

1 **C₅ glycolipids of heterocystous cyanobacteria track symbiont abundance in the diatom *Hemiaulus hauckii***
2 **across the tropical north Atlantic**

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13 **Abstract.** Diatom-diazotroph associations (DDAs) include marine heterocystous cyanobacteria found as exo-
14 and endosymbionts in multiple diatom species. Heterocysts are the site of N₂ fixation and have thickened cell
15 walls containing unique heterocyst glycolipids which maintain a low oxygen environment within the heterocyst.
16 The endosymbiotic cyanobacterium *Richelia intracellularis* found in species of the diatom genus *Hemiaulus* and
17 *Rhizosolenia* makes heterocyst glycolipids (HGs) which are composed of C₃₀ and C₃₂ diols and triols with
18 pentose (C₅) moieties that are distinct from limnetic cyanobacterial HGs with predominantly hexose (C₆)
19 moieties. Here we applied a method for analysis of intact polar lipids (IPLs) to the study of HGs in suspended
20 particulate matter (SPM) and surface sediment from across the tropical North Atlantic. The study focused on the
21 Amazon plume region, where DDAs are documented to form extensive surface blooms, in order to examine the
22 utility of C₅ HGs as markers for DDAs as well as their transportation to underlying sediments. C₃₀ and C₃₂ triols
23 with C₅ pentose moieties were detected in both marine SPM and surface sediments. We found a significant
24 correlation between the water column concentration of these long-chain C₅ HGs and DDA symbiont counts. In
25 particular, the concentrations of both the C₅ HGs (1-(O-ribose)-3,27,29-triacontanetriol (C₅ HG₃₀ triol) and 1-(O-
26 ribose)-3,29,31-dotriacontanetriol (C₅ HG₃₂ triol)) in SPM exhibited a significant correlation with the number of
27 *Hemiaulus hauckii* symbionts. This result strengthens the idea that long-chain C₅ HGs can be applied as
28 biomarkers for marine endosymbiotic heterocystous cyanobacteria. The presence of the same C₅ HGs in surface
29 sediment provides evidence that they are effectively transported to the sediment and hence have potential as
30 biomarkers for studies of the contribution of DDAs to the paleo-marine N-cycle.

31 **1 Introduction**

32 Cyanobacteria are cosmopolitan oxygenic photoautotrophs that play an important role in the global carbon and
33 nitrogen cycles. Marine cyanobacteria are the major fixers of dinitrogen (N₂) in modern tropical and subtropical
34 oligotrophic oceans (Karl et al., 1997; Lee et al., 2002). Because N₂ fixation is sensitive to oxygen, cyanobacteria
35 have evolved a range of different strategies in order to combine the incompatible processes of oxygenic
36 photosynthesis and N₂ fixation. One strategy, found only in filamentous cyanobacteria, is to fix N₂ in

37 differentiated cells known as heterocysts (Wolk, 1973; Rippka et al., 1979). Free-living heterocystous
38 cyanobacteria are rare in the open ocean (Staal et al., 2003); however, heterocystous taxa are abundant as both
39 exo- and endosymbionts in diatoms (Foster et al., 2011; Gómez et al., 2005; Luo et al., 2012; Villareal, 1991;
40 Villareal et al., 2011, 2012). These diatom-diazotroph associations (DDAs) can fully support the nitrogen (N)
41 requirements of both host and symbiont (Foster et al., 2011; Villareal, 1990) which explains the presence of
42 these symbioses in oligotrophic offshore environments such as the North Pacific gyre (Venrick, 1974). In the
43 western tropical north Atlantic Ocean, these symbiotic associations produce nearly 70% of total N demand in the
44 surface waters (Carpenter et al., 1999) as non-symbiotic diatom blooms deplete N in the Amazon River plume
45 and create N-poor conditions with residual P and Si (Subramaniam et al., 2008; Weber et al., 2017).

46 In all heterocystous non-symbiotic cyanobacteria studied to date, the heterocyst cell walls contain
47 heterocyst glycolipids (HGs) (Abreu-Grobois et al., 1977; Bauersachs et al., 2009a, 2014; Gambacorta et al.,
48 1995; Nichols and Wood, 1968). These HGs almost universally comprise a hexose head group (C₆)
49 glycosidically bound to long chain diols, triols, or hydroxyketones (cf. Fig. 1) (Bauersachs et al., 2009b, 2011;
50 Bryce et al., 1972; Gambacorta et al., 1998). In contrast, the endosymbiotic heterocystous cyanobacterium
51 *Richelia intracellularis* (found within the marine diatoms *Hemiaulus hauckii* and *H. membranaceus*; Villareal,
52 (1991)) contained C₃₀ and C₃₂ diol and triol HGs with a pentose sugar head group (C₅), identified as D-ribose,
53 rather than a C₆ sugar (Fig. 1) (Schouten et al., 2013). The structural difference in the glycolipids of marine
54 endosymbiotic heterocystous cyanobacteria compared to the free-living counterparts was hypothesized to be an
55 adaptation to the high intracellular O₂ concentrations within the host diatom (Schouten et al., 2013).

56 In the first study of the C₃₀ and C₃₂ diol and triol C₅ HGs in the natural environment, these compounds
57 were found in suspended particulate material (SPM) and surface sediment from the Amazon plume but not in
58 lake sediments or river SPM (Bale et al., 2015). HGs with a C₅ sugar moiety comprising a shorter C₂₆ carbon
59 chain (hereafter called short-chain C₅ HGs) were tentatively identified in a culture of freshwater cyanobacterium
60 *Aphanizomenon ovalisporum* UAM 290 and in suspended particulate matter from three freshwater environments
61 in Spain (Wörmer et al., 2012). Thus, it remains to be demonstrated whether C₃₀ and C₃₂ diol and triol C₅ HGs
62 (hereafter called long-chain C₅ HGs) are unambiguously associated with DDAs in the marine environment. In
63 addition, the genera *Rhizosolenia*, *Guinardia* and *Hemiaulus* all contain species harboring heterocystous
64 cyanobacteria. DDA taxonomic relationships and host-symbiont specificity are only partially defined (Hilton et
65 al 2014, Foster and Zehr 2006, Janson et al 1999), suggesting additional clarification of how diverse HGs are
66 distributed within DDAs is required.

67 In this study, we applied a novel Ultra High Pressure Liquid Chromatography- High Resolution Mass
68 Spectrometry (UHPLC-HRMS) method to analyze the concentration of HG lipids in SPM from the oligotrophic
69 open Atlantic Ocean to the region affected by the Amazon River plume. We compared lipid concentrations with
70 the number of diazotrophic symbionts to examine the applicability of HGs to trace these organisms. Furthermore,
71 we also analyzed HG lipids in the surface sediment along the transect to examine the transport of these
72 compounds to the geological record and potential for use as a molecular tracer for DDA N₂ fixation.

