

Article

Low-Ammonium Environment Increases the Nutrient Exchange between Diatom–Diazotroph Association Cells and Facilitates Photosynthesis and N₂ Fixation—a Mechanistic Modeling Analysis

Meng Gao ^{*}, Gabrielle Armin and Keisuke Inomura 

Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI 02882, USA

^{*} Correspondence: meng_gao@uri.edu; Tel.: +1-401-771-5757

Abstract: Diatom–diazotroph associations (DDAs) are one of the most important symbiotic dinitrogen (N₂) fixing groups in the oligotrophic ocean. Despite their capability to fix N₂, ammonium (NH₄⁺) remains a key nitrogen (N) source for DDAs, and the effect of NH₄⁺ on their metabolism remains elusive. Here, we developed a coarse-grained, cellular model of the DDA with NH₄⁺ uptake and quantified how the level of extracellular NH₄⁺ influences metabolism and nutrient exchange within the symbiosis. The model shows that, under a fixed growth rate, an increased NH₄⁺ concentration may lower the required level of N₂ fixation and photosynthesis, and decrease carbon (C) and N exchange. A low-NH₄⁺ environment leads to more C and N in nutrient exchange and more fixed N₂ to support a higher growth rate. With higher growth rates, nutrient exchange and metabolism increased. Our study shows a strong effect of NH₄⁺ on metabolic processes within DDAs, and thus highlights the importance of in situ measurement of NH₄⁺ concentrations.



Citation: Gao, M.; Armin, G.; Inomura, K. Low-Ammonium Environment Increases the Nutrient Exchange between Diatom–Diazotroph Association Cells and Facilitates Photosynthesis and N₂ Fixation—a Mechanistic Modeling Analysis. *Cells* **2022**, *11*, 2911. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cells11182911>

Academic Editor: Alexander E. Kalyuzhny

Received: 5 August 2022

Accepted: 13 September 2022

Published: 17 September 2022

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Keywords: DDA; ammonium; nutrient exchange; nitrogen fixation; photosynthesis; diatom; diazotroph; carbon; nitrogen; cell flux model

1. Introduction

Diatom–diazotroph associations (DDA) are one of the major symbiotic N₂ fixing groups in the low-nutrient ocean [1–5], which are composed of one diatom host (common genera: *Hemiaulus*, *Rhizosolenia*, and *Chaetoceros*) and symbiotic cyanobacterial diazotrophs (hereafter “diazotrophs”; common genera: *Richelia* and *Calothrix*) [6–12]. The symbiotic diazotrophs can form trichomes including heterocysts (cells specialized in N₂ fixation that cannot fix C, one heterocyst in one trichome) and vegetative cells (photosynthesis cells) [13]. Previous modeling research suggested that a significant amount of N is transferred from the diazotroph to the host diatom [4]. This high level of N₂ fixation by the diazotrophs is possibly enabled by their metabolic pathways [14]. In addition, a recent modeling study showed that a high rate of N₂ fixation was enabled by a significant amount of C transfer from the host diatom [6], and similar results were reported in recent in situ measurements [11].

These nutrient transfers are also implied in other symbiotic associations, for example, unicellular cyanobacterium (UCYN-A) and haptophyte [15], *Rhizobium* and legumes [16,17], and *Azolla–Anabaena* symbiosis [18]. Studies on these other symbioses on genetic [19] and metabolic levels [18] also suggested that C and N fluxes in nutrient transfer are closely related to metabolic processes, such as photosynthesis and N₂ fixation, which respectively contribute to the C and N sources. However, these metabolic processes are not the only sources of C and N in the natural ocean; environmental nutrients are also important.

Nutrient availability is crucial in DDA research. Nitrogen, phosphorus, iron, and silicon are all reported to control DDA blooms in the natural ocean, such as in the North Pacific [20–22], tropical Atlantic [23], and the Red Sea [24]. In addition to these observations, some modeling studies suggest that DDA blooms and distributions are related to nutrient

limitation [25–27]. For example, DDA blooms in the Amazon River plume can be driven by the N-poor and Si-rich water [25], and the global DDA distribution can be controlled by dissolved iron and phosphate concentrations [26,27]. Ammonium (NH_4^+), one of the key phytoplankton N sources [28], has been widely observed to influence diatom growth and blooms [29–31]. A culture study reported that ammonium concentration affected diatom nutrient uptake of other nutrients, such as sulfide and carbon [29]. Additionally, an observation in a shallow estuary revealed that a low NH_4^+ concentration characterized the initial period of a diatom bloom [31]. As an extracellular source of N, environmental NH_4^+ can influence growth and metabolism in various non-symbiotic diazotrophs. For a unicellular diazotroph, *Crocospaera watsonii* [32], increasing environmental NH_4^+ concentration can decrease its growth rate, and for filamentous diazotrophs, such as *Trichodesmium*, the use of environmental NH_4^+ can increase the growth rate [33].

How does NH_4^+ concentration influence symbiotic diazotrophs, such as DDAs? Despite its potential significance in their metabolism and their outcome in the environment, there are limited studies on this topic. A recent study reported that added NH_4^+ is indeed consumed by DDAs, but they exhibited similar growth to those in diazotrophic conditions [34]. According to observations in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre [35] and Mediterranean Sea [36], lower N can lead to more symbiotic diatoms. Symbiosis compensates for the lack of nutrients by offering nutrient exchange, which leads to a higher growth rate [6]. In our study, by quantifying the effect of NH_4^+ availability on nutrient exchange and metabolism, we offer a metabolic-level implication for why DDAs are abundant in the oligotrophic ocean.

To predict how environmental NH_4^+ influences the inner element (C and N) flux and metabolic reaction rate, we built a mechanistic model of DDAs (Figure 1) based on a previous *Hemiaulus* (diatoms)–*Richelia* (diazotrophs) model [6] and included NH_4^+ as an extracellular nutrient source. The model assumes that the system is in a steady state, with element supply equal to consumption. The C supply includes photosynthesis in diatoms and vegetative cells, and the N supply includes N_2 fixation in heterocysts and NH_4^+ uptake. C consumption includes biosynthesis and C usage in N_2 fixation, and N consumption includes biosynthesis. We mainly focused on the C and N transfer and metabolism rates. We also considered other factors, such as the number of trichomes, growth rate, and light intensity, to make the model closer to reality. Our model provides quantitative answers to the following questions: (1) How does the NH_4^+ concentration influence nutrient exchange between the host diatom and trichomes? (2) How does the NH_4^+ concentration influence cell metabolism, such as photosynthesis and N_2 fixation? (3) How do the NH_4^+ concentration and other factors influence nutrient exchange and metabolism together? (4) How does the NH_4^+ concentration alter the elemental fate?

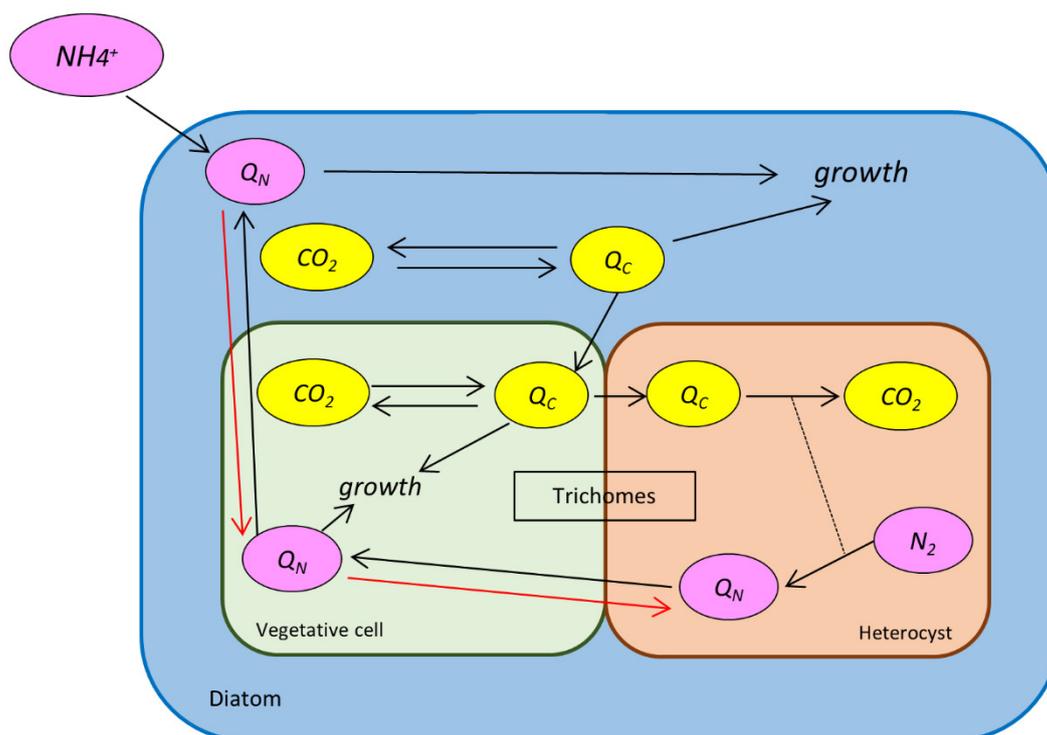


Figure 1. Schematic of the cell flux model of the diatom–diazotroph association (DDA). Blue frame and space: the host diatom. Green space and green frame: vegetative cell in trichomes. Brown frame and light-brown space: heterocyst in trichomes. Yellow ovals: C pools. Pink ovals: N pools. Black arrows: direction of the element flux when the NH_4^+ supply is not enough for N consumption in the host diatom cell. Red arrows: direction change when the NH_4^+ supply is higher than the diatom consumption. Dashed line: coupling between the processes.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. NH_4^+ Uptake Influences Nutrient Exchange and Metabolism

