



10 - 14 FEBRUARY 2025 📍 ESA-ESRIN, FRASCATI - ITALY

BIOSPACE25 - BIODIVERSITY INSIGHT FROM SPACE

Absorption diversity of bloom-forming phytoplankton species: *Toward hyperspectral remote sensing identification of red tide events?*

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Red tides & Harmful algal blooms (HABs)

- Accumulation of phytoplankton at very high concentration
- Harmful due to toxins and/or subsequent hypoxia
- Frequent occurrences due to eutrophication
- Major source of concern worldwide
- Undersampled by field monitoring
- Satellite remote sensing proved useful to detect blooms, but identification of the dominant species is challenging



**Potential of hyperspectral RS
to detect red tide species?**

269 known harmful marine microalgae

214 Toxic species

- 3 Dictyochophytes
- 5 Raphidophytes
- 8 Haptophytes
- 32 Diatoms
- 43 Cyanobacteria
- 123 Dinoflagellates

55 Non-toxigenic species

- 1 Chlorophyte
- 1 Ciliate
- 1 Cryptophyte
- 2 Pelagophytes
- 2 Dictyochophytes
- 23 Diatoms
- 25 Dinoflagellates



List accessed 9 Feb. 2025

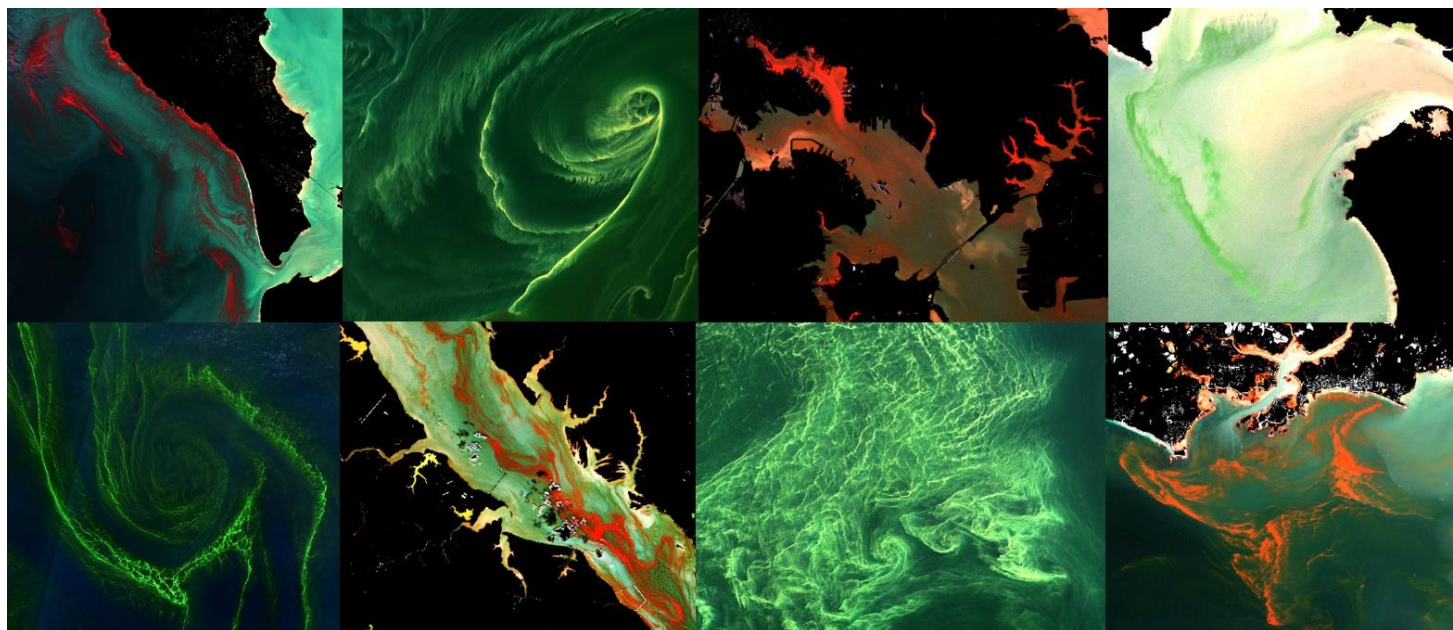
Current challenges for bloom identification

Four optical bloom types can be distinguished by multispectral RS

- Blooms of cyanobacteria
- Surface accumulation of red *Noctiluca scintillans*
- Red tides of cryptophytes and/or ciliate *Mesodinium rubrum*
- Green waters dominated by dinoflagellate *Lepidodinium chlorophorum*

Other classes challenging to separate due to similarities in pigment

composition : diatoms can be confused with haptophytes, raphidophytes, pelagophytes, and fucoxanthin-bearing dinoflagellates such as *Karenia brevis*.





Remote Sensing of Environment

Volume 287, 15 March 2023, 113486



The many shades of red tides: Sentinel-2 optical types of highly-concentrated harmful algal blooms

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Assessing potential of hyperspectral RS



Is it possible to distinguish a bloom caused by a peridinin-bearing dinoflagellate from a bloom caused by a fuco-bearing dinoflagellate?

Is it possible to distinguish a bloom of diatom from a bloom caused by other fucoxanthin-bearing species such as haptophytes, raphidophytes, and/or some dinoflagellates ?

Material & Methods



Particulate absorption coefficient $a_p(\lambda)$ measured on monospecific algal cultures using filter pads (inside sphere) or cells suspension (inside PSICAM).

Spectral library of 60 bloom-forming phytoplankton species

164 hyperspectral spectra covering 8 taxonomic classes compiled from Xi et al. (2015), Lomas et al. (2024), and a new IOP library of bloom-forming species.

Simple classification method of $a_p(\lambda)$ spectra

Spectra were smoothed (9nm moving average), and 2nd derivative computed.

