1 Title:

2 The response of desert biocrust bacterial communities to hydration-desiccation cycles

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19 ABSTRACT

20 Rain events in arid environments are highly unpredictable, interspersing extended periods of
 21 drought. Therefore, following changes in desert soil bacterial communities during hydration-
 22 desiccation cycles in the field, was seldom attempted. Here, we assessed rain-mediated
 23 dynamics of active community in the Negev Desert biological soil crust (biocrust), and
 24 evaluated the changes in bacterial composition, potential function, and photosynthetic
 25 activity. We predicted that increased biocrust moisture would resuscitate the phototrophs,
 26 while desiccation would inhibit their activity. Our results show that hydration increased
 27 chlorophyll content, resuscitated the biocrust *Cyanobacteria*, and induced potential
 28 phototrophic functions. However, decrease in the soil water content did not immediately
 29 decrease the phototrophs activity, though chlorophyll levels decreased. Moreover, while the
 30 *Cyanobacteria* relative abundance significantly increased, *Actinobacteria*, the former
 31 dominant taxa, significantly decreased in abundance. We propose that, following a rain event
 32 biocrust moisture significantly decreased, almost to drought levels, yet the response of the
 33 active bacterial community lagged, in contrast to topsoil. Possible explanations to the
 34 described rain-mediated bacteria dynamics are discussed.

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36 Key words: hydration; biocrust; bacteria; *Cyanobacteria*; *Actinobacteria*;

1. INTRODUCTION

Arid environments are the largest terrestrial biomes on Earth and accounts for 35% of the landmass (Pointing and Belnap, 2012). Since rain in arid environments is rare and unpredictable, the main source of water is dew (Malek et al., 1999) and fog (Kidron et al., 2002). This moisture is readily absorbed to the soil surface, but would quickly evaporates due to high temperatures and low humidity (Cameron and Blank, 1966). The long droughts in drylands limit plant growth and in their stead, the soil is covered by microbial mats, called biological soil crust (biocrust). Biocrusts are a matrix of phototroph and heterotroph microorganisms that bind together with soil particles, by using extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) (Belnap and Lange, 2001; Campbell et al., 1989; Kidron et al., 2020). Biocrust phototrophs are the main primary producers in this desolate habitat and together with the heterotrophs form a rigid and stable mat that is able to resist to xerification and soil erosion (Aanderud et al., 2019; Bowker et al., 2018).

Biocrusts are the main source of carbon and nitrogen (Agarwal et al., 2014), and a strong contributor of soil respiration (Castillo-Monroy et al., 2011) in deserts. It was recently shown that, during long droughts many of the biocrust microorganisms rely not only on photosynthesis but also on oxidation of atmospheric trace gases (Leung et al., 2020; Meier et al., 2021). Yet, once the biocrust is hydrated, the phototrophs respond quickly by inducing their photosynthetic systems and related functions to take full advantage of the rare water abundance before the soil dehydrates (Murik et al., 2017). To that end, photosynthetic members of the biocrust community form a seed bank of species that are able to spring to life whenever the water content increases (Kedem et al., 2020; Lennon and Jones, 2011; Murik et al., 2017). Yet, the abrupt hydration may also cause osmotic shock that could result in massive cell lysis and the release of osmoregulatory solutes (Halverson et al., 2000; Harris,

1981). The period of water abundance is usually brief, and the soil quickly dehydrates forcing the bacteria to cease their activity (Murik et al., 2017; Oren et al., 2019). Therefore, the members of the biocrust community must respond quickly and efficiently not only to hydration but also to the subsequent desiccation.

Earlier studies focused on community structure and cyanobacterial response to hydration-desiccation cycles under controlled conditions (Angel and Conrad, 2013; Meier et al., 2020; Oren et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2013). To the best of our knowledge, these cycles were never monitored in the field during a rain event. Under natural conditions, the biocrust community dynamics of the hydration-desiccation cycle may be affected by plethora of variables, such as temperature, rain intensity, or soil local structure, which could not be applied in a laboratory setting. Thus, it is imperative to elucidate the resuscitated community and its response to the gradual dehydration after a rain event in the field.

In this study, we followed the community structure and activity before, during, and after a rain event in the arid Negev Desert (Israel). We studied the active biocrust community by using SSU ribosomes as a proxy to active bacterial community (Št'ovíček et al., 2017). Although ribosomes do not quickly degrade in dormant or even dead cells (Suknik et al., 2012; Sunyer-Figueres et al., 2018), under field conditions they present a reliable mean to distinguish between active and inactive cells (Angel et al., 2013; Št'ovíček et al., 2017). We hypothesised that the biocrust community would quickly respond to hydration and to desiccation. We predicted that high soil moisture would trigger photosynthetic activity and a decreasing soil moisture will lead to an inactivation of the phototrophs within the biocrust community. We further predicted that heterotrophs response to hydration-desiccation would differ among phyla as previously reported for biocrust (Angel and Conrad, 2013) and topsoil

87 (Št'ovíček et al., 2017) collected from the same site. The most apparent change detected in
88 both soil horizons was the sharp decrease in the relative abundance of *Actinobacteria* that
89 dominant the soil during droughts but decline upon hydration.

90

91 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

92 2.1. Sampling

93 The study was conducted in the long-term ecological research station in the Negev Desert
 94 Highlands (Zin Plateau, 30°86'N, 34°80'E, Israel; Figure 1). In this arid environment, the
 95 average annual rainfall is around 90 mm and extends from October to April. Biocrust samples
 96 were collected on 20/06/17 during the dry season (T[0]; average temperature: 32.4°C) and
 97 during a rain event in the wet season from 29/01/18 through 01/02/18 at 24 hr intervals. The
 98 rain event (5.1 mm, maximum average temperature 14.6 °C) occurred 29/01/18 (T[R]) and
 99 samples were collected till the biocrust dried (T[1], T[2], T[3]; Figure 1) For each time point,
 100 five samples at least 10 m apart were collected (N = 25 samples). The biocrust samples were
 101 homogenised using a 2 mm sieve and then four subsamples were stored: (1) at -80°C for
 102 molecular analysis; (2) at -20°C for chlorophyll extraction; (3) at 60°C for 3 days and then
 103 kept at room temperature for chemical analysis; and (4) was used immediately to evaluate the
 104 water content.

105

106 2.2. Physico-chemical analyses

107 Water content, organic carbon and total nitrogen were measured in the soil samples. Biocrust
 108 water content was determined by the gravimetric method, the soil was weighed before and
 109 after oven drying at 105 °C, then the percentage of moisture in the soil was determined
 110 (Scrimgeour, 2008). Organic carbon content was determined using the loss-on-ignition
 111 method. 30 g of the dry soil sample was weighed burnt at 380°C for 6 hours, and the fraction
 112 of organic carbon content was calculated as previously described (Hoogsteen et al., 2015;
 113 Scrimgeour, 2008). Total nitrogen was measured in 50 mg of soil using the FlashSmart
 114 CHNS/O elemental analyser (ThermoFischer, Waltham, MA, USA). The standards: BBOT

(2,5-Bis (5-tert-butyl-benzoxazol-2-yl) thiophene), Tocopherol Nicotinate and a soil reference material were used to calibrate the instrument.

2.3. Chlorophyll concentration and water content

The chlorophyll of each sample was extracted using a protocol based on Castle et al., (2010) and Ritchie, (2006). The extraction was done using methanol, with a soil:methanol ratio of 3:9, followed by a 15-minutes incubation at 65°C and a 2-hour incubation at 4°C. The samples were measured by spectrophotometry at 665 nm and the concentration of chlorophyll was calculated following Ritchie, (2006). Positive controls were spirulina with a concentration of 0.003g/g of soil and negative controls were distilled water. The concentrations are presented in mg of chlorophyll per gram of soil (mg chla/g soil).

