**This page documents our supplementary material for the PeerJ submission:**

*Isolation and Culture of Microalgae:*

The algal strains used here were isolated from natural water bodies in Central Taiwan. Water samples with visible microalgal population were centrifuged at 3000 ×*g* for 10 minutes at room temperature to concentrate the cells and spread onto CA agar plates (with 0.8% w/v agar). For isolating an axenic single colony from field water samples, the streak plate method was used. The algae were cultured in CA medium, consisting of 2 mg/L Ca(NO3)2.4H2O, 10 mg/L KNO3, 5 mg/L NH4NO3, 3 mg/L β–Na2glycerophosphate.5H2O, 2 mg/L MgSO4.7H2O, 0.01 μg/L vitamin B12, 0.01 μg/L biotin, 1 μg/L thiamine HCl, and 0.1 mL/L PIV metals (1000 mg/L Na2EDTA.2H2O, 196 mg/L FeCl3.6H2O, 36 mg/L MnCl2.4H2O, 10.4 mg/L ZnCl2, 4 mg/L of CoCl2.6H2O, and 2.5 mg/L of Na2MoO4.2H2O), 0.1 mL/L Fe (as EDTA; 1:1 molar; 702 mg/L Fe(NH4)2(SO4).6H2O and 660 mg/L Na2EDTA.2H2O), and 40 mg/L of HEPES; all compounds were directly mixed, the pH was then adjusted to 7.2 and autoclaved (15 min at 120°C). Isolated algal cells were stored at −80°C in 15%–20% glycerol. For each experiment, the alga was cultured axenically in liquid CA medium at 125 rpm in a tube rotator and grown at 25°C under cool white fluorescent light (approximately 46.30 µmol m−2 s−1) with a 14:10-h light–dark period. Each algal culture sample was observed for cellular growth rates by measuring the optical density at 680 nm. The regression equation between cell density (y × 105/mL) and OD685 (x) was derived as y = 162.1x + 1.3463 (r2 = 99.34%) (Qian et al., 2009).