

1 **LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF TWO ORGANIC AMENDMENTS ON**  
2 **BACTERIAL COMMUNITIES OF CALCAREOUS MEDITERRANEAN SOILS**  
3 **DEGRADED BY MINING**

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14 **Abstract**

15 The application of organic amendments to improve the chemical and biological properties  
16 of degraded soils from calcareous quarries is necessary to accelerate restoration  
17 processes. The aim of this study is to assess the success of different restoration treatments  
18 in the long-term using two organic amendments (sewage sludge from urban waste water  
19 (SS) and compost from domestic solid waste (CW)). The chemical properties and  
20 bacterial communities of restored soils were compared with unamended soils (NA) and  
21 surrounding natural soils (NS) from a limestone quarry in a semi-arid ecosystem. After  
22 10 years of the addition of organic amendments, the abundance of soil bacteria, diversity,  
23 and taxonomic composition at the phylum and genus level in each soil type was analysed  
24 by rRNA 16S amplification (PCR), sequencing using Illumina, and comparison with the

25 SILVA database using QIIME2 software. The relationships between soil bacterial taxa  
26 and chemical soil properties (pH, electrical conductivity (EC), total organic carbon  
27 (TOC), and total nitrogen content (TN)) were also studied, as well as the interrelations  
28 between soil bacterial taxa at the genus level or the next upper taxonomic level identified.  
29 The organic amendments changed the chemical properties of the restored soils,  
30 influencing the microbial communities of the restored soils. CW treatment was the  
31 organic amendment that most resembled NS, favouring in the long-term a greater  
32 diversity and proliferation of bacteria. Several bacterial communities, more abundant in  
33 NA and CW soils, were strongly correlated with each other (*Craurococcus*, *Phaselicystis*,  
34 *Crossiella*, etc.), forming a bacterial co-occurrence pattern (Co-occurrence pattern 1).  
35 Those bacteria showed high significant positive correlations with TOC, TN, and EC and  
36 negative correlations with the soil pH. In contrast, NA soils presented other groups of  
37 bacterial communities (Co-occurrence pattern 2) represented by *Sphingomonas*,  
38 *Rubellimicrobium*, *Noviherbaspirillum*, *Psychroglaciecola* and *Caenimonas*, which  
39 showed high significant positive correlations with soil pH and negative correlations with  
40 TOC, TN, and EC. Principal component analysis indicated that SS soils remained in an  
41 intermediate stage of chemical and biological quality between NS and NA soils. Our  
42 results demonstrate that soil chemical properties and soil bacterial communities  
43 significantly changed with organic amendments in calcareous Mediterranean soils  
44 degraded by mining.

45 **Keywords:** Soil restoration, metagenomics, bacterial diversity, soil degradation, soil  
46 bacterial co-occurrence patterns , semiarid.

## 47 **1. Introduction**

48 Soil is of vital importance in the biosphere, performing multiple functions necessary for  
49 life on the planet, such as maintaining plant and animal productivity, conserving water

50 and air quality, and improving human health (Singer and Sojka, 2002). Soil degradation  
51 caused by the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources affects large areas of the  
52 world, leading to the loss of soil quality and the reduction of soil productivity through the  
53 loss of nutrients or unfavourable changes in physical, chemical, and biological soil  
54 properties. The problem of environmental degradation is aggravated in semi-arid climate  
55 and, in particular, in the Mediterranean ecosystems, due to scarce and torrential rainfall,  
56 high solar radiation, and low plant cover that favours the erosion processes (Bastida et  
57 al., 2007; Bruneel et al., 2019; Hueso et al., 2011; Miralles et al., 2009). In these  
58 ecosystems the practice of mining, especially the opencast type, causes the total loss of  
59 the soil and plant cover, which disturbs the soil–plant stability (Luna et al., 2016a),  
60 producing the leaching of nutrients by erosion and reducing the fertility of the soil (Li et  
61 al., 2018). Physical and chemical limitations of the soil properties and the low microbial  
62 activity in semi-arid zones, as well as the climatic characteristics, complicate the natural  
63 restoration of the soils, slowing down the vegetal regeneration in these regions (Juwarkar  
64 and Jambhulkar, 2008). Therefore, the restoration of the quarries is necessary to  
65 accelerate the recovery of the soil and cover plants, and one way of solving these  
66 problems could be the use of organic amendments such as sewage sludge or compost  
67 from domestic organic waste (Luna et al., 2016a, 2016b; Rodríguez-Berbel et al., 2019).

68 Several authors have shown that the application of organic amendments is a good method  
69 of restoration, because restoring absent soil microbiota that is vital for soil structural  
70 formation can contribute to plant establishment and transformation of organic matter  
71 (Diaz et al., 1994; Zink and Allen, 1998). Moreover, organic amendments improve soil  
72 properties such as pH, humidity, organic carbon, and plant cover, which are important  
73 factors influencing the microbial diversity in semi-arid soils (Bukar et al., 2019; Neilson  
74 et al., 2012; Peñuelas et al., 2013; Reynolds et al., 2007). Many authors have documented

75 the beneficial effects of the use of sewage sludge or compost on fertility and soil  
76 functionality, just as on the proliferation of microbial communities with different  
77 metabolic activities (Almendro-Candel et al., 2014; Bastida et al., 2015; Luna et al.,  
78 2016a; Rico Hernández et al., 2018; Yanardağ et al., 2017). Organic amendments such as  
79 sewage sludge, urban solid waste compost, and poultry manure also influence enzymatic  
80 activities involved in the cycles of C, N, and P and biochemical soil properties such as  
81 biomass-C and basal respiration (Bastida et al., 2007; Luna et al., 2016a; Tejada et al.,  
82 2006).

83 Soil microbial communities have a crucial role in the functioning of ecosystems because  
84 they have a direct relationship with biogeochemical cycles (Adak and Sachan, 2009),  
85 fundamental for plant growth and survival (Bender et al., 2016). Microbial enzymatic  
86 activity plays a key role in biochemical cycles by the recycling of nutrients, making them  
87 accessible to plants and other microorganisms (Ai et al., 2015). However, most studies  
88 focusing on soil microorganisms in restored soils are based on knowledge of the size and  
89 activity of microbial communities from biochemical techniques such as soil basal  
90 respiration and soil enzymatic activity, fatty acid profile, or molecular tools such as  
91 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) combined with denaturant gradient gel electrophoresis  
92 (DGGE) (Bastida et al., 2008; Garcia and Hernandez, 1994; Luna et al., 2016b;  
93 Schmalenberger et al., 2013; Trasar-Cepeda et al., 1998; Zornoza et al., 2007). There are  
94 many studies in which organic amendments have been used to restore degraded soils from  
95 semi-arid areas, but their influence on the structure of the microbial community in the soil  
96 is still poorly explored (Yanardağ et al., 2017). Moreover, at present, studies in which the  
97 microbial communities of natural soils are compared with environments degraded by  
98 human activities are also very scarce, and there is an important gap in our knowledge  
99 about the representative bacterial taxa necessary for the ecological restoration of degraded

100 soils to the natural state (Liddicoat et al., 2019). Recently, new methodologies based on  
101 massive sequencing have been used to amplify 16S RNA based on the Illumina MiSeq  
102 platform or shotgun metagenomic sequencing that allows the study of high-resolution soil  
103 microbial communities at the lowest classification level. Some studies have analysed  
104 microbial communities at the phylum level in restored soils with organic amendments by  
105 metaproteomic techniques. Bastida et al. (2015) deployed metaproteomics to study a  
106 restoration with organic amendments and concluded that these affected the functionality  
107 and structure of the microbial community at the phyla level in the short and long-term.  
108 However, the same phylum includes a great diversity of bacterial genera that could  
109 perform a wide variety of functions in soils. Few studies have investigated soil microbial  
110 communities at the lowest classification level (subgroup to genus) in semi-arid  
111 ecosystems (Miralles et al., 2020a; Sánchez-Marañón et al., 2017). The study of soil  
112 microbial communities can provide important information on the specific functions they  
113 perform in soils, as well as contrasting the most abundant bacterial taxa of degraded soils,  
114 restored soils with different organic treatments, and natural soils, in order to determine  
115 the optimal treatments that allow favouring bacterial proliferation similar to natural soils  
116 considered with the highest soil quality thresholds. Breed et al. (2019) refer to the  
117 potential of genomics techniques for ecological restoration, given the need to know and  
118 better understand soil microbial communities to be successful in restoration (Garris et al.,  
119 2016). Moreover, soil microbial communities are considered better soil quality indicators  
120 than physico-chemical soil properties (Deng et al., 2019; Van der Heijden et al., 2008).  
121 On the other hand, the ecological factors influencing these communities have also been  
122 poorly studied. Thus, the microclimate (humidity and soil temperature) and especially  
123 physical and chemical soil properties could drive the soil bacterial communities (Curiel  
124 Yuste et al., 2014; Garcia and Hernandez, 1994; Trasar-Cepeda et al., 1998). Some studies

125 on soil bacterial communities have focused on soils under different uses (Sánchez-  
126 Marañón et al., 2017), but they are of very limited relevance in restored soils with organic  
127 amendments, which can change soil microbial communities by incorporating new non-  
128 native communities to the soils (Bastida et al., 2013, 2008; Luna et al., 2016a). In this  
129 sense, the need to know the changes that occur in soil bacterial communities and the  
130 ecological factors influencing these changes are crucial for the assessment and monitoring  
131 of ecological restoration.

132 In view of all of the above, we hypothesized that restoration treatments consisting of the  
133 application of different organic amendments would modify the chemical and biological  
134 properties of the soils, helping the restored soils to present chemical and biological  
135 qualities similar to natural soils in the long-term. Therefore, the aim of this study was to  
136 analyse the effect of two organic amendments (compost from domestic waste and/or  
137 sewage sludge from urban waste water) in the long-term in chemical and microbiological  
138 quality of restored soils in a limestone quarry from a semi-arid ecosystem and to study  
139 the relation between chemical soil properties, diversity and composition of bacterial  
140 communities in the restored soils. To do this three tasks were undertaken: (a) study of the  
141 chemical properties and the relative abundance of bacterial taxa, diversity, and taxonomic  
142 composition at the phylum and bacterial taxa at the genus level or the next upper  
143 taxonomic level identified in restored soils with two different organic amendments  
144 applied 10 years ago in the quarry and in the surrounding natural soils considered as a  
145 quality threshold; (b) study of the relationships among soil bacterial taxa, diversity and  
146 chemical soil properties; and (c) study of soil bacterial co-occurrence patterns of soil  
147 bacterial taxa associated with chemical soil properties in the different soil types.

