

# Isolation, characterization and application of soil microorganisms useful for the degradation of recalcitrant pollutants and for the stimulation of plant growth

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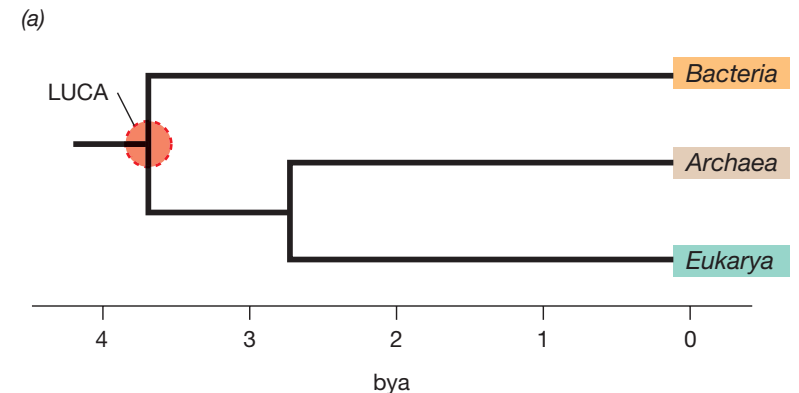
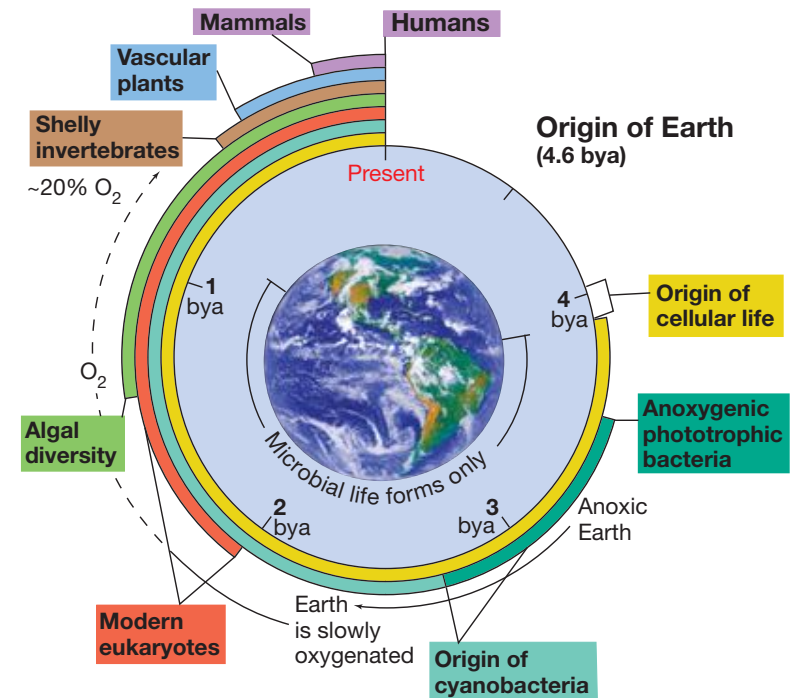
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## GENERAL FEATURES OF BACTERIA

- Oldest organisms on Earth
- Unicellular, prokaryotic, small
- Highest surface/volume ratio
- Highest diversity on Earth
- Simple yet extremely versatile (“small but not stupid”)
- Infinite and constant adaptation to new conditions (xenobiosis is hence a momentary condition)
- All possible metabolisms are represented in bacteria

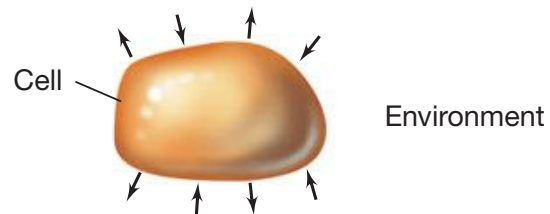




## I. Properties of all cells

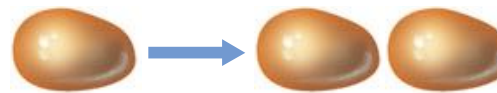
### Compartmentalization and metabolism

A cell is a compartment that takes up nutrients from the environment, transforms them, and releases wastes into the environment. The cell is thus an *open* system.



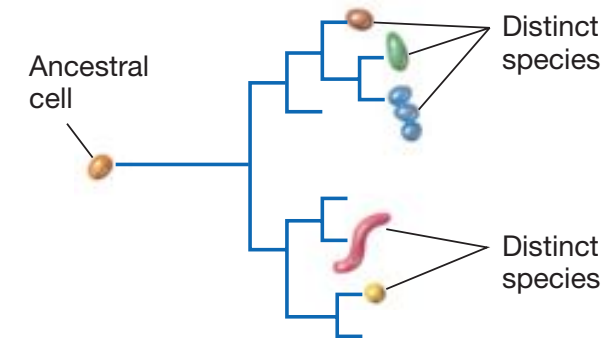
### Growth

Chemicals from the environment are turned into new cells under the genetic direction of preexisting cells.



### Evolution

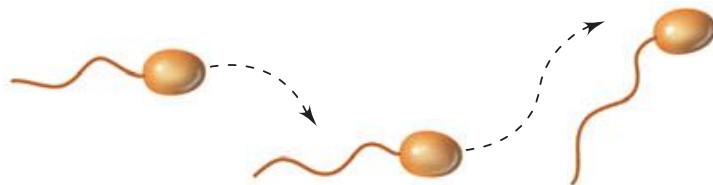
Cells contain genes and *evolve* to display new biological properties. Phylogenetic trees show the evolutionary relationships between cells.



## II. Properties of some cells

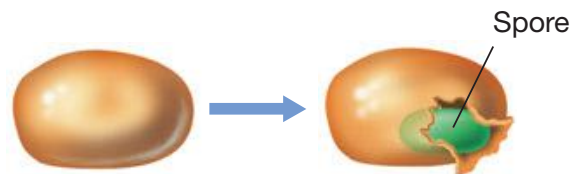
### Motility

Some cells are capable of self-propulsion.



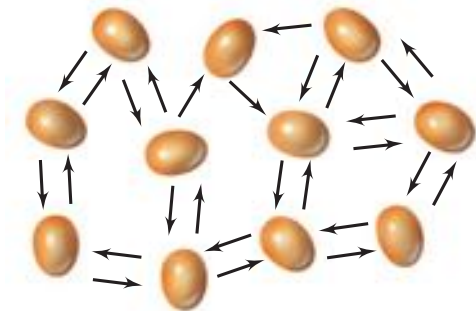
### Differentiation

Some cells can form new cell structures such as a spore, usually as part of a cellular life cycle.



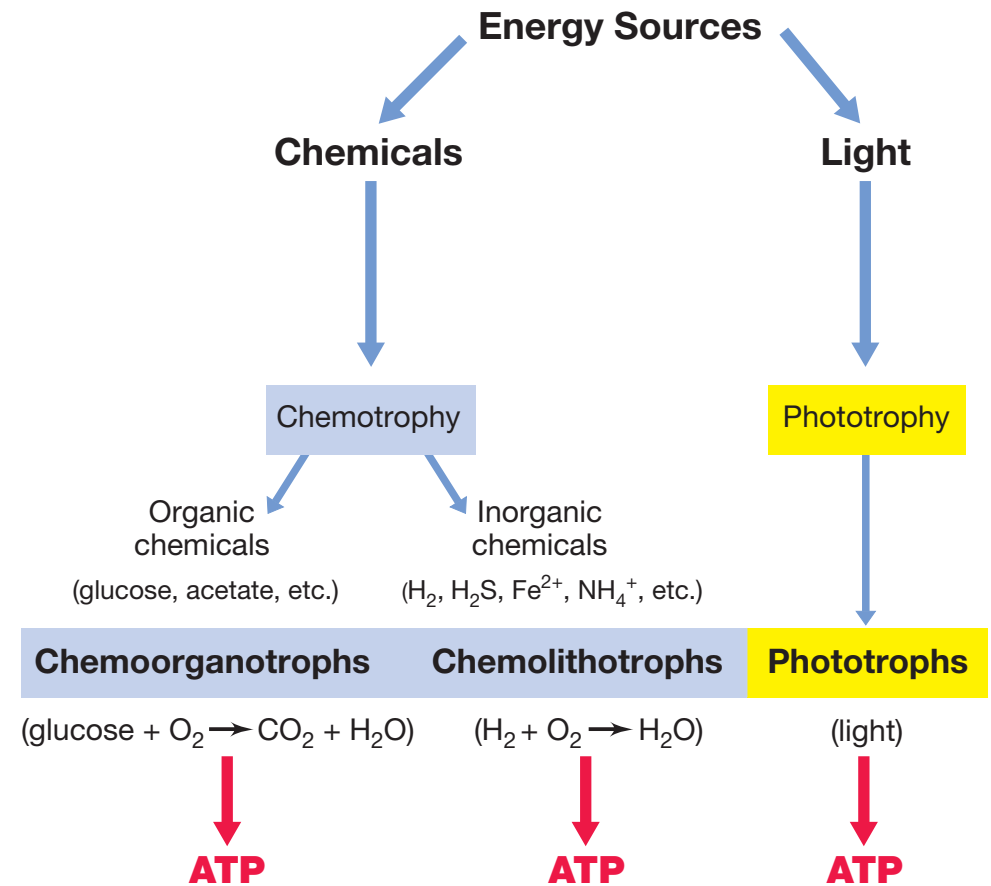
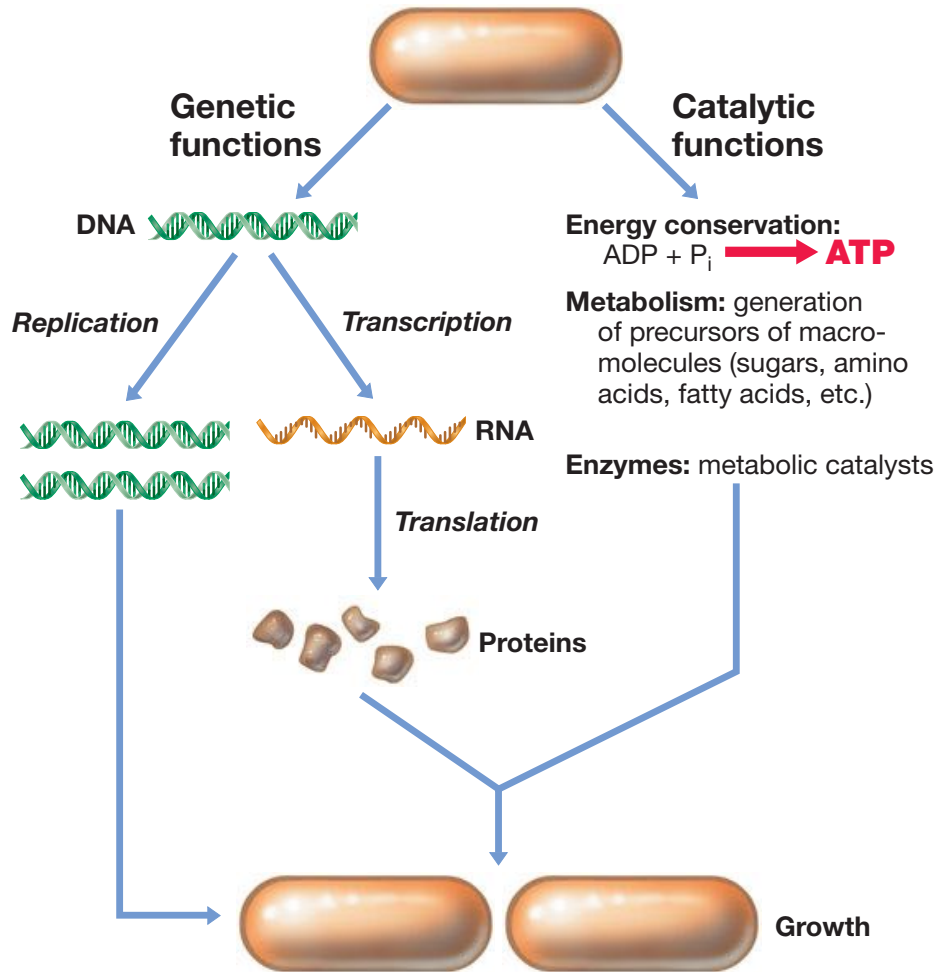
### Communication

Many cells *communicate* or *interact* by means of chemicals that are released or taken up.





# BACTERIA





## Processes depending on direct or indirect MO activity

OM decomposition

Nutrients cycling

Nutrients release

Atmospheric N<sub>2</sub> fixation

Suppressions of plants diseases

Soil structure

Pollutants degradation and mitigation

Sink and source of GHG



## How many they are?



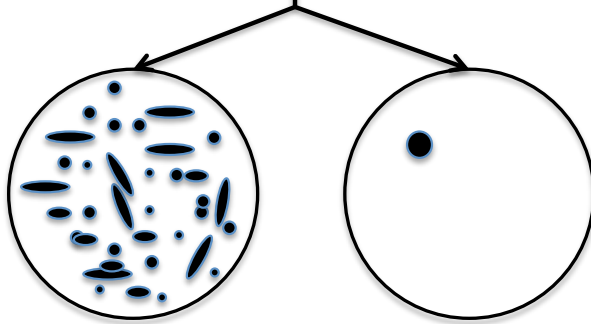
microbial biomass in 1ha of soils  
= a cow!

