

Responses of microbial community from tropical pristine coastal soil to crude oil contamination

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Crude oil is still the dominant energy source in Brazil and that the consumption keeps rising since 2013, being responsible for 2.2% of the world's energy consumption. The recent discovery of crude oil reservoirs at the Espirito Santo basin, Campos basin and Santos basin, can be considered as an excellent opportunity to supply the country's economic and energetic demands. However, albeit the opportunity these crude oil reservoirs represent, offshore exploration offers risks to the microbiota and the whole sea life, as petroleum hydrocarbons are toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic. Microbes are responsible for nutrient cycling and can degrade even very recalcitrant hydrocarbons. This work aimed to evaluate the microbial community shift (Archaea, Bacteria and Fungi) from Trindade Island coastal environment under petroleum contamination. Microcosms were assembled using Trindade Island coastal soil to create two treatments, control and contaminated (weathered crude oil at 30 g kg⁻¹). Soils were incubated during 38 days with CO₂ measurements every four hours. Total DNA was extracted, purified and submitted for sequencing of 16s rRNA gene, for Bacteria and Archaea domains and Fungal ITS1 region using Illumina MiSeq platform. We compared alpha diversity, beta diversity and taxonomic shifts between controls and contaminated samples. Three days after contamination, emission rate peaked at more than 20x the control and the emissions remained higher during the whole incubation period. Microbial alpha diversity was reduced for contaminated-samples. Fungi community of contaminated samples was reduced to almost 40% of the observed species. Taxonomy comparisons showed rise of the Actinobacteria phylum and reduction of the Archaea *Candidatus nitrosphaera*.

1 **Responses of microbial community from tropical pristine coastal soil to crude oil**
2 **contamination**

3

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14 **ABSTRACT**

15 Crude oil is still the dominant energy source in Brazil and that the consumption keeps rising since
16 2013, being responsible for 2.2% of the world's energy consumption. The recent discovery of
17 crude oil reservoirs at the Espírito Santo basin, Campos basin and Santos basin, can be considered
18 as an excellent opportunity to supply the country's economic and energetic demands. However,
19 albeit the opportunity these crude oil reservoirs represent, offshore exploration offers risks to the
20 microbiota and the whole sea life, as petroleum hydrocarbons are toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic
21 and carcinogenic. Microbes are responsible for nutrient cycling and can degrade even very
22 recalcitrant hydrocarbons. This work aimed to evaluate the microbial community shift (Archaea,
23 Bacteria and Fungi) from Trindade Island coastal environment under petroleum contamination.
24 Microcosms were assembled using Trindade Island coastal soil to create two treatments, control
25 and contaminated (weathered crude oil at 30 g kg⁻¹). Soils were incubated during 38 days with CO₂
26 measurements every four hours. Total DNA was extracted, purified and submitted for sequencing
27 of 16s rRNA gene, for Bacteria and Archaea domains and Fungal ITS1 region using Illumina
28 MiSeq platform. We compared alpha diversity, beta diversity and taxonomic shifts between
29 controls and contaminated samples. Three days after contamination, emission rate peaked at more
30 than 20x the control and the emissions remained higher during the whole incubation period.

31 Microbial alpha diversity was reduced for contaminated-samples. Fungi community of
32 contaminated samples was reduced to almost 40% of the observed species. Taxonomy
33 comparisons showed rise of the Actinobacteria phylum and reduction of the Archaea *Candidatus*
34 *nitrosphaere*.

35

36 **Keywords:** Next Generation Sequencing; metagenome; alpha diversity; beta diversity; Biodiesel
37 Co-Product (BCP); taxonomy comparison

38 INTRODUCTION

39 Brazil contributes to more than 2% of the world crude oil production (BP Statistical Review
40 of World Energy, 2014). The British Petroleum review of 2015, states that crude oil is still the
41 dominant energy source in Brazil and that the consumption keeps rising since 2013, being
42 responsible for 2.2% of the world's energy consumption. The recent discovery of crude oil
43 reservoirs at the Espirito Santo basin, Campos basin and Santos basin, can be considered as an
44 excellent opportunity to supply the country's economic and energetic demands (Lima, 2010).
45 These current exploration efforts are towards the so-called pre-salt reservoir, which is a geologic
46 formation covered by a two thousand meters salt layer deposited in the ocean floor (Seabra et al.,
47 2011). However, albeit the opportunity these crude oil reservoirs represent, offshore exploration
48 offers risks to the microbiota and the whole sea life, as petroleum hydrocarbons are toxic,
49 mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic. (Hentati et al, 2013; Mckee et al, 2013).

50 Trindade Island is located at the South Atlantic Ocean, 1,160 km from the city of Vitória,
51 capital of Espirito Santo State, Brazil. The island has 10.8 km² and its highest point reaches 600
52 m over the sea level. Its strategic location and the presence of endemic species of plants and
53 animals justify the Brazilian interest and efforts for its protection (Alves & Castro, 2006; Mohr et
54 al., 2009). Having control over the island allows Brazil to pledge, with United Nations (UN), the
55 expansion of its area of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), so that we can seek and explore
56 resources in the area between Brazilian shoreline and the Trindade Island. Moreover, the expansion
57 of the Brazilian EEZ will be beneficial for application and research of green energy technologies
58 produced by the marine renewable energy industry, as wave energy converters (Mueller and
59 Wallace, 2010), when energy sources based on fossil fuels become no longer available.

60 Microbes are responsible for nutrient cycling and can degrade even very recalcitrant
61 hydrocarbons. They are capable of degrading crude oil hydrocarbons through a number of aerobic
62 and anaerobic metabolic pathways, using these compounds as sources of carbon and energy
63 (Zobell, 1946; Atlas, 1981; Haritash & Kaushik, 2009).

