

## Microbial diversity of extreme habitats in human homes

Amy M. Savage, Justin Hills, Katherine Driscoll, Daniel J Fergus, Amy M Grunden, Robert R Dunn

High-throughput sequencing techniques have opened up the world of microbial diversity to scientists, and a flurry of studies in the most remote and extreme habitats on earth have begun to elucidate the key roles of microbes in ecosystems with extreme conditions. These same environmental extremes can also be found closer to humans, even in our homes. Here, we used high-throughput sequencing techniques to assess bacterial and archaeal diversity in the extreme environments inside human homes (e.g., dishwashers, hot water heaters, washing machine bleach reservoirs, etc.). We focused on habitats in the home with extreme temperature, pH, and chemical environmental conditions. We found that although these habitats supported a lower diversity of microbes than less extreme habitats in the home, they were nonetheless inhabited. Habitats with extreme temperatures alone appeared to be able to support a greater diversity of microbes than habitats with extreme pH or extreme chemical environments alone. Microbial diversity was lowest when habitats had both extreme temperature and one of these other extremes. In habitats with both extreme temperatures and extreme pH, taxa with known associations with extreme conditions dominated. Our findings highlight the importance of examining interactive effects of multiple environmental extremes on microbial communities. Inasmuch as taxa from extreme environments can be both beneficial and harmful to humans, our findings also suggest future work to understand both the threats and opportunities posed by the life in these habitats.

1 **Microbial diversity of extreme habitats in human homes**

2 Amy M. Savage\*<sup>1</sup>, Justin L. Hills<sup>2</sup>, Katherine Driscoll<sup>3</sup>, Daniel J. Fergus<sup>4</sup>, Amy M. Grunden<sup>5</sup>,  
3 Robert R. Dunn<sup>6</sup>

4 \* Corresponding author: [Amy.Savage@rutgers.edu](mailto:Amy.Savage@rutgers.edu)

5 Other authors: [JLHills14@gmail.com](mailto:JLHills14@gmail.com), [Katherine.Driscoll14@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.Driscoll14@gmail.com),

6 [DanielJFergus@gmail.com](mailto:DanielJFergus@gmail.com), [amgrunde@ncsu.edu](mailto:amgrunde@ncsu.edu), [RRDunn@ncsu.edu](mailto:RRDunn@ncsu.edu)

7 1- Department of Biology & Center for Computational and Integrative Biology, Rutgers  
8 University, Waterfront Technology Center, 200 Federal Street, Camden, NJ 08102

9

10 2- Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Biology, National Institute of Diabetes and  
11 Digestive and Kidney Diseases, 8 Center Drive, MSC 0830, Bethesda, MD 20892-  
12 08308322

13

14 3- Animal Management Department, the Wilds, 14000 International Road, Cumberland OH

15

16

17 4- Genomics and Microbiology, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West  
18 Jones St, Raleigh, NC 27601

19

20 5- Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, North Carolina State University, 4550A  
21 Thomas Hall, Campus Box 7612, Raleigh, NC, 27695-7612

22

23 6- Department of Applied Ecology and Keck Center for Behavioral Biology, North Carolina  
24 State University, Campus Box 7617, Raleigh, NC 27695-7617

25

26

27 **Abstract:**

28 High throughput sequencing techniques have opened up the world of microbial diversity to  
29 scientists, and a flurry of studies in the most remote and extreme habitats on earth have begun to  
30 elucidate the key roles of microbes in ecosystems with extreme conditions. These same  
31 environmental extremes can also be found closer to humans, even in our homes. Here, we used  
32 high throughput sequencing techniques to assess bacterial and archaeal diversity in the extreme  
33 environments inside human homes (e.g., dishwashers, hot water heaters, washing machine bleach  
34 reservoirs, etc.). We focused on habitats in the home with extreme temperature, pH and chemical  
35 environmental conditions. We found that although these habitats supported a lower diversity of  
36 microbes than less extreme habitats in the home, they were nonetheless inhabited. Habitats with  
37 extreme temperatures alone appeared to be able to support a greater diversity of microbes than  
38 habitats with extreme pH or extreme chemical environments alone. Microbial diversity was  
39 lowest when habitats had both extreme temperature and one of these other extremes. In habitats  
40 with both extreme temperatures and extreme pH, taxa with known associations with extreme  
41 conditions dominated. Our findings highlight the importance of examining interactive effects of  
42 multiple environmental extremes on microbial communities. Inasmuch as taxa from extreme  
43 environments can be both beneficial and harmful to humans, our findings also suggest future  
44 work to understand both the threats and opportunities posed by the life in these habitats.

45

46 Keywords: Community Ecology, Extreme environments, Human Homes, Interactive effects,  
47 Microbial Diversity

48

49

50

51 **Introduction:**

52 The innovation of culture-independent, high-throughput sequencing techniques has facilitated the  
53 discovery of high microbial diversity in many habitats once considered inhospitable to life  
54 (Rothschild and Mancinelli 2001). The species in these environments are frequent targets for the  
55 discovery of useful enzymes (Niehaus et al. 1999, van den Burg 2003, Elleuche et al. 2014), and  
56 studies of microbes living in extreme environments have provided key insights into the evolution  
57 of microbial metabolism (Valentine 2007, Hoehler and Jorgensen 2013). Often overlooked,  
58 however, is that the attributes that define many of the most extreme habitats on Earth, such as  
59 extremes of temperature, pH, water activity, or low nutrient levels, can also be found more  
60 immediate to everyday experience. Human homes, for example, contain microhabitats as hot,  
61 acidic, basic or salty as any encountered elsewhere on Earth (Martin et al. 2015).

62 We know of only two extreme habitats within homes where microbial diversity has been studied  
63 to date, and in both cases culture-dependent techniques were used. In 1973, Brock and Boylen  
64 discovered a species of the genus *Thermus* (*T. aquaticus*) living in hot water heaters. Species of  
65 this genus had previously been known only from hot springs (Brock and Boylen 1973). In  
66 addition, studies have considered the biology of tap water. Tap water is hospitable in terms of its  
67 abiotic conditions (e.g. temperature, pH, toxicity) but is very low in nutrients and so was long

68 assumed to be relatively devoid of life; until, that is, it was studied. Tap water has now been  
69 shown to contain many species of bacteria capable of surviving in low nutrient environments  
70 (Kalmbach et al. 1997, Szewzyk et al. 2000, Boe-Hansen et al. 2002). If life exists in hot water  
71 heaters and tap water, it seems possible and even likely that many extreme habitats in homes  
72 sustain life. That the environmental extremes imposed by these conditions in homes (cold, hot,  
73 acidic, alkaline, wet or dry) delineate which species are present seems inevitable. That they are  
74 lifeless is unlikely.

75 Here, we used culture-independent, high-throughput sequencing to address the following  
76 questions: (1) What is the relative diversity of microbes (specifically, Bacteria and Archaea)  
77 under extremes of temperature, pH and chemical environments of southeast US homes and how  
78 does it compare to habitats without each extreme conditions? Harrison et al. (2013) recently  
79 argued that because many extreme environments include simultaneous extremes in multiple  
80 environmental factors, interactive effects of these multiple sources of extreme conditions are  
81 likely to be important determinants of microbial diversity in extreme environments. Therefore,  
82 we additionally asked (2) how do multiple, simultaneous extreme conditions influence microbial  
83 diversity in human homes? Finally, we asked (3) which bacterial and archaeal genera from the  
84 broader home (Dunn et al. 2013) fail to persist in extreme home habitats, and which microbial  
85 genera persist only in these extreme habitats?

