

UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley Previously Published Works

Title

Photosynthetic biohybrid coculture for tandem and tunable CO₂ and N₂ fixation

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0t944667>

Journal

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 119(26)

ISSN

0027-8424

Authors

Cestellos-Blanco, Stefano
Chan, Rachel R
Shen, Yue-xiao
[et al.](#)

Publication Date

2022-06-28

DOI

10.1073/pnas.2122364119

Peer reviewed



Supplementary Information for

Photosynthetic biohybrid co-culture for tandem and tunable CO₂ and N₂ fixation

Stefano Cestellos-Blanco^{1,3}, Rachel R. Chan², Yue-xiao Shen^{2,3,4}, Ji Min Kim^{1,3}, Tom A. Tacken^{2,5}, Rhesa Ledbetter^{3,6,7}, Sunmoon Yu^{1,8}, Lance C. Seefeldt^{3,6} and Peidong Yang^{1,2,3,8,9*}

¹ Departments of Materials Science and Engineering and ² Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

³ Center for the Utilization of Biological Engineering in Space (CUBES), University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

⁴ Current affiliation: Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, USA

⁵ Department of Physics, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

⁶ Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA

⁷ Current affiliation: Department of Biology, Hastings College, Hastings, NE, USA

⁸ Chemical Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, USA

⁹ Kavli Energy Nanosciences Institute, Berkeley, CA, USA

*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed

Email: p_yang@berkeley.edu

This file includes:

Supplementary text

Tables S1 to S4

Figures S1 to S12

1 **Supplementary Text**

2
3 **Cell culture medium preparation recipes and notes:**

4 Unless otherwise noted all the media is prepared in degassed H₂O. H₂O is degassed by purging N₂/Ar until
5 boiling. 25% more ultrapure water is used to account for evaporation losses. In order to prevent precipitation
6 of medium components during autoclaving, certain components are added after autoclaving (or boiling).
7 These were separately autoclaved, or syringe filtered. The hungate technique was employed to maintain
8 anoxic media and solutions.
9

10 **Discussion on acetate to fixed N conversion efficiency:**

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18 **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES**

19
20

	STOCK	BETAINE MEDIUM	YEAST MEDIUM	AUTOTROPHIC MEDIUM
BEFORE BOILING	NaCl, MgSO ₄ , NH ₄ Cl and CaCl ₂ (5X) ¹	20 mL	20 mL	20 mL
	K ₂ HPO ₄ and KH ₂ PO ₄ (5X) ²	20 mL	20 mL	20 mL
	FeSO ₄ (500X) ³	0.2 mL	0.2 mL	0.2 mL
	NaHSeO ₃ (1000X) ⁴	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	0.1 mL
	Trace Metal ⁵	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	0.1 mL
	Tungstate (1X) ⁶	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	0.1 mL
	Ultrapure water	55 mL	55 mL	55 mL
	BEFORE AUTOCLAVE	Yeast Casitone	0.2 g 0.2 g	0.2 g
AFTER AUTOCLAVE	NaHCO ₃ (8g/100mL)	5 mL	5 mL	5 mL
	Vitamin ⁷	1 mL	1 mL	1 mL
	Reducing Reagent ⁸	2 mL	2 mL	2 mL
	Betaine stock ⁹	5 mL		
	Total:	100 mL	100 mL	100 mL

21
22 **S. ovata Medium Supplementary Table 1**

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

	STOCK	CO-CULTURE MEDIUM
BEFORE AUTOCLAVE	NaCl, MgSO ₄ , and CaCl ₂ (5X) ¹⁰	20 mL
	FeSO ₄ (500X) ³	0.2 mL
	NaHSeO ₃ (1000X) ⁴	0.1 mL
	Trace Metal ⁵	0.1 mL
	Tungstate (1X) ⁶	0.1 mL
	Ultrapure water	54 mL
AFTER AUTOCLAVE	NaHCO ₃ (8g/100mL)	5 mL
	Vitamin ⁷	1 mL
	K ₂ HPO ₄ and KH ₂ PO ₄ ²	20 mL
	Total:	100 mL

