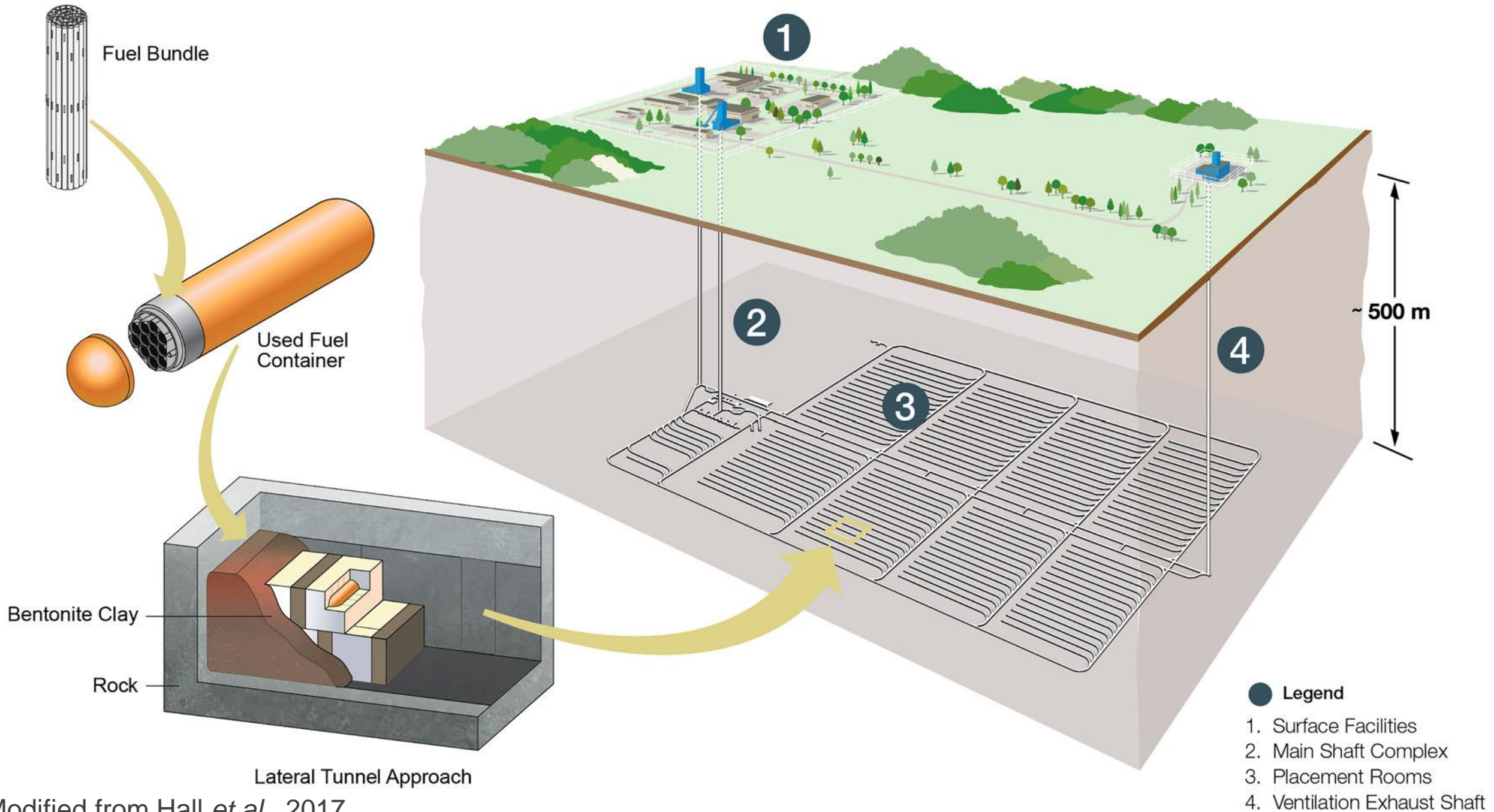


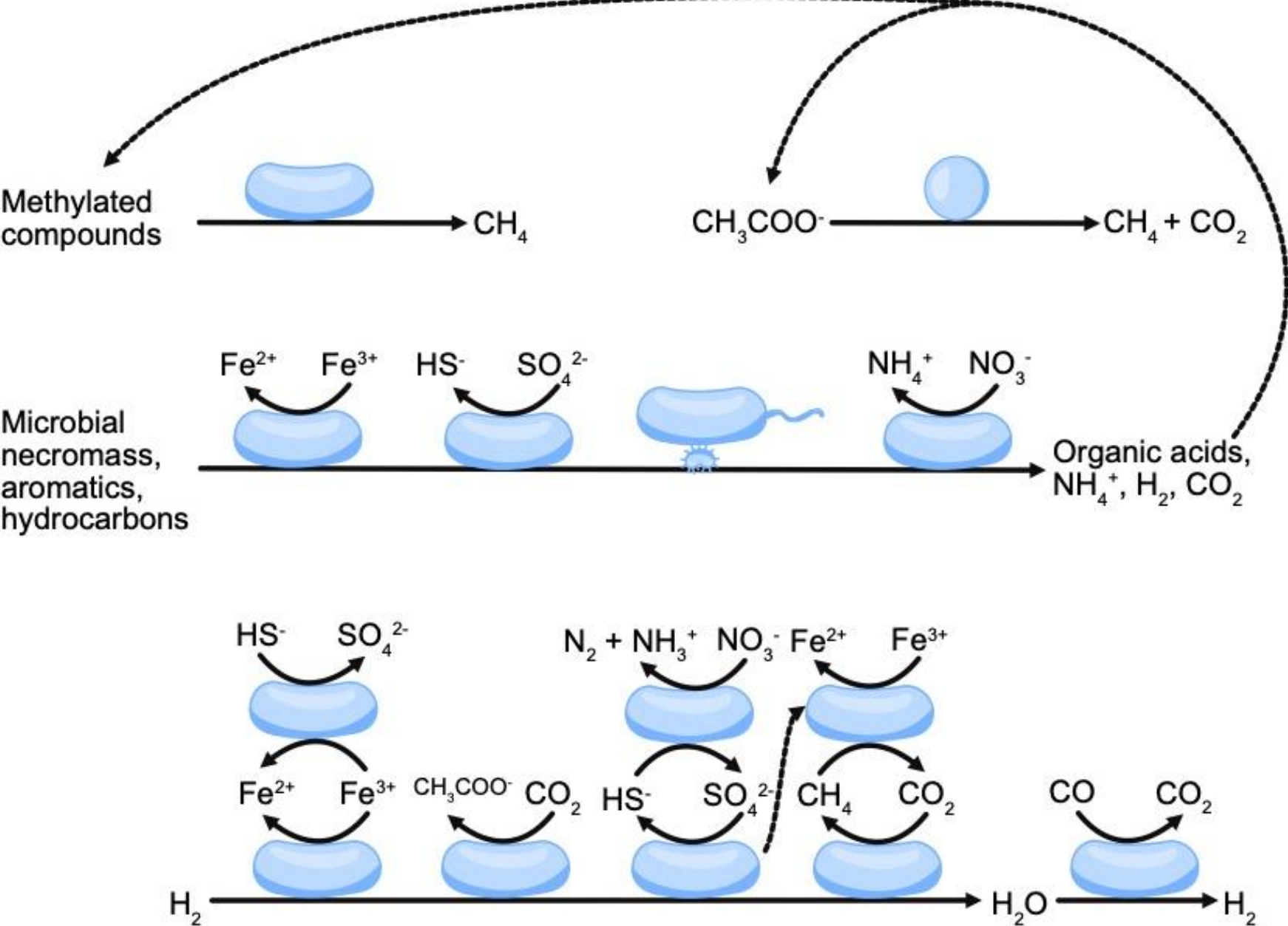


**Microbiology of  
barrier component  
analogues of a deep  
geological repository**

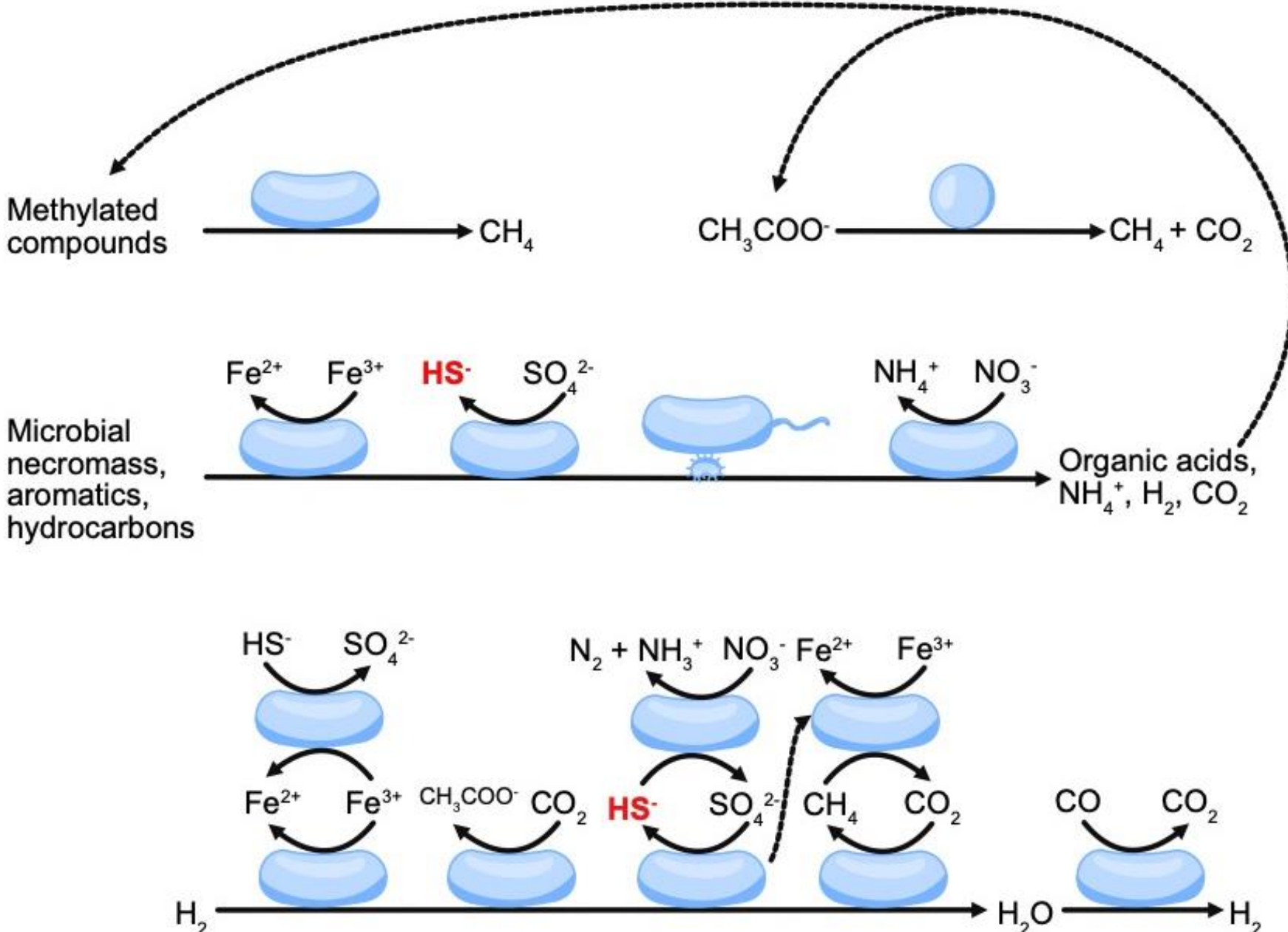
Rachel Beaver  
May 10, 2023



# Microbial metabolisms detected in deep subsurface environments



# Microbial metabolisms detected in deep subsurface environments





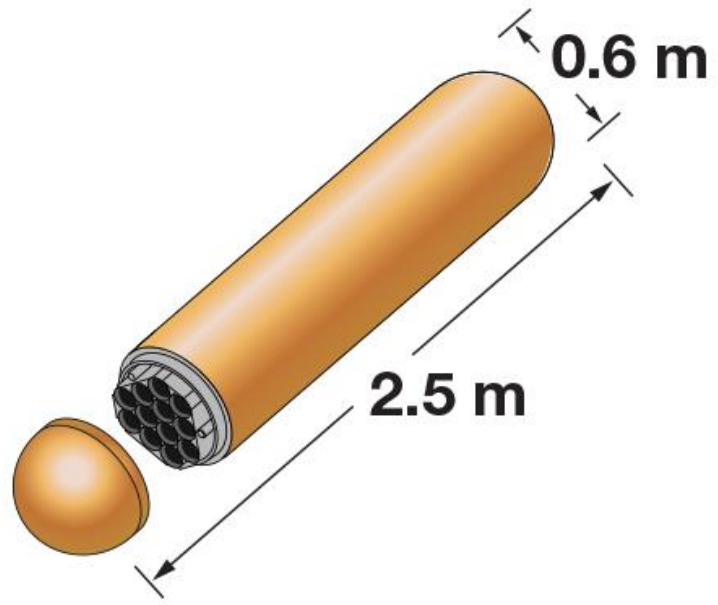
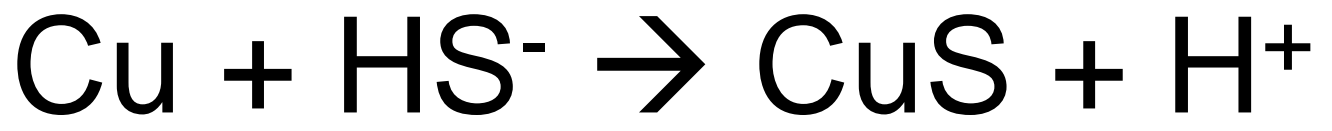
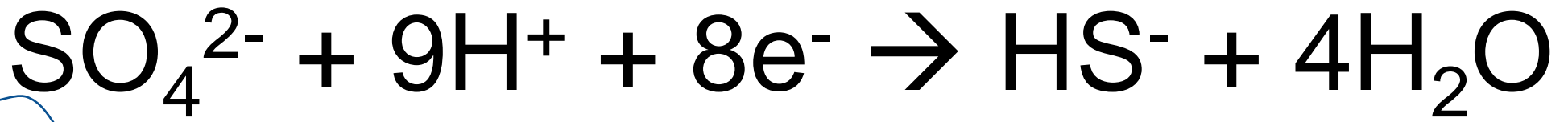
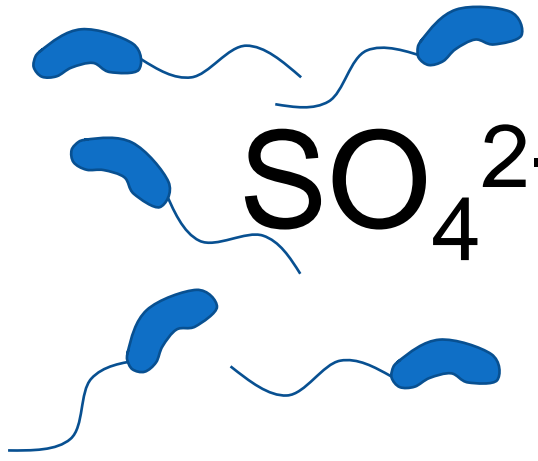
Blake, 2017