64 Our ability to describe the microbial world has increased significantly during the last 10
65 years, when the first next generation sequencing (NGS) methods of evaluating the microbial
66 community were published (Edwards et al., 2006; Roesch et al, 2007; Caporaso et al., 2012).
67 Taking advantage of the new sequencing technologies, more complete databases and more robust

68 approaches, we are now able to describe the microorganisms in a much better resolution than in
69 the time of Zobell (1946) and Atlas (1981).

70 This work aimed to evaluate the microbial community shift (Archaea, Bacteria and Fungi)
71 from Trindade Island coastal environment under crude oil contamination.

72

73 MATERIAL AND METHODS

74 Sampling site and soil analysis

75 Trindade Island soil was randomly sampled to the depth of 0-10 cm from the northeast
76 shoreline of Trindade (coordinates: 20°30' S and 29° 19' W), under influence of native vegetation
77 (*Cyperus atlanticus*). Soil cores were bulked, sieved (<2mm) and stored at 4°C until the
78 microcosms were assembled. The sampling expedition occurred through April 2013 and was
79 supported by the Brazilian Navy and PROTRINDADE Research Program. The National Counsel
80 for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) provided all approvals and permits (project
81 grant number 405544/2012-0 and authorization access to genetic resources process number
82 010645/2013-6) to conduct the study within this protected area. The field study did not involve
83 endangered or protected species. A total of 11 chemical variables, plus physical properties, were
84 assessed in the soil analysis. The protocol references and results are shown in Table 1.

85

86 Soil treatment with crude oil

87 Firstly, to simulate the ageing of crude oil exposed to environmental conditions at spillage
88 conditions, we heated 500 mL of crude oil to 90⁰ C and incubated for two hours in a fume hood.
89 The resulting aged crude oil was a material highly viscous and difficult to work with. To obtain
90 homogenous mixing of oil with soil, we dissolved the aged crude oil in hexane and applied to a
91 subsample of each experimental soil. Hexane was also added to soils without crude oil to create a
92 hexane-only contaminated control stock. These hexane (and crude oil + hexane) exposed soil
93 stocks were kept in a fume hood until all hexane had evaporated. We then added 10 g of the control
94 stock soil (hexane evaporated) to the flasks corresponding to 'Control', and made up to 20 grams
95 with the corresponding soil that had not been exposed to hexane. The same procedure was repeated
96 for the stock soils contaminated with crude oil, corresponding to the treatment 'Crude Oil'. This
97 combination method was required to repopulate the native soil microbial community decimated
98 by hexane. The final concentration of crude oil was 30g kg⁻¹. The flasks were incubated at 26 °C
99 and the soil moisture was kept at 60% of its water holding capacity (remoistened periodically with
100 deionized water upon reaching c. 50% water holding capacity).

101

102

103

104 **Experimental design**

105 To evaluate the effects of crude oil over the soil microbial community, we assembled six
106 soil microcosms in respirometer flasks of 250 mL, containing 10 grams (dry weight) of each soil.
107 The microcosms were incubated at 26 °C during 23 days, and the microbial activity was monitored
108 by quantifying CO₂ emissions every 4 hours, using a continuous-flow respirometer coupled to an
109 infrared CO₂ detector (TR-RM8 Respirometer Multiplex – Sable System) (HEINEMEYER et al.,
110 1989). After this period, the flasks received 10g of either the two soil treatments upon the addition
111 of stock soil treated with hexane for Control (Cntrl) or stock soil treated with crude oil and hexane
112 to the crude oil contaminated treatment (Oil). The concentration of crude oil in the Oil treatment
113 was 30g kg⁻¹. The incubation continued for more 15 days.

114

115 **Molecular analyses**

116 *DNA extraction and quality check*

117 Genomic DNA was extracted and purified from each soil sample (0.5 g) using the
118 PowerMax® Soil DNA Isolation Kit (MoBio Laboratories, Carlsbad, CA) following the
119 manufacturer's instructions. The purity of the extracted DNA was checked using a Nanodrop ND-
120 1000 spectrophotometer (Nanodrop Technologies, Wilmington, DE, USA) (260/280 nm ratio),
121 DNA concentration was determined using Qubit® 2.0 fluorometer and dsDNA BR Assay kit
122 (Invitrogen™). The integrity of the DNA was confirmed by electrophoresis in a 0.8 % agarose gel
123 with 1 X TAE buffer.

124

125 *High-throughput sequencing*

126 Sequencing was done on the Illumina MiSeq® platform (Caporaso et al. 2012) at the High-
127 throughput Genome Analysis Core (HGAC), Argonne National Laboratory (Illinois, USA).
128 Bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA genes were amplified using primers 515F (5'-
129 GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3') and 806R (5'-GGACTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3') for
130 paired-end microbial community. Fungal ITS1 region was amplified using primers ITS1F (5'-
131 CTTGGCCATTTAGAGGAAGTAA-3') and ITS2 (5'-GCTGCGTTCTTCATCGATGC-3')
132 using the method described by SMITH & PEAY (2014).

