



# How to discover and apply impossible anaerobic microbes to recycle C and N in a sustainable way

Melissa June 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

**MIKE JETTEN**

Funded by  
 ERC AG 339880 EcoMoM 2014-2018  
 ERC PoC 713533 Initiator 2016-2017  
 STW 13184 CH<sub>4</sub> & N removal  
 Gravitation Grants NESSC & SIAM

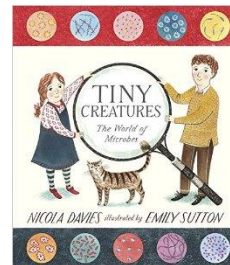
SOEHNGEN II **Radboud University**  **O BIOLOGY**

[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu)

## TABLE of CONTENT

### Introduction (anaerobic) microbiology

1. Anaerobic oxidation of ammonium (anammox)
2. Anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM)
3. Combinations & Take home message



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# OUR MICROBIAL PLANET

MICROBES—tiny forms too tiny to see—play a surprisingly large role in life on Earth. Microbes are everywhere, and they do a lot of good for human health and our planet. In fact, disease-causing microbes make up only a minuscule fraction of the millions of kinds of microbes that inhabit Earth.

Think microbes are bad guys? Think again.

## Many very useful (anaerobic) microbes

- Wastewater treatment
- Oxygen production
- Nitrogen fixation
- Fermentation
- Food digestion/Vitamins
- Drugs and Antibiotics
- Degradation of xenobiotics



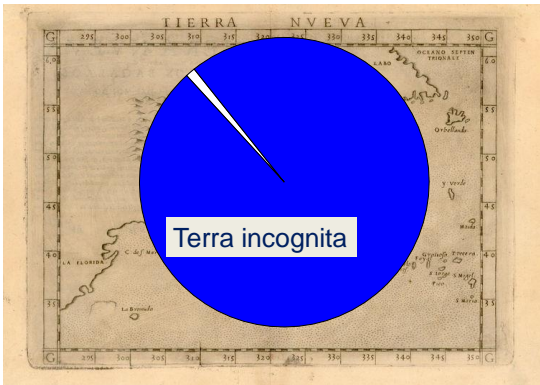
## Very few pathogens

How much do we know about the microbes on our planet?

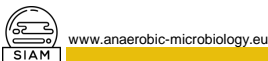


## Underexplored microbial diversity

40,000 strains in DMSZ & ATCC  
 3,224,600 16S rRNA genes in RDP\*  
 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 Nonillion microbial cells on Earth



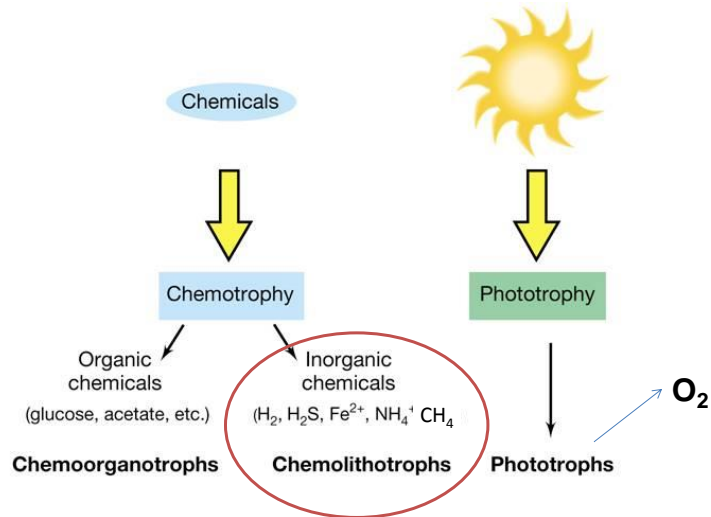
New anaerobes for Health, Environment & Biobased economy



\*RDP Release 11, Update 4 :: May 26, 2015



## Microbial Metabolic Diversity



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## The Quest for the “impossible” anaerobic microbes

		ELECTRON DONORS					
		H <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	H <sub>2</sub> S	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	Fe <sup>2+</sup>	
ELECTRON ACCEPTORS	O <sub>2</sub>						OXIC ANOXIC
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>		???		???		
	Fe <sup>3+</sup>		???		???		
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>						
	CO <sub>2</sub>						

After 40 years of searching in vain  
They were being called  
“impossible” microbes



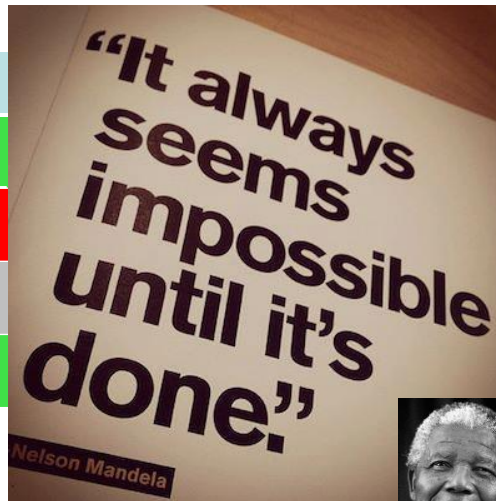
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Raghoebarsing et al (2006)



## The Quest for the “impossible” anaerobic microbes

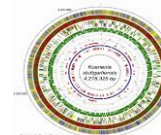
	H <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>
O <sub>2</sub>		
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>		???
Fe <sup>3+</sup>		???
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>		
CO <sub>2</sub>		



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### How to discover these “IMPOSSIBLE” microbes?

- Survey of selected ecosystems
- Bring the best samples to lab
- Design optimal bioreactors
- Enrichment under optimal conditions
- Grow enough cells
- **Use of the molecular toolbox to unravel their secrets**
- Back to the ecosystem
- Application of the new microbes



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## Pre requisite 1 Excellently educated & enthusiastic team members



[www.ru.nl/microbiology/vacancies](http://www.ru.nl/microbiology/vacancies)  
[www.ru.nl/masters/microbiology](http://www.ru.nl/masters/microbiology)  
[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu/scientists/jobs](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu/scientists/jobs)

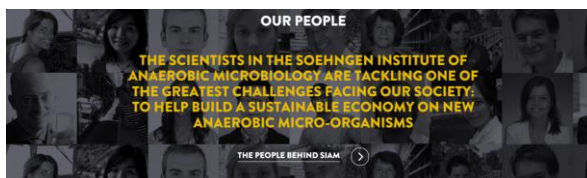


[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu)



## (Inter)national Collaboration & Funding

Soehngen Institute of Anaerobic Microbiology  
[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu)



### GRANTS

SIAM TALENT GRANT

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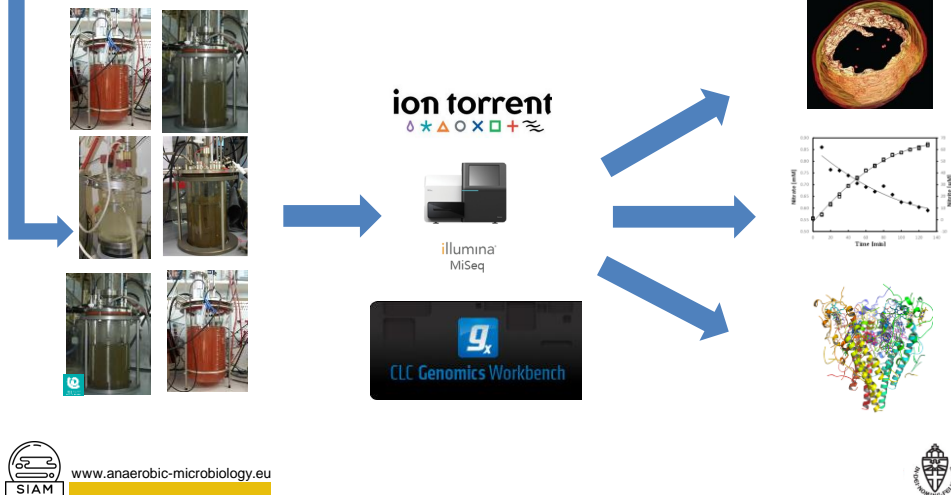


