

1 Title

2 **Dormancy dynamics and dispersal contribute to soil microbiome resilience**

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4 Authors

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15 Abstract

16 In disturbance ecology, stability is composed of resistance to change and resilience towards
17 recovery after the disturbance subsides. Two key microbial mechanisms that can support
18 microbiome stability include dormancy and dispersal. Specifically, microbial populations that
19 are sensitive to disturbance can be re-seeded by local dormant pools of viable and reactivated
20 cells, or by immigrants dispersed from regional metacommunities. However, it is difficult to
21 quantify the contributions of these mechanisms to stability without, first, distinguishing the
22 active from inactive membership, and, second, distinguishing the populations recovered by

23 local resuscitation from those recovered by dispersed immigrants. Here, we investigate the
24 contributions of dormancy dynamics (activation and inactivation), and dispersal to soil
25 microbial community resistance and resilience. We designed a replicated, 45-week time-series
26 experiment to quantify the responses of the active soil microbial community to a thermal press
27 disturbance, including unwarmed control mesocosms, disturbed mesocosms without dispersal,
28 and disturbed mesocosms with dispersal after the release of the stressor. Communities
29 changed in structure within one week of warming. Though the disturbed mesocosms did not
30 fully recover within 29 weeks, resuscitation of thermotolerant taxa was key for community
31 transition during the press, and both resuscitation of opportunistic taxa and immigration
32 contributed to community resilience. Also, mesocosms with dispersal were more resilient than
33 mesocosms without. This work advances the mechanistic understanding of how microbiomes
34 respond to disturbances in their environment.

35

36

37 Keywords

38 Stability, disturbance ecology, recovery, resuscitation, 16S rRNA: rRNA gene, metagenomics,
39 microbial ecology, community assembly, press disturbance, resistance, metacommunity,
40 immigration

41

42 Introduction

43 Ongoing changes to Earth's climate are projected to alter disturbance regimes and to
44 pervasively expose ecosystems to stressors like elevated atmospheric greenhouse gases and
45 increased temperatures[1]. Microbial communities, or *microbiomes*, provide vital ecosystem
46 functions and are key players in determining ecosystem responses to environmental
47 changes[2,3]. Understanding the mechanisms that underpin microbiome responses to
48 environmental disturbances will support efforts to predict, and, potentially, manage,
49 microbiomes for stable functions within their ecosystems.

50 In disturbance ecology, stability refers to consistent properties in the face of a stressor [4].
51 Here, we apply terms from disturbance ecology as they have been adopted in microbial
52 ecology[5–7]. Stability includes components of both resistance and resilience. Resistance is the
53 capacity of a system to withstand change in the face of a stressor, and its inverse is sensitivity.
54 Resilience is the extent to which a system recovers following a disturbance, and is often
55 expressed as a rate of change over time. Secondary succession is the process of community
56 reassembly after a disturbance, and it can lead to either a state of recovery or an alternative
57 stable state. Recovery is when a system fully returns to either its pre-disturbance state or is
58 indistinguishable from a comparative control, and this term can be applied both to the state of
59 the stressor and to the responsive community. Similarly, an alternative stable state is when the
60 system does not return but rather assumes a different state. Together, resistance and resilience
61 are the major quantifiable components of stability, and they can be calculated from community
62 measurements of alpha diversity, beta diversity, or function[6,8].

63 There are two related microbial mechanisms that support population persistence in the face
64 of disturbance, and therefore contribute to community resistance, resilience, and recovery.
65 One mechanism is microbial dispersal, as successful immigrants can support resilience and
66 recovery of sensitive populations. Across an interconnected landscape, microbial
67 metacommunities are linked via dispersal, and so immigrants originate from the regional
68 species pool [9–12]. A second important but less-considered mechanism is microbial dormancy
69 dynamics [13,14]. Dormancy dynamics include initiation and resuscitation. Initiation into
70 dormancy can support local survival of populations sensitive to the disturbance, and therefore
71 support community resistance by stabilizing community structure. Resuscitation from
72 dormancy can support resilience and recovery by re-seeding sensitive populations from the
73 local dormant pool. Thus, while both dispersal and resuscitation can support microbiome
74 stability, dispersed immigrants originate regionally while resuscitated members originate
75 locally. After a disturbance, if sensitive populations are not repopulated via immigration or
76 resuscitation, they will become locally extinct and contribute to necromass (aka relic DNA,
77 [15]).

78 We designed a replicated time-series experiment to quantify the contributions of
79 dormancy dynamics and dispersal to the response of a soil microbiome to a thermal press
80 disturbance. We targeted a soil microbiome because terrestrial microbiomes are front-line
81 responders to climate change and sequesters of carbon [2,3], and therefore an important
82 constituent to understand for predicting ecosystem outcomes to environmental change. Also,
83 soils harbor the highest known microbial diversity [16–18] and present a maximum challenge in
84 deciphering microbiome responses to disturbance. Furthermore, a majority of the microbial

85 cells or richness in soil is dormant [13,19], reportedly as high as 80%, representing a
86 considerable pool of microbial functional potential. Finally, across heterogeneous soils, an
87 average of 40% of the microbiome DNA was necromass that existed extracellularly[15]. This
88 suggests that DNA-based methods of determining microbiome dynamics include both inactive
89 and necromass reservoirs, and that there is need for increased precision to move forward to
90 quantify mechanisms underpinning microbiome stability.

91 The mesocosm experiment reported here follows prior field work in Centralia,
92 Pennsylvania [20–24]. Centralia is the site of an underground coal seam fire that ignited in 1962
93 and advances 5-7 m^{-1} along the coal seams[25,26]. The coal seams are highly variable in depth,
94 but average 70 m below the surface[25], so as the fire advances underground it warms the
95 overlying surface soils from ambient to mesothermal to thermal conditions . After the fire
96 advances, previously warmed soils cool to ambient temperatures. In the field, we observed that
97 previously warmed soils recovered towards reference soils in bacterial and archaeal community
98 structure, with the exception of a slightly increased selection for Acidobacteria in the recovered
99 soils (attributable to lower soil pH after coal combustion,[20]). However, during fire impact,
100 there was high divergence among soil communities, and we hypothesized that differences in
101 dormancy dynamics (e.g., different members resuscitating and initiating priority effects during
102 the stress) may explain the divergences. We also hypothesized that resuscitation would shift
103 community structure during the thermal disturbance, but that resuscitation and dispersal
104 would together support resilience after the disturbance subsided. Therefore, in this
105 experiment, we aimed to control dispersal, and also to quantify activity dynamics and
106 determine their consistency and test our hypotheses.

107

108 Materials and Methods

109 *Soil collection, mesocosm design, and soil sampling*

110 Eight kg of soil was collected in Whirlpack bags from the top ten centimeters of a
111 reference site in Centralia, PA (site C08, 40 48.084N 076 20.765W) on March 31st, 2018. The site
112 is temperate with the following chemical-physical properties: Organic Matter 4.8%; Nitrate 7.9
113 ppm; Ammonium 20.5 ppm; pH 5; Sulfur 19 ppm; Potassium 69 ppm; Calcium 490 ppm,
114 Magnesium 59 ppm; Iron 110 ppm, and Phosphorus 395 ppm. The ambient soil temperature
115 when collected was 4°C. The sample was stored at 4°C until the experiment was initiated. Soil
116 was sieved through a 4mm mesh, homogenized, and ~300 g were dispensed into 15 autoclaved
117 quart-sized glass canning jars that were used as mesocosms (Ball). The homogenized soil
118 sample intentionally was used in all 15 mesocosms to assess the reproducibility of community
119 temporal dynamics starting from the same soil source. Percent soil moisture was determined
120 using by massing and drying. Each mesocosm was massed weekly to assess evaporation and
121 any loss of water mass was replaced with sterile water to maintain percent soil moisture
122 throughout the experiment. Sterile metal canning lids were secured loosely to prevent
123 anaerobiosis. All set-up and manipulation of the mesocosms was performed in a Biosafety Level
124 2 cabinet (ThermoScientific 1300 Series A2) and we used aseptic technique.

125 Mesocosms first were acclimated at 14°C to mimic the ambient soil temperature at the
126 typical time of fall soil collection and to coordinate with our previous field study [20].
127 Acclimation proceeded for four weeks in a cooling incubator (Fischer Scientific Isotemp), and
128 then soils were divided into three treatment groups (**Figure 1**). Six unwarmed control

129 mesocosms (“Control”) were maintained at 14°C for the duration of the experiment. Nine
130 warmed mesocosms (“Disturbance”) were subjected to a 12-week disturbance regime to
131 simulate a press thermal disturbance. First, the temperature was gradually increased to 60°C,
132 by 3°C to 3.5°C daily increments over two weeks. Second, the temperature was maintained at
133 60°C for 8 weeks. Sixty degrees was chosen because it was close to the observed maximum
134 thermal temperature that we have measured in surface soils impacted by the Centralia coal
135 seam fire [20]. Next, the temperature was gradually decreased to 14°C, by 3°C to 3.5°C daily
136 increments over two weeks. Finally, the mesocosms were maintained at 14°C for four weeks
137 until the penultimate sampling. From the nine disturbed mesocosms, four were randomly
138 selected for the dispersal treatment (“Disturbance + Immigration”). These four disturbed
139 mesocosms received a dispersal event one week after the temperature was recovered to 14°C
140 after the thermal disturbance. Each was inoculated with 0.5 mL of a 10% weight by volume soil
141 slurry made from a composite soil sample from the six unwarmed control mesocosms, and then
142 gently mixed with a sterile spatula. Using qPCR data from control mesocosms at week 16, we
143 estimate that approximately 6.37×10^6 cells were dispersed into each Disturbance + Immigration
144 mesocosm. We used soil from the control mesocosms to simulate dispersal from similar,
145 adjacent soils to repopulate disturbed communities, as expected in the field. Finally, all
146 mesocosms were left undisturbed at 14°C for another 25 weeks prior to the final 45-week
147 sampling. During the final 25-week incubation, percent moisture was not monitored.

148 Mesocosms were non-destructively sampled after 4, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20, and 45
149 weeks of incubation. At each time point, approximately 15 g soil was removed from a

150 mesocosm, of which ~13 g was flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen for RNA preservation and stored
151 at -80°C until RNA/DNA co-extraction.