73 **2 Methods**

74 **2.1 Cruise track and physiochemical parameters**

75 Sampling was carried out during a 4 week research cruise (64PE393) onboard the R/V *Pelagia* from 26th August
76 – 21st September 2014. The cruise followed a >5000 km transect and sampling occurred at 23 stations, starting
77 at Cape Verde and finishing at the island of Barbados (Fig. 2). The cruise track began close to the Cape Verde
78 EEZ boundary and proceeded approximately south-westerly across the Atlantic (Fig. 2). Aquarius sea-surface
79 salinity (SSS) satellite data (30 day composite, centered on 01-Sept-14) clearly indicated the influence of the
80 freshwater Amazon discharge in the region, i.e. surface salinity < 33 (Fig. 2). Discrete CTD measurements of
81 salinity (contour lines Fig. 3a, Table 1) generally agreed with the satellite data as to the geographical spread of
82 the Amazon River plume. However, the region was highly dynamic with the plume location shifting hundreds of
83 km over the course of the cruise as noted in the sequential 7-day Aquarius SSS composites (Fig. S1 -
84 Supplemental material).

85 Temperature and salinity were measured using a Sea-Bird SBE911+ conductivity–temperature–depth
86 (CTD) system equipped with a 24 × 12 L Niskin bottles rosette sampler. Fluorescence was measured with a
87 Chelsea Aquatracka MKIII fluorometer. Chlorophyll fluorescence was not calibrated against discrete chlorophyll
88 and is reported as relative fluorescence units (RFU). Seawater samples for dissolved inorganic nutrient analysis
89 were taken from the Niskin bottles in 60 ml high-density polyethylene syringes with a three way valve and
90 filtered over Acrodisc PF syringe filters (0.8/0.2 µm Supor Membrane, PALL Corporation) into pre-rinsed 5 mL
91 polyethylene vial. Dissolved orthophosphate (PO_4^{3-}) and nitrogen (NO_3^- , NO_2^- and NH_4^+) were stored in dark at
92 4°C until analysis onboard (within 18 h) using a QuAatro autoanalyzer (Grasshoff, 1983; Murphy and Riley,
93 1962). Samples for dissolved reactive silicate (Si) analysis (Strickland and Parsons, 1968) were stored dark at
94 4°C until analysis using the same system as above upon return to NIOZ. The detection limits were calculated as:
95 PO_4^{3-} 0.004 µmol L⁻¹, NH_4^+ 0.030 µmol L⁻¹, $\text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2^-$ 0.005 µmol L⁻¹ and NO_2^- 0.002 µmol L⁻¹.

96 **2.2 Phytoplankton pigment composition and enumeration of diazotrophs**

97 Samples for diazotroph enumeration were collected in polycarbonate bottles of which 500-1170 ml was filtered
98 under gentle vacuum (< 5 psi) through a 10 µm pore-size polycarbonate filter (47 mm diameter). Filters were
99 placed onto 75 X 50 mm glass slides (Corning 2947) and 2-3 drops of non-fluorescent immersion oil (Cargille
100 type DF) placed on the slide. A glass cover slip (45 x 50 mm; Fisherbrand 12-545-14) was placed on the filter
101 sample and allowed to sit while the immersion oil cleared the filter. The sample was subsequently viewed under
102 transmitted light and epi-fluorescence illumination light filter (530-560 nm excitation, 572-648 nm emission;
103 Olympus BX51) for counting/identifying trichomes and host cells as well as photomicrography (Olympus
104 DP70).

105 For phytoplankton pigment analysis, seawater was filtered through 0.7 µm glass fiber GF/F filters (Pall
106 Corporation, Washington). The filters were extracted in 4 mL 100% methanol buffered with 0.5 mol L⁻¹
107 ammonium acetate, homogenized for 15 s, and analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).
108 The relative abundances of the different taxonomic groups were determined using CHEMTAX (Mackey et al.,
109 1996; Riegman and Kraay, 2001).

110 **2.3 SPM and surface sediment collection**

111 Three McLane *in situ* pumps (McLane Laboratories Inc., Falmouth) were used to collect suspended particulate
112 matter (SPM) from the water column for lipid analysis. They were generally deployed at three depths: the
113 surface (3 - 5 m), the bottom wind mixed layer (BWML) and the deep chlorophyll-*a* maximum (DCM), with
114 some additional sampling at 200 m (Table 1). They pumped between 90 and 380 L with a cut-off at a pre-
115 programmed pressure threshold and the SPM was collected on pre-ashed 0.7 μm , 142 mm, GF/F filters (Pall
116 Corporation, Washington) and immediately frozen at -80°C . At Station 10, as part of a different study (Besseling
117 et al., in prep), 12 additional sampling points were carried out to produce a high resolution depth profile (Table
118 2) where the SPM was collected on pre-ashed 0.3 μm GF75 filters (Avantec, Japan).

119 Sediment was collected at each station in 10 cm diameter, 60 cm length multicores. For each sediment
120 sampling site, triplicate cores were collected, always from a single multicore deployment (with a maximum of 60
121 cm between core centers). The cores were sliced into 1 cm slices using a hydraulic slicer and each slice was
122 stored separately in a geochemical bag and immediately frozen at -80°C . For this study, we analyzed the 0–1 cm
123 (surface sediment) slice. For analysis of the content of total organic carbon (TOC), sediment was freeze dried,
124 decalcified in silver cups with 2M HCl and analysis was carried out using a Flash 2000 series Elemental
125 Analyzer (Thermo Scientific) equipped with a TCD detector.

126 **2.4 Lipid extraction**

127 The extraction of lipids from freeze dried filters or sediment samples was carried out using a modified Bligh-
128 Dyer extraction (Bale et al., 2013). The samples were extracted in an ultrasonic bath for 10 min with 5 – 20 ml of
129 single-phase solvent mixture of methanol (MeOH): dichloromethane (DCM): phosphate buffer (2:1:0.8, v:v:v).
130 After centrifugation ($1000 \times g$ for 5 min, room temperature, Froilabo Firlabo SW12 with swing out rotor) to
131 separate the solvent extract and residue, the solvent mixture was collected in a separate flask. This was repeated
132 three times before DCM and phosphate buffer were added to the single-phase extract to induce phase separation,
133 producing a new ratio of MeOH:DCM:phosphate buffer (1:1:0.9 v:v:v). After centrifugation ($1000 \times g$ for 5
134 min), the DCM phase was collected in a glass round-bottom flask and the remaining MeOH:phosphate buffer
135 phase was washed two additional times with DCM. Rotary evaporation was used to reduce the combined DCM
136 phase before it was evaporated to dryness under a stream of N_2 .

