

2005

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## Publication details

Postprint of: Davis, AR, Benkendorff, K & Ward, DW 2005, 'Responses of common SE Australian herbivores to three suspected invasive *Caulerpa* spp', *Marine Biology*, vol. 146, no. 5, pp. 859-868.

Publisher's version of this article is available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00227-004-1499-z>

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**Responses of common SE Australian herbivores to three suspected  
invasive *Caulerpa* spp.**

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## ABSTRACT

We sought to determine whether common intertidal and shallow subtidal-zone grazers would consume extracts or fronds of three invasive *Caulerpa* spp., all of which are now resident in southern New South Wales, Australia. We examined the responses of herbivorous fishes, echinoderms and molluscs to *C. filiformis*. A subset of these organisms was tested with extracts of *C. scalpelliformis* and *C. taxifolia*. Polar (seawater) extracts of *C. filiformis* deterred a single herbivore, *Aplysia sydneyensis*, but confirmed that the biological activity reported from some *Caulerpa* spp. is not restricted to the lipophilic fractions. The large turbinid *Turbo torquatus* was deterred by ethanol extract of *C. filiformis*, while the small congener *T. undulatus* demonstrated a significant preference for palatable agar discs containing ethanol extracts of *C. filiformis*. However, when *T. undulatus* were offered a choice of fronds from five algal species in the laboratory they readily consumed *Ulva* spp. and *Sargassum* sp., showing the lowest preference for *C. filiformis*. Solvent extracts of *C. scalpelliformis* and *C. taxifolia* did not significantly deter any grazers. However, the overall trend was for reduced consumption of discs containing solvent extracts of these seaweeds. Indeed, for the large urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* and in the fish trials these effects were very near significant ( $P < 0.06$ ). We conclude that common herbivores associated with hard substrata are highly unlikely to intercede in the spread or control of these invasive algae.

Key words: anti-feedant activity, biological control, biological invasion, *Caulerpa*, feeding trials, herbivory, marine plant-herbivore interactions

## INTRODUCTION

Successful biological invasion is a two-part process; it requires translocation (usually mediated by humans) to a locality beyond the invaders normal range and then assimilation into an established assemblage of organisms (Carlton & Geller 1993).

The degree to which the habitat is modified by humans, the invaders competitive ability and the response of natural enemies to the invader are all likely to be important determinants of success in the establishment phase (Keane & Crawley 2002).

Consumers in particular may play a very important role in this process as it has been argued that the success of invaders is directly attributable to reduced consumer pressure in the invaded habitat (Williamson 1996). The directing of consumer attention to native competitors may also tip the balance in favour of invaders (Keane & Crawley 2002).

Many representatives of the green algal genus *Caulerpa* are highly invasive. Invasive populations of this genus have established in the USA (Jousson et al. 2000), Australia (Creese et al. 2004), Japan (although unsuccessfully, Komatsu et al. 2003) and a number of Mediterranean countries (Meinesz et al. 1993, 2001; Piazzini et al. 1994). In some locations they have spread rapidly, dramatically altering the structure of natural assemblages (de Villele and Verlaque, 1995; Davis et al. 1997). *Caulerpa* species contain a variety of biologically active secondary metabolites, notably sesquiterpenes, which may well mediate their interactions with consumers (Paul & Fenical 1986; Guerriero et al. 1992, 1993). Members of the *Caulerpa* show considerable variation in their palatability to tropical herbivores and in at least some cases this is in response to their secondary chemistry (Paul & Fenical 1986; Paul et al. 1987).

Whether these compounds have been instrumental in the success of *Caulerpa* spp. as

invaders in temperate waters remains unclear. Features other than their secondary chemistry, such as an ability to fragment, disseminate and re-establish a viable alga almost certainly contribute significantly to their success as invaders (Sant et al. 1996; Smith and Walters 1999).

Biological control has been viewed as an important means of addressing the issue of invasive pests (Van Driesche and Bellows 1996). Indeed, some biological control programmes have met with spectacular success (Dodd 1940) but an equally large number have been a dismal failure with far reaching irreversible ecological effects (e.g. Clarke et al. 1984). Recently, authors have urged caution in the application of biological control in marine systems (e.g. Secord 2003). They have argued that the relative taxonomic diversity and complexity of marine vs. terrestrial systems, combined with the fact that biological control is in its infancy in marine systems, necessitates extreme caution. Rather than seeking exotic biological control agents with their attendant risks, it has been argued that enhancing populations of native predators is a much less perilous approach (Chang and Karieva 1999). In order to adopt this approach, referred to as 'augmentative biocontrol', we need detailed information on the responses of native consumers to invasive species.

We examined the responses of native herbivores to three *Caulerpa* spp. (*C. filiformis*, *C. scalpelliformis* and *C. taxifolia*) that have recently appeared near Sydney in southeastern Australia (Fig.1). These species all form dense mono-specific stands in these waters. *Caulerpa filiformis* (Suhr) Hering was recorded in Botany Bay in the mid 1920's (Lucas 1927), and has continued to spread (May 1976). It now occurs over a 200km stretch of rocky intertidal coastline north and south of this major port

(Davis, personal observations). This species usually forms a thick mat on the lower intertidal or immediate subtidal zone (Sanderson 1997) but has been observed anchored to rocky substrata to depths of at least 25m (Davis et al. 1997). Recent genetic evidence questions whether *C. filiformis* is indeed an invader (Pillman et al. 1997), but these conclusions are based on a relatively few samples and await confirmation. A range extension of *C. scalpelliformis* (R. Brown ex Turner) C. Agardh was observed in 1994 and at its peak approximately 0.5 hectare of the southern entrance of Botany Bay was heavily infested by this alga (Davis et al. 1997). This species is restricted to the subtidal zone and has been observed on hard substrata to a depth of at least 25m. Finally *C. taxifolia* (Vahl) C. Agardh was discovered in two estuaries near Sydney in 2000 (Creese et al. 2004). At the time of writing it has been confirmed that 9 estuaries in southern and central New South Wales (NSW) now possess this invader and it has also appeared in the state of South Australia (Creese et al. 2004). In NSW, *C. taxifolia* is restricted to relatively calm embayments and has not been seen below 10 m in depth (Davis, personal observations). This contrasts with observations in the Mediterranean, where it forms a thick mat over a variety of substrata and grows successfully to at least 50 m depths (Meinesz 1999). Southern Australian waters host a large number of native *Caulerpa* species and paradoxically it has been argued that this may be the centre for divergence of this predominantly tropical genus (Calvert et al. 1976). Nevertheless, the chemical ecology of temperate members of this genus remains virtually unstudied.

