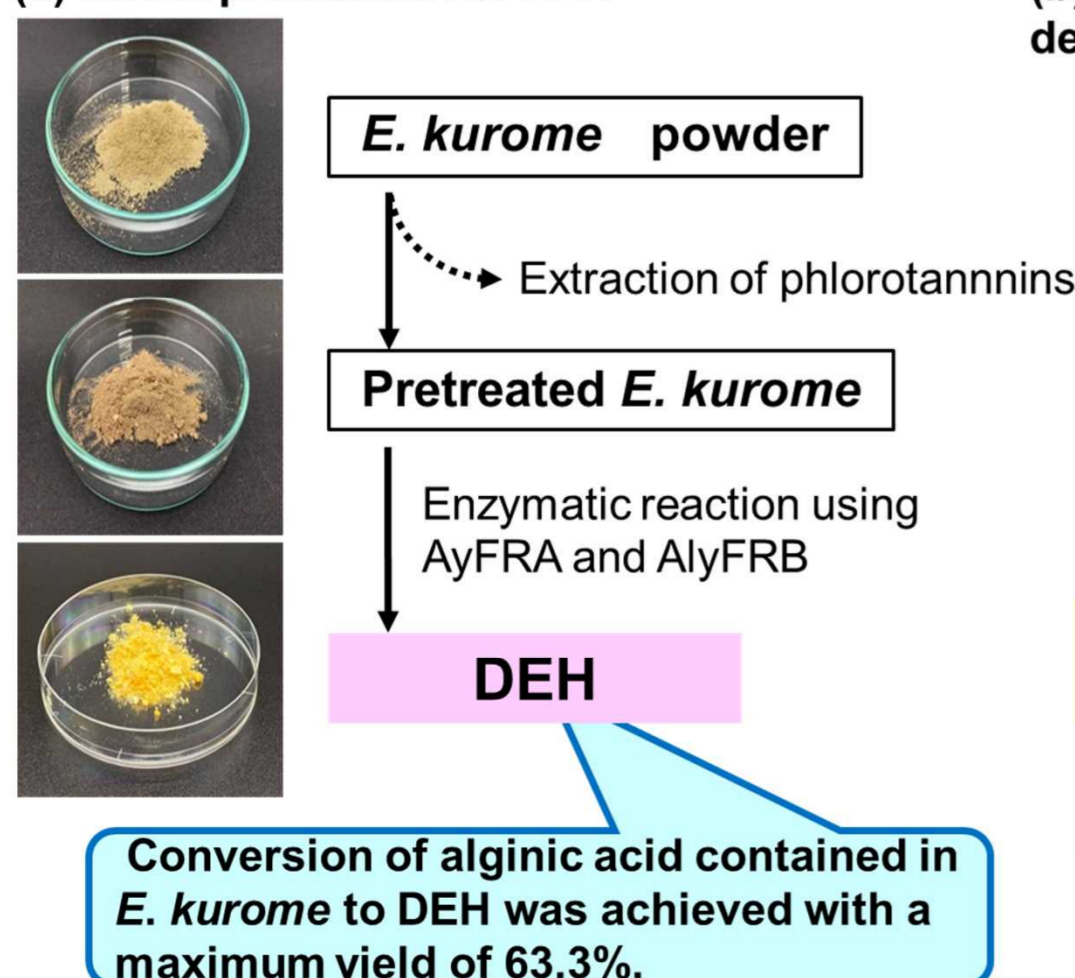
Takagi T. et al., *Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol.*, 101, 6627, (2017)

