Supplementary Materials and Methods

3 Experimental site and sampling

In this study, 24 soil samples used for network analysis of microbial communities were collected 4 from the BioCON (Biodiversity, CO₂ and N) experimental site located at the Cedar Creek 5 Ecosystem Science Reserve in Minnesota, USA (Lat. 45 °N, Long. 93 °W). The main BioCON 6 field experiment has 296 plots established in 1997 on a secondary successional grassland after 7 removal of the previous vegetation (53). There are three treatments: (i) CO_2 concentration 8 (ambient CO₂ at 368 µmol/mol, and elevated CO₂ at 560 µmol/mol), (ii) plant diversity (1, 4, 9 9 and 16 species grasses), and (iii) nitrogen addition (4 g $NH_4NO_3 m^{-2} year^{-1}$) (53). For the 24 10 plots used, 12 were from ambient CO₂, and 12 from eCO₂, all contained 16-species with no 11 additional N supply. The soil samples were collected in July, 2007, and each sample was 12 composited from five soil cores at a depth of 0-15 cm. All samples were immediately transported 13 to the laboratory where they were frozen and stored at -80°C for 454 pyrosequencing analysis of 14 16S rRNA genes. 15

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17 **Plant and soil data**

Plant and soil data sets were used for Mantel tests and other statistical analyses to correlate network characteristics with plant and soil properties. Plant data, including plant species, aboveground and belowground biomass, plant C and N, and the C/N ratio were the same as previously described (54). Similarly, soil data including soil physical properties (e.g., volumetric moisture, pH), soil chemical properties (e.g., soil C, soil N, C/N), and biological processes (e.g., net N mineralization rate, nitrification rate) were the same as previously described (54, 55).

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25 DNA extraction, purification and quantitation

Soil DNA was extracted by freeze-grinding mechanical lysis as described previously (56), and was purified using a low melting agarose gel followed by phenol extraction. DNA quality was assessed by the ratios of 260 nm/280 nm, and 260/230 nm using a NanoDrop ND-1000 Spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies Inc., Wilmington, DE), and final soil DNA concentrations were quantified with PicoGreen (57) using a FLUOstar Optima (BMG Labtech, Jena, Germany).

2 454 pyrosequencing analysis

3 a. Sample tagging and PCR amplicon preparations

Based on the V4-V5 hypervariable regions of bacterial 16S rRNAs (Escherichia coli positions 4 515-907), primers, F515: GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGG, 5 the PCR and R907: CCGTCAATTCMTTTRAGTTT were selected. Both primers were then checked with the 6 ribosomal database (58), and covered > 98% of the 16S gene sequences in the database (July 7 2007). To pool multiple samples for one run of 454 sequencing, a sample tagging approach was 8 used (59, 60). In this study, a unique 6-mer tag for each of 24 DNA samples was added to the 5'-9 end of both primers, and those tag-primers were synthesized by Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA) and 10 used for the generation of PCR amplicons. The amplification mix contained 10 units of Pfu 11 polymerase (BioVision, Mountain View, CA), 5 µl Pfu reaction buffer, 200 µM dNTPs 12 (Amersham, Piscataway, NJ), and a 0.2 µM concentration of each primer in a volume of 50 µl. 13 Genomic DNA (10 ng) was added to each amplification mix. Cycling conditions were an initial 14 denaturation at 94 °C for 3 min, 30 cycles of 95 °C 30 s, 58 °C for 60 s, and 72 °C for 60 s, a final 15 16 2-min extension at 72 °C. Normally, multiple (5-10) 50-µl reactions were needed for each sample, and the products were pooled together after PCR amplification and purified by agarose gel 17 18 electrophoresis. The amplified PCR products were recovered and then quantified with PicoGreen (57) using a FLUOstar Optima (BMG Labtech, Jena, Germany). Finally, amplicons of 19 20 all samples were pooled in an equimolar concentration for 454 pyro-sequencing.

