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1 **Heterotrophic bacterial diversity in aquatic microbial mat**
2 **communities from Antarctica.**

3
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23

24

25 **Abstract**

26 Heterotrophic bacteria isolated from five aquatic microbial mat samples from different locations in
27 continental Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula were compared to assess their biodiversity. A total of
28 2225 isolates obtained on different media and at different temperatures were included. After an initial
29 grouping by whole-genome fingerprinting, partial 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis was used for further
30 identification. These results were compared with previously published data obtained with the same
31 methodology from terrestrial and aquatic microbial mat samples from two additional Antarctic regions.
32 The phylotypes recovered in all these samples belonged to five major phyla, *Actinobacteria*,
33 *Bacteroidetes*, *Proteobacteria*, *Firmicutes* and *Deinococcus-Thermus*, and included several potentially
34 new taxa. Ordination analyses were performed in order to explore the variance in the diversity of the
35 samples at genus level. Habitat type (terrestrial versus aquatic) and specific conductivity in the lacustrine
36 systems significantly explained the variation in bacterial community structure. Comparison of the
37 phylotypes with sequences from public databases showed that a considerable proportion (36.9%) is
38 currently known only from Antarctica. This suggests that in Antarctica both cosmopolitan taxa as well as
39 taxa with limited dispersal and a history of long-term isolated evolution occur.

40

41

42 **1. Introduction**

43 Microbial mats and surface crusts that may develop in wet Antarctic habitats (Laybourn-Parry and Pearce
44 2007; Vincent 2000), are dense communities of vertically stratified microorganisms and are believed to
45 be responsible for much of the primary production under the extreme polar conditions. The mats and
46 crusts typically consist of mucilage in which cyanobacteria and other algal cells are embedded, together
47 with other heterotrophic and chemoautotrophic microorganisms, sand grains and other inorganic
48 materials (Fernández-Valiente et al. 2007). Particularly the lacustrine ecosystems, which range from
49 relatively deep freshwater and hypersaline lakes, to small ponds and seepage areas (Verleyen et al. in
50 press) act as true biodiversity and primary production hotspots in a matrix of polar desert and ice.

51 In recent years, Antarctic microbial mats have attracted a lot of scientific interest, with the
52 photoautotrophic taxa such as cyanobacteria (Taton et al. 2006), green algae (De Wever et al. 2009) and
53 diatoms (Sabbe et al. 2003) probably being the best-studied groups. Water depth (and hence light
54 climate), liquid water availability, and conductivity or related parameters are the most important
55 variables in structuring these communities (Hodgson et al. 2004; Verleyen et al. 2010). Surprisingly, only
56 a small number of studies have focussed on the heterotrophic bacterial diversity in these microbial mats
57 (Brambilla et al. 2001; Van Trappen et al. 2002). Other land-based habitats in Antarctica that have been
58 studied for their heterotrophic bacterial diversity include soils in dry valleys (Aislabie et al. 2006b) and
59 maritime Antarctica (Chong et al. 2010), the plankton in freshwater lakes (Pearce. 2005), and anoxic
60 waters in meromictic lakes (Franzmann et al. 1991). The few studies focussing on the heterotrophic
61 bacterial diversity in aquatic microbial mats comprised samples from lakes in the McMurdo Dry Valleys,
62 the Vestfold Hills and the Larsemann Hills and included culture-dependent as well as independent
63 approaches. They reported a large diversity with an important number of previously unknown taxa
64 (Brambilla et al. 2001; Van Trappen et al. 2002). As a result, several new species have been described in

65 the phyla *Bacteroidetes*, *Proteobacteria*, *Actinobacteria* and *Firmicutes* (Reddy et al. 2003a, b; Reddy et
66 al. 2002a, b; Shivaji et al. 2005; Van Trappen et al. 2003, 2004a, b, c, d). The relationship between the
67 bacterial diversity of microbial mats and environmental parameters has not yet been studied although
68 Brambilla et al. (2001) suggested some general features expected of the organisms obtained based on
69 their phylogenetic position.

70 The aims of this study were (i) to contribute to a better understanding of the diversity of heterotrophic
71 bacteria in microbial mat communities from a range of terrestrial and aquatic habitats in coastal and
72 inland ice-free regions in Continental and Maritime Antarctica, and (ii) to explore the relationship
73 between the bacterial communities and a set of environmental parameters. We applied a cultivation-
74 based approach using several media and growth conditions to access heterotrophic bacteria. A large
75 number of isolates was obtained and identified through genotypic characterization using rep-PCR
76 fingerprinting and phylogenetic analysis of the 16S rRNA gene sequences. Comparison of the sequences
77 with those available in public databases allowed identification of the bacteria and an assessment of their
78 geographic distribution.

79

80 **2. Experimental Procedures**

81 **2.1. Source of samples**

82 Five samples (PQ1, LA3, SK5, WO10 and SO6) from lacustrine habitats in different locations in
83 Continental Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula (Figure 1) were analysed (Table 1). All samples were
84 kept frozen continuously after collection (in January 2003 [PQ1] and January 2007 [LA3, SK5, WO10 and
85 SO6]) until processing in the laboratory. Specific conductivity and pH were measured in the field using a
86 YSI 600 meter. Details regarding the analysis of the concentration of the major ions and nutrients have
87 been described by Hodgson et al. (2010) and Verleyen et al. (in press).

88 Data for the new samples was also compared with information on four further samples previously
89 studied using the same methods, including two terrestrial mat samples from Utsteinen (Sør Rondane
90 Mountains, East Antarctica) (Peeters et al. 2011a) and two microbial mat samples from lakes in the
91 Pensacola Mountains and the Shackleton Range (Peeters et al. 2011b).

92

93 **2.2. Enumeration and isolation of heterotrophic bacteria**

94 One gram of sample was aseptically weighed and homogenized in 9 ml sterile cold (4°C) physiological
95 saline (0.86% NaCl) using a vortex. Tenfold dilution series (kept at 4°C) were plated on four different
96 media (Marine agar 2216 (MA) (BD Difco™), R2A (BD Difco™), ten times diluted R2A (R2A/10), and PYGV
97 (Pepton-Yeast-Glucose-Vitamin) medium (DSMZ medium 621)) and incubated at 20°C, 15°C and 4°C. R2A
98 (Difco) contains pyruvate, starch and dextrose as C sources and yeast extract, peptone and
99 casaminoacids as N and C sources and PYGV (DSMZ medium 621) contains peptone, yeast extract and
100 glucose as C and/or N sources and additional vitamins and minerals. Both are considered oligotrophic
101 media because the amounts of these components are at least two to ten times lower than in more
102 general media such as nutrient broth. In addition to regular physiological saline (PS) dilution series, sea
103 water (SW) dilutions were used for the LA3 and WO10 samples which originated from lakes close to the
104 ocean and had elevated conductivity values.

105 All plates were incubated for several weeks during which the number of colony forming units (CFU) was
106 counted. When the number of CFU's had stabilized, the total number of CFU/g for each combination of
107 culture conditions was calculated for the plates showing between 20 and 400 colonies. At the end of the
108 incubation period, three colonies (or less in case of insufficient growth) of each morphological type
109 (colony parameters used include color, margin, elevation, shape, diameter, surface appearance) were
110 isolated and purified. Pure cultures were cryopreserved at -80°C using broth medium plus 15% glycerol
111 or the MicroBank™ system (Pro-Lab Diagnostics, Ontario, Canada).

112

113

114 **2.3. Genotypic fingerprinting**

115 To reduce the large number of isolates, duplicates were eliminated using a whole-genome fingerprinting
116 technique, repetitive element palindromic (rep)-PCR, resulting in a smaller number of clusters and
117 unique isolates. DNA preparation was carried out as described by Baele et al. (2003). Rep-PCR
118 fingerprinting using the GTG₅ primer (5'-GTG GTG GTG GTG GTG-3') was performed according to Gevers
119 et al. (2001). Resulting fingerprints were processed using the BioNumerics (v 5.1.) software (Applied-
120 Maths). Rep-PCR profiles were compared by calculating pairwise Pearson's correlation coefficients (*r*). A
121 cluster analysis was performed on the resulting matrix using the Unweighted Pair Group Method using
122 Arithmetic averages (UPGMA). An 80% Pearson correlation coefficient threshold was used (Gevers et al.
123 2001) in combination with visual inspection of bands to delineate rep-clusters. Rep-types included both
124 rep-clusters as well as isolates grouping separately.

