

1 Fungal microbiomes are determined by host phylogeny and exhibit widespread  
2 associations with the bacterial microbiome

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27 **RUNNING TITLE:** Cross-kingdom microbiome phylosymbiosis and associations

28 **KEYWORDS:** amplicon sequencing, bacteria, co-occurrence, diet, diversity, fungi, host-microbe  
29 interactions, mycobiome, phylosymbiosis,

30

31

32 **ABSTRACT**

33 Interactions between hosts and their resident microbial communities are a fundamental component of  
34 fitness for both agents. Though recent research has highlighted the importance of interactions  
35 between animals and their bacterial communities, comparative evidence for fungi is lacking,  
36 especially in natural populations. Using data from 49 species, we present novel evidence of strong  
37 covariation between fungal and bacterial communities across the host phylogeny, indicative of  
38 recruitment by hosts for specific suites of microbes. Using co-occurrence networks, we demonstrate  
39 that fungi form critical components of putative microbial interaction networks, where the strength and  
40 frequency of interactions varies with host taxonomy. Host phylogeny drives differences in overall  
41 richness of bacterial and fungal communities, but the effect of diet on richness was only evident in  
42 mammals and for the bacterial microbiome. Collectively these data indicate fungal microbiomes may  
43 play a key role in host fitness and suggest an urgent need to study multiple agents of the animal  
44 microbiome to accurately determine the strength and ecological significance of host-microbe  
45 interactions.

46

47 **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

48

49 Microbes perform vital metabolic functions that shape the physiology of their hosts. However, almost  
50 all research to date in wild animals has focused exclusively on the bacterial microbiota, to the  
51 exclusion of other microbial groups. Although likely to be critical components of the host microbiome,  
52 we have limited knowledge of the drivers of fungal composition across host species. Here we show  
53 that fungal community composition is determined by host species identity and phylogeny, and that  
54 fungi form extensive interaction networks with bacteria in the microbiome of a diverse range of animal  
55 species. This highlights the importance of microbial interactions as mediators of microbiome-health  
56 relationships in the wild.

## 57 INTRODUCTION

58 Multicellular organisms support diverse microbial communities critical for physiological functioning,  
59 immunity, development, evolution and behaviour (1–3). Variability in host-associated microbiome  
60 composition may explain asymmetries among hosts in key traits including susceptibility to disease (4,  
61 5), fecundity (6), and resilience to environmental change (7). Although the microbiota is a complex  
62 assemblage of bacteria, fungi, archaea, viruses and protozoa, the overwhelming majority of research  
63 has focused solely on the bacterial component (8, 9). Although relatively well documented in soils and  
64 plants (10–13), relatively few studies have examined the dynamics of non-bacterial components of the  
65 microbiome in animal hosts (but see (14–16)), especially in non-model or wild systems. As such, our  
66 current understanding of host-microbe interactions is skewed by a bacteria-centric view of the  
67 microbiome. Although not well understood, there is growing evidence that the fungal microbiota,  
68 termed the ‘mycobiome’, may drive diverse functions such as fat, carbon and nitrogen metabolism  
69 (17, 18), degradation of cellulose and other carbohydrates (19), pathogen resistance (20), initiation of  
70 immune pathways and regulation of inflammatory responses (9, 21), and even host dispersal (22).

71 Host phylogeny has repeatedly been shown to be an important predictor of bacterial  
72 microbiome structure in multiple vertebrate clades, a phenomenon known as ‘phylosymbiosis’ (23–  
73 27). This phenomenon often reflects phylogenetic patterns in life history traits, such as diet,  
74 physiology or spatial distribution (23–27). However, evidence of phylosymbiosis, and its drivers, in  
75 other microbial kingdoms or domains is lacking. Addressing this major gap in our knowledge is crucial  
76 as we likely underestimate the strength and importance of coevolution between animal hosts and their  
77 resident communities, particularly in the context of cross-kingdom interactions within the microbiome  
78 (28).

79 Here we used ITS and 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing to characterise fungal and  
80 bacterial communities of primarily gut and faecal samples from 49 host species across eight classes,  
81 including both vertebrates and invertebrates (Table S1). We predicted that both fungal and bacterial  
82 microbiomes demonstrated strong signals of phylosymbiosis across the broad host taxonomic range  
83 tested. Specifically, we predicted that patterns of phylosymbiosis within microbial kingdoms will also  
84 drive significant positive covariance in patterns of microbial community structure between microbial  
85 kingdoms within individual hosts, suggestive of evolutionary constraints that favour co-selection of

86 specific bacterial and fungal communities in tandem. We also used network analysis to identify key  
87 bacteria-fungi interactions whilst quantifying variation in the frequency and strength of bacteria-fungi  
88 interaction networks across host taxonomic groups. Finally, we tested the prediction that cross-  
89 kingdom phyllosymbiosis may be partially driven by similarity in host dietary niche across the 32 bird  
90 and mammal species sampled.

