



El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Bacterias asociadas a árboles tropicales en zonas de recuperación de un disturbio antrópico

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Maestro en Ciencias en Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural
Con orientación en ciencias de la sustentabilidad

Por

Angel Antonio Becerra Lucio

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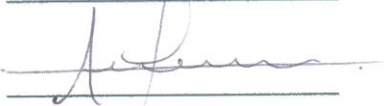
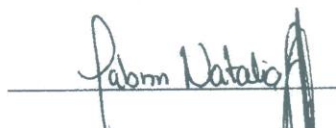

Las personas abajo firmantes, miembros del jurado examinador de:

Angel Antonio Becerra Lucio

hacemos constar que hemos revisado y aprobado la tesis titulada

Bacterias asociadas a árboles tropicales en zonas de recuperación de un disturbio antrópico

para obtener el grado de **Maestro (a) en Ciencias en Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural**

Nombre	Firma
Director Dr. Yuri Jorge Jesús Peña Ramírez	
Co-Directora Dra. Ana Tztzqui Chávez Bárcenas	
Asesora Dra. Salima Christine Machkour M'Rabet	
Sinodal adicional Dra. Susana Ochoa Gaona	
Sinodal adicional Dra. Ingrid Aileen O'Connor Sánchez	
Sinodal adicional M.C. Natalia Ysabel Labrín Sotomayor	
Sinodal suplente M.C. Víctor Manuel Ku Quej	

Esta investigación va dedicada...

**A mis padres y abuelos
que son el pilar fundamental de mi desarrollo y formación como persona,
porque mis conocimientos, mi superación y todo lo que soy se los debo a ellos...**

Agradecimientos...

Papá y mamá, gracias por que en cada etapa de mi vida han buscado la manera de darme lo mejor, desde una pequeña sonrisa, hasta ser mi ejemplo de constancia y dedicación, por su trabajo duro, sus enseñanzas y regaños, porque soy quien soy gracias a ustedes.

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Capítulo 1. Introducción

Las perturbaciones son un efecto permanente o transitorio de un sistema ecológico ante el disturbio, que puede ser por causas naturales o antrópicas (Rykiel, 1985). Los efectos de las perturbaciones antrópicas en el componente vegetal generan un proceso de degradación, ya que existe una pérdida de cobertura, cambio en la composición vegetal y la reducción de la diversidad biológica (Finegan, 1996; Chapin et al. 2000; Gil et al. 2001; Linares et al. 2011; Garcia-Licona et al. 2014).

El componente vegetal interactúa con diversas comunidades microbianas que también son afectadas por las perturbaciones antrópicas como la deforestación, incendios forestales y el cambio de uso de suelo (Matson et al. 1987; Müller et al. 2002; Hartmann et al. 2014). Estas interacciones se encuentran presentes en el suelo y raíces (rizosfera), hasta la parte aérea de las plantas (filosfera); incluso en los tejidos internos de éstas (endosfera) (Ulrich et al. 2008; Cassán et al. 2009; Fierer et al. 2010).

La importancia de las interacciones microbianas con el componente vegetal deriva de los papeles clave que desempeñan para el desarrollo vegetal, por ejemplo, son parte fundamental en los procesos biogeoquímicos, entre los que destacan: 1) el ciclo del carbono: teniendo un impacto directo en la productividad de la planta y descomposición de materia orgánica, 2) el ciclo del nitrógeno: adquisición de nitrógeno vegetal, fijación de nitrógeno y desnitrificación, y 3) el ciclo de fósforo: en la adquisición de fósforo vegetal y mineralización (Falkowski et al. 2008; Heijden et al. 2008; Madsen 2011). Los microorganismos también están implicados en el proceso de resistencia a patógenos (liberación de sustancias antimicrobianas y antifúngicas que favorecen el control biológico) y en el proceso de biorremediación (Kloepper et al. 1999; Matiru y Dakora, 2004; Ryan et al. 2008; Ulrich et al. 2008; Berg, 2009; Compant et al. 2010; Wang et al. 2016).

Los impactos que las perturbaciones antrópicas tienen en el componente microbiano se ha estudiado ampliamente utilizando técnicas tradicionales de cultivo de microorganismos. Con estas herramientas se ha demostrado que los

incendios forestales en bosques de pino reducen la biomasa microbiana hasta en un 50% en la zona superficial del suelo (5 a 10 cm) (Prieto-Fernández et al. 1998), y el cambio de uso de suelo provoca una reducción de la biomasa microbiana hasta 16 veces en comparación con un suelo no cultivado (Yao et al. 2000).

Otros autores utilizaron técnicas de biología molecular y cultivo tradicional de microorganismos para analizar el efecto de los incendios forestales y el cambio de uso de suelo en bosques templados. En suelos de pastoreo y bosques maduros afectados por los incendios, se observó que en cada zona las poblaciones microbianas son únicas, y que las especies bacterianas desconocidas se encuentran mayormente a zonas boscosas (Borneman y Triplett 1997); mientras que en bosques primarios, secundarios y zonas de cultivo, se observó que las prácticas de manejo afectan la estructura de la comunidad microbiana ya que las muestras de bosque tienen una mayor abundancia y diversidad de microorganismos (Bossio et al. 2005).

Sin embargo, utilizar el enfoque de cultivo tradicional de microorganismos presenta un sesgo para entender cómo los disturbios ecológicos afectan a las comunidades microbianas, ya que solo se puede cultivar *in vitro* el 1% de los microorganismos existentes. La biotecnología hace uso de técnicas modernas de secuenciación para el estudio de microorganismos directamente en su ambiente natural, tratando de eliminar el sesgo que se tenía por el enfoque de cultivo de microorganismos (Herrera-Estrella y Castellanos 2007; Hartmann et al. 2012).