## 86 **Methods:**

### 87 *Sampling extreme home environments*

88 We sampled extreme environments in six houses in the Raleigh-Durham metropolitan area  
89 (Supp. Fig 1). In each house, we used dual-tipped sterile BBL™ CultureSwabs™ or 50 ml

90 conical tubes to collect water from each of 10 standardized extreme locations in homes. The sites  
91 sampled in all six houses included environments that were extreme in terms of their temperature,  
92 pH and/or chemical environments (Supp. Table 1). The sites sampled in all six houses included  
93 environments that were logically assumed to be extreme in terms of their temperature, pH, and/or  
94 chemical environments (Supp. Table 1). Our assumptions concerning these sampling locations  
95 are based upon publicly available consumer resources regarding certain commercial and  
96 industrial requirements (e.g. [http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/health-and-safety-](http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/health-and-safety-tips/home-product-appliance-tips/sanitizing-dishwasher)  
97 [tips/home-product-appliance-tips/sanitizing-dishwasher](http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/health-and-safety-tips/home-product-appliance-tips/sanitizing-dishwasher),  
98 <http://energy.gov/energysaver/projects/savings-project-lower-water-heating-temperature>). For  
99 example, our sampling of dishwashers was influenced by the NSF/ANSI 184 standard for  
100 residential dishwashers to provide a final rinse at a temperature of at least 150 °F (65.6 °C).  
101 Additionally, temperature ranges for residential water heaters are 90 to 150 F (32 – 65.6 °C),  
102 depending on the manufacturer. Bleach receptacles in clothes washing machines would also be  
103 assumed to have a pH of 12 when bleach is present. Although the pH and chemical composition  
104 of laundry detergent and dishwasher detergent can be quite variable, manufacturing standards are  
105 generally within the 7-10 pH range. While measurements, opposed to assumptions, would be  
106 very useful, taking measurements of all the potential extreme axes under various sample sites in  
107 multiple homes was not feasible. All samples were preserved at -20°C immediately after  
108 collection.

### 109 *Isolating and identifying microbes in extreme home environments*

110 Genomic DNA was extracted from all samples using the MoBio Power Soil DNA extraction kit  
111 (MoBio, Carlsbad, CA) as described previously (Fierer et al., 2008; Lauber et al., 2009). For  
112 swabs, the tips were placed in PowerBead tubes containing solution C1 and swirled vigorously

113 for approximately 10 seconds to release contents and removed. Water samples were thawed and  
114 filtered using Corning 50 ml 0.22um cellulose acetate filters after which the filters were added to  
115 the PowerBead tubes. The extractions were subsequently performed as directed by the  
116 manufacturer, except that the final elution was performed in 50µl of 70° C C6 elution buffer.  
117 Because the water samples were frozen prior to filtering and extraction, the results reported for  
118 the water samples likely under-represents the true diversity of taxa in those environments.

119 We used methods described in Bates et al (2011) to amplify bacterial and archaeal DNA from the  
120 samples collected from homes and six negative controls. Briefly, amplicons were produced by  
121 PCR with universal bacterial/archaeal 515F and 806R primers to which Roche 454 B  
122 pyrosequencing adapters had been added, as described in Hulcr et al. (2012). The 515F primer  
123 contained an additional 12-bp barcode sequence for individual sample identification. All the  
124 samples were amplified by triplicate PCR reactions, cleaned using the UltraClean-htp 96-well  
125 PCR Clean-up kit (MoBio), and quantified with a Quant-iT PicoGreen dsDNA Assay kit  
126 (Invitrogen). Equimolar amounts of each sample were pooled into a single sample to sequence.  
127 DNA pyrosequencing was performed at Selah Clinical Genomics Center at Innovista (University  
128 of South Carolina, USA) using a Roche Genome Sequencer 454 FLX system to facilitate  
129 comparison to previous related work that utilized this platform (Dunn et al, 2013). Though these  
130 methods here do not distinguish living from recently dead cells, with the comparative approach  
131 used here, we presume that taxa frequently identified in one habitat but rare or absent in most  
132 others are likely surviving in the habitat from which they are frequently identified. The  
133 sequences were submitted to NCBI (SRA accession number SRP071677).

134 The QIIME analysis package (Caporaso et al, 2010a) was used to process and analyze the  
135 barcoded microbial (bacterial and archaeal) amplicon sequences. Sequences were quality filtered

136 to a minimum quality score of 25 with no unambiguous bases and sorted to each sample by the  
137 12 bp barcodes. The 454 pyrosequencing produced 197,305 reads that passed the quality  
138 screening. The samples were rarefied to 1000 sequences and the sequences were grouped into  
139 Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) that shared at least 97% sequence similarity. A  
140 representative sequence was taken for each OTU group and PyNAST (Caporaso et al, 2010b)  
141 was employed to align these representative sequences to the Greengenes database (DeSantis et  
142 al, 2006) and the taxonomic identity of each OTU was determined using the RDP Classifier  
143 (Wang et al, 2007). Phylotypes were considered to be contaminants if they were seen in at least  
144 two of the six negative control samples. There were 152 OTUs at the L6 level present in more  
145 than one negative sample, representing 9% of the total OTUs at this level. After removing  
146 contaminant sequences and singletons, the number of quality-filtered reads per sample was  
147 between 6 and 5861 (median=2306). Finally, we removed any OTU's represented by 20 or fewer  
148 reads to reduce the possibility of spurious results from the sequencing process. Thus, our  
149 assessments of microbial diversity are conservative.

150

151 *Analysis of the relative diversity of microbes in extreme temperature, pH and chemical*  
152 *environments of homes and how it compares to habitats without each extreme condition*

153 We compared microbial species accumulation among three extreme variables in homes:  
154 temperature, pH, and chemical extremes. Temperature was classified on a scale of 1-5, with 1  
155 representing the coldest environments and 5 representing the hottest environments. We then  
156 binned 1 and 5 into an extreme temperature category and 2-4 into an intermediate temperature  
157 category. Similarly, environments were classified as acidic, basic or neutral and then binned into  
158 extreme pH (acidic or basic environments) *versus* neutral environments. Finally, chemical

159 extremes were those environments characterized by the presence of detergent, bleach, metals,  
160 ammonia, or natural gas (Supp. Table 2).

161 We used EstimateS v. 9.1.0 (Colwell 2013) to construct individual-based species accumulations  
162 for all three extreme environments and their non-extreme counterparts. For these curves, reads  
163 were used as individuals and the curves were constructed using 1000 iterations. To formally  
164 assess differences in accumulated species by read, we used  $\pm$  95% confidence intervals for each  
165 curve. Non-overlapping 95% confidence intervals are considered formal evidence of significance  
166 (Knezevic 2008).

167 *Assessing how multiple, simultaneous extreme conditions influence microbial diversity in human*  
168 *homes*

169 We were interested in testing the hypothesis that interactive effects of multiple, simultaneously  
170 extreme environmental conditions are important determinants of microbial diversity in extreme  
171 home environments (Harrison et al. 2013). Our study included multiple samples with more than  
172 one environmental extreme (Supp. Table 1); however, we only had sufficient replication to  
173 assess this hypothesis for 2-way interactions between extremely high temperatures and extreme  
174 pH as well as high temperature and chemical environments. Because number of reads varied  
175 significantly among different environmental extremes, we could not use a standard 2-way  
176 ANOVA. Instead, we assessed these effects using an ordination framework.

177 We visualized the composition of bacteria and archaea from extreme habitats in homes using  
178 non-metric multidimensional scaling ordination (NMDS) in Primer-E v.7.0.9 with  
179 PERMANOVA +1 (Clarke & Gorley, 2015). To do this, we first constructed NMDS plots with  
180 100 restarts and a Type I Kruskal fit scheme based on a Dissimilarity matrix of Bray-Curtis

181 distances. To assess the relationship between temperature (extreme *vs.* intermediate) and the  
182 other extremes (pH: extreme *vs.* neutral; chemicals: extreme *vs.* none) for  $\alpha$ -diversity of  
183 microbes, we conducted a permuted multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) test with  
184 temperature class and either pH or chemical class and their interaction as factors, 9,999 iterations  
185 and Type III sums of squares. When interactions were significant (Anderson et al. 2008), we  
186 conducted pairwise PERMANOVA to determine which treatment combinations significantly  
187 differed from one another. Similarly, we assessed these relationships in terms of  $\beta$ -diversity  
188 using a permuted dispersion (PermDisp) test of a presence/absence matrix of OTU occurrences.  
189 When these tests were significant, we conducted pairwise tests of extreme *vs.* non-extreme  
190 chemical and pH environments in habitats with intermediate and extreme temperatures (thus 2  
191 tests per treatment combination). Finally, we conducted SIMPER analyses for each significant  
192 treatment combination to determine the OTUs that contributed the most to pairwise between-  
193 group differences in ordination space. Because we conducted two separate analyses for each  
194 level of diversity, we accounted for the additional error associated with multiple tests, using a  
195 revised  $\alpha=0.05/2=0.025$  as our cut-off for statistical significance for the results of each test.