2.4. RNA extraction and preparation for sequencing

RNA was extracted from 0.5 – 1 g of soil using phenol-chloroform, following the protocol from Angel (2012). The extracted total nucleic acid was treated with DNase to remove the DNA. The remaining RNA was cleaned using parts of the *MagListo* RNA Extraction kit (Bioneer, Daejeon, South Korea). The RNA was reverse transcribed to cDNA using Superscript IV (ThermoFischer, Waltham, MA, USA), and purified using the PCR purification kit (Bioneer, Daejeon, South Korea) in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. The cDNA was used as a template to amplify the V3F(341) and V4R(806) regions of the 16S rRNA with CS1/CS2 extensions (Table A.1), in triplicates. Library preparations and sequencing were performed at the Research Resource Centre at the University of Illinois with pair end (2 x 300 bp) MiSeq platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Due to low concentrations of ribosomes in the dry soil collected during the summer of 2017, we had to re-extract and re-sequence these samples. However, COVID-19 restrictions

prohibit us from using the same sequencing platform, and we were forced to use the facilities and resources available to us at the time. Therefore, RNA was extracted using the RNeasy PowerSoil Total RNA Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), following the manufacturer's protocol. Then, the V3-V4 region of the 16S rRNA was amplified in triplicates using the CS1-V3F(341) and CS2-V4R(515) primers (Table A.1). The samples were sequenced (2 x 150 bp) on the iSeq platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) at the Central and Northern Arava R&D Center (Israel).

2.5. Community analysis

Reads were merged, quality checked, and trimmed following the NeatSeq-Flow pipeline (Sklarz et al., 2018). The sequences were analysed using QIIME2 (Bolyen et al., 2018) and Dada2 (Callahan et al., 2016). Reads were clustered in amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) and taxonomy was assigned using Silva v138 (Quast et al., 2013). The total number of sequences can be found in Table A.2. All raw sequences used in this study can be found in BioProject (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject>) under the submission number PRJNA718159.

2.6. Functional predictions

Functional predictions of the 16S amplicons was done using Piphillin (Iwai et al., 2016; Narayan et al., 2020) and the KEGG database with a 97%-identity cut-off (May 2020) (Kaneshisa and Goto, 2000). Steps of metabolic pathways for different methods of harvesting energy (organotrophy, lithotrophy and phototrophy) (Cordero et al., 2019; Greening et al., 2016; León-Sobrinho et al., 2019; Tveit et al., 2019), for parts of the nitrogen cycle (Madigan et al., 2009), and for the survival of the individual during a drought (DNA conservation and repair, sporulation and Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)-damage prevention) (Borisov et al.,

2013; Hansen et al., 2007; Henrikus et al., 2018; Preiss, 1984; Preiss and Sivak, 1999; Rajeev et al., 2013; Repar et al., 2012; Slade and Radman, 2011) were selected. Then, we picked out genes of interest from each step in the KEGG database and built our own database (Table A.3). The assignment of function to the KEGG numbers of the abundance table from Piphillin was done in R using phyloseq (McMurdie et al., 2017). The significance of temporal differences in predicted functionalities was evaluated using a non-parametric test (Kruskal-Wallis test and a post-hoc Dunn test (Dinno, 2017; Dunn, 1964; Kruskal and Wallis, 1952).

2.7. Statistical analysis

All statistical analysis was done using R (R Core Team, 2016) using the phyloseq (McMurdie et al., 2017) along with the ggplot2 (Wickham, 2016), vegan (Oksanen et al., 2014), magrittr (Wickham and Bache, 2014), dplyr (Wickham et al., 2018), scales (Wickham, 2017), grid (Murrell, 2004) packages. The significance of difference between time points was determined using a non-parametric test: Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn test (Dinno, 2017; Dunn, 1964; Kruskal and Wallis, 1952).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Temporal changes in the biocrust chlorophyll and chemical analyses

We have followed changes in the biocrust before, during and after a rain event and noted that a day after the rain (at T[1]) the biocrust in the sampling site was visibly greener than at any other sampling point (Figure 1). Following our observations, Figure 2 depicts the average chlorophyll concentrations along with the soil water content in the biocrust at each sampling point (Table A.4). The biocrust water content significantly increased between the dry season T[0] and the rain event T[R] (2.26% and 16.2%, respectively, $p = 0.05$; Table A.5). Then soil moisture significantly decreased to 3.67% at T[3] ($p < 0.05$). The chlorophyll concentrations significantly increased right after the rain event (from 8.45 mg chl/g soil to 14.57 mg chl/g soil, during the rain event, $p = 0.0002$; Table A.5), but decreased significantly in later days (from 14.57 mg chl/g to 11.17 mg chl/g soil, three days after the rain, $p > 0.02$; Table A.5). The total organic carbon (Figure A.1) and total nitrogen (Figure A.2) showed slight temporal changes (Table A.4) that were not significant (Table A.5).

3.2. Temporal changes in the microbial community composition

Figure 3 shows the bacterial community composition at the order level for each sampling point. The community is mostly composed of *Cyanobacteria*, *Actinobacteria*, and *Proteobacteria* (Figure 3; Table A.6). During the dry season, biocrust community composition differed significantly from the community depicted during the rain event (Table A.7). The differences were shown mostly in orders belonging to the *Actinobacteria* and *Cyanobacteria* phyla (Figure 3; $p < 0.05$, Table A.7). The relative abundance of *Cyanobacteria*, dominated by the *Cyanobacteriales*, increased during the rain event (from 22% to 41%, Table A.6; $p < 0.05$, Table A.7). While the relative abundance of *Actinobacteria*, dominated by *Micrococcales*, decreased during the rain event (from 50% to

19%, Table A.6; $p < 0.05$, Table A.7). In the days following the rain event, no major changes were detected in the biocrust community (Figure 3; Table A.6 and A.7).

3.3. Temporal changes in the microbial function

Figure 4 shows the predicted function based on the taxonomic composition using Piphillin (Iwai et al., 2016; Narayan et al., 2020). The values of the putative functional genes are displayed in copy number (CN). The values were mostly lower in the dry season compared to the hydration-desiccation cycle, except for light and energy sensing (Figure 4; Table A.8). These differences were shown to be statistically significant ($p < 0.03$; Table A.9).

4. DISCUSSION

In the Negev Desert, biocrust bacterial communities were shown to alter during hydration. Most apparent was the change in the relative abundance of *Cyanobacteria* which increased while the abundance of *Actinobacteria* decreased (Figure 3) similar to results obtained under controlled conditions that hydrated the biocrust to saturation (Angel and Conrad, 2013). In another controlled experiment, the filamentous cyanobacterium *Leptolyngbya sp.* isolated from desert biocrust, was shown to respond quickly to both hydration and desiccation (Oren et al., 2019, 2017). Slight increase in biocrust moisture, triggered by dew simulation, induced DNA repair and associated regulatory genes for activating the photosynthetic system of the cyanobacterium (Murik et al., 2017; Rajeev et al., 2013). However, in this study we show that during a rain event of the Negev Desert biocrust, soil moisture increased and resulted in: (i) a sharp rise in chlorophyll concentrations (Figure 2), (ii) a significant increase in the relative abundance of various cyanobacterial orders (Figure 3; Table A.6 and A.7), and (iii) a significant increase in putative phototrophy of the community (Figure 4; Table A.8 and A.9). The concentration of the chlorophyll pigment was suggested to be linked to the water content (Péli et al., 2011) and to the activity of dominating primary producer in the biocrust, i.e., *Cyanobacteria* and/or green algae (Madigan et al., 2009). While cyanobacterial activity increased with soil moisture, no significant changes were detected in the total organic carbon and nitrogen content (Figure A.1 and A.2; Table A.4 and S5). This observation suggests that the immediate change in these parameters is negligible compared to existing soil reservoir; thus, it cannot be used as an indicator for the reaction of the local community to rain events. Moreover, it was recently proposed that in arid biocrusts, the dominant *Cyanobacteria* exchange carbon for nitrogen with copiotrophic diazotrophs, thus rapidly utilizing available nutrients and enabling the colonisation of the oligotrophic dryland soils (Couradeau et al., 2019).