125

126 **2.4. 16S rRNA gene sequencing**

127 The 16S rRNA genes of the representatives of all the different rep-types were amplified and partially
128 sequenced as previously described (Vancanneyt et al. 2004). PCR products were purified using a
129 Nucleofast 96 PCR clean up membrane system (Machery-Nagel, Germany) and Tecan Workstation 200.
130 The BKL1 primer was used for sequencing (Coenye et al. 1999). The fragments obtained (approximately
131 400 bp of the first and most variable part of the gene) were cleaned with the BigDye[®] xTerminator™
132 Purification Kit according to the protocol of the supplier (Applied Biosystems). Sequence analysis was
133 performed using an ABI PRISM 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, USA). Phylogenetic analysis
134 was performed using the BioNumerics (v 5.1.) software package (Applied-Maths). The sequences were
135 compared and pairwise similarity values were calculated to delineate phylotypes at 99.0% 16S rRNA

136 gene sequence similarity (Acinas et al. 2004; Stach et al. 2003). The classifier of the Ribosomal Database
137 Project, containing the sequences of all described species, was used to obtain a genus identification for
138 the phylotypes (Wang et al. 2007). Identifications with confidence estimates lower than 80% (Wang et al.
139 2007) were verified by phylogenetic analysis with all neighbouring taxa. A multiple alignment of the
140 sequences was made and after visual inspection, distances were calculated using the Kimura-2
141 correction. A neighbour joining dendrogram (Saitou and Nei 1987) was constructed and bootstrap
142 analysis was undertaken using 500 bootstrap replicates. When the analysis showed that a phylotype was
143 not part of an existing genus and was either equally related to multiple genera or had 16S rRNA gene
144 sequence similarities with neighbouring genera below the threshold value of 96.4% (Yarza et al. 2010),
145 the phylotype was classified as a potentially new genus.

146 The 16S rRNA gene sequences determined in this study have been deposited in the EMBL database
147 under accession numbers FR772052 - FR772080 and FR772100 - FR772289.

148

149 **2.5. Sample coverage**

150 Rarefaction curves were used to estimate how well our method covers the fraction of bacteria viable in
151 the growth conditions used. They were calculated with an online rarefaction calculator
152 (http://biome.sdsu.edu/fastgroup/cal_tools.htm). The Shannon biodiversity index was calculated as
153 described by Magurran et al. (1988).

154

155 **2.6. Multivariate analysis**

156 Direct and indirect ordinations were performed using CANOCO 4.5 for Windows (ter Braak and Smilauer
157 2002). A principal component analysis (PCA) was applied of the number of rep-types assigned to the
158 different genera for each sample. Redundancy analysis (RDA) was applied to assess whether differences
159 in bacterial community structure are underlain by differences in habitat type. Therefore, we created

160 three dummy variables (Table S2). The forward selection procedure and unrestricted Monte Carlo
161 permutations tests (499 permutations, $p = 0.05$) was used to select the minimal number of variables
162 explaining the variation in the distribution of the different rep-types over the genera for the different
163 samples. The importance of limnological variability was assessed for the lacustrine samples only, because
164 no chemical data were available for the terrestrial samples

165

166 **2.7. Geographic distribution of the phlotypes**

167 The 16S rRNA gene sequence of each phylotype was compared with sequences available in public
168 databases (EMBL and NCBI) including cultured strains as well as environmental sequences (both from
169 metagenomics and high throughput sequencing). Based on the origin of sequences showing $\geq 99.0\%$
170 sequence similarity, the phlotypes were classified as Antarctic (when no high scoring sequences, or only
171 high scoring sequences originating from other Antarctic environments, were found), bipolar (only high
172 scoring sequences from polar environments), cold (only high scoring sequences from cold environments)
173 or cosmopolitan (at least one high scoring sequence from non-Antarctic/cold/polar environment) (Table
174 4). Phlotypes that showed no significant similarity with any other sequences, were classified as
175 Antarctic.

176

177 **3. Results**

178 **3.1. Isolation, rep-PCR fingerprinting and 16S rRNA gene sequencing**

179 Dilution series of the different samples (Table 1) were plated on four different media and incubated at
180 three relatively cold temperatures compared to those used for more temperate bacteria. After three
181 weeks incubation for plates at 20 and 15°C and eight weeks for 4°C, the number of colony forming units
182 (CFU) was counted for the different conditions. When comparing the number of CFU/g for the five
183 samples, there were clear differences (Table 2). Sample WO10 had the highest CFU/g of all samples. The

184 highest value for samples PQ1 and SK5 was low in comparison with the other samples although a large
185 diversity in colony morphologies was observed and consequently many isolates were taken (Fig. 1). For
186 samples PQ1, SK5 and SO6 the highest number of CFU/g was found at 15 or 20°C, while for samples LA3
187 and WO10 4°C gave best growth. The samples originating from saline and brackish lakes and ponds (LA3
188 and WO10) yielded the highest number of CFU/g on marine medium, whereas the other samples yielded
189 the highest number of CFU/g on an oligotrophic medium.

190 Between 253 and 550 isolates (Fig. 1), were purified from the five new samples. This gave a total of 2225
191 isolates that were grouped in 810 rep-types. To compare the diversity obtained under each culture
192 condition, the relative diversity yield was calculated as the number of rep-types recovered from a sample
193 for each medium and temperature combination, divided by the total number of rep-types obtained for
194 that sample. The highest values are summarized in Table 3. For all samples the highest values for the
195 colony counts (Table 2) and the highest diversity (Table 3) were found on either oligotrophic media (R2A,
196 R2A/10 and PYGV) or marine media (MA PS and MA SW). The highest CFU/g and diversities for each
197 sample were in the same temperature categories (high temperature category: 15-20°C; low temperature
198 category: 4°C) for samples PQ1, SK5 and SO6, however, for samples LA3 and WO10 the highest CFU/g
199 was at 4°C while the highest diversity was recovered at 20°C.

200 Representatives of the different rep-types were subjected to 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis. Based on
201 these sequences, phlotypes were delineated at 99% sequence similarity. The number of phlotypes
202 recovered per sample ranged from 39 (LA3) to 89 (PQ1) (Fig. 1). Interestingly, only an intermediate
203 number of isolates was taken in this latter sample in comparison with the other samples, suggesting that
204 it harbours a relatively large diversity. This was confirmed by the higher Shannon diversity index based
205 on the number of isolates per rep-type: 5.17 for PQ1, compared to 4.24, 4.62, 4.54 and 4.82 for samples
206 LA3, SK5, WO10 and SO6, respectively. Rarefaction curves (Fig. S1) were calculated to assess the
207 coverage of the culturable diversity under these culture conditions. The curves for most samples

208 approached a plateau. However, for sample PQ1, the rarefaction curve continued to rise despite a high
209 number of isolates being recovered from this sample.

210

211 **3.2. Distribution of the phlotypes over different phyla, classes, genera and samples**

212 The different phlotypes were identified using the classifier tool of the Ribosomal Database Project and
213 phylogenetic analysis of the 16S rRNA gene sequences. The diversity found in the different samples was
214 considered at different taxonomic levels. At phylum level, for most samples, the phlotypes were
215 affiliated with four major phylogenetic groups, *Actinobacteria*, *Proteobacteria*, *Bacteroidetes* and
216 *Firmicutes*. In addition, isolates of the *Deinococcus-Thermus* phylum were recovered from samples PQ1
217 and SO6 (Fig. 1). At genus level, variation between the five samples was larger: 70 genera were
218 recovered as well as 18 potentially novel genera (Table S1). Only *Salinibacterium* and *Flavobacterium*
219 were found in all five samples.

220 Previously we studied two terrestrial samples, BB50 and BB115 from the Utsteinen region (Peeters et al.
221 2011a), and two aquatic microbial mat samples, TM2 and TM4 from the Pensacola Mountains and the
222 Shackleton Range, respectively (Peeters et al. 2011b), using the same isolation conditions and the same
223 characterization methods. Below we compare our new findings with those from these four samples. To
224 facilitate comparison and to provide an overview, bacterial genus diversity data from these two studies
225 are also included in Table S1. No genera were recovered from all nine samples. The genera *Arthrobacter*,
226 *Brevundimonas* and *Hymenobacter* were found in eight samples whereas *Cryobacterium*, *Rhodococcus*,
227 *Sphingomonas*, *Flavobacterium* and *Bacillus* were found in seven of the nine samples. Some 38% (31/82)
228 of the genera were recovered from only one sample (e.g. *Frigoribacterium*, *Saxeibacter*, *Aurantimonas*,
229 *Caulobacter*, *Lysobacter*, *Maribacter*, *Brevibacillus*).

230 The genus *Arthrobacter* (Table S1) was best represented among the isolates (733 isolates, representing
231 20 different phlotypes), although the largest number of different phlotypes (50) was found in the

232 genus *Hymenobacter*, which also had a rather high number of isolates (230). Other well represented
233 genera based on either the number of isolates or the number of phlotypes included *Brevundimonas*,
234 *Flavobacterium*, *Polaromonas*, *Psychrobacter*, *Massilia*, *Sphingopyxis*, *Sphingomonas* and *Deinococcus*.

