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1 **The impact of the rice production system (irrigated vs lowland) on root-**
2 **associated microbiome from farmer's fields in western Burkina Faso**

3

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19

20 **Abstract**

21 As a consequence of its potential applications for food safety, there is a growing interest in
22 rice root-associated microbial communities, but some systems remain understudied. Here, we
23 compare the assemblage of root-associated microbiota in rice sampled in 19 small farmer's
24 fields from irrigated and rainfed lowlands in western Burkina Faso, using an amplicon
25 metabarcoding approach 16S (Prokaryotes, three plant sample per field) and ITS (fungi, one
26 sample per field). In addition to the expected structure according to the root compartment
27 (root vs. rhizosphere) and geographical zones, we show that the rice production system is a
28 major driver of microbiome structure, both for prokaryotes and fungi. In irrigated systems, we
29 found a higher diversity of prokaryotic communities from rhizosphere and more complex co-
30 occurrence networks, compared to rainfed lowlands. Core taxa were different between the two
31 systems, and indicator species were identified: mostly within *Bacillaceae* and
32 *Bradyrhizobiaceae* families in rainfed lowlands, and within *Burkholderiaceae* and
33 *Moraxellaceae* in irrigated areas. Finally, phlotypes assigned to putative phytobeneficial and
34 pathogen species were found. Mycorrhizal fungi *Glomeromycetes* abundance was higher in
35 rainfed lowlands. Our results highlight deep microbiome differences induced by contrasted
36 rice production systems that should consequently be considered for potential microbial
37 engineering applications.

38 **Key words**

39 Irrigated rice; Metabarcoding; *Oryza sativa*; Rainfed lowlands; Rice production system; Root
40 associated micro-organisms; West Africa.

41 **Introduction**

42 Soil and rhizosphere host megadiverse and dynamic communities of microorganisms that are
43 crucial to the plants they associate with. Their role is particularly recognized for crops as the
44 below-ground microbiota supply plants with nutrients and provide protection against
45 pathogens (Singh *et al.* 2020; Chialva *et al.* 2021). Recent research suggests that root-
46 associated microbes can improve plant tolerance to environmental stressors (Chialva *et al.*
47 2020), and modify phenology (Lu *et al.* 2018) and morphological traits (Senthil Kumar *et al.*
48 2018). Cultivated plants and their associated microbial communities are thus increasingly
49 studied jointly, as holobionts (a concept reviewed by Vandenkoornhuyse *et al.* in 2015),
50 because a deeper understanding of their interaction might help to develop microbial
51 engineering applications for modern sustainable agricultural systems (Chialva *et al.* 2021).
52 While much progress has been made, the mechanisms that control root-associated
53 microbiome assembly (i.e., structure, composition and dynamics) remain difficult to
54 disentangle (Brunel *et al.* 2020). Vertical transmission of the microorganisms (i.e., across
55 plant generation) exists as well as the horizontal transmission (i.e., recruitment from the soil
56 “seed bank”), with variable contributions of the seed and soil to the seedling microbiome
57 (Rochefort *et al.* 2021; Walsh *et al.* 2021). Beyond the environmental drivers known to shape
58 bulk soil communities (e.g., climate, soil properties, agricultural practices; see Vieira *et al.*
59 2020), the influence of the cultivated plant in structuring communities is more and more
60 documented and now referred as the extended root phenotype (see de la Fuente Cantó *et al.*
61 2020). Indeed, while the root-associated micro-habitats (i.e., rhizosphere, rhizoplane,
62 endosphere) modulate the intensity of assembly processes (Beattie, 2018), the plant identity
63 (e.g., species, genotype, age, etc.) plays a major role in recruiting specific microbial taxa
64 shared across multiple environmental conditions (Schweitzer *et al.* 2008).

65 Rice is the most important food crop in the world, grown in variable climatic conditions and
66 representing the staple food of more than half of the world’s population, mostly in Asia,
67 Africa and Latin America (Pandey *et al.* 2010). The major species cultivated worldwide is
68 *Oryza sativa* L. (known as ‘Asian rice’). This is also true in Africa, where a second rice
69 species was domesticated (*O. glaberrima*, referred to as ‘African rice’), but is much less
70 grown because of lower yield (Linares, 2002). Given its importance for food security, and the
71 impact of microbiota on plant productivity, it is not surprising that many recent studies used
72 metabarcoding approaches to describe the microbiome of *O. sativa* (Kim & Lee, 2020),

73 particularly its root-associated microbial communities (reviewed by Ding *et al.* in 2019). Rice
74 has the particularity to be cultivated in flooded paddy soils over most growth stages, so that
75 the rhizosphere is located in an oxic-anoxic interface (Ding *et al.* 2019). Microbial
76 communities inhabiting rice roots are distinct from those found in other crops, with for
77 example an enrichment in *Deltaproteobacteria*, *Euryarchaeota*, *Chytridiomycota* (Ding *et al.*
78 2019). On the other hand, like for other crops, their structuring is driven both by the host plant
79 (in terms of root compartment / microhabitats, plant genotype) and its environment
80 (geographical zone, bioclimate, soil properties, agricultural practices; Ding *et al.* 2019). In
81 terms of microhabitats, differences between rhizosphere and endosphere compartments are
82 clear (see e.g. Edwards *et al.* 2015; Guo *et al.* 2021) and recent evidence shows differences in
83 microbiota composition between root types and along root axes (Kawasaki *et al.* 2021). An
84 effect of host genotype (subspecies/cultivars) were evidenced in some cases (Edwards *et al.*
85 2015; Alonso *et al.* 2020), but it is generally weak compared to other factors, or even absent
86 (Edwards *et al.* 2018; Guo *et al.* 2021). Environmental factors, such as the geographical zone
87 and agricultural practices, are important drivers of microbiota structuring as well. For
88 example, Edwards *et al.* (2015) evidenced an effect of geographical location and cultivation
89 practices, namely organic *vs* conventional farming. Other environmental factors, such as
90 drought stress (Santos-Medellín *et al.* 2017), water management (Chialva *et al.* 2020),
91 phosphorus (Long & Yao, 2020), were also shown to affect rice root-associated microbiota. In
92 addition, bacterial and archaeal communities evolve during the vegetative phase of plant
93 growth, then shift and stabilize compositionally at the transition to reproductive growth at
94 flowering stage (Edwards *et al.* 2018). Vertical transmission through seeds seems quite weak
95 or even absent (Guo *et al.* 2021). However, the rice microbiome has been poorly explored in
96 African context in spite of **(1)** the importance to investigate a diversity of geographical areas
97 (as a consequence of the effect of geographical zone, see above) and document the diversity
98 of cultural practices, and **(2)** the growing importance of rice in Africa (recent surge in rice
99 consumption with 8% yearly increase from 2009 to 2019, Soullier *et al.* 2020). An exception
100 is the recent work by Kanasugi *et al.* (2020) that evidenced an effect of the region in
101 structuring of rice microbiome described in six tropic savanna regions in Ghana. More
102 generally, there is a lack of knowledge concerning crop-associated microbiota in the African
103 continent, that results in a biased view of the microbial world associated with crops due to
104 worldwide sampling repartition (Brunel *et al.* 2020; Hughes *et al.* 2021), and it is of particular
105 concern due to the potential of microbial engineering for future agriculture.

106 Rice is grown around the world in a diversity of rice-growing systems, three of them being the
107 most important (Rao *et al.* 2017). First, irrigated lowlands, with full water control, produce
108 75% of the global rice production. Second, rainfed lowlands (including flood prone),
109 represents around 19% of the world's rice production. Finally, rainfed upland rice, only
110 possible under high rainfall, results in 4% of the global total rice production. In Burkina Faso,
111 irrigated rice represents small areas (costly infrastructures representing less than 30% of
112 harvested areas; CountrySTAT, 2020), but produces more than half of the national rice
113 production (MAHRH, 2011). On the other hand, rainfed lowlands represent the majority of
114 rice growing surfaces (67% between 1984 and 2009), but only 42% of the production as a
115 consequence of lower yields compared to irrigated areas (MAHRH, 2011). Irrigated areas
116 (IR) and rainfed lowlands (RL) host different agricultural practices in West Africa (Nonvide
117 *et al.* 2018). In western Burkina Faso in particular, these contrasted practices have been
118 documented, showing that the possibility to grow rice twice a year was restricted to irrigated
119 areas, while direct sowing was performed only in rainfed lowlands, and that mineral
120 fertilization was more frequent in irrigated areas (Barro *et al.* 2021). In terms of the host plant
121 genetic diversity however, a study led in six locations from western Burkina Faso revealed
122 few differences between irrigated areas and rainfed lowlands in general, except in one of the
123 study sites, the rainfed lowland of Karfiguela, highly differentiated from the other five sites
124 (Barro *et al.* 2021).

125 This study aims at describing rice root-associated microbial communities in farmer's fields
126 from western Burkina Faso. More specifically, we investigate whether rice roots from two
127 contrasted rice growing systems (irrigated and rainfed lowland areas) host different microbial
128 communities. To this aim, we collected rice root and rhizosphere samples in farmer's fields
129 from three geographical zones, each consisting of an irrigated rice-growing area and
130 neighboring rainfed lowlands. A previous study performed in the same study sites
131 documented more intensive agricultural practices in irrigated areas, compared to rainfed
132 lowlands (Barro *et al.* 2021). Considering the effect of intensification on belowground
133 biodiversity and microbial network complexity (Banerjee *et al.* 2019; Tamburini *et al.* 2020),
134 we hypothesize an effect of the rice growing system on root-associated microbial
135 communities diversity and complexity. If true, this may have consequences on plant health
136 (Wei *et al.* 2015), particularly in this system where rice diseases were shown to circulate at
137 higher levels in irrigated areas compared to rainfed lowlands (Barro *et al.* 2021).

138

139 **Material and methods**

140 **Study sites in western Burkina Faso**

141 The study sites are located in three geographic zones in western Burkina Faso, with maximum
142 distance between each zone about 90 kilometers (Fig. 1a). Each zone comprises one irrigated
143 area and the neighboring rainfed lowland, with maximum distance between the two rice
144 growing systems of each zone being 7 kilometers (Fig. 1b). The climate consequently do not
145 differ between rice growing systems within each zone, but average precipitation during the
146 rice growing season (July to early December) differ between the three geographical zones
147 (WorldClim 2 data; Fick & Hijmans, 2017; see Fig. S1).

148 These six sites were studied from 2016 to 2019, with the characterization of agricultural
149 practices and the follow-up of major rice diseases symptoms (Barro *et al.* 2021; see further
150 details on the methodology and raw data at: <https://doi.org/10.23708/8FDWIE>). Rice
151 genotyping data on samples collected in 2018 in these six sites are also available (see Barro *et*
152 *al.* 2021).

153 **Rice root sampling**

154 Within the six sites, we investigated a total of 19 fields, with three fields per site, except in
155 Bama, the largest irrigated perimeter studied, where four fields were sampled (Fig. 1b). Each
156 field studied corresponds to a square of approximately 25 meters on a side. Root and
157 rhizosphere sampling was performed at rice maturation, between October, 16th and December
158 3rd 2018. We chose this developmental stage based on a previous study showing that the rice
159 microbiome composition evolves during the growing season until a ‘mature’ microbiome at
160 the flowering stage (Edwards *et al.* 2018). Within each field, we sampled three plants located
161 on the square diagonal, with at least 5 meters distance. Sampling was performed with gloves
162 and scissors (ethanol sanitized between two sampling) and involved nodal, bases and seminal
163 roots (all sampled together). Roots were roughly shaken to remove non-adherent soil, and
164 placed in 50 mL sterile tubes containing sterile Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) solution for

165 a rapid (15s) rinse and then stored in another 50 mL sterile PBS-containing tube. We placed
166 the tubes in a cooler and then at 4°C when back to the laboratory, on the same day.

167 [Soil physicochemical properties: data acquisition and analysis](#)

168 The three geographical zones studied (Fig. 1a) are characterized by Lixisols (soils with
169 subsurface accumulation of low activity clays and high base saturation) according to the
170 Harmonized World Soil Database (HWSD) map (FAO/IIASA/ISRIC/ISSCAS/JRC, 2012).

171 Soil sampling was performed on the same day as rice root sampling, and in three locations
172 nearby sampled plants, using a 10 cm depth auger. Back from the field, sampled soil was
173 dried in the shade at room temperature and stored until analysis.

174 INERA/GRN service performed the analyses of soil samples according to a standardized
175 methodology. Briefly, soil physical properties were assessed by soil particle size distribution
176 following Bouyoucos (1962), pH was estimated according to AFNOR (1981), total organic
177 carbon with the Walkley & Black (1934)'s method, total concentrations of nitrogen with
178 Kjeldhal method Hillebrand *et al.* (1953), and finally phosphorus and potassium content as
179 described respectively in Novozansky *et al.* (1983) and Walinga *et al.* (1989). Then, cation
180 exchange capacity (CEC), a measure of fertility, nutrient retention capacity, and the capacity
181 to protect groundwater from cation contamination, was estimated, as well as sorptive
182 bioaccessibility extraction (SBE), that relates to the environmental mobility, partitioning and
183 toxicity of soil pollutants, following Metson (1956). Soil data are publicly available on the
184 IRD Dataverse : <https://doi.org/10.23708/LZ8A5B>.

185 [Rice root conditioning, DNA extraction and sequencing](#)

186 Less than 24h after sampling, root samples (rice roots including rhizosphere) stored at 4°C
187 were processed. In order to separate the different root compartments, the tubes were vortexed
188 vigorously one minute and then, roots were removed from the PBS solution using sterile
189 forceps. The remaining PBS solution was considered as the 'rhizosphere' compartment. Roots
190 were then surface-sterilized with 70% alcohol (30s), 1% bleach (30s) and finally rinsed three
191 times in sterile water. We considered these surface-sterilized roots as the 'root' compartment,
192 which comprises both endosphere microorganisms as well as persistent DNA from the

193 rhizoplane. DNA extraction from the rhizosphere and root samples were performed on the
194 same day as the process of compartment separation.

195 For DNA extractions, 0.25g of root samples (crushed in liquid nitrogen beforehand) and 0.25g
196 of rhizosphere were extracted using the DNeasy PowerSoil Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany),
197 following manufacturer's recommendations. DNA quality and quantity was verified using a
198 NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer. PCR amplification, library and MiSeq Illumina
199 sequencing were performed by Macrogen (Seoul, South Korea) using primers 341F (16S
200 V3F, 5'-CCTACGGGNGGCWGCAG-3') and 785R (16S V4R, 5'-
201 GACTACHVGGGTATCTAATCC-3') to amplify the V3 -V4 regions of the 16S rRNA gene,
202 and using primers ITS1f: CTTGGTCATTTAGAGGAAGTAA and ITS2:
203 GCTGCGTTCTTCATCGATGC to amplify the internal transcribed spacer 1 (ITS1) region.
204 We specifically focused on the factors structuring prokaryotic communities (16S sequencing),
205 but were also interested to see whether similar tendencies hold for fungal communities (ITS
206 sequencing). We consequently chose the following approach: sequencing was performed for
207 each sampled plant (19 fields * 3 plants = 57 samples per compartment) for 16S sequencing
208 and for a composite sample (3 plant samples were pooled to result in one sample per field, so
209 that the total number of samples per compartment is 19) for the ITS marker. Negative controls
210 (three for 16S and one for ITS) were sequenced to remove potential contaminants.

211 Sequence data are retrievable from NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information)
212 under the Bioproject ID: PRJNA763095.

213 [Bioinformatic analyses of obtained sequences](#)

214 All bioinformatics and statistical analyses were performed in R software v 3.6.3 (R core
215 Team, 2018) and the package *ggplot2* was used for the visualization.

216 Raw sequences were processed using a custom script from the *dada2* pipeline, which is
217 designed to resolve exact biological sequences (ASVs for Amplicon Sequence Variants) from
218 Illumina sequence data without sequence clustering (Callahan *et al.* 2016). Raw sequences
219 were first demultiplexed by comparing index reads with a key, and paired sequences were
220 trimmed. Sequences were dereplicated, and the unique sequence pairs were denoised using
221 the *dada* function. Primers and adapters were screened and removed using a custom script
222 with *cutadapt* (Martin, 2011). Next, paired-end sequences were merged, and chimeras were

223 removed. Contaminants were identified and removed using negative controls and the
224 *decontam* package. Rarefaction curves were drawn for each sample, using the *rarecurve*
225 function of the *vegan* R package, and the rarefaction plateau was reached for all samples (Fig.
226 S2). To account for differences in sequencing depths, samples were rarefied to 4236 and 7828
227 for 16S and ITS, respectively. Taxonomy assignments were determined against the UNITE
228 2021 (Abarenkov *et al.* 2021) and the SILVA SSU r138 (Quast *et al.* 2013) taxonomic
229 databases for ITS and 16S, respectively using the *idtaxa* function from the *decipher* R
230 package. Mitochondria and chloroplast sequences were then removed. ASVs not seen more
231 than once in at least 2% of the samples were removed. We then obtained 2 116 969 (8260
232 ASVs) final sequences for 16S and 172 719 (566 ASVs) sequences for ITS. A figure showing
233 the phyla relative abundances was constructed and presented according to the rice-growing
234 system, site and root compartment.

235 Indices of α -diversity (observed richness and Shannon diversity index) were calculated using
236 the *estimate_richness* function from the *phyloseq* package (McMurdie & Holmes, 2013).
237 Members of the core microbiota were identified for 16S and ITS communities (including both
238 rhizosphere and roots compartments) in each rice grown system using the prevalence
239 threshold of 60%.

240 For 16S dataset only, we inferred co-occurrence networks using the *SpiecEasi* pipeline (Kurtz
241 *et al.* 2015), independently for each rice growing system: rainfed lowland and irrigated areas.
242 Networks were calculated for ASVs present in more than 15% of the samples using the
243 method 'mb' and setting the lambda.min.ratio to 1e-3 and nlambda to 50. We identified hub
244 taxa, i.e. the potential keystone of the microbial network belonging to the most connected
245 ASVs, based on their node parameters (method developed by Berry & Widder, 2014): a low
246 betweenness centrality (lower quantile, < 0.9), and a high closeness centrality (higher
247 quantile, > 0.75), transitivity (higher quantile, > 0.25) and degree (higher quantile, > 0.75).
248 The node and network parameters were determined using the R package *igraph* (Csardi &
249 Nepusz, 2006) and *qgraph* (Epskamp *et al.* 2012). Complete networks were further described
250 by calculating the number of nodes and hubs, the network mean degree, mean closeness and
251 betweenness centralities, the total number of edges, and the positive to negative edges ratio.
252 Core taxa (prevalent in more than 60% of the samples) were also identified for each system.

253 The taxonomic affiliation of all ASVs was refined using nucleotide basic local alignment
254 search tool (BLASTn) analyses on NCBI nr database. We screened the table of blast best hits

255 of all 16S and ITS ASVs in order to search the genus or species names of a number of
256 pathogen species listed a priori (Table S6), based on the reference book *Compendium of Rice*
257 *Diseases* (Cartwright *et al.* 2018). We also searched within blast best hits for ITS ASVs
258 assigned to the *Glomeromycetes* class, as well as 16S and ITS ASV assigned to a species
259 name's including "oryz", as this may correspond to a specific interaction (pathogen or
260 beneficial) with rice.

261 [Statistical analyses](#)

262 We first analyzed soil physico-chemical parameters. To this purpose, PERMANOVA were
263 performed on soil physical properties (texture, i.e. relative amount of sand, silt, and clay) on
264 the one hand, and soil chemical properties (7 variables: pH, total carbon, total nitrogen, total
265 phosphorus, total potassium, SBE, CEC) on the other hand. For both models, we included as
266 explanatory factors the 'geographical zone' and 'rice-growing system', as well as their
267 interaction, using *adonis2* function from the *vegan* R package (Oksanen *et al.* 2007), with 999
268 permutations. Posthoc tests were done using the *pairwiseAdonis* function
269 (<https://github.com/pmartinezarbizu/pairwiseAdonis>). In addition, we performed Kruskal-
270 Wallis non-parametric tests on each soil variable independently, testing for an effect of the
271 geographical zone or the rice growing system, using the *kruskal_test* function from the *rstatix*
272 package. Dunn tests (*dunn_test* function) were then performed in case of significant effect
273 evidenced to identify statistically differing groups.

