

1 Recruit symbiosis establishment and Symbiodiniceae composition influenced by adult corals and  
2 reef sediment

3

4 Ali, A<sup>1</sup>, Kriefall N<sup>1</sup>, Emery LE<sup>2</sup>, Kenkel, CD<sup>3</sup>, MV Matz<sup>2</sup> and SW Davies<sup>1,2\*</sup>,

5

6 <sup>1</sup> Boston University, Biology Department, Boston, MA

7 <sup>2</sup> The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Integrative Biology, Austin, TX

8 <sup>3</sup> University of Southern California, Department of Biological Sciences, Los Angeles, CA

9

10 \*Corresponding author:

11 Sarah W. Davies

12 [daviessw@bu.edu](mailto:daviessw@bu.edu)

13 5 Cummington Mall

14 Boston, Massachusetts 02215

15 United States

16

17 KEWORDS: coral, symbiosis, Symbiodiniceae, horizontal transmission, sediment,

18 metabarcoding, ITS2

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 For most reef-building corals, the establishment of symbiosis occurs via horizontal  
21 transmission, where juvenile coral recruits acquire their algal symbionts (family Symbiodiniaceae)  
22 from their surrounding environment post-settlement. This transmission strategy allows corals to  
23 interact with a diverse array of symbionts, potentially facilitating adaptation to the newly settled  
24 environment. We exposed aposymbiotic *Pseudodiploria strigosa* recruits from the Flower Garden  
25 Banks to natal reef sediment (C-S+), symbiotic adult coral fragments (C+S-), sediment and coral  
26 fragments (C+S+), or seawater controls (C-S-) and quantified rates of symbiont uptake and  
27 Symbiodiniaceae community composition within each recruit using metabarcoding of the ITS2  
28 locus. The most rapid uptake was observed in C+S+ treatments and this combination also led to  
29 the highest symbiont alpha diversity in recruits. While C-S+ treatments exhibited the next highest  
30 uptake rate, only one individual recruit successfully established symbiosis in the C+S- treatment,  
31 suggesting that sediment both serves as a direct symbiont source for coral recruits and promotes  
32 (or, potentially, mediates) transmission from adult coral colonies. In turn, presence of adult corals  
33 facilitated uptake from the sediment, perhaps via chemical signaling. Taken together, our results  
34 reinforce the key role of sediment in algal symbiont uptake by *P. strigosa* recruits and suggest that  
35 sediment plays a necessary, but perhaps not sufficient, role in the life cycle of the algal  
36 Symbiodiniaceae symbionts.

37

## 38 INTRODUCTION

39 Algal symbionts in the family Symbiodiniaceae are one of the most diverse groups of  
40 endosymbionts across marine environments and are hosted by a variety of invertebrates ranging  
41 from cnidarians, to mollusks, to sponges (Baker 2003; Stat et al. 2006; LaJeunesse et al. 2018). In  
42 adult tropical reef-building corals, these algal symbionts supply photosynthetic products to the  
43 coral host in return for inorganic nutrients and a residence (Muscatine and Porter 1977; Muscatine  
44 and Cernichiaro 1969; Trench and Blank 1987). Coral-associated algal symbionts have radiated  
45 into genetically divergent lineages, formerly known as clades (A thru I: Stat et al., 2012) and  
46 recently reclassified as separate genera (LaJeunesse et al. 2018), which exhibit extensive  
47 morphological and functional diversity. Symbionts in the genus *Durisdinium* (clade D) have been  
48 shown to be highly infective (Abrego et al. 2009a) and offer increased thermal tolerance to their  
49 coral hosts (Berkelmans and van Oppen 2006) but reduce coral growth rates (Jones and  
50 Berkelmans 2011; Pettay et al. 2015). Alternatively, symbionts in the genus *Cladocopium* (clade  
51 C) provide a fitness advantage under ambient temperatures through increased carbon fixation and  
52 translocation (Cantin et al. 2009) and corals hosting algal symbiont in the genus *Symbiodinium*  
53 (clade A) experience reduced carbon fixation (Stat et al. 2008). Some corals have been shown to  
54 harbor a diverse assemblage of Symbiodiniaceae lineages, and it has been suggested that this  
55 functional diversity can greatly impact the ecology of a given coral host (*e.g.* Berkelmans and van  
56 Oppen 2006). It is also important to note that variation in thermal tolerance varies significantly  
57 within genera, such as *Cladocopium* (Howells et al. 2012) and interactions between hosts and  
58 symbionts also impact holobiont performance (Abrego et al. 2008; Cunning et al. 2015; Parkinson  
59 et al. 2015)

60           In corals, symbionts are either maternally transmitted (vertical transmission) or obtained  
61 from their environment (horizontal transmission) (Harrison and Wallace 1990; Baird et al. 2009).  
62 Corals that obtain their symbionts vertically are expected to host a lower diversity of symbionts  
63 since this relationship is stable through time, facilitating the co-evolution of host-symbiont partners  
64 (van Oppen 2004; Douglas 1998). On the other hand, horizontally transmitting species release  
65 aposymbiotic larvae that can travel great distances (Davies et al. 2015; Baums et al. 2014; Rippe  
66 et al. 2017) and upon settlement these recruits are capable of establishing symbiosis with diverse  
67 algal symbiont communities that do not necessarily reflect the symbionts hosted by local  
68 conspecifics or adults of their same species (Coffroth et al. 2001; Weis et al. 2001; Little et al.  
69 2004; Abrego et al. 2009b). However, as coral recruits mature, the hosted symbiont community  
70 becomes dominated by a single clone of the lineage typical for the location (reviewed in Thornhill  
71 et al. 2017)) while establishment of symbiosis with novel Symbiodiniaceae species happens very  
72 rarely or never (Coffroth et al. 2010; LaJeunesse et al. 2010; Boulotte et al. 2016). Therefore, this  
73 initial acquisition of symbionts during recruitment represents a critical stage in coral-algal  
74 symbioses for horizontally-transmitting coral hosts.

75           The flexible symbioses of broadly dispersing, horizontally transmitting coral juveniles  
76 have been hypothesized to facilitate adaptation of the coral to environmental variation (Fournier  
77 2013; van Oppen 2004; Sampayo et al. 2008; Davies et al. biorxiv), and indeed these associations  
78 have been implicated in local adaptation of the holobiont (Howells et al. 2013; Barfield et al. 2018).  
79 While much research has quantitatively described the diversity of coral-Symbiodiniaceae  
80 symbioses across species and environments at the adult life stage, much less is known about  
81 adaptations and mechanisms that symbionts employ to ensure transmission to the next coral  
82 generation. One potential mechanism for establishing symbiosis is through infection from a nearby

83 conspecific adult coral (van Oppen 2004). Corals constantly expel photosynthetically active algal  
84 symbionts (Ralph et al. 2001; Hill and Ralph 2007). In theory, these cells could directly establish  
85 symbiosis with newly settled recruits. Alternatively, these expelled symbionts could colonize reef  
86 sediment, which could enable them to persist until the arrival of new recruits. Multiple studies  
87 have demonstrated that coral recruits are capable of establishing symbiosis in the presence of reef  
88 sediment (Adams et al. 2009; Cumbo et al. 2013; Nitschke et al. 2016), however it remains unclear  
89 whether these sediment-derived symbionts recapitulate the diversity of Symbiodiniaceae hosted  
90 by local adult corals on the same reef.

91         In this study, we first compared post-settlement symbiont uptake rates in the horizontally  
92 transmitting coral, *Pseudodiploria strigosa*, across multiple symbiont sources. *P. strigosa* recruits  
93 were placed in fully-crossed treatments that included the presence of natal reef adult coral  
94 fragments (C+S-), natal reef sediment (C-S+), a combination of adult coral fragments and natal  
95 reef sediment (C+S+), and seawater controls (C-S-) to test which environment promoted the most  
96 efficient uptake. The diversity of these established symbiont assemblages was examined using  
97 metabarcoding of the Internal Transcribed Region 2 (ITS2), to characterize Symbiodiniaceae  
98 communities within each individual recruit, adult coral fragment, and population of conspecific  
99 adults on the native reef to explore how variation in symbiont communities among recruits  
100 correlates with the Symbiodiniaceae communities found within local coral hosts.

