bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Molybdenum-based diazotrophy in a *Sphagnum* peatland in northern Minnesota

Melissa J. Warren[1*], Xueju Lin[2**], John C. Gaby[2***], Cecilia B. Kretz[1****], Max Kolton[2], Peter L. Morton[3], Jennifer Pett-Ridge[4], David J. Weston[5], Christopher W. Schadt[5], Joel E. Kostka[1,2], Jennifer B. Glass[1,2#]

[1]School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

[2]School of Biology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA

[3]Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

[4]Physical and Life Sciences Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, USA

[5]Biosciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, USA

Now at: *CH2M, Atlanta, GA, USA; **InstantLabs, Baltimore, MD, USA; ***Faculty of Chemistry, Biotechnology and Food Science, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Oslo, Norway; ****Division of Bacterial Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA

#Corresponding author: Jennifer B. Glass, 404-894-3942; jennifer.glass@eas.gatech.edu

Running Title: Nitrogen fixation in a *Sphagnum* peat bog

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Abstract

Microbial N_2 fixation (diazotrophy) represents an important nitrogen source to oligotrophic peatland ecosystems, which are important sinks for atmospheric CO_2 and susceptible to changing climate. The objectives of this study were: (i) to determine the active microbial group and type of nitrogenase mediating diazotrophy in a ombrotrophic *Sphagnum*-dominated peat bog (the S1 peat bog, Marcell Experimental Forest, Minnesota, USA); and (ii) to determine the effect of environmental parameters (light, O_2, CO_2, CH_4) on potential rates of diazotrophy measured by acetylene (C_2H_2) reduction and $^{15}N_2$ incorporation. Molecular analysis of metabolically-active microbial communities suggested that diazotrophy in surface peat was primarily mediated by *Alphaproteobacteria* (*Bradyrhizobiaceae* and *Beijerinckiaceae*). Despite higher dissolved vanadium (V) (11 nM) than molybdenum (Mo) (3 nM) in surface peat, a combination of metagenomic, amplicon sequencing and activity measurements indicated that Mo-containing nitrogenases dominate over the V-containing form. Acetylene reduction was only detected in surface peat exposed to light, with the highest rates observed in peat collected from hollows with the highest water content. Incorporation of $^{15}N_2$ was suppressed 90% by O_2 and 55% by C_2H_2, and was unaffected by CH_4 and CO_2 amendments. These results suggest that peatland diazotrophy is mediated by a combination of C_2H_2-sensitive and C_2H_2-insensitive microbes that are more active at low O_2 and show similar activity at high and low CH_4.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

39 **Importance**

40 Previous studies indicate that diazotrophy provides an important nitrogen source and is linked to
41 methanotrophy in *Sphagnum*-dominated peatlands. However, the environmental controls and
42 enzymatic pathways of peatland diazotrophy, as well as the metabolically active microbial
43 populations that catalyze this process remain in question. Our findings indicate that oxygen
44 levels and photosynthetic activity override low nutrient availability in limiting diazotrophy, and
45 that members of the *Alphaproteobacteria* (*Rhizobiales*) catalyze this process at the bog surface
46 using the molybdenum-based form of the nitrogenase enzyme.

47

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Introduction

High-latitude peatlands store approximately one-third of global soil carbon and may pose a climatic threat if rising global temperatures accelerate the release of this stored carbon in gaseous forms, as either carbon dioxide or methane (35, 61, 100). Mineral-poor (ombrotrophic) peatlands receive most of their nutrient inputs from atmospheric deposition and contain *Sphagnum* moss as their primary plant cover (12, 61). The peatmoss *Sphagnum* is a keystone genus in these ecosystems and is responsible for much of the primary production and recalcitrant dead organic matter (13, 97). *Sphagnum* mosses also host complex microbiomes (9, 55, 73, 74), including N_2-fixers (diazotrophs) that are significant nitrogen sources to peatland ecosystems (5).

Despite decades of research, there is still much debate on the identity of the dominant diazotrophs in ombrotrophic peatlands. Early work implicated *Cyanobacteria* (2, 36, 37) or heterotrophic bacteria (83) based primarily on microscopic studies, while more recent molecular analyses argue for the importance of methanotrophic *Beijerinckiaceae* (19) as major diazotrophs in *Sphagnum* peat bogs (8, 22, 44, 93). Possible contributions from other potential diazotrophs, such as strictly anaerobic methanogenic *Euryarchaeota*, remain unknown. However, it is quite possible that diverse diazotrophs exist within defined niches of peatland environments (57).

Diazotrophy is catalyzed by the nitrogenase metalloenzyme, a complex of thee subunits (H, D and K) that contains abundant iron as Fe-S clusters. This enzyme is extremely O_2 sensitive (99), and must be protected from exposure to O_2 for diazotrophy to occur (25). The most common form of nitrogenase, encoded by *nif* genes, contains molybdenum (Mo) as its cofactor. When Mo is scarce, some species of Bacteria and Archaea express nitrogenases containing vanadium (V; *vnf* genes) or iron (Fe; *anf* genes) in place of Mo, but these "alternative" nitrogenases are less efficient than the Mo form (70, 95). Phylogenetic analyses of the most

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

71 conserved nitrogenase gene, *nifH*, revealed four clusters: aerobic bacteria (cluster I); alternative
72 nitrogenases (cluster II); anaerobic bacteria and archaea (cluster III); uncharacterized sequences
73 (cluster IV), and paralogs related to chlorophyll biosynthesis (cluster V; 80). Consistent with
74 higher concentrations of V than Mo in most rocks (96), microbes from diverse soils contain *vnf*
75 (cluster II) genes (4, 7, 18, 45, 67). Given the oligotrophic conditions that predominate in
76 peatlands, trace metals may limit diazotrophy. However, little is known about trace metal
77 availability and the role of alternative nitrogenase pathways in ombrotrophic peatlands.

78 Similarly, methane monooxygenase (MMO, the enzyme that catalyzes the first step of
79 methane oxidation) occurs in particulate (copper (Cu)-containing pMMO) and soluble (Fe-
80 containing sMMO) forms. While pMMO has more specific substrate requirements, pathways
81 that employ sMMO can use a wider range of compounds (15). Both forms of MMO are inhibited
82 by acetylene (C_2H_2) (14, 77). In organisms with both sets of genes, pMMO is expressed when Cu
83 is abundant, whereas Cu limitation induces sMMO expression (85). The dominant peatland
84 methanotrophs in *Alphaproteobacteria* and *Gammaproteobacteria* tend to possess both MMOs
85 (11, 24, 39, 50, 65), although *Methylocella* and *Methyloferula* species containing solely sMMO
86 have been isolated from peat bogs (20, 21, 94). While most studies have primarily targeted the
87 *pmoA* gene (24, 50), *mmoX* genes and transcripts have also been reported in peatlands (60, 65,
88 79), raising questions about the relative importance of each form for peatland methane oxidation.

89 The acetylene reduction assay (ARA) is commonly used as a proxy for diazotroph
90 activity (41, 42). This assay is effective for capturing the potential activity of diazotrophs that are
91 not inhibited by C_2H_2, such as *Cyanobacteria* and non-methanotrophic *Proteobacteria* (e.g.
92 *Bradyrhizobiaceae*) (48). However, a number of functional guilds of microorganisms, including
93 methanotrophs, methanogens, sulfate reducers, and nitrifiers, are inhibited by C_2H_2 (16, 47, 75,

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

76, 87, 88). If these or other C_2H_2-sensitive microbes perform diazotrophy and/or provide substrates to other diazotrophs (see Fulweiler, et al. (27)), ARA may underestimate diazotrophy in that system. Thus, recent studies have shifted to tracking diazotrophy by incorporation of the stable isotope tracer, $^{15}N_2$ (53, 57, 58, 93).

In this study of the S1 peat bog at the Marcell Experimental Forest in northern Minnesota, USA, dissolved macro- (NH_4^+, NO_3^-, PO_4^{3-}) and micro- (Fe, Cu, V, Mo) nutrients were profiled along with the community composition and abundance of diazotrophic microorganisms. We also performed separate laboratory incubation experiments to measure potential rates of ARA and $^{15}N_2$ incorporation in order to: (a) assess environmental controls (light, O_2, CH_4) on diazotrophy; (b) quantify the effect of C_2H_2 on rates of diazotrophy and methanotrophy; and (c) search for diagnostic markers for alternative nitrogenase activity such as a low conversion factor of ARA to $^{15}N_2$-incorporation (4) and C_2H_2 reduction to ethane (23). Finally, we make recommendations on universal *nifH* primers for amplicon sequencing and quantitative PCR based on our findings.

Materials and Methods

Site description and sample collection. Samples were collected from the S1 (black spruce-*Sphagnum* spp.) peat bog at Marcell Experimental Forest (MEF; 47°30.476' N; 93°27.162' W), the site of the DOE SPRUCE (Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climatic and Environmental Change) experiment in northern Minnesota, USA (40). The S1 bog is ombrotrophic and acidic (average pH 3.5-4; 54, 84). Over the summer months, the water table is ±5 cm from the hollow surface (38, 84). Dissolved O_2 levels decrease to below detection (~20 ppb) within the top 5 cm of the bog. Three locations were sampled along S1 bog transect 3 (T3)

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

117 at near, middle and far sites (see Lin, et al. (66) for further details). Surface (0-10 cm depth) peat
118 was collected from hollows dominated by a mixture of *Sphagnum fallax* and *S. angustifolium*,
119 and hummocks dominated by *S. magellanicum*. Peat depth cores (0-200 cm) were sampled from
120 hollows where the water level reached the surface of the *Sphagnum* layer.

121 ***Macronutrients.*** Peat porewater was collected using piezometers from 0, 10, 25, 50, 75,
122 150 and 200 cm depth. Piezometers were recharged the same day as collection, and porewater
123 was pumped to the surface, filtered through sterile 0.2 µm polyethersulfone membrane filters,
124 and stored frozen until analysis. Nitrate (NO_3^-) and nitrite (NO_2^-) were analyzed using the
125 spectrophotometric assay as described by García-Robledo, et al. (31). Ammonium (NH_4^+)
126 concentrations were determined with the indophenol blue assay (89). Phosphate concentrations
127 were measured with the molybdate-antimony ascorbic acid colorimetric assay (71).

