

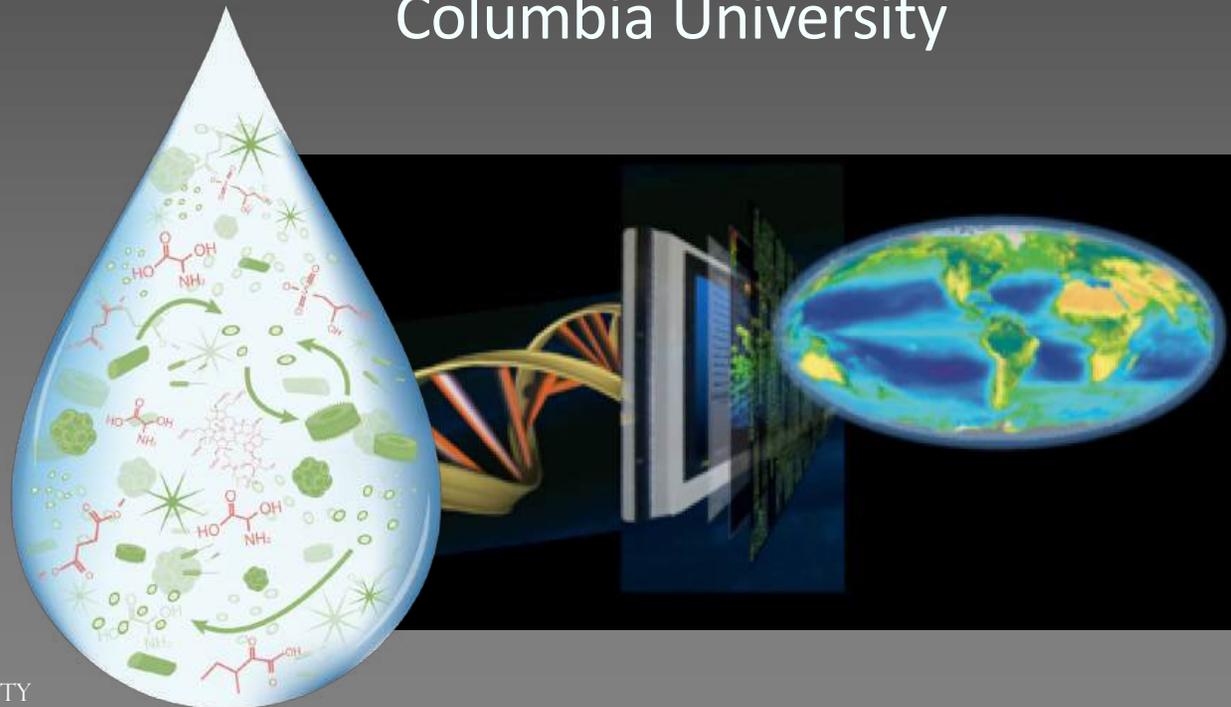
Ocean genomics: microbial physiological ecology across marine ecosystems

Sonya Dyhrman

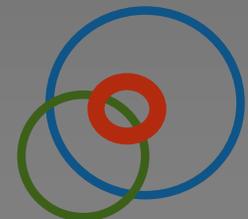
Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Senior Staff, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Columbia University



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



LAMONT-DOHERTY
EARTH OBSERVATORY

Sonya Dyhrman

High School



Grad school/Postdoc



Professor



I have my dream job!

Sonya Dyhrman

New Hampshire
Dartmouth College



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

> [Ann Surg Oncol.](#) 1996 Mar;3(2):176-84. doi: 10.1007/BF02305798.

In situ cytokine production by breast cancer tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes

B J Camp ¹, S T Dyhrman, V A Memoli, L A Mott, R J Barth Jr

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 8646519 DOI: [10.1007/BF02305798](#)

Sonya Dyhrman

California
PhD Scripps - 1999



Massachusetts
Postdoc WHOI –
2000-2002



Scientific Staff WHOI
2002 - 2013

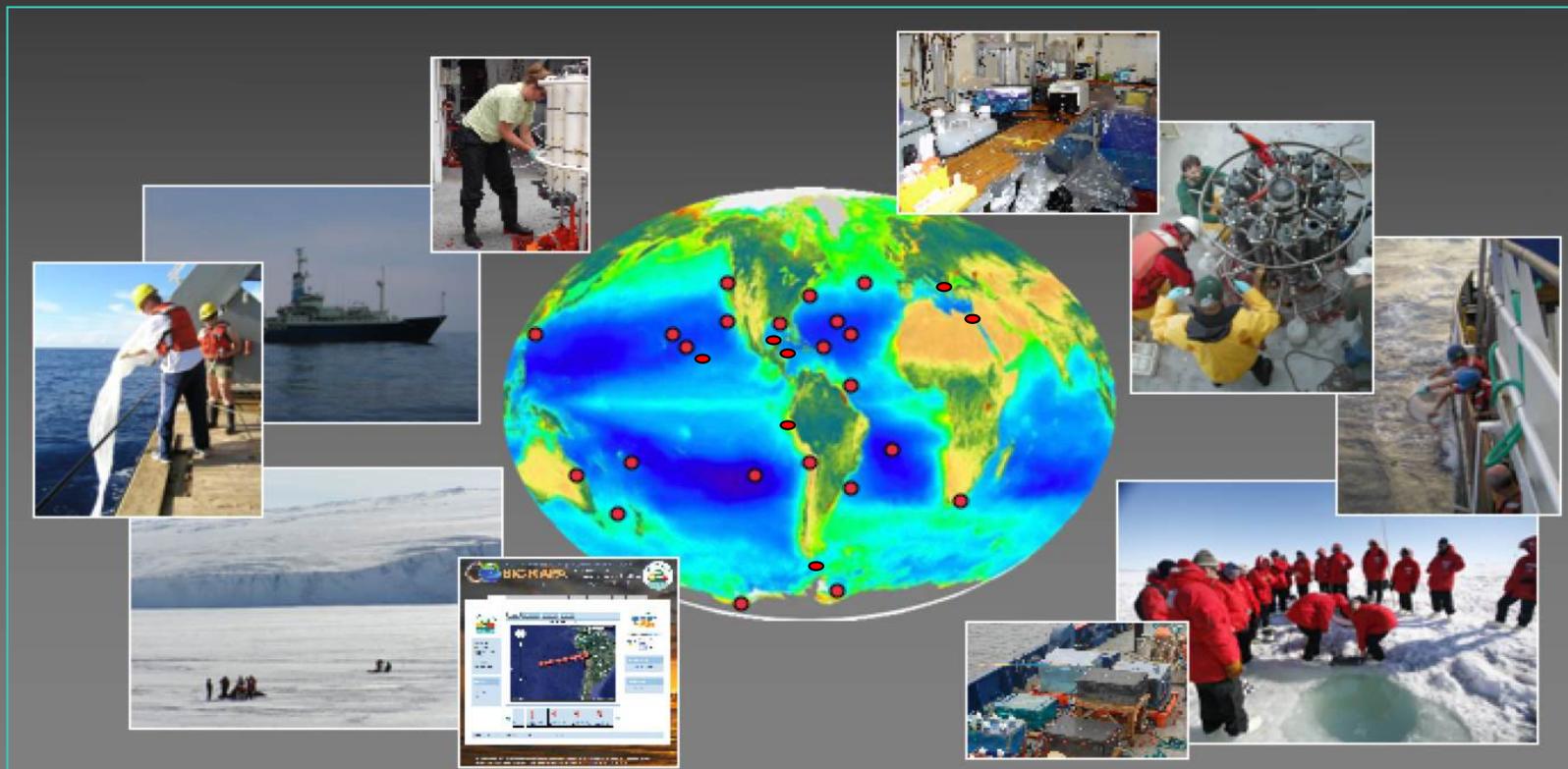
New York: Faculty Columbia University - 2013



Columbia runs RV Langseth



Field work bonus – microbes are everywhere!





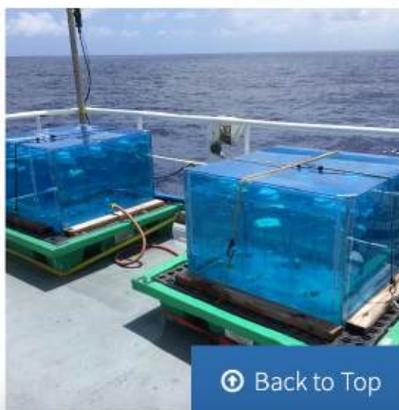
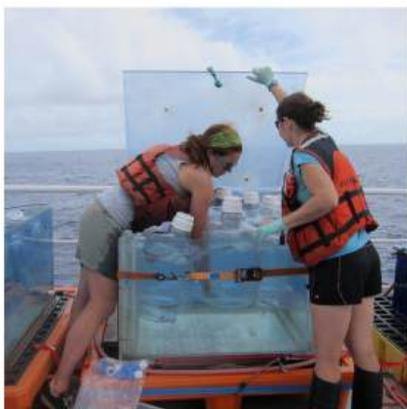
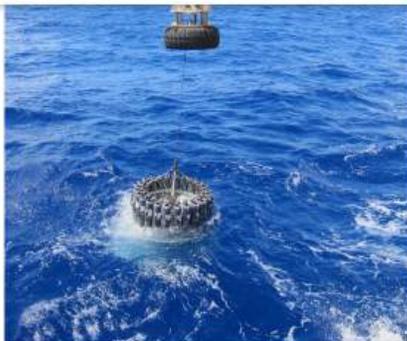
Research Projects

People

Publications

Outreach

Gallery



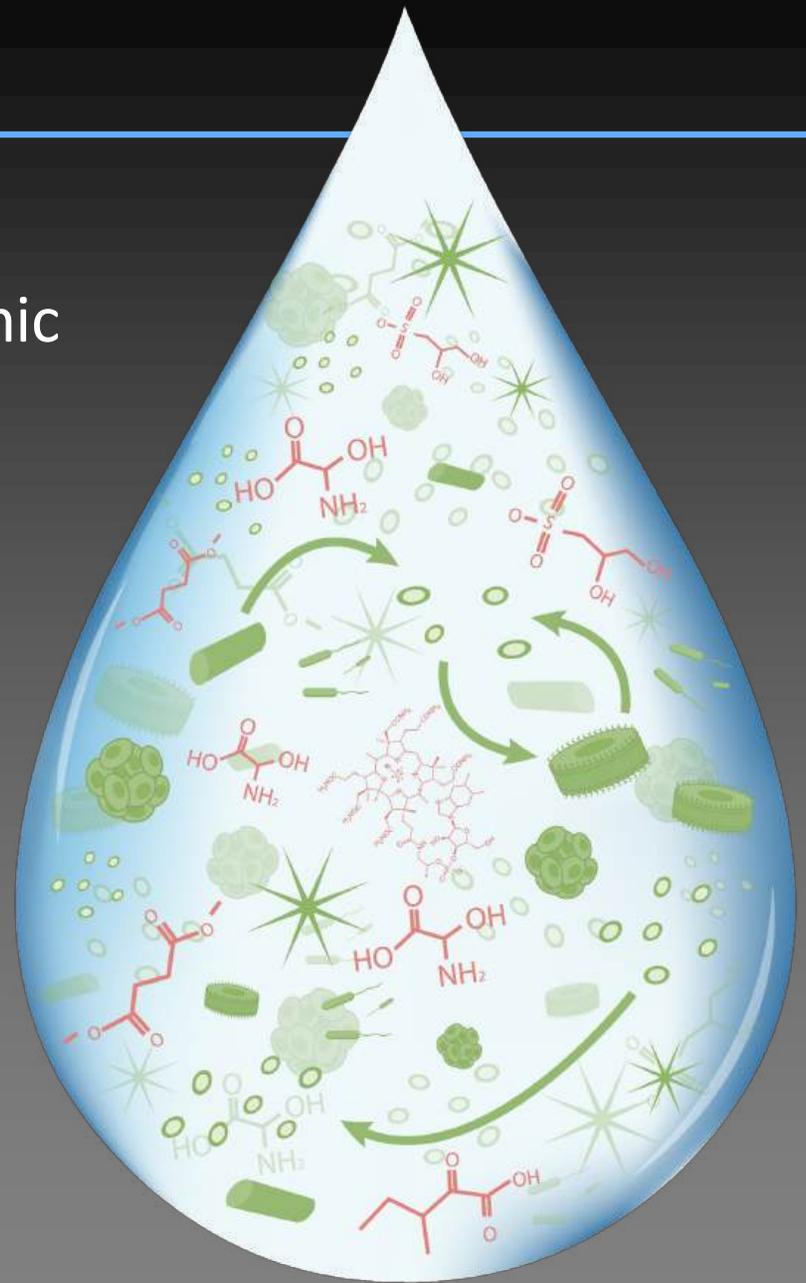
[Back to Top](#)

Sonya – random (fun?) facts



Key points for today

- Highlight how we ask and answer questions in the ocean with genomic tools
- Eukaryote physiological ecology
 - *Metatranscriptomes*
 - *Pan genomics*
- Microbial interactions
 - *16S Amplicons*
 - *Metagenomes*
 - *Metatranscriptomes*
- *Share my enthusiasm for marine microbes and 'omics*



The ocean makes our planet habitable

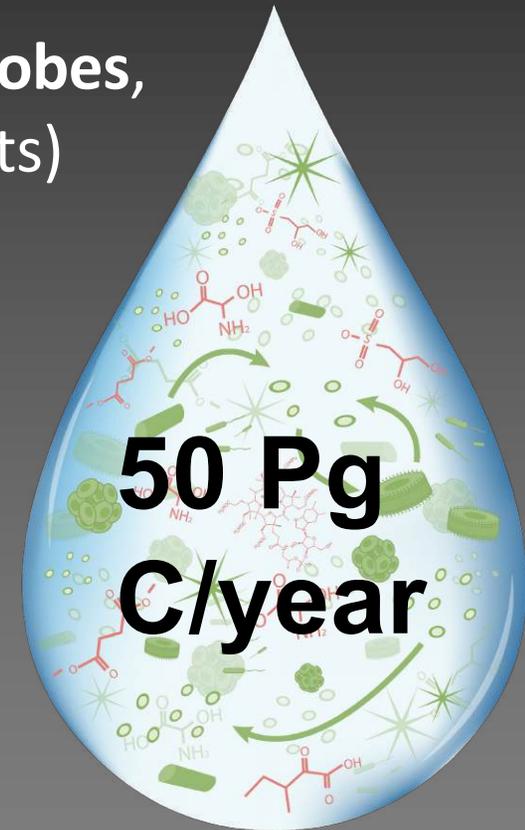


The vast unseen microbial populations play a critical role in ocean ecosystem function and the climate system



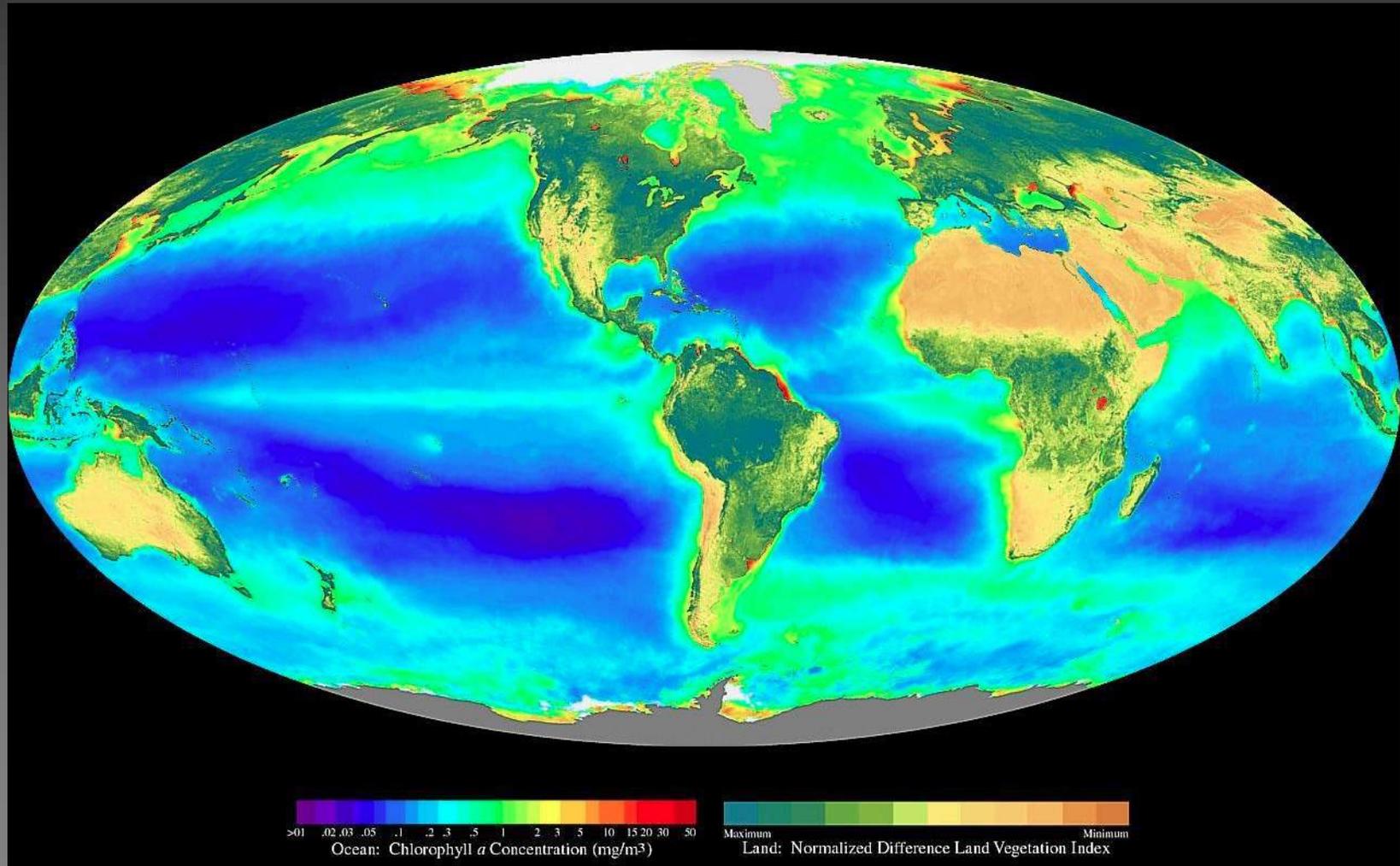
A vast chemical-microbe network underpins marine food webs and biogeochemical cycling

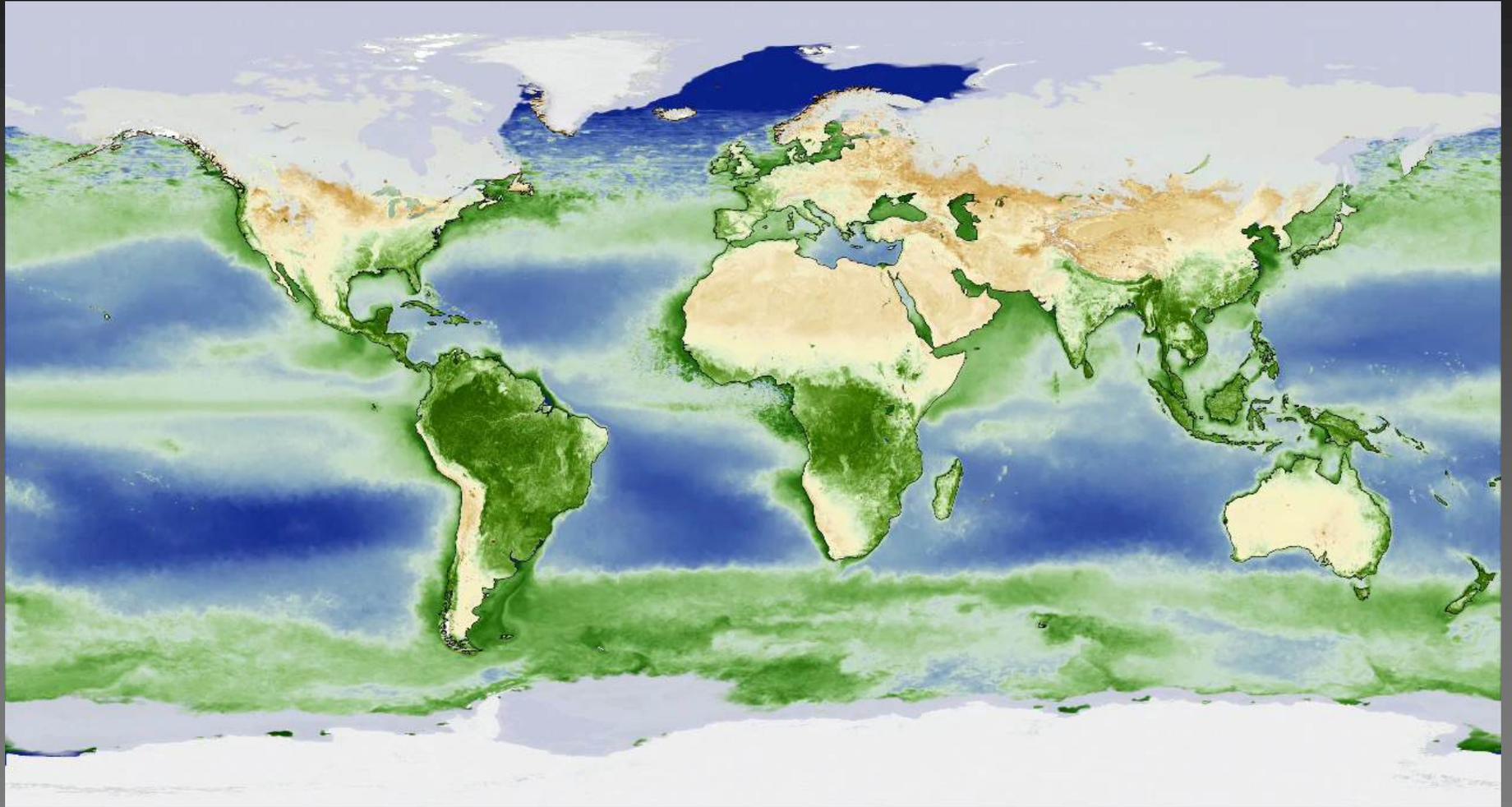
- 1 In every 1mL of seawater, there are 10^6 microbes, (*phytoplankton*, archaea, bacteria and protists) and 10^{10} viruses
- 2 There are ~100,000 different molecules of varying concentrations (femtomolar to nanomolar) acting as substrates and signals
- 3 There are myriad activities and interactions within this network- many of which have not been resolved



Phytoplankton play a profound role in the earth system

Phytoplankton drive half of global primary production

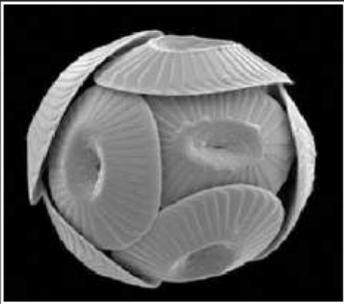




<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/30709>

Phytoplankton underpin ocean ecosystem function

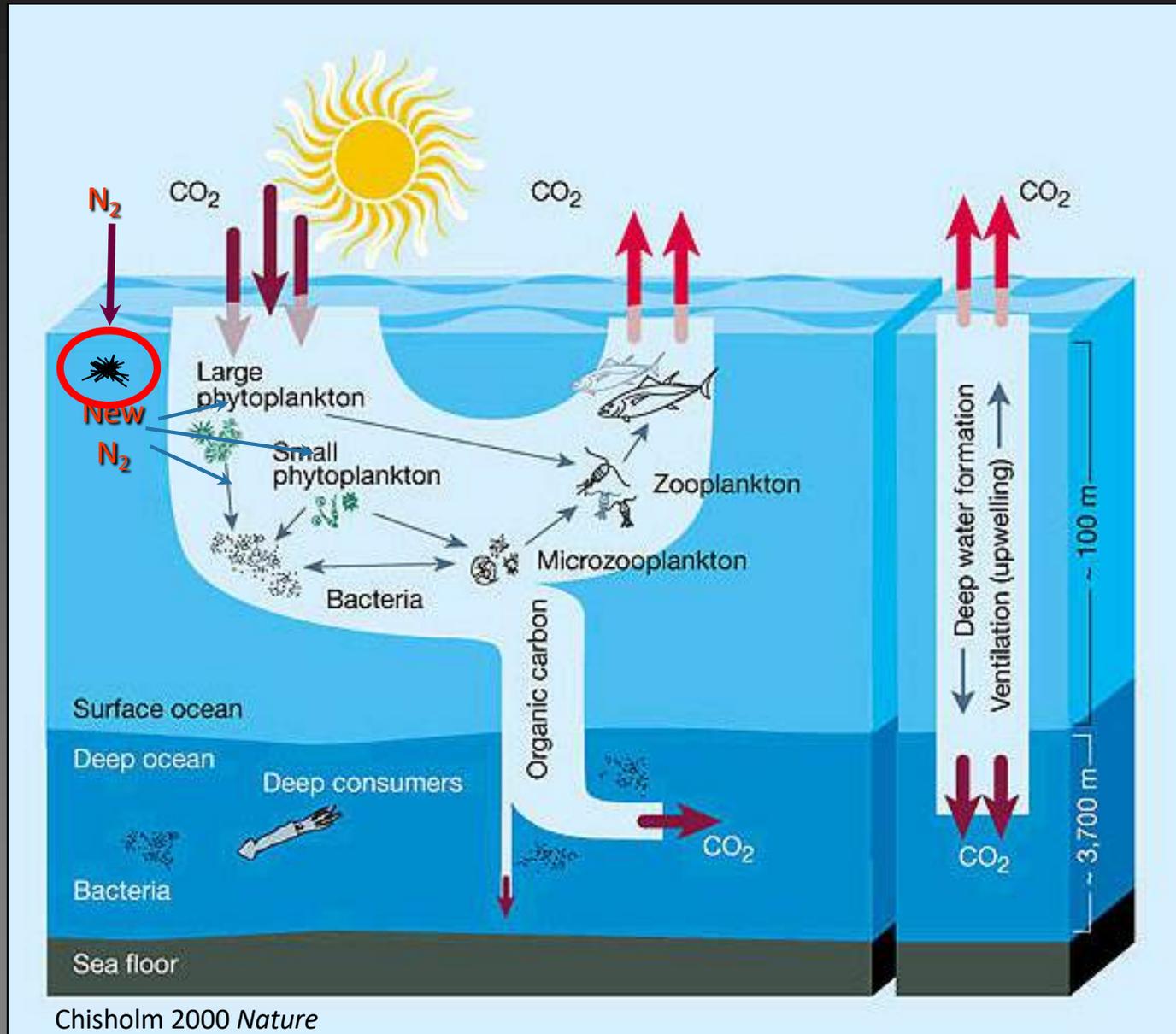
Haptophytes

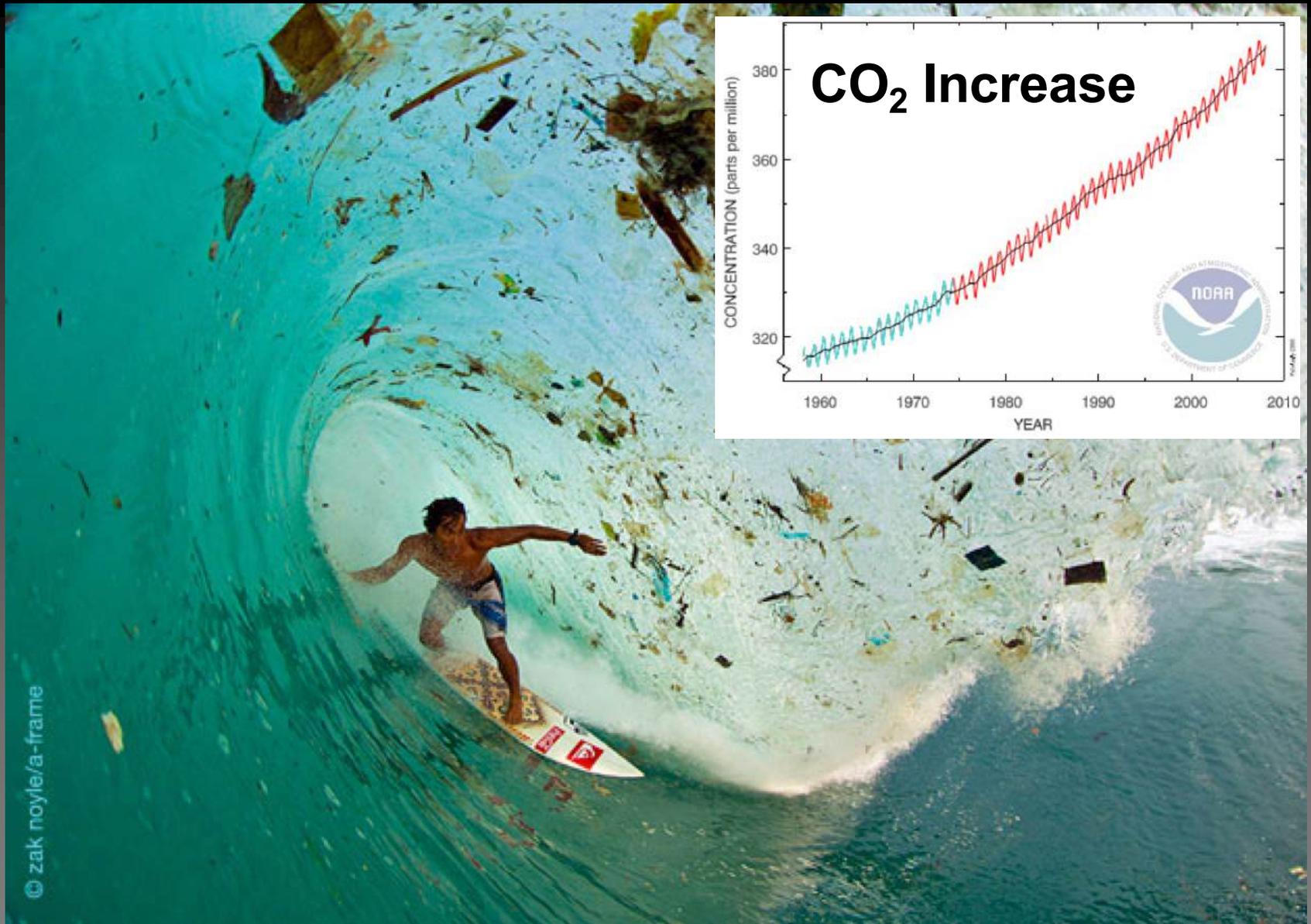


Diatoms



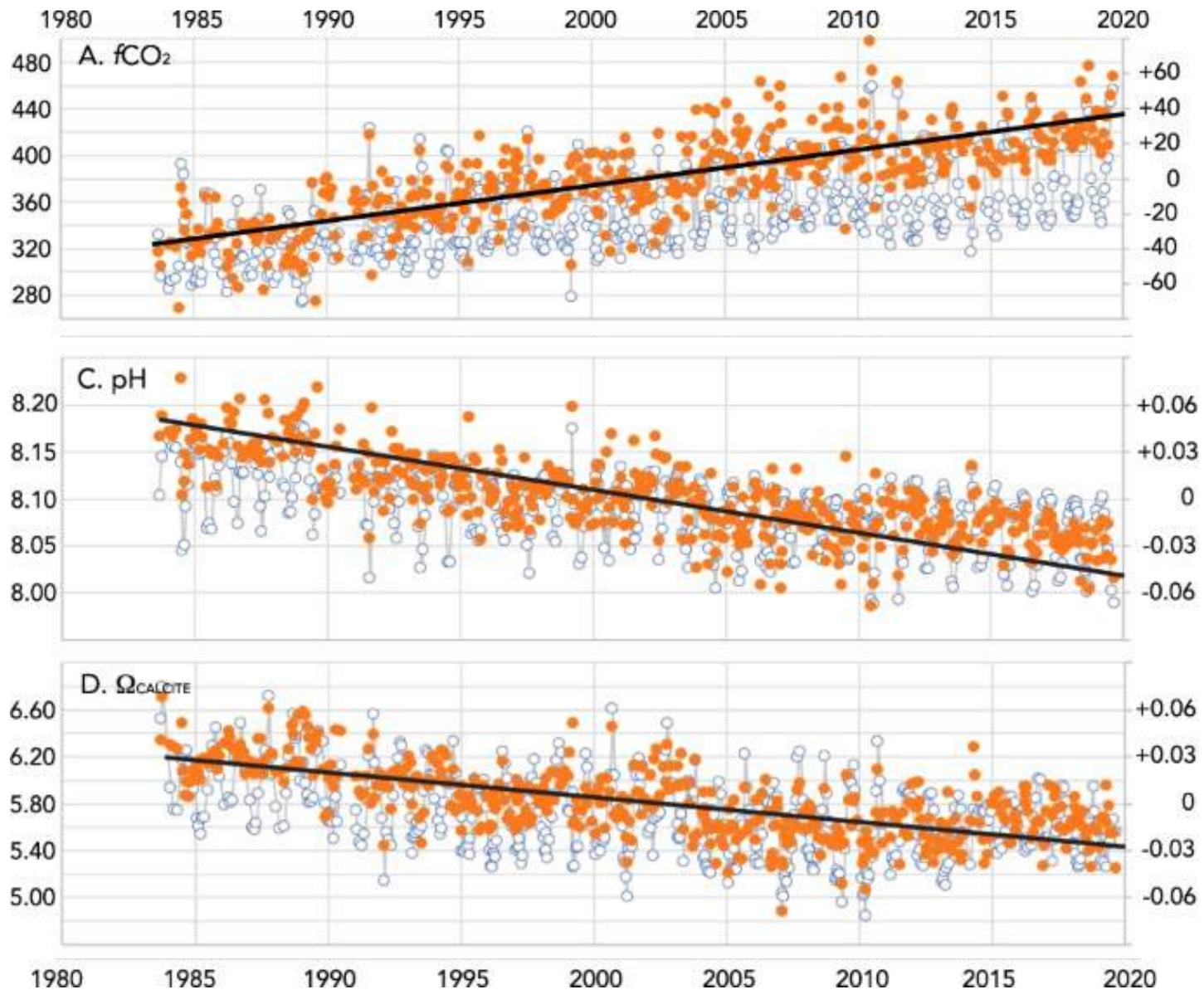
N₂ Fixers





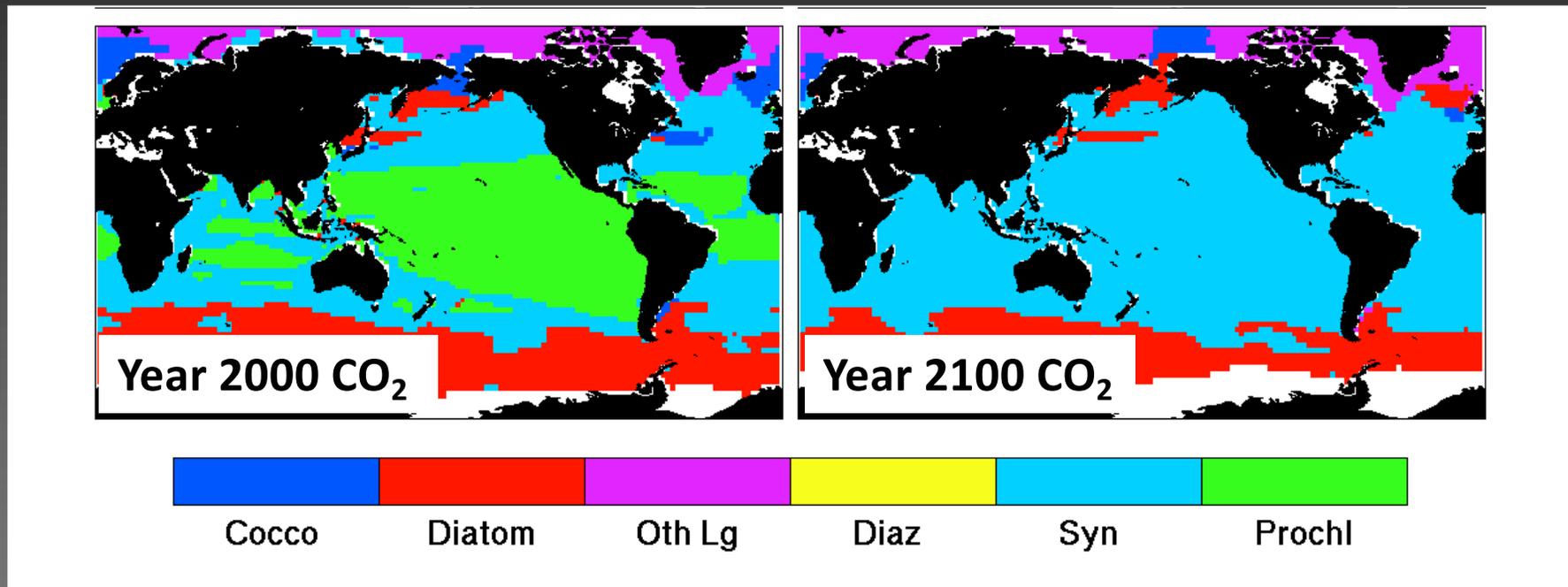
Ocean conditions are changing and this will change the distribution and activities of microbes

Changes in temperature CO₂, pH, etc.



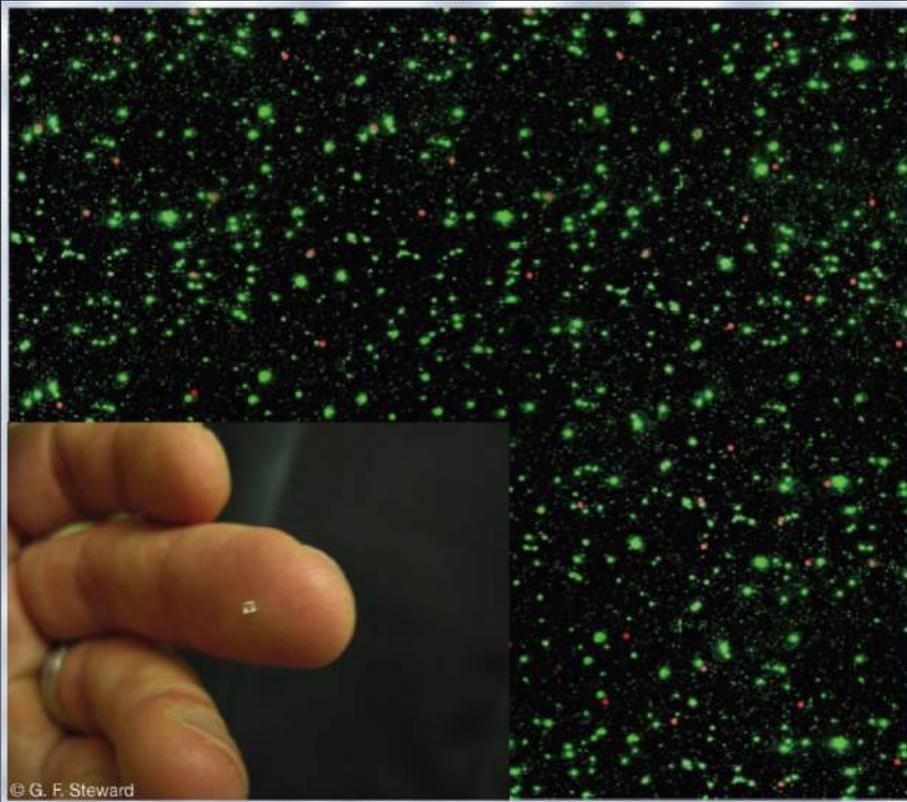
Models predict future shifts in microbial communities

Dominant Functional Group



Dutkiewicz et al. (2015) *Nature Clim. Change*.

What are the rules that govern the chemical – microbe network?



Who is there?
What are they doing?

