



Aalborg Universitet

AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

Influence of Microbial Community Composition on Activated Sludge Floc Properties and Dewaterability

Hove Hansen, Susan; Nierychlo, Marta Anna; Jiang, Chenjing; Jørgensen, Mads Koustrup; Nielsen, Per Halkjær

Creative Commons License
Unspecified

Publication date:
2019

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Hove Hansen, S., Nierychlo, M. A., Jiang, C., Jørgensen, M. K., & Nielsen, P. H. (2019). *Influence of Microbial Community Composition on Activated Sludge Floc Properties and Dewaterability*. Poster presented at 8th IWA Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering Specialist Conference, Hiroshima, Japan.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal -

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at vbn@aub.aau.dk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

INFLUENCE OF MICROBIAL COMMUNITY COMPOSITION ON ACTIVATED SLUDGE FLOC PROPERTIES AND DEWATERABILITY

Susan H. Hansen, Marta Nierychlo, Chenjing Jiang, Mads K. Jørgensen, Per H. Nielsen

Centre for Microbial Communities | Department of Chemistry and Bioscience | Aalborg University | Denmark

 shh@bio.aau.dk

 @SusanHove

 @PHNLab



BACKGROUND

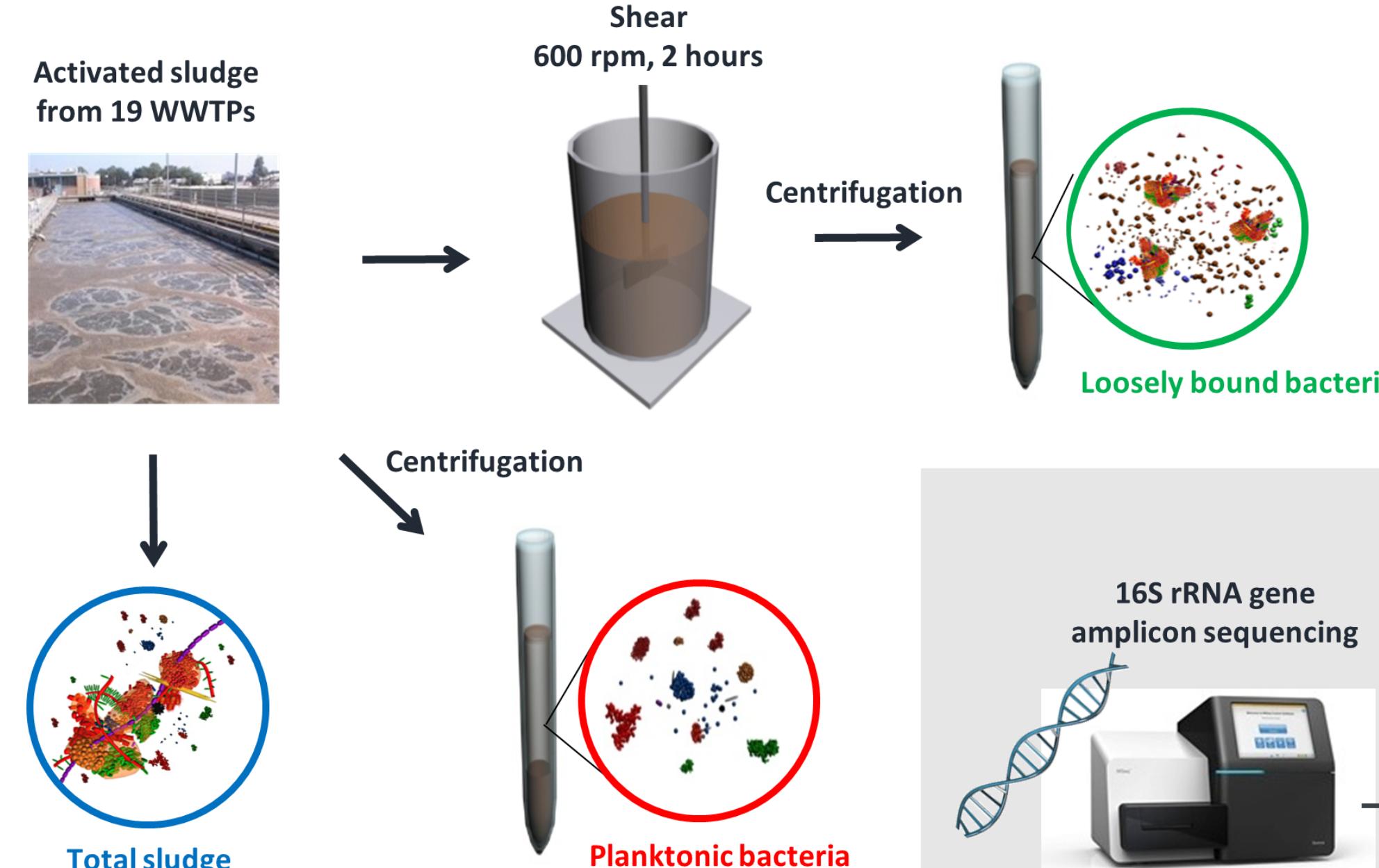
The importance of microbial community composition in the activated sludge process is certain both in terms of nutrient removal and sludge floc properties.