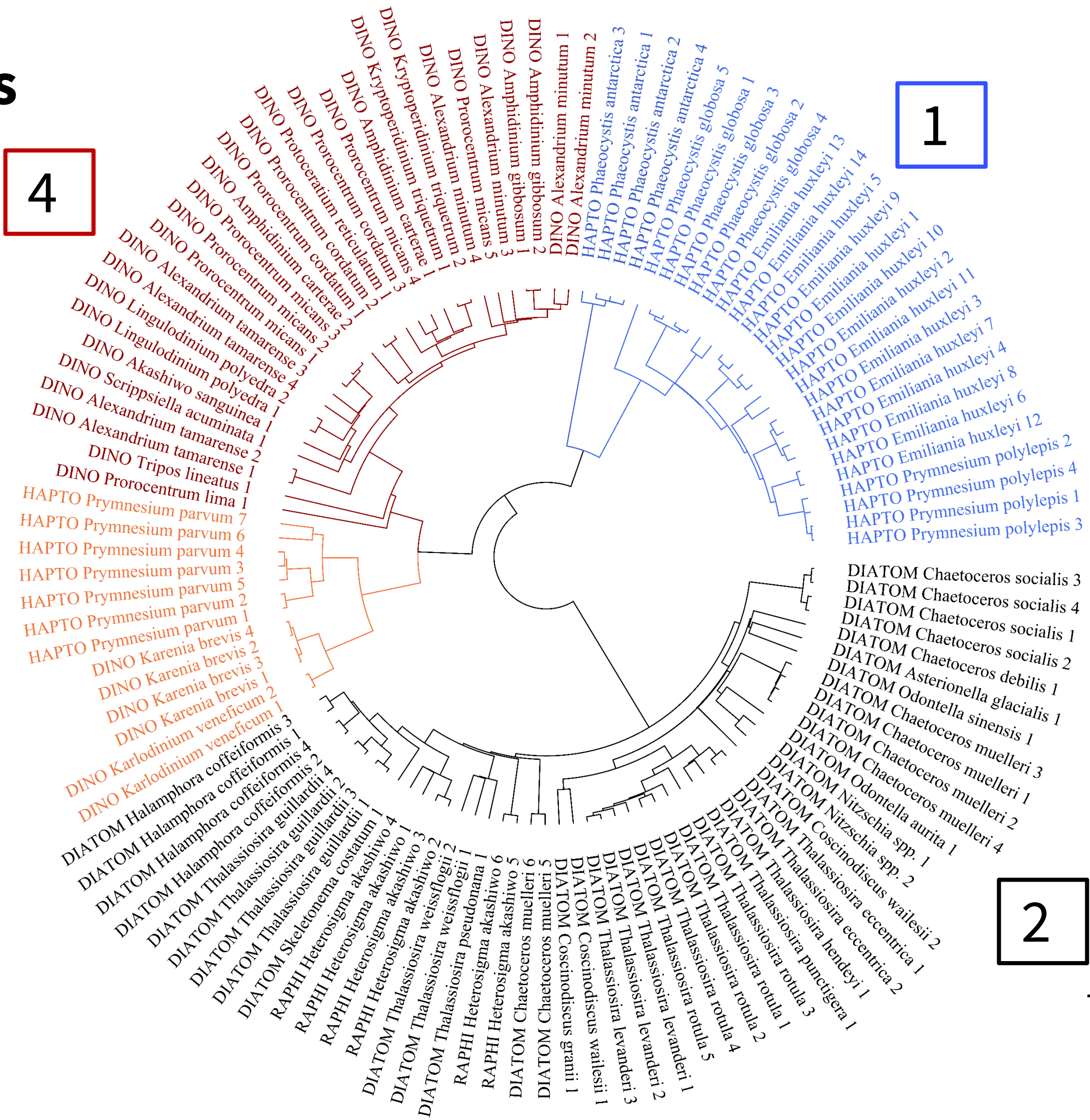
Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) was performed using a similarity index distance.

