

1 **Estimation of microbial metabolism and co-occurrence patterns in**
2 **fracture groundwaters of deep crystalline bedrock at Olkiluoto,**
3 **Finland**

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9
10 **Abstract**

11 The microbial diversity in oligotrophic isolated crystalline Fennoscandian Shield bedrock
12 fracture groundwaters is great but the core community has not been identified. Here we
13 characterized the bacterial and archaeal communities in 12 water conductive fractures situated
14 at depths between 296 m and 798 m by high throughput amplicon sequencing using the
15 Illumina HiSeq platform. A sequencing depth of up to 1.2×10^6 reads per sample revealed
16 that up to 95% and 99% of the bacterial and archaeal sequences obtained, respectively,
17 belonged to only a few common species, i.e. the core microbiome. However, the remaining
18 rare microbiome contained over 3 and 6 fold more bacterial and archaeal taxa. Several
19 clusters of co-occurring rare taxa were identified, which correlated significantly with
20 physicochemical parameters, such as salinity, concentration of inorganic or organic carbon,
21 sulphur, pH and depth. The metabolic properties of the microbial communities were predicted
22 using PICRUSt. The approximate estimation showed that the metabolic pathways included
23 commonly fermentation, fatty acid oxidation, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, oxidative
24 phosphorylation and methanogenesis/anaerobic methane oxidation, but carbon fixation
25 through the Calvin cycle, reductive TCA cycle and the Wood-Ljungdahl pathway was also
26 predicted. The rare microbiome is an unlimited source of genomic functionality in all
27 ecosystems. It may consist of remnants of microbial communities prevailing in earlier
28 environmental conditions, but could also be induced again if changes in their living conditions
29 occur. In this study only the rare taxa correlated with any physicochemical parameters. Thus

1 these microorganisms can respond to environmental change caused by physical or biological
2 factors that may lead to alterations in the diversity and function of the microbial communities
3 in crystalline bedrock environments.

4 **1 Introduction**

5 Identifying and understanding the core microbiome of any given environments is of crucial
6 importance for predicting and assessing environmental change both locally and globally
7 (Shade and Handelsman, 2012). In a previous study (Bomberg et al., 2015) we showed by 454
8 amplicon sequencing that the active microbial communities in Olkiluoto deep subsurface
9 were strictly stratified according to aquifer water type. Nevertheless, more rigorous
10 sequencing efforts and more samplings have shown that an archaeal core community
11 consisting of the DeepSea Hydrothermal Vent Euryarchaeotal Group 6 (DHVEG-6), ANME-
12 2D and Terrestrial Miscellaneous Group (TMEG) archaea may exist in the anaerobic deep
13 groundwater of Olkiluoto (Miettinen et al., 2015). The bacterial core groups in Olkiluoto deep
14 groundwater include at least members of the Pseudomonadaceae, Comamonadaceae and
15 Sphingomonadaceae (Bomberg et al., 2014; 2015; Miettinen et al., 2015). The relative
16 abundance of these main groups varies at different depths from close to the detection limit to
17 over 90% of the bacterial or archaeal community (Bomberg et al., 2015; Miettinen et al.,
18 2015). However, both the archaeal and the bacterial communities contain a wide variety of
19 smaller bacterial and archaeal groups, which are distributed unevenly in the different water
20 conductive fractures.

21 The rare biosphere is a concept describing the hidden biodiversity of an environment (Sogin
22 et al., 2006). The rare biosphere consists of microbial groups that are ubiquitously distributed
23 in nature but often present at low relative abundance and may thus stay below the limit of
24 detection. Due to modern high throughput sequencing techniques, however, the hidden
25 diversity of rare microbiota has been revealed. These microorganisms are the basis for
26 unlimited microbial functions in the environment and upon environmental change specific
27 groups can readily activate and become abundant. Access to otherwise inaccessible nutrients
28 activate specific subpopulations in the bacterial communities within hours of exposure (Rajala
29 et al., 2015) and enrich distinct microbial taxa at the expense of the original microbial
30 community in the groundwater (Kutvonen, 2015). Mixing of different groundwater layers due
31 to e.g. breakage of aquifer boundaries and new connection of separated aquifers may cause
32 the microbial community to change and activate otherwise dormant processes. This has

1 previously been shown by Pedersen et al. (2013), who indicated increased sulphate reduction
2 activity when sulphate-rich and methane-rich groundwater mixed. The stability of deep
3 subsurface microbial communities in isolated deep subsurface groundwater fractures are
4 assumed to be stable. However, there are indications that they may change over the span of
5 several years as slow flow along fractures is possible (Miettinen et al., 2015; Sohlberg et al.,
6 2015).

7 The microbial taxa present in an environment interact with both biotic and abiotic factors. Co-
8 occurrence network analyses and metabolic predictions may help to understand these
9 interactions. Barberan et al. (2012) visualised the co-occurrence networks of microbial taxa in
10 soils and showed novel patterns connecting generalist and specialist species as well as
11 associations between microbial taxa. They showed that specialist and generalist microbial
12 taxa formed distinct and separate correlation networks, which also reflected the environmental
13 settings. Metagenome predicting tools allows us to estimate microbial metabolic functions
14 based on NGS microbiome data. Using the PICRUSt tool (Langille *et al.*, 2013) Tsitko et al.
15 (2014) showed that oxidative phosphorylation was the most important energy producing
16 metabolic pathway throughout the 7 m depth profile of an Acidobacteria-dominated nutrient
17 poor boreal bog. Cleary et al. (2015) showed that tropical mussel-associated bacterial
18 communities could be important sources of bioactive compounds for biotechnology. This
19 approach is nevertheless hampered by the fact that only little is so far known about uncultured
20 environmental microorganisms and their functions and the PICRUSt approach is best applied
21 for human microbiome for which it was initially developed (Langille *et al.*, 2013). However,
22 metagenomic estimations may give important indications of novel metabolic possibilities
23 even in environmental microbiome studies.

24 Using extensive high throughput amplicon sequencing in this study we aimed to identify the
25 core microbiome in the deep crystalline bedrock fractures of Olkiluoto Island and also to
26 identify the rare microbiome. We aimed to show the interactions between the taxa of the rare
27 biosphere and the surrounding environmental parameters in order to validate the factors that
28 determine the distribution of the rare taxa. Finally, we aimed to estimate the prevailing
29 metabolic activities that may occur in the deep crystalline bedrock environment of Olkiloto,
30 Finland.

1 **2 Materials and methods**

2 **2.1 Background**

3 The Olkiluoto site has previously been extensively described (Posiva, 2013) and is only
4 briefly described here. The Island of Olkiluoto situating on the west coast of Finland has
5 approximately 60 drillholes drilled for research and monitoring purposes. Studies on the
6 chemistry and microbiology of the groundwater have been on-going since the 1980s. The
7 groundwater is stratified with a salinity gradient extending from fresh to brackish water to a
8 depth of 30 m and the highest salinity concentration of 125 g L⁻¹ total dissolved solids (TDS)
9 at 1000 m depth (Posiva, 2013). The most abundant salinity causing cations are Na²⁺ and Ca²⁺
10 and anions Cl⁻. Between 100 and 300 m depths, the groundwater originates from ancient (pre-
11 Baltic) seawater and has high concentrations of SO₄²⁻. Below 300 m the concentration of
12 methane in the groundwater increases and SO₄²⁻ is almost absent. A sulphate-methane
13 transition zone (SMTZ), where sulphate-rich fluid replaces methane-rich fluid, is located at
14 250 – 350 m depth. Temperature rises linearly with depth, from ca. 5 – 6 °C at 50 m to ca. 20
15 °C at 1,000 m depth (Ahokas et al., 2008). The pH of the groundwater is slightly alkaline
16 throughout the depth profile. Multiple drillholes intersect several groundwater-filled bedrock
17 fractures, including larger hydrogeological zones such as HZ20 or HZ21 (Table 1). The
18 bedrock of Olkiluoto consists mainly of micagneiss and pegmatitic granite type rocks (Kärki
19 & Paulamäki, 2006).

20 This study focused on 12 groundwater samples from water conductive fractures situated at
21 between 296 m and 798 m below sea level bsl and originating from 11 different drillholes in
22 Olkiluoto (Figure 1). The samples represented brackish sulphate waters and saline waters (as
23 classified in Posiva, 2013). The samples were collected between December 2009 and January
24 2013 (Table 1). The physicochemical parameters of the groundwater samples have been
25 reported by reported by Miettinen et al. (2015), but have for clarity been collected here (Table
26 1).

27 **2.2 Sample collection**

28 The collection of samples occurred between December 2009 and January 2013 (Table 1) as
29 described previously (Bomberg et al., 2015; Miettinen et al., 2015; Sohlberg et al., 2015). The
30 samples were obtained from 11 different permanently packered or open drillholes equipped

1 with removable inflatable packers. The position and direction of the drillholes are indicated in
2 Figure 1. Shortly, in order to obtain indigenous fracture fluids, the packer-isolated fracture
3 zones were purged by removing stagnant drillhole water by pumping for a minimum of four
4 weeks before the sample water was collected. The water samples were collected directly from
5 the drillhole into an anaerobic glove box (MBRAUN, Germany) via a sterile, gas-tight poly
6 acetate tube (8 mm outer diameter). Microbial biomass DNA extraction was concentrated
7 from 1000 mL samples by filtration on cellulose acetate filters (0.2 µm pore size, Corning) by
8 vacuum suction inside the glove box. The filters were immediately extracted from the
9 filtration funnels and frozen on dry ice in sterile 50 ml cone tubes (Corning). The frozen
10 samples were transported on dry ice to the laboratory where they were stored at -80°C until
11 use.

12 **2.3 Nucleic acid isolation**

13 Community DNA was isolated directly from the frozen cellulose-acetate filters with the
14 PowerSoil DNA extraction kit (MoBio Laboratories, Inc., Solana Beach, CA), as previously
15 described (Bomberg et al., 2015). Negative DNA isolation controls were included in the
16 isolation protocol. The DNA concentration of each sample was determined using the
17 NanoDrop 1000 spectrophotometer.

18 **2.4 Estimation of microbial community size**

19 The size of the microbial community was determined by epifluorescence microscopy of 4',6
20 diamidino-2-phenylindole dihydrochloride (DAPI) (Sigma, MO, USA) stained cells as
21 described in Purkamo et al. (2013). The size of the bacterial population was determined by
22 16S rRNA gene targeted quantitative PCR (qPCR) as described by Tsitko et al. (2014) using
23 universal bacterial 16S rRNA gene-targeting primers fD1 (Weisburg et al., 1991) and P2
24 (Muyzer et al., 1993), which specifically target the V1- V3 region of the bacterial 16S rDNA
25 gene. The size of the archaeal population in the groundwater was determined by using primers
26 ARC344f (Bano *et al.*, 2004) and Ar744r (reverse compliment from Barns *et al.*, 1994)
27 flanking the V4-V6 region of the archaeal 16S rRNA gene.

28 The qPCR reactions were performed in 10µL reaction volumes using the KAPA 2 × Syrb®
29 FAST qPCR-kit on a LightCycler480 qPCR machine (Roche Applied Science, Germany) on
30 white 96-well plates (Roche Applied Science, Germany) sealed with transparent adhesive

1 seals (4titude, UK). Each reaction contained 2.5 μM of relevant forward and reverse primer
2 and 1 μL DNA extract. Each reaction was run in triplicate and no-template control reactions
3 were used to determine background fluorescence in the reactions.

4 The qPCR conditions consisted of an initial denaturation at 95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 10 minutes followed by
5 45 amplification cycles of 15 seconds at 95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 30 seconds at 55 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 30 seconds at 72 $^{\circ}\text{C}$
6 with a quantification measurement at the end of each elongation. A final extension step of
7 three minutes at 72 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ was performed prior to a melting curve analysis. This consisted of a
8 denaturation step for 10 seconds at 95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ followed by an annealing step at 65 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for one
9 minute prior to a gradual temperature rise to 95 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ at a rate of 0.11 $^{\circ}\text{C s}^{-1}$ during which the
10 fluorescence was continuously measured. The number of bacterial 16S rRNA genes was
11 determined by comparing the amplification result (C_p) to that of a ten-fold dilution series
12 (10^1 - 10^7 copies μL^{-1}) of *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 31608) 16S rRNA genes in plasmid for
13 bacteria and a dilution series of genomic DNA of *Halobacterium salinarum* (DSM 3754) for
14 archaea. The lowest detectable standard concentration for the qPCRs was 10^2 gene
15 copies/reaction. Inhibition of the qPCR by template tested by adding 2.17×10^4 plasmid copies
16 containing fragment of the morphine-specific Fab gene from *Mus musculus* gene to reactions
17 containing template DNA as described in Nyysönen *et al.* (2012). Inhibition of the qPCR
18 assay by the template DNA was found to be low. The average Crossing point (C_p) value for
19 the standard sample (2.17×10^4 copies) was 28.7 (± 0.4 sd), while for the DNA samples C_p
20 was 28.65 - 28.91 (± 0.03 - 0.28 sd). Nucleic acid extraction and reagent controls were run in
21 all qPCRs in parallel with the samples. Amplification in these controls was never higher than
22 the background obtained from the no template controls.

