Title: **Abundant and active community members respond to the diel cycle in hot**
spring phototrophic mats

Running: Community responses to the diel cycle in hot spring phototrophic mats

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Abstract

Photosynthetic microbial mats in hot springs can provide insights into the diel behaviors of
communities in extreme environments. In this habitat, photosynthesis dominates during the day,
leading to super-oxic conditions, with a rapid transition to fermentation and anoxia at night.
Multiple samples were collected from two springs over several years to generate metagenomic
and metatranscriptomic datasets. Metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs) comprised 71 taxa
(in 19 different phyla), of which twelve core taxa were present at high abundance in both
springs. The eight most active taxa identified by metatranscriptomics were an oxygenic
cyanobacterium (*Synechococcus* sp.), five anoxygenic phototrophs from three different phyla,
and two understudied heterotrophs from phylum Armatimonadota. Surprisingly, in all eight taxa,
a significant fraction of genes exhibited a diel expression pattern although peak timing varied
considerably. The two abundant heterotrophs exhibit starkly different peak timing of expression,
which we propose is shaped by their metabolic and genomic potential to use carbon sources
that become differentially available during the diel cycle. Network analysis revealed pathway
expression patterns that had not previously been linked to diel cycles, including ribosome
biogenesis and chaperones. This provides a framework for analyzing metabolically coupled
communities and the dominant role of the diel cycle.

Introduction

The microbial mats in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park, USA, (YNP) have been
referred to as the "tropical rainforests'' of the microbial world because they harbor dense,
diverse, stratified microbial communities dominated by phototrophs that use light energy to fix
both carbon and nitrogen[1]. Octopus Spring (OS) and Mushroom Spring (MS) are two
geographically close, circumneutral hot springs that have been extensively studied with a focus
on the identification of phototrophic organisms and their abundance as a function of temperature
[2]. As water flows away from the spring source, a year-round stable temperature gradient is
formed along the outflow channels and benthic microbial communities with varying compositions
are found at different temperatures [3]. Typically, stratified biofilms are formed between 50°C and
70°C, with the top green layer (1-2 mm) dominated by oxygenic cyanobacteria while the orange

"undermat" layer harbors mostly anoxygenic phototrophs and less well-characterized
heterotrophs [4–6]. Light intensity, quality, and oxygen concentrations vary dramatically with mat
depth, as does community composition [4,7–12]. During the day, oxygenic photosynthesis carried
out by the unicellular cyanobacterium, *Synechococcus* sp., (recently renamed *Thermostichus*
sp.)[13] creates a hyperoxic environment while carbon fixation causes an increase in the pH of the
mat [9,14]. However, as evening progresses, the rate of aerobic respiration exceeds the rate of
photosynthetic O_2 evolution, and the mats rapidly become anoxic. At night, cyanobacteria switch
to fermentation of stored glycogen and with an accompanying decrease in pH[7–9]. Filamentous
anoxygenic phototrophs such as *Roseiflexus* spp. and *Chloroflexus* spp. abundant in the
undermat also fix carbon in the morning although they use reductants, such as organic acids or
hydrogen, produced by other mat organisms [15–17].
51
Methods such as denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) and 16S ribosomal DNA
amplicon sequencing were used to correlate "ecotypes" of abundant phototrophs with
parameters such as temperature, light and oxygen, leading to the hypothesis that particular
"ecotypes" have evolved to dominate in specific environmental niches [3,12,18,19]. The advent of
genomics, metagenomics and (meta)transcriptomics, coupled with physiological studies led to
the identification of new taxa, and identified diel patterns of expression of sentinel genes of
major metabolic pathways *in situ,* such as photosynthesis, fermentation, and nitrogen fixation.
These studies also revealed complex patterns of genomic diversity and extensive recombination
within the mat populations and provide a working framework or 'snapshots of activity' for major
mat organisms. However, gaps remain in our understanding of community interactions,
particularly those that are influenced by diel cycles [9,18,20–25].
63
We reasoned that coupling available biogeochemical data with extensive meta-omics analyses
could provide insights into the diel behaviors of communities in these extreme environments
[3,7,8,18,21,22,26–28]. In this study, we used samples collected from OS and MS over several years and
across a temperature gradient ranging from 50°C to 65°C for metagenomic analyses. We also
analyzed metatranscriptomic data collected every two hours over a diel cycle and show that
such an approach provides testable hypotheses and insights into some of the coordinated
behavior of phototrophic communities.
71
We created a census of mat organisms and identified seventy-one taxa from nineteen phyla
(species-to-genus level grouping), of which twelve were considered "core taxa" due to their high
abundance in all samples while the rest were more variable in their abundance. MS and OS
have somewhat different community structures while sharing the same abundant and active
taxa. Eight taxa were identified as most active in the metatranscriptome datasets of which six
were phototrophs. The remaining two active taxa were heterotrophs belonging to the
understudied phylum Armatimonadota. Among the eight active taxa, a significant fraction of
genes in each taxon exhibited a diel expression pattern but with several differences in the peak
expression timing between taxa. Despite these significant diel differences, we were surprised to
find that ribosome biogenesis appeared to peak in the morning in seven of the eight taxa.
Differences in expression timing of key pathways suggests that the two Armatimonadota taxa
have evolved to use different carbon sources released by the phototrophs at different times in

the diel cycle. These analyses help create a more comprehensive view of the phototropic mat
community interactions and the dominant role of the diel cycle.

Results and Discussion

Extensive metagenomic sequencing recovers diverse taxa from Mushroom and Octopus Spring
To overcome the limited analytical power typically associated with access to a few samples
and/or low sequence coverage, we carried out extensive metagenomic sequencing on the top
green layer of mat cores collected from either OS or MS over 5 years (2004-2009), mostly from
a 60°C site. Samples were taken from 4 different temperatures in both OS and MS in 2006 and
2009 (**Table 1, Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Supplementary Data 1**). A few samples were also taken from the
thick orange undermat (top green layer removed manually) in 2004 and 2007 at 55°C and 60°C
(labeled "um" in **Table 1, Fig. 2**, **Supplementary Data 1**).
95
Sample-specific assembly was performed and the extensive number of samples in this study
allowed cross-sampling binning based on variable coverage using MetaBAT 2 [29]. We identified
1338 metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs) (**Fig. 1, Supplementary Data 2**)
(doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315). A common issue with environmental metagenomic
datasets is the high fraction of low quality MAGs. To overcome this we applied a pan-genome
pipeline with manual curation after automated binning and taxonomic identification. The anvi'o
pan-genome pipeline [30] was used to identify homologous gene clusters (ortholog groups)
between MAGs in the same phylum, and to cluster MAGs into genus- to species-level groups,
hereafter referred to as "taxa," based on the presence of shared ortholog groups in the anvi'o
pangenome viewer (**Fig. 1**). The pan-genome pipeline was applied to a single phylum at a time
and used the Genome Taxonomy Database toolkit (GTDB-tk) [31,32] to identify MAGs. The
taxonomic level with the best match in the GTDB was used as the designation for all MAGs
belonging to a pan-genome taxon **(Supplementary Data 2)**. Only about half of the pan-genome
taxa were identified to the genus or species level by GTDB-tk, so to improve resolution of the
taxonomic identification, additional curation was performed using fastANI[33] analysis of MAGs
from this study against MAGs derived from a 60°C Mushroom Spring metagenome sample that
were not included in GTDB[5,6] (**Supplementary Data 3)**. We filtered out taxa consisting of a
single MAG or very low quality MAGs and 830 MAGs were retained for further analyses. We
noted that more than 70% of reads in each sample mapped to the 830 selected MAGs
(**Supplementary Fig. 1**), suggesting that these MAGs captured most of the mat phylogenetic
diversity.
117
Of the 830 selected MAGs, 828 MAGs were grouped into 70 taxa from 18 bacterial phyla and 1
taxon in the phylum Thaumarchaeota (2 MAGs were identified as belonging to the archaeal
genus *Nitrosocaldus* sp.) (**Fig. 2, Supplementary Data 2**). By comparison, earlier studies from
OS and MS reported only eight bins from four Sanger sequenced samples, two of which were
completely unidentified, whereas Thiel *et al.* recovered 15 bins from an undermat sample
sequenced with Illumina HiSeq[5,6,27].
124

