

Eutrophication as a driver of microbial community structure in lake sediments

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23 Summary

24 Lake sediments are globally important carbon sinks. Although the fate of organic carbon (OC) in lake sediments depends significantly on microorganisms, only few studies have investigated controls on lake 25 26 sedimentary microbial communities. Here we investigate the impact of anthropogenic eutrophication, 27 which affects redox chemistry and organic matter (OM) sources in sediments, on microbial communities 28 across five lakes in central Switzerland. Lipid biomarkers and distributions of microbial respiration 29 reactions indicate strong increases in aquatic OM contributions and microbial activity with increasing 30 trophic state. Across all lakes, 16S rRNA genes analyses indicate similar depth-dependent zonations at 31 the phylum- and class-level that follow vertical distributions of OM sources and respiration reactions. 32 Yet, there are notable differences, such as higher abundances of nitrifying Bacteria and Archaea in 33 oligotrophic lake. Furthermore, analyses at order-level and below suggest changes in OM sources due 34 to eutrophication cause permanent changes in bacterial community structure. By contrast, archaeal 35 communities are differentiated according to trophic state in recently deposited layers, but converge in 36 older sediments deposited under different trophic regimes. Our study indicates an important role for 37 trophic state in driving lacustrine sediment microbial communities and reveals fundamental differences in the temporal responses of sediment Bacteria and Archaea to eutrophication. 38

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48 Introduction

49 Despite only accounting for 2% of Earth's land area, lake sediments are globally important organic carbon (OC) sinks (Dean and Gorham, 1998; Cole et al., 2007; Mendonca et al., 2017). Most of this OC 50 51 comes from autochthonous production by phytoplankton and aquatic macrophytes and from 52 allochthonous sources in surrounding watersheds (Meyers and Ishiwatari, 1993; Einsele et al., 2001). A 53 major fraction of the OC deposited to lake sediments is mineralized by microorganisms, which gain 54 energy for growth and survival by degrading this OC to carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) 55 through a network of reactions. The microbial production of CH₄ in sediments results in lakes being 56 important greenhouse gas sources in addition to OC sinks (Dean and Gorham, 1998; Einsele et al., 2001; 57 Bastviken et al., 2011).

58 Microbial OC degradation in sediments comprises aerobic and anaerobic processes. In all cases, the 59 hydrolysis of organic macromolecules (e.g., proteins, carbohydrates, lipids) into smaller molecules, such 60 as monomers, by extracellular enzymes is a crucial first step that enables OC uptake for energy conservation. While many aerobic microorganisms completely oxidize monomers to CO2, OC 61 62 dissimilation under anaerobic conditions is a multi-stage process undertaken by incomplete and terminal 63 oxidizers (Canfield et al., 2005). Primary fermenters transform monomers into low molecular weight 64 compounds, such as H₂, CO₂, short-chain organic acids, and alcohols. Secondary fermenters then 65 catabolize short-chain organic acids and alcohols to H₂, acetate, and C1 compounds (Capone and Kiene, 66 1988; Schink, 1997). The terminal oxidation of fermentation products to CO_2 is performed by respiring microorganisms, which use nitrate (NO₃⁻), manganese(IV), iron(III), sulfate (SO₄²⁻) or CO₂ as electron 67 68 acceptors (Canfield et al., 2005; Drake et al., 2006). These electron acceptors are utilized in order of 69 free energy yields, which is highest for O₂ and lowest for CO₂. This may result in a vertical zonation of 70 dominant respiration reactions from oxic to anoxic sediments, the latter consisting of distinct depth 71 intervals that are dominated by nitrate reduction (denitrification), Mn(IV) reduction, Fe(III) reduction, 72 sulfate reduction, and CO₂ reduction (methanogenesis) as sediment depth increases (Capone and Kiene, 73 1988).

In addition to electron acceptors, OM sources may drive microbial community structure. This is because 74 75 different microorganisms specialize in the breakdown and fermentation of different polymers and 76 monomers, and because sedimentary OM sources differ significantly in chemical constituents. For 77 instance, terrestrial vascular plants are largely made up of degradation-resistant (hemi)cellulose and 78 lignin, whereas aquatic phytoplankton mainly consists of more labile lipids, carbohydrates, and proteins 79 (Meyers and Ishiwatari, 1993; Hedges et al., 1997; Killops and Killops, 2005). Despite well-known 80 differences in hydrolytic and fermentative capabilities among microorganisms, the relationships 81 between OM sources and microbial community structure in sediments have only been documented in a 82 few cases (West et al., 2012; Fagervold et al., 2014; Xiong et al., 2015). In these studies, the dominant 83 operational taxonomic units (OTUs) of β -Proteobacteria and Bacteroidetes were positively correlated 84 with terrestrial and phytoplankton derived fatty acids (FAs), respectively, whereas δ -Proteobacteria decreased with elevated input of C4 plant-derived OC, and methanogen communities did not change in 85 86 relation to algal OM contributions.

87 The impact of human activity on microbial community structure in lake sediment is also not well 88 understood. Enhanced anthropogenic input of nitrogen and phosphorus (P) to lakes promotes water 89 column primary production (eutrophication), which in turn increases deposition of algal OM to 90 sediments (Bechtel and Schubert, 2009; Anderson et al., 2014). Land-use changes (e.g., deforestation, 91 agriculture, hydroelectric dam construction) furthermore impact the contribution of land-derived OM 92 (Enters et al., 2006; Dubois and Jacob, 2016). Analyses of sedimentary lipid biomarker (e.g., n-alkanes, 93 FAs, steroids) and lignin records are an efficient tool for determining past changes in aquatic and 94 terrestrial OM sources (Meyers and Ishiwatari, 1993; Volkman et al., 1998; Dubois and Jacob, 2016), 95 and can be used to trace the impact of eutrophication on aquatic primary production (Bechtel and 96 Schubert, 2009; Naeher et al., 2012). Sedimentary compositions of lignin phenols, on the other hand, 97 enable the reconstruction of vegetation histories and soil erosion in surrounding lake catchments 98 (Leopold et al., 1982; Hu et al., 1999).

99 Here we test the hypothesis that anthropogenic eutrophication, through its impact on dominant OM 100 sources and respiration reactions, drives microbial community structure in lake sediment. Based on the 101 oligotrophic Lake Lucerne, the mesotrophic Lake Zurich, and the eutrophic Lake Zug, Lake Greifen,

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102 and Lake Baldegg, we analyze relationships between microbial community structure, determined based

103 on bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA gene sequences, and (1) trophic history over the past 180 years, (2)

dominant OM sources, revealed by lipid biomarker and lignin analyses, and (3) distributions ofrespiration reactions.

