

# **Spatially-resolved correlative microscopy and microbial identification reveals dynamic depth- and mineral-dependent anabolic activity in salt marsh sediment**

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Running Title: Correlative microscopy in salt marsh sediment

## 1 **Statement of Significance**

2           Microscale spatial relationships dictate critical aspects of a microbiome’s inner workings  
3 and emergent properties, such as evolutionary pathways, niche development, and community  
4 structure and function. However, many commonly used methods in microbial ecology neglect this  
5 parameter – obscuring important microbe-microbe and microbe-mineral interactions – and instead  
6 employ bulk-scale methodologies that are incapable of resolving these intricate relationships.

7           This benchmark study presents a compelling new approach for exploring the anabolic  
8 activity of a complex microbial community by mapping the precise spatial configuration of  
9 anabolically active organisms within mineralogically heterogeneous sediment through *in situ*  
10 incubation, resin embedding, and correlative fluorescence and electron microscopy. In parallel,  
11 active organisms were identified through fluorescence-activated cell sorting and 16S rRNA gene  
12 sequencing, enabling a powerful interpretive framework connecting location, identity, activity, and  
13 putative biogeochemical roles of microbial community members.

14           We deploy this novel approach in salt marsh sediment, revealing quantitative insights into  
15 the fundamental principles that govern the structure and function of sediment-hosted microbial  
16 communities. In particular, at different sediment horizons, we observed striking changes in the  
17 proportion of anabolically active cells, the identities of the most prominent active community  
18 members, and the nature of microbe-mineral affiliations. Improved approaches for understanding  
19 microscale ecosystems in a new light, such as those presented here, reveal environmental  
20 parameters that promote or constrain metabolic activity and clarify the impact that microbial  
21 communities have on our world.

## 22 **Abstract**

23 Coastal salt marshes are key sites of biogeochemical cycling and ideal systems in which to  
24 investigate the community structure of complex microbial communities. Here, we clarify  
25 structural-functional relationships among microorganisms and their mineralogical environment,  
26 revealing previously undescribed metabolic activity patterns and precise spatial arrangements  
27 within salt marsh sediment. Following 3.7-day *in situ* incubations with a non-canonical amino acid  
28 that was incorporated into new biomass, samples were embedded and analyzed by correlative  
29 fluorescence and electron microscopy to map the microscale arrangements of anabolically active  
30 and inactive organisms alongside mineral grains. Parallel sediment samples were examined by  
31 fluorescence-activated cell sorting and 16S rRNA gene sequencing to link anabolic activity to  
32 taxonomic identity. Both approaches demonstrated a rapid decline in the proportion of anabolically  
33 active cells with depth into salt marsh sediment, from ~60% in the top cm to 10-25% between 2-7  
34 cm. From the top to the bottom, the most prominent active community members shifted from sulfur  
35 cycling phototrophic consortia, to sulfate-reducing bacteria likely oxidizing organic compounds,  
36 to fermentative lineages. Correlative microscopy revealed more abundant (and more anabolically  
37 active) organisms around non-quartz minerals including rutile, orthoclase, and plagioclase.  
38 Microbe-mineral relationships appear to be dynamic and context-dependent arbiters of  
39 biogeochemical cycling.

## 40 **Introduction**

41 Salt marshes are vibrant microbial habitats that play important roles in the biogeochemical  
42 cycling of intertidal ecosystems (Tobias and Neubauer, 2019). The confluence of high organic  
43 input and seawater-derived sulfate fuel a wide range of carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, and sulfur  
44 transformations over compressed spatial scales, leading to abundant, redox-specific niches and  
45 microbial communities with high phylogenetic diversity (Lozupone and Knight, 2007; Bowen *et*

46 *al.*, 2012). Because of this, salt marshes represent ideal sites to explore the intricacies of microbial  
47 community structure from the microscale to the ecosystem scale.

48         Within complex microbial communities, spatial relationships are increasingly seen as  
49 central determinants of key ecological parameters. In salt marshes, metabolic activity within  
50 specific sediment horizons ultimately shapes emergent properties such as carbon sequestration or  
51 greenhouse gas emissions (Abdul-Aziz *et al.*, 2018; LaRowe *et al.*, 2020). More generally,  
52 microbe-microbe and microbe-mineral interactions establish evolutionary trajectories (Cordero *et*  
53 *al.*, 2012; Andersen *et al.*, 2015), niche development (Morton *et al.*, 2017), and community  
54 structure, function, and stability (Boetius *et al.*, 2000; Wright *et al.*, 2012; Coyte *et al.*, 2015).  
55 Further, inter-organism arrangements govern chemical communication (West *et al.*, 2007),  
56 metabolite exchange (Romine *et al.*, 2017), and competition for resources (Mitri *et al.*, 2016).  
57 Nonetheless, these critical spatial relationships are neglected by the most commonly used methods  
58 in microbial ecology, such as bulk meta-omics and geochemical approaches. As a result, important  
59 metabolic activities may be obscured, including inter-species nutrient cycling (Wilbanks *et al.*,  
60 2014; Cordero and Datta, 2016) and electron transfer to (Lovley and Phillips, 1988; Myers and  
61 Nealson, 1988) or from (Shelobolina *et al.*, 2012) specific minerals.

62         Recent efforts have made progress in analyzing microbial communities at the microscale.  
63 nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry (nanoSIMS) coupled with stable isotope probing (SIP)  
64 and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) can resolve anabolic patterns and taxonomically  
65 identify individual cells. However, this method typically separates microbial assemblages from  
66 their broader environmental context (McGlynn *et al.*, 2015; Musat *et al.*, 2016; Gyngard and  
67 Steinhauser, 2019). By combining energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (EDS) with x-ray  
68 computed tomography images, Hapca *et al.* extended chemical analyses into a third dimension

69 with resin-embedded soil, but no cellular information was attained (Hapca *et al.*, 2015). Correlative  
70 imaging with nanoSIMS and electron and fluorescence microscopy enabled Schlüter *et al.* to  
71 pinpoint the position of a subset of the microbial community in relation to leaf fragments, but  
72 metabolic activity and microbial identities were not considered (Schlüter *et al.*, 2018). A promising  
73 addition to this emerging field is SIP combined with non-destructive Confocal Raman  
74 microspectroscopy, which was recently used to measure the *in situ* activity and substrate uptake  
75 of microbes in transparent soil microcosms (Sharma *et al.*, In Press).

76         The work presented here advances this line of microbial ecology research. The methods  
77 herein not only preserve spatial arrangements and link cell positions to mineralogy through  
78 correlative microscopy, but also establish the presence, location, and mineralogical associations of  
79 anabolically active cells. Anabolic activity was assessed with bioorthogonal non-canonical amino  
80 acid tagging (BONCAT), a next-generation physiology approach (Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2020) that  
81 uses substrate analog probing to visualize protein synthesis in active cells. A non-canonical amino  
82 acid, such as *L*-homopropargylglycine (HPG) or *L*-azidohomoalanine (AHA), is incorporated into  
83 growing peptides by native methionyl-tRNA synthetases. Subsequent azide-alkyne click chemistry  
84 allows fluorescent detection of newly synthesized proteins (Sletten and Bertozzi, 2009). BONCAT  
85 was initially developed in neuron (Dieterich *et al.*, 2006), eukaryote (Hinz *et al.*, 2011), and  
86 cultured bacteria (Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2014) systems; more recently, it was optimized for  
87 environmental microbial communities and shown to have no measurable effect on community  
88 composition or metabolic activity (Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2014, 2016). The approach has been  
89 proven effective in a diverse range of bacterial and archaeal cultures (Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2014;  
90 Hatzenpichler and Orphan, 2015); ocean water (Samo *et al.*, 2014; Leizeaga *et al.*, 2017; Sebastián  
91 *et al.*, 2019), marine sediment (Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2016), hot spring (Reichart *et al.*, 2020), and

92 soil microbiomes (Couradeau *et al.*, 2019); as well as marine viruses and bacteriophages (Pasulka  
93 *et al.*, 2018). BONCAT appears to be a taxonomically agnostic measure of anabolic activity that  
94 correlates well with other metrics of activity (Bagert *et al.*, 2014; Hatzenpichler *et al.*, 2014, 2020)  
95 with only small effects on metabolism (Steward *et al.*, 2020) and protein chemistry (Bagert *et al.*,  
96 2014; Lehner *et al.*, 2017).

97         In this study, we mapped the anabolic activity of individual microorganisms in sediments  
98 from Little Sippewissett Salt Marsh (LSSM) in Falmouth, MA. In the LSSM, terrestrial freshwater  
99 runoff, seawater, high organic input, and abundant light and chemical energy leads to dramatic  
100 redox stratifications within the top few centimeters of sediment and a wide range of metabolic  
101 niches (Armitage *et al.*, 2012; Wilbanks *et al.*, 2014, 2017; Larsen *et al.*, 2015). Using purpose-  
102 built equipment, a series of sediment cores were incubated with HPG *in situ* for 3.7 days. One set  
103 of cores was used for correlative microscopy; samples were embedded in resin to maintain precise  
104 spatial arrangements, sectioned, stained, and analyzed using fluorescence and electron microscopy  
105 to map active and inactive biomass as well as identifiable mineral grains. A parallel set of cores  
106 was processed for horizon-specific fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS) and 16S rRNA gene  
107 amplicon sequencing. With this novel approach, we mapped active and inactive organisms in their  
108 native microscale configuration and identified the active and inactive microbial communities in  
109 adjacent sediment horizons.

110         Our results indicate that the proportion of anabolically active organisms decreased  
111 dramatically below the photic zone, and that mineralogy likely has an impact on the relative  
112 abundance and anabolic activity of mineral grain-associated organisms. High-throughput 16S  
113 rRNA gene sequencing of active and inactive microbial communities in adjacent sediment cores  
114 revealed a continuous progression of community structure with depth, oriented around shifting

115 metabolisms of photosynthesis, sulfur cycling, and fermentation. Notably, with correlative  
116 fluorescence and electron microscopy, we observed differential cell association with distinct  
117 mineral types and a greater proportion of organisms inside mineral grains in lower (6-7 cm)  
118 sediment horizons compared with shallower zones. While the full potential of microbiome  
119 mapping remains to be realized, this benchmarking study unveils a new experimental approach to  
120 a) evaluate how metabolic activity relates to microscale environmental factors, and b) develop  
121 testable hypotheses regarding metabolic interactions among members of complex microbial  
122 communities.

## 123 **Results & Discussion**

124 This study reveals how microbial presence and anabolic activity relate to mineralogical  
125 distributions at the microscale with a new level of realism in salt marsh sediment. Correlative  
126 microscopy analyses at three distinct horizons revealed changes in organism abundance from  
127  $1.95 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at 7.6 mm depth to  $2.86 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at 12 mm depth and  $6.85 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at 60.7 mm  
128 depth. Moving downward along these three horizons, the proportion of anabolically active  
129 organisms decreased from 51.3% (7.6 mm) to 22.3% (12 mm) to 12.1% (60.7 mm), a trend that  
130 correlated well with BONCAT-FACS data ( $R^2=0.99$ ; Table 1).

131 At each microscopy horizon, the mineralogical identities of individual grains were assessed  
132 in order to determine whether different mineral types corresponded with notable differences in  
133 organism abundance, configuration, or anabolic activity. The majority of all detected grains were  
134 quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), while albite ( $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ), orthoclase ( $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ), rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ), plagioclase (a solid  
135 solution range from  $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$  to  $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ ), and Ca/K/Mg/Fe silicate grains of indeterminate  
136 mineralogy were also detected. Like the vocabulary used to describe microbe-microbe interactions,  
137 microbe-mineral interactions can be harmful, neutral, or beneficial for the organism. Microbial

138 sorption to quartz grains has been demonstrated, but repellent electrical charges make the  
139 interaction less favorable than those with other mineral types (Mills *et al.*, 1994; Gong *et al.*, 2018).  
140 The best-studied beneficial interactions are the microbial reduction of iron or manganese oxides  
141 (Thamdrup, 2000), which enables bacteria to off-load reducing power, altering mineral structure  
142 and chemistry in the process (Kawano and Tomita, 2002; Welch and Banfield, 2002). A number  
143 of factors influence the nature of these interactions, including accessible surface area, mineral  
144 lattice structure, co-occurrence of organic matter, and other environmental conditions such as  
145 temperature and pH (Dong *et al.*, 2009). Beyond iron and manganese, microbes have been shown  
146 to associate with other cations, acquiring potassium from silicates (Valsami-Jones *et al.*, 1998),  
147 releasing organic ligands that adhere to aluminum (Rogers and Bennett, 2004), and using reducing  
148 power from photo-catalytically activated titanium oxide (Lu *et al.*, 2012).

#### 149 Top horizon BONCAT-FACS & Correlative Microscopy

150 Many previous studies have elucidated key aspects of the LSSM microbiological system  
151 and its role in biogeochemical cycling (Seitz *et al.*, 1993; Shapiro *et al.*, 2011; Armitage *et al.*,  
152 2012; Bowen *et al.*, 2013; Peng *et al.*, 2013; Wilbanks *et al.*, 2014, 2017; Larsen *et al.*, 2015;  
153 Mackey *et al.*, 2017; Angell *et al.*, 2018); we leverage this heritage to infer physiological traits  
154 based on the 16S rRNA gene data we collected. (Please see Supporting Information Dataset 1 for  
155 sequence data and relative abundances of assigned lineages for bulk, active, and inactive samples  
156 across all horizons.)

157 The top ten millimeters of LSSM sediment exhibit dramatic redox gradients as oxygen  
158 concentrations fall below detection by 5 mm, sulfide rises from 0 to between 0.5-1.5 mM, and pH  
159 fluctuates between ~7.0-7.3 at night and ~6.0-7.0 during the day (Armitage *et al.*, 2012; Larsen *et al.*,  
160 *et al.*, 2015; Salman *et al.*, 2015). The microbial community was dominated by the phyla



161 *Proteobacteria* (48% relative abundance) and *Bacteroidetes* (30%), whose metabolically diverse  
162 members are indicative of a range of redox conditions and substantial heterotrophic cycling in the  
163 upper sediment layer (Spain *et al.*, 2009; Gómez-Pereira *et al.*, 2012). *Thiohalocapsa* was the most  
164 abundant genus-level lineage recovered, accounting for 14.4% of all sequences; *Desulfobulbaceae*  
165 was the next most abundant genus, with two unidentified lineages representing 3.8% and 2.7% of  
166 all sequences. The prevalence of these purple sulfur bacteria and sulfate-reducing bacteria is  
167 reflective of the abundant “pink berries” found at the sediment surface (Fig. S1) (Seitz *et al.*, 1993;  
168 Wilbanks *et al.*, 2014). Among organisms putatively involved with sulfur-cycling consortia, we  
169 observed a more diverse distribution of sulfate-reducing bacteria lineages (65 genus-level  
170 *Desulfobacterales* ASVs) and a more streamlined set of purple sulfur bacteria with a single  
171 dominant representative (19 genus-level *Chromatiales* ASVs, with *Thiohalocapsa* accounting for  
172 83% of the recovered sequences).

173         During the 3.7-day incubation period, the majority of organisms detected in this sediment  
174 zone demonstrated anabolic activity (Table 1). Sequencing of active and inactive communities in  
175 the 0-10 mm range revealed eight lineages representing >1% of the overall relative abundance that  
176 were significantly more abundant in the anabolically active subset (Dataset 1). Of these, six were  
177 putative members of the pink berry consortia (*Chromatiales* or *Desulfobacterales* orders), one was  
178 a photoheterotroph that may encode multiple light-harvesting complexes (*Haliaceae*, (Spring *et*  
179 *al.*, 2015)), and one was a representative of the metabolically diverse *Rhodobacteraceae* family  
180 (Pujalte *et al.*, 2014; Pohlner *et al.*, 2019). Many of the other abundant inactive lineages – including  
181 three putative sulfate reducers and three putative purple sulfur bacteria – were among the most  
182 abundant ASVs in both the active and inactive fractions (Dataset 1). This overlap may indicate  
183 stochastic activity of particular consortia or a metabolic dependence upon physicochemical traits

184 on a sub-cm scale, such as pore connectivity or identity of neighboring organisms. Alternatively,  
185 our conservative gating approach may have captured some active cells with low fluorescence in  
186 the inactive gate (Fig S2). Among the inactive microorganisms, two *Rhizobiaceae* lineages  
187 constituted a combined 11.8% of the sequenced fraction. This family of *Alphaproteobacteria* is  
188 typically associated with actively growing plants (Spaink *et al.*, 2012); their anabolic quiescence  
189 could be attributable to displacement from spartina grass roots surrounding the sample site.

190 The uppermost section examined by correlative microscopy was located within the top  
191 sequenced horizon, at a depth of 7.6 mm (Fig. 1). In the analysis area, 15 of the 20 mineral grains  
192 were quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), while albite ( $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ), orthoclase ( $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$ ), rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ), plagioclase (a  
193 solid solution range from  $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$  to  $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ ), and Ca/K/Mg/Fe silicate grains of  
194 indeterminate mineralogy were also observed. 73.4% of cells were located within 70  $\mu\text{m}$  or found  
195 inside of quartz grains. When cell biomass abundances were normalized by proxies for mineral  
196 surface area and volume, non-quartz grains exhibited a higher organism density (Table 2).

197 Overall, 77.5% of observed cells were outside their associated mineral grains while 22.5%  
198 were found inside, frequently along fractures or pores visible by SEM. The most biomass-rich  
199 zone was the “surface-associated” 0-5  $\mu\text{m}$  bin, where 27.8% of cells were found. Beyond 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  
200 cell abundance decreased markedly, demonstrating a strong preference for grain interface zones  
201 and reflecting the removal of suspended biomass when the original porewater was replaced with  
202 filtered HPG solution prior to incubation. These spatial trends were broadly consistent across  
203 different mineral types (Fig. 2), though the greatest proportion (39%) of orthoclase-associated cells  
204 were not in the “surface-associated” 0-5  $\mu\text{m}$  bin, but in the 5-10  $\mu\text{m}$  zone. We also found that the  
205 degree of anabolic activity was higher around non-quartz minerals when compared with quartz-  
206 associated cells (Table 2). Although low abundances of these mineral types make generalizations

207 difficult, it is possible that metal cations in the mineral structures facilitate a wider range of  
208 metabolic reactions than the more chemically inert quartz (Shi *et al.*, 2016). The electrical semi-  
209 conductivity of titanium oxide can promote extracellular electron transfer (Zhou *et al.*, 2018) and,  
210 via photo-catalysis, stimulate the growth of non-phototrophic microbes (Lu *et al.*, 2012); these  
211 mechanisms may account for the elevated proportion (78%, compared with a mean of 51.7% for  
212 this horizon) of active cells associated with the exterior of the titanium oxide rutile grain.