La metagenómica (es la aplicación de técnicas genómicas modernas como la extracción masiva y secuenciación de ADN para estudiar las comunidades de microorganismos directamente en su ambiente natural, sin la necesidad de aislar y cultivar cada una de las especies que componen una comunidad) y el análisis bioinformático han permitido conocer la diversidad, abundancia relativa y la posible función de las especies microbianas cultivables y no cultivables en los ecosistemas (Herrera-Estrella y Castellanos, 2007; Hartmann et al. 2014; Llacsá-Sánchez, 2016).

Con la implementación de estas técnicas se ha podido analizar muestras de suelo de bosques y pastizales comprobando el impacto de la deforestación en la comunidad de bacterias fijadoras de nitrógeno (diazotróficas) (Mirza et al. 2014). En bosques templados se encontró diferencia en la abundancia de grupos bacterianos asociados a la rizosfera y suelo de zonas perturbadas y no perturbadas, al igual que en los valores de diversidad de Shannon ($H' = 1.2$ y $H' = 2.5$, respectivamente) (Cobo-Díaz et al. 2015).

Otro estudio revela que existen diferencias entre comunidades de bacterias asociadas a pastizales y bosques, encontrando que los suelos de los pastizales son significativamente más diversos que los de bosque ($H' = 10.12$ y $H' = 9.48$, respectivamente) (Kaiser et al. 2016). Utilizando este tipo de herramientas también han caracterizado grupos de bacterias que pueden utilizarse como indicadores de sanidad de entornos vegetales semi perturbados, encontrando que especies de la clase Gammaproteobacteria pueden ser indicadoras de sanidad por ser capaces de combatir enfermedades fúngicas (Köberl et al. 2017).

Los estudios realizados del componente microbiano en ambientes tropicales se han enfocado principalmente a la caracterización de la comunidad bacteria asociada a las plantas, reportando la presencia de grupos de bacterias muy similares a los encontrados en zonas templadas, entre los que destacan los filo Proteobacteria y Actinobacteria (Oh et al. 2012; Haruna et al. 2017; Ritter et al 2018).

Las técnicas de biotecnología (metagenómica y la bioinformática) representan una buena herramienta que puede ayudar a entender el comportamiento y función del microbioma, así como evaluar su capacidad de recuperación y observar efectos adversos en el funcionamiento del ecosistema (Berga et al. 2012; Blaaid et al. 2012; Hartmann et al. 2014; Copeland et al. 2015).

En México la mayor área protegida de bosques tropicales se encuentra en La Reserva de la Biosfera de Calakmul (RBC) ubicada al sureste del estado de Campeche y en el centro de la península de Yucatán (Martinez y Galindo-Leal 2002; Porter Bolland et al. 2006). La RBC representa una de las tres mayores

extensiones forestales de Mesoamérica; albergando aproximadamente 1,600 especies vegetales (Martinez y Galindo-Leal 2002).

La RBC está influenciada por factores antropogénicos como la deforestación, agricultura y ganadería (Porter Bolland et al. 2006; García-Licona et al. 2014), lo que genera un proceso de degradación del bosque tropical. Los estudios en la reserva se han enfocado principalmente en el componente vegetal, por ejemplo, Gil et al. (2001) y Garcia-Licona et al. (2014) reportaron que la agricultura y ganadería son las actividades principales que genera cambios en la composición y función del ecosistema; por su parte Aryal et al. (2014, 2015) evaluaron los flujos de carbono y nutrientes en hojarasca y árboles durante una cronosecuencia de recuperación de la selvas, demostrando el efecto negativo que genera el cambio de uso de suelo en el ciclo del carbono en ecosistemas tropicales.

Comparado con los ambientes templados, el microbioma asociado en los ambientes forestales tropicales sigue siendo poco estudiado. El estudio de la ecología microbiana en estos ambientes puede poner en manifiesto la enorme diversidad microbiana presente en las muestras ambientales y los roles funcionales que son fundamentales para el desarrollo de los ambientes forestales; esto representa un gran avance en nuestro entendimiento de cómo funciona la naturaleza y la interacción planta-microorganismo, siendo un punto importante en la gestión de los ecosistemas.

Objetivo

El objetivo del presente estudio fue identificar la composición de las comunidades bacterianas asociadas a las hojas, raíces y suelo en zonas con diferente grado de perturbación antrópica previamente caracterizadas en la RBC, utilizando técnicas de metagenómica y análisis bioinformático en microambientes forestales.

Objetivos particulares

- Identificar los componentes de las comunidades bacterianas utilizando técnicas de metagenómica con el gen 16S ADN.

- Determinar los valores de diversidad de las comunidades bacterianas utilizando los índices de Chao 1 y Shannon-Weaver para cada muestra de los diferentes ambientes.
- Establecer si existe una relación entre las comunidades bacterianas de acuerdo a cada uno de los ambientes muestreados.
- Describir el posible papel funcional de los individuos que forman la comunidad bacteriana asociada a los ambientes forestales tropicales.

