

# Using DNA metabarcoding to study plant-microbiote interactions

**Ch. Mougel:** Genetic basis of plant-microbiote interactions using a GWAS approach

**J. Aubert:** Bioclustering via latent block model for overdispersed count data: application in microbial ecology



Christophe MOUGEL

Séminaire Math For Genomics  
Evry 29 mai 2019

# Micro-biote/biome: qu'est ce que c'est ?

- Une communauté microbienne (ou microbiote) est un ensemble d'organismes issus de populations d'espèces distinctes qui cohabitent sur une même aire géographique à un moment donné et qui constituent un réseau d'interactions.
- L'écologie des communautés étudie les patrons de diversité, d'abondance et de composition d'espèces au sein de ces communautés, ainsi que les processus responsables de ces patrons.
- Utilise les processus de génétique des populations : dispersion, sélection, spéciation et dérive.
- Ces processus d'assemblage (notamment spéciation) ont été adaptés aux communautés microbiennes = processus de diversification (intègre diversité phénotypique et fonctionnelle).
- Le microbiote = les individus // microbiome = microbiote dans son environnement.
- Les études actuelles portant sur les interactions plante-microbiote associent des analyses de la diversité taxonomique et fonctionnelle (e.g. From correlations to causalities)

# Agroecology

- Societal context
  - Conception of new agricultural practices



and reduced environmental impacts

- F - Grenelle environnement
- F - Ecophyto II 2025
- EU WaterFramework Directive (waiting for those on soil)

The images include: 1. A green banner for 'le Grenelle Environnement' with the text 'Participez au forum'. 2. A small image for 'écophyto2018' showing a plant. 3. An image for 'Ecophyto R&D INRA' featuring a tree and the INRA logo. 4. An image for 'WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE' showing a fish.

# Agroecology

## Plant are under stresses

### Abiotic stresses

Nutrition:  
N, P, S



Climate change:  
temperature, water



Pollution:  
organic and heavy  
metals



### Cultivated plant

Atlas des Plantes de France,  
A.Masclef 1891



### Biotic stresses

Competition:  
weeds



Bioaggressors:  
insects, nematodes  
pathogens(viruses,  
bacteria, protist,  
fungi)

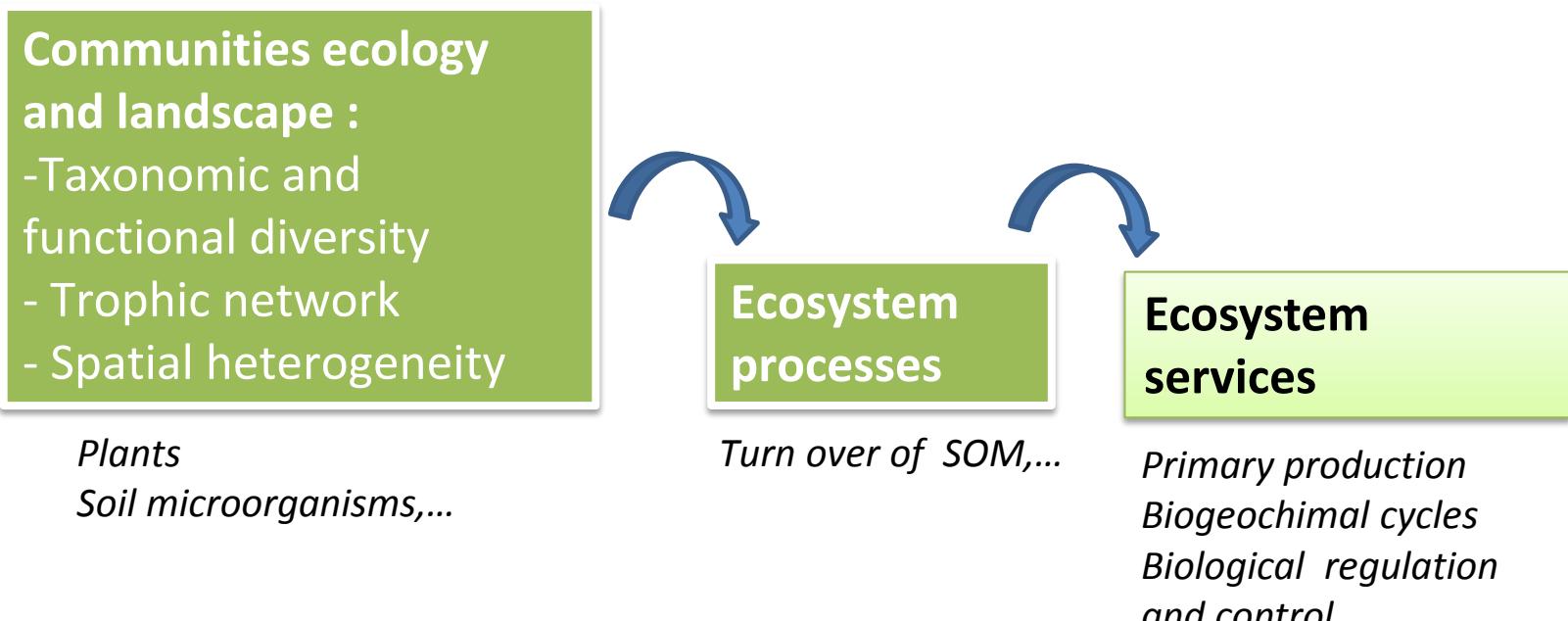


**Agronomic context (conventional, organic, biodiversity based farming system)**  
**Genetic basis for Resistance (direct and indirect defenses) and Adaptation**

# Agroecology

## ■ Scientific context

- Better used of biodiversity and biological regulations in agroecosystems to reduced chemical inputs



- Link the microbial biodiversity and the plant ecosystem

# Importance of biodiversity for ‘natural’ ecosystem functioning



*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*  
Vol. 96, pp. 1463–1468, February 1999  
Ecology

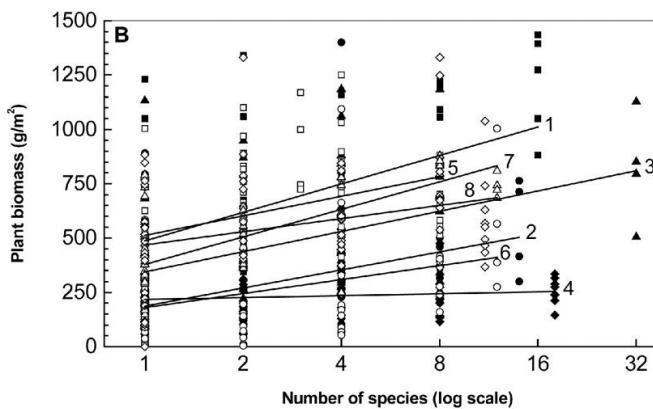
## Biodiversity and ecosystem productivity in a fluctuating environment: The insurance hypothesis

(stochastic dynamic model/species richness/ecosystem processes/temporal variability/ecosystem stability)

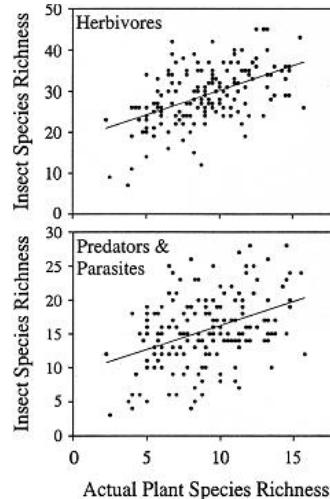
SHIGEO YACHI AND MICHEL LOREAU\*

- functional redundancy
- resistance to perturbation
- resilience to damage
- functional disability
- susceptibility to perturbation
- lower resilience to damage

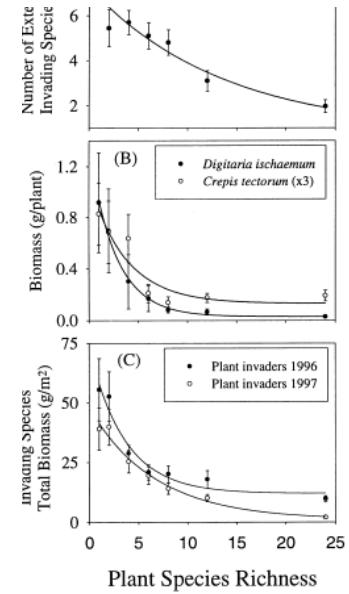
# Diversity and Productivity in Long-Term Grassland Experiment: the lessons of the BIODEPTH experiment)



Loreau et al., Science 294:804-808 (2001)  
 Tilman et al., Science 294:843-845 (2001)



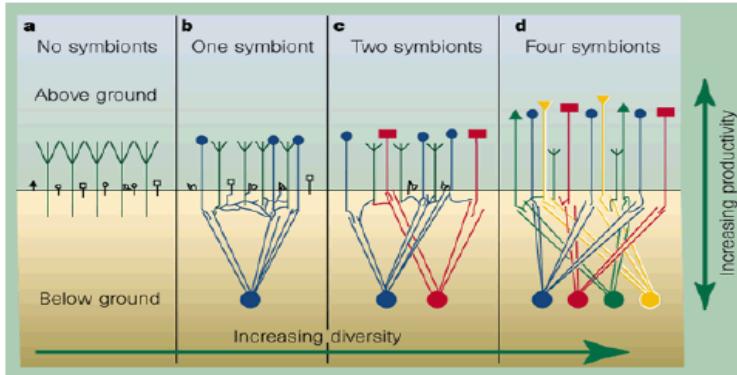
Adapted from Sieman et al.,  
 The American Naturalist  
 52: 738-750 (1998)



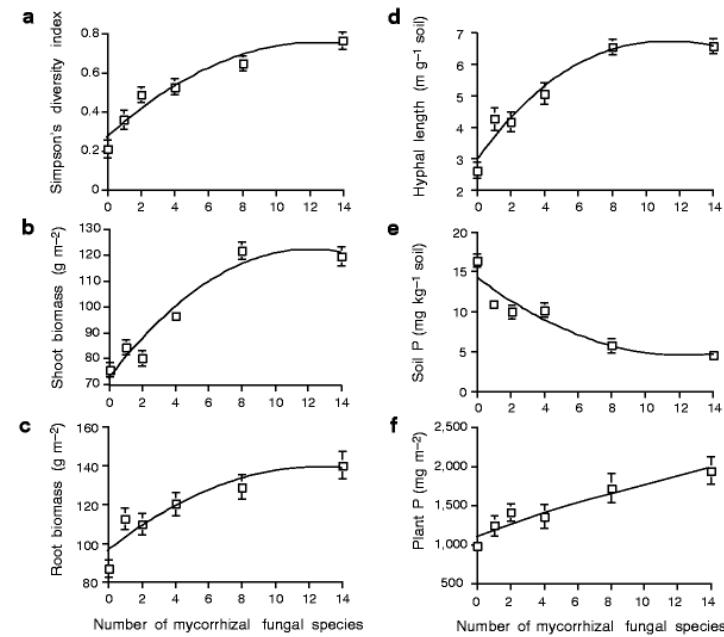
Knops et al., Ecology Letters  
 2:286-293 (1999)

- High plant diversity is related to high ecosystem productivity
- a greater herbivores species richness (generalists + specialists) but also more natural enemies of these herbivores
- a greater resistance to biological invasion

# Above and belowground diversity relationship: back to the root, case of root symbiosis

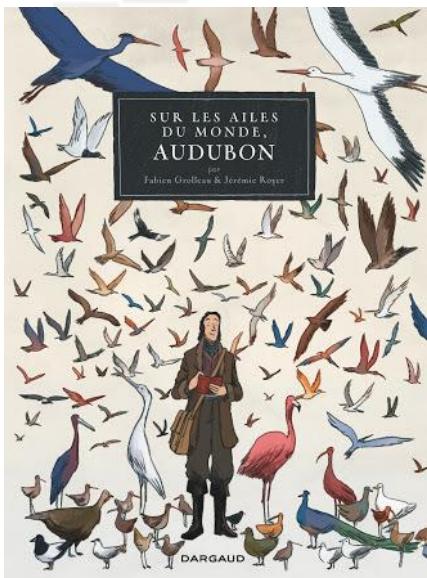


Van der Heijden et al., Nature 396:69-72 (1998)



- High mycorrhiza diversity is related to an increased of plant fitness by optimizing the resource utilization