235 At the phylotype level, none of the phlotypes was found in all nine locations (Table S1). Only one
236 phylotype (R-36741), identified as *Brevundimonas*, was found in eight samples. Phylotype R-36538,
237 identified as *Arthrobacter*, was isolated from six samples. Furthermore, phlotypes belonging to the
238 genera *Brevundimonas*, *Rhodococcus*, *Salinibacterium*, *Sphingomonas* and *Massilia* were found in five
239 samples and phlotypes belonging to the genera *Arthrobacter*, *Cryobacterium*, *Rothia*, *Polaromonas*,
240 *Bacillus*, *Paenibacillus* and a potentially new genus in the class *Betaproteobacteria* were found in four
241 samples. Additionally, fifteen (4.2%) of the 356 phlotypes were recovered from three samples, 68
242 (19.1%) were found in two samples and 260 (73.0%) were restricted to a single sample. Table 4 shows
243 the distribution of shared phlotypes over the different samples. Sample SK5 shared the highest
244 percentage of phlotypes with other samples, especially with samples PQ1, LA3 and SO6. Also samples
245 TM2 and WO10 and TM4 and SO6 shared an important percentage ($\geq 10\%$) of phlotypes.

246 In all nine samples, only 3.4% (47) of the rep-types contained isolates from more than one sample. The
247 majority of these mixed rep-types contained isolates from two different samples and only two comprised
248 isolates from three different samples. All samples contained isolates that were part of these mixed rep-
249 types, whereas the highest number was shared between samples SK5 and SO6. A large portion of the
250 mixed rep-types was affiliated with *Actinobacteria*, while the remainder was related to all other classes
251 and phyla obtained except for the *Deinococcus-Thermus* phylum. The mixed rep-types belonged to
252 diverse genera, with several from the genera *Arthrobacter*, *Brevundimonas*, *Hymenobacter*, *Pedobacter*
253 and *Rothia*.

254

255 **3.3. Bacterial community structure in relation to environmental conditions**

256 Also here, we included information from our previous studies (Peeters et al. 2011a, b) to enhance the
257 comparison. The principal component analysis at genus level (Fig. 2) confirmed the differences observed
258 between the nine samples. The two terrestrial samples from Utsteinen (BB50 and BB115) are located
259 relatively close to each other in the top half of the scatter plot. The two samples from the saline lakes
260 (LA3 and WO10) and the brackish lake (TM2) are situated on the negative side of the first ordination axis.
261 A redundancy analysis revealed that the dummy variable denoting the difference in habitat type and
262 grouping terrestrial and freshwater habitats significantly explained 27.3% of the differences in
263 community composition between terrestrial and aquatic samples. This indicates that the samples from
264 saline lakes are different to those from freshwater systems and terrestrial environments. In the subset of
265 the samples from aquatic habitats for which limnological data are available, RDA confirmed that
266 conductivity significantly explained 34.4% of the variation in community structure at genus level.

267

268 **3.4. Geographical distribution of the phylotypes**

269 The sequences of the different phylotypes were compared with public databases to assess their
270 geographical distribution. For the five new samples a large number of the phylotypes (36.0-64.6%)
271 showed a cosmopolitan distribution as was also found in the four previously studied samples (Table 5).
272 All nine samples also contained a large number of phylotypes currently known only from Antarctica
273 (20.6-58.4%) and many of these shared no significant similarity ($\geq 99.0\%$) with any other sequence in
274 public databases. In general, only small numbers of phylotypes have been classified as cold ($\leq 10.4\%$) or
275 bipolar ($\leq 8.3\%$). It is clear that for most phyla/classes the phylotypes were mainly cosmopolitan (Table
276 5). Notable exceptions were the phyla *Bacteroidetes* and *Deinococcus-Thermus*, of which the majority of
277 phylotypes were currently known only from Antarctica, many of them without significant sequence
278 similarity with any other sequence.

279

280 4. Discussion

281 We studied the cultured diversity of the heterotrophic bacteria recovered under standardised conditions
282 from five aquatic microbial mat samples from different locations in Maritime and Continental Antarctica
283 and compared the results with previously published data from terrestrial and aquatic microbial mats
284 from two additional regions. Although only a limited number of isolates was studied from each sample,
285 and the culturable diversity represents only a fraction of the total diversity present (Amann et al. 1995),
286 some clear differences between the samples were apparent. The most diverse sample was PQ1, with the
287 highest Shannon diversity index and the largest number of phylotypes recovered, despite only an
288 intermediate number of isolates obtained in comparison with the other samples (Fig. 1). This relatively
289 high diversity may be explained by the location of the sampling site on the Antarctic Peninsula where
290 environmental conditions are less extreme than on the Antarctic continent.

291 The distribution of the different phyla, classes and genera varied considerably. In most samples, the
292 phylotypes belonged to four major phylogenetic groups (*Actinobacteria*, *Proteobacteria*, *Bacteroidetes*
293 and *Firmicutes*) that have been reported frequently from various Antarctic habitats including aquatic
294 microbial mats, soil from continental Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands and from sediments
295 (Aislabie et al. 2006b, 2008; Babalola et al. 2009; Bowman et al. 2000a; Bowman and McCuaig 2003;
296 Brambilla et al. 2001; Cary et al. 2010; Chong et al. 2010; Selbmann et al. 2010; Van Trappen et al. 2002).
297 The phylum *Deinococcus-Thermus* was only recovered from four samples (BB50, BB115, PQ1 and SO6),
298 including both terrestrial and aquatic samples. The genus *Deinococcus* has been found previously in
299 Antarctic soils and especially in the McMurdo Dry Valleys (Aislabie et al. 2006a, 2008; Cary et al. 2010;
300 Niederberger et al. 2008) although several other studies focussing on Antarctic soils (Gesheva 2009;
301 Shivaji et al. 2004) as well as on marine environments (Bowman et al. 2003, 2000b) and microbial mats
302 in Antarctic lakes (Brambilla et al. 2001; Van Trappen et al. 2002) did not report the presence of this
303 taxon. Most of the frequently occurring genera (genera that were found in more than four samples or

304 from which more than 100 isolates were recovered) have been reported previously from Antarctica (Ah
305 Tow and Cowan 2005; Busse et al. 2003; Irgens et al. 1996; Selbmann et al. 2010; Shivaji et al. 2004; Van
306 Trappen et al. 2002).

307 Besides genera found in multiple samples, also some phylotypes were found in more than one sample.
308 The observation that sample PQ1, the only sample originating from the Antarctic Peninsula, shared
309 comparable percentages of phylotypes with all samples (Table 4), irrespective of geographical distance is
310 interesting. Moreover, these percentages are in the same range as those shared between the other
311 samples. For some higher organisms such as Acari and Nematoda, a strong boundary has been observed
312 between the species present in the Antarctic Peninsula and continental Antarctica, although for
313 Tardigrada and Bryophyta no continental/maritime divide has been found (Convey et al. 2008). Our
314 results suggest that this boundary probably does not exist for bacterial taxa.

315 The abovementioned differences between the samples are related to lake water conductivity and the
316 type of habitat (terrestrial versus aquatic) as revealed by direct ordination analyses. The importance of
317 conductivity was also evident from the fact that the medium used affected the colony yield and the
318 diversity recovered for each sample. For example, the highest yield was obtained using the marine
319 medium for the samples derived from saline and brackish lakes. A number of genera were only obtained
320 from the saline lakes (e.g. *Loktanella*, *Halomonas*, *Gelidilacus* and *Algoriphagus*), whereas only small
321 numbers of the less salt tolerant class *Betaproteobacteria* (Philippot et al. 2010) were isolated in these
322 samples. Only the genera *Aeromicrobium* and *Micrococcus* were isolated both from terrestrial and saline
323 samples. Interestingly, conductivity appears to be more important than the type of habitat, as revealed
324 by the ordination analysis. Although our results may be influenced by the limited number of isolates and
325 samples studied, this observation corroborates previous studies (Philippot et al. 2010; Tamames et al.
326 2010), reporting that the diversity obtained from freshwater samples is more comparable with that of
327 terrestrial samples than with saline ones. The importance of conductivity and related variables rather

328 than extremes of temperatures, pH, or other physical and chemical factors (Tamames et al. 2010)
329 corroborates findings in other microbial organisms in Antarctic lakes, including diatoms and
330 cyanobacteria (Verleyen et al. 2010).

331
332 In the nine samples, a significant number of phylotypes were found to represent potentially novel
333 genera. From the terrestrial samples (BB50 and BB115), the saline samples (TM2, LA3 and WO10) and
334 the freshwater samples (TM4, PQ1, SK5 and SO6) respectively 4, 12 and 22 phylotypes represented
335 potentially new genera. The majority of potentially new genera were found in the classes
336 *Alphaproteobacteria* and *Betaproteobacteria* (35% each) and in samples SO6 (19%), SK5 (16%) and LA3
337 (16%). Further polyphasic studies are necessary to confirm their status and classification. The isolated
338 taxa can be investigated for antimicrobial activities or other products of biotechnological significance
339 (examples reviewed in Margesin and Feller 2010). Moreover, several phylotypes obtained here belonged
340 to genera which at present contain only one species or even one strain (e.g. *Rhodoglobus*, *Saxeibacter*,
341 *Enhydrobacter* and the recently described *Marisedimicola*). The additional cultures obtained in this work
342 may give more insight into the diversity present in these genera.