### Pre requisite 3 State-of-the-art methods

**Bioreactors, Bioreactors, Bioreactors,  
Bioreactors, Bioreactors, and more Bioreactors**



### Metagenomics, Microscopy, new experiments



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## TABLE OF CONTENT

### Introduction anaerobic microbiology

1. **Anaerobic oxidation of ammonium (anammox)**
2. Surprise symbionts
3. Anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM)
4. Combinations & Take home message

Funded by  
 ERC AG 232937 ANAMMOX 2009-2013  
 ERC PoC LTANITRO 2011-2012  
 STW & NWO 1995-2016



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European Research Council



# Calculations in the N cycle



Engelbert Broda 1910-1983

Zeitschrift für Allg. Mikrobiologie 17 0 1977 491-493

(Institut für Physikalische Chemie, Universität Wien)

## Two kinds of lithotrophs missing in nature

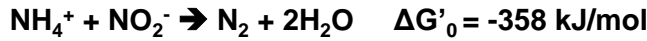
E. BRODA

(Eingegangen am 14. 9. 1976)

Two groups of lithotrophic bacteria, the existence of which may be expected on evolutionary and thermodynamical grounds, have not yet been detected: (A) photosynthetic, anaerobic, ammonia bacteria, analogous to coloured sulphur bacteria, and (B) chemoautotrophic bacteria that oxidize ammonia to nitrogen with O<sub>2</sub> or nitrate as oxidant.

The versatility of the prokaryotes in their energy metabolism has long astonished microbiologists. The bacteria have developed processes, i.e., enzymes, for the utilization of a wide range indeed of exergonic reactions. Attention is now drawn to further processes in energy metabolism which on the basis of considerations on the evolution of the bioenergetic processes (BRODA 1975a) may be expected to have existed, or to exist, but which have not yet been found. Two kinds of "lithotrophic" bacteria with such mechanisms will now be predicted. Lithotrophs are bacteria that use inorganic reductants in their energy metabolism (FRÖMANN and SÖDER 1960); all autotrophs must be lithotrophs, though the reverse need not be true. The two bacteria here predicted would generate dinitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>).

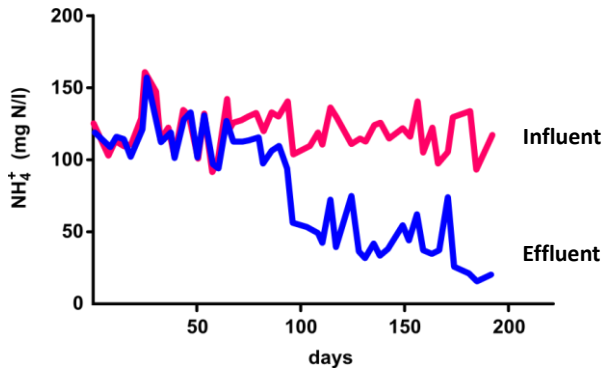
The nitrifying bacteria make adenosine triphosphate, ATP, through oxidative phosphorylation coupled to the aerobic oxidation of ammonia, a highly exergonic process. Thus, in nitrification *Nitrosomonas* produces nitrite, and *Nitrobacter* makes nitrate. The redox reactions are:



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## Anaerobic pilot plant, TU Delft, the Netherlands



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Mulder et al (1995) FEMS Microbiology Ecology



**ANAMMOX MILESTONES**

**ANAEROBIC PILOT PLANT**

*Mulder et al FEMS 1995*

**SBR ENRICHMENT CULTURES**

*Strous et al AMB 1998*

**PHYLOGENETIC IDENTITY**

*Strous et al Nature 1999*

**LADDERANE LIPIDS**

*Damste et al Nature 2002*



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**ANAMMOX MILESTONES**

**ANAEROBIC PILOT PLANT**

*Mulder et al FEMS 1995*

**SBR ENRICHMENT CULTURES**

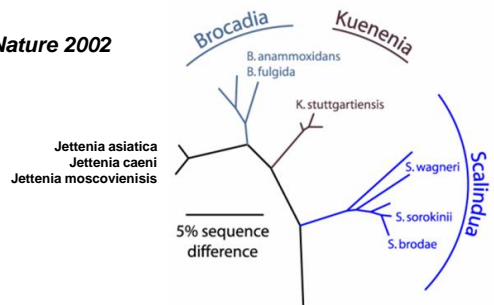
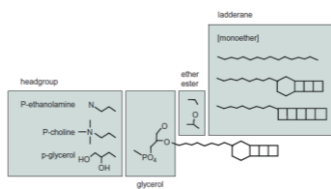
*Strous et al AMB 1998*

**PHYLOGENETIC IDENTITY**

*Strous et al Nature 1999*

**LADDERANE LIPIDS**

*Damste et al Nature 2002*



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## Anammox in the Ocean's oxygen minimum zones



### Massive nitrogen loss from the Benguela upwelling system through anaerobic ammonium oxidation

Marcel M. M. Kuypers<sup>1\*</sup>, Gaute Lavik<sup>2</sup>, Dagmar Woebken<sup>3</sup>, Markus Schmidt<sup>4</sup>, Bernhard M. Fuchs<sup>5</sup>, Rudolf Amann<sup>6</sup>, Bo Barker Jørgensen<sup>7</sup>, and Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Celsiusstrasse 1, 28359 Bremen, Germany, and <sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology, Radboud University Nijmegen, Toernooiveld 1, 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Communicated by John M. Hayes, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA, March 14, 2005 (received for review January 27, 2005)

PeerJ

### Metagenomic analysis of nitrogen and methane cycling in the Arabian Sea oxygen minimum zone

Claudia Luke<sup>1,2</sup>, Daan R. Speth<sup>1,2</sup>, Martine A.R. Kox<sup>1</sup>, Laura Villanueva<sup>1</sup> and Mike S.M. Jetten<sup>1,3,4</sup>



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Max-Planck-Institut  
für Marine Mikrobiologie



## ANAMMOX MILESTONES

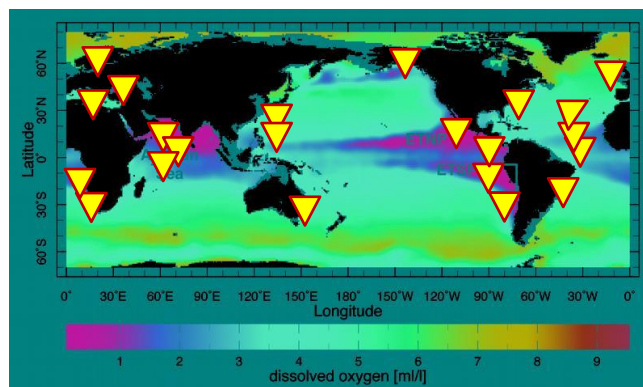
## OMZs: 50% N loss

**Black Sea** *Kuypers et al Nature 2003*

**Namibia OMZ** *Kuypers et al PNAS 2005*

**Peru OMZ** *Lam et al PNAS 2007; Stewart et al 2012*

**Arabian Sea** *Ward et al Nature 2008; Jensen et al ISME J 2011; Villanueva et al Frontiers Microbiology 2014; Lueke et al PeerJ 2016*



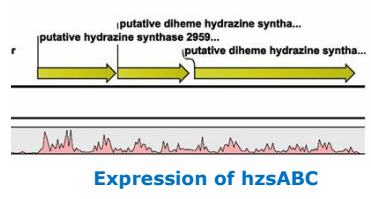
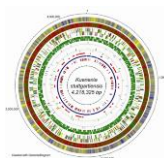
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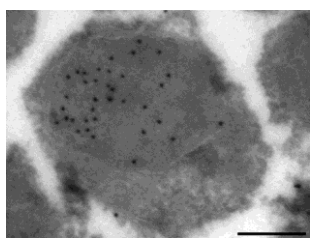




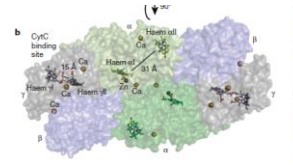
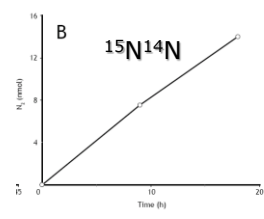
## How does ANAMMOX make the rocket fuel hydrazine?