148 **2. Material and methods**

149 *2.1. Study area and experimental design*

150 The study was carried out in a homogeneous hillslope of a limestone quarry located  
151 between the intermountain basin formed by Tortonian (Tertiary Upper Miocene) marls  
152 (calcitic-gypsiferous mudstones and calcareous sandstones) and the Gádor range  
153 (Cenozoic dolomites and limestones), 15 km north of Almería (SE Spain, 36°55'20"N,  
154 2°30'29"W). The lithology of the study area is fundamentally calcareous sandstones  
155 which overlay the marls and are partly quarried. Then, most of the restoration area rests  
156 on both types of rock. In undisturbed surrounding areas, soils are mainly Calcaric  
157 Regosols (FAO-IUSS-ISRIC, 2015) over (a) calcitic-gypsiferous mudstone (marl), (b)  
158 calcareous sandstone, and (c) slope deposits mostly fed by the shallow soils over  
159 limestone and dolomite from upper reliefs, which partly contain remains of pre-erosion  
160 terra-rossa. The climate is arid/semi-arid Mediterranean with a mean annual temperature  
161 of 17.6°C and with a minimum absolute temperature of -2.6°C and a maximum of 42.7°C.  
162 The potential evapotranspiration is 1,225 mm year<sup>-1</sup>, and the mean annual precipitation is  
163 245 mm with precipitation mainly in winter and autumn. The area is predominantly  
164 grassland that is dominated by native vegetation including *Macrochloa tenacissima* (L.)  
165 Kunth and some dwarf perennial shrubs such as *Anthyllis terniflora* (Lag) Pau; other areas  
166 constitute a mosaic formed by patches of grassland alternating with patches of dwarf  
167 shrub scrubland, where *Anthyllis cytisoides* L. and other species are found. More  
168 information about the study area is found in Luna et al. (2016b).

169 The installation of the experimental plots was carried out in 2008 in an area completely  
170 degraded due to mining activity where all the limestone was extracted. The experimental  
171 plots were set up at 370 m.a.s.l. in 75 m<sup>2</sup> surfaces (15 m × 5 m) over a hillslope with an  
172 average slope of 19%. Two organic amendments for restoration were applied in the

173 experimental plots: (a) a filter-press dried sewage sludge from urban waste water (SS;  
174 Total organic C = 351.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and Total nitrogen = 54.3 g kg<sup>-1</sup>; (Luna et al., 2016a,  
175 2016b)) and (b) compost from domestic solid organic waste (CW; Total organic C = 196.5  
176 g kg<sup>-1</sup> and Total nitrogen = 20.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup>; (Luna et al., 2016a, 2016b)). The crushed marly  
177 substrate without organic amendments was used as a control (NA), and undisturbed  
178 natural soils (NS) that have not suffered any anthropic alteration found surrounding the  
179 experimental plots. These soils are shallow and stony calcaric regosols over marls and  
180 calcaric sandstones and support mostly *Antyllis cytisoides* and *A. terniflora* among other  
181 shrubs, and *Macrochloa tenacissima*. NS were considered as reference soils since they  
182 follow the natural evolution determined by the climatic and ecological properties of study  
183 area. The organic amendment treatments were laid on the soil surface layer and mixed  
184 (0–20 cm) with the marly substrate with a mechanical backhoe, in NA soils the same  
185 process was performed without adding any amendment. The quantity of organic  
186 amendments used was determined according to their carbon content to increase the initial  
187 organic matter content up to 2% in each plot. Additionally, one year shrubs and herbal  
188 species were directly and manually planted from forestry pot seedlings at each  
189 experimental plot the three most abundant species of native vegetation (*Macrochloa*  
190 *tenacissima* (L.) Kunth, *Anthyllis terniflora* (Lag) Pau, and *Anthyllis cytisoides* L.) with  
191 a separation of 1 m (75 per plot), alternating the species in the same proportion as they  
192 are present in unaltered natural soils surrounding the quarry. A more detailed description  
193 of the construction of experimental plots can be found in Luna et al. (2016a).

194 Ten years after the experimental plots were established, six composite soil samples (by  
195 mixing 10 subsamples) were collected randomly to a depth of 10 cm throughout each  
196 plot, as well as in soils without amendment and in reference soils. A total of 24 soil  
197 samples were taken to the laboratory in isothermal bags. Samples were air-dried,



198 homogenized, and sieved through a 2-mm screen. Part of these dry soil samples was used  
199 for chemical soil analysis and another part for DNA extraction and next-generation  
200 sequencing (NGS) analysis.

## 201 *2.2. Chemical soil analysis*

202 Soil pH and electrical conductivity (EC) were analysed in an aqueous solution 1/1 (w/v)  
203 (Thomas, 1996) by pH meter (Crison, Carpi, Italy) and by digital conductivity meter  
204 (Crison, Carpi, Italy), respectively. Total organic carbon (TOC) was determined by  
205 Walkley and Black's method (1934) (rectified by Mingorance et al., 2007), and total  
206 nitrogen content (TN) was determined by total combustion (Vario Rapid N; Elementar,  
207 Hanau, Germany).

## 208 *2.3. DNA extraction, high-throughput sequencing, and bioinformatics analysis*

209 Microbial DNA was extracted from 0.3 g of soil using the DNeasy PowerSoil Kit  
210 (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany) and quantified using an ND-2000 Nanodrop  
211 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). The V4-V5 regions (400–500 pb)  
212 of bacteria 16S ribosomal RNA gene were amplified *in vitro* by PCR using  
213 515FB/8926Rr 16S rRNA gene primer pair (Walters et al., 2016) and paired-end  
214 sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq platform using v3 chemistry (2x300bp), as described in  
215 Comeau et al. (2017). Subsequently, sequences were processed with Quantitative Insights  
216 Into Microbial Ecology version 2 (QIIME2 version 18.8) software (Bolyen et al., 2018)  
217 following the protocol initially established in Comeau et al. (2017), more recently updated  
218 on the Microbiome Helper website (Amplicon SOP v2 [qiime2 2018.8];  
219 [https://github.com/LangilleLab/microbiome\\_helper/wiki](https://github.com/LangilleLab/microbiome_helper/wiki)). Briefly, the bacterial raw  
220 reads were trimmed of primers obtaining 643,774 sequences, quality controlled and  
221 contaminant filtered, followed by the creation of Amplicon Sequence Variants (ASVs)  
222 using the Deblur tool, resulting in a total of 531,060 sequences. The final taxonomic

223 identities of the ASVs were obtained using the QIIME2 feature-classifier plugin (sklearn  
224 method) against the SILVA database (version 132; trimmed to the V4V5 version of the  
225 16S). The different statistical of diversity measures were calculated within QIIME2 using  
226 the ASV table normalized to 20000 sequences per sample. All these resources are  
227 available through the Microbiome Helper website  
228 ([https://github.com/LangilleLab/microbiome\\_helper/wiki](https://github.com/LangilleLab/microbiome_helper/wiki)).

229 To check for no contamination during ADN extraction one blank control was done in one  
230 of the kit tubes. Besides PCR negative controls were done (1 for every 96-well plate = 4  
231 per MiSeq run) which were verified to be clean (no bands present) and still were  
232 sequenced on the MiSeq in order to show no substantial reads coming through on this  
233 barcode combination.

#### 234 *2.4. Statistical analyses*

235 Alpha-diversity (intragroup diversity) was determined with QIIME2 using the number of  
236 observed ASVs in each sample. Faith's Phylogenetic Diversity (Faith, 1992), Pielou (J'),  
237 and Shannon indices were evenly sampled at 20,000 reads per sample. Principal-  
238 coordinate analysis (PCoA) was obtained from QIIME2 to study  $\beta$ -diversity (intergroup  
239 diversity) by Bray-Curtis and Jaccard indices. The relative abundance of soil bacterial  
240 taxa was calculated based on the number of reads for the different phyla. The soil bacterial  
241 taxa (ASVs) were grouped in genera or the next upper taxonomic level identified in each  
242 of the 24 soil samples, and selected those bacterial taxa that had a relative abundance  
243 greater than 0.1% throughout all samples. One-way permutational multivariate analysis  
244 of variance (PerMANOVA with 9,999 perms,  $p < 0.05$ ) was used to analyse the  
245 differences between the different soil types (restored soils - CW and SS, natural soils -  
246 NS, and non-treated soils - NA). A similarity matrix used by multivariate PerMANOVA  
247 was constructed using Bray-Curtis distance for obtaining significant differences between

248 soils according to the relative abundance of bacterial genera or the next upper taxonomic  
249 level identified greater than 0.1% throughout all samples. To discern between which soils  
250 there were significant differences, pairwise comparisons were made using a multivariate  
251 analogue of the  $t$  statistic to find the probability levels by permutation (Eldridge et al.,  
252 2016). Moreover, significant differences of each individual chemical soil property and  
253 the diversity index between soils (organic amended soils - SS and CW -, NA, and NS)  
254 were assessed using one-way permutational univariable analysis of variance (PerANOVA  
255 with 9,999 perms,  $p < 0.05$ ) and pairwise comparisons (Anderson et al., 2008). The  
256 distance-based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) was calculated according to the relative  
257 abundance of soil bacterial taxa and chemical soil properties. The statistical package  
258 PRIMER + PERMANOVA (PRIMER-E Ltd., Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK) for  
259 Windows was used for PerMANOVA, PerANOVA and dbRDA analysis. A significance  
260 level of 0.05 was used, unless otherwise indicated.

261 The R Project environment (R Core Team, 2018) with “stats” and “ggplot2” packages  
262 was used to generate boxplot charts and to evaluate the influence of amendments on soil  
263 bacterial communities. Generalized linear models (GLMs) were applied using the  
264 “survival” library (Therneau, 2015). Pearson’s correlations ( $r$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) were applied to  
265 determine the significant correlations between soil bacterial genera or the next upper  
266 taxonomic level identified and chemical soil parameters. Soil bacterial taxa showing  
267 highly significant correlations between them ( $p < 0.05$ ) and with the highest correlation  
268 values ( $r > 0.7$ ) were selected as bacterial groups forming bacterial co-occurrence  
269 patterns, as described in Xue et al. (2020) and Miralles et al. (2020b). This correlation  
270 coefficient was selected because we could clearly identify two different co-occurrence  
271 groups. Pearson’s correlations were calculated using Statgraphics (version 16.2.04 for  
272 Microsoft Windows). Network analysis was performed to graphically represent the

273 relationships between soil bacterial taxa that conform the co-occurrence patterns resulting  
274 from Pearson's correlations. Topological properties were calculated to describe the  
275 complex pattern of interrelations between nodes and to distinguish differences in taxon  
276 correlations. For this purpose, the method for obtaining modularity (Blondel et al., 2008)  
277 was used together with the Force Atlas 2 algorithm (Jacomy et al., 2014), based on the  
278 interactive platform Gephi 0.9.2 (Bastian et al., 2009) for visualizing networks.

### 279 **3. Results**

#### 280 *3.1. Chemical soil properties*

281 The different restoration treatments applied generated changes in chemical soil  
282 properties. PerANOVA ( $p < 0.05$ ) and pairwise tests showed that chemical soil properties  
283 were significantly different in SS, CW, NA, and NS soils 10 years after starting the  
284 restoration. Nevertheless, the treatment of compost (CW) and natural soils (NS) did not  
285 show significant differences between them, except in TN which was significantly higher  
286 in CW soils (Table 1 and S1). CW and NS soil showed significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher EC  
287 and TOC and significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) lower pH than SS soils, which values in such soil  
288 properties ranged between the CW and NS soils (Table 1). NS and CW soils presented  
289 also comparatively higher TOC values and EC values and lower soil pH values than NA  
290 soils (Table 1).