Up to 1 million of species in a gram  
of soil





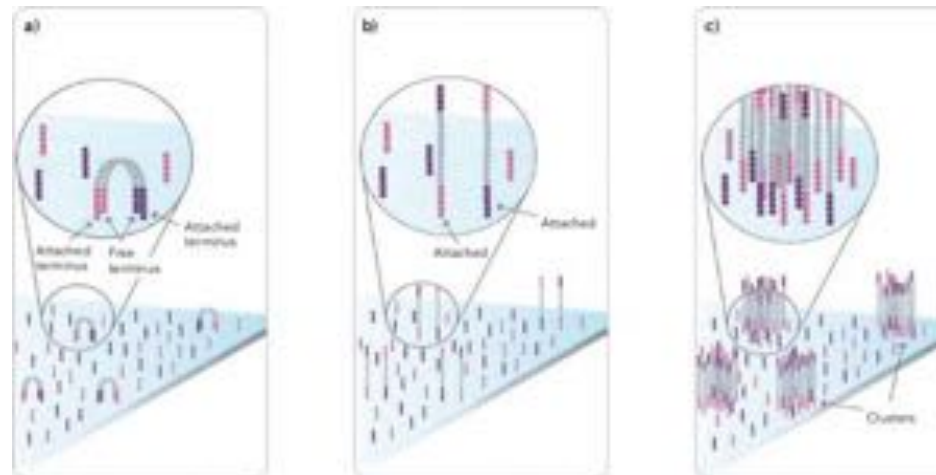
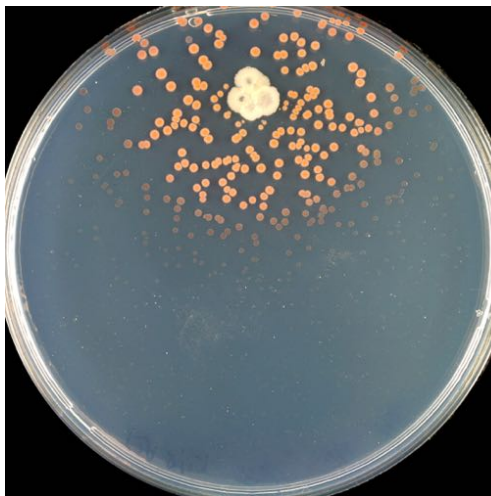
## THE GREAT PLATE COUNT ANOMALY



Microscopio

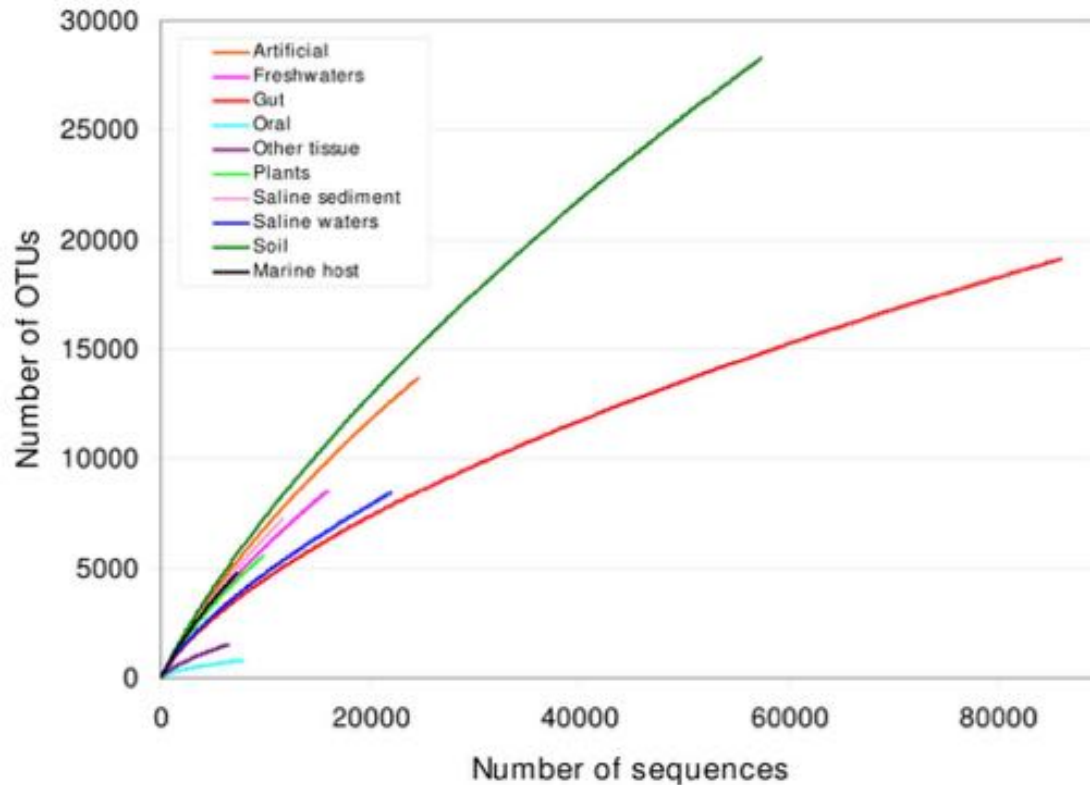
Capsula Petri

- Most soil microorganism are not cultivable
- We can address this “unculturable majority with molecular methods
- Next generation sequencing methods are giving us the possibility to “virtually” analyse all microorganisms that are present in a given environmen

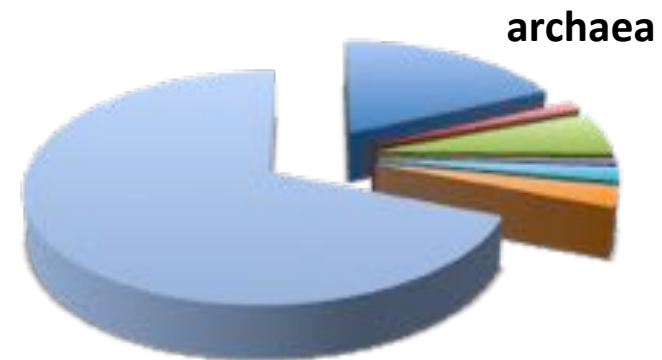
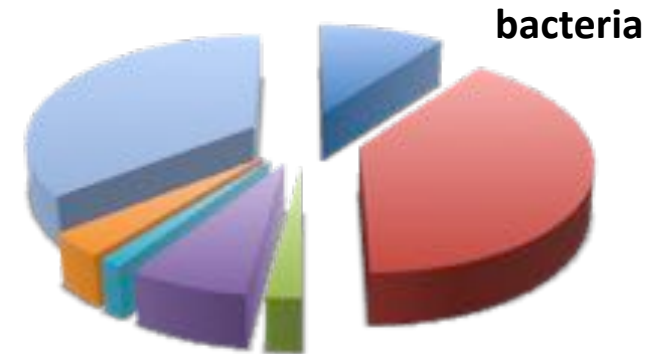




# PROKARYOTIC DIVERSITY IN SOIL vs OTHER ENVIRONMENTS



■ soil ■ human ■ ocean ■ gut ■ freshwater ■ plants ■ other



RDP (<http://rdp.cme.msu.edu/>) database query among 1727996 (bacteria) and 73354 (archaea) total sequences

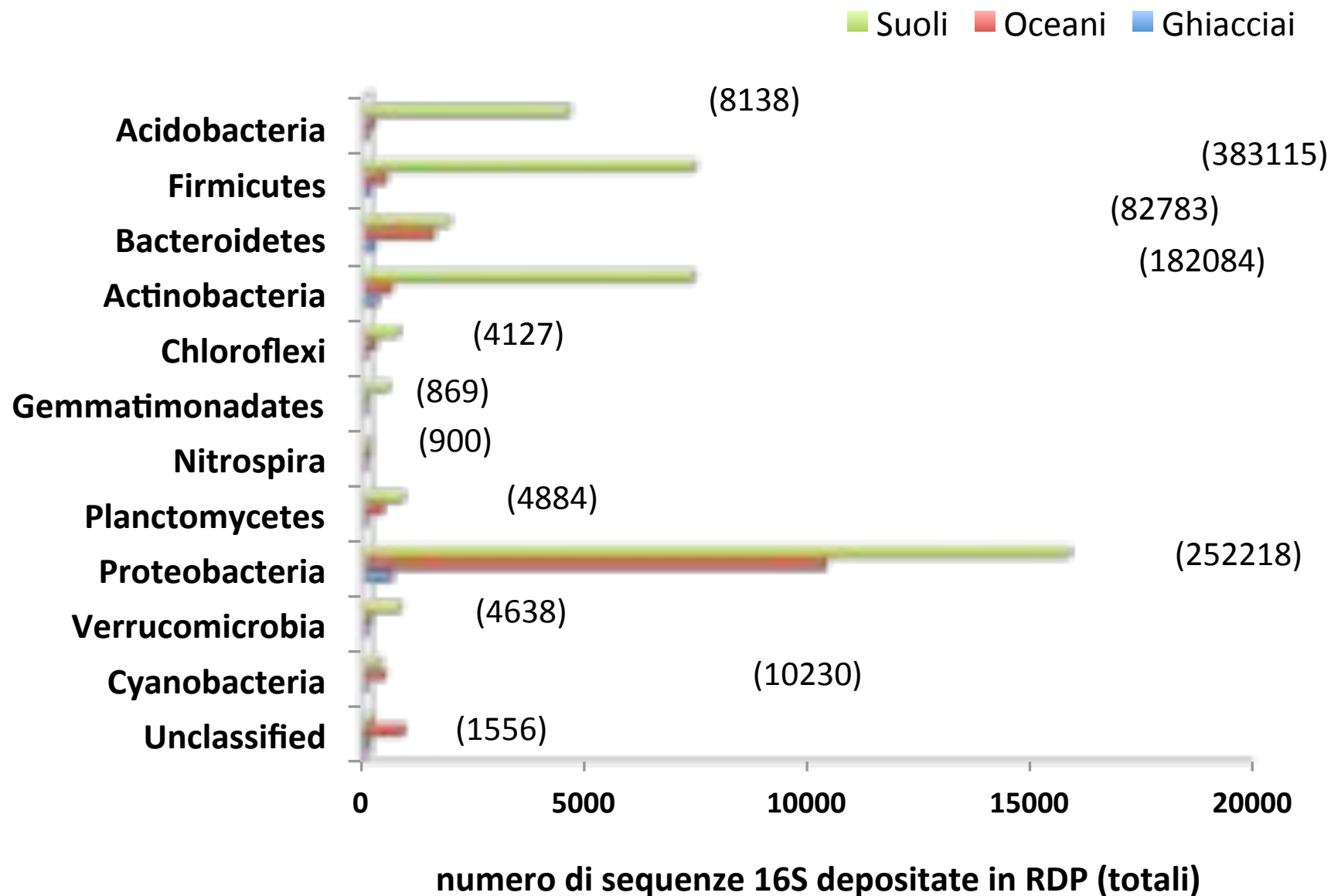
Tamames et al. *BMC Microbiology* 2010, **10**:85



N° of 16S sequences in RDP does not reflect prokaryotic environmental distribution and abundance. Soil is most challenging



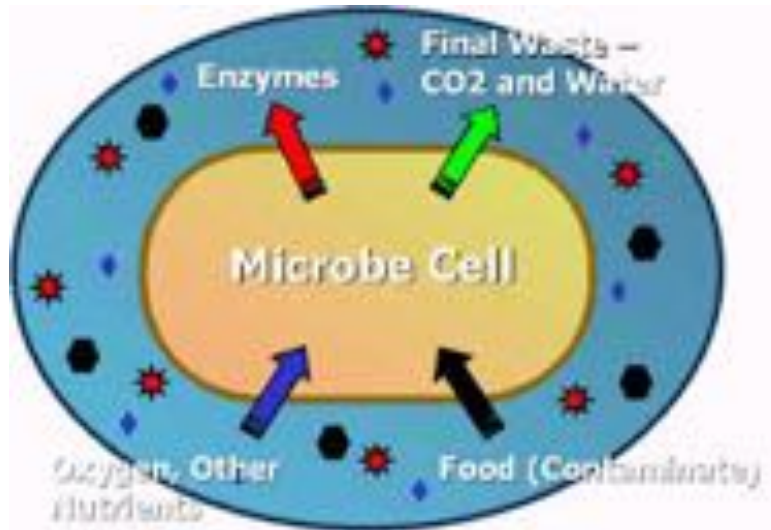
## PROKARYOTIC DIVERSITY IN SOILS: WHO IS THERE?







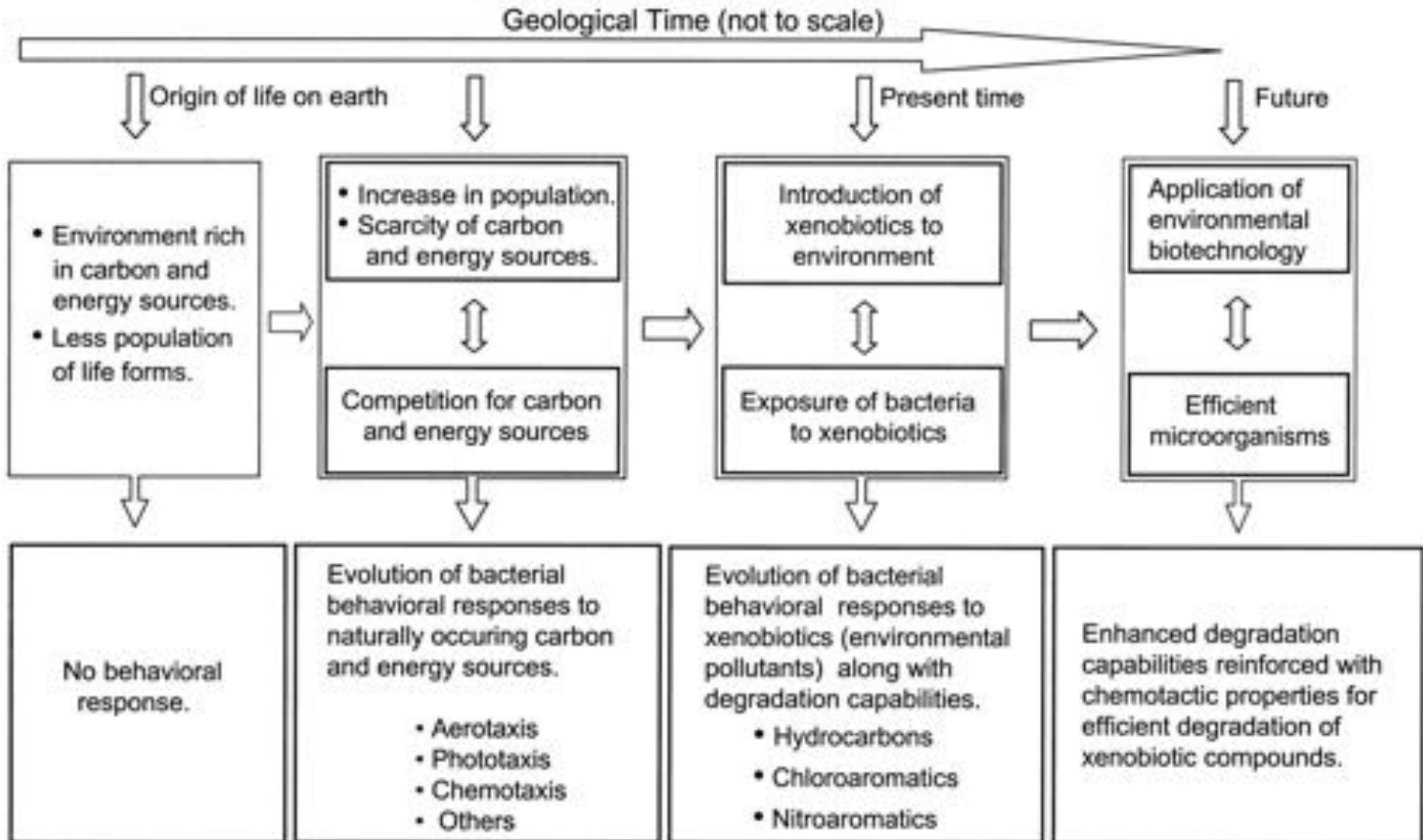
# BACTERIA AND BIOREMEDIATION



- **Xenobiotic:** a chemical compound that is foreign to a living organism
- **Mineralization:** contaminants are used as C source and completely metabolized;
- **Co-metabolism:** contaminants are not used as C source; they are transformed at different levels.
- **Immobilization / partitioning:** pollutants' bioavailability is reduced through adsorption, accumulation and/or precipitation phenomena.