Optimal sludge floc properties are crucial for wastewater treatment plant operation and effluent quality.

This study aims to link the microbial community structure of different sludge fractions to the sludge characteristics and dewaterability properties and thereby identify strong floc formers and loosely attached bacteria

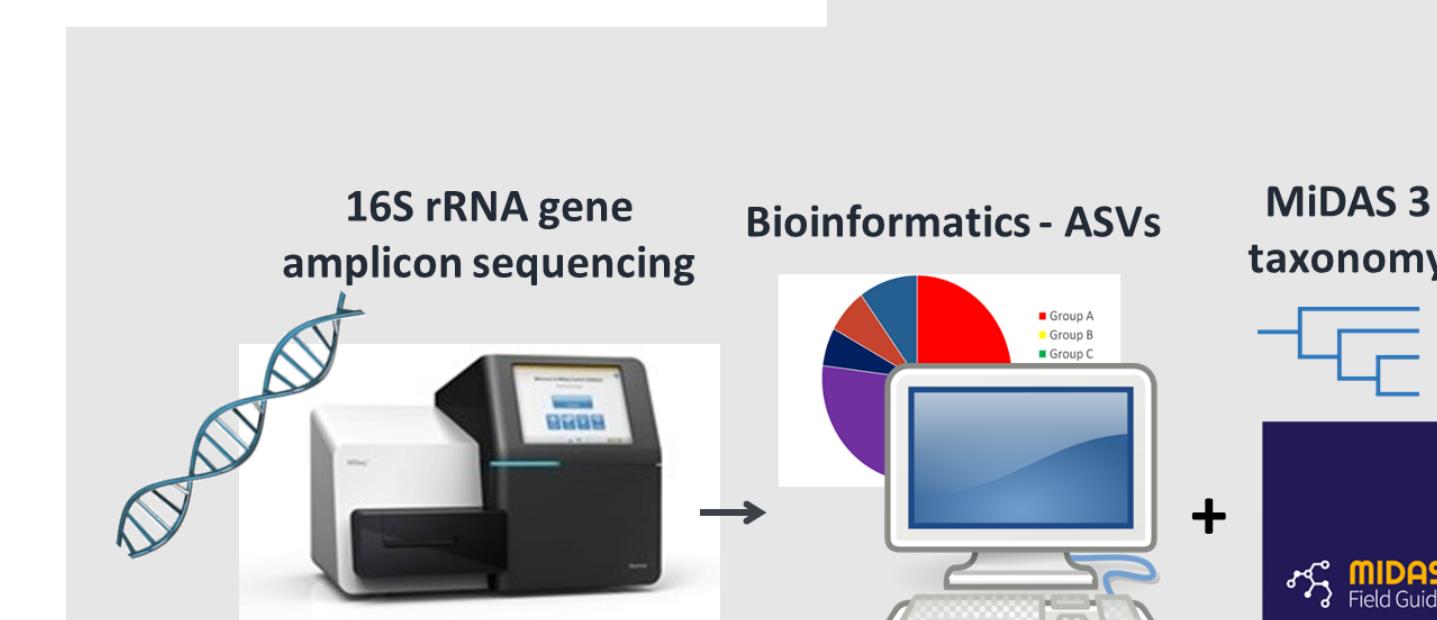
METHODS

Sampling

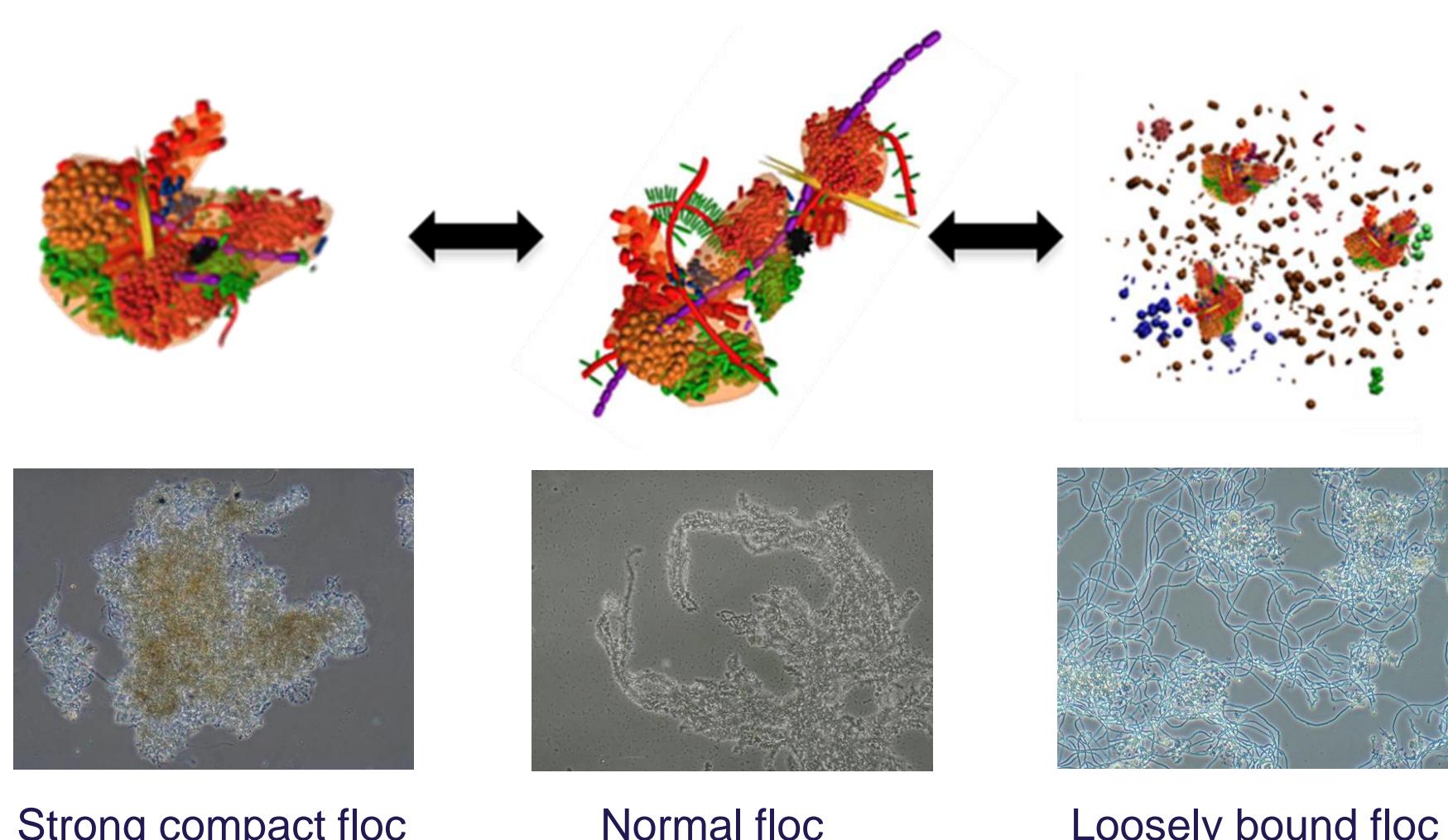


Analysis

- Sludge properties
- Sludge contents
- Floc strength
- EPS content
- Microscopy
- Dewaterability