In desert soil, rain events were shown to entail a decrease in the abundance of *Actinobacteria* both in the biocrust (Angel and Conrad, 2013) and topsoil (Št'ovíček et al., 2017). Members of this phylum were shown to be well adapted to living in harsh environments (Goodfellow and Williams, 1983; Zvyagintsev et al., 2007), and were found to be abundant in the Negev Highland biocrust (Meier et al., 2021). Here we showed that the increase of water content may lead to an increase in activity in all gene groups linked to energy usage or production (Figure 4; Table A.8). The generally dry biocrust experiences a narrow window of hydration conditions after a rain event of only a couple of days (Figure 2). These conditions are rapidly exploited by phototrophs before the soil dries (Figure 2 and 3), and inhibit resilient heterotrophs (Figure 3), as was previously shown in controlled (Cordero et al., 2019; Greening et al., 2016; León-Sobrino et al., 2019; Tveit et al., 2019), and naturel (León-Sobrino et al., 2019) settings.

We showed that re-hydration stage is quick and bacterial activity restarts within hours. However, during the desiccation stage, changes are slower. The biocrust dries quickly after the rain (Figure 2) due to evaporation, encouraged by the strong radiation, high winds, and low air humidity (Kidron and Tal, 2012). Yet, unlike the response to dew hydration (Oren et al., 2019, 2017), the community does not immediately inactivates. We sampled the soil along the hydration-desiccation cycle and stopped sampling when the soil was dehydrated because we expected inactivation of the community. In a previous study (Št'ovíček et al., 2017), we showed that the topsoil community bounces back to its original structure as soon as the soil dries. Yet in the biocrust, dehydration was associated by a decrease in chlorophyll concentrations, yet we detected no significant changes in the community composition (Figure 3). This may be possible due to the EPS produced by the *Cyanobacteria* (Mager and Thomas,

2011; Mazor et al., 1996) that dominate the biocrust. *Cyanobacteria* were shown to secrete copious amounts of EPS that bind the soil particles together (Kidron et al., 2020; Kidron and Tal, 2012). The EPS in the biocrust was shown to retain water in the soil, slowing down the drying process (Roberson and Firestone, 1992). Likewise, EPS in soil was shown to create microhabitats that retain humidity (Colica et al., 2014), thus stabilising the biocrust (Lan et al., 2012), and protecting the residing microorganisms from desiccation (Mazor et al., 1996). EPS is a key component in the Negev Desert biocrusts (Kidron et al., 2020). Here we propose that EPS may benefit the microbial community by creating microhabitats in which moisture is retained longer, enabling extended active phase following a rain event. This extra time to propagate after a rain event, may justify the ample resources invested by the *Cyanobacteria* in EPS production (Mager and Thomas, 2011). To validate this hypothesis further study is required.

5. CONCLUSION

In desert biocrusts, bacterial communities must respond quickly to hydration, in order to take advantage of the short windows of opportunity to photosynthesize, and then to desiccation to prevent cells damage. Our findings reinforce controlled studies showing that biocrust hydration change the bacterial community, increasing the *Cyanobacteria* abundance over *Actinobacteria*. However, here we have shown that under field conditions the response to soil desiccation is slower, allowing for a longer period of activity and production even a day after soil moisture decrease. we speculate that the lag in response to dehydration is due to EPS-based water retention in the soil mediated by the *Cyanobacteria* producers, justifying the metabolic cost of biocrust formation.

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APPENDIX A

Table A.1. Primers used in this study

	Primer name	Primers (5' – 3')	Reference
16S rRNA	V3F(341)	CCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG	(Klindworth et al., 2013)
	V4R(515)	TTACCGCGGCKGCTGGCAC	
	V4R(806)	GGACTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT	
Universal tags	CS1	ACACTGACGACATGGTTCTACA	
	CS2	TACGGTAGCAGAGACTTGGTCT	

533 Table A.2. Statistics from Dada2

Sample (Time point)	Input	Filtered	Percentage of input passed filter	Denoised	Non- chimeric	Percentage of input non- chimeric
T[R]	99090	87403	88.21	76272	68762	69.39
T[R]	102014	87207	85.49	75796	64954	63.67
T[R]	107763	94407	87.61	80242	72676	67.44
T[R]	94175	81352	86.38	69460	61519	65.32
T[R]	97752	85658	87.63	76694	65590	67.10
T[1]	102147	89670	87.79	79436	68611	67.17
T[1]	110406	96638	87.53	86745	76384	69.18
T[1]	94247	81576	86.56	72289	65755	69.77
T[1]	107731	94180	87.42	83504	72831	67.60
T[1]	96982	84993	87.64	77197	67547	69.65
T[2]	95525	82453	86.32	73811	63892	66.89
T[2]	90500	79303	87.63	75977	74636	82.47
T[2]	84648	74376	87.87	71060	69017	81.53
T[2]	96778	85143	87.98	75971	66483	68.70
T[2]	83749	72395	86.44	65649	60857	72.67
T[3]	85527	74977	87.66	66324	56872	66.50
T[3]	92648	81056	87.49	74512	67015	72.33
T[3]	98388	86526	87.94	78048	69910	71.06
T[3]	92219	79938	86.68	69799	62666	67.95
T[3]	88140	77515	87.95	73273	72113	81.82
T[0]	22095	21646	97.97	19900	12628	57.15
T[0]	23457	22888	97.57	18342	11627	49.57
T[0]	26072	25368	97.30	20726	12867	49.35

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536 Table A.3. List of the genes used for function prediction ordered by groups and subgroups.

Group	Metabolic traits	KE GG ID	Function
DNA conservation	Putative DNA-binding protein	K02524	K10; DNA binding protein (fs(1)K10, female sterile(1)K10)
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K03111	ssb; single-strand DNA-binding protein
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K03530	hupB; DNA-binding protein HU-beta
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K03622	ssh10b; archaea-specific DNA-binding protein
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K03746	hns; DNA-binding protein H-NS
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K04047	dps; starvation-inducible DNA-binding protein
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K04494	CHD8, HELSNF1; chromodomain helicase DNA binding protein 8 [EC:3.6.4.12]
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K04680	ID1; DNA-binding protein inhibitor ID1
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K05516	cbpA; curved DNA-binding protein
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K05732	ARHGAP35, GRLF1; glucocorticoid receptor DNA-binding factor 1
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K05787	hupA; DNA-binding protein HU-alpha
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K09061	GCF, C2orf3; GC-rich sequence DNA-binding factor
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K09423	BAS1; Myb-like DNA-binding protein BAS1
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K09424	REB1; Myb-like DNA-binding protein REB1
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K09425	K09425; Myb-like DNA-binding protein FlbD
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K09426	RAP1; Myb-like DNA-binding protein RAP1