### 213 Second horizon BONCAT-FACS & Correlative Microscopy

214         Between 10-20 mm of sediment depth, oxygen is absent and pH remains largely consistent  
215 within a ~0.3 unit range, but sulfide concentrations exhibit substantial (up to ~500  $\mu$ M) fluctuations  
216 upward or downward, with no clear pattern based on diurnal cycle timing (Larsen *et al.*, 2015;  
217 Salman *et al.*, 2015). Under these more energetically constrained conditions, 16S rRNA gene reads  
218 were dominated by *Proteobacteria* (40%), *Cyanobacteria* (26%), and *Bacteroidetes* (13%) phyla  
219 suggestive of recycling of plant material as well as vibrant nitrogen and sulfur cycling processes.  
220 Among the ASVs representing more than 1% of relative abundance, one ASV most similar to  
221 mitochondria (2.8%) and eight cyanobacterial chloroplast-like sequences (summing to 16.7%)  
222 likely reflect burial and degradation of animal and photosynthetic biomass. Primers used in this  
223 study can amplify some eukaryotic sequences (Parada *et al.*, 2016), but the short sequence length  
224 precludes accurate taxonomic assignment to eukaryotic chloroplast or mitochondria. Interestingly,  
225 these constituents were seemingly selected against during the cell extraction and sorting process,  
226 as their relative abundance in the active and inactive fractions were all well below 1%.  
227 Mitochondrial ASVs accounted for 0.12% and 0.01% of sequences in active and inactive fractions,  
228 respectively; chloroplast ASVs were 0% and 0.01%, respectively.

229           The contribution of burial and degradation is consistent with the lower proportion of active  
230 organisms observed by both microscopy (22.3%) and cell sorting data (22.4%). Sulfate-reducing  
231 deltaproteobacterial clades (particularly those within the *Desulfobacterales* family) as well as the  
232 environmentally wide-ranging betaproteobacterial family *Burkholderiaceae*, were more prevalent  
233 among active organisms. Sulfate-reducing bacteria represented five of the seven ASVs that were  
234 significantly enriched in the active fraction and accounted for at least 1% of the overall relative  
235 abundance, indicating a vibrant sulfur cycle likely fueled by organic carbon degradation.  
236 *Rhizobiales* and *Chromatiaceae* were more abundant in the inactive fraction, suggesting that  
237 potentially critical environmental factors like viable plant cells and sunlight, respectively, were  
238 not abundantly available. Nonetheless, one *Chromatiaceae* ASV (of the *Halochromatium* genus)  
239 was the second most-abundant lineage among active organisms, indicating that anoxygenic  
240 photosynthesis was still possible at this sediment depth (and/or bioturbation contributed to in-  
241 mixing from more photosynthetically active surface layers).

242           Within the 10-20 mm depth zone, a post-BONCAT embedded section from a depth of 12  
243 mm was examined by correlative microscopy (Figs. 3-4). Twenty-two mineral grains were  
244 analyzed; as above, the vast majority of grains were quartz, and the microbes associated with non-  
245 quartz grains (in particular, orthoclase) had a higher proportion of anabolically active constituents  
246 (Table 2). Across all mineral types, exterior organisms were more spatially constrained to surfaces  
247 than the analyzed section from 7.6 mm: 40.5% were located within 5  $\mu\text{m}$  of mineral grains  
248 compared to 27.8% in the top layer. Some of the highest concentrations of active cells were  
249 associated not with well-defined minerals, but rather with heterogeneous patches that include small  
250 particles of quartz, sodium, and iron (Fig. 3). In comparison with larger mineral grain interfaces,

251 these particle assemblages offer greater chemically diversity and more potentially reactive surface  
252 area, factors that may facilitate interactions among microbes.

### 253 Lower horizons BONCAT-FACS

254 The horizons from 20-60 mm did not have any corresponding sections analyzed by  
255 microscopy, but the FACS and 16S rRNA gene sequencing data illuminate important trends in  
256 community composition and metabolic activity with sediment depth. Among the eight most  
257 abundant orders recovered, the sulfate-reducing *Desulfobacterales* and *Desulfarculales* accounted  
258 for relatively consistent proportions of the active and inactive subsets throughout the core (Fig. 5).  
259 The prominence of these lineages is consistent with previous observations that sulfate reduction is  
260 the main remineralization metabolism in salt marsh sediments, accounting for roughly 80% of all  
261 respiration at Great Sippewissett Marsh (Howarth and Teal, 1979). The more abundant  
262 *Desulfobacterales* were more prevalent among anabolically active than inactive organisms at all  
263 horizons, while the *Desulfarculales* frequently exhibited the opposite relationship. The latter order  
264 consisted of the *Desulfatiglans* genus, whose abundance in subseafloor environments has been  
265 attributed to its metabolic versatility in the degradation of aromatics (Jochum *et al.*, 2018). In our  
266 context, this versatility has seemingly enabled the genus to persist throughout the core, but the cost  
267 of a diverse metabolic portfolio could be substantial lag times in metabolic re-routing or extended  
268 periods of quiescence for organisms whose metabolic substrate is not present at a given time.

269 Purple sulfur bacteria *Chromatiales*, as anticipated, comprised a decreasing proportion of  
270 active cells down-core in the absence of light. However, it was the most abundant order in several  
271 inactive fractions, suggesting that purple sulfur bacteria may be among the larger microbial  
272 contributors of organic matter to deeper sediments. *Cellvibrionales* and *Rhodobacterales* were  
273 found at higher relative abundance in active than inactive fractions at the top of the core, but the

274 opposite was true below 20 mm depth. *Cellvibrionales* have traditionally been considered  
275 oligotrophs, but some members of the order contain sulfur oxidation pathways and others can grow  
276 photoheterotrophically (Spring *et al.*, 2014, 2015); this diversity of environments may explain their  
277 relatively consistent presence among both active and inactive sequences throughout the core.  
278 *Rhodobacterales* are noted early colonizers of particles (Dang *et al.*, 2008); one of the most  
279 prominent genera detected throughout the core was *Rubribacterium*, a non-sulfur purple bacterium  
280 that is a facultative aerobe (Boldareva *et al.*, 2009). These traits help explain the order's presence  
281 at all horizons and its decrease in the active fraction with depth.

282 The observed vertical profile of *Pirellulales* sequences is consistent with aerobic  
283 chemoorganotrophs (Schlesner *et al.*, 2004) which may have been deposited onto the sediment  
284 surface, metabolically inactivated quickly upon burial and the onset of anoxic conditions, and  
285 potentially scavenged by the anoxic heterotrophs. *Sphingobacterales* are typically associated with  
286 carbon remineralization in oxic soils (Fierer *et al.*, 2007), but they do retain fermentation-  
287 associated genes (Hester *et al.*, 2018) that may explain their presence among the active cell fraction  
288 we recovered from below 10 mm depth.

#### 289 Deepest horizon BONCAT-FACS & Correlative Microscopy

290 The deepest section used for correlative microscopy analysis was at a depth of 60.7 mm.  
291 Prior to cell extraction and sorting, a diverse range of fermentative lineages was observed,  
292 including *Anaerolinaceae* (6.4% of bulk sequences), *Clostridia* (2.6%), and *Bacteroidia* (13%).  
293 Few sequences from putative methanogens were observed, potentially due to primer bias (Bahram  
294 *et al.*, 2019), seasonality (Buckley *et al.*, 2008), and the presence of abundant sulfate-reducing  
295 bacteria and a range of homoacetogens that may be more successful at attaining hydrogen  
296 (Oremland and Polcin, 1982; Ye *et al.*, 2014). In this horizon, the majority of observed (87.9%)

297 and sorted (85.5%) cells were anabolically inactive (Table 2). The active and inactive communities  
298 exhibited similar richness, but the active community had higher evenness (Fig. S3) and included a  
299 comparatively higher relative proportion of *Desulfobacterales*, *Bacteroidia*, *Clostridia*, and  
300 *Anaerolinaceae*.

301 Forty-two mineral grains were observed in the fluorescence microscopy field of view,  
302 which also contained the highest abundance of small mineral particles and heterogenous patches  
303 of the three sections (Figs. 6-7), potentially due to the diagenetic processes that accompany burial  
304 and longer residence times within the sediment column (Curtis, 1987). Despite the high abundance  
305 of associated mineral interfaces across a range of spatial scales, this horizon exhibited the lowest  
306 microbial abundance and the lowest proportion of anabolically active organisms. This observation  
307 is consistent with commonly observed trends in sediments, where electron acceptor depletion and  
308 the progressive loss of labile carbon with depth can lead to energetically constrained conditions  
309 (Blume *et al.*, 2002; Jørgensen *et al.*, 2002; Stone *et al.*, 2014).

310 In the 60.7 mm horizon, quartz grains had the lowest cell abundances per unit surface area  
311 and volume of the three examined sections, while orthoclase and plagioclase had higher-than-  
312 average biomass densities (Table 2). The proportion of anabolically active organisms, however,  
313 was not substantially different among distinct mineral types, suggesting that cells adhere more  
314 strongly to plagioclase and orthoclase grains, and/or that quartz is more readily degraded during  
315 diagenesis, disrupting surficial microbial association. This horizon also exhibited the highest  
316 proportion of cells located inside mineral grains (37.8%), an observation that could reflect the  
317 extensive remineralization of external biomass with burial (Mackin and Swider, 1989).

318 Compiling findings across horizons

319           When integrating sequencing and microscopy data across all horizons, intriguing trends of  
320   anabolic activity, diversity, and spatial arrangement emerged. With increasing depth into the  
321   sediment, where geochemical and thermal conditions were more stable, alpha diversity metrics of  
322   bulk pre-extraction communities revealed a decrease in richness but increase in evenness (Fig. S3).  
323   Among the anabolically active and inactive communities, no substantial change in the number of  
324   distinct ASVs with depth was observed, but the evenness of their distribution increased down-core  
325   for the active constituents. This pattern may reflect a wider range of available niches with fewer  
326   dominant lineages below the photic zone, as organic matter is remineralized through a range of  
327   metabolic routes, making these deeper communities' emergent effects more resistant to  
328   environmental changes (Wittebolle *et al.*, 2009).

329           Beta diversity analysis revealed a clear separation of active and inactive communities,  
330   confirming that organisms respond to environmental cues in a taxonomically differentiated manner  
331   and that anabolic activity is not a random process (Fig. S4). Furthermore, for both active and  
332   inactive communities, the closer two sediment horizons were in depth, the more similar their  
333   community compositions. This trend likely reflects depth-based gradients that form the energetic  
334   basis for metabolic activity, as well as the burial process in which a given horizon's community  
335   represents the confluence of local selective pressures operating on an assemblage of organisms  
336   “imported” from above or from below due to tidal pumping.

337           At each of the three horizons examined through correlative microscopy, quartz was the  
338   dominant mineral type, yet microbial communities associated with quartz grains had the lowest  
339   proportion of anabolically active members. Other mineral types – such as orthoclase, plagioclase,  
340   and rutile – had a broader set of cations (Al, Ti, K) that may have offered additional electron  
341   transfer or nutrient acquisition opportunities for active cells. With increasing sediment depth,



342 organisms were more likely to be located inside mineral grains, and these “internal” cells were  
343 increasingly likely to be anabolically active compared with their “external” counterparts (Table  
344 2): at 7.6 mm, 12 mm, and 60.7 mm depth, internal organisms were 2.1%, 24%, and 45% more  
345 likely to be active than those outside minerals. These observations are consistent with a more stable  
346 intra-mineral environment that may be less susceptible to predation, particularly in the more  
347 energetically constrained anoxic sediment horizons.

## 348 **Conclusions**

349         The biological community of LSSM sediment demonstrated notable differences in its  
350 composition, anabolic activity patterns, spatial arrangements, and mineralogical associations at the  
351 three distinct horizons analyzed in this study. Following incorporation of HPG into new biomass  
352 during a 3.7-day *in situ* incubation experiment, correlative microscopy, BONCAT-FACS, and  
353 sequencing demonstrated that the most prevalent active constituents shifted from sulfur cycling  
354 phototrophic consortia in the surficial horizon, to sulfate-reducing bacteria likely oxidizing a range  
355 of organic compounds, to a range of fermentative lineages in the lower horizons. We observed a  
356 rapid decay in the proportion of active organisms from ~60% in the top cm to between 10-25% in  
357 the horizons between 2-7 cm depth, offering a quantifiable reflection of the shift to the dark, anoxic  
358 environment. By embedding sediment cores in resin, we mapped biomass and mineral grains with  
359 microscale resolution and found that, on average, organisms were more distant from mineral grain  
360 surfaces in the uppermost horizon, and most likely to be found inside mineral grains in the  
361 lowermost horizon. Plagioclase, orthoclase, and rutile minerals recruited more abundant  
362 communities that contained a higher proportion of anabolically active organisms compared with  
363 quartz grains. Taken together, these findings give the impression of a more spatially and

364 metabolically expansive community in surface sediments, fueled by sunlight and a range of  
365 available niches, that is streamlined by burial and mineralogical weathering.

366 This benchmark study presents a promising new approach for exploring the anabolic  
367 activity of a complex microbial community by mapping the precise spatial configuration of  
368 anabolically active organisms within mineralogically heterogeneous salt marsh sediment through  
369 correlative fluorescence and electron microscopy, while simultaneously identifying active  
370 organisms in neighboring sediment with BONCAT-FACS and 16S rRNA gene sequencing. The  
371 structure, activity, and evolutionary trajectory of complex microbial communities are determined  
372 by the interactions between biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem. Spatial relationships  
373 are a powerful indication of these interactions, particularly in concert with the identification of  
374 metabolically active organisms. Looking forward, the incorporation of rRNA-targeted FISH into  
375 this workflow would enable a more direct connection between microbe-mineral spatial  
376 arrangements and taxonomically constrained activity patterns. Improved approaches for  
377 understanding microscale ecosystems in a new light, such as those presented here, reveal  
378 environmental parameters that promote or constrain metabolic activity and clarify the impact that  
379 microbial communities have on our world.

## 380 **Experimental Procedures**

### 381 Incubation Chamber Construction

382 Customized chambers were constructed to enable *in situ* incubation with HPG-infused  
383 fluid. Glycol-modified polyethylene terephthalate (PETG) tubes (1" outer diameter, 0.75" inner  
384 diameter, McMaster-Carr, Elmhurst, IL) were cut to ~30 cm length. PETG was used because of  
385 its low gas permeability and high optical transparency ([Thermo Fisher Scientific](#)), properties that  
386 diminished oxygen penetration of subsurface sediments during recovery and transport while

387 retaining light availability for surface-exposed organisms during the incubation period. The lower  
388 opening of each tube was beveled with sandpaper (giving the tube a sharp interior edge) to  
389 minimize the effects of compaction on collected material when pressing the tube into the sediment.

390 To make the chambers water-tight, the top portions of two 50-mL Falcon tubes were cut  
391 off and attached to either end of the PETG tube using Master Plumber epoxy putty (William H.  
392 Harvey, Omaha, NE). By threading the lids onto the appended tube tops, fluid was retained within  
393 the incubation tube; by removing them, percolation was enabled.

394 At certain times during the incubation, gas-permeable, liquid-impermeable conditions were  
395 required. This was achieved with 0.01"-thick silicone polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) membranes  
396 (Interstate Specialty Products, Sutton, MA) that were secured between the end of the tube and the  
397 screw-top lid. Holes were poked into the Falcon tube lid with a needle to facilitate gas exchange  
398 at both the top and bottom of the incubation volume. All materials were thoroughly cleaned with  
399 70% ethanol and 60 minutes of UV light exposure prior to use.

#### 400 Sample Recovery, HPG Addition, and *In Situ* Incubation

401 On September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, several customized incubation chamber tubes were taken to Little  
402 Sippewissett Salt Marsh (LSSM) in Falmouth, MA. The "Berry Pond" at 41.5758° latitude, -  
403 70.6394° longitude (Fig. S1) was selected for sampling due to its extensive heritage in  
404 environmental microbiology research, which would provide greater context to our studies. The  
405 work presented here pertains to sediment cores collected with five customized incubation tubes  
406 (see Table S1). Cores BM and BS were treated with HPG for BONCAT analysis; CM and CS were  
407 control samples with no HPG exposure. BM and CM were used for microscopy analysis; BS and  
408 CS were used for community analysis by FACS and subsequent 16S rRNA gene sequencing of  
409 anabolically active and inactive populations. An additional control of homogenized 0-10 cm depth

410 LSSM sediment (core AM) was autoclave-sterilized and then incubated with HPG solution  
411 (described below) for 89 hours in the lab.

412 At approximately 07:00 (24-hour clock), the tubes were pressed into the sediment,  
413 collecting ~10-12 cm of sediment; upon removal, an autoclave-sterilized plug of glass wool (Fisher  
414 Scientific) was inserted into the bottom of the tube. (See Fig. 8 for a schematic of the collection  
415 and sample processing approach.) Permeable and intact Falcon tube caps were twisted onto the top  
416 and bottom of the chamber, respectively. At approximately 7:30, the incubation chambers were  
417 placed in an anoxic glove box (3.5% H<sub>2</sub>, 20% CO<sub>2</sub>, 76.5% N<sub>2</sub>), the caps were removed, and fluid  
418 replacement began. Based on the permeability of the sediment and the glass wool plug, fluid  
419 moved through the sediment column at a rate of ~0.3 mL per minute per cm<sup>2</sup>.

420 Next, the sediment water was replaced with fluid containing HPG (Click Chemistry Tools,  
421 Scottsdale, AZ) for anabolic uptake. 50 μM HPG was dissolved in 0.22 μm-filtered Berry Pond  
422 water and stored in an anoxic chamber overnight. (The appropriate concentration of HPG and dye  
423 for subsequent visualization was determined from a previous study (Hatzenpichler and Orphan,  
424 2015) and a series of tests using 5-500 μM HPG and 0.5-50 μM dye; see Fig. S5.) Four to six  
425 column volumes of HPG solution were added dropwise to the top of the column at roughly the  
426 same rate as fluid leaked out the bottom, resulting in a full replacement of permeable volume with  
427 HPG solution in a manner that did not substantially change the overlying pressure experienced by  
428 the sediment. PDMS membranes were secured to the top and bottom of the incubation chamber  
429 with the same Falcon tube caps as before, and the samples were transported back to the Berry Pool.

430 At the precise location of sample collection, the incubation chambers were placed back  
431 into the marsh sediment at 12:00. Immediately prior to deposition, holes were poked in the bottom  
432 caps (but not the membrane) to ensure the full length of the sediment was in gaseous equilibrium

433 with its surroundings, but that the HPG solution remained contained. The tubes were aligned such  
434 that the water-sediment interface matched that of the sediment in the Berry Pool. The samples were  
435 left to incubate in the marsh for 89 hours (retrieval time September 30<sup>th</sup>, 05:00). The incubation  
436 timing was determined by experiments of LSSM sediments demonstrating apparent saturation of  
437 BONCAT-positive signal after 88 hours (Fig. S6).

438 Throughout the process described above, the incubation chambers were checked for leaks.  
439 Overlying water levels were marked on the tube exterior after sample recovery, after HPG fluid  
440 introduction, and upon re-introduction to the marsh; experiments only proceeded if no change in  
441 water level was observed.

#### 442 Preparation of Cores for Microscopy

443 Our core preparation expanded on a protocol that was first used in the analysis of volcanic  
444 fumarole soils (Marlow *et al.*, 2020). Cores BM and CM were chemically fixed, dehydrated,  
445 embedded in resin, sectioned, and stained for analysis by fluorescence and electron microscopy.  
446 Four to six column volumes of 3% PFA solution (in 0.22  $\mu$ m-filtered Berry Pond water) were  
447 percolated through the samples to fully replace the HPG solution. An intact bottom cap was  
448 secured to the bottom of the core tube, and samples were incubated at room temperature for four  
449 hours. A dehydration series consisting of 4-6 column volumes each of 50%, 80%, and 96% ethanol  
450 (in 0.22  $\mu$ m-filtered Berry Pond water) was performed.