274 For microbial communities, PERMANOVA were used to test for significant effects of root
275 compartments, geographical zones and rice growing systems on microbial β -diversity, based
276 on a Bray–Curtis dissimilarity matrix. Sites differences were further tested using the
277 *pairwise.adonis* function of the same *vegan* package. The graphical representation of β -
278 diversity was based on Non-metric Multi-Dimensional Scaling (NMDS, *metaMDS* function).
279 The effect of edaphic variables (i.e., pH, total organic carbon, total phosphorus, total nitrogen,
280 total potassium, CEC and SBE) in structuring β -diversity was tested using the *envfit* function
281 (9999 permutations) in R package *vegan*. Structuring soil properties were thus fitted onto the
282 ordination space.

283 We tested for an effect of the rice growing system on obtained indices of alpha diversity
284 (Shannon diversity index and observed richness). To this purpose, we performed non-
285 parametric statistical tests (*kruskal_test* function from the library *rstatix*) independently for

286 each kingdom (prokaryotes and fungi respectively) and each compartment (rhizosphere and
287 root associated). In addition, for 16S data only (because of insufficient sample size for ITS),
288 we also tested for an effect of the specific site, using Kruskal-Wallis test, and then performed
289 posthoc tests using *dunn_test* function.

290 Then, we identified particular soil taxa that were associated with lowlands or irrigated
291 systems using indicator analyses with the function *multipatt* implemented in the *indicspecies*
292 package (De Cáceres *et al.* 2010). The algorithm determines both fidelity and consistency to a
293 system.

294 Finally, we analyzed the repartition of ASVs assigned to the class *Glomeromycetes*
295 (arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, AMFs). The summed abundance of all ASVs which best blast
296 hit is within the *Glomeromycetes* class was modeled by generalized linear mixed models
297 (GLMMs), with Poisson distribution, with the package *lme4* (Bates *et al.* 2015), followed by
298 Type III ANOVA with the package *car* (Fox & Weisberg, 2019). The compartment and the
299 rice growing system were included as fixed effects and the geographical zone as a random
300 effect. In addition, differential repartition analysis was performed using DESeq2 (Love *et al.*
301 2014) to identify *Glomeromycetes* ASVs showing significant enrichment in one of the two
302 rice growing systems.

303 R code used to perform the analyses and generate the figures are available upon request.

304

305 **Results**

306 **Structure of rice soil properties and rice root associated microbial communities**

307 PERMANOVA analysis performed on the Bray-Curtis distance matrix of soil characteristics
308 to describe the overall soil properties, highlighted no significant influence of the rice growing
309 system, but a differentiation according to the geographical zone, for both physical ($F = 6.420$,
310 $r^2 = 0.448$, $p = 0.006$, Fig. 1b) and chemical ($F = 4.121$, $r^2 = 0.346$, $p = 0.026$) soil parameters.
311 More precisely, we found no effect of the rice growing system but a significant effect of the
312 geographical zone on the clay and sand contents, as well as total Phosphorus, total Potassium,

313 SBE and CEC (Table S1). Posthoc tests revealed that the geographic zones that differed
314 statistically were the same for the six above-mentioned variables, namely Banzon and
315 Karfiguela zones (Fig. 1c).

316 To determine whether the geographical zones (Karfiguela, Bama or Banzon), the rice-growing
317 systems (irrigated vs. rainfed lowlands), or their interactions, structured root-associated or
318 rhizosphere microbial communities, we performed PERMANOVA analysis on the Bray-
319 Curtis distance matrix of 16S and ITS ASVs, respectively (Table S2, Fig. S2). As different
320 structures were revealed between root and rhizosphere communities of both prokaryotes (F=
321 6.863, $r^2 = 0.052$, $p < 0.001$) and fungi (F= 3.753, $r^2 = 0.080$, $p < 0.001$), we further subsetted
322 both datasets to observe the relative influence of the rice-growing systems and the
323 geographical zones in shaping root and rhizosphere communities separately (Table 1, Fig. 2).

324 In the rhizosphere, prokaryotic communities were mainly structured by the rice growing
325 system (F=5.096, $r^2 = 0.079$, $p < 0.001$, Table 1), the geographical zone (F=2.118, $r^2 = 0.069$,
326 $p < 0.001$) and the interaction between rice growing system and zone (F=1.877, $r^2 = 0.058$, p
327 < 0.001). Posthoc tests revealed that most of the pairs of sites (i.e., irrigated and lowland from
328 the same geographical zone) were significantly different, but interestingly revealed no
329 significant difference between communities originating from irrigated systems, whereas all
330 communities from rainfed lowland sites exhibited distinct structures (Table S3). Fungal
331 communities of the rhizosphere were also mostly structured by the rice growing system
332 (F=2.452, $r^2 = 0.115$, $p < 0.001$, Table 1). The geographical zone (F=1.555, $r^2 = 0.146$, $p =$
333 0.007) and the interaction between rice growing system and the geographical zone (F=1.335,
334 $r^2 = 0.126$, $p = 0.036$) were also driving the rhizosphere fungal microbiome. The low number
335 of samples did not allow to detect, if any, statistically significant differences between sites in
336 communities' structures for ITS (Table S3).

337 As observed for rhizosphere communities, the root-associated prokaryotic communities were
338 mainly shaped by the rice growing system (F=5.155, $r^2 = 0.079$, $p < 0.001$, Table 1), the
339 interaction between rice growing system and the geographical zone (F=2.451, $r^2 = 0.075$, $p =$
340 0.002) and the geographical zone (F=2.247, $r^2 = 0.069$, $p < 0.001$). Most of the pairs of sites
341 (from the same geographical zone) were significantly different. No significant difference was
342 detected between communities originating from irrigated systems, whereas all communities
343 from rainfed lowland sites exhibited distinct structures (Table S3). Root-associated fungal
344 communities were also mostly influenced by the rice growing system (F=2.289, $r^2 = 0.111$, p

345 = 0.002, Table 1), and by the interaction between rice growing system and the geographical
346 zone ($F=1.457$, $r^2=0.141$, $p = 0.013$). The effect of the geographical zone on root-associated
347 fungal communities was not evidenced ($F=1.206$, $r^2 = 0.117$, $p =0.123$). As for rhizosphere,
348 posthoc tests on root-associated fungal communities were all non-significant (Table S3).

349 The influence of soil chemical parameters on microbial community structure is reported in
350 Fig. 2 as arrows and in Table S4. We noticed that the prokaryotic communities of both
351 rhizosphere and roots were affected by the same three parameters: SBE ($r^2 =0,482$, $p < 0,001$
352 for rhizosphere, and $r^2 = 0,175$, $p = 0,006$ for roots), CEC ($r^2 =0,314$, $p < 0,001$ for
353 rhizosphere, and $r^2 = 0,204$, $p = 0,003$ for roots) and total phosphorus ($r^2 = 0,132$, $p = 0,023$
354 for rhizosphere, and $r^2 = 0,179$, $p = 0,004$ for roots). For fungi, although various parameters
355 were marginally significant in each compartment (Table S4), we only detected a significant
356 effect of total nitrogen on rhizosphere communities ($r^2 =0,320$, $p = 0,043$).

357 **Composition of rice root microbiomes and comparison of alpha-diversity**

358 While 16S data were assigned at the genus level for 64% of ASVs, only 34% of ITS ASVs
359 could be assigned (see assignments at the phyla level in Fig. S4). Assignations at the phylum
360 level were obtained for all (100%) 16S ASVs, but only for 62% for ITS ASVs (see Fig. S4).
361 Assigned prokaryotic taxa represent 17 phyla, most abundant ones being Proteobacteria,
362 Firmicutes, Mixococcota and Acidobacteriota. For ITS, seven phyla were found, with the
363 most abundant ones being Ascomycota followed by Basicomycota.

364 We tested the effect of the rice growing system on the diversity indices (alpha-diversity). No
365 effect could be evidenced on the fungal (Shannon: $H = 0.026$, $p =0.87$ for the rhizosphere, and
366 $H = 0.107$, $p =0.74$ for root-associated communities), or root-associated prokaryote diversities
367 (Shannon: $H = 1.05$ $p = 0.306$). On the other hand, the rice growing system had a significant
368 effect on the prokaryote diversity of the rhizosphere (Shannon: $H = 11.6$, $p <0.001$), with a
369 higher Shannon diversity index in irrigated areas (5.03 ± 0.13), compared to rainfed lowlands
370 (4.39 ± 0.12) and a higher observed richness (275.6 ± 26.4) in irrigated areas compared to
371 rainfed lowlands (143.7 ± 17.4) (Fig. 3). We noticed however an opposite pattern for fungal
372 communities of the rhizosphere with higher observed richness in rainfed lowlands, compared
373 to irrigated areas (Fig. 3).

374 This effect of the rice growing system on 16S rhizosphere data was also clearly observed
375 when plotting the diversity indices by site (Fig. S5). In addition, we found that the specific
376 site had an effect on the prokaryotic communities of the rhizosphere, and also, but to a lesser
377 extent, in roots (Fig. S5 and Table S5). In the rhizosphere, the highest diversity was found in
378 the irrigated perimeter of Karfiguela, and to a lesser extent in the irrigated area of Bama. A
379 particularly low diversity was found in the rainfed lowland of Karfiguela zone, and to a lesser
380 extent in the rainfed lowland of Banzon. Conversely, we noticed a slightly higher diversity in
381 fungal root associated communities in the rainfed lowland of Karfiguela (Fig. S5).

382 Core microbiome and co-occurrence networks in the two rice-growing systems

383 ASVs belonging to the core microbiome of lowland vs. irrigated rice were respectively
384 identified with a prevalence threshold set to 60%. For 16S, we identified 26 core ASVs
385 associated with the irrigated systems, and two core ASVs in lowlands (Fig. 4). Among the
386 core taxa in irrigated areas, the vast majority of phylotypes (25/26) belonged to the
387 *Burkholderiaceae* family, with 24 assigned to *Ralstonia pickettii* and one to *Paraburkholderia*
388 *kururiensis*. One of the core ASVs is common to both irrigated area and rainfed lowlands
389 systems. Its best blast hit corresponds to *Bradyrhizobium tropiciagri* (Bradyrhizobiaceae)
390 with a 99.5% sequence similarity. Another core phylotype in rainfed lowlands is assigned to
391 the same species with 99.3% sequence similarity.

392 For ITS, we identified 5 core ASVs in the irrigated systems, compared to 11 core ASVs
393 associated with the lowlands, 4 of them being common to both rice growing systems (Fig. 4).

394 Then, we compared the prokaryotic co-occurrence networks in each rice growing system
395 respectively (Table 2). We identified 15 hub ASVs in the irrigated systems and 20 in rainfed
396 lowlands. We found a higher edge number in irrigated compared to rainfed lowlands: 1720
397 positive and 269 negative resulting in 2029 total edges in irrigated areas, while only 1163
398 positive and 85 negative resulting in 1248 total edges were found in rainfed lowlands. Finally,
399 the network computed from irrigated areas had higher connectivity compared to the one from
400 rainfed lowlands (9.8 vs 7.9 node mean degrees, respectively).

401 None of the identified hub taxa were also core in any of the two rice growing systems. Only
402 one ASVs was identified as a hub in both irrigated and rainfed lowland systems, assigned to
403 *Enterobacter mori* (Enterobacteriaceae). Hub taxa in irrigated areas (15 ASVs) were assigned

404 to 8 different species from 5 families, while hub taxa in rainfed lowland (20 ASVs) only
405 corresponded to 4 species from 2 families (Table 2).

406 **Indicator taxa of the two rice growing systems**

407 For 16S data, we found 128 indicator taxa in irrigated areas, including ASVs from eight
408 bacterial families, most of them assigned to *Acinetobacter*, *Ralstonia*, *Aeromonas*,
409 *Comamonas*, *Clostridium* and *Enterobacter* (Table 3). On the other hand, only 63 were
410 identified in rainfed lowlands, most of them within the Bacillaceae family, including ASVs
411 assigned to *Exiguobacterium* and *Priestia*, and Bradyrhizobiaceae family, genus
412 *Bradyrhizobium* (Table 3). The ASV assigned to *Paraburkholderia kururiensis*
413 (Burkholderiaceae) revealed as indicator in irrigated areas (Table 3) was also a core taxa in
414 irrigated areas. Also, among the 24 indicator ASVs in irrigated areas assigned to *Ralstonia*
415 *pickettii* (Burkholderiaceae), 16 were also core in irrigated areas. In addition, four indicator
416 ASVs in irrigated areas were also hubs in this system: two assigned to *Aeromonas hydrophilai*
417 (Aeromonadaceae), another assigned to *Enterobacter cloacae* (Enterobacteriaceae), and
418 finally one corresponding to *Acinetobacter soli* (Moraxellaceae). Three ASVs assigned to
419 *Priestia flexa* (Bacillaceae) were hubs in rainfed lowlands.

420 For ITS data, we found 16 indicator taxa in irrigated areas, and 27 in rainfed lowlands (Table
421 3). Indicator taxa in irrigated areas were assigned to seven classes: *Agaricomycetes*,
422 *Chytridiomycetes*, *Dothideomycetes*, *Geoglossomycetes*, *Leotiomycetes*, *Sordariomycetes*, and
423 *Ustilaginomycetes*. Indicator taxa in rainfed lowlands were assigned to nine classes:
424 *Agaricomycetes*, *Chytridiomycetes*, *Dothideomycetes*, *Glomeromycetes*, *Saccharomycetes*
425 *Schizosaccharomycetes*, *Sordariomycetes*, *Tremellomycetes*, *Ustilaginomycetes*. One ITS
426 ASV identified as indicator taxa in irrigated, with best hit *Pulveroboletus sinensis*
427 (Agaricomycetes), was also core in this rice growing system, and two indicator taxa in rainfed
428 lowlands were also core in this system: one assigned to *Pseudobaeospora wipapatiae*
429 (Agaricomycetes) and the other to *Paraphaeosphaeria michotii* (Dothideomycetes).

430 **Putative pathogen or phytobeneficial taxa**

431 First, responses for an ‘*oryz*’ query within assignation and blast, found matching records only
432 in the 16S dataset. A total of 200 ASVs included ‘*oryz*’ in their names, from 21 different
433 genera, none of these species corresponded to pathogens from Table S6. Among them,

434 putative beneficial taxa were found, particularly the following: *Azospirillum oryzae*,
435 *Novosphingobium oryzae*, *Paenibacillus oryzae*, and *Rhizobium oryzae*, *R. rhizoryzae* and *R.*
436 *straminoryzae*.

437 Next, we made a subset of the ITS dataset for ASVs assigned to the *Glomeromycetes* class
438 (total of 14 ASVs). AMF summed abundance was affected by the compartment ($\chi^2= 101.22$,
439 $p<0.001$) and by the rice growing system ($\chi^2 = 951.12$, $p<0.001$), with higher abundances in
440 rhizosphere compartment and in rainfed lowlands (Fig. 5). In addition, differential abundance
441 testing between rice growing systems detected an ASV assigned to *Racocetra crispa* as
442 preferentially found in rainfed lowlands (l2FC = 24.59; $p<0.001$). We also noticed that
443 another *Glomeromycetes* (*Dentiscutata savannicola*) was identified as indicator taxa in
444 rainfed lowland environments (Table 3).

445 We then screened the list of all assigned ASVs for a set of pathogen species defined *a priori*
446 (see the list in the Table S6). For Prokaryotes (16S data), a number of ASVs corresponded to
447 the genera of pathogens, but only *Burkholderia glumae* (two ASVs), *Acidovorax avenae* (four
448 ASVs) and *Dickeya chrysanthemi* (six ASVs) were identified at the species level. These 12
449 ASVs identified at the species level were however only found in one sample. The
450 *Xanthomonas* genus was found, but with no assignation to *X. oryzae* (instead, assignation to
451 *X. theicola* which is phylogenetically closed to the rice associated *X. sontii* (Bansal *et al.*
452 2020). A similar situation was observed for the genera *Pseudomonas*, *Pantoea*, and
453 *Sphingomonas*. The same analysis of putative pathogens for ITS revealed the presence of the
454 following ten genera: *Alternaria*, *Bipolaris*, *Ceratobasidium*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium*,
455 *Helminthosporium*, *Microdochium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Sarocladium*. We notice that one ASV
456 whose best blast hit was *Curvularia chonburiensis* was core in both irrigated and rainfed
457 lowlands (Fig. 4).

458 Discussion

459 This study aimed at describing the rice root-associated microbiome by comparing contrasted
460 rice growing systems in farmer's fields in Burkina Faso. We found that the rice growing
461 system was a structuring factor for rice root-associated microbiomes, and that the diversity of
462 prokaryotic community from the rhizosphere was higher in irrigated areas compared to
463 rainfed lowland. In addition, we identified a number of phylotypes with potential key roles

464 (hub, core, indicators) in the two contrasted systems, as well as putative phytobeneficial and
465 pathogen species. Although the results on fungi (ITS region) must be taken with caution due
466 to a smaller sample size and the poor representation of obtained sequences in available
467 databases, this study shed light on some drivers of assemblage of rice root associated
468 microbial communities in a sparsely documented African system.

469 [The structuring of microbial diversity is affected by the rice growing system](#)

470 Although Edwards *et al.* (2018) showed that the root-associated microbiome of distant field
471 sites converge in similarity during the growing season, our study performed at the maturity
472 stage of rice still evidenced some drivers of rice root-associated microbial communities
473 structure. First, as for most rice microbiome studies, we found an effect of the compartment /
474 micro-habitat (Edwards *et al.* 2015; Santos-Medellín *et al.* 2017; Guo *et al.* 2021; Kawasaki *et*
475 *al.* 2021), and the geographical zone (Edwards *et al.* 2015; Kanasugi *et al.* 2020) on the beta-
476 diversity of rice root-associated microbiome. In addition, our study shows that the contrasted
477 rice-growing systems, namely irrigated perimeters *vs* rainfed lowlands, harbor contrasted rice
478 root-associated microbial communities, both for prokaryotic and fungal communities, and for
479 rhizosphere and root compartment. We notice that the soil physicochemical properties weakly
480 differ between irrigated areas and rainfed lowland, the soil composition was instead mostly
481 affected by the geographical zones. Consequently, we evidence a structuring effect of the rice-
482 growing system that was only slightly related to contrasted soil physicochemical properties.
483 Our results are in line with a previous study comparing microbiomes from two contrasted
484 water management conditions (upland *vs* lowland rice) in controlled settings (a field
485 experiment in northern Italy), which showed differentiation in microbial communities,
486 particularly for root microbiome, and to a lesser extent in soil samples (Chialva *et al.* 2020).

487 Only a few other studies compared variable water management agricultural systems. Cui *et al.*
488 (2019) showed that irrigation water quality affected bacterial community alpha and beta
489 diversity in maize, with pH and available phosphorus being the major factors shaping
490 microbiome soil composition. Mavrodi *et al.* (2018) evidenced a slight effect of the three
491 seasons of irrigation on the overall diversity within the rhizosphere microbiome in wheat, but
492 significant differences in the relative abundances of specific taxa.

493 In our study, some of the soil physicochemical parameters affected rice root-associated
494 microbial communities. In particular, CEC and SBE, that reflect soil exchange capacity and

495 bioaccessibility, were the most important soil parameters for the structure of both rhizosphere
496 and root prokaryotic communities. These parameters are not commonly measured, nor
497 identified as important, in other studies of the root-associated microbiome. Our results argue
498 for including them in soil chemical characterization, to investigate whether their impact in
499 microbiome structure is general or not. In addition, phosphorus content significantly
500 structured the prokaryotic communities, both in rhizosphere and roots. Such an effect of
501 phosphorus is known for the rice root associated microbiome (Long & Yao, 2020). On the
502 other hand, the soil chemical parameter evidenced in this study to structure fungal rhizosphere
503 communities was the total nitrogen (N). This is in accordance with a study by Chen *et al.*
504 (2019) showing that nitrogen input drives changes in the microbial root-associated community
505 structure in wheat. Moreover, Wang & Huang (2021) showed the effect of optimized N
506 application on fungal community structure from paddy soils. Kanasugi *et al.* (2020) also
507 evidenced an effect of soil nitrate on rice root fungal communities in Ghana.

508 [Effect of rice growing system on alpha-diversity and network topology](#)

509 We found a higher taxonomic diversity in irrigated areas, compared to rainfed lowlands, for
510 prokaryotic communities of the rhizosphere. Our findings differ from Chialva *et al.* (2020)'s
511 results, where the 16S diversity was similar in lowland and upland rice. Chialva *et al.* (2020)
512 also show significantly higher ITS diversity in lowland rice compared to upland, which may
513 relate to the tendency (not significant, maybe as a consequence of the low sample size for
514 ITS) observed here in the rhizosphere.