#### 291 *3.2. Bacterial richness and $\alpha$ - and $\beta$ -diversity*

292 Organic amendments added to restored soils produced changes in soil microbial  
293 properties. The restored soils (CW and SS soils) showed the significantly highest values  
294 ( $p < 0.05$ ) of observed ASVs per soil type and Faith's phylogenetic index (Tables 2 and  
295 S2), while NA and NS soils showed the significantly lowest values in both indices,  
296 respectively. Shannon and Pielou indices presented higher values in CW and NS soils  
297 than in NA and SS soils, being NA soils those that presented the lowest values in Shannon

298 index and SS soils those that presented the lowest values in Pielou index (Table 2 and  
299 S2). The PCoA graphs representing  $\beta$ -diversity showed that SS and CW soils were similar  
300 to each other, but different from NA and NS soils in Bray-Curtis and Jaccard indices  
301 (Figure 1).

### 302 3.3. Bacterial community composition

303 The number of sequences belonging to Bacteria domain was 127,348. Fourteen phyla plus  
304 a phylum in which unclassified sequences were grouped showed relative frequencies  
305 greater than 0.1% throughout all samples (Figure S1). The most abundant phyla in all  
306 treatments were *Proteobacteria*, *Acidobacteria*, *Actinobacteria*, *Bacterioidetes* and  
307 *Planctomycetes*, although in different proportions depending on each treatment (Figure  
308 S1). The two most abundant phyla in SS and NS soils were *Proteobacteria* and  
309 *Acidobacteria*, on the contrary, in CW and NA soils were *Proteobacteria* and  
310 *Actinobacteria* (Figure S1).

311 In the studied soils 171 bacterial taxa were identified at the genus level or the next upper  
312 taxonomic level available, with a relative abundance greater than 0.1% throughout all  
313 samples. The PerMANOVA test revealed that all soil types (CW, SS, NA, and NS)  
314 showed significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in bacterial communities at the genus level or  
315 the next upper taxonomic level identified (Table S3).

316 Some of bacterial taxa were much more abundant or were associated almost exclusively  
317 with each soil type, except in SS soils where no more abundant or exclusive bacterial taxa  
318 were found associated with this type of soil (Figure S2). The bacterial taxa (e.g.,  
319 *Caenimonas*, *Sphingomonas*, *Psychroglaciecola*, *Blastocatella*, *Noviherbaspirillum* and  
320 *Rubellimicrobium*) were more abundant in NA soils (Figure S2a), whereas bacterial taxa  
321 belonging to *Xanthomonadaceae* family, *Phaselicystis*, and *Amb-16S-1323* uncultured  
322 bacteria were dominant in CW soils (Figure S2b). Other soil bacterial communities (e.g.,

323 *Craurococcus*, *Crossiella*, *uncultured* [family: Gemmataceae], and *uncultured* [order:  
324 C0119]) were more abundant or almost exclusive in NS (Figure S1c). Several bacterial  
325 taxa (*Pir4* lineage, *Pedomicrobium*, *uncultured* [family: Micromonosporaceae],  
326 *Terrimonas*, *uncultured* [family: Xanthobacteraceae], *uncultured* [family:  
327 Solirubrobacterales 67-14], *Geodermatophilus*, *Singulisphaera*, *Chryseolinea* and  
328 *Blastococcus*) were very abundant or almost exclusive in CW and NS soils and, in  
329 contrast, present in low abundance in SS and NA soils (Figure S1d).

330 GLMs analyses showed that soil amendment with CW was the restoration treatment that  
331 most significantly influenced ( $p < 0.05$ ) for the largest number of soil bacterial taxa (95  
332 of the 171 analysed), followed by NA soils with 44 bacterial taxa, 23 bacterial taxa were  
333 influenced by NS and lastly soils amended with SS, which significantly influenced only  
334 9 bacterial taxa (Table S4).

### 335 3.4. Relationships between bacterial community taxa and soils' chemical properties

336 According to the variations (out of the fitted model and out of the total variation)  
337 explained by the axes of dbRDA, axis one (dbRDA1) applied to relative abundance of  
338 bacterial taxa explained 63.7% of the fitted model and 35.9% of the total variation of the  
339 variables, whereas the axis two (dbRDA2) explained 26.7% and 15% of the total variation  
340 (Figure 2). The dbRDA analysis clearly clustered four different groups encompassing the  
341 samples of each type of soil: CW, NS, NA and SS (Figure 2).

342 Chemical soil parameters were significantly correlated ( $p < 0.05$ ) with several soil  
343 bacterial taxa (Table S6). Moreover, numerous bacterial taxa were significantly correlated  
344 between them and those with the highest correlation values ( $r > 0.7$ ) were selected (Table  
345 S7).

346 The relationships between the different bacterial rates and chemical soil properties  
347 allowed to differentiate two co-occurrence parts patterns (Figure 3, Table S7). The first  
348 co-occurrence pattern (Figure 3 – green, Table S7), represented by the genera  
349 *Craurococcus*, *Phaselicystis*, and *Crossiella*, showed high positive correlation with TOC  
350 (r ranged between 0.55 and 0.32), TN (r between 0.74 and 0.66), and EC (r between 0.60  
351 and 0.41), but had negative correlations with pH (Table S6). The second co-occurrence  
352 pattern (Figure 3 – orange, Table S7), represented by the genera *Sphingomonas*,  
353 *Rubellimicrobium*, *Noviherbaspirillum*, *Psychroglaciececola*, and *Caenimonas*, showed  
354 positive correlation with pH (r ranged between 0.86 and 0.58) and negative correlations  
355 with TOC, TN, and EC (Table S6). The soil bacteria genera belonging to the first co-  
356 occurrence pattern were more abundant in NS and CW soils, whereas those bacteria taxa  
357 representative of the second co-occurrence pattern were more abundant in NA soils  
358 (Figure 3 and S2, Table S4). No clear tendency of soil bacterial groups was found in the  
359 SS-treated soils, since different soil bacterial taxa were shared with the other types of  
360 soils (Figure S2).

### 361 **3. Discussion**

362 The different soil types studied (restored soils -CW and SS-, soils without organic  
363 amendment -NA- and natural soils -NS-) present the same environmental conditions  
364 (climate, slope and geological material), therefore, the significant differences in soil  
365 properties are due to the impact of mining activity and restoration treatments carried out  
366 more than 10 years ago. Both types of organic amendments significantly modified the  
367 chemical soil properties, reducing pH and increasing nutrient availability (TOC, TN) and  
368 salinity in soils restored (Table 1 and S1). The compost treatment (CW) is the one that  
369 most contributed to increase TOC content through the long-term. This could be due to  
370 CW contains highly resilient carbon forms (González-Ubierna et al., 2012), acting as a

371 long-term nutrient reservoir (Table 1 and S1). However, lower TOC values in SS-treated  
372 soils (Table 1) than in CW soils suggested that SS initially presented a higher content of  
373 labile organic matter as has been also showed by González-Ubierna et al. (2012). Possibly  
374 a large part of this labile organic matter could have been quickly depleted after the  
375 application of the amendment through processes of biodegradation (Bernal et al., 1998;  
376 Cook and Allan, 1992; Jenkins et al., 2017; Ojeda et al., 2015). The pH in CW soils  
377 significantly decreased (Table 1), as was also observed by Tian et al. (2015). Possibly the  
378 high-acid organic compounds from TOC in CW soils could have contributed to the  
379 decrease in pH. Compost treatment increases soil salinity levels in the short-time but  
380 decreases progressively over time as has been observed by other authors (González-  
381 Ubierna et al., 2012; Luna et al., 2017). The highest TN content in CW soils could be due  
382 to inputs from plant residues (Ros et al., 2003), given that the plant cover showed the  
383 highest growth rates in those soils (Luna et al., 2017).

384 The identification of the greatest diversity and major soil bacterial taxa present in restored  
385 soils has clearly shown a change achieved by the restoration effort. The organic  
386 amendments contributed to increase the soil diversity and relative abundance of several  
387 bacterial taxa in the long-term (Figure 1, Table 2 and S2) like have been also shown by  
388 other authors (Bastida et al., 2008; Ros et al., 2003; Tejada et al., 2006). The dominant  
389 phyla presented different proportions depending on the soil type (Figure S1), although, in  
390 general, they were also common in other semi-arid ecosystems from North America,  
391 Kuwait desert, Brazil, China and Spain (Fernandes et al., 2018; Fierer et al., 2007; Lv et  
392 al., 2014; Miralles et al., 2020a, 2020b; Quoreshi et al., 2019).

393 The statistical analysis suggested that the distribution patterns of the soil microbial  
394 communities at the genus level or the next upper taxonomic level in the study soils are  
395 not random, but instead could be related to changes in soil properties generated by the



396 soil disturbance due to mining activity and the type of organic amendment used in the  
397 restoration treatment (Figure 2). Several bacterial taxa present in NA soils previously  
398 adapted to the harsh environmental conditions of semi-arid ecosystems (nutrient shortage,  
399 water scarcity, extreme environmental conditions during the summer, etc) could have  
400 proliferated in the restored soils favouring by the local soil conditions generated by the  
401 organic amendments in the long-term (Table S4 and S6). In soils restored with organic  
402 amendments, soil microbial communities suffer a dramatic change as the addition of  
403 organic amendments introduces new microbial communities into soils from the  
404 amendments themselves (Jurado et al., 2014; Kitamura et al., 2016). Our results lead us  
405 to think that some bacterial taxa could have been introduced with the compost and  
406 persisted in CW restored soils for more than ten years, since some bacterial genera were  
407 exclusive or practically exclusive in CW, but not in the rest soil types (Figure S2b and  
408 S4). The bacterial taxon *uncultured* [Family: Amb-16S 1323] was also found in waste  
409 deposit and in soil landfill cover (Freitas et al., 2008; Stralis-Pavese et al., 2006).  
410 However, the changes in the restored soil properties generated by organic amendments  
411 for more than 10 years have played a priority role in the diversity and composition of  
412 microbial communities in restored soils as it is supported by statistical analysis (Figure 2,  
413 Table S7). The chemical soil parameters studied are considered essential factors driving  
414 the composition of soil bacterial communities (Canfora et al., 2014; Goldfarb et al., 2011;  
415 Griffiths et al., 2011; Kielak et al., 2016; Lauber et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2014; Lucas-Borja  
416 et al., 2020; Miralles et al., 2020a; Sánchez-Marañón et al., 2017). The increase in TOC  
417 and TN from organic amendments and debris from vegetation cover colonizing the  
418 restored soils for 10 years could have favoured the presence and proliferation of different  
419 bacterial taxa (Table 1, 2 and S4, Figure S2b). Bastida et al. (2013) also observed that the  
420 nutrient availability (TOC and TN) and especially the soil organic carbon exerts deep

