

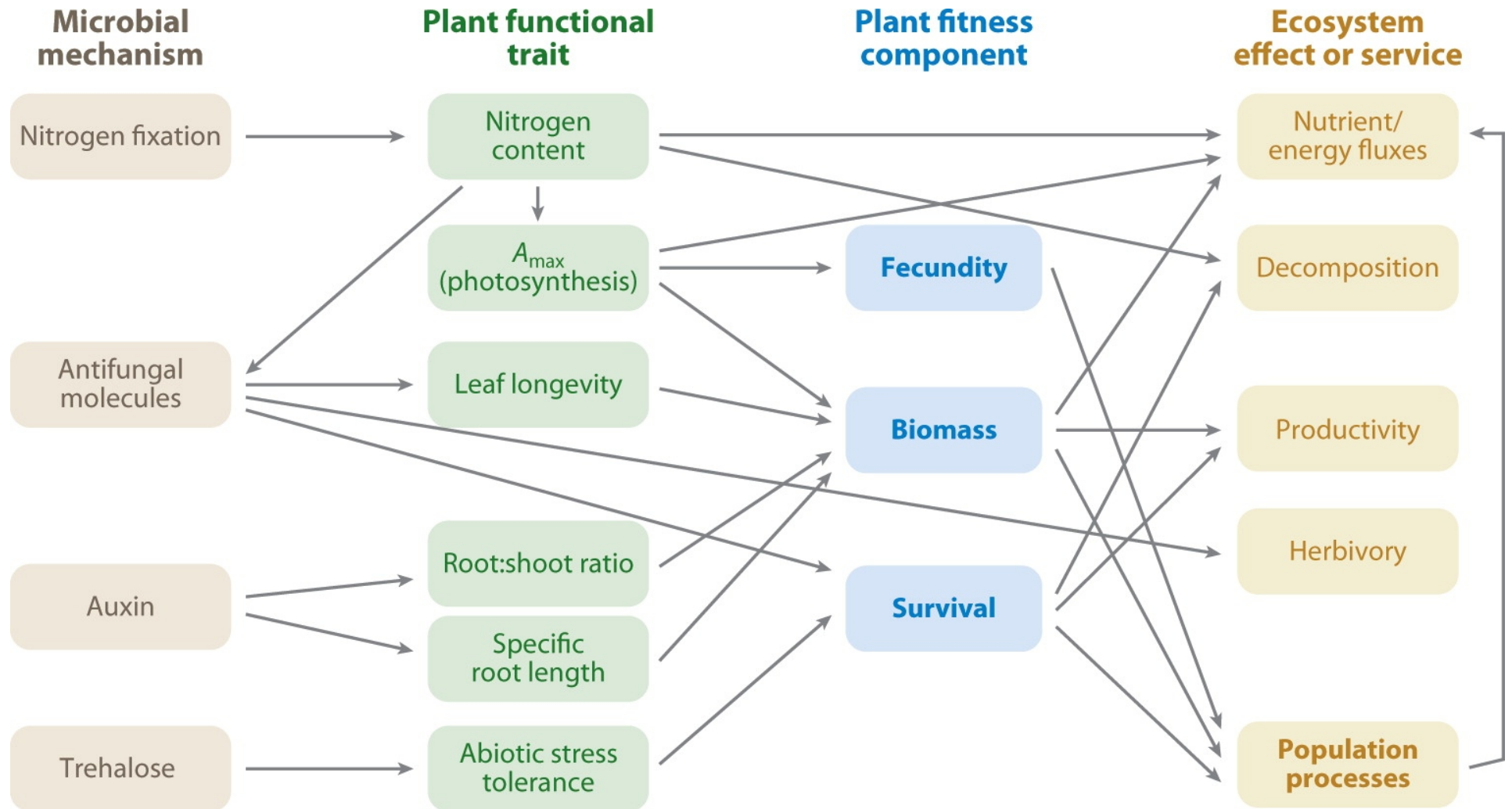
**Oak infection by a major fungal pathogen  
(*Erysiphe alphitoides*) is associated with modified  
microbial communities**

**B. Jakuschkin, V. Fievet, C. Robin, C. Vacher**





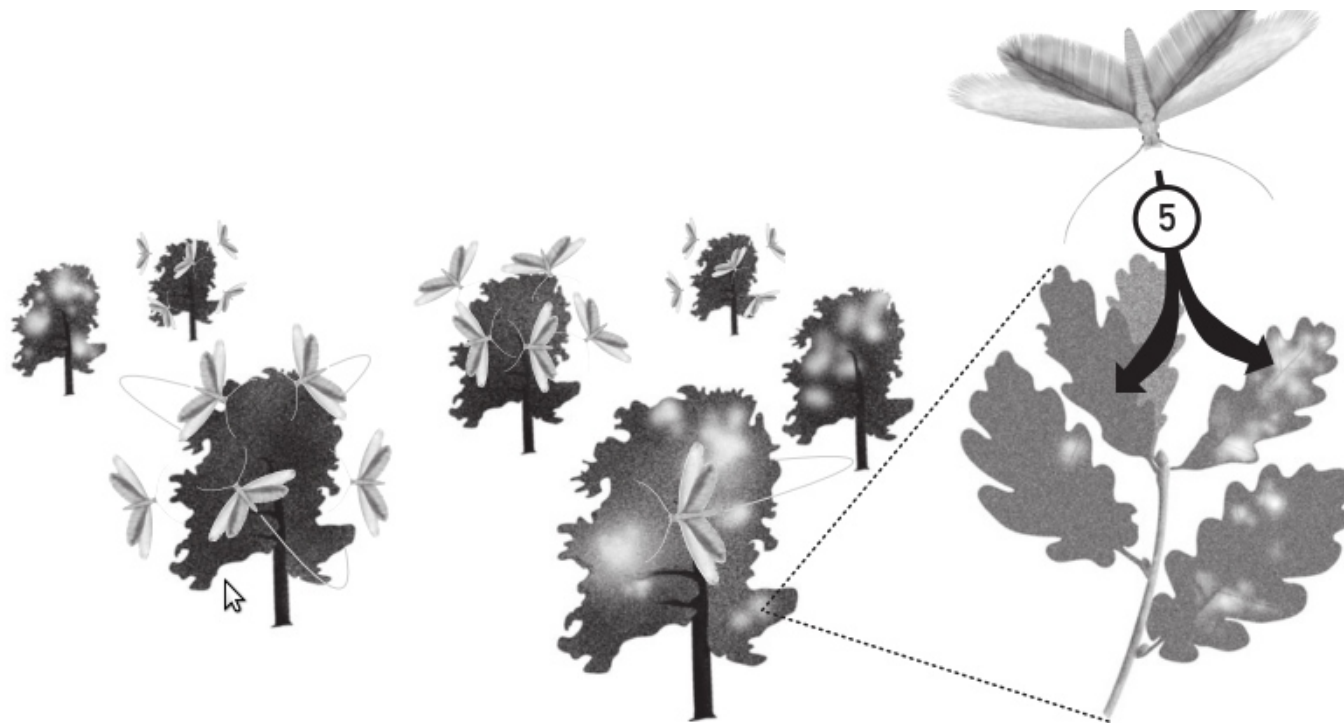
# Microbially mediated plant functional traits:



LETTER

# Cross-kingdom interactions matter: fungal-mediated interactions structure an insect community on oak

Ayco J. M. Tack,<sup>1\*</sup> Sofia  
Gripenberg<sup>1,2</sup> and Tomas Roslin<sup>3</sup>



# The oak powdery mildew is one of the most common infectious diseases in European forests

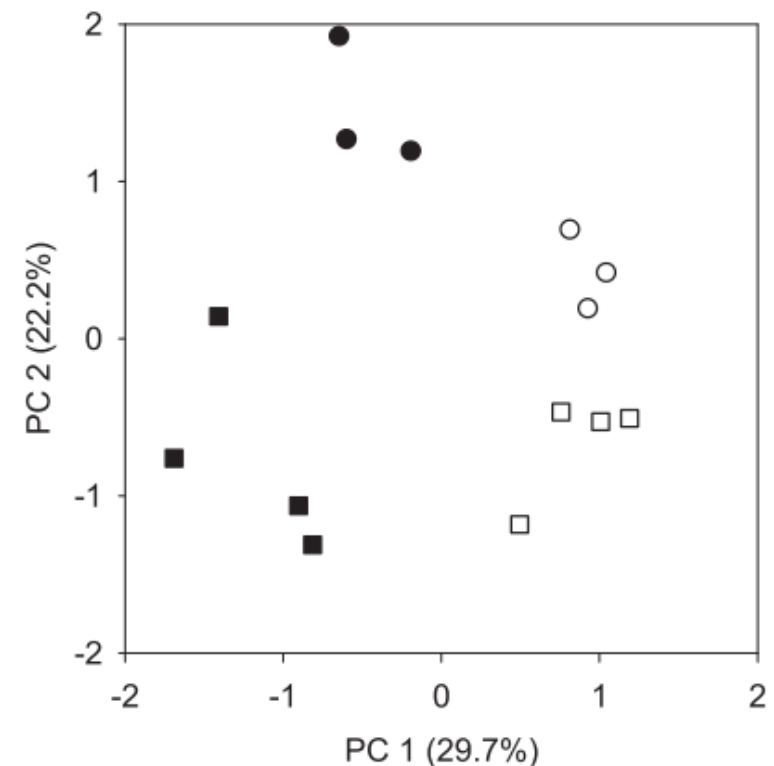
- ➔ is caused by *Erysiphe alphitoides*
- ➔ reduces the life-span of infected leaves
- ➔ decreases carbon uptake over growing season
- ➔ increases seedling mortality
- ➔ causes tree decline



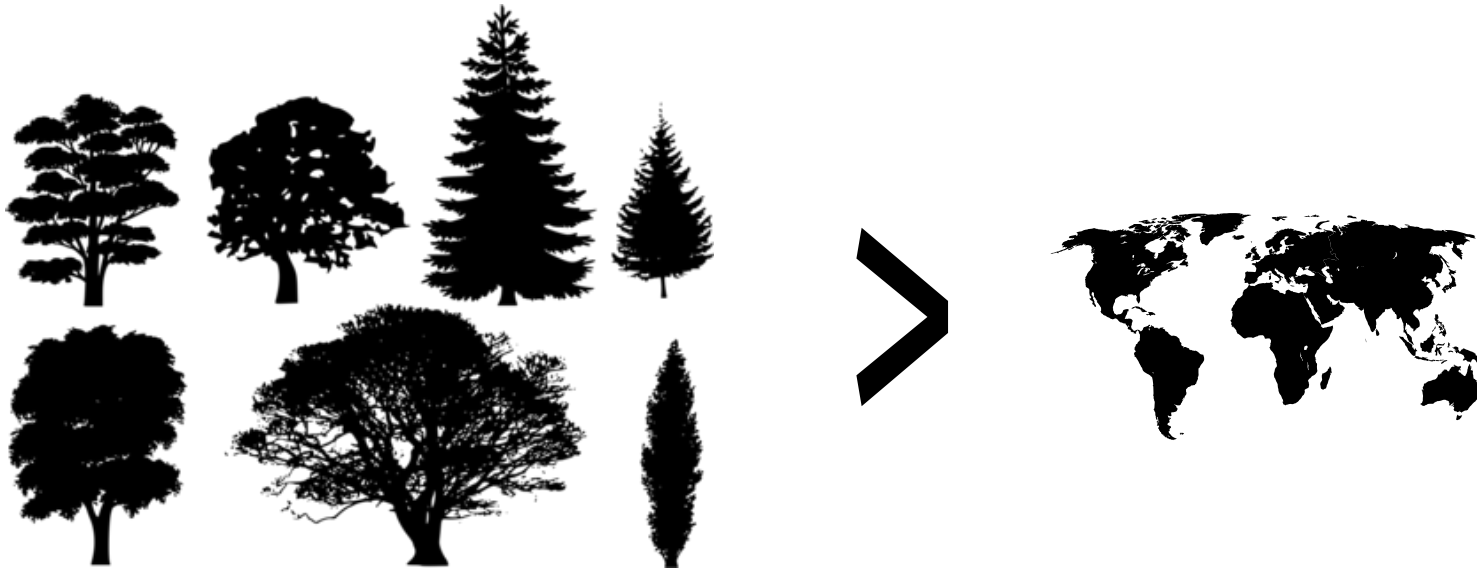
# Powdery Mildew-Infection Changes Bacterial Community Composition in the Phyllosphere

