

Table S1. The information of sampling stations in the northern South China Sea.

| Sampling station | Longitude(°E) | Latitude(°N) | Sampling layers (m) | Sampling date |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| A11 | 117.00 | 18.00 | 5 | 07/25/2017 |
| | 117.00 | 18.00 | 75 | 07/25/2017 |
| A12 | 117.00 | 16.59 | 5 | 08/09/2017 |
| | 117.00 | 16.59 | 70 | 08/09/2017 |
| A14 | 116.45 | 15.29 | 5 | 08/06/2017 |
| | 116.45 | 15.29 | 55 | 08/06/2017 |
| A1 | 115.00 | 19.00 | 5 | 07/24/2017 |
| | 115.00 | 19.00 | 95 | 07/24/2017 |
| A2 | 115.01 | 17.58 | 0 | 07/30/2017 |
| | 115.01 | 17.58 | 85 | 07/30/2017 |
| A4 | 115.05 | 16.00 | 0 | 08/03/2017 |
| | 115.05 | 16.00 | 70 | 08/03/2017 |
| B1 | 115.40 | 20.31 | 5 | 07/23/2017 |
| | 115.40 | 20.31 | 65 | 07/23/2017 |
| B4 | 116.59 | 18.59 | 5 | 07/22/2017 |
| | 116.59 | 18.59 | 75 | 07/22/2017 |
| C1 | 116.32 | 20.56 | 5 | 07/21/2017 |
| | 116.32 | 20.56 | 50 | 07/21/2017 |
| C4 | 118.00 | 19.30 | 5 | 07/22/2017 |
| | 118.00 | 19.30 | 75 | 07/22/2017 |
| D2 | 117.21 | 21.31 | 5 | 07/20/2017 |
| | 117.21 | 21.31 | 60 | 07/20/2017 |
| D4 | 118.05 | 20.50 | 5 | 07/20/2017 |
| | 118.05 | 20.50 | 65 | 07/20/2017 |
| DC2 | 115.24 | 16.31 | 5 | 08/02/2017 |
| | 115.24 | 16.31 | 65 | 08/02/2017 |
| DC6 | 114.88 | 15.23 | 5 | 08/04/2017 |
| | 114.88 | 15.23 | 60 | 08/04/2017 |
| N2 | 118.42 | 22.07 | 5 | 07/12/2017 |
| | 118.42 | 22.07 | 90 | 07/12/2017 |
| Seats | 115.56 | 18.00 | 5 | 07/25/2017 |
| | 115.56 | 18.00 | 70 | 07/25/2017 |

Table S2. Partial Mantel test, Multiple Regression on Dissimilarity Matrices (MRM), and Variation Partitioning Analysis (VPA) were conducted to reveal the relative importance of shaping factors on the total beta diversity of the ciliate community.

| Partial Mantel test | | | | | MRM | | | VPA | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Variables | r | P | Control for all other factors | | Variables | R ² | P | Variables | R ² | P |
| Geographic distance | 0.26 | 0.001 | 0.27 | 0 | Geographic distance | 7.05 | 0.001 | [G] | 0.189 | 0.001 |
| Environmental factors | 0.056 | 0.202 | - | - | Temperature | 6.65 | 0.002 | [E] | 0.147 | 0.001 |
| Depth | 0.109 | 0.038 | 0.126 | 0.056 | Dissolved oxygen | 2.07 | 0.008 | [D] | 0.057 | 0.001 |
| Temperature | 0.128 | 0.016 | 0.073 | 0.293 | | | | [G E+D] | 0.147 | 0.001 |
| Salinity | 0.095 | 0.037 | 0.019 | 0.791 | | | | [E G+D] | 0.093 | 0.001 |
| Dissolved oxygen | 0.319 | 0.001 | 0.308 | 0.001 | | | | [D G+E] | 0.031 | 0.001 |
| PNF _a | -0.03 | 0.626 | - | - | | | | Residuals | 0.675 | |
| PNF _{bc} | -0.12 | 0.961 | - | - | | | | | | |
| HNF _a | -0.06 | 0.755 | - | - | | | | | | |
| HNF _{bc} | -0.03 | 0.679 | - | - | | | | | | |
| Bacterial abundance | 0.103 | 0.094 | - | - | | | | | | |

PNF_a, HNF_a: the abundance of pigmented and heterotrophic nanoflagellates with a particle size of 2-5 µm.

PNF_{bc}, HNF_{bc}: the abundance of pigmented and heterotrophic nanoflagellates with a particle size of 5-20 µm.

[G]: geographic distance; [E]: environmental factors; [D]: depth; [G|E+D]: unique geographic distance; [E|G+D]: unique environmental factors; [D|G+E]: unique depth.

