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Surface water microbial community response to the biocide 2-2-dibromo-3-nitrilopropionamide used in unconventional oil and gas extraction.

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- 1 **Surface water microbial community response to the biocide 2-2-dibromo-3-**
- 2 **nitrilopropionamide used in unconventional oil and gas extraction**
- 3
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Importance

 Unconventional oil and gas activity can affect pH, total organic carbon, and microbial communities in surface water altering their ability to respond to new environmental and/or anthropogenic perturbations. These findings demonstrate that DBNPA, a common hydraulic

 fracturing (HF) biocide, affects microbial communities differently as a consequence of past HF exposure, persisting longer in HF-impacted waters. These findings also demonstrate that DBNPA has low efficacy in environmental microbial communities regardless of HF impact. These findings are of interest, as understanding microbial responses is key for formulating remediation strategies in UOG impacted environments. Moreover, some of DBNPA degradation byproducts are even more toxic and recalcitrant than DBNPA itself, and this work identifies novel brominated degradation byproducts formed.

INTRODUCTION

 Unconventional oil and gas (UOG) extraction has revolutionized the energy industry in the U.S. The use of hydraulic fracturing (HF) has made previously unreachable UOG reserves available for economically feasible extraction and pushed the U.S. towards energy independence (1). Multiple environmental concerns have accompanied this energy production growth. One of the most commonly added chemicals to HF fluids are biocides. Biocides are used in HF operations to control microbially-induced corrosion of casings and pipes, and gas souring caused by acid-producing and sulfate-reducing bacteria (2). However, biocides have warranted concern for several reasons. Biocides have varying degrees of reported efficacy due to potential resistance or inactivation of the biocides in HF conditions (2-5). Additionally, their toxicity and potential impact on the environment remains a contentious topic (2, 6). The fate of these biocides in the environment and their impact on microbial communities are poorly understood. The biocide 2,2-dibromo-3-nitrilopropionamide (DBNPA) is the second most commonly used biocide in UOG after glutaraldehyde. DBNPA is a fast-acting electrophilic biocide, it is quick and effective in contact, but the protection is not long lasting (7). This biocide inhibits essential biological functions by reacting with nucleophiles (particularly sulfur-containing) inside the cell (8). DBNPA, and some of its degradation products, can also be harmful to humans and animals. These associated compounds have been demonstrated to be moderately to highly toxic

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 Microbial Community Structural Changes Microorganisms in headwater ecosystems are environmental regulators of natural geochemical cycles and organic matter cycling (25, 26). Microorganisms are very sensitive to perturbation making them good sensors of environmental change and effective for tracking contaminants (27). Before DBNPA addition HF- microcosms had an overall higher evenness and richness than HF+. After addition of DBNPA, evenness and richness were affected through time in both HF+ and HF- microcosms. Shannon diversity, which account for the abundance and evenness of species present, showed that HF+ microcosms experienced a smaller decrease in evenness and richness—even though HF- had an overall higher diversity (Figure 2a) (P < 0.01). Meanwhile, while not statistically significant, Simpson diversity (Figure 2d) which also accounts for the abundance of species present, indicated minimal changes in diversity over time except for HF- at day 21. Still, diversity increased by day 35. In contrast, Chao1 (P < 0.05) and Observed (P <0.05) measurements (Figure 2b and 2c), which include unique and rare operational taxonomic units (OTUs) in their calculations, experienced a more prominent decrease in diversity, as fewer OTUs dominated over time. In contrast, when comparing day zero with day 56 control to test bottle effect, the changes detected by day were not significant, and HF- maintained higher diversity than HF+. Analysis of weighted UniFrac distances between samples revealed that there was a difference in phylogenetic composition response between HF+ and HF- microbial populations. The weighted UniFrac distances were plotted on a directional Principal Coordinate Analysis (PCoA), PC 1, explained 27.90 % of the sample variance, while PC2, explained 17.99% of the sample variance (Figure 3). At day zero, prior to DBNPA addition HF+ and HF- already clustered separately along the PC1 axis, but after DBNPA addition HF+ and HF- visibly separated more over time, showing that the HF+ and HF- got more dissimilar over time after addition of DBNPA.

indicating DBNPA is not as effective in controlling complex and dynamic microbial communities

as compared to environmental isolates or engineered systems (9, 24).