106 **Results**

In this section we first present the distributions of OM biomarkers and respiration zones across the five lakes before documenting patterns in microbial abundance, diversity, and community structure. We conclude with an analysis of relationships between microbial community structure and OM sources, respiration reactions, and trophic history. For an overview of the trophic history of the five lakes we refer to the subsection "Sampling sites and sample collection" at the beginning of the Experimental Procedures.

113 Distributions of OM sources and respiration reactions

114 Lipid biomarker data (Figure 1) indicate that aquatic OM sources, i.e. short-chain n-alkanes (C15+C17+C19) and FAs (C14+C16+C18), and steroids from diatoms (brassicasterol+24-115 116 methylenecholesterol) and dinoflagellates (dinosterol + dinostanol), decrease with sediment depth in all lakes. Consistent with stimulation of aquatic primary production by eutrophication, Lake Greifen, Lake 117 118 Baldegg, Lake Zug, and Lake Zurich contain higher amounts of these biomarkers in surface sediments 119 than Lake Lucerne. Both lignin phenol and long-chain FA contents have strong depth-related fluctuations (Figure 1, Supplementary Figure S1). Yet, consistent with lower microbial degradation rates 120 121 of OM from higher plants compared to aquatic OM, contributions of long-chain n-alkanes 122 [(C27+C29+C31)/(C15+C17+C19)] and lignin phenols increase or show no clear changes with depth.

123 Distributions of respiration reactions have strong vertical overlaps but appear influenced by trophic state

124 (Table 1). Consistent with higher microbial activity fueled by higher OC input, the water column-derived

125 electron acceptors O₂, nitrate and sulfate are depleted at shallower depths in the eutrophic Lake Greifen,

Lake Baldegg, and Lake Zug compared to the mesotrophic Lake Zurich and oligotrophic Lake Lucerne. The only exception is the site from the hypoxic deep basin of Lake Zurich, where O_2 and nitrate are absent from bottom water. The respiration of the less reactive electron acceptors Mn(IV), Fe(III) and CO₂ extends into deeper layers. Mn reduction rates are mainly controlled by Mn supply, which is highest in Lake Zurich due to geochemical focusing (Schaller and Wehrli, 1996; Naeher *et al.*, 2013), whereas iron reduction and in particular methanogenesis rates increase with trophic state (Fiskal *et al.*, 2019).

132 Bacterial and archaeal abundance trends

133 16S rRNA gene abundances show similar trends within and between lakes and are higher in Bacteria 134 than in Archaea (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure S2). Despite having higher microbial activity, gene 135 abundances are not higher in the eutrophic compared to the meso- and oligotrophic lakes. Bacterial gene 136 abundances decline approximately tenfold over the depth interval studied (surface: ~10⁹ copies cm⁻³; bottom: ~10⁸ copies cm⁻³) (Figure 2A). Archaeal gene abundances generally increase from the sediment 137 surface ($\sim 10^7$ copies cm⁻³) to $\sim 15-20$ cm ($> 10^8$ copies cm⁻³), and decrease slightly or remain stable below 138 139 (Figure 2B). Bacteria-to-Archaea gene ratios (BARs) decrease from surface sediments downward 140 (Figure 2C). BAR values in surface sediments are lower in eutrophic lakes (Lake Greifen: 15.6±3.0; Lake Baldegg: 24.0±5.4; Lake Zug: 8.7±3.7) than in Lake Zurich (34.2±19.1) or Lake Lucerne 141 142 (41.7 ± 18.0) , but are uniformly <10 in sediments below 20 cm (Figure 2C).

143 General sequencing results and microbial richness and diversity trends

Seven to nine samples, which included one bottom water (BW) sample and covered the entire cored 144 145 sediment interval, were sequenced from each station. The total of 3,114,837 16S rRNA gene sequence 146 reads for 112 samples (average: 27,800 reads per sample; all samples had >12,000 reads) were clustered 147 into 8,976 bacterial and 840 archaeal 97%-similarity Zero-radius operational taxonomic units (ZOTUs) 148 and fall into 62 bacterial and 13 archaeal phyla. The observed Richness and Shannon diversity are clearly 149 higher in Bacteria than in Archaea (Supplementary Figure S3). Bacterial Observed Richness and 150 Shannon Diversity Indices are highly similar between and within lakes, and change little with sediment 151 depth (Observed: ~ 2,000 ZOTUs; Shannon: ~6 (5-7)). In all lakes, archaeal Observed Richness and

Shannon Diversity Indices increase in the top 0-5 cm, and stabilize below (Observed: ~200; Shannon:
~4 (3-5)).

154 **Phylum- and class-level variations in microbial communities**

155 Relative abundances of major bacterial and archaeal groups indicate high similarities at the phylum- and 156 class-level groups across lakes (Figure 3). Among Bacteria, there is a decline in β - and γ -*Proteobacteria*, 157 Bacteroidetes, Verrucomicrobia, Cyanobacteria and Acidobacteria, but an increase in δ -Proteobacteria, Chloroflexi, Firmicutes, Planctomycetes, Actinobacteria, Armatimonadetes, Acetothermia and 158 159 Aminicenantes with sediment depth at nearly all stations. Among Archaea, Pacearchaeota and Woesearchaeota generally decrease, while Thermoplasmata, Altiarchaeales, Diapherotrites and 160 161 Lokiarchaeota overall increase with sediment depth. Co-occurrence patterns at the phylum- and class-162 level (Supplementary Figure S4) show that the above-mentioned Bacteria and Archaea form two large, separated surface and subsurface sedimentary clusters. Other, smaller clusters are formed by Marine 163 164 Group I (MGI), *Nitrospirae* and *Gemmatimonadetes*, and by the bathyarchaeotal MCG-6 and Group C3 165 subgroups. The clustering that was observed at the phylum- and class-level is similar, but less clear, 166 when dominant orders are incorporated into the analysis (Supplementary Figure S5).

