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**Improved mass cultivation of the marine diatom  
*Chaetoceros calcitrans* for shellfish hatcheries**

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the  
degree of**

**Master of Philosophy**

**In**

**Biotechnology**

**at Massey University, Palmerston North,**

**New Zealand**

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**2006**

## Acknowledgements

This has been a great experience and one from which I shall walk away a more capable person. Top of the 'Thank you' list is my beloved Darlene, as she has supported, pushed, loved and listened to me as I have worked my way through this project. My sons, James and Andrew, have shown as much interest as you can expect from teenagers who have more important things on their minds than my research and I appreciate and love that they also listened to my overly detailed explanations to simple questions. Monique and Jasmine, thank you both for being the lovely supportive people you are.

My supervisors Dr Henry Kaspar and Prof. Yusuf Chisti have asked the right questions at the right time, but generally given me the free reign I was looking for. I very much appreciate Henry's open mind, open conversation and open door policy. The staff at the Glenhaven Hatchery are next on my thank you list, Nick King, who has the best grasp of how to make your toys do cool things remotely, Bridget Alexander and Nicky Roughton for allowing me to put dishes on the bench and not have to clean them myself. Dan M<sup>c</sup>Call for asking lots of questions, which made me review and think more carefully about my processes. Achim Janke, the devil's advocate, always questioning and wanting big answers, thanks for the challenge. Daphne, for being a wonderful librarian. And to the rest of the staff who were happy to stop what they were doing to help lift and shift the monstrosity that is the pasteuriser into position, a couple more times than should have been necessary, thank you all. There are a huge number of people to thank at the Cawthron Institute. I won't provide a list of names as it really is so big. But thanks for the friendship, the help, the listening, the suggestions, the laughs, the games of pool, and the wonderful family feel that Cawthron has about it. That feeling isn't there so much now that Cawthron is getting so big, but I hope those that have been around for awhile will be able to keep that feeling alive.

John and Hilary Penno, from Technical Glass Products in Dunedin, BIG thanks. Not just for the help and exemplary service, but for the friendship and laughs. It is a great regret I haven't met you face to face. Keep sailing and laughing, you guys are great.

My six and a half years at Cawthron, two of them as a student, have been some of the most rewarding years I have had in a work environment. Any job is bearable if the people are good. I think I had the best of both worlds because, for the greater part, the job was challenging and the people have been fantastic. You know you are in a good place when the greater majority of your friends are your work colleagues. Or maybe it just means you need to get out more often?!?

So, thanks. Enjoy the thesis!

Simon T.

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## Chapter 1 Abstract

A medium for the optimal growth of *Chaetoceros calcitrans* in batch and continuous culture systems was developed. A method was developed for continuous culture of *C. calcitrans* that was free from detrimental infection by bacteria. The concentration of tested nutrients in the developed medium were sodium nitrate, 160 mg/L; sodium dihydrogen orthophosphate, 40 mg/L; and the molar Si:N ratio was 0.25 (99.9 mg/L sodium metasilicate). Isolated bacterial strains were shown to be detrimental to the growth of *C. calcitrans* in batch and continuous culture. Electrolytically treated water was suitable for the growth of *C. calcitrans*, but a subsequent flourish of bacterial growth at the late exponential phase reduced the quality of the algal cells and made the culture unsuitable for feeding to shellfish larvae. Heat treated water (95°C for ten and a half minutes) gave stable growth for the continuous culture of *C. calcitrans* in 38 L plastic bioreactor bags for at least 38 days. The superficial gas velocity in the culture bags was 0.09 L/min. Higher superficial gas velocities (e.g. 0.40 L/min) were detrimental to *C. calcitrans*.