We identified a core set of 12 taxa present in all 34 metagenome samples across both springs
and all times and temperatures with at least one-fold coverage per 100 million reads (**Fig. 2,**
bold names, **Supplementary Data 4**). These included seven phototrophic taxa in four phyla:
Acidobacteriota (*Chloracidobacterium*), Chloroflexota (*Chloroflexus, Roseiflexus, Roseilinea),*
Cyanobacteriota (*Synechococcus*) and Bacteriodota (*Thermochlorobacter,* one in the family
Chloroherpetonaceae). Most of these taxa have been previously observed in hot spring samples
from this location[2,34]. We use *Synechococcus* to describe the most abundant cyanobacterial
genus present in this study, although it has been proposed that it be placed in the genus
Thermostichus sp. because of its evolutionary distance from the type strain [13,35]. Five
heterotrophic taxa were among the core taxa: Armatimonadota OTU3-like, Armatimonadota
OTU12-like, a taxon from order Cytophagales from phylum Bacteroidota, *Thermodesulfovibrio*
from phylum Nitrospirota*,* and a taxon from the Chloroflexota genus UBA4823 related to Thiel *et*
al.'s OTU 9[5,6]. Of the heterotrophs, only *Thermodesulfovibrio* spp. has a cultured representative
from a different hot spring, and the others except for the Cytophagales taxon have been
described only in genomic datasets [5,6,10,36]. Understanding the role of these heterotrophs in the
mat community will require further characterization.
141
Most of the abundant taxa are found in MS and OS, consistent with previous studies [2,3]. Both
springs are located about 300 meters apart in the Lower Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National
Park, and have similar physical and chemical properties, although the source temperature of OS
is 90°C compared to around 70°C in MS [37,38](**Fig. 1**). However, analysis of data from the 60°C
sites at MS and OS, for which we had the most samples (n=22), showed that the Shannon
index for alpha diversity performed on the fold coverage data of the 71 taxa was lower in the
samples from OS than MS (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**, Kruskal-Wallis statistic=9.232, p-
value=0.002, **Supplementary Data 5**). The samples were also significantly different based on
the ANOSIM test (R=0.769, p-value=0.001, 999 permutations) on the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity
metric for beta diversity (**Supplementary Fig. 2b, Supplementary Data 6**). Together, these
metrics suggest that the taxa composition of the phototrophic mats at 60°C in MS and OS are
different. This is consistent with a prior study where community composition in the overflow
water that passes above the phototrophic mats was reported to be different between OS and
MS springs, which was attributed to differences in source temperatures [39]. We used the
ANCOM method [40] which identified five taxa that were differentially abundant between the two
springs. This includes two taxa from the phylum Spirochaetota, one from the Bacteroidota, a
taxon from phylum Chloroflexota, and a genus from phylum Acquificota (*Thermocrinis*)
(**Supplementary Data 7, Supplementary Fig. 3**). Of these, only *Thermocrinis sp.* has been
described in some detail, as it was previously isolated from the upper outflow channel of OS [41].
We cannot ascertain whether the differences in community composition are a consequence of
chemical, thermal, or biological differences between the springs or a result of historical
contingency of colonization. With more intensive sampling of multiple springs[42] or extensive
longitudinal sampling, it may be possible to address the role of community interactions,
environmental constraints, and evolutionary history on extremophile microbial communities.
166
In this study, we focused on the abundant and active taxa in the community, although we
identified thirty-five "rare taxa" from fourteen phyla which had a median coverage of less than

one. In addition there were twenty-four "variable taxa" with median coverage values between
the "core" and "rare" taxa from fourteen phyla (**Fig. 2**, **Supplementary Data 4**). There are four
additional phototrophs in the "variable taxa", and three in the "rare taxa." Some of the "variable"
and "rare" taxa were present at higher abundances in some samples and we noted that "rare
taxa" appear to be specifically found at lower temperatures (50°C and 55°C) or in undermat
samples. However we did not perform further significance testing. Some rare taxa appear to be
specific to each spring at 60°C and are discussed above. Samples from lower temperatures and
the undermat layer had more diverse communities, as indicated by higher Shannon indices
(**Supplementary Data 5**), which is consistent with previous results [5,43,44].
178
Transcriptional activity measured at 60°C is primarily derived from a few highly active taxa
To identify taxa that contributed most to community activity, we carried out metatranscriptomic
analysis of samples collected every 2-5 hours over a 24 hour period at a 60°C site. These
samples were taken at three locations and times: MS in late June-early July, 2005 (MS2005)
and in July 2009 (MS2009) and OS in July 2009 (OS2009) (**Fig. 1, Table 1, Supplementary
Data 1**). Ribosomal-depleted RNA reads were passed through a quality control filter using a
standard pipeline (**Fig. 1, Table 1, Supplementary Data 1**) and then aligned to a reference
containing the selected 830 MAGs (doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315). To assess biological
activity of genes, only reads within annotated coding sequences (CDS) were counted (10-30%
of aligned reads per sample)(**Supplementary Data 1**)(doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315). We
aggregated the RNA counts of MAGs for each pan-genome taxon by summing counts from the
ortholog groups identified by anvi'o (hereafter referred to as genes) (**Supplementary Data 8**).
The counts were normalized for each time series to counts per million (CPM) (**Supplementary
Data 9**).
193
We do not expect organism relative abundance to have a major impact on the interpretation of
activity because metagenome samples taken within 24 hours of each other tended to have very
high similarity compared to other samples, as measured by Bray-Curtis beta diversity,
suggesting limited change in relative abundance over short time scales (**Supplementary Data
6**). We detected RNA for 0-95% of the predicted CDS per genus (**Supplementary Data 10**),
with those at the lower end reflecting the range of relative abundances based on DNA analyses
in the 60°C mat samples.
201
We focused on "active taxa", i.e.taxa present at the level of at least one percent or higher of the
total number of aligned reads in all 32 metatranscriptome samples (varied from 1.2%-55.6%)
(**Fig. 2,** filled stars). Of these, six taxa were identified as phototrophs (*Roseiflexus* (ROSEI)*,
Chloracidobacterium* (CHLAB)*, Thermochlorobacter* (THMCO)*, Roseilinea* (ROSLN)*,
Chloroflexus* (CHLFL)*, and *Synechococcus* (SYNCO)) and two were heterotrophs in phylum
Armatimonadota (Armatimonadota OTU3-like (ARMA03) and Armatimonadota OTU12-like
(ARMA12)). For simplicity, we use the short abbreviations mentioned in parentheses in some
figures. This "first tier" of the most active taxa (**Fig. 2,** filled stars) is consistent with the most
abundant taxa (**Fig. 2,** bold names). A "second tier" of eleven additional taxa made up at least
1% of total aligned and counted RNA reads at one or more time points (**Fig. 2,** open stars), but