Table S3. List of KCI sensitive OTUs identified by both indicator species analysis and EdgeR.

| OUT ID | Taxonomy | Group |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Otu1003 | Ciliophora-10; Ciliophora-10_X; Ciliophora-10_XX; Ciliophora-10_XXX; Ciliophora-10_XXX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu910 | Colpodea; Colpodida; Colpodidae; Colpoda; Colpoda_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1406 | Eukaryota; Alveolata; Ciliophora | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu328 | Eukaryota; Alveolata; Ciliophora | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu905 | Eukaryota; Alveolata; Ciliophora | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu376 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu495 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu723 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu855 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu104 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia; Cyclotrichia_X; Cyclotrichia_XX; Cyclotrichia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu115 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia; Cyclotrichia_X; Cyclotrichia_XX; Cyclotrichia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu408 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia; Cyclotrichia_X; Cyclotrichia_XX; Cyclotrichia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu472 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia; Cyclotrichia_X; Cyclotrichia_XX; Cyclotrichia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu868 | Litostomatea; Cyclotrichia; Cyclotrichia_X; Cyclotrichia_XX; Cyclotrichia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu824 | Litostomatea; Haptoria | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1012 | Oligohymenophorea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu239 | Oligohymenophorea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu831 | Oligohymenophorea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1344 | Oligohymenophorea; Oligohymenophorea_X; Oligohymenophorea_XX | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu813 | Oligohymenophorea; Oligohymenophorea_X; Oligohymenophorea_XX | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu70 | Oligohymenophorea; Peritrichia; Zoothamniidae; Zoothamnium; Zoothamnium_pelagicum | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu485 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Cinetochilidae; Cinetochilum | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1455 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Cyclidiidae; Cyclidium; Cyclidium_glaucoma | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu305 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Orchitophryidae; Metanophrys; Metanophrys_sinensis | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Otu840 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia_X; Scuticociliatia_XX; Scuticociliatia_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1041 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1086 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1313 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu404 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu433 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu590 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu624 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia-1; Scuticociliatia-1_X; Scuticociliatia-1_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1329 | Phyllopharyngea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu188 | Phyllopharyngea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu267 | Phyllopharyngea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu374 | Phyllopharyngea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu912 | Phyllopharyngea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu771 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu337 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu397 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu593 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu639 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu657 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu696 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1617 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu292 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu400 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu542 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu548 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu717 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Otu745 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu153 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodontidae_X; Chlamydodontidae_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu707 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Hartmannulidae; Hartmannulidae_X; Hartmannulidae_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu75 | Phyllopharyngea; Suctoria | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu279 | Phyllopharyngea; Suctoria; Acinetidae; Acinetidae_X; Acinetidae_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu799 | Prostomatea; Prostomatea-1; Prostomatea-1_X; Prostomatea-1_XX; Prostomatea-1_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1629 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu310 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu407 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu422 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu582 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu841 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu901 | Spirotrichea | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu661 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu204 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Choreotrichida_X; Choreotrichida_XX; Choreotrichida_XX_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu904 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu247 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I; Pelagostrobilidium | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1510 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strombidinopsidae; Parastrombidinopsis; Parastrombidinopsis_minima | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu270 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strombidinopsidae; Strombidinopsis | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu311 | Spirotrichea; Hypotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu610 | Spirotrichea; Hypotrichia | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1000 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1331 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1399 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu401 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |

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|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Otu473 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu947 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1152 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida; Strombidiidae; Strombidiidae_X; Strombidiidae_X_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu85 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida; Strombidiidae_K; Strombidium_K; Strombidium_K_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu97 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida; Strombidiidae_R; Strombidium_R; Strombidium_R_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu117 | Spirotrichea; Strombidiida; Tontoniidae_A; Spirotontonia; Spirotontonia_turbinata | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1181 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1205 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu377 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu973 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1105 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; Eutintinnidae | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu546 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; Eutintinnidae; Eutintinnus; Eutintinnus_tubulosus | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1043 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; TIN_01; Tintinnopsis_01; Tintinnopsis_dadayi | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1458 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; TIN_02; Tintinnopsis_02; Tintinnopsis_radix | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu988 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; TIN_06; Tintinnopsis_06; Tintinnopsis_rara | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu342 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; Tintinnidiidae; Tintinnidium | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu296 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; Tintinnidiidae; Tintinnidium; Tintinnidium_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu566 | Spirotrichea; Tintinnida; Tintinnidiidae; Tintinnidium; Tintinnidium_sp. | More Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1268 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1281 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1376 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu446 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu477 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu534 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu538 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu629 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |

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|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Otu708 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu750 | Colpodea; Colpodea-1; Colpodea-1_X; Colpodea-1_XX; Colpodea-1_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu964 | Oligohymenophorea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu681 | Oligohymenophorea; Oligohymenophorea_X; Oligohymenophorea_XX | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu886 | Oligohymenophorea; Oligohymenophorea_X; Oligohymenophorea_XX; Collinia; Collinia_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu381 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu755 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu747 | Oligohymenophorea; Scuticociliatia; Scuticociliatia_X; Scuticociliatia_XX; Scuticociliatia_XX_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu118 | Phyllopharyngea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1586 | Phyllopharyngea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu111 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chilodonellidae; Pseudochilodonopsis; Pseudochilodonopsis_fluviatilis | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu503 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu820 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu326 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu410 | Phyllopharyngea; Cyrtophoria; Chlamydodontidae; Chlamydodon; Chlamydodon_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1011 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1223 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu163 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu320 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu484 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu521 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu643 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu669 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu737 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu862 | Spirotrichea | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Otu1641 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu200 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu353 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu416 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu845 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu72 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_A; Leegaardiellidae_A_X; Leegaardiellidae_A_X_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1076 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1282 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1518 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu156 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu243 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu402 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu448 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu476 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu491 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu990 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Leegaardiellidae_B; Leegaardiella; Leegaardiella_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu210 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu384 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu452 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu697 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1099 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strobilidiidae_I; Pelagostrobilidium; Pelagostrobilidium_sp. | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu712 | Spirotrichea; Choreotrichida; Strombidinopsidae | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu1097 | Spirotrichea; Euplotia; Uronychidae; Uronychia | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu552 | Spirotrichea; Hypotrichia | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |
| Otu896 | Spirotrichea; Hypotrichia | Less Kuroshio-influenced stations |

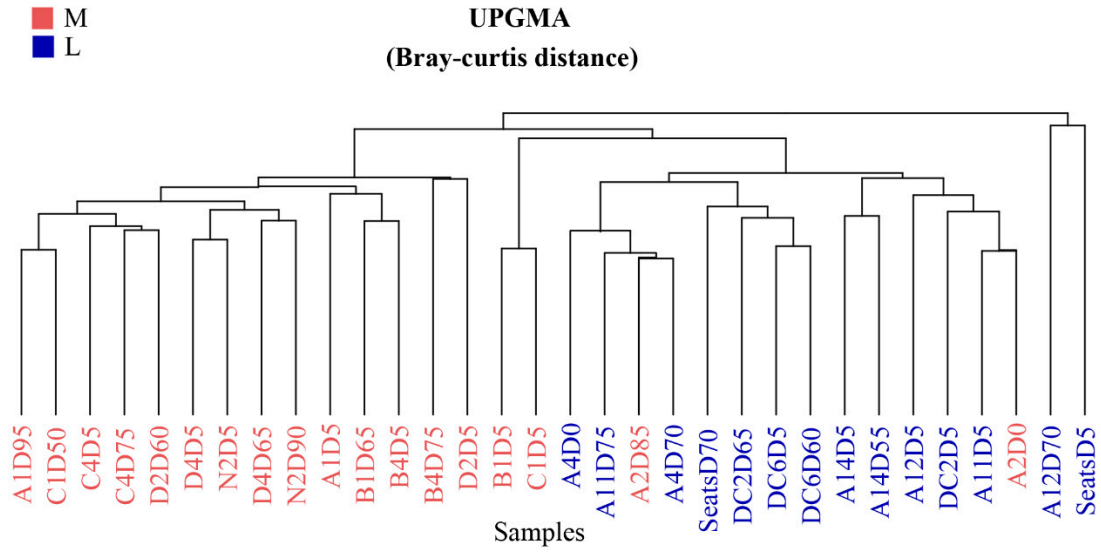


Figure S1. Hierarchical clustering analysis (UPGMA) revealed the provincial distribution pattern of the ciliate community. M: more Kuroshio-influenced stations; L: less Kuroshio-influenced stations.

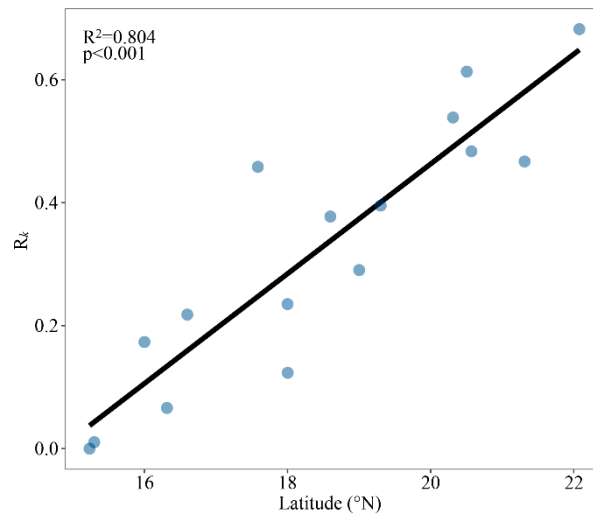


Figure S2. The linear regression analysis showed the relationship between latitude and R_k .