*Insert Fig.1*

The aim of this study was to determine the response of native subtidal invertebrate and vertebrate megagrazers to solvent and aqueous extracts from these three invasive *Caulerpa* species, and where possible to determine the response of grazers to algal

tissue. To date, the interaction between herbivores and *Caulerpa* spp. has largely focussed on tropical waters (e.g. Hay 1984; Paul & Fenical 1986, 1987). This represents the first study to examine the response of a suite of vertebrate and invertebrate herbivores to *Caulerpa* spp. in the temperate zone. Our focus was on large, common, rocky reef animals as these generalist consumers have a demonstrated role in structuring shallow subtidal algal assemblages on rocky substrata in temperate Australia (Fletcher 1987) and, with the exception of *Caulerpa taxifolia*, this is the habitat in which these algae are commonly found. Moreover, as has been observed in the Mediterranean, we expect *C. taxifolia* to eventually invade the exposed rocky coast of NSW. We used feeding trials to gauge the response of common molluscs, urchins and fish to extracts of each alga. We deemed it too risky to use living fronds of these algae in our feeding trials as *Caulerpa* spp. have the ability to regrow from very small fragments of the frond or stolon and might establish new invasive populations. Instead, we used solvent and aqueous extracts incorporated into palatable agar discs, a technique we have previously employed in feeding trials (Wright et al. 1997). We used responses of consumers to extracts of *Caulerpa* spp and then to the fronds of a *Caulerpa* species and some other common native algae to infer their ability to intercede in the persistence and spread of these algae.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Sample collection and extraction**

We made solvent extracts of each species and incorporated these extracts into agar discs containing the palatable algae *Ulva* spp. or *Corallina officinalis*. To produce these extracts *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* was collected from near Bare Island on the northern side of Botany Bay (33°59'32''S, 151°13'50''E), *C. taxifolia* was collected in

Gunnamatta Bay, Port Hacking (34°03'30''S, 151°09'E) and *C. filiformis* was collected from Flagstaff Point Wollongong (34°25'30''S, 150°54'30''E) as were the *Ulva* spp. and *Corallina officinalis* used in the feeding trials. *Caulerpa* species were usually frozen (-20°C) as soon after collection as possible and then thawed just prior to the production of extracts. *Caulerpa* spp. were collected from several sites within a location so as to account for individual variation in metabolites within species.

Solvent extracts were produced by thawing, then macerating each *Caulerpa* species in a blender (Waring model 32BL79). Only the upright fronds of each alga were used to make extracts as previous work has indicated that they contain the highest levels of secondary metabolites (Meyer and Paul 1992). The resultant slurry was steeped in ethanol (LR grade) for 3 hours. This was done twice and on the third occasion the macerated alga was steeped overnight (15 hours). The resultant fractions were combined and evaporated to near dryness under vacuum and then dried under a stream of nitrogen. The resultant extract was then frozen (-20°C) until used in the feeding trials.

## **Feeding experiments**

### *Artificial diets*

Treatment disks in the majority of trials were made up of the green alga, *Ulva* spp., embedded in agar, and *Caulerpa* extract dissolved in ethanol. Control disks contained *Ulva*, agar and ethanol only. The *Ulva* was collected from intertidal rock pools on the day of the trials to ensure that it was fresh. Feeding trials for the turbinid *Turbo torquatus* used the red alga *Corallina officinalis* in producing palatable discs for both aqueous and solvent extract feeding trials (see Table 1), as this turbinid showed a



strong preference for this alga. We followed the same procedure as Wright et al (1997) in producing discs. The alga was blended and then strained using a kitchen strainer (1mm mesh). Agar (Oxoid code no. CM3) was dissolved in distilled water at 5% w/v and boiled in a microwave at least three times until it was clear. When the agar had cooled to 50°C, 3.5g wet weight of macerated alga was added per disk and the mixture stirred. The agar mixture was allowed to cool further to 45°C and the extract dissolved in ethanol, or ethanol only was added. The agar was stirred to ensure that the solvent and extract were evenly spread throughout the mixture. The mixture was poured into 57 mm glass petri dishes to a thickness of approximately 10 mm. Numbered stainless steel washers ( $\approx$  13 g) were incorporated into the disks to weight them down and to allow identification and the agar allowed to cool and harden around them in the petri dish.

To prepare the water extracts a set volume of *Caulerpa* fronds (or *Corallina officinalis* or *Ulva* spp. as a control) was macerated in an equal volume of seawater. The extract was then filtered through a coarse (1mm) sieve to remove any remaining frond fragments. The water extract was then used directly to prepare feeding disks by dissolving agar (Oxoid code no. CM3) in half of the available volume at 10%w/v. The agar mixture was then cooled to  $\sim$ 60 degrees before the remaining half of the water extract was added and thoroughly stirred before being poured into petri dishes (as above).

All extracts were tested at natural concentrations; the volume of agar discs was equivalent to the volume of *Caulerpa* extracted. These extracts were tested against a range of invertebrate consumers (Table 1) in laboratory based feeding experiments,

with the exception of the urchins *Centrostephanus rodgersii* and *Heliocidaris tuberculata*, which did not feed well in aquaria. The invertebrates were all collected from either Bellambi Point (34°22'20''S, 150°55'45''E) or Bass Point (34°35'45''S, 150°53'20''E) near Wollongong, NSW. Each feeding trial used different individual consumers, thus making them independent replicates. The taxonomic affinities of a number of SE Australian molluscs are currently under review (Dr W Ponder, Australian Museum, personal communication) and here we follow the identifications adopted by Edgar (1997). Consumers used in experimental feeding trials in other studies have been starved for various lengths of time; four days (Ayling 1978) and from 36 to 48 hours (Steinberg 1988; Steinberg and van Altena 1992). In view of the potential to introduce artefacts in feeding studies (e.g. Cronin and Hay 1996) we sought to minimise the period of starvation, but allow animals sufficient time to acclimate to field or laboratory enclosures. Hence, in this study, consumers were deprived of food for two days and then presented with the two pre-weighed disks, one treatment and one control, and the trial allowed to run for 24 hours.