due to low counts in some samples, their gene expression patterns were not specifically
analyzed further.
214
Typically, metatranscriptomic analyses are based on *de novo* assembly of transcripts that are
annotated using a well-curated database[45,46]. A second approach maps the RNA reads to
available reference genomes, selected relevant MAGs, or a reference database of sequences
[47–51]. Because of the paucity of high-quality reference genomes for these mat communities,
assigning assembled transcripts to a meaningful taxonomic level or obtaining high gene
coverage by mapped reads to reference genomes was challenging. So, we mapped reads to all
MAGs and summed the counts per ortholog group for each taxon identified in the pan-genome
to overcome the problem that some highly abundant, active taxa did not have reference
genomes, had fragmented MAGs (**Supplementary Data 2**), or had closely related genomes
that were not easily separated into unique MAGs [5,18,25,52]. This approach allowed us to capture a
higher fraction of the reads compared to mapping them to dereplicated MAGs or reference
genomes (data not shown) while still capturing a genus-level context for the genes.
227
Active taxa exhibit peaks of gene expression at different times of the diel cycle
Initially, we sampled some of the highly expressed genes (defined as mean CPM greater than
one) in the eight most active taxa to identify diel regulation of genes. Approximately 10% of all
genes were highly expressed (24,906 genes out of the 233,893 annotated genes). Highly
expressed genes were detected in 50 of the 71 taxa (**Supplementary Data 10**). In the eight
most active taxa, between 34% and 82% of genes per taxon were highly expressed
(**Supplementary Data 10**).
235
To get an overview of gene expression patterns in each of the active taxa, we visualized the
expression patterns of a subset of highly expressed genes over the diel cycle in heatmaps in
Figure 3a, which shows that each of the eight taxa appear to have distinct peak expression
patterns. As in **Figure 1**, we qualitatively describe the time of day by the lower color bar with
yellow being day, orange representing dawn or dusk, and blue for night as indicated in
Supplementary Data 1. Most gene expression patterns varied as a function of the diel cycle in
both the phototrophs and heterotrophs. There were few genes with constitutive expression
patterns over the diel cycle, which would be visualized as the same color across all time points.
244
To tabulate the differences in expression patterns among the taxa, we summarized by counting
the number of genes per taxon with the maximum expression values at each time point (**Fig. 3b,**
Supplementary Fig. 4). Six of the eight most active taxa (*Synechococcus*,
Chloracidobacterium, *Thermochlorobacter*, *Chloroflexus*, *Roseilinea*, and Armatimonadota
OTU3-like) had >50% of their genes peak during the day (yellow bar at bottom of **Fig. 3b**). On
the other hand, Armatimonadota OTU12-like and *Roseiflexus*, had >50% of their genes peaking
at night (blue bar at bottom of **Fig. 3b**). Among the six taxa that had a majority of day-peaking
genes, we noticed a further distinction. Armatimonadota OTU3-like and *Thermochlorobacter*
had 20% or more of their genes which exhibited peak expression during dusk, while in
Synechococcus, 20% or more genes exhibited peak expression at dawn (orange bar at bottom
of **Fig. 3b**), suggesting particular transcriptional regimes that are more responsive to the

transition periods of dusk or dawn. An example of dawn-responsive gene expression in the mat
are genes encoding nitrogenase, which have a minor peak at night and a second larger peak at
dawn[23] consistent with nitrogenase activity that peaks in the early morning. We noticed that 53%
of Armatimonadota OTU3-like genes had their peak expression at noon (light period), while in
Armatimonadota OTU12-like, 54% genes had peak expression at 02:00 h (dark period). This
striking contrast in peak activity of the majority of genes suggests that these two taxa may have
significantly different metabolic lifestyles, which we describe in more detail in the section on
Armatimonadota.
264
Response to diel cycle in sentinel pathways
The previous analyses suggested that the eight most active taxa could be broadly categorized
into either "day-active" or "night-active" taxa. To validate and extend this distinction, we
examined expression patterns of a few sentinel genes/pathways known or expected to be
regulated by light, anoxia or circadian rhythms by selecting marker annotations using KEGG
Orthology (KO)[53] and Cluster of Orthologous Groups (COGs)[54], see **Methods**) [9,20–23,55,56] It is
visualized for MS2005 in **Figure 4**. We show the MS2009 data in **Supplementary Figure 5a**,
and OS2009 in **Supplementary Figure 5b**, while the underlying data is in **Supplementary**
Data 11.
274
Phototrophy: As expected, *Synechococcus* had higher expression of genes encoding
photosynthetic reaction center proteins during the day[9,20,23,56] while in the anoxygenic
phototrophs, reaction center gene expression was higher at night [20–22]. In addition, we observed
rhodopsin expression in four of the eight active taxa which might be indicative of an alternative
to (bacterio)chlorophyll-based phototrophy (**Fig. 4, Fig. 2**, names in green). Both
Armatimonadota taxa also expressed rhodopsins although the expression was not specifically
responsive to the diel cycle. Rhodopsin expression was higher at night in *Roseilinea*, but higher
during the day in *Roseiflexus* (**Fig. 4**, **Supplementary Fig. 5**). This suggests that there are
inputs into the regulation of rhodopsins in addition to light [57,58] but further experimentation will be
required to substantiate these findings.
285
Nitrogen fixation and assimilation: Nitrogenase activity in the unicellular *Synechococcus* has
been shown to have peak activity in the early morning consistent with the model that
nitrogenase requires high levels of ATP and reductant which are readily available in the early
morning hours when photosynthesis is increasing. However, later in the day the increasing level
of oxygen inactivates the nitrogenase. On the other hand, peak expression of the *nifHDK g*enes
occurs at night[22,23]. Our metatranscriptomic data confirms and extends these results by showing
that the major *nifHDK* genes encoding the nitrogenase enzyme as well as the nitrogenase
accessory subunit expression follow this trend. Nitrogenase accessory genes were not encoded
or expressed in *Roseiflexus* MAGs, consistent with previous genome analyses and reports of its
inability to grow on N_2 [6,59](**Fig. 4, Supplementary Fig. 5**). We observed expression of
ammonium transporters (Amt) in six of the eight taxa. This is consistent with the observation
that there is very little fixed nitrogen in the source water, so organisms capable of nitrogen
fixation in the mat or release of nitrogen compounds by cell lysis are the major sources of fixed
nitrogen [38,55].