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22 b. 454 pyrosequencing

23 The fragments in the amplicon libraries were repaired and ligated to the 454 sequencing adapters, 24 and resulting products were bound to beads under conditions that favor one fragment per bead. The beads were emulsified in a PCR mixture in oil, and PCR amplification occurred in each 25 droplet, generating millions of copies of a unique DNA template. After breaking the emulsion, 26 the DNA strands were denatured, and beads carrying single-stranded DNA clones were 27 deposited into wells on a PicoTiter-Plate (454 Life Sciences) for pyrosequencing (61) on a FLX 28 454 system (454 Life Sciences, Branford, CT). For this study, we recovered 85,399 sequence 29 reads that represented both forward and reverse reads of 24 samples with an average length 30

around 240 bp. All pyrosequencing reads were initially processed using the RDP Pyrosequencing
 Pipeline (http://pyro.cme.msu.edu/pyro/index.jsp) (58).

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4 c. Assignment of sequence reads to samples

5 The raw sequences were sorted and distinguished by unique sample tags. Since each sample had 6 a unique tag, all sequence reads with the same tag were assigned to the same sample. The tag and 7 primers were then trimmed for each sample. For all 24 samples, the number of sequence reads 8 ranged from 4613 to 2341.

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10 d. Removal of low-quality sequences

To minimize effects of random sequencing errors, we eliminated (i) sequences that did not 11 12 perfectly match the PCR primer at the beginning of a read, (*ii*) sequences with non-assigned tags, (*iii*) sequence reads with < 150 bp after the proximal PCR primer if they terminated before 13 reaching the distal primer, and (iv) sequences that contained any anonymous nucleotide (N). 14 Similar approaches were also used in previous studies (62-65) to remove low quality sequences. 15 16 As a result, a total of 77,653 sequences left with average length of 251 bp. There were 35,298 reads from forward and 42,355 reads from reverse strands. All these sequences are available at 17 18 http://ieg.ou.edu/4download/. Chimeric sequences were checked using Mallard 1.02 (66), and removed from subsequent analysis. 19

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21 e. Classification of 454 sequences and OTUs assignment

22 Because approximately 150 bp overlapped regions existed between the sequences from forward and reverse primers, we were able to identify the sequences from the same DNA 23 24 molecule and combine them together into a single OTU based on the overlapped regions. The details were described in Supplemental methods. First, all forward sequences from 24 samples 25 were pooled together, so did reverse sequences. These two datasets were independently aligned 26 27 by RDP Infernal Aligner, a fast secondary-structure aware aligner (67) and then complete 28 linkage clustering method was used to define OTUs within a 0.03 difference (68). Two sets of 29 OTUs were obtained, one from forward primer and the other from reverse primer. Second, if the sequences from different strands had 100% match over a region of more than 100 bp based on 30 31 BLASTn report, these sequences were considered from the same DNA molecule and hence

combined as a single sequence. Then, if the OTUs from different strand shared one or multiple pairs of sequences, all sequence reads of these OTUs were pooled together and composed to a new OTU. The other OTUs without any pairs of sequencing reads were still kept same. The singleton OTUs (with only one read) were removed and all other remained sequences from forward, reverse and combined OTUs were sorted into each sample based on OTUs. Eventually, the distributions of all OTUs were tabulated as an $n \times m$ matrix where n was the number of OTUs and m was the number of samples.

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9 f. OTUs filtering and phylotype assignment

Based on the OTU dataset, OTU that appeared in only one sample among the total of 12 samples for each CO_2 condition was removed, resulting in 3500 OTUs for further analysis. This stringent OTU filtering criterion was to denoise the potential sequence errors (*e.g.* chimeras). Then the longest sequences of each OTU were selected to assign a taxonomy by the RDP classifier (69). The confidence cutoff was set to 0.5. The lineages of the longest sequences were summarized as the phylotypes of OTUs.

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17 g. Relative abundance calculation

The sequence numbers for individual samples were different. In order to compare the difference between aCO_2 and eCO_2 , we standardized the OTU distribution matrix into the relative abundance (RA) based on the following equation:

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$$RA_{ij} = \frac{S_{ij}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} S_{ij}} *100$$
 (1)

where *i* was the ith sample (1 to *m*), *j* is the jth OTU (1 to *n*) and S_{ij} was the number of sequences in ith sample and jth OTU. $\sum_{j=1}^{n} S_{ij}$ was the sum of sequences in ith sample. Here *m* equals 24 samples and *n* equals 3500 OTUs.