152

153 *RNA/DNA co-extraction*

154 To obtain RNA and DNA from the same cell pool, we minimally modified a manual
155 coextraction protocol originally published by [27]. For each sample, 0.5 g of flash-frozen soil
156 was added to Qiagen PowerBead Tubes containing 0.70 mm garnet beads. Next, 500 uL of a 5%
157 CTAB/Phosphate buffer and 500 uL of phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol were added to each
158 PowerBead tube. Cells were then lysed using a Model 607 MiniBeadBeater-16 (BioSpec
159 Products Inc.) for 30 seconds, followed by a 10 min centrifugation at 10,000 x g and 4°C. The
160 top aqueous layer was transferred to a fresh tube and 500 uL chloroform:isoamyl alcohol was
161 added. The tubes were inverted several times to form an emulsion before a five minute
162 centrifugation at 16,000 x g and 4°C. The top aqueous layer was transferred to a clean 1.5 mL
163 centrifuge tube. Nucleic acids were precipitated by adding two volumes of a 30% PEG6000
164 1.6M NaCl solution, inverting several times to mix, and incubating on ice for two hours. After
165 incubation, nucleic acids were pelleted by a 20 min centrifugation at 16,000 x g and 4°C. The
166 supernatant was removed from each tube and one mL of ice-cold ethanol was added to the
167 pelleted nucleic acids. Tubes were centrifuged for 15 min at 16,000 x g and 4°C, and the ethanol
168 supernatant was removed. Pelleted nucleic acids were left to air dry before resuspending in 30
169 uL of sterile DEPC-treated water.

170 To purify the RNA, co-extracted nucleic acids were diluted 1:100 before treatment with
171 Ambion Turbo DNA-free DNase kit, using the robust treatment option in the manufacturer's

172 instructions. Extracted nucleic acids were mixed with 0.1 volumes of the 10X Turbo DNase
173 Buffer and three μL of TURBO Dnase enzyme (six units total) and incubated at 37°C for 30 min.
174 After incubation, 0.2 volumes of DNase inactivation reagent was added and incubated for five
175 minutes at room temperature before a five min centrifugation at $2,000 \times g$ and room
176 temperature. The treated supernatant was removed and used as the template for reverse
177 transcription. RNA purity was assessed by PCR (see below for details) and showed no
178 amplification. Reverse transcription was performed with random hexamers using the
179 SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System for RT-PCR(Invitrogen) per manufacturer's
180 instructions.

181 PCR of cDNA and no-RT controls was performed using the Earth Microbiome Project 16S
182 rRNA gene V4 primers(515F 5'-GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3', 806R 5'-
183 GGACTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3') [16,28]. Temperature cycling was as follows: 94°C for four
184 minutes followed by 30 cycles of 94°C for 45 seconds, 50°C for 60 seconds and 72°C for 90
185 seconds followed by a final elongation step at 72°C for 10 minutes. Products were visualized
186 using gel electrophoresis.

187

188 *16S rRNA and 16S rRNA gene sequencing and processing*

189 Here, for simplicity we use "microbiome" to refer to the bacterial and archaeal community
190 members captured by amplifying and Illumina sequencing of the 16S ribosomal RNA and DNA
191 (rRNA gene). Library preparation and sequencing was performed by the Michigan State
192 University Genomics Core Research Facility. A single library was prepped using the method in
193 Kozich et al (2013) [29]. PCR products were normalized using Invitrogen SequelPrep DNA

194 Normalization Plates. This library was loaded onto 4 separate Illumina MiSeq V2 Standard flow
195 cells and sequenced using 250bp paired end format with a MiSeq V2 500 cycle reagent
196 cartridge. Base calling was performed by the Illumina Real Time Analysis (RTA) V1.18.54.

197 All samples were first checked for any contaminating primer sequences using cutadapt[30],
198 before being processed together using the USEARCH pipeline[31,32]. Briefly, paired end reads
199 were merged using -fastq_mergepairs and then dereplicated using -fastx_uniques. Reads were
200 clustered *de novo* at 97% identity and then the original merged reads were mapped to the
201 representative sequences of each cluster. Each OTU was classified using SINTAX[33] and with
202 the Silva database (version 123, [34]).

203

204 *Designating Total and Active Communities*

205 Each RNA and DNA sample was rarefied to 50,000 reads in R using the vegan package
206 version 2.5-4 [35] discarding any samples which did not contain sufficient reads (**Figure S1**).
207 Samples for which either the RNA or DNA did not have 50,000 reads were omitted from the
208 analysis presented here (12 out of 135 in total). The Total community was defined as the
209 community recovered in the DNA reads. The Active community was defined per sample, using
210 the DNA read numbers of those taxa that had 16S rRNA:rRNA gene ratio was >1 in each
211 sample[36]. Consequently, while every sample was initially rarefied to 50,000 reads, each
212 sample's active community varied slightly in total reads. Finally, we did not include taxa that
213 had undefined rRNA:rRNA gene ratios ("phantoms") in the analysis (**Figure S2**, see discussion in
214 supplementary materials).

215

216 *Quantitative PCR (qPCR)*

217 qPCR was performed on the V4 region of the 16S rRNA gene and conducted in a BioRad
218 CFX qPCR machine using the Absolute QPCR Mix, SYBR Green, no ROX (Thermo Scientific). Each
219 reaction contained 12.5ul of the 2X Absolute QPCR Mix, 1.25 ul each of 10uM primers 515F and
220 806R, 3uL of template DNA and 2uL of PCR grade water. Temperature cycling conditions were
221 as follows: 15 minutes at 95°C, followed by 39 cycles of 94°C for 45 seconds, 50°C for 60
222 seconds, and 72°C for 90 seconds, followed by a final elongation step at 72°C for 10 minutes.
223 Fluorescence was measured in each well at the end of every cycle. Extracted gDNA from *E. coli*
224 MG1655 was used for the standard curve, and was run in triplicate with every plate. Samples
225 were run in duplicate across different plates and those that amplified after the lowest point of
226 the standard curve (27 copies per reaction) were treated as zeroes. No template controls were
227 included in every qPCR plate and they never amplified. Amplification specificity was assessed by
228 melt curve (60°C to 95°C, 0.5°C increments).

229

230 *Calculating resistance and resilience of community structure*

231 We calculated resistance and resilience as described in Shade and Peter 2012[6] and
232 Orwin and Wardle 2004 [8]. These are unitless metrics that have a theoretical range from -1 to
233 1. Resistance of the active community structure at week 10 was calculated for every disturbed
234 mesocosm using Equation 1:

235 Eq. 1

236
$$RS = 1 - \frac{2*|y_c - y_d|}{y_c + |y_c - y_d|}$$

237

238 , where y_c is the mean Bray Curtis similarity for Control mesocosms at week 10 compared to
239 week 4 (pre-disturbance), and y_d is the individually calculated Bray Curtis similarity of each
240 disturbed mesocosm at week 10 to week 4. Resilience of the active community in each
241 disturbed mesocosm was calculated for the observed secondary succession (week 16 to 45) as
242 well as the initial (week 16 to 20) and the long-term (week 20 to 45) secondary succession using
243 Equation 2.

244 Eq 2.

$$245 \quad RL = \frac{2 * |y_{c,s} - y_{d,s}|}{(|y_{c,s} - y_{d,s}| + |y_{c,e} - y_{d,e}|)} - 1$$

246

247 , where s is the start of the secondary succession and e is the end, $y_{c,s}$ is the mean Bray Curtis
248 similarity of Control mesocosms at week S to week 4 (pre-disturbance), $y_{d,s}$ is the Bray Curtis
249 similarity of each disturbed mesocosm at week S to week 4 (pre-disturbance), $y_{c,e}$ is the mean
250 Bray Curtis similarity of Control mesocosms at week e to week 4, and $y_{d,e}$ is the Bray Curtis
251 similarity of each disturbed mesocosms at week e to week 4.

252

253 *Ecological statistics*

254 Ecological analyses were performed in R[37]. The *adonis* and *anosim* function in the
255 *vegan* package was used to perform PERMANOVAs[38] and ANOSIM respectively, to assess
256 disturbance and immigration effects on community composition, and the *betadisper* function
257 was used to quantify beta dispersion[39] with Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference post-hoc
258 test across Control, Disturbance, and Disturbance + Immigration treatments. Pairwise tests for
259 alpha diversity (Richness and Pielou's Evenness), community size (i.e. 16S rRNA gene copies per

260 gram of soil), and resilience values were performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test, with Dunn's
261 post-hoc correction for multiple comparisons when needed to assess differences between
262 control, disturbance, and immigration treatments. Principal coordinates analysis was used for
263 ordination of pairwise sample differences based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. Procrustes
264 superimposition (PROTEST) was performed using the procrustes function in the vegan package
265 to compare community structure trajectories in direction and extent of change and a false
266 discovery rate adjustment was used for multiple tests. Data visualizations were performed
267 using ggplot2[40]. Heatmaps were made using the heatmap.2 function in the gplots
268 package[41].

269 To understand potential roles of dormancy initiation and resuscitation in driving
270 community resistance and resilience, we distinguished between taxa that changed in their
271 activity from taxa that changed in their detection over the course of the disturbance. Taxa that
272 fell below detection (there was no rRNA gene detected in a particular sample) were coded
273 differently for the heatmap than taxa that became inactive (rRNA:rRNA gene shifted from > 1 to
274 < 1). For the heatmap, we used the Active community for the input data, but coded taxa that
275 fell below detection in the Total community as NAs to distinguish them from inactive taxa,
276 which were coded as 0. Notably, taxa that fell below detection in the Total community could
277 have been either active, inactive, or locally extinct. To conservatively attribute activity
278 dynamics, we restricted the heatmap visualization only to the taxa that were among the 50
279 most abundant in Active samples over the course of the experiment.

280 Responsive taxa were those that changed in activity over secondary succession
281 (between weeks 16, 20, and 45) by their 16S rRNA:rRNA gene ratio, either from < 1 to > 1 or > 1

282 to < 1 . Immigrant taxa were undetected in all disturbed mesocosms at week 16, but detected
283 in Control mesocosms at Week 16 and Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms at either week 20
284 or week 45 while remaining undetected in the Disturbance mesocosms. Contributions of
285 responsive and immigrant taxa to beta diversity were calculated as the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity
286 attributed to the responsive taxa subset and divided by the total Bray-Curtis dissimilarity, both
287 calculated from the Total (DNA) community, as done previously to assess the contributions of
288 conditionally rare taxa [42] and the contributions of core taxa [43] to beta diversity. Briefly, to
289 calculate the proportional contribution of any subset of taxa to observed Bray Curtis similarity,
290 the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity attributable to the subset of taxa is divided by the total Bray-Curtis
291 dissimilarity calculated from the entire community. Because Bray-Curtis dissimilarity is the sum
292 of the difference in abundances of taxa in two communities divided by the total abundance of
293 the taxa in those two communities, one can calculate the contribution of a subset of taxa to the
294 Bray-Curtis dissimilarity by only including the subset in the numerator while including the total
295 community in the denominator. This approach is transferable to other resemblance metrics and
296 not restricted to use with Bray-Curtis. The detailed code for this calculation is available on
297 GitHub.