196

197

198

199 *Determining which microbial genera differentiate extreme home habitats from the rest of the*

200 *home*

201 We compared the occurrences of microbes in our samples to those reported in less extreme home  
202 environments (Dunn et al. 2013). Human-associated microbes were common to both datasets,

203 and we were particularly interested in those taxa unique to our dataset, relative to the broader  
204 home (Dunn et al. 2013). Therefore, we removed human-associated OTU's from our dataset. We  
205 identified these human-associated OTU's using databases that identified human gut (Flores et al.  
206 2014) and skin (Urban et al. 2016) microbiomes. OTU's that occurred in at least 80% of the  
207 samples in those databases were considered human-associates and excluded from our analyses of  
208 the microbial diversity of extreme habitats in human homes. We then determined the identity of  
209 microbes that were absent from the broader homes dataset, but present in extreme environments  
210 and then tabulated the extreme habitat(s) in which they were present. Likewise, we identified the  
211 non-human associated microbes that were present in the broader home environment, but absent  
212 from all extreme environments in our samples.

213

#### 214 **Results and Discussion:**

215 *What is the relative diversity of microbes in extreme temperature, pH and chemical environments*  
216 *of southeast US homes and how does it compare to habitats without each extreme condition?*

217 The cumulative diversity (OTU richness) in habitats with extreme temperatures was more  
218 than twice as high as in habitats with extreme pH (maximum of 73 vs. 33, Fig. 1) and almost  
219 three times as high as habitats with extreme chemical environments (27.6; Fig. 1). Habitats with  
220 extreme temperatures also had higher OTU richness than habitats with intermediate temperatures  
221 (Fig. 2a). Conversely, previous research indicates that the diversity in habitats with either  
222 extremely high or extremely low temperatures is generally low, and dominated by a small  
223 number of abundant bacterial species (Lewin et al. 2013). For example, Sharp et al. (2014)  
224 recently found that OTU richness in hydrothermal vents peaked at intermediate temperatures

225 (24°C), with reduced OTU richness in extremely hot or cold environments (Sharp et al. 2014).  
226 We did not detect significant differences in the rarefied species richness of bacterial and archaeal  
227 microbes in extreme vs. neutral pH conditions; however, the marginally non-significant trend  
228 suggests that extreme pH environments also had higher microbial diversity than neutral habitats  
229 (Fig. 2b). Recent studies have demonstrated that pH is a key predictor of microbial diversity in  
230 both extreme environments, such as acid mine drainage sites (Kuang et al. 2013), and less  
231 extreme environments, such as tropical soils (Tripathi et al. 2012). In both cases, habitats with  
232 neutral pH had higher microbial diversity than those with a pH higher or lower than neutral.  
233 Thus, we again found different patterns in extreme home environments compared to other studies  
234 comparing extreme and non-extreme habitats. One possible explanation for the difference  
235 between our findings and these recent studies is that human-associated microbes are present in  
236 home environments with intermediate temperatures. Perhaps these species are able to dominate  
237 habitats with intermediate, but not extreme, conditions. Alternatively, the lower diversity in  
238 habitats with intermediate temperatures and neutral pH in our study could be due to the  
239 occurrence of extreme conditions along different axes (e.g. intermediate temperature, but  
240 extreme pH or chemical habitats). We examine potential interactive effects of these polyextreme  
241 habitats in the next section.

242 In contrast, habitats with extreme chemicals had significantly lower accumulated OTU  
243 richness than did habitats without these extreme conditions (Fig. 2c). Extreme chemical  
244 environments are poorly studied and understood (Rothschild and Mancinelli 2001). Our data  
245 suggest that they could act as strong filters in extreme environments.

246 *How do multiple, simultaneous extreme conditions influence microbial diversity in extreme home*  
247 *environments?*

248 Many of the habitats in this study were characterized by more than one extreme  
249 environmental condition. Therefore, we also examined the potential for interactive effects of  
250 multiple, simultaneous extreme conditions on microbial diversity. Due to limited replication  
251 across all environmental extremes, we were only able to examine extreme pH and chemical  
252 habitats with and without extreme temperatures. We used an ordination framework to examine  
253 these interactive effects (see methods).

254 We found significant interactions between extreme temperature and both extreme pH  
255 (PERMANOVA: Pseudo- $F_{1,82} = 2.53$ ,  $P=0.0001$ ; Figure 3A) and extreme chemical  
256 (PERMANOVA: Pseudo- $F_{1,82} = 3.16$ ,  $P=0.0001$ ; Figure 3C) environments for OTU  
257 composition. When temperatures were intermediate, there were no significant differences in  
258 microbial composition in extreme vs. neutral pH habitats (pairwise PERMANOVA:  $t_{1,38} = 1.02$ ,  
259  $P = 0.40$ ). However, when temperatures were extreme, there was a very large difference between  
260 the composition of microbes in extreme pH habitats, compared to neutral habitats (pairwise  
261 PERMANOVA:  $t_{1,38} = 1.70$ ,  $P=0.0001$ ; Fig. 3A). The five genera that contributed the most to  
262 differences between these two habitat types (from SIMPER analysis) were *Parascardovia*,  
263 *Micrococcus*, *Rothia*, *Brachybacterium*, and an unknown genus from Sphingomonadaceae. Most  
264 of these genera are associated with humans (Oshima et al. 2015, Gueimonde et al. 2012, Kloos et  
265 al. 1975, Kocur et al. 2006, Vaccher et al. 2007, Uchibori et al. 2012). Sphingomonadaceae are  
266 widespread in aquatic habitats, including drinking water (Vaz-Moreira et al. 2011), but also other  
267 aquatic environments (e.g. tree holes-Xu et al. 2008). *Brachybacterium* is usually associated with  
268 marine environments (Ward and Boru 2006), including Antarctic sea ice (Junge et al. 1998).  
269 However, it was recently detected in an urban shopping center (Tringe et al. 2008). All of these  
270 genera were more common in habitats with extreme temperatures and neutral pH than they were

271 in habitats with both extreme temperatures and extreme pH. While different houses had  
272 significantly different microbial composition (3-way PERMANOVA,  $P=0.0001$ ), there were no  
273 significant 2-or 3-way interactions with house (Supp. Table 3).

274 The interaction between temperature and chemical extremes was similar. Microbial composition  
275 was indistinguishable between the habitats that only had one extreme condition-regardless of  
276 whether it was temperature or chemicals that were extreme. There were also no significant  
277 differences between habitats with neither extreme temperatures nor extreme chemical conditions  
278 and habitats that had a single extreme condition. However, habitats with both extreme  
279 temperatures and extreme chemicals had significantly different microbial composition compared  
280 to all other groups (pairwise PERMANOVA;  $t_{1,38} = 1.75$ ,  $P=0.0001$ ; Fig. 3C). The five genera  
281 that contributed the most to compositional difference between these two habitats (from SIMPER  
282 analysis) were *Methylobacterium*, an unknown genus of Moraxellaceae, *Sejonia*, an unknown  
283 genus of Sphingomonadaceae, and *Flavobacterium*. With the exception of the unknown genus  
284 of Moraxellaceae, which was more common in extreme chemical and temperature environments,  
285 all of these genera were more common in the habitats without temperature and chemical  
286 extremes. Moraxallaceae have been found in other extreme environments, including deep sea  
287 sediments (Maruyama et al. 1997). Although it was more common in our less extreme  
288 environments, *Sejonia* is better known from Antarctic ice (Yi et al. 2005). Sphingomonadaceae  
289 as described above are common to aquatic habitats. *Methylobacterium* is a widespread habitat  
290 generalist that is facultatively methyltrophic (Green 2006). Finally, *Flavobacterium* is common  
291 in freshwater and marine ecosystems but tends to flourish in cold environments with high salinity  
292 (Bernardet and Bowman 2006).