## 91 92 **RESULTS**

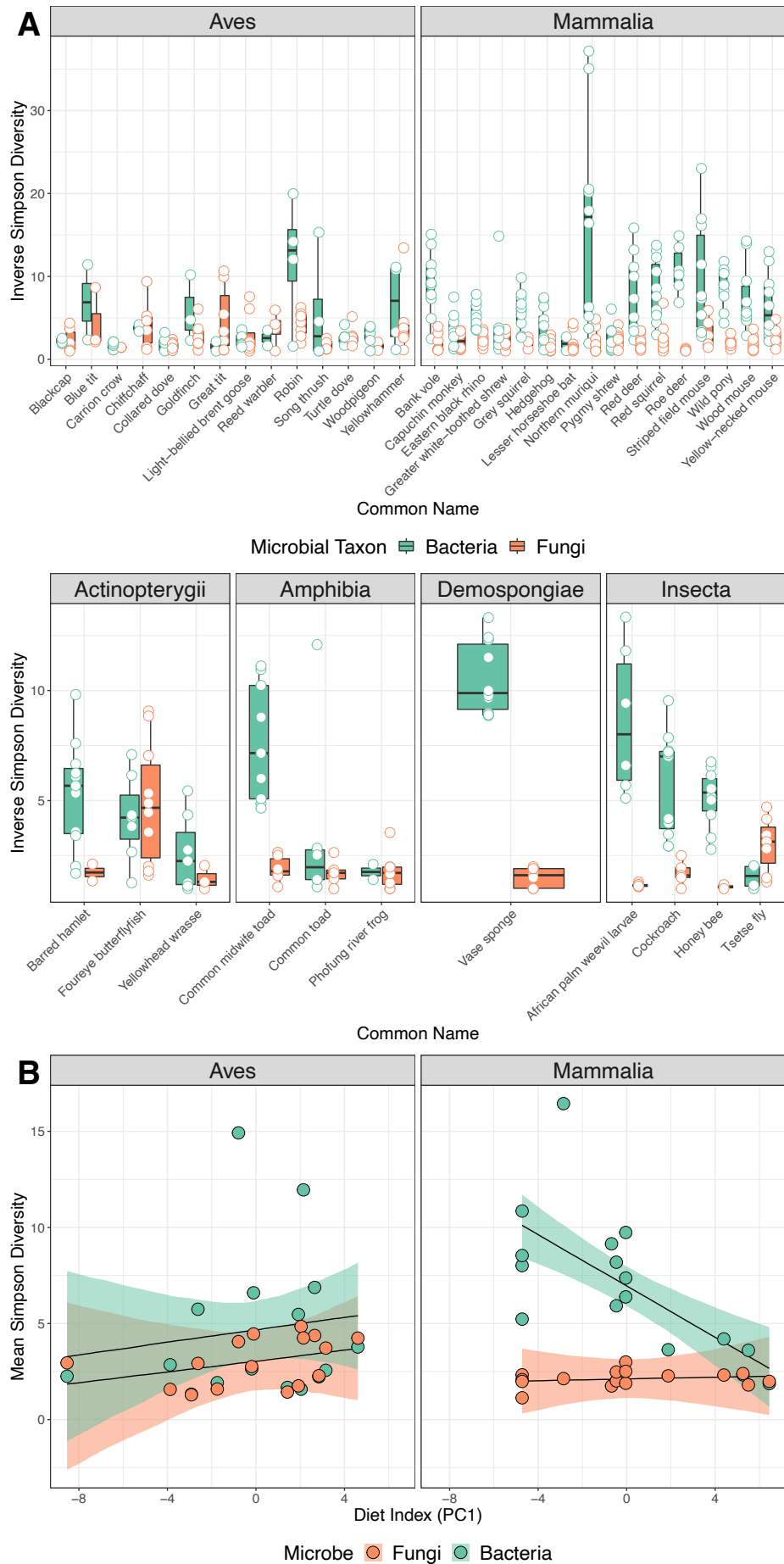
### 93 *Fungal and Bacterial Microbiome Diversity Varies with Host Phylogeny*

94 Our data revealed consistent patterns in fungal and bacterial alpha diversity across host taxonomic  
95 groups. Bacterial community alpha-diversity was generally greater than, or similar to, fungal  
96 community alpha-diversity at the host species level (Fig. 1A), although two species exhibited greater  
97 fungal diversity than bacterial (great tit, tsetse fly; Fig. 1A). Comparisons between microbial richness  
98 values within individuals (i.e., *relative* richness) using a binomial GLMM supported these patterns,  
99 indicating that bacterial richness was higher on average than fungal in 80% of individuals [95%  
100 credible interval (CI) 0.55 - 0.95]. When conditioning on Class, samples from both Mammalia and  
101 Insecta were more likely to have higher bacterial diversity than fungal diversity (credible intervals not  
102 crossing zero on the link scale). Mammalia were more likely to have higher bacterial relative to fungal  
103 diversity than Aves in our study organisms (mean difference in probability 22.9% [1.6 - 45.7%]).  
104 Variation among species in this model explained 19.5% [7.3 - 31.2%] of the variation in relative  
105 microbial richness. Using a bivariate model with both fungal and bacterial diversity as response  
106 variables to examine patterns of absolute microbial richness across host taxonomy, only Mammalia  
107 exhibited bacterial diversity that was consistently higher than fungal diversity when controlling for  
108 variation among species (mean difference in index 5.16; [3.33 - 6.96]). There was no evidence of  
109 positive covariance between fungal and bacterial richness values at the species level (mean  
110 correlation 0.3, 95% credible intervals -0.55 - 0.86), suggesting that high diversity of one microbial  
111 group does not necessarily reflect high diversity of the other. The bivariate model also revealed that  
112 species identity explained 33.9% [22.2 - 44.2%] of variation in bacterial diversity, and 22.4% [9.8 -  
113 35.5%] of variation in fungal diversity.

114 Phylogenetic analyses supported these general patterns (Fig. S2). For fungi, we detected  
115 phylogenetic signal in patterns of both Inverse Simpson index ( $C_{\text{mean}} = 0.22$ ,  $p = 0.021$ ) and number of

116 observed amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) ( $C_{\text{mean}} = 0.26$ ,  $p = 0.016$ ). For bacteria, phylogenetic  
117 signal was evident for number of ASVs ( $C_{\text{mean}} = 0.28$ ,  $p = 0.016$ ) but not inverse Simpson index ( $C_{\text{mean}}$   
118  $= 0.114$ ,  $p = 0.100$ ).