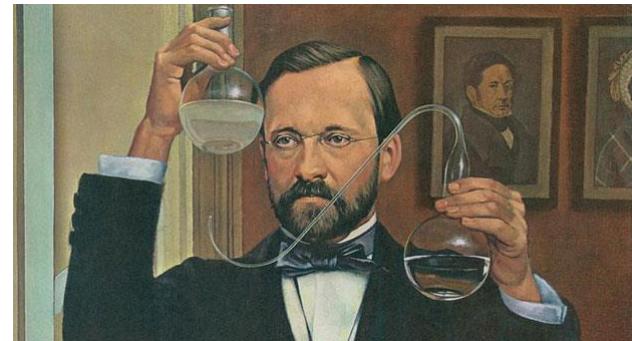
# Ecology versus microbial ecology



Audubon (1785-1851)



Bonnier (1853-1922)



Pasteur (1822-1895)

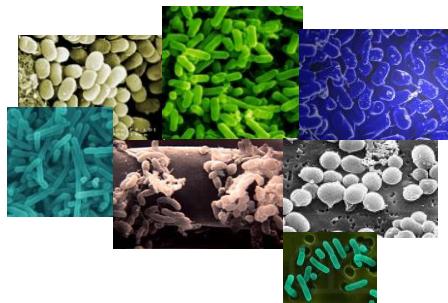


**Microbiome**

(2005-)

# Huge number for microorganisms in open ecosystems

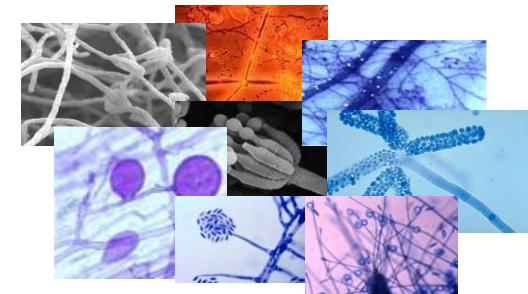
1 g of soil



1 milliard of bacteria  
1 million species



1.5 tons/ha

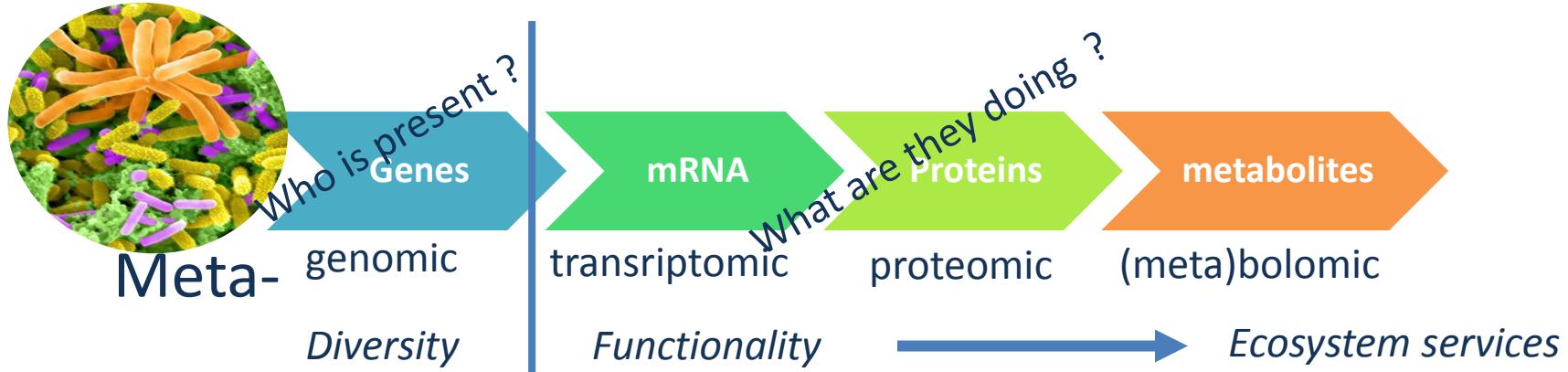


1 million of fungi  
1000 species



3.5 tons / ha

# Link community assembly and microbial functions in relation to plant ecosystem functioning



- Diversity analysis aimed to identify who are the microbial species (bacteria, dikarya, oomycetes,... and viruses) present and potentially the key players.
- Access to more functional markers (mRNA, metabolites, activity) remain a challenge for complex 'open' ecosystem => **complementary approaches between naturalistic, simplify ecosystem with diversity manipulation and synthetic microbial communities.**

# Microbial diversity analysis (1/2)

## ➤ Biology

Soil / Root



SOP - Extraction

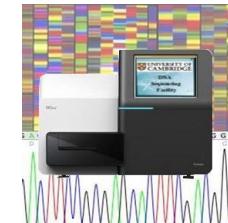
DNA/RNA



SOP – PCR  
Multiplexing

HTS

MiSeq 2\*300  
(100000 reads)



GenoScreen

Terrat *et al.*, Microbial Biotech 8: 131-142(2015)

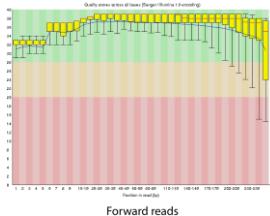
Terrat *et al.*, Microbial Biotech 5: 135-141 (2012)

Plassart *et al.*, PLOS One 7:e44279 (2012)

# Microbial diversity analysis (2/2)

## ➤ Bioinformatic

### Raw reads



### Clean reads

Denoising  
Trimming

### Workflow GnS-PIPE

Dereplication  
Clustering  
Alignment  
Taxonomy

### Count tables

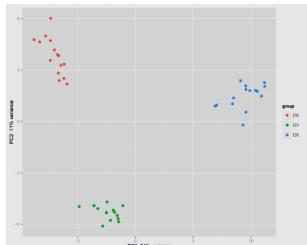
### Index

- Richness
- Diversity (Shanon,...)
- Equitability

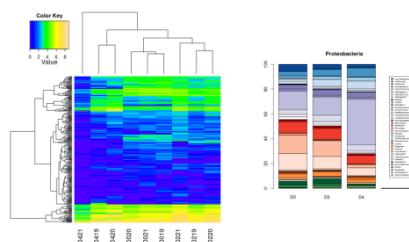
## ➤ Statistics (coll J. Aubert)



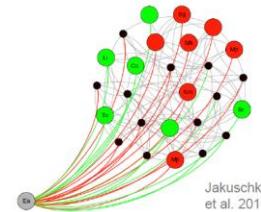
### Classification



### Discriminant analysis

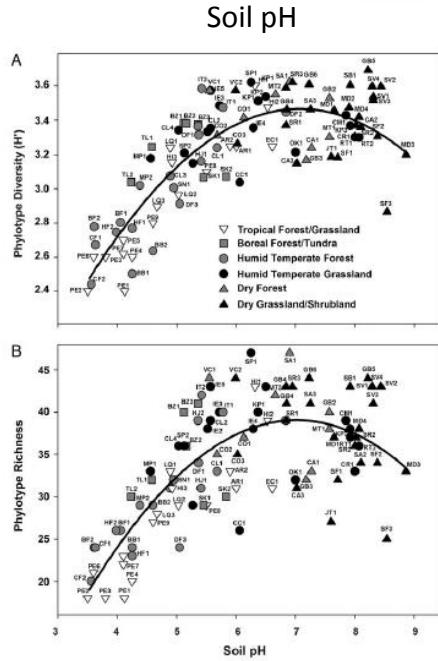


### 'Networks'



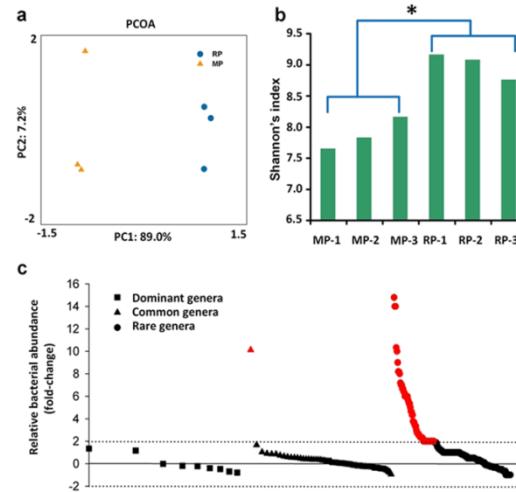
**'new methods:  
Bi-clustering'**

# Diversity reservoir = soil



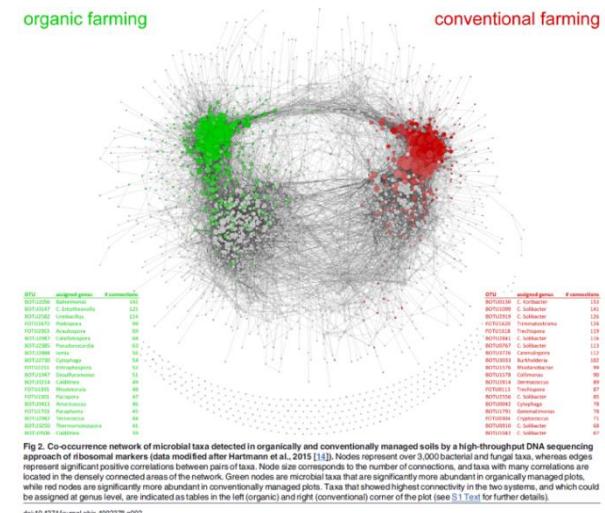
Fierer et Jackson, PNAS 2006

## Monoculture versus Rotation



Li et al. ISME Journal 2018

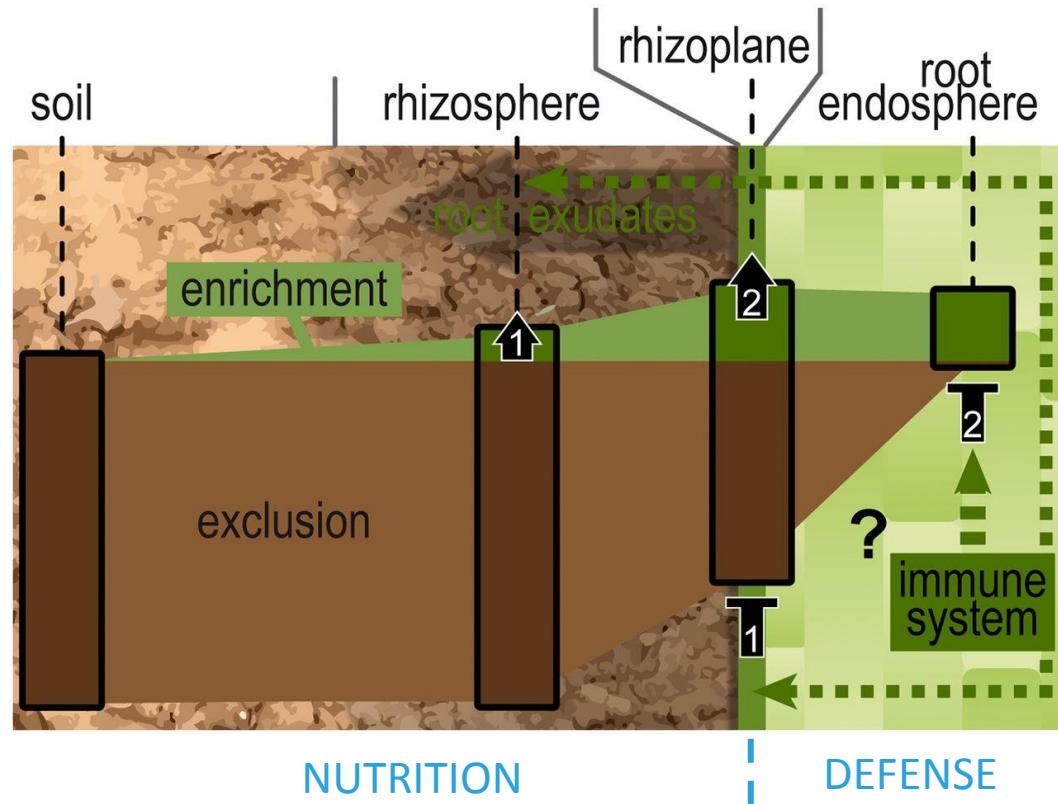
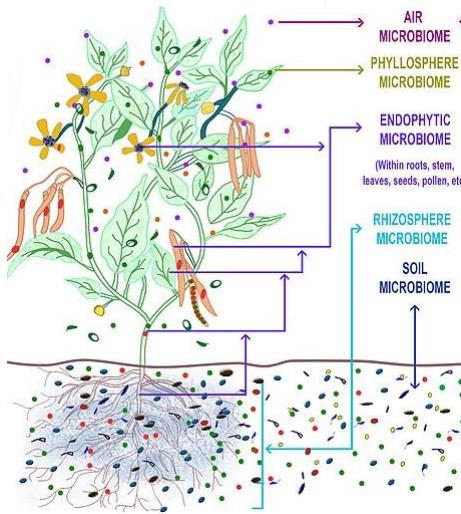
## Conventional versus organic farming