451 Following dehydration, sediment samples were embedded in LR White resin (hard grade,  
452 Electron Microscopy Sciences, Hatfield, PA), which was selected for its low viscosity and minimal  
453 background signal under the wavelengths used for fluorescence microscopy. LR White has been  
454 used in a number of similar applications, including correlative microscopy of animal tissue  
455 (Hegermann *et al.*, 2019), plant tissues (Bell *et al.*, 2013), low diversity microbial biofilms

456 (Knierim *et al.*, 2012), carbonate microbialites (Gérard *et al.*, 2013), and marine sediment  
457 (McGlynn *et al.*, 2018). Four to six column volumes of 100% liquid resin were percolated through  
458 the dehydrated columns, and intact Falcon tube caps were secured on the bottom to avoid leakage.  
459 The samples were then placed in an incubation oven at 60 °C for 36 hours to cure.

460         The solidified sediment columns were sectioned with a diamond saw (Model 650, South  
461 Bay Technology, San Clemente, CA) and an ethanol-sterilized PELCO diamond wafering blade  
462 (#812-332, Ted Pella, Inc., Redding, CA) spun through ultrapure Milli-Q cooling water. Sections  
463 were submerged in a 5 µM Cy3 Picolyl Azide dye (Click Chemistry Tools, Scottsdale, AZ) click  
464 staining solution (Hatzenpichler and Orphan, 2015) in an anoxic chamber for 60 minutes in the  
465 dark. Afterwards, they were removed from the chamber, washed three times with sterile PBS  
466 solution, incubated in 5x SYBR Green I (referred to hereafter as “SYBR green”; Life  
467 Technologies, ThermoFisher, Waltham, MA) in the dark at room temperature for 15 minutes,  
468 rinsed three times with sterile PBS, and left to air dry in the dark prior to imaging. All downstream  
469 correlative microscopy was performed on areas as far from the outer edge of the sediment core as  
470 possible (~8 mm) in order to minimize the effects of the coring process on the analyzed area.

#### 471 Fluorescence Microscopy

472         Fluorescence imaging of sectioned samples was done with a LSM 880 confocal laser  
473 scanning microscope (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) equipped with a gallium arsenide phosphide  
474 (GaAsP) detector, a 20x objective lens, and DI water immersion. Argon and DPSS lasers provided  
475 excitation at 458, 488, 514, and 561 nm wavelengths. Detected emission windows were 510-561  
476 nm for SYBR green and 564-669 nm for Cy5. Reflected light from the 488 nm laser was also  
477 captured to link sample features between confocal and electron microscopy images as reference  
478 points. Imaging was done with the Zen 2.3 SP1 program (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany). Focus

479 was adjusted manually for each field of view. 1,024 x 1,024 pixel frames were acquired with a  
480 pixel dwell time of 32.77  $\mu$ sec and a pixel size of 240 nm. Four line-based scans were averaged to  
481 generate each image. Gain settings were set to minimize background and nonspecific signals. For  
482 the SYBR channel, 800 master gain and 1.3 digital gain were used; these parameters were 680 and  
483 1.2, respectively, for the Cy3 channel.

#### 484 Electron Microscopy & Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy

485 After fluorescence microscopy, each section was dipped in a dehydration series of 50%,  
486 80%, and 100% ethanol solutions (balance Milli-Q water). The sample was then mounted on a  
487 SEM sample holder with double-sided carbon tape and sputter-coated with 5 nm of Pt/Pd (EMS  
488 150 T S Metal Sputter Coater, Electron Microscopy Science, Hatfield, PA). Using the Zeiss  
489 SmartSEM software, secondary electron images were collected at a voltage of 12 kV using an  
490 Everhart-Thornley detector. The voltage was increased to 20 kV for elemental analysis. A silicon  
491 drift detector was used, and data were processed with the EDAX Genesis software (Ametek,  
492 Berwyn, PA). Elemental maps were used for visualization purposes, supported by quantitative  
493 area-based scans to inform mineral identification by X-Ray diffraction.

#### 494 X-Ray Diffraction

495 X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed using an X'Pert3 powder diffractometer by  
496 Panalytical using a Cu K $\alpha$  source to scan from 5-70 $^\circ$  2 $\theta$ . The sample was prepared as a packed  
497 powder and was scanned wobbling the sample stage at 0, -1, and +1 degrees. The final scan was  
498 an average of these three scans. Phase identification and semi-quantitative analysis of  
499 diffractograms was performed using the HighScore Plus software by Panalytical (Malvern  
500 Panalytical, Malvern, United Kingdom).

#### 501 Image Processing

502 Fluorescence microscopy images were processed in Fiji / ImageJ version 2.0.0-rc-69/1.52p  
503 (Schindelin *et al.*, 2012). We used the DeconvolutionLab2 plugin with a point spread function  
504 calculated by the Zen program (based on our specific imaging parameters) and five iterations of  
505 the Richardson-Lucy algorithm (Richardson, 1972; Lucy, 1974). The Despeckle program was used  
506 for denoising.

507 To link the location of fluorescent signal with the high-resolution textural information  
508 enabled by electron microscopy, image co-registration was performed using the bUnwarpJ  
509 algorithm using the following parameters: accurate registration, very coarse initial deformation,  
510 super fine final deformation, 0.1 divergence weight, 0.1 curl weight, 3.5 landmark weight, 0.0  
511 image weight, 10 consistency weight, and 0.1 stop threshold. The SEM/EDS images were  
512 designated as the “target” images onto which fluorescence images were mapped, and  
513 approximately one landmark per 10,000  $\mu\text{m}^2$  was designated on the SEM and reflected light  
514 fluorescence images. The other two fluorescence channels (SYBR green and Cy3) were anchored  
515 to the reflected light layer to accurately co-register SYBR and BONCAT signals with SEM and  
516 EDS data (see Fig. S7).

517 Cell counting and distance relationships were analyzed in Matlab R2018b. Red (Cy3,  
518 BONCAT) and green (SYBR green, all cells) channels were separated and converted to binary  
519 images at a manually determined global threshold of 0.04. Single pixels were eliminated to remove  
520 noise, and individual regions of interest were designated by applying a watershed transform with  
521 four-degree connectivity (*e.g.*, pixels that only touched at corners rather than edges were not  
522 counted as the same object). Finally, centroid holes were filled, and remaining shapes were counted  
523 as “organisms”. An organism was recorded as anabolically active if at least one of its pixels  
524 fluoresced both red and green after being subjected to the image analysis pipeline.



525 Organism concentrations were calculated by counting the number of organisms in the  
526 relevant field of view and dividing that number by the volume sampled through fluorescence  
527 microscopy. This volume was determined using the x and y dimensions of the microscopy footprint  
528 and the z dimension (1.66  $\mu\text{m}$ ) empirically established by an average of the SYBR green and Cy3  
529 signal transmission distances through the resin, as shown in Fig. S8.

530 Distances between organisms and mineral surfaces were measured by first manually  
531 tracing the outlines of mineral grains in Adobe Photoshop using the high-resolution SEM images  
532 and converting the resulting image into a binary image in Matlab. Next, we calculated the shortest  
533 Euclidean distance from each organism's outer surface to the perimeter of each mineral. The  
534 shortest distance and identity of the associated mineral were recorded. Because this analysis was  
535 restricted to a two-dimensional cross-sectional view of three-dimensional mineral grains, distances  
536 from mineral grain-internal cells to the mineral surface are not reported. To exclude cells that had  
537 been dislodged during the embedding and sectioning process, all cells more than 70  $\mu\text{m}$  away from  
538 the nearest mineral surface were omitted from distance-based calculations. This cutoff, which  
539 removed 6.2% of all organisms from spatial analysis only, was based on a distance histogram to  
540 determine outliers (Fig. S9) and is within the range of biofilm thicknesses associated with silica  
541 mineral surfaces (which represented the majority of observed mineral grains) (Ye *et al.*, 2015).  
542 During sectioning, a few mineral grains were plucked from the resin: three in the top section, two  
543 in the middle, and three in the bottom. Organisms associated with these grains that remained in the  
544 resin were not included in spatial analyses, and the overall loss of material indicates that cell  
545 abundance values represent a lower bound. When normalizing organism abundances by mineral  
546 surface area and volume, perimeters calculated from mineral grain outlines were used as a proxy  
547 for surface area, and cross-sectional area was used as a proxy for grain volume.

548 Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting (FACS)

549 Samples BS and CS were used for FACS and high-throughput 16S rRNA gene sequencing  
550 to identify the subset of microorganisms that was anabolically active during the incubation period.  
551 These sediment cores were shipped on ice from Massachusetts to Montana State University for  
552 analysis (shipment took ~19 hours). Prior to shipment, the overlying liquid was removed and the  
553 top 1.0 cm (+/- 0.3 cm) flocculent layer of sediment was transferred to a separate sterile tube to  
554 avoid compression and inaccurate identification of horizons. Sterile glass wool was added to the  
555 top of the incubation chamber to maintain core coherence during transport.

556 Upon arrival, each sediment core was carefully excised from the core sleeve using a  
557 custom-built, sterilized plunger. Each core was divided into 1 cm increments, which were weighed,  
558 transferred into Falcon tubes containing 10 mL of sterilized 1xPBS, and stored at 4°C until cells  
559 were extracted. Cells were extracted from each sediment layer using methods adapted from  
560 Couradeau et al. (Couradeau *et al.*, 2019) with the following modifications. For each sediment  
561 layer, 1 mL of the slurry was diluted with 5 mL of sterile PBS in a 15 mL Falcon tube with  
562 Tween20 (final concentration 0.02%). The cell extraction slurry was placed on a benchtop vortexer  
563 at maximum speed for 5 minutes. Large sediment particles were pelleted via centrifugation at 500  
564 x g for 55 minutes. Cells from 700  $\mu$ L of the supernatant were pelleted in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge  
565 tube by centrifugation at 16,000 x g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was carefully removed by  
566 pipette before the click reaction was performed directly on the cell pellet. Extraction blanks were  
567 performed without any added sediment in parallel with cell extractions to test for reagent  
568 contamination.

569 The click reaction solution was prepared in a large volume in order to stain all samples  
570 using the same solution. The reaction solution was prepared as previously described

571 (Hatzenpichler and Orphan, 2015) with the addition of a general DNA stain, SYBR green  
572 (ThermoFisher Scientific, Invitrogen, Eugene, OR, USA) to counterstain all cells. The solution  
573 contained 5 mM aminoguanidine hydrochloride (Sigma Aldrich), 5 mM sodium *L*-ascorbate  
574 (Sigma Aldrich), 100  $\mu$ M copper sulfate pentahydrate (Sigma Aldrich), 500  $\mu$ M THPTA (Click  
575 Chemistry Tools), 12  $\mu$ M Cy5 picolyl-azide dye (Click Chemistry Tools, Scottsdale, AZ), and 1x  
576 SYBR green in PBS. The solution was vortexed, and 200  $\mu$ L was transferred to each cell pellet  
577 and mixed with cells by pipetting up and down. The click reaction solution and cells were  
578 incubated for 30 min in the dark on a slow rotator at room temperature. Click reaction solution  
579 was washed from cells by three cycles of (1) centrifugation at 17,000 x g for 5 minutes, (2) removal  
580 of supernatant by pipette, and (3) resuspension in sterile PBS. The final cell pellet was resuspended  
581 in 700  $\mu$ L of sterile 1x PBS. Prior to cell sorting, the cell suspension was passed through a 35  $\mu$ m  
582 filter cap (BD-falcon 5 mL tube with cell strainer cap, Corning<sup>TM</sup>, Corning, NY, USA) to remove  
583 any remaining large debris.

584 A Sony SH800S FACS (Sony Biotechnology, San Jose, CA) was used to sort cells via a  
585 70  $\mu$ m chip. The cell sorter was set to detect the SYBR green dye on the green channel (excitation  
586 488 nm) and Cy5 dye on the red channel (excitation 638 nm). The first two gates were drawn on  
587 forward scatter and back scatter properties to remove any large particles or noise. The third gate  
588 was drawn on SYBR green positive (“sortable cells”) events, with the assumption that this gate  
589 captured all cells. Only SYBR<sup>+</sup> cells were gated to be either BONCAT positive (“active cells”) or  
590 BONCAT negative (“inactive cells”) on the Cy5 channel. Core CS, the no-HPG control, was used  
591 to determine the cutoff between BONCAT positive and negative fractions. Gates were drawn  
592 conservatively to minimize the possibility for false positives or false negatives in any gate (Fig.  
593 S2). For each of three biological replicates for each cell fraction (“active cells” and “inactive

594 cells”), 1x10<sup>6</sup> cells were sorted into 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes containing 500 µL of sterile 1x  
595 PBS. Sorted cells were stored at 4 °C for up to six hours before being centrifuged at 17,000 x g for  
596 5 minutes to pellet and then resuspended in 20 µL of nuclease free water and frozen at -80°C until  
597 DNA extraction and downstream processing.

#### 598 16S rRNA Gene Amplicon Sequencing

599 To capture the bulk microbial community from each sediment layer in core BS, DNA was  
600 extracted from 500 µL sediment/1x PBS slurry from each layer using the FastDNA Spin Kit for  
601 Soils (MP Biomedicals, Irvine, CA) following the manufacturer’s instructions. A blank DNA  
602 extraction was processed in parallel with bulk sediment extractions to check for contaminants.  
603 DNA was extracted from sorted cells and processing blanks as previously described (Reichart *et*  
604 *al.*, 2020). Briefly, cell suspensions were transferred to a 96-well microtiter plate and sealed with  
605 sterile adhesive foil before being subjected to three freeze-thaw cycles (-80 °C for 20 min, 99 °C  
606 for 10 min), with brief centrifugation prior to each freezing step. 16S rRNA genes of bacteria and  
607 archaea were amplified following the Earth Microbiome protocol (Thompson *et al.*, 2017) using  
608 revised primers 515F (Parada *et al.*, 2016) and 806R (Apprill *et al.*, 2015) added directly into the  
609 extracted DNA microtiter plates. These primers were designed prior to the discovery of several  
610 new lineages related to the DPANN and Asgard archaea superphyla (Baker *et al.*, 2020) and thus  
611 do not capture the entire archaeal diversity (Bahram *et al.*, 2019; Pausan *et al.*, 2019). However,  
612 their extensive use in environmental microbiology laboratories around the world enables  
613 comparability between studies (Gilbert *et al.*, 2014; Thompson *et al.*, 2017) and within our own  
614 laboratories. The final PCR volume was 37.5 µL and consisted of 15 µL Invitrogen Platinum Taq  
615 II 2X Master Mix, 0.75 µL 515F primer (10 µM; final: 0.2 µM), 0.75 µL 806R primer (10 µM;  
616 final: 0.2 µM), and 1 µL nuclease-free water added directly into the microtiter plates containing

617 the 20  $\mu$ L of lysate. The thermocycler conditions were: 94  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 minutes followed by 28 cycles  
618 of 94  $^{\circ}$ C for 45 sec, 50  $^{\circ}$ C for 60 sec, and 72  $^{\circ}$ C for 90 sec before a final elongation step at 72  $^{\circ}$ C  
619 for 10 minutes. A negative PCR control was processed in parallel using nuclease-free water instead  
620 of extracted DNA to check for PCR contaminants. PCR products were purified using AMPure XR  
621 beads (Beckman Coulter) following the manufacturer's protocol with a final elution in 40  $\mu$ L  
622 nuclease free water.

623         Afterwards, a second PCR to attach barcodes and sequencing adapters to the 16S rRNA  
624 gene amplicons was performed. The final volume of the PCR was 25  $\mu$ L and contained 5  $\mu$ L  
625 purified, amplified DNA, 12  $\mu$ L Invitrogen Platinum Taq II 2X Master Mix, 2.5  $\mu$ L i5 primer  
626 (final: 0.25  $\mu$ M), 2.5  $\mu$ L i7 primer (final: 0.25  $\mu$ M), and 2.5  $\mu$ L water. The thermocycler  
627 conditions were 95  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 minutes followed by 8 cycles of 95  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 sec, 55  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 sec,  
628 and 72  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 sec, followed by a final elongation step at 72  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 minutes. A PCR product  
629 purification was performed as described above using AMPure XR beads. Finally, purified PCR  
630 products were checked for appropriate length by gel electrophoresis in 1% agarose. Amplicons  
631 were quantified in triplicate using Quant-iT Picogreen dsDNA Assay (Invitrogen) following the  
632 manufacturer's protocol and measured on a Biotek Synergy H1 Hybrid microplate reader.  
633 Samples were pooled at 10 ng DNA each, and the final pooled sample was purified and  
634 concentrated with the QIAquick PCR purification spin column kit (Qiagen) following the  
635 manufacturer's guidelines. Sequencing was performed by Laragen Inc. (Culver City, CA) using  
636 Illumina 2x250 paired end read MiSeq sequencing. Sequences have been archived at NCBI  
637 Genbank under the Bioproject ID PRJNA643437.

638 Sequence analysis

639 Primers were removed from demultiplexed sequences using *cutadapt* (Martin, 2011) with  
640 a max mismatch of 2 bp and requirement that primers must be present on both forward and reverse  
641 reads to maintain the read pair in the dataset. Unpaired primer-free reads were processed in *DADA2*  
642 (Callahan *et al.*, 2016) run in the R environment. Reads were first trimmed to 220 bp for forward  
643 reads and 170 bp for reverse reads, then were filtered with default settings of maxN=0,  
644 maxEE=c(2,2), trunc=2, and rm.phix=TRUE. Denoising of reads was conducted with *DADA2*'s  
645 error model calculated on randomly sampled reads from the entire dataset. Forward and reverse  
646 reads were merged with a 20 bp minimum overlap and no mismatches. Chimeras were removed  
647 within *DADA2* using the “consensus” method. Taxonomy of the amplicon sequence variants  
648 (ASVs) was assigned using the SILVA132 database (Quast *et al.*, 2012). To remove contaminating  
649 sequences, R package *decontam* (Davis *et al.*, 2018) was implemented using the “prevalence”  
650 model with a threshold of 0.7, which removed 150 of the total 11,014,619 ASVs. Five samples  
651 with fewer than 10,000 sequences were removed from the dataset. Further normalization of read  
652 count per sample was performed using the R package *metagenomeSeq* (Paulson *et al.*, 2013),  
653 which builds a statistical model to account for undersampling. Diversity metrics including  
654 Shannon’s diversity index, Bray-Curtis similarity, and non-metric multidimensional scaling  
655 (NMDS) were calculated in the *Phyloseq* (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013) R package.

#### 656 Quality Control

657 Analysis of samples subjected to the full experimental treatment alongside control samples  
658 allowed us to validate our procedures. Comparing sample BM with AM indicated that neither  
659 SYBR nor Cy3 signals were attributable to background fluorescence or non-specific binding of  
660 HPG or the dyes; across five fields of view from both samples, 96.6% of SYBR-active objects and  
661 97.1% of Cy3-active objects were present in sample BM. Comparing sample BM with CM

662 revealed that HPG did not affect SYBR signal but was required for BONCAT signal: 44.8% of  
663 SYBR-active objects and 97.2% of Cy3-active objects were found in sample BM.