Instant Labs, 2018



Sherman *et al.*, 2015



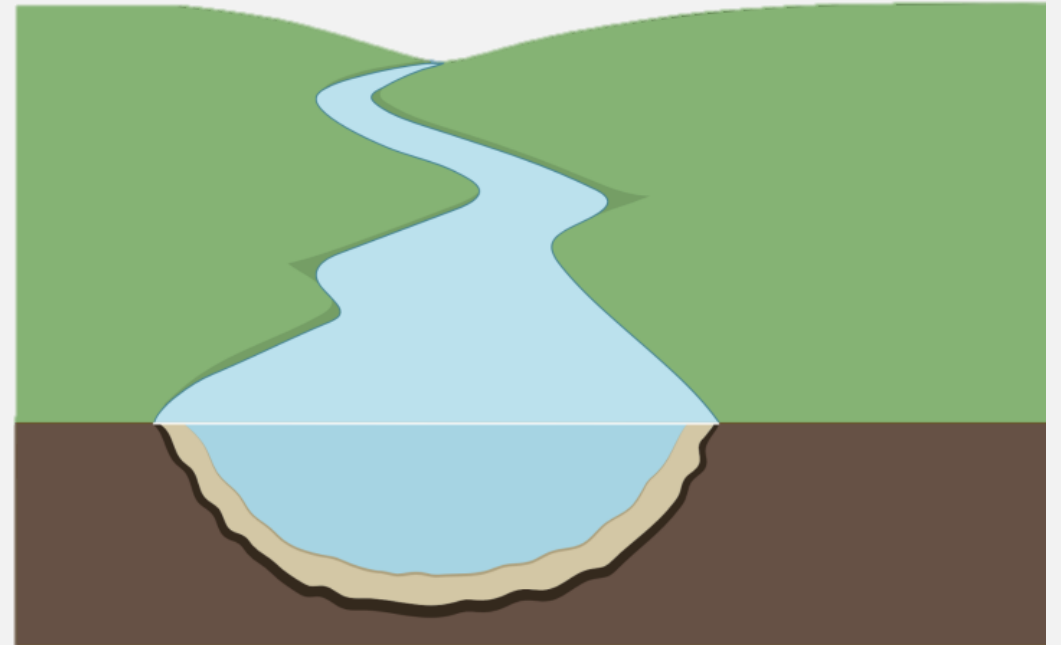
## Short-term microcosms



✓ Can test specific conditions

x Challenging to make long-term predictions based on short-term experiments

## Natural analogue samples

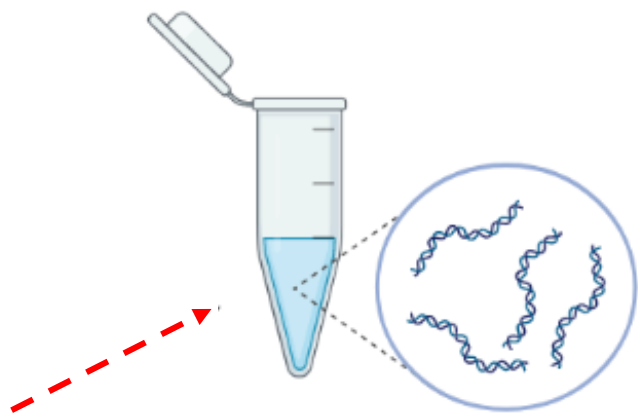


✓ Clay/rock analogues have existed for millennia

x Challenging to find analogues that mimic all conditions of a DGR

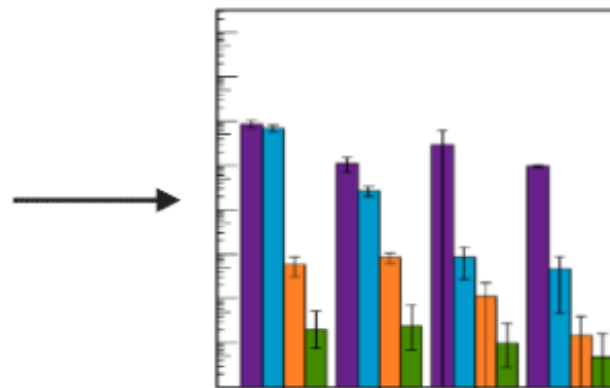


Bentonite



Heterotrophs  
(aerobic and  
anaerobic)

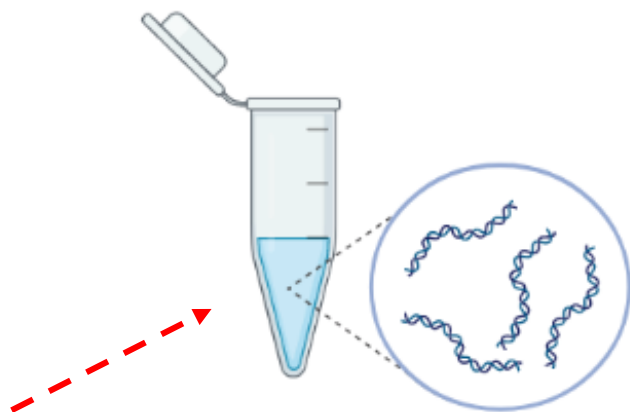
SRB



Abundance data

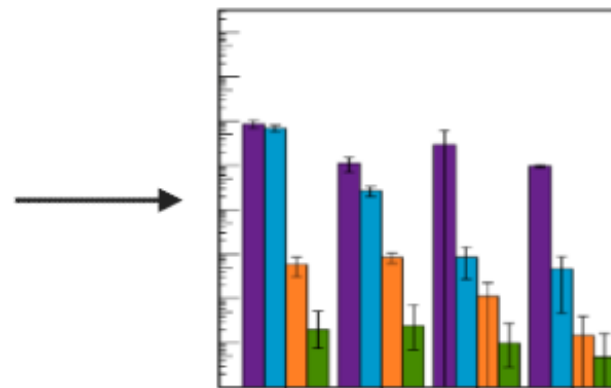


Bentonite



Heterotrophs  
(aerobic and  
anaerobic)

SRB



Abundance data



## Validating DNA Extraction Protocols for Bentonite Clay

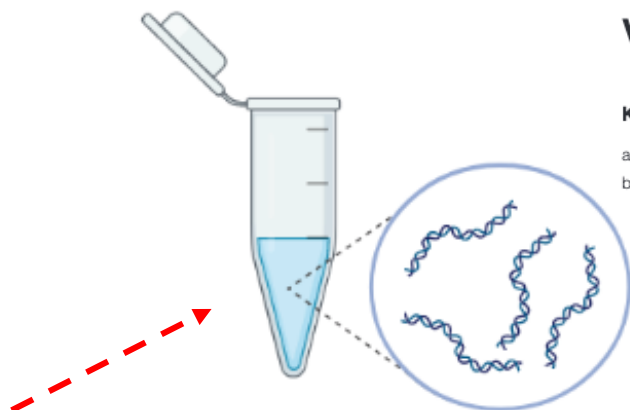
Katja Engel<sup>a</sup>, Sara Coyotzi<sup>a</sup>, Melody A. Vachon<sup>a</sup>, Jennifer R. McKelvie<sup>b</sup>, Josh D. Neufeld<sup>id</sup><sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

<sup>b</sup>Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

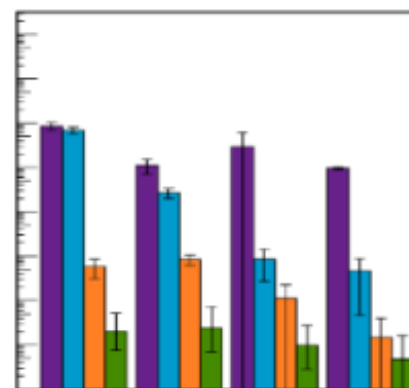


Bentonite



Heterotrophs  
(aerobic and anaerobic)

