Multi-omics profiling of Earth's biomes reveals patterns of diversity and co-occurrence in microbial and metabolite composition across environments

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ABSTRACT

As our understanding of the structure and diversity of the microbial world grows, interpreting its

function is of critical interest for understanding and managing the many systems microbes

influence. Despite advances in sequencing, lack of standardization challenges comparisons

among studies that could provide insight into the structure and function of microbial

communities across multiple habitats on a planetary scale. Technical variation among distinct

studies without proper standardization of approaches prevents robust meta-analysis. Here, we

present a multi-omics, meta-analysis of a novel, diverse set of microbial community samples

collected for the Earth Microbiome Project. We include amplicon (16S, 18S, ITS) and shotgun

metagenomic sequence data, and untargeted metabolomics data (liquid chromatography-tandem

mass spectrometry and gas chromatography mass spectrometry), centering our description on

relationships and co-occurrences of microbially-related metabolites and microbial taxa across

environments. Standardized protocols and analytical methods for characterizing microbial

communities, including assessment of molecular diversity using untargeted metabolomics,

facilitate identification of shared microbial and metabolite features, permitting us to explore

diversity at extraordinary scale. In addition to a reference database for metagenomic and

metabolomic data, we provide a framework for incorporating additional studies, enabling the

expansion of existing knowledge in the form of a community resource that will become more

valuable with time. To provide examples of applying this database, we outline important

ecological questions that can be addressed, and test the hypotheses that every microbe and

metabolite is everywhere, but the environment selects. Our results show that metabolite diversity

exhibits turnover and nestedness related to both microbial communities and the environment.

The relative abundances of microbially-related metabolites vary and co-occur with specific

microbial consortia in a habitat-specific manner, and highlight the power of certain chemistry –

in particular terpenoids – in distinguishing Earth's environments.

A major goal in microbial ecology is to understand dynamics surrounding the structure and

function of microbial communities, how this relates to their taxonomic and phylogenetic

composition, and how those relationships vary across space and time. As any single study is not

able to sample all environments repeatedly over time to allow for such inferences, fostering the

use of standardized methods for studying microbial communities that permit meta-analysis

across distinct sampling efforts and studies is of utmost importance [1-4]. Initial efforts focused on

standardized protocols for 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) sequencing of bacterial/archaeal

communities provided insight into the how communities structure in the environment, supporting

strong axes of separation of microbes along gradients of host-association and salinity [1,5]. More

recent efforts focused on shotgun metagenomics data [6-9] have begun to provide additional insight

regarding functional potential across environments [10-14], and the current state-of-the-art methods

employ multi-omics approaches including metagenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and/or

metabolomics [15-24].

Microbes produce diverse secondary metabolites that perform vital functions from

communication to defense [25-27] and can benefit human health and environmental sustainability [28-

34]. Whereas metagenome mining and transcriptomics are powerful ways to characterize function

in microbial communities [10,14,24], a more powerful approach to understanding functional diversity

is to generate chemical evidence that confirms the presence of metabolites [19-21] and accurately

describe their distribution across the Earth. Here, we present an approach that directly assesses

the presence and relative abundance of metabolites, and that provides an accurate description of

metabolite profiles in microbial communities across the Earth's environments. Although several

studies have previously employed tandem metagenomics and metabolomics [22,23,35-40], many

existing studies employed relatively limited technical methods or profiled a relatively small

number of classes of metabolites [23,35,40], preventing comparison across studies that could expand

our understanding. Further, several previous studies are limited in scope to a single environment

or habitat [20,23,24,35-39]. Our work goes substantially beyond what has been reported previously

regarding multi-omics analysis of microbial communities using metagenomics and

metabolomics, by including multiple ecosystems. The approach we apply complements

metagenomics with a direct survey of secondary metabolites using untargeted metabolomics.

116   Liquid chromatography with untargeted tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) is a

versatile method that detects tens-of-thousands of metabolites in biological samples [19]. Although

LC-MS/MS metabolomics has historically suffered from low metabolite annotation rates when

applied to non-model organisms, recent computational advances can systematically assign

chemical classes to metabolites using their fragmentation spectra [45]. Untargeted mass-

spectrometry-based metabolomics provides the relative abundance (i.e., intensity) of each

metabolite detected across samples rather than just counts of unique structures (i.e.,

presence/absence data), and thus provides a direct readout of the surveyed environment,

complementing a purely genomics-based approach. Although there is a clear need to use

untargeted metabolomics to quantify the metabolic activities of microbiota, this methodology has

been limited by the challenge of distinguishing the secondary metabolites produced exclusively

by microbes from other compounds detected in the environment (e.g., those produced by

multicellular hosts). To resolve this bottleneck, we devised a computational method for

recognizing and annotating putative secondary metabolites of microbial origin from

fragmentation spectra. The annotations were first obtained from spectral library matching and *in*

silico annotation [46] using the GNPS web-platform [47]. These annotations were then queried

against microbial metabolite reference databases (i.e., Natural Products Atlas [48] and MIBiG [49]),

and molecular networking [50] was used to propagate the annotation to similar metabolites. Finally,

a global chemical classification of these metabolites was achieved using a state-of-the-art

annotation pipeline (i.e., SIRIUS) [46].

We used this methodology to quantify microbial secondary metabolites from diverse

microbial communities from the Earth Microbiome Project (EMP, http://earthmicrobiome.org).

The EMP was founded in 2010 to sample Earth's microbial communities at unprecedented scale,

in part to advance our understanding of biogeographic processes that shape community structure.

To avoid confusion with terminology, we define 'microbial community' as consisting of

members of the domains Bacteria and Archaea. To build on the first meta-analysis of the EMP

archive focused on profiling bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA [1], we crowdsourced a new set of

roughly 900 samples from the scientific community specifically for multi-omics analysis. We

expanded the scalable framework of the EMP to include standardized methods for shotgun

metagenomic sequencing and untargeted metabolomics for cataloging microbiota globally. As a

result, we provide a rich resource for addressing outstanding questions and to serve as a

benchmark for acquiring new data. To provide an example for using this resource, we present a

multi-omics, meta-analysis of this new sample set, tracking not just individual sequences but also

genomes and metabolites. Our analysis includes diverse studies with sample types classified

using an updated and standardized environmental ontology, describes large-scale ecological

patterns, and explores important questions in microbial ecology.

Specifically, we explore the hypothesis that, "everything is everywhere, but the

environment selects" [51-55]. We predict that although most major classes of metabolites have

cosmopolitan distributions [14], their relative abundances will vary strongly among different

environments. Therefore, whereas the presence/absence of metabolites alone may show profiles

that are relatively uniform across samples, their relative abundances will provide great power in

distinguishing among habitats. We predict that similar to microbes [1], metabolites will exhibit

both turnover and nestedness across habitats. Furthermore, we expect variation in metabolite

profiles among environments to be in part driven by variation in microbial community

composition. Therefore, we explore the hypothesis that metabolite alpha- and beta-diversity will

be strongly correlated with microbial diversity. We anticipate strong, positive relationships

between microbial diversity and metabolite diversity, but that environmental similarity based on

microbial composition may be distinct from that based on metabolite composition. We suspect

that this is in part due to deterministic processes unique to microbial community assembly, and

similarity in metabolite profiles across the microbial phylogeny [56-58]. Regardless, if profiles for

metabolites and microbes are habitat-specific, we predict that certain features can be used to

classify samples among environments. We also predict that metabolites will co-occur with

specific microbial taxa such that metabolite–microbe co-occurrences can be described as features

in the environment that define specific habitats.

RESULTS

A resource for a meta-analytical- and multi-omics approach to microbial ecological research.

Here, we generated data for 880 environmental samples that span 19 major environments

contributed by 34 principal investigators as part of the Earth Microbiome Project 500 (EMP500).

The EMP500 is a novel sample set for multi-omics protocol development and data exploration

(Fig. 1; Table S1). To normalize sample collection for this- and future studies, we updated and

followed the existing Earth Microbiome Project (EMP) Sample Submission Guide

(https://earthmicrobiome.org/protocols-and-standards/emp500-sample-submission-guide/) [59],

which we highlight here to encourage its use. In parallel, we followed standardized protocols for

sample collection, sample tracking, sample metadata curation, sample shipping, and data release.

Importantly, we updated the previous EMP Metadata Guide to accommodate the EMP500

sampling design as well as updates to other standardized ontologies (see Online Methods),

including our own application ontology, the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology (EMPO). In

addition to the environments previously described by EMPO, EMPO (version 2) now recognizes

an important split within host-associated samples representing saline and non-saline

environments (Fig. 1a) not detected in the EMP's previous analysis of 16S rRNA from a separate

set of <23,000 samples [1].

For the majority of samples examined here, we successfully generated data for bacterial

and archaeal 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA), eukaryotic 18S rRNA, internal transcribed spacer

(ITS) 1 of the fungal ITS region, bacterial full-length rRNA operon, shotgun metagenomics, and

untargeted metabolomics (i.e., LC-MS/MS and gas chromatography coupled with mass

spectrometry [GC-MS]). A summary of sample representation among each data layer, including

read counts for sequence data, is presented in Table S2. To foster exploration of this novel

dataset, we have made the raw sequence- and metabolomics data publicly available through Qiita

(https://qiita.ucsd.edu; study ID: 13114) [60] and GNPS (https://gnps.ucsd.edu; MassIVE IDs:

MSV000083475, MSV000083743) [47], respectively. We also provide complete protocols for

laboratory- and computational workflows for both metagenomics and metabolomics data for use

by the broader community, available on GitHub

(https://github.com/biocore/emp/blob/master/methods/methods_release2.md). We hope that the

dataset and workflows presented here serve as useful tools for others, in addition to providing a

framework for launching additional future studies. To provide an example of the utility of the

dataset for addressing important questions in microbial community ecology, we present an

analysis of microbially-related metabolites and microbe–metabolite co-occurrences across the

Earth's environments (Fig. S1).

Everything is everywhere, but the environment selects: metabolite intensities reveal habitat-

specific distributions. In total, we generated untargeted metabolomics data (i.e., LC-MS/MS) for

618 of 880 samples (Table S2), resulting in 52,496 unique molecular structures, or metabolites,

across all samples. We then refined that dataset to include only putative, microbially-related

metabolites, resulting in 6,588 metabolites across all samples (12.55% of all metabolites).

Focusing on this subset, we found that although the presence/absence of major classes of

microbially-related metabolites is indeed relatively conserved across habitats, their relative

intensities (i.e., analogous to abundances for microbes) reveal specific chemistry that is lacking

or enriched in particular environments, especially when considering more resolved chemical

class ontology levels (Fig. 2, Fig. S2).

Importantly, when considering differences in the relative intensities of all microbially-

related metabolites, using methods robust to compositionality [61], profiles among environments

were so distinct that we could identify particular metabolites whose abundances were

significantly enriched in certain environments (Fig. 3a, Table S3). For example, microbially-

related metabolites assigned as carbohydrates (i.e., excluding glycosides) were especially

enriched in aquatic samples (log fold change $[LFC]_{Water (non-saline)} = 0.31\pm1.22$, $LFC_{Water (saline)} =$

0.54 ± 1.45) (Fig. 3a). Similarly, sediment, marine plant surface, and fungal samples were

enriched in polyketides ($LFC_{Sediment (non-saline)} = 1.69\pm0.64$, $LFC_{Sediment (saline)} = 1.56\pm1.11$, LFC_{Plant}

$_{surface (saline)} = 1.22 \pm0.35$, $LFC_{Fungus corpus (non-saline)} = 1.68\pm1.10$) and soil, lake sediment, marine

plant surface samples were enriched in shikimates and phenylpropanoids (LFC$_{\text{Sediment (non-saline)}}$ =

1.90±0.69, LFC$_{\text{Soil (non-saline)}}$ = 1.33 ±0.65, LFC$_{\text{Plant surface (saline)}}$ = 1.09 ±0.43) (Fig. 3a).

We also observed differences in the total number of distinct microbially-related

metabolites (i.e., richness), which varied strongly across environments (Fig. 3b). We note that

whereas sediment samples were most rich, with sediments from saline environments exhibiting

relatively greater metabolite diversity than those from non-saline environments, the surfaces of

terrestrial plants were especially lacking in metabolite diversity (Fig. 3b). This was in contrast to

metabolite diversity in detritus of terrestrial plants, which was also high (Fig. 3b).

When considering the identity and relative intensity of each metabolite in analysis of

beta-diversity, we observed a separation of samples based in part on host-association and salinity

(PERMANOVA for EMPO 2: pseudo-F = 92.66, p-value = 0.001), with specific environments

clustering in ordination space (PERMANOVA for EMPO 4: pseudo-F = 48.63, p-value = 0.001)

and certain metabolite features identified as important in separating all samples (Fig. 3c, Table

S4). For the latter, we identified three metabolites also identified among the top ten most

differentially abundant metabolites for each environment (Table S3): one chalcone associated

with the surfaces of terrestrial plants ($C_{13}H10O$, ID: 4949), one glycerolipid associated with

freshwater ($C_{28}H_{58}O_{15}$ ID: 14665), and one cholane steroid associated with the distal guts of

terrestrial animals ($C_{24}H_{34}O_2$, ID: 25552) (Fig. 3c). Somewhat unexpectedly, we observed the

majority of saline environments to cluster as a third group between two distinct groups of non-

saline ones, separating the soil from the animal distal gut samples (PERMANOVA for salinity:

pseudo-F = 8.25, p-value = 0.001) (Fig. 3c). This is unique from what has been reported

previously for samples based on microbes, which largely form two distinct clusters representing

saline and non-saline environments [1,5]. Similarly, whereas the split in salinity was strong for

host-associated environments, it was less so for free-living ones, with both water and sediment

samples separately clustered regardless of salinity (Fig. 3c). With these observations, we

predicted that the differences in the relative intensities of particular metabolites among

environments were due in part to underlying differences in microbial community composition

and diversity. To explore these relationships, we additionally explored our shotgun

metagenomics data.