23 **2.5 Amplicon library preparation**

24 This study is part of the Census of Deep Life initiative, which strives to obtain a census of the
25 microbial diversity in deep subsurface environment by collecting samples around the world
26 and sequencing the 16S rRNA gene pools of both archaea and bacteria. The extracted DNA
27 samples were sent to the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, USA, for
28 preparation for HiSeq sequencing using the Illumina technology. The protocol for amplicon
29 library preparation for both archaeal and bacterial 16S amplicon libraries can be found at
30 <http://vamps.mbl.edu/resources/faq.php>. Shortly, amplicon libraries for completely
31 overlapping paired-end sequencing of the V6 region of both the archaeal and bacterial 16S
32 rRNA genes were produced as previously described (Eren *et al.*, 2013). For the archaea,

1 primers A958F and A1048R containing Truseq adapter sequences at their 5' end were used,
2 and for the bacteria primers B967F and B1064R for obtaining 100 nt long paired end reads
3 (<https://vamps.mbl.edu/resources/primers.php>). The sequencing was performed using a HiSeq
4 1000 system (Illumina).

5 **2.6 Sequence processing and analysis**

6 Contigs of the paired end fastq files were first assembled with mothur v 1.32.1 (Schloss et al.,
7 2009). Analyzes were subsequently continued using QIIME v. 1.8. (Caporaso et al., 2010).
8 Only sequences with a minimum length of 50 bp were included in the analyses. The bacterial
9 and archaeal 16S rRNA sequences were grouped into OTUs (97% sequence similarity) using
10 both the open reference and closed reference OTU picking strategy and classified using the
11 GreenGenes 13_8 16S reference database (DeSantis et al., 2006). The sequencing coverage
12 was evaluated by rarefaction analysis and the estimated species richness and diversity indices
13 were calculated. For comparable α - and β -diversity analyses the data sets were normalized by
14 random subsampling of 17,000 sequences/sample for archaea and 140,000 sequences/sample
15 for bacteria. Microbial metabolic pathways were estimated based on the 16S rRNA gene data
16 from the closed OTU picking method using the PICRUSt software (Langille *et al.*, 2013) on
17 the web based Galaxy application (Goecks et al., 2010; Blankenberg et al., 2010; Giardine et
18 al., 2005). The predicted KO numbers were plotted on KEGG pathway maps
19 (<http://www.genome.jp/kegg/>) separately for the bacterial and archaeal predicted
20 metagenomes, with a threshold of a minimum of 100 genes in total estimated from all
21 samples. The sequence data has been submitted to the Sequence Read Archive (SRA,
22 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) under study SRP053854, Bioproject PRJNA275225.

23 **2.7 Statistical analyses**

24 Non-metric multi-dimensional scaling plots using Chord's similarity index were calculated
25 separately for the archaeal and bacterial communities using PAST3 (Hammer and Harper,
26 2001). The samples were also hierarchically clustered based on community similarity using
27 the UPGMA clustering with Bray-Curtis similarity index and 100 bootstrap repeats with
28 PAST3. A co-occurrence network was calculated using the Gephi software (Bastian et al.,
29 2009) using the Fruchtermann-Feingold layout with the betweenness centrality algorithm for
30 identifying microbial taxa with numerous connections and the Louvain method (Blondel et
31 al., 2008) for identifying closely associated groups of microbes. The calculations were based

1 on Spearman's rank correlation calculations obtained by the out.association command in
2 mothur and only pairs with $r > 0.6$ and $p < 0.01$ were included in the network analysis and
3 nodes with a degree range of less than 10 were excluded from the graph. The p values were
4 not corrected and the Spearman's rank correlations were only used to form pairs between taxa
5 for the network visualization.

6

7 **3 Results**

8 **3.1 Microbial community size**

9 The total number of microbial cells detected by epifluorescence microscopy of DAPI stained
10 cells was between 2.3×10^4 and 4.2×10^5 cells mL^{-1} groundwater (Figure 2, Table 1). The
11 concentration of bacterial 16S rRNA gene copies mL^{-1} varied between 9.5×10^3 and 7.0×10^5
12 and that of the archaea 2.6×10^1 and 6.3×10^4 (Figure 2, Table 1).

13 **3.2 Sequence statistics, diversity estimates and sequencing coverage**

14 The number of bacterial v6 sequence reads from the 12 samples varied between $1.4 - 7.8 \times$
15 10^5 reads, with a mean sequencing depth of 2.9×10^5 ($\pm 1.8 \times 10^5$ standard deviation)
16 reads/sample (Table 2). The archaeal v6 sequence reads ranged from $0.17 - 12.1 \times 10^5$ reads
17 with a mean sequencing depth of 4.1×10^5 ($\pm 3.5 \times 10^5$ standard deviation) reads/sample. The
18 numbers of observed operational taxonomic units (OTUs) represented on average 82.6% (\pm
19 12.5%) of the Chao1- and 78.1 % ($\pm 13.4\%$) of the ACE-estimated numbers of bacterial
20 OTUs (Table 2ab). The archaeal communities were slightly better covered, with on average
21 88.5% ($\pm 11.5\%$) of the Chao1 and 84.8% ($\pm 12.6\%$) of the ACE estimated number of OTUs
22 detected. Shannon diversity index H' , calculated from 140,000 and 17,000 random sequence
23 reads per sample for the bacteria and archaea, respectively, was high for both bacterial and
24 archaeal communities. High H' values and climbing rarefaction curves (Figure S1) indicated
25 high diversity in the microbial communities in the different deep groundwater fracture zones
26 of Olkiluoto. The bacterial H' was on average 13 (± 0.74), ranging from 11 to 14 between the
27 different samples. The archaeal H' was on average 11 (± 1.2) ranging from 9 to 12 between
28 the samples.

1 **3.3 Microbial communities**

2 From the bacterial v6 sequences 49 different bacterial Phyla were detected (Appendix 1).
3 These phyla included 165 bacterial classes, 230 orders, 391 families and 651 genera. The
4 greatest number of sequences, between 21.83% and 47.94% per sample, clustered into an
5 undetermined bacterial group (Bacteria, Other), which may be due the fact that sequences of
6 poorer quality may be difficult to classify, especially as the sequences are short.

7 Only 31 of the identified genera represented at least 1% of the bacterial sequence reads in any
8 sample (Figure 3a).

9 The archaea were represented by two identified phyla, the Euryarchaeota and the
10 Crenarchaeota (Appendix 2). These included 21 classes, 38 orders, 61 families and 81 genera.
11 Between 4.7% and 35.0% of the archaeal sequences of each sample were classified to
12 unassigned Archaea, with a general increase in unassigned archaeal sequences with increasing
13 depth. 15 archaeal genera were present at a minimum of 1% relative abundance in any of the
14 samples (Figure 3b).

15 The bacterial core community, i.e. the taxa detected in all the tested samples, constituted of 95
16 out of 651 identified bacterial genera (Appendix 3). These genera accounted for 80.78 –
17 95.81% of all the bacterial sequence reads in the samples. The archaeal core community
18 consisted of 25 of the 81 identified genera and accounted for 95.05 – 99.75% of the total
19 number of sequence reads in each sample (Appendix 4).

20 **3.4 Environmental parameters driving the microbial communities**

21 The microbial community profiles of the different samples were clustered in a UPGMA tree
22 (Figure 4). The samples were loosely clustered according to depth with the deeper samples
23 generally more associated with each other and the samples from shallower depths associating
24 with each other. A similar trend was seen in the NMDS plots (Figures 6a and b), although the
25 bacterial communities clustered the samples more tightly into three groups compared to the
26 archaeal communities. No clear environmental factor was identified to drive the communities.
27 However, the deepest bacterial communities were affected by the increasing salinity and the
28 communities from the shallower depths were affected by the concentration of sulphides and
29 the alkalinity, according to the NMDS plots. The archaeal communities, on the other hand,
30 were affected by the concentration of sulphate, sulphur, sulphide, iron, bicarbonate and
31 magnesium at 415 m and 510 m depth.

1 **3.5 Co-occurrence network**

2 The co-occurrence network (Figure 6, Figure S2) indicated specific bacterial taxa are central
3 to the whole microbial community. In the network the size of the nodes indicates centrality
4 (small node = low centrality, big node = high centrality) and the colour indicates the degree of
5 connections (colour scale blue-green-yellow-red indicates increasing degree). Numerous
6 microbial groups with specific functions, such as sulphate and sulphur reduction (e.g.
7 *Desulfomonile*, *Desulfobacteraceae*, *Desulfovibrionales*, *Desulfurispora*, *Planctomycetes*),
8 oxidation of reduced sulphur compounds (e.g. *Sulfuricurvum*, *Sulfurimonas*,
9 *Thiohalorhabdadales*, *Thiobacterales*, *Sulfobacillaceae*), methylophony (*Methylophaga*,
10 *Methylosinus*, *Methylococcales*, *Methyloversatilis*), nitrogen cycling (e.g. *Nitrospira*,
11 *Rhizobiaceae*), syntrophic bacteria (e.g. *Syntrophaceae*, *Syntrophobacteraceae*) showed
12 relatively high degrees of centrality and number of connections in the network. However, the
13 majority of the taxa with the highest degree of centrality were heterotrophic bacteria capable
14 of fermentation, such as the Elusimicrobia, *Exiguobacterium*, *Gordonia*, *Planctomycetes*, and
15 taxa capable of degradation of recalcitrant organic molecules, such as *Kordiimonadales*.

16 **3.6 Predicted metabolic functions of the deep subsurface microbial communities**

17 The putative metabolic functions of the microbial communities at different depth was
18 predicted using the PICRUST software, which compares the identified 16S rRNA gene
19 sequences to those of known genome sequenced species thereby estimating the possible gene
20 contents of the uncultured microbial communities. The analysis is only an approximation, but
21 may give an idea of the possible metabolic activities in the deep biosphere. In order to
22 evaluate the soundness of the analysis a nearest sequenced taxon index (NSTI) for each of the
23 bacterial and archaeal communities was calculated by PICRUST. An NSTI value of 0 indicates
24 high similarity to the closest sequenced taxon while NSTI=1 indicates no similarity. The
25 NSTI of the bacterial communities at different depths varied between 0.045 in sample OL-
26 KR44 and 0.168 in sample OL-KR13 (Figure 7). The NSTI for archaea were much higher
27 ranging from 0.141 in sample OL-KR9 at depth of 432 m and 0.288 in OL-KR44. This
28 indicates that the metagenomic estimates are only indicative. The estimated microbial
29 metabolism did not differ noticeably between the different depths (Figure 8a and b). The most
30 important predicted metabolic pathways included membrane transport in both bacterial and
31 archaeal communities. The most common pathways for carbohydrate metabolism were the
32 butanoate, propionate, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis and pyruvate metabolism pathways for the

1 bacteria and glycolysis/gluconeogenesis and pyruvate metabolism pathways for the archaea
2 (Figure 9). Glucose is converted into pyruvate and further to Acetyl-CoA by both bacteria and
3 archaea. The bacterial community may produce and utilize acetate. Both the bacterial and
4 archaeal communities fix carbon via the Wood-Ljungdal (WL) reverse Citric acid cycle
5 (rTCA) and Calvin pathways. Methane is produced from methylamines, CO₂ and methanol by
6 the methanogenic archaea. Based on the predicted metagenomes the bacterial community is
7 not able to oxidize methane or hydrolyze methanol, but the methylotrophs present may use
8 formic acid and trimethylamines.

9 The most abundant energy metabolic pathway in the bacterial communities was the oxidative
10 phosphorylation (Figure S3) while for the archaea the methane metabolism was the most
11 important (Figure 9). Utilization of propanoate and butanoate (Figure 9) by the bacterial
12 communities as well as well covered fatty acid biosynthesis and degradation pathways
13 indicate that the bacterial community is capable of fermentation (Figure S4a and b). Nitrate is
14 reduced both through dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonia and through denitrification
15 to nitrous oxide by the bacteria (Figure S5). In addition, nitrogen is fixed to ammonia by both
16 archaea and bacteria. The ammonia is then used as raw material for L-glutamate synthesis
17 (Figure S5). Sulfur metabolism was not a major pathway in either the bacterial or the archaeal
18 communities according to the predicted number of genes. However, assimilatory sulphate
19 reduction was indicated in both the bacterial and archaeal communities, while dissimilatory
20 sulphate reduction and sulphur oxidation was indicated only in the bacterial communities
21 (Figure S6).

22 Several amino acid synthesis pathways were predicted (Figure 8), of which the most
23 prominent were the alanine, aspartate and glutamate synthesis, arginine and proline synthesis,
24 cysteine and methionine synthesis, glycine, serine and threonine synthesis, phenylalanine,
25 tyrosine and tryptophan synthesis and the valine, leucine and isoleucine synthesis pathways.

26 Different types of membrane transport (ABC transporters) was identified where sulphate and
27 iron (III) were taken up by the bacteria and tungstate, molybdate, proline, zinc, cobalt and
28 nickel was taken up by both archaea and bacteria (Figure S7). The estimated number of genes
29 for both the purine and pyrimidine metabolism was more than two times higher in the
30 archaeal community than in the bacterial community (Figure 8a and b).