298

299 *Data availability and code*

300 Sequence workflows, OTU tables, and statistical workflows to reproduce the analyses
301 described here are available on GitHub
302 (https://github.com/ShadeLab/PAPER_Sorensen_PhilTransB_2020). All raw sequence data are
303 deposited in the NCBI Short Read Archive under BioProject PRJNA559185.

304

305 Results

306 *Sequencing summary*

307 In total, we sequenced 135 pairs of samples (cDNA and DNA) across nine timepoints and
308 15 mesocosms. We rarefied all samples to 50,000 reads, and removed those samples with
309 fewer than 50,000 reads. This resulted in the removal of 12 samples and left 53 unwarmed
310 Control, 36 Disturbance, and 34 Disturbance + Immigration pairs of samples. After rarefaction,
311 sample richness ranged from 84 to 4,108, with 16,854 total OTUs observed, inclusive of both
312 DNA and RNA datasets.

313

314 *Overarching responses to the thermal press disturbance*

315 Total community richness responded consistently and as expected to the thermal press
316 disturbance. There was a notable bottle effect of maintaining field soil in mesocosms, indicated
317 by the gradual decrease in richness over time in the unwarmed Control treatment (**Figure 2AB**).
318 In the Disturbance treatment, there was a modest but statistically supported decrease in
319 richness one week after warming from 14°C to 37 °C (week 5 all Disturbance v. Control
320 comparison, Kruskal-Wallis test, $p = 0.003$), and then a more substantial decrease after
321 warming to 60°C at week 6 (Kruskal-Wallis test, $p = 0.002$). Disturbance community size
322 decreased over weeks four to seven and then maintained at a median of 1.03×10^7 rRNA gene
323 copies per g soil (**Figure 3**). Control communities decreased until week seven (bottle effect) and
324 then increased rapidly by week ten and generally stabilized at median of 2.98×10^8 16S rRNA
325 gene copies/g soil (**Figure 3A**). Together, these results show that the warming treatment acted

326 as an environmental filter, resulting either in death or population decreases past the limits of
327 detection for taxa that were otherwise fit in unwarmed conditions. Furthermore, there was a
328 weak increase in richness after the dispersal event in the Disturbance + Immigration treatment,
329 relative to the Disturbance treatment (Kruskal – Wallis test $p = 0.088$ at week 20, and $p = 0.168$
330 at week 45), and this increase was also observed for community size, which approaches that of
331 the unwarmed control (Kruskal – Wallis test Control vs Disturbance + Immigration $p = 0.11$,
332 Control vs Disturbance $p = 0.0004$, Disturbance vs Disturbance + Immigration $p = 0.013$) (**Figure**
333 **3B**). This suggests that the dispersal treatment was effective in promoting the process of
334 recovery in richness and community size. Importantly, Disturbance and Disturbance +
335 Immigration mesocosms were not significantly different in either richness nor community size
336 prior to the immigration event (Table S1 and S2) However, disturbed mesocosms did not
337 completely recover richness to the level of the ambient Controls, even by week 45 (**Figure 2B**).
338 Evenness followed the same overarching patterns as richness (**Figure 2CD**).

339 We compared community structure across treatments for the Total community dataset,
340 rRNA gene; 14,159 OTUs) and the Active dataset (rRNA:rRNA gene > 1; 6,693 = OTUs). There
341 were clear and consistent shifts in beta diversity in the disturbed mesocosms ($n = 9$, inclusive of
342 Disturbance and Disturbance + Immigration), as well as high reproducibility among replicates in
343 community structure within treatments as shown by the overlap of symbols per treatment and
344 timepoint in the ordination (**Figure 4**). As compared to the Controls, the disturbed mesocosms
345 had increased betadispersion (variability in community structure) starting at week 6 onward,
346 with the exception of week 10 (**Figure 5**). Over the experiment, disturbed mesocosms had
347 distinct community structures compared to Control (disturbed v. Control PERMANOVA Pseudof

348 = 63.87, Rsqr = 0.345, p=0.001 for Total communities, and PsuedoF=35.97, Rsqr=0.229, p=0.001
349 for Active communities, all timepoints). Control communities were relatively stable over the
350 study, while disturbed communities changed directionally, and were significantly different from
351 Control communities after a single week of warming (week 5 Control vs Disturbed PERMANOVA
352 PsuedoF = 3.06, Rsqr= 0.218, p=0.001 for Total community and PsuedoF= 2.88, Rsqr=0.208,
353 p=0.001 for Active community, Week 4 PERMANOVA p>0.05, Table S3). Disturbed communities
354 continued to shift with temperature during the course of the experiment, and then shifted
355 slightly back towards the Control after the stressor was released and Disturbance and
356 Disturbance + Immigration communities had similar structures during the press (Table S4).
357 Though no disturbed mesocosms fully recovered to overlap with the Control communities, the
358 Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms were more similar to the Control than the Disturbance
359 mesocosms without dispersal (Figures 2B, 3B, 4) . Across all treatments, Total communities and
360 Active communities were synchronous in their temporal trajectories (Mantel R =0.943, p =
361 0.001 on 999 permutations; Protest Sum of Squares =0.238, R= 0.873, p=0.001), but there was
362 higher betadispersion in the disturbed treatments for the Active communities (Comparing
363 Total v. Active for disturbed mesocosms, Kruskal Wallis p=0.029). This suggests that there was
364 Active community variability masked by the contributions of dead and dormant taxa to the
365 Total community.

366 Replicate disturbed mesocosms (again, inclusive of Disturbance and Disturbance +
367 Immigration) had highly reproducible responses during the press. They had high overlap in
368 membership and overall synchronous trajectories (i.e. changes in community structure through

369 time), even after the immigration event at week 16 (33 of 36 PROTEST all $R > 0.89$ and false-
370 discovery rate adjusted p-values < 0.05).

371

372 *Resistance and resilience*

373 For the Active community, we calculated resistance and resilience of the disturbed
374 mesocosms relative to the Control using community divergence from the first sampling time
375 (Week4, end of acclimatization period) as the reference (**Figure 6A**). Even in the Control
376 communities, there was an initial drop in similarity between weeks 4 and 5, which we attribute
377 to incomplete acclimatization and a bottle effect. However, after that, the Control
378 communities remain relatively stable with no additional divergence, while the disturbed
379 communities decrease to their maximum divergence at week 10 (60°C).

380 Disturbance + Immigration communities converge slightly after the dispersal event.
381 Overall resistance was low (**Figure 6B**), and resilience reached its maximum, 0.41, in the
382 immigration treatment between weeks 16 (the time point at which the thermal press was
383 released) and the final week 45, but ranged from a minimum of 0.04 between week 16 and 20
384 in the Disturbance without immigration treatment (**Figure 6C-E**). Immigration enhanced
385 resilience from week 16 to week 20 (Kruskal Wallis p value 0.034) and from week 16 to week 45
386 (Kruskal Wallis p value 0.083), but not from week 20 to 45, possibly because of insufficient
387 power (Kruskal Wallis p value 0.180). Notably, there were only two Disturbance mesocosm
388 replicates (out of five) that met the rarefaction threshold for week 45.

389 We wanted to assess the relative contributions of taxa that activate or inactivate after
390 the disturbance subsides to the overall beta diversity (weeks 16-45). We also wanted to assess

391 the relative contributions of taxa that colonized after dispersal. We calculated the relative
392 contribution of activity dynamics by identifying taxa that switched between an active and
393 inactive state during secondary succession. We found that these dynamically active taxa
394 contributed 11.7% to 58.9% (median 28.6%) of the observed beta diversity, while immigrants
395 contributed 7.9% to 26.3% (median 14.7%) of the observed beta diversity during the same time
396 period.

397

398 *Activity dynamics of abundant taxa*

399 We investigated the activity dynamics of the top 50 most abundant taxa within the
400 Active communities, and distinguished taxa that became inactive (rRNA:rRNA gene < 1, white
401 cells in **Figure 7A**) from taxa that fell below detection (rRNA gene = 0, black cells in **Figure 7A**,
402 see Methods for details). Within this set of 50, we detected no purely resistant taxa that were
403 consistently active throughout the experiment. This finding agrees with the analyses showing
404 low resistance (**Figure 6B**) and substantial shifts in the disturbed communities (**Figure 5**). We
405 detected 17 taxa that were sensitive to the disturbance (**Figure 7B**). Sensitive taxa were active
406 prior to the warming but became inactive or dropped below detection during the warming, and
407 then did not reactivate. We also detected 19 transition taxa that were inactive prior to the
408 warming, active during the warming, and then became inactive after the stressor was released.
409 Because there was no external dispersal into the system, these thermotolerant taxa were likely
410 in the dormant pool of the soil. We could divide these responses generally into early and late
411 transition taxa. There were 6 early transition taxa that became active during week 5 or 6 of the

412 experiment, but then became inactive at weeks 10 and 14. There were also 13 late transition
413 taxa that remained inactive during weeks 5 and 6 but became active during weeks 10 and 14.

414 Among the top 50 Active taxa, we did not detect purely resilient taxa that were active
415 prior to the warming, became inactive during the warming, but then reactivated after the
416 return to ambient temperature. This suggests that dormancy strategies responsive to warming
417 were not a substantial contributor to member preservation, nor to eventual re-seeding.
418 Instead, opportunists and immigrants facilitated resilience in the mesocosms. The opportunists
419 were defined as inactive or below detection prior to and during the warming, but then
420 activated after the temperature returned, likely due to resuscitation, and there were five taxa
421 in this category. Eight immigrants were generally active prior to the warming, dropped to below
422 detection or became inactive during the warming, and then in the end, were active again only
423 in the Disturbance + Immigration treatment (and not in the Disturbance mesocosms without
424 immigration).