137 **2.5 Analysis of intact polar lipids**

138 Whereas previous studies of heterocyst glycolipids have applied high performance liquid chromatography
139 multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mass spectrometry (HPLC–MS²) method (e.g., Bale et al. (2015)), in this
140 study we used an Ultra High Pressure Liquid Chromatography-High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (UHPLC-
141 HRMS) method, designed for the analysis of a wide range of intact polar lipids (Moore et al., 2013). The
142 UHPLC-HRMS method was adapted by replacement of hexane with heptane as the non-polar solvent in the
143 eluent, to reduce the toxic nature of hexane relative to heptane in terms of a work place health hazard (Buddrick
144 et al., 2013; Carelli et al., 2007; Daughtrey et al., 1999). Our UHPLC-HRMS method was as follows: we used an
145 Ultimate 3000 RS UHPLC, equipped with thermostatted auto-injector and column oven, coupled to a Q Exactive
146 Orbitrap MS with Ion Max source with heated electrospray ionization (HESI) probe (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

147 Waltham, MA). Separation was achieved on an Acquity UPLC BEH HILIC column (150 x 2.0 mm, 2.1 μm
148 particles, pore size 12 nm; Waters, Milford, MA) maintained at 30 °C. Elution was achieved with (A) heptane-
149 propanol-formic acid-14.8 mol L⁻¹ aqueous NH₃ (79:20:0.12:0.04, v/v/v/v) and (B) propanol water-formic acid-
150 14.8 mol L⁻¹ aqueous NH₃ (88:10:0.12:0.04, v/v/v/v) starting at 100% A, followed by a linear increase to 30% B
151 at 20 min, followed by a 15 min hold, and a further increase to 60% B at 50 min. Flow rate was 0.2 ml min⁻¹,
152 total run time was 70 min, followed by a 20 min re-equilibration period. Positive ion ESI settings were: capillary
153 temperature, 275°C; sheath gas (N₂) pressure, 35 arbitrary units (AU); auxiliary gas (N₂) pressure, 10 AU; spray
154 voltage, 4.0 kV; probe heater temperature, 275°C; S-lens 50 V. Target lipids were analyzed with a mass range of
155 m/z 350–2000 (resolution 70,000 ppm at m/z 200), followed by data-dependent tandem MS² (resolution 17,500
156 ppm), in which the ten most abundant masses in the mass spectrum were fragmented successively (normalized
157 collision energy, 35; isolation width, 1.0 m/z). The Q Exactive was calibrated within a mass accuracy range of 1
158 ppm using the Thermo Scientific Pierce LTQ Velos ESI Positive Ion Calibration Solution. During analysis
159 dynamic exclusion was used to temporarily exclude masses (for 6 s) in order to allow selection of less abundant
160 ions for MS². In addition, an inclusion list (within 3 ppm) was used, containing all known HGs, in order to obtain
161 confirmatory fragment spectra.

162 Before analysis, the extracts were re-dissolved in a mixture of heptane, isopropanol and water (72:27:1,
163 v:v:v) which contained two internal standards (IS), a platelet-activating factor (PAF) standard (1-O-hexadecyl-2-
164 acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, 5 ng on column) and a C₁₂ alkyl chain glycolipid standard, n-dodecyl- β -D-
165 glucopyranoside (\geq 98% Sigma-Aldrich, 20 ng on column; cf. Bale et al. (2017)). The samples were then filtered
166 through 0.45 μm mesh True Regenerated Cellulose syringe filters (4 mm diameter; Grace Alltech).

167 The injection volume was 10 μl for each sample. For quantification the relative response factor (RRF)
168 between the n-dodecyl- β -D-glucopyranoside IS and an isolated C₆ HG (1-(O-hexose)-3,25-hexacosanediol (Bale
169 et al., 2017) was determined to be 6.63. It is not currently possible to isolate enough of a naturally occurring
170 pentose-glycolipid due to the limitations of culturing sufficient diatom-diazotroph biomass. As we do not expect
171 significant differences in ionization efficiency between a hexose and a pentose glycolipid, we assume that the
172 RRF of the internal standard and the hexacosanediol C₆ HG is similar to that of C₅ HGs. Nevertheless,
173 quantification of the pentose-glycolipids should be interpreted with care.

174 The 12 samples collected at Station 10 (0.3 μm GF75 filters, Table 2) were analyzed on the same
175 UHPLC-HRMS system, but with hexane instead of heptane in the mobile phase. Also, the n-dodecyl- β -D-
176 glucopyranoside IS was not added, so quantification was based the PAF IS and correcting for the RRF between
177 the n-dodecyl- β -D-glucopyranoside IS and the PAF IS.

178 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

179 T-tests and Pearson correlations were determined using Sigmaplot software (version 13.0). Regression curves
180 were plotted and analyzed in Windows Excel.

181 3. Results

182 3.1 Physicochemical conditions and phytoplankton assemblage

183 Stations 1-6, 12 (close to coast, north of Amazon plume) and 22 correspond to oceanic stations (SSS >
184 35, following the convention of Subramaniam et al. (2008)), with Station 7-10, 13-21 and 23 in the intermediate
185 salinity range (30 – 35). Originally termed mesohaline (Subramaniam et al., 2008), we use ‘intermediate salinity’
186 to avoid confusion with the older use of mesohaline in coastal systems to refer to 5-18 waters (Elliott and
187 McLusky, 2002). Only Station 11, with a SSS of 29.2, was in the low salinity range defined by Subramaniam et
188 al. (2008). Temperature was uniformly high across the cruise track (>27°C in the euphotic zone) with the 25° C
189 isotherm deepening along the cruise track (Fig. 3a). Oceanic stations 1-6 exhibited depleted surface (3 – 5 m)
190 inorganic nutrient concentrations (on average $0.01 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{PO}_4^{3-}$, $0.02 \pm 0.20 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2^-$ and
191 $0.86 \pm 0.09 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{Si}$ (Fig. 3c,d)). Surface $\text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2^-$ and PO_4^{3-} concentration remained low at the subsequent
192 intermediate salinity stations (Stations 7 – 11; Fig. 3c), while Si concentrations increased > 10-fold to an average
193 of $12.1 \pm 4.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ (Fig. 3d). From the coastal shelf of French Guiana (Stations 11 and 12), the cruise
194 progressed in a northerly direction towards the Caribbean. The Amazon River influence was again evident after
195 Station 13, but decreased with distance, ranging from 32.8 to a maximum of 35.6 (Station 22). Surface $\text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2^-$
196 remained low at these intermediate salinity stations (on average $0.01 \pm 0.00 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$), while PO_4^{3-} was variable
197 but generally decreased to open ocean levels (from $0.01 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ to below the limit of detection) and Si dropped
198 from $10.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ to $3.94 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$.