664 Clarifying the role that our experimental treatment had on the microbial community and  
665 the empirical biases that may result was a key priority. Daily fluctuations of the Berry Pool water  
666 level, which ranges from ~5-30 cm water depth over the course of a tidal cycle, consistently  
667 introduce and remove transient organisms that may not be physically associated with sediment  
668 particles. Nonetheless, it is possible that the percolation of fluids through the incubation chambers  
669 might transport microbial cells outside of their naturally-occurring habitats. To test this possibility,  
670 we introduced 1 mL of  $1 \times 10^9$  / mL 1  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter YG carboxylate fluorescent microspheres  
671 (Polysciences, Warrington, PA) to the overlying water of a LSSM sediment core. These  
672 microspheres are commonly used to simulate microorganism transport and constrain  
673 contamination in sediments, soils, and subsurface environments (House *et al.*; Smith *et al.*, 2000;  
674 Goepfert and Goldscheider, 2011; Bang-Andreasen *et al.*, 2017; Labonté *et al.*, 2017; Daly *et al.*,  
675 2018). Following microsphere addition, the core was treated identically to the BM sample. Flow-  
676 through liquid fractions were collected and deposited on 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  polycarbonate filters, and  
677 multiple horizons were sectioned and examined with fluorescence microscopy. Bead counts over  
678 five representative fields of view at 10.7 mm above the sediment-water interface, 2.0 mm depth,  
679 5.3 mm depth, 9.8 mm depth, and 23.3 mm depth (Fig. S10), as well as 16 liquid fractions, were  
680 averaged and scaled by the overall cross-sectional area of the core. Z-axis transmission of bead  
681 fluorescence under confocal microscopy examination was 8.75  $\mu\text{m}$ . Linear interpolation of data  
682 points indicated that 99.3% of beads remained above the 7.6 mm horizon, which was the shallowest  
683 horizon used for microscopy analysis. Assuming a cell density of  $10^6$  / mL in the overlying water  
684 and 30 mL of overlying water in the initial core sample, we calculate that  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  % and  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  %

685 of cells detected in the 7.6 mm and 12 mm horizons, respectively, are attributable to entrained  
686 surface water cells. Because a horizon lower than 60.7 mm was not examined with the bead test,  
687 an analogous figure is not attainable for the 60.7 mm horizon. However, given the trends observed  
688 here, we believe the contribution from surface-entrained organisms is negligible. This analysis  
689 gave us confidence in interpreting mineral-associated organisms as native to the observed sediment  
690 horizons.

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1022  
1023

## 1024 **Figure and Table Captions**

1025 Fig. 1: Correlative fluorescence and electron microscopy from the uppermost section (7.6  
1026 mm sediment depth). 1) Overlain on the base SEM image are two fluorescence channels showing  
1027 SYBR-active features in blue, and BONCAT-active features in yellow. The dark zonation  
1028 indicates the fluorescence microscopy footprint. 2), 3), and 4) show three mineralogically distinct

1029 sites in detail. i) SYBR green, ii) BONCAT, and iii) merged channels, as well as iv) EDS elemental  
1030 abundance maps (in which dark blue background represents the resin).

1031 Fig 2: Histograms of the relative proportions of all organisms and the anabolically active  
1032 subset (yellow overlay) at given distances from the mineral surface for the uppermost section (7.6  
1033 mm sediment depth). 1) Data for all grains. 2) Data separated by mineral type. Histogram bins are  
1034 in 5  $\mu\text{m}$  intervals, and only cells located outside mineral surfaces are shown. 3) Composite  
1035 elemental maps derived from EDS analysis show the mineral grains that were analyzed, labeled  
1036 by mineral type. A = quartz; B = Plagioclase; C = Orthoclase; D = Rutile; E = Albite; F =  
1037 Ca,K,Mg,Fe silicate; G = Hornblende.

1038 Fig. 3: Correlative fluorescence and electron microscopy from the embedded section at 12  
1039 mm sediment depth. 1) Overlain on the base SEM image are two fluorescence channels showing  
1040 SYBR-active features in blue, and BONCAT-active features in yellow. The dark zonation  
1041 indicates the fluorescence microscopy footprint. 2), 3), and 4) show three mineralogically distinct  
1042 sites in additional detail in i) SYBR green, ii) BONCAT, and iii) merged channels, as well as iv)  
1043 EDS elemental abundance maps (in which dark blue background represents the resin).

1044 Fig 4: Histograms of the relative proportions of all organisms and the anabolically active  
1045 subset (yellow overlay) at given distances from the mineral surface for the middle analyzed section  
1046 (12 mm sediment depth). 1) Data for all grains. 2) Data separated by mineral type. Histogram bins  
1047 are in 5  $\mu\text{m}$  intervals, and only cells located outside mineral surfaces are shown. 3) Composite  
1048 elemental maps derived from EDS analysis show the mineral grains that were analyzed, labeled  
1049 by mineral type. A = quartz; B = Plagioclase; C = Orthoclase; D = Rutile; E = Albite; F =  
1050 Ca,K,Mg,Fe silicate; G = Hornblende.



1051 Fig. 5: Trends of the relative abundances of active and inactive subsets of the eight most  
1052 prevalent orders with sediment depth, as detected by BONCAT-FACS combined with 16S rRNA  
1053 gene sequencing (n=3). At each horizon, the relative abundance contribution for each order was  
1054 determined in both the anabolically active sorted cells and the inactive sorted cells. Values to the  
1055 right of the axis indicate the relative abundance of that order in the active fraction; values to the  
1056 left indicate the relative abundance in the inactive fraction. The colored bars reveal if the order  
1057 was enriched in the active fraction (yellow bars) or the inactive fraction (blue bars) in a given  
1058 horizon. The length of bars show fold-enrichment, as indicated by the x-axis, calculated by  
1059 dividing the larger relative abundance value by the smaller relative abundance value for each  
1060 horizon.

1061 Fig. 6: Correlative fluorescence and electron microscopy from the embedded section at  
1062 60.7 mm sediment depth. 1) Overlain on the base SEM image are two fluorescence channels  
1063 showing SYBR-active features in blue, and BONCAT-active features in yellow. The dark zonation  
1064 indicates the fluorescence microscopy footprint. 2), 3), and 4) show three mineralogically distinct  
1065 sites in additional detail in i) SYBR green, ii) BONCAT, and iii) merged channels, as well as iv)  
1066 EDS elemental abundance maps (in which dark blue background represents the resin).

1067 Fig. 7: Histograms of the relative proportions of all organisms and the anabolically active  
1068 subset (yellow overlay) at given distances from the mineral surface for the lowest analyzed section  
1069 (60.7 mm sediment depth). 1) Data for all grains. 2) Data separated by mineral type. Histogram  
1070 bins are in 5  $\mu\text{m}$  intervals, and only cells located outside mineral surfaces are shown. 3) Composite  
1071 elemental maps derived from EDS analysis show the mineral grains that were analyzed, labeled  
1072 by mineral type. A = quartz; B = Plagioclase; C = Orthoclase; D = Rutile; E = Albite; F =  
1073 Ca,K,Mg,Fe silicate; G = Hornblende.

1074            Fig. 8: An overview of the experimental and sample processing approach deployed in this  
1075 study. The PETG tube is cut to the appropriate dimensions and the lower edge is beveled (1). Cut-  
1076 off 50 mL Falcon tube tops are secured to the PETG tube with epoxy (2), and sediment is collected  
1077 from the marsh by pressing the tube downward into the sediment (3). A sterile plug of glass wool  
1078 is added to the bottom to keep the material in place, and the full tube is pulled back out of the  
1079 marsh. Tube lids are secured; the top lid has a perforated top to allow contact with an oxic  
1080 atmosphere (4). In an anoxic chamber, lids are removed and fluid is replaced drop-wise by pipette  
1081 with 50  $\mu$ M HPG in 0.22  $\mu$ m-filtered Berry Pool water (5). (Not all cycles of fluid replacement are  
1082 shown; see text for full protocol.) PDMS membranes are secured to top and bottom of tube with  
1083 twist-on lids (6). Sample tubes are returned to the marsh; immediately prior to emplacement in the  
1084 Berry Pool sediment, the bottom lid is perforated to allow gaseous continuity with the environment  
1085 (7). The sample is placed back in the sediment at the initial collection location for the duration of  
1086 the incubation period (8); upon recovery, lid perforations are immediately covered with electrical  
1087 tape to minimize gas exchange during transport back to the lab (9). In the anoxic chamber,  
1088 incubation fluid is replaced with fixative and incubated for four hours at room temperature (10).

1089            Correlative microscopy cores are processed according to steps 11a-15a. The fixed core is  
1090 removed from the anoxic chamber and infiltrated with an ethanol dehydration series (11a) followed  
1091 by LR White resin (12a), which is allowed to cure during a 36 hour incubation at 60 °C. The  
1092 embedded core is then sectioned by sterile water-cooled diamond saw (13a), and sectioned  
1093 surfaces are incubated in the click solution for 60 minutes in the dark in an anoxic chamber (14a).  
1094 Sample sections are now ready for SYBR green counterstaining and fluorescence and electron  
1095 microscopy (15a).

1096 Cores for cell sorting and sequencing are processed according to steps 11b-15b. The  
1097 overlying liquid and top 1.0 cm of sediment is removed and replaced by a plug of sterile glass  
1098 wool for transport (11b). A sterile plunger was used to extrude the core in 1 cm increments (12b).  
1099 Cells were extracted from these subsamples and then incubated in the click solution for 30 minutes  
1100 in the dark (13b). Cells were then washed (14b) and introduced to the cell sorter, which separated  
1101 BONCAT positive and BONCAT negative cells (15b) for downstream sequencing.

1102 Table 1: Cell abundance and percentage of anabolically active cells as determined through  
1103 fluorescence microscopy and BONCAT-FACS analyses.

1104 Table 2: Proportions of cells, and the anabolically active subsets, associated with mineral  
1105 exteriors and interiors at the three horizons examined by correlative microscopy. For the biomass  
1106 per surface area and volume, the relative proportion of biomass associated with a given mineral  
1107 type was divided by the relative proportion of surface area or volume accounted for by that mineral  
1108 type. Values less than 1 indicate fewer associated cells than would be expected given an even  
1109 distribution of biomass across mineral perimeters or surfaces. Only mineral types that accounted  
1110 for at least 5% of the observed biomass in a given horizon are included in this analysis.

## 1111 **Supplemental Figure and Table Captions**

1112 Fig. S1: Sampling site at Little Sippewissett salt marsh. 1) A satellite image of the marsh  
1113 acquired on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Google Earth). The white box indicates the "Berry Pool" shown in  
1114 image 2 where the sampling was conducted. The white arrow indicates the direction in which  
1115 image 2 was acquired. 2) The "Berry Pool", so named because of its high abundance of  
1116 phototrophic pink berries, as seen on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The white arrow points to the site of  
1117 sample acquisition on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 3) A closer view of the sediment surface at low tide

1118 on September 26<sup>th</sup>, showing pink berries, organic surface cover, and sandy sediment. 4) Custom-  
1119 built sample chambers placed at the site of collection for incubation.

1120 Fig. S2: FACS plots. (A) Shows the no HPG controls used to draw gates around the  
1121 BONCAT positive (active) and BONCAT negative (inactive) cell fractions in the HPG-added  
1122 sediment core (B). Note that the biomass extracted from the no HPG control (A) was much lower  
1123 than seen in other samples where HPG was added.

1124 Fig. S3: Alpha diversity metrics of the bulk, BONCAT+ (Cy5+), and BONCAT- (Cy5-)  
1125 communities analyzed by 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing for each sediment horizon.

1126 Fig. S4: Beta diversity metrics derived from 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequence data. 1)  
1127 NMDS comparing bulk community with active/inactive sorted communities (stress 0.0784916).  
1128 2) NMDS showing differences in sorted active/inactive communities by depth (stress 0.1517008).

1129 Fig. S5: Representative fields of view of *E. coli* cultures exposed to different concentrations  
1130 of HPG and the azide dye. The 50  $\mu$ M HPG, 5  $\mu$ M dye combination provided the best combination  
1131 of coverage and dynamic range and was used in the field-based experimental incubation. All  
1132 samples were stained with the general DNA stain DAPI.

1133 Fig. S6: The percentage of Sippewissett biomass that was anabolically active as a function  
1134 of incubation time. All incubations used homogenized LSSM sediment from the 0-5 cm horizon,  
1135 and received 50  $\mu$ M HPG. Active and inactive organisms were quantified as described in the text.  
1136 Data points represent mean and standard deviation values across 5 fields of view; one field of view  
1137 is provided in both SYBR green and BONCAT channels for 1, 44, and 88 hours below the graph.

1138 Fig. S7: To co-register fluorescence and electron microscopy images and facilitate precise  
1139 spatial analysis, the bUnwarpJ algorithm in FIJI / ImageJ was used. See the text for details on  
1140 parameter settings.

1141 Fig. S8: To determine the z-axis depth into the embedded section that our protocol would  
1142 detect, Cy3 (BONCAT) and SYBR green (all cells) channels were recorded at multiple focal  
1143 depths with a step size of 0.35  $\mu\text{m}$ . Three BONCAT and two SYBR green features are highlighted.  
1144 Each resulting image was processed identically, as described in the text; Cy3 signal was color-  
1145 shifted to yellow and SYBR green signal was color-shifted to blue for viewing ease. Features that  
1146 registered as an “object” after processing have a yellow or blue border; those that were not have  
1147 no border. For each feature, the depth-based analysis began when the object was fully in focus.

1148 Fig. S9: Histograms of the number of organisms as a function of distance from mineral  
1149 surfaces. Histogram bins are in increments of 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; the number of each bin corresponds to the  
1150 upper bound of the range (e.g., “5” includes all organisms between 0 and 5  $\mu\text{m}$  from the mineral  
1151 surface). Only organisms on the outside of mineral grains are shown. Mineral types with less than  
1152 83 associated cells (e.g., <1% of the total mineral-external cells observed in this study) are not  
1153 shown.

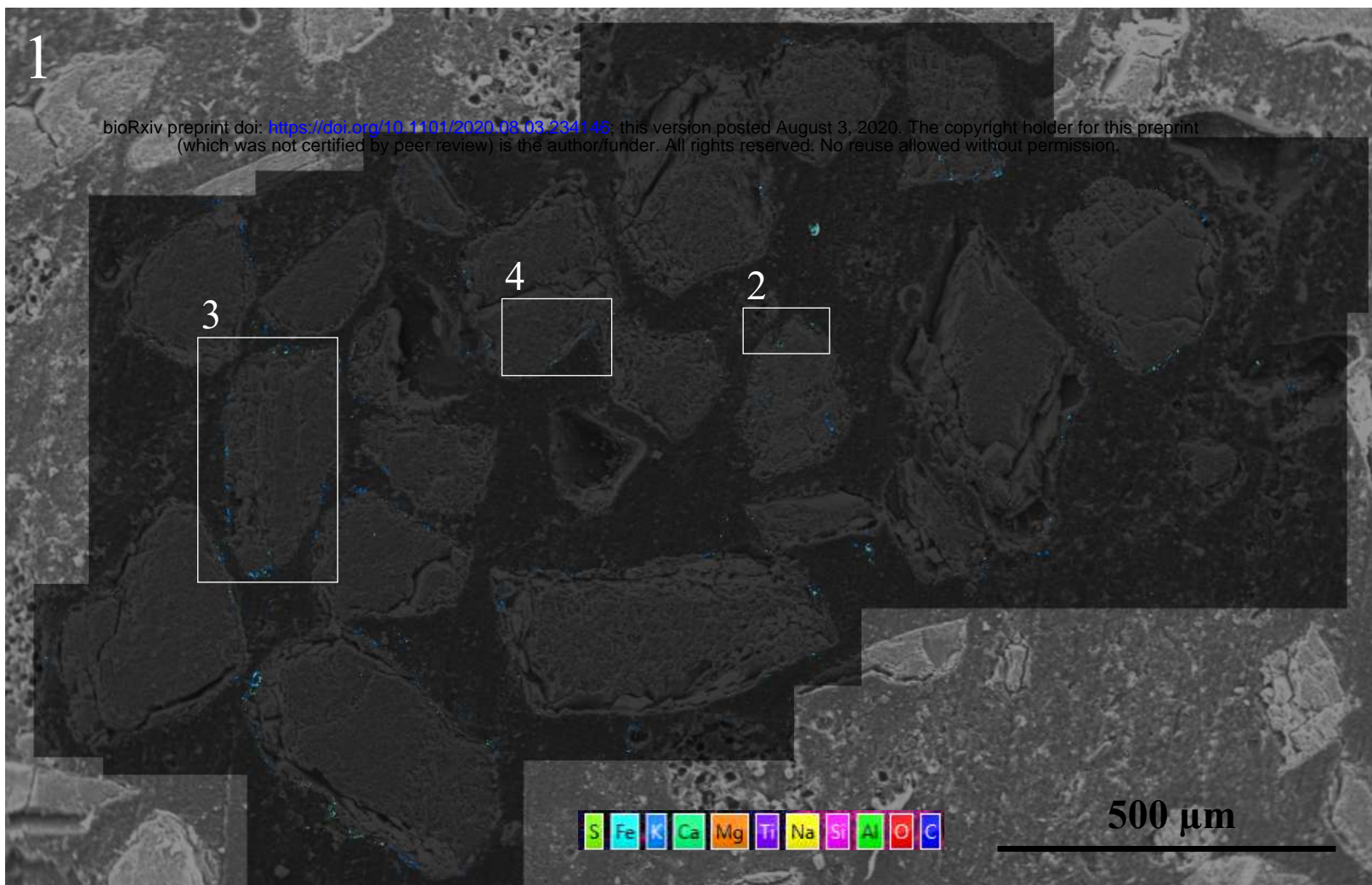
1154 Fig. S10: To test the effect of our fluid replacement approach on transport of microbial  
1155 cells, 1-micron fluorescent beads were introduced to the overlying water and tracked through the  
1156 core during the fluid replacement and embedding process. Horizons of fluorescent bead  
1157 quantification are indicated by green arrows, and representative fields of view are shown at right.  
1158 Horizons analyzed for correlative microscopy and FACS-16S rRNA gene sequencing are shown  
1159 with black arrows and blue brackets, respectively.

1160 Table S1: Details on the conditions and analyses to which experimental and control  
1161 sediment cores were subjected.