NH_4^+ is an essential environmental N species in the water. We considered it as another N supply separate from N_2 fixation. We resolved the relationship between the NH_4^+ concentration and the uptake rate based on previous data from diatom studies (Equation (4), [28,37]). Here, we fixed the growth rate at 0.51 d^{-1} , the average value observed [38] and used in a previous model [6]. The model predicted the steady-state metabolism, where the supply of fixed C and N is used without any waste to maximize growth. Similar assumptions were made in previous studies [39–44]. Additionally, a recent culture study of DDAs shows that most of the provided NH_4^+ was consumed [34], supporting the assumption.

The model showed that more C can be transferred in an environment with a lower NH_4^+ concentration (Figure 2a). The amount of transferred C increased from 11.1% to 22.7% when the NH_4^+ concentration decreased from 0.04 mmol m^{-3} to 0 mmol m^{-3} (Figure 2a). The net C transfer is consistent from the diatom to trichome. On the other hand, as the NH_4^+ concentration increases, less N is transferred from the diatoms to the trichomes (Figure 2b). When the NH_4^+ concentration is high enough to support, or even exceeds, the consumption requirement by the diatom, the transfer direction changes, bringing excess NH_4^+ from the diatoms to the trichomes. When NH_4^+ uptake is equal to the consumption of N by the diatom, there is no transfer (Figure 2b, dash line). We name this value as the no transfer NH_4^+ concentration, which we calculated (Equation (S4)) to be $0.034 \text{ mmol m}^{-3}$ for the assumed growth rate.

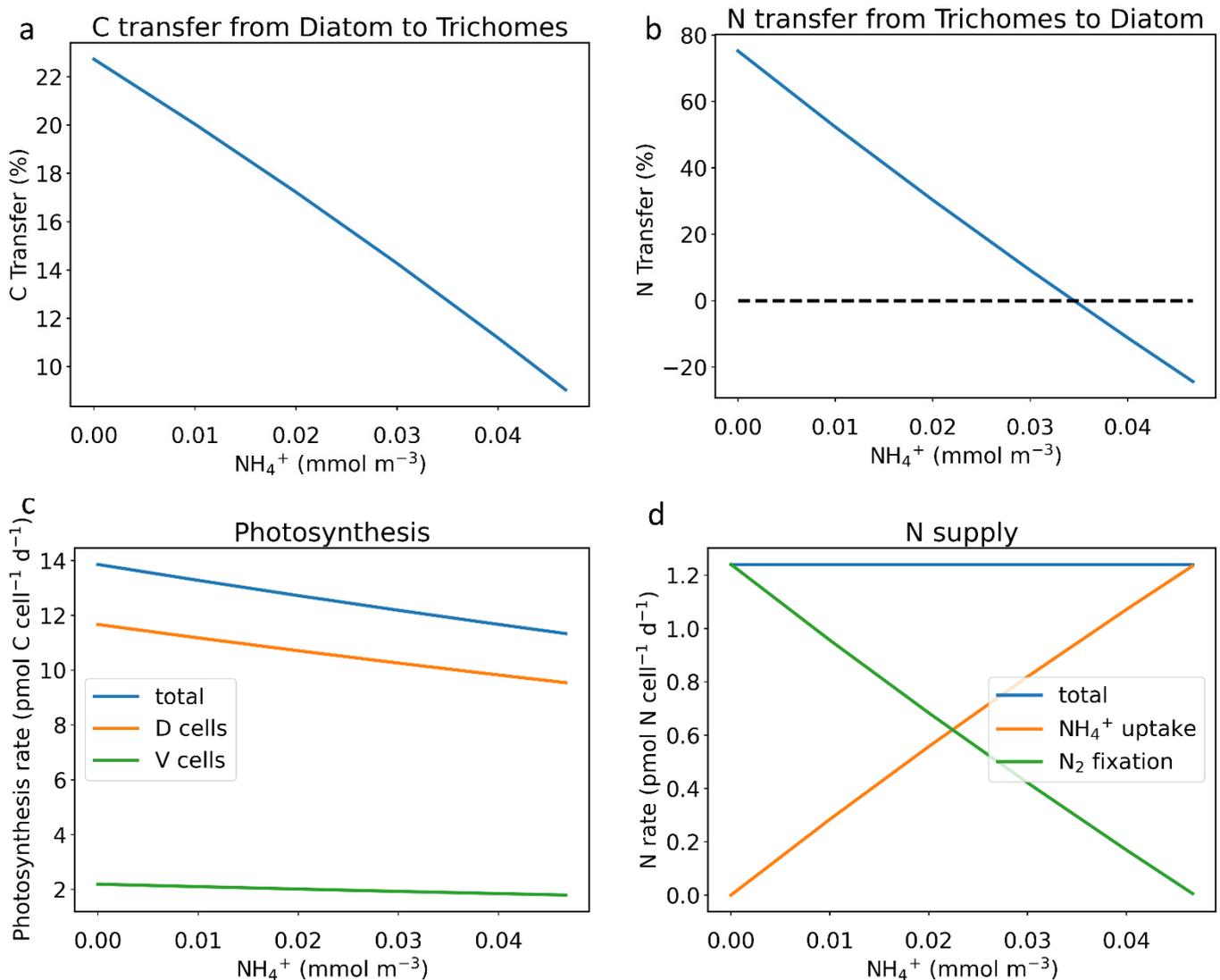


Figure 2. Simulated influences of NH_4^+ concentration on element supply and transfer. (a) Effect of NH_4^+ on C transfer. (b) Effect of NH_4^+ on N transfer; the dashed line is the no transfer NH_4^+ concentration. (c) Effect of NH_4^+ on photosynthesis; the blue line is the photosynthesis change in DDA, orange line is the photosynthesis change in the host diatom, and green line is the photosynthesis change in the vegetative cell. (d) Effect of NH_4^+ on N supply the blue line is the total N supply change, orange line is the NH_4^+ uptake change, and green line is the N_2 fixation change. For (a,b), the unit percentage means how much C and N transfer account for the total C and N consumption (or supply).

The model shows that the NH_4^+ concentration also influenced metabolic processes, including photosynthesis and N_2 fixation. Our results show that, with a fixed growth rate, photosynthesis and C transfer are higher with lower NH_4^+ concentrations. (Figure 2a,c). The model analysis suggests that these occur because, with less NH_4^+ , a higher N_2 fixation rate is necessary to support the N supply (Figure 2d), which requires more fixed C to provide both energy and electrons. This allows more N to be transferred to the diatoms to compensate for the lack of N. On the other hand, when NH_4^+ uptake can supply all the N required for consumption in the entire DDA system, there is no N_2 fixation.

Moreover, our results show that DDAs in low-nutrient areas need more nutrient (C and N) transfer to maintain a fixed growth rate, which corresponds to studies reporting the nutrient transfer and higher N_2 fixation rate in DDAs [4,6,38]. This nutrient transfer, facilitated by N_2 fixation, may be the reason why symbiosis occurs in low-nutrient habitats.

Compared with non-symbiotic diazotrophs (nutrients are all from uptake and themselves), DDAs with nutrient transfer can maintain a faster growth rate in the oligotrophic ocean and even form seasonal blooms in some ocean areas [2,4,11,38].

2.2. Effect of Growth Rate

In the above simulations, we fixed the growth rate at an average value. However, in nature, growth rates vary. The growth rate determines how much C and N DDAs require for biosynthesis. Thus, it influences nutrient consumption, altering nutrient exchange and nutrient-related metabolism. We set the value of the growth rate within a reasonable range (0.3 d^{-1} – 0.8 d^{-1}) [6,45–47], kept the same range for NH_4^+ , and ran the simulation (Figure 3). Our results show that, with a higher growth rate and lower NH_4^+ concentration, more C and N are transferred (Figure 3a,b). To support more consumption under higher-growth-rate conditions, photosynthesis in diatoms (Figure 3c) and N_2 fixation also increased (Figure 3d).

