

1   **Title:** A phenomic modeling approach for using chlorophyll-a fluorescence-based measurements  
2   on coral photosymbionts: a step towards bio-optical bleaching prediction  
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4   **Running head:** advancing towards bio-optical coral bleaching prediction  
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6   **Authors:** Kenneth D. Hoadley (0000-0002-9287-181X)<sup>1,2</sup>, Grant Lockridge (0000-0002-3754-  
7   6854)<sup>2</sup>, Audrey McQuagge<sup>1,2</sup>, K. Blue Pahl (0000-0002-4071-9162)<sup>1,2</sup>, Sean Lowry<sup>1,2</sup>, Sophie  
8   Wong (0000-0002-3098-7614)<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Zachary Craig (0000-0002-8665-064X)<sup>5</sup>, Chelsea Petrik<sup>5\*</sup>,  
9   Courtney Klepac (0000-0002-3935-8275)<sup>5</sup>, Erinn M. Muller (0000-0002-2695-2064)<sup>4</sup>  
10

11   **Author affiliations:**

12   <sup>1</sup> University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL, USA

13   <sup>2</sup> Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island AL, USA

14   <sup>3</sup> University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA, USA

15   <sup>4</sup> Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota FL, USA

16   <sup>5</sup>Mote Marine Laboratory, Summerland Key, FL, USA

17   \*Currently at Nova Southeastern University, Ft Lauderdale, FL, USA

18

19   **Corresponding Author:**

20   Kenneth D Hoadley, tel 251-861-2141 ext 7574, email: kdhoadley@ua.edu

21

22 **Abstract:** We test a newly developed instrument prototype which utilizes time-resolved  
23 chlorophyll-*a* fluorescence techniques and fluctuating light to characterize Symbiodiniaceae  
24 functional traits across seven different coral species under cultivation as part of ongoing  
25 restoration efforts in the Florida Keys. While traditional chlorophyll-*a* fluorescence techniques  
26 only provide a handful of algal biometrics, the system and protocol we have developed generates  
27 > 1000 dynamic measurements in a short (~11 min) time frame. Resulting ‘high-content’ algal  
28 biometric data revealed distinct phenotypes, which broadly corresponded to clade-level  
29 Symbiodiniaceae designations determined using quantitative PCR. Next, algal biometric data  
30 from *Acropora cervicornis* (10 genotypes) and *A. palmata* (5 genotypes) coral fragments was  
31 correlated with bleaching response metrics collected after a two month-long exposure to high  
32 temperature. A network analysis identified 1973 correlations (Spearman  $R > 0.5$ ) between algal  
33 biometrics and various bleaching response metrics. These identified biomarkers of thermal stress  
34 were then utilized to train a predictive model, and when tested against the same *A. cervicornis*  
35 and *A. palmata* coral fragments, yielded high correlation ( $R = 0.92$ ) with measured thermal  
36 response (reductions in absorbance by chlorophyll-*a*). When applied to all seven coral species,  
37 the model ranked fragments dominated by *Cladocopium* or *Breviolum* symbionts as more  
38 bleaching susceptible than corals harboring thermally tolerant symbionts (*Durusdinium*). While  
39 direct testing of bleaching predictions on novel genotypes is still needed, our device and  
40 modeling pipeline may help broaden the scalability of existing approaches for determining  
41 thermal tolerance in reef corals. Our instrument prototype and analytical pipeline aligns with  
42 recent coral restoration assessments that call for the development of novel tools for improving  
43 scalability of coral restoration programs.

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45  
46 **Keywords:** Coral Bleaching, Algal Phenotyping, Symbiodiniaceae, Photobiology  
47

48 **Introduction**

49 Rising ocean temperature due to climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reefs  
50 (Hughes et al., 2017; Hughes et al., 2018). Traditional reef management strategies can be  
51 effective at mitigating local stressors (e.g., urban encroachment, pollution, and overfishing)  
52 (Gattuso et al., 2018; Donovan et al., 2021) but will not prevent rapid coral loss caused by  
53 increasingly frequent mass bleaching events. Active coral conservation programs that focus on  
54 direct restoration are needed and offer a means to mitigate the effects of global warming while  
55 more permanent solutions for combating climate change are developed (Boström-Einarsson et  
56 al., 2020; Caruso et al., 2021; Voolstra et al., 2021a). Indeed, reef management programs are  
57 increasingly reliant on active restoration activities including the cultivation and transplant of  
58 coral fragments to improve community resilience and/or restore impacted reefs (assisted  
59 evolution; (Van Oppen et al., 2015; Baums et al., 2019; Rinkevich, 2019; Grummer et al., 2022).  
60 Ideally, transplanted corals should have positive heritable traits that increase thermal resilience  
61 among the coral population, thereby minimizing their susceptibility to future thermal anomalies.  
62 Reliable and scalable identification of thermally tolerant coral genotypes is thus a critical need  
63 for improved efficacy in certain coral restoration initiatives (Voolstra et al., 2021a; Grummer et  
64 al., 2022). Recent studies that utilize molecular techniques to investigate linkage between  
65 thermal tolerance and coral host genetics (Fuller et al., 2020; Drury & Lirman, 2021; Drury et  
66 al., 2022) or microbial community dynamics (Peixoto et al., 2017; Ziegler et al., 2017; Rosado et  
67 al., 2019) are promising, but not yet fully developed. Others that rely on optical properties of the  
68 symbiotic algae (Suggett et al., 2022) also hold significant promise but need to be further  
69 contextualized for broader accessibility and scale.

70        The dinoflagellate family Symbiodiniaceae is a genetically diverse group of  
71        photosynthetic alga, many of which are important primary producers and often found in  
72        symbioses with reef-building corals (LaJeunesse et al., 2018). Tolerance to environmental  
73        perturbations such as high temperature events differ across Symbiodiniaceae species (Suggett et  
74        al., 2017; LaJeunesse et al., 2018), significantly impacting a coral's overall susceptibility to  
75        thermal bleaching events (Hughes et al., 2017). Distinguishing Symbiodiniaceae species has  
76        been almost exclusively done through genetic testing and prior knowledge of the species'  
77        capacity to cope with high temperature events. Certain photosynthetic traits differ across  
78        symbiont types or during exposure to thermal stress (Suggett et al., 2015; Hoadley et al., 2021),  
79        providing a suite of potentially useful biomarkers of bleaching susceptibility. Importantly, many  
80        of these traits can be rapidly measured using non-destructive bio-optical means.

81        Within reef corals, photosynthetic breakdown due to thermal stress has been widely  
82        described using chlorophyll a fluorescence (here on referred to as CF) techniques which are  
83        relatively instantaneous and can provide a wealth of information regarding the capture and use of  
84        photons within living photosynthetic organisms (Kolber et al., 1998; Gorbunov et al., 2001;  
85        Papageorgiou, 2007). These tools have contributed greatly to our current understanding of  
86        thermal tolerance across individual Symbiodiniaceae species (Warner et al., 1999). However,  
87        most studies have relied on instrumentation that use relatively long pulses of light (known as  
88        multi-turnover instruments such as the Walz PAM) which limits their capability to interrogate  
89        highly dynamic CF signatures. More sophisticated instrumentation that utilize short-pulses of  
90        light (known as 'single-turnover' instruments) to interrogate photochemical parameters, can  
91        provide a more dynamic and informative dataset (Kolber et al., 1998; Ragni et al., 2010; Suggett  
92        et al., 2015). With certain notable exceptions, CF methods that utilize single-turnover

93 instrumentation can resolve some photo-physiological traits across phylogenetic relationships,  
94 demonstrating the techniques' promise as a tool for the assessment of functional differences  
95 across symbiont types (Hennige et al., 2007; Hennige et al., 2009; Suggett et al., 2015; Hoadley  
96 et al., 2021). In addition, advancements in our understanding of dynamic and stochastic light  
97 conditions suggest that rapid changes in photo-acclimation measured during short time frames  
98 also provides valuable information for assessing photo-physiology (Allahverdiyeva & Suorsa...,  
99 2015; Andersson et al., 2019). Methods that incorporate single-turnover measurements to capture  
100 photochemical responses to dynamic changes in light could therefore greatly improve our ability  
101 to resolve functional differences across Symbiodiniaceae species and provide valuable insight to  
102 basic and applied fields of coral reef science.