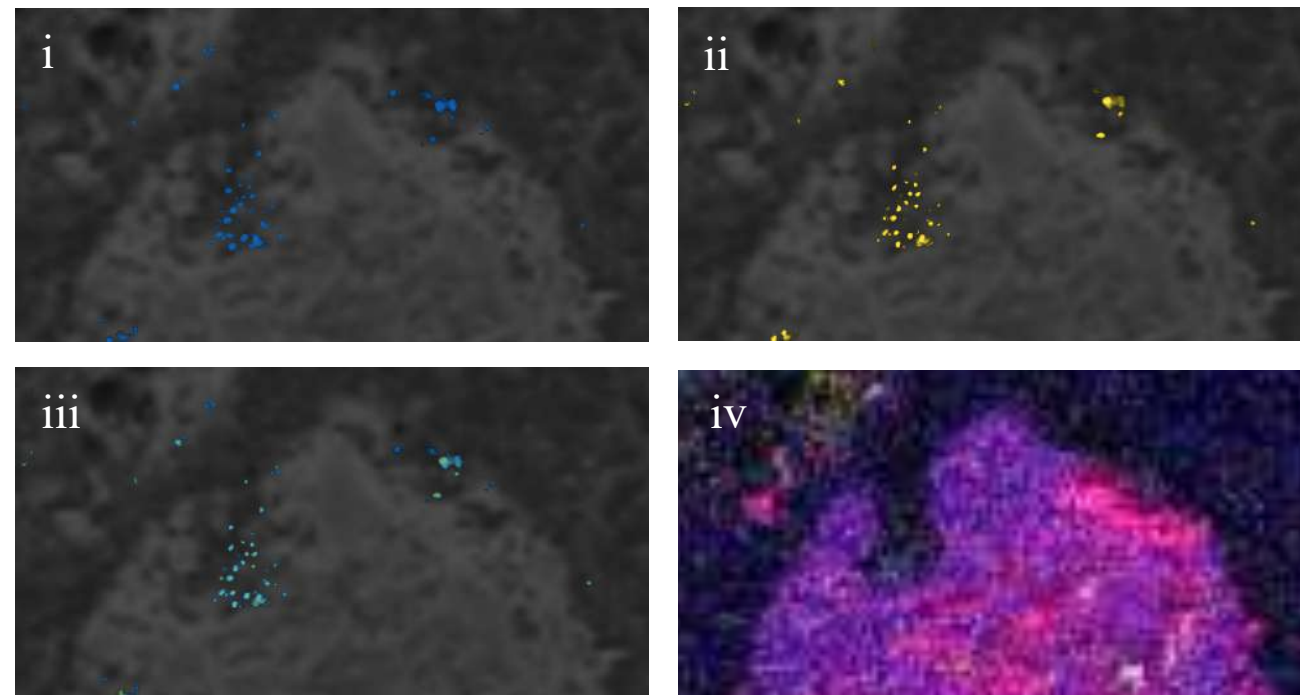
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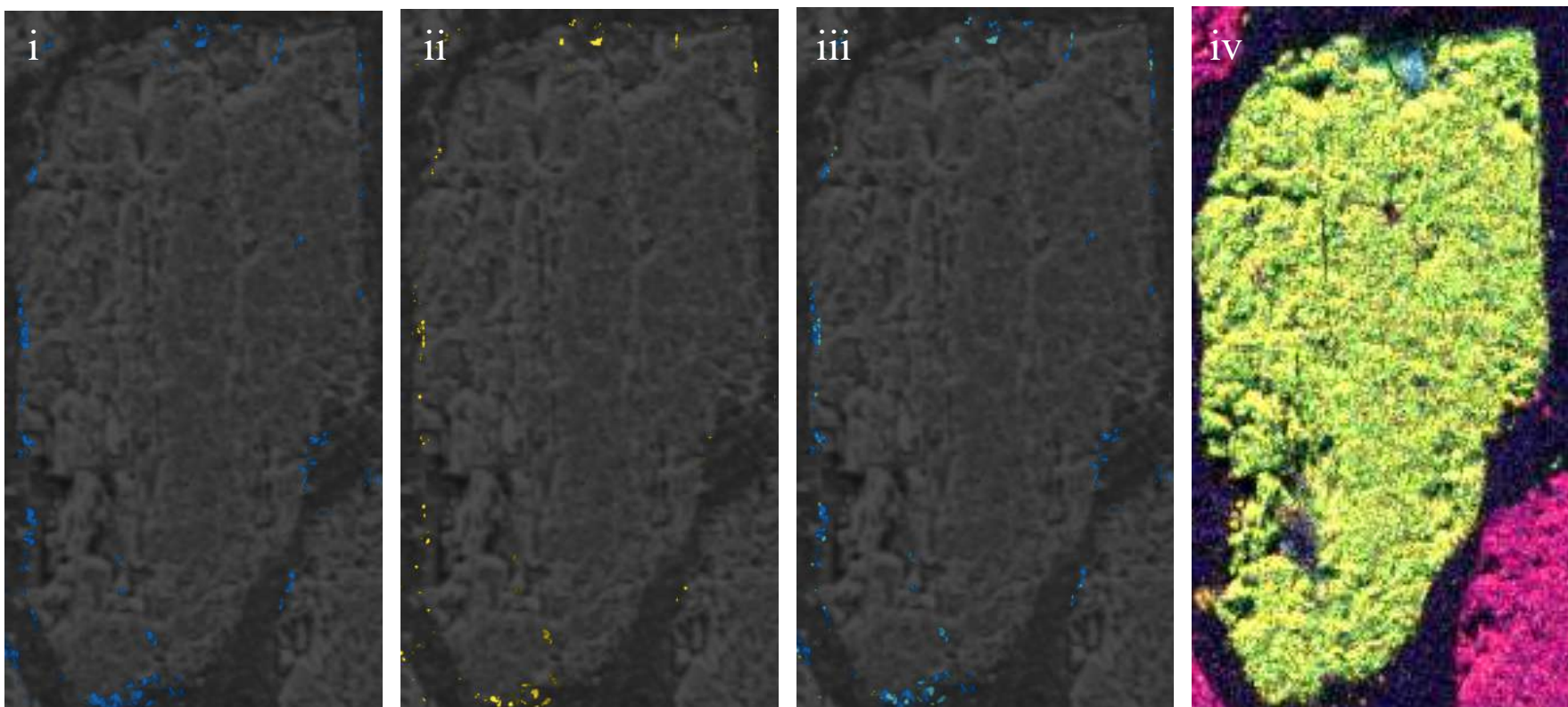
bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.03.334146>; this version posted August 3, 2020. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.



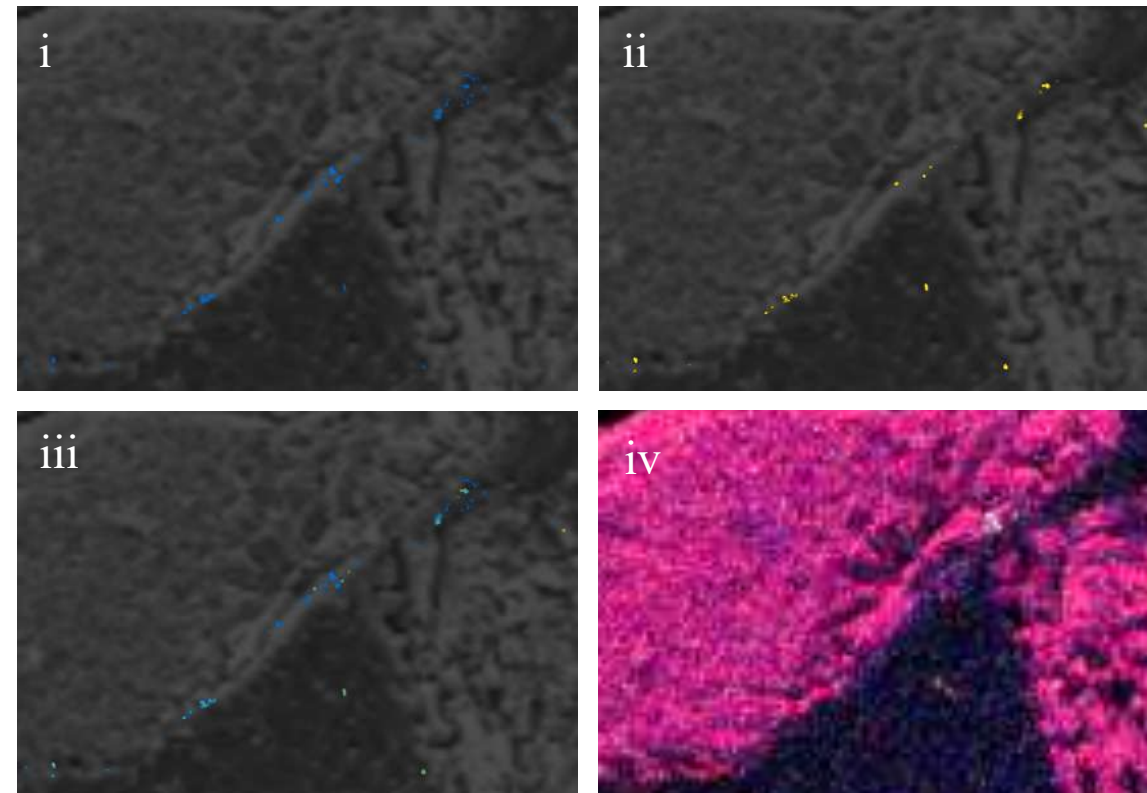
## 2: Rutile



## 3: Plagioclase

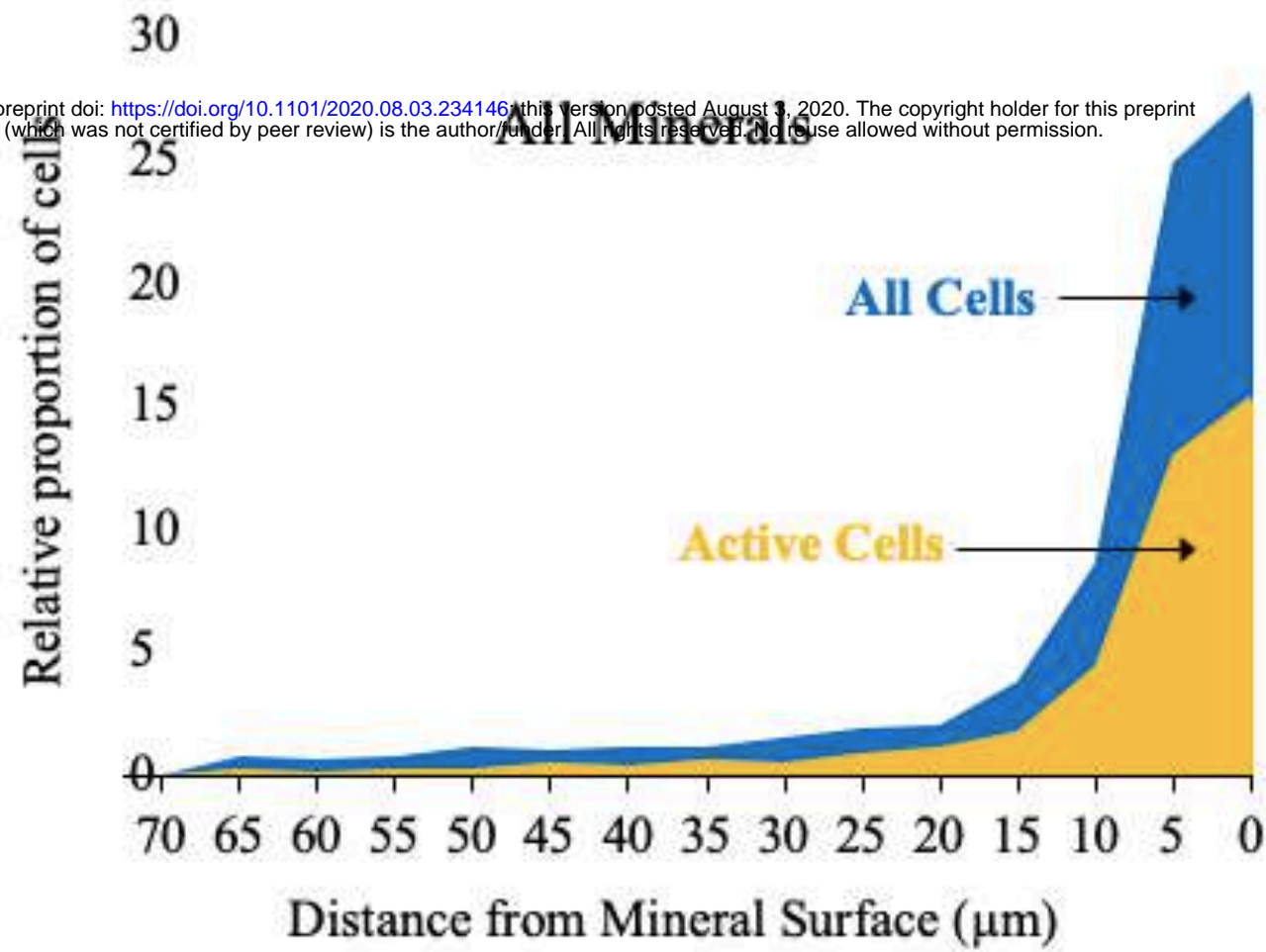


## 4: Quartz

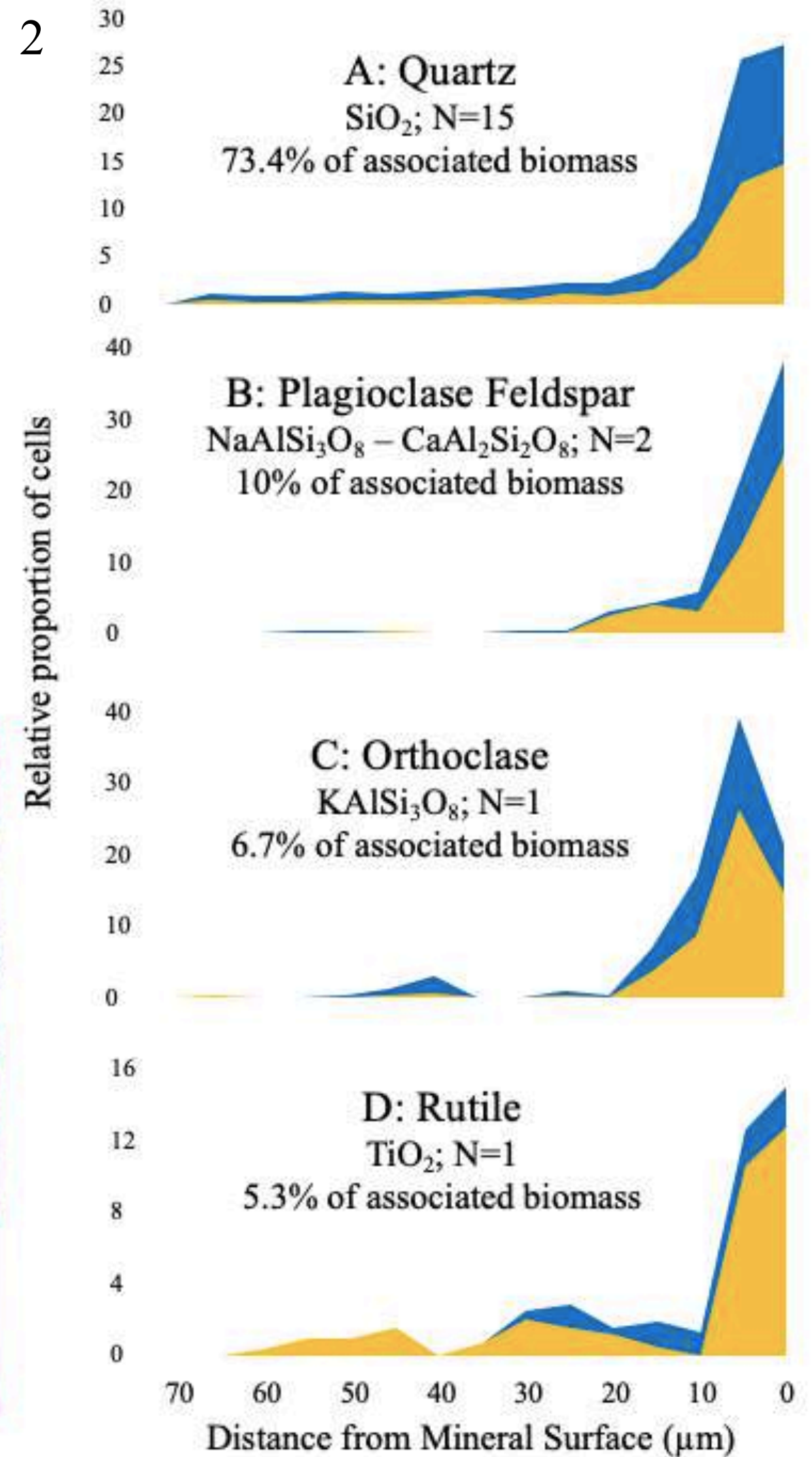


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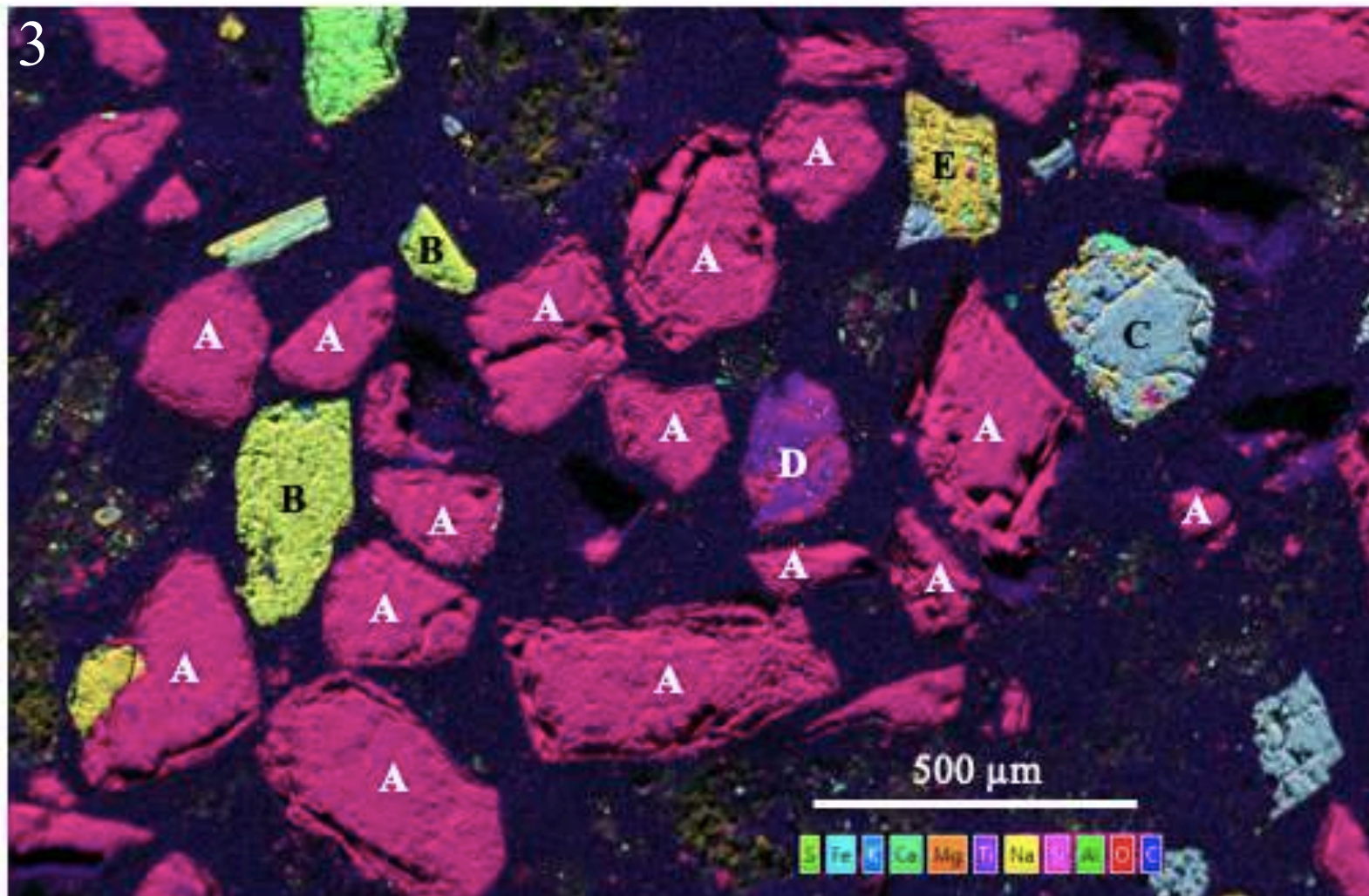
bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.03.234146>; this version posted August 3, 2020. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

