

# Effect of Oxygen Minimum Zone Formation on Communities of Marine Protists

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26 **Abstract**

27 Changes in ocean temperature and circulation patterns compounded by human activities are  
28 leading to oxygen minimum zone expansion with concomitant alteration in nutrient and climate  
29 active trace gas cycling. Here, we report the response of microbial eukaryote populations to  
30 seasonal changes in water column oxygen-deficiency using Saanich Inlet, a seasonally anoxic  
31 fjord on the coast of Vancouver Island British Columbia, as a model ecosystem. We combine  
32 small subunit ribosomal RNA gene sequencing approaches with multivariate statistical methods  
33 to reveal shifts in operational taxonomic units during successive stages of seasonal stratification  
34 and renewal. A meta-analysis is used to identify common and unique patterns of community  
35 composition between Saanich Inlet and the anoxic/sulfidic Cariaco Basin (Venezuela) and  
36 Framvaren Fjord (Norway) to show shared and unique responses of microbial eukaryotes to  
37 oxygen and sulfide in these three environments. Our analyses also reveal temporal fluctuations  
38 in rare populations of microbial eukaryotes, particularly anaerobic ciliates, that may be of  
39 significant importance to the biogeochemical cycling of methane in oxygen minimum zones.

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## 51 Introduction

52 Dissolved oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) concentration is a primary driver of nutrient and energy flow  
53 patterns within marine ecosystems (Diaz and Rosenberg 2008; Diaz *et al.* 2009). Oxygen-  
54 deficiency selects for microbial groups capable of utilizing alternative respiratory substrates  
55 including nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe), sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>) or carbon  
56 dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (Zehnder and Stumm 1988). Within oxygen-deficient waters the use of NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or  
57 NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> as alternative electron acceptors results in the production of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and  
58 dinitrogen gas (N<sub>2</sub>) (Lam and Kuypers, 2010). Similarly reduction of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and CO<sub>2</sub> under anoxic  
59 conditions results in the production of toxic hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) (Teske 2010) and methane  
60 (CH<sub>4</sub>), respectively (Naqvi *et al.* 2010). Recent studies of microbial community structure and  
61 systems metabolism within marine oxygen minimum zones (OMZs) indicate a versatile capacity  
62 to produce and consume climate active trace gases (defined as gases making up <1% of the  
63 atmosphere that absorb the electromagnetic energy resulting from reflection of solar radiation  
64 from the Earth's surface) or to limit accumulation of H<sub>2</sub>S within the surrounding water column  
65 (Lavik *et al.* 2009; Walsh *et al.* 2009; Canfield *et al.* 2010; Zaikova *et al.* 2010). Although  
66 prokaryotic (bacteria and archaea) microorganisms are the primary drivers of these  
67 biogeochemical transformations (Arrigo, 2005), it is likely that microbial eukaryotes (protists)  
68 act as important biological controls through predation on (Taylor, 1982), parasitism of  
69 (Chambouvet *et al.*, 2008), and symbioses with (Edgcomb *et al.*, 2010), different microbes.

70 Information regarding the influence of OMZ formation on marine protists remains  
71 incremental, although recent studies using next generation sequencing approaches point to  
72 complex and diverse protistan communities in these habitats (Stoeck *et al.* 2009; Behnke *et al.*  
73 2010). Restructuring of these protists' communities in response to changing levels of water  
74 column oxygen-deficiency likely influences prokaryotic population structure and activities with  
75 resulting feedback on nutrient and climate active trace gas cycling. Several recent studies

76 provided insight into the biogeography, species richness, endemism, and habitat specialization  
77 of protists along oxygen gradients (Behnke *et al.* 2006; Zuendorf *et al.* 2006; Behnke *et al.* 2010;  
78 Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a; Edgcomb *et al.* 2011b; Orsi *et al.* 2011b). Work in the Cariaco Basin  
79 revealed a specialization of many protistan taxa to different biogeochemical niches and sites in  
80 the basin (Orsi *et al.* 2011b) and the estimated protistan species richness there was found to be  
81 exceptionally high (Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a). A recent study of Framvaren Fjord found evidence  
82 for seasonal fluctuations in protistan community structure (Behnke *et al.* 2010). Although major  
83 taxonomic lineages remained consistent throughout the time course of the study, subgroup  
84 diversity changed extensively from season to season among and between sampling depths  
85 consistent with dynamic recruitment from diverse low abundance populations. A similar finding  
86 was also reported by an additional study of microbial eukaryotes in the western North Atlantic  
87 and eastern North Pacific oceans (Caron *et al.*, 2009).

88         In the present study, we monitored changes in protistan community structure in Saanich  
89 Inlet, a seasonally anoxic fjord on the coast of Vancouver Island, Canada using small subunit  
90 ribosomal RNA gene (SSU rRNA gene, 18S rRNA gene) clone library sequencing. We charted  
91 the spatiotemporal variability of protists in relation to dissolved gases and nutrients, and  
92 employed multivariate statistical approaches to identify potential relationships between  
93 compositional profiles, taxonomic groups and environmental parameters at different stages of  
94 water column stratification and renewal. The resulting data sets are compared to related studies  
95 in anoxic Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord and used to identify common and unique patterns  
96 of community composition.

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## 101 **Results**

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### 103 *Community Diversity Measures*

104 We sampled four depth intervals over three years (2006-2008) during the months of February,  
105 April, July, and November, representing different water column redox states resulting from  
106 seasonal stratification and renewal (Zaikova *et al.* 2010; Walsh *et al.* 2009). A total of 4,987 18S  
107 rRNA gene sequences recovered from 19 different clone libraries were analyzed (Table 1).  
108 Clustering of these sequences at the 99%, 98%, 95%, and 90% sequence identity thresholds  
109 resulted in a total of 1217, 993, 596, and 244 operational taxonomic units (OTUs), respectively.  
110 We estimated OTU richness using a statistical tool designed for estimating microbial species  
111 richness with a reliable standard error (Hong *et al.* 2006; Jeon *et al.* 2008; Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a;  
112 Orsi *et al.* 2011b). At the 99 and 98% sequence identity thresholds, we estimate 13,442 (-/+:  
113 7,963-23,373 CI [95% confidence interval]) and 8,176 (-/+ : 4,861-14,333 CI) taxa, respectively.  
114 At 95% and 90% sequence identity, we estimate 2,687 (-/+ : 1,440-5,778 CI) and 510 (-/+ : 376-  
115 781 CI) taxa, respectively (Table 2). Using the same statistical tool, we estimated taxonomic  
116 richness within the anoxic Framvaren Fjord using recently published 18S rRNA gene datasets  
117 from this environment (Behnke *et al.* 2006; Behnke *et al.* 2010). The number of OTUs estimated  
118 to exist in Framvaren Fjord at the 99%, 98%, 95%, and 90% sequence identity levels, amount to  
119 28%, 13%, 17%, and 45% of the OTUs predicted for Saanich Inlet, respectively (Table 2). Non-  
120 parametric methods estimated similar richness and diversity for Saanich Inlet vs. Framvaren  
121 Fjord, although predicted richness was less than in Cariaco. Non-parametric estimates for all 3  
122 sites were lower than parametric estimates (Table S2).

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126 *Protistan Community Structure in Saanich Inlet*

127 Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) showed a clear division of Saanich Inlet  
128 protistan communities into different clusters associated with oxic ( $>90 \mu\text{M}$ ), dysoxic (20-90  
129  $\mu\text{M}$ ), suboxic (1-20)  $\mu\text{M}$  or anoxic/sulfidic ( $<1 \mu\text{M}/\pm\text{sulfide}$ ) water column conditions (Figure  
130 1). The anoxic samples from 200 m clustered together, separate from all other samples on the  
131 biplot (Figure 1). However, the 200 m sample taken in November grouped with dysoxic  
132 samples. A Monte Carlo test of the null hypothesis of no relationship between the OTU  
133 distribution and the measured environmental variables oxygen, nitrate, methane, and sulfide had  
134 a p-value of 0.01. Multi-response permutation procedure (MRPP) tests of influence of season,  
135 depth, oxygen, nitrate, methane, and sulfide on the OTU distribution all yielded p-values less  
136 than or equal to 0.01.

137 Changes in taxonomic representation at 120 and 200 m coincided with the annual  
138 renewal cycle in fall and re-stratification of the water column in summer (Table 1) (Walsh *et al.*,  
139 2009). Only 10 and 3% of OTUs were detected in both July and November, respectively, at  
140 these depths. At 120 m in July, clone libraries were dominated by Stramenopile-affiliated  
141 sequences, while in November an increase in Cercozoan- and Dinophyceae-affiliated sequences  
142 was observed (Figure 2, 6). At 200 m in July, 66% and 11% of sequences were affiliated with  
143 the Ciliophora and Euglenozoa, respectively (Figure 2, 6), while in November, 70% of sequences  
144 were affiliated with the Dinophyceae, 80% of which were affiliated with the sub-group  
145 Syndiniales (Figure 2, 6). The majority of sequences recovered from anoxic waters exhibited low  
146 ( $< 92\%$ ) sequence identities with their closest described relatives (Table S1) and formed new  
147 lineages based on phylogenetic trees (Figure 3, 4). The uncultured environmental sequences  
148 with the highest identities to many of these sequences were recovered from oxygen-deficient  
149 marine waters from the Cariaco Basin (Stoeck *et al.* 2003), Framvaren Fjord (Behnke *et al.* 2006,  
150 2010), and Mariager Fjord (Denmark) (Zuendorf *et al.* 2006).

151 At 10 m, Dinophyceae- and Stramenopile-affiliated sequences dominated during all  
152 seasons (Figure 2, S4). The majority (90%) of Dinophyceae-affiliated sequences were related to  
153 the parasitic Syndiniales. The same observation was made at 100 m in February, April, and  
154 November while in July, radiolarian-affiliated sequences were most abundant (Figure 2, S4).  
155 The number of cercozoan-affiliated sequences increased in April at 10 and 100 m, but were less  
156 abundant during the rest of the year (Figure 2, 6). The occurrence of larger-sized protists (such  
157 as the Radiolaria and Cercozoa) in pico-eukaryote size clone libraries has also been reported in  
158 previous studies (Not *et al.*, 2009)

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#### 160 *Taxonomic Relationships between Saanich Inlet, Framvaren Fjord, and Cariaco Basin*

161 To better constrain protistan community structure and dynamics to changing levels of  
162 oxygen and sulfide on a global scale, we compared available 18S rRNA sequence datasets from  
163 Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord. Overall, taxonomic assignments for the  
164 Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord (Figure S1-2) datasets were congruent with previous studies  
165 (Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a; Orsi *et al.* 2011b, Behnke *et al.* 2010). Sequences affiliated with the  
166 Ciliophora, Euglenozoa, Choanoflagellata, Stramenopiles, Fungi, and Dinophyceae were well  
167 represented from anoxic samples in all three sites (Figure 6, S1-5). However, many taxa were  
168 differentially represented. Examples include Stramenopile-affiliated sequences that were more  
169 prevalent in Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord than Saanich Inlet (S1-4), as well as  
170 Polycystinea- and fungal-affiliated sequences that were more abundant in Cariaco Basin relative  
171 to Saanich Inlet and Framvaren (Figure 2, 6, S1-5). Sequences affiliated with the Stramenopiles,  
172 Cercozoa, Dinophyceae, Polycystinea, and Acantharea were represented in oxygenated samples  
173 from both the Cariaco Basin and Saanich Inlet (Figure 2, 6, S1-5).

174 Combined principle component (PCA) and hierarchical cluster analyses of the Saanich  
175 Inlet, Cariaco Basin (Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a; Orsi *et al.*, 2011b) and Framvaren Fjord (Behnke *et*

176 *al.* 2010) datasets revealed biogeographic and niche-specific clustering patterns. For the most  
177 part, protistan communities clustered by location according to depth and oxygen concentration.  
178 The majority of oxic, dysoxic and suboxic samples from Saanich Inlet formed a nested series in  
179 one cluster, with anoxic Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord samples, forming independent  
180 clusters. Interestingly, anoxic/sulfidic samples from Saanich Inlet and one anoxic deep sample  
181 from the Cariaco western sub-basin (site BC) clustered with the hyper-sulfidic Framvaren Fjord  
182 samples (Figure 5).

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#### 184 *Fluctuations in rare microbial populations*

185 Our comparison of microbial populations during stratification and renewal suggests  
186 selection for growth of many low abundance taxa once the preferred conditions arise. Examples  
187 include an increase in the number of Ciliate- and Stramenopile-affiliated sequences recovered at  
188 200 m during periods of anoxia (Figure 2, 6 and S4). One Stramenopile-affiliated OTU was  
189 detected 228 times in July and 11 times in November (Figure S4). Furthermore, an increase in  
190 Dinophyceae and Cercozoan-affiliated sequences at 120 m and 200 m was observed after the  
191 oxygenated renewal event in autumn (Figure 2, 6 and S4). Several Dinophyceae-affiliated OTUs  
192 detected in July and November at 200 m increased significantly in size in November after the  
193 renewal event (Figure S4).