425

426

427 Discussion

428 Our results show that both dispersal and local dormancy dynamics, including activation
429 and inactivation, can contribute to overarching patterns of community resilience. The dispersal
430 event simulated in this experiment posed an optimistic scenario: well-mixed, control soils were
431 mixed into disturbed soils to maximize the volume of the disturbed soil that came into contact
432 with the inoculum. Regardless, by all metrics (beta diversity, alpha diversity, community size),
433 immigration was impactful. These data directly show that dispersal can augment resilience

434 towards recovery, supporting our hypothesis. Given that the influences of dispersal on
435 community assembly has been investigated previously (often indirectly for bacterial and
436 archaeal microbiomes, as inferred from the contributions of stochastic or neutral processes
437 e.g., [20,44–47]), this result is in agreement with the consensus of the literature that dispersal
438 and dispersal limitation can matter for assembly [48–50].

439 A new result is that local resuscitation also contributes to microbiome community
440 transitions during disturbance, and to resilience after the stress is released. Among the most
441 abundant taxa, there were near equal numbers of taxa that contributed to resilience via
442 resuscitation and to resilience via immigration. While, the influence of resuscitation on
443 resilience was not as impactful as that of dispersal (**Figure 6**), changes in activity dynamics
444 contributed 28.9% to the observed beta diversity during secondary succession. Therefore, both
445 mechanisms – local resuscitation and regional immigration – contribute to microbiome stability,
446 but potentially to different extents. The microbial dormant pool is important for maintaining
447 microbial diversity [51] and has evolutionary implications for traits that persist within inactive
448 populations [52]. To make more explicit the role of dormancy dynamics for community
449 disturbance responses (e.g., [53]), the phenomenon of the “storage effect” underpins modern
450 coexistence theory [54] and refers to the ability of competing species to coexist when their
451 growth and activities are separately partitioned over time, typically in dynamic environments
452 [55]. Given the severity of the thermal stressor in Centralia and in this experiment, our results
453 suggest that the soil microbial dormant pool is deep, in that it contains functionality for
454 distinctive conditions, like thermal stress, that are not within the expected range of

455 environmental variability. Our findings support other studies which have found thermophiles in
456 unexpected environments such as arctic sediments and temperate soils [56–58].

457 Alternatively, it could be that, rather than local resuscitation, extremely rare but active
458 taxa that were below the limits of detection grew rapidly and repopulated to become among
459 the most active and abundant taxa. These data cannot rule out this possibility, and, if true, it
460 would suggest an interesting role for release of rare taxa from competition (via death or
461 inactivation of the competitors sensitive to the warming) in driving post-disturbance assembly.
462 However, given that no resistant taxa were detected that could withstand the wide
463 temperature range in the experiment, conditional rarity may be a less common scenario than
464 opportunistic resuscitation.

465 Another goal of the experiment was to understand the reproducibility of member
466 resuscitation given the press disturbance, and from the same soil. Because we observed high
467 divergence in the hot soil communities in Centralia that was not attributable to any measured
468 environmental variable, including temperature [20], we hypothesized that stochastic
469 resuscitation could initiate priority effects (e.g., [10]), leading to divergent hot communities.
470 However, we did not see the strongest differences in beta dispersion between Control and
471 disturbed mesocosms until the press was subsiding (Weeks 15 and 16 in **Figure 5**). This, along
472 with the overall strongly-correlated trajectories of disturbed community structures, suggest
473 that the disturbance responses were consistent across disturbed mesocosms and do not
474 support our hypothesis that priority effects (initiated by different resuscitating membership)
475 determines community structure during the press. Therefore, we interpret that resuscitation in
476 response to the thermal stress was largely deterministic, and that observed divergences among

477 hot soil communities in the field may be instead attributed to either differences local edaphic
478 factors that were unmeasured, different structures of the underlying dormant pools, or
479 stochasticity in regional dispersal during secondary succession.

480 Moving forward, there are several insights gleaned from this experiment. For soil,
481 measuring dispersal in the field is difficult, given the various means by which microorganisms
482 may arrive to a locality, including wind, ground water, and invertebrate vectors. Therefore,
483 controlled experimentation is needed to quantify the contributions of dispersal to secondary
484 succession. However, measuring activity dynamics and estimating the dormant pool of
485 microbes in field samples, while imperfect, is possible [19,36,59,60]. Because our experiment
486 suggests a role of resuscitation in determining the community that thrives during the
487 disturbance, and also an influence of resuscitation for secondary succession towards recovery,
488 we recommend to collect member activity data. More generally, routine characterization of
489 the dormant pool of soil microbes, including its stability, diversity, and functions, can provide
490 insights into the roles of these inactive taxa for disturbance responses.

491 Microbiome stability encompasses a progression along a trajectory, including a pre-
492 disturbance community with a variance around a mean structure or a routine seasonal
493 dynamic, a transition to an ephemeral community structure during the disturbance, and finally,
494 after the disturbance is released, secondary succession towards either recovery or an
495 alternative stable state. Longitudinal series of microbiome structure inclusive of all stages of
496 this trajectory can be informative. Characterizing the full disturbance trajectory will allow for
497 quantification of the different and potentially changing mechanisms that support stability (e.g.,
498 resuscitation, conditional rarity, immigration), and will facilitate prediction given new stressors.

499 In our experiment, one week of stress was sufficient to observe community sensitivity (by week
500 5, the control and the disturbance treatments were statistically different), but 29 weeks after
501 the stress was released was not sufficient to observe complete recovery, though it seems that
502 recovery is possible given the trajectory toward the controls. We expect that this time frame of
503 response may be typical for many soils [61] and it can be used to inform future studies.

504 Notably, while the objective of this study was to assess responses to elevated temperature, we
505 expect that nutrient limitation was an outcome of the closed system experiment because we
506 did not supplement it with resources. We expect microbial responses to nutrient limitation
507 occurred in both control and disturbed mesocosms, and that nutrient limitation compounded
508 with thermal stress in the disturbed mesocosms. Therefore, nutrient limitation may have
509 contributed to incomplete recovery trajectory.

510 To conclude, this experiment shows both dispersal and dormancy dynamics can
511 contribute to soil microbiome resilience in response to a press stress. Specifically, resuscitation
512 of thermotolerant members contributed to microbiome transition during press, and then
513 immigration provided a substantial boost to recovery beyond what was achieved with
514 resuscitated opportunists. Because activity responses to the disturbance were consistent, these
515 results suggest that predictive insights into microbiome resilience can be advanced more
516 generally. We expect that accounting for mechanisms of local resuscitation and regional
517 dispersal together will advance quantitative understanding of environmental microbiome
518 stability.

519

520

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526

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- 675
- 676

677 Figures

678 **Figure 1. Experimental design of the study.** At time 0 (indicated by the asterisk), reference
679 temperate soil (0-20 cm depth from surface) was homogenized and divided among fifteen 1 L
680 glass mesocosms that were maintained at ambient moisture through the experiment.
681 Nondestructive sampling of each mesocosm proceeded from week 4 onward as indicated by
682 the x-axis. Unwarmed Control mesocosms (solid gold line, n = 6) were maintained at 14°C,
683 which was ambient soil temperature at the time of collection. Disturbed mesocosms (dashed
684 blue line, n = 9, including Disturbance and Disturbance + Immigration groups) were acclimated
685 for four weeks at 14°C, increased to 60°C over two weeks, maintained at 60°C as a thermal
686 press disturbance for eight weeks, then decreased back to 14°C over two weeks, and finally
687 maintained for a total of 45 weeks. Four of the disturbance mesocosms received homogenized
688 soil slurry from Control mesocosms as a dispersal event at week 17, after the thermal press was
689 released (Disturbance + Immigration treatment; see methods). Note the break in the x-axis time
690 scale between weeks 20 and 45.

691

692 **Figure 2. Changes in alpha diversity over the disturbance experiment.** Alpha diversity was
693 assessed using operational taxonomic units clustered at 97% sequence identity, after 16S rRNA
694 gene sequencing and rarefaction to 50,000 sequences per sample. (A) Changes in the observed
695 no. OTUs (richness) in Control (gold, circles) and Disturbance (blue, squares and triangles)
696 mesocosms over the thermal press (weeks 4-16). (B) Changes in richness in Control (gold
697 circles), Disturbance (blue squares), and Disturbance + Immigration (pink triangles) mesocosms
698 over the recovery period, weeks 20-45. The Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms received a

699 dispersal event at week 17. (C) Changes in evenness over weeks 4-16. (D) Changes in evenness
700 over weeks 20-45. Asterisks indicate significant differences by a Kruskal Wallis test (n.s = not
701 significant; * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, with a Dunn correction for multiple comparisons in
702 B and D).

703

704 **Figure 3. Changes in community size over the disturbance experiment.** Community size was
705 estimated using qPCR of the 16S rRNA gene and standardized per gram of soil from which
706 nucleic acids were extracted. (A) Changes in the 16S rRNA gene copies in Control (gold, circles)
707 and disturbed (blue, squares and triangles) mesocosms over the thermal press (weeks 4-16). (B)
708 Changes in the 16S rRNA gene copies in Control, Disturbance (blue squares) and Disturbance +
709 Immigration (pink triangles) mesocosms over the recovery period, weeks 20-45. The
710 Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms received a dispersal event at week 17. Asterisks indicate
711 significant differences by a Kruskal Wallis test (n.s. = not significant, * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.01$, ***
712 $p < 0.001$, with a Dunn correction for multiple comparisons in B).

713

714 **Figure 4. Changes in beta diversity over the disturbance experiment.** Pairwise differences in
715 community structure was quantified using pairwise Bray-Curtis dissimilarity and then ordinated
716 using Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA). Time is shown by symbol size, and mesocosm
717 temperature is indicated by heat colors, with the brightest red indicating the warmest time
718 point. Control mesocosms are circles, Disturbance are squares, and Disturbance + Immigration
719 are triangles. (A) PCoA of the Total community, assessed using sequencing of the 16S rRNA
720 gene. (B) PCoA of the Active community, including only OTUs that had 16S rRNA:rRNA gene > 1.

