



Researcher Links UK-Russia Workshop Topic: Scientific and Technical Grounds of Future LowCarbon Propulsion



November 2018

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Name: Paolo

Research Interest(s):

- *Photosynthetic organisms*
- *Bioelectrochemistry*
- *Sustainable technologies*

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Sunderland



Photosynthetic bio electrochemical systems (**photosynthetic-BES**): possible areas of application



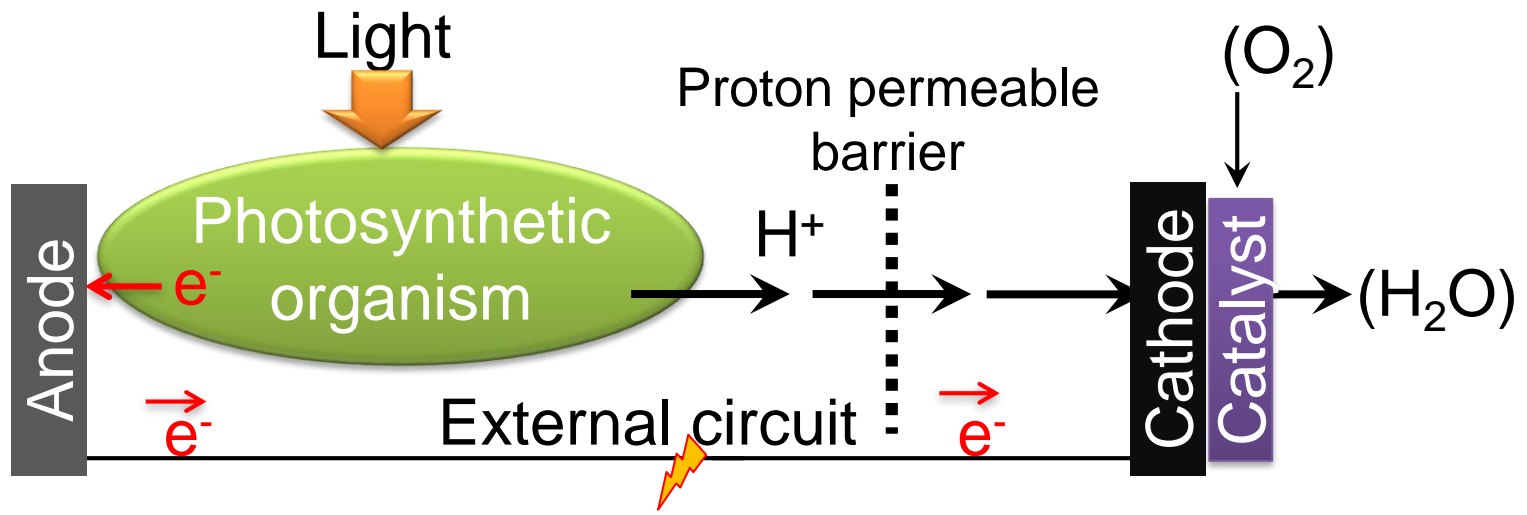
November 2018

Photosynthetic **BESs**

Photosynthetic-**BESs** are electrochemical apparatus powered by light and operated with photosynthetic organisms (cyanobacteria, μ -algae, vascular/not-vascular plants)

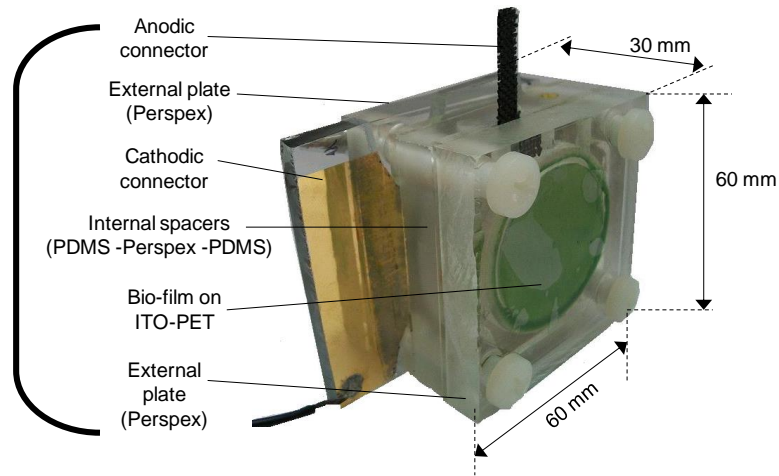
BESs could be used to generate electricity and biomass/food, enable processing of wastewater treatment and, if adequately arranged, to be used as biosensor as well as tool of educations

All **BESs** include few key elements



Photosynthetic BESs

Cyanobacteria
& μ -algae



Bio Photo Voltaic
(BPV)

