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Bacteria are important dimethylsulfoniopropionate producers in coastal sediments

Beth T. Williams¹, Kasha Cowles¹, Ana Bermejo Martínez¹, Andrew R. J. Curson¹, Yanfen Zheng^{1,2}, Jingli Liu^{1,2}, Simone Newton-Payne¹, Andrew J. Hind³, Chun-Yang Li², Peter Paolo L. Rivera ¹, Ornella Carrión³, Ji Liu^{1,2}, Lewis G. Spurgin¹, Charles A. Brearley ¹, Brett Wagner Mackenzie⁴, Benjamin J. Pinchbeck¹, Ming Peng⁵, Jennifer Pratscher⁶, Xiao-Hua Zhang², Yu-Zhong Zhang⁵, J. Colin Murrell³ and Jonathan D. Todd ^{1*}

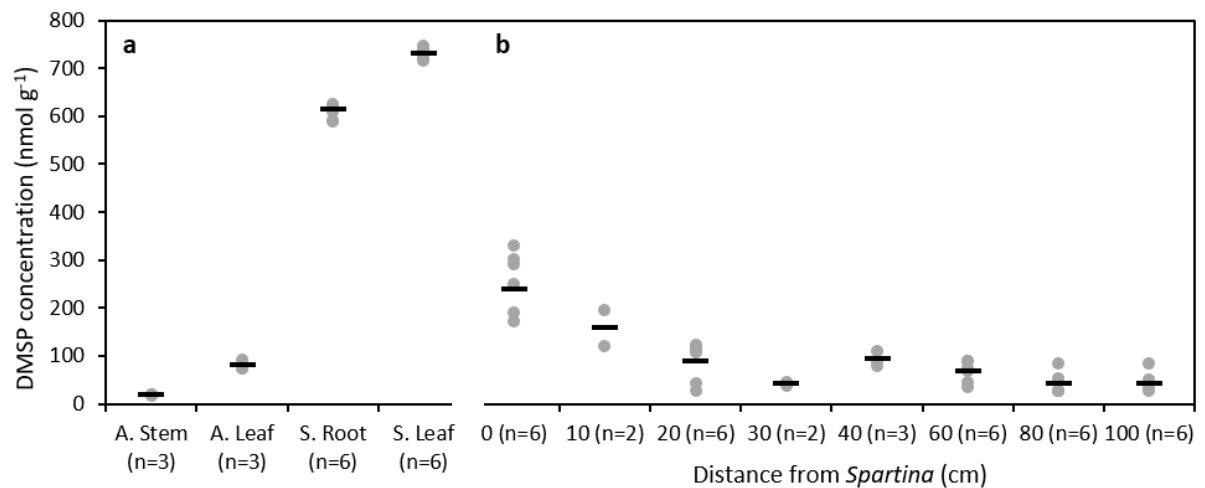
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Bacteria are important dimethylsulfoniopropionate producers in coastal sediments

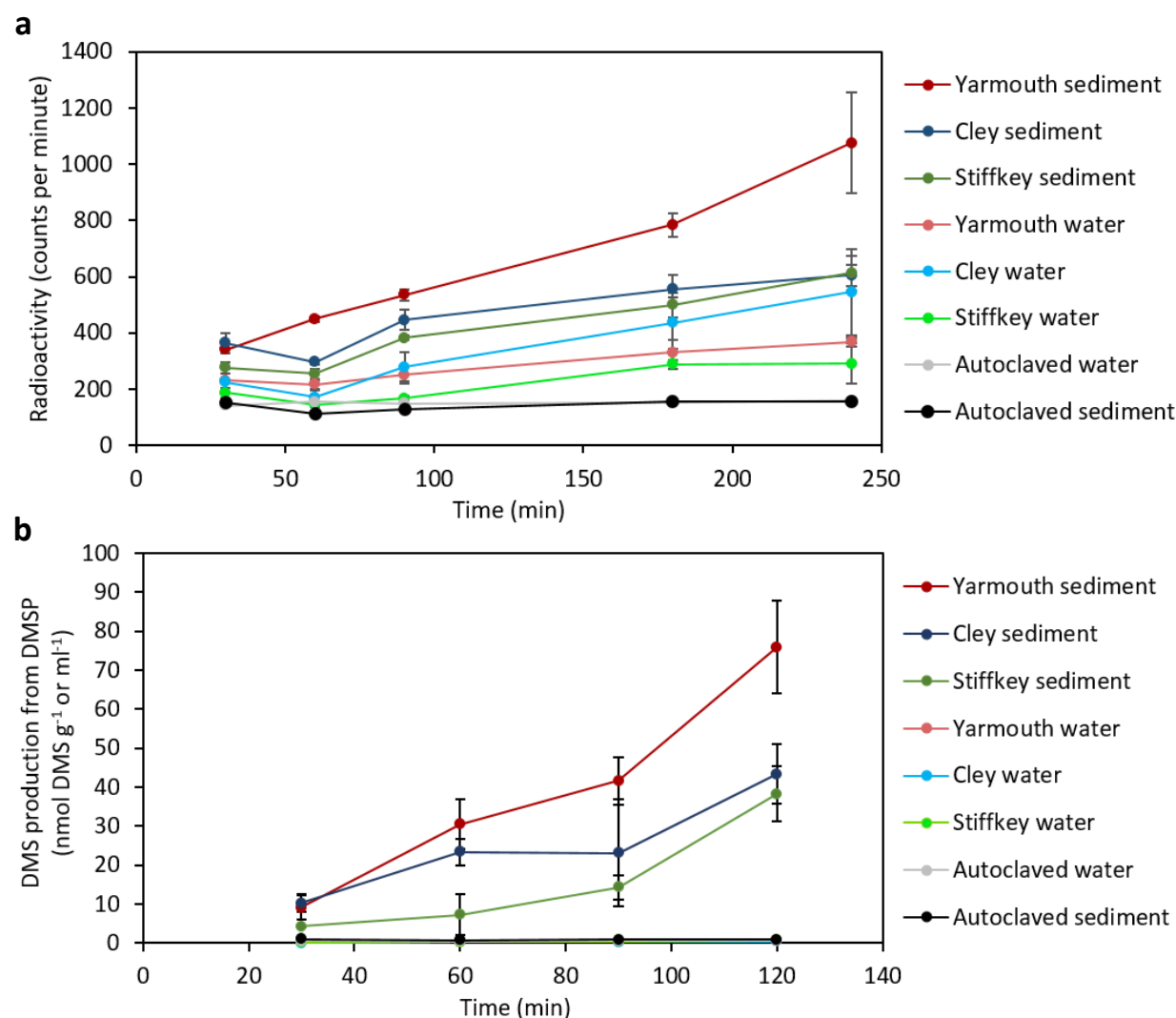
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Supplementary Information

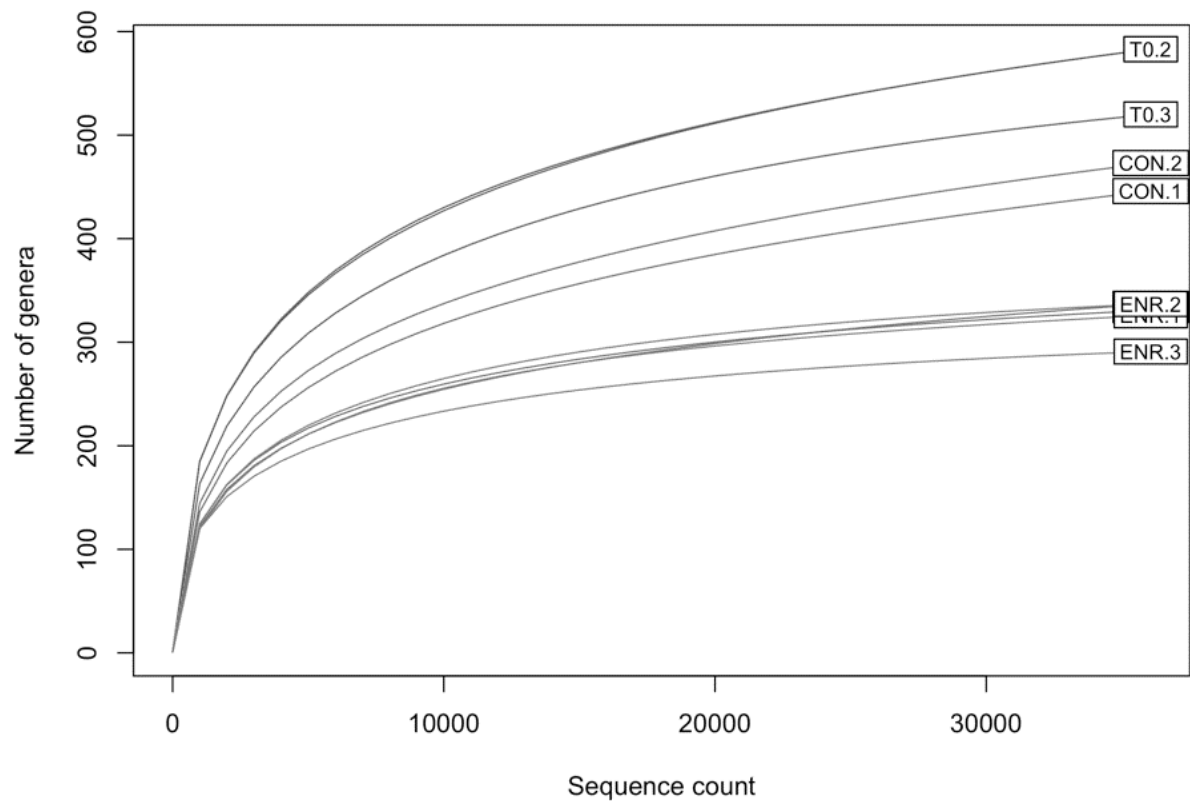
Supplementary Figures:



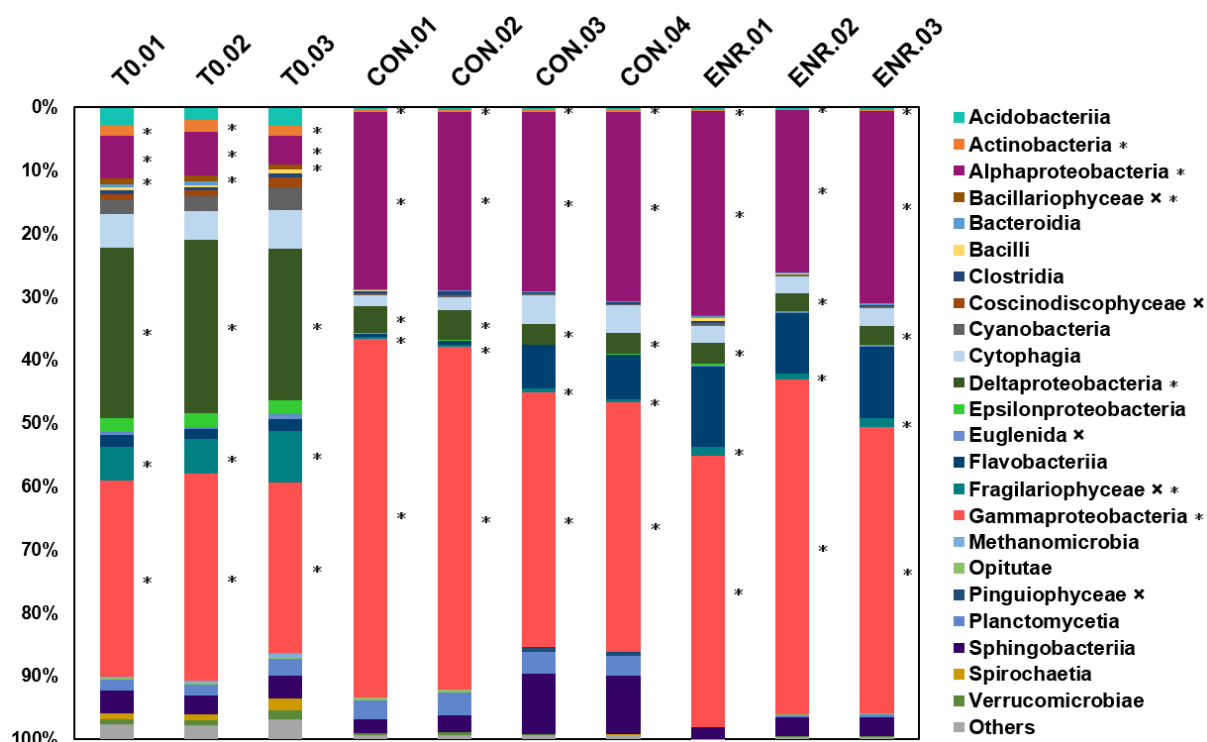
Supplementary Figure 1. (a) DMSP concentration in leaf, root and stem material from *Aster tripolium* (A.) and *Spartina anglica* (S.) growing around the edges of sampled Great Yarmouth estuary and Stiffkey saltmarsh ponds, respectively (n=3 and n=6 biologically independent samples respectively, the black line represents the mean value). (b) DMSP concentration in Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment samples moving away from the *S. anglica* from 0 cm to 100 cm (n=2, n=3 and n=6 biologically independent samples, the black line represents the mean value).



