

1 Response of coral reef dinoflagellates to nanoplastics 2 under experimental conditions

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10 Abstract: Plastic products contribute heavily to anthropogenic pollution of the oceans. Small plastic
11 particles in the micro- and nanoscale ranges have been found in all marine ecosystems, but little is
12 known about their effects upon marine organisms. In this study we examine changes in cell growth,
13 aggregation, and gene expression of two symbiotic dinoflagellates of the family Symbiodiniaceae,
14 *Symbiodinium tridacnidorum* (clade A3) and *Cladocopium* sp. (clade C), under exposure to 42-nm
15 polystyrene beads. In laboratory experiments, cell number and aggregation were reduced after 10
16 days of nanoplastic exposure at 0.01, 0.1, and 10 mg/L concentrations, but no clear correlation with
17 plastic concentration was observed. Genes involved in dynein motor function were upregulated
18 compared to control conditions, while genes related to photosynthesis, mitosis, and intracellular
19 degradation were downregulated. Overall, nanoplastic exposure led to more genes being
20 downregulated than upregulated and the number of genes with altered expression was larger in
21 *Cladocopium* sp. than in *S. tridacnidorum*, suggesting different sensitivity to nanoplastic between
22 species. Our data show that nanoplastic inhibits growth and alters aggregation properties of
23 microalgae, which may negatively affect the uptake of these indispensable symbionts by coral reef
24 organisms.

25 Keywords: Nanoplastics; Dinoflagellate; Coral reef

26

27 1. Introduction

28 Coral reefs provide habitat for marine invertebrate and vertebrate species alike, sustaining the
29 highest biodiversity among marine ecosystems [1]. Formed primarily by scleractinian corals and
30 coralline algae, coral reefs are complex and vulnerable ecosystems. Structural complexity of coral
31 reefs, and by extension, the capability to sustain biodiversity often declines due to natural and human-
32 related stressors [2,3].

33 One important stressor for coral reef ecosystems is plastic pollution. Small plastic particles (>1
34 mm) have been reported from coral islands at more than 1000 items/m² [4]. Further fragmentation of
35 these particles leads to nanoplastics (<1 μm) [5]. Microplastic particles induce stress responses in
36 scleractinian corals, suppress their immune systems and capacity to cope with environmental toxins
37 [6]. When ingested by corals [7,8,9], microplastics disrupt the anthozoan-algal symbiotic relationship
38 [10]. They are also linked to potential adverse effects on calcification [11] with exposure resulting in
39 attachment of microplastic particles to tentacles or mesenterial filaments, ingestion of microplastic
40 particles, and increased mucus production [12]. Su *et al.* [13] exposed the coral symbiont,
41 *Cladocopium goreau*, to 1-μm polystyrene spheres, leading to diminished detoxification activity,
42 nutrient uptake, and photosynthesis, as well as increased oxidative stress, apoptosis levels, and ion
43 transport. Plastic particles seem to negatively impact symbiotic relationships between corals and their

44 microalgae, thereby degrading the entire coral reef ecosystem, but this has not been systematically
45 investigated.

46 Nanoplastics, particles smaller than 1 μm [5], can originate by fragmentation of larger plastic
47 objects through photochemical and mechanical degradation. There are also primary sources of
48 nanoplastics. Medical and cosmetic products, nanofibers from clothes and carpets, 3D printing, and
49 Styrofoam byproducts find their way into coral reef ecosystems via river drainages, sewage outfalls,
50 and runoff after heavy rainfall, as well as via atmospheric input and ocean currents. Nanoplastic has
51 recently been reported in ocean surface water samples [14].

52 In this study we focused on the microalgal symbionts of mollusks that inhabit fringing coral reefs
53 of Okinawa. Knowledge of the effects of nanoplastic on the symbionts of Tridacninae (giant clams)
54 and Fraginae (heart cockles) will benefit conservation and restocking efforts, as both are obligatory
55 photo-symbionts and important contributors to coral reef ecosystems. Approximately 30
56 Symbiodiniaceae phylotypes are economically important for fisheries [15]. This study specifically
57 investigated effects of nanoplastic (42-nm polystyrene spheres) on the growth rates, aggregations,
58 and gene expression changes in *Symbiodinium tridacnidorum* (symbionts of the Tridacninae) and
59 *Cladocopium* sp. (symbionts of the Fraginae).

60 2. Materials and Methods

61 2.1. Exposure to nanoplastics using roller tanks

62 The majority of host animals obtain their indispensable symbiotic dinoflagellates from coral reef
63 sand and the water column [16, 17]. Roller tanks and tables were used to simulate the natural
64 environment of the dinoflagellate vegetative cells in their free-living state [18, 19]. Roller tanks have
65 commonly been used to promote aggregation since Shanks and Edmondson [19, 20]. 15 roller
66 tanks 13.4 cm in diameter and 7.5 cm in height with a capacity of 1,057 mL were employed. In tanks,
67 aggregation can occur [19], ensuring that microalgae are exposed to the polystyrene nanoplastic
68 (nanoPS) in a way that mimics their natural habitat. Once rotation commenced, continuous aggregate
69 formation and suspension were ensured [20] as well as continuous exposure to nanoPS. Roller tanks
70 are closed for the entire duration of the experiment, so that exposure levels of the nanoPS remain
71 constant through-out. Tanks were closed without bubbles so as not to disturb the aggregation process
72 with turbulence. To compare differences between species, two dinoflagellates, *Symbiodinium*
73 *tridacnidorum* (clade A3 strain, ID: NIES-4076) and *Cladocopium* sp. (clade C strain, ID: NIES-4077)
74 were cultured in artificial seawater containing 0.2x Guillard's (F/2) marine-water enrichment solution
75 (Sigma-Aldrich) in roller tanks [21,22]. *S. tridacnidorum* and *Cladocopium* sp. (Clade C strain ID: NIES-
76 4077) were isolated from *Tridacna crocea* and *Fragum* sp. in Okinawa, Japan [5]. Using glass flasks,
77 precultures for the stress experiment were established, as previously described [4].