119



121 **FIGURE 1**

122 Host phylogeny and diet as predictors of host bacterial and fungal alpha diversity. **(A)** Boxplots and  
123 raw data (points) of inverse Simpson indices for bacterial (green) and fungal (orange) communities  
124 across a range of host species. **(B)** Raw data (points) and model predictions (shaded area and lines)  
125 of models examining the relationship between host diet and microbiome alpha diversity. In mammals,  
126 an increase the in the amount of plant material in the diet (more negative PC1 values) drives  
127 increases in richness. There was no corresponding relationship between diet and richness for fungi in  
128 mammals, nor for bacteria and fungi in birds. Shaded areas represent 95% credible intervals.

129

130 *Limited Evidence of Covariation Between Host Diet and Fungal Microbiome*

131 *Alpha Diversity:* Models exploring the influence of diet on microbial richness yielded mixed  
132 results. In mammals, only a relationship between *bacterial* richness and diet was evident (interaction  
133 between microbe (fungi vs bacteria) and the primary axis of a PCA of dietary variation; Fig 1B). This  
134 indicates that bacterial alpha diversity increases in tandem with the proportion of plant matter in the  
135 diet. However, this relationship was absent in birds (Fig. 1B). Similarly, there was no relationship  
136 between *fungal* richness and diet for birds or mammals (credible intervals for slopes all include zero).

137 *Beta Diversity:* Patterns of variation in microbial community *structure* broadly followed those  
138 for alpha diversity above. While for mammals there was a significant correlation between host-  
139 associated bacterial community composition and diet ( $r = 0.334$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ), and a near-significant  
140 relationship between fungal community composition and diet ( $r = 0.142$ ,  $p = 0.067$ ), for birds there  
141 was no significant relationship between dietary data and bacterial community composition ( $r = 0.087$ ,  
142  $p = 0.211$ ) or fungal community composition ( $r = 0.026$ ,  $p = 0.386$ ). Further, taxonomic differences in  
143 microbiome composition based on differences in crude dietary patterns were not clear for either  
144 bacteria or fungi when the microbiome composition was visualised at the family level (Figs. S3, S4).  
145 That said, Alphaproteobacteria and Eurotiomycete fungi were notably absent from species that  
146 primarily ate vegetation (i.e. grasses etc) and Neocallimastigomycete fungi were the predominant  
147 fungal class associated with two out of four of these host species (Figs. S3, S4).

148

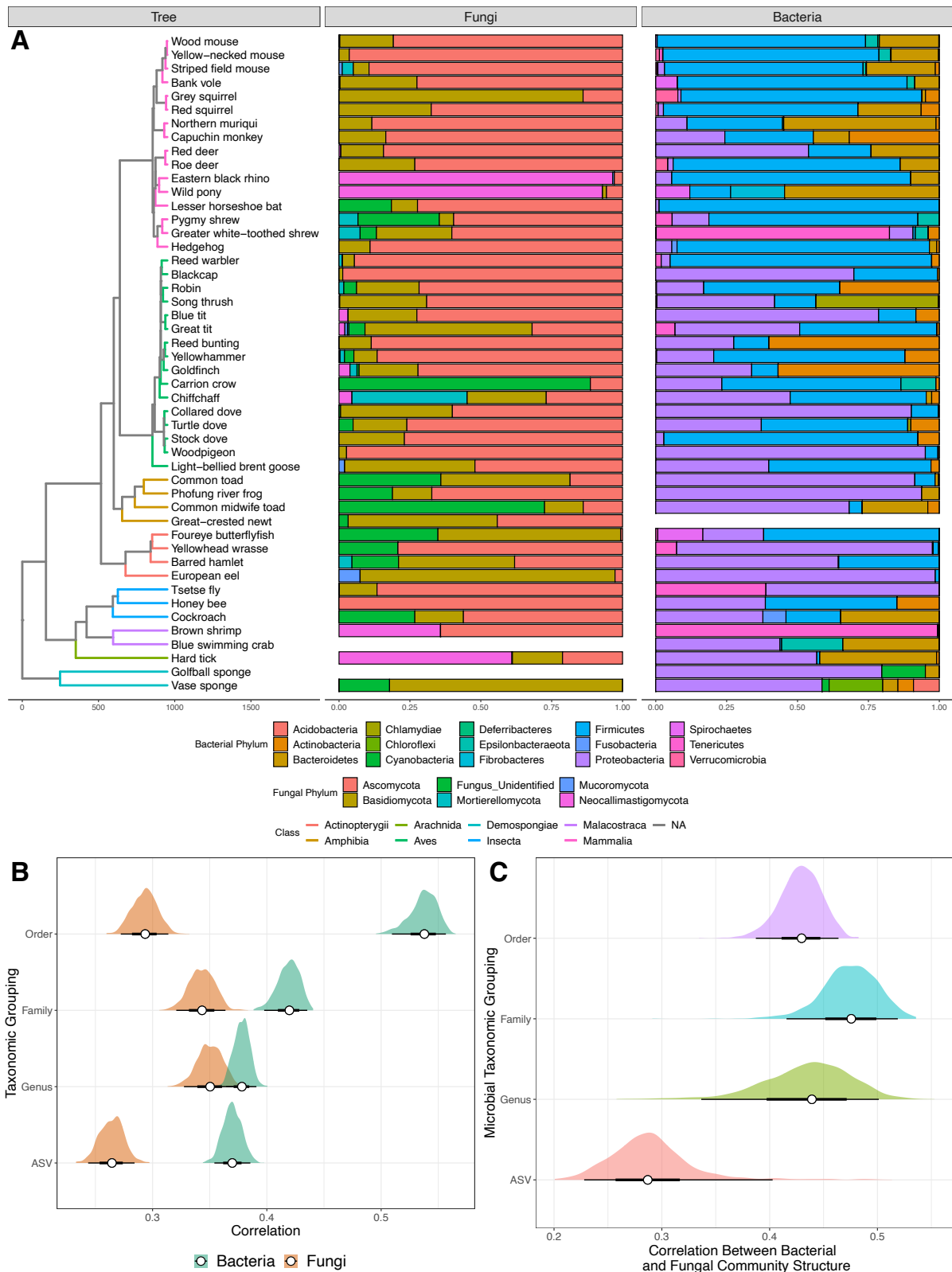
149 *Strong Evidence of Correlated Phylosymbiosis in Both Microbial Groups*