199
200 The deep chlorophyll (Chl) maximum (DCM; cf. maxima in Chl fluorescence (Fig. 3b) was associated with the
201 nutricline (cf. Fig. 3c) over most of the transect, with the highest DCM fluorescence at the oceanic stations and a
202 secondary surface Chl fluorescence maximum at the low salinity station (Station 11).

203 The phytoplankton pigment composition analysis at the oceanic stations (1-6) was dominated by the
204 cyanobacteria *Prochlorococcus*, which made up around 50% of total Chl a in the surface waters (Table S1). At
205 the intermediate salinity stations Stations 7-10 and 18-23, the phycoerythrin-containing cyanobacteria (e.g.
206 *Synechococcus*) dominated the phytoplankton community. In general, at Stations 7-10 the share of Chrysophytes
207 and Prymnesiophyceae pigments was relatively larger. The share of Chrysophyceae was particularly large at the
208 DCM, even dominating the phytoplankton community biomass at Stations 15-23 (Table S1). Diatoms
209 (Bacillariophyceae) contributed substantially in the surface waters of Station 8, up to 21% of total Chl a.

210 3.2 Diazotroph enumeration

211 The diazotroph cyanobacteria were divided into 5 categories: three of them are symbionts, i.e. with the diatoms
212 *Rhizosolenia cf. clevei*, *Hemiaulus hauckii*, and *Guinardia cylindrus* DDAs, and two are non-symbionts, i.e.
213 *Trichodesmium* colonies (>10 trichomes organized into a coherent structure), and free *Trichodesmium* trichomes
214 (Fig. 4a-e, Table S3). Total DDA abundance was low (0-21 combined DDA *Richelia* trichomes L^{-1}) at the
215 oceanic stations (Stations 1-6). *Hemiaulus* DDA abundance was greatest at Station 8 (ca. 4.0×10^3 trichomes L^{-1})
216 with a secondary maximum at Station 17 (0.8×10^3 trichomes L^{-1}), both in the surface (<5 m) waters.
217 *Rhizosolenia* DDA abundance was lower than *Hemiaulus* DDA abundance at Station 7 (*Rhizosolenia* DDA ca.
218 60 trichomes L^{-1}) and at Stations 15 and 16 (*Rhizosolenia* DDA, ca. 80 trichomes L^{-1}). *Rhizosolenia* DDAs were
219 not observed below 31.6 salinity (Fig. 4a). *Hemiaulus* DDA were observed down to 27.1-27.6 salinity at ~80-100

220 trichomes L⁻¹ (Fig. 4b). Free *Trichodesmium* trichomes were broadly distributed (Fig. 4d) and often occurred
221 across a wide depth range, down to 75 m at Station 17. *Trichodesmium* colonies were seen sporadically and with
222 distributions dominated by two sampling points (Station 6, 32 m and Station 21, 60 m) where colony abundance
223 >25 colonies L⁻¹. A single observation of colonies at depth under the low salinity plume generated contour lines
224 suggesting a generalized presence at depth. However, removal of this observation (Station 14, 61 m) removed
225 this trend and resulted in distinct separation of the colony distributions, i.e. two areas of increased biomass
226 associated with salinity gradients at the edge of the river plume.

227 3.3 Heterocyst glycolipids in suspended particulate matter

228 We analyzed heterocyst glycolipids (HGs) in SPM from along the cruise transect collected at the surface,
229 bottom wind mixed layer (BWML) and the DCM. Two long-chain C₅ HGs were detected in the SPM, i.e. 1-(O-
230 ribose)-3,27,29-triacontanetriol and 1-(O-ribose)-3,29,31-dotriacontanetriol (C₅ HG₃₀ and C₅ HG₃₂ triol
231 respectively, Fig. 1). C₅ HG₃₂ triol represented on average 98 % ± 4 of the summed abundance of the two HGs.
232 Previous studies of C₅ HGs have identified 1-(O-ribose)-3,29-triacontanediol (C₅ HG₃₀ diol, Fig. 1) in both
233 cultures and environmental samples (Bale et al., 2015; Schouten et al., 2013), but these were not seen in the SPM
234 or surface sediment analyzed in this study.

235 The concentrations of the two C₅ HGs were highest in the surface waters of Station 8 and showed a second
236 local maxima at Station 16 (Table 1 and Fig. 4f). The surface concentration of the dominant HG, i.e. C₅ HG₃₀
237 triol, ranged between 0 and 4800 pg L⁻¹. The range in concentration was 50-fold lower at the DCM (0-200 pg L⁻¹,
238 Table S2). The three samples from 200 m depth showed lowest concentrations, ranging between 20.6 and 127 pg
239 L⁻¹. Overall, the C₅ HG₃₀ triol was consistently present in the higher concentration of the two (Fig. 4f). The
240 minor HG, i.e. C₅ HG₃₂ triol, ranged between 0 – 10% of their summed abundance at the surface and BWML,
241 was between 0 – 5% at the DCM and 0 – 17% at 200 m (cf. Fig. 4f contour lines and Table S2).

242 HGs with a C₆ sugar head group were not detected in any SPM samples with the exception of one
243 sample, taken at Station 20a from the DCM (65 m). 1-(O-hexose)-3,25-hexacosanediol (C₆ HG₂₆ diol, Fig. 1) and
244 1-(O-hexose)-3-keto-25-hexacosanol (C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol) were confidently identified from their [M+H]⁺ accurate
245 mass (*m/z* 577.4674 and 575.4517 respectively) and their fragmentation patterns, which followed published
246 reports (Bauersachs et al., 2009b). C₆ HG₂₆ diol and C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol were present at concentrations of 0.3 and
247 0.4 ng L⁻¹ respectively (data not shown), both ~10 times higher than the concentration of the C₅ HG₃₀ triol in this
248 sample (Table 1).

249 At Station 10, besides SPM samples collected on 0.7 µm GF/Fs, SPM samples were also collected at
250 depths down to 3000 m using 0.3 µm GF75 filters (Table 2). As with the 0.7 µm SPM samples at station 10, C₅
251 HG₃₀ triol was consistently present in higher concentration than C₅ HG₃₂ triol (which represented on average
252 only 1.4 % ± 0.7 of their summed abundance). The concentrations and depth trends (to 200 m) of the two C₅ HGs
253 did not differ between the 0.3 µm and 0.7 µm filter SPM samples (Fig. 5). For both the 0.3 µm samples and the
254 0.7 µm samples, the summed abundance of C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol was highest at 200 m, 108 pg L⁻¹. In
255 the 0.3 µm samples, both concentrations decreased below 200 m, although both C₅ HGs remained detectable at
256 3000 m depth.

