



Figure S1: No abiotic iron reduction in the absence of iron-reducing microorganisms. Data are expressed as average change in  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  concentration (mM) with time in 'Blank' medium containing acetate and lactate (10 mM each), ferrihydrite (~50 mM) and  $\text{FeCl}_2$  (1.3 mM), but no inoculum. Error bars show standard deviation of triplicate measurements. Difference between T=0 and T=119  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  concentrations in triplicate microcosms is not statistically significant (Student's t-test, 2-tailed, type 2: p-value = 0.282).