37
38
39
40
41
42
Co-culture Medium Supplementary Table 2

	STOCK	CO-CULTURE MEDIUM
BEFORE AUTOCLAVE	NaCl, MgSO ₄ , and CaCl ₂ (5X) ¹¹	5 mL
	NaCl (5X) ¹²	15 mL
	FeSO ₄ (500X) ³	0.2 mL
	NaHSeO ₃ (1000X) ⁴	0.1 mL
	Trace Metal ⁵	0.1 mL
	Tungstate (1X) ⁶	0.1 mL
	Ultrapure water	54 mL
AFTER AUTOCLAVE	NaHCO ₃ (8g/100mL)	5 mL
	Vitamin ⁷	1 mL
	K ₂ HPO ₄ , Na ₂ HPO ₄ KH ₂ PO ₄ and NaH ₂ PO ₄ ¹³	20 mL
	Total:	100 mL

43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
Co-culture Electrolyte Table 3

	STOCK	PM MEDIUM	DIAZO/PHOTO-HETEROTROPHIC MEDIUM	DIAZO/PHOTO-AUTOTROPHIC MEDIUM
BEFORE AUTOCLAVE	0.5 M Na ₂ HPO ₄	2.5 mL	2.5 mL	2.5 mL
	0.5 M KH ₂ PO ₄	2.5 mL	2.5 mL	2.5 mL
	10% (NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	1 mL		
	Concentrated Base ¹⁴	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	0.1 mL
	0.1 M Na ₂ S ₂ O ₃	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	
	PABA (2 mg/mL)	0.1 mL	0.1 mL	0.1 mL
	0.5 M NaHCO ₃			5 mL
AFTER	Ultrapure water	92 mL	95 mL	88 mL
	1M Sodium Acetate	2 mL (20mM)	Variable	

AUTOCLAVE	NiCl ₂		1 μ M
	Total:	100 mL	100 mL

52 **R. palustris Medium Supplementary Table 4**

53

54

55

56

57 ¹ NaCl 11.25 g/L, MgSO₄·7H₂O 2.5 g/L, NH₄Cl 2.5 g/L and CaCl₂ 1.25 g/L

58

59 ² K₂HPO₄ 1.74 g/L and KH₂PO₄ 1.135 g/L

60

61 ³ FeSO₄ 7H₂O 1 g/L

62

63 ⁴ NaHSeO₃ 5H₂O 10⁻⁴ mol/L

64

65 ⁵ Trace Metal

Component	Amount
HCl (25%)	10 mL
FeCl ₂ 4H ₂ O	1.5 g
ZnCl ₂	0.07 g
MnCl ₂ 4H ₂ O	0.1 g
H ₃ BO ₃	0.006 g
CoCl ₂ 2H ₂ O	0.19 g
NiCl ₂ 6H ₂ O	0.002 g
Na ₂ MoO ₄ 2H ₂ O	0.036 g
Ultrapure water	990 mL
Total	1000 mL

66

67 ⁶ NaWO₄ 2H₂O 4 g/L

68

69 ⁷ Vitamin

Component	Amount
Biotin	2 g
Folic acid	2 g
Pyridozine-HCl	10 g
Thiamine-HCl	5 g
Riboflavin	5 g
Nicotinic acid	5 g
Ca-D-pantothenate	5 g
Vitamin B ₁₂	0.1 g
p-Aminobenzoic acid	5 g
α -Lipoic acid	5 g
Ultrapure water	1000 mL
Total	1000 mL

70

71

72

73

74

75

76 ⁸ Reducing Reagent

Component	Amount
L-Cysteine-HCl H ₂ O	1.5 g
Na ₂ S 9H ₂ O	1.5 g
Ultrapure water	100 mL
Total	100 mL

77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88

⁹ Betaine H₂O 1.34 g/L

¹⁰ NaCl 11.25 g/L, MgSO₄·7H₂O 2.5 g/L, and CaCl₂ 1.25 g/L

¹¹ NaCl 4.518 g/L, MgSO₄·7H₂O 2.5 g/L, and CaCl₂ 1.25 g/L

¹²NaCl 4.518 g/L

¹³ K₂HPO₄ 1.74 g/L KH₂PO₄ 1.135 g/L, Na₂HPO₄·7H₂O 10.725 g/L, NaH₂PO₄·H₂O 4.69 g/L

¹⁴ Concentrated Base

Component	Amount
Nitrilotriacetic acid (free acid)	20 g
MgSO ₄ anhydrous	28.9 g
CaCl ₂ 2H ₂ O	6.67 g
(NH ₄) ₆ Mo ₇ O ₂₄ 4H ₂ O	0.0185 g
FeSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	0.198 g
Ultrapure water	900 mL
Metal 44 ¹⁵	100 mL
Total:	1000 mL