Laboratory experiments were done in 23L tanks in a recirculating seawater system at 21°C. The size of animals dictated the number used in each replicate. With the exception of *Astralium tentoriformis*, *Turbo torquatus* and *T. undulatus* a single individual consumer was housed in each of 14-16 replicate tanks and offered one treatment and one control disk. Experiments with *Astralium tentoriformis* and *Turbo undulatus* were done with groups of ten individuals per tank, while two to three individuals were used per tank in feeding trials with *Turbo torquatus*. A further 6-14 tanks housed feeding disks without consumers to measure autogenic change. Field based experiments with *Centrostephanus rodgersii* and *Heliocidaris tuberculata* were

done by placing individual consumers into 23-L plastic tubs (Nally Plastic catalogue number 1H049; dimensions 448mm x 391mm x 200 mm) covered with plastic mesh (mesh size  $\approx$  40 mm). The plastic bins were weighted down with large pieces of scrap metal and placed in water three to four metres deep at Bass Point (34°35'45" S 150°53'20" E) 40km to the south of Wollongong (Fig. 1). Control tubs containing agar disks but no consumers were used in each trial to measure autogenic changes in the disks. At the completion of the trials, the disks were collected, blotted dry with paper towel and then weighed. Generally, the weight of these disks increased by 1.5%-2%. These figures were used to correct for changes in the weights of the disks used in the trials.

*Insert Table 1*

The response of fishes to the discs was assessed by placing treatment and control discs randomly over a area of shallow reef in urchin-grazed barrens habitat of approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup> (20x20 m), at 3-4 m in depth in day light hours. Between 22 and 38 discs were left for up to 1 hour and then recovered. Individual bite marks in the discs were counted in the laboratory and converted into the number of bites per minute each disc was exposed.

*Algal consumption*

The responses of a turbinid mollusc to a selection of common algae was tested in small aquaria in the laboratory. Living algae were used in two trials; the first offered a choice of algae simultaneously and the second a single algal species (i.e. no choice). In the first trial, approximately two gm of each of 5 common algae species: *Caulerpa filiformis*, *Corallina officinalis*, *Padina crassa*, *Sargassum sp.*, and *Ulva spp.*, were presented to *Turbo undulatus*. The pre-weighed algae were positioned

equidistant in a circle around ten individuals of this small turbinid in 17 small aquaria. Algae were then removed from aquaria after 24 hours, blotted dry and weighed. Mean change in the 6 autogenic controls for each alga was then subtracted and the change in weight was then converted to a percentage of each alga consumed during the 24 hr period. The analysis of multiple-choice feeding trials such as this can be problematic as many statistical tests assume independence and the consumption of one food type may be dependent on the presence of others (Peterson and Renaud 1989). We used Quade's test which does not make this assumption (Roa 1992).

Three species were offered in the second trial; *Caulerpa filiformis*, *Sargassum sp.*, and *Ulva spp.* Six aquaria, each with 10 *Turbo undulatus*, were used for each alga. Mean change in six autogenic controls was subtracted and percent algal consumption over 24 hours calculated.

### *Statistical analyses*

The feeding trials were analysed using two-tailed paired-sample t tests or the nonparametric equivalent (Wilcoxon Signed Rank test) (Zar 1999). Fish feeding trials were analysed with a standard t-test. We measured the amount of each disk consumed as a percentage of the initial weight (corrected for autogenic changes) and completed the analysis by comparing the proportion consumed of control disks to the proportion consumed of treatment disks. Trials where less than 5% of either disk had been consumed were excluded from the analysis. Some herbivores failed to eat during the trials and their responses could not be assessed. Where trials were repeated on different days, we tested for the presence of heterogeneity in feeding deterrence between days. For all analyses the assumption of normality was examined visually

and homogenous variances were determined with a Cochran's C test. As data in the multiple-choice experiment examining algal consumption was non-independent, we employed Quade's test (Conover 1999).

## RESULTS

### Feeding experiments

#### *Artificial diets*

We detected little evidence of *Caulerpa* species deterring invertebrates or fish from feeding. Overall, in 12 of the 16 sets of feeding trials the consumption of treatment discs, that is those containing *Caulerpa* extracts, was lower than in the controls. In only three cases did we observe a significant depression in feeding, all with extracts of *C. filiformis*. *Turbo torquatus* and *Heliocidaris tuberculata* were deterred from consuming solvent extract of *C. filiformis* (Fig. 2, 3) while aqueous extracts of this alga discouraged feeding by *Aplysia sydneyensis* (Fig 4). It is also noteworthy that two additional sets of trials were very close to significant ( $P < 0.06$ ). These trials involved extracts of *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* on fish assemblages (Fig. 5) and extracts of *C. taxifolia* on the urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* (Fig. 6). Conversely, in the four remaining sets of feeding trials we observed increased consumption of discs containing *Caulerpa* extracts. In only one instance were these effects significant; *Turbo undulatus* consumed significantly more of the treatment discs containing solvent extract of *C. filiformis* than the controls (Fig. 2)

*Insert Figs 2-6*

#### *Algal consumption*

On providing *Turbo undulatus* with a suite of algae to consume, the apparent preference for *Caulerpa filiformis* was no longer evident. Within 24 hours these molluscs had consumed all of the *Ulva* spp. and *Sargassum* sp. Consumption of *C.*

*filiformis* was the lowest of the 6 algal species tested and was significantly lower than *Ulva* spp. and *Sargassum* sp. ( $T_1=26.6$ ,  $df=4$ ,  $64$   $P<0.001$ , Fig. 7a). When offered algae in isolation (as opposed to extracts in palatable discs) *Turbo undulatus* consumed a high proportion of *Ulva* spp. and *Sargassum* sp., but less than 2% of *C. filiformis* (Fig. 7b). These differences were statistically significant ( $F=230.4$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $15$ ,  $P<0.001$ ) following square root transformation ( $\sqrt{(x+3/8)}$ , Zar 1999) to remove heterogenous variances. *Post hoc* Tukey's tests confirmed that differences in the consumption of each species were statistically significant.