**Protein purification  
Hydrazine synthase**

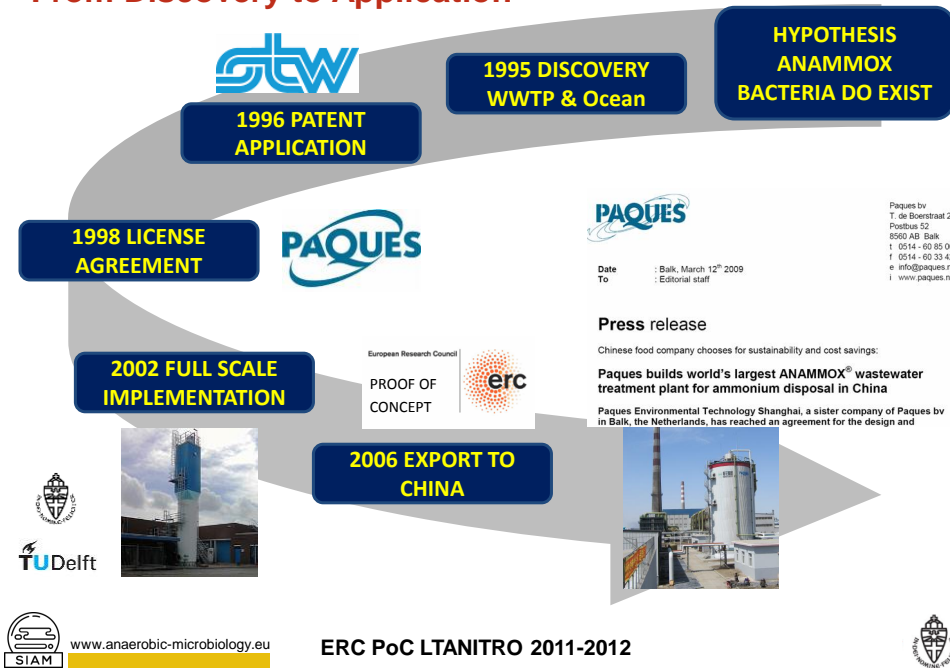


**Immunogold labelling hzsA**

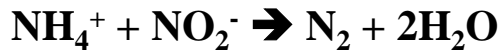


**Crystallisation  
(hzsABC)<sub>2</sub>**

## From Discovery to Application



## ANAMMOX APPLICATION Added Value



### NRC **HANDELSBLAD**

#### Tomatensoep zuivert water

Hoe innovatief is Nederland? Deze week: een bacterie die de wereld moet veroveren. **Magriet van der Heijden**



**H**et is de laatste week van de editie van het tijdschrift 'HANDELSBLAD' dat de wereld moet veroveren. Het is de laatste week van de editie van het tijdschrift 'HANDELSBLAD' dat de wereld moet veroveren. Het is de laatste week van de editie van het tijdschrift 'HANDELSBLAD' dat de wereld moet veroveren.

- Less oxygen demand
- No COD use
- Less biomass production
- No emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O
- Form energy use to energy production

ENGINEERING  
**Sewage Treatment with Anammox**  
B. Kartal, J. G. Kuenen, M. C. M. van Loosdrecht

Wastewater treatment including high rate anammox processes have the potential to become energy-neutral or even energy-producing.



## ANAMMOX APPLICATION Added Value



**PAQUES**

Date: 13 March 2009  
To: Editorial staff

Paques bv  
T: 06 10000024  
Dinslaken 52  
6500 AX Bnk  
T: 0514 00 00 00  
F: 0514 00 33 42  
E: info@paques.nl  
W: www.paques.nl

### Press release

Chinese food company chooses for sustainability and cost savings:

**Paques builds world's largest ANAMMOX<sup>®</sup> wastewater treatment plant for ammonium disposal in China**

Paques Environmental Technology Shanghai, a sister company of Paques bv in Bnk, the Netherlands, has reached an agreement for the design and



**Energy from -44 to +24 (Wh p<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>)**

**Savings NL 140 GWh =**

**-66 to + 33 Meuro a<sup>-1</sup>**

**Meihua China 11 ton N/d**  
**Rendac NL 15 ton N/d**

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### Introduction anaerobic microbiology

1. Anaerobic oxidation of ammonium (anammox)
2. **Anaerobic oxidation of methane (AOM)**
3. Combinations & home message

Funded by  
ERC AG 339880 EcoMoM 2014-2018  
ERC PoC Initiator 2016-2017  
STW 13146 N & CH<sub>4</sub> removal 2014-2017

European Research Council



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## Importance of methane

### Green house gas



John Dalton (1766-1844)  
collecting marsh fire gas (methane) with  
youngsters near Manchester

(*The Manchester Murals* Ford Madox Brown)



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### Energy carrier

Statue by Marc Ruygrok celebrating  
50 year of gas extraction in NL  
(Photo: Reinier Treur)



### Aerobic methane oxidation (1906)



### Quest for nitrite/nitrate/iron AOM

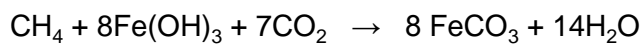
#### Nitrite dependent anaerobic oxidation of methane



#### Nitrate dependent anaerobic oxidation of methane



#### Iron dependent anaerobic oxidation of methane



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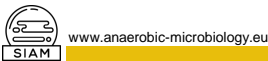
European Research Council



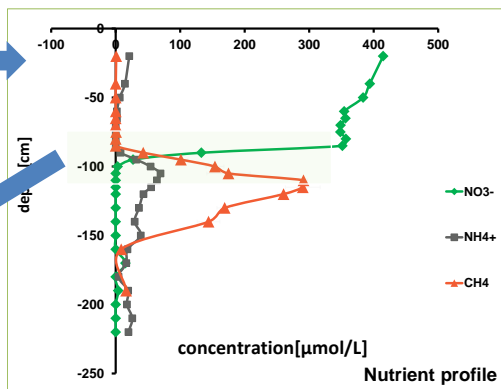
ERC AG 339880 EcoMoM 2014-2018  
ERC PoC Initiator 2016-2017



## Where do we find nitrate/nitrite-AOM?



## Suitable counter gradient profiles of nitrate & methane



Activity tests  
 qPCR  
 Stable isotopes  
 Enrichment  
 FISH  
 Metagenome

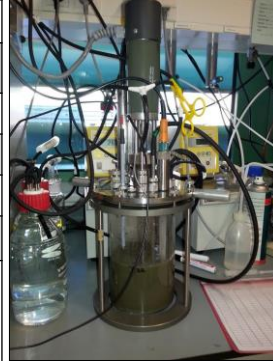


## Enrichment Culture CH<sub>4</sub> & Nitrate



Annika Vaksmaa

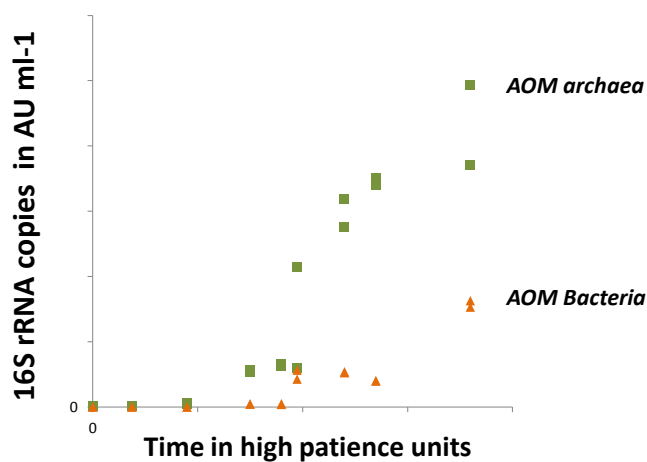
Inoculum	Paddy field soil
Electron donor	CH <sub>4</sub>
Electron acceptor	NaNO <sub>3</sub>
Type	Continuous SBR
Time of operation	2 years
Monitoring	qPCR batch experiments nitrate, nitrite measurements Metagenome analysis



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Vaksmaa et al (2016) in prep

