

# Short-term CO<sub>2</sub> exposure and temperature rise effects on metazoan meiofauna and free-living nematodes in sandy and muddy sediments: results from a flume experiment

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### 1. Abstract

Global concern over increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the resultant CO<sub>2</sub> driven temperature rises and changes in seawater chemistry, necessitates the advancement of understanding into how these changes will affect marine life now and in the future. Here we report on an experimental investigation into the effects of increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and elevated temperature on sedimentary meiofaunal communities. Cohesive (muddy) and non-cohesive (sandy) sediments were collected from the Eden Estuary in St. Andrews, Scotland, UK, placed within a flume setup and exposed to 2 levels of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (380 and 750 ppmv, current at the time of the experiment, and predicted CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by 2100, respectively) and 2 temperature levels (12 °C and 16 °C, current in-situ and predicted temperature by 2100, respectively). We investigated the metazoan meiofauna and nematode communities before and after 28 days of exposure under these experimental conditions. The most determinative factor for abundance, diversity and community structure of meiofauna and nematodes was sediment type: on all levels, communities were significantly different between sand and mud sediments which agrees with what is generally known about the influence of sediment structure on meiofaunal organisms. Few CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature effects were observed, suggesting that meiofauna and nematodes are generally much less responsive than, for instance, microbial communities and macrofauna to these environmental changes in estuarine environments, where organisms are naturally exposed to a fluctuating environment. This was corroborated by the observed effects related to the different seasons in which the samples were taken from the field to run the experiment. After 28 days, meiofauna and nematode communities in muddy sediments showed a greater response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and temperature rise than in sandy sediments. However, further study is needed to investigate the underlying mechanisms and meiofauna species-specific resilience and responses to ocean acidification and warming, and their interactions with other biota, to understand what such changes may mean for meiofauna communities and the ecosystem processes and functions they contribute to.

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## 2. Introduction

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In the past 800k years CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere have remained in the range of 172-300 parts per million by volume (ppmv) (Luthi et al., 2008). Since the start of the industrial era atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have increased dramatically and are currently exceeding 400 ppmv (parts per million in volume), with predictions of between 550 and 900 ppmv by 2100 (Cao and Caldeira, 2008; Hoegh-Guldberg and Bruno, 2010; IPCC, 2014). Of all the anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere, about 30 % has been absorbed in the surface ocean (<200 m) so far (Sabine et al., 2004). As this CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed, it changes the seawater carbon chemistry and reduces pH in a process that is called “ocean acidification” (Gattuso and Hansson, 2011). Ocean acidification is already occurring (e.g. Caldeira and Wickett, 2003) and is predicted to worsen in the near and distant future with a reduction from pre-industrial pH levels of 8.2 to a projected global average of 7.8 in 2100 (Branch et al., 2013; IPCC, 2014). Ocean acidification, however, is a spatially variable phenomenon that is strongly modified by local conditions, particularly in coastal areas, which could lead to local ocean acidification hot spots. The accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere also increases the natural greenhouse effect and continues to drive global warming (IPCC, 2014). As a result, each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth’s surface than any preceding decade since 1850, and whilst surface temperature increases of up to 4.8 °C are predicted by 2081-2100 (IPCC, 2014), the temperature in the top 100m of the ocean is expected to increase by 0.6 to 2.0 °C by 2100 (Collins et al., 2013). A variety of biological responses to ocean acidification and warming have been measured across a range of taxa, with substantial negative effects on individual responses (such as survival, calcification, growth and reproduction), ecological interactions (such as trophic relationships and organism behaviour) and community characteristics (such as abundance, diversity, production and biomass) (Alsterberg et al., 2013; Danovaro et al., 2004; Gingold et al., 2013; Kroeker et al., 2010). However, significant variation in the sensitivity of marine organisms is observed with for instance calcifying organisms being generally more susceptible to pH reductions than non-calcifying organisms, and pH reductions and temperature increases having different effects depending on the developmental stage or even sex (Ellis et al., 2017) of the organisms being studied and the gradients and shifts of complex ecological interactions (Ingels et al., 2012; Kroeker et al., 2010).

Marine organisms will be faced with a wide range of stressors in our future oceans, and it is therefore imperative that experimental approaches include multiple stressors in their designs to assess species, community, and ecosystem-level responses. Biological responses to ocean acidification and warming (OAW) will depend on physiological trade-offs or energy allocation to sustain the performance, survival and fitness of organisms (Brown et al., 2004; Findlay et al., 2011; Pörtner, 2008; Queirós et al., 2015). However, information from studies focusing on particular species or life-stages of certain species is - although crucial in documenting autecological processes and responses - insufficient to predict future change on the level of ecosystems considering the wide range of trophic and non-trophic interactions between species (Russell et al., 2011). Therefore, approaches that focus on groups of marine organisms that have ecological and functional significance are needed to document the effects and responses to OAW at a community level (Riebesell et al., 2010). In addition to the requirement for more studies integrated over various levels of biological organisation (Ingels et al., 2012), there is also an urgent need for more studies that cover the additive and synergistic effects of ocean acidification and warming occurring simultaneously (Pörtner, 2008).

The meiofauna comprises the small-sized organisms (generally between 32-63 µm and 1 mm; the lower size limit varies in the literature) in the benthos, whose morphology, physiology and life history characteristics have evolved to exploit the interstitial sedimentary space. They occur in often

103 high abundance and diversity in sediments worldwide, and are phylogenetically very diverse (Balsamo et  
1 104 al., 2012). The most abundant metazoan meiofaunal organisms in marine sediments are consistently  
2 105 the nematodes and copepods, with nematodes having colonized virtually every moist habitat that  
3 106 can sustain metazoan life. Meiofauna are important contributors to the physical, chemical and  
4 107 biological properties of sediments, the resilience of those sediments, and their role in benthic food  
5 108 webs has been amply documented (Schratzberger and Ingels, 2017). We can therefore consider  
6 109 them as an important ecological component of benthic ecosystems and alterations to their  
7 110 communities as a consequence of OAW may give much needed insights in to how benthic ecosystem  
8 111 structure and function may respond in future oceans.

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113 Metazoan meiofauna generally comprise non-calcifying, infaunal invertebrates with low mobility.  
114 They are naturally exposed to large fluctuations of pore water pH and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and are  
115 therefore considered likely to be more tolerant than other animal groups to higher CO<sub>2</sub>  
116 concentrations (Gattuso and Hansson, 2011; Widdicombe et al., 2011) and temperature (Giere,  
117 2009; Moens et al., 2013), particularly in shallow-water subtidal and intertidal coastal environments  
118 (Giere, 2009). This (assumed) tolerance, in addition to increased logistic effort associated with  
119 multiple stressors and necessary replication, as well as the required meiofaunal taxonomic expertise,  
120 may explain why relatively few studies so far have documented the effects of OAW on metazoan  
121 meiofauna (Hale et al., 2011; Meadows et al., 2015; Sarmiento et al., 2016). That being said, there  
122 are several studies that have investigated OA or increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration as a single stressor on  
123 metazoan meiofauna or nematodes (Barry et al., 2004; Carman et al., 2004; Dashfield et al., 2008;  
124 Ishida et al., 2013; Ishida et al., 2005; Kurihara et al., 2007; Takeuchi et al., 1997; Thistle et al., 2005;  
125 Widdicombe et al., 2009; Widdicombe et al., 2011). Some of these studies, however, have focused  
126 on effects associated with injected CO<sub>2</sub> or simulated CO<sub>2</sub> leakage or release in the context of Carbon  
127 dioxide Capture and Storage (Barry et al., 2004; Carman et al., 2004; Schade et al., 2016; Thistle et  
128 al., 2005) rather than ocean acidification in a climate change context. Effects of rising temperatures  
129 on metazoan meiofauna and nematodes in the context of climate change have equally been covered  
130 in some detail in existing literature (e.g. Gingold et al., 2013; Ingels et al., 2012). The OAW effects  
131 reported in these studies vary, depending on whether species or communities were studied, and  
132 which ontogenic stage was considered, and of course whether single stressors or multiple stressors  
133 were applied. Notably the influence of ecological interactions such as those between the  
134 macrofauna and meiofauna (trophic and competitive interactions), but also between individual  
135 species, on stressor responses creates a complex view of community dynamics in response to OAW  
136 and requires further study.

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138 In the present study we report on the responses of meiofauna and nematode communities to OAW  
139 in a flume experiment where we exposed two types of intertidal sediment communities (muddy and  
140 sandy) to increased temperatures (+4 °C) and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (750 ppmv) in a fully crossed  
141 design. We sieved the sediments to exclude macrofauna, and hence were able to test more direct  
142 OAW effects on meiofauna in the absence of macro-meiofauna interactions. We used intertidal  
143 sediments, in which meiofauna organisms experience temperature and pH variations, amongst  
144 others, over tidal and diurnal cycles and while they may be well adapted to cope with such  
145 fluctuations, they may also be already pushed to the physiological edge of their tolerances. The main  
146 aim of our study was therefore to assess whether OAW has an effect on meiofauna and nematodes  
147 on a community level in intertidal sandy versus muddy sediments. Little is understood on how  
148 infaunal responses to OAW may differ between different sediment types despite the  
149 acknowledgement that benthic communities in different sediment types are distinct from each  
150 other. In addition, recent reviews document meiofauna and nematode responses to OAW and that  
151 the meiofauna (in particular foraminifera, nematodes, copepods and ostracods) are useful in  
152 detecting and monitoring environmental change and anthropogenic impacts (Zeppilli et al., 2015).  
153 Scientific endeavours to assess responses of marine ecosystems to naturally occurring and

154 anthropogenically induced stressors are currently hampered by a lack of 1) understanding of which  
1 155 taxa will be affected in marine communities and their importance for ecosystem functioning, 2)  
2 156 multistressor experiments which can indicate complex changes and biological interactions on a  
3 157 community and ecosystem scale, and 3) understanding how different marine habitats respond  
4 158 differently to these stressors. Addressing these three issues will improve our ability to accurately  
5 159 assess climate change effects and help predict ecosystem shifts across entire systems (Queirós et al.,  
6 160 2015; Russell et al., 2011; Zeppilli et al., 2015). It is in this context that we addressed the following  
7 161 questions with regards to meiofauna responses to OAW: 1) Does OAW affect meiofauna and  
8 162 nematode communities in shallow-water sediments?; 2) If there are OAW effects, do these effects  
9 163 differ between sandy and muddy shallow-water sedimentary environments?; 3) If there are OAW  
10 164 effects, does warming and ocean acidification together affect meiofauna and nematode  
11 165 communities more strongly than either stressor separately? The hypotheses associated with these  
12 166 questions are H1: “OAW affect meiofauna and nematode communities in terms of abundance,  
13 167 diversity and evenness”; H2: “Meiofauna and nematode community responses to OAW are different  
14 168 in muddy versus sandy sediments”; and H3: “ocean acidification and warming together affect the  
15 169 meiofauna and nematode communities more strongly than either stressor in isolation”.

### 170 20 171 **3. Material and Methods**

#### 21 172 22 173 **3.1. Experimental setup**

##### 23 174 24 175 **3.1.1. Sediment collection**

25 176  
26 177 Two different sediment types were collected from the Eden Estuary near St Andrews, Fife, Scotland  
27 178 over four campaigns (October 2011; April 2012; June 2012 and July 2012). Cohesive surface  
28 179 sediment (<63 µm) was collected from intertidal mudflats (56° 21.9 N, 2° 50.883 W), and permeable  
29 180 sediment was collected from the West Sands bank near the mouth of the estuary (56° 22 N, 2° 49  
30 181 W). Surface sediment (the top oxic layer as visually determined by the sediment colour change of  
31 182 the suboxic layer) was collected in the field, by hand, to a depth of no more than 2 cm. This  
32 183 sediment was placed directly into food-grade buckets and returned to the laboratory for sieving. All  
33 184 sediment was sieved (500 µm for cohesive; 1 mm for permeable) in a seawater bath (UV sterilised,  
34 185 10 µm filtered, salinity ~35) to remove macrofauna and larger shells and stones, and was left to  
35 186 settle for 48 hours prior to removal of the supernatant. This allowed the finer particles of the  
36 187 sediment, along with the meiofauna, to settle. Each sediment type was homogenised and added to  
37 188 custom-built flume tanks, to a depth of 10 cm (Fig. 1). Seawater (1 µm filtered, UV treated, and  
38 189 salinity maintained at 35 through a brine tank set up) was carefully added to each tank and left for a  
39 190 further 48 hours before it was replaced with new seawater (UV treated, 1 µm filtered, ~35 psu). Each  
40 191 tank was then bubbled with ambient air (380 ppmv) for 72 hours prior to implementation of the  
41 192 experimental CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature regimes.

##### 42 193 43 194 **3.1.2. Flume tanks and environmental regimes**

44 195  
45 196 Each sediment type filled three flume tanks (L 120 cm x W 30 cm x H 30 cm; approx.  $3.24 \times 10^4$  cm<sup>3</sup>  
46 197 volume and approx. 10 cm height) per campaign (n=4), with a continuous, recirculating and  
47 198 unidirectional flow of overlying water over the sediment surface (PISCES SC50 water pump, flow rate  
48 199 ~6 cm/s<sup>-1</sup>) for the duration of the experiment (28 days). All six flume tanks in each campaign were  
49 200 subjected to a 12-hour light/dark cycle (Osram daylight tubing L3677, T8, 36 watts, 1200 mm long;  
50 201 two per tank). Two temperature (12 °C, 16 °C) and two CO<sub>2</sub> regimes (380 ppmv, 750 ppmv) were  
51 202 used in a fully-crossed factorial design to provide 3 replicate flume tanks per unique treatment  
52 203 (n=4), with replication spread temporally over campaigns (Fig. 1). CO<sub>2</sub> was bubbled into the water  
53 204 column to reach equilibrium and concentrations in each tank were monitored using a Li-Cor 820 CO<sub>2</sub>

205 gas analyser (Biogeosciences). Each tank was also individually aerated to achieve oxygen saturation.  
1 206 Temperature was controlled by submerged titanium heaters with a digital regulating unit (Aqua  
2 207 Medic T-meter) for the duration of the experiment.  
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### 4 209 **3.1.3. Carbonate system analysis**

5 210  
6 211 Water samples were taken weekly in light and dark conditions for total alkalinity (TA, 30 ml) and DIC  
7 212 (12 ml) and poisoned with 50 µl saturated HgCl<sub>2</sub> solution. Samples were stored in acid-washed,  
8 213 rinsed, capped glass bottles and refrigerated (4°C) prior to analysis. TA samples were analyzed using  
9 214 an automatic potentiometric 196 titrator (888 Titrand, Metrohm, Switzerland) with Tiamo® V 2.1  
10 215 software. A three-point calibration was performed using buffer solutions pH 4, 7 and 9 (Metrohm UK  
11 216 Ltd.) prior to analysis. The precise volume of HCl acid added was plotted against pH, and this curve  
12 217 was then logged to produce a straight line. The gradient of this line was used to calculate TA  
13 218 (Dickson et al., 2007). Certified CO<sub>2</sub> reference material (Andrew G. Dickson, Scripps Institution of  
14 219 Oceanography, California, USA) was used to monitor the sampling accuracy of the titrator (Dickson  
15 220 et al., 2003). DIC was determined using a CM140 Total Inorganic Carbon Analyzer (UIC Inc, USA)  
16 221 following Dickson *et al.* (2007). Blanks were run at the start of each analysis to calibrate the machine  
17 222 and to determine the carrier gas carbon content. Seawater standards of known concentration were  
18 223 then also run through the DIC machine to ascertain precision and accuracy within ± 0.01 mmol l<sup>-1</sup>.  
19 224 Prior to each analysis a standard solution of sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>), made to known  
20 225 concentrations, was run until a precision of 0.03 % deviation was achieved from three consecutive  
21 226 samples. IAPSO seawater samples (commercially available) were also routinely run through the  
22 227 machine to check accuracy.  
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### 24 229 **3.1.4. Nutrient analysis**

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26 231 Water samples were collected weekly from each flume using 50 ml syringes and a 0.45 µm filter, and  
27 232 were stored in clean 45 ml centrifuge tubes for freezing at -20°C. Samples were defrosted prior to  
28 233 analysis, and gently mixed through manual inversion to reduce saline stratification in the sample  
29 234 tubes. An auto-analyser (LaChat 8500 Flow Injection) analysed four nutrients from each sample in  
30 235 triplicate: ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>), nitrite + nitrate (NO<sub>2</sub> + NO<sub>3</sub>) and Silicate (Si). Low  
31 236 nutrient concentration seawater (salinity 35) was used for standard preparation and machine  
32 237 calibration.  
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## 34 239 **3.2. Sampling**