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#### 195 **Discussion**

196 Saanich Inlet provides a model ecosystem for studying microbial community responses to  
197 changes in dissolved oxygen concentrations *i.e.* oxygen minimum zone formation, because the  
198 bottom 80 m of the water column (120-200 m) annually fluctuates between oxygenated and  
199 reduced states (Zaikova *et al.* 2010). In summer months, restriction of movement by a shallow  
200 glacial sill at the mouth of the inlet results in water mass stability. High primary production at



201 the surface fuels aerobic respiration of microorganisms, which in turn leads to a progressive loss  
202 of dissolved oxygen as this organic matter sinks. The resulting chemical transformation of the  
203 water column produces a redoxcline between 100 and 120 m with anoxic waters stretching from  
204 120 m depth to the seafloor. During autumn-winter, nutrient-rich oxygenated waters flow over  
205 the glacial sill shoaling anoxic waters upward.

206 We applied an 18S rRNA gene sequencing approach to assess the influence of oxygen  
207 minimum zone formation on community structure of marine protists in Saanich Inlet over a  
208 three-year period. Phylogenetic and multivariate statistical analyses of the resulting dataset  
209 revealed defined shifts in operational taxonomic units that correlate with changes in water  
210 column chemistry. Taxonomic and multivariate comparisons, as well as comparisons of  
211 statistically estimated richness, between the Saanich Inlet, the anoxic Cariaco Basin and  
212 Framvaren Fjord provide insights into how different communities of marine protists respond to  
213 anoxic and low oxygen conditions.

214 However, it is important to note that differences in sample processing across studies add  
215 potential bias to this meta-analysis. Water samples in the current survey of Saanich Inlet were  
216 filtered through a 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$  prefilter, whereas no prefilter was applied in the studies of the Cariaco  
217 Basin and Framvaren Fjord. Furthermore, biomass from Saanich Inlet waters was collected on  
218 filters with a pore size of 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ , while in Cariaco and Framvaren filters with pore sizes of 0.65  
219 and 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  were used. Additionally, different primer combinations were used in all three  
220 studies, increasing potential amplification biases. Given these biases, we argue that while the  
221 current meta-analysis reveals broad patterns of similarity in protistan community responses to  
222 low oxygen conditions, interpretation of site-specific differences must be made with extreme  
223 caution.

224 It is known that oxygen and sulfide concentrations have a strong influence on microbial  
225 distributions in anoxic marine environments such as the Cariaco Basin (Taylor *et al.* 2001; Li *et*

226 *al.* 2008; Lin *et al.* 2008; Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a; Orsi *et al.* 2011b) and the Framvaren Fjord  
227 (Behnke *et al.* 2006; Stoeck *et al.* 2009; Stoeck *et al.* 2010). These findings are validated by our  
228 CCA, MRPP, and Monte Carlo analyses that indicate oxygen and sulfide, as well as methane, to  
229 be the primary drivers of protistan distribution in Saanich Inlet (see Results and Figure 1). Ours  
230 is the first investigation into the influence of methane on the distribution of protistan  
231 communities in low oxygen marine environments and our results suggest that methane may have  
232 a stronger influence than sulfide, based on the differential length of the methane and sulfide  
233 vectors in the CCA (Figure 1). Thus, the selective influence of methane on protistan  
234 communities should be considered in future studies of OMZs. Interestingly, methanogenic  
235 archaea were not detected in Saanich Inlet water samples that incorporated a 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$  prefilter  
236 (Zaikova *et al.* 2010). While diffusive flux from underlying sediments is one likely source of  
237 methane in the water column, new methane production originating from methanogens associated  
238 with the anaerobic ciliates detected in our study may also contribute to methane accumulation in  
239 basin waters. Methanogenic symbionts of ciliates are well-known (e.g. Embley and Finlay, 1993;  
240 Fenchel and Finlay, 1995; van Hoek *et al.* 2000; Edgcomb *et al.* 2011c). This finding suggests  
241 that such symbioses may have the potential to contribute to climate active trace gas cycling in  
242 low oxygen and anoxic marine environments.

243 The CCA analysis also suggests that unique assemblages of protists inhabit different  
244 niches along the redoxcline in Saanich Inlet throughout the year depending on the intensity of  
245 renewal events. The November 200 m sample collected during renewal does not group with the  
246 other 200 m samples from April, February, and July on the biplot (Figure 1). Rather, this sample  
247 groups with dysoxic samples on the biplot, most likely reflecting the physical movement of an  
248 oxygenated water mass into basin waters (Table 1). This is supported by the minimal overlap in  
249 OTUs observed at 200 m between July and November and the MRPP analysis of the influence of  
250 season and depth. These findings confirm that OMZ formation in Saanich Inlet has a strong

251 influence on the protistan community, with different OTUs being selected for as a result of the  
252 annual stratification and renewal cycle.

253         At 200 m during November and February, the number of 18S rRNA gene sequences  
254 affiliated with the Syndiniales and Stramenopiles increased relative to July and April (Figure 2,  
255 S4). The appearance of these groups is not unexpected as the upwelling water originates from  
256 coastal marine sources, a habitat in which representatives of the Syndiniales and Stramenopiles  
257 have been detected previously ( Guillou *et al.*, 2008, Lin *et al.* 2006; Massana *et al.* 2006). The  
258 majority of Stramenopile sequences were affiliated with the uncultured Marine Stramenopiles  
259 (MAST), which have been shown to exhibit a range of trophic modes and specificity for different  
260 prey species and sizes (Massana *et al.*, 2009). Thus, as MAST stramenopiles have been detected  
261 in the anoxic waters of Framvaren Fjord and Cariaco Basin (Behnke *et al.*, 2010a; Orsi *et al.*,  
262 2011b), they likely play a role in regulating the abundances of microbial populations that  
263 mediate biogeochemical cycling in OMZs.

264         After re-stratification of the water column in July (Table 1), the majority of sequences in  
265 the anoxic portion of the water column were affiliated with the Ciliophora and Euglenozoa  
266 (Figure 2, 6). Similar observations have been made in the Cariaco Basin where waters below the  
267 oxic/anoxic interface contain over twice the number of ciliate- and euglenozoan-affiliated  
268 operational taxonomic units (OTUs) relative to oxygenated waters (Orsi *et al.* 2011b).  
269 However, as no other studies of eukaryotic communities in seasonal OMZs have been conducted,  
270 we can only speculate at this point that such shifts may represent seasonally-related succession  
271 within the protist community. Furthermore, we can only speculate that the dominant ciliates and  
272 euglenozoans found at 200 m in July represent species that survive periodic exposure to oxygen  
273 during renewal events by becoming less active (and less numerous) until favorable conditions are  
274 restored. Overall, these survey results indicate that Ciliophora and Euglenozoa are selected for  
275 in Saanich Inlet during periods of water column stratification. Both contain many species of

276 anaerobes and microaerophiles, and indeed most of the closest described relatives of the  
277 sequences affiliated with these groups (i.e. *Calkinsia*, *Cyclidium*, *Strombidium*, and *Nyctotherus*)  
278 fall into this category (Table S1).

279 Our phylogenetic analyses of ciliate and euglenozoan-affiliated OTUs recovered from  
280 anoxic waters (Figures 3 and 4), as well as the relatively low (< 92%) identities of most of these  
281 sequences to their closest described species in public databases, suggests that OMZ formation in  
282 Saanich Inlet selects for novel lineages within these phyla. The new Symbiontida-affiliated  
283 lineages (Figure 4) with low (<90%) identities to the euglenozoan *Calkinsia aureus* (Yubuki *et*  
284 *al.* 2009) (Table S1) may correspond to protists exhibiting symbioses with bacteria. *C. aureus* is  
285 a euglenozoan flagellate recently recovered from the Santa Barbara Basin (California) (Bernhard  
286 *et al.* 2000; Yubuki *et al.* 2009; Edgcomb *et al.* 2010) with a cortex that is completely covered by  
287 epibiotic bacteria belonging to the *Arcobacter*, a group that includes chemoautotrophs and  
288 chemoorganotrophs capable of nitrate reduction and sulfide oxidization (Edgcomb *et al.* 2010).  
289 Phylogenetic analyses of ciliate-affiliated sequences reveal two clades branching basal to the  
290 novel ciliate class Cariacotrichea (Orsi *et al.* 2011a) recovered from the Cariaco Basin,  
291 suggesting this newly discovered taxon to be highly diverse.

292 Despite the use of a 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$  prefilter, sequences from ciliates larger than 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$  were  
293 recovered in Saanich Inlet samples, indicating the presence of DNA from lysed cells. Aside  
294 from their high copy number of ribosomal RNA genes (e.g. Prescott 1994), the increase in  
295 abundance of ciliate-affiliated sequences may be induced by oxygen depletion and accumulation  
296 of sulfide that selects for ciliates adapted to such conditions. Also, ciliates, being significant  
297 grazers of bacteria, may be responding to spikes in prey species that occur after OMZ formation.  
298 Ciliates can act as primary bacterial grazers (Sherr and Sherr 2002) and may regulate abundances  
299 of denitrifying and anammox bacteria responsible for the production of nitrous oxide that are  
300 known to exist in the Inlet at this depth (Zaikova *et al.* 2010). Because nitrous oxide is a

301 greenhouse gas and causes ozone depletion, a potentially important relationship may exist  
302 between the abundances of ciliate grazers, denitrifying and anammox bacteria, and the release of  
303 nitrous oxide from the surrounding water column.

304 Our dataset reveals a possible linkage between environmental perturbations and a  
305 response from microbial populations present at relatively low abundances, also termed “the rare  
306 biosphere” (Pedros-Alio 2007). While sequence abundance in clone libraries is by no means an  
307 exact indicator of cell numbers at the time of sampling, gross differences can be used as a proxy  
308 for cellular abundance (e.g. Not *et al.*, 2009). Fluctuations in sequence representation within  
309 OTUs affiliated with the Stramenopiles, Dinophyceae, Ciliophora, and Euglenozoa (see results  
310 and Figures 2, 6, S4) all suggest that some temporally-rare microbial populations become  
311 abundant in Saanich Inlet after preferred conditions arise. The potential impact of seasonally-  
312 abundant ciliate grazers and heterotrophic flagellates on the release of biologically-produced  
313 nitrous oxide during periods of anoxia would serve as a prime example of the potential  
314 ecological importance of such a ‘rare biosphere’.

315 Comparisons of parametric and nonparametric richness estimates for the Saanich Inlet,  
316 Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord datasets need to be interpreted with caution because of  
317 methodological differences in sample collection. Although potentially biased, this comparison  
318 suggests that Cariaco Basin contains roughly twice the number of species- (defined as OTUs  
319 sharing 99-98% sequence identity, see Caron *et al.* 2009 for discussion) and genus-level (defined  
320 as OTUs sharing 95-90% sequence identity) taxa (Edgcomb *et al.* 2011) than are estimated for  
321 the Saanich Inlet and roughly ten times the number of such taxa from the Framvaren Fjord  
322 (Table 2). Non-parametric estimations, which typically underestimate microbial diversity (Chao  
323 and Bunge, 2002), expectedly resulted in smaller predictions (Table S2), with differences  
324 between the three locations being proportional to the parametric richness estimates. Non-  
325 parametric richness estimations (Chao, Simpsons, and Shannon indices) indicate a general trend

326 of decreasing microbial richness with increasing depth (and anoxia) in the Saanich Inlet water  
327 column (Table S2). The same trend is apparent in the empirically registered OTU richness  
328 (Table S2). Together with phylogenetic and multivariate analyses (Figures 1, 3 and 4), these data  
329 suggest that the anoxic waters of Saanich Inlet house a genetically distinct, albeit less rich,  
330 protistan community relative to that present in the shallower, oxygenated waters. Differences in  
331 estimated richness between the Framvaren, Saanich Inlet, and Cariaco (Table 2) are supported by  
332 a multivariate comparative analysis (Figure 5), indicating that the two fjord communities are  
333 more similar to one another under anoxic/sulfidic conditions than either is to Cariaco  
334 communities. However, differences in library size may influence diversity estimates (Chao and  
335 Bunge 2002). Consequently, the relatively low taxon richness detected in Saanich and Framvaren  
336 may be impacted by undersampling.

337         The differences between the communities at the three locations are likely due to several  
338 parameters that differ between oceanographic provinces. One likely reason for the variation in  
339 richness is the large difference in size between the Cariaco Basin, Framvaren Fjord and Saanich  
340 Inlet. Protistan communities in the eastern and western sub-basins of the Cariaco contain widely  
341 divergent assemblages, and this phenomenon is likely driven in part by differences in primary  
342 production, riverine inputs and trophic responses to differential prey items (Orsi *et al.* 2011b).  
343 The presence of additional niches that are attributed to the larger size of the Cariaco Basin may  
344 permit higher protist diversity relative to Saanich Inlet and Framvaren Fjord. Second, the  
345 difference in climate and seawater temperatures between Saanich Inlet, Framvaren Fjord, and  
346 Cariaco may contribute to the differences in richness, as temperature has been shown to be a  
347 significant driver of the diversification of marine microbial populations (Rutherford *et al.* 1999;  
348 Fuhrman *et al.* 2008). Also, unlike Saanich Inlet and Cariaco, the oxic/anoxic interface of  
349 Framvaren Fjord lies in the photic zone and contains significantly higher sulfide levels (Table 1).  
350 The Cariaco Basin has remained anoxic for millions of years (Schubert, 1982) and experiences

351 only limited oxygen intrusion events (Lin *et al.* 2008). This timeframe has likely allowed for a  
352 higher amount of speciation and diversification and could explain, in part, the higher richness of  
353 this environment. This may also contribute to the differential representation of taxonomic  
354 groups recovered in Cariaco, such as Fungi and Polycystinea (Supplementary Figure 2), as well  
355 as the separation of the fjord communities from Cariaco on the PCA biplot (Figure 5).