# XENOBIOTICS AND MICROBES



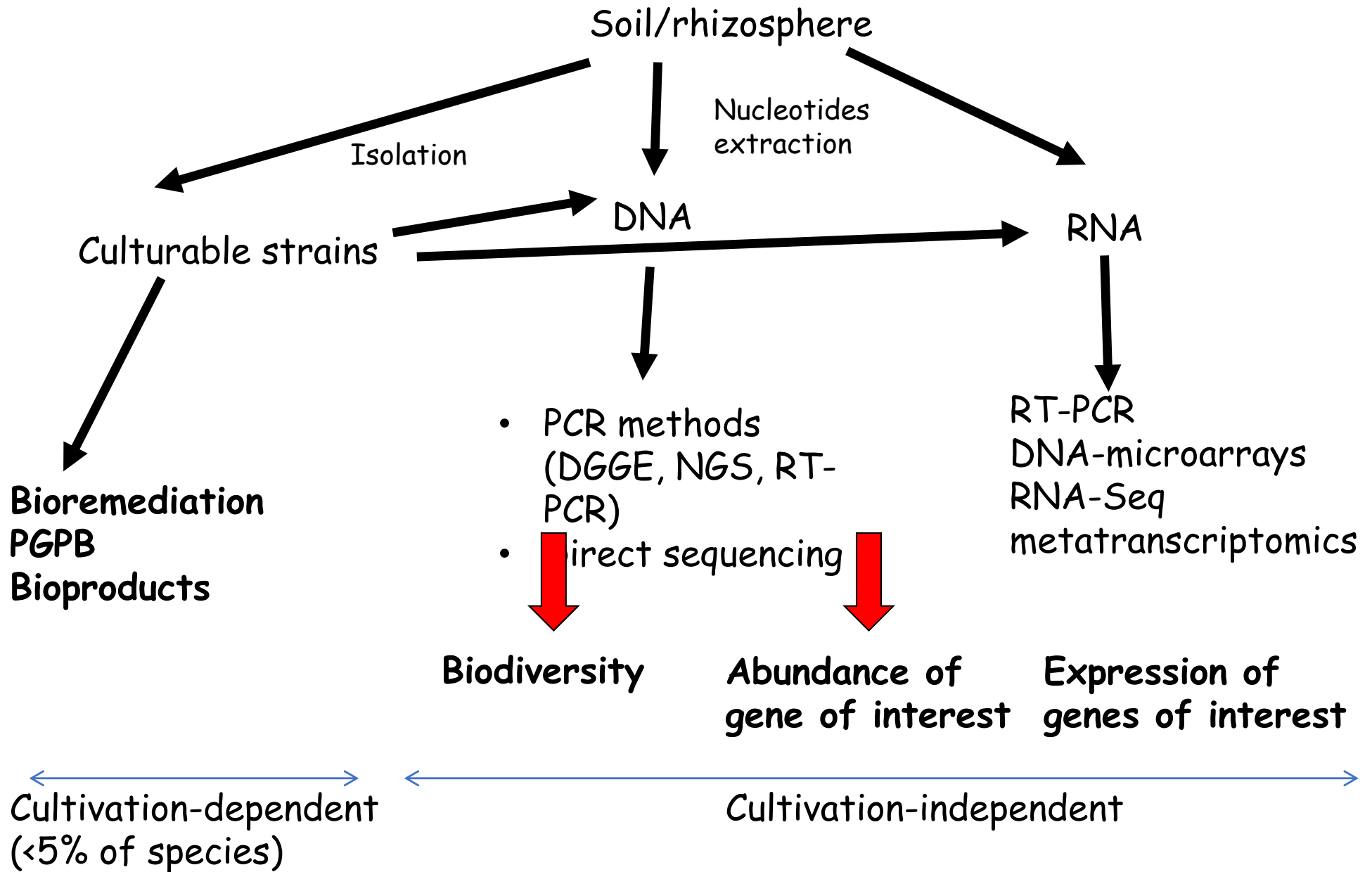


**Table 1**  
Degrading activity of some simple bacteria, and in mixture [1,12].

Organism	PAH degradation (%), standard deviation it is $\pm 3\%$				
	Naphthalene	Acenaphthene	Fluorene	Anthracene	Pyrene
<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	15.5	28.0	24.4	25.4	92.3
<i>Pycnoporus sanguineus</i>	12.0	7.0	17.6	15.6	4.4
<i>Coriolus versicolor</i>	27.4	2.0	23.0	22.4	42.0
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	29.4	20.6	20.6	19.0	32.0
<i>Fomitopsis pinastri</i>	19.5	7.5	7.0	31.7	7.3
<i>Daedalea elegans</i>	35.8	5.9	5.9	2.4	26.1
<i>Pycnoporus sanguineus</i> mixed with <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	13.5	29	24.2	11.4	17.4
<i>Coriolus versicolor</i> mixed with <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	15.5	27	24	25.0	93.7
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> mixed with <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	13	25	19	20.0	17.0
<i>Fomitopsis pinastri</i> mixed with <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	13.1	16.3	16.3	12.0	93.7
<i>Daedalea elegans</i> mixed with <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	23	14.9	14.9	3.4	46.4
Aerated soil at 40% WHC in presence of <i>Sphingomonas</i> and <i>Azospirillum</i>		100	100	84	87
Aerated soil at 40% WHC; $\text{KNO}_3$ and $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4$ in presence of <i>Sphingomonas</i> and <i>Azospirillum</i>		100	100	81	90
Aerated soil at 40% WHC; nutrients; biosurfactant MAT10		100	100	79	90
Aerated soil at 40% WHC; nutrients; ferric ion added as ferric octoate		100	100	87	88

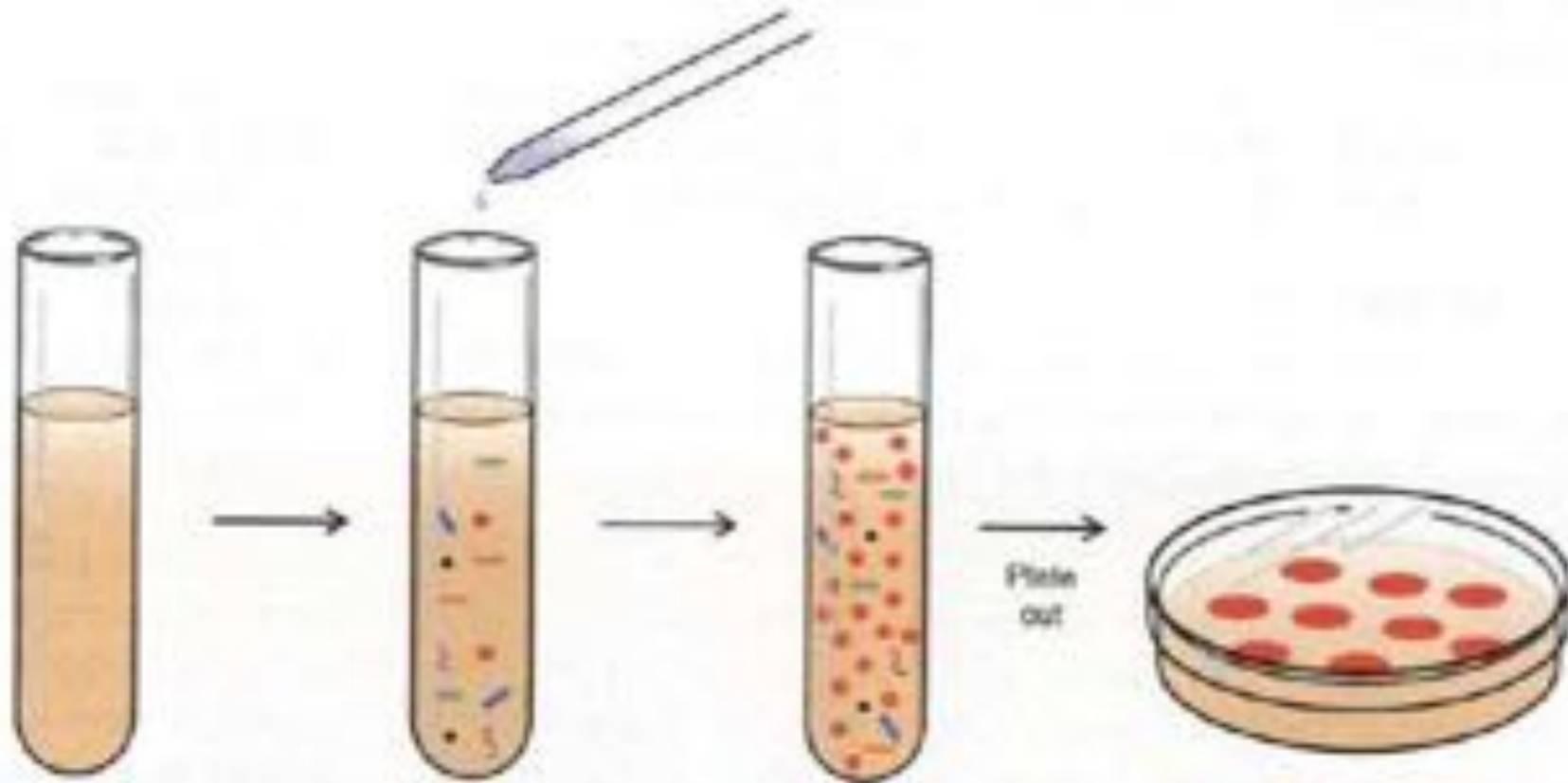


# EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES FOR SOIL MICROBIOLOGY STUDIES





## CULTURE-BASED METHODS: ENRICHMENT



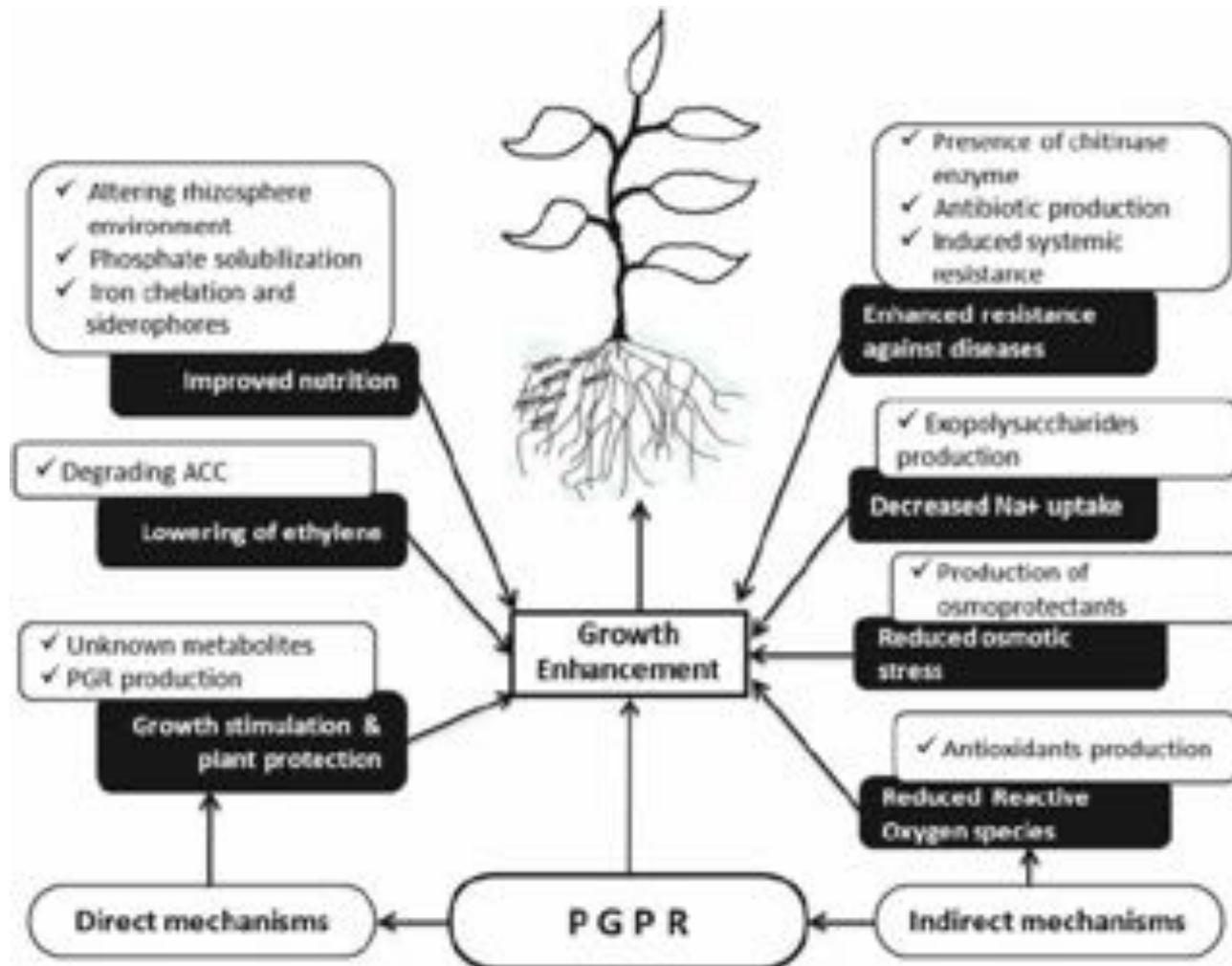
Medium contains select nutrient sources chosen because few bacteria, other than the organism of interest, can use them.