35 240  
36 241 Sediment samples were taken towards the middle of the flume using 4 x 10 mL syringes (1.4 cm  
37 242 diameter; 6-7 cm deep) at T0 and T28 for each flume and campaign. Syringes were frozen at -20 °C  
38 243 to allow for different types of analyses. In the laboratory, the sediments of the four syringes per  
39 244 sampling point were pooled (6.158 cm<sup>2</sup> surface area) and left to thaw in 4 % formaldehyde in order  
40 245 to avoid degradation of the meiofauna during thawing. Pooling of the four syringes was conducted  
41 246 to remove meiofaunal spatial heterogeneity in the flume sediments. The pooled samples were then  
42 247 washed through a 1 mm sieve onto a 63 µm sieve. To extract the meiofauna from the sediment  
43 248 fraction, the material that remained on the 63 µm sieve was thoroughly mixed using a plastic paddle  
44 249 with Ludox TM-50 (specific gravity 1.15) in 500ml glass beakers and left for 40 minutes to enable  
45 250 density separation to occur. This process was repeated 3 times (Somerfield and Warwick, 1996)  
46 251 whereby each time the supernatant Ludox containing the meiofauna organisms was decanted and  
47 252 washed. The final washed and extracted sample was then stored in 75 % Industrial Methylated Spirit  
48 253 until further analysis. From each sample, a subsample of between 20 % or 30 % of total sample  
49 254 volume was taken and meiofauna major taxa were counted under stereoscopic microscope using  
50 255 (Higgins and Thiel, 1988). All Nematodes (or 100 if subsample contained more) were picked out and  
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256 mounted on glass slides for genus identification under compound microscope (Somerfield and  
1 257 Warwick, 1996) using appropriate reference materials (Platt and Warwick, 1983, 1988; Warwick et  
2 258 al., 1998). While the protozoan group Sarcomastigophora were counted (they include Foraminifera,  
3 259 flagellates and radiolarians) we have limited our results and discussion to the metazoan meiofauna  
4 260 because they are ecologically and biologically very different to metazoans and we have not  
5 261 identified the different taxa within the Sarcomastigophora. The use of the term meiofauna in the  
6 262 rest of the study refers to metazoans only. A total of 11,441 meiofauna (6,146 nematodes)  
7 263 individuals were identified for this study.  
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### 10 265 **3.3. Data processing and statistical analysis**

11 266  
12 267 Density and diversity: Meiofauna abundance values were calculated as total sample abundance  
13 268 converted to number of individuals per 10 cm<sup>2</sup>. Diversity was calculated as number of major taxa  
14 269 (meiofauna) and number of genera (nematodes), Shannon-Wiener's diversity index and Pielou's  
15 270 evenness index (using PRIMER v7, Clarke and Gorley, 2015). Graphs and non-metric MDS plots  
16 271 (Clarke and Gorley, 2015) were used to visualize sampling and experimental results. Univariate tests  
17 272 for differences (density, number of taxa, Shannon diversity and Pielou's evenness) were conducted  
18 273 with non-parametric analyses of variance (PERMANOVA) using Primer v7 (Clarke and Gorley, 2015)  
19 274 and the add-on PERMANOVA+ (Anderson et al., 2008). Because of the complex design of the  
20 275 experimental setup we applied a 4-way PERMANOVA test (fixed Factors [levels]: Temperature [12°C,  
21 276 16°C], CO<sub>2</sub> concentration [380, 750 ppmv], Time [day 0, day 28], Sediment [sand, mud]) on the  
22 277 meiofauna and nematode data, followed by 3-way PERMANOVA tests on split sediment-type data  
23 278 (i.e. sand, mud; fixed Factors [levels]: Temperature [12°C, 16°C], CO<sub>2</sub> concentration [380, 750 ppmv],  
24 279 Time [day 0, day 28]) and 2-way PERMANOVA tests on split sediment type-time data sets (Sand-T0,  
25 280 Sand-T28, Mud-T0, Mud-T28; fixed Factors [levels]: Temperature [12°C, 16°C], CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  
26 281 [380, 750 ppmv]). In the few cases where the number of permutations was <100 we used Monte  
27 282 Carlo values, and the Estimated Components of Variation were sometimes used to interpret the size  
28 283 of the effects.  
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30 285 Communities: The multivariate meiofauna and genus matrices were also subjected to multivariate  
31 286 statistics using Primer v7 (Clarke and Gorley, 2015) and the add-on PERMANOVA+ (Anderson et al.,  
32 287 2008). Here we also applied a 4-way PERMANOVA test (Factors [levels]: Temperature [12°C, 16°C],  
33 288 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration [380, 750 ppmv], Time [day 0, day 28], Sediment [sand, mud]) on the meiofauna  
34 289 and nematode community data, followed by 3-way and 2-way tests on split data as done for the  
35 290 abundance and diversity data, with factors and levels as identified above. The meiofauna and  
36 291 nematode community data were standardised and transformed prior to analysis (meiofauna: 4<sup>th</sup>  
37 292 root, nematodes: sq. root) to account for sample size differences (20 % vs. 30 %) and downweight  
38 293 the influence of numerically dominant major taxa/nematode genera. Bray-Curtis similarity was used  
39 294 for both meiofauna and nematode community data. Significance was assessed as p<0.05. Non-  
40 295 metric MDS plots were created to accompany the non-parametric tests. Cluster analyses (including  
41 296 SIMPROF test at 5 % significance) were performed to analyse significant groupings of samples which  
42 297 were then superimposed on nMDS outputs.  
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44 299 The PERMANOVA tests were used to assess treatment differences as well as assessing the nature of  
45 300 the differences of each factor and their potential interactions. These analyses were followed by  
46 301 pairwise comparisons where significant differences occurred. PERMDISP analyses were performed  
47 302 where appropriate to identify whether significant PERMANOVA results were caused by differences in  
48 303 location in Bray-Curtis (multivariate) or Euclidean (univariate) space or the homogeneity of  
49 304 dispersion of the samples within group, or a combination of both (Anderson et al., 2008). Differences  
50 305 in the multivariate dispersion of assemblage data may indicate stress in the observed communities,  
51 306 and can contribute to our understanding of how communities react to temperature and CO<sub>2</sub>  
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307 concentration increases in our case (Anderson et al., 2008). Although increased variability may be an  
1 308 artefact caused by low abundance in samples (causing the resemblance measure to vary to a much  
2 309 greater extent compared to high abundance samples), the application of standardisation  
3 310 (transforming absolute abundance into relative abundance) renders the test more useful for  
4 311 assessing stress in communities, although caution with interpreting the results is recommended  
5 312 (Anderson et al., 2008).  
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7 314 The potential effects of the different times at which sampling for the experiment occurred and the  
8 315 six different flumes that were used were assessed by means of 2-way PERMANOVAs, and  
9 316 accompanying pairwise tests where necessary (Factors [levels]: Campaign, Ca [2, 4, 5, 6]; Flume, Fl  
10 317 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]). These 2-way tests were performed on meiofauna abundance, diversity and  
11 318 community data and nematode diversity and community data, and were repeated for the full data  
12 319 (sand and mud together), sand and mud separately, and each of the Sand-T0, Sand-T28, Mud-T0,  
13 320 Mud-T28 data sets. In some cases, and because of the design, there was no replication between  
14 321 crossed factor levels, causing the exclusion of interaction terms in the PERMANOVA or even  
15 322 rendering tests invalid; this has been indicated in the test result tables and its implications have  
16 323 been considered in the interpretations of the results.  
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## 21 325 **4. Results**

### 23 327 **4.1. Environmental variables**

24 328  
25 329 The pH level was  $7.90 \pm 0.022$  (standard error) and  $8.03 \pm 0.024$  for the control treatments (380  
26 330 ppmv), 12 °C and 16 °C, respectively. The pH level for the high-CO<sub>2</sub> treatments was  $7.86 \pm 0.023$  and  
27 331  $7.77 \pm 0.031$  for 12 and 16°C, respectively. Total alkalinity (TA) and DIC were slightly higher in the  
28 332 muddy sediments (TA = 2.8 mmol/kg, DIC 2.6-2.7 mmol/kg) than in the permeable sandy sediments  
29 333 (TA = 2.6-2.7 mmol/kg, DIC 2.3-2.5 mmol/kg) throughout the experiment. This is due to the fact that  
30 334 there are higher benthic respiration rates in the muddy flumes compared to the sandy flumes, which in  
31 335 turn would have stimulated CaCO<sub>3</sub> dissolution (release of CO<sub>2</sub> from respiration increase the CaCO<sub>3</sub>  
32 336 dissolution). The CaCO<sub>3</sub> dissolution generated both DIC and TA; Nutrients showed overall higher  
33 337 concentrations in the muddy sediment compared to the sandy sediment (except for  
34 338 phosphate). Nutrient, DIC and TA data are presented in Table 1. We observed that DIC levels were  
35 339 highest in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> treatments (750 ppmv), which was expected due to the addition of CO<sub>2</sub>  
36 340 compared to the 380 ppmv treatments. This was not reflected in TA, as CO<sub>2</sub> invasion only affects DIC and  
37 341 not TA.  
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### 41 344 **4.2. Meiofauna abundance, diversity and community structure**

#### 42 345 **4.2.1. Meiofauna abundance**

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45 348 Meiofauna abundance was highly variable with a minimum of 75.8 and maximum of 9,841.6 ind. 10  
46 349 cm<sup>-2</sup> and averaging  $1,735.3 \pm 2,136.5$  ind. 10 cm<sup>-2</sup>. A 4-way PERMANOVA test on meiofauna  
47 350 abundance indicated only significant sediment-type differences (p=0.001) caused by a combination  
48 351 of differences in dispersion (greater abundance variability in the muddy sediments, PERMDISP,  
49 352 p=0.007) and actual abundance differences (greater abundance in muddy sediments, Fig. 2; Table  
50 353 S1). Sandy sediments contained on average  $374.4 \pm 586.8$  ind. 10cm<sup>-2</sup> whilst muddy sediments  
51 354 contained  $3,096.1 \pm 2,263.2$  ind. 10 cm<sup>-2</sup>. Despite an average decrease in abundance between day 0  
52 355 and day 28 for both sandy and muddy sediments (Fig. 2A), high variability in recorded values  
53 356 rendered the time effect insignificant (p=0.109). Further evidence for this is provided by the  
54 357 PERMDISP analysis between sediment-time groups (p=0.001), with the high abundance variability in  
55 358 mud and sand sediments at day 0 and day 28 causing an increased dispersion effect. As average  
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359 abundance decreases throughout the duration of the experiment for both sediment types we also  
1 360 see a decrease in the variability of meiofauna. The only treatment effect observed was for CO<sub>2</sub>  
2 361 exposure in the mud samples after day 28 (Table S1, Fig. 2B), with significantly lower abundance in  
3 362 the 750 ppmv samples compared to the 380 ppmv samples. This density decrease was caused by a  
4 363 reduction across several taxa, with major decreases in numbers of nematodes, copepods, and  
5 364 ostracods (Fig. 2C-D).  
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#### 8 366 **4.2.2. Meiofauna diversity**

9 367

10 368 In terms of diversity, a wider range of effects was observed. The number of major meiofauna taxa or  
11 369 taxon richness (S) ranged between 1 and 8, averaging 3.5 across all samples, and samples were  
12 370 dominated by Nematoda (84.4 %) and Copepoda (11.3 %), whilst Sarcomastigophora and  
13 371 Oligochaeta each represented just over 1 %, and Acari, Bivalia, Gastrotricha, Kinorhyncha,  
14 372 Ostracoda, Rotifera and Turbellaria were each present in much lower abundance (<1 %). Taxon  
15 373 richness was significantly higher in muddy compared to sandy sediments ( $p=0.001$ , Fig. 3) with no  
16 374 dispersion differences (PERMDISP,  $p=0.749$ ); sandy sediments contained between 1 and 7 taxa,  
17 375 averaging  $1.8 \pm 1.4$  taxa per sample, whilst muddy sediments contained between 3 and 8 taxa,  
18 376 averaging  $5.3 \pm 1.8$  taxa per sample. A number of 2-factor interactions were significant (Ti x Se, Ti x  
19 377 CO<sub>2</sub>, Se x Te). Pairwise testing for these interactions and further investigation using 3-way  
20 378 PERMANOVA tests (Ti, Te, CO<sub>2</sub>) on sandy and muddy sediment sample groups separately revealed:  
21 379 [1] a time effect (day 0 vs. day 28) in sandy but not in muddy sediments; [2] a severe sediment effect  
22 380 at day 0 as well as day 28; [3] some evidence for a time effect in the CO<sub>2</sub> control (380 ppmv) and  
23 381 enriched (750 ppmv) samples (borderline  $p$ -values of 0.051, and 0.081, respectively); [4] a difference  
24 382 between day 0 samples in the 380 ppmv and 750 ppmv treatment ( $p=0.037$ ); [5] a clear sediment  
25 383 effect in both 12°C and 16°C treatments ( $p=0.001$ ), and [6] a temperature effect in muddy sediments  
26 384 at day 0 ( $p=0.014$ ). Taking all these test results together (including the accompanying PERMDISP  
27 385 results), they suggest that [1] there are substantial differences between starting communities mostly  
28 386 owing to sediment differences and variability of taxon presence, [2] sediment differences may  
29 387 obscure other treatment effects, and [3] there is some effect due to the time spent in the flume  
30 388 setup (Table S1). Observations [1] and [2] were confirmed by a significant temperature effect on  
31 389 diversity at day 0 ( $p=0.025$ ) and not day 28 ( $p=0.3$ ) in muddy sediments despite the fact that there  
32 390 had not been substantial exposure to higher temperatures yet at day 0 (pairwise comparisons in 3-  
33 391 way PERMANOVA (Ti, Te, CO<sub>2</sub>) in muddy sediments), and the significant difference between CO<sub>2</sub>  
34 392 treatments at day 0 ( $p=0.039$ ) and not day 28 ( $p=0.356$ ) in sandy sediments prior to exposure  
35 393 (pairwise comparisons in 3-way PERMANOVA (Ti, Te, CO<sub>2</sub>) in sandy sediments). The idea that time  
36 394 spent in the flume has an effect on meiofauna taxon richness was evidenced by the significant  
37 395 dispersion effects observed when comparing day 0 and day 28 in both sandy and muddy sediment  
38 396 groups (PERMDISP:  $p=0.015$  and  $0.001$ , respectively), without finding significant temperature or CO<sub>2</sub>  
39 397 effects.  
40 398

41 399 Pielou's evenness was not a discriminative measure since none of the statistical tests revealed any  
42 400 significant differences. Some of the tests were hampered by the low number of taxa in some of the  
43 401 samples making the calculation of Pielou's index invalid, whilst other tests revealed no significant  
44 402 differences using the various PERMANOVA designs.  
45 403

46 404 Four-way PERMANOVA testing on the Shannon diversity measure indicated a significant sediment-  
47 405 type difference across all time, temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> exposure groups ( $p=0.001$ ) which was not  
48 406 caused by dispersion differences (PERMDISP:  $p=0.136$ ). This difference can be clearly observed in Fig.  
49 407 3. No other main-factor significant differences in the various tests were observed (Table S2).  
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#### 51 409 **4.2.3. Meiofauna community structure**

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1 411 Four-way PERMANOVA testing indicated significant sediment-type differences across all groups  
2 412 ( $p=0.001$ ) and several significant interactions (Table S1). Sediment type differences were caused in  
3 413 part by differences in dispersion with clearly greater community variability in the mud samples  
4 414 compared to a closer resemblance between sand samples (PERMDISP:  $p=0.006$ ; nMDS in Fig. 4).  
5 415 Pairwise testing for the significant Time x Sediment interaction revealed a borderline difference  
6 416 between day 0 and day 28 for mud samples ( $p=0.06$ ) and slightly greater community differences  
7 417 between sand and mud samples at day 28 ( $p=0.004$ ) compared to day 0 ( $p=0.004$ ). Pairwise  
8 418 comparisons within the Time x CO<sub>2</sub> interaction indicated a significant difference between 380 ppmv  
9 419 and 750 ppmv at day 0, suggesting the difference resulted from differences between the starting  
10 420 communities and not the different CO<sub>2</sub> exposure. Pairwise tests for the significant Sediment x Time  
11 421 interaction was caused by significant differences between sediment types at 12°C and 16°C ( $p=0.001$   
12 422 for both) and not the community differences between 12°C and 16°C in each sediment type ( $p=0.25$   
13 423 and  $p=0.238$ ). The significant Time x Sediment x Temperature interaction was caused by sediment-  
14 424 type differences and greater community variability in the 16°C group for both sand and mud samples  
15 425 ( $p=0.015$  and  $0.05$ , respectively). Separating the mud and sand data and performing 3-way  
16 426 PERMANOVA tests did not add anything new to these interpretations, apart from confirming a  
17 427 difference in day 0 communities (for instance between 380 ppmv and 750 ppmv in sandy sediments,  
18 428  $p=0.03$ , Table S1). Taking the sediment-type-time data as separate sets, and conducting 2-way  
19 429 PERMANOVA tests, did not add anything new to what is reported above.

### 24 430

#### 25 431 **4.3. Nematode diversity and community structure**

##### 26 432

##### 27 433 **4.3.1. Nematode diversity**

28 434

29 435 A total of 39 nematode genera were identified, averaging  $12.2 \pm 4.5$  genera per sample, with genus  
30 436 richness ranging between 4 and 19 in samples. Nematode genus richness differed significantly  
31 437 between sediment types in the 4-way PERMANOVA test ( $p=0.001$ , Table S2, also see Fig. 5, 6). When  
32 438 splitting the data into mud and sand groups, 3-way PERMANOVA tests revealed a time effect across  
33 439 the mud samples (day 0 vs. day 28,  $p=0.037$ ). Further testing revealed a significant effect of CO<sub>2</sub>  
34 440 exposure level in the mud samples at day 28 (pairwise testing in 3-way PERMANOVA,  $p=0.04$ ; 2-way  
35 441 test at day 28,  $p=0.041$ ; Fig. 6). At day 28, mud samples exposed to 380 ppmv averaged  $14.2 \pm 2.3$   
36 442 genera, compared to  $16.8 \pm 1.5$  genera in the 750 ppmv treatment (Fig. 6).