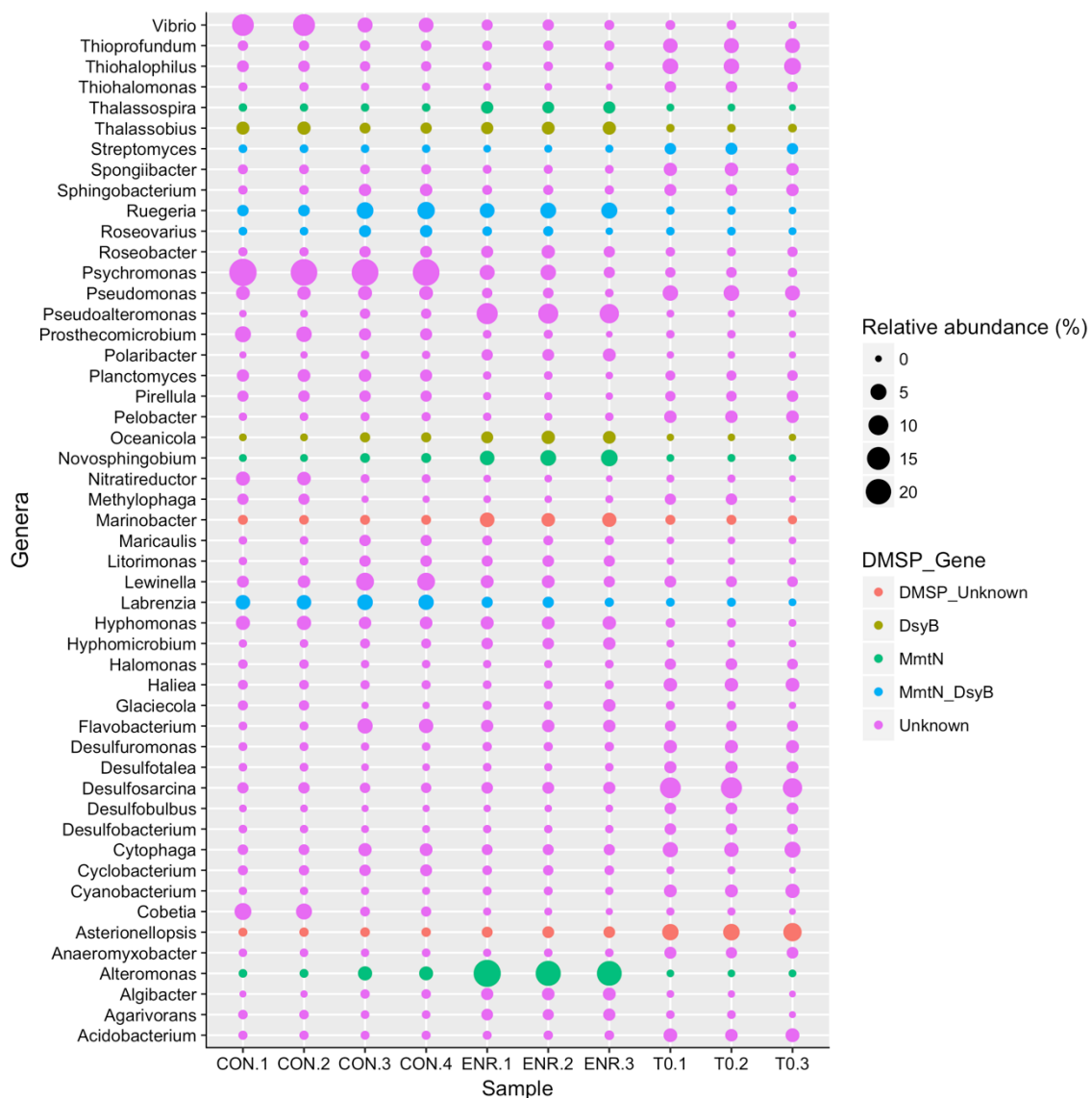
Supplementary Figure 2. (a) DMSP production from varied marine sediment and overlying seawater samples when incubated with L-[methyl-³H]-methionine, measured on the basis of the amount of radioactivity (counts per minute) due to ³H-DMS release from DMSP following alkaline lysis (n=3 biologically independent samples). Autoclaved sediment and seawater samples were used as negative controls. (b) DMS produced from varied marine sediment and overlying seawater samples when incubated with 0.1 mM DMSP (n=3 biologically independent samples). Autoclaved sediment and seawater samples were used as negative controls. Error bars represent standard deviation from the mean value.



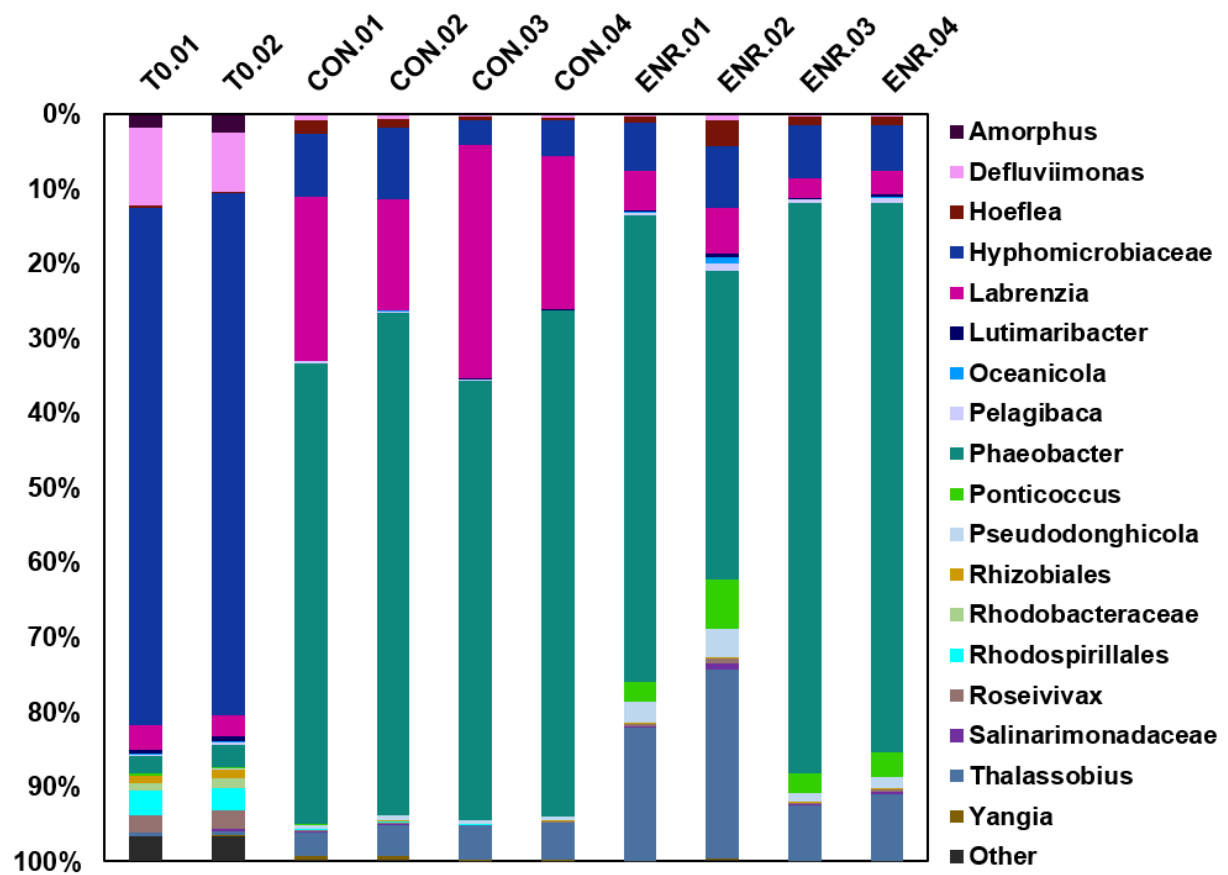
Supplementary Figure 3. Alpha diversity rarefaction curves of the 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing data denoted as the number of genera at an even sample depth of 36,066 sequences per sample. Samples are labelled by treatment (T0 (n=3 biologically independent samples), CON (n=4 biologically independent samples), ENR (n=3 biologically independent samples)). The mean number of genera $\pm$ standard deviation for each group are as follows: Time zero = 562 ± 36.4 , Control = 396.8 ± 73.3 , Enriched = 318 ± 24 .



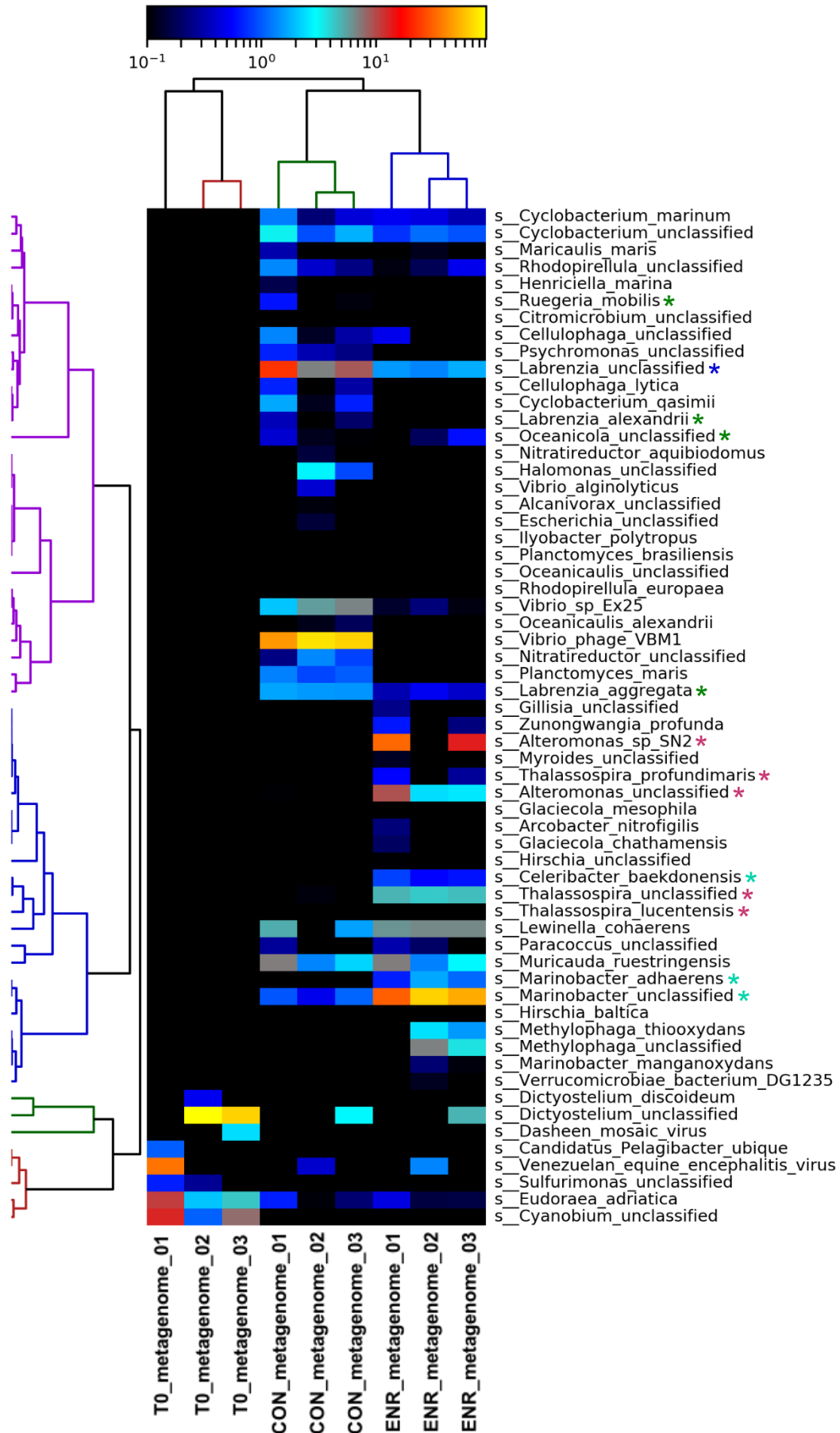
Supplementary Figure 4. Taxonomic profiling of the 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing data showing percentage abundance at the class level from natural Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment (Time 0) (n=3 biologically independent samples), and from ‘Control’ (n=4 biologically independent samples), and ‘Enriched’ (n=3 biologically independent samples), incubation experiments after 14 days. Only classes that are $\geq 0.5\%$ abundant are represented. (*) indicates those classes known to include DMSP-producing members, (x) indicates classes belonging to Eukaryotes.