343
344 A comparison of our sequences to those available in public databases (including sequences from cultured
345 strains as well as environmental community samples and clone libraries) revealed that the majority of
346 the taxa showed a cosmopolitan distribution (Table 5). Although the geographic distribution reflects
347 current and therefore limited knowledge of bacterial diversity and ecology (Curtis and Sloan 2004), some
348 interesting observations can be made. For the BB samples, an important number of phylotypes are
349 currently restricted to Antarctica. This may be explained partly by the terrestrial, more exposed nature of
350 these samples from the pristine environment of the new Princes Elisabeth Station in Utsteinen. These
351 samples were also taken inland, whereas most previous microbial studies on terrestrial samples in

352 Antarctica have focussed on regions closer to the coast, and generally in close vicinity to research
353 stations (Aislabie et al. 2006b; Chong et al. 2009; Shivaji et al. 2004). The other samples in our
354 comparison originated from locations closer to the ocean and may have experienced inflow of non-
355 Antarctic species, which may have contributed to the lower percentage of phylotypes with an Antarctic
356 distribution. In addition, some strains may have been isolated previously in one of the few earlier studies
357 in the regions of the Schirmacher and Syowa Oasis (Satoh et al. 1989; Shivaji et al. 2004). An important
358 percentage of phylotypes currently restricted to Antarctica was also recovered from sample PQ1,
359 although this sample was taken on the Antarctic Peninsula, closer to the ocean and to civilization.

360 Comparing the geographical distribution of the phylotypes in more detail, it is clear that the majority of
361 those belonging to the *Actinobacteria*, *Proteobacteria* and *Firmicutes* have a more general distribution
362 whereas most *Bacteroidetes* and *Deinococcus-Thermus* phylotypes are currently restricted to the
363 Antarctic continent. This high number of Antarctic phylotypes within the *Bacteroidetes*, with several
364 potentially new taxa, is in agreement with the increasing number of new species described from
365 Antarctica within this phylum (Bowman et al. 1997, 1998; Bowman and Nichols 2002; Hirsch et al. 1998;
366 McCammon et al. 1998; Shivaji et al. 1992; Van Trappen et al. 2003, 2004b, c; Yi et al. 2005; Yi and Chun,
367 2006). Our observations therefore appear to indicate that both cosmopolitan and specific Antarctic
368 phylotypes, possibly with a limited dispersal capacity, are present.

369

370 **5. Conclusion**

371 Although only a limited number of microbial mat samples were studied, these revealed a large diversity
372 of culturable heterotrophic bacteria. There were important differences between the taxa obtained from
373 each of the samples and only limited overlap was observed between the diversity obtained. Phylotypes
374 belonged to five major phylogenetic groups (*Actinobacteria*, *Proteobacteria*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Firmicutes*
375 and *Deinococcus-Thermus*) and several represented potentially new taxa. The bacterial diversity was

376 found to relate to conductivity and habitat type. A comparison of our data with sequences in public
377 databases showed that an important proportion of phylotypes (36.9%) are currently known only from
378 the Antarctic continent, although a large proportion of cosmopolitan taxa (56.3%) was also recovered.
379 This suggests that, in Antarctica, cosmopolitan taxa as well as taxa with limited dispersal, which
380 potentially evolved in isolation, occur.

381

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383

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392

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645 **Captions for Figures**

646
647 Fig. 1 Division of the phlotypes over the different phylogenetic groups. The number of obtained isolates
648 and phlotypes are mentioned for the different samples. Information for samples BB50, BB115, TM2 and
649 TM4 was based on Peeters et al. 2011a, b

650
651 Fig. 2 Principal component analysis (PCA) of the samples showing the differences in bacterial diversity (at
652 genus level) based on the number of rep-types. Information for samples BB50, BB115, TM2 and TM4 was
653 based on Peeters et al. 2011a, b

654
655 Fig. S1 Rarefaction curves representing the number of phlotypes isolated from the different samples
656

Table 1 Overview of samples with their location, coordinates and description

Sample number	Place	Region	Latitude	Longitude	Sample description
PQ1	Narrows Lake	Pourqoui-Pas Island, Antarctic Peninsula	67°42'S	67°27'W	Littoral cyanobacterial mat with green algae and diatoms
LA3	Langhovde lake 3	Syowa Oasis	69°13'S	39° 48'E	Littoral brown crusts of cyanobacteria or diatoms from a small salt lake, sampling depth 0.2 m
SK5	Naka Tempyo	Syowa Oasis	69°28'S	39°40'E	Littoral epipsammic and interstitial microbial mat, brown or orange pigmented on top with a green surface layer, sampling depth 0.1 m
WO10	West Ongul Island, lake 10	Syowa Oasis	69°01'S	39°32'E	Littoral orange mat below a black decomposed mat. Shallow pool with evidence of higher lake level, sampling depth 0.15 m
SO6	Schirmacher Oasis, lake	Schirmacher Oasis	70°45'S	11°40'E	Littoral microbial mat sample from freshwater lake, sampling depth 0.1 m

Table 2 Plate counts (10^5 CFU/g) for the different growth conditions per sample. The maximum plate count for each sample is shown in bold and underlined; nd, not determined

Medium	Temperature	PQ1	LA3	SK5	WO10	SO6
MA-PS	4°C	0,00026	<u>21,6</u>	0,0008	<u>368,4211</u>	0,282759
	15°C	0,000341	17,78333	0,0021	177,7632	0,398276
	20°C	0,000345	16,13333	0,003	244,7368	0,614828
MA-SW	4°C	nd	9,1	nd	52,28571	nd
	15°C	nd	11	nd	55,71429	nd
	20°C	nd	14,1	nd	48	nd
R2A	4°C	0,003245	0,000167	0,187	41,31579	8,241379
	15°C	0,0128	0,0003	0,86	57,63158	<u>79,2069</u>
	20°C	<u>0,02195</u>	0,000133	1,89	114,2105	19,91379
R2A/10	4°C	0,0022	0	0,16	9,013158	7,862069
	15°C	0,0148	0,00007	0,507	63,42105	26,44828
	20°C	0,0309	17,66667	0,9	30	24,34483
PYGV	4°C	0,00127	0,00007	0,2085	15,52632	7,034483
	15°C	0,0132	0,0007	1,38	34,73684	25,7069
	20°C	0,022	0,0001	<u>2,1</u>	37,89474	26,82759

Table 3 Highest relative values for the number of rep-types and corresponding conditions

Samples	PQ1	LA3	SK5	WO10	SO6
Highest relative diversity yield	0.167	0.271	0.274	0.258	0.294
Medium	R2A	MA PW	PYGV	MA PW	PYGV
Temperature (°C)	15	20	15	20	20

Table 4 Number of phylotypes defined at 99% sequence similarity (lower left triangle) and percentage of phylotypes (upper right triangle) shared between the samples

Sample	PQ1	LA3	SK5	WO10	SO6	BB50 ^a	BB115 ^a	TM2 ^b	TM4 ^b
PQ1	x	5%	11%	4%	9%	5%	2%	2%	4%
LA3	7	x	11%	7%	4%	1%	1%	3%	7%
SK5	16	11	x	7%	14%	7%	4%	5%	8%
WO10	5	6	7	x	8%	0%	2%	10%	5%
SO6	15	5	20	10	x	5%	6%	4%	10%
BB50	7	1	8	0	7	x	7%	3%	4%
BB115	3	1	4	2	7	7	x	4%	7%
TM2	3	3	6	10	6	4	4	x	9%
TM4	5	5	7	4	11	4	5	8	x

^a Data from Peeters et al. 2011a

^b Data from Peeters et al. 2011b

Table 5 Number of phylotypes recovered with cosmopolitan, cold, bipolar or Antarctic distribution for the different classes and phyla and the different samples. Distribution types were assigned to phylotypes by evaluating the geographic origin of highly similar sequences ($\geq 99.0\%$) present in public databases and originating from cultured strains as well as environmental samples and clone-libraries

