

1 **Biofilms on glacial surfaces: hotspots for biological activity**

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4 H. J. Smith^{1,2}, A. Schmidt^{1,3}, R. Foster⁴, S. Littmann⁵, M. M. M. Kuypers⁵, and C.
5 Foreman^{1,3**}

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17 **Supporting Information:**

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19 **Supplementary Information Content:**

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21 Supplementary Materials and Methods

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23 Supplementary Results

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29 Supplementary Tables (S1-S3)

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31 **Supplementary Materials and Methods:**

32

33 **Study Site and Sample Collection and Preparation**

34 The cryoconite hole used in this study was collected during the 2011 Austral summer
35 from the surface of the Canada Glacier (77°37' S, 162°57' E) as part of a larger
36 sampling campaign (n=32)¹. The ice lidded cryoconite hole was 38 cm by 34 cm with a
37 maximum depth of 25 cm. The water depth of the sampled cryoconite hole was 12 cm
38 and the depth of sediment was 0.5 cm. Liquid water and sediment were extracted from
39 the glacial surface using syringes and ethanol cleaned spatulas and placed into sterile
40 Whirl-Pak[®] bags. All samples were stored for three weeks at -20°C prior to further
41 processing. Sediments (117.14 g of sediment in total) were prepared for different
42 analytical methods in two ways; (i) 2 g were placed into sterile cryo vials and stored at -
43 80°C for confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM), and (ii) 40 g were added to 500
44 ml of DI water and placed on an orbital shaker at 1,500 rpm at 10°C for 24 hrs as
45 required for single cell secondary ion mass spectrometry (nanoSIMS) analyses. After
46 shaking, the supernatant containing the dislodged bacterial cells were separated from the
47 sediment and immediately used for subsequent analyses (see below nanoSIMS
48 preparation section). Cryoconite from the Canada Glacier have been studied over the last
49 several years and there is information available regarding cryoconite distribution,
50 biogeochemical data, community structure, and exposure intervals to atmospheric
51 conditions for cryoconites from this location²⁻⁷. Relevant for this study is the previously
52 published distribution of cryoconite holes across the Canada Glacier² as well as rates of
53 primary production and isolation age¹. Therefore, a single sample from the well-studied
54 glacial surface was advantageous for the methodologically intensive nature of this study.

55

56 **Bacterial Community Composition**

57 Genomic DNA was extracted from 0.25 g of cryoconite sediment using a MO BIO
58 PowerSoil™ DNA Isolation Kit, following the manufacturer's protocol (MO BIO
59 Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA). The extracted DNA was cleaned and
60 concentrated with the Wizard® SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System (Promega Corporation,
61 Madison, WI, USA) following established manufacturers' protocols. Small subunit rRNA
62 gene sequences were amplified with barcoded universal bacterial primers FD1 (5'-
63 ctcgcgtgtcAGAGTTTGATCCTGGCT- CAG-3') and 529R (5'-
64 ctcgcgtgtcCGCGGCTGCTGGCAC- 3') spanning the V1, V2 and V3 regions. The
65 amplification protocol began with a hot start (94°C for 4 min), followed by 28 cycles of a
66 30 s 94°C denaturation, a 1 min annealing step at 58°C, and an elongation step at 72°C
67 for 1 min. After the completion of the 28 amplification cycles, there was a final
68 elongation at 72°C for 10 min. PCR products were excised from a 0.8 % agarose gel and
69 cleaned using an Ultrafree®-DA gel extraction column (Millipore Corporation, Bedford,
70 MA, USA). The gel extract was cleaned and concentrated after the gel extraction using
71 the Wizard® SC Gel and PCR Clean-Up System and the dsDNA PCR product was
72 quantified with a Qubit fluorometer (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Adaptor sequences
73 were ligated onto the amplicon products and sequencing was performed using a 454 GS
74 Jr. (454 Life Sciences, Branford, CT, USA). Sequences were trimmed to one standard
75 deviation below the mean sequence length, and the data was processed using the
76 Quantitative Insights Into Microbial Ecology (QIIME) toolkit ⁸. Briefly, sequences were
77 clustered into OTUs using a 97% identity threshold, and the most abundant sequence

78 from each OTU was selected as a representative sequence for the OTU. Taxonomy was
79 assigned for each representative sequence using the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
80 (BLAST) against the Silva database. Chimeric sequences were removed with Chimera
81 Slayer ⁹ and chimeric sequences were confirmed using Bellerophon ¹⁰. Sequence data
82 were deposited in the NCBI SRA database under the accession number SRP073064.