SRB

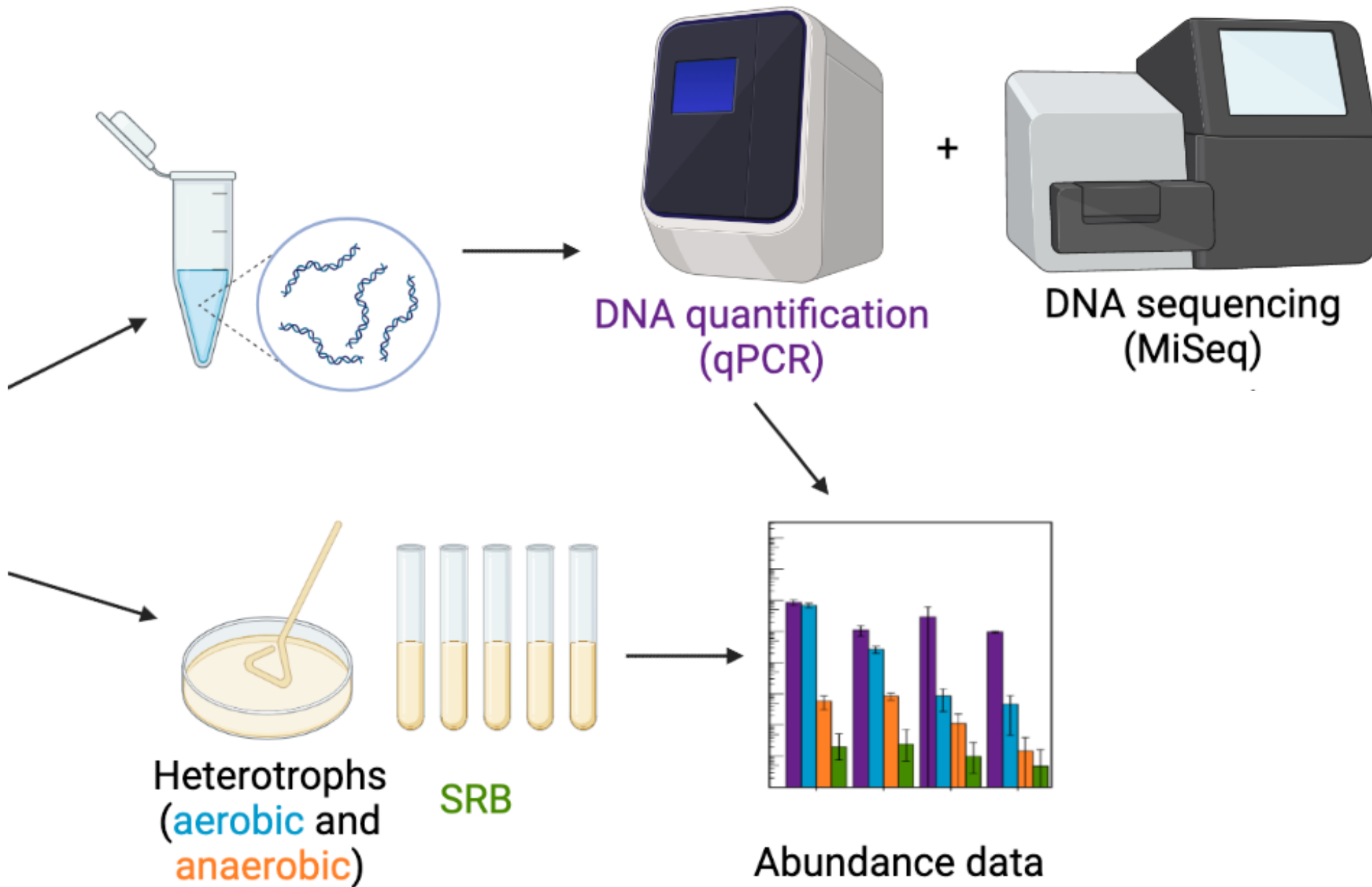


Abundance data



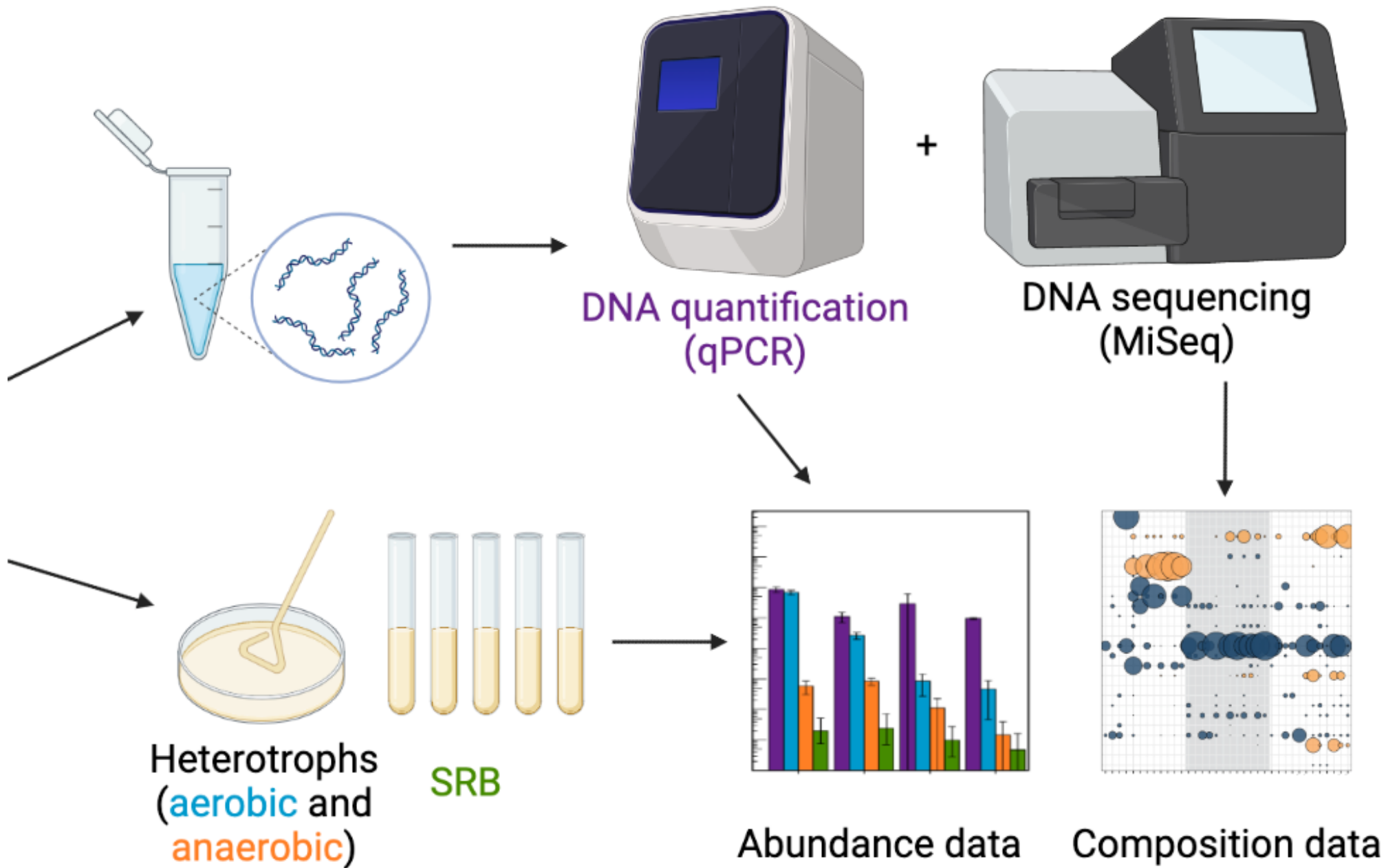


Bentonite





Bentonite

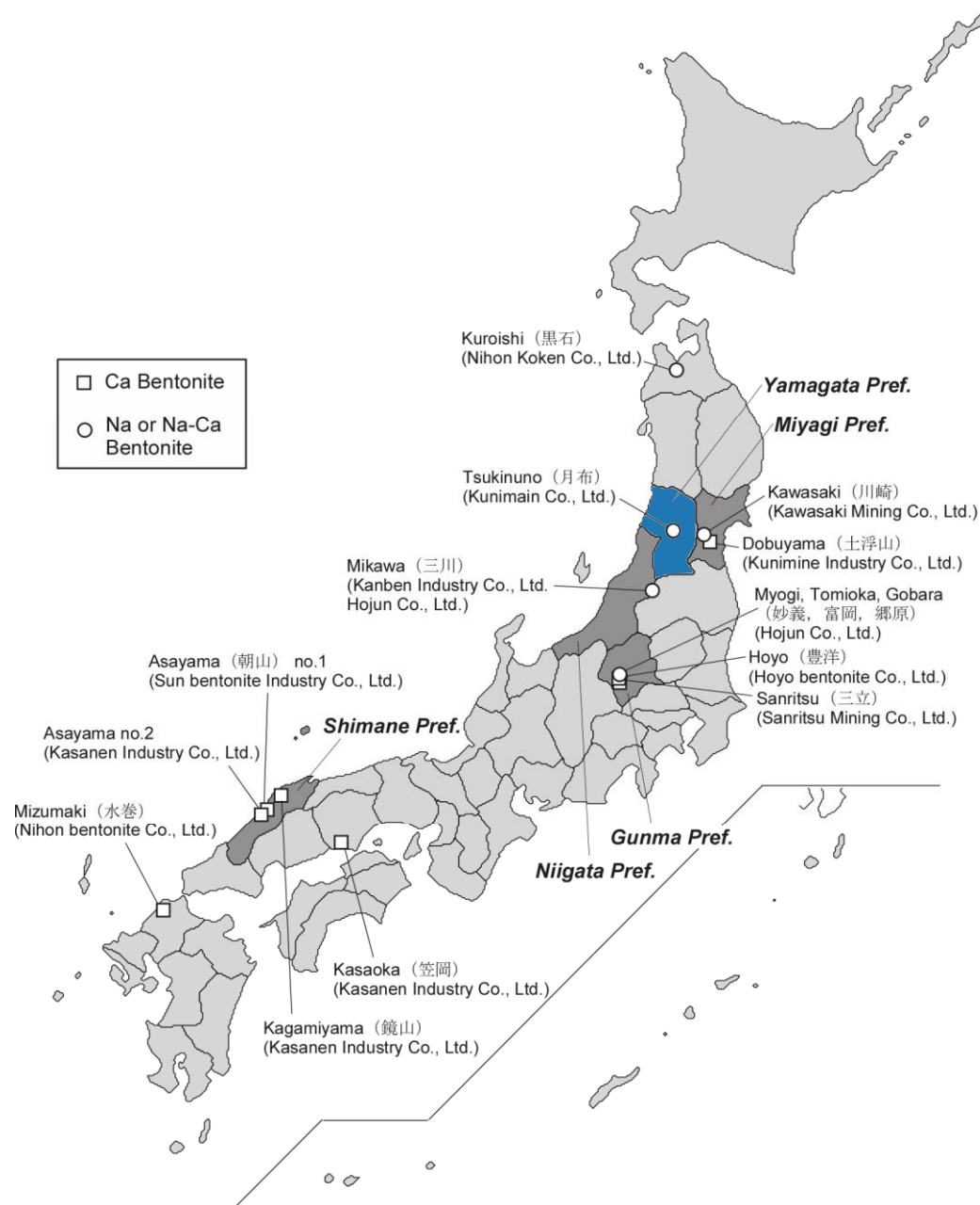


# Microbiology of barrier component analogues of a deep geological repository

Rachel C. Beaver, Katja Engel, W. Jeffrey Binns, and Josh D. Neufeld

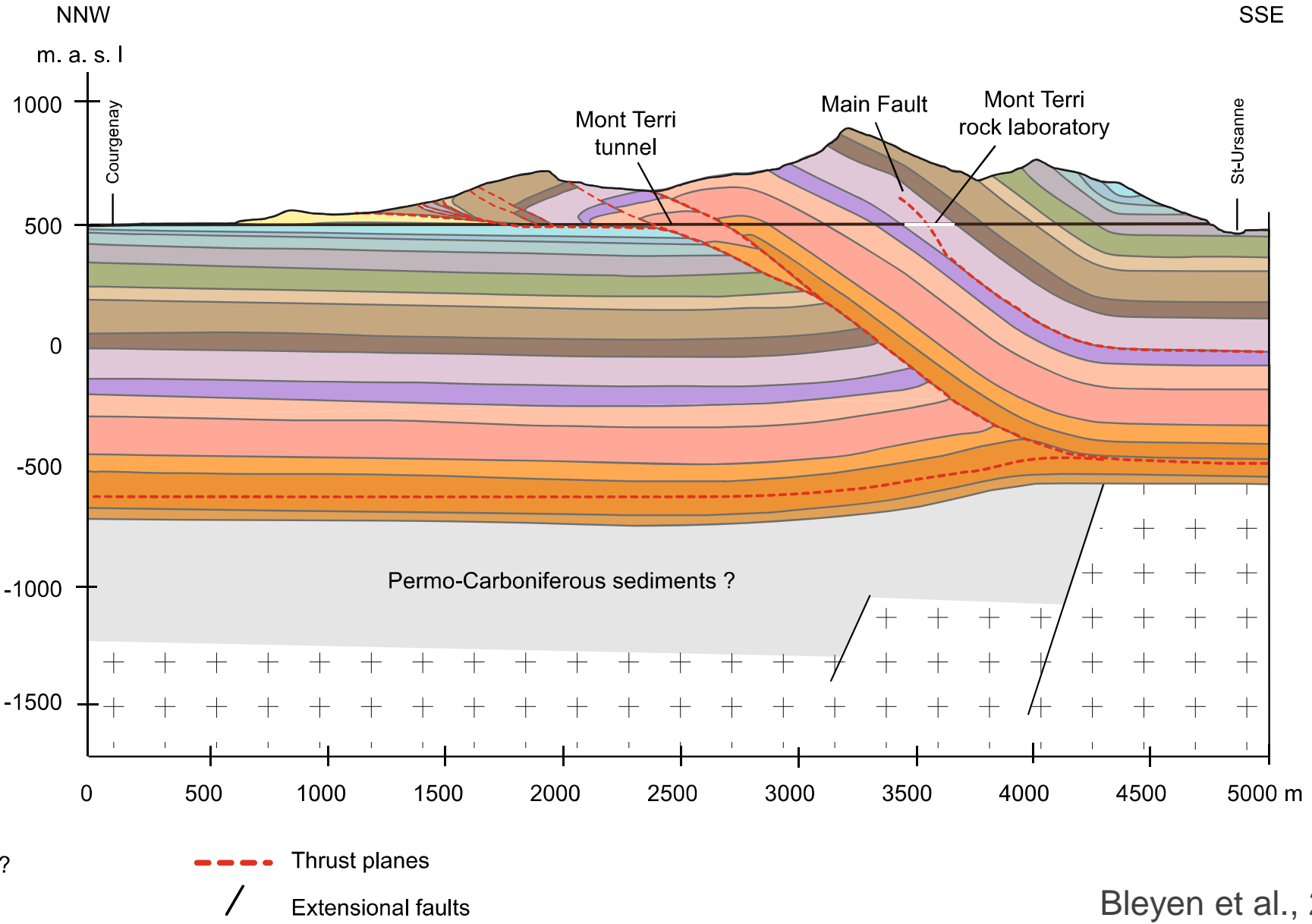
---

# 1) The Tsukinuno bentonite deposit, Japan

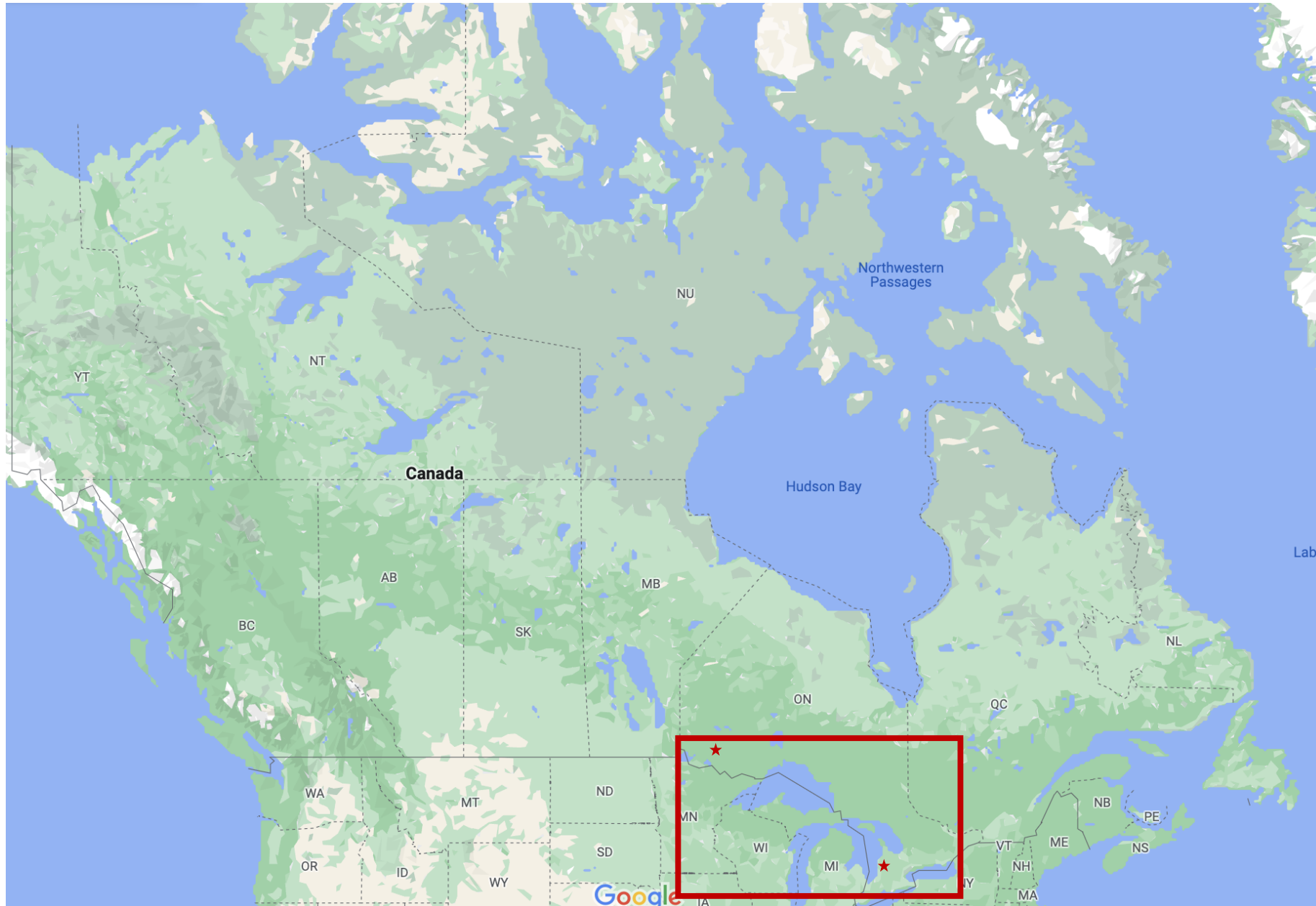


# 2) The Opalinus clay formation, Switzerland

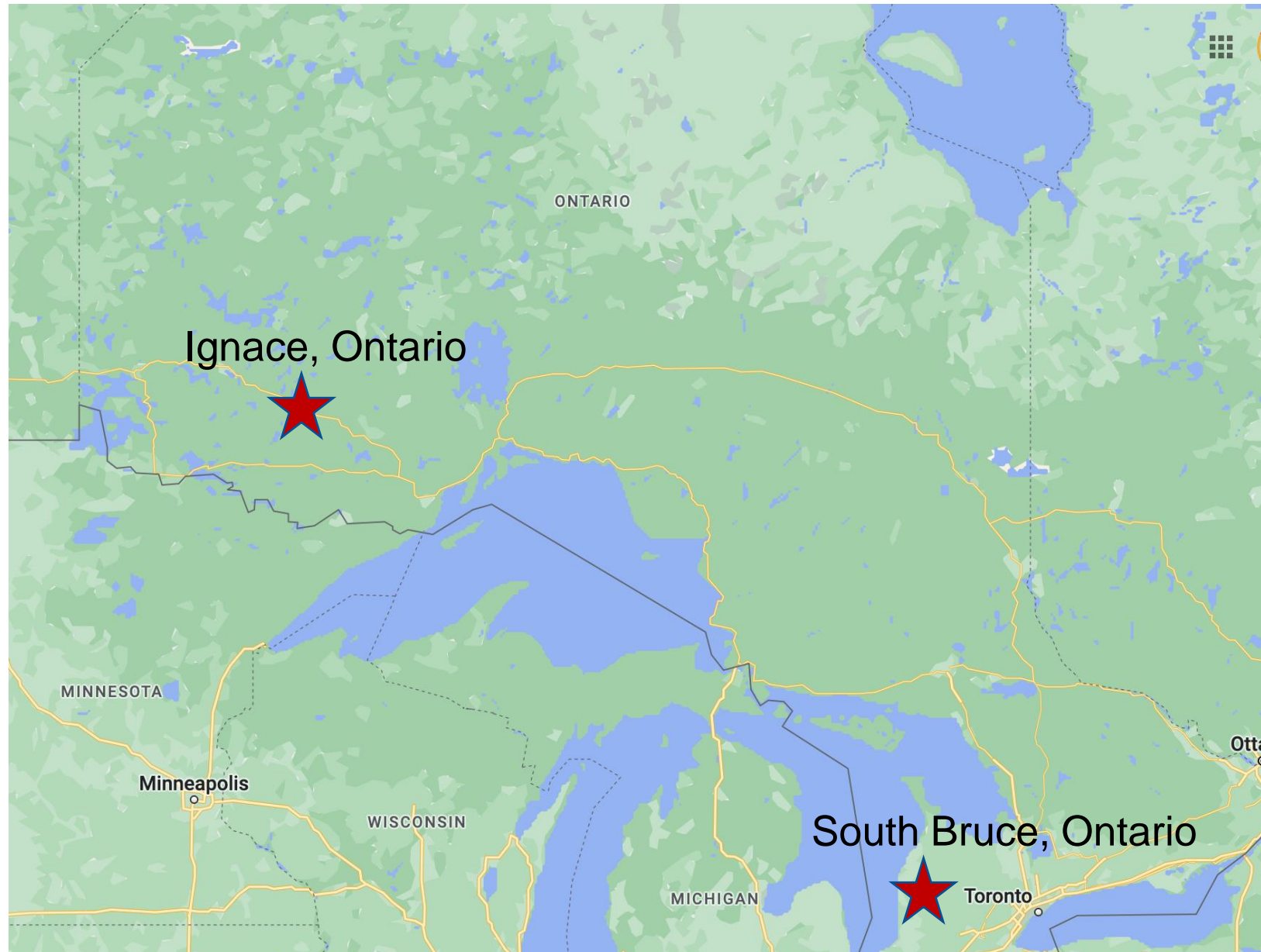
- Alsace Molasse
- Reuchette Formation
- Courgenay Formation
- Vellerat Formation
- St-Ursanne Formation
- Baerschwil Formation
- Ifenthal Formation
- Hauptrogenstein
- Passwang Formation
- Opalinus Clay
- Staffelegg Formation
- Klettgau Formation
- Bänkerjoch Formation
- Schinznach Formation
- Zeglingen Formation
- Kaiseraugst Formation
- Permo-Carboniferous sediments ?
- Basement undifferentiated