Distribution type	PQ1	LA3	SK5	WO10	SO6	BB50 ^a	BB115 ^a	TM2 ^b	TM4 ^b
<i>Actinobacteria</i>									
cosmopolitan	8/14	4/5	7/12	10/16	13/20	12/20	10/13	4/5	12/13
cold	4/14	1/5	2/12	4/16	2/20	0/20	1/13	0/5	0/13
bipolar	0/14	0/5	0/12	0/16	0/20	0/20	0/13	1/5	0/13
Antarctic ^c	2/14 (1)	0/5 (0)	3/12 (3)	2/16 (2)	5/20 (5)	8/20 (7)	2/13 (2)	0/5 (0)	1/13 (1)
<i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>									
cosmopolitan	10/12	8/10	15/17	6/7	15/17	5/7	5/5	8/13	6/7
cold	0/12	0/10	0/17	0/7	0/17	0/7	0/5	1/13	0/7
bipolar	0/12	0/10	0/17	0/7	0/17	0/7	0/5	0/13	0/7
Antarctic ^c	2/12 (1)	2/10 (2)	2/17 (2)	1/7 (0)	2/17 (2)	2/7 (2)	0/5 (0)	4/13 (3)	1/7 (1)
<i>Betaproteobacteria</i>									
cosmopolitan	8/11	1/1	10/13	0/0	14/16	5/6	2/2	5/6	4/5
cold	0/11	0/1	1/13	0/0	1/16	0/6	0/2	0/6	0/5
bipolar	0/11	0/1	1/13	0/0	0/16	0/6	0/2	1/6	0/5
Antarctic ^c	3/11 (1)	0/1 (0)	1/13 (1)	0/0 (0)	1/16 (0)	1/6 (1)	0/2 (0)	0/6 (0)	1/5 (1)
<i>Gammaproteobacteria</i>									
cosmopolitan	4/6	2/10	1/3	7/13	2/2	0/1	0/0	2/3	1/2
cold	0/6	0/10	0/3	1/13	0/2	0/1	0/0	0/3	0/2
bipolar	0/6	1/10	0/3	3/13	0/2	0/1	0/0	0/3	0/2
Antarctic ^c	2/6 (1)	7/10 (3)	2/3 (0)	2/13 (0)	0/2 (0)	1/1 (1)	0/0 (0)	1/3 (0)	1/2 (0)
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>									
cosmopolitan	1/41	1/10	1/10	2/8	4/19	4/15	0/12	4/11	1/4
cold	1/41	0/10	0/10	0/8	0/19	1/15	0/12	0/11	0/4
bipolar	0/41	0/10	0/10	1/8	1/19	2/15	2/12	0/11	0/4
Antarctic ^c	39/41 (31)	9/10 (5)	9/10 (8)	5/8 (0)	14/19 (14)	8/15 (7)	10/12 (10)	7/11 (6)	3/4 (3)
<i>Firmicutes</i>									
cosmopolitan	0/0	3/3	4/4	3/4	3/3	6/6	1/1	15/18	3/3
cold	0/0	0/3	0/4	0/4	0/3	0/6	0/1	0/18	0/3
bipolar	0/0	0/3	0/4	0/4	0/3	0/6	0/1	1/18	0/3
Antarctic ^c	0/0 (0)	0/3 (0)	0/4 (0)	1/4 (0)	0/3 (0)	0/6 (0)	0/1 (0)	2/18 (1)	0/3 (0)
<i>Deinococcus-Thermus</i>									
cosmopolitan	1/5	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	1/8	0/4	0/0	0/0
cold	0/5	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/8	0/4	0/0	0/0
bipolar	0/5	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/8	0/4	0/0	0/0
Antarctic ^c	4/5 (2)	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	2/2 (2)	7/8 (5)	4/4 (3)	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)
All isolates									
% cosmopolitan	36.0	48.7	64.4	58.3	64.6	52.4	48.6	67.9	79.4
% cold	5.6	2.6	5.1	10.4	3.8	1.6	2.7	1.8	0.0
% bipolar	0.0	2.6	1.7	8.3	1.3	3.2	5.4	5.4	0.0
% Antarctic ^c	58.4 (41.6)	46.2 (25.6)	28.8 (23.7)	22.9 (4.2)	30.4 (29.1)	42.9 (36.5)	43.2 (40.5)	25.0 (17.9)	20.6 (17.6)

^a Data from Peeters et al. 2011a

^b Data from Peeters et al. 2011b

^c In brackets, the number/percentage of phylotypes that shared no significant similarity with any other sequence in the public database

Figure 1

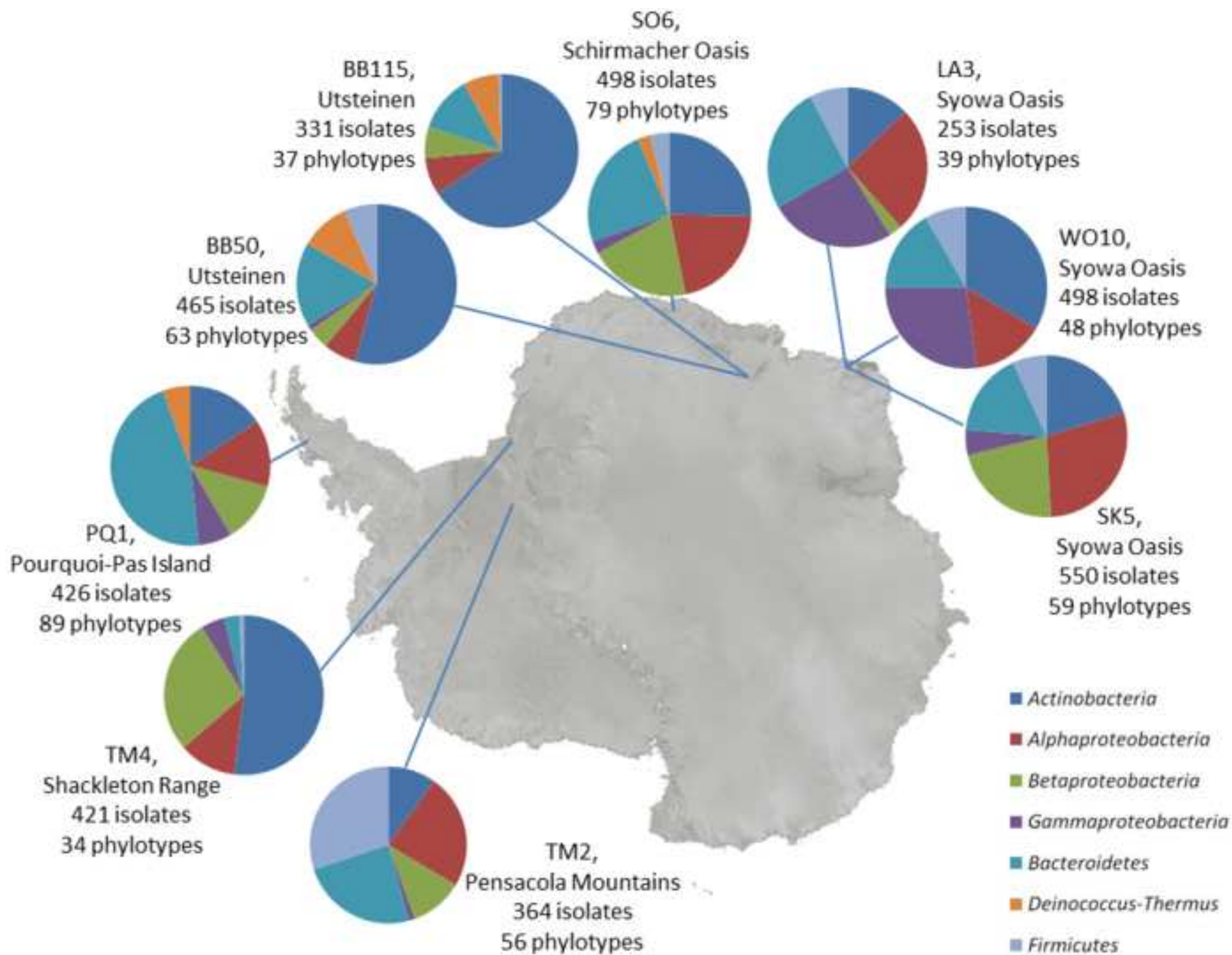
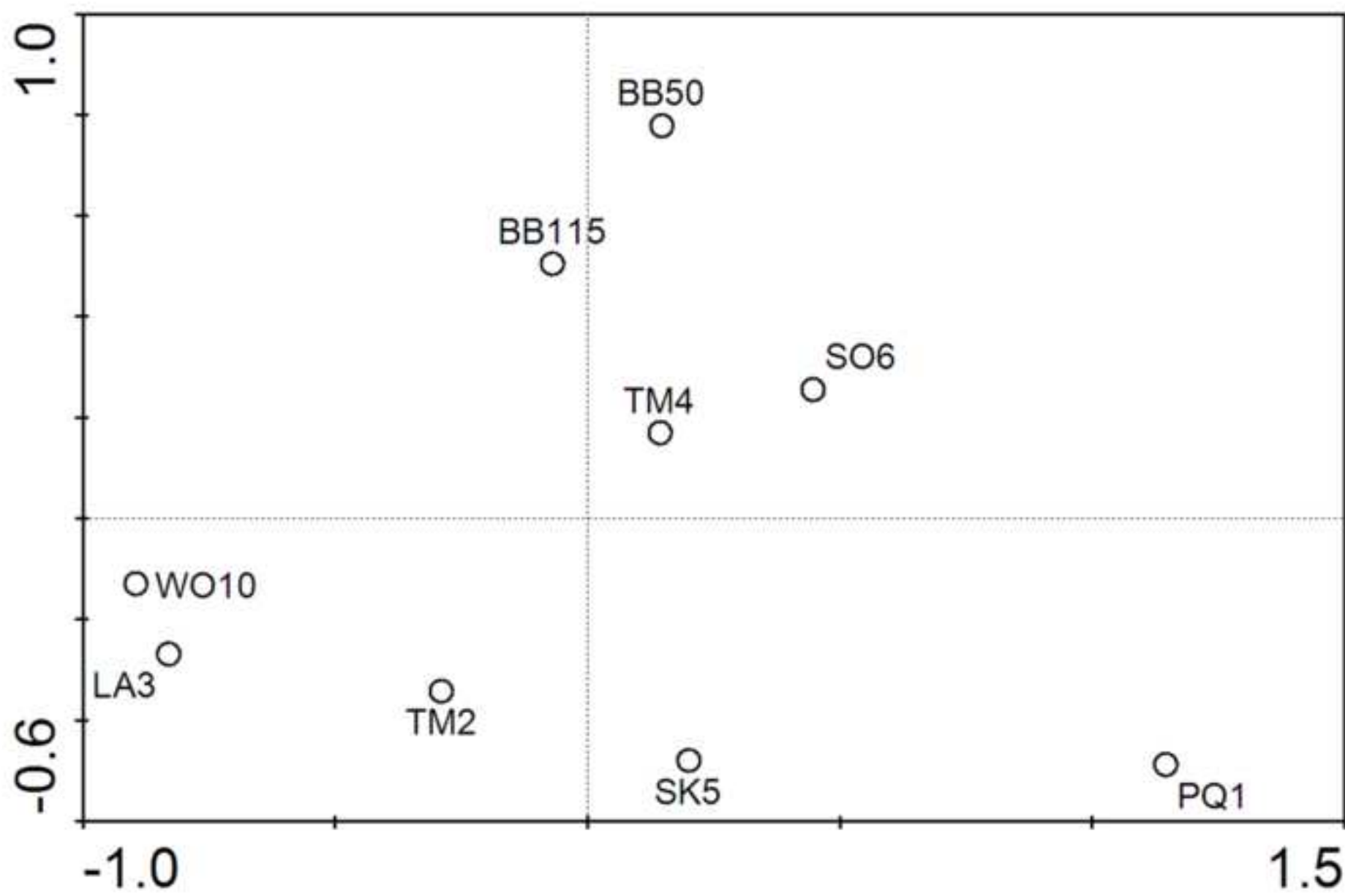