van der Heijden & Hartmann PLOS Biol 2016

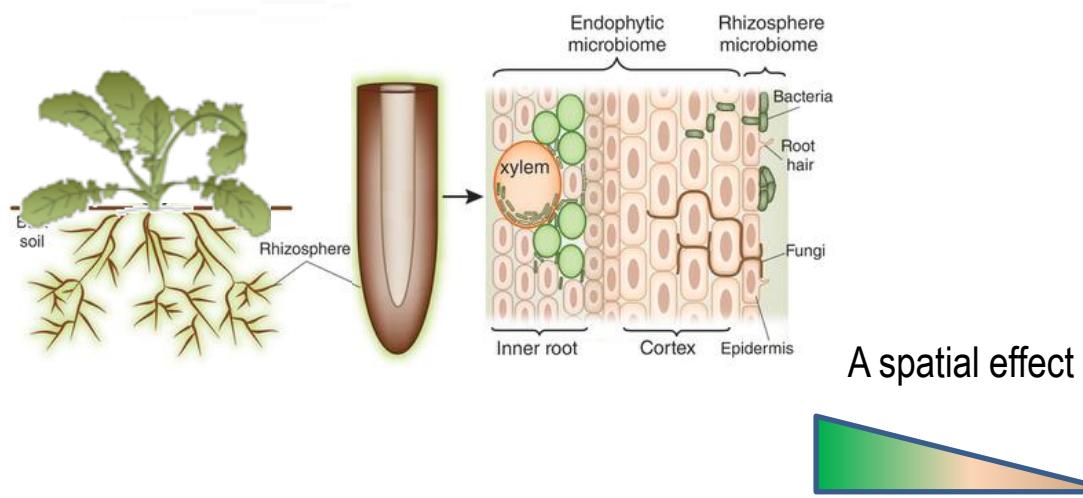
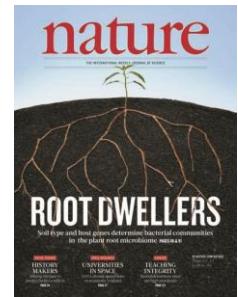
- Diversification forces: pedo-climatic (pH, texture, SOM) >> agronomic practices

# Rhizosphere

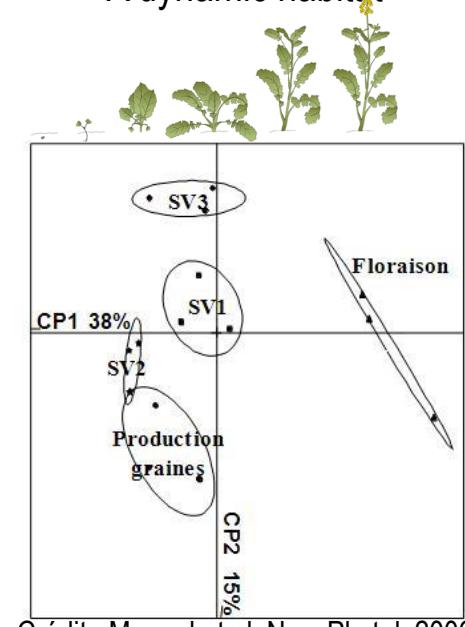


van der Heijden & Schlaepi 2015  
<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1500709112>

# The rhizosphere: a spatialized habitat and a temporal dynamics



A dynamic habitat

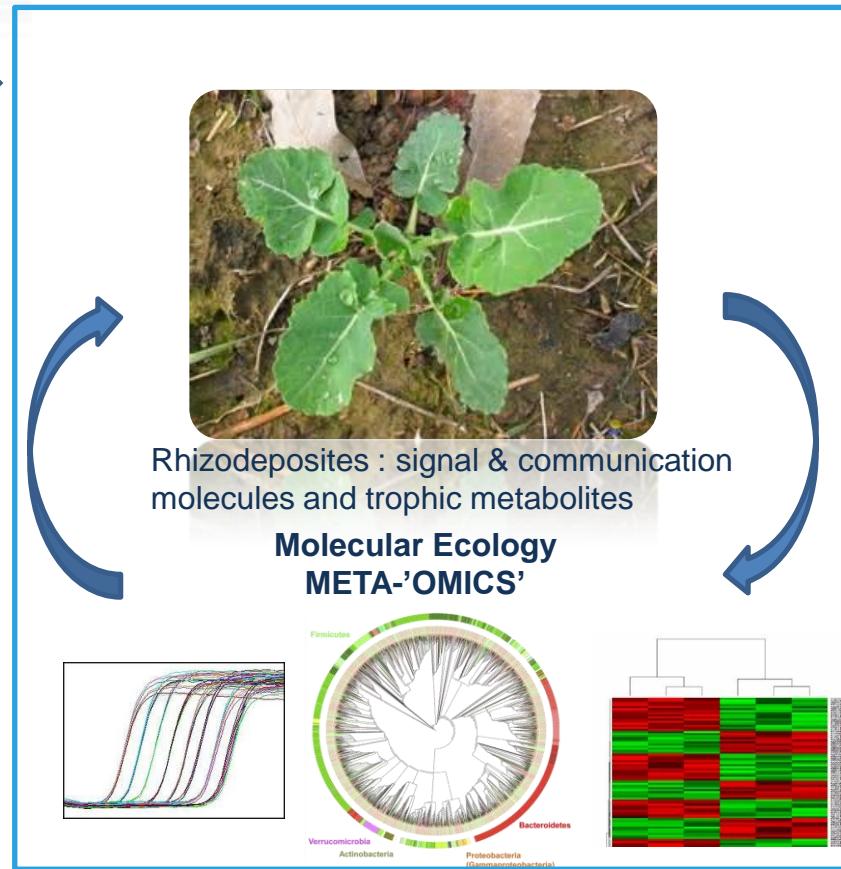


Credit : Mougel et al. New Phytol. 2006

# Feed back loop in plant - microbiote interactions

Light  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
eg Environment factors

Microbial communities effect on plant growth and health  
=  
Extended phenotype



Hologenome =  
Plant genotype x  
Micobial metagenome

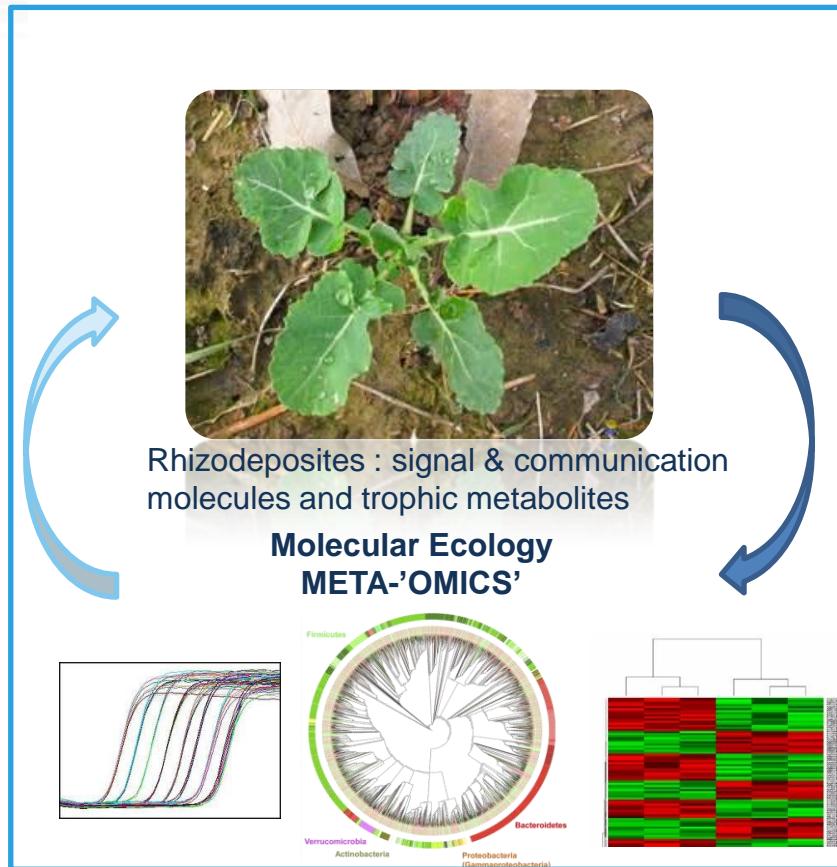
Plant effect on  
microbial communities  
ecology  
=  
Rhizosphere effect

Key question : understanding the link between microbial communities structure and functioning in relation to plant adaptation to biotic and abiotics factors.

# Feed back loop in plant - microbiote interactions

Light  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
eg Environment factors

Microbial communities effect on plant growth and health  
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Plant effect on  
microbial communities ecology  
=  
Rhizosphere effect

# Plant-microbial communities interactions

**Host genetics: model plant**  
*< 8 genotypes + related species*

Environment



- Important factor = soil type (seed bank effect)
- Spatial effect: bulk soil < soil surrounding root system (ie rhizosphere) < endophytes
- Dynamic effect depending of plant phenology (vegetative versus reproductive stages)
- Core-microbiote with quantitative variations

Mougel et al., New Phytologist, 2006

Lundberg et al., Nature, 2012

Bulgarelli et al., Nature, 2012

Schlaepi et al., PNAS, 2013

## Quantitative divergence of the bacterial root microbiota in *Arabidopsis thaliana* relatives

Klaus Schlaepi<sup>a,b</sup>, Nina Dombrowski<sup>b</sup>, Ruben Garrido Oter<sup>a,c,d</sup>, Emiel Ver Loren van Themaat<sup>a</sup>, and Paul Schulze-Lefer<sup>a,d</sup>

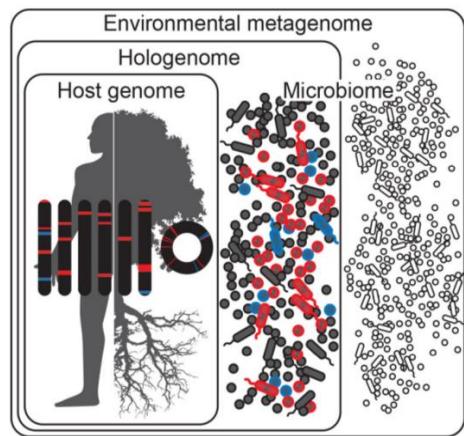
<sup>a</sup>Department of Plant Microbe Interactions, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, 50829 Cologne, Germany; <sup>b</sup>Plant-Soil-Interactions, Institute for Sustainability Sciences, Agroscope, Reckenholzstrasse 191, 8046 Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>c</sup>Department of Algorithmic Bioinformatics, Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf, 40225 Duesseldorf, Germany; and <sup>d</sup>Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences (CEPLAS), Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, 50829 Cologne, Germany

This contribution is part of the special series of *PNAS* articles by members of the National Academy of Sciences elected in 2010.

