

***Interactive comment on* “Characterization of particle-associated and free-living bacterial and archaeal communities along the water columns of the South China Sea” *by* Jiangtao Li et al.**

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We have revised our manuscript according to the managing editor’s comments generated in the early phase of the Discussion time. Specifically, we modified parts of the M&M section (i.e., protocols for DNA extraction and real-time PCR) where some of the sentences appear to be similar to our early papers. Additionally, we provided more protocol details in the revised version of the manuscript. Please use the revised version for further discussion and commenting.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

C1

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<https://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2020-115/bg-2020-115-AC1-supplement.pdf>

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