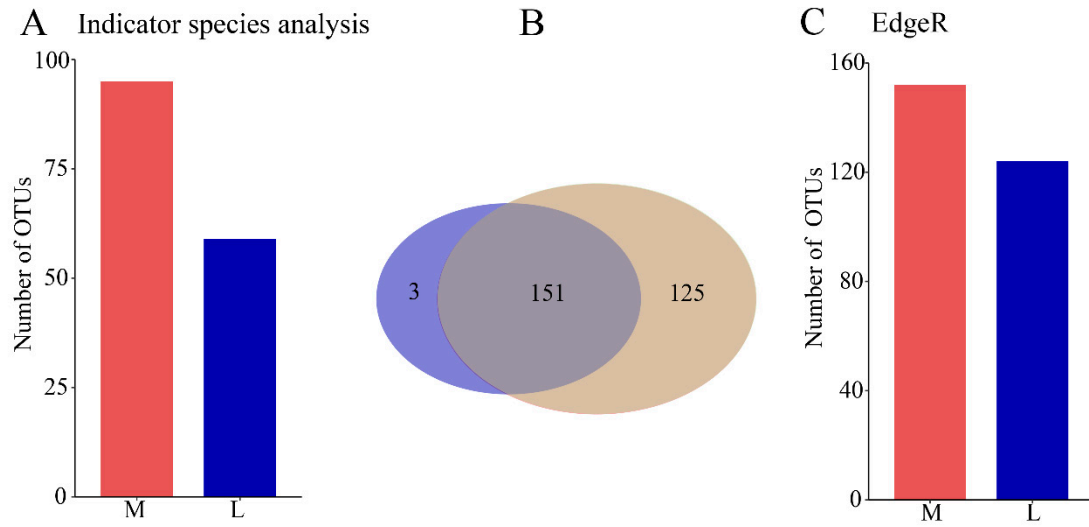


Figure S3. The numbers of KCI sensitive OTUs were revealed by indicator species analysis (A) and EdgeR analysis (C), respectively. Venn diagram showed the common KCI sensitive OTUs revealed by both methods (B). M: more Kuroshio-influenced stations; L: less Kuroshio-influenced stations.

