

Interactive comment on “Diversity and mineral substrate preference in endolithic microbial communities from marine intertidal outcrops (Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico)” by Estelle Couradeau et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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Nice study overall, and a valuable contribution.

Some edits suggested for clarification.

A concern, which can be addressed, is over use of the term "preference" indicating observation of higher density of colonization on some substrates, being over interpreted to prove preferences for specific cations or anions.

There are many variable factors in a natural environment. First looking at distribution in a quantified manner allows hypotheses for testing to illustrate actual "preference"

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

C1

<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2016-254/bg-2016-254-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., doi:10.5194/bg-2016-254, 2016.

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