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Koji Suzuki  
Associate Editor  
Biogeosciences

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Dear Koji

Please find attached a new revised version of manuscript entitled “Spatial and temporal variability in the response of phytoplankton and bacterioplankton to B-vitamin amendments in an upwelling system”. The manuscript was co-authored by myself, Antero Prieto, Esther Barber-Lluch, Marta Hernández-Ruiz, Emilio Fernández and Eva Teira.

We are grateful that you have appreciated the effort to improve this work. All suggested changes have been considered as well as all the issues raised have been answered.

A detailed response to all comments is attached. The suggestions and comments of the reviewer are in plain font and our responses are in italic and blue font. The revised version of the manuscript with marked changes is also provided.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Vanessa Joglar

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Review v2 of “Spatial and temporal variability in the response of phytoplankton and bacterioplankton to B-vitamin amendments in an upwelling system” by Joglar et al.

## **General comments**

The authors have put considerable effort into responding to all my previous concerns. The sampling campaign is definitely impressive, as well as the work that went in to the study and I think that the results and discussions makes this effort justice now.

I have some minor comments for the author, to further help with the readability and clarity of the manuscript. Some points are purely editorial whilst others needs to be answered and the text changed. I would also like to congratulate the authors on a job well done, both on the cruise, lab and writing a very interesting manuscript.

*We very much appreciate the very constructive revision made by the reviewer.*

## **Specific comments**

### **Introduction**

L36-39; I feel the text would benefit from more precise examples, e.g. cyanobacterial blooms, red tides etc.

*Precise examples have been added (L37-39)*

L71; change “drive” to thrive?

*This has been changed (L73)*

### **Methods**

L213; change “inned” to inner.

*This has been corrected (L214)*

L226; For clarity, add pmol l<sup>-1</sup> after 0.04.

*Units have been included (L227)*

L263; μm is in blue, change to black.

*This has been changed (L264)*

L282; For clarity, I would like that the non-normal variables are stated somewhere, either here or in supplementary material.

*Non-normal variables have been included (L284)*

L288-289; Did you only compare differences between treatments and the control and not between all treatments? If so, why?

*We compared all treatments but only reported differences between B vitamins and the control, inorganic nutrients and the control and B vitamins+Inorganic nutrients and the inorganic nutrients, in order to simplify the result section.*

L289-292; I realize this might be due to different traditions, but for me non-metric multidimensional scaling is abbreviated as nMDS. It is no requirement to change, I simply wanted to raise the concern.

*This has been corrected (L292)*

## **Results**

L339; change “below of” to “below the”.

*This has been changed (L340)*

L341-342; Does this statement relate to the average chl a levels, per month? If so it should be stated more clearly. If not, this does not seem to be the case in some days (a, b and c). Please look into this and change statement if needed or clarify.

*This has been clarified (L342)*

L343; Add reference to figure 3d-f.

*This has been included (L345)*

L357; “... sampling dates...”, maybe change to cruise if applicable.

*This has been changed (L358)*

L360; “... but their abundance...” add “relative” for clarity.

*This has been clarified (L361)*

L372; Add “.” before Average...

*This has been corrected (L373).*

L373; what does “gl=10” mean? If it is degrees of freedom, use df. In not you should still state df.

*This has been corrected (L374)*

L380-381; “However, Chl-a mostly decreased in the coastal experiments conducted in August (Fig. 5a and Fig. 5c).” I do not agree with this statement, as this is not was is shown in the figures. For instance, all bars in a shade of blue is always higher for the than t0 for August samplings.

*That phrase refers only to changes from t0 to the end-point in the control treatment (grey bars).*

L446; Even if the eukaryotic community composition did not correlate significantly, you should still present the correlation coefficient and p value for this.

*Correlation coefficient and p value for eukaryotes have been included (L446-448).*

L450; Maybe remove underscore in “SAR11\_clade”? If this is common practice, please ignore.

*SAR11\_clade has been replaced by SAR11 (L453)*

L458; Change to *Planktomarina*.

*This has been corrected (L461)*

## **Discussion**

L485; Change “bacteria” to prokaryotes.

*This has been changed (L488)*

L486; State which experiment situation you refer to.

*This has been corrected as we detected an error in this statement (L489-490)*

L494-499; This sentence is too long (63 words), please restructure to give the reader a chance to follow.

*This sentence has been restructured (L499-502)*

L530-533 and 544; Change “cobalamin” to B12.

*This has been changed (L534)*

L602; “Flavobacteriia”, is this correct?

*Flavobacteria and Flavobacteriia are both correct, any way, the name has been changed (L606).*

L608; Which predation do you refer to? Zooplankton or mixotrophs? Please clarify.

*This has been clarified (L612)*

## **Figure captions**

L985-989; Add space between *shelf* and (*Oc*). You do not have any ns in figure, can be removed?

*This has been corrected (L990-993)*

L991-995. This figure caption is incorrect. Now you have more facets/mosaics, please update the caption accordingly.

*This has been corrected (L995-1002)*

L1005-1009. In the figure you have 5m and SCM, but in caption you have surface and SCM. I would suggest changing the figure x axes. Add information about SCM.

*This has been corrected (L1013-1016)*

L1011-1015; In the figure you have surface and SCM, but in caption you have 5m and SCM. Please be consistent. Change “(c) SCM” to (d) SCM.

*This has been corrected (L1020)*

L1023-1030; Change “bars” to dots or points. Add information about error bars.

*This has been changed (L1032-1037)*

L1032-1039; You don't have any “numbers” anymore. Can be removed from caption.

*This has been corrected (L1044)*

## **Figures**

**Figure 8;** In the figure you have 5m and SCM, but in the manuscript you have surface and SCM. Please be consistent.

*This has been corrected*

## **Supplement information**

**Figure S1;** In the figure you have 5m and SCM, but in the manuscript you have surface and SCM. Please be consistent.

*This has been corrected*

**Figure S3 + caption;** State that y axis is broken for a and b.

*This has been added (L40 in the supplement)*

1 **Spatial and temporal variability in the response of**  
2 **phytoplankton and bacterioplankton to B-vitamin**  
3 **amendments in an upwelling system**

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9

10 **Abstract.** We experimentally evaluated the temporal (inter-day and inter-season) and  
11 spatial variability in microbial plankton responses to vitamin B12 and/or B1 supply  
12 (solely or in combination with inorganic nutrients) in coastal and oceanic waters of the  
13 northeast Atlantic Ocean. Phytoplankton and, to a lesser extent, prokaryotes were strongly  
14 limited by inorganic nutrients. Inter-day variability in microbial plankton responses to B-  
15 vitamins was limited compared to inter-season variability, suggesting that B-vitamins  
16 availability might be partially controlled by factors operating at seasonal scale.  
17 Chlorophyll-*a* (Chl-*a*) concentration and prokaryote biomass (PB) significantly increased  
18 after B-vitamin amendments in 13 % and 21 %, respectively, of the 216 cases (36  
19 experiments x 6 treatments). Most of these positive responses were produced by  
20 treatments containing either B12 solely or B12 combined with B1 in oceanic waters,  
21 which was consistent with the significantly lower average vitamin B12 ambient  
22 concentrations compared to that in the coastal station. Negative responses, implying a  
23 decrease in Chl-*a* or PB, represented 21 % for phytoplankton and 26 % for prokaryotes.  
24 Growth stimulation by B1 addition was more frequent on prokaryotes than in  
25 phytoplankton, suggesting that B1 auxotrophy in the sampling area could be more  
26 widespread in prokaryotes than in phytoplankton. Negative responses to B-vitamins were  
27 generalized in coastal [surface](#) waters in summer, and were associated to a high  
28 contribution of Flavobacteriales to the prokaryote community. This observation suggests  
29 that the external supply of B12 and/or B1 may promote negative interactions between  
30 microbial components when B-vitamin auxotrophs are abundant. The microbial response  
31 patterns to B12 and/or B1 amendments were significantly correlated with changes in the  
32 prokaryotic community composition, highlighting the pivotal role of prokaryotes in B-  
33 vitamins cycling in marine ecosystems.

34



## 35 **1 Introduction**

36 Phytoplankton accounts for almost half of the global net primary production (Field et al.,  
37 1998) and may eventually cause toxic episodes, such as [those caused by harmful algae](#)  
38 [blooms of \*Alexandrium\* spp or \*Gymnodinium\* spp](#), ~~those associated to the proliferation of~~  
39 ~~toxic-producing species~~, entailing human health problems and large economic losses  
40 (Hallegraeff, 1993; van Dolah et al., 2001). Recent emerging evidence suggests the role  
41 of biologically active organic compounds, such as B-vitamins, on the control of marine  
42 productivity in both coastal and oceanic waters (Panzeca et al., 2006; Bertrand et al.,  
43 2007; Gobler et al., 2007; Koch et al., 2011; Browning et al., 2017, 2018). B-vitamins act  
44 as cofactors for enzymatic reactions and are involved in many important metabolic  
45 pathways (Madigan et al., 2005; Koch et al., 2011; Monteverde et al., 2017). Vitamin B12  
46 (B12 herein), which is exclusively synthesized by some bacteria and archaea (Roth et al.,  
47 1996; Martens et al., 2002; Warren et al., 2002), acts as a cofactor of three enzymes in  
48 eukaryotes (methionine synthase, methylmalonyl-coA mutase and ribonucleotide  
49 reductase type II) (Helliwell et al., 2011; Bertrand and Allen, 2012). In comparison, over  
50 20 different B12-dependent enzymes are found in bacteria (Roth et al., 1996), making  
51 B12 critically important also for these organisms. Vitamin B1 (B1 herein) plays a pivotal  
52 role in intermediary carbon metabolism and is a cofactor for a number of enzymes  
53 involved in primary carbohydrate and branched-chain amino acid metabolism (Croft et  
54 al., 2006).

55 Most eukaryote phytoplankton species are auxotrophs for one or more B-vitamins,  
56 consequently requiring an exogenous supply of these molecules (Bertrand and Allen,  
57 2012; Carlucci and Bowes, 1970; Haines and Guillard, 1974; Helliwell et al., 2011).  
58 Moreover, genomic data also indicate widespread B-vitamins auxotrophy among many  
59 bacterial taxonomic groups (Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2014; Paerl et al., 2018), which

60 implies that phytoplankton and bacterioplankton may eventually compete for the  
61 acquisition of these compounds (Koch et al., 2012). Auxotrophic microorganisms may  
62 acquire the required vitamins from the environment or through biotic interactions with  
63 prototrophic (biosynthetically competent) microorganisms (Droop, 2007; Grant et al.,  
64 2014; Kazamia et al., 2012). A well-known example is the mutualistic interaction  
65 between B12 or B12 and B1 dependent phytoplankton and bacterioplankton (Croft et al.,  
66 2005; Amin et al., 2012; Cooper and Smith, 2015; Cruz-López and Maske, 2016).

67 Even though B-vitamins appear to be important and potentially limiting factors for  
68 microbial plankton, our understanding of B-vitamins cycling in the ocean is largely  
69 limited by the complex and still evolving analytical methodology for its quantification in  
70 natural waters (Okbami and Sañudo-Wilhelmy, 2004, 2005; Suffridge et al., 2017).  
71 Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al. (2012) found extensive areas of coastal waters with close to  
72 undetectable B12 concentrations, suggesting that microbes might be well adapted to  
73 [thrive](#) ~~drive~~ under limiting conditions for this growth factor.

74 The factors limiting phytoplankton and bacterial growth in marine ecosystems are known  
75 to vary over different spatial and temporal scales (Cullen et al., 1992; Arrigo, 2005;  
76 Martínez-García et al., 2010b; Moore et al., 2013), in accordance with the dynamic nature  
77 of microbial communities (Pinhassi et al., 2003; Fuhrman et al., 2008; Hernando-Morales  
78 et al., 2018). Compared to mineral nutrient and trace elements, much less is known about  
79 B vitamin limitation and its spatial and temporal variability in marine ecosystems.

80 Some studies have shown enhanced phytoplankton biomass associated to B12  
81 amendments in both temperate coastal and polar waters (Bertrand et al., 2007; Gobler et  
82 al., 2007; Koch et al., 2011, 2012). The simultaneous effect of vitamin B12 supply on  
83 both phytoplankton and bacteria has been barely explored (Koch et al., 2011, Barber-  
84 Lluç et al., 2019). To our knowledge, the effect of B1 amendments on marine natural

85 microbial plankton community succession has been only assessed by Gobler et al. (2007),  
86 who suggested that high concentration of B-vitamins, associated with high bacterial  
87 abundance, caused an increase in auxotrophs, mostly dinoflagellates.

88 The Ría de Vigo (NW Spain) is a coastal embayment affected by intermittent upwelling  
89 of subsurface cold and inorganic nutrient-rich water from March to September and the  
90 downwelling of open ocean surface water from October to March (Fraga, 1981; Barton  
91 et al., 2015). In addition to this seasonality, fluctuations of wind patterns in the area  
92 generate upwelling and downwelling events occurring within each season (Alvarez-  
93 Salgado et al., 1993; Figueiras et al., 2002). A recent study by Barber-Lluch et al. (2019)  
94 at a shelf station off the Ría de Vigo (NW Spain) showed monthly variation in the  
95 response of phytoplankton and bacteria to nutrient and/or B12 additions in surface waters,  
96 likely related to variation in the ambient concentration of B12 and the taxonomic  
97 community composition. Unfortunately, these authors did not specifically assess the role  
98 of these factors on the microbial response to the amendments.

99 Within this context, the aim of our study was to explore spatial (horizontal and vertical)  
100 and temporal (inter-day and inter-season) variability patterns in B12 and B1 vitamin  
101 limitation in relation to the prevailing initial abiotic (e.g., nutrient and B12  
102 concentrations) and biotic (eukaryote and prokaryote community composition)  
103 conditions in this productive ecosystem. We conducted a total of thirty-six microcosm  
104 bioassays in February, April, and August 2016 to evaluate the response of heterotrophic  
105 bacteria and phytoplankton biomasses to the addition of B12 and/or B1.

106 Considering that a large fraction of eukaryotic phytoplankton and bacterial taxa require  
107 exogenous B-vitamins and considering the different requirements and capabilities to  
108 synthesize B-vitamins by different microbial taxa, we hypothesize that microbial

109 community composition play a relevant role in explaining B-vitamins limitation patterns  
110 in microbial plankton.

111

## 112 **2 Methods**

### 113 **2.1 Sampling strategy**

114 Thirty-six enrichment experiments were performed in the upwelling system near Ría de  
115 Vigo on board “B/O Ramón Margalef” in three different oceanographic cruises  
116 (ENVISION I, II & III) conducted in 2016. Two different locations of the East Atlantic  
117 Ocean, one coastal station (C) (42° N, 8.88° W) and one oceanic station (Oc) (42° N, 9.06°  
118 W) (Fig. 1a), were sampled during three different seasons aimed to cover a wide range of  
119 initial hydrographic and ecological conditions. The 10-day cruises were conducted in  
120 February (ENVISION I), coinciding with the spring bloom, and April (ENVISION II)  
121 and August (ENVISION III) during the early and late summer upwelling, respectively.  
122 During each cruise, 12 enrichment experiments were carried out on board, 3 experiments  
123 in each station (C-a, C-b & C-c and Oc-a, Oc-b & Oc-c, respectively) with water from  
124 two different depths. Each experiment began on the first (day 0), third (day 2) and sixth  
125 (day 5) of each cruise for the coast and on the second (day 1), fourth (day 3) and seventh  
126 (day 6) of each cruise for the ocean (Fig. 1b, c). Water was collected using 20 l Niskin  
127 metal-free bottles. Surface (5 m) and sub-surface chlorophyll maximum (SCM) (between  
128 10 m and 50 m according to the CTD data) samples were taken (Fig. 2a-f). We failed to  
129 sample the SCM on two occasions (C-a in February and C-a in April), due to large vertical  
130 displacements between the downward and the upward casts. Vertical profiles of  
131 temperature, salinity and chlorophyll fluorescence were obtained using a regular stainless  
132 CTD-rosette down to 60 m in the coastal station and to 200 m in oceanic station. Samples

133 for chlorophyll-a (Chl-*a*), prokaryotic biomass (PB), dissolved nutrient concentration,  
134 including vitamin B12, and microbial plankton community were collected at the  
135 beginning (time zero, hereafter referred to as  $t_0$ ) of each enrichment experiment. Daily  
136 upwelling index (UI) values were computed by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía  
137 ([www.indicedeafloramiento.ieo.es/](http://www.indicedeafloramiento.ieo.es/)) in a  $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$  geostrophic cell centered at  $42^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $10^\circ\text{W}$ , using data from atmospheric pressure at sea level, derived from the WXMAP model  
139 (Gonzalez-Nuevo et al., 2014). Precipitation data was obtained from the Regional  
140 Weather Forecast Agency-Meteogalicia (<http://www.meteogalicia.gal>) in the  
141 meteorological station Illas Cies (ID 10125).