1 h. Initial dataset preparation for network construction

After all data were transformed to RA, only the OTUs detected in equal or more than 9 of the 12 biological replicates were kept for network construction. The missing values were filled through the nearest neighbors method (70), which chose ten most correlated data from the remained values and calculated the mean values for the missing positions. Finally, two tables with OTU distributions of RA across all replicates for eCO₂ and aCO₂ respectively were obtained for network construction.

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9 i. Data standardization and correlation analysis

Since the sequence numbers of individual OTUs obtained varied significantly among different 10 samples, the relative proportions of sequence numbers were used for subsequent analysis. Let $y_{i,i}$ 11 proportion of sample 12 represent the relative the *i-*th OTU in the *i-*th $(i \in \{1,...,n\}, j \in \{1,...,m\})$. $Y^{nxm} = [y_{i,j}]$ is the relative sequence abundance matrix. The mean and 13 standard deviation of $y_{i,j}$ across these samples are 14

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$$\overline{y}_i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m y_{i,j}$$
(2)

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$$\sigma_{i,y}^2 = \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^m (y_{i,j} - \bar{y}_i)^2$$
 (3)

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20 Let $x_{i,j}$ represent the standardized relative proportion of the *i*-th OTU in the *j*-th sample 21 $(i \in \{1,...,n\}, j \in \{1,...,m\})$, then

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$$x_i = \frac{(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sigma_y}$$
(4)

 x_i is the standardized relative proportion of the *i*-th OTU with mean 0 and variance 1.

Pairwise Pearson correlations of the *a*-th and *b*-th OTU (r_{ab}) are calculated based on the standardized relative abundance data ($x_{i,j}$) across all samples,

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$$r_{ij} = cor(x_i, x_j) = \frac{\sum_q^m (x_{i,q} - \overline{x_i})(x_{j,q} - \overline{x_j})}{\sqrt{\sum_q^m (x_{i,q} - \overline{x_i})^2 \sum_q^m (x_{j,q} - \overline{x_j})^2}}$$
 (5)

2 A correlation matrix, $R^{nxn} = [r_{ij}]$, is obtained, and it is then used for subsequent network analysis.

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4 Network characterization

5 Cytoscape 2.6.0 (71) software was used to visualize the network graphs. Other OTU information, 6 e.g. taxonomy, relative abundances, and edge information, e.g. weights and positive and negative 7 correlations, were also imported into the software and visualized in the network figures. Since 8 we were interested in the impacts of eCO₂ on network interactions, the pMENs were constructed 9 separately under aCO₂ and eCO₂.

10 Various indexes, including average degree (connectivity) (72), betweenness (73), stress and eigenvector centrality (73), average clustering coefficient (74, 75), vulnerability (76), 11 average geodesic distance (72), geodesic efficiency and harmonic geodesic distance (77), density 12 and transitivity (78) and connectedness (79), were used to describe the individual nodes 13 properties in the network and the overall topology or structure of the different networks. In 14 general, the network index, connectivity (k_i) , is calculated by summing the connection strengths 15 16 (i.e. links) of each OTU (i.e. node) with all other connected OTUs in the network. Connectivity provides information on how strongly an OTU is connected to other OTUs and is one of the most 17 18 commonly used network indexes. Most calculations were accomplished through *sna* and *igraph* packages in R project (80, 81). 19

20 To characterize the modularity property of pMENs, each network was separated into modules which were usually considered as functional units in biological systems (82, 83). 21 Modularity (M) measures the extent to which nodes have more links within their own modules 22 than expected if linkage is random. The modules were detected by the fast greedy modularity 23 24 optimization (84). Then the modularity value of each network (M) was calculated as previously 25 described (84), which is used to describe how well the modules are separated. Compared to other module separation algorithms (85, 86), the fast greedy modularity optimization had much higher 26 27 M values and clearer separations in graphs.

Each node can be assigned a role based on its topological properties (87). The role of each node can be determined based on its position compared to other nodes in its own module and how well it connects to nodes in other modules. Therefore, the role of node *i* is characterized by its within-module connectivity (z_i) and among-module connectivity (P_i) (87). In this study, we followed the simplified classification as follows: (i) Peripheral nodes ($z_i \le 2.5$, $P_i \le 0.62$), which have only a few links and almost always to nodes within their modules; (ii) Connectors ($z_i \le 2.5$, $P_i > 0.62$), which are highly linked to several modules; (iii) Module hubs ($z_i > 2.5$, $P_i \le 0.62$), which are highly connected to many species in their own modules; and (iv) Network hubs ($z_i >$ 2.5, $P_i > 0.62$), which act as both module hubs and connectors. All of above calculations were carried out by a Perl scripted program.