*Insert Fig. 7*

## DISCUSSION

Overall, the three species of *Caulerpa* we examined were relatively ineffective in deterring the suite of temperate zone consumers tested. We observed significant anti-feedant effects in just 3 of the 16 feeding trials and then only for extracts of *Caulerpa filiformis*. Solvent extracts of *C. filiformis* deterred the turbinid mollusc *Turbo torquatus* and the urchin *Heliocidaris tuberculata*, while aqueous extract deterred *Aplysia sydneyensis*. It should also be noted that extracts of *C. taxifolia* and *C. scalpelliformis* yielded probabilities in the analysis of feeding trials that were very close to significant ( $<0.06$ ) with the large urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* and the fish assemblage, respectively. Although the consumers examined here were rarely significantly deterred from feeding on extracts of *Caulerpa*, we hesitate to equate this to them exerting top-down control over these invasive algae. In the majority of feeding trials consumers showed a clear tendency to avoid the discs containing *Caulerpa* extracts, consuming smaller quantities of the treatment discs. The low probability that consumers will control these invasive algae is underscored by the outcome of the trials with *Turbo undulatus*. Solvent extracts of *C. filiformis*

stimulated feeding in this abundant mollusc, although when *T. undulatus* was offered a choice of five algal species simultaneously, *C. filiformis* was consumed at the lowest rate. It was also apparent that these molluscs responded differently to the tissue of *Caulerpa filiformis* when offered in isolation as opposed to extracts of this alga (compare Fig.2 with Fig. 7b). We did not see evidence of the turbinid snail enhancing fragmentation of *C. filiformis* during feeding as has been observed for a mollusc on *C. taxifolia* in the Mediterranean (Zuljevic et al. 2001). It has been argued that for generalist herbivores to limit the establishment of invaders, they must consume the invader when it is at very low densities or biomass (Maron and Vilà 2001); we found no evidence in support of this. Taken together these data indicate that the generalist consumers considered here are highly unlikely to intercede in the establishment or persistence of these invaders. Based on a similar approach, much the same conclusion was reached by Trowbridge (1995) for the invasive siphonous alga *Codium fragile* on temperate rocky shores in New Zealand.

The presence of biologically active secondary metabolites is well established for members of the genus *Caulerpa* (Paul and Fenical 1986, 1987; Guerriero et al. 1992, 1993). Much of the activity is attributed to the sesquiterpene Caulerpenyne, although it rapidly forms degradation products, which may lead to underestimates of its biological activity (Dumay et al. 2002). Other minor compounds can also produce significant biological effects (e.g. Paul et al. 1987) and some may be water soluble (Lemée et al. 1993) as observed for our feeding trials with *Aplysia sydneyensis*. Extracts or pure compounds from these algae have demonstrated toxicity or deterrent activity against bacteria, fungi, mammalian cell lines, invertebrates, their larvae and vertebrates (Paul et al. 1987). Despite this host of biological activity the relatively

inconsistent antifeedant activity that we observed in our trials is very similar to that for feeding trials with extracts or pure compounds for tropical members of this algal genus (see Table 6, Meyer and Paul 1992). A number of tropical fish species, for example, readily consume *Caulerpa racemosa* despite the presence of relatively high concentrations of sesquiterpenes (Paul & Hay 1986; Meyer and Paul 1992). Other *Caulerpa* spp. are also consumed at moderate to high levels by tropical fishes (Hay 1984). Despite the poor correlation between the presence of secondary metabolites and the consumption of algae by herbivores, it is apparent that *C. taxifolia* may well impact on generalist consumers in the Mediterranean (Boudouresque et al. 1996), prompting Paul and co-workers (2001) to conclude that the secondary chemistry of *C. taxifolia* may well contribute to its invasive success.

To date, the ability of *Caulerpa* spp. to deter consumers has been focussed almost exclusively on tropical fishes (Hay 1984, Paul & Hay 1986, Meyer and Paul 1992). Given that fish exert significant grazing pressure in the tropics (Hay et al. 1983) this approach is appropriate. However, as a number of the tropical *Caulerpa* spp. extend their ranges into temperate waters we urgently need to assess their impact on the structure and dynamics of the temperate assemblages they are invading.

Invertebrates, particularly urchins, often play a key role in structuring shallow subtidal habitats in the temperate zone (e.g. Fletcher, 1987). In SE Australia, for example, the urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* assumes very high densities where appropriate shelter is available, creating and maintaining extensive areas of urchin grazed barrens (Andrew 1993; Davis et al. 2003). Fish also play a role in structuring algal assemblages in SE Australia (Andrew and Jones 1990), but it is usually limited. We have reported the responses of generalist herbivores to algal extracts and in one



case to algal tissue in a laboratory setting. The challenge will be examining the ability of native herbivores to suppress invasive algal populations in the field.

Several workers have attributed the success of invaders to the lower consumer pressure they experience in the invaded habitat (Crawley 1996; Williamson 1996). The so called 'Enemy Release Hypothesis' assumes that generalist consumers will have more impact on native competitors (Keane and Crawley 2002). Although the reasons for the success of these three *Caulerpa* species in southeastern Australia are unknown, our findings that *Caulerpa filiformis* was consumed at the lowest rate when a variety of common algal species were offered to *Turbo undulatus* offers support to this hypothesis. Nevertheless, recent data has challenged the applicability of the Enemy Release Hypothesis, at least in terrestrial environments (Agrawal and Kotanen 2003). Specialist molluscan herbivores, sacoglossans, commonly feed on siphonous algae, including *Caulerpa* spp. (Trowbridge & Todd 2001) and have been of interest in the Mediterranean as potential agents of biological control (Meinesz 1999; Thibaut and Meinesz 2000; Thibaut et al. 2001). In southeastern Australia, the sacoglossans *Oxynoe viridis*, *Placida dendritica* and *Elysia cf australis* have all been observed including invasive *Caulerpa* spp. in their diets (Edwards 2002; authors' personal observations). Such dietary shifts appear to be a common response of stenophagous herbivores to introduced algae that are closely related to their original hosts (Trowbridge, 2004). We maintain that the utility of specialist herbivores as control agents, particularly through 'augmentative biocontrol' is worthy of closer examination, but requires rigorous scientific assessment (Trowbridge, 2004).

