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Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit the attached manuscript entitled, “**Soil bacterial community structure is insensitive to rising mean annual temperature in tropical montane wet forests**” for consideration as a Report in the journal *Ecology*. Our manuscript represents an important advance in understanding how soil bacterial communities respond to a changing climate in tropical montane wet forests, an understudied ecosystem that is also a significant global carbon sink. We examined trends in soil bacterial community composition and diversity across a highly constrained 5.2 °C mean annual temperature gradient in tropical montane wet forests on Hawaii Island. Our approach allowed us to isolate the effect of temperature on soil bacterial communities because many potentially confounding factors were held constant, such as dominant plant species, soil chemistry and water balance.

Ours is the first study to demonstrate stability of soil bacterial community structure with rising mean annual temperature in a tropical wet forest ecosystem. Moreover, our results add to growing evidence that the diversity and composition of bacterial communities in low-pH forest soils may be insensitive to the direct effect of climate warming. Finally, our results are in line with previous suggestions that broad hypotheses linking biodiversity to temperature-driven variation in metabolism may not apply to soil bacteria. We expect our paper to be of immediate interest to a wide audience of community and ecosystem ecologists, climate change modelers and microbiologists.

Thank you for your consideration, we would be happy to provide additional materials or information as needed.

With best regards,

Paul Selmans, Ph.D.