

Table S4. Effect of soil (EC 1.9 dS m⁻¹, EC 17.3 dS m⁻¹, 33.4 dS m⁻¹), time (1, 3, 7 and 14 days of aerobic incubation) and their interaction on the soil bacterial community in the young maize plants and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) amended soil using a perMANOVA analysis with the sequence counts converted to centered-log ratio transformation with ALDEx2 package [39].

Factor	NDF treatment ¹		Young maize plants	
	F value	<i>p</i> Value	F value	<i>p</i> Value
Phyla				
Soil	1.309	0.175	2.432	< 0.001
Time	0.989	0.496	1.470	0.086
Interaction	0.888	0.661	1.014	0.413
All taxonomic groups assigned to the level of bacterial genus				
Soil	1.103	0.139	1.987	< 0.001
Time	1.113	0.055	1.074	0.222
Interaction	1.051	0.227	0.963	0.610
All operational taxonomic units (OTUs)				
Soil	1.041	< 0.012	1.176	< 0.001
Time	1.014	0.230	1.056	0.058
Interaction	1.007	0.300	1.012	0.228

¹ NDF: natural detergent fibre, ² *p*-values are based on 999 permutations, and bold values indicate a significant effect.