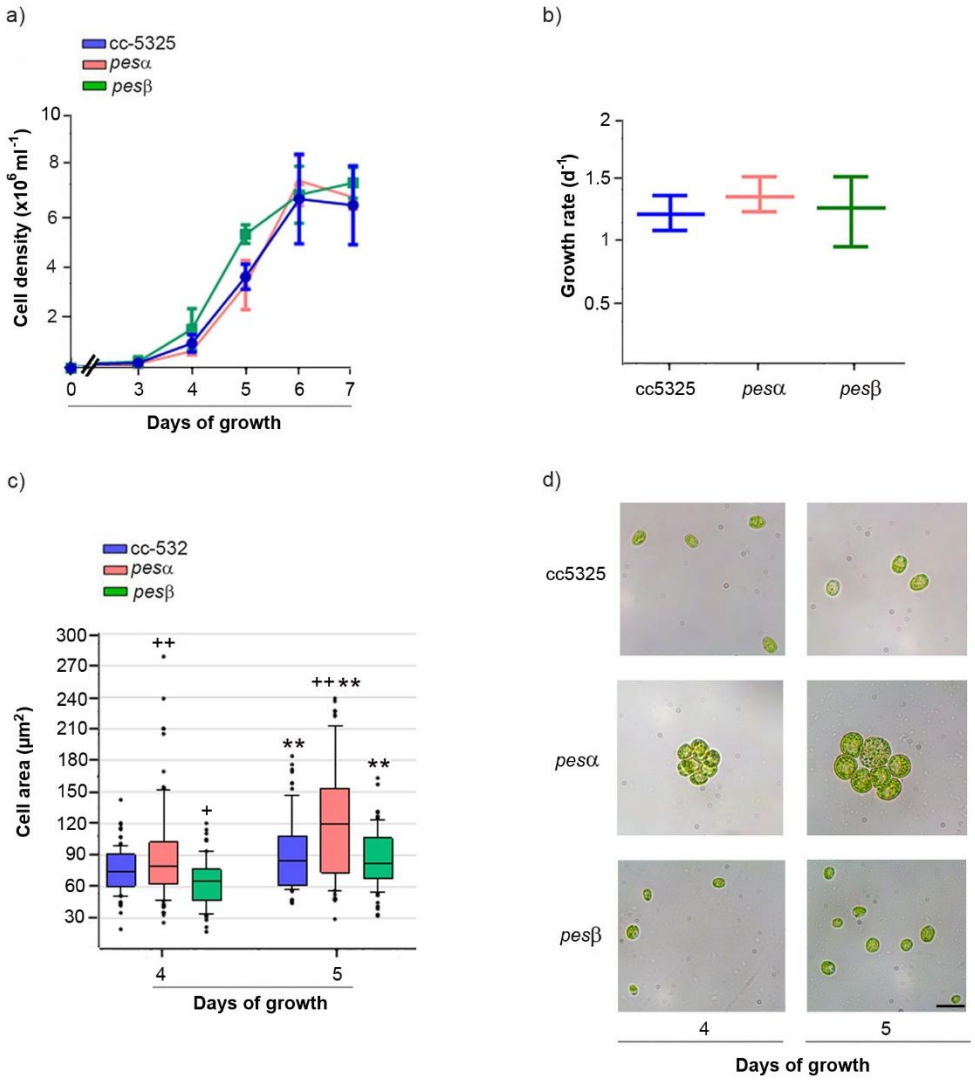


Figure S2. Knockdown of *PESα* and *PESβ* does not affect growth rate but increases cell area in the *pesα* mutant under standard light conditions. Cells from the parental cc-5325 (control), *pesα* and *pesβ* strains were grown in TAP medium under continuous light (50 µmol photons m^{-2} s^{-1}). Samples were harvested at 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 days of growth. **(a)** Cell density was determined by cell counting with a hemocytometer. Vertical bars and symbols represent standard deviation and means, respectively (n=3). **(b)** Growth rates (d^{-1}) were calculated using the formula $\mu = (\ln(x_2) - \ln(x_1)) / (t_2 - t_1)$, where x_2 and x_1 are the cell densities at 6 and 3 days of growth, and t_2 (6 days) and t_1 (3 days) correspond to the end and beginning of the exponential growth phase, respectively [58]. Vertical bars indicate minimum and maximum values and horizontal strips indicate the median (n=3). **(c)** Cell area of cells harvested at 4 and 5 days of growth was determined using ImageJ 1.54g (Wayne Rasband, NIH, USA). Vertical bars indicate minimum and maximum values and horizontal black strips indicate median values (n=80). Significant differences between cc-5325 and *pesα*/*pesβ* mutants are indicated by plus symbols (+), while significant differences between 4 and 5 days of growth within each strain are indicated by asterisks (*) according to one-way ANOVA, post hoc Dunnett's: ++ $^{**}P < 0.05$, + $^{*}P < 0.1$. **(d)** Representative images of cells harvested at 4 and 5 days of growth. Scale bar = 10 µm.