PNAS

# A conceptual framework: hologenome

Getting the Hologenome Concept Right:  
an Eco-Evolutionary Framework for  
Hosts and Their Microbiomes



Theis et al. *mSystems* 2016

$$P = G + E + (G \times E)$$

Environmental Microbiote (E)

$$P = G + E + (G \times E)$$

Host associated Microbiote (G)

- Evolutive perspectives
- Vertical versus horizontal transmission
- Consequences on host phenotype = extended phenotype

# Holobiont concept



Aphid/  
parasitoid



Fly/  
parasitoid



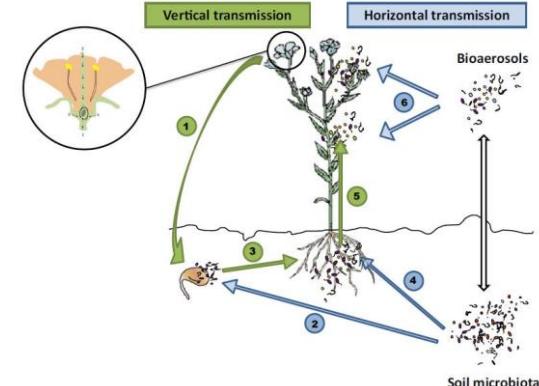
Bee



Termite



Human



Plant

- seed (cf. travaux M Barret)
- *Festuca* sp. / *Lolium* sp and fungi  
*Neotyphodium* sp.

Vertical transmission

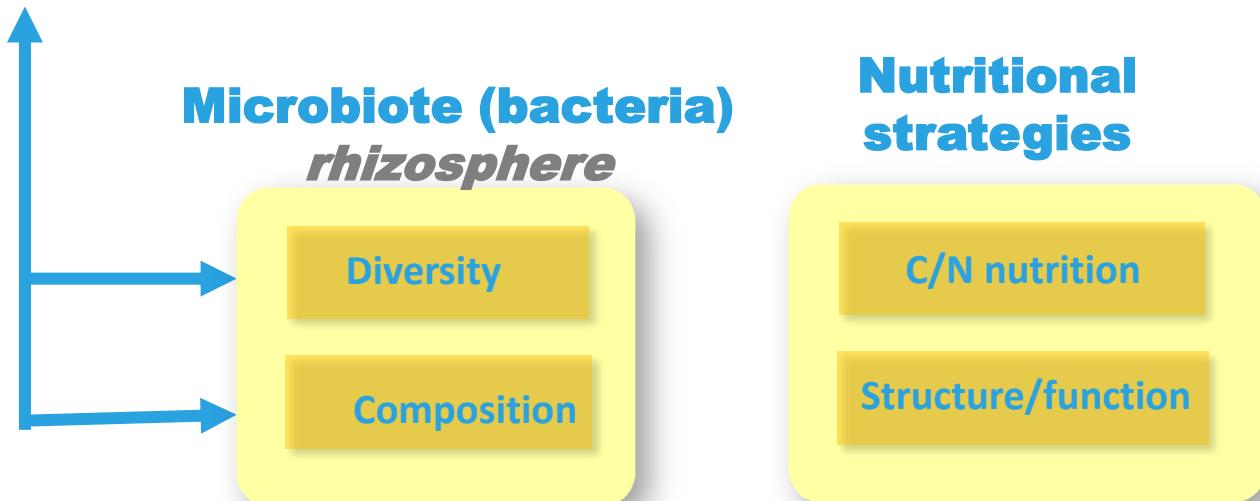
Vertical/horizontal transmission

# A genome wide analysis study GWAS to identify key plant genes

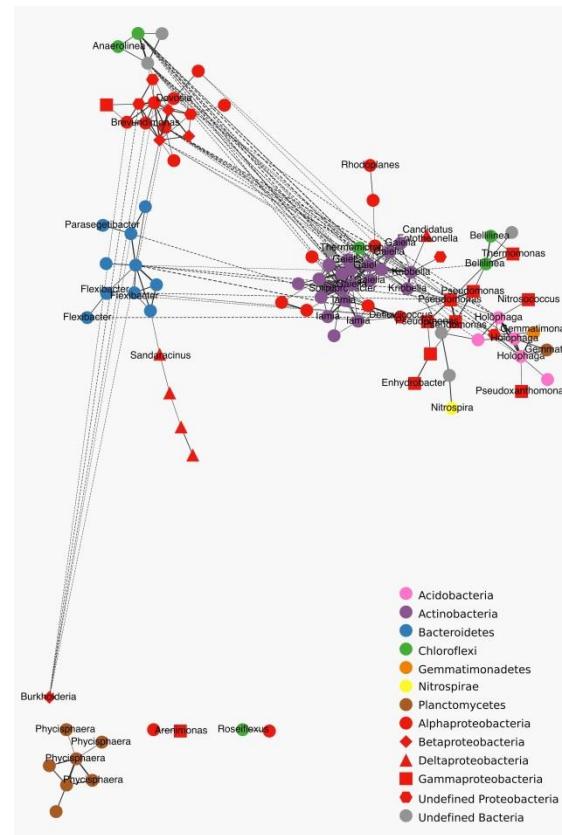
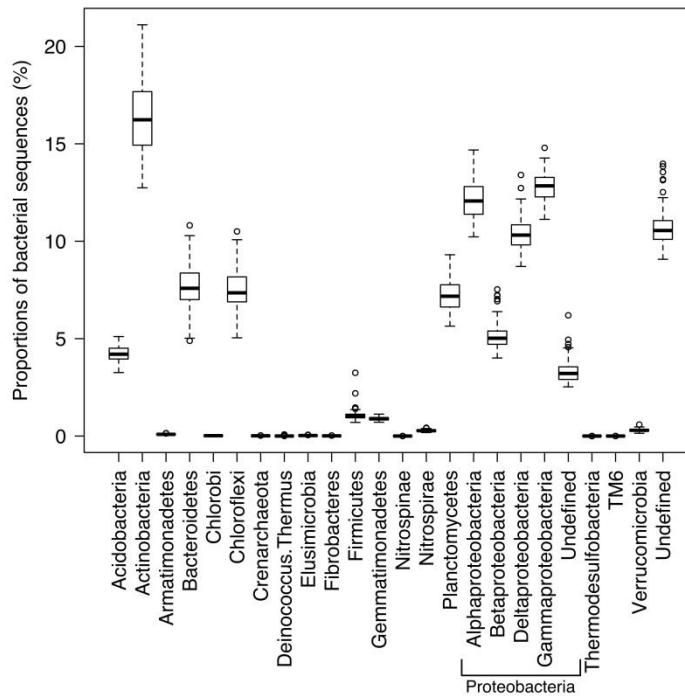
**Host genotype**

**192 accessions of *M. truncatula* (core collection)**

**Environment**  
*Green house*



# Microbiote analysis

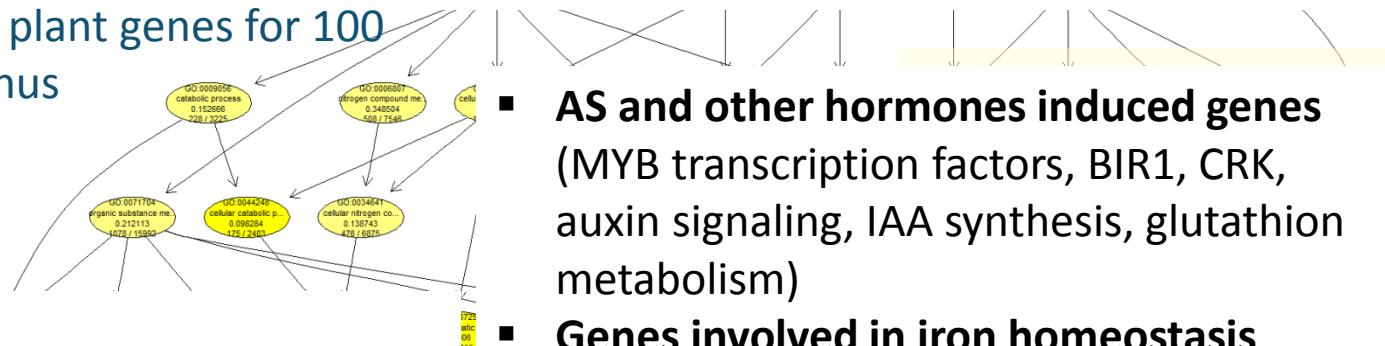


- Proteobacteria, Acidobacteria, Actinobacteria, Bacteroidetes, Chloroflexi, Planctomycetes
- 157 OTU (core microbiote) with different count, share a significant heritability values (between 0,2 and 0,6)
- Co-occurrence between Proteobacteria-Acidobacteria and Proteobacteria-Actinobacteria-Bacteroidetes-Chloroflexi

# Global analysis of significant plant genes related to dominant microbial ‘species’

✓ Singular Enrichment Analysis (Classic Fisher test,

TopGO R) : list of 2000 plant genes for 100 dominant bacterial genus



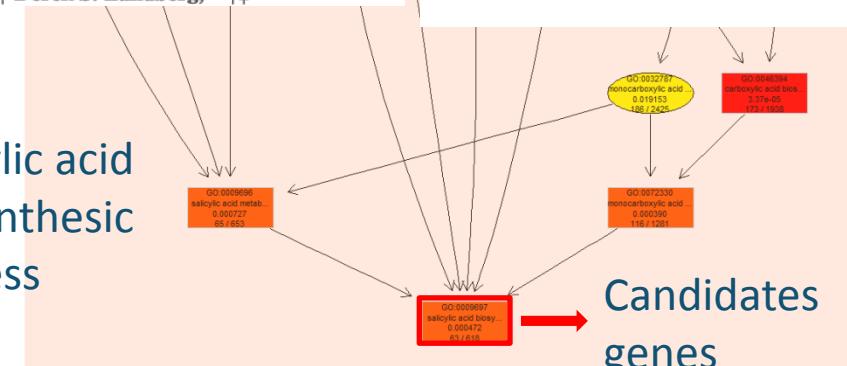
PLANT MICROBIOME

## Salicylic acid modulates colonization of the root microbiome by specific bacterial taxa

Science, 2015

Sarah L. Lebeis,<sup>1,2,\*†</sup> Sur Herrera Paredes,<sup>2,3,4,†</sup> Derek S. Lundberg,<sup>2,5,‡‡</sup>

Salicylic acid biosynthetic process

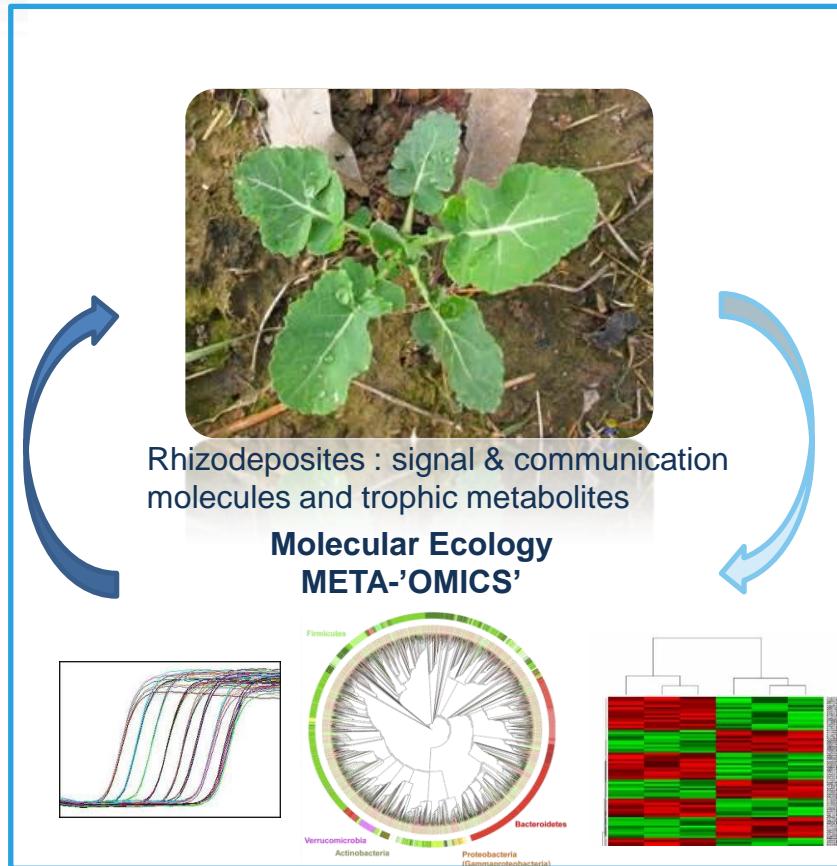


Plant defense

# Feed back loop in plant - microbiote interactions

Light  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
eg Environment factors