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We acknowledge the assistance of David Barker at NSW Fisheries for allowing access to their seawater facility. Sue Fyfe and Jeff Wright improved early drafts of this manuscript. All algae and invertebrates collected for this study were done so under NSW Fisheries permit F265. This work was undertaken with financial assistance from the Institute for Conservation Biology, University of Wollongong. This is contribution number xxx from the Ecology and Genetics Group, University of Wollongong.

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Table 1: Identity of rocky reef consumers used in the feeding trials. Extracts tested were either aqueous (A) or solvent (S), ethanol, based. Subscripts next to extract type refer to whether *Ulva* spp (<sub>U</sub>) or *Corallina officinalis* (<sub>C</sub>) was used as the palatable algae in the feeding discs. Sizes of organisms are from Edgar (1997) and author's unpublished data. Densities are from Fletcher (1987), Worthington and Fairweather (1989), Wright et al. (2000) or author's unpublished data. nd = no data.

Consumer	Family	Extracts tested	Max. size (cm) <sup>&amp;</sup>	Max Density (m <sup>-2</sup> )	Tidal zone
<b>Echinoderms</b>					
<i>Centrostephanus rodgersii</i> (Agassiz 1863)	Diadematidae	A <sub>U</sub> S <sub>U</sub>	10	22	subtidal
<i>Heliocidaris tuberculata</i> (Lamarck 1816)	Echinometridae	S <sub>U</sub>	11	2	low to subtidal
<i>Heliocidaris erythrogramma</i> (Valenciennes 1846)	Echinometridae	A <sub>U</sub>	9	48	low to subtidal
<b>Molluscs</b>					
<i>Turbo undulatus</i> (Lightfoot 1786)	Turbinidae	S <sub>U</sub>	5	92	mid to low
<i>Turbo torquatus</i> Gmelin 1791	Turbinidae	A <sub>C</sub> S <sub>C</sub>	10	4	low to subtidal
<i>Astralium tentoriformis</i> (Jonas 1845)	Turbinidae	S <sub>U</sub>	6	12	low to subtidal
<i>Aplysia sydneyensis</i> Sowerby 1869	Aplysiidae	A <sub>U</sub>	15	Highly variable	low to subtidal
<b>Fish</b>					
Entire assemblage <sup>#</sup>		S <sub>U</sub>	<15	nd	subtidal

<sup>&</sup> Shell height (snails), body length (fish & sea slug), test diameter (urchins)

<sup>#</sup> Fishes observed consuming discs were *Parma microlepis* Günther 1862 and *P. unifasciata* (Steindacher 1867). *Chromis hysilepis* (Günther 1876) was observed in the vicinity and is also likely to have consumed discs.

## FIGURE CAPTIONS

- Figure 1 Distribution of invasive populations of *Caulerpa* spp. in Southeastern Australia. Dark Bar (■) denotes extent of distribution of *Caulerpa filiformis*. Numbers denote the nine locations that *C. taxifolia* has invaded. *C. scalpelliformis* is restricted to Botany Bay (number 4). Numbered locations are (1) Lake Macquarie (2) Pittwater (3) Port Jackson (4) Botany Bay (5) Port Hacking (6) Sussex Inlet (7) Lake Conjola (8) Narrawallee Inlet (9) Burrill Lake.
- Figure 2 Feeding responses of Turbinid molluscs to palatable agar discs containing solvent (ethanol) extracts (treatment) of *Caulerpa filiformis* (A.) and *Caulerpa taxifolia* (B.). Control discs contained solvent, but no extract. Bars are mean percent consumed  $\pm$  1 SE. Statistical significance determined with a paired sample t test. \* P<0.05, n is the sample size.
- Figure 3 Feeding responses of a mollusc and echinoderm to palatable agar discs containing solvent (ethanol) extracts (treatment) of *Caulerpa filiformis*. Control discs contained solvent, but no extract. Bars are mean percent consumed  $\pm$  1 SE. Statistical significance determined with a paired sample t test. \* P<0.05, n is the sample size.
- Figure 4 Feeding responses of molluscs and echinoderms to palatable agar discs containing aqueous (seawater) extracts (treatment) of *Caulerpa filiformis*. Control discs contained seawater, but no extract. Bars are

mean percent consumed  $\pm$  1 SE. Statistical significance determined with a paired sample t test. \* P<0.05, n is the sample size.

Figure 5 Feeding responses of a natural assemblage of fish to palatable agar discs containing solvent (ethanol) extracts (treatment) of *Caulerpa filiformis* (A.), *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* (B.), and *Caulerpa taxifolia* (C.). Control discs contained solvent, but no extract. Bars are mean number of bite marks per minute  $\pm$  1 SE. Statistical significance determined with a t test. Note that two trials were completed with *C. filiformis* and both are presented.

Figure 6 Feeding responses of the Echinoid *Centrostephanus rodgersii* to palatable agar discs containing solvent (ethanol) extracts (treatment) of *Caulerpa filiformis* (A.), *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* (B.) and *Caulerpa taxifolia* (C.). Control discs contained solvent, but no extract. Bars are mean percent consumed  $\pm$  1 SE. Statistical significance determined with a paired sample t test.

Figure 7 Feeding responses of the turbinid mollusc *Turbo undulatus* to fronds of *Caulerpa filiformis* and other common sympatric algae in laboratory aquaria over a 24 hour period. Algae were offered simultaneously (A.), or in isolation (B.) in separate feeding trials. Bars are mean percent consumed  $\pm$  1 SE. The same letter above the bars denote values that did not differ significantly (P>0.05), as determined by Quade's test for the simultaneous trial and a one factor ANOVA when algae were offered in isolation.