356         Our analysis revealed common and unique responses of protists to water column oxygen-  
357 deficiency in space and time. Similar to studies of Framvaren Fjord and Cariaco Basin, we  
358 observed that protistan taxon representation in Saanich Inlet changed in response to  
359 environmental perturbations associated with altered redox status. However, differences in  
360 taxonomic representation and diversity estimations between the three locations indicated patterns  
361 of endemism not fully explained by sampling and detection biases alone. At the same time, we  
362 obtained evidence for temporal fluctuations in rare protistan populations, particularly anaerobic  
363 ciliates, that may be of significant importance to biogeochemical cycling, *e.g.* methane, within  
364 OMZs.

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## 367 **Experimental Procedures**

368

### 369 *Sample Collection and Processing*

370 Samples from Saanich Inlet were collected and processed as described previously  
371 (Walsh and Hallam, 2011; Zaikova *et al.*, 2010) as part of a monthly monitoring program in  
372 Saanich Inlet aboard the *MSV John Strickland* (JS) or *CCGS John P. Tulley* (JPT). Briefly, water  
373 samples and environmental parameter data were collected from station S3 (48°35.30N,  
374 123°30.22W). Approximately 20 L from 10, 100, 120 and 200 m depth intervals representing  
375 oxic, dysoxic, suboxic and anoxic regions of the water column was prefiltered through 2.7 µm  
376 GF/D prefilters onto 0.22 µm Sterivex filters for downstream molecular analyses. Biomass  
377 samples were accompanied by higher resolution physical and chemical data spanning sixteen  
378 depth intervals including cell counts, temperature, salinity, oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>),  
379 phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>), silicate (SiO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>), nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ammonia (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), carbon  
380 dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) concentration measurements. Aspects  
381 of this workflow are presented as a series of on-line video protocols including: (1) seawater  
382 collection and environmental sampling (URL: <http://www.jove.com/index/Details.stp?ID=1159>)  
383 (Zaikova *et al.*, 2009), (2) small volume filtration (URL:  
384 <http://www.jove.com/index/Details.stp?ID=1163>) and large volume filtration (URL:  
385 <http://www.jove.com/index/Details.stp?ID=1161>) (Walsh *et al.*, 2009a; Walsh *et al.*, 2009b), (3)  
386 genomic DNA extraction and purification (URL:  
387 <http://www.jove.com/index/Details.stp?ID=1352>) (Wright *et al.*, 2009). Additional information  
388 relating to hydrology and water column chemistry in Saanich Inlet is available through the  
389 Saanich undersea array, a streaming cabled observatory node situated on the seafloor near the  
390 mouth of the Inlet (URL: [http://www.venus.uvic.ca/locations/saanich\\_inlet.php](http://www.venus.uvic.ca/locations/saanich_inlet.php)).

391



### 392 *PCR Amplification of 18S rRNA genes*

393 DNA extracts from 10, 100, 120 and 200 m depth intervals were amplified using small subunit  
394 ribosomal DNA primers targeting the eukaryotic domain: Euk515F 5' -  
395 GTGCCAAGCAGCCGCGGTAA) and Euk1209R 5' GACGGGCRGTGWGTRCA) under the  
396 following PCR conditions. PCR conditions: 2 min at 95°C followed by 20 cycles of 95°C for 40  
397 sec, 55°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 90 sec and final extension of 7 min at 72°C. Each 50 µl reaction  
398 contained 1 µl of template DNA and 1 µl each 0.4 uM forward and reverse primer added to a  
399 PCR Master Mix (Stratagene, Cat #600640). Reactions were aliquoted into 3 x 15 ul reactions  
400 prior to PCR (to minimize bias) and re-pooled after PCR. For specific details see URL:  
401 [http://my.jgi.doe.gov/general/protocols/SOP\\_16S18S\\_rRNA\\_PCR\\_Library\\_Creation.pdf](http://my.jgi.doe.gov/general/protocols/SOP_16S18S_rRNA_PCR_Library_Creation.pdf)

402

### 403 *Clone Library Construction and Sequencing*

404 Resulting amplicons were gel purified using the MiniElute gel extraction Kit (Qiagen) according  
405 to the manufacturer's instructions. Ligation, transformation and sequencing steps were  
406 performed as described in Zaikova and colleagues (2009). The number of resulting transformants  
407 per ligation ranged between ~100,000 to 800,000 colony forming units (CFUs). One 384-well  
408 plate per sample ligation was sequenced with variable success using M13F and M13R primers as  
409 described at [http://jgi.doe.gov/sequencing/protocols/prots\\_production.html](http://jgi.doe.gov/sequencing/protocols/prots_production.html).

410

### 411 *Quality control of 18S SSU rRNA dataset*

412 The sequences were checked for chimeras using the Bellerophon Chimera Check and the  
413 Check\_Chimera utilities (Ribosomal Database Project) (Cole *et al.* 2003). After removal of  
414 putative chimeras, bacterial, archaeal and metazoan sequences, the remaining sequences were  
415 grouped into Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) based on 98% rRNA gene sequence  
416 similarity levels. This was achieved by first making all possible pair-wise sequence alignments

417 by using ClustalW (Thompson *et al.* 1994), calculating % sequence identities, followed by  
418 clustering the sequences by using the unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean  
419 (UPGMA) as implemented in the OC clustering program ([http://](http://www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk/Software/OC/oc.html)  
420 [www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk/Software/OC/oc.html](http://www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk/Software/OC/oc.html)). OTUs clustered at the 98% identity  
421 threshold were subjected to ordination and multivariate statistical analyses.

422

### 423 *Community composition analysis*

424 18S rRNA gene sequences from Saanich Inlet (19 samples), Cariaco Basin (16 samples)  
425 (Edgcomb *et al.* 2011a; Orsi *et al.* 2011b), and Framvaren Fjord (9 samples) (Behnke *et al.* 2010)  
426 were obtained from the GenBank nt database and were aligned using the Needleman-Wunsch  
427 algorithm implemented in MOTHUR version 1.18 (Schloss *et al.* 2009), with gap penalty of -1  
428 and k-mer size of 9. The resulting alignment file was used as an input to generate 6,768  
429 operational taxonomic units (OTUs) based on 98% similarity threshold and a representative  
430 sequence for each OTU was selected using the recommended distance-based method, Get.oturep,  
431 (<http://www.mothur.org/wiki/Get.oturep>). The resulting cluster file and list of representative  
432 sequences for each OTU were combined to generate an OTU table containing the number of  
433 sequences in each OTU across the 44 samples. Representative sequences were then used in a  
434 BLASTn search against Silva SSU reference database version 10.6 with sequences affiliated  
435 with the Bacteria and Archaea removed. The results of clustering were also used to calculate  
436 non-parametric Chao, Shannon and Simpson indices of alpha diversity (Table S2).

437

### 438 *Circos Visualization*

439 The BLASTn output and the OTU table were combined together to generate a  
440 community composition table containing the number of sequences across each samples  
441 belonging to a specific taxonomic group. From this table, the relative abundance of each

442 protistan group in a given sample was calculated as a percentage value by dividing the raw  
443 number of sequences associated with the specific taxa by the total number of sequences in the  
444 sample. Circos was used to generate circular link diagrams illustrating community composition  
445 differences among and between samples (Krzywinski *et al.* 2009).

446

#### 447 *Histoheatmap Generation*

448 The same table used in Circos visualization was also used to generate combined histograms and  
449 heatmaps (*i.e.* histoheatmaps illustrating the presence of different OTUs across each sample)  
450 using the R statistical software package (<http://www.r-project.org>). This script is available  
451 upon request from the authors.

452

#### 453 *Phylogenetic Analysis*

454 For our phylogenetic analyses we focused on ciliate and euglenozoan-affiliated sequences in the  
455 July 200 m sample. We focused on this sample because it contained the most novel sequences of  
456 all clone libraries/samples in our study. For these analyses, we used representative sequences  
457 from each ciliate and euglenozoan-affiliated OTU clustered at the 98% sequence identity level.  
458 Representative sequences were compared against the Genbank-nt database using BLASTn in  
459 search of their closest relatives and the highest scoring cultured and uncultured sequence  
460 relatives were retrieved. Sequences were aligned using the ARB automated aligner (Ludwig *et*  
461 *al.* 2004), the alignment was manually refined using secondary structure information, and only  
462 unambiguous positions were used to construct phylogenetic trees. Phylogenetic trees were  
463 constructed using Bayesian inference (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003) and PhyML (Guindon *et*  
464 *al.* 2005).

465

466

467 *Statistical Analyses*

468 After clustering of our Sanger sequence dataset, we obtained "frequency count" data at the 90,  
469 95, 98 and 99% sequence identity levels. These are the numbers of OTUs registered once (the  
470 "singletons"), or twice (the "doubletons"), etc. Using these data we estimated the total number of  
471 OTUs at each level of sequence identity, representing the sum of seen (empirically registered)  
472 and unseen OTUs (present but undetected due to limited sequencing effort). This was performed  
473 using the program CatchAll (Bunge 2010) to compute eight parametric (Poisson; negative  
474 binomial; inverse Gaussian, Pareto and lognormal-mixed Poisson; and mixtures of one, two, or  
475 three geometrics) estimators as described previously (Hong *et al.* 2006).

476

477 *Canonical correspondence analysis*

478 Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) was used to elucidate relationships between protistan  
479 community structure and concentrations of dissolved oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), methane  
480 (CH<sub>4</sub>), and hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). MRPP was used to test for a statistically significant  
481 influence of season, depth, nitrate, sulfide, and oxygen on the observed OTU distribution. A  
482 Monte Carlo test was also used to assess the null hypothesis of no relationship between OTU  
483 distributions and environmental variables. All ordination and multivariate statistical analyses  
484 were performed on our dataset clustered at the 98% sequence identity threshold. Monte Carlo  
485 tests, MRPP, and CCA were implemented using the PC-ORD software package (MjM Software  
486 Design).

487

488 *Principle component and hierarchical clustering analysis*

489 To determine the correlation between protistan community structure and the oxygen  
490 concentration in each sample, a table containing the raw number of sequences associated each  
491 major taxon was used as an input for principal component analysis (PCA) using the

492 *FactorMineR* module (<http://factominer.free.fr>). Based on the first two principal components  
493 calculated from the PCA analysis, samples were hierarchically clustered using the Manhattan  
494 distance method with complete linkage implemented in the same software module. The results of  
495 the analysis were visualized as dendrograms with dot plots using the custom perl script,  
496 *bubble.pl*, (<http://www.cmde.science.ubc.ca/hallam/bubble.php>).

497

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516

517  
518  
519 **Accession Numbers**  
520 Eukaryotic 18S rRNA gene sequences recovered from the Saanich Inlet water column on  
521 were deposited in Genbank under accession numbers HQ864863 - HQ871151.  
522

523 **Figure and table legends**

524

525 **Figure 1.** Canonical correspondence analysis of the Saanich Inlet 18S rRNA gene sequence  
526 dataset clustered at the 98% identity threshold. Samples are represented in the biplot by dots, the  
527 size and color of which indicates the presence and concentration of dissolved oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>). Axis  
528 1 and 2 explained 8% and 7.7% of the variance in OTU distribution, respectively. A Monte Carlo  
529 test for significance of the Eigenvalues yielded a p-value equal to 0.03.

530

531 **Figure 2.** Phylum-level taxonomic affiliations of Saanich Inlet 18S rRNA gene sequences (See  
532 Table 1 for sample\_id information). The color-coded outer histogram represents the abundance  
533 of seventeen major taxonomic groups identified. The relative abundance (% of total) of  
534 sequences affiliated with each taxonomic group within a sample is indicated by the thickness of  
535 the colored area at the perimeter of the circle. Black circles represent individual samples. The  
536 concentration of oxygen within each sample is represented by a black bar, and gray bars indicate  
537 samples with no detectable oxygen. The height of each bar is scaled according to the value of  
538 the oxygen concentration (in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) normalized using natural logarithm (ln).

539

540 **Figure 3.** Phylogenetic relationships of ciliate-affiliated 18S rRNA gene sequences. The tree  
541 was constructed under Maximum Likelihood using an alignment of 757 unambiguous positions  
542 under the GTR+I+Gamma model of sequence evolution. Bootstrap (PhyML, 1000 iterations) and  
543 posterior probability (5,000,000 generations with 25% of trees discarded as burnin) values  
544 greater than 50% are shown at the nodes in the order PP/ML (posterior probability/maximum  
545 likelihood bootstrap). Black circles at nodes represent full posterior probability and bootstrap  
546 support. OTUs from our study appear in bold font. The number of sequences per OTU

547 recovered from oxic, suboxic, dysoxic, and oxic samples are represented by circles. The size and  
548 color of the circles denotes the number of sequences and oxygen concentration, respectively.