103 Here we introduce a newly developed, low-cost, single turnover fluorometer specifically  
104 designed for interrogation of symbiotic algae *in hospite*. This instrument was designed on  
105 previously established and well-developed principles (Kolber et al., 1998) but also utilizes  
106 multiple excitation wavelengths (420, 442, 458, 505, and 520 nm) to preferentially excite  
107 different photopigments and light-harvesting compounds which may differ across symbiont types  
108 or environmental conditions (Hennige et al., 2009). Our time-resolved protocols compared a  
109 suite of spectrally dependent photochemical parameters (Table 1) as they respond to fluctuating  
110 light and generate thousands of dynamic photo-physiological measurements during a short 11  
111 min sampling protocol. This technique was then utilized to generate distinct phenotypes across  
112 seven different coral species and our results demonstrate how bio-optical approaches can be used  
113 to identify important photo-physiological differences across various coral species and light  
114 environments. Next, our phenotypic approach was utilized to train a predictive bleaching model  
115 by linking photo-physiological metrics with bleaching responses from two coral species

116 (Acropora palmata and Acropora cervicornis). High accuracy of the predictive model was  
117 confirmed against the same coral genets used in a bleaching experiment, demonstrating the  
118 cumulative power of using thousands of photo-physiological based biomarkers to assess  
119 bleaching susceptibility. A truncated version of the model was then applied to genets from the  
120 previously measured seven coral species. Results broadly correspond with underlying symbiont  
121 types, indicating good accuracy even across coral species and symbiont types not included in the  
122 original training dataset. Tools that improve scalability and accessibility for identifying  
123 functional traits such as bleaching susceptibility are valuable to the coral restoration field  
124 (Voolstra et al., 2020) and our novel instrumentation and analytical pipeline may benefit certain  
125 restoration initiatives.

126 **Materials and Methods**

127

128 **Construction of Multispectral Fluorometer:** A detailed list of parts, along with PCB board,  
129 housing and schematics can be found in the supplemental materials (fig. S1) and through an  
130 online repository (GitHub: khoadley/MultSpectral-ST-PCB). Briefly, the multispectral  
131 fluorometer is controlled via a small microcontroller (Teensy 4.1) which governs both the emitter  
132 and detector assemblies. Each emitter is comprised of a different color (UV-420nm, Royal Blue-  
133 442nm, Blue-458nm, Cyan-505nm, and Green-525nm) 10mm square LED (Luxeon Star)  
134 mounted to a 25mm diameter end cap plug (Thorlabs). All LED emitters are coupled using SMA  
135 connectors to a custom fiber optic assembly that randomly combines emission and fluorescence  
136 detection fibers within a 1-cm diameter probe tip (Berkshire photonics). Maximum LED output  
137 is achieved within ~500 ns using a custom LED driver circuit each of which is individually  
138 controlled by the microcontroller. A single white LED (Luxeon Star) is regulated using a 350mA  
139 constant current BuckPuck LED driver (LuxDrive) and serves as a variable actinic light source  
140 controlled via a ‘PWM to analog’ signal from the microcontroller. A lowpass (<650nm) glass  
141 filter was placed between the actinic white LED and fiber optic cable, ensuring minimal stray  
142 light can reach the detector. Fluorescence detection is measured using a variable gain avalanche  
143 photodiode (Thorlabs). Using a combination of high pass (>650nm) and lowpass (<700nm) glass  
144 filters sandwiched between two aspheric lenses (Newport corp), fluorescent light from samples  
145 travel from the fiber optic cable and are concentrated onto the detector. Analog signals from the  
146 detector are then interpreted using a 12-bit analog to digital converter embedded within the  
147 microcontroller. All LED drivers and the detector circuit are housed within a single (13” x 4”)  
148 printed circuit board (PCB) (GitHub: khoadley/MultiSpectral-ST-PCB, fig. S1). Fluorescence

149 measurements are stored on an onboard micro-SD card. Firmware for the teensy microcontroller  
150 is written using the Arduino IDE and a python-based software program communicates with the  
151 microcontroller and manages data capture. All firmware and software are open-source and  
152 available via GitHub (khoadley/MultiSpectral-ST-PCB). PCB and electronic components cost  
153 between 200-300 USD. Depending on construction materials utilized, complete construction of  
154 the fluorometer prototype costs between 4.5-5.5K USD.

155         Fluorescence measurements consist of an induction curve produced through excitation  
156 with  $1.3\text{-}\mu\text{s}$  single turnover flashlets spaced apart by  $3.4\text{ }\mu\text{s}$  dark intervals (32 flashlets were  
157 utilized under 420, 448, and 470-nm excitation while 40 flashlets were utilized during 505 and  
158 520-nm excitation and ensure that all measurements achieved full saturation). After fluorescence  
159 induction, a 300 ms relaxation phase consisting of  $1.3\text{-}\mu\text{s}$  light flashes spaced apart with  
160 exponentially increasing dark periods (starting with  $59\text{-}\mu\text{s}$ ). LED power output estimates were  
161 determined using the following equation:  $I/D$  where  $I$  is irradiance measured at a reduced duty  
162 cycle ( $D = 1.3:500$ ) using a 4pi light meter (Walz;  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ ). The 1.3 value within the  $D$   
163 ratio reflects the length (in  $\mu\text{s}$ ) of each flashlet and allows us to calculate irradiance while only  
164 running the LED at a 1.3:500 duty cycle. Power (irradiance in PAR) estimates were then used to  
165 determine the spectrally dependent functional absorption cross section of PSII according to  
166 previously published methods (Kolber et al., 1998; Oxborough et al., 2012). Excitation standards  
167 for each LED color were measured and each fluorescence trace normalized to its corresponding  
168 standard. Resulting fluorescence induction and relaxation curves were processed in R with the  
169 nonlinear curve (nlc) fitting package using equations adapted from (Kolber et al., 1998).  
170 Relaxation kinetics were fit to a double exponential decay equation (Suggett et al., 2022).

171

172 **Chlorophyll fluorescence-based phenotyping protocol:** Each coral fragment was dark  
173 acclimated for 20-25 minutes and then phenotypic data were recorded using our custom  
174 chlorophyll a fluorometer and a 11-minute variable light protocol. For each measurement,  
175 excitation and relaxation protocols were sequentially repeated five times and averages for each  
176 wavelength recorded. This multispectral excitation and relaxation protocol was itself repeated 34  
177 times in concert with an actinic light protocol which collected chlorophyll fluorescence data  
178 from coral samples during an initial dark period followed by three different light intensities (300,  
179 50, 600  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ ) and a final dark recovery period (Fig. 1D). Spacing between each  
180 induction/relaxation was 6 seconds during the initial dark acclimated measurement (Kolber et al.,  
181 1998), and then 200 ms afterwards.

182 The fluorescence induction and relaxation data measured with each excitation wavelength  
183 and at each step within the protocol, were used to calculate spectrally dependent maximum PSII  
184 quantum yields ( $F_v/F_m^{\text{ST}}$ ), PSII functional absorption cross-section ( $\sigma_{\text{PSII}}$ ), connectivity between  
185 reaction centers ( $\rho$ ) and the two-time constants for photosynthetic electron transport ( $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ ).

186 While both time constants are derived from single turnover relaxation kinetics,  $\tau_1$  reflects  
187 changes on the acceptor side of PSII, while  $\tau_2$  better reflects changes in the time constant for  
188 plastoquinone pool reoxidation (Suggett et al., 2022). Additional data derived from our analysis  
189 include: non-photochemical quenching ( $NPQ^{\text{ex-wavelength}}$ ) which was calculated as:

$$190 \quad NPQ^{\text{ex-wavelength}} = \frac{(Fm^{\text{ex-wavelength}} - Fm^{\text{ex-wavelength}, \prime})}{Fm^{\text{ex-wavelength}, \prime}} \quad (\text{Eq 1})$$

191 Where  $Fm^{\text{wavelength}}$  is the maximum fluorescence value recorded across all sample timepoints  
192 within the protocol. The maximum fluorescence value at each timepoint is represented by  
193  $Fm^{\text{ex-wavelength} \prime}$  (Hennige et al., 2009). Photochemical quenching of chlorophyll *a*  
194 fluorescence ( $qP^{\text{ex-wavelength}}$ ) was calculated as:

195 
$$qP^{ex-wavelength} = \frac{(Fm^{ex-wavelength} - F_o^{ex-wavelength})}{(Fm^{ex-wavelength} - \min F_o^{ex-wavelength})} \quad (\text{Eq 2})$$

196 Here,  $\min F_o^{ex-wavelength}$  is the minimum fluorescence value recorded across all sample  
197 timepoints within the protocol. For all samples, this occurred just after transition back into dark  
198 conditions. Similar to using far red light (van Kooten & Snel, 1990; Oxborough & Baker, 1997),  
199 the transition from high-light to dark leaves the plastoquinone pool in the highly oxidized state  
200 necessary for calculating  $\min F_o^{ex-wavelength}$ . Minimum fluorescence value at each timepoint is  
201 represented by  $F_o^{ex-wavelength}$  (Hennige et al., 2008; Hennige et al., 2011). Lastly, antennae  
202 bed quenching (ABQ<sup>ex-wavelength</sup>) was calculated as:

203 
$$ABQ^{ex-wavelength} = 1 - \left( \frac{\sigma_{PSII}^{ex-wavelength}}{\max \sigma_{PSII}^{ex-wavelength}} \right) \quad (\text{Eq 3})$$

204 For ABQ calculations,  $\max \sigma_{PSII}^{ex-wavelength}$  represents the maximum  $\sigma_{PSII}^{ex-wavelength}$  value across  
205 all sample timepoints within the protocol (Gorbunov et al., 2001; Hennige et al., 2009).  
206 Measurements for NPQ, qP and ABQ were each calculated independently for every excitation  
207 wavelength.