515 It is important to note that our sampling was performed in farmer's fields, while most results,
516 including those of Chialva *et al.* (2020), were obtained in field trials, potentially explaining
517 the differences. Indeed, in our study, various factors, such as rice cultivars, fertilization
518 regime and rotation, exhibit large variability. However, rice genetic diversity was shown to be
519 comparable in irrigated areas and rainfed lowlands (Barro *et al.* 2021), therefore the effect of
520 rice growing system on alpha-diversity of microbiomes could not be attributed to result from
521 difference in terms of genetic diversity of the host plant.

522 Considering the irrigated areas as systems with more intensive agricultural practices,
523 compared to rainfed lowland, we expected an opposite pattern of microbiome diversity.
524 Indeed, agricultural intensification was shown to reduce microbial network complexity and
525 the abundance of keystone taxa in roots (Banerjee *et al.* 2019). In addition, the fertilization

526 regime is known to have strong impact on root-associated microbiota (Ding *et al.* 2019; Xiong
527 *et al.* 2021). Various studies showed that organic fertilization enhances microbial diversity
528 (Liu *et al.* 2020). For example, recommended fertilization preserved belowground microbial
529 populations, compared to the fertilization mostly used ('conventional fertilization') that
530 depressed bacterial diversity, in experiments performed in China (Ullah *et al.* 2020). We
531 considered the irrigated areas as more intensified systems, compared to rainfed lowland,
532 particularly because only irrigated areas allow growing rice twice a year, and because only
533 rainfed lowland sites presented fields with no mineral fertilization at all (Barro *et al.* 2021).
534 We noticed however that organic fertilization remained rare, and its frequency was not
535 drastically affected by the rice growing system. Finally, transplantation was always performed
536 in irrigated areas, while direct sowing was the most common practice in rainfed lowlands.

537 On the other hand, paddy soils studied in western Burkina Faso (all over the six sites) are
538 particularly poor if compared for example to a study of more than 8 000 soils in Hunan
539 Province (Duan *et al.* 2020), where average organic carbon was 1.972%, compared to 0.922%
540 in our study, total nitrogen was 0.191%, higher than 0.072%, and total phosphorus was
541 0.71g.kg^{-1} , compared to 0.24g.kg^{-1} . The studies previously cited evidencing fertilization
542 effects, were performed in soils with higher carbon and nitrogen contents (see for example
543 Ullah *et al.* 2020, where minimum average organic carbon was 2% and total nitrogen 0.1%).
544 The effect of fertilization on microbial diversity may actually depend on various aspects,
545 including the soil type. Notably, a positive relationship was found between rice fertilization
546 and soil bacterial richness and diversity in a 19-years inorganic fertilization assay in a reddish
547 paddy soil in southern China (Huang *et al.* 2019); while Wang & Huang (2021) showed an
548 effect of the fertilization on paddy soils microbial community composition but no effect on
549 the diversity. In poor soil systems such as in this study, fertilization input may actually
550 increase microbial diversity.

551 Finally, a complementary hypothesis could be the higher fragmentation of rainfed lowlands
552 compared to irrigated areas. Indeed, irrigated sites correspond to larger areas cultivated in
553 rice, possibly with two rice seasons per year, so that rice fields are likely to be more
554 connected to each other than in rainfed lowlands. Higher connectivity generally leads to
555 higher biodiversity (Fletcher *et al.* 2016). The principles of metacommunity theory could also
556 be applied to micro-organisms, with reduction in host habitats and fragmentation potentially

557 increasing extinction rates (Mony *et al.* 2020), but as our study misses an explicit
558 characterization of the rice landscape structure, this hypothesis could not be formally tested.

559 Distant rainfed lowlands differ more than distant irrigated perimeters

560 Our results showed that the prokaryotic communities in the rice rhizosphere and roots from
561 the three irrigated sites do not differ significantly from each other. On the other hand, the
562 same analysis revealed significant differentiation between the three rainfed lowland study
563 sites (in all three cases for rhizosphere and two out of three comparisons in roots). Also, we
564 found very few core phylotypes in rainfed lowland, with only two core ASVs for 16S, what
565 reinforces the above-mentioned observation. These results are likely driven by a higher
566 heterogeneity between rainfed sites, in terms of water control, agricultural practices or rice
567 genotypes.

568 Indeed, in irrigated rice, the farmer has the potential to control irrigation water during the
569 whole growing season. On the other hand, irrigation in rainfed lowland is dependent on
570 precipitations that differ between the three geographical zone sampled within the rice growing
571 season. In addition, we showed a high heterogeneity of agricultural practices in rainfed
572 lowlands: for example, legume rotation was common in the rainfed lowland of Bama zone,
573 but rare or absent in the two other rainfed lowland sites, and organic fertilization was more
574 frequent in the rainfed lowland of Karfiguela zone, than in the other sites (Barro *et al.* 2021).
575 Finally, in terms of rice genetics, a high rice genetic differentiation was found between the
576 rainfed lowland site of Karfiguela zone and the five sites: a distinct genetic group *O. sativa*
577 *Aus*, and other distinct landraces were found in this peculiar site, compared to the five others
578 where only *O. sativa indica* was grown (Barro *et al.* 2021). These specificities of the rainfed
579 lowland from Karfiguela zone, in terms of rice grown and agricultural practices, may also
580 drive its specific patterns of alpha diversity, with a particularly low prokaryote diversity (in
581 rhizosphere and also, in a lesser extent, in roots), and a tendency for higher fungal diversity in
582 roots.

583 Our sampling size was much lower for ITS and this likely explains the absence of such a
584 pattern, with no significant differences obtained between pairs of sites. Alternatively, the
585 pattern may be different for fungal diversity, as suggested by the higher number of core taxa
586 in rainfed lowlands than in irrigated areas.

587

588 Identification of core microbiota and hub phylotypes

589 The prevalent taxa, indicator taxa and hubs may be considered as having an important
590 ecological role in microbiome assembly and ecosystem functions (Banerjee *et al.* 2018). In
591 this study, we identified the core prokaryote and fungal microbiota in both irrigated and
592 rainfed lowland environments. While four fungal taxa were found to be cores in both systems,
593 only one bacterial core taxa was shared between the two rice growing systems: assigned to
594 *Bradyrhizobium tropiciagri*, a nitrogen-fixing symbiont isolated from tropical forage legumes
595 (Delamuta *et al.* 2015), known as rice root endophytes capable of fixing N₂ (Chaintreuil *et al.*
596 2000; Ding *et al.* 2019). In addition, the core taxa in irrigated areas likely includes
597 *Paraburkholderia kururiensis*, a bacterium with potential phytobeneficial properties
598 (bioremediation, biofertilization and biocontrol of pathogens; Dias *et al.* 2019). Various ASVs
599 identified as core in irrigated areas were assigned to *Ralstonia pickettii*, an ubiquitous
600 Betaproteobacteria found in water and soil, and capable to thrive in low nutrient
601 (oligotrophic) conditions (Ryan *et al.* 2007). Isolated from the plant rhizosphere, *R. pickettii*
602 injected in tomato stem could reduce bacterial wilt disease caused by its congeneric pathogen
603 *R. solanacearum*, and could consequently be considered as potential biocontrol agent (Wei *et*
604 *al.* 2013). Noteworthy, this bacterium is also described as human emerging pathogen, causing
605 nosocomial infections (Ryan *et al.* 2006).

606 One ASVs assigned to *Enterobacter mori* (Enterobacteriaceae) was identified as hub of the
607 16S-based co-occurrence networks both in irrigated areas and rainfed lowland site. On the
608 other hand, most of the bacterial taxa identified as hubs differed between irrigated areas and
609 rainfed lowlands reflecting a highly contrasted structuring of bacterial communities in the two
610 rice growing systems.

611 Characterization of indicator taxa in each rice growing system and contrasted 612 repartition of AMFs

613 We identified indicator taxa for each rice growing system, most of them being in irrigated for
614 prokaryotes (128, *vs* only 63 in rainfed lowlands) while the opposite was found for fungi (27
615 in rainfed lowlands *vs* only 16 in irrigated areas). For prokaryotes, five taxa identified as
616 indicator species in irrigated areas were also core or hub: the previously mentioned

617 *Paraburkholderia kururiensis* and *Ralstonia pickettii* as well as *Aeromonas hydrophila*,
618 *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Acinetobacter soli*. In rainfed lowlands, it was the case for *Priestia*
619 *flexa*. In particular, we notice that *Acinetobacter soli* was identified as potent phosphorus
620 solubilizer in rice and consequently promising for plant growth promotion (Rasul *et al.* 2019).

621 For fungi, we identified as both indicator and core taxa: *Pulveroboletus sinensis* in irrigated
622 areas, as well as both *Pseudobaeospora wipapatiae* and *Paraphaeosphaeria michotii* in
623 rainfed lowlands. Eight ASVs assigned to *Chytridiomycetes* were identified as indicator
624 species in rainfed lowland systems. Members of this fungal division of aquatic fungi (Barr,
625 2001) were found in the rhizosphere compartment in our study. They are known as
626 particularly abundant in microbial communities associated with rice roots, compared to other
627 crops (Ding *et al.* 2019) and were preferentially associated to lowland conditions compared to
628 upland (Chialva *et al.* 2020).

629 We identified a few potentially beneficial taxa that could be investigated further. In particular,
630 AMFs of the class *Glomeromycetes* were found preferentially in rainfed lowlands, with one
631 ASV, *Racocetra crispa*, enriched in rainfed lowland system compared to irrigated areas, and
632 one ASV, *Dentiscutata savannicola*, identified as indicator in rainfed system. This was
633 expected considering the lower frequency of mineral fertilization in rainfed lowlands
634 compared to irrigated areas. Indeed, AMF colonization was shown to be affected by farming
635 regimes: the rice roots cultivated in the conventional agrosystem (N and P fertilization and
636 pesticides) or under permanent flooding showed no AMF colonization, while the rice plants
637 grown with organic conditions showed typical mycorrhization patterns (Lumini *et al.* 2011).

638 [Towards the identification of putative pathogens and the study of interactions](#) 639 [between microbiome and diseases](#)

640 Various pathogen species are suspected from the sequence variants identified in this study. In
641 particular, the 16S dataset contained ASVs assigned to *Burkholderia glumae*, *Acidovorax*
642 *avenae* and *Dickeya chrysanthemi*. All three remained rare, with only one sample containing
643 each of these sequences. The presence of *B. glumae* was described in Burkina Faso (but with
644 no molecular data; Ouedraogo *et al.* 2004), and targeted detection performed in two sites
645 failed to detect *B. glumae* and *A. avenae* (Bangratz *et al.* 2020). For fungal pathogens, we
646 found ASVs assigned to ten genera comprising rice pathogens, including *Bipolaris*,
647 *Curvularia*, *Fusarium* and *Rhizoctonia*. It has to be noted that the major rice pathogens

648 causing foliar diseases, namely *Pyricularia oryzae* and *Xanthomonas oryzae*, known from
649 symptom observations to be present in the study sites (Barro *et al.* 2021), were not detected in
650 this root-associated metabarcoding data. Some of these putative fungal pathogens are
651 frequent, particularly one, whose best blast hit is *Curvularia chonburiensis*, identified as core
652 taxa in both irrigated perimeters and rainfed lowlands. Various *Curvularia* species are known
653 to be pathogenic in rice, potentially causing contrasted symptoms (Gao *et al.* 2012; Majeed *et*
654 *al.* 2015), and their widespread repartition evidenced here argues for more work in plant
655 pathology to better understand the interactions between *Curvularia* and rice.

656 The literature shows that higher microbiome diversity may be associated with a lower
657 infection rate (see for example Rutten *et al.* 2021). Our results for rice from western Burkina
658 Faso are somehow opposite as irrigated perimeters harbor more diverse prokaryotic
659 communities of rhizosphere compared to rainfed lowlands (this study), but also higher
660 prevalence of major rice diseases, particularly bacterial leaf streak and the fungal rice blast
661 disease, based on the observation of foliar symptoms (Barro *et al.* 2021). On the other hand,
662 for fungal communities, the pattern may actually be opposite; a tendency for higher diversity
663 in rainfed lowlands is observed but low sample size prevents from obtaining significant
664 results. Also, some diseases, such as the viral yellow mottle disease (Barro *et al.* 2021), are
665 not affected by the rice growing system but by the specific site. The relationship between the
666 diversity of root-associated microbiome and diseases is complex and remains to be studied in
667 more details, including under controlled conditions.

668 More generally, scientific interest in the relationship between root-associated microbiota and
669 plant diseases is growing (Vannier *et al.* 2019; Trivedi *et al.* 2020). In rice, various studies
670 evidenced an inhibition of disease development by root-associated micro-organisms (see
671 Yasmin *et al.* 2016 for bacterial diseases; and Spence *et al.* 2014; Law *et al.* 2017 for rice
672 blast). On the other hand, disease was shown to affect root-associated microbiomes, with for
673 example the effect of *Magnaporthe grisea* inoculation on microbial endosphere diversity
674 (Tian *et al.* 2021). A promising avenue of research is consequently to investigate the
675 relationship between root-associated microbiota and rice diseases in the particular rice-
676 growing systems of Burkina Faso.

677

678 Perspectives

679 We are only at the beginning of understanding the complexity of rice root microbial
680 communities, especially for rice cultivation in Africa. The originality, but also a limitation of
681 our study, lies in the fact that the samples were collected in farmer fields, and it globally
682 compares the two contrasting rice production systems that differ in various management
683 practices, so that it could not tease apart the specific effect of each individual factor (water
684 management, variety, fertilization, pesticides, etc). More investigations are now required to
685 decipher each structuring factor at a smaller scale: in particular between fields within each
686 site, where the rice cultivar and specific agricultural practices are likely to play a significant
687 role (Delitte *et al.* 2021).

688 Describing rice microbiota through metabarcoding is a first mandatory step that needs to be
689 combined with culturomics for a greater accuracy and a deeper description, in particular in
690 such systems where some taxa are poorly described in taxonomic databases. Experimental
691 work in an integrative approach is also required to move on towards microbiota management
692 methodologies. Such microbiota-based strategies could contribute to improving rice health
693 and productivity (Sessitsch & Mitter, 2015), while preserving human health. They are
694 consequently an important component of the toolbox of science-based strategies to achieve
695 zero-hunger in Africa.

696

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716

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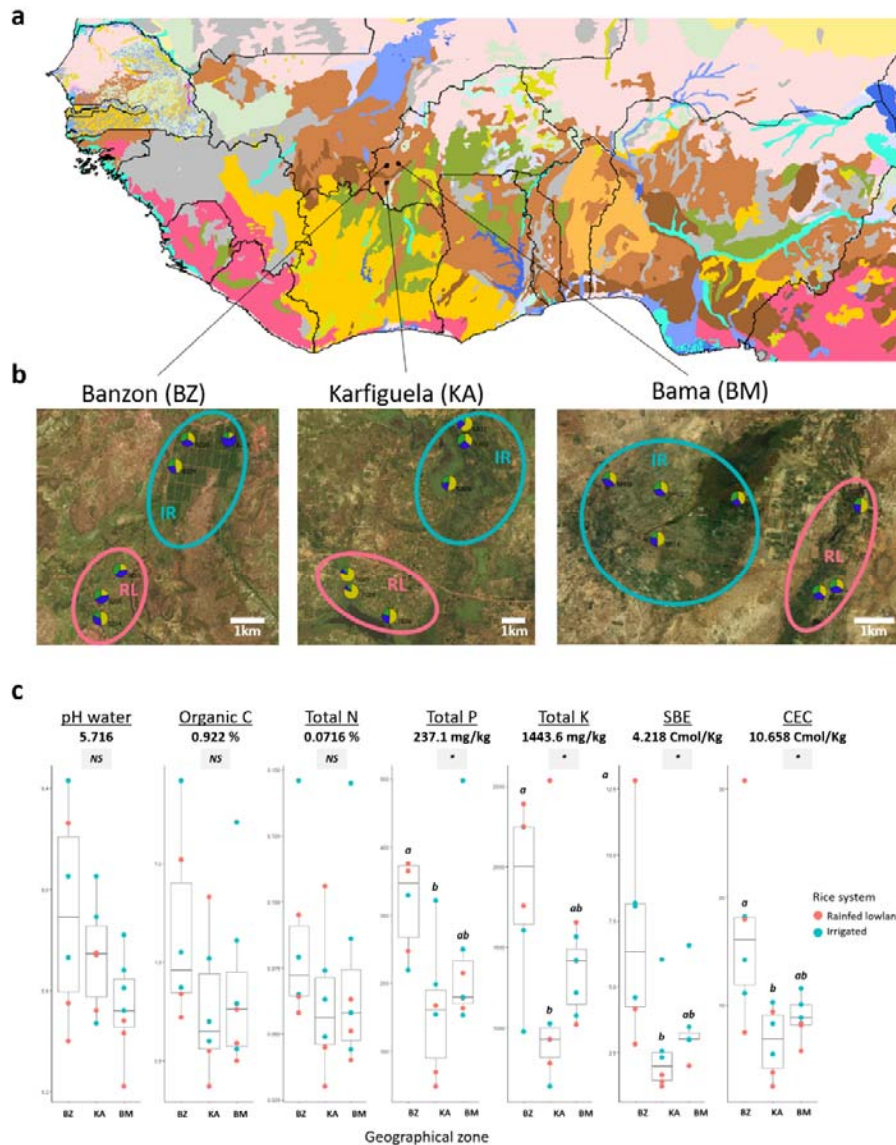
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- 962

963 **Figure 1** Location of the study sites and soil physico-chemical properties

964 Location of the study sites in western Burkina Faso on the soil Harmonized World Soil
 965 Database (HWSD) map of West Africa (<https://webarchive.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/External-World-soil-database/HTML/>). The three geographical zones studied are in Lixisols (LX: soils
 966 with subsurface accumulation of low activity clays and high base saturation)
 967

968 Location of the field studied within each geographical zones. Soil texture, are indicated for
 969 each of the 19 studied fields, with pie charts representing relative proportions of sand (in
 970 yellow), silt (in green), and clay (in blue). Soil chemical properties estimated in each
 971 geographical zones, with colors representing the rice growing system (irrigated areas in blue
 972 and rainfed lowlands in red). Each point corresponds to one field studied. Averages over the
 973 19 studied fields are indicated for each parameter, as well as the results of statistical tests for
 974 the geographical zone effect.



975

Figure 2 NMDS ordination showing the three factors identified as drivers of the structuration of rice root microbial communities: the color of points represent the rice growing system (irrigated vs rainfed lowland), while the shape shows the geographical zone (Bazon, Karfiguela and Bama).

On the left side are presented the analyses based on 16S rRNA gene reflecting Prokaryote communities, where one point corresponds to one plant. On the right side are shown the analyses based on ITS reflecting fungal communities, where one point corresponds to one field. The root compartment is presented on the upper side of the figure while the rhizosphere data appear on the bottom side. Only the soil physicochemical parameter that revealed as having a significant effect (see Supplementary Table S4) are represented with arrows: cation exchange capacity (CEC), Sorptive Bioaccessibility Extraction (SBE), total concentrations of phosphorus (Total P), total concentrations of nitrogen (Total N), total organic carbon (Organic C).