89
90
91

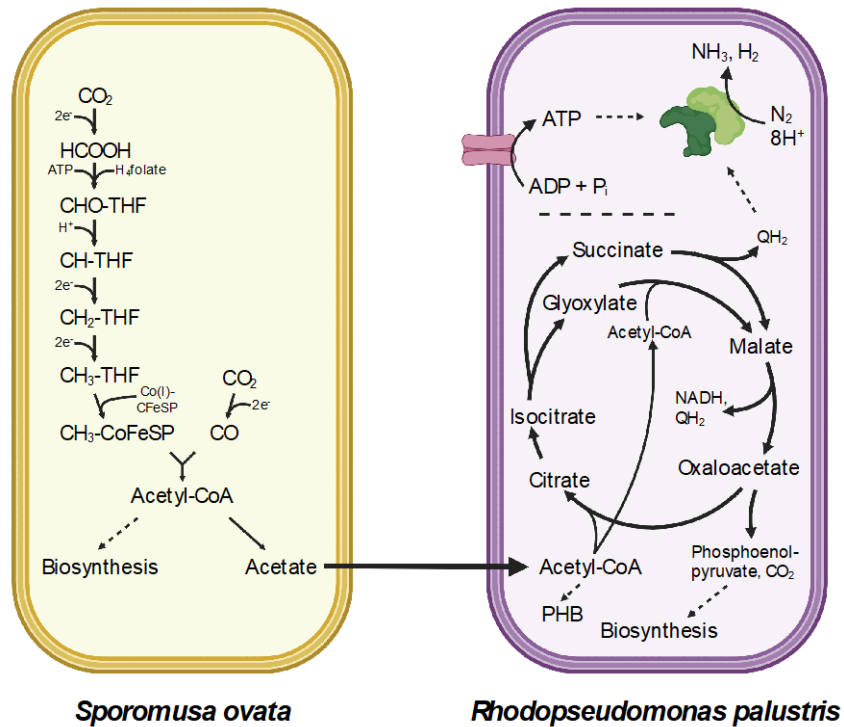
¹⁵ Metal 44

Component	Amount
EDTA (free acid)	2.5 g
ZnSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	10.95 g
FeSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	5 g
MnSO ₄ H ₂ O	1.54 g
CuSO ₄ 5H ₂ O	0.392 g
Co(NO ₃) ₂ 6H ₂ O	0.25 g
Na ₂ B ₄ O ₇ 10 H ₂ O	0.177 g
Ultrapure water	1000 ml
Total:	1000 mL

92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108

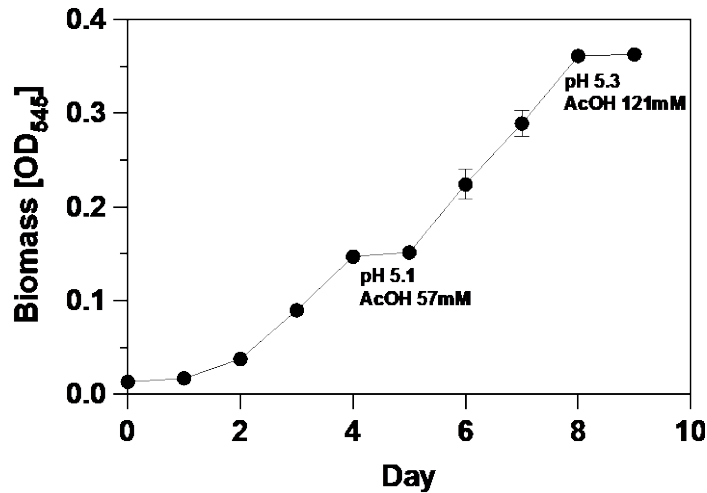
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118