## 142 **2.2. Experimental design**

143 Seawater samples were gently pre-filtered through a  $200\ \mu\text{m}$  mesh to exclude large  
144 zooplankton in order to ensure good replicability and collected into a 20 l acid-cleaned  
145 polyethylene carboy. It is important to note that incidental trace-metal contamination  
146 could have occurred during water collection. Following sample collection, 300 ml PAR  
147 and UVR transparent, sterile, and non-toxic (whirl-pak) bags were filled and nutrients  
148 were added establishing eight different enrichment treatments as follows: (1) control  
149 treatment (C); (2) inorganic nutrient treatment (I); (3) vitamin B12 (Sigma, V2876)  
150 treatment; (4) vitamin B1 (Sigma, T4625) treatment; (5) Inorganic nutrients and vitamin  
151 B12 (I+B12) treatment; (6) Inorganic nutrients and vitamin B1 (I+B1) treatment; (7)  
152 vitamins B12 and B1 (B12+B1) treatment and (8) Inorganic nutrients with vitamins B12  
153 and B1 (I+B12+B1) treatment (see Table 1 for details). Inorganic nutrients were added to  
154 avoid that inorganic nutrient limitation masked the responses to B vitamins. The nutrient  
155 concentrations of the additions were the same as previously used in similar enrichment  
156 experiments in the sampling area (Martinez-García et al., 2010a). The amount of B12 and  
157 B1 vitamin experimentally added approximated maximum concentrations previously

158 observed in coastal areas (Okbami and Sañudo-Wilhelmy 2004, 2005, Sañudo-  
159 Wilhelmy et al., 2006). Each treatment had 3 replicates resulting in 24 whirl-pack bags  
160 per experiment. To assess short-term effects of nutrient inputs, experimental bags were  
161 incubated on-deck during 72 h. In-situ temperature was reproduced by submerging the  
162 bags in tanks filled with constantly circulating surface seawater. To simulate light  
163 intensity at the SCM the incident light was attenuated by covering the tanks with mesh  
164 screens.

### 165 **2.3 Chlorophyll-*a***

166 Chlorophyll-*a* (Chl-*a*) concentration was measured at  $t_0$  and after 72 h incubation as a  
167 phytoplankton biomass proxy. 300 ml of water samples were filtered through 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$   
168 polycarbonate filters and frozen at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  until further analysis. Chl-*a* was extracted with  
169 90 % acetone and kept in darkness at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  overnight. Fluorescence was determined with a  
170 TD-700 Turner Designs fluorometer calibrated with pure Chl-*a* (absorption coefficient at  
171  $665\text{ nm} = 12.6$ ) standard solution.

### 172 **2.4 Flow cytometry**

173 Samples for prokaryote abundance quantification (2 ml) were preserved with 1 %  
174 paraformaldehyde + 0.05 % glutaraldehyde (final concentrations). Samples were  
175 incubated 20 min for the fixative to act on cells, immersed in liquid nitrogen for 15 min,  
176 and frozen at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ . Abundance of prokaryotes was determined using a FACSCalibur  
177 flow cytometer equipped with a laser emitting at 488nm. Samples were stained with  
178 SYBR Green DNA fluorochrome, and bacterial abundance was detected by their  
179 signature of side scatter (SSC) and green fluorescence as described by Gasol and Del  
180 Giorgio, 2000. The empirical calibration between light side scatter (SSC) and cell  
181 diameter described by Calvo-Díaz and Moran (2006) were used to estimate cell

182 biovolume (BV). BV was converted into biomass by using the allometric factor of  
183 Norland (1993:  $\text{fg C cell}^{-1} = 120 \times \text{BV}^{0.72}$ ) for the coastal experiments and using the open  
184 ocean conversion factor for the oceanic experiments ( $\text{fg C cell}^{-1} = 350 \times \text{BV}$ ).

## 185 **2.5 Nutrients**

186 Aliquots for inorganic nutrient determinations (ammonium, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate,  
187 and silicate) were collected before all other variables and directly from the Niskin bottle  
188 in order to avoid contamination. Polyethylene bottles (50 ml) precleaned with 5 % HCl  
189 were filled with the sample using contamination-free plastic gloves and immediately  
190 frozen at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis using standard colorimetric methods with a Bran-Luebbe  
191 segmented flow analyzer (Hansen and Grasshoff 1983). The detection limit was  $0.1 \mu\text{mol}$   
192  $\text{l}^{-1}$  for nitrate,  $0.02 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$  for nitrite and phosphate and  $0.05 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$  for ammonium  
193 and silicate. Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) concentration was calculated as the sum  
194 of the ammonium, nitrite and nitrate concentrations.

## 195 **2.6 Vitamin B12**

196 Seawater samples for dissolved vitamin analysis were taken at surface and SCM depth on  
197 day 1, day 3 and day 5 in the coastal, and on day 1, day 3 and day 6 oceanic station of  
198 each cruise (Table S1 in the Supplement). Samples were filtered through  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$  sterivex  
199 filters and frozen at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until further analysis. Samples (1 l) were preconcentrated using  
200 a solid-phase extraction with a C18 resin (Bondesil C18, Agilent) at pH 6.5 and rate of  
201  $1 \text{ml/min}$ . Elution was performed with 12 ml of methanol (MeOH) LCMS grade that was  
202 removed via evaporation with nitrogen in a Turbovap. Gas pressure was initially set at 5  
203 PSI and was slowly increased to 15 PSI until 300-500  $\mu\text{l}$  of sample remained. The  
204 concentrated samples were frozen at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until further analysis using liquid  
205 chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry system.

206 The concentrate was filtered again through a cellular acetate membrane 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$   
207 (Phenomenex) prior to the analysis. Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography tandem  
208 Mass Spectrometry 3Q (UPLC-MS/MS) methodology was adapted from Sañudo-  
209 Wilhelmy et al. (2012), Heal et al. (2014) and Suffridge et al. (2017). Detection and  
210 quantification of dissolved vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin and hydroxocobalamin) was  
211 conducted using an Agilent 1290 Infinity LC system (Agilent Technologies, Waghaeusel-  
212 Wiesental, Germany), coupled to an Agilent G6460A triple quadrupole mass  
213 spectrometer equipped with an Agilent Jet Stream ESI source. The LC system used a C18  
214 reversed-phase column (Agilent Zorbax SB-C18 Rapid Resolution HT (2.1 inner  
215 diameter  $\times$  50 mm length, 1.8  $\mu\text{m}$  particle size) with a 100  $\mu\text{l}$  sample loop. Agilent  
216 Technologies software was used for data acquisition and analysis. Chromatographic  
217 separation was performed using MeOH and water LCMS grade, both buffered to pH 5  
218 with 0.5 % acetic acid, as mobile phases in a 15 minutes' gradient. Gradient starting at 7  
219 % MeOH for 2 min, changing to 100 % MeOH by minute 11, continuing at 100 % MeOH  
220 until 13.5 min and returning to initial conditions to complete 15 min. Limits of detection  
221 (LODs) and limits of quantification (LOQs) were determined using sequential dilutions  
222 of the lowest point of the calibration curves. LODs were defined as the lowest detectable  
223 concentration of the analyte with a signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio for the qualitative transition  
224 of at least 3. In the same way, LOQs were defined as the lowest quantifiable  
225 concentration with a S/N ratio of 10 for the quantitative transition. S/N ratios were  
226 calculated using the Mass Hunter Workstation software B.04.01. The LODs obtained  
227 were 0.04  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$  for hydroxocobalamin (OHB12) and 0.01  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$  for cyanocobalamin  
228 (CNB12), while the LOQs values were 0.05 and 0.025  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$  for OHB12 and CNB12,  
229 respectively. The average B12 recovery percentage after pre-concentration and extraction  
230 of B-vitamin spiked samples was 93%. B-vitamin free seawater was spiked with CNB12



231 and OHB12 standards for recovery percentage analysis. We failed to detect B1 vitamin  
232 in the pre-concentrated samples, likely due to a low ambient concentration and low pre-  
233 concentration volume.

## 234 **2.7 Microbial plankton community**

235 DNA samples were taken during the experimental period at surface and SCM depth in  
236 the coastal and oceanic station. In particular, sampling of the microbial plankton  
237 community was carried out on day 0, day 1, day 3 and day 5 of each cruise. Community  
238 composition was assessed by sequencing the V4 and V5 regions from 16S rRNA gene  
239 (16S rDNA) for prokaryotes and the V4 region from 18S rRNA gene (18S rDNA) for  
240 eukaryotes. Two liters of water samples were sequentially filtered through 3  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size  
241 polycarbonate filters and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  pore size sterivex filter and immediately frozen in liquid  
242 nitrogen and conserved at -80 °C. DNA retained in the 3  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filters was  
243 extracted by using the PowerSoil DNA isolation kit (MoBio Laboratories Inc., CA, USA)  
244 and the PowerWater DNA isolation kit (MoBio Laboratories Inc., CA, USA),  
245 respectively, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Prokaryotic DNA from 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$   
246 filters was amplified using the universal primers "515F and 926R" and eukaryotic DNA  
247 from both, 3  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filters, using the primers "TAReuk454FWD1" and  
248 "TAReukREV3". Amplified regions were sequenced in an Illumina MiSeq platform and  
249 the sequences obtained were analyzed with software package DADA2 (Callahan et al.,  
250 2016). SILVA reference database (Quast et al., 2012) was used to taxonomic assignment  
251 of 16S amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) and PR2 (Guillou et al., 2012) and the marine  
252 protist database from the BioMarks project (Massana et al., 2015) were used to taxonomic  
253 assignment of 18S ASVs. The data for this study have been deposited in the European  
254 Nucleotide Archive (ENA) at EMBL-EBI (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>) under accession  
255 numbers PRJEB36188 (16S rDNA sequences) and PRJEB36099 (18S rDNA sequences).

256 ASV table is an analogue of the traditional OTU table which records the number of times  
257 each exact amplicon sequence variant was observed in each sample (Callahan et al.,  
258 2016).

259 The raw ASV tables of prokaryotes and eukaryotes were subsampled to the number of  
260 reads present in the sample with the lowest number of reads, which was 2080 and 1286,  
261 for 16S rDNA and 18S rDNA, respectively. The abundance of ASVs was averaged for  
262 coastal and oceanic samples, differentiating surface and SCM. A total of 1550 unique  
263 ASVs of prokaryotes were identified. As many ASVs of eukaryotes were present in both  
264 size fractions (e.g. those having a cell size range including 3  $\mu\text{m}$ ), we combined datasets  
265 derived from the 0.2 and the 3  $\mu\text{m}$  filters for eukaryotic community analyses. As explained  
266 in Hernández-Ruiz et al. (2018), we normalized the reads from each filter size by the filter  
267 DNA yield, as recommended in Dupont et al. (2015), obtaining 2293 unique ASVs. The  
268 sequence abundances of the subsampled ASV tables were transformed using the centered  
269 log ratio (clr) (Fernandes et al., 2014; Gloor et al., 2017). Before clr transformation, zeros  
270 were replaced by the minimum value that is larger than 0 divided by 2 (Aitchison, 1982;  
271 Martín-Fernández et al., 2003).

## 272 **2.8 Statistical analysis**

273 To compare the effect of different nutrient additions on the response variables,  
274 chlorophyll-*a* concentration and prokaryote biomass, we calculated response ratios (RR)  
275 by dividing each observation (mean of triplicates) of each treatment by the respective  
276 control treatment mean. A value equal to 1 implies no response, a value  $< 1$  implies a  
277 negative response and a value  $> 1$  implies growth stimulation after nutrient addition.  
278 Secondary limitation by B vitamins was calculated by dividing the mean value in the  
279 inorganic nutrients and B vitamin combined treatment by the mean value in the inorganic

280 nutrient addition treatment. In the same way, a value  $< 1$  implies a negative effect of B  
281 vitamins and a value  $> 1$  implies stimulation positive effect of B vitamin treatment  
282 through secondary limitation.

283 Normal distribution was tested by a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and non-normal variables  
284 [such as temperature, salinity, DIN,  \$\text{SiO}\_4^{2-}\$ , -and Chl-\*a\* and PB response ratios](#), were log  
285 transformed to attain normality. All statistical analysis were considered significant at the  
286 0.05 significance level and p-value was standardized as proposed by Good (1982) in order  
287 to overcome the low number of replicates. Differences between station and depth (spatial  
288 variability) and among sampling months (temporal variability) in the responses to B  
289 vitamins were evaluated with factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA). Bonferroni post  
290 hoc tests analyses were conducted to test which treatments were significantly different  
291 from the control treatment in each experiment. Non-metric multidimensional scaling  
292 ([nMDS](#)) was used to analyze the similarities between the samples based on microbial  
293 assemblage structure using the PRIMER6 software (Clarke and Warwick, 2001; Clarke  
294 and Gorley, 2006). The similarities were evidenced in a multidimensional space by  
295 plotting more similar samples closer together. Analysis of similarity (ANOSIM) was used  
296 to verify that microbial community composition from the same season and station were  
297 more similar to each other than to communities from a different season and station. Z-test  
298 was used to test if averaged B vitamins response ratios were significantly different from  
299 1. The RELATE analysis implemented in PRIMER6 was used to relate the B-vitamin  
300 response patterns (Bray-Curtis resemblance matrix built from phytoplankton and bacteria  
301 response ratios) with: (1) environmental factors (Euclidean resemblance matrix built from  
302 normalized values of ammonium, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate, silicate, B12, temperature,  
303 salinity, chl-*a* and prokaryote biomass), (2) prokaryote community composition  
304 (Euclidean resemblance matrix built form clr-transformed sequence abundance of major

305 taxonomic groups), or (3) eukaryote community composition (Euclidean resemblance  
306 matrix built from clr-transformed sequence abundance of major taxonomic groups).  
307 RELATE calculates the Spearman rank correlations (Rho) between two resemblance  
308 matrices, and the significance is tested by a permutation test (999 permutations). In order  
309 to highlight which specific taxonomic groups are associated to changes of microbial  
310 plankton (prokaryote plankton and phytoplankton) responses to vitamin B1 and B12, we  
311 conducted a distance based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) combined with a distance  
312 linear-based model (DistLM) using a step-wise procedure and adjusted  $r^2$  as selection  
313 criteria using the PRIMER6 software.

314

### 315 **3 Results**

#### 316 **3.1 Initial conditions**

317 Different hydrographic conditions were found during each cruise (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). In  
318 February, heavy rainfall (Fig. 1c) combined with relaxed winds caused a halocline at 10  
319 m depth (Fig. 2m). High levels of Chl-*a* (as derived from the calibrated CTD fluorescence  
320 sensor) were observed at the coastal station, being maximum ( $4.97 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) by the end of  
321 the cruise (Fig. 2a). At the oceanic station, Chl-*a* levels remained low (less than  $3 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ )  
322 throughout the cruise, being slightly higher in the subsurface layer (Fig. 2d).