133

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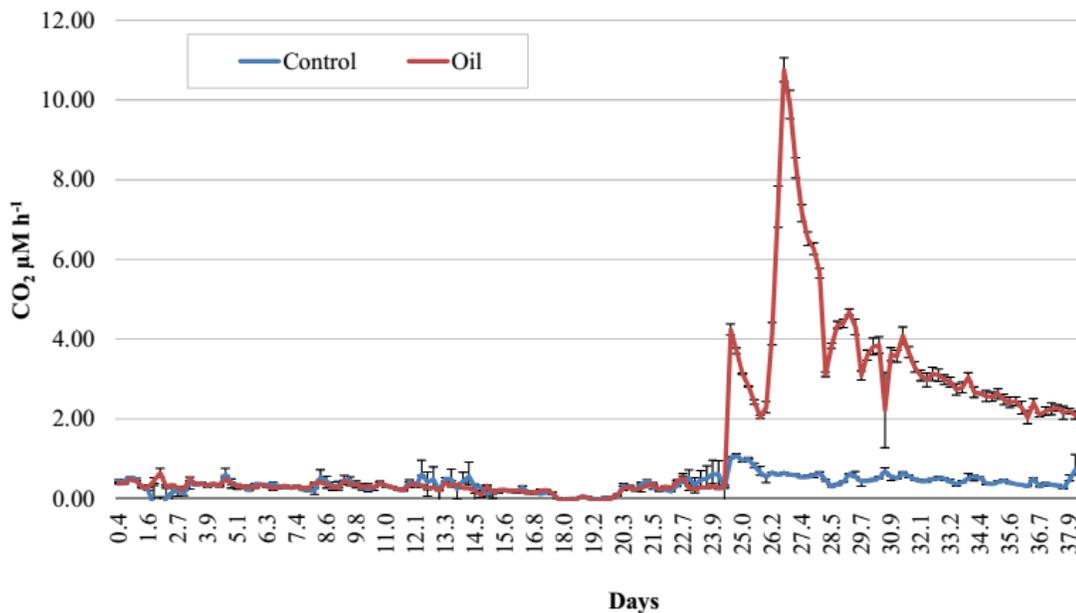
136 **Data analysis**

137 We applied the 16S and ITS bioinformatics pipeline recommended by the Brazilian
138 Microbiome Project, available at <http://brmicrobiome.org> (Pylro et al, 2014). This pipeline uses
139 QIIME (Caporaso et al., 2010) and Usearch 7.0 (Edgar, 2010) for filtering low quality sequences,
140 clustering sequences of high similarity, diversity analysis, diversity comparisons and graphical
141 plotting. For fungal ITS analysis we also used the software ITSx (Bengtsson-Palme, 2013) for
142 taxonomic assignment improvement. The microbial diversity changes were measured using the
143 alpha diversity metrics: PD_whole_tree (for 16s rRNA gene only), Chao (Chao, 1984) and
144 observed species. For beta diversity estimations, we generated distance matrixes using the
145 phylogenetic method weighted unifrac (Lozupone et al, 2005) for 16s rRNA gene sequences and
146 the Bray-Curtis (Bray & Curtis, 1957) method for ITS sequences. We plotted the beta-diversity
147 distance matrixes using a three-dimensional Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA). The
148 hypothesis testing method used to compare treatments was a two-sided Student's parametric t-test
149 with p-values Bonferroni-corrected for multiple comparisons.

150

151 **RESULTS**152 **Soil respiration and physicochemical characteristics**

153 The Trindade Island soil samples were incubated at 26 °C, with no crude oil addition during
 154 23 days, as an acclimatizing period in order to allow the microbial community to eliminate most
 155 of the immediately accessible organic carbon. At the 24th day of incubation, we split the samples
 156 in two treatments, control and crude oil 30g kg⁻¹. CO₂ emission rate by oil-contaminated samples
 157 increased 8x compared to the control in the first 4 hours (see figure 1). Three days after
 158 contamination, emission rate peaked at more than 20x the control. CO₂ emission of the oil treated
 159 samples was higher than the control during all the incubation period (38 days). At the last day of
 160 incubation (38th), CO₂ emission rate of the contaminated treatment was still almost 4 times higher
 161 than the control (figure 1).



162

163 Figure 1 Respiration analysis of Trindade Island coastal soil microcosms. Average CO₂ emission
 164 rates evaluated during 38 days of incubation. Emissions until 24 days represent the acclimatizing
 165 period without oil addition. Readings after 24 days show the differences in CO₂ emissions after
 166 establishing the two treatments (Control and Oil). The microcosms were incubated at 26 °C and
 167 CO₂ emission was monitored by an automated respirometer coupled to an infrared CO₂ detector.

168

169 Table 1 – Summary of physicochemical data for surface soil cores (0 - 10 cm) sampled at the
170 northeast coast of Trindade Island - Brazil.

Characteristic	Unit	Value
pH – H ₂ O		5.6
Soil texture		Sandy Loam
P-rem ⁽¹⁾	mg L ⁻¹	26.5
P ⁽²⁾		1290.8
K ⁽²⁾	mg kg ⁻¹	180.33
S ⁽³⁾		5.63
Ca ⁺²⁽⁴⁾	cmol _c kg ⁻¹	9.84
Mg ⁺²⁽⁴⁾		2.78
OM		0.64
N	%	0.19
C ⁽⁵⁾		0.37

171 ⁽¹⁾ Remaining phosphorus (Alvarez et al., 2000). ⁽²⁾ Extracted with Mehlich – 1. ⁽³⁾ Extracted with
172 monocalcium phosphate in acetic acid (HOEFT et al., 1973). ⁽⁴⁾ Extracted with KCl 1 mol L⁻¹. ⁽⁵⁾ Walkley
173 and Black method/OM = C.org * 1.724.

174 Sequencing results

175 A total of 314,748 joined and quality filtered 16S rRNA gene Illumina® barcoded reads,
176 and 424,269 single end quality filtered fungal ITS Illumina® barcoded reads were obtained from
177 the soil samples (Table S1). The contaminated treatment yielded a smaller amount of sequences.
178 To minimize the effects of sequencing depth variation on diversity analysis and taxa comparison,
179 we applied the rarefaction method (random subsampling of sequences to equalize sequencing
180 effort). Estimates of alpha- and beta-diversity were based on evenly rarefied OTU matrices (45,695
181 sequences per sample for Bacteria and Archaea and 25,315 sequences per sample for Fungi).