If we learn the rules for how the system operates – then we have a better chance of predicting future ocean responses

‘Omic-enabled advances allowing us to query cells in their environment in a species-specific way

Thank you Dyhrman Lab family past and present



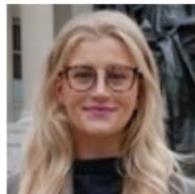
Sheean Haley



Hanna Anderson



Jill Paquette



Erin Maybach



Amanda Ellis



Maxfield Palmer



Henry Holm



Annika Gomez



Gwenn Hennon



Mónica Rouco



Matt Harke



Maria
Hernández-
Limón



Harriet Alexander



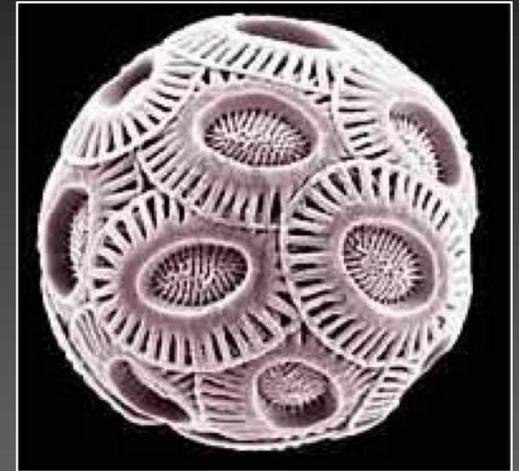
Kyle Frischkorn



Special acknowledgement to WHOI and Harriet Alexander for the graphics

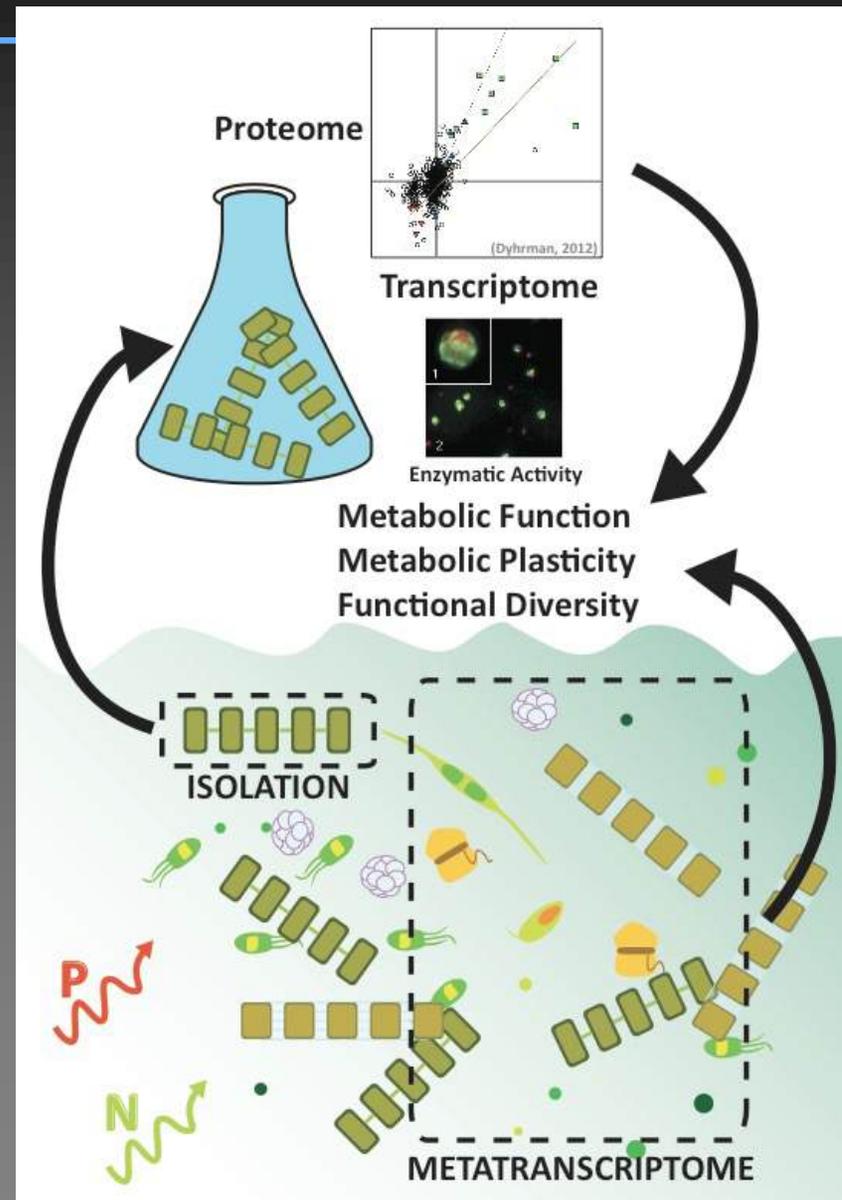
Vignettes

- Co-existing in a sea of competition: tracing drivers of phytoplankton physiological ecology in the open ocean
- Microbiome interactions: Tracking the microbiome of a keystone N₂ fixer



Leveraging metatranscriptome data to study the chemical – microbe network

- Cultures offer controlled conditions – link genes to functions and study their regulation
- Field samples offer context
- Metatranscriptomes can be species-specific
- Metatranscriptomes offer high resolution tracking of finely tuned responses



Microeukaryote metatranscriptomes with RNA-Seq

3x20L



Filter
($>5\mu\text{m}$
 $.2\mu\text{m}$)



Extract RNA
(and standards)

polyA Selected



Unselected

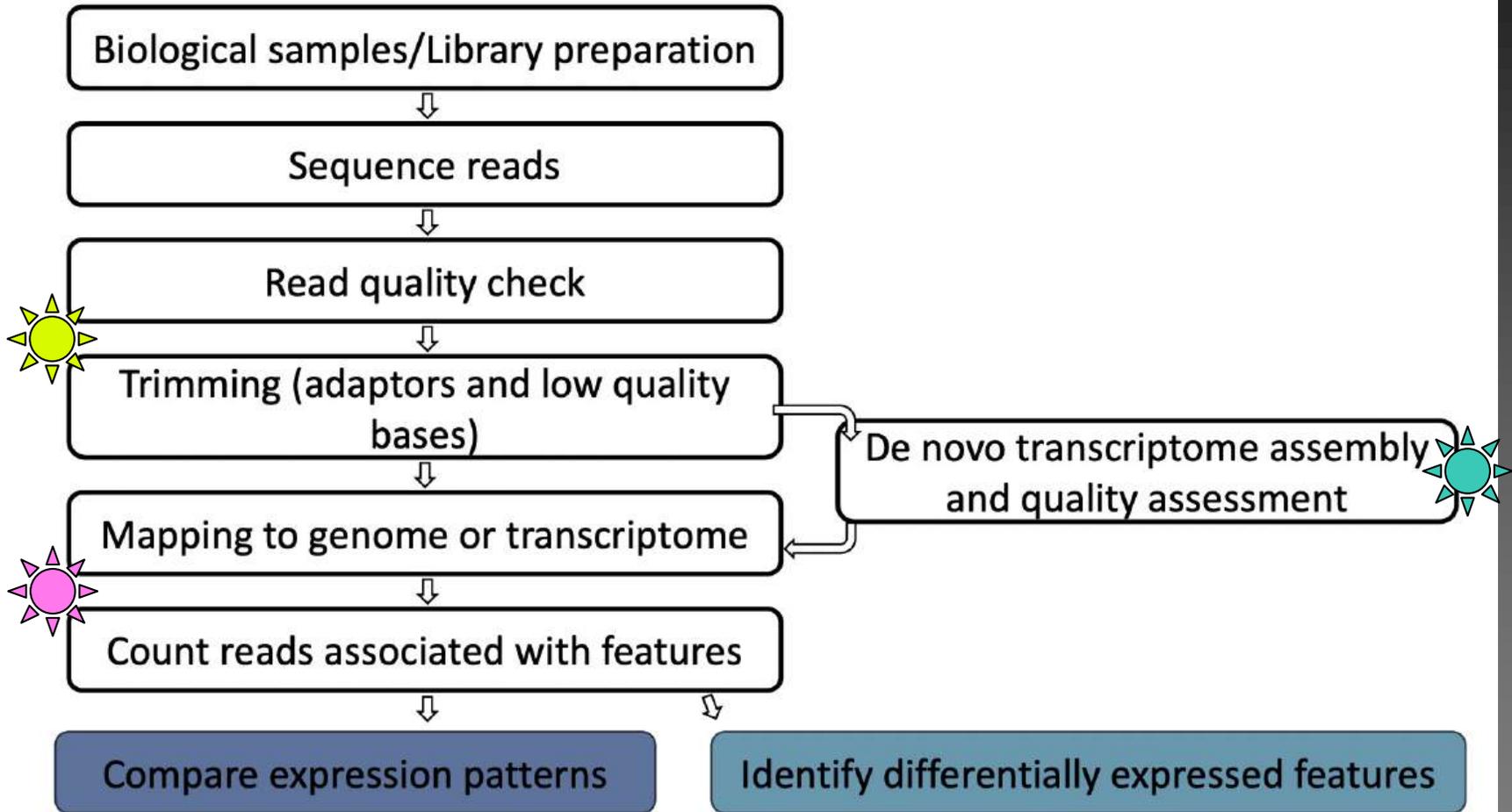


rRNA
depletion

De novo assembly
Reference mapping

De novo assembly
Reference mapping

Gene expression analysis



Quality Control

- Trimmomatic
- FastQC

Removal of Sequences

- riboPicker
- BMap

Functional Annotation

- BLAST
- DIAMOND
- HMMer

Assembly/Reference

- **Trinity**
- TransABYSS
- rnaSPADES
- MEGAHIT

Protein Prediction and Clustering

- TransDecoder
- OrthoFinder

- KEGG
- KOG
- GO
- Pfam

Taxonomic Annotation

- BLAST
- DIAMOND
- MMSeq2

- MMETSP
- EukProt
- EukZoo
- PhyloDB
- MarFERReT (2024)

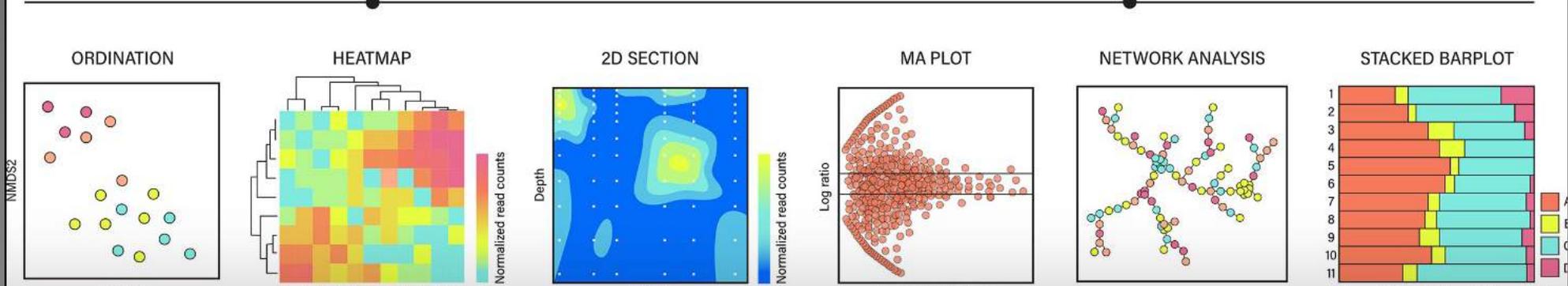
Read Mapping/Counting

- **Salmon**
- Kallisto
- Bowtie2
- RSEM
- BWA etc/HTSeq

Normalization & DE

- TPM
- Variance stabilization
- EdgeR
- **DESeq2**
- **WGCNA**

OUTPUT



After Cohen et al. (2020) *Front. Mar. Science*

Sequencing and analytical workflows are constantly improving



Harriet Alexander @nektion4plankton · Apr 27

So check it out!

GitHub here: [github.com/AlexanderLabWH...](https://github.com/AlexanderLabWHOI/eukrhythmic)

Documentation here: [eukrhythmic.readthedocs.io/en/latest/](https://eukrhythmic.readthedocs.io/en/latest/jEUKbox)

jEUKbox here: eukrhythmic.readthedocs.io/en/latest/



Feedback / comments welcome!

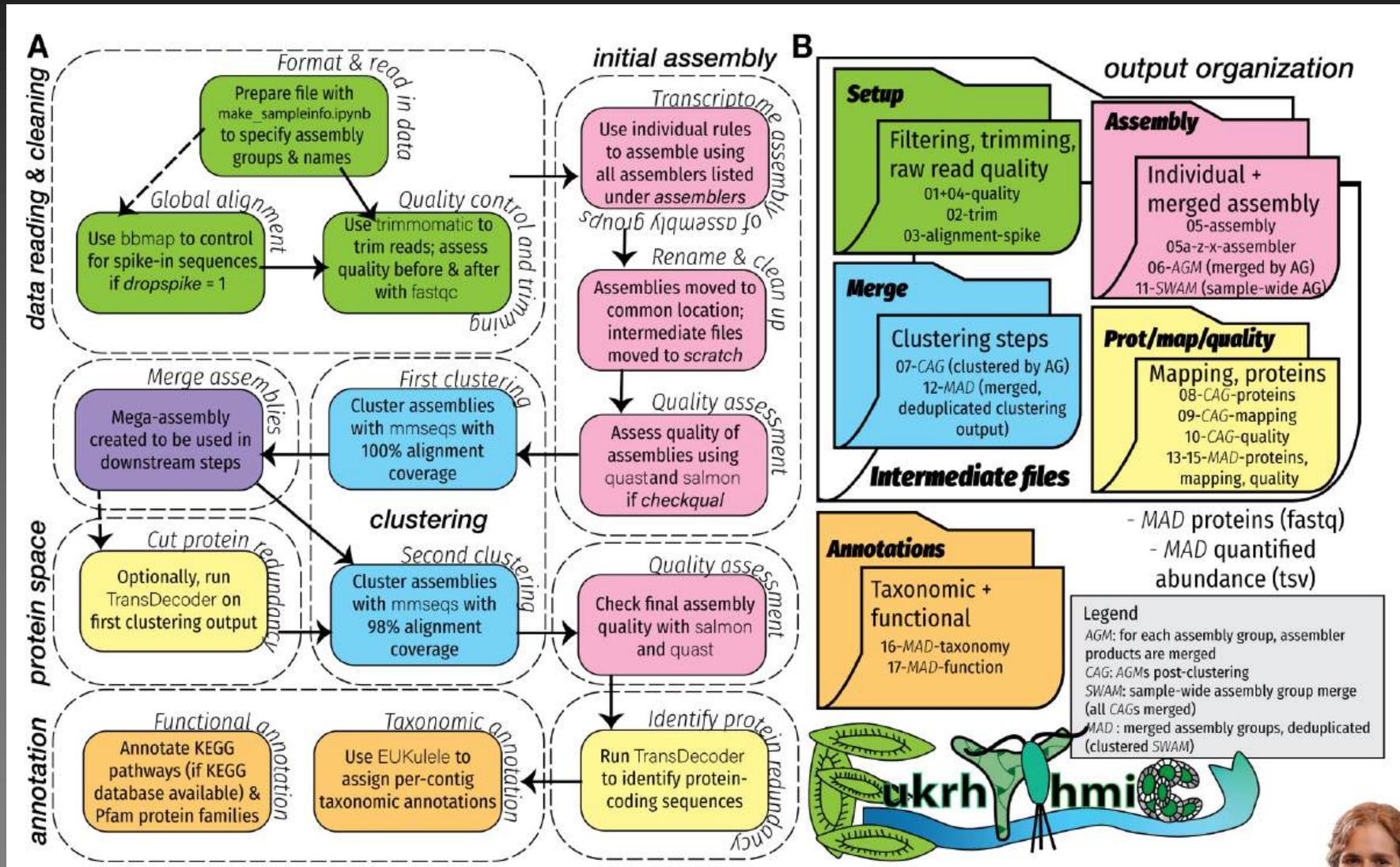


github.com

GitHub - AlexanderLabWHOI/eukrhythmic: A metatranscriptomic pipe...

A metatranscriptomic pipeline optimized for the study of
microeukaryotes. - GitHub - AlexanderLabWHOI/eukrhythmic: A ...

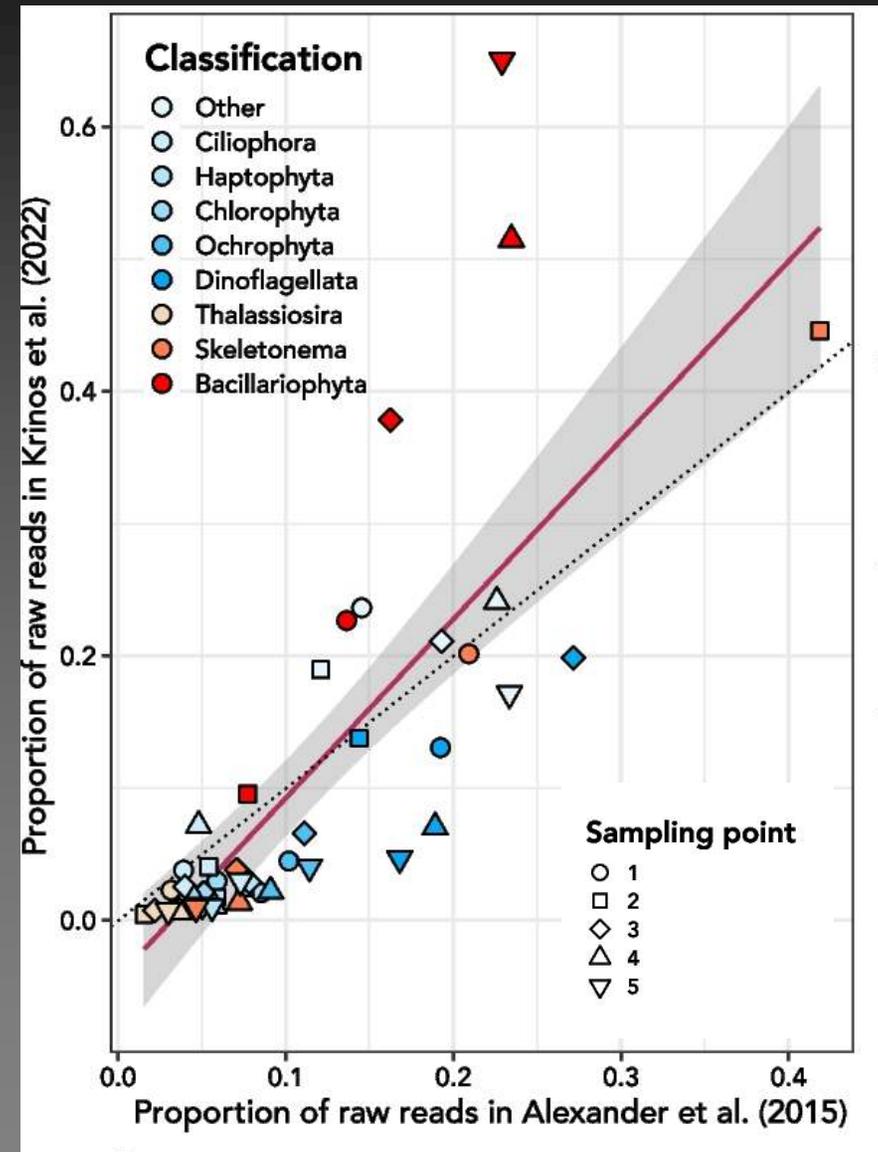
Sequencing and analytical workflows are constantly improving



Metatranscriptome workflow comparison effort

- Assembly captures a broader swath of reads in high abundance – highly diverse groups (red)
- Reference mapping captures a broader swath of reads in low abundance groups (blue)
- Equally good at recapitulating patterns when references are from local isolates (orange and yellow)

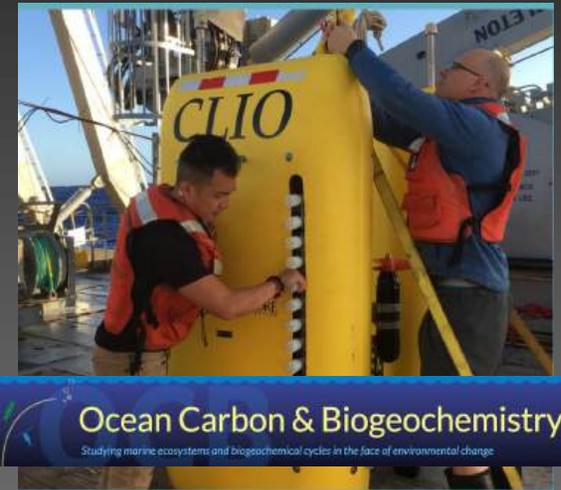
De novo Assembly



Reference mapping

Eukaryote - Metatranscriptome intercomparison effort

- Large diameter filter sampled with CLIO (June 2023)
- 2x filter pieces to ~ 7 groups
 - Extraction
 - Library prep
 - Sequencing depth and read length
- Fall 2024 hackathon:
 - Workflow intercomparison
 - One sample with different workflows
 - All samples with one workflow
- Will not answer all questions – but it will be a valuable starting point for building intercomparable datasets



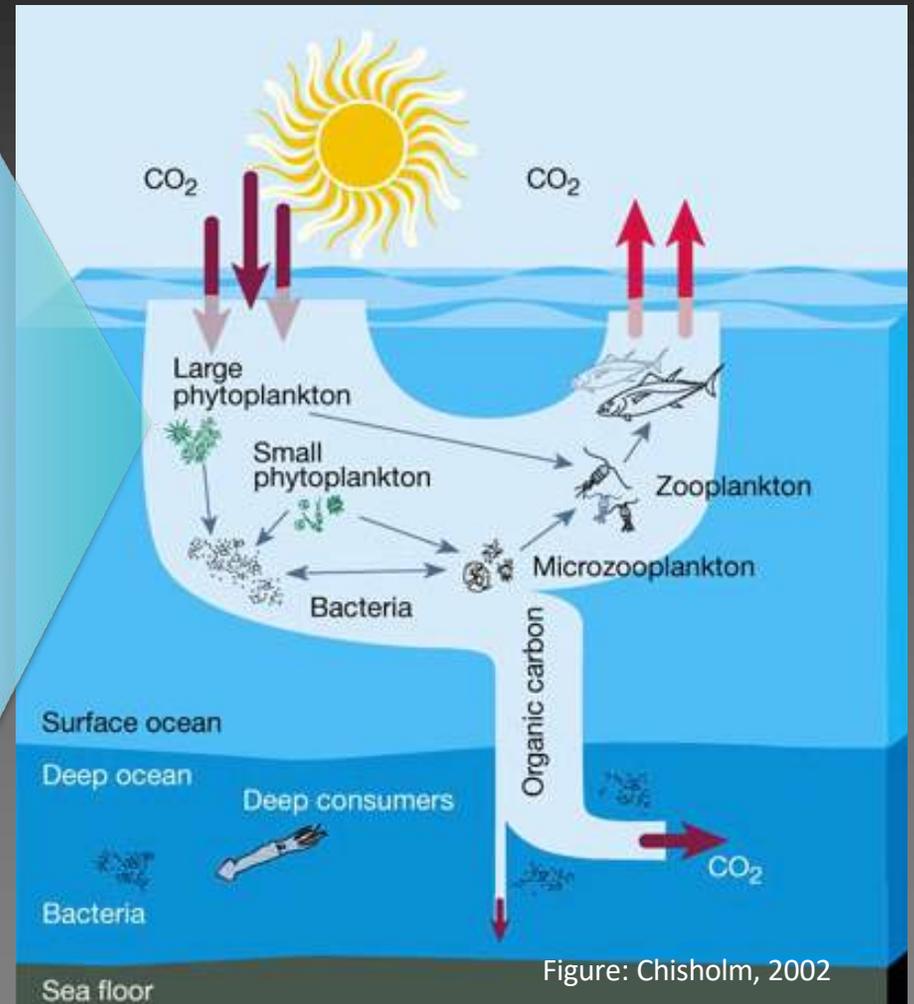
Thank you N. Cohen, H. Alexander, S. Hu and A. Marchetti

Complex community dynamics driven in part by resources



Tracking phytoplankton physiological ecology

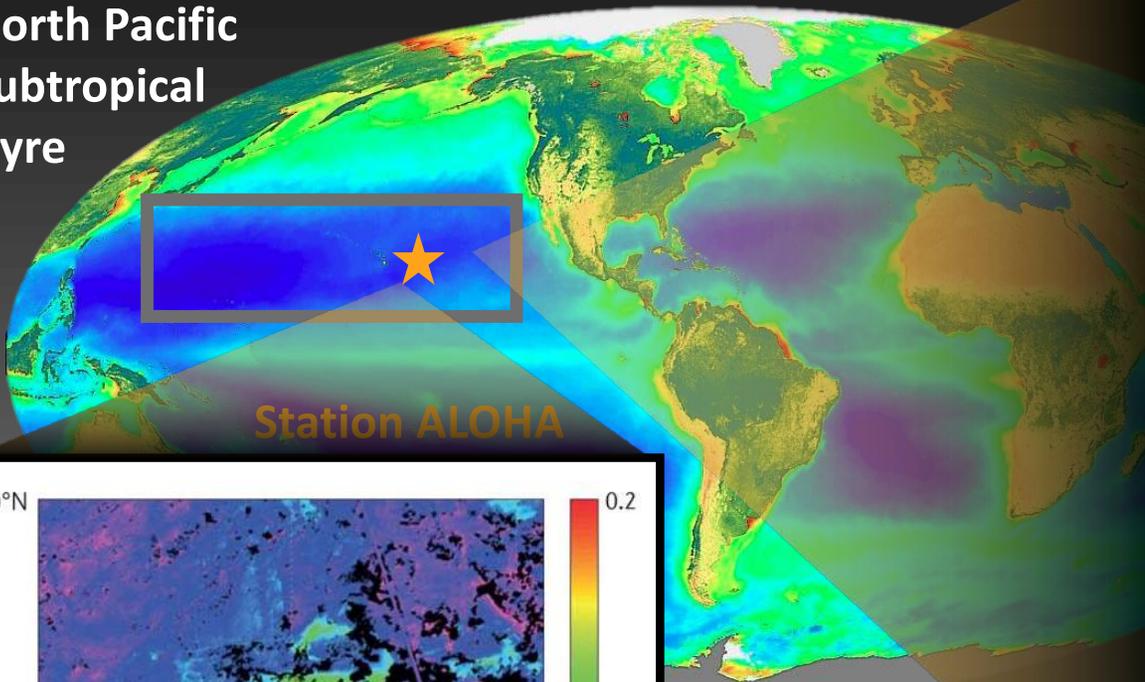
Ecosystem function and biogeochemistry



How do resources drive phytoplankton distributions and activities?

North Pacific Subtropical Gyre

North Pacific
Subtropical
Gyre



Station ALOHA

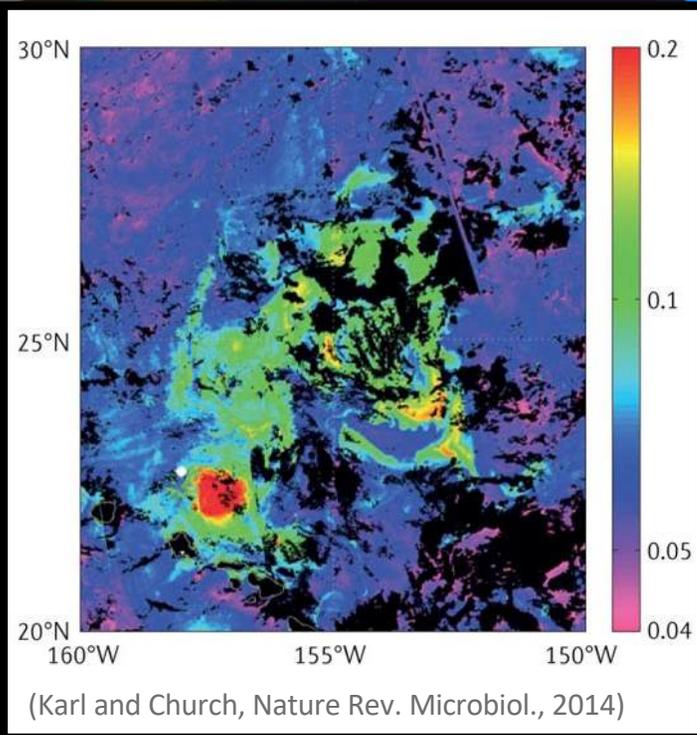
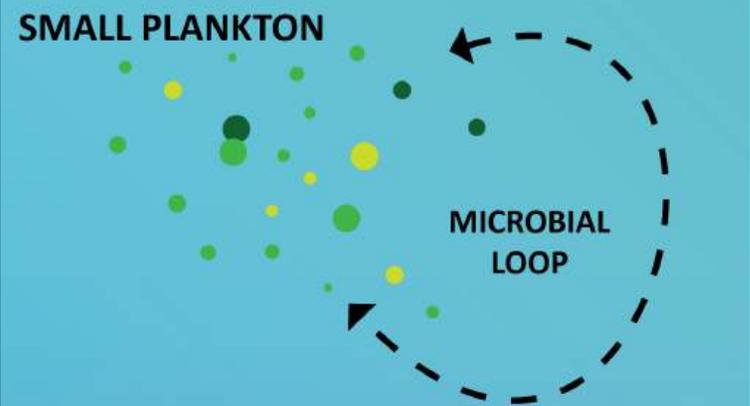


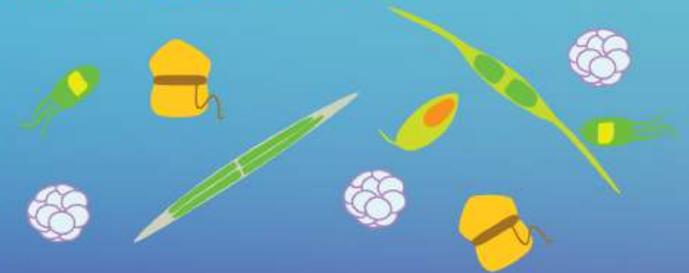
Image credits: SeaWiFS Global Chlorophyll

NORMAL OLIGOTROPHIC STATE

SMALL PLANKTON

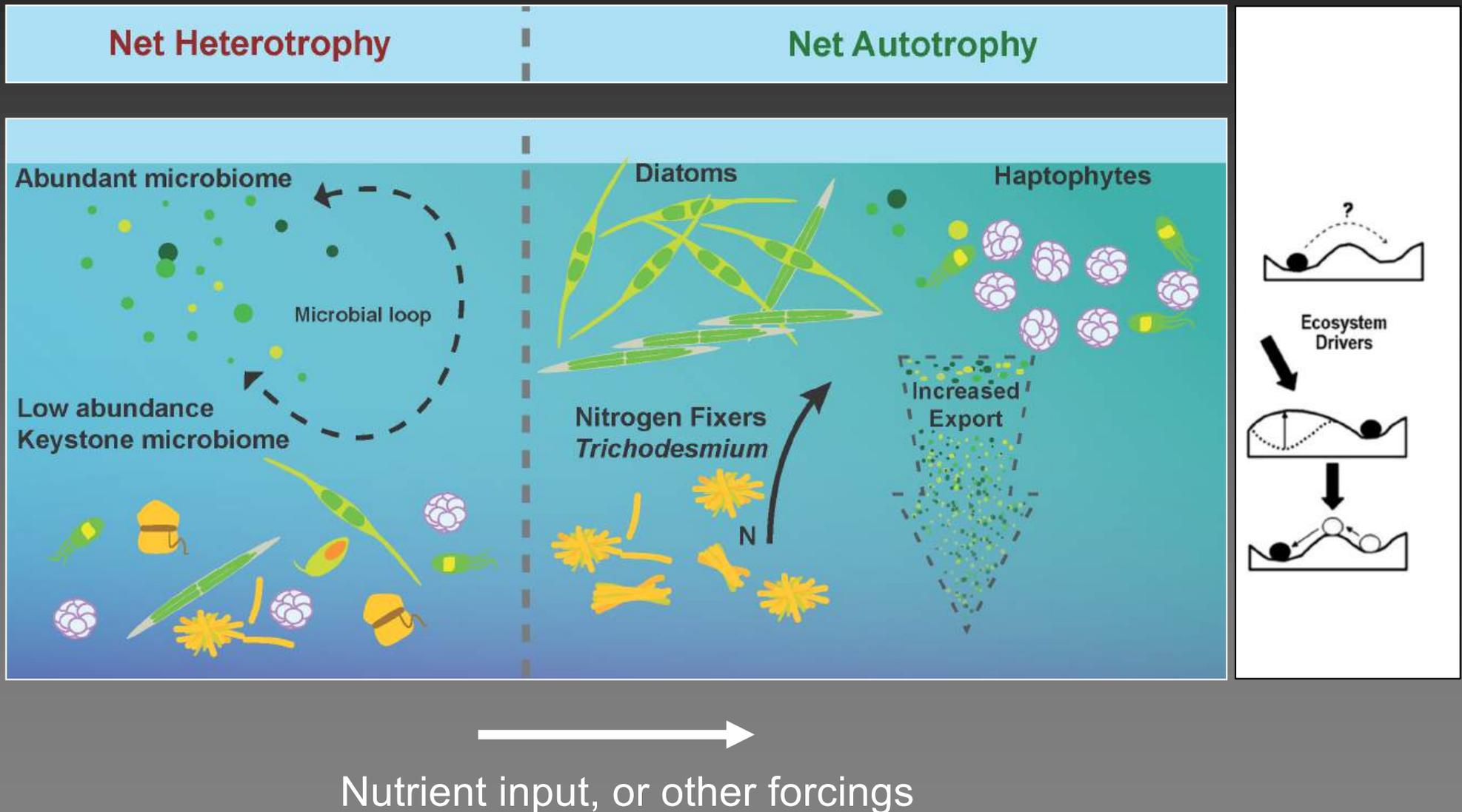


RARE LARGE EUKARYOTES



This resource poor (oligotrophic) region is arguably the largest biome on the planet

Blooms of keystone species can shift ecosystem state and carbon flow



Core questions... adventures in eukaryote metatranscriptomics

Limitation

- What limits carbon cycling? – tracing physiological ecology in an expanding oligotrophic ocean with metatranscriptomics

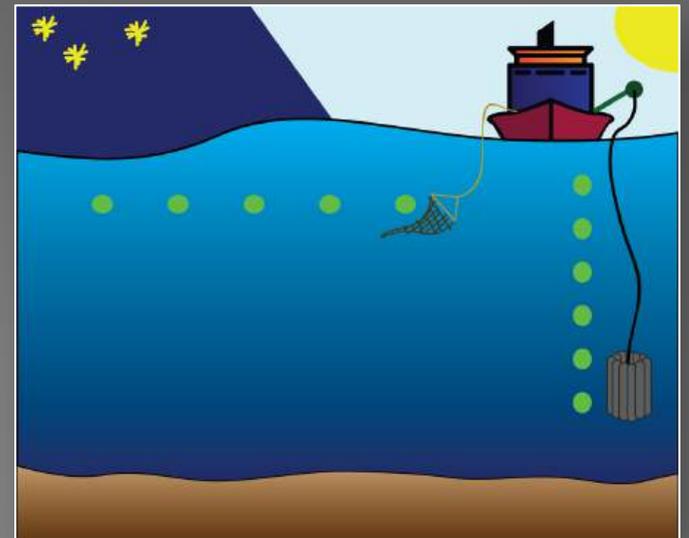
HOE:DYLAN



Competition

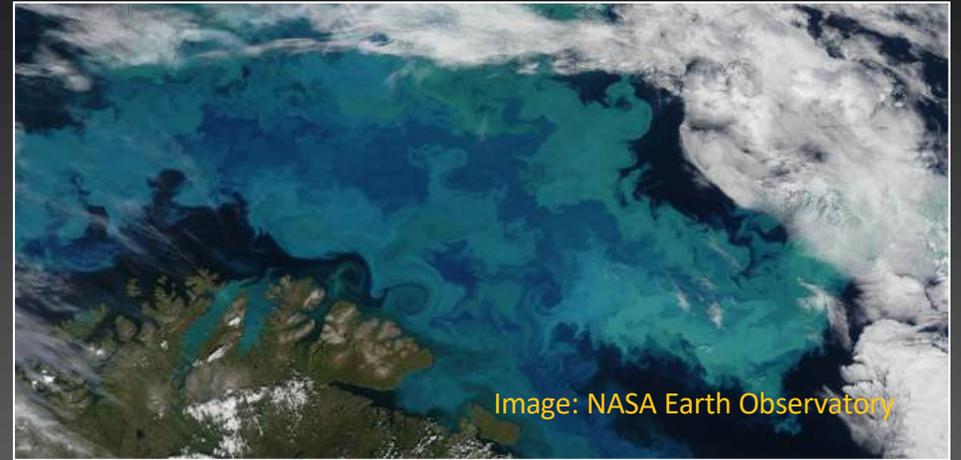
- A day in the life – tracing competitive interactions with multi-'omics

HOE:MAHALO



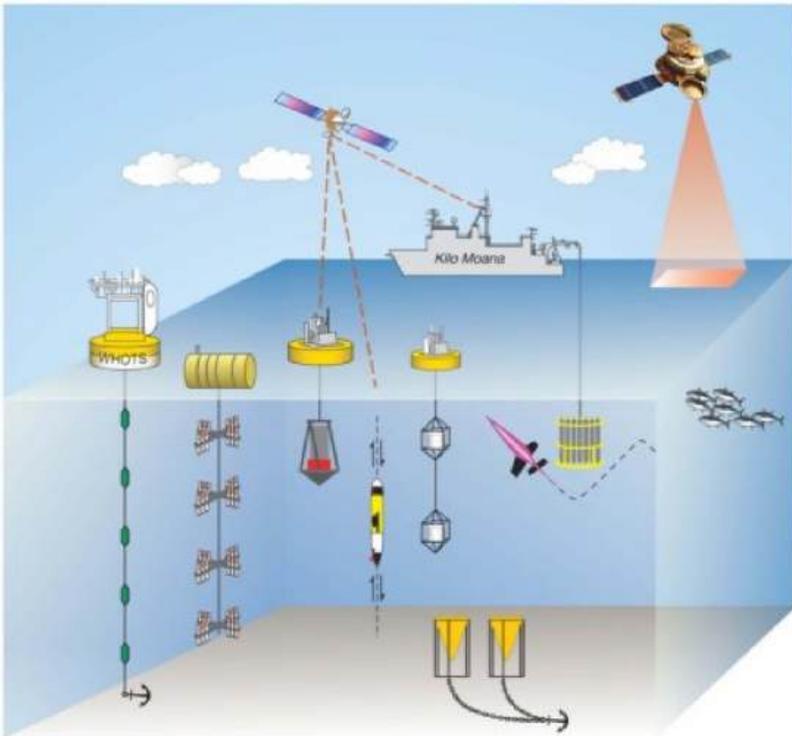
* *Emiliana huxleyi*: a cosmopolitan, globally significant species

- Calcification - critical role in global carbon cycle and strongly linked to climate driven ocean acidification
- Source of paleoproxies for climate reconstructions
- Form dense blooms, drivers largely unknown
- First eukaryotic marine phytoplankton to have multiple strains/ecotypes sequenced



**Gephyrocapsa* (Bendif et al., 2023; Filatov et al., 2021)

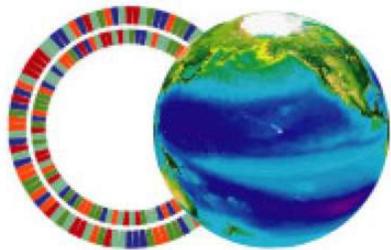
Hawaii Ocean Experiment: Dynamics of Light and Nutrients



Wilson et al. 2015 *GBC*



DAVID W. RAY



center for microbial oceanography: research and education

COMORE *linking genomes to biomes*

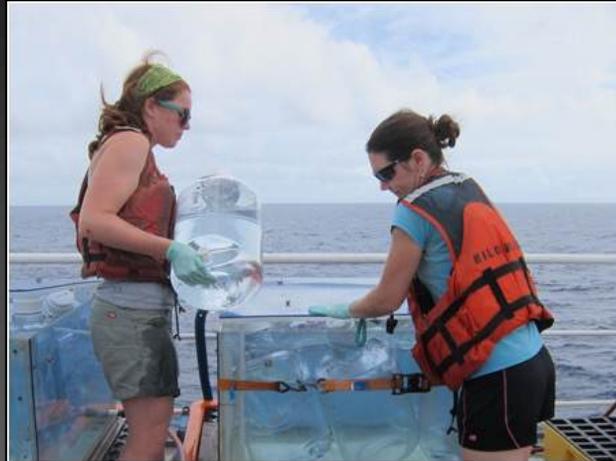
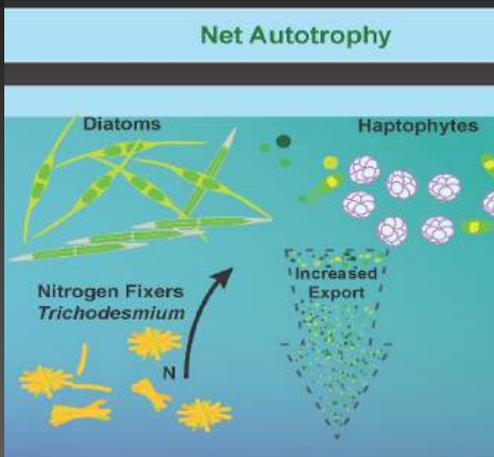
(HOE-DYLAN)



HOE:DYLAN: Water sampling



HOE:DYLAN: Semi-factorial resource additions done 2 times



Nitrate/nitrite*: $\sim 40 \mu\text{M}$
Phosphate*: $\sim 2.6 \mu\text{M}$
Silicate*: $\sim 100 \mu\text{M}$
Fe: $\sim 0.6 \text{ nmol/kg}$
 B_{12} : $< 0.1 \text{ pM}$

in situ

Control



Deep seawater amendment

(+N, Si, Fe, B_{12})

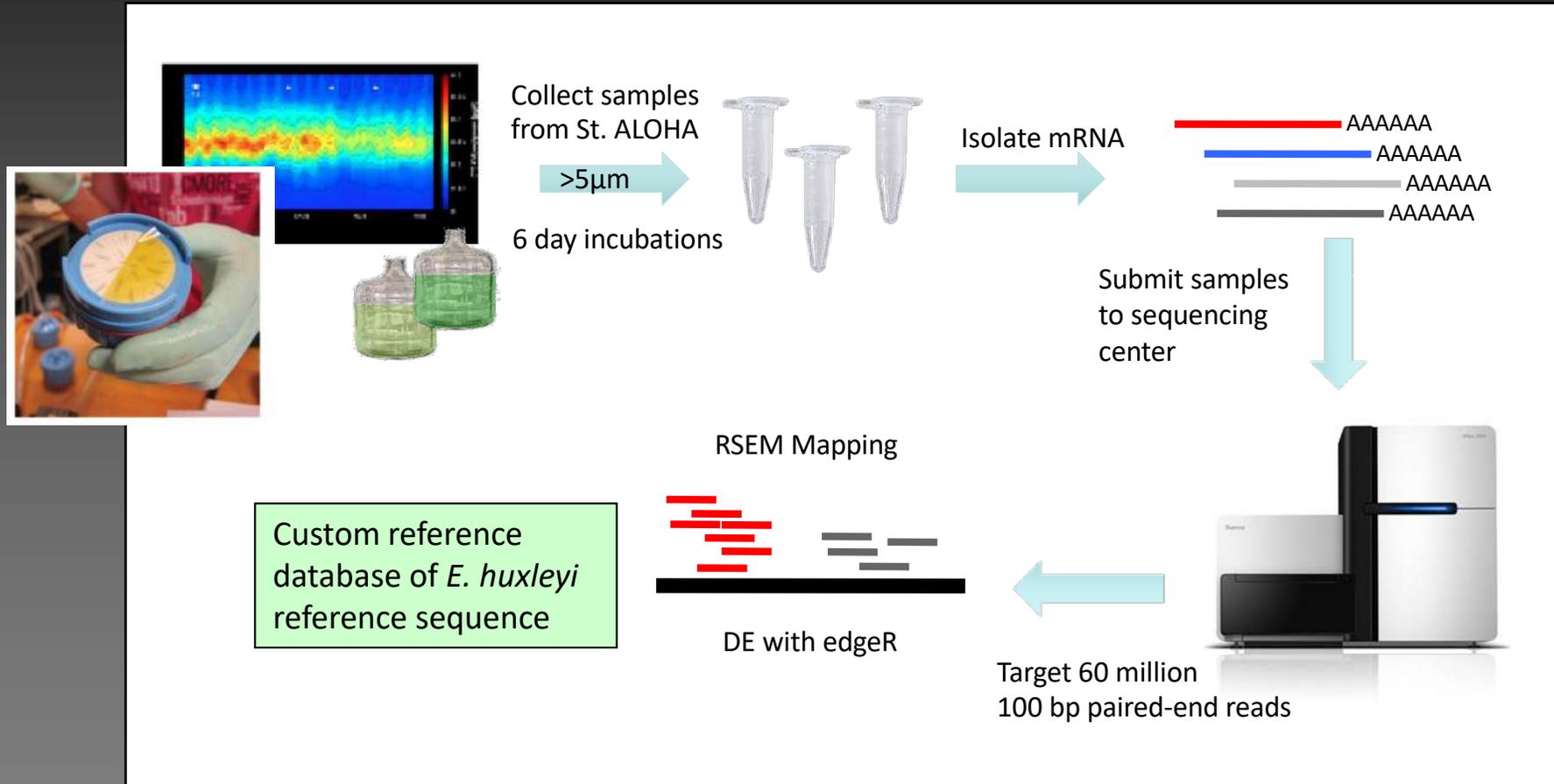
(+P, Si, Fe, B_{12})



N addition

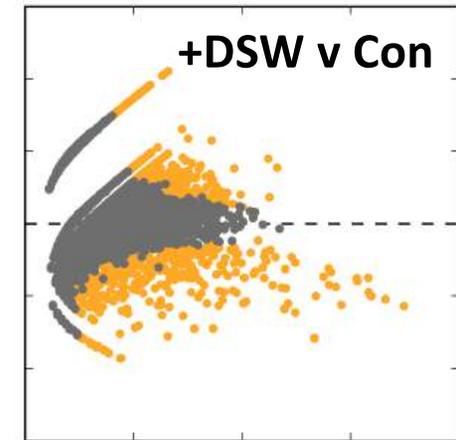
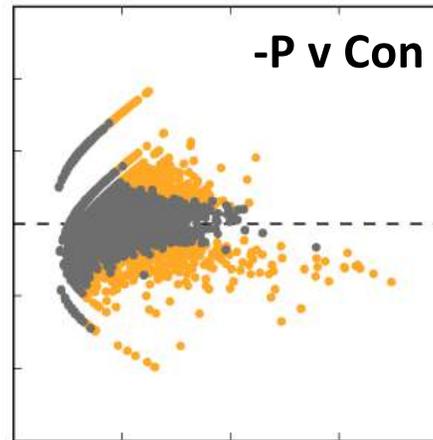
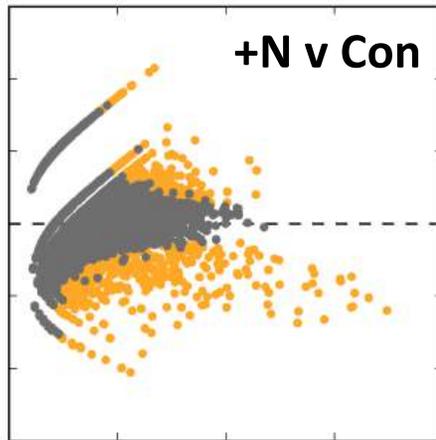


Sampling and workflow



E. huxleyi physiological response suggests N control

N added

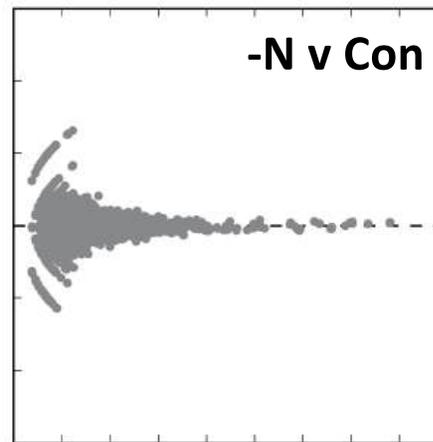
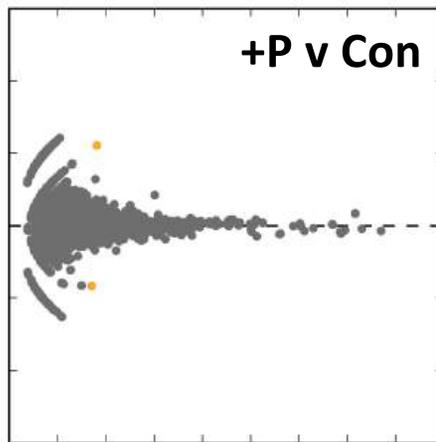


Log₂ Fold Change

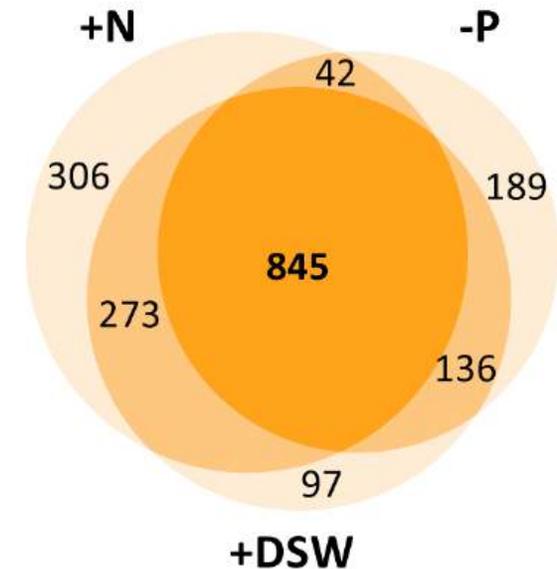
Log₂ Average Abundance

Significantly Differentially Abundant Genes

No N added

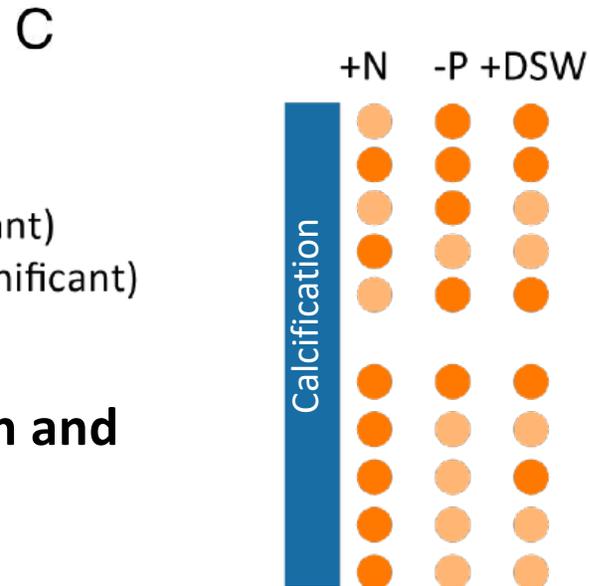
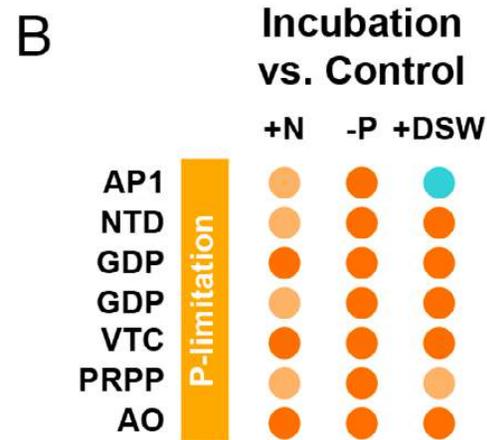
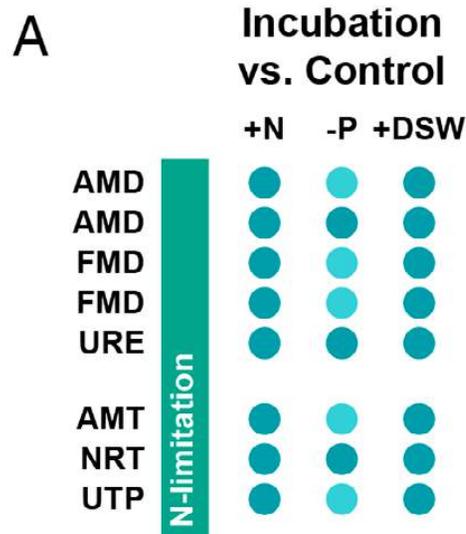


Log₂ Average Abundance



Alexander et al. (2020) *Environ. Micro.*

Metatranscriptome identifies physiological patterns



- Up (significant)
- Up (non-significant)
- Not detected
- Down (significant)
- Down (non-significant)

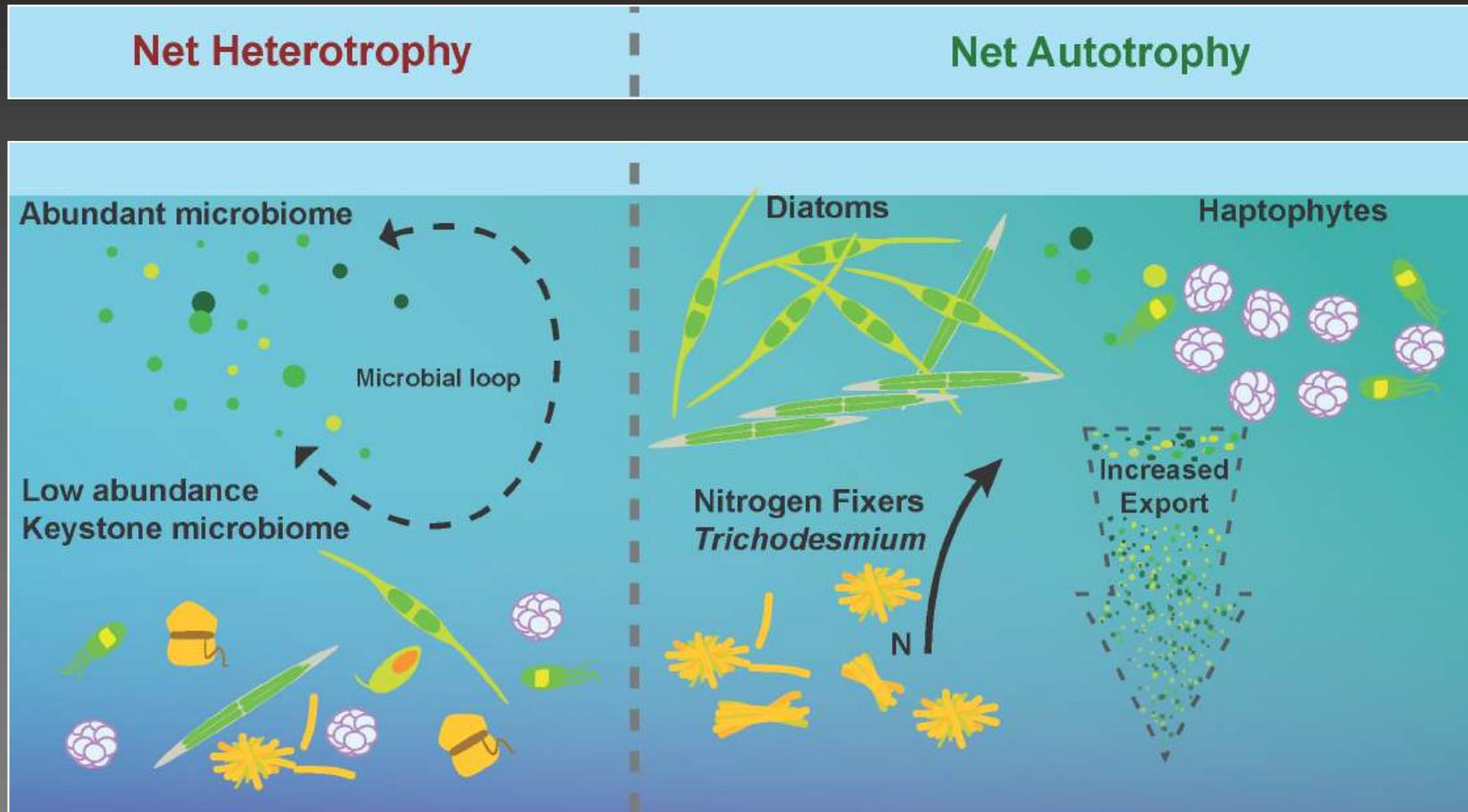
Nitrogen limits *E. huxleyi* growth and calcification in the NPSG

* Data from McKew et al. (2015) *Environ Microbiol* 17:4050–62.