83

84 **NanoSIMS Sample preparation**

85 As surface charging strongly influences secondary ion formation on particle surfaces,
86 incubations of cryoconite microbes were conducted using the detached cells in the
87 supernatant. Samples were incubated with ¹⁵N-labeled ammonium chloride (~99% ¹⁵N,
88 Cambridge Isotopes Laboratories Inc., Andover, MA, USA, 0.1mM final concentration)
89 and ¹³C-labeled sodium bicarbonate (~99% ¹³C, Cambridge Isotopes Laboratories Inc.,
90 Andover, MA, USA, 1mM final concentration) in 1 L bottles in a light incubator to
91 simulate *in situ* light (50.6 photons per m²) and temperature (4°C) conditions for 72 hrs.
92 After incubation samples were fixed with paraformaldehyde (final concentration 2%) for
93 1.5 hrs at room temperature. Subsamples (10 ml) were then filtered onto gold-palladium
94 coated 0.2 µm GTTP polycarbonate filters (Millipore) under low vacuum pressure (< 7
95 psi) and washed three times with 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Filters were dried
96 and stored in cryovials at -20°C until further processing.

97

98 **Hybridization and microscopic evaluation**

99 Sections (5 mm diameter) of the gold-palladium coated filters containing cells were

100 excised and hybridized with Fluorescent *In Situ* Hybridization (FISH) with horseradish
101 peroxidase (HRP)-labeled oligonucleotide probes following the Halogen *In Situ*
102 Hybridization Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (HISH-SIMS) protocol described by ¹¹.
103 To avoid detachment of cells through sample preparation protocols the 5 mm spheres
104 were initially embedded in 0.1% low melting point agarose. For the analysis of gram–
105 negative *Bacteroidetes* bacteria, cells were permeabilized with a lysozyme (10 mg ml⁻¹ in
106 0.05 M EDTA (pH 8.0) and 0.1M Tris-HCl) treatment at 37°C for 1 hr. After
107 permeabilization filters were washed three times with ultrapure water (MQ, Millipore) and
108 endogenous peroxidases were bleached with 3% H₂O₂ for 10 min at room temperature.
109 Prior to hybridization filters were washed three times for 1 min with ultrapure water and
110 submerged in 96% ethanol for 1 min and allowed to air dry completely. Filters were
111 subjected to a 1 hr pre-hybridization step without the probe, then probes were added
112 (1:150 v/v) and hybridized at 46°C for 6 hrs using a previously described protocol¹¹. The
113 following oligonucleotide probes were used to probe *Bacteroidetes* lineages: CF319a
114 (Probe Sequence (5'-3'): TGG TCC GTG TCT CAG TAC, 16S target position: 319-336,
115 formamide concentration: 35%) and CF319b (Probe Sequence (5'-3'): TGG TCC GTA
116 TCT CAG TAC, 16S target position: 319-336, formamide concentration: 35%) ¹².
117 Hybridized cells were counterstained with 4',6'-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) at a
118 final concentration of 1 µg mL⁻¹ in the dark for 10 min. The 5 mm filter sections were
119 covered in mountant (4 parts Citifluor (Citifluor , Ltd., London, United Kingdom), 1 part
120 VectaShield (Vector Laboratoires, Burlingame, CA)) and 10 randomly chosen fields (grid
121 size of 15625 µm²) corresponding to 1,000-1,200 DAPI stained cells were counted using
122 a Zeiss Axioskop II fluorescence microscope (Zeiss, Berlin, Germany) with a final

123 magnification of 1,000X. Counts are reported as mean averages from triplicate cell
124 counts of cells g^{-1} of sediment that have been converted based on phylogenetic
125 classification to percentages of the total number of cells counted. *Bacteroidetes* sp. cells
126 identified with FISH and *Oscillatoria* sp. cells of interest were identified by morphology
127 and excitation under blue (450-490 nm) and green (510-560 nm) excitation filter sets and
128 imaged. Areas of interest for nanoSIMS were marked using a Laser Micro Dissection
129 (LMD) microscope 6500 (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany). Microscopic pictures were taken
130 and used for orientation purposes during the subsequent nanoSIMS analysis and for post
131 processing using look@nanoSIMS software (see below).