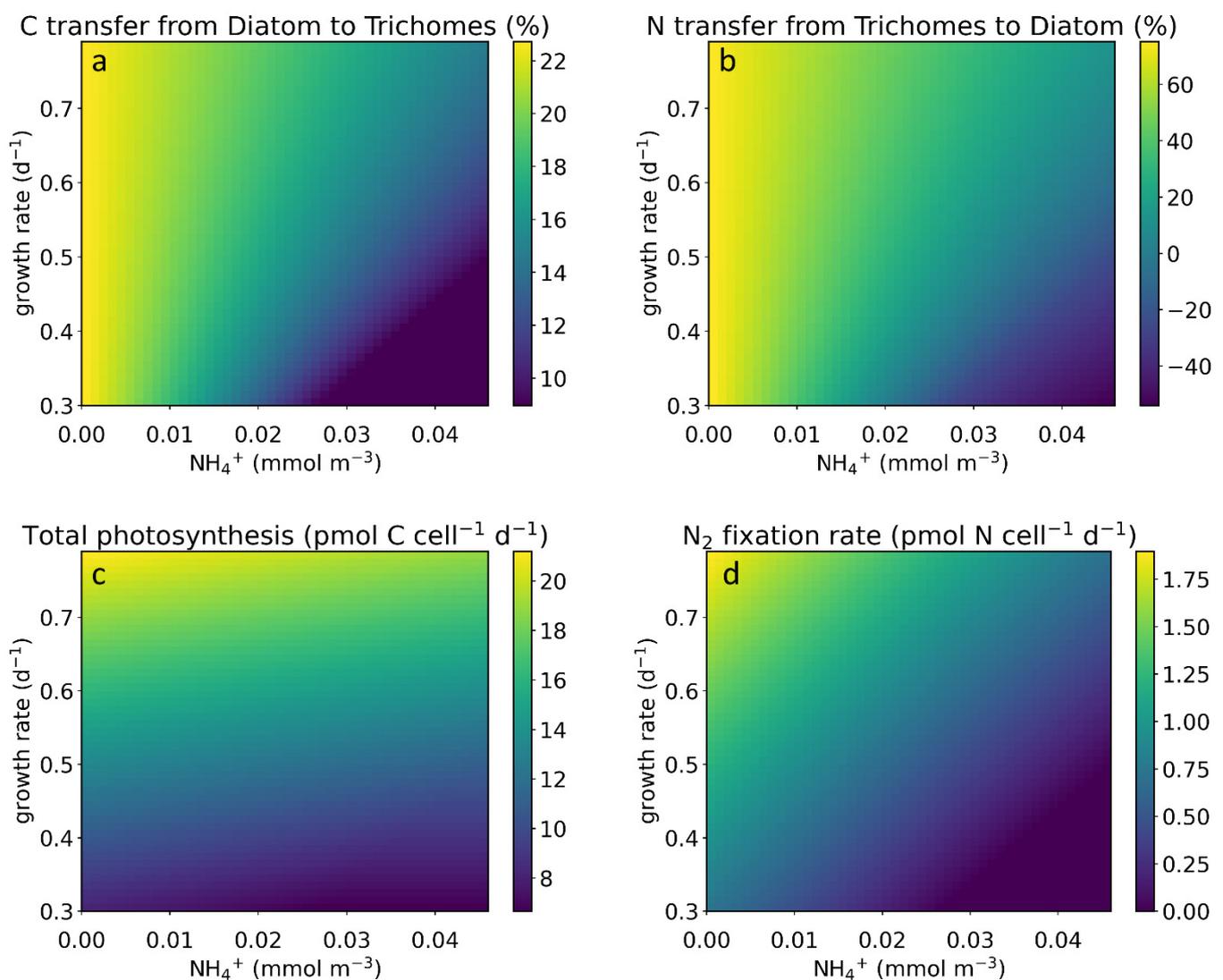


Figure 3. Simulated influence of the NH_4^+ concentration and growth rate on element transfer and supply. (a) Effect of NH_4^+ and growth rate on C transfer. (b) Effect of NH_4^+ and growth rate on N transfer. (c) Effect of NH_4^+ and growth rate on photosynthesis. (d) Effect of NH_4^+ and growth rate on N_2 fixation. For (a,b), the unit percentage means how much C and N transfer account for the total C and N consumption (or supply).

This result is consistent with the result from the DDA-CFM model [6], which showed significant C flux from the diatom enhanced by both the growth and N₂ fixation rates. According to the results, we can also suggest that, at a certain nutrient level, a higher growth rate frequently corresponds to stronger nutrient exchange (Figure 3a,b), which can be achieved by symbiosis. This metabolic connection can explain why non-symbiotic diazotrophs grow at only approximately 0.3 d⁻¹ [6,46–48], whereas symbiotic diazotrophs can grow at a rate as high as 0.87 d⁻¹ under diazotrophic conditions [6,45].

The model results show that the growth rate and NH₄⁺ concentration can also have some interactions. Specifically, the growth rate can weaken the influence of the NH₄⁺ concentration: C and N transfers decrease slower with the NH₄⁺ gradient under higher growth rates (Figure 3a,b); additionally, the positive effect of the growth rate on the metabolism rate (Figure 3c,d) is opposite to the negative effect of the NH₄⁺ concentration. The opposite effect of the growth rate and NH₄⁺ concentration results from the different roles they play. NH₄⁺ is nutrient supply, while growth is nutrient consumption; thus, these variables appear on opposite sides of the balance Equation (3).

2.3. Element Fate and Flux in Different NH₄⁺ Concentrations and Growth Rates

Here, we compared the C and N fates under different NH₄⁺ concentrations (0.01 mmol m⁻³, 0.036 mmol m⁻³) and growth rates (0.4 d⁻¹, 0.8 d⁻¹) to understand how varying environmental and cellular conditions impact symbiosis. In a lower-NH₄⁺ environment (Figure 4a,b), the model shows that higher portions of C and N are transferred from diatom to trichomes (Figure 4a (19%), b (21%) compared with Figure 4c (9%), d (16%), Figure 5a). Additionally, under lower-NH₄⁺ environments, C transfer provides more trichomes with C to use compared with C generated by photosynthesis within the trichomes (Figure 4a,b). In a lower-NH₄⁺ environment, N₂ fixation in heterocysts is the main N source (Figure 4a,b, 71% and 85%). To achieve a higher growth rate (0.8 compared with 0.4), the model suggests that more N₂ fixation (14% higher compared with lower-growth-rate conditions, Figure 4a,b and Figure 5b) is needed. C and N transfer are also higher (C: 2% higher, N: 14% higher, Figure 4a,b and Figure 5a) to support the higher growth rate. These results are consistent with the above simulation, which indicates that a lower NH₄⁺ environment has a higher nutrient exchange and more N₂ fixation. They also suggest that, in oligotrophic areas, nutrient exchange between cells and N₂ fixation in trichomes can make the DDA an efficient system to support a higher growth rate.

In a higher-NH₄⁺ environment (Figure 4c,d), the model shows that if NH₄⁺ is high enough to support all of the needs (e.g., when the growth rate is 0.4 d⁻¹ and NH₄⁺ concentration is 0.036 mmol m⁻³, Figures 4c and 5b), N₂ fixation is unnecessary. However, if it needs to achieve a higher growth rate (Figure 4d), the model indicates that N₂ fixation and element transfer still need to increase. Compared with a lower-NH₄⁺ environment (Figure 4c,d compared with Figure 4a,b and Figure 5), the increasing portion of N₂ fixation and element transfer is larger with the same increasing growth rate (0.4 d⁻¹ to 0.8 d⁻¹) under the higher-NH₄⁺ environment. In the low-NH₄⁺ environment, the model shows that N₂ fixation increases by 14% (Figure 4a,b and Figure 5b), while in the high-NH₄⁺ environment, it increases by 50% (Figure 4c,d and Figure 5b). For C transfer, it increases by 2% in the low NH₄⁺ environment (Figure 4a,b and Figure 5a), while in the high-NH₄⁺ environment, it increases by 7% (Figure 4c,d and Figure 5a). This result is similar to that in Figure 3, which shows that nutrient exchanges and N₂ fixation increase faster in a higher-NH₄⁺ environment (Figure 3a,b). These results suggest that, in a higher-NH₄⁺ environment, DDAs need more nutrient exchange and N₂ fixation to reach a higher growth rate. Thus, we may assume that the advantage of symbiosis is less obvious in nutrient-rich oceans than in oligotrophic oceans, because nutrient exchange within symbiosis can be more useful when nutrients are scarce. Furthermore, the results are consistent with previous research that, in some nutrient-rich areas, non-symbiotic diatoms are more abundant [5].