421 control over the dynamics of certain microbial groups in semi-arid soils. Moreover, the  
422 different types of organic matter from compost and sewage sludge could have contributed  
423 to select the soil bacterial communities, since some bacterial taxa present greater  
424 preference for labile carbon sources, while others for recalcitrant carbon compounds such  
425 as cellulose, lignin, or tannin-protein (Goldfarb et al., 2011). In turn, the organic  
426 amendments generate changes in the vegetation cover which could have caused  
427 modifications in diversity and composition of soil microbial communities essentially  
428 through plant remains and deposition of phytochemicals within the rhizosphere (Barea et  
429 al., 2002; Bastida et al., 2013; Kramer and Gleixner, 2008; Williams et al., 2013). Guo et  
430 al. (2018) noted that revegetated soils had a high microbial diversity due to factors such  
431 as the presence of roots, small aggregates, nutrients and seemingly governed pores that  
432 improve the distribution of bacteria in microhabitats (Nunan et al., 2003), due to nutrient  
433 accumulation at the root–soil interface (Kaplan et al., 2013; Nessner-Kavamura et al.,  
434 2013). The changes in pH and salinity after the application of the organic amendments  
435 could also play a key role in soil bacterial communities (Figure 2). Canfora et al. (2014)  
436 observed that some soil bacterial taxa can adapt to changes in salinity, while others could  
437 be highly sensitive to such changes. The significantly highest diversity and presence of  
438 several bacterial communities more abundant in restored soils could be due to the high  
439 salinity, especially in CW (Table 2). Such salinity levels could have contributed to the  
440 selection of these microbial communities (Figure S1) by controlling the proliferation of  
441 soil bacterial taxa more sensitive to salinity and offering in turn greater advantage to those  
442 bacterial communities more adapted to EC values (Table 1 and S6). Likewise, the  
443 microbial community in restored soils could have been influenced by soil pH, which can  
444 induce significant stress on those soil bacterial taxa that are capable to survive in specific  
445 pH ranges (Liu et al., 2014). Soil pH influence also other soil parameters such as nutrient

446 availability, organic carbon characteristics, soil moisture, cationic metal solubility and  
447 salinity, which could affect indirectly to soil microbial composition (Lauber et al., 2009).

448 Interestingly, the CW restored soils and NS soils presented several soil bacterial  
449 communities shared between them (Figure S2d), suggesting that those soil bacterial taxa  
450 could have the same preferences for soil local conditions (Figure 2 and S2, Table S6 and  
451 S7). In general, these soil bacterial taxa more abundant in CW and NS soils showed high  
452 significant positive correlations with TOC, EC and TN (Table S6). Therefore, these soil  
453 bacterial taxa could have benefited from a high content of nutrients (TOC, TN; Table 1),  
454 providing an advantage over other bacterial communities with survival strategies aimed  
455 at proliferating in more unfavourable conditions with low nutrient availability. Some of  
456 these bacteria showed lignocellulitic activity (Houfani et al., 2019), as for example  
457 Xanthomonadaceae and Beijerinckiaceae families were able to degrade lignin (Ceballos  
458 et al., 2017) or *Phaselycistis* that degraded different polysaccharides as cellulose  
459 demonstrating an important role in the soil carbon cycle (Sharma et al., 2016). On the  
460 other hand, the statistical analysis showed that SS-restored soils had an intermediate stage  
461 of development and soil functionality between NS, CW and NA soils. These soils shared  
462 different bacterial communities with the rest soil types (Figure 2 and S2, Table 2), being  
463 soils that can host a greater number of taxa (Figure S2, Table 2). The evolution of the  
464 restored soils properties for more than ten years, approaching natural soils could have  
465 also induced major changes in the functionality of bacterial community in N and C cycles.  
466 Therefore, new studies focused on exploring the taxonomy-function relationships in  
467 restored soils would be needed to clarify this knowledge gap.

468 Curiously, the results clearly showed two bacterial co-occurrence patterns, one dominant  
469 in CW and NS soils (defined as Co-occurrence pattern 1; Figure 3-green) and another  
470 dominant in NA soils (Co-occurrence pattern 2; Figure 3-orange). Relationships among

471 soil microbial taxa shape the distribution of microbial communities and therefore non-  
472 random patterns of occurrence and significant relationships among taxa in soils can be  
473 expected (Trivedi et al., 2013). As revealed by Barberán et al. (2012) finding general non-  
474 random associations forming different patterns of co-occurrence, which included  
475 common life strategies at broad taxonomic levels and relationships among soil bacterial  
476 community. In general, soil bacterial taxa with the highest correlations between them in  
477 the co-occurrence pattern 1 had also high significant positive correlations with TOC, TN,  
478 and EC and negative correlations with soil pH (Table S6 and S7). In contrast, the  
479 dominant bacterial taxa in co-occurrence pattern 2 showed high significant positive  
480 correlations with pH and negative correlations with TOC, TN, and EC (Table S6 and S7).  
481 These results suggested that different bacterial niches have been developed in the  
482 different soil types, largely depending on their chemical properties (TOC, TN, EC, and  
483 pH), where different groups of soil bacterial communities could have stabilized (Figure  
484 3, Table S7). These soil bacterial communities that make up each of these co-occurrence  
485 patterns could not only find chemical conditions in the soil that are more favourable for  
486 their proliferation but also could establish synergistic relationships in their functions  
487 related to the biogeochemical cycles of the soils. A more in-depth study on the  
488 relationships between soil bacteria and their functions in biogeochemical cycles in  
489 restored soils is warranted.

#### 490 **4. Conclusions**

491 Soil restoration treatments based on the use of organic amendments from residues have  
492 had an important effect on chemical properties and on diversity and composition of  
493 microbial communities of restored soils through the long-term. Domestic solid waste  
494 compost was the organic amendment that in the long-term favoured greater diversity and  
495 the proliferation of several more abundant bacterial taxa in those soils. This could be

496 mainly due to the organic amendment favoured greater improvement in soil quality,  
497 creating conditions of pH, salinity and nutrients that offer a greater advantage to certain  
498 microbial communities. On the other hand, soils with sewage sludge treatment did not  
499 regain their chemical and biological quality compared to natural soils, but rather they  
500 remained in an intermediate stage of chemical and biological quality between natural and  
501 no-amendment soils. These soils achieved a partial improvement but without reaching the  
502 development state of surrounding natural soils. Therefore, the compost amendment  
503 accelerated the soil restoration process, both at the level of bacterial communities and in  
504 chemical parameters, up to the natural soils in 10 years. On the contrary, soils without  
505 any type of organic amendment showed the lowest TOC, TN, and EC, and the highest  
506 soil pH, as well as other bacterial communities typical of degraded soils or extreme  
507 environments. Thus, the use of both organic amendments could be recommended to  
508 restore soils exploited by mining in semi-arid environments, although compost  
509 amendment proved to work better to speed up soil restoration to the reference soil state  
510 in the long-term. Likewise, the study of soil bacterial communities is key to understanding  
511 the evolution and naturalization of mining soils after restoration.

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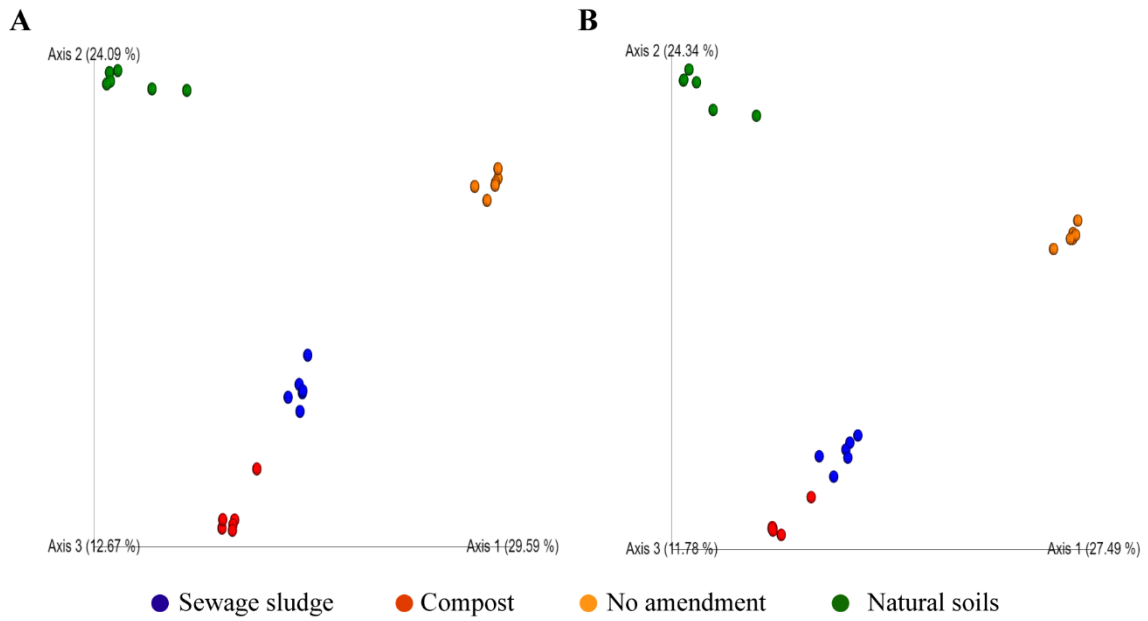
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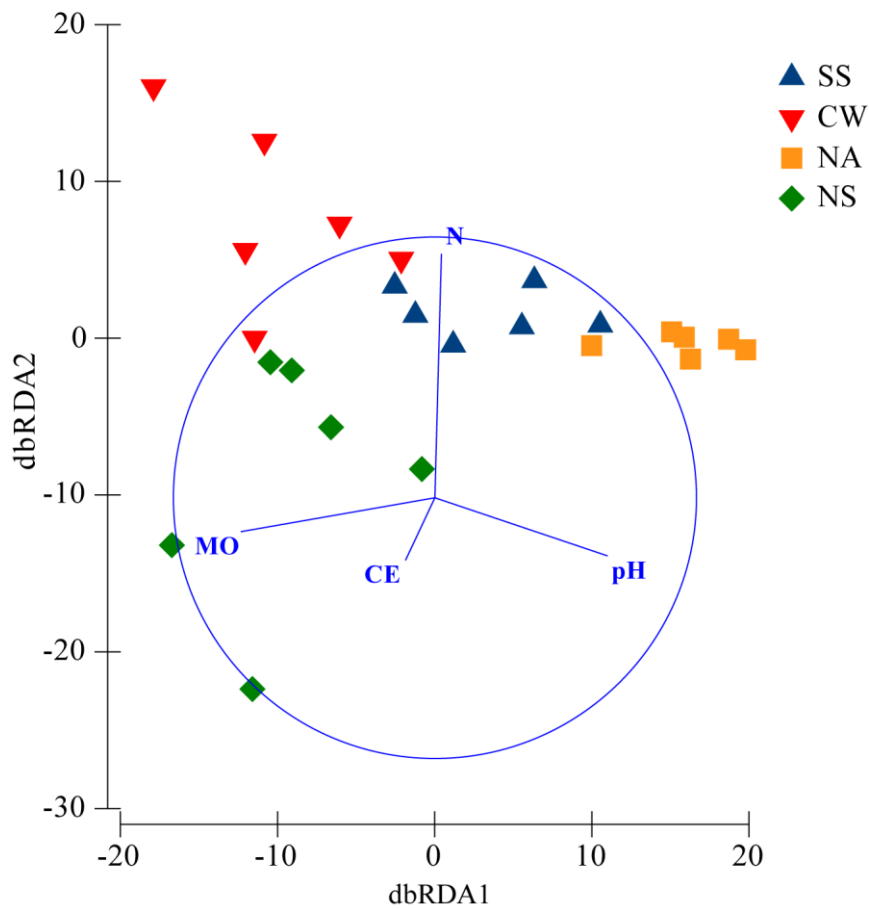
823 **FIGURE**