101

## 102 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 103 **Experimental Methods**

#### 104 ***Coral spawning and larval rearing:***

105         During the annual coral spawning event at the Flower Garden Banks (FGB) on the evening

106 of August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 21:15CDT (nine days after the full moon), gamete bundles from eight  
107 *Psuedodiploria strigosa* colonies were collected via scuba diving and spawning tents (Sharp et al.  
108 2010). Gamete bundles were combined at the surface in a 14 L plastic tub filled with 1  $\mu$ m filtered  
109 seawater (FSW) and left to cross-fertilize for two hours. Excess sperm was then removed by rinsing  
110 embryos through 150  $\mu$ m nylon mesh. Developing larvae were reared in 1  $\mu$ m FSW in three  
111 replicate plastic culture vessels at a density of two larvae per ml. Larvae were transferred to the  
112 laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin one-day post fertilization (dpf). Sediment  
113 collections were completed August 8<sup>th</sup> and were maintained in 1  $\mu$ m filtered seawater. One large  
114 fragment of a single adult *Orbicella faveolata* was collected and maintained in the laboratory to  
115 serve as the adult coral source of algal symbionts. All collections were completed under the Flower  
116 Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) permit #FGBNMS-2012-002.

117

118 ***Symbiont uptake experimental design:***

119 On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (5 dpf) twelve (5.5 gallon) experimental tanks were filled with  
120 artificial seawater (Instant Ocean, Blacksburg, VA, USA) and 800 ml of 1  $\mu$ m filtered FGB water  
121 was added to each tank. Tanks were randomly assigned to one of four treatments ( $n=3$ /treatment):  
122 1. FGB natal reef sediment only (C-S+), 2. *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment only (C+S-),  
123 3. FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment (C+S+), and 4. Seawater control  
124 (C-S-) (Supplemental Figure S1). Tanks were maintained at identical salinity (35.5 ppt) and  
125 temperature (as measured by hobo data loggers: 25.5-28.5°C, Supplemental Fig. S2) throughout  
126 the uptake experiment. Four dpf, thousands of competent *P. strigosa* larvae were placed in sterile  
127 plastic dishes filled with artificial seawater (Instant Ocean, Blacksburg, VA, USA) and conditioned  
128 glass slides. Autoclaved, finely ground FGB crustose coralline algae (CCA) was added to slides

129 to induce settlement (as per Davies et al. (2014, 2015)) and larvae were given four days in dark  
130 conditions to metamorphose. Four days later (8 dpf) plastic dishes were cleaned, and settlement  
131 conditions were replicated with new larvae to maximize recruitment rates per slide.

132 On August 21<sup>st</sup> (12 dpf), slides with settled *P. strigosa* recruits were randomly placed into  
133 each treatment tank ( $n=3$  slides per tank; Supplemental Figure S1). Symbiont uptake was visually  
134 assessed using a fluorescent stereomicroscope MZ-FL-III (Leica, Bannockburn, IL, USA)  
135 equipped with F/R double-bandpass filter (Chroma no. 51004v2). Recruits were considered as  
136 having established symbiosis when individual algal symbiont cells were obvious in recruit  
137 tentacles (Fig. 1 A, B). Recruits were surveyed daily from August 22-28<sup>th</sup> (13-19 dpf), after which  
138 surveys were completed every three days. Uptake was continually monitored until October 16th  
139 (68 dpf) when final counts were completed due to algae overgrowth causing coral recruit death.  
140 Individuals successfully infected with symbionts were then individually collected using sterile  
141 razor blades, preserved in 95% EtOH and stored at -20°C until processing.

142

### 143 ***Symbiont genotyping:***

144 Symbiont DNA was isolated from individual recruits using a DNeasy Plant Mini Kit  
145 (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Recruits were disrupted by micropestle for  
146 5 min using an aliquot of Lysing Matrix A (MP Biomedicals). Symbiont DNA was isolated from  
147 adult corals following Davies et al. (2013).

148 The ITS2 region was amplified via PCR using the forward primer *its-dino* (5'  
149 GTGAATTGCAGAACTCCGTG 3') and the reverse primer *its2rev2* (5'  
150 CCTCCGCTTACTTATATGCTT 3') (Pochon et al. 2001), following the protocols described in  
151 Kenkel et al. (2013) and Quigley et al. (2014), using 2 $\mu$ l of template DNA of unknown

152 concentration. Briefly, amplifications were verified on agarose gels following 21 cycles and  
153 additional cycles were added as necessary to achieve a faint band (to reduce PCR biases) when  
154 3µl of product was loaded on a 1% agarose gel and run for 15 min at 180 V (Supplemental Figure  
155 3A). Cycle numbers ranged from 26 - 41 across samples (Supplemental Table S1), however several  
156 samples were amplified to 42 cycles along with no-template negative controls to assure that results  
157 at high cycle numbers were not due to contamination (Supplemental Figure 3B). These ‘cycle-  
158 check’ PCR’s were performed on a Tetrad 2 Peltier Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad) using the following  
159 conditions: 94°C for 5 min, followed by 21 cycles of 94°C for 15 s, 59°C for 30 s and 72°C for 30  
160 s and a final extension of 10 min at 72°C. Once optimal cycle numbers were obtained, all samples  
161 were re-amplified to their previously specified cycle number and verified on a gel to test for  
162 equivalent band intensity across samples (Supplemental Figure 3A).

163 Each PCR reaction was cleaned using a PCR clean-up kit (Fermentas) following the  
164 manufacturer’s instructions, measured using a NanoDrop 1000 spectrophotometer (Thermo  
165 Scientific) and diluted to 10 ng/µl. This product was then used as template for an additional PCR  
166 step used to incorporate 454-RAPID primers and barcodes to each sample. Each PCR contained  
167 0.33 µM B-Rapid ITS2-forward primer (Br-ITS2-F: 5’  
168 CCTATCCCCTGTGTGCCTTGAGAGACGHC+GTGAATTGCAGAACTCCGTG 3’) in  
169 addition to 0.33 µM of unique A-Rapid-reverse primer containing an 8-bp barcode for subsequent  
170 sample identification (e.g. Ar-ITS2-R-16: 5’ CCATCTCATCCCTGCGT  
171 GTCTCCGACGACT+**TGTAGCGC**+CCTCCGCTTACTTATATGCTT 3’, barcode sequence in  
172 bold). Each sample was uniquely barcoded.

173 Amplifications were visualized on a gel and based on visually assessed band intensities  
174 varying amounts of each barcoded sample were pooled for 454 sequencing. This pooled sample



175 was cleaned via ethanol precipitation and re-suspended in 25  $\mu$ l milli-Q water. 10  $\mu$ l of this cleaned  
176 product was run on a 1% Agarose gel stained with SYBR Green (Invitrogen) for 45 min at 100V.  
177 The gel was visualized on a blue-light box and the target band was excised using a sterile razor  
178 blade and placed in 25  $\mu$ l milli-Q water for overnight incubation at 4°C. The resulting supernatant  
179 was then submitted for 454 sequencing at the Genome Sequencing and Analysis Facility at the  
180 University of Texas at Austin. Raw sff files were uploaded to Sequence Read Archive (SRA)  
181 Accession Number SRP144167.

182

### 183 ***Statistical analyses***

184 All analyses were completed in the R statistical environment (R Core Team 2017) and  
185 scripts are available at [http://github.com/NicolaKriefall/sym\\_uptake](http://github.com/NicolaKriefall/sym_uptake). Rates of symbiont uptake by  
186 coral recruits were compared using the package *Survival* (Therneau and Lumley 2015). Numbers  
187 of recruits that established symbiosis with algal symbionts, measured as binary variables of  
188 successes and failures, were fit to a Cox's proportional hazards regression model. A cumulative  
189 incidence curve was generated from this model and an ANOVA test was run to test for significant  
190 differences in uptake rates. To assess differences between pairs of treatments, the analysis was run  
191 pairwise for adult host fragment, natal reef sediment, and adult host fragment and natal reef  
192 sediment treatments.

193 To determine the community composition of Symbiodiniaceae in each coral recruit, 454  
194 sequencing data were analyzed using the package *dada2* (Callahan et al. 2016). First, 454  
195 pyrosequencing files were converted to FASTQ format using the package *R453Plus1Toolbox*  
196 (Klein et al. 2011) as *dada2* only processes FASTQ files (Callahan et al. 2016). Using *dada2*,  
197 FASTQ files were then trimmed to 300 bp in length as determined by associated quality profiles.