Metabolite and microbial alpha-diversity have strong positive and environment-specific

relationships. We found significant, positive correlations between microbially-related metabolite

richness and microbial taxon richness across all samples ($r = 0.20$, p-value < 0.001), within host-

associated samples ($r = 0.19$, p-value < 0.01), within free-living samples ($r = 0.18$, p-value $<$

0.05), and for certain environments: Animal proximal gut (saline) ($r = 0.73$, p-value < 0.01),

Plant detritus (non-saline) ($r = 0.74$, p-value < 0.001), Sediment (non-saline) ($r = 0.42.$, p-value

$= 0.05$), and Water (saline) ($r = 0.57$, p-value $= 0.01$) (Fig. 3b, Table S5). We observed non-

significant trends in correlations for Plant surface (non-saline) ($r = -0.36$, p-value $= 0.2$) and

Sediment (saline) ($r = 0.27$, p-value $= 0.1$) (Fig. 3b, Table S5). Relationships for other

environments were weaker (Fig. 3b, Table S5). Sediment samples had the highest alpha-diversity

of both microbial taxa and metabolites (Fig. 3b). Correlations with metabolite richness were

weaker when using Faith's Phylogenetic Diversity (PD) and weighted Faith's PD for quantifying

microbial alpha-diversity (Table S5).

Turnover and nestedness of metabolite and microbial taxon profiles is related to the

environment. When considering the identity and relative abundance of features (i.e., intensity for

metabolites), we found similarity in the clustering of samples by environment between

microbially-related metabolite and microbial taxon datasets (Fig. 3c,d). We also observed a

strong correlation between sample–sample distances based on metabolites vs. microbial taxa

(Table 1). With the exception of certain animal-associated samples (e.g., Animal corpus [non-

saline], Animal proximal gut [non-saline]), the distribution of environments in ordination space

was nearly identical between datasets (Fig. 3c,d). For example, the separation of free-living (e.g.,

Water) and host-associated (e.g., Animal distal gut) environments along Axis 1, and a gradient

from living hosts (e.g., Plant surface), to dead organic material (e.g., Plant detritus), to soils and

sediments along Axis 2, was clear in both datasets (Fig. 3c,d). When focusing on the separation

of samples within a single environment such as soil, we observed much more variability between

metabolite and microbial taxon datasets (Mantel $r = 0.32$ for soil vs. 0.43 for all environments, p-

value $= 0.001$ for both tests). This highlights not only novelty among soil samples from distinct

geographic locations (Fig. S3), but also the insight that can be gained from using a multi-habitat

dataset. To assess whether metabolite profiles were more similar to those for microbial taxa vs.

microbial functions, we annotated our metagenomic reads to profile enzymes. We found the

separation of samples based on microbial functions to be unique and largely driven by animal gut

samples as compared to when based on either metabolites or microbial taxa (Fig. S4). However,

correlations in sample–sample distances between microbial functional data and other datasets

were relatively strong (Table 1).

Interestingly, we observed a more consistent split between saline and non-saline samples

when based on microbial taxa as compared to the metabolites (PERMANOVA on salinity:

pseudo-$F = 40.94$ for microbes vs. 8.25 for metabolites, p-value $= 0.001$ for both tests) (Fig.

3c,d). Conversely, for each level of EMPO, the effect size for explaining variation in the

separation of samples based on metabolites was roughly twice that for explaining it based on

microbes (Fig. 3c,d). The effect sizes for EMPO when separating samples based on microbial

functions (i.e., enzymes) were even stronger, however as noted above only animal gut samples

clustered separately from all other environments along the major axis of variation when using

dimensionality reduction (Fig. S4).

In the absence of complete turnover in microbially-related metabolites and microbial taxa

across environments, apparent by the overlap of clusters of samples from different habitats in our

ordinations (Fig. 3c,d), we quantified the extent of nestedness among all samples. Nestedness

describes the degree to which features in one environment are nested subsets of another

environment, and can provide insight into community assembly dynamics [1,62]. We found that

samples were significantly nested based on both metabolites (Fig. S5) and microbial taxa (Fig.

S6), and that certain environments were consistently nested within others, however this pattern

varied between datasets. For example, based on microbial taxa we observed host-associated

samples to be nested within free-living ones (Fig. S6a), however the opposite was true for

metabolites, although the pattern was weaker (Fig. S5a). When considering host-association and

salinity (i.e., EMPO 2) for metabolites, free-living samples were more nested than host-

associated ones, and within each group non-saline samples were more nested than saline ones

(Fig. S5d). This pattern remained consistent when describing metabolites at the superclass, class,

and molecular formula levels (Fig. S5d). Patterns of nestedness were less consistent across

taxonomic levels when based on microbial taxa, although non-saline, free-living samples were

the most nested across the family, genus, and species levels (Fig. S6d). When considering all

environments together (i.e., for EMPO 3 and 4), we observed stronger patterns of nestedness

among environments for microbial taxa (Fig. S5b,c) vs. metabolites (Fig. S6b,c). Focusing on

gradients of host-association and salinity, we observed patterns of nestedness were more similar

between microbial taxa and metabolites for host-associated environments (Fig. S5e, Fig. S6e).

However, there was strong disagreement in the nestedness ranks of plant surfaces among all non-

saline, host-associated samples based on microbial taxa (Fig. S5e) vs. metabolites (Fig. S6e).

Certain metabolites and microbes can be used to distinguish among habitats. Based on the

strong relationships among metabolites, microbes, and the environment, we next tested the

hypothesis that specific metabolites, microbial taxa, or microbial functional products (i.e.,

enzymes) could be used to classify samples among environments. Using a machine-learning

classifier (see Online Methods), we were able to identify specific metabolites that could classify

samples among environments with 88.0% overall accuracy (Fig. 4a, Fig. 5a, Fig. S7a, Fig. S8,

Table S6). After ranking all microbially-related metabolites based on their impact in

distinguishing environments, we found the top ranked metabolites to include a diterpenoid

negatively associated with non-saline soils ($C_{20}H_{32}$, ID: 04492), an undescribed metabolite

positively associated with marine sediments (ID: 42202), a lignan negatively associated with

freshwater sediments ($C_{20}H_{20}O_5$, ID: 07899), a diterpenoid negatively associated with the

surfaces of terrestrial plants ($C_{20}H_{28}O_3$, ID: 07719), and an undescribed metabolite positively

associated with non-saline subsurfaces (ID: 14598) (Fig. 5a, Table S6). Among the top twenty

ranked metabolites with annotations, the majority were alkaloids, fatty acids, or terpenoids, with

terpenoids being most impactful among the top ten ranked metabolites, including the most highly

ranked one (Fig. 5a, Table S6).

We also found strong support among methods for the importance of particular

metabolites in distinguishing environments. For example, the undescribed metabolite positively

associated with marine sediments (i.e., ID: 42202) and one fatty acid – a monoacylglycerol (i.e.,

ID: 42202) – revealed as useful in classification in this analysis also stood out in our analysis of

differential abundance (Fig. 5a, Table S3, Table S6). Similarly, distinct analytical approaches

identified specific metabolites as particularly important for distinguishing aquatic samples (i.e.,

one glycerolipid, $C_{28}H_{58}O_{15}$, ID: 14665 and one pseudoalkaloid, $C_{18}H_{22}N_7O_5$, ID: 14675), non-

saline plant surface samples (i.e., one chalcone, $C_{13}H_{10}O$, ID: 4949), and non-saline animal distal

gut samples (i.e., one cholane steroid, $C_{24}H_{38}O_4$, ID: 2552 and one prenyl quinone

monoterpenoid, $C_{29}H_{46}O_2$, ID: 22299) (Fig. 3c, Table S3, Table S4). We explored these

relationships further in our multi-omics analyses.

Using the same machine learning approach on our metagenomic sequence data, we

identified specific microbial taxa and microbial functional products (i.e., enzymes) useful in

classifying samples to environments, with 88.8% and 88.9% overall accuracy, respectively (Fig

4, Fig. 5, Fig. S7, Fig. S9, Fig. S10). Regarding microbial taxa, we observed the majority of the

top twenty ranked taxa with respect to classification performance were Proteobacteria (Fig. 5b).

The Cyanobacteria, Firmicutes, and Actinobacteria were represented by a few members each,

and *Candidatus* Tectomicrobia and Euryarchaeota represented as singletons (Fig. 5b). The most

highly ranked taxon, *Conexibacter woesei* (G000424625, Actinobacteria), was positively

associated with non-saline soils, and is an early-diverging member of the class *Actinobacteria*

first isolated from temperate forest soil in Italy [63] (Fig. 5b). Also among the top ranked taxa were

Haloquadratum walsbyi (Euryarchaeota) positively associated with saline soils, *Pantoea*

dispersa (*Gammaproteobacteria*) and an undescribed species of *Bacillus* (Firmicutes) positively

associated with the detritus of terrestrial plants, *Serratia fonticola* (*Gammaproteobacteria*)

positively associated with the surfaces of terrestrial plants, and *Oenococcus oeni* (Firmicutes)

positively associated with marine animal secretions (Fig. 5b). *Roseovarius nubinhibens*

(*Alphaproteobacteria*), *Ca.* Synecochoccus spongiarum (Cyanobacteria), and *Paraclostridium*

bifermentans (Firmicutes) were also highly ranked (Fig. 5b). With respect to microbial functions,

we note that the majority of the top twenty most highly ranked enzymes with respect to

classification performance were oxidoreductases or transferases, followed by hydrolases, and

then isomerases and lyases (Fig. 5c). The most highly ranked enzyme was positively associated

with non-saline soils and was a trehalohydrase (EC: 3.2.1.141), an enzyme that binds trehalose, a

carbon-source commonly produced by soil-inhabitants including plants, invertebrates, bacteria,

and fungi, with potential roles in symbioses [64]. Also among the most highly ranked enzymes

were a glutamate carboxylase (EC: 4.1.1.90) positively associated with the surfaces of marine

plants, a linoleate lipoxygenase (EC: 1.13.11.60) positively associated with lichen thalli, and a

glyceraldehyde dehydrogenase (EC: 1.2.1.59) positively associated with saline soils (Fig. 5c). A

glucosyltransferase (EC: 2.4.1.256), a uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase (EC: 4.1.1.37), and a

hydroxylamine dehydrogenase (EC: 1.7.2.6) were also highly ranked (Fig. 5c).

Multi-omics co-occurrence analysis reveals strong relationships between specific metabolites,

microbes, and the environment. In addition to exploring relationships between metabolite and

microbial diversity, we sought to explicitly quantify metabolite–microbe co-occurrence patterns.

In particular, we examined associations between metabolites and the environment (e.g., Fig.

3a,c), while also considering each metabolite's co-occurrence with all microbes in the dataset

(Fig. S1). In that regard, we first generated metabolite–microbe co-occurrences learned from

both LC-MS/MS metabolomics- and shotgun metagenomic profiles across all samples, for a

cross-section of 6,501 microbially-related metabolites and 4,120 microbial taxa (Fig. S11, Fig.

S12). Whereas most metabolites co-occurred with at least a few microbes, few were found to co-

occur with many microbes (Fig. S11a). The distribution of co-occurrences was not heavily

shifted towards any particular pathway (Fig. S11b), however certain superclasses exhibited co-

occurrences with many microbes, including diarylheptanoids and phenylethanoids (C6-C3) (Fig.

S11c). Similarly for microbes, co-occurrences with metabolites were not heavily skewed towards

particular phyla, although specific clades were enriched, such as the most recently diverged

members of the Bacteroidetes (Fig. S12). In contrast to their co-occurrences with metabolites,

log fold changes in microbial abundances with respect to the environment appear to be

phylogenetically conserved, and correlated with salinity and association with the animal gut

environment (Fig. S12).

Next, using metabolite–metabolite distances based on co-occurrence profiles considering

all microbes, we ordinated metabolites in microbe space. We then examined correlations

between metabolite loadings from the first ten principal coordinates of that co-occurrence

ordination and (1) log-fold changes of metabolites across environments (e.g., Fig. 3a), and (2)

distributions of metabolites across all samples (i.e., loadings and overall magnitude from

ordination of all samples) (Fig. 3c), and found strong relationships with each (Fig. 6a). In

particular, the abundances of microbially-related metabolites in plant surface (saline), sediment

(saline), and aquatic samples (i.e., those from water) had strong correlations with microbe–

metabolite co-occurrences (Fig. 6a). Focusing on seawater (i.e., Water [saline]), we visualized

the correlation between metabolite loadings on PC1 of the co-occurrence ordination, which

represent differences based on co-occurrences with microbes (Fig. 6b), and log fold changes in

metabolite abundances with respect to seawater (Fig. 6c). In this space, features with high values

for both vectors should be associated with the same microbes and also highly abundant in the

ocean, whereas features with low values for both vectors should be associated with the same

microbes and have low-to-zero abundance in the ocean (Fig. 6c). Focusing on one group of

carbohydrates (excluding glycosides) and one group of terpenoids (Fig. 6c,d), we found

significant differences in their intensities in seawater vs. all other environments (Fig. 6e), as well

in the abundances of their top co-occurring microbial taxa (Fig. 6f). Importantly, by relying on

our metabolite intensity data, this result validates patterns identified in our analyses of

differential abundance across environments and co-occurrence with microbial taxa. We used this

same approach to explore metabolite–microbe co-occurrences specific to other environments

(Fig. S13), further revealing strong turnover in metabolite–microbe co-occurrences across

habitats. Visualizing the differential abundance of metabolites with respect to seawater and other

environments in the broader context of metabolite–microbe co-occurrences highlights the

especially unique community profiles across habitats (Fig. 6, Fig. S13). Importantly, these results

demonstrate that metabolites and microbes can be used to classify- and co-occur among

environments.

Correlations with amplicon sequence data and GC-MS data

Harnessing additional data generated for EMP500 samples, including GC-MS and amplicon

sequence data (i.e., bacterial and archaeal 16S and full-length rRNA operon, eukaryotic 18S,

fungal ITS), we compared sample–sample distances (i.e., beta-diversity) between each pair of

datasets. Importantly, we found further support for a strong relationship between microbially-

related metabolites and microbial taxa ($r = 0.43$, p-value $= 0.001$) (Table 1). The relationships

between the metabolomics data (i.e., LC-MS/MS or GC-MS) and sequence data from eukaryotes

(i.e., 18S or ITS) were weaker (e.g., LC-MS/MS vs. ITS; $r = 0.08$, p-value $= 0.001$) (Table 1).