### 3) Rock from Ignace, Ontario (Canada)



### 3) Rock from Ignace, Ontario (Canada)

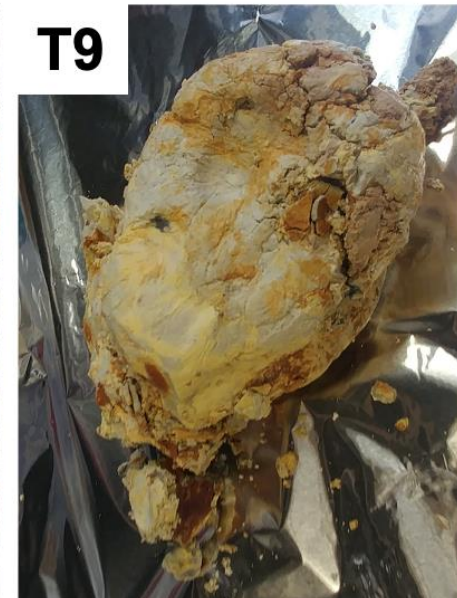


# Tsukinuno bentonite samples

Sample	Appearance	Description	Sampling site	Target	Average DNA yield per gram of clay (ng)
1	Rock	Hand specimen taken from the bentonite exposed at the tunnel wall within bentonite bed #19. Sample location 26-27cm up from the lower bentonite-shale contact.	Site 1	Bed 19	BDL
2	Soft	Sample taken from a very wet tunnel wall S side of the tunnel, pH around 6-7.	Site 1	Bed 17	104
3	Stones	Samples taken from tunnel wall, very dry bentonite. No drilling at this site.	Site 2	Bed 2	BDL
4	Soft	Samples taken from cleaned tunnel wall (15 cm from original surface).	Site 1	Bed 20	44
5	Rock and soft	Yellow bentonite, at lower contact of bed #19.	Site 1	Bed 19	BDL
6	Rock and soft	Gray bentonite, 20 cm from lower contact.	Site 1	Bed 19	BDL
7	Rock and soft	Brownish bentonite, 50 cm from lower contact.	Site 1	Bed 19	BDL
8	Soft with some rocks	Orange bentonite, 65 cm from lower contact.	Site 1	Bed 19	16
9	Rock and soft	Yellow bentonite, upper contact of bed #19.	Site 1	Bed 19	8
10	Rock	Massive dry bentonite from upper contact of bed #29.	Site 3	Bed 29	BDL

\*Values of BDL indicate DNA concentrations below the detection limit of the Qubit fluorometer with 10  $\mu$ L of sample input.

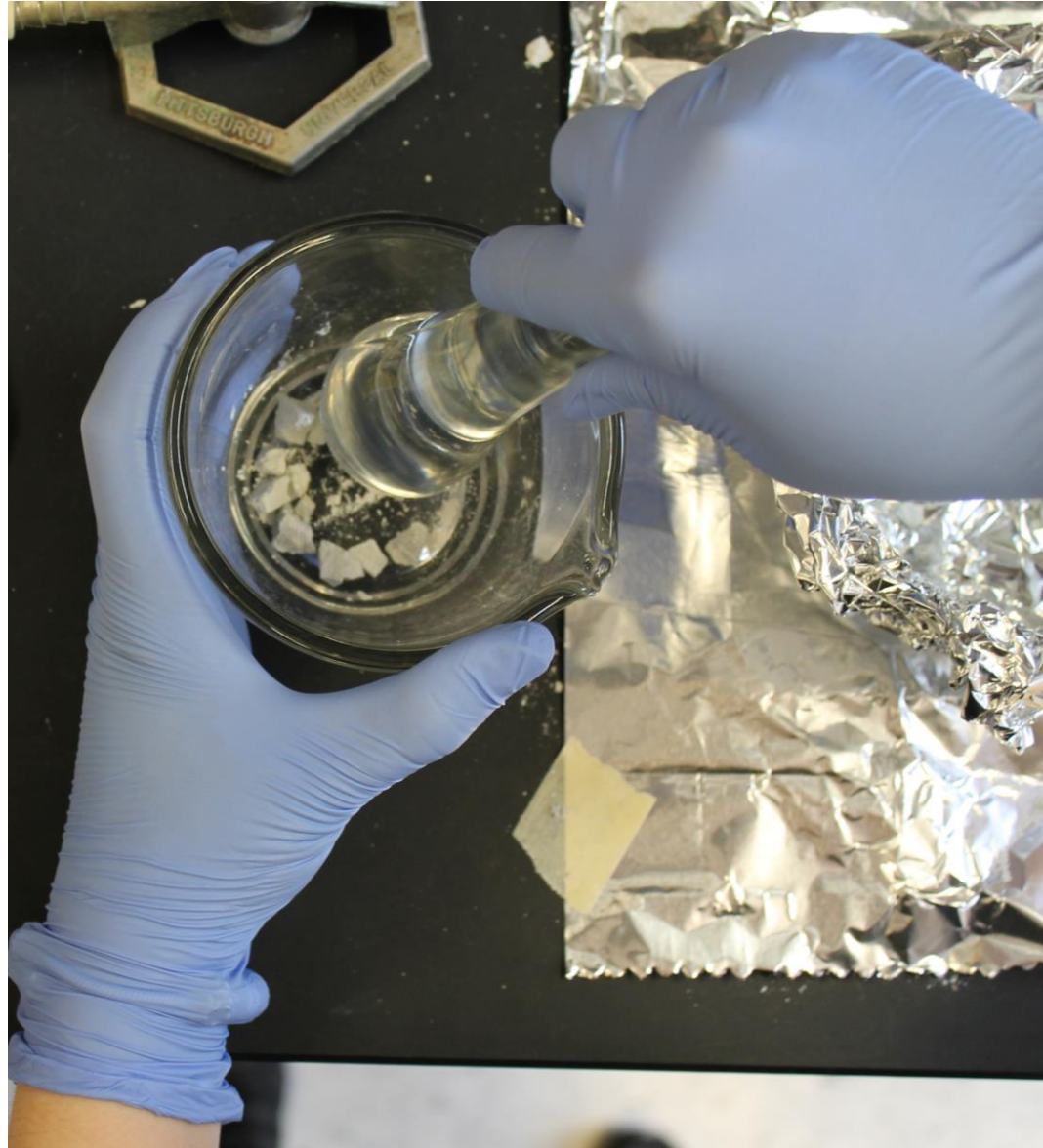
# Tsukinuno bentonite samples



# Opalinus clay and Ignace rock samples

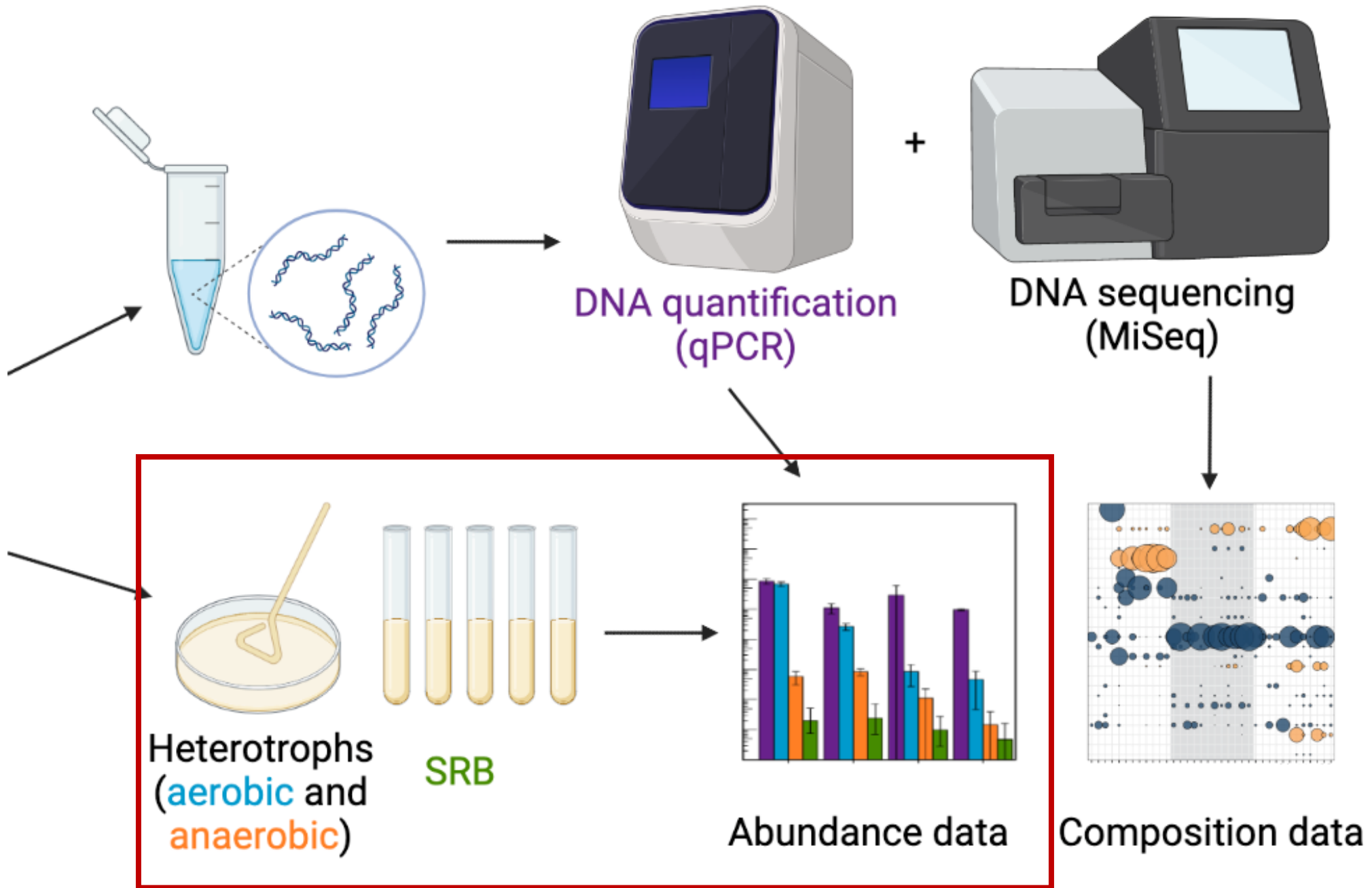


Outer layer of the samples was removed, and inner layer was crushed

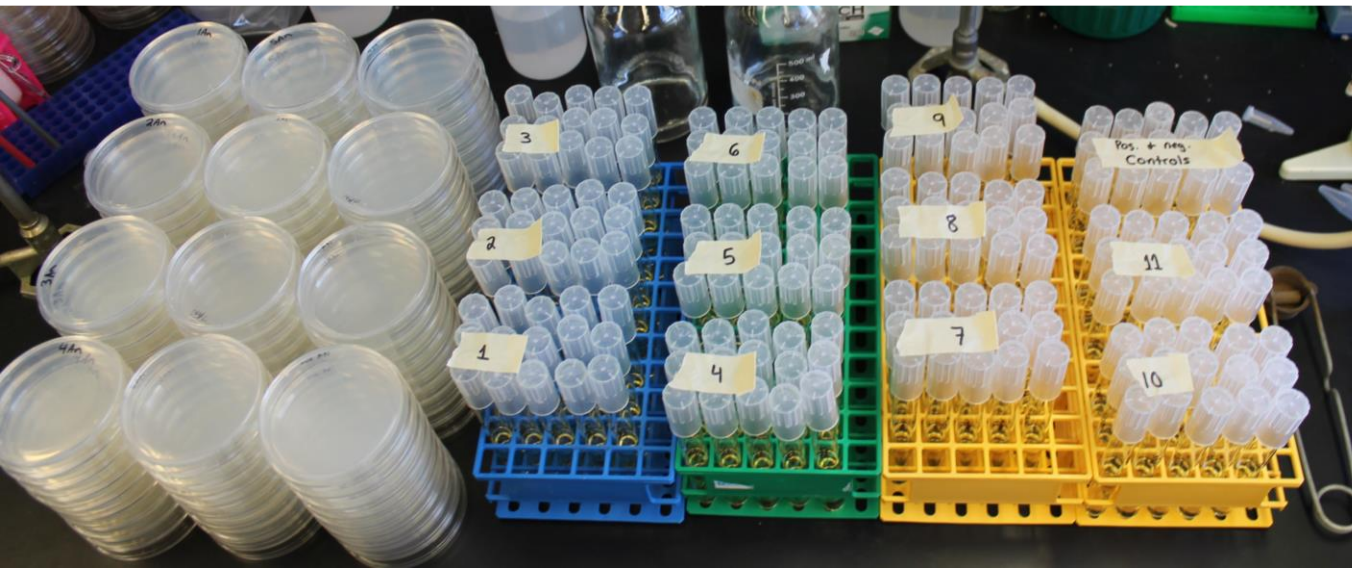
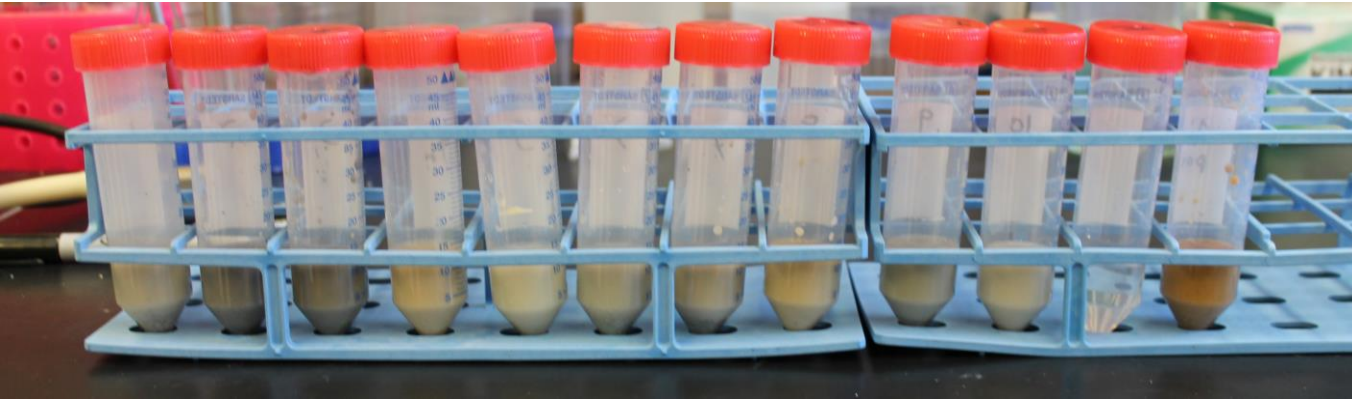




