The Effects of Light Quality on the Morphology and Hydrocarbon Production of Botryococcus braunii

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Signature: ................Joao Diogo Gouveia..............................
ABSTRACT

*Botryococcus braunii* is a green, colonial microalga that can produce up to 75\% of its dry weight as liquid hydrocarbons that can be converted to a sustainable biofuel. Until now, no studies have been performed on the effects of light quality on *B. braunii* cell morphology and hydrocarbon production. This investigation focused on the effects of white light (WL), blue light (BL), green light (GL) and red light (RL) on cell morphology and hydrocarbon synthesis in *B. braunii*, strain Guadeloupe (race B). *B. braunii* dry biomass increased in WL and RL, but in BL and GL there was no growth. The average cell size was significantly larger (P < 0.05) in WL than the average cell size in RL and BL and GL. The amount of hydrocarbons synthesised was not affected by light quality, with a relative hydrocarbon of 38\% to 42\% per dry biomass across the different light regimes. Moreover, there was no change to the composition of hydrocarbons produce by *B. braunii* in the different light treatments.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ................................................................................................. i  
Abstract...................................................................................................................... ii  
Index of Figures......................................................................................................... iii  
Index of Tables.......................................................................................................... iii  
Index of Appendices................................................................................................. iv  
Index of Abbreviations............................................................................................ iv  
Table of Contents..................................................................................................... v  

Chapter 1. Introduction........................................................................................... pg 1  

Chapter 2. Materials and Methods........................................................................... pg 11  
  2.1 Algal culture.................................................................................................... pg 11  
  2.2 Absorbance of the algal culture ...................................................................... pg 13  
  2.3 Dry biomass.................................................................................................... pg 13  
  2.4 Chlorophyll content......................................................................................... pg 13  
  2.5 *Botryococcus braunii* cell size measurements............................................... pg 13  
  2.6 *In Vivo* lipid assay by Nile red fluorescence............................................... pg 14  
  2.7 *In Vitro* hydrocarbons purification............................................................... pg 14  

Chapter 3. *Botryococcus braunii* Growth in Different Light Regimes.  
  3.1 Methods for growth analysis........................................................................ pg 15  
  3.2 Biomass and growth rate in white and blue light.......................................... pg 18  
  3.3 Biomass growth rate in different light regimes............................................. pg 20
Chapter 4. Effect of Light Colour on *Botryococcus braunii* Cell Morphology and Chlorophyll Content.

4.1 *Botryococcus braunii* colony morphology........................................ pg 23
4.2 *Botryococcus braunii* cell size......................................................... pg 24
4.3 Effect of light colour on *Botryococcus braunii* chlorophyll content.pg 25

Chapter 5. Effect of Light Colour on *Botryococcus braunii* Hydrocarbon Synthesis................................................................. pg 29

Chapter 6. Effect of light colour on *Botryococcus braunii* Hydrocarbon Compositon............................................................... pg 37

Chapter 7. Discussion .............................................................................. pg 39

Chapter 8. Conclusion .............................................................................. pg 44

References ............................................................................................... pg 45

Appendices ............................................................................................. pg 51