2.4. Effect of Other Factors: Trichome Number and Light Intensity

In natural conditions, other factors, such as DDA characteristics (number of trichomes) and environmental factors (e.g., light intensity), also vary [4]. Here, we considered the number of trichomes (1 to 5, [4,6,49,50]) and light intensity in the model.

2.4.1. Trichome Number

Here, we simulated the effect of different trichome numbers (1 to 5) on element transfer and metabolism (Figure S4). Because an increasing number of trichomes increases their C and N consumption, more C is transferred from diatoms to trichomes (Figure S4a) to support the need for trichomes, and less N is transferred to the diatom (Figure S4b), since trichomes consume more. The model suggests that, to support this high consumption, the photosynthesis rate (for the whole DDA, diatom, and trichomes) and N₂ fixation rate also increase with an increasing number of trichomes (Figure S4c–f).

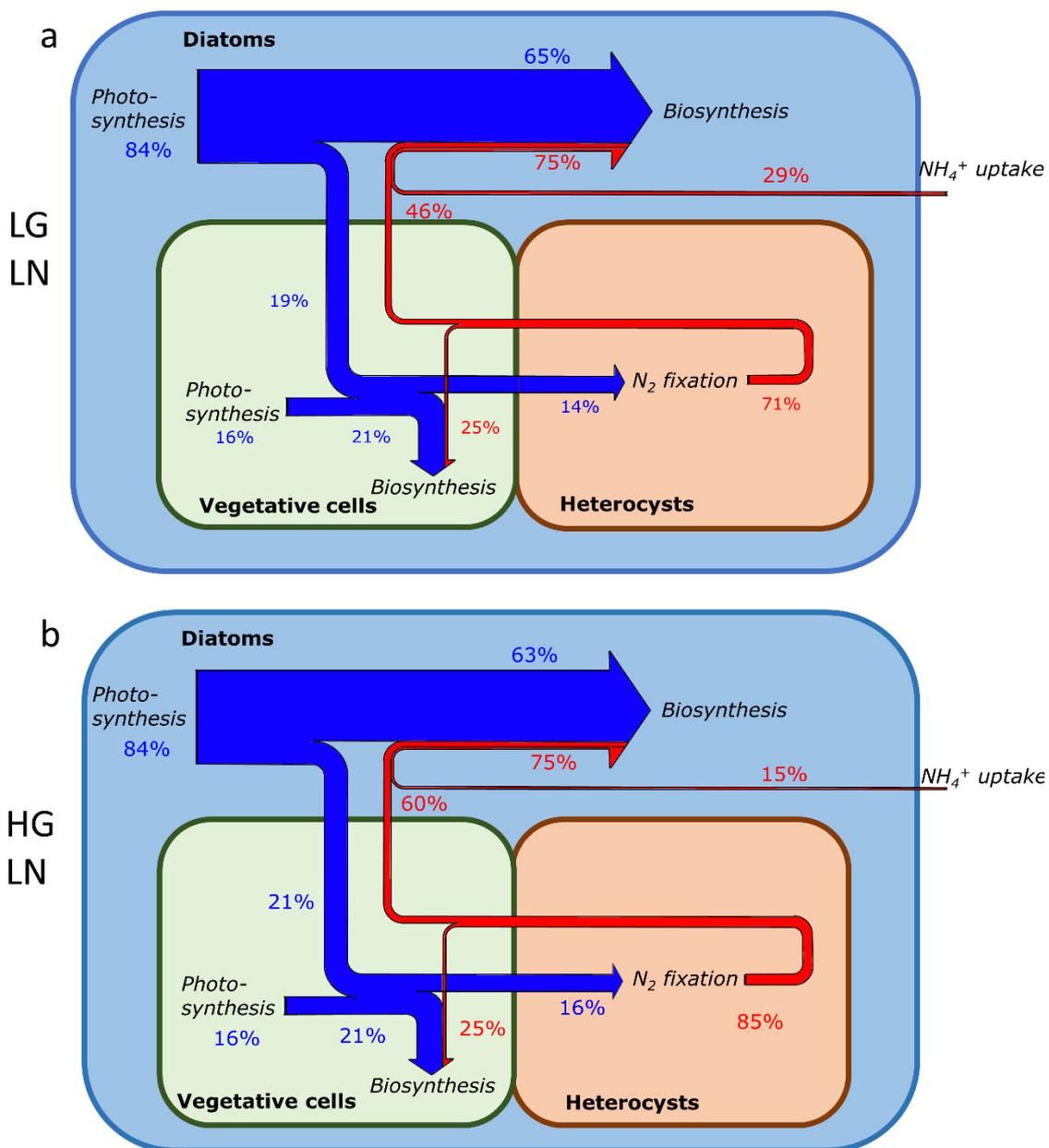


Figure 4. Cont.

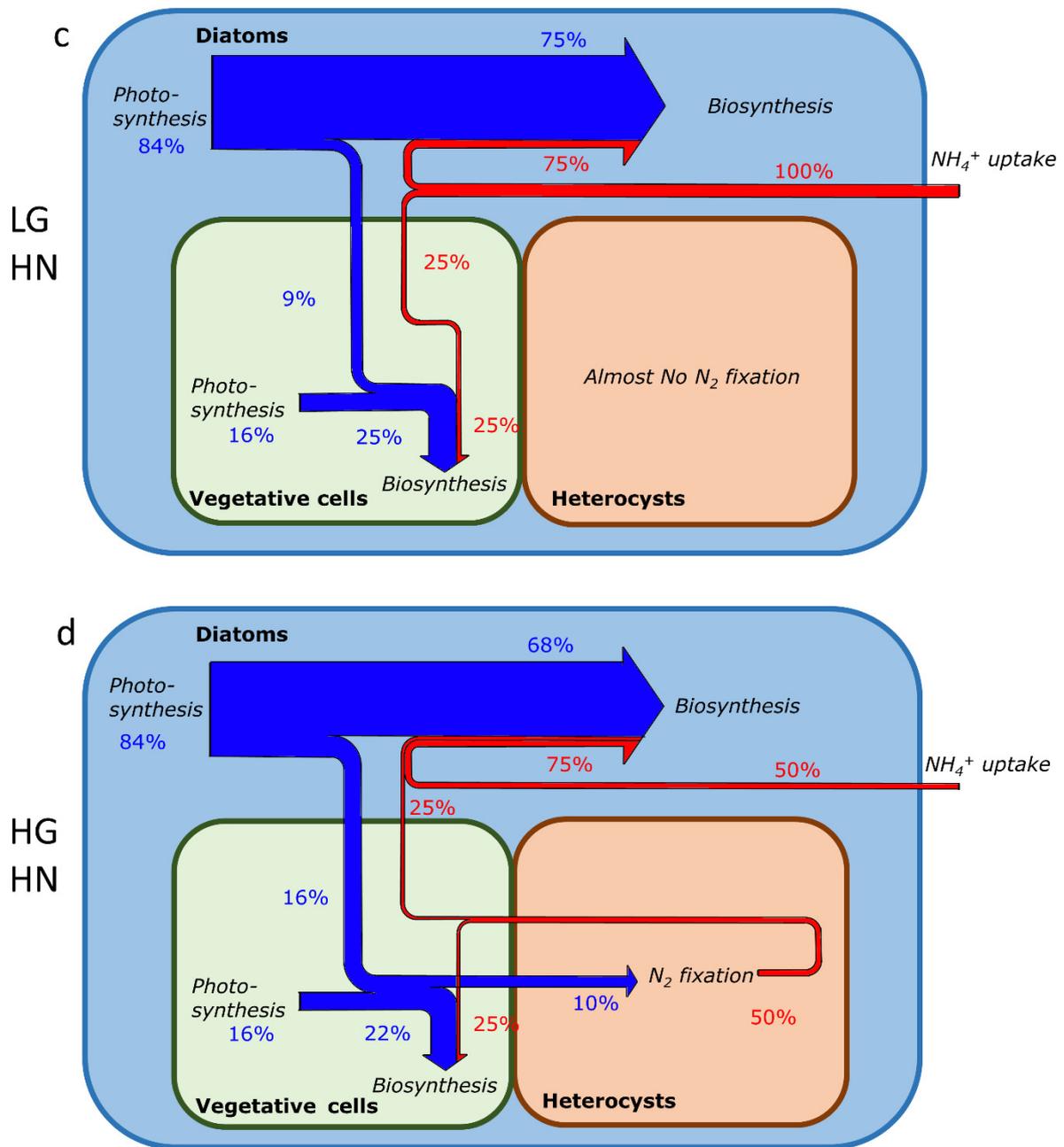


Figure 4. Elemental flux change with growth rate and NH_4^+ concentration. (a) Elemental flux under low-growth-rate and low- NH_4^+ -concentration (LGLN) conditions. (b) Elemental flux under high-growth-rate and low- NH_4^+ -concentration (HGLN) conditions. (c) Elemental flux under low-growth-rate and high- NH_4^+ -concentration (LGHN) conditions. (d) Elemental flux under high-growth-rate and high- NH_4^+ -concentration (HGHN) conditions. The 100% for this percentage value is the total C (blue arrows) and N (red arrows) supply (or consumption).