### Monitoring of enrichment culture for AOM archaea & bacteria



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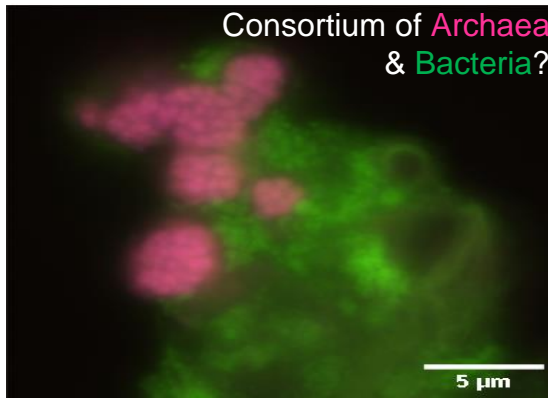
Vaksmaa et al (2016) in prep



LETTERS

**A microbial consortium couples anaerobic methane oxidation to denitrification**

Ashna A. Raghoebarsing<sup>1</sup>, Arjan Pol<sup>1</sup>, Katinka T. van de Pas-Schoonen<sup>1</sup>, Alfons J. P. Smolders<sup>2</sup>, Katharina F. Ettwig<sup>1</sup>, W. Irene C. Rijstra<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Schouten<sup>1</sup>, Jaap S. Sinningh Damsté<sup>1</sup>, Huub J. M. Op den Camp<sup>1</sup>, Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1</sup> & Marc Strous<sup>1</sup>



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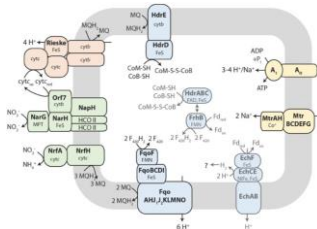
Raghoebarsing et al (2006) Nature;



+ Nitrate



**Archaea**  
**Methanoperedens**  
**Metagenome extrapolations**



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Raghoebarsing et al (2006) Nature; Ettwig (2010) Nature; Haroon et al (2013) Nature

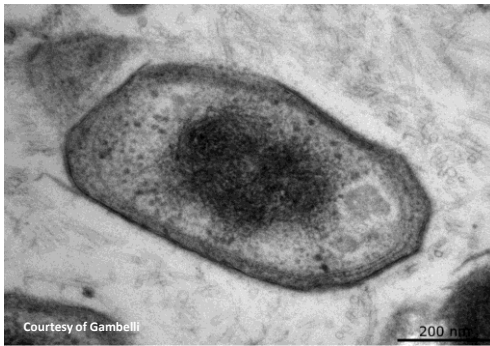


+ Nitrite

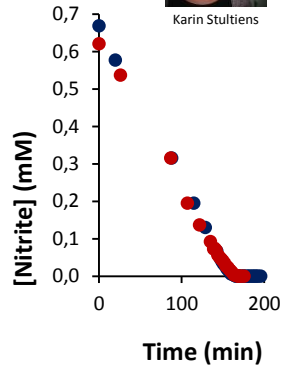
**Bacteria**  
**Methylomirabilis**  
**NO dismutase?**

**Physiology**  
**Genome**  
**Stable isotopes**

# Methylomirabilis oxyfera



Karin Stultiens



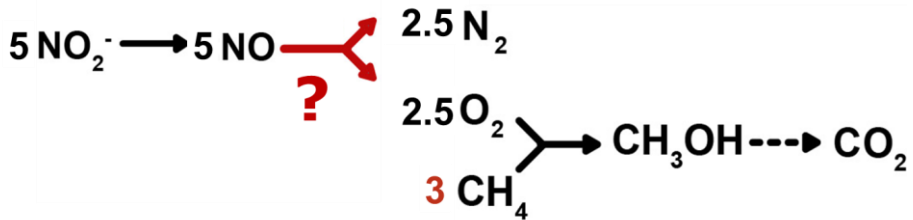
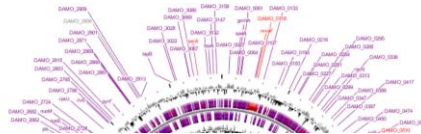
- Doubling time of 2 weeks
- Ecophysiology Ks & Yield?
- Enrichment >80 % *M. oxyfera*
- Polygonal shape
- Rubisco



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## Genome of Methylomirabilis oxyfera



2010

pathway of (aerobic) methane oxidation  
 Incomplete denitrification  
 Putative NO dismutase



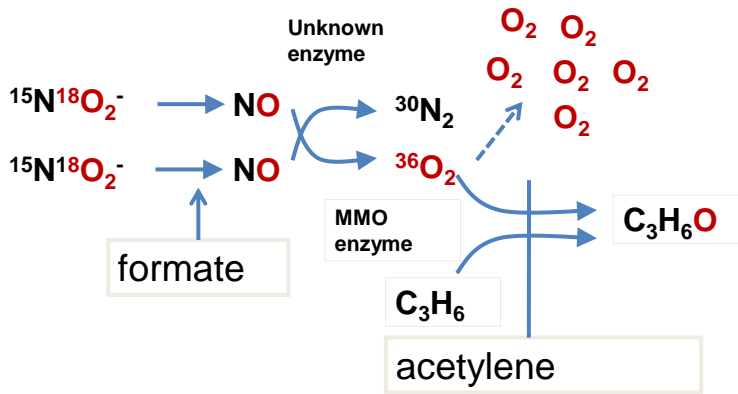
www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu

Ettwig (2010) Nature



## Possible mechanisms of *M. oxyfera*

Use of suicide substrates, inhibitors and  $^{15}\text{N}^{18}\text{O}$  nitrite



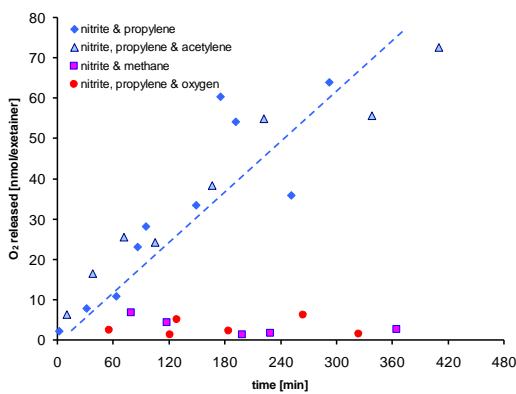
www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu

Ettwig (2010) Nature



## Methylomirabilis oxyfera putative NO dismutase

$2\text{NO} \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{O}_2$



ARTICLES

**Nitrite-driven anaerobic methane oxidation by oxygenic bacteria**

Katharina F. Emswiler<sup>1</sup>, Margaret K. Butler<sup>1,2</sup>, Denis Le Paslier<sup>1,2</sup>, Eric Pelletier<sup>1,2</sup>, Sophie Mangoni<sup>1</sup>, Marlene M. M. Roggens<sup>1</sup>, Frank Schlotter<sup>1</sup>, Sask E. Doolin<sup>1</sup>, Johannes Zehetner<sup>1</sup>, Dirk de Beer<sup>1</sup>, Jeroen Glasbeek<sup>1</sup>, Hans J. C. T. Wessels<sup>1</sup>, Theo van Alen<sup>1</sup>, Francesca Luukkonen<sup>1</sup>, Ming L. Wu<sup>1</sup>, Katriina T. van de Pas-Schoonen<sup>1</sup>, Huub J. M. Op den Camp<sup>1</sup>, Eva M. Janssen-Mogensen<sup>1</sup>, Kees-Jan Francouij<sup>1</sup>, Henk Stunnenberg<sup>1</sup>, Jean Wassenbusch<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1</sup> & Marc Stoupe<sup>1,2</sup>

$^{15}\text{N}^{18}\text{O}$  experiments show: **Oxygen Production**



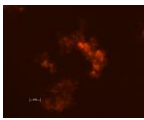
www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu

Ettwig (2010) Nature

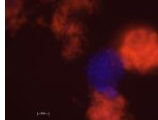


## New impossible anaerobes can be discovered

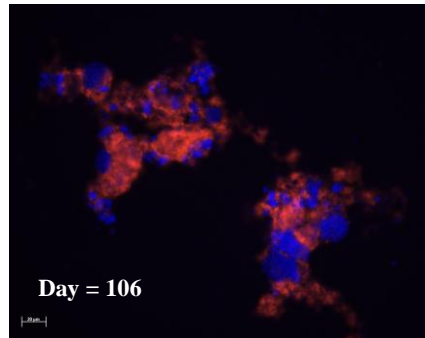
- Hydrazine synthase in anammox
- *Moxyfera* makes  $O_2$  from NO
- Novel nitrate reducing AOM archaea
- AOM present in many ecosystems
- Combinations for application in WWTP



Day = 0  
Moxy193 = red  
Amx368 = blue



Day = 61



Day = 106



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*Anammox, Moxyfera, Methanoperedens and other new (an)aerobic microbes could save the world*

By Jeanna Bryner



Unique bacteria hiding out in a witches' brew of anoxic water not only thrive in cold wetlands and oceans but also chow down its ammonium and methane

# Thank you !



erc



erc



NESSC  
NETHERLANDS EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE CENTRE

NWO  
Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research



TU Delft



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**Materials not shown at melissa**



## Anammox and *M. oxyfera*



*M. oxyfera* and anammox bacteria use the same electron acceptor and live under similar environmental conditions

It should be possible to enriched co-cultures in the same bioreactor if nitrite, ammonium and methane are sufficiently present.