Plants & Mosses



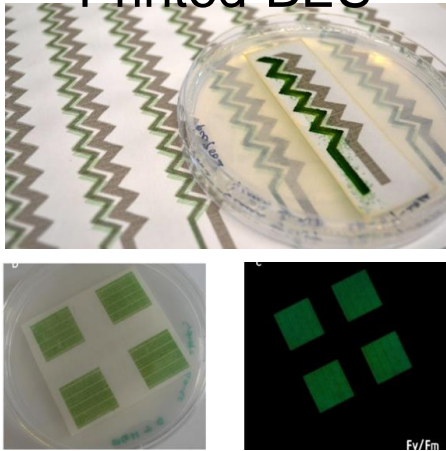
Plant Microbial fuel cell
(pMFC)

Recently published photosynthetic-BES

Cyanobacteria/algae

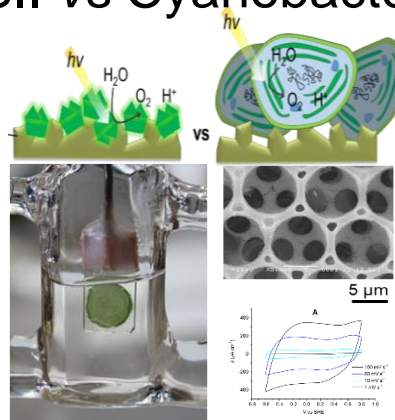
plants

Printed-BES



DOI:10.1038/s41467-017-01084-4
Nature Communications, 2017

PSII vs Cyanobacteria



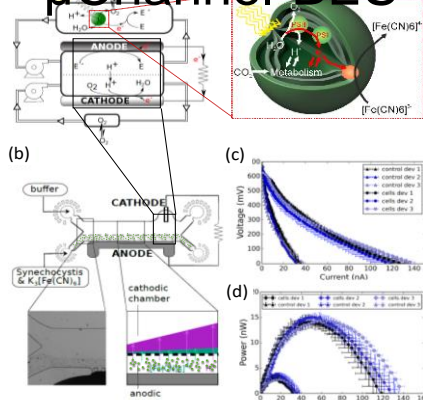
DOI: 10.1021/jacs.7b08563
J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2017

Electricity from rice



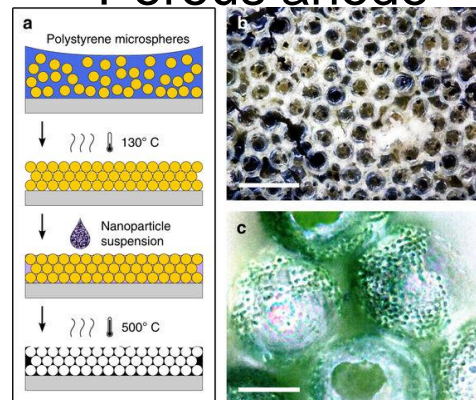
DOI: 10.1007/s00253-012-4473-6
Ap. Microb. and Biotech., 2013

μChannel-BES



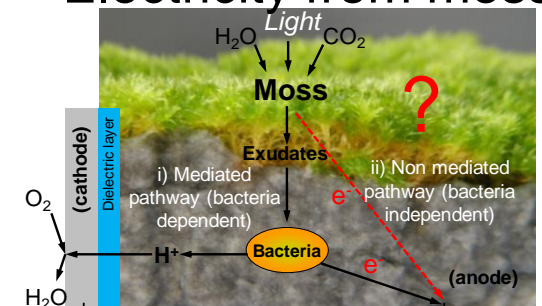
DOI:10.1038/s41560-017-0073
Nature Energy, 2018

Porous anode



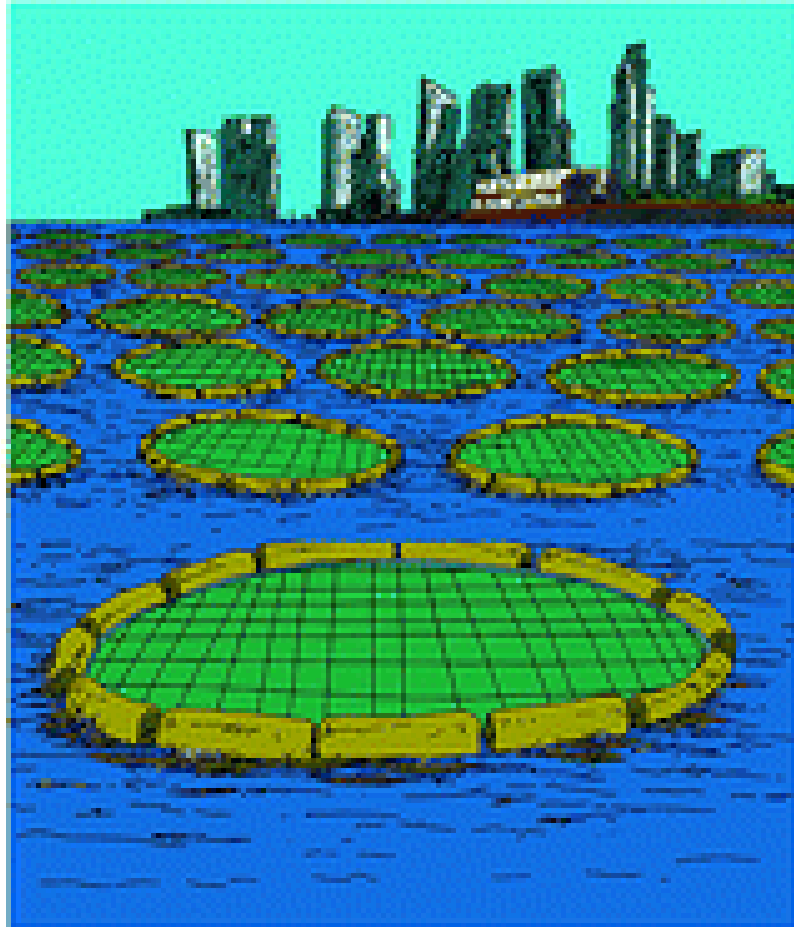
DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-03320-x
Nature Communications, 2018