78 Microplastics (>1 mm) from coral reef and the ingestion (53 to 500 μm) by coral reef clams have
79 been reported and microplastic removal by giant clams has been proposed [4, 23]. To simulate
80 nanoplastic accumulation in coral reefs and in the host organisms, three different concentrations (0.01
81 mg/L, 0.1 mg/L, and 10 mg/L) of nanoplastic (42-nm pristine polystyrene beads, nanoPS₄₂, from Bangs
82 Laboratories Inc., catalog number FSDG001, polystyrene density 1.05 g/cm³, nanoPS) were added to
83 the treatment tanks (Tables S1). Treatment tanks as well as control tanks (no nanoPS) were
84 established in triplicate. Three tanks without algae were prepared as negative controls (at 10 mg/L,

85 0.01 mg/L, 0 mg/L nanoplastic). In each culture tank, the final cell density of the two strains was
86 adjusted to $\sim 7 \times 10^5$ cells/mL. Tanks were harvested after 9-11 days, for logistical reasons, making
87 replicates a day apart (Supplementary Table 2).

88 *2.2. Measurements of cell density and aggregation*

89 Cells for growth rates were counted using hemocytometers (C-Chip DHC-N01) under a Zeiss
90 Axio Imager Z1 microscope (Jena, Germany). At least 2 subsamples and 200 cells were counted per
91 sample.

92 Aggregates were imaged and counted in each tank and for five size classes, as follows: tiny: 0.2
93 – 0.5 mm; small: 0.5 – 1 mm; medium: 1 – 2.5 mm; large: 2.5 – 3.5 mm; huge: > 3.5 mm in the longest
94 dimension. Tanks of the same concentration were sampled at the same time of day. Controls were
95 sampled first and then in order of increasing nanoPS₄₂ concentration to avoid nanoplastic carry over
96 from higher concentrations to lower. In order to examine how nanoPS₄₂ affects aggregate formation,
97 aggregates were collected for different measurements, after the approximate total number of
98 aggregates in each tank had been determined. Aggregation of algae and plastic was confirmed with
99 3D imaging using a Zeiss Lightsheet Z.1 and Imaris software. NanoPS₄₂ was observed with a BP filter
100 (excitation: 405 nm; emission: 505-545 nm) and chloroplasts were visualized using a long-pass red
101 filter (excitation: 488 nm, emission: 660 nm).

102 One fourth of all aggregates were collected for RNA analysis (2 min spin down at 12,000 rpm
103 and discarding the supernatant, freezing in liquid nitrogen and storage at -80°C). For all other
104 measured factors, harvest included separate sampling of the aggregate fraction (aggregates >0.5mm,
105 Agg) and the surrounding sea water fraction (aggregates <0.5 mm and un-aggregated cells, SSW)
106 [24]. Aggregates for sinking velocity (three aggregates per size class for 11.5 cm in a 100-mL glass
107 graduated glassware cylinder) was collected in artificial seawater at the same temperature as
108 experiments were conducted.

109 *2.3. RNA extraction, library construction, and sequencing*

110 Frozen cells were broken mechanically using a polytron (KINEMATICA Inc.) in tubes chilled with
111 liquid nitrogen. RNAs were extracted using Trizol reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's
112 protocol. The quantity and quality of total RNA were checked using a Qubit fluorometer
113 (ThermoFisher) and a TapeStation (Agilent) respectively. Libraries for RNA-seq were constructed
114 using the NEBNext Ultra II Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (#E7760, NEB). Sequencing
115 was performed on a NovaSeq6000 SP platform. Nine mRNA-seq libraries from nanoPS-exposed
116 photosymbiotic algae were sequenced (3 concentrations x 3 exposure times) plus three controls
117 (Supplementary Table S2).