Putative DNA-binding protein	K10 140	DDB2; DNA damage-binding protein 2
Putative DNA-binding protein	K10 610	DDB1; DNA damage-binding protein 1
Putative DNA-binding protein	K10 728	TOPBP1; topoisomerase (DNA) II binding protein 1
Putative DNA-binding protein	K10 748	tus, tau; DNA replication terminus site-binding protein
Histone-like protein	K10 752	RBBP4, HAT2, CAF1, MIS16; histone-binding protein RBBP4
Putative DNA-binding protein	K10 979	ku; DNA end-binding protein Ku
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 367	CHD1; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 1 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Histone-like protein	K11 495	CENPA; histone H3-like centromeric protein A
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 574	CBF2, CBF3A, CTF14; centromere DNA-binding protein complex CBF3 subunit A
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 575	CEP3, CBF3B; centromere DNA-binding protein complex CBF3 subunit B
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 576	CTF13, CBF3C; centromere DNA-binding protein complex CBF3 subunit C
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 642	CHD3, MI2A; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 3 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 643	CHD4, MI2B; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 4 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Histone-like protein	K11 659	RBBP7; histone-binding protein RBBP7
Putative DNA-binding protein	K11 685	stpA; DNA-binding protein StpA
Putative DNA-binding protein	K12 965	ZBP1, DAI; Z-DNA binding protein 1
Putative DNA-binding protein	K13 102	KIN; DNA/RNA-binding protein KIN17
Putative DNA-binding protein	K13 211	GCFC; GC-rich sequence DNA-binding factor
Putative DNA-binding protein	K14 435	CHD5; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 5 [EC:3.6.4.12]

Putative DNA-binding protein	K14 436	CHD6; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 6 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K14 437	CHD7; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 7 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K14 438	CHD9; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 9 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K14 507	ORCA2_3; AP2-domain DNA-binding protein ORCA2/3
Histone-like protein	K15 719	NCOAT, MGEA5; protein O-GlcNAcase / histone acetyltransferase [EC:3.2.1.169 2.3.1.48]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K16 640	ssh7; DNA-binding protein 7 [EC:3.1.27.-]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K17 693	ID2; DNA-binding protein inhibitor ID2
Putative DNA-binding protein	K17 694	ID3; DNA-binding protein inhibitor ID3
Putative DNA-binding protein	K17 695	ID4; DNA-binding protein inhibitor ID4
Putative DNA-binding protein	K17 696	EMC; DNA-binding protein inhibitor ID, other
Histone-like protein	K18 710	SLBP; histone RNA hairpin-binding protein
Putative DNA-binding protein	K18 946	gp32, ssb; single-stranded DNA-binding protein
Putative DNA-binding protein	K19 442	ICP8, DBP, UL29; Simplexvirus major DNA-binding protein
Histone-like protein	K19 799	RPH1; DNA damage-responsive transcriptional repressor / [histone H3]-trimethyl-L-lysine36 demethylase [EC:1.14.11.69]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K20 091	CHD2; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 2 [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K20 092	CHD1L; chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 1-like [EC:3.6.4.12]
Putative DNA-binding protein	K22 592	AHDC1; AT-hook DNA-binding motif-containing protein 1
Putative DNA-binding protein	K23 225	SATB1; DNA-binding protein SATB1
Putative DNA-binding	K23 226	SATB2; DNA-binding protein SATB2

	protein		
	Putative DNA-binding protein	K23 600	TARDBP, TDP43; TAR DNA-binding protein 43
DNA repair	DNA polymerase PolA (COG0258)	K02 320	POLA1; DNA polymerase alpha subunit A [EC:2.7.7.7]
	DNA polymerase PolA (COG0258)	K02 321	POLA2; DNA polymerase alpha subunit B
	DNA polymerase PolA (COG0258)	K02 335	polA; DNA polymerase I [EC:2.7.7.7]
	DNA polymerase IV	K02 346	dinB; DNA polymerase IV [EC:2.7.7.7]
	Exodeoxyribo nuclease VII	K03 601	xseA; exodeoxyribonuclease VII large subunit [EC:3.1.11.6]
	Exodeoxyribo nuclease VII	K03 602	xseB; exodeoxyribonuclease VII small subunit [EC:3.1.11.6]
	DNA polymerase IV	K04 479	dbh; DNA polymerase IV (archaeal DinB-like DNA polymerase) [EC:2.7.7.7]
	Exodeoxyribo nuclease VII	K10 906	recE; exodeoxyribonuclease VIII [EC:3.1.11.-]
	DNA polymerase IV	K10 981	POL4; DNA polymerase IV [EC:2.7.7.7]
	DNA polymerase IV	K16 250	NRPD1; DNA-directed RNA polymerase IV subunit 1 [EC:2.7.7.6]
	DNA polymerase IV	K16 252	NRPD2, NRPE2; DNA-directed RNA polymerase IV and V subunit 2 [EC:2.7.7.6]
	DNA polymerase IV	K16 253	NRPD7, NRPE7; DNA-directed RNA polymerase IV and V subunit 7
Litotrophy	NiFe hydrogenase	K00 437	hydB; [NiFe] hydrogenase large subunit [EC:1.12.2.1]
	NiFe hydrogenase	K02 587	nifE; nitrogenase molybdenum-cofactor synthesis protein NifE
	CO-dehydrogenase CoxM & CoxS	K03 518	coxS; aerobic carbon-monoxide dehydrogenase small subunit [EC:1.2.5.3]
	CO-dehydrogenase CoxM & CoxS	K03 519	coxM, cutM; aerobic carbon-monoxide dehydrogenase medium subunit [EC:1.2.5.3]
	CO-dehydrogenase large subunit (coxL) Form I	K03 520	coxL, cutL; aerobic carbon-monoxide dehydrogenase large subunit [EC:1.2.5.3]
	NiFe hydrogenase	K05 586	hoxE; bidirectional [NiFe] hydrogenase diaphorase subunit [EC:7.1.1.2]
	NiFe hydrogenase	K05 587	hoxF; bidirectional [NiFe] hydrogenase diaphorase subunit [EC:7.1.1.2]
	NiFe hydrogenase	K05 588	hoxU; bidirectional [NiFe] hydrogenase diaphorase subunit [EC:7.1.1.2]

SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 218	sqr; sulfide:quinone oxidoreductase [EC:1.8.5.4]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 222	soxA; L-cysteine S-thiosulfotransferase [EC:2.8.5.2]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 223	soxX; L-cysteine S-thiosulfotransferase [EC:2.8.5.2]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 224	soxB; S-sulfosulfanyl-L-cysteine sulfohydrolase [EC:3.1.6.20]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 225	soxC; sulfane dehydrogenase subunit SoxC
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 226	soxY; sulfur-oxidizing protein SoxY
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K17 227	soxZ; sulfur-oxidizing protein SoxZ
NiFe hydrogenase	K18 005	hoxF; [NiFe] hydrogenase diaphorase moiety large subunit [EC:1.12.1.2]
NiFe hydrogenase	K18 006	hoxU; [NiFe] hydrogenase diaphorase moiety small subunit [EC:1.12.1.2]
NiFe hydrogenase	K18 008	hydA; [NiFe] hydrogenase small subunit [EC:1.12.2.1]
Propane monooxygenase (soluble)	K18 223	prmA; propane 2-monooxygenase large subunit [EC:1.14.13.227]
Propane monooxygenase (soluble)	K18 224	prmC; propane 2-monooxygenase small subunit [EC:1.14.13.227]
Propane monooxygenase (soluble)	K18 225	prmB; propane monooxygenase reductase component [EC:1.18.1.-]
Propane monooxygenase (soluble)	K18 226	prmD; propane monooxygenase coupling protein
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K22 622	soxD; S-disulfanyl-L-cysteine oxidoreductase SoxD [EC:1.8.2.6]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K24 007	soxD; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit SoxD
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K24 008	soxC; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit III
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K24 009	soxB; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.4]
SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K24 010	soxA; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.4]

