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2 **Variation in *Melitaea cinxia* gut microbiota is phylogenetically highly structured but**
3 **only mildly driven by host plant microbiota, sex or parasitism.**

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15 **Running title:** *Microbiota assembly in a specialist herbivore*

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24 **Originality-Significance Statement**

25 The factors contributing to the assembly of microbiota in animals are extremely complex,
26 and thus a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms shaping host-associated
27 microbial communities in natural ecosystems requires extensive ecological studies and
28 appropriate statistical methods. In this study, we investigated the bacterial microbiota
29 associated with the caterpillars of the Glanville fritillary (*Melitaea cinxia*), which is a long-
30 term-studied ecological model system. We assessed the structure of variation in both
31 occurrence and abundance of gut microbial communities of individuals collected in the wild
32 with joint-species modelling, with the aim to relate the microbial community structure with
33 multiple potentially impacting covariates: host plant microbiota and metabolites, hosts' sex,
34 potential parasitoid infection, and family structure. These covariates exhibited substantial
35 correlation with multiple microbial taxa's occurrences, which correlations were consistent
36 for phylogenetically related groups of taxa, but varied across the whole microbial
37 community; on the contrary, only few correlations were found with taxa's abundances. The
38 dominating co-occurrence pattern of microbiota assembly, which effectively split caterpillar
39 individuals into two distinct groups, was, however, unrelated to any of the considered
40 covariates.

41

42 **Summary**

43 Understanding of what ecological factors shape intraspecific variation of insect microbiota
44 is still relatively poor. In Lepidopteran caterpillars, microbiota is assumed to be mainly
45 composed of transient bacterial symbionts acquired from the host plant. We sampled
46 Glanville fritillary (*Melitaea cinxia*) caterpillars from natural populations to describe the
47 microbiome and to identify potential factors that determine the structure of the microbial
48 community, including the sex of the host, the impact of parasitoid infection, and the possible
49 link between host plant and caterpillar microbiota. Our results demonstrate high variability
50 of microbiota composition even among caterpillars that shared the same host plant
51 individual. The observed variation in microbiota composition is partially attributed to the
52 measured properties of the host or its plant microbial and chemical composition, and is
53 aligned with microbial phylogenetic structure, with related taxa exhibiting similar patterns.
54 However, the prevailing part of the observed variation was not associated with any of the
55 assessed characteristics, although it followed a pronounced segregation structure: in some
56 caterpillars the microbial communities were dominated by several related
57 Enterobacteriaceae taxa, while in others these taxa were absent. Our results challenge
58 previous findings that the host plant properties are the major drivers of microbiota
59 communities of insect herbivores.

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62 **Keywords:** Microbiome, metabolome, insect, arthropod, microbial ecology, community
63 modeling, joint species distribution model

64

65 **Introduction**

66 All animals interact with microorganisms (McFall-Ngai *et al.*, 2013), with interactions
67 between hosts and their microbes ranging from mutualistic to competitive (Douglas, 2010).
68 Insects harbor highly diversified host-symbiont interactions with various examples of fitness
69 benefits (Douglas, 2011), such as the control of the host's reproduction (Werren *et al.*, 2008;
70 Engelstädter and Hurst, 2009), the enhancement of nutrition via effects on the digestion
71 process (Warnecke *et al.*, 2007), the degrading of toxic metabolites (Kikuchi *et al.*, 2012;
72 Ceja-Navarro *et al.*, 2015), and the production of nutrients essential for the host (Akman
73 Gunduz and Douglas, 2009; Salem *et al.*, 2014). Endosymbionts can also protect their hosts
74 against abiotic stressors and pathogens (Montllor *et al.*, 2002; Dunbar *et al.*, 2007; King *et*
75 *al.*, 2016). The literature may, however, be biased towards mutualistic and
76 parasitic/pathogenic interactions, whereas commensal or neutral interactions may be
77 understudied or underreported. In general, the microbiota is a multilayer system in which
78 prevalent members compose the core microbiota and a more flexible pool of microbial
79 members compose the non-core community (Shapira, 2016).

80 Host-microbiota interactions are often complex, involve multiple taxa and multiple
81 transmission processes, and consequently laboratory-based studies may fail to realistically
82 portray natural systems. Indeed, several studies have highlighted pronounced differences
83 in the microbiota of laboratory-reared versus field-captured individuals (Rani *et al.*, 2009;
84 Staubach *et al.*, 2013; Tinker and Ottesen, 2016). Characterizing and determining the
85 impact of microbiota in natural populations remains challenging, due to the multiple
86 confounding factors that can affect the microbiota composition. Consequently, we still know
87 little of the ecological factors that shape among-individual variation of microbial communities
88 in natural populations. Another challenge is related to data analyses: microbiota data
89 typically include large numbers of taxonomical units, most of which are rare, complicating
90 the use of conventional statistical frameworks.

91 The gut microbiota of insects is often highly heterogenic both among and within species,
92 with relatively high variation reported even across different gut sections (Douglas, 2015).
93 The consumed diet has been suggested to be the major determinant of the microbiota
94 composition, as it can shape the microbial communities both directly (e.g. acquisition of
95 food-associated microorganisms or growth of microorganisms that utilize the consumed
96 food) and indirectly (e.g. through impacts on immunity, anatomy or digestive function;
97 Douglas, 2015). However, several studies that controlled for the transient effects of diet
98 (e.g. in fruit flies and Asian tiger mosquitoes), still reported strong inter-individual variation
99 in the microbiota composition (Minard *et al.*, 2015; Adair *et al.*, 2018), suggesting the
100 importance of diet-unrelated factors. For example, gut microbiota can be acquired via
101 maternal or horizontal transmission (Engel and Moran, 2013), influenced by host genotype
102 or environmental conditions unrelated to food (Yun *et al.*, 2014), or they can be driven
103 mainly by stochastic processes (Douglas, 2015; Zeng *et al.*, 2015). In Lepidoptera, there is
104 only little evidence on the transfer of symbiotic bacteria among individuals (Paniagua Voirol
105 *et al.*, 2018). Consistently, the Lepidopteran gut microbiome has been shown to be highly
106 variable compared to other insect orders, with only few resident bacteria (Hammer *et al.*,
107 2017). The impact of the gut microbiota on the life history traits of Lepidoptera has been
108 questioned, even though the general knowledge on the bacterial associations across
109 species is still very limited (see Paniagua Voirol *et al.*, 2018 for a review).

110

111 To improve our understanding of the potential ecological determinants influencing
112 associations between insect hosts and their gut symbionts, we exploit here the natural
113 metapopulation of the Glanville fritillary butterfly (*Melitaea cinxia*) in the Åland islands,
114 Finland. With *M. cinxia* caterpillars and their *Plantago lanceolata* host plants sampled
115 across this system at a single timepoint, our overall aim is to associate the midgut microbiota
116 of the caterpillars with ecological variables and thus to identify potential drivers of variation
117 that could impact these communities. In particular, we ask (1) whether there is a

118 correspondence between the host plant microbiota and that of the caterpillar microbiota; (2)
119 whether the host plant microbiota and the caterpillar microbiota are influenced by the
120 metabolite profile of the host plant; (3) whether the caterpillar microbial communities are
121 structured according to the sex and parasitoid infection status of the host; (4) whether after
122 accounting for the above mentioned factors, variation in these communities is structured
123 according to caterpillar families or is idiosyncratic among individuals independent of the
124 family structure; and (5) whether the variation in the microbiota with respect to the questions
125 1-4 is phylogenetically structured. Further, to examine if and how microbial variation
126 influences the fitness of the host, we ask (6) whether the over-winter survival of caterpillar
127 nests can be explained by microbiota composition. To address these questions, we apply
128 a joint species distribution model that allows us to evaluate both species- and community-
129 level responses to the abovementioned covariates, as well as co-occurrence patterns of the
130 microbiota both at the levels of individual caterpillars and caterpillar families.

131

132 **Results**

133 *Factors influencing caterpillar microbiota*

134 Overall, the caterpillar microbiota was composed of variable microbiota among which the
135 dominant taxa (>1% of the relative abundance across all samples) were *Uruburella*,
136 *Cloacibacterium*, *Moraxella*, *Acinetobacter*, *Dermacoccus*, *Hymenobacter*,
137 *Corynebacterium*, *Paracoccus*, *Wolbachia*, *Methylobacterium*, and unclassified
138 Actinobacteria, Enterobacteriaceae and Corynebacteriaceae (Fig. 1A, Fig. 2). *Uruburuella*
139 was most prevalent but still detected in only 58.8% of the samples, suggesting no core
140 microbiota across all individuals. To investigate the potential ecological factors explaining
141 variation in the occurrences and abundances of microbial taxa, we used joint-species
142 modelling framework.

143 Averaged over the whole community, the presence-absence part of the caterpillar model
144 had only little predictive power through its fixed effects (Prediction P1; Supplementary Table
145 S1). In the line with this, caterpillar sex, parasitoid infection or the host plant's bacterial or
146 metabolic composition did not show a community-consistent correlation with the presence-
147 absence patterns of the bacterial community ([5%, 95%] credibility interval for community-
148 level mean value of species response overlapped with zero, Table 1). Accounting for the
149 residual species-to-species associations substantially increased the predictive power,
150 which however remained highly variable over the OTUs (Prediction P2; Supplementary
151 Table S1), but was only slightly worse than the explanatory power of the full model
152 (Prediction P3; Supplementary Table S1). These results suggest that the modelled
153 associations among bacterial taxa (OTUs) represent a true biological signal instead of
154 merely model overfitting artefact. In the abundance model, both the fixed effects and the
155 species-to-species associations contributed roughly equally (Supplementary Table S1).
156 However, similarly to the presence-absence model, none of the fixed effects had a
157 consistent correlation with the abundance pattern, and thus the influences of the
158 environmental covariates were taxon-specific . The variance partitioning of additive
159 Gaussian components in HMSC's latent predictor mirrored the results of predicted power
160 comparison (Fig. 3).