118 *2.4. RNA-seq data mapping and clustering analysis*

119 Raw sequencing data obtained from the NovaSeq6000 were quality trimmed with Trimmomatic
120 (v0.32) in order to remove adapter sequences and low-quality reads. Paired reads that survived the
121 trimming step (on average 92%) were mapped against reference transcripts of *Symbiodinium* and
122 *Cladocopium* sp.. For each gene in the genomes of *Symbiodinium* and *Cladocopium* sp. a *.t1
123 transcript form was used as a reference sequence. Mapping was performed using RSEM [25] with

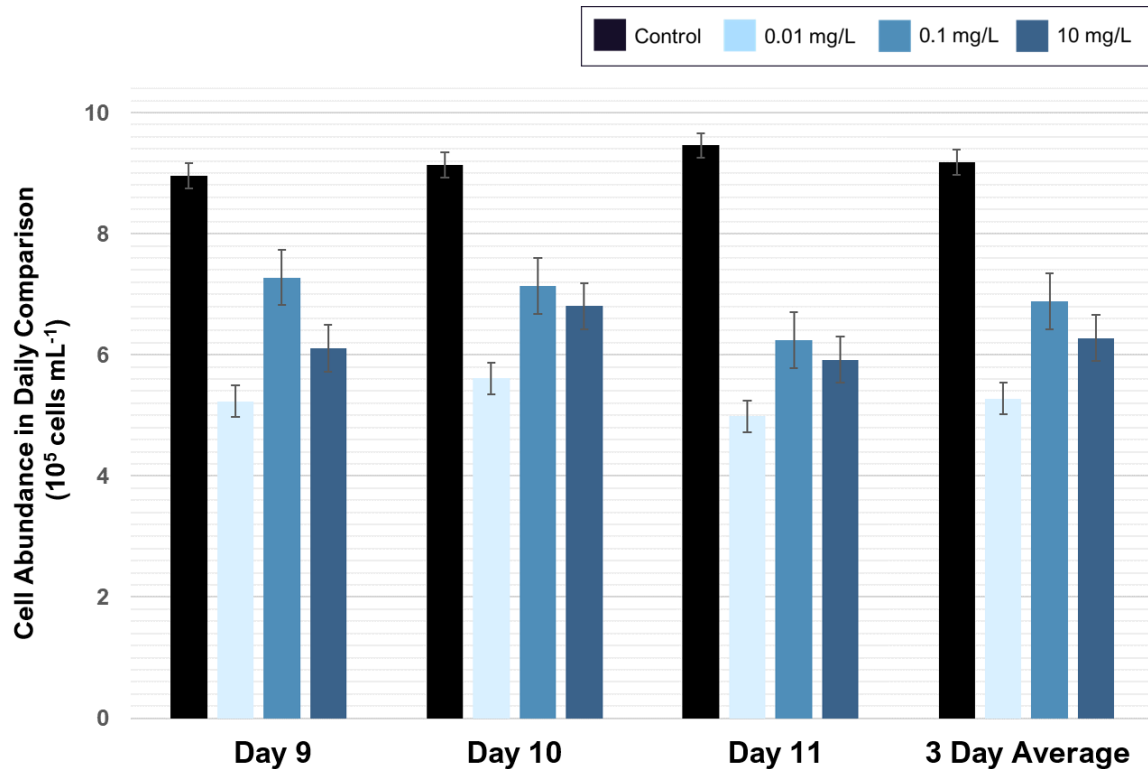
124 bowtie (v1.1.2) as an alignment tool. Expression values across all samples were normalized by the
125 TMM method [26]. Genes with differential expression (2-fold difference and $p < 0.001$) were identified
126 with edgeR Bioconductor, based on the matrix of TMM normalized TPM values. Experimental samples
127 were clustered according to their gene expression characteristics using edgeR. Annotations were
128 performed using BLAST2GO and Pfam databases [21] and are available at the genome browser site
129 (<https://marinegenomics.oist.jp>).

130 3. Results and Discussion

131 3.1. *Suppression of algal growth by nanoplastic exposure*

132 Exposure to nanoPS₄₂ decreases the mean growth rate of photosymbiotic algae (see Figure 1). The
133 greatest reduction in growth rate was seen at the lowest nanoPS₄₂ treatment (0.01 mg/L), with cell
134 densities reduced from starting values by -0.062 ± 0.02 (Holm-Sidak, $p = 0.002$); followed by the
135 highest nanoPS₄₂ treatment (10 mg/L) with -0.013 ± 0.05 (Holm-Sidak, $p = 0.026$). In the 0.1 mg/L
136 treatment, cell densities increased slightly by 0.028 ± 0.04 . Thus, nanoPS₄₂ either inhibited algal
137 growth in a non-linear manner or had a limited effect [27]. Reductions in growth rates have also been
138 reported in the μ P study of [13] in *Cladocopium goreau* and in other microalgae exposed to μ P
139 (*Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* [28] and *Skeletonema costatum* [29]).

140 In addition, Su et al. [13] reported a reduction in cell size in *Cladocopium goreau*. Further
141 investigations are needed to see if this is the case under nP exposure. Interesting to note is that the
142 biggest growth rate reduction observed was at 0.01 mg/L nanoPS₄₂, far below the 5 mg/L used by Su
143 et al. [13]. The nutrient deficiency is also a reason discussed in (Long2017) which could explain the
144 larger effects on growth rates at lower concentrations. The reason for nutrient limitation induced by
145 plastic is proposed to be interactions of the nutrients with the surface of the plastics [30]. NanoPS₄₂
146 self-aggregation could account for the higher nanoPS₄₂ treatments having less effect on the growth
147 rates.



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Figure 1. Treatment and control tanks were sampled after 9, 10, and 11 days. Experiments started with ~680,000 cells/mL in all tanks. There are differences between the growth rate in the different treatments, but the ratio stays the same over all three sampling days. The cell density in the control was $9.83 \pm 0.39 \times 10^5$ cells per mL, while treatment tanks were significantly lower: 0.01 mg/mL: $5.69 \pm 0.12 \times 10^5$ cells per mL; 0.1 mg/mL: $7.51 \pm 0.34 \times 10^5$ cells per mL; 10 mg/mL: $6.96 \pm 0.40 \times 10^5$ cells per mL. Bars display confidence interval.