128 ***Micronutrients.*** Peat porewater was collected from two locations in the S1 bog from
129 cores at 0-30 cm, 30-50 cm, and 100-150 cm depths by filtration through 0.15 µm Rhizon soil
130 samplers (Rhizosphere Research Products). All plastics were washed with HCl prior to sampling;
131 Rhizon soil samplers were cleaned by pumping 10 mL of 1 N HCl through them, followed by a
132 rinsing with ultrapure water until the pH returned to neutral (~100 mL/filter). After collection,
133 samples were acidified to 0.32 M HNO_3 (Fisher Optima) and analyzed using a Thermo
134 ELEMENT 2 HR-ICP-MS (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Florida State University).
135 Initial analyses resulted in frequent clogging of the nebulizer, likely due to abundant dissolved
136 organic carbon. Therefore, samples were diluted 1:10 to minimize interruptions from nebulizer
137 clogs. Concentrations were quantified with a 7-point external calibration using standards
138 prepared in 0.32 N HNO_3 from a multi-element standard mix (High Purity Standards).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

In order to generate an organic-free sample matrix suitable for ICP-MS analysis without contaminating or diluting the sample, subsequent samples were digested as follows: 1 mL aliquots of the porewater samples were heated in 15-mL Teflon beakers (Savillex) with 1 mL of 16 N HNO_3 (Ultrex II, JT Baker) and 100 µL of 30% H_2O_2 (Ultrex II, JT Baker) for 36 h at 230°C in a trace metal clean, polypropylene exhaust hood. The HNO_3/H_2O_2 mixture oxidizes any DOM to CO_2, but the resulting matrix is too acidic for direct ICP-MS introduction. Therefore, samples were evaporated to near dryness and resuspended in a 0.32 N HNO_3 matrix suitable for ICP-MS analysis, and analyzed by ELEMENT2 ICP-MS along with parallel blank solutions.

Quantification and sequencing of gene and transcript amplicons. Peat was frozen on dry ice at the field site in July 2013, or in liquid N_2 after 7 day incubations at 25°C in the light under degassed (80% N_2 + 20% CO_2) headspace with 1% C_2H_2, with or without 1% CH_4 for June 2014 incubations (see ARA section). DNA and RNA were extracted with MoBio PowerSoil DNA and total RNA extraction kits, respectively, as described in Lin, et al. (65). RNA was cleaned with a TURBO DNA-free kit (Ambion). Nucleic acid purity was analyzed for 260/280 absorbance ratio (1.8-2.0) on a NanoDrop spectrophotometer. cDNA was synthesized using the GoScript reverse transcription system (Promega) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Plasmid standards for qPCR were constructed according to Lin, et al. (63). Primer pairs are given in Table S1. The gene fragments of *nifH*, *pmoA* and *mcrA* for constructing plasmid standards for qPCR were amplified from genomic DNA of *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*, *Methylococcus capsulatus* Bath, and S1 peat bog peat soil, respectively. To prepare cDNA standards, plasmid DNA with a positive gene insert was linearized with NcoI restriction enzyme following the manufacturer's protocol (Promega), and purified by MinElute PCR purification kit (Qiagen). RNA was synthesized from the linearized plasmid DNA using the Riboprobe *in vitro*

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

transcription system according to the manufacturer's protocol (Promega), followed by cDNA synthesis using the GoScript reverse transcription system (Promega) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

The abundance of functional gene transcripts were quantified in samples run in duplicate on a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (ABI) using Power SYBR Green PCR master mix. Reaction mixtures were 20-μL reaction mixtures with 2-μL of template cDNA (10-100 ng/μL) added to 10 μL of SYBR green master mix, 0.5-1.6 μL of each forward and reverse primer (0.3-0.8 μM final concentration; Table S1), and 4.8-6.5 μL of PCR-grade water. Samples were run against a cDNA standard curve (10^1 to 10^7 copies of plasmid gene fragment) on a StepOnePlus qPCR instrument with 96 wells with an initial denaturation step of 2-5 min at 95°C and 40 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 15-30 s, annealing at 55-64°C for 30-45 s, extension at 72°C for 30-45 s, and data acquisition at 83-86.5°C for 16-30 s. To minimize the effects of inhibitors in assays, peat DNA was diluted to 1/40 of original concentrations, and duplicate 20-μL reaction mixtures, each containing 2-μL of diluted DNA, were run for each sample. Functional gene and transcript copy numbers were normalized to dry weight of peat, or 16S rRNA transcript copies for incubation samples. Amplicons were sent to the University of Illinois at Chicago for DNA sequencing using a 454 platform. Raw sequences were demultiplexed, trimmed, and quality filtered in CLCbio. The phylogeny of *vnfD/anfD* sequences was inferred using the Maximum Likelihood method based on the Kimura 2-parameter model in MEGA5 (90).

Acetylene reduction and methane consumption rates. Samples of bulk peat (*Sphagnum* spp. and surrounding soil) were collected from 0-10 and 10-30 cm depths in September 2013, April 2014, June 2014, September 2014 and August 2015, and stored at 4°C until the start of laboratory incubations. Samples from 0-10 cm depth were gently homogenized so as not to

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

rupture *Sphagnum* spp. tissues, while peat samples from 10-30 cm depth were fully homogenized. For each sample, 5 g of bulk peat were placed in 70 mL glass serum bottles, stoppered with black bromobutyl stoppers (Geo-Microbial Technologies, pre-treated by boiling 3x in 0.1 M NaOH) and sealed with an aluminum crimp seal. Headspaces were oxic (room air, 80% N_2 + 20% O_2) or degassed (100% N_2 or 80% N_2 + 20% CO_2) with or without 1% C_2H_2 or 1% CH_4. Treatments were incubated for one week at 25°C in the light or dark. A gas chromatograph with a flame ionization detector (SRI Instruments) equipped with a HayeSep N column was used to quantify CH_4, C_2H_2 and C_2H_4. Samples were measured for C_2H_4 production daily until C_2H_4 production was linear (~7 days). Controls not amended with C_2H_2 did not produce ethylene (C_2H_4). Incubations of hollow peat from June 2014 incubated in oxic headspace with and without 1% C_2H_2 were also monitored for consumption of 1% CH_4. Statistical analysis was performed with JMP Pro (v. 12.1.0) using the Tukey-Kramer HSD comparison of all means.

$^{15}N_2$ incorporation rates. In September 2014, samples were quantified for N_2 fixation rates by $^{15}N_2$ incorporation in parallel with ARA measurements. Incubations were set up as described above and supplemented with 7 mL of 98% $^{15}N_2$ (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Tewksbury, MA, USA). After 7 days, samples were dried at 80°C, homogenized into a fine powder, and analyzed for N content and $\delta^{15}N$ by isotope-ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) with a MICRO cube elemental analyzer and IsoPrime100 IRMS (Elementar) at the University of California, Berkeley, corrected relative to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) standards.

Metagenomic analyses. Metagenomes were generated in a previous study (64). Diazotrophic and methanotrophic pathways were investigated using the following bioinformatics

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

208 approaches. Briefly, Illumina reads were filtered by quality (Phred33 score threshold of Q25)
209 using Trim Galore (Babraham Bioinformatics) and a minimum sequence length cut off of 100
210 bp. The sequences were then queried using RAPSearch2 (102) against the NCBI-nr database of
211 non-redundant protein sequences as of November 2013. Sequences with a bit-score of 50 and
212 higher were retained to determine the total number of functional genes for normalization across
213 the different samples. The taxonomic composition of protein-coding sequences was determined
214 based on the taxonomic annotation of each gene according to the NCBI-nr taxonomy in
215 MEGAN5 (46) (min score: 50; max expected: 0.01; top percent: 10; min complexity: 0.3).
216 To classify sequences by nitrogenase cluster type, genes were analyzed using BLASTX
217 (e-value 0.1; bit-score 50) versus a custom *nifH* database that includes a phylogenetic tree to
218 distinguish the principal clusters (I, V, III) in the *nifH* phylogeny, as well as paralogous cluster
219 IV, *nifH*-like sequences (28). *nifH* genes from the four clusters were normalized to total protein-
220 coding genes from RAPSearch2 output sequences. The relative abundance of particulate (*pmoA*)
221 vs. soluble (*mmoX*) methane monooxygenase was based on previous analyses in Lin, et al. (65).
222 **Nucleotide sequence accession numbers.** Metagenomes were reported in a previous
223 study (64) and deposited in BioProject PRJNA382698 (SAMN06712535-06712540). *pmoA*
224 cDNA amplicons were reported in a previous study (24) and deposited in BioProject
225 PRJNA311735. *nifH*, *mcrA*, *nifD*, and *vnfD/anfD* cDNA amplicons were deposited in
226 BioProjects PRJNA382268, PRJNA382282, PRJNA382288 and PRJNA382295, respectively.

227

228 **Results**

229 ***Macro- and micro-nutrient profiles.*** In S1 bog hollows, NH_4^+ was ~2 μM from the surface to 25
230 cm depth, and increased at greater depths (Fig. 1; Fig. S1a). Nitrate was <1 μM in surface peat

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

and decreased with depth (Fig. S1b). Phosphate was <0.1 μM from the surface to 25 cm depth, and then increased with depth (Fig. S1c). For the metal pairs of greatest interest to this study, V (5-21 nM) was consistently more abundant than Mo (1-7 nM; Fig. S2), and Fe (7-35 μM) was three orders of magnitude higher than Cu (7-38 nM; Fig. S3) at all three depth intervals (0-30, 30-50 and 100-150 cm), and at three sampling dates (September 2014, June 2015, and September 2015; data shown for June 2015 in Figs. S2 and S3). Other trace nutrients were in the nano- to micro-molar range: Co (5-20 nM), Ni (10-80 nM), Zn (50-250 nM) and Mn (60-2220 nM; Table S2). Macro- and micro-nutrient profiles were essentially identical in profiles from Zim bog, another ombrotrophic bog ~80 km southeast of the S1 bog, sampled in September 2014, with the exception of lower Fe at the surface (data not shown).

Nitrogenase expression and phylogeny. With the polF/polR primer pair, we measured $1.2x10^7$ copies g^{-1} *nifH* genes at 1 and 20 cm, and $0.2x10^7$ copies g^{-1} at 30 and 75 cm; *nifH* transcripts (12.2×10^7 copies g^{-1}) were only detected at 1 cm (10:1 transcript: gene ratio), and not at deeper depths (Fig. 1; Fig. S4a). Sequencing of cDNA from surface peat amplified with polF/polR (*nifH*) and nifD820F/nifD1331R (*nifD*) primers showed that the majority of nitrogenase transcripts belonged to cluster I (*Alphaproteobacteria*), with *Bradyrhizobiaceae* dominating *nifH* sequences and *Beijerinckiaceae* dominating *nifD* sequences (Fig. 2). Additional alphaproteobacterial *nif* transcripts matched to *Rhodospirillaceae, Rhizobiaceae, Rhodobacteraceae, Methylocystaceae* and *Xanthobacteraceae* (Fig. 2). *Gammaproteobacteria*, *Cyanobacteria* (*Oscillatoriophycideae*) and *Nitrospira* were also observed at lower abundance in cDNA amplicon libraries (data not shown).