31

1 4 Discussion

2 The phenotypic characteristics of the Fennoscandian Shield deep subsurface microbial
3 communities are still largely unknown although specific reactions to introduced
4 environmental stimulants have been shown (e.g. Pedersen et al., 2013; 2014; Rajala et al.,
5 2015; Kutvonen 2015). Nevertheless, the connection of these microbial responses to specific
6 microbial groups is still only in an early phase. Metagenomic and gene specific analyses of
7 deep subsurface microbial communities have revealed prominent metabolic potential of the
8 microbial communities, which appear to be associated with the prevailing lithology and
9 physicochemical parameters (Nyyssönen et al., 2014; Purkamo et al., 2015). It has also been
10 shown with fingerprinting methods with ever increasing efficiency that the bacterial and
11 archaeal communities are highly diverse in the saline anaerobic Fennoscandian deep fracture
12 zone groundwater (Bomberg et al., 2014; 2015; Nyyssönen et al., 2012; 2014; Pedersen et al.,
13 2014; Miettinen et al., 2015; Sohlberg et al., 2015). Nevertheless, the concentration of
14 microbial cells in the groundwater is quite low (Figure 2, Table 1). Most of the microbial
15 communities at different depth in Olkiluoto bedrock fractures consist of bacteria. However, at
16 specific depths (328 m, 423 m) the archaea may contribute with over 50% of the estimated
17 16S rRNA gene pool (Table 1). The major archaeal group present at these depths were the
18 ANME-2D archaea indicating that nitrate-mediated anaerobic oxidation of methane may be
19 especially common (Haroon et al., 2013). The high abundance of archaea in Olkiluoto is
20 special for this environment. Archaea have also been quantified from the Outokumpu deep
21 scientific borehole (Purkamo et al., 2016), but unlike the situation in Olkiluoto the archaeal
22 community was less than 1% of the total community at best.

23 Previously, using 454 amplicon sequencing, we have observed OTU numbers of
24 approximately 800 OTUs per sample covering approximately 550 bacterial genera (or
25 equivalent groups) and approximately 350 archaeal OTUs including approximately 80
26 different genera (or equivalent groups) (Miettinen et al., 2015). Miettinen et al. (2015) defined
27 the OTUs 97% sequence homology and the number of sequence reads per sample was at most
28 in the range of 10^4 . In contrast, our sequence read numbers were 10- to 100-fold higher and
29 the number of OTUs per sample in general 100-fold higher. This indicates that a greater
30 sequencing depth increases the number of taxa detected from the subsurface environment and
31 allows us a novel view of the so far hidden rare biosphere. Nevertheless, in comparison to the
32 high number of OTUs detected the number of identified genera, 651 and 81 bacterial and

1 archaeal genera, respectively, seems low. On the other hand, this indicates that the sequencing
2 depth has been sufficient to detect most of the prokaryotic groups present. Nevertheless, the
3 obtained numbers of OTUs per sample in this study were huge (Table 2). This may reflect the
4 high level of variability in the short sequence reads of the v6 region used in this study. As
5 discussed by Huse et al. (2008), short sequence reads very often match several different full-
6 length 16S rRNA reads. As shown in our study taxonomic assignments, such as
7 'Proteobacteria_other' were common and may be due to multiple matches for the individual
8 sequence reads obtained in the identification step of the analysis.

9 In general, the microbial communities at different depth grouped loosely into clusters
10 according to the groundwater chemistry (Figure 5). Salinity diverged the bacterial
11 communities of the two deepest samples (OL-KR44 and OL-KR29) from the rest of the
12 samples and sulphate, sulphur and sulphide moved the more shallow samples from depths
13 between 296 m and 347 m to the right of the NMDS plot. Sulphate reducers were not among
14 the most common bacterial taxa in these samples (Figure 3), but several sulphur and sulfide
15 oxidizing taxa were detected, such as the *Sulfuricurvum* and members of the *Thiobacterales*.
16 The archaeal communities were evenly distributed throughout the NMDS plot. The archaeal
17 communities did not change dramatically with depth and Euryarchaeota_Other, ANME-2D
18 and Thermoplasma_E2 groups dominated throughout the depth profile. Previous studies on
19 the Finnish deep biosphere has shown that the microbial communities at different sites vary
20 strongly from each other. Purkamo et al. (2015) investigated the bacterial and archaeal
21 communities of different fracture zones of the Outokumpu deep scientific borehole and found
22 that the majority of the bacterial populations at depths between 180 m and 500 m depth
23 consist of Betaproteobacteria belonging to the *Commamonadaceae* and the archaeal
24 communities consist of *Methanobacteriaceae* and *Methanoregula*.

25 The core communities, defined as taxa present in all the studied samples, accounted for
26 between 80 – 97% and 95 – > 99% of the bacterial and archaeal communities, respectively.
27 This is a considerable frequency of common microbial taxa. Nevertheless, the number of rare
28 taxa detected from the sample set was 3.3 to 6.8 fold higher than the number of core taxa on
29 genus level. Our results agree with Sogin et al. (2006) and Magnabosco et al. (2014), who
30 showed that a relatively small number of taxa dominate deep-sea water and deep groundwater
31 habitats, respectively, but a rare microbiome consisting of thousands of taxonomically distinct
32 microbial groups are detected at low abundances. What this means for the functioning of the

1 deep subsurface is that the microbial communities have the capacity to respond and change
2 due to changes in environmental conditions. For example, Pedersen et al. (2014) showed that
3 by adding sulphate to the sulphate-poor but methane-rich groundwater in Olkiluoto the
4 bacterial population changed over the span of 103 days from a non-SRB community to a
5 community dominated by SRB. In addition, a change in the geochemical environment
6 induced by H₂ and methane impacted the size, composition and functions of the microbial
7 community and ultimately led to acetate formation (Pedersen et al., 2012; Pedersen, 2013;
8 Pedersen et al., 2014). This is also in accordance to the network analysis (Figure 6), which
9 indicated a great diversity in the metabolic functions of the most central microbial taxa
10 detected in this environment.

11 The metabolic pathways predicted by PICRUSt are far from certain when uncultured and
12 unculturable deep subsurface microbial communities are concerned. The NSTI values for both
13 the bacterial and well as the archaeal communities were high indicating that closely related
14 species to those found in our deep groundwater have yet to be sequenced. This is in
15 accordance with Langille et al. (2013), who showed that environments containing a high
16 degree of unexplored microbiota also tend to have high NSTI values. Staley et al. (2014) also
17 showed in a comparison between PICRUSt and shot gun metagenomic sequencing of riverine
18 microbial communities that PICRUSt may not be able to correctly assess rare biosphere
19 functions. Nevertheless, Langille et al. (2013) showed that PICRUSt may predict the
20 metagenomic content of a microbial community more reliably than shallow metagenomic
21 sequencing. Thus, on higher taxonomical level common traits for specific groups of
22 microorganisms may be revealed.

23 **Energy metabolism.** Deep subsurface environments are often declared energy deprived
24 environments dominated by autotrophic microorganisms (Hoehler and Jorgensen, 2013).
25 However, recent reports indicate that heterotrophic microorganisms play a greater role than
26 the autotrophic microorganisms in Fennoscandian deep crystalline subsurface environments
27 (Purkamo et al., 2015). Heterotrophic communities with rich fatty acid assimilation strategies
28 have been reported to fix carbon dioxide on the side of e.g. fermenting activities in order to
29 replenish the intracellular carbon pool, which otherwise would be depleted. Wu et al. (2015)
30 also found by metagenomic analyses that fermentation was a major metabolic activity in the
31 microbial community of Swedish deep groundwater. Our results agree with Purkamo et al.
32 (2015) that a greater proportion of the microbial community is involved in carbohydrate and

1 fatty and organic acid oxidation than in fixation of inorganic carbon. Nevertheless,
2 autotrophic carbon fixation pathways were predicted in the analysis with PICRUSt, indicating
3 that both the archaeal and bacterial communities include autotrophic members, although these
4 microorganisms might not be obligate autotrophs. It is also likely that heterotrophic and
5 chemilitotrophic microorganisms coexist in the Olkiluoto deep fracture zones forming
6 networks as shown in Figure 6 for the benefit of the whole microbial community. Such
7 cooccurrences have been suggested by e.g. Osburn et al. (2014). It was also noted that even
8 though evidence for methane oxidation could not be inferred from the PICRUSt predictions
9 (no *pmoA* genes), the bacterial community may oxidize formate, which is in agreement with
10 the findings reported by Wu et al. (2015).

11 Several carbon fixation pathways were predicted in the metagenomes, the Calvin cycle,
12 reductive TCA (rTCA) cycle and Wood-Ljungdahl (WL) pathway. The WL-pathway is
13 considered the most ancient autotrophic carbon fixation pathway in bacteria and archaea
14 (Fuchs 1989, Martin et al. 2008, Berg et al. 2010; Hügler and Sievert, 2011) and was found in
15 both the bacterial and the archaeal communities. In the archaeal community the Calvin cycle
16 and the rTCA were especially pronounced in the samples from 296 m, 405 – 423 m and
17 somewhat lower at 510 – 527 m depth. The bacterial communities are predicted to fix CO₂ at
18 almost all depths with the exception of 405 m and 559 m depth. Nevertheless, our results
19 agree with Nyysönen et al. (2014), who showed my metagenomic analysis that the microbial
20 communities at different depth of the Outokumpu scientific deep drill hole may fix carbon in
21 several ways, of which the rTCA, the WL pathway and the Calvin cycle were identified.
22 Magnabosco et al. (2016) showed that the WL pathway was the dominating form of carbon
23 fixation in metagenomes of 3 km deep Precambrian crust biospheres in South Africa. Dong et
24 al. (2014) also suggested that microorganisms in low-energy deep subsurface environment
25 may have several strategies for e.g. carbon fixation, as shown in the *Halomonas sulfidaeris*, in
26 order to access as many resources as possible. The predicted methane metabolism (methane
27 and methyl compound consumption) and oxidative phosphorylation were equally strong in the
28 bacterial community. Sulphur metabolism was not a common pathway for energy in either the
29 archaeal or the bacterial communities, but bacteria with either assimilative or dissimilative
30 sulphate reduction were present. Sulphur oxidation through the *sox* system was in general not
31 predicted, but the *soxD* gene was predicted and oxidation of thiosulphate to sulphate may be
32 possible (Figure S6). Nitrate is reduced both through dissimilatory nitrate reduction to
33 ammonia and through denitrification to nitrous oxide by the bacteria. In addition, nitrogen is

1 fixed to ammonia by both archaea and bacteria. The ammonia is then used as raw material for
2 L-glutamate synthesis.

3 Oxidative phosphorylation was one of the most prominent energy generating metabolic
4 pathways in the bacterial community. This indicates that ATP is generated by electron
5 transfer to a terminal electron acceptor, such as oxygen, nitrate or sulphate. In the archaeal
6 community the oxidative phosphorylation was not as strongly indicated, but this may be due
7 to missing data on archaeal metabolism in the KEGG database.

8 The main energy metabolism of the archaeal communities appeared to be the methanogenesis,
9 especially at 296 m and 405 m. Methanogenesis was common also at all other depths except
10 330 m – 347m, 415 m and 693 m – 798 m. Methane is produced from CO₂-H₂ and methanol,
11 and from acetate, although evidence for the acetate kinase enzyme was lacking.
12 Methanogenesis from methylamines may also be possible, especially at 296 m and 405 m.
13 Methane oxidation using methane monooxygenases and methanol dehydrogenases does not
14 occur in either bacterial or archaeal communities.

15 **Carbohydrate metabolism.** Glycolysis/gluconeogenesis is one of the most common
16 carbohydrate-metabolizing pathways predicted for both the archaeal and bacterial
17 communities (Figure 9). Pyruvate from glycolysis is oxidized to acetyl-CoA by both archaea
18 and bacteria and used in the TCA cycle. The TCA cycle provides for example raw material
19 for many amino acids, such as lysine and glutamate. The butanoate and propanoate
20 metabolisms were also common in the bacterial communities, indicating fermentative
21 metabolism and capability of fatty acid oxidation.

22 **Amino acid metabolism.** Non-essential amino acids, such as alanine, aspartate and glutamate
23 are produced from ammonia and pyruvate or oxaloacetate especially in the archaeal
24 populations. In the archaeal population proline appears to be produced from glutamate.
25 Despite the low use of sulphate as energy source in the microbial communities sulphate and
26 other sulphur compounds are taken up for the production of the amino acids cysteine and
27 methionine by both the archaeal and the bacterial communities. A higher predicted relative
28 abundance of genes involved in aromatic amino acid synthesis (phenylalanine, tyrosine,
29 tryptophane) was seen in the archaeal than in the bacterial communities. Both the archaeal and
30 the bacterial communities synthesise branched chained amino acids (isoleucine, leucine and
31 valine), but only the bacteria degrade them. Especially proteobacteria have been shown to be
32 able to use the branched chained amino acids (isoleucine, leucine and valine) and short

1 chained fatty acids (acetate, butyrate, propionate) as sole energy and carbon source (Kazakov
2 et al., 2009). The branched chained amino acids function as raw material in the biosynthesis
3 of branched chained fatty acids, which regulate the membrane fluidity of the bacterial cell. In
4 salt stress conditions, the proportion of branch-chained fatty acids in the membranes
5 decreases.

6 **Membrane transport.** According to the predicted metagenomes, the microbial cells transport
7 sulphate into the cell, but do not take up nitrate. Nitrogen is taken up as glutamate but not as
8 urea. Iron is taken up by an Fe(III) transport system and an iron complex transport system in
9 the bacterial communities, but generally only by the iron complex transport system in
10 archaea. However, Fe(III) transport system may also exist in the archaeal communities at 405
11 m to 423 m depth, where also some manganese/iron transport systems could be found.
12 Molybdate and phosphate is transported into the cell by molybdate and phosphate ATPases,
13 respectively. Nickel is taken up mainly by a nickel/peptide transport system but also to some
14 extent by a cobalt/nickel transport system. Zink is taken up to some extent by a zink transport
15 system, but transport systems for manganese, manganese/iron, manganese/zink/iron, or
16 iron/zink/copper are negligent. Ammonia is taken up by an Amt transport system.