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3.2. Nanoplastic exposure influences the number and sinking velocity of cell aggregates

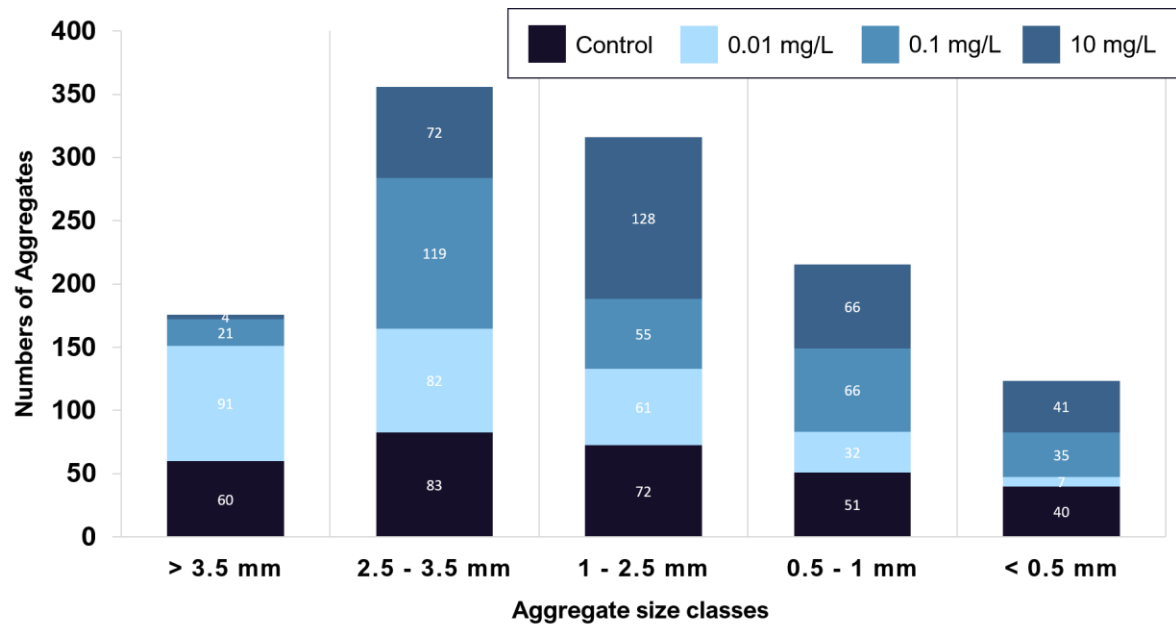
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To understand the impact of nanoPS₄₂ on aggregation in these two Symbiodiniaceae cultures, the total number of algal aggregates per tank and in five aggregate size classes was recorded (Supplementary Figure S2). All tanks showed aggregation, which was expected, as self-aggregation of Symbiodiniaceae has been observed previously [13].



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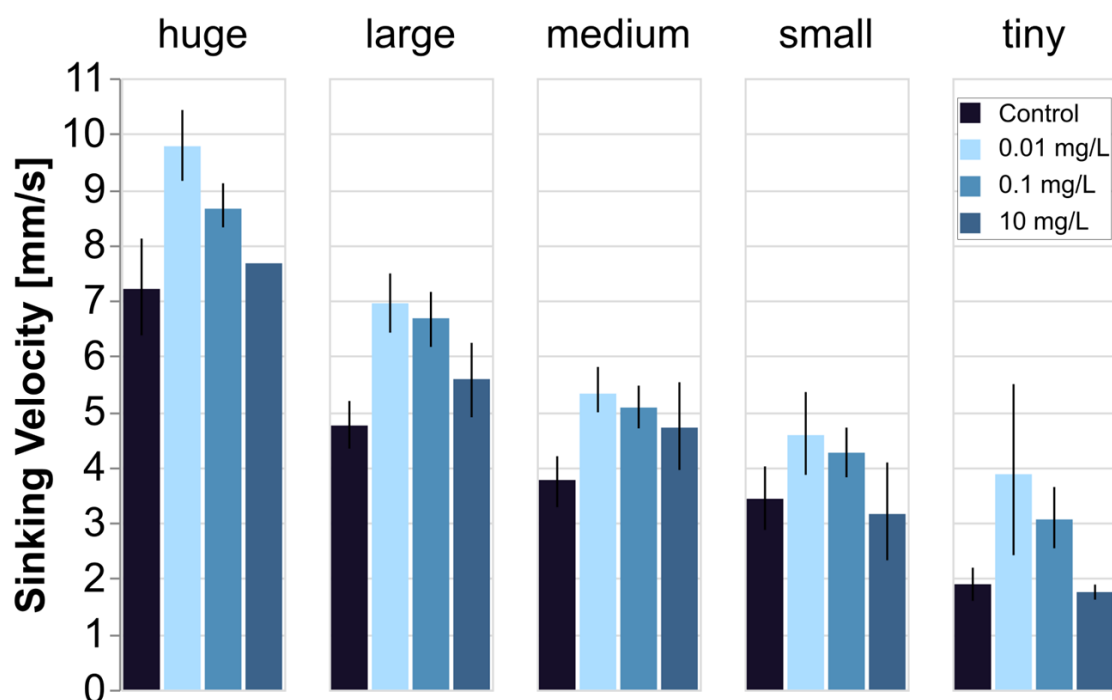
161 Figure 2. NanoPS exposure leads to change in aggregation. Aggregates sorted by size class show a significant
162 change in distribution pattern under nanoPS exposure (Holm-Sidak, $p = 0.05$). The number of aggregates are
163 reduced by 10 % in the 0.01 mg/L treatment (Holm-Sidak, $p=0.003$), but aggregation was enhanced overall in
164 that treatment to have a higher percentage of huge aggregates than in the control treatment (Holm-Sidak, $p =$
165 0.001). In the higher plastic treatment at 10 mg/L this is reversed, leading to more aggregates overall, and more
166 of those being of smaller sizes. No differences are observed when exposure length is compared.