300
Hydrogenases: H$_2$ concentration increases in the mats at night with a second peak at dawn,
possibly concurrent with nitrogenase activity, since hydrogen is a known byproduct of
nitrogenase activity[8]. Consistent with this, hydrogenases in Armatimonadota OTU12-like,
Chloroflexus, and *Roseiflexus* exhibited elevated levels of expression at night when the mats
are anoxic and amenable to enzyme assembly (**Fig. 4, Supplementary Fig. 5)**. Notably,
Synechococcus appears to lack hydrogenases, suggesting that hydrogen, which is a byproduct
of fermentation and nitrogen fixation activity by this organism, could serve as a source of
reductant/energy for other hydrogenase-containing organisms in the mat. To test this
hypothesis, additional follow-up experiments will be required.
310
Consensus module detection reveals co-expression of genes within and between taxa
Next, we wished to extend this analysis beyond known sentinel genes and pathways to discover
biological activities or interlinked behaviors in these coexisting microbes. To do so, we identified
groups of genes with similar expression patterns across the entire community using weighted
gene correlation network analysis (WGCNA) with consensus module detection on the highly
expressed genes of the metatranscriptomes [60,61]. Briefly, this method takes advantage of the
three metatranscriptome time series to independently calculate the correlation between genes in
each dataset. Subsequently, the method discovers genes that are consistently co-expressed in
all three time series and uses hierarchical clustering to identify clusters of genes that are co-
expressed (or modules). There are only a few reports of this method being used to dissect
microbial community interactions [62] but if there are appropriate replicate datasets, it can be a
powerful discovery tool.
323
Using this method, most of the highly expressed genes (24,701 of 24,906 genes) were placed
into fifty-four modules (ME1-54). The few remaining genes (205, labeled ME0) did not exhibit
consistent co-expression across all three time series and could not be placed in a specific
module (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Data 12**). By performing simultaneous WGCNA on all
organisms, we were able to infer co-expression between taxa (i.e. genes in the same WGCNA
module indicates high correlation). Expression patterns of genes in each WGCNA module were
summarized by the module eigengene, the first principal component of each module, as a
representative expression pattern. We used the eigengenes to describe the relatedness of
modules through hierarchical clustering of their expression patterns across all three time series
(**Fig. 5b**, **Supplementary Fig. 7, Supplementary Data 13, 14**). To simplify comparisons, we
categorized WGCNA modules into four groups (morning/day-, night/morning-, evening/night-
peaking, or variable patterns between time series) (**Fig. 5b**) based on peak expression time
relative to measured light intensity (**Supplementary Data 1**).
337
Using this pipeline, we made a number of unexpected observations. First, we found that most
WGCNA modules tend to be dominated by a single taxon. More than 50% of the genes in 47 of
the 54 modules were from a single taxon. In 16 modules, 90% of the genes were from a single
taxon (**Supplementary Fig. 8**). Thus, we might initially hypothesize that gene expression is not
very strongly coordinated *between* taxa but primarily *within* taxa or in other words, it is
"organism specific". However we did find examples where six modules contained genes from

more than 20 genera (**Supplementary Fig. 8**). This included the largest WGCNA module, ME1,
which is a morning/day-peaking module (n=2682 genes, 21 taxa) and ME2 which is an
evening/night-peaking module (n=2521 genes, 40 taxa). This result suggests that there is
coordination or convergence in expression patterns across taxa. The fact that we did not find
extensive coordination by strict module classification is not unexpected as this method is
sensitive to the relative expression and the magnitude of the change in gene expression, which
varies widely among taxa (**Supplementary Data 15**).
351
While we observed limited co-expression in many modules based on inclusion of multiple
genera in each module, we did find some similarity in expression patterns when modules were
hierarchically clustered and categorized by peak expression timing (**Fig. 5b, Supplementary**
Fig. 7). Notably, the two Armatimondota taxa, *Chloracidobacterium*, *Thermochlorobacter* and
Synechococcus had 38-78% of their highly expressed gene clusters in a single module (**Fig. 5a,**
c, Supplementary Fig. 6), and all these modules were morning/day-peaking. The striking
exception was Armatimonadota OTU12-like which had many of its highly expressed genes in an
evening/night module (ME2). In contrast, the three Chloroflexota exhibited more complex
partitioning of their gene expression patterns, and their module sizes were generally smaller
than the other taxa. The largest modules in *Chloroflexus* and *Roseilinea* were morning/day-
peaking, whereas those in *Roseiflexus* had no consistent expression patterns across all three
time series or were night-peaking (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Fig. 6**). These results of peak
expression timing were consistent with the observations shown in **Fig. 3**.
365
Overrepresentation of biological functions in WGCNA modules reveals similarities in expression
timing
To further dissect the variation in expression patterns within and between taxa we linked
WGCNA modules to biological functions using Clusters of Orthologous Genes (COG)
Categories [54]. To determine if a biological function was significantly overrepresented in the
WGCNA module of each taxon, we performed hypergeometric overrepresentation analysis
(ORA) against the total number of highly expressed genes annotated with COG categories in
that taxon.
374
We found 89 instances of COG categories in the active taxa that were significantly
overrepresented in modules (**Fig. 6**, **Supplementary Data 16**). For instance, the translation and
ribosome structure and biogenesis category (Category J) was significantly overrepresented in
morning/day-peaking modules in all six phototrophs and Armatimonadota OTU3-like (**Fig. 6**).
Selected example genes are plotted in **Fig. 7** for the MS2005 dataset and in **Supplementary**
Fig. 9 for the MS2009 and OS2009 datasets **(Supplementary Data 17).** This suggests that
these seven taxa are likely to have high rates of protein synthesis in the morning and day. We
hypothesize that as photosynthesis peaks during the day, it provides the energy required for
energetically intensive cellular processes such protein synthesis and ribosome biogenesis.
While this timing of peak ribosome subunit expression is consistent with peak gene expression
in other pathways in most of these seven taxa, many genes in *Roseiflexus* are highly expressed
at night. One possible explanation for some pathways is that translation is temporally decoupled
from transcription and occurs when more ribosomes are present. Coupled transcriptional and

proteomic data would be required for validation but to our knowledge, very few studies have
been designed to assess coupling of transcription, translation and function in environmental
communities[9,23]. Klatt *et al.* noted that there was a temporal discrepancy in *Roseiflexus* between
specific transcriptional profiles and when a measured function, such as light-driven CO_2 fixation
was highest based on *in situ* data. They suggested it may be due to post-translational
regulation,[22] although our data suggest an alternative scenario. Interestingly, the one notable
exception to this pattern of morning ribosome expression is Armatimonadota OTU12-like, which
is consistent with the finding that it appears to have the majority of its activity at night (**Fig. 3, 4,**
5, 6).
397
Another example of conserved peak expression timing among taxa was that amino acid
biosynthesis (Category E) was significantly overrepresented in morning or day peaking modules
in Armatimonadota OTU3-like, *Chloroflexus, Roseiflexus* and *Synechococcus*, and a subset of
specific genes in these pathways exhibit dawn peaks in these taxa (**Fig. 6, 7, Supplementary**
Fig. 9, Supplementary Data 16, 17). This is consistent with observations that peak amino acid
biosynthesis in the mat occurs in the late morning, based on *in situ* metabolomics[28]. Cell wall
biosynthesis genes (category M) were significantly overrepresented in morning/day-peaking
modules in *Roseiflexus* (ME30) and *Synechococcus* (ME7), also suggesting that these two taxa
have similar timings of cell growth and division (**Fig. 6**). Therefore, despite differences in
pigmentation and sources of fixed carbon and reductant [2], many of the phototrophs have
increases in expression of genes associated with cell growth and division in the morning,
suggesting some convergence in timing of the cell cycle. Additional *in situ* data types such as
microscopy to count dividing cells, measuring protein synthesis rates, or laboratory experiments
monitoring the cell cycle will be required to strengthen this hypothesis.
412
We also used the ORA approach to discover pathways that are active in the absence of light
energy in the phototrophs. Some energy production and conversion (Category C) genes of the
anoxygenic phototrophs *Thermochlorobacter* (ME17), three Chloroflexota and
Chloracidobacterium (ME9) were significantly overrepresented in night-peaking modules (**Fig. 6,**
Supplementary Data 16). These genes encoded hydrogenases, in those organisms that have
them (**Fig. 4, 6**), and genes/proteins expected to be more highly expressed at night, including
quinol oxidases, NADH oxidoreductases, ferredoxins and flavodoxins.
420
The ORA approach also detected genes encoding chaperones from category O (post-
translational modification, chaperones and heat shock proteins) that were significantly
overrepresented in a night-peaking module (ME2) in *Chloracidobacterium* (**Fig. 6,**
Supplementary Data 16). The occurrence of a night-specific chaperone response prompted us
to determine if this chaperone expression pattern was unique to *Chloracidobacterium*, or a more
general phenomenon. We examined expression patterns of genes encoding specific
chaperones across the other seven active taxa (**Fig. 7**, **Supplementary Fig. 9, Supplementary**
Data 17). The four other anoxygenic phototrophs exhibited a relative increase in expression of
some of these chaperones at night. In contrast, *Synechococcus* chaperones tended to peak
around dawn. Some taxa had multiple *dnaK* orthologs in the genus-level pan-genomes; each
copy exhibited opposite expression patterns, suggesting different roles for each copy **(Fig. 7,**