182 Alpha diversity comparison

183 The alpha diversity indexes used in this experiment represent species richness (tables 2 and
184 3). We compared treatment's effects over Bacteria/Archaea community using the estimators
185 Faith's PD (phylogenetic measure of diversity based on total branch length of phylogeny captured
186 by a sample, developed by Faith, 1992), the Chao-1 (estimator of total species richness developed

187 by Chao, 1984), and observed species (number of species detected) (table 2). The effects on Fungal
 188 community was measured using only the Chao-1 and Observed species estimators, as there was
 189 not an ITS1 phylogenetic tree available to use the Faith's PD estimator. All methods yielded
 190 similar results for Bacteria/Archaea and Fungi. The comparison between the two treatments shows
 191 a significant reduction of diversity upon the addition of oil for Bacteria, Archaea and Fungi. Fungal
 192 community was the most sensitive group to the oil addition, showed a reduction of ~40% for the
 193 indexes Chao1 and Observed species (table 3).

194

195 Table 2 – Average alpha diversity comparison between the treatments control and crude oil for
 196 bacteria and archaea groups.

Treatments	Sequences	PD whole tree	Chao 1	Observed species
Crude Oil	45690	164.87	2796.51	2443.20
Control	45690	177.51	3107.12	2679.23
p-value*		0.012546	0.047083	0.018392

197 *Two-sample parametric t-test. Rarefaction to 45,690 sequences for each sample.

198

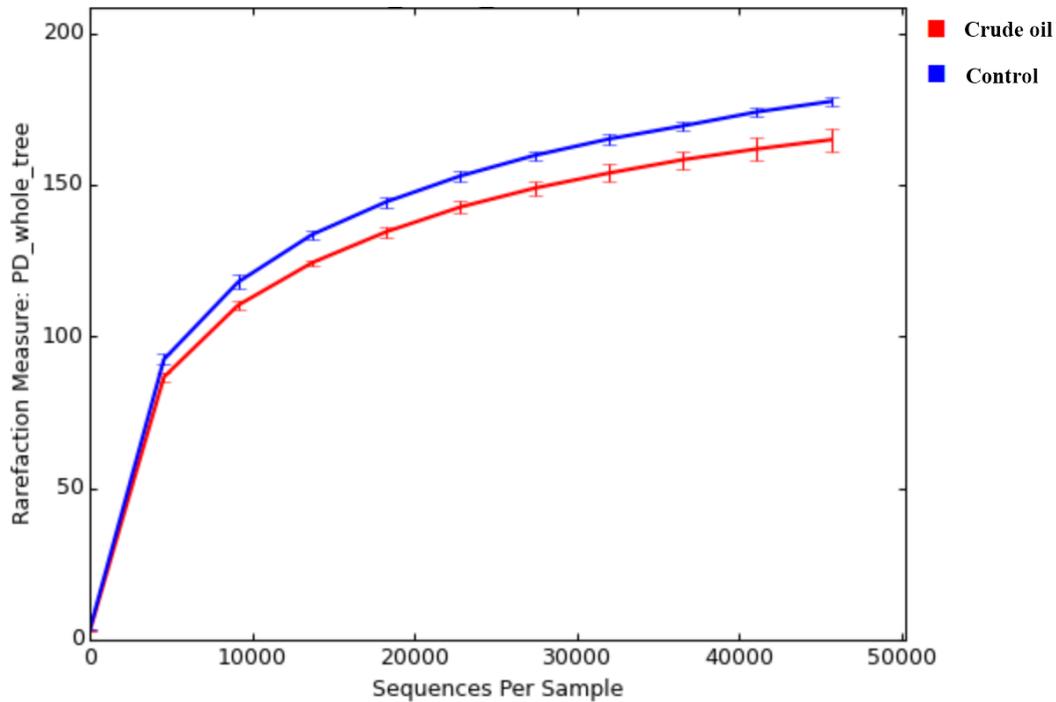
199 Table 3 – Average alpha diversity comparison between the treatments control and crude oil for
 200 fungi.

Treatments	Sequences	Chao 1	Observed species
Crude Oil	25315	69.96	67.8
Control	25315	100.58	96.46
p-value*		0.0548	0.0681

201 *Two-sample parametric t-test. Rarefaction to 25,315 sequences for each sample.

202

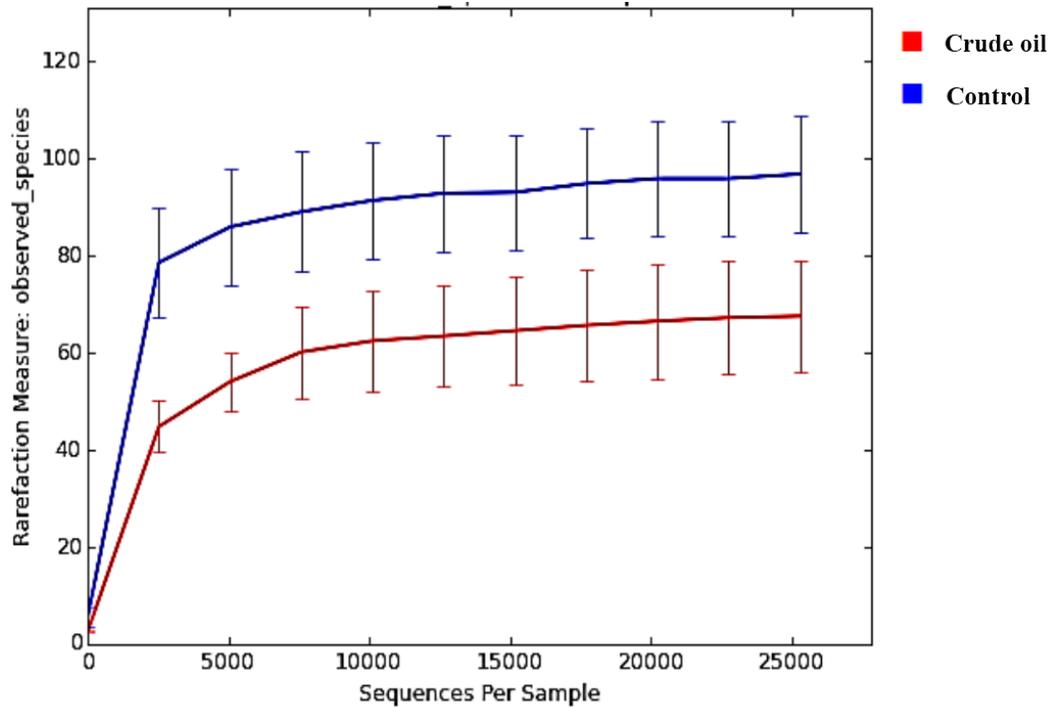
203 The rarefaction analysis (figures 3 and 4), which plots the operational taxonomic unit
 204 (OTU) richness as a function of sequencing depth, shows that sequencing effort was sufficient to
 205 capture the Bacterial, Archaeal and Fungal diversity of samples. The analysis also confirms that
 206 crude oil had a reductive effect on microbial diversity, especially for Fungi.