Supplementary Figures



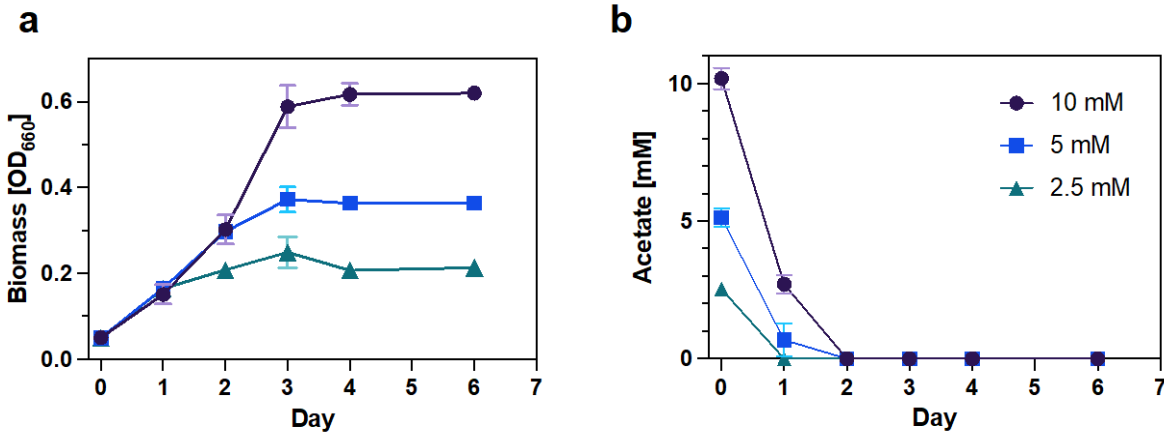
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130

Supplementary Figure 1 | Overview of internal metabolic pathways in *S. ovata* and *R. palustris nifA**. *S. ovata* converts CO₂ to acetate via the Wood-Ljungdahl pathway in which 1 CO₂ is converted to formate to be adhered onto tetrahydrofolate and finally combined with an iron coronoid protein as a methyl group. The methyl group is joined with CO to form Acetyl-CoA which is either converted to acetate (releasing ATP) is used in protein biosynthesis. *R. palustris nifA** initially transforms acetate to Acetyl-CoA which is then used in the tricarboxylic acid cycle with a glyoxylate shunt to generate reducing equivalents (to be used in cellular processes like N₂ hydrogenation) and produce metabolic intermediates for protein biosynthesis.



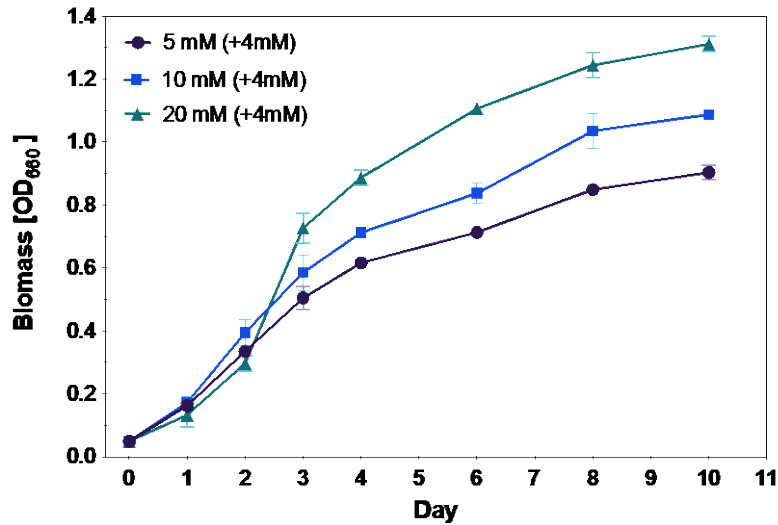
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140

Supplementary Figure 2 | Autotrophic *S. ovata* culture shows dependency of culture growth with medium pH. Autotrophic medium has a pH of 6.8 pre-inoculation, which decreases to ~5.2 with an acetate (AcOH) concentration of ~60mM. Culture growth plateaus once medium is acidified, but growth can be recovered by stabilizing medium pH to 6.8. Culture plateaus once again with medium acidification. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.



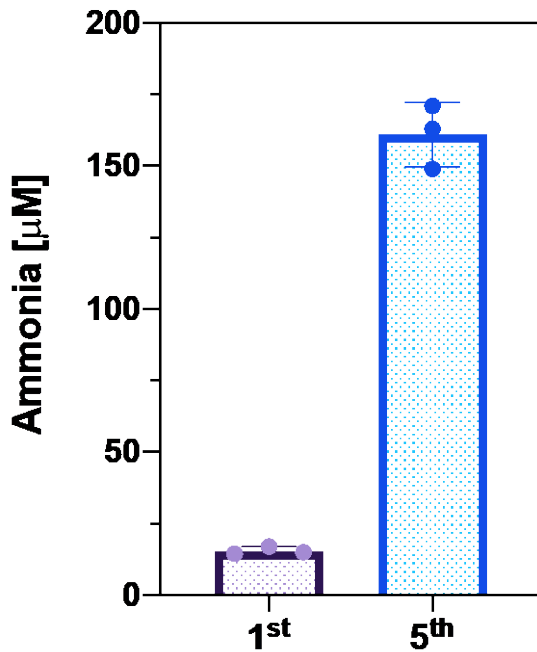
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153

Supplementary Figure 3 | *R. palustris nifA** cultures supplemented with 2.5mM, 5mM and 10mM acetate. a) Final biomass yield is proportional to the acetate provided. b) Tracking the acetate concentration reveals that the acetate is largely consumed by the mid-exponential phase. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.