Alexander et al. (2020) *Environ. Micro.*

Nitrogen is a driver of *E. huxleyi* dynamics



NITROGEN

Emiliana huxleyi has a broad distribution of diverse ecotypes

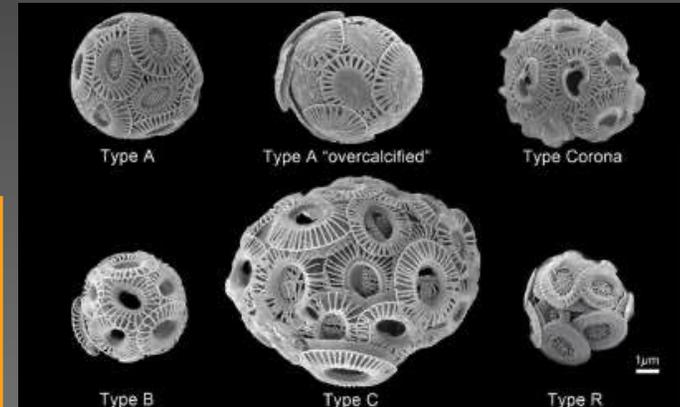
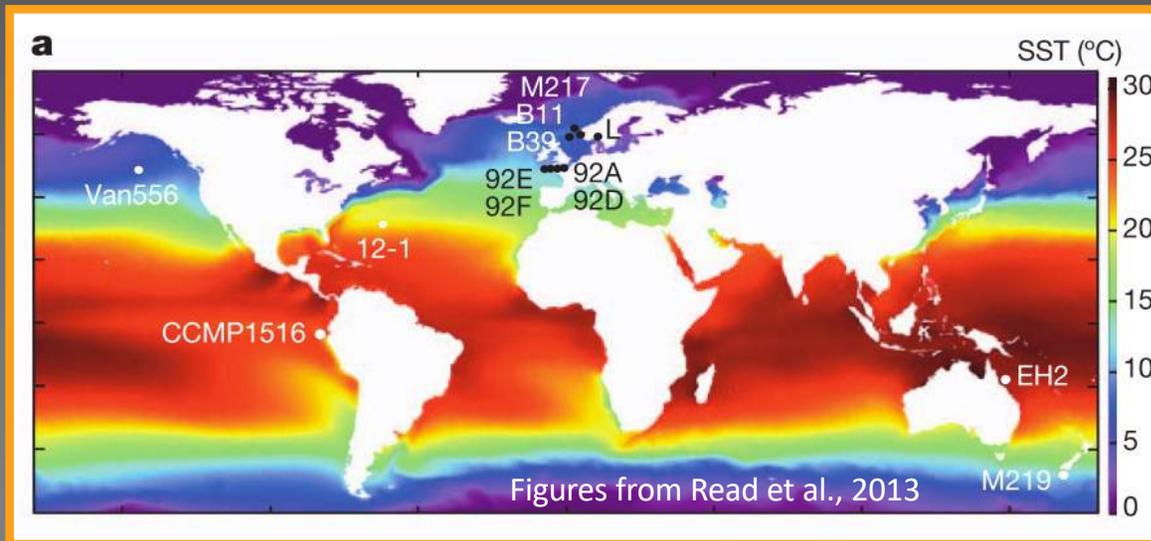
LETTER

OPEN

doi:10.1038/nature12221

Pan genome of the phytoplankton *Emiliana* underpins its global distribution

Betsy A. Read¹, Jessica Kegel², Mary J. Klute³, Alan Kuo⁴, Stephane C. Lefebvre⁵, Florian Maumus⁶, Christoph Mayer^{7,8}, John Miller⁹, Adam Monier¹⁰, Asaf Salamov⁴, Jeremy Young¹¹, Maria Aguilar³, Jean-Michel Claverie¹², Stephan Frickenhaus^{2,13}, Karina Gonzalez¹⁴, Emily K. Herman³, Yao-Cheng Lin¹⁵, Johnathan Napier¹⁶, Hiroyuki Ogata¹², Analissa F. Sarno¹, Jeremy Shmutz^{4,17}, Declan Schroeder¹⁸, Colomban de Vargas¹⁹, Frederic Verret²⁰, Peter von Dassow²¹, Klaus Valentin², Yves Van de Peer¹⁵, Glen Wheeler^{18,22}, *Emiliana huxleyi* Annotation Consortium†, Joel B. Dacks^{3*}, Charles F. Delwiche^{9*}, Sonya T. Dyhrman^{23,24*}, Gernot Glöckner^{25*}, Uwe John^{2*}, Thomas Richards^{26*}, Alexandra Z. Worden^{10*}, Xiaoyu Zhang^{27*} & Igor V. Grigoriev⁴

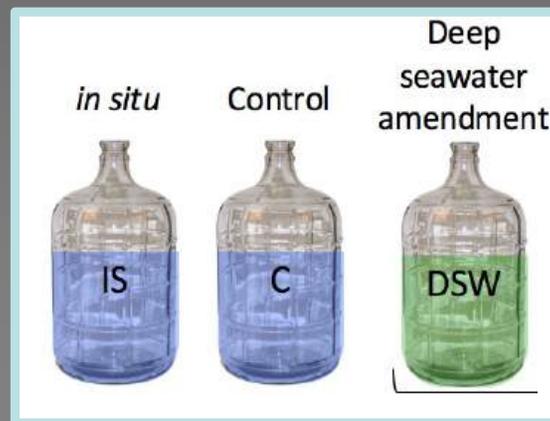


Cultured strains are highly diverse - isolated from a broad temperature range and displaying considerable physiological diversity

Baas Becking hypothesis

“Everything is every where, but
the environment selects”

Does the variable component of the pan genome underpin
which strain dominates a given environment?



Sequences from
E. huxleyi strains

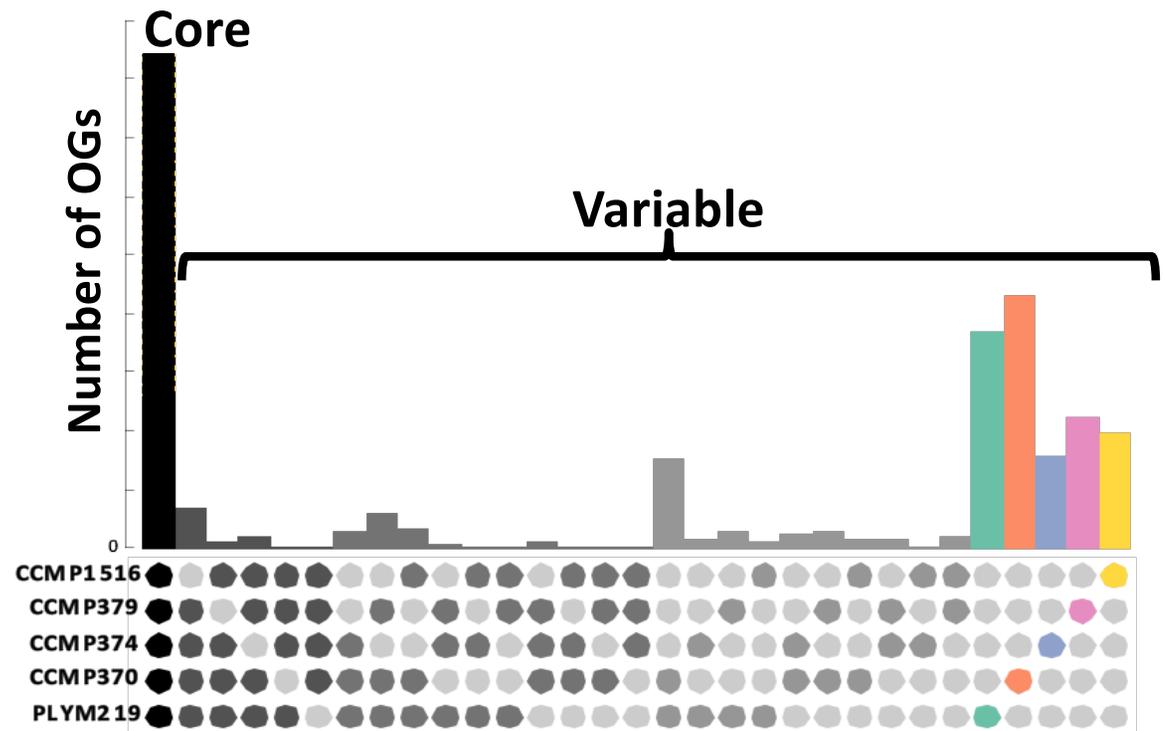
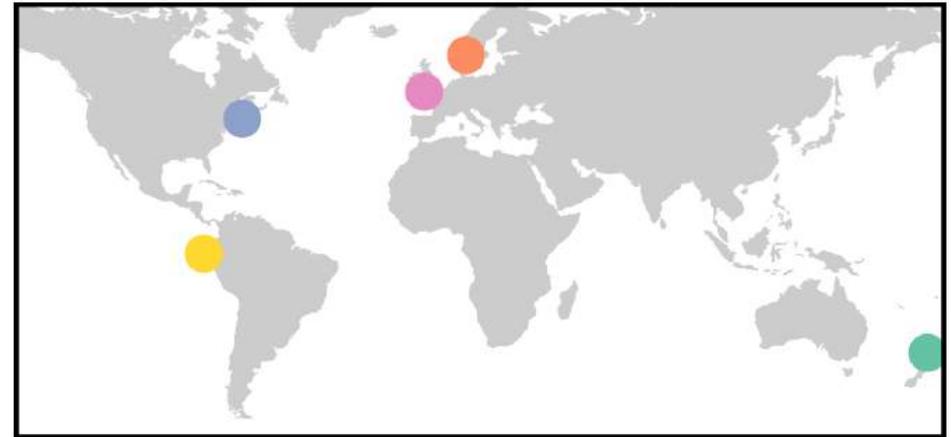


Cluster into
orthologous groups to
identify core and
variable OGs
(OrthoMCL)

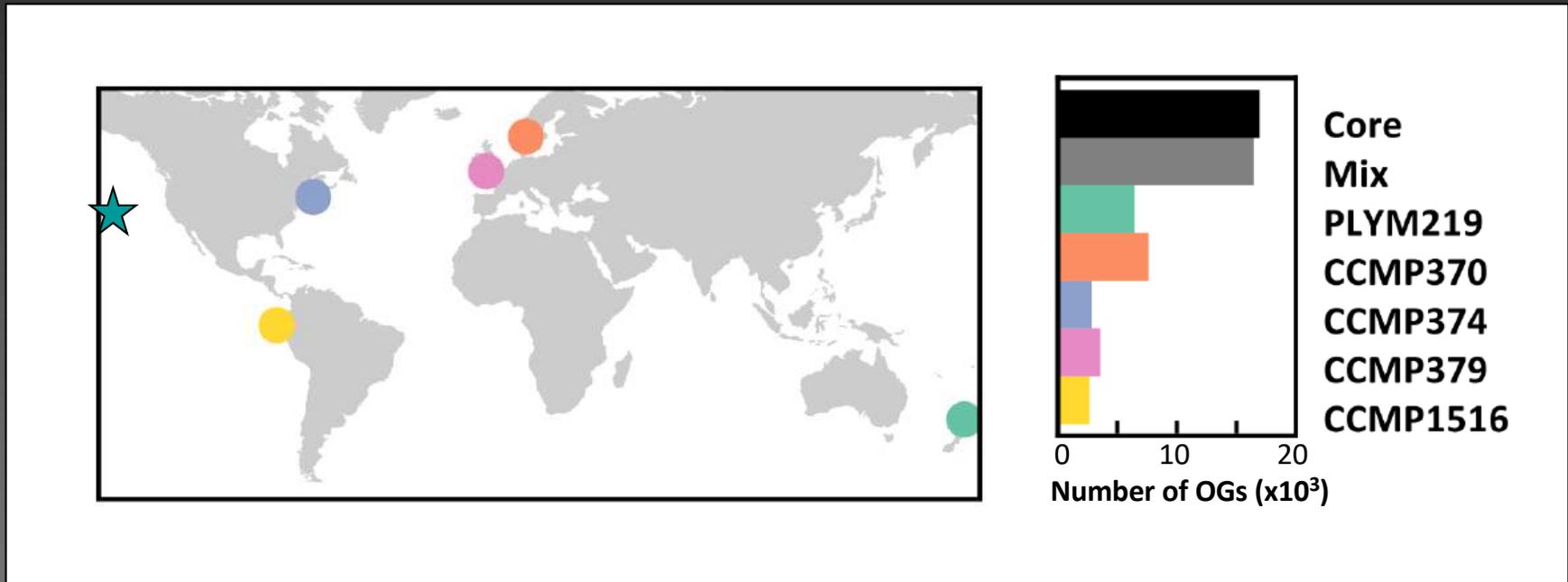


Map field data and
examine shifts in
expression
(RSEM, edgeR)

- CCMP1516
- CCMP379
- CCMP374
- CCMP370
- PLYM219

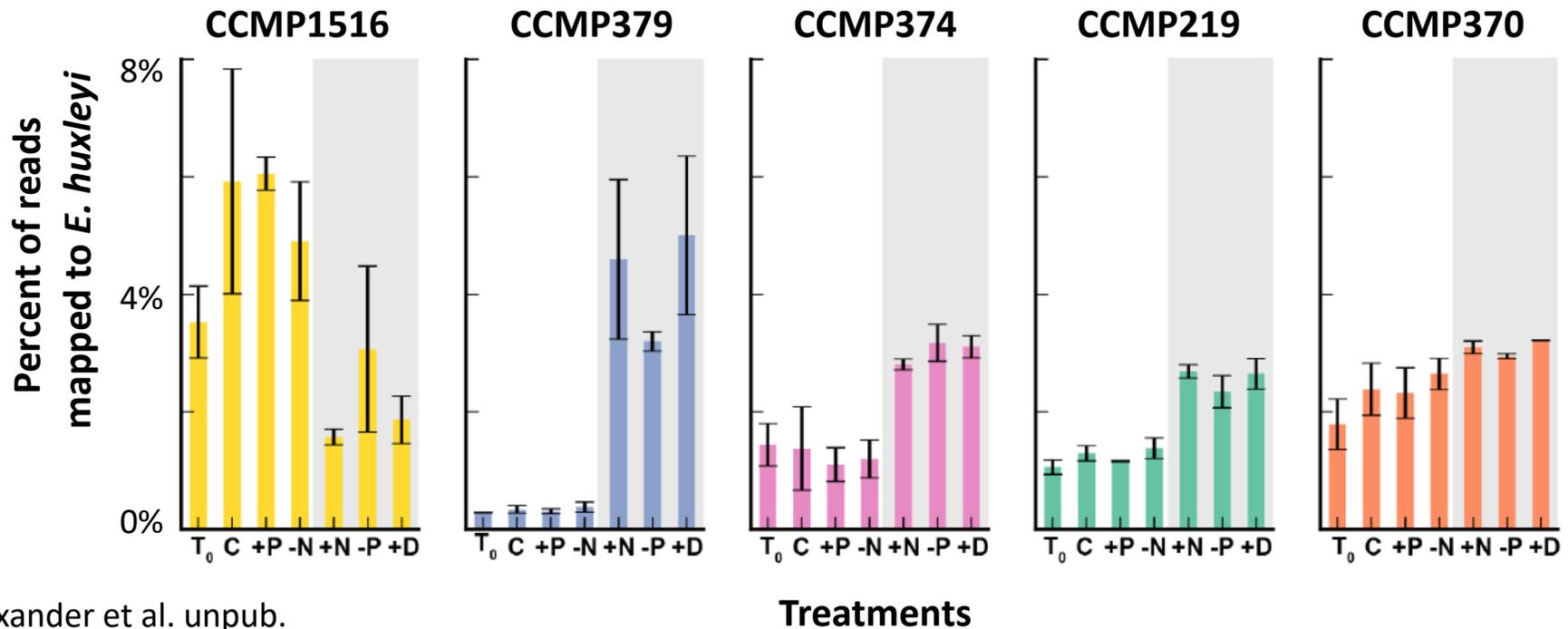
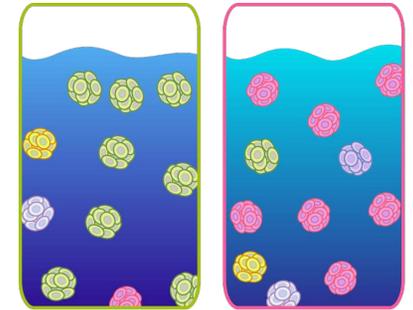
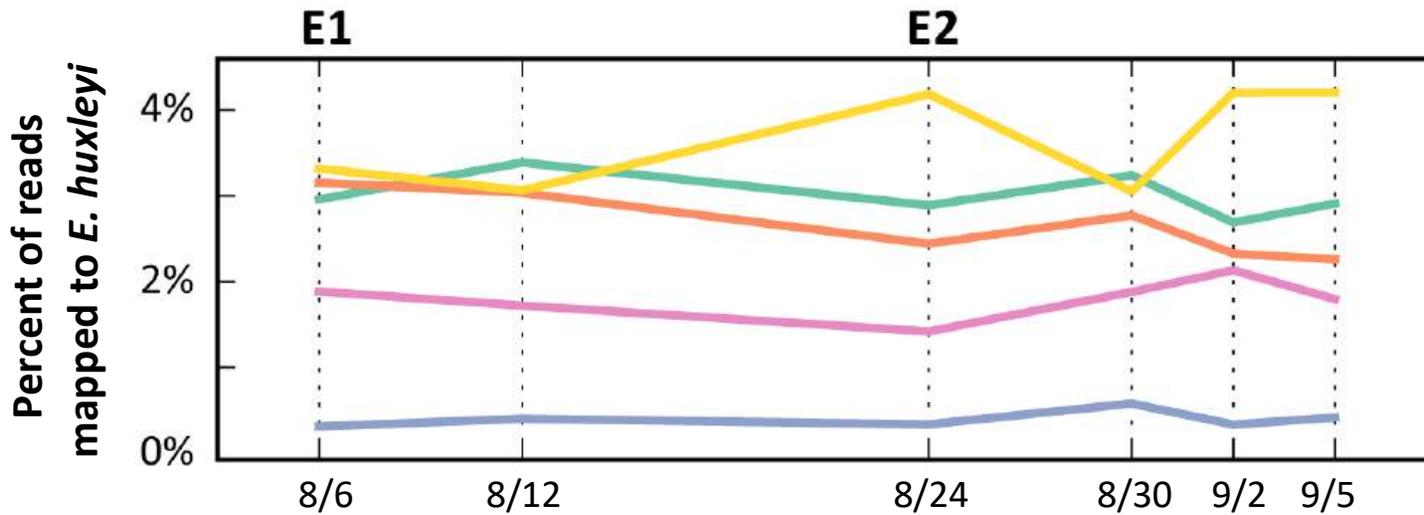


Tracking orthologous groups (OG) at St. ALOHA

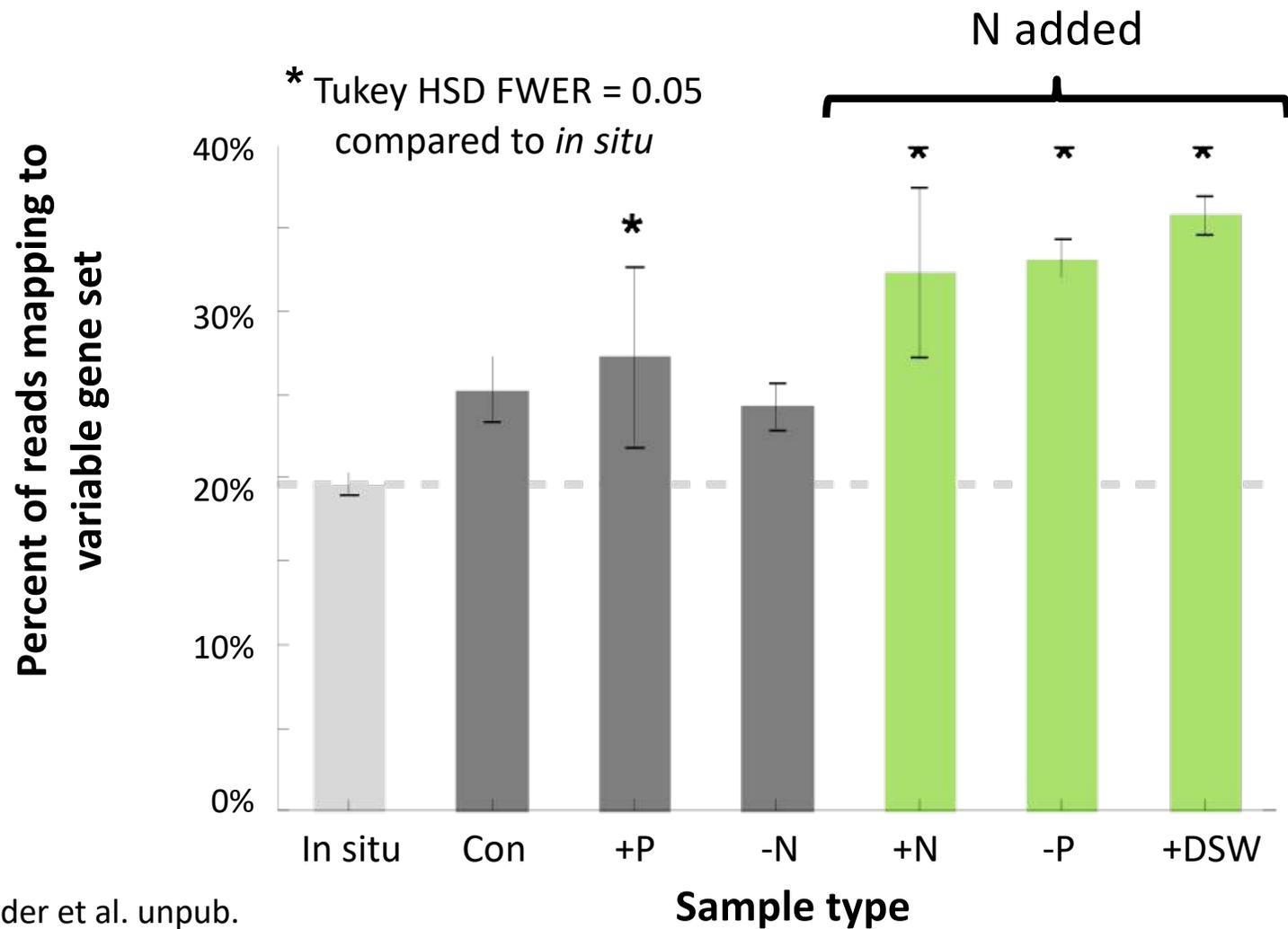


Use diagnostic OGs to track strain distribution

Strain distribution *in situ* and in the incubations

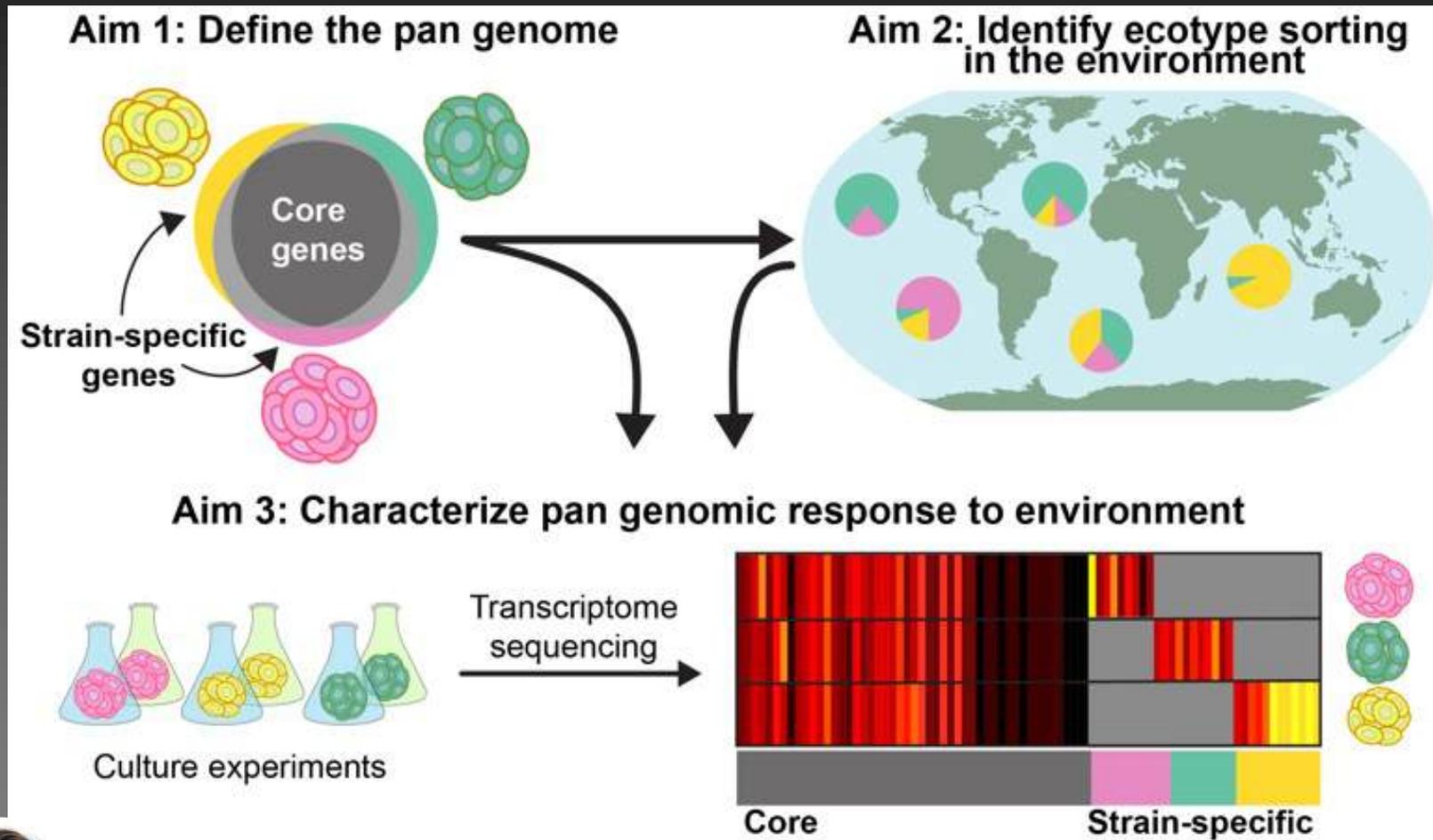


Expression of the variable portion of the pan genome



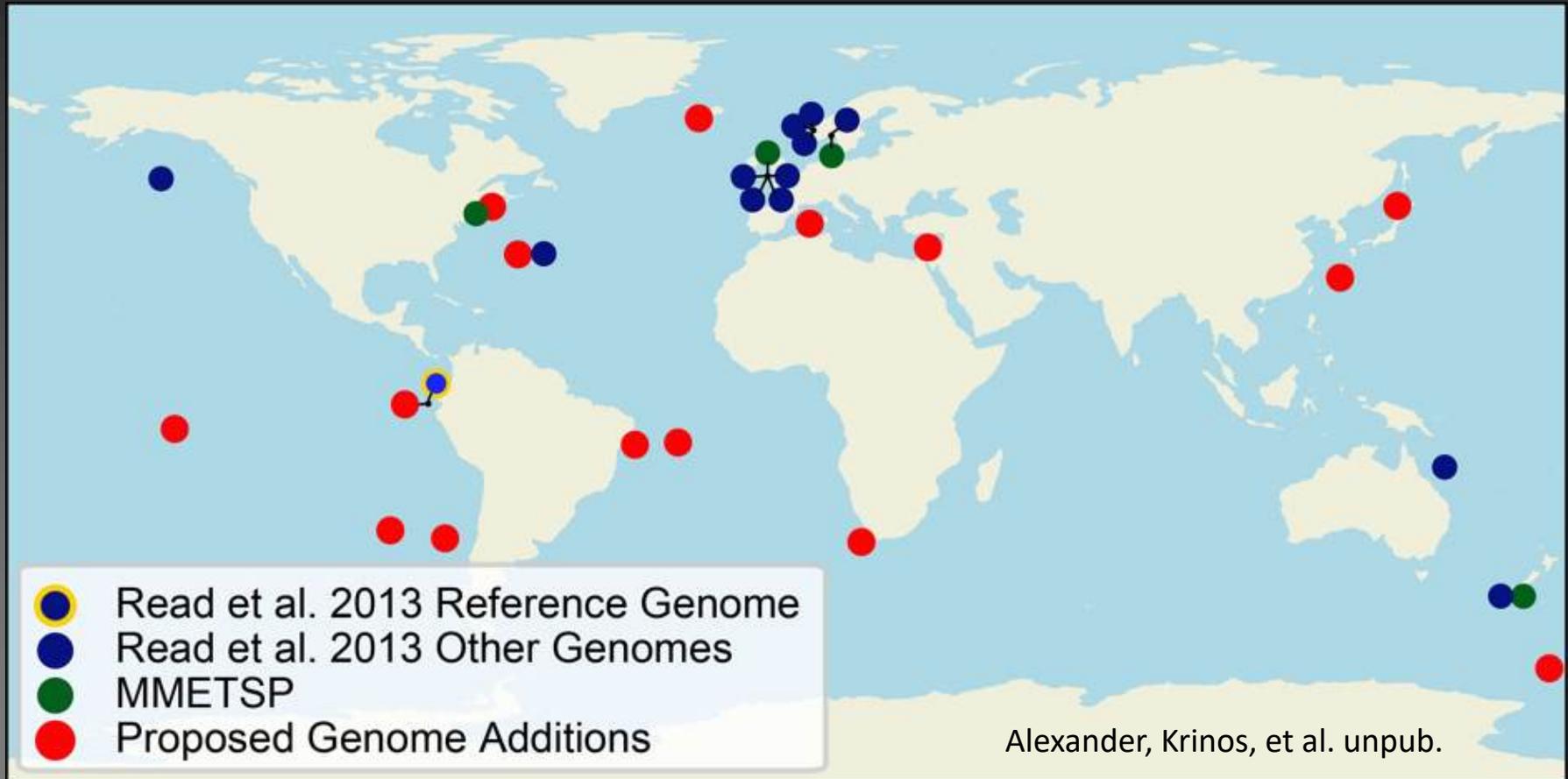
Expression of variable gene set significantly increased following N-addition

Ongoing work to define the pan genome



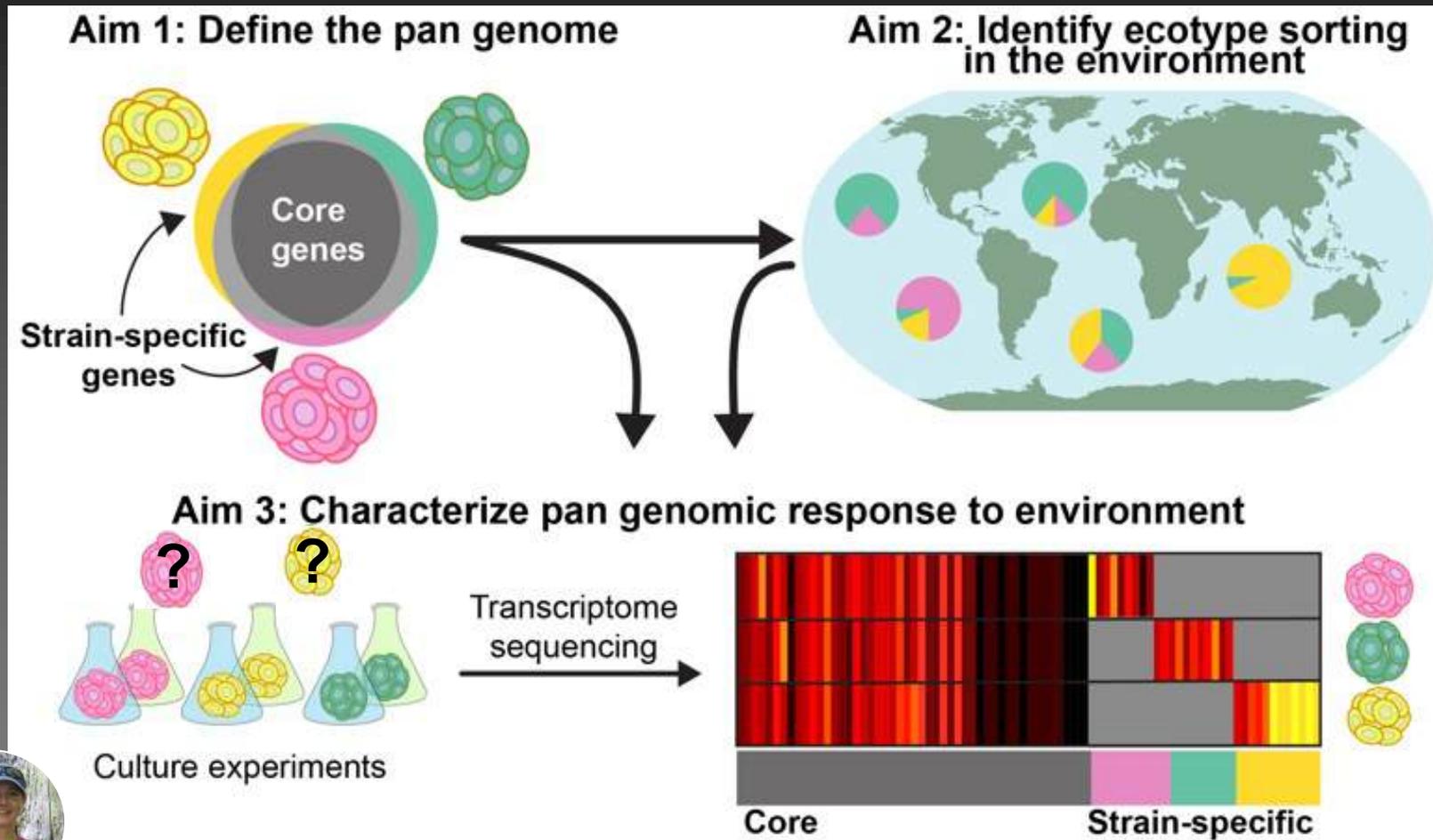
Harriet Alexander
<https://alexanderlabwho.github.io/>

Expanding the pan genome



Many new whole genome sequences being finalized (Nanopore/Illumina) with RNASeq libraries to support gene prediction

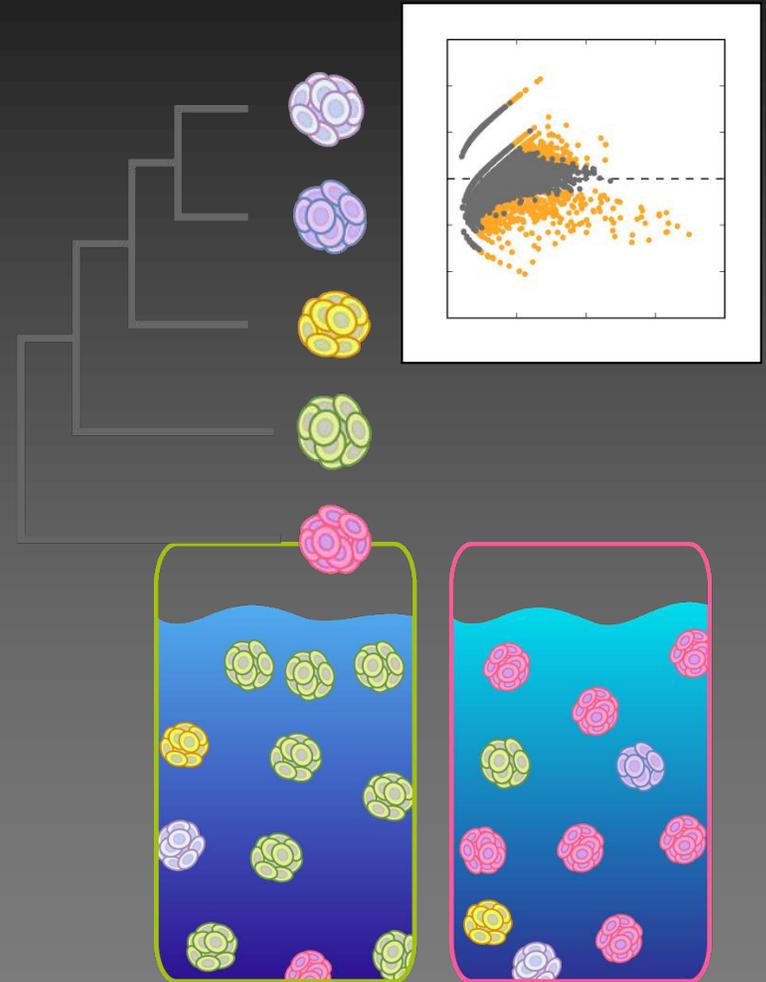
Ongoing work on to identify how environment influences ecotype distribution paired with competition studies



Haley et al. unpub.