167 Despite the similarities, there are also clear differences in community profiles across lakes. For Bacteria, 168 Lake Lucerne and shallow and medium stations of Lake Zurich have higher relative abundances of 169 *Nitrospirae* and lower relative abundances of *Bacteroidetes* compared to the other locations (Figure 3A). 170 SIMPER analyses show that relative abundances of the orders *Nitrospirales* (*Nitrospirae*), Sva0485, 171 Syntrophobacterales, 43F-1404R, NB1-j (all δ -Proteobacteria), vadinHA17 (Bacteroidetes), and 172 Xanthomonadales (y-Proteobacteria) differ significantly between the three eutrophic lakes and 173 oligotrophic Lake Lucerne (>1%, p<0.05, Supplementary Table S1). The same groups except Syntrophobacterales and vadinHA17 also contribute significantly to the differences between Lake 174 Zurich and Lake Lucerne. By contrast, no major orders differ significantly in relative abundances 175 176 between Lake Zurich and the three eutrophic lakes. For Archaea, the eutrophic lakes have elevated fractions of MCG-6 and Soil Crenarchaeotic Group (SCG) and lower fractions of MGI compared to 177 oligotrophic Lake Lucerne and deep sediment layers of Lake Greifen and Lake Zug that were deposited 178

prior to the eutrophication era (Figure 3B). SIMPER analyses indicate differences between the three eutrophic lakes and oligotrophic Lake Lucerne to be mostly driven by MGI (14.6%, p<0.001) and *Thermoplasmata* (9.9%, p<0.01), and differences between Lake Zurich and Lake Lucerne to be largely controlled by MGI (14.0%, p<0.001) and *Woesarchaeota* (6.6%, p<0.001; Supplementary Table S1). Differences between Lake Zurich and the eutrophic lakes are significantly influenced by *Woesearchaeota* (6.6%, p<0.01).

I85 ZOTU-level variations in bacterial and archaeal communities

186 Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) plots at the 97% ZOTU-level show that microbial communities have similar depth-related trends within each lake (Supplementary Figure S6). When all lakes are 187 188 analyzed together, additional, trophic state-related trends emerge (Figure 4A). Within similar depth 189 horizons, bacterial communities strongly overlap between the three eutrophic lakes and the deep station 190 in mesotrophic Lake Zurich. Yet, the shallower stations from Lake Zurich and all stations from 191 oligotrophic Lake Lucerne are clearly separated, and cluster separately from each other. Within the 192 meso- and eutrophic lakes, deep samples from all three stations in Lake Zug, shallow and deep stations 193 in Lake Greifen, and the shallow station in Lake Zurich are exceptions. Bacterial communities from 194 these deep samples, which were deposited before the onset of eutrophication (Figure 3), cluster with 195 those in deep layers from oligotrophic Lake Lucerne (Figure 4A). Archaeal communities are also clearly 196 structured in relation to trophic state, albeit mainly in the top 10 cm (Figure 4B). With increasing 197 sediment depth, archaeal communities from all lakes become increasingly similar, suggesting a 198 convergence in community structure that is independent of the trophic state at the time of deposition.

The observed trophic state-related trends are consistent at multiple phylogenetic levels. For Bacteria, trophic state-related trends are already clear at the order-level, and increase only marginally at the family-level or for ZOTU-cutoffs that mimic the class-level (80%), order-level (87%), family-level (92%), genus-level (95%)), or species-level (97%) (Supplementary Figure S7A; also see "Sequencing data processing" in "Experimental Procedures). While the vast majority of Archaea could not be phylogenetically classified below the class rank, ZOTU-cutoffs that mimic the same phylogenetic levels as for Bacteria also show a clear separation of archaeal communities at the order-level and below 206 (Supplementary Figure S7B). Statistical analyses based on Adonis and ANOSIM confirm the observed 207 structuring of bacterial and archaeal communities in relation to trophic state (Supplementary Table S2). 208 Microbial community structuring according to trophic state is also illustrated by shared numbers of 97% 209 ZOTUS. On average, 55% of the bacterial ZOTUS and 41% of the archaeal ZOTUS are shared between 210 Lake Greifen, Lake Baldegg, Lake Zug and Lake Zurich, while the value is only 31% and 28%, 211 respectively between these lakes and Lake Lucerne (Figure 5A). Geographic distance or connectivity 212 by rivers do not explain these patterns. Shared ZOTU percentages show no relationship with geographic 213 distance (Figure 5B), and, though all lakes belong to the Rhine River watershed, none are serially 214 connected to each other by the same tributaries. The only lakes whose outflows merge into the same 215 tributary (Reuss River), Lake Lucerne and Lake Zug, have low similarities in microbial community 216 structure.

217 Relationships between microbial community structure, dominant respiration

218 reactions, and OM sources

219 We investigated the importance of organic biomarkers and respiration reactions in driving overall 220 microbial community structure (97% ZOTU-level) based on a constrained analysis of principal 221 coordinates (CAP; Supplementary Figure S8) and Adonis statistical test (Table 2). Measured OM 222 biomarkers explain a significant part of the variation in bacterial ($R^2=0.61$) and archaeal ($R^2=0.56$) community structure (Table 2), in particular in eutrophic lakes (Supplementary Figure S8A). While 223 224 aquatic biomarkers and terrestrial long-chain FAs show highly significant correlations, lignin phenols 225 are not or less significantly correlated with bacterial or archaeal community structure. Furthermore, in all lakes microbial respiration educts (O2, nitrate, sulfate) and end products (Mn2+, Fe2+, CH4) show clear 226 227 trends in relation to and explain significant fractions of bacterial ($R^2=0.28$) and archaeal ($R^2=0.21$) 228 community variation (Table 2; Supplementary Figure S8B).

To investigate the importance of OM sources and respiration reactions in driving the relative abundances
of individual groups of microorganisms across the five lakes, we performed a heatmap analysis (Figure
BARs show a clear respiration zone-related pattern, being highest in oxic sediment and lowest in

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232 methanogenic sediment. BARs can furthermore be explained with quantities of labile aquatic OM, i.e. short-chain n-alkanes (R²=0.27), diatom sterols (R²=0.37) and short-chain FAs (R²=0.47). Among 233 234 Bacteria, there are stronger correlations of *oxic group* organisms with chlorophyll a, most aquatic 235 biomarkers, and several long-chain alkanes and FAs. These correlations include Holophagales 236 (Acidobacteria), Cyanobacteria, Chlorobi, Sphingobacteriales (Bacteroidetes), most Verrucomicrobia, Planctomycetales, Phycisphaeraceae (all Planctomycetes), Xanthomonadaceae, Legionellales, 237 238 Cellvibrionales, Crenotrichaceae (all γ -Proteobacteria), Burkholderiales, Rhodocyclales (all β -239 *Proteobacteria*), and *Rhodobacterales* (α -*Proteobacteria*). While no significant correlations between percentages of suboxic group and OM sources are observed, several anoxic group Bacteria, i.e. the 240 241 dominant orders *Syntrophobacterales* (δ-Proteobacteria), SJA-15, GIF9 (both *Chloroflexi*), *Gaiellales* 242 (Actinobacteria) and Firmicutes show strong correlations with terrestrial OM.