161 Despite the generally low proportion of explained variance (Fig. 3), a substantial proportion
162 of OTUs showed positive or negative responses to the fixed effects (Fig. 4). Specifically,
163 the occurrence probabilities of many OTUs decreased with the presence of the parasitoid
164 infection (mostly Clostridia, Alphaproteobacteria and Betaproteobacteria), and were lower
165 in males than in females (mostly Rhodobacteriales and Neisseriales). The presence of
166 *Wolbachia*, on the other hand, was positively associated with the parasitoid infection of the
167 caterpillars. Only a minority of the OTUs classified as *Hymenobacter* and *Methylobacterium*
168 showed increased occurrence probability with the increased abundance of the focal OTU in

169 the host plant. Unlike in presence-absence model, in the abundance model only a small
170 proportion of the individual OTUs' responses gained substantial statistical support (Fig. 4).

171 Phylogenetically related bacterial taxa were estimated to have similar responses to the
172 covariates: the strength of the phylogenetic signal was 0.98 ± 0.002 (posterior mean \pm
173 posterior standard deviation) in the presence-absence model and 0.86 ± 0.025 in the
174 abundance model. This shows that closely related bacteria had similar niches in the sense
175 that they responded similarly to the fixed effects included in the model. This result is clearly
176 visible in Fig. 4, that represents the responses of bacterial taxa ordered by taxonomy, and
177 where the positive and negative effects (the red and blue colors) are presented as
178 contiguous blocks rather than randomly distributed across the OTUs. The majority of the
179 Betaproteobacteria, for example, have lower occurrence probability when the individual is
180 infected by the parasitoid. The occurrence of the microbial OTUs were phylogenetically
181 structured not only with respect to the measured covariates, but also in their residual
182 variation, as the OTUs split into two groups in a markedly pronounced manner (Fig. 5A).

183 One of these two groups consisted, with minor exceptions, of the Enterobacteriaceae family,
184 and the other group of the remaining taxa including *Uruburella*, *Cloacibacterium*, *Moraxella*,
185 *Acinetobacter*, *Dermacoccus*, *Hymenobacter*, *Corynebacterium*, *Paracoccus*. Thus, some
186 of the caterpillars were characterized by a high representation of Enterobacteriaceae in their
187 microbiota, while the remaining individuals were characterized by a low representation of
188 Enterobacteriaceae. Given its dominant role in variance partitioning, this pattern is the
189 strongest signal related to OTU occurrences in our data (Fig. 5A), and its validity is
190 supported by similar results of a complementary analysis based on Dirichlet mixture
191 modelling (Supporting Information, Fig. S1AC). In contrast to the strong patterns recorded
192 in the presence-absence model, only few statistically supported associations were found in
193 the abundance model (Fig. 5B). Quite unexpectedly, the caterpillar family structure was
194 estimated to play only a minor role on the microbial community structure, as both for the

195 presence-absence and abundance models it was attributed with minor proportion of
196 variance (Fig. 3) and almost no statistically supported associations were found .

197 To summarize, the variation of bacterial community exhibited a complex structure, which
198 had both inter-individual and inter-OTU patterns, and did not support a simple
199 characterization. In terms of variation among caterpillar individuals, we found that neither
200 the fixed effects assessed nor the family relationships were capable to explain the very
201 strong segregation of individuals into two groups with very distinct microbial composition:
202 about 40% of the individuals were characterized by the microbiota with a co-occurrence of
203 phylogenetically related Enterobacteriaceae, whereas the rest of the individuals were
204 characterized by a more complex microbial community, composed of *Uruburella*,
205 *Cloacibacterium*, *Moraxella*, *Acinetobacter*, *Dermacoccus*, *Hymenobacter*,
206 *Corynebacterium*, *Paracoccus*, *Wolbachia*, *Methylobacterium*, and some unclassified
207 Actinobacteria and Corynebacteriaceae. Although, the fixed effects included in our model
208 accounted for minor part of this variation, and the microbial OTU responses to the fixed
209 effects were not synchronized across whole community, we found that phylogenetically
210 similar OTUs responded to these effects in similar manner.

211

212 *Factors influencing host plant foliar microbiota*

213 Contrary to the microbiota within the caterpillar gut, the plant microbiota was composed of
214 highly prevalent bacterial taxa (detected in more than 90% of the collected samples; Fig.
215 1B). The bacteria in this core microbiota were assigned to *Methylobacterium*,
216 *Hymenobacter*, *Aureimonas*, *Modestobacter*, and an unclassified Microbacteriaceae.
217 Whenever possible, we also assessed the plant metabolome by ¹H-NMR spectrometry (Fig.
218 6). The identified metabolites included amino acids (Valine, Threonine, Alanine, Arginine,
219 Glutamate, Glutamine), sugars (Xylose, α -glucose, β -glucose, Sucrose), organic acids
220 (Fumaric acid, acetic acid, cis-aconic acid), ethanol and defensive metabolites (Aucubin,

221 Catalpol and Verbascosides). The latter included both terpenoids (Aucubin, Catalpol) and
222 phenolic compounds (Verbascosides), which constitute the main chemical defense of
223 *Plantago lanceolata* against herbivores and pathogenic microorganisms. Most of the
224 variation in the plant metabolites across samples were explained by unannotated metabolite
225 signals with a chemical shift specific of carbohydrates and amino acid residues (PC1 in Fig.
226 S3) other annotated metabolites including defensive metabolites showed only limited
227 variations (PC1, PC2, PC3 in Fig. S3).

228 Similar to the OTUs in caterpillars, we applied joint species modelling to assess the
229 presence-absence and the abundance patterns of the bacterial taxa retrieved from the host
230 plant leaves. The plant model showed lower predictive power than caterpillar model,
231 suggesting that the variation in microbial communities was less predictable at plant foliar
232 than in caterpillar guts (Supplementary Table S1). Of the explained variation, the metabolite
233 composition of the plants was the key determinant in both the presence-absence and the
234 abundance models (Table 1, Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Fig. S4). Here as
235 well, we found a strong phylogenetic structure in explaining how the OTUs responded to
236 fixed effects: the strength of the phylogenetic signal was 0.97 ± 0.01 for presence-absence
237 model and 0.51 ± 0.08 for the abundance model (see Supplementary material,
238 Supplementary Fig. S5, S6). This means that phylogenetically related bacteria responded
239 in a similar manner to the variation in the plant metabolite composition. In particular, lower
240 residues of carbohydrates and amino acids (PC1 in Fig. S3) were negatively associated
241 with Alphaproteobacteria and Actinobacteria (PC1 of the presence absence model in Fig.
242 S7). Contrary to the microbial communities in the caterpillar, unexplained associations
243 between bacteria OTUs were much weaker. The Dirichlet-multinomial modelling results for
244 plant-inhabiting communities indicated that this variation is best explained by a single-
245 component distribution (Supporting Information, Fig. S1B).

246

247 *Influence of microbiota on overwinter survival*

248 As the caterpillars of the Glanville fritillary overwinter gregariously, mainly in family groups,
249 we were interested in testing whether the microbiota composition of the samples collected
250 from the field would correlate with the survival of the siblings remaining in the wild. This
251 would have demonstrated an important fitness benefit of the microbiota composition in wild
252 populations. However, we did not find the over-wintering mortality of families to be related
253 to the microbiota composition or the metabolite profile of the host plants in which the
254 caterpillars were residing on (see Supplementary Information).

255

256 **Discussion**

257 Symbionts that are highly competitive, strongly adapted to their host, and frequently
258 colonize host populations form the core microbiota shared among individuals of the same
259 species (Shapira, 2016). On the contrary, symbionts that are competitively inferior, less
260 adapted to the intestinal conditions (e.g. pH, and digestive enzymes), and/or are rarely
261 acquired or transmitted among individuals, tend to form a pool of transient bacteria that
262 consequently are subject to higher fluctuations among hosts (Shapira, 2016; Macke *et al.*,
263 2017). We show that the natural midgut microbial community of *M. cinxia* caterpillar is highly
264 variable, and that only a minor proportion of that variation is related to the measured
265 caterpillar's traits or the properties of the host plant in which it was feeding. In contrast, we
266 documented a strong co-occurrence patterns of OTUs at the level of caterpillar individual,
267 which could not be attributed to any of the covariates included in our analyses. These co-
268 occurrence patterns in the microbiota were strongly phylogenetically structured, suggesting
269 two mutually exclusive groups of bacterial communities. One of these groups consisted of
270 mainly Enterobacteriaceae, whereas the other group consisted of the remaining taxa.
271 Enterobacteriaceae contains several taxa specifically associated with animal digestive
272 system with a broad range of host-microbe interactions ranging from pathogenic to

273 mutualistic (Douglas, 1998; Weiss *et al.*, 2006; Chandler *et al.*, 2011; Parmentier *et al.*,
274 2016). Enterobacteriaceae are one of the most widespread bacteria also known to be
275 associated with Lepidoptera (Paniagua Voirol *et al.*, 2018), and in *Heliconius erato*, for
276 example, they dominate the gut microbiota already in the early developmental stages
277 (Hammer *et al.*, 2014). Consistent with our results, the microbiota of *Drosophila*
278 *melanogaster* has also been shown to be phylogenetically structured (Adair *et al.*, 2018). In
279 general, Lepidopteran associated microbiota are suggested to be highly variable
280 (Staudacher *et al.*, 2016): a study on caterpillars representing 124 Lepidopteran species
281 showed high inter- and intraspecific variation in the gut microbiota, with a poorly abundant
282 core microbiota (Hammer *et al.*, 2017). The dominance of co-occurring taxa, such as
283 Enterobacteriaceae in our study, may be driven by several factors, such as priority effects
284 (dominance of a group of microbes that were the first to colonize the gut), the specific
285 association of bacteria involved in mutualistic interactions, or by a niche overlap among the
286 co-occurring bacteria that grow under similar conditions (Kennedy and Bruns, 2005; Peay
287 *et al.*, 2012; Sprockett *et al.*, 2018). Due to the limitation in the biological material, we could
288 not quantify absolute abundance with e.g. qPCR. As our results are based on relative
289 abundances, we cannot exclude the possibility that e.g. the individuals have otherwise a
290 uniform microbiota but some individuals are additionally massively colonized by
291 Enterobacteriaceae.