167 The majority of aggregates exhibited an ovoid form. Significant difference can be observed when
168 aggregate numbers are compared over all size classes and all treatments, showing that the nanoPS
169 has an influence on the aggregation process. The lowest nanoPS treatments (0.01 mg/L) shows
170 significant reduction in the total aggregates count by 10 % (Holm-Sidak, $p = 0.003$). While there is
171 also a reduction of 3 % in the intermediate nanoPS treatment (0.1 mg/L), this is not significant. The
172 different aggregate sizes classes show significantly different distributions in all three treatments and
173 the control (ANOVA, $p < 0.001$) (Supplementary Figure S2). In the control, the self-aggregation led to
174 a specific distribution pattern of aggregate sizes, which was not repeated in the treatments. Self-
175 aggregation was also observed in the μP experiments of Su et al. [13]. The fact that presence of
176 nanoPS changes the aggregation between the cells and leads to more aggregates in the bigger size
177 classes is possible due to higher production of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) with sticky
178 properties, trapping more cells in one aggregate and keeping aggregates closer together. Nutrient
179 depletion, which has been linked to the presence of μP in algae cultures [30], is associated with
180 increased stickiness of the extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) [31,32]. Differences in the EPS
181 production due to the presence of nanoPS is a likely factor contributing to the differences in
182 aggregation seen in the study. EPS production was not measured, so further studies are needed to
183 confirm this hypothesis linking the aggregation process and EPS production in Symbiodiniaceae
184 under nanoPS influence. Lagarde et al. [28] notices different aggregate formation under different
185 plastic treatment and sizes, which matches with our results.

186 Significant differences are evident when aggregate numbers are compared over size classes and
187 treatments, showing that nanoPS influences aggregation. Aggregate size classes show significantly

188 different distributions in all three treatments vs. controls (ANOVA, $p < 0.001$) (see Figure 2). These
189 differences in aggregation could be due to changes of the cell surface receptors, as nanoPS increases
190 genes related to those 2 fold (see Section NanoPS effects on gene expression).

191 Due to nanoPS exposure, aggregation and sinking velocities are impacted which in turn leads to
192 change in sedimentation. As the majority of the host animals obtain their symbiotic dinoflagellates
193 from the sand and water column [16], these changes in dinoflagellate sedimentation might lead to
194 problems in acquisition of symbionts for the host animals. The lowest plastic treatment used, which is
195 environmentally possible, already induces changes to the sedimentation. This lowest treatment led to
196 bigger aggregates which at the same time sank faster, possibly removing the symbionts from the
197 water column faster than required from the host animals and reducing chances of encountering
198 symbionts.



199

200 Figure 3. Sinking velocity change with nanoPS exposure. Sinking velocities decrease with aggregate size, from
201 more than 7 mm/s (huge) to less than 2 mm/s (tiny). In all size classes, the control was similar in sinking velocity
202 to the highest nanoPS treatment (10 mg/L). The low nanoPS treatment (0.01 mg/L) differed significantly from
203 both controls (t-test, two-tailed $p = 5.56 \times 10^{-4}$) and the highest nanoPS treatment (t-test, two-tailed $p = 9.03 \times 10^{-4}$).
204 This was also true for the intermediate nanoPS treatment (darker blue, 0.1 mg/L). Error bars are 95 %
205 confidence intervals. Only one huge aggregate was measured in the highest nanoPS treatment. No differences
206 in sinking velocity were observed in relation to exposure length.

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208 Changes in aggregation and resulting sedimentation was observed under nanoPS exposure. It is
209 interesting to see that the biggest changes in sinking velocity correspond to increases in aggregation
210 and are observed in the lowest plastic treatment at 0.01 mg/L. On the other hand, the 10 mg/L
211 treatment did not have any significant effect on the sinking rates but did affect sedimentation indirectly
212 through changes in the aggregate size distribution (see Figure 2). These changes, both sinking
213 velocities and aggregate sizes distribution, are most likely due to hetero-aggregation between algae
214 and nanoPS. Under different treatments, the size distribution of aggregates was significantly different

215 (see Figure 2). In combination, it is likely that the same effect that led to that difference in aggregation
216 is also responsible for the difference in sinking velocities. Changes in EPS production and stickiness
217 will lead to different cell packaging within the aggregates, possibly creating tighter packed aggregates
218 in the lowest and intermediate treatment. This effect might be counteracted under the highest nanoPS
219 exposure, by the sheer volume of EPS, which is lighter than seawater (Mari2017). The nanoplastic
220 itself trapped in these could also add to the sinking velocity returning back to control levels in the high
221 plastic treatments. As these symbionts are paired with the mobile larvae of the host animals, a higher
222 sinking velocity would remove the potential symbiont from the pelagic area and reduce the chance of
223 a match.