Summary

- **Metatranscriptome RNA-Seq:**
- Species-specific analyses are possible even for low abundance keystone populations
- Nitrogen limits *E. huxleyi* activity, and influences calcification
- Variable genes in the pan genome may influence ecotype strain sorting.
- **Nanopore/Illumina WGS:**
- Expands a pan genomic framework for ecotype studies



Core questions... adventures in eukaryote metatranscriptomics

Limitation

- **Nitrogen limits carbon export and cycling in a keystone haptophyte**
- **The environment *may* select**

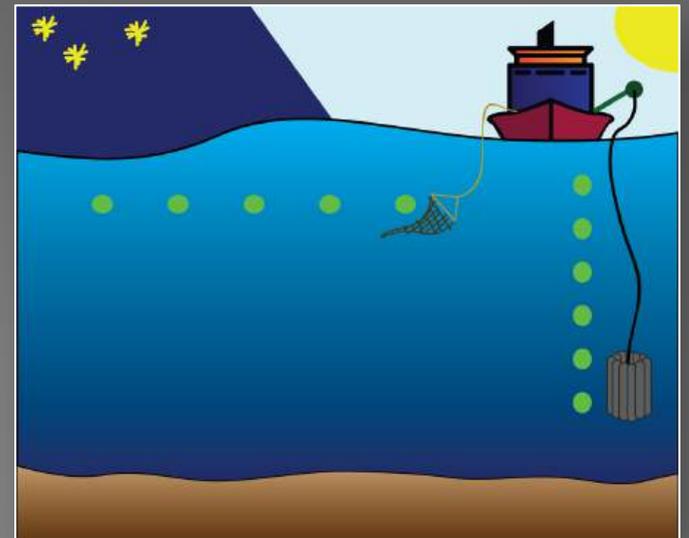
Competition

- **A day in the life – tracing competitive interactions with multi-'omics**

HOE:DYLAN

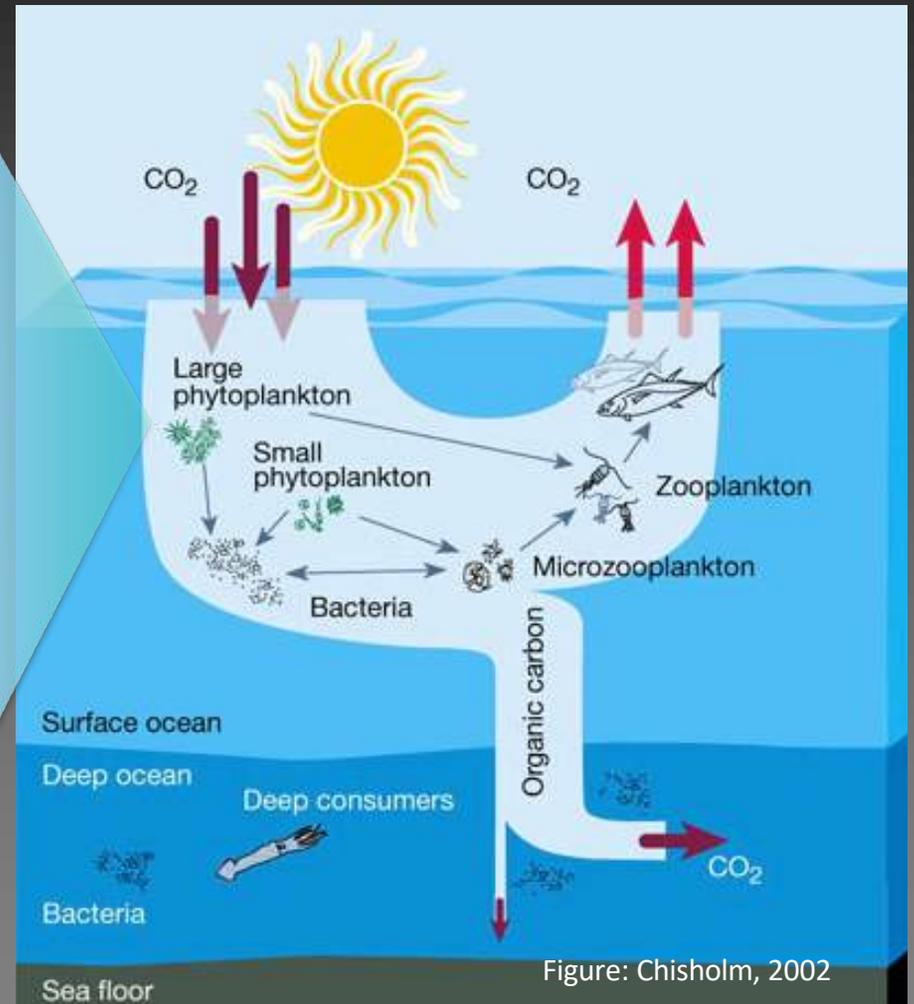


HOE:MAHALO



Tracking phytoplankton physiological ecology

Ecosystem function and biogeochemistry



How do resources drive phytoplankton distributions and activities?

Hawaii Ocean Experiment: Diel time-series (MAHALO)



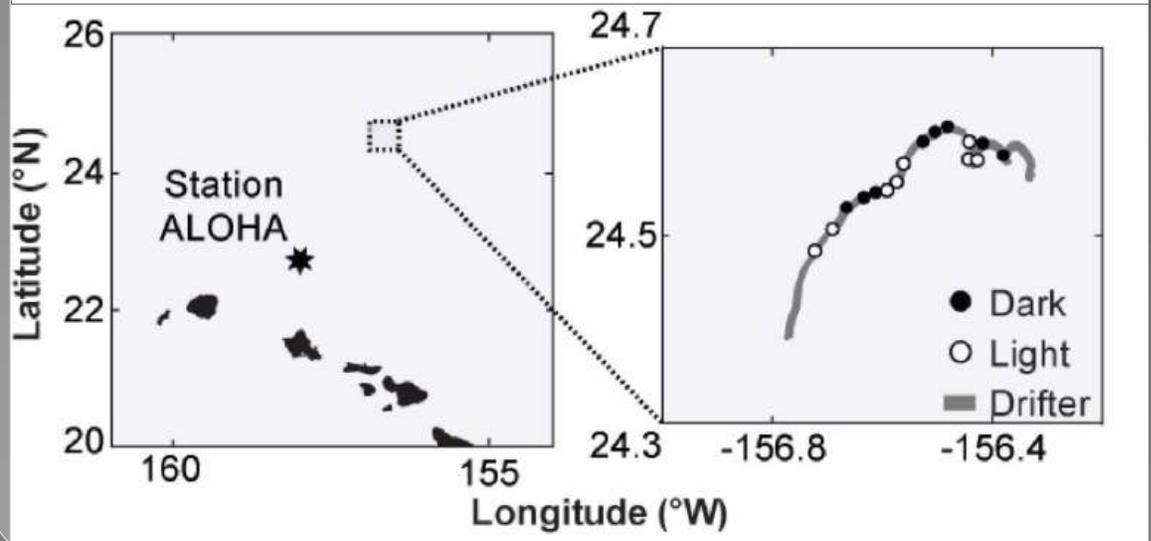
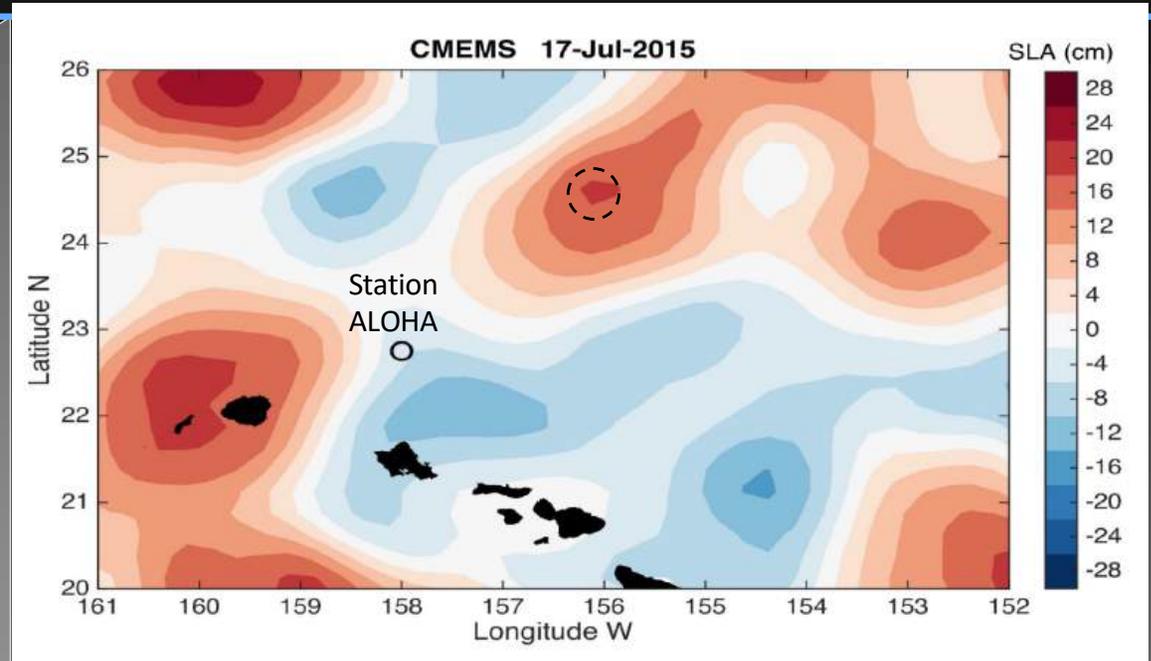
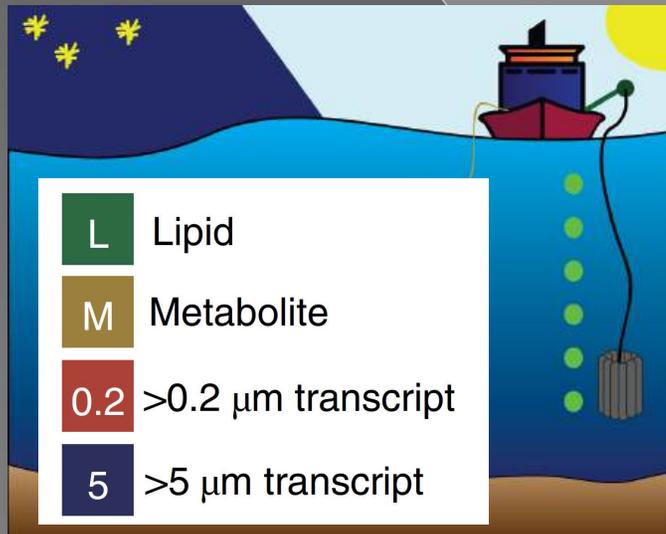
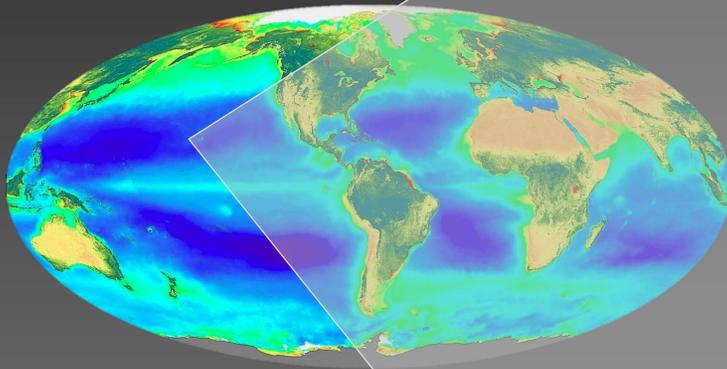
Figure 1 R/V Kilo Moana conducting one of the diel study CTD casts in 2015 (photo: Tara Clemente, taken from the R/V Ka'imikai-O-Kanaloa)



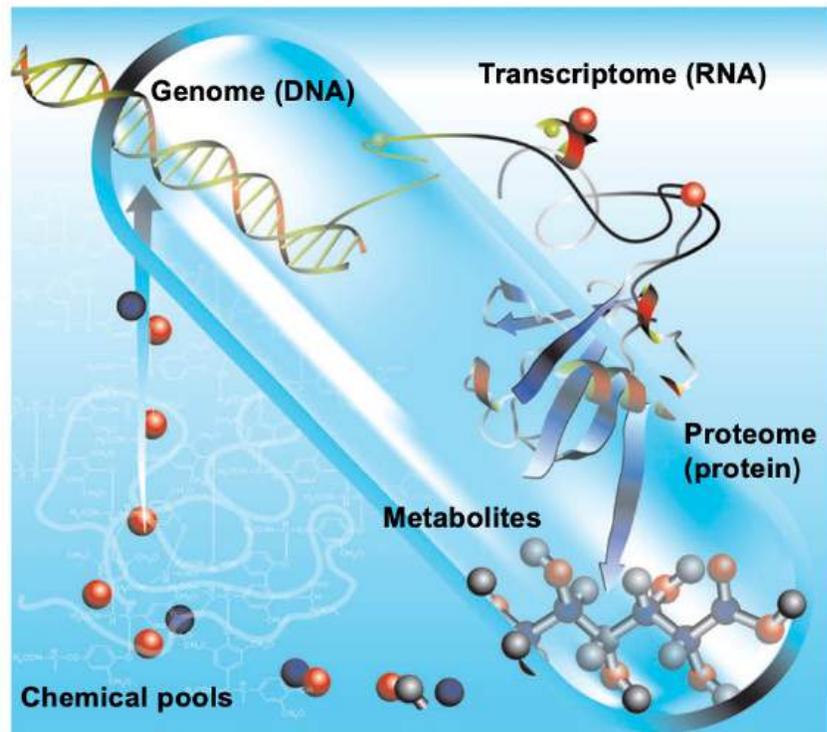
MAHALO: Special thanks to Daniel Muratore and Joshua Weitz for synthesis efforts



Sampling light driven responses in the NPSG



Jointly applying new multi 'omic techniques



Kujawinski et al. (2011) *Annual Review Marine Science*

L

Lipid

M

Metabolite

0.2

>0.2 μm transcript

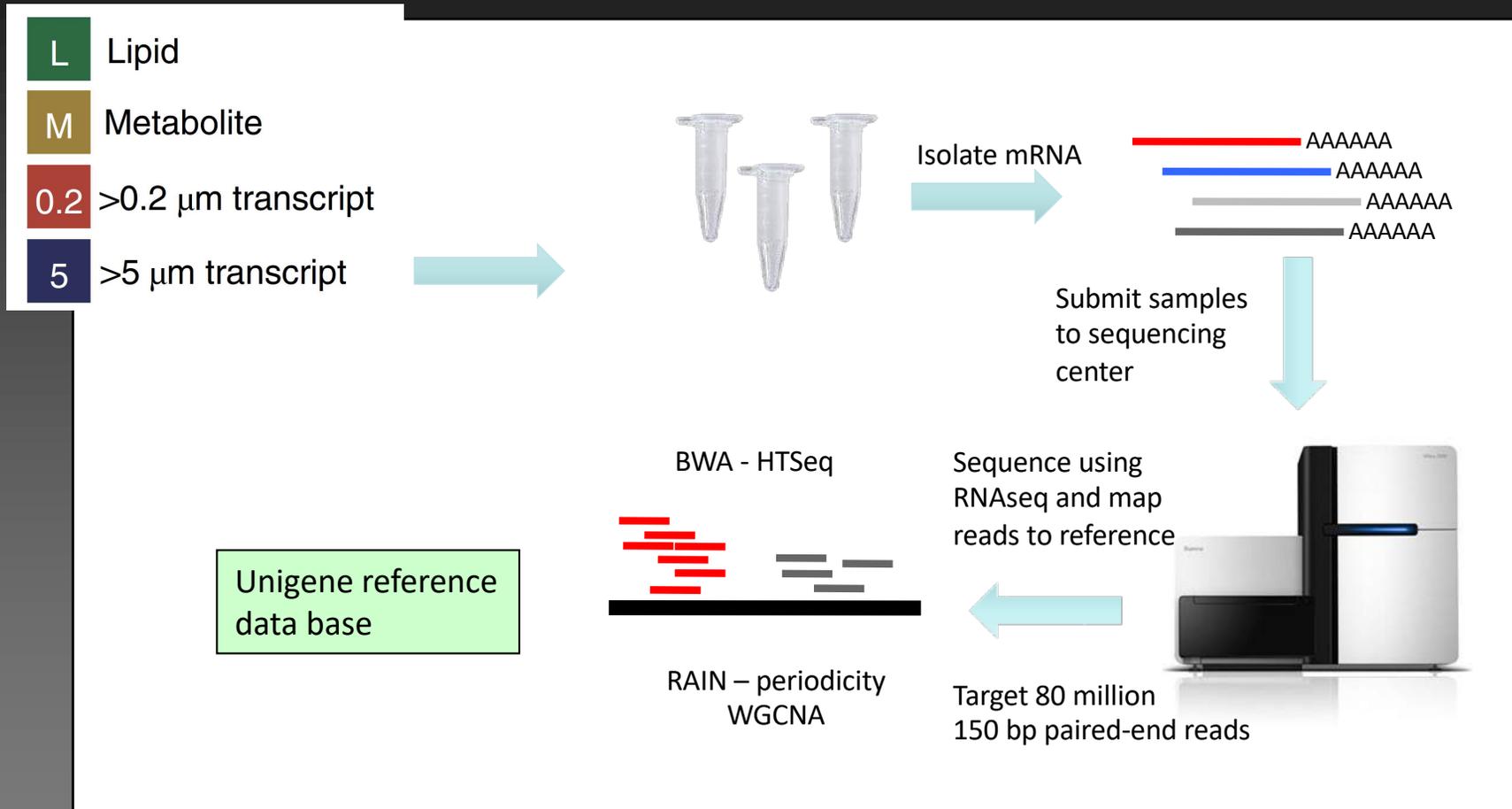
5

>5 μm transcript

Sampling every 4hrs for many days ...



Sampling and pipeline



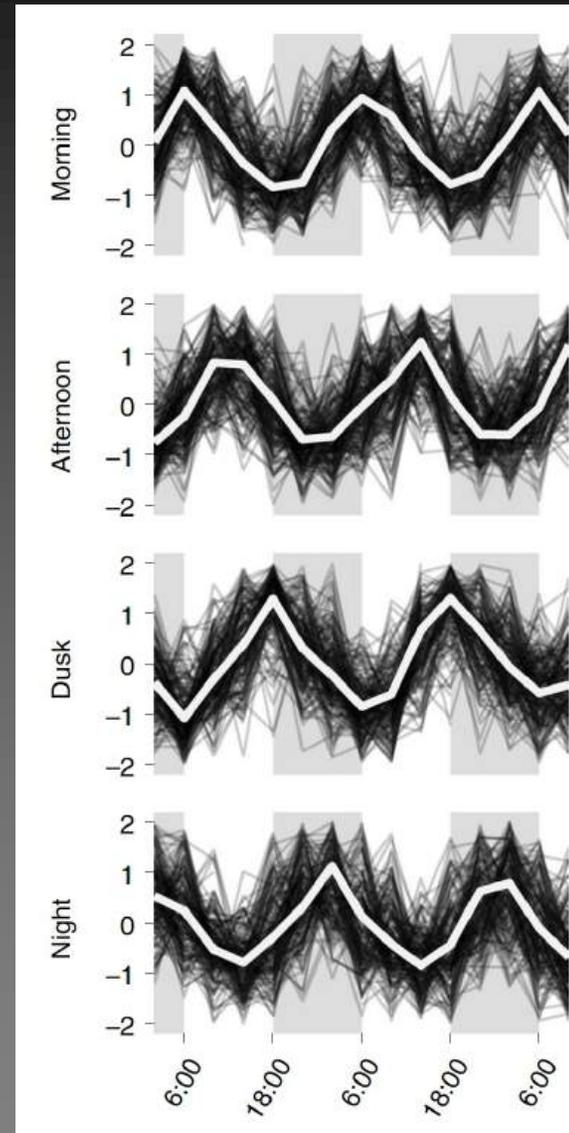
<https://omictools.com/rhythmicity-analysis-incorporating-nonparametric-methods-tool>

<https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-9-559>

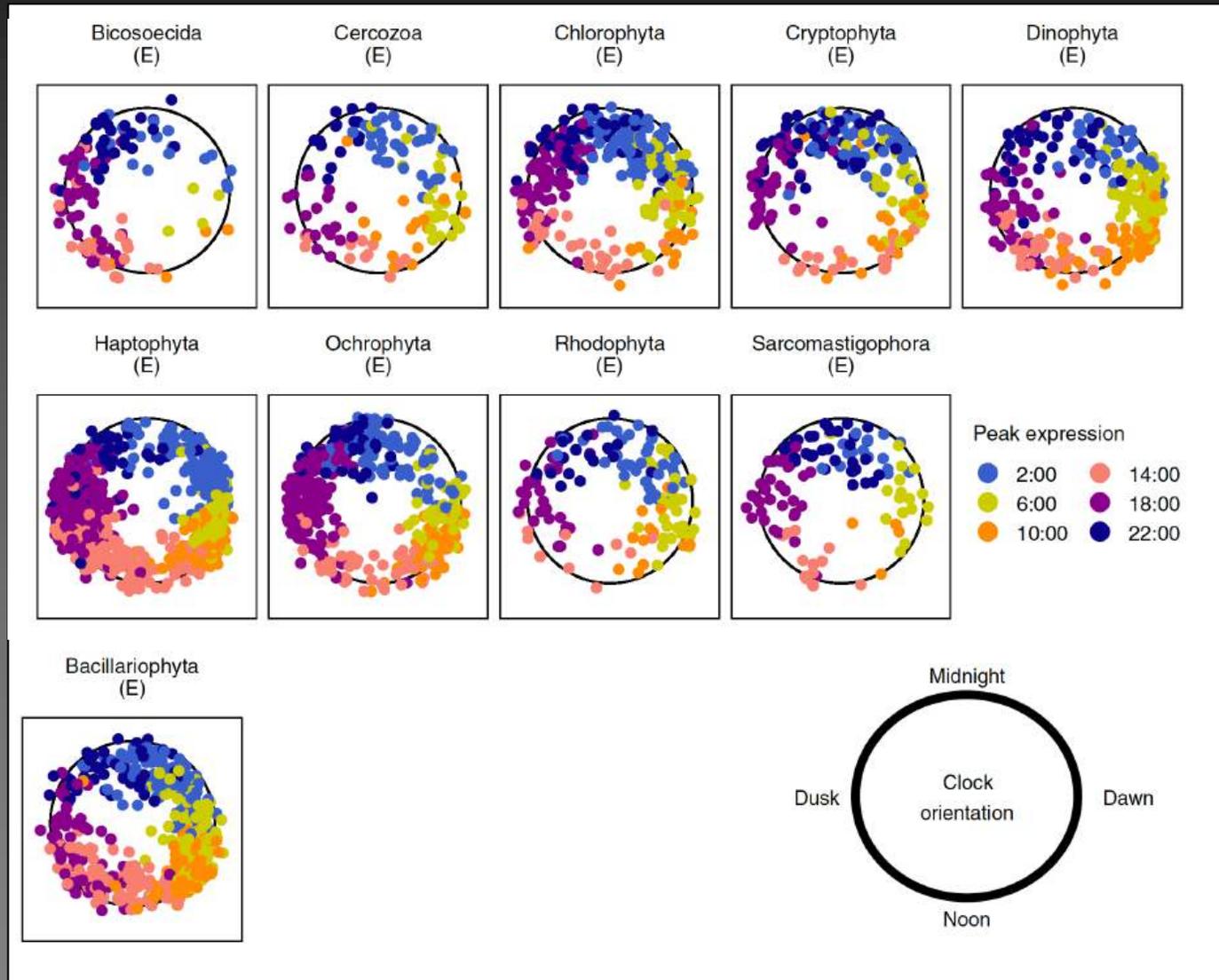
Visualizing diel patterns

- L** Lipid
- M** Metabolite
- 0.2** $>0.2 \mu\text{m}$ transcript
- 5** $>5 \mu\text{m}$ transcript

**~65,000 analyte
time series**

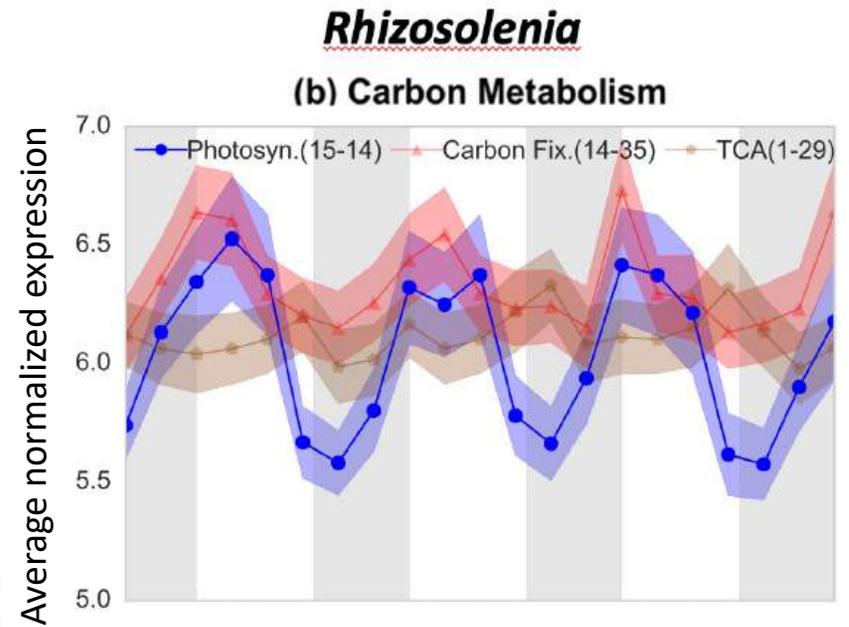
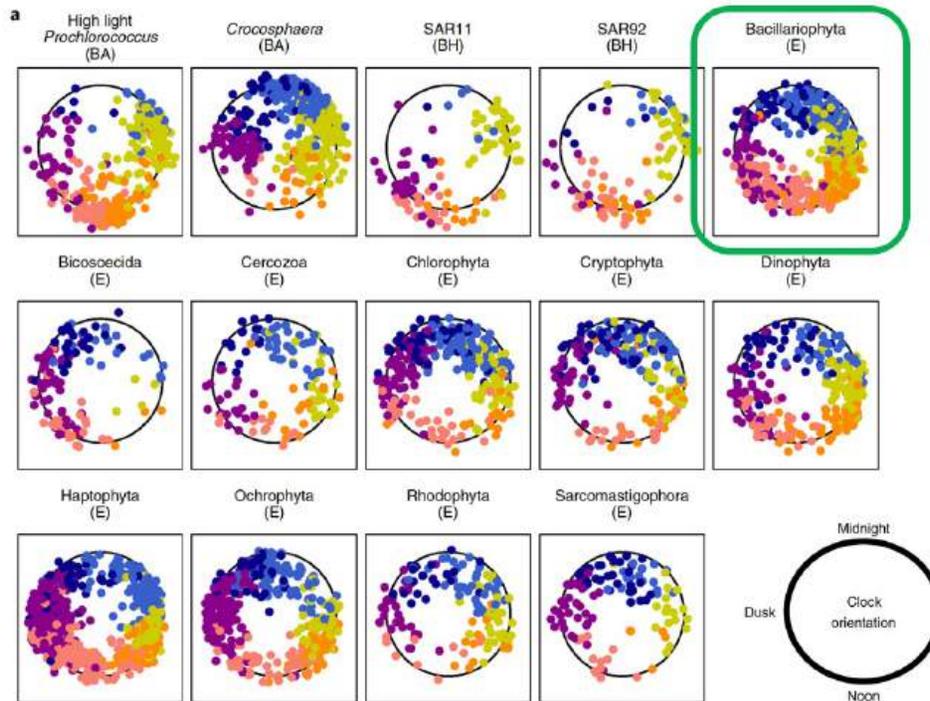


Different taxa have distinct diel transcription patterns



Muratore, Boysen, Harke et al. (2022) *Nature Ecol Evo.*

Carbon fixation and respiration are highly coordinated

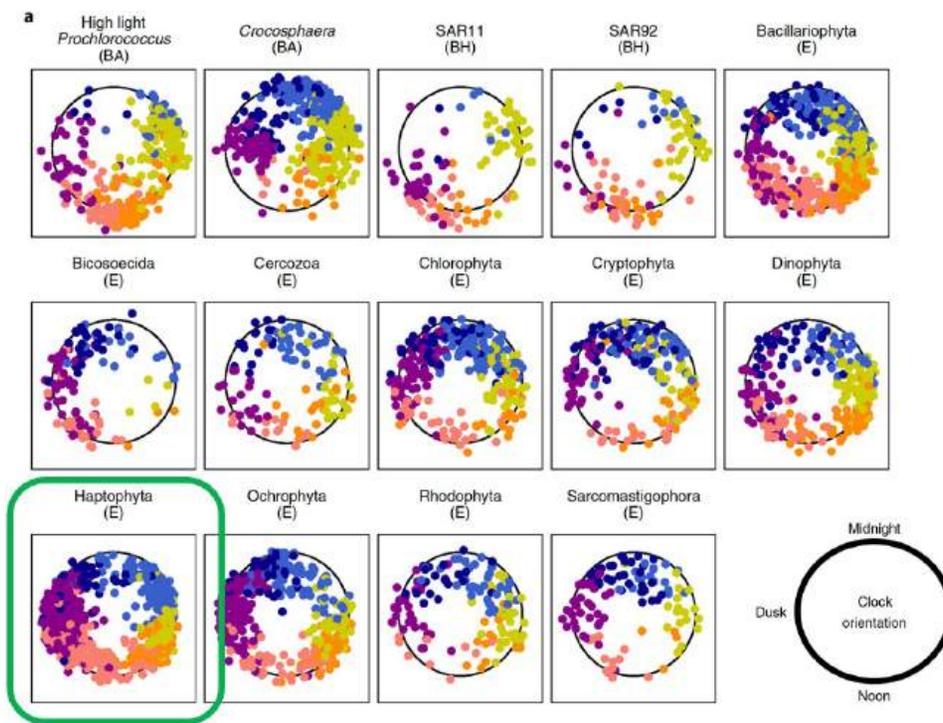


Muratore, Boysen, Harke et al. (2022) *Nature Ecol. Evol.*



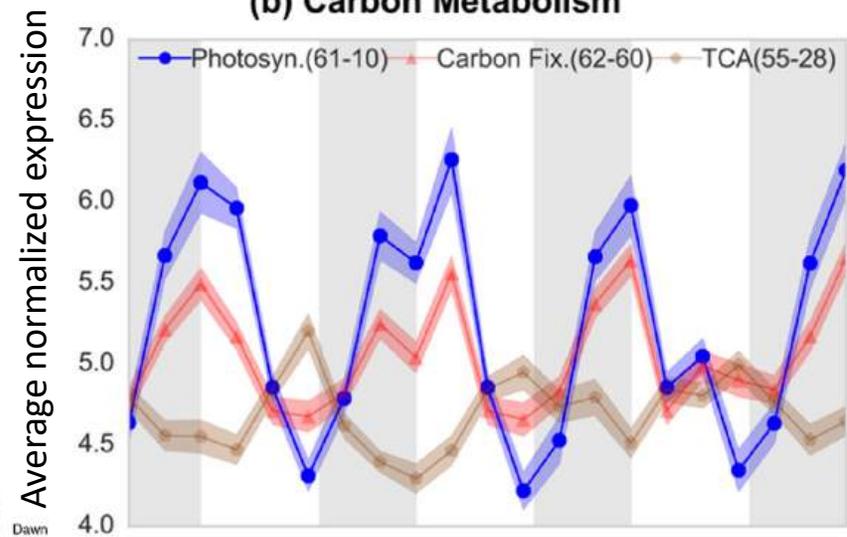
Harke et al. 2019 *ISME J*

Carbon fixation and respiration are highly coordinated



Emiliana

(b) Carbon Metabolism

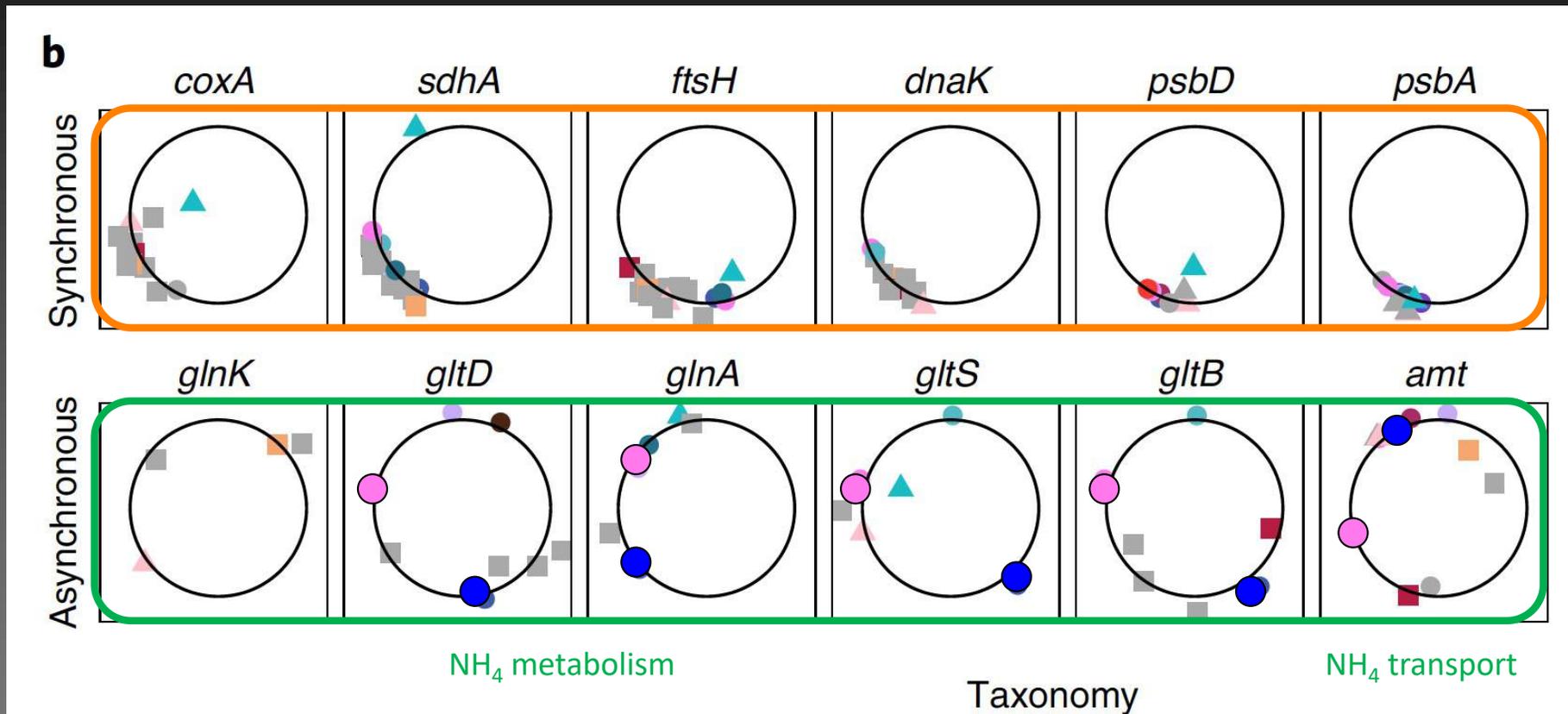


Muratore, Boysen, Harke et al. (2022) Nature Ecol. Evol.



Limón-Hernandez et al. (2020) *Environ. Micro.*

N metabolism functions are expressed asynchronously



Asynchronous transcription of N uptake and metabolism between microeukaryotes and between taxonomic domains suggest competition for limiting resource is driving temporal niche partitioning

Contributor

Nature Eco Evo

BEHIND THE PAPER

Microbes running on time

Diel Cycling of Marine Microbial Metabolism in Complex Communities Partitions
Scarce Nutrients and Enables Emergent Biogeochemical Function



+3

Matthew Harke and 3 others [View all](#)
Research Scientist, Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute

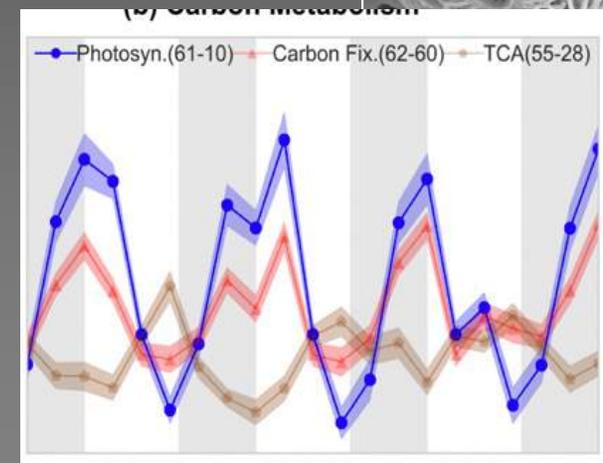
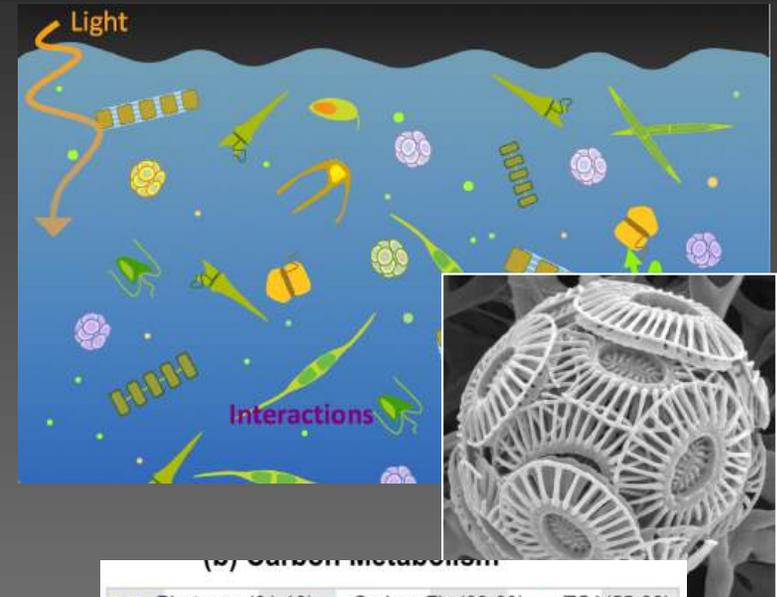
 Follow



Muratore, Boysen, Harke et al. (2022) *Nature Ecol Evo*.

Summary

- **Metatranscriptome RNA-Seq:**
- Light drives synchronous metabolic cascades which underpin carbon cycling in the NPSG
- Light drives asynchronous metabolism of nitrogen – a limiting resource in the NPSG
- Temporal niche partitioning of N uptake and metabolism may decrease competition for limiting resources



Core questions... adventures in eukaryote metatranscriptomics

Limitation

- **Nitrogen limits carbon export and cycling in a keystone haptophyte**
- **The environment *may* select**

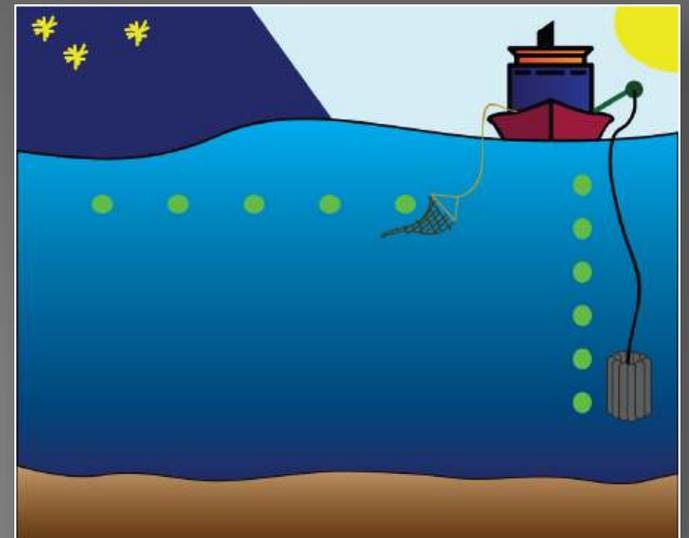
Competition

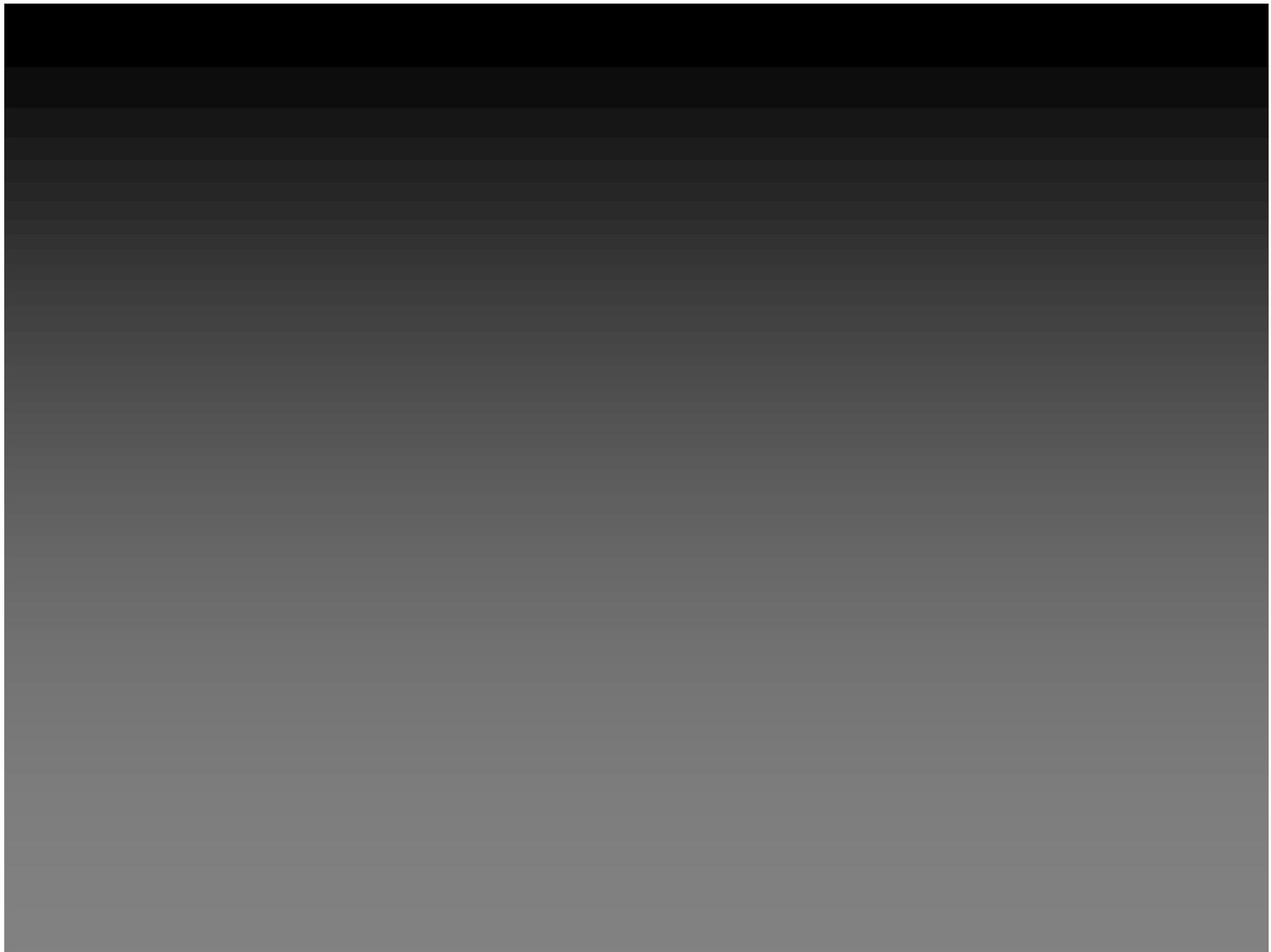
- **Temporal niche partitioning supports a complex community in a resource poor environment**

HOE:DYLAN

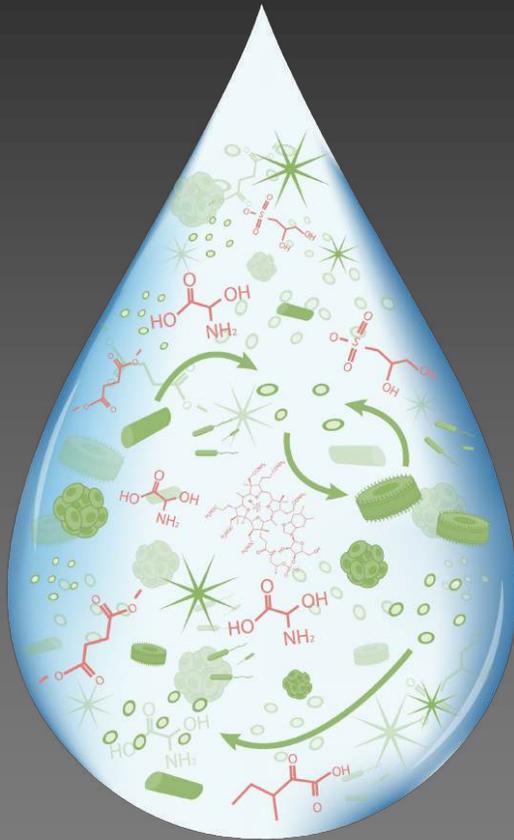


HOE:MAHALO





A vast chemical-microbe network underpins marine food webs and biogeochemical cycling

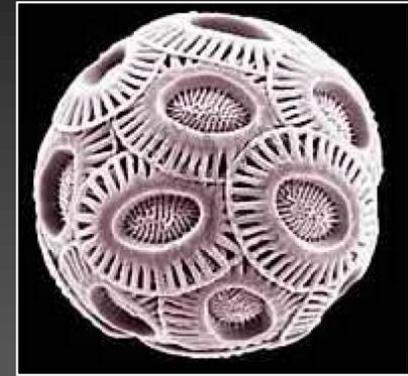


If we learn the rules for how the system operates – then we have a better chance of predicting future ocean responses

‘Omic-enabled advances allowing to query cells in their environment in a species-specific way

Vignettes

- Co-existing in a sea of competition: tracing drivers of phytoplankton physiological ecology in the open ocean
- Microbiome interactions: Tracking the microbiome of a keystone N₂ fixer