Patterns are similar for Archaea, i.e. *oxic group* shows stronger correlations with aquatic biomarkers and *anoxic group* with terrestrial OM sources. *Oxic group* organisms consist of MGI and SCG (both *Thaumarchaeota*), and *suboxic group* of *Pace-* and *Woesearchaeota*. Within *anoxic group*, lignin phenols are significantly correlated with Marine Benthic Group D (MBG-D) (*Thermosplasmata*), *Micrarcheia* (*Diapherotrites*), *Beta Subgroup* (*Lokiarchaeota*) and *Aenigmarchaeota*, but not with any of the major bathyarchaeotal subgroups.

249 **Discussion**

250 To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate the relationship between trophic history and 251 bacterial and archaeal community structure, and one of only a few studies that have investigated 252 relationships between respiration reactions or OM source gradients and overall microbial community 253 structure in lake sediment (Xiong et al., 2015; Rissanen et al., 2017). By comparison, several studies 254 have documented the effects of trophic state on bacterial community structure focusing on the N-cycle 255 (Small et al., 2016; Palacin-Lizarbe et al., 2019; Zeng et al., 2019; Li et al., 2020). Bacteria dominate 256 all samples, with BARs being highest in oxic surface sediment of oligotrophic and mesotrophic lakes 257 and decreasing with sediment depth (Figure 2). Similar to other lakes (Ye et al., 2009; Wurzbacher et *al.*, 2017), phylogenetic richness and diversity of Bacteria exceed those of Archaea (Figure 3; Supplementary Figure S3). Yet, Archaea show more pronounced changes at the phylum- and class-level in relation to lake trophic state than Bacteria (Figure 3, Supplementary Table S1). In the following paragraphs we highlight the most important trends in microbial community structure, and how these are likely related to eutrophication history, as well as sedimentary redox conditions and OM sources.

263 Microbial communities at the phylum- and class-level show similar sediment depth-related trends across all lakes (Figure 3). Independent of trophic state, microbial communities in surface sediments are 264 265 dominated by groups that are often abundant in lacustrine surface sediments, i.e. α -, β -, and γ -Proteobacteria, Bacteroidetes, Verrucomicrobia, Planctomycetes, Acidobacteria, and MGI Archaea 266 (Kadnikov et al., 2012; Ruuskanen et al., 2018). Phyla that are common in anoxic (subsurface) 267 sediments, i.e. Chloroflexi, δ -Proteobacteria, Acetothermia, Aminicenantes, Bathyarchaeota, 268 269 Lokiarchaeota and Altiarchaeales (Borrel et al., 2012; Vuillemin et al., 2018), increase in the top 5-10 270 cm and dominate below. Unlike a previous study (Wu et al., 2019), we observe no trends in community 271 profiles in relation to water depth. A notable feature of all lakes is, however, the dominance of surface 272 sedimentary archaeal communities by the sister phyla Pace- and Woesearchaeota. Both phyla are 273 dominant water column Archaea in oligotrophic, high-altitude lakes (Ortiz-Alvarez and Casamayor, 274 2016), and Woesearchaeota have been reported to dominate Archaea in oligotrophic lake sediment 275 (Ruuskanen et al., 2018). Yet, the dominant contribution of Pacearchaeota in lake sediment, and of 276 Woesearchaeota in eutrophic lake sediment is new. Interestingly, the percentages of Pace- and 277 Woesearchaeota have negative linear correlations with those of MBG-D (Thermoplasmata) 278 $(R^2=0.28/0.23; both p-values<0.001)$, suggesting different redox preferences and/or competition for 279 similar resources between these dominant archaeal groups. While there are strong overlaps in phyla and 280 classes between bottom water (BW) and sediments, certain groups, e.g. MCG-6, Group C3, MCG-5 (all 281 Bathyarchaeota) and MBG-D (Thermoplasmata), are restricted to sediments. Moreover, Atribacteria, 282 which often dominate anoxic marine and lacustrine subsurface sediments (Orcutt et al., 2011; Vuillemin 283 et al., 2016), only account for a small fraction of bacterial reads (0.21%±0.68%).

284 At the order-level and below, trophic state-related trends in bacterial and archaeal communities become 285 much more evident (Figure 4, Supplementary Figure S7). While bacterial communities remain separated 286 by trophic state with increasing sediment depth and age, archaeal communities converge in deeper and 287 older sediment layers. The drivers behind these general differences in bacterial and archaeal community 288 trajectories over time are unclear. A potential explanation is that trophic state permanently alters the 289 chemical composition of insoluble organic macromolecules and that major groups of Bacteria are 290 primary degraders of these macromolecules. This explanation is consistent with the fact that bacterial 291 communities in pre-eutrophication era sediment of currently eutrophic lakes in numerous cases cluster 292 with bacterial communities of oligotrophic Lake Lucerne and not with bacterial communities from the 293 same lakes that were deposited after the onset of eutrophication. By contrast, dominant Archaea in deep, 294 permanently anoxic layers might rely on energy sources that are ubiquitous independent of trophic state, 295 e.g. fermentation intermediates, OM functional groups, terrestrial OM, and/or electron acceptors such 296 as CO_2 or Fe(III).

297 Our CAP analyses indicate that both OM sources and dominant respiration reactions are strongly 298 correlated with bacterial and archaeal community structure and explain much of the observed bacterial 299 and archaeal community variation across the five lakes (Supplementary Figure S8; Table 2). Hereby the 300 increased sedimentary input of more easily degradable aquatic OM in eutrophic lakes appears to be a 301 very important driver behind the observed patterns in microbial community structure related to trophic 302 state. We furthermore show that dominant microbial groups differ systematically in their distributions 303 relative to OM sources and respiration reactions, suggesting diverse ecophysiological niches among 304 these organisms (Figure 6). Hereby the distributions of oxic, suboxic, and anoxic group taxa, and the 305 correlations of these taxa with OM sources, are largely consistent with published metabolic functions of 306 their closest relatives (for a detailed analysis, we refer to the section "Potential drivers of microbial community structure" in the Supplementary Materials). Pure culture and genomic data on 307 microorganisms from the same taxonomic groups as oxic group (mainly α -, β -, and γ -Proteobacteria, 308 309 Bacteroidetes, Acidobacteria, Verrucomicrobia, Planctomycetes) indicate that closest known relatives 310 mainly consist of aerobic and facultatively anaerobic carbohydrate-, amino acid-, and fatty acid-311 oxidizing bacteria (Rouf and Stokes, 1964; Coates et al., 1999; Stein, 2001; Yoon et al., 2008; Guo et