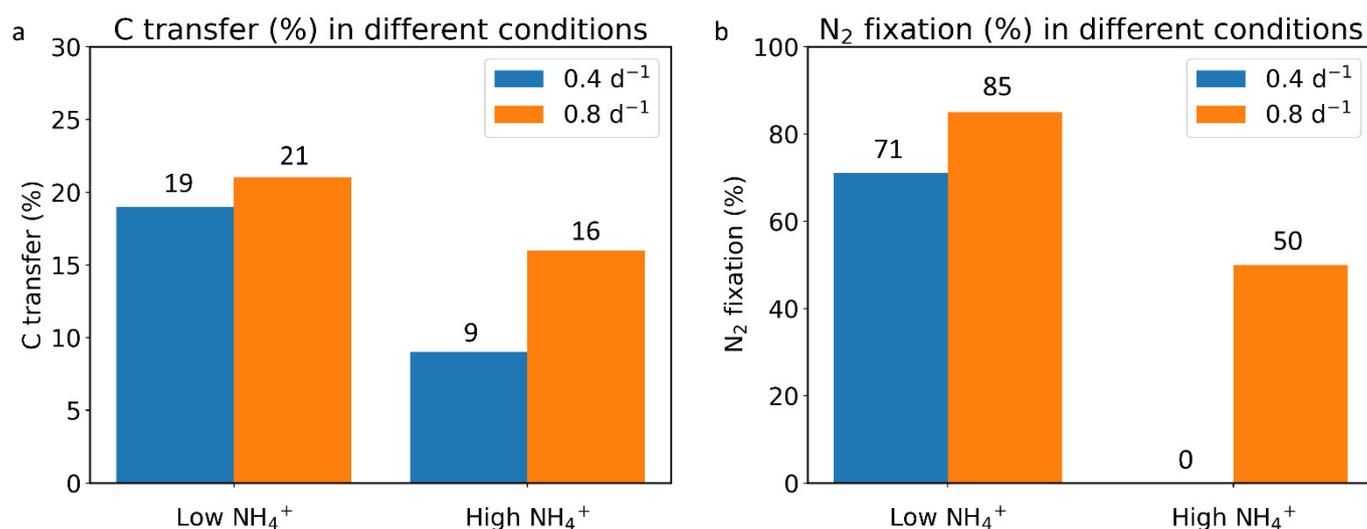


Figure 5. C transfer and N₂ fixation under different conditions: low NH₄⁺, high NH₄⁺, low growth rate (blue bars), and high growth rate (orange bars). (a) C transfer. (b) N₂ fixation.

As for the changing trend with NH₄⁺ concentration, with more trichomes, nutrient exchange changed more slowly (Figure S4a,b). From the perspective of nutrient transfer, diatoms with fewer trichomes are more sensitive to the change in the environmental N concentration, since more trichomes have higher rates of N₂ fixation (Figure S4d) to compensate for the lack of N in the DDA system. The weakened effect of the trichome number on NH₄⁺ is similar to the effect of growth rate (Figure 3), since they both increase the consumption of elements.

2.4.2. Light Intensity

As one of the most critical limiting factors in the ocean, light is the energy source of photosynthesis [51,52]. Since previous studies reported that light influences diatoms [53,54] and cyanobacteria [55–57], here, we also tested the effect of light intensity on the symbiotic metabolisms and nutrient exchanges in DDAs. The model result shows that, when light intensity increases, the photosynthesis rate and C transfer also increase (Figure S2a,c,e,f). However, the N pathways are not influenced by light intensity (Figure S2b,d). In a previous study, researchers also reported no significant relationship between the vertical distribution of cyanobionts (cyanobacteria symbionts) and light levels [5], which can be due to the small effect on N pathways and exchanges. However, in some other studies, opposite to our results, N₂ fixation can be connected to the light intensity, since it can be fueled by C fixation relating to the light [11,58].

2.5. Comparison to Previous Studies and Implications for Future Work

In the previous DDA model [6], N₂ fixation was considered as the only N supply. However, in the real world, various species of nutrients can also influence the association between DDA cells and nutrient-related metabolism. Our study included one of the extracellular nutrient sources and discussed its influence. In the future, we can include more nutrient sources in the DDA model. For example, nitrate is another common nutrient species in the ocean biochemical cycle and is another N source [59–62]. Including more nutrient species can make the model results closer to the natural condition and easier to be compared with real data. This model also predicts that lower NH₄⁺ increases element transfer and enhances metabolic processes with a fixed growth rate. Based on this, we can offer a possible explanation for the reason that cell connections with nutrient exchange are common in low-nutrient habitats. These model-based predictions and hypotheses can be further tested with additional in situ measurements and observational data. Our study can

also be complemented by omics analysis [63,64] to further explore how metabolism and nutrient exchanges may change under various NH_4^+ concentrations.

3. Conclusions

By including NH_4^+ as another N source in the DDA model, according to our simulation results, an increased NH_4^+ concentration may lower the required level of N_2 fixation and photosynthesis and decrease C and N exchange under a fixed growth rate. With a higher growth rate, nutrient exchange and metabolism increase. A low- NH_4^+ environment uses more C and N in nutrient exchange and more N_2 fixation to support a higher growth rate, which means that a stronger connection (higher nutrient exchange) between the cells in DDAs is necessary. With an increased number of trichomes, C transfer increases while N transfer decreases, and metabolism increases. With increased light intensity, C transfer and photosynthesis increase while N transfer and N_2 fixation do not change. Increasing DDA consumption, such as the growth rate and trichome number, can weaken the effect of NH_4^+ because more N_2 can be fixed by trichomes. Our study shows a strong effect of NH_4^+ on nutrient exchange and metabolic processes within DDAs. These results can better our understanding of the DDA nutrient flux in oligotrophic oceans and highlight the importance of environmental NH_4^+ .

4. Materials and Methods

The DDA model is based on the following equations representing the balance of element supply and consumption. To obtain these equations, we assumed that each C and N pool is in a steady state. We considered processes including photosynthesis, N_2 fixation, biosynthesis, and NH_4^+ uptake in our model. The following equations are based on equations from a previous study [6]. We include additional information regarding the derivation of equations and parameter definitions (Table S1) in the Supplementary Material.

4.1. C Balance

Under the steady state, we obtained the balance of C metabolism (Equation (1)) (See Supplementary Text for its derivation). The equation describes the balance between C supply and consumption. Here, the C supply includes two sources, C fixation (photosynthesis) in the diatom and in vegetative cells (F_{pho}^D and F_{pho}^V , unit $\text{pmol C d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$, mean the daily rate of per-DDA photosynthesis by diatoms and vegetative cells, respectively). C fixation in vegetative cells has been demonstrated in a previous study [11]. Consumption includes growth ($\mu (Q_C^V + Q_C^H + Q_C^D)$, this term means the C usage in growth, unit $\text{pmol C d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$), respiration ($\mu (Q_C^V + Q_C^H + Q_C^D) E$, this term means the C usage in respiration, unit $\text{pmol C d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$), and N_2 fixation ($F_C^{N_2fix}$, unit $\text{pmol C d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$), where μ is the growth rate (d^{-1}), and the host diatom, vegetative cells, and heterocysts grow at the same rate, according to previous experimental studies on genomic analysis [65,66]. Q_C^V , Q_C^H , and Q_C^D are the cellular C quotas of vegetative cells, heterocysts, and diatom per DDA, which were calculated from experimental data of the cell volumes [4] and the C to volume relationship [67], and E is the ratio of respiration to biosynthesis [6,68]. Equation (2) is used to calculate the C usage in N_2 fixation ($F_C^{N_2fix}$, unit $\text{pmol C d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$), which equals the N usage in N_2 fixation ($F_N^{N_2fix}$, unit $\text{pmol N d}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$) multiplied by the C to N cost ratio in N_2 fixation ($F_{C:N}^{N_2fix}$, unit $\text{pmol C pmol N}^{-1}$).