150 Our data revealed consistent variation in fungal and bacterial community structure across the host  
151 phylogeny (Fig. 2A). PERMANOVA analyses on centred-log ratio (CLR) transformed ASV  
152 abundances revealed significant phylogenetic effects of host class, order and species, as well as  
153 effects of sample storage and library preparation protocol for both microbial groups (Table 2; Figs. S5  
154 & S6). For both bacteria and fungi, host species identity explained more variation than host class or  
155 order, and this pattern remained when re-running the models without sample preparation protocol  
156 effects, though this inflated the estimate of  $R^2$  for all taxonomic groupings (Table 2).

157 Consistent with our predictions, the similarity between the microbial communities of a given  
158 pair of host species was proportional to the phylogenetic distance between them (e.g. ASV level:  
159 fungal cor. = 0.26;  $p = 0.001$ ; bacterial cor. = 0.37;  $p = 0.001$ ; Fig. 2B). Correlations for both bacterial  
160 and fungal communities became stronger when aggregating microbial taxonomy to broader  
161 taxonomic levels (Fig. 2B). Notably, the bacterial correlation was stronger than the fungal equivalent  
162 at most taxonomic levels (Fig. 2B), indicating stronger patterns of phylosymbiosis for bacteria.

163 We also detected a strong, significant correlation between fungal and bacterial community  
164 structure of individual samples at the level of ASVs using Procrustes rotation (cor. = 0.29,  $p < 0.001$ ;  
165 Fig. 2C). Collapsing ASV taxonomy to genus, family, and order resulted in even stronger correlations  
166 (cor. = 0.44, 0.48 & 0.43, respectively; all  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 2C). These data indicate a coupling between  
167 the structures of fungal and bacterial communities, whereby shifts in structure of one community  
168 across the phylogeny also reflect consistent shifts in the other microbial group.





169

170 **FIGURE 2**

171 **(A)** Phylogenetic tree of host species, with branches coloured by class and node points coloured by

172 order. Barplots show proportional composition of fungal and bacterial phyla for each host species,

173 aligned to tree tips. **(B)** Correlation between microbial and host genetic distances (generated from the  
 174 phylogenetic tree in A) for both bacteria (green) and fungi (orange) across all host species. Microbial  
 175 taxonomy was either raw ASVs or grouped into higher taxonomic levels. Aggregation to higher  
 176 taxonomy tended to result in higher correlations for both microbial groups, and the correlation was  
 177 always stronger in bacteria. **(C)** Correlation between fungal and bacterial community structure derived  
 178 from Procrustes rotation on PCA ordinations of each microbial group. Microbial communities were  
 179 aggregated at various taxonomic groupings (order, family, genus), or as raw Amplicon Sequence  
 180 Variant (ASV) taxonomy. For both B and C, distributions of correlation values were generated using  
 181 resampling of 90% of available samples for that microbial group to generate 95% intervals (shaded  
 182 areas on graphs). Empty bars in panel 2A mean samples were not available for a particular species  
 183 and so would not have been included in the calculations in panel B or C.

184

185 **TABLE 2**

186 PERMANOVA results for (a) fungi and (b) bacteria of factors explaining variation in microbial  
 187 community structure. Terms were added in the order shown in the table to marginalise effects of  
 188 sample storage and preparation protocols before calculating % variance explained for taxonomic  
 189 groupings. Species ID was the dominant source of variation in the data for both taxonomic groups, but  
 190 there were also strong effects of sample storage and wet lab protocol, particularly for bacteria.

<b>(a) FUNGI</b>				<b>Taxonomic Effects Only</b>		
<b>Predictor</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p value</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p value</b>
Sample Type	7	0.05	0.001			
Tissue Storage	5	0.04	0.001			
Extraction Kit	7	0.07	0.001			
Class	2	0.02	0.001	6	0.05	0.001
Order	6	0.05	0.001	13	0.12	0.001
Species	18	0.09	0.001	26	0.14	0.001
Residuals	303	0.68		303	0.68	

<b>(b) BACTERIA</b>				<b>Taxonomic Effects Only</b>		
<b>Predictor</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p value</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p value</b>
Sample Type	6	0.06	0.001			
Tissue Storage	6	0.16	0.001			
Extraction Kit	7	0.12	0.001			

Class	2	0.02	0.001	6	0.09	0.001
Order	6	0.09	0.001	12	0.21	0.001
Species	18	0.12	0.001	27	0.27	0.001
Residuals	273	0.42		273	0.42	

191

192 *Strength of Interactions Between Bacteria and Fungi May Vary Across Host Taxonomy*