207

208 Figure 2 Average alpha diversity rarefaction plot at different rarefaction depths, of phylogenetic
209 diversity for Control and Oil treatment of microcosms from Trindade Island coastal soil samples,
210 based on partial sequences of bacterial/archaeal 16S rRNA genes.

211



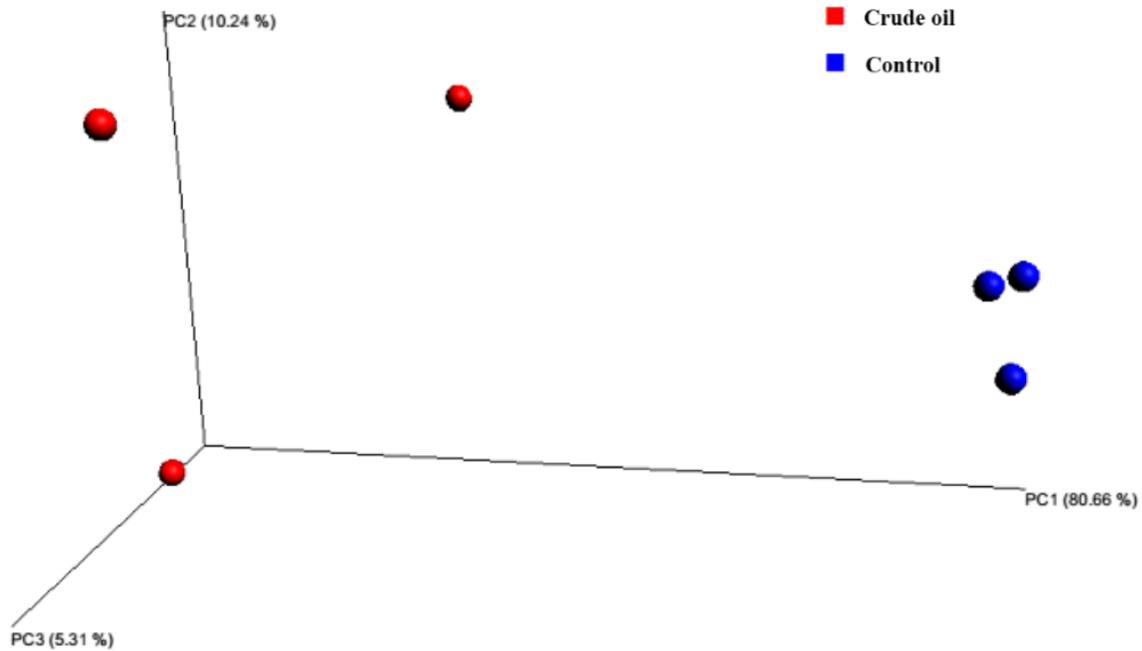
212

213 Figure 3 Average alpha diversity rarefaction plot at different rarefaction depths. Observed species
 214 for treatments Control and Oil of microcosms from Trindade Island coastal soil samples, based on
 215 partial sequences of fungal ribosomal intergenic spacer ITS1.

216 **Beta Diversity comparison**

217 The beta diversity analysis was performed using two different metrics (figures 2 and 3),
 218 Weighted Unifrac for 16s rRNA gene and Bray-Curtis for fungal intergenic spacer ITS1 due to the
 219 lack of a phylogenetic tree for ITS1 marker. Both methods showed two very distinct clusters (q-
 220 value significant under 5% of probability).