$$F_{pho}^D + F_{pho}^V = \mu (Q_C^V + Q_C^H + Q_C^D) (1 + E) + F_C^{N_2fix} \quad (1)$$

$$F_C^{N_2fix} = F_N^{N_2fix} \times F_{C:N}^{N_2fix} \quad (2)$$

4.2. N Balance

Similarly, under the steady state, we obtained Equation (3), which describes the balance between N supply and consumption (see the Supplementary Text for the derivation). Here,

the N supply includes two sources, N₂ fixation by heterocysts ($F_N^{N_2fix}$, unit pmol N d⁻¹ cell⁻¹), and NH₄⁺ uptake by diatoms ($V_{NH_4^+}$, unit pmol N d⁻¹ cell⁻¹). All this N is used in growth ($\mu(Q_N^V + Q_N^H + Q_N^D)$), where μ is the growth rate (d⁻¹), and Q_N^V , Q_N^H , and Q_N^D are the cellular N quotas (unit mol N cell⁻¹) of the vegetative cells, heterocysts, and diatoms per DDA. We calculated the NH₄⁺ uptake by using Equation (4) to make the NH₄⁺ uptake a function of the NH₄⁺ concentration ($[NH_4^+]$, unit mmol m⁻³). The NH₄⁺ uptake rate ($V_{NH_4^+}$, unit pmol N d⁻¹ cell⁻¹) can be faster with higher environmental NH₄⁺, but it will come to saturation when reaching a maximum ($V_{NH_4^+}^{max}$, unit pmol N d⁻¹ cell⁻¹), so we used a function resembling Monod Kinetics. Here, K_m is the half-saturation concentration (unit mmol m⁻³).

$$F_N^{N_2fix} + V_{NH_4^+} = \mu(Q_N^V + Q_N^H + Q_N^D) \quad (3)$$

$$V_{NH_4^+} = V_{NH_4^+}^{max} \frac{[NH_4^+]}{[NH_4^+] + K_m} \quad (4)$$

4.3. Values and Calculations

In Equation (1), we calculated the Q_C^V , Q_C^H , and Q_C^D values following a method reported in a previous paper [6]. We used typical cell volumes (3493.5 μm^3 for a diatom, 18.8 μm^3 for a vegetative cell, and 61.0 μm^3 for a heterocyst) [4], reported relationships between cell volume and C quotas [67], and typical cell ratios (diatom to trichomes: 1:2 and vegetative cells to heterocysts: 4:1, from observations on *Hemiaulus* and *Richelia* relationships) [4,14,50,69] to calculate them. Then, based on the Redfield ratio [70] (an empirical value that was used in the previous DDA study [4], and C:N is considered as 6.6:1), we converted the C quotas to N quotas (Q_N^V , Q_N^H , and Q_N^D). The scale of the growth rate (0.3–0.8 d⁻¹, consistent with the previous experimental data [45–48,69,71,72]), and the value of E (0.38) were also obtained from the previous paper [6]. To test the sensitivity of the E value, we conducted a sensitivity test by doubling the E value in the vegetative cells (Figures S6–S9). The results are similar to those in the main text with the default E values, thus suggesting that our overall conclusion is robust.

$F_C^{N_2fix}$ in Equation (1) was calculated based on Equations (2)–(4). We obtained $V_{NH_4^+}^{max}$ (1.16 pmol N C⁻¹ d⁻¹, multiplied by cellular C quotas to convert to pmol N cell⁻¹ d⁻¹) and K_m (0.483 mmol m⁻³) from a previous NH₄⁺ uptake modeling paper [28]; these values are within a reasonable range [73]. Then, $F_N^{N_2fix}$ can be solved by Equation (3) and $F_C^{N_2fix}$ can be solved by Equation (2).

Since we already have all of the values on the right side of the Equation (1), the value of $F_{pho}^D + F_{pho}^V$ can be solved. Then, we assumed that the rates of photosynthesis are proportional to the cellular N quotas and obtained the F_{pho}^D and F_{pho}^V values. When we considered light intensity as another influencing factor, we did not use this method to calculate photosynthesis. We used Equation (S13) in the Supplementary Material to consider photosynthesis as a function of light intensity. We also conducted a sensitivity test by lowering 50% of the vegetative cell's maximum photosynthesis rate (Figure S3). The result was similar to the results mentioned in Section 2.4.2 and Figure S2, suggesting that the conclusion regarding light intensity is robust.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/cells11182911/s1>, Supplementary text: No transfer NH₄⁺ equation (Equations (S1)–(S4)); Derivation of the key equations (Equations (S5)–(S12), including a citation [6]); Light intensity (Equation (S13) including a citation [74]). Figures: Figure S1: Schematic of the DDA model with flux notations. Figure S2: Simulated influence of the NH₄⁺ concentration and light intensity on element transfer and supply. Figure S3: Sensitivity test: Simulated influence of the NH₄⁺ concentration and light intensity on element transfer and supply (50% maximum photosynthesis for vegetative cells). Figure S4: Simulated influences of the NH₄⁺ concentration and trichome number on element transfer and supply. Figure S5: Simulated influences of the NH₄⁺ concentration and growth

rate on photosynthesis and the no transfer NH_4^+ concentration. Figures S6–S9: Sensitivity tests with different E values in different cells. Table S1: Parameters, units, and definitions for all equations.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, M.G. and K.I.; Data curation, M.G.; Formal analysis, M.G.; Funding acquisition, K.I.; Investigation, M.G.; Methodology, M.G. and K.I.; Project administration, K.I.; Resources, M.G. and K.I.; Software, M.G.; Supervision, G.A. and K.I.; Validation, M.G.; Visualization, M.G., G.A. and K.I.; Writing—original draft, M.G.; Writing—review & editing, M.G., G.A. and K.I. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (subaward SUB0000525 from Princeton to KI) and the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council (AWD10732).

Data Availability Statement: Our model is freely available from Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6868690> (accessed on 1 July 2022).

Acknowledgments: We thank Tatiana A. Rynearson for useful discussion.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- Villareal, T.A. Widespread Occurrence of the *Hemiaulus-cyanobacterial* Symbiosis in the Southwest North Atlantic Ocean. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* **1994**, *54*, 7.
- Villareal, T.A.; Brown, C.G.; Brzezinski, M.A.; Krause, J.W.; Wilson, C. Summer Diatom Blooms in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre: 2008–2009. *PLoS ONE* **2012**, *7*, 2008–2009. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
- Villareal, T.A. Marine Nitrogen-Fixing Diatom-Cyanobacteria Symbioses. In *Marine Pelagic Cyanobacteria: Trichodesmium and Other Diazotrophs*; Carpenter, E.J., Capone, D.G., Rueter, J.G., Eds.; Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1992; pp. 163–175. ISBN 978-94-015-7977-3.
- Foster, R.A.; Kuypers, M.M.M.; Vagner, T.; Paerl, R.W.; Musat, N.; Zehr, J.P. Nitrogen Fixation and Transfer in Open Ocean Diatom-Cyanobacterial Symbioses. *ISME J.* **2011**, *5*, 1484–1493. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
- Tuo, S.H.; Lee Chen, Y.L.; Chen, H.Y. Low Nitrate Availability Promotes Diatom Diazotroph Associations in the Marginal Seas of the Western Pacific. *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.* **2014**, *73*, 135–150. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Inomura, K.; Follett, C.L.; Masuda, T.; Eichner, M.; Prášil, O.; Deutsch, C. Carbon Transfer from the Host Diatom Enables Fast Growth and High Rate of N_2 Fixation by Symbiotic Heterocystous Cyanobacteria. *Plants* **2020**, *9*, 192. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Subramaniam, A.; Yager, P.L.; Carpenter, E.J.; Mahaffey, C.; Björkman, K.; Cooley, S.; Kustka, A.B.; Montoya, J.P.; Sañudo-Wilhelmy, S.A.; Shipe, R.; et al. Amazon River Enhances Diazotrophy and Carbon Sequestration in the Tropical North Atlantic Ocean. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2008**, *105*, 10460–10465. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Carpenter, E.J. Marine Cyanobacterial Symbioses. *Biol. Environ.* **2002**, *102*, 15–18. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Sundström, B.G. Observations on *Rhizosolenia Clevei* Ostefeld (Bacillariophyceae) and *Richelia intracellularis* Schmidt (Cyanophyceae). *Bot. Mar.* **1984**, *27*, 345–356. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Foster, R.A.; Zehr, J.P. Characterization of Diatom-Cyanobacteria Symbioses on the Basis of *NifH*, *HetR* and 16S rRNA Sequences. *Environ. Microbiol.* **2006**, *8*, 1913–1925. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Foster, R.A.; Tienken, D.; Littmann, S.; Whitehouse, M.J.; Kuypers, M.M.M.; White, A.E. The Rate and Fate of N_2 and C Fixation by Marine Diatom-Diazotroph Symbioses. *ISME J.* **2022**, *16*, 477–487. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Foster, R.A.; Subramaniam, A.; Zehr, J.P. Distribution and Activity of Diazotrophs in the Eastern Equatorial Atlantic. *Environ. Microbiol.* **2009**, *11*, 741–750. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
- Caputo, A.; Stenegren, M.; Pernice, M.C.; Foster, R.A. A Short Comparison of Two Marine Planktonic Diazotrophic Symbioses Highlights an Un-Quantified Disparity. *Front. Mar. Sci.* **2018**, *5*, 2. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Hilton, J.A.; Foster, R.A.; James Tripp, H.; Carter, B.J.; Zehr, J.P.; Villareal, T.A. Genomic Deletions Disrupt Nitrogen Metabolism Pathways of a Cyanobacterial Diatom Symbiont. *Nat. Commun.* **2013**, *4*, 1767. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
- Martínez-Pérez, C.; Mohr, W.; Löscher, C.R.; Dekaezemacker, J.; Littmann, S.; Yilmaz, P.; Lehnen, N.; Fuchs, B.M.; Lavik, G.; Schmitz, R.A.; et al. The Small Unicellular Diazotrophic Symbiont, UCYN-A, Is a Key Player in the Marine Nitrogen Cycle. *Nat. Microbiol.* **2016**, *1*, 16163. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Sessitsch, A.; Howieson, J.G.; Perret, X.; Antoun, H.; Martínez-Romero, E. Advances in Rhizobium Research. *CRC. Crit. Rev. Plant. Sci.* **2002**, *21*, 323–378. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Inomura, K.; Deutsch, C.; Masuda, T.; Prášil, O.; Follows, M.J. Quantitative Models of Nitrogen-Fixing Organisms. *Comput. Struct. Biotechnol. J.* **2020**, *18*, 3905–3924. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Peters, G.A.; Meeks, J.C. The *Azolla-Anabaena* Symbiosis: Basic Biology. *Annu. Rev. Plant. Physiol. Plant. Mol. Biol.* **1989**, *40*, 193–210. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Zehr, J.P. How Single Cells Work Together. *Science* **2015**, *349*, 1163–1164. [[CrossRef](#)]
- Villareal, T.A.; Adornato, L.; Wilson, C.; Schoenbaechler, C.A. Summer Blooms of Diatom-Diazotroph Assemblages and Surface Chlorophyll in the North Pacific Gyre: A Disconnect. *J. Geophys. Res. Ocean.* **2011**, *116*, C03001. [[CrossRef](#)]