Problems

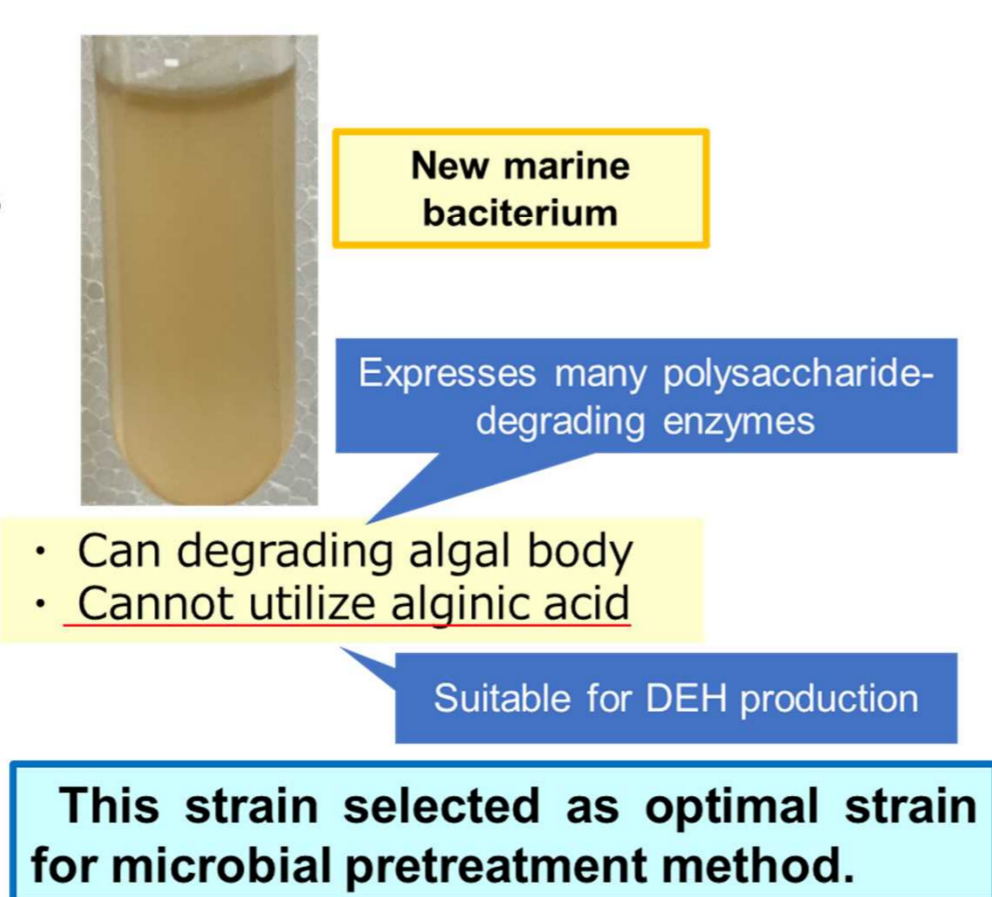
- ✓ Brown seaweeds contain phlorotannins and various carbohydrates.
- ✓ It is preferable to remove phlorotannins because they have the ability to bind to proteins and have antibacterial properties.
- ✓ Alginic acid exists in an insoluble gel state within the algal body. → As the concentration of sodium alginate increases in aqueous solution, its viscosity increases, making it difficult to handle in bacterial culture solution and enzyme reaction solution.

Results

(a) Direct production of DEH



(b) Selection of optimal brown seaweeds-degrading bacteria for microbial pretreatment



Aims

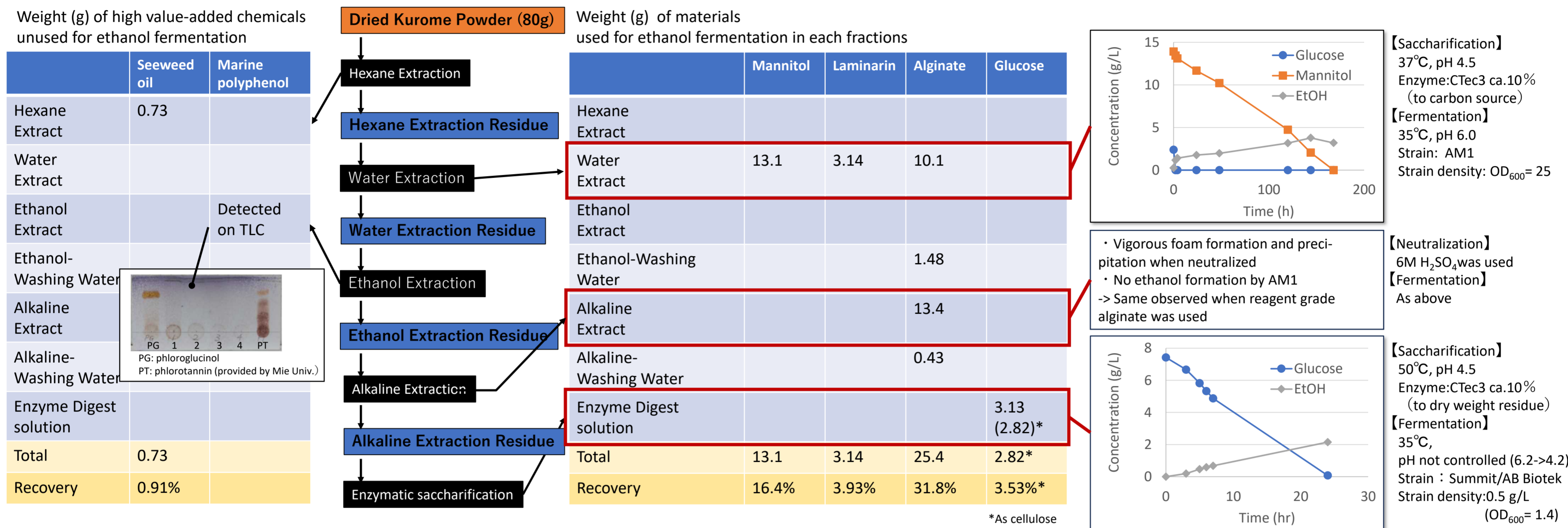
- ✓ Preparation of *E. kurome* powder with polyphenol removed as pretreatment
- ✓ Direct production of DEH from pretreated *E. kurome* powder
- ✓ Selection of optimal brown seaweeds-degrading bacteria for microbial pretreatment