17

18 **5 Conclusions**

19 The wide diversity of microbial groups in the deep Fennoscandian groundwater at the
20 Olkiluoto site revealed that the majority of the microbial community present belong to only a
21 few microbial taxa while the greatest part of the microbial diversity is represented by low
22 abundance and rare microbiome taxa. The core community was present in all tested samples
23 from different depths, but the relative abundance of the different taxa varied in the different
24 samples. Specific rare microbial groups formed tight co-occurrence clusters that corresponded
25 to different environmental conditions and these may become more abundant if the
26 environmental conditions change. Fermentation or oxidation of fatty acids was a common
27 carbon cycling and energy harvesting metabolic pathways in the bacterial communities
28 whereas the archaea may either produce or consume methane. Glycolysis/gluconeogenesis
29 was predicted to be common in both the archaeal and bacterial communities. In addition both
30 the bacterial and archaeal communities were estimated to contain different common carbon
31 fixation pathways, such as the Calvin cycle and the reductive TCA, while only the bacteria
32 contained the Wood-Ljungdahl pathway.

1

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9

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- 29

- 1 Table 1. Geochemical and microbiological measurements from 12 different water conductive fractures in the bedrock of Olkiluoto, Finland.
- 2 The different drillholes are presented at the top of the table. The data is compiled from Posiva (2013) and Miettinen et al. (2015)

| Drillhole | OL-KR13 | OL-KR6 | OL-KR3 | OL-KR23 | OL-KR5 | OL-KR49 | OL-KR9 | OL-KR9 | OL-KR2 | OL-KR1 | OL-KR44 | OL-KR29 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sampling date | 3/11/2010 | 18/5/2010 | 29/8/2011 | 15/12/2009 | 16/10/2012 | 14/12/2009 | 31/10/2011 | 29/8/2011 | 27/1/2010 | 26/1/2010 | 15/1/2013 | 18/5/2010 |
| Depth (m) | 296 | 328 | 340 | 347 | 405 | 415 | 423 | 510 | 559 | 572 | 693 | 798 |
| Alkalinity | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| mEq/L | 2.19 | 0.37 | 0.47 | 0.05 | 0.27 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.13 | 0.29 | 0.23 | 0.49 | 0.13 |
| Ec mS/m | 897 | 1832 | 1047 | 2190 | 2240 | 2670 | 2300 | 2960 | 4110 | 3770 | 6690 | 7820 |
| pH | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.3 |
| NPOC mg L ⁻¹ | 10 | 0 | 12 | 5.1 | 19 | 3 | 5.1 | 6.6 | 11 | 5 | 110 | 10 |
| DIC mg L ⁻¹ | 27 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 6.5 | 81 |
| HCO ₃ mg L ⁻¹ | 134 | 22.6 | 25 | 17.1 | 16 | 9.8 | 11.6 | 7.3 | 17.7 | 14 | 30 | 424 |
| N _{tot} mg L ⁻¹ | 0.71 | 0 | 1.1 | 0.42 | 1.2 | 0.16 | 0.38 | 0.66 | 1.1 | 0.41 | 10 | 3.1 |
| NH ₄ ⁺ mg L ⁻¹ | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| S _{tot} mg L ⁻¹ | 31 | 130 | 12 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0 | 4.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| SO ₄ ²⁻ mg L ⁻¹ | 79.5 | 379 | 32 | 2.9 | 3 | 1.4 | 13.7 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 9.6 | 2 |
| S ₂ ⁻ mg L ⁻¹ | 5.1 | | 0.38 | 0.62 | 2 | 0.02 | 0.36 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Fe _{tot} mg L ⁻¹ | 0.0042 | 0.0037 | 0.022 | 0.062 | 0.2 | 0.71 | 0.036 | 0.02 | 0 | 0.49 | 1.2 | 560 |
| Fe(II) mg L ⁻¹ | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.08 | 0.21 | 0.53 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 1.2 | 0.46 |
| TDS mg L ⁻¹ | 4994 | 10670 | 5656 | 12710 | 12880 | 15900 | 13430 | 18580 | 25500 | 23260 | 37410 | 53210 |
| K mg L ⁻¹ | 8.2 | 9.3 | 7.6 | 8.3 | 18 | 27 | 12 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 24 | 27 |
| Mg mg L ⁻¹ | 35 | 77 | 17 | 55 | 68 | 19 | 32 | 41 | 18 | 52 | 33 | 136 |
| Ca mg L ⁻¹ | 460 | 1100 | 290 | 2100 | 1750 | 2700 | 2260 | 2930 | 4600 | 3700 | 7680 | 10000 |
| Cl mg L ⁻¹ | 2920 | 6230 | 3400 | 7930 | 7950 | 9940 | 8220 | 11500 | 15700 | 14600 | 22800 | 33500 |
| Na mg L ⁻¹ | 1320 | 2800 | 1850 | 2530 | 2990 | 3110 | 2790 | 3970 | 4980 | 4720 | 6570 | 9150 |
| TNC ml ⁻¹ | 4.2 × 10 ⁵ | 1.0 × 10 ⁵ | 2.4 × 10 ⁵ | 2.5 × 10 ⁵ | 2.1 × 10 ⁵ | 1.5 × 10 ⁴ | na | 2.9 × 10 ⁴ | 5.9 × 10 ⁴ | 8.7 × 10 ⁴ | 5.5 × 10 ⁴ | 2.3 × 10 ⁴ |
| 16S qPCR ml ⁻¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bacteria | 7.0 × 10 ⁵ | 9.5 × 10 ³ | 2.0 × 10 ⁴ | 3.6 × 10 ⁵ | 4.9 × 10 ⁴ | 1.3 × 10 ⁴ | 7.2 × 10 ⁴ | 1.5 × 10 ⁵ | 1.4 × 10 ⁵ | 1.9 × 10 ⁴ | 3.2 × 10 ⁴ | 1.5 × 10 ⁴ |
| archaea | 5.8 × 10 ³ | 2.0 × 10 ⁴ | 9.9 × 10 ³ | 6.3 × 10 ⁴ | 6.2 × 10 ³ | 1.5 × 10 ² | 4.4 × 10 ⁴ | 5.2 × 10 ² | 7.5 × 10 ² | 3.0 × 10 ³ | 2.6 × 10 ¹ | 2.8 × 10 ² |

1 Table 2a. The total number of sequence reads, observed and estimated (Chao1, ACE) number of OTUs, number of singleton and doubleton
 2 OTUs, and Shannon diversity index per sample of the bacterial 16S rRNA gene data set. The analysis results are presented for both the total
 3 number of sequence reads per sample as well as for data normalized according to the sample with the lowest number of sequence reads, i.e.
 4 140,000 random sequences per sample.

| Sample | Number of sequence reads | All sequences | | | | | | Normalized to 140,000 sequences | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Observed OTUs | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doubles | Shannon | Observed species | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doubles | Shannon |
| OLKR13/296m | 786,346 | 79,527 | 87,188 | 91,360 | 18,025 | 21,203 | 13 | 37,045 | 74,288 | 84,530 | 22,445 | 6,762 | 13 |
| OLKR3/318m | 345,433 | 52,381 | 53,238 | 54,961 | 5,789 | 19,557 | 14 | 39,309 | 57,793 | 64,021 | 19,287 | 10,061 | 13 |
| OLKR6/328m | 188,812 | 29,411 | 35,018 | 37,269 | 9,209 | 7,561 | 13 | 26,442 | 34,964 | 37,626 | 10,420 | 6,369 | 13 |
| OLKR23/347m | 485,154 | 33,257 | 37,175 | 38,895 | 8,000 | 8,166 | 11 | 20,494 | 34,268 | 37,305 | 10,641 | 4,109 | 11 |
| OLKR49/415m | 184,052 | 38,275 | 49,758 | 53,525 | 14,799 | 9,535 | 13 | 34,117 | 48,804 | 52,938 | 15,372 | 8,043 | 13 |
| OLKR9/423m | 175,295 | 36,412 | 44,452 | 47,571 | 12,357 | 9,494 | 14 | 33,596 | 44,496 | 48,161 | 13,489 | 8,345 | 14 |
| OLKR5/435m | 141,886 | 40,445 | 70,520 | 78,340 | 22,166 | 8,167 | 14 | 40,145 | 70,288 | 78,232 | 22,086 | 8,090 | 14 |
| OLKR9/510m | 241,312 | 41,545 | 51,348 | 54,535 | 14,251 | 10,357 | 13 | 33,208 | 49,115 | 53,631 | 15,592 | 7,640 | 13 |
| OLKR2/559m | 257,789 | 45,456 | 72,269 | 78,325 | 22,550 | 9,481 | 13 | 32,600 | 62,318 | 69,573 | 19,071 | 6,118 | 12 |
| OLKR1/572m | 210,659 | 29,804 | 35,362 | 37,491 | 9,197 | 7,607 | 12 | 25,703 | 34,934 | 37,682 | 10,650 | 6,142 | 12 |
| OLKR44/750m | 303,058 | 31,410 | 31,589 | 32,188 | 2,005 | 11,200 | 12 | 25,937 | 33,448 | 36,295 | 10,346 | 7,124 | 12 |
| OLKR29/798m | 221,524 | 37,989 | 45,126 | 48,042 | 11,991 | 10,071 | 13 | 31,911 | 44,957 | 48,533 | 14,078 | 7,594 | 13 |

5

1

2 Table 2b. The total number of sequence reads, observed and estimated (Chao1, ACE) number of OTUs, number of singleton and doubleton
 3 OTUs, and Shannon diversity index per sample of the archaeal 16S rRNA gene data set. The analysis results are presented for both the total
 4 number of sequence reads per sample as well as for data normalized according to the sample with the lowest number of sequence reads, i.e.
 5 17,000 random sequences per sample.

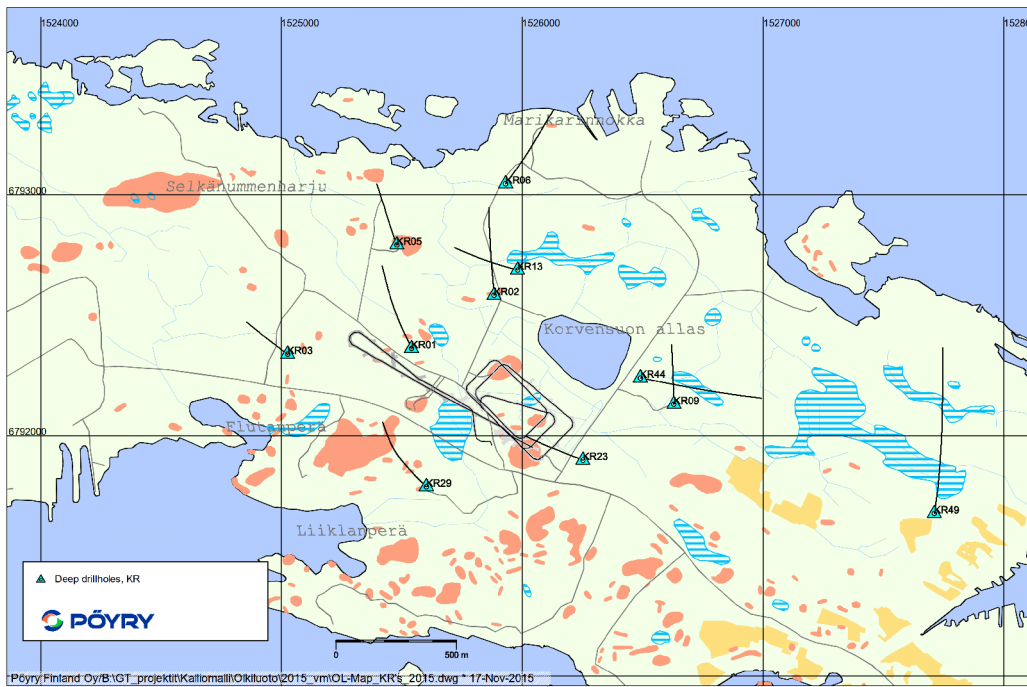
| Sample | Number of sequence reads | All sequences | | | | | | Normalized to 17,000 sequences | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Observed OTUs | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doubles | Shannon | Observed OTUs | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doubles | Shannon |
| OLKR13/296m | 507,373 | 27,111 | 29,516 | 30,699 | 5,835 | 7,076 | 10 | 3,957 | 13,380 | 15,062 | 2,867 | 435 | 10 |
| OLKR3/318m | 271,699 | 25,491 | 32,299 | 34,231 | 9,205 | 6,221 | 11 | 4,955 | 15,044 | 17,238 | 3,546 | 622 | 10 |
| OLKR6/328m | 446,380 | 21,597 | 22,930 | 23,781 | 3,861 | 5,588 | 10 | 3,776 | 11,705 | 14,020 | 2,748 | 475 | 9 |
| OLKR23/347m | 395,339 | 20,800 | 22,403 | 23,214 | 4,083 | 5,199 | 10 | 3,919 | 11,855 | 13,323 | 2,755 | 477 | 9 |
| OLKR49/415m | 210,545 | 22,600 | 23,372 | 24,004 | 2,975 | 5,733 | 12 | 7,023 | 17,088 | 19,874 | 4,738 | 1,114 | 12 |
| OLKR9/423m | 697,360 | 22,014 | 22,527 | 23,082 | 2,381 | 5,520 | 9 | 3,180 | 9,617 | 10,586 | 2,224 | 383 | 9 |
| OLKR5/435m | 769,026 | 21,127 | 22,235 | 23,078 | 3,515 | 5,574 | 9 | 2,596 | 10,114 | 10,078 | 1,852 | 227 | 9 |
| OLKR9/510m | 169,142 | 12,709 | 12,782 | 12,960 | 713 | 3,488 | 11 | 4,879 | 11,205 | 13,215 | 3,148 | 782 | 11 |
| OLKR2/559m | 100,101 | 15,359 | 24,950 | 27,026 | 7,840 | 3,203 | 11 | 5,119 | 14,497 | 16,488 | 3,548 | 670 | 11 |
| OLKR1/572m | 1,213,360 | 28,884 | 33,207 | 34,832 | 7,846 | 7,118 | 9 | 2,273 | 9,233 | 9,923 | 1,631 | 190 | 9 |
| OLKR44/750m | 17,716 | 6,436 | 8,748 | 9,750 | 2,890 | 1,805 | 12 | 6,325 | 8,743 | 9,804 | 2,921 | 1,763 | 12 |
| OLKR29/798m | 98,770 | 15,641 | 16,720 | 17,483 | 3,158 | 4,617 | 12 | 6,951 | 14,655 | 17,184 | 4,483 | 1,303 | 12 |