208

209 **Functional diversity sampling:** Mote's International Center for Coral Reef Research and  
210 Restoration (MML-IC2R3) on Summerland Key, Florida houses tens of thousands of coral  
211 fragments within their land-based nursery. The nursery contains approximately 60 land-based  
212 raceways (100" x 40" x 12"), which are supplied with filtered, UV sterilized, temperature  
213 controlled, near-shore seawater and maintained underneath 60% shade cloth canopies utilizing  
214 corrugated clear-plastic rain-guards as needed. Peak midday irradiance within these outdoor  
215 raceway aquaria was measured (Walz, 4pi sensor) at ~400  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$  under full sunlight  
216 (cloudless conditions). Overall, these systems represent highly similar light, temperature, and

217 water movement conditions, and thus provide ideal conditions for assessing functional  
218 differences across endosymbiont species. For five of the six coral species from the outdoor  
219 aquaria (*Acropora palmata*, *Pseudodiploria strigosa*, *Siderastrea siderea*, *Pseudodiploria*  
220 *clivosa*, and *Orbicella faveolata*), between 9-18 individual fragments reflecting between 5-10  
221 different genotypes were measured for algal phenotype and genotype. For each coral species,  
222 most genotypes were represented by a single coral fragment. However, between three and five  
223 fragments species<sup>-1</sup> originated from a single genotype and were included to assess phenotypic  
224 resolution of the instrument. For *Stephanocoenia intersepta* only two different genotypes were  
225 measured (5 replicate fragments from one genet, and one frag of a second genet). A seventh  
226 species (*Montastraea cavernosa*), was also included in the study, but fragments originated from  
227 an indoor raceway aquaria on a 10:14 hr dark:light cycle utilizing LED lighting (175  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$   
228  $\text{sec}^{-1}$ ). Individual coral genotypes were pulled from Mote's restoration broodstock, with  
229 individual fragments mounted to ceramic disks (Boston Aqua Farms, 3 cm diameter) and  
230 attached with cyanoacrylate gel (Bulk Reef Supply). All coral fragments utilized in this study  
231 had been acclimating to their respective environments for at least 2 months prior to our  
232 phenotype/genotype analyses.

233

234 **Genera level Symbiodiniaceae relative abundance determination:** A small tissue sample was  
235 removed from each coral fragment and immersed in 2-ml of DMSO buffer and stored at 4°C.  
236 DNA was then extracted from preserved tissue samples using the Wizard extraction kit  
237 (Promega) and following standard protocols. An initial bead beating (1 minute using 0.5mm  
238 glass beads with tissue sample immersed in nuclei lysis solution) was included to aid in cell  
239 lysis. Quantity and quality of DNA was then assessed using a NanoDrop spectrometer

240 (FischerSci). Only DNA with 260:230 and 260:280 ratios above 1 were utilized in downstream  
241 analysis. All samples were diluted to 2- $\mu$ g  $\text{ul}^{-1}$  prior to qPCR. Next, methods similar to (Mieog et  
242 al., 2007; Mieog et al., 2009) were utilized to quantify the relative abundance of  
243 Symbiodiniaceae at the genera level within each sample. Genera specific primers targeting the  
244 Actin sequence were utilized to quantify relative abundance (McGinley, 2012; Grottoli et al.,  
245 2014). Copy number differences across genera were corrected for by utilizing genera specific  
246 DNA ladders derived from extracting DNA from a set number of Symbiodiniaceae cells. Cell  
247 cultures were utilized for *Cladocopium* (CCMP2466: NCMA), *Breviolum* (MF105b: originally  
248 isolated by M.A Coffroth), and *Symbiodinium* (CCMP2459: NCMA) whereas *Durusdinium*  
249 *trenchii* cells were separated and purified from the host coral *Montipora capitata* (symbiont  
250 identification confirmed via ITS2 sequencing and the Symportal database (Hume et al., 2019).  
251 Cell enumeration prior to each DNA extraction was completed using an Attune Nxt Flow  
252 Cytometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). All primers were ordered from IDT-DNA and qPCR  
253 assays were performed using the PowerUp SYBR green master mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific)  
254 using a two-step protocol on an IQ5 quantitative PCR machine (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and  
255 according to previously established protocols for estimating relative abundance of  
256 Symbiodinaceae (Ulstrup & Van, 2003; LaJeunesse et al., 2009).  
257

258 **Thermal Bleaching Experiment:** Using the Climate and Acidification Ocean Simulator  
259 (CAOS) system located at MML-IC2R3, a two-month-long thermal bleaching experiment was  
260 performed on two branching coral species, *Acropora cervicornis* (n=10 genotypes) and *Acropora*  
261 *palmata* (n=5 genotypes). All coral fragments utilized in this study were acclimated for one  
262 month within the CAOS system prior to the start of the experimental treatment. Control and heat

263 treatments consisted of a single shallow raceway per treatment, each with 10, 5-gallon flow  
264 through glass aquarium tanks (16" x 8" x 10"). One replicate fragment per genotype was  
265 distributed in each treatment tank, keeping coral species separate to avoid potential symbiont  
266 switching/shuffling. Filtered seawater was continuously supplied to each tank (14 L hr<sup>-1</sup>), with  
267 additional circulation provided by submersible pumps (120 gph, Dwyer). All experimental  
268 systems were maintained underneath 60% shade cloth canopies and clear plastic rain guards and  
269 experienced similar light levels as described above. At the start of the experiment (March 15<sup>th</sup>,  
270 2021), the high-temperature raceway increased by 0.5 °C each day until a maximum of 30.5°C  
271 was reached. After one month of exposure to 30.5°C, the high-temperature raceway was  
272 increased another 1°C and remained at 31.5°C for an additional month. The ambient temperature  
273 raceway remained at 27 °C throughout the 2-month experiment (fig. S2).

274 Chlorophyl a fluorescence profiles (as described above) and reflectance measurements  
275 were measured on experimental days 64-65 (May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 for *A. cervicornis* and *A.*  
276 *palmata* respectively). Fluorescence profiles were only collected from control coral fragments  
277 using a slightly modified protocol as the one described above. In this case, a total of 47  
278 measurements were taken over a 16-minute time frame (initial dark period followed by three  
279 different light intensities: 500, 100, 750  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$  and a final dark recovery period, see fig.  
280 S5a). For high-temperature treatment corals, only the initial dark-acclimated measurement (using  
281 442nm excitation) was performed to derive ( $\Phi_{\text{PSII}}$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{PSII}}$ ,  $\tau_1, \tau_2$ ). Absorption-based measurements  
282 were calculated on all coral fragments and achieved by measuring the reflectance spectra  
283 according to previously established methods (Rodríguez-Román et al., 2006). Briefly, our setup  
284 consisted of a white led (Luxeon) coupled to a USB2000 spectrophotometer (Ocean Optics)  
285 through a fiber-optic probe (Berkshire Photonics). Changes in absorbance can serve as a non-

286 invasive proxy for monitoring changes in cell density/chlorophyll *a* content associated with coral  
287 bleaching (Rodriguez-Román et al., 2006; Hoadley et al., 2016). Here, absorbance readings at  
288 420, 442, 458, 505 and 525-nm were selected to correspond with fluorescence excitation while  
289 an additional reading of 679nm reflects the maximum chlorophyll-*a* absorbance band. Bleaching  
290 response metrics for each coral genet are derived from absorbance and dark acclimated photo  
291 physiology ( $\Phi_{PSII}$ ,  $\sigma_{PSII}$ ,  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  – calculated under 442nm excitation) and calculated as the %  
292 change between control and high temperature treatment measurements.