Fig1

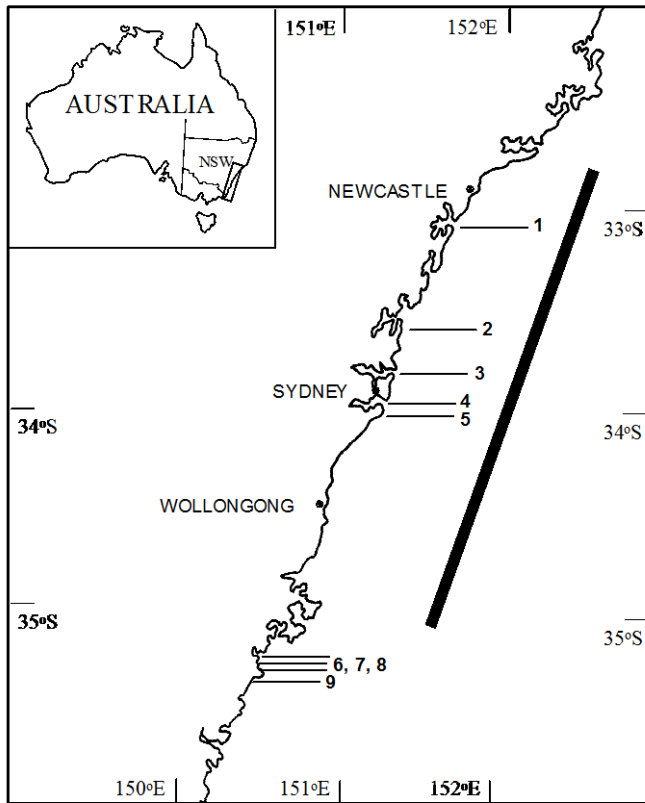


Fig. 2

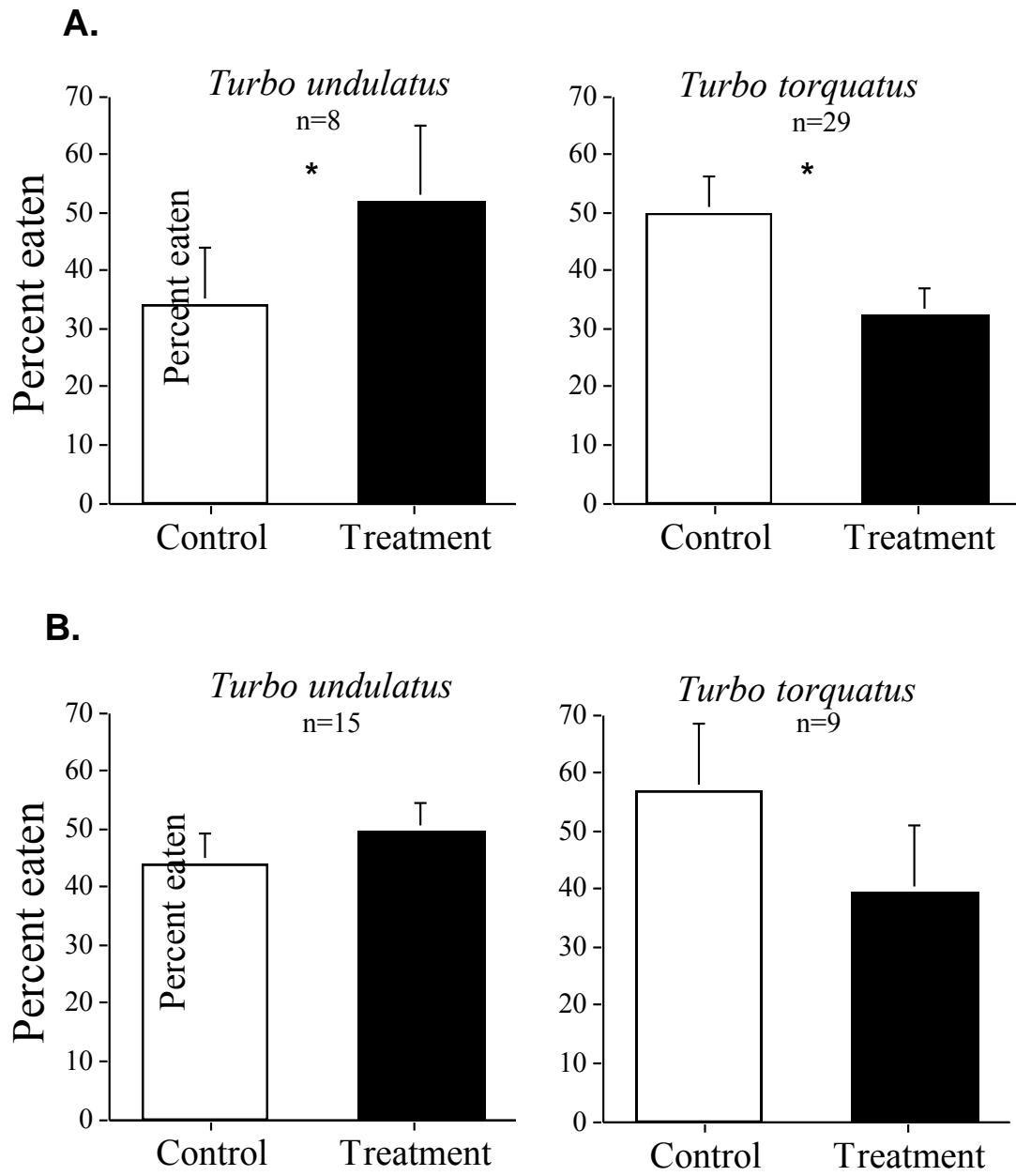


Fig. 3