154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161

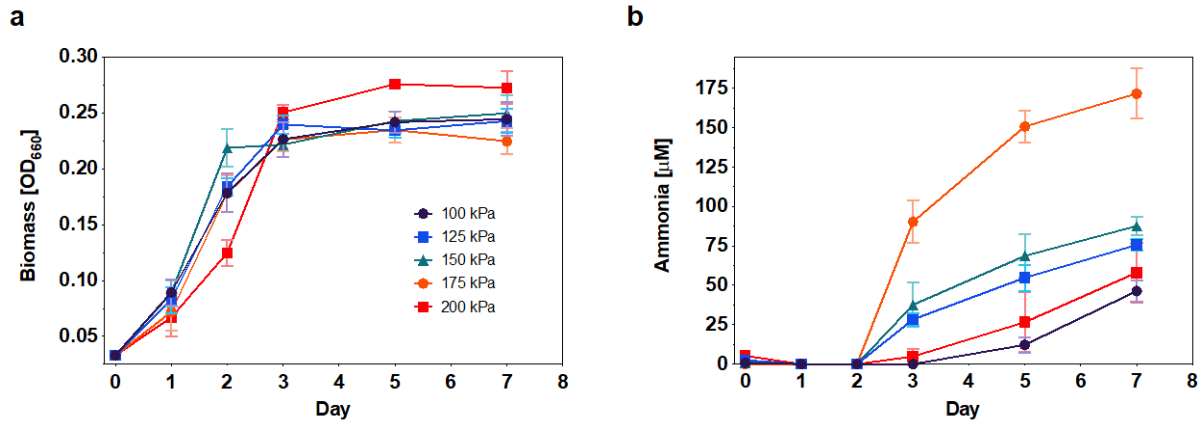
Supplementary Figure 4 | *R. palustris nifA*⁺ cultures are supplemented with 5mM, 10mM and 20mM acetate initially and an additionally 4mM acetate is provided on days 2, 4 and 6. This indicates that further *R. palustris nifA*⁺ culture growth may be induced by additional acetate provision. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.



162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169

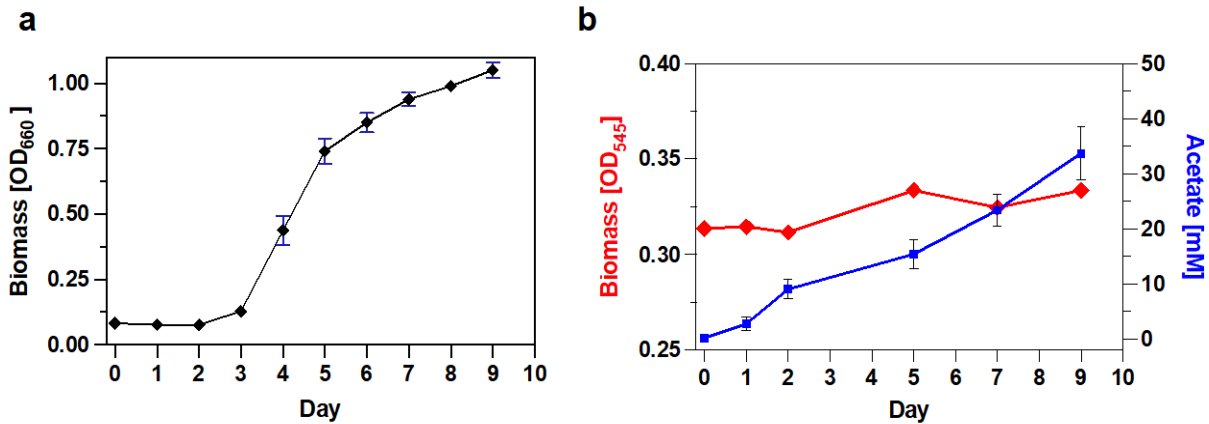
Supplementary Figure 5 | *R. palustris nifA*⁺ cultures grown diazotrophically in 1st cycle from frozen stock and 5th cycle from frozen stock. Ammonia secretion in *R. palustris nifA*⁺ may be increased by recursively selecting for cultures with the highest ammonia content. Additionally, cultures soon after the frozen stock stage may not be as metabolically active. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.