293

294 **Bleaching model generation and statistical analysis:** All analyses were conducted in R  
295 (v.3.5.1) (Team, 2017). For photo-physiological comparisons, significant differences across algal  
296 genera were determined using a one-way ANOVA or Kruskal-Wallis if data did not fit  
297 assumptions of normality. Resulting datasets were then normalized using z-scores and 1000  
298 bootstrap iterations were used to generate a heatmap and dendrogram using the R packages  
299 pvclust (Suzuki & Shimodaira, 2013) and dendextend (Galili, 2015). Custom scripts were  
300 utilized to identify the dominate photo-physiological metric within each heatmap row cluster  
301 (Fig. 2A). Average response profiles for each spectrally dependent  $\Phi_{PSII}$ ,  $\sigma_{PSII}$ ,  $\tau_1$ , and  $\tau_2$  metric  
302 are reflected in Fig 3. For each spectrally dependent metric, a repeated measures linear mixed  
303 model with a Tukey posthoc (with Bonferroni correction) identified significant differences  
304 between the five selected phenotypes (algal/coral combinations) using the lmerTest (Kuznetsova  
305 et al., 2017) and multicomp (Hothorn et al., 2008) packages.

306 In order to create the bleaching response model (Fig. 4), specific correlations (Pearsons  
307 value of 0.5 or above) between individual bleaching response metrics and fluorescence-based  
308 phenotyping data were identified using a network analysis (Fig. 4A) using the igraph package

309 (Csardi & Nepusz, 2006). For each correlation, linear regression was used to first calculate the  
310 slope and then create a biometric value range associated with a bleaching response of less than  $\pm$   
311 30% (Fig. 4B-C). Biometric value ranges were identified for each correlation and cumulatively  
312 represent our predictive bleaching model. To then test the accuracy of the model, individual  
313 values from coral fragment were scored according to if they were found to be within the  
314 established value range. The value output by the bleaching response model reflects the  
315 cumulative sum of scores for each fragment. Because the training data used to make our  
316 predictive model were created using a different protocol (47 sampling time points over 15  
317 minutes) than the one used for characterizing the 7 coral species (34 sampling time points over  
318 11 minutes) we used a truncated version of the protocol which selected data points that reflected  
319 similar conditions within the two protocols. Specifically, dark acclimated and transitional  
320 timepoints were used, while timepoints reflecting acclimation to light conditions were removed  
321 (fig. S5). A Shapiro-Wilks test was then used to confirm normal distribution in model output  
322 scores and significant differences across symbiont genera were then tested using a one-way  
323 ANOVA with a Tukey-posthoc. All algal biometric, bleaching response metrics, and qPCR data  
324 along with analytical scripts for generating figures 2-5 are available on GitHub  
325 (khoadley/BioOpticalBleachingPrediction2022).  
326

327 **Results**

328 **Multispectral approach and protocol**

329 A total of 8 (Table 1) different photo-physiological parameters can be measured (Fig. 1B) or  
330 calculated (equations 1-3) from chlorophyll-*a* fluorescence derived from each separate LED  
331 color utilized (420, 442, 458, 505, 525nm – Fig. 1C). For each sample, an individual  
332 measurement timepoint (Fig. 1D) generates a total of 40 different algal biometrics (5 LED colors  
333 \* 8 photo-physiological parameters). Between 34 (seven coral species) and 47 (thermal  
334 bleaching assay) measurement timepoints were utilized to characterize photo-physiological  
335 response during the actinic light protocol (Fig. 1D and fig. S4a) and generated 1360 (40 algal  
336 biometrics \* 34 measurement timepoints) and 1880 (40 algal biometrics \* 47 measurement  
337 timepoints) individual algal biometrics respectively. These ‘high-content’ datasets contain both  
338 subtle and dynamic differences in how each sample responds to variable light conditions and are  
339 collectively utilized to establish phenotypes and predictive bleaching models as described below.

340

341 **Phenotype to genera profiles**

342 Quantitative PCR was performed to estimate the relative abundance of the four most common  
343 symbiont genera: *Symbiodinium* (formerly clade A), *Breviolum* (formerly clade B), *Cladocopium*  
344 (formerly clade C) and *Durusdinum* (formerly clade D) within each coral fragment. Two of the  
345 eleven *A. palmata* genotypes tested contained predominantly (>95%) *Cladocopium* symbionts  
346 whereas the other nine genotypes contained predominantly *Durusdinum* symbionts. All *O.*  
347 *faveolata*, *S. siderea* and *P. strigosa* coral fragments also contained predominantly *Durusdinum*  
348 symbionts. A single fragment of *M. cavernosa* contained an even split between *Symbiodinium*  
349 and *Breviolum* symbionts whereas all others were dominated by *Cladocopium*. All *P. clivosa*

350 coral fragments were dominated by *Breviolum* symbionts. Lastly, all six fragments (5 ramets of  
351 one genotype and one of a second genotype) of *S. intersepta* were dominated by *Cladocopium*  
352 symbionts (Fig. 2B).

353 Of the 1360 fluorescence-based algal biometrics derived from the actinic light protocol  
354 used to characterize our seven coral species, 594 differed significantly across the symbiont  
355 genera found across our samples. These significant algal biometrics were then utilized to create a  
356 dendrogram which organized coral fragments into three major phenotypes based on the largest  
357 clustering groups (Fig. 2A). All *P. clivosa* (*Breviolum*) and, except for two fragments, all *M.*  
358 *cavernosa* (*Cladocopium*) clustered together to form a single phenotype (phenotype 1).  
359 *Durusdinium* sp. symbionts within the coral *S. siderea* (along with a single fragment of *A.*  
360 *palmata*) and two *Durusdinium* dominated *M. cavernosa* coral fragments clustered together to  
361 form a second phenotype (phenotype 2). Except for a single fragment of *O. faveolata*, all other  
362 *Durusdinium* dominated corals (*O. faveolata*, *A. palmata* and *P. strigosa*) formed a final cluster  
363 (phenotype 3) which included two *A. palmata* fragments with *Cladocopium* (Fig. 2A). The  
364 quantum yield of PSII ( $\Phi_{PSII}$ ), absorption cross-section of PSII ( $\sigma_{PSII}$ ) and T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> reoxidation  
365 kinetics were identified as being the most important photo-physiological parameters in creating  
366 the observed phenotypic structure across coral fragments. Spectrally dependent profiles for these  
367 four photo-physiological parameters were therefore plotted in figure 3 and reflect how each of  
368 our three distinct phenotypes responded throughout all measurement timepoints during the  
369 actinic light protocol.

370 For  $\Phi_{PSII}^{420}$ ,  $\Phi_{PSII}^{442}$  and  $\Phi_{PSII}^{460}$  profiles, all three phenotypes were significantly ( $p$   
371  $< 0.0001$ ) different with phenotype 1 exhibiting the highest and phenotype 3 the lowest values.  
372 However, phenotypes 2 and 3 had similar  $\Phi_{PSII}^{505}$  and  $\Phi_{PSII}^{525}$  profiles which were

373 significantly ( $p < 0.0001$ ) lower than those observed for phenotype 1 (Fig. 3A-C). Significantly  
374 ( $p < 0.0001$ ) higher  $\sigma_{\text{PSII}}^{420}$  values were observed for phenotype 2 as compared to both phenotype  
375 1 and 3. The remaining four spectrally dependent  $\sigma_{\text{PSII}}$  profiles also had significantly ( $p < 0.05$ )  
376 different profiles with the highest and lowest values found in phenotypes 2 and 3 respectively  
377 (Fig. 3D-F). For all five spectrally dependent  $\tau_1$  reoxidation profiles, phenotype 2 produced  
378 significantly ( $p < 0.0001$ ) higher values as compared to phenotypes 1 and 3. The lowest values for  
379  $\tau_1$  were almost always observed in phenotype 1 except for  $\tau_1^{505}$  where phenotype 3 also  
380 contained similarly low values across the profile (Fig. 3G-I). Lastly,  $\tau_2^{420}$  reoxidation kinetic  
381 profiles were significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) higher in phenotypes 2 and 3 as compared to 1. However,  
382  $\tau_2^{442}$  profiles differed significantly across all three profiles ( $p < 0.001$ ) whereas  $\tau_2^{460}$ ,  $\tau_2^{505}$ , and  
383  $\tau_2^{525}$  profiles were significantly lower in both phenotypes 1 and 2 as compared to phenotype 3  
384 (Fig. 3J-L).