Electricity from moss

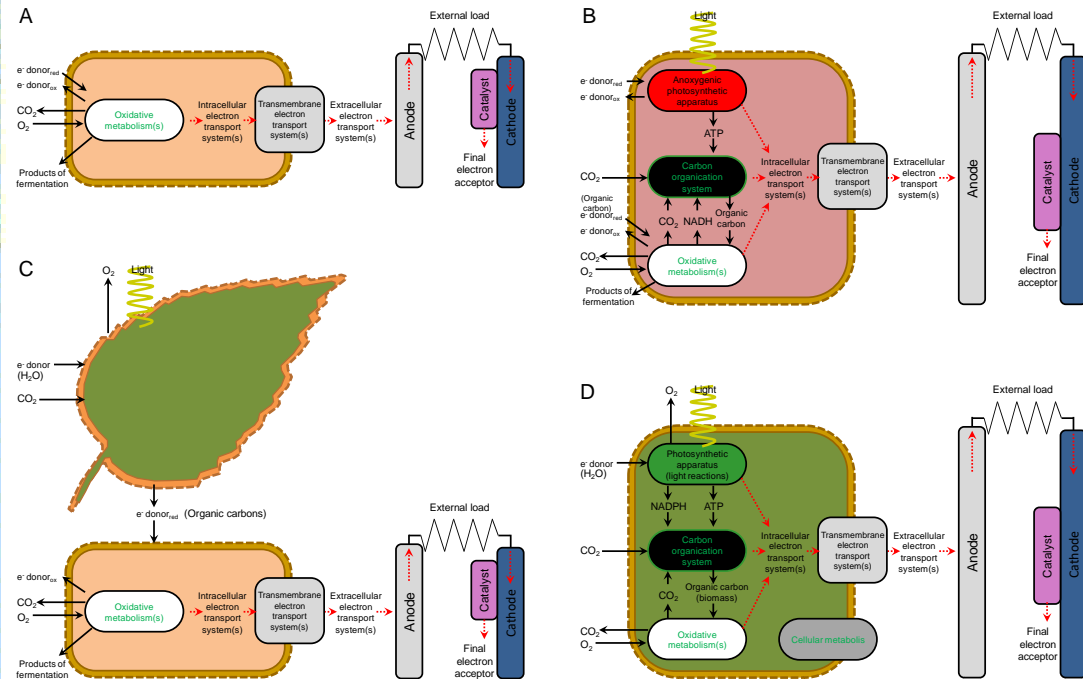


DOI: 10.1098/rsos.160249
Royal Society j. Open Science, 2016

Recently published photosynthetic-BES



Review



I will focus my talk on what the photosynthetic-BESs can be used for

Photosynthetic-BESs generate electricity

< £0.01 m⁻² day⁻¹

Cyanobacteria &

μ-algae

Best published: 0.5W m⁻²
(*Synechocystis* PCC 6803)
Nature Energy, 2018, 3: 75–81

0.012 kWh m⁻² day⁻¹
£ 0.1-0.2 kWh⁻¹

£0.0012 -.0.0024 m⁻² day⁻¹

Plants & Mosses

Best published: 0.44W m⁻²
(*S. anglica*)
Biotechnology for Biofuels, 2012, 5:70

0.011 kWh m⁻² day⁻¹
£ 0.1-0.2 kWh⁻¹

£0.0011 -.0.0022 m⁻² day⁻¹

Are photosynthetic-BESs feasible for actual applications?

It depends from the
given conditions...

Palermo (Sicily)
Summer



Newcastle / Moscow
Winter

~€ 0.1 kg⁻¹ !!!

