**Table S2. Cell properties of the *Heterocapsa* sp. types in single suspension experiment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Student’s *t*-test (df=2)** | |
| **Cell properties** | **f/2** | **N/40** | **P/40** | ***F***2,3 | **f/2 vs. N/40** | **f/2 vs. P/40** |
| ESD (μm) | 14.2 | 13.7 | 13.9 |  |  |  |
| pg C cell-1 | 321 (9.2) | 356 (0.3) | 333 (7.5) | 6.56 ns |  |  |
| pg N cell-1 | 52 (0.3)a | 40 (1.2)b | 49 (2.9)a,b | 12.57\* |  |  |
| pg P cell-1 | 14 (0.2)a | 13 (0.1)a | 5 (0.2)b | 935.21\*\*\* |  |  |
| C:N | 7.2 (0.3)a | 10.4 (0.3)b | 7.9 (0.3)a | 37.53\*\* |  |  |
| C:P | 60.8 (1.9) | 69.8 (0.5) | 166.2 (7.6) |  | -4.50\* | -13.47\*\* |
| N:P | 8.5 (0.1) | 6.7 (0.2) | 21.1 (1.3) |  | 7.21\* | -8.53\* |

Cell size (ESD: equivalent spherical diameter), elemental composition (C: carbon, N: nitrogen, P: phosphorus) and molar elemental ratios of the distinct *Heterocapsa* sp. cultures offered during the single source feeding experiment. Differences among treatments were assessed with one-way ANOVA and Tukey’s post-hoc tests (*F*: ANOVA statistics, \*: *p*<0.05, \*\*: *p*<0.01, \*\*\*: *p*<0.001, ns: not significant). Paired comparisons of C:P and N:P ratios conducted with Student’s *t*-tests (f/2 vs. N/40 and f/2 vs. P/40 cells). Numbers in parentheses correspond to the standard error and superscripts indicate the homogenous groups according to Tukey’s post-hoc test.