Conclusions

- ✓ It has become possible to directly produce DEH from insoluble alginic acid in brown seaweed.
- ✓ Many processes to produce DEH could be reduced. (Acid and alkali are not required.)
- ✓ The optimal brown seaweeds-degrading bacterium for microbial pretreatment was obtained.

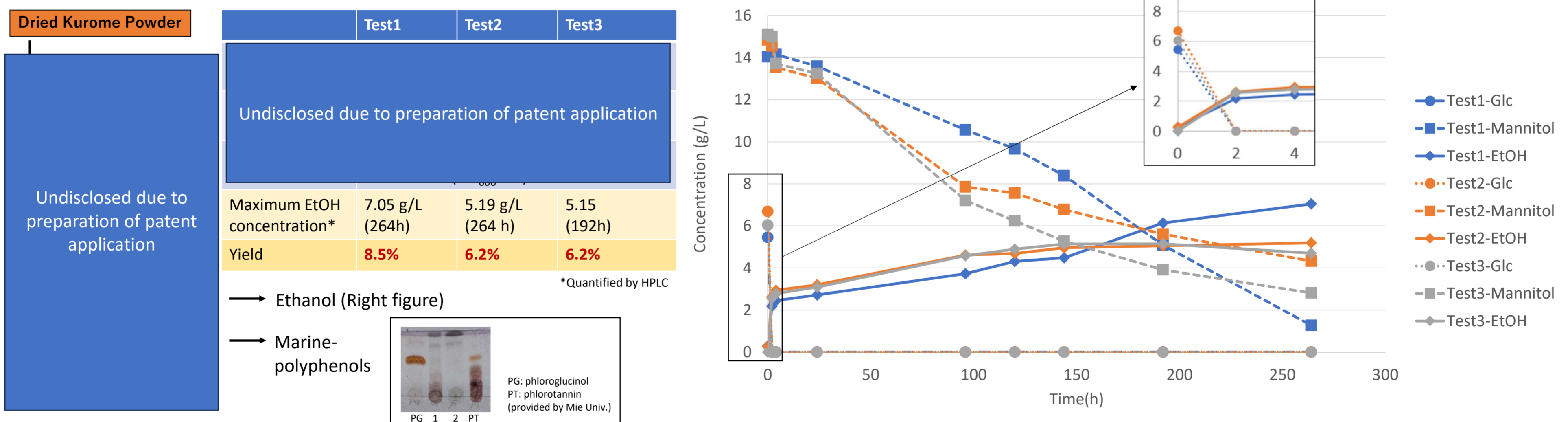
Applying ethanol fermentation to the cascade process for substance production from brown seaweeds*

*NEDO Feasibility Study Program "Construction of core biotechnologies suitable for complete utilization of seaweeds"



- Part of Water Extract was subjected to enzymatic saccharification (CTec3/Novozymes) to convert laminarin to glucose. The resultant solution was used for ethanol fermentation by AM1 strain and ethanol formation was confirmed. The result suggested that ca. 4 g of ethanol (ca. 5% to Dried Kurome Powder) would be obtained when all of Water Extract was used.
- Part of Alkaline Extract Residue was subjected to enzymatic saccharification (CTec3/Novozymes). The resultant solution was used for ethanol fermentation by Summit Ethanol Dry Yeast (AB Biotek) and ethanol formation was confirmed. The result suggested that ca. 0.9 g of ethanol (ca. 1% to Dried Kurome Powder) would be obtained when all of Alkaline Extract Residue was used.

Modification of the cascade-type production process using macroalgae with a focus on ethanol production

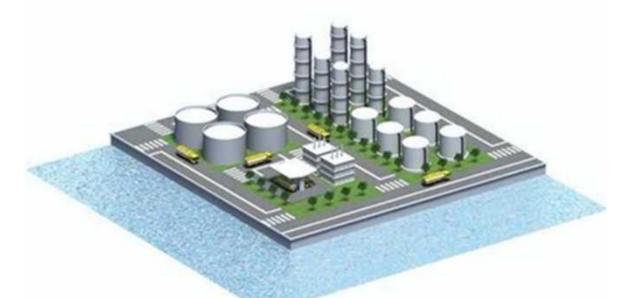


- More than 5% yield (goal of FY 2023) of ethanol production from dried Kurome powder has been achieved by ethanol fermentation using AM1 strain.
- The TLC analysis suggested that Marine polyphenols can be extracted from the fermentation residue.