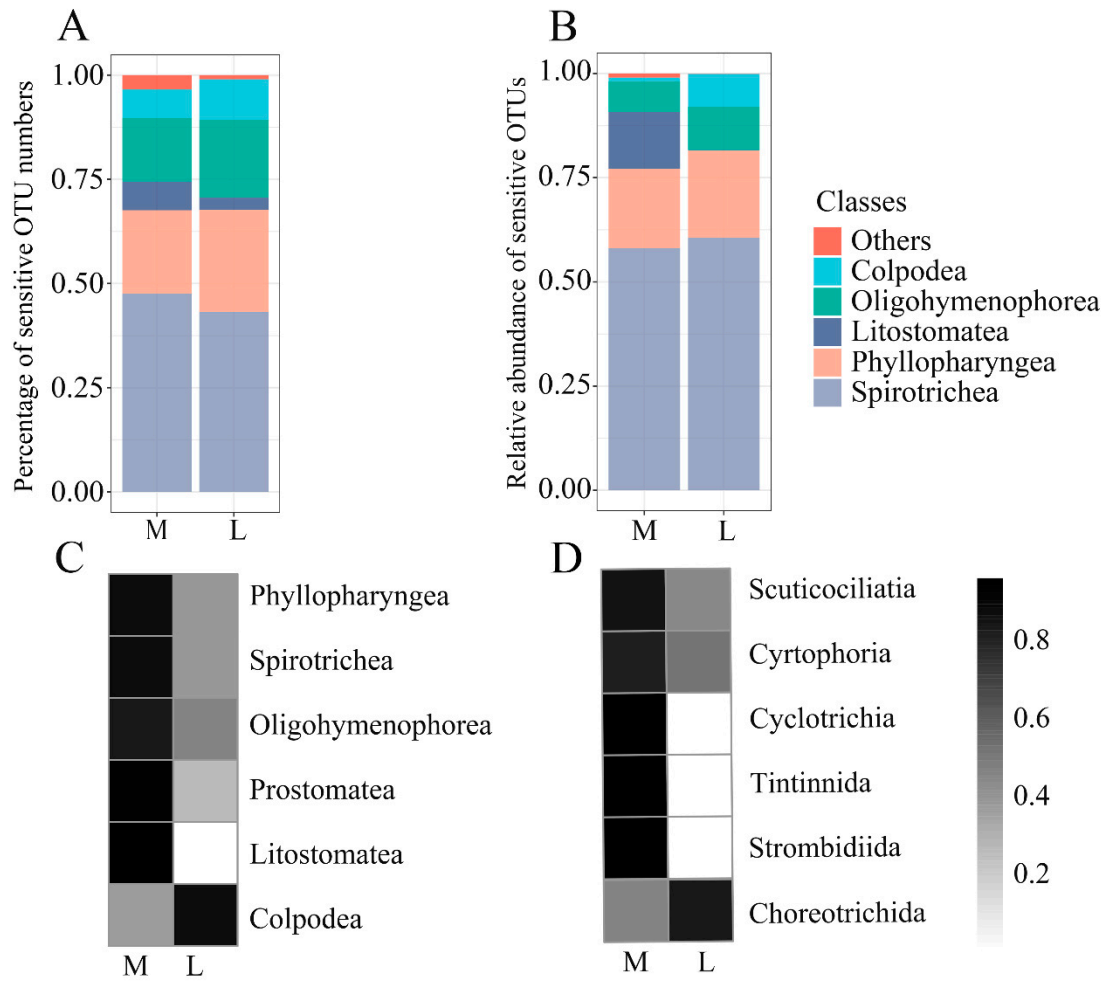


Figure S4. The percentage of sensitive OTU numbers (A) and relative abundance of KCI sensitive OTUs (B) per class. Heat maps demonstrate the relative abundance of KCI sensitive OTUs at class level (C) and subclass or order level (D). M: more Kuroshio-influenced stations; L: less Kuroshio-influenced stations.

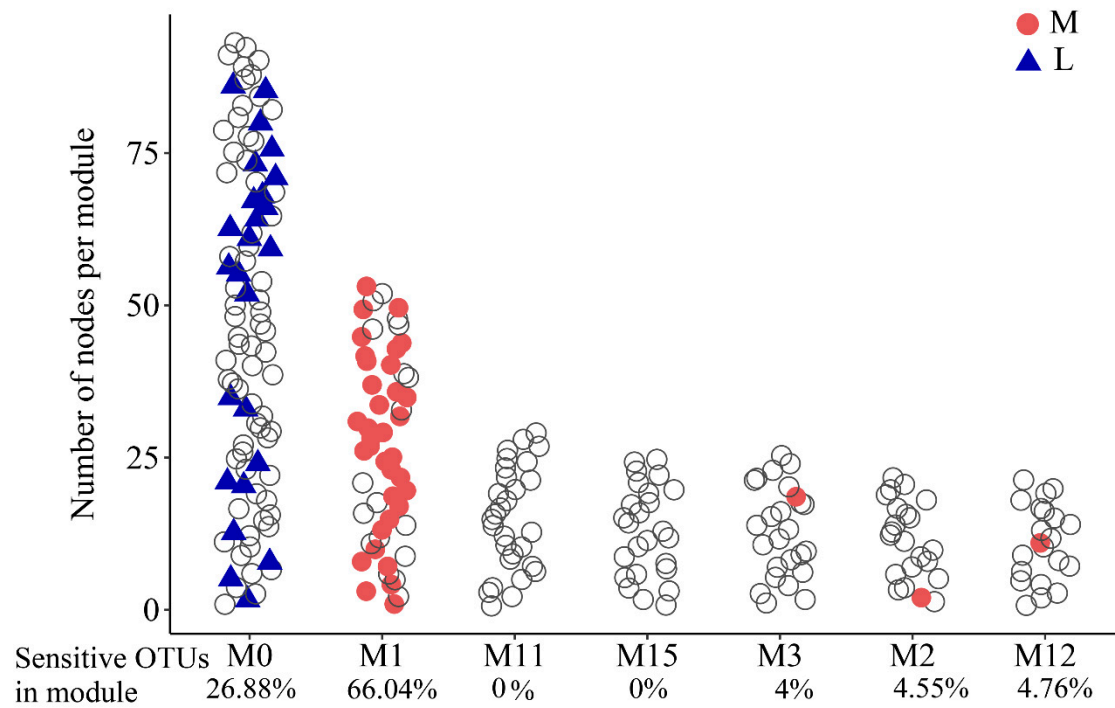


Figure S5. Plots showing the number of OTUs in the top 7 most populated modules for the ciliate co-occurrence network. Red circles and blue triangles represent sensitive OTUs in more and less Kuroshio-influenced stations, respectively.