292

293 *Sex and parasitoid infection are correlated with variation of marginal bacterial taxa*

294 The occurrence of OTUs within Rhodobacterales and Neisseriales orders was generally
295 higher in female than male caterpillars. Due to the absence of sexual dimorphism and
296 proper genetic markers, most studies conducted on immature developmental stages of
297 insects fail to consider sex differences in the microbiome. However, sex-specific differences
298 may greatly impact the microbiota from early caterpillar instar onwards. In the silkworm,

299 where sexes can be identified in the caterpillars (Zhang *et al.*, 2010), no strong difference
300 was evident in the global β -diversity structure of the bacterial microbiota. However,
301 marginal differences in the relative abundances of some bacterial taxa was reported, as
302 females were shown to preferentially harbor *Delftia*, *Aurantimonas* and *Staphylococcus*
303 while males were mostly colonized by *Enterococcus* (Sun *et al.*, 2016). In adult *H. erato*,
304 males and females share similar microbial communities (Hammer *et al.*, 2014), whereas in
305 *Spodoptera littoralis* the sexes harbor divergent bacterial communities, with higher
306 Enterobacteriaceae proportion found in females (Chen *et al.*, 2016). It is noteworthy that
307 even when found, the consequences of sex-dimorphic microbiota in Lepidoptera are not
308 well understood. Chen *et al.* (2016) showed enrichment of bacteria carrying genes involved
309 in the energetic metabolism in females. Some of these bacterial taxa colonizing females
310 were partly retrieved from the eggs. Those bacteria may be vertically transmitted from the
311 mother to their eggs.

312 We found that the parasitoid infection was also associated with lower occurrence probability
313 of some taxonomical groups, such as Clostridia, Rhizobiales, Neisseriales and
314 Burkholderiales. This may result from parasitoid infection modifying host's immune (Tan *et al.*
315 *et al.*, 2018) or metabolic (Potter and Woods, 2012; Mrinalini *et al.*, 2015) homeostasis that
316 can further influence the intestinal microbial community. Several studies have recently
317 reported an impact of polydnviruses injected in the caterpillars through the venoms of
318 parasitoid wasps (Cusumano *et al.*, 2018; Tan *et al.*, 2018; Zhu *et al.*, 2018). These
319 symbiotic viruses induce changes in the caterpillar-plant interactions as well as in host
320 immunity. Even though it has never been specifically studied, these viruses might also
321 directly or indirectly impact the microbiota of the caterpillar. Alternatively, individuals not
322 carrying specific symbionts may be more attractive or susceptible to the parasitoid infection.
323 Such processes have been described, for example, in aphids where facultative symbionts
324 interfere with the volatile signals released by the plant to attract parasitoid (Frago *et al.*,
325 2017). *Wolbachia* sp., on the contrary, were more likely to occur in the gut of parasitized

326 individuals. Previous screening of *M. cinxia* adults have not found presence of *Wolbachia*,
327 whereas the parasitoid, *H. horticola*, is naturally infected by a *Wolbachia* strain wHho, with
328 an infection rate of approximately 50% in the study population the Åland islands (Duplouy
329 *et al.*, 2015). Therefore, our results suggest that *Wolbachia* may be horizontally transferred
330 by the parasitoid. However, due to the high mortality of individuals to the parasitoid infection
331 it may be extremely rare to find *Wolbachia* infected adults. Furthermore, we do not know
332 whether *Wolbachia* is able to persist in the individuals across the development or if they are
333 viable within the caterpillar gut. As recently reported only 16.3% of the Lepidopteran
334 caterpillars are infected by *Wolbachia* with different impacts of the endosymbiotic bacteria
335 on the reproduction and the sex ratio of their host e.g. male killing, feminization, and
336 cytoplasmic incompatibility (Duplouy and Hornett, 2018).

337

338 *Effects of host plant's microbiota and metabolite composition*

339 The microbiome of plant phyllosphere is partially conserved across species with presence
340 of recurrent taxa such as *Methylobacterium*, *Pseudomonas* and *Sphingobium* (Delmotte *et*
341 *al.*, 2009). However, the plant microbiome is also generally considered highly variable and
342 subject to spatial and temporal fluctuation in response to several abiotic factors (Lindow,
343 1996; Turner *et al.*, 2013). In addition, biotic factors, such as plant genotype, developmental
344 stage or chemical composition are known to affect the microbiome (Delmotte *et al.*, 2009;
345 Berlec, 2012; Bodenhausen *et al.*, 2014; Gargallo-Garriga *et al.*, 2016; González-Arenzana
346 *et al.*, 2017). Consistently with previous results, we showed that the bacterial community of
347 *P. lanceolata* is highly conserved and dominated by a set of core microorganisms, mainly
348 OTUs classified as *Methylobacterium*, that are present in the majority of the samples. These
349 epiphytic Alphaproteobacteria are particularly adapted to the plant phyllosphere and recycle
350 parts of the metabolites secreted by the stomata (methanol and amino acids), and

351 contribute to plant quality, growth and defense (Sy *et al.*, 2005; Madhaiyan *et al.*, 2006;
352 Kutschera, 2007; Madhaiyan *et al.*, 2015).

353 When considering the whole community structure of the plant microbiota, most of the taxa
354 were correlated with the metabolite profile of the host plant, so that the microbiota tended
355 to decrease with decreasing carbohydrates and amino acid residues. This suggests that
356 these plant metabolites either drive the bacterial communities that successfully colonize the
357 leaves or that the leaf bacterial communities impact plant metabolism. Somewhat
358 surprisingly, the defensive compounds (iridoid glycosides and verbascoside) showed little
359 variation and was not influenced by the plant microbiota.

360 In general, the microbial communities of host plants and caterpillars were very different. The
361 predominant bacteria in the plants, such as *Methylobacterium* sp., *Hymenobacter* sp.,
362 *Modestobacter* sp. and *Aureimonas* sp., were not dominant or even prevalent in the
363 caterpillars. However, a high abundance of OTUs in the host plant did positively affect the
364 same OTUs in the caterpillars in at least few taxonomic groups: in Methylobacteriaceae and
365 some other Alphaproteobacteria, high abundance in the host plant increased their
366 occurrence probabilities in the caterpillars, and in Cytophagaceae and some
367 Methylobacteriaceae, high abundance in the host plant increased the OTU abundance in
368 the caterpillars.

369 We suggest three potential reasons explaining the observed poor correspondence between
370 caterpillars and host plant microbiota and/or metabolite composition. First, despite the high
371 variability, the bacterial taxa associated with *M. cinxia* gut may be well adapted to their host
372 and consequently little impacted by food intake, including the variation in secondary
373 metabolites, such as iridoid glycosides and verbascoside concentrations. Second, the
374 observed caterpillar gut microbiota variability might reflect high abundance of transient
375 bacteria, which are rapidly acquired and eliminated with high turnover. Third, the microbiota
376 of diapausing caterpillars may shift quickly in the beginning of the diapause, in the absence

377 of plant microbial load or metabolites ingested. Fourth, several species of Lepidoptera
378 harbor horizontally acquired bacterial genes that detoxifies plants secondary metabolites.
379 Such gene acquisitions might have relaxed any selective pressure in favor of the
380 maintenance of bacterial symbionts within the gut leading to high variability of these
381 communities (Hammer *et al.*, 2017; Paniagua Voirol *et al.*, 2018). Our observations are
382 somewhat contrasting with other systems in which nutritionally acquired metabolites of the
383 host plant have been observed to strongly shape the animal gut communities (Koropatkin
384 *et al.*, 2012; Etxeberria *et al.*, 2013; Lu *et al.*, 2014; Xu *et al.*, 2016). Our results also contrast
385 several other studies in insects that have highlighted the importance of host plant in shaping
386 the gut microbiota community (Broderick *et al.*, 2004; Xiang *et al.*, 2006; Pinto-Tomás *et al.*,
387 2011; Gayatri Priya *et al.*, 2012; Mason and Raffa, 2014; Berman *et al.*, 2018), including a
388 study of actively feeding late instar stage of *M. cinxia* (Ruokolainen *et al.*, 2016). The
389 microbiota of actively feeding individuals are evidently affected by the plant material that
390 they feed on, which can lead to rapid and reversible changes in the microbiota community
391 depending on the organic matter, defensive metabolites. In actively feeding caterpillars the
392 microbiota found in fecal samples has been shown to resemble that of the host plant
393 (Hammer *et al.*, 2017). Our result of microbiota in the midgut not representing similar
394 microbial community to that of the host plant suggest that the bacterial community of the
395 host plant is actively transported through the digestive tract of the caterpillar while they are
396 eating plant material, and that this community is excreted through the feces and is not
397 maintained within the gut of the caterpillar after they stopped eating. On the other hand, we
398 cannot exclude the hypothesis that the excretion of the microbiota have happened during
399 the molting right before the individuals enter into diapause. A recent study on several
400 *Lycaenid* butterfly species showed that starved carnivorous or herbivorous caterpillars did
401 not present any differences in their intestinal communities in comparison to each other
402 (Whitaker *et al.*, 2016).