385

### 386 **Bleaching response model development and training**

387 For each control fragment of *A. palmata* and *A. cervicornis* utilized in the thermal bleaching  
388 experiment, a total of 1880 algal biometrics were derived from our fluorescence-based  
389 phenotyping protocol. For each genotype, absorbance-based measurements from control and  
390 experimental fragments were also obtained to quantify the % change in absorbance calculated for  
391 six specific wavelengths which correspond to the five fluorescence excitation peaks (420, 442,  
392 458, 505, and 525nm) plus the chlorophyll-*a* absorption maxima (679nm). Additionally, dark-  
393 adapted measurements of the quantum yield of PSII ( $\Phi_{\text{PSII}}^{442}$ ), the absorption cross-section of  
394 PSII ( $\sigma_{\text{PSII}}^{442}$ ),  $\tau_1^{442}$  and  $\tau_2^{442}$  reoxidation kinetics were also obtained for each genotype's control  
395 and treatment fragments and are similarly represented as the % change in response to thermal

396 stress (fig. S4). These 10 bleaching response metrics (absorbance + dark adapted photo-  
397 physiological metrics) were then tested for correlation with all 1880 algal biometrics using a  
398 network analysis. Of the 18,800 total correlations possible, 1973 were identified as having a  
399 Pearson value of 0.5 or above (Fig. 4A). These identified biomarkers of thermal stress were then  
400 utilized to score individual coral genotypes according to the number of values that were  
401 contained within each corresponding ‘range of tolerance’. The bleaching response model number  
402 reflects the cumulative sum of scores and the accuracy of this score was assessed by plotting  
403 model number against the % change in absorbance at 679nm. This absorbance metric was chosen  
404 as it best reflects changes in absorbance that are related to reductions in symbiont cell density or  
405 chlorophyll content within the host tissue (Rodriguez-Román et al., 2006; Hoadley et al., 2016).  
406 A linear regression between the model scores and % change in absorbance values indicate high  
407 correlation ( $R^2=0.82$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ) and thus good predictive power (Fig. 4D).

408

#### 409 **Application of bleaching prediction model across seven coral species**

410 A truncated version (fig. S4) of the predictive bleaching model was further tested on the seven  
411 coral species for which the phenotype to genera profiles were characterized (Fig. 2). Of the 1973  
412 different algal biometric/ bleaching response metric correlations identified from the *Acropora*  
413 bleaching data, only 259 algal biometrics were utilized in the truncated version (Fig. 5) and  
414 represent similar light conditions across our two different protocols (fig. S4). Despite using a  
415 smaller dataset to predict bleaching sensitivity, model scores for *Durusdinum* were significantly  
416 ( $P < 0.001$ ) higher than those for *Breviolum* and *Cladocopium* dominated coral fragments (Fig  
417 5).

418 **Discussion**

419 Our predictive model takes advantage of the cumulative power derived from the incorporation of  
420 many photo-physiologically based biomarkers of thermal stress. For many corals, tolerance to  
421 environmental perturbations such as high temperatures is directly linked to symbiont species and  
422 our instrumentation and analytical pipeline directly targets underlying photo-physiological  
423 differences between species. Phenomic techniques that incorporate 'high-content' physiological  
424 datasets and multi-variate analyses have previously led to critical breakthroughs in agricultural  
425 fields (Furbank & Tester, 2011; Furbank et al., 2019) and a similar approach could prove  
426 beneficial within both basic and applied fields of coral reef science. Fluorescence-based tools are  
427 gaining popularity as a means of non-destructively generating photosynthetically-based  
428 phenotypes of symbiotic algae (Voolstra et al., 2020; Cunning et al., 2021; Suggett et al., 2022)  
429 that can also produce direct, actionable results. While our model output did assign higher  
430 bleaching scores to corals dominated by symbionts with well characterized thermal tolerance  
431 (Fabricius et al., 2004; LaJeunesse et al., 2009; Ortiz et al., 2012), additional direct testing of  
432 predictive model scores is still needed. Nevertheless, new tools and analytical pipelines that help  
433 bridge the gap between current and future coral conservation and restoration techniques are  
434 urgently needed (Vardi et al., 2021; Voolstra et al., 2021a) and highly scalable methods such as  
435 those utilized here could provide such an avenue.

436

437 *Phenotype to clade level comparisons*

438 While the case for chlorophyll-*a* based phenotyping is increasing in popularity (Hennige et al.,  
439 2009; Hoadley et al., 2019; Hoadley et al., 2021; Suggett et al., 2022), the current study expands  
440 on this further by using a novel system and protocol to massively increase the number of

441 individual algal biometrics collected from each sample. Combined with a global analysis of the  
442 resulting data, our work directly connects phenotypic differences with either host species or  
443 Symbiodiniaceae clade-level estimates of genetic variance from 90 coral fragments (Fig. 2). Of  
444 the four photo-physiological parameters identified to be most valuable in establishing distinct  
445 phenotypes (Fig. 2A), only the quantum yield of PSII can be measured (albeit at a single  
446 excitation wavelength) using multi-turnover fluorometers such as the commonly used and  
447 commercially available PAM (Walz). The remaining three photo-physiological parameters ( $\sigma_{PSII}$ ,  
448  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ ) can only be derived from single turnover instrumentation (Suggett et al., 2022).  
449 Overall, measurements of  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  indicate slower electron transport rates through the  
450 photochemical apparatus in *Durusdinium* phenotypes while the more dynamic responses to  
451 changing light observed for these two parameters may also be indicative of differences in how  
452 downstream photochemical activity is regulated across Symbiodiniaceae genera or species  
453 (Roberty et al., 2014; Vega de Luna et al., 2020). The high level of algal biometric  
454 parameterization demonstrated in our approach is valuable for identifying phenotypic  
455 differences. In addition, the use of multi-spectral excitation allows for even further non-  
456 destructive interrogation that incorporates differences in photopigment utilization across species  
457 and/or environments.

458 The absorption cross-section of PSII ( $\sigma_{PSII}$ ) measures the proportion of light captured by  
459 light-harvesting compounds (LHCs) and spectrally resolved differences in this parameter are  
460 particularly well suited for understanding how different photopigments are utilized under various  
461 conditions (Szabó et al., 2014; Hoadley & Warner, 2017). The family Symbiodiniaceae contains  
462 several different photopigments, some are involved with light-harvesting while others function as  
463 accessory pigments which either channel additional energy towards the photosynthetic reaction

464 centers or dissipate excess light energy as fluorescence and heat (Iglesias-Prieto & Trench, 1994;  
465 Iglesias-Prieto & Trench, 1997). Large changes in  $\sigma_{PSII}^{420nm}$  and  $\sigma_{PSII}^{442nm}$  values are observed  
466 during the actinic light protocol (Fig. 3D-F) and likely indicate changes in the orientation of  
467 chlorophyll-a containing LHCs to downregulate the quantity of light energy transferred to PSII  
468 reaction centers (Iglesias-Prieto et al., 1991; Iglesias-Prieto et al., 1993; Niedzwiedzki et al.,  
469 2013; Niedzwiedzki et al., 2014). In contrast, smaller responses to changes in the actinic light  
470 protocol are observed for  $\sigma_{PSII}^{505nm}$  and  $\sigma_{PSII}^{520nm}$  values which preferentially target peridinin  
471 containing LHCs and carotenoids (diadinoxanthins). The spectrally dependent differences in  
472  $\sigma_{PSII}$  observed in response to changing light conditions showcase the utility of using a  
473 multispectral approach to delineate photopigment specific variability. However, future research  
474 that directly links multispectral  $\sigma_{PSII}$  output to photopigment concentrations and connectivity to  
475 reaction centers is needed.