WATARU SUDA<sup>1</sup>, ASAMI NAGASAKI<sup>1</sup>, and MASAHIRO SHISHIDO<sup>1\*</sup>

- ➔ pm infection of cucumber and Japanese spindle leaves results in
  - ➔ structural changes in bacterial community
  - ➔ larger bacterial population
  - ➔ greater bacterial diversity and
  - ➔ greater richness



# The phyllosphere is one of the largest microbial habitats on Earth



Terrestrial leaf surface 2-4 times larger than Earth's land surface



# Microbial diversity and community structure are influenced by:

## → environment

→ solar radiation, rainfall, wind, air spora, nearby vegetation, temperature, soil

## → plant

→ leaf morphology, leaf chemistry, phenology, metabolism

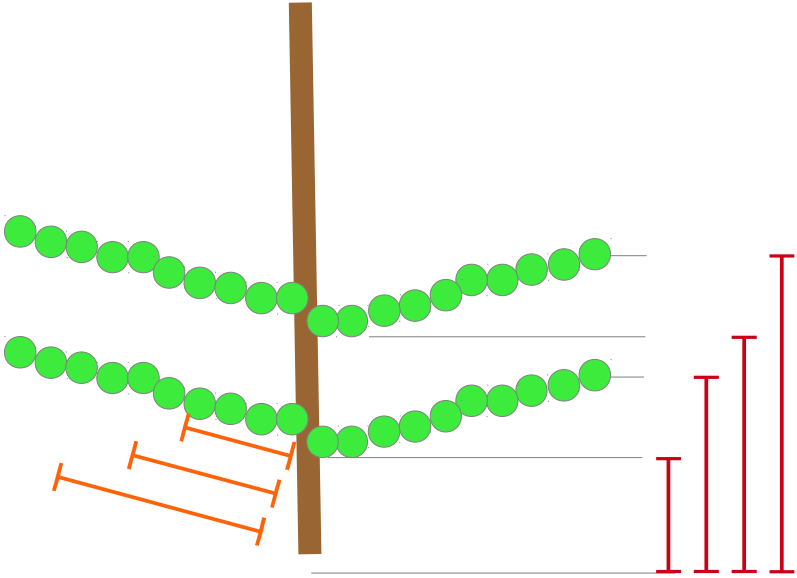


# Aims and questions

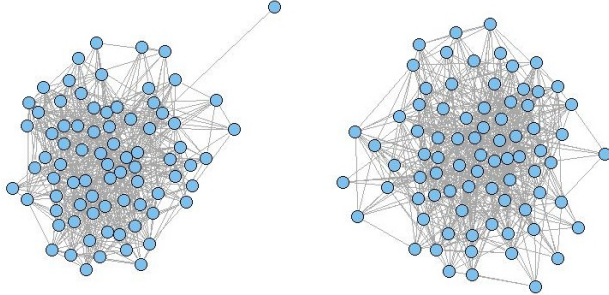
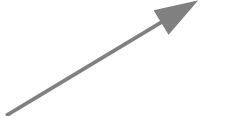
- ➔ We want to examine the relationship between *E. alphitoides* and the structure of residential microbial community
  - ➔ reduction of fungal community diversity?
  - ➔ increase of bacterial community diversity?
- ➔ Is the phyllosphere dominated by antagonistic interactions between microbial inhabitants due to the high level of competition?



