混合栄養(Mixotrophy)

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I investigated the kinds of prey species and the effects of the prey concentration on the growth and ingestion rates of the harmful alga Cochlodinium polykrikoides, when feeding on an unidentified cryptophyte species (Equivalent Spherical Diameter, ESD=5.6 µm). I also calculated grazing coefficients by combining field data on abundances of C. polykrikoides and cooccurring cryptophytes with laboratory data on ingestion rates obtained in the present study. C. polykrikoides fed on prey cells by engulfing the prey through the sulcus. Among the phytoplankton prey offered, C. polykrikoides ingested small phytoplankton species that had ESD's \leq 11 µm (e.g. heterotrophic bacteria, the cyanobacteria Synechococcus the sp., prymnesiophyte Isochrysis galbana, an unidentified cryptophyte, cryptophyte the Rhodomonas salina, the raphidophyte Heterosigma akashiwo, and the dinoflagellate Amphidinium carterae). It did not feed on larger phytoplankton species that had ESD's \geq 12 µm (e.g. the dinoflagellates Heterocapsa triquetra, Prorocentrum minimum, Scrippsiella sp., Alexandrium tamarense, Prorocentrum micans, Gymnodinium catenatum, Akashiwo sanguinea,

and Lingulodinium polyedrum). Specific growth rates of C. polykrikoides on a cryptophyte increased with increasing mean prey concentration, with saturation at a mean prev concentration of approximately 270 ng C ml⁻¹ (i.e. 15,900 cells ml⁻¹). The maximum specific growth rate (mixotrophic growth) of C. polykrikoides on a cryptophyte was 0.324 d⁻¹, under a 14:10 h light-dark cycle of 50 μ E m⁻² s⁻¹, while its growth rate (phototrophic growth) under the same light conditions without added prey was $0.166 d^{-1}$. Maximum ingestion and clearance rates of C. polykrikoides on a cryptophyte were 0.16 ng C grazer d^{-1} (9.4 cells grazer d^{-1}) and 0.33 µl grazer h⁻¹, respectively. Calculated grazing coefficients by C. polykrikoides on cryptophytes were 0.001-0.745 h⁻¹ (i.e. 0.1-53 % of cryptophyte populations were removed by a C. polykrikoides population in 1 hour). The results of the present study suggest that C. polykrikoides sometimes has a considerable grazing impact on populations of cryptophytes.