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21 **Capítulo 2. Artículo**

22 Angel A. Becerra-Lucio¹ , Max M. Apolinar-Hernández² , Patricia A. Becerra-Lucio¹ , Flor I.
23 Jujillo-Elisea¹ , Salima Machkour-M'Rabet³ , Ana T. Chávez-Bárceñas⁴ , Aileen O'Connor-Sánchez⁵ 2 ,
24 Yuri J. Peña-Ramírez^{1*} 3 4

25 **Title: Changes in the microbiome associated with *Handroanthus chrysanthus* (Bignoniaceae) at**
26 **different recovery stages in the Maya tropical forest**

27

28 **Abstract**

29 Anthropogenic disturbances give rise to a process of regeneration and recovery of the plant component of
30 ecosystems. Throughout this process, plant species interact with various bacterial communities that play a key
31 role in their development. Unlike in temperate environments where the bacterial component and its
32 relationship with the plant component have been widely studied, in tropical areas, it remains poorly
33 understood. In the present study, we studied the bacterial communities associated with soil, roots and leaves
34 in one of the forest species of greatest ecological importance, representing different disturbance phases of a
35 tropical forest in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Mexico. Through massive 16S ribosomal sequencing of
36 environmental samples, the bacterial component was identified in four disturbance phases of forest. The
37 bacterial communities found maintained a similar composition in the different stages of recovery. It was
38 found that the Proteobacteria, Cyanobacteria and Actinobacteria strains are the most abundant; although their
39 diversity values differ in each stage of recovery, the bacterial communities in soil and roots are more diverse
40 than those associated with the leaves. In addition, the greatest diversity found corresponds to samples from
41 pristine jungle and traditional Mayan backyards. The results obtained in this study suggest that bacterial
42 communities maintain a certain degree of resilience to anthropogenic disturbances linked to land-use change.

43 **Introduction**

44 The changes caused by anthropogenic disturbances, such as deforestation or land-use change, give rise to a
45 process of recolonization and regeneration, generating a process of vegetation recovery [1,2]. In this process,
46 plant species interact with various microbial communities, which are present from the soil and roots
47 (rhizosphere) to the aerial part of the plant [3-5]. These communities participate in a positive, neutral or
48 negative way in a large number of processes, such as in the acquisition of nutrients and biogeochemical
49 processes, among which the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle and the phosphorous cycle stand out, which has
50 a direct consequence on the development of plants [6-8].

51 Microbial communities are affected by different anthropogenic activities that alter plant cover and soil (e.g.,
52 agriculture, livestock and deforestation), altering their function, biomass and diversity [9-11]. The impact of
53 these activities has been evaluated mainly using traditional tools to cultivate microorganisms, demonstrating
54 that forest fires and changes in land use can diminish the biomass, abundance, and diversity of communities

55 [12-14]. However, there are strong limitations when using microorganism cultures, as there is a 35 bias
56 towards cultivable microorganisms (1%) [15,16].

57 In the last decade, the use of new sequencing tools has allowed us to know the diversity, relative abundance,
58 and infer the role of the nonculturable microbial species, extracting their DNA directly from environmental
59 samples [11]. The implementation of these techniques has shown, for example, that deforestation in soils of
60 temperate forests has an impact on nitrogen-fixing bacterial communities [17]; in the rhizosphere of oak
61 forests, a decrease in the abundance and diversity of bacterial communities due to land-use changes has been
62 observed [18], and groups of bacteria have even been identified as indicators of health in partially disturbed
63 plant communities [19].

64 The Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (CBR) is the largest protected area of tropical forests in Mexico and Central
65 America. It is located southeast of the state of Campeche in the center of the Yucatan Peninsula [20,21]. The
66 CBR is severely affected by different anthropogenic activities, such as deforestation, agriculture and livestock
67 [22]. To date, studies of the effects of anthropogenic disturbances have focused mainly on the impact on the
68 plant component. Previous studies [22,23] reported that agriculture and livestock are the main activities that
69 transform the ecosystem in the CBR, generating changes in the composition and function of the plant
70 component and altering carbon and nutrient flows in a chronosequence of tropical forest recovery,
71 demonstrating the negative effect of land-use change on the carbon cycle and landscape transformation [24,
72 25].

73 these studies, the investigation of the microbial component is pending, without being able to determine to date the
74 impact of these communities on vegetation cover and soil functionality. This is why the objective of the present
75 study was to identify bacterial communities and describe their possible functional role by considering three tropical
76 forest environments the soil, roots, and leaves in zones with distinct phases of antropic disturbance in the CBR in the
77 sites previously analyzed [24, 25]. The contribution to knowledge of this work lies in the analysis of the behavior of
78 microbiome associated with a model forest species in the face of profound changes in vegetation cover and to
79 compare its composition in light of the recovery of the plant component. This could aid holistic management of
80 tropical ecosystems in the future.

81 **Materials and methods**

82 The present study was conducted in an area where the plant component, nutrient flow and behavior of the carbon
83 cycle before the change in land use were previously characterized [24, 25]. This zone is located in the municipality
84 Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico, in the communal lands (ejidos) of El Carmen II (18° 09' 36" N and 89° 24' 48"
85) and Cristóbal Colón (18° 13' 18" N and 89° 27' 13" W), where it is possible to find forest 64 environments in
86 various stages of recovery.

87 **Sampling zones**

88 Sampling zones were selected for their degree of disturbance and recovery time from an anthropogenic disturbance
89 associated with changes in land use (agriculture), as described below: 1) traditional Mayan backyard – permanent

Disturbance, it is inhabited and constantly modified by the families that inhabit it; its vegetation cover has remnants of isolated arboreal vegetation mainly used as shading or ornamental decoration; 2) pasture – it has a low disturbance, since it has been abandoned for 10 years, during which the native vegetation begins to repopulate the property as a result of which agriculture was abandoned, and the land is destined for animal grazing; this land has remnants of arboreal vegetation dominated by species of shrubs and grasses;; 3) secondary forest – This environment has a recovery time of approximately 25 years during which approximately 47 species of trees and shrubs are established with a height of less than 7 m and a mean diameter of 6 cm; this land is not used for agricultural or silvicultural purposes; and 4) primary forest – this environment has an estimated recovery time of 120 years. Area covered with mature jungle was used as the reference zone, and we found a maximum of 43 species of trees whose individuals had a mean height of 12 m and a mean diameter of 30 cm.