403

404 *The over-winter survival probability of caterpillars families is spatially structured but does*
405 *not correlate with the microbiota or metabolite composition of the host plant*

406 We did not find any influence of microbiota composition on overwinter survival, but this may
407 have been because our data on this was indirect. As the microbiota of the caterpillars from
408 the same nest (i.e. family) did not resemble much each other, the microbiota of the sampled
409 individuals was not likely to be representative of the microbiota of the individuals for which
410 we scored survival. Previous studies on Lepidoptera have documented contradictory results
411 on the impact of gut microbiota on survival. Experimental perturbation of *Manduca sexta*
412 microbiota by antibiotic treatments had no effect on survival and development (Hammer *et*
413 *al.*, 2017), whereas the removal of *Enterococcus munditii* symbionts colonizing *Galleria*
414 *mellonella* decreased individual survival during the adult stage (Johnston and Rolff, 2015).
415 The observed over-winter survival of the *M. cinxia* families in the wild exhibited some spatial
416 structure, suggesting that the mortality is strongly influenced by some spatially
417 autocorrelated environmental factor such as summer drought (Saastamoinen *et al.*, 2013;
418 Tack *et al.*, 2015, Kahilainen *et al.* 2018) or host plant density, not accounted for in our
419 study.

420 *Conclusion*

421 The caterpillars of the Glanville fritillary butterfly present a highly variable gut microbiota
422 even among caterpillars from the same family living on the same host plant individual.
423 Variation in gut microbiota is predominantly related to Enterobacteriaceae, which show
424 marked variation in their diversity among the individuals. Additionally, the occurrence
425 probabilities of some OTUs were impacted by the presence of the parasitoid and by the sex
426 of the caterpillar. The highly variable herbivore microbial communities differed markedly
427 from those of the more conserved host plant microbiota communities. In particular, while
428 the plant leaf metabolites influenced the plant microbiota, these effects did not penetrate to
429 microbiota of the caterpillars feeding on those leaves. Future prospects on other

430 developmental stages (pupae, adults, eggs) should be conducted to broaden our
431 understanding of the variation and potential role of the Glanville fritillary microbiota. Finally,
432 we remark that joint species distribution modelling provides new opportunities to assess
433 simultaneously the influences of both abiotic and biotic drivers on community variation.
434 However, further development is required for making joint species distribution models fully
435 compatible with sequencing data, and thus we hope future developments to implement
436 multinomial observation models and the ability to capture discrete mixtures.

437

438 **Experimental Procedures**

439 *The study system*

440 The Glanville fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*, butterfly occurs across the Eurasian continent, and
441 in northern Europe has a univoltine life-cycle (Ehrlich and Hanski, 2004). In Finland, the
442 butterfly occurs only in the SW archipelago, the Åland islands, where it persists as a classic
443 metapopulation within a network of ~4.000 discrete habitat patches consisting of meadows
444 and pastures (Ojanen *et al.*, 2013). The habitat patches have been annually surveyed since
445 1993 for the presence of caterpillar family nests (Hanski, 1994; van Nouhuys and Hanski,
446 2005; Ojanen *et al.*, 2013). Females lay clutches of eggs on two caterpillars host plant
447 species, *Veronica spicata* and *Plantago lanceolata* (Kuussaari *et al.*, 2000). The gregarious
448 caterpillars develop within the host plant, and in the fall, they build a thick and conspicuous
449 winter nest, terminate feeding and molt into diapausing morphotype (Wahlberg, 2000). The
450 diapause is broken in spring when the caterpillars continue their development until pupation.
451 Approximately, 30% of the caterpillar families die during the winter (Tack *et al.*, 2015). In
452 addition, a conserved proportion of approximately 30% of the individuals get infected by a
453 specialist parasitoid *Hyposoter horticola* (Ehrlich and Hanski, 2004; Nouhuys and Ehrnsten,
454 2004). The parasitism occurs during the egg stage, after which the parasitoid develops
455 within the host until it hatches from the 7th instar caterpillars early in the spring and kills the

456 host. Several reasons make this system suitable for the present study: (i) the caterpillars
457 and their host plant can be easily found from the field due to the gregarious life-history of
458 the caterpillars and the conspicuous silk nest they spin for over-wintering; (ii) the over-
459 wintering caterpillars are synchronized in their development prior diapause and have an
460 empty gut at this developmental stage (Ojanen *et al.*, 2013), which reduces confounding
461 factors in the analyses; (iii) several individuals, from mainly full-sib families (Fountain *et al.*,
462 2018), can be sampled from the same over-wintering nest on one host plant individual,
463 which allows us to assess individual variation both within and among families; (iv) the local
464 populations are well-described due to the long-term ecological monitoring; and (v) the host
465 sex can be identified at the caterpillar stage using molecular markers (Rastas *et al.*, 2013).

466

467 *Sample collections*

468 Caterpillar and plant samples were collected from natural populations of the *M. cinxia* in the
469 region of Sund in the Åland islands within three-day period in September 2015. This region
470 was selected due to generally high occupancy of the butterfly in three connected networks
471 ensuring sample availability (Supplementary material), and the possibility to control for
472 some potentially confounding factors due to dominance of only one host plant species (*P.*
473 *lanceolata*) and one specialist parasitoid species (*H. horticola*) (Nair *et al.*, 2016; Hanski *et*
474 *al.*, 2017). The survey followed the general framework of the long-term survey of the *M.*
475 *cinxia* butterfly (described in Ojanen *et al.*, 2013: a total of 189 dry meadows i.e. potential
476 habitats) were surveyed for the presence of winter nests. Once located, the GPS
477 coordinates were registered using the Earthcape biodiversity platform
478 (<http://www.earthcape.com>). From each nest, three 5th instar caterpillars and one leaf from
479 the host plant on which the caterpillars resided were collected with disinfected forceps and
480 stored individually in sterile 1.5 ml and 15 ml tubes, respectively. A total of 191 caterpillars
481 from 66 nests and 63 host plant samples were collected from the 15 patches that were

482 occupied by the butterfly in 2015. In few cases, the entire host plant had already been
483 consumed, and hence no plant sample was collected. The caterpillars were dissected in
484 order to detect the presence of the potential parasitoid and to separate midgut from rest of
485 the carcass (for more details about sample conservation and preparation see
486 Supplementary Material). Insect digestive tract is separated in three sections (foregut,
487 midgut, hindgut) with often observed heterogeneity in their physiology but also in the
488 composition of the microbial communities (Engel and Moran, 2013). Results on Lepidoptera
489 have, however, been somewhat contradictory, with differences in the microbiome across
490 the different gut sections being evident in *Spodoptera littoralis* (Tang et al., 2012) but not in
491 *Bombix mori* (Chen et al., 2018). To avoid merging communities that potentially differ, we
492 focused specifically on the microbiota localized within the midgut of the caterpillars. This
493 section is the largest section, most important for food digestion, and its microbiota often
494 shows interaction with host plant secondary metabolites (Terra and Ferreira, 2012; Pentzold
495 et al., 2014). The over-winter survival of caterpillars nests in the field (i.e. from which the
496 three individuals were sampled from) was assessed in the spring 2016, by checking the
497 presence of active post-diapause caterpillars (Ojanen et al., 2013).

498

499 *High throughput rrs amplicon sequencing*

500 DNA was extracted from midgut samples with Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit
501 (Qiagen, Germany) using an optimized protocol for extraction of bacterial DNA from low
502 matrix (Minard et al., 2015). For plant samples, a piece of 0.5 cm² was separated from the
503 center of the leaf, crushed in liquid nitrogen using a sterile pestle, and DNA was extracted
504 following the protocol described for midgut samples. To avoid bias due to the possible
505 confounding effect of extraction set, the samples were randomized before extraction. In
506 addition, three independent extractions were carried out without any matrix and processed

507 with the rest of the samples to identify potential bacterial DNA contamination that could
508 affect results obtained from low biomass samples (Salter *et al.*, 2014).

509 The 280bp hypervariable V5-V6 region of the *rrs* gene was amplified in duplicates and
510 sequenced with Miseq v.3. sequencing platform (Illumina, U.S.A.). Details on the protocol
511 are available in the Supplementary material. Analysis of sequences was performed using
512 mothur v.1.37.6 following the Miseq Standard Operating Procedure described by the
513 developers (http://www.mothur.org/wiki/MiSeq_SOP) (Schloss *et al.*, 2009). A total of
514 16,710,206 sequences were obtained after alinement of forward and reverse reads. Aligned
515 sequences were selected within a size range of 250-350 bp with less than 8 homopolymers
516 and any ambiguous position. All sequences which did not align to the *rrs* Silva v.123
517 database were filtered out. *De novo* chimera detection was performed using UCHIME
518 implemented in mothur (Edgar *et al.*, 2011). Clustering was performed using a maximum of
519 3% distance within each Operational Taxonomic Unit (OTU) according to the average
520 neighbor method. After quality trimming and clustering, every contaminant sequence was
521 trimmed out from the Sample x OTU shared table as previously described (Minard *et al.*,
522 2015). The samples were first rarefied at 3000 reads in order to control for sequencing depth
523 biases. Same OTUs were considered as contaminant if they were present in the negative
524 controls and if their proportion in a given sample was not at least 10 times higher than their
525 proportion in the negative controls. After trimming and quality control, the samples were
526 rarefied at 1500 reads per sample for further analysis. 20 caterpillar samples and 2 plant
527 samples, which did not contain the minimum amount of sequences, were discarded for the
528 rest of the analysis. Miseq sequences have been deposited on the European Nucleotide
529 Archive (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>) under the accession project number PRJEB26629.