170
171
172



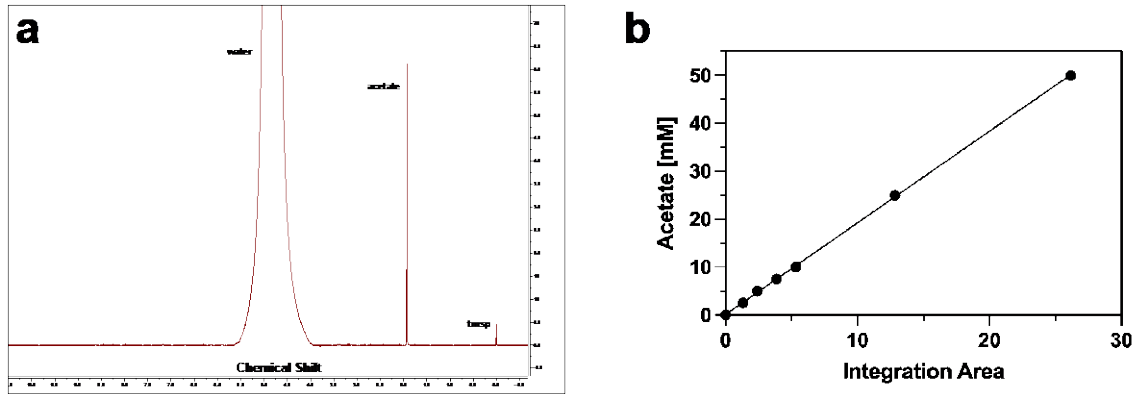
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181

Supplementary Figure 6 | a) Diazotrophic, photoheterotrophic *R. palustris nifA** cultures grown under increasing headspace pressures. Cultures were supplemented with 2.5mM acetate and kept under pure N₂ headspace. b) Extracellular ammonia increases with increasing headspace pressure up to 175kPa. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.

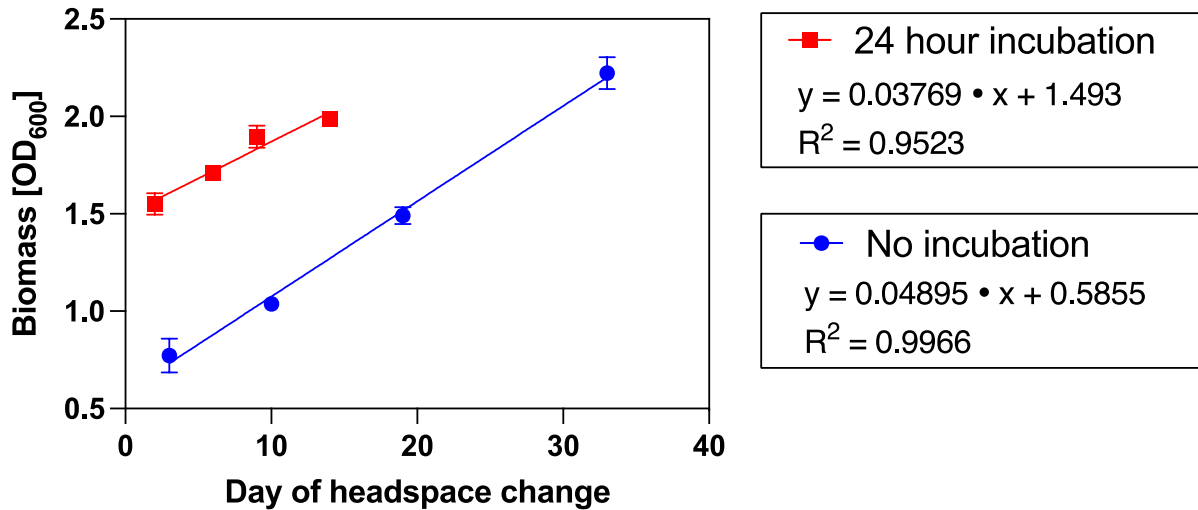


182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190

Supplementary Figure 7 | *R. palustris nifA** and *S. ovata* grown individually to verify compatibility of co-culture medium. a) *R. palustris nifA** culture supplemented with 25mM acetate and b) *S. ovata* culture supplemented with 100µM ammonia. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.