1.6.3 Sampling

The environments to be sampled within the selected areas were chosen based on the presence of the species *Androanthus chrysanthus*, a perennial forest species reported in the four different sampling areas selected for this study. At each sampling site, three typical, healthy and representative trees were selected, all with a height greater than 3 m, with each individual separated by approximately 100 m. At each site, one sample per tree was taken, collecting 1 kg of the first 30 cm of soil near the roots, 20 g of young roots and 100 g of mature leaves. All samples were transported at 4 °C and stored at -70 °C until processing.

1.6.4 Soil analysis

Soil samples were sent to the Laboratory of Soil, Water and Plant Analysis (Laboratorio de Análisis de Suelos, Agua y Planta, LASPA) of the College of Graduate Studies, Tabasco campus (Cárdenas, Tabasco, Mexico), for physical and chemical analysis (pH, electrical conductivity, organic matter content, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content, and soil texture) for the standardized procedures according to the Official Mexican Standard NOM-021-ECNAT-2000 [26], which establishes the specifications of soil fertility, salinity and classification.

1.6.5 DNA extraction and sequencing

Each of the samples of soil, roots (young roots plus rhizospheric soil) and leaves were pulverized with a previously sterilized mortar and pestle until obtaining a homogeneous mixture, from which the extraction of genomic DNA was performed with 0.25 g of each of the samples collected using the commercial PowerSoil® DNA Isolation Kit (MoBio Laboratories, Carlsbad, CA) following the methodology proposed by the manufacturer. The quantification and purity of the extracted DNA was determined by spectrophotometry with a Multiskan GO model FI-01620 (Vantaa, Finland) with a μ Drop plate and SkanIt software version 4.1 (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA. USA). After determining the concentration and purity of each extracted genomic DNA, 12 composite samples were made for each evaluated condition: 1) backyard soil, 2) pasture soil, 3) secondary forest soil, 4) primary forest soil, 5) backyard roots, 6) pasture roots, 7) secondary forest roots, 8) primary forest roots, 9) backyard leaves, 10) pasture leaves, 11) secondary forest leaves, and 12) primary forest leaves), each having a volume of 20 μ L and a concentration of 20 ng μ L⁻¹. Each individual sample contributed 133.33 ng of DNA to the composite sample. The

125 samples were sequenced using the MiSeq Illumina 2000 platform in RTLGenomics (www.rtlgenomic.com,
126 Abbock, TX, USA). The oligonucleotides used for sequencing were Fw 5'-CAGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3'
127 (forward) and Rv 5'- 107 AAGGAGGTGATCCAGCC-3' (reverse) [27].

128 Sample analysis

129 The products derived from Illumina sequencing were processed in the automated analysis platform Quantitative
130 Insights Into Microbial Ecology (QIIME) [28] (<http://qiime.org>), the noise reduction and detection and chimera
131 detection were performed with the program UCHIME [29] and were eliminated with an error rate lower than 112
132 4% in de novo mode. The sequences were grouped into operational taxonomic units (OTU) with 80% genetic
133 identity at the phylum level, 85% at the class level, 87% at the order level, 90% at the family level, 93% at the genus
134 level and 97% at the species level using the UPARSE algorithm [30]. All sequences were aligned with the global
135 algorithm USEARCH [31] and compared with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database.
136 Rarefaction curves, diversity and richness indices (Chao 1, Shannon-Weaver H' and Evenness), and Jaccard
137 similarity indices were obtained using RDP tools (RDP-Release 10), sequence analysis tools of the bioinformatics
138 software USEARCH (<https://drive5.com/usearch>) and the statistical package IBM SPSS Statistics (version 22.0).

139 Results

140 Soil analysis

141 Soils in the four environments sampled (backyard, pasture, secondary forest and primary forest) were classified
142 according to texture as sandy clay soils, with a slightly basic pH (7.23 to 7.43). The organic matter of the samples
143 presented a percentage greater than 15% in all cases, while the levels of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous)
144 showed slight variations between each sampling site (Table 1).

145

146

Place Table 1 here

147

148 Composition and relative abundance of bacterial communities

149 In total, 202,190 sequences of good quality were obtained with a mean reading length of 280 nucleotides. Taxonomic
150 identification was assigned to 17 phyla, 51 classes, 118 orders, 218 families, 355 genera and 447 species. For the
151 different phases of disturbance in the rainforest, the most abundant phyla were Proteobacteria, Cyanobacteria,
152 Actinobacteria, Acidobacteria, Firmicutes and Bacteroidetes (Figure 1). The most abundant classes belonged to the
153 phyla Proteobacteria and Actinobacteria (α -Proteobacteria, β -Proteobacteria, γ Proteobacteria, δ -Proteobacteria and
154 Actinobacteria). The most abundant known family was Rhizobiaceae, which belongs to the class α -Proteobacteria
155 (Figures S1 and S2). In all the samples that were analyzed, unknown or unclassified bacterial groups were found,
156 increasing their relative abundance according to the level of taxonomic depth. At the phyla level, the organisms
157 classified in this way had a relative abundance in soil of 3% to 20%, in roots from 6% to 12% and in leaves less than
158 8%. At the class level, the relative abundance of this group varied from 20% to 90%; at the family level, the

159undance ranged from 45% to 95% (Figures S1 and S2); and at the species level, the abundance ranged from 45%
16099% (Figure S4).