37 443 PERMANOVA testing on Pielou's evenness index ( $J'$ ) indicated significant differences between  
38 444 sediment types ( $p=0.018$ ) and a CO<sub>2</sub> exposure effect after 28 days in the mud samples (2-way  
39 445 PERMANOVA test,  $p=0.035$ , Table S2). The CO<sub>2</sub> exposure difference in evenness of mud samples at  
40 446 day 28 was more severe at 16 °C ( $p=0.005$ ), whilst a temperature effect was observed in the 380  
41 447 ppmv mud samples at day 28 ( $p=0.024$ ).

42 448

43 449 PERMANOVA testing using Shannon Wiener index ( $H'$ ) showed a significant sediment-type effect  
44 450 ( $p=0.004$ ) and an interaction effect between sediment type and CO<sub>2</sub> exposure level ( $p=0.046$ ).  
45 451 Pairwise testing showed that the CO<sub>2</sub> exposure effect was only observed in the mud samples  
46 452 ( $p=0.034$ ). This observation was confirmed with the 3-way test on the mud sample group (CO<sub>2</sub> effect,  
47 453  $p=0.039$ ) and the 2-way test on mud samples at day 28 (CO<sub>2</sub> effect,  $p=0.005$ ). In addition, mud  
48 454 samples exposed to 380 ppmv changed significantly in terms of Shannon diversity between day 0  
49 455 and day 28 ( $p=0.005$ ).

##### 50 456

##### 51 457 **4.3.2. Nematode community structure**

52 458

53 459 Whilst for the meiofauna community structure the mud samples showed greater heterogeneity  
54 460 compared to the sand samples, using nematode genera data the opposite pattern was observed (Fig.

7). The nMDS plots in Fig. 7 with superimposed SIMPROF analyses presents clearly the greater variability in nematode communities in sand samples compared to the mud samples.

The 4-way PERMANOVA test on the nematode community indicated a clear sediment-type and time effect ( $p=0.001$  and  $0.044$ , respectively). Fig. 8 shows the relative abundance of genera (10 most important genera in terms of relative abundance) and gives an idea of the genus composition in sand and mud samples, with mainly *Metachromadora* dominating the sand samples and *Anoplostoma*, *Metachromadora* and *Ptycholaimellus* dominating the mud samples. PERMDISP analysis indicated that the differences between sediment types is in part caused by the differences in dispersion of mud vs. sand samples in Bray-Curtis space ( $p=0.001$ ), i.e. communities were more heterogeneous in the sand samples compared to the mud samples. The time effect was consolidated in the mud sample data (3-way PERMANOVA, Time:  $p=0.022$ ). There were no signs of a temperature or  $CO_2$  exposure effect. This suggests that time spent in the flume may have had an effect on the nematode communities, particularly in the mud sediments, regardless of the different treatment levels.

#### 4.4. Experimental controls – Campaign (sampling time) and Flume effects

For each of the meiofauna and nematode abundance, diversity and community data sets, 2-way PERMANOVA tests were carried out to assess the effects of campaign (time at which the samples were taken before transfer to the flume) and the flumes (six flume tanks were used). Results of these tests can be found in Table S3 (meiofauna) and Table S4 (nematodes).

For the meiofauna data, very few significant differences for the main factors were observed. For meiofauna Pielou evenness, there was a significant effect of Campaign and Flume ( $p=0.001$ ,  $0.005$ , respectively) which was not caused by differences in homogeneity of dispersions (PERMDISP,  $p=0.824$ ,  $0.713$  for factors Campaign and Flume, respectively). The fact that no treatment effects on meiofauna Pielou evenness were found (see above), suggests that only effects caused by differences in flume setup and/or the time of sampling (Campaign) were present. Subtle Campaign effects were observed on meiofauna Shannon diversity and community structure for mud samples on day 28 (Table S3) suggesting the time of sampling before starting the experiment may have interfered with the treatment effects observed after 28 days of experiment as presented in section 4.1.1-4.1.3.

For the nematode full data set (both sand and mud samples together), clear Campaign and Flume effects were observed (Table S4) for all diversity descriptors (genus richness (S), Pielou's evenness, Shannon diversity), but only Flume effects for community structure. Further Flume effects were also observed on nematode genus richness and Shannon diversity, when only sand samples were considered, whilst Campaign effects were significant for Pielou evenness in sand samples and sand samples at day 0, and for community structure in mud samples and mud samples at day 0. This suggests the time of sampling prior to the experiment (Campaign) and the different flumes may have had an additive effect to the treatment effects observed (Time,  $CO_2$ , Temperature). Notably the significant interaction terms (Ca x Fl) and pairwise differences suggest that there were differences between particular pairs of campaigns, flumes and levels of one factor (campaign or flume) within each level of the other factor (flume or campaign). For instance, the pairwise test for the factor Campaign on nematode genus richness using the full data set (mud and sand samples together) showed that Campaign 2 and 4 did not differ, and the same was true for Campaign 5 and 6, whilst pairwise comparisons between Campaigns of these two groups (i.e. 2 vs. 5, 2 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5, 4 vs. 6) were significant at the  $p<0.05$  level. Pairwise comparisons for the factor Flume on nematode genus richness (again using mud and sand sample data together) indicated that Flume 1 was significantly different from all other Flumes. When we performed pairwise comparisons for nematode Pielou evenness we observed that Campaign 5 was different to all others, and that Flume 1, again, was different from all other Flumes. For Shannon diversity, Campaign 6 was different to all other

512 campaigns and Flume 1 stood out in contrast to the other Flumes. Finally, using nematode  
1 513 community structure, it was again Flume 1 that differed significantly, but this time only compared to  
2 514 some of the other Flumes.

3 515  
4 516 This of course creates a complex picture of potential interactions between the effects caused by the  
5 517 experimental protocol (factors Campaign and Flume) and the treatment effects (Temperature, CO<sub>2</sub>),  
6 518 but also the duration of the experiment (i.e. day 0 vs. day 28). However, we can say with some  
7 519 confidence that for the meiofauna results, this will have made little or no difference in interpreting  
8 520 the treatment effects. For the nematodes, some caution is warranted since the effects of Campaign  
9 521 and Flume are more obvious, and this across the range of community descriptors. At the same time,  
10 522 however, such effects are only apparent when mud and sand samples are considered together,  
11 523 potentially indicating the importance of the differences between sand and mud samples. In addition,  
12 524 when investigating the differences between Campaigns and Flumes, it becomes clear that the  
13 525 differences are caused by a limited set and not the full set of samples within each Campaign or  
14 526 Flume that differ significantly from the samples grouped within the other Campaigns or Flumes in  
15 527 what is in essence a type of outlier effect on the overall result. This implies that Campaign and Flume  
16 528 effects are not uniform across all the samples considered, and reduces the potential additive  
17 529 influence of Campaign and Flume effects on the Temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> effects.

## 21 530 22 531 **5. Discussion**

23 532  
24 533 Ocean acidification and warming are expected to have a range of impacts on marine species,  
25 534 populations and communities (Pörtner, 2008; Pörtner et al., 2004; Widdicombe, 2009; Widdicombe  
26 535 et al., 2011). While the majority of meiofauna and nematode OAW studies have detected limited  
27 536 impacts of changes that lie within the expectations of global warming within the next century or so,  
28 537 there are well-founded concerns about the potential impacts on organismal physiology and energy  
29 538 allocation under increased levels of stressors (Pörtner, 2008; Pörtner and Farrell, 2008). Here we  
30 539 report on the community level responses of meiofauna and nematodes to a 4 °C increase (12 vs. 16  
31 540 °C) and increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (380 vs. 750 ppmv). Our interpretations are therefore limited to  
32 541 assessing differences and variability on the community level, which give insights into the trade-off  
33 542 between species or groups of species, and potentially the underlying causes of community changes.  
34 543 The sediments used in our experiment were sieved to exclude macrofauna, and our experimental  
35 544 setup precludes any influence from pelagic organisms, such as phytoplankton communities. It could  
36 545 be that the biggest impacts in meiofauna from OAW is or will be from changes in the communities  
37 546 with which they interact strongly; e.g. macrofauna (predation, competition for food, etc.) or  
38 547 phytoplankton (e.g. changes to the type and quality of organic matter). We therefore note that our  
39 548 study focuses more on the direct impact of OAW on the meiofauna themselves, and the indirect  
40 549 impacts resulting from interactions with microbial and microphytobenthos communities.

### 45 550 46 551 **5.1. Meiofauna**

47 552  
48 553 Without doubt the most important driver for the abundance, diversity and community differences  
49 554 we observed was sediment type, and this both at the beginning (day 0) and the end (day 28) of the  
50 555 experiment, and across the different temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> treatments. Muddy sediments were  
51 556 characterised by much higher meiofauna abundances than the sandy sediments (Fig. 2), an  
52 557 observation that can potentially be related to the higher density of microbial food sources in muddy  
53 558 sediments compared to sandy sediments (Currie et al., unpublished data). Higher respiration rates in  
54 559 the muddy sediments as indicated by DIC results are supported by higher meiofauna abundance in those  
55 560 sediments and the higher abundance of bacterial, archaeal, and cyanobacterial 16S rRNA genes in muddy  
56 561 sediments compared to sandy sediments (Currie et al., unpublished data). Sediment type and  
57 562 immediately related parameters such as grain size, surface area, porosity and permeability are key  
58 563 factors since they determine the physical and chemical environment of the interstitial space

564 inhabited by the meiofauna and affects food availability for the meiofauna. Whilst mesobenthic  
1 565 species moving between the sand grains prefer coarse sands, endo- and epibenthic species will  
2 566 generally prefer fine to silty sediments (Giere, 2009). It is therefore not surprising that meiofauna  
3 567 tend to be more sensitive to changes in sediment composition than the macrofauna (Heip et al.,  
4 568 1985; Warwick and Buchanan, 1970), which makes them a useful faunal component to detect  
5 569 benthic environmental change in an OAW experiment using different sediment types. The 11-year  
6 570 meiobenthos study by Coull and co-authors (1985) in which they investigated subtidal estuarine  
7 571 muddy and sandy sites in South Carolina, USA, showed that variability in meiofauna abundance at  
8 572 the mud site was twice that of the sand site they studied. This corroborates our observation that  
9 573 meiofauna abundance in the mud samples varies much more compared to abundance in the sand  
10 574 samples (Fig. 2). This pattern was also visible in the meiofauna community variability as shown in the  
11 575 nMDS of Fig. 4, with greater dispersion of the mud samples compared to the sand samples in Bray  
12 576 Curtis resemblance space. However, considering the seasonal and interannual abundance variability  
13 577 Coull et al. (1985) had found and as reported in the review by Giere et al. (2009), we were surprised  
14 578 to see no campaign effect (i.e. seasonal) on meiofauna abundance, particularly in the mud samples  
15 579 where highest and consistent seasonal variability was expected (Table S3). Despite abundance peaks  
16 580 of over 5,000 ind. 10 cm<sup>-2</sup> in mud samples of Campaign 4 (April) and peaks of over 7,000 ind. 10 cm<sup>-2</sup>  
17 581 in mud samples of Campaign 5 (June), the large differences between mud sample abundances  
18 582 resulted in a lack of significant Campaign differences and may be related to spatial variability of  
19 583 meiofauna across the samples. For instance, meiofauna and nematodes are known to have  
20 584 aggregated distribution patterns in virtually all marine habitats with patch sizes smaller than 5 cm in  
21 585 diameter, mainly in response to microtopographic irregularities and aggregate distribution of food  
22 586 sources (Moens et al., 2013 and references therein). It therefore meets expectations that the spatial  
23 587 scale of cm to m is generally found to be the most important source of variability for meiofauna  
24 588 organisms (Fonseca et al., 2010; Ingels and Vanreusel, 2013; Moens et al., 2013; Rosli et al., 2016;  
25 589 Vieira and Fonseca, 2013).

590  
31 591 Aside from the sediment effect, there was also a significant CO<sub>2</sub> exposure effect on meiofauna  
32 592 abundance in the mud samples at day 28, which is visualised in the box-whisker plot in Fig. 2. This  
33 593 suggests a moderately negative impact on meiofauna abundance in muddy sediments. When  
34 594 investigating each major taxon, it became apparent that the density decrease was caused by a  
35 595 reduction across most taxa, with major decreases in numbers of nematodes, copepods, and  
36 596 ostracods (Fig. 2). This pattern is in line with our expectations based on the likely metabolic cost of  
37 597 coping with high CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and potentially the resulting reduction in fitness and survival.  
38 598 Some studies have shown that the meiofauna community may exhibit significant mortality following  
39 599 CO<sub>2</sub> exposure; e.g. decreased meiofauna abundance associated with a rapid pH drop of ~1.5 in deep-  
40 600 sea sediments in Carman et al. (2004) and Barry et al. (2004) or meiofauna abundance decrease  
41 601 under increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration conditions of 20,000 ppmv at 2,000 m water depth in the  
42 602 Kumano trough off Japan (Ishida et al., 2005). Ishida et al. (2013), on the other hand, reported no  
43 603 abundance decline under increased CO<sub>2</sub> exposure at 400 m depth in a Norwegian Fjord, but slow  
44 604 decomposition rates in deep cold waters (low microbial activity) may have caused an overestimation  
45 605 of meiofauna abundance in high-CO<sub>2</sub> treatments in the absence of specific staining to detect  
46 606 live/dead ratios (Carman et al., 2004). Explanations for abundance effects other than mortality may  
47 607 include physiological processes and behaviour including escaping the unfavourable high-CO<sub>2</sub>  
48 608 conditions in the case of relatively mobile organisms such as copepods (Thistle et al., 2007).  
49 609 Observations of CO<sub>2</sub> effects on meiobenthos in the deep sea, however, may not be comparable to  
50 610 shallow-water observations owing to the likely adaptation of deep-sea organisms to environmentally  
51 611 stable conditions and therefore increased sensitivity to environmental change compared to their  
52 612 shallow-water counterparts. Hale et al. (2011) and Meadows (2015), for instance, reported  
53 613 unaffected or even increased nematode abundance under high-CO<sub>2</sub> conditions, likely as a result of  
54 614 reduced macrofaunal competition and predation, whilst Schade et al. (2016) and Kurihara et al.

615 (2007) found no nematode and meiofauna abundance response to high CO<sub>2</sub> treatments (1,500-  
1 616 24,400 µatm CO<sub>2</sub> (Schade et al., 2016); 2,000 ppmv above the 380 ppmv CO<sub>2</sub> control level (Kurihara  
2 617 et al., 2007)). At the same time, Schade et al. (2016) reported that the abundance of non-dominant,  
3 618 calcifying meiofauna (gastropods and ostracods) declined in response to high CO<sub>2</sub> concentration,  
4 619 whilst the non-calcifying gastrotrichs increased in abundance in response to very high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>  
5 620 concentration. Meadows et al. (2015) reported that other meiofauna groups such as copepods,  
6 621 copepodites and amphipods decreased in abundance in low-pH treatments, suggesting that different  
7 622 meiofauna taxa and even different species within the same group (e.g. nematodes in Takeuchi et al.,  
8 623 1997; copepods in Thistle et al., 2006) have different tolerances to CO<sub>2</sub> exposure. It is important to  
9 624 note here that one should distinguish between pH reductions or CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations that can be  
10 625 associated with ocean acidification and those associated with the simulation of point-source leakage  
11 626 in the context of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Most, if not all, studies investigating CO<sub>2</sub>  
12 627 impacts on meiofauna abundance report significant effects only when applying severe pH reductions  
13 628 in experimental setups (e.g. >1 pH unit change, or even an incredible pH 5.5-6 in Takeuchi et al.  
14 629 (1997)) and are not comparable to pH reductions of 0.1 or 0.2 units as is the case here. Reductions in  
15 630 pH of more than 1 unit are not associated with ocean acidification as predicted under climate  
16 631 change scenarios, and suggest that meiofauna in general are not affected in terms of abundance as a  
17 632 result of short- to long-term exposure to ocean acidification. This is another reason why deep-sea  
18 633 studies are difficult to compare to shallow-water studies; so far deep-sea studies have mainly  
19 634 addressed the impacts of potential CO<sub>2</sub> storage or leakage on benthic assemblages in CCS contexts  
20 635 instead of looking at ocean acidification impacts.