21. Kitajima, S.; Furuya, K.; Hashihama, F.; Takeda, S.; Kanda, J. Latitudinal Distribution of Diazotrophs and Their Nitrogen Fixation in the Tropical and Subtropical Western North Pacific. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2009**, *54*, 537–547. [[CrossRef](#)]
22. Dore, J.E.; Letelier, R.M.; Church, M.J.; Lukas, R.; Karl, D.M. Summer Phytoplankton Blooms in the Oligotrophic North Pacific Subtropical Gyre: Historical Perspective and Recent Observations. *Prog. Oceanogr.* **2008**, *76*, 2–38. [[CrossRef](#)]
23. Carpenter, E.J.; Montoya, J.P.; Burns, J.; Mulholland, M.R.; Subramaniam, A.; Capone, D.G. Extensive Bloom of a N₂-Fixing Diatom/Cyanobacterial Association in the Tropical Atlantic Ocean. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **1999**, *185*, 273–283. [[CrossRef](#)]
24. Devassy, R.P.; El-Sherbiny, M.M.; Al-Sofyani, A.A.; Crosby, M.P.; Al-Aidaros, A.M. Seasonality and Latitudinal Variability in the Diatom-Cyanobacteria Symbiotic Relationships in the Coastal Waters of the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia. *Symbiosis* **2019**, *78*, 215–227. [[CrossRef](#)]
25. Stukel, M.R.; Coles, V.J.; Brooks, M.T.; Hood, R.R. Top-down, Bottom-up and Physical Controls on Diatom-Diazotroph Assemblage Growth in the Amazon River Plume. *Biogeosciences* **2014**, *1*, 3259–3278. [[CrossRef](#)]
26. Monteiro, F.M.; Follows, M.J.; Dutkiewicz, S. Distribution of Diverse Nitrogen Fixers in the Global Ocean. *Glob. Biogeochem. Cycles* **2010**, *24*, 1–16. [[CrossRef](#)]
27. Monteiro, F.M.; Dutkiewicz, S.; Follows, M.J. Biogeographical Controls on the Marine Nitrogen Fixers. *Glob. Biogeochem. Cycles* **2011**, *25*, 1–8. [[CrossRef](#)]
28. Sunda, W.G.; Shertzer, K.W.; Hardison, D.R. Ammonium Uptake and Growth Models in Marine Diatoms: Monod and Droop Revisited. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **2009**, *386*, 29–41. [[CrossRef](#)]
29. Goldman, J.C.; McCarthy, J.J. Steady State Growth and Ammonium Uptake of a Fast-growing Marine Diatom. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **1978**, *23*, 695–703. [[CrossRef](#)]
30. Saros, J.E.; Fritz, S.C. Changes in the Growth Rates of Saline-Lake Diatoms in Response to Variation in Salinity, Brine Type and Nitrogen Form. *J. Plankton Res.* **2000**, *22*, 1071–1083. [[CrossRef](#)]
31. Popovich, C.A.; Spetter, C.V.; Marcovecchio, J.E.; Freije, R.H. Dissolved Nutrient Availability during Winter Diatom Bloom in a Turbid and Shallow Estuary (Bahía Blanca, Argentina). *J. Coast. Res.* **2008**, *24*, 95–102. [[CrossRef](#)]
32. Dekaezemacker, J.; Bonnet, S. Sensitivity of N₂ Fixation to Combined Nitrogen Forms (NO₃[−] and NH₄⁺) in Two Strains of the Marine Diazotroph *Crocospaera Watsonii* (Cyanobacteria). *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **2011**, *438*, 33–46. [[CrossRef](#)]
33. Boatman, T.G.; Davey, P.A.; Lawson, T.; Geider, R.J. The Physiological Cost of Diazotrophy for *Trichodesmium erythraeum* IMS101. *PLoS ONE* **2018**, *13*, e0195638. [[CrossRef](#)]
34. Pyle, A.E.; Johnson, A.M.; Villareal, T.A. Isolation, Growth, and Nitrogen Fixation Rates of the *Hemiaulus-Richelia* (Diatom-Cyanobacterium) Symbiosis in Culture. *PeerJ* **2020**, *8*, e10115. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
35. Vaillancourt, R.D.; Marra, J.; Seki, M.P.; Parsons, M.L.; Bidigare, R.R. Impact of a Cyclonic Eddy on Phytoplankton Community Structure and Photosynthetic Competency in the Subtropical North Pacific Ocean. *Deep. Res. Part. I Oceanogr. Res. Pap.* **2003**, *50*, 829–847. [[CrossRef](#)]
36. Zeev, E.B.; Yogev, T.; Man-Aharonovich, D.; Kress, N.; Herut, B.; Bèjà, O.; Berman-Frank, I. Seasonal Dynamics of the Endosymbiotic, Nitrogen-Fixing Cyanobacterium *Richelia intracellularis* in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *ISME J.* **2008**, *2*, 911–923. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
37. Sunda, W.G.; Hardison, D.R. Ammonium Uptake and Growth Limitation in Marine Phytoplankton. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2007**, *52*, 2496–2506. [[CrossRef](#)]
38. Follett, C.L.; Dutkiewicz, S.; Karl, D.M.; Inomura, K.; Follows, M.J. Seasonal Resource Conditions Favor a Summertime Increase in North Pacific Diatom-Diazotroph Associations. *ISME J.* **2018**, *12*, 1543–1557. [[CrossRef](#)]
39. Inomura, K.; Bragg, J.; Riemann, L.; Follows, M.J. A Quantitative Model of Nitrogen Fixation in the Presence of Ammonium. *PLoS ONE* **2018**, *13*, e0208282. [[CrossRef](#)]
40. Pahlow, M.; Oschlies, A. Chain Model of Phytoplankton P, N and Light Colimitation. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **2009**, *376*, 69–83. [[CrossRef](#)]
41. Pahlow, M.; Dietze, H.; Oschlies, A. Optimality-Based Model of Phytoplankton Growth and Diazotrophy. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **2013**, *489*, 1–16. [[CrossRef](#)]
42. Sarkar, D.; Landa, M.; Bandyopadhyay, A.; Pakrasi, H.B.; Zehr, J.P.; Maranas, C.D. Elucidation of Trophic Interactions in an Unusual Single-Cell Nitrogen-Fixing Symbiosis Using Metabolic Modeling. *PLoS Comput. Biol.* **2021**, *17*, e1008983. [[CrossRef](#)]
43. Malatinszky, D.; Steuer, R.; Jones, P.R. A Comprehensively Curated Genome-Scale Two-Cell Model for the Heterocystous Cyanobacterium *Anabaena* Sp. PCC 7120. *Plant. Physiol.* **2017**, *173*, 509–523. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
44. Gardner, J.J.; Boyle, N.R. The Use of Genome-Scale Metabolic Network Reconstruction to Predict Fluxes and Equilibrium Composition of N-Fixing versus C-Fixing Cells in a Diazotrophic Cyanobacterium, *Trichodesmium Erythraeum*. *BMC Syst. Biol.* **2017**, *11*, 4. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
45. Villareal, T.A. Laboratory Culture and Preliminary Characterization of the Nitrogen-Fixing Rhizosolenia-Richelia Symbiosis. *Mar. Ecol.* **1990**, *11*, 117–132. [[CrossRef](#)]
46. Mulholland, M.R.; Bernhardt, P.W. The Effect of Growth Rate, Phosphorus Concentration, and Temperature on N₂ Fixation, Carbon Fixation, and Nitrogen Release in Continuous Cultures of *Trichodesmium* IMS101. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2005**, *50*, 839–849. [[CrossRef](#)]

