

Supplementary material

Vertical dynamics in community functioning of biofilm-dwelling ciliates during the colonisation process in coastal waters of the Yellow Sea

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Table S1. Biological traits and categories used to describe functional diversity of periphytic protozoan (mainly ciliate) communities in coastal waters of the Yellow Sea, northern China

Traits	Categories
Body size (measured as cell length)	Small (<50 µm)
	Medium (50–150 µm)
	Large (>150 µm)
Body form	Dorsal-ventrally flattened
	Cylindrical
Flexibility	Cell nonflexible
	Cell flexible
Sociability	Solitary
	Colonial
Feeding type	Bacterivores
	Algivores
	Predators
Food resource	Outside (from plankton)
	Inside (from periphyton)
Movement	Sessile
	Vagile
	Free-swimming