224 3.3. NanoPS effects on gene expression

225 Analysis of differential gene expression showed that in *Symbiodinium*, 14 genes were
226 upregulated after nanoPS₄₂ exposure, and 34 were downregulated relative to controls (Figure 2a). In
227 *Cladocopium*, 75 genes were upregulated, and 169 genes were downregulated (Figure 2b).
228 *Cladocopium* seems more sensitive to nanoPS₄₂ exposure, as overall more genes responded than in
229 *Symbiodinium*. Since Pfam analysis had more annotations than BLAST2GO in DEGs of *Cladocopium*,
230 we list the major domains encoded by the DEGs of *Cladocopium*. (Supplementary Tables S3-S6).

231 Table 1. Domains encoded by more than three up-regulated genes in *Cladocopium* sp.

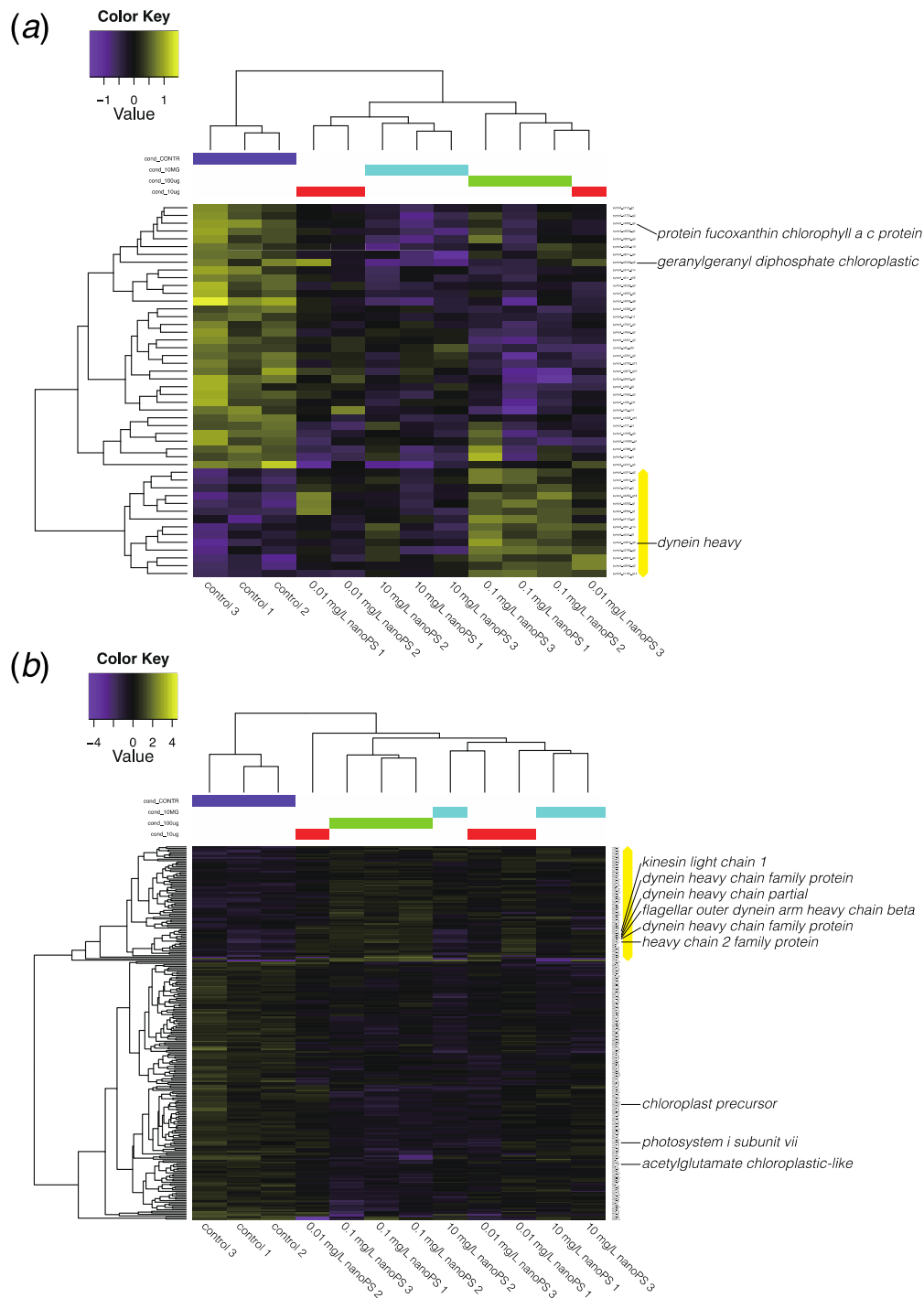
Domain name	Summary from Pfam database	Gene number
AAA_5	AAA domain (dynein-related subfamily)	6
DHC_N2	Dynein heavy chain, N-terminal region 2	5
AAA	ATPase family associated with various cellular activities	4
AAA_6	Hydrolytic ATP binding site of dynein motor region	4
TIG	IPT/TIG domain	4