>£ 5 kg⁻¹ / ₣?? kg⁻¹

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment

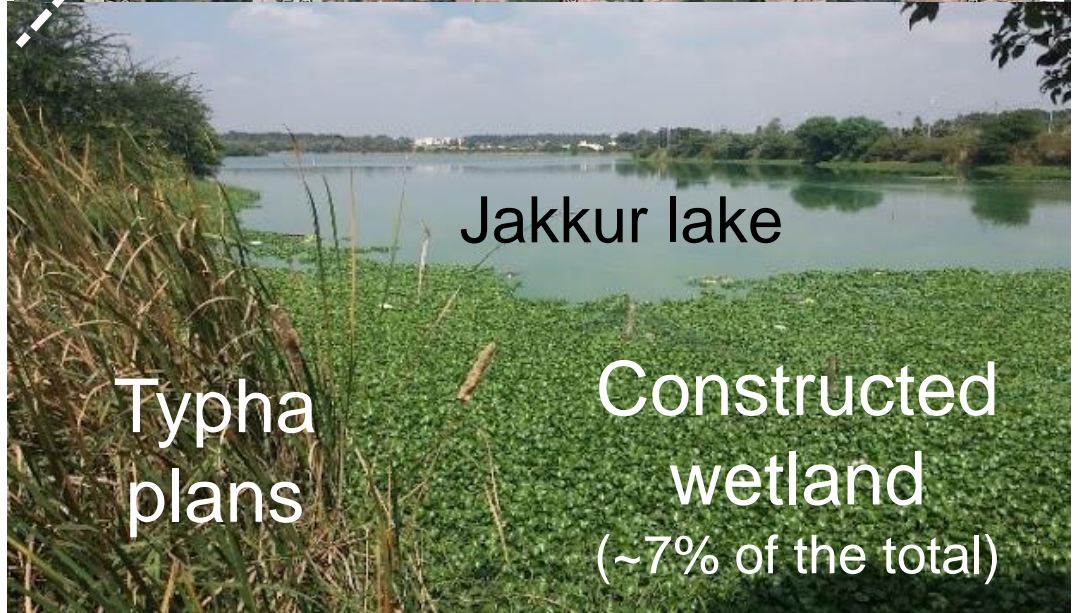
Jakkur lake ~160-acre (~647,000 m²)



Priyanka Jamwal



Sue Harrison



Jakkur lake

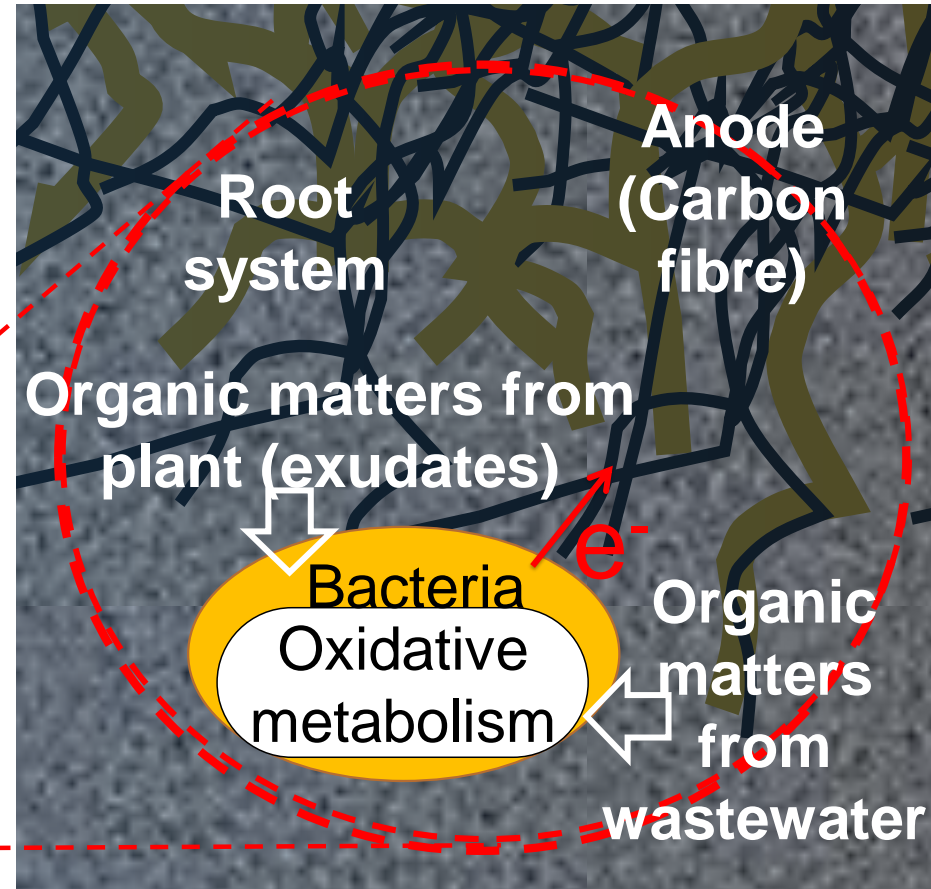
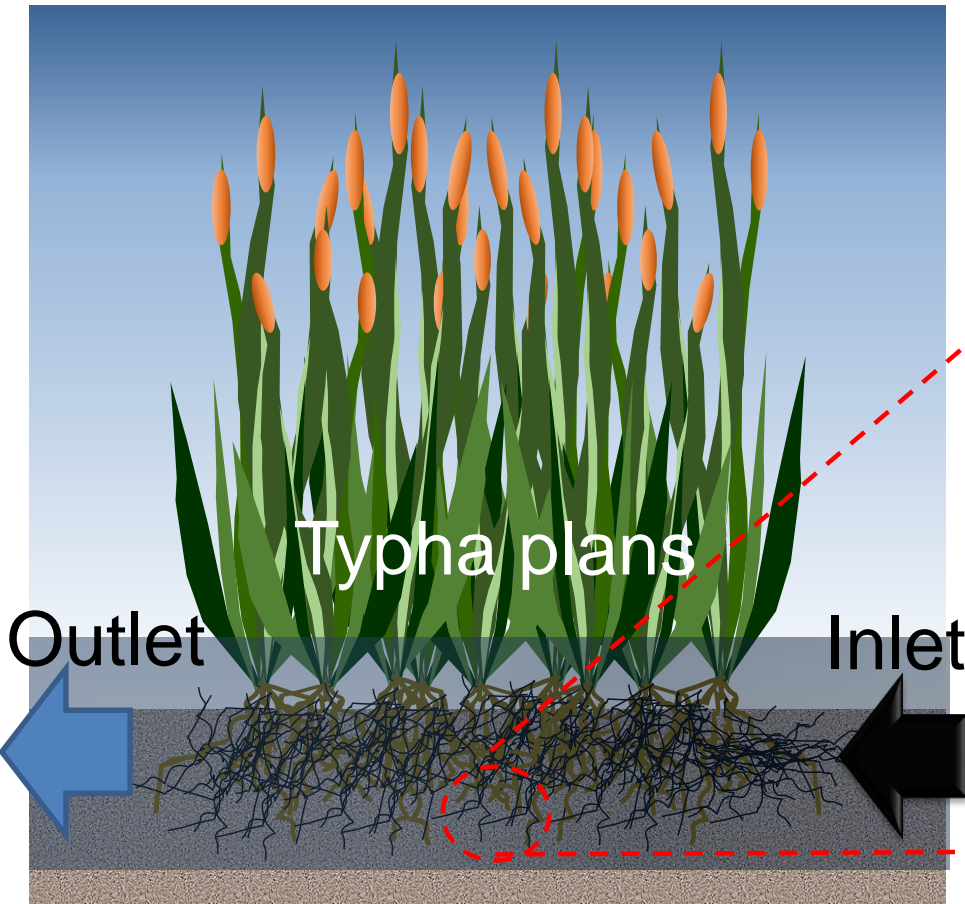
Typha plants