Luesken, sanchez et al unpublished

European Research Council



## Anammox and *M. oxyfera*



Use a stable *M. oxyfera* reactor

- check if anammox 16s rRNA genes are still present
- start adding ammonium
- monitor

FISH, 16S rRNA, activity



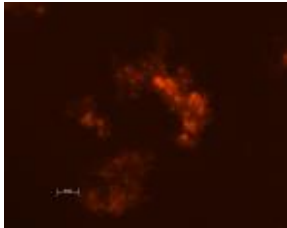
APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Oct. 2011, p. 000  
0099-2240/11/\$12.00 doi:10.1128/AEM.05538-11  
Copyright © 2011, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Vol. 77, No. 19

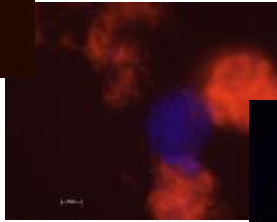
Simultaneous Nitrite-Dependent Anaerobic Methane and Ammonium Oxidation Processes<sup>7</sup>

Francisca A. Luesken,<sup>1†</sup> Jaime Sánchez,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Theo A. van Alen,<sup>1</sup> Janeth Sanabria,<sup>2</sup> Huub J. M. Op den Camp,<sup>5</sup> Mike S. M. Jetten,<sup>1,4</sup> and Boran Kartal<sup>1\*</sup>

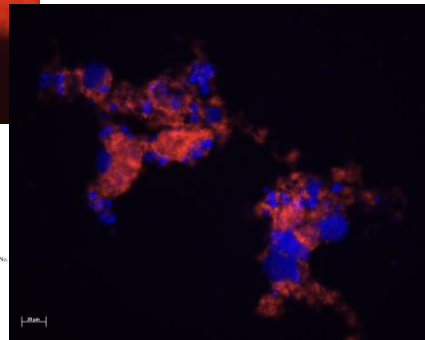




Day = 0  
Moxy193 = red  
Amx368= blue



Day = 61  
Moxy193 = red  
Amx368= blue



Day = 106  
Moxy193 = red  
Amx368= blue

European Research Council



801 and Environmental Microbiology, Oct. 2011, p. 199  
DOI:10.1128/AEM.01510-11  
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Simultaneous Nitrite-Dependent Anaerobic Methane and Ammonium Oxidation Processes<sup>1</sup>

Francisco A. Laursen,<sup>1</sup> Jaime Sánchez,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Theo A. van Aken,<sup>1</sup> Janeth Sanabria,<sup>2</sup> Hauke J. M. Op den Camp,<sup>1</sup> Mike S. M. Jetten,<sup>1,4</sup> and Bora Kartal<sup>1,5</sup>

Vol. 77, No.

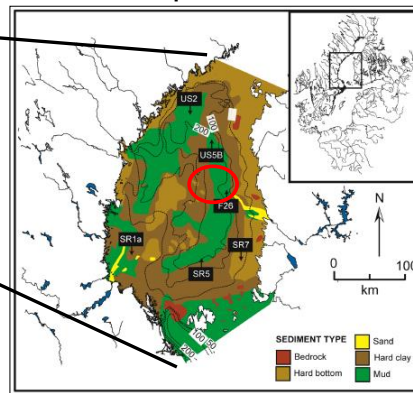
## Sampling site: Bothnian Sea



Olivia Rasigraf



216 m water depth



Matthias Egger & Caroline Slomp



www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu



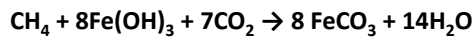
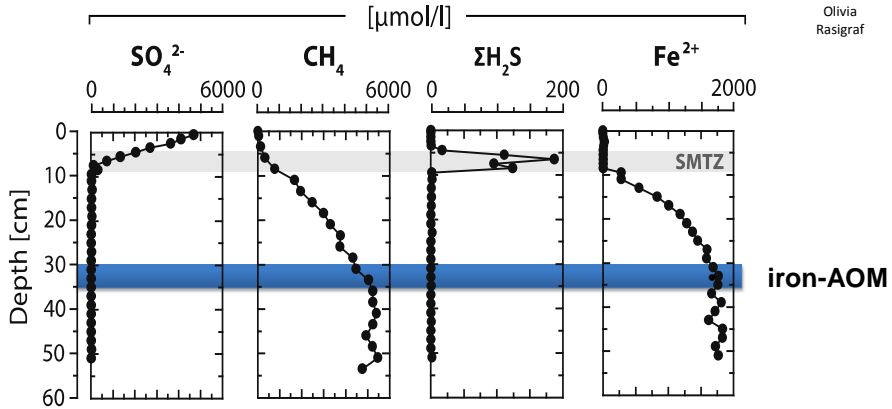
Universiteit Utrecht



# Sediment biogeochemistry



Olivia  
Rasigraf



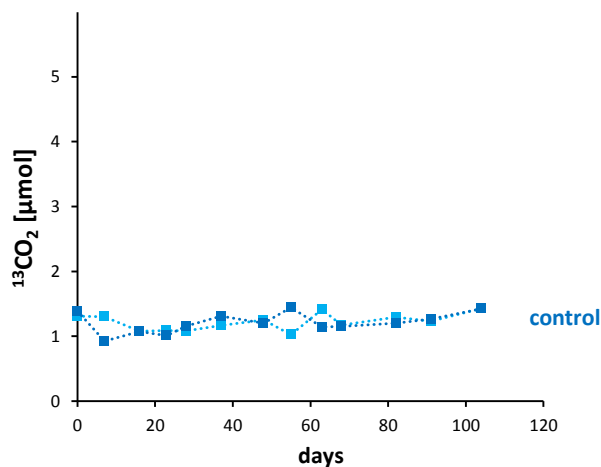
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## $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ oxidation to $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ coupled to $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ reduction

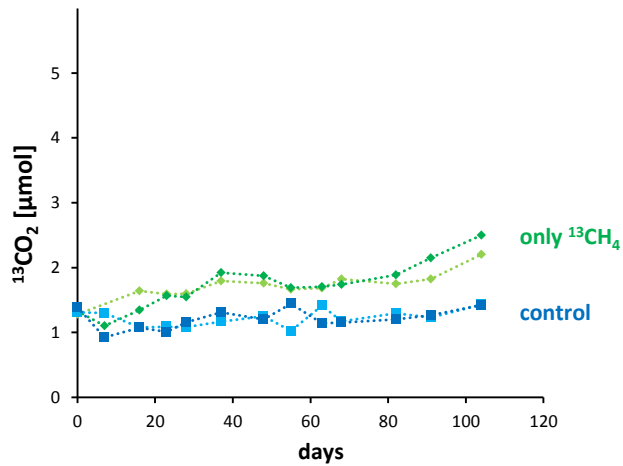


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## $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ oxidation to $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ coupled to $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ reduction

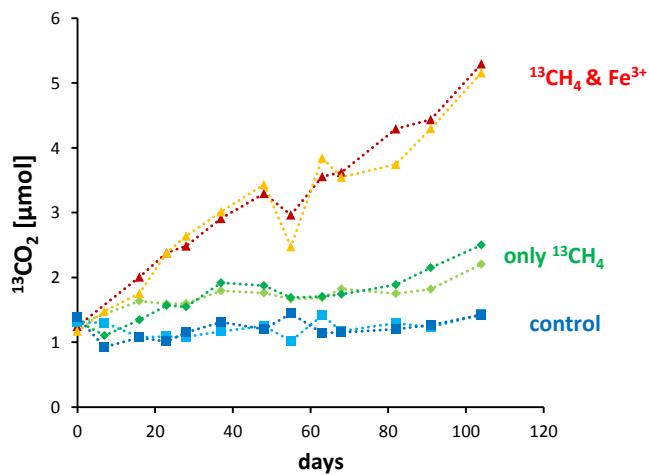


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**NESSC**  
NETHERLANDS EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE CENTRE