193 Analysis of correlations among fungal and bacterial abundances revealed differences in network  
 194 structure at both the host class (Fig. 3A) and host species level (Figs. S7; S8). In particular, fungi of  
 195 the phylum Ascomycota appeared frequently in the putative interaction networks of birds, mammals  
 196 and amphibians (Fig. 3A). There was also systematic variation in network structure among taxonomic  
 197 groups. Using the class-level network data in Fig. 3A, we estimated that Mammalia exhibited the  
 198 fewest components, fewest communities, and lowest modularity (Table 2), indicating lower overall  
 199 network subdivision relative to other animal classes. Mean betweenness of fungal nodes also varied  
 200 by host class; randomisations revealed that mean fungal betweenness was significantly lower than  
 201 expected by chance in Aves (2-tailed  $p = 0.044$ , Fig. 3B) but not Mammalia (2-tailed  $p=0.6$ , Fig 3B).  
 202 Models of species-level network data (Fig. S7, S8) revealed the frequency of positive co-occurrence  
 203 between pairs of microbes also varied by class; Mammalia exhibited the highest proportion of positive  
 204 edges (Fig. 3C), being significantly greater than those of birds (mean diff. 0.042 [0.017-0.067]) and  
 205 amphibians (mean diff. 0.05 [0.002-0.112]). Notably, insects had a markedly lower proportion of  
 206 positive edges compared to all other taxa (Fig. 3C). Class explained 93.2% [92.9-93.4%] of variation  
 207 in edge sign.

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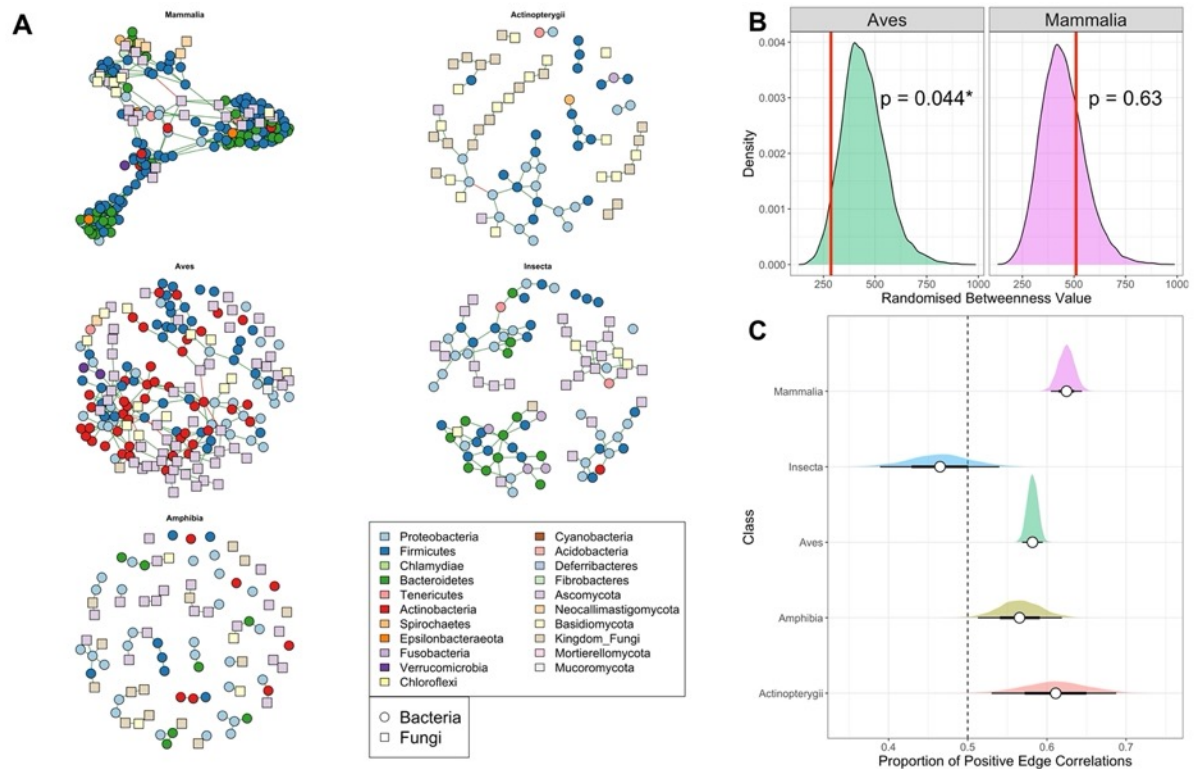
210 **TABLE 2:** Network statistics from class-specific microbial networks in Figure 3 in the main  
 211 manuscript. ‘Modularity’ and ‘Groups’ statistics are derived from the cluster\_fast\_greedy function  
 212 applied to *igraph* network objects. ‘Components’ data were extracted directly from the networks.  
 213 Modularity was positively correlated with both number of groups ( $cor = 0.76$ ) and number of  
 214 components ( $cor = 0.86$ ).

Class	Modularity	Groups	Components
Mammalia	0.658	7	1

Aves	0.719	23	14	215
Insecta	0.781	10	6	
Actinopterygii	0.806	16	11	216
Amphibia	0.923	35	35	217

218

219



220

### 221 FIGURE 3

222 (A) Putative microbial interaction networks between bacterial (circles) and fungal (squares),  
 223 coloured by microbial phylum. Networks were constructed using the R package *SpiecEasi* on CLR-  
 224 transformed abundance values to detect non-random co-occurrence between groups of microbes. (B)  
 225 Permutational testing revealed that mean fungal betweenness was significantly lower than expected  
 226 by chance in Aves, but not Mammalia, indicating heterogeneity in network structure. (C) Analysis of  
 227 network structural traits from species-specific networks comprising 39 species from five Classes.  
 228 There were significant differences in the proportion of positive edges (correlations between paired  
 229 microbial abundance values) among classes. Vertical dashed line indicates equal proportion of  
 230 positive and negative edges.