Supplementary Fig. 9, Supplementary Data 17). We speculate that the timing of expression
may be synchronized to peak at specific times for a number of reasons which include (i) control
processes that are particularly susceptible to light or oxygen, (ii) limited to a specific phase of
the cell cycle, as observed in *Caulobacter crescentus,* (iii) and/or are controlled by the circadian
clock in cyanobacteria [63,64]. Currently, we do not have enough data to distinguish between these
alternative explanations.
438
Abundant Armatimonadota have different predicted carbon sources and timing of expression
Several of the active and abundant phototrophic taxa have been described [15,17,21,22,24,56],
whereas the role of heterotrophs in the alkaline hot spring phototrophic mats is underexplored
[10,65]. We detected MAGs from five genera from three classes in the phylum Armatimonadota. All
are present in both springs at multiple temperatures. Armatimonadota OTU3-like from class
Fimbirimonadia and Armatimonadota OTU12-like from class HRBIN16 were among the most
active genera at 60°C and have been previously reported in MS 60°C undermat metagenome
samples [5,6] (**Fig. 2, Supplementary Data 2, Supplementary Fig. 10**). We hypothesized that
their starkly different expression patterns [either day-peaking (Armatimonadota OTU3-like) or
night-peaking (Armatimonadota OTU12-like)] may be linked to their genomic and metabolic
potential, so we carried out additional manual curation on their MAGs with a focus on their
carbon and energy utilization pathways (see **Methods**) (**Fig. 8, Supplementary Data 18, 19,**
20, 21, 22).
452
Armatimonadota OTU3-like has the capacity to use fatty acids and certain amino acids as
carbon sources (**Fig. 8a** blue text**, Supplementary Data 18).** Like in *Fimbriimonas*
ginsengisoli[66], a better characterized member of this class, there is an incomplete TCA pathway
lacking malate dehydrogenase and oxoglutarate dehydrogenase, but it has glyoxylate shunt
enzymes malate synthase and isocitrate dehydrogenase, suggesting an alternative flux in this
organism compared to the canonical TCA cycle. While Armatimonadota OTU3-like has an
aerobic respiratory pathway with an alternative complex III, it lacks heme biosynthesis,
suggesting that it must acquire it from the environment. Consistent with this, subunits of
candidate heme transporters were identified and expressed *in situ* (**Supplementary Data 21**).
We did not detect any pathway for anaerobic respiration, but it may be able to ferment via the
activity of a lactate dehydrogenase, an aldehyde dehydrogenase or an alcohol dehydrogenase.
We observed expression of a rhodopsin gene (**Fig 4**), suggesting that Armatimonadota OTU3-
like may be able to supplement its energy production/generation of a proton motive force using
light (**Fig. 8a**). Many of these pathways are upregulated during the day (**Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6**, **8a**),
suggesting that its preferred carbon sources are more bioavailable during the day. Consistent
with this observation, whole mat polar metabolomics suggested an increase in the relative
abundance of some organic acids which Armatimonadota OTU3-like may be able to use in the
afternoon[28].
471
In contrast, Armatimonadota OTU12-like is predicted to use small sugars including sucrose,
cellobiose, glucose, and xylose (**Fig. 8b** blue text**, Supplementary Data 18**). Carbohydrate
metabolism (COG category G) was overrepresented in ME6, highly expressed in the evening,
night or early morning in the three metatranscriptome series (**Fig. 5, 6**). More secreted

glycosylhydrolases per MAG were predicted by dbCAN2 in Armatimonadota OTU12-like than
Armatimonadota OTU3-like (mean=16.5 vs 5 per MAG), suggesting that Armatimonadota
OTU12-like can degrade extracellular polysaccharides (**Supplementary Data 19**). Whether
these carbohydrates are found in the extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) of the mat is not
yet known. Unlike Armatimonadota OTU3-like, Armatimonadota OTU12-like contains a
complete TCA cycle, multiple bidirectional hydrogenases, a candidate octoheme nitrite
reductase, and multiheme cytochromes of unknown function that are predicted to be
membrane-embedded (**Supplementary Data 20, 21, 22**). This suggests that there may be
alternative electron flow pathways that switch between anaerobic respiration at night and
aerobic respiration in the day (**Fig. 8b**). Like Armatmonadota OTU3-like, Armatimonadota
OTU12-like also harbors an expressed rhodopsin gene (**Fig. 4, 8a**). A lactate dehydrogenase
was also identified, suggesting the potential for fermentation. Many genes are upregulated at
night (**Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8b**), although how timing of gene expression relates to the local availability
of saccharides is not known. These results suggest differential diel activities and metabolisms of
the Armatimondota in hot spring phototrophic mats, which was only previously inferred by
genome sequences [5,6,67] and suggest possible enrichment strategies to obtain these organisms
for which no type strain is currently available.
493
Here we present a detailed census of microbial taxa present in OS and MS and identify twelve
taxa as the core members of the MS and OS mat community. However, relative abundances
suggest differences in community compositions between each spring and further support the
conclusion that somewhat different communities exist at different temperatures. We analyzed
the expression patterns of the most active taxa at 60°C and highlighted possible interactions
between taxa. Using the metatranscriptome, we identified eight taxa which are the most
transcriptionally active members of the community and notably, all eight had gene expression
patterns that correlated with the diel cycle. Our analysis revealed some similarities in expression
patterns for pathways and functions, but also highlights major differences in expression patterns
such as in the two Armatimonadota heterotrophs.
504
This sets the stage for understanding community level interactions but we acknowledge some
caveats about our datasets and current conclusions. For instance, we do not know to what
extent diel variation in transcript abundances is reflected at the protein level [55,68,69]. Temporal
shotgun metaproteomics of the mat will help determine this; so far, such analyses have only
been performed for single time points[16,70]. We know that EPS is important for mat structure and
may be a source of organic carbon for some mat organisms, as has been observed in other
types of microbial mats [71–73]. While whole mat shotgun polar small molecule metabolomics has
been performed [28], the dynamics of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) composition and
abundance has not been characterized. We have evidence of metabolite transfer between
cyanobacteria and filamentous cells from early radio-labeling experiments[74,75], however updated
techniques will be better able to resolve the identity of both the organisms and metabolites
involved. These include activity measurements *in situ*, such as SIP-metagenomics with different
labeled carbon isotopes[76] or SIP-metaproteomics[77]. Our study did not specifically address
community abundance, dynamics and activity as a function of mat depth and diel fluctuation in

light or oxygen levels which would provide a fine-grained understanding of spatiotemporal mat
dynamics.