Constructed wetland (~7% of the total)

* <http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/bangalore-population.html>

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment

Constructed wetland



Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



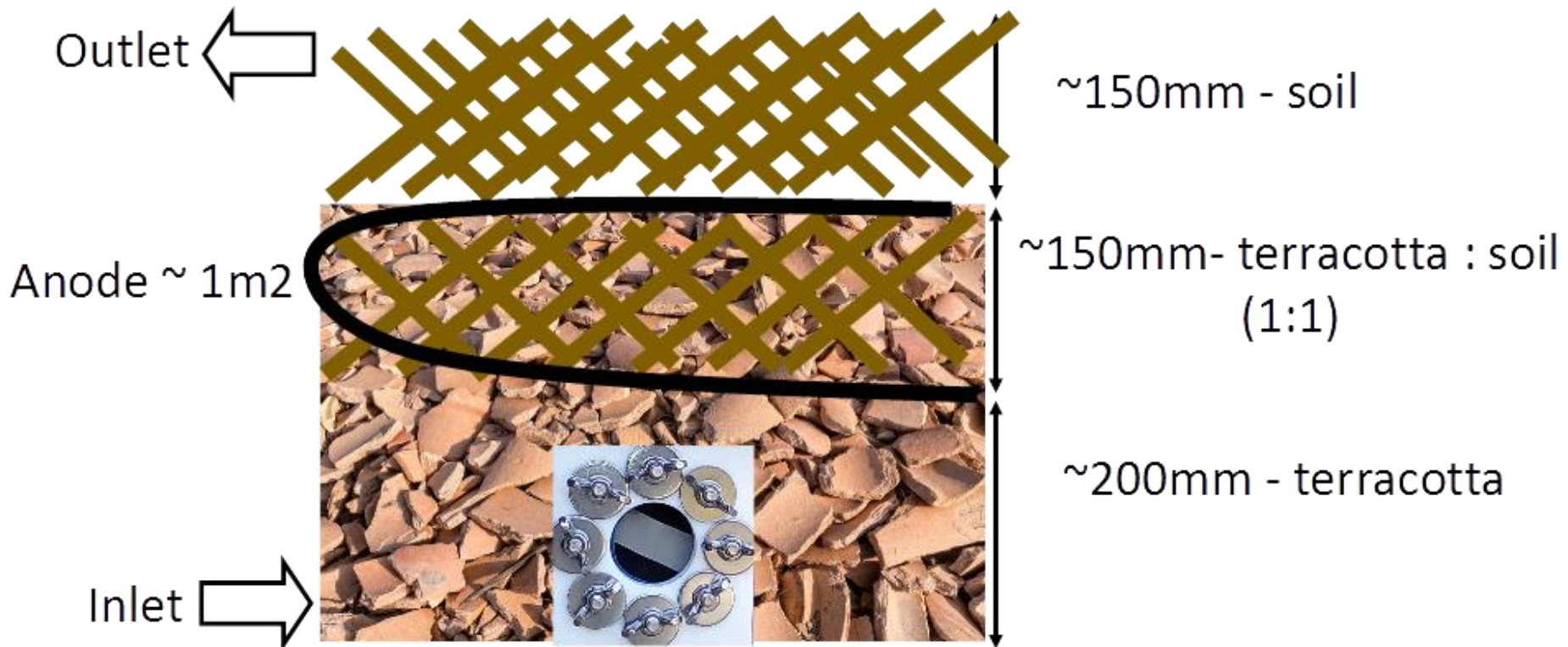
April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