In metagenomes, *nifH* genes were roughly equally distributed between Mo-dependent clusters I and III, and cluster IV/V paralogs (Fig. 2; Table S3). Sequences from Cluster II

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

(alternative nitrogenases, *vnfH*/*anfH*) were scarce at all depths (<5% overall); two *vnfD* genes from metagenomes showed phylogenetic similarity to those from soil *Proteobacteria* (Fig. S5). Attempts to amplify *vnfD/anfD* from cDNA yielded few reads; those recovered were most similar to *Alphaproteobacteria anfD* from *Rhodopseudomonas* species (Fig. S5).

Methane-related gene expression and phylogeny. Like *nifH*, particulate methane monooxygenase (*pmoA)* and methyl coenzyme M reductase (*mcrA*) transcripts showed the highest abundance in surface peat (Fig. S4b,c). Surface *pmoA* transcripts mapped to *Methylocystaceae* (75%) and *Methylococcaceae* (25%). Surface *mcrA* transcripts mapped to *Methanosarcina* (58%), *Methanocella* (28%), and *Methanoregula* (11%). Attempts to amplify *mmoX* from cDNA were unsuccessful (data not shown). In metagenomes, genes for *pmoA* were dominant in surface peat, whereas the relative abundance of *mmoX* sequences increased with depth (Fig. S3).

Rates of diazotrophy and methanotrophy. Potential rates of acetylene reduction were measured for peat collected from S1 bog hollows and hummocks in April, June, August and September 2013-2015 and incubated for 1 week at 25°C. Acetylene reduction to ethylene was only detected in surface (0-10 cm) peat samples incubated in the light, and not in deep (10-30 cm) peat, nor in surface peat incubated in the dark. Acetylene reduction to ethane was not detected in any incubation (data not shown). *Sphagnum* in peat incubations exposed to light became visibly greener over the course of the incubation (Fig. 3).

In hollows, where surface peat was dominantly covered by a mix of *S. fallax* and *S. angustifolium*, ARA rates were higher and more variable in degassed vs. oxic incubations (0-163 vs. 2-23 μmol C_2H_4 g^{-1} h^{-1}), and were unaffected by the presence or absence of 20% CO_2. ARA in hollows incubated with degassed headspace was positively correlated ($P < 0.0001$) with peat

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

277 water content (93 to 96%). In both hollows and hummocks, ARA rates were not affected by
278 addition of 1% CH_4. In hummocks with lower water content (90-91%), surface peat was
279 dominantly covered by *S. magellanicum*, and oxic and degassed treatments had similarly low
280 ARA rates (0-8 μmol C_2H_4 g^{-1} h^{-1}). *nifH* transcripts in surface peat from hollows incubated under
281 degassed headspace with 1% C_2H_2, with or without 1% CH_4, ranged from 10^4 - 10^7 copies g^{-1}
282 (July 2014; data not shown), which was 1-4 orders of magnitude lower than field samples from
283 the previous summer (10^8 copies g^{-1}; Fig. 1), and higher and more variable in hollows than *nifH*
284 transcripts from hummock incubations (Fig. S6).

285 $^{15}N_2$ incorporation showed similar overall trends as ARA (e.g. 90% higher rates in
286 degassed vs. oxic conditions, and no significant CH_4 effect; Fig. S7). In degassed treatments, 1%
287 C_2H_2 inhibited $^{15}N_2$ incorporation by 55% but had no effect on oxic treatments. In oxic
288 treatments, CH_4 consumption rates were 100 times higher than $^{15}N_2$ incorporation rates, and 1%
289 C_2H_2 addition suppressed CH_4 oxidation rates by 95% (Fig. S7). Using the four sites measured
290 with both methods, a conversion factor of 3.9 for $^{15}N_2$-to-ARA was calculated (Fig. S8). In sum,
291 laboratory incubations of native peats revealed that diazotrophy was stimulated by light,
292 suppressed by O_2, and minimally affected by CH_4 and CO_2.
293
294 **Discussion**

295 ***Diazotrophs are active in surface peat.*** By definition, the only source of nutrients to
296 ombrotrophic peat bogs is the atmosphere (62). Scarce (low μM) dissolved nitrogen and
297 phosphorus in S1 peat pore water suggests oligotrophic conditions (62, 84, 91), consistent with
298 low rates of atmospheric deposition in Minnesota peat bogs (43). Low nutrient concentrations
299 add further evidence to previous suggestions that these nutrients may limit *Sphagnum*
300 productivity (57) and/or complex mechanisms may exist for nutrient scavenging at ultra-low

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

concentrations. Diazotroph activity (ARA and *nifH* transcription) was solely detected in surface peat samples incubated in the light. The apparent absence of diazotrophy at greater depths is consistent with previous reports (81), and may be due to light limitation and/or remineralization of organic nitrogen to ammonium, which is preferentially used as a nitrogen source by microbes.

Alphaproteobacteria (Rhizobiales) dominate peatland nitrogenase sequences. Diazotrophic methanotrophs have the potential to serve as a methane biofilter and a nitrogen source for peatland ecosystems. Previous work showed that *Alphaproteobacteria (Rhizobiales*), including Type II methanotrophs (60, 93), were the dominant diazotrophs in *Sphagnum*-dominated peatlands and may provide the unaccounted nitrogen input resulting from an imbalance in atmospheric nitrogen deposition and accumulation in *Sphagnum* mosses (44, 52, 57, 78, 93). However, the carbon metabolism of peatland diazotrophs remains unclear because the two dominant *Rhizobiales* families grow on both complex organics (*Bradyrhizobiaceae* (32)) as well as simple alkanes and C1 compounds (*Beijerinckiaceae* (19)). Consistent with previous studies, *Rhizobiales* showed the highest relative abundance in transcript libraries in this study. *Bradyrhizobiaceae* and *Beijerinckiaceae* dominated *nifD* and *nifH* amplicons, respectively. However, the complex taxonomic classification of *Rhizobiales nif* genes prevented distinguishing methanotrophic *Beijerinckiaceae* from heterotrophic *Beijerinckia indica* and *Bradyrhizobiaceae* solely on the basis of *nif* phylogeny (22).

Diazotrophy is catalyzed by the molybdenum form of nitrogenase. Peatland conditions such as low pH, nitrogen, and temperature would be expected to favor diazotrophy by alternative nitrogenases. Molybdenum sorption to peat is enhanced at low pH (6), biological requirements for Mo are higher when bacteria are fixing N_2 than growing on other nitrogen compounds (33), and alternative nitrogenases have higher activity and expression at lower temperatures (70, 95).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Below 10 nM Mo, diazotrophy is limited in laboratory cultures (1, 26, 34, 82, 101) and alternative nitrogenases, if present, are expressed (3). Transcription of alternative nitrogenase genes has been reported for *Peltigera* cyanolichens (45), but to our knowledge has not previously been investigated for *Sphagnum* peatlands.

Molybdenum concentrations in S1 bog porewaters were 1-7 nM, which is within the same range as Mo in other oligotrophic freshwaters (33), and lower than V (5-21 nM) and Fe (7-35 μM). Similar metal concentrations between: (a) sampling dates in September 2014, June 2015, and September 2015; (b) in another ombrotrophic Minnesota peatland, Zim bog, ~80 km from the S1 bog; and (c) in acidic peatlands in Northern Europe (51) suggest that the values we measured are spatially and temporally representative for diverse northern peatlands.

Intriguingly, despite the presence of conditions that would be expected to favor alternative nitrogenase expression (low pH, long winters, and Fe>V>Mo), our collective evidence suggests that diazotrophy at the S1 bog was catalyzed by the Mo-containing form of the nitrogenase enzyme. The majority of *nifH* genes retrieved from metagenomes belonged to Mo-containing clusters I and III. A significant number of sequences came from uncharacterized Cluster IV, recently shown to contain a functional nitrogenase (103) that likely binds a Mo-Fe cofactor (69). The metagenomes contained very few cluster II *vnfD/anfD* genes, and minimal *vnfD/anfD* transcripts were amplified from peat cDNA. Ethane, a biomarker of alternative nitrogenase, was undetectable in ARA incubations. Finally, the $^{15}N_2$-to-ARA conversion factor (3.9) was within the same range (3-4) as other peat bogs (41, 59, 93), and matched Mo-nitrogenase in pure culture experiments as opposed to the lower values measured for alternative nitrogenases (4). The question of how peatland diazotrophs access scarce Mo remains uncertain;

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

346 it is possible that Mo bound to peat organic matter can be scavenged by diazotrophs as is the case
347 in forest soils (68, 98).

348 ***Methanotrophs are active in incubations and inhibited by acetylene***. We performed
349 bottle experiments to test whether methanotrophs were active. Complete CH_4 consumption in air
350 amended with 1% CH_4 showed that methanotrophs were active in our incubations, and that the
351 black bromobutyl stoppers we used were not toxic to peatland methanotrophs, whereas non-
352 halogenated stoppers are toxic to aquatic aerobic methanotrophs (72). Acetylene fully inhibited
353 CH_4 consumption, demonstrating that the methanotrophs in our incubations were C_2H_2 sensitive,
354 similar to laboratory strains tested in previous studies (16, 88). Like diazotrophy, methanotrophy
355 was apparently also mediated by the enzyme requiring the scarcer metal; dissolved Fe was
356 consistently orders of magnitude higher than Cu in peat porewater, yet *pmoA* sequences were
357 more abundant than *mmoX* sequences in surface peat where the highest CH_4 consumption was
358 observed (24, 65). This finding is also consistent with higher transcription of *pmoA* vs. *mmoX* in
359 other acidic peatlands (10, 51, 60). In laboratory studies, the "copper switch" from sMMO to
360 pMMO supported growth occurs when Cu > 1 μM (85), which is several orders of magnitude
361 higher than Cu concentrations measured at the S1 bog (7-38 nM). It is possible that the "copper
362 switch" occurs at a lower threshold in peat bogs, or that there are other factors controlling the
363 type of MMO expressed, such as CH_4 or O_2 availability. Additionally, the inherent nature of the
364 peat matrix, with characteristically high levels of particulate and dissolved organic matter, likely
365 also affects metal bioavailability in complex ways (92) not addressed in our study.