257 **3.4 Heterocyst glycolipids and bulk properties in surface sediment**

258 As with the SPM, C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol were detected in the surface sediment of seventeen stations
259 (Table 1). C₅ HG₃₀ triol was also here consistently present in the higher concentration of the two (C₅ HG₃₂ triol
260 represented on average 9.4 % ± 3.0 of their summed abundance). The C₅ HG₃₀ diol was not detected in any
261 surface sediment, alike the SPM samples. HGs with a C₆ sugar head group were also not detected in any surface
262 sediment. In the sediment underlying the high-salinity open ocean stations (1, 3, 5) the summed abundance of the
263 two C₅ HGs was low (2.0 – 3.7 ng g⁻¹, Table 1). It was high at Station 7 and 8 (10.6 and 16.3 ng g⁻¹), while
264 Station 9 – 17 contained mid-range concentrations (5.2 – 14.8 ng g⁻¹), with the exception of the two coastal-shelf
265 stations (11 and 12) where the concentration was at its lowest (0.2 and 0.3 ng g⁻¹). At the final 4 stations (20a,
266 21a, 22 and 23) the summed abundance returned to high levels (11.2 – 19.0 ng g⁻¹). For context, the TOC was
267 relatively stable between Station 1 and 10 (av. 0.6 ± 0.1 %, n=7) then low at Station 11 and 12 (av. 0.2 ± 0.1 %).
268 Station 13 exhibited the highest TOC of all the stations (1.2 ± 0.0 %), and TOC decreased steadily at all stations
269 thereafter, and was 0.6 ± 0.0 % at Station 23.

270 **4. Discussion**

271 **4.1 Heterocyst glycolipids and DDAs in the water column**

272 The Amazon plume has been extensively documented to support high numbers of the diatom-diazotroph
273 associations (DDA) such as *Hemiaulus hauckii-Richelia intracellularis* and *Rhizosolenia clevei-Richelia*
274 *intracellularis* (Carpenter et al., 1999; Foster et al., 2007; Goes et al., 2014; Subramaniam et al., 2008; Weber et
275 al., 2017). Our study took place outside the high Amazon flow period and the Chl concentrations and DDA
276 counts encountered on this cruise did not reach the values seen in ‘bloom conditions’ described during previous
277 studies in the region (Carpenter et al., 1999; Subramaniam et al., 2008). However, the DDA counts in certain
278 stations were up to 3 orders of magnitude higher than surrounding waters and comparable to the open ocean
279 DDA blooms seen in the North Pacific gyre (Villareal et al., 2011, 2012). These strong gradients permitted
280 investigation of relationships between DDA and HG distributions.

281 The concentrations of the C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol were correlated with the cell counts of
282 different diazotrophs. The concentrations of both the C₅ HGs (C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol) exhibited the most
283 significant positive Pearson correlation with the number of *Hemiaulus* symbionts ($p \leq 0.001$, $r = 0.79$ and 0.78
284 respectively, n=54). While these long-chain C₅ heterocyst glycolipids (HGs) have been found in cultures of
285 DDAs (Bale et al., 2015; Schouten et al., 2013), our study of the tropical north Atlantic provides to the best of
286 our knowledge for the first time, environmental evidence that long-chain C₅ HGs track the abundance and
287 distribution of DDAs.

288 Interestingly, there was no significant correlation found between the number of *Rhizosolenia* symbionts
289 and the concentration of the C₅ HGs (C₅ HG₃₀ triol: $p = 0.07$, $r = 0.23$ and C₅ HG₃₂ triol: $p = 0.14$, $r = 0.19$),
290 except when the surface and BWML of Station 8 were excluded from the analysis (C₅ HG₃₀ triol: $p \leq 0.001$, $r =$
291 0.88 ; and C₅ HG₃₂ triol: $p \leq 0.001$, $r = 0.83$). This difference may in part be due to the lower number of
292 *Rhizosolenia/Guinaridia* symbionts relative to *Hemiaulus* symbionts (on average *Rhizosolenia* symbionts in this
293 study represented 24 ± 34 % of the sum of *Rhizosolenia* and *Hemiaulus* symbionts), similar to previous findings
294 that *Hemiaulus* dominated over *Rhizosolenia* in the Amazon plume (Foster et al., 2007) and Caribbean region

295 (Villareal, 1994). Furthermore, culture studies have shown that *Rhizosolenia* symbionts contain only trace
296 amounts of C₅ HG₃₀ triol, (Bale et al., 2015), whereas this is a dominant HG in *Hemiaulus* symbionts (Schouten
297 et al., 2013). Unfortunately, a unique biomarker for *Rhizosolenia* and *Guinardia* symbionts has not been
298 identified to date (Bale et al., 2015; Schouten et al., 2013). There was also a significant correlation between C₅
299 HG₃₂ triol, (but not C₅ HG₃₀ triol) and the counts of *Guinardia cylindrus* (formerly *Rhizosolenia cylindrus*) ($p \leq$
300 0.03, $r = 0.49$, $n=21$). This was the only species for which there was a correlation with C₅ HG₃₂ triol but not C₅
301 HG₃₀ triol. This DDA has not been cultured and nothing is known about the heterocyst lipid composition of this
302 species. These results suggest C₅ HG₃₀ triol may be synthesized by this species.

303 At approximately half of the sampling points, glycolipids could be detected in SPM where no DDAs
304 were observed by microscopy. This difference may be result of the difference in total sampling volumes between
305 the two methods which led to a higher probability that the lipid samples would contain symbiont chains than the
306 microscopy samples. In addition, microscopic examinations may have missed heterocysts that were incorporated
307 into unrecognizable masses in aggregates, whereas UHPLC-HRMS may have still detected the associated HGs.
308 Indeed, copepod grazing in the plume (Conroy et al., 2016) will repackage *Richelia* trichomes, and little is
309 known of the effects of gut passage on heterocyst and HG integrity. It should also be noted that because
310 sampling for diazotroph enumeration and for lipid analysis occurred via different methods, there was a time
311 offset of ≤ 5 h and a depth offset of ≤ 20 m between the two sampling events representing the same water column
312 phenomena (surface, BWML and DCM).

313 Unexpectedly, a significant correlation was also found for C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol and the
314 number of *Trichodesmium* colonies ($p \leq 0.001$, $r = 0.68$ and 0.67 , $n=54$), and for C₅ HG₃₀ triol and the number of
315 *Trichodesmium* filaments ($p \leq 0.05$, $r = 0.30$, $n=54$). These correlations could be coincidental as C₅ HG
316 producing organisms have not been described in association with *Trichodesmium* nor would *Trichodesmium* be
317 expected to produce HGs itself as it does not use heterocysts to fix nitrogen. A recent study in the North Pacific
318 Subtropical Gyre found that *Trichodesmium* colonies were harboring an endobiontic heterocystous cyanobacteria
319 of the genus *Calothrix* (Momper et al., 2015). However, analyses of the HG content of both freshwater and
320 marine *Calothrix* cultures have to date only revealed the presence of C₆ HGs, not C₅ HGs (Bauersachs et al.,
321 2009a; Schouten et al., 2013; Wörmer et al., 2012). Furthermore, no heterocystous cyanobacteria were observed
322 in *Trichodesmium* from the Caribbean (Borstad, 1978) or southwest Sargasso Sea (Siddiqui et al., 1992).
323 *Trichodesmium* is reported to have a physiological differentiated cell (diazocyte) that permits N₂-fixation in an
324 oxygenated colony or trichome, and which lacks the thickened cell envelope of heterocysts where HGs are
325 localized (Sandh et al., 2012).