549

550 **Figure 4.** Phylogenetic relationships of Euglenozoa-affiliated 18S rRNA gene sequences. The  
551 tree was constructed under Maximum Likelihood using an alignment of 809 unambiguous  
552 positions under the GTR+I+Gamma model of sequence evolution. Bootstrap (PhyML, 1000  
553 iterations) and posterior probability (5,000,000 generations with 25% of trees discarded as  
554 burning) values greater than 50% are shown at the nodes in the order PP/ML. Black circles at  
555 nodes represent full posterior probability and bootstrap support. OTUs from our study appear in  
556 bold font. The number of sequences per OTU recovered from oxic, suboxic, dysoxic, and oxic  
557 samples are represented by circles. The size and color of the circles denotes the number of  
558 sequences and oxygen concentration, respectively.

559

560 **Figure 5.** Principal component analysis and hierarchical clustering of the 38 samples from  
561 Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The  
562 x and y axes of the grid represent the first and second principal components, respectively. Each  
563 dot represents one of the 38 samples used in the analysis. The visual properties of each dot can  
564 be divided into three categories. The shape of each dot represents sample location, Saanich Inlet  
565 (circle), Cariaco Basin (hexagon) and Framvaren Fjord (square). Each dot is color-coded based  
566 on dissolved oxygen concentration, oxic (red), dysoxic (green), suboxic (light blue) and anoxic  
567 (purple). The size of each dot is scaled according to the value of the oxygen concentration (in  
568  $\mu\text{M}$ ) normalized using natural logarithm ( $\ln$ ). The clustering pattern is further linked to the  
569 dendrogram generated from hierarchical clustering.

570



571 **Figure 6.** Combined histogram and heatmap describing the diversity of Ciliophora, Cercozoa,  
572 Fungi and Euglenozoa OTUs among and between sampling depths and locations (See Table 1 for  
573 sample\_id information). The heatmap shows the number of sequences in each OTU that are  
574 affiliated with each color-coded protistan group. Color intensity of each cell is proportional to  
575 the log-corrected number of sequences in the OTU. The histogram shows total number of  
576 uncorrected sequences in corresponding OTU (*i.e.* sum of sequences in a given OTU across all  
577 the samples). Only those OTUs are shown for which the total number of sequences is greater  
578 than or equal to 1% of the total sequences affiliated with a given taxa. The count legends indicate  
579 the number of cells in each heatmap that contain the designated log-corrected value.

580

581 **Table 1.** Summary of eukaryotic SSU ribosomal RNA gene (18S rRNA) sequence data, as well  
582 as geochemical data, generated from the Saanich Inlet water column spanning the 2006-2008  
583 time-series.

584

585 **Table 2.** Parametric predicted richness of protistan assemblages in Saanich Inlet, Framvaren  
586 Fjord (data taken from Behnke *et al.*, 2010), and the Cariaco Basin (data taken from Edgcomb *et*  
587 *al.*, 2011a) with associated statistics (SE: standard error; GOF: goodness-of-fit (p-value for the  
588 corrected Pearson chi-square goodness-of-fit test); CI: 95% Confidence Interval; NA: Not  
589 applicable).

590

591 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Phylum-level taxonomic affiliations of successfully sequenced  
592 Cariaco Basin 18S rRNA gene sequences (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The color-  
593 coded histogram represents the abundance of seventeen major taxonomic groups identified. The  
594 relative abundance (% of total) of sequences affiliated with each taxonomic group within a  
595 sample is indicated by the thickness of the colored area at the perimeter of the circle. Black

596 hexagons represent individual samples. The concentration of oxygen within each sample is  
597 represented by a black bar, gray bars indicate samples with no detectable oxygen. The height of  
598 each bar is scaled according to the value of the oxygen concentration (in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) normalized using  
599 natural logarithm ( $\ln$ ).

600

601 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Phylum-level taxonomic affiliations of successfully sequenced  
602 Framvaren Fjord 18S rRNA gene sequences (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The color-  
603 coded histogram represents the abundance of seventeen major taxonomic groups identified. The  
604 relative abundance (% of total) of sequences affiliated with each taxonomic group within a  
605 sample is indicated by the thickness of the colored area at the perimeter of the circle. Black  
606 squares represent individual samples. The concentration of oxygen within each sample is  
607 represented by a black bar, gray bars indicate samples with no detectable oxygen. The height of  
608 each bar is scaled according to the value of the oxygen concentration (in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) normalized using  
609 natural logarithm ( $\ln$ ).

610

611 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Combined phylum-level taxonomic affiliations of successfully  
612 sequenced 18S rRNA gene sequences from Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord  
613 (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The color-coded histograms represents the abundance  
614 of seventeen major taxonomic groups identified. The relative abundance (% of total) of  
615 sequences affiliated with each taxonomic group within a sample is indicated by the thickness of  
616 the colored area at the perimeter of the circle. The shape of each dot represents sample location,  
617 Saanich Inlet (circle), Cariaco Basin (hexagon) and Framvaren Fjord (square). The  
618 concentration of oxygen within each sample is represented by a black bar, gray bars indicate  
619 samples with no detectable oxygen. The height of each bar is scaled according to the value of  
620 the oxygen concentration (in  $\mu\text{M}$ ) normalized using natural logarithm ( $\ln$ ).

621  
622 **Supplementary Figure 4.** Combined histogram and heatmap describing the diversity of  
623 Dinophyceae, Stramenopiles, and Polycystinea OTUs among and between sampling depths and  
624 locations (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The heatmap shows the number of sequences  
625 in each OTU that are affiliated with each color-coded protistan group. Color intensity of each  
626 cell is proportional to the log-corrected number of sequences in the OTU. The histogram shows  
627 total number of uncorrected sequences in corresponding OTU (i.e. sum of sequences in a given  
628 OTU across all the samples). Only those OTUs are shown for which the total number of  
629 sequences is greater than or equal to 1% of the total sequences affiliated with a given taxa. The  
630 count legends indicate the number of cells in each heatmap that contain the designated log-  
631 corrected value.

632  
633 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Combined histogram and heatmap describing the diversity of  
634 Apusozoa, Cryptophyta, Choanoflagellida, and Acantharea OTUs among and between sampling  
635 depths and locations (See Table 1 for sample\_id information). The heatmap shows the number  
636 of sequences in each OTU that are affiliated with each color-coded protistan group. Color  
637 intensity of each cell is proportional to the log-corrected number of sequences in the OTU. The  
638 histogram shows total number of uncorrected sequences in corresponding OTU (i.e. sum of  
639 sequences in a given OTU across all the samples). Only those OTUs are shown for which the  
640 total number of sequences is greater than or equal to 1% of the total sequences affiliated with a  
641 given taxa. The count legends indicate the number of cells in each heatmap that contain the  
642 designated log-corrected value.

643  
644 **Supplementary Table 1.** Summary of 18S rRNA gene sequences retrieved from the July 200 m  
645 library sample affiliated with the phyla Ciliophora and Euglenozoa.

646

647 **Supplementary Table 2.** Non-parametric diversity estimates for the protistan communities of  
648 the Saanich Inlet, Framvaren Fjord, and Cariaco Basin.

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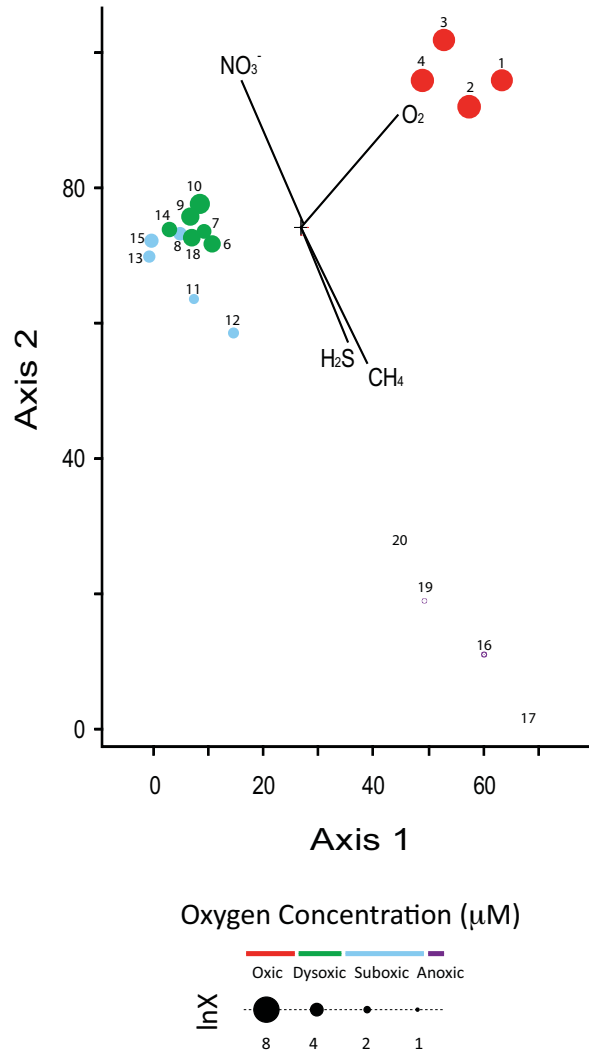
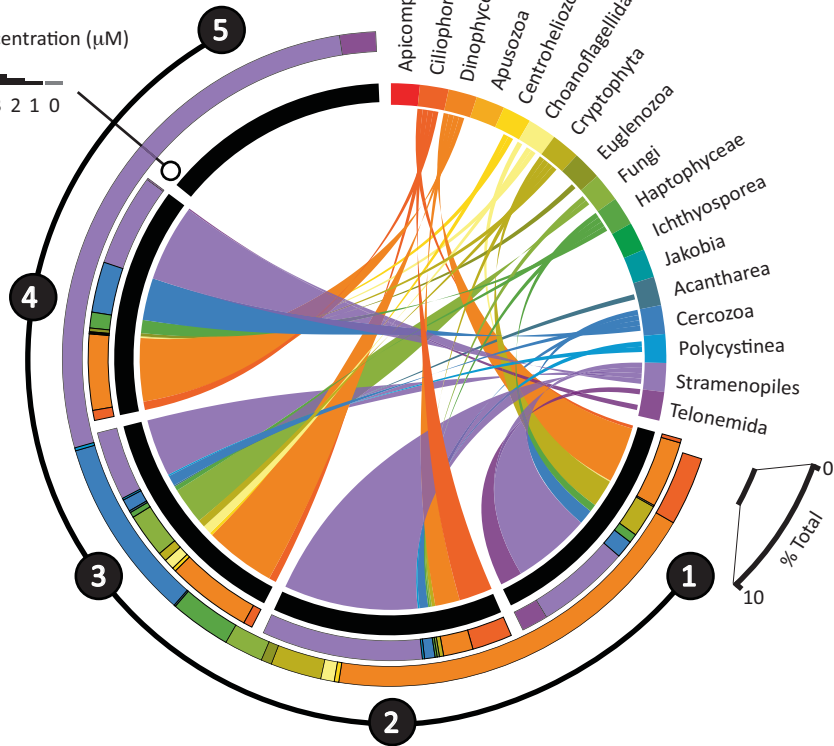


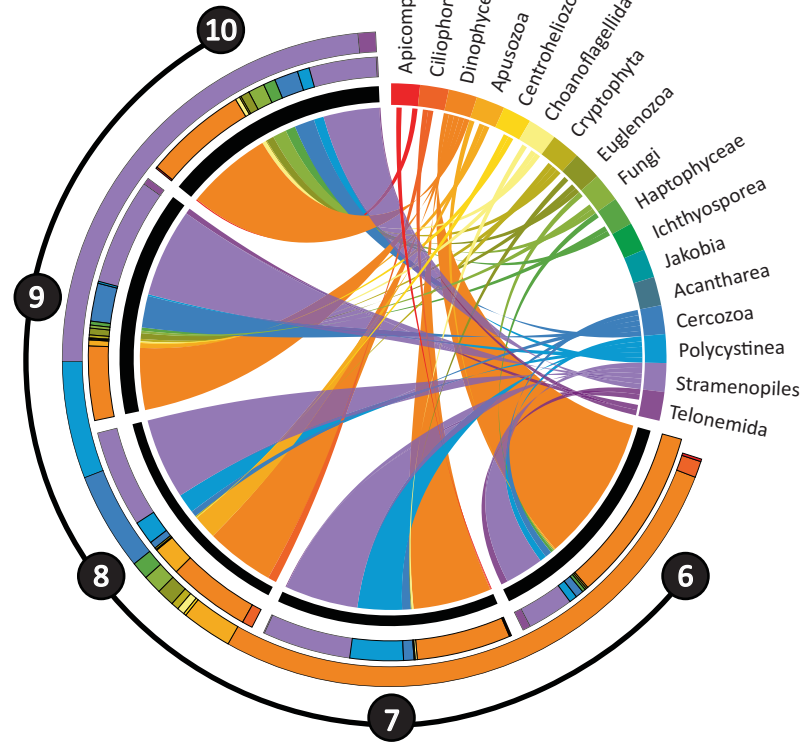
Figure 1

### Surface

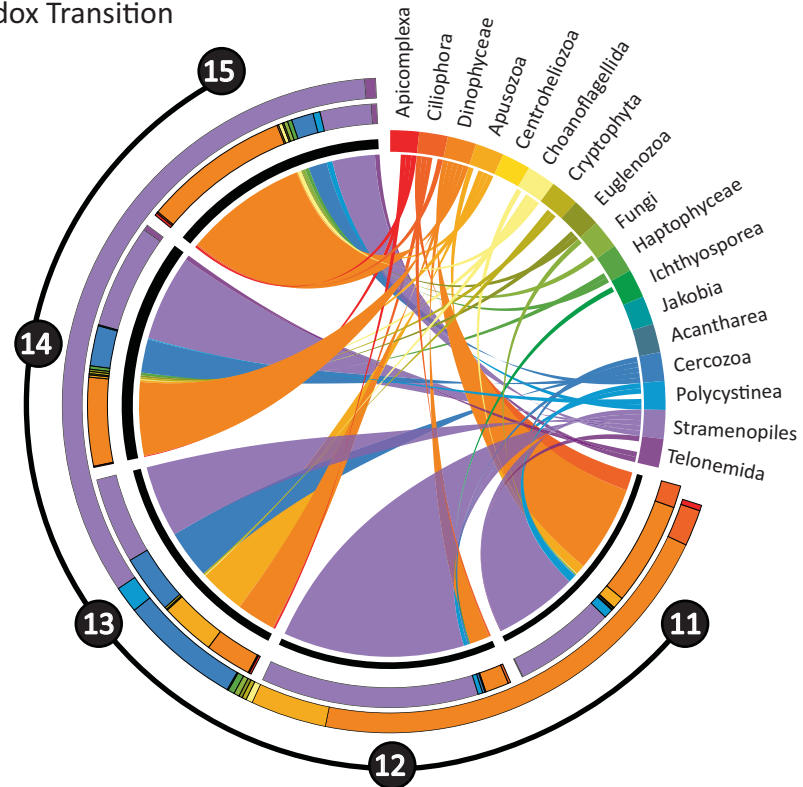
Oxygen Concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ )



