

Pigments were analysed by HPLC. Aliquots from the sediment traps were filtrated on 25 mm Whatman GF/F glass fiber filters. Filters were ground and sonicated in 3-ml methanol (HPLC grade) under dim light conditions. Extracts were analysed on reverse phase HPLC (RP-C8 column) following the method described in Vidussi *et al.* (1996). Chlorophylls and carotenoids were detected and quantified by absorbance at 440 nm and phaeopigments by absorbance at 667 nm using the HP 1100 diode array detection, and by fluorescence detection (FL 3000, Thermo Finnigan).

Identification of pigments was performed by comparison of on-line collected absorption spectra with those of a library of spectra established from standards and reference cultures obtained from the Villefranche sur mer culture collection. The standard carotenoids were provided by R. Bidigare as part of a JGOFS intercalibration exercise. Paeopigments were provided by D.J. Repeta (WHOI).

Vidussi, F., Claustre, H., Bustillos-Guzman, J., Cailliau, C., Marty, J.C., 1996. Determination of chlorophylls and carotenoids of marine phytoplankton : separation of chlorophyll *a* from divinyl-chlorophyll *a* and zeaxanthin from lutein. *Journal of Plankton Research* 18, 2377-2382.