293 There were also significant differences in the  $\beta$ -diversity in home environments with more than  
294 one extreme condition. When temperatures were intermediate, there were no significant  
295 differences between neutral and extreme pH environments (Figure 4A; PermDisp:  $P = 0.3864$ ).  
296 However when temperatures were also extreme, habitats with extreme pH conditions had  
297 significantly higher  $\beta$ -diversity than those with neutral pH conditions (Figure 4A; PermDisp:  
298  $P=0.0014$ ). Similarly, at intermediate temperatures, there was a non-significant trend (Figure 4B;  
299 PermDisp:  $P=0.03$ , Bonferroni-corrected  $\alpha = 0.025$ ) in which habitats without extreme  
300 chemicals present had higher  $\beta$ -diversity than those with extreme chemicals present. However,  
301 when temperatures were also extreme, habitats with extreme chemicals present had higher  $\beta$ -  
302 diversity than those without extreme chemicals (Figure 4B; PermDisp:  $P = 0.0006$ ). This  
303 increase in  $\beta$ -diversity in extreme pH and chemical environments when temperatures were also  
304 extreme suggests that polyextreme conditions may support a higher diversity of extremophiles  
305 and/or reduced occurrences of numerically dominant genera compared to environments with a  
306 single extreme condition, at least among habitats (in contrast to within habitats). The 5 genera  
307 that contributed the most to differences in  $\beta$ -diversity between neutral and extreme pH conditions  
308 when temperatures were also extreme were: *Veillonella*, *Kocuria*, *Peptoniphilus*, *Parascardovia*,  
309 and *Anaerococcus*. Interestingly, these were also the top 5 genera contributing to differences  
310 between habitats with and without extreme chemicals that also had extreme temperatures. All of  
311 these genera were less common in habitats with 2 extremes than they were in habitats with only  
312 extreme temperatures. They are also genera that include human-associated species (Bhatti &  
313 Frank 2000, Fadda et al. 2001, Song et al. 2007, Gueimonde et al. 2012).

314

315 *Which microbial genera differentiate extreme home habitats from the rest of the home?*

316 After removing all human-associated microbes (see methods), there were a total of 241 unique  
317 genera in the broader homes dataset (Dunn et al. 2013). Our extreme samples contained 135 of  
318 the remaining broader homes genera, but ~44% of the genera found in the broader homes were  
319 absent from our extreme home samples (Supp. Table 4), the absence of which might simply be  
320 due to the larger number of samples in Dunn et al. (2013). More interestingly, we found 20  
321 genera present among our samples that were absent from the broader homes dataset. Nine of  
322 these genera were found in all three categories of extreme environments (Table 1); one genus  
323 (*Solibacter*) was absent from habitats with extreme pH, but occurred in both extreme chemical  
324 and temperature environments. *Solibacter* is a common and abundant soil microbe, especially in  
325 tropical regions (Guan et al. 2013, Wang et al. 2015). There was also one genus  
326 (*Brevundimonas*) that was absent from extreme chemical environments, but present in both  
327 extreme temperature and extreme pH environments; *Brevundimonas* is one of the only genera  
328 thought to be able to survive the low temperatures and ionizing radiation on Mars (Dartnell et al.  
329 2010). There were three genera (*Azobacteroides*, *Elizabethkingia*, and *Xiphinematobacter*) that  
330 occurred in both extreme pH and chemical environments that were absent in extreme  
331 temperature environments. Both *Azobacteroides* and *Xiphinematobacter* are gut symbionts of  
332 invertebrates; *Azobacteroides* is commonly found inside the protozoan symbionts of termites  
333 (Noda et al. 2007), and *Xiphinematobacter* is an endosymbiont of nematodes (Vandekerckhove et  
334 al. 2000). In invertebrate guts these microbes likely experience extreme chemical and pH  
335 environments frequently, while being relatively protected from temperature stress.  
336 *Elizabethkingia* is a cosmopolitan genus, with species that are endosymbionts of mosquitoes  
337 (Kämpfer et al. 2011), and others that are pathogens of both humans (Ceyhan and Celik 2011)  
338 and frogs (Xie et al. 2009). There was one genus that was only found in extreme chemical

339 environments (*Helcococcus*). Interestingly, members of the genus *Helcococcus* possess the  
340 ability to degrade detergents. In fact, the detergent Tween-80 can be added to media to enrich  
341 *Helcococcus* (Collins et al. 1993, Chagla et al. 1998). Finally, we found 5 genera (*Brochothrix*,  
342 *Buchnera*, *Polynucleobacter*, *Ralstonia*, and *Thermicanus*) unique to extreme temperature  
343 environments. *Brochothrix* is a common spoilage bacterium in meat (Rattanasomboon et al.  
344 1999). *Buchnera* is a widespread aphid endosymbiont (Shigenobu et al. 2000). Recently, a  
345 survey of homes in Raleigh, NC demonstrated that aphids could be quite common in human  
346 homes (Bertone et al. 2016), which could explain how this genus arrived in the homes in our  
347 study (via aphids in the home). The genus *Polynucleobacter* includes both free-living species and  
348 species that are endosymbionts of nematodes (Vannini et al. 2007). *Ralstonia metallidurans* is a  
349 bacterium specifically adapted to toxic metal environments (Mergeay et al. 2003). Other species  
350 of *Ralstonia* have been shown to be effectively controlled using high temperature treatments in  
351 commercial crops (Kongkiattikajorn and Thepa 2007). In our study, *Ralstonia* were collected in  
352 both high and low temperature environments. Finally, *Thermicanus* is, as its name suggest, a  
353 thermophilic bacterial genus (Wrighton et al. 2008).

#### 354 **Conclusions:**

355 This study has provided a glimpse into the microbial diversity that lives in habitats of human  
356 homes similar in their extreme temperature, pH and chemical conditions to some of the most  
357 extreme habitats on Earth. We discovered that these conditions have lower diversity than the  
358 surrounding home environment; yet tens of bacterial lineages can be found in these extreme  
359 habitats of the human home, including many taxa with known associations with extreme  
360 conditions. Habitats with extreme temperatures alone appear to be able to support a greater  
361 diversity of microbes than habitats with extreme pH or extreme chemical environments alone.

362 Microbial diversity is significantly lowest when habitats have both extreme temperature and one  
363 of these other extremes. Interestingly, environments in homes often alternate between periods of  
364 extreme and non-extreme conditions. For example, dishwashers are only likely to have extremely  
365 high temperatures while cleaning and drying dishes. This variability could lead to temporal shifts  
366 in microbial composition, similar to those found for human vaginal microbes (Gajer et al. 2012).  
367 This variability may also explain the presence of human-associated generalist species in our  
368 samples. Future work, with samples taken before and after appliances (like many of those used in  
369 our study) are operated, could elucidate the importance of episodic extreme conditions for  
370 microbial communities in homes. Additionally, a key next step is understanding which of the  
371 relatively few species that are found in these poly-extreme environments in the home are  
372 metabolically active there and both whether these polyextreme taxa pose health threats (as was  
373 recently suggested by Gümral et al. 2015) and/or might be useful industrially.

374

375 **Acknowledgements:** We thank the homeowners for allowing us to sample habitats in their  
376 homes. Thanks also to Dr. Holly Menninger for her support and guidance in addressing logistical  
377 challenges presented by the current work. The Genomics Laboratory at the North Carolina  
378 Museum of Natural Sciences provided critical logistical support for this project.

### 379 **References**

- 380 Anderson, MJ, Gorley RN, Clark, KR (2008) PERMANOVA+ for PRIMER: Guide to software  
381 and statistical methods. PRIMER-E: Plymouth, UK.
- 382 Bates ST, Berg-Lyons D, Caporaso JG, Walters WA, Knight R, Fierer N (2011) Examining the  
383 global distribution of dominant archaeal populations in soil. ISME J 5: 908.

- 384 Bertone MA, Leong M, Bayless KM, Malow TLF, Dunn RR, Trautwein MD (2016) Arthropods  
385 of the great indoors: characterizing diversity inside urban and suburban homes.  
386 *PeerJ* 4:e1582 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1582>.
- 387 Boe-Hansen R, Albechtsen H-J, Arvin E, Jorgensen Claus (2002) Bulk water phase and biofilm  
388 growth in drinking water at low nutrient conditions. *Water Research* 36: 4477-4486.
- 389 Brock TD, Boylen KL (1973) Presence of thermophilic bacteria in laundry and domestic hot  
390 water heaters. *Applied Microbiology* 25: 72-76.
- 391 Caporaso JG, Kuczynski J, Stombaugh J, Bittinger K, Bushman FD, Costello EK, Fierer N, Peña  
392 AG, Goodrich JK, Gordon J, Huttley GA, Kelley ST, Knights D, Koenig JE, Ley RE,  
393 Lozupone CA, McDonald D, Muegge BD, Pirrung M, Reeder J, Sevinsky JR, Turnbaugh  
394 PJ, Walters WA, Widmann J, Yatsunenko T, Zaneveld J, Knight R. (2010a) QIIME allows  
395 analysis of high-throughput community sequencing data. *Nature Methods* 7: 335–336.
- 396 Caporaso JG, Bittinger K, Bushman FD, DeSantis TZ, Andersen GL, and Knight R. (2010b)  
397 PyNAST: a flexible tool for aligning sequences to a template alignment. *Bioinformatics* 26:  
398 266–267. Ceyhan M and Celik M (2011) *Elizabethkingia meningosepticum*  
399 (*Chryseobacterium meningosepticum*) infections in children. *International Journal of*  
400 *Pediatrics*. doi:10.1155/2011/215237/
- 401 Chagla AH, Borczyk AA, Facklam RR, Lovgren M. (1998) Breast abscess associated with  
402 *Helcococcus kunzii*. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 36:2377–2379.
- 403 Collins MD, Facklam RR, Rodrigues UM, Ruoff KL (1993) Phylogenetic analysis of some  
404 *Aerococcus*-like organisms from clinical sources: description of *Helcococcus kunzii* gen.  
405 nov., sp. nov. *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 43:425– 429.

