

Interactive comment on “16S rRNA gene metabarcoding reveals a potential metabolic role for intracellular bacteria in a major marine planktonic calcifier (Foraminifera)” by Clare Bird et al.

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16S rRNA gene metabarcoding and fluorescence microscopy can reveal the presence of bacteria in the cell (possibly digesting foods or endobionts), but cannot suggest ecological interaction between host and bacteria. How could you say the bacteria as endobionts?

The 16S rRNA gene metabarcodings were coming from amplicon sequences. Amplicon sequences are biased by primer, thus ratio of amplicon sequences did not mean the ratio of the bacteria community inside the cell. Also, the TEM image of possible

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Synechococcus is difficult to observe thylakoid membrane. It is unclear for me to distinguish them as Synechococcus.

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