Issues to be addressed toward industrial application of ethanol production from macroalgae

- Pretreatment method of ocean-fresh macroalgae to be used for ethanol fermentation
- Improvement of the ethanol fermentation conditions (yield, titer, productivity)
- Purification method of ethanol from fermentation broth of macroalgae
- Post-treatment of fermentation residue including extraction of high value-added chemicals
- Scaling-up of all the processes (pretreatment, fermentation, purification, waste treatment)
- To make business plan and structure

Example of business images : Marine Biorefinery Complex on/off the Shore



No.: A-7-6E

PJ: Redesign of macroalgae for highly efficient CO₂ fixation by functional modifications and their product generation

Theme: Development of equipment for accelerating CO₂ fixation of large-scale algae

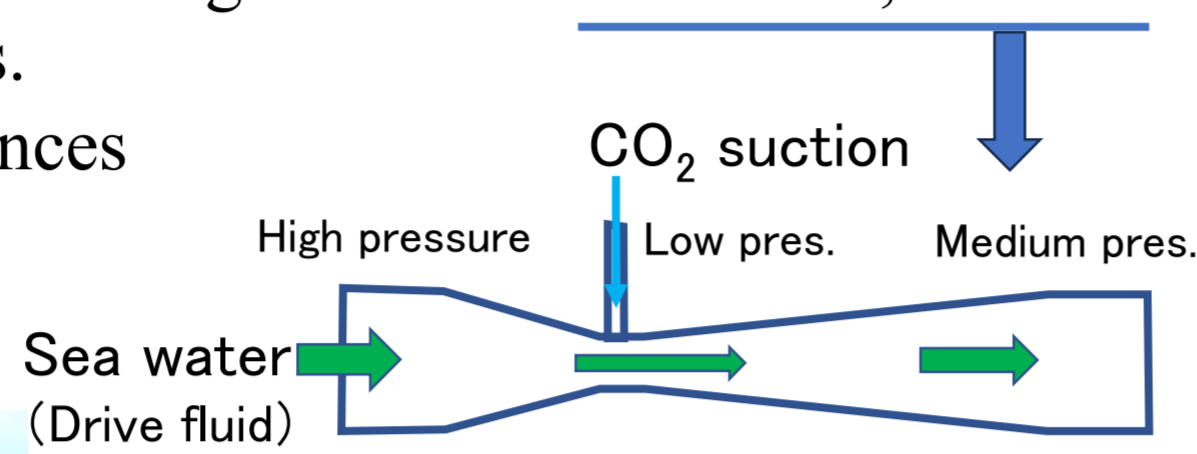
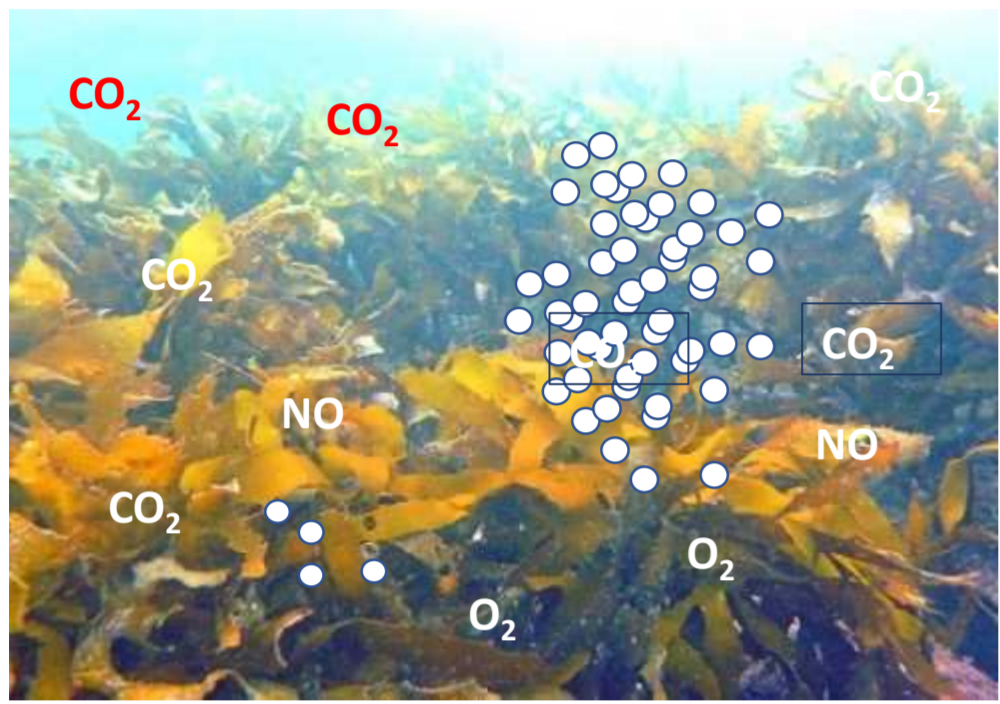
Organization: Kansai Chemical Engineering Co., Ltd (KCE)