132 **NanoSIMS analysis**

133 NanoSIMS analysis was performed using a Cameca NanoSIMS 50 L instrument
134 (Cameca, Gennevilliers, France) at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in
135 Bremen. After re-identifying the area of interest marked by the LMD with the nanoSIMS
136 CCD camera, samples were pre-sputtered with a Cesium (Cs^+) primary ion beam with a
137 current of ~ 300 pA. For the measurements a primary ion beam with a beam current
138 between 1 and 3 pA and a beam size < 100 nm was used to raster the analyzed area. The
139 measurements were performed with an image size of 256 x 256 pixels over a chosen
140 raster size of 20 x 20 μm with a dwelling time of 1 or 2 ms per pixel. Mass resolving
141 power in the majority of the measurements was > 8000 . Negative secondary ion images of
142 $^{12}C^-$, $^{13}C^-$, $^{19}F^-$, $^{12}C^{14}N^-$, $^{12}C^{15}N^-$ and $^{32}S^-$ were recorded simultaneously with the multi-
143 collection system of the instrument. All scans (40-50 planes) were corrected for drift of
144 the beam and sample stage after acquisition and accumulated using the
145 “Look@NanoSIMS” software package (Polercky et al. 2012). Region of interest (ROIs)

146 were defined using the $^{19}\text{F}^-$ images representing the HISH labeled *Bacteroidetes* sp. cells,
147 and ROIs for the non-labeled filamentous cyanobacterial cells were chosen based on the
148 $^{12}\text{C}^{14}\text{N}$ image compared to fluorescent images for DAPI stained cells.

149 The equations used for ^{13}C and ^{15}N assimilation were as previously described in¹³.
150 The cell diameter for both cyanobacterial cells and *Bacteroidetes* sp. were estimated from
151 nanoSIMS images after cells were circled using the Look@NanoSIMS software analysis
152 package¹⁴. Cell heights for both cell types were determined using a Nanoscope III
153 extended-multimode atomic force microscope (Veeco, Santa Barbara, CA).
154 Underestimations of cell diameter are possible due to the fixation step (2% PFA for 1.5
155 hrs). The cell diameter measures were used in equations for bio-volume estimation as
156 described in Sun and Lui (2003)¹⁵ For filamentous cyanobacterial cells, the bio volume
157 was estimated using the equation of a cylinder:

$$158 \quad V = (\pi/4) \times d^2 \times h \quad (1)$$

159 where d is cell diameter and h is cell height. Average height for individual cyanobacterial
160 filaments was equal to 1.57 μm .

161 For estimating bio volume of individual *Bacteroidetes* sp. cells the equation of a
162 sphere was used

$$163 \quad (V = (\pi/6) \times d^3) \quad (2)$$

164 where d is cell diameter. The initial cellular carbon content was estimated based
165 on the relationship between bio volume and carbon content previously described in
166 Verity et al. (1992)¹⁶:

167
$$\text{Log}[C] = -0.363 + (0.863 \times (\text{Log}(V))) \quad (3)$$

168 Logarithms (LOG) are base 10 and C content was used to estimate the N content. As
169 none of the analyzed organisms are isolated, standard elemental analysis was not possible
170 and therefore we based our estimates of initial C and N content on the Redfield ratio
171 (C:N) of 6.6.