### Oxic-Anoxic Interface



### Lower Redox Transition



### Anoxic Deep

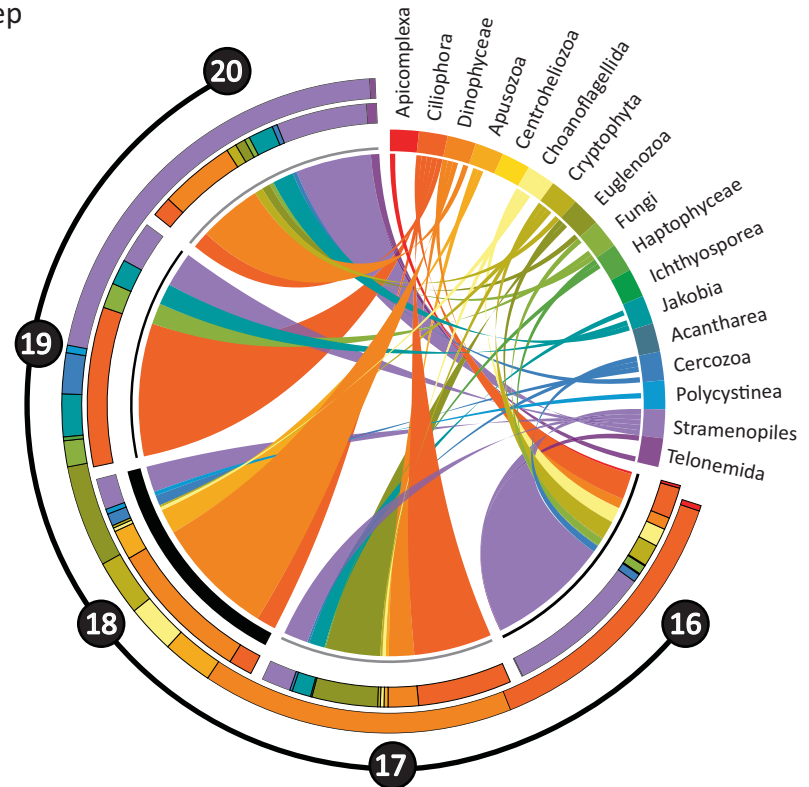
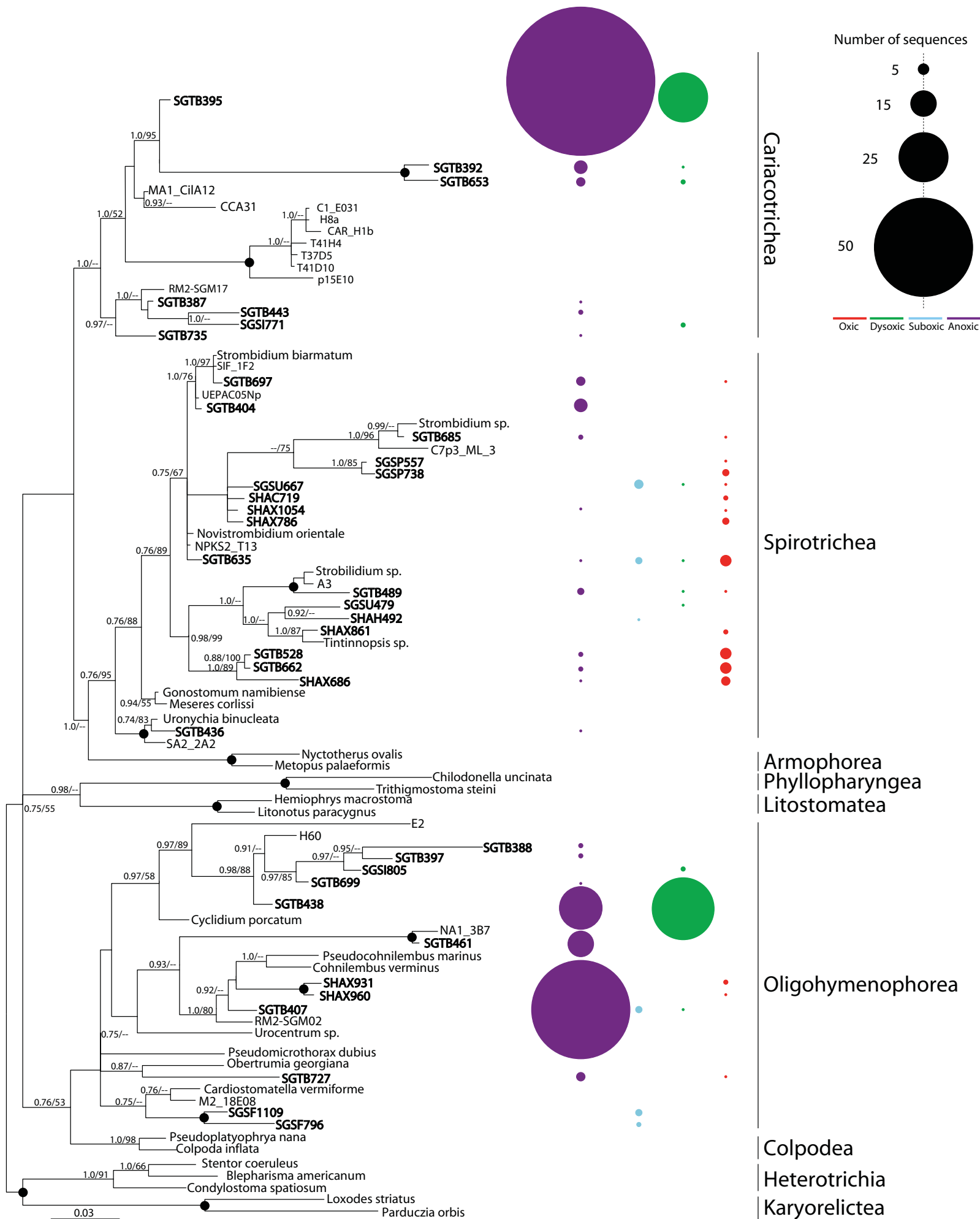
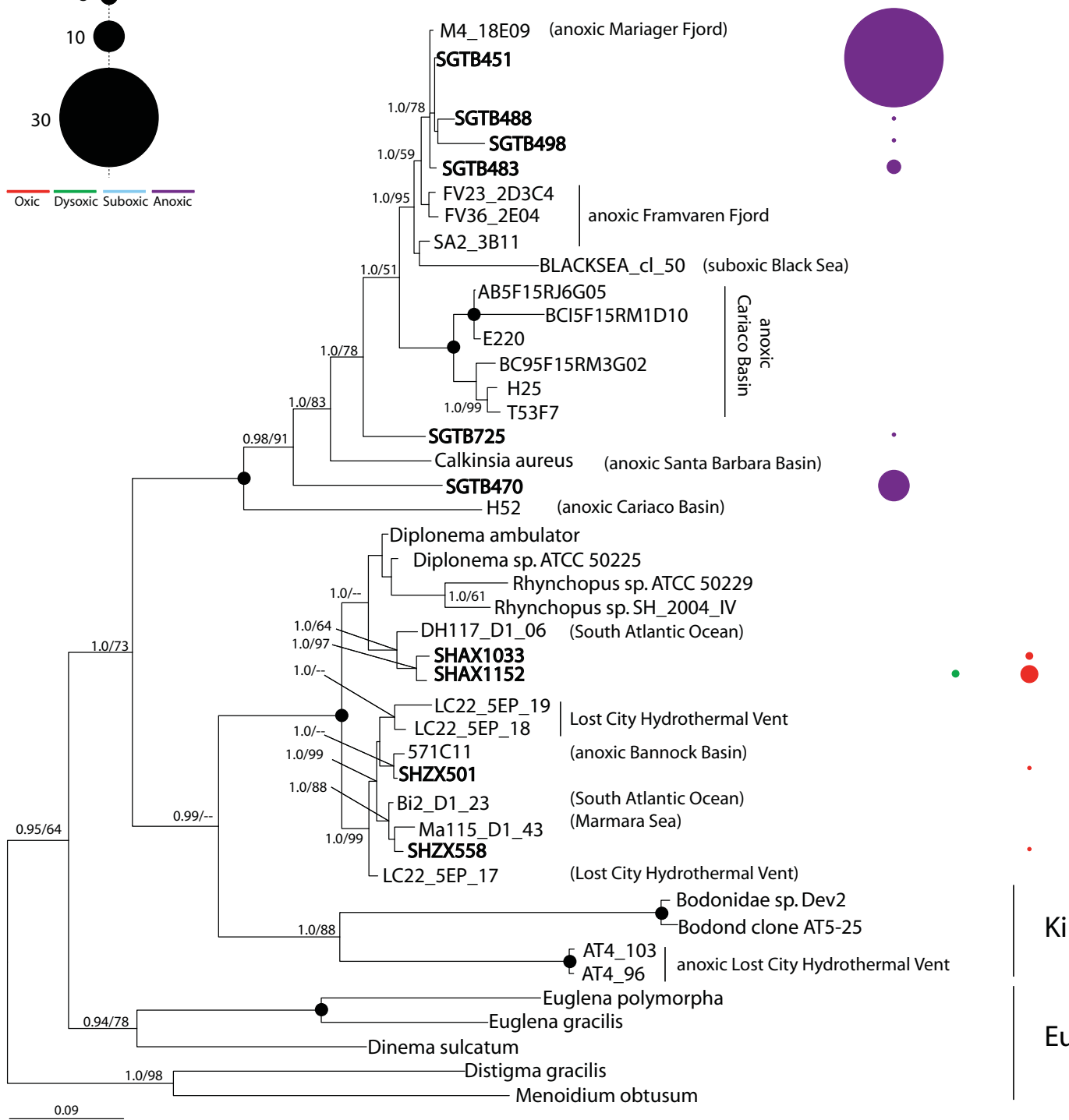
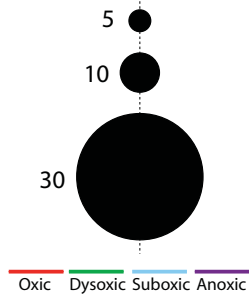