Methods

Sample sites and collection
Mat cores were collected at Mushroom Spring (44.53861N, 110.79791W) and Octopus Spring
(44.53401N, 110.79781W) on the dates and times provided in **Table 1 and Supplementary**
Data 1. Cork borers (~0.5 cm to 1 cm) were used to collect mat cores, which were immediately
frozen in liquid nitrogen until later use. Irradiance at the top of the mat was measured June 30-
July 1, 2005, July 28-30, 2009, and October 1, 2005, as described in Jensen *et al.* [9] (**Fig. 1,**
Supplementary Data 1). For the MS2005 metatranscriptome time series, a sample taken at
12:00 PM from October 1, 2005 was used to replace the original July 1, 2005 12:00 PM sample.
530
DNA and RNA extraction
A modified phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol extraction was performed on mat core samples to
extract total DNA and RNA[55]. ReadyLyse (LUCIGEN) and lysozyme were added after bead-
beating. For DNA extraction, RNase A (NEB) was additionally added. Following phenol-
chloroform extraction, the nucleic acids were precipitated overnight in 100% ethanol. For the
RNA samples, RNase A was omitted following lysis. Following precipitation of total nucleic acids
in ethanol, superase (Thermo Fisher) was added at ~0.5 U /uL in pH 8.0 TE for resuspension,
followed by DNase (NEB) digestion for 10 min in 100 uL with 2 U/uL superase, and then
immediately purified with Qiagen RNeasy Mini-elute for total RNA. DNA and RNA were
quantified with Qubit (ThermoFischer) and Fragment Analyzer (Agilent).
541
Library preparation, quality control and DNA sequencing
One hundred nanograms of DNA was sheared to 550-700 bp using the Covaris LE220 and size
selected using SPRI beads (Beckman Coulter). Ten nanograms of DNA for low input samples
BottomLayer_2 and OS65 were sheared to 300 bp using the same selection. Libraries were
created using the KAPA-Illumina library creation kit (KAPA Biosystems). Five cycles of PCR
were performed for low input samples. The libraries were quantified using the KAPA
Biosystems' next-generation sequencing library qPCR kit and a Roche LightCycler 480 real-time
PCR instrument. Sequencing was performed following a 2X151 indexed run recipe on the
Illumina NovaSeq sequencer using NovaSeq XP V1 reagent kits and a S4 flowcell.
551
Assembly, binning, taxonomic identification, and pan-genome analysis
As part of the JGI pipeline, for each sample, quality control of reads was performed with bbtools
38.26[78] followed by assembly with spades 3.12.0 [79]. Contigs with lengths less than 200 bp were
removed. As part of the JGI pipeline, ORFs were called using the IMG pipeline (MAP v4.16.5).
Briefly, this pipeline calls genes with Prodigal, GeneMark, and Infernal, and performs gene
annotation using HMMER and LAST against Rfam 12.0, JGI's custom RNA database, COG
2003, Pfam v30, and IMG-NR (exact version depending on date)[80–86].
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Following sample-specific assembly, reads were mapped to assembled contigs to create a
cross-alignment using bowtie2 (v2.3.5.1)[87]. Binning was performed on the cross-aligned dataset
using MetaBAT 2 [29] to create metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs). MAGs were assigned
to the best hit in the GTDB-tk (r89) database[31,32]. MAGs belonging to the same phylum were
used as input in the anvi'o [30] pangenome pipeline using default parameters. During the anvi'o
pangenome pipeline, genes were called with Prodigal, annotated with COG and KO databases,
and grouped into ortholog groups. Pan-genome taxa were manually selected from each phylum
based on the similarity of ortholog groups. Taxa consisting of single MAGs or only poor-quality
MAGs were removed from subsequent analyses. Additional analyses were performed on the
anvi'o generated annotations unless otherwise noted.
570
571 The quality of the MAGs was assessed using the Genome Standards Consortium's MIMAG
572 (Minimum Information about a Metagenome-Assembled Genome) classification [88]
573 (**Supplementary Data 2**).
574
Comparison of pan-genome MAGs to prior MAGs
For the Chloroflexota MAGs that were identified to the family-level by GTDB-tk and the active
Armatimonadota, we used fastANI (v0.1.3)[33] on Kbase[89] to compare a subset of MAGs from this
study to the MAGs generated from the Mushroom Spring undermat[5,6]. These undermat MAGs
were downloaded from RAST [90] on 2023/11/03 by logging in using a guest account and
searching for Owner: Thiel, Vera. fastANI hits with greater than 94% identity were taken to
suggest our MAGs were closely related to the Thiel MAGs and we used the more specific name
given by Thiel[5,6] (**Supplementary Data 2, 3)**.
583
Metagenome statistical tests
The Shannon index was calculated using scikit-bio (v0.6)[91] (**Supplementary Data 5)**. The
Kruskal-Wallis test was implemented in scipy(v1.9.3). Bray-Curtis beta-diversity metric on
relative metagenome abundance was calculated using scikit-bio (**Supplementary Data 6)**.
ANOSIM (scikit-bio) was performed on the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. nMDS of the Bray-Curtis
dissimilarity was performed with scikit-learn (v1.3.2) with 2 dimensions (**Supplementary Fig.
2b**). ANCOM[40] implemented in scikit-bio (v0.6) with ANOVA one-way significance testing was
used to evaluate the differential abundance of genera between sample types (**Supplementary
Data 7, Supplementary Fig. 3)**.
593
Library preparation, quality control and sequencing (RNA)
rRNA was removed from 35.71 ng of total RNA using the Ribo-Zero(TM) rRNA Removal Kit
(Epicentre). The rRNA depleted RNA was fragmented and reverse transcribed using random
hexamers and SSII (Invitrogen) followed by second strand synthesis. Stranded cDNA libraries
were generated using the Illumina Truseq Stranded RNA LT kit. Library-quality control and
sequencing were performed using the same parameters as were used for generating the DNA
libraries.
601