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8 Random network construction and network comparison

9 Since only a single data point of each overall network index was available for each network parameter, standard statistical analysis could not be performed to assess their statistical 10 11 significance. One way to characterize a network is by comparing it with a random network. Two 12 major approaches can be used to generate random networks (88, 89) although several other 13 approaches were also available (90, 91). One is to completely randomly reshuffle all links in an original network by keeping the total nodes and total links constant, which is referred to Erdos-14 Renyi "random" network (88). The other is to randomly reshuffle all links of the original 15 network by holding the total nodes, total links and the degree of connectivity for each node 16 17 constant (89). While the former generates the random network which could contain some nodes 18 without any links and thus the network size decreases, the latter is able to keep the size of random network consistent with empirical network. For direct comparison, we used the later 19 20 approach to generate random networks.

One of the widely used procedures for the later approach is developed by Maslov and 21 22 Sneppen (55, 89, 92-101). To obtain a meaningful comparison, the random network is restricted so that all OTUs have exactly the same connectivity as in the original network, but their 23 interaction partners are totally randomly selected. For each network identified in this study, a 24 total of 100 randomly rewired networks (89) were generated and all network indexes were 25 26 calculated individually. Multiple sampling of the randomized networks enabled us to calculate both the average expectation and the standard deviation for each index of the random networks. 27 28 The statistical Z-test was used to test the differences of the indexes between the pMEN and 29 random networks. Meanwhile, for the comparisons between the network indexes under different conditions, the Student t-test was employed using the standard deviations derived from 30 31 corresponding random networks.

2 Eigengene network analysis

3 One of the grand challenges in dealing with high throughput metagenomics data is the high dimensionality. Various statistical approaches are used for data reduction, including principal 4 component analysis (PCA), detrended correspondence analysis (DCA), and singular value 5 decomposition (SVD). Based on SVD analysis, Langfelder and Horvath (102) proposed 6 eigengene network analysis to summarize the gene expression data from each module as a 7 centroid. Eigengene network analysis is very useful to reveal higher order organization among 8 gene co-expression modules (102-104). Therefore, we adapted this method for analyzing 9 modules in pMENs as described elsewhere (55, 102-104). 10

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12 OTU significance based on a sample trait

In gene expression network analyses, the gene significance (GS_{il}) is the correlation between the expression profile of the *i*-th gene and the *l*-th sample trait, T_l (103). The higher GS_{il} , the more biologically significant is Gene *i* related to the sample Trait *l*. In this study, the OTU significance is defined as:

$$GS_{il} = [cor(x_i, T_l)]^2$$

where x_i is the *i*-th OTU abundance $i \in \{1,...,n\}$ and T_l is the *l*-th sample trait (*e.g.* soil pH, N content, total plant biomass) ($l \in \{1,...,q\}$). Since the measurement units for different traits vary, all trait data were standardized prior to statistical analysis.

Massive soil and plant trait data are available for this long-term experimental site (53, 54, 105) as described above, and they were used for estimating OTU significance. The correlation coefficients between each OTU and each soil or plant variable was calculated across 12 replicate samples under both eCO₂ and aCO₂, respectively. Thus OTU significance matrix, GS^{nxl} , was obtained.

26 Relationships of microbial interaction networks with soil variables

To discern the relationships between the phylogenetic molecular ecological networks and soil properties, Mantel tests were performed. The following soil variables were selected: the percentages of C or N at the depths of 0-10, 10-20, 20-40, and 40-60 cm, the proportion of soil

moistures at the depths of 0-17, 42-59 and 83-100 cm, and soil pH. The relationships between 1 the pMENs and soil variables were determined as follows: First, the OTU significances of all soil 2 variables were calculated with the above equation to generate the OTU significance matrix GS^{nxl} . 3 Then the Euclidean distance matrix $D_{GS}^{n\times n}$ was generated by calculating the Euclidean distance 4 between every two OTUs. The distance matrix among all OTUs' connectivity ($D_k^{n \times n}$) was 5 calculated as well. In addition, Mantel tests were performed between the distance matrices of the 6 connectivity $(D_k^{n \times n})$ and OTU significance $(D_{GS}^{n \times n})$ to examine the relationships between network 7 structure (i.e., connectivity) and soil variables. Similar processes were carried out based on 8 individual phylogenetic groups. The Mantel tests were performed using the programs available 9 10 in R vegan package (106).