- 406 Colwell RK (2013) *EstimateS*: Statistical estimation of species richness and shared species from  
407 samples. Version 9. Persistent URL <purl.oclc.org/estimates>
- 408 Dartnell LR, Hunter SJ, Lovell KV, Coates AJ, Ward JM (2010) Low temperature ionizing  
409 radiation resistance of *Deinococcus radiodurans* and Antarctic Dray Valley bacteria.  
410 *Astrobiology* 7: 717-732.
- 411 DeSantis, TZ, Hugenholtz P, Larsen N, Rojas M , Brodie EL, Keller K, Huber T, Dalevi D, Hu  
412 P, and Andersen GL. (2006) Greengenes, a Chimera-Checked 16S rRNA Gene Database  
413 and Workbench Compatible with ARB. *Applied Environmental Microbiology* 72:5069-72.
- 414 Dunn RR, Fierer N, Henley JB, Leff JW, Menninger HL (2013) Home life: factors structuring  
415 the bacterial diversity found within and between homes. *PLoS One*. DOI:  
416 10.1371/journal.pone.0064133
- 417 Elleuche S, Schröder C, Sahm K, Antranikian G. (2014) Extremozymes-biocatalysts with unique  
418 properties from extremophilic microorganisms. *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* 29: 116-  
419 123.
- 420 Fierer N, Hamady M, Lauber CL, Knight R. (2008) The influence of sex, handedness, and  
421 washing on the diversity of hand surface bacteria. *PNAS* 105:17994-17999.
- 422 Flores GE, Caporaso JG, Henley JB, Rideout JR, Domogala D, Chase J, Leff JW, Vásquez-  
423 Baeza Y, Gonzalez A, Knight R, Dunn RR, Fierer N (2014) Temporal variability is a  
424 personalized feature of the human microbiome. *Genome Biology* 15: art531
- 425 Gajer P, Brotman RM, Bai G, Sakamoto J, Schütte UME, Zhong X, Koenig SK, Fu L, Ma Z,  
426 Zhou X, Abdo Z, Forney LJ, Ravel, J. (2012). Temporal Dynamics of the Human Vaginal

- 427 Microbiota. *Science Translational Medicine*, 4(132), 132ra52.
- 428 [doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.3003605](https://doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.3003605)
- 429 Guan X, Wang J, Zhao H, Wang J, Luo X, Zhao F (2013) Soil bacterial communities shaped by  
430 geochemical factors and land use in a less-explored area, Tibetan Plateau. *BMC Genomics*  
431 14: 820 (13pp).
- 432 Gueimonde M, Bottacini F, van Sinderen D, Ventura M, Margolles A, Sanchez B (2012)  
433 Genome sequence of *Parascardovia denticolens* IPLA 20019, isolated from human breast  
434 milk. *Journal of Bacteriology* 194: 4776-4777.
- 435 Gümral R, Özhak-Baysan, Tümgör A, Saraçlı MA, Yidrian ŞT, Ilkit M, Zupančič J, Novak-  
436 Babič M, Gunde-Cimerman N, Zalar P, de Hoog GS (2015) Dishwashers provide a  
437 selective extreme environment for human-opportunistic yeast-like fungi. *Fungal Diversity*  
438 10.1007/s13225-015-0327-8.
- 439 Harrison JP, Gheeraert N, Tsigelnitskiy D, Cockell CS (2013) The limits of life under multiple  
440 extremes. *Trends in Microbiology* 21: 204-212.
- 441 Hoehler TM, Jorgensen BB. (2013) Microbial life under extreme energy limitation. *Nature*  
442 *Reviews Microbiology* 11: 83-95.
- 443 Hulcr J, Latimer AM, Henley JB, Rountree NR, Fierer N, Lucky A, Lowman MD, Dunn RR  
444 (2012) A jungle in there: Bacteria in belly buttons are highly diverse, but predictable. *PLoS*  
445 *One* 7(11): e47712.

- 446 Junge K, Gosink JJ, Hoppe HG, Staley JT (1998) *Arthrobacter*, *Brachybacterium* and  
447 *Planococcus* isolates identified from Antarctic sea ice brine. Systematic and Applied  
448 Microbiology 21: 306-314.
- 449 Kalmbach S, Manz W, Szewzyk U (1997) Isolation of new bacterial species from drinking water  
450 biofilms and proof of their in situ dominance with highly specific 16S rRNA probes.  
451 Applied and Environmental Microbiology 63: 4164-4170.
- 452 Kämpfer P, Matthews H, Glaeser SP, Martin K, Lodders N, Faye I (2011) *Elizabethkingia*  
453 *anopheles* sp. nov., isolated from the midgut of the mosquito, *Anopheles gambiae*.  
454 International Journal of Evolutionary Microbiology. doi: 10.1099/ijes.o68147-0.
- 455 Kloos WE, Musselwhite MS (1975) Distribution and persistence of *Staphylococcus* and  
456 *Micrococcus* species and other aerobic bacteria on human skin. Applied Microbiology 30:  
457 381-395.
- 458 Knezevic A. (2008) Overlapping confidence intervals and statistical significance (<http://www.cscu.cornell.edu/news/statnews/stnews73.pdf>). In: Cornell University, Cornell Statistical  
459 Consulting Unit.  
460
- 461 Kocur M, Koos WE, Schleifer KH (2006) The genus *Micrococcus*. Prokaryotes 3: 961-971.
- 462 Kongkiattikajorn J, Thepa S (2007) Increased tomato yields by heat treatment for controlling  
463 *Ralstonia solanacearum* in soil. Proceedings of the 45<sup>th</sup> Kasetsart University Annual  
464 Conference.

- 465 Kuang J-L, Huang L-N, Chen L-X, Hua Z-S, Li S-J, Shu, W-S (2013) Contemporary  
466 environmental variation determines microbial diversity patterns in acid mine drainage.  
467 International Society for Microbial Ecology 7: 1038-1050.
- 468 Lauber CL, Hamady M, Knight R, Fierer N (2009) Pyrosequencing-based assessment of soil pH  
469 as a predictor of soil bacterial community structure at the continental scale. Applied and  
470 Environmental Microbiology 75: 5111-5120.
- 471 Lewin A, Wentzel A, Valla, S (2013) Metagenomics of microbial life in extreme temperature  
472 environments. Current Opinion in Biotechnology 24: 516-525.
- 473 Martin LJ, Adams RI, Bateman A, Bik HM, Hawks J, Hird SM, Hughes D, Kembel SW, Kinney  
474 K, Kolokotronis SO, Levy G, McClain C, Meadow JF, Medina RF, Mhuireach G, Moreau  
475 CS, Munshi-South J, Nichols LM, Palmer C, Popova L, Schal C, Taubel M, Trautwein M,  
476 Ugalde JA, Dunn RR. (2015) Evolution of the indoor biome. Trends in Ecology and  
477 Evolution 1909:1-10.
- 478 Maruyama A, Taniguchi R, Tanaka H, Ishiwata H, Higashihara T (1997) Low-temperature  
479 adaptation of deep-sea bacteria isolated from the Japan Trench. Marine biology 128: 705-  
480 711.
- 481 Mergeay M, Monchy S, Vallaes T, Auquier V, Benotmane A, Bertin P, Taghavi S, Dunn J, van  
482 der Lelie D, Wattiez R (2003) *Ralstonia metallidurans*, a bacterium specifically adapted to  
483 toxic metals: towards a catalogue of metal responsive genes. FEMS Microbiology Reviews  
484 27: 385-410.
- 485 Niehaus F, Bertolodo C, Kähler M, Antranikian G (1999) Extremophiles as a source of novel  
486 enzymes for industrial application. Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology 51:711-729.