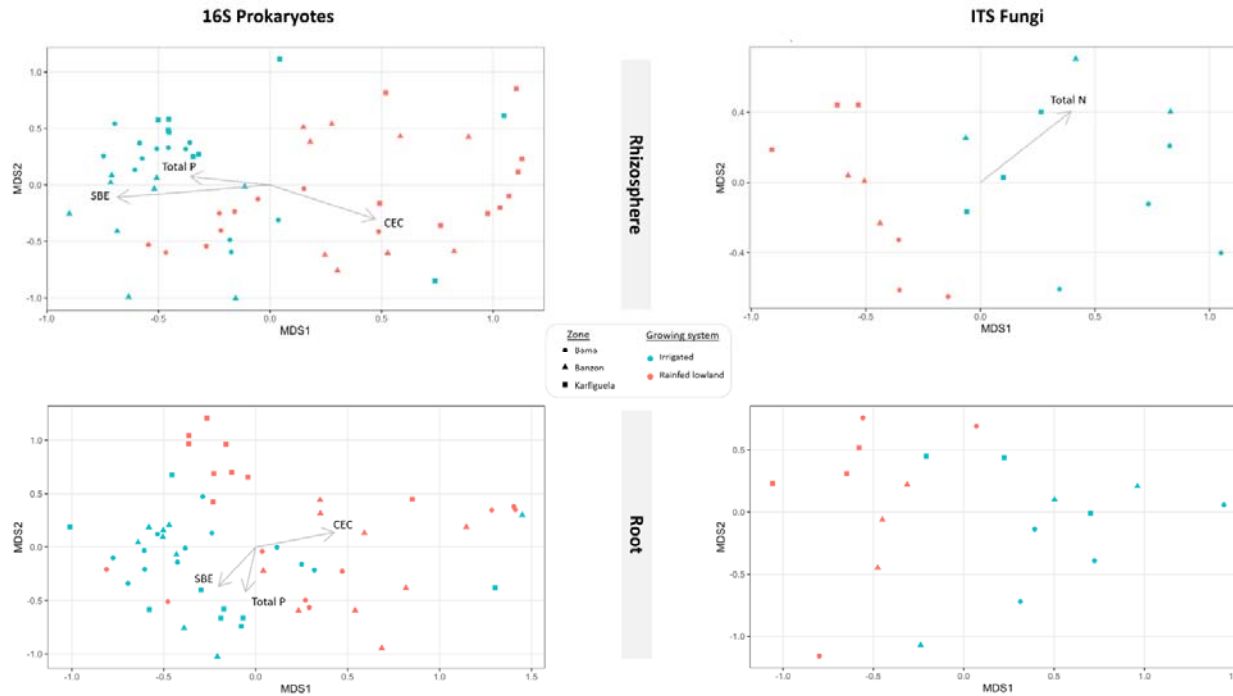


Figure 3 Comparison of root-associated microbiota α -diversity in contrasted rice-growing systems: irrigated (in blue) vs rainfed lowland (in red).

Observed richness and Shannon indices are reported for each sample (i.e. one plant for 16S and one field for ITS), as violin diagram for each rice growing system. The left side of the figure presents the results obtained for 16S microbiome, while the right side shows the results obtained for ITS analysis. On top are shown the results of the rhizosphere compartment and on the bottom are the results obtained for the root associated compartment.

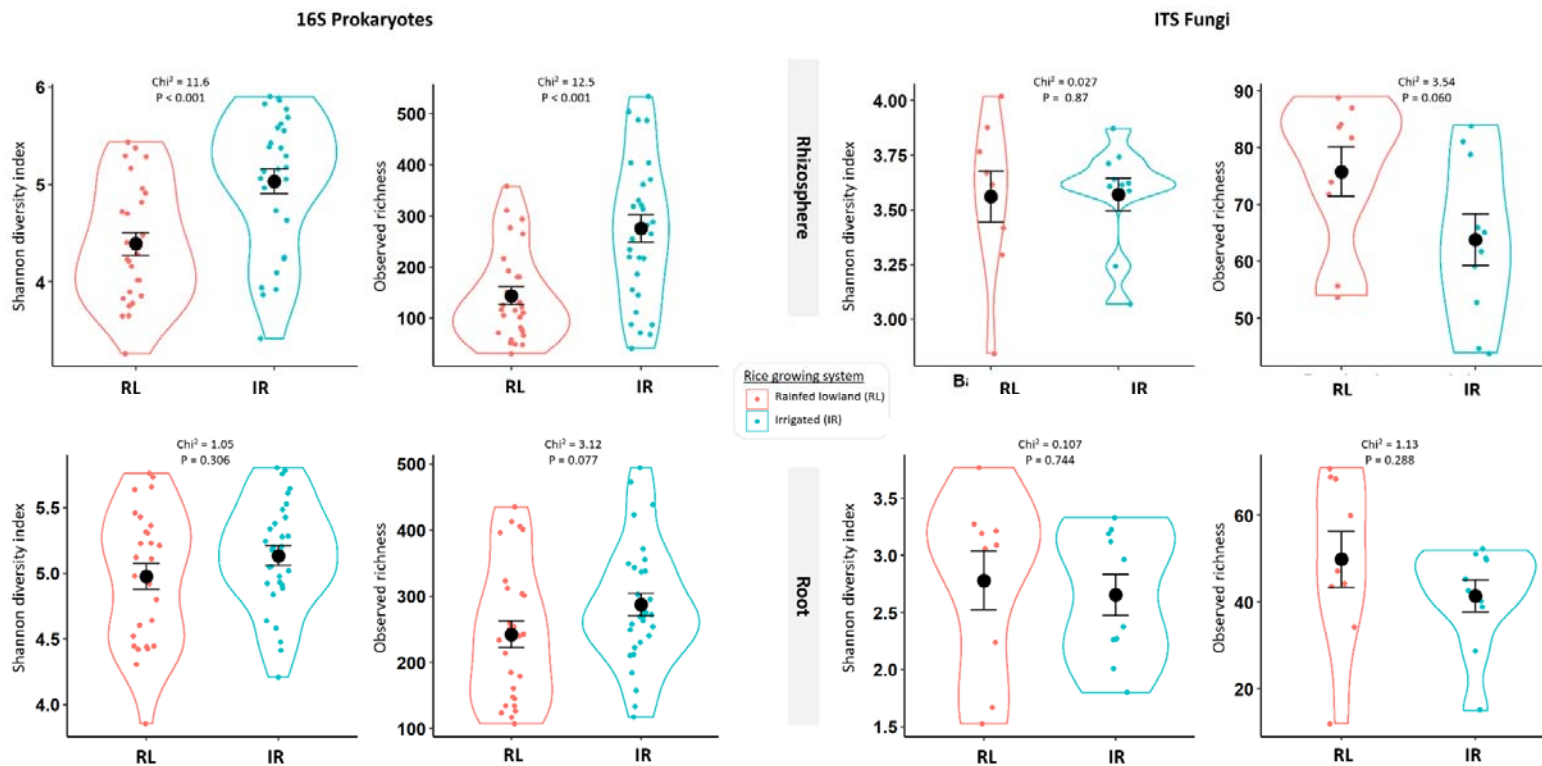


Figure 4 Venn diagram representing the core sequence variants for each rice growing system : irrigated vs rainfed lowlands. A. For prokaryotes B. For fungi

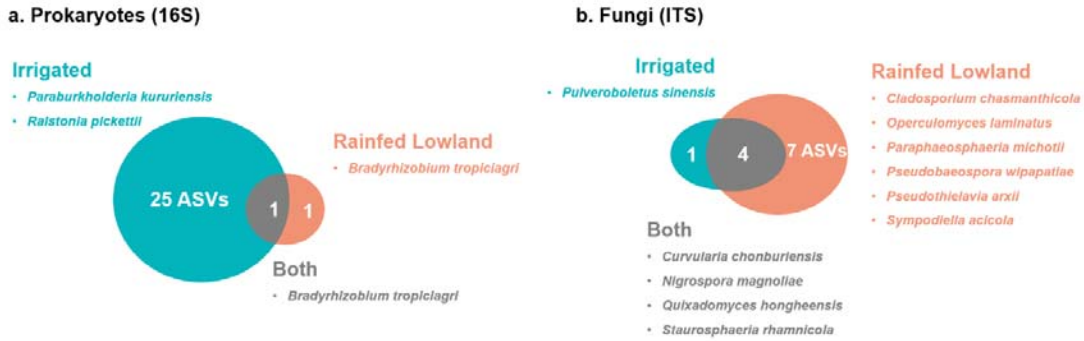


Figure 5 Spatial repartition of summed abundance of 14 ITS ASVs assigned to the class *Glomeromycetes* in the two rice root microbiome compartments (rhizosphere and roots), and in each rice growing system (irrigated perimeters vs rainfed lowlands).

The shape of the point corresponds to each geographic zone.

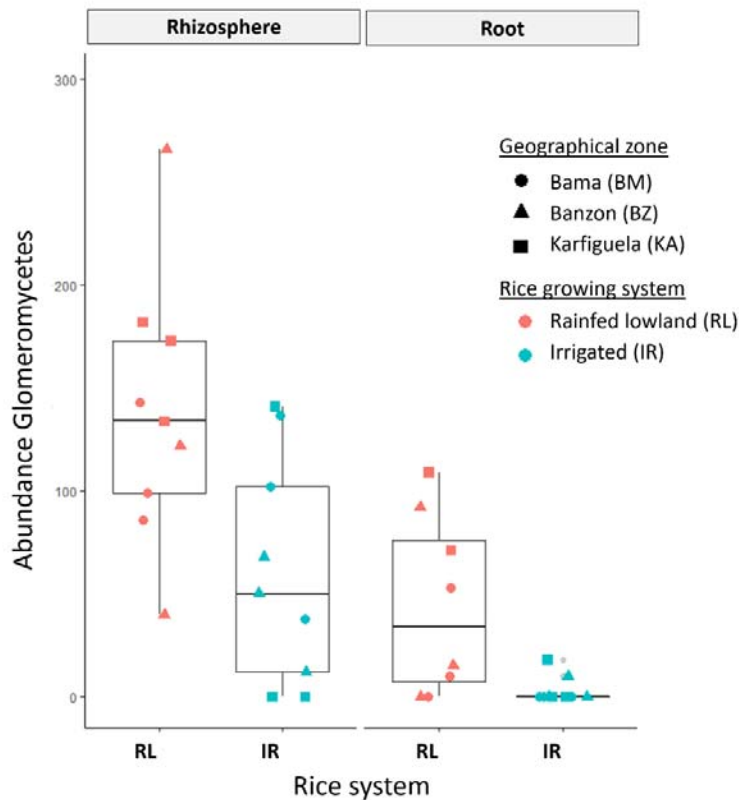


Table 1

Results of PERMANOVA analysis performed independently for rhizosphere compartment and root compartment, for 16S and ITS microbiome data.

| | Prokaryotes 16S | | | | | Fungi ITS | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Df | SumOfSqs | R2 | F | Pr(>F) | Df | SumOfSqs | R2 | F | Pr(>F) | |
| Rhizosphere | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rice growing system | 1 | 1.890 | 0.079 | 5.096 | 0.001 | 1 | 0,687 | 0,115 | 2,452 | 0,001 |
| | Geographical zone | 2 | 1.646 | 0.069 | 2.218 | 0.001 | 2 | 0,872 | 0,146 | 1,555 | 0,007 |
| | Rice growing system | 2 | 1.393 | 0.058 | 1.877 | 0.001 | 2 | 0,748 | 0,126 | 1,335 | 0,036 |
| | * Geographical zone | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Residual | 51 | 18.919 | 0.793 | NA | NA | 13 | 3,644 | 0,612 | NA | NA |
| | Total | 56 | 23.848 | 1.000 | NA | NA | 18 | 5,951 | 1,000 | NA | NA |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|----|--------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Root | Rice growing system | 1 | 1.614 | 0.079 | 5.155 | 0.001 | 1 | 0,846 | 0,111 | 2,289 | 0,002 |
| | Geographical zone | 2 | 1.407 | 0.069 | 2.247 | 0.001 | 2 | 0,891 | 0,117 | 1,206 | 0,123 |
| | Rice growing system * Geographical zone | 2 | 1.535 | 0.075 | 2.451 | 0.002 | 2 | 1,076 | 0,141 | 1,457 | 0,013 |
| | Residual | 51 | 15.966 | 0.778 | NA | NA | 13 | 4,803 | 0,631 | NA | NA |
| | Total | 56 | 20.522 | 1.000 | NA | NA | 18 | 7,616 | 1,000 | NA | NA |

Table 2

Properties of co-occurrence networks of Prokaryote taxa in rhizosphere and root-associated samples from irrigated areas in the one hand, and rainfed lowlands in the other hand.

| | Irrigated areas | Rainfed lowlands |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Number of nodes | 414 | 313 |
| Degree | 9.802 ± 2.913 | 7.974 ± 2.619 |
| Closeness | 0.00076 ± 0.00006 | 0.00093 ± 0.00009 |
| Betweenness | 450.271 ± 336.298 | 389.978 ± 370.222 |
| Total edges (Positive + Negative edges) | 2029 (1760 + 269) | 1248 (1163 + 85) |
| Number of hubs | 15 | 20 |
| Hub's families | Hub species (Number of ASV) | |
| Aeromonadaceae | <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> (2) | |
| Bacillaceae | <i>Bacillus zanthoxyli</i> (6) <i>Neobacillus cucumis</i> (5) <i>Priestia flexa</i> (4) | |
| Bradyrhizobiaceae | <i>Bradyrhizobium oligotrophicum</i> (1) | |
| Enterobacteriaceae | <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> (2) <i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i> (2) <i>Enterobacter mori</i> (5) <i>Enterobacter mori</i> (5) | |
| Moraxellaceae | <i>Acinetobacter modestus</i> (1) <i>Acinetobacter soli</i> (1) | |
| Weeksellaceae | <i>Elizabethkingia anophelis</i> (1) | |

Table 3

List of species assignment and number of sequence variants (ASVs) identified as indicator taxa in irrigated and rainfed lowland environment.

The species in bold were also found as potential hub or core taxa.

| Kingdom | Family (Prokaryotes) / Class (Fungi) | Irrigated | Lowlands | |
|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Prokaryotes | Acidobacteriaceae | | <i>Occallatibacter savannae</i> (2) | |
| | Aeromonadaceae | <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> (7) | | |
| | Bacillaceae | | | <i>Bacillus zanthoxyli</i> (1) |
| | | | | <i>Priestia flexa</i> (10) |
| | | | | <i>Exiguobacterium acetylicum</i> (25) |
| | | | | <i>Exiguobacterium indicum</i> (19) |
| | Bradyrhizobiaceae | | <i>Bradyrhizobium tropiciagri</i> (6) | |
| | Burkholderiaceae | <i>Paraburkholderia kururiensis</i> (1) | | |
| | | <i>Ralstonia pickettii</i> (24) | | |
| | Clostridiaceae | | <i>Clostridium beijerinckii</i> (10) | |
| | | | <i>Clostridium huakuii</i> (9) | |
| | Comamonadaceae | <i>Comamonas testosteroni</i> (19) | | |
| | Enterobacteriaceae | | <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> (7) | |
| | | | <i>Enterobacter mori</i> (1) | |
| | Moraxellaceae | | <i>Acinetobacter modestus</i> (1) | |
| | | <i>Acinetobacter soli</i> (46) | | |
| Pseudomonadaceae | <i>Pseudomonas glareae</i> (2) | | | |
| Weeksellaceae | <i>Elizabethkingia anophelis</i> (1) | | | |
| | Number of ASVs | 128 | 63 | |
| Fungi | | <i>Corneriella bambusarum</i> (1) | <i>Cortinarius violaceomaculatus</i> (1) | |
| | | <i>Pseudosperma notodryinum</i> (1) | | |
| | Agaricomycetes | | | <i>Pseudobaeospora wipapatiae</i> (1) |
| | | | <i>Pulveroboletus sinensis</i> (1) | |
| | Chytridiomycetes | | <i>Lobulomyces poculatus</i> (1) | <i>Clydaea vesicula</i> (6) |
| | | | | <i>Lobulomyces poculatus</i> (1) |
| | | | | <i>Operculomyces laminatus</i> (1) |
| | Dothideomycetes | | <i>Aureoconidiella foliicola</i> (2) | <i>Bambusicola splendida</i> (1) |
| | | | <i>Bambusicola didymospora</i> (1) | <i>Muyocopron laterale</i> (1) |
| | | | <i>Gordonomyces mucovaginatus</i> (1) | <i>Neocamarosporium salsolae</i> (1) |
| | | <i>Paraphaeosphaeria michotii</i> (1) | | |
| | | <i>Poaceascoma filiforme</i> (1) | | |
| | | <i>Stemphylium botryosum</i> (2) | | |
| | | <i>Valsaria rudis</i> (1) | | |
| Geoglossomycetes | <i>Hemileucoglossum pusillum</i> (1) | | | |
| Glomeromycetes | | <i>Dentiscutata savannicola</i> (1) | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Leotiomyces</i> | <i>Curvoclavula anemophila</i> (2) | |
| <i>Saccharomyces</i> | | <i>[Candida] boidinii</i> (1) |
| <i>Schizosaccharomyces</i> | | <i>Schizosaccharomyces cryophilus</i> (1) |
| <i>Sordariomyces</i> | <i>Achroiostachys aurantisporea</i> (1) | <i>Diatrypella vulgaris</i> (1) |
| | <i>Acremonium persicinum</i> (1) | <i>Tristatiperidium microsporium</i> (1) |
| | <i>Idriellomyces eucalypti</i> (1) | |
| | <i>Ophiostoma pityokteinis</i> (1) | |
| <i>Tremellomyces</i> | | <i>Hannaella surugaensis</i> (1) |
| | | <i>Papiliotrema zaeae</i> (1) |
| <i>Ustilaginomyces</i> | <i>Violaceomyces palustris</i> (1) | <i>Cintractiella scirpodendri</i> (1) |
| | | <i>Farysia acheniorum</i> (1) |
| Number of ASVs | 16 | 27 |

Figure S1: Monthly precipitation (on the left) and average temperature (on the right) over 1970-2000 period, for each of the six study sites in Western Burkina Faso during the rice growing season (July to November).

WorldClim 2 data (Fick & Hijmans, 2017): <https://worldclim.org/data/worldclim21.html>

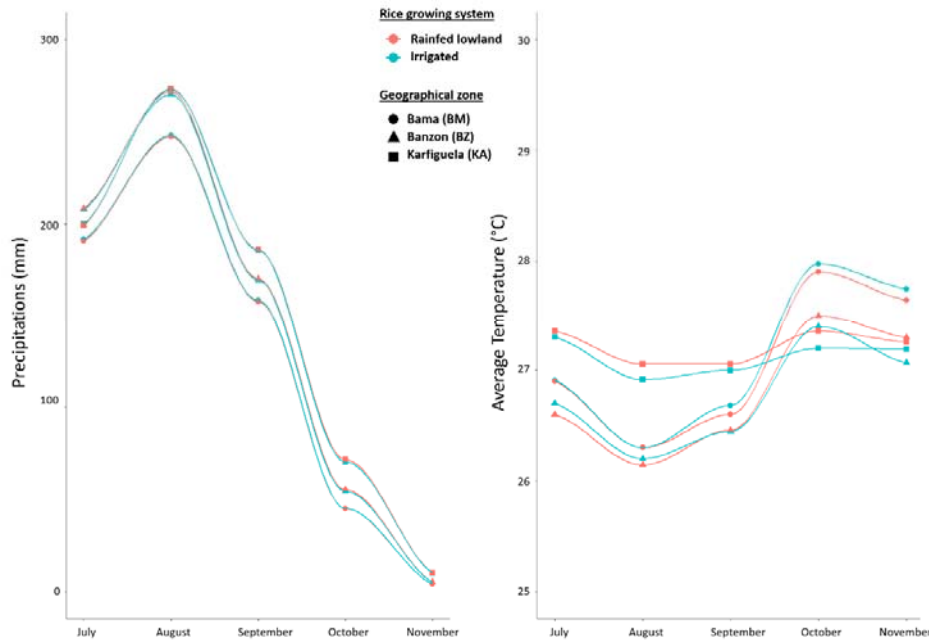


Figure S2: Rarefaction curves (plot of the number of ASVs obtained against the number of analysed reads) for each analyzed samples. On the left, are shown 16S metabarcoding data, representing prokaryotic communities. On the right are presented the ITS metabarcoding data, representing fungal communities.

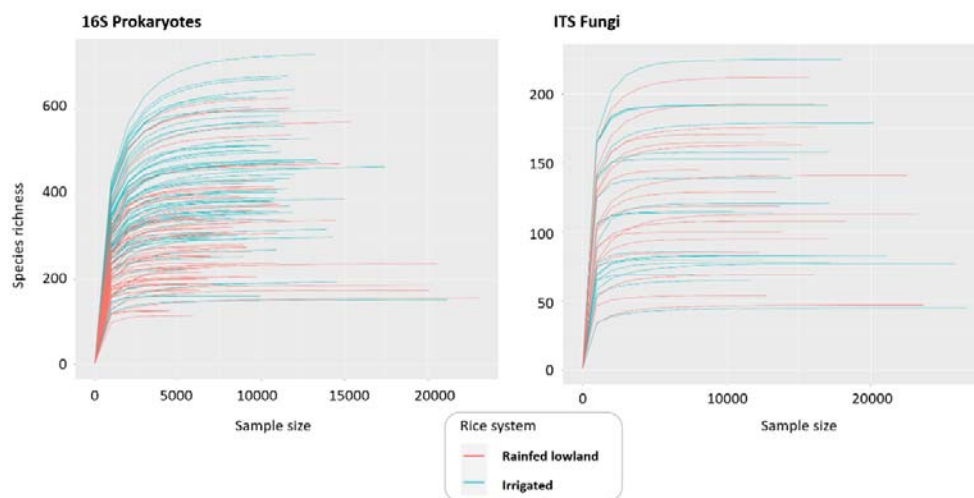


Figure S3: NMDS ordination showing the three factors identified as drivers of the structuration of rice root microbial communities: the color of points represent the rice growing system (irrigated vs rainfed lowland), while the shape shows the compartments (rhizosphere vs roots) and the geographical zone (Banzon, Karfiguela and Bama).