The weakest relationships were between the GC-MS metabolomics profiles and those from

sequence data from eukaryotic (i.e., 18S or ITS) (e.g., GC-MS vs. ITS; $r = 0.02$, p-value $= 0.4$)

(Table 1). The strongest relationships were between different layers of sequence data from

bacteria and archaea (Table 1). For example, correlations between 16S rRNA profiles and those

from full-length rRNA operons had $r = 0.55$ (p-value $= 0.001$), and 16S vs. shotgun

metagenomics had $r = 0.51$ (p-value $= 0.001$) (Table 1). These results highlight the strong

relationship between metabolic profiles and microbial taxonomic composition across habitats

spanning the globe.

DISCUSSION

Here, we produced as a resource a novel, multi-omics dataset comprising 880 samples that span

19 major environments, contributed by 34 principal investigators for the EMP500 (Fig. 1, Table

S1). Whereas we updated EMPO to include these environments, we recognize that certain

environments are represented here by only a handful of samples (Fig. 1) and/or a single sample

set (Table S1), and note that we had to exclude them from some of our analyses due to low

representation (e.g., machine learning and co-occurrence analyses). In that regard, we

recommend that future similar efforts focus on additional sampling of these environments in

order to further generalize our findings to those habitats. Similarly, we hope to expand sampling

geographically to broaden our scope of inference, as many important environments and locations

could not be included here (or, indeed, in the EMP's 27,000-sample dataset[1]), which makes

exploring certain questions difficult. To foster this research activity, we expanded upon the

widely-adopted set of the EMP's standardized protocols for guiding microbiome research – from

sample collection to data release [59] – with new protocols for performing untargeted

metabolomics and shotgun metagenomics across a diversity of sample types (Fig. 1a; Online

Methods).

Across all 880 samples, we generated eight layers of data, including untargeted

metabolomics and shotgun metagenomics (Table S2), providing a valuable resource for both

multi-omics and meta-analyses of microbiome data. As expected, sample dropout in any one data

layer was non-negligible (Table S2), reducing the number of samples in any one layer to at most

roughly 500 samples (hence the EMP500). For future similar studies, we note that considering

multi-omics applications during the experimental design and/or sample collection phases of

studies is crucial, in part because certain metabolomics approaches are not amenable to samples

stored in particular storage solutions commonly used for metagenomics (e.g., RNAlater).

We also included an example of how to apply this dataset towards addressing important

questions in microbial ecological research, by describing the Earth's microbial metabolome using

an integrated 'omics approach (Fig. S1). We first explored whether every metabolite is

everywhere, but the environment selects (i.e., the Baas Becking hypothesis[51,52], but for

microbially-related metabolites). Our results confirm that all major groups (e.g., pathways) of

metabolites are present in each environment [14], but additionally demonstrate that their relative

abundances (i.e., intensity) can be limited- or enriched across environments (Fig. 2, Fig. 3a,c,

Table S3). Considering the relative intensities of secondary metabolites vs. presence/absence

alone drastically strengthens differences in metabolite profiles across environments for many

metabolite groups including apocarotenoids, fatty acids and conjugates, glycerolipids, steroids,

and polyketides (Fig. 2c,d, Fig. 3a). Interestingly, the groups of metabolites that exhibited the

most obvious changes in representation were those that appeared in the fewest samples (i.e.,

those at low prevalence from a presence/absence perspective; e.g., carbohydrates [excluding

glycosides], alkaloids) (Fig. 2a,b). Further, the environments with the most unannotated

metabolites include terrestrial animal cadavers, bioreactors that mimic the rumen of cows,

freshwater, and the ocean (Fig. 2b). Similarly, environments with the most unannotated shotgun

metagenomic reads for microbial functions (i.e., enzymes) included animal cadavers, marine

animal secretions, terrestrial plants, and fungi (Fig. S14f). These environments merit further

attention with respect to feature description, and represent valuable opportunities for the

discovery of novel metabolites and functional products. Whereas we interpret these results as

strong evidence that every metabolite is everywhere, but the environment selects, as our study

was not designed to address this hypothesis explicitly, further evidence is needed. For example,

features at abundances below the detection limit of our approach could not be considered here,

but may alter our view of these patterns.

Next, we explored whether the richness and composition of metabolites in any given

sample reflect those of co-occurring microbial communities. We compared alpha-diversity

between metabolites and microbes, and found strong positive relationships across all samples

and for many environments (Fig. 3b, Table S5). As unannotated features are included in these

metrics, reference database coverage does not influence the results. Similarly, whereas estimates

may be influenced by our use of rarefaction to normalize sampling effort, estimating diversity in

absence of such an approach has been shown to be problematic [65]. Further, we avoided marrying

estimates of alpha-diversity from our 16S vs. metagenomic data, as taxonomic profiling used a

distinct reference database curated specifically for its respective data type. Future similar studies

should consider the development of a reference combining both 16S and shotgun metagenomic

data from bacteria and archaea. Similarly, the absence of a relationship between metabolite and

microbial richness for other environments may be due to low sample representation as two lowly

sampled environments, marine plant surfaces and sediments, both exhibited trends (Table S5) .

In absence of technical variation, unique community carrying capacities for metabolite vs.

microbes across environments may also skew trends, and we recognize that certain environments

simply may not exhibit clear or underlying relationships. Still, when ranking environments based

on alpha-diversity, certain patterns are clear. For example, in addition to confirming previous

observations that marine sediments are one of the most microbially diverse environments on

Earth [1], we showed that marine sediments are also the most metabolically diverse (Fig. 3b). To

our knowledge, this is the first assessment of the metabolic alpha-diversity in marine sediments

as it relates to microbial diversity in those samples in a context including other diverse

environments. Although not the most lacking with respect to annotation rates for metabolites, the

high diversity in marine sediments merits further exploration of those molecules.

We also found a strong correlation in sample–sample distances between metabolite and

microbial datasets (Table 1), and significant turnover of features across environments (Fig. 3c,d).

For both metabolites and microbial taxa, the effect of host-association was much stronger than

salinity in explaining variation in community composition (Fig. 3c,d). We also observed a much

weaker influence of salinity in separating samples based on metabolites vs. microbes (Fig. 3c,d).

Together, these findings support recognizing host-association as EMPO 1, and confirm our

prediction that environmental similarity between datasets may be distinct when based on one

dataset vs. the other. This may indicate that although microbial cells respond strongly to salinity

gradients, the taxa they represent can have similar metabolic profiles. Our hypothesis is

supported by our observation that co-occurrences with metabolites appear to be more structured

by environment than phylogeny for microbial taxa (Fig. S12). Additional support lies in our

finding that the differential intensities of important pathways and superclasses are highly similar

between freshwater and marine environments (Fig. 3a), and that the same groups of metabolites

can occur in both habitats yet are associated with distinct microbes within each (Fig. 6e,f).

The lack of complete turnover in metabolites vs. microbes with respect to the

environment generated unique patterns of nestedness between datasets (Fig. S5, Fig. S6).

Whereas nestedness patterns among environments with respect to microbial taxon profiles

matched our expectations based on assembly dynamics and dispersal patterns (e.g., host-

associated communities are a subset of free-living ones), as well as previous observations based

on 16S data [1], those based on metabolite profiles were more weakly correlated with our

description of environments based on EMPO. This may be in part due to the weaker effect of

salinity on sample beta-diversity for metabolites (Fig. S5a, Fig. S6a), and similarity in metabolite

profiles among microbes from disparate environments (Fig. 6d-f). It may also indicate that

microbially-related metabolites assembly and structure uniquely from the microbes that produce

them in nature. Nevertheless, future efforts to expand database coverage for metabolites should

consider this, as the expectation that diversity will continue to increase with sampling of these

distinct environments may not be realized.

Given that profiles for metabolites and microbes were habitat-specific, we used machine-

learning to identify several metabolites, microbial taxa, and microbial functions that could

accurately classify samples among environments (Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Table S6). Overall accuracy for

each dataset was ≥88% (Fig. 4, Fig. S7), confirming our prediction that certain features could

distinguish among environments. Although infrequent among 20 iterations, certain environments

were occasionally confused (Fig. 4b, Figs. S8-S10). For example, when based on metabolites,

marine animal proximal gut was once misclassified as seawater, marine sediment was once

misclassified as non-saline animal distal gut, freshwater was twice misclassified as seawater, and

seawater was once misclassified as marine animal secretion (i.e., during a single iteration) (Fig.

4b). We note that the majority of misclassifications were between compositionally similar

environments (Fig. 3b, Fig. 4b, Figs. S8-S10). Features identified here as important for

classification should prove useful as indicators of particular environments (Fig. 5), which can be

used for applications such as source tracking [66] and forensics [67]. When considering the twenty

most highly ranked metabolites regarding impacting classification performance, metabolites

classified to the pathways amino acids and peptides were not present (Fig. 5a), although

metabolites from this pathway were differentially abundant across samples (Fig. 3c, Table S3,

Table S4). Rather, the most abundant and highly ranked pathway among those highly predictive

metabolites was for terpenoids, highlighting the importance of this group of metabolites in

distinguishing Earth's environments (Fig. 5a, Table S6). Terpenoids are the largest class of

natural products recognized to date, and are known to be the most prevalent secondary

metabolites in nature [68], which we also showed with our presence/absence data (Fig. 2a).

Although known most commonly from plants, recent work has described a diversity of

terpenoids produced by microbes, which range in activity from stress responses to signaling and

communication [68]. Future work should aim to further characterize the terpenoids discovered in

this dataset.

We also identified metabolite–microbe co-occurrences, and as a first step towards

characterizing them as salient features of the environment, showed that these relationships can be

specific to certain habitats (Fig. 6, Fig. S4). We view strongly co-occurring metabolite–microbe

pairs as features of the environment that in part can be grappled for further exploration, for

example as predictors in models of environmental change [69]. We demonstrated that both distinct

metabolite pathways (e.g., carbohydrates vs. terpenoids) and metabolites within the same

pathway (e.g., two groups of fatty acids), can be used to distinguish environments based on their

co-occurrences with microbes (Fig. 6c-f, Fig. S4f-j). Similarly, we showed that certain

metabolites and microbes have an especially high number of strong co-occurrences with one

another (Fig. S11, Fig. S12). We hypothesize that microbes co-occurring with relatively many

metabolites represent 'chemically-talented' taxa that may be useful for discovery of novel

compounds. Further culture-based studies should continue to explore and characterize the

metabolic diversity among these microbes.

Here, we described patterns of turnover, nestedness, and co-occurrence of metabolites

and microbes across a diverse set of environments while addressing ecological questions

surrounding the distribution of metabolites and their relationships with microbial diversity. Our

results highlight the advantages of using standardized methods and a multi-omics approach

including metagenomics and metabolomics to interpret and predict the contributions of microbes

and their environments to chemical profiles in nature. One outstanding question in microbial

ecology asks how microbial taxon profiles can be married with functional ones [70]. Here, in

addition to describing microbial taxa, their functions, and their metabolites, we explicitly tested

for metabolite–microbe co-occurrences and explored how they relate to the environment, for

which we have outlined our approach (Fig. S1). We recognize that previous studies describing

microbial taxa and function using globally distributed sample sets, such as for the human gut,

soils, and the ocean, have shown that both can vary across locations [71-74]. Similarly, studies

examining metabolite profiles across changes in microbial community composition, or

environmental stress such as from heat, have shown variation associated with either [75,76] or both

[77]. Furthermore, among previous multi-omics studies combining metagenomics with

metatranscriptomics, metaproteomics, and/or metabolomics, some of which have shown the

correlation between data layers to vary across sites, the majority are focused on a single

environment [78-88]. To our knowledge this is its first application of multi-omics integration of a

dataset encompassing a diversity of environmental sample types representing several habitats,

generated using standardized methods allowing for robust meta-analysis. Standardization of

methods is of utmost importance, as no single lab can sample everything, and because a

multitude of methods for performing a microbiome study exist [89-91]. Due to inherent biases

among distinct methods such as towards describing particular taxa [91-92], such lack of

standardization prevents robust meta-analysis [1,2,4]. Issues surrounding such bias extend from

sequencing to metabolomics, which may be subject to greater technical variation due in part to

unavoidable batch effects and use of extraction methods unique to particular sample types [93]. The

EMP500 overcomes these challenges by using standardized approaches, allowing for robust

tracking of microbes and metabolites that permits the description of features that distinguish one

habitat from another. This insight fosters understanding of the processes that make each habitat

unique, and that may be vital to the functional diversity in the environment. By using

standardized methods for sample processing and data analysis, the EMP500 allows for additional

contributions, further expanding our insight into these communities.

We argue that using only sequence-based approaches to interpret functional potential can

be misleading, as the presence of genomic loci and/or transcripts does not equate to the presence

of a functional product in the environment. Using our presence/absence data for metabolites, we

observed a trend in the uniform distribution of metabolite pathways across environments (Fig.

2a,c). However, when taking into account the relative intensities of metabolites – to date only

possible using metabolomics – we observed significant differences in the distribution of

particular groups of metabolites across the Earth's environments (Fig. 2b,d, Fig. 3a). This

emphasizes the utility and importance of directly measuring functional products in the

environment, rather than estimating their potential from underlying genomic elements. We note

that the uniform distributions of metabolite pathways and superclasses across environments

based on presence/absence data (Fig. 2a,c) are similar to previous observations based on BGC

annotation of a global dataset of MAGs[20]. It could be that abundance/intensity data for the

products of BGCs may provide a different view, as they have here. We also recognize that using

only metabolomics-based approaches can make the detection of certain molecules difficult, as

some metabolites have relatively short lifespans, are consumed rapidly, and/or are cycled

between members of the community therefore escaping detection [94,95].