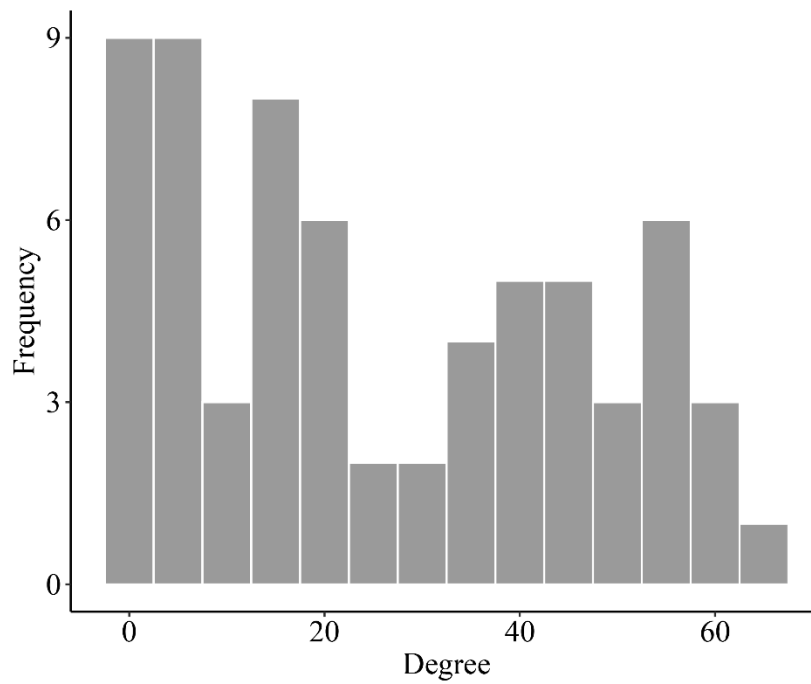


Figure S6. Frequency of degree of the KCI sensitive OTUs in ciliate co-occurrence network.

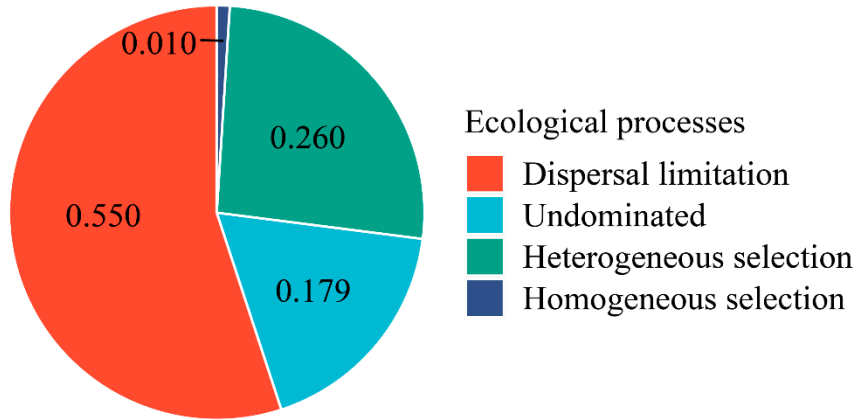


Figure S7. Summary of the relative contributions of the ecological processes shaped the ciliate community assembly.