Sample that contains a wide variety of organisms, including the organism of interest, is added to the medium.

Organism of interest can multiply, whereas most others cannot.

Enriched sample is plated onto appropriate agar medium. A pure culture is obtained by selecting a single colony of the organism of interest.







- Soil microorganisms can indeed be a “holy grail” for remediation of environmental pollution. But:
  - How can we look for and find the best degraders?
  - How can we screen and apply them efficiently?
  - Can we couple degrading and plant growth promoting abilities?
  - Can we address very recalcitrant pollutants?
  - Is there still space for research?





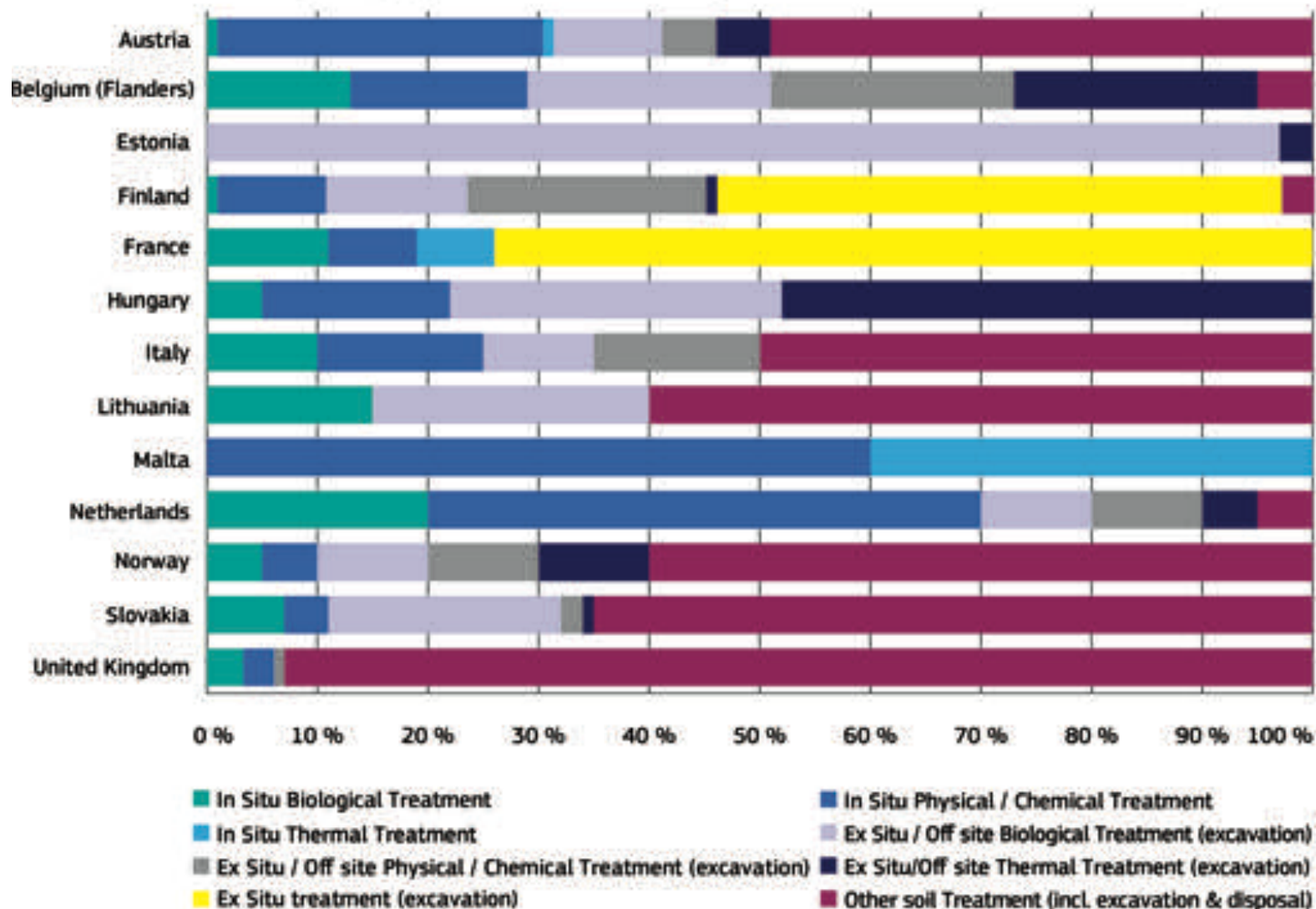
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# Enrichment, selection and screening of degrading bacteria: results of the LIFE- BIOREST project



## REMEDATION IN THE EU

Most frequently applied remediation techniques for contaminated soil





LIFE BIOREST proposes an biological method for *in loco* remediation of hydrocarbons contaminated soils.



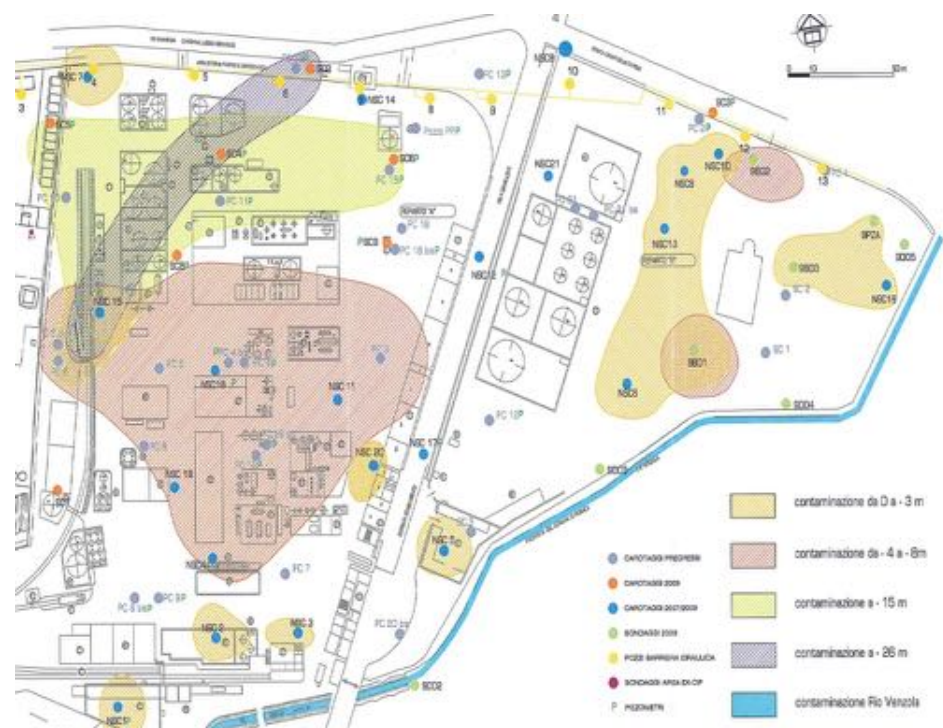
1. Demonstrate the efficiency of a bioremediation approach for polluted soils based on the **BIOAUGMENTATION** with autochthonous, ecologically-adapted **BACTERIA** and **FUNGI**
2. Demonstrate the feasibility to **SCALE-UP** the production of microorganisms active in bioremediation.
3. Optimize protocols and **GUIDELINES FOR BIOREMEDIATION** that can be successfully applied in other scenarios.
4. Disseminate at the European level the clear societal benefits of addressing the **SOIL CONTAMINATION** issue.





## Fidenza, Emilia Romagna

The experiments will be held at the Carbochimica industrial area, the national interest site (Sin) of Fidenza.





## Implementation action

ACTION B1

Optimized soil  
bioremediation by  
selected  
degrading strains



ACTION B2

Upscaled  
production of  
microorganisms



ACTION B3

*In situ*  
bioremediation  
and revegetation

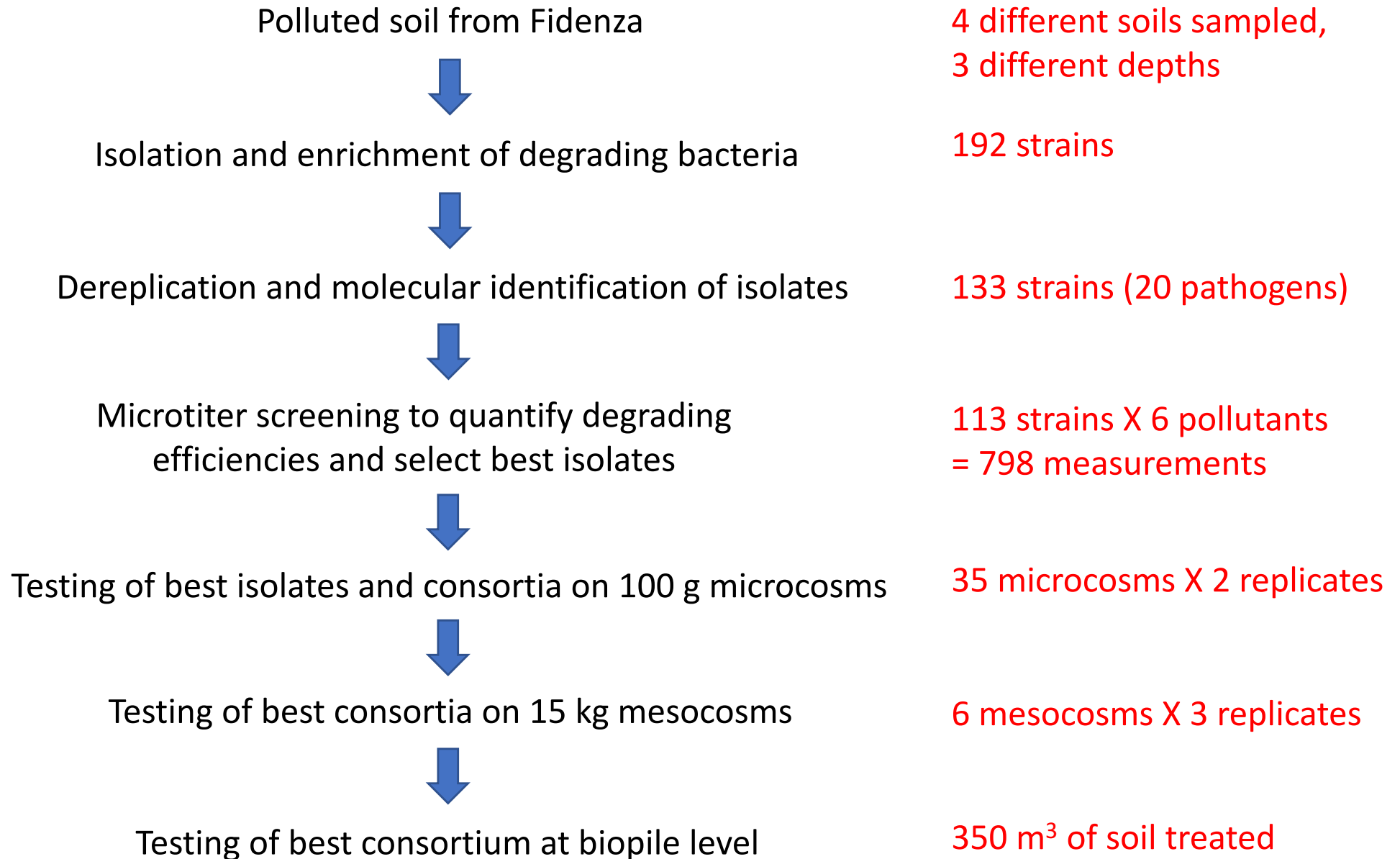


## Monitoring action

Microbiological and ecotoxicological monitoring  
LCA – Life cycle assessment and socio-economical evaluation

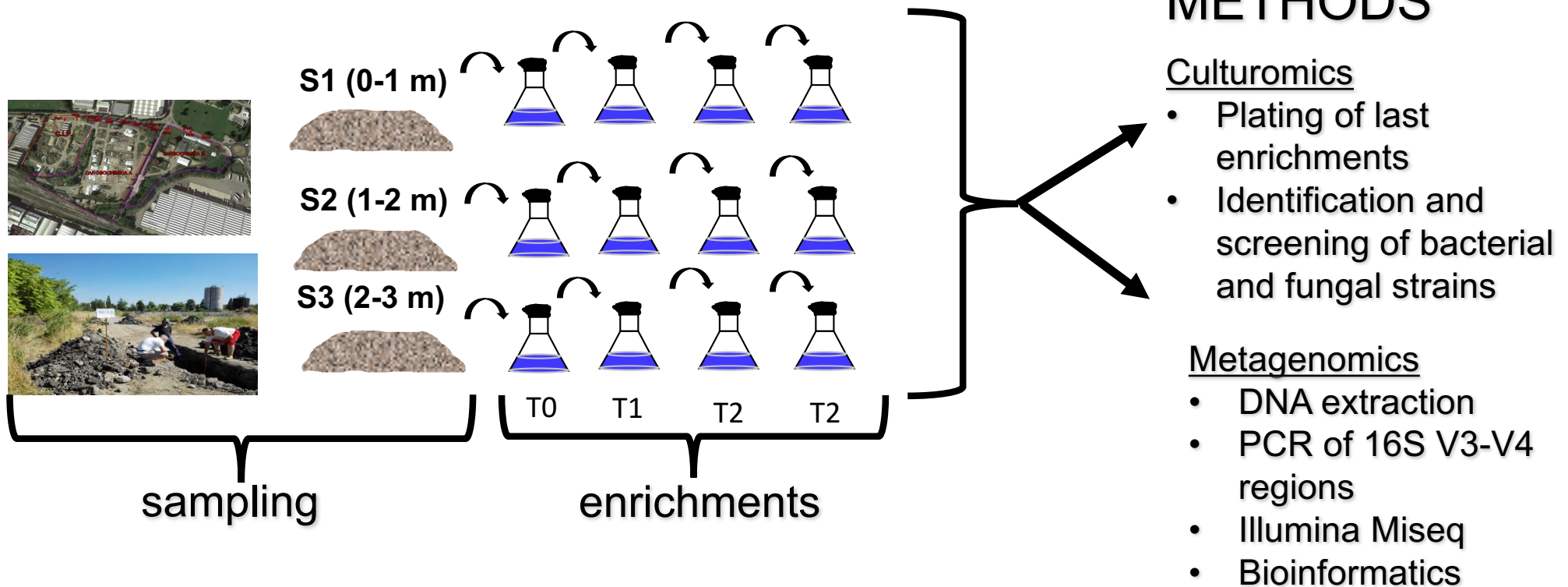


## LIFE-BIOREST SCHEME AND NUMBERS





## ENRICHMENTS - A MOLECULAR FOCUS



- Samples taken at 3 soil depths (1, 2 and 3 m)
- Sequential enrichments on M9+7 target pollutants as sole C source
- Samples for metagenomics taken from the original soil and every each enrichment step (1, 2 and 3 weeks)
- Strains isolation at the end of enrichment (3 weeks)