231

## 232 **DISCUSSION**

233 Our study represents the most wide-ranging evaluation of animal mycobiome composition, and its  
234 covariation with the bacterial microbiome, undertaken to date. Our data provide novel evidence for  
235 mycobiome phylosymbiosis in wild animals, indicative of close evolutionary coupling between hosts  
236 and their resident fungal communities. Consistent with previous studies, we also find evidence of  
237 phylosymbiosis in the bacterial microbiome (29), but crucially, we demonstrate strong and consistent  
238 covariation between fungal and bacterial communities across host phylogeny, especially at higher  
239 microbial taxonomic levels. These patterns are supported by complementary network analysis  
240 illustrating frequent correlative links between fungal and bacterial taxa, whereby certain pairs of  
241 microbes from different kingdoms are much more likely to co-occur in the microbiome than expected  
242 by chance. Taken together, these data provide novel evidence of host recruitment for specific fungal  
243 and bacterial communities, which in turn may reflect host selection for interactions between bacteria  
244 and fungi critical for host physiology and health.

245 We found marked variation among host species in microbial community richness and  
246 composition for both bacteria and fungi. Though our data suggest many species support a diverse  
247 assemblage of host-associated fungi, we show that bacterial diversity tends to be higher on average  
248 relative to fungal diversity, and that there is no signal of positive covariance between fungal and  
249 bacterial richness within species, suggesting more ASV-rich bacterial microbiomes are not  
250 consistently associated with more ASV-rich mycobiomes. These patterns could arise because of  
251 competition for niche space within the gut, where high bacterial diversity may reflect stronger  
252 competition that prevents proliferation of fungal diversity. Understanding patterns of niche competition  
253 within and among microbial groups requires that we are able to define those niches by measuring  
254 microbial gene function, and quantifying degree of overlap or redundancy in functional genomic  
255 profiles across bacteria and fungi.

256 We detected strong phylosymbiosis for both fungi and bacteria across a broad host  
257 phylogeny encompassing both vertebrate and invertebrate classes. This pattern was significantly  
258 stronger in bacteria than for fungi. In both microbial kingdoms, the signal of phylosymbiosis  
259 strengthened when aggregating microbial assignments to broader taxonomic levels, a phenomenon

260 that has previously been shown for bacterial communities (30). That this pattern also occurs in fungi  
261 suggests either that host recruitment is weaker at finer-scale taxonomies, or our ability to detect that  
262 signal is weaker at the relatively noisy taxonomic scale of ASVs. Stronger signals of phyllosymbiosis  
263 at family and order-level taxonomies may reflect the deep evolutionary relationships between hosts  
264 and their bacterial and fungal communities, as well as the propensity for microbial communities to  
265 allow closely related microbes to establish whilst repelling less related organisms (31). That is, higher-  
266 order microbial taxonomy may better approximate functional guilds within the microbiome, such as the  
267 ability to degrade cellulose (25, 30), which are otherwise obscured by taxonomic patterns of ASVs.  
268 Resolving this requires the integration of functional genomic data from the fungal and bacterial  
269 microbiota into the phylogeny.

270 In addition to microbe-specific patterns of phyllosymbiosis, a key novel finding of our work is  
271 discovery of strong covariation between fungal and bacterial community composition across the host  
272 phylogeny. These patterns are consistent with host recruitment for particular suites of fungal and  
273 bacterial taxa, which may represent bacteria-fungi metabolic interactions beneficial to the host.  
274 Bacterial-fungal interactions have previously been demonstrated for a handful of animal species (8, 9,  
275 17, 32, 33), but here we show these are widespread across multiple animal classes. Both bacteria  
276 and fungi have considerable enzymatic properties that facilitate the liberation of nutrients for use by  
277 other microbes, thus facilitating cross-kingdom colonisation (34–36) and promoting metabolic inter-  
278 dependencies (37–39). We also identified numerous associations between bacteria and fungi for  
279 many of our host species. The frequency and predicted direction of these relationships varied  
280 considerably among host classes, with the mammalian network exhibiting i) a lower modularity,  
281 indicating weaker clustering into fewer discrete units (both distinct components and interlinked  
282 communities); and ii) a higher frequency of positive correlations between microbes compared to most  
283 other classes, in particular birds and insects. Comparisons of networks are challenging when they  
284 differ in size (i.e., number of nodes) and structure, and differences between classes in traits like  
285 modularity will also be affected by species replication within each class. However, proportional traits  
286 like interaction structure (proportion of positive interactions) are unlikely to be driven solely by sample  
287 size, suggesting marked biological variation in strength of fungi-bacteria interactions across the host  
288 phylogeny. These putative interaction networks provide novel candidates for further investigation in

289 controlled systems, where microbiome composition and therefore the interactions among microbes  
290 can be manipulated to test the influence of such interactions on host physiology.