plant-BES – frontal cross section (tot mass ~ 0.5 tonne)

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



April 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment



November 2018

Photosynthetic-BES combined with wastewater treatment

Wastewater treatment

Plant-BES is used to power water quality sensor
(continues operation)

Biomass production (pollutant concentration)

Driven and controlled by local people

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Photosynthetic-BES used to run environmental sensor in remote locations (e.g., tropical forest)



Alasdair Davies Rachael Kemp

Photosynthetic-BES used to run environmental sensor in remote locations (e.g., tropical forest)

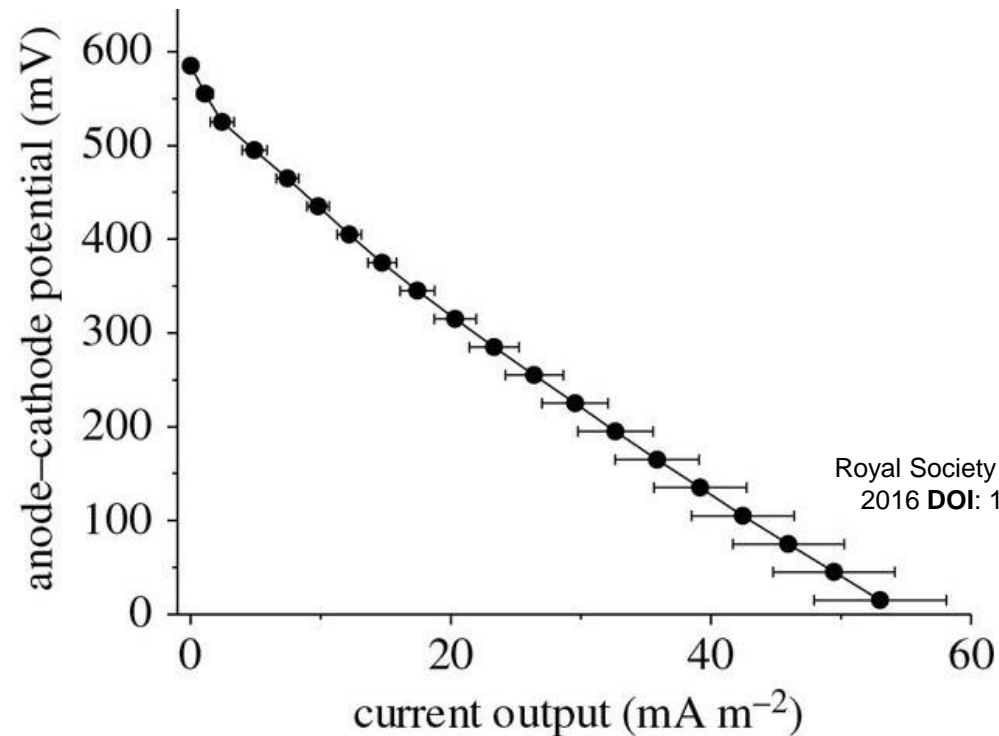


The environmental sensor requires:
5000 mC (@ 5V) per day

Photosynthetic-BES used to run environmental sensor in remote locations (e.g., tropical forest)