721

722 **Figure 5. Changes in beta dispersion over the disturbance experiment.** Beta dispersion, an
723 indicator of variability in community structure, was quantified using the distance to the median
724 in ordination space (Figure 4), which was constructed based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. (A)
725 Changes in beta dispersion in Control (gold, circles) and Disturbance (blue, squares and
726 triangles) mesocosms over the thermal press (weeks 4-16). (B) Changes in beta dispersion in
727 Control, Disturbance (blue squares), and Disturbance + Immigration (pink triangles) mesocosms
728 over the recovery period, weeks 20-45. The Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms received a
729 dispersal event at week 17. Asterisks indicate significant differences with a Tukey's Honestly
730 Significant Difference post-hoc test (n.s. = not significant, * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$).
731 Note differences in y-axis ranges between A and B.

732

733 **Figure 6. Resistance and resilience of soil mesocosm communities to a thermal press.** (A)
734 Temporal series of community divergence from pre-disturbance community (week 4) in Control
735 (gold solid line), Disturbance (blue short dashed line), and Disturbance + Immigration (pink long
736 dashed line) to calculate resistance and resilience. (B) Resistance of disturbed mesocosms at
737 week 10, the time point of maximum community change after the thermal press begins. (C-E)
738 Resilience of disturbed mesocosms without (-) and with (+) immigration, calculated after the
739 thermal press is released (week 16) for the (C) full recovery to week 45, (D) initial recovery to
740 week 20, and also for (E) long-term recovery from weeks 20 to 45. Asterisks indicate significant
741 differences by a Kruskal Wallis test (n.s. = not significant, * $p < 0.1$).

742

743 **Figure 7. The activity dynamics of the 50 most abundant taxa in response to the press**
744 **disturbance.** (A) Heatmap and dendrogram of abundant taxa reveal common patterns of
745 detection and activity. Black cells are taxa that were undetected (coded as NA) in the 16S rRNA
746 gene (DNA) community, and white cells are taxa that were detected in the DNA but had 16S
747 rRNA:rRNA gene < 1 (inactive, coded as 0). The heat gradient indicates each taxon's abundance
748 relative to its maximum observed in disturbance treated mesocosms during the experiment.
749 Immigration is indicated for weeks 20 and 45 by minus (no) and plus (yes) signs. (B) Summary of
750 activity response patterns to the disturbance of the top 50 taxa, including resistant, sensitive,
751 early and late transition, resilient, opportunist, and immigrant taxa. Definitions of each of these
752 categories of taxa are found in the main text.

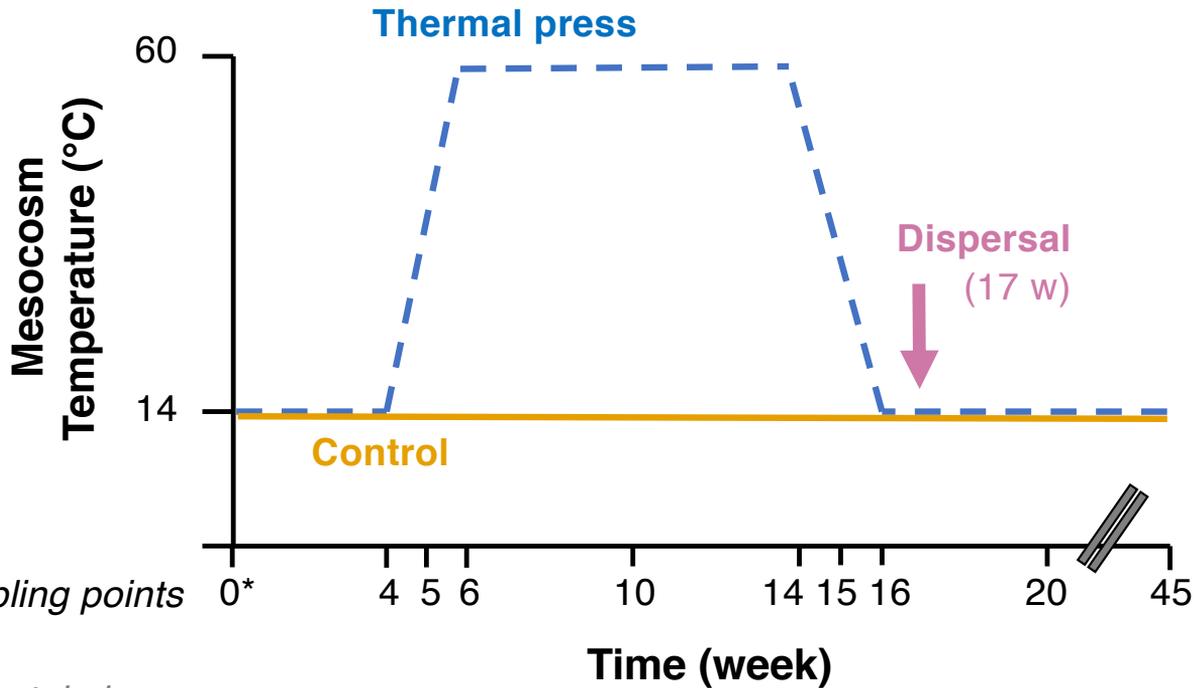
753

754 **Figure S1. Rarefaction curves for soil mesocosm microbial communities.**

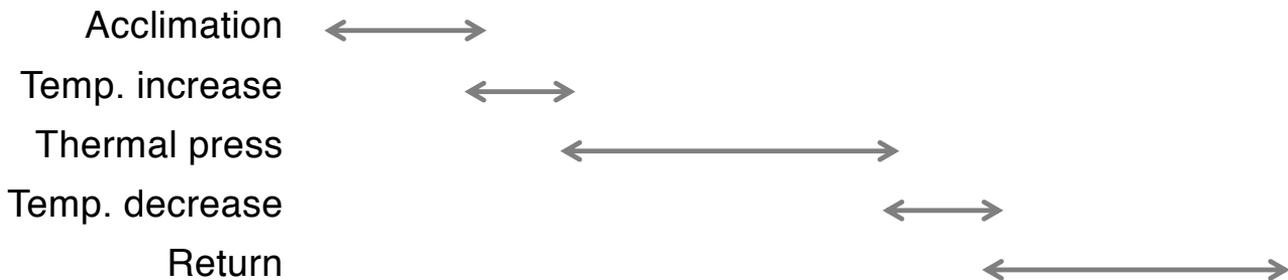
755

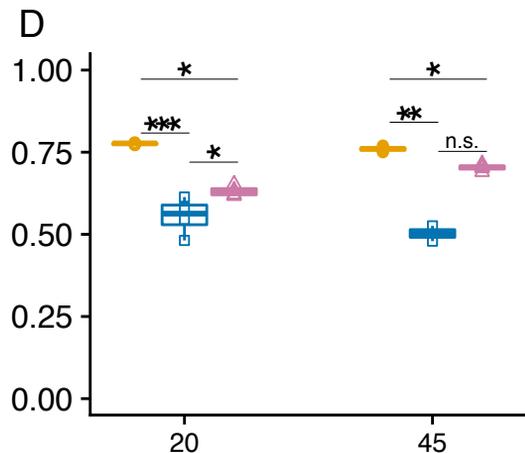
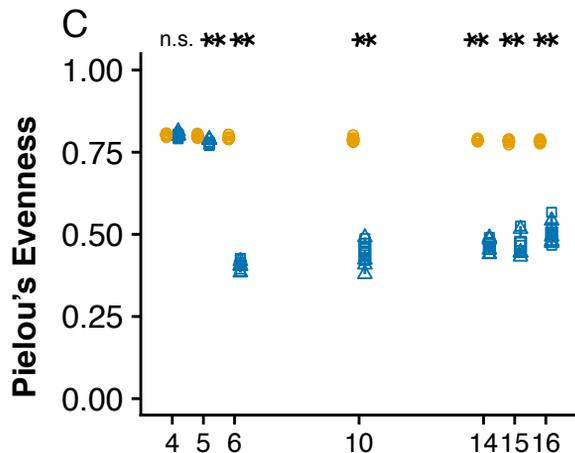
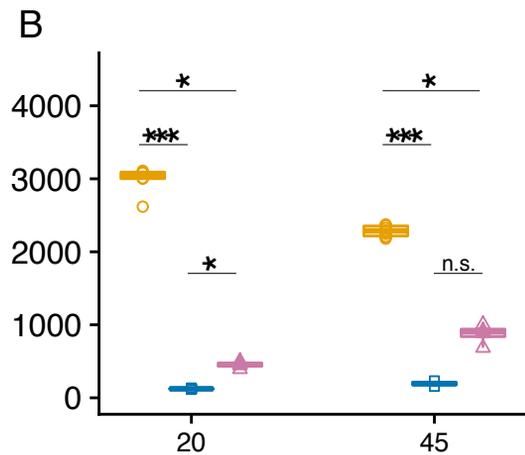
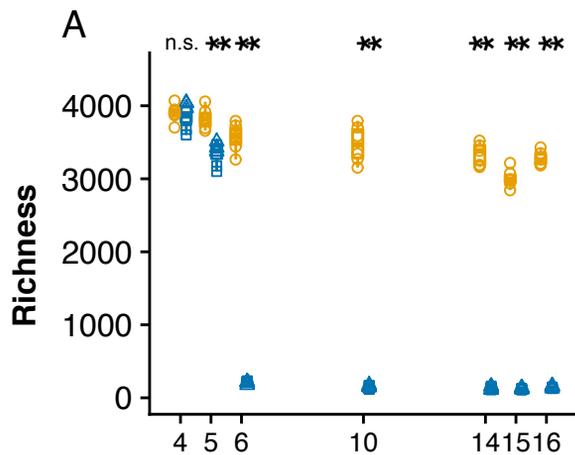
756 **Figure S2. Taxon activity and abundance relationships.** (A) Log₁₀ relative abundance and
757 log₁₀ rRNA:rRNA gene ratio were inversely correlated. Each point is a different OTU detected in
758 the dataset that had 16S rRNA:rRNA gene greater than or equal to 1. (B) Distribution of percent
759 sample richness (No. OTUs detected, inclusive of DNA and RNA datasets) that were phantom
760 taxa (16S rRNA detected but not 16S rRNA gene). (C) Distribution of percent RNA reads
761 attributed to phantom taxa.