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Place figure 1 here

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164 soil samples, the phyla Proteobacteria, Actinobacteria, and Acidobacteria were the most abundant, representing
165ore than 50% of the bacterial community. There was a difference in the relative abundance of the phyla detected in
166ch of the sampled environments. For example, the phylum Proteobacteria was the most abundant in the three zones
167th highest degree of disturbance (33%, 45.9% and 39.7%), while in primary forests (zone with the longest
168covery time), the phylum Actinobacteria was the most abundant (41.1%); phyla with relative abundances less than
169% were Deinococcus-thermus, Nitrospirae, and Planctomycetes (grouped as others) (Figure 1). The most abundant
170asses in the soil of all environments were α -Proteobacteria (20.7% to 35.4%) and Actinobacteria (3.8% to 29.7%).
171he most abundant families were Corynebacteriaceae (3.3%) in backyards, Hyphomicrobiaceae (4.3%) in pasture,
172adyrhizobiaceae (2.5%) in secondary forest and Rhizobiaceae (12.6%) in primary forest. The Rhizobiaceae family
173as the only family found in the four environments analyzed, with a relative abundance greater than 1% (Figures S1
174d S2). In backyards and primary forest, *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (1.6% and 12.6%, respectively) was the most
175undant species, while in pasture and secondary forest, *Bradyrhizobium* sp (2.6% and 1.6%, respectively) was the
176ost abundant (Figure S4).

177like the bacterial community of the soil, in the root samples, the phyla Proteobacteria, Cyanobacteria and
178tinobacteria were the most abundant, representing more than 50% of the community. In the backyard, secondary
179rest and primary forest samples, the phylum Proteobacteria was the most abundant (44.5%, 37.2% and 55.4%,
180spectively), unlike pasture, where the most abundant phylum was Cyanobacteria (41.3%). On the other hand, the
181hyla with the lowest abundance were Deinococcus-thermus, Fibrobacteres, Gemmatimonadetes, Planctomycete,
182nericutes and Thermotogae (grouped as others), with relative abundances lower than 1% (Figure 1). Regarding
183ative abundance at the class level, α -Proteobacteria (12% to 40.2%) and Actinobacteria (4% to 12.8%) were the
184ost abundant in all cases. The most abundant families were Sphingomonadaceae (6%) in backyards,
185eptomycetaceae (10.5%) in pasture, and Bradyrhizobiaceae in secondary forest and primary forest (5.2% and
186%, respectively) (Figures S1 and S2). Lastly, at the species level, *Steroidobacter* sp (2.6%) was the most abundant
187pasture, while in backyards, secondary forest and primary forest, *Bradyrhizobium* sp (3.2%, 4.27% and 4.80%,
188spectively) was the most abundant (Figure S4).

189 the leaf samples, the phylum Cyanobacteria was the most abundant in the four recovery times sampled,
190representing more than 80% of the bacterial community (Figure 1); however, in the areas with the longest recovery
191ne (secondary forest and primary forest), there was a substantial increase in the abundance of the phyla
192oteobacteria (4.8% and 12.3%) and Acidobacteria (1% in both cases). These differences occurred at different
193conomic levels, including at the species level, where *Beijerinckia* sp was the most abundant in backyards and

194 secondary and primary forests (0.1%, 7.2% and 1.2%, respectively), while *Sphingomonas* sp. was the most abundant
195 pasture (0.3%) (Figure S4).

196 diversity and richness of the bacterial community

197 The Shannon diversity index (H') showed that the soil and root bacterial communities were more diverse than were
198 leaf communities (Table 2). The bacterial community found in backyard, pasture and secondary forest soil
199 samples (phylum $H' = 4.01, 3.8$ and 3.6 ; species $H' = 7.2, 6.6$ and 7.1 , respectively) were more diverse than were the
200 bacterial communities found in primary forest samples (phylum $H' = 3.2$, species $H' = 4.7$). In the root samples, the
201 areas with an intermediate recovery time (pasture and secondary forest, with phylum $H' = 2.4$ and 3.3 , species $H' =$
202 5.2 and 6.2 , respectively) had the lowest values of diversity. Areas with longer recovery times (secondary forest and
203 primary forest, with phylum $H' = 0.27$ and 0.17 , species $H' = 0.26$ and 0.16 , respectively) presented the highest
204 values of diversity.

205

206

Place Table 2 here

207

208 The Chao 1 richness estimator and the Evenness index (Table 2), as well as the rarefaction curves (Figure 2), showed
209 that the bacterial communities of the soil and root samples had greater richness and presented greater homogeneity
210 than did the bacterial community found in the leaf samples. The backyard soil samples and primary forest roots had
211 the highest number of OTUs observed at the phylum level (164 and 220, respectively), while at the species level,
212 secondary forest soil samples and primary forest roots had the highest number of OTUs observed (3.778 and 5.873,
213 respectively). The samples with the lowest number of OTUs observed were those of leaves from backyards and
214 pasture (phylum = 6 and 2; species = 92 and 34, respectively) (Table 2).

215

216

Place figure 2 here

217

218 From the rarefaction curves at the phylum level (20% dissimilarity), an asymptote can be observed for all samples,
219 which shows that most of the bacterial community was captured using the experimental strategy employed (Figure
220 S5). At the species level (3% dissimilarity), no asymptote was observed for any of the curves (Figure S5). This
221 indicates that the sampling effort was not sufficient to detect part of the bacterial community at this taxonomic level.
222 However, if we compare the number of OTUs with the values estimated by Chao 1 (Table 2), it is possible to
223 conclude that more than 50% of the richness of the bacterial communities were sampled at the species level.