47. Hutchins, D.A.; Fu, F.X.; Zhang, Y.; Warner, M.E.; Feng, Y.; Portune, K.; Bernhardt, P.W.; Mulholland, M.R. CO₂ Control of *Trichodesmium* N₂ Fixation, Photosynthesis, Growth Rates, and Elemental Ratios: Implications for Past, Present, and Future Ocean Biogeochemistry. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2007**, *52*, 1293–1304. [[CrossRef](#)]
48. Fu, F.X.; Mulholland, M.R.; Garcia, N.S.; Beck, A.; Bernhardt, P.W.; Warner, M.E.; Sañudo-Wilhelmy, S.A.; Hutchins, D.A. Interactions between Changing pCO₂, N₂ Fixation, and Fe Limitation in the Marine Unicellular Cyanobacterium *Crocospaera*. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2008**, *53*, 2472–2484. [[CrossRef](#)]
49. Bale, N.J.; Villareal, T.A.; Hopmans, E.C.; Brussaard, C.P.D.; Besseling, M.; Dorhout, D.; Sinninghe Damsté, J.S.; Schouten, S. C5 Glycolipids of Heterocystous Cyanobacteria Track Symbiont Abundance in the Diatom *Hemiaulus Hauckii* across the Tropical North Atlantic. *Biogeosciences* **2018**, *15*, 1229–1241. [[CrossRef](#)]
50. Capone, D.G.; Bronk, D.A.; Mulholland, M.R.; Carpenter, E.J. *Nitrogen in the Marine Environment*, 2nd ed.; Elsevier: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2008; ISBN 978-0-12-372522-6.
51. Smith, E. Limiting Factors in Photosynthesis: Light and Carbon Dioxide. *J. Gen. Physiol.* **1938**, *22*, 21–35. [[CrossRef](#)]
52. Ryther, J.H. Photosynthesis in the Ocean as a Function of Light Intensity. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **1956**, *1*, 61–70. [[CrossRef](#)]
53. Falciatore, A. Exploring the Molecular Basis of Responses to Light in Marine Diatoms. *J. Exp. Bot.* **2012**, *63*, 1575–1591. [[CrossRef](#)]
54. Ingebrigtsen, R.A.; Hansen, E.; Andersen, J.H.; Eilertsen, H.C. Light and Temperature Effects on Bioactivity in Diatoms. *J. Appl. Phycol.* **2016**, *28*, 939–950. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
55. Grossman, A.R.; Schaefer, M.R.; Chiang, G.G.; Collier, J.L. The Responses of Cyanobacteria to Environmental Conditions: Light and Nutrients. In *The Molecular Biology of Cyanobacteria*; Bryant, D.A., Ed.; Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1994; pp. 641–675. ISBN 978-94-011-0227-8.
56. Papers, J.B.C.; Grossman, A.R.; Bhaya, D. Tracking the Light Environment by Cyanobacteria and the Dynamic Nature of Light Harvesting. *J. Biol. Chem.* **2001**, *276*, 11449–11452. [[CrossRef](#)]
57. Benavides, M.; Bonnet, S.; Le Moigne, F.A.C.; Armin, G.; Inomura, K.; Hallström, S.; Riemann, L.; Berman-Frank, I.; Poletti, E.; Garel, M.; et al. Sinking *Trichodesmium* Fixes Nitrogen in the Dark Ocean. *ISME J.* **2022**, *16*, 2398–2405. [[CrossRef](#)]
58. Herrero, A.; Flores, E. Genetic Responses to Carbon and Nitrogen Availability in *Anabaena*. *Environ. Microbiol.* **2019**, *21*, 1–17. [[CrossRef](#)]
59. Zehr, J.P.; Ward, B.B. Nitrogen Cycling in the Ocean: New Perspectives on Processes and Paradigms. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **2002**, *68*, 1015–1024. [[CrossRef](#)]
60. Capone, D.G.; Zehr, J.P.; Paerl, H.W.; Bergman, B.; Carpenter, E.J. *Trichodesmium*, a Globally Significant Marine Cyanobacterium. *Science* **1997**, *276*, 1221–1229. [[CrossRef](#)]
61. Gruber, N.; Galloway, J.N. An Earth-System Perspective of the Global Nitrogen Cycle. *Nature* **2008**, *451*, 10–13. [[CrossRef](#)]
62. Letscher, R.T.; Villareal, T.A. Evaluation of the Seasonal Formation of Subsurface Negative Preformed Nitrate Anomalies in the Subtropical North Pacific and North Atlantic. *Biogeosciences* **2018**, *15*, 6461–6480. [[CrossRef](#)]
63. Nieves-mori6n, M.; Flores, E.; Foster, R.A. Minireview Predicting Substrate Exchange in Marine Diatom-Heterocystous Cyanobacteria Symbioses. *Environ. Microbiol.* **2020**, *22*, 2027–2052. [[CrossRef](#)]
64. Foster, R.A.; Goebel, N.L.; Zehr, J.P.; Foster, R.A.; Goebel, N.L.; Zehr, J.P. Isolation of *Calothrix Rhizosoleniae* (Cyanobacteria) Strain Sc01 From *Chaetoceros* (Bacillariophyta) Spp. Diatoms of the Subtropical North Pacific Ocean. *Phycol. Soc. Am.* **2010**, *1037*, 1028–1037. [[CrossRef](#)]
65. Foster, R.A.; Zehr, J.P. Diversity, Genomics, and Distribution of Phytoplankton-Cyanobacterium Single-Cell Symbiotic Associations. *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* **2019**, *73*, 435–456. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
66. Harke, M.J.; Frischkorn, K.R.; Haley, S.T.; Aylward, F.O.; Zehr, J.P.; Dyrman, S.T. Periodic and Coordinated Gene Expression between a Diazotroph and Its Diatom Host. *ISME J.* **2019**, *13*, 118–131. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
67. Menden-Deuer, S.; Lessard, E.J. Carbon to Volume Relationships for Dinoflagellates, Diatoms, and Other Protist Plankton. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **2000**, *45*, 569–579. [[CrossRef](#)]
68. Rittmann, B.E.; McCarty, P.L. *Environmental Biotechnology: Principles and Applications*; previous paper Inomura 2020; McGraw-Hill Education: New York, NY, USA, 2001; ISBN 1260440591.
69. Villareal, T. Nitrogen-Fixation by the Cyanobacterial Symbiont of the Diatom Genus *Hemiaulus*. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* **1991**, *76*, 201–204. [[CrossRef](#)]
70. Redfield, A.C. The Biological Control of Chemical Factors in the Environment. *Am. Sci.* **1958**, *46*, 205–221.
71. Sohm, J.A.; Edwards, B.R.; Wilson, B.G.; Webb, E.A. Constitutive Extracellular Polysaccharide (EPS) Production by Specific Isolates of *Crocospaera watsonii*. *Front. Microbiol.* **2011**, *2*, 229. [[CrossRef](#)]
72. Großkopf, T.; Laroche, J. Direct and Indirect Costs of Dinitrogen Fixation in *Crocospaera Watsonii* WH8501 and Possible Implications for the Nitrogen Cycle. *Front. Microbiol.* **2012**, *3*, 236. [[CrossRef](#)]
73. Paulot, F.; Jacob, D.J.; Johnson, M.T.; Bell, T.G.; Baker, A.R.; Keene, W.C.; Lima, I.D.; Doney, S.C.; Stock, C.A. Global Oceanic Emission of Ammonia: Constraints from Seawater and Atmospheric Observations. *Glob. Biogeochem. Cycles* **2015**, *29*, 1165–1178. [[CrossRef](#)]
74. Inomura, K.; Wilson, S.T.; Deutsch, C. Mechanistic Model for the Coexistence of Nitrogen Fixation and Photosynthesis in Marine *Trichodesmium*. *mSystems* **2019**, *4*, e00210-19. [[CrossRef](#)]