366 ***Surface peatland diazotrophy is sensitive to oxygen and acetylene.*** If methanotrophs
367 were the dominant diazotrophs in peatlands, as previously proposed (57, 93), CH_4 addition
368 should have stimulated $^{15}N_2$ incorporation in our bottle experiments, and C_2H_2 should have

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

369 inhibited it. Instead, this and previous work (58) found that $^{15}N_2$ incorporation was not affected
370 by CH_4 addition. Acetylene partially inhibited $^{15}N_2$ incorporation under degassed conditions (as
371 in Kox, et al. (56)) and had minimal effect on oxic $^{15}N_2$ incorporation, suggesting that C_2H_2- and
372 O_2-sensitive microbial clades contributed approximately half of the diazotrophic activity in our
373 incubations. This finding highlights the importance of quantifying peatland diazotrophy by $^{15}N_2$
374 incorporation instead of, or in addition to, ARA.

375 Based on *nif, pmoA* and *mcrA* phylogeny from native peat, the O_2- and C_2H_2-sensitive
376 diazotrophs were likely methanotrophic *Beijerinckiaceae* that can only fix N_2 under micro-oxic
377 conditions, and/or strict anaerobes in cluster III, such as methanogenic *Euryarchaeota*. These
378 two families are the most active in surface peat based on transcript and amplicon sequences.
379 Since *nifH* transcripts were 1-4 orders of magnitude lower in our incubations than native peat, it
380 is likely that diazotrophs were stressed, possibly due to O_2 exposure during the sampling process.
381 Indeed, we observed highest ARA rates in hollows where the water table was typically at the bog
382 surface, limiting O_2 penetration into the peat. The other half of O_2-sensitive diazotrophic activity
383 was likely performed by C_2H_2-insensitive, heterotrophic *Bradyrhizobiaceae* and/or
384 *Beijerinckiaceae* (49, 86), or C_2H_2-insensitive, methanotrophic *Methylocystaceae*, which can
385 adapt to a wide range of CH_4 concentrations (17). Less O_2-sensitive microbes, including
386 heterotrophic *Beijerinckiaceae* (86) and/or photosynthetic *Oscillatoriophycideae* (25), likely
387 contributed to the minor amount of ARA activity in the presence of O_2.

388 ***Molecular markers for diazotrophy.*** We end with a word of caution with regard to the
389 molecular detection of diazotrophs. The majority of studies in peatlands have employed PCR
390 amplification and sequencing of nitrogenase genes (*nifH*) for studying the dynamics of
391 diazotrophs in peatlands. A wide range of *nifH* primer sets exist, with varying universality (29).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

392 Peat bog sequencing efforts have used polF/polR (this study; 60), F1/R6 (93),
393 FGPH19/polR+polF/AQER (58), and 19F/nifH3+nifH1(1)/nifH2(2) with nested PCR (8, 56). *In*
394 *silico* evaluation predicts that the polF/polR primer set will not amplify the majority of
395 *Proteobacteria* and/or *Cyanobacteria* and Group III *nifH* sequences (29), however this primer set
396 yields the highest efficiency for qPCR (30). Of the *nifH* primer sets used previously, F1/R6,
397 19F/nifH3 and nifH1(1)/nifH2 are predicted to have the highest coverage for soils (>80%
398 predicted primer binding for sequences from soil ecosystems). However, it is important to be
399 aware that the F1/R6 primer set contains a number of mismatches with cluster III in peatlands,
400 including methanogenic *Euryarchaeota* represented (Table S4). In order to maximize sequence
401 coverage, we suggest primer sets that can amplify *nifH* from cluster III, such as IGK(3)/DVV
402 (29), for future studies.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Acknowledgments

This research was funded by DOE support to J.E.K. under grant numbers DE-SC0007144 and DE-SC0012088, and was supported by NASA Exobiology grant NNX14AJ87G to J.B.G. We thank Loren Dean Williams for inspiration with visuals, Heather Dang (UC Berkeley) for IRMS analysis, and Will Overholt for technical assistance. Work at LLNL was conducted under the auspices of DOE Contract DE-AC52-07NA27344, with funding provided by LDRD 14-ER-038.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

409 **Figure Captions**

410 **Figure 1. Depth profiles of NH_4^+ concentrations (black circles) and *nifH* gene copies (white**
411 **squares) and transcripts (white triangle) in units of copies per gram of dry weight for the**
412 **S1 bog T3 mid site.** Ammonium concentrations are means of measurements from May, June and
413 September 2014. *nifH* copy numbers are from July 2013. Error bars are standard errors. *nifH*
414 transcripts were not detected at 20, 30 and 75 cm depths. Surface (0-10 cm) and deep (10-30 cm)
415 peat depth intervals used for rate measurements are designated by dashed lines. The maximum
416 water table depth at the S1 site in July 2013 was 2 cm below the hollow surface (dotted line)
417 (38).

418

419 **Figure 2. Numbers of cDNA amplicon sequence reads for *nifH* and *nifD***
420 **alphaproteobacterial transcripts.** Primer sets were polF/polR and nifD820F/nifD1331R for
421 *nifH* and *nifD*, respectively.

422

423 **Figure 3. Acetylene reduction rates for hummocks (90-91% water content) and hollows**
424 **(93-96% water content) at the S1 bog, T3 transect (0-10 cm depth incubated in the light at**
425 **25°C for 7 days).** ARA units are μmol ethylene produced per gram of dry weight per hour.
426 Photo insets show dominant *Sphagnum species* in (a) hummocks (*S. magellanicum*) and (b)
427 hollows (*S. fallax* and *S. angustifolium*). Photo inset (c) shows *Sphagnum* greening after
428 incubation of hollow samples in the light for 7 days at 25°C; bottle B2* (April 2014) received air
429 headspace with 1% CH_4 and treatment D2 (Sept 2013) received air headspace without CH_4. The
430 vertical dotted line divides the hummock samples (dominated by S. *magellanicum*) from the
431 hollow samples (dominated by *S. fallax/angustifolium*) in terms of water content (92%).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

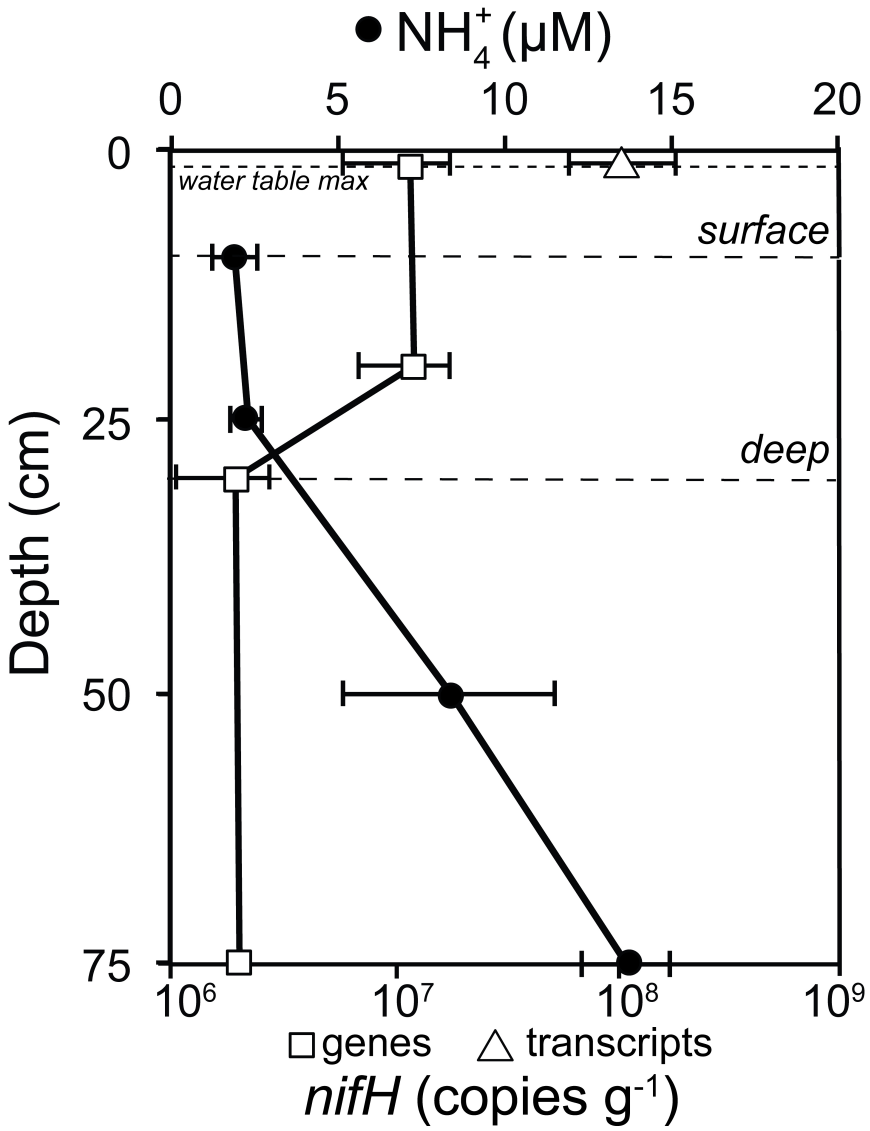
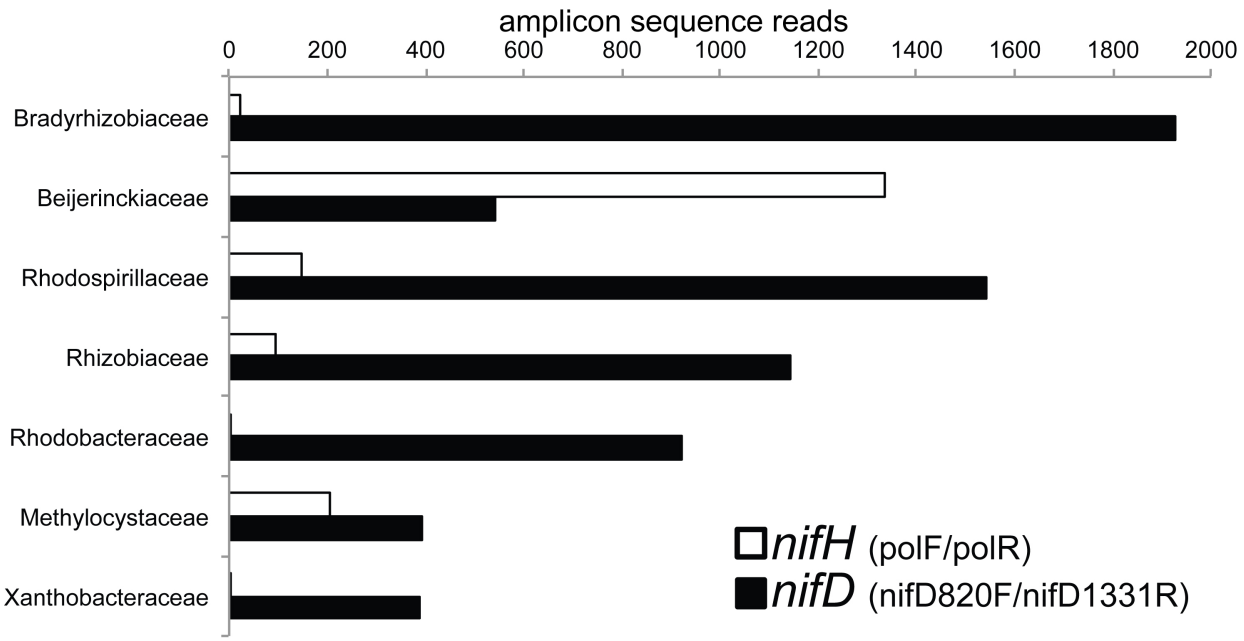