Figure 2



Number of sequences



Symbiontida

Diplonemida

Kinetoplastida

Euglenida

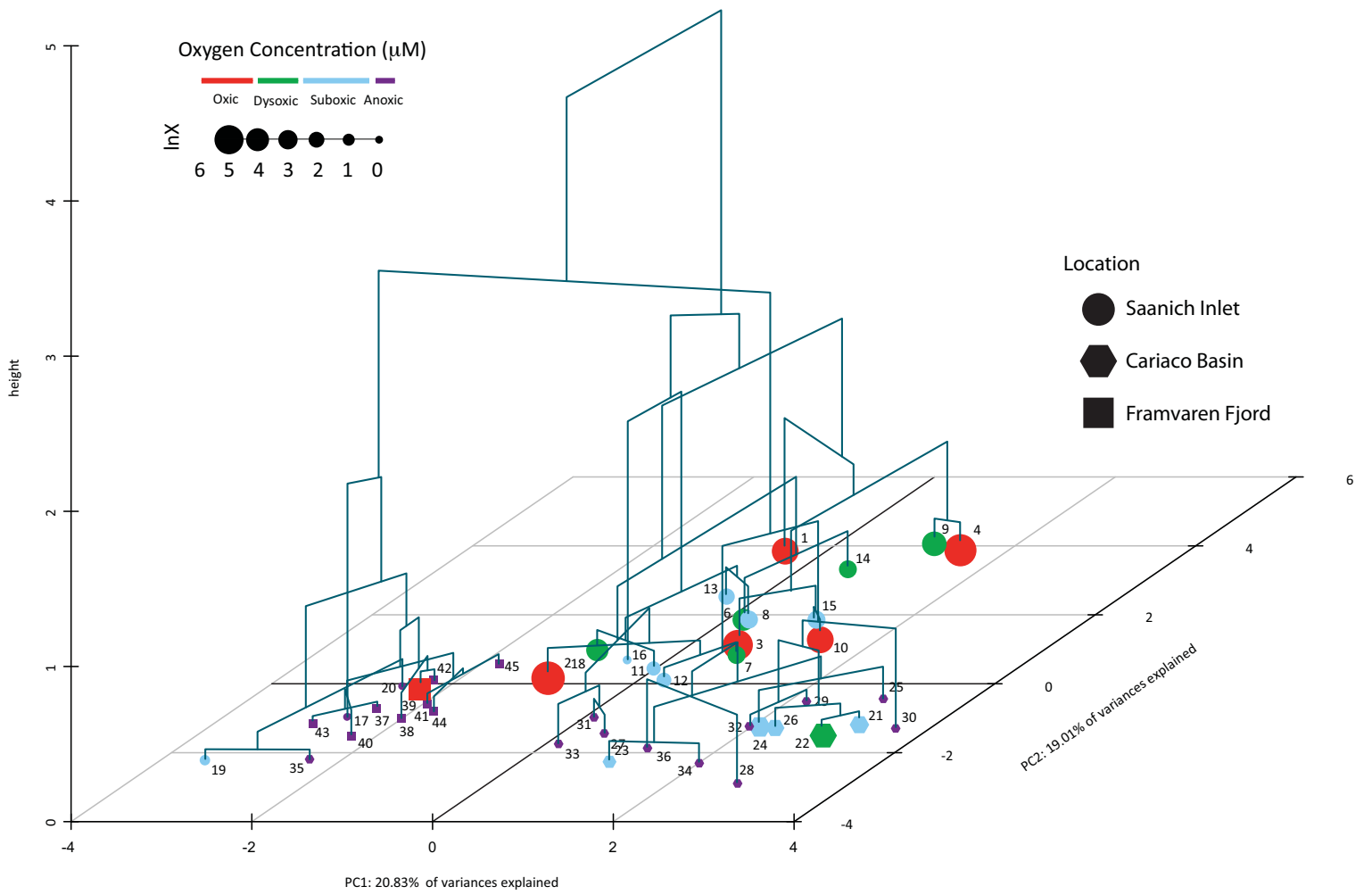


Figure 5

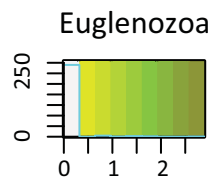
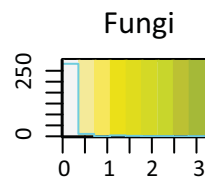
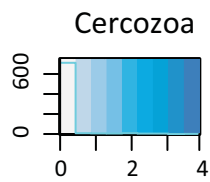
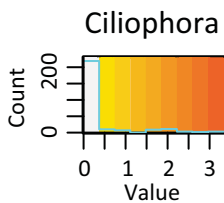
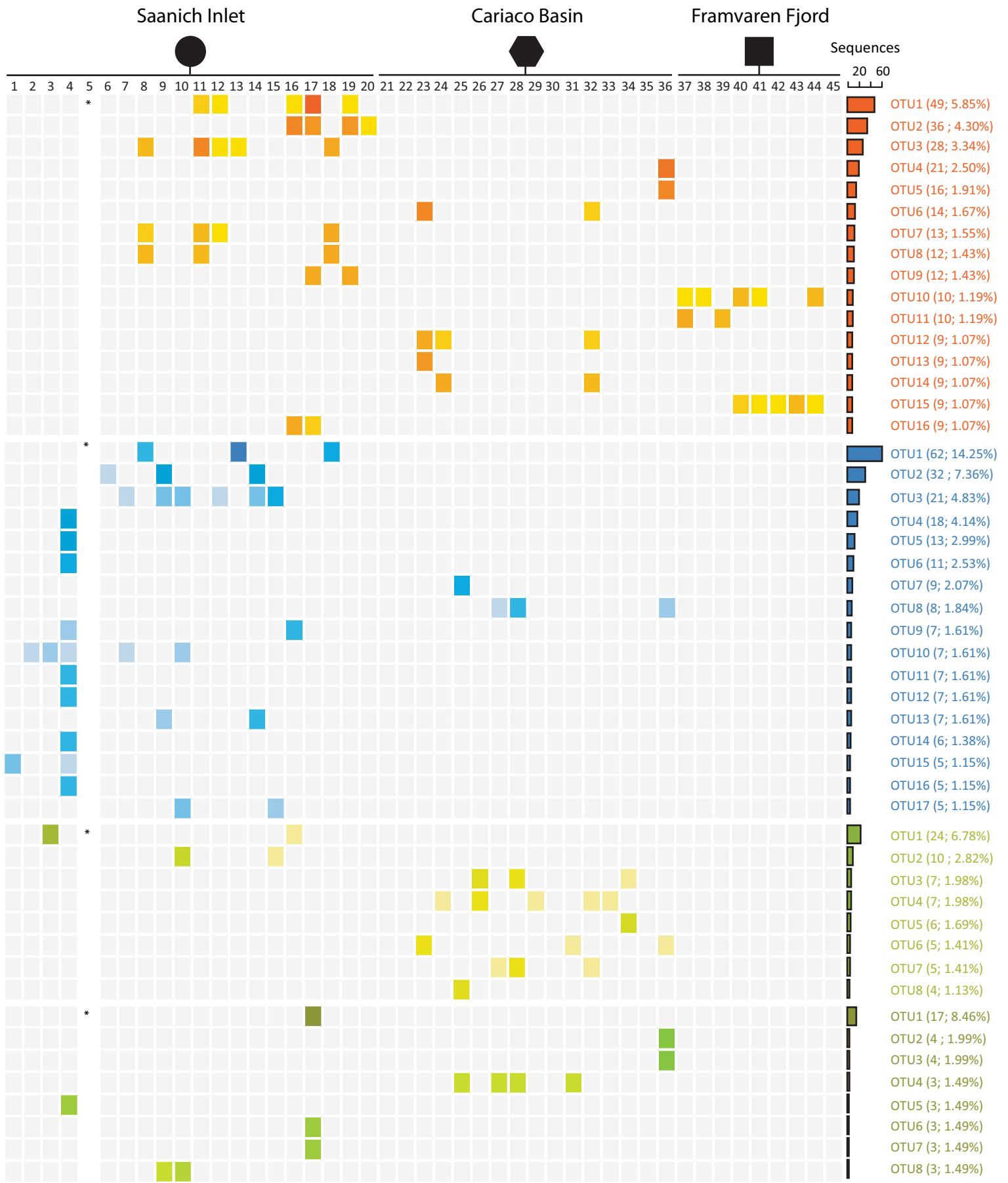
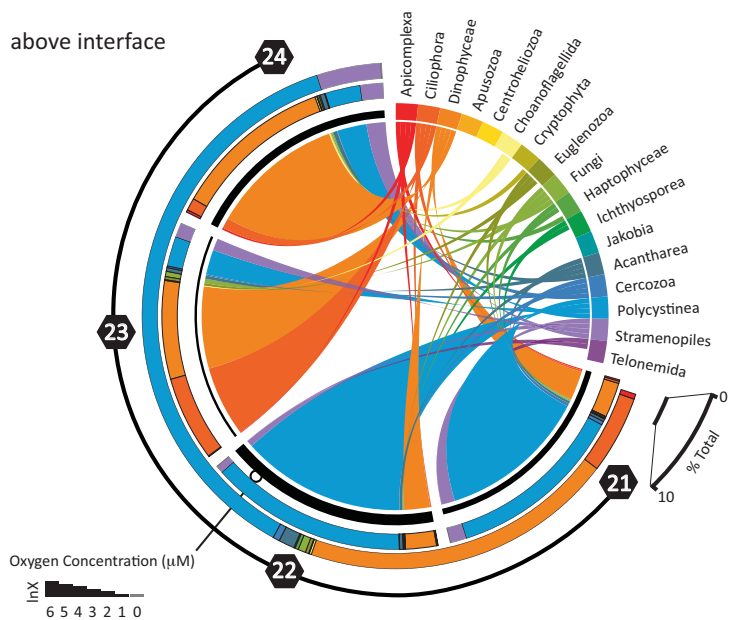
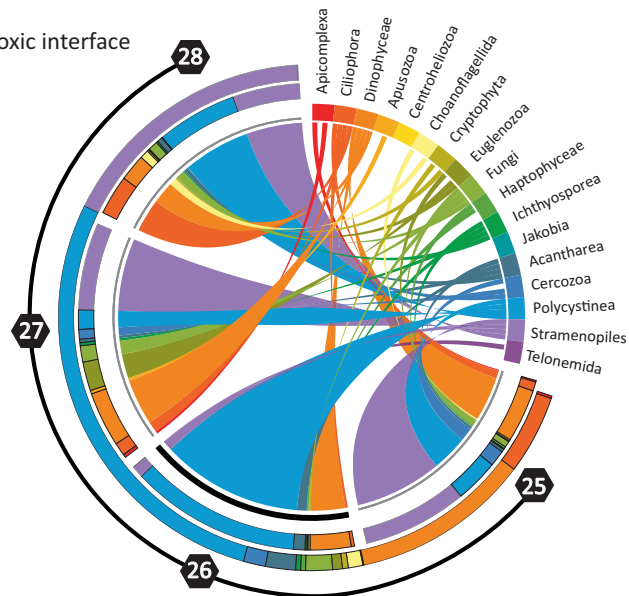