21 636  
22 637 Going back to the results of the present study, we need to consider the fact that the sediments were  
23 638 sieved to remove macrofauna before incubation in the flume system. A decrease in meiofauna  
24 639 abundance as a result of CO<sub>2</sub> exposure is therefore likely a direct effect and not an indirect  
25 640 macrofauna effect caused through reduced interactions with potentially more severely affected  
26 641 macrofauna (Dashfield et al., 2008). Indirect effects, however, may have resulted through altered  
27 642 meiofauna-microbial interactions and may play an important role in our results. Microbial data from  
28 643 our experiment (Currie et al., unpublished data) indicate significant negative CO<sub>2</sub> effects on bacterial,  
29 644 archaeal and cyanobacterial abundance (as assessed through 16S rRNA gene abundance) in muddy  
30 645 sediments after 28 days in the experiment. Considering microbiota are important food sources for  
31 646 meiofauna (e.g. Montagna, 1984) and particularly nematodes it is likely that a reduction in available  
32 647 food may have had consequences for meiofauna abundance. We also have to consider the fact that  
33 648 a negative CO<sub>2</sub> effect on meiofauna abundance was only observed in the muddy sediments (and not  
34 649 the sandy sediments) which corresponds with the substantial microbial abundance decline observed  
35 650 only in muddy sediments (Currie et al., unpublished data). This supports the likelihood of an indirect  
36 651 CO<sub>2</sub> effect on meiofauna abundance through a microbe-meiofauna relation, most likely a trophic  
37 652 interaction. In addition, we have to consider a potential indirect trophic effect on the meiofauna  
38 653 through a change in abundance and community structure of the microphytobenthos which are  
39 654 prevalent in intertidal muddy sediments. In the same experiment cyanobacterial/chloroplast 16S  
40 655 rRNA gene abundances were reduced and microbial community structure was altered under  
41 656 increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the muddy sediments, yet, gene abundance increased in the higher temperature  
42 657 treatment alone (Currie et al., unpublished data). Microphytobenthos is a well-known food source  
43 658 for different meiofauna (Lebreton et al., 2012; Montagna et al., 1995; Rzeznik Orignac et al., 2008) in  
44 659 intertidal and other coastal marine systems and observations from a previous experiment indicate  
45 660 that there may be a tight correlation between meiofauna and microphytobenthos responses to OAW  
46 661 (Unpublished meiofauna data from another experiment, (Tait et al., 2015)). Trophic restructuring of  
47 662 the meiofauna community (and subsequent diversity changes) in response to a change in  
48 663 microphytobenthos abundance and community structure is a likely scenario since variation in  
49 664 trophic meiofauna types and their abundance has been closely linked with microphytobenthos  
50 665 consumption in intertidal systems (Montagna et al., 1995; Rzeznik-Orignac and Fichet, 2012). It is  
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666 very likely that meiofauna abundance was reduced in response to reduced microphytobenthos  
1 667 availability as food source in the high CO<sub>2</sub> treatments. Alternatively, or additionally, the fact that a  
2 668 CO<sub>2</sub> effect occurred only in muddy sediments may be linked to different types of assemblages in the  
3 669 two sediment types and hence potentially different organism tolerance levels, carbonate chemistry,  
4 670 diffusion, and permeability variability between both sediment types.  
5 671

6 672 In our experiment, cyanobacterial/chloroplast 16S rRNA gene abundance increased in the higher  
7 673 temperature treatment (Currie, unpublished data), yet no significant meiofauna response is  
8 674 observed for temperature alone. Considering meiofauna life cycles can be shortened under higher  
9 675 temperatures one may expect meiofauna abundance to increase in the high temperature treatment  
10 676 (Giere, 2009), particularly in the case of nematodes (Gerlach and Schrage, 1971; Heip et al., 1985;  
11 677 Hopper et al., 1973; Vranken et al., 1988; Warwick, 1981). However, the relatively short period (4  
12 678 weeks) of our experiment may have been too short for such an effect to show given meiofauna  
13 679 reproductive cycles can vary between a couple of days and more than two months depending on the  
14 680 taxon and environmental conditions (Giere, 2009). In their experimental work on biofilm production  
15 681 and macrofaunal grazing during five weeks of OAW conditions, Russel and colleagues (2013) found  
16 682 that whilst primary production increased, consumer grazing decreased, suggesting increased energy  
17 683 expenditure of the consumer in response to their higher metabolic requirements under OAW. Such a  
18 684 scenario does not seem applicable to the meiofauna in our higher temperature treatments,  
19 685 suggesting that the intertidal meiofauna used here may experience relatively little additional  
20 686 metabolic cost under such conditions. Considering intertidal fauna experience extreme temperature  
21 687 gradients under natural conditions, our 4°C temperature increase may have had little effect.  
22 688

23 689 As mentioned at the beginning of this section, meiofauna taxon richness and Shannon diversity  
24 690 differed significantly between sand and mud samples, with consistently higher major taxon richness  
25 691 and Shannon diversity in muddy sediments compared to sandy sediments (Fig. 6). This supports the  
26 692 idea that sediment type and meiofauna diversity is linked as has been reported in several other  
27 693 studies (Giere, 2009 and references therein). The consistency of the sediment type differences  
28 694 across meiofauna diversity measures and across experimental treatments highlights the importance  
29 695 of sediment characteristics in determining the type of meiofauna communities that reside in them  
30 696 and the diversity they exhibit.  
31 697

32 698 The CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature effects on meiofauna taxon richness for day 0 in sand and mud samples,  
33 699 respectively, and the CO<sub>2</sub> effect on meiofauna community structure in day 0 sand samples (Table S1)  
34 700 may be caused by differences between the starting communities or pre-treatment of the sediments  
35 701 (irrespective of sediment type) and does not represent a true CO<sub>2</sub> or temperature effect as a result  
36 702 of the different experimental treatments. Indeed, these differences occur at day 0, before exposure  
37 703 was initiated. Such initial distinction between assemblages is likely representative of assemblage  
38 704 differences as observed in the field, and potentially relates to differences associated with the month  
39 705 in which the samples were taken. Results from the Campaign x Flume statistical tests on meiofauna  
40 706 confirm this to some extent, with a significant Campaign effect on Pielou evenness (sand samples),  
41 707 and Shannon diversity and community structure for day 28 mud samples (Table S3), implying that  
42 708 initial diversity and community differences may persist to some extent through 28 days of  
43 709 experimental exposure. Further evidence for high initial variation can be provided by comparing the  
44 710 standard deviations of the respective diversity measures between day 0 and day 28 samples for each  
45 711 sediment type (each sediment type taken separately to remove the overwhelming sediment type  
46 712 effect): a clear pattern of “shrinking variation” of the meiofauna diversity measures over the  
47 713 duration of the experiment is apparent. This is illustrated by the decreasing size of standard  
48 714 deviation bars of the diversity values over time in Fig. 3. We have presented this pattern more  
49 715 clearly by plotting the size of the standard deviations of each meiofauna diversity measure in Fig. 9,  
50 716 as it clearly shows that variation decreases as communities and assemblages are exposed to 28 days  
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717 of experimental conditions. It is remarkable that, despite the differences in absolute values of  
1 718 diversity measures between sandy and muddy sediments (cf. size of the bars in Fig. 3), the variation  
2 719 – as judged by standard deviation - in these values is in fact very similar. This suggests that the  
3 720 observed “shrinking variation” occurs irrespective of the sediment type, and likely irrespective of the  
4 721 season or month in which the samples were taken from the field.  
5 722

## 7 723 **5.2. Nematodes.**

8 724  
9 725 As was the case for the meiofauna, the most pronounced difference for nematode diversity and  
10 726 community structure was caused by sediment type. This is clearly shown in Fig. 5-8 (arguably most  
11 727 clearly in the separation between sand and mud samples in the nMDS in Fig. 7). Although nematode  
12 728 density tends to increase in finer sediments such as mud and fine silt, diversity has been reported to  
13 729 be higher in coarser sediments (Heip et al., 1985; Steyaert et al., 1999). This pattern has been  
14 730 ascribed to increased microhabitat heterogeneity thought to be available in the latter (Heip et al.,  
15 731 1985) which could support more diverse communities with more closely related species co-existing  
16 732 (Steyaert et al., 1999). In sediments finer than about 120 µm a true interstitial fauna is lacking and a  
17 733 poorer burrowing fauna remains. However, such reasoning omits the potential of meiofauna and in  
18 734 particular nematodes to manipulate the fine sediments by means of their own bioturbation activities  
19 735 and causing increased microhabitat heterogeneity as well as the stimulation of biogeochemical  
20 736 processes (Bonaglia et al., 2014). In addition, fine sediments are usually associated with greater  
21 737 concentrations of nutrients contained between the fine grains and may promote coexistence of  
22 738 nematode genera and species. Moreover, the manipulation of the sediments prior to our  
23 739 experiment by means of sieving has excluded the presence of macrofauna and hence their  
24 740 contribution to microhabitat heterogeneity. Our results clearly suggest a higher nematode diversity  
25 741 in muddy sediments compared to sandy sediments, in favour of the idea that higher food availability  
26 742 in muddy sediments allows for more diverse nematode assemblages. This is supported by the  
27 743 enhanced levels of nutrients that were found in muddy compared to sandy sediments in our  
28 744 experiment. Despite muddy sediments being more diverse in our study, community variability was  
29 745 much greater in sandy sediments compared to muddy sediments (Fig. 7). The main reason for this  
30 746 may well be related to the much lower numbers of organisms recovered from the sand samples  
31 747 compared to the mud samples. The Bray-Curtis similarity measure we used is very sensitive when  
32 748 comparing low-abundance samples (e.g. comparing samples with one individual each can result in  
33 749 100 % or 0 % similarity), and disparity between samples with low numbers of individuals may  
34 750 therefore become inflated compared to samples with higher abundance (Clarke et al. 2006).  
35 751 Regardless of what caused the greater variability of nematode communities in sandy sediments  
36 752 compared to muddy sediments, it is clear that they are indeed very different. The nMDS plots in Fig.  
37 753 7 show a high-level distinction between nematode communities from both sediment types.  
38 754 Sediment characteristics such as organic matter content, porosity, permeability, grain size, etc. are  
39 755 key factors in determining the community that is present in different sediment types. We will not go  
40 756 into much detail on which genera were present in sandy versus muddy sediments in our  
41 757 experimental samples, but our data corresponds with findings of several other studies and support  
42 758 the distinction between sediment types based on nematode communities (e.g. Somerfield and  
43 759 Warwick, 1996). For instance, chromadorid genera (particularly *Metachromadora*) dominate sandy  
44 760 sediments much more than muddy sediments (Fig. 8), and typical genera such as *Anoplostoma* and  
45 761 *Ptycholaimellus* are prevalent in the muddy sediments (e.g. Heip et al., 1985; Moens et al., 2013;  
46 762 Netto and Gallucci, 2003; Yodnarasri et al., 2008 to name but a few). Our results also support the  
47 763 notion that nematodes appear very sensitive to even slight changes in sediment composition  
48 764 (discussed extensively in Giere, 2009; Heip et al., 1985).  
49 765

50 766 Focusing on temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> treatments, there are some significant differences that emerge  
51 767 from our statistical testing. A significant CO<sub>2</sub> effect is observed for nematode genus richness and  
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768 Pielou evenness in mud samples of day 28 (higher values in 750 ppmv treatment), and for Shannon-  
1 769 Wiener diversity in mud samples and mud samples of day 28 (higher values in 750 ppmv treatment;  
2 770 Fig. 6, Table S2). So it appears that the increased CO<sub>2</sub> exposure used in our experiment is able to  
3 771 influence nematode diversity, but only in muddy sediments, and does so by increasing diversity.  
4 772 Despite the fact that it is generally acknowledged that nematodes are good indicators of any kind of  
5 773 disturbance or environmental change (Balsamo et al., 2012), we did not expect nematode diversity  
6 774 to be influenced - let alone increase - by CO<sub>2</sub> exposure. Meadows et al. (2015) reported no significant  
7 775 nematode diversity effect in their various pH treatments, nor did Schade et al. (2016) and Dashfield  
8 776 et al. (2008). Although nematode diversity effects have generally not been observed in high-CO<sub>2</sub>  
9 777 experiments to date, community differences in response to high CO<sub>2</sub> exposure have been reported  
10 778 (see Meadows et al., 2015, although Schade et al. (2016) reports no nematode community changes  
11 779 under high- CO<sub>2</sub> exposure). There are indications that different nematode species may respond  
12 780 differently to lower pH owing to different behaviour (activity, feeding behaviour), possession of  
13 781 different physiological needs and thresholds (Takeuchi et al., 1997), as well as in response to  
14 782 predatory release from other predator nematodes or turbellarians if those predators were less  
15 783 tolerant to changing conditions. However, our experiment revealed no nematode community  
16 784 differences as a result of different CO<sub>2</sub> exposures. The only community structure effects we observed  
17 785 were caused by the differences between day 0 and day 28 (for sand samples and sand and mud  
18 786 samples together; Table S2).

22 787  
23 788 Aside from some CO<sub>2</sub> effects, we also observed a temperature effect on nematode genus richness in  
24 789 mud samples. Meadows et al. (2015) found a consistent negative effect of higher temperature (16 °C  
25 790 vs. 12 °C) across pH treatments on average nematode species richness, expected number of species  
26 791 (ES[50]), and Pielou evenness, whilst we found the opposite: nematode genus richness was lower  
27 792 under higher temperature (also 16 °C vs. 12 °C) across both CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in mud sediments  
28 793 (Fig. 10). One potential explanation is that opportunistic species (r-strategists) may have  
29 794 outcompeted multiple K-strategy species, having benefited from the higher temperature. That being  
30 795 said, there are no other temperature effects observed in any of the tests on the nematode data (e.g.  
31 796 evenness, community structure) suggesting it may be a straightforward loss of some genera in the  
32 797 community.

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36 799 As for the meiofauna discussed above, nematode communities vary substantially on a monthly and  
37 800 yearly basis, with sediments sampled in different seasons exhibiting different abundance, diversity  
38 801 and community structure (Schratzberger et al., 2008; Vanaverbeke et al., 2004). Changes in  
39 802 nematode communities are best explained through food quality, quantity (availability) and  
40 803 temperature in sublittoral systems since these environmental characteristics may influence different  
41 804 species differently (reflecting different life histories and feeding modes), resulting in dynamic  
42 805 communities from season to season (Heip et al., 1985; Moens and Vincx, 2000; Schratzberger et al.,  
43 806 2008; Yodnarasri et al., 2008). The expectation that monthly and seasonal differences are likely to  
44 807 affect the nematode community characteristics (Yodnarasri et al., 2008) in our experimental samples  
45 808 was confirmed through the significant Campaign effects on nematode diversity values (mud and  
46 809 sand samples together; no significant result for community structure, Table S4). To investigate  
47 810 further the nature of the Campaign effects, we performed two-way tests on nematode genus  
48 811 richness and Shannon-Wiener diversity, using Campaign and sediment type as main crossed factors,  
49 812 and saw that sediment type effects remained significant whilst Campaign effects were borderline  
50 813 ( $p=0.065-0.071$ ; no significant interaction term). This implies that the sediment effects were indeed  
51 814 distinguishable from potential Campaign effects, hence validating the sediment effects discussed  
52 815 above, but also that there are differences between the sampling months which were unlikely to  
53 816 influence the other effects observed (CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, Time).

### 59 817 60 818 **5.3. Conclusions and future work**

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1 820 Our experiment has shown that the meiofauna and nematode communities originating from  
2 821 intertidal muddy and sandy sediments are relatively tolerant to the direct effects of OAW in a  
3 822 relatively short (4-week) mesocosm experiment. With regard to our hypotheses, we have shown  
4 823 that: (H1) OAW affects meiofauna and nematode communities to a very limited extent; (H2)  
5 824 meiofauna and nematode community responses to OAW are very different in muddy versus sandy  
6 825 sediments, with effects mostly found in muddy sediments; and (H3) Ocean acidification and warming  
7 826 together to do not present additive or synergistic effects on meiofauna and nematode community  
8 827 characteristics.

10 828  
11 829 Sediment type was by far the most discriminating factor for meiofauna and nematode community  
12 830 structure, diversity, and evenness. There were negative CO<sub>2</sub> effects on meiofauna abundance in mud  
13 831 samples, caused by a reduction in abundance of notably the nematodes, copepods and ostracods.  
14 832 High CO<sub>2</sub> exposure resulted in increased nematode genus richness, Shannon diversity and Pielou  
15 833 evenness. The only warming effect we observed, was a negative influence on nematode genus  
16 834 richness. In general, there were no significant interaction effects between CO<sub>2</sub> exposure and  
17 835 warming. These findings paint a complex picture whereby OAW influences meiofauna and nematode  
18 836 communities most likely through their food sources such as bacteria and microphytobenthos. Under  
19 837 OAW conditions, the ecological interactions may change: shifts in major taxa abundances and  
20 838 nematode genera trade-offs are likely consequences in benthic systems subjected to OAW.

23 839  
24 840 Before meiofauna and in particular nematodes can be used as indicators for ocean acidification and  
25 841 warming a better understanding is needed of their spatial and temporal variation as well as  
26 842 improved knowledge on their physiology and life histories, and this in different environmental  
27 843 settings and marine habitats. Information on community responses do not necessarily provide a  
28 844 mechanistic view of the responses of the individuals and reasons behind different responses of  
29 845 species. As is often the case in meiofauna and nematode impact studies, information is often drawn  
30 846 from a multitude of studies in which particular meiofauna higher taxa or nematode genera or  
31 847 species have been observed to respond to a particular stressor or environmental change (Balsamo et  
32 848 al., 2012). In addition, our understanding of how different taxa and levels of biological organisation  
33 849 respond to ocean acidification and warming is limited, but it has been shown that different life  
34 850 stages will respond differently (Ingels et al., 2012; Kroeker et al., 2010). The ability to provide a  
35 851 comprehensive overview on meiofauna and nematode responses to ocean acidification and warming  
36 852 relies on studies which enable the separation of responses from higher taxa, species, and life stages  
37 853 to the different stressors. Moreover, and perhaps more importantly, insights into the ecological  
38 854 interactions between different meiofauna components as well as interactions between meiofauna  
39 855 and other biota are needed to achieve an understanding of true community responses to ocean  
40 856 acidification and warming. Our study has also shown that there is a need for integration between  
41 857 autecological and synecological studies and multi-stressor approaches to achieve an ecosystem view  
42 858 and to account for environmental interactions and revealing additive or synergistic effects of  
43 859 different types of stressors (Zeppilli et al., 2015). It has previously been asserted that more multi-  
44 860 stressor experiments are needed to reveal complex ecological and biological interactions in a  
45 861 changing marine environment (Zeppilli et al., 2015). Finally, identifying meiofauna and nematodes is  
46 862 time-intensive and costly. Metagenomic barcoding may provide a more cost-effective way of  
47 863 identifying impact responses of communities. However, DNA-based meiofauna and nematode  
48 864 identification cannot yet rely on a species- and life-stage-specific understanding of the mechanistics  
49 865 of responses as well as the interactions and variability of these responses. It is therefore important  
50 866 that studies are conducted to provide mechanistic lower-taxon insights as well as community  
51 867 understanding of responses to OAW.