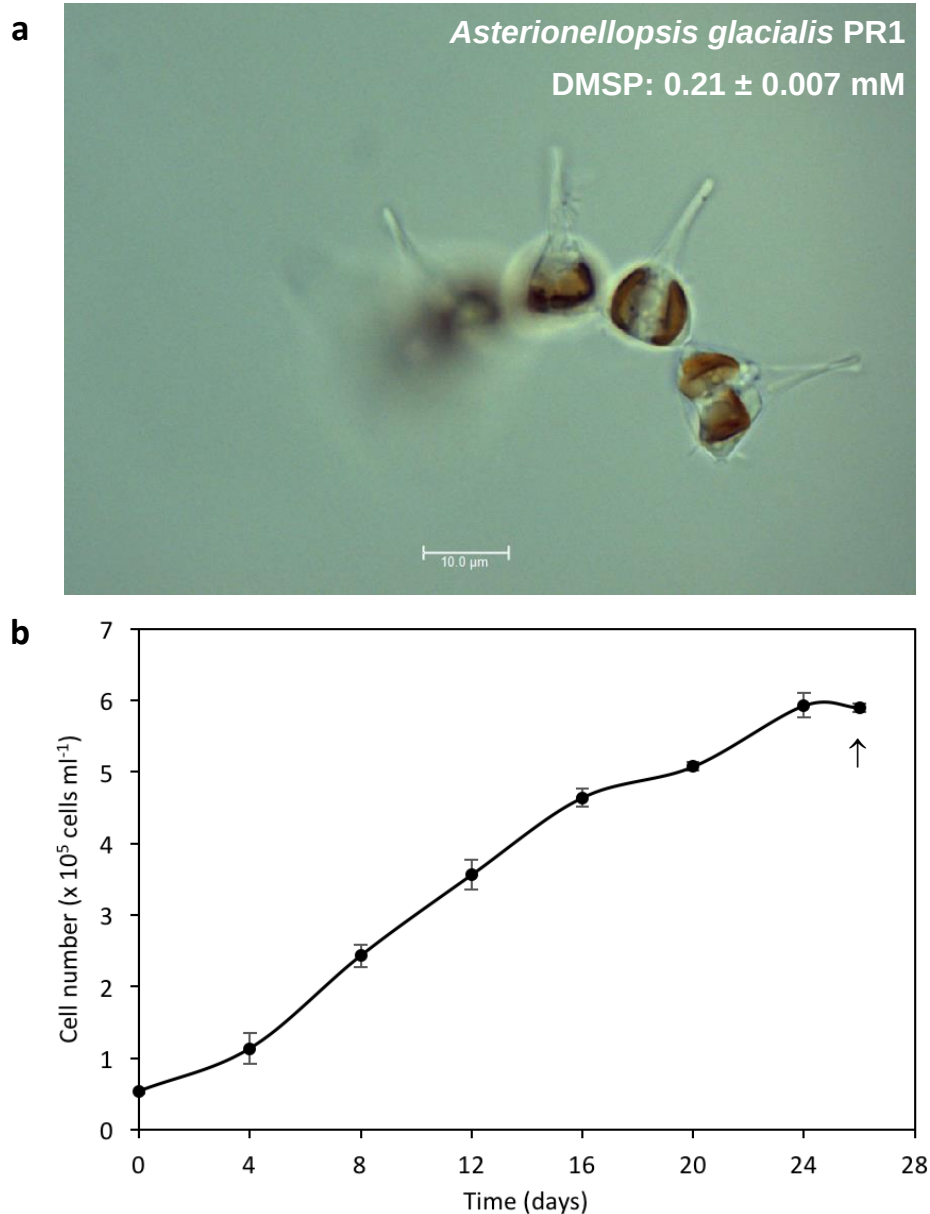
Supplementary Figure 5. Bubble plot depicting the 50 most abundant genera from the 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing data from natural Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment (T0= Time zero independent replicates 1-3), and from control (CON, replicates 1-4) and enriched (ENR, replicates 1-3) incubation experiments after 14 days. Bubble areas in the panel are proportional to the relative sequence abundances of microbial groups in each sample denoted by ‘Relative abundance (%)’ (e.g. 0 = 0 - 5 % relative abundance, 5 = 5 - 10 % relative abundance). Bubbles are coloured to indicate those genera that contain *mmtN* (green), *dsyB* (olive), both *mmtN* and *dsyB* (blue), those which contain representatives that produce DMSP with unknown DMSP synthesis genes (orange), and those genera not known to produce DMSP (pink).



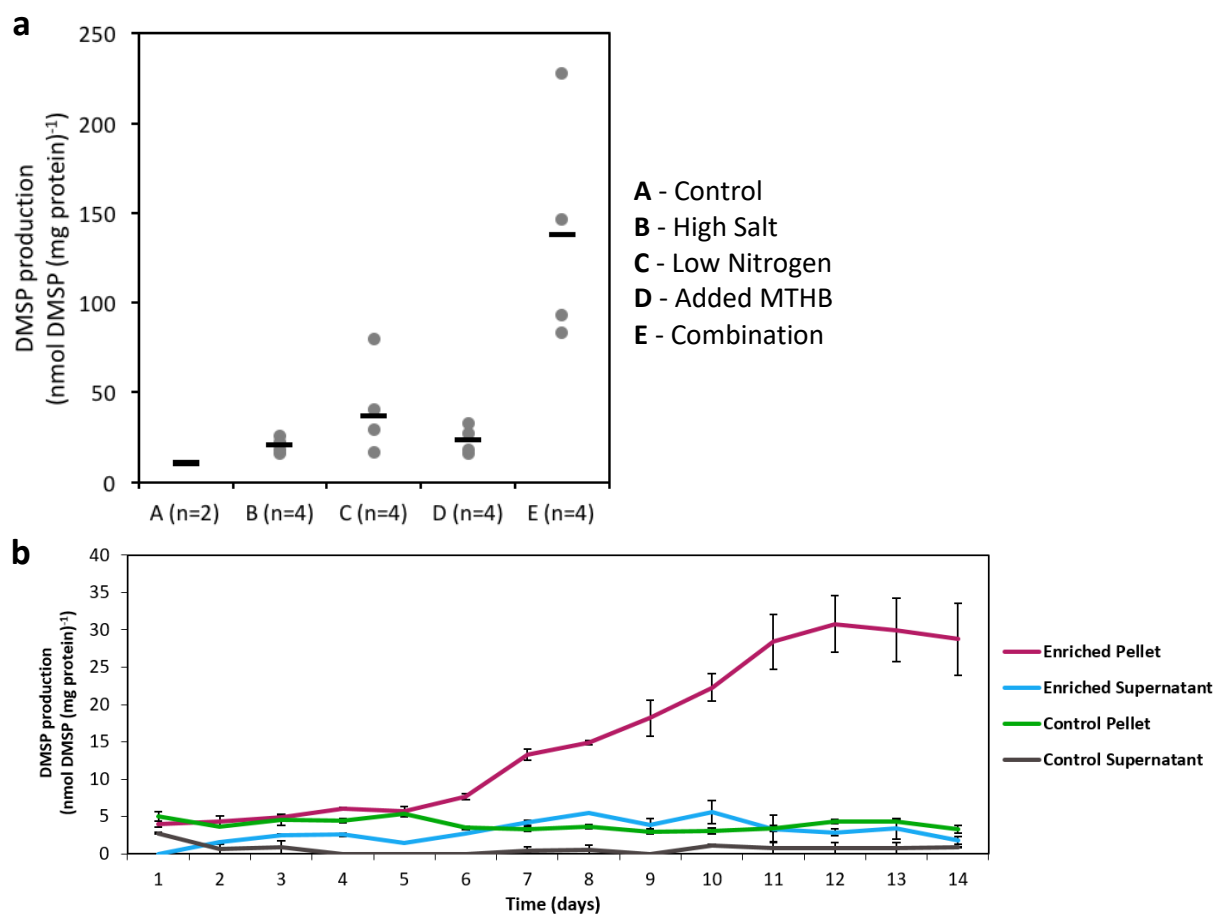
Supplementary Figure 6. Taxonomic profiling of the diversity of the *dsyB* gene amplicon sequencing data showing percentage abundance at the genus level from natural Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment (Time 0) (n=2 biologically independent samples), and from ‘Control’ (n=4 biologically independent samples), and ‘Enriched’ (n=4 biologically independent samples), incubation experiments after 14 days. Only classes that are ≥ 0.5 % abundant are represented.



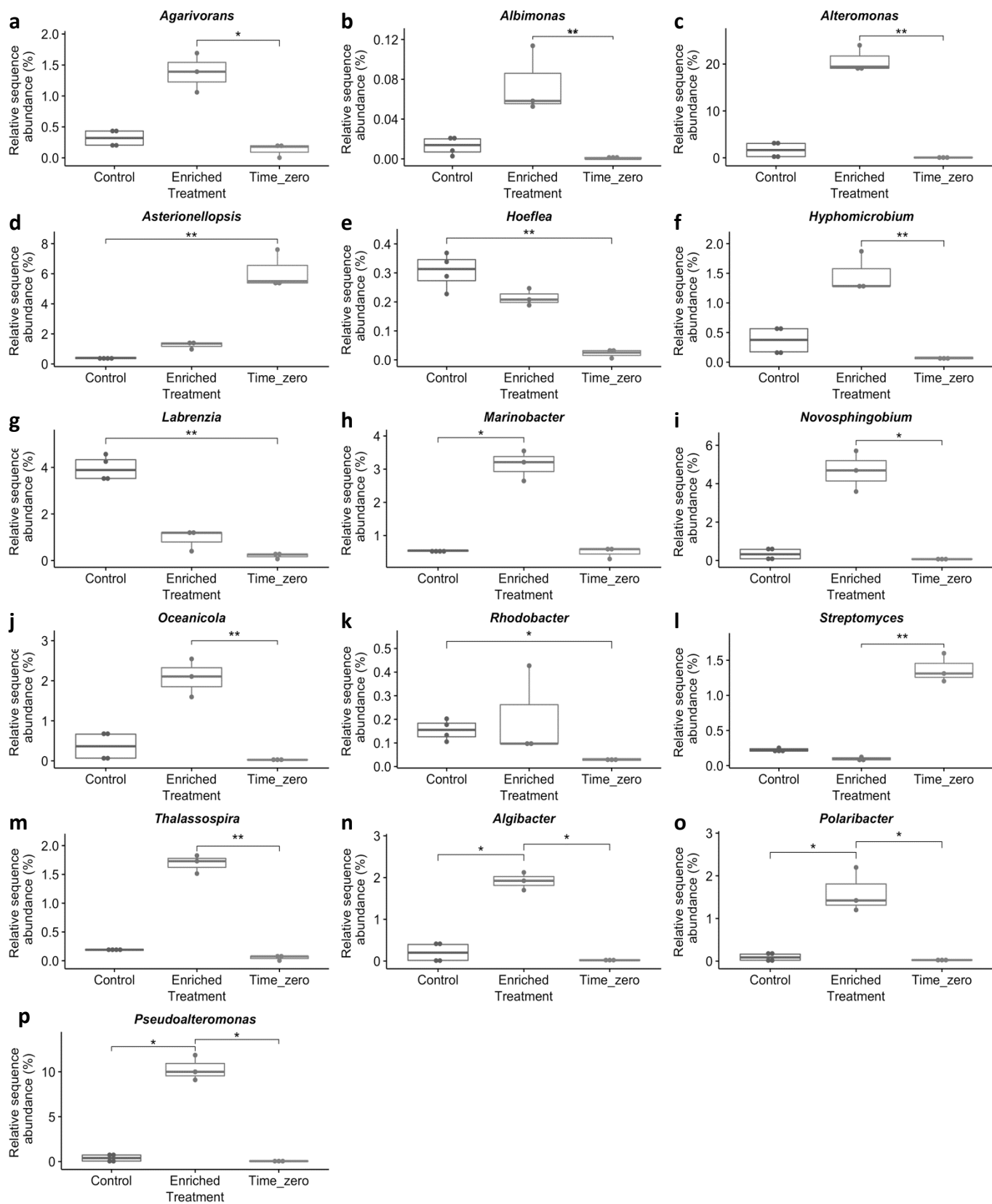
Supplementary Figure 7. Species level phylogenetic analysis of the metagenomes from natural Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment (T0_metagenome_01-03), and from control (CON_metagenome_01-03) and enriched (ENR_metagenome_01-03) incubation experiments after 14 days (n=3 pooled samples). Abundance for species is in logarithmic scale reporting the 100 most abundant clades according to the 90th percentile of the abundance of each clade with a custom colour map. Hierarchical clustering is performed with average linkage, using Bray-Curtis distance for clades (the tree on the left) with 1M unique clade-specific marker genes identified from ~17,000 reference bacterial, archaeal, viral and eukaryotic genomes, and using correlation for similarity and relatedness between samples (the tree at the top). All the descendent links below a cluster node are the same color if it is the first node below the cut threshold. The genera/species marked with coloured * indicate those that contain *mmtN* (pink), *dsyB* (green), both *mmtN* and *dsyB* (blue), and those which contain representatives that produce DMSP with unknown DMSP synthesis genes (cyan) (Supplementary Table 4). Note: for DMSP categories, species level correlations take precedent over predictions based at the genus level.