Figure 6

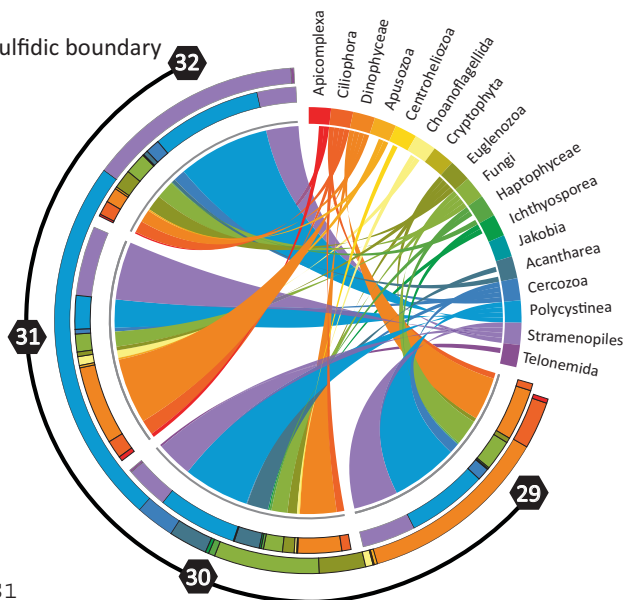
above interface



oxic-anoxic interface



upper sulfidic boundary



anoxic deep

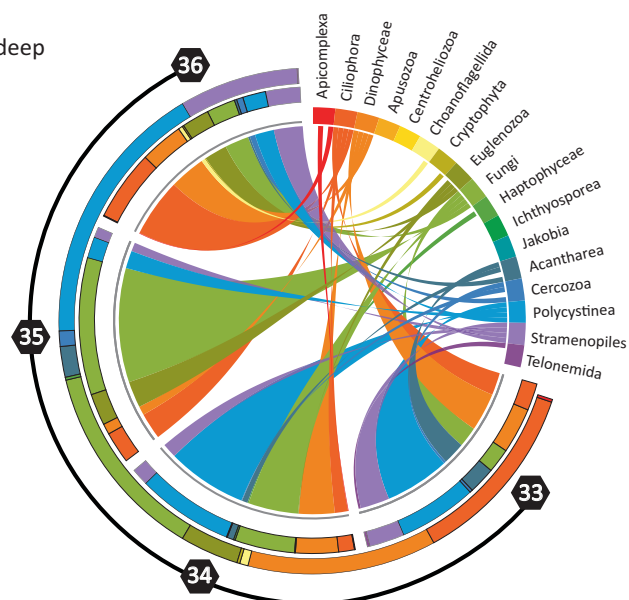


Figure S1



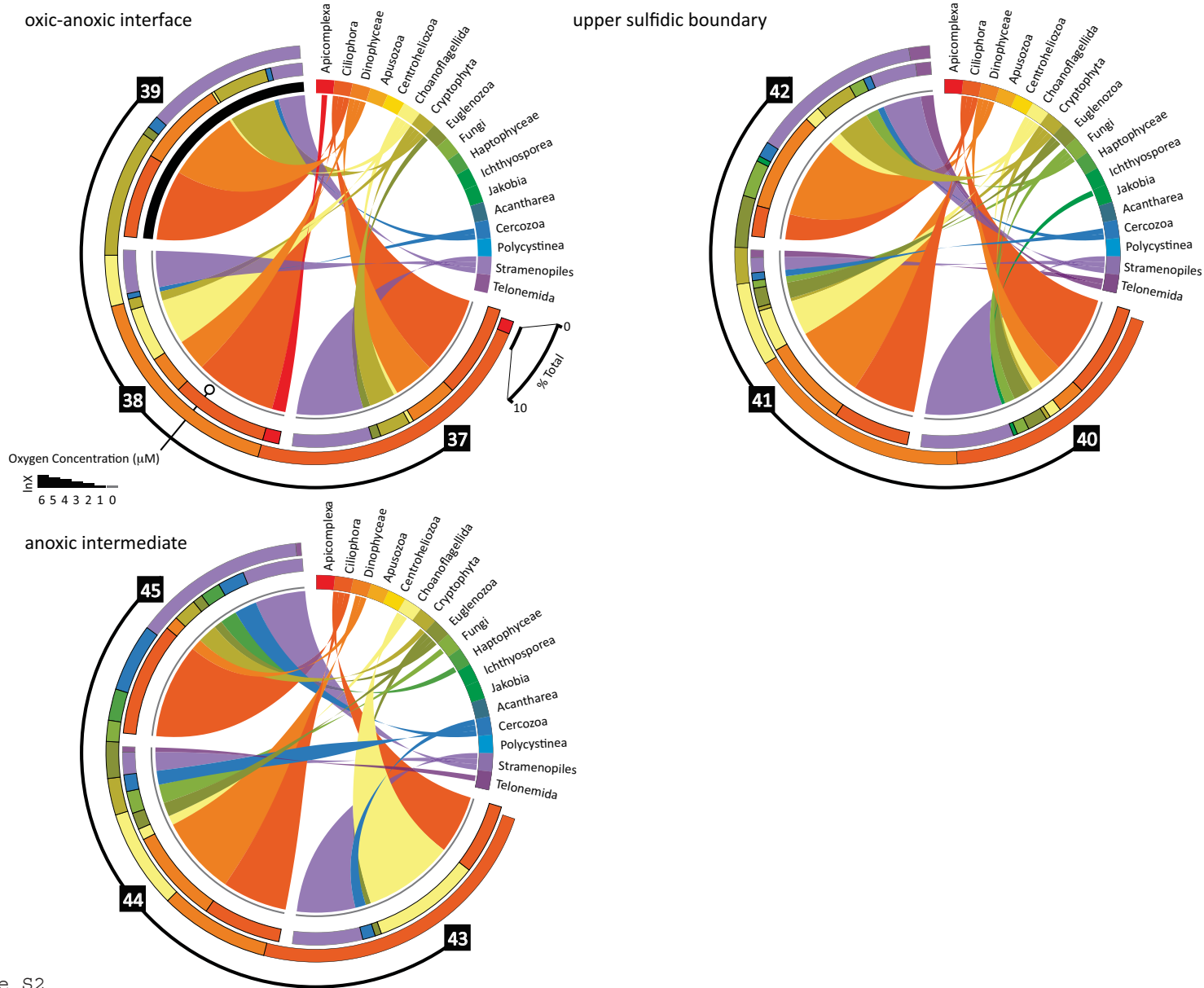


Figure S2

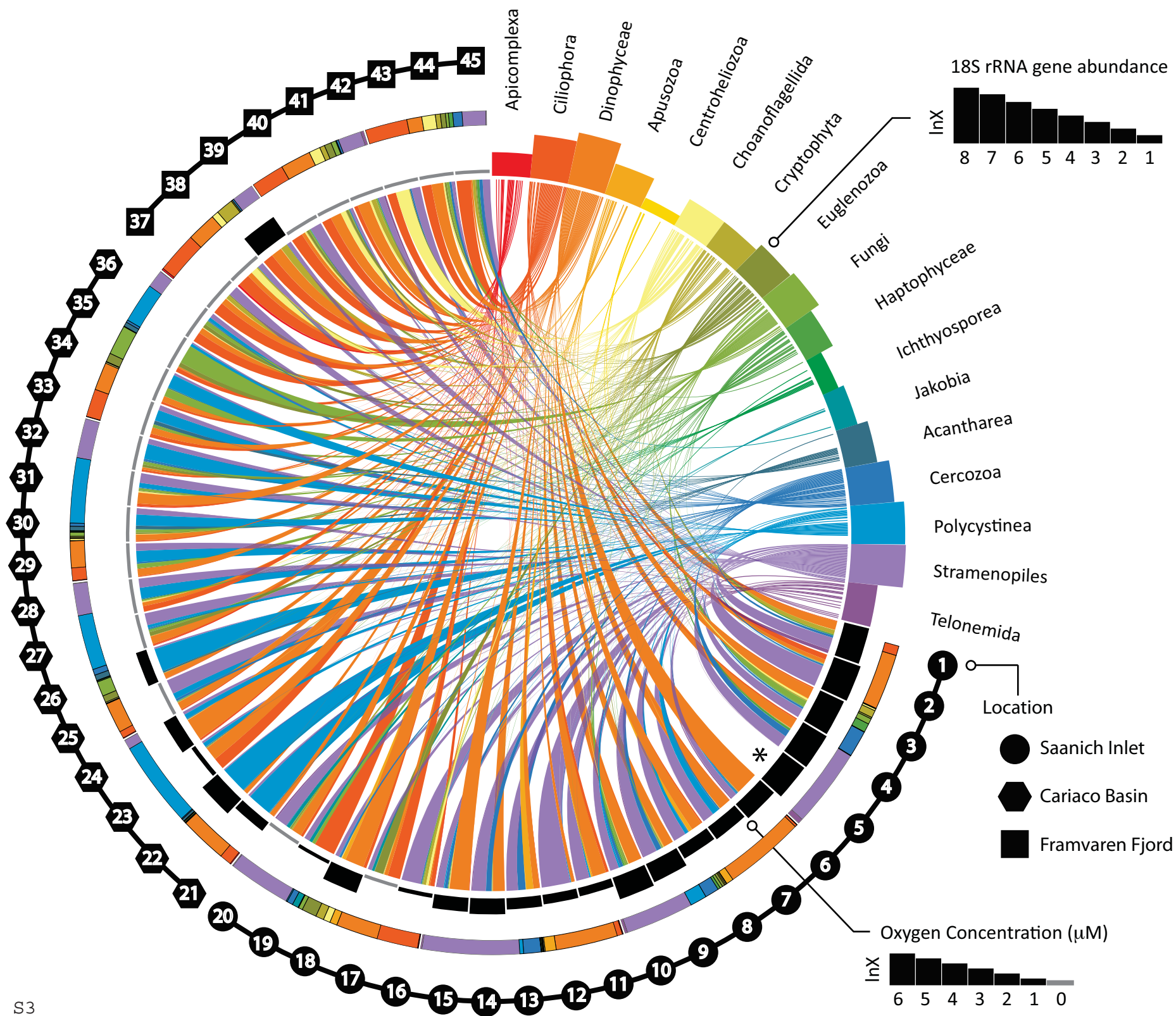


Figure S3

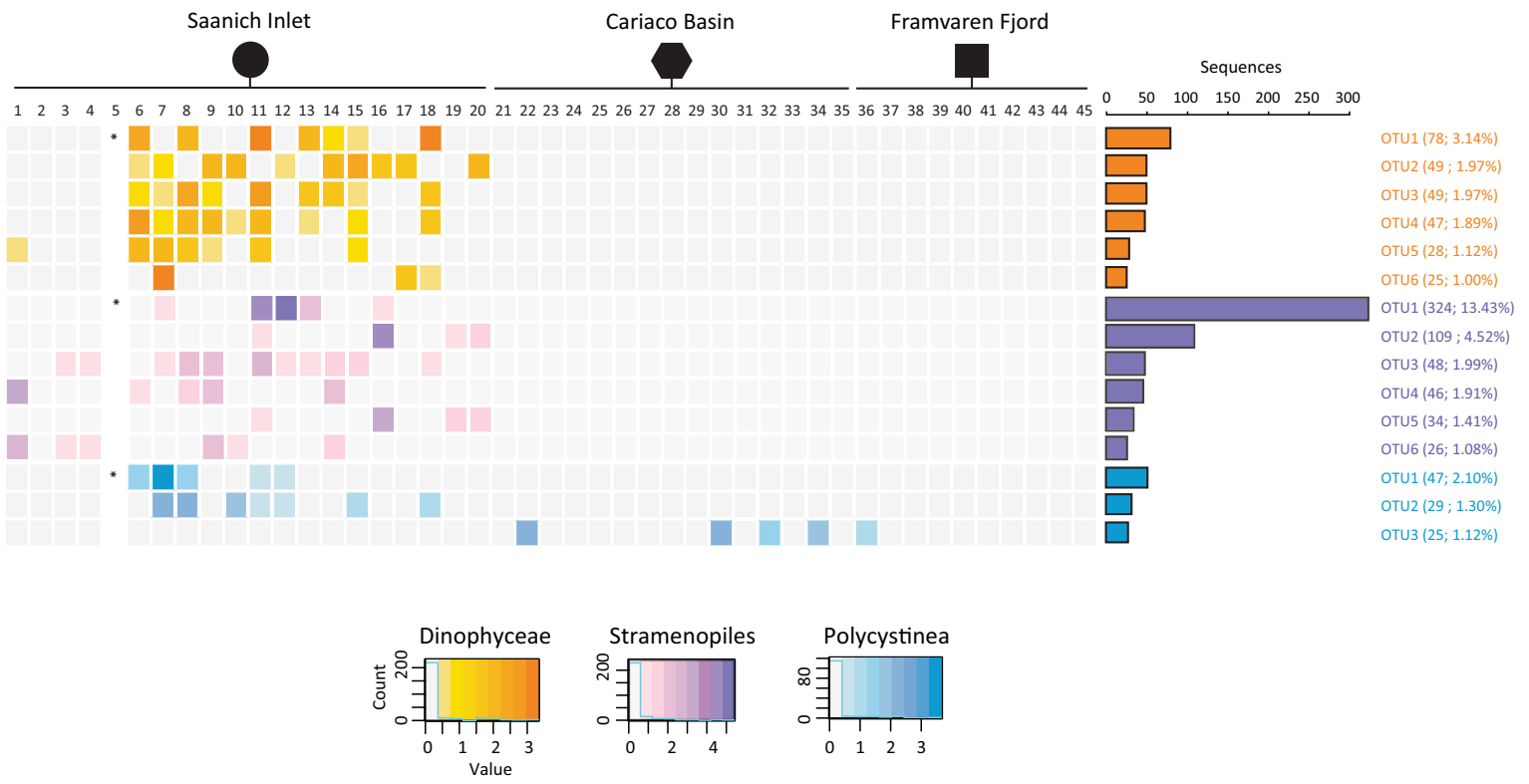


Figure S4

Saanich Inlet

Cariaco Basin

Framvaren Fjord

Sequences

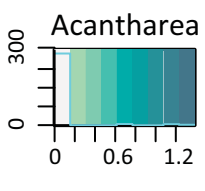
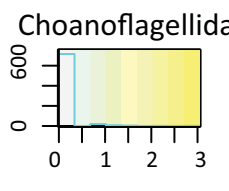
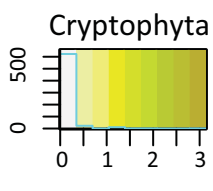
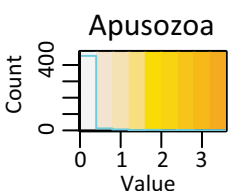


Figure S5

Table 1. Sample index for Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord microbial eukaryotes

Sample ID	Location	Station <sup>a,b</sup>	Date (mm/yy)	Latitude, Longitude	Description	Oxytype	Depth (m)	O <sub>2</sub> (nM) <sup>c</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> S (μM)	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (μM)	CH <sub>4</sub> (nM)	Size Fraction (μm) <sup>A,B,C</sup>	Sequences
1	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	surface	oxic	10	212.0	0.0	26.7	123.0	2.7-0.2	324
2	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	surface	oxic	10	381.6	0.0	4.6	94.0	2.7-0.2	147
3	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	surface	oxic	10	249.0	0.0	25.5	47.7	2.7-0.2	283
4	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	48.35°N, 123.30°W	surface	oxic	10	316.1	0.0	18.2	45.0	2.7-0.2	695
5	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	48.35°N, 123.30°W	surface	oxic	10	263	0.0	19.2	28.8	2.7-0.2	ND
6	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	51.1	0.0	21.0	93.8	2.7-0.2	243
7	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	22.9	0.0	16.1	59.6	2.7-0.2	270
8	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	oxic-anoxic interface	suboxic	100	15.4	0.0	13.0	38.2	2.7-0.2	360
9	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	48.35°N, 123.30°W	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	67.3	0.0	26.5	14.8	2.7-0.2	355
10	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	48.35°N, 123.30°W	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	120.0	0.0	20.5	22.4	2.7-0.2	326
11	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	lower redox transition	suboxic	125	5.0	0.0	9.7	145.0	2.7-0.2	344
12	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	6.5	0.0	4.8	167.0	2.7-0.2	328
13	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	9.8	0.0	8.9	22.1	2.7-0.2	278
14	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	48.35°N, 123.30°W	lower redox transition	dysoxic	120	26.9	0.0	20.6	9.0	2.7-0.2	267
15	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	48.35°N, 123.30°W	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	18.1	0.0	13.2	7.1	2.7-0.2	336
16	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	215	1.4	ND	1.8	734.0	2.7-0.2	345
17	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	0.0	ND	0.5	1273.8	2.7-0.2	343
18	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	48.35°N, 123.30°W	anoxic deep	dysoxic	200	54	ND	19.8	19.9	2.7-0.2	339
19	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	48.35°N, 123.30°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	1.1	5.6	0.0	857.8	2.7-0.2	334
20	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	48.35°N, 123.30°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	0.0	2.1	0.1	708.3	2.7-0.2	375
21	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	above interface	suboxic	240	8.4	0.0			≥4.5	600
22	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	above interface	dysoxic	185	66.3	0.0			≥4.5	744
23	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	above interface	anoxic	260/240	0.0/3.1	4.0/0.0			≥4.5	356
24	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	above interface	suboxic	216/230	12.5/23.5	0.0/0.0			≥4.5	519
25	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	280	0.0	1.1			≥4.5	495
26	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	oxic-anoxic interface	suboxic	225	8.7	0.0			≥4.5	553
27	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	300/280	0.0/0.0	4.7/0.9			≥4.5	153
28	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	256/270	0.0/0.0	0.3/0.1			≥4.5	536
29	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	320	0.0	4.0			≥4.5	565
30	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	265	0.0	0.6			≥4.5	394
31	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	340/320	0.0/0.0	4.7/3.7			≥4.5	162
32	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	296/310	0.0/0.0	4.7/1.4			≥4.5	433
33	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	900	0.0	53.1			≥4.5	140
34	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	10.50°N, 64.66°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	900	0.0	51.5			≥4.5	400
35	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	400/900	0.0/0.0	10.9/45.3			≥4.5	39
36	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	B;10.40°N, 64.46°W/C;10.40°N, 65.35°W	anoxic deep	anoxic	670/900	0.0/0.0	24.5/52.4			≥4.5	400
37	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	18	0.0	0.0			≥6.5	76
38	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	18	0.0	0.0			≥6.5	55
39	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	58.09°N, 06.45°E	oxic-anoxic interface	oxic	18	100.0	0.0			≥6.5	127
40	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	0.0	180.0			≥6.5	74
41	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	0.0	470.0			≥6.5	79
42	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	58.09°N, 06.45°E	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	0.0	20.0			≥6.5	42
43	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	0.0	600.0			≥6.5	52
44	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	58.09°N, 06.45°E	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	0.0	470.0			≥6.5	54
45	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	58.09°N, 06.45°E	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	0.0	670.0			≥6.5	108