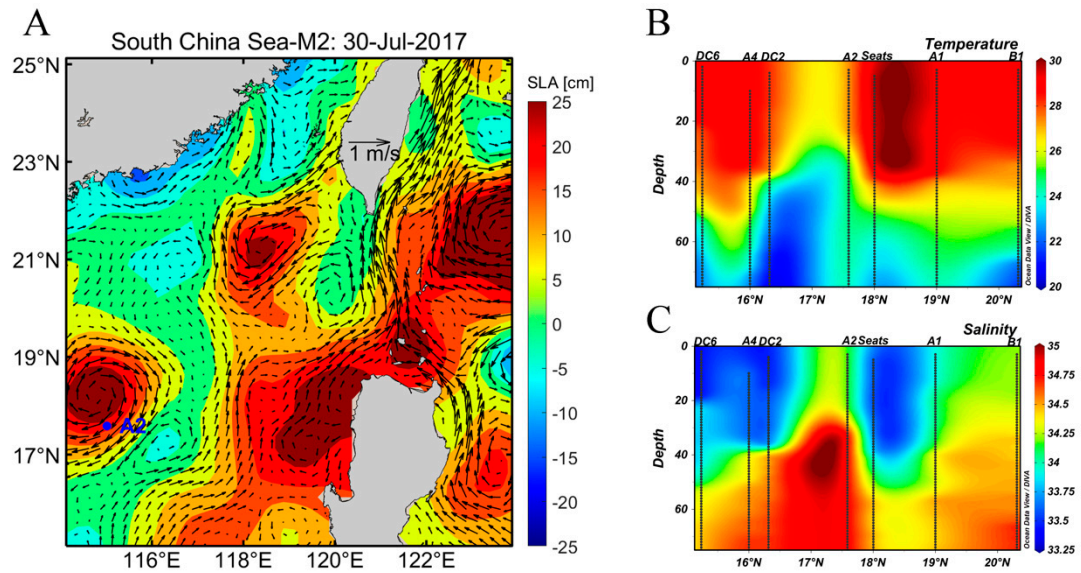


Figure S8. Sea level anomaly (SLA, cm) in the South China Sea on July 30th, 2017 (A). Vertical distribution of temperature (B) and salinity (C) at station A2 and nearby stations.

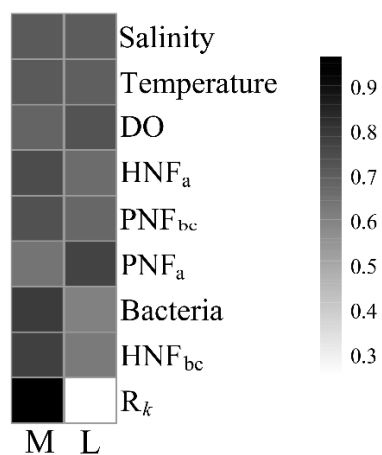


Figure S9. Heat maps demonstrate the distribution of environmental variables between more and less Kuroshio-influenced stations. M: more Kuroshio-influenced stations; L: less Kuroshio-influenced stations.

R scripts for generating figures 2-4 in the manuscript.

Plot figure 2:

Load the packages

```
library(ape)
```

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
library(ggrepel)
```

```
library(vegan)
```

```
library(maptools)
```

Import data and grouping file

```
otu <- read.table(file = "out.table.txt", header = T, row.names = 1, sep = "\t")
```

```
otu <- log(otu + 1)
```

```
group <- read.delim("group.txt", header = T, row.names = 1)
```

```
group$Group <- factor(group$Group, levels = c("M", "L"))
```

Calculate bray-curtis distance of community

```
otu.dist <- vegdist(t(otu), scale = T, method = "bray", na.rm = T)
```

Principal coordinates analysis

```
PCOA <- pcoa(otu.dist, correction = "none", rn = NULL)
```

```
result <- PCOA$values[, "Relative_eig"]
```

```
pro1 <- as.numeric(sprintf("%.3f", result[1])) * 100
```

```
pro2 <- as.numeric(sprintf("%.3f", result[2])) * 100
```

```
x <- PCOA$vectors
```

```
sample_names <- rownames(x)
```

```
pc <- as.data.frame(PCOA$vectors)
```

```
pc$names <- sample_names
```

```
legend_title <- ""
```

```
pc$Axis.1 <- pc$Axis.1
```

```
pc$Axis.2 <- pc$Axis.2
```

```
pc$Group <- group$Group
```

```
xlab <- paste("PCoA1 (", pro1, "%)", sep = "")
```

```

ylab <- paste("PCoA2 (", pro2, "%)", sep = "")
# Plot
p <- ggplot(pc, aes(-Axis.1, Axis.2)) +
  geom_point(aes(color = Group, shape = Group), size = 4) +
  geom_text_repel(aes(label = names), size = 3, vjust = -1) +
  labs(x = xlab, y = ylab, title = "PCoA", color = legend_title) +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, linetype = 4, color = "grey") +
  geom_vline(xintercept = 0, linetype = 4, color = "grey") +
  theme_bw() + ## Set font size and color
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(axis.text.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(legend.text = element_text(size = 14, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(legend.title = element_text(size = 14, hjust = 0, family = "serif", color =
"black")) +
  theme(strip.text = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black"))
p <- p + scale_color_manual(values = c("#CD5555", "#0000AA")) # Set point color
p

# Plot figure 3:
# Data preparation
# Environmental factors (except  $R_k$ ) were log ( $x + 1$ ) transformed, and then were
#combined with the PCoA1 and PCoA 2 axes to generate a new data named
#"log.pc.csv".
# Structural equation modeling analysis
library(lavaan)
DATA <- read.csv("log.pc.csv", row.names = 1, header = T)
# Fit Confirmatory Factor Analysis Models (CFA)
# Assumed latent variable

```



```

cfa_model <- "
bio = ~ PNFa + PNFbc + HNFa + HNFbc + bacteria
"