Beyond the important ecological questions explored here, several others such as those

surrounding host-microbe interactions, microbial ecology in a changing world, and

environmental processes merit future exploration [70]. In some cases, addressing these questions

will only be feasible following the collection of additional samples that span additional

environments and/or geographic locations. For example, although we explored turnover and

nestedness, one major question is whether these communities conform to the same biogeographic

and ecological principles as in other types of communities, such as those of animals or plants

[70,96,97]. For example, we were unable to explore whether our features follow the latitudinal

diversity gradient. The increase in species richness towards lower latitudes is apparent in many

populations including those of several animals and plant species, but also planktonic marine

bacteria [98] and soilborne *Streptomyces* [99]. This trend has been less-explored at the community

level, outside of soils [100,101]. Although highly host-specific groups such as ectomycorrhizal fungi

do not follow this gradient due to the distributions of their host populations[102], it is unclear what

pattern metabolites and microbes exhibit, and whether there is variation among all of the

environments recognized here. As another example, we did not explicitly explore the importance

of rare features with respect to differences among environments. In addition to rare features

serving as potential indicators of particular interactions [103] or ecological trends [104,105], little is

known regarding the relationships between rare features from distinct data layers (e.g.,

metabolites and microbial taxa). Although we might expect metabolites produced by rare

microbes to also be rare in the environment, the suite of community interactions acting on those

metabolites may alter distributions in context-dependent ways.

Our approach illustrates that recent advances in computational annotation tools offer a

powerful toolbox to interpret untargeted metabolomics data [45]. We anticipate that advances in

metagenomic sequencing, genome assembly, and genome mining will improve the discovery and

classification of functional products from among microbes and provide additional insight into

these findings. By following standardized methods available on GitHub and making this dataset

publicly available in Qiita and GNPS, this study will serve as an important resource for

continued collaborative investigations. In the same manner, the development of novel

instrumentation and computational methods for metabolomics will expand the depth of

metabolites surveyed in microbiome studies.

Tables.

Table 1 | Mantel test results comparing data layers generated for the EMP500 samples. Note the

strong relationships between the metabolomics data (i.e., LC-MS/MS and GC-MS) and the

sequence data from Bacteria and Archaea (i.e., shotgun metagenomics, 16S, and full-length

rRNA operon)as compared to between metabolomics data and sequence data from eukaryotes

(i.e., 18S and ITS). There are also strong relationships between difference sequence data from

Bacteria and Archaea (rho > 0.2 in bolded font; > 0.4 in bolded, italics; > 0.5 additionally

underlined).

Dataset 1	Dataset 2	n	Spearman rho	p-value
LC-MS/MS	GC-MS	401	0.13	0.001
	Metagenomics (taxa)	454	***0.43***	0.001
	Metagenomics (function)	440	**0.32**	0.001
	16S	477	**0.27**	0.001
	18S	356	0.06	0.034
	ITS	359	0.08	0.001
	full-length rRNA operon	181	**0.34**	0.001
GC-MS	Metagenomics (taxa)	331	0.07	0.002
	Metagenomics (function)	327	0.11	0.001
	16S	349	**0.22**	0.001
	18S	284	-0.01	0.641
	ITS	258	0.02	0.404
	full-length rRNA operon	168	0.11	0.001
Metagenomics (taxa)	Metagenomics (function)	564	***<u>0.53</u>***	0.001
	16S	538	***<u>0.51</u>***	0.001
	18S	378	-0.04	0.159
	ITS	408	0.05	0.023
	full-length rRNA operon	235	***0.48***	0.001
Metagenomics (function)	16S	538	***<u>0.58</u>***	0.001
	18S	386	-0.03	0.103
	ITS	400	0.13	0.001
	full-length rRNA operon	237	***<u>0.55</u>***	0.001
16S	18S	430	0.04	0.117
	ITS	447	0.09	0.001
	full-length rRNA operon	239	***<u>0.55</u>***	0.001
18S	ITS	387	**0.20**	0.001
	full-length rRNA operon	174	0.06	0.06
ITS	full-length rRNA operon	166	0.09	0.001

665 **Figures.**

666
Figure 1 | a, Distribution of samples (*n* = 880) among the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology

(EMPO version 2) categories. This version of EMPO is updated to include the important

distinction between saline- and non-saline samples from host-associated environments that was

not detected in previous analyses of 16S rRNA alone. **b**, Geographic distribution of samples with

points colored by EMPO 4. Points are transparent to highlight cases where multiple samples

derive from a single location. We note here that our intent was to sample across environments

rather than geography, in part as we previously showed that microbial community composition is

more influenced by the former vs. the latter[33], but also to motivate finer-grained geographic

exploration as sample analyses decrease in cost. Extensive information about each sample set is

described in Table S1.

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Figure 2 | Distribution of microbially-related secondary metabolite pathways and

superclasses among environments described using the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology

(EMPO 4). Individual metabolites are represented by their higher level classifications. Both

chemical pathway and chemical superclass annotations are shown based on presence/absence (**a,**

c) and relative intensities (**b, d**) of molecular features, respectively. For superclass annotations in

panels **c** and **d**, we included pathway annotations for metabolites where superclass annotations

were not available, when possible.

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Figure 3 | Structural-level associations between microbially-related secondary metabolites

and specific environments described using the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology (EMPO 4).

a, Differential abundance of metabolites across environments, highlighting four pathways and

four superclasses in separate panels. For each panel, the *y*-axis represents the natural log-ratio of

the intensities of metabolites annotated as the listed ingroup divided by the intensities of

metabolites annotated as the reference group (i.e., pathway reference: *Amino Acids and Peptides*,

n = 615; superclass reference: *Flavonoids*, *n* = 42). The number of metabolites in each ingroup is

shown, as well as the chi-squared statistic from a Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test for differences in

log-ratios across environments (i.e., each test had *p*-value < 2.2 x 10^{-16}). Each test included 606

samples. Boxplots are in the style of Tukey, where the center line indicates the median, lower

and upper hinges the first- and third quartiles, respectively, and each whisker 1.5 x the

interquartile range (IQR) from its respective hinge. Outliers from boxplots are colored red to

highlight that they are also represented in the overlaid, jittered points. **b,** Relationship between

metabolite richness and microbial taxon richness across samples and environments, with

significant correlations noted. **c,** Turnover in composition of metabolites across environments,

visualized using Robust Aitchison Principal Components Analysis (RPCA), showing samples

separated based on LC-MS/MS metabolite abundances. Shapes represent samples and are

colored and shaped by EMPO. Arrows represent metabolites, and are colored by chemical

pathway. The direction and magnitude of each arrow corresponds to the strength of the

correlation between the relative abundance (i.e., intensity) of the metabolite it represents and the

ordination axes. Samples close to arrow heads have strong, positive associations with respective

metabolites, whereas samples at and beyond arrow origins have strong, negative associations.

The 25 most important metabolites are shown and are described in Table S4. Features annotated

in red/purple were among the top ranked metabolites based on log fold changes with respect each

environment (Tables S3), and those in purple were additionally identified as important in co-

occurrence analyses (Fig. 4). **d,** Turnover in composition of microbial taxa across environments,

visualized using Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA) of weighted UniFrac distances. Results

from PERMANOVA (999 permutations) for each level of EMPO are shown (all tests had *p*-

value = 0.001; group sizes for LC-MS/MS data: $k_{EMPO1} = 2$, $k_{EMPO2} = 4$, $k_{EMPO3} = 9$, $k_{EMPO4} = 18$;

group sizes for shotgun metagenomics data: $k_{EMPO1} = 2$, $k_{EMPO2} = 4$, $k_{EMPO3} = 9$, $k_{EMPO4} = 19$).

Sample sizes in panel **a** refer to metabolites, but in all other panels refer to samples.

Figure 4 | Metabolite-microbe co-occurrences vary strongly across environments. a, Co-

occurrence analysis results showing correlation between the metabolite loadings from the co-

occurrence ordination (i.e., co-occurrence principal coordinates [PCs]) and (i) log fold changes

in metabolite abundances across environments, (ii) metabolite loadings from the ordination in

Fig. 3d corresponding to clustering of samples by environment based on metabolite profiles (i.e.,

Global distribution, Axes 1-3), and (iii) a vector representing the overall magnitude of microbial

taxon abundances from the same ordination (i.e., Global distribution, Overall magnitude). Values

are Spearman correlation coefficients. Asterisks indicate significant correlations ($*p < 0.05$, $**p$

< 0.01, $***p < 0.001$). **b,** The relationship between log fold changes in metabolite abundance

with respect to 'Water (non-saline)' and the first three PCs of the co-occurrence ordination

shown as a multi-omics biplot of metabolite–microbe co-occurrences. Points represent

metabolites, and the distance between metabolites indicates similarity in their co-occurrences

with microbial taxa (i.e., two metabolites that are close together have similar co-occurrence

probabilities to the same microbes). Metabolites are colored based on their relative log fold

changes with respect to 'Water (non-saline)'. Vectors represent specific microbial taxa, where

distances between arrow tips indicate similarity in their co-occurrence with specific metabolites

(i.e., two microbes that are close together have similar co-occurrence probabilities to the same

metabolites), and the direction of each arrow indicates which metabolites each microbe co-

occurs most strongly with. **c,** The relationship between log fold changes in metabolite

abundances with respect to 'Water (non-saline)' and loadings for metabolites on PC1 of the co-

occurrence ordination. The correlation is one example of those summarized in panel **a**.

Metabolites are colored by pathway. Select Carbohydrates (excluding glycosides) representing

the focal group and select Terpenoids representing reference group are highlighted. **d,** The top 10

co-occurring microbial taxa for all select Carbohydrates and all select Terpenoids, with a

heatmap showing the co-occurrence strength between each metabolite-microbe pair. **e,** Log-ratio

of metabolite intensities for select Carbohydrates and select Terpenoids. **f,** Log-ratio of

abundances of the top ten microbial taxa associated with select Carbohydrates and the top ten

microbial taxa associated with Terpenoids. For panels **e** and **f** samples are colored by

environment (based on EMPO 2), and results from a *t*-test comparing 'Water (saline)' vs. all

other environments are shown. Boxplots are in the style of Tukey, where the center line indicates

the median, lower and upper hinges the first- and third quartiles, respectively, and each whisker

1.5 x the interquartile range (IQR) from its respective hinge.

Figure 5 | Machine-learning analysis of microbially-related metabolites, microbial taxa, and microbial functions, **highlighting per-environment classification performance. a,** The F1 score (i.e., which considers precision and recall) for each environment as well as overall across all environments. **b,** Confusion matrices for each data layer highlighting which pairs of environments are confused. Boxplots are in the style of Tukey, where the center line indicates the median, lower and upper hinges the first- and third quartiles, respectively, and each whisker 1.5 x the interquartile range (IQR) from its respective hinge. For all analyses, environments are described by the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology (EMPO 4).

Figure 6 | Machine-learning analysis of microbially-related metabolites, microbial taxa,

and microbial functions, highlighting the top twenty most impactful features for each

dataset. a, The top twenty most impactful microbially-related metabolites. Features are colored

by metabolite pathway. Metabolites in bold font are those also identified as important in analysis

of differential abundance analysis (Table S3). **b,** The top twenty most impactful microbial taxa

(i.e., OGUs). Taxa are colored by phylum. **c,** The top twenty most impactful microbial functions

(i.e., KEGG ECs). Boxplots are in the style of Tukey, where the center line indicates the median,

lower and upper hinges the first- and third quartiles, respectively, and each whisker 1.5 x the

interquartile range (IQR) from its respective hinge. Enzymes are colored by class. For all

features, ranks are based on impacts derived from SHAP values. Associations with environments

are indicated, where + indicates a positive association and – indicates a negative association

based on feature abundances. Diamonds and values to the right of boxes indicate means. Values

in parentheses indicate (1) the number of iterations ($n = 20$) in which a feature had no impact,

and (2) the number of iterations in which the reported association was observed, for cases in

which values were < 20. Environments are described by the Earth Microbiome Project Ontology

(EMPO 4).

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The EMP500 Consortium collected and provided samples. J.A.G., J.K.J., and R.K. conceived the

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S.M.K. and M.A. coordinated and performed long-read amplicon sequencing and long-read

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Competing interests.

S.B. and K.D. are co-founders of Bright Giant GmbH.

ONLINE METHODS

DATASET DESCRIPTION

Sample collection. Samples were contributed by 34 principal investigators (PIs) of the Earth

Microbiome Project 500 (EMP500) Consortium. Samples were contributed as distinct sets

referred to here as studies, where each study represented a single environment (e.g., terrestrial

plant detritus). To achieve more even coverage across microbial environments, we devised an

ontology of sample types (microbial environments), the EMP Ontology (EMPO)

(http://earthmicrobiome.org/protocols-and-standards/empo/)[1] and selected samples to fill out

EMPO categories as broadly as possible. As we anticipated previously[1], we have updated the

number of levels as well as states therein for EMPO (Fig. 1b), based on an important, additional

salinity gradient observed among host-associated samples when considering the novel shotgun

metagenomic and metabolomic data generated here (Fig. 3c,d). We note that although we were

able to acquire samples for all EMPO categories, some categories are represented by a single

study.

Samples were collected following the Earth Microbiome Project sample submission

guide[2]. Briefly, samples were collected fresh, split into 10 aliquots, and then frozen, or

alternatively collected and frozen, and subsequently split into 10 aliquots with minimal

perturbation. Aliquot size was sufficient to yield 10–100 ng genomic DNA (approximately 10^7–

10^8 cells). To leave samples amenable to chemical characterization (metabolomics), buffers or

solutions for sample preservation (e.g., RNAlater) were avoided. Ethanol (50–95%) was allowed

as it is compatible with LC-MS/MS though should also be avoided if possible.