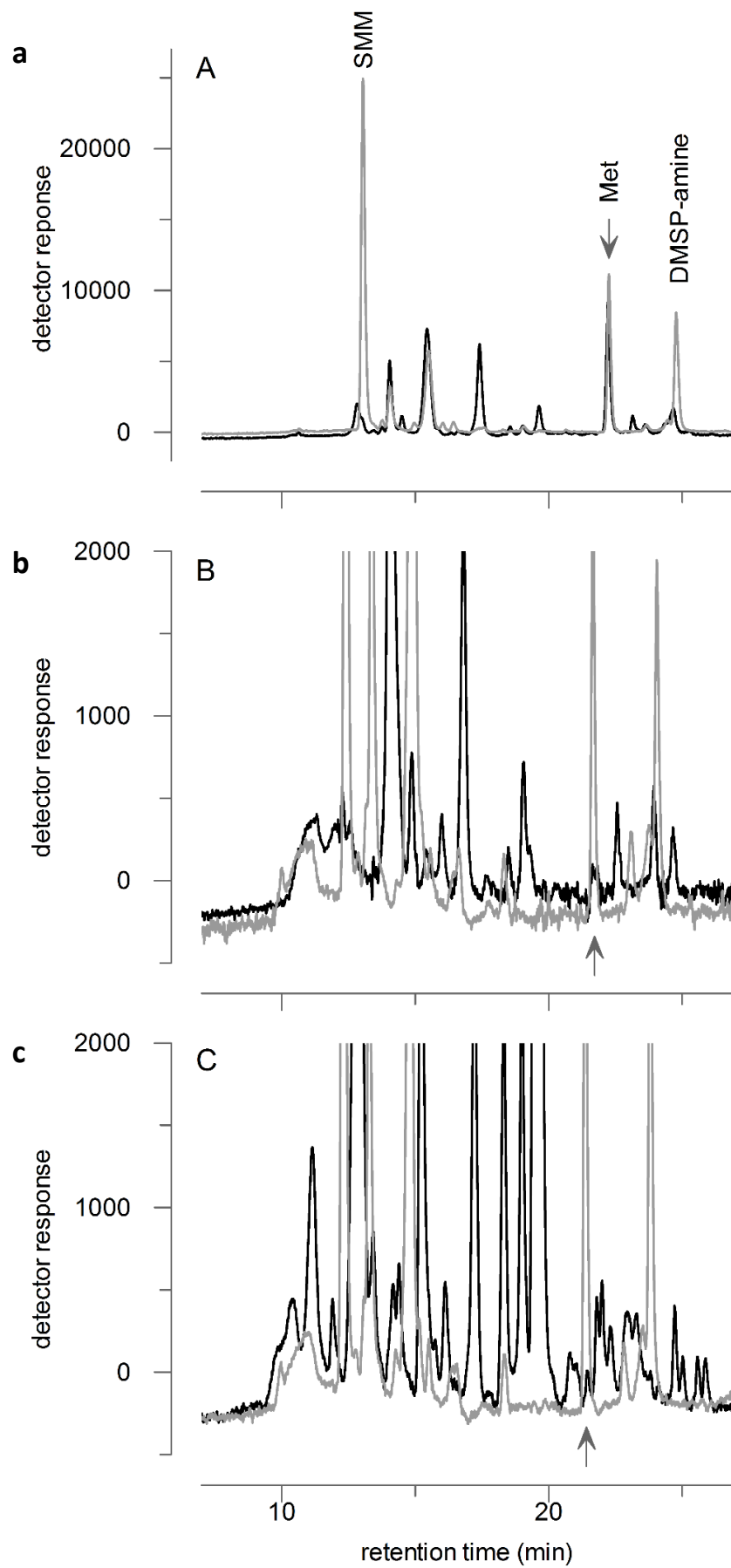
Supplementary Figure 8. (A) Light microscopy image of a colony of *Asterionellopsis glacialis* PR1 isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment. The image was taken by optical microscopy using a Leica DM6000 fitted with a 100x objective. Each of the spikes belongs to a single diatom. The intracellular DMSP concentration is indicated ($n=3$ biologically independent samples, with the mean value calculated). (B) Growth of *A. glacialis* PR1 over 26 days, $\uparrow$ indicates day of sampling for quantification of DMSP. Error bars display standard deviation of triplicate biological replicates from the mean value ($n=3$ biologically independent samples).



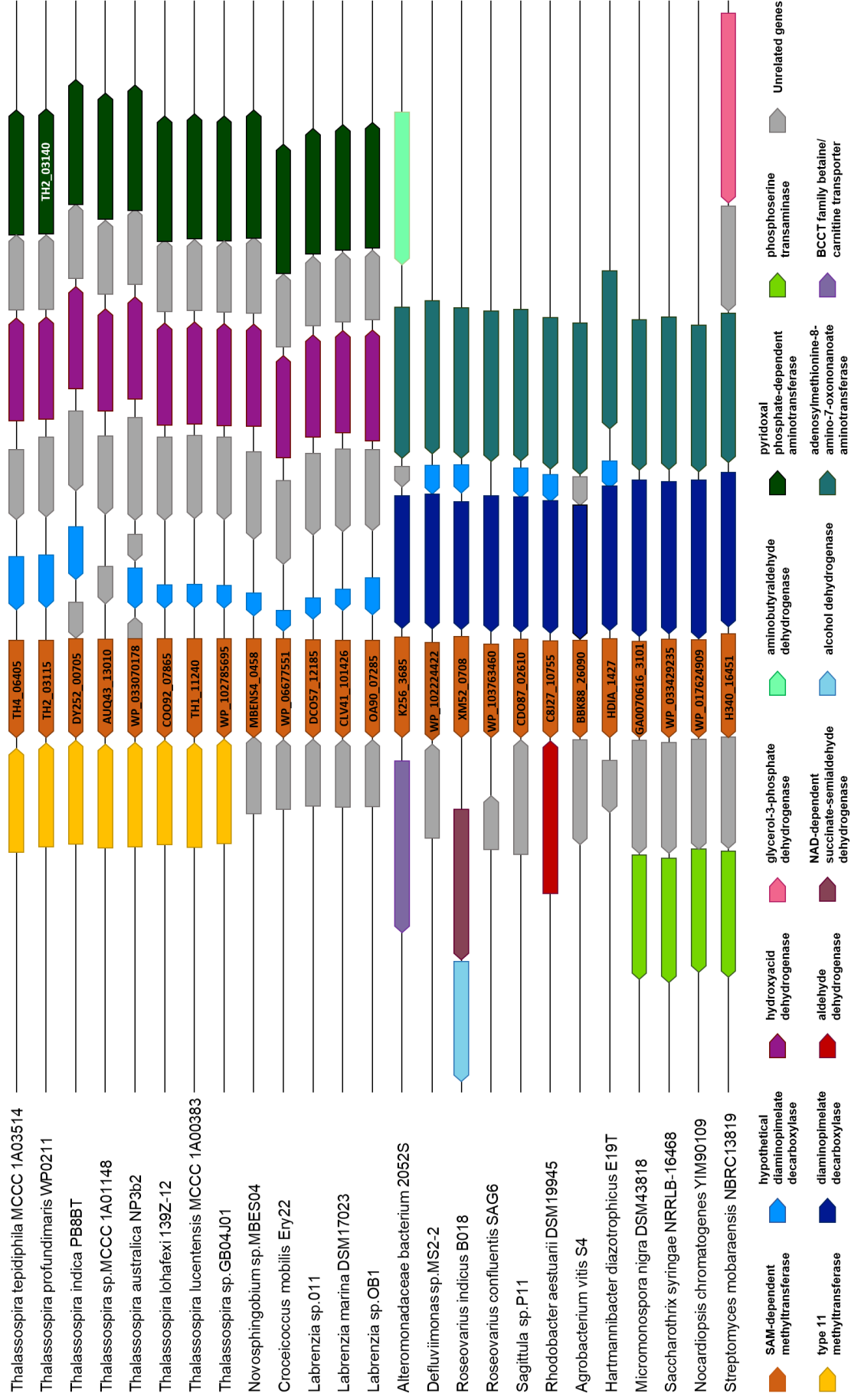
Supplementary Figure 9. Incubation experiments used to develop an enrichment method for DMSP-producing bacteria from Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment. (a) DMSP (nmol DMSP (mg protein)⁻¹) was monitored in the particulate (after centrifugation) after 7 day incubations of sediment slurry from Stiffkey saltmarsh. Control condition was MBM (35 PSU, 10 mM NH₄Cl), other conditions tested were high salinity, reduced nitrogen levels (0.5 mM NH₄Cl), additional MTHB (0.1 mM) and a combination of all these conditions. (n=2 and 4 biologically independent samples, the black line represents the mean value) (b) A combination media was selected (see Methods) and DMSP was monitored in the supernatant and pellet (following centrifugation) of sediment slurry experimental samples over an incubation period of 14 days. (n=3 biologically independent samples), error bars represent standard deviation from the mean value.



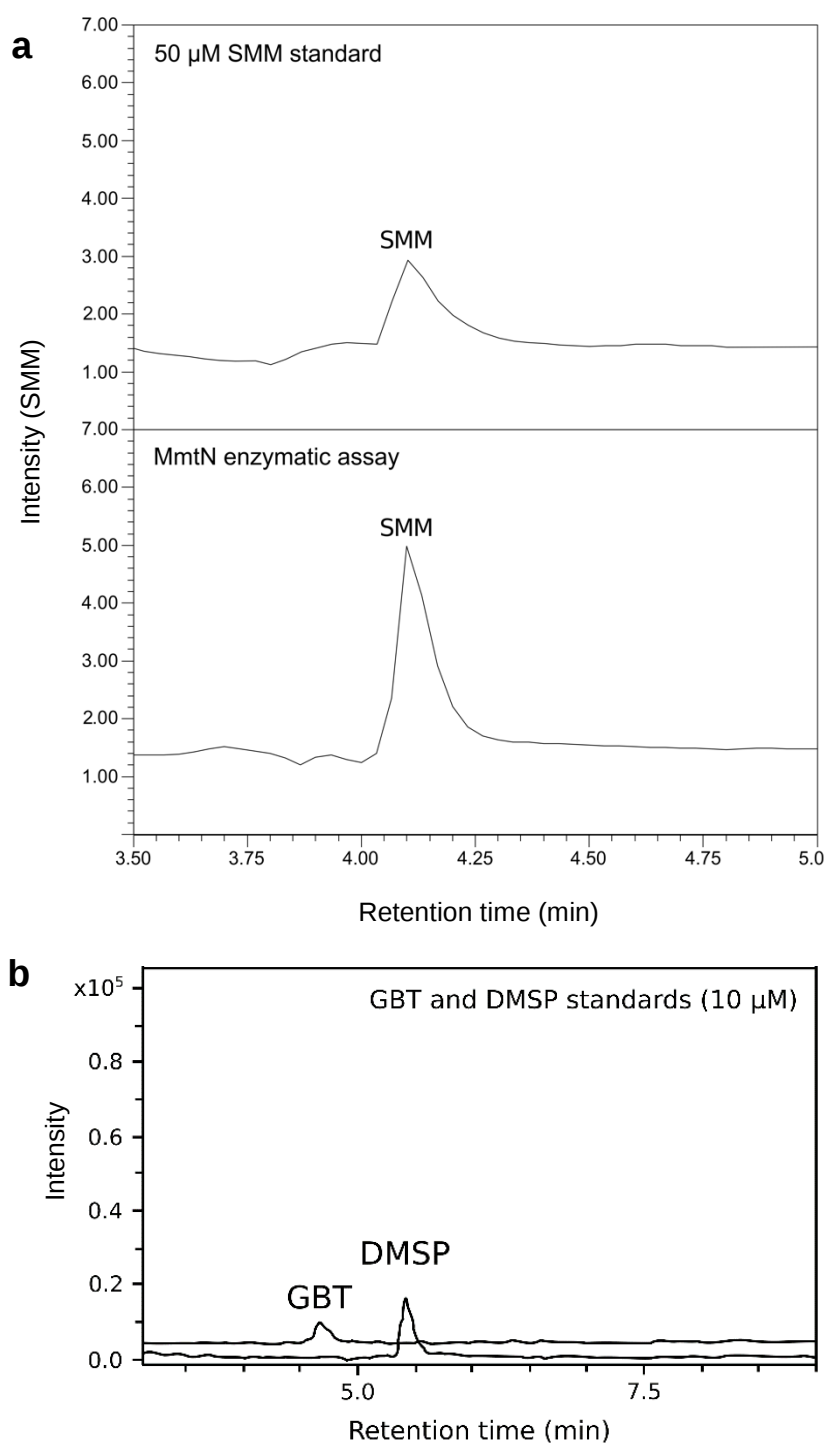
Supplementary Figure 10. Box plots showing relative sequence abundances of genera from the 16S rRNA gene amplicon data from Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment (Time zero, n=3 independent replicates), and from control (n=4 independent replicates) and enriched (n=3 independent replicates) incubation experiments after 14 days. Known DMSP-producing genera are shown (a-m) alongside genera not known to make DMSP but whose abundance was significantly higher in the enriched experiments (n-p). Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test generated overall p-values that indicated a significant difference existed at least once, and then pairwise comparisons were made between treatments using Dunn's test with "BH" p-value adjustment (precise p values are in Supplementary Table 6). Significance values are indicated as follows: * = $p \leq 0.05$, ** = $p \leq 0.01$, and *** = $p \leq 0.001$. Median values are indicated by the solid line within each box, and the box extends to upper and lower quartile values. Outlier data points are indicated by closed circles.