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in HF+ but not HF- included *Verrumicrobiaceae* and *Caulobacteraceae* which were shown by

 Microbial community responses to DBNPA vs. Glutaraldehyde We recently conducted a similar study using 100 mg/L of the biocide glutaraldehyde 287 (28). The changes in microbial abundance observed after treatment with DBNPA contrast with 288 the results of the glutaraldehyde experiment. In the glutaraldehyde study, all of the six stream microcosms experienced an initial decrease in microbial abundance. On average HF+ communities were initially more resistant to the biocide, as observed by a smaller log-fold change of 16S rRNA gene/mL by day 7. By day 56, HF- showed stronger resilience by having a bigger positive log-fold change. These results show that the microbial abundance adaptation response in these microbial communities is biocide specific. *Methylobacterium, Idiomarina, Bacillus, and Alcanivorax,* among others, were enriched in the presence of both DBNPA and glutaraldehyde (28). The enrichments indicate that these taxa have a competitive advantage when exposed to these two electrophilic biocides. Previous studies have shown that glutaraldehyde resistance may be caused by the expression of efflux pumps (36, 47). However, the mechanisms for DBNPA resistance is not known, and functional genomics and transcriptomics analyses are needed to better understand this mechanism. Furthermore, Weighted UniFrac beta diversity (Figure 3) showed a distinct phylogenetic response between HF+ and HF- microcosms. This was similar to what was observed in previous work (28), yet glutaraldehyde showed more significant phylogenetic distances on a PCoA plot. The primary axis explained 65.4 % of the variation and the second axis explained 10%, while for DBNPA PC1 and PC2 explained 27.90% and 17.99% respectively, showing that the response and phylogenetic changes due to DBNPA addition were not as pronounced as for glutaraldehyde. Even though both are electrophilic biocides, DBNPA is a fast kill biocide while glutaraldehyde biocidal properties are longer lasting (2). Glutaraldehyde is also more persistent over time (28), with a biotic half-life of 33.8 d in HF- and a biotic half-life of 51.9 in HF+, potentially explaining

low DBNPA concentration, sediment, and anaerobic conditions used are expected to result in

wide differences between that study and the one described here.

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communities to respond differently to the biocide DBNPA as compared to HF-unimpacted

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communities to pre-impacted states affecting nutrient cycle, and further retard microbial natural

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biodegradation capabilities (i.e. microbial attenuation) in the environment, potentially requiring

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DBNPA and its degradation byproducts. DBNPA may not persist in the environment, but its

brominated degradation products, such as DBAN, have a longer half-life and could be more

harmful to the public and environmental health.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Stream Selection and Sample Collection

For comparison purposes, sample collection was identical and done at the same time as

Campa et al., 2018 . Briefly, sample selection employed GIS surveys, and the Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) records to minimize watershed variation

caused by industrial activities other than UOG extraction. Streams selected were in forested areas,

with no indication of past mining activity or other anthropogenic impacts in the PADEP records.

HF-impacted (HF+) streams had active UOG wells within the watershed. These streams were

Alex Branch (AB), Little Laurel (LL), and an unnamed tributary to Naval Hollow (NH). AB and

LL had reported surface spills (60-62). The spills occurred in 2009 when a pipe carrying

flowback water burst, leaking into LL, and to a lesser extent to AB. In the same year, HF

chemicals were accidentally spilled into AB. The three HF un-impacted (HF-) streams had

construction development involving well pads, but no HF activity had started. These streams

were UNT East Elk (EE), unnamed tributary to West Elk (WE), and Dixon Run (DR). Refer to

Table S15 for geological coordinates of the watersheds. A detailed description of the sites,

screening process and selection has been described previously (11-13, 56, 63).

Collection of stream water from three HF+ and three HF- streams in northwestern

- Pennsylvania occurred in June 2015 under low flow conditions. Samples were collected in sterile
- Nalgene bottles and stored at 4°C until use. Conductivity, pH, temperature, and total dissolved
- solids were measured at collection time using a weekly calibrated Eutech PCSTestr 35 Multi-
- parameter test probe.
- **Microcosm Setup**

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of library preparation. The final libraries were run in the Illumina MiSeq (San Diego, CA, USA)

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value was adjusted using Benjamini & Hochberg method. Reported OTUs had an alpha < 0.01

 Every week, 1 mL of microcosm water was collected to compare the difference between the rates of abiotic and biotic DBNPA degradation in HF+ and HF- microcosms. After collection, samples were filter-sterilized using 0.2 µm nylon filter, acidified to pH 2.5 with phosphoric acid

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at -20°C until analysis.