# Execute CFA
cfa_fit <- cfa(model = cfa_model, data = DATA)
summary(cfa_fit)

# Check the results and remove the insignificant factors.
cfa_model <- "
bio = ~ PNFa + PNFbc + HNFa
"

# Execute CFA
cfa_fit <- cfa(model = cfa_model, data = DATA)
summary(cfa_fit)

# Assumed variable structure
sem_model <- "
#Latent variables
bio = ~ PNFa + PNFbc + HNFa
#Regressions
bio ~ Rk + temperature + DO
PC1 ~ Rk + temperature + DO + bio
PC2 ~ Rk + temperature + DO + bio
"

# Execute SEM
sem_fit <- sem(
  model = sem_model, data = DATA, se = "bootstrap", bootstrap =
    1000
)
summary(sem_fit, standardized = TRUE, fit.measures = TRUE, rsquare = TRUE)

# Model fit
fitMeasures(sem_fit, c("chisq", "pvalue", "aic", "rmsea"))

```

```

# Plot the graph with the Adobe Illustrator.

# Plot figure 4A:
# Only OTUs that occur in at least 20% of samples and at least have 32 reads (over the
number of samples) are included in the network analysis.
library(Hmisc)
Abu <- read.table("network-otu.txt", header = T, row.names = 1, sep = "\t")
# Load function
source("Pairwise_correlations.R")
# Calculate OTU correlations
pattern <- co_occurrence_network(Abu, 0.6, 0.01)
write.graph(pattern$graph3, "Pos0.6-total.gml", format = "gml")
# Plot co-occurrence network with Gephi.

# Plot figure 4B and 4C
# Qualitative taxonomic composition of the KCI sensitive modules is reported as
# proportional OTUs numbers and relative abundance.
# Load packages
library(ggplot2)
library(ggsci)
# Import data
data <- read.delim("module 0 and 1.txt", header = T)
names(data)
data$class <- factor(data$class, levels = rev(unique(data$class)))
# Plot figure 4B:
p1 <- ggplot(data = data, aes(x = Modularity, y = The.number.of.OTUs, fill = class),
width = 0.5) + geom_col(position = "fill")
p1 <- p1 + theme_bw() + labs(x = "", y = "Proportional OTUs number")
p1 <- p1 + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour =
"black")) +

```

```

theme(axis.text.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
theme(axis.title.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
theme(legend.text = element_text(size = 15, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
theme(legend.title = element_text(size = 14, hjust = 0, family = "serif", colour =
"black")) +
  theme(strip.text = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black"))
p1 <- p1 + scale_fill_npg(alpha = 0.8)
p1

```

Plot figure 4C:

```

p2 <- ggplot(data = data, aes(x = Modularity, y = The.relative.abundance, fill = class),
width=0.5) + geom_col(position = "fill")
p2 <- p2 + theme_bw() + labs(x = "", y = "Proportional relative abundance")
p2 <- p2 + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour =
"black")) +
  theme(axis.text.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
  theme(legend.text = element_text(size = 15, family = "serif", colour = "black")) +
  theme(legend.title = element_text(size = 14, hjust = 0, family = "serif", colour =
"black")) +
  theme(strip.text = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", colour = "black"))
p2 <- p2 + scale_fill_npg(alpha = 0.8)
p2

```

Plot figure 4D (remove the outlier A2).

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
library(vegan)
```

```
# Import data
```

```

data <- read.delim("otu.module 0 and 1.mean remove A2.txt", header = T)
data$Group <- factor(data$Group, levels = c("M", "L"))
# plot scatter diagram
p1 <- ggplot(data, aes(x = Rk, y = log.abundance, color = Module)) +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", formula = y ~ x, se = F) +
  scale_linetype_manual() +
  geom_point(aes(size = 4, shape = Group)) +
  scale_shape_manual(values = c(16, 15)) +
  theme_classic() +
  labs(x = "Rk", y = "log (abundance)")
# Set font size and color
p1 <- p1 + theme(axis.text.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black"))
+
  theme(axis.text.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.x = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(axis.title.y = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(legend.text = element_text(size = 14, family = "serif", color = "black")) +
  theme(legend.title = element_text(size = 14, hjust = 0, family = "serif", color =
"black")) +
  theme(strip.text = element_text(size = 16, family = "serif", color = "black"))
p1 <- p1 + scale_color_manual(values = c("#0000AA", "#CD5555")) # Set points
color
p1
# Calculate the regression coefficient of each module
M0 <- subset(data, Module == "M0")
M1 <- subset(data, Module == "M1")
fm1 <- lm(log.abundance ~ Rk, data = M0)
summary(fm1)
fm2 <- lm(log.abundance ~ Rk, data = M1)
summary(fm2)

```

The statistic values were added to the figure using the Adobe Illustrator.