198 Primers were clipped and sequences were de-replicated to obtain unique sequences. A sequence  
199 table was created to determine the distribution of sequence lengths in each sample and to remove  
200 those sequences that deviated from the expected sequence length. After de-noising sequencing  
201 data, chimeric sequences were removed and taxonomy was assigned by mapping to the  
202 GeoSymbio ITS2 database (Franklin et al. 2012). The package *phyloseq* (McMurdie and Holmes  
203 2013) was then used to generate an OTU counts table (Supplemental Table S1) and to create bar  
204 plots to visualize and sort relative abundances of different Symbiodiniaceae lineages. Cumulative  
205 reads across lineages within a sample were then log-normalized following Green et al. (2014) and  
206 *pheatmap* (Kolde 2015) was used to visualize lineage differences across recruits and adults.  
207 *Phyloseq* was also used to construct an alpha diversity plot using Simpson and Shannon diversity  
208 controlling for effect of sample size. All raw sequence numbers through *dada2* filtering steps can  
209 be found in (Supplemental Table 2).

210 Lastly, a phylogenetic tree of the most abundant unique sequences from ITS2 sequencing  
211 of all samples (GenBank Accession #SUB4526136) together with a reference sequence of  
212 Symbiodiniaceae type B1 obtained from Green et al. (2014) and a second B1 reference and all  
213 other Symbiodiniaceae types from the GeoSymBio database by Franklin et al. (2012) was  
214 constructed. First, Multiple Sequence Comparison by Log-Expectation aligned sequences,  
215 Gblocks selected conserved sequences, phyML and the approximate Likelihood-Ratio Test  
216 (aLRT) assigned phylogeny and bootstrap values based on the maximum likelihoods model, and  
217 finally the TreeDyn function in Phylogeny.fr visualized the tree (Dereeper et al. 2008, 2010). The  
218 Newick output of the constructed tree was visualized using R package *ggtree* (Yu et al. 2017).

219

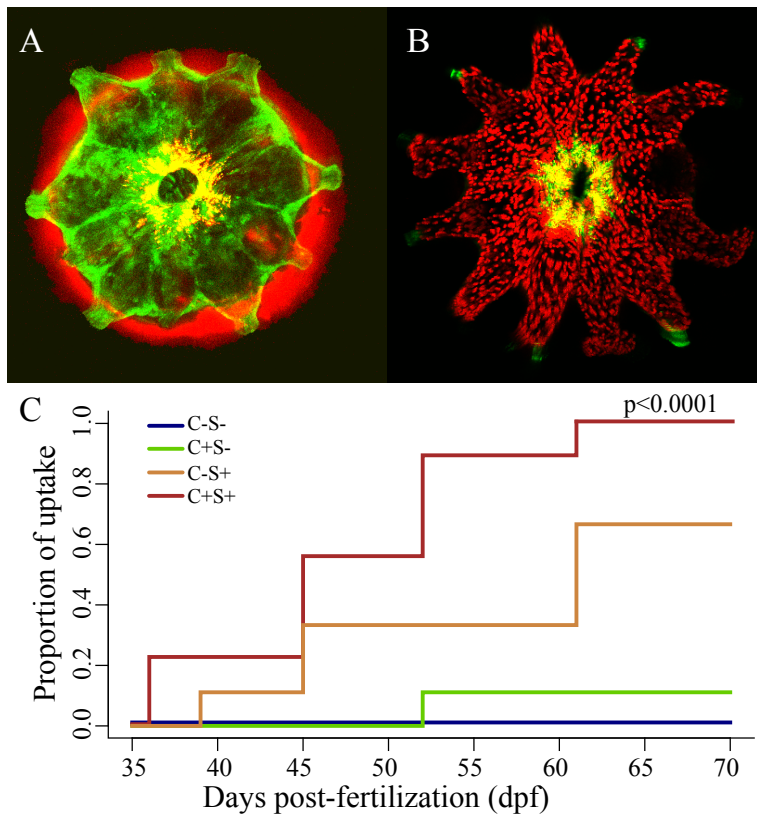
220

221 **RESULTS**

222 *Coral recruit symbiont uptake*

223 Initial symbiont uptake by *P. strigosa* recruits was not observed until 36 days post  
224 fertilization (dpf), which was 18 days after recruits were added to uptake treatments. Uptake was  
225 confirmed by assessing chlorophyll fluorescence (Fig. 1A,B). The first recruits to exhibit uptake  
226 were in FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment treatments (C+S+) (Fig.  
227 1C). Additionally, slides in C+S+ treatments were the only slides on which 100% of recruits  
228 successfully established symbiosis by the end of the experiment (68 dpf; 56 days after being placed  
229 in uptake treatments). The FGB natal reef sediment (C-S+) treatment was the second to exhibit  
230 uptake (Fig. 1C), however, significantly fewer recruits acquired symbionts when compared to  
231 C+S+ treatments (Wald's  $p < 0.05$ ). *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment (C+S-) treatments  
232 exhibited the slowest uptake rates (Fig. 1C), and final uptake proportions in this treatment were  
233 significantly lower than C+S+ treatments (Wald's  $p < 0.01$ ) and C-S+ treatments (Wald's  $p <$   
234  $0.05$ ). As expected, recruits in seawater control treatments (C-S-) exhibited no uptake (Fig. 1C).

235 The likelihood of symbiont uptake by *P. strigosa* recruits was significantly affected by  
236 experimental treatment ( $\chi^2 = 30.779$  and  $p < 0.0001$ ). Hazard ratios from the Cox's proportional  
237 hazards model demonstrated that uptake in the C-S+ treatment was significantly lower than the  
238 C+S+ treatment (0.294, CI: 0.097, 0.893), but higher than C+S- treatments (0.034, CI: 0.004,  
239 0.283), suggesting that the presence of sediment increased the probability of symbiont acquisition  
240 in *P. strigosa* recruits.



241  
242 Figure 1: Algal symbiont uptake in *Pseudodiploria strigosa* recruits. Single *P. strigosa* recruit under confocal  
243 microscopy showing A. no algal symbiont uptake and B. symbiosis with the algal symbiont demonstrating the clear  
244 phenotypic differences in recruit uptake using fluorescence microscopy. Green fluorescence is innate green  
245 fluorescence from coral recruit and red excites chlorophyll, which can be seen surrounding the recruit in A (turf algae)  
246 and as discrete algal cells in B. C. Mean cumulative uptake of algal symbionts in *P. strigosa* recruits through time  
247 demonstrating the proportion of recruits that established symbiosis through time (dpf: days post fertilization) across  
248 the four experimental uptake treatments. P-value corresponds to cox-proportional hazards model indicating significant  
249 differences in uptake rate. C-S+ = FGB natal reef sediment only, C+S- = *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment only,  
250 C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment, and C-S- = seawater control.  
251

## 252 *Symbiodiniaceae* Genetic Diversity

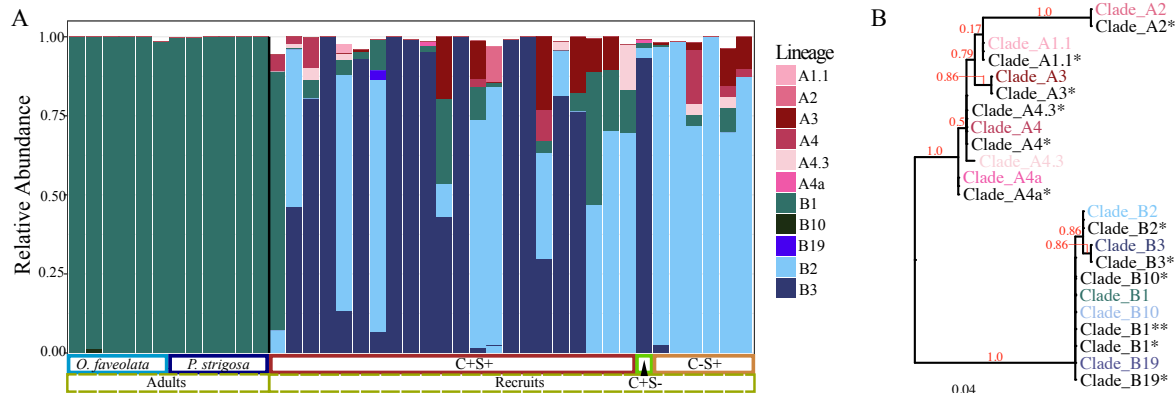
253 To compare Symbiodiniaceae diversity among individual infected recruits across treatments,  
254 a total of 42 corals were successfully genotyped using 454 metabarcoding of the ITS2 locus  
255 (Supplemental Table S2). Thirty of these samples were individual recruits from experimental  
256 treatment tanks, six were *O. faveolata* host fragments from experimental treatment tanks and six  
257 were native *P. strigosa* adults collected from the east Flower Garden Banks (FGB) (Supplemental  
258 Table S1). A total of 67,027 raw reads were generated, 55,589 of which were left after adaptor

259 trimming, quality filtering, and discarding reads shorter than 300 bp using the statistical package  
260 *dada2*. Recruit 2B1 was excluded from statistical analysis due to low number of remaining reads.  
261 Number of filter-passing reads in retained samples ranged from 589 to 4,341 with an average of  
262 1264 reads (Supplemental Table S2).