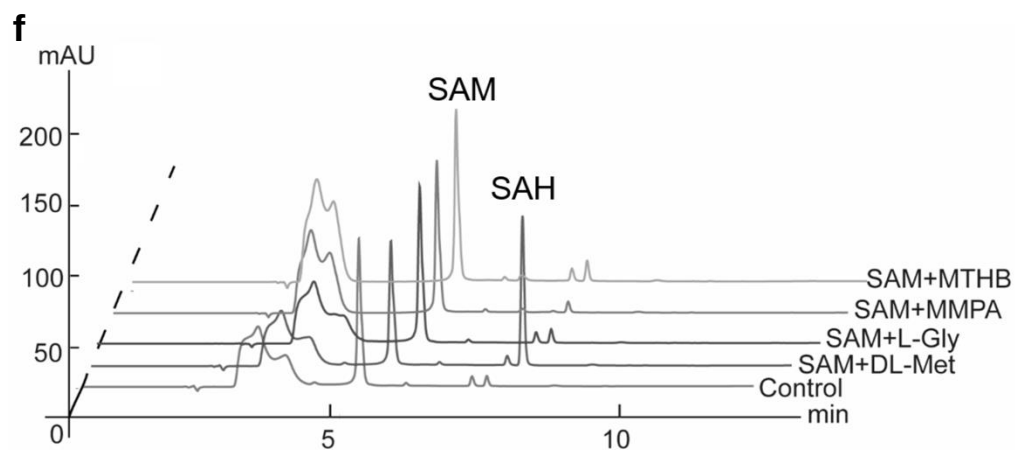
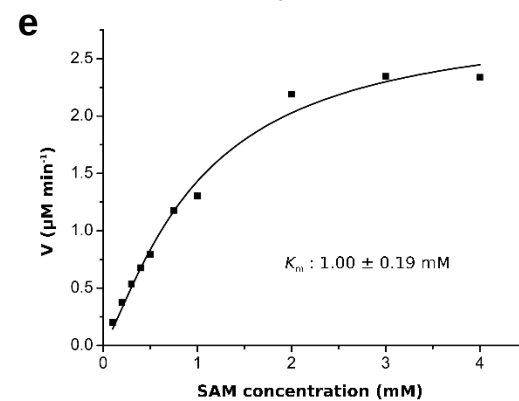
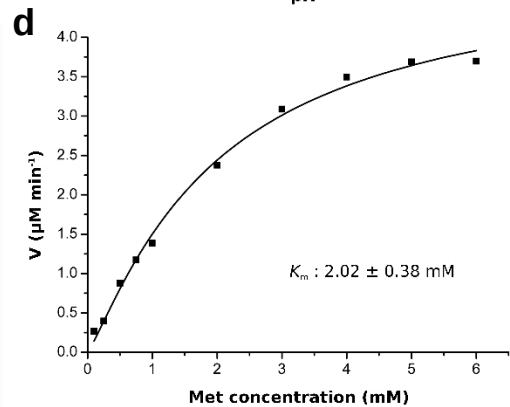
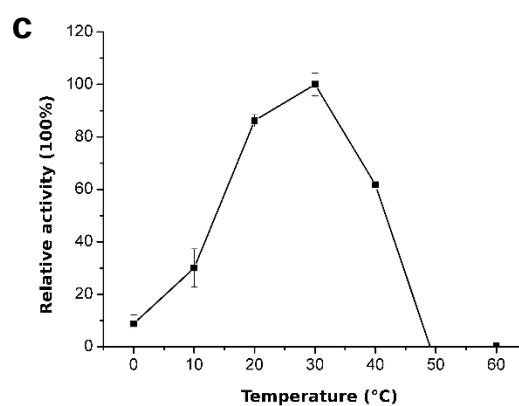
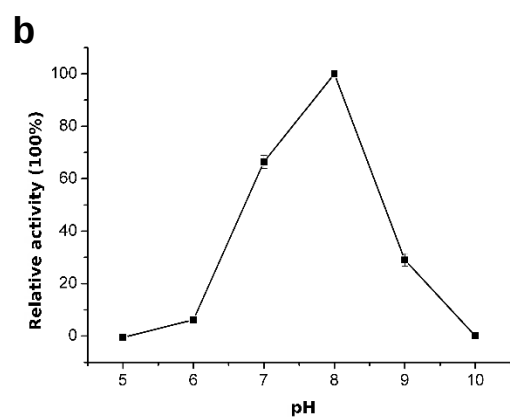
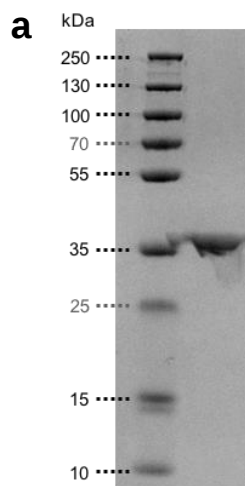
Supplementary Figure 11. Measurement of SMM, Met and DMSP-amine as fluorescent adducts of ortho-phthaldialdehyde, in seawater, sediment and cell extracts. (a) Standards (20 μ M) of SMM, Met and DMSP-amine (grey) and 50x diluted *Novosphingobium* sp. BW1 cell extract (black); (b) Standards (5 μ M) of SMM, Met and DMSP-amine (grey) and Stiffkey seawater (black); (c) Standards (10 μ M) of SMM, Met and DMSP-amine (grey) and 5x diluted Stiffkey oxic sediment. For A, B and C, the peak of methionine is indicated with an arrow. Precise co-elution of Met and DMSP-amine was further confirmed by spiking the *Novosphingobium* sample with 5 μ M each of Met and DMSP-amine; co-elution of the Met peak with standard was confirmed for seawater and sediment samples by spiking the samples with 1 μ M Met. While the peak of SMM standard co-eluted precisely with a very weak shoulder on a broad, unresolved peak in the *Novosphingobium* extract, the identification was considered inadequate. Experiment was performed once and measurements were performed in triplicate.



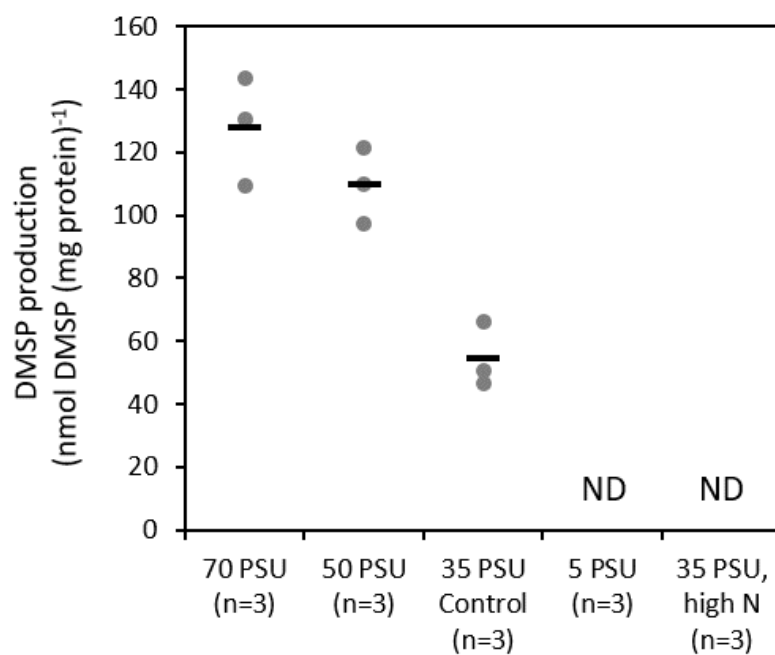
Supplementary Figure 12. Gene maps showing genomic locations of *mmtN* in selected *mmtN*-containing bacteria. The species names of the bacteria are indicated with their strain identifier. Genes are indicated as arrows and are to scale. The *mmtN* gene is shown in orange and belongs to a family of SAM-dependent methyltransferases. The *mmtN* gene locus tag of each species is indicated within the gene. A colour coded key indicates the predicted protein products of the genes immediately surrounding *mmtN*, many of which are predicted to be involved in DMSP synthesis in the respective bacteria. Grey arrows indicate genes that are not currently known/predicted to be involved in DMSP synthesis. All of the coloured genes shown for *Novosphingobium* sp. MBES04 are present in the *Novosphingobium* sp. BW1 cosmids pBIO0438 and pBIO0782. The aminotransferase gene (TH2_03140) knocked out in *T. profundimaris* strain J597 (with a reduced DMSP production phenotype) is indicated.



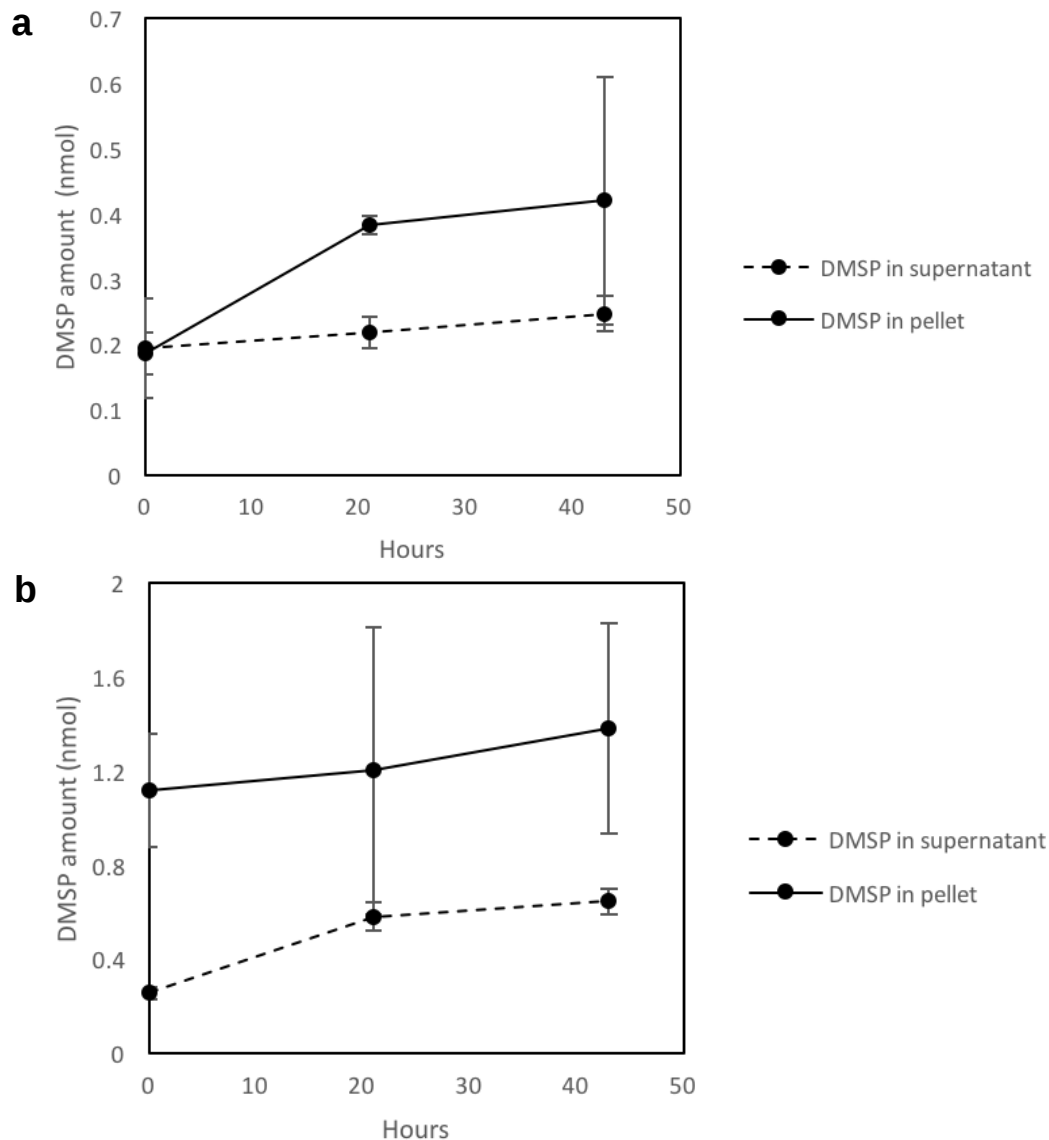
Supplementary Figure 13. (a) LC-MS chromatograms of 50 μ M SMM (m/z 165) standard and of the SMM reaction product of purified MmtN protein when incubated with both Met and AdoMet. (b) LC-MS chromatogram showing DMSP (m/z 135) and GBT (m/z 118) 10 μ M standards. Experiment was performed once with measurements in triplicate.



Supplementary Figure 14. Characterisation of MmtN. All experiments were repeated three times with similar results. (a) A 1:10 dilution of purified His-tagged MmtN run on a 12 % precast SDS-PAGE gel alongside PageRuler™ Plus Prestained Protein Ladder, 10 to 250 kDa (Sigma). (b-f) Protein characterisation, where relative activity is determined as the production of SAH from SAM. (n=3 parallel experiments, error bars represent standard deviation away from the mean value). An uncropped version of this gel is in Supplementary Fig. 18. (b) The effect of pH on the enzymatic activity of MmtN. Activity at pH 8.0 was defined as 100%. (c) The effect of temperature on the enzymatic activity of MmtN. Activity at 30°C was defined as 100%. (d) A non-linear fit curve for Met methylation by MmtN. Initial rates of SAH generation were determined with 3.34 μ M MmtN and 0.1 – 6 mM Met in the reaction buffer. The kinetic constants of MmtN were measured under the optimal pH (8.0) and optimal temperature (30°C). K_M was 2.02 ± 0.38 mM. (e) A non-linear fit curve for SAM demethylation by MmtN. Initial rates of SAH generation were determined with 3.34 μ M MmtN and 0.1 – 4 mM SAM in the reaction buffer, also at pH 8 and 30°C. K_M was 1.00 ± 0.19 mM. (f) Detection of the MTHB, MMPA, L-Gly and DL-Met methylation activity of MmtN via the intensity of absorbance of SAM/SAH on HPLC (260 nm), alongside a control of just the MmtN enzyme. The separate traces represent different reaction systems and include different potential substrates.