326 While elevated HGs were statistically more associated with the DDA blooms than either free or
327 colonial *Trichodesmium*, there was frequently a co-occurrence of *Trichodesmium* with the DDA taxa (Fig. 4)
328 which could also contribute to the unexpected correlation. The *Trichodesmium* distribution appears to contrast
329 with the findings of Foster et al. (2007), Goes et al. (2014) and Subramaniam et al. (2008), who all concluded
330 that changing nutrient availability as reflected in the salinity gradient along the Amazon River plume led to
331 zonation of the diazotroph community. However, their data were examining more pronounced DDA cell
332 abundance concentrations under much higher Amazon plume flow conditions. The broader features of our
333 observations, i.e. a low salinity region with higher nutrient concentrations and few diazotrophs transitioning to

334 strong diazotroph gradients in the salinity gradient to oceanic conditions, are in concordance with their
335 observations.

336 Visual examination of the correlations between the C₅ HG concentration and the four major diazotrophs
337 groups (*Hemiaulus* symbionts, *Rhizosolenia* symbionts, *Trichodesmium* colonies and *Trichodesmium* filaments)
338 showed a clear outlier in the *Hemiaulus* symbiont regression curve, i.e. station 8 at 10 m water depth. As the
339 DDAs and *Trichodesmium* are all surface dwellers (upper 5 m) we postulated that this depth contained detrital
340 HGs not reflecting living heterocystous cyanobacteria. Hence we also plotted the four regressions for only
341 surface data (n=19, Fig. S2b). The correlation between the number of *Hemiaulus* symbionts and the C₅ HG
342 concentration became substantially stronger ($p < 0.001$, $r^2 = 0.97$), as did that of the *Trichodesmium* colonies (p
343 < 0.001 , $r^2 = 0.94$). However, closer examination showed that one station, again station 8, with unusually high
344 levels of both *Hemiaulus* symbionts and *Trichodesmium* colonies (station 8) was responsible for these high
345 correlation coefficients. Removal of station 8 from the regressions (n = 18, Fig. S2c) revealed that the number of
346 *Hemiaulus* symbionts still correlated with the C₅ HG concentration ($p < 0.001$, $r^2 = 0.67$) but the correlation with
347 *Trichodesmium* colonies had disappeared ($p = 0.47$, $r^2 = 0.03$). Interestingly in this third sample subset there was
348 also a significant correlation between the number of *Rhizosolenia* symbionts and the C₅ HG concentration ($p <$
349 0.001 , $r^2 = 0.56$).

350
351 Two C₆ HGs, generally associated with free-living heterocyst forming cyanobacteria from freshwater or
352 brackish environments (Bale et al., 2015, 2016, Bauersachs et al., 2009b, 2010, 2011; Bühring et al., 2014;
353 Wörmer et al., 2012) were identified only in the DCM of Station 20a (C₆ HG₂₆ diol and C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol).
354 Whereas in this study the two C₆ HGs were found at a similar concentration to each other, previous studies have
355 reported that C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol was detected as a minor component relative to the more abundant C₆ HG₂₆ diol
356 (Bale et al., 2015, 2016, Bauersachs et al., 2009a, 2009b, 2011; Schouten et al., 2013; Wörmer et al., 2012). An
357 earlier study executed nearer to the mouth of the Amazon river detected trace levels of C₆ HG₂₆ diol (but not C₆
358 HG₂₆ keto-ol) in surface sediments (Bale et al., 2015). In contrast, both C₆ HG₂₆ diol and C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol were
359 recorded in freshwater Amazon River water and floodplain lake sediment.

360 There are reports of cyanobacterial species in cohabitation with other planktonic organisms such as the
361 floating macroalgae *Sargassum* (Carpenter, 1972; Hanson, 1977; Phlips et al., 1986) and *Trichodesmium*
362 (Momper et al., 2015). While the HG content of the cyanobacteria in these co-habitations has not been
363 investigated, these cyanobacteria are in the same families as known C₆ HG producers (Bauersachs et al., 2009a;
364 Schouten et al., 2013; Wörmer et al., 2012). *Trichodesmium* was not detected by microscopy at this sampling
365 point, however as stated above, there is an apparent difference regarding the limit of detection between counting
366 by microscopy and lipid analysis by UHPLC-HRMS. Floating 'fields' of *Sargassum* were regularly encountered
367 during the research cruise, with the maximum observations occurring around Station 16. Further work on the HG
368 composition of the cyanobacteria found in these cohabitations would be necessary to draw conclusions as to
369 whether they contributed to the source of the two C₆ HGs detected at this sampling point.

370 **4.2 C₅ Heterocyst glycolipids below the DCM**

371 While the concentration of the C₅ HGs was generally highest within the mixed layer (ML, cf. Fig. 4f), Station 10
372 exhibited an increase in C₅ HG concentration with depth with C₅ HGs in both the 0.3 μm and 0.7 μm samples

373 increasing with depth to a maximum at 200 m (Fig. 5). The two size fraction profiles were carried out
374 approximately 12 hours apart and suggests that the HG maxima at 200 m was a feature for at least this period of
375 time. Station 9 was the only other station where the C₅ HG concentration (0.7 μm) at the DCM was higher than
376 in the ML (cf. Table S1). Foster et al. (2007) reported that DDAs are high in the ML but can increase below the
377 ML down to at least 100 m. Sediment trap studies in the North Pacific and tropical North Atlantic ocean have
378 found significant contributions by DDAs to the vertically exported particulate organic carbon (Karl et al., 2012;
379 Scharek et al., 1999; Subramaniam et al., 2008). While our study did not utilize sediment traps to collect sinking
380 particles, a proportion of the matter collected by in situ filtration is probably sinking rather than suspended
381 (Abramson et al., 2010). C₅ HGs have been found in surface sediment at depths up to 3000 m underlying our
382 water column sampling points (this study and Bale et al. (2015)), supporting the hypothesis that DDAs are
383 effectively transported in this environment from the water column to the sediment. These sinking particles could
384 be due to bloom-termination and aggregation or sinking of zooplankton fecal pellets.

