

Interactive comment on “Mats of psychrophilic thiotrophic bacteria associated with cold seeps of the Barents Sea” by S. Grünke et al.

C. Raghukumar (Referee)

lata_raghukumar@rediffmail.com

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The MS describes diversity and role of thiotrophic bacteria in hydrocarbon-rich muds of cold seeps. The authors have used a state-of-the art approach in studying the molecular diversity of bacteria. The MS tries to attribute the differences in bacterial diversity in grey and white mats to the biogeochemical properties of the sediments. Presence of such differently colored mats in shallow and deep-sea hydrothermal vents is well known. But the present contribution goes one step ahead and tries to find out the reason for this. The authors have done a commendable job in presenting their results and discussion. I am very impressed with the paper.

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