Alignment, counting and normalization of RNA reads to metagenome assembled genomes.
Bbtools 38.75 was used to perform trimming, filtering, and quality control[78]. Bowtie2 (v2.3.5.1)
was used to align the quality-controlled RNA reads to 830 MAGs [87]. Between 82-89% of reads
that passed QC filtering aligned to the MAGs (**Supplementary Data 1**,
doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315). HTSeq-count [92,93] was used to count read pairs falling
within predicted ORFs with flags (-s reverse -a 0). We set aqual = 0 in HTSeq-count due to the
expected behavior of reads mapping to multiple locations in the total MAG set due to the
presence of conserved regions across MAGs from the same pan-genome. 11-28% of reads
were counted as properly aligning to a CDS (**Supplementary Data 1**,
doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315). The mapped counts to orthologous gene clusters identified
for each pan-genome genus-level taxon were summed across all MAGs in the pan-genome
(**Supplementary Data 8**). Gene clusters with low counts across all samples were removed prior
to library normalization using edgeR (v3.30.3) [94] filterByExpr default settings with the exception
min.count=1. Normalization was set with the "RLE" option[95]. A quasi-likelihood negative
binomial generalized log-linear model (glmQLfit) fit to a natural spline (spline v 4.0.2) with three
degrees of freedom was performed to estimate dispersion independently for each time series.
Counts per million (CPM) were calculated from the normalized counts (**Supplementary Data 9**).
For convenience of plotting, a single annotation was randomly selected from each gene cluster
to use in the analyses (doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315).
621
Co-expression analysis by consensus Weighted Gene Co-expression Network Analysis
(WGCNA)
A signed consensus WGCNA (v1.69) [60,61] was performed on gene clusters with mean CPM >1
that were log2(x+ 1) transformed, with each time series encoded as a separate experiment.
Individual co-expression networks were computed using the function blockwiseIndividualTOMs
using a signed Pearson correlation. Soft-thresholding power (=18) was chosen as
recommended in the WGCNA FAQ due to poor fit of scale-free topology. The output from this
function was used as input in blockwiseConsensusModules to detect modules and compute
eigengenes with the following changes from default: minModuleSize =30, deepSplit = 2,
pamRespectsDendro = False, mergeCutHeight = 0.25 **(Supplementary Data 12)**.
632
Overrepresentation analysis
Gene clusters without a COG (Clusters of Orthologous Genes) Category[54] were excluded in this
analysis (32% of annotated gene clusters, and 8-22% of expressed gene clusters)
(**Supplementary Data 10**). Overrepresentation analysis (ORA) was implemented in python 3.9
using a hypergeometric test (scipy.stats.hypergeom.cdf() (scipy v1.9.3)) and FDR multiple
testing correction (statsmodels.api.stats.multipletest(method-="fdr_bh") v.0.13.5) for each
genus. Only adjusted q-values < 0.05 are reported as significant (**Supplementary Data 16**).
640
Armatimonadota phylogenetic tree
Annotated Armatimonadota genomes were downloaded from NCBI Genome on 2023/12/13.
Sequences redundant with GTDB-tk (R207) were removed. Gtdb-tk de_novo_wf was used to
create a concatenated single copy protein tree of the NCBI genomes, Thiel MAGs[5,6], and MAGs

from this study, and then decorated with Armatimonadota and Chloroflexota genomes from the

GTDB-tk database[31,32]. Tree visualization was performed in iTOL[96] (**Supplementary Fig. 10**).

Armatimonadota genomic potential

A variety of approaches were used to interpret the metabolic potential of the selected

Armatimonadota MAGs. KEGG orthology numbers (KO) were extracted from the JGI/IMG

annotations and combined into a concatenated KO list per genus for upload to KEGG

Reconstruct Pathway[97] (accessed 2022/10/12, 2022/10/22). We also examined the annotations

created in the anvi'o pipeline, and another alternative annotation using RASTtk on KBase

[89,90,98,99]. Some sequences were used as input to BLASTP to annotate NCBI conserved domains

as additional interpretation[100,101].

JGI predicted ORFs for the Armatimonadota MAGs were imputed into specific pipelines to

predict different metabolic properties. The GapMind[102] webserver (accessed 2022/09/13-

2022/09/28) was used for carbon source prediction. The summary output was captured for each

MAG and manually concatenated to determine the predicted phenotype for each genus

(**Supplementary Data 18)**. The dbCAN2 web server [103,104] (accessed 2022/10/11-2022/10/18)

was used for carbohydrate active enzyme (CAZyme) prediction using the options: HMMER

(dbCAN), DIAMOND (CAZy), and HMMER (dbCAN-sub) search. Genes detected as CAZymes

with 2 or more methods were examined further for their function and reported as the total

number of genes per CAZy category per genome and normalized by the total number of genes

in each MAG (**Supplementary Data 19)**. For iron metabolism and extracellular electron

transfer, FeGenie (v1.0) (options --orfs --all_results --heme) [105] was run (**Supplementary Data**

20, 21). Genes containing heme-binding domains were run through the NCBI conserved domain

database[101] and interproscan[106,107] webservers to look for domains of interest (accessed

September 2023). Putative operon context on assembled contigs was also considered in

interpreting function.

Hydrogenase classification

To classify the annotated hydrogenases, sequences annotated as hydrogenase were uploaded

to HydDB (accessed 2023/03/09)[108]. Only catalytic subunits are classified by the webserver, and

other subunits entered resulted in a "NONHYDROGENASE" result (**Supplementary Data 22**).

Figures

Figure 1: Overview of study site and workflow. Top panels: Sampling. Top left: Mat cores
were collected from Mushroom and Octopus Springs in Yellowstone National Park during the
years listed for metagenomics and metatranscriptomics (top middle). **Table 1** and
Supplementary Data 1 list more specific details. Top right: Environmental parameters for
sampling. For light, a typical light curve for Mushroom Spring during our metatranscriptome
sampling is depicted (adapted from Jensen *et al.* 2011). Middle panels: Data processing:
Following DNA extraction, assembly, cross-alignment and binning, the anvi'o pan-genome
pipeline was used to aggregate the selected MAGs into species-to-genus level taxa groups and
to filter out MAGs of very-low quality or present in only a single sample. 830 MAGs were
retained for further analyses, including for the RNA alignment for the metatranscriptome
datasets. Bottom panels: Analyses performed to understand the mat community composition

693   and activity.
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696   **Figure 2: Phototrophic mat microbial community contains core active members, and**
697   **sample-specific populations**

The relative abundance of the 71 genus to species-level taxa groups obtained from the pan-genome ortholog clustering pipeline was ordered by median relative abundance in all 34 metagenome samples. The metagenome samples are ordered by hierarchical clustering on the relative abundance of the 71 taxa (70 bacterial and 1 archaeal). Phyla of the 71 taxa are indicated by colored boxes, with the number of taxa identified for each phylum in parentheses after the phylum name. The taxa are identified by the closest relative in GTDB or by best match to other undermat Mushroom Spring MAGs (see **Methods**). Abbreviations for best taxonomy match names: p: phylum, c: class, o:order, f: family, g: genus, s: species. Metatranscriptome samples are ordered by sample year and time. Sample properties are colored at the top as indicated. Taxa properties: Green text: Phototrophic taxa based on annotations indicating the presence of photosynthesis reaction center proteins, black text: inferred heterotroph based lack of reaction center proteins. **Bold**: Core taxa with at least one fold coverage per 100M reads in all 34 metagenome samples. Rare taxa indicated by light gray brackets are defined as median coverage of less than one-fold per 100M reads in the 34 metagenome samples. Variable taxa indicated by dark gray brackets have median coverage between core and rare cutoffs. Filled stars: the eight taxa with over 1% CPM in all 32 metatranscriptome samples; Open stars: taxa with at least 1% total counts per million in at least one metatranscriptome sample.

Figure 3: Gene expression of the eight most active taxa varies during the diel cycle

a. Log2 normalized and z-scaled expression in MS2005 of 500 randomly selected highly
expressed (mean CPM >1) genes of the eight most active taxa. Sampling of a subset of genes
was performed to select genes from across the genome and allow visualization within the limits
of the figure. Dendrograms were generated using seaborn clustermap with a correlation
distance matrix and complete clustering. **b**. Heatmap of percent of highly expressed gene
clusters per taxon that had maximum expression at each time point. n= number of genes
analyzed per taxon. Bars at the bottom indicate qualitative time of day: yellow: day, orange:
dusk or dawn, blue: night as described in **Supplementary Data 1**.
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730   **Figure 4: Response of sentinel pathways to the diel cycle in the eight most active taxa**
731   Gene expression from the MS2005 metatranscriptome is plotted for the eight most active taxa.
732   Panels without curves indicate that a gene containing that annotation was not expressed in that
733   taxon. Each line per panel is a separate gene. Gray bar: Night time. CPM: counts per million.
734   Underlying data is found in **Supplementary Data 11.**
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Figure 5: Consensus WGCNA modules in show differences and similarities in expression patterns between taxa

a. Percent of highly expressed genes per WGCNA module in active taxa. Modules containing 5% or more of highly expressed genes per taxon are labeled. ME0 (black fill) represents genes that did not fit in any of the numbered consensus modules. n=number of highly expressed genes per taxon, k=number of WGCNA modules per taxon. Raw gene counts are plotted in **Supplementary Fig. 6. b**. Eigengene expression for the 54 modules and ME0 across all three sampling series. Underlying data is found in **Supplementary Data 13.** Colors on the right correspond to the same colors in (**a**). Labels were placed on the dendrogram describing the relationship between eigengenes. Except for the "variable" category, eigengenes had qualitatively similar peak expression times in each of the three time series (MS2005, MS2009, and OS2009). The Pearson correlation between eigengenes (**Supplementary Fig. 7, Supplementary Data 14**) was used for the dendrogram linkage. **c**. Modules containing 5% or more of highly expressed genes per taxon organized by eigengene peak expression. Colors match the eigengene categories on the dendrogram in **(b)**.