 DBNPA quantification was performed with an Agilent 1200 HPLC system using a modified method described by Blanchard *et al.* (1987). An Agilent Eclipse XDB-C18 column (5 µm, 4.6 x 150 mm) was used for separation with a flowrate of 1mL/min and a diode array detector (DAD) was set at 210 nm for detection. The mobile phases and elution gradient were as follows: The initial composition was 75% deionized water (adjusted to pH 2.5 with phosphoric acid; eluent A) and 25% acetonitrile (eluent B), and eluent B increased linearly to 60% over 6 min and further to 85% over an additional 4 min time period. Eluent B was held at 85% for 1 min before the column was equilibrated to initial conditions. **Detection of DBNPA Degradation Products Using Nano-High Performance Liquid Chromatography-High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry** Filtered stream water samples were kept frozen in amber bottles in the dark at -20°C until analysis by nano-liquid chromatography-high-resolution mass spectrometry (nano-HPLC- HRMS). Measurements were collected using a Dionex UltiMate 3000 HPLC pump (ThermoFisher Scientific) coupled to an LTQ-Orbitrap Velos Pro mass spectrometer (ThermoFisher Scientific) equipped with a nano-electrospray ionization (ESI) source (Proxeon, Denmark) operated in positive mode under direct control of the XCalibur software, v2.2 SP1.48 (ThermoFisher Scientific). The nano-electrospray column/emitter was prepared manually in- house using 100 µm i.d. fused-silica (Polymicro Technologies) which was laser-pulled and pressure-packed to 20 cm with Kinetex C18-RP material (5 µm, 100 Å, Phenomenex). The column was aligned in front of the MS capillary inlet, and 300 nL of the sample was manually injected directly onto the column. LC/MS-grade acetonitrile (ACN) and water (both degassed) were purchased from EMD Millipore, and formic acid (FA) from Sigma-Aldrich. Nano-flow rates 590 were achieved with a split-flow setup prior to the injection loop $(\sim 250 \text{ nL min}^{-1})$ at the nano-spray tip) and separations were conducted by initially holding at 100% A (95% ACN/5% H2O/0.1%

to minimize hydrolysis of DBNPA as described by Blanchard *et al.* (1987), and were then frozen

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 FA) for 5 min, increasing linearly over 60 min to 100% B (70% ACN/30% H2O/0.1% FA), and then holding at 100% B for 5 min before re-equilibrating the column at 100% A for 20 min prior the next injection. The mass spectrometer was externally calibrated for mass accuracy on the day of analysis using the positive calibration solution (Pierce, ThermoFisher Scientific). The ESI source capillary voltage was set to 3.0 kV and the capillary temperature to 275°C. High-resolution full scans were acquired in centroid mode at a resolving power of 30,000 over a mass range of 50 – 1000 *m/z*. 599 Fragmentation data (MS²) were also collected using collision-induced dissociation (CID, He_(g)) 600 and a data-dependent acquisition approach on the top 5 most abundant ions in each $MS¹$ full scan. 601 High-resolution (15,000 resolving power) MS² spectra were collected using a 2 m/z precursor isolation width, and an optimized 30% normalized CID energy for fragmentation. Raw LC/MS data were analyzed using the Thermo XCalibur Qual Software. Integrated LC peak areas were obtained from the extracted ion chromatograms (10 ppm tolerance). **Accession Numbers and Data Availability** Mass spectrometry data was uploaded to the Center for Computation Mass Spectrometry (UCSD) online database MassIVE. The MassIVE ID number is MSV000082488. Microbial 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequences for both DBNPA treated microcosm and the glutaraldehyde treated microcosms were deposited in NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA) in SRA accession SRP151211 under BioProject PRJNA476929 as Biosamples SAMN09459387 to SAMN09459570, and SAMN09475542 to SAMN09475579. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** This research was funded by the Methane Center in the Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment (http://isse.utk.edu/methane/), the Bredesen Center at the University of Tennessee, and the National Science Foundation CBET awards 1805152 (University of Tennessee), 1804685 (Michigan Technological University), and 1805549 (Juniata College).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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- Figure S1: DBNPA and known degradation products.
- Figure S2: Microbial Community Shifts Over Time. A) Phylum, B) Genus
- Figure S3: Biotic and abiotic degradation of DBNPA over time. Data is shown averaged by HF+
- and HF-.
- Figure S4: Biotic and abiotic DBNPA degradation over time. Data is shown by water source
- location.
- Figure S5: High-resolution mass spectrum of DBNPA standard.
- Figure S6: Number of brominated species detected by nano-HPLC-HRMS in two HF- (left) and
- two HF+ (right) sets of microcosm samples, biotic and abiotic, from days 0, 7, 14, 21, and 28.
- Figure S7: Summed peak areas for all brominated compounds at each time point (0, 7, 14, and 28
- days), normalized to each sample set (stream), analyzed by nano-HPLC-HRMS.
- Table S1: DESeq2 results, OTU enrichment 7 days after glutaraldehyde addition
- Table S2: DESeq2 results HF- vs HF+ enrichment at day 7
- Table S3: DESeq2 results, enriched OTU at day 21 vs 0
- Table S4: DESeq2 results, enriched OTU at day 35 vs 0
- Table S5: DESeq2 results, enriched OTU at day 49 vs 0
- Table S6: DESeq2 results, enriched OTU at day 56 vs 0
- Table S7: DESeq2 results HF- vs HF+ enrichment at day 21
- Table S8: DESeq2 results HF- vs HF+ enrichment at day 35
- Table S9: DESeq2 results HF- vs HF+ enrichment at day 49
- Table S10: DESeq2 results HF- vs HF+ enrichment at day 56
- Table S11: DESeq2 results day 56 no-GA vs no-GA
- Table S12: DESeq2 results day 56 vs day 56 no-DBNPA
- Table S13: Putative DBNPA brominated degradation products detected by nano-HPLC-HRMS.
- Table S14: Total Organic Carbon (TOC) concentration in source water prior to DBNPA addition.
- Table S15: Geological coordinates and watershed physiochemical parameters.