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312 al., 2014; Pujalte, 2014; Sun et al., 2016), and aerobic nitrifying archaea (MGI and SCG) (Spang et al., 313 2012; Kitzinger et al., 2019). Closest relatives of suboxic group Bacteria include microaerophilic 314 nitrifiers, and microorganisms capable of anaerobic growth by denitrification, sulfate or metal reduction, 315 or fermentation (Balk et al., 2008; Podosokorskaya et al., 2013; Daims, 2014; Suzuki et al., 2019), 316 whereas genomic data on suboxic group Archaea, i.e. Pace- and Woesearchaeota, suggest capacity for 317 fermentative and/or syntrophic metabolism (Castelle et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2018). Matching their 318 distributions, genomic and pure culture data indicate most anoxic group lineages to be obligate 319 anaerobes. Though members of anoxic group have highest percentages in Fe(III)-reducing and 320 methanogenic sediment, only a few groups, that are too rare to be included in Figure 6, can be linked to Fe(III) reduction (*Clostridium (Firmicutes*): 0.14%±0.04% (Lovley, 1987)) or methanogenesis 321 322 (Methanofastidiosa (Euryarchaeota): 0.07%±0.26% (Nobu et al., 2016); note: the dominant 323 methanogenic class, Methanobacteria, are an outlier and have an oxic group distribution). Instead 324 published data suggest the majority of anoxic group Bacteria and Archaea to be anaerobes that are 325 involved in the fermentation of carbohydrates and proteins, and degradation of aromatic compounds, 326 including lignin (Lloyd et al., 2013; Kuever, 2014; Mcllroy et al., 2017; Yu et al., 2018).

327 In addition to being driven by changes in OM sources and respiration reactions, the observed changes 328 in microbial community structure with depth could also be caused by selective survival. Accordingly, 329 taxa that were already present at the time of sediment deposition but are better equipped to persist under 330 the low energy conditions associated with burial than other taxa would become dominant with increasing 331 sediment depth (Lever et al., 2015b; Petro et al., 2017; Starnawski et al., 2017; Rissanen et al., 2019). Strong decreases in microbial diversity, that are consistent with survival of a small number of low-332 333 energy resilient taxa, have been documented for the top 30 cm of Lake Stechlin (Wurzbacher et al., 334 2017). Yet, we observe no clear changes in microbial diversity over the top 40 cm of sediment across 335 the lakes we investigated (Supplementary Figure S3). Furthermore, similar to a recent study on marine 336 sediment (Chen et al., 2017), we observe significant (2-4fold) increases in average archaeal 16S rRNA 337 gene copy numbers per volume or mass of wet sediment within the top 20 cm of sediment across all 338 lakes, suggesting net growth of archaeal populations (Figure 2; Table 3). These increases are unlikely 339 to be the outcome of past, eutrophication-related changes in archaeal deposition rates or archaeal growth 340 rates within surface sediments, since they are most pronounced in oligotrophic Lake Lucerne and 341 mesotrophic Lake Zurich, which were least affected by eutrophication. Year-to-year fluctuations in 342 deposition or growth rates are also unlikely drivers, given that the observed increases in archaeal gene 343 copies represent trends over many decades. We explored the possibility of microbial growth further by 344 calculating depth-related changes in abundances of major "subsurface" groups per volume or mass of wet sediment (Table 3; Supplementary Table S3A; Supplementary Figures S9A-B and S10A-B). While 345 346 the abundances of δ -Proteobacteria and Chloroflexi do not change significantly with depth, consistent 347 with stable population size and selective survival, significant increases are observed in bacterial Acetothermia, Aminicenantes, and the Chloroflexi class Dehalococcoidia across the entire data set and 348 349 most individual lakes. Moreover, dominant subsurface archaeal groups, i.e. Thermoplasmata (mainly 350 MBG-D), Altiarchaeales, Lokiarchaeota, Diapherotrites, and bathyarchaeotal MCG-6 and C3, increase significantly in abundance within the top 20 cm across the entire data set and in most individual lakes. 351 352 This interpretation changes, however, if gene copy numbers are analyzed in relation to the mass of dry 353 sediment. Under this scenario, total archaeal gene copy numbers do not change significantly with depth, 354 and gene copy numbers of *Deltaproteobacteria* and *Chloroflexi* even decrease significantly with depth 355 (Supplementary Table S3B; Supplementary Figures S9C and S10C). Yet, even under this scenario we 356 observe significant increases in Dehalococcoidia, Acetothermia, Thermoplasmata, and Group C3 with 357 depth, suggesting net growth of certain microbial groups with sediment depth.

358 The observed quantitative increases or stable gene copy numbers in total Archaea and specific 359 subsurface bacterial and archaeal groups are also evidence against relic DNA (Torti et al., 2015; Carini 360 et al., 2017) being the driver behind the observed vertical community shifts. Relic DNA from 361 microorganisms, that were deposited from overlying water or thrived in surface sediments, would be expected to decrease, not increase, in content with sediment depth (Torti et al., 2015). Furthermore, 362 363 recent studies on marine sediments suggest that the preservation potential for microbial relic DNA is low, and that instead almost all microbial relic DNA comes from recently deceased sediment 364 365 microorganisms (Ramirez et al., 2018; Torti et al., 2018).