172 Cell specific C (A_C) and N (A_N) assimilation was calculated following the
173 equations presented in Foster et al. (2013) and are as follows:

174
$$A_C = ({}^{13}\text{C}_{\text{ex}} \times C_{\text{initial}}) / C_{\text{SR}} \quad (4)$$

175
$$A_N = ({}^{15}\text{N}_{\text{ex}} \times N_{\text{initial}}) / N_{\text{SR}} \quad (5)$$

176 where ${}^{13}\text{C}_{\text{ex}}$ and ${}^{15}\text{N}_{\text{ex}}$ is the atom (AT) % of ${}^{13}\text{C}$ and ${}^{15}\text{N}$, respectively, corrected
177 for by the mean value of the respective ratios in non-enriched bulk samples (time 0)
178 measured by elemental analysis isotope ratio mass spectrometry (EA-IRMS) analyses.
179 The C_{initial} and N_{initial} variables are the initial C and N content as presented in equation 3,
180 while C_{SR} and N_{SR} are the labeling percentage of ${}^{13}\text{C}$ and ${}^{15}\text{N}$, respectively, in the
181 experiment. The calculated assimilation values were divided by the incubation time (h) to
182 determine the cell specific C fixation and N fixation rates. It should be noted that there is
183 the potential for a dilution of ${}^{13}\text{C}$ and ${}^{15}\text{N}$ signals as a result of the HISH-SIMS fixation
184 procedures, and hence the calculated uptake rates potentially underestimate rates of
185 incorporation¹⁷.

186 It was recently highlighted that microbial cells interact at the microscale¹⁸, to
187 investigate these microscale interactions and to quantify the C and N transfer from

188 autotrophic *Oscillatoria* sp. to heterotrophic *Bacteroidetes* sp., the enrichment (AT% 13C
189 and AT% 15N) measured in the *Bacteroidetes* cells was divided into two groups and
190 include values from cell residing: close (< 2 μm) or far (> 2 μm) from a *Oscillatoria* sp.
191 cell. Phytoplankton exudates are known to form diffusion limited chemical gradients
192 around the cell surface,^{19,20} the diffusivity of this boundary layer can be estimated using
193 the relationship between cell size and organic matter leakage calculated according to
194 Jackson (1987)²⁰. Where ϕ is the relationship between the cell radius and cell carbon
195 content, as determined by Mullin et al. (1966)²¹ for planktonic photoautotrophic
196 organisms:

197

$$198 \quad \phi = ba^{2.28} \quad (1)$$

199

200 Where b is a constant equal to 2.67×10^{-4} mol multiplied by the cells radius $a = 1.99$
201 $\mu\text{m}^{2.28}$. Organic matter leakage was subsequently calculated according to Jackson (1987)
202 ²⁰:

203

$$204 \quad C = \left(\frac{L}{4\pi D} \right) r^{-1} + C_{\infty} \quad (2)$$

205

206 Where the carbon leakage rate of $L = f\mu\phi$. Standard values from Jackson (1987) were
207 used for the following parameters: where f is the organic matter leakage rate from
208 photoautotrophic cells, μ is the specific growth rate, D is the molecular diffusivity of
209 organic matter, r^{-1} is the distance from the cell surface. C_{∞} , the concentration in the bulk
210 which was assumed to be nominally small and therefore set to zero. The concentration of

211 exuded organic matter was then calculated incrementally for distances ranging from very
212 near the cell surface (0.1 μm) to 10 μm away from the cell surface. To preserve these
213 distances and inhibit cell loss or movement through sample preparation and analysis
214 filters were covered with a thin layer of low met agarose (0.1%) after the initial sample
215 filtration. Using the *stats* package in R²² a two-way ANOVA with section and distance
216 as factors was used to separately analyze ¹³C and ¹⁵N AT% enrichment of both the close
217 and far *Bacteroidetes* sp. cells. The model included either ¹³C AT% or ¹⁵N AT% as a
218 response to an interaction effect added for each analyzed section and distance from
219 filament.