Results

4

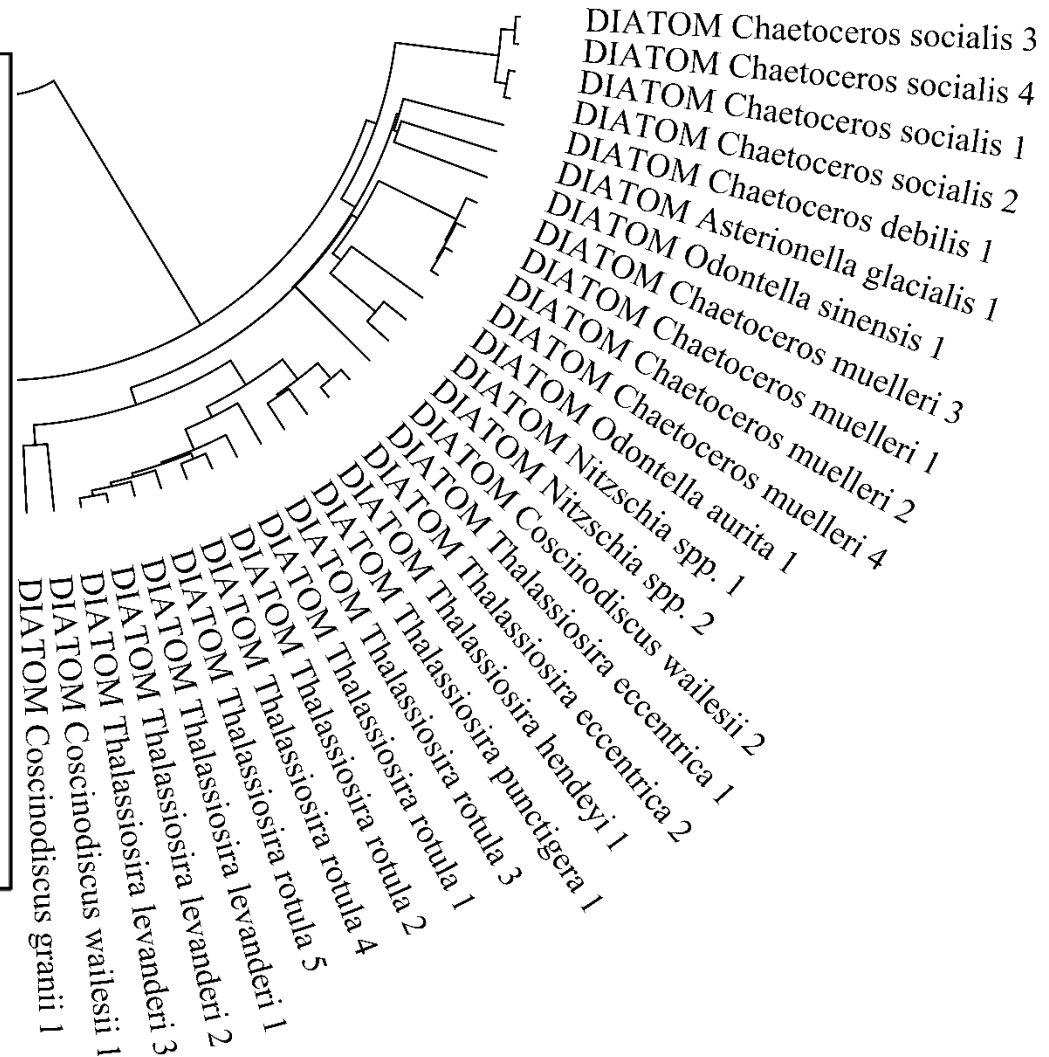
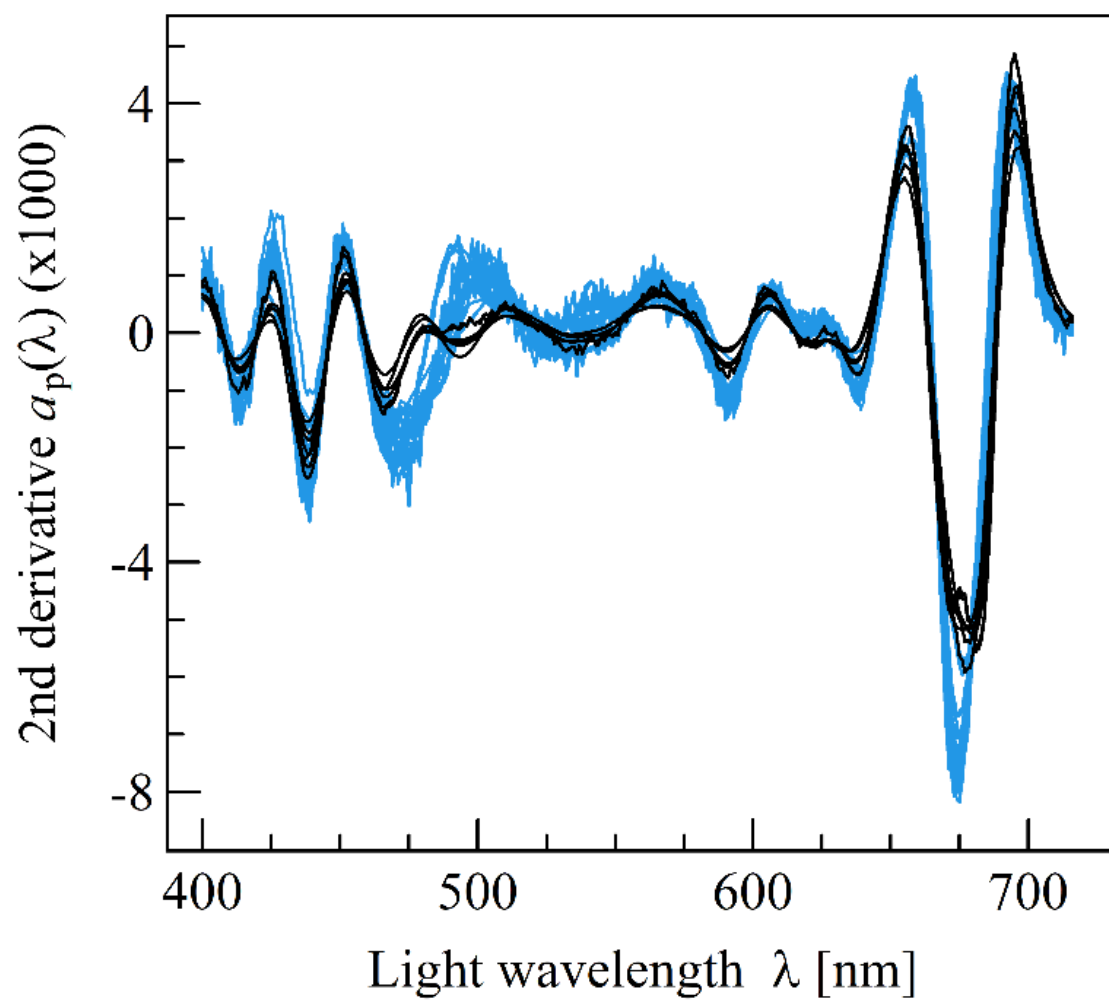