Figure 2



Electronic clean Supplementary Tables

[Click here to download Electronic Supplementary Material: Revised supplementary tables PoBi-D-11-00145.pdf](#)

Supplementary Fig. S1 for:

Heterotrophic bacterial diversity in aquatic microbial mat communities from Antarctica.

in *Polar Microbiology*

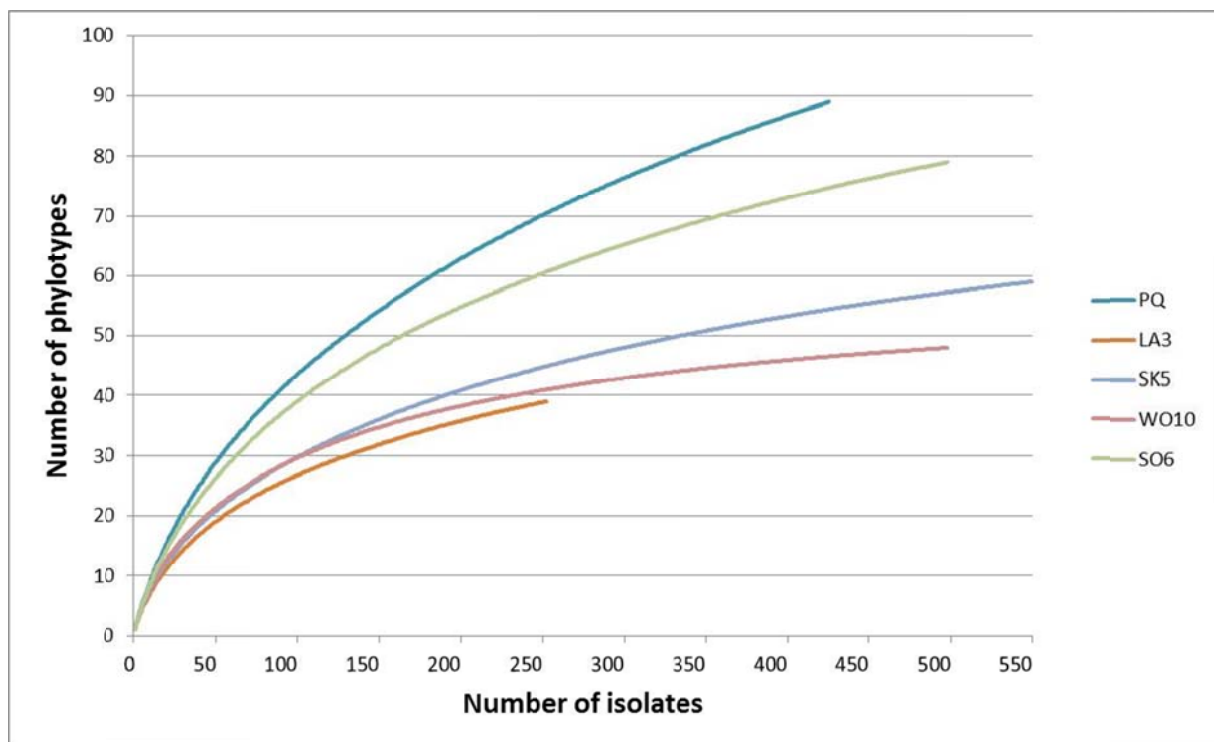
by Karolien Peeters, Elie Verleyen, Dominic A. Hodgson, Peter Convey, Damien Ertz, Wim Vyverman, Anne Willems*

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Fig. S1 Rarefaction curves representing the number of phylotypes isolated from the different samples



Supplementary Tables S1 and S2 for:

Heterotrophic bacterial diversity in aquatic microbial mat communities from Antarctica.

in Polar Microbiology

by Karolien Peeters, Elie Verleyen, Dominic A. Hodgson, Peter Convey, Damien Ertz, Wim Vyverman, Anne Willems*

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Table S1: Distribution of the phylotypes over the different genera. Phylotypes were labelled with the isolate number of a representative strain that was sequenced. Per sample, phylotypes are listed as well as the number of isolates of this phylotype (#). Phylotypes shared between several samples are marked with the same number in superscript. In some cases, different isolate numbers carry the same number in superscript; these are different representatives of the same phylotype. In some phyla, novel genera were tentatively assigned for phylotypes that did not cluster inside existing genera or whose 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity was equally low with multiple neighbouring genera.

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
<i>Actinobacteria</i>																		
<i>Aeromicrobium</i>							R-42664	8			R-36485	1						
<i>Arthrobacter</i>	R-36707 ²	11			R-36538 ⁵	16	R-36538 ⁵	1	R-36534 ⁴	21	R-36535 ¹	1	R-36535 ¹	68	R-43110 ⁵	15	R-37013 ⁴	120
	R-36193 ³	1			R-36715 ⁷	32	R-36715 ⁷	1	R-36538 ⁵	32	R-36707 ²	160	R-36534 ⁴	25			R-43110 ⁵	38
	R-36715 ⁷	31			R-36751 ⁸	1	R-36751 ⁸	12	R-43938 ⁶	2	R-36193 ³	29	R-36538 ⁵	12			R-43938 ⁶	25
	R-38507	3					R-41531	2	R-36715 ⁷	31	R-36487	1	R-36550	14			R-39621	10
	R-44216	2							R-36751 ⁸	1	R-36708	5	R-36556	1			R-38429	1
									R-44261	1	R-36371	7						
<i>Cryobacterium</i>	R-37019 ¹⁰	1			R-42756	2	R-41532	3	R-42736	2	R-36515 ⁹	12	R-36515 ⁹	58			R-37019 ¹⁰	1
	R-38273	2			R-43143	3												
<i>Frigoribacterium</i>									R-43109	1								
<i>Janibacter</i>			R-39538	1														
<i>Kocuria</i>			R-39201 ¹²	1	R-36519 ¹¹	1					R-36519 ¹¹	3					R-39201 ¹²	2
											R-42745	1						
<i>Knoellia</i>					R-39574	5							R-36688	19			R-43433	3
													R-43101	1				
<i>Marisedimicola</i>							R-36750 ¹³	9	R-36750 ¹³	6					R-36750 ¹³	6	R-38315	1
	R-38376 ¹⁴	3			R-38376 ¹⁴	34			R-38376 ¹⁴	9								
<i>Microbacterium</i>											R-36360	1	R-36588	1			R-43968	1
<i>Micrococcus</i>			R-43944 ¹⁵	2													R-43944 ¹⁵	2
<i>Modestobacter</i>											R-36506	1						
<i>Nocardioides</i>			R-39112	1	R-39601	3	R-43252	3	R-42691	1	R-36473	2	R-36680	1				
							R-42721	4	R-42658	5								
<i>Patulibacter</i>											R-36497	2						