<sup>a</sup> Cariaco Basin samples from sites B and C were composited prior to sequencing based on related depth intervals with shared physical and chemical properties [ref].

<sup>b</sup> Only full-length amplicon sequences from Framvaren Fjord sequences were deposited in Genbank [ref].

<sup>c</sup> Limit of detection for oxygen sensor in Saanich Inlet is 3μM

ND; not done

A; GF/D prefilters (2.7 mm pore size) in-line with 0.22mm Sterivex-GV filters (Millipore)

B; 47mm Durapore membranes (0.45 mm pore size)

C; 47mm Durapore membranes (0.65 mm pore size)

oxytype In [μM]O<sub>2</sub>; oxic >4.5, dysoxic 3.0-4.5, suboxic 0.5-3.0, anoxic <0.5

Table 2. Predicted richness of protistan assemblages in Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord

% Identity of sequences within OTU	Statistic	Saanich Inlet	Framvaren Fjord <sup>a</sup>	Cariaco Basin <sup>b</sup>
		Best Parametric Model	Best Parametric Model	Best Parametric Model
≥99		2-mixed exponential	2-mixed exponential	3-mixed exponential
	Estimated total number of OTUs	13442	3703	35968
	Standard Error	3,795	2,995	13,123
	Confidence Interval	7,963-23,373	1,090-15,370	18,373-72,596
	Goodness-of-fit	0.12	0.26	0.14
≥98		3-mixed exponential	3-mixed exponential	3-mixed exponential
	Estimated total number of OTUs	8176	1055	12480
	Standard Error	2,326	290	3489
	Confidence Interval	4,861-14,333	659-1,854	7,480-21,666
	Goodness-of-fit	0.03	0.02	0.82
≥95		3-mixed exponential	2-mixed exponential	2-mixed exponential
	Estimated total number of OTUs	2687	457	4039
	Standard Error	1,023	58	798
	Confidence Interval	1,440-5,778	366-597	2,815-6,015
	Goodness-of-fit	0.03	0.02	0.06
≥90		3-mixed exponential	2-mixed exponential	3-mixed exponential
	Estimated total number of OTUs	510	232	1143
	Standard Error	99	28	162
	Confidence Interval	376-781	189-300	887-1,532
	Goodness-of-fit	0.015	0.1	0.68

SE; standard error

GOF; goodness-of-fit (p-value for the corrected Pearson chi-square goodness-of-fit test)

CB; 95% confidence interval

NA; not applicable

<sup>a</sup> Sequence data from Behnke et al., 2010

<sup>b</sup> Sequence data from Edgcomb et al., 2011

Table S1. Ciliate and Euglenozoa 18S rRNA gene sequences recovered from the July 2006 200 meter Saanich Inlet clone library

Sequences	Closest Described Species			Closest Uncultured Clone		
	Species Name	Genbank Accession Number	% Identity	Clone Name	Genbank Accession Number	% Identity
1	<i>Gonostomum strenuum</i>	AJ310493	92	RM2-SGM17	AB505525	98
2	<i>ardiosomatella vermiforme</i>	AY881632	90	M2_18E08	DQ103844	91
17	<i>Nyctotherus cordiformis</i>	AJ006712	89	NA1_4G10	EF526790	90
73	<i>Strombidium conicum</i>	FJ422992	89-91	MA1_CiIA12	EF526985	95-96
5	<i>Strombidium stylifer</i>	DQ631805	97	UEPAC05Np2	AY129035	99
4	<i>Strombidium biarmatum</i>	AY541684	99	SIF_1F2	EF527106	99
3	<i>Strombidium sp. SBB99-1</i>	AY143565	99	C7p3_ML_383	FJ353184	99
2	<i>Novistrombidium orientale</i>	FJ422988	93	NPKS2_T13	EU371394	93
1	<i>Uronychia binucleata</i>	EF198667	98	SA2_2A2	EF527163	98
1	<i>Condylostoma spatiosum</i>	DQ822483	89	NA1_4G10	EF526790	90
1	<i>Protogastrostyla pulchra</i>	EF194082	93	MA1_CiIA12	EF526985	96
5	<i>Cyclidium glaucoma</i>	DQ442840	92	NA1_3B7	EF526828	97
38	<i>Homalogastra setosa</i>	EF158848	96	RM2-SGM02	AB505510	96
1	<i>Strobilidium sp.</i>	AF399123	99	A3	FN263264	99
44	<i>Calkinsia aureus</i>	EU753419	87-94	H52	AY256215	89-98
13	<i>Cyclidium porcatum</i>	Z29517	90-92	H60	AY256216	94-96
2	<i>Meseres corlissi</i>	EU399529	90	MA1_CiIA12	EF526985	96

Table S2. Non-parametric diversity estimates for Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin and Framvaren Fjord eukaryotic microbial communities

Sample ID	Location	Site	Date (mm/yy)	Description	Oxytype	Depth (m)	Sequences	OTUs	chao (S)			simpson (D)			shannon (H)		
									average	lower	upper	average	lower	upper	average	lower	upper
1	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	surface	oxic	10	324	182	967	624	1577	0.029	0.020	0.039	4.51	4.34	4.68
2	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	surface	oxic	10	147	138	964	562	1745	0.001	0.000	0.002	4.91	4.79	5.02
3	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	surface	oxic	10	283	182	1114	702	1849	0.034	0.021	0.047	4.54	4.35	4.73
4	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	surface	oxic	10	695	254	484	399	616	0.010	0.008	0.012	5.02	4.93	5.11
5	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	surface	oxic	10											
6	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	243	119	335	232	533	0.015	0.010	0.019	4.39	4.26	4.53
7	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	270	175	873	572	1405	0.025	0.014	0.035	4.63	4.46	4.80
8	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	oxic-anoxic interface	suboxic	100	360	172	413	311	589	0.009	0.007	0.011	4.82	4.71	4.92
9	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	355	183	354	287	466	0.008	0.006	0.009	4.91	4.81	5.01
10	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	oxic-anoxic interface	dysoxic	100	326	159	442	321	650	0.027	0.018	0.036	4.46	4.30	4.61
11	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	lower redox transition	suboxic	125	344	106	185	147	258	0.078	0.056	0.100	3.67	3.49	3.84
12	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	328	50	102	70	181	0.461	0.394	0.528	1.76	1.54	1.99
13	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	278	82	172	123	280	0.049	0.035	0.063	3.67	3.52	3.83
14	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	lower redox transition	dysoxic	120	267	138	343	251	510	0.012	0.008	0.016	4.59	4.46	4.71
15	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	lower redox transition	suboxic	120	336	139	303	231	429	0.055	0.036	0.073	4.11	3.93	4.29
16	Saanich Inlet	SI03	02/06	anoxic deep	anoxic	215	345	83	155	118	233	0.109	0.083	0.134	3.19	3.01	3.37
17	Saanich Inlet	SI03	07/06	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	343	108	238	176	359	0.071	0.053	0.089	3.64	3.46	3.82
18	Saanich Inlet	SI03	11/06	anoxic deep	dysoxic	200	339	99	213	156	328	0.068	0.050	0.086	3.62	3.46	3.79
19	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/07	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	334	20	37	24	84	0.781	0.721	0.841	0.67	0.50	0.83
20	Saanich Inlet	SI03	04/08	anoxic deep	anoxic	200	375	35	52	40	91	0.628	0.564	0.692	1.20	1.00	1.39
21	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	above interface	suboxic	240	600	491	3113	2299	4293	0.001	0.001	0.002	6.06	5.99	6.13
22	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	above interface	dysoxic	185	744	619	4407	3295	5981	0.001	0.001	0.001	6.32	6.26	6.38
23	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	above interface	anoxic	260	356	273	1349	957	1965	0.004	0.002	0.005	5.41	5.30	5.51
24	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	above interface	suboxic	216	519	437	2487	1848	3417	0.001	0.001	0.002	5.97	5.90	6.04
25	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	280	495	441	3363	2380	4843	0.001	0.000	0.001	6.02	5.96	6.09
26	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	oxic-anoxic interface	suboxic	225	553	457	2348	1779	3160	0.001	0.001	0.002	6.01	5.94	6.08
27	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	300	153	113	732	409	1405	0.012	0.005	0.020	4.46	4.30	4.63
28	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	256	536	504	9532	5756	16023	0.000	0.000	0.001	6.18	6.12	6.25
29	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	320	565	389	1378	1083	1800	0.006	0.004	0.009	5.64	5.54	5.74
30	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	265	394	331	2790	1827	4371	0.002	0.001	0.002	5.70	5.61	5.78
31	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	340	162	154	1330	751	2471	0.001	0.000	0.001	5.02	4.91	5.13
32	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	296	433	331	1680	1217	2385	0.004	0.002	0.006	5.58	5.49	5.68
33	Cariaco Basin	A	01/05	anoxic deep	anoxic	900	140	123	543	349	906	0.002	0.000	0.004	4.76	4.63	4.88
34	Cariaco Basin	A	05/05	anoxic deep	anoxic	900	400	332	2102	1460	3110	0.001	0.001	0.002	5.71	5.63	5.79
35	Cariaco Basin	BC	01/05	anoxic deep	anoxic	400	39	35	200	91	523	0.007	-0.003	0.016	3.51	3.27	3.74
36	Cariaco Basin	BC	05/05	anoxic deep	anoxic	670	400	310	1481	1080	2093	0.005	0.003	0.008	5.50	5.39	5.60
37	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	18	76	56	217	124	438	0.022	0.005	0.039	3.78	3.55	4.01
38	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	oxic-anoxic interface	anoxic	18	55	47	262	127	625	0.008	0.000	0.017	3.77	3.56	3.98
39	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	oxic-anoxic interface	oxic	18	127	69	168	113	294	0.018	0.010	0.026	3.97	3.80	4.13
40	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	74	63	448	212	1055	0.006	0.001	0.010	4.07	3.89	4.25
41	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	79	68	282	164	546	0.004	0.001	0.008	4.16	4.00	4.33
42	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	upper sulfidic boundary	anoxic	20	42	37	169	84	408	0.007	-0.001	0.015	3.56	3.34	3.78
43	Framvaren Fjord		05/04	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	52	33	384	200	770	0.037	0.011	0.063	3.23	2.96	3.49
44	Framvaren Fjord		11/04	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	54	46	477	193	1306	0.009	0.000	0.018	3.74	3.52	3.95
45	Framvaren Fjord		09/05	anoxic intermediate	anoxic	36	108	74	264	161	490	0.013	0.006	0.019	4.10	3.93	4.27

chao (S);  $Sobs + (a^2/2b)$  where Sobs is the number of species observed, a is the number of species observed just once and b is the number of species observed just twice.

simpson (D);  $S / (n+N)^2$  where n = the total number of organisms of a particular species and N = the total number of organisms of all species

shannon (H);  $S - (Pi * \ln Pi) - [S - 1/2N]$  where Pi = fraction of the entire population made up of species i, S = numbers of species encountered

\* Based on the average value for composited samples.

oxytype In [ $\mu\text{M}$ ]<sub>O<sub>2</sub></sub>; oxic >4.5, dysoxic 3.0-4.5, suboxic 0.5-3.0, anoxic <0.5