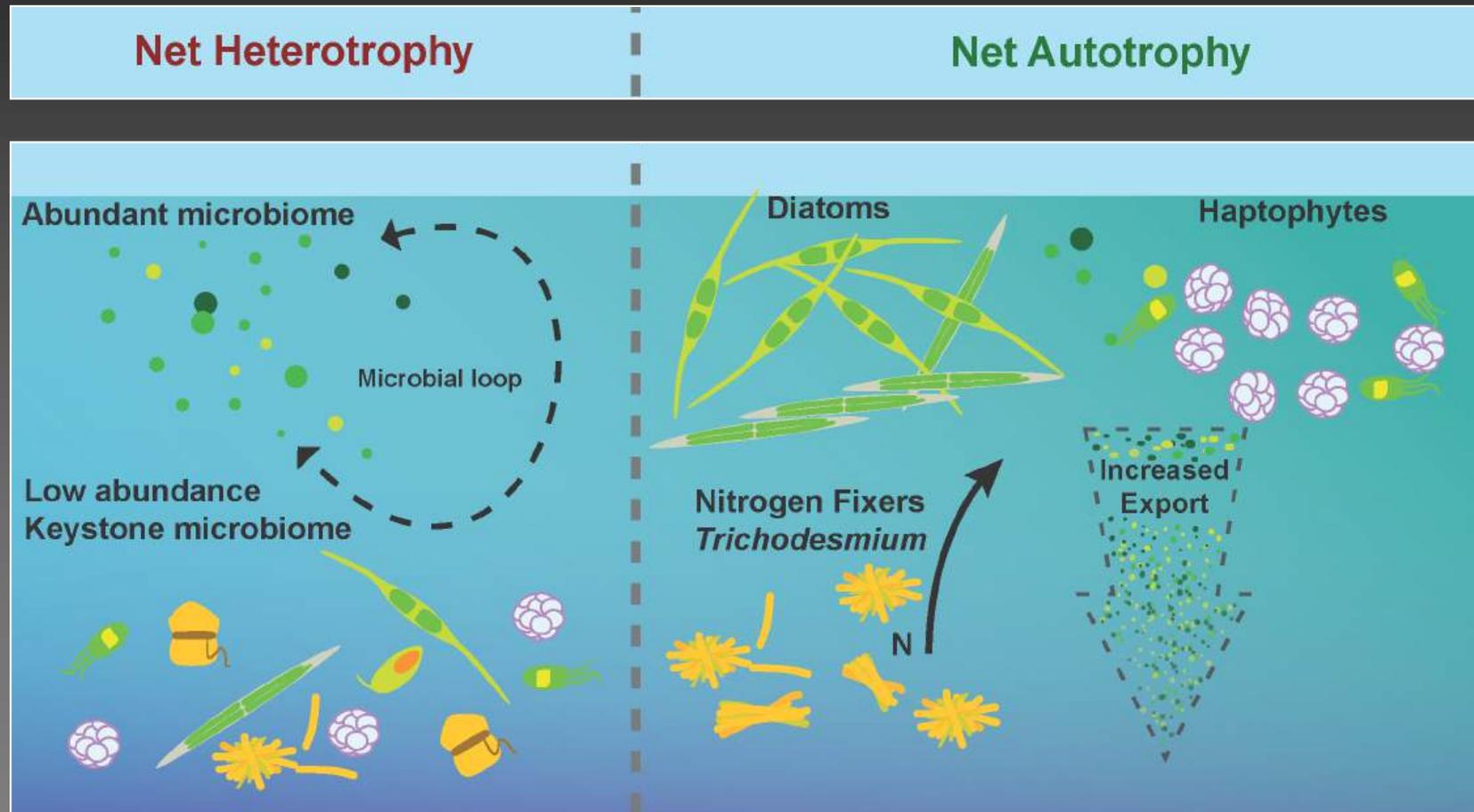


Trichodesmium: critical to ecosystem function



Photo: Chris Wade
Tricho. micrograph: WHOI

Nitrogen inputs can shift ecosystem state and carbon flow



→
NITROGEN

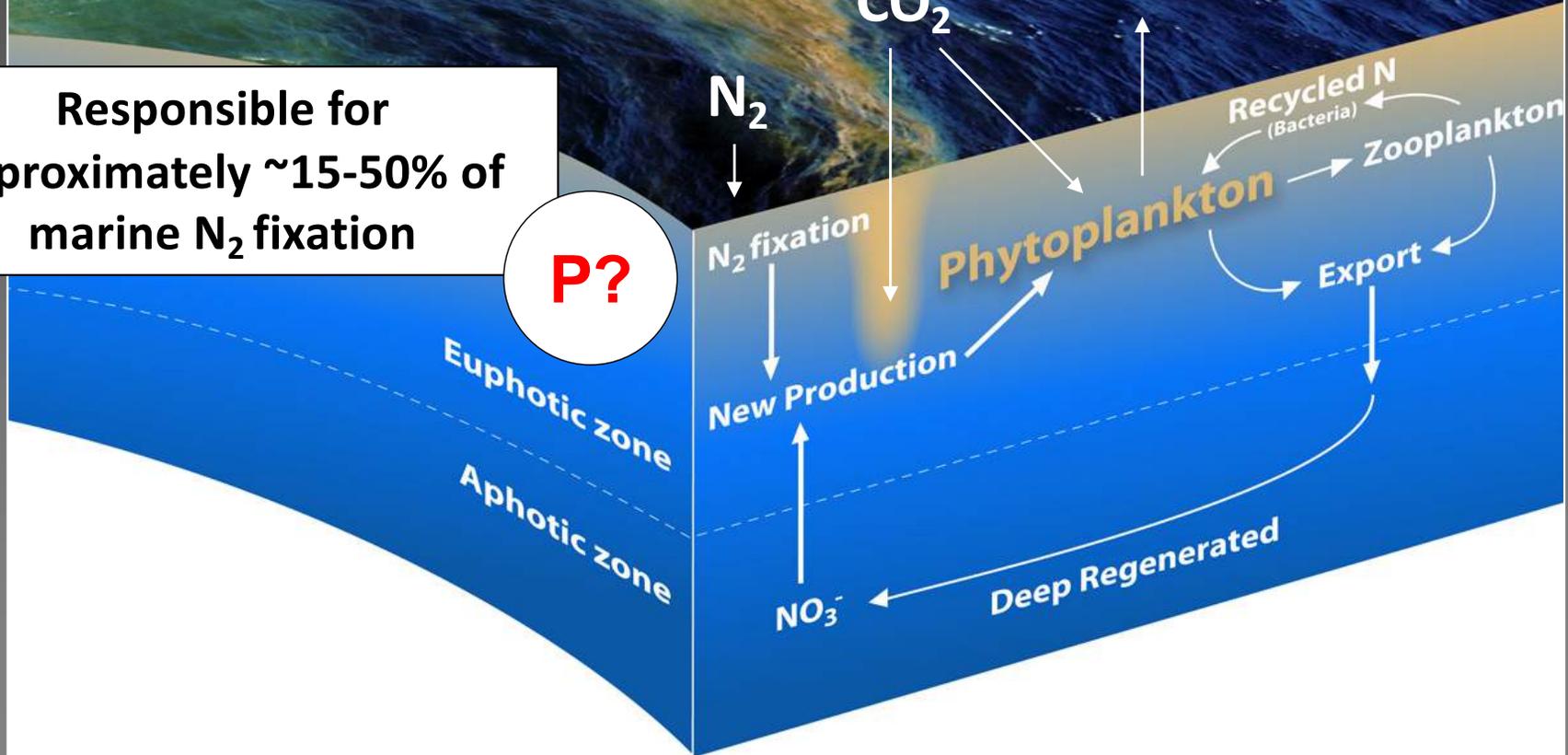
Trichodesmium: critical to ecosystem function



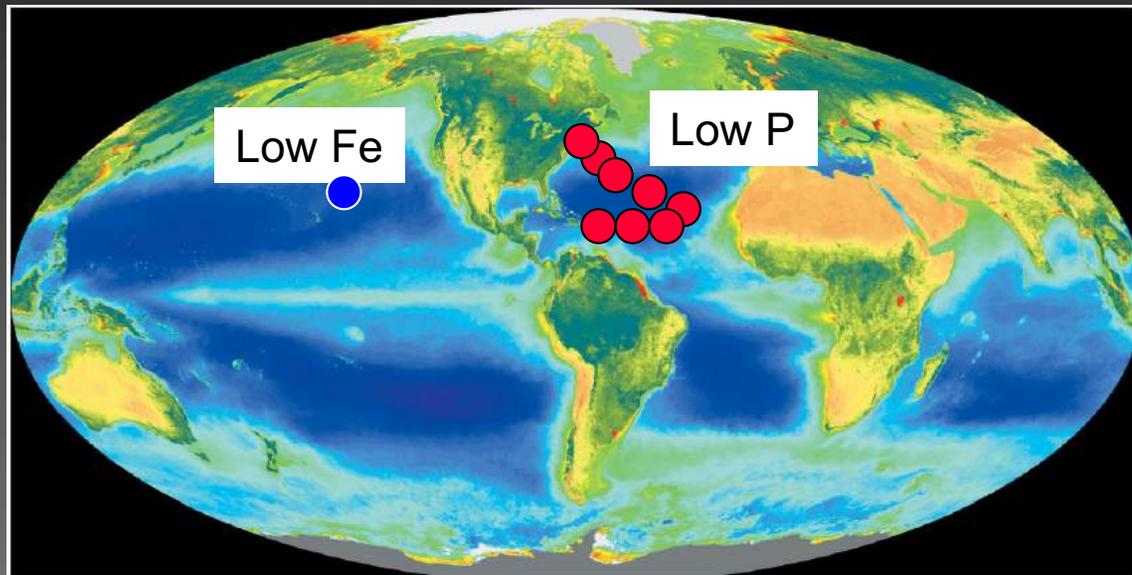
Fe ?

Responsible for approximately ~15-50% of marine N₂ fixation

P?



Predicting the role of Fe and P in *Trichodesmium* distribution and N₂ fixation



North Atlantic
P-limited?

North Pacific
Fe-limited?

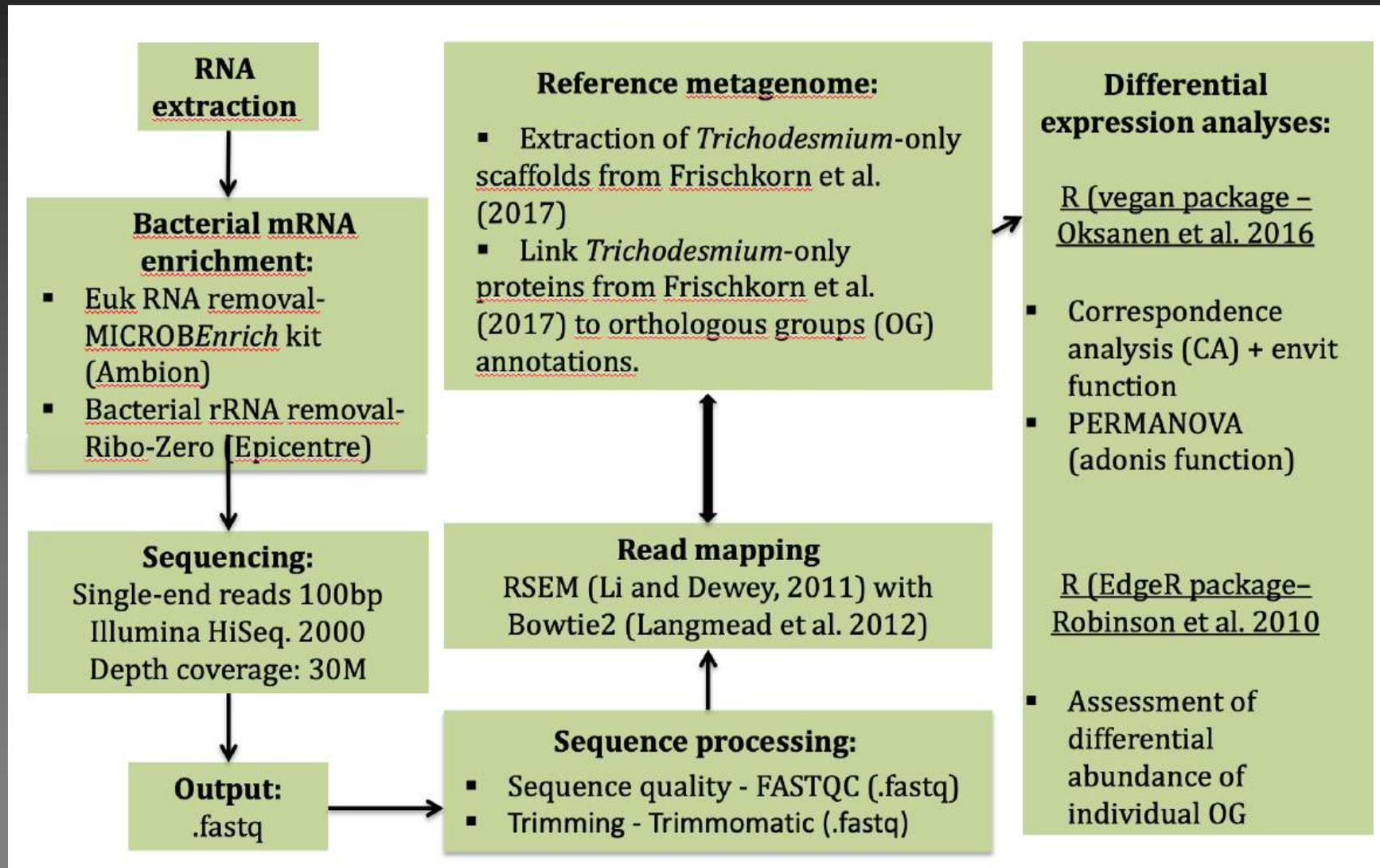
2000s

- Protein biomarkers: Dyhrman et al. (2002) *L&O*
- qRT-PCR of transcript biomarkers: Dyhrman et al. (2006) *Nature*

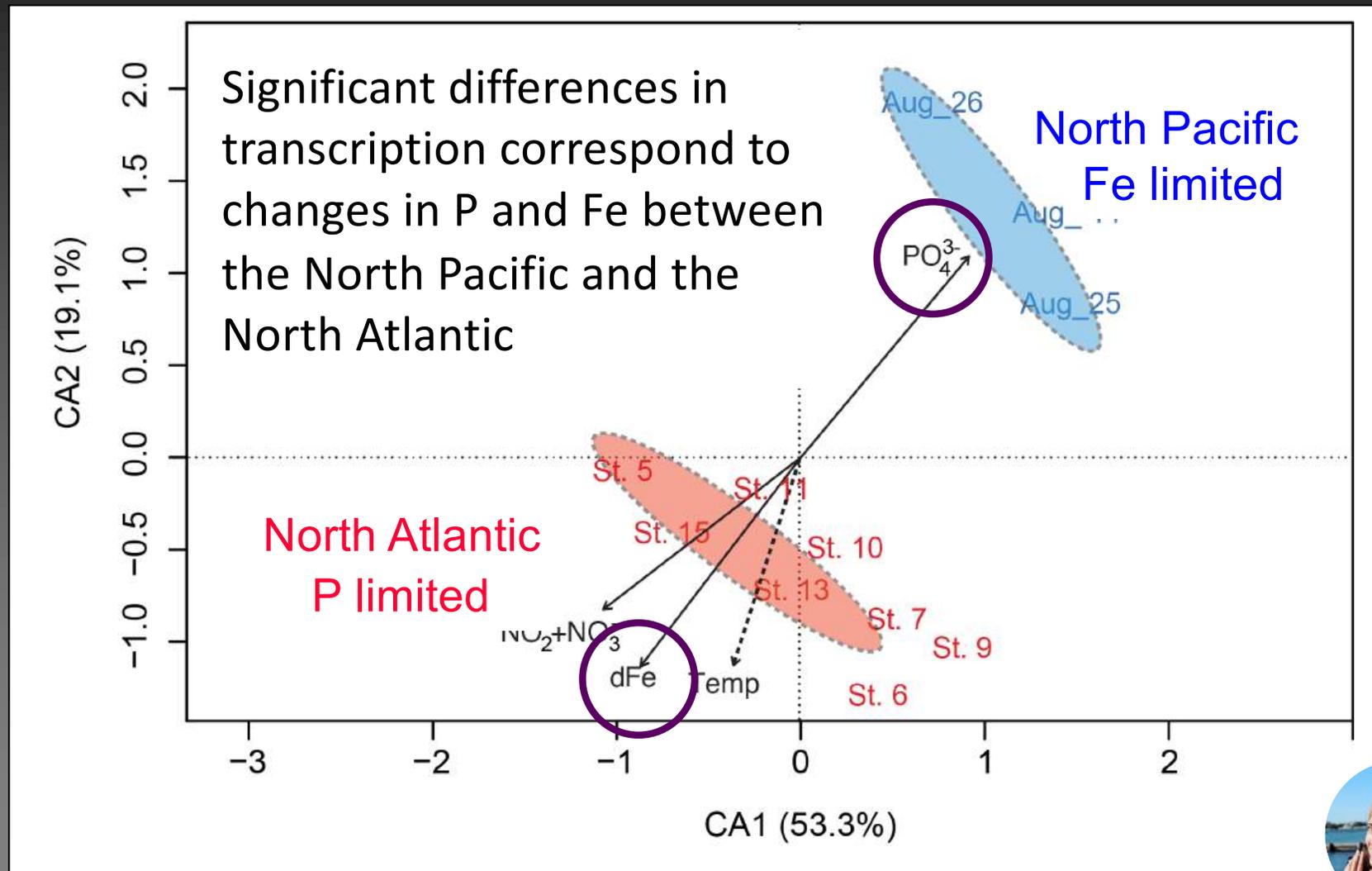
2010s

- Metagenomics and Metatranscriptomics: Rouco et al. (2018) *ISME J.*

Metatranscriptome workflow – reference mapping

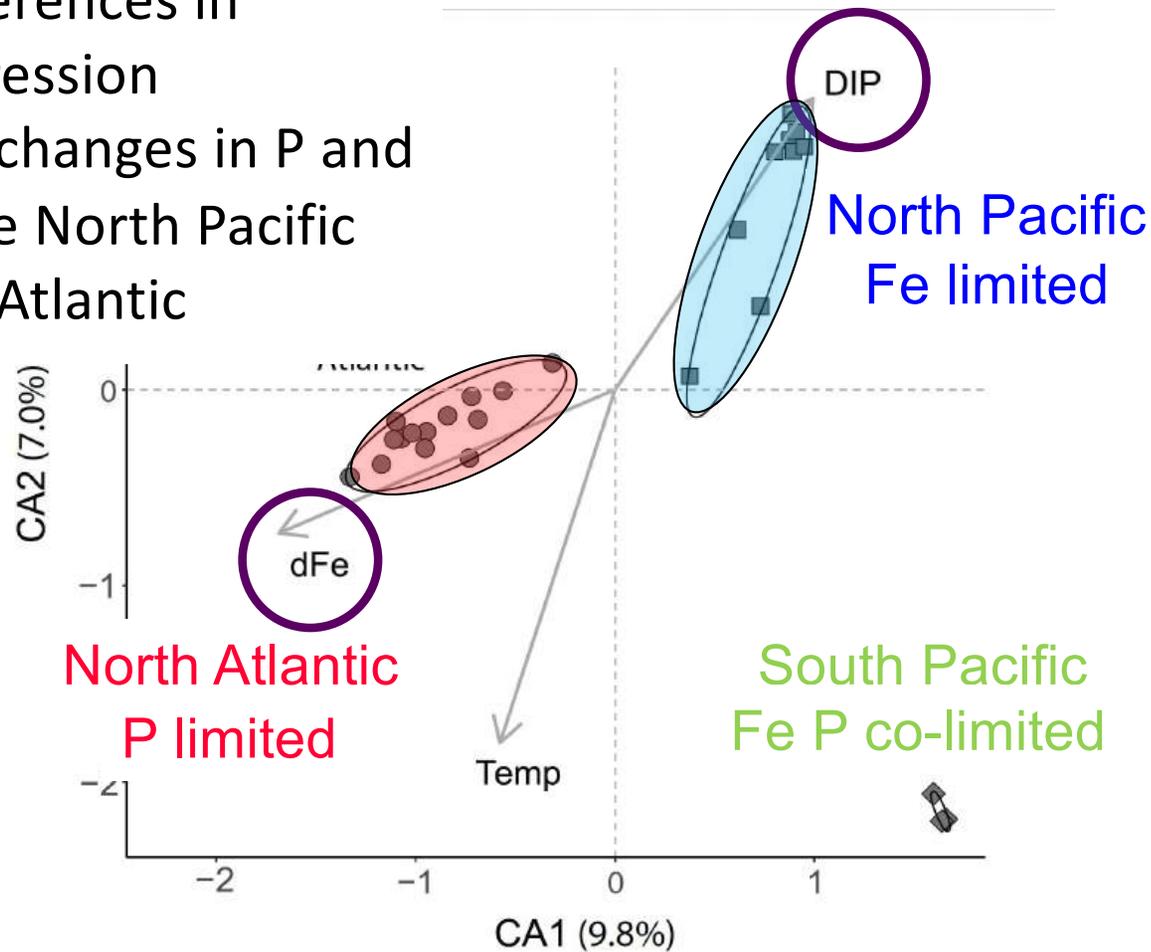


Trichodesmium transcriptional patterns between the North Pacific and the North Atlantic



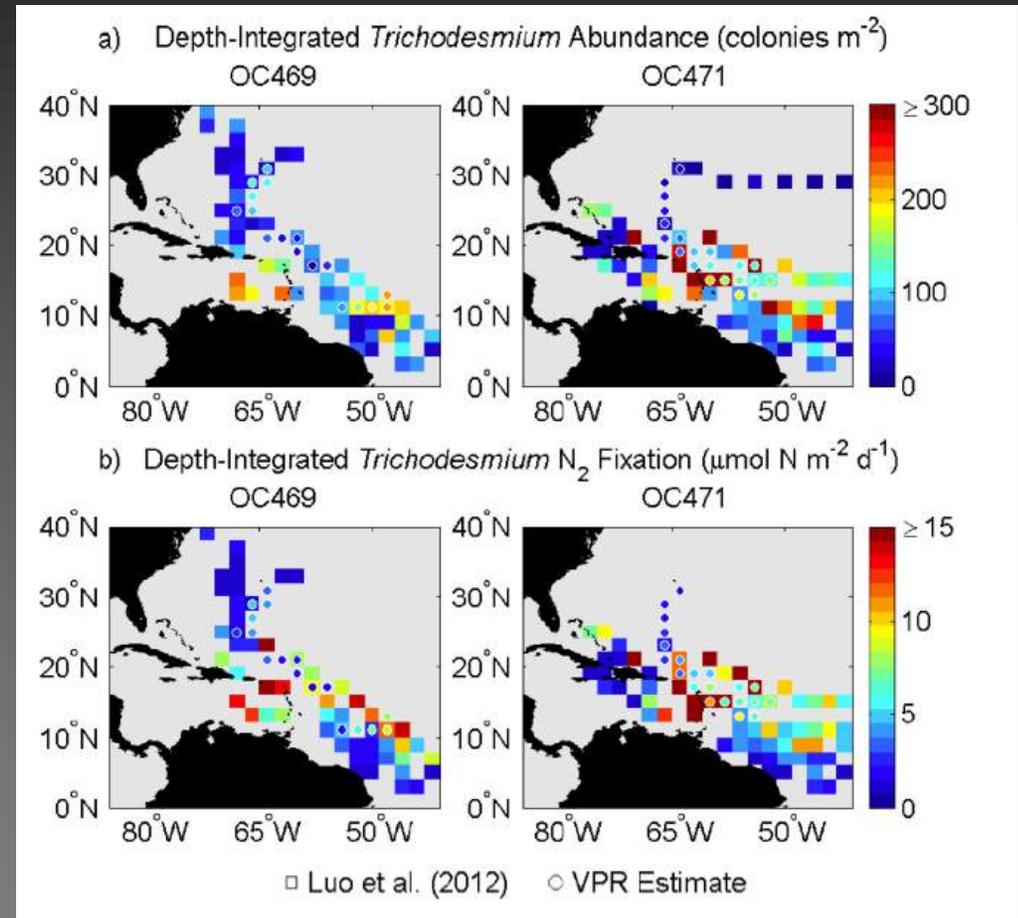
Trichodesmium metaproteome patterns between regions

Significant differences in proteome expression correspond to changes in P and Fe between the North Pacific and the North Atlantic



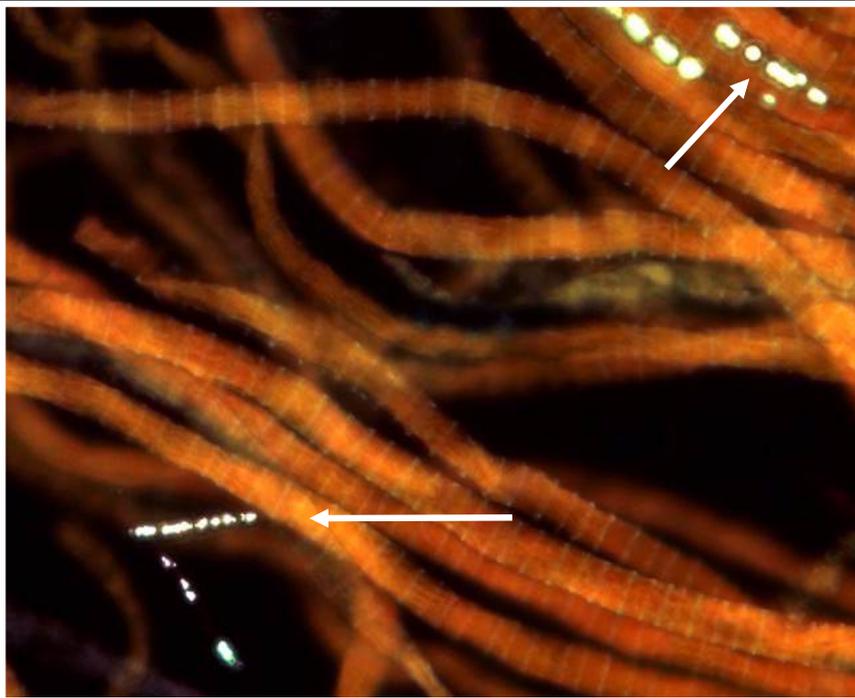
Modeling N₂ fixation is still a challenge

- Models do not balance the N cycle in the ocean or recapitulate patterns well
- **Geochemistry alone is not a good predictor of distribution or N₂ fixation**



Trichodesmium hosts a community of epibiotic microbes

Trichodesmium and *Plectonema*



Dyhrman et. al. (2002) *L&O*

Trichodesmium and Epibionts

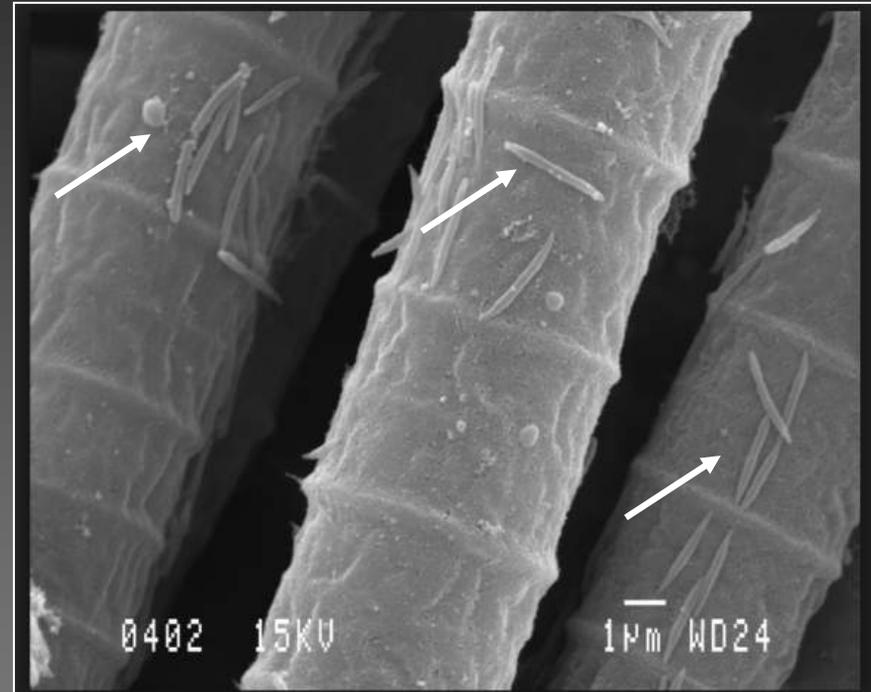


Image courtesy Tracy Mincer

Trichodesmium colonies harbor other microbes with distinct physiology.

Core questions about the *Trichodesmium* microbiome

Who is there?

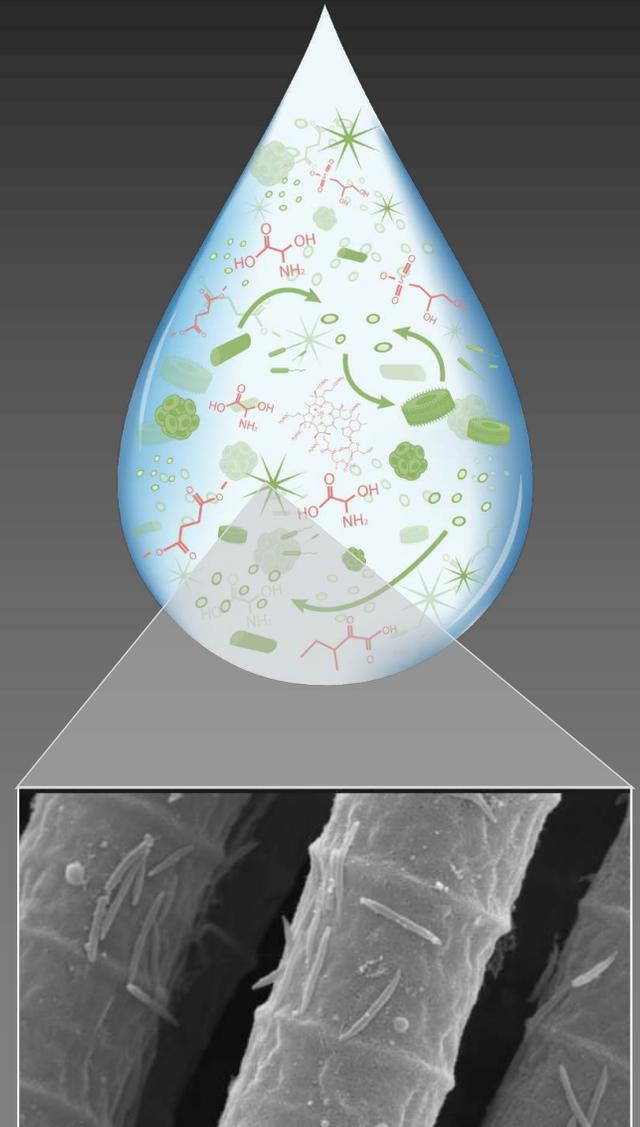
- **Microbiome diversity**
- ***16S amplicon sequencing***

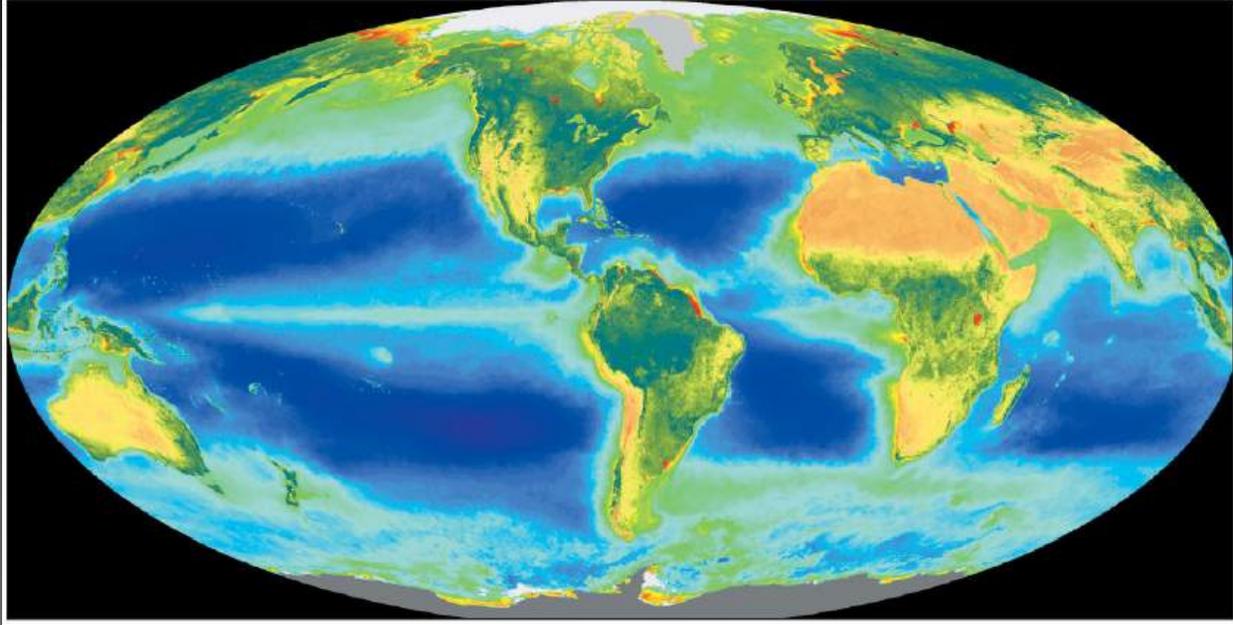
What are they doing?

- **Microbiome functional diversity**
- ***Metagenome assembled genomes***

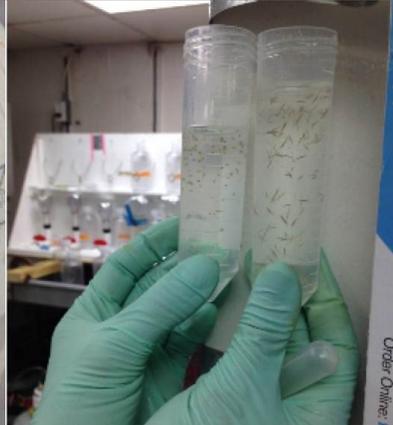
Are they interacting?

- **Coordinated diel signaling**
- ***Metatranscriptomics***





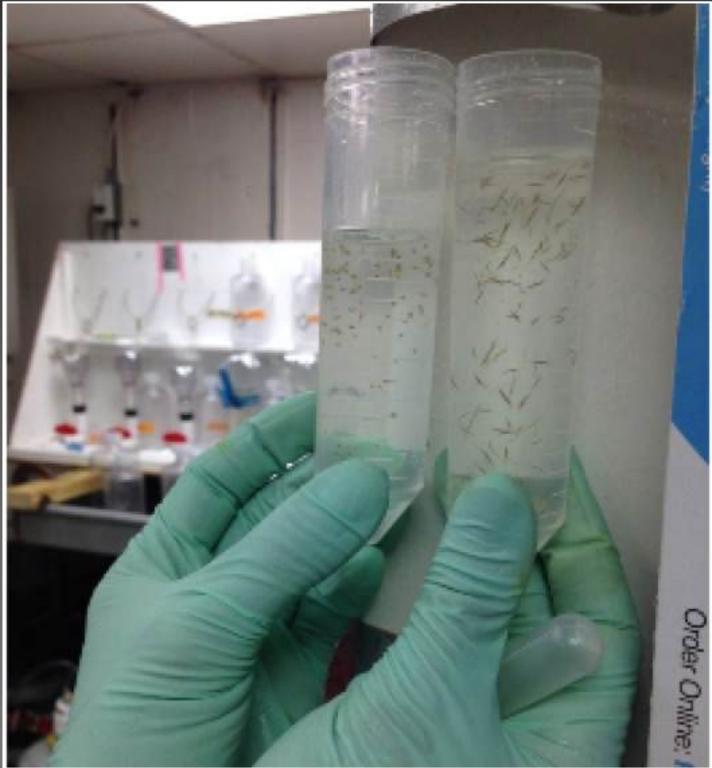
SeaWiFS Project, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center and ORNL/CIRES



Order Online!



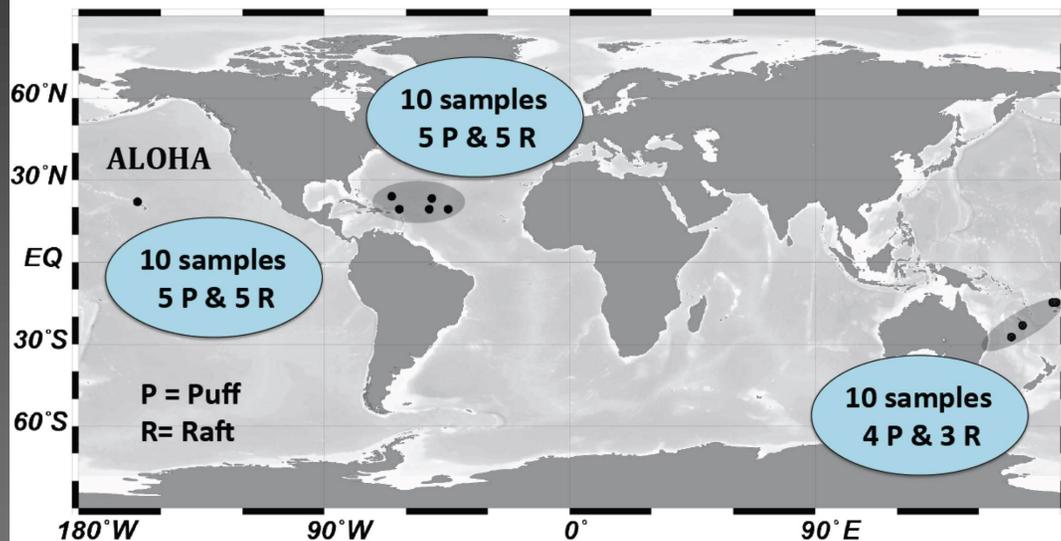
Trichodesmium microbiome diversity



Trichodesmium colonies are picked and rinsed from net tows for 16S sequencing to remove all but the tightly associated epibionts.

Epibiont diversity

EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH



Collection of colonies from 3 ocean basins (~top 25m)



DNA extraction

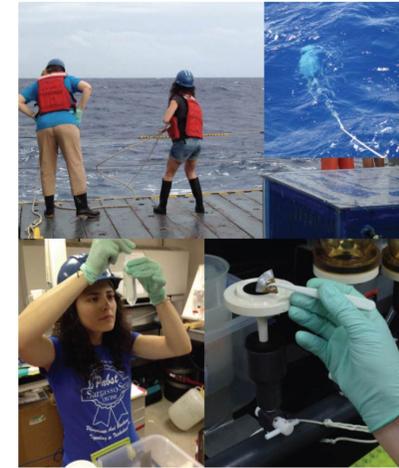


Sequencing:
V4 region of 16S
rRNA gene
Miseq
(2x150 bp)



Mothur v. 1.34.0 (936,749 reads)

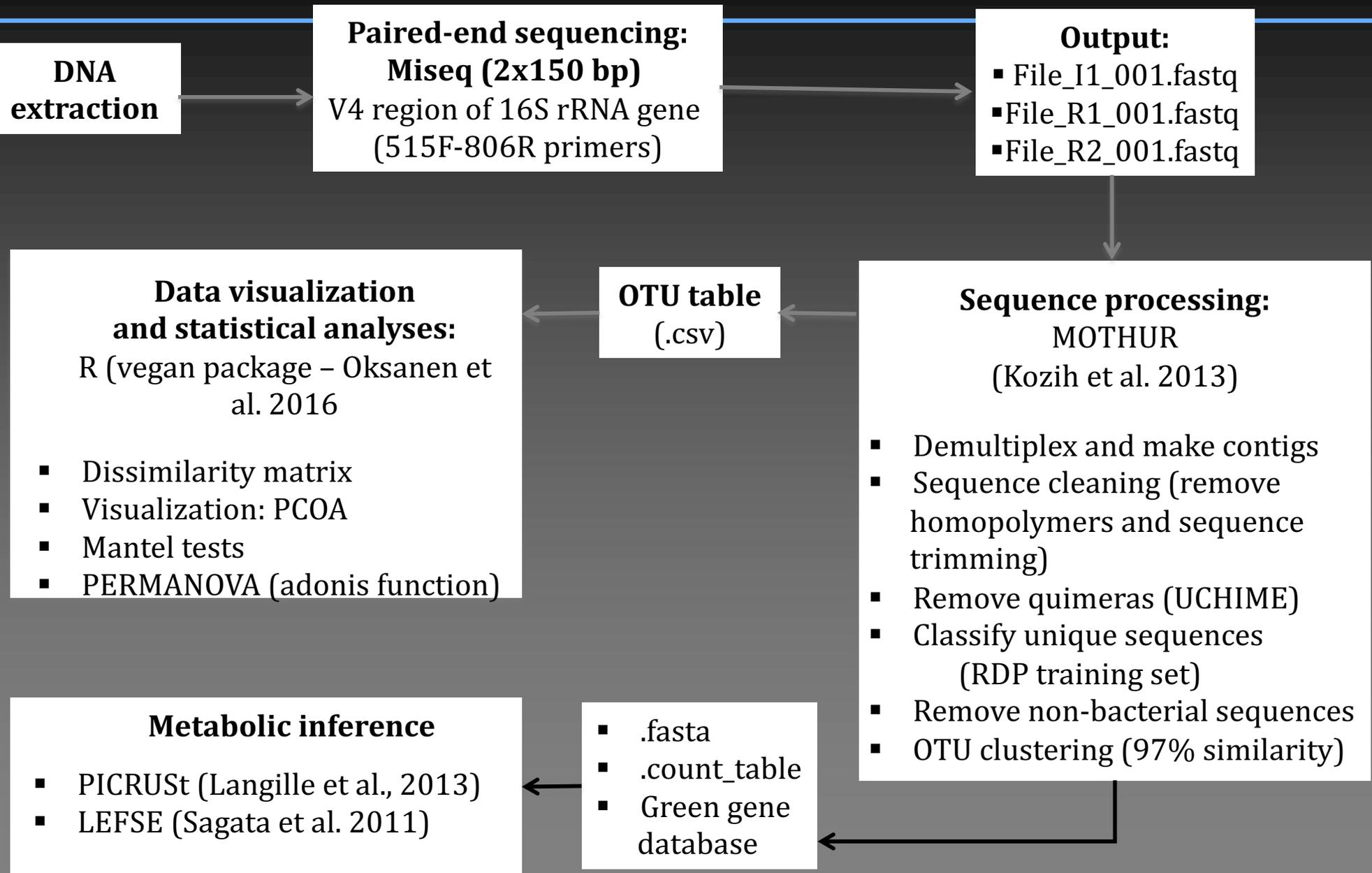
- *Trichodesmium*: ~67% of reads
- Epibionts: ~32% of reads



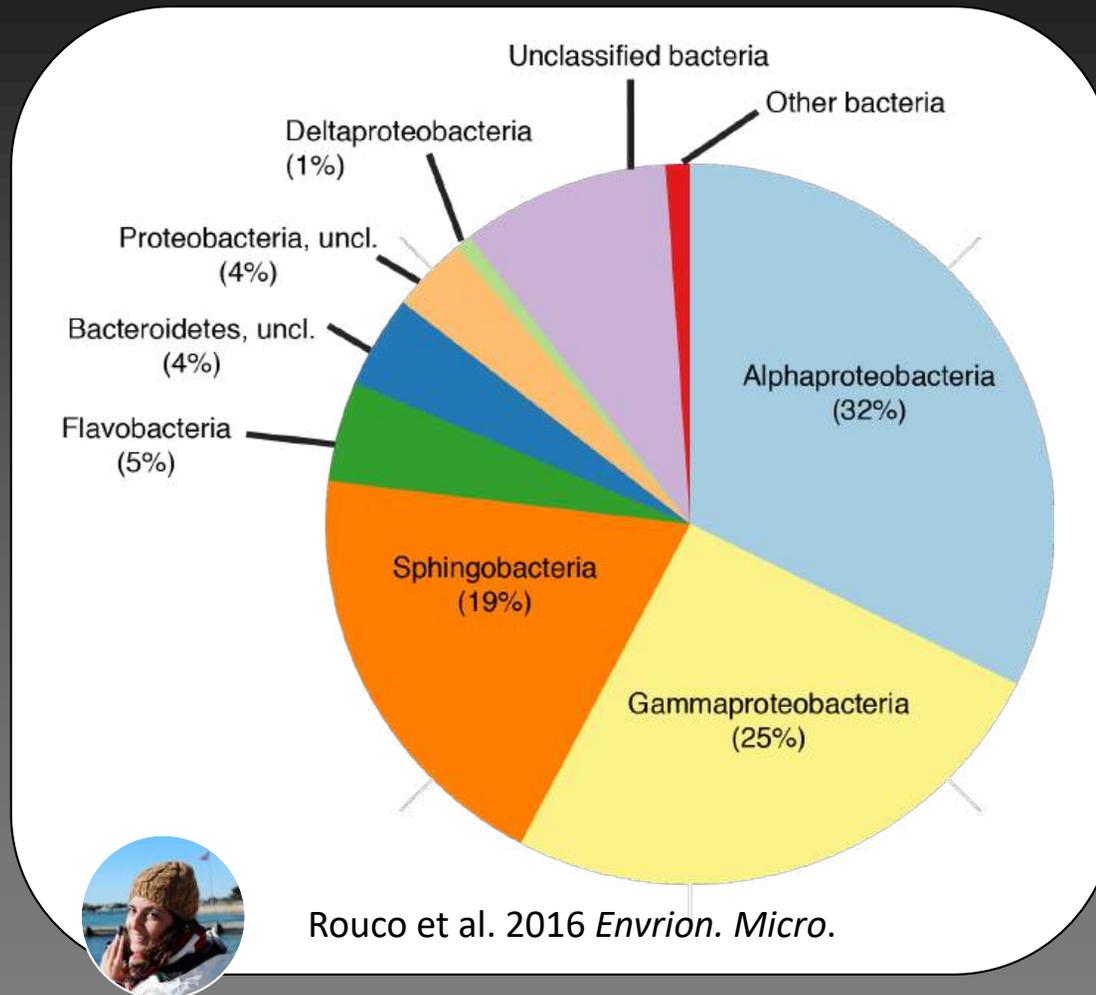
What groups co-occur with *Trichodesmium*?

Are epibiont communities distinct as a function of colony morphology or environment?