323 Strong precipitation during the April cruise (Fig. 1c) caused a persistent surface halocline  
324 at the coastal station (Fig. 2n). Maximum Chl-*a* concentrations ranged from 0.99 to  $2.73$   
325  $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ , declining from day 5 onwards (Fig. 2b), coinciding with an increase in water  
326 temperature associated to a downwelling situation. At the oceanic station, a persistent  
327 subsurface Chl-*a* maximum (up to  $1.61 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) was observed throughout the cruise (Fig.  
328 2e).

329 In August, strong thermal stratification was observed at both stations (Fig. 2i and Fig. 2l).  
330 At the beginning of the cruise, high Chl-*a* concentration (close to 20  $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) was observed  
331 in subsurface water (Fig. 2c). Chl-*a* was relatively low at the oceanic station, and  
332 increased by the end of the sampling period (Fig. 2f) as a consequence of an upwelling  
333 event (Fig. 1b), that brought cold and nutrient rich water to the surface, at day 5.

334 Abiotic and biotic conditions at the beginning of each experiment are shown in Fig. 3 and  
335 in the supplementary Table S2. Overall, the concentration of dissolved inorganic nitrogen  
336 (DIN) was higher at the coastal than at the oceanic station, where very low levels were  
337 measured in August (Fig. 3i). At the coastal station, higher DIN concentrations were  
338 observed in surface compared to subsurface waters. The DIN:DIP (dissolved inorganic  
339 phosphorous) ratio was always lower in open ocean than in the coastal station and mostly  
340 below ~~of the~~ Redfield ratio (16:1). Phosphorous limitation (DIN:DIP > 16) was frequent  
341 in coastal surface waters in February and April (Fig. 3j and Fig. 3k).

342 On average, ~~C~~chl-*a* concentration varied greatly between stations and ~~seasons-months~~ but  
343 was always higher at the coastal than at the oceanic station (Fig. 3a-c). Prokaryote  
344 biomass (PB) increased from winter (February) to summer (August) at the two stations  
345 (Fig. 3d-f). In February, Chl-*a* concentrations increased by the end of the cruise at both  
346 coastal and oceanic stations (Fig. 3a), while PB remained very low throughout this  
347 sampling period (Fig. 3d). In April, both PB and Chl-*a* were similar in the ocean and the  
348 coast, and showed reduced temporal variability (Fig. 3b and Fig. 3e), irrespective of the  
349 observed nutrient variability (Fig. 3h). In August, Chl-*a* concentration was much higher  
350 at the coastal than at the oceanic station, and showed reduced temporal variability (except  
351 at the SCM in the coast) (Fig. 3c). At the beginning of the sampling period, PB was higher  
352 in the ocean than in the coast, and tended to decline by the end of the cruise (Fig. 3f).

353 A MDS analysis revealed that microbial community composition showed a relatively  
354 reduced variability within period, with samples clustering according to the sampling  
355 period (ANOSIM,  $p = 0.001$ ) and station (ANOSIM,  $p = 0.001$ ) (Fig. S1 in the  
356 Supplement). Consequently, we averaged the microbial community composition for each  
357 period and sampling site. The sampling period-averaged composition of the eukaryote  
358 community showed a clear variability among ~~sampling dates~~ cruises, while differences  
359 between sampling locations and depths were less pronounced (Fig. 4a). At the coastal  
360 location, Mamiellophyceae (*Ostreococcus* and *Micromonas*) were relatively abundant in  
361 February and April, but their relative abundance sharply decreased in August. By contrast,  
362 the relative abundance of Dinophyceae was highest in August at both sampling locations.  
363 The contribution of diatoms (Bacillariophyta) was very low in summer at the oceanic  
364 station and marine alveolates (MALV) groups (MALV-I and MALV-II) were most  
365 representative in February at both locations. Flavobacteriales and Rhodobacterales were  
366 the dominant prokaryotes (Fig. 4b) in coastal waters, particularly in August, when both  
367 represented more than 80 % of sequences, while the Cyanobacteria *Synechococcus* were  
368 mostly present in February and April. In oceanic waters, Flavobacteriales and  
369 *Synechococcus* were the dominant prokaryotes. SAR11 clade and Archaea  
370 (Euryarchaeota and Thaumarchaeota) were most abundant in February at both sampling  
371 locations.

372 B12 concentration was low, ranging from 0.06 to 0.66  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$  (Table S1 in the  
373 Supplement). Average B12 concentration was significantly higher in the coast ( $0.30 \pm 0.13$   
374  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$ ) than in the ocean ( $0.15 \pm 0.12 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$ ) (t-test,  $t = 3.17$ , ~~gldf~~  $df = 10$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ), and  
375 showed less variability at the coastal than at the oceanic station (Fig. 4c).

### 376 **3.2 Short-term phytoplankton and prokaryote responses to inorganic nutrients and** 377 **vitamin additions**

378 The temporal development of the phytoplankton (as estimated from changes in Chl-*a*  
379 concentration) and prokaryote biomass in the control treatments showed different  
380 patterns. Chl-*a* remained either stable or increased after 72 h of incubation in 87.5% of  
381 the experiments conducted in February and April. However, Chl-*a* mostly decreased in  
382 the coastal experiments conducted in August (Fig. 5a and Fig. 5c). A very similar pattern  
383 was observed for prokaryote biomass, although the decrease in biomass occurred both in  
384 the coastal and in the oceanic stations during summer (Fig. 6).

385 The response ratios (RRs) of Chl-*a* and prokaryote biomass were calculated as a measure  
386 of the magnitude of phytoplankton and prokaryote responses to nutrient and vitamin  
387 treatments (Fig S2, S3 and S4 in the supplement). The RRs differed between sampling  
388 stations (ANOVA,  $F(1,502) = 18.059$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and among sampling periods (ANOVA,  
389  $F(2,501) = 6.54$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ). The most prominent responses of phytoplankton, compared  
390 to the control treatment, occurred after inorganic nutrient amendments, especially in  
391 surface oceanic waters (Fig. 5c and Fig. S2b, f and j in the Supplement). The magnitude  
392 of the phytoplankton response to inorganic nutrients was significantly higher in oceanic  
393 than in coastal waters (ANOVA,  $F(1,34) = 5.22$ ,  $p = 0.028$ ). Prokaryotes responded less  
394 than phytoplankton to inorganic nutrients and, in addition, heterotrophic prokaryote  
395 responses to inorganic nutrients were similar between coastal and oceanic waters  
396 (ANOVA,  $F(1,34) = 1.68$ ,  $p = 0.203$ ). The addition of inorganic nutrients caused  
397 significant increases in Chl-*a* in 31 out of the 36 experiments (Fig. 5 and Fig S2 in the  
398 supplement), while prokaryotes increased their biomass in 19 out of 36 experiments (Fig.  
399 6 and Fig. S2 in the Supplement).

400 The addition of B12 stimulated phytoplankton in 5 out of 36 experiments (Fig. 5 and Fig.  
401 S3 in the Supplement) and prokaryotes in 6 experiments (Fig. 6 and Fig. S4 in the  
402 Supplement). Chl-*a* increased in 3, and prokaryote biomass in 7 out of 36 experiments

403 after adding B1 (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6). B vitamins also caused negative responses of  
404 phytoplankton (Fig. 5 and Fig. S3 in the Supplement) and prokaryote biomass (Fig. 6 and  
405 Fig. S4 in the Supplement). The addition of vitamins induced decreases of Chl-*a* in 6  
406 experiments (4 after adding B12 and 2 after adding B1) and prokaryote biomass in 14  
407 experiments (6 after adding B12 and 8 after adding B1). Secondary limitation by B1  
408 and/or B12 was occasionally observed when inorganic nutrients were limiting, leading to  
409 a higher biomass increase in the treatments including both inorganic nutrients and  
410 vitamins as compared to the inorganic nutrient addition alone (Fig. 5, Fig. 6 and Fig. S3  
411 and Fig. S4 in the Supplement). In the case of Chl-*a*, secondary limitation by B-vitamins  
412 was found in the C-b-surface, Oc-a-SCM and Oc-b-SCM experiments in February, in the  
413 C-b-surface and C-b-SCM experiments in April, and in the C-b-SCM, Oc-b-SCM and  
414 Oc-c-surface experiments in August (Fig. 5).

415 In order to quantify the relevance of inter-day variability, we calculated the mean  
416 coefficient of variation (CV) of the responses to B vitamins (i.e., excluding the responses  
417 to inorganic nutrients, and normalizing the responses of the nutrient and vitamin  
418 combined treatments to the corresponding response to inorganic nutrients alone) within  
419 sampling periods for each sampling point (2 stations and 2 depths). The CV ranged from  
420 9%, in subsurface oceanic waters in April, to 34% in surface coastal waters in April,  
421 averaging  $16 \pm 6$  (SD) % (data not shown). Considering that short-term (within sampling  
422 period) variability was overall very low, and for simplicity, we averaged the responses to  
423 B vitamins in the 3 experiments conducted at each of the 12 sampling points to further  
424 describe spatial and temporal patterns in the response to B vitamin amendments (Fig. 7).

425 When averaging the responses within each sampling point (Fig. 7), some general patterns  
426 emerge. Both phytoplankton and prokaryotes showed more negative than positive  
427 responses to B1 and/or B12 amendments. Most positive responses occurred at the oceanic



428 station (83.3%), while negative responses dominated in the coast (61.5%). Phytoplankton  
429 significant positive responses mostly occurred in February, showing an average increase  
430 of up to 1.2-fold in coastal subsurface waters after B12+B1 amendment (Fig. 7a). The  
431 largest significant increase in Chl-a (ca. 1.4-fold) occurred in April after the combined  
432 addition of B12 and B1 in coastal surface waters. Significant positive prokaryote  
433 responses mainly occurred in August, when the largest increase (ca. 1.3-fold) occurred in  
434 coastal subsurface waters after B1 amendment (Fig. 7b). Most positive responses were  
435 associated with treatments containing B12 either alone or combined with B1 (Fig. 7b).  
436 Phytoplankton primary B1 limitation was only found at the oceanic SCM in February  
437 (Fig. 7a), while prokaryote primary B1 limitation only occurred at the coastal SCM in  
438 August. In addition, prokaryote secondary B1 limitation occurred in oceanic surface  
439 waters in February and August.

### 440 **3.3 B-vitamin response patterns in relation to environmental factors and prokaryote** 441 **and eukaryote community composition**

442 In order to explore the controlling factors of the observed B-vitamin response patterns,  
443 the correlation between the B-vitamin response resemblance matrix and the  
444 corresponding resemblance matrices obtained from the initial environmental factors, the  
445 initial prokaryotic community composition, or the initial eukaryotic community  
446 composition were calculated. While eukaryotic community composition did not show a  
447 significant correlation with the B-vitamin responses (Spearman Rho = 0.05, p = 0.39),  
448 Only the prokaryotic community composition was significantly correlated with the B-  
449 vitamin responses (Spearman Rho = 0.31, p = 0.041). We then used distance-based linear  
450 modelling (DistLM) to identify the prokaryotic taxa which best explained the microbial  
451 plankton responses to B-vitamins (Fig. 8). The resulting model explained 78% of the  
452 variation and included seven prokaryotic groups: *Planktomarina* (24%), Actinobacteria

453 (14%), SAR11~~-elade~~ (8.2%), Cellvibrionales (8.5%), Euryarchaeota (8.7%),  
454 Flavobacteriales (9%) and *Synechococcus* (6.1%). The sequential test identified  
455 *Planktomarina* and Actinobacteria as the taxa explaining the largest fraction of variation  
456 (ca. 24 % and 14%, respectively, data not shown). The total variation explained by the  
457 db-RDA1 (34.9%) and db-RDA2 (24.5%) was 59.4 %, both represented as x and y axis,  
458 respectively (Fig. 8). The db-RDA1 axis separated, to some extent, coastal samples,  
459 where negative responses to B vitamins dominated, from oceanic samples, where most  
460 positive responses were found (Fig. 7). The db-RDA plot showed that Cellvibrionales and  
461 *Planktomarina* positively correlated with axis 1, while SAR11 and *Synechococcus*  
462 showed negative correlation with axis 1. Flavobacteriales and Actinobacteria mostly  
463 correlated with the db-RDA2 axis.

464

#### 465 **4 Discussion**

466 Although the dependence of phytoplankton on B vitamin has been previously observed  
467 in cultures (e.g. Croft et al., 2006; Droop, 2007; Tang et al., 2010) and in natural microbial  
468 assemblages in coastal areas (e.g. Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2006; Gobler et al., 2007;  
469 Koch et al., 2011, 2012, Barber-Lluch et al., 2019), this is, to the best of our knowledge,  
470 the most complete study about responses of phytoplankton and prokaryotes to vitamin  
471 B12 and/or B1 addition. The 36 experiments developed in this study contributed to  
472 increase our understanding of the role of vitamins B12 and B1 at different spatial and  
473 temporal scales.

474 Considering the high short-time variability of the hydrographic conditions in the area  
475 (Alvarez-Salgado et al., 1996), we expected a large inter-day variation in the responses  
476 to B vitamin amendments. By contrast, inter-day variability of microbial responses to B

477 vitamins and microbial plankton community composition was relatively small (Fig. 5,  
478 Fig. 6, Fig. S1 and Fig. S2 in the supplement). The reduced short-term variability in the  
479 responses to B vitamins additions suggested that B vitamin availability might be  
480 controlled by factors operating at larger temporal scales, such as the succession of  
481 microbial communities associated to seasonal environmental variation (Hernández-Ruiz  
482 et al., 2018; Hernando-Morales et al., 2018). Considering this, and for further discussion,  
483 we averaged the responses from the three experiments conducted during each sampling  
484 period, resulting in ~~a total of 1212~~ experimental situations (2 stations × 2 depths × 3  
485 periods). Overall, phytoplankton and/or prokaryote growth enhancement in at least one B  
486 vitamin treatment was frequent but relatively small in this productive ecosystem, showing  
487 1.1 to 1.3-fold increases in 75% of the experimental situations for phytoplankton and in  
488 50% for ~~baeteriaprokaryotes~~. On the other hand, negative responses to at least one B  
489 vitamin treatment occurred in ~~83% of the experimental situations for phytoplankton and~~  
490 ~~in 67% for prokaryotes but one of the treatments experimental situations~~ (Fig. 7). The low  
491 and constant B12 ambient concentration (Fig. 4c) and the reduced magnitude of microbial  
492 responses suggest a close balance between production and consumption of this growth  
493 factor. Different patterns of response to B-vitamin amendments were observed in  
494 phytoplankton and prokaryotes (Fig. 7), which appear to be mostly explained by the  
495 prokaryotic community composition (Fig. 8).

#### 496 **4.1 Positive responses to vitamin B1 and B12 amendments**

497 The experimental design allowed the detection of two categories of B vitamin dependency  
498 of the microbial plankton community. A primary limitation by B vitamins occurs when  
499 microorganisms respond to additions of B vitamins alone, ~~while a~~ secondary limitation  
500 by B vitamins arises when the response to the combined addition of B vitamins and  
501 inorganic nutrients is significantly higher than that to inorganic nutrients alone. ~~These~~

502 ~~Such responses occurs, as a result~~because of the ambient B-vitamin depletion associated  
503 to the plankton growth after inorganic nutrient enrichment. Most positive (72% for  
504 phytoplankton and 60 % for prokaryotes) responses occurred after single B-vitamins  
505 additions, suggesting that inorganic nutrient availability enhance B-vitamin production  
506 by the prototrophic microbes. Under nutrient-limiting conditions, the external supply of  
507 vitamins could reduce the energy costs associated to its synthesis (Jaehme and Slotboom,  
508 2015), stimulating the growth not only of auxotrophs but also of prototrophs.