# Experimental setup



3 trees  
4 branches/tree  
10 leaves /branch

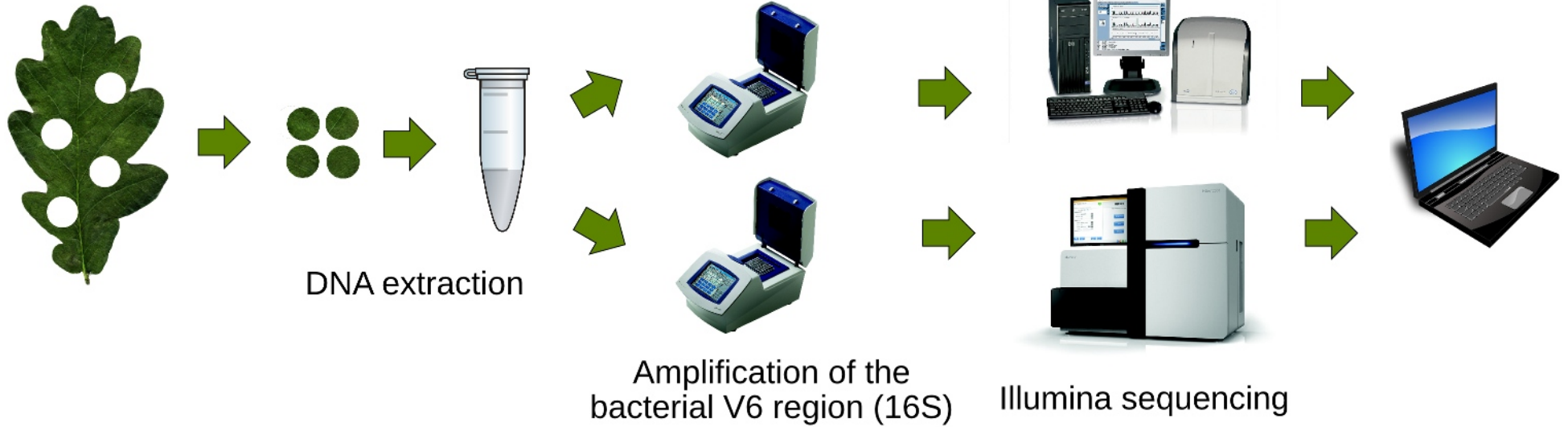


bacteria  
fungi

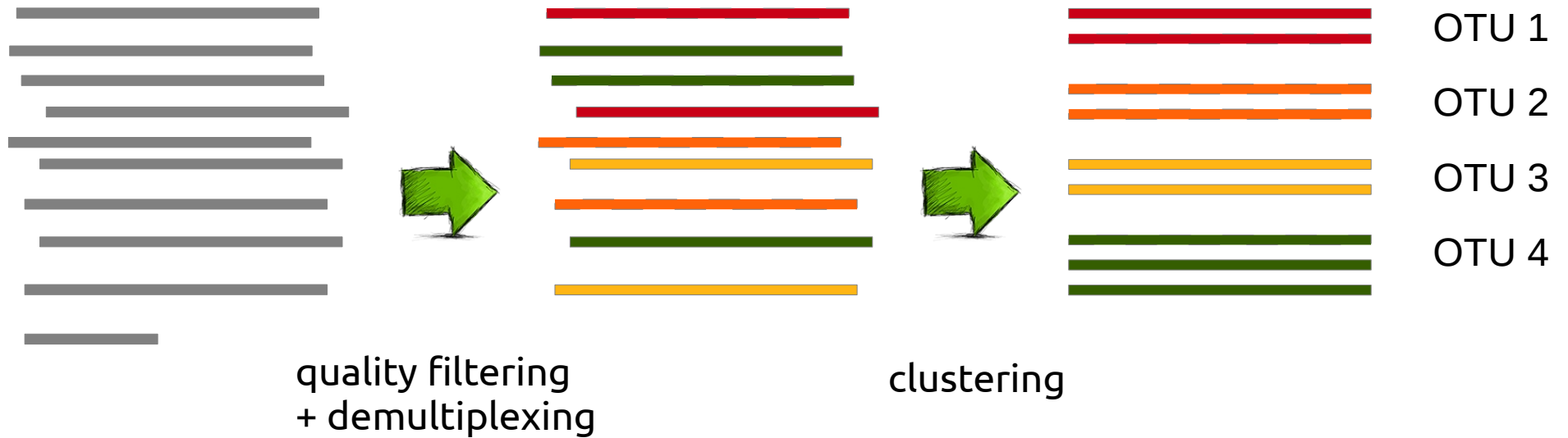


powdery mildew

# Workflow



# Processing of high throughput sequencing data



OTU 1

*Species 1*

OTU 2

*Species 2*

OTU 3

No blast hit

OTU 4

No blast hit

taxonomy  
assignment

OTU table

	Sample 1	Sample 2	Taxonomy
OTU1	1	1	Species 1
OTU2	2	0	Species 2
OTU3	0	2	No blast hit
OTU4	1	2	No blast hit

# The oak phyllosphere harbors very rich microbial communities

## ➡ Fungi:

➡ 251,000 sequences

➡ 2,100 per sample

➡ 1,081 OTUs

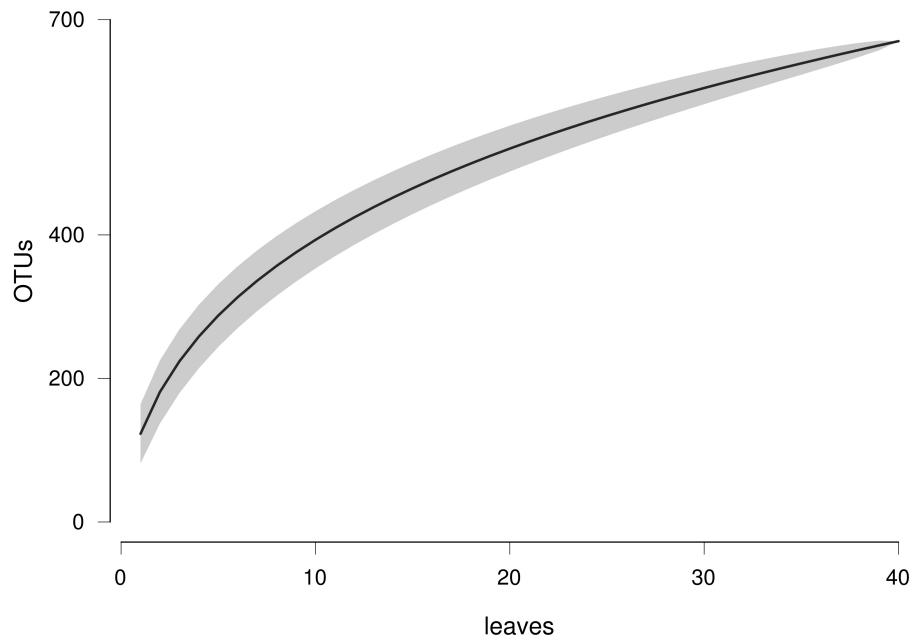
## ➡ Bacteria:

➡  $2.4 \cdot 10^6$  sequences

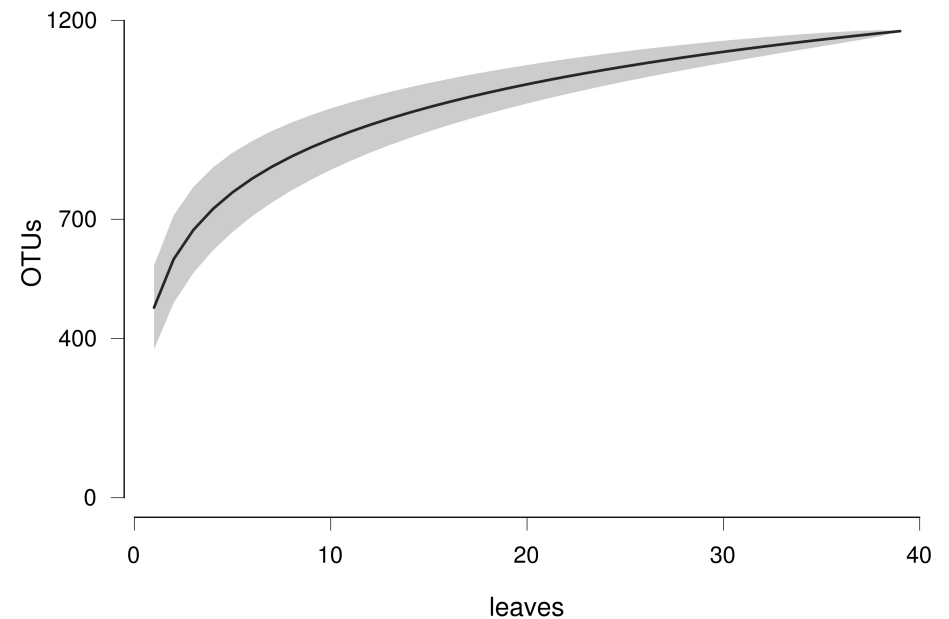
➡ 20,000 per sample

➡ 1,507 OTUs

susceptible tree



susceptible tree





# The oak phyllosphere harbors very rich microbial communities

## ➔ **Fungi:**

➔ 251,000 sequences

➔ 2,100 per sample

➔ 1,081 OTUs

## ➔ **Bacteria:**

➔  $2.4 \cdot 10^6$  sequences

➔ 20,000 per sample

➔ 1,507 OTUs

Massively parallel 454 sequencing indicates hyperdiverse fungal communities in temperate *Quercus macrocarpa* phyllosphere

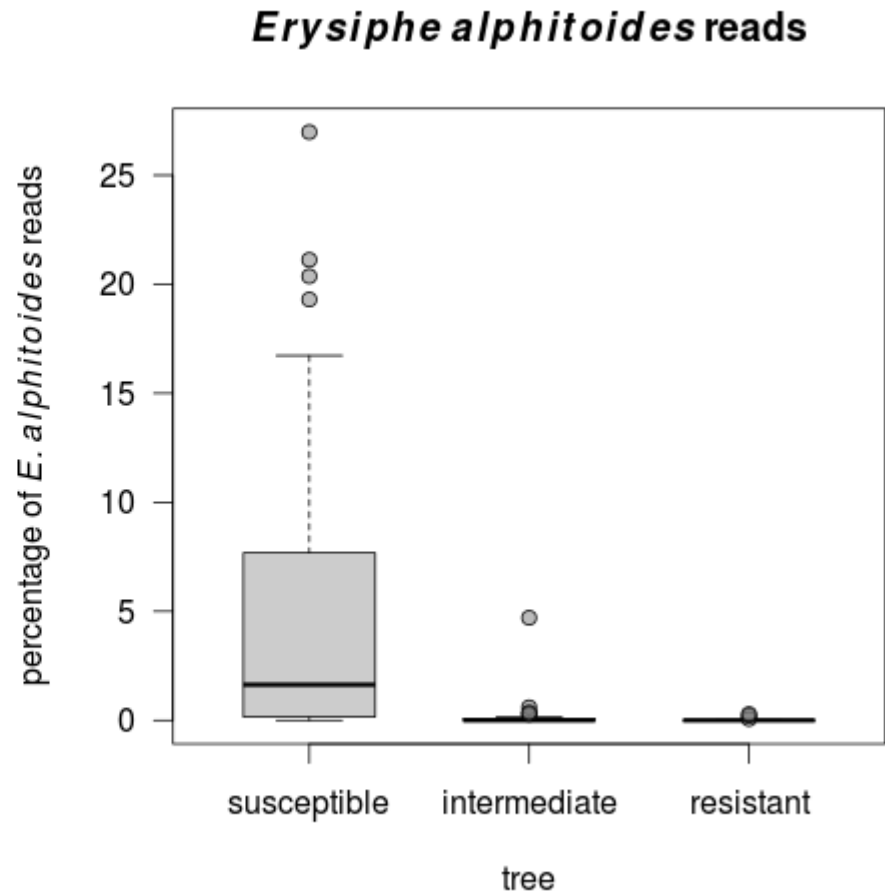
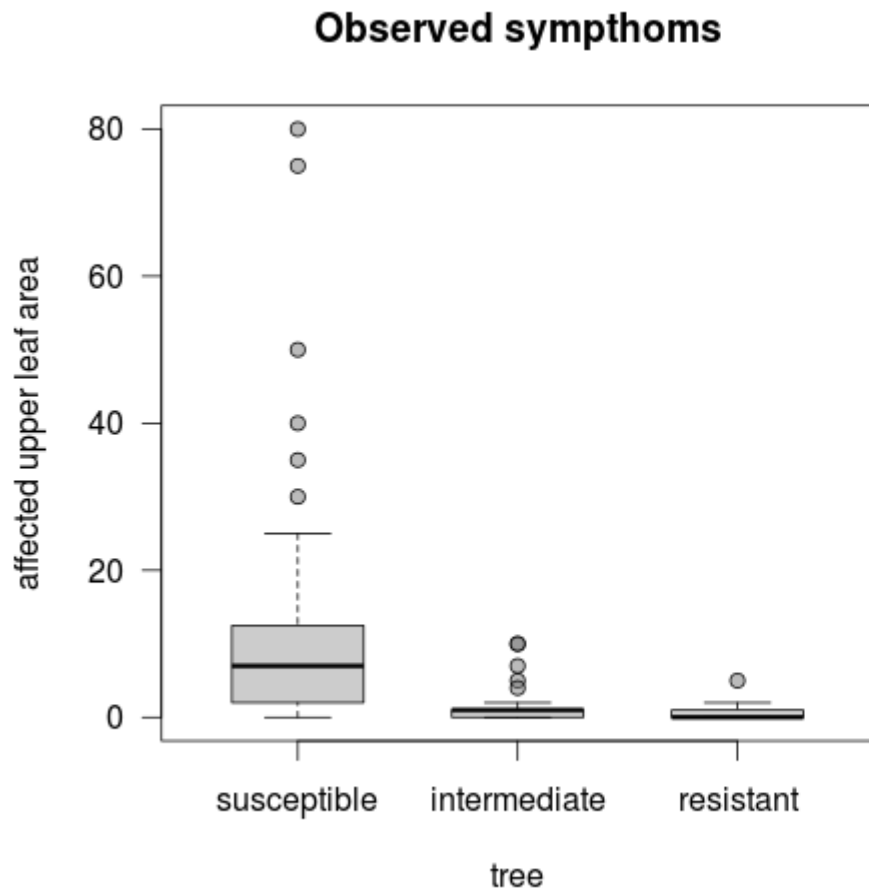
# Microbial richness and diversity differ among the trees