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3 873

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884 **7. Figures and tables**

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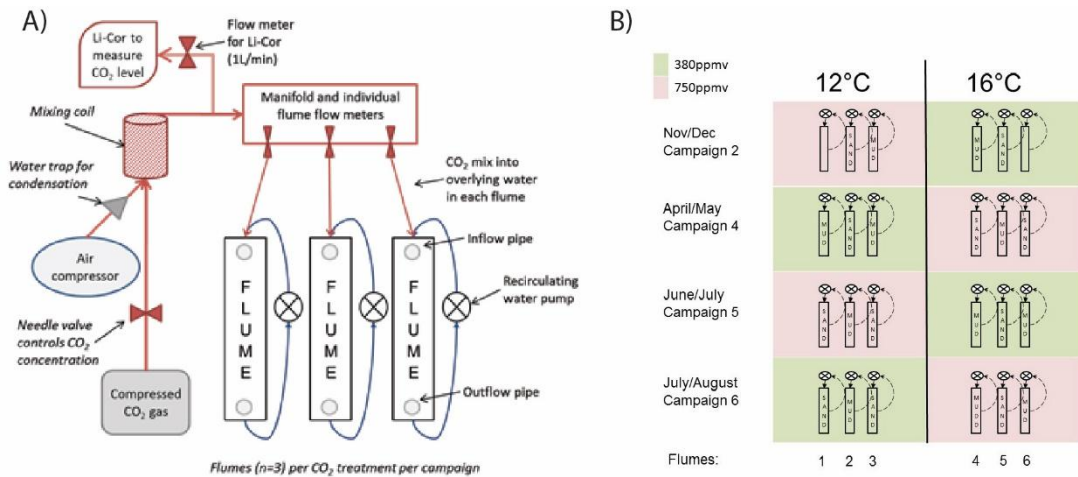
<i>Temperature</i>	<b>Muddy sediment</b>				<b>Sandy sediment</b>			
	<i>12°C</i>	<i>16°C</i>	<i>12°C</i>	<i>16°C</i>	<i>12°C</i>	<i>16°C</i>	<i>12°C</i>	<i>16°C</i>
<b><i>CO<sub>2</sub> level</i></b>	<b><i>380</i></b>	<b><i>380</i></b>	<b><i>750</i></b>	<b><i>750</i></b>	<b><i>380</i></b>	<b><i>380</i></b>	<b><i>750</i></b>	<b><i>750</i></b>
	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>	<i>ppm</i>
NH <sub>4</sub> (μmol)	11.92	7.57	22.48	5.41	7.05	4.58	8.31	3.99
	<i>±3.74</i>	<i>±2.61</i>	<i>±6.74</i>	<i>±1.93</i>	<i>±1.85</i>	<i>±1.33</i>	<i>±2.16</i>	<i>±1.38</i>
PO <sub>4</sub> (μmol)	0.11	0.19	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.88	0.65	0.15
	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.03</i>	<i>±0.01</i>	<i>±0.03</i>	<i>±0.03</i>	<i>±0.17</i>	<i>±0.16</i>	<i>±0.05</i>
Si (μmol)	0.77	1.08	0.58	1.51	1.12	1.77	1.66	0.87
	<i>±0.43</i>	<i>±0.44</i>	<i>±0.16</i>	<i>±0.84</i>	<i>±0.38</i>	<i>±0.37</i>	<i>±0.39</i>	<i>±0.24</i>
NO <sub>3</sub> + NO <sub>2</sub> (μmol)	18.58	40.11	21.84	27.70	1.14	10.21	5.38	0.70
	<i>±4.04</i>	<i>±6.54</i>	<i>±3.77</i>	<i>±7.33</i>	<i>±0.50</i>	<i>±3.84</i>	<i>±2.93</i>	<i>±0.18</i>
Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (mM)	2.63	2.79	2.71	2.83	2.33	2.42	2.42	2.43
	<i>±0.04</i>	<i>±0.06</i>	<i>±0.04</i>	<i>±0.05</i>	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.02</i>
Total Alkalinity (mM)	2.83	2.97	2.88	2.88	2.58	2.67	2.65	2.65
	<i>±0.05</i>	<i>±0.05</i>	<i>±0.06</i>	<i>±0.07</i>	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.03</i>	<i>±0.02</i>	<i>±0.03</i>

888 **Table 1. Mean seawater chemistry values for the different treatments. Values in italics denote standard**  
889 **errors for means.**

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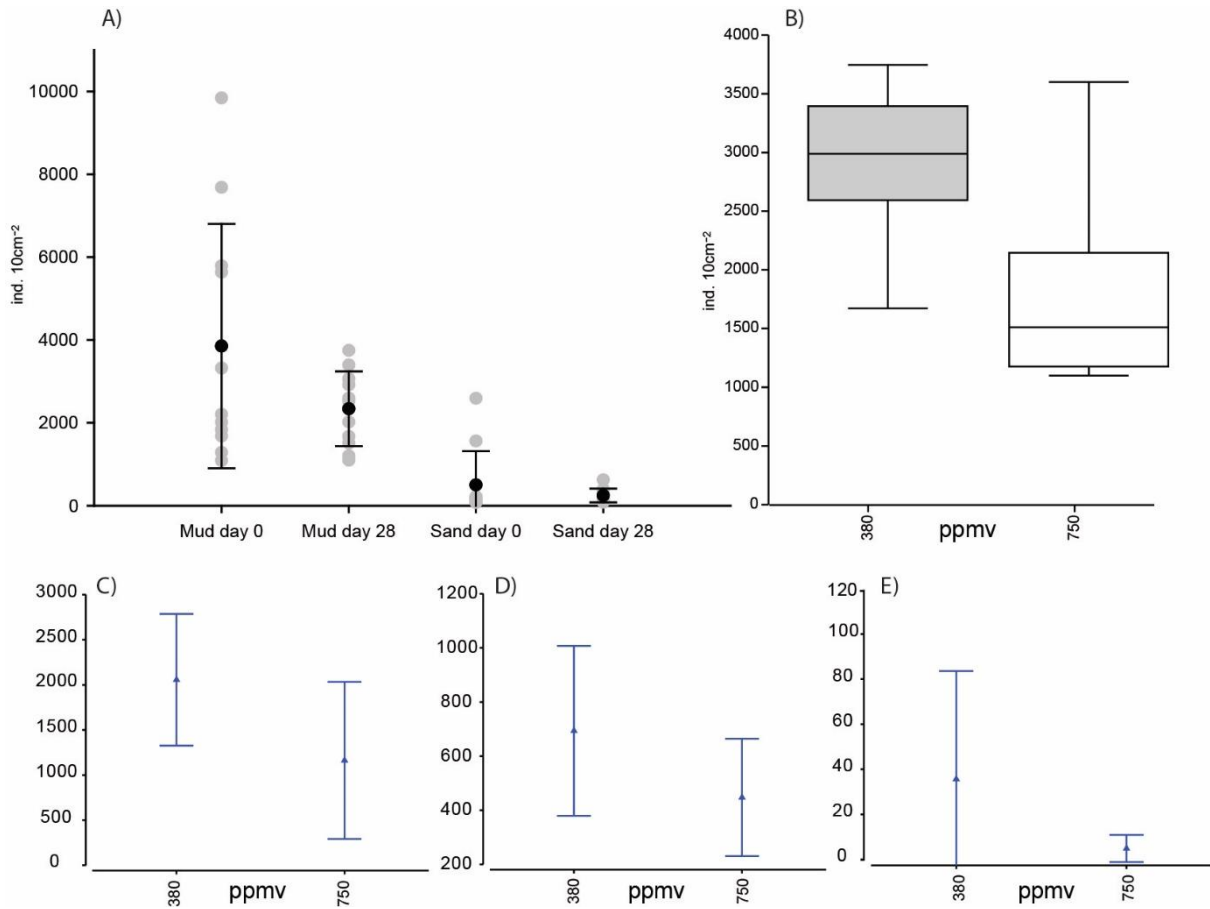
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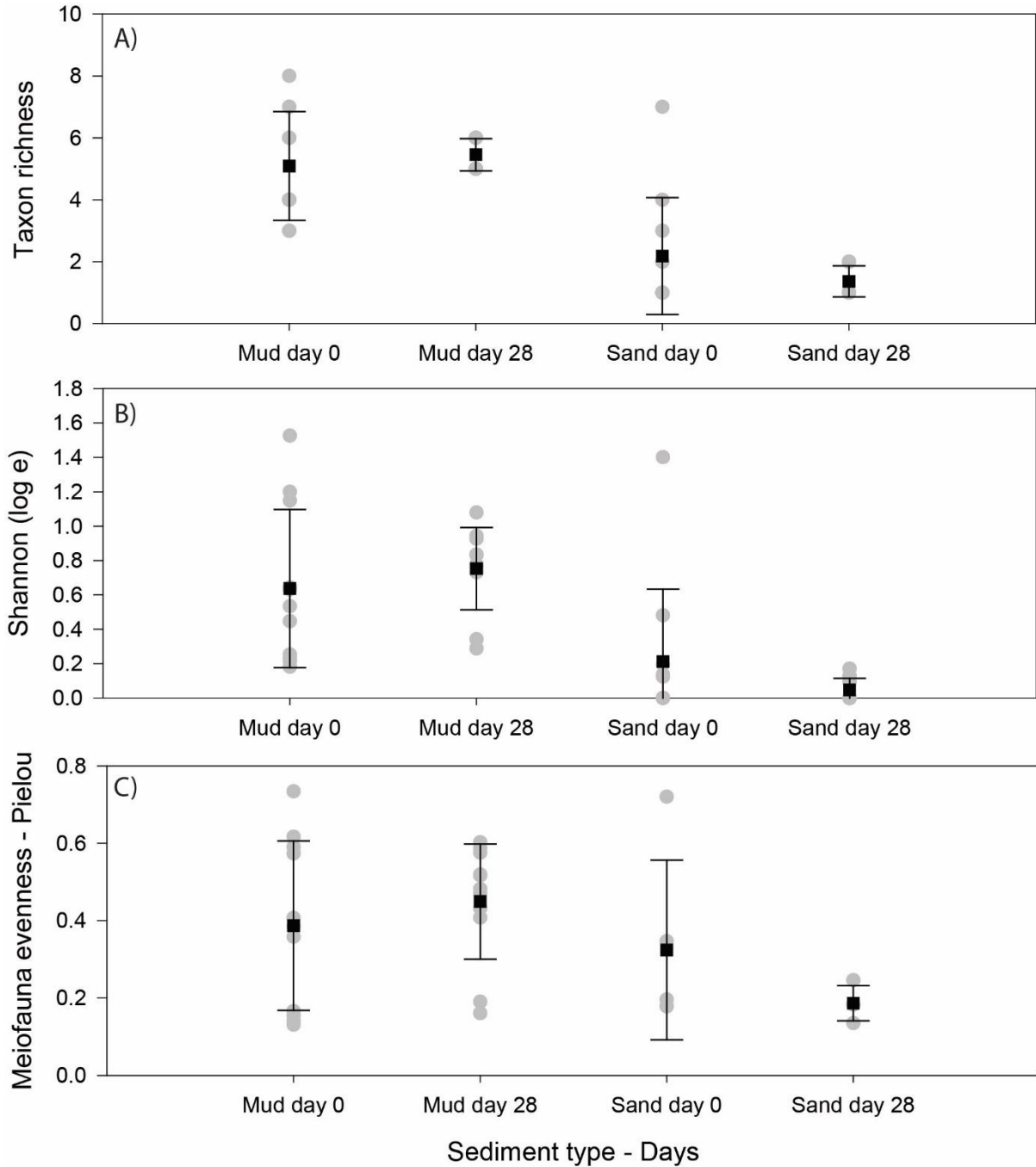
Fig. 1. (A) Schematic diagram of experimental setup and circulation system; (B) schematic of the experimental treatments in the flume tanks (empty flumes in Campaign 2 were not used for this study).

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901 **Fig. 2. (A) Meiofauna abundance for sediment-type-day groups of samples (average ( $\pm$ SD, n=11) in black and**  
 902 **sample abundances in grey), (B) Box and whisker plot of meiofauna abundance (ind. 10 cm<sup>-2</sup>) for mud**  
 903 **samples at day 28 with 380 ppmv (n=6) and 750 ppmv treatment (n=5). Box boundaries represent 25-75**  
 904 **percentile, line within box represents median, error bars indicate 90<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> percentiles. C-E) abundance**  
 905 **(average ind. 10cm<sup>-2</sup>, error bars indicate 95 % confidence intervals) comparison between 380 (n=6) and 750**  
 906 **ppmv (n=5) at 28 days in mud samples, C) nematodes, D) copepods, E) ostracods.**  
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911 **Fig. 3. Meiofauna diversity measures for sediment-type-day groups of samples (average (±SD, n=11) in black**  
912 **and sample abundances in grey). (A) Meiofauna taxon richness (S), (B) Meiofauna Shannon diversity (log e),**  
913 **C) Meiofauna Pielou evenness.**

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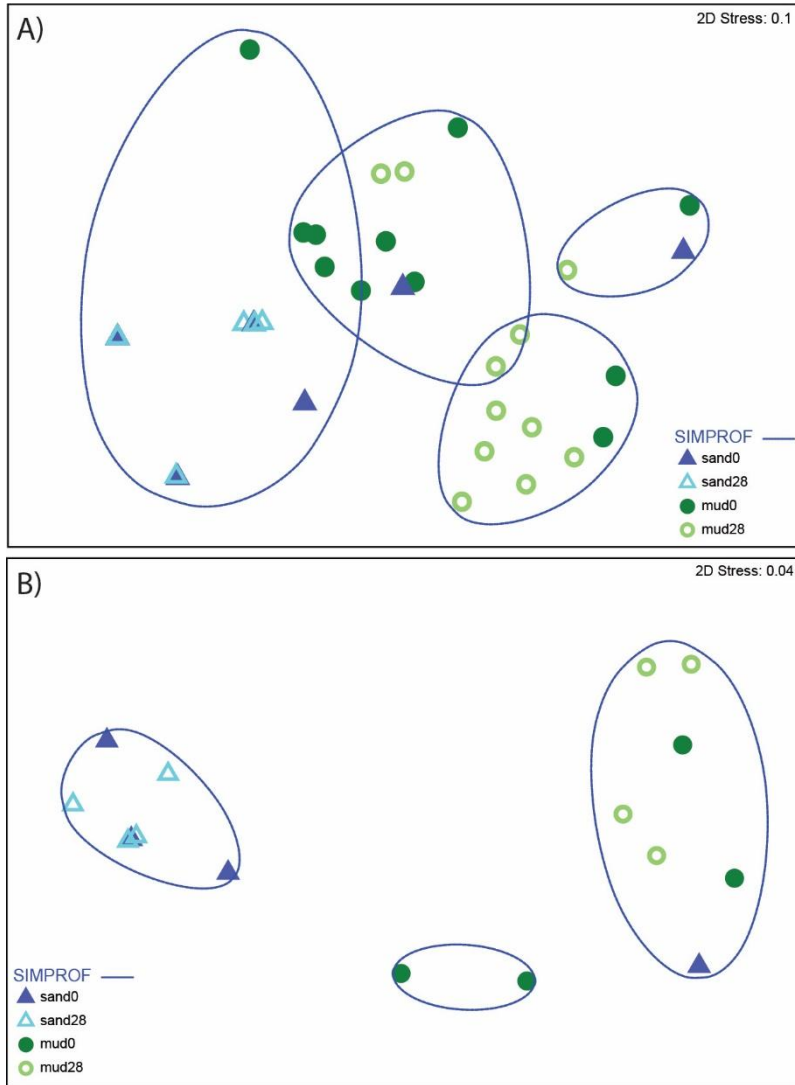


Fig. 4. Non-metric MDS plots on meiofauna major taxa abundance (standardised, 4<sup>th</sup> root transformation, Bray Curtis resemblance). Symbols represent samples belonging to two sediment type (sand, mud) and two time (0 days, 28 days) combinations. A ) all samples, B) samples averaged over replicates. Blue lines indicate SIMPROF significance at the 5 % level.