530

531 *Metabolomic analysis of the leaf samples of host plant Plantago lanceolata*

532 After subtraction of the extremities, the remaining parts of each leaf sample were crushed
533 with a sterile pestle in liquid nitrogen and the frozen powder was freeze dried for 48h. The
534 extraction was processed using previously described protocol and ¹H-NMR spectra of the
535 metabolites were recorded (Supplementary Material; Kim *et al.*, 2010). NMR spectra were
536 processed with MNOVA software v.10.0.2 (Mestrelab research S.L., Spain). Model
537 compounds of Aucubin (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany), Catalpol (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany) and
538 Verbascoside (Extrasynthese, France) were used for signal assignments of *P. lanceolata*
539 defensive metabolites. Other primary or secondary metabolite shifts, and J-coupling
540 constants obtained from plant material using similar solvents were used as reference (Kim
541 *et al.*, 2010; Lubbe *et al.*, 2011; Yang *et al.*, 2012; Agudelo-Romero *et al.*, 2014; Gallo *et*
542 *al.*, 2014). For multivariate analysis, the signal was binned to 0.04 ppm and integrated. The
543 TSP and Methanol signals were removed and the relative intensity of the chemical signals
544 were normalized according to the dry mass of the samples and the TSP intensity.

545

546 *Sex determination*

547 As caterpillar's sex cannot be determined based on morphology, we employed a panel of
548 24 SNP markers linked to the Z chromosome to differentiate the sexes (Supplementary
549 material, Supplementary Table S3, S4). The sensitivity and specificity of this method was
550 estimated to be 0.81 and 0.89, respectively, based on a group of 150 adult individuals with
551 known gender (75 males and 75 females). A total of 15 individuals could not be annotated
552 based on the SNP panel.

553

554 *Statistical analyses*

555 We analyzed the data with Hierarchical Modelling of Species Communities (HMSC;
556 Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2017), which approach belongs to the class of joint species distribution

557 modeling (JSDM; Warton *et al.*, 2015). HMSC provides simultaneously species- and
558 community-level inference on how species occurrences and/or abundances relate to
559 environmental covariates, and how these relationships are structured with respect to
560 species traits and phylogenetic relationships. HMSC additionally assesses the structure of
561 co-occurrence patterns among the species that can't be attributed to responses of the
562 species to the measured covariates, either in spatially hierarchical or in spatially explicit
563 context, depending on the nature of the study design (Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2017).

564 We performed two separate analyses, called hereafter caterpillar and plant models, which
565 differed in whether the OTU data were derived from caterpillar or plant material. In both
566 models, the response variable was the vector of rarified sequence counts of the microbial
567 OTUs. We employed a hurdle approach, in which we first used a probit model for OTU
568 presence-absence, and then a log-normal model for OTU abundances conditional on
569 presence. We restricted the analyses to OTUs that were present in at least five samples
570 (562 and 610 OTUs for caterpillars and plants, respectively). We further excluded samples
571 for which plant OTUs or metabolites were missing. The analyzed dataset consisted of 142
572 caterpillars collected from 55 host plants (Fig. 2).

573 In the caterpillar model, our aim was to examine how the OTU composition depended on
574 the properties of the focal caterpillar, and on the OTU and metabolite compositions of its
575 host plant. We included as fixed effects (1) the sex of the individual (0 for female and 1 for
576 male), (2) the infection status of the individual (0 for non-infected and 1 for infected by the
577 parasitoid wasp), (3) the abundance of the focal OTU in the host plant where the individual
578 was residing, (4) the plant OTU community composition, and (5) the plant metabolite
579 composition. We measured plant OTU abundance as log-transformed sequence count and
580 described plant OTU community composition and plant metabolite composition by the first
581 three principal components that explained respectively 22% and 92% of their total variations
582 (Supplementary Fig. S3, S7). To examine whether the responses of the species to the

583 explanatory variables showed a phylogenetic signal, we included in the analysis a
584 phylogenetic correlation matrix among the OTUs, obtained with FastTree method assuming
585 the General Time Reversible (GTR) evolution model (see Supplementary Fig. S8) (Price *et*
586 *al.*, 2010). To examine residual co-occurrence patterns among the OTUs that cannot be
587 attributed to the fixed effects, we further included in the model the level of the caterpillar
588 nest (i.e. host plant level) as a spatial random effect, and the level of the individual
589 caterpillars as a non-structured random effect. In the plant model, we included as the sole
590 fixed effect the plant metabolite composition, and as the sole random effect the level of the
591 level of the plant as a spatial random effect.

592 We fitted both the caterpillar and the plant models using the HMSC-Matlab implementation
593 of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2017) with default prior distributions. To examine how much of the
594 variation in OTU occurrences can be attributed to the fixed effects and to associations
595 among the OTUs, we evaluated the predictive power of the model in three different ways.
596 All of these accounted for the fixed effects, but differed on how the random effects were
597 accounted for. Prediction P1 is aimed at measuring the predictive power based solely on
598 fixed effects, and thus we integrated the random effects over their prior distributions rather
599 than using sampling unit -specific fitted values. Prediction P2 is aimed at measuring the
600 predictive power that can be gained by accounting for species-to-species associations. To
601 generate P2, we split the species randomly to two groups, and made the predictions for
602 each species group conditionally on the known occurrences of species belonging to the
603 other group (see Supporting Information for details). Prediction P3 is aimed at measuring
604 the full explanatory power of the model, and thus here the random effects were included
605 based on their fitted values. Therefore, the performance of P1 measures the importance of
606 fixed effects, and the difference between P2 and P1 (respectively, between P3 and P1)
607 gives a minimum (respectively, maximum) estimate for the importance of species-to-
608 species associations. This is because the difference between P3 and P2 may either be a
609 true effect of species-to-species associations that is not captured by our approach of

610 dividing the species into two groups, or then it may be due to overfitting of the random
611 effects. We measured predictive powers by Tjur's R^2 (Tjur, 2009) for the probit models and
612 standard R^2 for the log-normal models. Given that HMSC framework has not previously
613 been used in microorganism studies and may thus not be familiar to microbial scientific
614 community, we ran a series of complementary analyses with more traditional methods to
615 support our HMSC-based results. The details are given in Supplementary material.

616 Finally, we analyzed whether the overwintering survival of caterpillar nests (siblings of the
617 caterpillars assessed above) was dependent on metabolite and OTU composition of the
618 host plant they were residing on. We performed this analysis with a logistic regression model
619 estimated with STAN (Carpenter *et al.*, 2017), in which model we accounted for the spatial
620 locations of the nests using a Gaussian process approach (see Supplementary material)
621 (Rasmussen and Williams, 2006).

622

623

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632

633 **Conflict of Interest**

634 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

635

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908 **Table and Figure legends**

909

910 **Table 1. Estimates of the community-consistent fixed effects included in the**
911 **modeling of the bacterial communities associated with larvae and their host plant.**

912

913 **Figure 1. Prevalence and average abundance of the bacteria within caterpillar**
914 **midguts (A) and plant leaves (B).** The OTUs (dots) are represented according to the
915 proportion of individual samples in which they were detected (prevalence) and their average
916 relative abundance across all the samples (abundance). The classification of the most
917 abundant OTUs (cutoff > 0.1) is provided. The bootstrap associated with each taxonomical
918 classification is reported under brackets.

919

920 **Figure 2. Abundances of bacterial OTUs in caterpillar and plant samples.** The OTUs
921 (columns) have been ordered according to their taxonomical classification (for details, see
922 Supplementary Table S2). The color scale shows OTU abundance (number of normalized
923 sequences) for each caterpillar and plant sample on a logarithmic scale, and white color
924 indicates absence of OTU in given sample.

925

926 **Figure 3. Partitioning of variation in caterpillar microbiota to components explained**
927 **by different types of fixed and random effects.** The colored bars show, for each OTU,
928 the proportions of variance attributed to each group of explanatory variables. The average
929 variance proportions over OTUs are shown in the legend, with P-A corresponding to the
930 presence-absence and Ab to the abundance model. The order of OTUs is following the
931 ordering of Fig. 2 except for OTUs that were recorded only in plant samples and are omitted
932 here (for details, see Supplementary Table S2). See *Statistical Methods* for a full description
933 of the included fixed and random effects.

934

935 **Figure 4. Influence of measured covariates on caterpillar microbiota.** Regression
936 coefficients that were estimated to be positive (respectively, negative) with 95% credibility
937 level are shown by red (respectively, blue). The ordering of OTUs is identical to that of Fig.
938 2 except for OTUs that were recorded only in plant samples and are omitted here (for

939 details, see Supplementary Table S2). The covariates included in the model are listed in
940 the legend alongside with their running names used in axis labelling.

941

942 **Figure 5. Residual associations among caterpillar microbiota.** The panels illustrate the
943 caterpillar-level random effects for the presence-absence (A) and abundance (B) parts of
944 the caterpillar model. OTU-pairs for which the residual correlation was estimated to be
945 positive (respectively, negative) with 95% credibility level are shown by red (respectively,
946 blue) color. The ordering of OTUs is identical to that of Fig. 2 except for OTUs that were
947 recorded only in plant samples and are omitted here (for details, see Supplementary Table
948 S2).

949

950 **Figure 6. Metabolomic analysis of *Plantago lanceolata* leaves.** (A) An example
951 spectrum (binned at 0.04 ppm) obtained for a leaf sample of *Pl. lanceolata* and showing the
952 chemical shift of the different annotated metabolites. The gap within the graph represents
953 the removal of the solvent pick. (B) A heatmap of the different binned signals showing their
954 normalized intensity accross all plant samples.