221

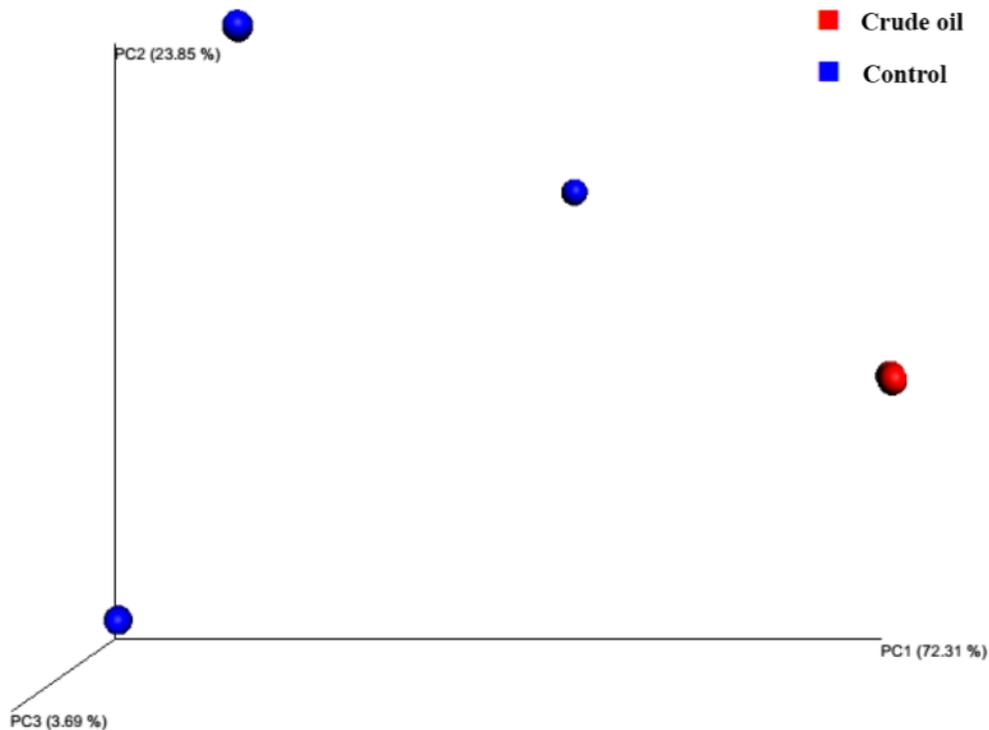


222

223 Figure 2 Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) of Weighted Unifrac distances generated from taxa
224 tables summarized at the genus level for bacterial and archaeal partial 16S rRNA gene. Three
225 coordinates explain 95.21% of the data. The PC1 explains 80.66% of data distribution, the PC2
226 explains 10.24% of data distribution and the PC3 explains 5.31% of data distribution. The blue
227 dots correspond to Control samples and the red dots correspond to Crude Oil contaminated
228 samples.

229

230



231

232 Figure 3 Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) of Bray-Curtis distances generated from taxa tables
 233 summarized at the genus level for fungal partial ribosomal intergenic spacer ITS1, rarefied at
 234 25315 reads per sample. Three coordinates explain 99.85% of the data. The PC1 explains 72.31%
 235 of data distribution, the PC2 explains 23.85% of data distribution and the PC3 explains 3.69% of
 236 data distribution. The blue dots correspond to Control samples and the red dots correspond to
 237 Crude Oil contaminated samples.

238

239 Taxonomic comparison

240 The taxonomic distributions of Bacteria/Archaea are shown in table S2 at phylum level.
 241 The control treatment show 6% of sequences to be from the Archaea domain, 93.4% from Bacteria
 242 domain and 0.5% were not assigned to any taxa from the GreenGenes database (DeSantis et al.,
 243 2006). For Archaea, we found only three representatives: the species *Candidatus nitrosphaera*
 244 belonging to the phylum Crenarchaeota, the order E2 belonging to the phylum Euryarchaeota and
 245 the order YLA114 belonging to the phylum Parvarchaeota. The addition of oil reduced the relative
 246 abundance of archaea to 2.7%.

247 We identified 478 genera belonging to 225 orders in the bacterial group of the control
 248 samples (93.4% of total 16s rRNA gene sequences). The most abundant bacterial orders in the
 249 control were Acidobacteria order iii1-15 (7%), Rhizobiales (6.5%), Rubrobacterales (6.3%),
 250 Nitrosphaerales (6.1%), Xanthomonadales (4.8%), Syntrophobacterales (4.2%), Gaielalles (4%)
 251 and Myxococcales (4%). Oil-contaminated samples presented 463 genera belonging to 224 orders,
 252 and the most abundant orders were Actinomycetales (17%), Acidobacteria order iii1-15 (8.5%),
 253 Rhizobiales (6.4%), Burkholderiales (4%), Xanthomonadales (3.9%), Chloroacidobacteria order
 254 RB41 (3.4%), Sphingomonadales (3%), Acidimicrobiales (2.9%). Abundance of 9 taxa was
 255 significantly different between control and oil-contaminated soils (table 5).

256

257 Table 4 – Bacterial/archaeal OTUs presenting an average absolute abundance significantly different
 258 between the treatments “Oil” and “Control”, under the two-way Student t-test and $\alpha = 0.05$.

OTUs	q-value*	Crude Oil	Control	Taxonomy
OTU_112	0.046688	30.7	99.0	o_Myxococcales
OTU_292	0.046688	33.3	0.7	g_Burkholderia
OTU_9	0.046688	1247.7	55.3	f_Streptomycetaceae
OTU_1050	0.046688	1.7	18.3	g_Bacillus
OTU_6	0.046688	401.3	1715.7	g_Rubrobacter
OTU_231	0.046688	9.3	41.0	f_Gemmataceae
OTU_238	0.046688	7.0	31.7	g_Cellvibrio
OTU_252	0.046688	100.3	39.7	g_Streptomyces
OTU_583	0.054659	17.7	8.0	o_Solirubrobacterales

259 *p-values corrected by the FDR method.

260

261 Fungal taxonomy analysis (table S3) was assessed using the UNITE database (Kõljalg et
 262 al., 2005), version 7. 5% of the reads from non-contaminated soil were not assigned to any
 263 taxonomic group. For the crude oil treatment, only 0.7% of the sequences did not match to a taxum.
 264 We found 43 genera belonging to 29 orders in the fungal group of the control samples. The most
 265 abundant orders in the control were Hypocreales (41%), Mortierellales (27%) and Sordariales
 266 (7.5%). Oil-contaminated samples presented 48 genera belonging to 29 orders, and the most
 267 abundant orders were Mortierellales (70%), Hypocreales (24%) and Botryosphaeriales (1.1%).
 268 Abundance of 4 taxa was significantly different between control and oil-contaminated soils (table
 269 5).

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275

276 Table 5 – Fungal OTUs presenting an average absolute abundance significantly different between the
 277 treatments “Crude Oil” and “Control”, under the two-way Student t-test and $\alpha = 0.07$.