Contact: Hiroshi Ooshima (ooshima@kce.co.jp)

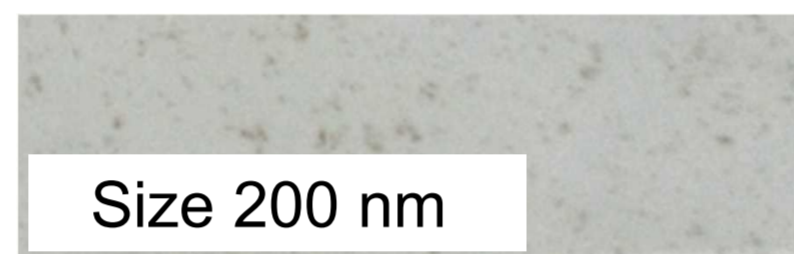


Objectives: (1) To develop a CO₂-fine bubble supply system suitable for accelerating large-scale algae growth in marine algae farms and land-based cultured algae plants.
(2) To improve the circumstances of the marine algae farms.

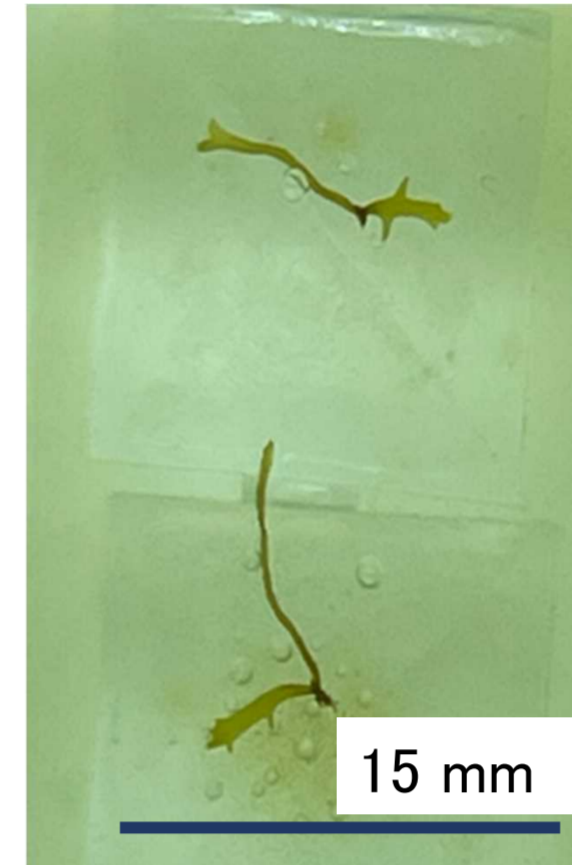
Experiment: Akamoku (academic name: *Sargassum horneri* (Turner) C. Agardh) was selected as a large-scale alga and examined the effect of CO₂-fine bubble supply on the growth of juveniles grown from that juvenile embryo. As a fine-bubble generation mechanism, a venturi tube type was adopted.



