Supplementary methods

Reads containing Illumina Universal Adapters or PhiX were discarded using bbduk version 37.55 (BBTools, https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools) and the remaining reads were demultiplexed using je version 1.2¹. Indexes, heterogeneity spacers and primers were trimmed with cutadapt version 1.14² and the paired end reads were subsequently quality trimmed and merged using bbmerge version 37.55³. The merged contigs were quality filtered using default values in Quantitative Insights Into Microbial Ecology (QIIME) version 1.9.1⁴. Closed reference operational taxonomic unit (OTU) mapping to the Silva database⁵ (version 128, reference OTUs pre-clustered at 97% sequence similarity) was performed using SortMeRNA version 2.0⁶ through QIIME. OTUs with a number of sequences <0.005% of the total number of mapped sequences were discarded as recommended⁷. The samples were rarefied (subsampled) to an OTU count of 10768 per sample, and all further analyses were performed on this rarefied dataset.

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