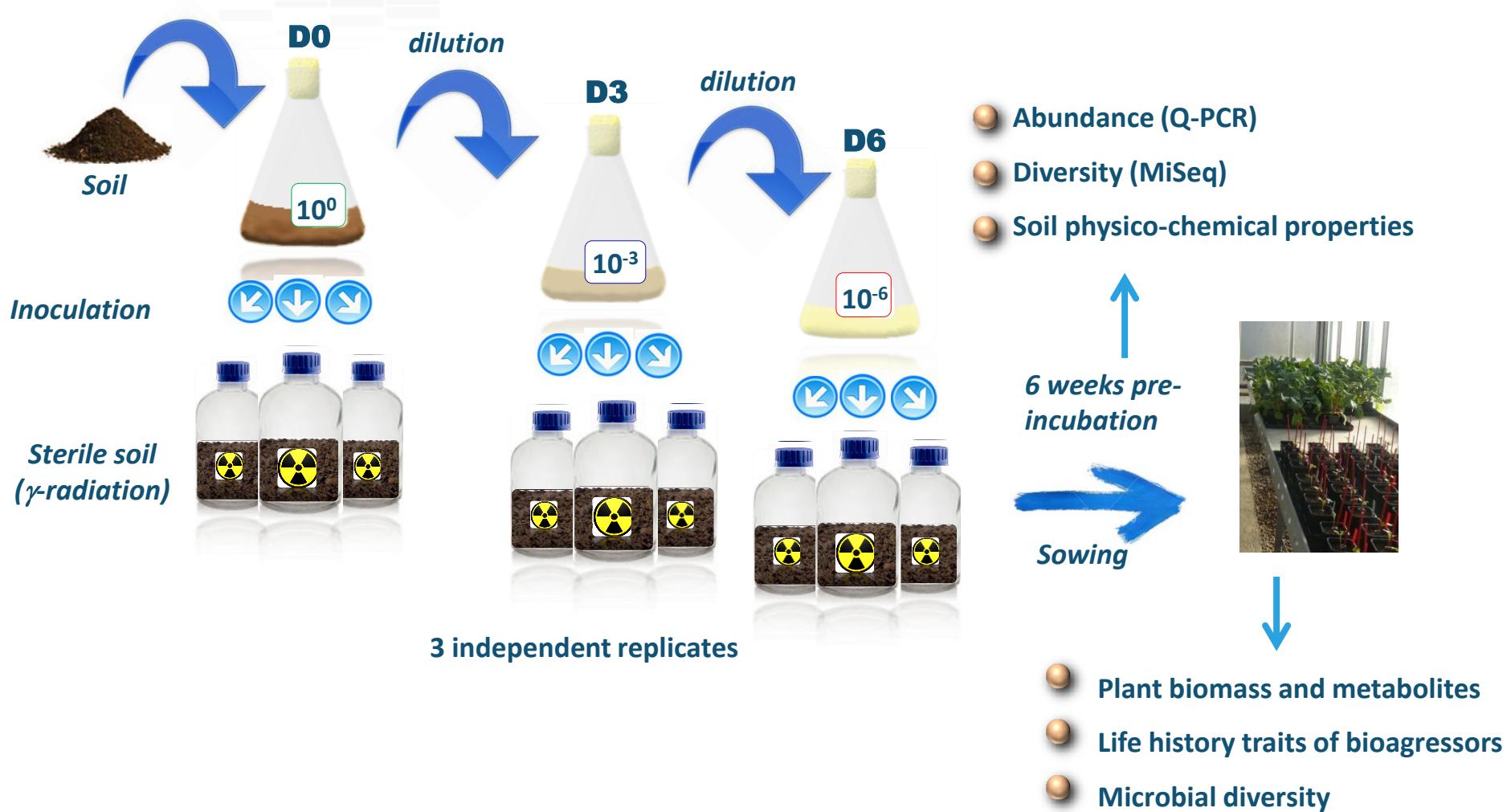
Microbial communities effect on plant growth and health  
=  
Extended phenotype



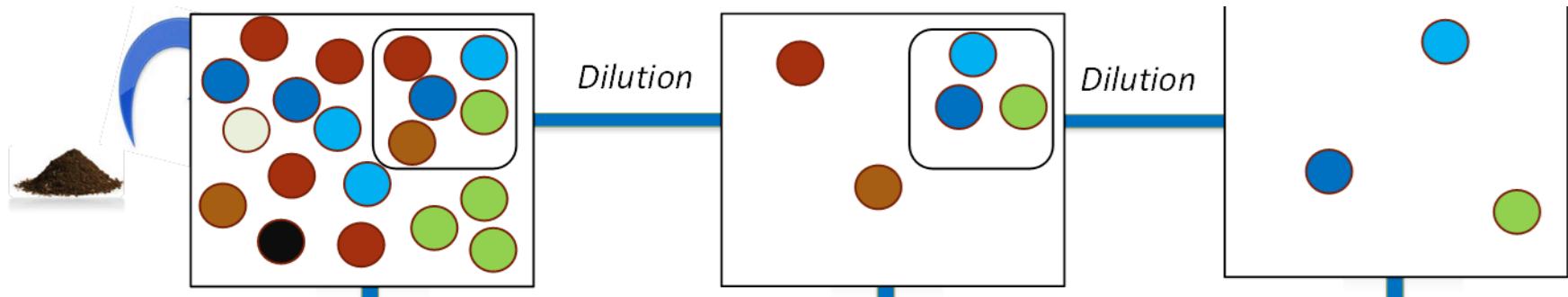
Hologenome =  
Plant genotype x  
Microbial  
metagenome

Plant effect on  
microbial communities  
ecology  
=  
Rhizosphere effect

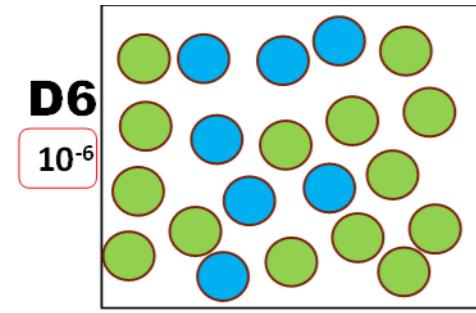
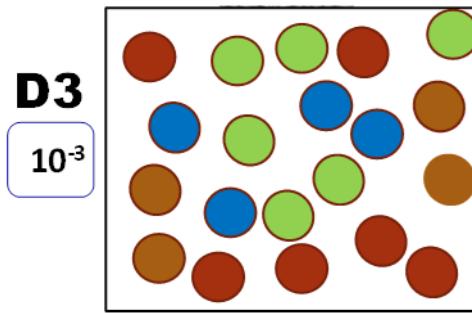
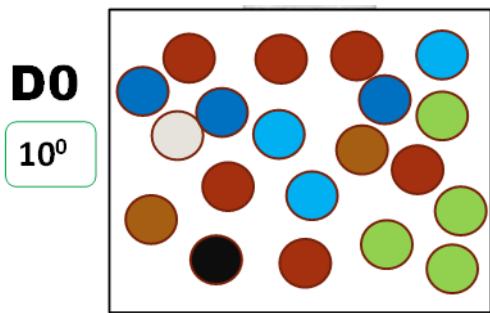
# Microbial diversity manipulation : experimental diversity reduction



# In theory: reduction of rare species and assembling of a new microbiote



➤ Sampling effect = reduction of rare species

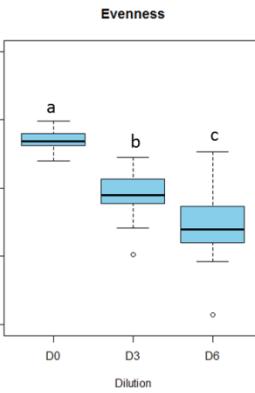
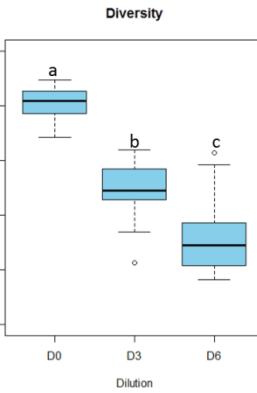
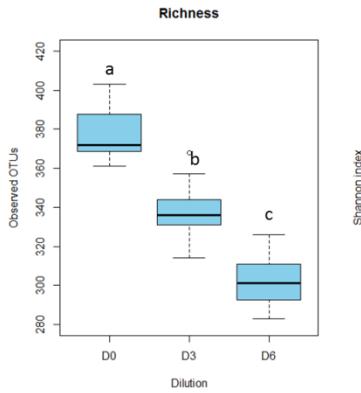


➤ Competition between species during colonization process (more competitive species, R strategy, copiotrophs)

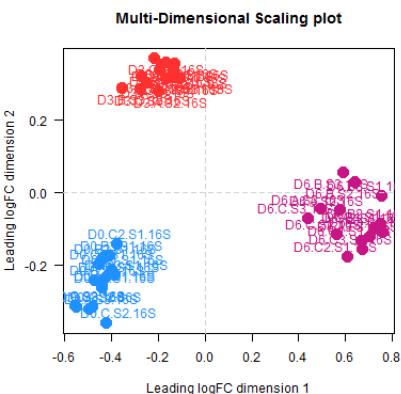
# Microbial diversity manipulation : experimental diversity reduction

Bacteria

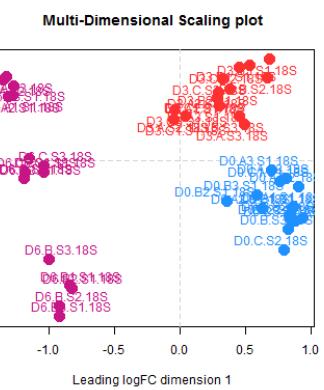
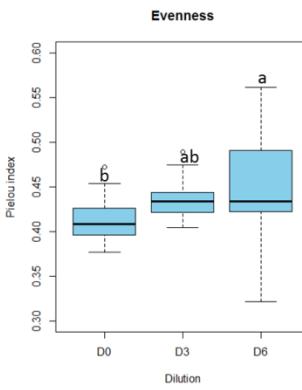
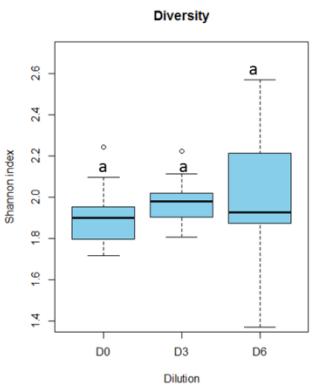
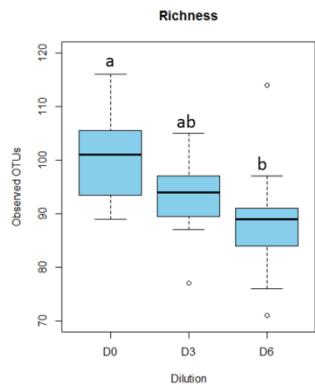
$\alpha$  diversity