- Analysis based on 16S rRNA gene reflecting Prokaryote communities. One point corresponds to one plant.
- Analysis based on ITS reflecting fungal communities. One point corresponds to one field.

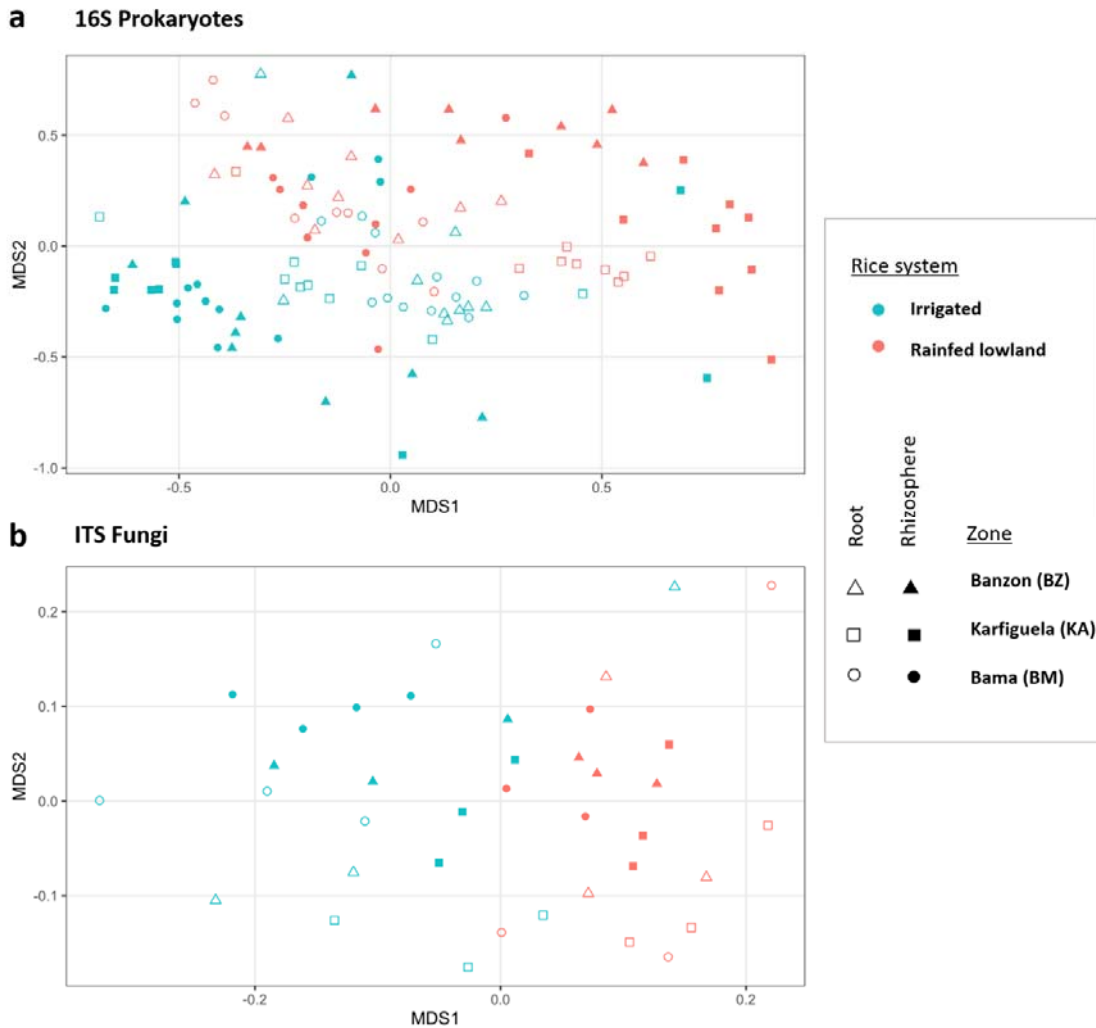


Figure S4: Prokaryote (16S) and fungi (ITS) taxonomic diversity obtained for each study site and each compartment

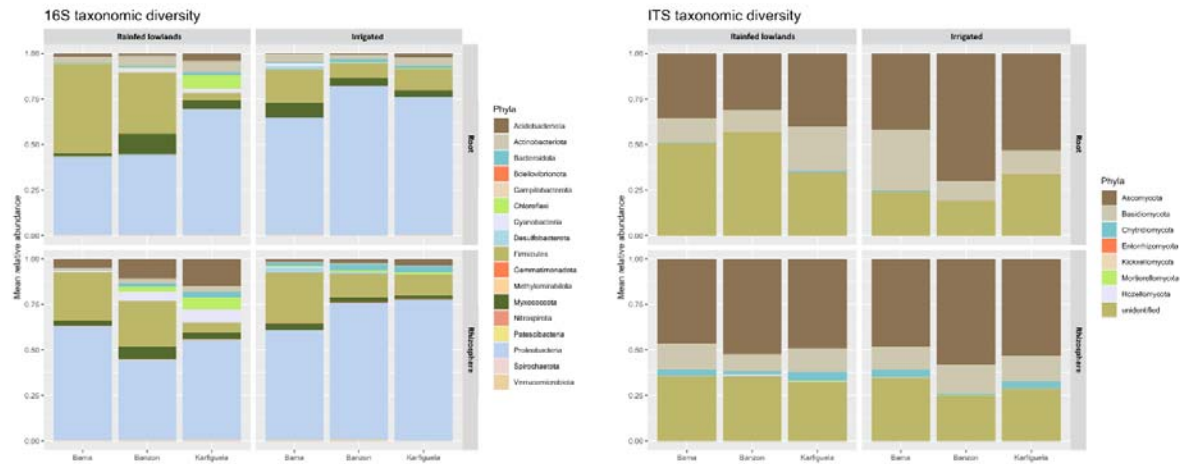


Figure S5: Comparison of root-associated microbiota α -diversity in the six study sites: for Prokaryotes (16S data) on the left and for fungi (ITS data) on the right).

Data obtained for the rhizosphere compartment are presented on top and roots data are on the bottom of the figure. The study sites from irrigated areas are represented in blue, while the ones from rainfed lowlands appears in red.

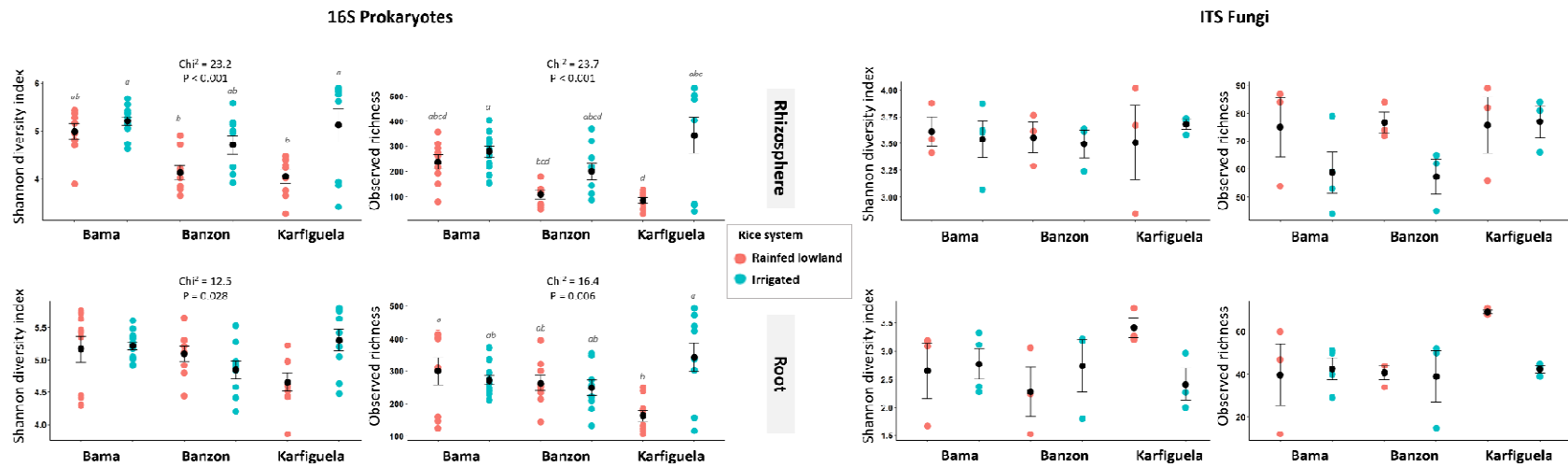


Table S1

Non-parametric tests (Wilcoxon tests) on the soil physico-chemical parameters

| | | Rice growing system | | Geographical zone | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | W | P- value | W | P- value |
| Physical parameters | Clay % | 43,000 | 0,902 | 9,765 | 0,008 |
| | Silt % | 41,000 | 0,775 | 2,831 | 0,243 |
| | Sand % | 49,000 | 0,775 | 8,382 | 0,015 |
| Chemical parameters | pH water | 23,500 | 0,086 | 3,456 | 0,178 |
| | Organic C | 27,000 | 0,156 | 3,574 | 0,168 |
| | Total N | 29,000 | 0,205 | 2,952 | 0,229 |
| | Total P | 31,500 | 0,288 | 7,577 | 0,023 |
| | Total K | 60,000 | 0,243 | 6,063 | 0,048 |
| | SBE | 24,000 | 0,094 | 8,282 | 0,016 |
| | CEC | 27,000 | 0,153 | 7,577 | 0,023 |

Table S2

Results of permanova analysis on 16S and ITS microbiome data (all dataset for each of the two markers)

| | Prokaryotes 16S | | | | | Fungi ITS | | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|--------|
| | Df | SumOfSqs | R2 | F | Pr(>F) | Df | SumOfSqs | R2 | F | Pr(>F) |
| Root compartment | 1 | 2.418 | 0.052 | 6.863 | 0.001 | 1 | 1,187 | 0,080 | 3,753 | 0.001 |
| Rice growing system | 1 | 2.256 | 0.048 | 6.402 | 0.001 | 1 | 1,178 | 0,080 | 3,725 | 0.001 |
| Geographical zone | 2 | 2.258 | 0.048 | 3.205 | 0.001 | 2 | 1,278 | 0,087 | 2,020 | 0.001 |
| Rice growing system * Geographical zone | 2 | 2.155 | 0.046 | 3.059 | 0.001 | 2 | 1,306 | 0,089 | 2,065 | 0.001 |
| Residual | 107 | 37.700 | 0.806 | NA | NA | 31 | 9,804 | 0,665 | NA | NA |
| Total | 113 | 46.788 | 1.000 | NA | NA | 37 | 14,754 | 1.000 | NA | NA |

Table S3

Results of Posthoc tests realized after permanova analysis on 16S and ITS microbiome data, and each compartment independently.

| Type of comparison | Pair of sites | 16S Prokaryotes | | | | | | ITS Fungi | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Rhizosphere | | | Roots | | | Rhizosphere | | | Roots | | |
| | | F | R2 | p adj | F | R2 | p adj | F | R2 | p adj | F | R2 | p adj |
| Within-zone, between rice systems | BZ-IR vs BZ-RL | 2,265 | 0,124 | 0,015 | 3,667 | 0,186 | 0,045 | 1,608 | 0,287 | 1,000 | 1,575 | 0,283 | 1,000 |
| | KA-IR vs KA-RL | 3,225 | 0,168 | 0,015 | 2,982 | 0,157 | 0,015 | 1,799 | 0,310 | 1,000 | 2,108 | 0,345 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs BM-RL | 3,342 | 0,150 | 0,045 | 3,343 | 0,150 | 0,015 | 1,730 | 0,257 | 0,960 | 1,605 | 0,243 | 0,855 |
| Between zone, within irrigated sites | BM-IR vs BZ-IR | 1,717 | 0,083 | 0,120 | 1,749 | 0,084 | 0,600 | 1,177 | 0,191 | 1,000 | 1,003 | 0,167 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs KA-IR | 1,693 | 0,082 | 0,360 | 1,658 | 0,080 | 0,285 | 1,679 | 0,251 | 0,435 | 1,364 | 0,214 | 1,000 |
| | BZ-IR vs KA-IR | 1,758 | 0,099 | 0,330 | 2,075 | 0,115 | 0,195 | 1,289 | 0,244 | 1,000 | 1,510 | 0,274 | 1,000 |
| Between zone, within rainfed lowland sites | BM-RL vs BZ-RL | 2,299 | 0,126 | 0,015 | 1,688 | 0,095 | 1,000 | 1,327 | 0,249 | 1,000 | 1,004 | 0,201 | 1,000 |
| | BM-RL vs KA-RL | 3,075 | 0,161 | 0,015 | 3,768 | 0,191 | 0,015 | 1,952 | 0,328 | 1,000 | 1,915 | 0,324 | 1,000 |
| | BZ-RL vs KA-RL | 1,728 | 0,097 | 0,015 | 3,022 | 0,159 | 0,015 | 1,293 | 0,244 | 1,000 | 1,355 | 0,253 | 1,000 |
| Others | BM-RL vs BZ-IR | 2,536 | 0,137 | 0,030 | 3,480 | 0,179 | 0,045 | 2,209 | 0,356 | 1,000 | 1,736 | 0,303 | 1,000 |
| | BM-RL vs KA-IR | 3,891 | 0,196 | 0,015 | 2,623 | 0,141 | 0,105 | 2,092 | 0,343 | 1,000 | 1,825 | 0,313 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs BZ-RL | 3,091 | 0,140 | 0,015 | 3,245 | 0,146 | 0,015 | 1,767 | 0,261 | 0,375 | 1,254 | 0,200 | 1,000 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| BM-IR vs KA-RL | 3,866 | 0,169 | 0,015 | 3,934 | 0,172 | 0,015 | 1,743 | 0,259 | 0,360 | 1,769 | 0,261 | 0,420 |
| BZ-IR vs KA-RL | 2,811 | 0,149 | 0,015 | 4,113 | 0,205 | 0,015 | 1,457 | 0,267 | 1,000 | 2,031 | 0,337 | 1,000 |
| KA-IR vs BZ-RL | 2,704 | 0,145 | 0,030 | 2,458 | 0,133 | 0,015 | 1,804 | 0,311 | 1,000 | 1,219 | 0,234 | 1,000 |

Table S4

Results of the statistical analyses testing for the effect of soil chemical parameters on microbiome communities (each compartment analyzed separately).

| Soil chemical parameter | Prokaryotes 16S | | | | Fungi ITS | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| | Rhizosphere | | Roots | | Rhizosphere | | Roots | |
| | r ² | p-value | r ² | p-value | r ² | p-value | r ² | p-value |
| pH water | 0,001 | 0,985 | 0,024 | 0,519 | 0,272 | 0,081 | 0,201 | 0,166 |
| Organic C | 0,089 | 0,079 | 0,076 | 0,122 | 0,293 | 0,061 | 0,266 | 0,085 |
| Total N | 0,086 | 0,089 | 0,059 | 0,198 | 0,320 | 0,043 | 0,273 | 0,079 |
| Total P | 0,132 | 0,023 | 0,179 | 0,004 | 0,181 | 0,205 | 0,303 | 0,055 |
| Total K | 0,037 | 0,372 | 0,066 | 0,159 | 0,017 | 0,866 | 0,029 | 0,792 |
| SBE | 0,482 | 0,000 | 0,175 | 0,006 | 0,106 | 0,416 | 0,265 | 0,083 |
| CEC | 0,314 | 0,000 | 0,204 | 0,003 | 0,028 | 0,814 | 0,161 | 0,244 |

Table S5 Results of Posthoc tests on the effect of the particular site on alpha diversity indices (Shannon diversity index and observed richness) for 16S microbiome data only and for each compartment independently.

| Type of comparison | Pair of sites | Rhizosphere | | | | | | Roots | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------|--------------|
| | | Shannon diversity index | | | Observed richness | | | Shannon diversity index | | | Observed richness | | |
| | | statistic | p | p.adj | statistic | p | p.adj | statistic | p | p.adj | statistic | p | p.adj |
| Within-zone, between rice systems | BZ-IR vs BZ-RL | -1,803 | 0,071 | 1,000 | -1,725 | 0,084 | 1,000 | 1,164 | 0,244 | 1,000 | 0,263 | 0,793 | 1,000 |
| | KA-IR vs KA-RL | -3,110 | 0,002 | 0,028 | -3,352 | 0,001 | 0,012 | -2,826 | 0,005 | 0,071 | -3,742 | 0,000 | 0,003 |
| | BM-IR vs BM-RL | 0,721 | 0,471 | 1,000 | 0,786 | 0,432 | 1,000 | -0,053 | 0,958 | 1,000 | -0,478 | 0,632 | 1,000 |
| Between zone, within irrigated sites | BM-IR vs BZ-IR | -1,556 | 0,120 | 1,000 | -1,416 | 0,157 | 1,000 | -1,844 | 0,065 | 0,977 | -0,660 | 0,509 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs KA-IR | -0,144 | 0,885 | 1,000 | -0,201 | 0,841 | 1,000 | 0,615 | 0,539 | 1,000 | 1,199 | 0,230 | 1,000 |
| Between zone, within rainfed lowland sites | BZ-IR vs KA-IR | 1,321 | 0,187 | 1,000 | 1,136 | 0,256 | 1,000 | 2,300 | 0,021 | 0,321 | 1,740 | 0,082 | 1,000 |
| | BM-RL vs BZ-RL | -2,584 | 0,010 | 0,146 | -2,315 | 0,021 | 0,309 | -0,611 | 0,541 | 1,000 | -0,802 | 0,422 | 1,000 |
| | BM-RL vs KA-RL | -2,570 | 0,010 | 0,152 | -2,805 | 0,005 | 0,076 | -2,300 | 0,021 | 0,321 | -3,068 | 0,002 | 0,032 |
| | BZ-RL vs KA-RL | 0,014 | 0,989 | 1,000 | -0,490 | 0,624 | 1,000 | -1,690 | 0,091 | 1,000 | -2,265 | 0,024 | 0,353 |
| | BM-RL vs BZ-IR | -0,781 | 0,435 | 1,000 | -0,589 | 0,556 | 1,000 | -1,775 | 0,076 | 1,000 | -1,065 | 0,287 | 1,000 |
| Others | BM-RL vs KA-IR | 0,540 | 0,589 | 1,000 | 0,547 | 0,585 | 1,000 | 0,525 | 0,599 | 1,000 | 0,675 | 0,500 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs BZ-RL | -3,484 | 0,000 | 0,007 | -3,260 | 0,001 | 0,017 | -0,600 | 0,549 | 1,000 | -0,380 | 0,704 | 1,000 |
| | BM-IR vs KA-RL | -3,469 | 0,001 | 0,008 | -3,784 | 0,000 | 0,002 | -2,406 | 0,016 | 0,242 | -2,801 | 0,005 | 0,076 |
| | BZ-IR vs KA-RL | -1,789 | 0,074 | 1,000 | -2,215 | 0,027 | 0,401 | -0,525 | 0,599 | 1,000 | -2,002 | 0,045 | 0,679 |
| | KA-IR vs BZ-RL | -3,124 | 0,002 | 0,027 | -2,862 | 0,004 | 0,063 | -1,136 | 0,256 | 1,000 | -1,477 | 0,140 | 1,000 |

