201 strange microbes get DNA profiled

A British Columbia lake that's freshwater on top and salty on the bottom is among nine unusual environments that have yielded the genomes of 201 microbes that scientists have never identified and know almost nothing about.

The microbes come from 28 uncharted branches of the "tree of life."

The genomes were sequenced from individual single-celled microbes in samples collected in Sakinaw Lake on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast, a sludge reactor in Mexico, the great Boiling Spring in Nevada and the undersea hydrothermal vents of the East Pacific Rise, along with five other "diverse habitats," reported a paper published online this week in Nature

Read the full article here: 201 strange microbes get DNA profiled