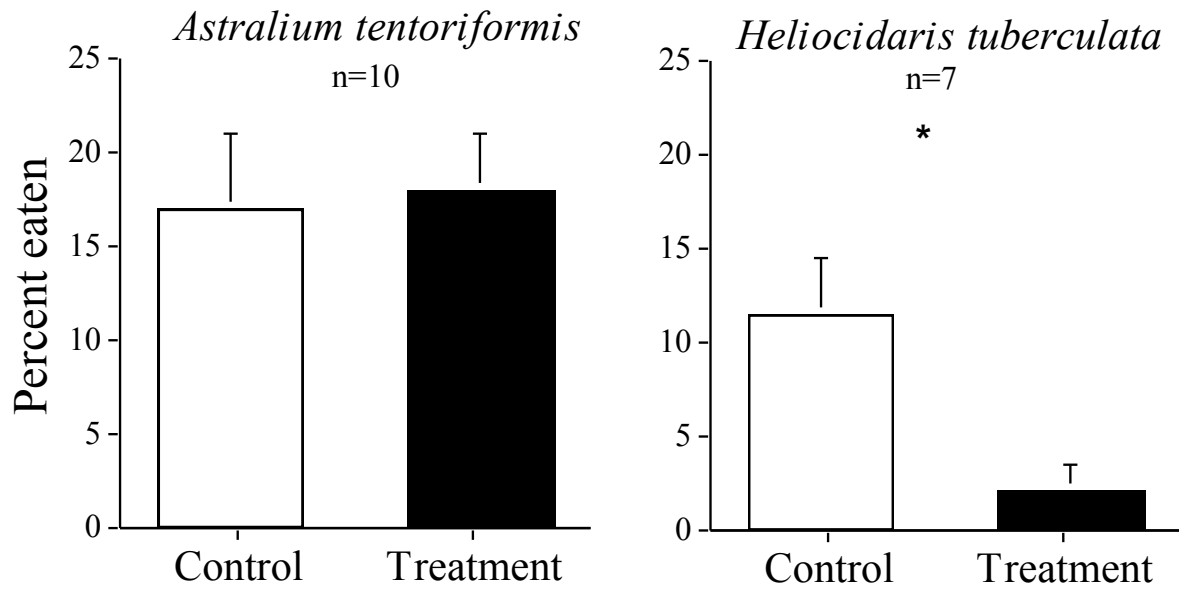


Fig. 4

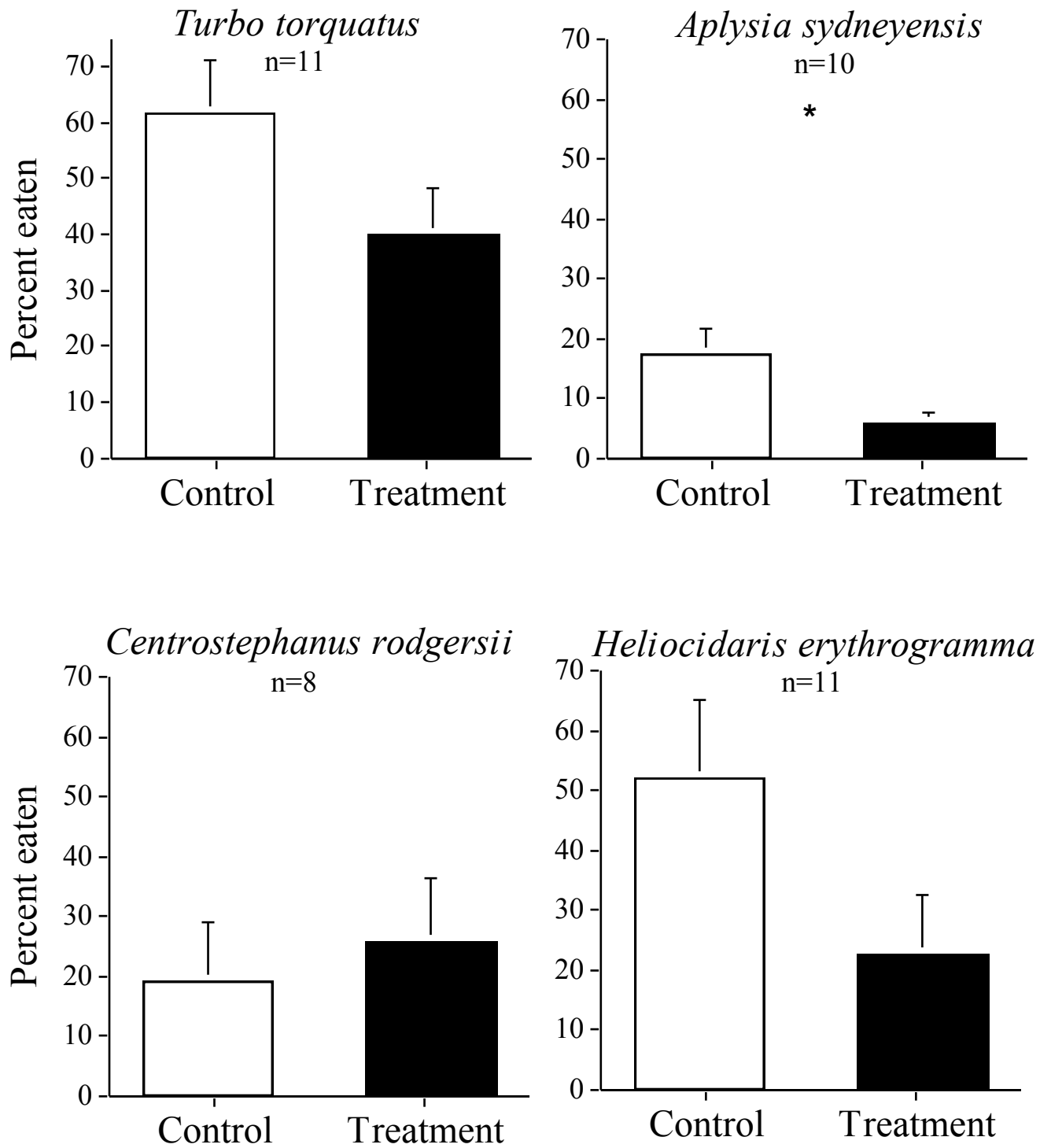
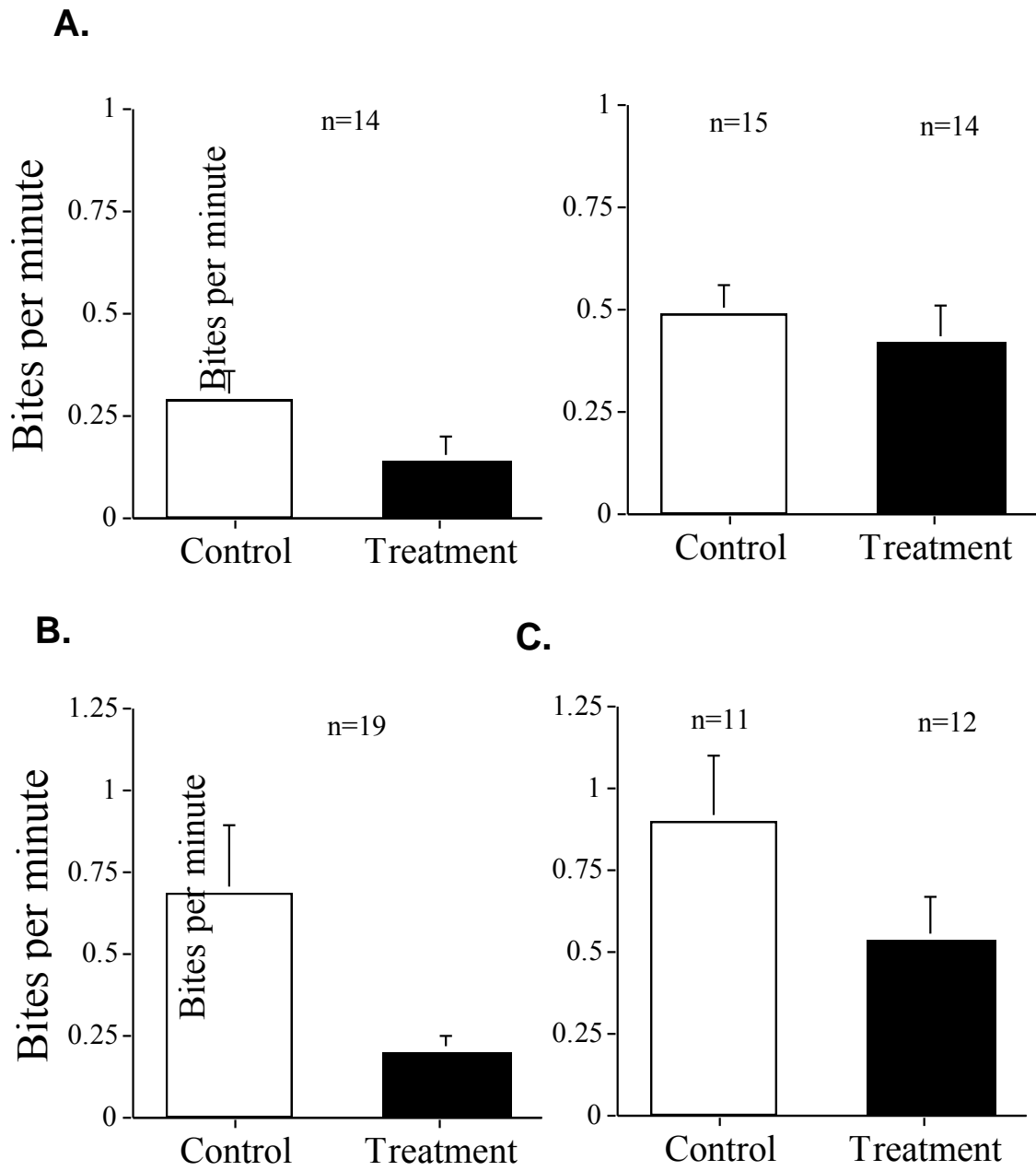