Supplementary Figure 15. The effect of increased (50, 70 PSU) / decreased (5 PSU) salinity or increased nitrogen (10 mM NH₄Cl) on DMSP levels in *T. profundimaris* DSM17430 versus a control condition of 35 PSU, 0.5 mM NH₄Cl. (n=3 biologically independent samples, the black line represents the mean value). ND, not detected.

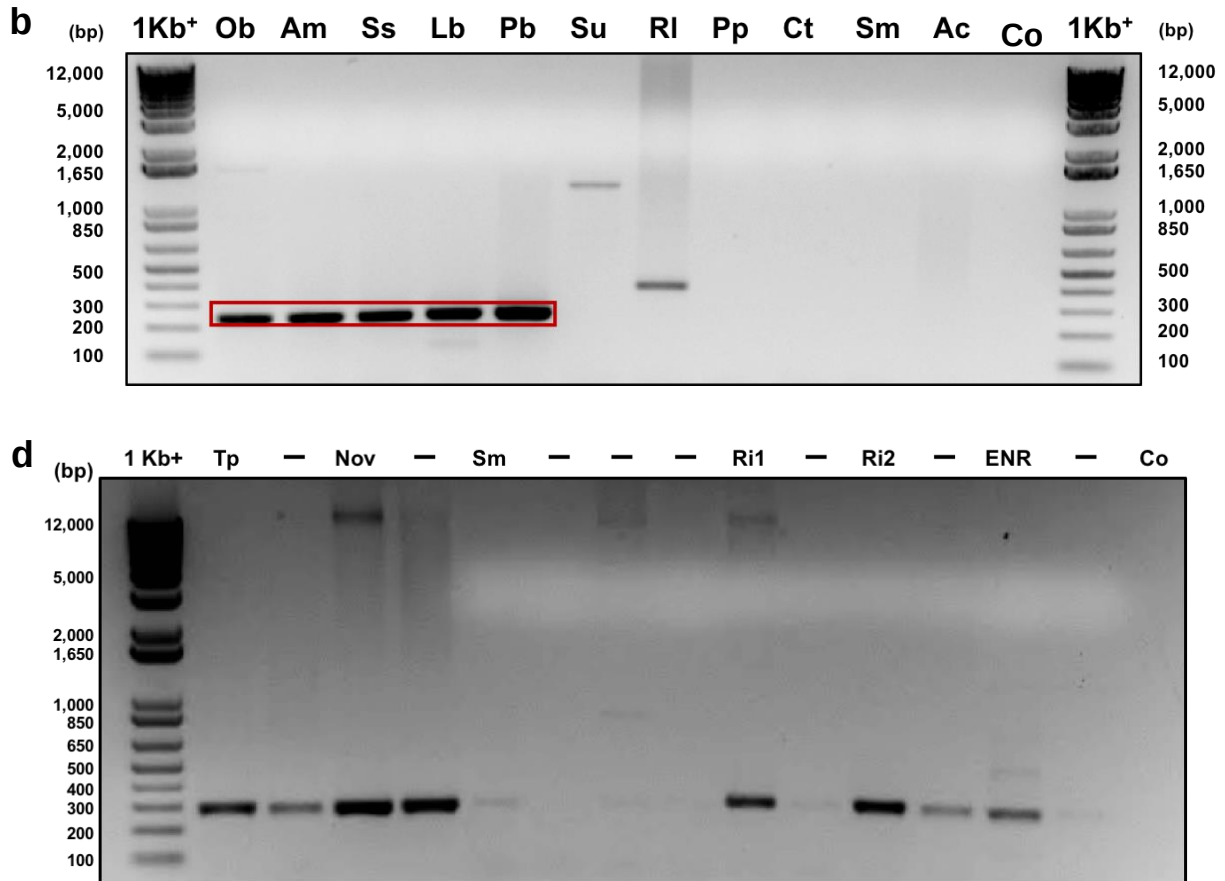


Supplementary Figure 16. DMSP amounts in axenic bacterial cells (pellet) and their cell-free supernatant when incubated in sterilised natural seawater (a) The *dsyB*-containing isolate, *P. bermudensis*, and (b) the *mmtN*-containing isolate *Novosphingobium* sp. BW1. Samples were taken at time zero, after 21 hours and 43 hours (for a-b), and the DMSP determined by alkaline lysis purge and trap GC quantification. Error bars display standard deviation from the mean value (n=3 biologically independent samples). Note that the *L. aggregata dsyB*⁻ strain imports the DMSP from the seawater after 21 hours incubation (in pellet), whereas all wild type DMSP-producing bacteria show increased intracellular (pellet) and extracellular (supernatant) DMSP levels after 21 and 43 hours incubation.

Thalassospira sp.HJ
Thalassospira sp.MOCC1A01148 *
Thalassospira profundimaris_01
Thalassospira tepidiphila
Thalassospira sp. MOCC_1A02898
Thalassospira profundimaris_02
Thalassospira australica
Thalassospira lohafexi
Thalassospira lucentensis
Thalassospira sp.GB04J01
Labrenzia marina
Labrenzia sp.011
Labrenzia sp.0B1
Roseovarius indicus *
Roseovarius confluentis
Sagittula sp.P11
Defluviimonas sp.MS2-2
Rhodobacter aestuarii
Novosphingobium sp.MBES04 *
Micromonospora nigra
OMRCJ.T30904_25855 | 70 MES_0d2-0d45 scaffold23526_1_gene25855 *
NP_001104941.2 methionine S-methyltransferase [Zea mays] # _#
NC_001100000 coralloides DSM 2259 #

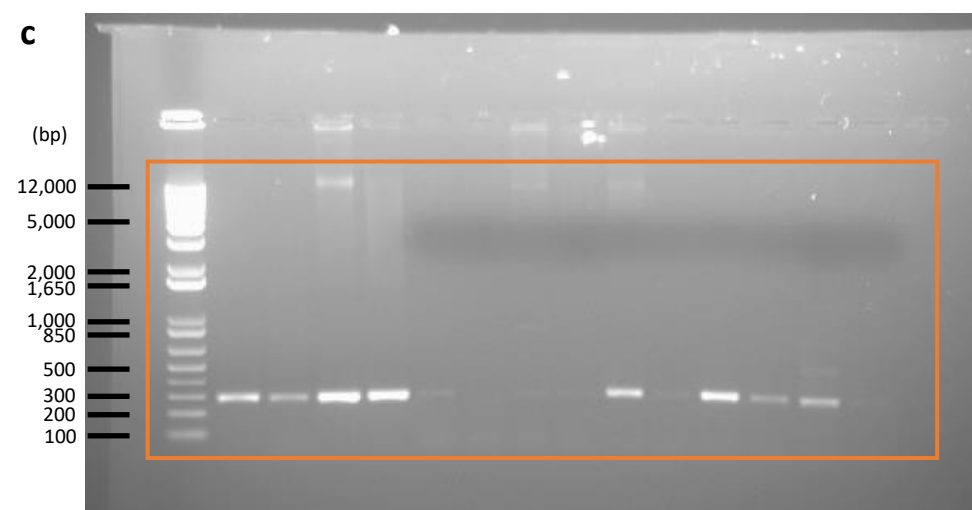
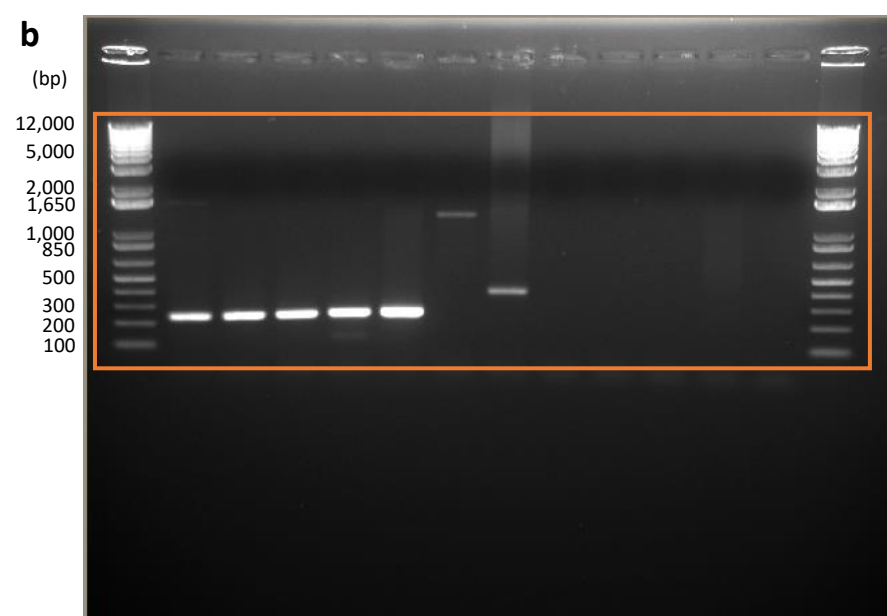
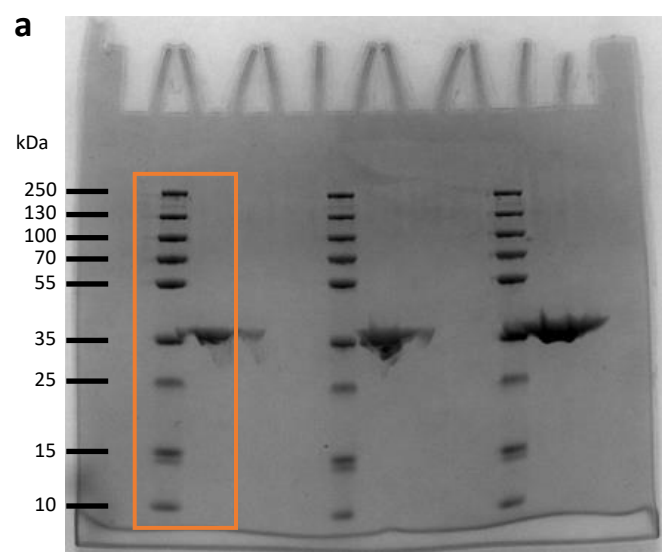
mmtN_degF

[illegible]



Supplementary Figure 17. (a) Alignment of functional DsyB protein sequences and non-functional DsyB-like sequences (#) (Curson *et al.*^{1,6}). The amino acid locations spanning the dsyB_deg1F (teal) and the dsyB_deg2R (orange) primer sequences are indicated, as are the DsyB amino acid locations. Strains used in primer optimisation are indicated by *. (b) The optimised PCR amplification of *dsyB* from genomic DNA using *dsyB* degenerate primers. Positive controls include *O. batsensis* (Ob), *A. coralli* (Am), *S. stellata* E-37 (Ss), *L. aggregata* LZB033 (Lb) and *P. bermudensis* HTCC2597 (Pb); negative controls include *Sulfitobacter* EE36 (Su), *R. leguminosarum* J391 (RI); negative controls containing the eukaryotic *DSYB* gene include *Prymnesium parvum* (Pp), *Chrysochromulina tobin* (Ct), *Symbiodinium microadriaticum* (Sm) and *Acropora cervicornis* (Ac); and a water control (Co). *dsyB* is indicated by a 246 bp fragment (the red box) in all positive controls. This experiment was

repeated three times with similar results. (c) Alignment of functional MmtN protein sequences and the N-terminus of *Zea mays* MMT, and a bacterial MMT sequence (#). The amino acid locations spanning the mmtN_degF (blue) and the mmtN_degR (green) primer sequences are indicated, as are the MmtN amino acid locations. Strains used in primer optimisation are indicated by *. (d) The optimised PCR amplification of *mntN* from genomic DNA using *mntN* degenerate primers. Positive controls include *T. profundimaris* (Tp), *Novosphingobium* sp. BW1 (Nov), *S. mobaraensis* (Sm), *R. indicus* (Ri1+2) and environmental DNA from the enriched sediment (ENR); and a water control (Co). Lanes marked with (–) relate to test PCR cycles not used in this manuscript. *mntN* is indicated by a 301 bp fragment in all positive controls. This experiment was repeated two times with similar results. Uncropped versions of these gel images are in Supplementary Fig. 18.



Supplementary Figure 18. (a) The full length, unmanipulated 12% SDS-PAGE gel of Supplementary Figure 14a (purified His-tagged MmtN) plus Prestained Protein Ladder. Also the full length agarose gel images of (b) Supplementary Figure 17b (the optimised PCR amplification of *dsyB* from genomic DNA using *dsyB* degenerate primers) plus 1Kb+ ladder and (c) Supplementary Figure 17d (The optimised PCR amplification of *mmtN* from genomic DNA using *mmtN* degenerate primers) plus 1Kb+ ladder. Orange boxes display where the gel images were cropped.