509 The significant positive effects of B12 and/or B1 addition, suggest that these compounds  
510 may be eventually limiting microbial growth in marine productive ecosystems, as  
511 previously observed by other authors (e.g., Panzeca et al., 2006; Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al.,  
512 2006; Bertrand et al., 2007; Gobler et al., 2007; Koch et al., 2011; 2012; Barber.-Lluch et  
513 al., 2019). Most positive responses to B vitamin amendments were observed in oceanic  
514 waters, where B12 concentration was significantly lower than in coastal waters (Fig. 4c).  
515 Unfortunately we lack B1 measurements in this study, but, according to previous field  
516 studies in other oceanographic regions, a similar pattern to that observed for B12 can be  
517 expected (Cohen et al., 2017; Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2012; Suffridge et al., 2018). The  
518 overall low and stable concentration of B12 at both sampling locations suggests a high  
519 turnover time of this compound in these productive, well-lit waters. Rapid cycling of B12  
520 in surface waters may occur due to high biological uptake rates (Taylor and Sullivan,  
521 2008; Koch et al., 2012) and/or photochemical degradation (Carlucci et al., 1969;  
522 Juzeniene and Nizauskaite, 2013; Juzeniene et al., 2015). The measured B12  
523 concentrations were in the lower range reported for coastal sites, and similar to that found  
524 in the upwelling system off the California coast in the San Pedro Basin during winter,  
525 spring and summer (Panzeca et al., 2009).

526 The increase of Chl-*a* was mostly associated to B12 amendments, which is consistent  
527 with the known incapability of eukaryotes to synthesize this vitamin (Croft et al., 2005;  
528 Tang et al., 2010; Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2014). Considering the very low concentration  
529 of B12 in the sampling area, the relatively limited phytoplankton response to B vitamins  
530 suggests that the existing species might have adapted to overcome B12 shortage. For  
531 example, changes in external B12 availability may cause shifts from vitamin B12-  
532 dependence to vitamin B12-independence in taxa possessing the vitamin B12-  
533 independent methionine synthase (MetE) gene (Bertrand et al., 2013; Helliwell et al.,  
534 2014). Other strategies used by phytoplankton to cope with low ~~cobalamin~~B12  
535 concentration include, increased cobalamin acquisition machinery, decreased cobalamin  
536 demand, and management of reduced methionine synthase activity through changes in  
537 folate and S-adenosyl methionine metabolism (Bertrand et al., 2012). The available data  
538 on B12 half-saturation constants for phytoplankton (0.1-10 pmol l<sup>-1</sup>) (Droop, 1968, 2007;  
539 Taylor and Sullivan, 2008; Tang et al., 2010; Koch et al., 2011) are similar or higher than  
540 the B12 concentrations measured here (0.3 pmol l<sup>-1</sup> in the coastal and 0.15 pmol l<sup>-1</sup> in the  
541 oceanic waters, on average), reinforcing the hypothesis of a phytoplankton community  
542 adapted to B12 limiting concentrations in this upwelling system.

543 The positive responses of phytoplankton in surface oceanic waters in February seemed to  
544 be associated with high abundance of *Synechococcus* and SAR11 (Fig. 4b and Fig. 8).  
545 *Synechococcus* produce a B12 analog known as pseudocobalamin, where the lower ligand  
546 base adenine replaces 5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole (DMB) (Helliwell et al., 2016). In  
547 natural conditions, pseudocobalamin is considerably less bioavailable to eukaryotic algae  
548 than other cobalamin forms (Helliwell et al., 2016; Heal et al., 2017). SAR11 do not  
549 require B12 and do not have pathways for its synthesis (Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2014;

550 Gómez-Consarnau et al., 2018), suggesting that B12 synthesis could be limited in oceanic  
551 waters in winter, due to the low abundance of potential B12 producers.

552 Microbial responses to B vitamins in subsurface oceanic waters in February were  
553 associated to high abundance of *Synechococcus* and, to some extent, of Actinobacteria  
554 (Fig. 8). In these experiments, positive effects of B1 addition on phytoplankton and  
555 prokaryotes were observed (Fig. 7). While *Synechococcus* is capable of B1 synthesis  
556 (Carini et al., 2014; Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2014; Gómez-Consarnau et al., 2018),  
557 Actinobacteria seems to have a strong dependence on this vitamin (Gómez-Consarnau et  
558 al., 2018). Among the sequenced eukaryote genomes, only Stramenopiles contain genes  
559 codifying for the synthesis of thiamine monophosphate (Sañudo-Wilhelmy et al., 2014;  
560 Cohen et al., 2017). While Stramenopiles, dominated by Bacillariophyta, were ubiquitous  
561 in the sampling area, their relative contribution was lower in oceanic waters (Fig. 4a).  
562 The simultaneous stimulation of phytoplankton and prokaryotes by B1 addition in  
563 subsurface oceanic waters in winter suggest a strong demand for this compound under  
564 these particular conditions, however what triggers the observed responses remain unclear.  
565 Even though B1 caused a significant effect on phytoplankton only in subsurface waters  
566 in winter, half of the positive responses of prokaryotes were associated to B1 supply (Fig.  
567 7b). This pattern is consistent with the recently described widespread dependence of  
568 bacterioplankton on external B1 supply (Paerl et al., 2018). B1 stimulated prokaryote  
569 growth in subsurface coastal waters and surface oceanic waters in summer (Fig. 7b), when  
570 the B vitamin response patterns were associated to high abundance of *Planktomarina* and  
571 Actinobacteria (Fig. 8), which are expected to strongly depend on external B1 sources  
572 (Giebel et al., 2013; Gómez-Consarnau et al., 2018). The generalized significant and  
573 positive responses of prokaryotes to vitamin treatments in surface oceanic waters in  
574 summer, when the prokaryote biomass was high and dissolved inorganic nitrogen

575 concentration was very low (Fig. 3i), suggest that prokaryotes may have an advantage in  
576 the uptake and assimilation of B vitamins under nitrogen limiting conditions. This is  
577 consistent with the observation of small (0.7–3  $\mu\text{m}$ )-plankton cells containing more B1  
578 than larger cells (Fridolfsson et al., 2019). Following this, it has been speculated that  
579 bacteria and small phytoplankton can transfer B1 to large cells through predation by  
580 acting as an important source of this compound in the marine environment (Fridolfsson  
581 et al., 2019).

#### 582 **4.2 Negative responses to vitamin B1 and B12 amendments**

583 Similar experiments conducted in this area also reported negative responses of microbial  
584 plankton to vitamin B12 additions (Barber-Lluch et al., 2019). The predominantly  
585 negative prokaryote responses after vitamin amendments in the coast during summer (Fig.  
586 7b), when nutrient concentrations were low (Fig. 3), suggest either a strong competition  
587 between phytoplankton and prokaryotes or a stimulation of predation. Dinoflagellates  
588 were particularly abundant in summer at both sampling sites and depths. Many  
589 dinoflagellate species are auxotrophs for B1 and/or B12 (Croft et al, 2006; Tang et al.,  
590 2010), and also many of them are phagotrophs (Stoecker and Capuzzo, 1990; Smayda,  
591 1997; Sarjeant and Taylor, 2006; Stoecker et al., 2017), thus the external supply of B  
592 vitamins may have promoted their growth, ultimately leading to net decreases in  
593 microbial biomass at the end of the experiments. Several studies demonstrated that  
594 vitamin B12 is implicated in the occurrence of dinoflagellate blooms around the world  
595 (Aldrich, 1962; Carlucci and Bowes, 1970; Takahashi and Fukazawa, 1982; Yu and  
596 Rong-cheng, 2000). It has been suggested that the B12-dependent enzyme  
597 methylmalonyl-CoA mutase in dinoflagellate, euglenoid, and heterokont algae allows  
598 them to grow heterotrophically when B12 is available (Croft et al., 2006). Therefore, the  
599 B12 enrichment could trigger such nutritional strategy, particularly in summer, when

600 mineral nutrients are less available, resulting in an increased predation pressure on  
601 prokaryotes.

602 The B vitamin response patterns in surface coastal waters in summer (Fig. 7), seemed to  
603 be associated with high abundance of Flavobacteriales (Fig. 8). All isolates of  
604 Bacteroidetes sequenced so far are predicted to be B12 auxotrophs (Sañudo-Wilhelmy et  
605 al., 2014; Gómez-Consarnau et al., 2018) and recent metatranscriptomic analyses reveal  
606 that B1 synthesis gene transcripts are relatively low in Flavobacteria as a group (Gómez-  
607 Consarnau et al., 2018). As both phytoplankton and prokaryotes are dominated by  
608 potentially B12 and B1 auxotrophs (dinoflagellates and Flavobacteriales) in the coast  
609 during summer (Fig. 4b), the negative responses could be the result of strong competition  
610 for B vitamins. However, the negative responses to B vitamins of both phytoplankton and  
611 prokaryotes in surface coastal water in summer suggests an increase in phytoplankton and  
612 prokaryote predation [by mixotrophs](#) rather than competition between them. By contrast,  
613 prokaryotes and phytoplankton showed opposite patterns of response to B vitamins in  
614 subsurface coastal waters in summer, which suggests competition between both microbial  
615 compartments (Fig. 7). While phytoplankton negatively responded only to single B  
616 vitamin additions, prokaryotes responded negatively only when both inorganic nutrients  
617 and B vitamins were added (Fig. 7). It is conceivable that phytoplankton had an advantage  
618 over prokaryotes when mineral nutrients were added. This hypothesis contrasts with  
619 previous studies reporting that B12 and B1 vitamin uptake is dominated by picoplankton  
620 (Koch et al., 2011, 2012), strongly suggesting that bacteria could outcompete larger  
621 phytoplankton for vitamin uptake. By contrast, Koch et al. (2014), found that carbon-  
622 specific B12 uptake by large phytoplankton was significantly lower during non-bloom  
623 (low nutrient concentration) compared to bloom conditions (high nutrient concentration),  
624 which suggests better competitive ability under nutrient-rich conditions.



## 625 **5 Conclusions**

626 In conclusion, our findings suggest that the heterogeneous responses of microbial  
627 plankton to B1 and B12 vitamins supply in this coastal upwelling system could be  
628 partially controlled by the composition of the prokaryote community, which is consistent  
629 with their previously reported major role as B12 producers and B1 consumers. Even  
630 though we lack data on B1 concentration, the overall moderate responses together with  
631 the low ambient B12 concentration, suggest that the microbial plankton community in  
632 this area could be well adapted to cope with B vitamin shortage and that a close balance  
633 exists between production and consumption of these important growth factors.

634

### 635 *Author contribution.*

636 Eva Teira designed the experiments and Vanessa Joglar carried them out with  
637 contributions from all co-authors. Vanessa Joglar analyzed the data, Vanessa and Eva  
638 Teira interpreted the results and Vanessa Joglar prepared the manuscript under Eva Teira  
639 supervision.

640 *Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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649

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979

980 **7 Tables and Figures**

981 **Table 1:** Eight different treatments were applied consisting of: (1) control treatment (C):  
982 no nutrients added; (2) inorganic (I) nutrient treatment: 5  $\mu\text{M}$  nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), 5  $\mu\text{M}$   
983 ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), 5  $\mu\text{M}$  silicate ( $\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$ ) and 1  $\mu\text{M}$  phosphate ( $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ); (3) vitamin B12  
984 treatment: 100  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$ ; (4) vitamin B1 treatment: 600  $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$ ; (5) Inorganic nutrients  
985 and vitamin B12 (I+B12) treatment; (6) Inorganic nutrients and vitamin B1 (I+B1)  
986 treatment; (7) vitamins B12 and B1 (B12+B1) treatment and (8) Inorganic nutrients with  
987 vitamins B12 and B1 (I+B12+B1) treatment.

988

989 **Figure 1:** (a) The NW Iberian margin (rectangle) and locations of the stations that were  
990 sampled in the Ría de Vigo (C) and on the shelf (Oc) (diamonds), (b) distribution of daily  
991 coastal upwelling index (UI) and (c) registered precipitations during each sampling period  
992 showing the initial time of each experiment (C-a, C-b, C-c and Oc-a, Oc-b, Oc-c). ~~ns: no~~  
993 ~~sampling day.~~

994

995 **Figure 2:** Vertical distribution over time in the coastal station of ~~(a)~~ Chl-*a* ( $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) in (a)  
996 February, (b) April and (c) August; ~~(b)~~ temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in (g) February, (h) April and  
997 (i) August; and ~~(e)~~ salinity (PSU) in (m) February, (n) April and (o) August. over time  
998 for February, April and August and vVertical distribution over time in the oceanic station  
999 of ~~(d)~~ Chl-*a* ( $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) in (d) February, (e) April and (f) August; temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in (j)  
1000 February, (k) April and (l) August; and salinity (PSU) in (p) February, (q) April and (r)  
1001 August; ~~(e)~~ temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and ~~(f)~~ salinity (PSU) over time for February, April and  
1002 August. Dots show the  $t_0$  of the experiments. Chl-*a*: Chlorophyll-*a* concentration.

1003



1004 **Figure 3:** Initial biological conditions and abiotic factors at the coastal and oceanic  
1005 sampling stations. Each bar corresponds to one of the 3 experiments performed in each  
1006 depth and station during February, April and August. (a, b, c), Chl-*a*, total Chl-*a* ( $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ).  
1007 Note that the y-axis is broken; (d, e, f) PB, prokaryote biomass ( $\mu\text{g C l}^{-1}$ ); (g, h, i) DIN,  
1008 dissolved inorganic nitrogen ( $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ ) and (j, k, l) DIN:DIP, ratio inorganic  
1009 nitrogen:phosphate. The blue line shows the Redfield ratio (16:1) and SCM refers to the  
1010 sub-surface chlorophyll maximum. Chl-*a*: Chlorophyll-*a* concentration.

1011

1012 **Figure 4:** Averaged relative contribution of reads to the major taxonomic groups of (a)  
1013 eukaryotes and (b) prokaryotes at surface ([surf](#)) and SCM in the coastal and oceanic  
1014 station in February, April and August. (c) Averaged B12 concentration ( $\text{pmol l}^{-1}$ ) at  
1015 surface ([surf](#)) and SCM in the coastal and oceanic station in February, April and August.  
1016 Error bars represent standard error. [SCM refers to the sub-surface chlorophyll maximum.](#)

1017

1018 **Figure 5:** Chlorophyll-*a* concentration ( $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ ) in the t0 of each experiment (striped bars)  
1019 and in the endpoint of each treatment (colored bars) in the experiments conducted at (a)  
1020 [5-m surface](#) and (b) SCM in the coastal and at (c) surface and ([de](#)) SCM in the oceanic  
1021 station in February, April and August. Error bars represent standard error. Note that the  
1022 y-axis is broken. SCM: sub-surface chlorophyll maximum.

1023

1024 **Figure 6:** Prokaryote biomass ( $\mu\text{g C l}^{-1}$ ) in the t0 of each experiment (striped bars) and in  
1025 the endpoint of each treatment (colored bars) in the experiments conducted at (a) surface  
1026 and (b) SCM in the coastal and at (c) surface and (d) SCM in the oceanic station in  
1027 February, April and August. Error bars represent standard error. Note that the y-axis is  
1028 broken. SCM: sub-surface chlorophyll maximum.

1029

1030 **Figure 7:** Monthly averaged response ratio (RR) of (a) Chl-*a* or (b) prokaryote biomass  
1031 at surface and SCM in the coastal and oceanic station. Horizontal line represents a  
1032 response equal to 1, that means no change relative to control in the pink ~~bars-dots~~  
1033 (treatments with vitamins alone) and no change relative to inorganic (I) treatment in the  
1034 green ~~bars-dots~~ (vitamins combined with I treatments). Asterisks indicate averaged RRs  
1035 that were significantly different from 1 (Z-test; \*  $p < 0.05$ ) and “a” symbols indicate  
1036 averaged RRs that were marginally significant (Z-test; <sup>a</sup>  $p = 0.05-0.06$ ). Error bars represent  
1037 standard error. SCM: sub-surface chlorophyll maximum.

