

# CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2019 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Project Number

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**Project Title** 

# **Pressuring Microalgae**

#### **Abstract**

### **Objectives**

The purpose of this experiment is to figure out in what air pressure will the microalgae grow or reproduce. I hypothesize that if I increase the air pressure then the microalgae will significantly reproduce. My independent variable is the air pressure, while my dependent variable is how many cells reproduced. I added about 4ml of microalgae into a falcon tube and then added 1 ml of ethanol do kill the cells in order to count then. Take a sample and place in on a hemocytometer. My results states that when I decreased the air pressure the microalgae reproduced significantly than when I increase the air pressure. On my first trial I forgot to add micronutrients, which could have affected my results. Also, on my second trial I dropped some of my microalgae, which could have affected my counting. My hypothesis was rejected because the microalgae reproduced significantly when I decreased the air pressure. If I wanted to do further research I could do more trials, I can also conduct this experiment with a different microalgae.

#### **Methods**

#### Materials:

- 1. 500 ml flasks
- 2. Airline
- 3. Compound Microscope
- 4. Microalgae (Isochrysis Galbana)
- 5. Hemocytometer

#### **Procedures:**

- 1. In a 15 ml, falcon tube, add 4 ml of isochrysis and a 1 ml of ethanol using transfer pipettes (adding ethanol will keep the algae cells from moving, your killing them) and let it sit for about a minute to make sure its mixed.
- 2. Get a glass pipette and carefully take up some volume and load it onto one side of the hemocytometer.
- 3. When you place the hemocytometer onto the microscope and adjust it to your liking you will see something as depicted below.

#### Results

My data states that when I decreased the air pressure I got a higher average, which means the microalgae reproduced significantly. Their were factors that could have affected my results. On my first trial I forgot to add micronutrients which could have affected my results. As I was setting my second culture I accidentally

### **Summary Statement**

I showed their will be no increase to reproduction rate of microalgae when air is decreased nor increased.

# **Help Received**

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Nursery provided the materials, and helped sponsor my project.