Fig 5



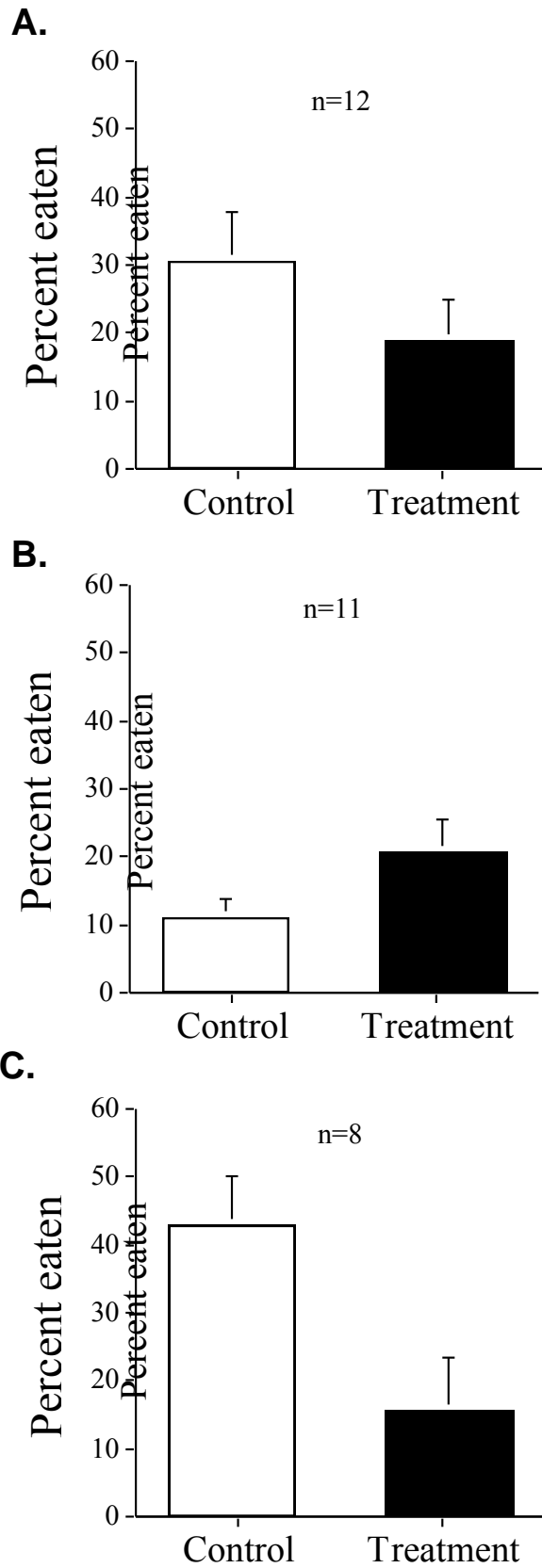


Fig. 6

Fig. 7