220

221 **CLSM imaging and data processing**

222 For imaging, cryoconite particles were thawed on ice, placed into a sterile petri dish and
223 stained for 20 min in the dark. Fully hydrated cryoconite particles were stained with
224 either SYBR Green, a nucleic acid stain (Invitrogen; Life Technologies) 40X final
225 concentration; or calcofluor white, which is typically used for staining of chitin, cellulose
226 and polysaccharides²³ (Fluka; Sigma-Aldrich) final concentration 1 μM . After staining,
227 cryoconite particles were rinsed with 0.2 μm filter sterilized DI water three times to
228 remove any excess stain. Stains were chosen for this study after comparing a variety of
229 different stains to determine which stains would be the most sample appropriate and the
230 least reactive with abiotic material. Sediment samples were imaged with a Leica TCS
231 SP5 II upright confocal microscope using either a 25X water immersion objective, 0.95
232 NA, WD 2.5 mm; or a 63X water immersion objective, 0.9 NA, WD 2.2 mm.
233 Fluorophore excitation lasers and emission bandwidths are as follows:

234 SYBR Green (ex 497/em 520) 488 nm excitation, 500–550 nm emission collection;
235 autofluorescence, 561 nm excitation, 580–700 nm emission collection; calcofluor white
236 (ex 355, em 433), 405 nm excitation, 450–490 nm emission collection; and reflection
237 imaging, 488 nm excitation. A minimum of 10 randomly selected images were collected
238 to enumerate cellular biomass (SYBR green, autofluorescence, reflection) and biotic
239 material biomass (calcofluor white and reflection). Z-stacks were collected in either 0.54
240 μm steps for the 25X objective or 0.64 μm steps for the 63X objective. To ensure that the
241 stains selected for this study were not binding to abiotic material cryoconite particles
242 were combusted at 450°C for 5 hrs to remove any biotic material present. Combusted
243 particles were then stained and imaged following the same protocol as previously
244 described. The 3D structure of individual cryoconite particles and associated biotic
245 material was reconstructed from the CLSM images using IMARIS software (version
246 7.6.4). Surface area (μm^2) for each channel imaged was determined using the surface area
247 calculation function in the IMARIS software. Surface area calculation parameters were
248 optimized to sample and image specific properties. For the autofluorescent and SYBR
249 Green images used to quantify individual cells images were smoothed at a surface area
250 detail level of 0.5 μm^2 , thresholding was based on a background subtraction method, and
251 all voxels greater than zero were collected. Biofilm images were processed with the same
252 parameters described above, with the exception that all voxels greater than 10 were
253 collected. Sediment surface area was calculated the same way as for biofilm except that
254 the surface was divided in half based on the inability of light to penetrate the sediment
255 samples and the resulting overestimation of surface area. Calculated surface areas for
256 cells identified with SYBR Green or autofluorescence, and biotic material were all

257 normalized to the surface area of cryoconite particles in the corresponding field of view
258 analyzed.

259

260 **Fluorescence Spectroscopy**

261 Dissolved organic matter (DOM) extracted from cryoconite sediment was analyzed using
262 excitation emission spectroscopy (EEMs). Scans were collected over an excitation range
263 of 240–450 nm in 10 nm increments and emission was monitored from 300–560 nm in 2
264 nm increments on a Fluoromax-4 spectrofluorometer (HORIBA Jobin-Yvon). Samples
265 were analyzed for UV absorbance with a Thermo Scientific Genesys 10 scanning UV
266 spectrophotometer from 190–1100 nm on optically dilute samples (absorbance values <
267 0.3 at 254 nm). EEMs data were post-processed to correct for instrument-specific bias
268 using manufacturer-generated correction files for excitation, emission, and blank
269 subtraction. Specific regions of fluorescence were defined for each carbon source
270 corresponding to previously identified natural organic matter fluorophores²⁴.

271 Fluorescence intensity values in the proteinaceous regions (B and T fluorophores) were
272 summed and classified as more-labile, while humic-like fluorescence regions (A and C
273 fluorophores) were combined and classified as less-labile and more recalcitrant. The
274 fluorescence for both defined regions was individually summed for the two samples
275 (cryoconite water and sediment extracted DOM).