		p-value	results
Richness	Fungi	<0.001	$u_2 = u_3 > u_1$
	Bacteria	<0.001	$u_2 > u_1 = u_3$
Simpson diversity	Fungi	<0.001	$u_2 = u_1 > u_3$
	Bacteria	<0.001	$u_2 > u_1 = u_3$

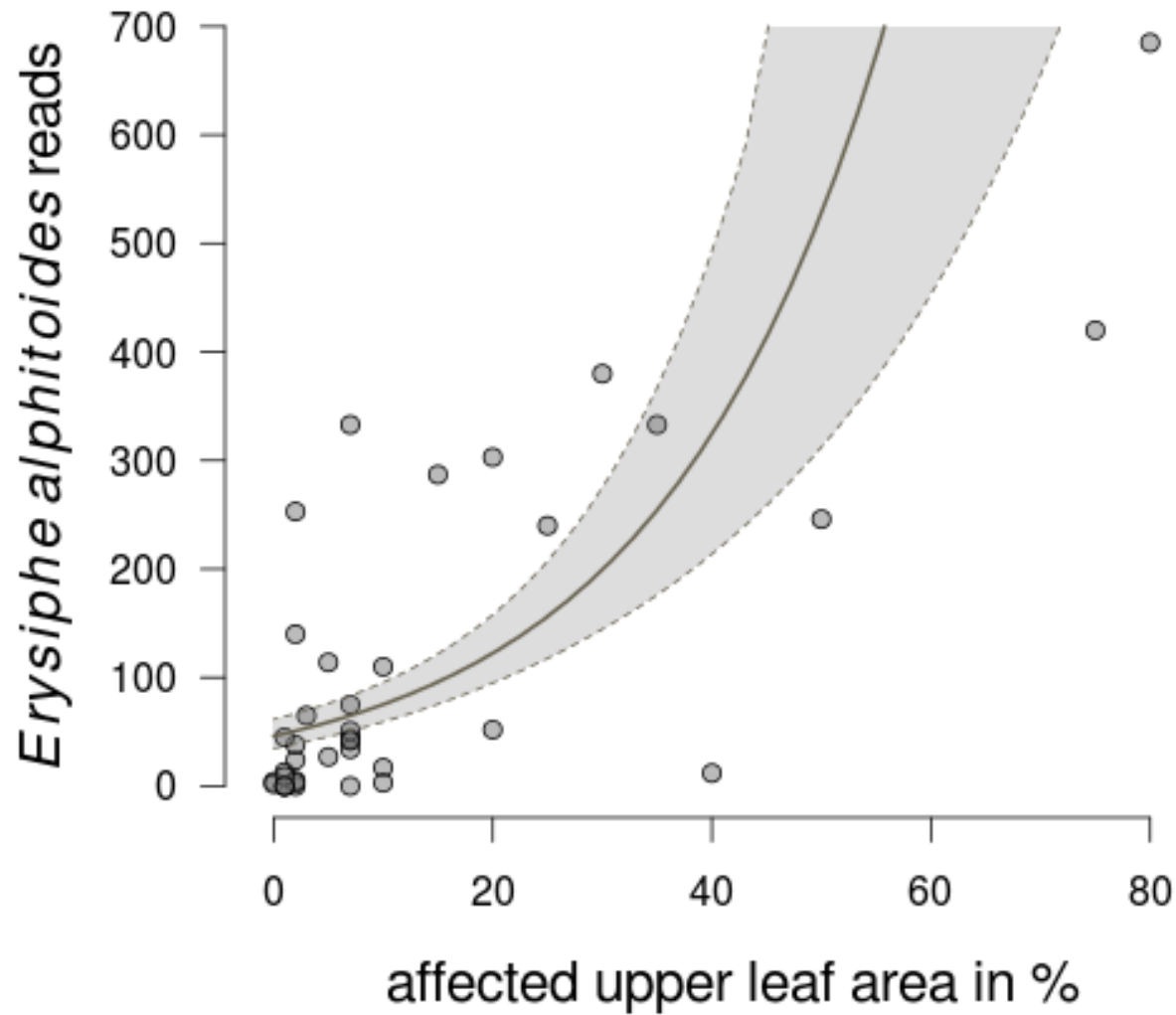
 The mean levels for bacterial diversity and richness are highest for the intermediately susceptible tree.