- 487 Noda S, Kitade O, Inoue T, Kawi M, Kanuka M, Hiroshima K, Hongoh Y, Constantino R,  
488 UysV, Zhong J, Kudo T, Ohkuma M (2007) Cospeciation in the triplex symbiosis of  
489 termite gut protists (*Pseudotriconympha* spp.), their hosts, and their bacterial  
490 endosymbionts. *Molecular Ecology* 16:1257-1266.
- 491 Oshima K, Hayashi J, Toh H, Nakano A, Shindo C, Komiya K, Morita H, Honda K, Hattori M  
492 (2015) Complete genome sequence of *Parascardovia denticolens* JCM 12538<sup>T</sup>, isolated  
493 from human dental caries. *Genome Announcements* 3(3): e00485-15.
- 494 Rattanasomboon N, Bellara SR, Harding CL, Fryer PJ, Thomas CR, Al-Rubeai M, McFarlane  
495 CM (1999) Growth and enumeration of the meat spoilage bacterium *Brochothrix*  
496 *thermosphacta*. *International Journal of Food Microbiology* 51: 145-158.
- 497 Rothschild LJ and Mancinelli RL (2001) Life in extreme environments. *Nature* 409: 1092-1101.
- 498 Sharp CE, Brady AL, Sharp GH, Grasby SE, Stott MB, Dunfield PF (2014) Humboldt's spa:  
499 microbial diversity is controlled by temperature in geothermal environments. *ISME Journal*  
500 8: 1166-1174.
- 501 Szewzyk U, Szewzyk R, Manz W, Schleifer KH (2000) Microbiological safety of drinking  
502 water. *Annual Review of Microbiology* 54: 81-127.
- 503 Tringe SF, Zhang T, Liu X, Yu Y, Lee WH, Yap J, Yao F, Suan ST, Ing SK, Haynes M, Rohwer  
504 F, Wei CL, Tan P, Bristow J, Rubin EM, Ruan Y (2008) The airborne metagenome in an  
505 indoor urban environment. *PLoS One* 3(4): e1862.

- 506 Tripathi BM, Kim M, Singh D, Lee-Cruz L, Lai-Hoe A, Ainuddin, AN, Go R, Rahim RA, Husni  
507 MHA, Chun J, Adams JM (2013) Tropical soil bacterial communities in Malaysia: pH  
508 dominates in the equatorial tropics too. *Microbial Ecology* 64: 474-484.
- 509 Uchibori S, Tsuzukibashi O, Kobayashi T, Aida M (2012) Localization of the genus *Rothia* in  
510 the oral cavity. *International Journal of Oral-Medical Science* 11: 207-210.
- 511 Urban JM, Fergus DJ, Savage, AM, Ehlers M, Menninger HL, Dunn RR, Horvath JE (2016) The  
512 effect of habitual antiperspirant and deodorant product use on the armpit microbiome. *PeerJ*  
513 4: e1605.
- 514 Valentine DL (2007) Adaptations to energy stress dictate the ecology and evolution of Archea.  
515 *Nature Reviews Microbiology* 5:316-323.
- 516 Vandekerckhove, TTM, Willems A, Gillis M, Coomans A (2000) Occurrence of novel  
517 verrucomicrobial species endosymbiotic and associated with parthenogenesis in *Xiphinema*  
518 *americanum*-group species (Nematoda, Longidoridae). *International Journal of Systematic*  
519 *and Evolutionary Microbiology* 50: 2197-2205.
- 520 van den Burg B (2003) Extremophiles as a source of novel enzymes. *Current Opinion in*  
521 *Microbiology* 6: 213-218.
- 522 Vannini C, Pöckl M, Petroni G, Wu QL, Lang E, Stackebrandt E, Schrällhammer M, Richardson  
523 PM, Hahn MW (2007) Endosymbiosis in *Statu nascendi*: close phylogenetic relationship  
524 between obligately endosymbiotic and obligately free-living *Polynucleobacter* strains  
525 (Betaproteobacteria). *Environmental Microbiology* 9: 347-359.

526 Vaz-Moreira I, Nunes OC, Manaia, CM (2011) Diversity and antibiotic resistance patterns of  
527 *Sphingomonadaceae* isolates from drinking water. *Applied and Environmental*  
528 *Microbiology* 77: 5697-5706.

529 Wang Q, Garrity GM, Tiedje JM, Cole JR (2007) Naïve Bayesian Classifier for Rapid  
530 Assignment of rRNA Sequences into the New Bacterial Taxonomy. *Applied And*  
531 *Environmental Microbiology* 73: 5261–5267.

532 Wang N, Ding L-J, Xu H-J, Li H-B, Su J-Q, Zhu Y-G *In Press* Variability in responses of  
533 bacterial communities and Nitrogen Oxide emission to Urea fertilization among various  
534 flooded paddy soils. *FEMS Microbiology and Ecology*.

535 Wrighton KC, Agbo P, Warnecke F, Weber KA, Brodie EL, DeSantis, TZ, Hugenholtz P,  
536 Andersen GL, Coates JD (2008) A novel ecological role of the Firmicutes identified in  
537 thermophilic microbial fuel cells. *ISME Journal* 2: 1146-1156.

538 Yi H, Yoon HI, Chun J (2005) *Sejongia antarctica* gen. nov., sp. nov. and *Sejongia jeonii* sp.  
539 nov., isolated from the Antarctic. 55: 409-416.

#### 540 **Figure Captions:**

541 Figure 1: OTU accumulation curves for each extreme environment, expressed as number of  
542 OTUs by number of reads from sequencing. Each curve was constructed using 1000 iterations,  
543 and the dotted lines represent 95% confidence intervals. Non-overlapping confidence intervals  
544 indicate that the accumulation curves are significantly different. Thus, habitats with extreme  
545 temperatures had significantly more accumulated species than habitats with either extreme pH or  
546 extreme chemical environments. However, the accumulated species in habitats pH and chemical  
547 extremes did not differ significantly.

548 Figure 2: Comparison of rarefaction curves between extreme and non-extreme habitats. (A)  
549 extreme vs. intermediate temperatures, (B) extreme vs. neutral pH environments, and (C)  
550 extreme chemicals present vs. absent. Rarefaction curves are expressed as number of OTU by  
551 number of reads from sequencing. Each curve was constructed using 1000 iterations, and the  
552 dotted lines represent 95% confidence intervals. Significance tests were as described for Figure  
553 1.

554 Figure 3: NMDS ordinations OTU occurrence by (A-B) Temperature & pH and (C-D)  
555 Temperature & chemical environments in the home. Large symbols represent centroids  $\pm 1$  SE  
556 (A, C), and small symbols represent each sample (B, D). The interaction between temperature  
557 and pH was significant (PERMANOVA: (pseudo)- $F_{1, 85} = 2.53$ ,  $P(\text{perm}) = 0.0001$ ), as was the  
558 interaction between extreme temperature and chemical conditions (PERMANOVA: (pseudo)- $F_{1, 85} = 3.16$ ,  $P(\text{perm}) = 0.0001$ ). The ordination was constructed with Bray-Curtis distances and 100  
559 restarts; 2-D stress was 0.21. PERMANOVA analyses were conducted using type III sums of  
560 squares and 9,999 iterations.

562 Figure 4: Average distances between samples and centroids ( $\beta$ -diversity) across home  
563 environments that differ with respect to extreme temperatures and (A) extreme pH conditions &  
564 (B) extreme chemical conditions. Data were assessed using PermDisp; dispersion was  
565 significantly different across extreme temperatures and extreme pH conditions ( $F_{3, 82} = 4.08$ ,  
566  $P=0.024$ ) and across extreme temperatures and extreme chemical conditions ( $F_{3, 82} = 6.99$ ,  
567  $P=0.0017$ ). Post-hoc pairwise tests: \*  $P<0.025$ , \*\*  $P<0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P<0.001$ .

568 **Table Captions:**

569 Table 1: Summary of occurrences of microbes that were present in samples from extreme home  
570 environments, but absent from the broader home samples. Numbers indicate the number of reads  
571 of each genus by extreme environment. The first group includes genera that were only present in  
572 one extreme environment, the second group includes genera that were present in two extreme  
573 environments, and the last group includes genera that were present in all three extreme home  
574 environments.