762



Experimental phase





Week

Disturbance

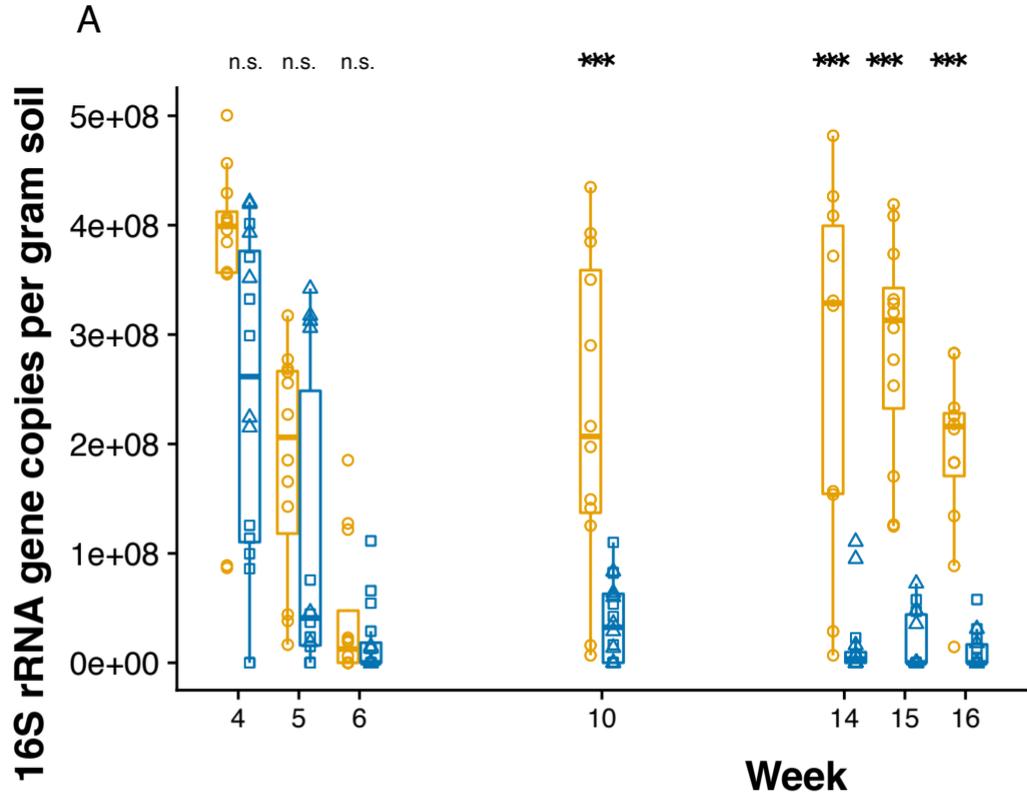
□ No
□ Yes

Treatments

○ Control
□ Disturbance
△ Disturbance + Immigration

Treatments

□ Control
□ Disturbance
□ Disturbance + Immigration

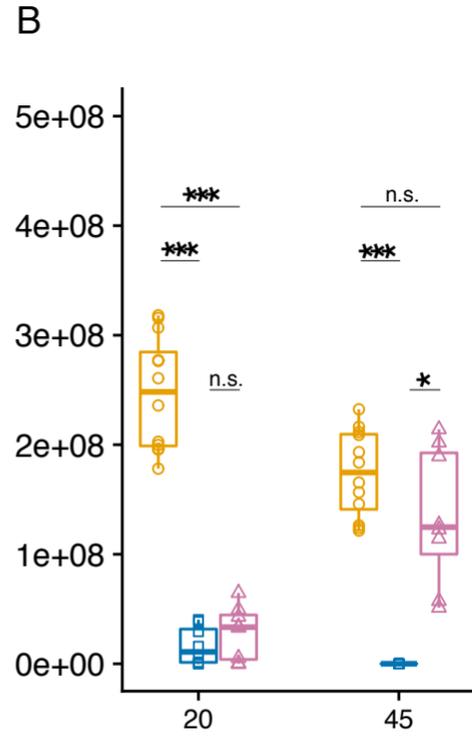


Disturbance

- No
- ▣ Yes

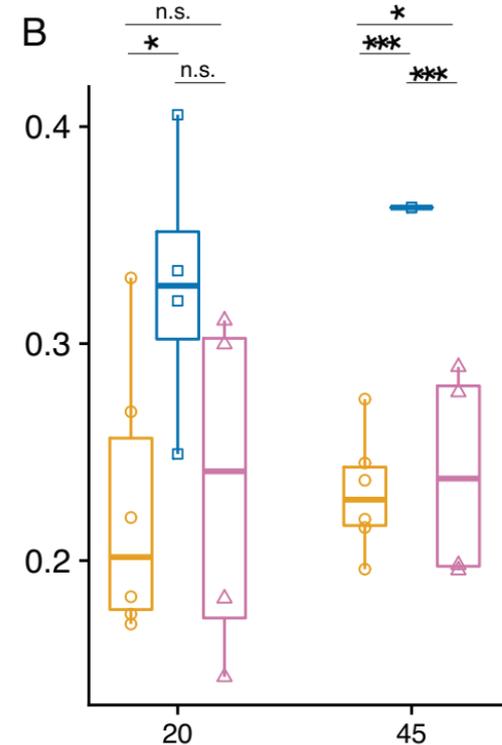
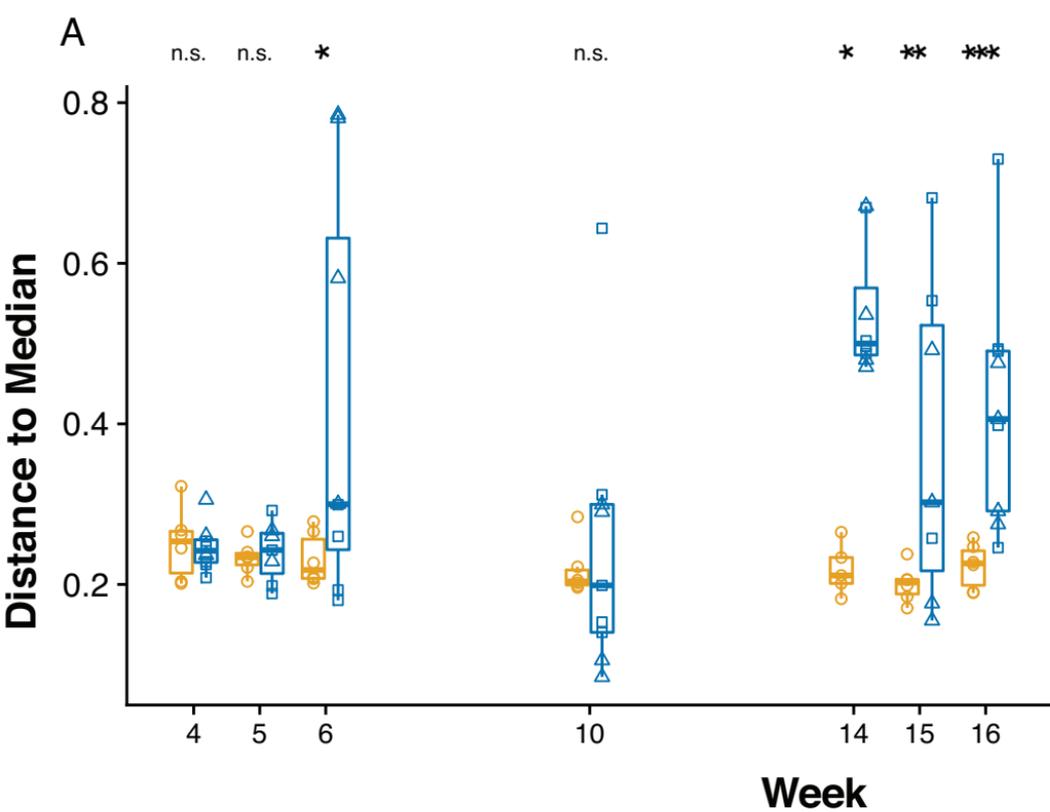
Treatments