291 The drivers of phyllosymbiosis remain unclear, even for bacterial communities; is a  
292 phylogenetic signal indicative of host-microbiome coevolution, or simply a product of “ecological  
293 filtering” of the microbiome in the host organism either via extrinsic (e.g. diet, habitat) or intrinsic  
294 sources (e.g. gut pH, immune system function) (26, 29, 40)? Our results indicate host diet may play a  
295 role in determining bacterial composition in mammals, but not fungal composition in either mammals  
296 or birds. These results are broadly consistent with previous work, where the influence of diet on  
297 bacterial microbiome was most evident in mammals (25). However, Li et al. (16) showed that the  
298 composition and diversity of both fungal and bacterial communities of faecal samples differed  
299 between phytophagous and insectivorous bats, and Heisel et al. (17) demonstrated changes in fungal  
300 community composition in mice fed a high fat diet. Our study was not designed to test for the effects  
301 of ecological variation in diet on fungal microbiome *within* a species, nor can we discount the  
302 possibility that at finer taxonomic scales within classes, signals of the effect of *among* species  
303 variation in diet on mycobiome may become stronger (e.g. (16)). It is also worth noting that the signals  
304 produced from faecal and true gut samples may differ; evidence suggests faecal samples may  
305 indicate diet is the predominant driver of “gut” microbiome composition when gastrointestinal samples  
306 indicate host species is the predominant determinant (41). Moreover, faecal samples may only  
307 represent a small proportion of the gastrointestinal microbiome (41–43). Our data also show that  
308 sample type has a significant effect on both fungal and bacterial community composition (as well as  
309 DNA extraction method and storage method; see (44–47) for other examples of this). As such, a more  
310 thorough analysis of true gut communities is required to determine the extent to which mycobiome  
311 phyllosymbiosis and dietary signals occur across wild animals, and what other ecological and host-  
312 associated factors influence mycobiome composition and function. We hypothesise that evolutionary  
313 processes play a large role in shaping host-associated microbiomes, with selection for microbiome  
314 function rather than taxonomic groupings per se.

315 Within animals, the roles of host-associated fungal communities are not well understood, yet  
316 our data highlight that fungi are important components of microbiome structure that are often  
317 overlooked. Our knowledge of the range of functions provided by the host mycobiome, and how these  
318 alter or complement those provided by the bacterial microbiome, remains limited. We hypothesise that

319 host-associated fungi and bacteria produce mutually beneficial metabolites that facilitate the  
320 colonisation, reproduction and function of cross-kingdom metabolic networks (28). Though we provide  
321 evidence for consistent variation among host class in fungal community structure, and the role of fungi  
322 within putative interaction networks, for many researchers the questions of key interest will focus on  
323 what governs variation at the level of the individual. Clear gaps in our knowledge remain regarding the  
324 relative contributions of host genomic (48–50) and environmental variation to host mycobiome  
325 structure, function and stability. We argue that there is an urgent need to incorporate quantitative  
326 estimates of microbial function into microbiome studies, which are crucial for understanding the forces  
327 of selection shaping host-microbe interactions at both the individual and species level.

328

329

## 330 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 331 *Sample collection*

332 DNA was extracted from tissue or faecal samples of 49 host species using a variety of DNA extraction  
333 methods (Table S1) and normalised to ~10 ng/ul. Samples were largely collated from previous studies  
334 and/or those available from numerous researchers and as such, DNA extraction and storage  
335 techniques were not standardised across species. We sequenced a median of 10 samples per  
336 species (range of 5 to 12; Table S1).

337

### 338 *ITS1F-2 and 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing*

339 Full details are provided in Supplementary Materials. Briefly, we amplified the ITS1F-2 rRNA gene to  
340 identify fungal communities using single index reverse primers and a modified protocol of Smith &  
341 Peay (51) and Nguyen et al. (52), as detailed in Griffiths et al. (13). To identify bacterial communities,  
342 we amplified DNA for the 16S rRNA V4 region using dual indexed forward and reverse primers  
343 according to Kozich et al. (53) and Griffiths et al. (49). The two libraries were sequenced separately  
344 using paired-end reads (2 x 250bp) with v2 chemistry on an Illumina MiSeq.

345 We conducted amplicon sequence data processing in DADA2 v1.5 (54) in RStudio v1.2.1335  
346 for R (55, 56) for both ITS rRNA and 16S rRNA amplicon data. After data processing, we obtained a



347 median of 1425 reads per sample (range of 153 to 424,527) from the ITS data, and a median of 3273  
348 reads (range of 153 to 425,179) for the 16S rRNA data.

349 To compare alpha-diversity between species and microbial kingdoms, we rarefied libraries to  
350 500 reads per sample, yielding 292 samples from 46 species and 307 samples from 47 species for  
351 fungal and bacterial kingdoms respectively. Alpha-diversity measures remained relatively stable within  
352 a host species whether data were rarefied to 500, 1000, or 2500 reads (Figs. 1, S1, S2; see  
353 Supplementary Material for more details).

354

### 355 *Host phylogeny*

356 As many of our host species lack genomic resources from which to construct a genome-based  
357 phylogeny, we built a dated phylogeny of host species using TimeTree (57). The phylogenetic tree  
358 contained 42 species, of which 36 were directly represented in the TimeTree database. A further six  
359 species had no direct match in TimeTree and so we used a congener as a substitute (*Amietia*,  
360 *Glossina*, *Portunus*, *Ircinia*, *Amblyomma*, *Cinachyrella*). We calculated patristic distance among  
361 species based on shared branch length in the phylogeny using the 'cophenetic' function in the *ape*  
362 package (58) in R. We visualised and annotated the phylogeny using the R package *ggtree* (59). To  
363 create a phylogeny for all samples, we grafted sample-level tips onto the species phylogeny with  
364 negligible branch lengths following Youngblut et al. (25).