232
233 The largest group of upregulated genes was a subfamily of dynein-related proteins having an
234 AAA_5 domain (Table 1). Dynein is a microtubule-associated motor protein. Ten genes for dynein-
235 related proteins with AAA and/or DHC (Dynein heavy chain) were upregulated in *Cladocopium* by
236 nanoPS₄₂ (Table 1, Supplementary Table S4). It has been shown that microplastic exposure induces
237 production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in microalgae [13,28] and dynein upregulation,
238 therefore, it might be needed to balance cytoskeletal dynamics as microtubule polymerization is
239 impaired by oxidative stress [33]. Interestingly, dynein light chain genes were also shown to be
240 upregulated in gill cells of zebra mussels exposed to polystyrene microplastic [34].

241 Four upregulated genes in *Cladocopium* (Table 1) encoded proteins with TIG domains that have
242 an immunoglobulin-like fold and are found in cell surface receptors that control cell dissociation
243 [35,36]. This might contribute to adhesion between neighboring cells and to the extracellular matrix
244 composition, and explain some of the changes observed in cell aggregations.

245 There were more downregulated genes than upregulated genes in both *Symbiodinium* and
246 *Cladocopium* (Figure 2). PPR (pentatricopeptide repeat) protein (Table 2) is involved in RNA editing
247 [36] and extensive RNA editing has been reported in organelles of Symbiodiniaceae [37,38]. Five

248 genes for photosynthesis were downregulated (Figure 2). These changes may explain observed
 249 reductions in photosystem efficiency in *C. goreau* [13].



250

251 Figure 4. Heatmap and clustering of differentially expressed genes (2-fold changes, $P < 0.001$) between
 252 dinoflagellates exposed to nanoplastics and controls. (a) DEGs in *Symbiodinium tridacnidorum*. (b) DEGs in
 253 *Cladocopium* sp. Values indicate the relative gene expression level, with purple and yellow showing

254 downregulation and upregulation, respectively. The yellow bar shows a cluster of upregulated genes.
255 Annotations by Blast2GO show the presence of microtubule- or photosynthesis-related genes among DEGs.

256 Table 2. Domains encoded by more than three down-regulated genes in *Cladocopium* sp.

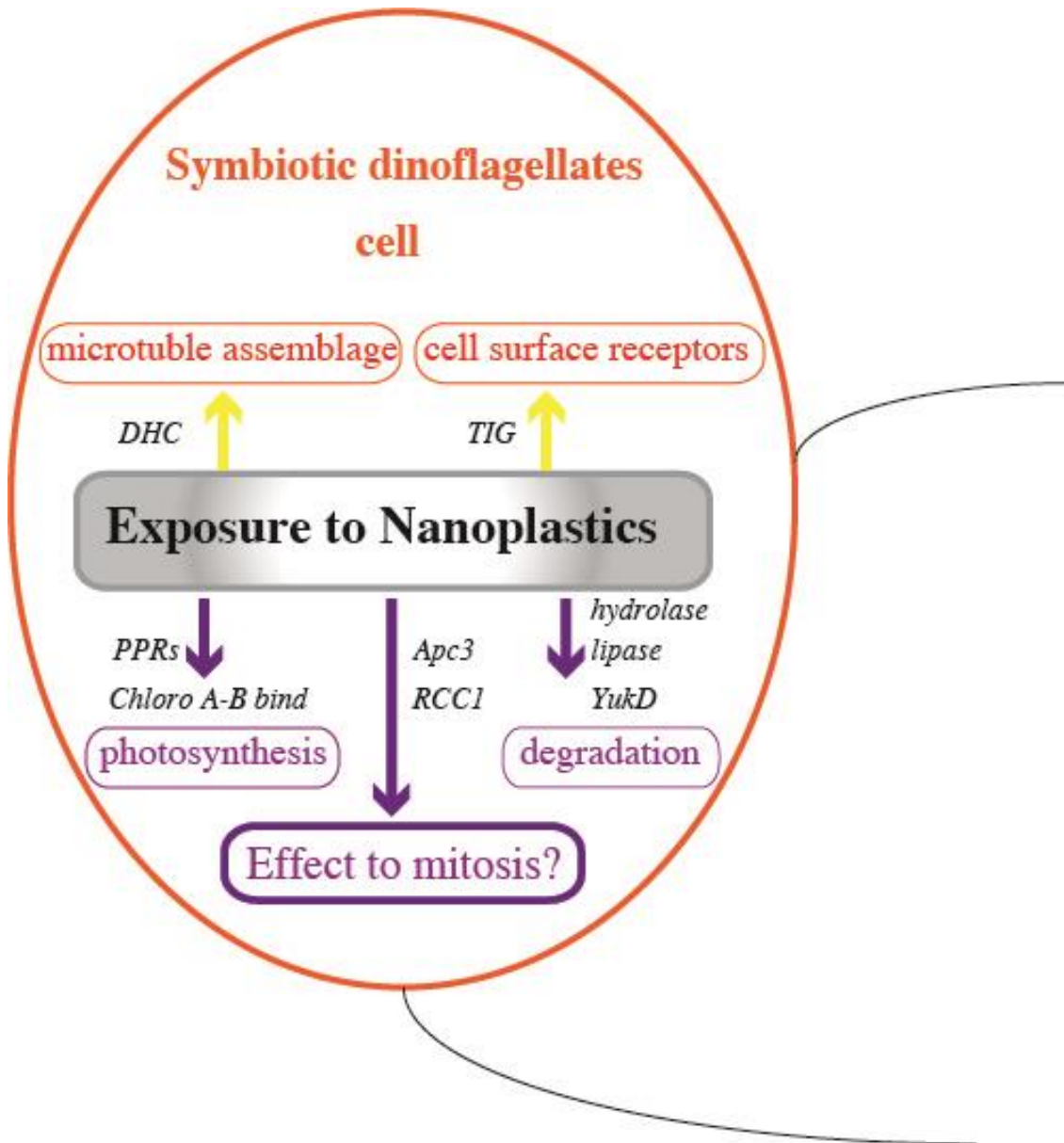
Domain name	Summary from Pfam database	Gene number
Ank	Ankyrin repeat	10
Ank_2	Ankyrin repeats (3 copies)	10
Ank_3	Ankyrin repeat	10
Ank_4	Ankyrin repeats (many copies)	10
Ank_5	Ankyrin repeats (many copies)	10
PPR_2	PPR repeat family	6
RCC1_2	Regulator of chromosome condensation (RCC1) repeat	6
ANAPC3 (Apc3)	Anaphase-promoting complex, cyclosome, subunit 3	5
Pkinase	Protein kinase domain	5
PPR	PPR repeat	5
PPR_3	Pentatricopeptide repeat domain	5
Abhydrolase_5	Alpha/beta hydrolase family	4
Abhydrolase_6	Alpha/beta hydrolase family	4
Lipase_3	Lipase (class 3)	4
PPR_1	PPR repeat	4
TPR_14	Tetratricopeptide repeat	4
YukD	WXG100 protein secretion system (Wss), protein YukD	4