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# Enrichment Liquid Cultures

to favor development of microbial community capable of tolerating and degrading specific single contaminant

10g contaminated soil + MINERAL MEDIUM (M9) containing as sole carbon source

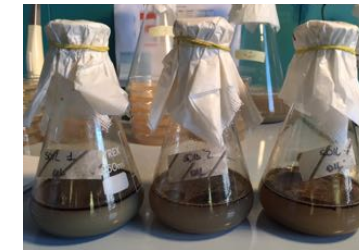
## BENZENE



## PARAFFIN OIL



## CRUDE OIL



Three consecutive enrichment subcultures done in the same conditions



**28** bacterial  
isolates



**55** bacterial  
isolates



**9** bacterial isolates





# ENRICHMENTS

## BENZENE



28 bacterial isolates

## PARAFFIN OIL

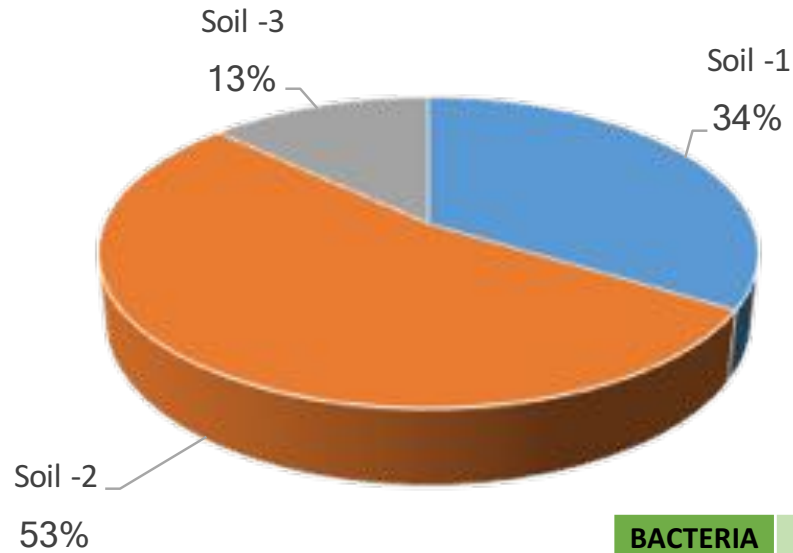


55 bacterial isolates

## CRUDE OIL



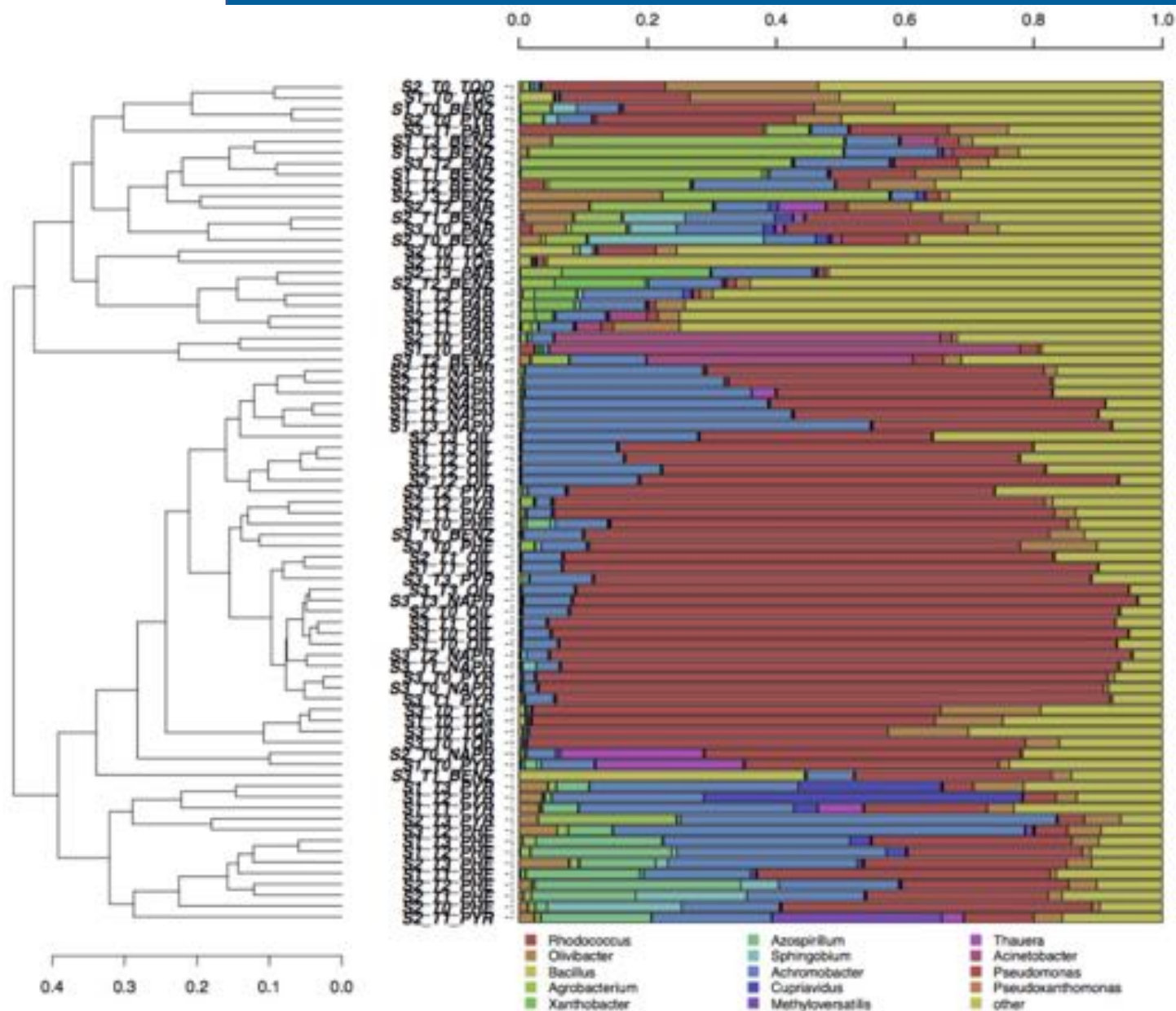
9 bacterial isolates



BACTERIA	B	N	P	Phe	Pa	O	total
Soil -1m	28	12	7	15	15	4	81
Soil -2m	18	14	6	12	34	9	93
Soil -3m	9	9	5	7	14	1	45
	25%	16%	10%	15%	29%	7%	219