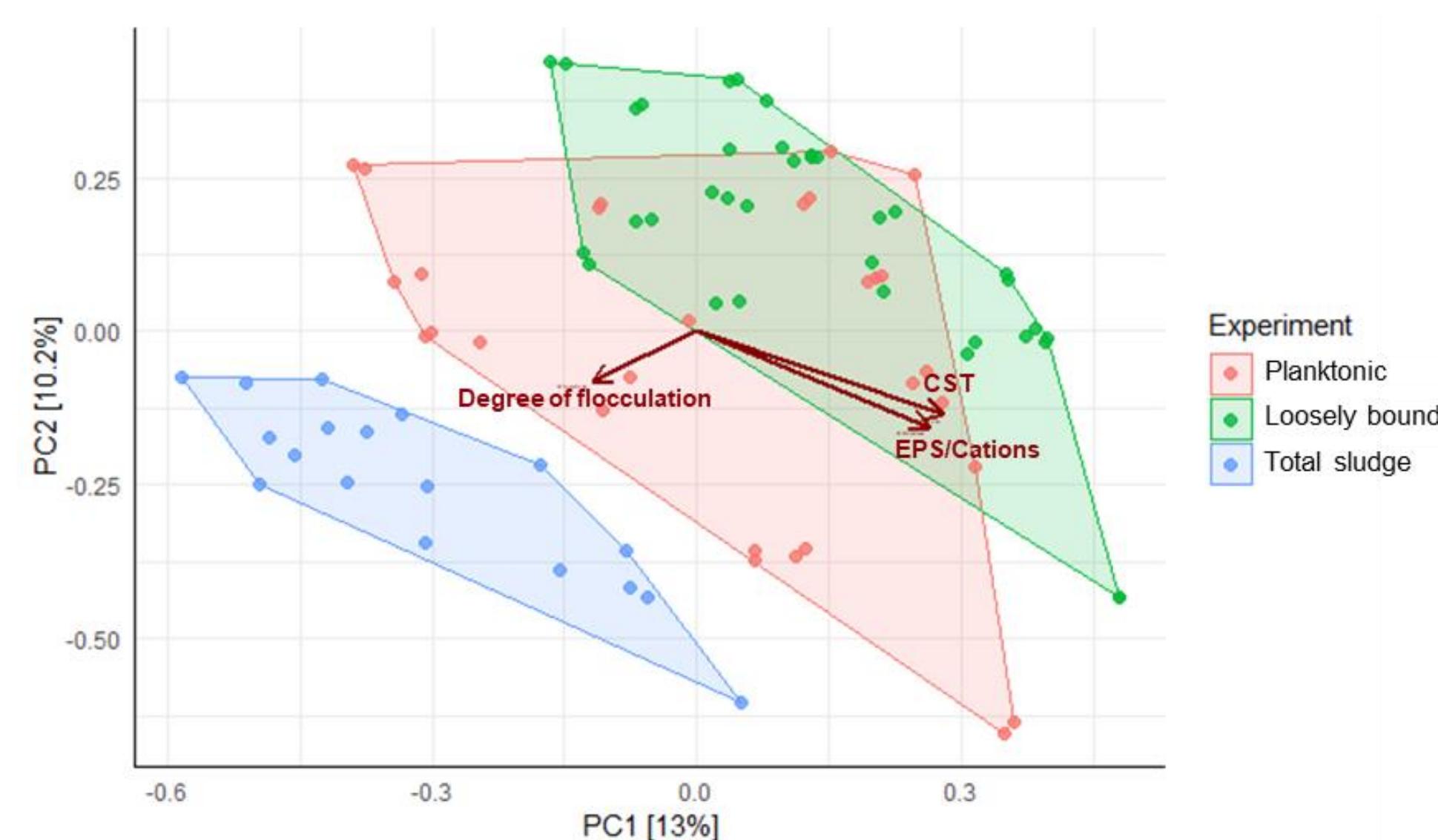
SLUDGE FLOC PROPERTIES



Critical sludge characteristics

- Degree of flocculation: $\frac{\text{Mean floc size}}{\text{Turbidity}_{(\text{time}=0)}}$
High degree of flocculation → strong flocs
- High ratio of EPS to polyvalent cations gives compressible, loosely bound flocs.
- CST: Capillary Suction Time
High CST → releases water slowly

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND SLUDGE CHARACTERISTICS



Principal Components Analysis (PCA). Initially, the data has been transformed by hellinger transformation. The relative contribution (eigenvalue) of each axis to the total inertia in the data is indicated in percent at the axis titles. Arrows indicating important sludge properties. The lengths of the arrows are scaled by significance.

Derived parameters important for the liquid-solid separation process such as **CST** and the **ratio of EPS and polyvalent cations** could be associated with the loosely bound sludge fraction.

The **degree of flocculation** could also be associated with the microbial composition of the total sludge, that in contrast to the other fractions holds the strong floc formers.