Sampling guidance was tailored for four general sample types: bulk unaltered (e.g., soil,

sediment, feces), bulk fractionated (e.g., sponges, corals, turbid water), swabs (e.g., biofilms),

and filters. Bulk unaltered samples were split fresh (or frozen) sampled into 10 pre-labeled 2-mL

screw-cap bead beater tubes (Sarstedt cat. no. 72.694.005 or similar), ideally with at least 200 mg

biomass, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen (if possible). Bulk fractionated samples were

fractionated as appropriate for the sample type, split into 10 pre-labeled 2-mL screw-cap bead

beater tubes, ideally with at least 200 mg biomass, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen (if

possible). Swabs were collected as 10 replicate swabs using 5 BD SWUBE dual cotton swabs

with wooden stick and screw cap (cat. no. 281130). Filters were collected as 10 replicate filters

(47 mm diameter, 0.2 um pore size, polyethersulfone (preferred) or hydrophilic PTFE filters),

placed in a pre-labeled 2-mL screw-cap bead beater tubes, and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen (if

possible). All sample types were stored at –80 °C if possible, otherwise –20 °C.

1162   To track the provenance of sample aliquots, we employed a QR coding scheme. Labels

were affixed to aliquot tubes before shipping, when possible. QR codes had the format

"name.99.s003.a05", where "name" is the PI name, "99" is the study ID, "s003" is the sample

number, and "a05" is the aliquot number. QR codes (version 2, 25 pixels x 25 pixels) were

printed on 1.125" x 0.75" rectangular and 0.437" circular cap Cryogenic Direct Thermal Labels

(GA International, part no. DFP-70) using a Zebra model GK420d printer and ZebraDesigner

Pro software for Windows. After receipt but before aliquots were stored in freezers, QR codes

were scanned into a sample inventory spreadsheet using a QR scanner.

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Sample metadata. Environmental metadata was collected for all samples based on the EMP

Metadata Guide2, which combines guidance from the Genomics Standards Consortium MIxS

(Minimum Information about any Sequence) standard3 and the Qiita Database

(https://qiita.ucsd.edu)4. The metadata guide provides templates and instructions for each MIxS

environmental package (i.e., sample type). Relevant information describing each PI submission,

or study, was organized into a separate study metadata file (Table S1).

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METABOLOMICS

LC-MS/MS sample extraction and preparation. To profile metabolites among all samples, we

used liquid chromatography with untargeted tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), a versatile

method that detects tens of thousands of metabolites in biological samples[12]. All solvents and

reactants used were LC-MS grade. To maximize the biomass extracted from each sample, the

samples were prepared depending on their sampling method (e.g., bulk, swabs, filter, and

controls). The bulk samples were transferred into a microcentrifuge tube (polypropylene, PP) and

dissolved in 7:3 MeOH:H_2O using a volume varying from 600 µL to 1.5 mL, depending on the

amounts of sample available, and homogenized in a tissue-lyser (QIAGEN) at 25 Hz for 5 min.

Then, the tubes were centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 15 min, and the supernatant was collected in

a 96-well plate (PP). For swabs, the swabs were transferred into a 96-well plate (PP) and

dissolved in 1.0 mL of 9:1 EtOH:H_2O. The prepared plates were sonicated for 30 min, and after

12 hours at 4°C, the swabs were removed from the wells. The filter samples were dissolved in

1.5 mL of 7:3 MeOH:H_2O in microcentrifuge tubes (PP) and were sonicated for 30 min. After 12

hours at 4°C, the filters were removed from the tubes. The tubes were centrifuged at 15,000 rpm

for 15 min, and the supernatants were transferred to 96-well plates (PP). The process control

samples (bags, filters, and tubes) were prepared by adding 3.0 mL of 2:8 MeOH:H_2O and by

recovering 1.5 mL after 2 min. After the extraction process, all sample plates were dried with a

vacuum concentrator and subjected to solid phase extraction (SPE). The SPE is used to remove

salts that could reduce ionization efficiency during mass spectrometry analysis, as well as the

most polar and non-polar compounds (e.g., waxes) that cannot be analyzed efficiently by

reversed-phase chromatography. The protocol was as follows: The samples (in plates) were

dissolved in 300 µL of 7:3 MeOH:H_2O and put in an ultrasound bath for 20 min. SPE was

performed with SPE plates (Oasis HLB, Hydrophilic-Lipophilic-Balance, 30 mg with particle

sizes of 30-µm). The SPE beds were activated by priming them with 100% MeOH, and

equilibrated with 100% H_2O. The samples were loaded on the SPE beds, and 100% H_2O was

used as wash solvent (600 µL). The eluted washing solution was discarded, as it contains salts

and very polar metabolites that subsequent metabolomics analysis is not designed for. The

sample elution was carried out sequentially with 7:3 MeOH:H_2O (600 µL) and with 100%

MeOH (600 µL). The obtained plates were dried with a vacuum concentrator. For mass

spectrometry analysis, the samples were resuspended in 130 µL of 7:3 MeOH:H_2O containing

0.2 µM of amitriptyline as an internal standard. The plates were centrifuged at 2,000 rpm for 15

min at 4°C. 100 µL of samples were transferred into a new 96-well plate (PP) for mass

spectrometry analysis.

1212

LC-MS/MS sample analysis. The extracted samples were analyzed by ultra-high performance

liquid chromatography (UHPLC, Vanquish, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA)

coupled to a quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Q Exactive, Thermo Scientific, Waltham,

Massachusetts, USA) operated in data-dependent acquisition mode (LC-MS/MS in DDA mode).

Chromatographic separation was performed using a Kinetex C_{18} 1.7-µm (Phenomenex,

Torrance, California, USA), 100-Å pore size, 2.1-mm (internal diameter) x 50-mm (length)

column with a C_{18} guard cartridge (Phenomenex). The column was maintained at 40°C. The

mobile phase was composed of a mixture of (A) water with 0.1% formic acid (v/v) and (B)

acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid. Chromatographic elution method was set as follows: 0.00–

1.00 min, isocratic 5% B; 1.00–9.00 min, gradient from 5% to 100% B; 9.00–11.00 min,

isocratic 100% B; and followed by equilibration 11.00–11.50 min, gradient from 100% to 5% B;

11.50–12.50 min, isocratic 5% B. The flow rate was set to 0.5 mL/min.

The UHPLC was interfaced to the orbitrap using a heated electrospray ionization (HESI)

source with the following parameters: ionization mode: positive, spray voltage, +3496.2 V;

heater temperature, 363.90 °C; capillary temperature, 377.50 °C; S-lens RF, 60 (arb. units);

sheath gas flow rate, 60.19 (arb. units); and auxiliary gas flow rate, 20.00 (arb. units). The MS^1

scans were acquired at a resolution (at m/z 200) of 35,000 in the m/z 100–1500 range, and the

fragmentation spectra (MS^2) scans at a resolution of 17,500 from 0 to 12.5 min. The automatic

gain control (AGC) target and maximum injection time were set at 1.0×10^6 and 160 ms for

MS^1 scans, and set at 5.0×10^5 and 220 ms for MS^2 scans, respectively. Up to three MS^2 scans in

data-dependent mode (Top 3) were acquired for the most abundant ions per MS^1 scans using the

apex trigger mode (4 to 15 s), dynamic exclusion (11 s), and automatic isotope exclusion. The

starting value for MS^2 was m/z 50. Higher-energy collision induced dissociation (HCD) was

performed with a normalized collision energy of 20, 30, 40 eV in stepped mode. The major

background ions originating from the SPE were excluded manually from the MS^2 acquisition.

Analyses were randomized within plate and blank samples analyzed every 20 injections. A QC

mix sample assembled from 20 random samples across the sample-types was injected at the

beginning, the middle, and the end of each plate sequence. The chromatographic shift observed

throughout the batch is estimated as less than 2 s, and the relative standard deviation of ion

intensity was 15% per replicates.

1243

LC-MS/MS data processing. The mass spectrometry data were centroided and converted from

the proprietary format (.raw) to the *m/z* extensible markup language format (.mzML) using

ProteoWizard (ver. 3.0.19, MSConvert tool)[5]. The mzML files were then processed with

MZmine toolbox[6] using the ion-identity networking modules[7] that allows advanced detection for

adduct/isotopologue annotations. The MZmine processing was performed on Ubuntu 18.04 LTS

64-bits workstation (Intel Xeon E5-2637, 3.5 GHz, 8 cores, 64 Gb of RAM) and took ~3 d. The

MZmine project, the MZmine batch file (.XML format), and results files (.MGF and .CSV) are

available in the MassIVE dataset MSV000083475. The MZmine batch file contains all the

parameters used during the processing. In brief, feature detection and deconvolution was

performed with the ADAP chromatogram builder[8], and local minimum search algorithm. The

isotopologues were regrouped, and the features (peaks) were aligned across samples. The aligned

peak list was gap filled and only peaks with an associated fragmentation spectrum and occurring

in a minimum of three files were conserved. Peak shape correlation analysis grouped peaks

originating from the same molecule, and to annotate adduct/isotopologue with ion-identity

networking[7]. Finally the feature quantification table results (.CSV) and spectral information

(.MGF) were exported with the GNPS module for feature-based molecular networking analysis

on GNPS[9] and with SIRIUS export modules.

1261

LC-MS/MS data annotation. The results files of MZmine (.MGF and .CSV files) were uploaded

to GNPS (http://gnps.ucsd.edu)[10] and analyzed with the feature-based molecular networking

workflow[9]. Spectral library matching was performed against public fragmentation spectra (MS^2)

spectral libraries on GNPS and the NIST17 library.

For the additional annotation of small peptides, we used the DEREPLICATOR tools

available on GNPS[11,12]. We then used SIRIUS[13] (v. 4.4.25, headless, Linux) to systematically

annotate the MS^2 spectra. Molecular formulas were computed with the SIRIUS module by

matching the experimental and predicted isotopic patterns[14], and from fragmentation trees

analysis[15] of MS^2. Molecular formula prediction was refined with the ZODIAC module using

Gibbs sampling[16] on the fragmentation spectra (chimeric spectra or had a poor fragmentation

were excluded). *In silico* structure annotation using structures from biodatabase was done with

CSI:FingerID[17]. Systematic class annotations were obtained with CANOPUS[18] and used the

NPClassifier ontology[19].

The parameters for SIRIUS tools were set as follows, for SIRIUS: molecular formula

candidates retained (80), molecular formula database (ALL), maximum precursor ion *m/z*

computed (750), profile (orbitrap), *m/z* maximum deviation (10 ppm), ions annotated with

MZmine were prioritized and other ions were considered (i.e., [M+H3N+H]+, [M+H]+,

[M+K]+,[M+Na]+, [M+H-H2O]+, [M+H-H4O2]+, [M+NH4]+); for ZODIAC: the features were

split into 10 random subsets for lower computational burden and computed separately with the

following parameters: threshold filter (0.9), minimum local connections (0); for CSI:FingerID:

m/z maximum deviation (10 ppm) and biological database (BIO).

To establish putative microbially-related secondary metabolites, we collected annotations

from spectral library matching and the DEREPLICATOR tools and queried them against the

largest microbial metabolite reference databases (Natural Products Atlas[20] and MIBiG[21]).

Molecular networking[9] was then used to propagate the annotation of microbially-related

secondary metabolites throughout all molecular families (i.e., the network component).

1288

LC-MS/MS data analysis. We combined the annotation results from the different tools described

above to create a comprehensive metadata file describing each metabolite feature observed.

Using that information, we generated a feature-table including only secondary metabolite

features determined to be microbially-related. We then excluded very low-intensity features

introduced to certain samples during the gap-filing step described above. These features were

identified based on presence in negative controls that were universal to all sample types (i.e.,

bulk, filter, and swab), and by their relatively low per-sample intensity values. Finally, we

excluded features present in positive controls for sampling devices specific to each sample type

(i.e., bulk, filter, or swab). The final feature-table included 618 samples and 6,588 putative

microbially-related secondary metabolite features that were used for subsequent analysis.

We used QIIME 2's[22] *diversity* plugin to quantify alpha-diversity (i.e., feature richness)

for each sample, and *deicode*[23] to quantify beta-diversity (i.e., robust Aitchison distances, which

are robust to both sparsity and compositionality in the data) between each pair of samples. We

parameterized our robust Aitchison Principal Components Analysis (RPCA)[23] to exclude

samples with fewer than 500 features, and features present in fewer than 10% of samples. We

used the *taxa* plugin to quantify the relative abundance of microbially-related secondary

metabolite pathways and superclasses (i.e., based on NPClassifier) within each environment (i.e.,

for each level of EMPO 4), and *songbird*[24] to identify sets of microbially-related secondary

metabolites whose abundances were associated with certain environments. We parameterized our

songbird model as follows: epochs = 1,000,000, differential prior = 0.5, learning rate = 1.0×10^{-5}

, summary interval = 2, batch size = 400, minimum sample count = 0, and training on 80% of

samples at each level of EMPO 4, using 'Animal distal gut (non-saline)' as the reference

environment. Environments with fewer than 10 samples were excluded to optimize model

training (i.e., 'Animal corpus [non-saline]', 'Animal proximal gut [non-saline]', 'Surface

[saline]'). The output from *songbird* includes a rank value for each metabolite in every

environment, which represents the log fold change for a given metabolite in a given

environment[24]. We compared log fold changes for each metabolite from this run to those from

(1) a replicate run using the same reference environment and (2) a run using a distinct reference

environment: 'Water (saline)'. We found strong Spearman correlations in both cases (Table S7),

and therefore focused on results from the original run using 'Animal distal gut (non-saline)' as

the reference environment, as it has previously been shown to be relatively unique among other

habitats[1]. In addition to summarizing the top 10 metabolites for each environment (Table S3), we

used the log fold change values in our multi-omics analyses described below.

1322   We used the RPCA biplot and EMPeror[25] to visualize differences in composition among

samples, as well as the association with samples of the 25 most influential microbially-related

secondary metabolite features (i.e., those with the largest magnitude across the first three

principal component loadings). We tested for significant differences in metabolite composition

across all levels of EMPO using permutational multivariate analysis of variance

(PERMANOVA), implemented with QIIME 2's *diversity* plugin[22] and using our robust

Aitchison distance matrix as input. In parallel, we used the differential abundance results from

songbird described above to identify specific microbially-related secondary metabolite pathways

and superclasses that varied strongly across environments. We then went back to our metabolite

feature-table to visualized differences in the relative abundances of those pathways and

superclasses within each environment by first selecting features and calculating log-ratios using

qurro[26], and then plotting using the *ggplot2* package[27] in R[28]. We tested for significant

differences in relative abundances across environments using Kruskal–Wallis tests, implemented

using the base *stats* package in R[28].