476

477 *Linking phenotype to thermal stress - an optical approach for bleaching prediction*  
478 Algal biometric data and bleaching response metrics collected from *A. cervicornis* and *A.*  
479 *palmata* coral colonies were utilized to identify photo-physiologically based biomarkers of  
480 thermal stress to train a predictive bleaching model (Fig. 4A-B) which then evaluated coral  
481 colony thermal tolerance based on algal biometric data alone. High accuracy in the model output  
482 ( $R^2=0.82$ ) was achieved when tested against the same coral fragments used for training (Fig.  
483 4D), where *A. cervironis* colonies experienced greater thermal stress than *A. palmata*. Within the  
484 greater Caribbean, both *Acropora* species are often found in association with the symbiont,  
485 *Symbiodinium fitti* (LaJeunesse, 2002). However, under nursery conditions, many *A. palmata*  
486 fragments appear to have switched to the symbiont genera *Durusdinium* (Fig. 2B), which

487 contains many species that are well documented as thermally tolerant (Fabricius et al., 2004;  
488 LaJeunesse et al., 2009; Ortiz et al., 2012). While not directly tested within our experimental  
489 coral colonies, presumed differences in symbiont species across the two *Acropora* coral species  
490 likely regulates the distinct phenotypes (fig. S3a) observed. The linkage between bleaching  
491 responses and fluorescence-derived phenotypes are what enables the rapid identification of  
492 hundreds of different biomarkers of thermal stress using our network analysis. For example, non-  
493 photochemical quenching (NPQ) values from *A. cervicornis* were typically higher than those  
494 from *A. palmata* colonies. High NPQ under ambient conditions may indicate that the coral  
495 colony is already operating at its environmental limit, making it particularly vulnerable to further  
496 stress such as a high-temperature event (Hennige et al., 2011). Indeed, NPQ values are linked to  
497 various bleaching response metrics (Fig. 4A). While many algal biometrics display reasonable  
498 correlations with bleaching response metrics (Pearson R values between 0.5 and 0.85) the  
499 cumulative effect of using hundreds of biomarkers is what provides the high model accuracy  
500 (Fig. 4D, Pearson R value = 0.92) when applied to the same coral colonies.

501 To further assess the use of algal biometrics to predict bleaching tolerance, we applied a  
502 truncated version of our model to the larger dataset of seven coral species for which we only  
503 collected algal biometric data. While accuracy of the model output cannot be directly assessed as  
504 these individual fragments were not thermally challenged, higher scores from corals dominated  
505 by *Durusdinium* suggest bleaching predictions follow our current understanding of thermal  
506 tolerance across symbiont genera (Fabricius et al., 2004; LaJeunesse et al., 2009; Ortiz et al.,  
507 2012; LaJeunesse et al., 2018). Importantly, these results were achieved using a truncated model  
508 and applied to samples measured using a different actinic light protocol (fig. S5). The application

509 of more purpose-built models would no doubt improve results. Nevertheless, our results clearly  
510 show predictive ability based on the unique phenotypic profile of *Durusdinium* symbionts.

511 Interestingly, model output values for *S. siderea* coral colonies were more variable  
512 despite also being dominated by *Durusdinium* and may point to either population level  
513 differences in symbiont physiology or host-influence on symbiont phenotype. While prior studies  
514 found only minimal population structure for *Durusdinium* within the greater Caribbean region  
515 (Pettay et al., 2015), host-specific traits such as green fluorescence protein, tissue thickness,  
516 skeletal structure and nutrient regulation can alter the light and nutrient environment for their  
517 symbiotic algal partners (Rodríguez-Román et al., 2006; Enríquez et al., 2017; Wangpraseurt et  
518 al., 2017a; Wangpraseurt et al., 2017b; Xiang et al., 2020; Bollati et al., 2022). For *D. trenchii*  
519 symbionts harvested from inshore reef habitats in Palau, differences in cellular physiology were  
520 attributed to host coral species (Hoadley et al., 2019). While not directly attributable to the host,  
521 *S. siderea* coral fragments clustered separately from all other *Durusdinium*-dominated corals,  
522 indicating strong phenotypic differences across coral species potentially driven by host traits.  
523 Importantly, these phenotypic differences (Fig. 2A-C) likely also drive the lower model output  
524 for *S. siderea* as compared to other *Durusdinium*-dominated coral fragments. Although further  
525 research is needed, alterations to the symbiont environment driven by differences in coral species  
526 or even genotype might also be detected with our phenomic approach, providing a way to  
527 incorporate host-bleaching response mechanisms into our analytical framework.

528

529 *Future application towards trait-based selection of corals for restoration initiatives*

530 Coral restoration strategies such as assisted evolution aim to improve resilience through  
531 propagation of corals with desirable traits including thermal tolerance (Anthony et al., 2017;

532 Voolstra et al., 2021a). However, rapid and scalable identification of coral genotypes with  
533 desirable traits is challenging (Baums et al., 2019; Morikawa & Palumbi, 2019; Voolstra et al.,  
534 2021b) and most techniques require infrastructure and resources well outside the reach of many  
535 restoration facilities. For restoration initiatives focused on coral species where thermal stress is  
536 largely derived from the symbiont species, tools that capture functional trait differences could be  
537 beneficial in selecting thermally resilient colonies.

538 This study reflects a novel instrument platform and analytical pipeline, where results  
539 from a single experimental bleaching assay were applied towards predicting functional traits  
540 within a separate set of coral colonies. While our results were largely positive and reflect our  
541 current understanding of bleaching tolerance across symbiont genera, direct testing of predictive  
542 bleaching scores is still needed before this approach can be considered as a potential tool for  
543 scaling up coral restoration initiatives. If future studies indeed show good correlation between  
544 model score output and bleaching tolerance, our analytical pipeline could provide a scalable  
545 means for assessing thermal tolerance.

546 The utilization of multispectral CF techniques to rapidly predict bleaching susceptibility  
547 in reef corals by capturing the unique phenotypic characteristics of the symbiotic algae may hold  
548 promise for certain coral species and environmental conditions. However, traits which regulate  
549 thermal tolerance are highly variable across and within species and environments (Weis, 2008;  
550 Weis & Allemand, 2009; Barshis et al., 2013; Bay & Palumbi, 2014; Suggett et al., 2017).  
551 Consequently, the efficacy of approaches that utilize symbiont phenotypes for assessing thermal  
552 tolerance likely differ across coral species and environmental conditions.

553 Scaling-up the identification of thermally tolerant colonies will require breakthroughs in  
554 accessibility to modern techniques, and open-source tools such as our fluorometer could play a

555 critical role in bridging this important gap. Our analytical pipeline collapses complex photo-  
556 physiological biomarkers into a cumulative score that can be easily utilized by scientists and  
557 restoration practitioners alike. While our study only represents a conceptual framework for the  
558 relatively instantaneous assessment of bleaching susceptibility, future work will need to directly  
559 test bleaching scores, along with the long-term efficacy of this approach on both nursery and out  
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561

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570

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576

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826

827 **Figure 1: Multispectral conceptual illustration.** Drawing of coral and symbiotic algae (A)  
828 illustrates the capture of a fluorescent signature where specific photopigments are preferentially  
829 excited by multispectral LEDs to resolve a  $\mu$ s fluorescence signal (B) captured through our  
830 single turnover system. Light absorption (black line) and fluorescence emission (red line) spectra  
831 from a representative algal culture (C) reflect differences in photopigment energy transfer that  
832 can be captured through multispectral excitation. Our benchtop fiber optic-based instrument  
833 exposes coral samples to an 11-minute protocol (D) during which multiple sampling events are  
834 carried out and enable the capture of spectrally dependent photosynthetic signatures in response  
835 to acclimation to three different irradiance levels and dark recovery.  
836

837 **Figure 2: Phenotype to clade level comparison.** Heatmap (A) reflects photo-physiological  
838 metrics collected using our multispectral and single-turnover instrument. Of the 1360 metrics  
839 measured, the heatmap represents only the 594 significantly different metrics across symbiont  
840 genera. Each row reflects a separate algal biometric displayed as standard deviation from the  
841 mean (z-score). Sample order was determined through hierarchical clustering reflected through  
842 the column dendrogram which identifies three distinct phenotypes (grey=1, dark grey=2, and  
843 black=3). Row order was also determined through hierarchical clustering generating 6 separate  
844 clusters indicated by colors. Dominant photo-physiological metrics within selected row clusters  
845 (four largest clusters) are indicated to the right of the heatmap. qPCR-based estimates for the  
846 proportion of Symbiodiniaceae genera within each sample are reflected in the upper barplot (B).  
847 Host coral species is reflected in the lower barplot (C). Replicate fragments from a single genet  
848 (within each species) are indicated by black dots.  
849

850 **Figure 3: Phenotype profiles.** Average ( $\pm$  standard error) traces for photo-physiological metrics  
851 identified within figure 2; quantum yield of PSII ( $\Phi_{PSII}$ ; A-C) absorption cross-section of PSII  
852 ( $\sigma_{PSII}$ ; D-F), and  $Tau_1$  ( $T_1$ ; G-I) and  $Tau_2$  ( $T_2$ ; J-L) reoxidation kinetics are displayed for  
853 phenotype 1(left column), phenotype 2 (middle column), and phenotype 3 (right column).  
854 Spectrally dependent responses for each of the five excitation wavelengths are reflected in each  
855 panel (thick bar = average, thin bars = standard error). For reference, the light protocol profile is  
856 inlaid within panels A-C.  
857