( NBGLM for richness; GLM for diversity)

Susceptible tree shows the highest variation in the number of reads and the level of observed symptoms



# Number of reads correlates with observed PM symptoms

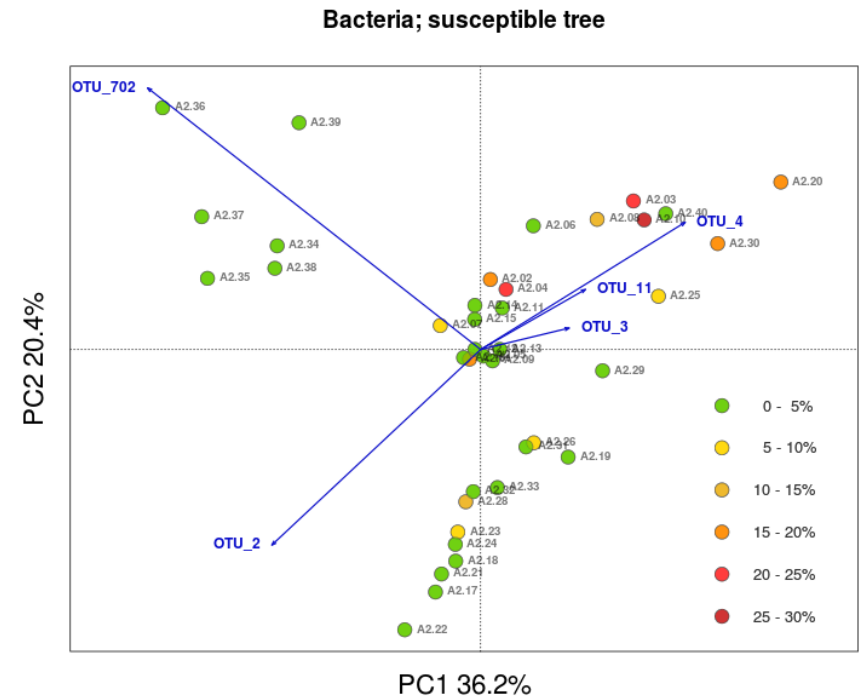
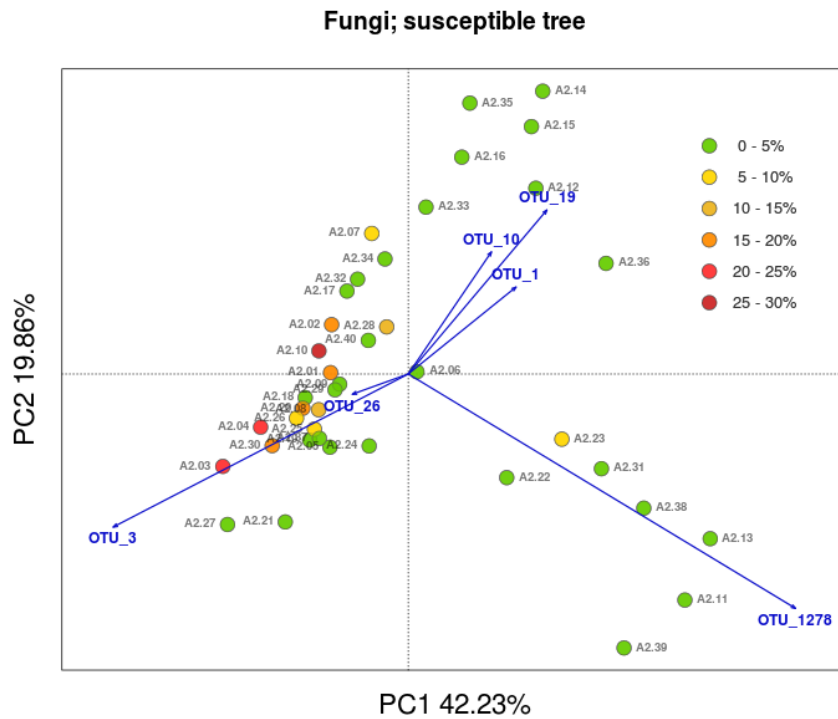




# Powdery mildew does not influence the microbial diversity

			coefficient	p-value
Richness	observed PM symptoms	Fungi	0.00667	<b>0.002</b>
		Bacteria	-0.00256	0.202
	%age of <i>E. alphitoides</i> reads	Fungi	0.02213	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
		Bacteria	-0.00204	0.697
Diversity	observed PM symptoms	Fungi	0.00070	0.051
		Bacteria	0.00034	0.618
	%age of <i>E. alphitoides</i> reads	Fungi	0.00153	0.097
		Bacteria	0.00134	0.448

# The powdery mildew-infection is associated with modified microbial community composition



# What are the underlying mechanisms?

- ➔ PM directly affects bacterial composition by secreting certain metabolites
- ➔ PM infection alters the chemical and/or physiological conditions of leaves which influences the colonization and growth of epiphytic bacteria
- ➔ PM itself can harbor diverse bacteria and represent a new microbial habitat
- ➔ the residential microbiota differs among the leaves in the first place, which either facilitates or hinders the leaf colonization by PM