276

277 **Sediment Analysis**

278 Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) was used to determine the mineralogical composition of
279 studied cryoconite sediment. Samples were ground into a homogenous powder with a

280 mortar and pestle to homogenize the sediment mixture. XRD analysis was completed
281 with a Scintag XGen-4000 X-ray Powder Diffraction Spectrometer. X-ray spectra were
282 generated across a 2θ range of $5-70^\circ$ in 0.02° steps with a scan rate of 2° min^{-1} for an
283 initial survey and across regions of prominent peaks at $24 \text{ } 0.5^\circ \text{ min}^{-1}$ for greater detail. X-
284 ray spectra were analyzed using the Scintag Diffraction Management System for NT
285 (DMSNT) computer software package to determine peak positions and relative intensities
286 and subsequently compared to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD)
287 powder diffraction file catalog for identification of crystalline minerals. Stepwise thermo-
288 gravimetric analysis was conducted to determine bulk organic matter content and
289 composition following methods from ²⁵. Briefly, 500 mg sub-samples of cryoconite
290 sediment (in triplicate for each combustion temperature) were weighed and placed into
291 crucibles and dried for three days at 38°C . Individual samples were weighed to obtain
292 sample dry weight. Samples were placed in a muffle furnace at four different combustion
293 temperatures (105°C , 200°C , 350°C , and 520°C) for 4 hrs. After combustion samples
294 were placed into a desiccator to cool, once cool samples were weighed for the second
295 time. The difference in the dry weight and the weight post combustion for each sample
296 represents the percent organic matter lost at different temperatures of ignition. These
297 percent differences were used to calculate the total organic content and different lability
298 classifications which has been previously described by ²⁵⁻²⁷. The following
299 differentiations were used: the loss of water ($38-200^\circ\text{C}$), thermolabile ($200-350^\circ\text{C}$), and
300 stable organic matter ($350-520^\circ\text{C}$) ²⁸.

301

302

303 **Chemical Analyses**

304 Samples run in triplicate for chlorophyll *a* (chl *a*) extraction and analysis were filtered in
305 the dark through 25 mm pre-combusted GF/F filters wrapped in aluminum foil and kept
306 at -20°C until. Chl *a* was extracted in a 1:1 solution of 90% and dimethyl sulfoxide for 12
307 hrs in the dark at -20°C. Extracted chl *a* was analyzed with a Turner 10-AU fluorometer.
308 Anion samples in triplicate were filtered through 0.4 µm 47 mm nucleopore filters,
309 deionized water was used as a filtration blank, and samples were analyzed on a Dionex
310 ICS-1100 ion chromatography system.

311

312 **Supplementary Results:**

313

314 Fluorescent DOM was detected in both the cryoconite water and in the sediment
315 extracted DOM. The fluorescent signature of the sediment extracted DOM has
316 fluorescence in the B and T regions, compared to the water where fluorescence was only
317 present in the T regions. Similarly between both samples fluorescence was not detected in
318 the humic-like regions, rather the fluorescent DOM present was predominately in the
319 more-labile, microbially derived regions. The sediment extracted DOM was comprised of
320 89.07% more-labile DOM and 10.92% less labile DOM, and the overlaying water
321 consisted of 93.57% more-labile and 6.42% less labile DOM.

322 Simulation of organic matter leakage from a cell with a relatively large leakage
323 rate (0.5 d^{-120}) under standard conditions showed that there was an inversely proportional
324 relationship between the concentration of exuded organic matter and the distance from
325 the filament surface. Within the phycosphere of a filamentous cell, with a 1.99 µm radius,
326 10% of the cell surface concentration was estimated to extend 1µm away of the cell

327 surface, and at 2 μm from the cell surface only 5% of the initial concentration will extend
328 (Figure SI 3). We therefore conclude that $>2 \mu\text{m}$ is a conservative delineation where
329 exuded organic matter concentrations are too diffuse and below the threshold for bacterial
330 chemosensory detection.