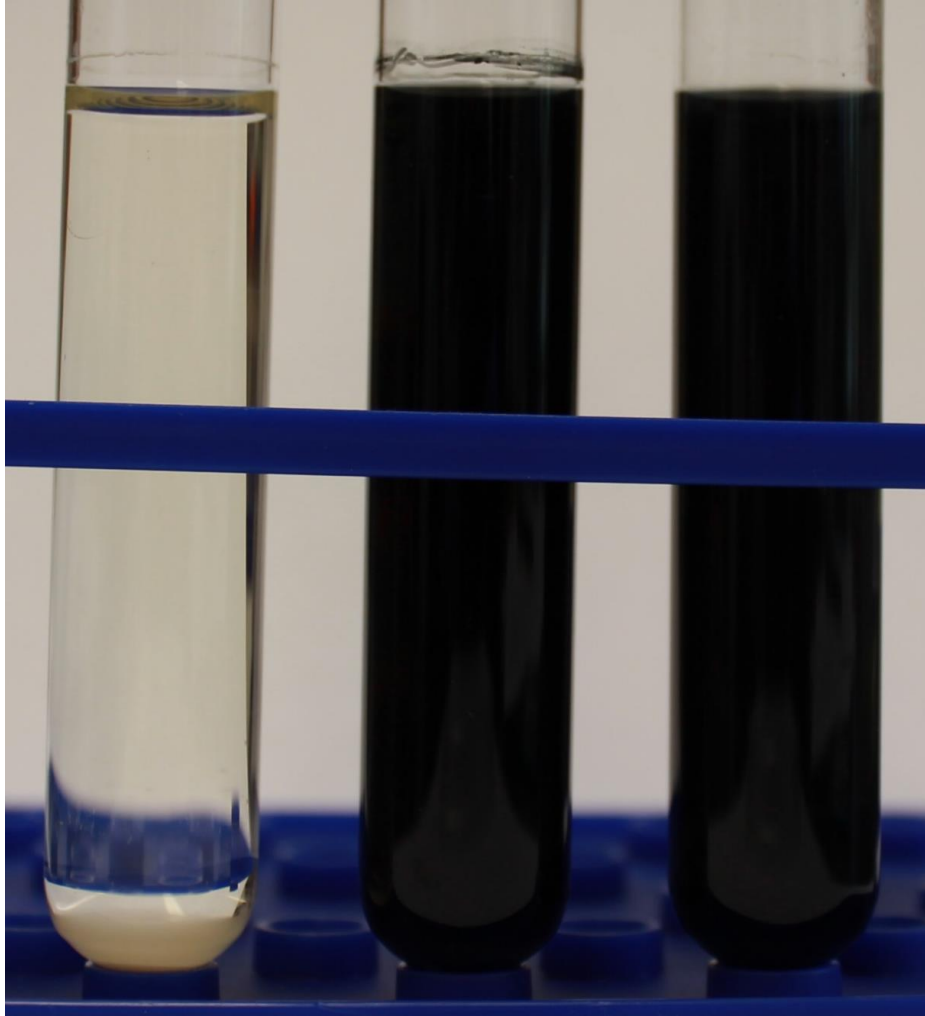
Bentonite



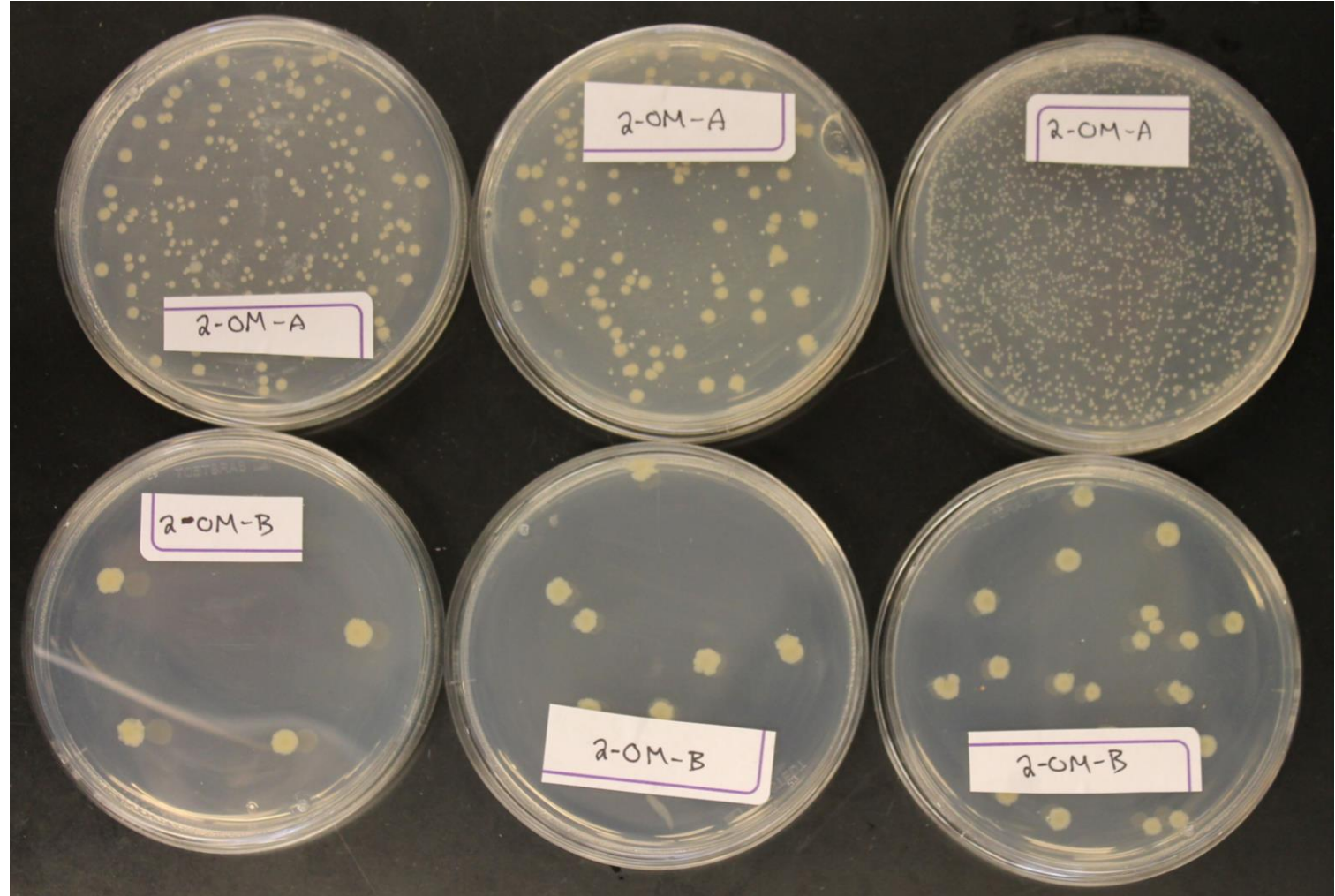
Incubations were set up for Tsukinuno bentonite samples

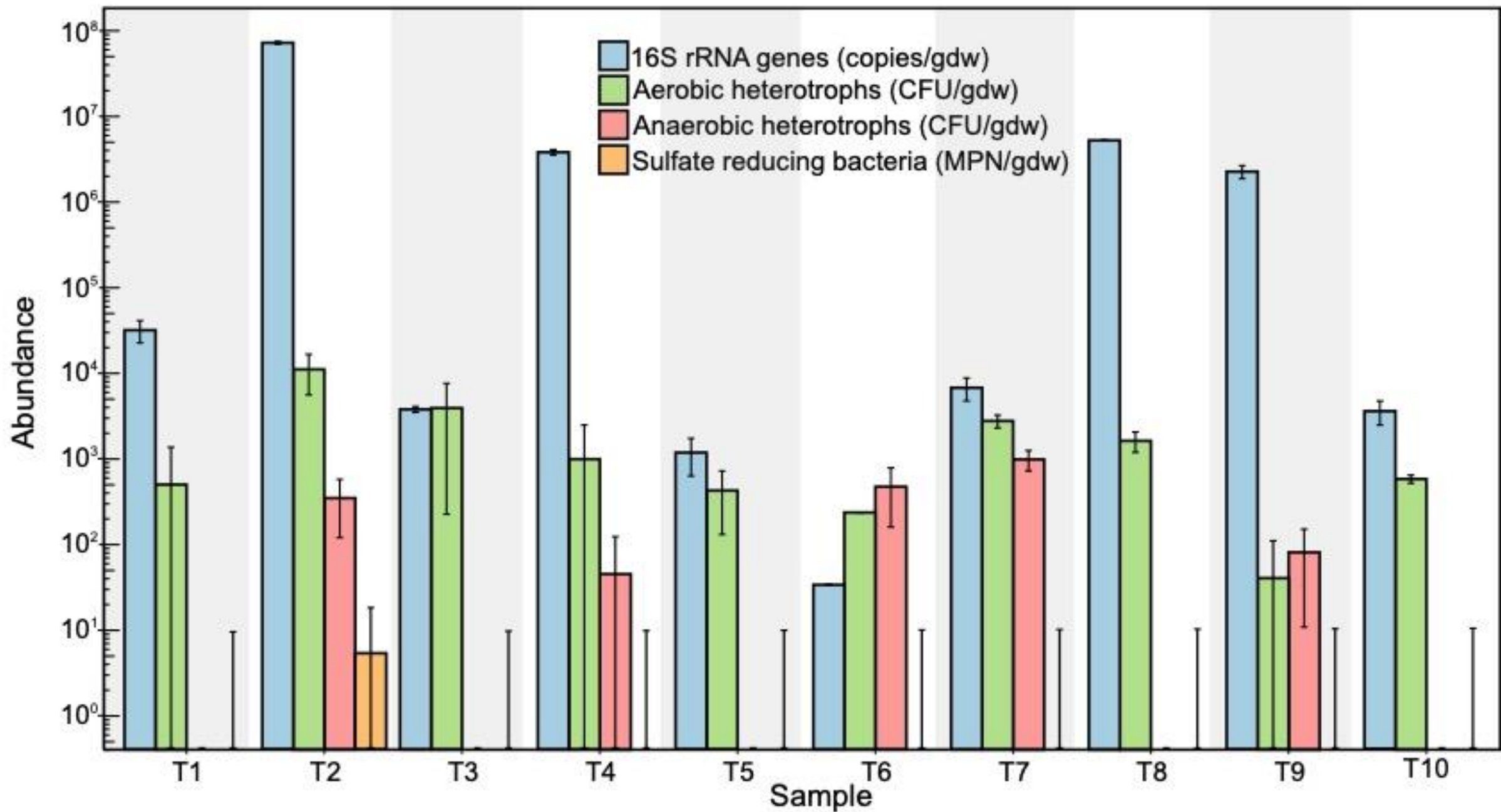


## SRB cultures



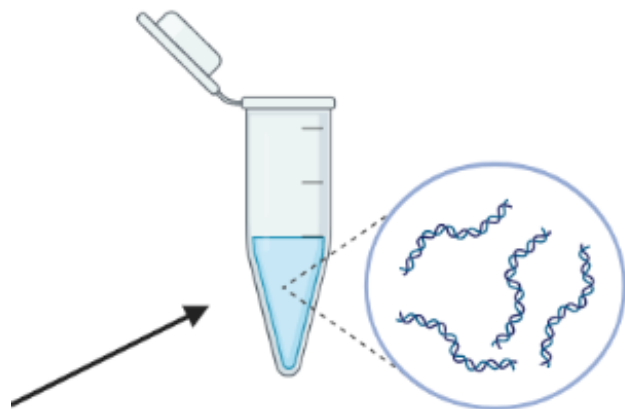
## Heterotroph cultures







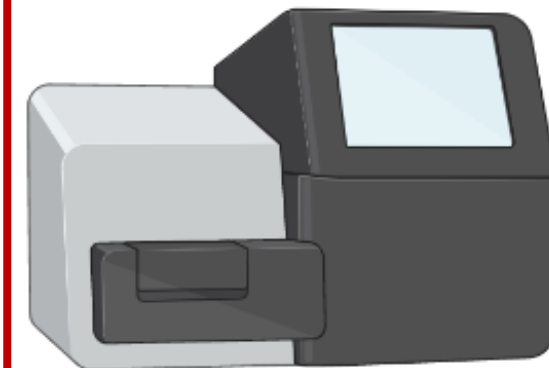
Bentonite



DNA quantification  
(qPCR)



+

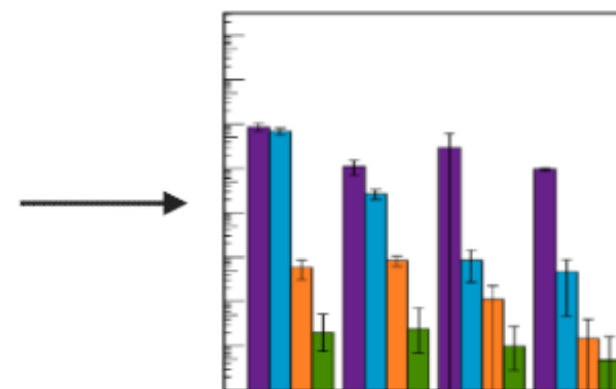


DNA sequencing  
(MiSeq)

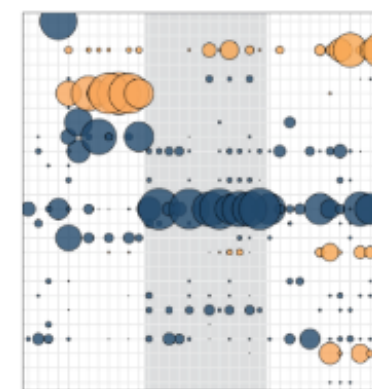


Heterotrophs  
(aerobic and  
anaerobic)