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12 **Phylogenetic analysis**

To illustrate the phylogenetic relationships among different nodes (OTUs), the hierarchical trees 13 were constructed based on individual modules. First of all, a representative sequence was 14 randomly picked from a group of sequences (> 1) belongs to that OTU. All OTU sequences in 15 16 the networks were searched against the type strain sequences in the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP) and the most nearest high- quality sequences were selected as references for comparison. 17 18 Then all of the OTU sequences and the selected reference sequences were aligned together by Neibor-Joining approach with 19 using ClustalW2 (107). The trees were constructed using 20 bootstrap of 1,000 times. This distance was calcuated based on Kimura 2-parameter mode using MEGA4 software (108). 21

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Supplemental Tables

- 2 Table S1. Summary of the network complexity of various phylogenetic groups. For direct comparison, the same parameters under
- aCO_2 and eCO_2 were highlighted with same colors

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	Class	Number	aCO ₂			eCO ₂		
Domain		of Shared nodes	Number of nodes	Average connectivity in shared nodes	Shannon index of connectivity	Number of nodes	Average connectivity in shared nodes	Shannon index of connectivity
pMEN all	organisms	171	292	3.25	5.37	263	3.32	5.29
Archaea	Crenarchaeota	2	3	3.38	1.05	2	2.67	0.50
	Acidobacteria	24	45	2.81	3.52	34	3.46	3.25
	Actinobacteria	48	81	2.60	4.15	76	3.00	4.01
	Bacteroidetes	10	23	2.50	2.86	24	4.50	2.82
	Chloroflexi	2	3	1.50	0.96	2	5.00	0.53
	Firmicutes	6	11	2.67	2.11	8	4.17	1.98
	Gemmatimonadetes	8	10	4.25	2.09	8	3.13	1.97
Paotonia	Nitrospira	1	2	1.00	0.64	1	3.00	0.00
Басіена	Planctomycetes	2	4	2.50	1.28	5	1.50	1.52
	α-Proteobacteria	27	45	2.37	3.65	42	2.93	3.48
	β -Proteobacteria	15	22	2.73	2.94	24	4.53	2.93
	δ -Proteobacteria	3	6	2.00	1.64	8	2.00	2.01
	γ-Proteobacteria	9	11	2.89	2.07	9	3.44	1.96
	Verrucomicrobia	8	12	12.38	2.23	9	5.13	2.01
	unclassified	6	14	2.33	2.44	11	1.33	2.23

	Modules under eCO ₂	Module size under eCO ₂	Modules under aCO ₂	Module size under aCO ₂	No of Shared nodes	p value from Fisher exact test
Pair 1	E9	20	A13	27	10	< 0.001
Pair 2	E4	5	A5	36	3	0.010
Pair 3 E11 26		A6	11	3	0.046	
Pair 4	E7	6	A12	19	2	0.041
Pair 5	E3	32	A2	23	7	0.003

Table S2. The paired modules (p<0.05) between eCO_2 and aCO_2 pMENs

		aCO ₂		eCO ₂			
Phylogeny	Network size	$\mathbf{r_M}^{\mathbf{b}}$	P ^c	Network size	r _M	Р	
All detected OTUs	292	0.039	0.169	263	0.368	0.001	
Acidobacteria	45	0.054	0.262	34	0.137	0.124	
Actinobacteria	81	0.381	0.002	76	0.562	0.001	
Bacteroidetes	23	-0.084	0.622	24	0.487	0.012	
Firmicutes	11	0.023	0.338	8	0.310	0.114	
Gemmatimonadetes	10	-0.220	0.958	8	0.299	0.168	
Planctomycetes	4	0.604	0.221	5	-0.651	1.000	
α-Proteobacteria	45	-0.034	0.638	42	0.472	0.001	
β -Proteobacteria	22	0.029	0.319	24	0.297	0.044	
δ -Proteobacteria	6	0.498	0.138	8	0.043	0.416	
γ-Proteobacteria	11	-0.159	0.723	9	0.020	0.399	
Verrucomicrobia	12	0.184	0.057	9	0.086	0.253	