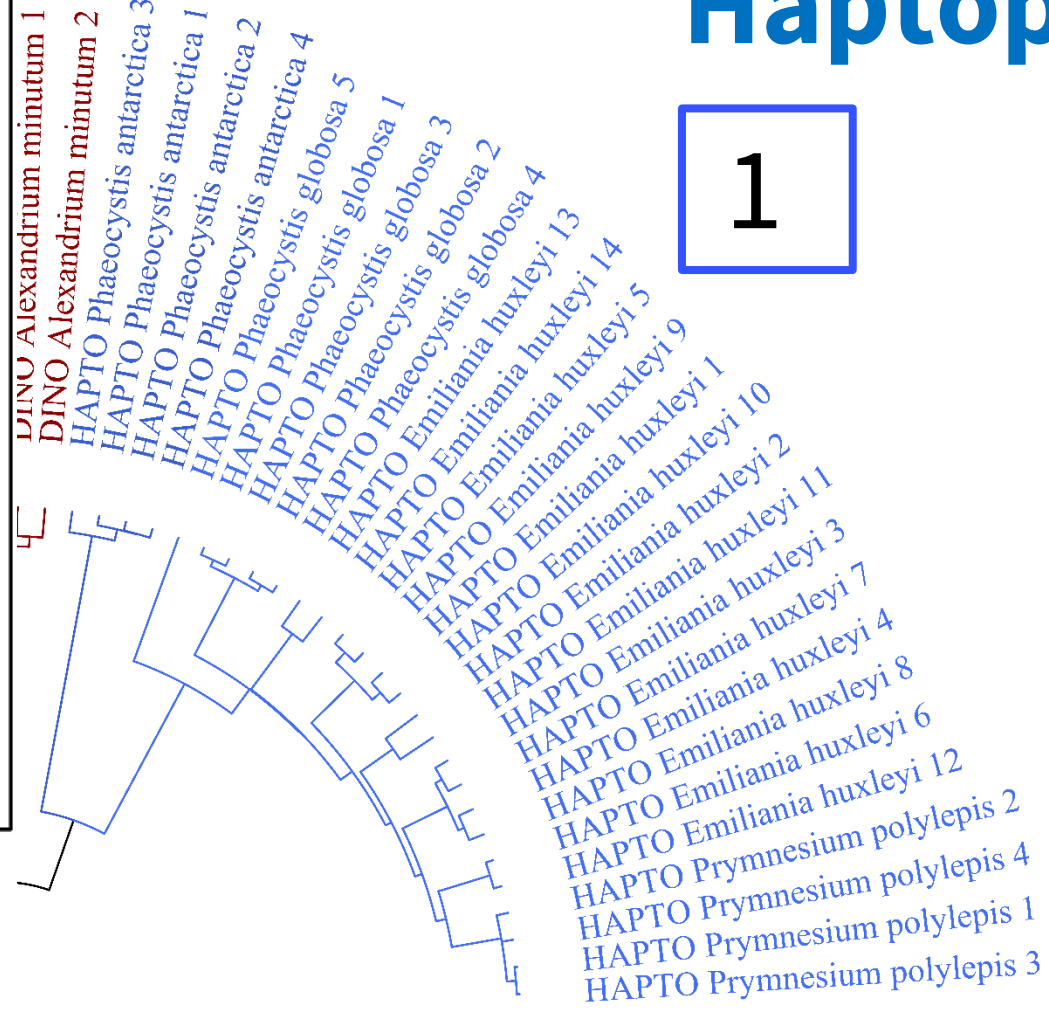
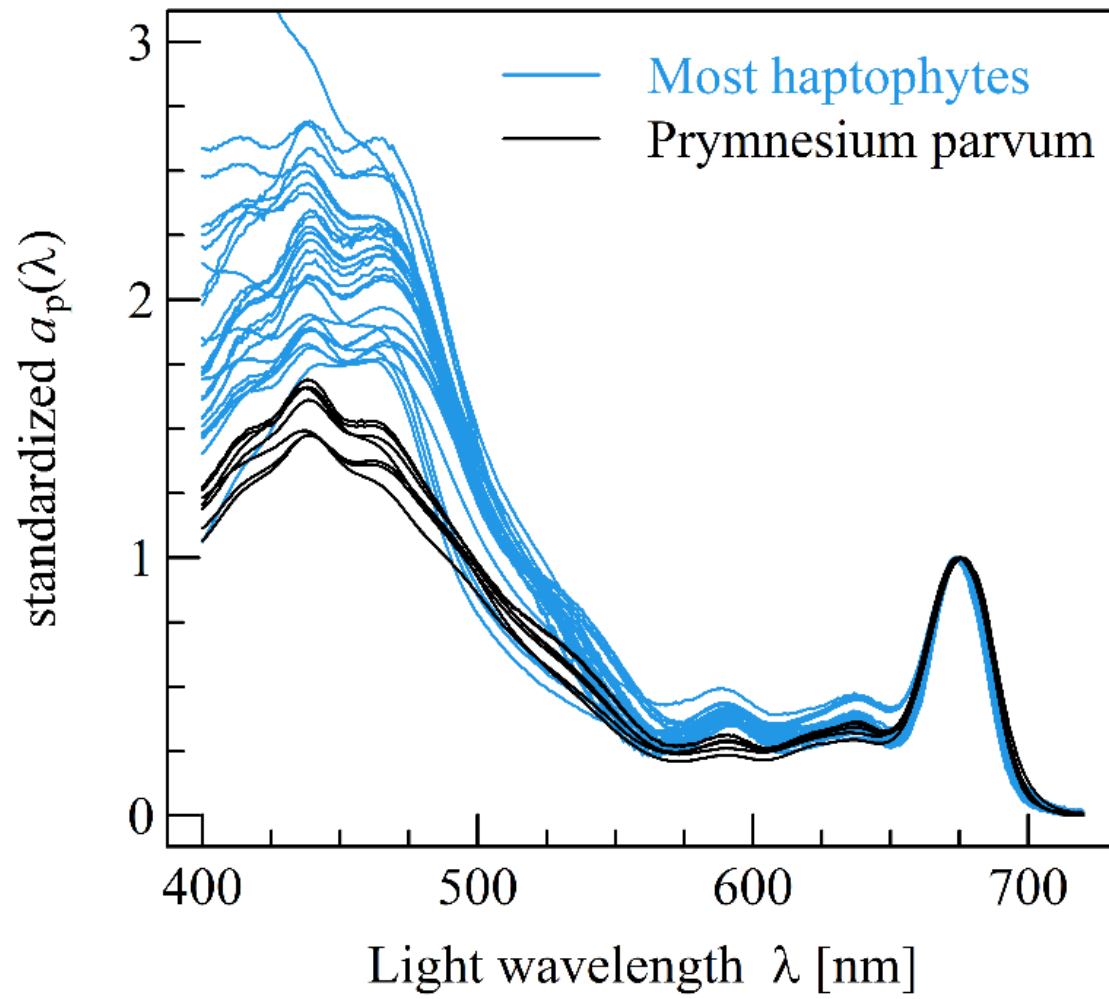
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