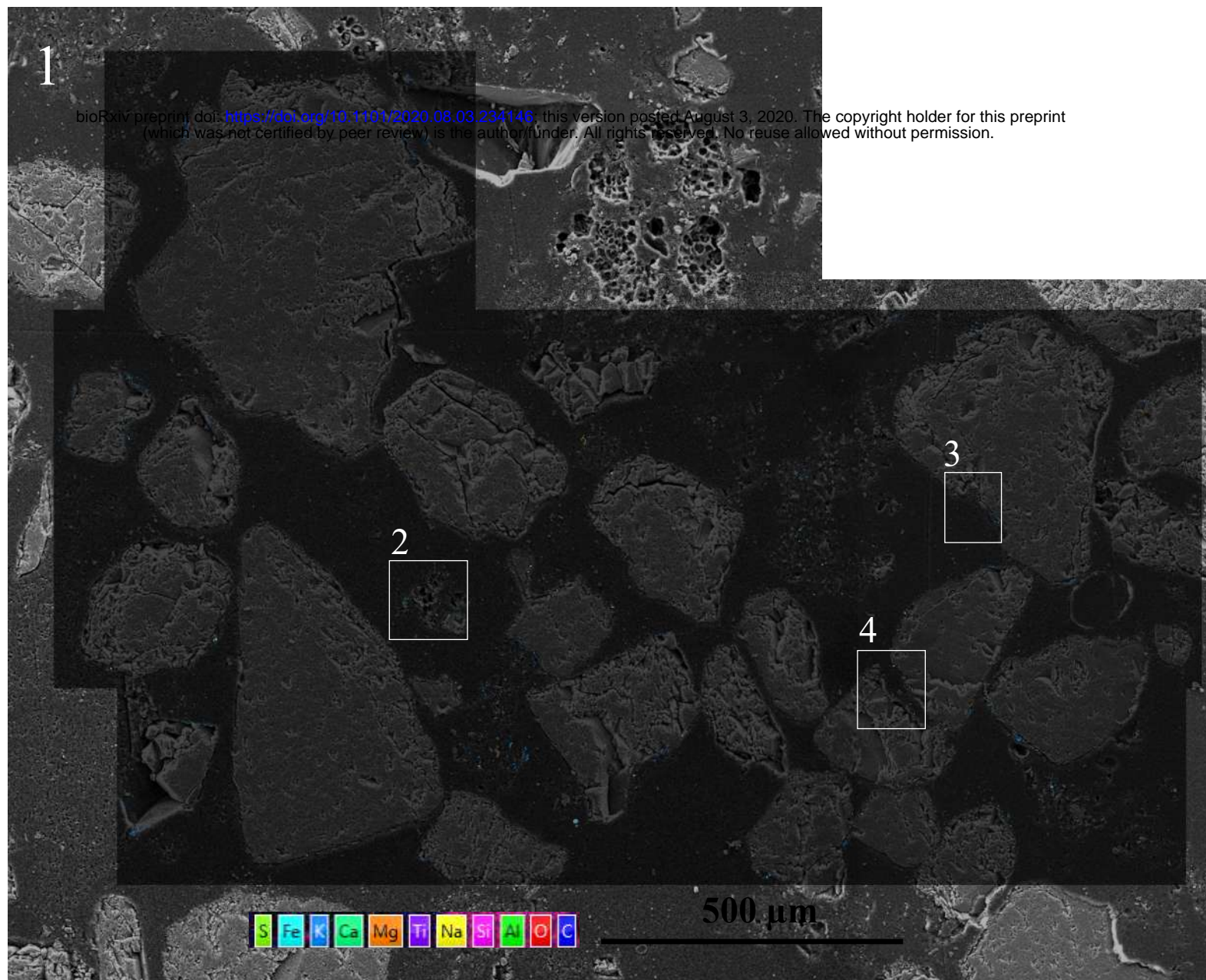


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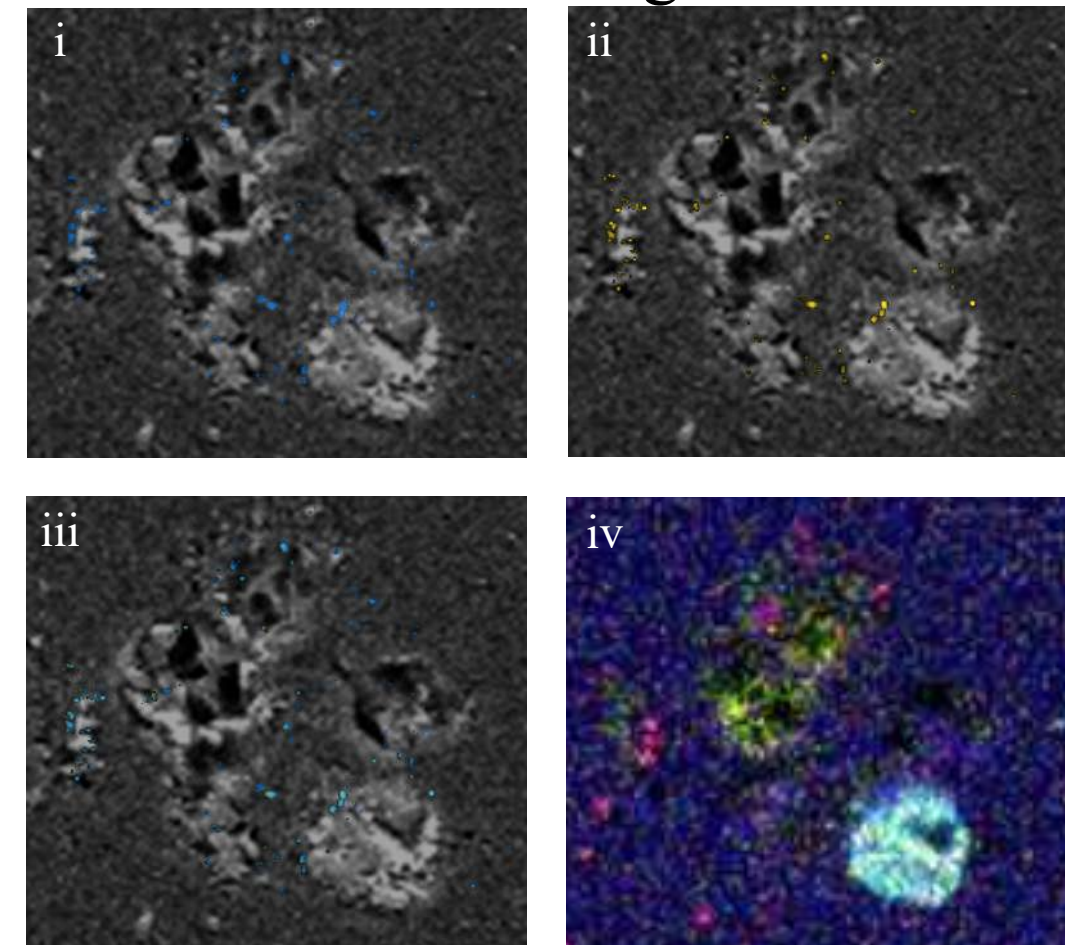


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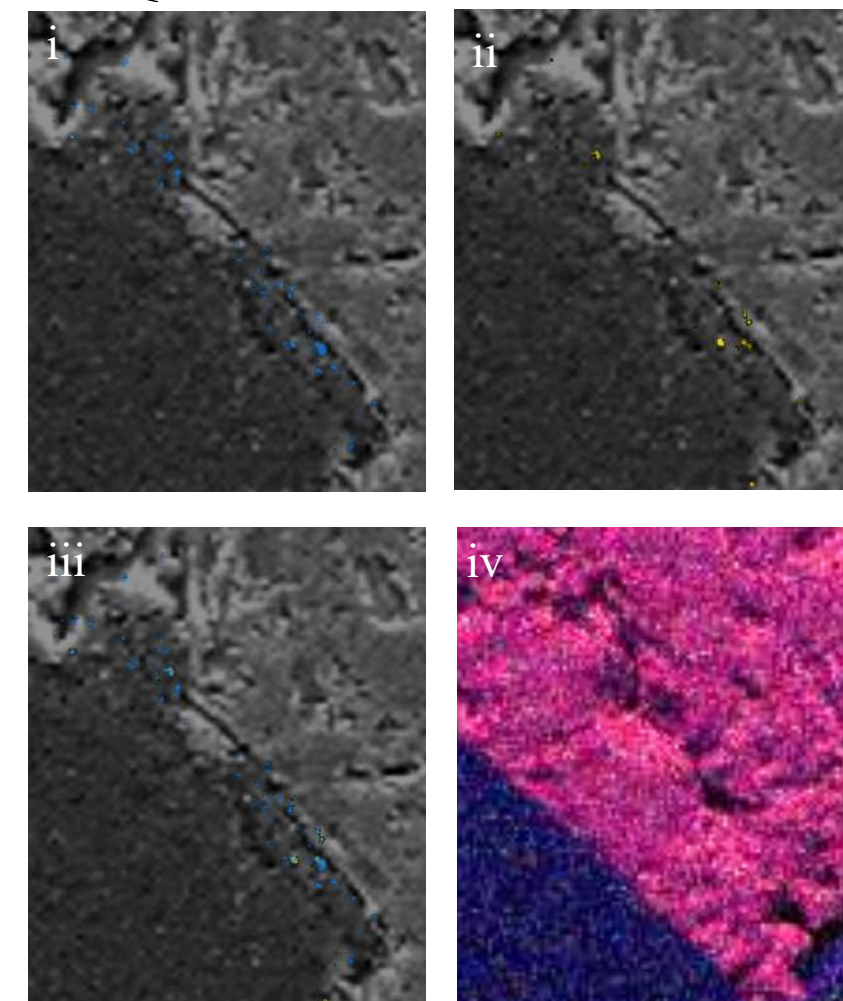