1 **Table S3.** Mantel test on connectivity vs. the OTU significances of soil geochemical variables^a

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^aSoil variables used for OTU significance calculations: %C20-40 (soil carbon content at 20-

4 40cm depth), %N20-40 (soil nitrogen content at 20-40cm depth), C/N ratio20-40

5 (Carbon/Nitrogen ratio at 20-40cm depth), PSM0-17 (soil moisture at 0-17cm), PSM42-59 (soil

6 moisture at 42-49cm) and PSM83-100 (soil moisture 83-100cm).

⁷ ^bCorrelation based on Mantel test.

8 ^cThe significance (probability) of Mantel test

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Supplemental Figures



Fig. 1. The scatter plots showing the fittings of the OTU connectivity distributions of the
pMENs under both aCO₂ and eCO₂. The x-axis is the node connectivity (k). The y-axis is the
number of nodes under a given connectivity. The values in both axes were log-transformed.
Lines and R² values show the best fit of the data to the model. (A) pMEN under eCO₂; and (B)
pMEN under aCO₂.



2 Fig. S2. Phylogenetic distributions of nodes (OTUs) in the network under aCO₂ (blue) and

3 eCO₂ (red). The distribution of OTUs varies substantially among different phylogenetic groups.



2 Fig. S3. Effects of eCO₂ on the network interactions of Verrucomicrobia. All *Verrucomicrobia* nodes and their nearest neighbors were shown under aCO₂ (A) and eCO₂ (B). 3 (C) Summary of several key parameters for these sub-networks topology. Verrucomicrobia is a 4 recently described phylum of abundant bacteria with a few described species, including members 5 of the microbial communities of soil and fresh and marine waters. Their physiological roles are 6 7 not well known. The network interactions under eCO_2 were much simpler than those under aCO_2 , 8 indicating that an increased C influx to soil did not favor their interactions with other members in 9 the community. Thus it appears that eCO₂ had negative impacts on the network interaction of this group of bacteria. 10



Fig. S4. Modular organization of the pMENs with 16S rRNA gene-based metagenomics 1 data. The networks were constructed with the RMT-based approach with the pyrosequencing 2 3 data from (A) eCO₂ (12 samples) and (C) aCO₂ (12 samples). Colors of the nodes indicate different major phyla. Clear modular architecture was observed in this pMEN. Each node 4 signifies an OTU, which could correspond to a microbial population. Colors of the nodes 5 indicate different major phyla. A blue line indicates a positive interaction between two individual 6 7 nodes, while a red line indicates a negative interaction. The numbers indicate different modules or submodules determined by the fast greedy modularity optimization method. All data showed 8 9 that the phylogenetic MENs have a modular architecture. Besides, the sizes for individual modules were plotted in B (eCO_2) and D (aCO_2). 10



Fig. S5. Module eigengene networks for eCO₂ (A) and aCO₂ (B) pMENs. The upper plots are
the hierarchical clustering dendrograms to illustrate the relationships among module eigengenes.
The paired modules between aCO₂ and eCO₂ networks were marked in same colors (details in
Table S2). The below plots show the correlations among modules. Each color grid represents the
signed correlation between the two corresponding eigengenes (Equation 24 in Methods online).
Red color means higher correlation whereas green color signified lower correlation.



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2 Fig. S6. Module memberships of the shared nodes for the paired modules. Comparison of module memberships between these two networks for Pair 1 (E9-A13) (A), Pair 2 (E4-A5) (B), 3 4 Pair 3 (E11-A6) (C), Pair 4 (E7-A12) (D) and Pair 5 (E3-A2) (E). Module memberships were determined as the Pearson correlations between the eigengene and the shared nodes in these two 5 6 networks (See Methods online). Red dots represent the nodes shared between the two modules 7 examined; Blue dots represent the nodes from other modules which were shared between these 8 two networks. Divergent patterns of the module memberships (negative, positive or no relationship) were obtained for the paired modules. 9