224 To determine the similarity between each of the samples, the Jaccard index was used. Figure 3 shows that, derived
225 from the analysis of samples at the genus level, three groups were formed in which some groups shared a similarity
226 in their relative abundances. In addition, the soil and root samples were grouped, leaving the group containing the
227 leaf samples separate, with the latter being the most similar to each other. Importantly, the genera *Agrobacterium* sp.,

228ricella sp., and Propionibacterium sp. and to a lesser degree Beijerinckia sp. and Halospirulina sp. were the most
229similar taxonomic groups in the samples. These groups, together with the group comprising the less representative
230a (others), provided the greatest heterogeneity to the samples.

231

232

Place figure 3 here

233

234Discussion

235Soil analysis

236The soils that prevail in the region of study are classified as Rendzic Leptosols mixed with Vertisols [25]. The
237physical and chemical properties of the soil are determining factors for the composition of the microbial community,
238and pH is considered the most influential factor for the interacting bacterial communities in the soil; although many
239bacteria develop better at a more neutral pH, some bacterial phyla such as Proteobacteria, Actinobacteria,
240Acidobacteria and Bacteroidetes can be highly associated with a high pH [32- 36]. However, the pH values in the
241sampling areas were very similar (Table 1); therefore, the composition of the bacterial community interacted under
242similar acidity conditions. After pH, texture and soil type are factors that have strong influences on the bacterial
243community [32, 37, 38]. Based on the samples analyzed, the values found did not a priori represent the expected
244variability. The values obtained in the different soil physicochemical parameters were indicative of the typicality of the
245samples, which supported their use for the metagenomic analysis of the bacterial communities.

246Composition and relative abundance of bacterial communities

247The bacterial groups found in the different samples are consistent with other analyses of this type performed in the
248same area. Specifically, the phyla detected in soil samples are also reported in another region of the Yucatan
249Peninsula [39]. In addition, the results obtained in this study at the phylum level coincide with taxa reported in other
250samples from tropical forest [40], temperate rainforest and grasslands [15, 18, 41-43], with the last two altered by
251changes in land use. In root samples where rhizosphere soil was included, a phyla bacterial composition similar to
252that described in rhizospheric soils of temperate forests and agricultural areas with different management intensities
253was observed [15, 18, 43, 44], and in root samples from tropical forests [45, 46], the phyla Proteobacteria and
254Actinobacteria were the most abundant. In our samples, however, the relative abundances were different from those
255previously found [39], which were dominated by the phylum Acidobacteria, which could be due to a lower level of
256anthropogenic influence or seasonal differences.

257Although there were differences in the relative abundances among the bacterial communities (Figure 1), their
258taxonomic composition was very similar between each group of samples (soil, root, and leaves), resulting in greater
259similarity between them than with samples of other stages of forest recovery. The similarity in the composition of
260bacterial communities has been reported in other samples from tropical forests, where it was found that the
261taxonomic composition of the bacterial community was similar between each of the locations belonging to the same

262bitat [40]. Unknown or unclassified bacterial groups that exist at significant levels in these samples can have great
263levance, and their observed relative abundance was higher than that reported in other environments, such as
264temperate forests, tropical forests, cultivated areas and pastures [15, 17, 40, 47, 48].

265ossible function of bacterial communities

266The phyla Proteobacteria and Actinobacteria were the most abundant in the soil and root samples, which is consistent
267with previous reports carried out in different soil types, ecosystems and latitudes [15, 18, 40, 43, 47-51], suggesting
268that in our samples, these bacterial groups dominate, which has proven to be of great ecological importance. The
269phylum Proteobacteria, which is one of the best represented in this study, groups bacteria that perform different
270functions in ecosystems, highlighting bacterial species that participate directly in the nitrogen cycle as fixers [39, 52],
271nitrifying agents [15, 53, 54] and denitrifying agents [15, 55]. Its participation in mineral mineralization has also
272been described, highlighting the replacement and mineralization of phosphorus (P) [15, 258 56-61] and the
273mobilization of potassium (K) [60]. Within this bacterial group, we can also find ligninolytic and cellulolytic species
274linked to the decomposition of organic material [61, 62], methanotrophic bacteria [63], and some other species
275capable of establishing interactions with some fungi for the benefit of plants [64-67] or with the ability to produce
276antimicrobial and antifungal compounds [68-70]. The presence of bacteria of this phylum in our samples, particularly
277in soil and root, is consistent with its possible role in biogeochemical cycles, highlighting its higher abundance in
278root samples in samples from primary forest, where significant replacement of organic matter has been reported [24,
279].

280Similar to the phylum Proteobacteria, different functions have been reported for bacterial species of the phylum
281Actinobacteria, which was the second most abundant group in the soil and root samples and in two of the leaf
282samples. This taxonomic group encompasses bacterial genera that have been functionally characterized as
283nitrogen antagonists and inducers of defense mechanisms [51], as possible sources of secondary metabolites [39],
284which participate in different bioremediation processes [71] and the solubilization of phosphorus [58, 59]. In
285addition, this phylogeny is mainly associated with the degradation of polysaccharides in plant biomass and phenolic
286compounds [61, 72, 73]. In this case, the greatest abundance of this group occurred in the primary forest soil
287samples, which could suggest that these bacterial groups are linked to degradation processes of plant matter below
288the mulch layer [24, 25].