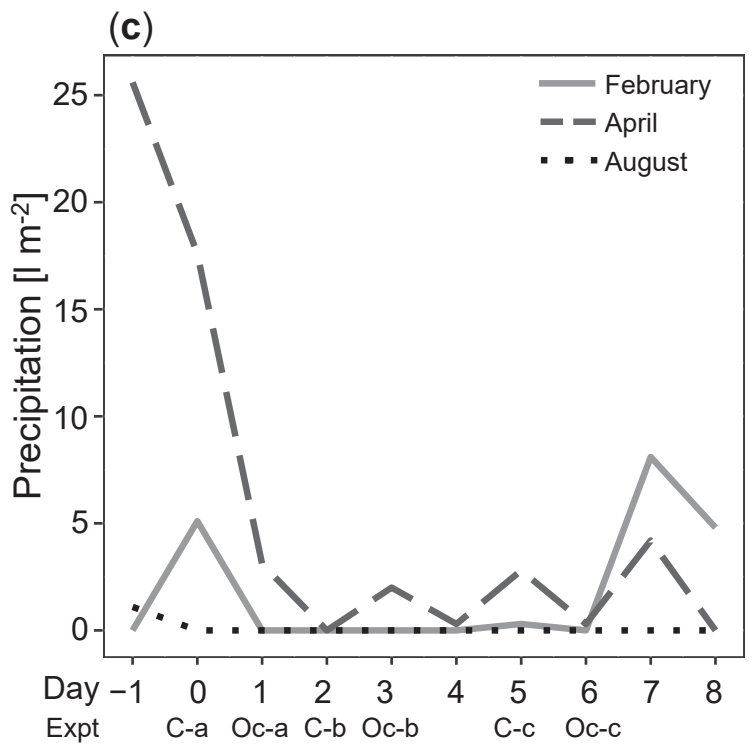
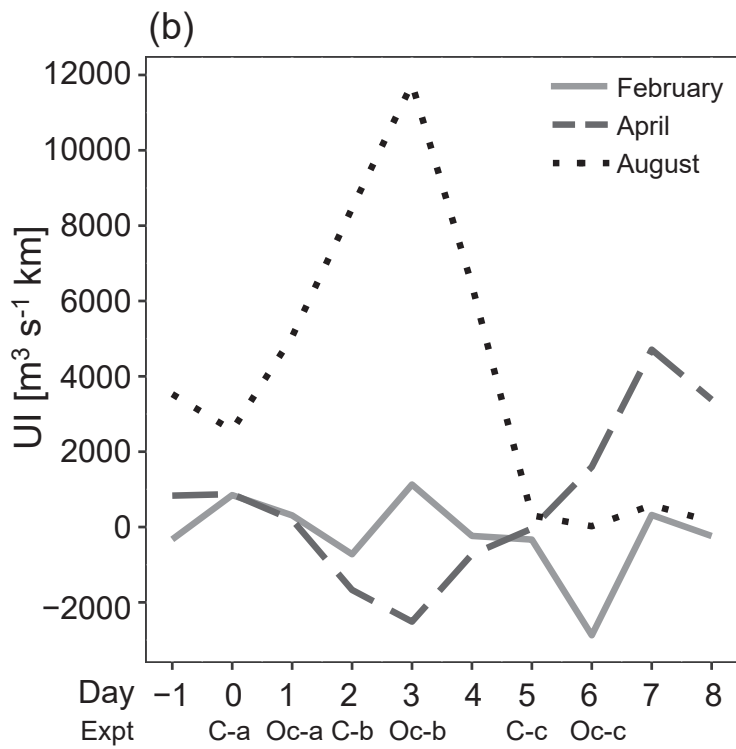
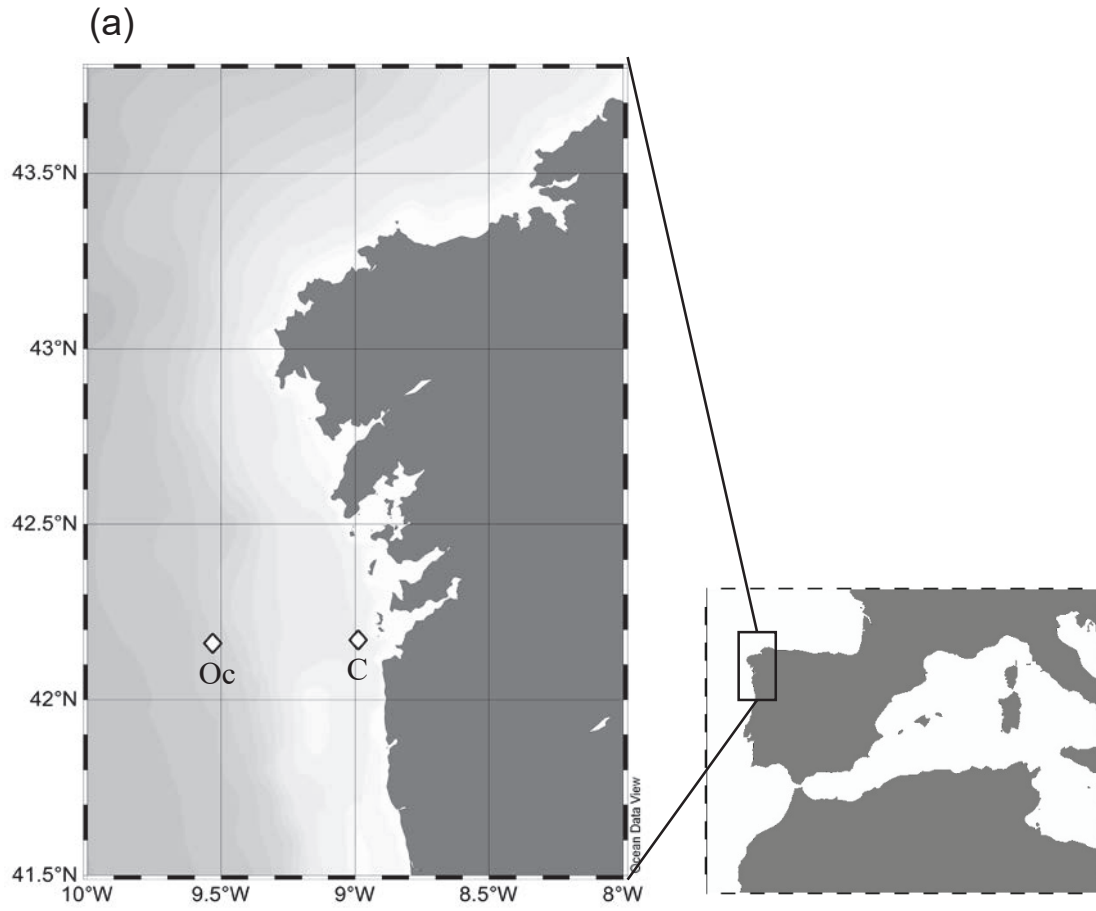
1038

1039 **Figure 8:** Distance based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) of B vitamin responses by  
1040 phytoplankton and prokaryotes based on Bray-Curtis similarity. Only prokaryotic taxa  
1041 that explained variability in the B vitamin responses structure selected in the DistLM  
1042 model (step-wise procedure with adjusted  $R^2$  criterion) were fitted to the ordination.  
1043 Filled and open symbols represent samples from coastal and oceanic station, respectively,  
1044 ~~numbers correspond to the sampling station,~~ triangles and circles represent samples from  
1045 surface and SCM, respectively, and colours correspond to the months: (green) February,  
1046 (blue) April and (pink) August. SCM: sub-surface chlorophyll maximum.

Table 1

	Treatment	Nutrient included	Concentration
1.	Control (C)	No nutrient added	
2.	Inorganic nutrients (I)	$\text{NO}_3^-$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
$\text{NH}_4^+$		$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$	
$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$		$1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$	
$\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$		$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$	
3.	Vitamin B12 (B12)	B12	$100 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
4.	Vitamin B1 (B1)	B1	$600 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
5.	B12 + B1	B12	$100 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
		B1	$600 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
6.	I + B12	$\text{NO}_3^-$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{NH}_4^+$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$	$1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		B12	$100 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
7.	I + B1	$\text{NO}_3^-$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{NH}_4^+$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$	$1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		B1	$600 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
8.	I + B12 + B1	$\text{NO}_3^-$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{NH}_4^+$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$	$1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		$\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$	$5 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$
		B12	$100 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$
		B1	$600 \text{ pmol l}^{-1}$

Fig. 01



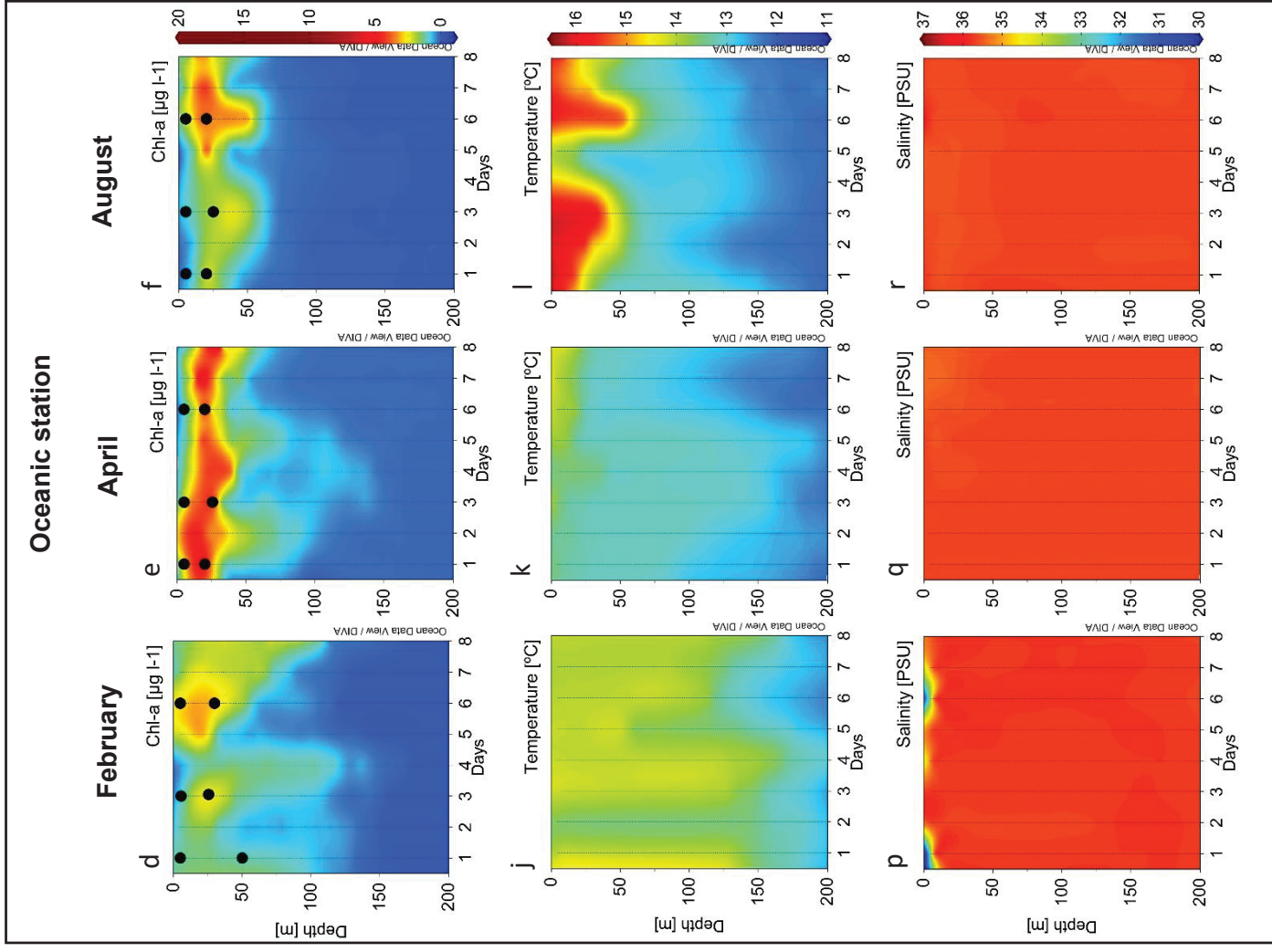
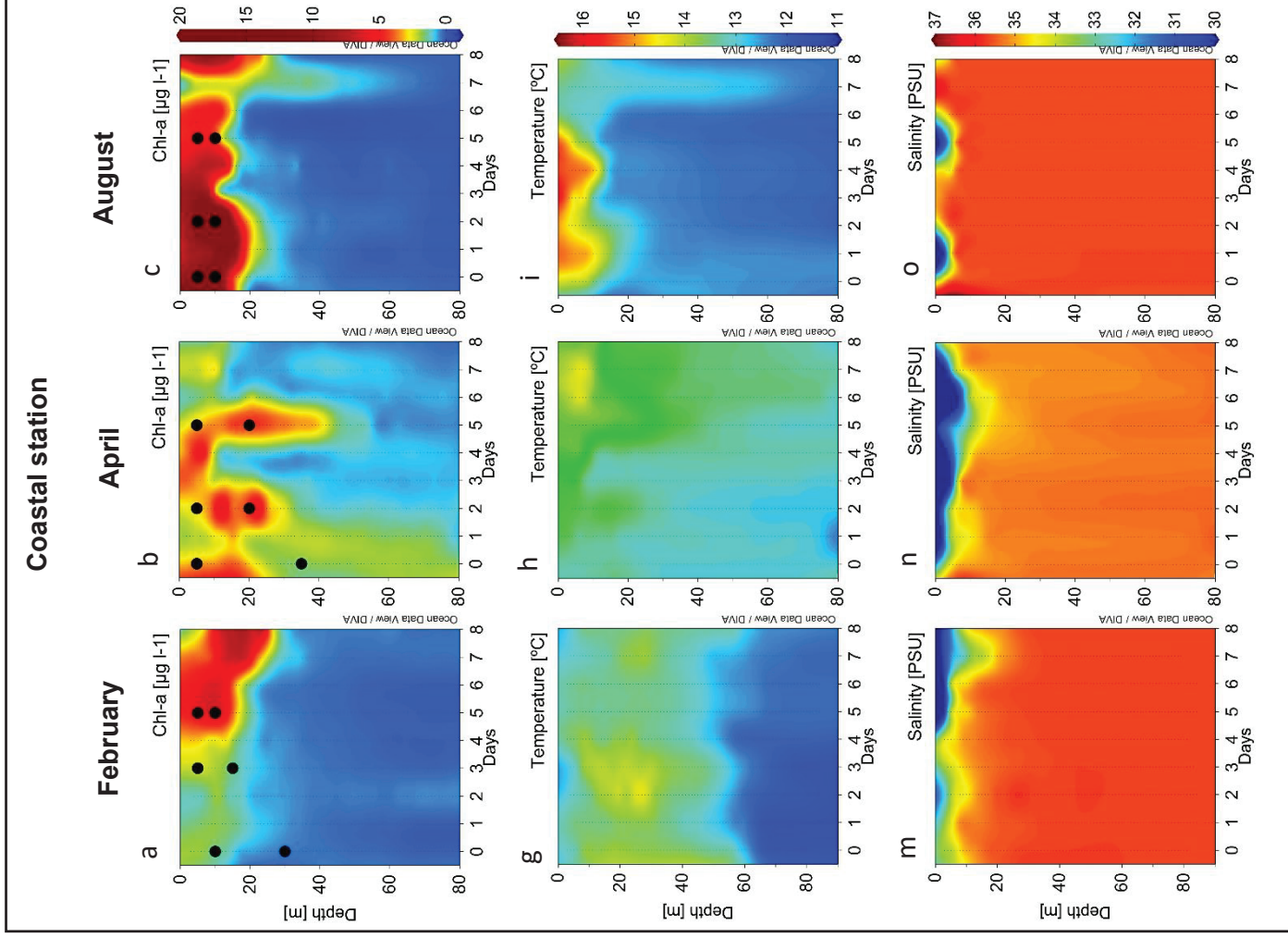