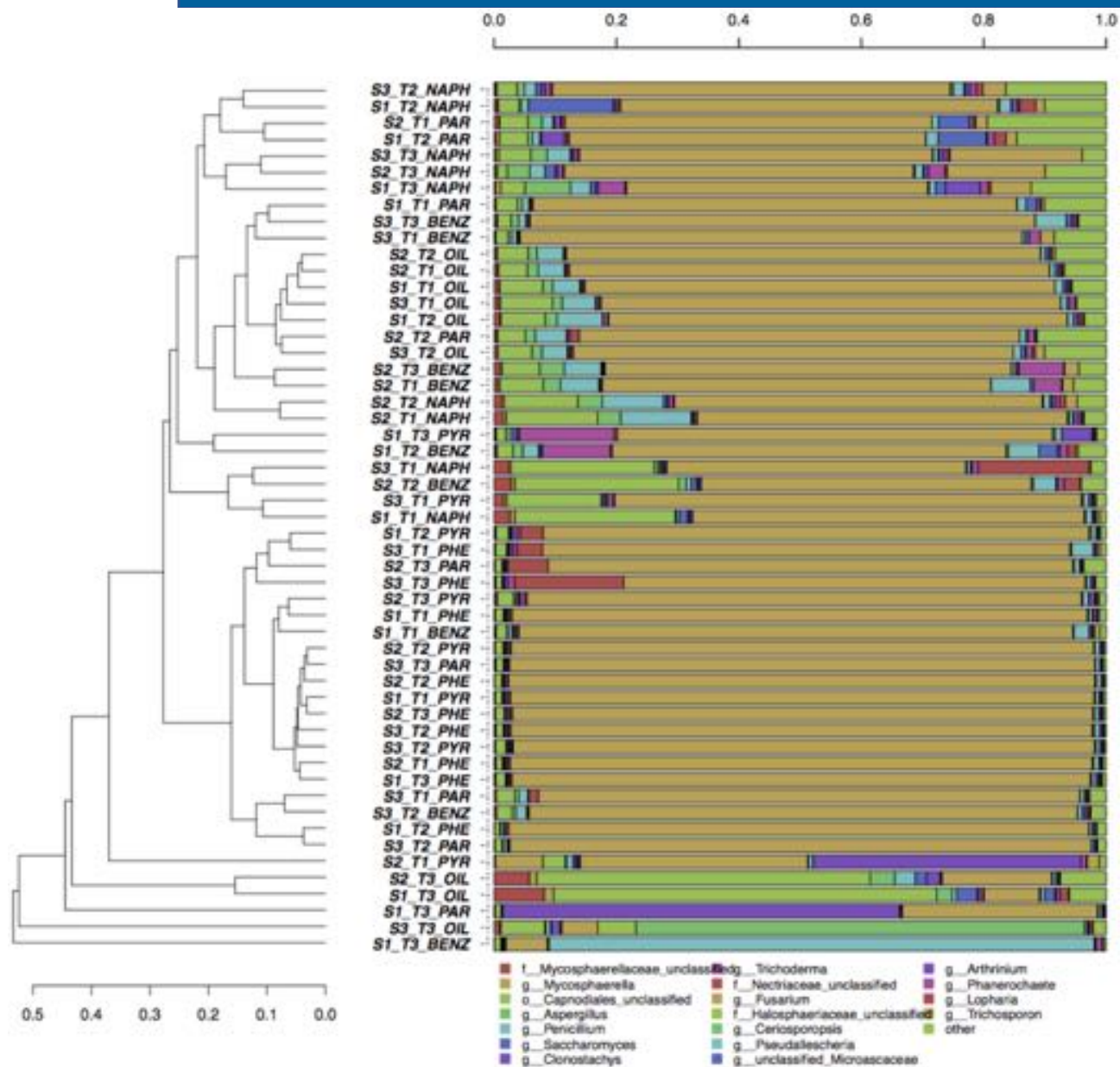


# EVOLUTION OF BACTERIAL COMMUNITIES





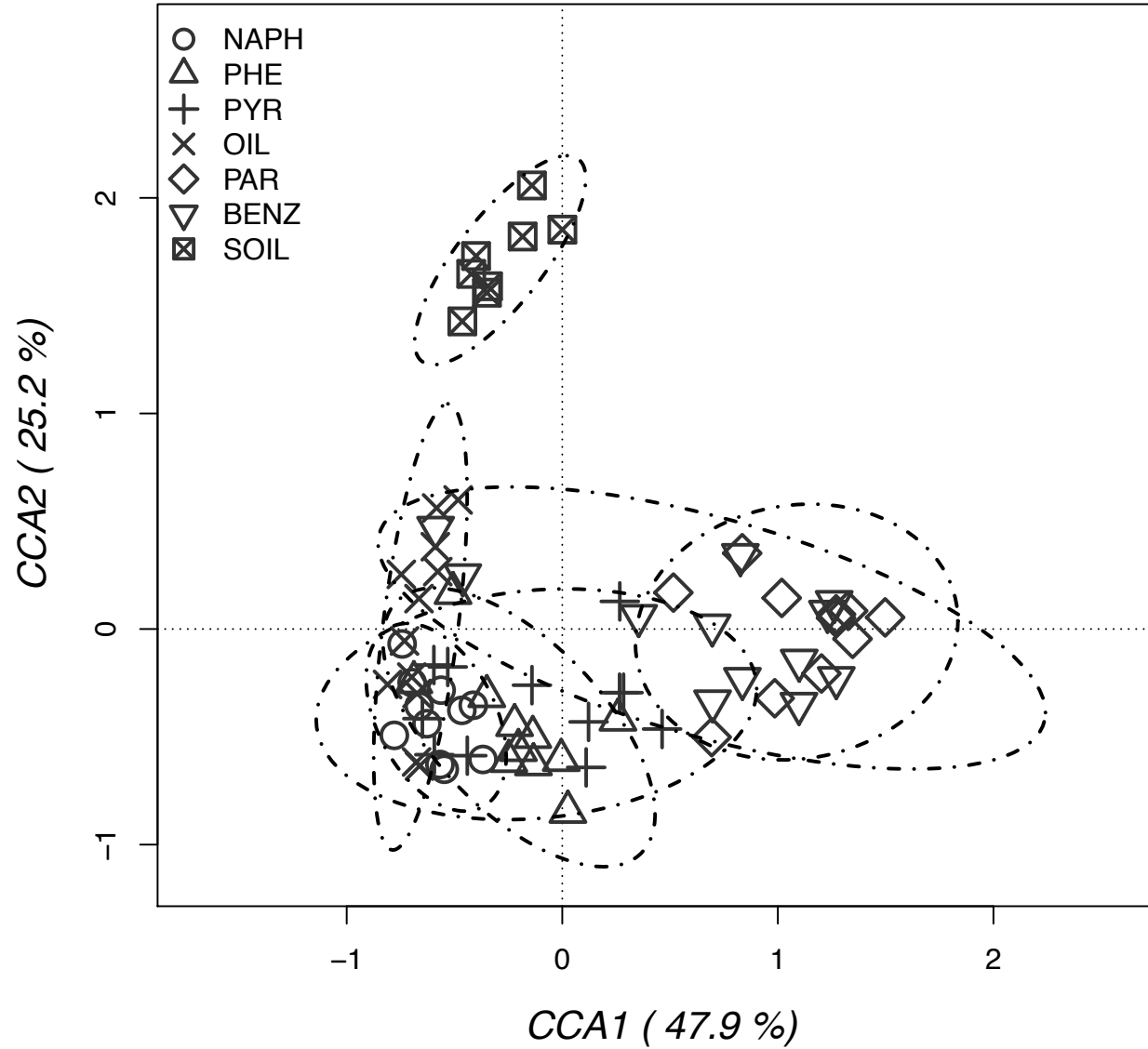
# EVOLUTION OF FUNGAL COMMUNITIES





## POLLUTANT EFFECT

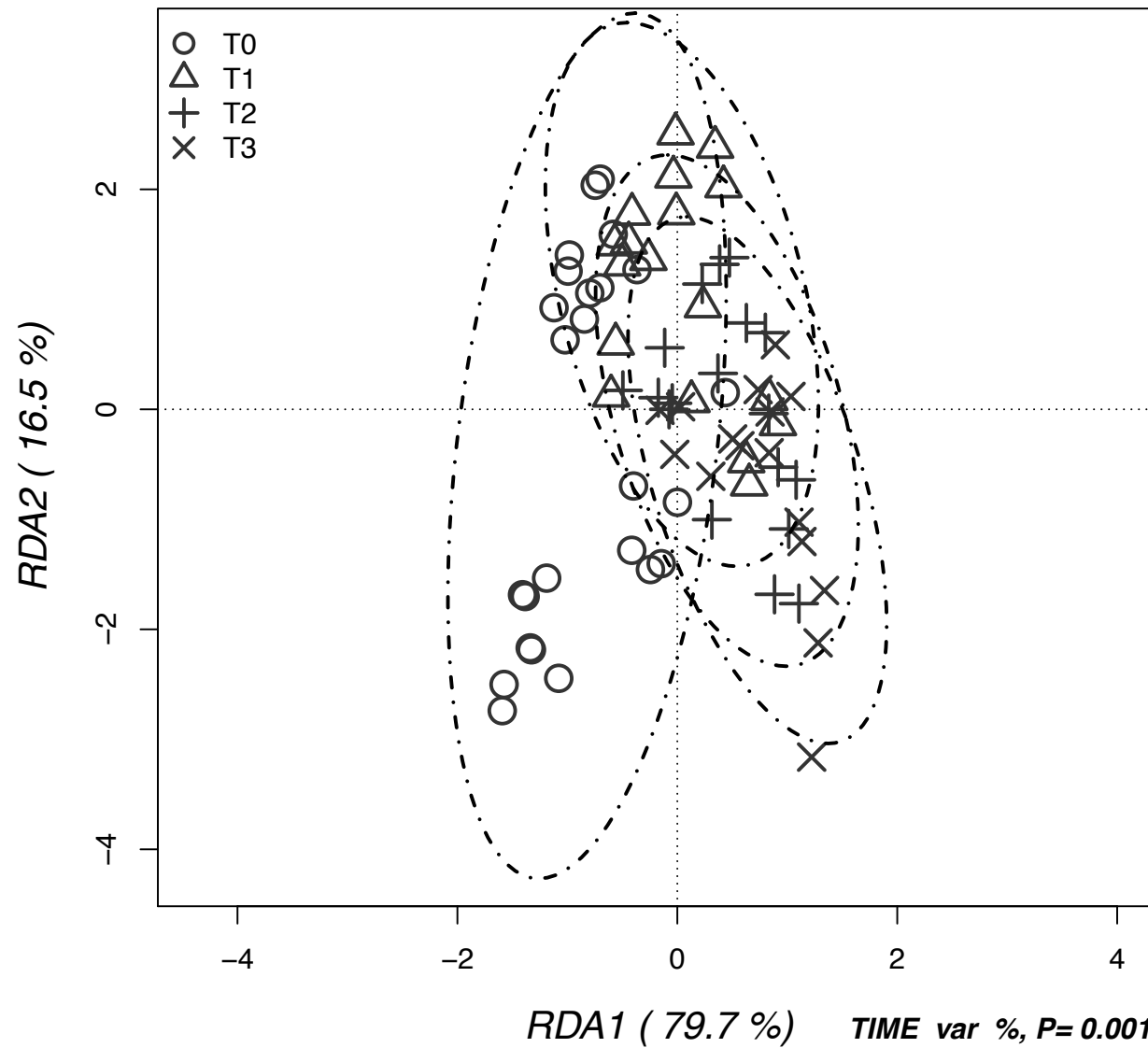
*Constrained Variance 36.1 %  
model P= 0.001*





## TIME EFFECT

Constrained Variance 8.3 %  
model  $P= 0.002$

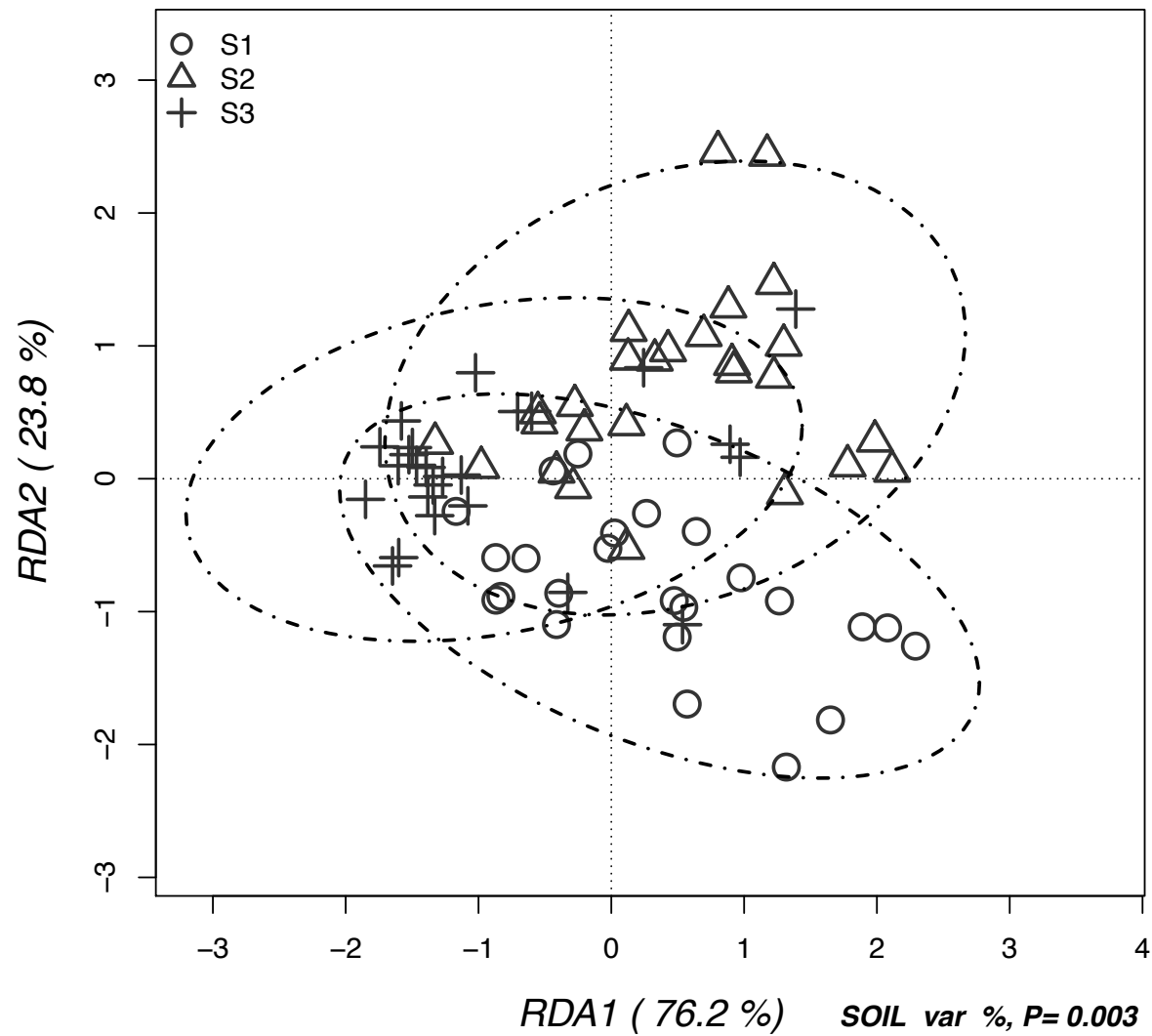






## SOIL DEPTH EFFECT

Constrained Variance 6.1 %  
model  $P= 0.002$





# CULTUROMICS AND METAGENOMICS: BACTERIA

**TABLE 2** | Relative abundances of bacterial genera determined by Illumina sequencing of 16S amplicons or by isolation on selective media; the comparison was performed at the end of the enrichment (step III).

Bacterial genus	16S Illumina			Bacterial isolates		
	S1	S2	S3	S1	S2	S3
<i>Acholeplasma</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	4,3
<i>Achromobacter</i>	26.68	29.37	8.39	7.7	4.4	4.3
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	0.38	0.18	1.60	nd	nd	4.3
<i>Agrobacterium</i>	9.08	11.79	11.62	nd	nd	nd
<i>Ancylobacter</i>	0.30	2.53	0.40	nd	nd	nd
<i>Azospirillum</i>	4.17	2.50	0.24	nd	nd	nd
<i>Bacillus</i>	0.11	0.09	0.09	7.7	8.9	nd
<i>Cellulosimicrobium</i>	0.03	0.02	0.08	nd	nd	4.3
<i>Cupriavidus</i>	4.64	0.46	0.08	nd	2.2	nd
<i>Gordonia</i>	3.00	0.04	0.06	3.8	nd	nd
<i>Helicobacter</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.2	nd
<i>Klebsiella</i>	0.08	2.63	0.08	nd	nd	nd
<i>Ochrobactrum</i>	2.89	0.67	0.32	3.8	nd	nd
<i>Olivibacter</i>	1.13	6.57	1.28	nd	nd	nd
<i>Paenibacillus</i>	0.02	0.24	0.05	nd	2.2	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	24.21	25.25	63.49	57.7	48.9	69.6
<i>Pseudoxanthomonas</i>	2.95	2.62	0.66	8.7	4.4	nd
<i>Rhizobium</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	4.3
<i>Serratia</i>	0.00	0.24	0.01	nd	6.7	nd
<i>Shinella</i>	2.79	0.25	0.03	nd	nd	nd
<i>Sphingobacterium</i>	0.95	0.94	1.60	3.8	17.8	nd
<i>Stenotrophomonas</i>	1.23	0.77	1.42	7.7	2.2	8.7

Data are expressed as percentages (among 10,065 sequences for Illumina data, among 96 strains for isolates).



# CULTUROMICS AND METAGENOMICS: FUNGI

**TABLE 3** | Relative abundances of fungal genera as determined by Illumina sequencing of 16S PCR of amplicons or by isolation on selective media; the comparison was performed at the end of the enrichment (step III).

Fungal genus	ITS Illumina			Fungal isolates		
	S1	S2	S3	S1	S2	S3
<i>Acremonium</i>	0.001	0.003	nd	2.9	nd	nd
<i>Arthrimum</i>	2.0	0.4	0.3	nd	nd	nd
<i>Aspergillus</i>	1.8	2.0	0.8	8.6	8.7	19.4
<i>Aureobasidium</i>	0.9	0.3	0.3	2.9	nd	nd
<i>Bjerkandera</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	4.3	nd
<i>Capnodiales_unclassified</i>	12.0	11.3	3.4	nd	nd	nd
<i>Ceriosporopsis</i>	0.2	0.2	14.8	nd	nd	nd
<i>Cladosporium</i>	0.2	0.6	0.1	8.6	13.0	nd
<i>Clonostachys</i>	11.0	0.6	0.5	2.9	nd	nd
<i>Epicoccum</i>	nd	nd	nd	2.9	4.3	
<i>Eutypella</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	4.3	2.8
<i>Fusarium</i>	43.8	68.8	63.4	40.0	56.5	41.7
<i>Hypocrea</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	11.1
<i>Irpex</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	4.3	nd
<i>Penicillium</i>	0.8	2.1	1.2	5.7	nd	2.8
<i>Phanerochaete</i>	0.5	1.7	0.3	nd	nd	nd
<i>Polyporus</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.8
<i>Pseudallescheria</i>	15.5	0.8	1.5	5.7	nd	nd
<i>Scedosporium</i>	0.01	0.01	0.12	nd	4.3	5.6
<i>Sulcatispora</i>	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.8
<i>Trametes</i>	nd	0.1	0.04	nd	nd	2.8
<i>Saccharomyces</i>	0.9	0.7	0.1	nd	nd	nd
<i>Trichoderma</i>	3.6	0.4	0.5	20.0	nd	5.6
<i>Wallemia</i>	0.02	nd	0.02	nd	nd	2.8
<i>Trichosporon</i>	1.2	3.2	4.4	nd	nd	nd

Data are expressed as percentages (among 10065 sequences for Illumina data, among 94 strains for isolates).



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# Molecular characterization by RAPD (Random Amplification of Polimorphic DNA) to discard replicates of the same bacterial isolate

Solid Screening

Enrichment liquid  
cultures



TOTAL  
BACTERIAL  
ISOLATES

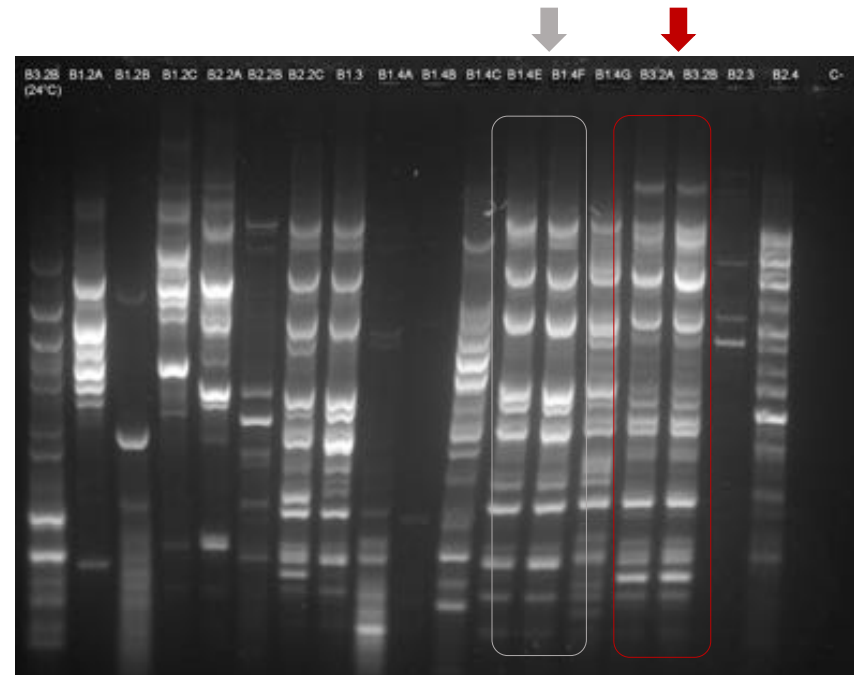


Figure. RAPD profiles of some bacteria isolated on paraffin, benzene and crude oil. Strains that are identical to each other give the same RAPD profile (highlighted in red and in green) and thus discarded to further steps.