263 The dominant lineage in adult *P. strigosa* was Symbiodiniaceae was B1 (genus *Breviolum*  
264 (LaJeunesse et al. 2018)), representing nearly 100% of sequences retrieved from *P. strigosa*  
265 colonies (*i.e.* they exclusively hosted B1, Fig. 2). Lineage B1 was also the dominant  
266 Symbiodiniaceae reference sequence in *O. faveolata* adults (98.7%-100%), but this species also  
267 associated with background levels of B10 (up to 1.3%, Fig. 2).

268 Notably, the average proportion of lineage B1 in juvenile *P. strigosa* recruits was 8.9% (*i.e.*  
269 were background) and only a single recruit from the C+S+ treatment was dominated by B1 (Fig  
270 2A). In general, the majority of sequences observed in coral recruits were not detected at any level  
271 in adult fragments (Fig 2A). Still, the two most common symbiont lineages among recruits did  
272 belong to the genus *Breviolum*, however they were lineage B2 (average proportion of 36.6% in  
273 recruits) and lineage B3 (average proportion of 43.5% in recruits). *P. strigosa* recruits also  
274 established symbiosis with a wider diversity of symbionts compared to adult samples (lineages:  
275 A1.1, A2, A3, A4, A4a, A4.3, B1, B10, B2, B19, B3; Fig 2 and Fig 3A). Lineage B2 was observed  
276 at higher abundances in C-S+ treatments, comprising an average proportion of 87.8% in each  
277 individual recruit, while B3 was common in treatments that included adult coral fragments (C+S-  
278 and C+S+). B3 represented 93.3% of sequences in C+S- treatment, however, these values were  
279 derived from a single recruit. In C+S+ treatments, lineage B3 was present at higher average  
280 proportions (53.3%) when compared to B2 (24.1%) (Fig 2; Fig 3A).

281



282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
Figure 2: Symbiodiniaceae communities across adult *P. strigosa* in natal reef sites, adult *O. faveolata* used in uptake experiment (collected from natal reef site) and *P. strigosa* recruits in uptake experiment. A. Relative abundance of total reads mapping to reference sequences in GeoSymbBio ITS2 database where each vertical bar denotes one coral's Symbiodiniaceae community. The experimental uptake treatment of coral recruits and the two species of adult corals are indicated below the barplot. The black line demarcates adult corals from recruits, contrasting the differences in Symbiodiniaceae communities across the two life stages. C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment only, C+S- = *O. faveolata* coral host fragment only, and C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment. B. Phylogenetic analysis of the most abundant unique Symbiodiniaceae sequences within coral samples in the present study in addition to reference ITS2 sequences that were successfully mapped to. Branch support values are shown on the branches at divisions between distinct clades in red. The scale bar represents replacements per nucleotide site. \* indicates reference sequences from the GeoSymbBio ITS2 database while \*\* indicates B1 reference sequence from Green et al. (2014).

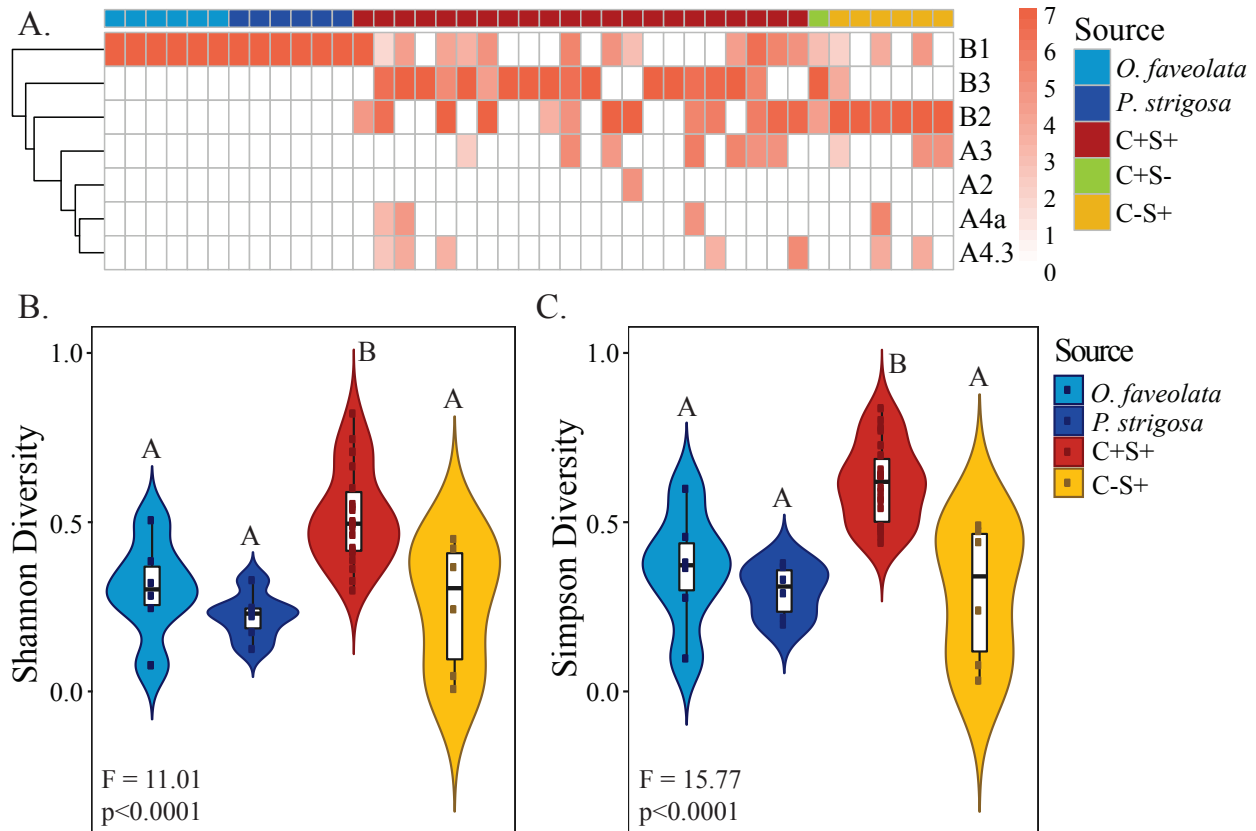
295 Shannon and Simpson alpha diversity were calculated for each treatment and a one-way  
296 ANOVA tested for diversity differences across symbiont source treatments. Both diversity  
297 measures indicated that alpha diversity varied significantly across source treatments (Simpson:  
298  $F=15.77, p<0.0001$ ; Shannon:  $F=11.01, p<0.0001$ ; Table 1) and Tukey's post-hoc tests confirmed  
299 that C+S+ treatments exhibited significantly higher mean Simpson and Shannon alpha diversities  
300 when compared to alpha diversities of other treatments and adult host fragments of both species  
301 ( $p<0.05$ ; Table 2). C+S- treatment was not included in pairwise comparisons since only a single  
302 recruit achieved symbiosis.

303 Table 1: Tukey post-hoc pairwise statistics for Simpson and Shannon alpha diversities with respect to recruits in  
304 different uptake treatments and adult coral host Symbiodiniaceae communities. P-values: \* $<0.05$ , \*\* $<0.01$ , \*\*\* $<0.001$   
305 Note: Adult host fragment only treatments (C+S-) were not included given that too few recruits were observed to  
306 uptake algal symbionts. C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment only and C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata*  
307 coral host fragment.

