

Contents

Contents	xiii
Main acronyms	xvii
Main symbols	xxi
List of Figures	xxv
List of Tables	xxxiii
1 Introduction/Objectives	1
1.1 Objectives	1
1.2 Introduction	2
1.2.1 <i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC 6803	2
1.2.2 Light harvesting molecules	3
1.2.3 Phycobilisome	5
2 Light distribution and spectral composition within cultures of micro-algae	7
2.1 Introduction	9
2.1.1 Light research in aquatic ecosystems	9
2.1.2 Modelling framework definition	16
2.2 Materials and Methods	22
2.2.1 Validation strategy and modelling scheme implementation	22
2.2.2 Linearity check of the K_d vs. OD_{750} relationship	29
2.3 Results and discussion	31
2.3.1 Optical spectra and analysis of the resulting IOPs	31
2.3.2 Attenuation profiles for white light exposure	34
2.3.3 Attenuation profiles for colour light exposure	38
2.3.4 Spectrally dependent penetration depth and attenuation	40

2.3.5	Attenuation coefficient formula in <i>Synechocystis</i> cultures	44
2.4	Conclusions and future work	46
2.5	Acknowledgements	47
3	Estimation of light field inside photosynthetic microorganism cultures through Mittag-Leffler functions	49
3.1	Introduction	50
3.2	Methodology	53
3.3	Fractional calculus in optics	54
3.3.1	Data for modelling assessment	55
3.4	Results	56
3.5	Conclusions	59
3.6	Acknowledgements	60
4	Experimental characterisation of <i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC 6803 cultures productivity up on light conditions	61
4.1	Introduction	63
4.1.1	Light within PBR cultures	63
4.1.2	Biomass growth rates of <i>Synechocystis</i> cells	64
4.1.3	Oxygen related routes of <i>Synechocystis</i> cells	66
4.2	Materials and Methods	67
4.2.1	Strain and experimental design	67
4.2.2	Optical measurements	67
4.2.3	Model description	69
4.3	Results and discussion	71
4.3.1	Main culture properties	71
4.3.2	Modelled oxygen evolution	77
4.4	Conclusions	84
5	Individual pigment contribution to overall <i>in vivo</i> absorption in <i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC 6803 cells	95
5.1	Introduction	97
5.1.1	Light spectrum influence in photosynthesis	97
5.1.2	Absorption spectra of main pigments	98
5.1.3	Pigment content assessment	100

5.2	Methodology	101
5.2.1	<i>In vitro</i> absorption spectra of photosynthetic pigments	101
5.2.2	Estimation of the package effect	102
5.2.3	Assessment of the cellular pigment concentration	105
5.2.4	Light absorption by each <i>in vivo</i> absorption spectra	106
5.3	Results and discussion	108
5.3.1	Package effect calculation	108
5.3.2	Pigment quantification through the reconstruction of the <i>in vivo</i> absorption spectrum	109
5.3.3	Absorption cross-section under different illumination environments	114
5.4	Conclusions and future work	114
6	General discussion of the results	117
6.1	Article "Light distribution and spectral composition within cultures of micro-algae: Quantitative modelling of the light field in photobioreactors"	117
6.2	Article "Estimation of the light field inside photosynthetic microorganism cultures through Mittag-Leffler functions at depleted light conditions"	120
6.3	Article "Experimental characterisation of <i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC 6803 cultures productivity up on light conditions"	122
6.4	Article "Individual pigment contribution to overall <i>in vivo</i> absorption in <i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC 6803 cells"	125
7	Conclusions	129
	References	131