### 575 **Supplementary Tables and Figures:**

576 Raw Data: Output file from QIIME at the genus level (L6), rarefied to 1000 reads.

577 Supp. Table 1: Description of sample locations. Standardized locations were sampled in all 6  
578 houses, while special locations were only sampled in a subset of the houses (due to availability  
579 of samples across houses)

580

581 Supp. Table 2: Classifications of sampled extreme home environments based upon temperature,  
582 pH and chemical conditions.

583 Supp. Table 3: Results from PERMANOVAs testing (a) the effects of house ID on microbial  
584 composition; and (b) the effects of temperature class, pH class, and house ID on microbial  
585 composition.

586 Supp. Table 4: List of non-human associated microbes in extreme and non-extreme (Dunn et al.  
587 2013) home habitats

588

589 Supp. Figure 1: Map of houses that were sampled for the study

590

591 Supp. Figure 2: NMDS plot with houses and sampling locations labeled.

592

593 Supp. Figure 3: Histograms depicting the % of reads from bacterial and archaeal classes in (a)  
594 habitats with extreme temperatures, (b) habitats with extreme pH, and (c) habitats with extreme  
595 chemicals.

596

597

598

599

**Table 1** (on next page)

Table 1

Summary of occurrences of microbes that were present in samples from extreme home environments, but absent from the broader home samples. Each X indicates that the genus was found in a given extreme environment. [table](#)

1

2 **Table 1:** Summary of occurrences of microbes that were present in samples from extreme home  
 3 environments, but absent from the broader home samples. Numbers indicate the number of reads of each  
 4 genus by extreme environment. The first group includes genera that were only present in one extreme  
 5 environment, the second group includes genera that were present in two extreme environments, and the  
 6 last group includes genera that were present in all three extreme home environments.

7

8

9

10

11

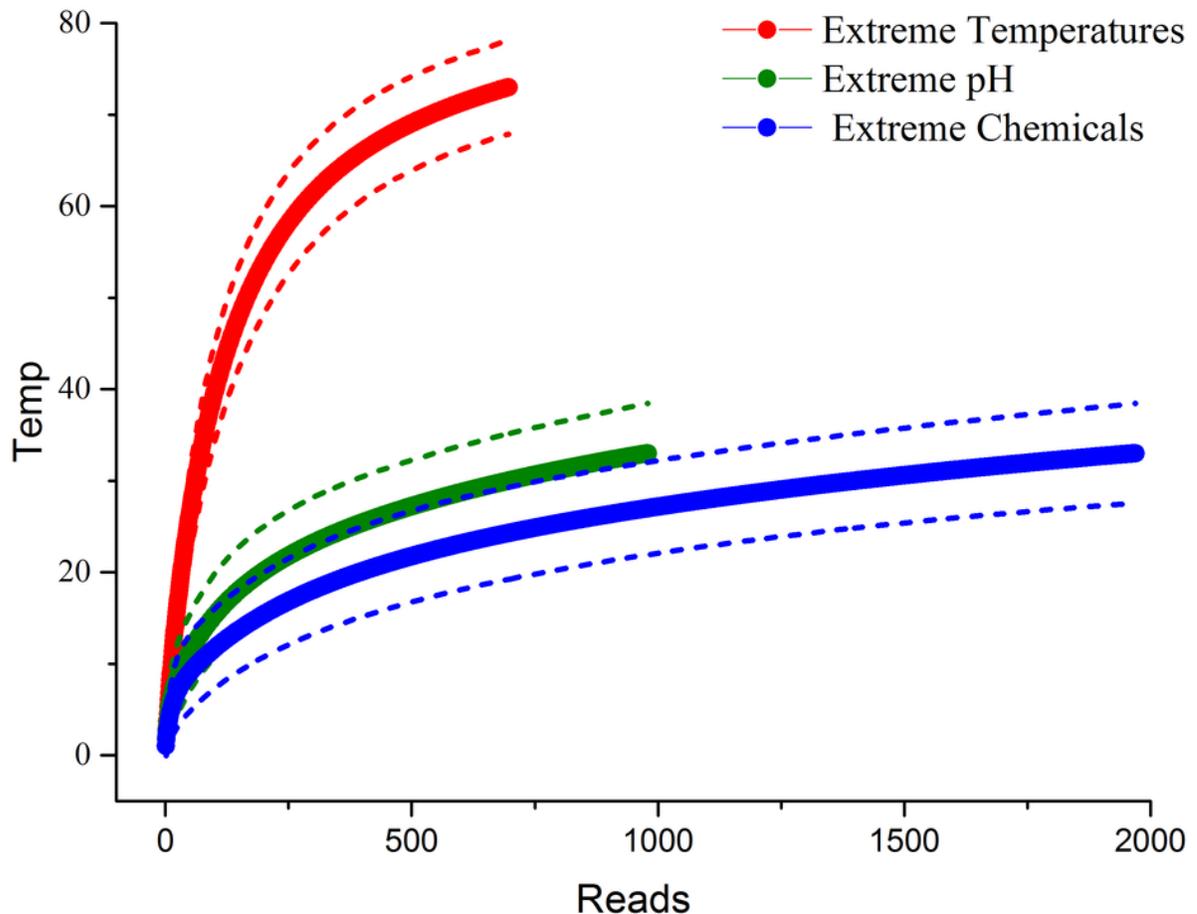
12

<b>Genus</b>	<b>Extreme Temperatures</b>	<b>Extreme pH</b>	<b>Extreme Chemical</b>
<i>Brochothrix</i>	265	0	0
<i>Buchnera</i>	22	0	0
<i>Polynucleobacter</i>	33	0	0
<i>Ralstonia</i>	21	0	0
<i>Thermicanus</i>	34	0	0
<i>Helcococcus</i>	0	0	22
<i>Solibacter</i>	86	0	30
<i>Brevundimonas</i>	184	189	0
<i>Azobacteroides</i>	0	33	33
<i>Elizabethkingia</i>	0	25	24
<i>Xiphinematobacter</i>	0	19	21
<i>Azospira</i>	139	33	44
<i>Brachybacterium</i>	101	52	69
<i>Enhydrobacter</i>	452	387	408
<i>Gluconobacter</i>	23	21	22
<i>Oligella</i>	40	74	77
<i>Parascardovia</i>	141	46	107
<i>Photobacterium</i>	71	65	93
<i>Propionibacterium</i>	73	31	40
<i>Salinibacterium</i>	108	334	355