824

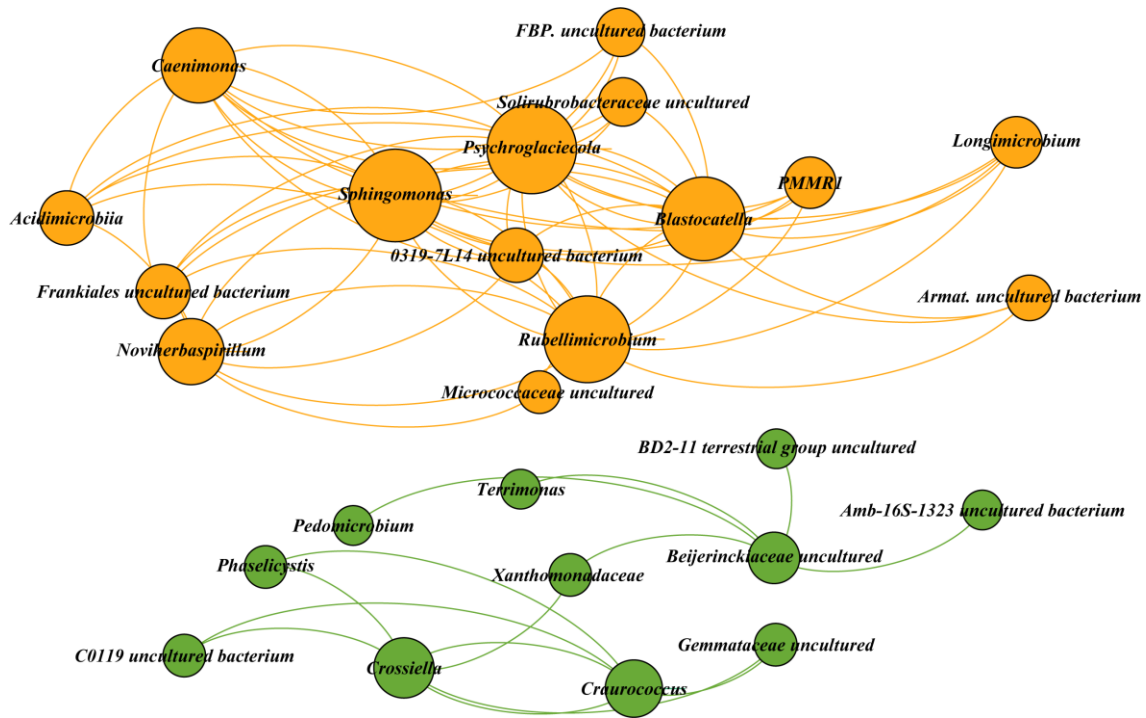
825 **Figure 1.** PCoA plots of microbial community analysis by (a) Bray–Curtis index and (b)  
826 Jaccard index from samples of all soil types analysed (natural soils, no-amendment soils,  
827 and restored soils).

828



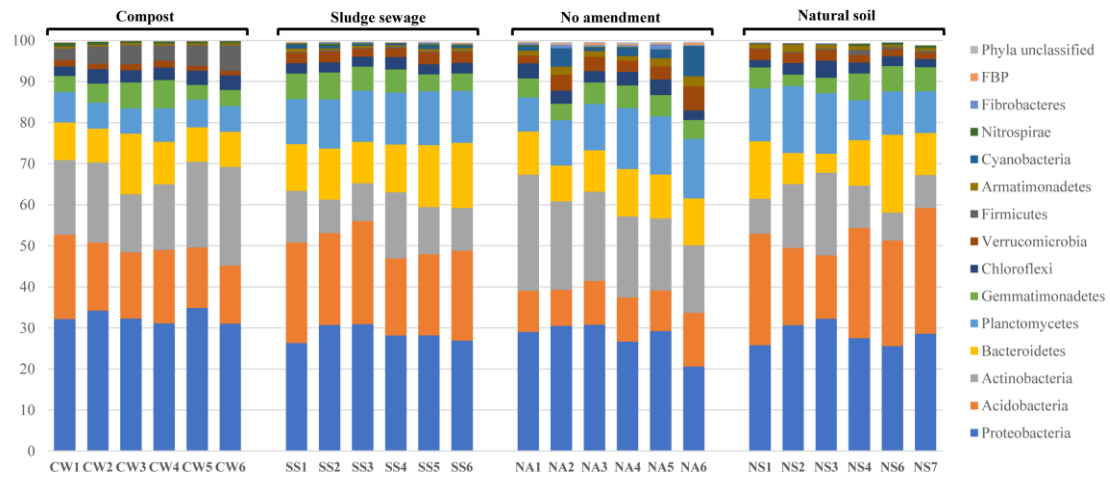
829

830 **Figure 2.** Redundancy analysis for the structure of the bacterial community and chemical  
 831 soil properties. Soil samples with sewage sludge (SS), compost (CW), no amendment  
 832 soils (NA) and natural soils (NS) are indicated by different colours and figures. Soil  
 833 properties are represented by continuous lines.



834

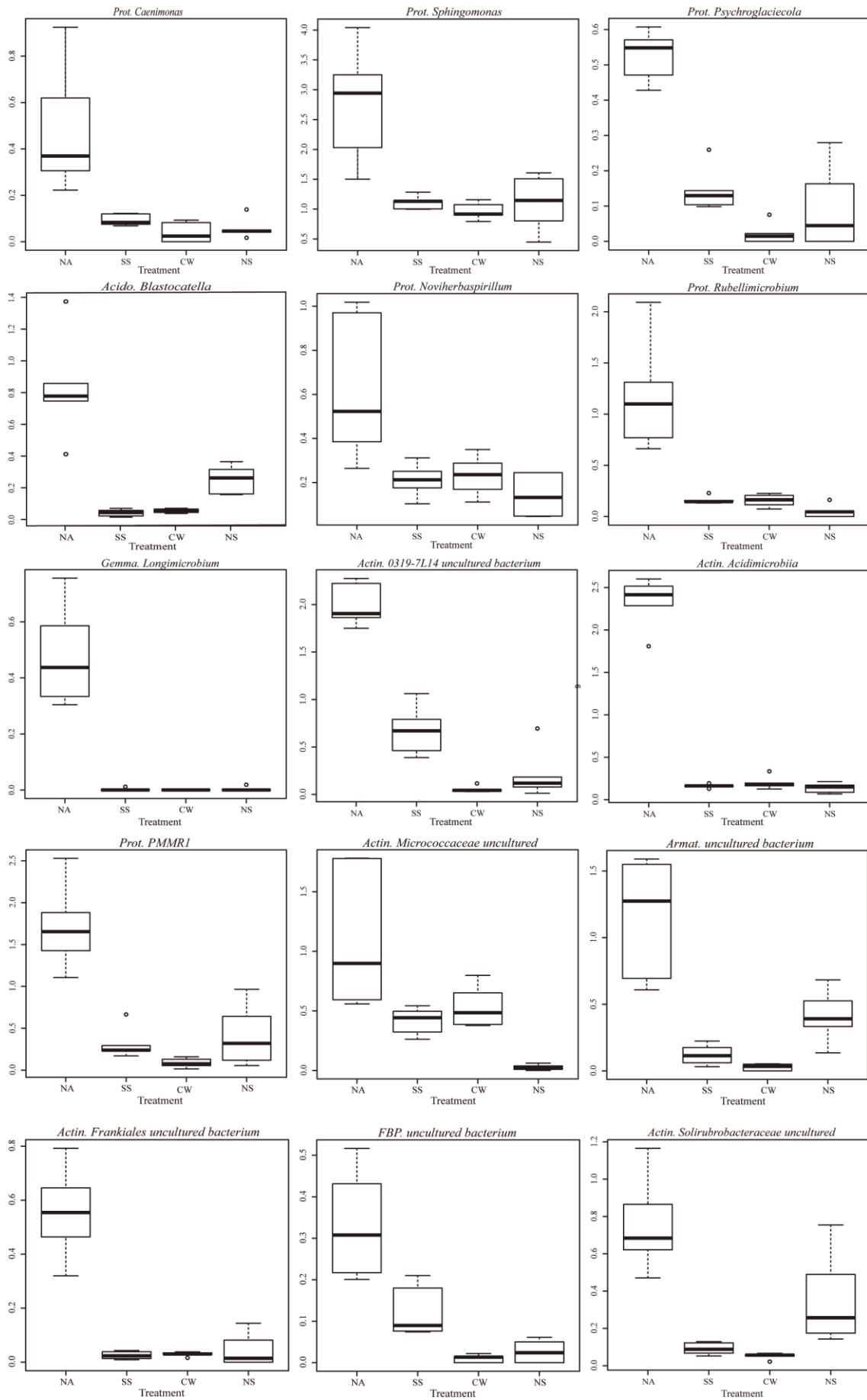
835 **Figure 3.** Co-occurring networks based on Pearson's correlation analysis ( $r > 0.7$ ) for soil  
 836 bacterial taxa shown to be present in each soil type (CW, SS, NS and NA) with the highest  
 837 correlations detected. The size of each node is proportional to the number of connections  
 838 and density of the edges indicates intensity of the correlation. The resulting soil microbial  
 839 network is made up of 26 nodes and 83 edges (average degree or node connectivity =  
 840 3.19). The clustering coefficient (how the nodes are integrated into their neighborhood,  
 841 and therefore, the degree to which they tend to cluster) was 0.5 and modularity was 0.331.  
 842 Two consortia are shown: Co-occurrence pattern 1 (green) and Co-occurrence pattern 2  
 843 (orange).



844

845 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Bar chart analysis representing the relative abundance and  
 846 distribution of ASVs attributed to phylum taxonomic rank. The 15 most abundant phyla  
 847 are shown in the legend (relative abundance > 0.1%).

848 *Footnotes:* SS: soils restored with sewage sludge; CW: soils restored with urban solid  
 849 waste compost; NA: no-amendment soils; NS: natural soils.