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Table 1. Estimates of the community-consistent fixed effects included in the modeling of the bacterial communities associated with larvae and their host plant

| Dependant variable | Model | Fixed effects | Bayesian posterior credibility quantiles | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | 5 | 50 | 95 | |
| Bacterial microbiota of the larvae | Presence - absence ⁽¹⁾ | Intercept | -2.2595 | -2.0510 | -1.8332 | |
| | | Parasitoid | -0.4452 | -0.2012 | 0.0458 | |
| | | Gender | -0.4595 | -0.1849 | 0.0686 | |
| | | Log-abundance | -0.2850 | 0.1029 | 0.4647 | |
| | | Host plant microbiota | otuPC1 | -0.0276 | 0.0026 | 0.0337 |
| | | | otuPC2 | -0.0013 | 0.0250 | 0.0501 |
| | | | otuPC3 | -0.0129 | 0.0139 | 0.0412 |
| | | Host plant metabolites | metPC1 | -0.3854 | 0.3375 | 1.1096 |
| | | | metPC2 | -3.4100 | -1.1830 | 0.9640 |
| | metPC3 | | -3.3508 | -0.7631 | 1.6828 | |
| | Abundance ⁽²⁾ | Intercept | -0.1610 | 0.4370 | 1.0211 | |
| | | Parasitoid | -0.1868 | 0.0231 | 0.2182 | |
| | | Gender | -0.2676 | -0.0629 | 0.1545 | |
| | | Log-abundance | -0.1801 | 0.2794 | 0.7267 | |
| | | Host plant microbiota | otuPC1 | -0.0273 | -0.0042 | 0.0151 |
| | | | otuPC2 | -0.0206 | -0.0006 | 0.0199 |
| | | | otuPC3 | -0.0367 | -0.0066 | 0.0186 |
| | | Host plant metabolites | metPC1 | -0.4520 | 0.2026 | 0.8203 |
| metPC2 | | | -2.0163 | -0.2071 | 1.5288 | |
| metPC3 | -2.2270 | | -0.3142 | 1.6078 | | |
| Bacterial microbiota of the host plant | Presence - absence ⁽¹⁾ | Intercept | -1.078 | -1.0384 | -0.9910 | |
| | | metPC1 | -0.5839 | -0.4650 | -0.3425 | |
| | | Host plant metabolites | metPC2 | -0.3293 | 0.0231 | 0.3354 |
| | metPC3 | | -1.0213 | -0.6262 | -0.2519 | |
| | Abundance ⁽²⁾ | | Intercept | 0.4941 | 0.5369 | 0.5728 |
| | | metPC1 | 0.0102 | 0.0951 | 0.1943 | |
| | | Host plant metabolites | metPC2 | -0.4569 | -0.1740 | 0.1035 |
| | | | metPC3 | -0.4344 | -0.1369 | 0.1713 |

⁽¹⁾ Presence absence of bacterial taxa in the community

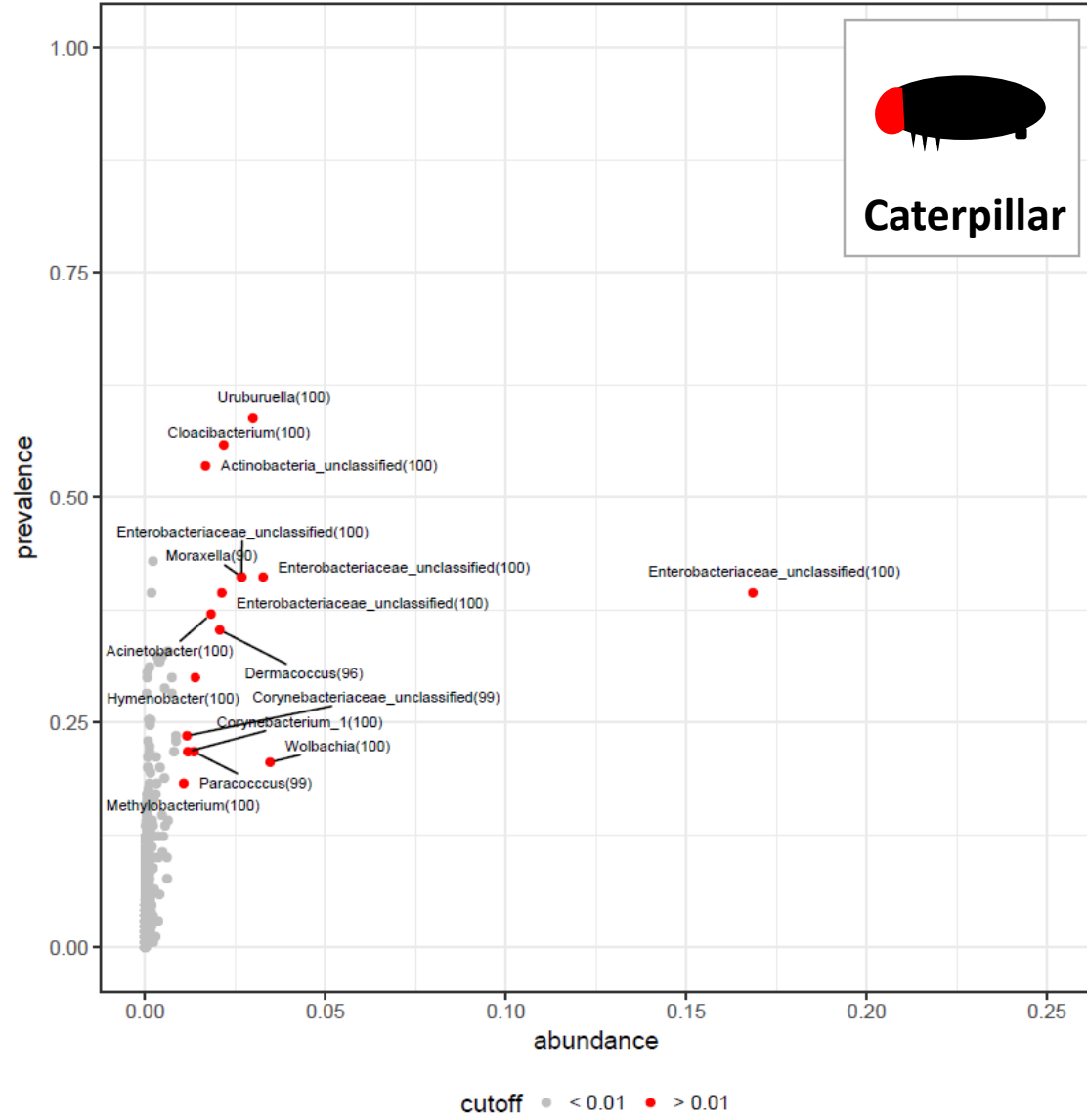
⁽²⁾ Abundance of bacterial taxa (conditional on presence) in the community

Log- abundance represents the log-transformed abundance of the focal OTU in the plant where the individual was residing

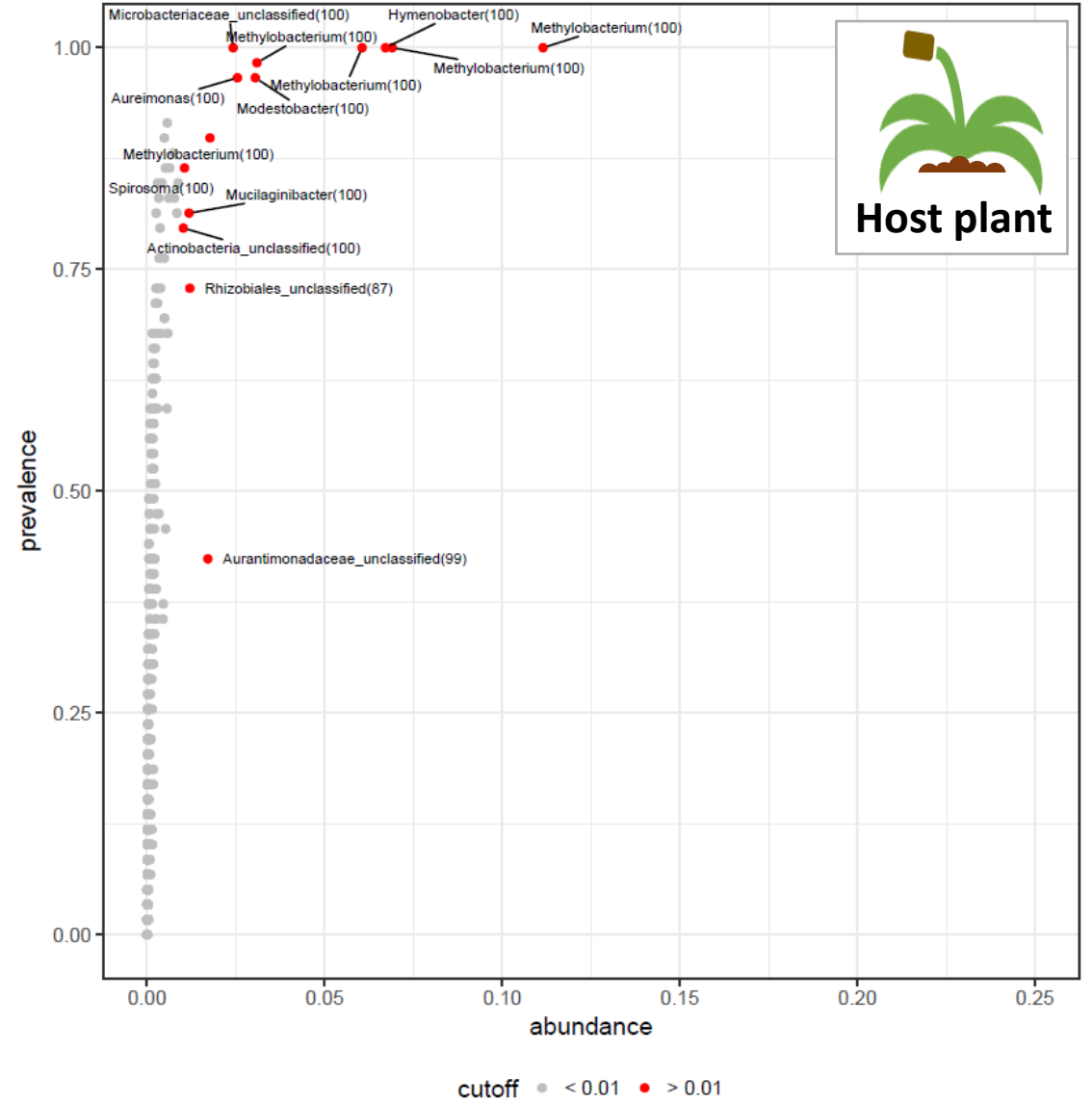
otuPC represents principal component of the plant bacterial taxa