1 **Table S6**

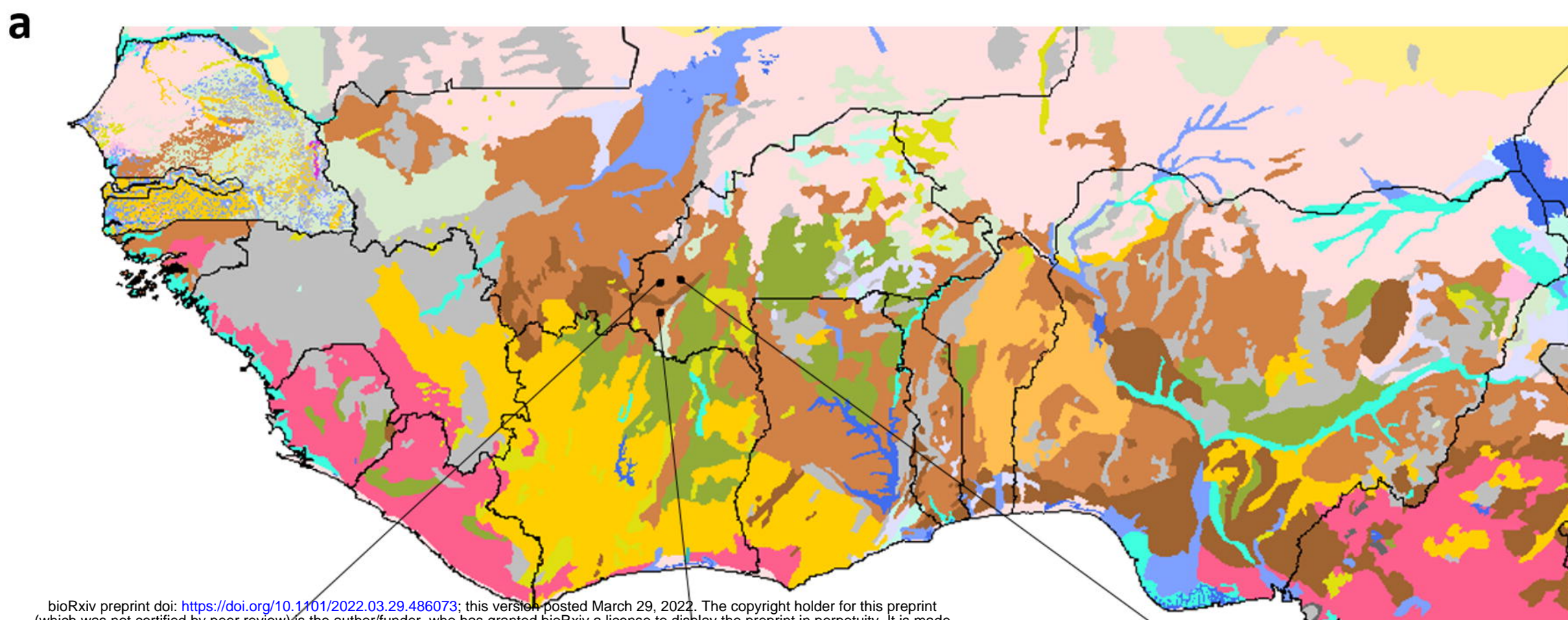
2 List of the pathogen species searched for within the microbiome data

| Kingdom | Pathogen species | Known rice diseases |
|---|--|---|
| Bacteria | <i>Xanthomonas oryzae</i> | Bacterial Leaf Blight (BLB) and Bacterial Leaf Streak (BLS) |
| | <i>Pseudomonas fuscovaginae</i> | Sheath brown rot, Manchado de grano |
| | <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> | Bacterial brown stripe, Sheat rot, Glume blotch, Grain rot, Halo blight |
| | <i>Acidovorax avenae subsp. avenae</i> | Bacterial brown stripe |
| | <i>Burkholderia glumae</i> | Bacterial panicle blight / Grain rot / Seedling rot |
| | <i>Burkholderia gladioli</i> | Bacterial panicle blight / Grain rot |
| | <i>Burkholderia plantarii</i> | Seedling blight |
| | <i>Erwinia spp</i> | Brown stripe |
| | <i>Erwinia herbicola</i> | Black rot |
| | <i>Dickeya chrysanthemi</i> | Culm and root disease |
| | <i>Pantoea ananatis</i> , <i>P. stewartii</i> , <i>P. agglomerans</i> | Bacterial Leaf Blight ? |
| | <i>Sphingomonas</i> | |
| Fungi | <i>Pyricularia oryzae</i> (syn. <i>Magnaporthe oryzae</i>) | Rice blast |
| | <i>Bipolaris oryzae</i> (syn <i>Helminthosporium oryzae</i> , syn <i>Cochliobolus miyabeanus</i> , Syn <i>Drechslera oryzae</i>) | Brown spot |
| | <i>Bipolaris spp</i> | |
| | <i>Exserohilum rostratum</i> | |
| | <i>Curvularia spp</i> | Black kernel |
| | <i>Microdochium albescens</i> (syn <i>Rhynchosporium oryzae</i> , <i>Gerlachia oryzae</i> , <i>Grophosphaerella albescens</i> , <i>Metasphaeria albescens</i> , <i>Micronectriella pavgii</i> , <i>Monographella albescens</i>) | Leaf Scald |
| | <i>Cercospora janseana</i> (syn <i>C. oryzae</i> , <i>Sphaerulina oryzina</i> , <i>Napicladium janseanum</i> , <i>Passalora janseana</i>) | Narrow brown leaf spot |
| | <i>Fusarium fujikuroi</i> (syn <i>Giberella fujikuroi</i>) | Bakanae |
| | <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> (syn <i>Giberella zae</i>) | Scab |
| | <i>Fusarium spp.</i> | Water mold |
| | <i>Achlya spp.</i> | |
| | <i>Pythium spp.</i> | |
| <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> (syn <i>Thanatephorus cucumeris</i>) | Sheath blight | |

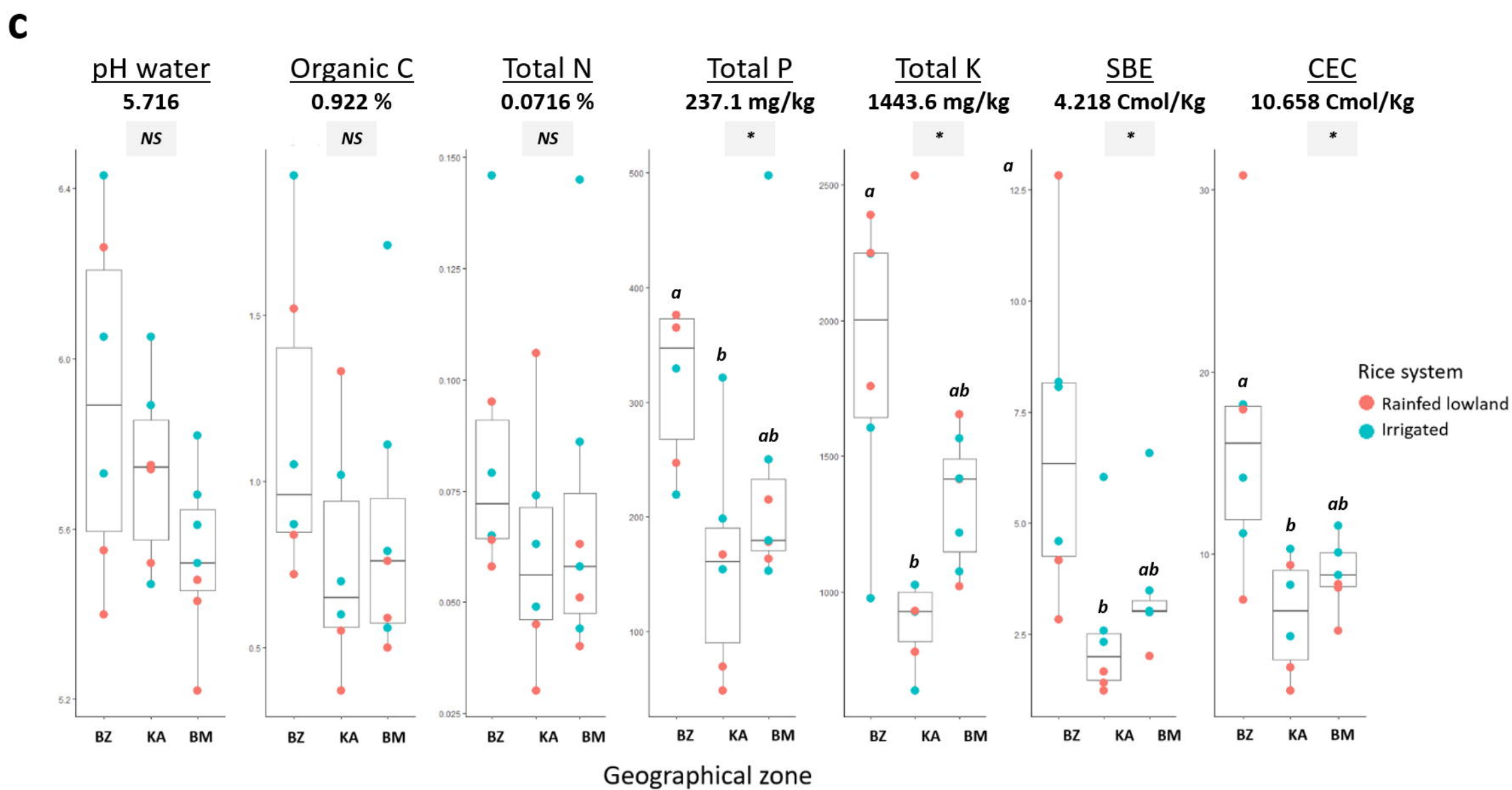
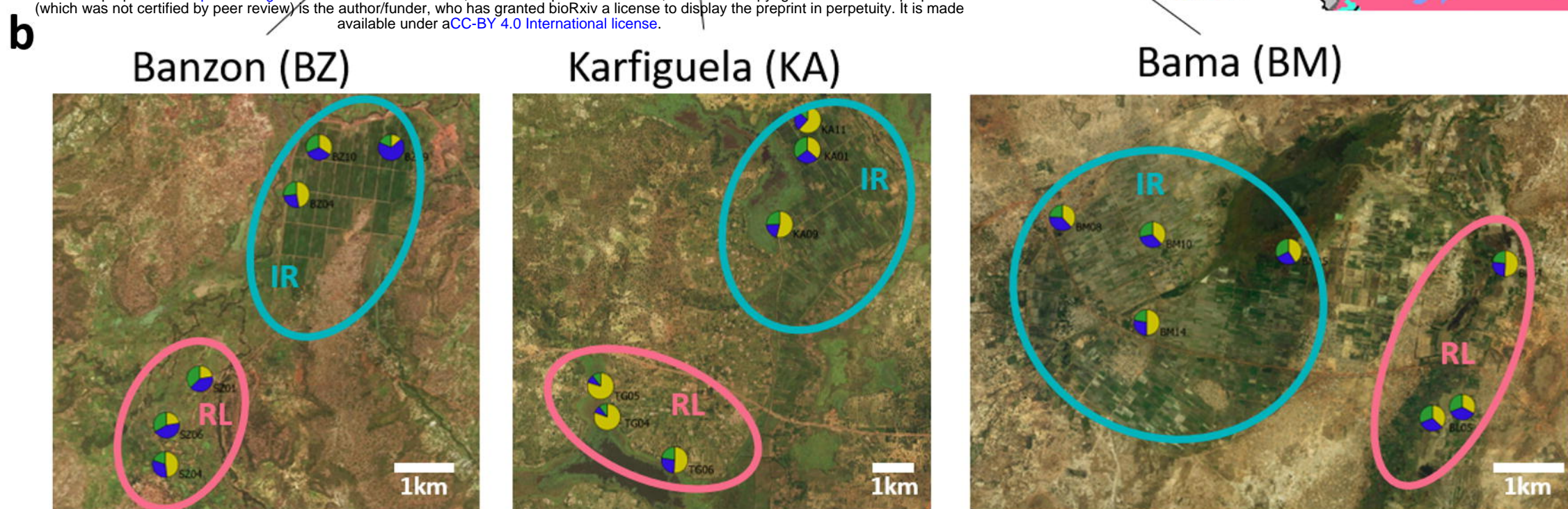
| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Sarocladium oryzae</i> (syn <i>Acrocyllidium oryzae</i>) | Sheath rot |
| <i>Ustilaginoidea virens</i> | False smut |
| <i>Epicoccum sorghinum</i> (syn <i>Phoma sorghina</i> , <i>Phyllosticta oryzina</i>) | Glume blight |
| <i>Epicoccum</i> spp. | Red blotch of Grains |
| <i>Trichoniella padwickii</i> (syn <i>Alternaria padwickii</i> , <i>Trichoconis padwickii</i>) | Stackburn |
| <i>Nakataea oryzae</i> (syn <i>Leptosphaeria salvinii</i> , <i>Vakrabeeja sigmoidea</i>) | Stem rot |
| <i>Athelia rolfsii</i> (syn <i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>) | Seedling blight |
| <i>Eballistra oryzae</i> (syn <i>Entyloma oryzae</i>) | Leaf smut |
| <i>Drechslera gigantea</i> | Eyespot |
| <i>Sclerophthora macrospora</i> (syn <i>Sclerospora macrospora</i>) | Downy mildew |
| <i>Ramularia oryzae</i> (syn <i>Mycovellosiella oryzae</i>) | White leaf streak |
| <i>Ascochyta oryzae</i> (syn <i>Phomopsis oryzae-sativa</i>) | Collar rot |
| <i>Waitea circinata</i> (syn <i>Rhizoctonia oryzae</i>) | Sheath Spot |
| <i>Ceratobasidium setariae</i> (syn <i>Rhizoctonia oryzae-sativa</i>) | Aggregate Sheat Spot |
| <i>Calonectria morganii</i> (syn <i>Cylindrocladium scoparium</i>) | Sheath Net Blotch |
| <i>Gaeumannomyces graminis</i> | Crown Sheat Rot |
| <i>Myrothecium verrucaria</i> | Myrothecium blotch |
| <i>Pyrenochaeta acicula</i> (syn <i>P. oryzae</i>) | Sheat Blotch |
| <i>Globisporangium spinosum</i> (syn <i>Pythium spinosum</i>) | Root rot |
| <i>Tilletia</i> spp. | Kernel smut |
| <i>Balansia oryzae</i> (syn <i>Ephelis oryzae</i>) | Udbatta |
| <i>Nicrospora</i> spp. | Minute Leaf and grain spot |