1 Table 2b. The total number of sequence reads, observed and estimated (Chao1, ACE) number
 2 of OTUs, number of singleton and doubleton OTUs, and Shannon diversity index per sample
 3 of the archaeal 16S rRNA gene data set. The analysis results are presented for both the total
 4 number of sequence reads per sample as well as for data normalized according to the sample
 5 with the lowest number of sequence reads, i.e. 17,000 random sequences per sample.

| Sample | Archaea Numb er of seque nce reads | All sequences | | | | | | Normalized to 17,000 sequences | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | | Observed | | | | | | Observed | | | | | |
| | | OTUs | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doublets | Shannon | OTUs | Chao1 | ACE | Singles | Doublets | Shannon |
| OLKR13/ 296m | 507,3 73 | 27,11 1 | 29,5 16 | 30,6 99 | 5,83 5 | 7,07 6 | 10 | 3,957 | 13,3 80 | 15,0 62 | 2,86 7 | 435 | 10 |
| OLKR3/3 18m | 271,6 99 | 25,49 1 | 32,2 99 | 34,2 31 | 9,20 5 | 6,22 1 | 11 | 4,955 | 15,0 44 | 17,2 38 | 3,54 6 | 622 | 10 |
| OLKR6/3 28m | 446,3 80 | 21,59 7 | 22,9 30 | 23,7 81 | 3,86 1 | 5,58 8 | 10 | 3,776 | 11,7 05 | 14,0 20 | 2,74 8 | 475 | 9 |
| OLKR23/ 347m | 395,3 39 | 20,80 0 | 22,4 03 | 23,2 14 | 4,08 3 | 5,19 9 | 10 | 3,919 | 11,8 55 | 13,3 23 | 2,75 5 | 477 | 9 |
| OLKR49/ 415m | 210,5 45 | 22,60 0 | 23,3 72 | 24,0 04 | 2,97 5 | 5,73 3 | 12 | 7,023 | 17,0 88 | 19,8 74 | 4,73 8 | 1,11 4 | 12 |
| OLKR9/4 23m | 697,3 60 | 22,01 4 | 22,5 27 | 23,0 82 | 2,38 1 | 5,52 0 | 9 | 3,180 | 9,61 7 | 10,5 86 | 2,22 4 | 383 | 9 |
| OLKR5/4 35m | 769,0 26 | 21,12 7 | 22,2 35 | 23,0 78 | 3,51 5 | 5,57 4 | 9 | 2,596 | 10,1 14 | 10,0 78 | 1,85 2 | 227 | 9 |
| OLKR9/5 10m | 169,1 42 | 12,70 9 | 12,7 82 | 12,9 60 | 713 | 3,48 8 | 11 | 4,879 | 11,2 05 | 13,2 15 | 3,14 8 | 782 | 11 |
| OLKR2/5 59m | 100,1 01 | 15,35 9 | 24,9 50 | 27,0 26 | 7,84 0 | 3,20 3 | 11 | 5,119 | 14,4 97 | 16,4 88 | 3,54 8 | 670 | 11 |
| OLKR1/5 72m | 1,213, 360 | 28,88 4 | 33,2 07 | 34,8 32 | 7,84 6 | 7,11 8 | 9 | 2,273 | 9,23 3 | 9,92 3 | 1,63 1 | 190 | 9 |
| OLKR44/ 750m | 17,71 6 | 6,436 | 8,74 8 | 9,75 0 | 2,89 0 | 1,80 5 | 12 | 6,325 | 8,74 3 | 9,80 4 | 2,92 1 | 1,76 3 | 12 |
| OLKR29/ 798m | 98,77 0 | 15,64 1 | 16,7 20 | 17,4 83 | 3,15 8 | 4,61 7 | 12 | 6,951 | 14,6 55 | 17,1 84 | 4,48 3 | 1,30 3 | 12 |

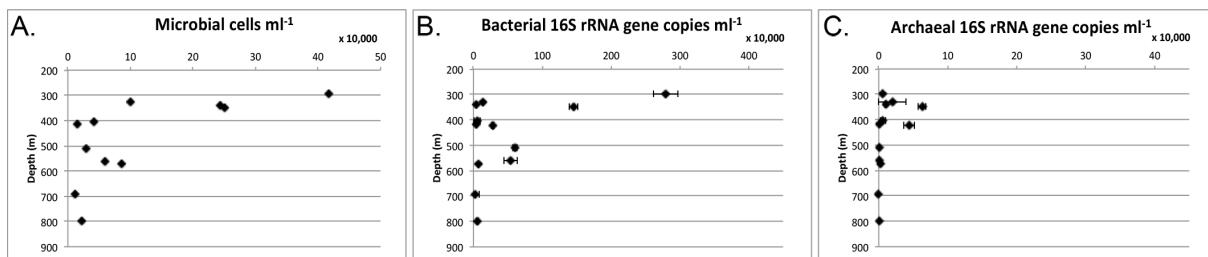
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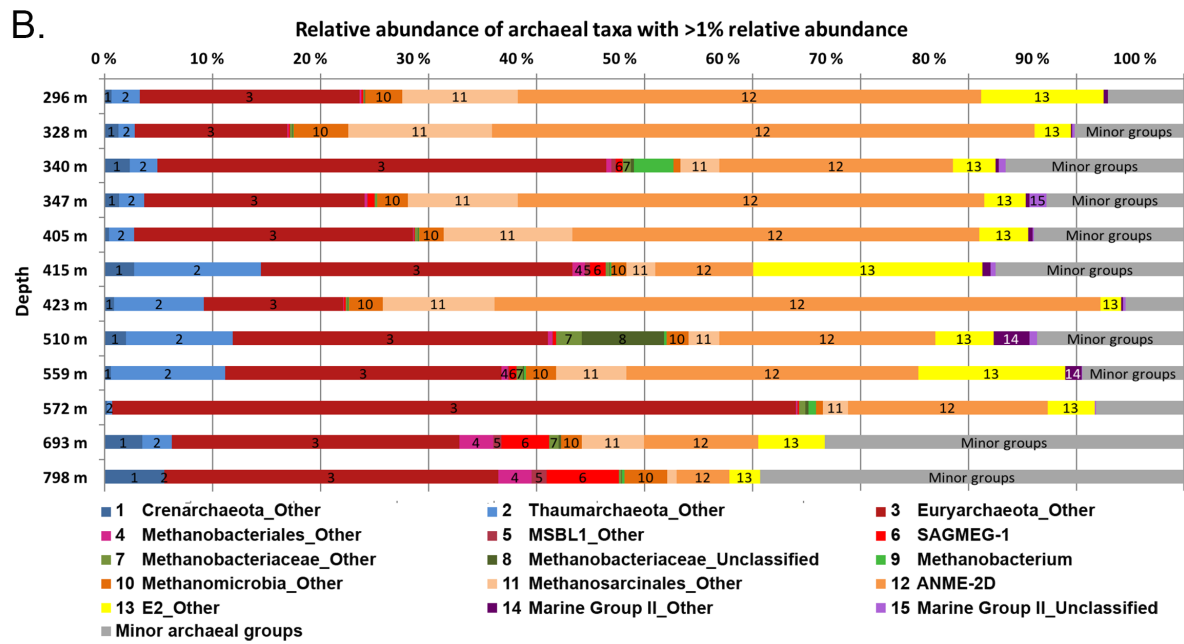
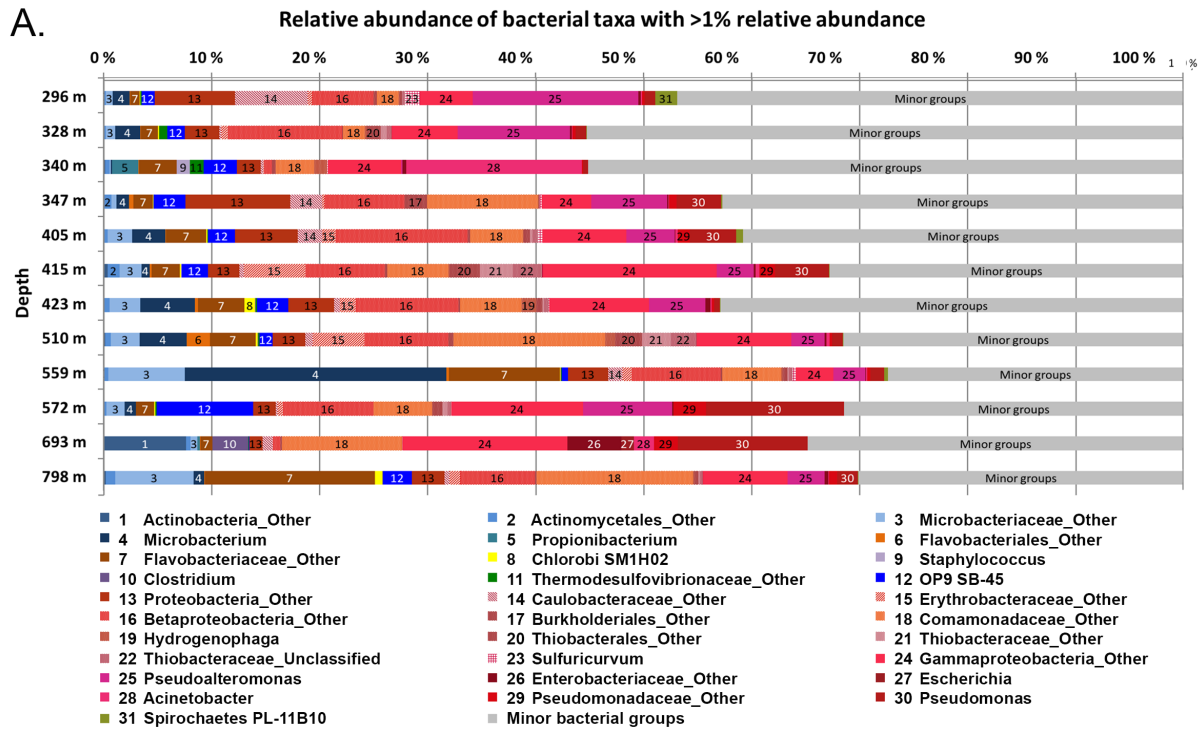


1
 2 Figure 1. Map of Olkiluoto. The boreholes used in this study are marked with a turquoise
 3 triangle and the attached black line depicts the direction of the borehole. (with courtesy of
 4 Pöyry Oy, Nov 17th, 2015 by Eemeli Hurmerinta)

5

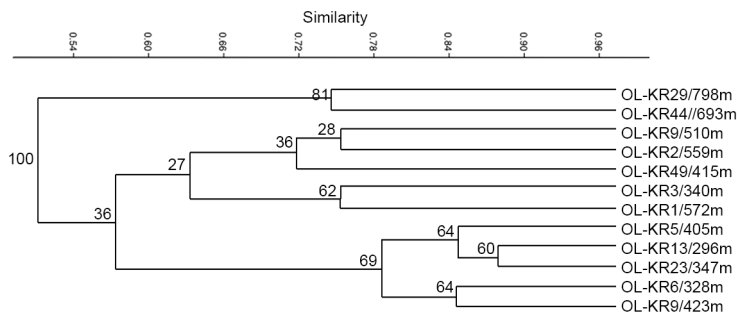


6
 7 Figure 2. The concentration of A) microbial cells mL^{-1} determined by epifluorescence
 8 microscopy and the estimated concentration of B) bacterial and C) archaeal 16S rRNA gene
 9 copies mL^{-1} groundwater determined by qPCR in water conductive fractures situated at
 10 different depths in the Olkiluoto bedrock.