	SOX sulfur-oxidation system	K24 011	soxM; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit I/III [EC:7.1.1.4]
Organotrophy	ABC sugar transporters	K02 025	ABC.MS.P; multiple sugar transport system permease protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K02 026	ABC.MS.P1; multiple sugar transport system permease protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K02 027	ABC.MS.S; multiple sugar transport system substrate-binding protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K02 056	ABC.SS.A; simple sugar transport system ATP-binding protein [EC:7.5.2.-]
	ABC sugar transporters	K02 057	ABC.SS.P; simple sugar transport system permease protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K02 058	ABC.SS.S; simple sugar transport system substrate-binding protein
	PTS sugar importers	K02 777	crp; sugar PTS system EIIA component [EC:2.7.1.-]
	Amino acid transporter	K03 293	TC.AAT; amino acid transporter, AAT family
	Peptide transporter	K03 305	TC.POT; proton-dependent oligopeptide transporter, POT family
	Amino acid transporter	K03 311	TC.LIVCS; branched-chain amino acid:cation transporter, LIVCS family
	Carboxylate transporters	K03 326	TC.DCUC, dcuC, dcuD; C4-dicarboxylate transporter, DcuC family
	Amino acid transporter	K03 450	SLC7A; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), other
	Glycosyl hydrolases	K04 844	ycjT; hypothetical glycosyl hydrolase [EC:3.2.1.-]
	Amino acid transporter	K05 048	SLC6A15S; solute carrier family 6 (neurotransmitter transporter, amino acid/orphan) member 15/16/17/18/20
	Amino acid transporter	K05 615	SLC1A4, SATT; solute carrier family 1 (neutral amino acid transporter), member 4
	Amino acid transporter	K05 616	SLC1A5; solute carrier family 1 (neutral amino acid transporter), member 5
	Amino acid transporter	K07 084	yuiF; putative amino acid transporter
	Carboxylate transporters	K07 791	dcuA; anaerobic C4-dicarboxylate transporter DcuA
	Carboxylate transporters	K07 792	dcuB; anaerobic C4-dicarboxylate transporter DcuB
	ABC sugar transporters	K10 546	ABC.GGU.S, chvE; putative multiple sugar transport system substrate-binding protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K10 547	ABC.GGU.P, gguB; putative multiple sugar transport system permease protein
	ABC sugar transporters	K10 548	ABC.GGU.A, gguA; putative multiple sugar transport system ATP-binding protein [EC:7.5.2.-]
	Carboxylate transporters	K11 689	dctQ; C4-dicarboxylate transporter, DctQ subunit
	Carboxylate transporters	K11 690	dctM; C4-dicarboxylate transporter, DctM subunit
	Amino acid transporter	K13 576	SLC38A3, SNAT3; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 3

Carboxylate transporters	K13 577	SLC25A10, DIC; solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial dicarboxylate transporter), member 10
Amino acid transporter	K13 780	SLC7A5, LAT1; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 5
Amino acid transporter	K13 781	SLC7A8, LAT2; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 8
Amino acid transporter	K13 782	SLC7A10, ASC1; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 10
Amino acid transporter	K13 863	SLC7A1, ATRC1; solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter), member 1
Amino acid transporter	K13 864	SLC7A2, ATRC2; solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter), member 2
Amino acid transporter	K13 865	SLC7A3, ATRC3; solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter), member 3
Amino acid transporter	K13 866	SLC7A4; solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter), member 4
Amino acid transporter	K13 867	SLC7A7; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 7
Amino acid transporter	K13 868	SLC7A9, BAT1; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 9
Amino acid transporter	K13 869	SLC7A11; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 11
Amino acid transporter	K13 870	SLC7A13, AGT1; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 13
Amino acid transporter	K13 871	SLC7A14; solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter), member 14
Amino acid transporter	K13 872	SLC7A6; solute carrier family 7 (L-type amino acid transporter), member 6
Peptide transporter	K14 206	SLC15A1, PEPT1; solute carrier family 15 (oligopeptide transporter), member 1
Amino acid transporter	K14 207	SLC38A2, SNAT2; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 2
Amino acid transporter	K14 209	SLC36A, PAT; solute carrier family 36 (proton-coupled amino acid transporter)
Amino acid transporter	K14 210	SLC3A1, RBAT; solute carrier family 3 (neutral and basic amino acid transporter), member 1
Carboxylate transporters	K14 388	SLC5A8_12, SMCT; solute carrier family 5 (sodium-coupled monocarboxylate transporter), member 8/12
Carboxylate transporters	K14 445	SLC13A2_3_5; solute carrier family 13 (sodium-dependent dicarboxylate transporter), member 2/3/5
Peptide transporter	K14 637	SLC15A2, PEPT2; solute carrier family 15 (oligopeptide transporter), member 2
Peptide transporter	K14 638	SLC15A3_4, PHT; solute carrier family 15 (peptide/histidine transporter), member 3/4
Amino acid transporter	K14 990	SLC38A1, SNAT1, GLNT; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 1
Amino acid transporter	K14 991	SLC38A4, SNAT4; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 4
Amino acid transporter	K14 992	SLC38A5, SNAT5; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 5
Amino acid transporter	K14 993	SLC38A6, SNAT6; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 6
Amino acid transporter	K14	SLC38A7_8; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled

	transporter	994	neutral amino acid transporter), member 7/8
	Amino acid transporter	K14 995	SLC38A9; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 9
	Amino acid transporter	K14 996	SLC38A10; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 10
	Amino acid transporter	K14 997	SLC38A11; solute carrier family 38 (sodium-coupled neutral amino acid transporter), member 11
	Amino acid transporter	K15 015	SLC32A, VGAT; solute carrier family 32 (vesicular inhibitory amino acid transporter)
	Carboxylate transporters	K15 110	SLC25A21, ODC; solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial 2-oxodicarboxylate transporter), member 21
	Amino acid transporter	K16 261	YAT; yeast amino acid transporter
	Amino acid transporter	K16 263	yjeH; amino acid efflux transporter
	Peptide transporter	K17 938	sbmA, bacA; peptide/bleomycin uptake transporter
Phototrophy	RuBisCO	K01 601	rbcL; ribulose-bisphosphate carboxylase large chain [EC:4.1.1.39]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K01 669	phrB; deoxyribodipyrimidine photo-lyase [EC:4.1.99.3]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 689	psaA; photosystem I P700 chlorophyll a apoprotein A1
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 690	psaB; photosystem I P700 chlorophyll a apoprotein A2
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 691	psaC; photosystem I subunit VII
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 692	psaD; photosystem I subunit II
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 693	psaE; photosystem I subunit IV
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 694	psaF; photosystem I subunit III
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 695	psaH; photosystem I subunit VI
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 696	psaI; photosystem I subunit VIII
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 697	psaJ; photosystem I subunit IX
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 698	psaK; photosystem I subunit X
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 699	psaL; photosystem I subunit XI
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 700	psaM; photosystem I subunit XII
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 701	psaN; photosystem I subunit PsaN
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 702	psaX; photosystem I 4.8kDa protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 703	psbA; photosystem II P680 reaction center D1 protein [EC:1.10.3.9]
	Chlorophyll	K02	psbB; photosystem II CP47 chlorophyll apoprotein

	synthesis	704	
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 705	psbC; photosystem II CP43 chlorophyll apoprotein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 706	psbD; photosystem II P680 reaction center D2 protein [EC:1.10.3.9]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 707	psbE; photosystem II cytochrome b559 subunit alpha
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 708	psbF; photosystem II cytochrome b559 subunit beta
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 709	psbH; photosystem II PsbH protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 710	psbI; photosystem II PsbI protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 711	psbJ; photosystem II PsbJ protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 712	psbK; photosystem II PsbK protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 713	psbL; photosystem II PsbL protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 714	psbM; photosystem II PsbM protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 716	psbO; photosystem II oxygen-evolving enhancer protein 1
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 717	psbP; photosystem II oxygen-evolving enhancer protein 2
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 718	psbT; photosystem II PsbT protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 719	psbU; photosystem II PsbU protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 720	psbV; photosystem II cytochrome c550
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 721	psbW; photosystem II PsbW protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 722	psbX; photosystem II PsbX protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 723	psbY; photosystem II PsbY protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K02 724	psbZ; photosystem II PsbZ protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K03 157	LTB, TNFC; lymphotoxin beta (TNF superfamily, member 3)
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K03 159	TNFRSF3, LTBR; lymphotoxin beta receptor TNFR superfamily member 3
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K03 541	psbR; photosystem II 10kDa protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K03 542	psbS; photosystem II 22kDa protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K03 716	splB; spore photoproduct lyase [EC:4.1.99.14]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K05 468	LTA, TNFB; lymphotoxin alpha (TNF superfamily, member 1)
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K06 315	splA; transcriptional regulator of the spore photoproduct lyase operon