257
258 Other downregulated gene groups were related to intracellular degradation processes, including
259 hydrolase and lipase, and to subunit 3 of the anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome [40]. The
260 downregulated gene (s3282_g2) with abhydrolase and chlorophyllase domains is likely related to
261 chlorophyll degradation [41]. The gene, s576_g21, for cell division control (CDC) protein 2 is
262 downregulated in *Cladocopium*. Downregulation of six genes with RCC1 (regulator of chromosome
263 condensation) and three genes with CDC domains suggest some effect on cell division. Thus, several
264 negative consequences of nanoPS₄₂ exposure are suggested by DEGs (summarized in
265 Supplementary Figure S4).

266 4. Conclusions

267 Previous studies have shown that nanoplastic has adverse effects on different algae groups
268 [27,29,30,42,43], and a recent study shows that microplastic has similarly negative effects on an
269 endosymbiotic dinoflagellate *Cladocopium goreau* [13]. No previous studies have been conducted
270 on nanoPS₄₂ effects on Symbiodiniaceae. We found significant changes in aggregation and aggregate
271 sinking velocity of *Symbiodinium tridacnidorum* and *Cladocopium* sp., coupled with variations in gene
272 expression patterns after exposure to nanoPS₄₂. This suggests that nanoPS₄₂ in coral reef ecosystems
273 has the potential to influence the acquisition of symbionts by mollusks and corals, likely damaging

274 these symbiotic relationships. Since both are major architects of reef structure, nanoPS₄₂ pollution
275 has the potential to lead to structural changes in reef ecosystem dynamics.
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277

278 Figure 5. Exposure to nanoPS₄₂ changes gene expression levels in symbiotic dinoflagellates. Yellow and
279 purple arrows show up-regulation and down-regulation of gene expression, respectively.

280 Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1; Figure S1: Cell abundance
281 in treatment tanks, control tanks, and outside controls; Figure S2: NanoPS exposure changes aggregation
282 behaviour, reduces cell numbers, and alters size class distributions; Table S1: Relationship between nanoPS₄₂
283 concentration and particles per Tank; Table S2: Sampling days of each tank; Table S3: Genes that responded to
284 nanoplastic exposure in *Symbiodinium tridacnidorum*; Table S4: Genes that responded to nanoplastic exposure
285 in *Cladocopium* sp.

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287 and CR performed RNA-seq mapping and cluster analyses. All authors wrote the manuscript. All authors have
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297 Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

298 Availability of Data: Data are available in the electronic supplementary material. Raw sequence data are available
299 from PRJNA627564 in NCBI database. *Symbiodinium* (currently the family Symbiodiniaceae) clade A3 and C
300 genomes: clade A3 (https://marinegenomics.oist.jp/symb/viewer/info?project_id=37) clade C
301 (https://marinegenomics.oist.jp/symb/viewer/info?project_id=40) Transcript models of *Symbiodinium* clades A3
302 and C: https://marinegenomics.oist.jp/symb/download/syma_transcriptome_37.fasta.gz
303 https://marinegenomics.oist.jp/symb/download/symC_aug_40.fa.gz

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