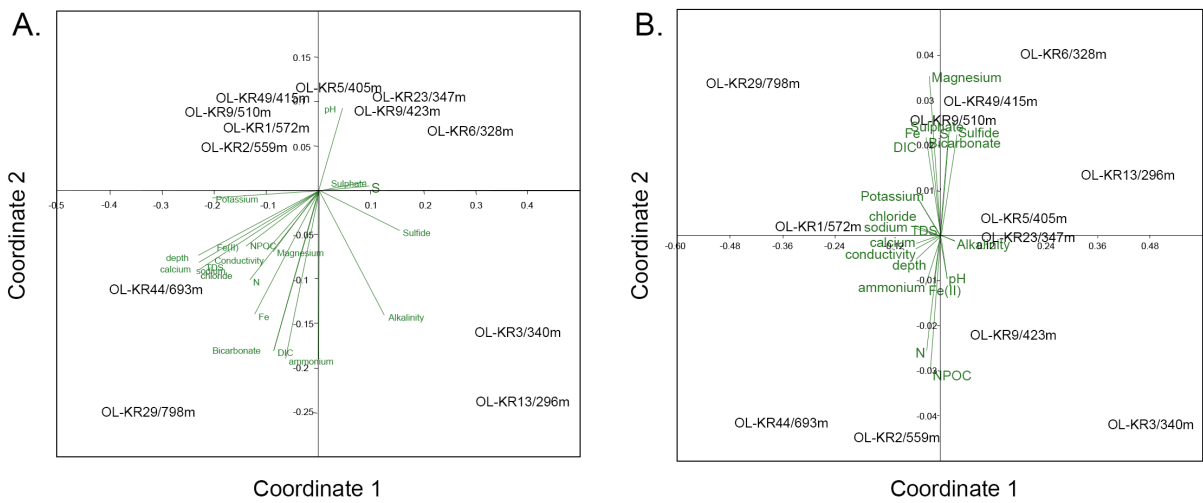


1
2 Figure 3. The most abundant A) bacterial and B) archaeal taxa representing at least 1% of the
3 sequence reads in any of the samples. The number in each series indicate the taxon number in
4 the list below the figures.

5

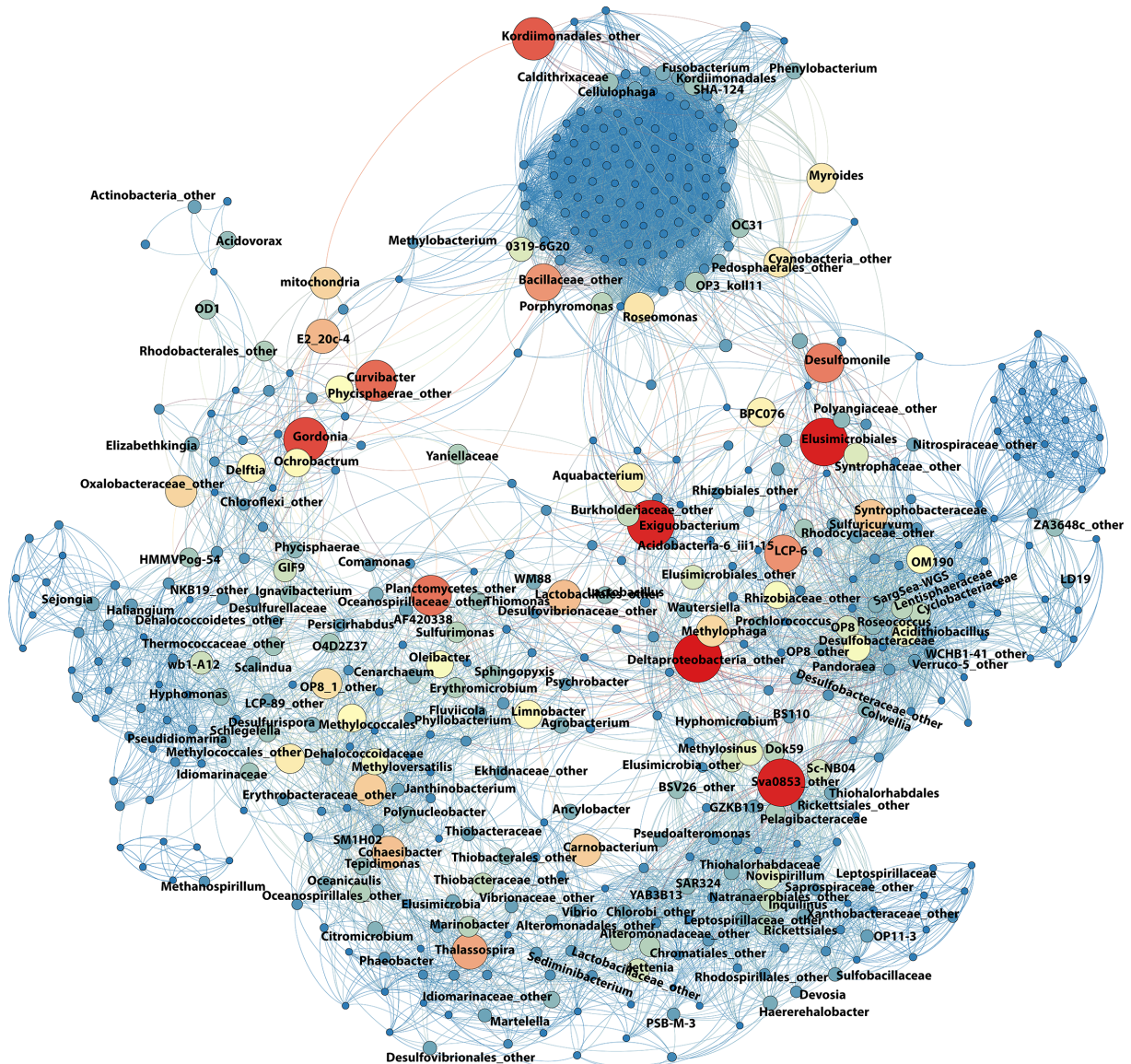


1
 2 Figure 4. A Bray-Curtis UPGMA cladogram clustering the studied samples according to the
 3 detected taxonomy of the microbial communities. The bacterial and archaeal community
 4 profiles were combined. The branch support values were calculated from 100 bootstrap
 5 repeats.



6
 7
 8 Figure 5. Non-metric multidimensional scaling analysis based on the A) bacterial and B)
 9 archaeal communities detected in the samples. The triplot (green) indicates directionality of
 10 the environmental variables.

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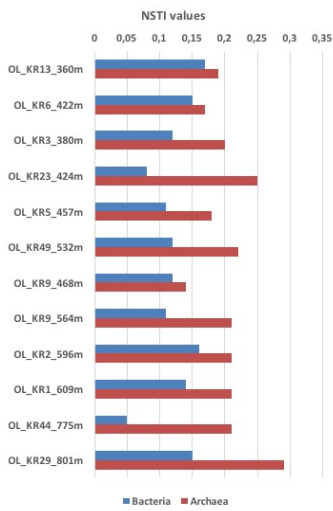
8

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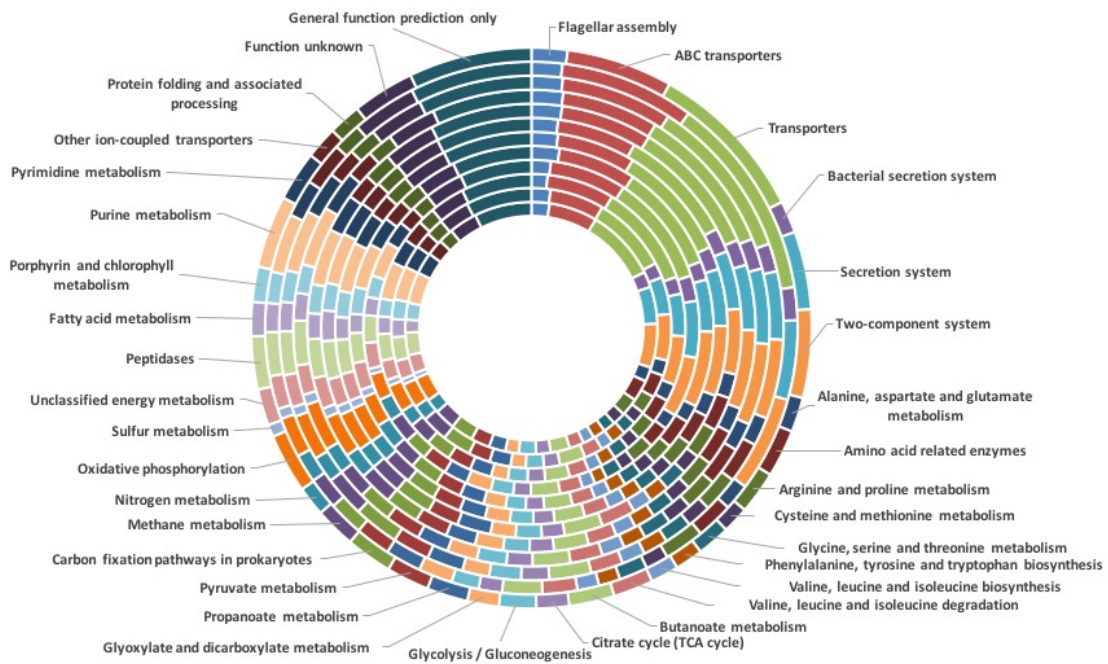
Figure 6. Network of co-occurring microbial taxa based on Spearman's rank correlation (R>0.7, p<0.01) between pairs of taxa. Each circle (node) represents a taxon and the size of the node is proportional to the number of connections (Spearman correlation value) of the node. The colour of the nodes indicates degree of centrality of the taxon, with low centrality shown as blue, increasing centrality by green to yellow to orange and highest centrality as red. Taxa with less than 10% centrality range (<2 connections) were filtered out. The most prominent nodes are indicated by taxon names. In Figure S2 the names for all nodes are shown.



1

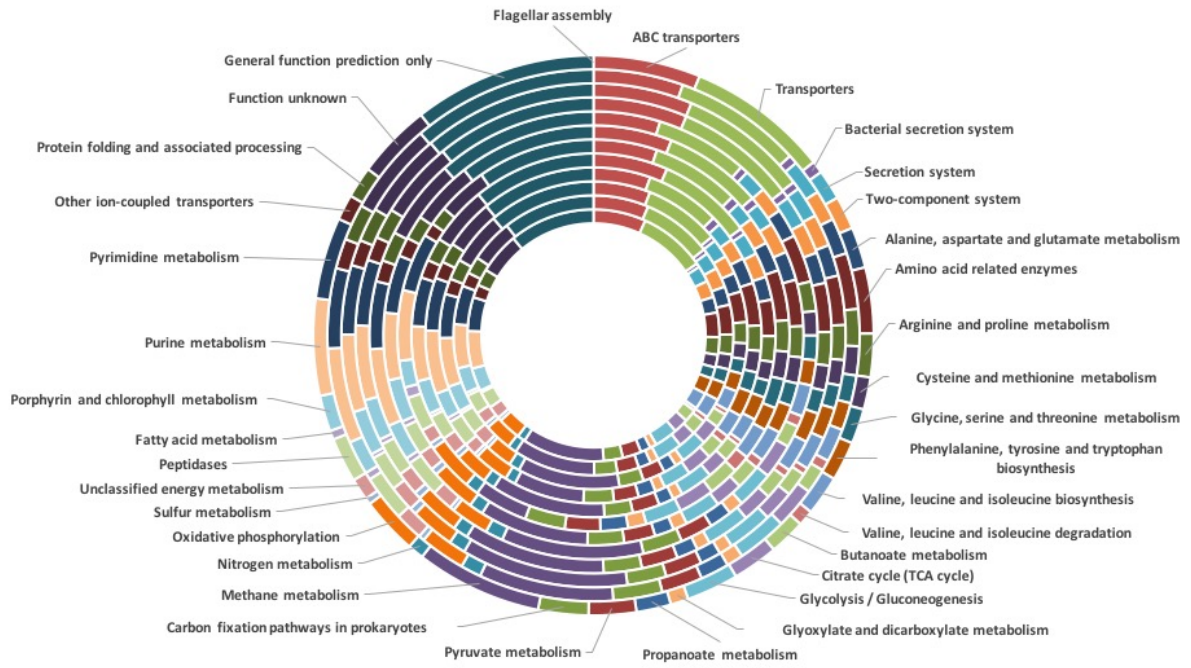
2 Figure 7. The nearest sequenced taxon index (NSTI) values calculated by PICRUSt for the
 3 bacterial (blue) and archaeal (red) communities. The NSTI value describes the sum of
 4 phylogenetic distances of each OTU to its nearest relative with a sequenced reference
 5 genome, and measures substitutions per site in the 16S rRNA gene and the weighted the
 6 frequency of the each OTU in a sample dataset. A higher NSTI value indicates greater
 7 distance to the closest sequenced relatives of the OTUs in each sample.

A.