	Chlorophyll synthesis	K06876	K06876; deoxyribodipyrimidine photolyase-related protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08901	psbQ; photosystem II oxygen-evolving enhancer protein 3
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08902	psb27; photosystem II Psb27 protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08903	psb28; photosystem II 13kDa protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08904	psb28-2; photosystem II Psb28-2 protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08905	psaG; photosystem I subunit V
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08928	pufL; photosynthetic reaction center L subunit
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08929	pufM; photosynthetic reaction center M subunit
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08940	pscA; photosystem P840 reaction center large subunit
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08941	pscB; photosystem P840 reaction center iron-sulfur protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08942	pscC; photosystem P840 reaction center cytochrome c551
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K08943	pscD; photosystem P840 reaction center protein PscD
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K11524	pixI; positive phototaxis protein PixI
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K13991	puhA; photosynthetic reaction center H subunit
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K13992	pufC; photosynthetic reaction center cytochrome c subunit
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K13994	pufX; photosynthetic reaction center PufX protein
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K14332	psaO; photosystem I subunit PsaO
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K19016	IMPG1, SPACR; interphotoreceptor matrix proteoglycan 1
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K19017	IMPG2, SPACRCAN; interphotoreceptor matrix proteoglycan 2
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K20715	PHOT; phototropin [EC:2.7.11.1]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K22464	FAP; fatty acid photodecarboxylase [EC:4.1.1.106]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K22619	Aequorin; calcium-regulated photoprotein [EC:1.13.12.24]
	Chlorophyll synthesis	K24165	PCARE; photoreceptor cilium actin regulator
ROS-damage prevention	Cytochrome C oxidase	K00404	ccoN; cytochrome c oxidase cbb3-type subunit I [EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K00405	ccoO; cytochrome c oxidase cbb3-type subunit II
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K00406	ccoP; cytochrome c oxidase cbb3-type subunit III
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K00407	ccoQ; cytochrome c oxidase cbb3-type subunit IV

Cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase	K00424	cydX; cytochrome bd-I ubiquinol oxidase subunit X [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K00424	cydX; cytochrome bd-I ubiquinol oxidase subunit X [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase	K00425	cydA; cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K00425	cydA; cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase	K00426	cydB; cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K00426	cydB; cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.7]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K00428	E1.11.1.5; cytochrome c peroxidase [EC:1.11.1.5]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02256	COX1; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 [EC:7.1.1.9]
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02258	COX11, ctaG; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 11
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02259	COX15, ctaA; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 15
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02260	COX17; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 17
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02261	COX2; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 2
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02262	COX3; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 3
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02263	COX4; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02264	COX5A; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5a
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02265	COX5B; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5b
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02266	COX6A; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6a
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02267	COX6B; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6b
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02268	COX6C; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6c
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02269	COX7; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02270	COX7A; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7a
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02271	COX7B; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7b
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02272	COX7C; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7c
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02273	COX8; cytochrome c oxidase subunit 8
Cytochrome C oxidase	K02274	coxA, ctaD; cytochrome c oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.9]
Cytochrome C	K02	coxB, ctaC; cytochrome c oxidase subunit II

	oxidase	275	[EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 276	coxC, ctaE; cytochrome c oxidase subunit III [EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 277	coxD, ctaF; cytochrome c oxidase subunit IV [EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 297	cyoA; cytochrome o ubiquinol oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.3]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 298	cyoB; cytochrome o ubiquinol oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.3]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 299	cyoC; cytochrome o ubiquinol oxidase subunit III
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 300	cyoD; cytochrome o ubiquinol oxidase subunit IV
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 826	qoxA; cytochrome aa3-600 menaquinol oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.5]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 827	qoxB; cytochrome aa3-600 menaquinol oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.5]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 828	qoxC; cytochrome aa3-600 menaquinol oxidase subunit III [EC:7.1.1.5]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K02 829	qoxD; cytochrome aa3-600 menaquinol oxidase subunit IV [EC:7.1.1.5]
	Mn ²⁺ catalase	K07 217	K07217; Mn-containing catalase
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K15 408	coxAC; cytochrome c oxidase subunit I+III [EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K15 862	ccoNO; cytochrome c oxidase cbb3-type subunit I/II [EC:7.1.1.9]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 173	COA1; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 1
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 174	COA2; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 2
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 175	CCDC56, COA3; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 3, animal type
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 176	COA3; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 3, fungi type
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 177	COA4; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 4
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 178	COA5, PET191; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 5
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 179	COA6; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 6
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 180	COA7, SELRC1, RESA1; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 7
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 181	COX14; cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor 14
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 182	COX16; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 16
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 183	COX19; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 19
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 184	COX20; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 20
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18 185	COX23; cytochrome c oxidase assembly protein subunit 23

	Cytochrome C oxidase	K18189	TACO1; translational activator of cytochrome c oxidase 1
	Cytochrome bd ubiquinol oxidase	K22501	appX; cytochrome bd-II ubiquinol oxidase subunit AppX [EC:7.1.1.7]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K22501	appX; cytochrome bd-II ubiquinol oxidase subunit AppX [EC:7.1.1.7]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K24007	soxD; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit SoxD
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K24008	soxC; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit III
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K24009	soxB; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit I [EC:7.1.1.4]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K24010	soxA; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit II [EC:7.1.1.4]
	Cytochrome C oxidase	K24011	soxM; cytochrome aa3-type oxidase subunit I/III [EC:7.1.1.4]
Sporulation	Glycogen synthesis	K00693	GYS; glycogen synthase [EC:2.4.1.11]
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K02490	spo0F; two-component system, response regulator, stage 0 sporulation protein F
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K02491	kinA; two-component system, sporulation sensor kinase A [EC:2.7.13.3]
	Glycogen synthesis	K03083	GSK3B; glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta [EC:2.7.11.26]
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K03091	sigH; RNA polymerase sporulation-specific sigma factor
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K04769	spoVT; AbrB family transcriptional regulator, stage V sporulation protein T
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06283	spoIID; putative DeoR family transcriptional regulator, stage III sporulation protein D
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06348	kapD; sporulation inhibitor KapD
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06359	rapA, spo0L; response regulator aspartate phosphatase A (stage 0 sporulation protein L) [EC:3.1.-.-]
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06371	sda; developmental checkpoint coupling sporulation initiation to replication initiation
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06375	spo0B; stage 0 sporulation protein B (sporulation initiation phosphotransferase) [EC:2.7.-.-]
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06376	spo0E; stage 0 sporulation regulatory protein
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06377	spo0M; sporulation-barren protein

Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 378	spoIIAA; stage II sporulation protein AA (anti-sigma F factor antagonist)
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 379	spoIIAB; stage II sporulation protein AB (anti-sigma F factor) [EC:2.7.11.1]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 380	spoIIB; stage II sporulation protein B
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 381	spoIID; stage II sporulation protein D
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 382	spoIIE; stage II sporulation protein E [EC:3.1.3.16]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 383	spoIIIGA; stage II sporulation protein GA (sporulation sigma-E factor processing peptidase) [EC:3.4.23.-]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 384	spoIIM; stage II sporulation protein M
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 385	spoIIP; stage II sporulation protein P
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 386	spoIIQ; stage II sporulation protein Q
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 387	spoIIR; stage II sporulation protein R
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 388	spoIISA; stage II sporulation protein SA
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 389	spoIISB; stage II sporulation protein SB
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 390	spoIIIAA; stage III sporulation protein AA
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 391	spoIIIB; stage III sporulation protein AB
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 392	spoIIIC; stage III sporulation protein AC
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 393	spoIIID; stage III sporulation protein AD
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 394	spoIIIE; stage III sporulation protein AE
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 395	spoIIIF; stage III sporulation protein AF

Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 396	spoIIIAG; stage III sporulation protein AG
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 397	spoIIIAH; stage III sporulation protein AH
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 398	spoIVA; stage IV sporulation protein A
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 399	spoIVB; stage IV sporulation protein B [EC:3.4.21.116]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 401	spoIVFA; stage IV sporulation protein FA
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 402	spoIVFB; stage IV sporulation protein FB [EC:3.4.24.-]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 403	spoVAA; stage V sporulation protein AA
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 404	spoVAB; stage V sporulation protein AB
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 405	spoVAC; stage V sporulation protein AC
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 406	spoVAD; stage V sporulation protein AD
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 407	spoVAE; stage V sporulation protein AE
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 408	spoVAF; stage V sporulation protein AF
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 409	spoVB; stage V sporulation protein B
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 412	spoVG; stage V sporulation protein G
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 413	spoVK; stage V sporulation protein K
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 414	spoVM; stage V sporulation protein M
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 415	spoVR; stage V sporulation protein R
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06 416	spoVS; stage V sporulation protein S

Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06417	spoVID; stage VI sporulation protein D
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06437	yknT; sigma-E barrelled sporulation protein
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K06438	yqfD; similar to stage IV sporulation protein
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K07697	kinB; two-component system, sporulation sensor kinase B [EC:2.7.13.3]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K07698	kinC; two-component system, sporulation sensor kinase C [EC:2.7.13.3]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K07699	spo0A; two-component system, response regulator, stage 0 sporulation protein A
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K08293	SMK1; sporulation-specific mitogen-activated protein kinase SMK1 [EC:2.7.11.24]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K08384	spoVD; stage V sporulation protein D (sporulation-specific penicillin-binding protein)
Glycogen synthesis	K08822	GSK3A; glycogen synthase kinase 3 alpha [EC:2.7.11.26]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K12576	SPO12; sporulation-specific protein 12
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K12771	SPS1; sporulation-specific protein 1 [EC:2.7.11.1]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K12772	SPS4; sporulation-specific protein 4
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K12773	SPR3; sporulation-regulated protein 3
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K12783	SSP1; sporulation-specific protein 1
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K13532	kinD; two-component system, sporulation sensor kinase D [EC:2.7.13.3]
Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K13533	kinE; two-component system, sporulation sensor kinase E [EC:2.7.13.3]
Glycogen synthesis	K16150	K16150; glycogen synthase [EC:2.4.1.11]
Exopolysaccharide synthesis	K16566	exoY; exopolysaccharide production protein ExoY
Exopolysaccharide synthesis	K16567	exoQ; exopolysaccharide production protein ExoQ
Exopolysaccharide synthesis	K16	exoZ; exopolysaccharide production protein ExoZ

	ride synthesis	568	
	Sporulation (Actinobacteria)	K16 947	SPR28; sporulation-regulated protein 28
	Glycogen synthesis	K20 812	glgA; glycogen synthase [EC:2.4.1.242]

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539 Table A.4. Chlorophyll concentrations and water content values in the biocrust at each
540 sampling point and site.

Time	Chlorophyll concentration (mg chl _a / g soil)	Water content (%)	Total organic carbon (%)	Total nitrogen (%)
T[0]	7.670	1.850	4.225	0.112
T[0]	8.553	2.670	4.107	0.114
T[0]	6.835	2.290	4.188	0.107
T[R]	10.145	13.610	2.999	0.104
T[R]	16.144	16.930	3.898	0.104
T[R]	15.703	16.550	3.787	0.109
T[R]	12.745	16.340	3.967	0.104
T[R]	14.160	17.520	3.972	0.071
T[1]	10.519	5.300	3.269	0.065
T[1]	16.003	5.620	3.238	0.065
T[1]	16.877	7.140	3.955	0.085
T[1]	15.262	6.220	3.964	0.073
T[1]	14.177	6.830	3.948	0.098
T[2]	10.092	3.920	3.879	0.087
T[2]	11.829	4.490	4.031	0.082
T[2]	11.840	4.510	4.244	0.100
T[2]	13.045	5.070	4.134	0.115
T[2]	12.975	6.900	4.050	0.095
T[3]	9.881	2.860	3.834	0.092
T[3]	12.751	3.670	3.709	0.100
T[3]	9.314	3.710	3.706	0.076
T[3]	9.366	4.320	4.511	0.081
T[3]	14.520	3.780	4.589	0.093

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Table A.5. Dunn tests p values for chlorophyll concentration (mg chla/g of soil), water content (%), total organic carbon content (%) and total nitrogen (%) in biocrust samples collected at the different sampling point. Bold numbers mark significant differences (<0.05).

Comparison	Chlorophyll	Water content	Total organic Carbon	Total Nitrogen
T[0] - T[1]	0.00538004	0.05699315	0.89	0.169
T[0] - T[2]	0.02846706	0.35971877	0.64	0.525
T[1] - T[2]	0.25895220	0.02620581	0.55	0.448
T[0] - T[3]	0.17516547	0.20434975	0.75	0.065
T[1] - T[3]	0.05299877	0.00804845	0.85	0.611
T[2] - T[3]	0.16605599	0.32025932	0.43	0.210
T[0] - T[R]	3.5589E-06	0.15725837	0.84	0.723
T[1] - T[R]	0.02620581	0.28273460	0.95	0.300
T[2] - T[R]	0.00485039	0.08612648	0.51	0.776
T[3] - T[R]	0.00018814	0.03347764	0.90	0.128

547 Table A.6. Relative abundance of the taxa in the biocrust community at each time point.

Phylum	Order	Time Point	Relative Abundance
Actinobacteria	Frankiales	T[0]	0.022907633
		T[R]	0.03574372
		T[1]	0.012995761
		T[2]	0.032045929
		T[3]	0.02063487
	IMCC26256	T[0]	0.009681202
		T[R]	0.005259368
		T[1]	0.008388448
		T[2]	0.008617354
		T[3]	0.006227356
	Micrococcales	T[0]	0.385359194
		T[R]	0.009765818
		T[2]	0.008171044
		T[3]	0.00669884
	Micromonosporales	T[R]	0.013939918
		T[1]	0.005556665
		T[2]	0.007483088
		T[3]	0.007512356
	Microtrichales	T[1]	0.00532056
		T[2]	0.005352285
	Propionibacteriales	T[R]	0.010647015
		T[1]	0.006196615
		T[2]	0.009500737
		T[3]	0.005302327
	Pseudonocardiales	T[R]	0.007935732
		T[2]	0.005403369
	Rubrobacterales	T[0]	0.015244484
		T[R]	0.075369688
		T[1]	0.088221276
		T[2]	0.103851434
		T[3]	0.08049968
	Solirubrobacterales	T[0]	0.076522403
		T[R]	0.039879122
		T[1]	0.043060268
		T[2]	0.045998142
		T[3]	0.031839496
Cyanobacteria	Chloroplast	T[0]	0.020862309
		T[R]	0.011650182
		T[1]	0.026512447
		T[2]	0.028141321
		T[3]	0.018079461
	Cyanobacteriales	T[0]	0.19073226
Cyanobacteria	Cyanobacteriales	T[R]	0.389427243