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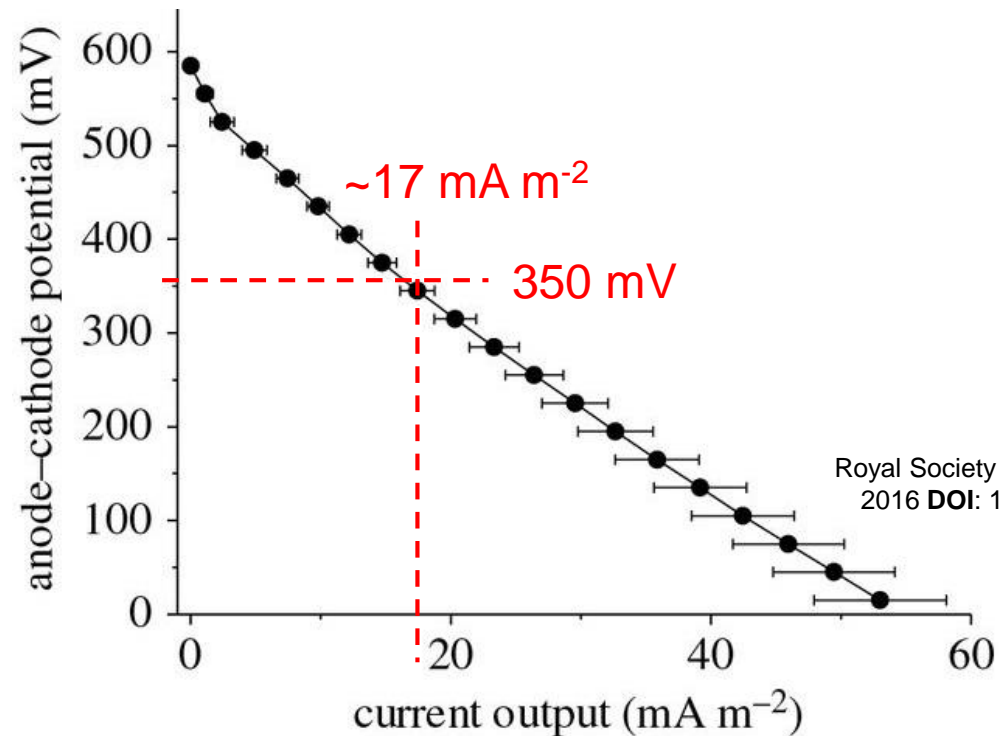


Royal Society journal *Open Science*,
2016 DOI: 10.1098/rsos.160249

Photosynthetic-BES used to run environmental sensor in remote locations (e.g., tropical forest)



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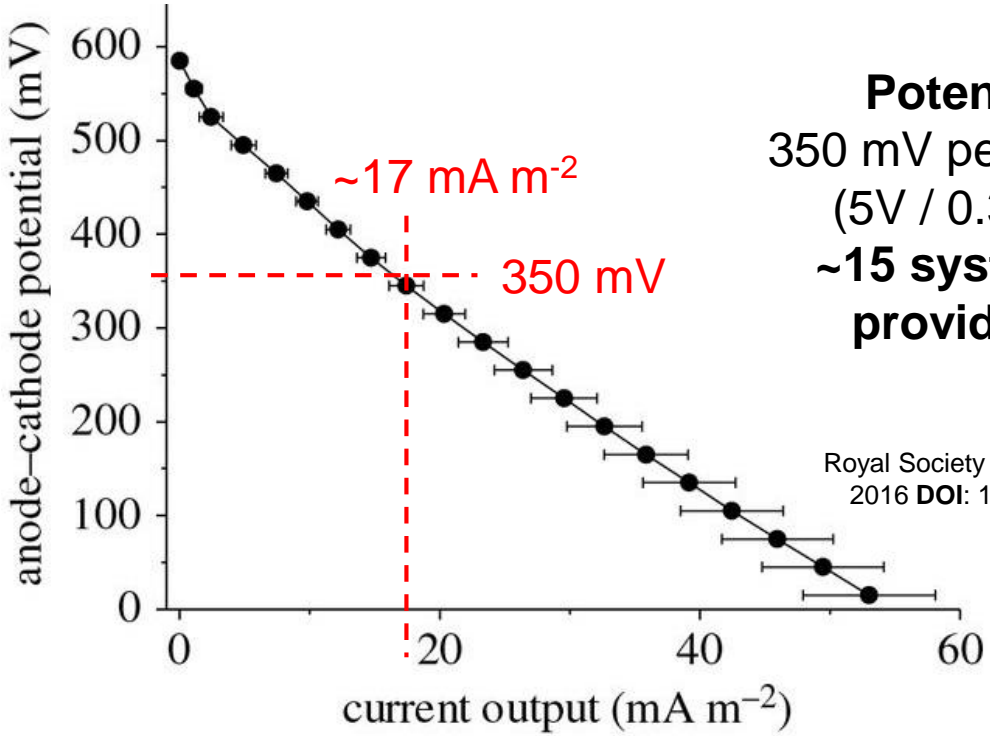