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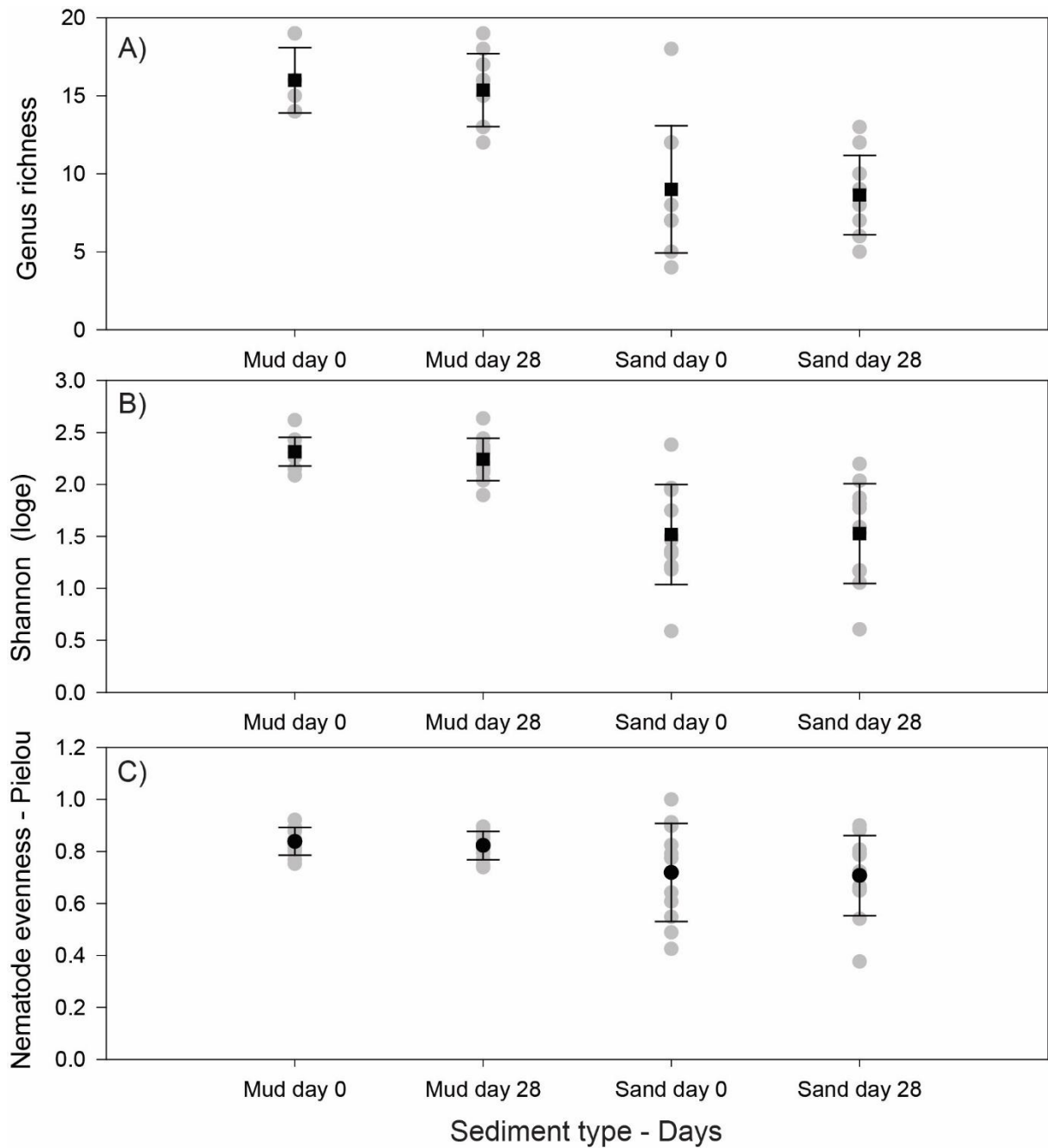
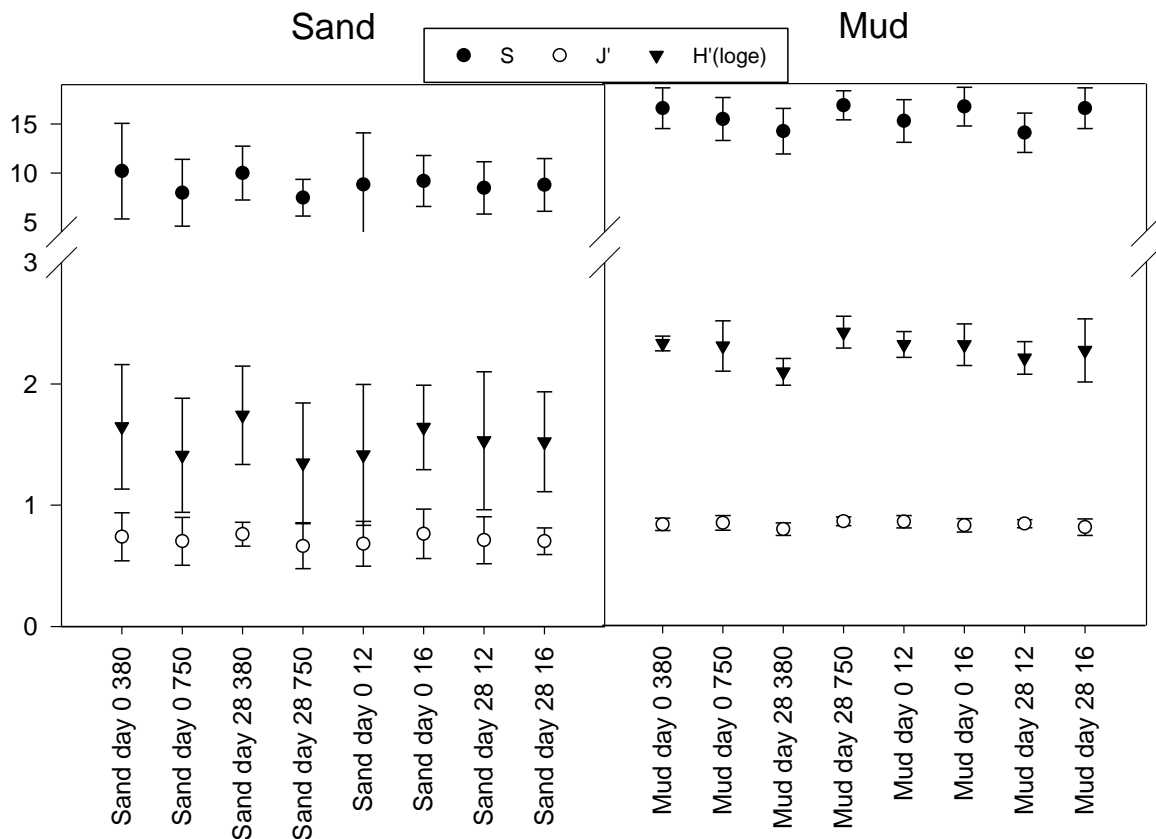


Fig. 5. Nematode diversity measures for sediment-type-day groups of samples (average ( $\pm$ SD,  $n=11$ ) in black and sample abundances in grey). (A) Nematode genus richness (S), (B) Nematode Shannon diversity ( $\log e$ ), (C) Nematode Pielou evenness.

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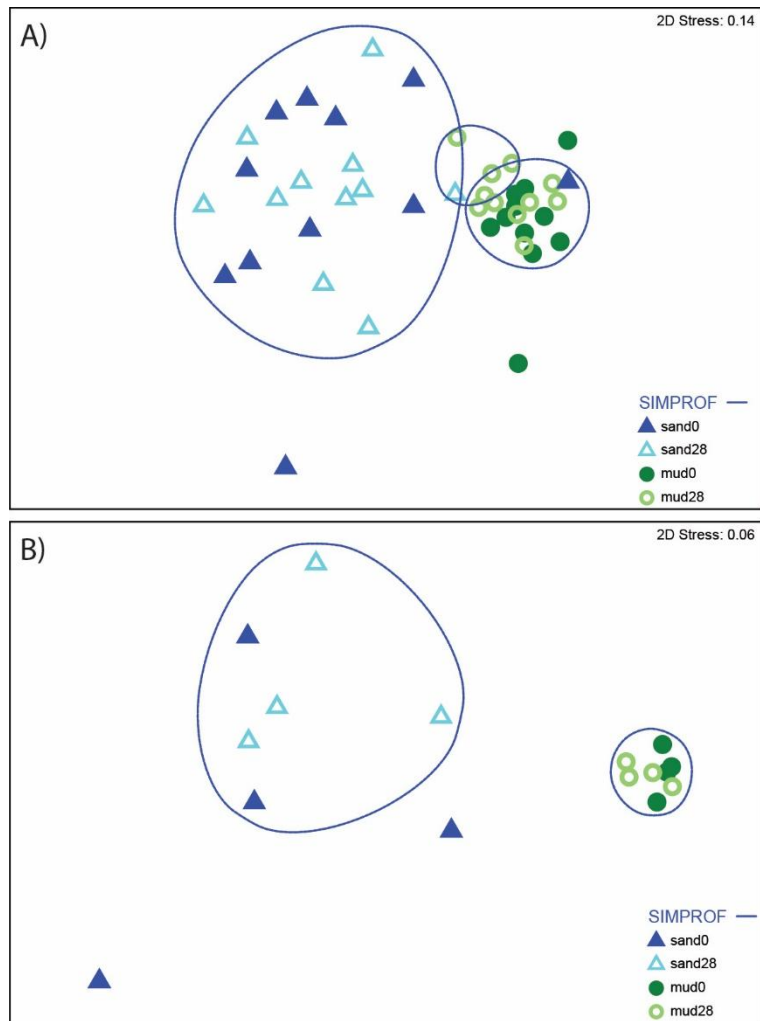




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 929 **Fig. 6. Nematode diversity indices for each combination of sediment type, day and CO<sub>2</sub> exposure or**  
 930 **Temperature, indicating consistent differences in nematode genus richness and Shannon Wiener diversity**  
 931 **between sediment types, whilst Pielou evenness did not differ significantly and no differences were**  
 932 **observed between CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature treatments (n= 5 or n=6 depending on the treatment combination).**  
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**Fig. 7. Non-metric MDS on nematode genera abundance (standardised, sq. root transformation, Bray Curtis resemblance). Symbols represent samples belonging to two sediment type (sand, mud) and two time (0 days, 28 days) combinations. (A) all samples, (B) samples averaged over replicates. Blue lines indicate SIMPROF significance at the 5 % level.**

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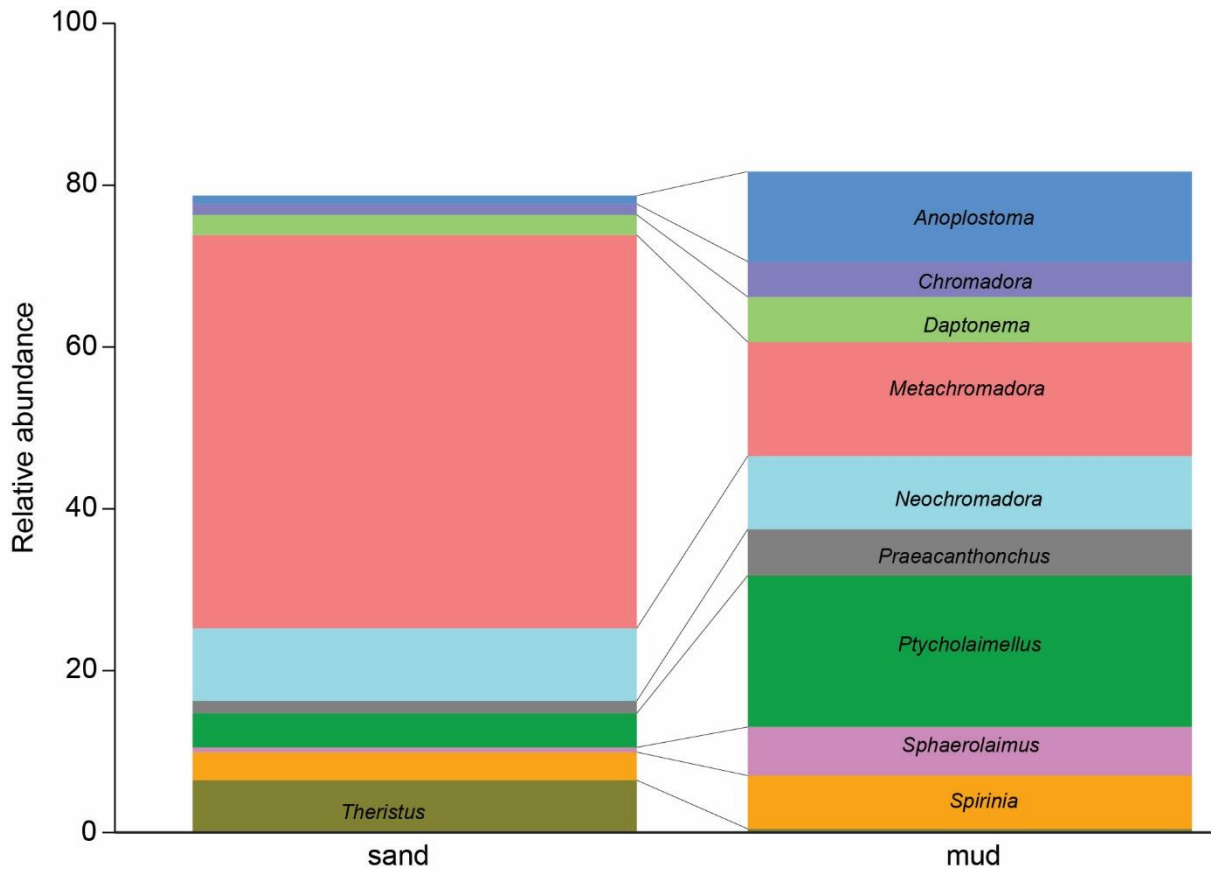


Fig. 8. Average relative abundance for the sand and mud samples representing only the 10 most important genera, indicating the dominance of *Metachromadora* in sand samples and the more evenly distributed community in mud samples.

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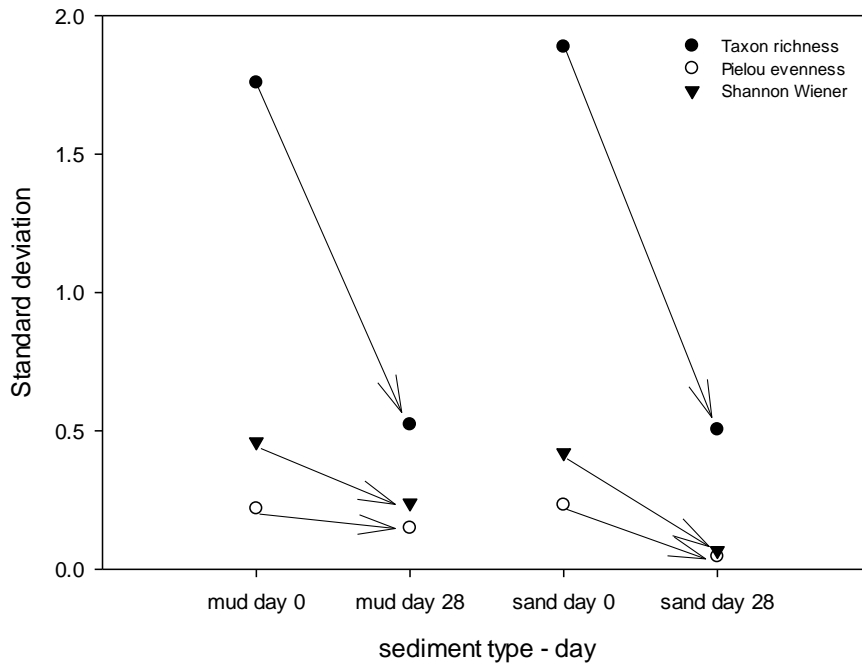
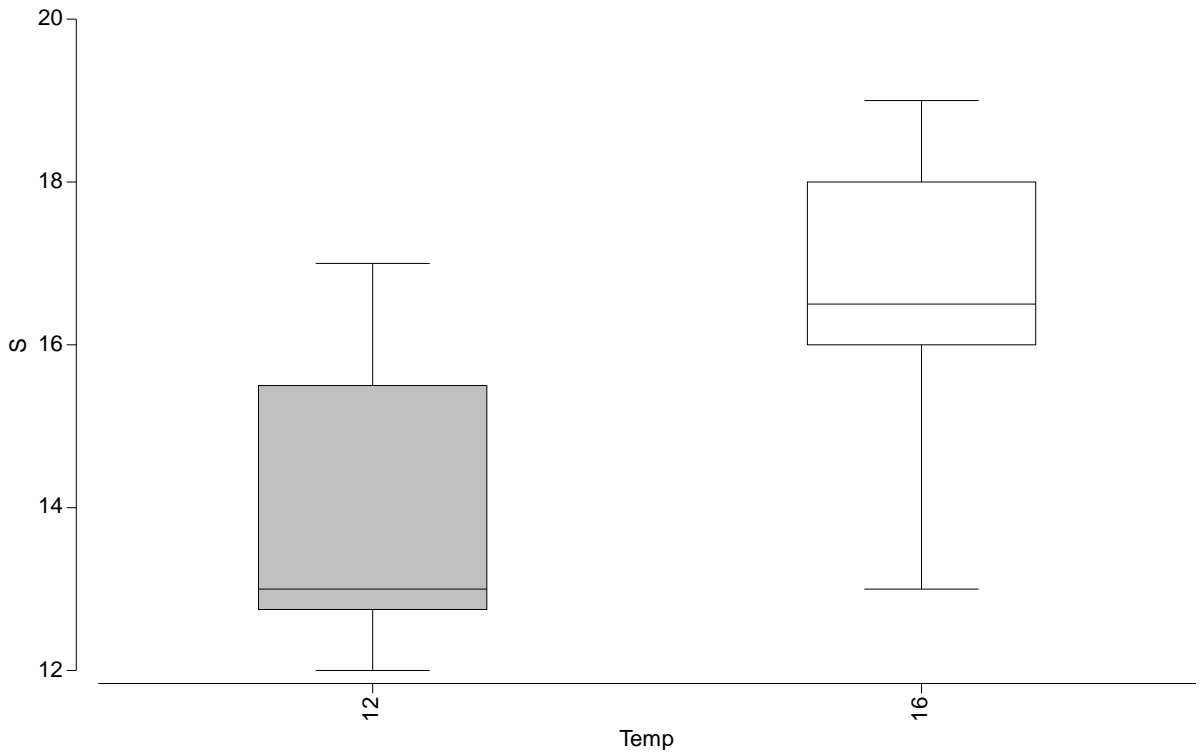


Fig. 9. Standard deviations of meiofauna diversity measures for the two sediment types at day 0 and day 28, indicating a consistent decline of variation over the duration of the experiment.