Fig. 03

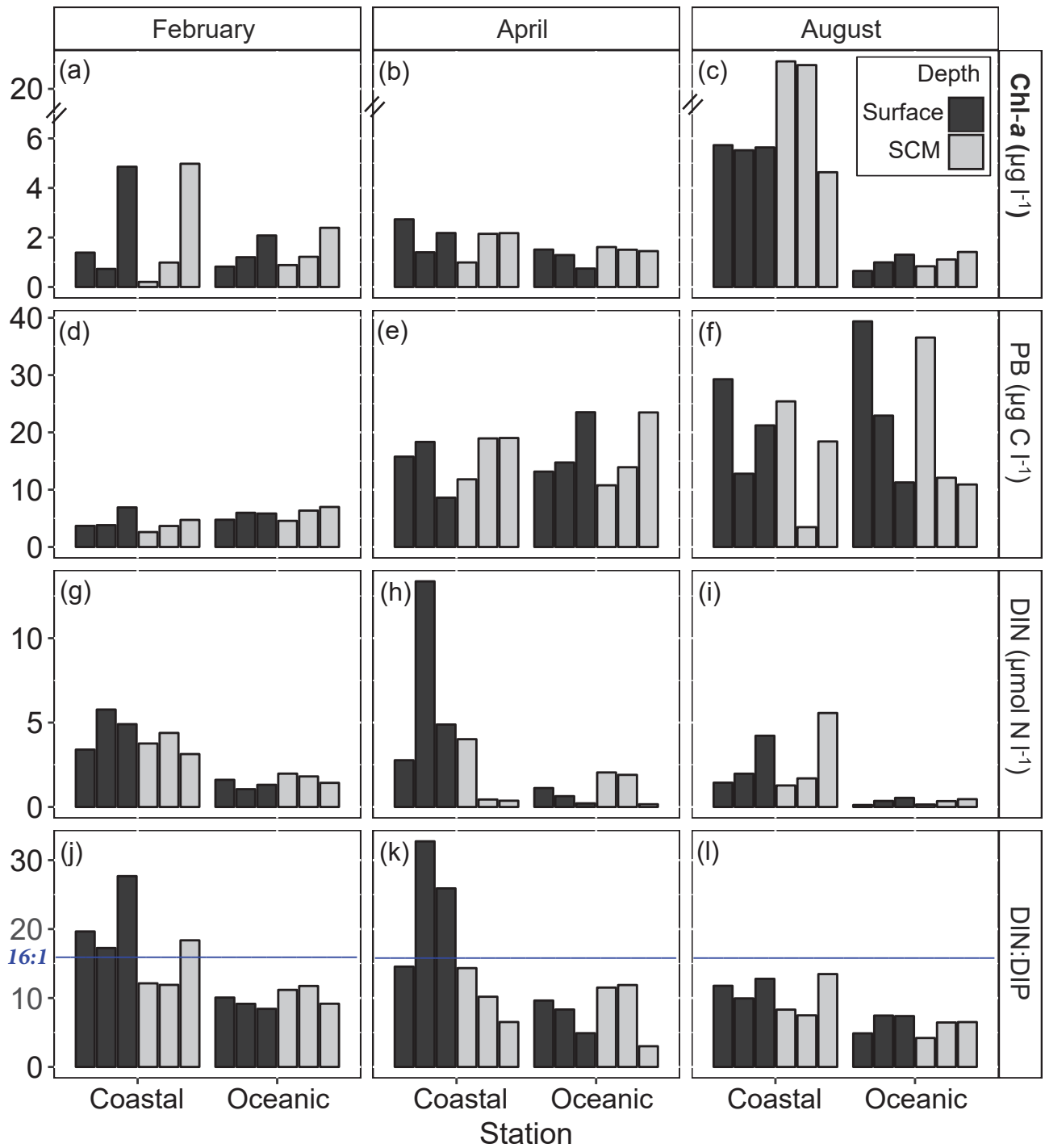
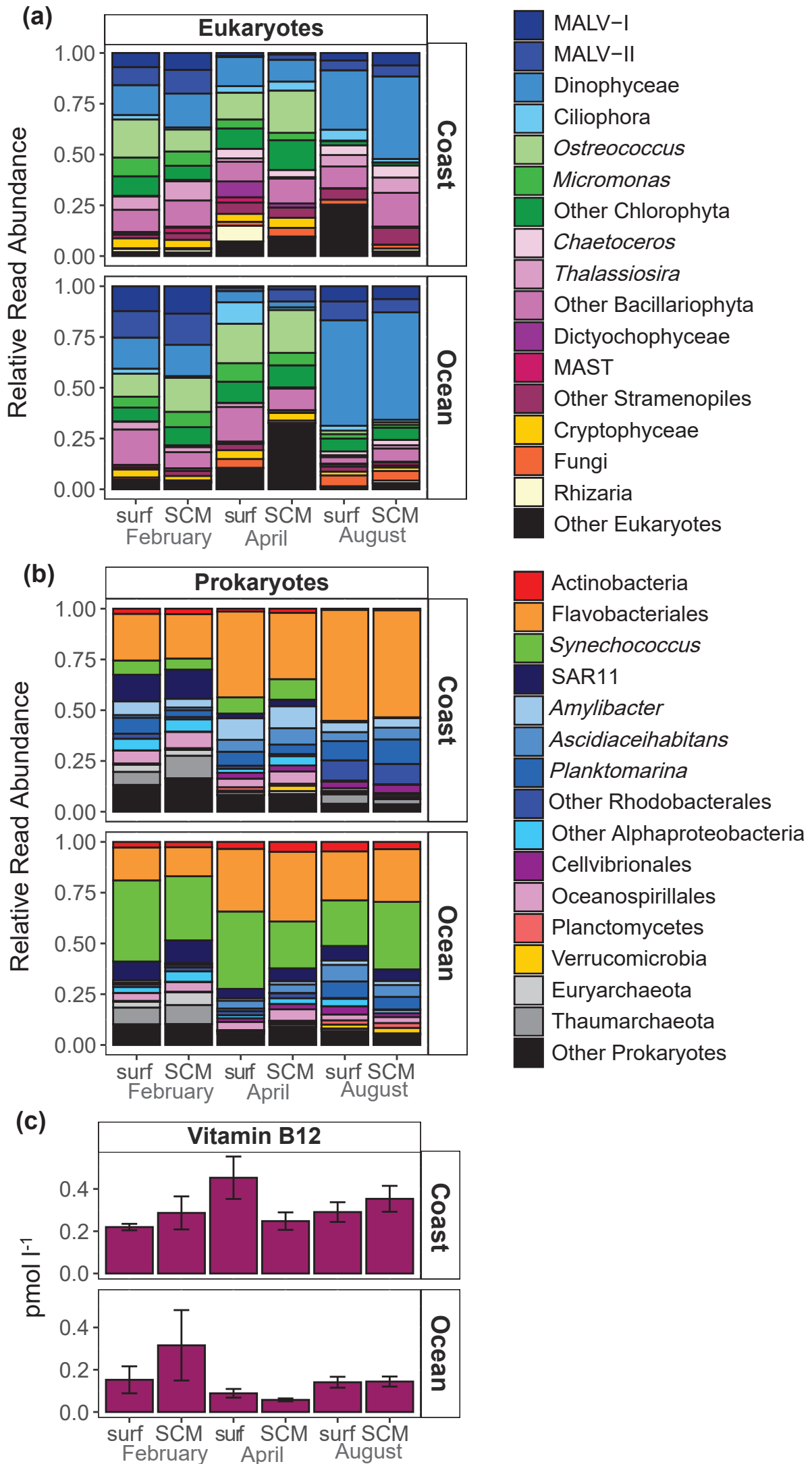
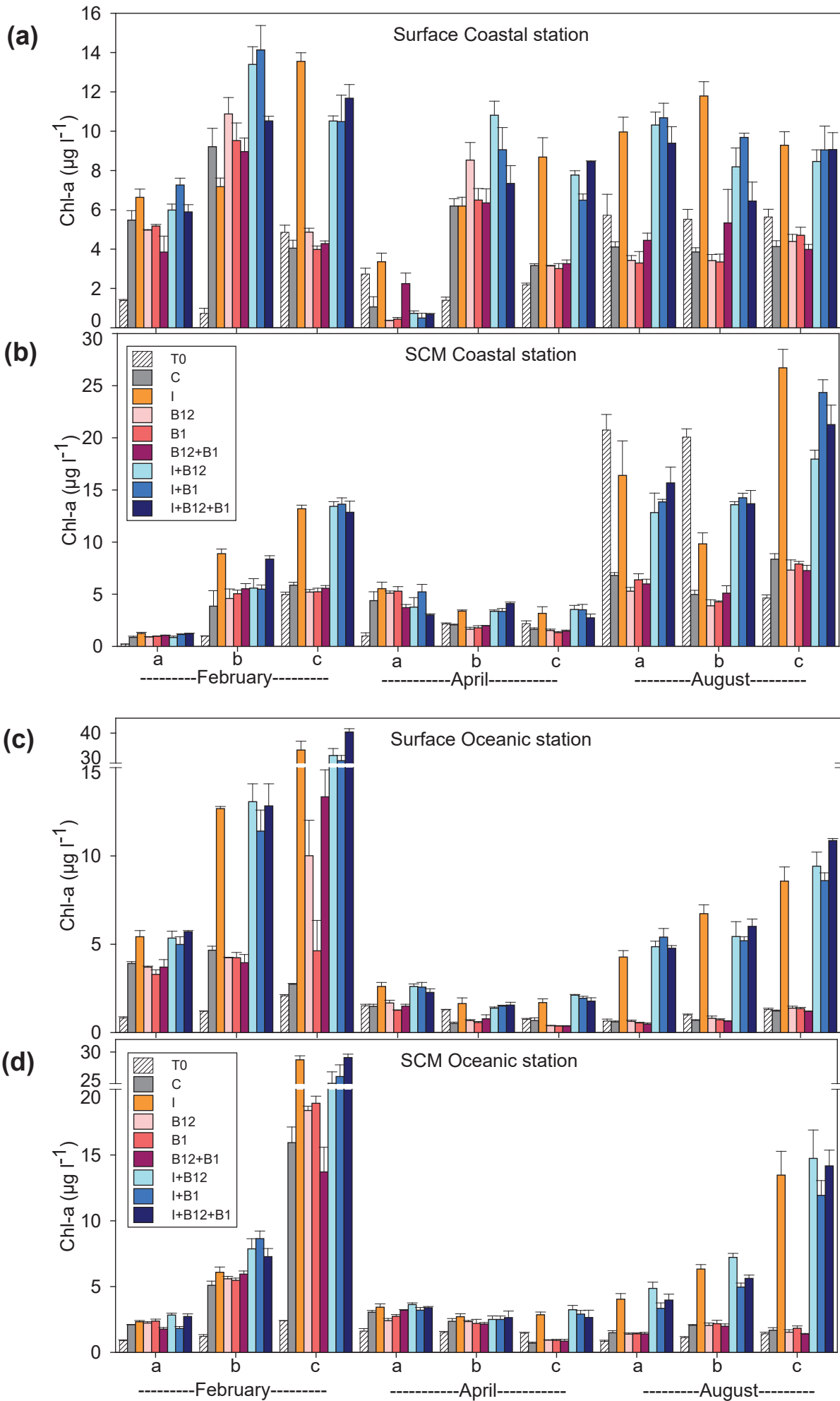
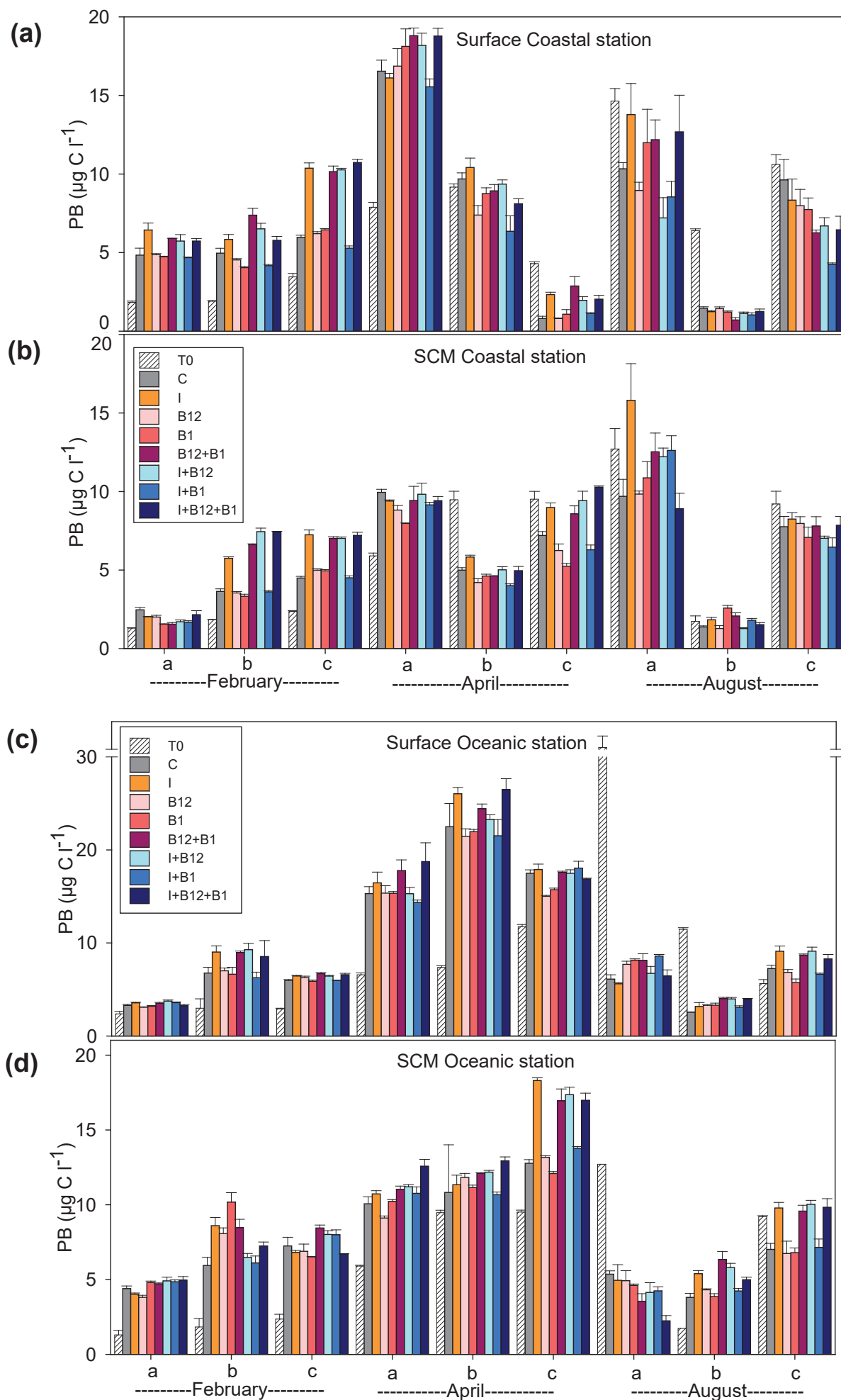