Growth of Akamoku



Juvenile embryo



Juveniles

Grow to 10-m size



Growing juveniles

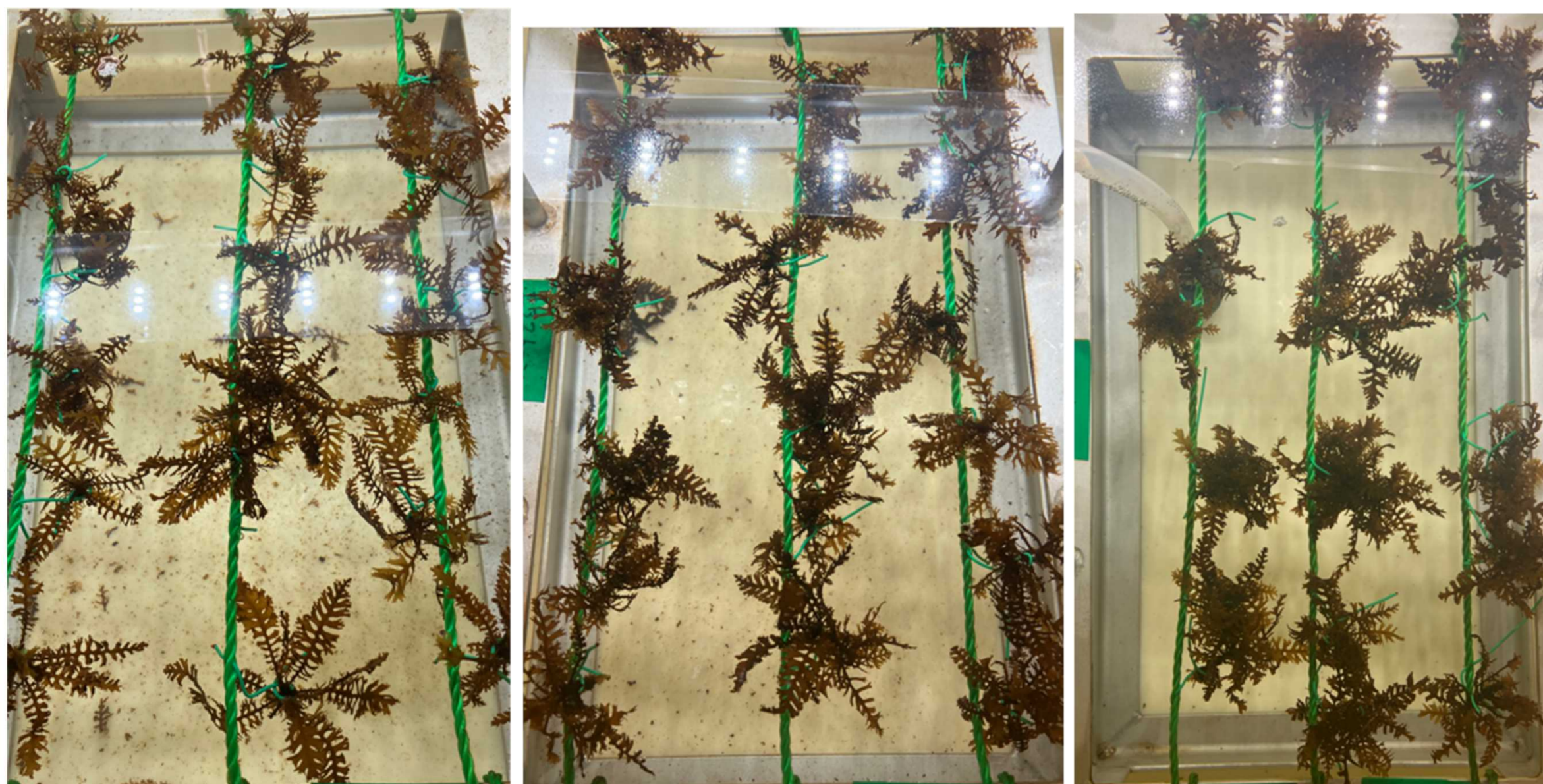
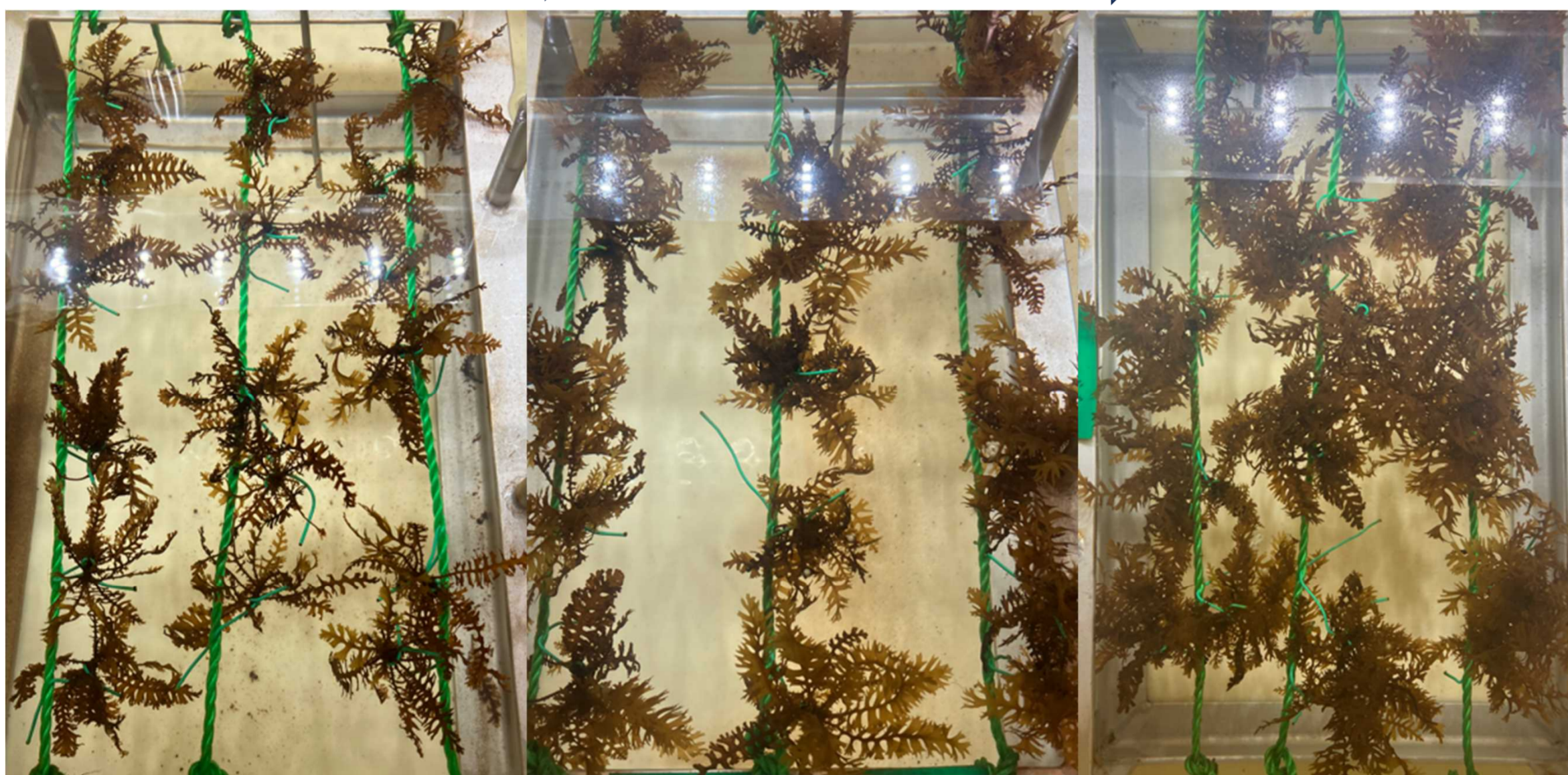
Result (Target 1)