289Other phyla detected in this work, mainly in the leaf samples, are Cyanobacteria, which groups bacteria mainly
290associated with nitrogen fixation processes, Acidobacteria, a group comprising species of plant biomass degrading
291bacteria [45, 72], denitrifying agents [55, 74], and phosphorus solubilizing agents [58, 59], Firmicutes, which
292contains ligninolytic bacteria [51], denitrifying agents [55], and bacteria capable of mobilizing potassium [60] and
293inhibiting the growth of plant pathogens [75], and Bacteroidetes, which are potent decomposers of cellulose and
294other biopolymers [62, 72], in addition to their role as potassium mobilizers [60]. The relative abundances of these
295groups did not seem to follow a defined pattern at this level of taxonomic depth, which could suggest that their role
296could be established by functional analysis with those cultivable organisms belonging to these phyla.

297iversity and richness of the bacterial community

298 shown in Figure 3 and Table 2, there is a marked difference in the composition, diversity and richness between
299 bacterial communities of soil and root samples and of leaf samples, which may be because the environmental
300 conditions and availability of nutrients are less suitable in the leaves. This finding is consistent with previous studies
301 that suggest that leaves can produce microbiomes subject to higher selective pressure, without many microniches,
302 and therefore are less diverse [76-78]. In soil samples, the three areas with the highest disturbance of the rainforest
303 had the highest values of diversity and number of OTUs (Table 1) (e.g., the bacterial community of pasture had a
304 diversity at the species level of $H' = 6.6$ and was more diverse than the community from primary forest, $H' = 4.77$).
305 This can also be observed in temperate forests, for which bacterial communities associated with grasslands
306 (disturbed area) ($H' = 10.7$) were more diverse than were those associated with undisturbed forests ($H' = 9.6$) [42].
307 Another study demonstrated that foraging areas with intensive agricultural management ($H' = 4.92$) were slightly
308 more diverse than temperate forests ($H' = 4.37$) [48]. In our root samples, the primary forest presented the highest
309 values of diversity and number of OTUs. In pristine temperate forests, similar trends were observed [18]. In this
310 environment, at the phylum level, forests in conserved areas had higher values of diversity and a higher number of
311 OTUs ($H' = 2.5$ and 17 OTUs) than did forests recovering from forest fires ($H' = 2.2$ and 13 OTUs).

312 The similarities in composition that can be observed between each of the groups of samples (Figure 3) could be
313 explained by two main factors. The first is the perennial forest species used for sampling microhabitats. Several
314 studies have corroborated that plant species can directly or indirectly determine the structure of the bacterial
315 community [48, 79], selecting particular populations for their benefit [47, 80, 81] so that the bacterial community can
316 be distinctive for each type of plant species independent of the place where it is found [79]. The second factor that
317 could explain the similarity of the microbial composition found could be associated with the physicochemical
318 characteristics of the soil, which are known to strongly influence the establishment and development of other
319 microorganisms (fungi, lichens, protists or viruses) [15, 34 -38, 48, 77, 82], which were not considered in this study.

320 The presence of some bacterial groups that do not vary according to different disturbance phase indicate bacterial
321 resistance to disturbances, which can contribute to minimizing changes in the functioning of the ecosystem [83]; this
322 has been demonstrated with some microbial functional groups such as decomposers and denitrifying and nitrifying
323 agents that are constant and relatively insensitive to changes in vegetation cover [84, 86]. Bacterial resistance may
324 have occurred in this case because there was a significant abundance of some phyla performing indispensable
325 maintenance functions for the ecosystem or that were continuously reinoculated and able to establish themselves in
326 environments with different degrees of recovery. Our results suggest that the communities of Proteobacteria and
327 Actinobacteria associated with tropical forest environments in the Mayan tropical forest of Calakmul could have this
328 capacity of resilience in the face of disturbances and that events such as changes in land use or any other disturbance
329 generating a change in the diversity of the plant component is not synchronous, or at least not to the same extent,
330 with changes in bacterial communities, as has been previously described [86]. In this regard, it would be necessary to
331 analyze bacterial species at a deeper taxonomic level or in less abundant groups that would be sensitive to such
332 changes and could serve as indicator species. Another strategy that could be used as a possible response indicator of
333 change in vegetation cover in microbial communities could be to evaluate the change in the expression of certain
334 genes, which would require a metatranscriptomic analysis of these communities.

335stly, the analysis of the data from the leaf samples shows that the relative abundances found differ from previous
336ports in temperate zones, where very little or no phylogeny is reported for Cyanobacteria [47]. On the other hand,
337tropical forests, sequences of Cyanobacteria linked to nitrogen fixation processes were reported [88]. However,
338high abundance of Cyanobacteria detected in this study could also be due to the amplification of compatible
339regions of the chloroplast of *H. chrysanthus* because it has a close phylogenetic relationship with Cyanobacteria [47].
340though the sequences assigned to Cyanobacteria show no identity with the ribosomal region of *H. chrysanthus*, we
341cannot rule out this possibility. To eliminate the possible bias by this type of sequence, other primers can be used,
342such as 799F, which was designed to avoid the amplification of plastid sequences; however, several reports show
343that its effectiveness is limited [89], so a better alternative could be the scrubbing of sequences not required by
344software [90].