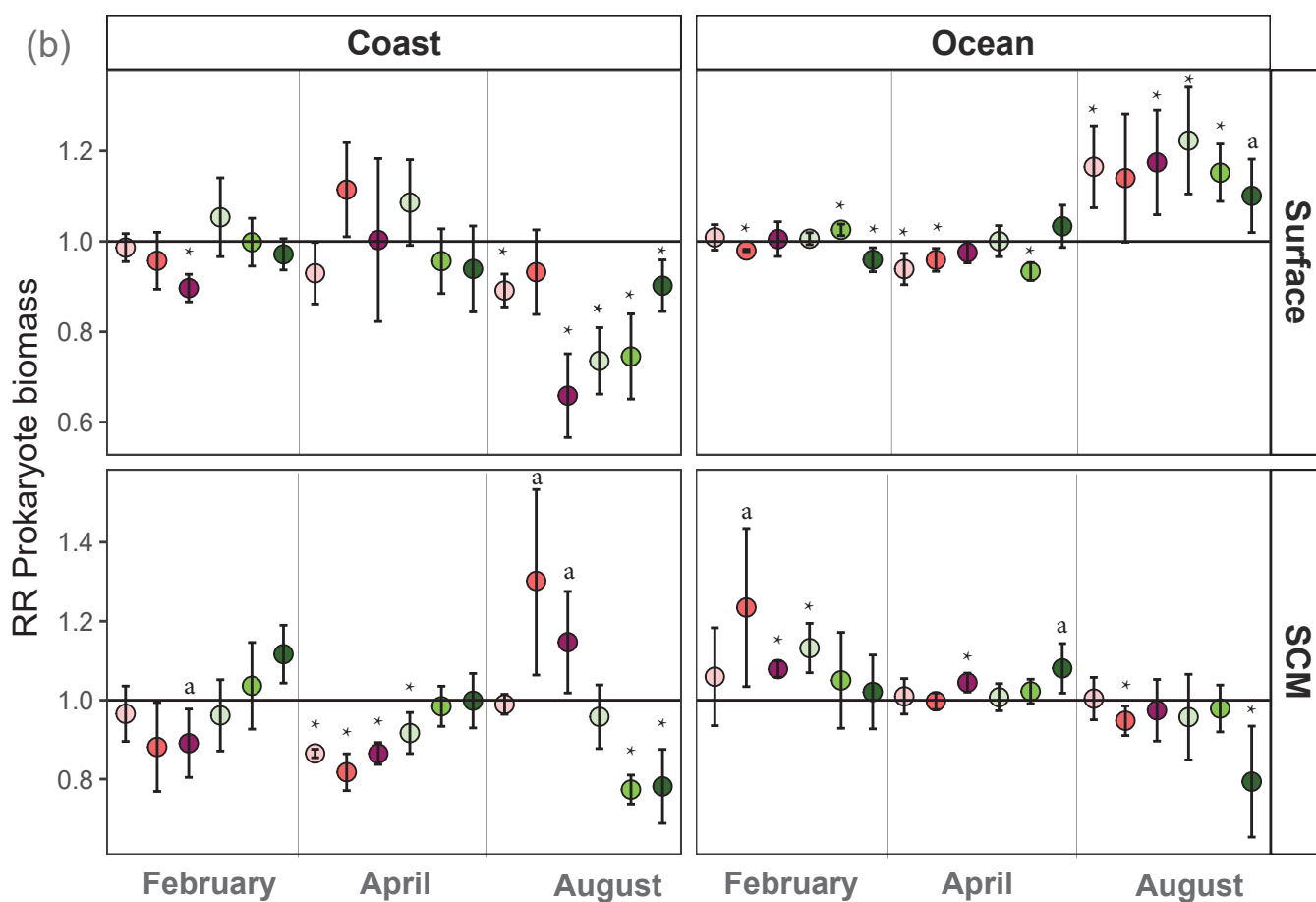
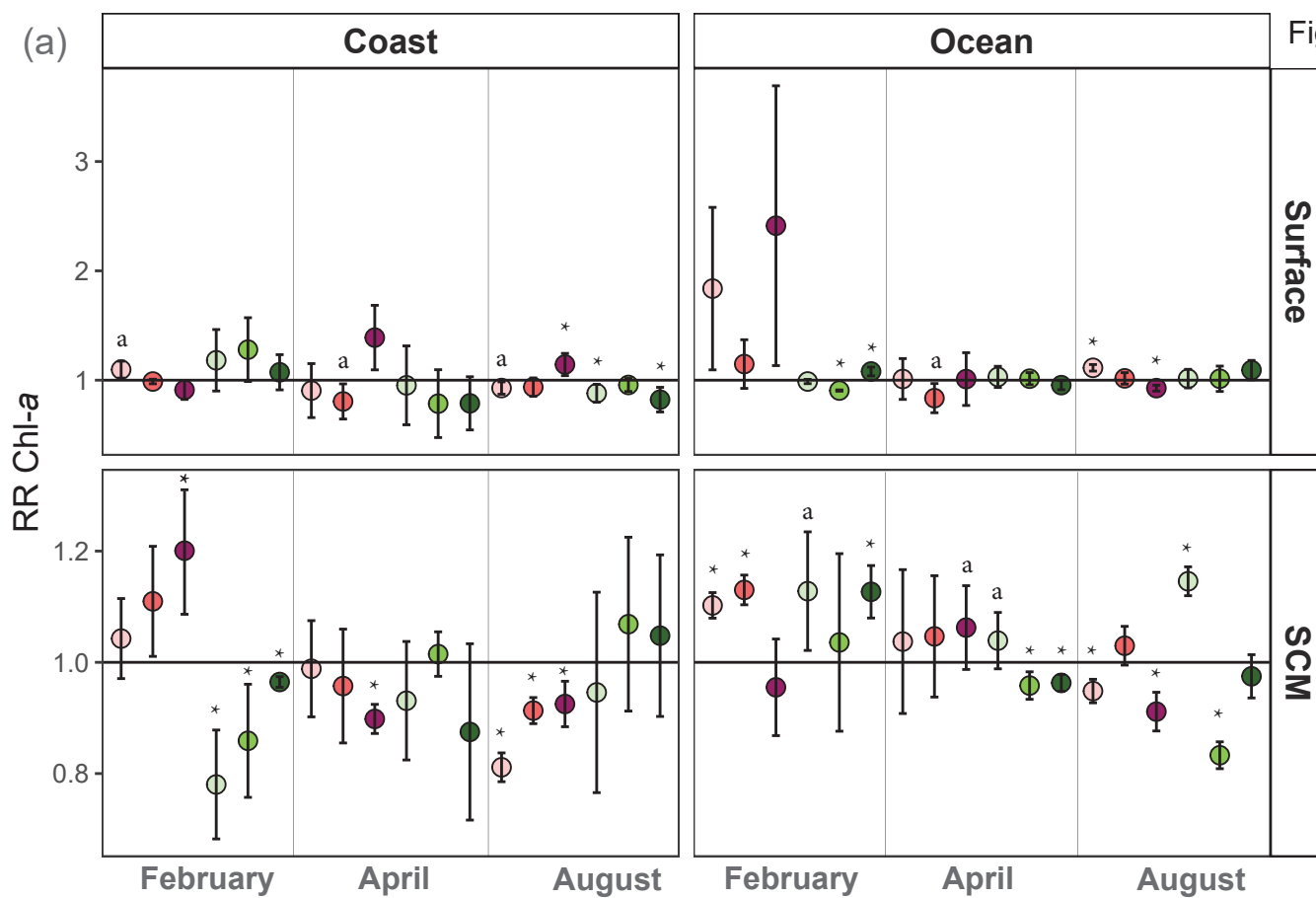
Fig. 04







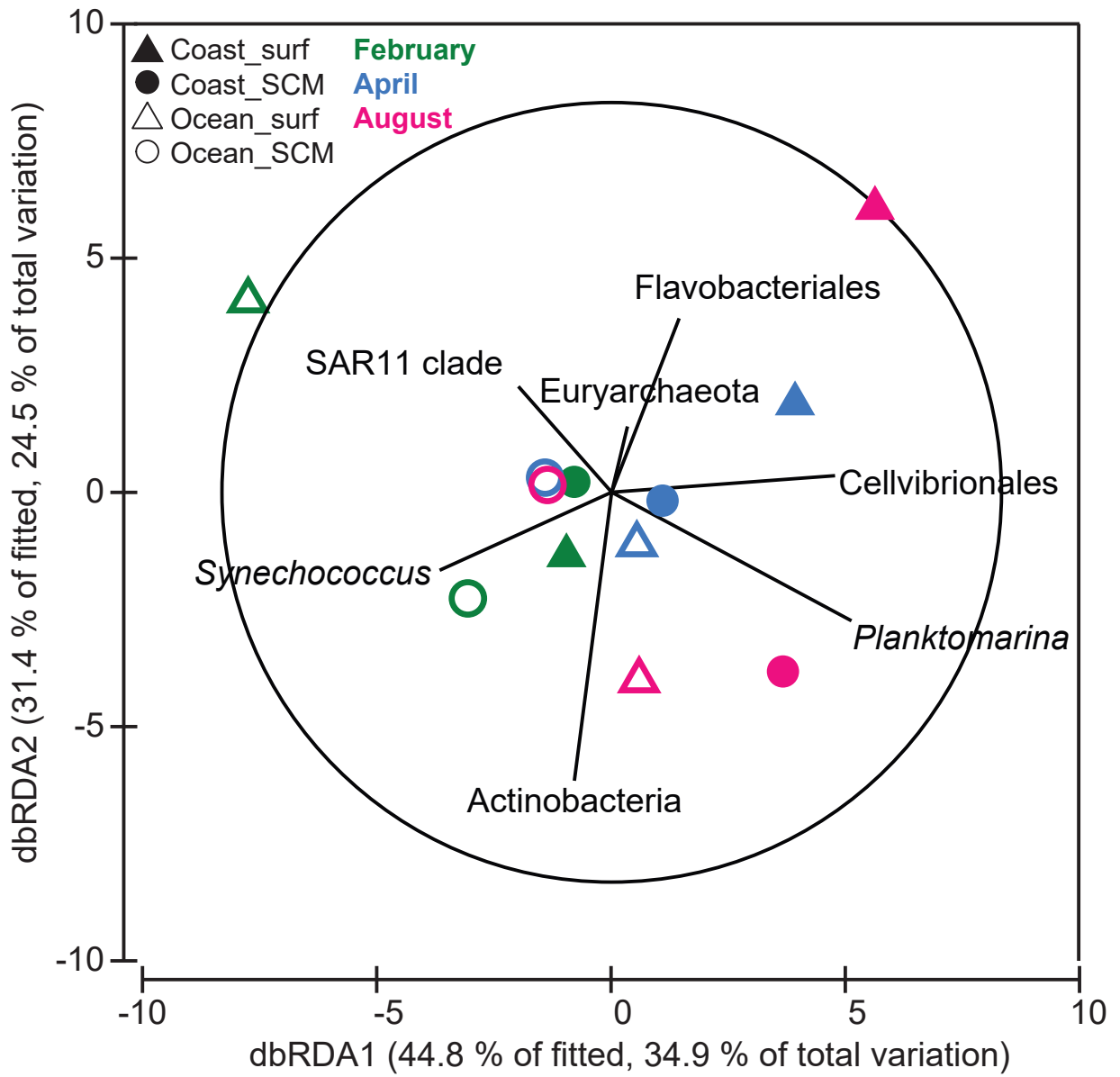




Treatment

- B12 /C
- I+B12 /I
- B1 /C
- I+B1 /I
- B12+B1 /C
- I+B12+B1 /I

Fig. 08



1 **Supplement information**

2 **Table S1:** concentration of hydroxocobalamin (OHB12) and cyanocobalamin (CNB12)  
 3 in seawater samples corresponding to the initial time of the experiments. Abbreviations:  
 4 Not detected (nd) and lower concentration of the quantification limit (<LOQ).

Sample ID	Station	Depth	Month	OHB12 pmol l <sup>-1</sup>	CNB12 pmol l <sup>-1</sup>
1602_st3_d1_p1	coast	surface	February	0.21	nd
1602_st3_d3_p1	coast	surface	February	0.20	nd
1602_st3_d5_p1	coast	surface	February	0.26	nd
1604_st3_d1_p1	coast	surface	April	0.47	nd
1604_st3_d3_p1	coast	surface	April	0.66	nd
1604_st3_d5_p1	coast	surface	April	0.23	nd
1608_st3_d1_p1	coast	surface	August	0.30	nd
1608_st3_d3_p1	coast	surface	August	0.38	nd
1608_st3_d5_p1	coast	surface	August	0.19	nd
1602_st3_d1_p2	coast	SCM	February	0.36	nd
1602_st3_d3_p2	coast	SCM	February	0.10	nd
1602_st3_d5_p2	coast	SCM	February	0.41	nd
1604_st3_d1_p2	coast	SCM	April	0.32	nd
1604_st3_d3_p2	coast	SCM	April	0.27	nd
1604_st3_d5_p3	coast	SCM	April	0.15	nd
1608_st3_d1_p2	coast	SCM	August	0.46	nd
1608_st3_d3_p2	coast	SCM	August	0.21	nd
1608_st3_d5_p2	coast	SCM	August	0.39	nd
1602_st6_d1_p1	ocean	surface	February	0.31	nd
1602_st6_d3_p1	ocean	surface	February	0.09	nd
1602_st6_d5_p1	ocean	surface	February	0.06	nd
1604_st6_d1_p1	ocean	surface	April	0.13	nd
1604_st6_d3_p1	ocean	surface	April	0.09	nd
1604_st6_d6_p1	ocean	surface	April	0.04	nd
1608_st6_d1_p1	ocean	surface	August	0.20	nd
1608_st6_d3_p1	ocean	surface	August	0.09	nd
1608_st6_d6_p1	ocean	surface	August	0.14	nd
1602_st6_d1_p3	ocean	SCM	February	0.21	0.55
1602_st6_d3_p2	ocean	SCM	February	0.08	nd
1604_st6_d1_p2	ocean	SCM	April	nd	nd
1604_st6_d3_p2	ocean	SCM	April	0.07	nd
1604_st6_d6_p2	ocean	SCM	April	0.05	nd
1608_st6_d1_p2	ocean	SCM	August	0.19	nd
1608_st6_d3_p2	ocean	SCM	August	0.09	nd
1608_st6_d6_p2	ocean	SCM	August	0.16	nd

6 **Table S2:** Summary of initial conditions for each experiment (expt) at both coastal and  
7 oceanic stations (Stn). Sampling months were February (Feb), April (Apr) and August  
8 (Aug). The variables measured at t0 were temperature (Temp), salinity (Sal), nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$   
9 ), nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ), ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), phosphate ( $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ), ratio inorganic nitrogen:phosphate  
10 (DIN:P), silicate ( $\text{SiO}_4^{2-}$ ), Chlorophyll-*a* (Chl-*a*) and prokaryote biomass (PB).