OTUs	q-value*	Crude Oil	Control	taxonomy
OTU109	0.007762	19800.67	833.4	p__Ascomycota; g__ <i>Fusarium</i>
OTU067	0.014401	2442.67	96.4	p__Ascomycota; f__Clavicipitaceae
OTU767	0.061176	68780.33	11366.7	p__Zygomycota; g__ <i>Mortierella</i>
OTU636	0.061176	1048.33	63.3	p__Zygomycota; s__ <i>Mortierella ambigua</i>

278 *p-values corrected by the FDR method.

279

280 Discussion

281 In this study, we characterized the microbial community of a soil from the northeast
 282 shoreline of Trindade Island. We also evaluated the effects of oil amendment on the soil microbial
 283 diversity and on microbial taxa at different taxonomic levels. We found that crude oil had a
 284 deleterious effect on microbial alpha-diversity. This result is similar to the obtained by Yang
 285 (2014), as crude oil was thought to have an eco-toxicological effect. Besides toxic effect, we also
 286 suppose that some taxa able to use oil hydrocarbons as a source of carbon and energy were
 287 favoured by oil amendment, gradually overcoming the populations without those abilities. The
 288 effects on fungal diversity were more severe than that observed on bacterial and archaeal diversity,
 289 corroborating Embar (2006), who mentioned a reduction and quick specification of fungal
 290 community in response to oil contamination. The strong effect of oil on the fungal diversity may
 291 also be explained by metabolic differences between fungi and bacteria. This effect relates to the
 292 increased toxicity of polycyclic hydrocarbons present in crude oil after metabolic activation
 293 mediated by the enzyme cytochrome P450 (CYP) of eukaryotes. Shimada and Fuji-Kuriama
 294 (2003) explain that most carcinogens in the environment are inert by themselves and require the
 295 metabolic activation by CYP, in order to exhibit carcinogenicity. The CYP genes belong to the
 296 superfamily of dioxygenases, present in all domains of life. This superfamily is so diverse that can
 297 share similarities smaller than 16% (Werck-Reichhard et al., 2000). Genes that code for
 298 dioxygenases in prokaryotes are related to toxin and xenobiotic degradation, while in eukaryotes

299 CYP genes may be related to a plethora of functions, ranging from biosynthesis of hormones to
300 chemical defence in plants (Werck-Reichhard et al., 2000).

301 During the analysis of beta diversity of Bacteria and Archaea, (figure 2) we found that oil-
302 contaminated samples showed a broader variation in the three-dimension PCoA. Compared to the
303 control, whose replicates are clustered more tightly. Because of selective pressure, the taxa that
304 resisted the contamination event and the populations able to degrade hydrocarbons will gradually
305 outnumber the rest of the community in the course of succession (Yang et al., 2014). Therefore, as
306 oil presented a toxic effect, we would expect that the bacterial community of contaminated samples
307 would show a more compact clustering, as happened with the fungal community. However, as
308 bacterial community is several times more diverse than the fungal community is, the shifts in the
309 bacterial community might be more related to soil microhabitats present in each replicate, than
310 with the oil effect. This phenomenon was also observed in other works (Juck et al., 2000; Liang et
311 al., 2011; Yang et al., 2014) and could be explained by the appearance of new niches in the
312 contaminated soil, as a result of carbon addition (crude oil) and death of more abundant
313 populations, while the control samples didn't suffer any changes and no addition of carbon, being
314 then less susceptible to changes.

315 Soil is the most diverse environment on earth, and many of the native microorganisms
316 possess the ability to resist and degrade crude oil hydrocarbons. These groups will have an
317 advantage on contaminated sites. In this study, we were able to detect community shifts in
318 Actinobacteria, Proteobacteria, Firmicutes and Planctomycetes. The phylum Actinobacteria had
319 its abundance increased in response to crude oil addition. We detected shifts in one unidentified
320 specie from the family Streptomycetaceae, one specie from the genre *Streptomyces* and one specie
321 from the order Solirubrobacterales. Several studies have reported Actinobacteria as a good option
322 for removing recalcitrant hydrocarbon, they are known for the production of extracellular enzymes
323 that degrade a wide range of complex hydrocarbons, also, many species of Actinobacteria are able
324 to produce biosurfactants that enhance hydrocarbons solubility and bioavailability (Pizzul et al.,
325 2007; Kim & Crowley, 2007; Balachandram et al., 2012). The Actinobacteria phylum is
326 recognized as the main alkane degrader in polar soils (Aislabie et al., 2006) and are known for
327 producing multiple types of antifungals, antivirals, antibiotics, immunosuppressives, anti-
328 hypertensives, antitumorals (Benedict, 1953; Omura et al., 2001; Khan et al., 2011; de Lima
329 Procópio et al., 2012). Although some works have reported prevalence of gram negative bacteria

330 upon soils contaminated with heavily weathered petroleum (Kaplan & Kitts, 2004), our work
 331 shows a big shift on gram-positive Actinobacteria. Our results corroborate with Chikere and
 332 collaborators (2009) who reports the prevalence of Actinobacteria after oil addition. The capability
 333 of antibiotic production by Actinobacteria may have controlled the growth of other groups who
 334 also have the molecular apparatus to use petroleum hydrocarbons as a carbon source and reinforces
 335 the importance of microbial diversity analysis isolated environments as Trindade Island, showing
 336 the biotechnological potential of microbial populations from these environments.

337

338 **Supporting data**

339 Sequence data is available in the MG-RAST under the accession numbers 4643785.3
 340 and 4643786.3

341

342 **Supplementary material**

343 Table S1 – Number of quality filtered Illumina® barcoded sequences

Treatments	16S rRNA gene	Fungal Intergenic Spacer (ITS1)
Crude Oil	45695	25315
Crude Oil	47917	46921
Crude Oil	52889	55579
Control	54458	91866
Control	55487	100736
Control	58337	103852
Total	314748	424269

344 Sequences of 16S rRNA gene (average length 253 bp) and Fungal Intergenic Spacer ITS1 (average length
 345 250 bp). The DNA sequenced was extracted from three replicate microcosms contaminated with crude oil
 346 and three control replicate microcosm, assembled from Trindade Island coastal soil.