SRB

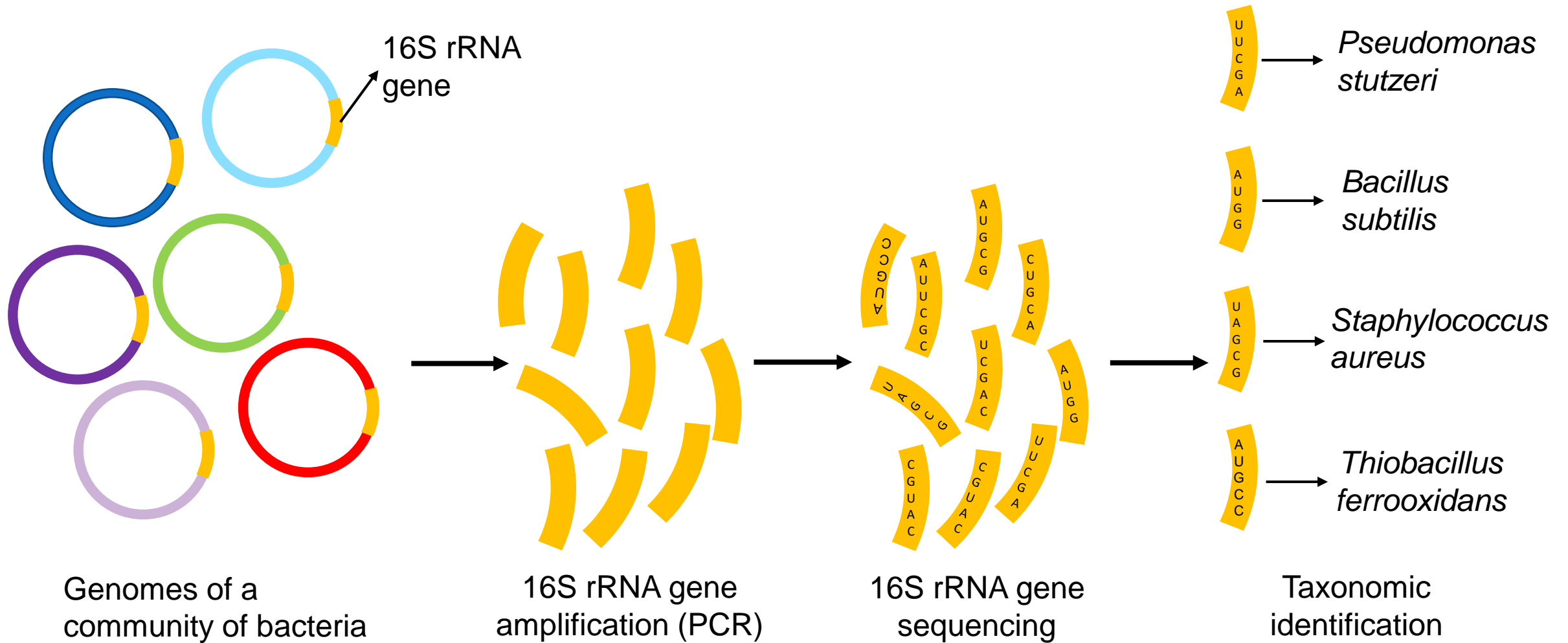


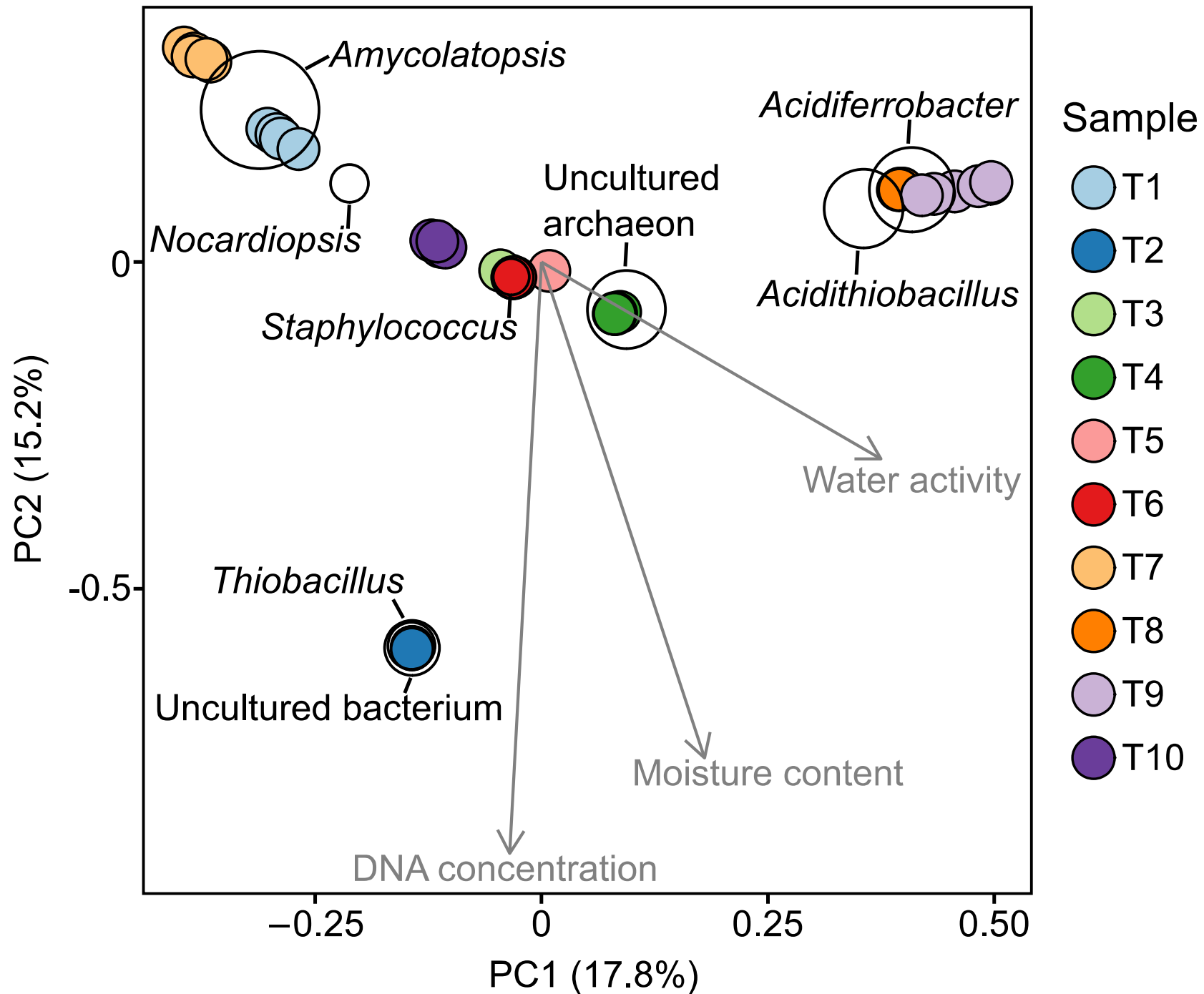
Abundance data

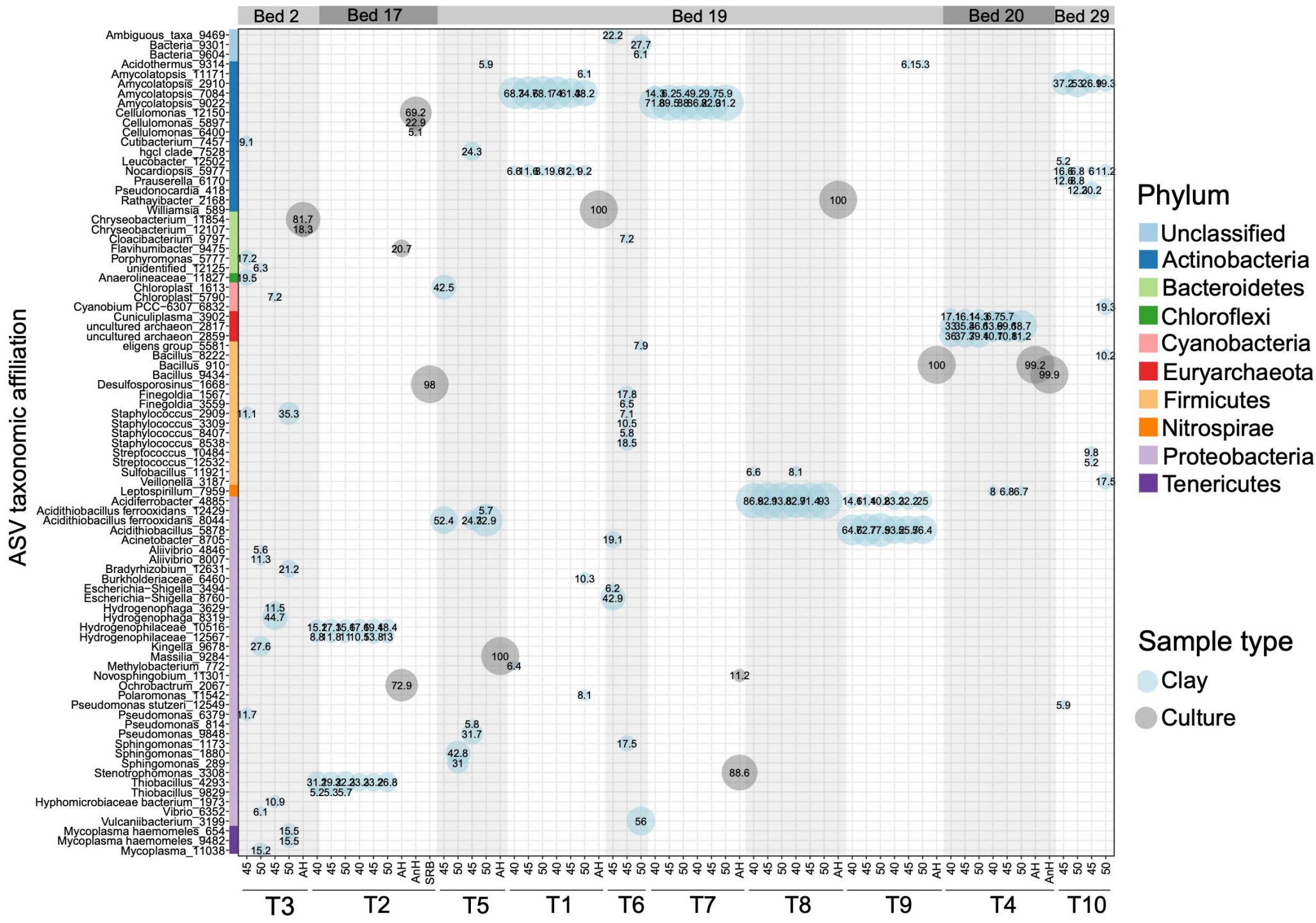


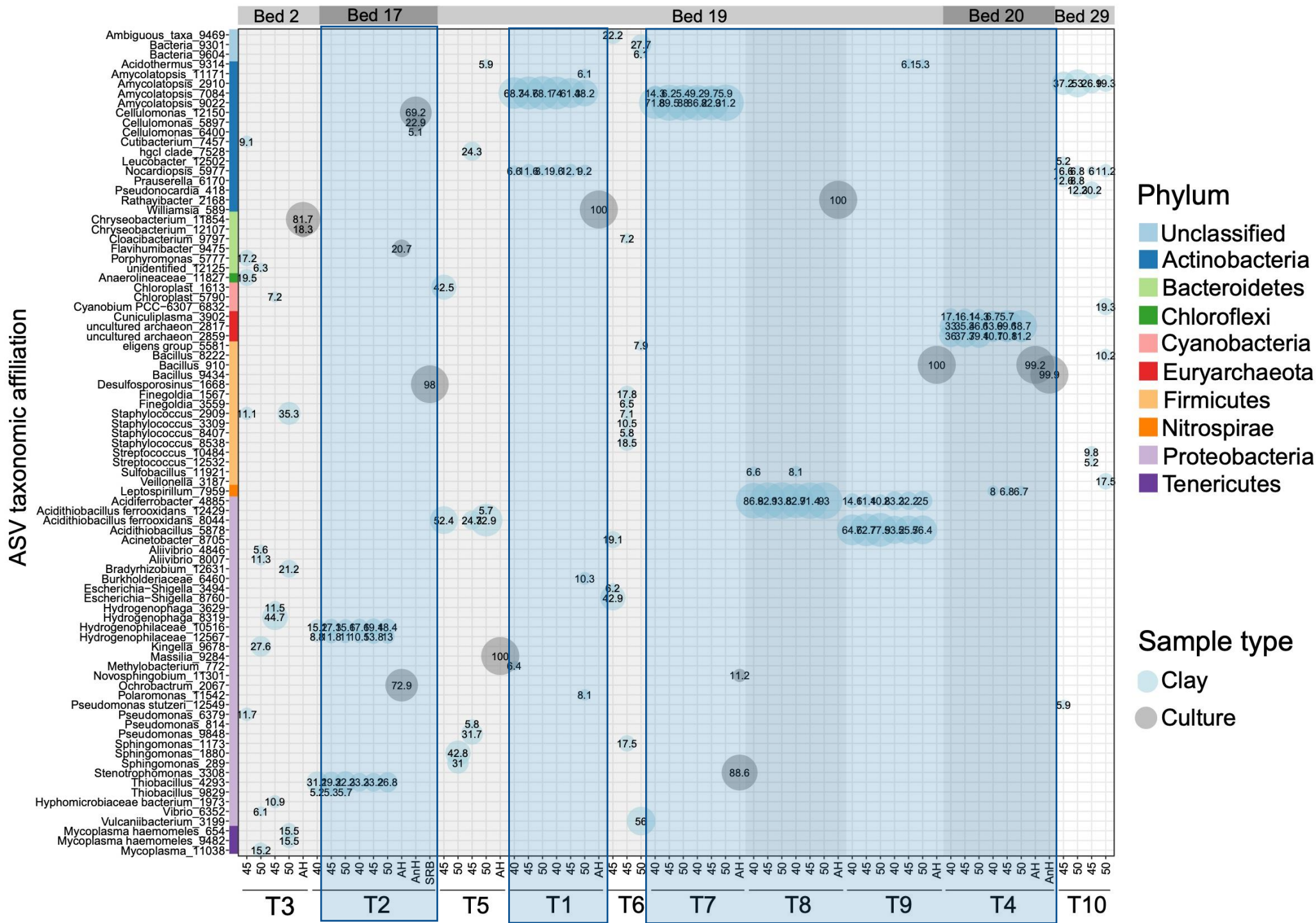
Composition data

# 16S rRNA gene analysis

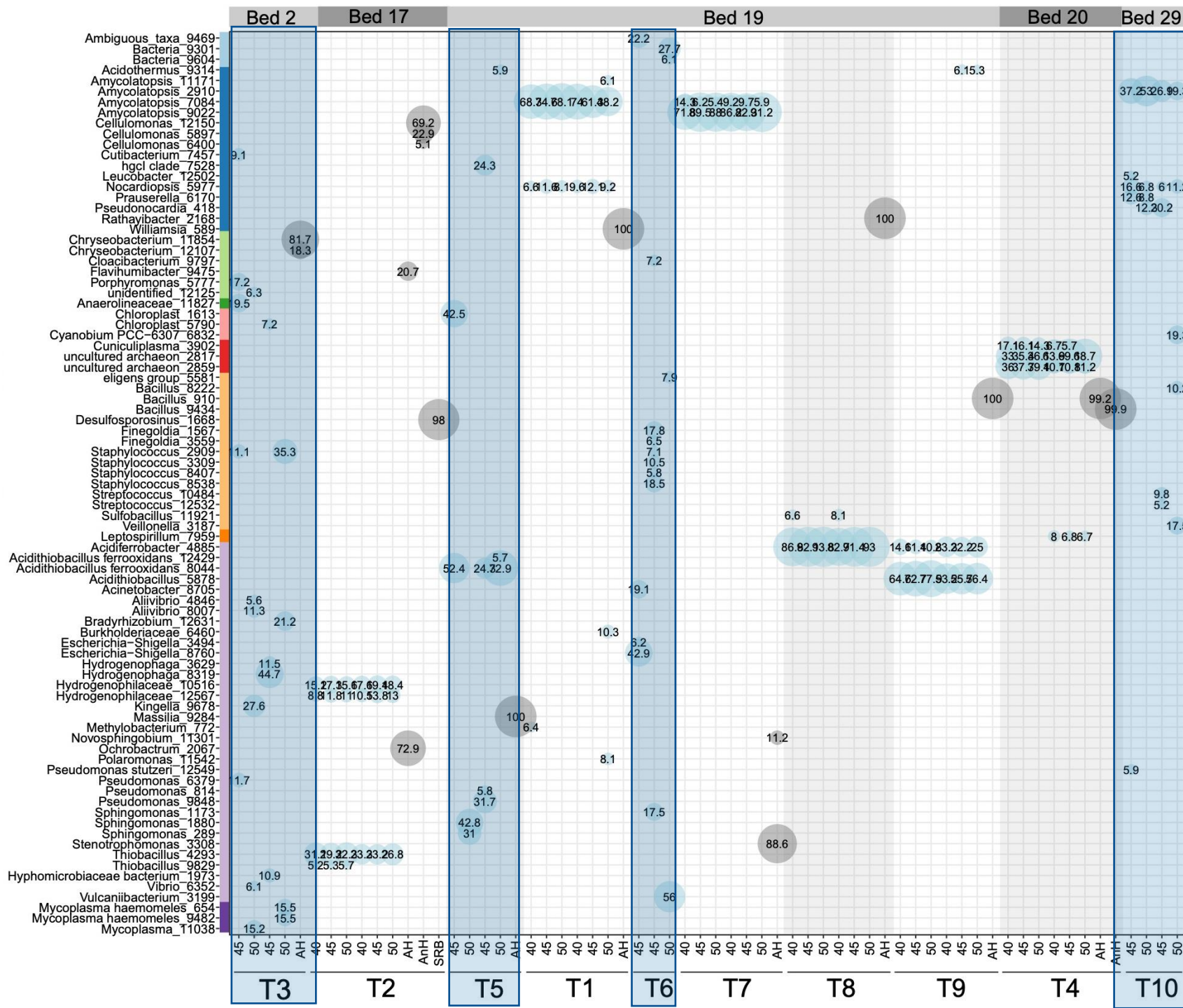








ASV taxonomic affiliation



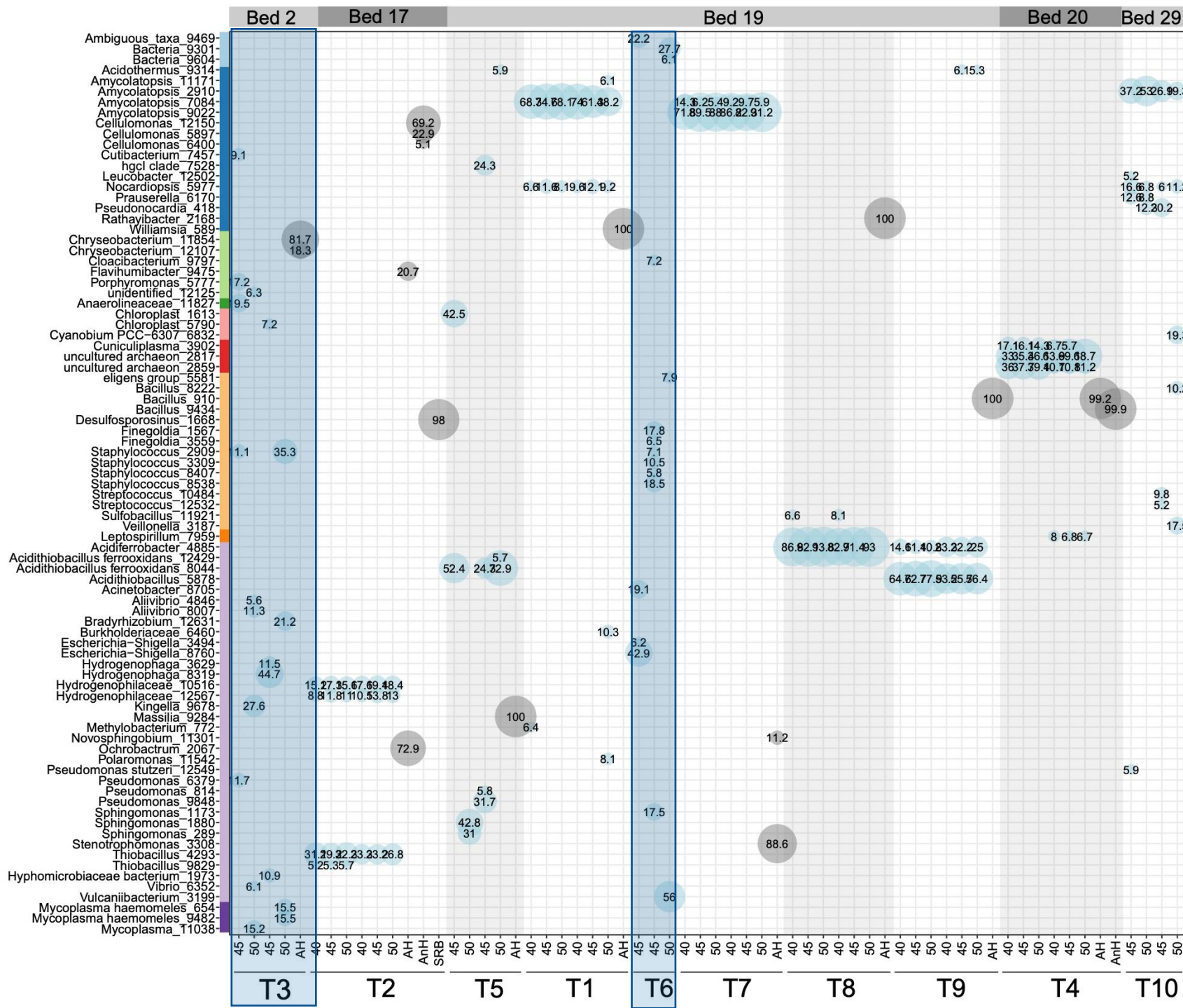
Phylum

- Unclassified
- Actinobacteria
- Bacteroidetes
- Chloroflexi
- Cyanobacteria
- Euryarchaeota
- Firmicutes
- Nitrospirae
- Proteobacteria
- Tenericutes

Sample type

- Clay
- Culture

ASV taxonomic affiliation



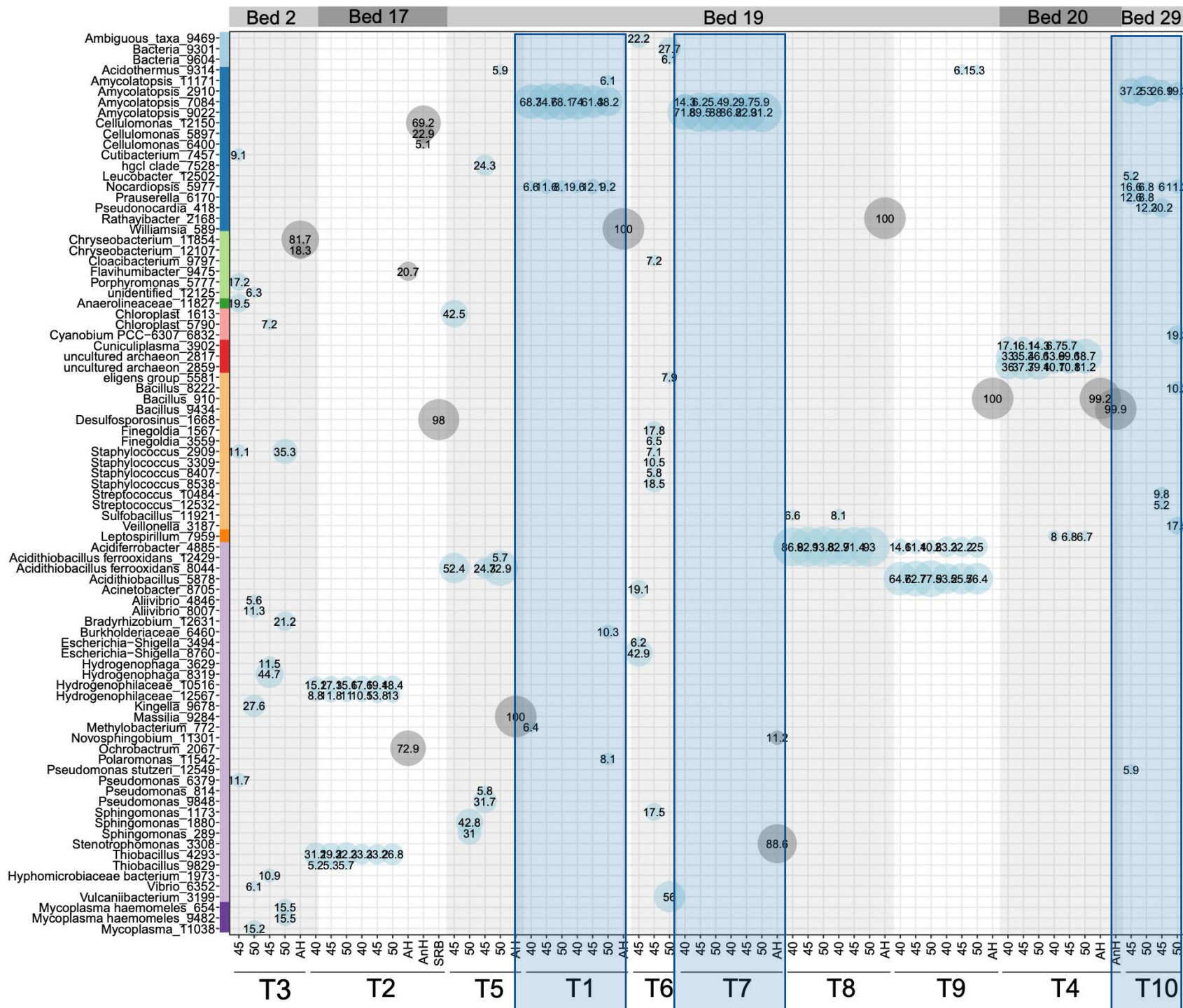
Phylum

- Unclassified
- Actinobacteria