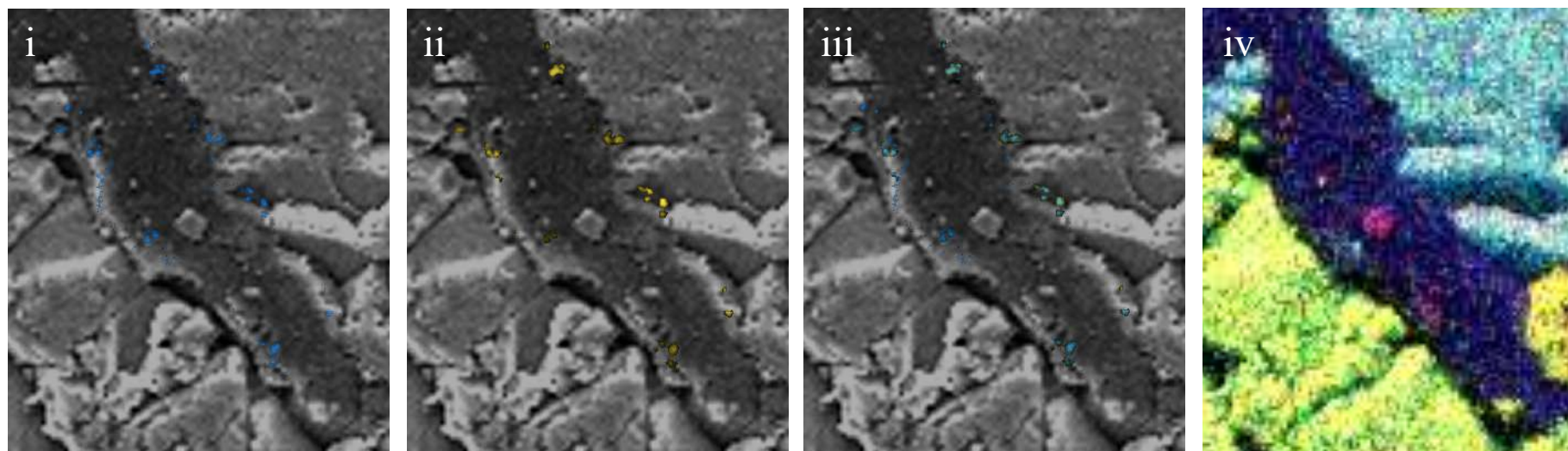
## 2: Particle Assemblage



## 3: Quartz



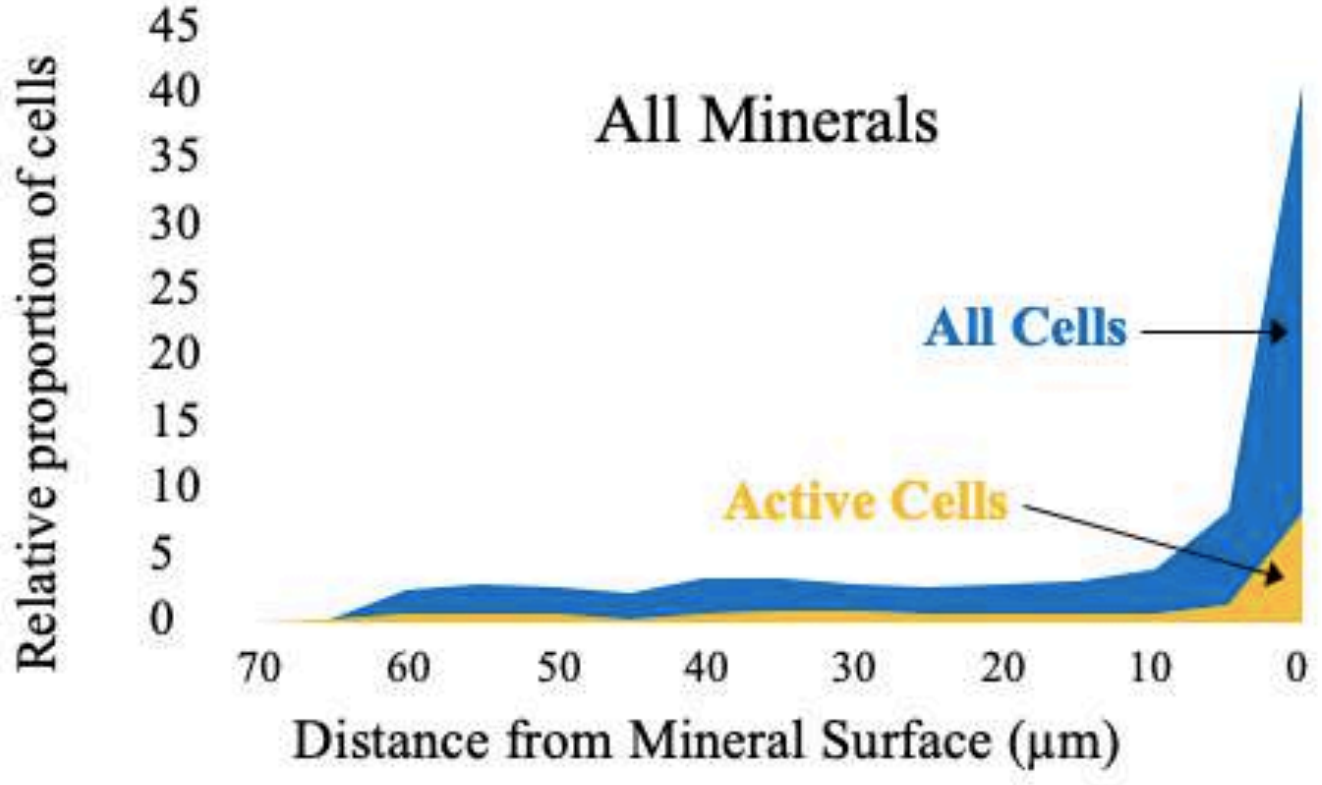
## 4: Plagioclase / Orthoclase



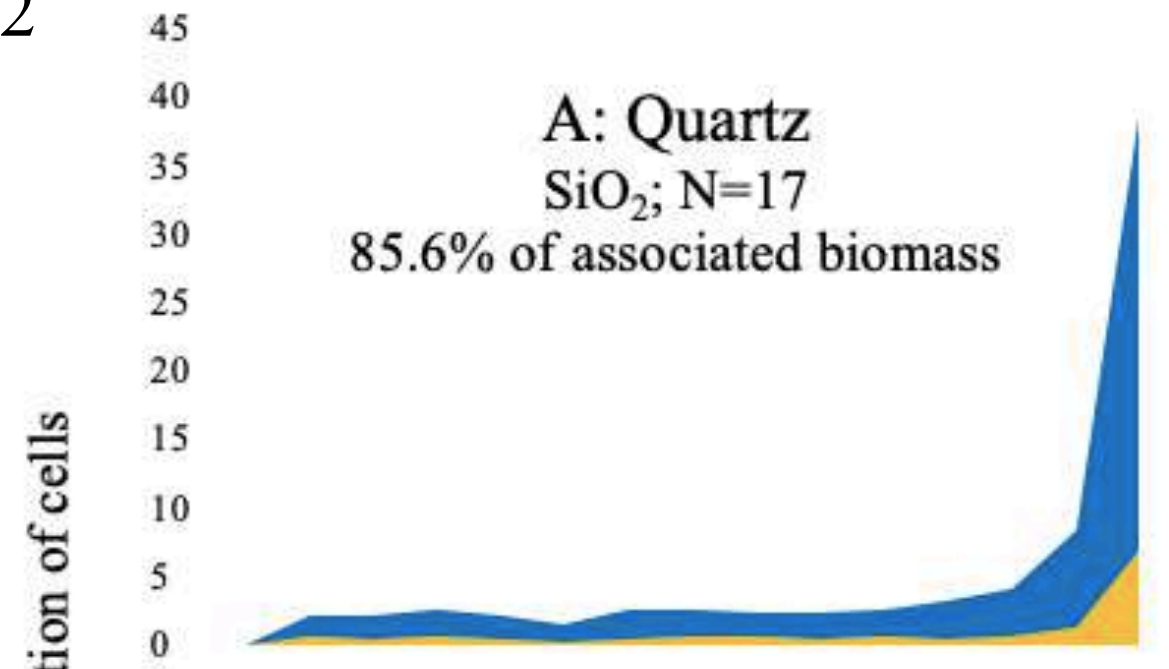


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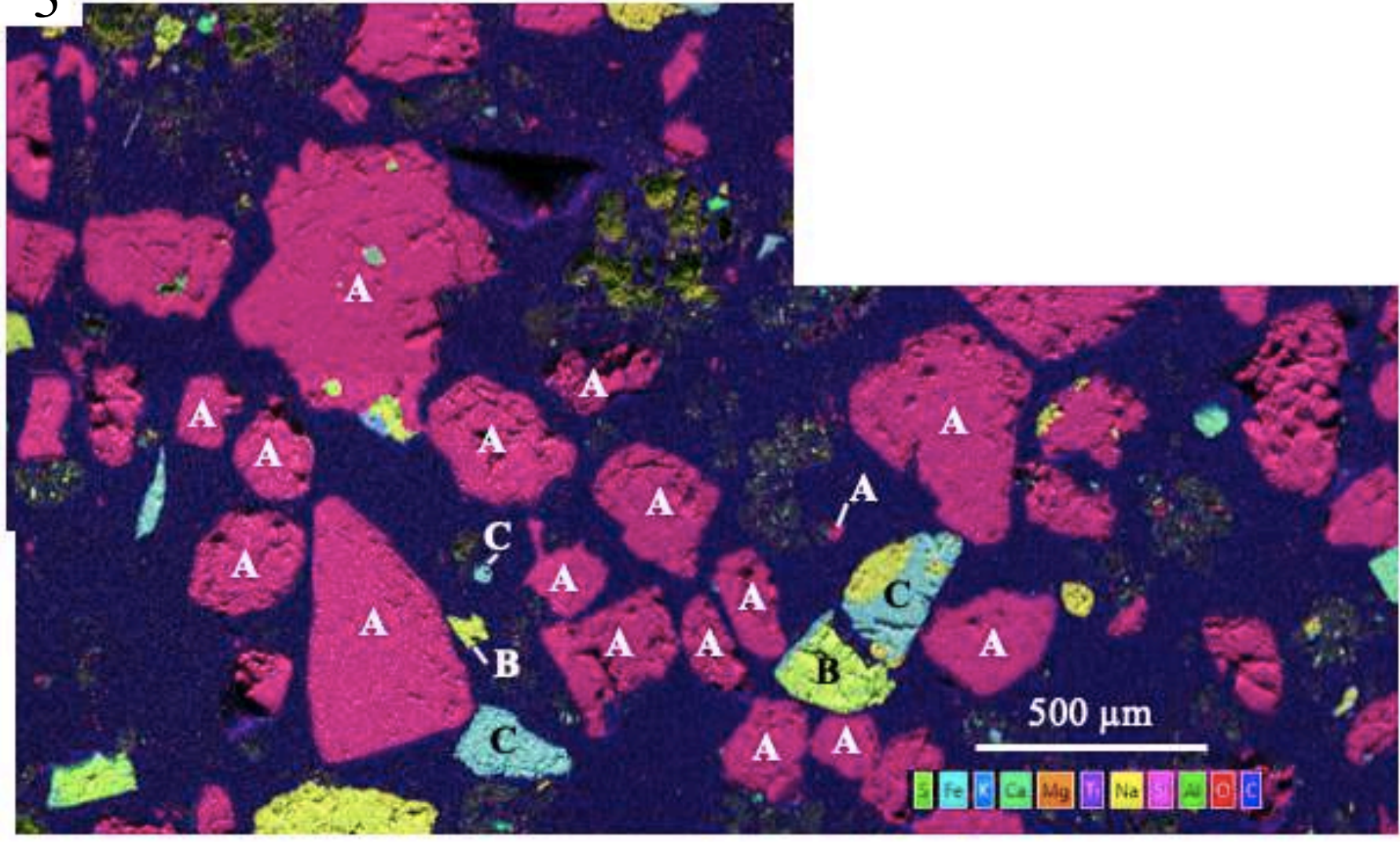
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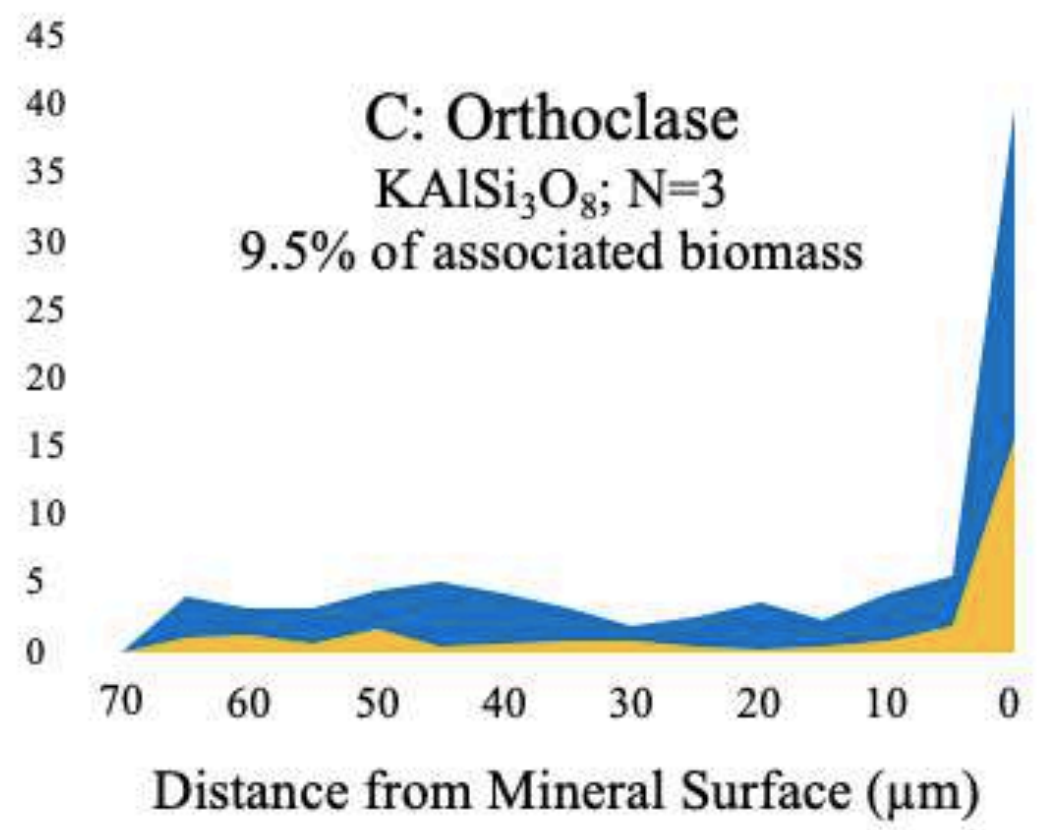
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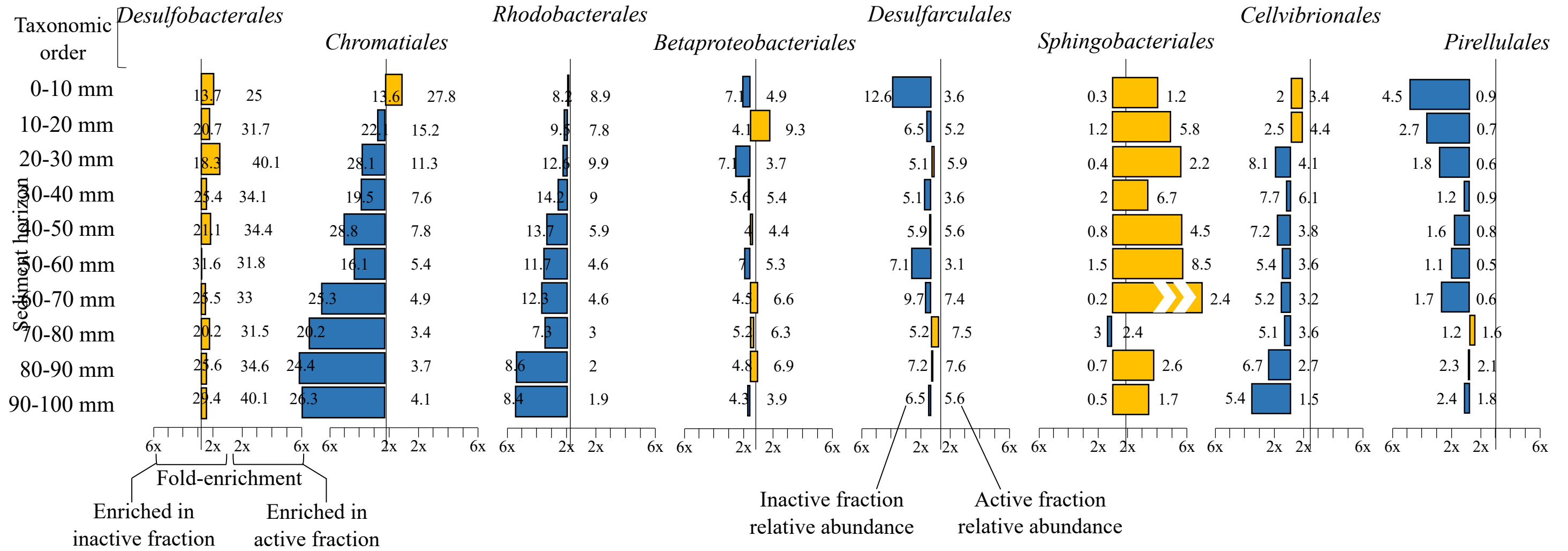


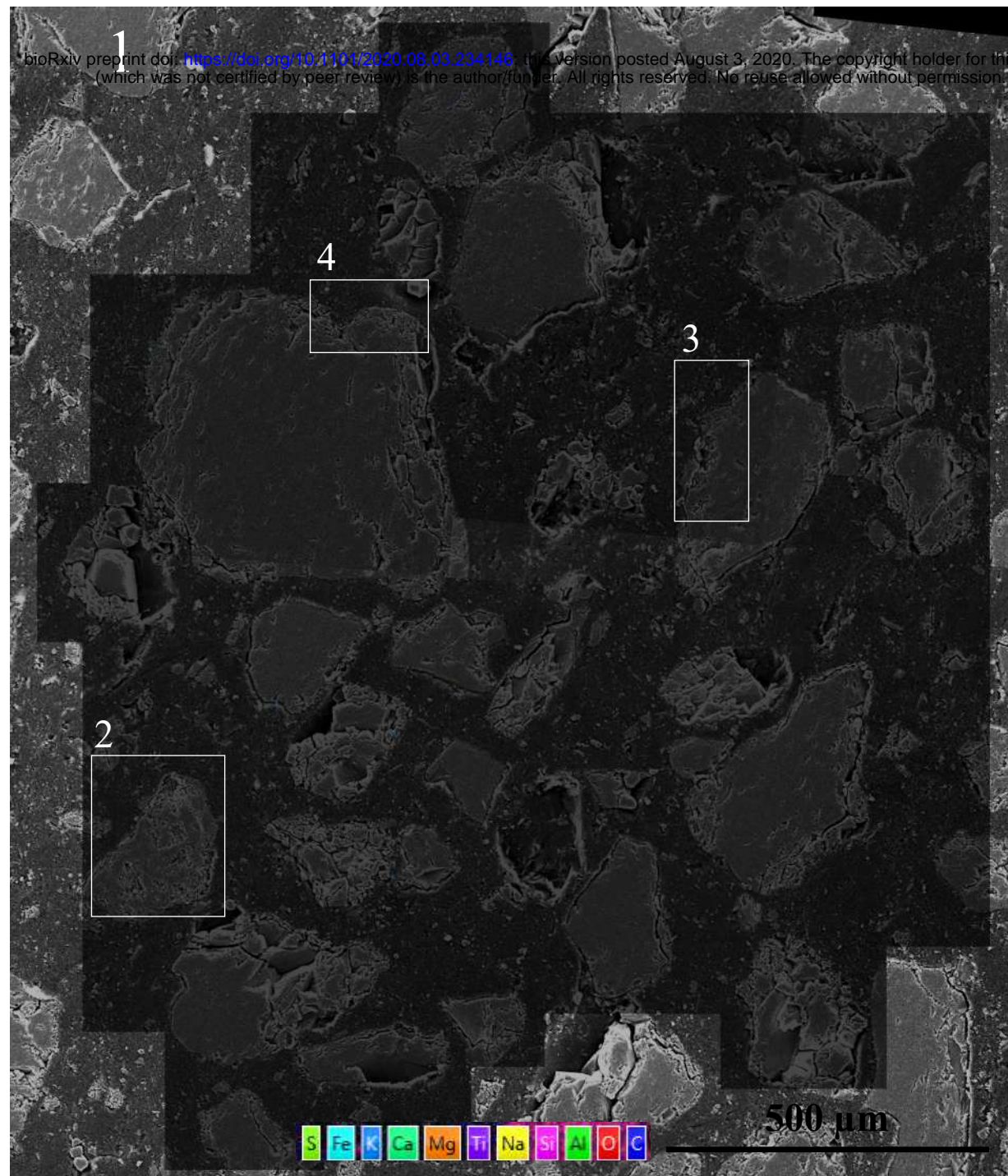
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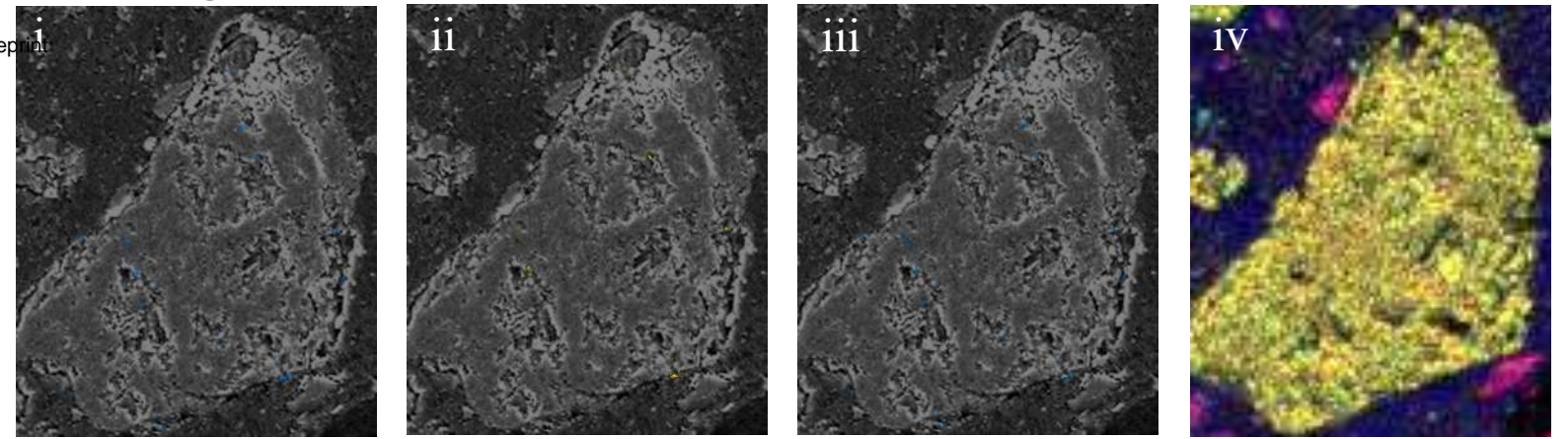
Relative proportion of cells