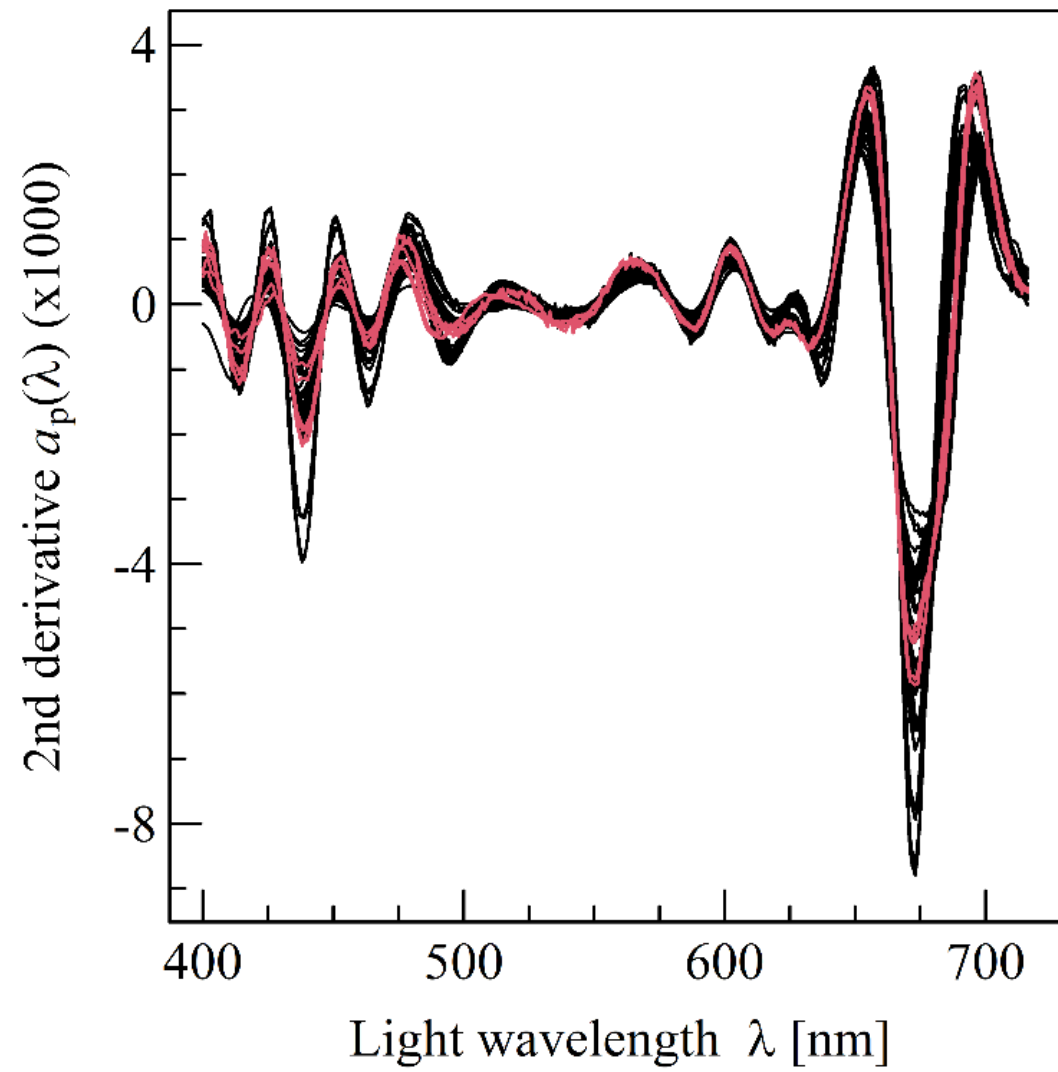
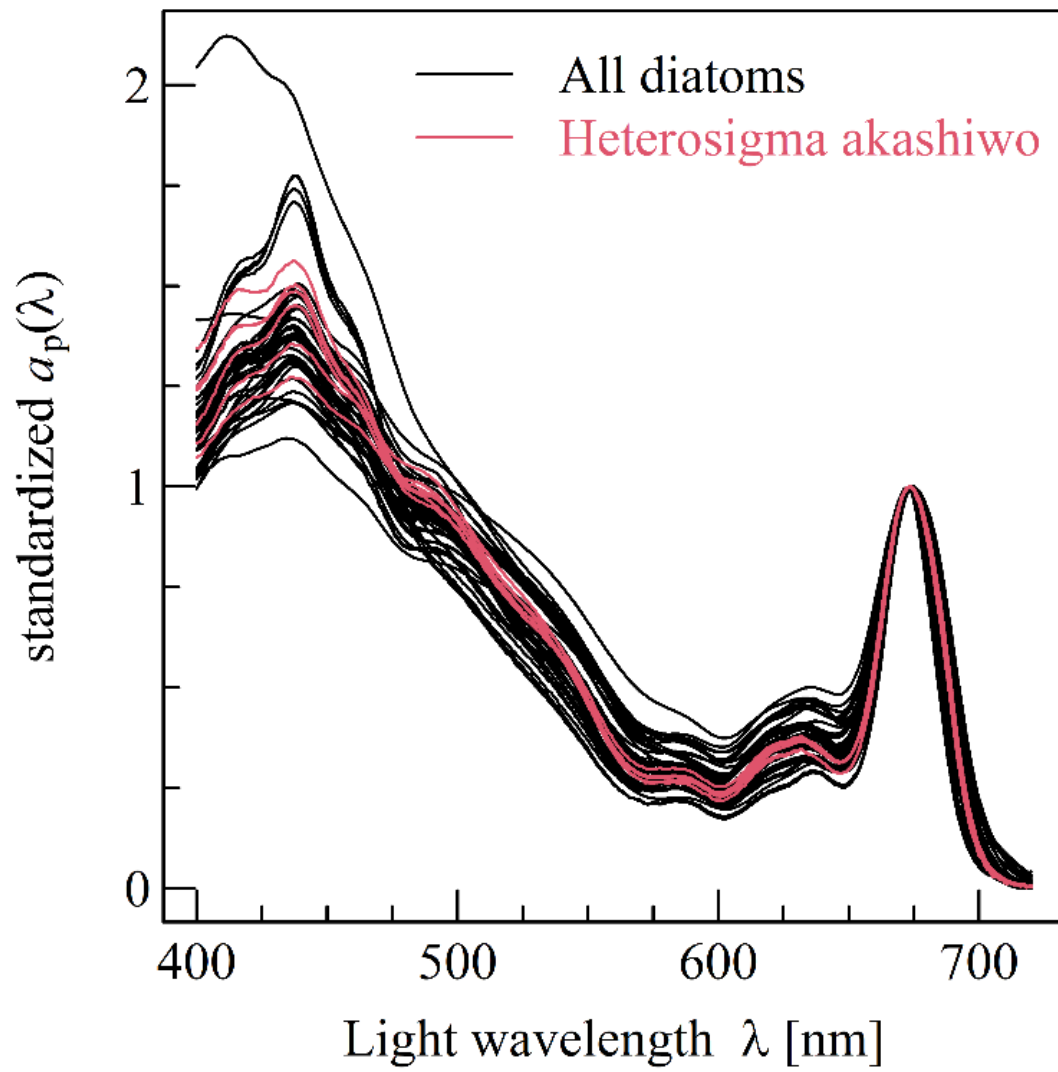