metPC represents the principal component of the plant metabolites

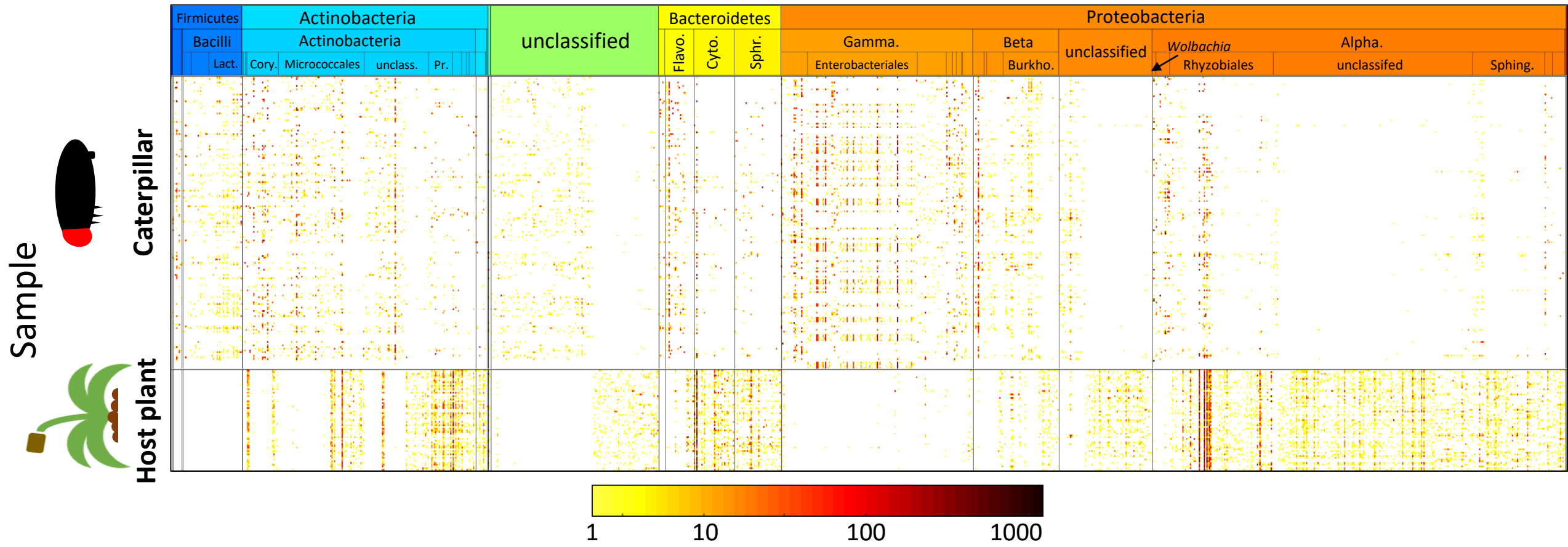
A.



B.