**68** UNIQUE ISOLATES  
from solid screening



**65** UNIQUE ISOLATES  
from liquid enrichment



# Taxonomical Identification of the bacterial strains by 16S rDNA gene sequencing

- Single colony Dna extraction
- PCR amplification of 16s rDNA gene by P1-P6 primers



Sequencing of the PCR products

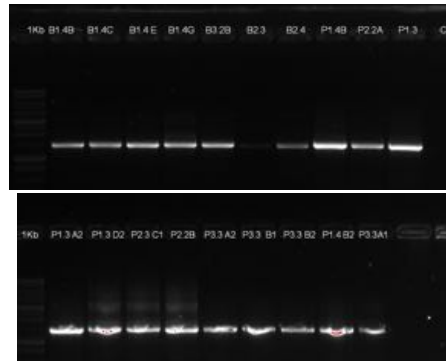


Figure. P1-P6 PCR products visualized on agarose gel (expected length 1500bp)



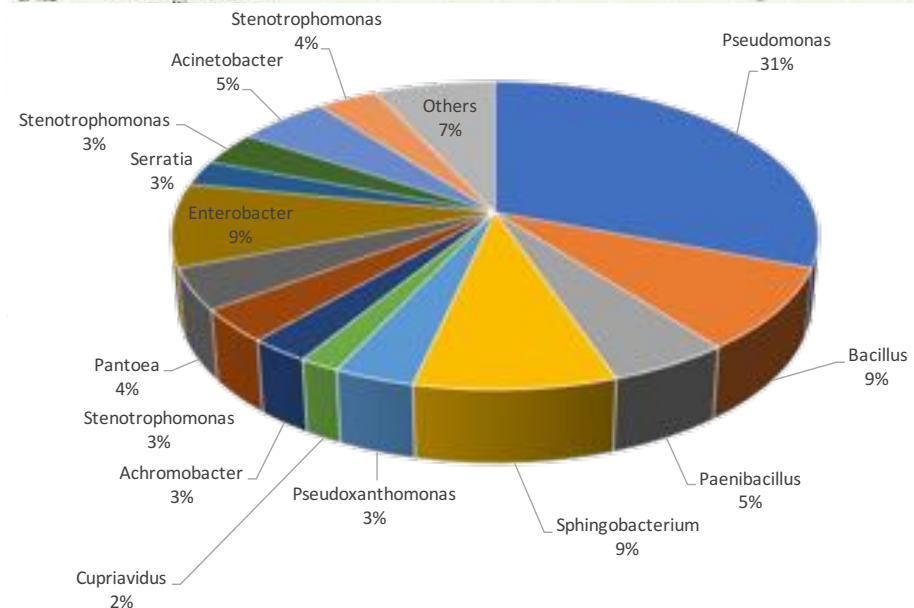
RDP Sequence match

Isolate number	RAPD best match-list of isolates	Solid Screening			Liquid Enrichment		
		Isolated from these cultural lines	Isolated from these soils	Isolated from these cultural lines	Isolated from these soils		
		B	Pa	O	s1	s2	s3
EC2	<i>Helicobacter</i>						
EC1	<i>Gordonia rubripertinctus</i>						
EC9	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>						
EC8	<i>Bacillus</i> spp.						
EC5	<i>Paenibacillus</i> spp.						
EC18	<i>Sphingobacterium multivorum</i>						
EC17	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>						
EC12	<i>Pseudoxanthomonas</i> spp.						
EC28	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>						
EC26	<i>Achromobacter</i> spp.						
EC22	<i>Sphingobacterium multivorum</i>						
EC30	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>						
EC29	<i>Pseudoxanthomonas mexicana</i>						
EC34	<i>Pseudoxanthomonas mexicana</i>						
EC33	<i>Achromobacter xylooxidans</i>						
CP1	<i>Bacillus Subtilis</i>						
EC62	<i>Stenotrophomonas acidaminiphila</i>						
CP14	<i>Bacillus xiamenensis</i>						
CP138	<i>Sphingobacterium</i>						

## Genera

- *Pseudomonas*
- *Bacillus/Paenibacillus*
- *Sphingobacterium*
- *Pseudoxanthomonas*
- *Enterobacter*
- *Acinetobacter*

n° 20 pathogen bacteria were discarded (according to the italian legislation, Dr.L 81/2008)







# 96-wells Microplate Screening to evaluate the degradative capacity of each isolate

6 tested substrates

Pyrene  
Phenanthrene  
Heptadecane  
Paraffin  
Benzene  
Naphtalene

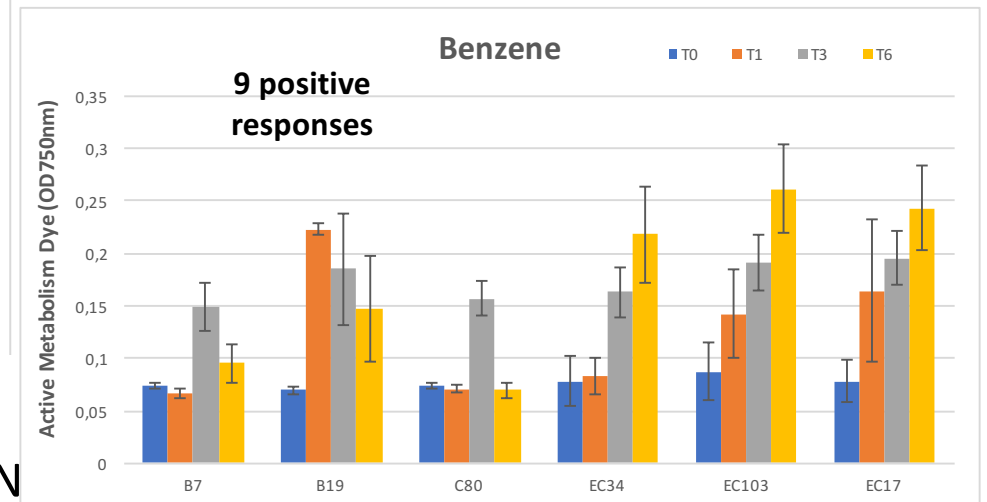
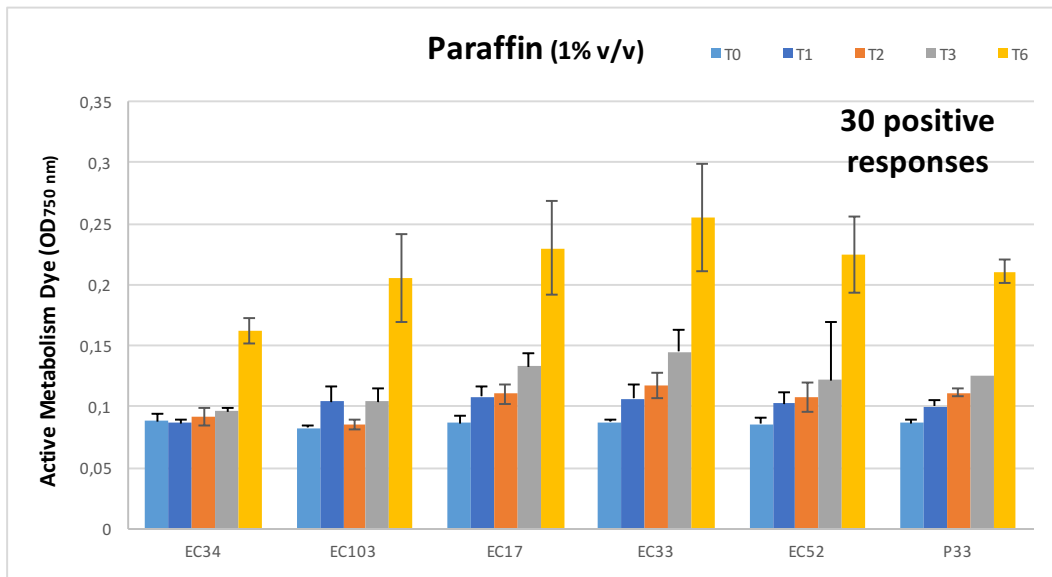


Each bacterial  
isolate

TO DATE

20 isolates are still under analysis

50 isolates are already analyzed





# 96-wells Microplate Screening to evaluate the degradative capacity of each isolate

Isolate ID	Genus/Species	Isolation approach	Isolation (°C)	Substrate		Substrate		Substrate		Substrate	
EC1	Gordonia rubripertincus	enrichment culture	30°C	Naphtalene	(++) *	Paraffin	(++)				
EC33	Achromobacter xylosoxidans	enrichment culture	30°C	Heptadecane	(+)	Naphtalene	(++)	Benzene	(+++)	Paraffin	(++)
EC17	Pseudomonas putida	enrichment culture	30°C	Paraffin	(++)	Benzene	(+++)	Naphtalene	(++)		
EC34	Pseudoxanthomonas mexicana	enrichment culture	30°C	Naphtalene	(+++)	Benzene	(++)	Paraffin	(+)		
O7	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
O6	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
O2	Pseudomonas sp.	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
EC52	Sphingobacterium sp.	enrichment culture	30°C	Benzene	(+++)	Paraffin	(++)	Naphtalene	(++)		
B7	Bacillus idriensis	solid screening	24°C	Naphtalene	(++)	Benzene	(++)				
EC43	Pseudomonas fluorescens	enrichment culture	30°C	Paraffin	(+)						
B17	Pseudomonas chlororaphis	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
EC47	Pseudomonas fluorescens	enrichment culture	30°C	Paraffin	(++)						
EC103	Serratia marcescens	enrichment culture	30°C	Benzene	(+++)	Naphtalene	(+)	Paraffin	(++)		
EC80	Bacillus subtilis	enrichment culture	30°C	Benzene	(++)	Paraffin	(++)				
P31	Agrobacterium sp. SCAU685	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
P32b	Rhizobium sp.	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(++)						
P33	Rhizobium sp.	solid screening	24°C	Naphtalene	(++)	Benzene	(++)	Paraffin	(++)		
P37	biocide-degrading bacterium	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
B19	denitrifying bacterium SN230	solid screening	24°C	Benzene	(++)						
B20	Ochrobactrum sp.	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
P36	Agrobacterium sp.	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
EC42	Serratia marcescens	enrichment culture	30°C	Paraffin	(+)						
P34	Pseudomonas plecoglossicida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
B11	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Pyrene	(+)	Phenanthrene	(++)	Paraffin	(++)		
O5	Pantoea agglomerans	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(++)						
P26	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+)						
B10	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(++)						
P34B	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Benzene	(++)	Paraffin	**	Phenanthrene	(++)		
P27	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(++++)	Phenanthrene	(+)				
P30	Pseudomonas chlororaphis	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(++++)						
P28	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+++)						
P29	Acinetobacter calcoaceticus	solid screening	24°C	Paraffin	(+++)						
B13	Pseudomonas putida	solid screening	24°C	Phenanthrene	(++)						

\*percentage increase of the OD at 750nm after six days (t6) compared to the zero time (t0), normalized to the abiotic controls