## $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ oxidation to $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ coupled to $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ reduction

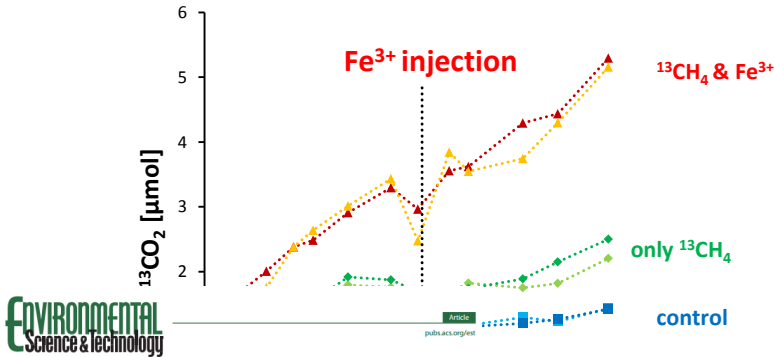


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**NESSC**  
NETHERLANDS EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE CENTRE



## $^{13}\text{CH}_4$ oxidation to $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ coupled to $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ reduction



ENVIRONMENTAL  
Science & Technology

### Iron-Mediated Anaerobic Oxidation of Methane in Brackish Coastal Sediments

Matthias Egger,<sup>1,2</sup> Olivia Rasigraf,<sup>2</sup> Céilia J. Sapart,<sup>3,4</sup> Tom Jilbert,<sup>1,2</sup> Mike S. M. Jetten,<sup>2</sup> Thomas Röckmann,<sup>5</sup> Carina van der Veen,<sup>1</sup> Narcisca Bändi,<sup>6</sup> Boran Kartal,<sup>1,4</sup> Katharina F. Ertwig,<sup>1</sup> and Caroline P. Slomp<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Earth Sciences - Geochemistry, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, Budapestlaan 4, 3584 CD Utrecht, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology, Institute for Water and Wetland Research, Faculty of Science, Radboud University Nijmegen, Heyendaalseweg 135, 6525 AJ Nijmegen, The Netherlands

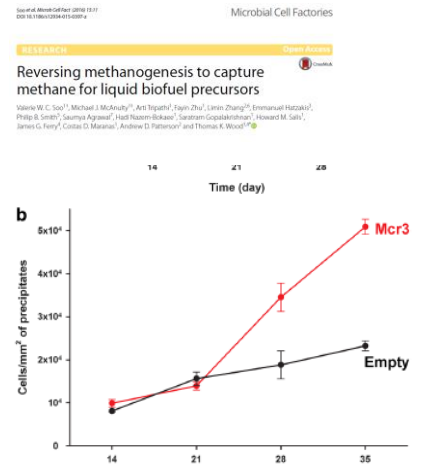
<sup>3</sup>Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research Utrecht (IMAU), Utrecht University, Princetonplein 5, 3584 CC Utrecht, The Netherlands

<sup>4</sup>Laboratoire de Glaciologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 50 Avenue F. D. Roosevelt, B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

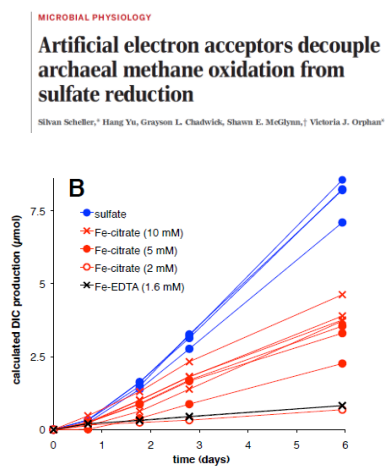
<sup>5</sup>Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Laboratory of Microbiology, Ghent University, K. L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium



## More Evidence for iron AOM



Growth of engineered Methanosarcina On Methane & 10 mM  $\text{FeCl}_3$



Activity of AOM On Methane & 10 mM Fe-Citrate



www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu





[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu)



## Improvement of N removal



- **Less oxygen demand**
- **No COD use**
- **Less biomass production**
- **No emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O**

7 MAY 2010 VOL 328 SCIENCE [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)

stowa

stvw



TU Delft

Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen





## Improvement of N removal



- Less oxygen demand



- No COD use

ENGINEERING

### Sewage Treatment with Anammox

B. Kartal,<sup>1</sup> J. G. Kuenen,<sup>2</sup> M. C. M. van Loosdrecht<sup>2</sup>

Wastewater treatment including high rate anammox processes have the potential to become energy-neutral or even energy-producing.

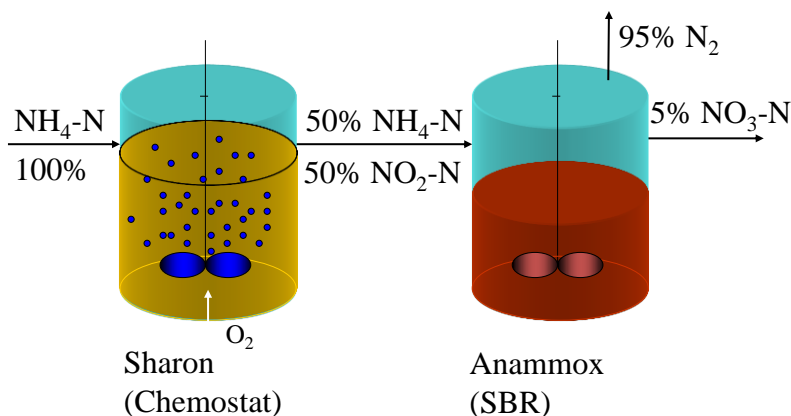
7 MAY 2010 VOL 328 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org



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## SHARON & ANAMMOX

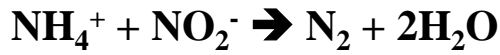


**No Chemicals; No  $\text{CO}_2$  emission;**

**Energy from -44 to +24 ( $\text{Wh p}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ )**

**Savings NL 140 GWh = -66 to + 33 Meuro a<sup>-1</sup>**

**ANAMMOX APPLICATION**  
**Added Value**



**NRC HANDELSBLAD**

**Tomatensoep zuivert water**

Hoe innovatief is Nederland? Deze week: een bacterie die de wereld moet versorven. Margriet van der Heijden



**H**et is de laatste week van de editie van het NRC Handelsblad. Het is de laatste week van de editie van het NRC Handelsblad. Het is de laatste week van de editie van het NRC Handelsblad. Het is de laatste week van de editie van het NRC Handelsblad.

- Less oxygen demand**
- No COD use**
- Less biomass production**
- No emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O**



ENGINEERING

**Sewage Treatment with Anammox**

B. Kartal,<sup>1</sup> J. G. Kuennen,<sup>2</sup> M. C. M. van Loosdrecht<sup>1</sup>

Wastewater treatment including high rate anammox processes have the potential to become energy-neutral or even energy-producing.



**ANAMMOX APPLICATION**  
**Added Value**



Date : Balk, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009  
 To : Editorial staff

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 Postbus 52  
 8560 AB Balk  
 t. 0514 - 60 85 00  
 f. 0514 - 60 33 42  
 e. info@paques.nl  
 i. www.paques.nl

**Press release**

Chinese food company chooses for sustainability and cost savings:

**Paques builds world's largest ANAMMOX® wastewater treatment plant for ammonium disposal in China**

Paques Environmental Technology Shanghai, a sister company of Paques bv in Balk, the Netherlands, has reached an agreement for the design and



**Meihua China 11 ton N/d**  
**Rendac NL 15 ton N/d**

ENGINEERING

**Sewage Treatment with Anammox**

B. Kartal,<sup>1</sup> J. G. Kuennen,<sup>2</sup> M. C. M. van Loosdrecht<sup>1</sup>

Wastewater treatment including high rate anammox processes have the potential to become energy-neutral or even energy-producing.