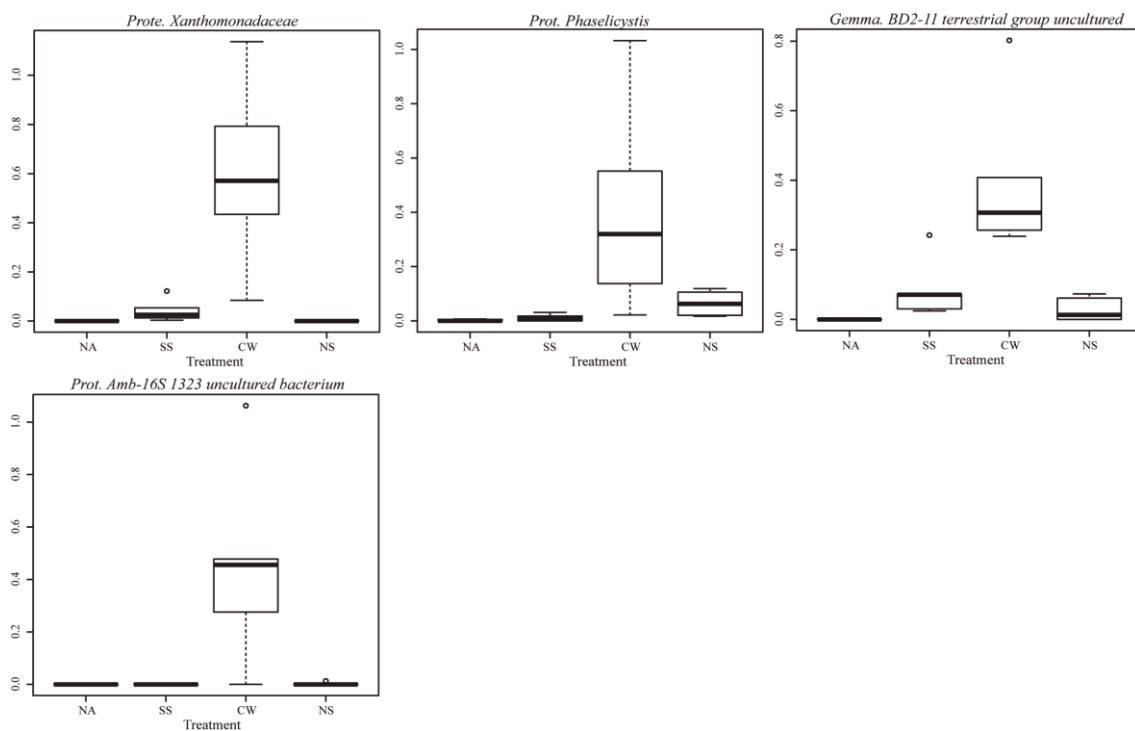


850

851

852 **Supplementary Figure 2a.** Relative abundance of soil bacteria genera or the next upper  
853 taxonomic level exclusive or almost exclusive in soils without amendment.

854 *Footnotes:* SS: soils restored with sewage sludge; CW: soils restored with urban solid  
855 waste compost; NA: no-amendment soils; NS: natural soils. The box represents the  
856 relative abundance of soil bacteria (%), with the upper and lower lines corresponding to  
857 the first and third quartiles (interquartile range) and the central line the median. Whiskers  
858 include those values that deviate up to a maximum distance of 1.5 times the interquartile  
859 range. Values with a deviation greater than 1.5 times are represented as circles.



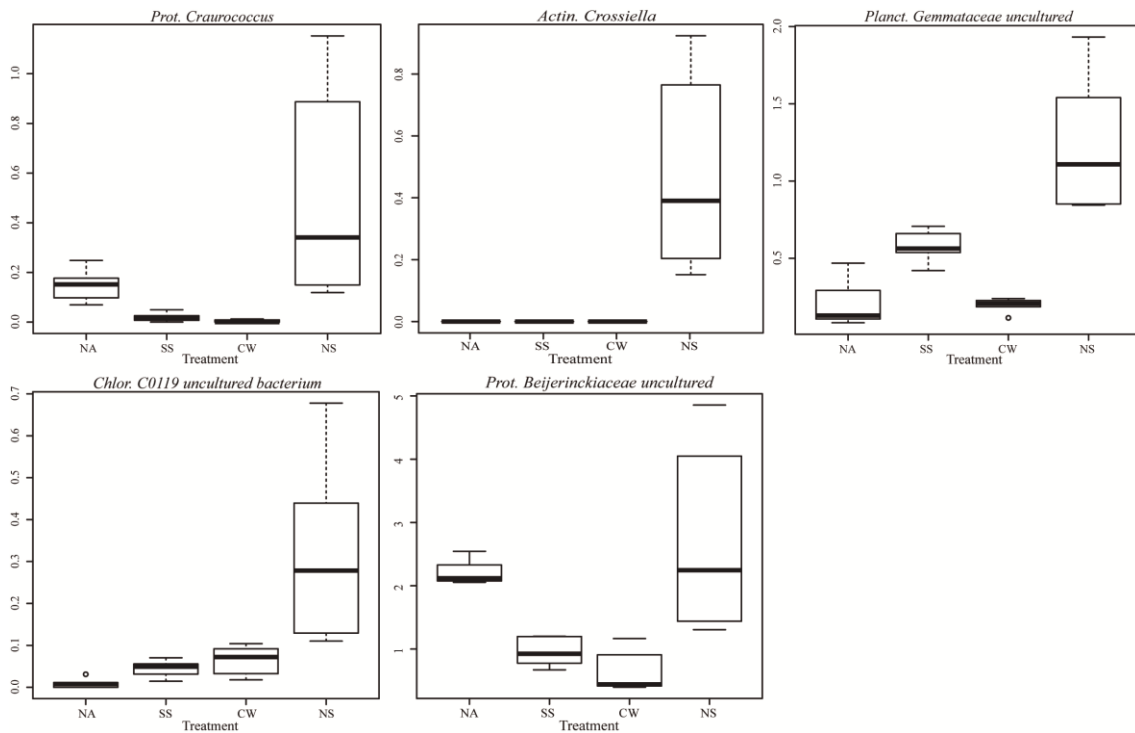
860

861 **Supplementary Figure 2b.** Relative abundance of soil bacteria genera or the next upper  
862 taxonomic level exclusive or almost exclusive of CW-treated soils.

863 *Footnotes:* SS: soils restored with sewage sludge; CW: soils restored with urban solid  
864 waste compost; NA: no-amendment soils; NS: natural soils. The box represents the  
865 relative abundance of soil bacteria (%), with the upper and lower lines corresponding to  
866 the first and third quartiles (interquartile range) and the central line the median. Whiskers



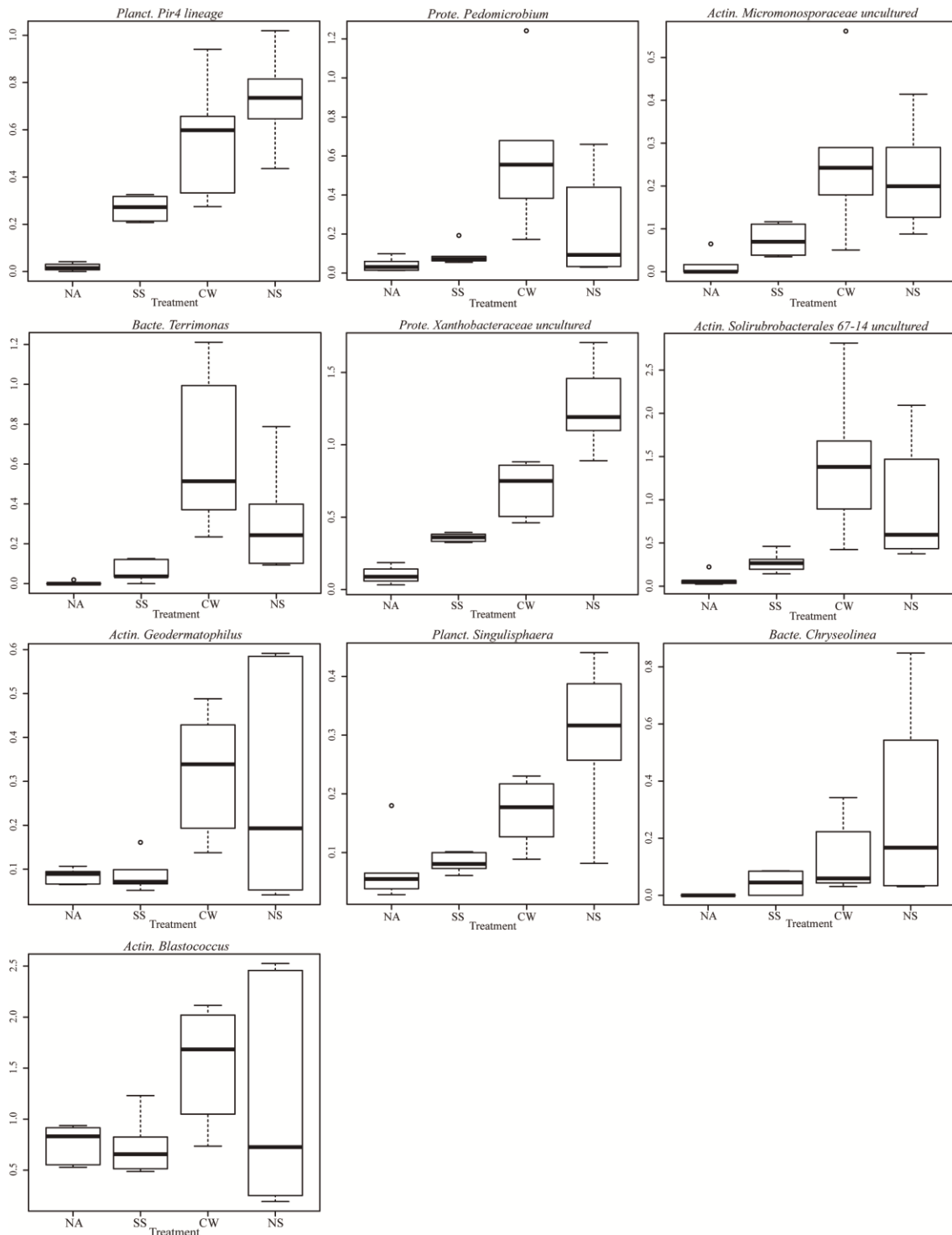
867 include those values that deviate up to a maximum distance of 1.5 times the interquartile  
 868 range. Values with a deviation greater than 1.5 times are represented as circles.



869

870 **Supplementary Figure 2c.** Relative abundance of soil bacteria genera or the next upper  
 871 taxonomic level exclusive or almost exclusive of natural soils.

872 *Footnotes:* SS: soils restored with sewage sludge; CW: soils restored with urban solid  
 873 waste compost; NA: no-amendment soils; NS: natural soils. The box represents the  
 874 relative abundance of soil bacteria (%), with the upper and lower lines corresponding to  
 875 the first and third quartiles (interquartile range) and the central line the median. Whiskers  
 876 include those values that deviate up to a maximum distance of 1.5 times the interquartile  
 877 range. Values with a deviation greater than 1.5 times are represented as circles.