11

12 Table S2

Stn	Depth	Month	Expt	Day	Temp °C	Sal	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	DIN:P	SiO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Chl- <i>a</i> µg l <sup>-1</sup>	PB µg C l <sup>-1</sup>
							----- µmol l <sup>-1</sup> -----					µmol l <sup>-1</sup>		
Coast	surface	Feb	3	0	13.8	35.0	2.86	0.19	0.35	0.17	19.7	3.6	1.39	1.84
			3	2	13.2	34.3	4.89	0.36	0.51	0.33	17.3	6.8	0.73	1.91
			3	5	13.4	34.2	4.63	0.19	0.09	0.18	27.7	8.6	4.86	3.45
		Apr	3	0	13.0	34.6	2.21	0.24	0.32	0.19	14.6	5.2	2.73	7.88
			3	2	13.3	34.3	12.46	0.36	0.54	0.41	32.7	12.6	1.40	9.17
			3	5	14.0	31.8	4.18	0.16	0.55	0.19	25.9	10.5	2.18	4.30
		Aug	3	0	14.1	35.6	0.50	0.10	0.84	0.12	11.8	1.1	5.73	14.64
			3	2	14.4	35.6	0.81	0.08	1.08	0.20	9.9	0.3	5.52	6.39
			3	5	13.7	35.2	3.93	0.17	0.12	0.33	12.8	3.9	5.64	10.61
SCM		Feb	3	0	13.7	35.7	3.58	0.14	0.04	0.31	12.1	5.2	0.21	1.30
			3	2	13.9	35.3	4.16	0.15	0.07	0.37	11.9	4.6	0.99	1.83
			3	5	13.4	34.7	2.94	0.09	0.10	0.17	18.4	6.1	4.98	2.36
		Apr	3	0	12.8	35.3	3.22	0.34	0.46	0.28	14.3	4.4	0.99	5.90
			3	2	13.2	35.3	0.24	0.07	0.12	0.04	10.2	2.8	2.15	9.47
			3	5	13.9	34.9	0.21	0.07	0.10	0.06	6.5	3.4	2.18	9.51
		Aug	3	0	13.6	35.6	0.91	0.13	0.23	0.15	8.3	1.7	20.75	12.71
			3	2	13.8	35.6	1.40	0.16	0.14	0.23	7.5	1.4	20.07	1.73
			3	5	13.4	35.6	5.29	0.13	0.14	0.41	13.5	3.9	4.63	9.21
Ocean	surface	Feb	6	1	14.0	30.2	1.32	0.18	0.11	0.16	10.1	3.2	0.82	2.38
			6	3	14.2	35.9	0.90	0.11	0.04	0.12	9.2	2.3	1.20	2.98
			6	6	14.1	35.4	1.03	0.15	0.13	0.16	8.4	3.0	2.08	2.92
		Apr	6	1	13.4	35.7	0.95	0.11	0.06	0.12	9.6	2.3	1.51	6.58
			6	3	13.6	35.7	0.47	0.11	0.06	0.08	8.3	2.7	1.29	7.37
			6	6	13.9	35.6	0.12	0.03	0.06	0.04	4.9	2.1	0.75	11.76
		Aug	6	1	16.0	35.6	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.02	4.9	1.5	0.65	39.38
			6	3	16.0	35.6	0.26	0.01	0.09	0.05	7.5	3.2	0.99	11.46
			6	6	15.3	35.5	0.45	0.04	0.05	0.07	7.4	1.4	1.30	5.63
SCM		Feb	6	1	14.1	35.8	1.73	0.20	0.04	0.18	11.2	3.5	0.88	2.28
			6	3	14.1	35.8	1.60	0.19	0.02	0.15	11.7	2.9	1.22	3.18
			6	6	14.1	35.8	1.13	0.18	0.12	0.16	9.2	2.9	2.39	3.49
		Apr	6	1	13.3	35.7	1.63	0.31	0.10	0.18	11.5	3.2	1.61	5.38
			6	3	13.3	35.7	1.45	0.33	0.12	0.16	11.9	2.4	1.50	6.96
			6	6	13.7	35.6	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.05	3.0	1.9	1.45	11.74
		Aug	6	1	14.9	35.6	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.03	4.2	1.4	0.84	26.55
			6	3	16.0	35.6	0.27	0.00	0.07	0.05	6.5	2.8	1.11	6.04
			6	6	15.4	35.6	0.35	0.06	0.06	0.07	6.5	1.7	1.41	5.45

13 **Figure S1:** A non-metric multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) showing the distance  
14 according to similarity in the microbial plankton composition at the beginning of each  
15 experiment (each symbol). Filled and open symbols represent samples from coastal  
16 and oceanic station, respectively, numbers correspond to the sampling station, triangles  
17 and circles represent samples from surface and SCM, respectively, and colours  
18 correspond to the months: (green) February, (blue) April and (pink) August. SCM: sub-  
19 surface chlorophyll maximum.

20

21 **Figure S2:** Response ratio (RR) to inorganic nutrient addition (averaged biomass at the  
22 end of the experiments divided by the averaged value in the control) of total  
23 phytoplankton community (smooth bars) and of prokaryote biomass (PB) (striped bars)  
24 at (a) coastal and (b) oceanic station. Each bar corresponds to one of the 3 experiments  
25 (a, b or c) performed in each depth and station during February, April and August.  
26 Colours represent samples from (light grey) surface (surf) and (dark grey) SCM.  
27 Horizontal line represents a response equal to 1, which implies no change relative to  
28 control. Asterisks indicate phytoplankton significant response (t-test; \*  $p < 0.05$ ) and  
29 circle indicate bacterial significant response (t-test; <sup>0</sup>  $p < 0.05$ ). Note that different scales  
30 were used. Note that y-axis in Fig. S2 b is broken. SCM: sub-surface chlorophyll  
31 maximum.

32

33 **Figure S3:** Response ratio (RR) of total phytoplankton at surface and SCM in the coastal  
34 station and at surface and SCM in the oceanic waters in (a-d) February, (e-h) April and  
35 (i-l) August. Treatments represented are: B12/C; B1/C; B12+B1/C in pink tones and  
36 I+B12/I; I+B1/I; I+B12+B1/I in green tones. Pink symbols represent primary  
37 responses to B vitamins and green symbols represent secondary responses  
38 to B vitamins. Horizontal dotted-line represents a response equal to 1, that means no

39 change relative to control in the primary responses, and no change relative to inorganic  
40 treatment in the secondary responses. Asterisks indicate phytoplankton significant  
41 response (t-test; \*  $p < 0.05$ ). [Note that the y-axis is broken in a and b.](#)

42

43 **Figure S4:** Response ratio (RR) of prokaryote biomass at surface and SCM in the coastal  
44 station and at surface and SCM in the oceanic waters in (a-d) February, (e-h) April and  
45 (i-l) August. Treatments represented are: B12/C; B1/C; B12+B1/C in pink tones and  
46 I+B12/I; I+B1/I; I+B12+B1/I in green tones. Pink symbols represent primary  
47 responses to B vitamins and green symbols represent secondary responses to B vitamins.  
48 Horizontal dotted-line represents a response equal to 1, that means no change relative  
49 to control in the primary responses, and no change relative to inorganic treatment in the  
50 secondary responses. Asterisks indicate prokaryote significant response (t-test; \*  $p <$   
51 0.05).



Figure S1

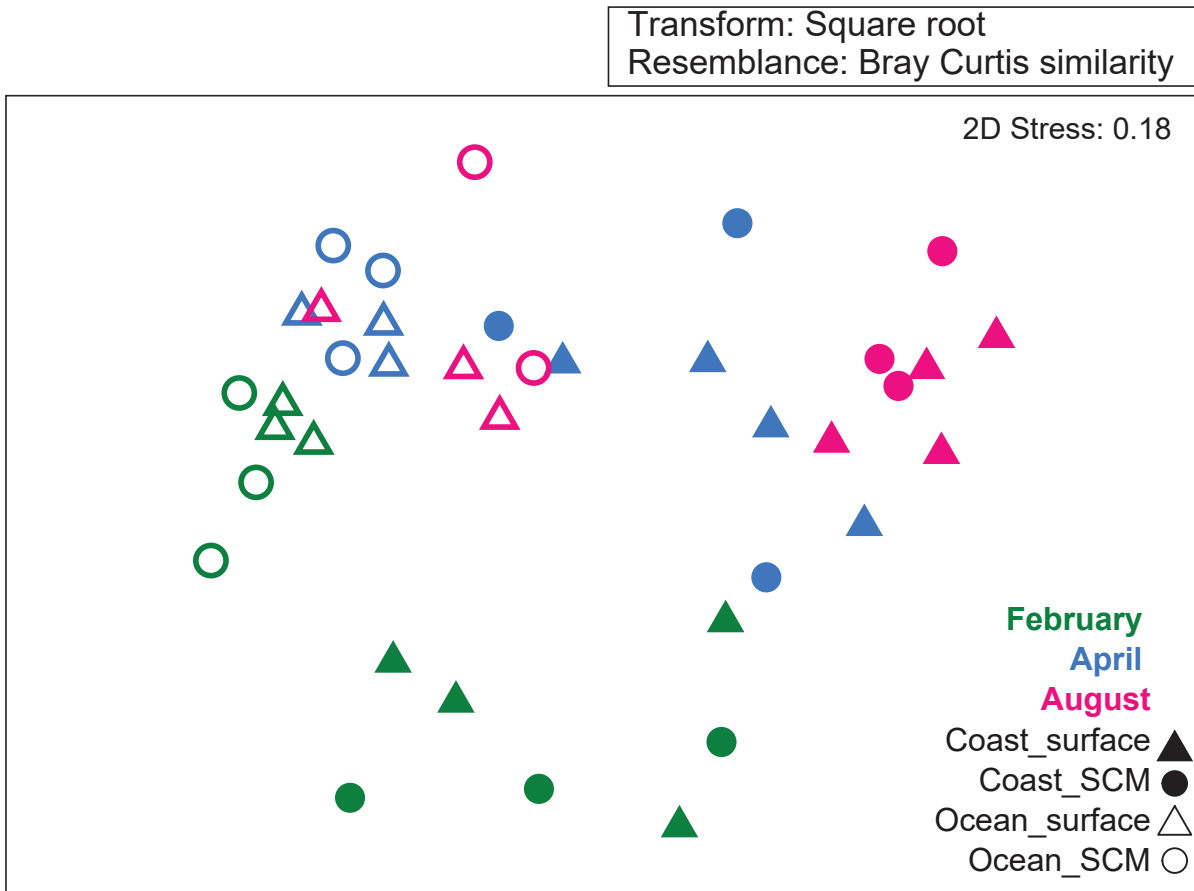
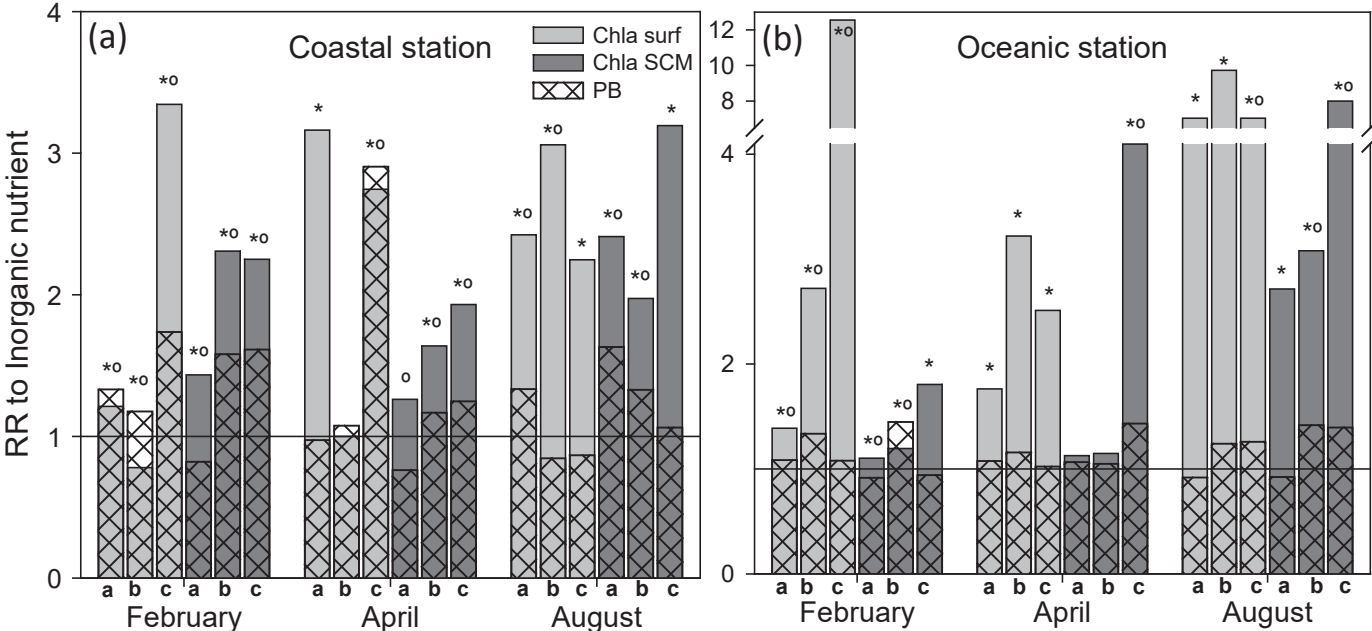
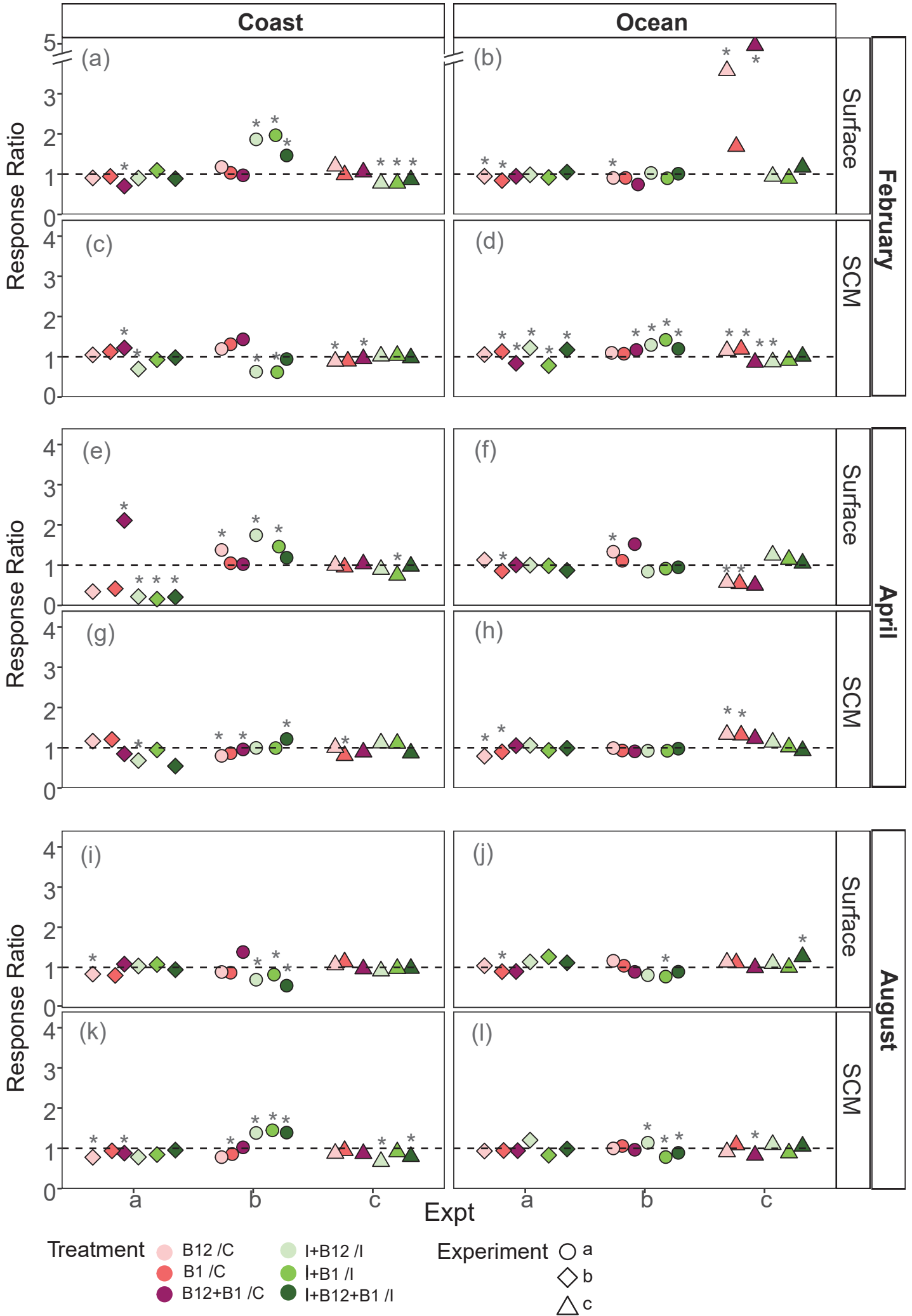


Figure S2



Chlorophyll-a Responses



## Prokaryote Biomass Responses