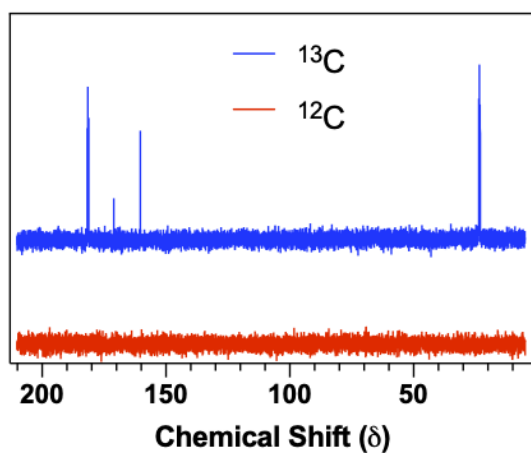


191 **Supplementary Figure 8** | a) Representative $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of the medium from an autotrophic *S.*
 192 *ovata* culture. Protons from the methyl group of acetate are detected at 1.92 ppm. sodium 3- (trimethylsilyl)-
 193 2,2',3,3'-tetradeuteropropionate (tmsp) is used as an internal standard. b) Calibration curve for acetate
 194 quantification with $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($R^2=0.999$).
 195
 196
 197
 198



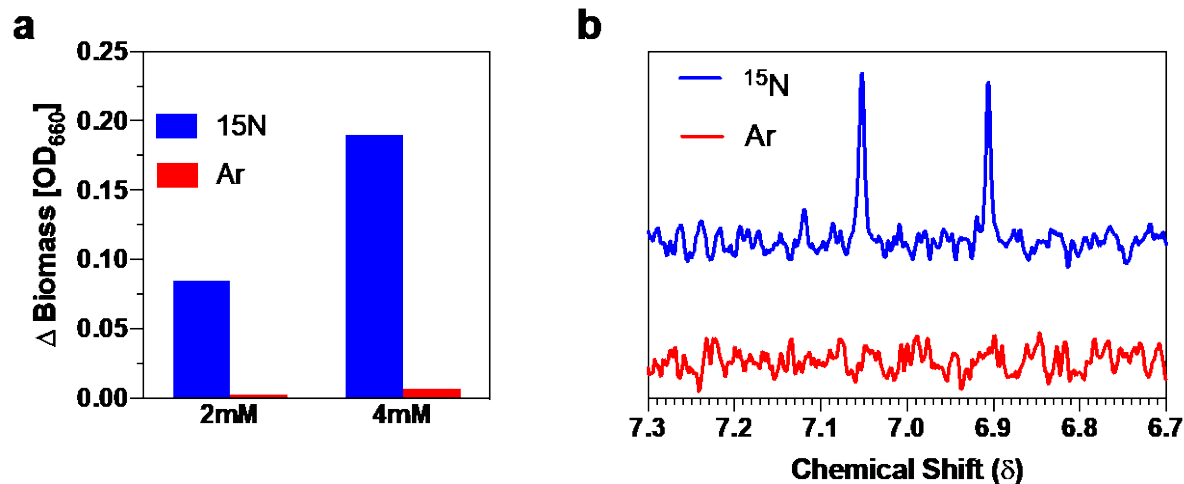
199 **Supplementary Figure 9** | *R. palustris nifA** and *S. ovata* co-culture growth dynamic. Blue plot corresponds
 200 to co-cultures where *R. palustris nifA** and *S. ovata* were inoculated simultaneously while the red plot
 201 corresponds to the co-cultures where *S. ovata* was incubated individually for 24 hours prior to the addition
 202 of *R. palustris nifA**. Plot points denote the biomass yield on the day on which the headspace was
 203 exchanged to pure N_2 . Linear regression fit indicates a linear relation between biomass yields in different
 204 co-cultures conditions. Error bars represent one standard deviation of three independent measurements.
 205
 206