1)

Cultivation

Comparison of the Growth Rate of Juveniles Cultured in a Small Seawater Tank.

0 d → 15 d → 27 d



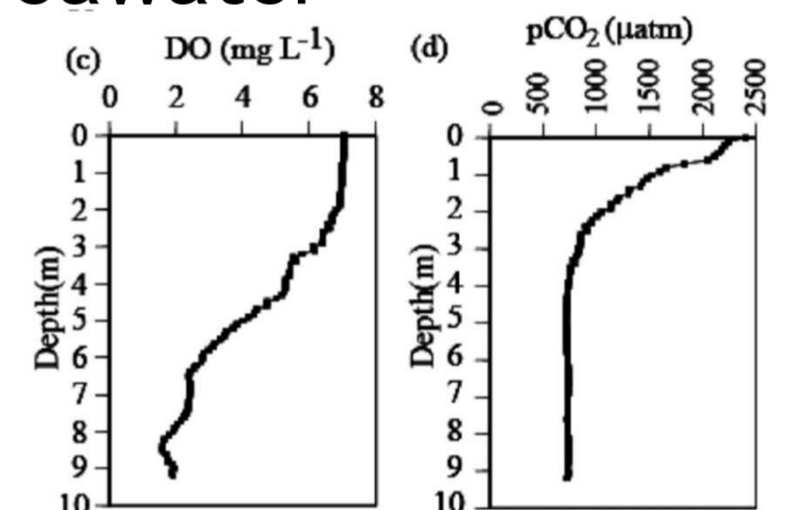
Gas supplied

CO₂

Air

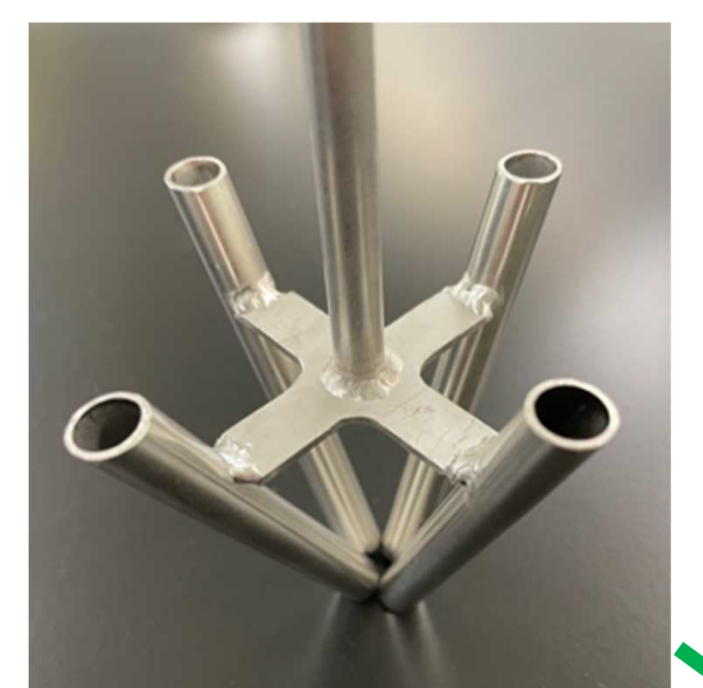
(Target 2) Improvement of Marine Algae Farm;