$\beta$  diversity



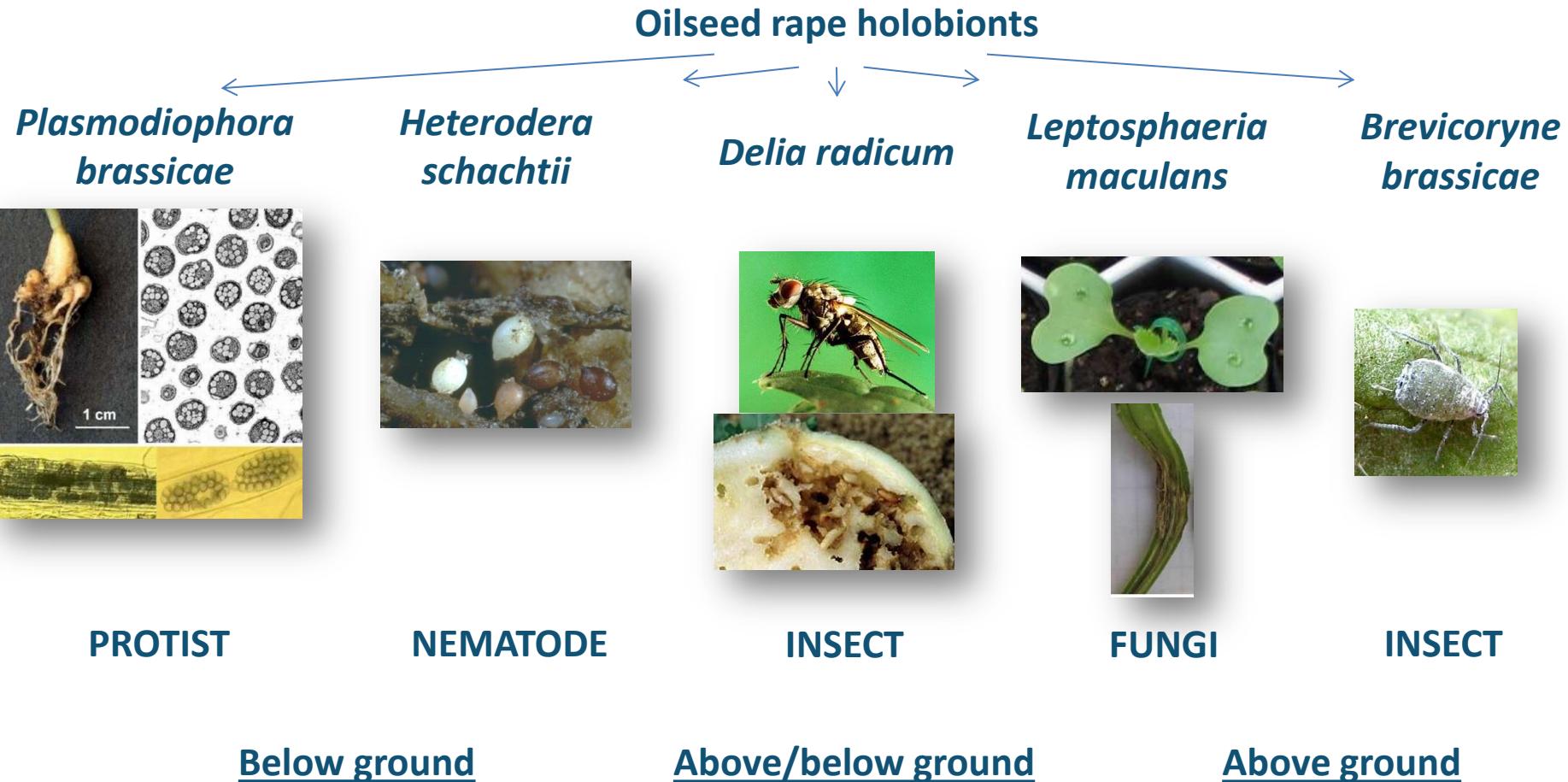
Fungi



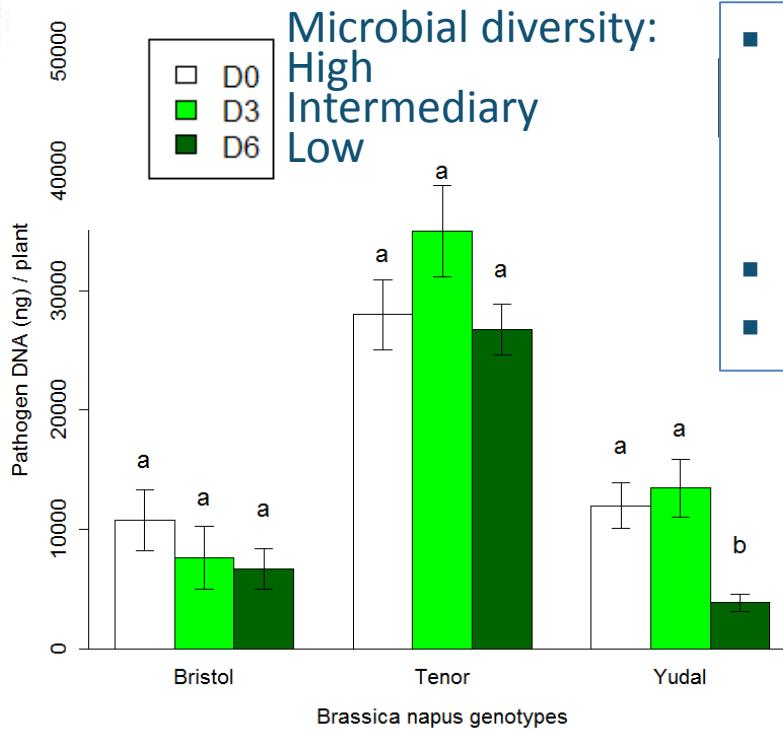
Richness (OTU numbers), Diversity (Shannon index) and Evenness (Piélou index)

MDS on distance matrix (Bray and Curtis distance)  
(Axis 1= 34% and axis 2 = 11%)

# Holobiont – bioaggressor interactions : a proof of concept



# *Plasmodiophora brassicaceae*

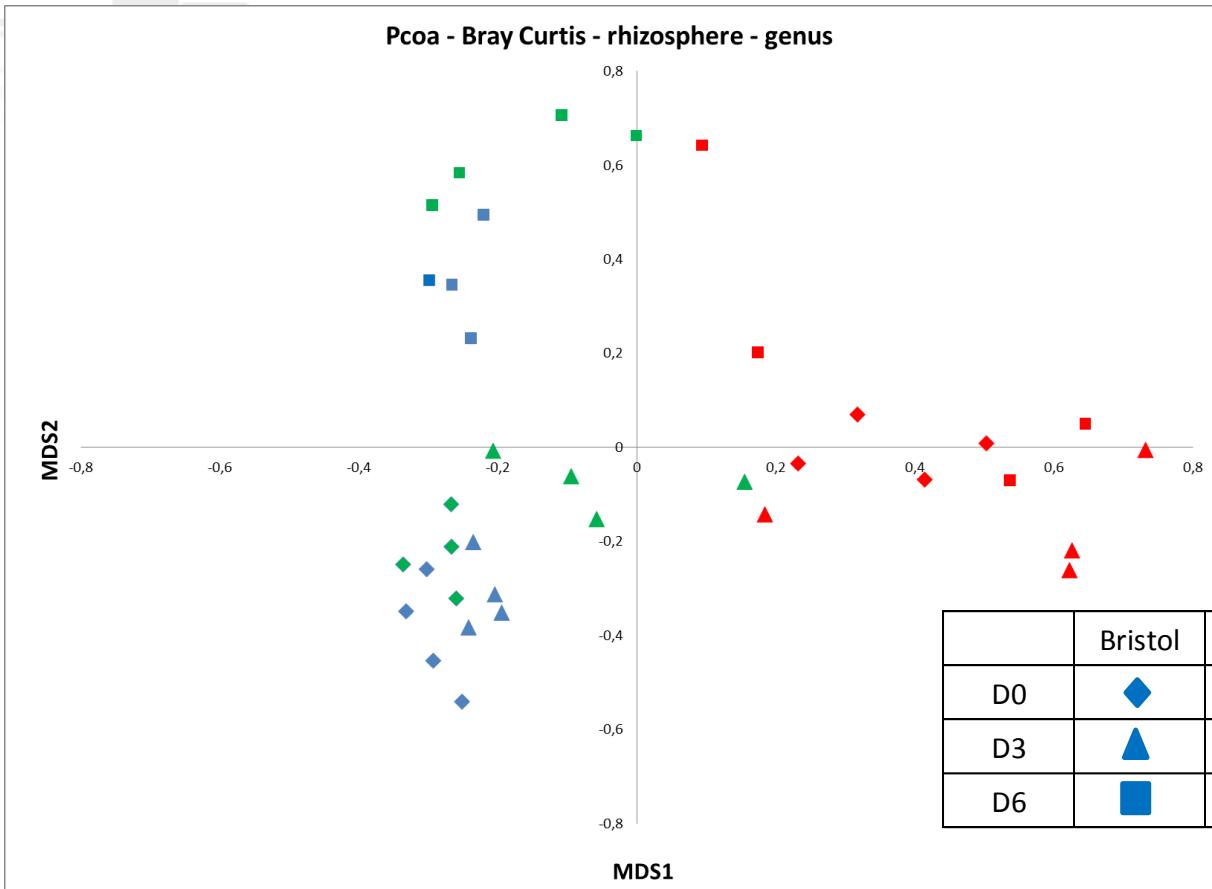


- 3 plant genotypes  
Ténor = sensible  
Yudal = tolerant  
Bristol = resistant
- n=36 per dilution
- eH 10<sup>7</sup> spores/plant

➤ the pathogen fitness (DNA amount) is affected by microbial diversity (on the tolerant plant genotype)

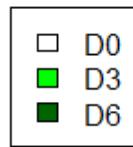


# Modification of microbiote diversity



➤ Move from correlation to causation : functional analysis thanks to metatranscriptomics analysis of the holobiont in relation with pathogen (genomic data available)

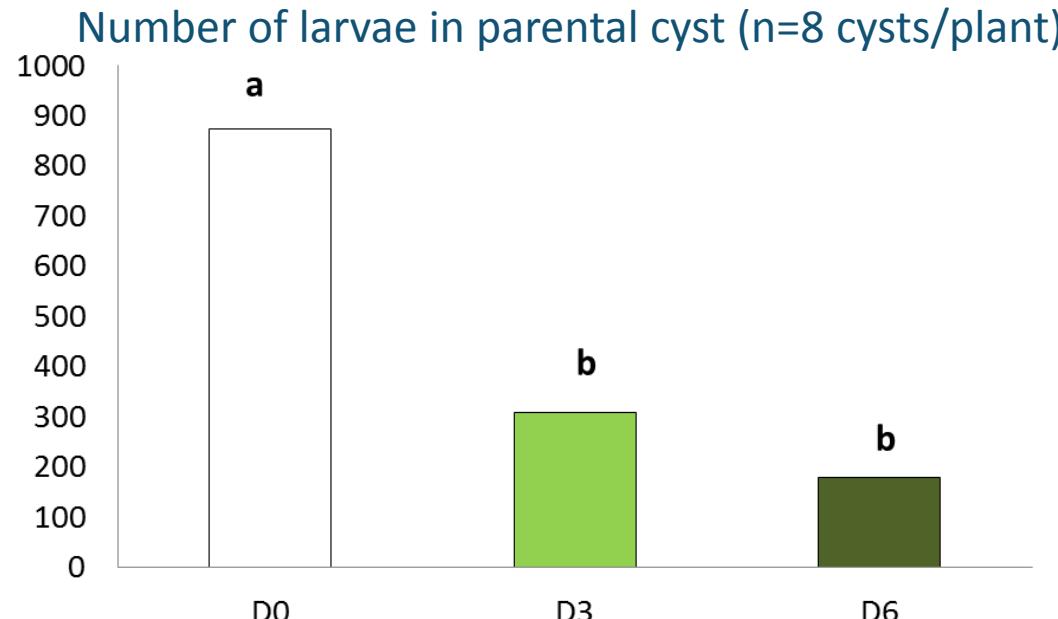
# *Heterodera schachtii*



Microbial diversity:  
High  
Intermediary  
Low



- 1 plant genotype = Ténor
- n=36 per dilution
- 8 cysts/plant

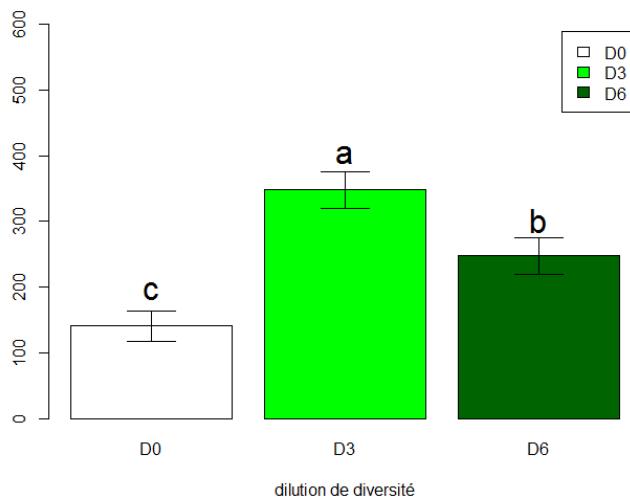


- female cysts hatching rate were affected by microbial diversity
- perspective : effect of holobiont root exudates (quantitative and qualitative analysis) on the cysts hatching kinetic (Coll Personeni & Cliquet EVA Caen)