16S rDNA analyses

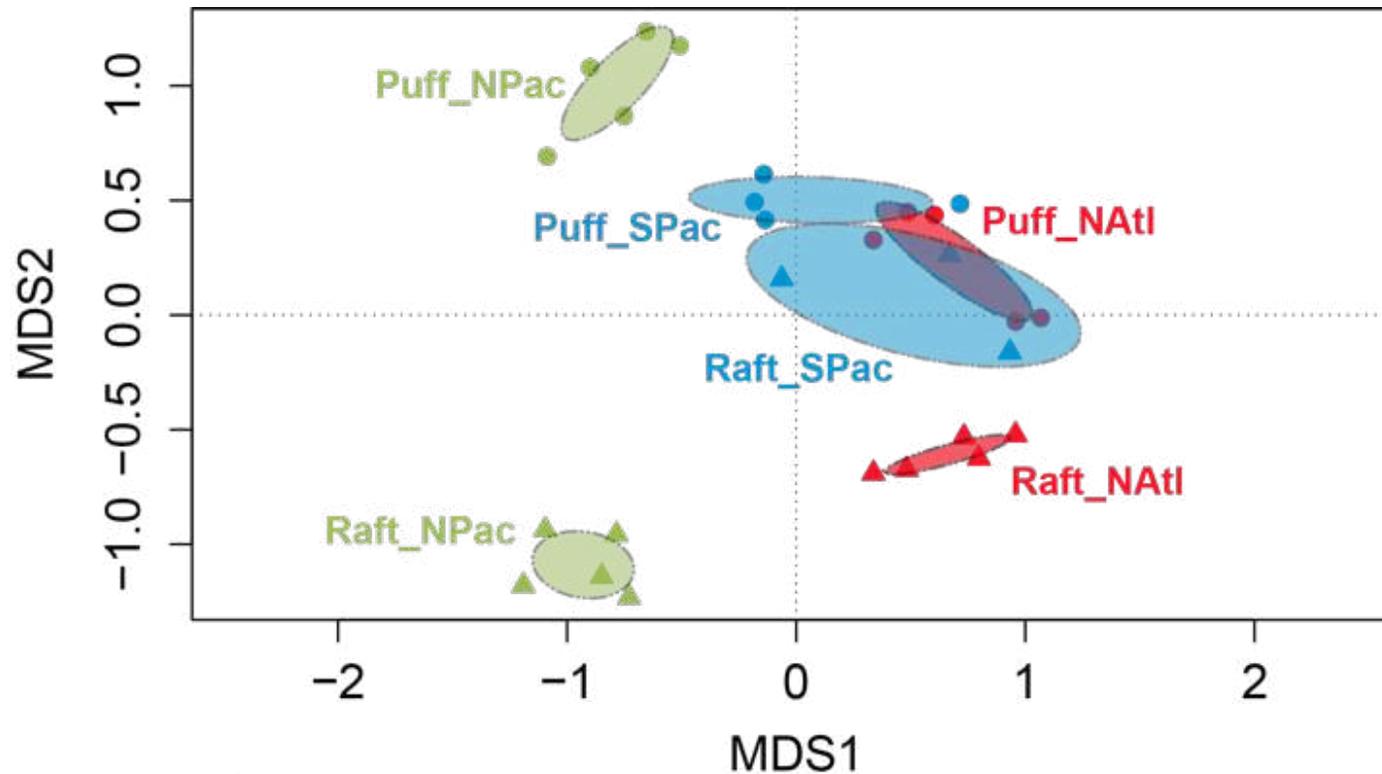


Average epibiont community



16S amplicon sequencing indicates that *Trichodesmium* colonies harbor diverse epibionts distinct from common water column bacteria, and those found on sinking particles.

Microbiome community diversity (16S)



Rouco et al. (2016) *Environ. Micro.*

Microbiome communities significantly differ by region and colony morphology, except for the S. Pacific where the *Trichodesmium* composition of rafts and puffs were not significantly different

Summary

- **Need to think about *Trichodesmium* as a holobiont**
- *What drives community assembly?*
 - *Unique niche?*
 - Type of *Trichodesmium*
 - Physiological of the colony
 - Environment
 - *Lottery?*
 - Random selection of potential copiotrophs with certain gene functions?
- *Stability over time?*

Core questions about the *Trichodesmium* microbiome

Who is there?

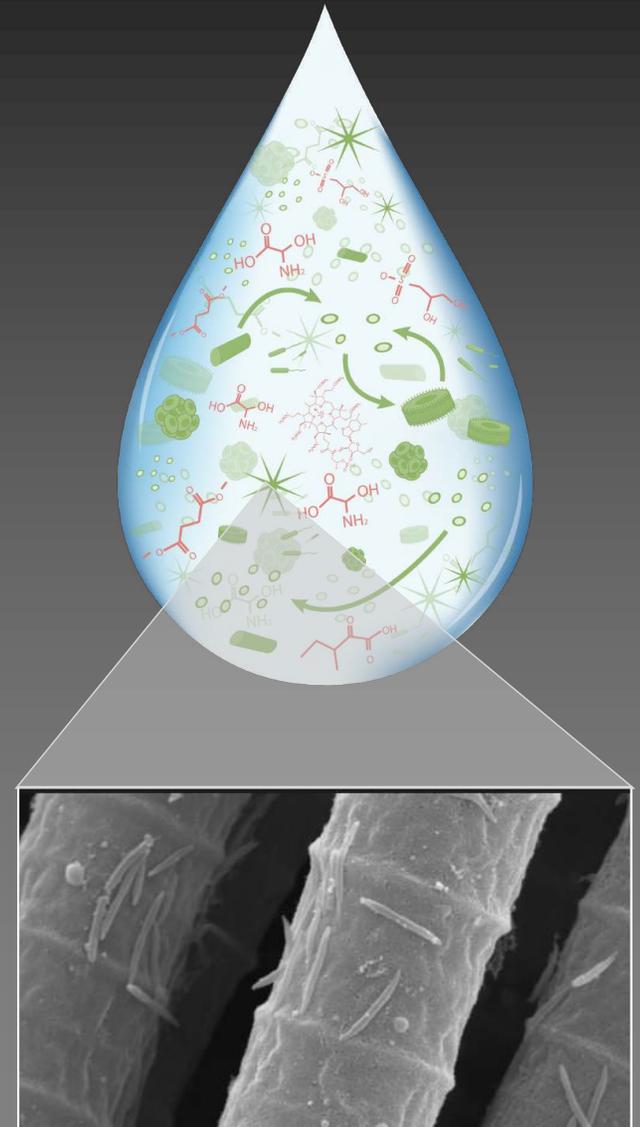
- **Diverse community, distinct from water column**

What are they doing?

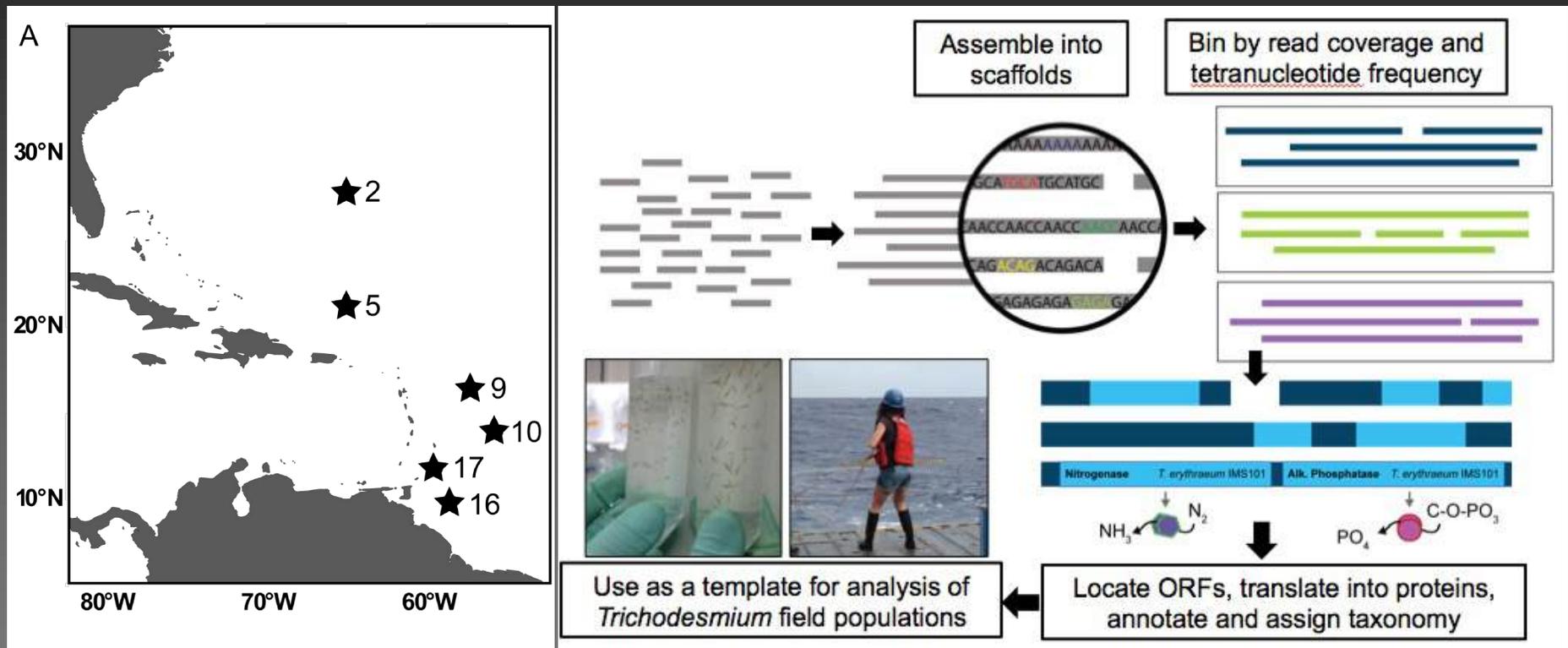
- **Microbiome functional diversity**

Are they interacting?

- **Diel patterns in the consortia**



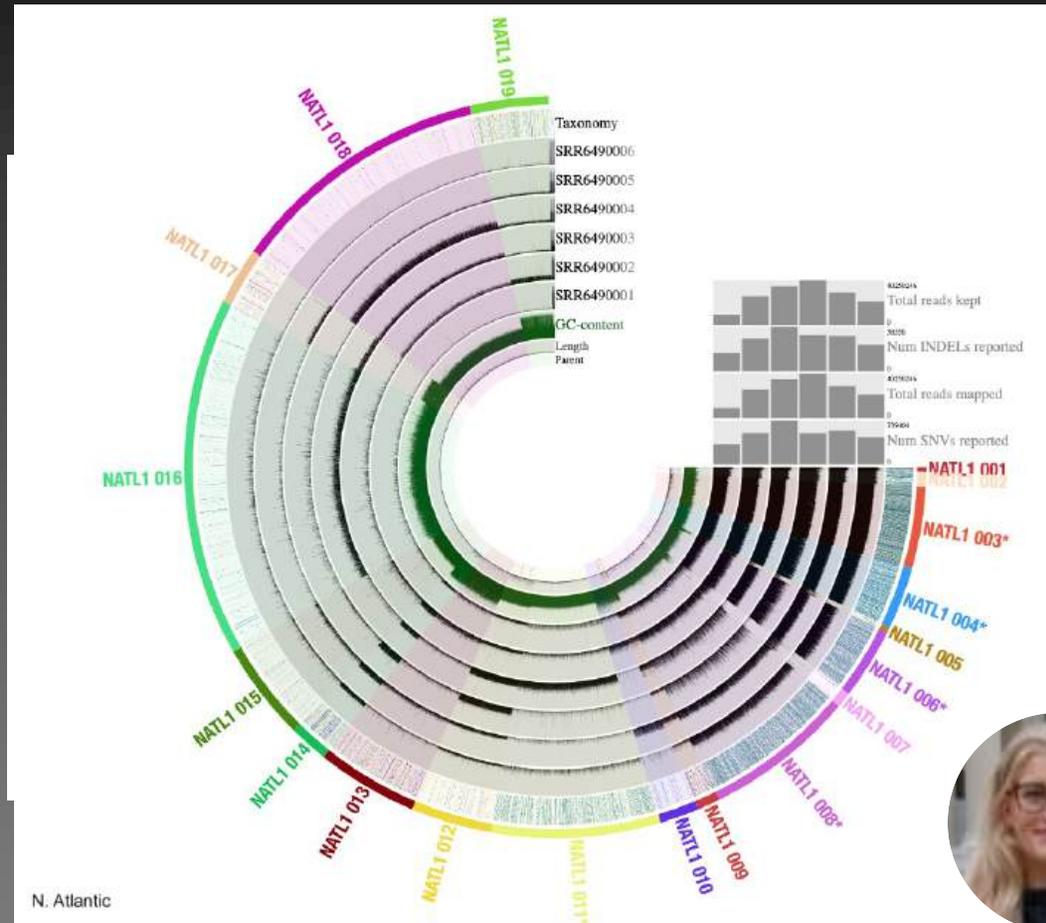
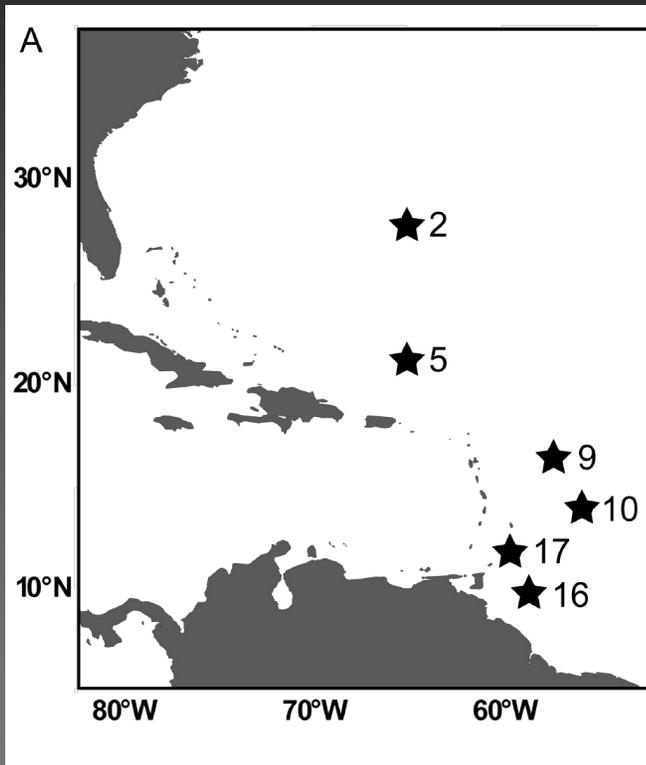
Metagenome derived metabolic potential in the *Trichodesmium* holobiont



Prodigal DIAMOND-BLAST
MEGAN KEGG

Trichodesmium colonies were isolated for metagenome sequencing along a phosphorus gradient in the western north Atlantic.

Composition of the holobiont

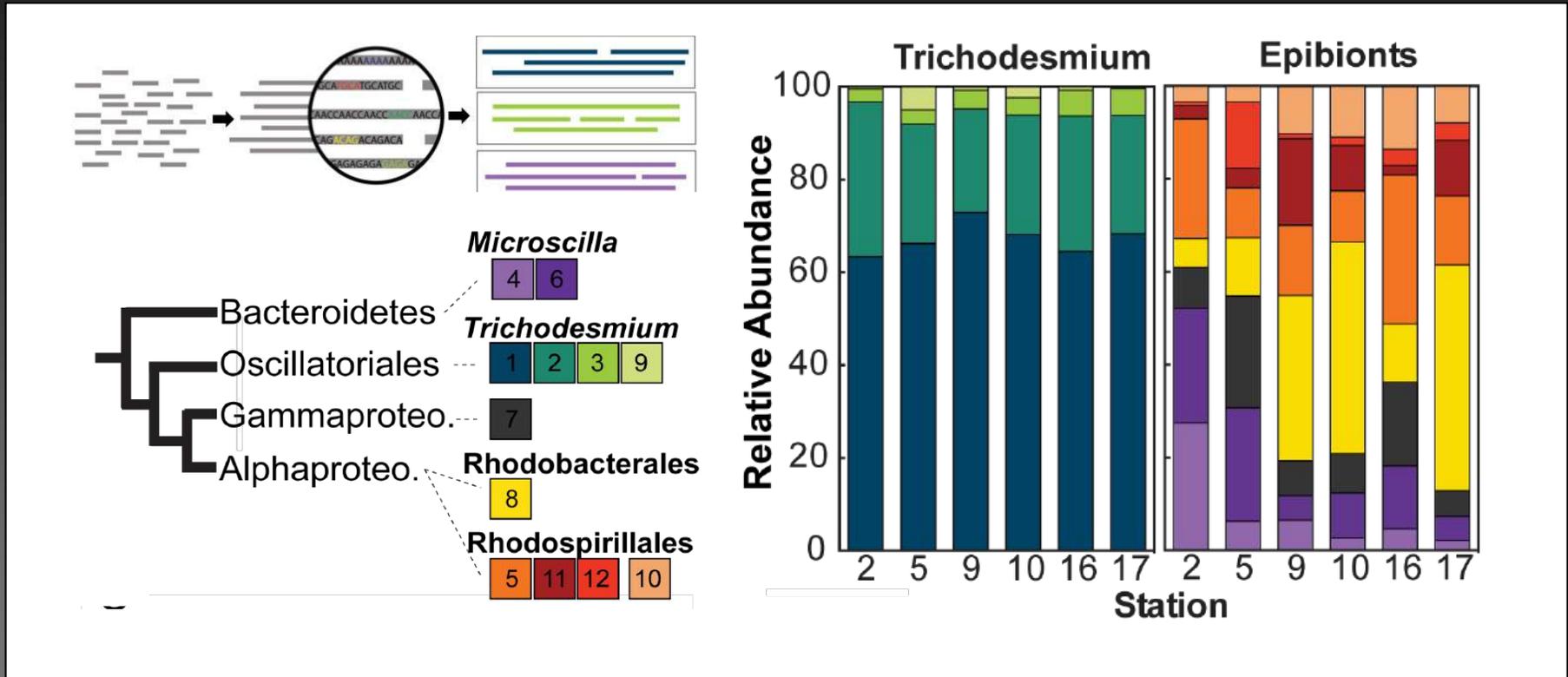


Nearly complete (~90%) genome bins were assembled and results are consistent with 16S data
= Metagenome assembled genome or MAG

Frischkorn et al. (2017) *ISMEJ*



Relative distribution of MAGs with read mapping

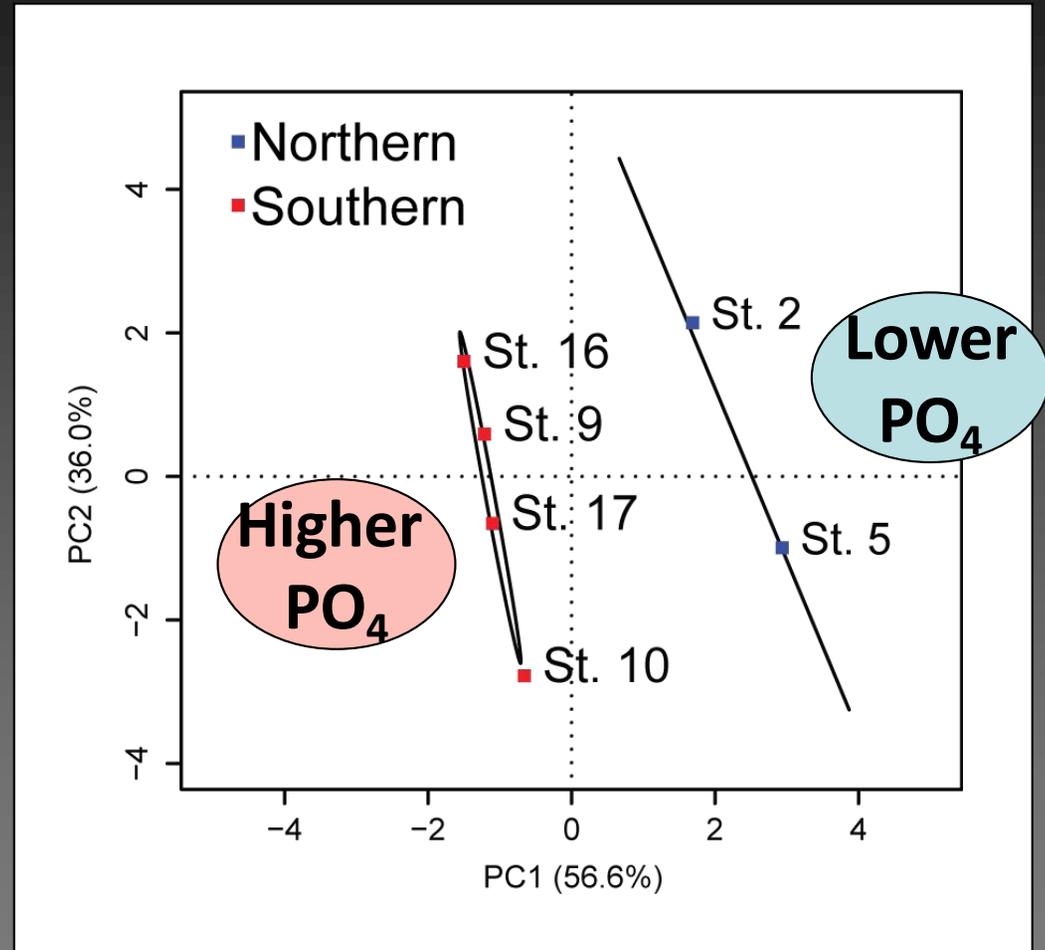
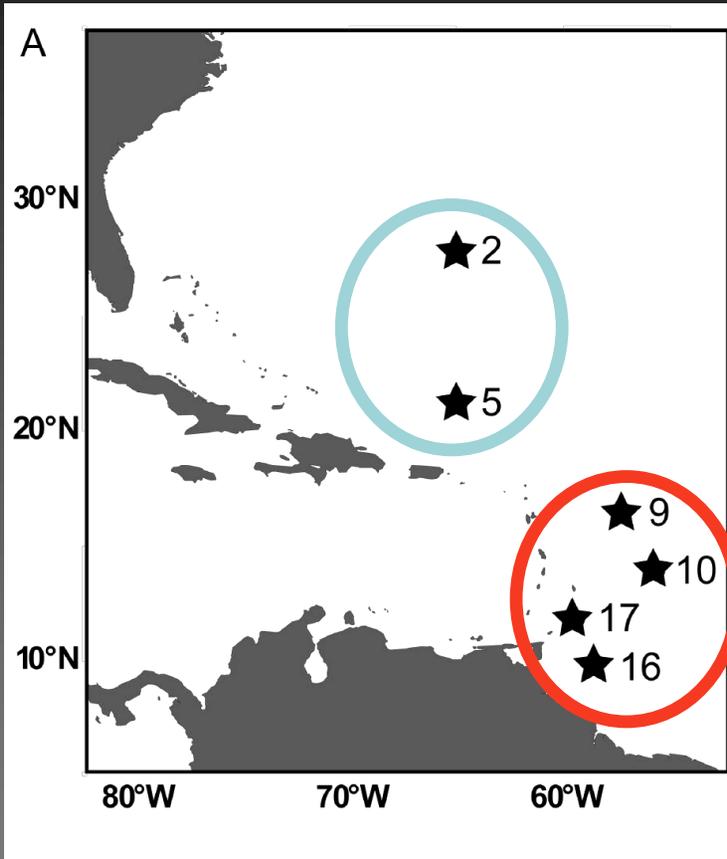


Frischkorn et al. (2017) *ISMEJ*

Relative proportion of *Trichodesmium* bins consistent across stations

Epibiont genome bins are detected at all stations, but the relative abundance varies

Significant differences across transect

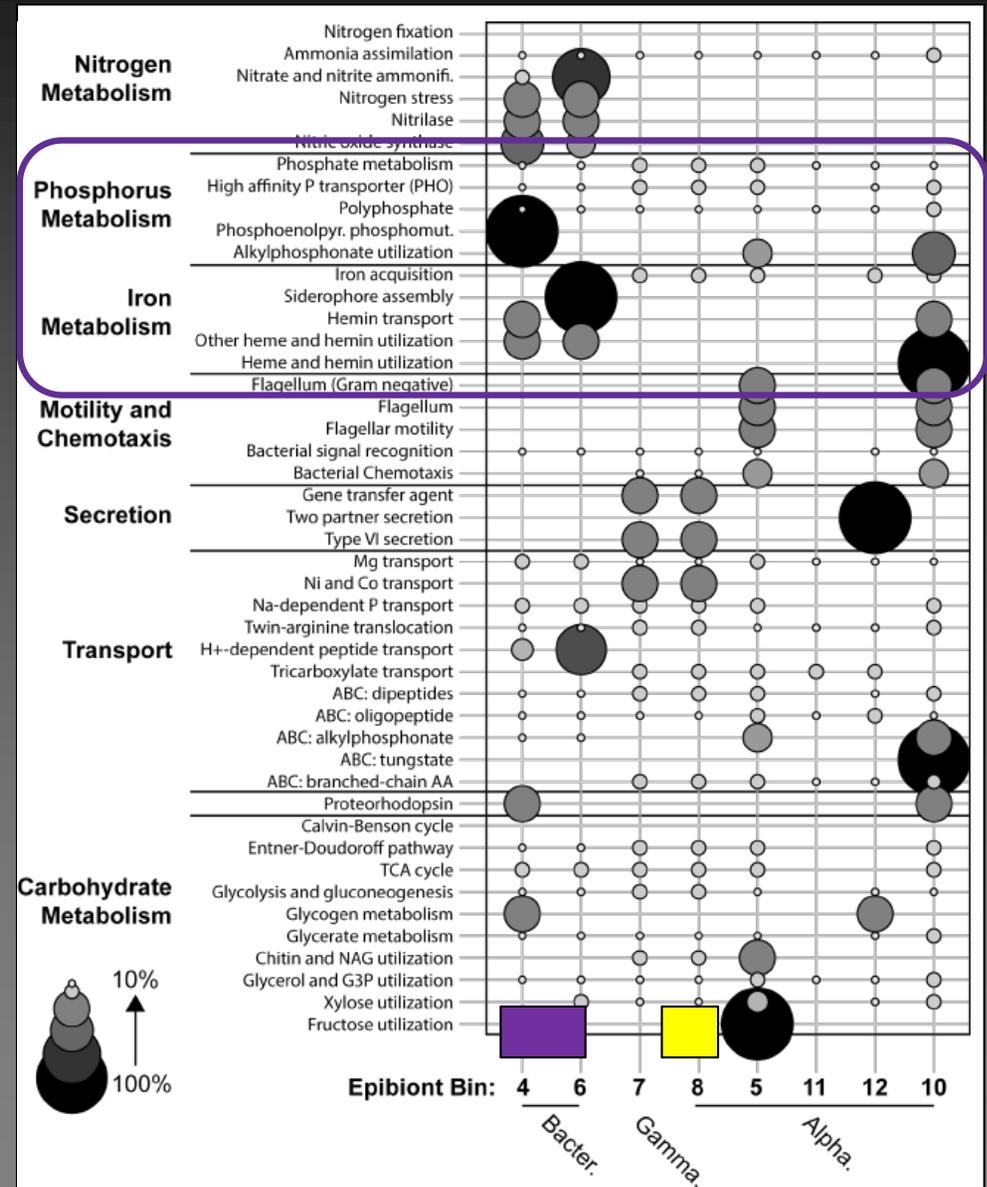
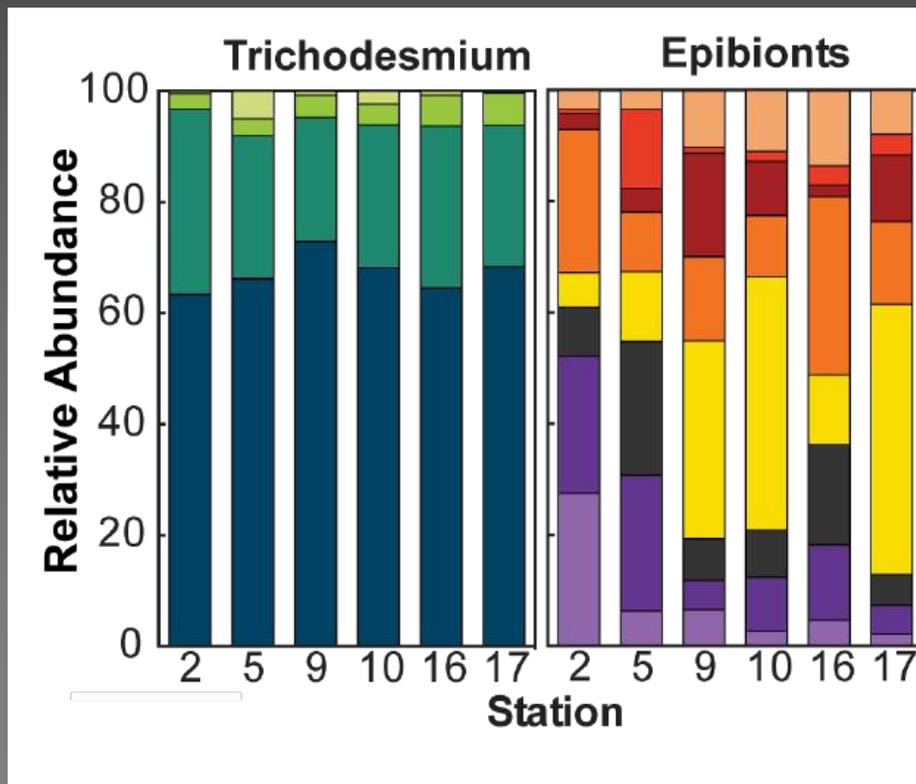


Frischkorn et al. (2017) *ISME J*

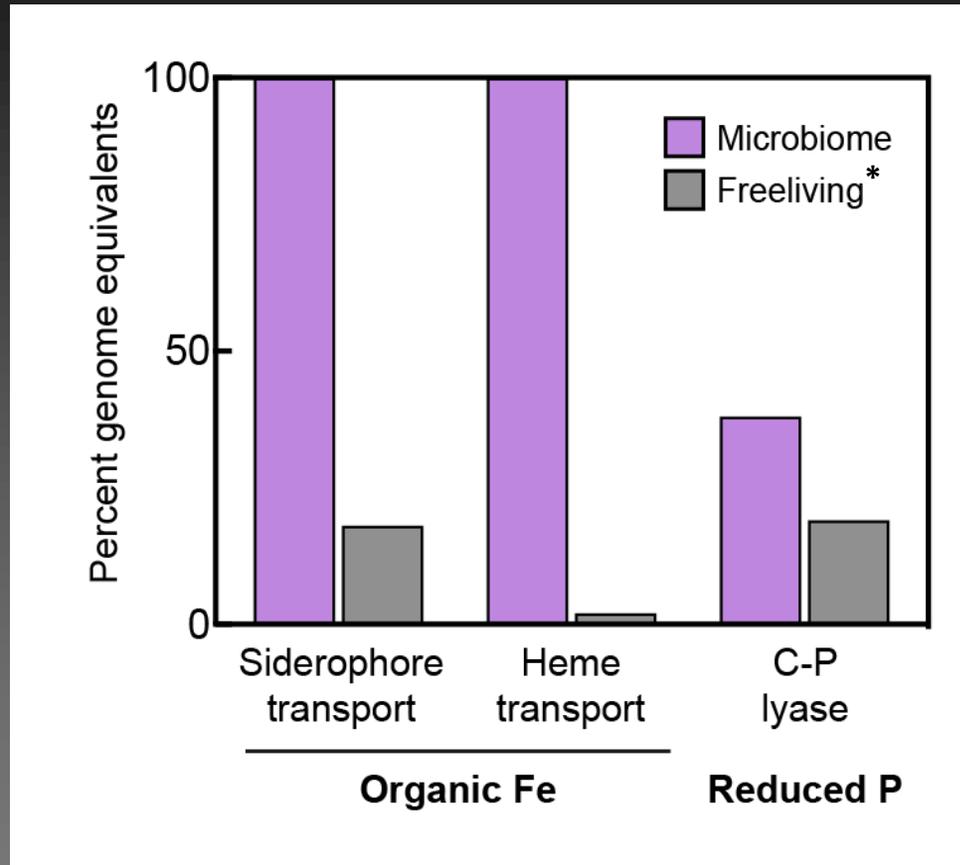
Significant difference in epibiont relative abundance with total dissolved phosphorus

Variable distribution of functional pathways among epibionts

- Differential pathway enrichment consistent with a microbiome that is modulated as a function of environment



Epibionts enrich holobiont for key functions



Frischkorn et al. (2017) ISME J

Phosphonate, heme and siderophore functions are enriched in the epibionts relative to water column microbes

Comparing metabolic potential in the holobiont



Metagenomes



Orthologous group
analysis



Epibionts v. *Trichodesmium*

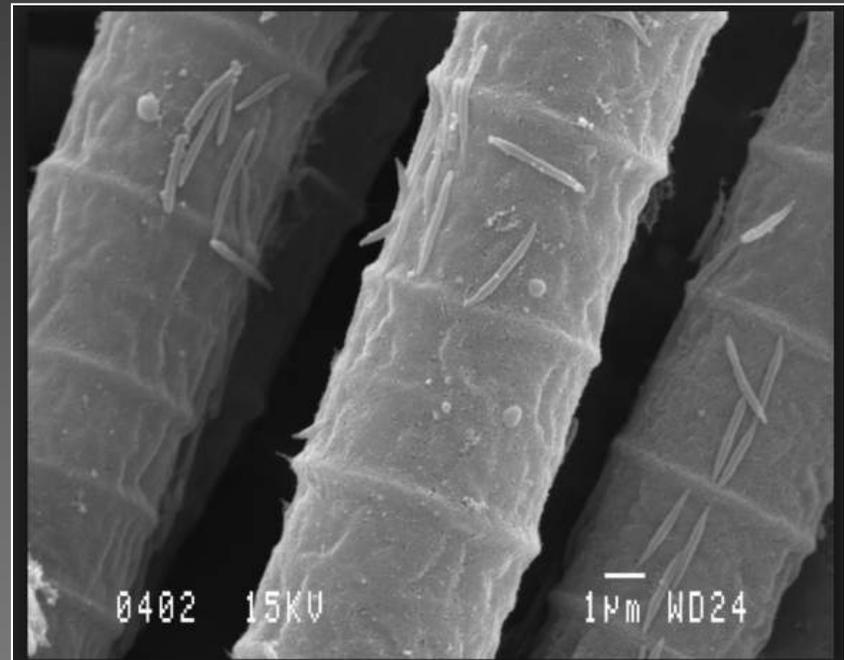
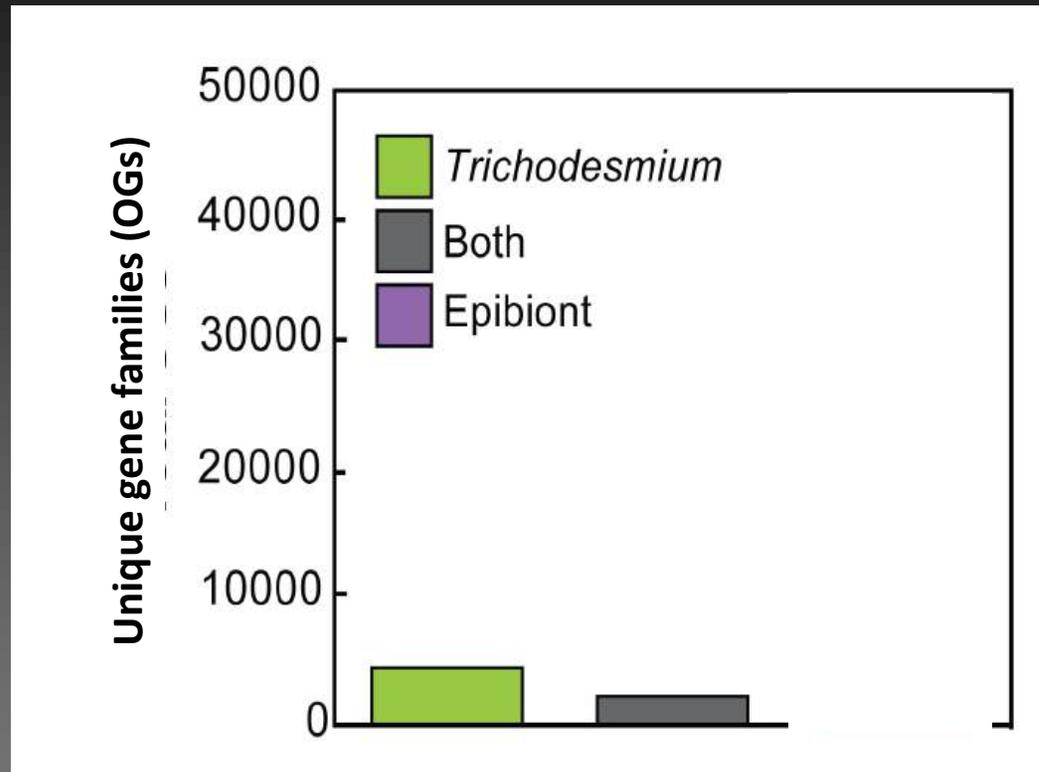


Image courtesy Tracy Mincer

Epibionts significant metabolic potential



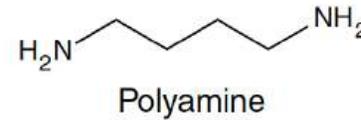
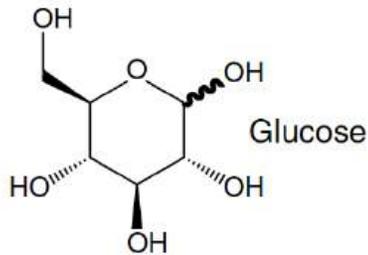
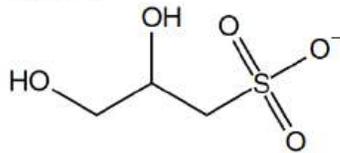
Frischkorn et al. (2017) *ISME J*

Orthologous (OG) group analysis suggests that epibionts confer the vast majority (>90% of OGs) of metabolic *functions* to the holobiont.

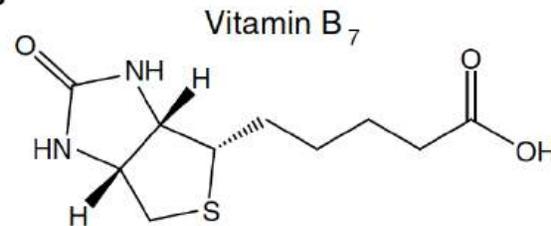
Chemical-microbe network within the *Trichodesmium* holobiont

Substrates sustain biomass production and element cycling

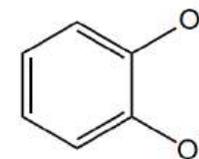
DHPS



Facilitators enable chemical reactions

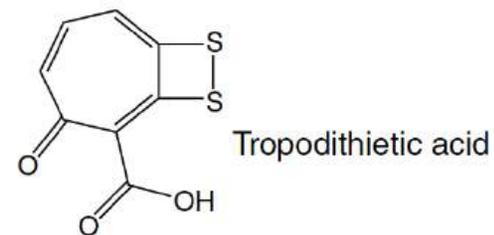
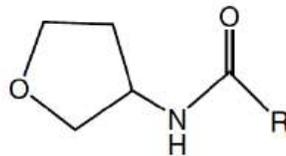


Catecholate siderophore



Signals alter microbial phenotypes

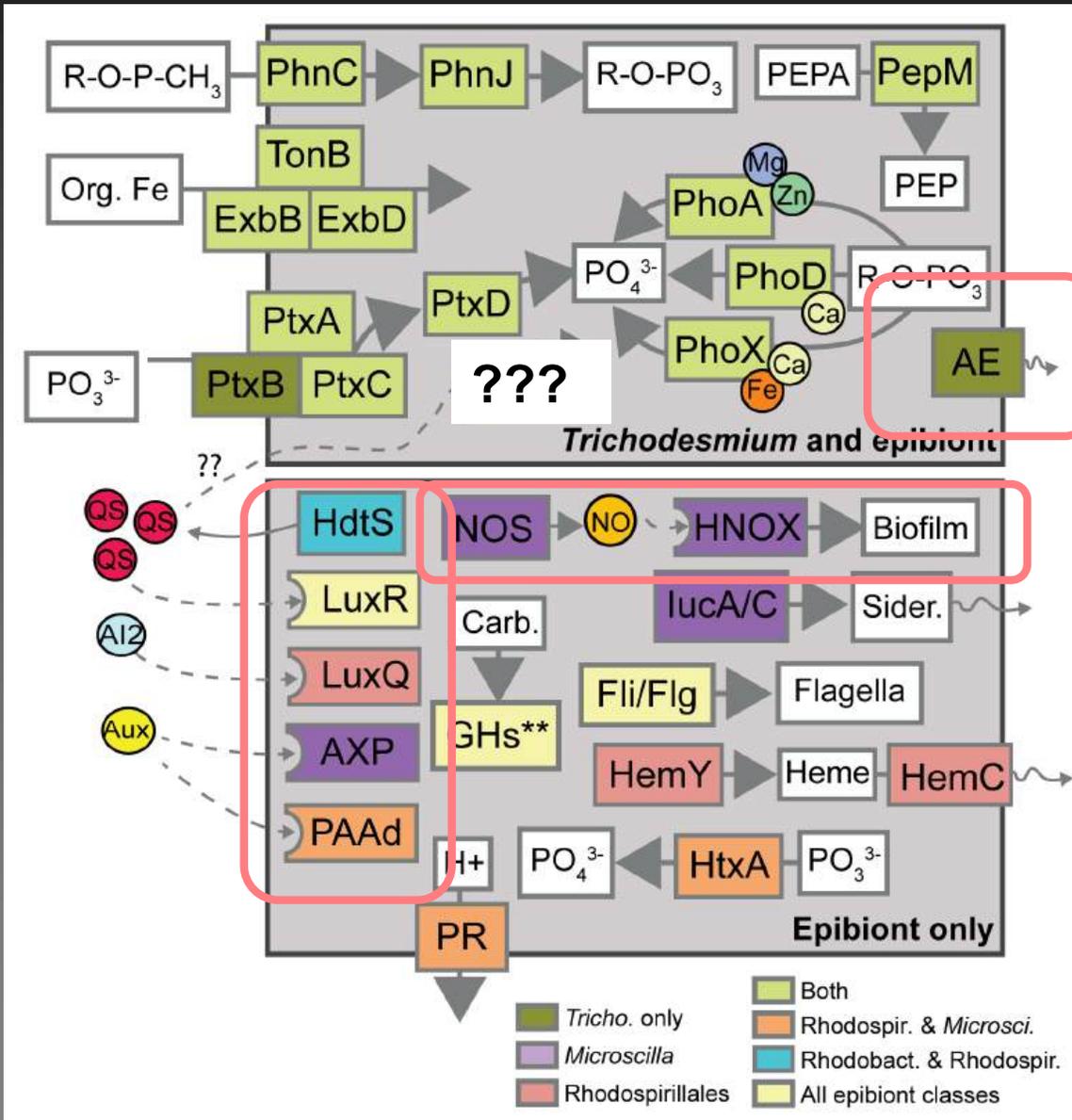
N-acyl homoserine lactone



Quorum Sensing

Moran et al. (2022) *Nature Micro.*

Microbial cross talk within the *Trichodesmium* holobiont



Auxin sensing and response

NO production

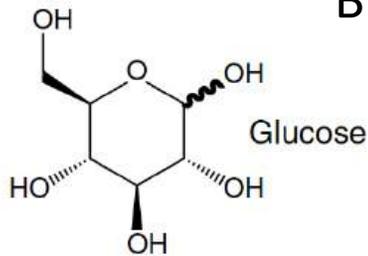
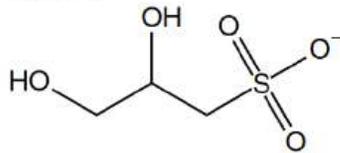
AHL QS Pathways are isolated to microbiome

QS and cell signaling

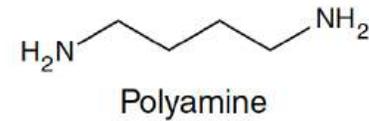
Chemical-microbe network within the *Trichodesmium* holobiont

Substrates sustain biomass production and element cycling

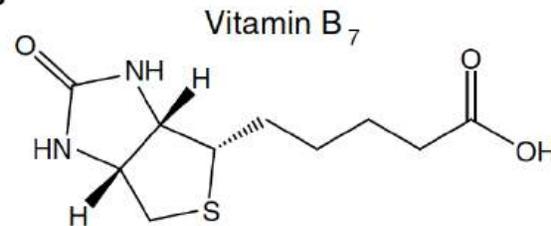
DHPS



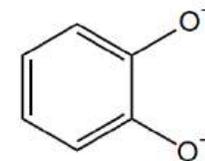
Organic Fe, P, C, N
B vitamins



Facilitators enable chemical reactions

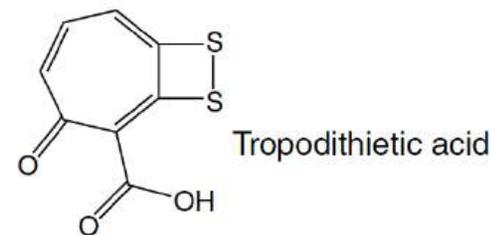
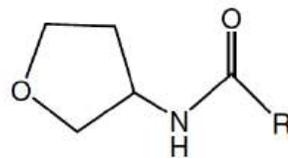