858 **Figure 4: Model training and predictive bleaching output.** Network analysis (A) reveals strong  
859 correlations between specific algal biometrics (circles; measured by our novel instrument and  
860 protocol) with coral bleaching response metrics (squares; measured as % change in response to  
861 high temperature). Connecting lines reflect significant correlation (Pearson  $> 0.5$ ). Representative  
862 correlations pulled from the analysis show a strong relationship between the quantum yield of PSII  
863 ( $\Phi_{PSII}^{460}$ ) and the %  $\Delta$  in  $Tau_2$  (B) or light energy dissipation ( $NPQ^{420}$ ) and the %  $\Delta$  in absorbance  
864 at 505nm (C). A range of tolerance is then constructed for each algal photo-physiological-  
865 bleaching response metric combination identified in the network analysis. Vertical dashed lines  
866 outline a  $\pm 30\%$  change in response to thermal stress while horizontal dashed lines outline the  
867 range of tolerance (gray outline). The resulting model was then tested against the training data by  
868 ranking each coral genotype based on the number of photo-physiological metrics that fall within  
869 their corresponding range of tolerance (higher model numbers suggest greater thermal tolerance).  
870 **(D)** The accuracy of the predictive bleaching model was compared to a coral bleaching proxy (%  
871  $\Delta$  in absorbance at 679nm) and the strength of the correlation was tested using linear regression  
872 (red lines).

873

874 **Figure 5: Model output on clade level comparisons.** A reduced model containing only 261 of  
875 the original 1973 comparisons was applied to photo physiological data from each of the 90 coral  
876 fragments represented in figure 3. Box plots represent the mean and  $\pm 1$  standard deviation of  
877 model output for *Symbiodinium*, *Breviolum* and *Durusdinum*-dominated corals. Significant  
878 differences between symbiont types are indicated by black bars. Individual coral fragments are  
879 also plotted with color reflecting coral species.

880

881 **Table 1: Table of photo-physiological parameters**, units, and definitions/descriptions. Within  
882 this study, each defined parameter is represented by spectrally dependent values at each  
883 measurement time point (see Fig. 1).

884

Term	Definition/Description of photo-physiological parameters	Units
$\Phi_{\text{PSII}}$	Quantum yield of PSII. Measures the proportion of light energy captured by chlorophyll which is then utilized by the PSII reaction center for photosynthesis. For each measurement, calculated as $(F_m - F_o)/F_m$	No units
qP	Photochemical quenching. Proportion of PSII reaction centers in an ‘open’ state (able to utilize light energy for photosynthesis).	No units
NPQ	Non-photochemical quenching. Light energy dissipation pathway describing the downregulation of PSII.	No units
$\sigma_{\text{PSII}}$	Absorption cross section of PSII. A measure of photon capture by light harvesting compounds connected to a PSII reaction center	$\text{nm}^2$
ABQ	Antennae Bed Quenching, Light energy dissipation pathway involving reorientation of light-harvesting compounds.	No units
$\rho$	Connectivity between PSII reaction centers.	No units
$T_1$	Rate constant for reoxidation of the $Q^a$ site of the D1 protein within the PSII reaction center.	$\mu\text{-seconds}$
$T_2$	Rate constant for reoxidation of the plastoquinone pool	$\mu\text{-seconds}$

885

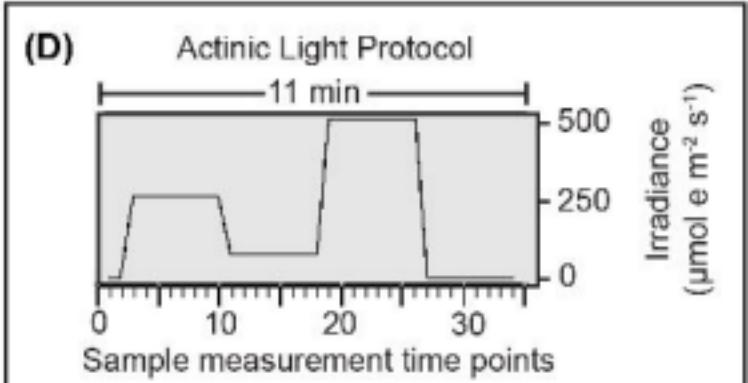
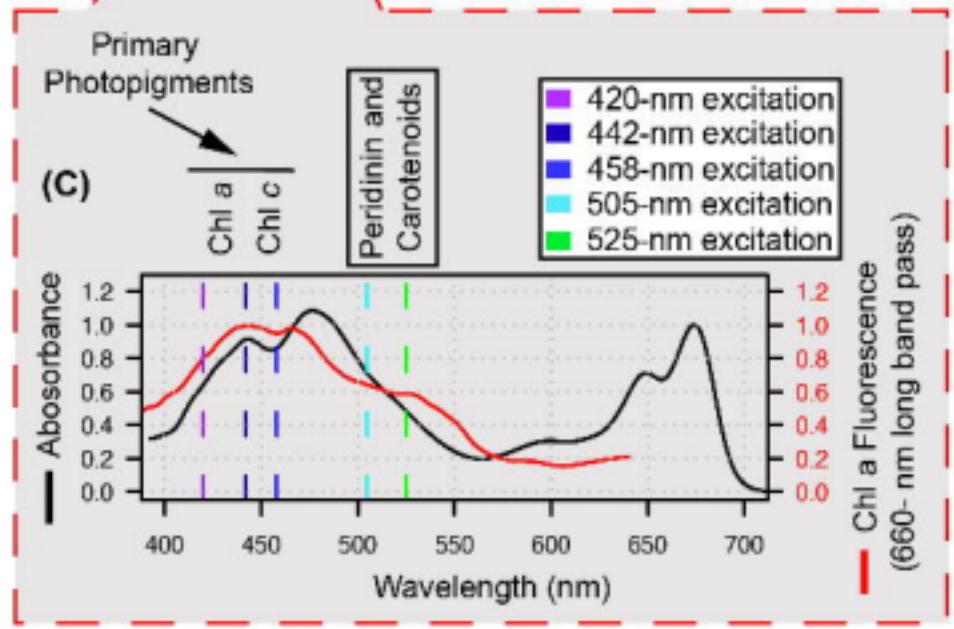
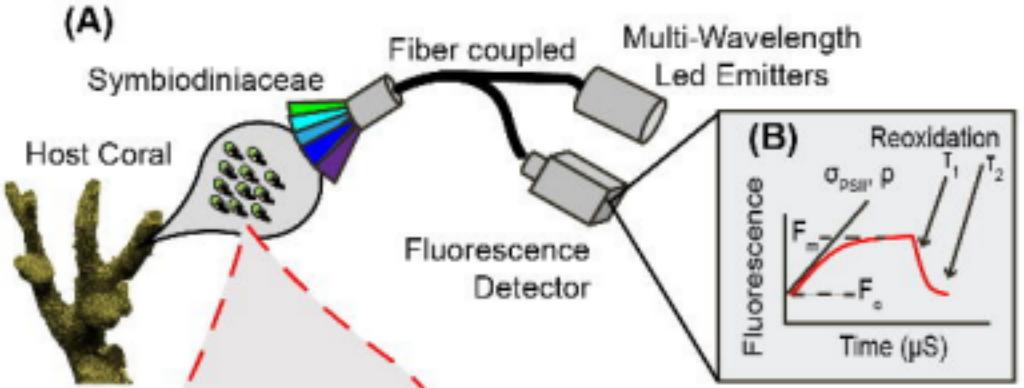
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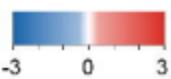
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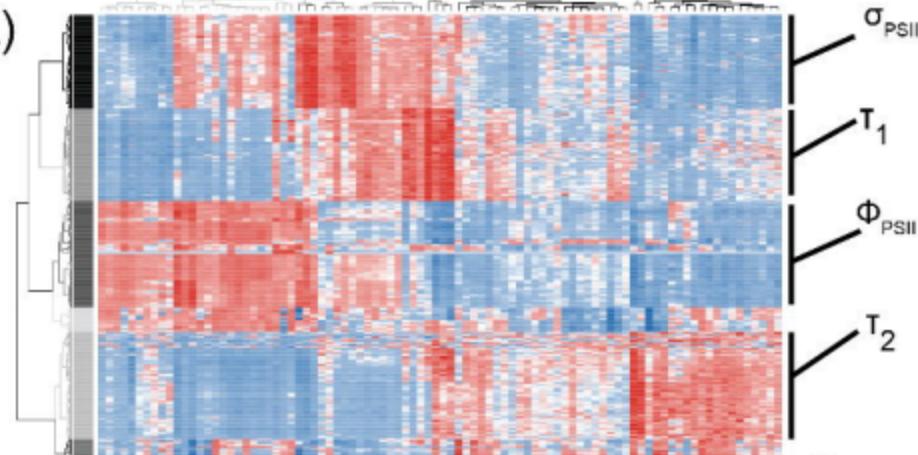
Z-Score