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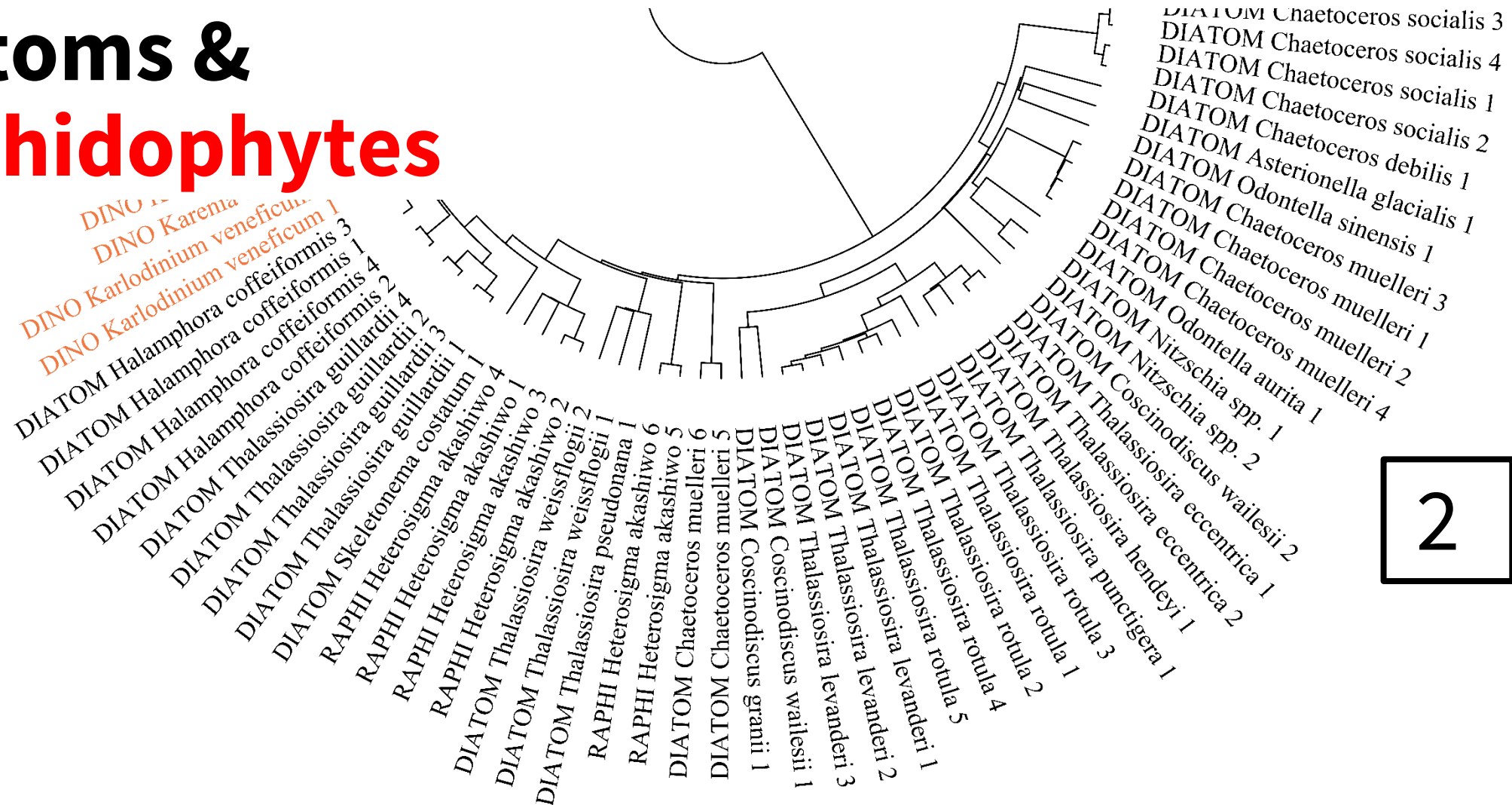
Haptophytes