3

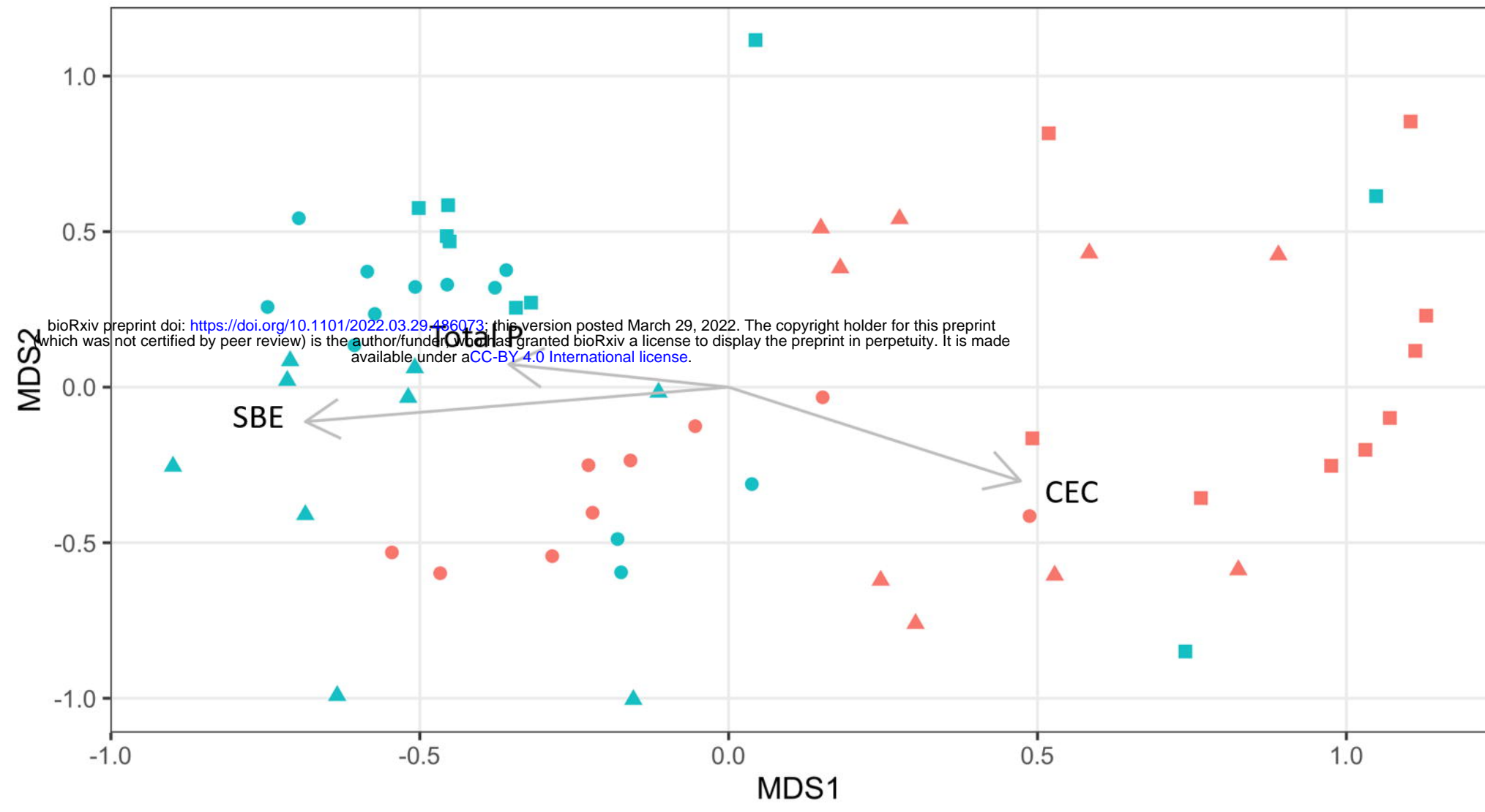
4



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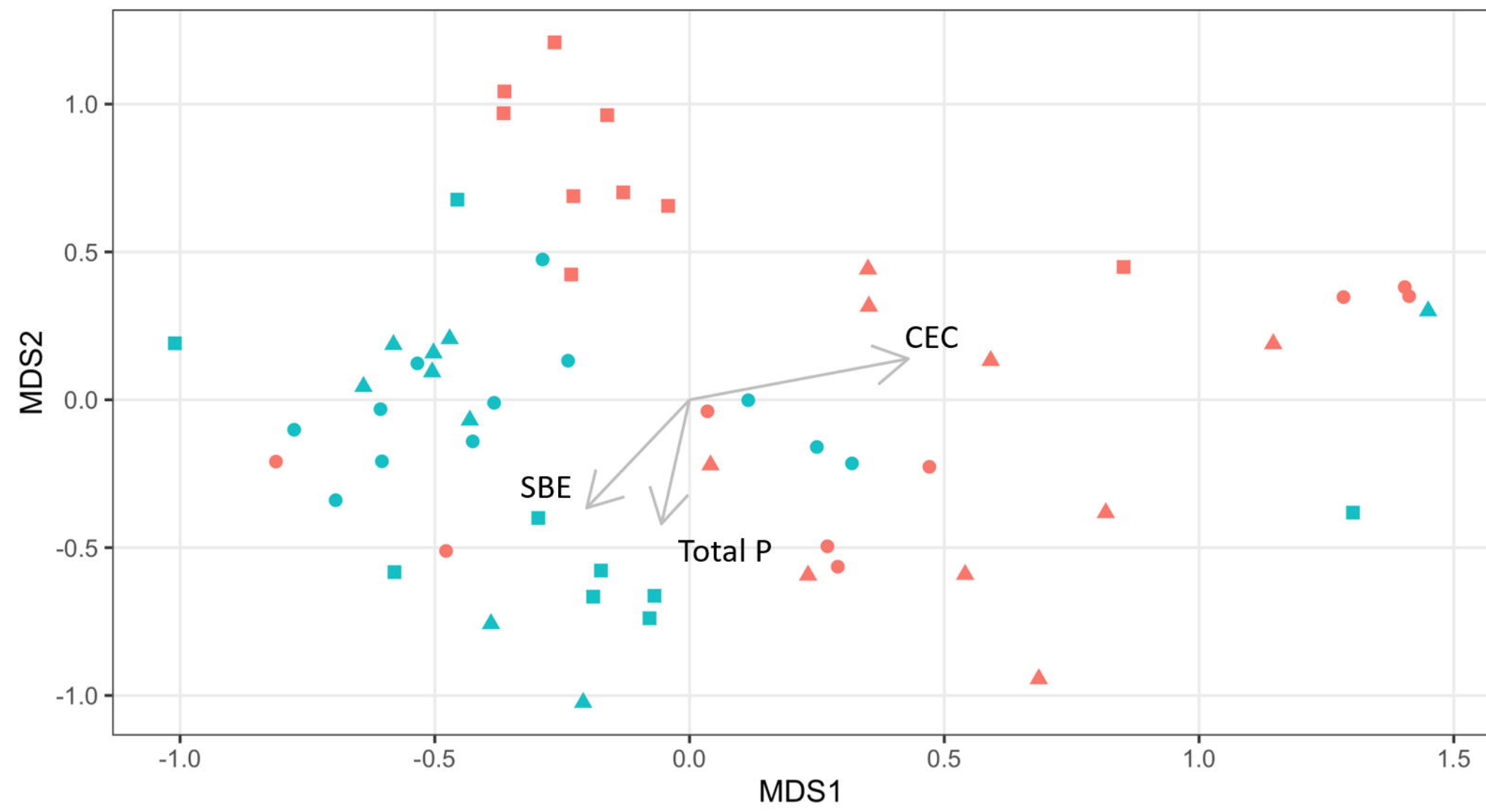
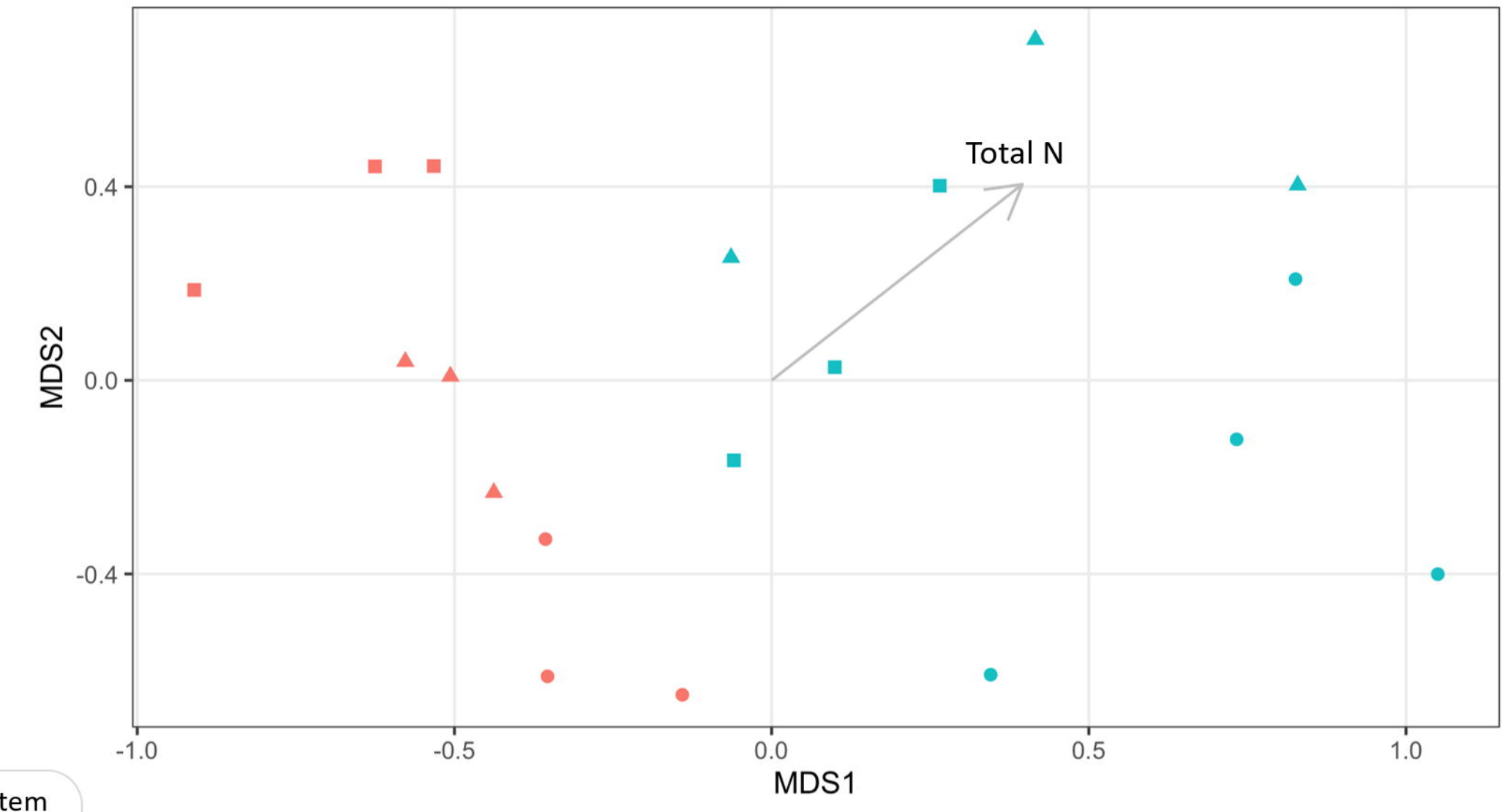


16S Prokaryotes

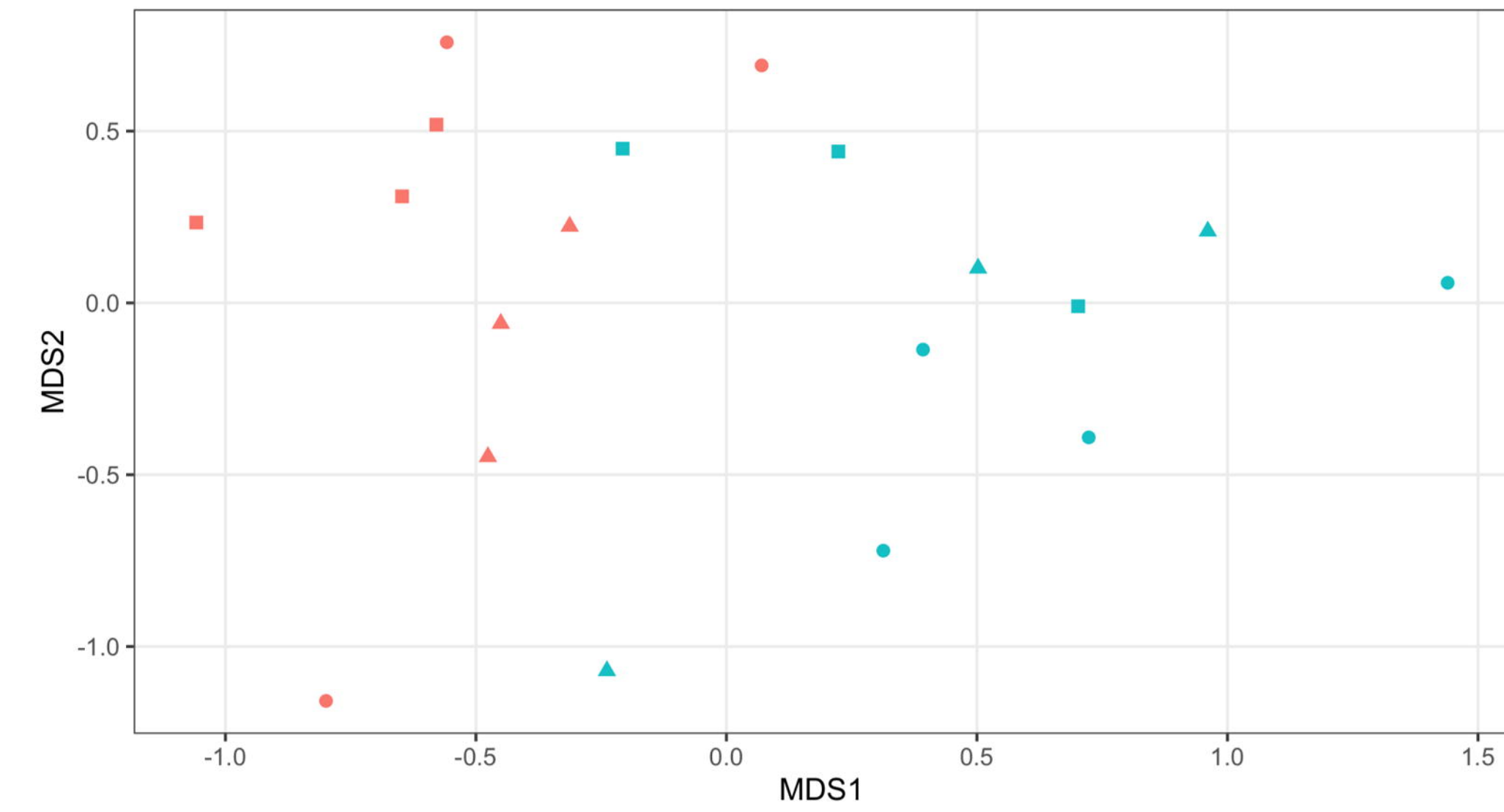


Rhizosphere

ITS Fungi

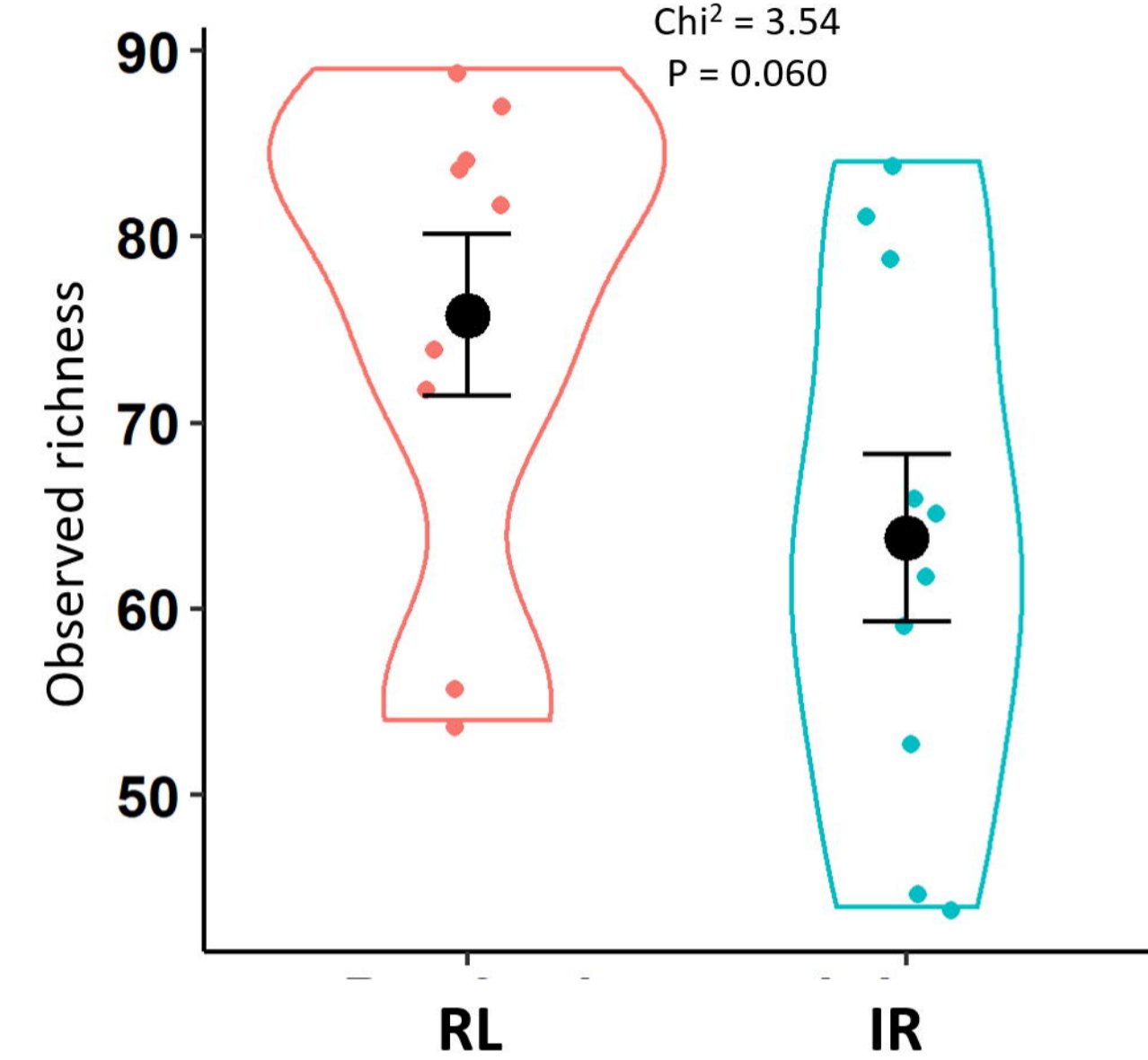
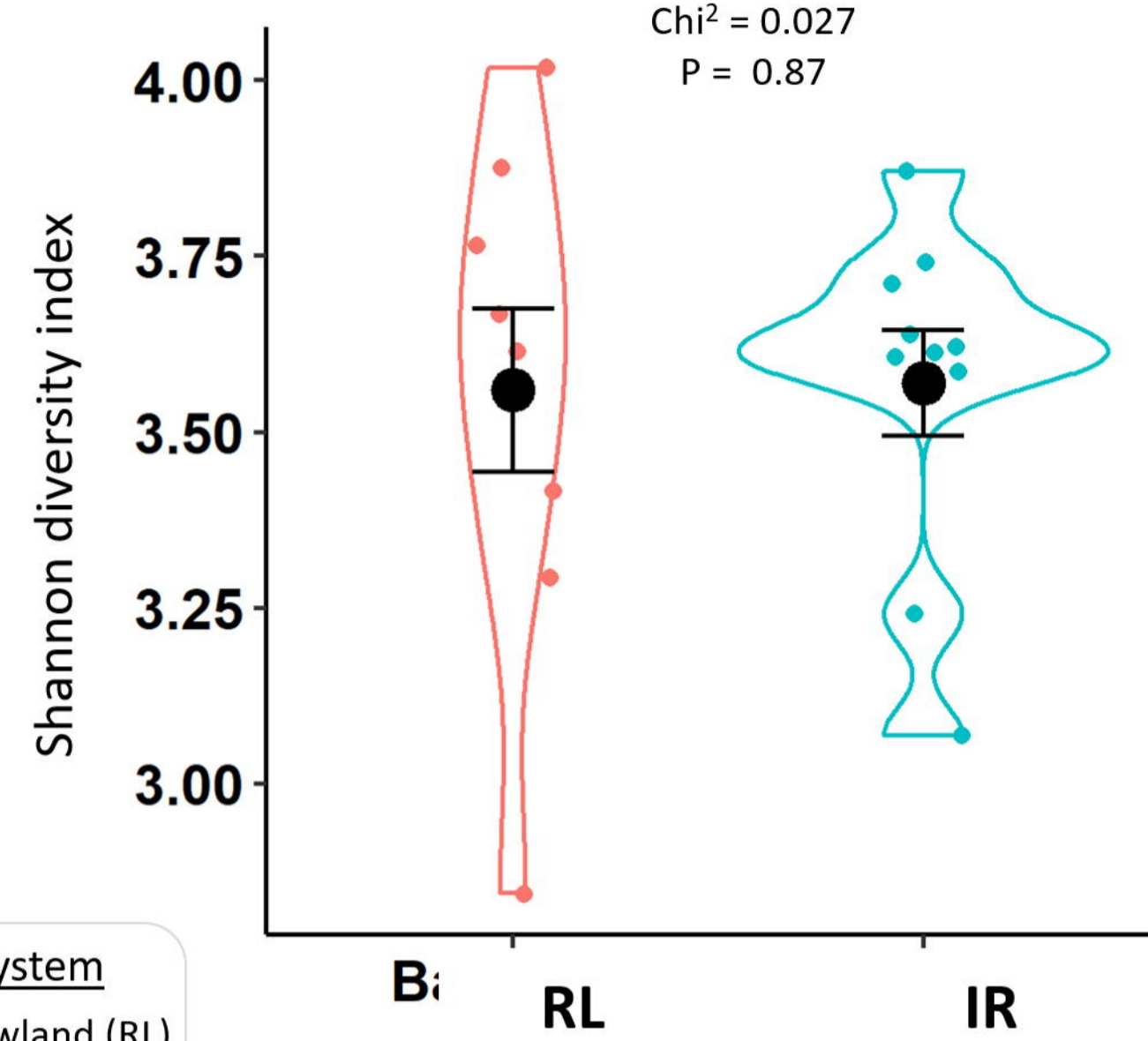
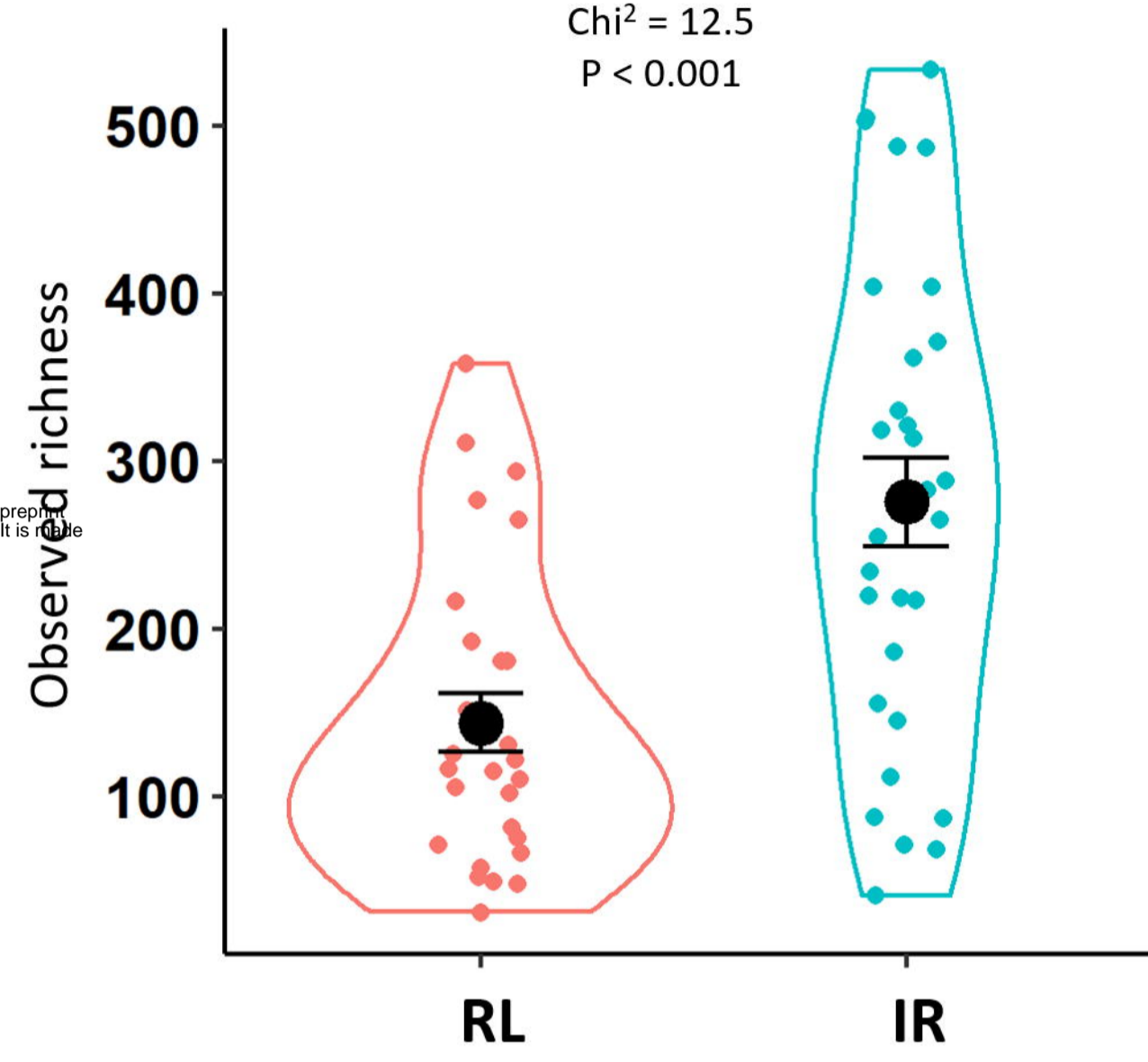
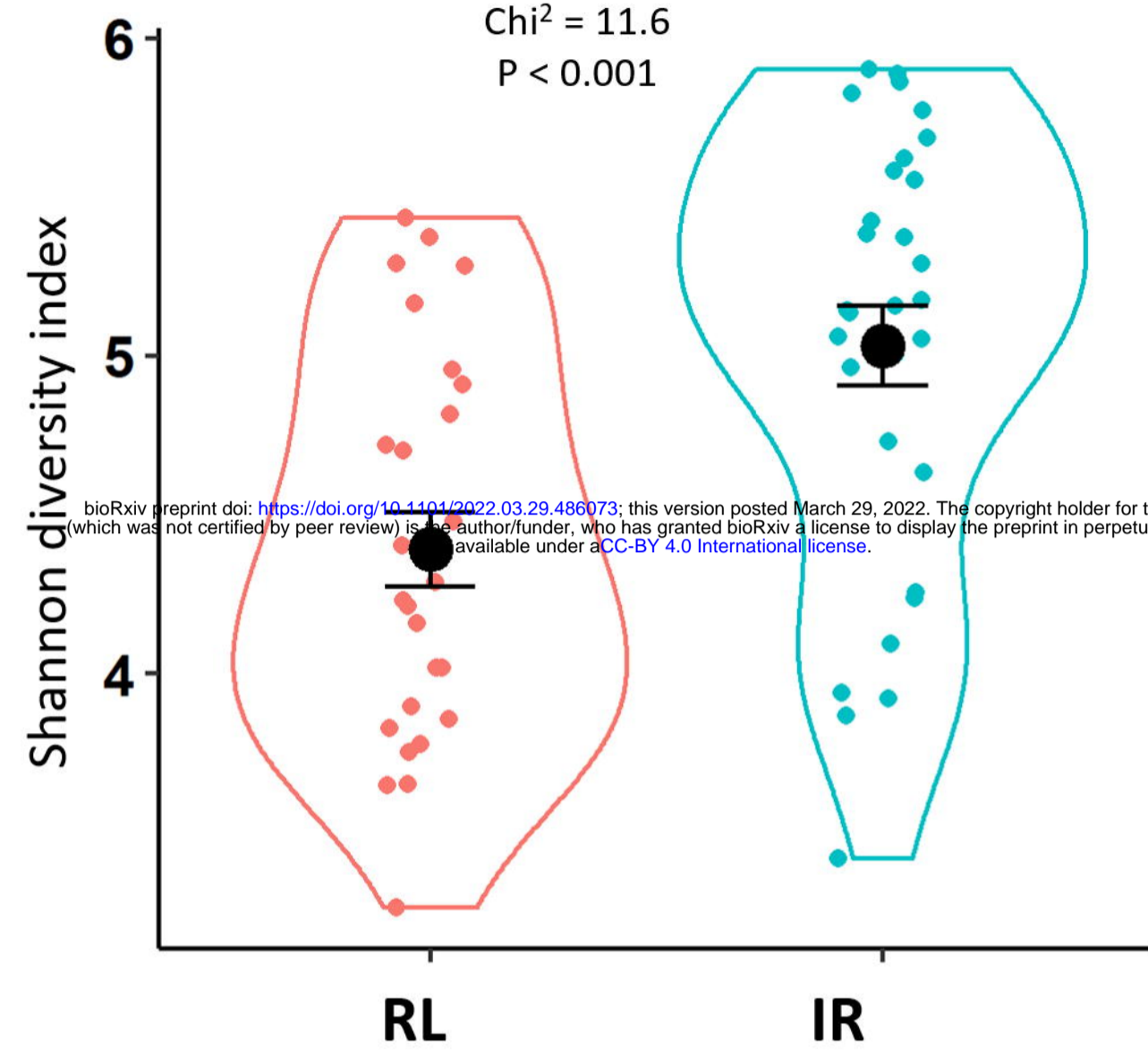