385 **4.3 C₅ Heterocyst glycolipids in surface sediment**

386 As was found in a previous study concentrating on a smaller area close to the mouth of the Amazon (Bale et al.,
387 2015), the presence of a similar distribution of C₅ HGs in SPM and surface sediment indicates that HG producers
388 sink, probably enhanced by the mineral ballast as well as matrix protection provided by the association with
389 diatom silica skeletons. The total C₅ HG concentration in surface sediments was more spatially homogenous than
390 the distribution in the SPM (Table 1). Other than the two stations very close to the coast (where currents were
391 high and the TOC content was at its lowest), the HGs were detected in comparably high levels from Station 7
392 onwards. This reflects the wide spatial range of the HG-producers through an ‘integrated’ multi-decadal record
393 of their deposition. Each year between June and January, the Amazon plume is retroflected offshore, across the
394 Atlantic towards Africa due to the actions of the North Brazil Current and the North Equatorial Countercurrent,
395 which may account for the presence of the C₅ HGs in the surface sediments of Station 1 - 10. The rest of the year
396 the Amazon water flows northwestward towards the Caribbean Sea as the countercurrent and the retroflection
397 weaken or vanish (Muller-Karger et al., 1988), in turn accounting for the C₅ HGs in the surface sediments of
398 Station 13 - 23.

399 **5. Conclusions**

400 Long-chain C₅ HGs were detected in the water column of the tropical North Atlantic and their concentrations
401 correlated strongly with DDAs. Furthermore, the HGs tracked the movement of the DDAs to the surface
402 sediments in areas known to be impacted by high seasonal DDA input (under the Amazon plume) whereas the
403 HG concentration in sediment farther away from plume was low. We conclude that long-chain C₅ HGs provide a
404 robust, reliable method for detecting DDAs in the marine environment. The apparent stability and specificity of
405 C₅ HGs mean that they have high potential for use in future work examining the presence and N-cycling role of
406 DDAs in the past.

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- 589
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591 **Figure legends**

592 **Figure 1.** Structures of the heterocyst glycolipids detected in this study C₆ glycolipids: 1-(O-hexose)-3,25-
593 hexacosanediol (C₆ HG₂₆ diol), 1-(O-hexose)-3-keto-25-hexacosanol (C₆ HG₂₆ keto-ol). C₅ glycolipids: 1-(O-
594 ribose)-3,29-triacontanediol (C₅ HG₃₀ diol), 1-(O-ribose)-3,27,29-triacontanetriol (C₅ HG₃₀ triol), 1-(O-ribose)-
595 3,29,32-dotriacontanetriol (C₅ HG₃₂ triol). Grey box indicates glycolipids associated with DDAs

596
597 **Figure 2.** Map of tropical North Atlantic showing the study site. Location of the stations indicated. Aquarius sea-
598 surface salinity (SSS) satellite data from ERDAPP (30 day composite, centered on 01-Sept-14,
599 <https://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/index.html>).

600
601 **Figure 3.** Water column characteristics along the cruise track. Color scales show a) temperature, b) chlorophyll
602 fluorescence (from fluorometer on CTD), c) PO₄³⁻ (color scale) and d) Si. Contour lines show salinity (a, b, d)
603 and NO₃⁻ + NO₂ (c). Station numbers noted above plots, distance along transect from the Cape Verde Islands
604 below.

605
606 **Figure 4.** Diazotroph abundance along the cruise track. Color scales show a) *Rhizosolenia* symbionts (trichomes
607 L⁻¹), b) *Hemiaulus* symbionts (trichomes L⁻¹), c) *Guinardia* symbionts (trichomes L⁻¹), d) *Trichodesmium* (free
608 trichomes L⁻¹) and e) *Trichodesmium* (colonies L⁻¹) while contour lines show salinity (a – e). f) Color scale
609 shows concentration of C₅ HG₃₀ triol (pg L⁻¹) while contour lines show C₅ HG₃₂ triol % (of C₅ total sum). Station
610 numbers above plots, distance along transect from the Cape Verde Islands below. Dots in Fig. 4a-c indicate
611 sampling depth for the salinity contours. Fig. 4d-e indicate sampling depth for HG lipids (Fig. 4f.). See
612 comments in text regarding *Trichodesmium* colony contouring artifacts.

613
614 **Figure 5.** Station 10, down column profile of C₅ HG sum (C₅ HG₃₀ triol + C₅ HG₃₂ triol, pg L⁻¹) from 0.7 μm
615 GF/F filters (grey dashed line) and 0.3 μm GF75 filters (solid black line).

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619

620 Table 1. Glycolipid concentrations from sea surface (3 – 5m) and surface sediment for all stations. For
 621 concentrations at bottom wind mixed layer (BWML) and deep chl maximum (DCM) see Table S3. † = No
 622 sediment collected, ns = not sampled.

Station	Lat	Long	Date	Water depth (m)	Salinity	Sea surface		Surface sediment		TOC (%)
						C ₅ HG ₃₀ triol (pg L ⁻¹)	C ₅ HG ₃₂ triol (pg L ⁻¹)	C ₅ HG ₃₀ triol (ng g ⁻¹)	C ₅ HG ₃₂ triol (ng g ⁻¹)	
1	15.02	-30.56	29/08/14	5500	36.4	18.0	0.00	1.7 ± 0.4	0.2 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0
2 †	14.35	-32.58	30/08/14	6300	36.5	ns	ns	†	†	†
3	13.16	-36.21	31/08/14	5190	36.4	24.6	0.00	3.3 ± 0.8	0.4 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0
4 †	12.41	-38.50	01/09/14	4810	36.2	40.9	0.00	†	†	†
5	10.83	-40.47	02/09/14	4620	36.0	8.9	0.00	2.3 ± 0.9	0.3 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1
6 †	9.41	-42.10	03/09/14	3610	36.1	27.3	0.00	†	†	†
7	7.52	-44.28	04/09/14	4650	33.5	773	66.2	14.6 ± 6.8	1.7 ± 1.0	0.7 ± 0.0
8	6.49	-45.45	05/09/14	4250	31.9	4837	469	9.7 ± 1.7	1.0 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0
9	5.60	-46.40	06/09/14	3770	32.2	24.6	0.00	4.8 ± 0.6	0.4 ± 0.0	0.5 ± 0.0
10	6.68	-47.49	07/09/14	4080	31.3	13.3	0.00	6.8 ± 4.4	0.7 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.0
11	5.53	-51.50	10/09/14	80	29.2	0.00	0.00	0.2 ± 0.1	0.01 ± 0.01	0.1 ± 0.0
12	6.07	-52.46	10/09/14	70	35.4	3.01	0.00	0.3 ± 0.1	0.01 ± 0.01	0.3 ± 0.1
13	7.60	-53.02	11/09/14	1000	32.8	31.1	0.00	7.4 ± 3.0	0.9 ± 0.4	1.2 ± 0.0
14	9.53	-51.32	12/09/14	4840	31.4	31.6	6.2	13.5 ± 1.4	1.3 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.0
15 †	8.95	-49.98	13/09/14	4660	32.7	565	24.4	†	†	†
16	10.22	-51.88	14/09/14	4940	33.9	391	27.3	13.0 ± 6.1	1.6 ± 0.5	1.0 ± 0.1
17	9.90	-53.27	15/09/14	4750	31.6	379	15.5	9.4 ± 3.0	0.9 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.1
18 †	9.37	-55.20	16/09/14	3590	33.2	611	67.2	†	†	†
19 †	10.52	-55.48	16/09/14	4180	32.8	390	34.5	†	†	†
20a	11.27	-54.16	17/09/14	4790	33.9	2.3	0.0	17.6 ± 7.0	1.4 ± 1.2	0.8 ± 0.0
20b †	11.47	-54.21	17/09/14	4830	34.2	67.7	0.0	†	†	†
21a	13.02	-54.67	18/09/14	5040	33.8	196	9.8	12.9 ± 1.7	1.6 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0
21b †	13.20	-54.72	18/09/14	5170	34.8	249	6.5	†	†	†
22	14.80	-55.18	19/09/14	5500	35.6	48.6	0.4	13.4 ± 4.5	2.4 ± 1.1	0.7 ± 0.1
23	15.79	-57.05	20/09/14	5320	34.0	106	5.9	9.8 ± 3.5	1.4 ± 0.5	0.6 ± 0.0