		T[1]	0.333676493
		T[2]	0.292463654
		T[3]	0.350595706
	Unknown Oxyphotobacteria	T[R]	0.013481119
		T[1]	0.015453064
		T[2]	0.013590863
		T[3]	0.015066421
	Thermosynechococcales	T[0]	0.010799313
Acidobacteriota	Bryobacterales	T[R]	0.005153526
Bacteroidota	Chitinophagales	T[0]	0.006236605
		T[R]	0.005163481
		T[2]	0.007262191
	Cytophagales	T[0]	0.009163053
		T[R]	0.096453172
		T[1]	0.11996715
		T[2]	0.079192234
Chloroflexi	Kallotenuales	T[3]	0.090668802
		T[R]	0.00838268
		T[2]	0.01633687
	Thermomicrobiales	T[3]	0.008408777
Gemmatimonadota	Gemmatimonadales	T[2]	0.005146914
		T[R]	0.005436359
	Longimicrobiales	T[2]	0.006908222
		T[R]	0.016006999
Myxococcota	Haliangiales	T[2]	0.005421611
		T[R]	0.005678943
	Myxococcales	T[3]	0.006010924
		T[R]	0.020299082
		T[1]	0.010755355
		T[2]	0.013671351
		T[3]	0.014621574
	Nannocystales	T[R]	0.008809035
		T[1]	0.01090915
		T[2]	0.005558526
		T[3]	0.006743362
	Polyangiales	T[R]	0.008294912
		T[1]	0.008084686
		T[2]	0.005990088
		T[3]	0.006645987
Proteobacteria	Acetobacterales	T[R]	0.014783181
		T[1]	0.012028303
		T[2]	0.016252769
		T[3]	0.016407297
	Azospirillales	T[0]	0.030702093
	Burkholderiales	T[0]	0.056796051
Proteobacteria	Burkholderiales	T[R]	0.012959379

		T[1]	0.010671657
		T[2]	0.013591631
		T[3]	0.012713217
	Caulobacterales	T[0]	0.012899179
		T[R]	0.022042144
		T[1]	0.034822507
		T[2]	0.020704156
		T[3]	0.024863575
	Pseudomonadales	T[0]	0.013867311
	Rhizobiales	T[0]	0.087344626
		T[R]	0.043724525
		T[1]	0.063099159
		T[2]	0.070129812
		T[3]	0.068004988
	Rhodobacterales	T[0]	0.00551081
		T[R]	0.016305263
		T[1]	0.016673137
		T[2]	0.021005185
		T[3]	0.016425317
	Sphingomonadales	T[0]	0.018796014
		T[R]	0.038019558
		T[1]	0.044013044
		T[2]	0.044435076
		T[3]	0.033523863
Verrucomicrobiota	Chthoniobacterales	T[R]	0.012024879
		T[1]	0.066714297
		T[2]	0.044130375
		T[3]	0.094877543

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Table A.7. P-values of the Dunn tests between time points on the relative abundance of the actinobacterial and cyanobacterial orders. Bold numbers are significant (<0.05).

Comparison	Cyanobacteria	Actinobacteria
T[0] - T[1]	6.13E-10	8.15E-13
T[0] - T[2]	5.13E-08	2.52E-14
T[0] - T[3]	5.98E-10	6.89E-11
T[0] - T[R]	6.52E-10	6.47E-14
T[1] - T[3]	0.498128567	0.228324880
T[1] - T[2]	0.191797281	0.294405229
T[1] - T[R]	0.495469243	0.345672443
T[2] - T[R]	0.194912395	0.442935801
T[3] - T[R]	0.493597980	0.126850627
T[2] - T[3]	0.190519550	0.099407424

556 Table A.8. Abundance (in copy number (CN)) of each time points within each group of gene.

Gene Group	Time points	Abundance
DNA conservation	T[0]	20590
	T[R]	91433
	T[1]	92496
	T[2]	78321
	T[3]	81983
DNA repair and degradation	T[0]	13579
	T[R]	66132
	T[1]	67048
	T[2]	55948
	T[3]	58457
Light energy or sensing	T[0]	85
	T[R]	43
	T[1]	59
	T[2]	64
	T[3]	17
Lithotrophs	T[0]	7554
	T[R]	37972
	T[1]	38632
	T[2]	31341
	T[3]	32758
Nitrogen	T[0]	10027
	T[R]	50708
	T[1]	58068
	T[2]	48225
	T[3]	45638
Organotrophs	T[0]	60007
	T[R]	108275
	T[1]	111044
	T[2]	88557
	T[3]	89148
Phototrophy	T[0]	50301
	T[R]	445432
	T[1]	425819
	T[2]	342188
	T[3]	407532
ROS-damage prevention	T[0]	26126
	T[R]	138367
	T[1]	143726
	T[2]	121507
	T[3]	126677
Sensing & motility	T[0]	31075
	T[R]	81947
	T[1]	92070

Sensing & motility	T[2]	90844
	T[3]	74436
Sporulation capsule & C-storage	T[0]	7302
	T[R]	48141
	T[1]	48944
	T[2]	38998
	T[3]	42341

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Table A.9. Chi-square values and p-values of the Dunn tests between time points done on the functional prediction results. Bold numbers are significant (< 0.05)

Comparison	DNA Conservation	DNA Repair	Light energy	Lithotrophy	Nitrogen
T[0] - T[1]	0.00489293	0.00293591	0.19388801	0.00030834	4.22E-17
T[0] - T[2]	0.02033475	0.0097339	0.44831059	0.00749298	8.12E-12
T[0] - T[3]	0.02906312	0.01558465	0.2755365	0.01520981	8.15E-10
T[0] - T[R]	0.02863121	0.00520412	0.37990911	0.00162909	1.30E-12
T[1] - T[3]	0.21328302	0.24422913	0.04593218	0.072911	0.00403999
T[1] - T[2]	0.26782432	0.31450078	0.19843215	0.12613918	0.03331074
T[1] - T[R]	0.21549186	0.41187192	0.25970621	0.28894927	0.06264837
T[2] - T[3]	0.43027457	0.41697806	0.20090041	0.37842665	0.20768207
T[2] - T[R]	0.43325114	0.3972775	0.41957403	0.27813996	0.38159137
T[3] - T[R]	0.49697916	0.31916653	0.14884666	0.184595	0.13225512
Chi-square	7.021623874	8.913054423	2.944440598	12.94456096	75.97487673

Comparisons	Organotrophy	Phototrophy	ROS	Motility	Sporulation
T[0] - T[1]	0.00189691	5.38E-36	5.70E-06	1.09E-18	7.48E-05
T[0] - T[2]	0.02110913	8.46E-17	2.77E-05	2.10E-14	3.01E-09
T[0] - T[3]	0.04112206	8.77E-26	8.96E-05	2.41E-11	0.0008838
T[0] - T[R]	0.01948721	4.27E-35	6.29E-05	1.22E-14	0.00040669
T[1] - T[3]	0.09077588	0.00930641	0.22920864	0.00608522	0.22132375
T[1] - T[2]	0.15937532	5.23E-07	0.33993514	0.08422197	0.00969216
T[1] - T[R]	0.16882618	0.42394382	0.26107583	0.09739203	0.30432515
T[2] - T[3]	0.3673185	0.00570786	0.37114762	0.12925022	0.00094887
T[2] - T[R]	0.48475837	1.36E-06	0.41005945	0.46785414	0.00218557
T[3] - T[R]	0.35302059	0.01533294	0.45960721	0.11302291	0.39907998
Chi-square	8.60329063	195.4178784	22.91571278	87.21260295	34.5684137

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Figure A.1. Barplot of the organic carbon content for each sampling point.

Figure A.2. Barplot of the nitrogen content (in g) for each time point.

Chlorophyll content
(mg chla / g soil)

Time points

- T[0]
- T[R]
- T[1]
- T[2]
- T[3]

Abundance (in CN)

Time Points