347

348 Table S2 – 16s rRNA gene taxonomy at the phylum level and relative abundance for each treatment
 349 (n=3).

Taxa	Contaminated	Control
Unassigned	0.005413	0.005378
k__Archaea;p__Crenarchaeota	0.027973	0.061058
k__Archaea;p__Euryarchaeota	9.56E-05	8.32E-05
k__Archaea;p__[Parvarchaeota]	0.000246	0.000178
k__Bacteria;p__	4.78E-05	2.97E-05
k__Bacteria;p__Acidobacteria	0.152743	0.132438
k__Bacteria;p__Actinobacteria	0.312005	0.252267
k__Bacteria;p__Armatimonadetes	0.002751	0.003898
k__Bacteria;p__BHI80-139	2.05E-05	4.16E-05
k__Bacteria;p__BRC1	0.000287	0.000475
k__Bacteria;p__Bacteroidetes	0.027877	0.039565
k__Bacteria;p__Chlamydiae	0.000171	0.000624
k__Bacteria;p__Chlorobi	0.001372	0.001527
k__Bacteria;p__Chloroflexi	0.026314	0.031049
k__Bacteria;p__Cyanobacteria	0.000921	0.000945
k__Bacteria;p__Elusimicrobia	0.001283	0.001444
k__Bacteria;p__FBP	0.000171	0.000172
k__Bacteria;p__Fibrobacteres	0.000266	0.000535
k__Bacteria;p__Firmicutes	0.007072	0.018047
k__Bacteria;p__GAL15	7.51E-05	9.51E-05
k__Bacteria;p__GN02	2.05E-05	2.97E-05
k__Bacteria;p__Gemmatimonadetes	0.036546	0.03821
k__Bacteria;p__NKB19	1.37E-05	1.19E-05
k__Bacteria;p__Nitrospirae	0.01073	0.01674
k__Bacteria;p__OD1	0.000287	0.000309
k__Bacteria;p__OP11	2.05E-05	5.35E-05
k__Bacteria;p__OP3	0.000137	0.00016
k__Bacteria;p__Planctomycetes	0.037194	0.046226
k__Bacteria;p__Proteobacteria	0.322537	0.324432
k__Bacteria;p__SBR1093	6.83E-06	1.19E-05
k__Bacteria;p__TM6	0.00028	0.000398
k__Bacteria;p__TM7	0.000539	0.001058
k__Bacteria;p__Verrucomicrobia	0.022095	0.02043
k__Bacteria;p__WPS-2	8.19E-05	7.13E-05
k__Bacteria;p__WS2	4.10E-05	6.54E-05
k__Bacteria;p__WS3	0.002321	0.001872
k__Bacteria;p__[Thermi]	4.78E-05	7.13E-05

350

351

352 Table S3 – ITS taxonomy at the order level and relative abundance for each treatment (n=3).

Taxa	Contaminated	Control
Unassigned	0.007435	0.049978
k__Fungi	0.000236	0.004084
p__Ascomycota	0.000263	0.003028
p__Ascomycota;o__Botryosphaeriales	0.011381	0.018988
p__Ascomycota;o__Capnodiales	0.001359	0.013653
p__Ascomycota;o__Dothideales	0	0.000133
p__Ascomycota;o__Incertae sedis	3.04E-05	0.000289
p__Ascomycota;o__Pleosporales	0.001444	0.003779
p__Ascomycota;o__unidentified	0.000196	0
p__Ascomycota;o__Chaetothyriales	0.000445	0.013285
p__Ascomycota;o__Eurotiales	0.001815	0.025154
p__Ascomycota;o__Onygenales	8.43E-05	0.001252
p__Ascomycota;o__Incertae sedis	4.72E-05	7.04E-05
p__Ascomycota;o__Helotiales	0.000415	0.011086
p__Ascomycota;o__Orbiliiales	0.000337	0.000915
p__Ascomycotas;o__Saccharomycetales	0.000152	0
p__Ascomycota;Other	0	0.000743
p__Ascomycota;o__Chaetosphaeriales	0	0.000415
p__Ascomycota;o__Diaporthales	0.000557	0.000344
p__Ascomycota;o__Hypocreales	0.243829	0.413457
p__Ascomycota;o__Microascales	0	0.000102
p__Ascomycota;o__Sordariales	0.006537	0.075445
p__Ascomycota;o__Xylariales	0.001366	0.005719
p__Ascomycota;o__unidentified	0.002368	0.022407
p__Ascomycota;o__unidentified	0.003643	0.019082
p__Basidiomycota;o__Boletales	0.000317	0
p__Basidiomycota;o__Cantharellales	0.000351	0
p__Basidiomycota;o__Russulales	0.000162	0
p__Basidiomycota;o__Thelephorales	0.003076	0.02887
p__Basidiomycota;o__Trechisporales	0.000557	0.002378
p__Basidiomycota;o__Sporidiobolales	9.78E-05	0.001361
p__Basidiomycota;o__Filobasidiales	0	0.001064
p__Zygomycota;o__Mortierellales	0.706818	0.268278
p__unidentified;	0.004682	0.014638

353

354 **Additional Information and Declarations**

355 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

356 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

357

358 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

359 We would like to thank the Brazilian Navy and the Captain Rodrigo Otoch Chaves for the
360 logistic support while collecting samples and Dr. Marc Redmile-Gordon (Centre for Sustainable
361 Soils and Grassland Systems, Rothamsted Research, UK) for the review of written English in the
362 manuscript.

363

364 **FUNDING STATEMENT**

365 National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) grant
366 405544/2012-0 and Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES)
367 financed this work.

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