Treatment	Simpson p-value	Shannon p-value
Adult <i>O. faveolata</i> – <i>P. strigosa</i>	0.8404	0.7645
Adult <i>P. strigosa</i> – C+S+	0.0017**	0.0124 *
Adult <i>P. strigosa</i> – C-S+	0.8119	0.9402

Adult <i>O. faveolata</i> – C+S+	0.0001***	0.0004 ***
Adult <i>O. faveolata</i> – C-S+	0.9999	0.9773
C-S+ – C+S+	0.0001***	0.0018 **

308



309

310

311 Figure 3: Symbiodiniaceae community diversity across adult *P. strigosa* in natal reef sites, adult *O. faveolata* used in

312 uptake experiment (collected from natal reef site) and *P. strigosa* recruits in uptake experiment. A. Heatmap of *log*

313 normalized counts within a lineage for all sequenced samples. B. Mean Shannon and Simpson alpha diversities for

314 Symbiodiniaceae communities across adult corals and recruits in experimental uptake treatments. Widths of colored

315 bands in violin plots correspond to the probability distribution of diversity indices. The boxplot and whiskers

316 correspond to the interquartile range, median, and 95% confidence interval of alpha diversity measures. C-S+ = FGB

317 natal reef sediment only, C+S- = *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment only, and C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment

318 and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment. *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment only treatments (C+S-) were excluded

319 from analyses due to low sample size (N=1).

320 **DISCUSSION**

321       The reservoirs of free-living Symbiodiniaceae available for uptake by horizontally  
322 transmitting corals remain unresolved (Quigley et al. 2017). Here we assessed the relative roles  
323 that availability of reef sediment and coral adults play in the establishment of symbiosis in the  
324 horizontally transmitting reef-building coral *Pseudodiploria strigosa*. We found that reef sediment  
325 appears necessary for the successful establishment of symbiosis in *P. strigosa* coral recruits since  
326 recruits in treatments with sediment (C+S+ and C-S+) consistently exhibited significantly higher  
327 uptake rates when compared to treatments without sediment (C+S- and C-S-) (Fig 1C). This  
328 outcome is consistent with previous studies investigating symbiont uptake, which have similarly  
329 found that sediment serves as an important reservoir of Symbiodiniaceae for horizontally  
330 transmitting coral larvae and recruits (Adams et al. 2009; Cumbo et al. 2013; Nitschke et al. 2016).  
331 Free-living Symbiodiniaceae are ubiquitous in the reef environment (Coffroth et al. 2006; Pochon  
332 et al. 2010; Takabayashi et al. 2012; Quigley et al. 2017; Porto et al. 2008) and their densities in  
333 the sediment have been estimated to be up to 15 times higher when compared to densities in the  
334 water column (Littman et al. 2008) due to the symbiont's largely immobile lifestyle and because  
335 they are negatively buoyant (Coffroth et al. 2006; Yacobovitch et al. 2004). In light of these  
336 Symbiodiniaceae distributions, it is perhaps not surprising that we observed significantly higher  
337 uptake rates in treatments with sediment available (C-S+, C+S+) (Fig 1A).

338       We observed that only a single coral recruit took established symbiosis in the presence of  
339 adult coral but in the absence of sediment (C+S-); notably, most of these symbiont types were not  
340 detected in the adult tissue (Fig 2). Therefore, similarly to the algal communities established from  
341 sediment, these symbiont lineages likely represent free-living strains populating the coral's surface  
342 or exposed skeleton rather than algal symbionts establishing symbiosis directly from adult coral.



343           The most surprising of our results is the finding that the combined C+S+ treatment  
344 exhibited much higher uptake rates than can be expected from just the sum of individual C-S+ and  
345 C+S- effects (Fig 1). Perhaps the presence of an adult coral alone increases uptake rates through  
346 the use of chemical cues. Previous work has linked chemical cues between corals and algal  
347 symbionts (Fitt and Trench 1981; Hagedorn et al. 2015; Fitt 1984; Takeuchi et al. 2017), however  
348 facilitation of the onset of symbiosis via adult specific cues is a novel hypothesis. In turn, the  
349 presence of sediment might facilitate uptake of algal symbionts from other sources. If the B3  
350 symbiont type, which was never detected in adult coral colonies and was detected nearly  
351 exclusively in C+ treatments, is derived from the surface of the adult coral, then the sediment  
352 appears to have strongly promoted its uptake (Fig 2A). It is possible that sediment is required for  
353 the alga to complete a certain life cycle transition before it can infect recruits.

354           While *P. strigosa* recruits took up a small proportion of the “adult-like” B1 symbiont, they  
355 also took up many other Symbiodiniaceae lineages that were undetectable in adult *O. faveolata*  
356 (Fig 2A; Fig 3A). Stark differences in Symbiodiniaceae communities between early life stages and  
357 adults have been observed in multiple horizontal-transmitting corals, including Pacific Acroporids  
358 (Abrego et al. 2009a, 2009b; Little et al. 2004; Gómez-Cabrera et al. 2007) and Caribbean  
359 *Orbicella faveolata* (McIlroy and Coffroth 2017). We demonstrate similar results for a divergent  
360 Caribbean coral lineage (*P. strigosa*), suggesting that this phenomenon is a common feature of  
361 horizontally transmitting corals.

362           We did not assess the Symbiodiniaceae diversity present in the sediment, so we cannot  
363 determine if uptake of symbionts from the sediment was random or if certain lineages were more  
364 infectious. Future studies should sequence sediment Symbiodiniaceae communities to address this  
365 shortcoming, especially given that Quigley et al. (2017) found that Symbiodiniaceae communities

366 in the sediment had four times as many OTUs when compared with Symbiodiniaceae communities  
367 hosted by juvenile *Acropora* recruits. In addition to finding more OTUs, Quigley et al. (2017)  
368 determined that very few OTUs were shared among juveniles and sediment, indicating that  
369 infection capabilities of different strains are not equal.

370 While high diversity symbiont communities in juvenile horizontally transmitting corals are  
371 well-established, the reason for this remains unclear. Increased diversity in recruits could be due  
372 to the lack of robust symbiont recognition mechanisms (Cumbo et al. 2013). Alternatively,  
373 harboring a more diverse Symbiodiniaceae community could confer varied functional and  
374 physiological advantages, perhaps even allowing them to cope with a variable local environments  
375 (Thornhill et al. 2017). Interestingly, uptake of B1 was not significantly higher in the presence of  
376 the coral fragment, suggesting that endosymbiotic B1 cells did not contribute significantly to the  
377 algal population capable of infecting recruits. Once again, this suggests that infective  
378 Symbiodiniaceae cells are free-living, and that transition to this state from the state of  
379 endosymbiosis is either indirect or takes considerable time.

380 Our results corroborate prior work showing that both sediment and host corals enhance the  
381 establishment of symbiosis in horizontally-transmitting corals. Most notably, we found that the  
382 presence of adult corals interacted synergistically with the presence of sediment. Clearly, more  
383 work on the life history of Symbiodiniaceae is required to explain these observations and to  
384 understand all the steps leading to transmission of resident endosymbionts to the next generation  
385 of coral hosts.