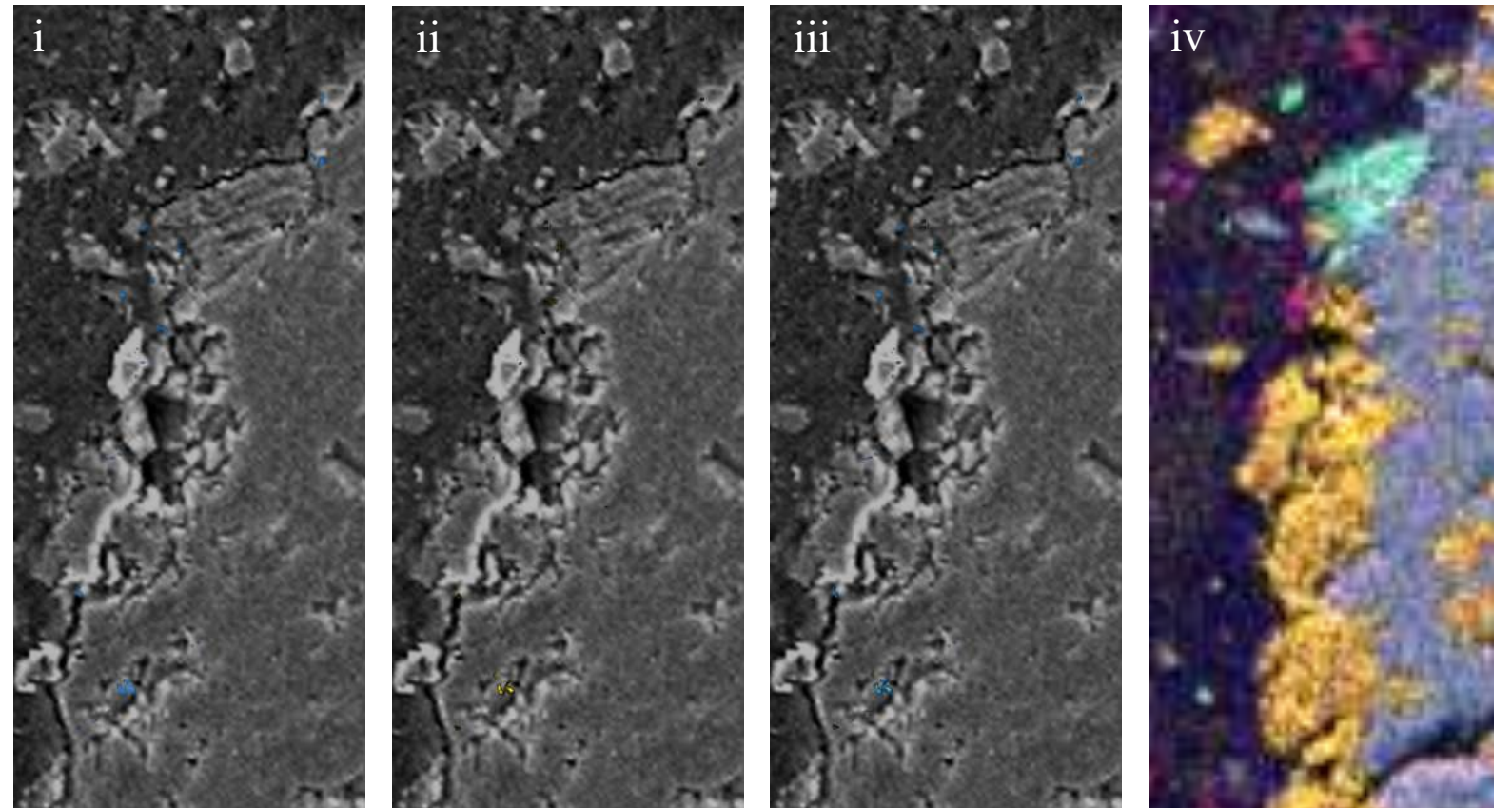




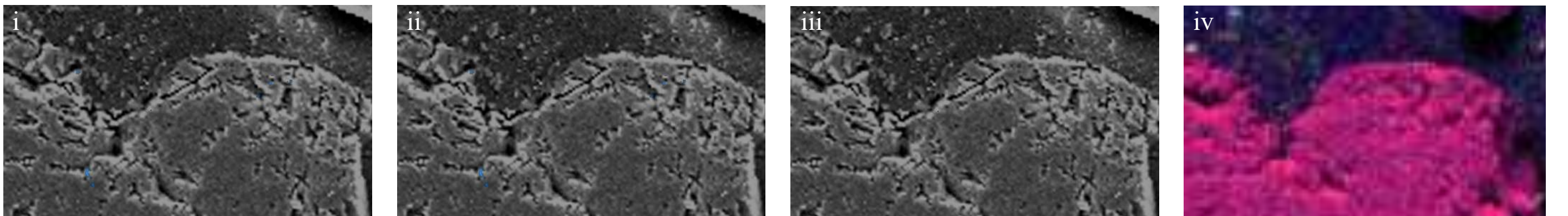
## 2: Plagioclase



## 3: Albite / Orthoclase

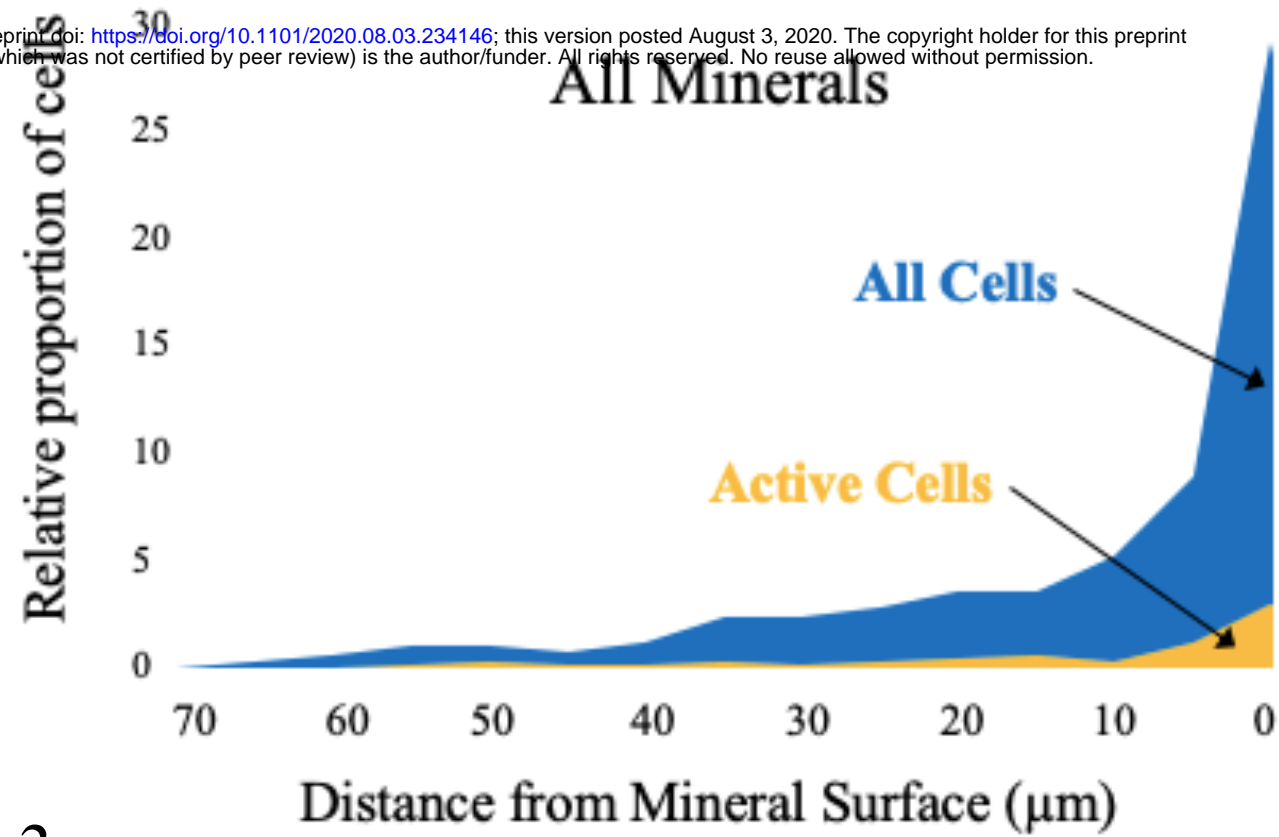


## 4: Quartz



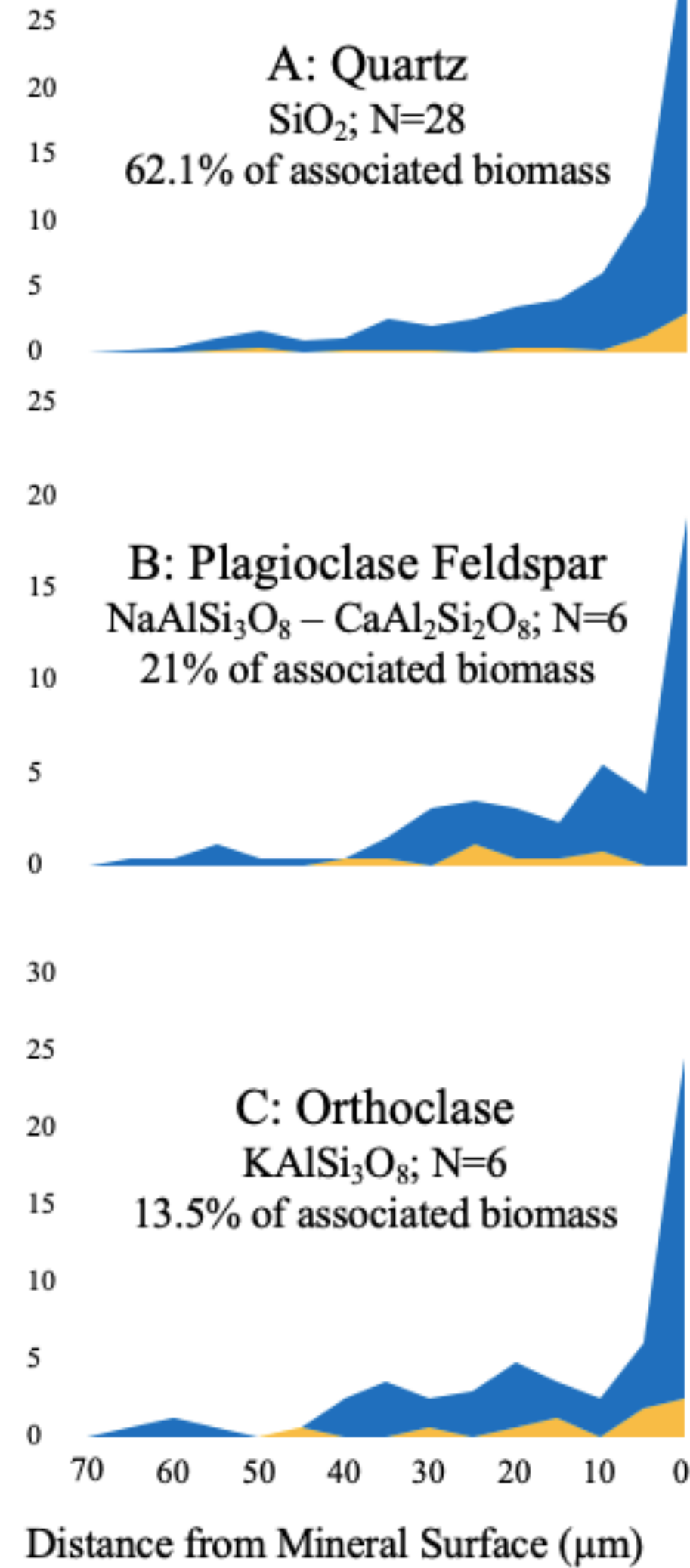
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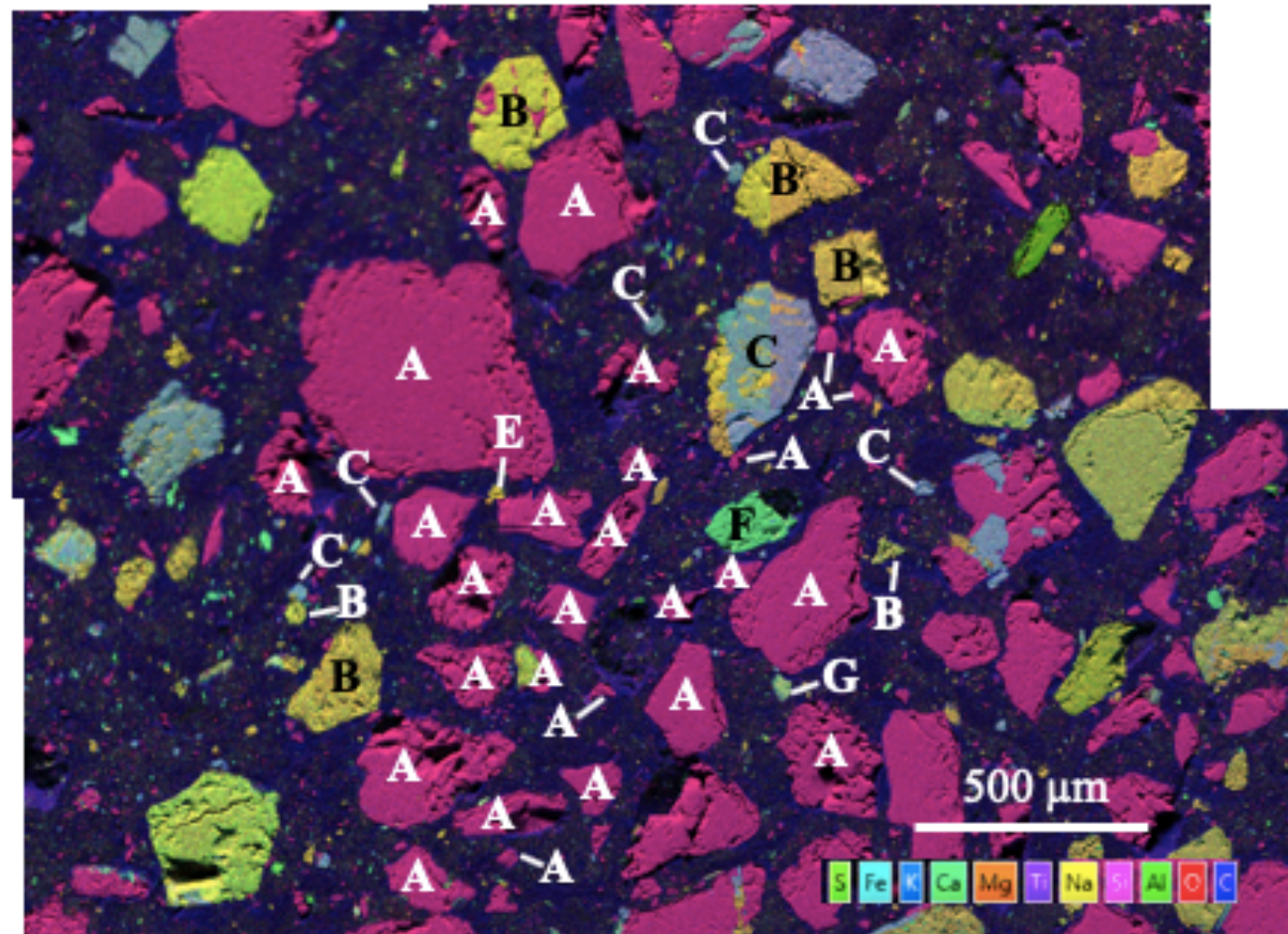


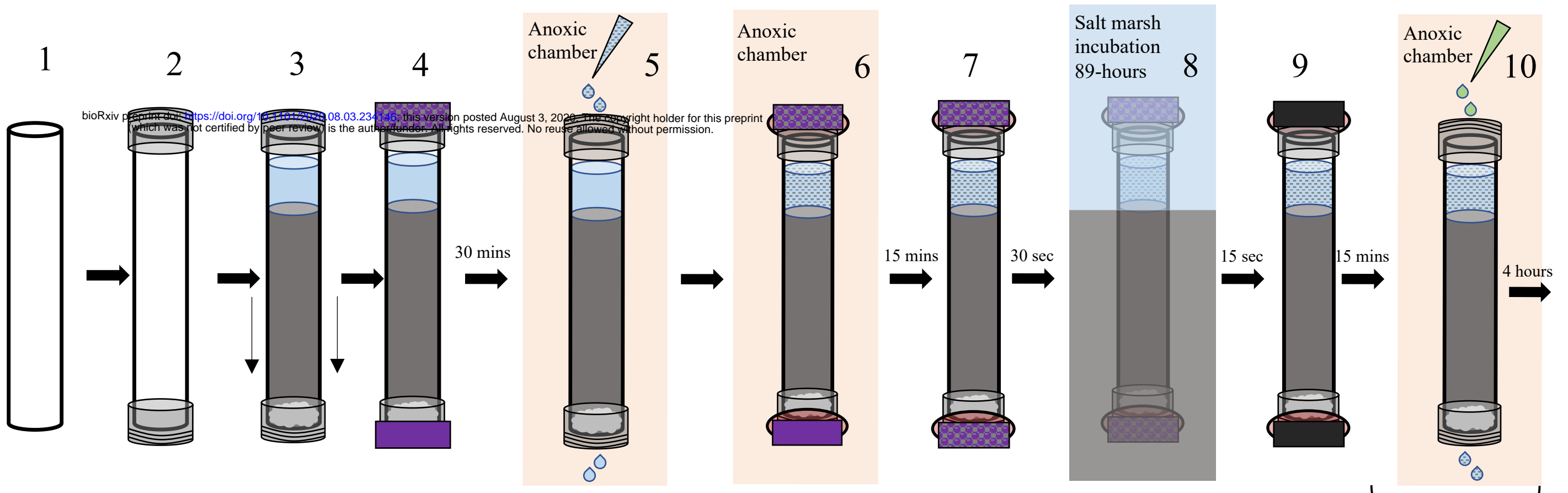
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Relative proportion of cells



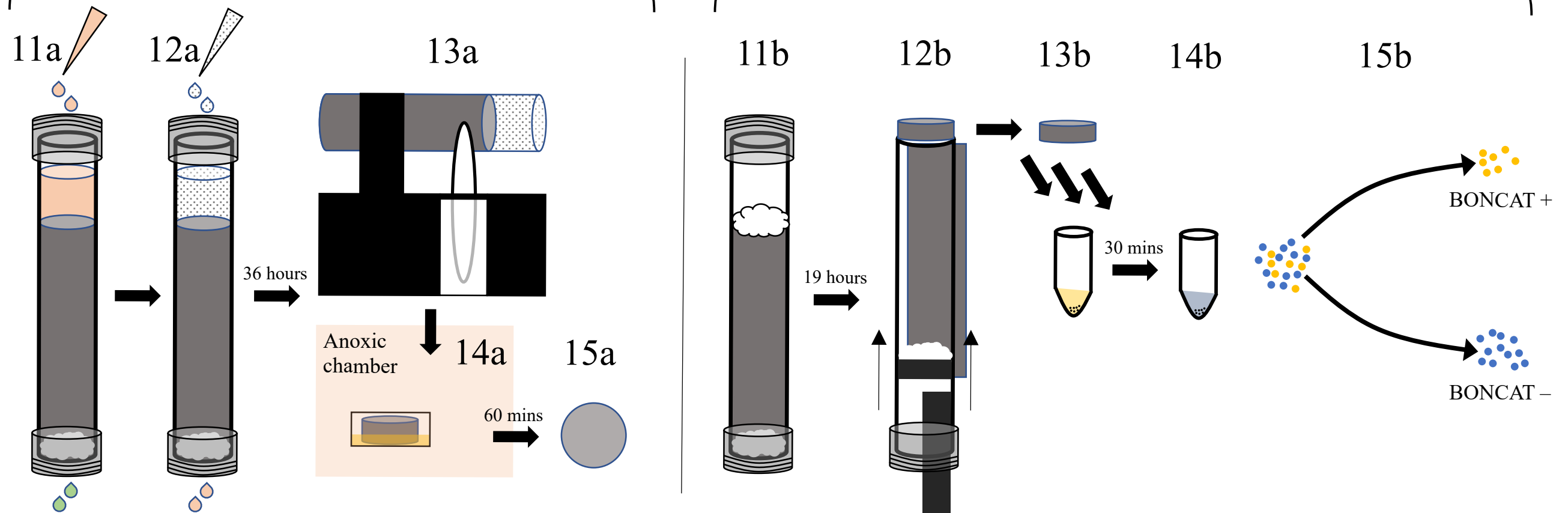
3





Correlative Microscopy Core

Cell Sorting & Sequencing Core



- Cut-off top portion of 50 mL Falcon tube
- Salt marsh sediment
- Overlying water

- Sterile glass wool
- Intact 50 mL tube cap
- 50 mL tube cap with air holes

- 50 mL tube cap with tape-covered air holes
- 0.01''-thick PDMS membrane
- Berry Pool water

- Filtered Berry Pool water amended with HPG
- Fixative solution
- Ethanol dehydration series

- LR White resin
- Click reaction solution

BONCAT +

BONCAT -

**Table 1:** Cell abundance and percentage of anabolically active cells as determined through fluorescence microscopy and BONCAT-FACS analyses.

Fluorescence Microscopy Analysis			FACS Analysis	
Sediment Depth (mm)	Cell Abundance	% Active	% Active	Sediment Depth (mm)
7.6	$1.95 \times 10^9$	51.3	70.0	0-10
12	$2.86 \times 10^9$	22.3	22.4	10-20
			21.8	20-30
			10.5	30-40
			17.4	40-50
			13.0	50-60
60.7	$6.85 \times 10^8$	12.1	14.5	60-70

Where % active values are available for both fluorescence microscopy and FACS datasets, the linear correlation coefficient was 0.99.

**Table 2:** Proportions of cells, and the anabolically active subsets, associated with mineral exteriors and interiors at the three horizons examined by correlative microscopy. For the biomass per surface area and volume, the relative proportion of biomass associated with a given mineral type was divided by the relative proportion of surface area or volume accounted for by that mineral type. Values less than 1 indicate fewer associated cells than would be expected given an even distribution of biomass across mineral perimeters or surfaces. Only mineral types that accounted for at least 5% of the observed biomass in a given horizon are included in this analysis.

		% of Associated Biomass	% Active	Associated Biomass per unit Surface Area	Associated Biomass per unit Volume	% Outside	% of Outside Biomass that was Active	% Inside	% of Inside Biomass that was Active
7.6 mm horizon	All Minerals	100	51.3			77.5	51.7	22.5	52.8
	Quartz	73.4	49.7	0.97	0.93	80.6	48.9	19.4	50.1
	Plagioclase	10	62.6	1.3	1.44	75.9	63.6	24.1	59.5
	Orthoclase	6.7	61.2	1.31	1.11	90	60.2	10	64.9
	Rutile	5.3	66	1.26	1.5	42	78	58	57.3
12 mm horizon	All Minerals	100	22.3			80.2	20	19.8	24.8
	Quartz	85.6	21.7	0.99	0.94	79.1	19.1	20.9	24.3
	Orthoclase	9.5	29.8	1.24	1.68	89.6	30	10.4	29.8
60.7 mm horizon	All Minerals	100	12.1			62.2	10.3	37.8	14.9
	Quartz	62.1	10.3	0.86	0.82	69.5	9.3	30.5	12.5
	Plagioclase	21	12	1.52	1.6	45.6	7.6	54.4	15.6
	Orthoclase	13.5	15	1.39	1.6	55.7	12.9	44.3	17.6