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Figure 6: COG Category overrepresentation per WGCNA module in active taxa. For each
of the eight most active taxa the number of genes per WGCNA module is plotted per COG
Category. Circle size represents the number of genes. Significant overrepresentation of a COG

category in a module is indicated by a black outline. Module ordering and coloring is the same
as in **Figure 5b** based on the hierarchical clustering of module eigengenes. The top bar chart
for each taxon is the total number of genes per COG category in that taxon. Modules
representing 5% or more of the highly expressed genes per taxon are highlighted to the right,
colors match **Figure 5ab**. Associated data is found in **Supplementary Data 16**.
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Figure 7: Expression patterns of selected genes from the COG Category
overrepresentation analysis
A subset of genes from COG Categories of interest were selected to be visualized for the eight
most active taxa using the MS2005 metatranscriptome. Each line is a different gene. Top:
Category J, Translation and Ribosomes. Middle: Category E, Amino acid (AA) metabolism.
Bottom: Category O, Chaperones and heat shock proteins (HSPs). CPM: counts per million.
Underlying data is found in **Supplementary Data 17**.

Figure 8: Expression times of major metabolic genes in Armatimonadota OTU3-like and
OTU12-like. (a) Armatimonadota OTU3-like, **(b)** Armatimonadota OTU12-like. Colors of
enzymes are based on their WGCNA module and eigengene expression time (**Fig. 5**).
Metabolites in blue text were predicted to be used by the GapMind webserver. Abbreviations:
PPP: pentose phosphate pathway, PEP: phosphoenolpyruvate, AA: amino acids, NDH: NADH
dehydrogenase, SDH: succinate dehydrogenase, Q: quinone pool, ACIII: alternative complex III,
COX: cytochrome c oxidase, cytC: cytochrome c, cytbc: cytochrome bc, ONR: putative
octoheme nitrite reductase, glt: glutamate transporter, sdlC: dicarboxylate transporter.
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790 # Tables

TEMP (°C)	YEAR	SPRING	METAGENOME	METATRANSCRIPTOME
60	2004	MS	MS-2004-60-um-a,b	nd
60	2005	MS	MS-2005-60 a, b,c, d, e, f,	MS2005 (12 samples over diel cycle)
60	2005	OS	OS-2005-60 a, b	nd
60	2006	MS	MS-2006-60 a, b,c, d, e,	nd
60-65	2006	OS	OS-2006-60 a,b,c,d,e, 65a	nd
55	2007	OS	OS-2007-55-um-a,b,c	nd
50-65	2009	MS	MS-2009-60a, 50a, 55a, 60b, 65a	MS2009 (12 samples over diel cycle)
50-65	2009	OS	OS-2009-60a, 50b, 55c, 60d, 65e	OS2009 (8 samples over diel cycle)
50- 65 range	**5 yr range**		**34 samples (5 years, 4 temperatures)**	**32 TOTAL (2 years, 1 temperature (60))**

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Table 1: Summary of samples
METAGENOME = designations denote spring, year temp and samples taken at different times
during the day for metagenome samples, METATRANSCRIPTOME = sampling series name for
metatranscriptome samples. Last row: summary of sampling. Abbreviations: MS = Mushroom
Spring, OS = Octopus Spring, letters (a-f) represent individual samples for the metagenome.
um=undermat. nd = not done.
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Supplementary information

Supplementary Information
Description of Additional Supplementary Files
Supplementary Data 1-22
Reporting Summary

Data availability

Raw sequence reads can be found on the SRA at SRP191317, SRP191318, SRP191319, SRP191321, SRP191322, SRP191324, SRP191332, SRP191328, SRP191329, SRP191333, SRP213393, SRP213396, SRP213395, SRP213397, SRP213394, SRP191337, SRP213390, SRP213392, SRP213391, SRP191334, SRP213388, SRP191350, SRP213398, SRP213402, SRP239941, SRP213411, SRP213409, SRP213410, SRP213412, SRP213413, SRP213403, SRP213408, SRP213407, SRP213406, SRP259901, SRP259948, SRP259967, SRP260043, SRP259966, SRP260069, SRP260079, SRP260124, SRP260130, SRP260133, SRP260135, SRP260129, SRP288870, SRP288866, SRP288863, SRP288864, SRP288862, SRP288861, SRP288868, SRP288867, SRP288819, SRP288812, SRP288826, SRP288804, SRP288815, SRP288817, SRP288820, SRP288824, SRP288827, SRP288823, SRP288853, SRP299000.
NCBI Bioprojects associated with the samples are: PRJNA518216, PRJNA518217, PRJNA518218, PRJNA518219, PRJNA518220, PRJNA518221, PRJNA518222, PRJNA518223, PRJNA518224, PRJNA518225, PRJNA539609 , PRJNA539610, PRJNA539611, PRJNA539612, PRJNA539608, PRJNA518227, PRJNA539605, PRJNA539606, PRJNA539607, PRJNA518226, PRJNA539604, PRJNA518228, PRJNA539613, PRJNA539614, PRJNA571079, PRJNA539619, PRJNA539620, PRJNA539621, PRJNA539622, PRJNA539623, PRJNA539615, PRJNA539618, PRJNA539617, PRJNA539616, PRJNA621571, PRJNA621572, PRJNA622232, PRJNA621573, PRJNA621574, PRJNA621575, PRJNA621576, PRJNA621577, PRJNA621578, PRJNA621580, PRJNA621581, PRJNA621579, PRJNA653764, PRJNA653765, PRJNA653766, PRJNA653767, PRJNA653768, PRJNA653769, PRJNA653770, PRJNA653771, PRJNA653752, PRJNA653753, PRJNA653754, PRJNA653755, PRJNA653756, PRJNA653757, PRJNA653758, PRJNA653759, PRJNA653760, PRJNA653761, PRJNA653762, PRJNA677357.
JGI/IMG portal accessions can be found in **Supplementary Data 1.**

MAG sequences and annotations, and some additional data used in plotting have been deposited at Figshare: doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.26530315

Analyzed datasets are provided as Supplementary Data.

Code availability

Custom scripts used to generate and analyze data can be found in our repository on GitHub:
https://github.com/carnegie/YNP_MSOS_metagenomics_metatranscriptomics

Author contributions

D.B., F.B.Y., and A.N.S. conceived and designed the research. F.B.Y. and A.N.S. carried out the analyses. A.N.S. and D.B. wrote the initial manuscript. A.N.S., F.B.Y, D.B., and A.R.G. edited the manuscript.

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