Pheno 1

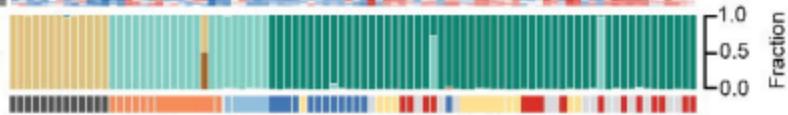
Pheno 2

Pheno 3

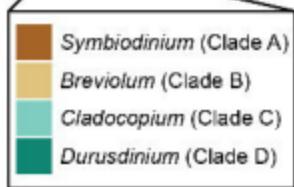
(A)



(B)



(C)



**Phenotype 1**

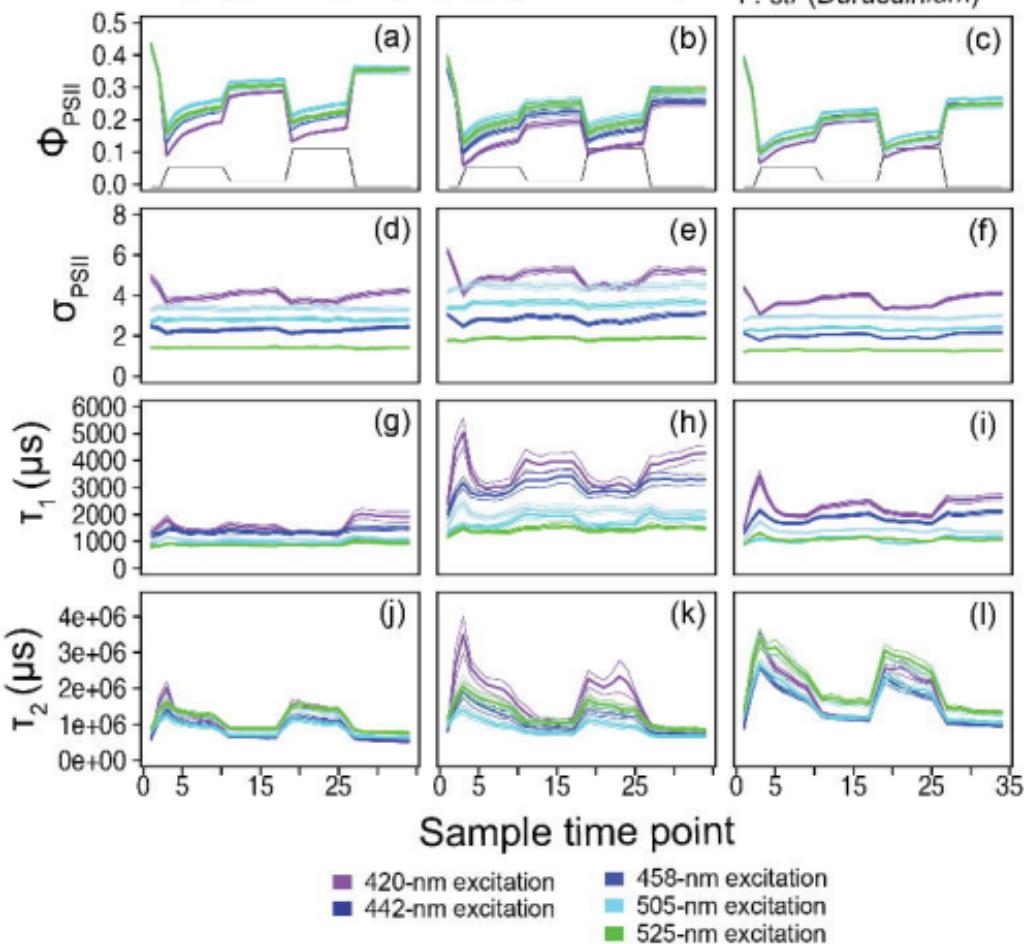
*P. cliv* (*Breviolum*)  
*M. cav* (*Cladocopium*)

**Phenotype 2**

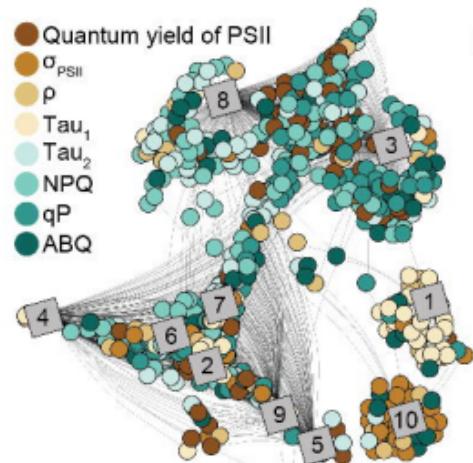
*S. int* (*Cladocopium*)  
*S. sid* (*Durusdinium*)

**Phenotype 3**

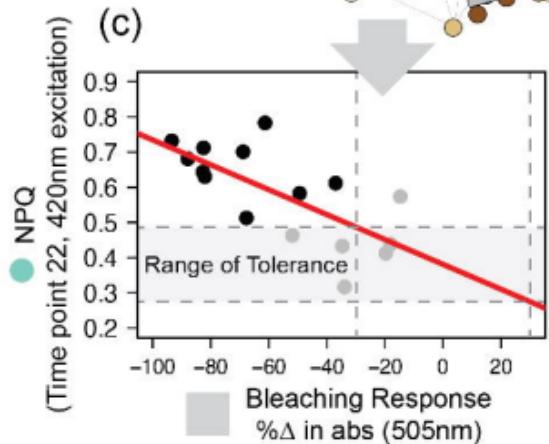
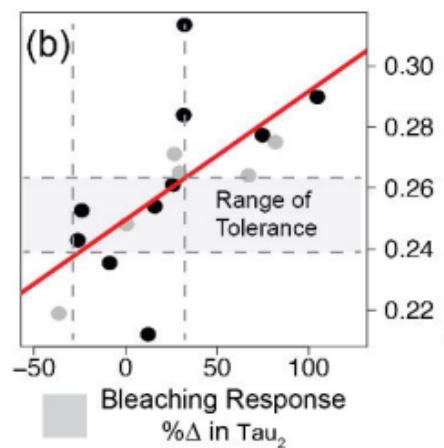
*A. pal* (*Durusdinium*)  
*O. fav* (*Durusdinium*)  
*P. str* (*Durusdinium*)



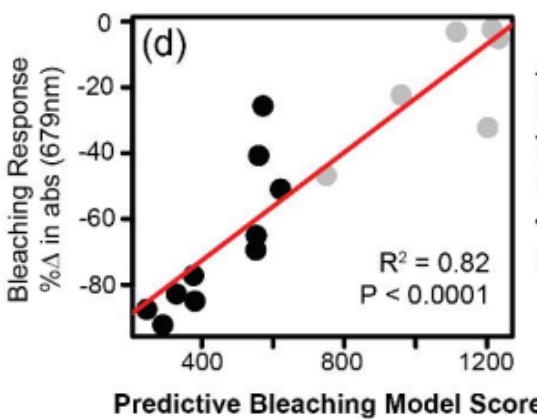
- 1:  $\% \Delta \text{Tau}_1$
- 2:  $\% \Delta 679\text{nm}$
- 3:  $\% \Delta \text{Fv/Fm}$
- 4:  $\% \Delta 447\text{nm}$
- 5:  $\% \Delta 420\text{nm}$
- 6:  $\% \Delta 505\text{nm}$
- 7:  $\% \Delta 530\text{nm}$
- 8:  $\% \Delta \text{Tau}_2$
- 9:  $\% \Delta 460\text{nm}$
- 10:  $\% \Delta \sigma_{\text{PSII}}$



(a)



(d)



Predictive Bleaching Model Score