1336

GC-MS sample extraction and preparation. To profile volatile small molecules among all

samples in addition to what was captured with LC-MS/MS, we used gas chromatography

coupled with mass spectrometry (GC-MS). All solvents and reactants were GC-MS grade. Two

protocols were used for sample extraction, one for the 105 soil samples and second for the 356

fecal and sediment samples that were treated as biosafety level 2. The 105 soil samples were

received at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and processed as follows. Each soil

sample (1 g) was weighed into microcentrifuge tubes (Biopur Safe-Lock, 2.0 mL, Eppendorf,

Hamburg, Germany). 1 mL of H_2O and one scoop (~0.5 g) of a 1:1 (v/v) mixture of garnet (0.15-

mm, Omni International, Kennesaw, Georgia, USA) and stainless steel (SS) (0.9 – 2.0-mm

blend, Next Advance, Troy, New York) beads and one 3-mm SS bead (Qiagen, Hilden,

Germany) was added to each tube. Samples were homogenized in a tissue lyser (Qiagen, Hilden,

Germany) for 3 min at 30 Hz and transferred into 15-mL polypropylene tubes (Olympus,

Genesee Scientific, San Diego, California, USA). Ice-cold water (1 mL) was used to rinse the

smaller tube and combined into the 15-mL tube. 10 mL of 2:1 (v/v) chloroform:methanol added

and samples were rotated at 4°C for 10 min followed by cooling at -70°C for 10 min and

centrifuged at 4,000 rpm for 10 min to separate phases. The top and bottom layers were

combined into 40 mL glass vials and dried using a vacuum concentrator. 1 mL of 2:1

chloroform:methanol was added to each large glass vial and the sample was transferred into 1.5-

mL tubes and centrifuged at 12,000 g. The supernatant was transferred into glass vials and dried

for derivatization.

The remaining 356 samples that were received from UCSD that included fecal and

sediment samples were processed as follows: 100 µL of each sample was transferred to a 2 mL

microcentrifuge tube using a scoop (MSP01, Next Advance, Tustin, California, USA). The final

volume of sample was brought to 1.5 mL ensuring the solvent ratio is 3:8:4 H_2O:$CHCl_3$:MeOH

by adding the appropriate volumes of H_2O, MeOH, and $CHCl_3$. After transfer, one 3-mm SS

bead (QIAGEN), 400 µL of methanol, and 300 µL of H2O were added to each tube and the

samples were vortexed for 30 s. Then, 800 µL of chloroform was added and samples were

vortexed for 30 s. After centrifuging at 4,000 rpm for 10 min to separate phases, the top and

bottom layers were combined in a vial and dried for derivatization.

The samples were derivatized for GC-MS analysis as follows: 20 µL of a methoxyamine

solution in pyridine (30 mg/mL) was added to the sample vial and vortexed for 30 s. A bath

sonicator was used to ensure the sample was completely dissolved. Samples were incubated at

37°C for 1.5 h while shaking at 1,000 rpm. 80 µL of N-methyl-N-

trimethylsilyltrifluoroacetamide and 1% trimethylchlorosilane (MSTFA) solution was added and

samples were vortexed for 10 s, followed by incubation at 37°C for 30 min with 1000 rpm

shaking. The samples were then transferred into a vial with an insert.

An Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph coupled with a single quadrupole 5975C mass

spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA) and a HP-5MS column (30-

m × 0.25-mm × 0.25-µm; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA) was used for

untargeted analysis. Samples (1 µL) were injected in splitless mode, and the helium gas flow rate

was determined by the Agilent Retention Time Locking function based on analysis of deuterated

myristic acid (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA). The injection port

temperature was held at 250°C throughout the analysis. The GC oven was held at 60°C for 1 min

after injection, and the temperature was then increased to 325°C by 10°C/min, followed by a 10

min hold at 325°C. Data were collected over the mass range of *m/z* 50–600. A mixture of

FAMEs (C8–C28) was analyzed each day with the samples for retention index alignment

purposes during subsequent data analysis.

1384

GC-MS data processing and annotation. The data were converted from vendor's format to the

.mzML format and processed using GNPS GC-MS data analysis workflow

(https://gnps.ucsd.edu)[29]. The compounds were identified by matching experimental spectra to

the public libraries available at GNPS, as well as NIST 17 and Wiley libraries. The data are

publicly available at the MassIVE depository (https://massive.ucsd.edu); dataset ID:

MSV000083743. The GNPS deconvolution is available on GNPS

(https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=d5c5135a59eb48779216615e8d5cb3ac),

as is the library search

(https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=59b20fc8381f4ee6b79d35034de81d86).

1394

GC-MS data analysis. For multi-omics analyses including GC-MS data, we first removed noisy

(i.e., suspected background contaminant- and artifactual) features by excluding those with

balance scores <50%. Balance scores describe compositional consistency of deconvoluted

spectra across the dataset, where high values indicate reproducible spectral patterns and thus

high-quality spectra. We then used QIIME 2's *deicode*[23] plugin to estimate beta-diversity for

each dataset using robust Aitchison distances. The final feature table for GC-MS beta-diversity

analysis included 460 samples and 216 features.

1402

METAGENOMICS

DNA extraction. For each round of DNA extractions described below for both amplicon and

shotgun metagenomic sequencing, a single aliquot of each sample was processed for DNA

extraction. DNA was extracted following the EMP 96-sample, magnetic bead-based DNA

extraction protocol[30], following Marotz et al. (2017)[31], Minich et al. (2018)[32], and Minich et al.

(2019)[33], and using the QIAGEN® MagAttract® PowerSoil® DNA KF Kit (384-sample) (i.e.,

optimized for KingFisher). Importantly, material from each sample was added to a unique bead

tube (containing garnet beads) for single-tube lysis, which has been shown to reduce sample-to-

sample contamination common in plate-based extractions[33]. For bulk samples, 0.1 to 0.25 g of

material was added to each well; for filtered samples, one entire filter was added to each well; for

swabbed samples, one swab head was added to each well. The lysis solution was dissolved at

60°C before addition to each tube, then capped tubes were incubated at 65°C for 10 min prior to

mechanical lysis at 6000 rpm for 20 min using a MagNA Lyser (Roche Diagnostics, California,

USA). Lysate from each bead tube was then randomly assigned and added to wells of a 96-well

plate, and then cleaned-up using the KingFisher Flex system (Thermo Scientific, Waltham,

Massachusetts, USA). Resulting DNA was stored at –20°C for sequencing. We note that whereas

QIAGEN does not offer a 'hybrid' extraction kit allowing for single-tube lysis and plate-based

clean-up, the Thermo MagMAX Microbiome Ultra kit does, and was recently shown to be

comparable to the EMP protocol used here[34].

1422

Amplicon sequencing. We generated amplicon sequence data for variable region four (V4) of

the bacterial and archaeal 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) gene, variable region nine (V9) of the

eukaryotic 18S rRNA gene, and the fungal internal transcribed spacer one (ITS1). For

amplifying and sequencing all targets, we used a low-cost, miniaturized (i.e., 5-µL volume),

high-throughput (384-sample) amplicon library preparation method implementing the Echo 550

acoustic liquid handler (Beckman Coulter, Brea, California, USA)[35]. The same protocol was

modified with different primer sets and PCR cycling parameters depending on the target. Two

rounds of DNA extraction and sequencing were performed for each target to obtain greater

coverage per sample. For a subset of 500 samples, we also generated high-quality sequence data

for full-length bacterial rRNA operons following the protocol described by Karst et al. (2021)[36],

which is outlined briefly below.

The protocol for 16S is outlined fully in Caporaso et al. (2018)[37]. To target the V4 region,

we used the primers 515F (Parada) (5'-GTGYCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3') and 806R (Apprill)

(5'-GGACTACNVGGGTWTCTAAT-3'). These primers are updated from the original EMP

16S-V4 primer sequences[38,39] in order to (1) remove bias against

Crenarchaeota/Thaumarchaeota[40] and the marine freshwater clade SAR11

(Alphaproteobacteria)[41], and (2) enable the use of various reverse primer constructs (e.g., the V4-

V5 region using the reverse primer 926R[42]) by moving the barcode/index to the forward

primer[40]. We note that whereas we previously named these updated primers "515FB" and

"806RB" to distinguish them from the original primers, the "B" may be misinterpreted to

indicate "Barcode". To avoid ambiguity, we now use the original names suffixed with the lead

author name (i.e., "515F (Parada)", "806R (Apprill)", and "926R (Quince)". We highly

recommend to always check the primer sequence in addition to the primer name. For Qiita users,

studies with "library_construction_protocol" as "515f/806rbc" used the original primers,

whereas "515fbc/806r" indicates use of updated primers, where "bc" refers to the location of

barcode.

To facilitate sequencing on Illumina platforms, the following primer constructs were used

to integrate adapter sequences during amplification[38,39,43]. For the barcoded forward primer,

constructs included (5' to 3'): the 5' Illumina adapter

(AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACGCT), a Golay barcode (12-bp variable

sequence), a forward primer pad (TATGGTAATT), a forward primer linker (GT), and the

forward primer (515F [Parada]) (GTGYCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA). For the reverse primer,

constructs included (5' to 3'): The reverse complement of 3' Illumina adapter

(CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT), a reverse primer pad (AGTCAGCCAG), a reverse

primer linker (CC), and the reverse primer (806R [Apprill]) (GGACTACNVGGGTWTCTAAT).

For each 25-µL reaction, we combined 13 µL PCR-grade water (Sigma St. Louis, MO,

USA, cat. no. W3500 or QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany, cat. no. 17000-10), 10 µL Platinum Hot

Start PCR Master Mix (2X) (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA, cat. no.

13000014), 0.5 µL of each primer (10 µM), and 1 µL of template DNA. The final concentration

of the master mix in each 1X reaction was 0.8X and that of each primer was 0.2 µM. Cycling

parameters for a 384-well thermal cycler were as follows: 94°C for 3 min; 35 cycles of 94°C for

1 min, 50°C for 1 min, and 72°C for 105 s; and 72°C for 10 min. For a 96-well thermal cycler,

we recommend the following: 94°C for 3 min; 35 cycles of 94°C for 45 s, 50°C for 1 min, and

72°C for 90 s; and 72°C for 10 min.

We amplified each sample in triplicate (i.e., each sample was amplified in three replicate

25-µL reactions), and pooled products from replicate reactions for each sample into a single

volume (75 µL). We visualized expected products between 300-350 bp on agarose gels, and note

that whereas low-biomass samples may yield no visible bands, instruments such as a Bioanalyzer

or TapeStation (Agilent, Santa Clara, California, USA) can be used to confirm amplification. We

quantified amplicons using the Quant-iT PicoGreen dsDNA Assay Kit (Thermo Scientific,

Waltham, MA, USA, cat. no. P11496), following the manufacturer's instructions. To pool

samples, we combined an equal amount of product from each sample (240 ng) into a single tube,

and cleaned the pool using the UltraClean PCR Clean-Up Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany, cat.

no. 12596-4), following the manufacturer's instructions. We checked DNA quality using a

Nanodrop (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA), confirming A260/A280 ratios

were between 1.8-2.0.

For sequencing, the following primer constructs were used. Read 1 constructs included

(5' to 3'): a forward primer pad (TATGGTAATT), a forward primer linker (GT), and the

forward primer (515F [Parada]) (GTGYCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA). Read 2 constructs included

(5' to 3'): a reverse primer pad (AGTCAGCCAG), a reverse primer linker (CC), and the reverse

primer (806R [Apprill]) (GGACTACNVGGGTWTCTAAT). The index primer sequence was

AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACGCT, which we highlight as having an extra

GCT at the 3' end compared to Illumina's index primer sequence, in order to increase the T_m for

read 1 during sequencing.

The protocol for 18S is outlined fully in Amaral-Zettler et al. (2018)[44]. To target variable

region nine (V9), we used the primers 1391f (5'-GTACACACCGCCCGTC-3') and EukBr (5'-

TGATCCTTCTGCAGGTTCACCTAC-3'). These primers are based on those of Amaral-Zettler

et al. (2009)[45] and Stoek et al. (2010)[46], and are designed for use with Illumina platforms. The

forward primer is a universal small-subunit primer, whereas the reverse primer favors eukaryotes

but with mismatches can bind and amplify Bacteria and Archaea. In addition to deviations from

the 16S protocol above with respect to primer construct sequences and PCR cycling parameters,

we included a blocking primer that reduces amplification of vertebrate host DNA for host-

associated samples, based on the strategy outlined by Vestheim et al. (2008)[47]. We note that the

blocking primer is particularly useful for host-associated samples with a low biomass of non-host

eukaryotic DNA.

The following primer constructs were used to integrate adapter sequences during

amplification. For the barcoded forward primer, constructs included (5' to 3'): the 5' Illumina

adapter (AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACAC), a forward primer pad

(TATCGCCGTT), a forward primer linker (CG), and the forward primer (Illumina_Euk_1391f)

(GTACACACCGCCCGTC). For the reverse primer, constructs included (5' to 3'): The reverse

complement of 3' Illumina adapter (CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT), a Golay barcode

(12-bp variable sequence), a reverse primer pad (AGTCAGTCAG), a reverse primer linker

(CA), and the reverse primer (806R [Apprill]) (TGATCCTTCTGCAGGTTCACCTAC). The

construct for the blocking primer is as such and is formatted for ordering from IDT (Coralville,

Iowa, USA):

"GCCCGTCGCTACTACCGATTGG/ideoxyI//ideoxyI//ideoxyI//ideoxyI//ideoxyI/TTAGTGAG

GCCCT/3SpC3/".