## 1

OTU accumulation curves for each extreme environment

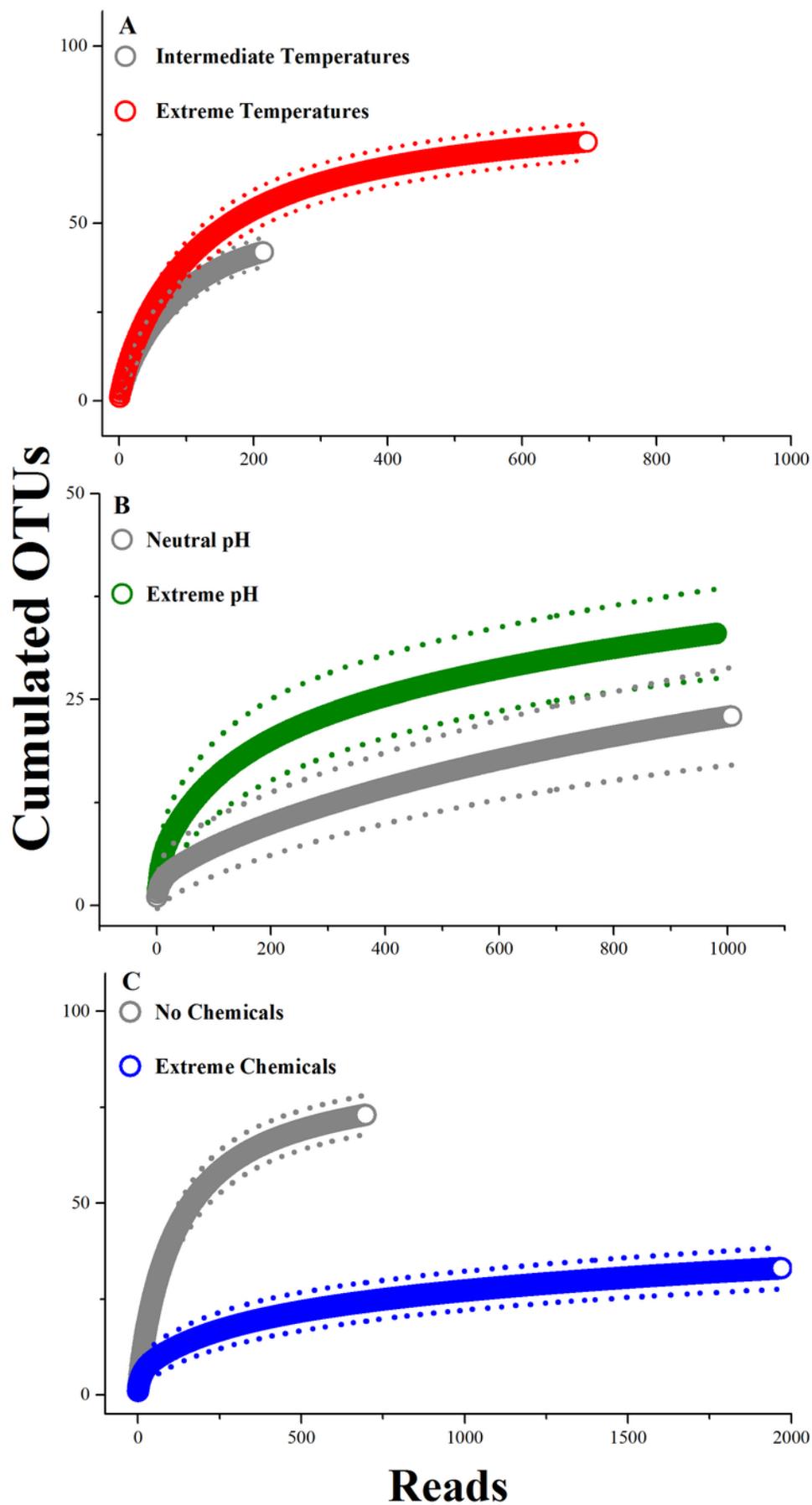
OTU accumulation curves for each extreme environment, expressed as the number of OTUs by the number of reads from sequencing. Each curve was constructed using 1000 iterations, and the dotted lines represent 95% confidence intervals. Non-overlapping confidence intervals indicate that the accumulation curves are significantly different. Thus, habitats with extreme temperatures had significantly more accumulated species than habitats with either extreme pH or extreme chemical environments. However, the accumulated species in habitats pH and chemical extremes did not differ significantly.



## 2

Comparison of rarefaction curves between extreme and non-extreme habitats

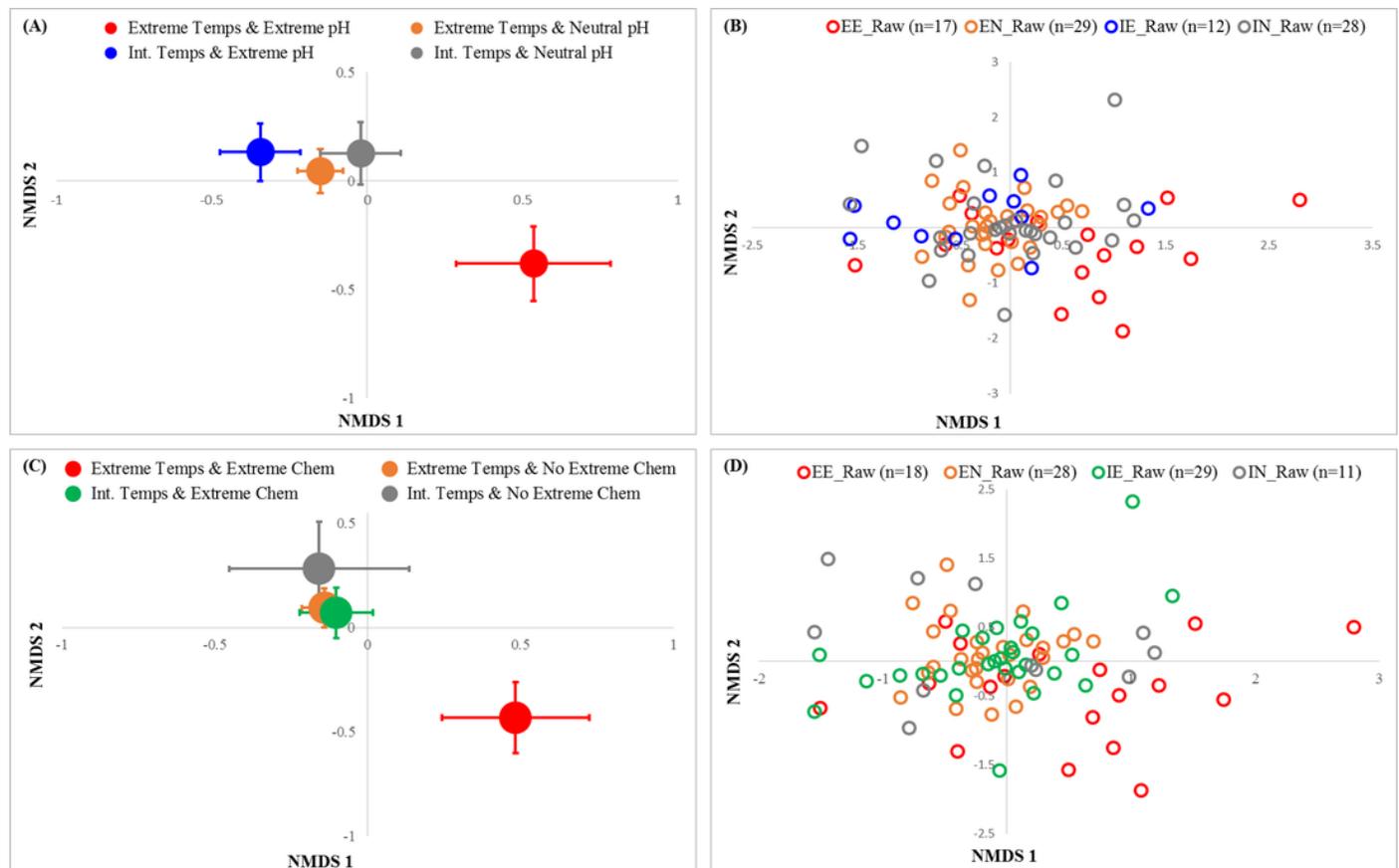
Comparison of rarefaction curves between extreme and non-extreme habitats . (A) extreme vs. intermediate temperatures, (B) extreme vs. neutral pH environments, and (C) extreme chemicals present vs. absent. Rarefaction curves are expressed as number of OTU by number of reads from sequencing. Each curve was constructed using 1000 iterations, and the dotted lines represent 95% confidence intervals. Significance tests were as described for Figure 1.



## 3

NMDS ordinations OTU occurrence by (A-B) Temperature & pH and (C-D) Temperature & chemical environments in the home.

NMDS ordinations OTU occurrence by (A-B) Temperature & pH and (C-D) Temperature & chemical environments in the home. Large symbols represent centroids  $\pm 1$  SE (A, C), and small symbols represent each sample (B, D). The interaction between temperature and pH was significant (PERMANOVA: (pseudo)- $F_{1,85} = 2.53$ ,  $P(\text{perm}) = 0.0001$ ), as was the interaction between extreme temperature and chemical conditions (PERMANOVA: (pseudo)- $F_{1,85} = 3.16$ ,  $P(\text{perm}) = 0.0001$ ). The ordination was constructed with Bray-Curtis distances and 100 restarts; 2-D stress was 0.21. PERMANOVA analyses were conducted using type III sums of squares and 9,999 iterations.



## 4

Average distances between samples and centroids ( $\beta$ -diversity) across home environments

Average distances between samples and centroids ( $\beta$ -diversity) across home environments that differ with respect to extreme temperatures and (A) extreme pH conditions & (B) extreme chemical conditions. Data were assessed using PermDisp; dispersion was significantly different across extreme temperatures and extreme pH conditions ( $F_{3,82} = 4.08$ ,  $P=0.024$ ) and across extreme temperatures and extreme chemical conditions ( $F_{3,82} = 6.99$ ,  $P=0.0017$ ). Post-hoc pairwise tests: \*  $P<0.025$ , \*\*  $P<0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P<0.001$ .