366 Conclusions

367 Our study produces novel insights into the impact of anthropogenic eutrophication on microbial communities in sediments. We show that, independent of geographic distance or connectivity by rivers, 368 369 eutrophic lakes have more similar microbiomes than lakes that differ in trophic state. Differences in 370 bacterial and archaeal communities in relation to trophic state increase considerably from the phylum-371 to the order-level and less so from the order- to lower taxonomic levels, suggesting that microbial 372 community filtering by trophic state is strongest at the order-level. Hereby trophic state-related changes 373 in distributions and quantities of OM sources appear to be the main drivers behind the permanent 374 changes in bacterial community structure. By contrast, archaeal communities are differentiated 375 according to trophic state in recently deposited layers, but converge in older sediments deposited under 376 different trophic regimes. Given that total Archaea, as well as several typical "subsurface" bacterial and 377 archaeal taxa, increase significantly in population size with depth in the top 20 cm, there appears to be 378 significant subsurface growth among microbial subpopulations. Thus, rather than consisting solely of 379 persisting cells or survivors from surface sediments, shallow subsurface sediments in lakes appear to be 380 favorable or even preferred habitats for certain groups of microorganisms. ien

Experimental Procedures 381

Sampling sites and sample collection 382

383 We studied sediment cores from the eutrophic Lake Greifen, Lake Baldegg, and Lake Zug, the 384 mesotrophic Lake Zurich, and the oligotrophic Lake Lucerne in central Switzerland (Supplementary 385 Figure S11, Table S5). The four eutrophic and mesotrophic lakes became highly eutrophic during the late 19th or early 20th century (Lake Greifen: ~1920; Lake Baldegg: ~1890; Lake Zug: ~1930; Lake 386 387 Zurich: ~1890) due to high anthropogenic P inputs from sewage, detergents, and agricultural fertilizers, 388 whereas Lake Lucerne only had a slight increase in P input and remained oligotrophic. Starting in the 389 1970s, wastewater treatment plants and P bans on detergents, along with artificial mixing and aeration 390 in Lake Baldegg (1982/3) and Lake Greifen (2009), led to strong P concentration decreases. Since then 391 Lake Zurich has become mesotrophic. Yet, Lake Greifen, Lake Baldegg, and Lake Zug remain eutrophic due to P remobilization from sediments. Lake Greifen still experiences seasonal hypoxia in bottom water, 392

393 whereas the deep basin of Lake Zurich remains hypoxic due to the low frequency of deep mixing events. For more details on the trophic histories of these lakes, see Fiskal et al. (2019). Within each lake, we 394 395 sampled the top ~40 cm of sediment with a 150-mm diameter gravity corer (UWITEC, AT) at three 396 stations (shallow, medium and deep, ~20 samples per station), which extended from the shallow 397 sublittoral to the profundal zone (for sample depths and ages see Supplementary Table S6). Samples for 398 DNA analyses were taken by sterile cut-off syringes, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and subsequently 399 stored at -80°C. Biomarker samples were taken using metal spatulas, stored on ice during sampling, and 400 then frozen at -20°C.

401 Lipid biomarkers, lignin and chlorophyll *a* analyses

402 FAs and neutral lipids (n-alkanes, sterols, stanols) were extracted with methanol and dichloromethane, 403 followed by potassium hydroxide saponification and derivatization with N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl) 404 trifluoroacetamide for neutral lipids and boron trifluoride/methanol for FAs (modified from Naeher et 405 al. (2012)). Lignin-derived phenols were characterized after alkaline cupric oxide oxidation, followed 406 by acidification, ethyl acetate extraction and derivatization (Goni and Montgomery, 2000). All 407 quantifications were done by gas chromatography with flame ionisation detection (Shimadzu, Kyoto, 408 Japan). For further details see Methods section in Supplementary Materials. Chlorophyll a was extracted 409 using acetone and quantified spectrophotometrically (Lever and Valiela, 2005).

410 **DNA extraction**

DNA was extracted according to Lever *et al.* (2015a). Samples from Lake Zug, Lake Zurich, and Lake
Lucerne were extracted with lysis protocol II while those from Lake Greifen and Lake Baldegg
underwent an additional humic acid removal step (lysis protocol III). For further details see Methods
section in Supplementary Materials.

415 Quantification and sequencing of 16S rRNA genes

416 16S rRNA genes were quantified SYBR Green I Master on a LightCycler 480 II (Roche Molecular
417 Systems, Inc.) (Lever *et al.*, 2015a). PCR inhibition was not detectable. The primer pairs for Bacteria

- 418 and Archaea were Bac908F mod (5'-AAC TCA AAK GAA TTG ACG GG-3') (Lever et al., 2015a) /
- 419 Bac1075R (5'-CAC GAG CTG ACG ACA RCC-3') (Ohkuma and Kudo, 1998) and Arch915F mod
- 420 (5'-AAT TGG CGG GGG AGC AC-3') (Cadillo-Quiroz et al., 2006) / Arch1059R (5'-GCC ATG CAC
- 421 CWC CTC T-3') (Yu et al., 2005), respectively.

422 Seven to nine samples, which included one BW and covered the entire cored sediment interval and its 423 changes in OM contributions and respiration zones, were chosen for amplicon sequencing from each 424 station (further details see Supplementary Table S6). A fragment with ~283 bp that included the V4 425 hypervariable regions of bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA genes was amplified by the universal primers 426 Univ519F (5'-CAG CMG CCG CGG TAA-3') / Univ802R (5'-TAC NVG GGT ATC TAA TCC-3') 427 (Claesson et al., 2009; Wang and Qian, 2009). Library preparation started with a booster PCR, consisting of the threshold cycle number of the bacterial qPCR plus three additional cycles, to obtain similar 428 429 amplicon concentrations across all samples, and was followed by tailed-primer (10 cycles) and index 430 PCRs (8 cycles). Sequencing (600 cycles) was done by paired-end sequencing using a MiSeq Personal 431 Sequencer (Illumina Inc., San Diego, California, USA). For further details, see Methods section in ies 432 Supplementary Materials.

Sequencing data processing 433

434 Raw sequence reads were first quality-checked by FastQC (Andrews, 2010). Read ends were trimmed 435 using seqtk (https://github.com/lh3/seqtk), and merged into amplicons by flash (Magoc and Salzberg, 436 2011) (max mismatches density, 0.15; max and min length, 500 and 150). Primer sites were trimmed by 437 usearch (in-silico PCR) (Martin, 2011). Quality filtering was done by prinseq (Schmieder and Edwards, 438 2011) (GC range, 30-70; Min Q mean, 20). ZOTUs were generated using the USEARCH unoise3() 439 algorithm with a 97% identity, which includes the removal of chimeric sequences (Edgar, 2016). A total of 8,976 bacterial and 840 archaeal ZOTUs falling into 62 bacterial and 13 archaeal phyla were detected. 440 441 ZOTU tables were generated by USEARCH otutab() and phylogenetically assigned using USEARCH utax() based on the SILVA SSU Ref NR release 128 database for bacterial 16S rRNA genes. Archaeal 442 16S rRNA genes were assigned in ARB (www.arb-home.de) using neighbor-joining phylogenetic trees 443 444 that were based on a manually optimized SILVA database with 16S gene sequences from whole-genome studies. Because most ZOTUs could not be assigned to the genus rank for Bacteria and order rank for
Archaea, we explored additional ZOTU sequence similarity cutoffs to investigate microbial community
differences at different taxonomic levels (phylum-level: 75% sequence similarity; class: 80%; order:
87%; family: 92%; genus: 95% (Lever and Teske, 2015). All ZOTU sequences are publicly available
under Genbank accession number KDOW0000000. Raw sequences have been deposited in Sequence
Read Archive with accession number SAMN13038023 under the project PRJNA577818.