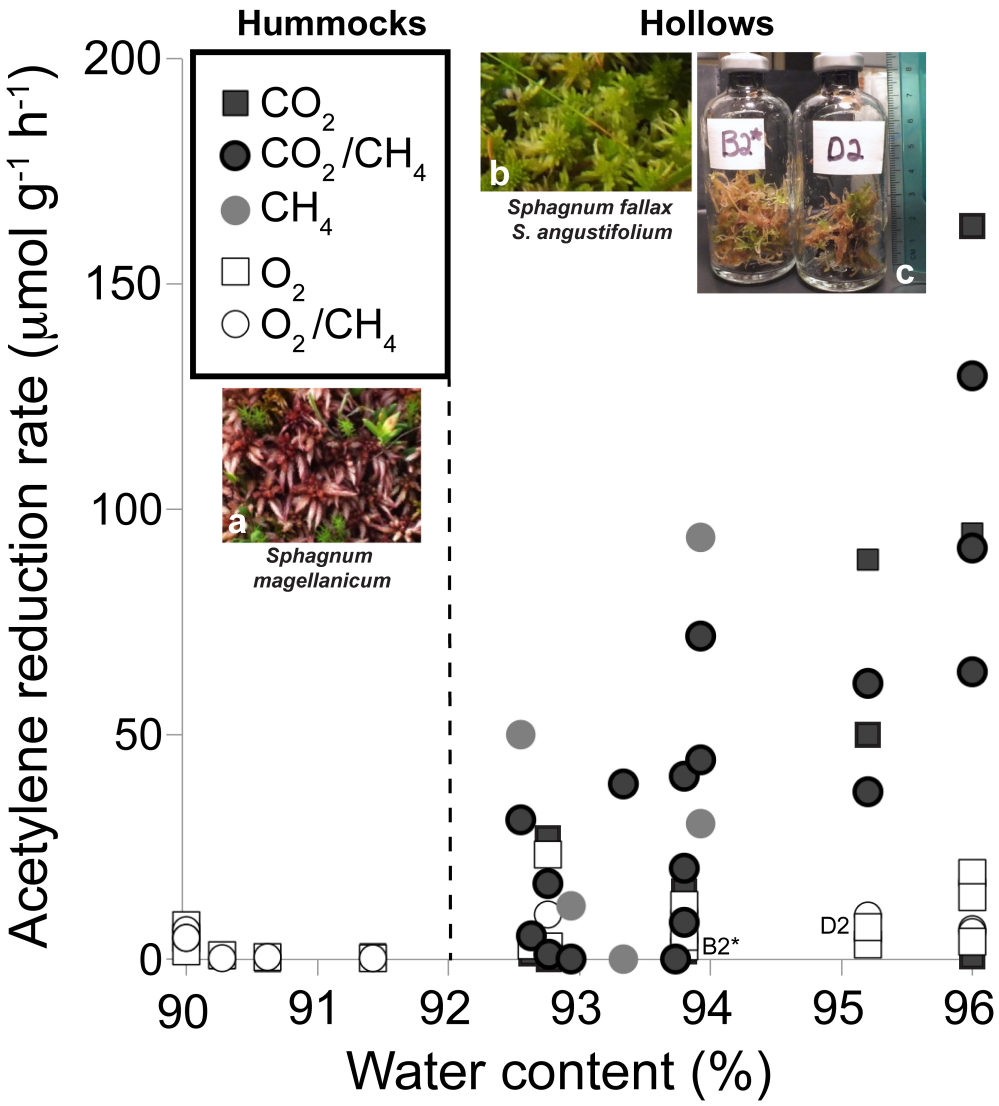
Figure 1

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.



436
437 **Figure 2**
438

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.



439
440 **Figure 3**
441

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Supplemental Figure Captions

Figure S1. Depth profiles of dissolved (a) ammonium, (b) nitrate, and (c) phosphate from S1 T3 peat bog middle (circles) and far (squares) sites. Black symbols are from June 2014; gray symbols are from September 2014.

Figure S2. Dissolved molybdenum (white) and vanadium (gray) concentrations in pore water from three depths in S1 peat hollows (mid and far sites along T3 transect) from June 2015. Pie charts show the relative abundance of genes encoding the five nitrogenase H-subunit clusters from metagenomes for each depth; clusters I and III encode Mo-Fe nitrogenases (*nifH)*; cluster II encodes alternative (*vnfH, anfH*) nitrogenases; cluster IV encode nitrogenase paralogs. Deepest metagenomes were from 75 cm; insufficient numbers of nitrogenase H-subunit sequences were recovered from the far site for cluster analysis.

Figure S3. Dissolved copper (white) and iron (shaded) concentrations in pore water from three depths in S1 peat hollows (mid and far sites along T3 transect) in June 2015. Pie charts show the relative abundance of *pmoA* (Cu-containing particulate methane monooxygenase) and *mmoX* (Fe-containing soluble methane monooxygenase) sequences recovered from metagenomes from T3 mid sites (0-10, 25-50, and 75-100 cm).

Figure S4. Depth profiles of copy numbers for DNA (white) and cDNA (black) for (a) *nifH*, (b) *pmoA* and (c) *mcrA* in units of copies per gram of dry weight for the S1 bog T3 mid site. Panel (b) is modified from Esson, et al. (24).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Figure S5. Evolutionary history of retrieved *vnf* and *anf* genes inferred using the Maximum Likelihood method. Black circles represent two assembled metagenomic *vnfD* reads from the S1 bog T3F site (25 cm depth). Black triangles represent *anfD* amplicons from S1 bog T3F site (20 cm depth). The percentage of trees in which the associated taxa clustered together is shown next to the branches.

Figure S6. Correlation between *nifH*:16S rRNA cDNA transcript ratios and acetylene reduction rates for hummock and hollow (line around symbols) peat bog samples from June 2014 incubated under 80%N_2+20% CO_2 headspace with (circles) and without (squares) 1% CH_4. When normalized to dry peat, these data range from 10^3 to 10^7 *nifH* copies g^{-1}.

Figure S7. Effect of 1% C_2H_2 on $^{15}N_2$ incorporation and CH_4 consumption for S1 bog surface peat. Rates were measured for samples collected from the NW S1 bog transect in September 2014. $^{15}N_2$ incorporation treatment conditions were 80%N_2+20% CO_2±1% CH_4 (shaded bars) or 80%N_2+20% O_2±1% CH_4 (white bars), with (a) and without (b) 1% C_2H_2; units are nmol $^{15}N_2$ incorporated per gram of dry weight per hour. CH_4 consumption treatments were 80%N_2+20% CO_2+1% CH_4 (black circles) with (a) and without (b) 1% C_2H_2; units are nmol CH_4 consumed per gram of dry weight per hour. Error bars are standard errors. Different letters indicate statistically different elemental contents ($p < 0.05$ based on Tukey-Kramer HSD test).

Figure S8. Correlation between ARA and $^{15}N_2$ incorporation. The slope of the graph is the conversion factor (3.9).

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

References

1. **Attridge, E. M.,P. Rowell.** 1997. Growth, heterocyst differentiation and nitrogenase activity in the cyanobacteria *Anabaena variabilis* and *Anabaena cylindrica* in response to molybdenum and vanadium. New Phytologist **135:**517-526.
2. **Basilier, K., U. Granhall,T.-A. Stenström.** 1978. Nitrogen fixation in wet minerotrophic moss communities of a subarctic mire. Oikos**:**236-246.
3. **Bellenger, J. P., T. Wichard, Y. Xu,A. M. L. Kraepiel.** 2011. Essential metals for nitrogen fixation in a free living N2 fixing bacterium: chelation, homeostasis and high use efficiency. Environ Microbiol **13:**1395–1411.
4. **Bellenger, J. P., Y. Xu, X. Zhang, F. M. M. Morel,K. A.M.L.** 2014. Possible contribution of alternative nitrogenases to nitrogen fixation by asymbiotic N2-fixing bacteria in soils. Soil Biol Biochem **69:**413-420.
5. **Berg, A., Å. Danielsson,B. H. Svensson.** 2013. Transfer of fixed-N from N2-fixing cyanobacteria associated with the moss *Sphagnum riparium* results in enhanced growth of the moss. Plant Soil **362:**271-278.
6. **Bertine, K.** 1972. The deposition of molybdenum in anoxic waters. Marine Chemistry **1:**43-53.
7. **Betancourt, D. A., T. M. Loveless, J. W. Brown,P. E. Bishop.** 2008. Characterization of diazotrophis containing Mo-independent nitrogenases, isolated from diverse natural environments. Appl Environ Microbiol **74:**3471-3480.
8. **Bragina, A., S. Maier, C. Berg, H. Müller, V. Chobot, F. Hadacek,G. Berg.** 2011. Similar diversity of alphaproteobacteria and nitrogenase gene amplicons on two related *Sphagnum* mosses. Front Microbiol **2:**275. doi: 210.3389/fmicb.2011.00275.
9. **Bragina, A., L. Oberauner‐Wappis, C. Zachow, B. Halwachs, G. G. Thallinger, H. Müller,G. Berg.** 2014. The *Sphagnum* microbiome supports bog ecosystem functioning under extreme conditions. Mol Ecol **23:**4498-4510.
10. **Chen, Y., M. G. Dumont, N. P. McNamara, P. M. Chamberlain, L. Bodrossy, N. Stralis-Pavese,J. C. Murrell.** 2008. Diversity of the active methanotrophic community in acidic peatlands as assessed by mRNA and SIP-PLFA analyses. Environ Microbiol **10:**446-459.
11. **Chen, Y., M. G. Dumont, J. D. Neufeld, L. Bodrossy, N. Stralis-Pavese, N. P. McNamara, N. Ostle, M. J. Briones,J. C. Murrell.** 2008. Revealing the uncultivated majority: combining DNA stable isotope probing, multiple displacement amplification and metagenomic analyses of uncultivated *Methylocystis* in acidic peatlands. Environ Microbiol **10:**2609-2622.
12. **Clymo, R.** 1984. The limits to peat bog growth. Philos T Roy Soc B **303:**605-654.
13. **Clymo, R.,P. Hayward.** 1982. The ecology of *Sphagnum*, p. 229-289, Bryophyte Ecology. Springer.
14. **Colby, J.,H. Dalton.** 1976. Some properties of a soluble methane mono-oxygenase from *Methylococcus capsulatus* strain Bath. Biochem J **157:**495-497.
15. **Crombie, A. T.,J. C. Murrell.** 2014. Trace-gas metabolic versatility of the facultative methanotroph *Methylocella silvestris*. Nature **510:**148–151.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