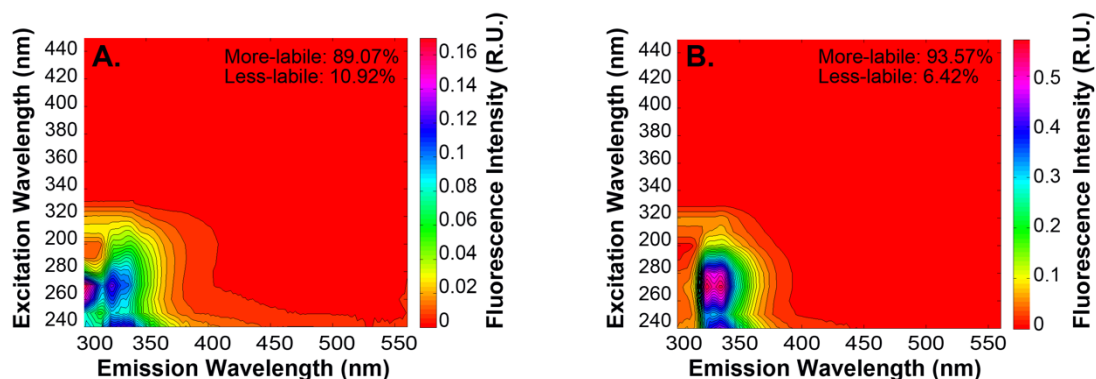
331 **Supplementary References**

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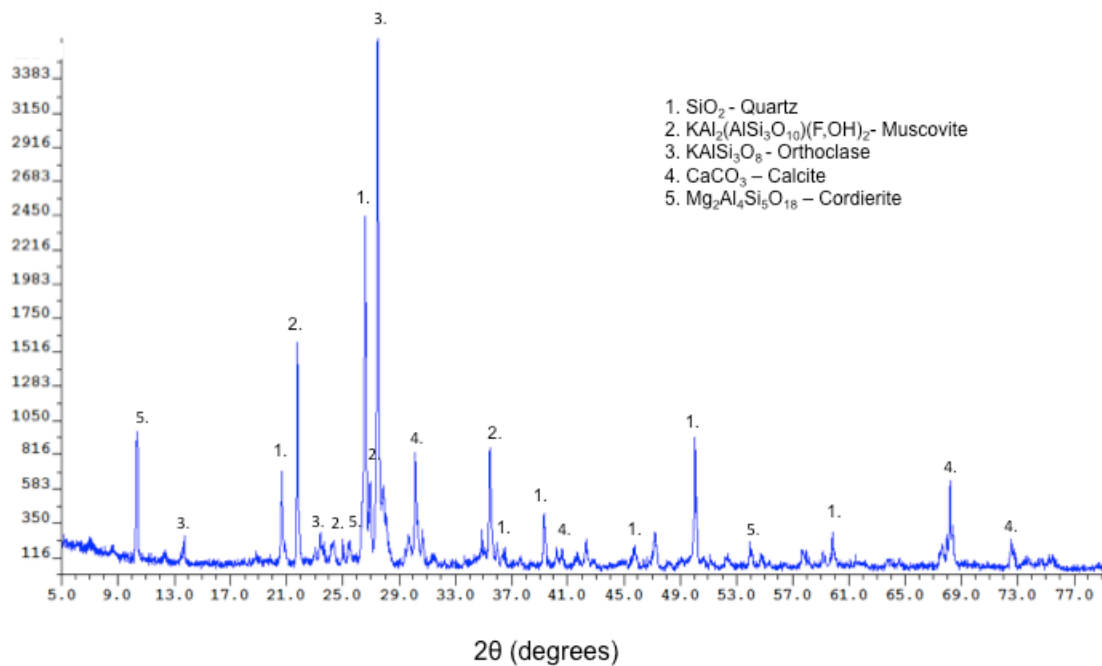
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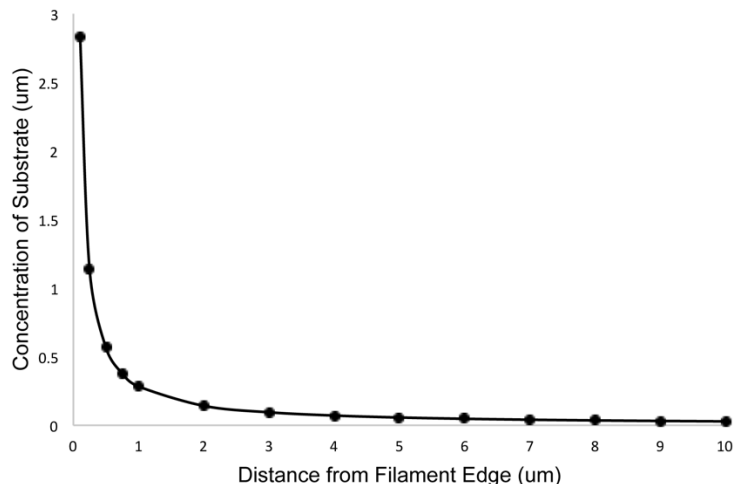
413 **Supplementary Figures:**