Root



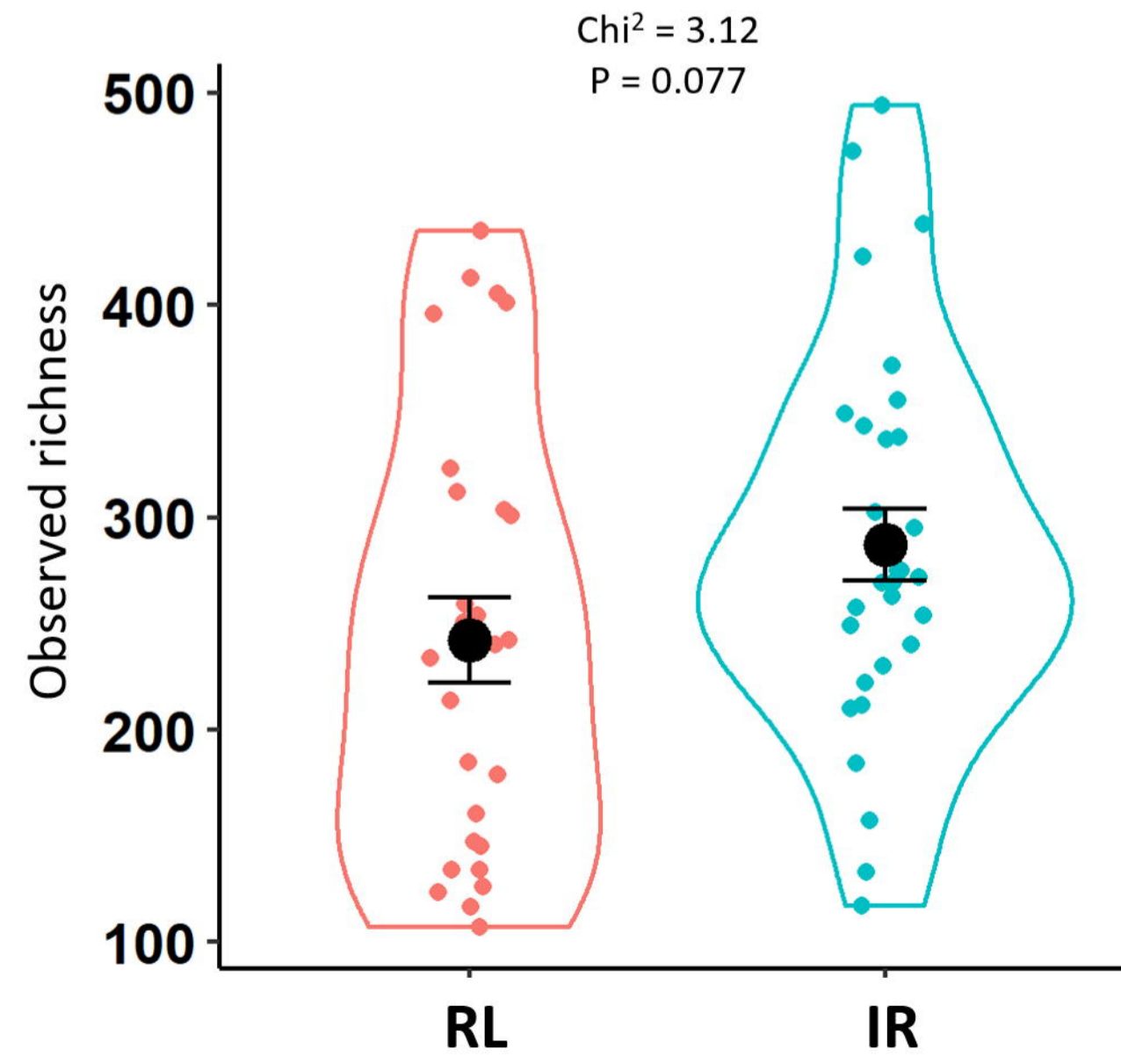
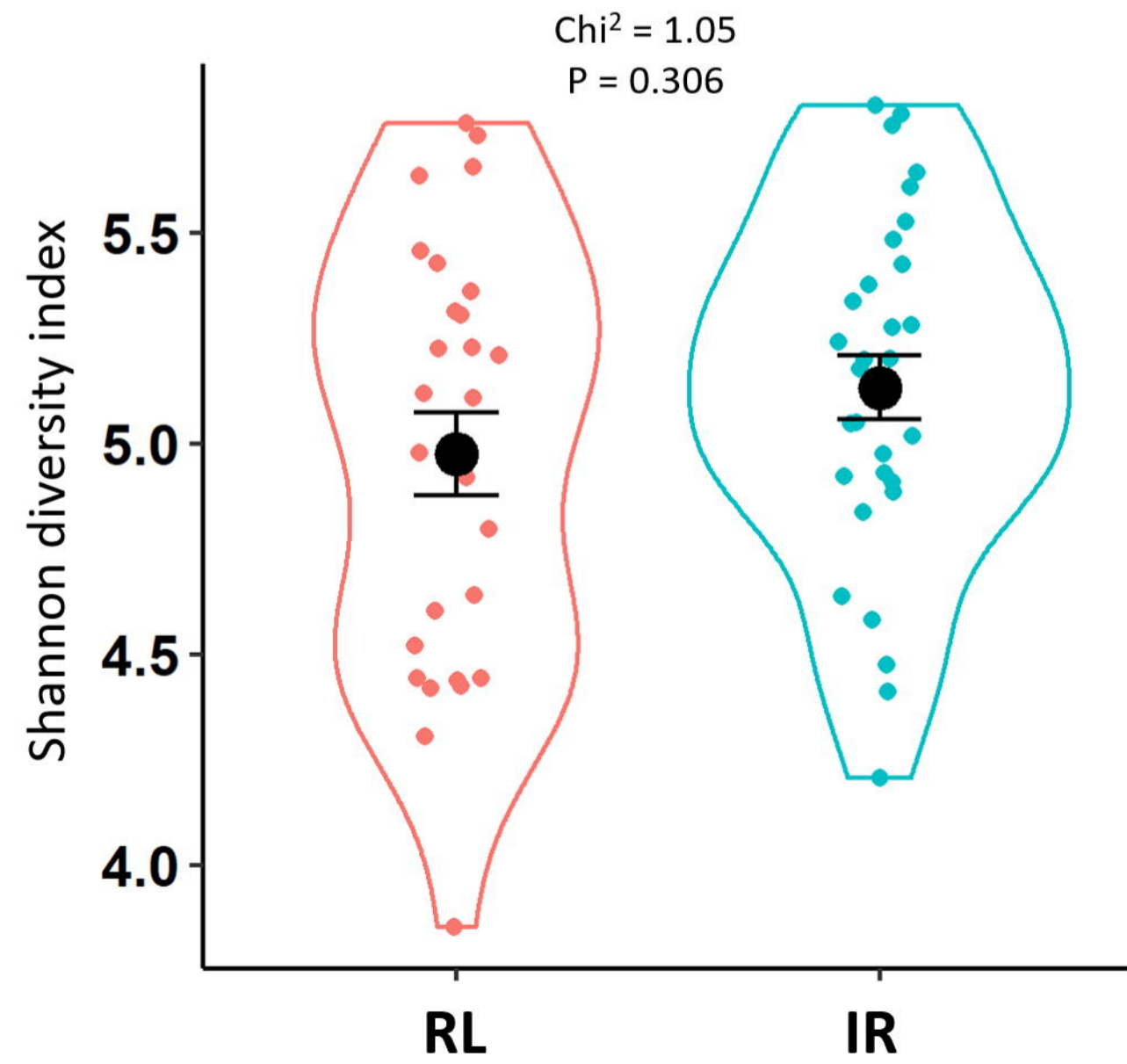
16S Prokaryotes

ITS Fungi

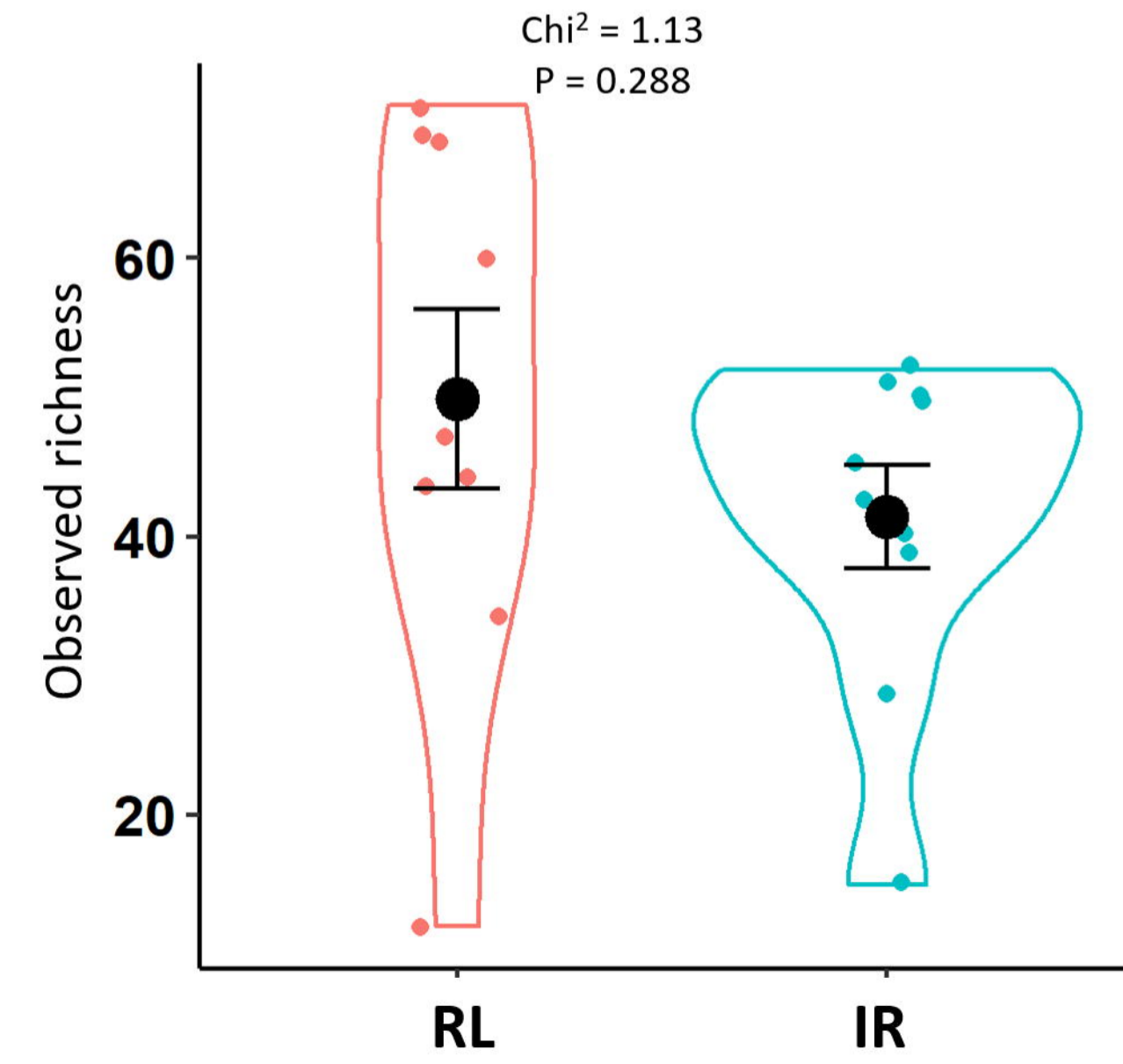
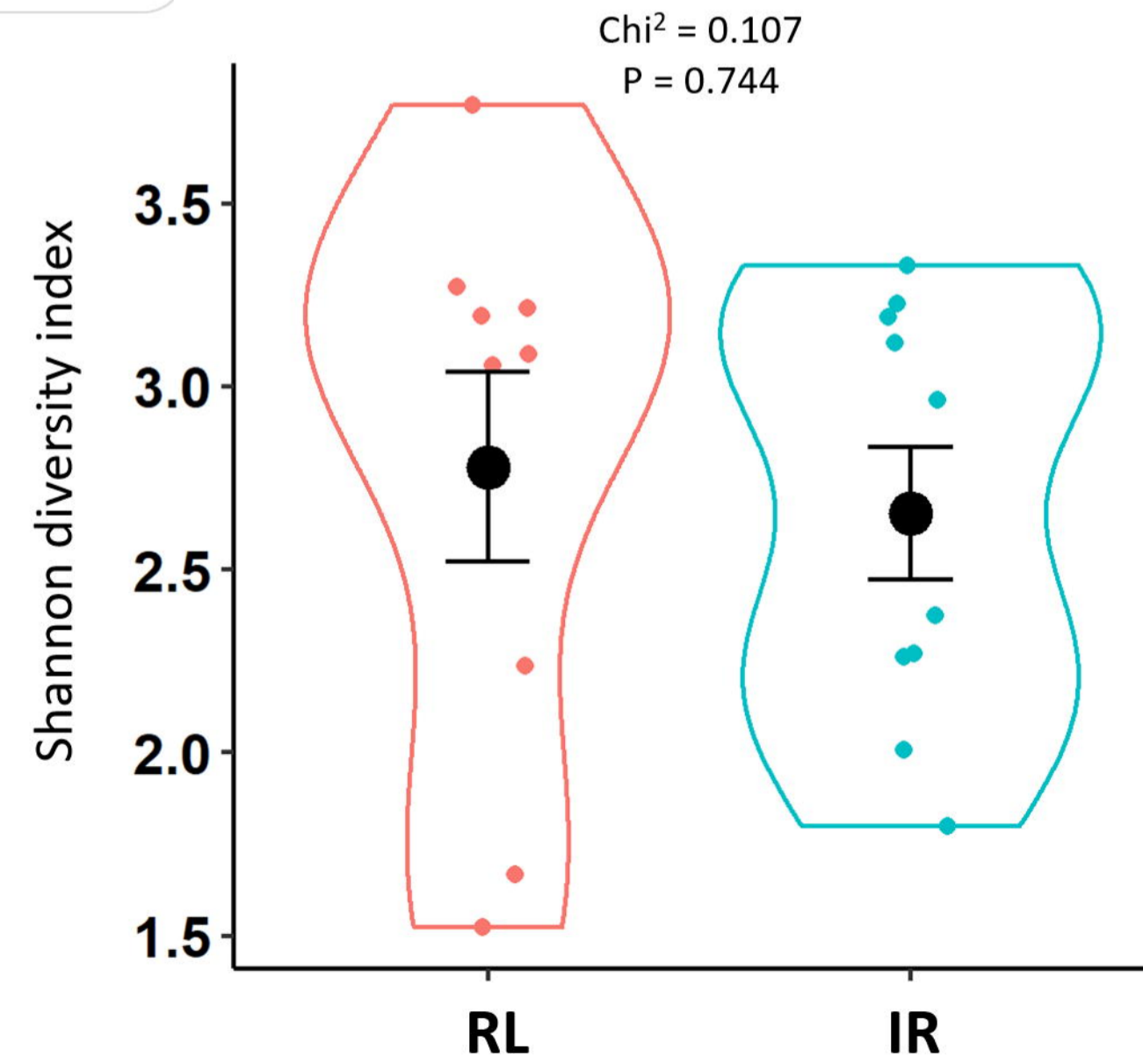


Rhizosphere

Rice growing system
● Rainfed lowland (RL)
● Irrigated (IR)



Root

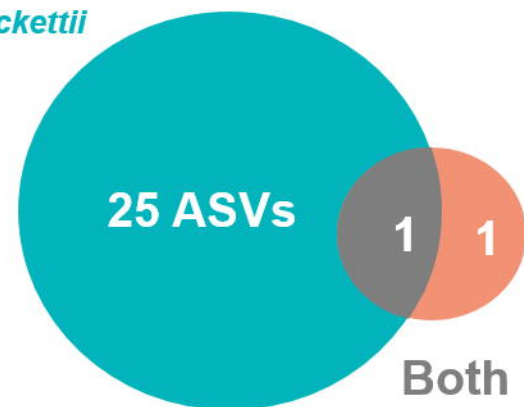


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a. Prokaryotes (16S)

Irrigated

- *Paraburkholderia kururiensis*
- *Ralstonia pickettii*



Rainfed Lowland

- *Bradyrhizobium tropiciagri*

Both

- *Bradyrhizobium tropiciagri*

b. Fungi (ITS)

Irrigated

- *Pulveroboletus sinensis*



Rainfed Lowland

- *Cladosporium chasmanthicola*
- *Operculomyces laminatus*
- *Paraphaeosphaeria michotii*
- *Pseudobaeospora wipapatiae*
- *Pseudothielavia arxii*
- *Sympodiella acicola*

Both

- *Curvularia chonburiensis*
- *Nigrospora magnoliae*
- *Quixadomyces hongheensis*
- *Staurosphaeria rhamnicola*

Rhizosphere

Root

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Abundance Glomeromycetes

Geographical zone

- Bama (BM)
- ▲ Banzon (BZ)
- Karfiguela (KA)

Rice growing system

- Rainfed lowland (RL)
- Irrigated (IR)

300
200
100
0

RL

IR

RL

IR

Rice system