- Bacteroidetes
- Chloroflexi
- Cyanobacteria
- Euryarchaeota
- Firmicutes
- Nitrospirae
- Proteobacteria
- Tenericutes

Sample type

- Clay
- Culture

ASV taxonomic affiliation



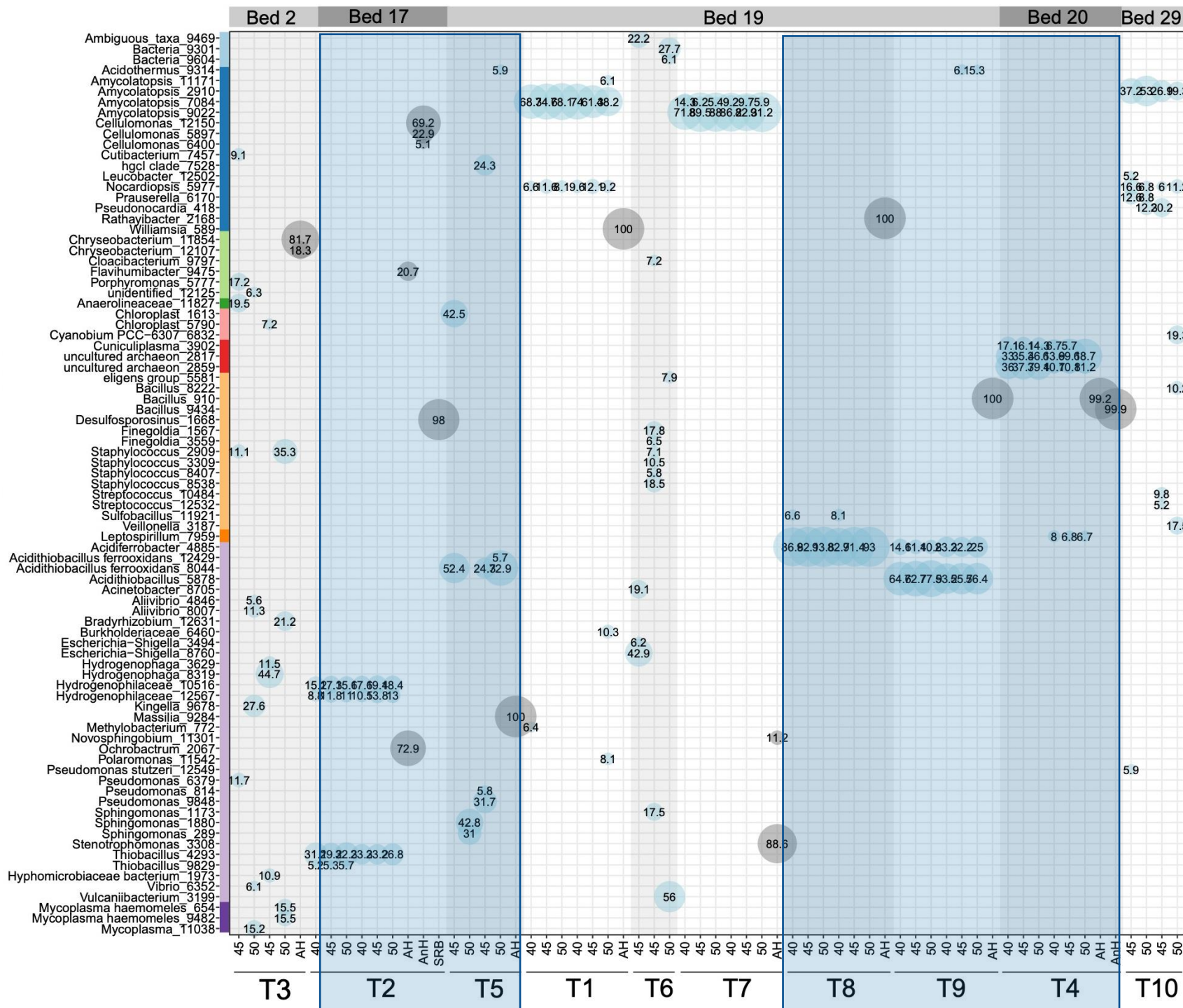
Phylum

- Unclassified
- Actinobacteria
- Bacteroidetes
- Chloroflexi
- Cyanobacteria
- Euryarchaeota
- Firmicutes
- Nitrospirae
- Proteobacteria
- Tenericutes

Sample type

- Clay
- Culture

ASV taxonomic affiliation



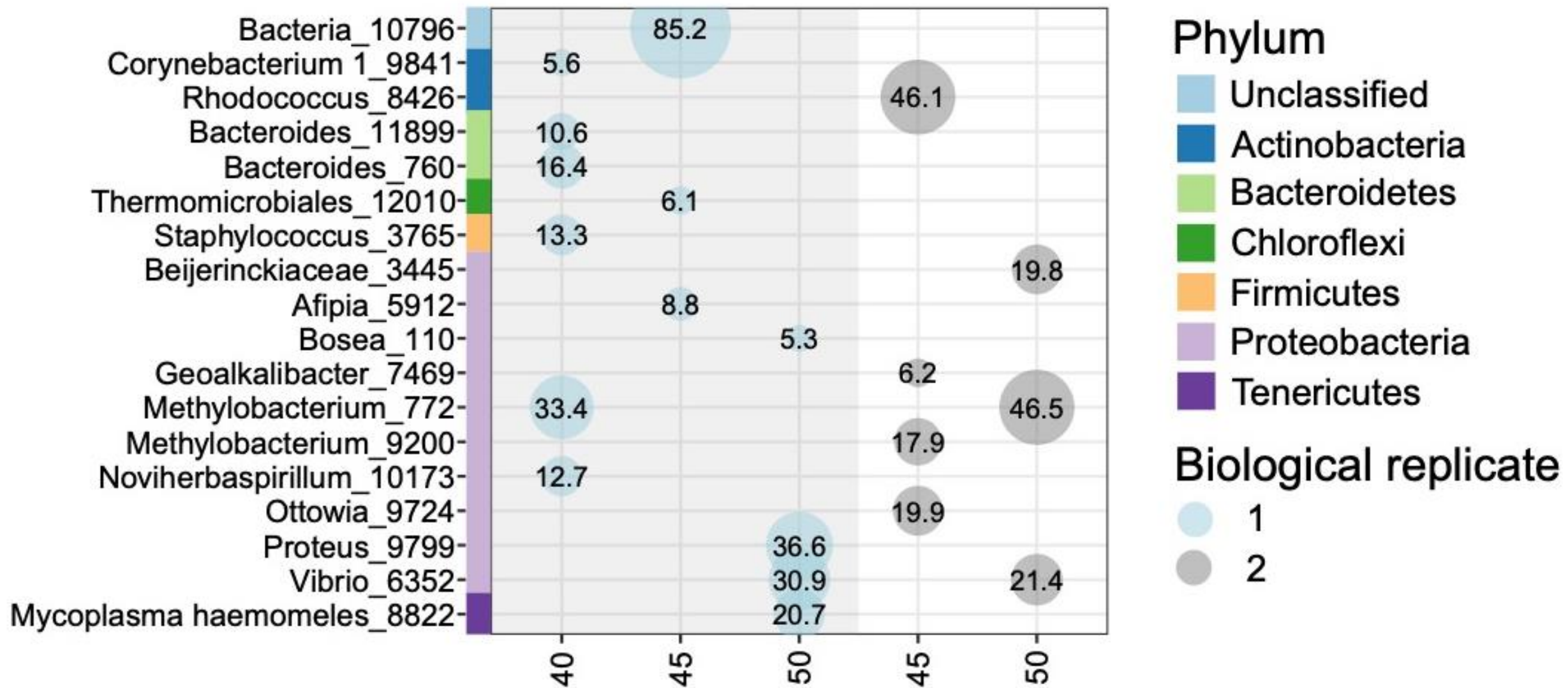
Phylum

- Unclassified
- Actinobacteria
- Bacteroidetes
- Chloroflexi
- Cyanobacteria
- Euryarchaeota
- Firmicutes
- Nitrospirae
- Proteobacteria
- Tenericutes

