In his monograph on the Athiorhodaceae, C.B. van Niel had summarized the information concerning the color changes observed in cultures of members of this bacterial group. He wrote, "The most striking effect are no doubt exerted by light and oxygen... No careful quantitative studies have yet been made on the pigments of Athiorhodaceae." The work published in 1957 by W.R. Sistrom, R.Y. Stanier, and me tried to remedy this situation.

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