386 **REFERENCES**

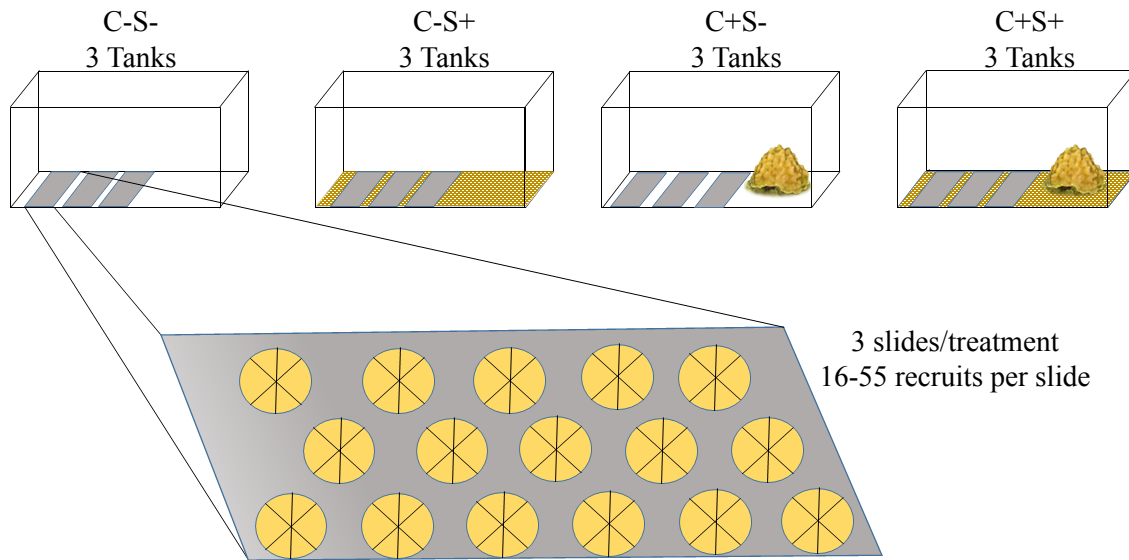
- 387 Abrego D, Van Oppen MJH, Willis BL (2009a) Highly infectious symbiont dominates initial  
388 uptake in coral juveniles. *Mol Ecol* 18:3518–3531
- 389 Abrego D, Van Oppen MJH, Willis BL (2009b) Onset of algal endosymbiont specificity varies  
390 among closely related species of *Acropora* corals during early ontogeny. *Mol Ecol*  
391 18:3532–3543
- 392 Abrego D, Ulstrup KE, Willis BL, Van Oppen MJH (2008) Species-specific interactions  
393 between algal endosymbionts and coral hosts define their bleaching response to heat and  
394 light stress. *Proc R Soc B Biol Sci* 275:2273–2282
- 395 Adams LM, Cumbo VR, Takabayashi M (2009) Exposure to sediment enhances primary  
396 acquisition of *Symbiodinium* by a symbiotic coral larvae. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 377:149–156
- 397 Baird AH, Bhagooli R, Ralph PJ, Takahashi S (2009) Coral bleaching: the role of the host.  
398 *Trends Ecol Evol* 24:16–20
- 399 Baker AC (2003) Flexibility and Specificity in Coral-Algal Symbiosis: Diversity, Ecology, and  
400 Biogeography of *Symbiodinium*. *Annu Rev Ecol Syst* 34:661–689
- 401 Barfield SJ, Aglyamova GV, Bay LK, Matz MV (2018) Contrasting effects of *Symbiodinium*  
402 identity on coral host transcriptional profiles across latitudes. *Mol Ecol* 27:3103–3115
- 403 Baums IB, Devlin-Durante MK, Lajeunesse TC (2014) New insights into the dynamics between  
404 reef corals and their associated dinoflagellate endosymbionts from population genetic  
405 studies. *Mol Ecol* 23:4203–15
- 406 Berkelmans R, van Oppen MJ (2006) The role of zooxanthellae in the thermal tolerance of  
407 corals: a “nugget of hope” for coral reefs in an era of climate change. *Proc R Soc B Biol Sci*  
408 273:2305–2312
- 409 Boulotte NM, Dalton SJ, Carroll AG, Harrison PL, Putnam HM, Peplow LM, Van Oppen MJH  
410 (2016) Exploring the *Symbiodinium* rare biosphere provides evidence for symbiont  
411 switching in reef-building corals. *ISME J* 10:2693–2701
- 412 Callahan BJ, McMurdie PJ, Rosen MJ, Han AW, Johnson AJA, Holmes SP (2016) DADA2:  
413 High-resolution sample inference from Illumina amplicon data. *Nat Methods* 13:581–583
- 414 Cantin NE, Van Oppen MJH, Willis BL, Mieog JC, Negri AP (2009) Juvenile corals can acquire  
415 more carbon from high-performance algal symbionts. *Coral Reefs* 28:405
- 416 Coffroth MA, Lewis CF, Santos SR, Weaver JL (2006) Environmental populations of symbiotic  
417 dinoflagellates in the genus *Symbiodinium* can initiate symbioses with reef cnidarians. *Curr*  
418 *Biol* 16:PR985–R987
- 419 Coffroth MA, Poland DM, Petrou EL, Brazeau DA, Holmberg JC (2010) Environmental  
420 Symbiont Acquisition May Not Be the Solution to Warming Seas for Reef-Building Corals.  
421 *PLoS One* 5:e13258
- 422 Coffroth MA, Santos SR, Goulet TL (2001) Early ontogenetic expression of specificity in a  
423 cnidarian-algal symbiosis. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 222:85–96
- 424 Cumbo VR, Baird AH, van Oppen MJH (2013) The promiscuous larvae: Flexibility in the  
425 establishment of symbiosis in corals. *Coral Reefs* 32:111–120
- 426 Cunning R, Vaughan N, Gillette P, Capo TR, Mate JL, Baker AC, Morgan SG (2015) Dynamic  
427 regulation of partner abundance mediates response of reef coral symbioses to environmental  
428 change. *Ecology* 96:1411–1420
- 429 Davies SW, Meyer E, Guermond SM, Matz M V. (2014) A cross-ocean comparison of responses  
430 to settlement cues in reef-building corals. *PeerJ* 2:e333
- 431 Davies SW, Rahman M, Meyer E, Green EA, Buschiazzi E, Medina M, Matz MV (2013) Novel

- 432 polymorphic microsatellite markers for population genetics of the endangered Caribbean  
433 star coral, *Montastraea faveolata*. Mar Biodivers 43:167-172
- 434 Davies SW, Scarpino SV, Pongwarin T, Scott J, Matz MV (2015a) Estimating Trait Heritability  
435 in Highly Fecund Species. G3 (Bethesda) 5:2639-2645
- 436 Davies SW, Treml EA, Kenkel CD, Matz MV (2015b) Exploring the role of Micronesian islands  
437 in the maintenance of coral genetic diversity in the Pacific Ocean. Mol Ecol 24:70-82
- 438 Davies SW, Wham D, Kanke MR, Matz MV (2016) Ecological factors rather than barriers to  
439 dispersal shape genetic structure of algal symbionts in horizontally-transmitting corals.  
440 bioRxiv
- 441 Dereeper A, Audic S, Claverie JM, Blanc G (2010) BLAST-EXPLORER helps you building  
442 datasets for phylogenetic analysis. BMC Evol Biol 10:8
- 443 Dereeper A, Guignon V, Blanc G, Audic S, Buffet S, Chevenet F, Dufayard JF, Guindon S,  
444 Lefort V, Lescot M, Claverie JM, Gascuel O (2008) Phylogeny.fr: robust phylogenetic  
445 analysis for the non-specialist. Nucleic Acids Res 36:W465-9
- 446 Douglas AE (1998) Host benefit and the evolution of specialization in symbiosis. Heredity  
447 (Edinb) 81:599-603
- 448 Fitt WK (1984) The role of chemosensory behavior of *Symbiodinium microadriaticum*,  
449 intermediate hosts, and host behavior in the infection of coelenterates and molluscs with  
450 zooxanthellae. Mar Biol 81:9-17
- 451 Fitt WK, Trench RK (1981) Spawning, development, and acquisition of zooxanthellae by  
452 *Tridacna squamosa* (Mollusca, bivalvia). Biol Bull 161:213-235
- 453 Fournier A (2013) The story of symbiosis with zooxanthellae, or how they enable their host to  
454 thrive in a nutrient poor environment. Master Biosci Rev - Ec Norm Supérieure Lyon, p 8
- 455 Franklin EC, Stat M, Pochon X, Putnam HM, Gates RD (2012) GeoSymbio: A hybrid, cloud-  
456 based web application of global geospatial bioinformatics and ecoinformatics for  
457 *Symbiodinium*-host symbioses. Mol Ecol Resour 12:369-73
- 458 Gómez-Cabrera MC, Ortiz JC, Loh WKW, Ward S, Hoegh-Guldberg O (2007) Acquisition of  
459 symbiotic dinoflagellates (*Symbiodinium*) by juveniles of the coral *Acropora longicyathus*.  
460 Coral Reefs 27:219–226
- 461 Green EA, Davies SW, Matz MV, Medina M (2014) Quantifying cryptic *Symbiodinium* diversity  
462 within *Orbicella faveolata* and *Orbicella franksi* at the Flower Garden Banks, Gulf of  
463 Mexico. PeerJ 2:e386
- 464 Hagedorn M, Carter V, Zuchowicz N, Phillips M, Penfield C, Shamenek B, Vallen EA,  
465 Kleinhans FW, Peterson K, White M, Yancey PH (2015) Trehalose is a chemical attractant  
466 in the establishment of coral symbiosis. PLoS One 10:e0117087
- 467 Harrison PL, Wallace CC (1990) Reproduction, dispersal and recruitment of scleractinian corals.  
468 25: Coral Reefs. Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam
- 469 Hill R, Ralph PJ (2007) Post-bleaching viability of expelled zooxanthellae from the scleractinian  
470 coral *Pocillopora damicornis*. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 352:137-144
- 471 Howells EJ, Beltran VH, Larsen NW, Bay LK, Willis BL, Van Oppen MJH (2012) Coral  
472 thermal tolerance shaped by local adaptation of photosymbionts. Nat Clim Chang 2:116-120
- 473 Howells EJ, Berkelmans R, Van Oppen MJH, Willis BL, Bay LK (2013) Historical thermal  
474 regimes define limits to coral acclimatization. Ecology 94:1078-88
- 475 Jones AM, Berkelmans R (2011) Tradeoffs to Thermal Acclimation: Energetics and  
476 Reproduction of a Reef Coral with Heat Tolerant *Symbiodinium* Type-D. J Mar Biol  
477 2011:185890