Vertical Circulation of Seawater



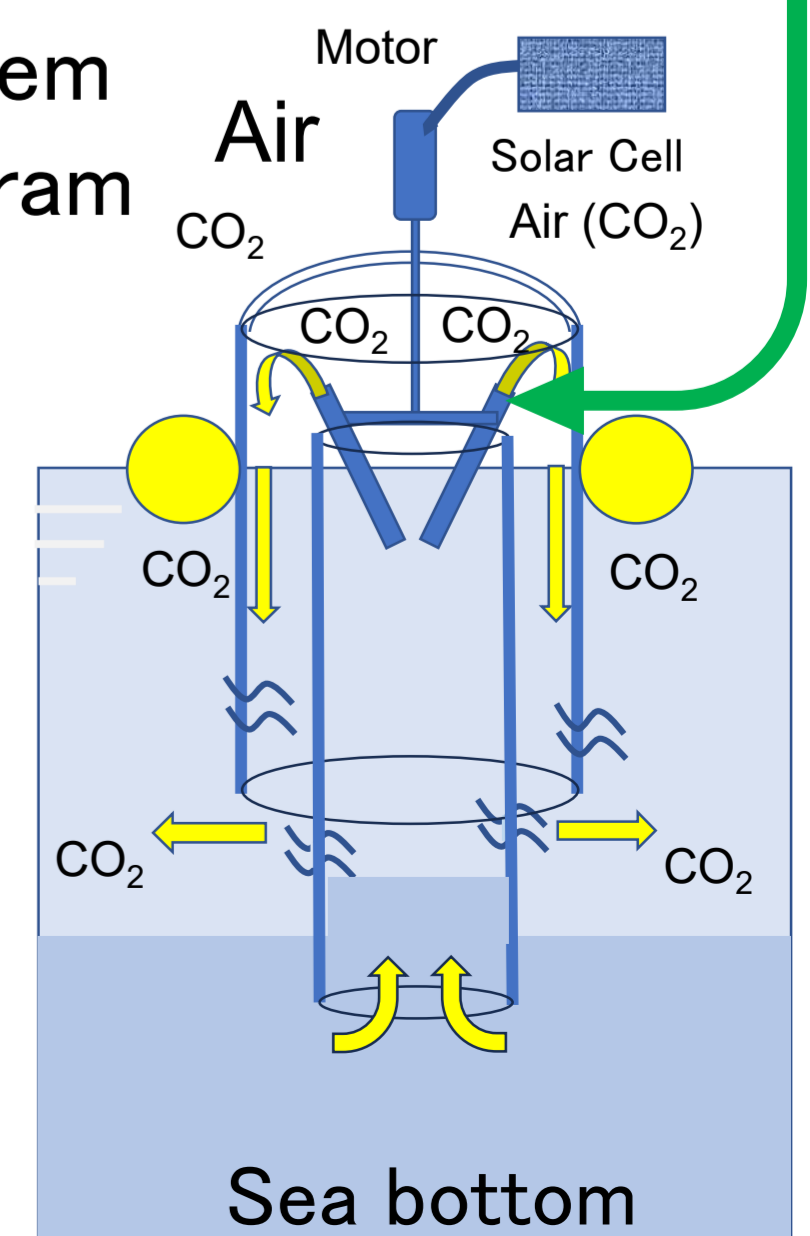
Nishinomia 2014.11.10 (Fijii et al. (2017))

Depth Distribution of pCO₂, DO



WW-mixer^{TR} (KCE)

System Diagram



Broth Analyses

Gas supplied	pH _{av} (9:00)	CO _{2,av} , ppm (9:00)	O _{2,av} , ppm (9:00)	HCO _{3⁻total,av} , ppm (9:00)
Measurement	0 - 48 d	0 - 48 d	19 - 48 d	0 - 48 d
CO ₂	(7.49)	13.2* (4.53)**	(4.77)	195.8 (182.4)
Air	(7.93)	(1.41)	(4.79)	(150.4)

* Maximum/day

** Minimum/day