Catecholate siderophore



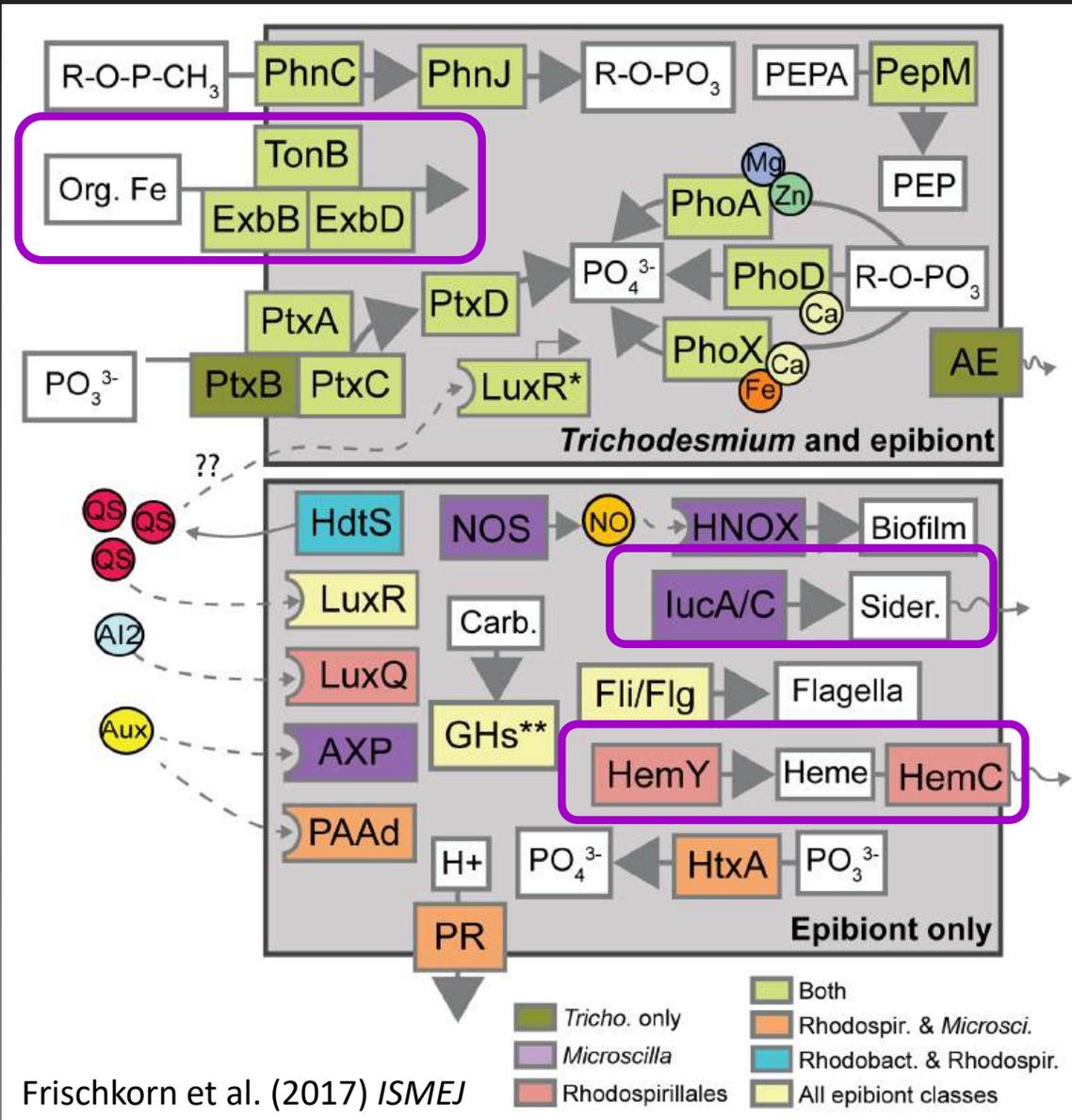
Signals alter microbial phenotypes

N-acyl homoserine lactone



Moran et al. (2022) *Nature Micro.*

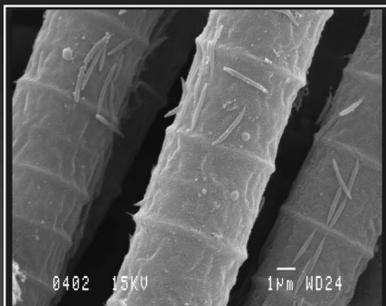
Metabolic partitioning within the *Trichodesmium* holobiont



Organic Iron

Epibionts can produce organic iron complexes that likely modulate iron in the holobiont microenvironment

Cultured epibionts produce siderophores in low iron media

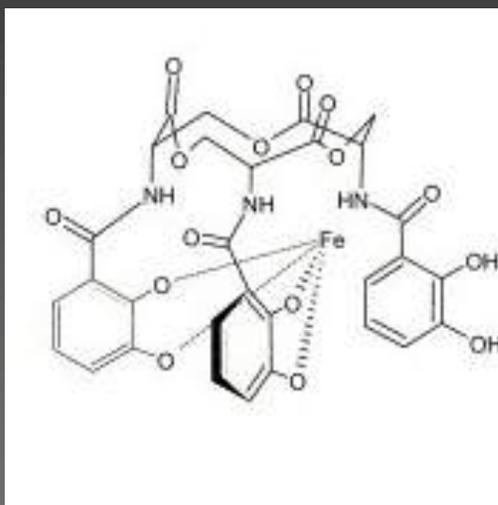


Isolate epibionts

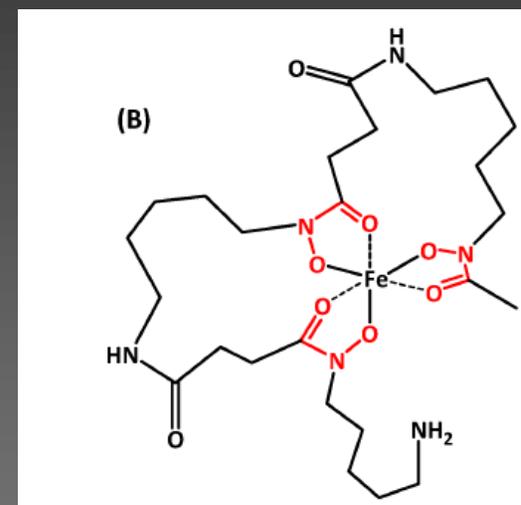


LC-MS

Aerobactin



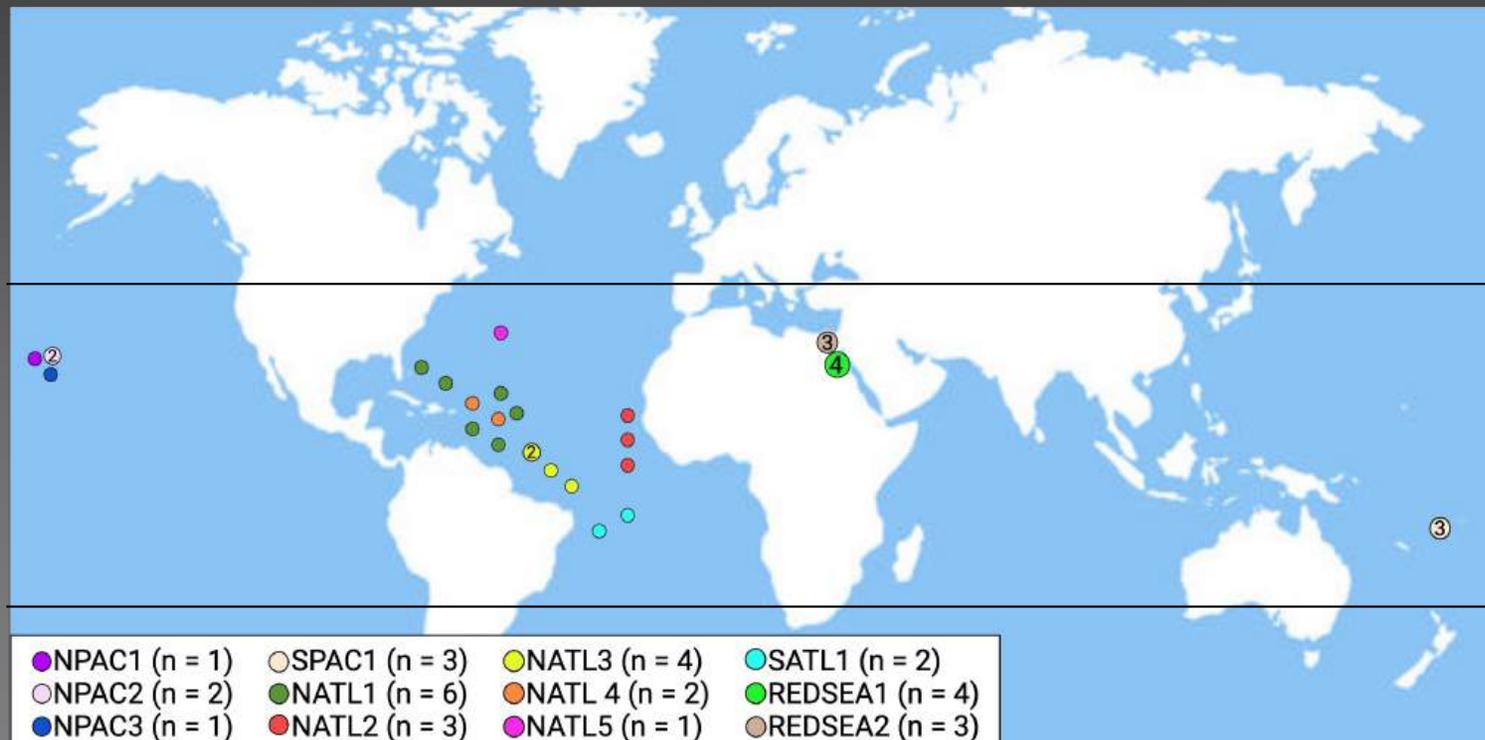
Desferrioxamine B



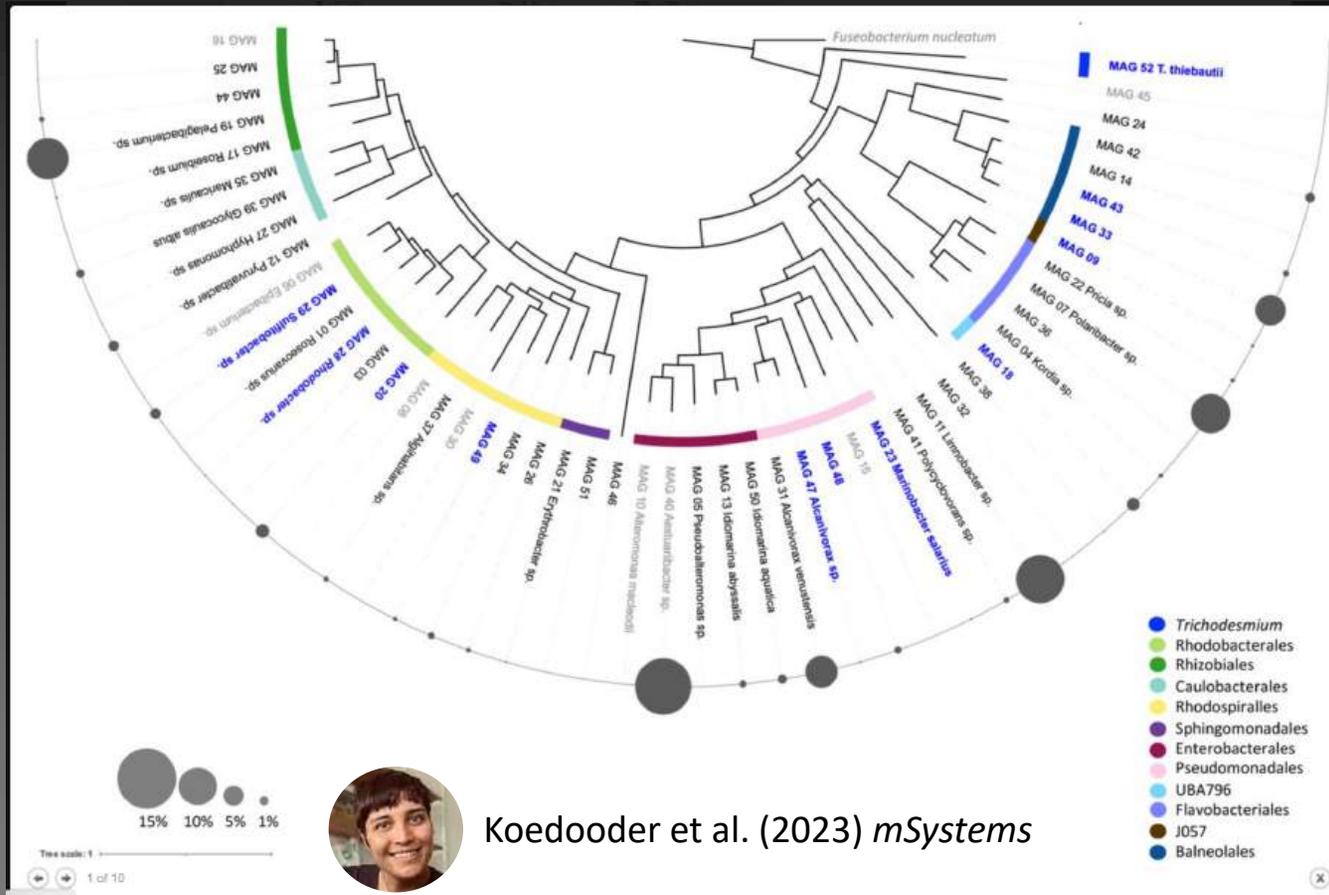
All six epibionts produce siderophores including those related to aerobactin and desferrioxamine consistent with MAG predictions and iron experiments.

More metagenome sequencing expands the analysis

What is the biogeography of *Trichodesmium* and epibiont traits as a function of changing ocean ecosystems?



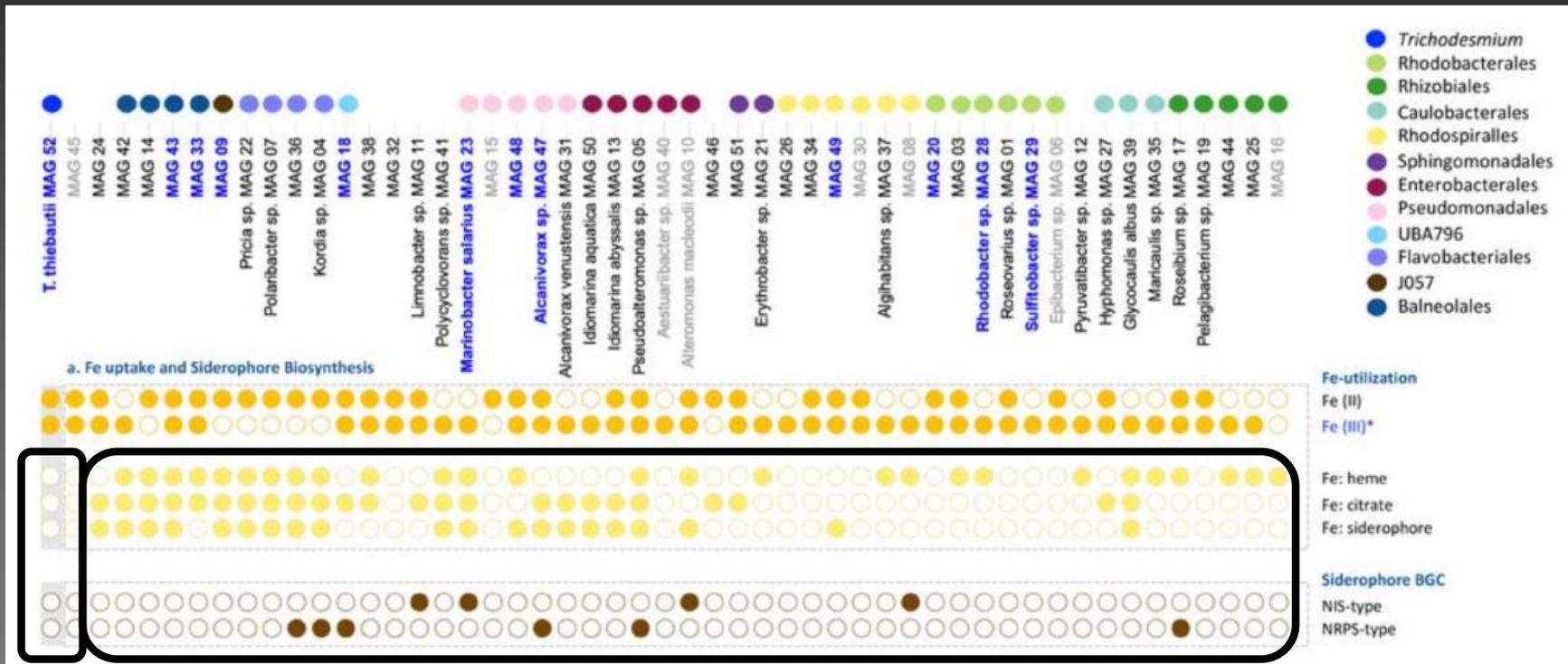
Epibiont distribution in Red Sea samples



43 >98% complete MAG
Broad similarities with North Atlantic samples

Ongoing effort in collaboration with Yeala Shaked

Red Sea epibionts carry enriched Fe traits relative to *Trichodesmium*



Koedooder et al. (2023) *mSystems*

User need for genome/pan genome data integration

Common frameworks and accessible data types facilitate team-science.

Digital Microbe: A Genome-Informed Data Integration Framework for Collaborative Research on Emerging Model Organisms

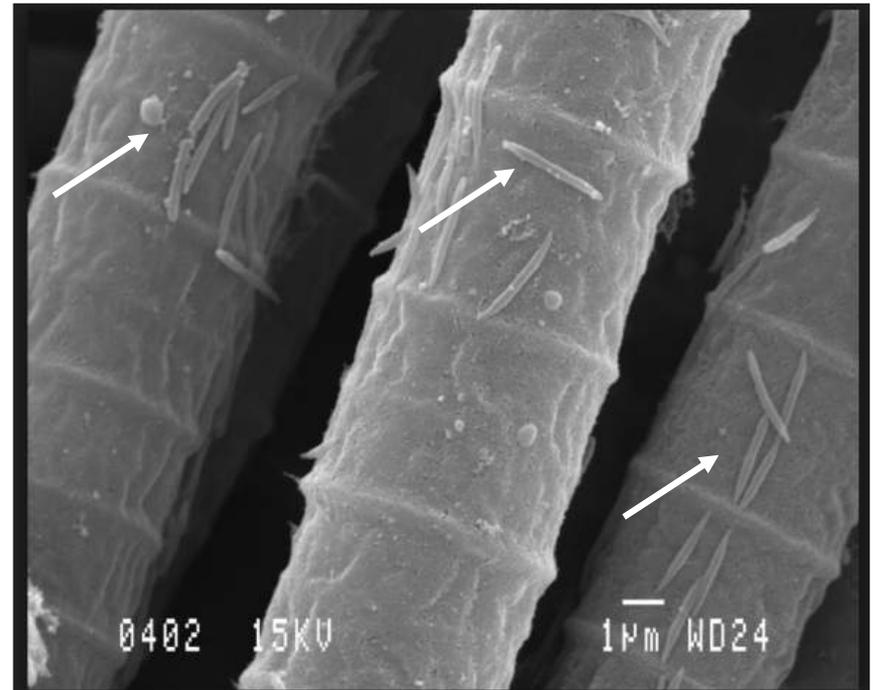


Iva Veseli^{1,‡}, Zachary S. Cooper^{2,‡}, Michelle A. DeMers^{3,‡}, Matthew S. Schechter⁴, Samuel Miller⁵, Laura Weber⁶, Christa B. Smith², Lidimarie T. Rodriguez⁷, William F. Schroer², Matthew R. McIlvin⁶, Paloma Z. Lopez⁶, Makoto Saito⁶, Sonya Dyhrman⁸, A. Murat Eren^{5,9,10,11,†}, Mary Ann Moran^{2,†}, Rogier Braakman^{3,†}

Veseli et al. (2024) *Scientific Data*

Summary

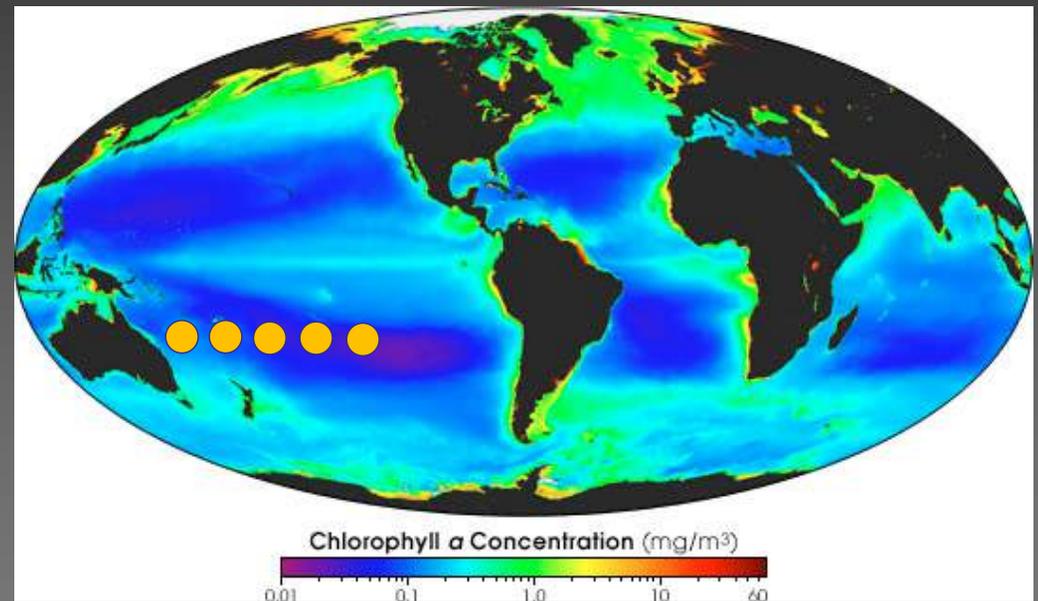
- *Trichodesmium* epibionts are functionally diverse, and these functions suggest complex interactions within holobiont (substrates, signals)
- Common workflows and accessible data types help facilitate collaborative-science.
- Now we are looking at how those metagenomic functions are expressed.....



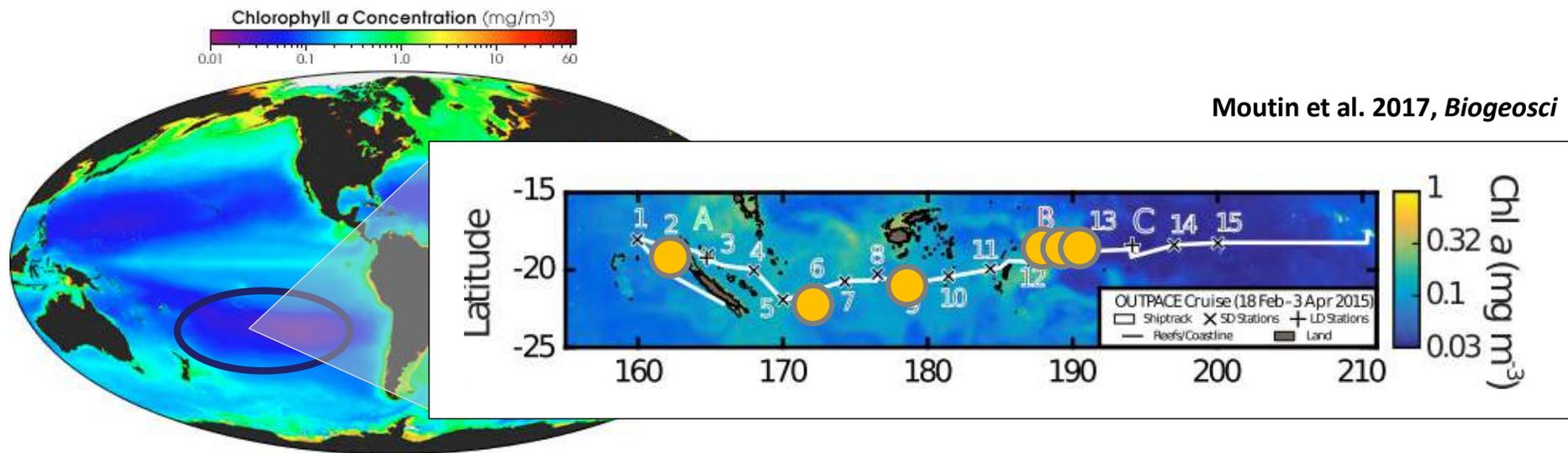
Coordinated analysis of phosphorus cycling

- South Pacific is undersampled and the dynamics of the *Trichodesmium* holobiont are not well understood
- Unique opportunity to sample metagenome, metatranscriptome, and key activities.
- Is there evidence of holobiont phosphorus reduction and cycling in this environment?

OUTPACE



Physiological ecology of *Trichodesmium* and its microbiome in the western tropical South Pacific

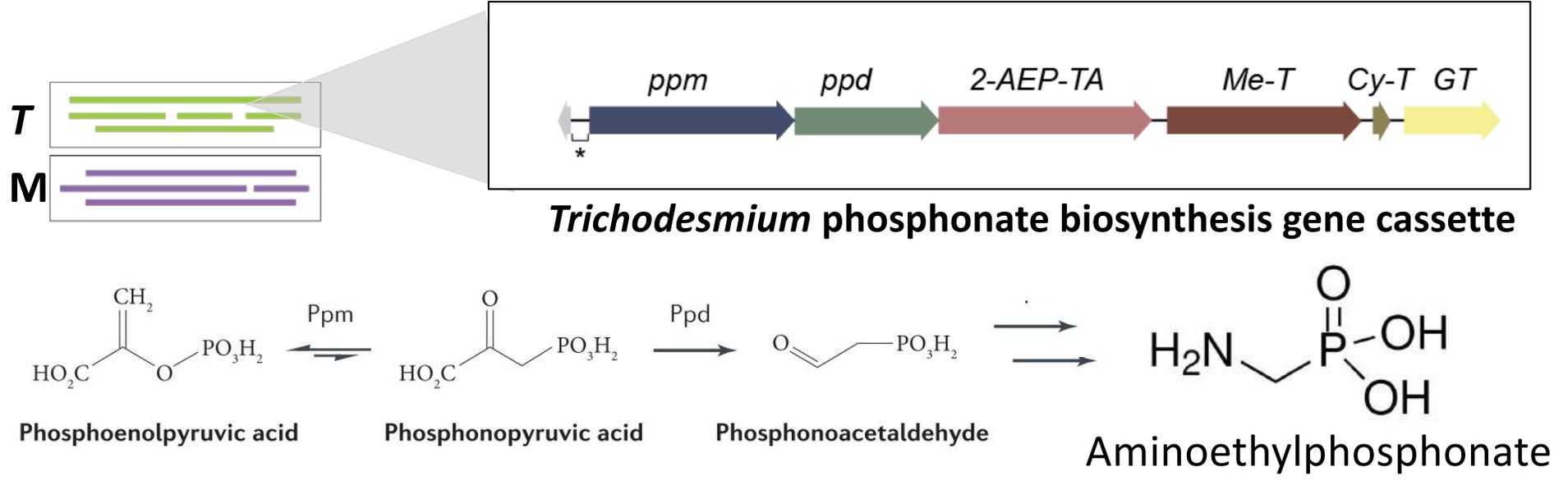


- *Trichodesmium*
- Metagenome
- Metatranscriptome
- P reduction

Metatranscriptomes



Metagenomic evidence of P reduction



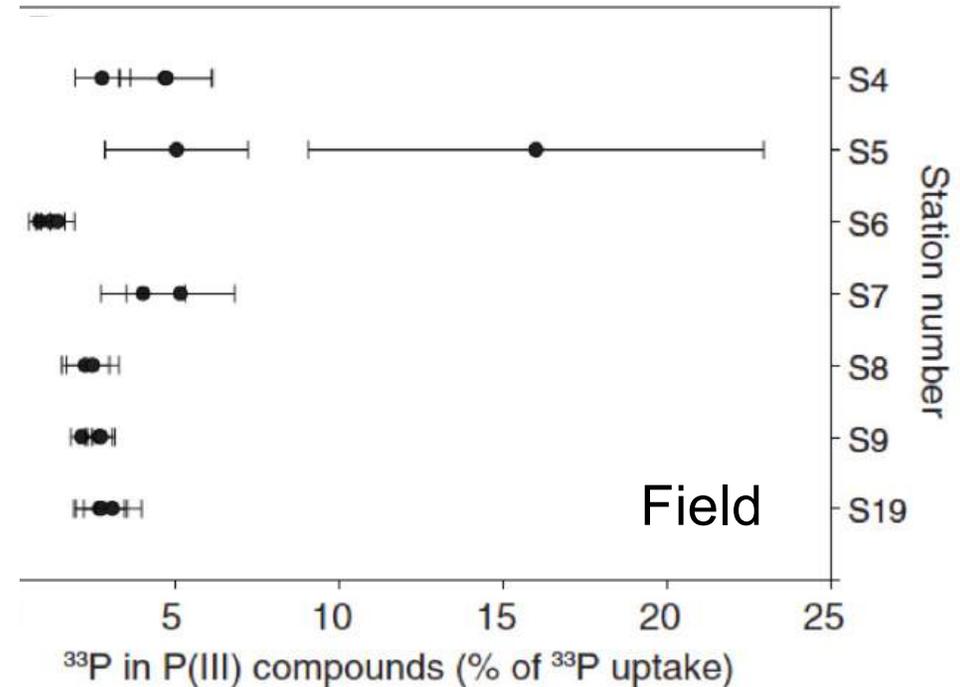
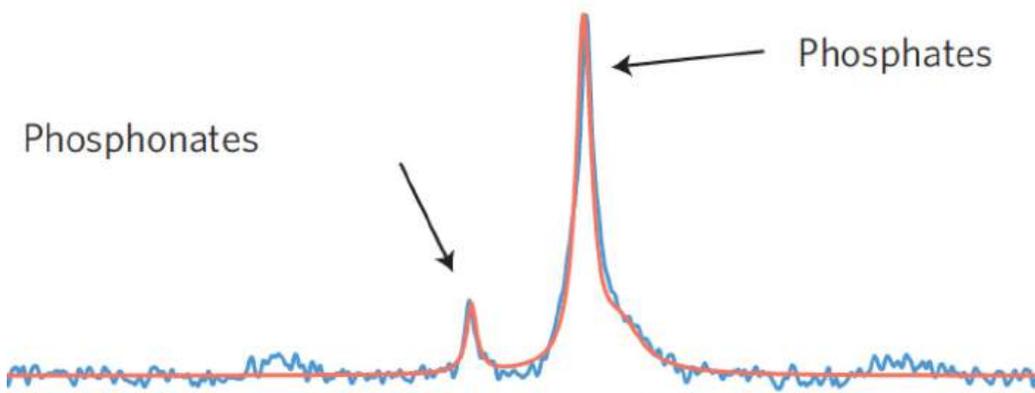
Complete gene set for phosphonate biosynthesis assembled in *Trichodesmium* genome bin (MAG).



Answers to enduring mysteries... who makes C-P compounds?

Phosphonate (C-P) biosynthesis

Enrichment Culture



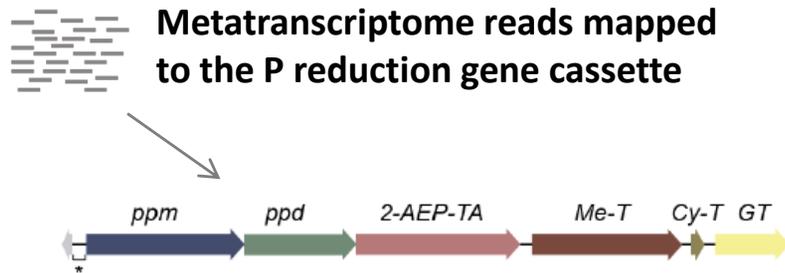
Dyhrman et al. (2009) *Nature Geo.*

Van Mooy et al. (2015) *Science*

Phosphonates are produced at high rates in the holobiont - metagenomic signal suggests this is related to *Trichodesmium* production

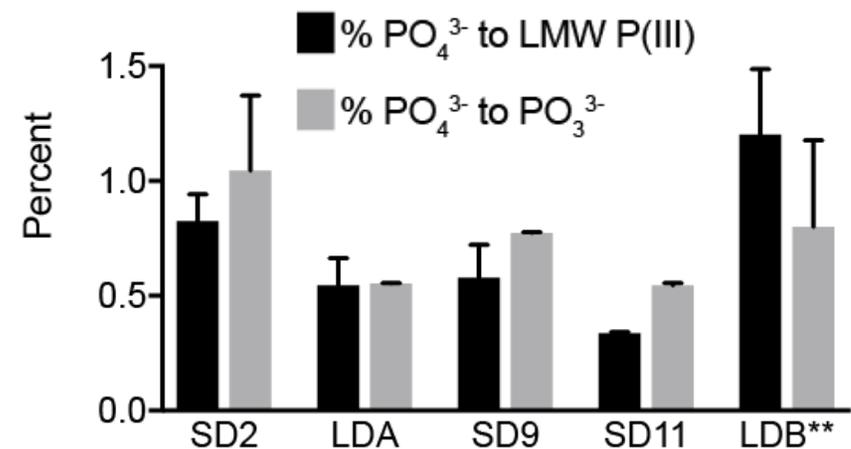
Genes are expressed with P reduction

Measure gene expression



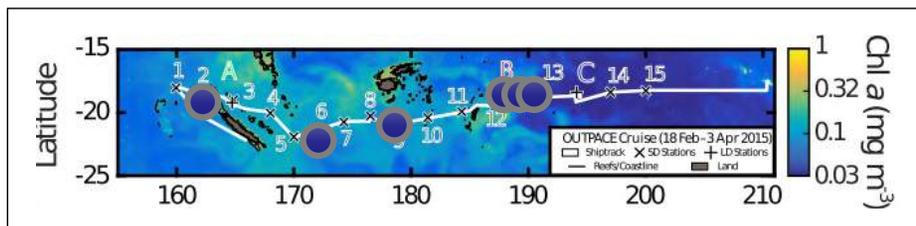
Measure phosphate reduction

Percentage of radiolabeled phosphate taken up and reduced by *Trichodesmium* colonies



*methylphosphonate, phosphonoacetylaldehyde, or 2-aminoethylphosphonate

Frischkorn et al. (2018) *Biogeoscience*



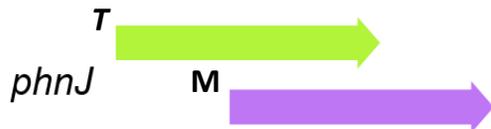
- ✓ Genes detected
- ✓ Genes expressed
- ✓ Activity measured
- ? P cycling

Evidence for metabolism of reduced phosphorus compounds in *Trichodesmium* and the microbiome

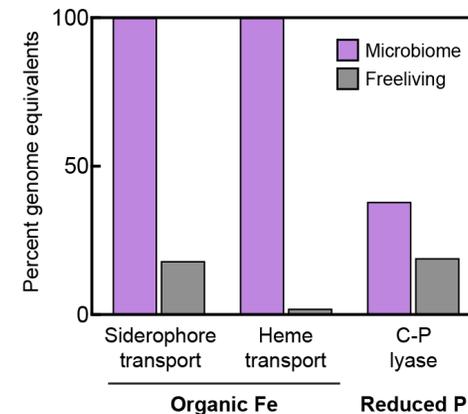
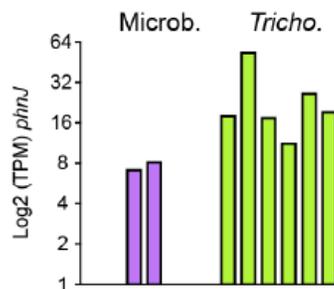


Query for C-P metabolism:
Phosphonate C-P lyase (*phnJ*)

✓ Genes detected

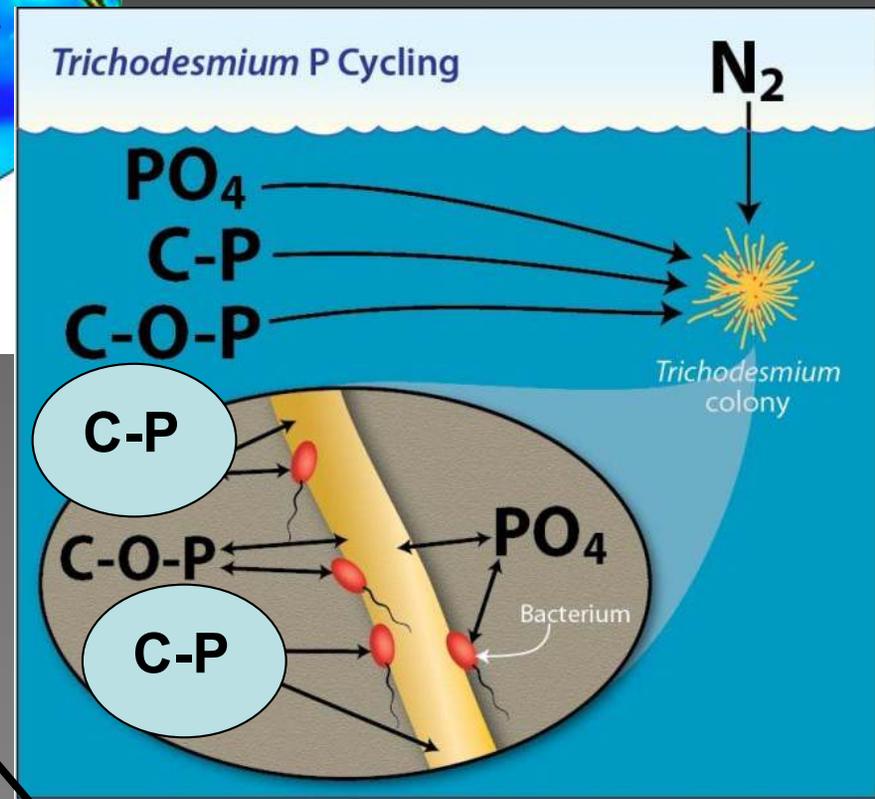
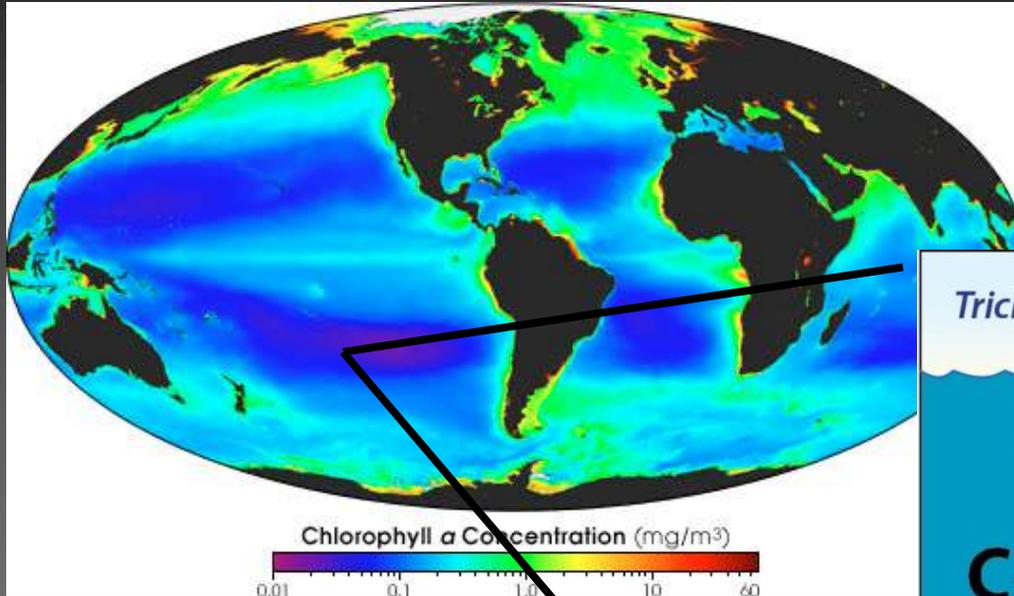


✓ Genes expressed



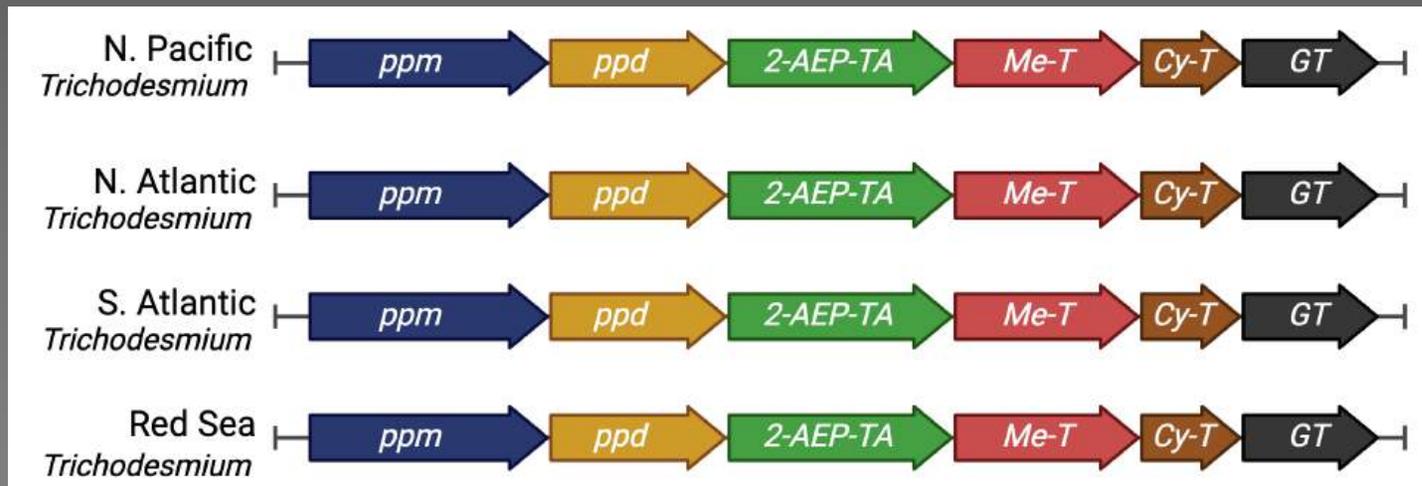
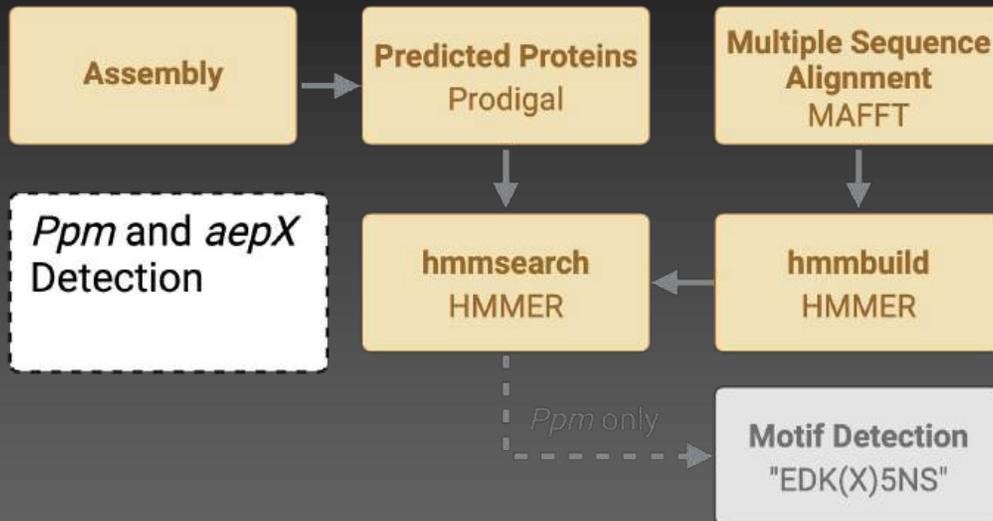
Ability to metabolize reduced P
is enriched in *Trichodesmium*
microbiome

Novel P currencies used in holobiont...



Mitigate competition
for scarce resource?

Ongoing analysis of phosphonate biosynthesis and uptake biogeography



Maybach et al. unpubl.

Summary

- Need to think about *Trichodesmium* as a holobiont with a broader metabolic potential than just *Trichodesmium* alone.
- Microbiome is distinct and varies as a function of environment
- Holobiont is a potential hot-spot of reduced phosphorus cycling.
- *Consistency of epibiont diversity and functional capacity across environments?*
 - Metagenomes and metatranscriptomes from different environments

Core questions about the *Trichodesmium* microbiome

Who is there?