## surprise symbionts

environmental  
microbiology reports



Environmental Microbiology Reports (2016) 00(00), 00–00

doi:10.1111/1758-2229.12407

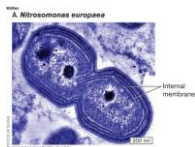


Maartje van Kessel

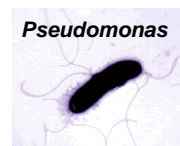
**Branchial nitrogen cycle symbionts can remove ammonia in fish gills**



$\text{NH}_4^+$



$\text{NO}_2^-$



$\text{N}_2$

Funded by ERC AG 232937 ANAMMOX 2009-2013



[www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu](http://www.anaerobic-microbiology.eu)

Van Kessel (2016) EMIR

European Research Council

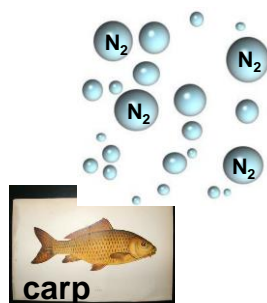
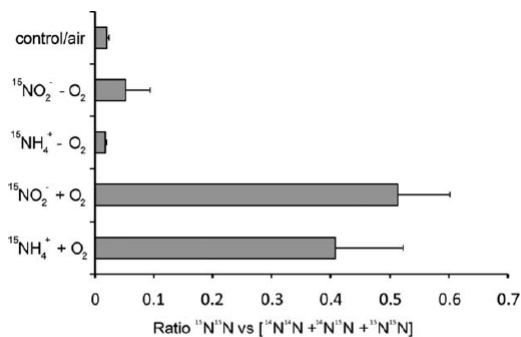
ERC AG 2008  
anammoX



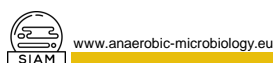


Maartje van Kessel

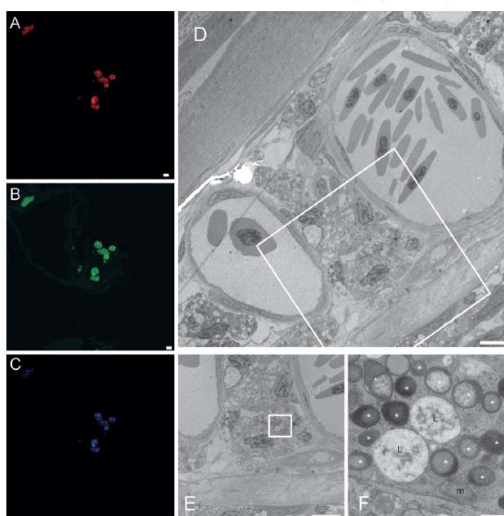
**Branchial nitrogen cycle symbionts can remove ammonia in fish gills**



**Fig. 1.** Nitrogen gas production by dissected gills of common carp. Dissected gills were incubated for 90 min with <sup>15</sup>N-labelled ammonium or nitrite in the presence or absence of oxygen. Production of labelled nitrogen gas is shown by an increase in the ratio of <sup>30</sup>N to total nitrogen gas. Values are the mean ± SD (n = 6).

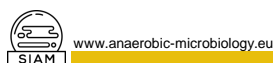


Van Kessel (2016) EMIR



Nitrogen cycle microorganisms in fish gills 3

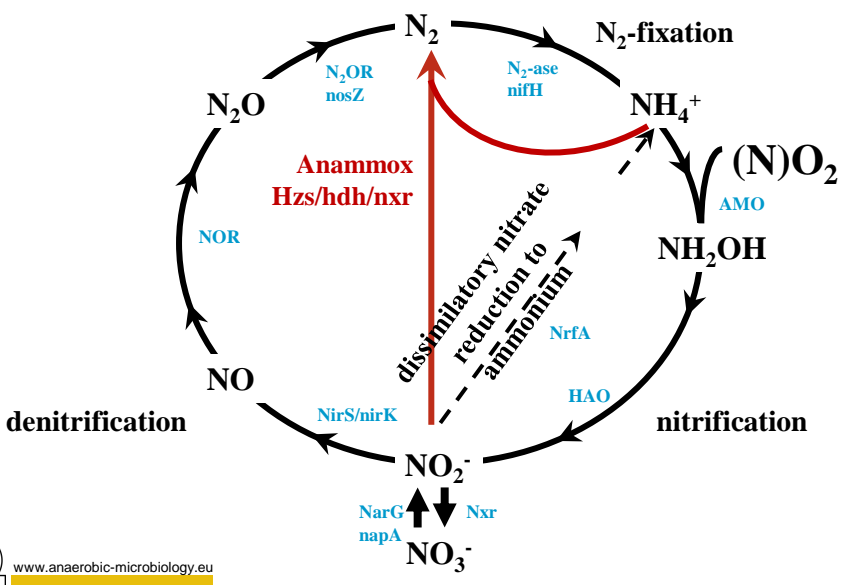
**Fig. 2.** Microscopic observations of gill tissue. Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) on the gills of common carp (A, B, C). A. FISH using eubmix (Eub I, II, III, labelled with Cy3) targeting all bacteria. B. FISH targeting beta-proteobacteria (bet42a + competitor, labelled with FLUOS). C. FISH targeting beta-proteobacterial ammonia-oxidizing bacteria (NSO1225, labelled with Cy5). The bacterial clusters are targeted by the probes. Many bacteria within the clusters are ammonia-oxidizing bacteria. Scale bar represents 10 μm. Transmission electron microscopy on gills of common carp (D, E, F). D. Clusters of bacteria are found close to blood vessels within the carp gill. E. Bacteria reside in host cells. F. Magnification of the bacterial cells in the carp gills. Scale bars represent 5 μm, 5 μm and 500 nm for panels D, E, and F, respectively.



Van Kessel (2016) EMIR

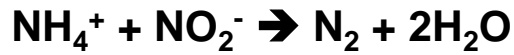


# NITROGEN CYCLE





## HOW DOES ANAMMOX GET NITRITE?

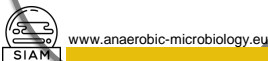
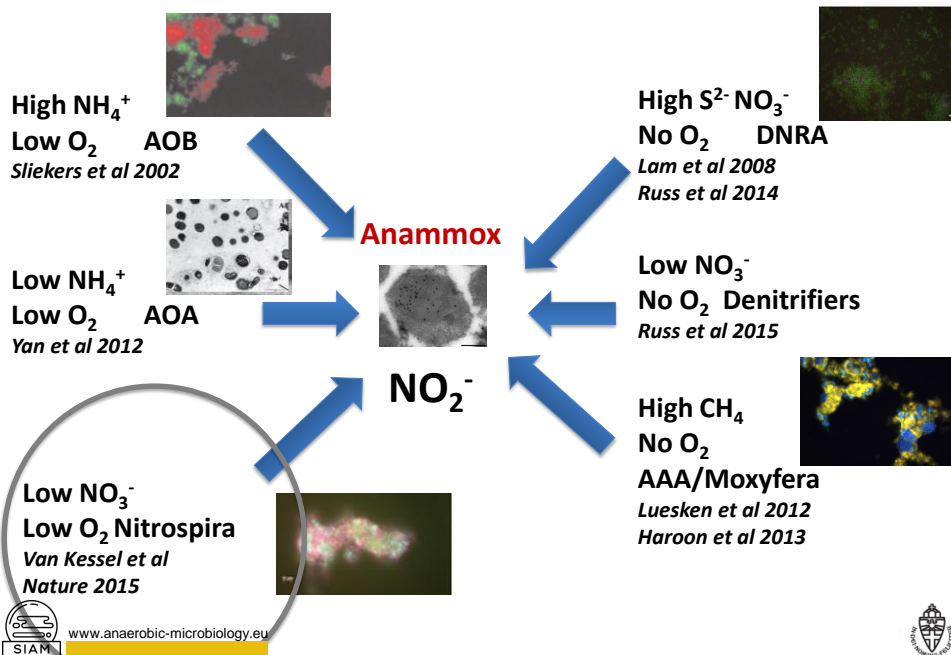


### COOPERATION WITH OTHER N-CYCLE MICROBES

AOB	$\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{O}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_2$
AOA	$\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{O}_2^- \rightarrow \text{NO}_2$
NOB	Competition?
DENITRIFIERS	$\text{NO}_3 + \text{ORG} \rightarrow \text{NO}_2$
DNRA	$\text{NO}_3 + \text{ORG} \rightarrow \text{NO}_2/\text{NH}_4$
AOM-Archaea	$\text{NO}_3 + \text{CH}_4 \rightarrow \text{NO}_2$



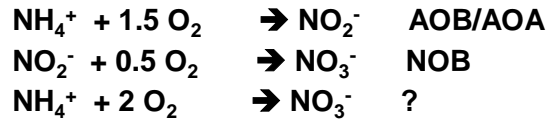
### Microbial interactions of ANAMMOX bacteria





# Why is metabolic labour divided in nitrification?

Engràcia Costa<sup>1</sup>, Julio Pérez<sup>1</sup> and Jan-Ulrich Kreft<sup>2</sup>



Does a Complete ammonium oxidiser (comammox) exist?

