

## TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Motivation.....	1
1.2. Objective.....	2
1.3. Hypotheses.....	2
1.4. Thesis structure.....	2
CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....	3
2.1. Geothermal systems.....	3
2.2. Microorganisms in terrestrial hot springs.....	4
2.2.1. Metabolic pathways.....	5
2.2.2. Biogeography and environmental factor.....	5
2.2.3. Habitat.....	6
2.2.4. Metagenomics.....	7
CHAPTER 3: EFFECTS OF HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY ON THE MICROBIAL ECOLOGY OF TERRESTRIAL HOT SPRINGS.....	8
3.1. Abstract.....	8
3.2. Introduction.....	9
3.3. Study zones.....	10
3.3.1. Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ).....	10
3.3.2. Yellowstone Plateau Volcanic Field (YPVF).....	11
3.3.3. El Tatio (at Altiplano-Puna Volcanic Complex (APVC)).....	11
3.3.4. Eastern Tibetan Plateau Geothermal Belt.....	12
3.4. Methodology.....	13
3.4.1. El Tatio hot springs sampling and analysis.....	13
3.4.2. Worldwide hot springs collection data.....	14
3.4.3. Taxonomic assignation.....	14
3.4.4. Statistical and ecological analysis.....	15
3.5. Results and Discussions.....	16
3.5.1. Hot spring hydrochemistry.....	16
3.5.2. Microbial communities.....	20
3.6. Conclusions.....	29
Author Contributions.....	30
Acknowledgment.....	30
References.....	31
Supplementary Material.....	41

CHAPTER 4: FINAL REMARKS .....	67
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	69