878

879 **Supplementary Figure 2d.** Relative abundance of soil bacteria genera or the next upper

880 taxonomic level exclusive or almost exclusive of CW-treated and natural soils.

881 *Footnotes:* SS: soils restored with sewage sludge; CW: soils restored with urban solid

882 waste compost; NA: no-amendment soils; NS: natural soils. The box represents the

883 relative abundance of soil bacteria (%), with the upper and lower lines corresponding to

884 the first and third quartiles (interquartile range) and the central line the median. Whiskers  
 885 include those values that deviate up to a maximum distance of 1.5 times the interquartile  
 886 range. Values with a deviation greater than 1.5 times are represented as circles.

887

## 888 Tables

889

890 **Table 1.** Chemical soil properties of restored soils, no-amendment soils and natural soils (mean  
 891  $\pm$  SD ( $n=6$ )).

	PH	EC	TOC	TN
SEWAGE SLUDGE	8.39 $\pm$ 0.13 a	0.21 $\pm$ 0.06 a	0.55 $\pm$ 0.14 a	0.08 $\pm$ 0.02 a
COMPOST	8.00 $\pm$ 0.15 b	0.39 $\pm$ 0.17 b	3.41 $\pm$ 1.52 b	0.53 $\pm$ 0.23 b
NO AMENDMENT	8.74 $\pm$ 0.09 c	0.11 $\pm$ 0.03 c	0.17 $\pm$ 0.03 c	0.03 $\pm$ 0.01 c
NATURAL SOIL	8.11 $\pm$ 0.14 b	0.39 $\pm$ 0.09 b	3.11 $\pm$ 0.54 b	0.26 $\pm$ 0.09 d

892 EC: Electrical Conductivity ( $\text{mS cm}^{-1}$ ); TOC: Total Organic Carbon content (%); TN: Total Nitrogen content (%). Different letters  
 893 indicate statistical differences for each treatment ( $p < 0.05$ ).

894

895 **Table 2.** Results of diversity index expressed as media  $\pm$  SD of each soil type ( $n=6$ ). From  
 896 univariate PerANOVA test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

	<i>Observed ASVs</i>	<i>Faith PD</i>	<i>Shannon</i>	<i>Pielou e</i>
<i>Sewage sludge</i>	964 $\pm$ 20.81 a	41.44 $\pm$ 0.59 a	8.41 $\pm$ 0.12 ac	0.84 $\pm$ 0.01 ab
<i>Compost</i>	915 $\pm$ 65.03 a	38.70 $\pm$ 1.59 b	8.69 $\pm$ 0.16 b	0.88 $\pm$ 0.01 c
<i>No amendment</i>	798 $\pm$ 48.70 b	36.34 $\pm$ 1.24 c	8.36 $\pm$ 0.17 c	0.86 $\pm$ 0.01 a
<i>Natural soil</i>	802 $\pm$ 50.82 b	33.70 $\pm$ 1.30 d	8.57 $\pm$ 0.13 ab	0.88 $\pm$ 0.00 bc

897

898

899 **Supplementary Table 1.** PerANOVA analysis. Significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in chemical  
 900 properties by soil types (SS: sewage sludge; CW: compost; NA: no amendment; NS: natural soil).  
 901 Pairwise test comparing the different soil types.

PerANOVA							
<b>pH</b>	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
		3	69.28	23.093	37.864	0.0001	9950
	Residues	20	12.198	0.6099			
	Total	23	81.478				
<u>Pair-wise tests</u>							
	Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms			
	SS, CW	4.8147	0.0038	336			
	SS, NA	5.2961	0.0048	245			
	SS, NS	3.613	0.0079	461			
	CW, NA	10.193	0.0031	336			
	CW, NS	1.3368	0.2088	336			
	NA, NS	9.2205	0.0019	336			
<b>EC</b>	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
		3	11735	3911.8	16.159	0.0001	9948
	Residues	20	4841.5	242.08			
	Total	23	16577				
<u>Pair-wise tests</u>							
	Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms			
	SS, CW	2.2743	0.0508	336			
	SS, NA	4.1192	0.0025	462			
	SS, NS	4.1018	0.005	462			
	CW, NA	4.6595	0.0021	336			
	CW, NS	0.56444	0.6094	179			
	NA, NS	7.7099	0.002	462			
<b>TOC</b>	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
		3	39674	13225	55.777	0.0001	9944
	Residues	20	4742.1	237.1			
	Total	23	44416				
<u>Pair-wise tests</u>							
	Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms			
	SS, CW	5.7574	0.0025	462			
	SS, NA	7.4077	0.0023	462			
	SS, NS	10.345	0.0015	462			
	CW, NA	7.9544	0.0014	462			
	CW, NS	0.57742	0.7683	461			
	NA, NS	15.86	0.0016	462			
<b>TN</b>	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
		3	32693	10898	26.632	0.0001	9937
	Residues	20	8184	409.2			

Total 23 40877

PAIR-WISE TESTS

Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms
SS, CW	5.921	0.0022	336
SS, NA	4.7714	0.0019	336
SS, NS	4.3935	0.0078	336
CW, NA	6.6156	0.0023	462
CW, NS	2.0721	0.0382	462
NA, NS	6.0502	0.0016	462

Notes: df = degree of freedom; SS = Sum of squares; MS = Mean squares; Unique perms = Number of unique values of the test statistic obtained under permutation.

902

903

904 **Supplementary Table 2.** PerANOVA analysis. Significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in diversity  
 905 indices by soil types (SS: sewage sludge; CW: compost; NA: no amendment; NS: natural soil).

906 Pairwise test comparing the different soil types.

	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
<b>Observed ASVs</b>		3	1.24E+05	41167	17.121	0.0001	9467
	Residues	20	48089	2404.5			
	Total	23	1.72E+05				

Pair-Wise test

Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms
SS, CW	1.7637	0.101	163
SS, NA	7.6619	0.0023	247
SS, NS	7.2175	0.002	275
CW, NA	3.5123	0.002	222
CW, NS	3.3436	0.0088	169
NA, NS	0.13339	0.909	136

	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
<b>Faith index</b>		3	196.42	65.475	42.656	0.0001	9953
	Residues	20	30.699	1.5349			
	Total	23	227.12				

Pair-Wise test

Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms
SS, CW	3.938	0.007	462
SS, NA	9.0473	0.0025	461
SS, NS	13.232	0.0033	461
CW, NA	2.8577	0.0174	462
CW, NS	5.9547	0.0022	462
NA, NS	3.5981	0.011	462

	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
--	--------	----	----	----	----------	---------	--------------

<b>Shannon index</b>		3	0.41666	0.13889	6.3005	0.0036	9959
	Residues	20	0.44088	2.20E-02			
	Total	23	0.85754				

Pair-Wise test

Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms
SS, CW	3.46	0.0113	461
SS, NA	0.52778	0.6048	462
SS, NS	2.171	0.06	462
CW, NA	3.4354	0.0071	461
CW, NS	1.4876	0.1673	461
NA, NS	2.3067	0.0348	462

---

	Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
<b>Pielou evenness</b>		3	5.97E-03	1.99E-03	18.495	0.0001	9960
	Residues	20	2.15E-03	1.08E-04			
	Total	23	8.12E-03				

Pair-Wise test

Groups	t	P(perm)	perms
SS, CW	3.46	0.0113	461
SS, NA	0.52778	0.6048	462
SS, NS	2.171	0.06	462
CW, NA	3.4354	0.0071	461
CW, NS	1.4876	0.1673	461
NA, NS	2.3067	0.0348	462

Notes: df = degree of freedom; SS = Sum of squares; MS = Mean squares; Unique perms = Number of unique values of the test statistic obtained under permutation.

907

908 **Supplementary Table 3.** PerMANOVA analysis. Significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in bacterial

909 taxa by soil types (SS: sewage sludge; CW: compost; NA: no amendment; NS: natural soil).

910 Pairwise test comparing all soil types.

---

Source	df	SS	MS	Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Unique perms
	3	14023	4674.2	13.268	0.0001	9937
Residues	20	7046	352.3			
Total	23	21069				

Pair-wise tests

Groups	t	P(perm)	Unique perms
SS, CW	3.3574	0.0015	462
SS, NA	4.7902	0.0025	462
SS, NS	2.8334	0.0021	462

CW, NA	5.1973	0.0023	461
CW, NS	2.9939	0.0024	462
NA, NS	3.5004	0.0022	462

Notes: df = degree of freedom; SS = Sum of squares; MS = Mean squares; Unique perms = Number of unique values of the test statistic obtained under permutation.

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913 **Supplementary Table 4.** Results of GLM analysis showing the influence of soil type (SS: sewage  
914 sludge; CW: compost; NA: no amendment soil; NS: natural soil) on soil bacterial taxa. On the  
915 right, the type of soil that most influenced each of the soil bacteria is shown.

		Compost	No amendment	Natural soils	Sewage sludge	Relationship soil type
<i>Actin. Solirubrobacteraceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.052	0.696	0.294	0.039	NA
	p-value	0.160	0.000***	0.007**	0.695	
<i>Chlor. C0119 uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.065	-0.055	0.254	-0.020	NS
	p-value	0.188	0.422	0.001**	0.769	
<i>Gemma. BD2 11 terrestrial group uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.387	-0.387	-0.360	-0.301	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.000***	0.000**	
<i>Planc. Gemmataceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.196	0.005	1.034	0.379	NS
	p-value	0.061	0.973	0.000***	0.013*	
<i>Prote. Craurococcus</i>	Estimate	0.004	0.146	0.495	0.016	NS
	p-value	0.969	0.268	0.001***	0.905	
<i>Prote. Amb 16S 1323 uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.455	-0.455	-0.452	-0.455	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.000***	0.000**	
<i>Prote. Psychroglaciecola</i>	Estimate	0.021	0.508	0.068	0.123	NA
	p-value	0.485	0.000***	0.124	0.008*	
<i>Prote. Beijerinckiaceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.159	1.013	-0.107	0.000	NA
	p-value	0.064	0.002**	0.000***	0.488	
<i>Acido. Blastocatella</i>	Estimate	0.056	0.768	0.198	-0.014	NA
	p-value	0.406	0.000***	0.0466*	0.883	
<i>Prote. Rubellimicrobium</i>	Estimate	0.159	1.013	-0.107	0.000	NA
	p-value	0.154	0.000***	0.487	1.000	
<i>Prote. Sphingomonas</i>	Estimate	0.960	1.825	0.150	0.154	NA
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.621	0.610	
<i>Prote. Phaselicystis</i>	Estimate	0.397	-0.395	-0.333	-0.386	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.001**	0.005**	0.002*	
<i>Prote. Caenimonas</i>	Estimate	0.037	0.431	0.019	0.055	NA
	p-value	0.504	0.000***	0.808	0.489	
<i>Prote. Noviherbaspirillum</i>	Estimate	0.232	0.382	-0.090	-0.021	NA
	p-value	0.004**	0.001**	0.376	0.384	
<i>Prote. Xanthomonadaceae</i>	Estimate	0.598	-0.598	-0.598	-0.558	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.000***	0.000**	
<i>Actin. Crossiella</i>	Estimate	0.000	0.000	0.471	0.000	NS