(+) more than 150% (++) greater than 300%

(++) between 200% and 300%

(++++) greater than 400%

(\*\*) greater than 700%



Isolate ID	Genus/Species	Isolation approach	Isolation T (°C) of isolation	Control	NaOH	Bleach	Per	Pha	Ph	CIT	Drop (colony)	DI (disposal)	Blue egg	ph-thruout	+ good	** Very good	o positive in all the tests	summary		
OP1	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	100%	100%	0	0	607	888	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	4675	4755
R11 R1.1.24.A	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	2000 (2794)	1281 (822)	100	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	1785	1835
R17 R1.1.24.A	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	1949 (2042)	0	104	12	-	+++	++	+++	+	+	100	2013	2113
EC27	<i>Achromobacter calcoaceticus</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	54	25	189 (204)	234 (176)	107	179	-	+++	-	++	-	-	100	1664	1540
R17 R1.1.24.B	<i>Rhodococcus rubroaer</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	13	447	954 (764)	0	18	0	-	-	-	+	+	-	50	1442	1482
R7 R1.4.24E	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	100	100	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	+	+	-	50	1005	1005
OE	<i>Pseudomonas phlegmonealis</i>	solid screening	30°C	*	100	0	25	841 (527)	66	7	0	-	++	-	++	-	-	100	640	1040
R11 R1.1.24.A	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	113 (275)	0	199	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	991	991
R20 R1.1.24C	<i>Ochrobactrum</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	405 (202)	34	140	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	200	782	982
R17 R1.1.24.A	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	130	0	189	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	514	564
R16 R1.1.24C	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	410 (294)	107	240	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	404	454
OP121	<i>Sphingobacterium</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	104	98	41	121	124	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	750	800
OE	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	30°C	*	100	0	0	441 (242)	17	182	0	-	++	+	++	-	-	100	480	790
R14 R1.4.24A	<i>Achromobacter</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	28	84	103	104	177	141	-	-	++	++	++	-	100	427	487
EC201	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	100	70	0	204	240	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	483	713
R16.14 R1.1.24A	<i>Agrobacterium</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	11	5	0	323	380	0	-	+	+	+	+	-	100	423	713
OE	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	solid screening	30°C	*	100	0	0	414 (206)	18	91	0	+	+++	+	+++	-	-	100	514	714
R13 R1.1.24.B	<i>Achromobacter calcoaceticus</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	0	10	104	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	714	714
R11 R1.1.24E	<i>Rhodococcus bacterium</i>	solid screening	17°C		100	31	140	14	0	100	0	+	+++	-	++	-	-	100	142	442
OE	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	30°C	*	100	0	14	152 (102)	31	119	14	-	-	-	+	+	-	50	181	441
EC21	<i>Cupressinella</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	11	17	125	125	142	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	340	430
EC30	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	0	0	0	0	476	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	411	411
R14 R1.1.24.C	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	25	84	79	84	279	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	542	612
R11 R1.1.24.C	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	199	279	91	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	542	612
R14 R1.1.24A	<i>Agrobacterium</i> sp.	solid screening	17°C		100	109	0	113	128	98	0	-	+	+	+	+	-	50	117	407
EC26	<i>Achromobacter</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	0	50	0	33	408	0	-	++	-	++	-	-	100	490	590
OP14	<i>Acholeplasma axid</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	71	95	76	142	134	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	181	381
OP13	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	33	30	0	289	144	0	-	-	-	+	+	-	50	125	175
R13 R1.1.24A	<i>Achromobacter</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	17	30	13	41	205	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	479	579
R1 R1.4.24E	<i>Bacillus simplex</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	61	101	14	17	34	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	149	179
R14 R1.1.24A	<i>Rhodococcus bacterium</i>	solid screening	17°C		100	0	0	80	0	490	0	-	+	+	+	+	-	50	114	164
R4 R1.4.24.C	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	12	88	74	128	224	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	109	139
R16 R1.4.24A	<i>Rhodococcus</i> sp.	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	111	20	124	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	200	104	104
EC41	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	enrichment culture	30°C	*	100	0	0	0	180	219	0	-	+	+	+	+	-	100	409	409
R13	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	0	100	14	108	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	154	154
EC104	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	90	115	115	0	11	44	-	-	-	+	+	-	100	442	542
EC18	<i>Sphingobacterium multivorum</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	121	100	14	88	78	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	190	190
OP138	<i>Sphingobacterium multivorum</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	0	11	4	0	146	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	474	524
R11 R1.1.24C	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	102	88	0	284	44	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	114	114
R14 (1.1.24E)	<i>Pseudomonas phlegmonealis</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	0	4	0	117	175	0	-	+++	-	+++	-	-	100	300	300
EC1	<i>Rhodococcus</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	10	5	111	106	91	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	103	103
R1 R1.4.24E	<i>Bacillus simplex</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	45	42	14	19	196	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	412	462
EC3	<i>Aerobacillus</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	0	48	48	19	109	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	413	413
EC23	<i>Achromobacter xylosoxidans</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	81	142	90	7	80	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	138	138
EC43	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	enrichment culture	30°C	*	100	0	74	113	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	-	200	117	417
EC51	<i>Sphingobacterium</i> sp.	enrichment culture	30°C		100	101	148	114	0	35	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	405	405
EC80	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	26	80	0	0	107	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	423	423
EC14	<i>Sarasinophomonas multiphila</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	10	0	84	10	113	21	-	-	-	+	+	-	50	170	420
EC17	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	81	129	106	0	80	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	419	419
R12 R1.1.24E	<i>Bacillus</i> sp.	solid screening	17°C		100	10	46	80	83	113	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	418	418
R16 R1.4.24E	<i>Georgiella itaquensis</i>	solid screening	24°C		100	12	28	65	104	142	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	404	404
OE	<i>Cupressinella campanis</i>	enrichment culture	30°C		100	5	12	79	101	114	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	404	404
R14.14 R1.1.24E	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	enrichment culture	24°C		100	0	0	0	117	179	0	-	+++	+	+++	-	-	100	319	419



## Screening of isolates capable of producing biosurfactants or redox enzymes:

- ❖ Colorimetric tests using redox dyes (ABTS, Poly R478)
- ❖ Selection of the best tests for biosurfactant productions (Oil spread test, emulsification test, etc.)

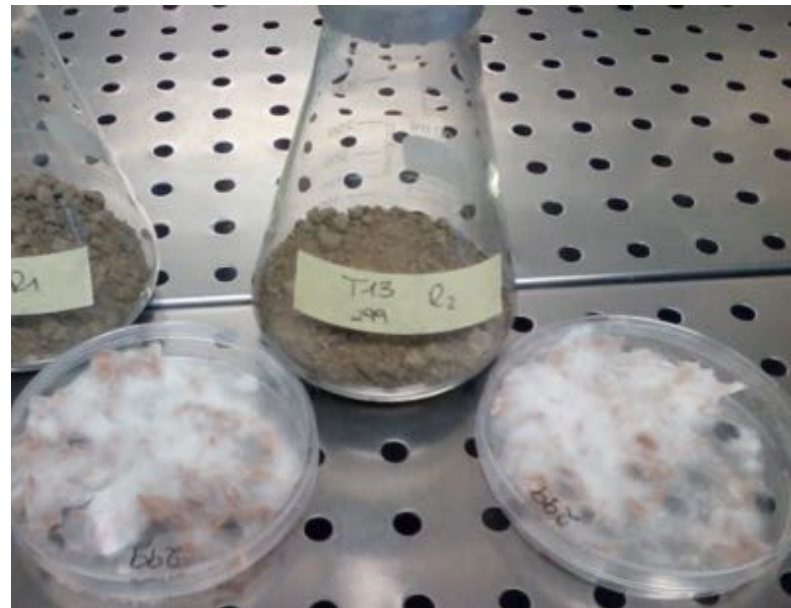






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# MICROCOSMS SELECTION







## MICROCOSMS SELECTION

	Micro cosm/ thesis	strains	Rationale
bacteria	1	CP7	1st best degrader
	2	B11	2nd best degrader
	3	EC77	3rd best degrader
	4	CP7+B11+EC77	first best 3
	5	CP7+B11+EC77+P34-24	first best 3 + biosurfactant producer
	6	O3	good pyr degrader (isolated from oil)
	7	O3+P34-24	good pyr degrader + biosurf (bioavailability issue)
	8	O6	degrader isolated from oil
	9	EC31	versatile on different pollutants
	10	CP122	versatile on different pollutants
fungi	11	127	first best fungus
	12	71	second best fungus
	13	299	third best fungus
	14	127 + 71 + 299	3 best fungi
	15	219 + 15 + 304 + 117	best mitosporic fungi
	16	219 + 15 + 304 + 117 + 127	best mitosporic fungi + basidiomycete
	17	219 + 15 + 304 + 117 + 127 + 71 + 299	best mitosporic fungi + 3 best fungi
	18	51 + 203	among the best tens, different growth, biosurfactant producers
	19	304 + 117 + 307 + 308	isolated from oil
	20	304 + 117 + 307 + 308 + 127	isolated from oil + basidiomycete

	Microcosm/thesis	strains	Rationale
fungi+bacteria	21	127 + 71 + 299 + EC77 + B11 + CP7 + P37	3 best fungi and bacteria
	22	219 + 15 + 304 + 117 + 127 + 299 + EC77 + B11 + CP7 + P37	T17 + 3 best bacteria
	23	304 + 117 + O3 + O6	isolated from oil
	24	304 + 117 + O3 + O6 + 127 + 299	isolated from oil + basidiomycete
	25	304 + 51 + 299 + CP7 + EC77 + P37	those that seem to grow on soil + basidiomycete + best bacteria
	26	219+15+304+117+148+06+EC31+CP122+ CP7+EC77	best fungi and bacteria according to 20d data of microcosms
	27	304+117+307+308+299+148 + 06+EC31+CP122+EC77+B11+P37	best fungi and bacteria according to 20d data of microcosms+ best biosurfactant bacterial producers
	28	143 + 131 + 307 + 188 + 177 + 06+EC31+CP122+P29+EC30+EC101	fungi with high growth in microplate + best bacteria in microcosm+ alkanes bacterial degraders
	29	245 + 239 + 203+307 + 131 + 188 + 299 + B24+ EC101+EC77+P36+EC31	fungi isolated in enrich + pyr/phe growing fungi + versatile bacteria on different pollutants
	30	203 + 274 + 177+51+148 + 299 + P29+EC30+O3+B19+B20+B10	pyr or phe or alkanes growing fungi + basidiomycete + pyr/phe and alkanes bacteria degraders
fungi+bacteria + biosurfactant	31	Thesis 21 + biosurfactants	Thesis 21 + biosurfactant (bioavailability issue)
	32	Thesis 22 + biosurfactants	Thesis 22 + biosurfactant (bioavailability issue)
	33	Thesis 26+ biosurfactants	Thesis 26+ biosurfactant (bioavailability issue)
	34	Thesis 27+ biosurfactants	Thesis 27+ biosurfactants (bioavailability issue)
	35	Thesis 29+ biosurfactants	Thesis 29+ biosurfactants (bioavailability issue)



theses	2ringsPAHs	3ringsPAHs	4,5,6PAHs	C>12	final_score
T1	0	1	1	0	2
T2	0	1	1	0	2
T3	0	1	1	0	2
T4	0	1	1	0	2
T4R	1	1	0	1	3
T5	1	1	0	0	2
T6	1	1	1	0	3
T7	0	1	0	0	1
T8	0	0	0	0	0
T9	0	1	1	0	2
T10	0	1	1	0	2
T11	1	1	1	0	3
T12	0	1	1	0	2
T13	0	1	0	0	1
T14	1	1	1	0	3
T15	0	1	0	0	1
T16	0	1	1	0	2
T17	1	0	0	0	1
T18	1	1	0	0	2
T19	1	0	0	0	1
T20	1	0	0	0	1
T21	0	1	0	0	1
T22	0	1	1	1	3
T23	1	1	0	0	2
T24	0	1	0	1	2
T25	0	1	1	1	3
T26	1	1	0	1	3
T27	1	1	0	0	2
T28	1	1	0	0	2
T29	1	1	0	0	2
T30	1	1	0	0	2
T31	1	0	0	0	1
T32	0	0	0	0	0
T33	1	1	0	0	2
T34	1	1	0	0	2
T35	1	1	0	0	2





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# MESOCOSMS





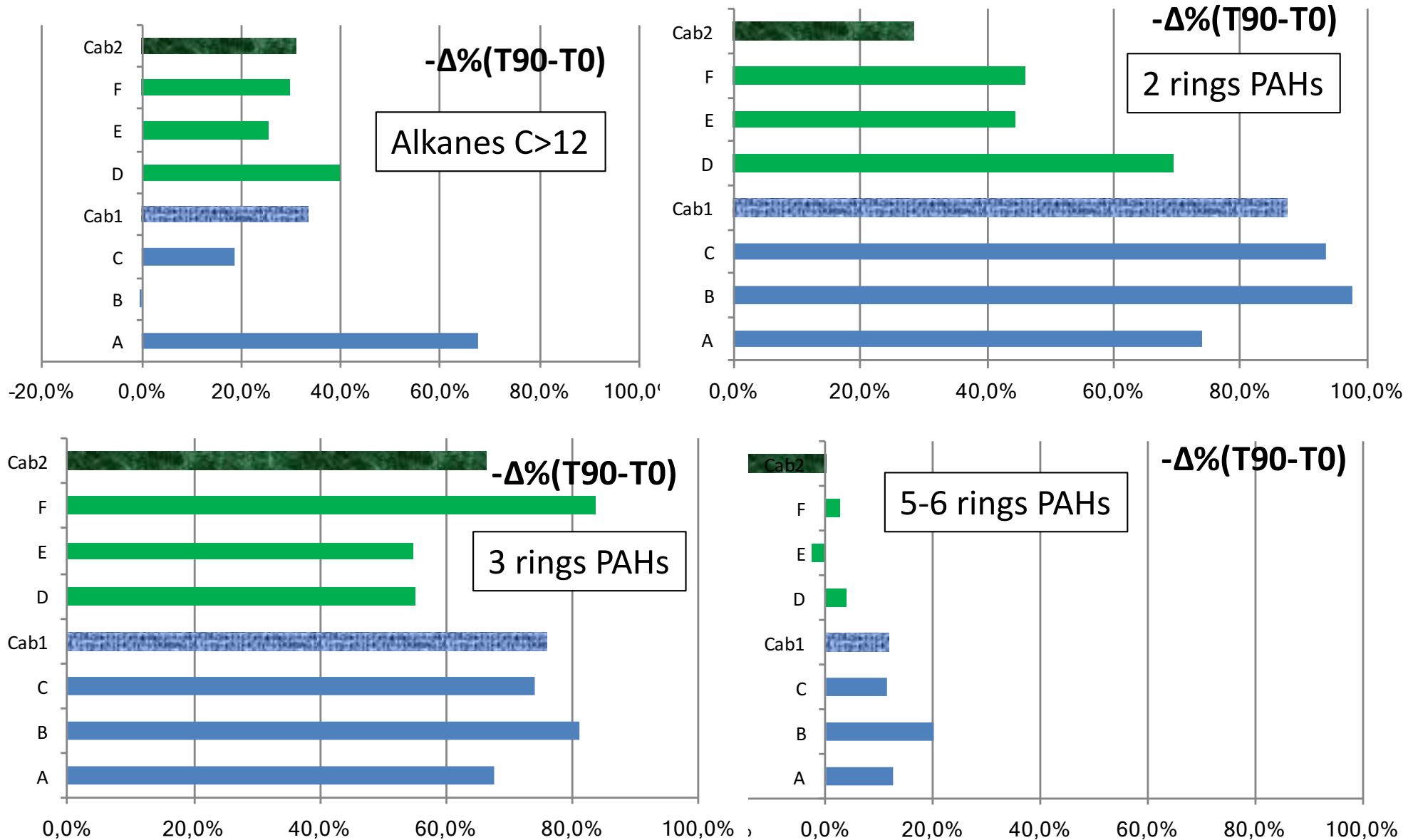
## MESOCOSMS SELECTION

Mesocosms theses	Corresponding microcosms	Composition
A	22	219 + 15 + 304 + 117 + 127 + 299 + EC77 + B11 + CP7 + P37
B	32	219 + 15 + 304 + 117 + 127 + 299 + EC77 + B11 + CP7 + P37
C	27	304+117+307+308+299+148 + 06+EC31+CP122+EC77+B11+P37
D	28+biosurfact	143 + 131 + 307 + 188 + 177 + 06+EC31+CP122+P29+EC30+EC101
E	29	245 + 239 + 203+307 + 131 + 188 + 299 + B24+ EC101+EC77+P36+EC31
F	35	203 + 274 + 177+51+148 + 299 + P29+EC30+03+B19+B20+B10





# MESOCOSMS RESULTS





## CONCLUSIONS

- Soils are immense reservoirs of microbial diversity, still mostly unexplored
- Culturomics and molecular methods can be efficiently coupled to exploit this diversity
- Final goal is to cultivate and produce the best strains: screening methods are fundamental
- Recalcitrant molecules can be addressed (
- Promising results can be obtained by coupling PGPR and degrading abilities, as well as different organisms (bacteria, fungi and plants)



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Gaining insights in the microbial degradation of polyethylene plastics to promote efficient bioremediation strategies (MICROPLAST)