Royal Society journal *Open Science*,
2016 DOI: 10.1098/rsos.160249

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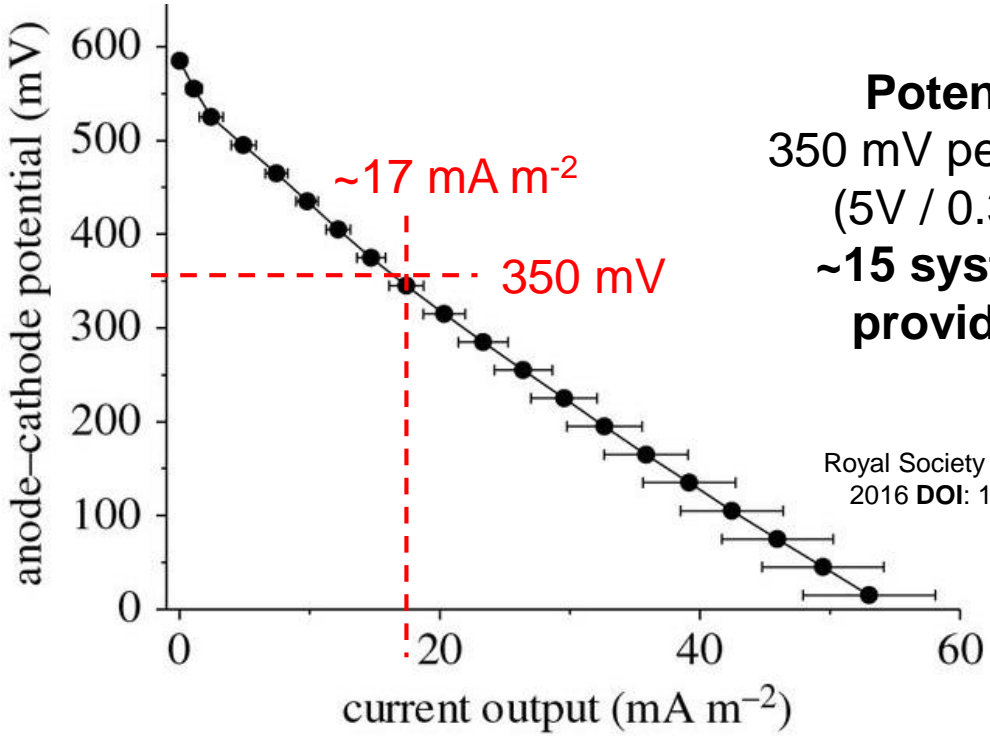
Potential:
350 mV per system
(5V / 0.35V)=
~15 system to provide 5V

Royal Society journal *Open Science*,
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Current: 17 mA m⁻² = 1.7 μC s⁻¹ cm⁻²
1.7 μC s⁻¹ cm⁻² = 146.9 mC cm⁻² per day
5000/146 = ~ **34 cm⁻²**

... and, photosynthetic-BES for art exhibition



Gorky Park (Moscow, May 2018)

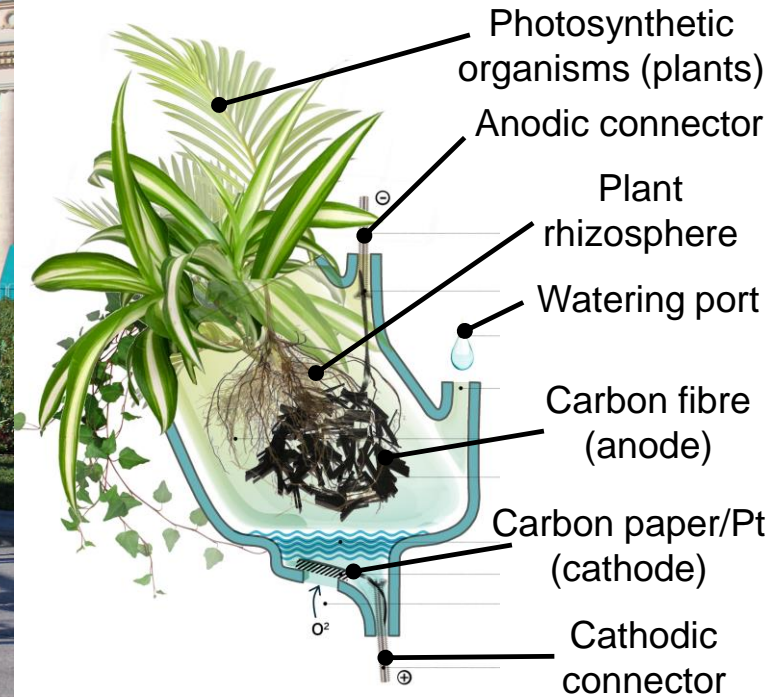


ELENA MITRO

<http://elenamitro.com/>

Elena Mitrofanova

Maria Kuptsova



Acknowledgments

Howe's lab



- **Chris Howe (Group Leader)**
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Chiara Farinea



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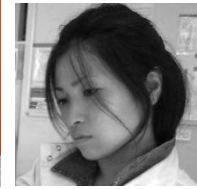
Andrea Fantuzzi



Peter Nixon



Marin Sawa



Alasdair Davies



Rachael Kemp



Priyanka Jamwal



Sumita Bhattacharyya

Pavan Mutteparwar

Sue Harrison



Jessica Feel

Kevin Winter

Emre Ozer
Anand Savanth



Andrea Schievano
Matteo Tucci



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Thank you for your attention