- 478 Kenkel CD, Meyer E, Matz MV (2013) Gene expression under chronic heat stress in populations  
479 of the mustard hill coral (*Porites astreoides*) from different thermal environments. *Mol Ecol*  
480 22:4322-4334
- 481 Klein HU, Bartenhagen C, Kohlmann A, Grossmann V, Ruckert C, Haferlach T, Dugas M  
482 (2011) R453Plus1Toolbox: An R/Bioconductor package for analyzing Roche 454  
483 sequencing data. *Bioinformatics* 27:1162-3
- 484 Kolde R (2015) Pheatmap: Pretty Heatmaps. R Package Version 1.0.8  
485 <http://cran.rproject.org/web/packages/pheatmap/index.html>.
- 486 LaJeunesse TC, Parkinson JE, Gabrielson PW, Jeong HJ, Reimer JD, Voolstra CR, Santos SR  
487 (2018) Systematic Revision of Symbiodiniaceae Highlights the Antiquity and Diversity of  
488 Coral Endosymbionts. *Curr Biol* 28:2570-2580.e6
- 489 LaJeunesse TC, Smith R, Walther M, Pinzón J, Pettay DT, McGinley M, Aschaffenburg M,  
490 Medina-Rosas P, Cupul-Magaña AL, Pérez AL, Reyes-Bonilla H, Warner ME (2010) Host-  
491 symbiont recombination versus natural selection in the response of coral-dinoflagellate  
492 symbioses to environmental disturbance. *Proceedings Biol Sci* 277:2925–34
- 493 Little AF, Van Oppen MJH, Willis BL (2004) Flexibility in algal endosymbioses shapes growth  
494 in reef corals. *Science* (80- ) 304:1492–1494
- 495 Littman RA, van Oppen MJH, Willis BL (2008) Methods for sampling free-living *Symbiodinium*  
496 (zooxanthellae) and their distribution and abundance at Lizard Island (Great Barrier Reef). *J*  
497 *Exp Mar Bio Ecol* 364:48-53
- 498 McIlroy SE, Coffroth MA (2017) Coral ontogeny affects early symbiont acquisition in  
499 laboratory-reared recruits. *Coral Reefs* 36:927-932
- 500 McMurdie PJ, Holmes S (2013) Phyloseq: An R Package for Reproducible Interactive Analysis  
501 and Graphics of Microbiome Census Data. *PLoS One* 8:e61217
- 502 Muscatine L, Cernichiaro E (1969) Assimilation of Photosynthetic Products of Zooxanthellae by  
503 a Reef Coral. *Bio Bull* 137:506-523
- 504 Muscatine L, Porter JW (1977) Reef Corals: Mutualistic Symbioses Adapted to Nutrient-Poor  
505 Environments. *Bioscience* 27:454–460
- 506 Nitschke MR, Davy SK, Ward S (2016) Horizontal transmission of *Symbiodinium* cells between  
507 adult and juvenile corals is aided by benthic sediment. *Coral Reefs* 35:335–344
- 508 van Oppen MJH (2004) Mode of zooxanthella transmission does not affect zooxanthella  
509 diversity in acroporid corals. *Mar Biol* 144:1-7
- 510 Parkinson JE, Banaszak AT, Altman NS, LaJeunesse TC, Baums IB (2015) Intraspecific  
511 diversity among partners drives functional variation in coral symbioses. *Sci Rep* 5:15667
- 512 Pettay DT, Wham DC, Smith RT, Iglesias-Prieto R, LaJeunesse TC (2015) Microbial invasion of  
513 the Caribbean by an Indo-Pacific coral zooxanthella. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 112:7513-7518
- 514 Pochon X, Pawlowski J, Zaninetti L, Rowan R (2001) High genetic diversity and relative  
515 specificity among *Symbiodinium*-like endosymbiotic dinoflagellates in soritid  
516 foraminiferans. *Mar Biol* 139:1069-1078
- 517 Pochon X, Stat M, Takabayashi M, Chasqui L, Chauka LJ, Logan DDK, Gates RD (2010)  
518 Comparison of endosymbiotic and free-living *Symbiodinium* (dinophyceae) diversity in a  
519 hawaiian reef environment. *J Phycol* 46:53-65
- 520 Porto I, Granados C, Restrepo JC, Sánchez JA (2008) Macroalgal-associated dinoflagellates  
521 belonging to the genus *Symbiodinium* in caribbean reefs. *PLoS One* 3:e2160
- 522 Quigley KM, Bay LK, Willis BL (2017) Temperature and Water Quality-Related Patterns in  
523 Sediment-Associated *Symbiodinium* Communities Impact Symbiont Uptake and Fitness of

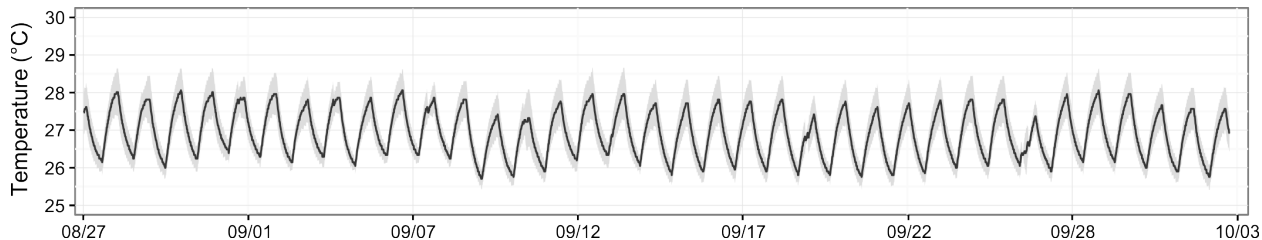
- 524 Juveniles in the Genus *Acropora*. *Front Mar Sci* 4:401
- 525 Quigley KM, Davies SW, Kenkel CD, Willis BL, Matz MV, Bay LK (2014) Deep-sequencing  
526 method for quantifying background abundances of *Symbiodinium* types: Exploring the rare  
527 *Symbiodinium* biosphere in reef-building corals. *PLoS One* 9:e94297
- 528 R Core Team (2017) R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Found Stat  
529 Comput Vienna, Austria
- 530 Ralph PJ, Gademann R, Larkum AWD (2001) Zooxanthellae expelled from bleached corals at  
531 33°C are photosynthetically competent. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 220:163-168
- 532 Rippe JP, Matz MV, Green EA, Medina M, Khawaja NZ, Pongwarin T, Pinzón C JH, Castillo  
533 KD, Davies SW (2017) Population structure and connectivity of the mountainous star coral,  
534 *Orbicella faveolata*, throughout the wider Caribbean region. *Ecol Evol* 7:9234-9246
- 535 Sampayo EM, Ridgway T, Bongaerts P, Hoegh-Guldberg O (2008) Bleaching susceptibility and  
536 mortality of corals are determined by fine-scale differences in symbiont type. *Proc Natl*  
537 *Acad Sci* 105:10444-10449
- 538 Sharp KH, Ritchie KB, Schupp PJ, Ritson-Williams R, Paul VJ (2010) Bacterial acquisition in  
539 juveniles of several broadcast spawning coral species. *PLoS One* 5:e10898
- 540 Stat M, Baker AC, Bourne DG, Correa AMS, Forsman Z, Huggett MJ, Pochon X, Skillings D,  
541 Toonen RJ, van Oppen MJH, Gates RD (2012) Molecular Delineation of Species in the  
542 Coral Holobiont. *Adv Mar Biol* 63:1-65
- 543 Stat M, Carter D, Hoegh-Guldberg O (2006) The evolutionary history of *Symbiodinium* and  
544 scleractinian hosts-Symbiosis, diversity, and the effect of climate change. *Perspect Plant*  
545 *Ecol Evol Syst* 8:23-43
- 546 Stat M, Morris E, Gates RD (2008) Functional diversity in coral – dinoflagellate symbiosis. *Proc*  
547 *Natl Acad Sci* 105:9256-9261
- 548 Takabayashi M, Adams LM, Pochon X, Gates RD (2012) Genetic diversity of free-living  
549 *Symbiodinium* in surface water and sediment of Hawai'i and Florida. *Coral Reefs* 31:157-  
550 167
- 551 Takeuchi R, Jimbo M, Tanimoto F, Tanaka C, Harii S, Nakano Y, Yasumoto K, Watabe S  
552 (2017) Establishment of a model for chemoattraction of *Symbiodinium* and characterization  
553 of chemotactic compounds in *Acropora tenuis*. *Fish Sci* 83:479-487
- 554 Therneau TM, T. Lumley (2015) Package 'survival.' R Top Doc
- 555 Thornhill DJ, Howells EJ, Wham DC, Steury TD, Santos SR (2017) Population genetics of reef  
556 coral endosymbionts (*Symbiodinium*, Dinophyceae). *Mol Ecol* 26:2640-2659
- 557 Trench RK, Blank RJ (1987) *Symbiodinium microadriaticum* Freudenthal, *S. goreauii* sp. nov.,  
558 *S. kawagutii* sp. nov. and *S. pilosum* sp. nov.: gymnodinioid dinoflagellate symbionts of  
559 marine invertebrates. *J Phycol* 23:469-481
- 560 Weis VM, Reynolds WS, DeBoer MD, Krupp DA (2001) Host-symbiont specificity during onset  
561 of symbiosis between the dinoflagellates *Symbiodinium* spp. and planula larvae of the  
562 scleractinian coral *Fungia scutaria*. *Coral Reefs* 20:301-308
- 563 Yacobovitch T, Benayahu Y, Weis VM (2004) Motility of zooxanthellae isolated from the Red  
564 Sea soft coral *Heteroxenia fuscescens* (Cnidaria). *J Exp Mar Bio Ecol* 298:35-48
- 565 Yu G, Smith DK, Zhu H, Guan Y, Lam TTY (2017) ggtree: an r package for visualization and  
566 annotation of phylogenetic trees with their covariates and other associated data. *Methods*  
567 *Ecol Evol* 8:28-36
- 568