Funded by ERC AG 232937 ANAMMOX 2009-2013



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ERC AG 2008  
anamox



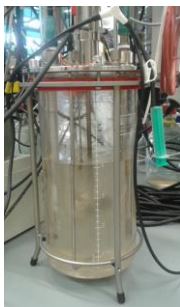
## LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature16459



### Complete nitrification by a single microorganism

Maartje A. H. J. van Kessel<sup>1</sup>, Daan R. Speth<sup>1</sup>, Mads Albertsen<sup>2</sup>, Per H. Nielsen<sup>2</sup>, Huub J. M. Op den Camp<sup>1</sup>, Boran Kartal<sup>1,3</sup>, Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1,4</sup> & Sebastian Lücker<sup>1</sup>



**Inoculum: Biofilm from aquaculture biofilter**

**Medium: Aquaculture water with**

**low  $[\text{NH}_4^+, \text{NO}_2^-, \text{NO}_3^-] < 0.5 \text{ mM}$**

**No extra carbon source; No  $\text{O}_2$  supply**

**→ Conditions for anammox & comammox**

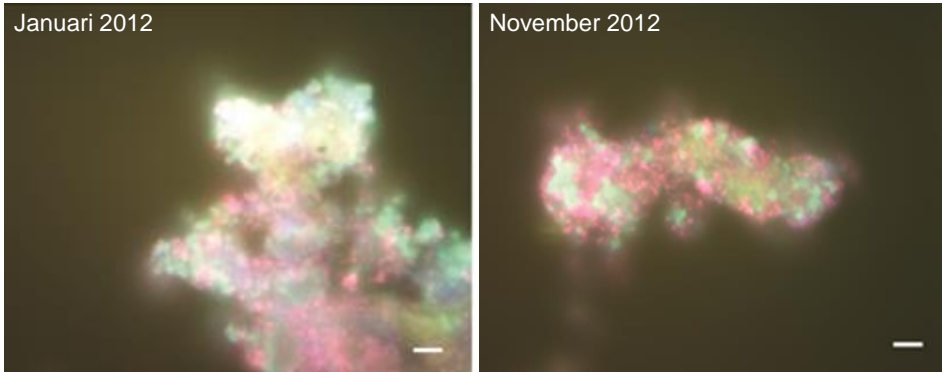
**→ After 1 year  $\text{NH}_4^+$  plus  $\text{NO}_2^-$  consumption**



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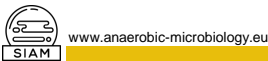
## Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization of **commamox** & **anamnox**



pink = anamnox; green = *Nitrospira*; blue = all bacteria

***Nitrospira* is always present in flocs with anammox**

Stable coculture; cross feeding? What does *Nitrospira* do?



## What does *Nitrospira* do in this culture?

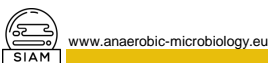
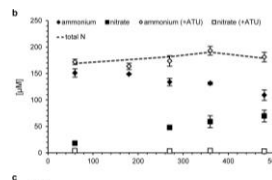


- Extract DNA
- Sequence DNA by high trough put
- Assemble contigs & bin genomes
- Analysis of genomes
- Design new experiments

ion torrent



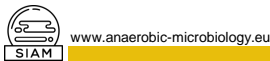
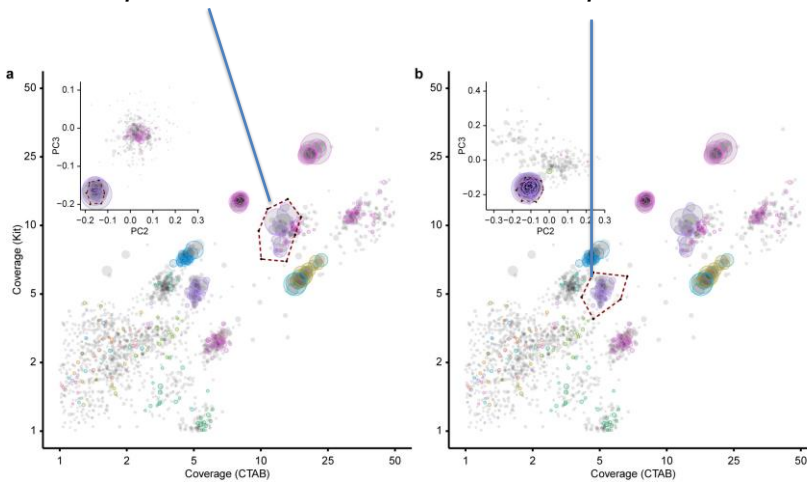
illumina  
MiSeq



# Metagenome sequencing, assembly & coverage binning

Two high quality *Nitrospira* genomes

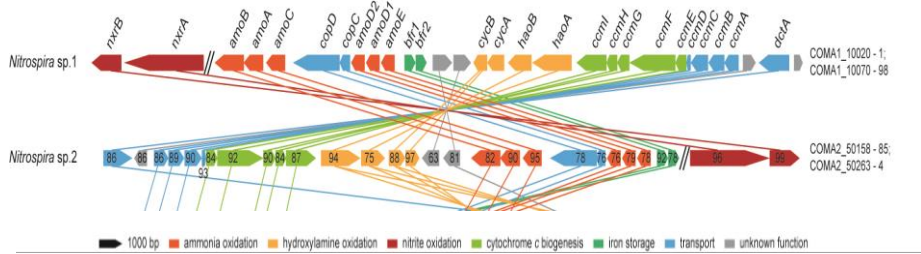
*Nitrospira nitrificans* & *Nitrospira nitrosa*



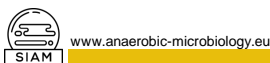
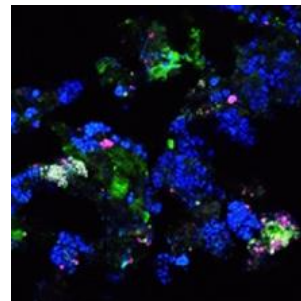
## Nitrospira genomes do contain amoA & hao!



Sebastian Luecker



**Experimental validation**  
 with ATU = amo inhibitor  
 with FISH MAR  
 with specific AMO labeling



# Excellent example of synergy & collaboration



## Complete nitrification by a single microorganism

Maartje A. H. J. van Kessel<sup>1</sup>, Diana R. Speeth<sup>1</sup>, Mads Kibbervang<sup>1</sup>, Per H. Nielsen<sup>1</sup>, Houbi J. M. Ojden Camp<sup>1</sup>, Brian Kartal<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1,3</sup> & Sebastian Luecker<sup>4</sup>

## Complete nitrification by *Nitrospira* bacteria

Houbi J. M. Ojden Camp<sup>1</sup>, Diana R. Speeth<sup>1</sup>, Mads Kibbervang<sup>1</sup>, Per H. Nielsen<sup>1</sup>, Brian Kartal<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike S. M. Jetten<sup>1,3</sup>, Sebastian Luecker<sup>4</sup>, Maartje A. H. J. van Kessel<sup>1</sup>

## Comammox does exist = *Nitrospira* species unusual/novel amoA gene

### Future research: Isolation & defined co-cultures



Dimitra Sakoula



Maartje van Kessel

### Environmental relevance & detection



Lianna Poghosyan



Sebastian Luecker



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