451 Statistical analyses

452 Analyses were done in R v3.4.0 (http://R-project.org) using R Studio v1.1.442 (http://rstudio.com). 453 ZOTU files, mapfiles with biogeochemical data, tree files, and sequence files were merged into a 454 "phyloseq" class with import qiime() from phyloseq package (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013). 455 Calculations were done on the read percentage (relative abundance) of each ZOTU or other phylogenetic 456 group per sample. Variations in microbial communities were analyzed by PCoA based on Bray-Curtis 457 dissimilarities (Beals, 1984). Significant differences in microbial communities between lakes were 458 calculated by anosim() (ANOSIM) and adonis() (Permutational multivariate analysis of variance 459 (PERMANOVA); Permutations: 1000), both based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarities using vegan (Clarke, 460 1993)). A SIMPER analysis was applied to identify orders that contribute the most to differences in 461 microbial compositions between lakes (Clarke, 1993). Constrained analysis of principal coordinates 462 (CAP, also called distance-based RDA) was done by capscale() using Bray-Curtis distance (Anderson 463 and Willis, 2003). The contributions of environmental variables to microbial community structures were 464 calculated by Adonis() (permutational multivariate analysis of variance with Bray-Curtis dissimilarities). 465 Shared ZOTUs (Bacteria (top 800); Archaea (top 200)) between lakes were obtained using venn() from 466 the gplots package. A correlation matrix between microbial community composition and 467 biogeochemical parameters was produced based on Spearman coefficients and calculated and plotted 468 using cor() and cor.mtest() from the Hmisc and Corrplot packages. To identify co-occurrence patterns 469 of dominant microbial groups, a co-occurrence network was constructed based on Spearman correlation 470 coefficients ($\rho < 0.5$, p < 0.01) (Junker and Schreiber, 2008). To remove false-positives, we adjusted P-

values with a multiple testing correction using the Benjamini-Hochberg method (Benjamini andHochberg, 1995).

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480 **Conflict of Interest**

481 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Page 23 of 35

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716 **Tables**

717 **Table 1.** Depth distributions (cmblf) of respiration reactions (average±standard deviation (SD))

718 across the five lakes (modified from Fiskal *et al.* (2019)). The deepest samples from the bottom of

719 cores were typically from a depth interval of 36-40 cm.

	Lake Greifen	Lake Baldegg	Lake Zug	Lake Zurich	Lake Lucerne
Trophic state	eutrophic	eutrophic	eutrophic	mesotrophic	oligotrophic
Aerobic	0.0 - 0.17±0.03	0.0 - 0.08±0.02	0.0 - 0.23±0.03	0.0 - 0.22±0.08	0.0 - 0.73±0.25
Nitrate reduction	0.0 - 2.5±1.0	0.0 - 2.8±1.2	0.0 - 7.7±3.1	0.0 - 3.3±1.4	0.0 - 9.0±2.0
Sulfate reduction	0.0 - 5.8±2.0	0.0 - 6.2±3.3	0.0 - 11.7±3.1	0.0 - 10.3±1.2	0.0 - 11.0±2.0
Mn(IV) reduction	0.3±0.3 - 8.2±4.9	0.3±0.3 - 14±7	0.5±0.0 - 5.0±0.0	0.3±0.3 - 24±15	0.7±0.8 - bottom
Fe(III) reduction	0.5±0.0 - bottom	0.0 - bottom	0.5±0.0 - bottom	0.5±0.0 - bottom	0.8±0.6 - bottom
Methanogenesis	0.0 - bottom	0.0 - bottom	0.0 - bottom	2.6±2.4 - bottom	3.0±1.7 - bottom

720

721 Table 2. Relative contributions of environmental variables to driving microbial community

722 structures across the five lakes based on Adonis (Permutational multivariate analysis of variance).

			Bacte	eria	Archa	ea
			R ²	Р	R ²	Р
		Total OM	0.61	***	0.56	**
		TOC	0.12	***	0.07	**
		Chlorophyll a	0.08	*	0.08	**
	Aquatic	C15+C17+C19	0.13	***	0.10	***
		C23+C25	0.12 ***		0.10	***
		C14+C16+C18	0.11	0.11 ***		***
ОМ	riquitie	(a+i)C15+C16:1	15+C16:1 0.12 ***		0.11	***
sources		Steroids A	0.15	***	0.12	***
		Steroids B	0.12	***	0.09	**
	Terrestrial	C27+C29+C31	0.14	***	0.09	**
		C24+C26+C28	0.12	***	0.08	**
		Vanillyl	0.05		0.06	*
		Syringyl	0.05		0.07	*
		Cinnamyl	0.05		0.05	
		Total respiration	0.28	***	0.21	***
Respiration reaction		Oxygen	0.05	***	0.05	***
		Nitrate	0.06	***	0.05	***
		Sulfate	0.10	***	0.08	***
		Manganese(II)	0.04	***	0.02	*
		Iron(II)	0.08	***	0.05	**
		Methane	0.12	***	0.08	**

723 Note: Steroids A: Diatom: Brassicasterol+24-methylenecholesterol; Steroids B: Dinoflagellates: Dinosterol+Dinostanol.

724 * P < 0.05; ** P < 0.01; *** P < 0.001.

725 Table 3. Spearman correlations of bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA gene abundances based on qPCR, as well as calculated abundances of dominant subsurface bacteria and archaeal groups vs. 726 727 sediment depth (0-20 cm). We show correlations for the entire data set (All lakes) and for all data from 728 each individual lake. All significant correlations are positive, except those of bacterial 16S rRNA gene 729 copy numbers vs. depth, which are negative. Abundances of dominant subsurface bacterial and archaeal 730 groups were calculated by multiplying their fractions of total bacterial and archaeal 16S gene reads with 731 total bacterial and archaeal 16S gene copy numbers cm⁻³ sediment, respectively. Dehalococcoidia are 732 shown in addition to total *Chloroflexi* due to the frequent dominance of subsurface *Chloroflexi* by this 733 class (Orcutt et al., 2011; Teske et al., 2014). MCG-6 and Group C3 are the dominant class-level 734 subgroups of *Bathyarchaeota* in our study. Depth related trends across all lakes and stations are shown 735 in Supplementary Figure S9 and Figure S10. Correlation analyses for additional sediment depth intervals (0-10, 0-15, 0-30, and 0-40 cm) are displayed in Supplementary Table S3. Correlations based on 736 bacterial and archaeal 16S gene copy numbers g^{-1} wet and g^{-1} dry sediment are shown in Supplementary 737 738 Table S4.