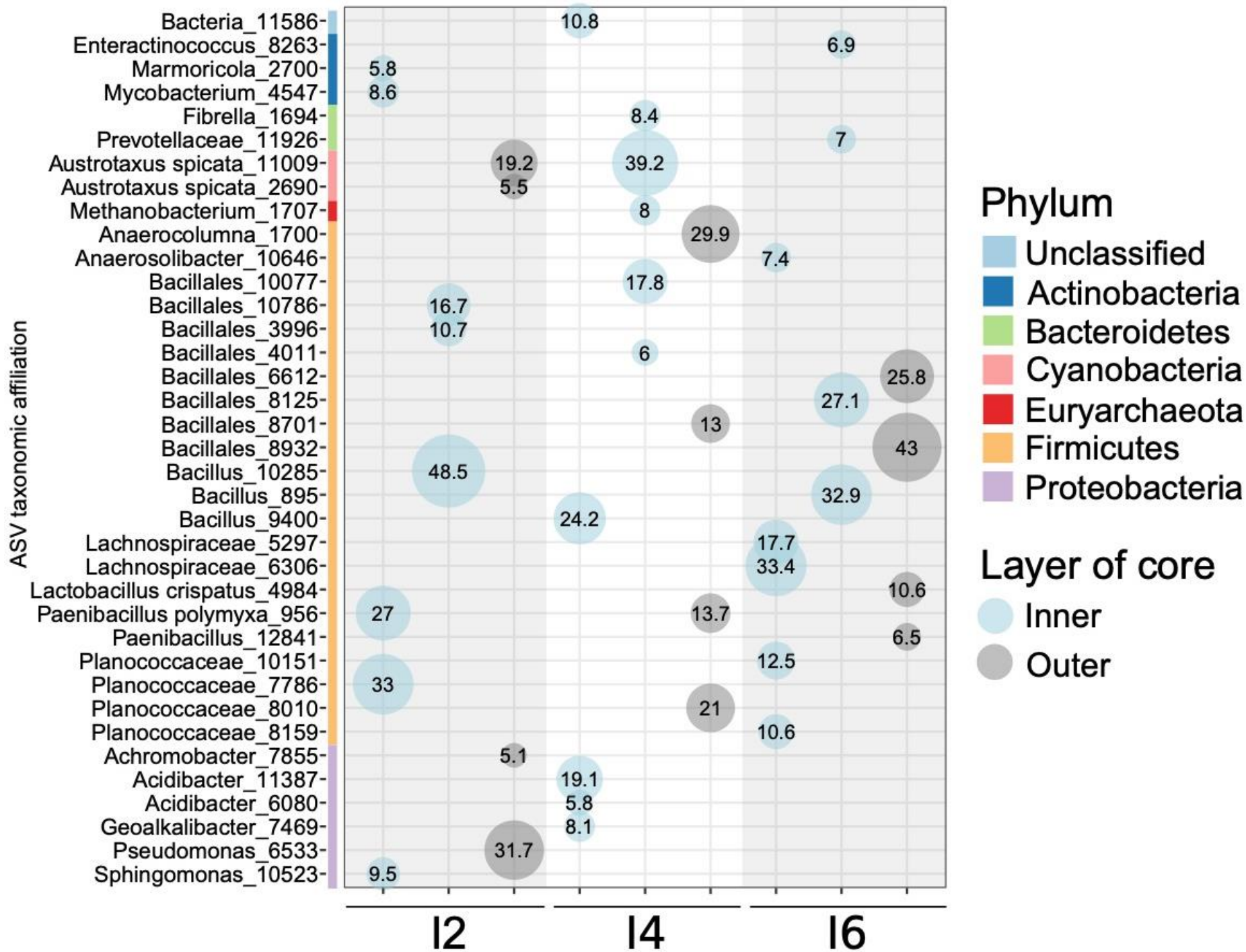
Sample type

- Clay
- Culture

# Bubble plot of Opalinus clay samples



# Bubble plot of Ignace rock samples



# Working with low biomass samples

- The Decontam R package was used to identify contaminant sequences from all amplicon sequencing data generated from low biomass clay and rock samples.

Davis et al. *Microbiome* (2018) 6:226  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-018-0605-2>

Microbiome

**METHODOLOGY**

**Open Access**

## Simple statistical identification and removal of contaminant sequences in marker-gene and metagenomics data



Nicole M. Davis<sup>1</sup>, Diana M. Proctor<sup>2,3</sup>, Susan P. Holmes<sup>4</sup>, David A. Relman<sup>1,2,5</sup> and Benjamin J. Callahan<sup>6,7\*</sup> 

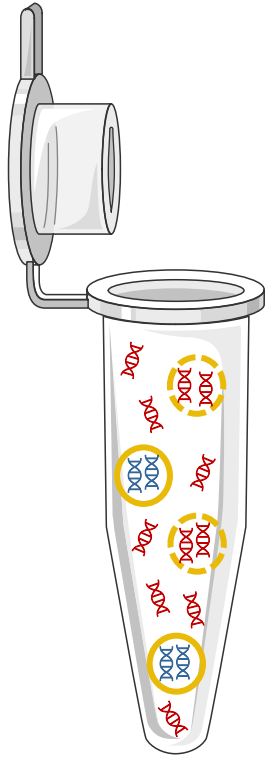
- Replicates are critical to ensure microbial profiles are representative of the clay and not spurious and contaminant-dominated.

## Remaining questions

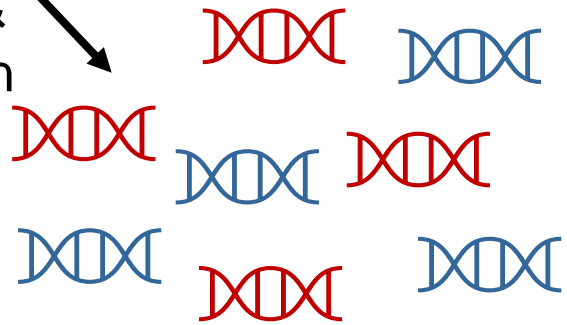
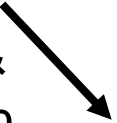
- Would the results differ if samples were taken from anoxic locations?
- Do the microbial profiles represent viable microorganisms or relic DNA?

## Remaining questions

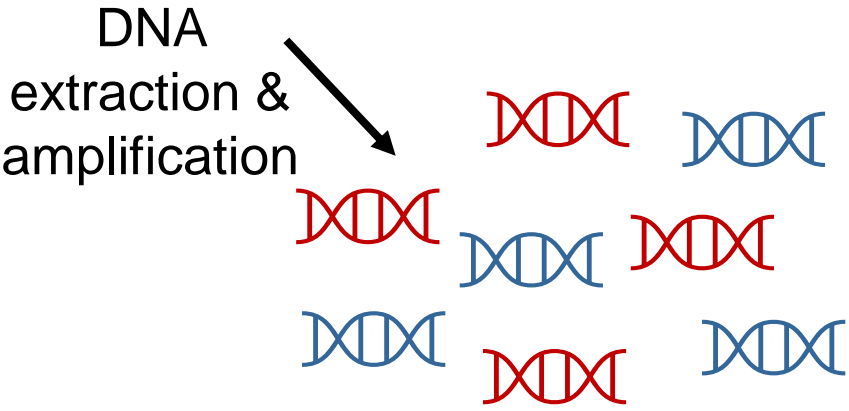
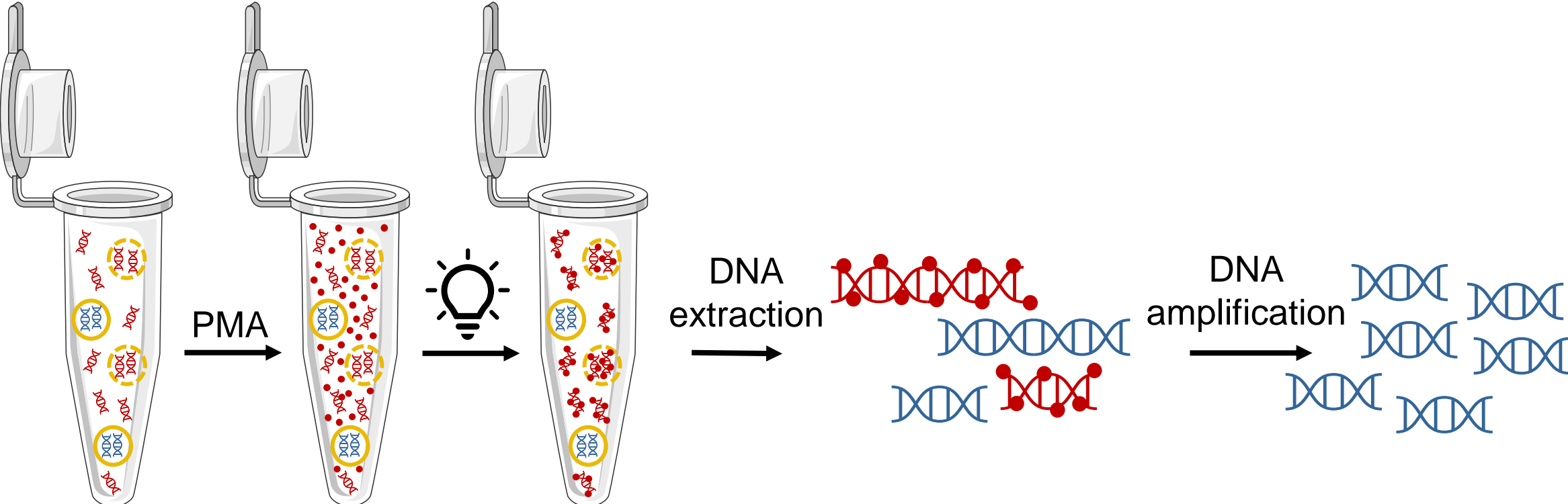
- Would the results differ if samples were taken from anoxic locations?
- Do the microbial profiles represent viable microorganisms or relic DNA?



DNA  
extraction &  
amplification



# Propidium monoazide prevents the amplification of DNA that is not protected by an intact cell membrane



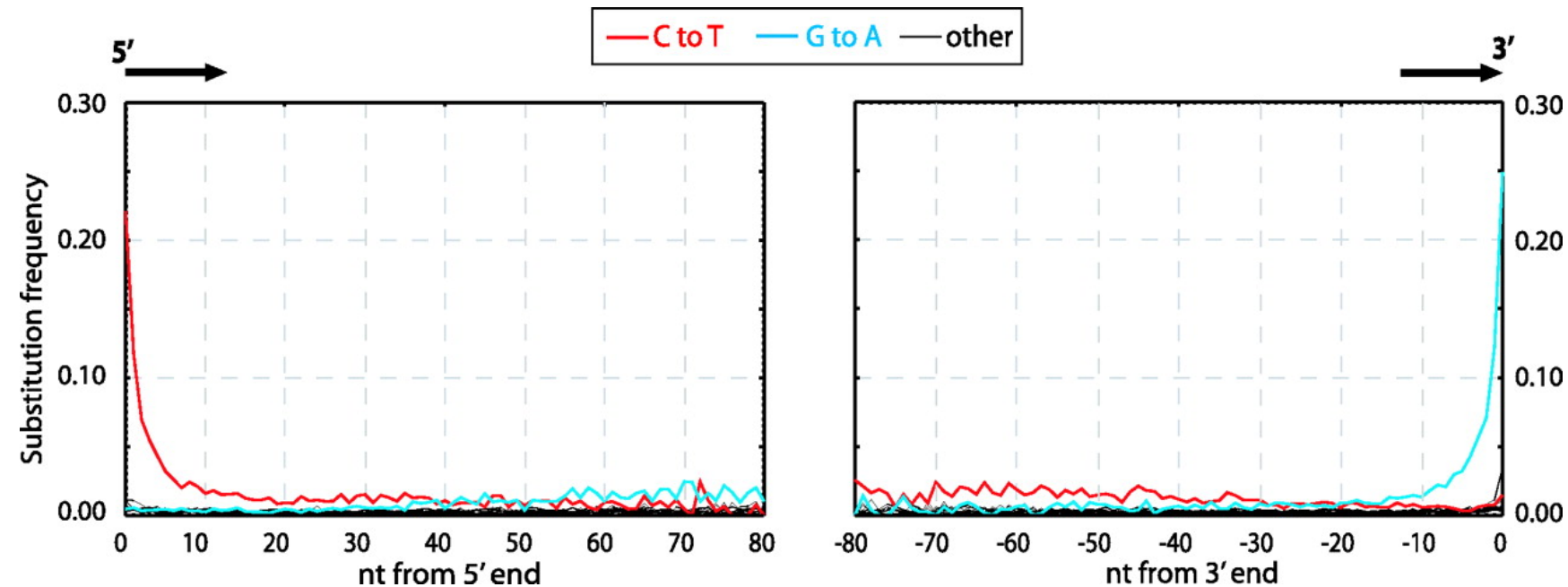
# Patterns of damage in genomic DNA sequences from a Neandertal

Adrian W. Briggs<sup>\*†</sup>, Udo Stenzel<sup>\*</sup>, Philip L. F. Johnson<sup>‡</sup>, Richard E. Green<sup>\*</sup>, Janet Kelso<sup>\*</sup>, Kay Prüfer<sup>\*</sup>, Matthias Meyer<sup>\*</sup>, Johannes Krause<sup>\*</sup>, Michael T. Ronan<sup>§</sup>, Michael Lachmann<sup>\*</sup>, and Svante Pääbo<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Deutscher Platz 6, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany; <sup>‡</sup>Biophysics Graduate Group, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720; and <sup>§</sup>454 Life Sciences, Branford, CT 06405

Contributed by Svante Pääbo, May 25, 2007 (sent for review April 25, 2007)

- C → T and G → A substitutions occur at an increased frequency in ancient DNA.
- The distribution of C → T and G → A substitutions is not equal across a DNA molecule.
- Other types of substitutions are more rare and are equally distributed across a DNA molecule.



[PeerJ](#). 2021; 9: e11845.

PMCID: PMC8323603

Published online 2021 Jul 27. doi: [10.7717/peerj.11845](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.11845)

PMID: [34395085](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34395085/)

## PyDamage: automated ancient damage identification and estimation for contigs in ancient DNA *de novo* assembly

[Maxime Borry](#)<sup>✉1</sup> [Alexander Hübner](#)<sup>1,2</sup> [Adam B. Rohrlach](#)<sup>3,4</sup> and [Christina Warinner](#)<sup>✉1,2,5</sup>

Academic Editor: Rodolfo Aramayo

▶ [Author information](#) ▶ [Article notes](#) ▶ [Copyright and License information](#) [Disclaimer](#)

## Remaining questions

- Would the results differ if samples were taken from anoxic locations?
- Do the microbial profiles represent viable microorganisms or relic DNA?

# Acknowledgements

Josh Neufeld  
Katja Engel

Everyone involved  
in collecting samples