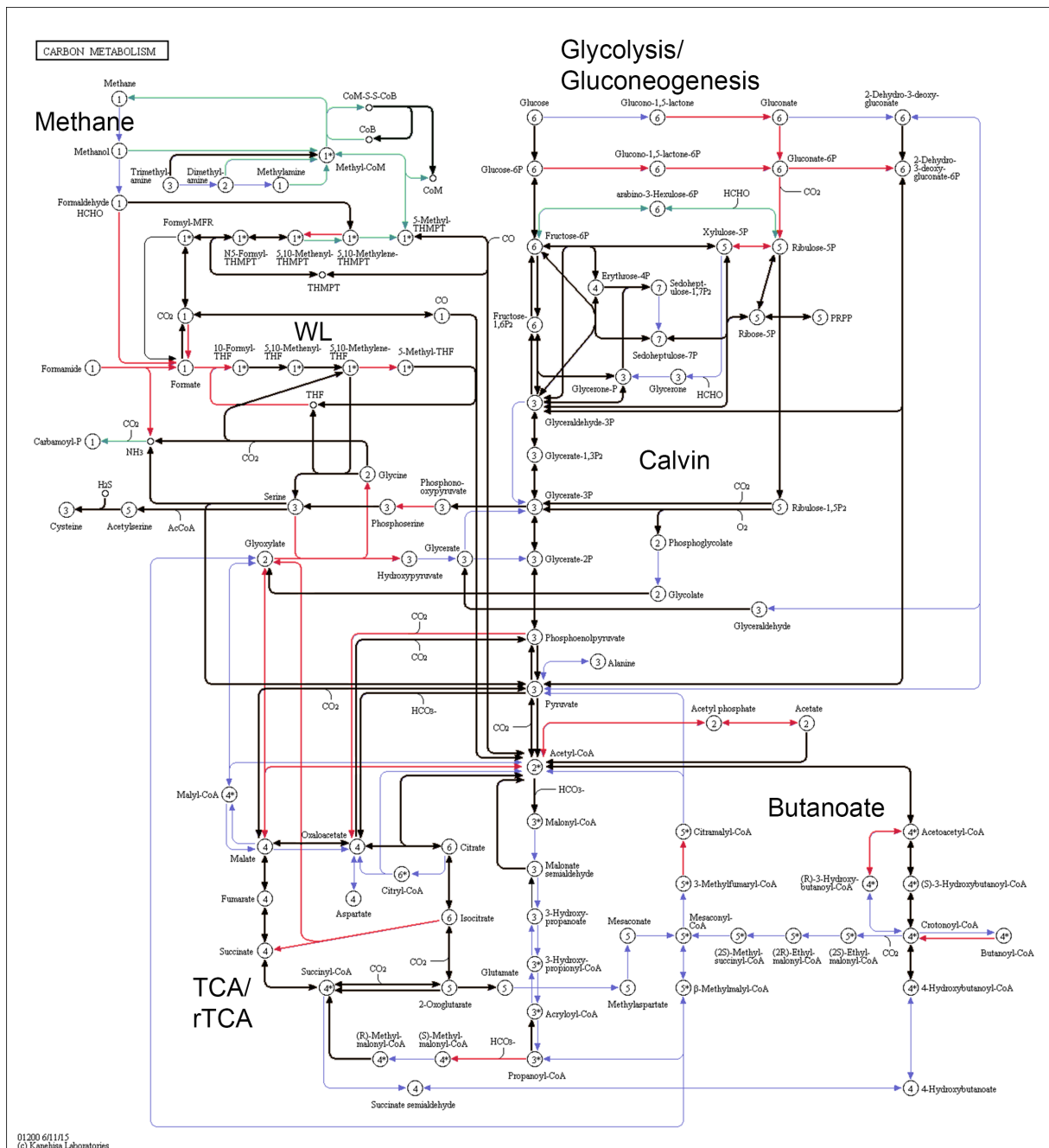
8

B.



1

2 Figure 8. The relative abundance of predicted genes of the most abundant pathways identified
3 in the A) bacterial and B) archaeal populations in the PICRUSt analysis. The pathways are
4 presented according to KEGG. The samples are ordered according to depth, with OL-
5 KR13/296m as innermost and OL-KR29/798m as the outermost sample.

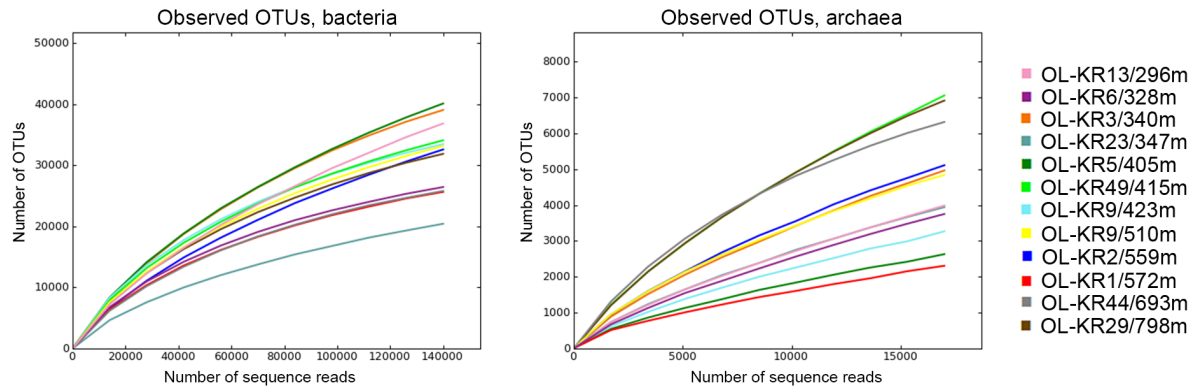


1
2 Figure 9. The microbial carbon metabolism pathway according to KEGG. The predicted
3 genes combined from all samples were plotted on the map. Green arrows indicate enzymes
4 predicted only in the archaeal communities, red arrows indicate genes predicted only in the
5 bacterial communities, black arrows show enzymes predicted in both the archaeal and
6 bacterial communities and blue arrows show enzymes that were not predicted in any of the
7 communities.

8

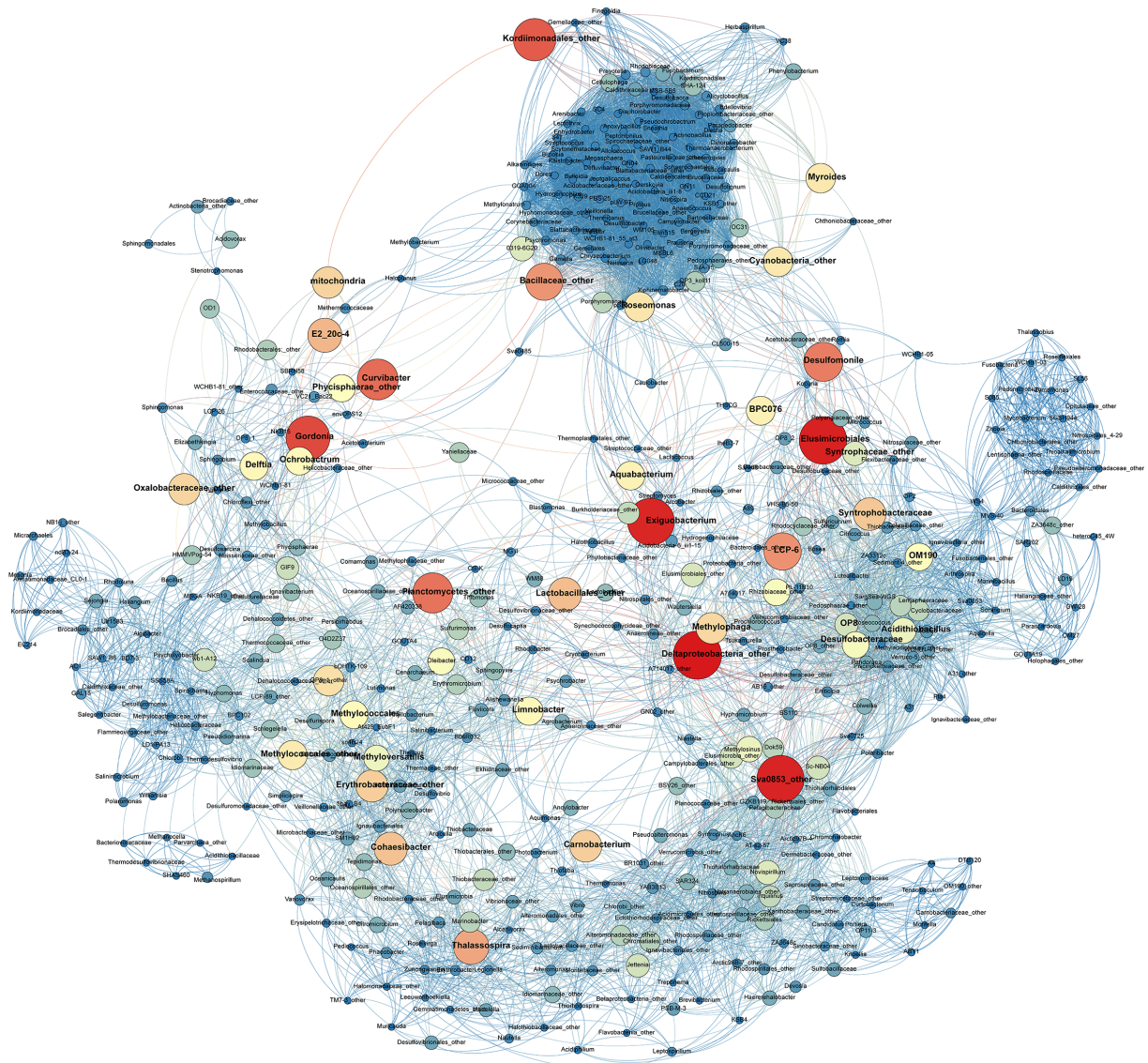
9

1 Supplementary figures

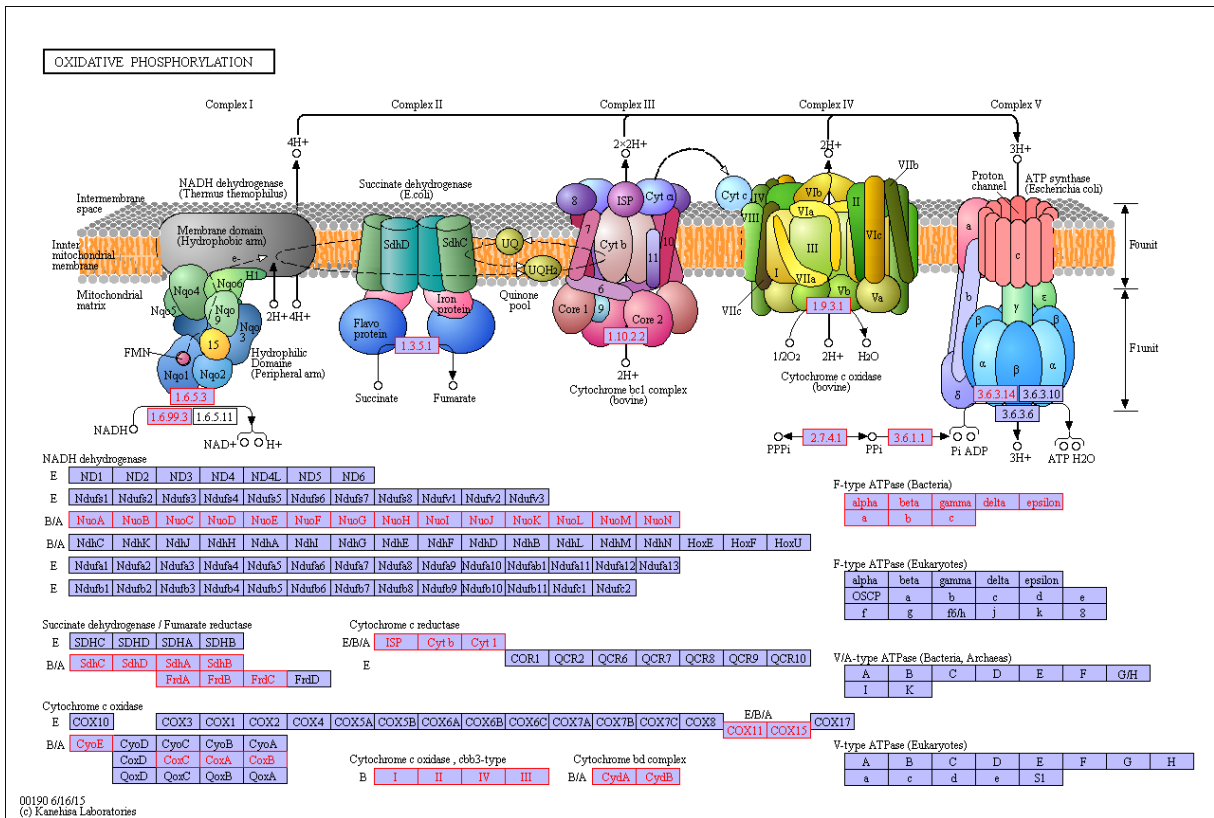


2
3 Figure S1. The rarefaction curves of observed bacterial (left pane) and archaeal (right pane)
4 OTUs in each sample generated on sequence data normalized to 140,000 reads for bacteria
5 and 17,000 reads for archaea.

6



1
 2 Figure S2. Network of co-occurring microbial taxa based on Spearman's rank correlation
 3 values between pairs of taxa. correlation ($R > 0.7$, $p < 0.01$) between different taxa. Each circle
 4 (node) represents a taxon and the size of the node is proportional to the number of
 5 connections (Spearman correlation value) of the node. The colour of the nodes indicates
 6 degree of centrality of the taxon, with low centrality shown as blue, increasing centrality by
 7 green to yellow to orange and highest centrality as red. Taxa with less than 10% centrality
 8 range (< 2 connections) were filtered out. The names for all taxa included in the analysis are
 9 shown.