nitrilopropionamide (DBNPA) chemical degradation in natural waters:

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FIGURES AND LEGENDS

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902 **Figure 1.** Impacts of DBNPA in abundance of 16S rRNA gene copies/mL over time. Data shown

903 is divided by HF-impacted (first three clusters, Alex Branch (AB), Little Laurel (LL), Naval

904 Hollow (NH)) and HF-unimpacted (East Elk (EE), West Elk (WE), Dixon Run (DR))

905 microcosms at day zero before DBNPA addition, day 7, 21, and 56 after DBNPA addition, and

906 day 56 no-DBNPA added control. The bars are color on a gradient over time, with the last bar

907 representing the no-DBNPA control at day 56. Each bar represents n=3, and the error bars

908 represent one standard error.

911 impacted and HF-unimpacted microcosms over time. The estimators used were (a) Shannon

912 Diversity, (b) Observed Diversity, (c) Chao1, and (d) Simpson Diversity. Red and green represent

913 HF-unimpacted microcosms. Red boxes represent the changes after DBNPA addition in HF-

914 unimpacted (days 7 to 56), while the green boxes represent the alpha diversity without DBNPA

915 addition in HF- (day zero and 56). Blue and purple boxes represent HF-impacted microcosms.

916 Blue boxes represent the changes after DBNPA addition in HF-impacted (days 7 to 56), while the

917 purple boxes represent the alpha diversity without DBNPA addition in HF- (day zero and 56).

918 The box and whisker plot described the distribution of the data points. The beginning of the

919 whiskers to the beginning of the box are the upper and lower quartiles. The box represents the

920 interquartile range, which represents 50% of the data points (n=9). The vertical line inside the box

921 represents the median.

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926 sampled, 0, 7, 21, 35, 49, and 56. Samples are colored by hydraulic fracturing (HF)-impact

927 history and DBNPA addition. The green legend = HF-unimpacted plus DBNPA addition, yellow

928 legend= HF-unimpacted without biocide addition, purple legend= HF-impacted plus DBNPA

929 addition, and pink legend= HF-impacted without biocide addition. Samples without biocide

930 addition were only measured day 0 and day 56.

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Proteobacteria Gammaproteobacteria Vibrionales Pseudoalteromonadaceae ■Proteobacteria Alphaproteobacteria Sphingomonadales Sphingomonadaceae
■Proteobacteria Alphaproteobacteria Sphingomonadales Sphingomonadaceae
■Verrucomicrobia [Pedosphaerae] [Pedosphaerales] auto67_4W

 $HF+$

Day 56

HF-

HF+

HF-

Day 56 No DBNPA

Proteobacteria Betaproteobacteria Burkholderiales Comamonadaceae

932

933 **Figure 4.** Temporal changes of microbial community relative abundance in averaged hydraulic

934 fracturing-impacted (HF+) and hydraulic fracturing-unimpacted (HF-) microcosms treated with

935 the biocide DBNPA. Microbial taxa are summarized to the Family level.

Proteobacteria Betaproteobacteria Burkholderiales Oxalobacteraceae

Proteobacteria Alphaproteobacteria Caulobacterales Caulobacteraceae Bacteroidetes [Saprospirae] [Saprospirales] Chitinophagaceae

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Table 1. Nested PERMANOVA of weighted UniFrac distances 948
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