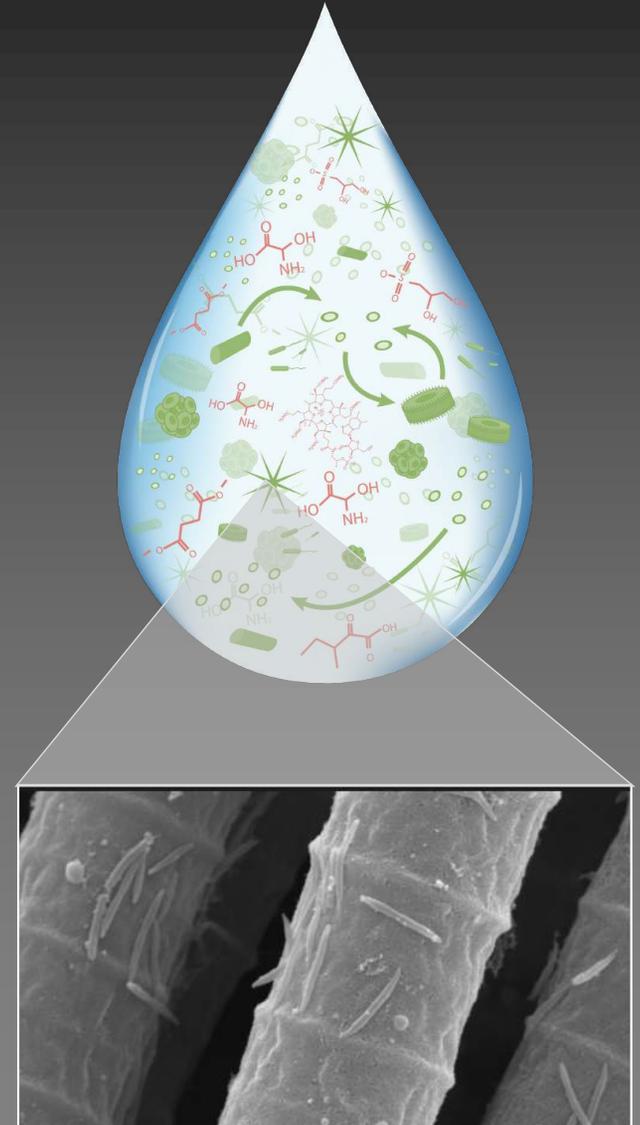
- **Diverse community, distinct from water column**

What are they doing?

- **Microbiome contributes functional diversity to community**

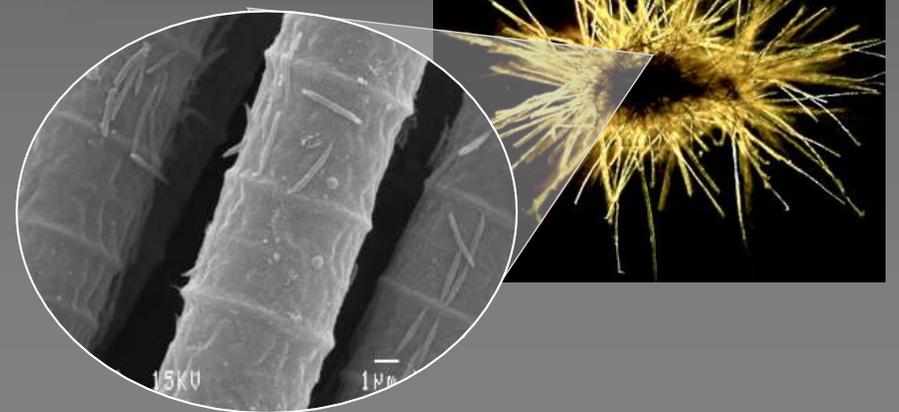
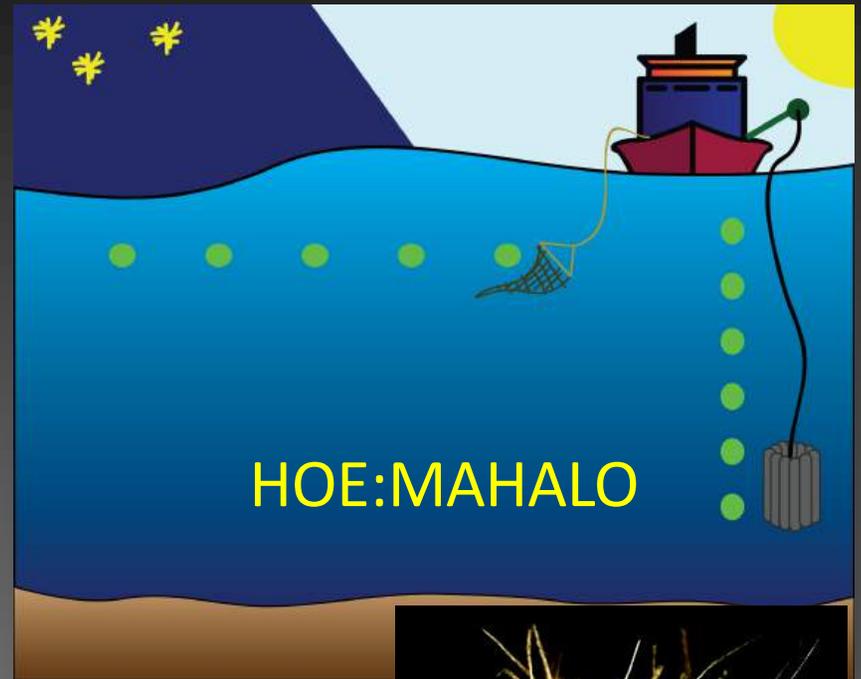
Are they interacting?

- **Diel patterns in the holobiont**

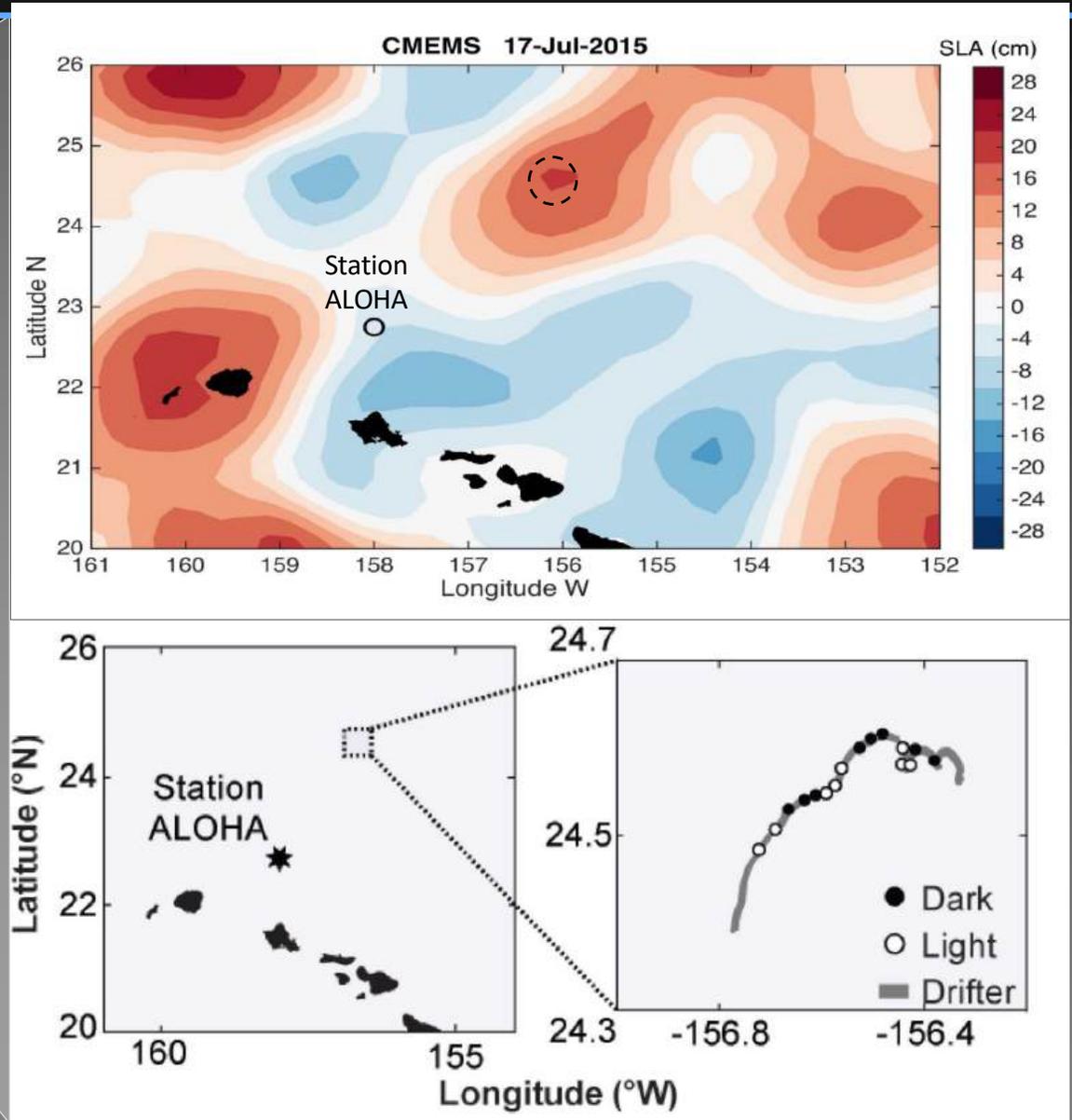
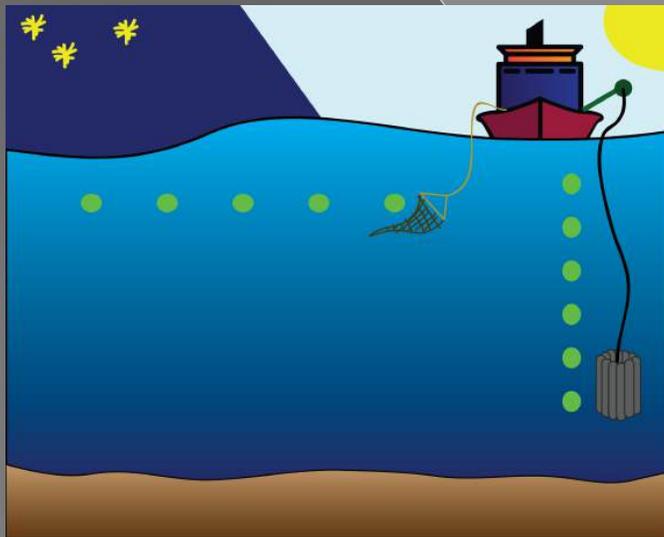
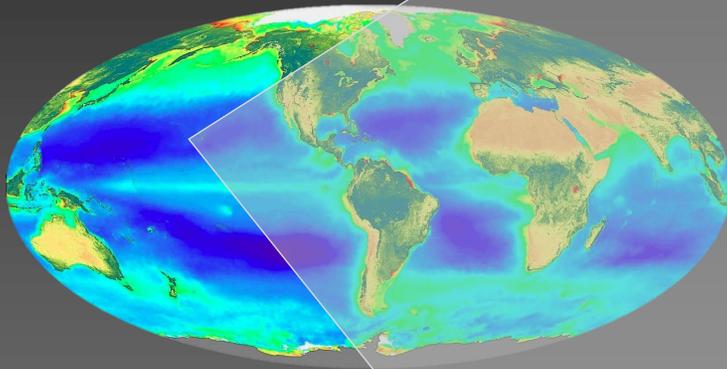


Using light to study interactions

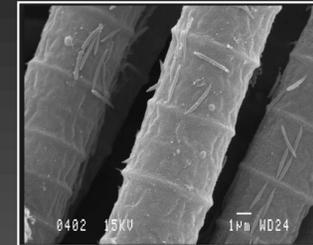
- Light drives diel changes in *Trichodesmium* CO₂ and N₂ fixation
- Do epibionts have diel responses, and what might they tell us about interactions between the host and microbiome?



Sampling light driven responses in the NPSG



Coordinated expression dynamics in host and microbiome



Metatranscriptomes



Orthologous group
analysis



Periodicity: RAIN
Co-expression: WGCNA

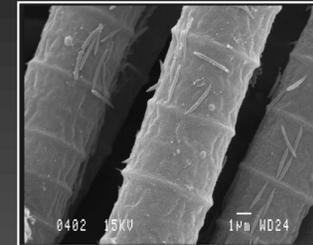


<https://omictools.com/rhythmicity-analysis-incorporating-nonparametric-methods-tool>

<https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-9-559>



Coordinated expression dynamics in host and microbiome



Metatranscriptomes



Orthologous group
analysis



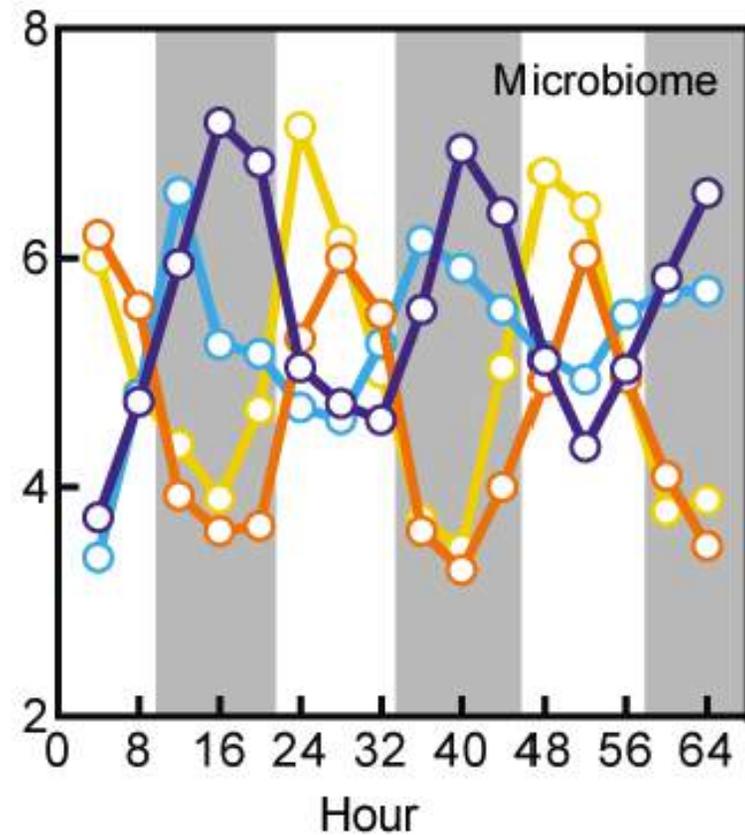
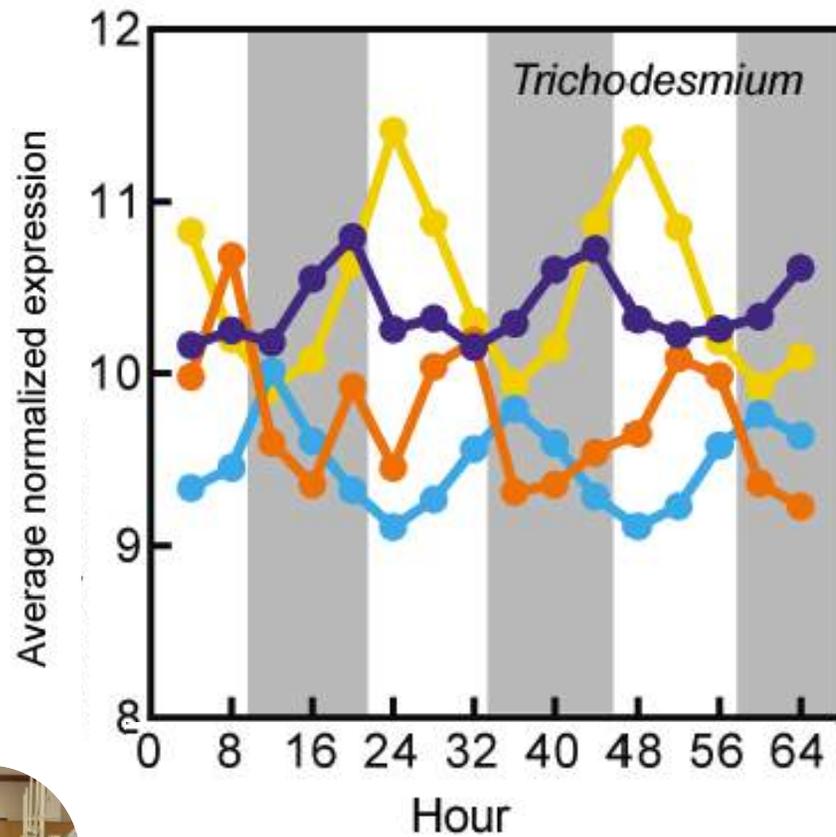
Periodicity: RAIN
Co-expression: WGCNA



<https://omictools.com/rhythmicity-analysis-incorporating-nonparametric-methods-tool>

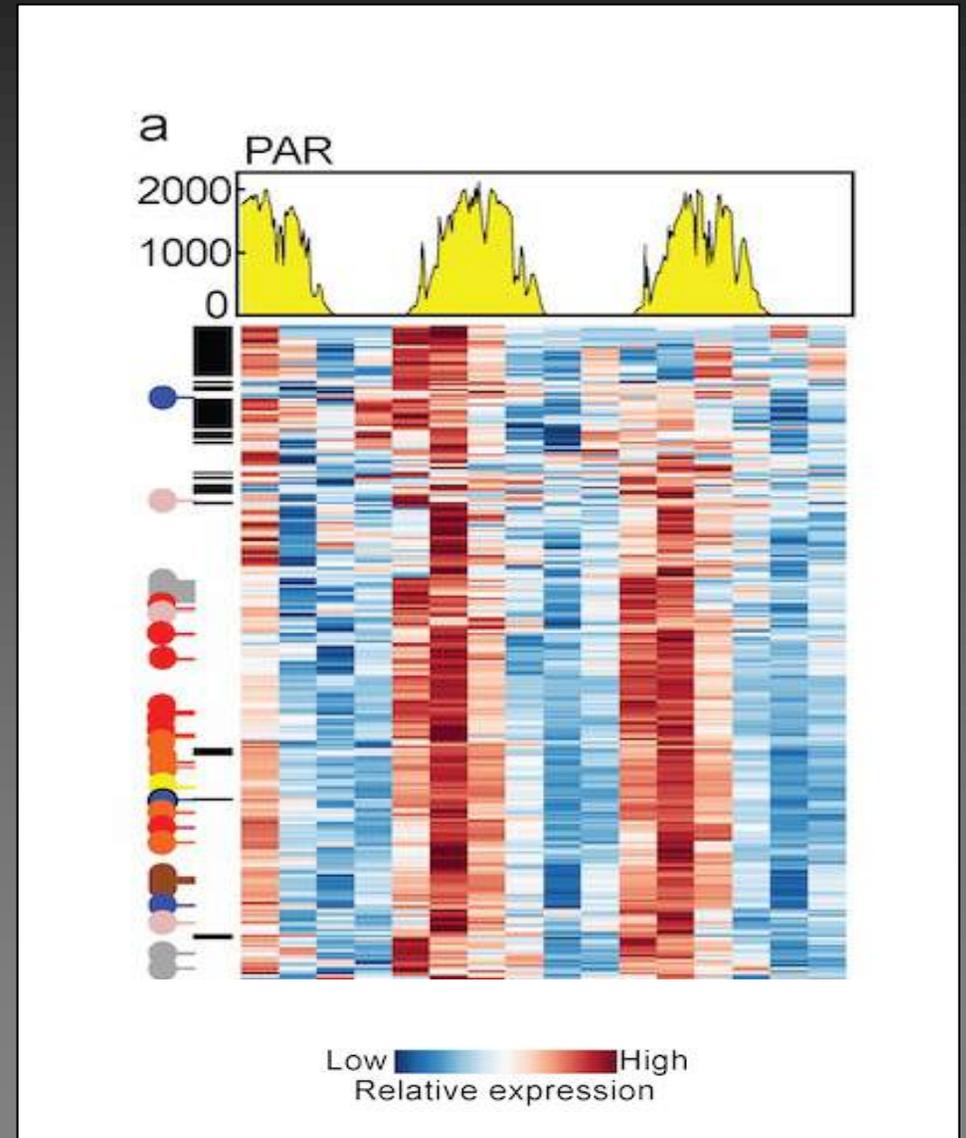
<https://bmcbioinformatics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2105-9-559>

Diel modulation of transcripts in *Trichodesmium*

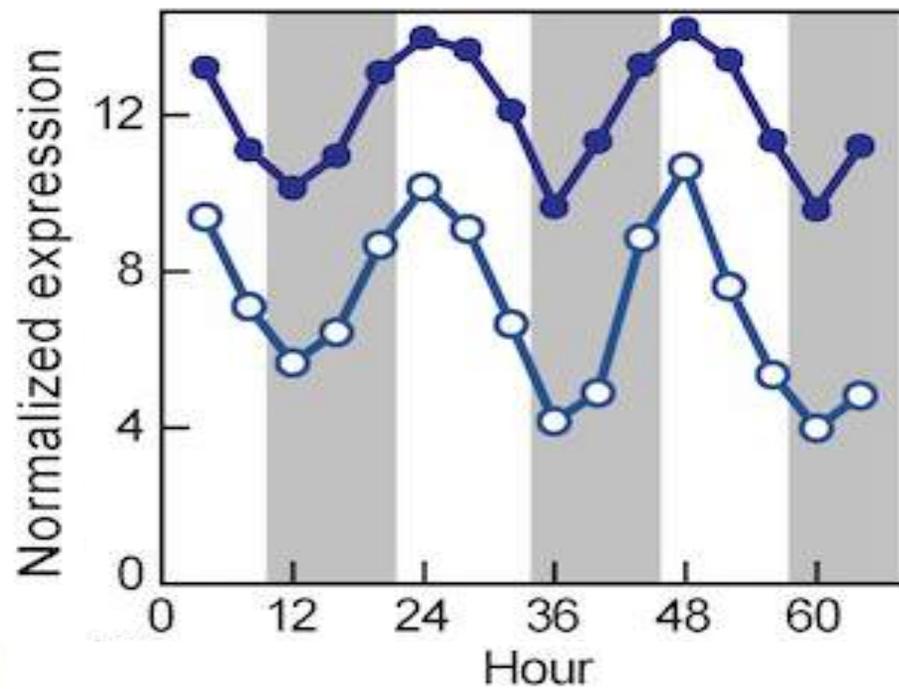


WGCNA co-expression network

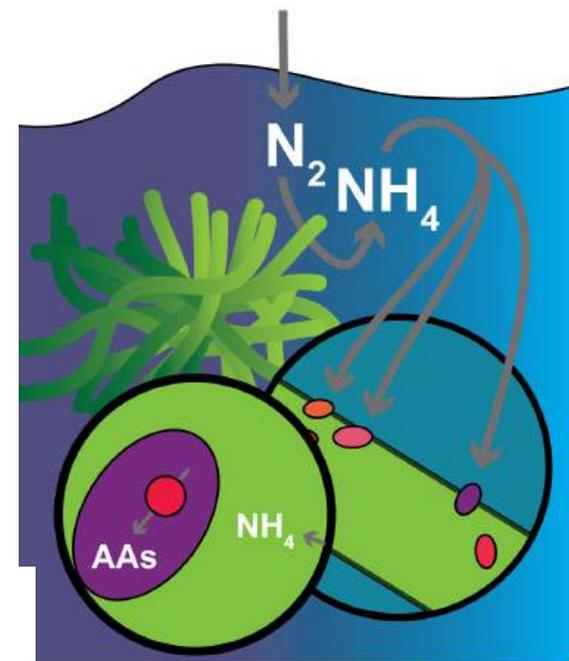
Module example: Significantly coordinated expression patterns between *Trichodesmium* and microbiome.



Diel modulation of transcripts suggest coordination: Nitrogen



- *Tricho. nitrogenase avg.*
- *Microbiome N metab. avg.*



Summary

- The microbiome and *Trichodesmium* are interacting!
 - Nitrogen
 - Carbon
 - Vitamin B12, P, Fe etc.
- Heterotrophic epibionts have striking diel signals that likely underpin signaling, substrate exchanges and other activities in the holobiont.

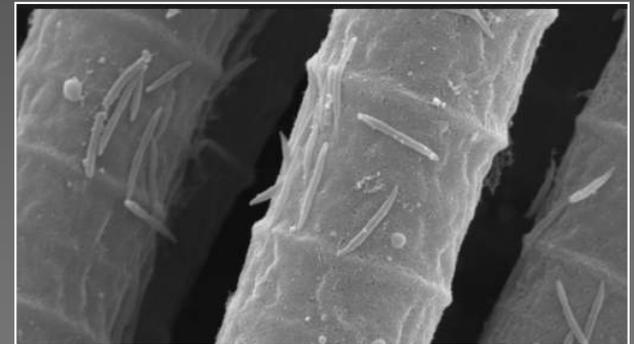
Core questions about the *Trichodesmium* microbiome

Who is there?

- **Diverse community, distinct from water column**

What are they doing?

- **Microbiome contributes functional diversity to community**



Host → Microbiome

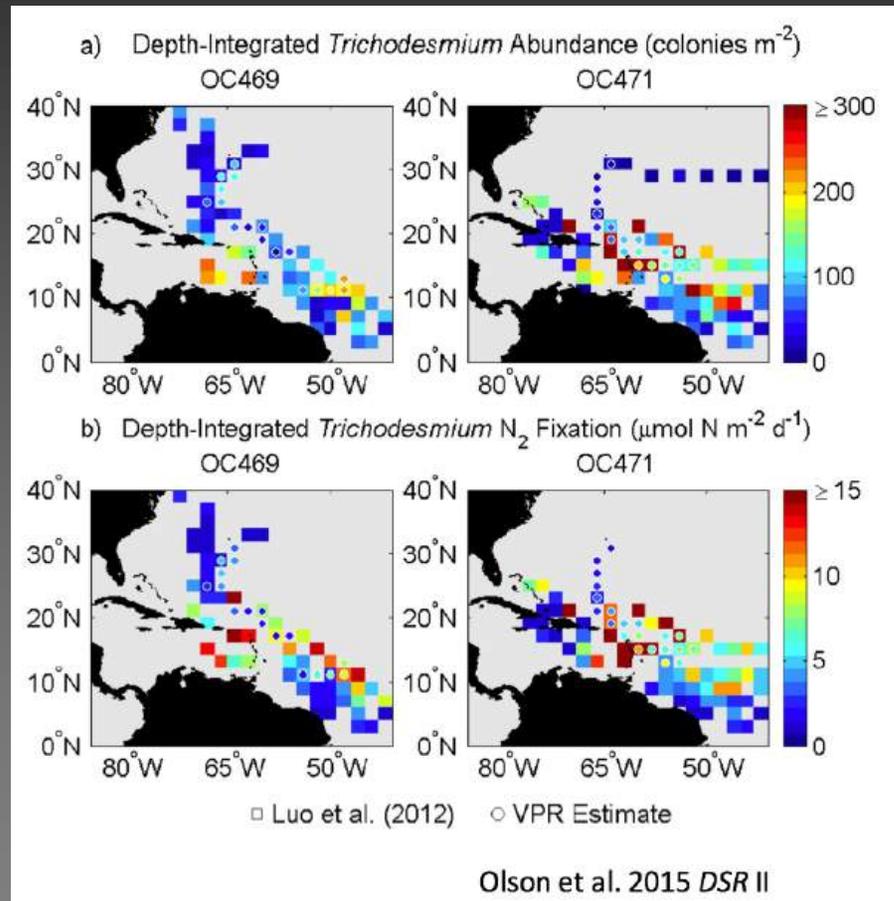
Are they interacting?

- **Yes! Significant co-expression of host-microbiome genes**

Microbiome → Host

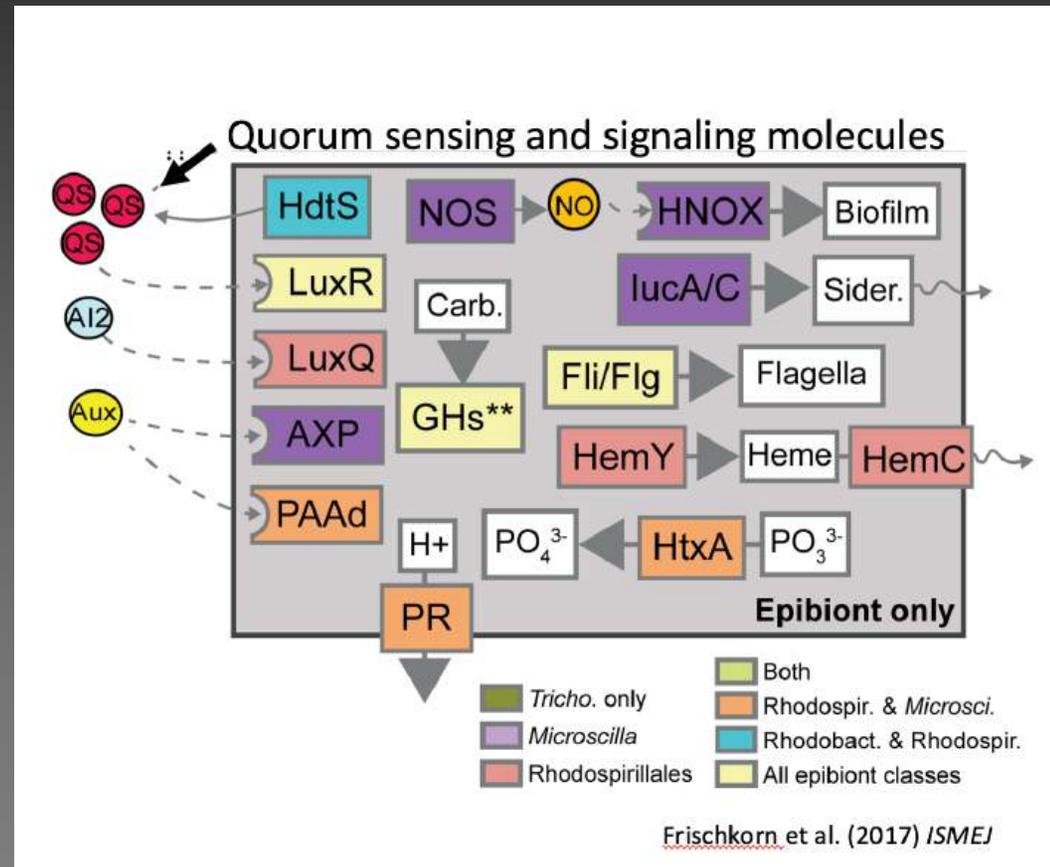
Can the microbiome influence host N₂ fixation?

Maybe the models are missing the role of the microbiome!

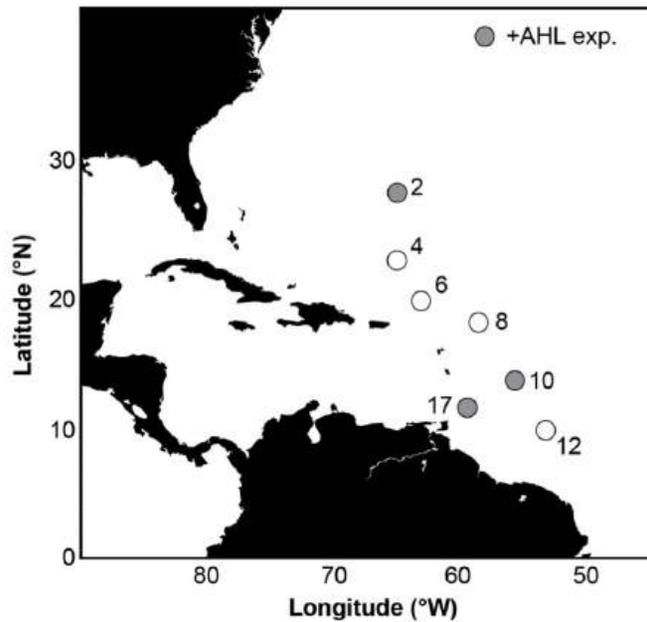


Selective manipulation of the microbiome...

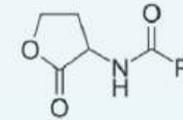
- Quorum sensing communication molecules (acylated homoserine lactones – AHL) detected in colonies (Van Mooy et al. 2012 *ISME J*)
- Genes for AHL biosynthesis and AHL receptors detected in epibionts not *Trichodesmium*



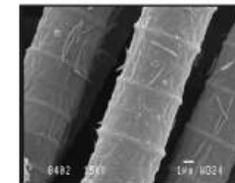
Do microbiome infochemicals influence *Trichodesmium* phenotype?



N-acyl homoserine lactone

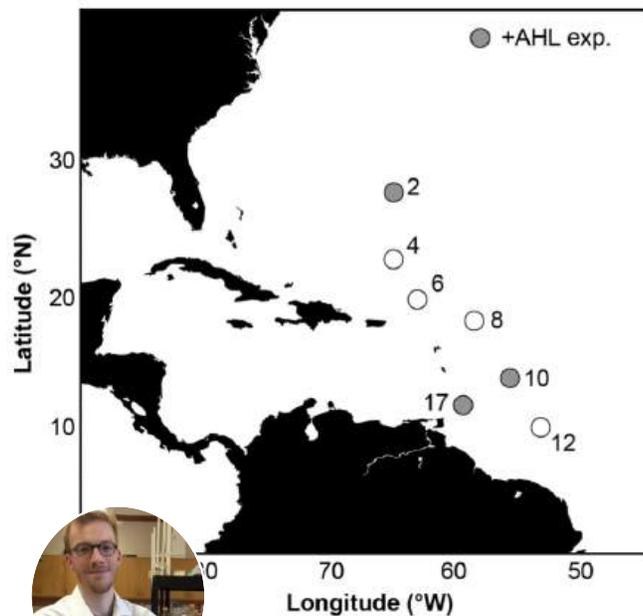


Microbiome

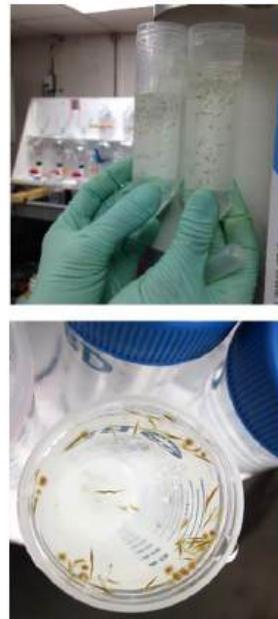


Trichodesmium N₂ Fixation

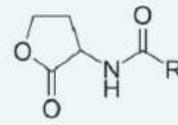
AHL addition modulates *Trichodesmium* N₂ fixation



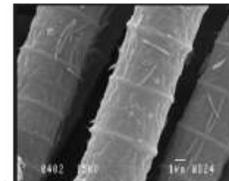
Frischkorn et al. (2018) *L&O Letters*



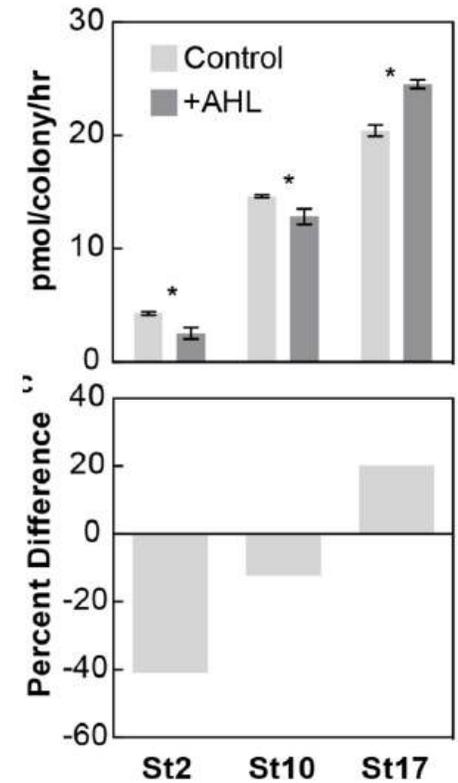
N-acyl homoserine lactone



Microbiome

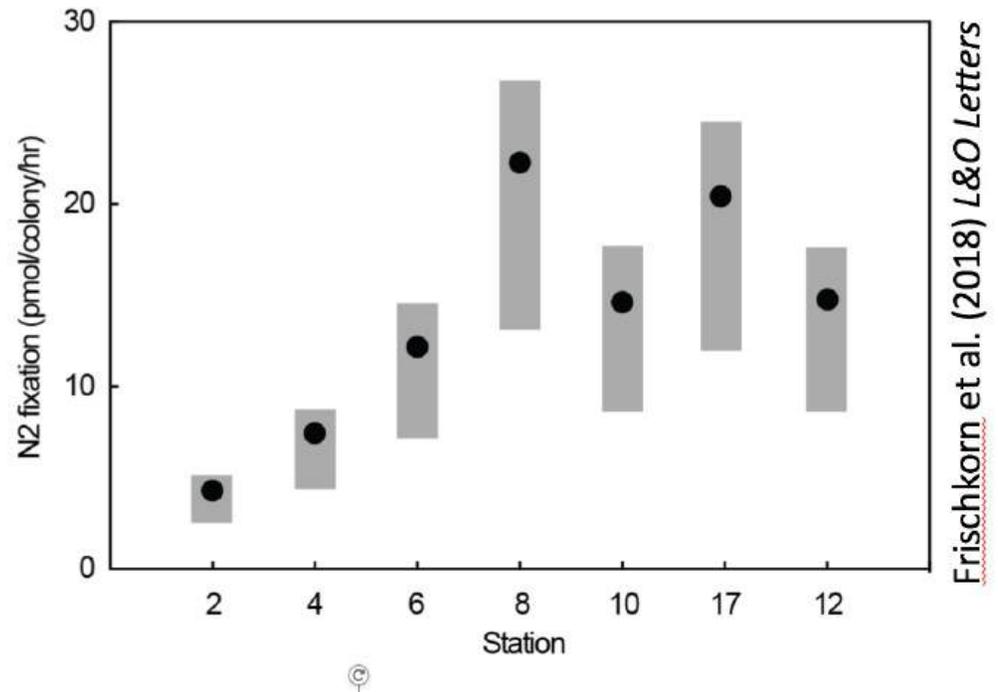
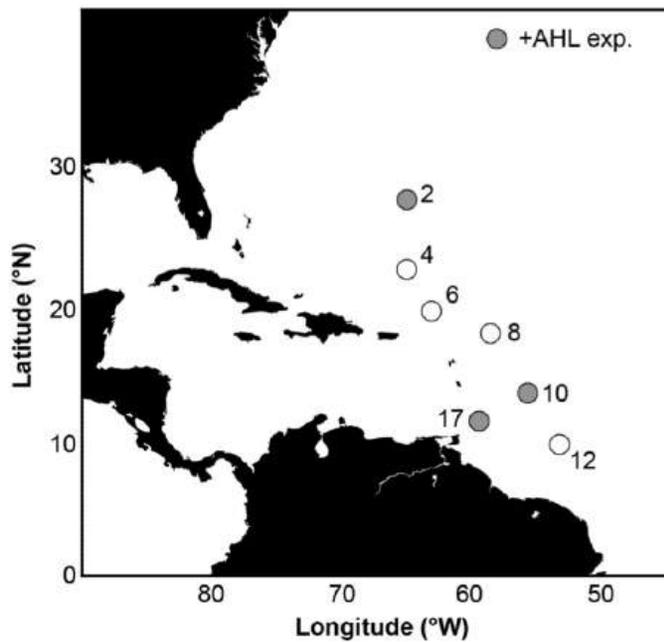


Trichodesmium N₂ Fixation



Microbiome can modulate host N₂ fixation rates up to 40%, in orthogonal directions, and independently of known drivers (P, Fe, light, temperature)

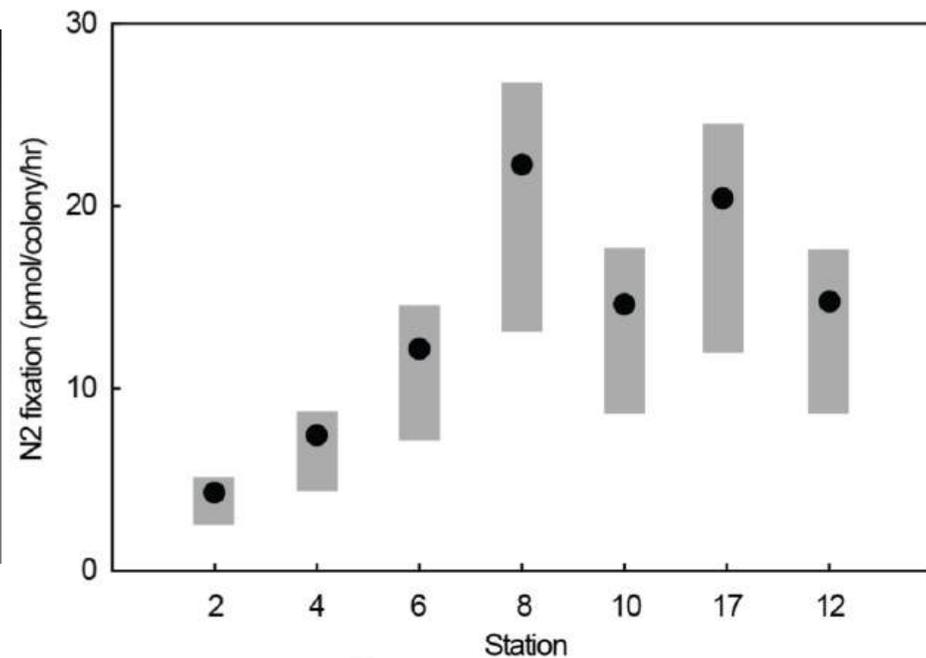
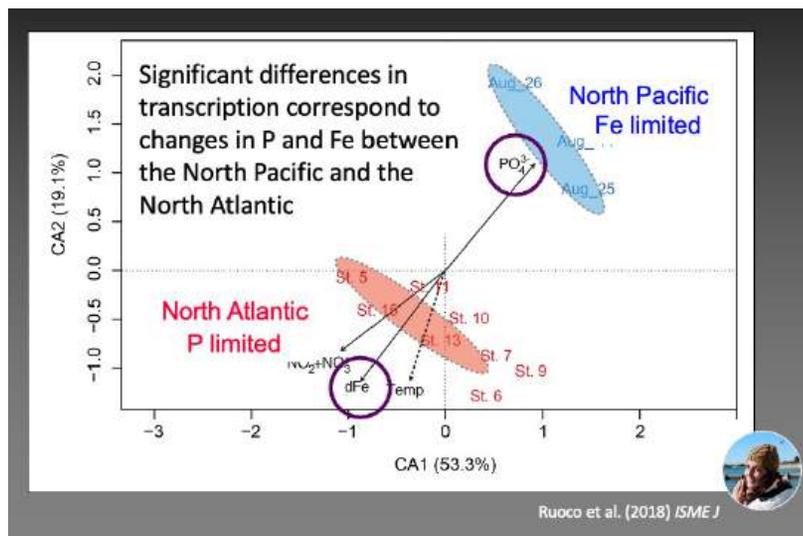
Microbiome activities modulate N₂ fixation in host



Frischkorn et al. (2018) *L&O Letters*

Biological interactions are a previously unrecognized driver of N₂ fixation
Need to revise modeling efforts

Microbiome activities modulate N₂ fixation in host



Frischkorn et al. (2018) L&O Letters

Biological interactions are a previously unrecognized driver of N₂ fixation
Need to revise modeling efforts to include the geochemistry (e.g. Fe and P) and the biology (interactions)!

Summary

- The microbiome and *Trichodesmium* are interacting!
- Epibionts can influence N₂ fixation, but the full mechanisms that underpin this still need to be identified.



Core questions about the *Trichodesmium* microbiome

Who is there?

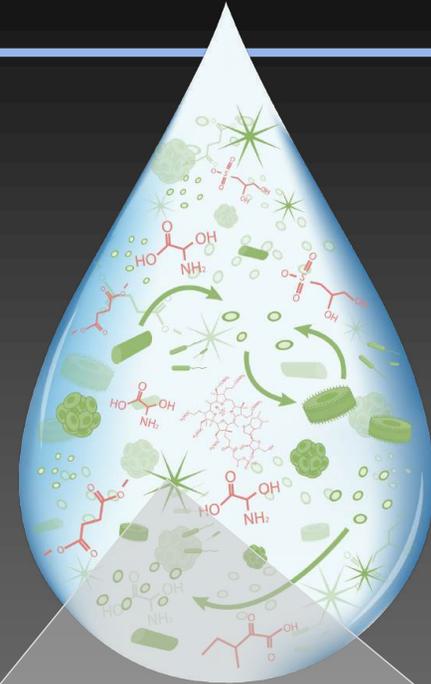
- **Diverse community, distinct from water column**

What are they doing?

- **Microbiome contributes functional diversity to community**

Are they interacting?

- **Yes! Significant co-expression of host-microbiome genes**



Microbiome can influence host N₂ fixation!

Summary

- **16S community amplicon sequencing:** Colonies harbor diverse epibiont microbiomes
- **Metagenomics:** Epibionts confer substantial metabolic potential, and are dynamically curated across gradients in the environment
- **Metatranscriptomics:** Novel P cycling currencies may avoid competition
- Apparent interactions between *Trichodesmium* and its microbiome



Microbiome plays a critical role in *Trichodesmium* physiological ecology and biogeochemical cycling

Enjoy the rest of the workshop!

'Omics approaches are providing new insights into the chemical-microbe network that drive ocean ecosystem structure and function