	All lakes		Lake		Lake		Lake		Lake		Lake		
				Greifen		Baldegg		Zug		Zurich		Lucerne	
	R ²	Р	R ²	Р	R ²	Р	R ²	Р	R ²	Р	R ²	Р	
Bacterial 16S genes	0.16	***	0.25	***	0.08		0.56	***	0.16	**	0.37	***	
Archaeal 16S genes	0.17	***	0.00		0.28	***	0.06		0.55	***	0.25	***	
			7										
Deltaproteobacteria	0.03		0.10		0.02		0.13		0.03		0.001		
Chloroflexi	0.001		0.03		0.17		0.002		0.005		0.003		
Dehalococcoidia	0.29	***	0.40	**	0.74	***	0.37	**	0.26	*	0.57	***	
Acetothermia	0.27	***	0.44	**	0.77	***	0.23		0.19		0.20		
Aminicenantes	0.23	***	0.47	*	0.79	***	0.49	**	0.28	*	0.23	*	
Thermoplasmata	0.44	***	0.50	**	0.66	***	0.79	***	0.59	***	0.79	***	
Altiarchaeales	0.18	***	0.06		0.68	***	0.01		0.47	**	0.32	*	
Lokiarchaeota	0.15	***	0.01		0.002		0.57	***	0.33	*	0.44	**	
Diapherotrites	0.12	**	0.03		0.08		0.15		0.25	*	0.34	*	
MCG-6	0.16	***	0.00		0.39	*	0.16		0.35	*	0.53	***	
			7										
Group C3	0.22	***	0.04		0.48	**	0.15		0.57	***	0.76	***	

739 Note: * P < 0.05; ** P < 0.01; *** P < 0.001.

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743 Figure legends

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744 Figure 1. Depth profiles of (A) n-alkanes, (B) fatty acids, (C) steroids, and (D) lignin phenols. The

onset of eutrophication is indicated by the black dot-dashed lines (Lake Greifen: ~1920; Lake Baldegg:

~1890; Lake Zug: ~1930; Lake Zurich: ~1890). The beginning of artificial mixing and aeration to
prevent water column anoxia in Lake Baldegg (1982/3) and Lake Greifen (2009) is marked with red

749 line). P concentrations in Lake Lucerne increased slightly, without a change in trophic state, from 1960750 1990 (samples between dotted black lines). Abbreviations in (D): V = vanillyl phenols (incl. vanillin,

solid lines. The transition from eutrophic to mesotrophic in Zurich took place around 1980 (green dashed

acetovanillone and vanillic acid); S = syringyl phenols (incl. syringealdehyde, acetosyringone and

752 syringic acid); C = cinnamyl phenols (incl. p-coumaric acid and ferulic acid.)

Figure 2. Copy numbers (average±standard deviation (SD)) of (A) bacterial and (B) archaeal 16S
rRNA genes, and (C) Bacteria to Archaea ratios (BARs) across the five lakes ordered from most
eutrophic (Lake Greifen) to oligotrophic (Lake Lucerne).

Figure 3. Bar charts of relative abundances of dominant phyla and classes of (A) Bacteria and (B) Archaea (BW: Bottom Water). The onset of eutrophication in Lake Greifen, Lake Baldegg, Lake Zug, and Lake Zurich is indicated by black dot-dashed lines. The beginning of artificial mixing and aeration in Lake Baldegg and Lake Greifen is marked with red solid lines. The transition from eutrophic to mesotrophic in Lake Zurich is marked by the green dashed line. The slight temporary increase in P concentrations in Lake Lucerne falls between the dotted black lines). MCG-6, Group C3, MCG-5, and MCG-14 are the dominant subgroups of *Bathyarchaeota*.

763 **Figure 4. PCoA** plots of bacterial (A) and archaeal (B) communities on a 97% ZOTU level based

on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. The numbers next to the shapes indicate the sediment depths, e.g. 0-0.5

765 denotes 0-0.5 cm sediment depth. Arrows within plots highlight depth- and trophic state-related trends

in microbial community structure across the five lakes.

Figure 5. (A) Observed and shared ZOTUs of Bacteria and Archaea between different lakes. (B)
Shared ZOTUs of Bacteria and Archaea in different lakes in relation to average geographic
distance between sites. Unique to A: ZOTUs only belong to left lake; Unique to B: ZOTUs only belong
to right lake. Dashed lines with white circular symbols indicate percentages of shared ZOTUs between
each lake.

772 Figure 6. Heatmap showing relationships between dominant bacterial and archaeal groups and 773 respiration reactions as well as aquatic and terrestrial OM sources. Average relative abundances of 774 dominant microbial groups in each respiration zone were normalized based on their Z-scores. High Z-775 scores (to +2) indicate higher average relative abundances within a specific respiration zone compared 776 to the complete data set. Low values (to -2) indicate lower average relative abundances in a specific 777 respiration zone compared to the complete data set. Z-scores were then used to vertically order dominant 778 microbial groups according to the respiration zones in which they have their highest average relative 779 abundances. The values in brackets are the relative percentages of groups throughout the whole sediment. 780 Phyla and proteobacterial classes that have their highest average percentages (and thus Z-scores) in oxic 781 sediment are termed 'oxic group'. 'Suboxic group' phyla have their highest average percentages (and Z-782 scores) in zones with nitrate-, sulfate- and/or Mn-reduction. 'Anoxic group' phyla have their highest average percentages (and Z-scores) in sediments with Fe(III)-reduction and methanogenesis. 783 784 Relationships between group percentages and OM sources were determined based on Spearman correlations. Only significantly positive correlations (P < 0.05) are shown. P-values were adjusted by 785 786 the Benjamini-Hochberg method. Steroids A: Diatom: Brassicasterol+24-methylenecholesterol; 787 Steroids B: Dinoflagellates: Dinosterol+Dinostanol. (A): Bacteria; (B): Archaea.



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270x249mm (300 x 300 DPI)



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Brassicasterol+24-methylenecholesterol; Steroids B: Dinoflagellates: Dinosterol+Dinostanol. (A): Bacteria; (B): Archaea.