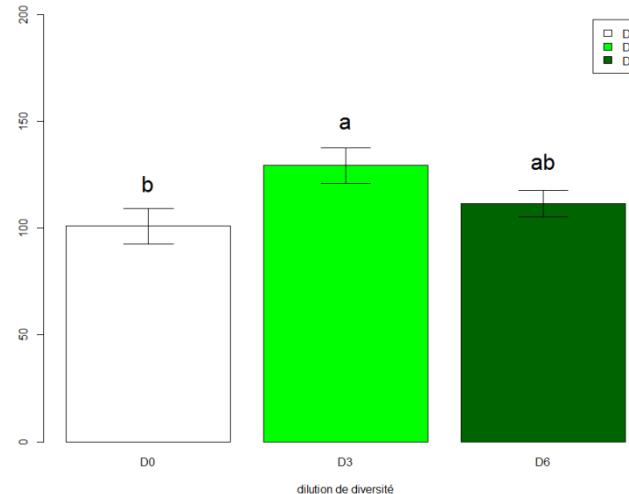
# *Heterodera schachtii*



Number of cysts formed



Number of larvae / cyst (n=10 cysts/plant)

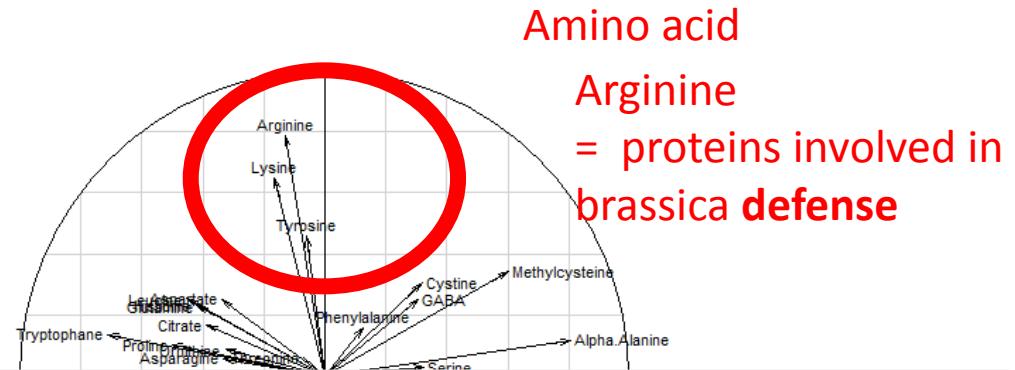
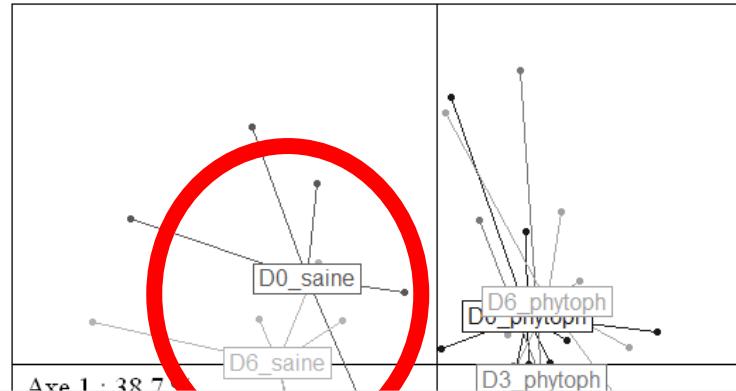


➤ ***Heterodera schachtii* fitness is affected by microbial diversity**

**High diversity -> low hatching = low plant signals (exudates) perception**

**Low diversity -> high hatching but low cyst number = antagonism or competition with microbiota**

# *Delia radicum* - plant metabolites (primary and specific Brassica metabolites)



Amino acid  
Arginine  
= proteins involved in  
brassica defense

- the microbial diversity modified plant metabolites before insect infestation
- in progress : metatranscriptomics analysis of the different holobiont
- perspectives : *D. radicum* behaviours

(STATISTIC test= WILCOXON & KRUSKAL-WALLIS)

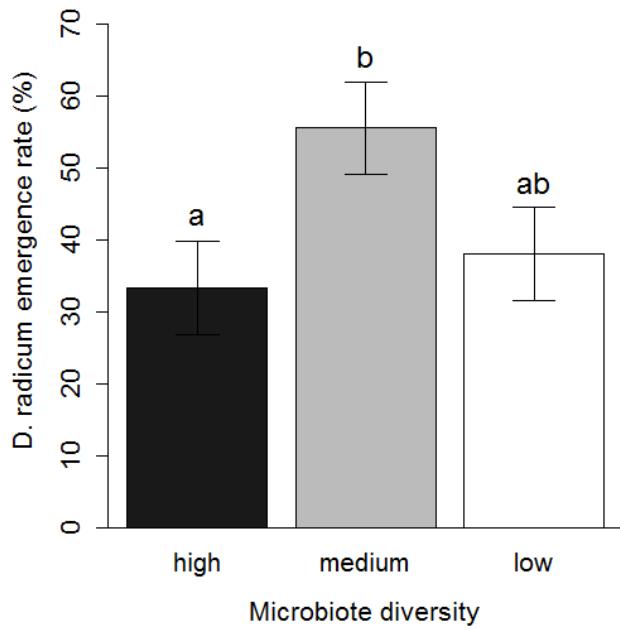
(Test statistique = PLS-DA)

# *Delia radicum*

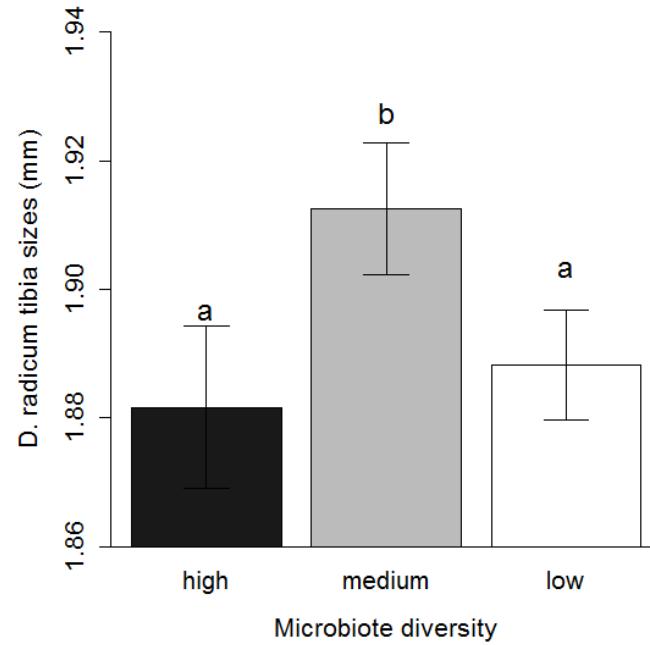
- Plant genotype : Ténor
- n= 18 per dilution
- 8 eggs/plant



Emergence rate



Tibia length

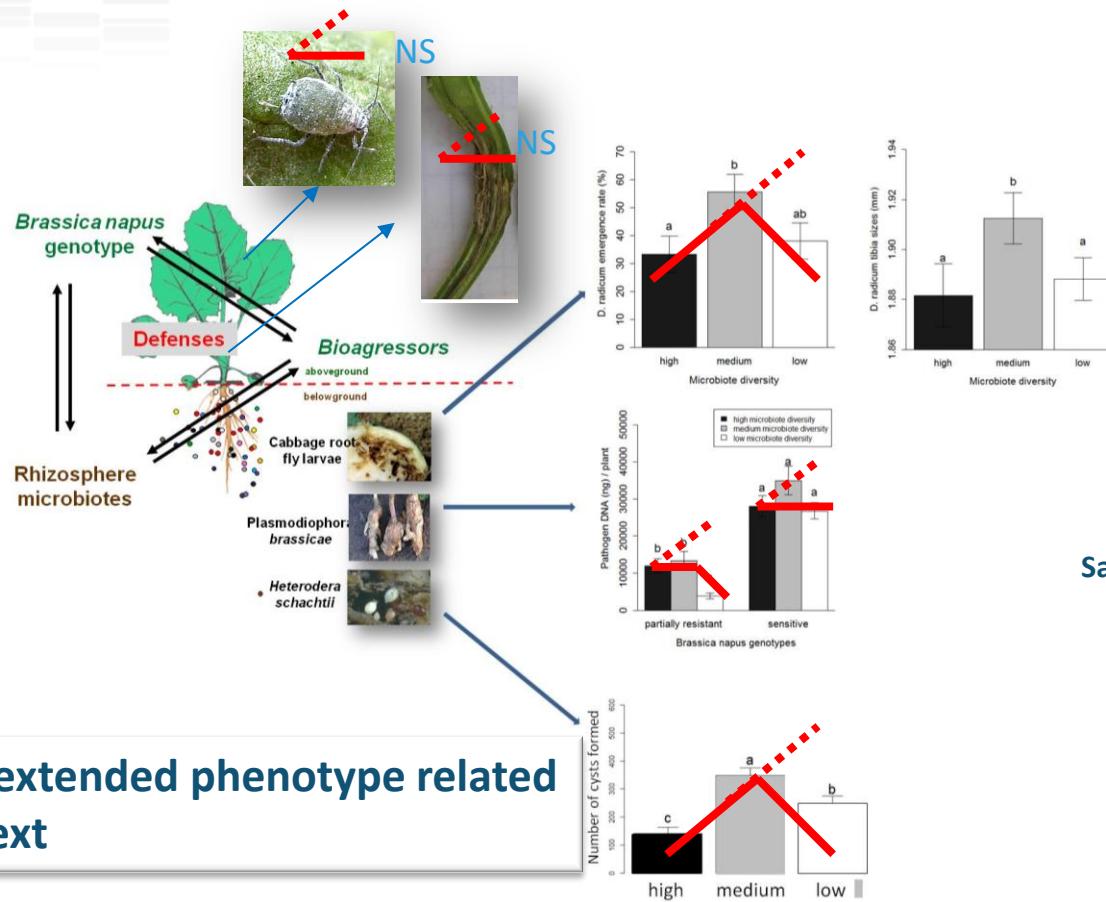


(Statistic test= Wilcoxon & Kruskal-Wallis)

➤ Emergence rate and the fitness of the root fly emergent were affected by microbial diversity (antagonism and/or competition)

Lachaise et al., Insect Sciences 2017

# Summary



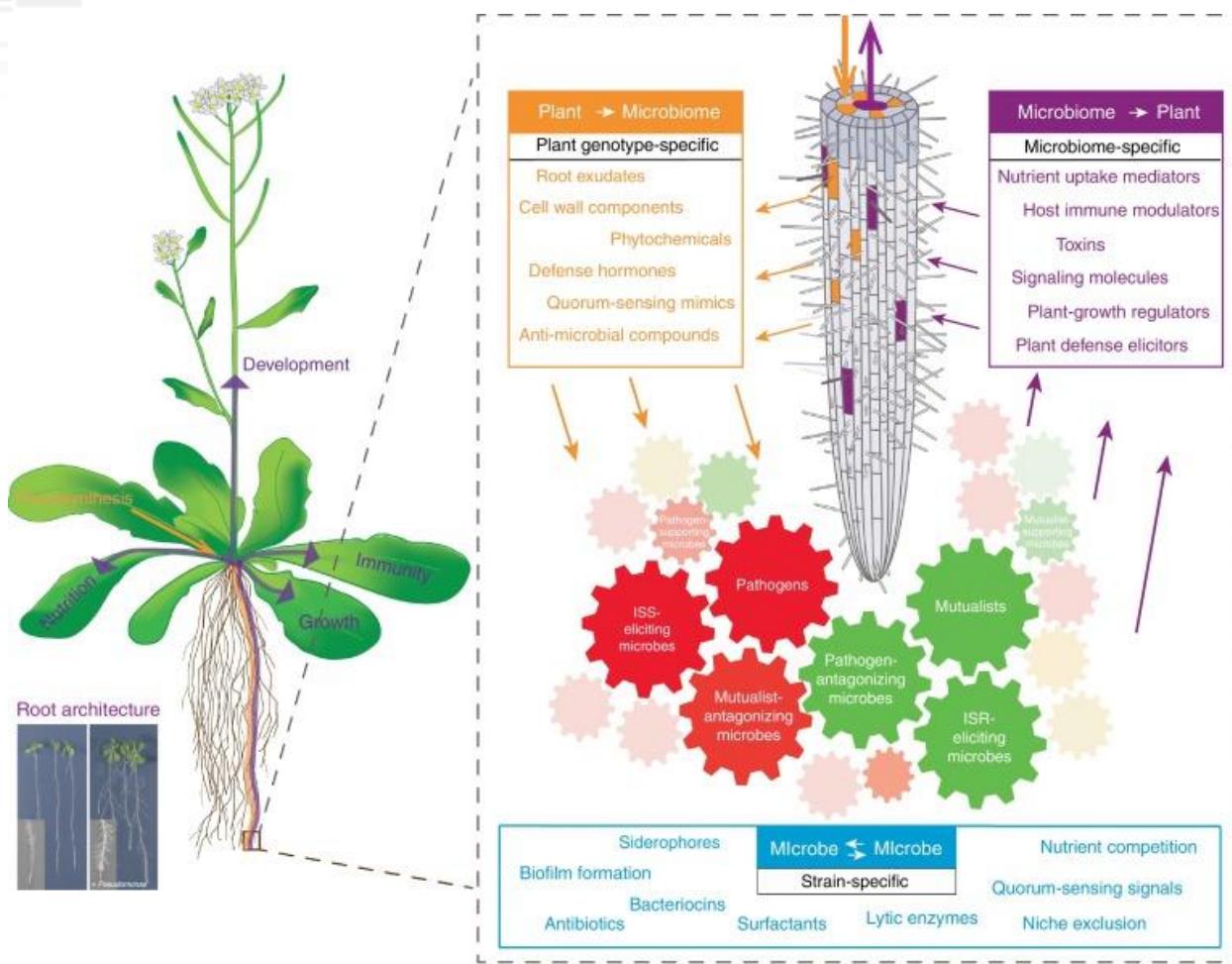
Lachaise et al., 2017  
Orry et al., 2018