Supplementary Tables:

Supplementary Table 1. (a) Characteristics of sampling sites including DMSP concentration of sediment and overlying seawater at selected sampling sites. (b) DMSP concentrations in Stiffkey surface sediment sampled at other dates.

a. Sampling site (August 2016)	Location (Lat, Long)	Depth	nmol DMSP (g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)*	Methionine (μM)*	Salinity (PSU)	pH	Temp. (°C)
Stiffkey sediment	52.964947, 0.925655	Oxic, 0-1 cm	128 ± 13.9	3.9 ± 0.89			
		Anoxic, 1-5 cm	9.8 ± 1.8	NT†			
		Anoxic, 5-10 cm	4.6 ± 0.74	NT			
		Anoxic, 5-15 cm	3.9 ± 0.43	NT			
Stiffkey pond water			0.66 ± 0.10	0.34 ± 0.06	32	7.5	19
Cley sediment	52.957825, 1.046553	Oxic, 0-1 cm	91 ± 15.6	1.0 ± 0.88			
Cley pond water			1.1 ± 0.03	NT	32	7.6	17
Yarmouth sediment	52.614855, 1.715255	Oxic, 0-1 cm	103 ± 30.4	2.7 ± 0.20			
Yarmouth pond water			0.91 ± 0.08	NT	30	7	17
Mariana Trench sediment (4,500 m)	10.409167, 142.35694	Anoxic, 4,500 m	5.0 ± 0.34	NT			
Mariana surface water			6.3 x10 ⁻³ ± 1.6 x10 ⁻³	NT	34	8.2	29.7

* Mean of three biological replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

† NT, not tested

b. Sampling site	Location (Lat, Long)	Date	nmol DMSP (g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)
Stiffkey sediment	52.964947, 0.925655	April 2015	61.9 ± 17.3
		January 2016	87.1 ± 8.9
		August 2016	128 ± 13.9
		October 2017	106 ± 26.3
		July 2018	76.4 ± 12.5

* Mean of three biological replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

Supplementary Table 2. Environmental parameters of Stiffkey saltmarsh.

O ₂ saturation (%)			Nutrient concentration (μM)*					
0 mm	80 mm	160 mm	DOC†	TDN‡	Nitrate	Nitrite	Ammonia/ ammonium	Phosphate
62	34	29	300 ± 5	40 ± 0.6	0.87 ± 0.03	0.33 ± 0.01	13.5 ± 0.6	1.4 ± 0.01

* Mean of three biological replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

† DOC, dissolved organic carbon

‡ TDN, total dissolved nitrogen

Supplementary Table 3. qPCR analysis for *dsyB* and *mmtN* on DNA extracted from the phyllosphere and rhizosphere of *S. anglica* leaves and roots.

<i>dsyB</i> gene abundance (copies {g plant material ⁻¹ })*		<i>mmtN</i> gene abundance (copies {g plant material ⁻¹ })*	
Phyllosphere	Rhizosphere	Phyllosphere	Rhizosphere
9.4 x10 ⁵ ± 3.0 x10 ⁴	3.4 x10 ⁶ ± 4.4 x10 ⁵	1.5 x10 ⁴ ± 438	4.0 x10 ⁴ ± 3.1 x10 ³

*Mean of three replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

Supplementary Table 4. Species shown to produce DMSP, including those containing *dsyB*, *mmtN* or unknown DMSP synthesis genes, as of June 2018.

(Table shown in separate file)

Supplementary Table 5. Analysis of potential DMSP-producing species in 16S rRNA amplicon data from Stiffkey surface sediment. Mean total percentages of genera potentially containing DMSP-producing species (see Supplementary Table 3) $\pm$ standard deviation for each treatment are shown, as well as pairwise comparison adjusted *p*-values. Differences between DMSP-producing genera across treatment groups and DMSP gene categories were first assessed for normality using the Shapiro-Wilks test, followed by analysis of variance, and Tukey multiple comparison of means test in the ‘s20x’ statistical package in R.

Gene category	Sediment treatment	Total % of genera potentially containing DMSP-producing species*	Pairwise comparisons†
<i>mmtN</i>	T0	1.9 $\pm$ 0.44	T0 vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> > 0.05 T0 vs ENRICHED, <i>p</i> = 0.0000092
	ENRICHED	28.7 $\pm$ 2.2	ENRICHED vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> = 0.000028
	CONTROL	7.5 $\pm$ 3.4	-
<i>dsyB</i>	T0	2.3 $\pm$ 0.57	T0 vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> = 0.003 T0 vs ENRICHED, <i>p</i> = 0.0096
	ENRICHED	10.5 $\pm$ 1.3	ENRICHED vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> > 0.05
	CONTROL	11.7 $\pm$ 3.4	-
Unknown DMSP-producing isolates	T0	6.6 $\pm$ 1.1	T0 vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> = 0.000016 T0 vs ENRICHED, <i>p</i> = 0.008
	ENRICHED	4.4 $\pm$ 0.28	ENRICHED vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> = 0.0004
	CONTROL	0.9 $\pm$ 0.10	-
Total DMSP-producing strains	T0	9.1 $\pm$ 0.67	T0 vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> > 0.05 T0 vs ENRICHED, <i>p</i> = 0.000029
	ENRICHED	42.2 $\pm$ 0.88	ENRICHED vs CONTROL, <i>p</i> = 0.000067
	CONTROL	15.0 $\pm$ 5.5	-

*Mean of three biological replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

†Pairwise comparison adjusted *p*-values.

Supplementary Table 6. Evaluation of differences in genus level microorganism communities within Stiffkey saltmarsh surface sediment treatment groups for (a) known DMSP producers, and (b) microorganisms with unknown DMSP production. (Time zero, n=3 independent replicates), control (n=4 independent replicates) and enriched (n=3 independent replicates) treatment groups were compared. A Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test generated overall p-values, indicating at least one significant difference across the treatment groups. Pairwise comparisons were made using the non-parametric, two-sided Dunn's test with "BH" p-value correction for multiple pairwise comparisons.

Genus	Pairwise comparisons from Dunn's test with "BH" <i>p</i> -value correction		
	Control - Enriched	Control – T0	Enriched – T0
a. DMSP Producers			
<i>Albimonas</i>	NS*	NS	0.008
<i>Alteromonas</i>	NS	NS	0.007
<i>Asterionellopsis</i>	NS	0.007	NS
<i>Hoeflea</i>	NS	0.010	NS
<i>Labrenzia</i>	NS	0.007	NS
<i>Marinobacter</i>	0.026	NS	NS
<i>Novosphingobium</i>	NS	NS	0.016
<i>Oceanicola</i>	NS	NS	0.007
<i>Rhodobacter</i>	NS	0.026	NS
<i>Streptomyces</i>	NS	NS	0.007
<i>Thalassospira</i>	NS	NS	0.007
b. Potential DMSP Producers			
<i>Agarivorans</i>	NS	NS	0.016
<i>Algibacter</i>	0.043	NS	0.027
<i>Hyphomicrobium</i>	NS	NS	0.007
<i>Polaribacter</i>	0.038	NS	0.032
<i>Pseudoalteromonas</i>	0.050	NS	0.023

*NS = not significant, $p > 0.05$

Supplementary Table 7. Metagenome information and results of *mmtN/dsyB* metagenomic searches in OM-RGC and Stiffkey metagenomes. Bacterial sequences were normalised to gene length and the shortest read length. Estimated percentages were calculated using *recA* abundance.

(Table shown in separate file)

Supplementary Table 8. DMSP production in selected strains of bacteria and activity of the corresponding cloned *mntN* genes.

(Table shown in separate file)

Supplementary Table 9. Analysis of the 16S rRNA, *dsyB* and *mmtN* genes amplified by qPCR from DNA extracted from various surface sediment and water samples.

Sample	16S DNA (copies g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)*	<i>dsyB</i> DNA (copies g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)*	<i>mmtN</i> DNA (copies g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)*	Total percentage of DMSP producers (%)	Number of potential DMSP- producing organisms in the sediment/water (cells g ⁻¹ or ml ⁻¹)	Average number of potential DMSP-producing organisms in the coastal sediment (cells g ⁻¹)
Stiffkey sediment	7.9 x10 ⁹ ± 2.2 x10 ⁹	1.8 x10 ⁷ ± 1.7 x10 ⁶	1.1 x10 ⁶ ± 2.2 x10 ⁵	0.24%	1.9 x10 ⁷	
Yarmouth sediment	2.1 x10 ¹⁰ ± 5.8 x10 ⁹	4.9 x10 ⁷ ± 3.1 x10 ⁷	1.2 x10 ⁶ ± 1.6 x10 ⁵	0.24%	5.1 x10 ⁷	
Cley sediment	1.3 x10 ¹⁰ ± 3.5 x10 ⁹	1.2 x10 ⁷ ± 2.6 x10 ⁶	4.0 x10 ⁵ ± 8.4 x10 ⁴	0.10%	1.3 x10 ⁷	Sediment†: 2.7 x10 ⁷ ± 1.7 x10 ⁷
Mariana trench sediment	1.3 x10 ⁷ ± 3.5 x10 ⁶	4.5 x10 ⁵ ± 7.1 x10 ⁴	1.1 x10 ⁴ ± 135	3.49%	4.4 x10 ⁵	
Stiffkey pond water	5.9 x10 ³ ± 2.1 x10 ³	115 ± 47.6	5.0 ± 1.25	0.57%	33.5	
Coastal seawater	3.4 x10 ⁵ ± 9.5 x10 ⁴	1.1 x10 ³ ± 393	49.2 ± 12.9	0.34%	1.2 x10 ³	

* Mean of three replicates (n=3) and standard deviation shown

† calculated from values for Stiffkey, Yarmouth and Cley coastal sediment

Supplementary Table 10. Cell counts of bacterial copy numbers in Stiffkey sediment samples.

	Cell count (dilution factor 1:10000)					Average cell count ml ⁻¹ *	Average cell count g ⁻¹ *
Replicate 1	153	243	169	228	246	1.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 1.9 x10 ⁹	2.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 3.7 x10 ⁹
Replicate 2	163	229	189	214	263	1.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 1.7 x10 ⁹	2.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 3.2 x10 ⁹
Replicate 3	184	214	197	227	223	1.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 7.9 x10 ⁸	2.0 x10 ¹⁰ ± 1.5 x10 ⁹
						Average:	2.0 x10¹⁰ ± 3.0 x10⁹

* Mean of five replicates (n=5) and standard deviation shown

Supplementary Table 11. Metatranscriptome sample information

Metatranscriptome/ Project	Sample ID	Biome	Location, latitude, longitude	Size Fraction	Database
Tara Oceans	ERR598943	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	South Pacific Ocean, -5.2529, -85.1545	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598945	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	Southern Ocean, -60.2287, -60.6476	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598952	Marine, seawater, depth 30 m	North Pacific Ocean, 2.0299, -84.5546	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598953	Marine, seawater, depth 177 m	South Pacific Ocean, -12.9794, -96.0232	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598956	Marine, seawater, depth 150 m	South Pacific Ocean, -8.9109, -140.2845	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598976	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	North Atlantic Ocean, 36.1715, -29.0230	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598977	Marine, seawater, depth 60 m	Arabian Sea, 14.5536, 70.0128	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598988	Marine, seawater, depth 120 m	South Pacific Ocean, -9.0714, -140.5973	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR598999	Marine, seawater, depth 600 m	South Pacific Ocean, 8.9729, -139.2393	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599004	Marine, seawater, depth 450 m	North Pacific Ocean, 6.3599, -103.0598	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599010	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	South Atlantic Ocean, -20.9354, -35.1803	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599011	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	Arabian Sea, 14.6059, 69.9776	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599015	Marine, seawater, depth 375 m	North Pacific Ocean, 14.2025, -116.6433	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599016	Marine, seawater, depth 75 m	Indian Ocean, -16.9534, 53.9601	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599022	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	South Atlantic Ocean, -30.1367, -43.2899	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599027	Marine, seawater, depth 40 m	South Atlantic Ocean, -47.2007, -57.9446	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599031	Marine, seawater, depth 600 m	Arabian Sea, 20.8457, 63.5851	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599035	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	South Atlantic Ocean, -47.1863, -58.2902	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599067	Marine, seawater, depth 380 m	North Pacific Ocean, 2.0649, -84.5546	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599098	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	Indian Ocean, -6.9570, 53.9801	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599102	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	Arabian Sea, 19.0393, 64.4913	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599104	Marine, seawater, depth 90 m	Southern Ocean, -62.2231, -49.2139	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599109	Marine, seawater, depth 340 m	Arabian Sea, 19.0351, 64.5638	0.22 μm – 1.6 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599113	Marine, seawater, depth 50 m	South Pacific Ocean, -12.9723, -96.0122	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599169	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	South Pacific Ocean, -13.0023, -95.9759	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI
Tara Oceans	ERR599176	Marine, seawater, depth 5 m	Southern Ocean, 62.0385, -49.5290	0.22 μm – 3 μm	EBI

Supplementary Table 12. *Tara* Oceans metatranscriptome *mmtN* transcript abundance, alongside *dsyB*, *DSYB* and DMSP lyases calculated in Curson *et al* (2018)¹.