365

### 366 *Fungal and bacterial community analysis*

367 A fully reproducible workflow of all analyses is provided in supplementary material as an R  
368 Markdown document. We used the R package *brms* (60, 61) to fit (generalized) linear mixed effects  
369 models [(G)LMMs] to test for differences in alpha diversity and calculated  $r^2$  of models using the  
370 'bayes\_R2' function. We assessed the importance of terms based on whether 95% credible intervals  
371 of the parameter estimates of interest crossed zero. We used *ggplot* (62), *cowplot* (63) and *tidybayes*  
372 (64) for raw data and plotting of posterior model estimates.

373 To support these analyses, we also used the R packages *phylobase* (65) and *phylosignal*  
374 (66) to estimate the phylogenetic signal in patterns of alpha diversity for both bacteria and fungi, using

375 both Inverse Simpson Index and number of observed ASVs as outcome variables. We calculated  
376 Abouheif's  $C_{\text{mean}}$  for each diversity-microbe combination and corrected p values for multiple testing  
377 using Benjamini-Hochberg correction.

378 To identify taxonomic differences in microbiome and mycobiome composition between host  
379 species, we used centred-log-ratio (CLR) transformation in the *microbiome* (67) package to normalise  
380 microbial abundance data, which obviates the need to lose data through rarefying (68). To quantify  
381 differences in beta-diversity among kingdoms and species whilst simultaneously accounting for  
382 sample storage and library preparation differences among samples, we conducted a PERMANOVA  
383 analysis on among-sample Euclidean distances of CLR-transformed abundances using the *adonis*  
384 function in *vegan* (69) with 999 permutations. For both kingdoms, we specified effects in the following  
385 order: sample type, tissue storage, extraction kit, class, order, species. This marginalises the effects  
386 of sample metadata variables first, before partitioning the remaining variance into that accounted for  
387 by host phylogeny. The results were similar when amplicon data were converted to relative  
388 abundance or rarefied to 500 reads (data not presented).

389 To test the hypothesis that inter-individual differences in microbial community composition  
390 were preserved between microbial kingdoms, we performed Procrustes rotation of the two PCA  
391 ordinations for bacterial and fungal abundance matrices, respectively (n = 277 paired samples from  
392 46 species). We also repeated this analysis with ASVs agglomerated into progressively higher  
393 taxonomic rankings from genus to order (see (30)). To provide a formal test of differences in strength  
394 of covariation at different taxonomic levels, we conducted a bootstrap resampling analysis where for  
395 each kingdom at each iteration, we randomly sampled 90% of the data and recalculated the  
396 correlation metric. We repeated this process 999 times to build a distribution of correlation values at  
397 each taxonomic grouping. To examine the hypothesis that inter-individual distance in microbial  
398 community composition varies in concert with interspecific phylogenetic distance, we performed a  
399 Procrustes rotation on the paired matrix of microbial distance (Euclidean distance of CLR-transformed  
400 abundances) and patristic distance from the phylogenetic tree.

401 To identify potential co-occurrence relationships between fungal and bacterial communities,  
402 we conducted two analyses; 1) We used the R package *SpiecEasi* (70) to identify correlations  
403 between unrarefied, CLR-transformed ASVs abundances at the host class level (with insects

404 grouped), and 2) we used co-occurrence analysis at the species level, by rarefying the bacterial and  
405 fungal data sets to 500 reads each, and agglomerated taxonomy family level, resulting in 117  
406 bacterial groups and 110 fungal groups. We then merged the *phyloseq* objects for bacterial and  
407 fungal communities for each sample, with sufficient data retained to conduct the co-occurrence  
408 analysis for 40 host species. Using these cross-kingdom data, we calculated the co-occurrence  
409 between each pair of microbial genera by constructing a Spearman's correlation coefficient matrix in  
410 the *bioDist* package (71, 72). We visualised those with  $\rho > 0.50$  (strong positive interactions) and  
411  $\rho < -0.50$  (strong negative interactions) for each host species separately using network plots  
412 produced in *igraph* (73). We calculated modularity of the class-level microbial networks comprising  
413 both positive and negative interactions using the modularity function after greedy clustering  
414 implemented in the *igraph* package. We used binomial GLM to test the hypothesis that the proportion  
415 of positive edges (correlations) varies by host class, and permutation approaches on betweenness  
416 values of fungal nodes to test the hypothesis that fungi form critical components of microbial  
417 networks.

418         To determine the effect of diet on bacterial and fungal community composition, we used only  
419 samples from the bird and mammal species and agglomerated the data for each host species using  
420 the *merge\_samples* function in *phyloseq* (74). This gave us a representative microbiome for each  
421 host species, which we rarefied to the lowest number of reads for each combination of kingdom and  
422 host taxon (2,916 – 9,160 reads; bacterial read counts were low for lesser horseshoe bats and so this  
423 species was removed from this analysis) and extracted Euclidean distance matrices for each. We  
424 then correlated these with dietary data obtained from the EltonTraits database (75) using Mantel tests  
425 with Kendall rank correlations in the *vegan* package (69). We agglomerated the microbial data to  
426 class level and visualised the bacterial and fungal community compositions for mammals alongside  
427 pie charts displaying EltonTrait dietary data for each species. We also used a primary axis of the  
428 ordination of EltonTrait data to derive a 'dietary variation axis' used as a predictor for alpha diversity of  
429 Birds and Mammals.

430

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446

## 447 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

448 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

449

## 450 **DATA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

451 Sequence data are deposited in the NCBI SRA database under BioProject numbers PRJNA593927  
452 and PRJNA593220. A fully-reproducible analysis workflow has been provided as supplementary  
453 material at <https://github.com/xavharrison/Mycobiome2020>

454

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