Table 2. The additional SPM samples collected for high resolution depth profile at Station 10 (0.3 μm GF/F). * =
625 Deep chlorophyll maximum.

Sampling depth (m)	Salinity	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	C ₅ HG ₃₀ triol ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	C ₅ HG ₃₂ triol ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	Sum ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)
20	35.3	28.6	5.6	0.0	5.6
50*	36.4	27.3	9.6	0.0	9.6
200	35.2	11.4	108	0.3	108
400	34.7	7.4	24.4	0.1	24.5
600	34.6	6.3	29.0	0.1	29.1
800	34.6	5.1	22.5	0.4	22.9
1000	34.7	4.7	11.9	0.2	12.2
1200	34.8	4.8	12.6	0.2	12.8
1500	35.0	4.5	16.2	0.3	16.5
2000	35.0	3.4	18.3	0.3	18.6
2500	34.9	2.8	20.7	0.4	21.0
3000	34.9	2.4	22.3	0.3	22.6

Supplement

Supplementary Figures

630 **Figure S1.** Aquarius sea-surface salinity (SSS) satellite data (7 day composites), centered on (DD/MM/YY) a)
27/08/14, b) 03/09/14, c) 10/09/14, d) 17/09/14 and e) 24/09/14 showing highly dynamic plume location.
Approximate location of R/V *Pelagia* indicated with purple circle.

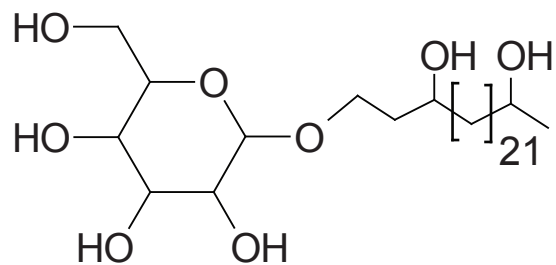
Figure S2. Regression curves of the C₅ HG concentration against the number of *Hemiaulus* symbionts,
Rhizosolenia symbionts, *Trichodesmium* colonies and *Trichodesmium* filaments for a) all the data (n=54) b) only
635 surface data (n=19) and c) surface data without station 8 (n = 18).

Supplementary Tables

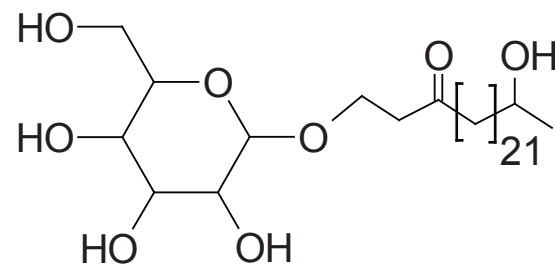
Table S1. Phytoplankton composition from Chemtax software based on pigment analysis. Numbers represent
fraction of total Chl a. Fractions greater than 0.5 are highlighted in red and fractions between 0.1 and 0.2 are
640 highlighted in purple. BWML = bottom wind mixed layer, DCM = deep chl maximum.

Table S2. Diazotroph enumeration data. 5 categories: three are symbionts (syms, trichomes L⁻¹), with the
diatoms *Rhizosolenia clevei*, *Hemiaulus hauckii*, and *Guinardia cylindrus*, and two non-symbionts,
Trichodesmium colonies (colonies L⁻¹) and free *Trichodesmium* trichomes (trichomes L⁻¹).

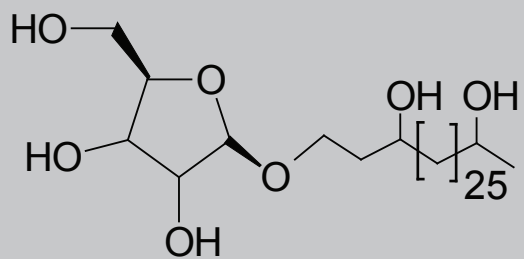
645 **Table S3.** Glycolipid concentration data. Concentration of C₅ HG₃₀ triol and C₅ HG₃₂ triol ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) along with
concentration of Chl a (ng L^{-1}) as measured by HPLC.



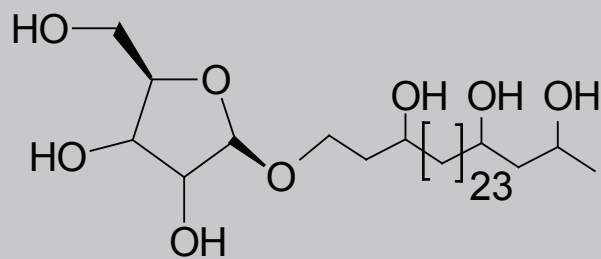
C_6 HG₂₆ diol



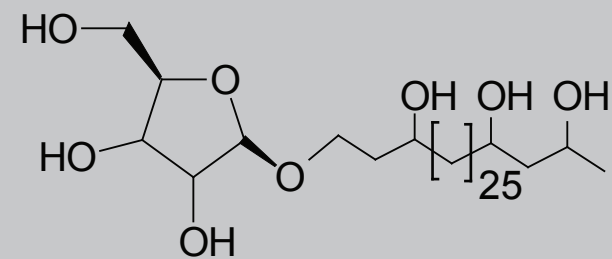
C_6 HG₂₆ keto-ol



C_5 HG₃₀ diol



C_5 HG₃₀ triol



C_5 HG₃₂ triol