16. **Dalton, H.,R. Whittenbury.** 1976. The acetylene reduction technique as an assay for nitrogenase activity in the methane oxidizing bacterium *Methylococcus capsulatus* strain Bath. Arch Microbiol **109:**147-151.
17. **Dam, B., S. Dam, J. Blom,W. Liesack.** 2013. Genome analysis coupled with physiological studies reveals a diverse nitrogen metabolism in *Methylocystis* sp. strain SC2. PLoS One **8:**e74767.
18. **Darnajoux, R., J. Constantin, J. Miadlikowska, F. Lutzoni,J. P. Bellenger.** 2014. Is vanadium a biometal for boreal cyanolichens? New Phytol **202:**765-771.
19. **Dedysh, S.,P. Dunfield.** 2016. Beijerinckiaceae. Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria.
20. **Dedysh, S. N., W. Liesack, V. N. Khmelenina, N. E. Suzina, Y. A. Trotsenko, J. D. Semrau, A. M. Bares, N. S. Panikov,J. M. Tiedje.** 2000. *Methylocella palustris* gen. nov., sp. nov., a new methane-oxidizing acidophilic bacterium from peat bogs, representing a novel subtype of serine-pathway methanotrophs. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol **50:**955-969.
21. **Dedysh, S. N., N. S. Panikov, W. Liesack, R. Großkopf, J. Zhou,J. M. Tiedje.** 1998. Isolation of acidophilic methane-oxidizing bacteria from northern peat wetlands. Science **282:**281-284.
22. **Dedysh, S. N., P. Ricke,W. Liesack.** 2004. NifH and NifD phylogenies: an evolutionary basis for understanding nitrogen fixation capabilities of methanotrophic bacteria. Microbiology **150:**1301-1313.
23. **Dilworth, M. J., R. R. Eady, R. L. Robson,R. W. Miller.** 1987. Ethane formation from acetylene as a potential test for vanadium nitrogenase *in vivo*. Nature **327:**167-168.
24. **Esson, K. C., X. Lin, D. Kumaresan, J. P. Chanton, J. C. Murrell,J. E. Kostka.** 2016. Alpha-and gammaproteobacterial methanotrophs codominate the active methane-oxidizing communities in an acidic boreal peat bog. Appl Environ Microbiol **82:**2363-2371.
25. **Fay, P.** 1992. Oxygen relations of nitrogen fixation in cyanobacteria. Microbio Mol Biol Rev **56:**340-373.
26. **Fay, P.,L. Vasconcelos.** 1974. Nitrogen metabolism and ultrastructure in *Anabaena cylindrica*. 2. Effect of molybdenum and vanadium. Archiv. Microbiol. **99:**221-230.
27. **Fulweiler, R. W., E. M. Heiss, M. K. Rogener, S. E. Newell, G. R. LeCleir, S. M. Kortebein,S. W. Wilhelm.** 2015. Examining the impact of acetylene on N-fixation and the active sediment microbial community. Front Microbiol **6**.
28. **Gaby, J. C.,D. H. Buckley.** 2014. A comprehensive aligned nifH gene database: a multipurpose tool for studies of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Database **2014:**bau001.
29. **Gaby, J. C.,D. H. Buckley.** 2012. A comprehensive evaluation of PCR primers to amplify the *nifH* gene of nitrogenase. PLoS One **7:**e42149.
30. **Gaby, J. C.,D. H. Buckley.** 2017. The use of degenerate primers in qPCR analysis of functional genes can cause dramatic quantification bias as revealed by investigation of *nifH* primer performance. Microbial Ecol **doi:10.1007/s00248-017-0968-0**.
31. **García-Robledo, E., A. Corzo,S. Papaspyrou.** 2014. A fast and direct spectrophotometric method for the sequential determination of nitrate and nitrite at low concentrations in small volumes. Marine Chemistry **162:**30-36.
32. **Garrity, G., J. Bell,T. Lilburn.** 2015. Bradyrhizobiaceae fam. nov. Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria**:**1-4.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

33. **Glass, J. B., R. P. Axler, S. Chandra,C. R. Goldman.** 2012. Molybdenum limitation of microbial nitrogen assimilation in aquatic ecosystems and pure cultures. Front Microbiol **3:**331.
34. **Glass, J. B., F. L. Wolfe-Simon, J. J. Elser,A. D. Anbar.** 2010. Molybdenum-nitrogen co-limitation in freshwater and coastal heterocystous cyanobacteria. Limnol Oceanogr **55:**667-676.
35. **Gorham, E., C. Lehman, A. Dyke, D. Clymo,J. Janssens.** 2012. Long-term carbon sequestration in North American peatlands. Quat Sci Rev **58:**77-82.
36. **Granhall, U.,A. V. Hofsten.** 1976. Nitrogenase activity in relation to intracellular organisms in Sphagnum mosses. Physiol Plantarum **36:**88-94.
37. **Granhall, U.,H. Selander.** 1973. Nitrogen fixation in a subarctic mire. Oikos**:**8-15.
38. **Griffiths, N. A.,S. D. Sebestyen.** 2016. Dynamic vertical profiles of peat porewater chemistry in a northern peatland. Wetlands **36:**1119-1130.
39. **Gupta, V., K. A. Smemo, J. B. Yavitt,N. Basiliko.** 2012. Active methanotrophs in two contrasting North American peatland ecosystems revealed using DNA-SIP. Microbial Ecol **63:**438-445.
40. **Hanson, P. J., J. S. Riggs, W. R. Nettles, J. R. Phillips, M. B. Krassovski, L. A. Hook, L. Gu, A. D. Richardson, D. M. Aubrecht,D. M. Ricciuto.** 2017. Attaining whole-ecosystem warming using air and deep-soil heating methods with an elevated CO2 atmosphere. Biogeosciences **14:**861-883.
41. **Hardy, R., R. Burns,R. Holsten.** 1973. Applications of the acetylene-ethylene assay for measurement of nitrogen fixation. Soil Biol Biochem **5:**47-81.
42. **Hardy, R. W. F., R. D. Holsten, E. K. Jackson,R. C. Burns.** 1968. The acetylene-ethylene assay for N2 fixation: laboratory and field evaluation. Plant Physiol **43:**1185-1207.
43. **Hill, B. H., T. M. Jicha, L. L. Lehto, C. M. Elonen, S. D. Sebestyen,R. K. Kolka.** 2016. Comparisons of soil nitrogen mass balances for an ombrotrophic bog and a minerotrophic fen in northern Minnesota. Sci Total Environ **550:**880-892.
44. **Ho, A.,P. L. Bodelier.** 2015. Diazotrophic methanotrophs in peatlands: the missing link? Plant Soil **389:**419-423.
45. **Hodkinson, B., J. Allen, L. Forrest, B. Goffinet, E. Seurasiaux, O. Andresson, V. Miao, J. P. Bellenger,F. Lutzoni.** 2014. Lichen-symbiotic cyanobacteria associated with *Peltigera* have an alternative vanadium-dependent nitrogen fixation system. Eur J Phycol **49:**11-19.
46. **Huson, D. H., S. Mitra, H.-J. Ruscheweyh, N. Weber,S. C. Schuster.** 2011. Integrative analysis of environmental sequences using MEGAN4. Genome research **21:**1552-1560.
47. **Hynes, R.,R. Knowles.** 1982. Effect of acetylene on autotrophic and heterotrophic nitrification. Can J Microbiol **28:**334-340.
48. **Keister, D.** 1975. Acetylene reduction by pure cultures of *Rhizobia*. J Bacteriol **123:**1265-1268.
49. **Keister, D. L.,W. R. Evans.** 1976. Oxygen requirement for acetylene reduction by pure cultures of rhizobia. J Bacteriol **127:**149-153.
50. **Kip, N., B. E. Dutilh, Y. Pan, L. Bodrossy, K. Neveling, M. P. Kwint, M. S. Jetten,H. J. Op den Camp.** 2011. Ultra-deep pyrosequencing of *pmoA* amplicons confirms the prevalence of *Methylomonas* and *Methylocystis* in *Sphagnum* mosses from a Dutch peat bog. Environ Microbiol Rep **3:**667-673.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