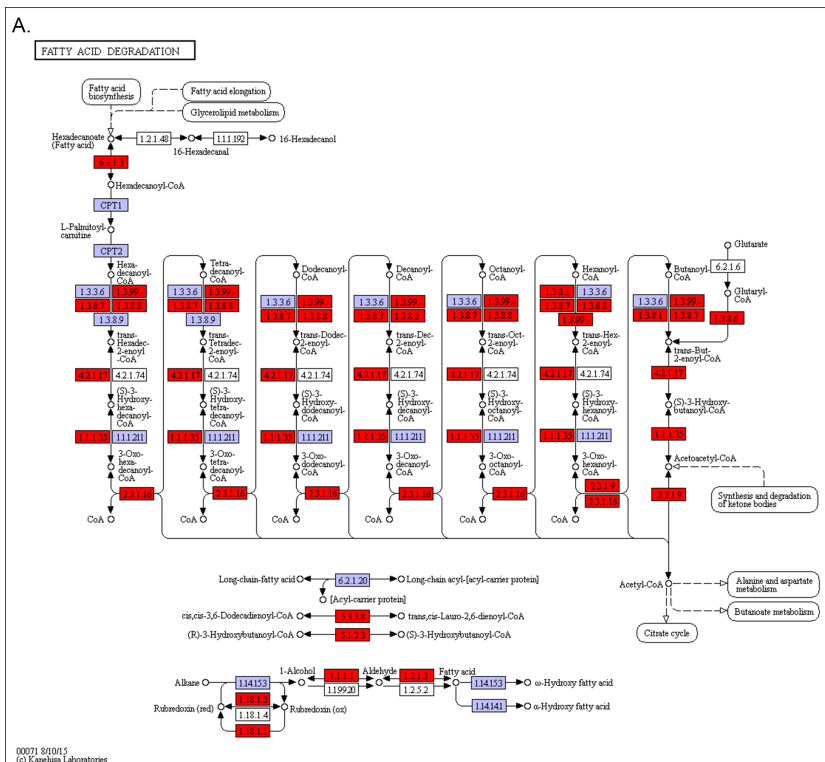


1

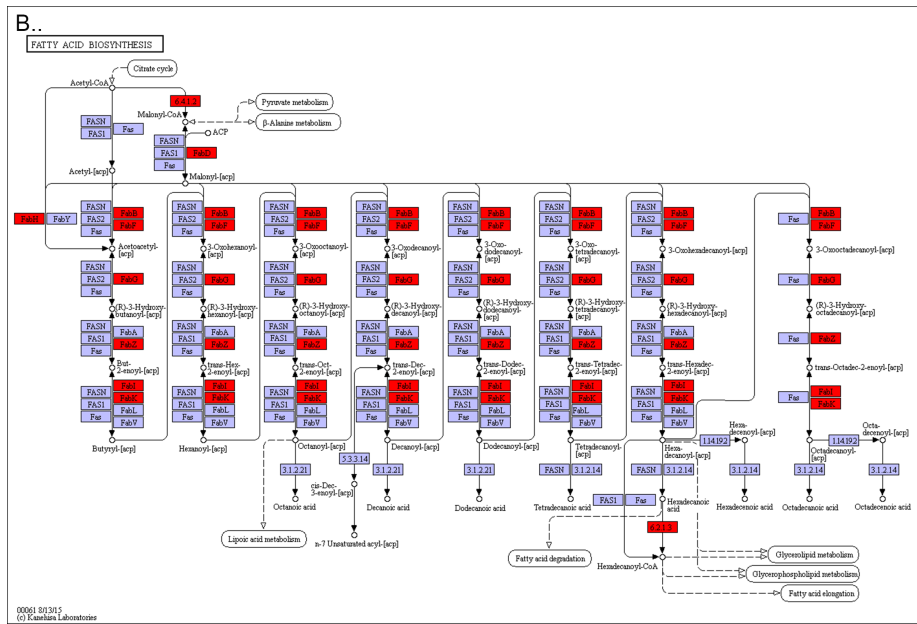
2

Figure S3. Bacterial oxidative phosphorylation according to KEGG. The predicted genes from the bacterial communities belonging to the oxidative phosphorylation are shown in pink.

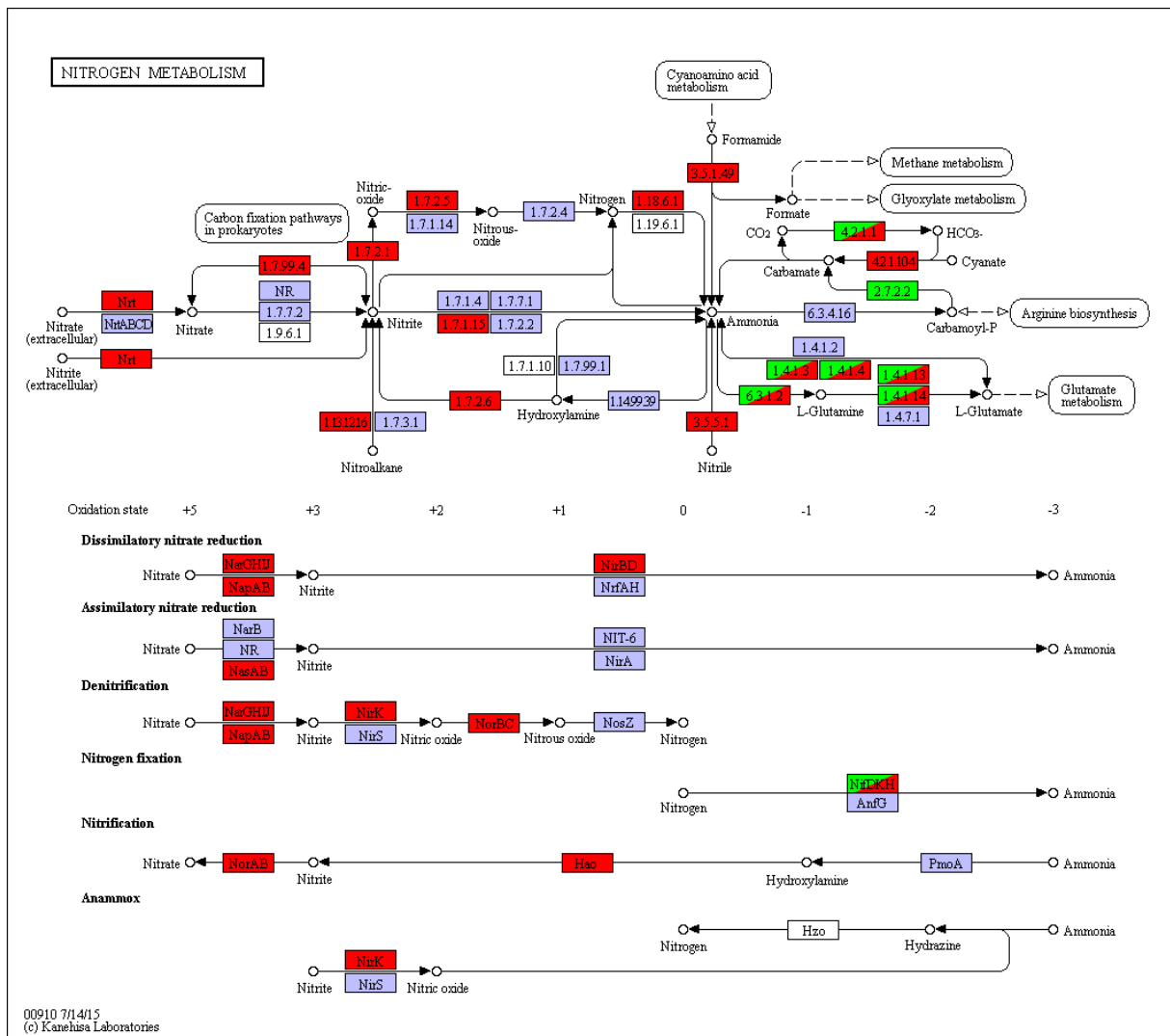
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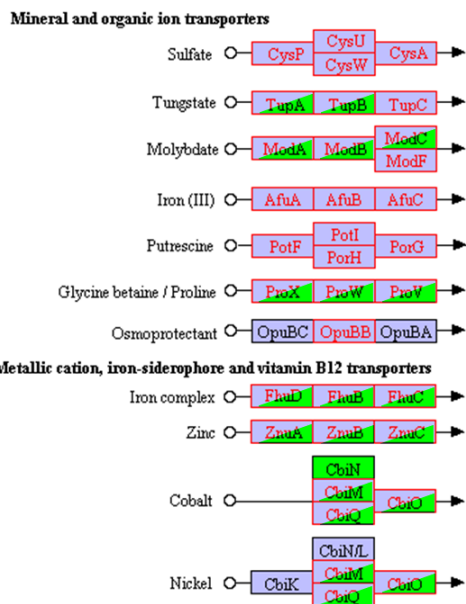


1
2 Figure S4. Predicted genes shown in red of the bacterial A) fatty acid degradation and B) fatty
3 acid biosynthesis pathways, combined from all samples.



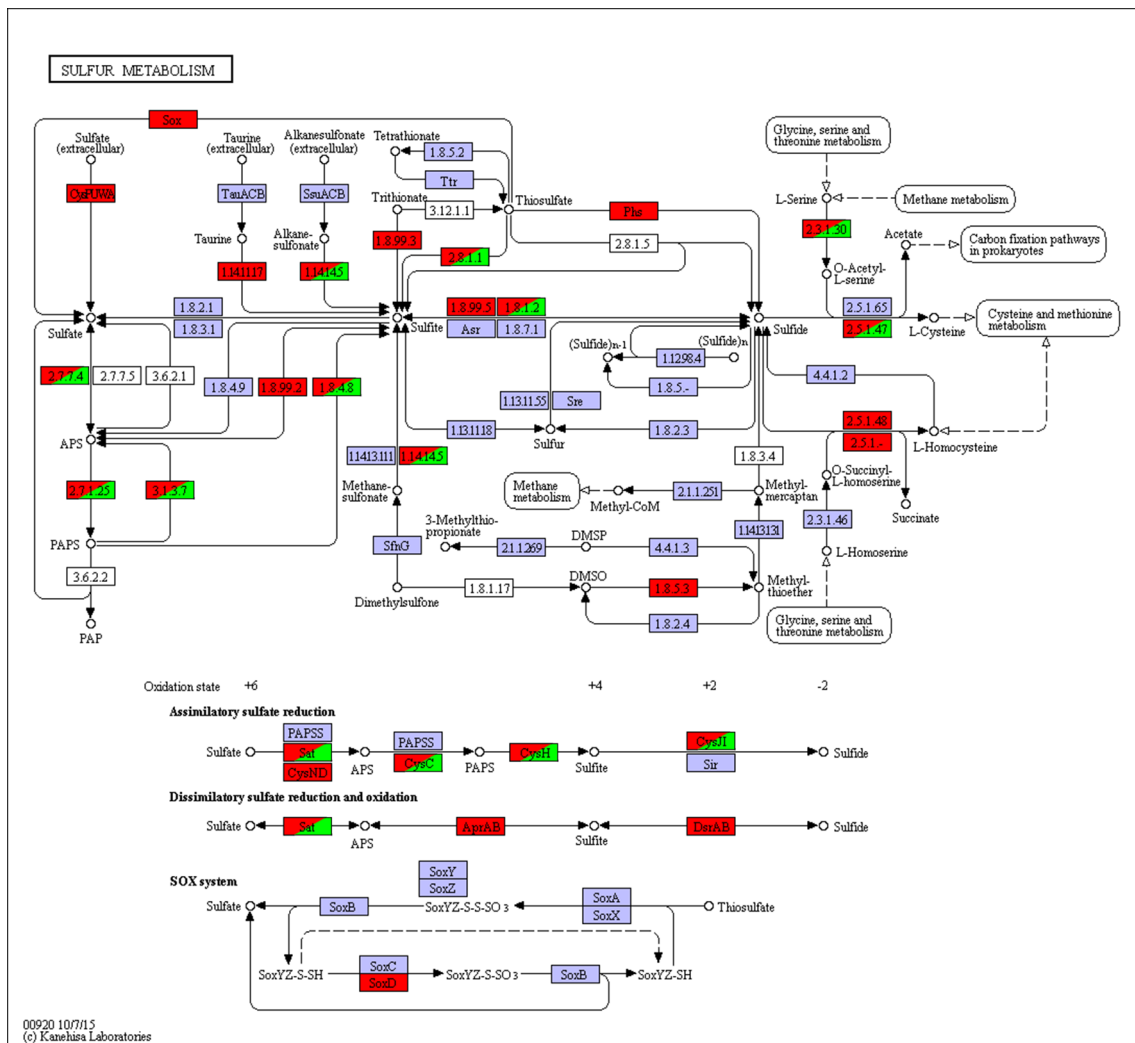
1
2 Figure S5. The predicted genes of enzymes included in the microbial nitrogen metabolism
3 according to KEGG. Enzymes predicted from the bacterial communities are shown in red,
4 archaeal communities in green and enzymes predicted from both archaeal and bacterial
5 communities in green/red. Enzymes not predicted from either community are shown in blue
6 or white.

7



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Figure S6. The genes of ABC transporters predicted from the bacterial (pink), archaeal (green) or both (pink/green) communities. Genes not predicted in any of the communities are shown in blue.



1
2 Figure S7. The predicted genes of enzymes included in the microbial sulphur metabolism
3 according to KEGG. Enzymes predicted from the bacterial communities are shown in red,
4 archaeal communities in green and enzymes predicted from both archaeal and bacterial
5 communities in green/red. Enzymes not predicted from either community are shown in blue
6 or white.

7