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**Fig. 10. Box and whisker plots for nematode genus richness (number of genera, S) for both temperature treatments in mud sediments after 28 days. Box boundaries represent 25-75 percentile, line within box represents median, error bars indicate 90<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> percentiles (n=22 for both treatments).**

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## 8. Supplementary Tables

**Table S1. Meiofauna PERMANOVA results testing treatment effects. Time (Ti; 0, 28 days), Sediment (Se; sand, mud), CO<sub>2</sub> (380, 750 ppmv), temperature (Te; 12, 16°C), MC: Monte Carlo, ECV: estimated component of variation.**

Meiofauna	Test	Source	Pseudo-F	P(perm) [MC]	Unique perms	√ECV
Abundance	4way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	2.8285	0.109	998	521.54
		Se	24.885	<b>0.001</b>	993	1884.9
		CO2	1.0194	0.307	998	53.737
		Te	0.0094802	0.938	996	-383.86
		TixSe	1.3974	0.248	997	343.83
		TixCO2	0.0024605	0.959	994	-544.78
		TixTe	0.028894	0.868	995	-5.38E+02
		SexCO2	0.087656	0.777	999	-5.21E+02
		SexTe	0.017407	0.903	998	-5.41E+02
		CO2xTe	0.92238	0.336	998	-151.96
		TixSexCO2	0.5033	0.482	996	-5.44E+02
		TixSexTe	0.090993	0.762	998	-735.45
		TixCO2xTe	0.087656	0.784	997	-7.37E+02
		SexCO2xTe	0.8053	0.414	995	-3.40E+02
TixSexCO2xTe	0.18126	0.671	998	-987.08		
Abundance (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	0.0050507	0.932	993	-187.14
		Ti	1.0553	0.363	999	4.41E+01
		CO2	2.1519	0.162	994	2.01E+02
		TexTi	0.073264	0.819	996	-2.55E+02
		TexCO2	0.016785	0.91	994	-2.63E+02
		TixCO2	1.8399	0.194	995	2.43E+02
		TexTixCO2	0.071071	0.805	998	-3.62E+02
Abundance (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	0.013972	0.907	998	-742.97
		Ti	2.1794	0.155	997	812.57
		CO2	0.45303	0.494	997	-553.36
		TexTi	0.059106	0.806	995	-1026.4
		TexCO2	0.9171	0.371	999	-304.66
		TixCO2	0.15309	0.706	998	-973.78
		TexTixCO2	0.13845	0.721	994	-1389
Abundance (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	2.08E+00	0.249	978	3.82E+02
		Te	1.04E-02	0.909	985	-365.05
		CO2xTe	0.0049088	0.906	987	-517.69
Abundance (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.070032	0.792	984	-75.557
		Te	0.66967	0.428	986	-45.031
		CO2xTe	0.89987	0.37	985	-35.062
Abundance (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.020522	0.892	986	-1456.7

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1			Te	0.0040323	0.938	989	-1468.9
2			CO2xTe	0.45693	0.522	991	-1533.9
3	Abundance (mud,						
4	d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	8.6977	<b>0.023</b>	985	749.18
5			Te	1.0024	0.362	989	13.101
6			CO2xTe	2.6327	0.13	985	487.95
7	S	4-way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	1.47	0.236	998	0.15827
8			Se	113.57	<b>0.001</b>	995	2.4493
9			CO2	2.5451	0.117	997	0.28695
10			Te	0.91623	0.327	998	-0.066815
11			TixSe	4.4346	<b>0.038</b>	995	0.60504
12			TixCO2	6.8453	<b>0.014</b>	998	0.78931
13			TixTe	0.19953	0.673	994	-0.29209
14			SexCO2	1.47	0.245	998	0.22383
15			SexTe	10.592	<b>0.008</b>	998	1.0111
16			CO2xTe	2.9686	0.098	998	0.45806
17			TixSexCO2	1.47	0.216	993	0.31654
18			TixSexTe	7.5294	<b>0.007</b>	997	1.1798
19			TixCO2xTe	2.9686	0.084	993	0.6478
20			SexCO2xTe	0.0040721	0.94	997	-0.46076
21			TixSexCO2xTe	1.1768	0.298	997	0.27458
22	S (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	2.4231	0.131	985	0.40642
23			Ti	5.0556	0.051	998	0.6861
24			CO2	3.6197	0.081	996	0.55142
25			TexTi	2.4231	0.143	986	0.57477
26			TexCO2	1.4658	0.244	998	0.32884
27			TixCO2	6.7308	<b>0.031</b>	995	1.1534
28			TexTixCO2	3.6197	0.074	998	1.1028
29	S (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	9.7356	<b>0.008</b>	996	0.92099
30			Ti	0.43806	0.538	998	-0.23359
31			CO2	0.08046	0.813	995	-0.29881
32			TexTi	5.5875	<b>0.042</b>	995	0.94386
33			TexCO2	1.5109	0.219	993	0.31497
34			TixCO2	1.0817	0.303	997	0.12599
35			TexTixCO2	0.2235	0.675	998	-0.54917
36	S (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	5.715	<b>0.041</b>	668	1.3916
37			Te	2.7391	0.133	607	0.84515
38			CO2xTe	2.7391	0.151	622	1.1952
39	S (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	1.037	0.339	757	0.044544
40			Te	2.79E-16	1	114	-0.23146
41			CO2xTe	1.037	0.355	747	0.062994
42	S (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.50815	0.5	937	-0.40581
43			Te	8.7215	<b>0.036</b>	947	1.6079
44			CO2xTe	0.84	0.44	634	-0.32733
45	S (mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	1.037	0.309	374	0.044544
46			Te	1.037	0.336	369	0.044544
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			CO2xTe	1.037	0.32	368	0.062994		
1	Pielou	4way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	0.10894	0.754	997	-0.080648		
2			Se	2.691	0.107	994	0.10368		
3			CO2	0.1118	0.73	996	-0.079209		
4			Te	0.0015066	0.973	996	-7.97E-02		
5			TixSe	0.6279	0.449	997	-0.071286		
6			TixCO2	0.39126	0.551	996	-0.095778		
7			TixTe	0.0080253	0.925	998	-0.11639		
8			SexCO2	0.0087918	0.925	996	-0.11834		
9			SexTe	0.0011741	0.972	997	-1.13E-01		
10			CO2xTe	0.18895	0.664	996	-0.10704		
11			TixSexCO2	0.427	0.477	996	-0.13546		
12			TixSexTe	0.34001	0.546	998	-0.13882		
13			TixCO2xTe	0.048172	0.825	998	-0.12703		
14			SexCO2xTe	0.39052	0.562	997	-0.13123		
15			TixSexCO2xTe	No test					
16			Pielou (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	0.0070428	0.8332	234	-0.16535
17					Ti	0.19619	0.7006	613	-0.16069
18					CO2	0.078668	0.764	235	-0.17204
19					TexTi	0.024625	0.87	598	-0.25034
20					TexCO2	0.028535	0.8496	220	-0.24983
21	TixCO2	0.26412			0.6684	113	-0.23245		
22	TexTixCO2	No test							
23	Pielou (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)			Te	0.0087954	0.923	998	-0.061858
24			Ti	0.36002	0.546	995	-0.049704		
25			CO2	0.10593	0.773	996	-0.058749		
26			TexTi	0.84817	0.384	994	-0.034238		
27			TexCO2	2.0545	0.178	997	0.090229		
28			TixCO2	0.0045076	0.947	999	-0.087669		
29			TexTixCO2	0.052889	0.824	997	-0.12093		
30			Pielou (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.34436	[0.665]	15	-0.20524
31	Te	0.027524			[0.907]	15	-0.24996		
32	CO2xTe	0.014267			[0.927]	15	-0.3559		
33	Pielou (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	No test					
34			Te	No test					
35			CO2xTe	No test					
36	Pielou (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.022836	0.876	990	-0.10499		
37			Te	0.35237	0.586	985	-0.085474		
38			CO2xTe	0.49554	0.503	983	-0.10668		
39	Pielou (mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.14302	0.704	987	-0.059711		
40			Te	0.63486	0.422	986	-0.038976		
41			CO2xTe	2.567	0.176	989	0.11419		
42	Shannon	4way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	0.39091	0.542	998	-0.054547		
43			Se	29.531	<b>0.001</b>	999	0.37332		
44			CO2	1.9715	0.168	998	0.06889		

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1			Te	0.0070287	0.932	999	-0.069646
2			TixSe	2.5029	0.131	997	0.12117
3			TixCO2	2.4052	0.134	997	0.11717
4			TixTe	0.16837	0.698	996	-0.090138
5			SexCO2	0.27302	0.638	997	-0.084276
6			SexTe	2.345	0.141	997	0.11463
8			CO2xTe	0.027734	0.842	997	-0.097462
9			TixSexCO2	0.87151	0.371	996	-0.050106
11			TixSexTe	4.1731	<b>0.046</b>	994	0.249
12			TixCO2xTe	1.3446	0.246	995	0.082061
13			SexCO2xTe	2.63	0.123	997	0.17847
14			TixSexCO2xTe	0.35279	0.562	996	-0.15904
16	Shannon (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	2.0261	0.21	998	0.080338
17			Ti	3.7839	0.074	999	0.13233
18			CO2	2.8829	0.133	999	0.10882
20			TexTi	2.0698	0.177	999	0.11601
21			TexCO2	1.6447	0.233	995	0.090052
22			TixCO2	4.7937	<b>0.046</b>	998	0.21846
23			TexTixCO2	2.3881	0.146	999	0.18688
24	Shannon (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	0.77247	0.418	999	-0.054907
25			Ti	0.33753	0.581	999	-0.09369
26			CO2	0.28654	0.608	998	-0.097228
27			TexTi	2.2187	0.151	999	0.17971
28			TexCO2	1.179	0.315	997	0.068872
29			TixCO2	0.14049	0.725	999	-0.15092
30			TexTixCO2	0.11795	0.732	997	-0.21621
31	Shannon (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	3.9283	0.085	944	0.26618
32			Te	2.1295	0.198	927	0.16531
33			CO2xTe	2.0787	0.201	935	0.22847
34	Shannon (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	1.5774	0.238	862	0.023586
35			Te	0.0015201	0.969	863	-0.031016
36			CO2xTe	0.45128	0.494	859	-0.032516
37	Shannon (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.26185	0.601	989	-0.1759
38			Te	1.7733	0.217	985	0.18003
39			CO2xTe	0.17422	0.673	983	-0.2631
40	Shannon (mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.03078	0.846	985	-0.10366
41			Te	0.44565	0.538	989	-0.078392
42			CO2xTe	2.4416	0.179	986	0.17878
43	Community	4way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	1.9693	0.123	999	3.964
44			Se	32.96	<b>0.001</b>	998	22.762
45			CO2	2.2966	0.084	998	4.5847
46			Te	Negative			-4.084
47			TixSe	3.6671	<b>0.018</b>	999	9.2991
48			TixCO2	2.6707	<b>0.046</b>	999	7.3599

			TixTe	Negative			-5.8064
1			SexCO2	1.0512	0.377	999	1.2883
2			SexTe	2.981	<b>0.041</b>	999	8.0144
3			CO2xTe	2.2261	0.085	998	6.3049
4			TixSexCO2	0.37641	0.77	999	-6.359
5			TixSexTe	3.1858	<b>0.03</b>	999	11.905
6			TixCO2xTe	2.4876	0.077	999	9.8215
7			SexCO2xTe	1.2673	0.284	999	4.1635
8			TixSexCO2xTe	1.6569	0.184	999	9.2302
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12	Community						
13	(sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	1.4215	0.263	999	2.9934
14			Ti	3.1856	0.055	999	6.8161
15			CO2	3.3893	0.07	997	7.1266
16			TexTi	1.8832	0.156	998	6.1278
17			TexCO2	2.2216	0.135	997	7.2067
18			TixCO2	4.9062	<b>0.03</b>	999	12.887
19			TexTixCO2	2.9172	0.089	999	12.768
20							
21	Community						
22	(mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	1.5027	0.231	999	4.681
23			Ti	2.639	0.071	999	8.4523
24			CO2	0.83735	0.489	998	-2.6626
25			TexTi	1.4217	0.256	999	6.0629
26			TexCO2	1.5151	0.211	999	6.7009
27			TixCO2	Negative			-9.908
28			TexTixCO2	1.6602	0.192	999	10.729
29							
30							
31	Community						
32	(sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	5.6563	<b>0.034</b>	925	16.89
33			Te	2.0977	0.152	937	8.2008
34			CO2xTe	3.5044	0.078	924	17.518
35							
36	Community						
37	(sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.258	0.799	926	-4.199
38			Te	0.50418	0.594	919	-3.4325
39			CO2xTe	0.1588	0.876	905	-6.3228
40							
41	Community						
42	(mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.48201	0.74	992	-7.5694
43			Te	2.016	0.142	991	10.601
44			CO2xTe	0.44341	0.739	989	-11.097
45							
46	Community						
47	(mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.13629	0.9	989	-7.4196
48			Te	0.50108	0.632	988	-5.6392
49			CO2xTe	3.5734	<b>0.045</b>	983	18.112

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972 **Table S2. Nematode PERMANOVA results testing treatment effects [Time (Ti; 0, 28 days),**  
 1 973 **Sediment (Se; sand, mud), CO<sub>2</sub> (380, 750 ppmv), temperature (Te; 12, 16°C)], MC: Monte Carlo,**  
 2 974 **ECV: estimated component of variation].**  
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	Nematoda	Test	Source	Pseudo-F	P(perm) [MC]	Unique perms	VECV		
	S	4way (Ti, Te, CO <sub>2</sub> , Se)	Ti	0.12061	0.727	998	-0.59668		
			Se	55.233	<b>0.001</b>	998	4.6858		
			CO <sub>2</sub>	0.99112	0.33	995	-0.059969		
			Te	1.8659	0.174	993	0.59209		
			TixSe	0.013401	0.924	998	-0.89379		
			TixCO <sub>2</sub>	0.8153	0.4	998	-0.38672		
			TixTe	0.043418	0.847	999	-0.88009		
			SexCO <sub>2</sub>	2.7021	0.118	997	1.174		
			SexTe	0.58374	0.463	996	-0.58056		
			CO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.013401	0.913	999	-0.89379		
			TixSexCO <sub>2</sub>	1.5057	0.215	996	0.90496		
			TixSexTe	0.0048243	0.933	995	-1.2695		
			TixCO <sub>2</sub> xTe	1.287	0.269	998	0.68175		
			SexCO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.043418	0.846	994	-1.2446		
			TixSexCO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.090589	0.767	995	-1.7162		
			S (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	Te	0.11581	0.744	998	-1.0583
					Ti	0.017132	0.893	998	-1.1158
					CO <sub>2</sub>	2.2264	0.165	995	1.2464
					TexTi	0.0061674	0.952	993	-1.5868
	TexCO <sub>2</sub>	0.033578			0.855	995	-1.5647		
	TixCO <sub>2</sub>	0.033578			0.857	997	-1.5647		
	TexTixCO <sub>2</sub>	0.65854			0.439	998	-1.3154		
	S (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	Te	5.2082	<b>0.037</b>	995	1.2182		
			Ti	0.24613	0.626	998	-0.51563		
			CO <sub>2</sub>	0.48242	0.477	997	-0.42725		
			TexTi	0.088608	0.764	996	-0.80178		
			TexCO <sub>2</sub>	0.0098453	0.929	996	-0.83571		
			TixCO <sub>2</sub>	5.2082	0.05	996	1.7229		
			TexTixCO <sub>2</sub>	0.79747	0.368	994	-0.53452		
	S (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	CO <sub>2</sub>	0.55811	0.491	942	-1.3108		
			Te	0.022324	0.872	971	-1.9498		
			CO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.32236	0.597	974	-2.2956		
	S (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	CO <sub>2</sub>	3.0168	0.115	980	1.5417		
			Te	0.18855	0.664	977	-0.97793		
			CO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.42424	0.535	959	-1.165		
	S (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	CO <sub>2</sub>	1.0159	0.368	877	0.11785		
			Te	1.5873	0.261	960	0.71686		
			CO <sub>2</sub> xTe	0.25397	0.617	951	-1.1426		
	S (mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO <sub>2</sub> )	CO <sub>2</sub>	5.8333	<b>0.041</b>	893	1.6091		

CO2)