- Control
- Disturbance
- △ Disturbance + Immigration



Treatments

- Control
- ▣ Disturbance
- ▢ Disturbance + Immigration



Disturbance

-  No
-  Yes

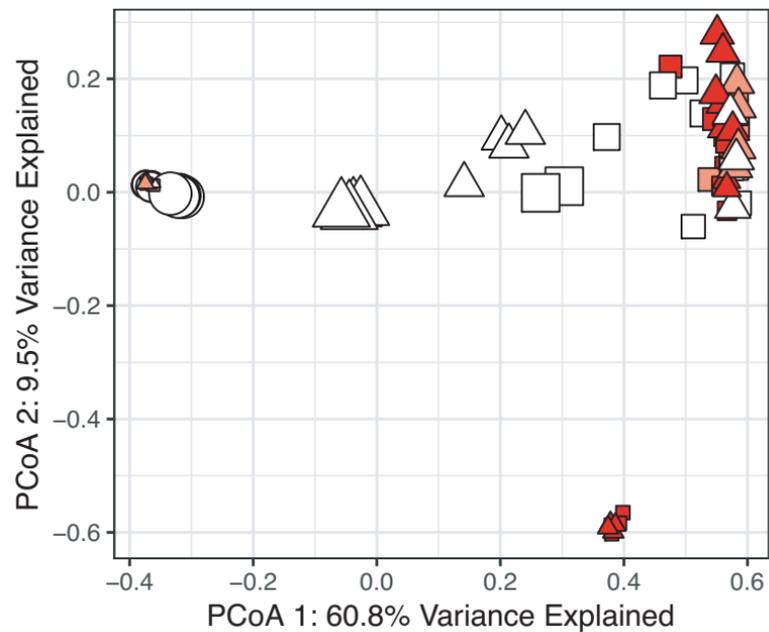
Treatments

-  Control
-  Disturbance
-  Disturbance + Immigration

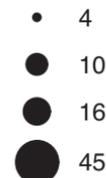
Treatments

-  Control
-  Disturbance
-  Disturbance + Immigration

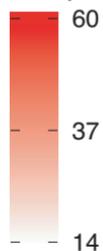
A



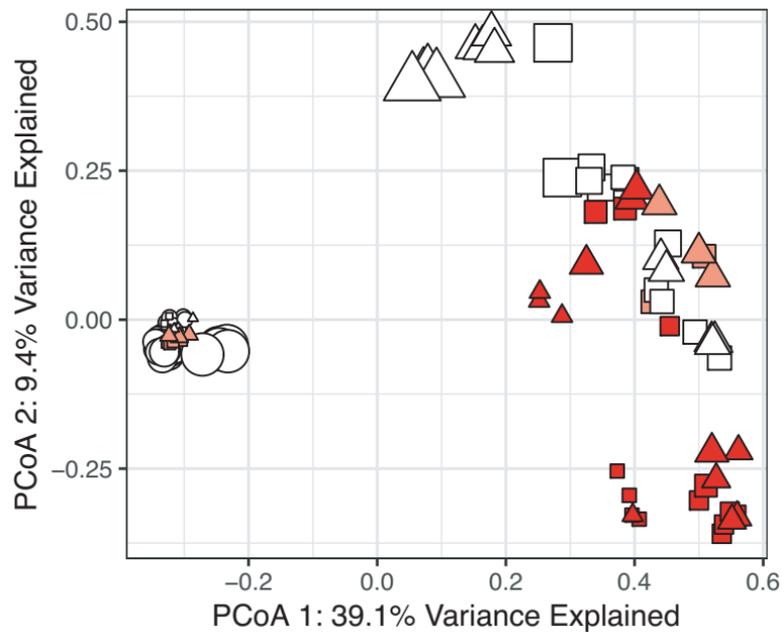
Week



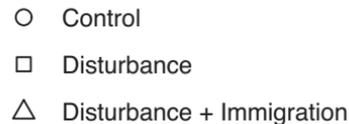
Temperature

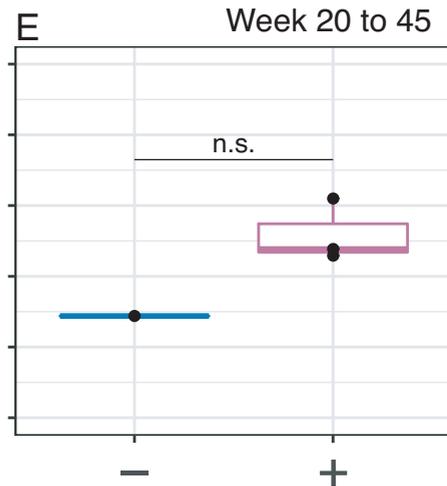
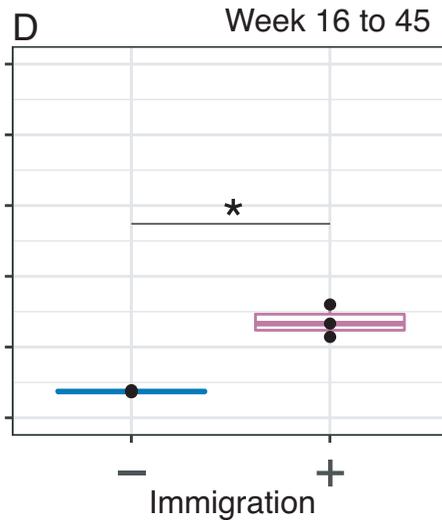
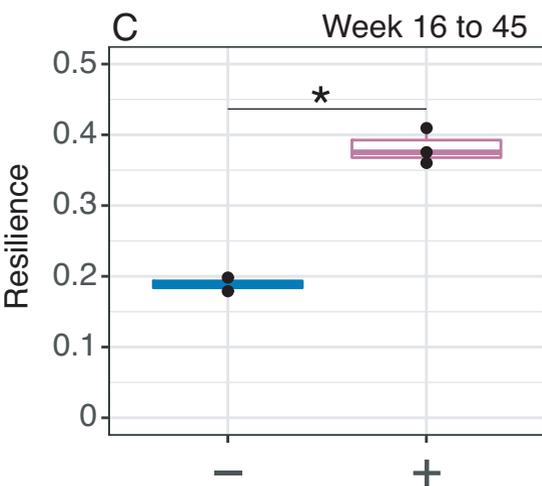
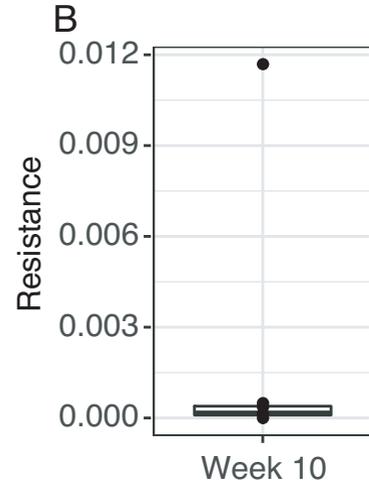
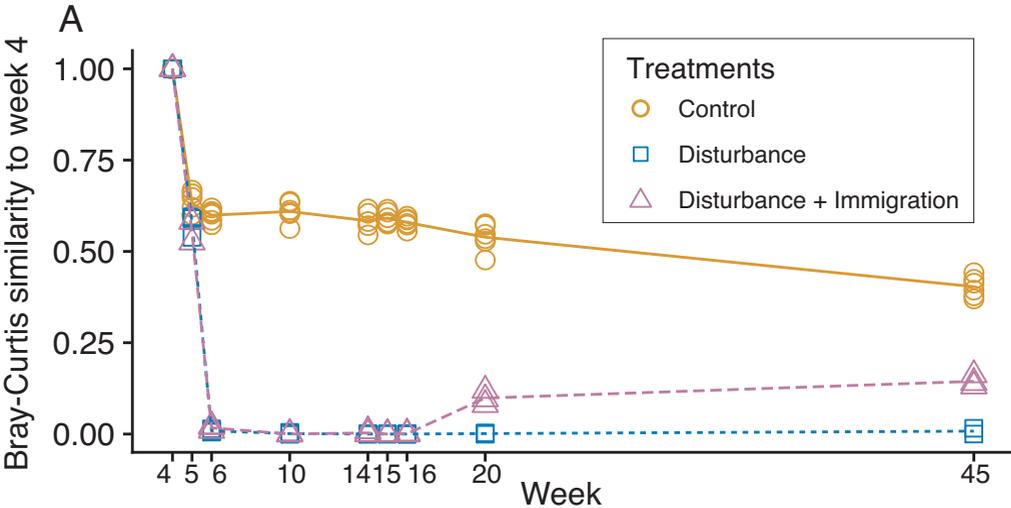


B

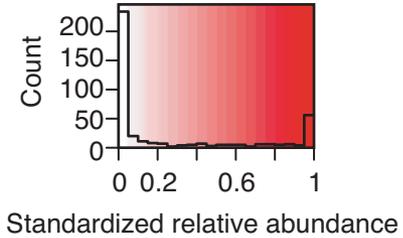
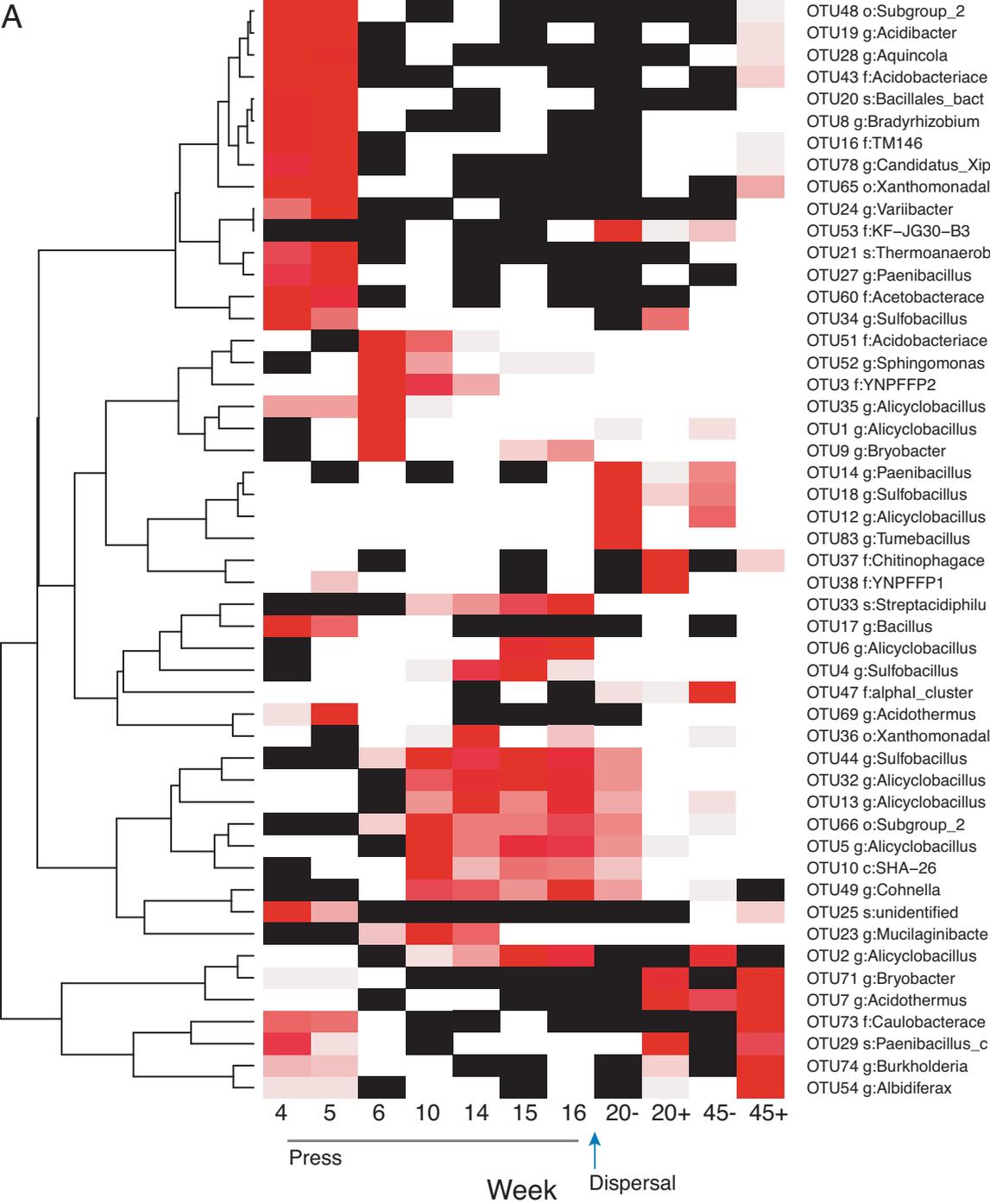