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b		
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	
<i>Rhodococcus</i>	R-37022 ¹⁸	2			R-37022 ¹⁸	3	R-37022 ¹⁸	1	R-43119 ¹⁷	1	R-36475 ¹⁶	4	R-36475 ¹⁶	2			R-37022 ¹⁸	10	
	R-37575 ²⁰	2					R-37551 ¹⁹	1	R-37022 ¹⁸	1			R-43119 ¹⁷	15			R-37551 ¹⁹	4	
	R-43120	1							R-37551 ¹⁹	1									
<i>Rhodoglobus</i>									R-36762 ²¹	54						R-36762 ²¹	4		
									R-41578	5						R-36754	6		
<i>Rothia</i>	R-36507 ²²	5			R-36507 ²²	4			R-36507 ²²	1	R-36507 ²²	5							
<i>Salinibacterium</i>	R-39128 ²³	10	R-39128 ²³	2	R-39128 ²³	51	R-39128 ²³	1	R-39128 ²³	14									
	R-37573 ²⁴	8					R-37573 ²⁴	2											
							R-42713	2											
<i>Saxeibacter</i>													R-36686	1					
<i>Subtercola</i>											R-36477	1							
<i>Tessaracoccus</i>											R-36529	14							
											R-36527	5							
											R-36375	1							
gen. nov. <i>Actinobacteria 1</i>																			
gen. nov. <i>Actinobacteria 2</i>									R-41477	1					R-36733	1			
gen. nov. <i>Actinobacteria 3</i>									R-41567	2									
total Actinobacteria		82		7		155		109		137		256		218		32		218	
<i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>																			
<i>Altererythrobacter</i>			R-39115	1															
<i>Aurantimonas</i>											R-36516	8							
<i>Bosea</i>	R-38307 ²⁵	1			R-39149	8								R-38307 ²⁵	4				
					R-39584	1													
<i>Brevundimonas</i>	R-36554 ²⁶	44	R-36554 ²⁶	6	R-36554 ²⁶	121			R-36554 ²⁶	10	R-36244 ²⁶	1	R-36554 ²⁶	6	R-36741 ²⁶	14	R-36741 ²⁶	34	
	R-37024 ²⁸	1	R-37014 ²⁹	3	R-37014 ²⁹	25			R-37014 ²⁹	2					R-37030 ²⁷	1	R-37030 ²⁷	11	
	R-37014 ²⁹	2	R-40155	1					R-41484 ³⁰	12					R-36759	22	R-37024 ²⁸	2	
	R-41484 ³⁰	2															R-37014 ²⁹	4	
<i>Caulobacter</i>					R-39136	4													
<i>Devosia</i>	R-36756 ³²	4							R-36585 ³¹	3			R-36585 ³¹	5	R-43424	1	R-43964	1	
															R-36756 ³²	27			
															R-36938	1			
<i>Hyphomicrobium</i>					R-40143	1													
<i>Loktanella</i>			R-39046 ³³	9					R-39046 ³³	59									

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b		
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	
<i>Mesorhizobium</i>							R-44293	3											
<i>Paracoccus</i>							R-41610 ³⁴	26	R-41592	3								R-42686	1
<i>Phenylobacterium</i>					R-44236	3													
<i>Porphyrobacter</i>	R-38345 ³⁵	4			R-38345 ³⁵	6													
<i>Rhizobium</i>					R-39528	2													
<i>Rhodobacter</i>														R-36943	3				
<i>Roseomonas</i>									R-41594	1									
<i>Roseovarius</i>			R-39071	8															
<i>Sphingomonas</i>	R-40141 ³⁸	4			R-40141 ³⁸	21			R-36533 ³⁷	1	R-36544 ³⁶	9	R-36544 ³⁶	10	R-36940 ³⁷	1	R-36940 ³⁷	1	
	R-39544 ³⁹	1			R-39544 ³⁹	1			R-39544 ³⁹	5	R-36533 ³⁷	8	R-36533 ³⁷	2					
					R-39586 ⁴⁰	6			R-39586 ⁴⁰	1	R-36505	1	R-36583	4					
					R-39596	1			R-41554	1									
					R-39146	9			R-43106	1									
									R-44566	2									
<i>Sphingopyxis</i>	R-41479 ⁴²	12					R-36742 ⁴¹	14	R-41479 ⁴²	57					R-36742 ⁴¹	8			
									R-41480	2									
<i>Sphingosinicella</i>									R-41563	3									
									R-41564	1									
<i>Sulfitobacter</i>	R-39094 ⁴³	3	R-39094 ⁴³	2	R-39094 ⁴³	2	R-44292	1											
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 1					R-36492 ⁴⁴	2			R-36492 ⁴⁴	1	R-36492 ⁴⁴	2							
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 2					R-36501 ⁴⁵	5					R-36501 ⁴⁵	2							
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 3			R-36760 ⁴⁶	2											R-36760 ⁴⁶	4			
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 4															R-39199	1			
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 5															R-36935	1			
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 6	R-38319	1																	
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 7			R-39043	1															
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 8			R-39117	1															
gen. nov. <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> 9							R-43079	1											
total <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>		79		34		218		107		104		31		27		82			54
<i>Betaproteobacteria</i>																			
<i>Albidiferax</i>																		R-37567	1
<i>Curvibacter</i>	R-36930 ⁴⁷	2													R-36930 ⁴⁷	1			
<i>Duganella</i>					R-42680 ⁴⁸	6			R-42680 ⁴⁸	56									

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
<i>Hydrogenophaga</i>					R-38517 ⁴⁹	1			R-41603	6				R-38517 ⁴⁹	2			
<i>Massilia</i>	R-36558 ⁵⁰	4			R-36558 ⁵⁰	55			R-36558 ⁵⁰	28	R-36558 ⁵⁰	4	R-36558 ⁵⁰	18				
					R-44262 ⁵¹	1			R-44262 ⁵¹	5								
									R-42682	5								
									R-41596	7								
									R-43135	1								
									R-41598	1								
<i>Polaromonas</i>	R-37596 ⁵⁴	26			R-36732 ⁵²	1			R-37550 ⁵³	8	R-40127 ⁵³	2		R-36732 ⁵²	22	R-37550 ⁵³	98	
	R-38414 ⁵⁵	1			R-37550 ⁵³	3			R-37596 ⁵⁴	4	R-36500	2		R-37550 ⁵³	8			
	R-38383	1							R-38414 ⁵⁵	2				R-38520	4			
	R-38293	1							R-42676	2								
	R-38390	2																
	R-38278	1																
<i>Rhodoferax</i>	R-43137 ⁵⁶	3			R-43137 ⁵⁶	2												
	R-37606	1			R-42715	1												
<i>Variovorax</i>					R-39150	1					R-38535 ⁵⁷	5	R-38535 ⁵⁷	3				
<i>Xylophilus</i>											R-36498	3						
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 1</i>									R-36369 ⁵⁸	8	R-36369 ⁵⁸	3				R-36369 ⁵⁸	1	
					R-37018 ⁵⁹	1	R-37018 ⁵⁹	2	R-37018 ⁵⁹	2						R-37018 ⁵⁹	2	
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 2</i>														R-36978	1			
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 3</i>																R-43960	1	
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 4</i>	R-42728 ⁶⁰	1			R-42728 ⁶⁰	19												
					R-42750	9												
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 5</i>					R-39153	13												
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 6</i>									R-41601	1								
gen. nov. <i>Betaproteobacteria 7</i>									R-41500	1								
total <i>Betaproteobacteria</i>		43		1		114		0		137		19		21		38		103
<i>Gammaproteobacteria</i>																		
<i>Enhydrobacter</i>	R-37587 ⁶¹	1							R-37587 ⁶¹	1								
<i>Halomonas</i>					R-39097 ⁶²	20			R-39097 ⁶²	9								
					R-39074	5			R-43069	1								
<i>Idiomarina</i>					R-39100	12												