207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222

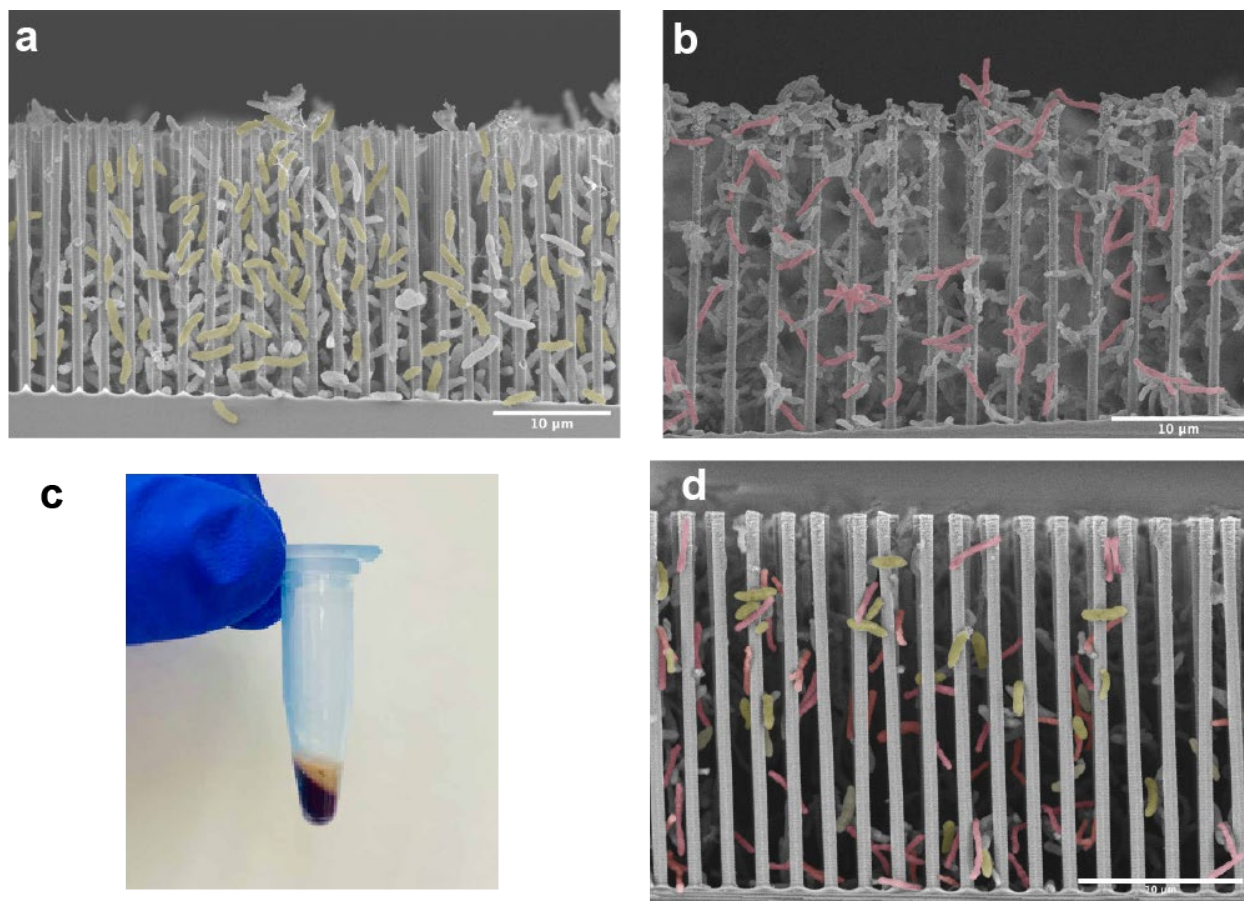


223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230

Supplementary Figure 10 | Carbon NMR spectrum depicting the produced isotope labeled acetate from ^{13}C labeled experiment (blue) and the unlabeled experiment (red) without any isotope labeled acetate.



231
232 **Supplementary Figure 11** | *R. palustris nifA** cultures with ¹⁵N₂ and Ar headspaces supplemented with
233 2mM and 4mM acetate. A) Total biomass yield for each condition. B) ¹H-NMR spectrum with ¹⁵NH₃ (blue)
234 and no NH₃ for cultures grown with Ar (red).
235
236
237
238
239
240
241



242
 243
 244 **Supplementary Figure 12** | Scanning electron micrographs of pure a) *S. ovata* and b) *R. palustris nifA**
 245 cultures on silicon nanowire arrays. c) *S. ovata* and *R. palustris nifA** co-culture ultracentrifuged (12,000
 246 RPM) showing separation of individual bacterial strains visible by color (*S. ovata* is yellow/beige and *R.*
 247 *palustris* is dark pink). The approximate final cell ratio is 2:3 *S. ovata* to *R. palustris nifA**, having been
 248 seeded at a 6:1 *S. ovata* to *R. palustris nifA** cell ratio. d) Scanning electron micrograph of *S. ovata* and *R.*
 249 *palustris nifA** co-culture after a routine electrochemical experiment. *S. ovata* and *R. palustris* are false-
 250 colored yellow and pink respectively.
 251