Reaction mixtures without the blocking primer (i.e., those for non-vertebrate hosts or

free-living sample types as defined by EMPO) were prepared as described for 16S. For reactions

including the blocking primer, we combined 9 µL PCR-grade water, 10 µL master mix, 0.5 µL

of each primer (10 µM), 4 µL of blocking primer (10 µM), and 1 µL of template DNA. The final

concentration of the master mix in each 1X reaction was 0.8X, that of each primer was 0.2 µM,

and that of the blocking primer was 1.6 µM. Without blocking primers, cycling parameters for a

384-well thermal cycler were as follows: 94°C for 3 min; 35 cycles of 94°C for 45 s, 57°C for 1

min, and 72°C for 90 s; and 72°C for 10 min. With blocking primers, cycling parameters for a

384-well thermal cycler were as follows: 94°C for 3 min; 35 cycles of 94°C for 45 s, 65°C for

15 s, 57°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 90 s; and 72°C for 10 min. Expected bands ranged between

210-310 bp.

For sequencing, the following primer constructs were used. Read 1 constructs

(Euk_illumina_read1_seq_primer) included (5' to 3'): a forward primer pad (TATCGCCGTT), a

forward primer linker (CG), and the forward primer (1391f) (GTACACACCGCCCGTC). Read

2 constructs (Euk_illumina_read2_seq_primer) included (5' to 3'): a reverse primer pad

(AGTCAGTCAG), a reverse primer linker (CA), and the reverse primer (EukBr)

(TGATCCTTCTGCAGGTTCACCTAC). The index primer construct

(Euk_illumina_index_seq_primer) included (5' to 3'): the reverse complement of the reverse

primer (EukBr) (GTAGGTGAACCTGCAGAAGGATCA), the reverse complement of the

reverse primer linker (TG), and the reverse complement of the reverse primer pad

(CTGACTGACT).

The protocol for ITS is outlined fully in Smith et al. (2018)[48]. To target the fungal

internal transcribed spacer (ITS1), we used the primers ITS1f (5'-

CTTGGTCATTTAGAGGAAGTAA-3') and ITS2 (5'-GCTGCGTTCTTCATCGATGC-3').

These primers are based on those of White et al. (1990) [49], and we note that primer ITS1f used

here binds 38 bp upstream of ITS1 reported in that study.

The following primer constructs were used to integrate adapter sequences during

amplification. For the barcoded forward primer, constructs included (5' to 3'): the 5' Illumina

adapter (AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACAC), a forward primer linker (GG), and

the forward primer (ITS1f) (CTTGGTCATTTAGAGGAAGTAA). For the reverse primer,

constructs included (5' to 3'): The reverse complement of 3' Illumina adapter

(CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT), a Golay barcode (12-bp variable sequence), a

reverse primer linker (CG), and the reverse primer (ITS2) (GCTGCGTTCTTCATCGATGC).

Reaction mixtures without the blocking primer were prepared as described for 16S.

Cycling parameters for a 384-well thermal cycler were as follows: 94°C for 1 min; 35 cycles of

94°C for 30 s, 52°C for 30 s, and 68°C for 30 s; and 68°C for 10 min. Expected bands ranged

between 250-600 bp[50,51].

For sequencing, the following primer constructs were used. Read 1 sequencing primer

constructs included (5' to 3'): a forward primer segment (TTGGTCATTTAGAGGAAGTAA),

and a region extending into the amplicon (AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCC). Read 2 sequencing

primer constructs included (5' to 3'): a reverse primer segment (CGTTCTTCATCGATGC), and

a region extending into the amplicon (VAGARCCAAGAGATC). The index sequencing primer

construct included (5' to 3'): the reverse complement of the region extending into the amplicon

(TCTC), the reverse complement of the reverse primer (GCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGC), and

the reverse complement of the linker (CG).

The protocol for generating bacterial full-length rRNA operon data is described in Karst

et al. (2021)[36]. The method uses a unique molecular identifier (UMI) strategy to remove PCR

errors and chimeras, resulting in a mean error rate of 0.0007% and a chimera rate of 0.02% of the

final amplicon data. Briefly, the bacterial rRNA operons were targeted with an initial PCR using

tailed versions of 27f (AGRGTTYGATYMTGGCTCAG)[52] and 2490r

(GACGGGCGGTGWGTRCA)[53]. The primer tails contained synthetic priming sites and 18-bp

long patterned UMIs (NNNYRNNNYRNNNYRNNN). The PCR reaction (50-µL) contained 1-2

ng DNA template, 1U Platinum SuperFi DNA Polymerase High Fidelity (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) and a final concentration of 1× SuperFi buffer,

0.2mM of each dNTP, 500nM of each tailed 27f and tailed 2490r. The PCR program consisted of

initial denaturation (3 min at 95°C) and two cycles of denaturation (30 s at 95°C), annealing (30

s at 55°C) and extension (6 min at 72°C). The PCR product was purified using a custom bead

purification protocol 'SPRI size selection protocol for >1.5–2 kb DNA fragments' (Oxford

Nanopore Technologies)'. The resulting product consists of uniquely tagged rRNA operon

amplicons. The uniquely tagged rRNA operons were amplified in a second PCR, where the

reaction (100-µL) contained 2U Platinum SuperFi DNA Polymerase High Fidelity (Thermo

Fisher Scientific, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) and a final concentration of 1X SuperFi buffer,

0.2 mM of each dNTP, 500 nM of each forward and reverse synthetic primer targeting the tailed

primers from above. The PCR program consisted of initial denaturation (3 min at 95°C) and then

25-35 cycles of denaturation (15 s at 95°C), annealing (30 s at 60°C) and extension (6 min at

72°C) followed by final extension (5 min at 72°C). The PCR product was purified using the

custom bead purification protocol above. Batches of 25 amplicon libraries were barcoded and

sent for PacBio Sequel II library preparation and sequencing (Sequel II SMRT Cell 8M and 30 h

collection time) at the DNA Sequencing Center at Brigham Young University. Circular

consensus sequencing (CCS) reads were generated using CCS v.3.4.1

(https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/ccs) using default settings. UMI consensus sequences

were generated using the longread_umi pipeline (https://github.com/SorenKarst/longread_umi)

using the following command: longread_umi pacbio_pipeline -d ccs_reads.fq -o out_dir -m 3500

-M 6000 -s 60 -e 60 -f CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT -F

AGRGTTYGATYMTGGCTCAG -r AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATC -R

CGACATCGAGGTGCCAAAC -U '0.75;1.5;2;0' -c 2.

1586

Amplicon data analysis. For multi-omics analyses including amplicon sequence data, we

processed each dataset for comparison of beta-diversity. For all amplicon data except that for

bacterial full-length rRNA amplicons, raw sequence data were converted from bcl to fastq, and

then multiplexed files for each sequencing run uploaded as separate preparations to Qiita (study:

13114). For each sequencing run, data were then demultiplexed, trimmed to 150-bp, and

denoised using Deblur[54] to generate a feature-table of sub-operational taxonomic units (sOTUs)

per sample.

For each 16S sequencing run, we placed denoised reads into the GreenGenes 13_8

phylogeny[55] via fragment insertion using QIIME 2's[22] SATé-Enabled Phylogenetic Placement

(SEPP)[56] plugin, to produce a phylogeny for diversity analyses. To allow for phylogenetically-

informed diversity analyses, reads not placed during SEPP (i.e., 513 sOTUs, 0.1% of all sOTUs)

were removed from each feature-table. We then used QIIME 2's *feature-table* plugin to merge

feature-tables across sequencing runs, exclude singleton sOTUs, and rarefy the data to 5,000

reads per sample. Rarefaction depths for all amplicon analyses were chosen to best normalize

sampling effort per sample while maintaining ≥75% of samples representative of the Earth's

environments, and also to maintain consistency with the analyses from EMP release 1[1]. We then

used QIIME 2's[22] *diversity* plugin to estimate alpha-diversity (i.e., sOTU richness) and beta-

diversity (i.e., unweighted UniFrac distances). The final feature-table for 16S beta-diversity

analysis included 681 samples and 93,260 features. We performed a comparative analysis of the

data including and excluding the reads not placed during SEPP, and note that that both alpha-

diversity (i.e., sOTU richness) and beta-diversity (i.e., sample-sample RPCA distances) were

highly correlated between datasets (Spearman $r = 1.0$) (Fig. S15). We thus proceeded with the

SEPP-filtered dataset, and used phylogenetically-informed diversity metrics where applicable.

1610   For 18S data, we used QIIME 2[22] to first merge feature-tables across sequencing runs,

1611 and then classify taxonomy for each sOTU via pre-fitted machine-learning classifiers[57] and the

1612 SILVA 138 reference database[58]. We then used QIIME 2's[22] *feature-table* plugin to exclude

1613 singleton sOTUs and samples with a total frequency <3,000 reads, and the *deicode*[23] plugin to

1614 estimate beta-diversity for each dataset using robust Aitchison distances[23]. The final feature table

1615 for 18S beta-diversity analysis included 496 samples and 40,587 features.

1616   For fungal ITS data, we used QIIME 2[22] to first merge feature-tables across sequencing

1617 runs, and then classify taxonomy for each sOTU as above but using the UNITE 8 reference

1618 database[59]. We then used QIIME 2's *feature-table* plugin to exclude singleton sOTUs and

1619 samples with a total frequency <500 reads, and the *deicode*[23] plugin to estimate beta-diversity for

1620 each dataset using robust Aitchison distances[23]. The final feature table for fungal ITS beta-

1621 diversity analysis included 488 samples and 10,821 features.

1622   For full-length rRNA operon data, per-sample fasta files were re-formatted for importing

1623 to QIIME 2 as *SampleData[Sequences]* (i.e., with each header as

1624 '>{sample_identifier}_{sequence_identifier}), concatenated into a single fasta file, and

1625 imported. We then used QIIME 2's *vsearch* plugin[60] to dereplicate sequences and then cluster

1626 them at 65% similarity (i.e., due to rapid evolution at bacterial ITS regions). The 65% OTU

1627 feature-table had 365 samples and 285 features. The concatenated fasta file and 65% OTU

1628 feature-table were uploaded to Qiita as a distinct preparations (study: 13114). We then used

1629 QIIME 2's[22] *feature-table* plugin to exclude singleton OTUs and samples with a total frequency

1630 <500 reads, and the *deicode*[23] plugin to estimate beta-diversity for each dataset using robust

1631 Aitchison distances[23]. The final feature table for full-length rRNA operon beta-diversity analysis

1632 included 242 samples and 196 features.

1633

Shotgun metagenomic sequencing. One round of DNA extraction was performed as above for

shotgun metagenomic sequencing. Sequencing libraries were prepared using a high-throughput

version of the HyperPlus library chemistry (Kapa Biosystems) miniaturized to approximately

1:10 reagent volume and optimized for nanoliter-scale liquid-handling robotics[61]. An exhaustive,

step-by-step protocol and accompanying software can be found in Sanders et al. (2019)[61].

Briefly, DNA from each sample was transferred to a 384-well plate and quantified using the

Quant-iT PicoGreen dsDNA Assay Kit, and then normalized to 5 ng in 3.5 µL of molecular-

grade water using an Echo 550 acoustic liquid-handling robot (Labcyte, San Jose, CA, USA).

For library preparation, reagents for each step (i.e., fragmentation, end repair and A-tailing,

ligation, and PCR) were added in 1:10 the recommended volumes using a Mosquito HTS

micropipetting robot (SPT Labtech, Tokyo, Japan). Fragmentation was performed at 37°C for 20

min and A-tailing at 65°C for 30 min.

Sequencing adapters and barcode indices were added in two steps[62]. First, the Mosquito

HTS robot was used to add universal adapter "stub" adapters and ligase mix to the end-repaired

DNA, and the ligation reaction performed for 20°C for 1 h. Adapter-ligated DNA was then

cleaned-up using AMPure XP magnetic beads and a BlueCat purification robot (BlueCat Bio,

Concord, Massachusetts, USA) by adding 7.5 µL magnetic bead solution to the total sample

volume, washing twice with 70% EtOH, and resuspending in 7 µL molecular-grade water. Then,

the Echo 550 robot was used to add individual i7 and i5 indices to adapter-ligated samples

without repeating any barcodes, and by iterating the assignment of i7 to i5 indices such to

minimize repeating unique i7:i5 pairs. Cleaned, adapter-ligated DNA was then amplified by

adding 4.5 µL of each sample to 5.5 µL PCR master mix and running for 15 cycles, and then

purified again using magnetic beads and the BlueCat robot. Each sample was eluted into 10 µL

water, and then transferred to a 384-well plate using the Mosquito HTS robot. Each library was

quantified using qPCR and then pooled to equal molar fractions using the Echo 550 robot. The

final pool was sequenced at Illumina on a NovaSeq6000 using S2 flow cells and 2x150-bp

chemistry (Illumina, San Diego, California, USA). To increase sequence coverage for certain

samples, libraries were re-pooled and a second sequencing run performed as above.

1662

Shotgun data analysis. Raw sequence data were converted from bcl to fastq and demultiplexed

to produce per-sample fastq files. The mean sequencing depth was $7,580,347 \pm 7.82 \times 10^{13}$ reads

per sample. We processed raw reads with Atropos (v1.1.24)[63] to trim universal adapter

sequences, poly-G tails introduced by the NovaSeq instrument (i.e., from use of two-color

chemistry), and low-quality bases from reads. Atropos parameters included poly-G trimming

(nextseq-trim=30), inclusion of ambiguous bases (match-read-wildcards), a maximum error rate

for adapter matching (error-rate=0.1, default), removal of low-quality bases at 3' and 5' ends

prior to adapter removal (quality-cutoff=15), a maximum error rate for adapter matching (insert-

match-error-rate=0.2, default), discarding of short, trimmed reads (minimum-length=100), and

discarding of paired reads if even one fails filtering (pair-filter=any). Trimmed reads were then

mapped to the Web of Life database of microbial genomes[64], using bowtie2[65] in very-sensitive

mode, to produce alignments that were used for taxonomic and exploratory functional analysis of

microbial communities. Bowtie2 settings included maximum and minimum mismatch penalties

(mp=[1,1]), a penalty for ambiguities (np=1; default), read and reference gap open- and extend

penalties (rdg=[0,1], rfg=[0,1]), a minimum alignment score for an alignment to be considered

valid (score-min=[L,0,-0.05]), a defined number of distinct, valid alignments (k=16), and the

suppression of SAM records for unaligned reads, as well as SAM headers (no-unal, no-hd). The

Web of Life database is particularly attractive as it includes a phylogeny that can be used for

diversity analyses, and was curated to represent phylogenetic breadth of Bacteria and Archaea[64],

ideal for analyses across diverse environments. We compared mapping to the Web of Life to

Rep200, a curated database of NCBI representative and reference microbial genomes (i.e.,

corresponding to RefSeq release 200, released May, 14, 2020), and found little difference across

environments (Fig. S16). We therefore chose the Web of Life as it allows for phylogenetically-

informed analyses.