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
<i>Luteimonas</i>									R-37032 ⁶³	2							R-37032 ⁶³	1
<i>Lysobacter</i>											R-36483	6						
<i>Marinobacter</i>			R-43132 ⁶⁴	4			R-43132 ⁶⁴	14						R-36953	1			
			R-39083	9			R-44565	2										
			R-39119	7			R-43103	9										
			R-39065	2			R-43199	6										
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	R-37619	15			R-39154	1	R-43128	23										
	R-37583	1					R-44307	2										
	R-38323	2																
<i>Pseudoxanthomonas</i>	R-38407	1												R-37036 ⁶⁵	1	R-37036 ⁶⁵	18	
<i>Psychrobacter</i>	R-39101 ⁶⁷	4	R-39101 ⁶⁷	7	R-39101 ⁶⁷	3	R-36959 ⁶⁶	51						R-36959 ⁶⁶	3			
			R-39551 ⁶⁸	1	R-39551 ⁶⁸	24	R-42705	56										
							R-43075	3										
							R-41527	16										
							R-41516	5										
gen. nov. <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i>			R-39122	3														
total <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i>		24		70		28		197		3		6		0		5		19
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>																		
<i>Aequorivita</i>							R-41536	6						R-36724	1			
<i>Algoriphagus</i>							R-36749 ⁶⁹	4						R-36749 ⁶⁹	9			
														R-36727	4			
<i>Arcicella</i>	R-38331	1																
<i>Chryseobacterium</i>	R-38366	4									R-36526	5	R-36555	1				
											R-36517	1						
<i>Flavobacterium</i>	R-38322 ⁷⁰	16	R-38322 ⁷⁰	2	R-38367 ⁷¹	2	R-38388 ⁷³	1	R-43115	2	R-40838	2		R-36963	32			
	R-38367 ⁷¹	18	R-38378 ⁷²	1					R-42675	10	R-36233	15		R-36964	1			
	R-38378 ⁷²	19							R-41499	7				R-36968	2			
	R-38388 ⁷³	1																
	R-38349	2																
	R-37579	1																
	R-38284	2																
	R-38295	1																
	R-38274	5																
	R-38359	3																

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
	R-38392	1																
	R-38423	10																
	R-40835	2																
	R-38377	2																
	R-38373	3																
	R-38339	12																
	R-38296	21																
	R-37608	5																
	R-38358	2																
	R-41446	1																
<i>Gelidibacter</i>							R-36722 ⁷⁴	32						R-36722 ⁷⁴	24			
<i>Gillisia</i>			R-39057 ⁷⁵	28	R-39057 ⁷⁵	1	R-39057 ⁷⁵	6						R-36928	6			
<i>Hymenobacter</i>	R-36374 ⁷⁶	1	R-40152 ⁸¹	1	R-37569 ⁸⁰	1			R-42743 ⁷⁸	2	R-36374 ⁷⁶	1	R-42743 ⁷⁸	6	R-36960 ⁷⁹	2	R-37569 ⁸⁰	3
	R-36215 ⁷⁷	4			R-40152 ⁸¹	4			R-36960 ⁷⁹	1	R-36215 ⁷⁷	1	R-42653	2			R-37565	2
	R-37600	1			R-39159 ⁸²	7			R-37569 ⁸⁰	2	R-36503	1	R-36552	5				
	R-38509	1			R-39177 ⁸³	2			R-39159 ⁸²	2	R-43420	2	R-36548	1				
	R-38267	1			R-39133	3			R-39177 ⁸³	8	R-36490	4	R-36591	13				
	R-38290	1			R-40142	1			R-42654	1	R-36364	8	R-36557	2				
	R-40138	2			R-39126	3			R-41473	4	R-36486	8	R-36541	1				
	R-38389	1							R-43236	1	R-38500	8	R-36616	1				
	R-38365	18							R-43117	11	R-36359	8	R-36692	1				
	R-38384	1							R-41490	3	R-36499	6	R-36595	1				
	R-37603	7							R-43240	4			R-36553	5				
	R-44218	1							R-44547	2								
	R-38268	1							R-42674	9								
									R-41496	27								
<i>Maribacter</i>			R-39054	1														
<i>Pedobacter</i>	R-38348	2					R-43111 ⁸⁴	2	R-43111 ⁸⁴	8	R-36480	9		R-36962	1	R-38393	11	
	R-43090	1																
	R-38357	2																
<i>Pontibacter</i>														R-36965	7			
<i>Psychroflexus</i>			R-39078 ⁸⁵	13	R-39078 ⁸⁵	1	R-39078 ⁸⁵	8										
			R-39107	8														
<i>Salegentibacter</i>			R-39056	77														

Genus	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
<i>Spirosoma</i>	R-41450	1							R-43202	3							R-37560	1
<i>Winogradskyella</i>			R-39121	1			R-43254	5										
gen nov. <i>Bacteroidetes</i> 1	R-38326	1																
gen nov. <i>Bacteroidetes</i> 2	R-38398	9																
gen nov. <i>Bacteroidetes</i> 3			R-39049	2														
total <i>Bacteroidetes</i>		188		134		25		64		107		79		39		89		17
<i>Firmicutes</i>																		
<i>Aerococcus</i>														R-38529	1			
<i>Alkalibacterium</i>							R-41513	4										
<i>Bacillus</i>			R-44214	1	R-39577	1	R-43946 ⁸⁷	8	R-38416 ⁸⁶	2	R-38416 ⁸⁶	9		R-37580 ⁸⁶	4	R-37580 ⁸⁶	2	
									R-43946 ⁸⁷	1	R-36702	5		R-43422	1	R-43946 ⁸⁷	1	
											R-43891	1		R-36721	7			
											R-36493	5						
<i>Brevibacillus</i>													R-36717	2				
<i>Carnobacterium</i>							R-36987 ⁸⁸	2						R-36987 ⁸⁸	9	R-36982 ⁸⁹	7	
														R-36982 ⁸⁹	33			
<i>Jeotgalibacillus</i>														R-42990	2			
<i>Ornithinibacillus</i>														R-38538	1			
<i>Paenibacillus</i>			R-42742 ⁹⁰	4	R-42742 ⁹⁰	6			R-42742 ⁹⁰	4	R-42742 ⁹⁰	3		R-36731	1			
					R-44233	1								R-36746	4			
<i>Paenisporosarcina</i>			R-36758 ⁹¹	2										R-36744	1			
														R-36758 ⁹¹	13			
<i>Planococcus</i>							R-36948 ⁹²	7						R-36948 ⁹²	28			
														R-36970	1			
														R-36952	1			
<i>Staphylococcus</i>					R-36520 ⁹³	2					R-36520 ⁹³	4		R-38534 ⁹³	1			
														R-36936	2			
														R-36971	2			
total <i>Firmicutes</i>		0		7		10		21		7		27		2		112		10
<i>Deinococcus-Thermus</i>																		
<i>Deinococcus</i>	R-43890 ⁹⁴	1							R-36713 ⁹⁵	2	R-43890 ⁹⁴	1	R-36713 ⁹⁵	6				
	R-36590 ⁹⁶	3							R-44264	1	R-36502	5	R-36590 ⁹⁶	14				
	R-38506	1									R-36711	17	R-36685	1				
	R-37627	1									R-36479	8	R-38408	3				

<i>Genus</i>	PQ1		LA3		SK5		WO10		SO6		BB50 ^a		BB115 ^a		TM2 ^b		TM4 ^b	
	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#	Phylotype	#
	R-38289	4									R-36366	3						
											R-36206	1						
											R-36489	1						
											R-38476	11						
total <i>Deinococcus -Thermus</i>		10		0		0		0		3		47		24		0		0

^a Data from Peeters et al. 2011a.

^b Data from Peeters et al. 2011b.

Table S2: Dummy variables for habitat type and water chemistry data for the different samples. Water chemistry data were not available for samples BB50 and BB115. NA = data not available. Measurement procedures are described in (Hodgson et al. (2010) and Verleyen et al. (in press) .

	BB50	BB115	TM2	TM4	PQ1	LA3	SK5	WO10	SO6
Dummy variables									
terrestrial-aquatic	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
terrestrial-freshwater-saline 1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
terrestrial-freshwater-saline 2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Water chemistry parameters									
Conductivity (mS/cm)	/	/	2.220	0.22702	0.1312	26.83	0.014	26.8	0.009
Sampling depth (m)	/	/	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.5	0.1	0.1
pH	/	/	8.15	9.04	NA	7.93	8.58	7.97	7.5
Al (mg/L)	/	/	<0.002	0.005	<0.002	0.278	0.005	0.343	NA
Fe (mg/L)	/	/	0.004	<0.001	<0.001	0.205	0.015	0.309	NA
Mg (mg/L)	/	/	13.9	1.18	2.26	6280	1.04	2270	0.58
Ca (mg/L)	/	/	11.4	3.34	1.63	885	2.01	363	0.61
K (mg/L)	/	/	1.36	0.612	0.758	1560	0.248	432	0.61
Na (mg/L)	/	/	45	3.47	17.2	43800	3.08	12000	2.59
Cl (mg/L)	/	/	88.6	60.1	34	92600	4.08	25400	3.33
SO4 (mg/L)	/	/	17.5	27.9	11.8	3840	0.57	1270	3.08
TN (mg/L)	/	/	4.3	0.18	0.04	0.66	0.11	45	NA
TOC (mg/L)	/	/	0.97	0.89	0.43	5.1	0.84	270	NA
DOC (mg/L)	/	/	1.04	0.96	0.58	5.11	0.9	258	NA
NO3-N (mg/L)	/	/	4.42	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100	<0.100	0
NH4-N (mg/L)	/	/	0.043	0.026	0.018	2.07	0.012	16.6	<0.100
PO4-P (mg/L)	/	/	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	6	<0.005	26	<0.005
Silicate-Si (mg/L)	/	/	0.222	0.319	0.136	3.5	0.71	9.44	NA