569 Supplemental Information:



570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576

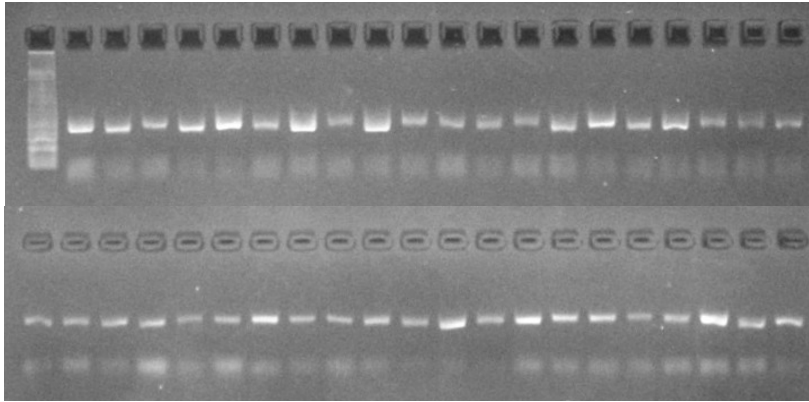
Supplemental Figure 1: Symbiodiniaceae uptake experimental design demonstrating the four different uptake treatments and the three replicate slides with settled *P. strigosa* corals (N=16-55 recruits per slide) within each tank (3 tank systems for each uptake treatment). C-S+ = FGB natal reef sediment only, C+S- = *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment only, C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment, and C-S- = seawater control.



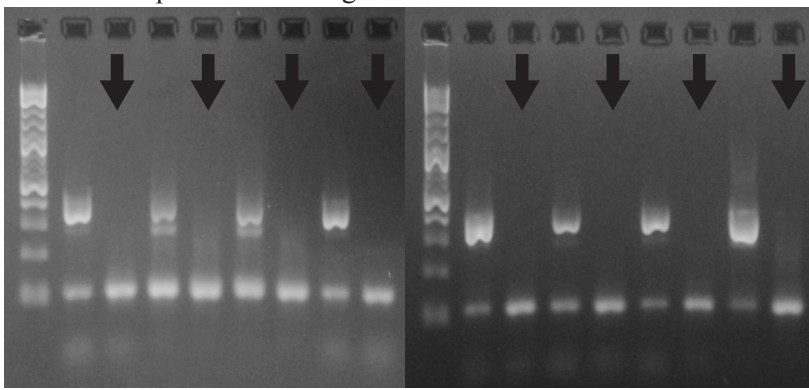
577  
578  
579  
580  
581

Supplemental Figure 2: Mean temperature in a representative experimental tank through time. Black line indicates mean temperature and grey shading shows 95% confidence interval around that mean. Data were collected using Hobo data loggers.

A. Sample Amplifications for ITS2 Metabarcoding



B. ITS2 Amplicons with Negative Control



582  
583 Supplemental Figure 3: ITS2 Symbiodiniaceae community library preparation. A. ITS amplicon for each sequenced  
584 coral adult and *P. strigosa* recruit. Cycle numbers ranged from 26 - 41 across samples (Supplemental Table S1). B.  
585 ITS2 amplicons alongside their no-template negative controls (black arrows) demonstrating that even under high cycle  
586 numbers (42 cycles) no amplification is observed in negative controls.

587  
588 Supplemental Table S1: Raw OTU counts

589  
590 Supplemental Table S2: Coral adult and recruit DNA sample ID's and their associated uptake treatment tanks, raw  
591 454 sequence numbers, *dada2* filtered sequence numbers and total number of PCR cycles (PCR) ran for each sample  
592 to achieve a visual band on agarose gel (Supplementary Figure 3A). Sample in bold was not included in downstream  
593 analyses due to low read depth. C-S+ = FGB natal reef sediment only, C+S- = *Orbicella faveolata* coral host fragment  
594 only, C+S+ = FGB natal reef sediment and *O. faveolata* coral host fragment, and C-S- = seawater control.

Sample ID	Treatment	Raw	Filtered	PCR
FAV1	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	2353	2143	26
FAV2	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	4796	4341	26
FAV4	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	2007	1830	26
FAV6	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	1048	990	26
FAV7	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	934	876	26
FAV11	Adult – <i>O. faveolata</i>	1056	983	26
DIP10	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	3789	3535	26
DIP11	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	1190	1117	26
DIP12	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	2540	2385	26
DIP13	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	1779	1604	26
DIP14	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	1938	1785	26



DIP23	Adult – <i>P. strigosa</i>	1364	1250	26	595
<b>2B_1</b>	<b>Recruit – C+S+</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>36</b>	
2C_1	Recruit – C+S+	1168	921	31	
2C_2	Recruit – C+S+	2155	1714	36	
2C_3	Recruit – C+S+	719	589	28	
2C_4	Recruit – C+S+	1175	971	36	
2C_5	Recruit – C+S+	915	744	31	
2C_6	Recruit – C+S+	1568	1226	36	
2C_7	Recruit – C+S+	1298	1091	31	
6A_1	Recruit – C+S+	1261	1036	30	
6A_2_3	Recruit – C+S+	2173	1772	36	
6A_4	Recruit – C+S+	1044	790	36	
6B_2	Recruit – C+S+	1995	1665	26	
6B_3	Recruit – C+S+	1494	1202	36	
6B_4	Recruit – C+S+	1542	1167	36	
6B_5	Recruit – C+S+	2164	1789	26	
6C_1	Recruit – C+S+	787	598	32	
6C_2	Recruit – C+S+	1077	818	38	
6C_3	Recruit – C+S+	1401	1097	38	
6C_4	Recruit – C+S+	1892	1407	41	
6C_5	Recruit – C+S+	753	472	36	
6C_6	Recruit – C+S+	909	679	36	
11C_1	Recruit – C+S+	809	651	36	
4A_1	Recruit – C+S-	2759	2218	36	
10C_1	Recruit – C-S+	2831	2305	31	
10C_2	Recruit – C-S+	1299	1047	34	
10C_3	Recruit – C-S+	1410	1102	31	
10C_4	Recruit – C-S+	1677	1359	38	
10C_5	Recruit – C-S+	1071	797	36	
3C_1	Recruit – C-S+	1393	1137	36	