# Inference of correlations from compositional data

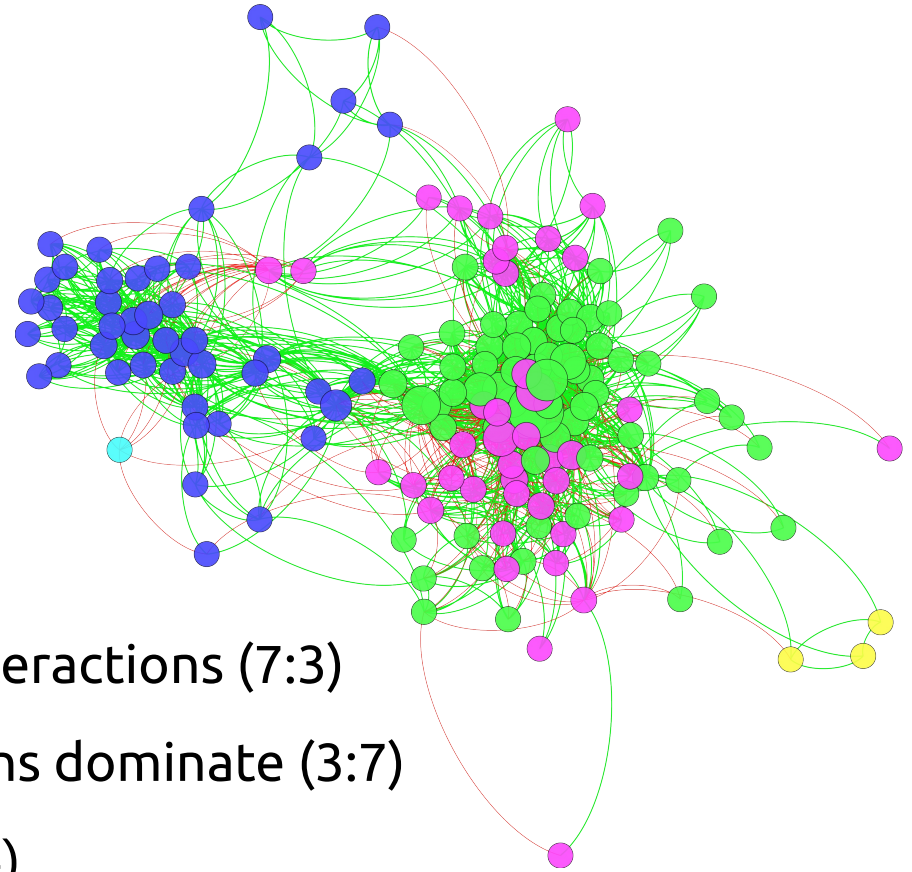
➡ SparCC (Friedman & Alm 2012)

➡ positive interactions > negative interactions (7:3)

➡ fungi-bacteria: negative interactions dominate (3:7)

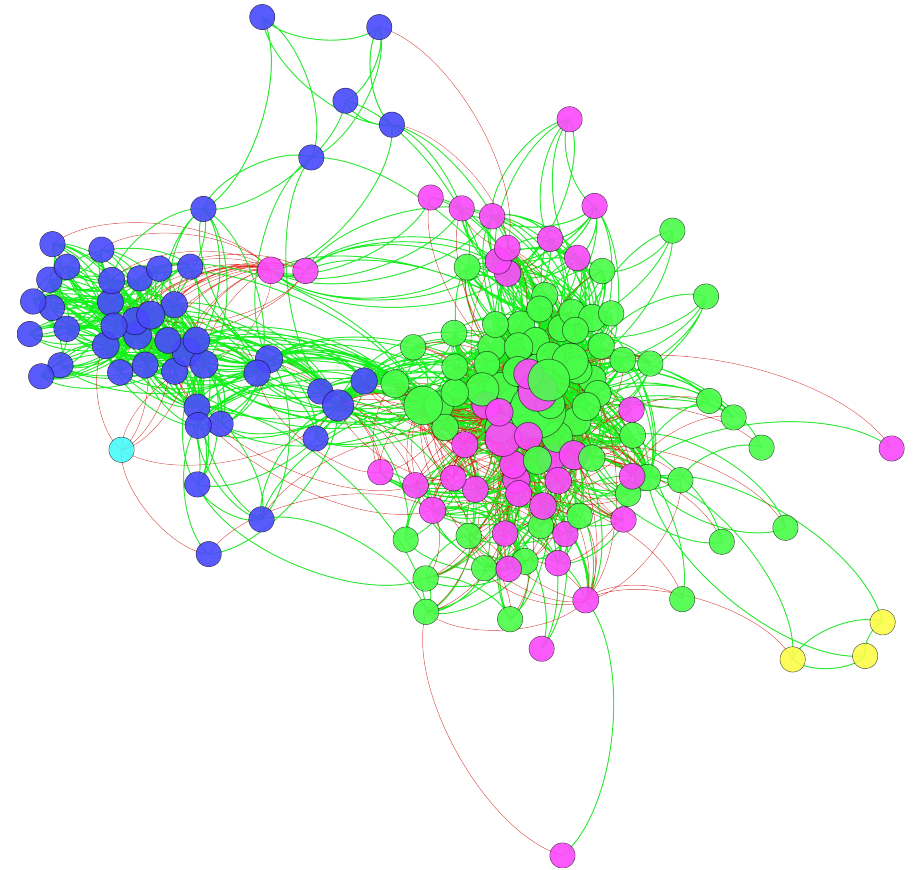
➡ not for the PM-susceptible tree (6:4)

➡ *E. alphitoides*: negative interactions dominate (3:7)





# Inference of correlations from compositional data



➔ cooperation, not competition, is more prevalent in microbial phyllosphere community (?)

➔ Polz et al. (2013) → strong niche-specific selection pressure and massive local gene-exchange promote stable functional networks, which increases the robustness of communities to perturbation.

Merci!