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2			Te	4.3815	0.068	974	1.3459
3			CO2xTe	0.64815	0.467	979	-0.61399
4		4way (Ti, Te,					
5	Pielou	CO2, Se)	Ti	0.061963	0.792	996	-0.029443
6			Se	7.0391	<b>0.018</b>	996	0.074706
7			CO2	0.14893	0.728	996	-0.028045
8			Te	0.024952	0.881	999	-0.030018
9			TixSe	0.010636	0.916	998	-0.042762
10			TixCO2	0.011355	0.919	996	-0.042747
11			TixTe	0.16883	0.707	998	-0.039195
12			SexCO2	1.5947	0.228	993	0.033154
13			SexTe	0.72059	0.404	996	-0.022725
14			CO2xTe	0.22314	0.637	998	-0.037892
15			TixSexCO2	0.45872	0.467	997	-0.044731
16			TixSexTe	0.16828	0.659	995	-0.055448
17			TixCO2xTe	0.27461	0.607	996	-0.051783
18			SexCO2xTe	0.11193	0.757	998	-0.057295
19			TixSexCO2xTe	0.91523	0.332	997	-0.025034
20		3-way (Ti, Te,					
21	Pielou (sand)	CO2)	Te	0.26901	0.605	998	-0.050454
22			Ti	0.0056404	0.931	997	-0.058845
23			CO2	0.72136	0.402	997	-0.03115
24			TexTi	0.17892	0.678	997	-0.075622
25			TexCO2	0.0050408	0.955	999	-0.083245
26			TixCO2	0.16305	0.65	998	-0.076349
27			TexTixCO2	0.58182	0.464	994	-0.076322
28		3-way (Ti, Te,					
29	Pielou (mud)	CO2)	Te	2.0603	0.181	997	0.015067
30			Ti	0.53494	0.469	998	-0.0099788
31			CO2	3.3189	0.094	995	0.022283
32			TexTi	1.93E-06	0.999	999	-2.07E-02
33			TexCO2	2.8104	0.114	998	0.027843
34			TixCO2	1.4059	0.259	998	0.013184
35			TexTixCO2	0.80789	0.398	997	-0.012827
36	Pielou (sand,	2-way (Te,					
37	d0)	CO2)	CO2	0.081089	0.772	981	-0.088506
38			Te	0.36223	0.558	981	-0.073734
39			CO2xTe	0.28399	0.589	982	-0.11049
40	Pielou (sand,	2-way (Te,					
41	d28)	CO2)	CO2	1.0117	0.392	986	0.0079684
42			Te	0.0058982	0.942	989	-0.073301
43			CO2xTe	0.30833	0.601	984	-0.086469
44	Pielou (mud,	2-way (Te,					
45	d0)	CO2)	CO2	0.13197	0.71	989	-0.023871
46			Te	0.67072	0.459	984	-0.014702
47			CO2xTe	0.19722	0.64	987	-0.032465
48	Pielou (mud,	2-way (Te,					
49	d28)	CO2)	CO2	9.6823	<b>0.035</b>	977	0.041673
50			Te	2.2097	0.176	983	0.015556
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1			CO2xTe	7.0992	<b>0.03</b>	985	0.049396		
2	Shannon	4way (Ti, Te, CO2, Se)	Ti	0.014571	0.894	999	-0.078486		
3			Se	43.59	<b>0.001</b>	998	0.51598		
4			CO2	0.64839	0.432	998	-0.046882		
5			Te	0.51329	0.489	997	-0.055159		
6			TixSe	0.19221	0.677	999	-0.10049		
7			TixCO2	0.10953	0.741	996	-0.10551		
8			TixTe	0.084303	0.791	999	-0.107		
9			SexCO2	4.304	<b>0.046</b>	997	0.20324		
10			SexTe	0.24394	0.644	997	-0.097224		
11			CO2xTe	0.40775	0.517	995	-0.086049		
12			TixSexCO2	1.4533	0.22	996	0.10646		
13			TixSexTe	0.18452	0.664	994	-0.1428		
14			TixCO2xTe	1.3748	0.273	995	0.096802		
15			SexCO2xTe	0.021054	0.896	998	-0.15645		
16			TixSexCO2xTe	1.5654	0.24	998	0.16815		
17			Shannon (sand)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)	Te	0.39555	0.539	997	-0.1183
18					Ti	0.027255	0.867	997	-0.15007
19					CO2	2.2393	0.149	996	0.16939
20					TexTi	0.13994	0.732	997	-0.19956
21	TexCO2	0.065747			0.79	995	-0.20799		
22	TixCO2	0.20653			0.667	995	-0.19168		
23	TexTixCO2	1.5861			0.199	997	0.23297		
24	Shannon (mud)	3-way (Ti, Te, CO2)			Te	0.16704	0.676	997	-0.03929
25					Ti	1.0545	0.313	998	0.010048
26					CO2	5.4349	<b>0.039</b>	997	0.09066
27			TexTi	0.065361	0.803	998	-0.058859		
28			TexCO2	2.0714	0.196	997	0.063017		
29			TixCO2	7.9628	<b>0.012</b>	999	0.16065		
30			TexTixCO2	0.020868	0.897	998	-0.085197		
31	Shannon (sand, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.55	0.475	987	-0.14341		
32			Te	0.50962	0.466	986	-0.1497		
33			CO2xTe	1.1639	0.29	990	0.12241		
34	Shannon (sand, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	1.8786	0.235	983	0.203		
35			Te	0.032057	0.869	992	-0.21307		
36			CO2xTe	0.49655	0.51	985	-0.21731		
37	Shannon (mud, d0)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	0.09535	0.763	982	-0.065048		
38			Te	0.0092821	0.916	990	-0.068072		
39			CO2xTe	0.66427	0.497	987	-0.056041		
40	Shannon (mud, d28)	2-way (Te, CO2)	CO2	17.988	<b>0.005</b>	990	0.21559		
41			Te	0.29899	0.574	988	-0.043795		
42			CO2xTe	1.6989	0.219	983	0.061842		
43	Community	4way (Ti, Te,	Ti	2.0103	<b>0.044</b>	999	7.0165		

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CO2, Se)

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2			Se	20.265	<b>0.001</b>	998	30.639
3			CO2	0.91862	0.495	999	-1.9914
4			Te	1.1103	0.352	999	2.3189
5			TixSe	0.97277	0.449	999	-1.6289
6							
7			TixCO2	1.0127	0.438	999	1.1141
8			TixTe	0.85108	0.582	999	-3.8096
9							
10			SexCO2	1.2649	0.26	998	5.0809
11			SexTe	0.92792	0.524	998	-2.6504
12			CO2xTe	0.94451	0.491	999	-2.3254
13			TixSexCO2	0.77986	0.639	999	-6.5504
14			TixSexTe	1.4564	0.171	999	9.4318
15							
16			TixCO2xTe	0.85272	0.568	998	-5.3579
17			SexCO2xTe	0.5049	0.864	997	-9.8235
18							
19			TixSexCO2xTe	0.65144	0.752	998	-11.657
20	Community	3-way (Ti, Te,					
21	(sand)	CO2)	Te	0.8011	0.619	998	-3.3122
22			Ti	2.2265	<b>0.022</b>	999	8.2247
23			CO2	1.2266	0.292	999	3.5351
24							
25			TexTi	0.20914	0.986	999	-9.3403
26			TexCO2	1.3825	0.207	999	6.4961
27			TixCO2	1.0008	0.476	999	0.29005
28							
29			TexTixCO2	0.28183	0.969	999	-12.587
30	Community	3-way (Ti, Te,					
31	(mud)	CO2)	Te	1.1052	0.383	999	3.834
32			Ti	1.2015	0.306	998	5.307
33			CO2	1.0385	0.419	998	2.321
34			TexTi	1.5265	0.147	998	12.132
35			TexCO2	0.46508	0.861	997	-12.228
36			TixCO2	0.85507	0.583	998	-6.3647
37							
38			TexTixCO2	0.93767	0.494	998	-5.903
39	Community	2-way (Te,					
40	(sand, d0)	CO2)	CO2	1.0375	0.409	987	3.5338
41			Te	1.5638	0.182	989	13.695
42			CO2xTe	0.56316	0.769	990	-17.048
43	Community	2-way (Te,					
44	(sand, d28)	CO2)	CO2	0.81347	0.612	983	-6.4979
45			Te	0.95152	0.464	992	-3.3127
46			CO2xTe	0.90449	0.483	981	-6.5756
47	Community	2-way (Te,					
48	(mud, d0)	CO2)	CO2	0.97491	0.461	996	-1.8239
49			Te	0.36487	0.904	992	-9.1761
50			CO2xTe	1.0786	0.401	992	4.5652
51	Community	2-way (Te,					
52	(mud, d28)	CO2)	CO2	1.3226	0.272	984	5.3296
53			Te	0.71629	0.6	985	-4.998
54			CO2xTe	0.46117	0.813	985	-9.741

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**Table S3. Meiofauna PERMANOVA results testing Campaign (Ca) and Flume (Fl) effects; MC: Monte Carlo, ECV: estimated component of variation.**

Meiofauna	Test	Source	Pseudo-F	P(perm) [MC]	Unique perms	vECV
Abundance	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.5146	0.675	999	-234.81
		Fl	0.7293	0.634	999	-191.34
		CaxFl	1.4449	0.270	999	290.21
Abundance (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.5146	0.691	999	-234.81
		Fl	0.7293	0.624	999	-191.34
		CaxFl	1.4449	0.279	999	290.21
Abundance (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.4096	0.108	999	1451.40
		Fl	0.4122	0.822	998	-1022.50
		CaxFl	0.6044	0.574	999	-992.60
Abundance (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.76411	0.628	998	-368.24
		Fl	0.6548	0.673	998	-486.05
		CaxFl	excluded			
Abundance (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	12.265	0.071	996	185.91
		Fl	4.7232	0.177	997	116.62
		CaxFl	excluded			
Abundance (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	3.5461	0.224	999	2729.80
		Fl	0.92261	0.619	999	-519.29
		CaxFl	excluded			
Abundance (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.9502	0.286	998	712.92
		Fl	1.3681	0.474	997	337.94
		CaxFl	excluded			
S	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.80252	0.497	999	-0.19133
		Fl	1.2233	0.358	999	0.24762
		CaxFl	5.7622	<b>0.002</b>	996	2.1698
S (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.96855	0.419	992	-0.15076
		Fl	0.92704	0.492	999	-0.25054
		CaxFl	0.31132	0.749	975	-0.91079
S (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.66503	0.598	999	-0.39409
		Fl	1.5206	0.25	999	0.53604
		CaxFl	0.053922	0.946	998	-0.85502
S (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.5873	0.389	979	1.1106
		Fl	1.1238	0.546	931	0.55635
		CaxFl	excluded			
S (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.44444	0.728	722	-0.40825
		Fl	0.4	0.825	259	-0.46291
		CaxFl	excluded			
S (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.4167	0.288	923	0.75277
		Fl	6.95	0.107	850	1.6833
		CaxFl	excluded			
S (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.44444	0.761	694	-0.40825
		Fl	0.4	0.831	100	-0.46291
		CaxFl	excluded			

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1	Pielou	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.6647	0.255	999	0.033498
2			Fl	0.41956	0.716	999	-0.038101
3			CaxFl	1.1732	0.413	999	0.039488
4	Pielou (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4480.5	<b>0.001</b>	999	0.09994
5			Fl	195.94	<b>0.005</b>	998	0.022748
6			CaxFl	empty cells			
7							
8	Pielou (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.6681	0.221	998	0.084955
9			Fl	0.83609	0.561	996	-0.045911
10			CaxFl	0.44114	0.642	999	-0.10031
11							
12	Pielou (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	no test			
13			Fl	no test			
14			CaxFl	no test			
15							
16	Pielou (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	no test			
17			Fl	no test			
18			CaxFl	no test			
19							
20	Pielou (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4.5353	0.183	998	0.15526
21			Fl	5.2012	0.178	997	0.18467
22			CaxFl	excluded			
23							
24	Pielou (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	10.727	0.088	998	0.17437
25			Fl	0.64888	0.718	997	-0.036148
26			CaxFl	excluded			
27							
28	Shannon	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.33553	0.811	999	-0.089517
29			Fl	0.89379	0.503	999	-0.04356
30			CaxFl	2.7993	<b>0.020</b>	998	0.34019
31							
32	Shannon (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.6429	0.240	998	0.14207
33			Fl	1.0397	0.488	999	0.038509
34			CaxFl	0.13358	0.877	999	-0.21292
35							
36	Shannon (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.90042	0.475	999	-0.067524
37			Fl	0.91205	0.513	999	-0.06924
38			CaxFl	0.5111	0.600	998	-0.19316
39							
40	Shannon (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	5.4871	0.176	993	0.43119
41			Fl	2.9816	0.262	993	0.31265
42			CaxFl	excluded			
43							
44	Shannon (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.22091	0.869	988	-0.072161
45			Fl	0.29642	0.904	983	-0.074822
46			CaxFl	excluded			
47							
48	Shannon (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.3031	0.487	997	0.13782
49			Fl	2.7816	0.280	998	0.36457
50			CaxFl	excluded			
51							
52	Shannon (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	15.669	<b>0.047</b>	998	0.28864
53			Fl	1.0839	0.556	997	0.023813
54			CaxFl	excluded			
55							
56	Community	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.943	0.473	999	-1.5902
57			Fl	1.0122	0.435	998	0.89404
58			CaxFl	2.6141	<b>0.004</b>	999	19.542
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60	Community (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.84842	0.523	999	-4.0046
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		FI	1.1012	0.389	998	3.5695	
		CaxFI	0.20794	0.865	999	-11.818	
	Community (mud)	2way (Ca, FI)	Ca	0.81893	0.598	999	-5.679
			FI	0.82026	0.626	998	-6.1735
			CaxFI	0.37947	0.884	998	-13.572
	Community (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, FI)	Ca	1.2713	0.485	990	9.46
			FI	0.96296	0.590	993	-3.8141
			CaxFI	excluded			
	Community (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, FI)	Ca	0.35924	0.783	990	-7.9264
			FI	0.68379	0.729	982	-6.0754
			CaxFI	excluded			
	Community (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, FI)	Ca	1.4854	0.304	999	9.345
			FI	2.6989	0.122	995	19.076
			CaxFI	excluded			
	Community (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, FI)	Ca	10.172	<u>0.027</u>	999	18.086
			FI	3.0219	0.087	996	9.2652
			CaxFI	excluded			

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983 **Table S4. Nematode PERMANOVA results testing Campaign (Ca) and Flume (Fl) effects; MC: Monte**  
 984 **Carlo, ECV: estimated component of variation.**  
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Nematodes	Test	Source	Pseudo-F	P(perm) [MC]	Unique perms	VECV
S	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	5.5659	<b>0.007</b>	999	1.2746
		Fl	8.778	<b>0.001</b>	998	2.0249
		CaxFl	11.041	<b>0.001</b>	997	4.3653
S (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.4766	0.104	998	1.2371
		Fl	7.6566	<b>0.001</b>	999	2.8658
		CaxFl	2.7018	0.112	996	1.7145
S (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.1819	0.322	999	0.47514
		Fl	1.1846	0.365	998	0.52223
		CaxFl	0.38278	0.713	998	-1.1298
S (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.3827	0.328	995	1.9322
		Fl	4.3111	0.202	953	3.2623
		CaxFl	Excluded			
S (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.31183	0.7978	982	-1.4606
		Fl	1.9161	0.355	995	1.8387
		CaxFl	Excluded			
S (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.2807	0.4945	617	0.7303
		Fl	0.97895	0.572	968	-0.21822
		CaxFl	Excluded			
S (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.20614	0.894	995	-2.4563
		Fl	0.31316	0.8799	994	-2.4928
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Pielou	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	5.1224	<b>0.013</b>	999	0.053886
		Fl	4.0279	<b>0.015</b>	998	0.056211
		CaxFl	3.3074	<b>0.012</b>	998	0.093102
Pielou (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4.7809	<b>0.02</b>	998	0.12094
		Fl	2.5582	0.088	999	0.084715
		CaxFl	0.25875	0.798	999	-0.069134
Pielou (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	2.5209	0.132	999	0.03118
		Fl	2.168	0.147	997	0.029813
		CaxFl	0.56505	0.562	999	-0.021526
Pielou (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	32.187	<b>0.028</b>	999	0.19308
		Fl	6.8105	0.142	998	0.090931
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Pielou (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.97593	0.544	998	-0.014827
		Fl	1.6374	0.434	997	0.083254
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Pielou (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.8772	0.572	999	-0.013148
		Fl	1.3279	0.496	998	0.02344
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Pielou (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4.5247	0.193	997	0.05674
		Fl	1.34	0.478	999	0.019227
		CaxFl	Excluded			

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Shannon	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4.5679	<b>0.012</b>	998	0.13554
		Fl	9.7202	<b>0.001</b>	999	0.25792
		CaxFl	9.4515	<b>0.001</b>	996	0.48177
Shannon (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	3.2666	0.068	999	0.22682
		Fl	6.8308	<b>0.007</b>	999	0.39694
		CaxFl	1.104	0.373	998	0.06271
Shannon (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.6941	0.23	998	0.084377
		Fl	0.57755	0.724	999	-0.071821
		CaxFl	0.53813	0.613	999	-0.088856
Shannon (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	14.45	0.065	999	0.4349
		Fl	10.536	0.081	997	0.39956
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Shannon (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.2306	0.87	999	-0.25966
		Fl	2.1207	0.365	996	0.34193
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Shannon (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.37243	0.784	999	-0.12236
		Fl	0.47095	0.824	995	-0.12258
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Shannon (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.72732	0.65	999	-0.12007
		Fl	0.16732	0.966	996	-0.22894
		CaxFl	Excluded			
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Community	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.3737	0.102	998	5.8911
		Fl	1.8498	<b>0.009</b>	999	10.813
		CaxFl	2.334	<b>0.001</b>	998	25.706
Community (sand)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.87717	0.609	999	-7.3115
		Fl	1.1544	0.289	999	8.9449
		CaxFl	0.63175	0.831	998	-16.343
Community (mud)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.9706	<b>0.019</b>	998	12.431
		Fl	0.95922	0.569	998	-2.7801
		CaxFl	0.91416	0.524	999	-4.7725
Community (sand, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	1.9065	0.134	997	23.123
		Fl	1.7368	0.146	994	22.745
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Community (sand, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.63957	0.743	997	-17.348
		Fl	0.77671	0.756	996	-14.898
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Community (mud, d0)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	4.2823	<b>0.025</b>	999	22.761
		Fl	2.7208	0.067	994	17.982
		CaxFl	Excluded			
Community (mud, d28)	2way (Ca, Fl)	Ca	0.89175	0.585	998	-6.3942
		Fl	0.30531	0.98	997	-17.674
		CaxFl	Excluded			

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