Lebreton et al. 2019  
Sarniguet et al. in preparation

➤ Plant resistance extended phenotype related to microbiote context

Mougel et al. in preparation

# Schematic view

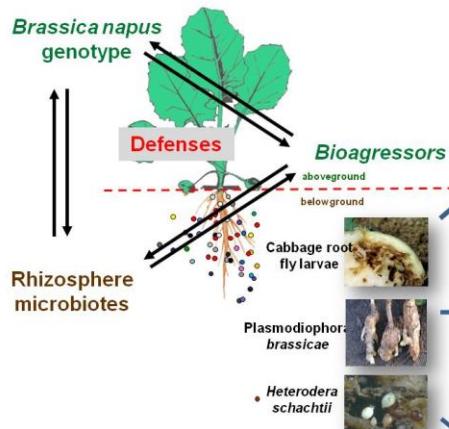


Trends in Plant Science

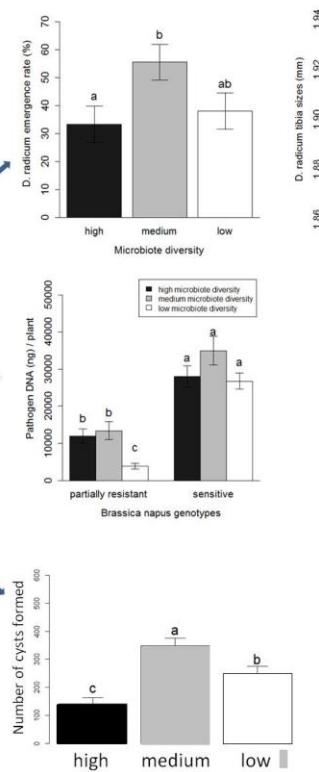
Pieterse CMJ et al., 2016

# Next step (1/3): the triptic analysis

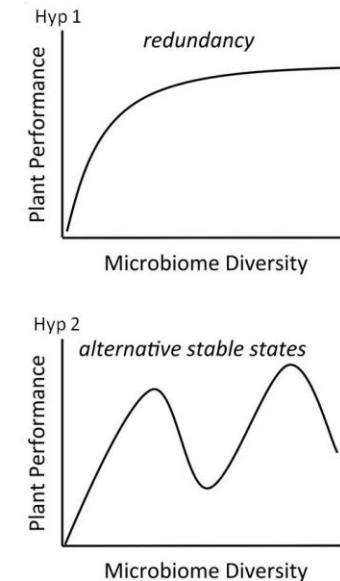
(A) MIRAGES project



(B) Effect of the resulting plant microbiota interaction on life history traits of three soil bioaggressors (Mougel et al., in preparation; Lachaise et al., in revision)



(C) Theoretical aspect. Adapted from de Naeem et al (2002)

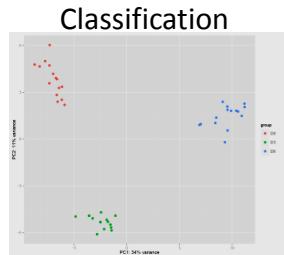


- Move from structure to functions (meta-transcriptomics, metabolomics)
- Importance of microbial interaction = go to the network
- Data integration (system ecology)

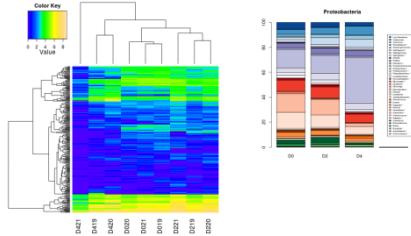
# Next step (2/3): Networks: co-occurrence, ecological,...

Data available  
Counting tables  
(OTU, genes)  
(and co-variables)

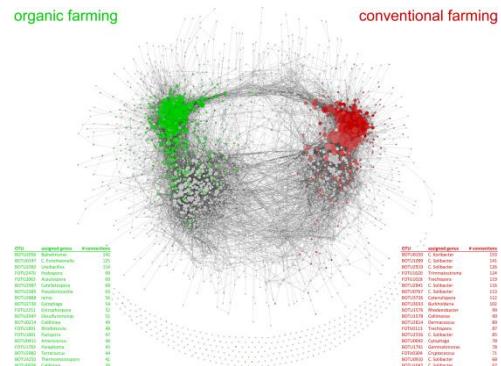
Diversity Index



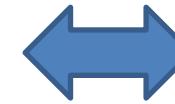
Classification



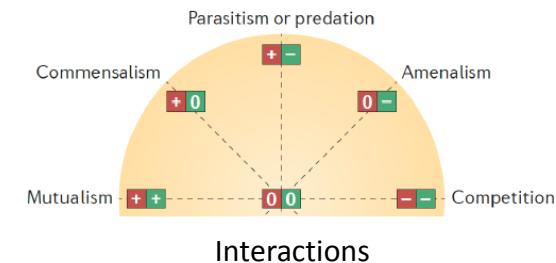
Network metrics/index  
Co-occurrence networks  
Genes network



Hartman et al., 2015;  
Vacher et al., 2016)



Ecological networks  
(link structure-functions)



- Better understanding of microbiote assembling, plant-microbiote interactions prediction, rule in plant performance, key members

# Next step (3/3): Communities reconstitution experiments: synthetic microbial communities

- Classical approach for food/artificial digester ecosystems = selected ecosystem as starter in industrial processing (controlled inoculum)
- Need of cultivable microorganisms with genomic data
- Approach followed in complex environment (rhizosphere/phyllosphere): move to correlation to causation = system ecology/biology

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PLOS | GENETICS

## A Synthetic Community Approach Reveals Plant Genotypes Affecting the Phyllosphere Microbiota

Natasha Bodenhausen<sup>1</sup>, Miriam Bortfeld-Miller<sup>1</sup>, Martin Ackermann<sup>2,3</sup>, Julia A. Vorholt<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Microbiology, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>Department of Environmental Sciences, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, <sup>3</sup>Department of Environmental Microbiology, Eawag, Dübendorf, Switzerland

**Abstract**  
The identity of plant host genetic factors controlling the composition of the plant microbiota and the extent to which plant genes affect associated microbial populations is currently unknown. Here, we use a candidate gene approach to investigate the role of plant host genes in shaping the phyllosphere microbiota. We used a panel of 55 plant mutants that lack key host mask genetic factors, the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana* was used in a gnotobiotic system and inoculated with a reduced complexity synthetic bacterial community composed of seven strains representing the most abundant phyla in the phyllosphere. From a panel of 55 plant mutants with alterations in the surface structure, cell wall, defense signaling, secondary metabolism, and pathogen recognition, a small number of single host mutations displayed an altered microbiota composition and/or abundance. Host alleles that resulted in the strongest perturbation of the microbiota relative to the wild-type were *lacs2* and *pet1*. These mutants affect cuticle formation and led to changes in community composition and an increased bacterial abundance relative to the wild-type plants, suggesting that different bacteria can benefit from a modified cuticle to different extents. Moreover, *lacs2* and *pet1*, which are involved in ethylene signaling as key factor modulating the community's composition. Finally, we found that different *Arabidopsis* genotypes exhibited different communities, indicating that plant host genetic factors shape the associated microbiota, thus harboring significant potential for the identification of novel plant factors affecting the microbiota of the communities.

## ARTICLE

doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.16192

## Functional overlap of the *Arabidopsis* leaf and root microbiota

Yang Bai<sup>1\*</sup>, Daniel B. Müller<sup>2\*</sup>, Girish Srinivas<sup>3\*</sup>, Ruben Garrido-Oteo<sup>1,3,4#</sup>, Eva Potthoff<sup>2</sup>, Matthias Rott<sup>1</sup>, Nina Dombrowski<sup>1</sup>, Philipp C. Münch<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Stijn Spaepen<sup>1</sup>, Mitja Remus-Emsermann<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Hütte<sup>8</sup>, Alice C. McHardy<sup>4,5</sup>, Julia A. Vorholt<sup>1\*</sup> & Paul Schulze-Lefert<sup>1,4#</sup>

Roots and leaves of healthy plants host taxonomically structured bacterial assemblies, and members of these communities contribute to plant growth and health. We established *Arabidopsis* leaf- and root-derived microbiota culture collections representing the majority of bacterial species that are reproducibly detectable by culture-independent community sequencing. We found an extensive taxonomic overlap between the leaf and root microbiota. Genome drafts of 400 isolates revealed a large overlap of genome-encoded functional capabilities between leaf- and root-derived bacteria with few significantly different features. Using a gnotobiotic system, we show that *Arabidopsis* plants harbor a distinct and a gnotobiotic *Arabidopsis* plant system we show that the isolates form assemblages resembling natural microbiota on their cognate host organs, but are also capable of ectopic leaf or root colonization. While this raises the possibility of reciprocal relocation between root and leaf microbiota members, genome information and recolonization experiments also provide evidence for microbiota specialization to their respective niche.

*A collaborative work ! Need of Math !  
Thanks for your attention !*

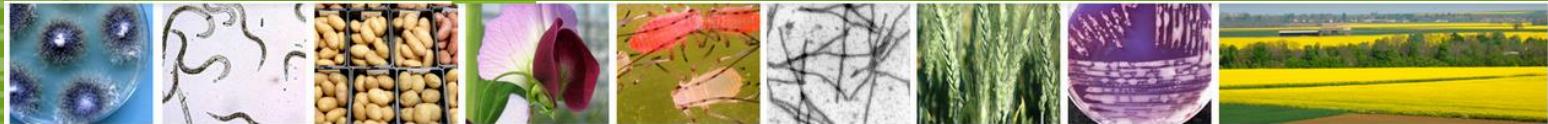
## Using DNA metabarecoding to study plant-microbiote interactions

Genetic basis of plant-microbiote interactions using a GWAS approach

Alves-Carvalo S., Aubert J., Bousset L., Cortesero A.M., Daval S., Delourme R., Ermel M., Fournet S., Gazengel K., Gravot A., Guillerm-Erckelboudt A.Y., Lachaise T., Lebreton L., Linglin J., Luquet M., Manzanares-Dauleux M., Montarry J., Poinsot D., Porte C., Sarniguet A., Simon J.C.



Plant Health and Environment division  
Microbial Ecosystem and Meta'Omics Metaprogram  
ANR and Plant2Pro



# Using DNA metabarcoding to study plant-microbiote interactions

**Ch. Mougel:** Genetic basis of plant-microbiote interactions using a GWAS approach

**J. Aubert:** Bioclustering via latent block model for overdispersed count data: application in microbial ecology



Christophe MOUGEL

Séminaire Math For Genomics  
Evry 29 mai 2019