

Table S3. Effect of soil with EC 1.9 dS⁻¹ (low), 17.3 dS⁻¹ (medium), 33.4 dS⁻¹ (high) on bacterial phyla and genera in the unamended soil, soil amended with neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and soil amended with young maize plants using a compositional approach, i.e. analysis of differential abundance taking sample variation into account ALDEx2 package [39].

Unamended ^a		NDF treatment		Young maize plants	
<i>Prauseria</i>	0.00009 ^b	<i>Xylanimicrobium</i>	0.0360	<i>KSA1</i>	0.0070
<i>Rhodoplanes</i>	0.0001			<i>Prauseria</i>	0.0084
<i>KSA1</i>	0.0001			<i>Lysobacter</i>	0.0089
<i>Lysobacter</i>	0.0001			<i>Alkaliphilus</i>	0.0094
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	0.0001			<i>Euzebya</i>	0.0121
<i>Steroidobacter</i>	0.0001			<i>Nocardioides</i>	0.0121
<i>Halomonas</i>	0.0001			<i>Halomonas</i>	0.0137
<i>Euzebya</i>	0.0001			<i>Devosia</i>	0.0156
<i>B-42</i>	0.0002			<i>B-42</i>	0.0160
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	0.0002			<i>Anaerobacillus</i>	0.0171
<i>Rhodobaca</i>	0.0002			<i>Pseudomonas</i>	0.0198
<i>Devosia</i>	0.0003			<i>Desulfonatronum</i>	0.0230
<i>Desulfonatronum</i>	0.0003			<i>Steroidobacter</i>	0.0240
<i>Nocardioides</i>	0.0003			<i>Dethiobacter</i>	0.0322
<i>Cobetia</i>	0.0003			<i>Bacillus</i>	0.0359
<i>Pedomicrobium</i>	0.0003			<i>Bradyrhizobium</i>	0.0360
<i>Marinimicrobium</i>	0.0004				
<i>Alkaliphilus</i>	0.0005				
<i>Balneimonas</i>	0.0005				
<i>Adhaeribacter</i>	0.0005				

^a Only the twenty bacterial genera in the unamended soil most highly significantly affected $p < 0.001$. ^b Significance was measured using ALDEx2 and based on the Benjamini-Hochberg corrected p value of the Kruskal-Wallis test (significance threshold, $p < 0.05$).