627 51. **Kip, N., W. Ouyang, J. van Winden, A. Raghoebarsing, L. van Niftrik, A. Pol, Y. Pan, L. Bodrossy, E. G. van Donselaar,G.-J. Reichart.** 2011. Detection, isolation, and characterization of acidophilic methanotrophs from *Sphagnum* mosses. Appl Environ Microbiol **77:**5643-5654.
631 52. **Kip, N., J. F. van Winden, Y. Pan, L. Bodrossy, G.-J. Reichart, A. J. Smolders, M. S. Jetten, J. S. S. Damsté,H. J. O. den Camp.** 2010. Global prevalence of methane oxidation by symbiotic bacteria in peat-moss ecosystems. Nature Geosci **3:**617-621.
634 53. **Knorr, K. H., M. A. Horn,W. Borken.** 2015. Significant nonsymbiotic nitrogen fixation in Patagonian ombrotrophic bogs. Glob Change Biol **21:**2357-2365.
636 54. **Kolka, R., S. Sebestyen, E. S. Verry,K. Brooks.** 2011. Peatland biogeochemistry and watershed hydrology at the Marcell experimental forest. CRC Press.
638 55. **Kostka, J. E., D. J. Weston, J. B. Glass, E. A. Lilleskov, A. J. Shaw,M. R. Turetsky.** 2016. The *Sphagnum* microbiome: new insights from an ancient plant lineage. New Phytol **211:**57-64.
641 56. **Kox, M. A., C. Lüke, C. Fritz, E. van den Elzen, T. van Alen, H. J. O. den Camp, L. P. Lamers, M. S. Jetten,K. F. Ettwig.** 2016. Effects of nitrogen fertilization on diazotrophic activity of microorganisms associated with *Sphagnum magellanicum*. Plant Soil **406:**83-100.
645 57. **Larmola, T., S. M. Leppänen, E.-S. Tuittila, M. Aarva, P. Merilä, H. Fritze,M. Tiirola.** 2014. Methanotrophy induces nitrogen fixation during peatland development. Proc Natl Acad Sci **111:**734-739.
648 58. **Leppänen, S. M., A. J. Rissanen,M. Tiirola.** 2014. Nitrogen fixation in *Sphagnum* mosses is affected by moss species and water table level. Plant Soil**:**1-12.
650 59. **Leppänen, S. M., M. Salemaa, A. Smolander, R. Mäkipää,M. Tiirola.** 2013. Nitrogen fixation and methanotrophy in forest mosses along a N deposition gradient. Environ Exp Bot **90:**62-69.
653 60. **Liebner, S.,M. M. Svenning.** 2013. Environmental transcription of *mmoX* by methane-oxidizing Proteobacteria in a subarctic palsa peatland. Appl Environ Microbiol **79:**701-706.
656 61. **Limpens, J., F. Berendse, C. Blodau, J. Canadell, C. Freeman, J. Holden, N. Roulet, H. Rydin,G. Schaepman-Strub.** 2008. Peatlands and the carbon cycle: from local processes to global implications: a synthesis. Biogeosciences **5:**1475-1491.
659 62. **Limpens, J., M. M. Heijmans,F. Berendse.** 2006. The nitrogen cycle in boreal peatlands, p. 195-230, Boreal peatland ecosystems. Springer.
661 63. **Lin, X., S. Green, M. Tfaily, O. Prakash, K. Konstantinidis, J. Corbett, J. Chanton, W. Cooper,J. Kostka.** 2012. Microbial community structure and activity linked to contrasting biogeochemical gradients in bog and fen environments of the Glacial Lake Agassiz Peatland. Appl Environ Microbiol **78:**7023-7031.
665 64. **Lin, X., K. M. Handley, J. A. Gilbert,J. E. Kostka.** 2015. Metabolic potential of fatty acid oxidation and anaerobic respiration by abundant members of Thaumarchaeota and Thermoplasmata in deep anoxic peat. ISME J **9:**2740-2744.
668 65. **Lin, X., M. M. Tfaily, S. Green, J. M. Steinweg, P. Chanton, A. Imvittaya, J. P. Chanton, W. Cooper, C. W. Schadt,J. E. Kostka.** 2014. Microbial metabolic potential for carbon degradation and nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) acquisition in an ombrotrophic peatland. Appl Environ Microbiol **80:**3531-3540.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

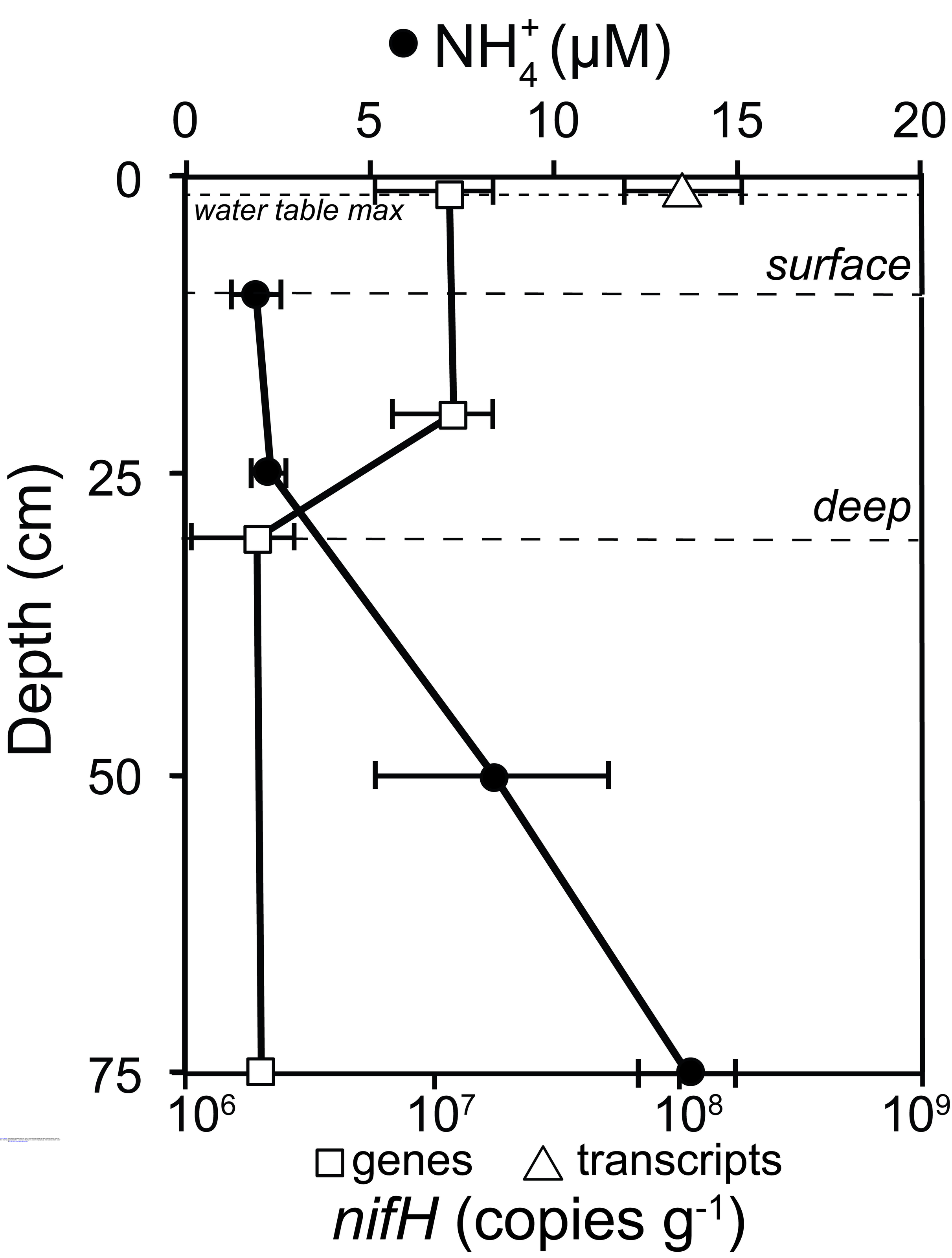
66. **Lin, X., M. M. Tfaily, J. M. Steinweg, P. Chanton, K. Esson, Z. K. Yang, J. P. Chanton, W. Cooper, C. W. Schadt,J. E. Kostka.** 2014. Microbial community stratification linked to utilization of carbohydrates and phosphorus limitation in a boreal peatland at Marcell Experimental Forest, Minnesota, USA. Appl Environ Microbiol **80:**3518-3530.
67. **Loveless, T. M., J. R. Saah,P. E. Bishop.** 1999. Isolation of nitrogen-fixing bacteria containing molybdenum-independent nitrogenases from natural environments. Appl Environ Microbiol **65:**4223-4226.
68. **Marks, J., S. Perakis, E. King,J. Pett-Ridge.** 2015. Soil organic matter regulates molybdenum storage and mobility in forests. Biogeochemistry.
69. **McGlynn, S. E., E. S. Boyd, J. W. Peters,V. J. Orphan.** 2013. Classifying the metal dependence of uncharacterized nitrogenases. Front Microbiol **3:**419.
70. **Miller, R.,R. Eady.** 1988. Molybdenum and vanadium nitrogenases of *Azotobacter chroococcum*. Low temperature favours N2 reduction by vanadium nitrogenase. Biochem J **256:**429-432.
71. **Murphy, J.,J. Riley.** 1962. A modified single solution method for the determination of phosphate in natural waters. Anal Chim Acta **27:**31-36.
72. **Niemann, H., L. Steinle, J. Blees, I. Bussmann, T. Treude, S. Krause, M. Elvert,M. F. Lehmann.** 2015. Toxic effects of lab‐grade butyl rubber stoppers on aerobic methane oxidation. Limnol Oceangr: Methods **13:**40-52.
73. **Opelt, K., C. Berg, S. Schonmann, L. Eberl,G. Berg.** 2007. High specificity but contrasting biodiversity of *Sphagnum*-associated bacterial and plant communities in bog ecosystems independent of the geographical region. The ISME Journal **1:**502-516.
74. **Opelt, K., V. Chobot, F. Hadacek, S. Schonmann, L. Eberl,G. Berg.** 2007. Investigations of the structure and function of bacterial communities associated with *Sphagnum* mosses. Environ Microbiol **9:**2795-2809.
75. **Oremland, R. S.,B. F. Taylor.** 1975. Inhibition of methanogenesis in marine sediments by acetylene and ethylene: validity of the acetylene reduction assay for anaerobic microcosms. Appl Microbiol **30:**707-709.
76. **Payne, W.,M. Grant.** 1982. Influence of acetylene on growth of sulfate-respiring bacteria. Appl Environ Microbiol **43:**727-730.
77. **Prior, S. D.,H. Dalton.** 1985. Acetylene as a suicide substrate and active site probe for methane monooxygenase from *Methylococcus capsulatus* (Bath). FEMS Microbiol Lett **29:**105-109.
78. **Raghoebarsing, A. A., A. J. Smolders, M. C. Schmid, W. I. C. Rijpstra, M. Wolters-Arts, J. Derksen, M. S. Jetten, S. Schouten, J. S. S. Damsté, L. P. Lamers, J. G. M. Roelofs, H. J. M. Op den Camp,M. Strous.** 2005. Methanotrophic symbionts provide carbon for photosynthesis in peat bogs. Nature **436:**1153-1156.
79. **Rahman, M. T., A. Crombie, Y. Chen, N. Stralis-Pavese, L. Bodrossy, P. Meir, N. P. McNamara,J. C. Murrell.** 2011. Environmental distribution and abundance of the facultative methanotroph Methylocella. The ISME journal **5:**1061-1066.
80. **Raymond, J., J. L. Siefert, C. R. Staples,R. E. Blankenship.** 2004. The natural history of nitrogen fixation. Mol Biol Evol **21:**541-554.
81. **Rosswall, T.,U. Granhall.** 1980. Nitrogen cycling in a subarctic ombrotrophic mire. Ecological Bulletins**:**209-234.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