	p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000***	0.000	
<i>Planc. WD2101 soil group</i>	Estimate	0.404	1.698	1.039	1.451	NA, NS and SS
	p-value	0.032*	0.000***	0.000***	0.000**	
<i>Prote. Psychroglaciecola</i>	Estimate	0.021	0.508	0.068	0.123	NA
	p-value	0.486	0.000***	0.124	0.008*	
<i>Actin. 319 7L14 uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.053	1.934	0.148	0.621	NA
	p-value	0.531	0.000***	0.221	0.000**	
<i>Actin. Acidimicrobiia</i>	Estimate	0.196	2.144	-0.056	-0.034	NA
	p-value	0.004**	0.000***	0.525	0.698	
<i>Actin. Frankiales uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.030	0.526	0.013	-0.005	NA
	p-value	0.418	0.000***	0.804	0.927	
<i>Actin. Micrococcaceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.530	0.555	-0.503	-0.112	CW and NA
	p-value	0.000***	0.004**	0.008**	0.522	
<i>Armat. uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.028	1.137	0.381	0.092	NA
	p-value	0.778	0.000***	0.135*	0.523	
<i>FBP. uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	0.011	0.319	0.016	0.109	NA
	p-value	0.714	0.000***	0.699	0.014*	
<i>Gemma. Longimicrobium</i>	Estimate	0.000	0.476	0.003	0.002	NA
	p-value	1.000	0.000***	0.950	0.969	
<i>Planc. WD2101 soil group uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.774	2.121	0.645	1.984	NA and SS
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.005**	0.000**	
<i>Prote. PMMR1</i>	Estimate	0.085	1.624	0.319	0.221	NA
	p-value	0.000	0.720	0.001	0.000	
<i>Planc. Pir4 lineage</i>	Estimate	0.567	-0.549	0.164	-0.299	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.000***	0.010*	0.001**	
<i>Prote. Pedomicrobium</i>	Estimate	0.598	-0.556	-0.373	-0.508	CW
	p-value	0.504	0.000***	0.808	0.489	
<i>Actin Micromonosporaceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.261	-0.247	-0.041	-0.187	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.048*	0.292	0.039*	
<i>Bacte. Terrimonas</i>	Estimate	0.640	-0.637	-0.328	-0.580	CW
	p-value	0.486	0.712	0.023*	0.583	
<i>Prote. Xanthobacteraceae uncultured</i>	Estimate	0.701	-0.602	0.554	-0.342	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.033*	0.007**	0.059.	
<i>Actin. Geodermatophilus</i>	Estimate	0.321	-0.236	-0.045	-0.234	CW
	p-value	0.003**	0.778	0.000***	0.253	
<i>Planc Singulisphaera</i>	Estimate	0.170	-0.099	0.130	-0.087	CW
	p-value	0.294	0.706	0.000***	0.858	
<i>Bacte Chryseolinea</i>	Estimate	0.126	-0.126	0.172	-0.083	NS
	p-value	0.000***	0.003**	0.021*	0.003*	
<i>Actin Blastococcus</i>	Estimate	1.548	-0.782	-0.401	-0.820	CW
	p-value	0.000***	0.027*	0.003**	0.777	
<i>Actin. Solirubrobacterales 67-14 uncultured bacterium</i>	Estimate	1.428	-1.352	-0.501	-1.154	CW
	p-value	0.978	0.000***	0.006**	0.554	

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918 **Supplementary Table 5.** RDA results, explanatory variance and contribution of relative  
 919 abundance of soil bacterial taxa and chemical properties.

*Percentage of variation explained by individual axes (% explained variation out of total variation)*

Axis	Individual	Cumulative
1	35,89	35,89
2	15,04	50,94

920

*Weights  
 (Coefficients for linear combinations of X's in the formation of dbRDA coordinates)*

Variable	dbRDA1	dbRDA2
pH	39,57	-12,14
CE	9,10	-23,85
MO	-2,30	-8,39
N	15,64	65,68

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923 **Supplementary Table 6.** Significant correlations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between soil parameters and soil  
 924 bacteria (genus level or the next upper taxonomic level identified). Soil bacterial taxa are arranged  
 925 in the same order as shown in Figure S1 (r). Negative correlations are in italics.

Soil bacterial taxa	pH	<sup>1</sup> EC	<sup>2</sup> TOC	<sup>3</sup> TN
<i>Prote. Caenimonas</i>	0,67	-0,52	-0,55	-0,52
<i>Prote. Sphingomonas</i>	0,67	-0,49	-0,50	-0,43
<i>Prote. Psychroglaciacola</i>	0,86	-0,65	-0,72	-0,62
<i>Acido. Blastocatella</i>	0,70	-0,51	-0,42	-0,45
<i>Prote. Noviherbaspirillum</i>	0,58	-0,46	-0,41	-0,27
<i>Prote. Rubellimicrobium</i>	0,72	-0,57	-0,52	-0,42
<i>Gemma. Longimicrobium</i>	0,77	-0,60	-0,54	-0,47
<i>Actin. 0319-7L14 uncultured bacterium</i>	0,85	-0,69	-0,75	-0,65
<i>Actin. Acidimicrobiia</i>	0,79	-0,63	-0,56	-0,47
<i>Prote. PMMR1</i>	0,79	-0,58	-0,59	-0,53
<i>Actin. Micrococcaceae uncultured</i>	0,55	-0,49	-0,41	-0,20
<i>Armat. uncultured bacterium</i>	0,73	-0,52	-0,47	-0,50
<i>Actin. Frankiales uncultured bacterium</i>	0,73	-0,57	-0,54	-0,46
<i>FBP. uncultured bacterium</i>	0,84	-0,67	-0,68	-0,59
<i>Actin. Solirubrobacteraceae uncultured</i>	0,63	-0,39	-0,43	-0,45
<i>Prote. Xanthomonadaceae</i>	-0,59	0,52	0,54	0,74
<i>Prote. Phaselicystis</i>	-0,54	0,60	0,55	0,66
<i>Gemma. BD2-11 terrestrial group uncultured</i>	-0,55	0,49	0,39	0,57
<i>Prote. Amb-16S-1323 uncultured bacterium</i>	-0,55	0,52	0,53	0,72

<i>Prote. Craurococcus</i>	-0,59	0,52	0,54	0,74
<i>Actin. Crossiella</i>	-0,27	0,41	0,32	0,09
<i>Planct. Gemmataceae uncultured</i>	-0,28	0,40	0,22	-0,02
<i>Chlor. C0119 uncultured bacterium</i>	-0,38	0,56	0,35	0,21
<i>Prote. Beijerinckiaceae uncultured</i>	-0,52	0,38	0,19	0,28
<i>Planct. Pir4 lineage</i>	-0,76	0,78	0,85	0,74
<i>Prote. Pedomicrobium</i>	-0,62	0,52	0,80	0,81
<i>Actin. Micromonosporaceae uncultured</i>	-0,63	0,65	0,78	0,72
<i>Bacte. Terrimonas</i>	-0,73	0,58	0,72	0,77
<i>Prote. Xanthobacteraceae uncultured</i>	-0,64	0,62	0,71	0,38
<i>Actin. Solirubrobacterales 67-14 uncultured</i>	-0,65	0,39	0,68	0,75
<i>Actin. Geodermatophilus</i>	-0,50	0,55	0,56	0,61
<i>Planct. Singulisphaera</i>	-0,55	0,49	0,55	0,35
<i>Bacte. Chryseolinea</i>	-0,41	0,38	0,45	0,12
<i>Actin. Blastococcus</i>	-0,34	0,30	0,30	0,42

926 <sup>1</sup>EC: Electrical conductivity; <sup>2</sup> TOC: Total organic carbon; <sup>3</sup>TN: Total nitrogen

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**Supplementary Table 7.** Soil bacterial co-occurrence patterns and significant correlations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between the representative bacterial genera in each co-occurrence pattern.

	<i>Prote. Sphingomonas</i>	<i>Prote. Rubellimicrobium</i>	<i>Prote. Noviherbaspirillum</i>	<i>Acido. Blastocatella</i>	<i>Prote. Psychroglaciecola</i>	<i>Prote. Caenimonas</i>	<i>Prote. Craurococcus</i>	<i>Prote. Phaselicystis</i>	<i>Actin. Crossiella</i>
<i>Prote. Caenimonas</i>	0,91				0,74	1			
<i>Prote. Sphingomonas</i>	1	0,72	0,72	0,74	0,81	0,91			
<i>Prote. Psychroglaciecola</i>	0,81	0,77		0,82	1	0,74			
<i>Acido. Blastocatella</i>	0,74	0,75		1	0,82				
<i>Prote. Noviherbaspirillum</i>	0,72	0,89	1						
<i>Prote. Rubellimicrobium</i>	0,72	1	0,89	0,75	0,77				
<i>Gemma. Longimicrobium</i>	0,73	0,75		0,88	0,90	0,72			
<i>Actin. 0319-7L14 uncultured bacterium</i>	0,85	0,83	0,75	0,76	0,94	0,84			
<i>Actin. Acidimicrobiia</i>	0,82	0,87	0,76	0,82	0,91	0,79			
<i>Prote. PMMR1</i>	0,80	0,76		0,93	0,94	0,71			
<i>Actin. Micrococcaceae uncultured</i>		0,85	0,93						
<i>Armat. uncultured bacterium</i>		0,79		0,92	0,83				
<i>Actin. Frankiales uncultured bacterium</i>	0,82	0,96	0,86	0,82	0,87	0,76			
<i>FBP. uncultured bacterium</i>	0,78			0,76	0,84	0,80			
<i>Actin. Solirubrobacteraceae uncultured</i>	0,81			0,77	0,80	0,74			
<i>Prote. Xanthomonadaceae</i>								0,88	0,70
<i>Gemma. BD2-11 terrestrial group uncultured</i>								0,87	
<i>Prote. Amb-16S-1323 uncultured bacterium</i>								0,91	
<i>Prote. Craurococcus</i>							1		0,95
<i>Actin. Crossiella</i>							0,95		1
<i>Planct. Gemmataceae uncultured</i>							0,82		0,91
<i>Chlor. C0119 uncultured bacterium</i>							0,92		0,95
<i>Prote. Beijerinckiaceae uncultured</i>							0,92		0,80
<i>Prote. Pedomicrobium</i>								0,73	
<i>Bacte. Terrimonas</i>								0,83	

Soil bacterial consortia were selected from significant positive correlations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between soil bacterial genera with  $r > 0.7$ . The soil bacterial genera with the highest correlations of the co-occurrence patterns, selected as the bacteria genus representative of each co-occurrence pattern, are shown at the top of the table. The soil bacteria marked present co-occurrence pattern with positive correlations with TOC, EC and TN and negative correlations with pH, associated with no amendment soils (NA). The rest of unmarked soil bacterial had showed a co-occurrence pattern with positive correlations with pH and a negative correlation with TOC, EC and TN.