For taxonomic analysis, we generated a feature-table of counts of operational genomic

units (OGUs) for each sample using a reference-based approach. We chose this method vs. the

de novo or reference-free approach, as the latter uses assembly/clustering to deconvolute short

reads into larger sequence units; it allows for the direct observation of the actual organisms in the

community, but alone does not allow for meaningful characterization of them[66]. Reference-based

approaches use reference sequences from described organisms, which allow us to find the closest

matches, using them to describe the taxa in a community[66]. This strategy is advantageous as

results are not dependent on the samples included and it is less difficult because sequences can

more easily be aligned to a reference vs. assembled into MAGS[67,68]. Most importantly, it allows

for comparisons of results across samples and studies, therefore representing a standardized

method. Specifically, we used Woltka's[69] *classify* function, with per-genome alignments and

default parameters. Woltka's default normal mode is such that for one query sequence mapped to

k genomes, each genome receives a count of $1/k$. To permit examination of rare taxa across

environments, no genomes were excluded. For diversity analyses, to best normalize sampling

effort per sample while maintaining ≥75% of samples representative of the Earth's

environments, we rarefied the OGU feature-table to 6,550 reads per sample. The final feature-

table for analyses of shotgun metagenomic taxonomic diversity included 612 samples and 8,692

OGUs.

For alpha-diversity, we quantified three metrics, in part to see which had the strongest

correlations with microbially-related metabolite richness. We used the R package *geiger*[70] to

quantify weighted Faith's PD for each sample following the method of Swensen[71]. We used

QIIME 2's *diversity* plugin[22] to quantify richness and Faith's PD (i.e., unweighted), as well as

beta-diversity (i.e., using weighted UniFrac distance) between each pair of samples. We

performed PERMANOVA on that distance matrix to test for significant differences in microbial

community composition across the various levels of EMPO. We then used Principal Coordinates

Analysis (PCoA) and EMPeror[25] to visualize differences in microbial community composition

among samples. We used *songbird*[24] to identify sets of microbial taxa whose abundances were

associated with certain environments, and parameterized our *songbird* model as above for our

LC-MS/MS data. We then mapped the differential abundance results from *songbird* onto a

phylogeny representing all microbial taxa using *empress*[72] to visualize phylogenetic relationships

related to log fold changes in abundance relative to specific environments.

For the functional analysis, we initially generated two sets of annotations for comparison

of read mapping across environments. First, we generated a feature-table of counts of Gene

Ontology (GO) Terms (i.e., for biological process, molecular function, and cellular

compartment) for each sample using Woltka's *collapse* function, inputting per-gene alignments

and with default parameters for mapping to GO Terms through MetaCyc. For subsequent

analysis, we used QIIME 2's[22] *feature-table* plugin to exclude singleton features and rarefy the

data to 5,000 sequences per sample. The final feature-table included 517 samples and 3,776

features (i.e., GO terms). We also generated a feature-table of counts of KEGG[73-75] Enzyme

Code (EC) features (i.e., enzymes) for each sample using PRROMenade[76]. Trimmed, quality-

controlled reads were mapped to the PRROMenade index of bacterial and viral protein domains

via the IBM Functional Genomics Platform[77] following Haiminen *et al.* (2021)[78], searching for

maximal exact matches with a length ≥11 amino acids, and retaining samples with ≥10,000

annotated reads (i.e., summed across R1 and R2 read files). Annotated read counts were pushed

to leaf level nodes in the four-level EC hierarchy (e.g., EC 1.2.3.4). For diversity analysis, we

used QIIME 2's[22] *feature-table* plugin to exclude singleton features and samples with fewer than

150,000 reads. The final feature-table included 616 samples (representing 18 environments) and

1,250 enzymes (i.e., KEGG ECs). We performed a comparative analysis comparing the Woltka

GO-term analysis and the PRROMenade KEGG EC analysis, and found PRROMenade to more

efficiently map reads across the majority of environments (Fig. S14). We therefore proceeded

with our analysis of microbial functions using PRROMenade. With that table, we used QIIME

2's *deicode*[23] plugin to estimate beta-diversity for each dataset using robust Aitchison distances[23]

and EMPeror[25] to visualize differences in microbial community composition among samples. We

then performed PERMANOVA as above to test for significant differences in microbial

functional composition across the various levels of EMPO.

1742

Nestedness analysis of metabolomics data and shotgun metagenomic data for microbial taxa.

As our analysis of turnover (replacement) of microbial taxa suggested a degree of nestedness

(gain or loss of taxa promoting differences in richness) among environments in line with

previous observations based on EMP 16S release 1[1], we tested for nestedness in our shotgun

metagenomics data for microbial taxa. We used the NODF statistic[79] to quantify nestedness

based on the degree to which less diverse communities are subsets of more diverse communities,

which we quantified at each major taxonomic level from phylum to species[1]. We used the

rarefied feature-table described above, and a null model (i.e., equiprobable rows, fixed columns)

for assessing observed values of NODF, which we considered at each taxonomic level, and for

all of the samples and each subset of the samples at EMPO 2[1]. To compute standardized effect

sizes (SES) and p-values for significance, we used simulated results ($n = 10,000$ iterations) to

find the expectation and variance of the NODF statistic under the null model. SES values were

large (>90).

1756

MULTI-OMICS

Alpha-diversity correlations. Using the alpha-diversity metrics for LC-MS/MS (i.e., richness)

and shotgun metagenomic taxonomic data (i.e., richness, unweighted Faith's PD, and weighted

Faith's PD), we performed correlation analysis to better understand relationships therein. We

used the function *multilevel* available in the R package *correlation*[80] to perform Spearman

correlations for each environment (i.e., based on EMPO 4), treating study (i.e., the variable

representing distinct PI submissions of samples), and adjusting for multiple comparisons using

the Benjamini-Hochberg correction.

1765

Machine-learning analyses. To better understand community composition of microbes and

metabolites across environments and specifically which features are predictive of certain

habitats, we performed machine-learning. For analyses of LC-MS/MS and shotgun metagenomic

taxonomic- and functional data, additional samples were filtered from the feature-tables noted

previously such to exclude environments with relatively low sample representation (i.e., <9

samples). For the LC-MS/MS feature-table, we excluded samples in the four EMPO

environments (i.e., "Animal corpus (non-saline)", "Animal proximal gut (non-saline)", "Soil

(saline)", and "Surface (saline)"). The final feature-table included 605 samples (representing 15

environments), and 6,588 microbially-related metabolites. For the shotgun metagenomic feature-

table for taxonomic analysis, we excluded samples in four EMPO environments (i.e., "Animal

corpus (non-saline)", "Fungus corpus (non-saline)", "Surface (saline)", and "Subsurface (non-

saline)"). The final feature-table included 598 samples (representing 15 environments), and

8,587 microbial taxa (i.e., Woltka OGUs). For the shotgun metagenomic feature-table for

functional analysis, we used QIIME2's[22] *feature-table* plugin to excluded samples in three

EMPO environments (i.e., "Animal corpus (non-saline)", "Surface (saline)", and "Subsurface

(non-saline)"), exclude singleton features, and normalize the total count per sample to 10,000

sequences. The final feature-table included 706 samples (representing 16 environments) and

1,133 enzymes (i.e., KEGG ECs).

For each feature-table, we trained an auto-AI classifier[81] with SHAP explanations[82] and

the hyper-tuned XGBoost method[83] for predicting environments (based on EMPO 4). Each

dataset was split into a training set (80%) and a testing set (20%), with similar environmental

distributions in each iteration for the classification of samples. We evaluated the predictive

performance of each classifier by quantifying accuracy statistics across 20 randomized iterations,

and specifically by using resulting confusion matrices to quantify the overall and per-

environment precision, recall, and F1 score. To identify the most important features contributing

to the classification, we examined SHAP explanations, which we used to describe the impact of

each feature for prediction. For features with an impact in at least one of 20 iterations examined,

we assigned absolute ranks for each feature per-iteration, and then assigned final ranks based on

the mean of absolute ranks across iterations. For the top twenty ranked features per feature-table,

we visualized the environment for which each feature was impactful, as well as the direction of

impact. Direction was determined by assessing differences in the mean relative abundances of

the focal environment vs. all other environments combined. Positive impact indicates a feature

was predictive of the focal environment when it was more abundant there vs. the other

environments.

1800

Metabolite–microbe co-occurrence analysis. To begin to explore co-occurrences between

microbes and metabolites across environments, we implemented an approach that generates co-

occurrence probabilities between all metabolite- and microbial features, clusters metabolites

based on their co-occurrence with the microbial community, and highlights individual microbial

features driving global patterns in metabolite distribution in this space. For co-occurrence

analyses of LC-MS/MS metabolites and genomes profiled from shotgun metagenomic data,

feature-tables were further filtered to retain only the 434 samples found in both datasets. For the

LC-MS/MS feature-table of microbially-related secondary metabolites, we excluded 172 samples

lacking shotgun metagenomics data, resulting in a final set of 6,501 microbially-related

metabolites. For the shotgun metagenomics feature-table for taxonomy, we excluded 150

samples lacking LC-MS/MS data, resulting in a final set of 4,120 OGUs.

Specifically, we obtained co-occurrence probabilities and ordinated metabolites in

microbial taxon space using *mmvec*, which uses the probabilities (i.e., log conditional

probabilities, or co-occurrence strength) to predict metabolites based on microbial taxa from

neural-network, compositionally-robust modeling[84]. The model was trained on 80% of the 434

samples, which were selected to balance environments (i.e., EMPO 4), and used the following

parameters: epochs = 200, batch-size = 165, learning-rate = 1.0×10^{-5}, summary-interval = 1, and

with 'equalize-biplot'. For training and testing, we filtered to retain only those features present in

at least 10 samples (i.e., min-feature-count = 10), and restricted decomposition of the co-

occurrence matrix to 10 principal components (PCs) (i.e., latent-dim = 10). The model predicting

metabolite–microbe co-occurrences was more accurate than one representing a random baseline,

with a pseudo-Q^2 value of 0.18, indicating much reduced error during cross-validation.

To relate these metabolite-microbe co-occurrences to the distribution of metabolites

across environments, we calculated the Spearman correlation between the loadings of

metabolites on each co-occurrence PC vs. (i) log fold changes in metabolite abundances for each

environment (i.e., from *songbird*), (ii) loadings for metabolites on the first three axes from the

ordination corresponding to clustering of samples by environment (i.e., from RPCA), and (iii) a

vector representing the global magnitude of metabolite importance across all three axes from that

same ordination. To explicitly highlight metabolite-microbe co-occurrences specific to particular

environments, we visualized the relationships between metabolite–microbe co-occurrences and

(i) by considering the first three PCs of the co-occurrence ordination (i.e., from *mmvec*) and

coloring metabolites by their log fold change values for a focal environment (e.g., Fig. 4b, Fig.

S13). Then, focusing on the co-occurrence PC exhibiting the strongest correlation with log fold

changes in metabolite abundances with respect to the focal environment, we manually selected

one subset of metabolites highly abundant with respect to the focal environment but similar with

respect to co-occurrences with microbes (i.e., high values on both axes, the focal group of

metabolites), and one subset of metabolites lowly abundant with respect to the focal environment

but similar with respect to co-occurrences with microbes (i.e., low values on both axes, the

reference group of metabolites)[85]. Each select group of metabolites was chosen to represent a

single pathway. Then, depending on the focal environment, we chose either the top 10 or top

10% of co-occurring microbes (i.e., based on co-occurrence strength) for each of the focal and

reference groups of metabolites[83]. Finally, we visualized differences in the log-ratio of the focal

group to the reference group between the focal environment and all other environments,

separately for metabolites and microbes[83].

1845

1846   *Mantel correlations between datasets.* To explore the relationships between sample–sample

1847   distances for any two datasets (e.g., LC-MS/MS vs. shotgun metagenomic for taxonomy), we

1848   used QIIME 2's *diversity* plugin[22] to perform Mantel tests on all pairings of the datasets using

1849   Spearman correlations. Input distance matrices are those described above for each dataset.

1850

Data availability.

The mass spectrometry method and data (.RAW and .mzML) were deposited on the MassIVE

public repository and are available under the dataset accession number MSV000083475. The

processing files were also added to the deposition (updates/2019-08-

21_lfnothias_7cc0af40/other/1908_EMPv2_INN/). GNPS molecular networking job is available

at https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=929ce9411f684cf8abd009670b293a33 and

was also performed in analogue mode

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=fafdbfc058184c2b8c87968a7c56d7aa. The

DEREPLICATOR jobs can be accessed here:

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=ee40831bcc314bda928886964d853a52 and

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=1fafd4d4fe7e47dd9dd0b3d8bb0e6606. The

SIRIUS results are available on the GitHub repository

[`emp/data/metabolomics/FBMN/SIRIUS`]. The notebooks for metabolomics data preparation

and microbially-related molecules establishment are available on this repository

(https://github.com/lfnothias/emp_metabolomic). Amplicon and shotgun metagenomic sequence

data are submitted to the European Nucleotide Archive under Project: PRJEB42019

(https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB42019). Raw and demultiplexed amplicon and

shotgun sequence data, the feature-table for full-length rRNA operon analysis, feature-tables for

LC-MS/MS classical molecular networking and feature-based molecular networking, and the

feature-table for GC-MS molecular networking data are available for download and analysis

through Qiita at https://www.qiita.ucsd.edu (study: 13114).

1872

1873   **Code availability.**

1874   We provide complete protocols for laboratory- and computational workflows for both

1875   metagenomics and metabolomics data for use by the broader community, available on GitHub

1876   (https://github.com/biocore/emp/blob/master/methods/methods_release2.md).

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