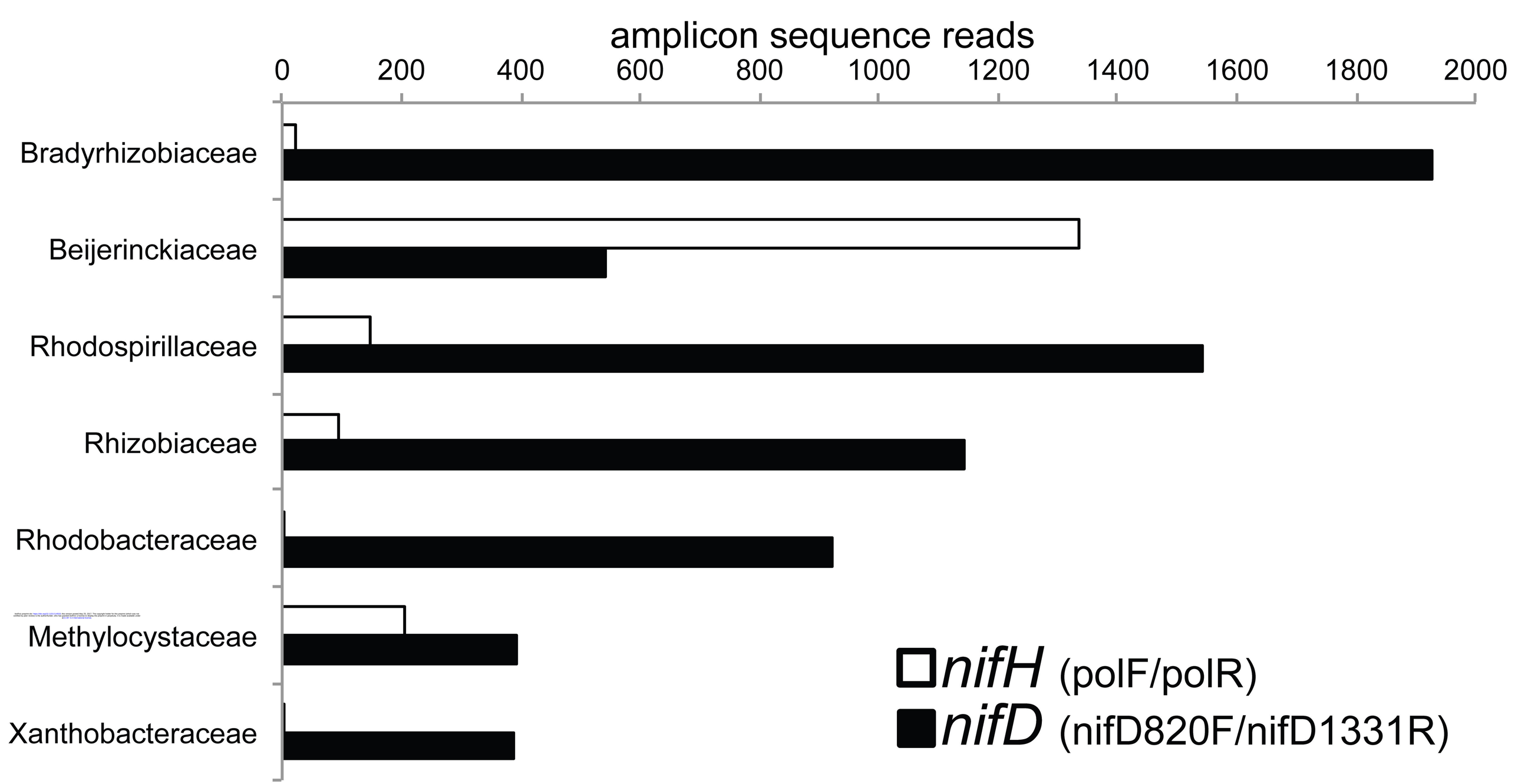
82. **Scherer, P.** 1988. Vanadium and molybdenum requirement for the fixation of molecular nitrogen by two *Methanosarcina* strains. Arch. Microbiol. **151:**44-48.
83. **Schwintzer, C. R.** 1983. Nonsymbiotic and symbiotic nitrogen fixation in a weakly minerotrophic peatland. Am J Bot **70:**1071-1078.
84. **Sebestyen, S. D., C. Dorrance, D. M. Olson, E. S. Verry, R. K. Kolka, A. E. Elling,R. Kyllander.** 2011. Long-term monitoring sites and trends at the Marcell Experimental Forest. Peatland Biogeochemistry and Watershed Hydrology at the Marcell Experimental Forest**:**93-134.
85. **Semrau, J. D., A. A. DiSpirito,S. Yoon.** 2010. Methanotrophs and copper. FEMS Microbiol Rev **34:**496-531.
86. **Spiff, E.,C. Odu.** 1973. Acetylene reduction by Beijerinckia under various partial pressures of oxygen and acetylene. Microbiology **78:**207-209.
87. **Sprott, G., K. Jarrell, K. Shaw,R. Knowles.** 1982. Acetylene as an inhibitor of methanogenic bacteria. J Gen Microbiol **128:**2453-2462.
88. **Stirling, D. I.,H. Dalton.** 1977. Effect of metal-binding agents and other compounds on methane oxidation by two strains of *Methylococcus capsulatus*. Arch Microbiol **114:**71-76.
89. **Strickland, J.,T. Parsons.** 1972. A practical handbook of seawater analysis, vol. 167.
90. **Tamura, K., D. Peterson, N. Peterson, G. Stecher, M. Nei,S. Kumar.** 2011. MEGA5: molecular evolutionary genetics analysis using maximum likelihood, evolutionary distance, and maximum parsimony methods. Mol Biol Evol **28:**2731-2739.
91. **Urban, N.,S. Eisenreich.** 1988. Nitrogen cycling in a forested Minnesota bog. Can J Bot **66:**435-449.
92. **Vaughan, D., D. Lumsdon,D. Linehan.** 1993. Influence of dissolved organic matter on the bio-availability and toxicity of metals in soils and aquatic systems. Chem Ecol **8:**185-201.
93. **Vile, M. A., R. K. Wieder, T. Živković, K. D. Scott, D. H. Vitt, J. A. Hartsock, C. L. Iosue, J. C. Quinn, M. Petix,H. M. Fillingim.** 2014. N2-fixation by methanotrophs sustains carbon and nitrogen accumulation in pristine peatlands. Biogeochemistry **121:**317-328.
94. **Vorobev, A. V., M. Baani, N. V. Doronina, A. L. Brady, W. Liesack, P. F. Dunfield,S. N. Dedysh.** 2011. *Methyloferula stellata* gen. nov., sp. nov., an acidophilic, obligately methanotrophic bacterium that possesses only a soluble methane monooxygenase. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol **61:**2456-2463.
95. **Walmsley, J.,C. Kennedy.** 1991. Temperature-dependent regulation by molybdenum and vanadium of expression of the structural genes encoding 3 nitrogenases in *Azotobacter vinelandii*. Appl Environ Microbiol **57:**622-624.
96. **Wedepohl, K. H.** 1995. The composition of the continental crust. Geochem Cosmochim Acta **59:**1217-1232.
97. **Weston, D. J., C. M. Timm, A. P. Walker, L. Gu, W. Muchero, J. Schmutz, A. J. Shaw, G. A. Tuskan, J. M. Warren,S. D. Wullschleger.** 2015. *Sphagnum* physiology in the context of changing climate: Emergent influences of genomics, modeling and host-microbiome interactions on understanding ecosystem function. Plant Cell Environ **38:**1737-1751.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/114918; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

761 98. **Wichard, T., B. Mishra, S. C. B. Myneni, J. P. Bellenger,A. M. L. Kraepiel.** 2009.
762 Storage and bioavailability of molybdenum in soils increased by organic matter
763 complexation. Nature Geosci. **2:**625-629.
764 99. **Wong, P. P.,R. Burris.** 1972. Nature of oxygen inhibition of nitrogenase from
765 *Azotobacter vinelandii*. Proc Natl Acad Sci **69:**672-675.
766 100. **Yu, Z.** 2012. Northern peatland carbon stocks and dynamics: a review. Biogeosciences
767 **4071–4085:**4071–4085.
768 101. **Zerkle, A. L., C. H. House, R. P. Cox,D. E. Canfield.** 2006. Metal limitation of
769 cyanobacterial N_2 fixation and implications for the Precambrian nitrogen cycle.
770 Geobiology **4:**285-297.
771 102. **Zhao, Y., H. Tang,Y. Ye.** 2012. RAPSearch2: a fast and memory-efficient protein
772 similarity search tool for next-generation sequencing data. Bioinformatics **28:**125-126.
773 103. **Zheng, H., C. Dietrich, R. Radek,A. Brune.** 2016. *Endomicrobium proavitum*, the first
774 isolate of Endomicrobia class. nov.(phylum Elusimicrobia)–an ultramicrobacterium with
775 an unusual cell cycle that fixes nitrogen with a Group IV nitrogenase. Environ Microbiol
776 **18:**191-204.
777



bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/144923; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license.

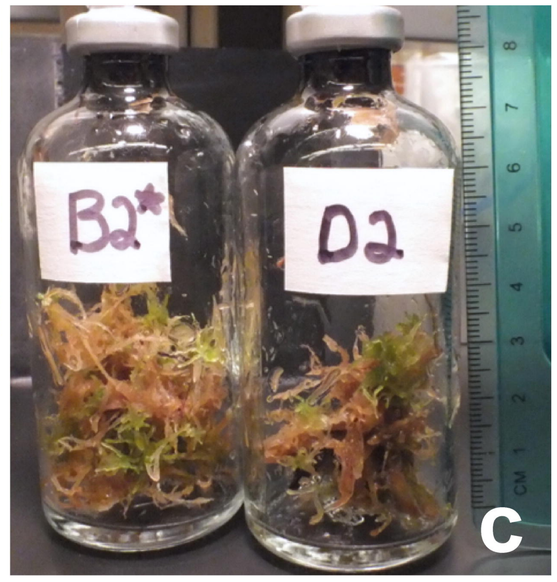


bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/144923; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

Hummocks

Hollows

Sphagnum fallax
S. angustifolium



Sphagnum magellanicum

CO_2

CO_2/CH_4

CH_4

O_2

O_2/CH_4

Acetylene reduction rate ($\mu mol\ g^{-1}\ h^{-1}$)

200

150

100

50

0

B2*

D2

90 91 92 93 94 95 96

Water content (%)

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/134163; this version posted May 25, 2017. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license.