Bacterial OTU

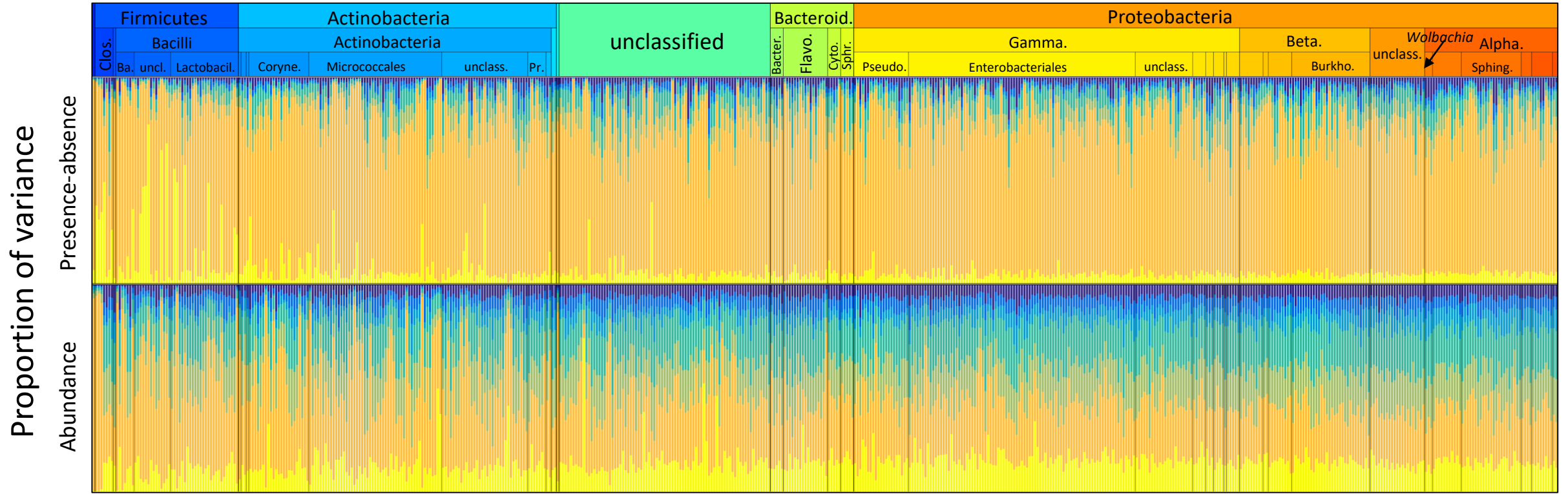









Caterpillar



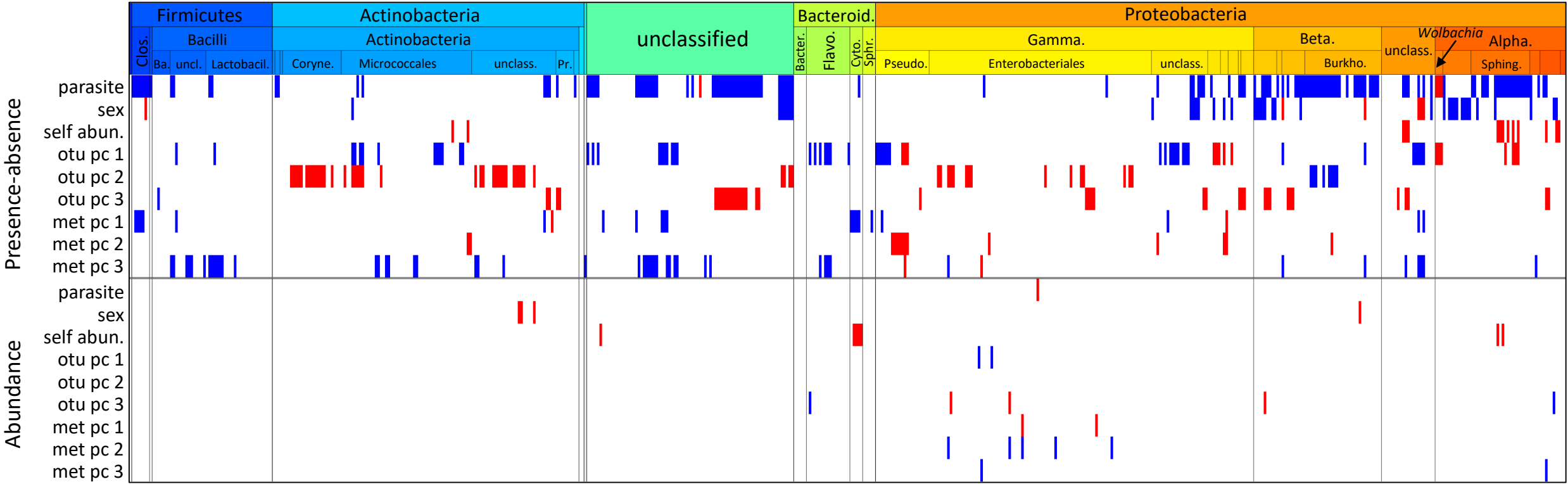
Host plant

Bacterial OTU

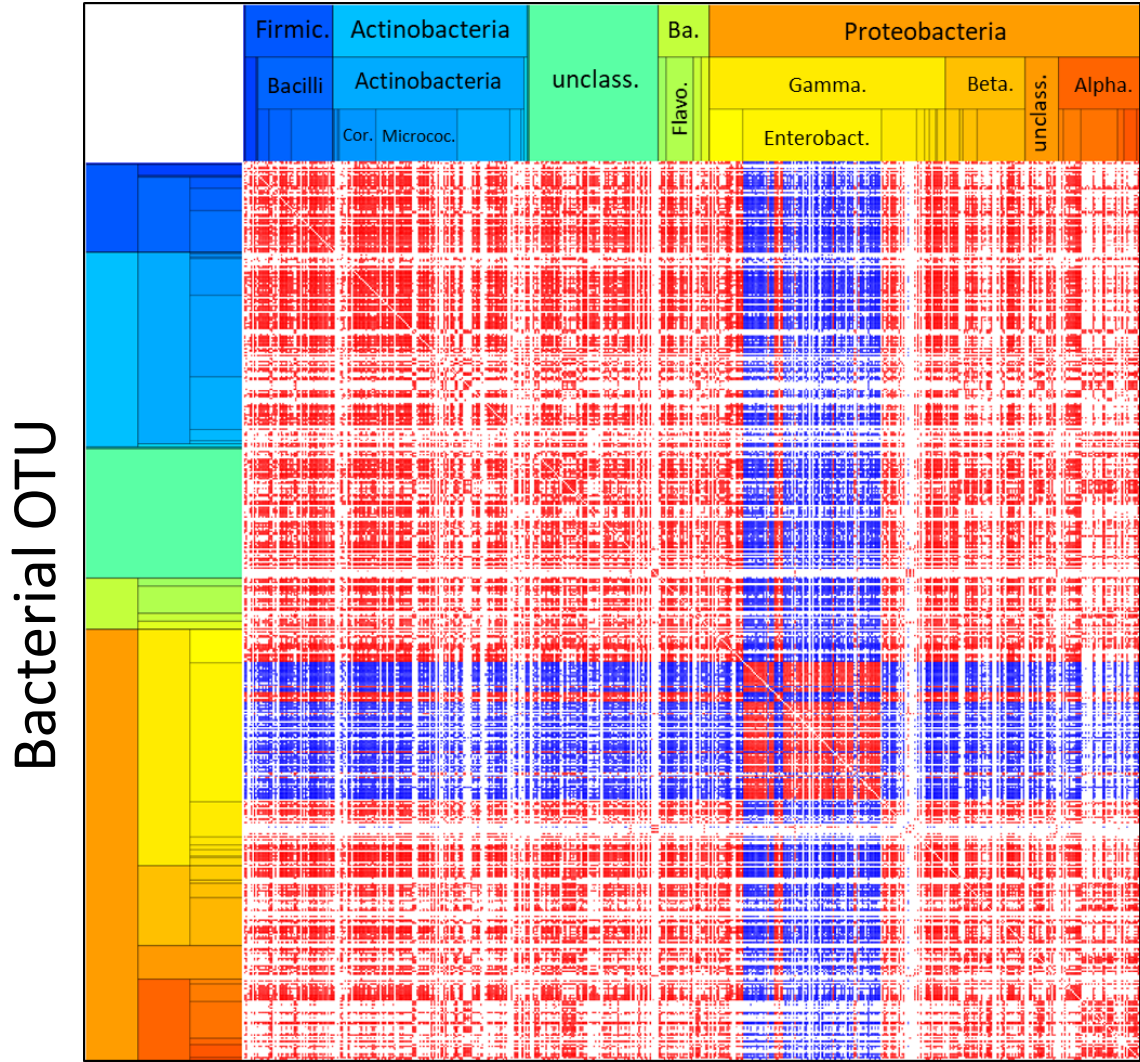


| Variable | Type | Color | P-A (%) | Ab (%) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Presence of the parasitoid <i>Hyposoter horticola</i> | Fixed effect |  | 3.5 | 5.6 |
| The sex of the caterpillar | Fixed effect |  | 2.4 | 5.9 |
| Focal OTU abundance in the plant | Fixed effect |  | 1.0 | 6.0 |
| Plant OTU composition (PC1,PC2,PC3) | Fixed effect |  | 7.7 | 18 |
| Plant metabolic composition (PC1,PC2,PC3) | Fixed effect |  | 6.7 | 17 |
| Caterpillar level | Random effect |  | 72 | 33 |
| Plant level | Random effect |  | 6.5 | 14 |

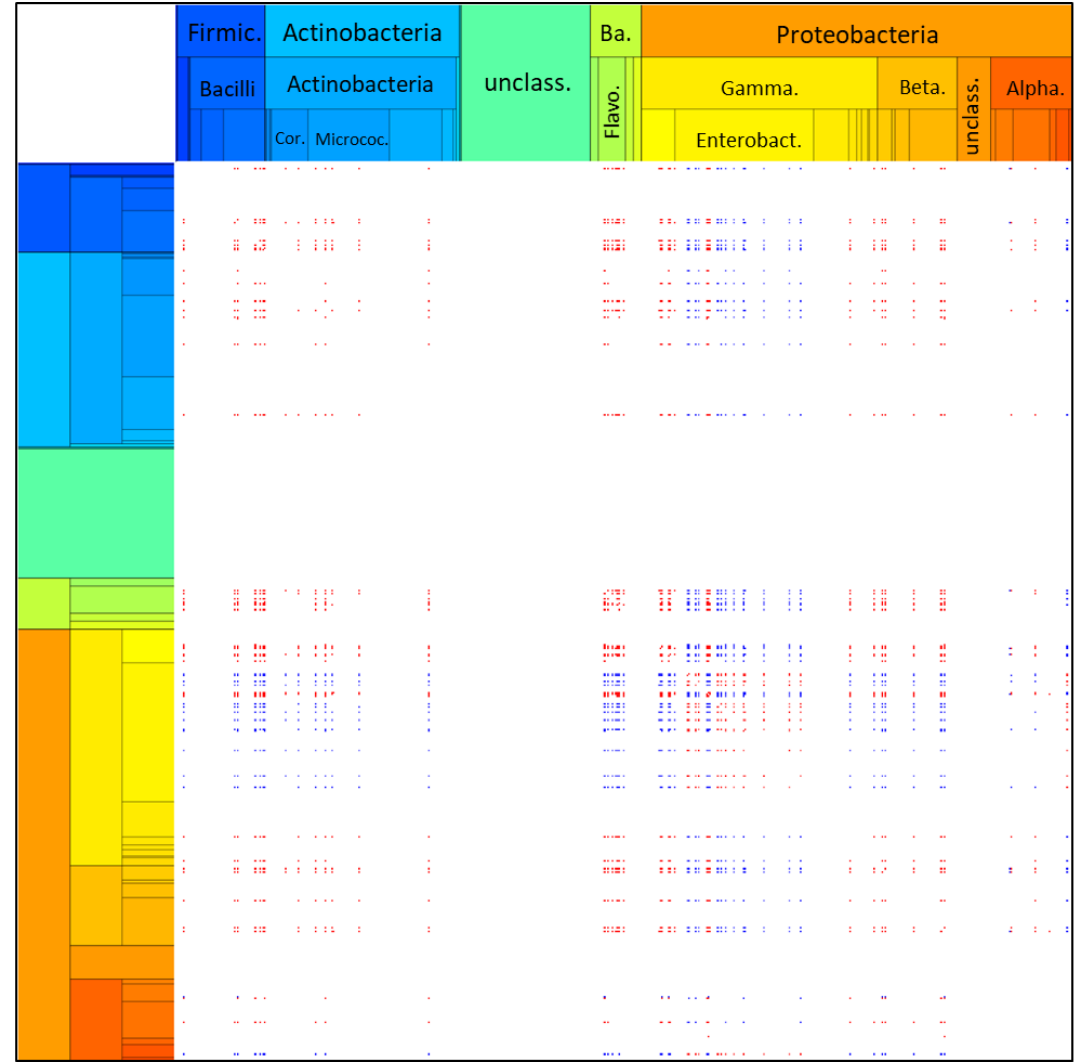
Bacterial OTU



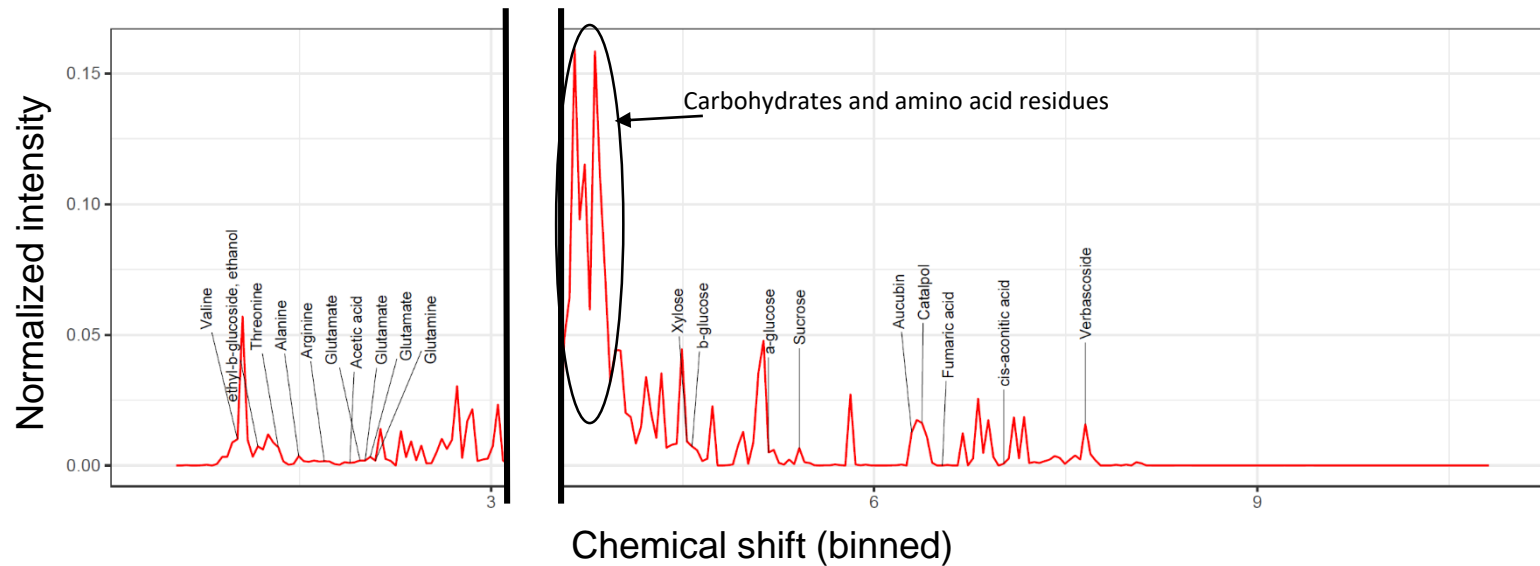
| Variable | Running name |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Presence of the parasitoid <i>Hyposoter horticola</i> | parasite |
| The sex of the caterpillar | sex |
| Focal OTU abundance in the plant | self abund. |
| Plant OTU composition (PC1,PC2,PC3) | otu pc 1-3 |
| Plant metabolic composition (PC1,PC2,PC3) | met pc 1-3 |

A.**Bacterial OTU**

Presence-absence

B.**Bacterial OTU**

Abundance

A.**B.**