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### Comments

#### Naomi Ward

University of Wyoming,  
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MICROBIOLOGY

New Finding

**This paper describes an elegant set of experiments providing evidence that the order in which species of aquatic microbes assemble into a community influences the relationship between productivity and diversity in that community.** The value of manipulative experiments as a tool for better understanding microbial diversity is clearly demonstrated and it is to be hoped that this study, performed with eukaryotic microbes, might stimulate similar studies with prokaryotes.

**Competing interests:** None declared

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