414
 415 Figure S1: 3D EEM of cryoconite DOM extracted from sediment (A.) and cryoconite
 416 water (B.) and corresponding percentages of more- and less-labile components.
 417



418
 419 Figure S2: Powder XRD spectral profile of cryoconite sediments, used to illustrate the
 420 interpretation of present constituents. Cryoconite sediment diffraction patterns suggest a
 421 dominance of silicate materials, specifically quartz and corresponding weathering
 422 products.
 423



424

425 Figure S3: Concentration of exuded organic matter in the boundary layer of a cell with a
 426 1.99 μm radius, assuming an exudation rate of 0.5 d^{-1} (Jackson 1987).

427

428 **Supplementary Tables:**

A. Bacterial Community		B. Cyanobacterial Community	
Phylum Level Taxonomic Classification	Relative Abundance (%)	Genus Level Taxonomic Classification	Relative Abundance (%)
<i>Acidobacteria</i>	0.94	<i>Tolypothrix</i>	8.61
<i>Actinobacteria</i>	23.69	<i>Chamaesiphon</i>	6.55
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>	18.81	<i>Pseudanabaena</i>	5.84
<i>Chloroflexi</i>	0.04	<i>Nostoc</i>	12.16
<i>Cyanobacteria</i>	27.37	<i>Phormidium</i>	4.56
<i>Firmicutes</i>	3.80	<i>Oscillatoria</i>	61.30
<i>Gemmatimonadetes</i>	1.93	Unclassified	0.98
<i>Planctomycetes</i>	1.46		
<i>Proteobacteria</i>	21.68		
Unclassified	0.29		

429

430 Table S1: Comparison of the relative abundances of 454 Pyrosequencing sequences for
 431 A.) dominant cryoconite sediment organisms at the phylum taxonomic classification level
 432 and B.) Cyanobacterial sequences at the genus classification.

433

Temperature	Sample Average % Dry Weight \pm SD	Classification	Description
38-105°C	0.49 \pm 0.73	Loss of Water	Crystalline lattice water, and hygroscopic water of salts and organic matter
105-200°C	4.3 \pm 2.08		
200-350°C	2.19 \pm 1.02	Thermolabile	Dominated by carbohydrates
350-520°C	0.76 \pm 0.80	Stable Organic Matter	Oxidation of aromatic groups (lignin, humic substances, kerogens) and char

434

435 Table S2: Triplicate thermo-gravimetric analysis of organic matter (as percentage of dry
 436 weight) from cryoconite sediments, and characterization of organic matter present
 437 (Kristensen, 1990). Total organic matter accounted for 7.7% of the cryoconite dry weight.
 438

OM (% of dry weight)	Cl ⁻ (mg/L)	NO ₂ ⁻ (mg/L)	NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L)	Br ⁻ (mg/L)	PO ₄ ⁻³ (mg/L)	SO ₄ ⁻² (mg/L)	Chl a (μ g L ⁻¹)	Bacteria (cells/g)
7.7	7.31	0.17	0.19	0.1956	0.1998	6.1846	0.22	$1.86 \times 10^{8k} \pm 1.49 \times 10^6$

439

440 Table S3: Biogeochemistry of cryoconite water and bacterial cell abundances plus or
 441 minus the standard deviation (OM= organic matter, Chl a = chlorophyll a)
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