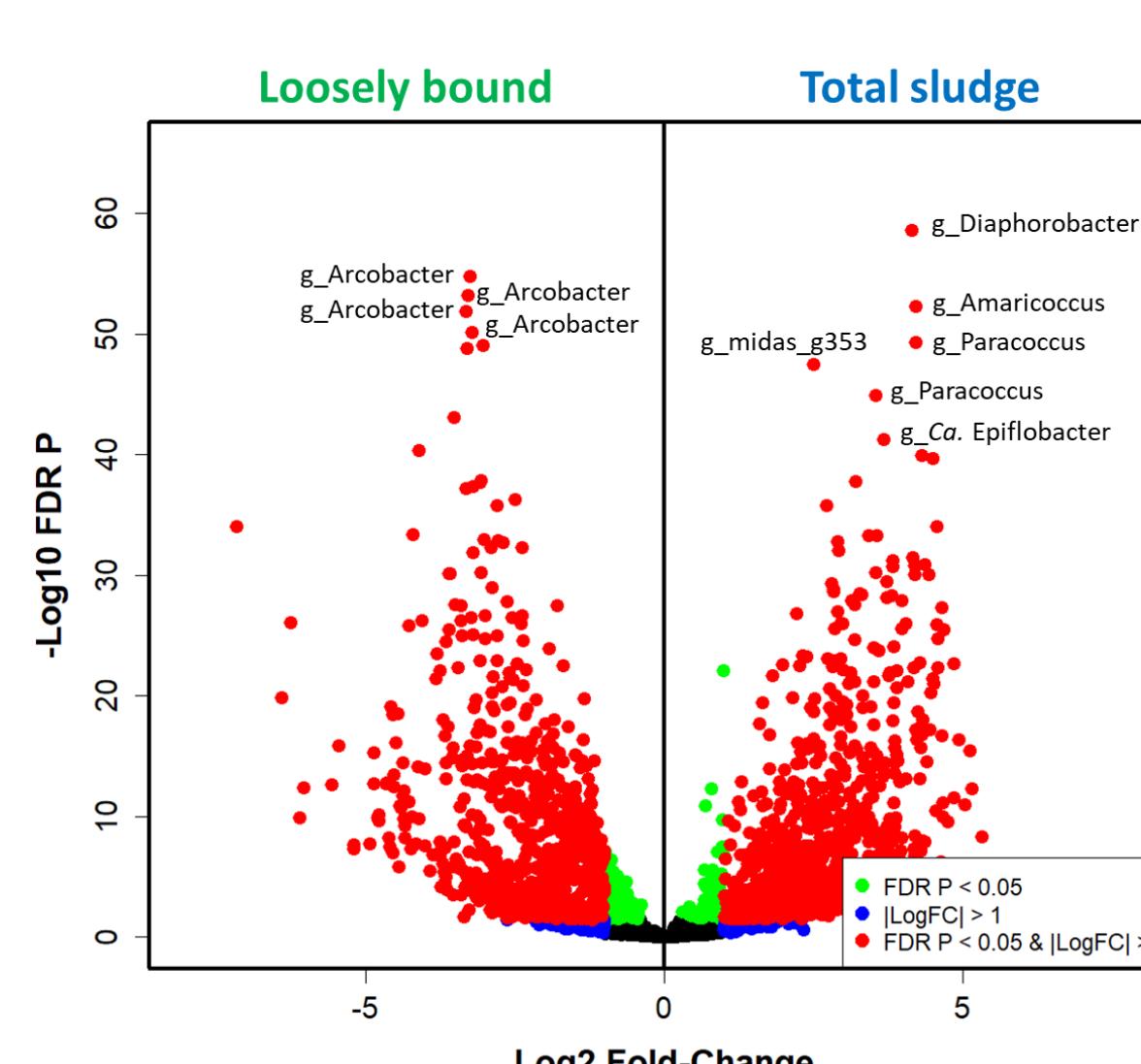
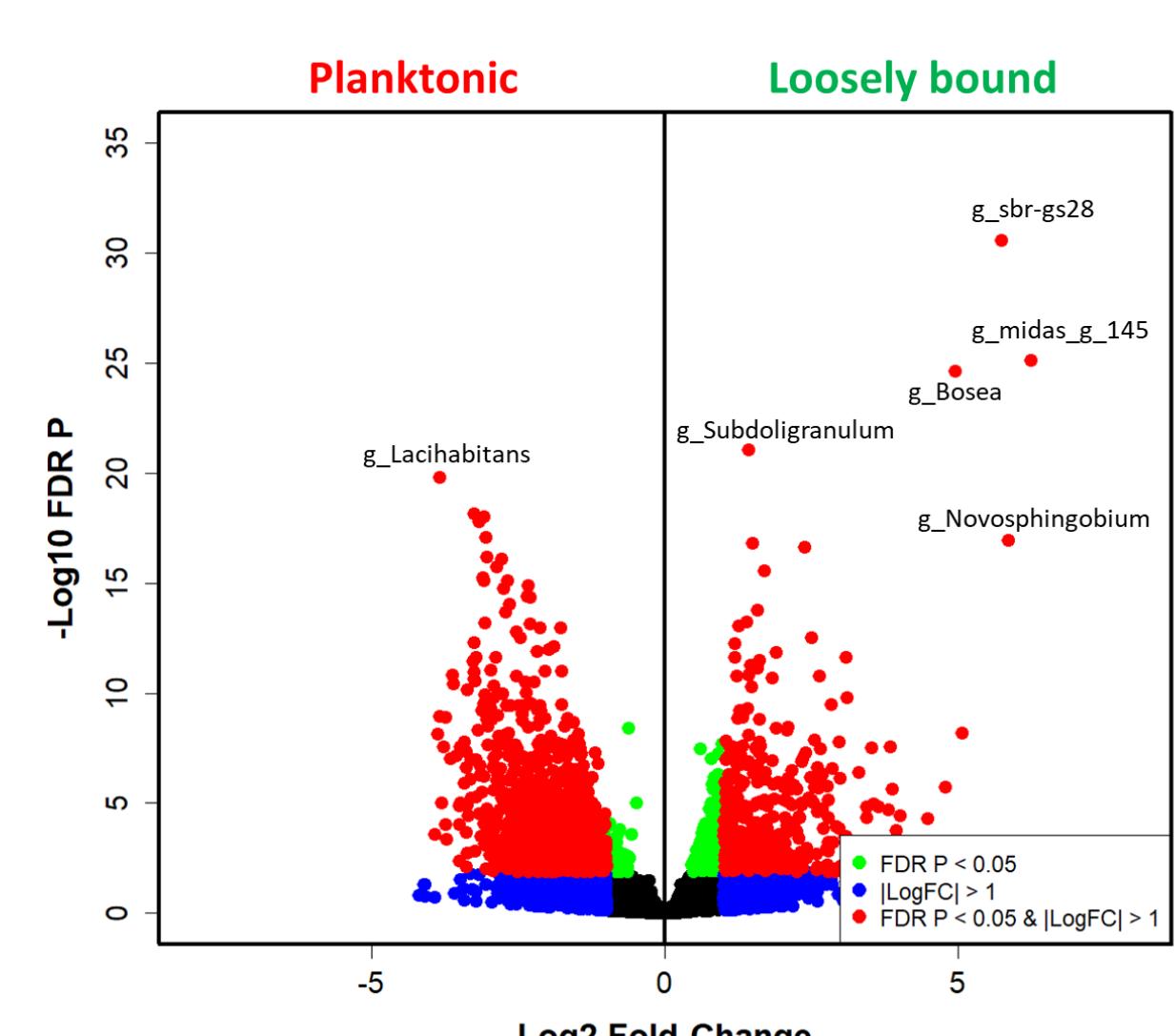
ENRICHED GENERA BETWEEN FRACTIONS

By comparing the abundance data between the sludge fractions several genera showed up as significantly different.

Loosely bound genera included *Bosea*, *Subdoligranulum*, *Novosphingobium* and a novel MiDAS genera.

Potential **strong floc formers** included *Diaphorobacter*, *Amaricoccus*, *Paracoccus*, *Ca. Epiflobacter* and a novel MiDAS genera.

Rivicola, *Leptotrichia* and *Micropruina* were dominant in the **planktonic** sludge fraction.



Volcano plots of DeSeq2 significantly differentially abundant ASVs between the sludge fractions. The red points represent ASVs with statistically significant differences between the fractions.

FINDINGS

- Genera known from influent wastewater *Leptotrichia* and *Arcobacter* were enriched in the planktonic and loosely bound sludge fractions.
- Potential strong floc formers included *Diaphorobacter*, *Amaricoccus*, *Paracoccus*, *Ca. Epiflobacter* and a novel MiDAS genera.
- Sludge parameters describing poor solid-liquid separation were associated with the planktonic and loosely bound fraction.