1





Diatoms & Raphidophytes



2

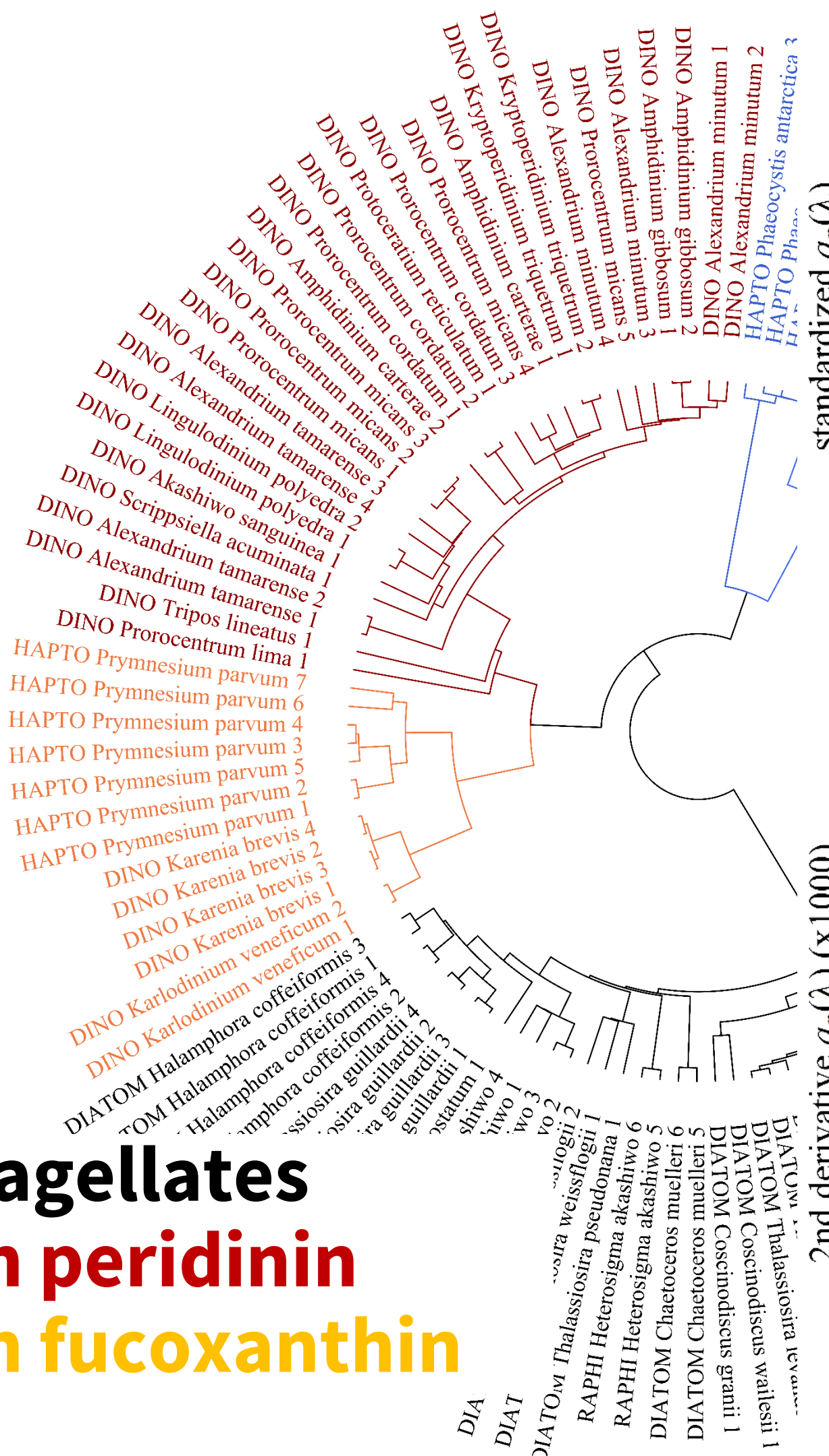
Dinoflagellates

4) with peridinin

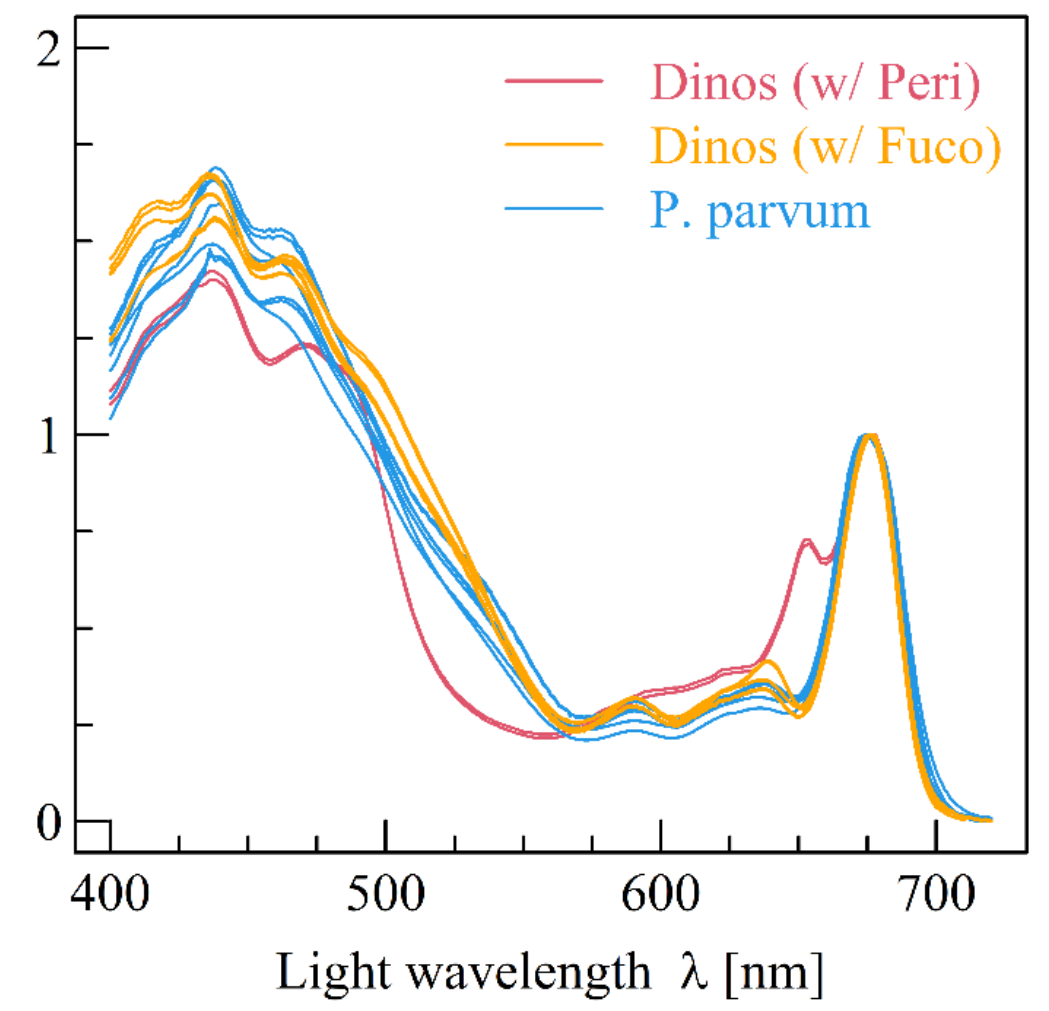
3) with fucoxanthin

4

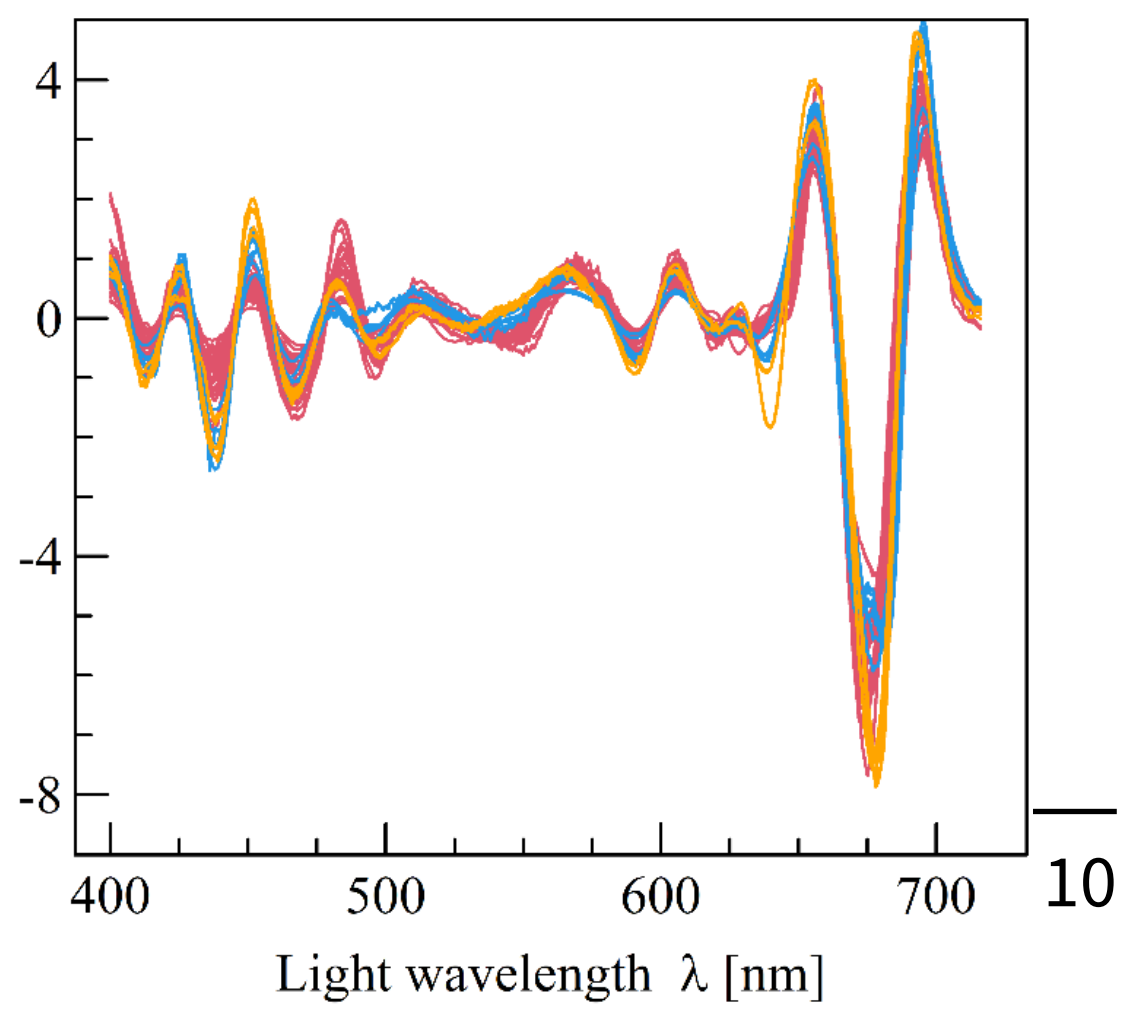
3



standardized $a_p(\lambda)$



2nd derivative $a_p(\lambda)$ (x1000)

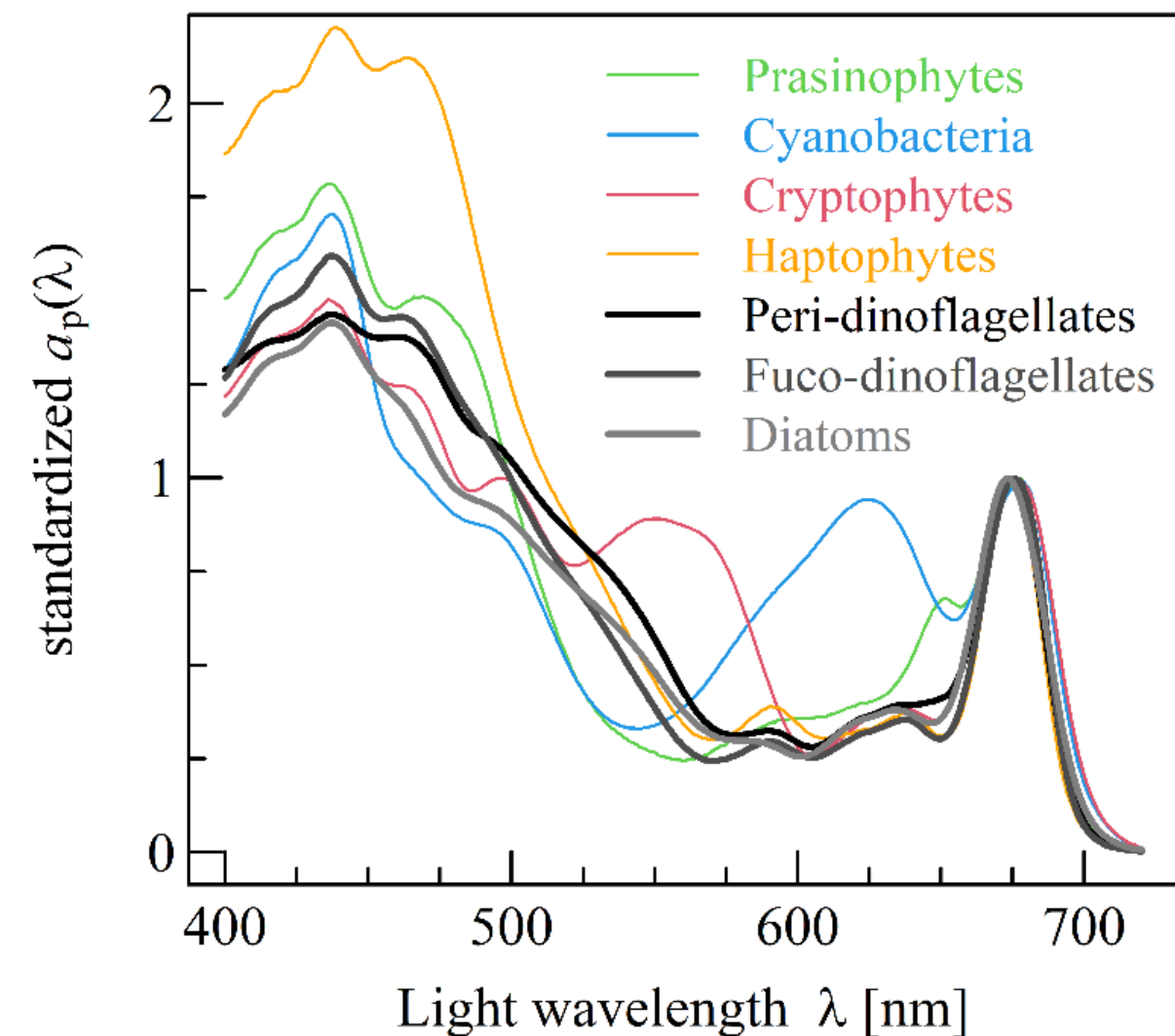


Conclusion

Previous studies shown that cyanobacteria, cryptophytes, and prasinophytes could be distinguished due to their unique pigments and absorption signature.

Here, we confirmed it and further demonstrated that **4 additional types of blooms could be distinguished at taxonomic class level using hyperspectral absorption measurements:**

- 1) Haptophytes
- 2) Peridinin-bearing dinoflagellates
- 3) Fucoxanthin-bearing dinoflagellates
- 4) Diatoms and/or raphidophytes



Next steps

Analyze library of hyperspectral Remote-sensing reflectance $R_{rs}(\lambda)$. Such library could be obtained from:

- 1) *In situ* $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ acquired during highly concentrated “monospecific” blooms
- 2) Satellite $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ extracted from bloom images

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Poster on Thursday:

«Exploring the potential of hyperspectral data from space supporting harmful algal bloom studies»

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- 2) Satellite $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ extracted from bloom images
- 3) Synthetic $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ obtained from IOPs using radiative-transfer simulations

See you
soon at...



THANK YOU!

Funded by



PNTS SOPHAB



TOSCA LASHA

Authors' list



➤ Pierre Gernez



➤ Maria Laura Zoffoli



➤ Rüdiger Röttgers, Henning Burmester, Martin Hieronymi

The logo for Ifremer features a stylized fish icon above the text 'Ifremer' in black on a yellow background.

Ifremer

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