(Table shown in separate file)

Supplementary Table 13. Seawater incubation experiment comparing DMSP production by wild type *L. aggregata* and the *dsyB*⁻ mutant strain.

Time point	DMSP production (nmol)				
	Seawater	Wild type strain		<i>dsyB</i> ⁻ strain	
		Cell-free supernatant	Cell pellet	Cell-free supernatant	Cell pellet
0 h	0.07 ± 0.001	0.06 ± 0.002	0.07 ± 0.004	0.06 ± 0.000	0
21 h	0.06 ± 0.000	0.08 ± 0.005	0.13 ± 0.020	0	0.04 ± 0.04

* Mean of three replicates (n=3) shown with standard deviation

Supplementary Table 14. Species and accession numbers of the sequences used to create HMM profiles for bioinformatics analysis for *mmtN* (June 2018).

MmtN-containing species (April 2017)	Accession Number
<i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. MBES04	WP_052321947
<i>Croceicoccus mobilis</i>	WP_066775518
<i>Thalassospira</i> sp. HJ	WP_044830103
<i>Thalassospira</i> sp. MCCC_1A01148	WP_062957385
<i>Thalassospira indica</i>	WP_064788038
<i>Thalassospira tepidiphila</i> MCCC_1A03514	WP_064780488
<i>Thalassospira australica</i>	WP_033070178
<i>Thalassospira lucentensis</i>	WP_022734010
<i>Thalassospira</i> sp. MCCC_1A02898	WP_063085993
<i>Thalassospira profundimaris</i> sp. DSM17430	WP_008888945
<i>Labrenzia</i> sp. OB1	WP_068409229
<i>Roseovarius indicus</i> 01	WP_064261696
<i>Roseovarius indicus</i> 02	WP_057814729
<i>Roseovarius indicus</i> 03	KRS18724
<i>Rhodobacter aestuarii</i>	WP_076485456
<i>Saccharothrix syringae</i>	WP_033429235
<i>Micromonospora nigra</i>	WP_091090849
<i>Agrobacterium vitis</i>	WP_071204336
<i>Nocardiopsis chromatogenes</i>	WP_017624909
<i>Streptomyces mobaraensis</i> NBRC_13819	EME99407

Supplementary Table 15. Strains used in this study.

Strain	Description	Reference
<i>Escherichia coli</i> 803	Strain used for routine transformations	Wood (1966) ²
<i>E. coli</i> BL21	Strain for overexpression of cloned genes in pET vectors	Studier and Moffat (1986) ³
<i>E. coli</i> JM101	Strain for expression of <i>lacZ</i> gene in blue-white screen	Yanisch-Perron et al. (1985) ⁴
<i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> J391	Streptomycin-resistant derivative of wild type strain 3841 used for library screening and expression of genes cloned in plasmid pLMB509 or pRK415	Young et al. (2006) ⁵
<i>Labrenzia aggregata</i> LZB033	Wild type strain, isolated from ME3 site, <i>dsyB</i> ⁺	Curson et al. (2017) ⁶
<i>Sagittula stellata</i> E-37	Wild type strain, <i>dsyB</i> ⁺ control for degenerate primer optimisation	Gonzalez et al. (1997) ⁷
<i>Oceanicola batsensis</i> DSM21189	Wild type strain, <i>dsyB</i> ⁺ control for degenerate primer optimisation	Cho and Giovannoni (2004) ⁸
<i>Amorphus coralli</i> DSM19760	Wild type strain, <i>dsyB</i> ⁺ control for degenerate primer optimisation	Zeevi Ben Yosef et al. (2008) ⁹
<i>Pelagibaca bermudensis</i> HTCC2597	Wild type strain, <i>dsyB</i> ⁺ control for degenerate primer optimisation	Cho and Giovannoni (2006) ¹⁰
<i>Sulfitobacter</i> sp. EE-36	Wild type strain, <i>dsyB</i> ⁻ control for degenerate primer optimisation	Gonzalez et al. (1996) ¹¹
<i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Stappia</i> sp. BW2	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Pseudooceanicola</i> sp. BW3	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Labrenzia</i> sp. BW4	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Rhodobacterales bacterium</i> sp. BW5	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Marinobacter</i> sp. BW6	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Alteromonas</i> sp. BW7	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Rhodobacter</i> sp. BW8	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Oceanicola</i> sp. BW9	Wild type strain, isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Asterionellopsis glacialis</i> PR1	Diatom isolated from Stiffkey saltmarsh	This study
<i>Thalassospira profundimaris</i> DSM17430 (J594)	Wild type strain used to demonstrate DMSP production by <i>mntN</i> expression	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Roseovarius indicus</i> B108 DSM26383	Wild type strain used to demonstrate DMSP production by <i>mntN</i> expression	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Nocardiopsis chromatogenes</i> DSM44844	Wild type strain used to demonstrate DMSP production by <i>mntN</i> expression	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Streptomyces mobaraensis</i> DSM40847	Wild type strain used to demonstrate DMSP production by <i>mntN</i> expression	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>T. profundimaris</i> J595	Rifampicin-resistant derivative of <i>T. profundimaris</i> DSM17340	This study
<i>T. profundimaris</i> J596	<i>T. profundimaris</i> J595 with mutation in <i>mntN</i> (TH2_03115)	This study
<i>T. profundimaris</i> J597	<i>T. profundimaris</i> J595 with mutation in aminotransferase (TH2_03140) linked to <i>mntN</i>	This study
<i>Pseudobacteriovorax antillogorgiicola</i> DSM103413	Wild type strain, contains homologue of plant-like MMT enzyme	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Corallococcus coralloides</i> DSM2259	Wild type strain, contains homologue of plant-like MMT enzyme	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Stigmatella aurantiaca</i> DSM17044	Wild type strain, contains homologue of plant-like MMT enzyme	DSMZ Culture Collection
<i>Myxococcus fulvus</i> DSM16525	Wild type strain, contains homologue of plant-like MMT enzyme	DSMZ Culture Collection

Supplementary Table 16. Plasmids used in this study.

Plasmid	Description	Reference
pLAFR3	Wide host-range cosmid vector, used for library construction	Staskawicz et al. (1987) ¹²
pET21a	Plasmid vector for expression of cloned genes in <i>E. coli</i>	Merck Millipore
pRK2013	Helper plasmid used in triparental matings	Figurski and Helinski (1979) ¹³
pBIO1879	pK19mob suicide vector derivative used to create knockout mutants in <i>T. profundimaris</i>	Todd et al. (2011) ¹⁴
pLMB509	Expression vector used to express <i>mmtN</i> in <i>T. profundimaris</i> mutant	Tett et al. (2012) ¹⁵
pBIO2275	<i>Prymnesium parvum</i> CCAP946/6 <i>DSYB</i> cloned in pRK415, control for degenerate primer optimisation	Curson et al. (2018)
pBIO2276	<i>Symbiodinium microadriaticum</i> CCMP2467 <i>DSYB</i> , codon-optimised, synthesised and cloned in pLMB509, control for degenerate primer optimisation	Curson et al. (2018)
pBIO2272	<i>Chrysochromulina tobin</i> CCMP291 <i>DSYB</i> , codon-optimised, synthesised and cloned in pLMB509, control for degenerate primer optimisation	Curson et al. (2018)
pBIO2270	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> <i>DSYB</i> , codon-optimised, synthesised and cloned in pLMB509, control for degenerate primer optimisation	Curson et al. (2018)
pBIO2279	pLAFR3 cosmid from a <i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 library that contains ~21 kb genomic DNA including <i>mmtN</i>	This study
pBIO2280	pLAFR3 cosmid from a <i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 library that contains ~30 kb genomic DNA including <i>mmtN</i>	This study
pBIO2281	<i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 <i>mmtN</i> cloned in pET21a(+)	This study
pBIO2282	<i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 <i>mmtN</i> cloned into pLMB509	This study
pBIO2283	<i>T. profundimaris</i> DSM17340 <i>mmtN</i> cloned in pET21a(+)	This study
pBIO2284	<i>R. indicus</i> <i>mmtN</i> cloned in pET21a(+)	This study
pBIO2285	<i>N. chromatogenes</i> <i>mmtN</i> cloned in pET21a(+)	This study
pBIO2286	<i>S. mobaraensis</i> <i>mmtN</i> cloned in pET21a(+)	This study
pBIO2287	<i>T. profundimaris</i> <i>mmtN</i> internal fragment cloned in pBIO1879 for knockout mutagenesis	This study
pBIO2278	<i>T. profundimaris</i> aminotransferase gene (TH2_03140) internal fragment cloned in pBIO1879 for knockout mutagenesis	This study

Supplementary Table 17. Oligonucleotide primers used in this study.

Primer name	Sequence (5' to 3')*	Use
8F	AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG	Forward primer used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene for identification from <i>A. glacialis</i>
27F	AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG	Forward primer used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene for identification from bacteria
1492R	GGTTACCTTGTACGACTT	Reverse primer used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene for identification from bacteria and <i>A. glacialis</i>
Eub_338F	ACTCCTACGGGAGGCGAGCAG	Forward primer used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene for RT-qPCR
Eub_518R	ATTACCGCGGCTGCTGG	Reverse primer used to amplify the 16S rRNA gene for RT-qPCR
Euk_A	AACCTGGTTGATCCTGCCAGT	Forward primer used to amplify the 18S rRNA gene for identification from <i>A. glacialis</i>
Euk_B	TGATCCTTCTGCAGGTTACCTAC	Reverse primer used to amplify the 18S rRNA gene for identification from <i>A. glacialis</i> ¹⁶
M13 uni (-43)	AGGGTTTCCCAGTCACGACGTT	Universal forward primer used to amplify inserts in pLAFR3
M13 rev (-29)	CAGGAAACAGCTATGACC	Universal reverse primer used to amplify inserts in pLAFR3
dsyB_deg1F	CATGGGSTCSAAGGCSTKTT	Degenerate primer for amplification of <i>dsyB</i> in PCR and RT-qPCR
dsyB_deg2R	GCAGRTARTCGCCGAAATCGTA	Degenerate primer for amplification of <i>dsyB</i> in PCR and RT-qPCR
mmtN_degF	CCGAGGTGGTCATGAAYTTYGG	Degenerate primer for amplification of <i>mmtN</i> in PCR
mmtN_degR	GGATCACGCACACYTCRTGRTA	Degenerate primer for amplification of <i>mmtN</i> in PCR
NOMmtN_NdeI-F	CGGATCCC <u>CATATG</u> TCTGACGCAGATGACTCC	Cloning of <i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21N1
NOMmtN_EcoRI-R	<u>GGAATTC</u> ACTCTACCTTGGGGATACC	Cloning of <i>Novosphingobium</i> sp. BW1 <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21N1
TPmmtN_NdeI-F	CGGATCCC <u>CATATG</u> CAACATGCTTTAGAAGAGAGC	Cloning of <i>T. profundimaris</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21T2
TPmmtN_EcoRI-R	<u>GGAATTC</u> TTAGGCCGGTGTGCCGCAATGAC	Cloning of <i>T. profundimaris</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21T2
RlmmtN_NdeI-F	CGAATTC <u>CATATG</u> ACCGATTTCAAAACGCCCCG	Cloning of <i>R. indicus</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21R3
RlmmtN_EcoRI-R	CCCG <u>GATCC</u> TCAACGATTGGACGGATCGGTTTCC	Cloning of <i>R. indicus</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21R3
NCmmtN_NdeI-F	CGGATCCC <u>CATATG</u> CCGTCGAGCACACGATG	Cloning of <i>N. chromatogenes</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21N4
NCmmtN_EcoRI-R	<u>GGAATTC</u> ATCGCCGGTCTCTCTCGTCGG	Cloning of <i>N. chromatogenes</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21N4
SMmmtN_NdeI-F	CGGATCCC <u>CATATG</u> AGAACAGAGACCGGACCGCC	Cloning of <i>S. mobaraensis</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21S5
SMmmtN_EcoRI-R	<u>GGAATTC</u> TACGTGGCGGGTGTGCCCCTGAC	Cloning of <i>S. mobaraensis</i> <i>mmtN</i> into pET21a for pBIO21S5
TPSCO_BamHI_F	CGGGATCCGTCGCCTTTATCTTGCAAAG	Cloning of internal gene fragment for generating a single crossover <i>mmtN</i> knockout in <i>T. profundimaris</i> strain J596
TPSCO_EcoRI_R	CGGAATTCGTTCCGGAATGTTGCAG	Cloning of internal gene fragment for generating a single crossover <i>mmtN</i> knockout in <i>T. profundimaris</i> strain J596
03140pKXbaFOR	TGACTCTAGACCCTGATCGACGCCTGCG	Cloning of internal gene fragment for generating a single crossover TH2_03140 aminotransferase knockout in <i>T. profundimaris</i> strain J597
03140pKPstREV	TGACCTGCAGCCGGTTGCACCGACATCG	Cloning of internal gene fragment for generating a single crossover TH2_03140 aminotransferase knockout in <i>T. profundimaris</i> strain J597

* Restriction sites included in primers underlined

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