

**Supplementary Figure S1:** Log<sub>2</sub> transformed growth curves from optical density at 750nm. Data is the same as in Figure 2. Growth curves monitored in 96 well plates by  $OD_{750}$  in a plate reader (effective path length ~0.2cm) at different initial cell densities. (a) *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* in TAP at initial cell density of  $10^6$  cells/mL (o) and at initial cell density of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/mL ( $\blacksquare$ ). Error bars are SEM (n=3). Slopes of the fitted lines were used to derive specific growth constants. Slopes were measured from 24h onwards to avoid the lag phase period.