Treatments

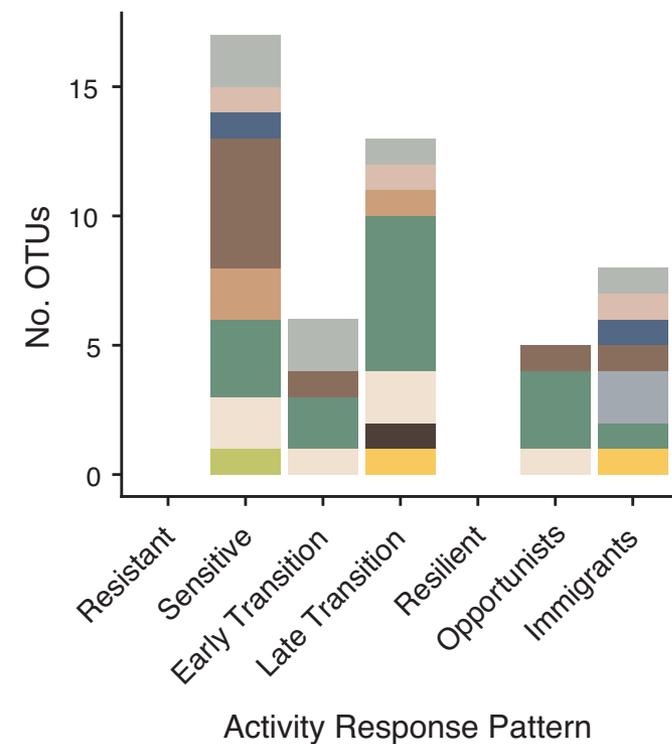
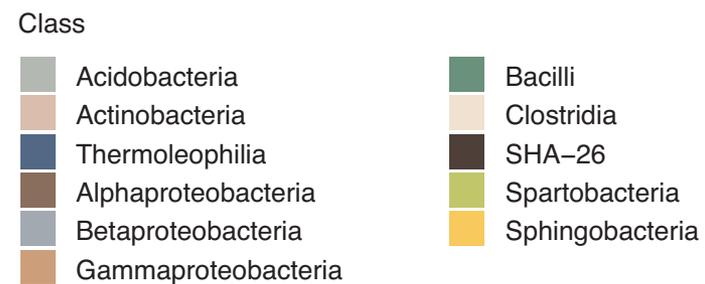




A



B



Supplementary Materials for “Dormancy dynamics and dispersal contribute to soil microbiome resilience” by JW Sorensen and A Shade

Supplementary Results

Relationships between taxon activity and abundance

The conventional thought is that relative abundance is the outcome of growth and therefore an indicator of fitness, and so high relative abundance is indicative of recent or current activity in the environment. However, we detected a weak, but statistically supported, inverse (log₁₀) relationship between OTU 16S rRNA:rRNA gene ratio and relative abundance for those taxa with an rRNA:rRNA gene ratio >1 (**Figure S2A**, Pearson’s R = -.14, p < 0.0001). This result is in agreement with other studies that have suggested that rare taxa may have high activity levels relative to their abundance in the community [42–46]. We present it here to be transparent that there are likely additional active but rare members that contribute to stability that have not been considered in our analyses.

The inverse relationship between activity and abundance could not include taxa that had RNA but no DNA detected (aka “phantom taxa”, [44]) because they have an undefined 16S rRNA:rRNA gene ratio. We make clear that, to be conservative, phantom taxa (that have RNA but no DNA detected) were not included in the analyses, and that rare taxa that had high activity ratios were not included in the description of activity response patterns among the top 50 most abundant taxa. On balance, phantom taxa contributed proportionally few rRNA reads and few unique OTUs to the dataset (**Figure S2 B and C**). However, there were a few exceptions, including five samples that had >10% rRNA reads and > 50% of richness attributed

to phantom taxa. Four of these were from the Disturbance mesocosms at week 14 (peak-thermal press), and one sample was from week 16, at the end of the press. These samples also had relatively low richness and community size (**Figure 2** and **3**). We speculate that, by reducing community size and likely also total microbial biomass, the disturbance indirectly provoked relatively higher contributions by phantom taxa and conditionally rare taxa [47].

Supplementary Figures and Tables

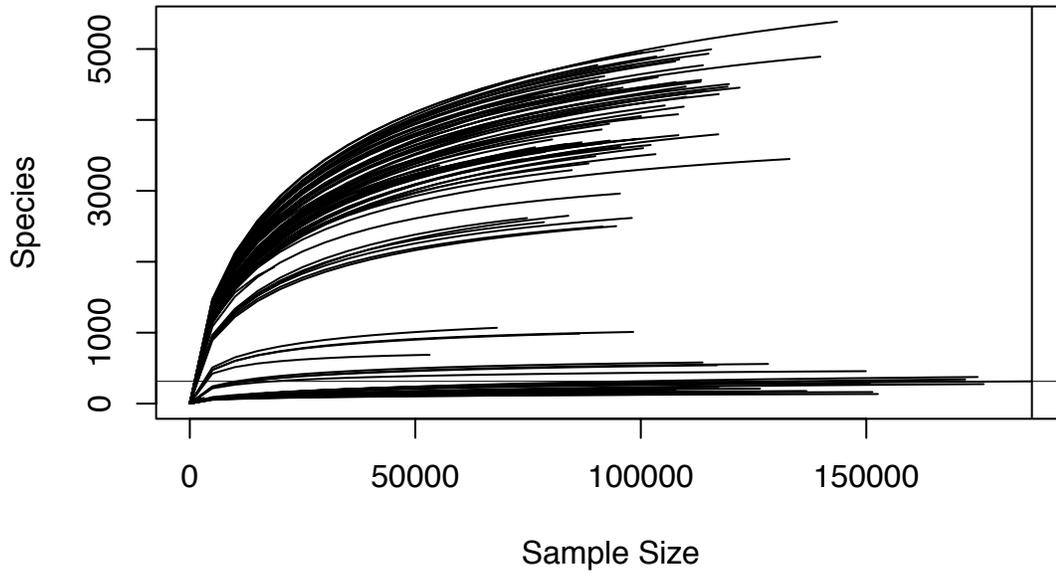


Figure S1: Rarefaction curves for soil mesocosm microbial communities.

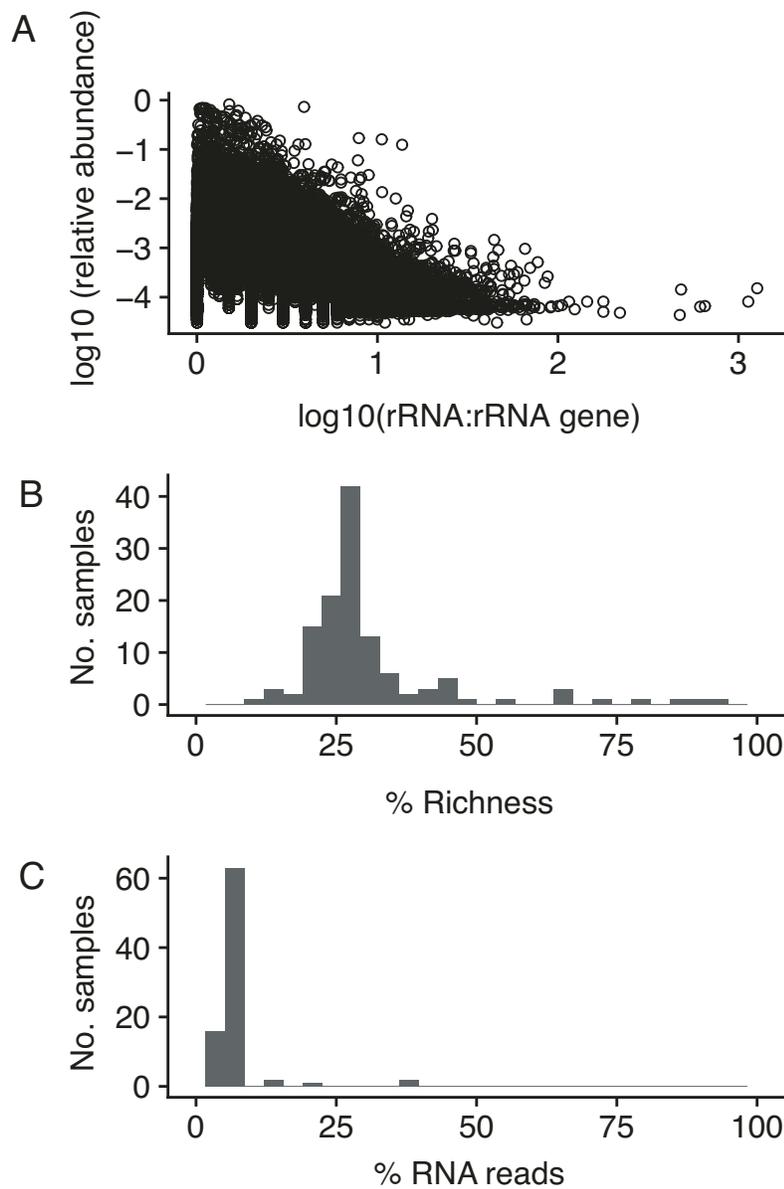


Figure S2. Taxon activity and abundance relationships. (A) \log_{10} relative abundance and \log_{10} rRNA:rRNA gene ratio were inversely correlated. Each point is a different OTU detected in the dataset that had 16S rRNA:rRNA gene greater than or equal to 1. (B) Distribution of percent sample richness (No. OTUs detected, inclusive of DNA and RNA datasets) that were phantom taxa (16S rRNA detected but not 16S rRNA gene). (C) Distribution of percent RNA reads attributed to phantom taxa.

Table S1: Kruskal Wallis tests for Richness between Disturbance and Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms during the press

Week	KW rank sum statistic	p value
4	5.00	0.025
5	1.13	0.289
6	5.33	0.021
10	0.96	0.327
14	0.02	0.885
15	2.00	0.157
16	1.50	0.221

Table S2: Kruskal Wallis tests on community size between Disturbance and Disturbance + Immigration treatments during press

Week	KW rank sum statistic	p value
4	0.59	0.441
5	0.05	0.821
6	3.38	0.066
10	0.90	0.342
14	0.72	0.396
15	4.21	0.040
16	0.55	0.456

Table S3: ANOSIM tests on influence of disturbance on community structure

Week	ANOSIM R	P value
4	0.17	0.055
5	0.57	0.001
6	1.00	0.002
10	1.00	0.002
14	1.00	0.001
15	1.00	0.002
16	1.00	0.001
20	1.00	0.001
45	0.64	0.003

Table S4: ANOSIM results of community structure differences between Disturbance and Disturbance + Immigration mesocosms during the press.

Week	ANOSIM R	p value
4	0.54	0.038
5	0.15	0.222
6	-0.06	0.515
10	-0.05	0.63
14	0.07	0.449
15	0.20	0.196
16	0.04	0.359