345

346Conclusions

347the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of the bacterial composition associated with soil, roots and
348leaves of an area with different disturbance phase of the Mayan rainforest in the CBR. This work presents a first
349view of the bacterial community in this region and its possible behavior in different stages of recovery from
350anthropogenic disturbance. From these data, we can conclude that the community of bacteria associated with the leaf,
351root, and soil of *H. chrysanthus* shows a good degree of resilience to changes in vegetation cover caused mainly by
352changes in land use. In addition, we have found that the bacteria belonging to the phyla Proteobacteria and
353Actinobacteria are the most abundant and that, according to their function characterized in other studies, they could
354be responsible for carrying out a wide range of metabolic activities of great importance in recovering tropical forests.
355These results are the basis for future studies in which other factors can be analyzed that can determine if the pattern
356found is characteristic of the model forest species or if this depends on climatic variations at different times of the
357year. Other studies could consider expanding the study area, the interaction with different types of vegetation and
358other microhabitats, in addition to evaluating in greater depth the function of known and unknown bacterial groups
359that are an enormous yet unexplored reservoir of biodiversity that can have a fundamental role in the recovery in
360tropical areas and a high biotechnological potential.

361

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624 **Figure footnotes and table headings**

625

Figure 1 Relative abundance. Bacterial phyla associated with the soil, roots and leaves in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. The represented taxa are > 1% abundance in at least one sample; the taxa with abundances less than 1% are grouped in the category others. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest and PF: primary forest.

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Figure 2 Rarefaction curves. Taxon accumulation curves as a function of the number of 16S DNA sequences at the phylum level (20% dissimilarity) of the bacterial community associated with the soil (black), roots (yellow) and leaves (green) in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. Abbreviations B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest, and PF: primary forest.

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Figure 3 Correlation of bacterial communities in soil, root and leaf. Heat map based on the Jaccard similarity coefficient and relative abundances at the genus level. Abbreviations B: backyard; PL: pasture; SF: secondary forest; PF: primary forest; S: soil; R: root; and L: leaf.

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Figure S1 Relative abundance at class level. Bacterial classes associated with the soil, roots and leaves in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. The represented taxa are > 1% abundance in at least one sample; the taxa with abundances less than 1% are grouped in the category others. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest and PF: primary forest.

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Figure S2 Relative abundance at family level. Bacterial families associated with the soil, roots and leaves in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. The represented taxa are > 1% abundance in at least one sample; the taxa with abundances less than 1% are grouped in the category others. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest and PF: primary forest.

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Figure S3 Relative abundance at genus level. Bacterial genera associated with the soil, roots and leaves in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. The represented taxa are > 1% abundance in at least one sample; the taxa with abundances less than 1% are grouped in the category others. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest and PF: primary forest.

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Figure S4 Relative abundance at species level. Bacterial species associated with the soil, roots and leaves in zones with different recovery times since anthropogenic disturbance. The represented taxa are > 1% abundance in at least one sample; the taxa with abundances less than 1% are grouped in the category others. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest and PF: primary forest.

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Table 1. General soil analysis. Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest, PF: primary forest, EC: electrical conductivity, OM: organic matter, N: nitrogen, K: potassium, P: phosphorus. pH correspond to a measure at 1:2 ratio.

663

664 **Table 2. General analysis of the sequence datasets.** The number of OTUs, Shannon H' diversity, Chao 1 and
665 evenness were analyzed at a sequence dissimilarity of 20% (phyla level) and 3% (species level) for each sample.
666 Abbreviations: B: backyard, PL: pasture, SF: secondary forest, PF: primary forest; # seq: number of sequences;
667 MSL: mean sequence length, bp: base pairs.

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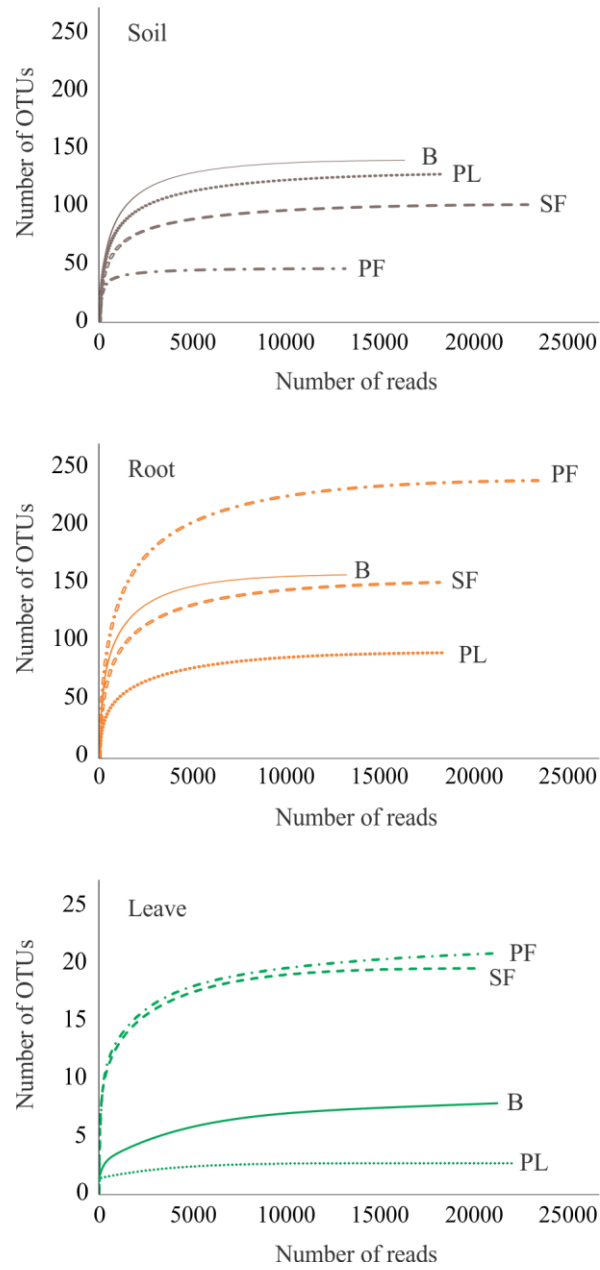
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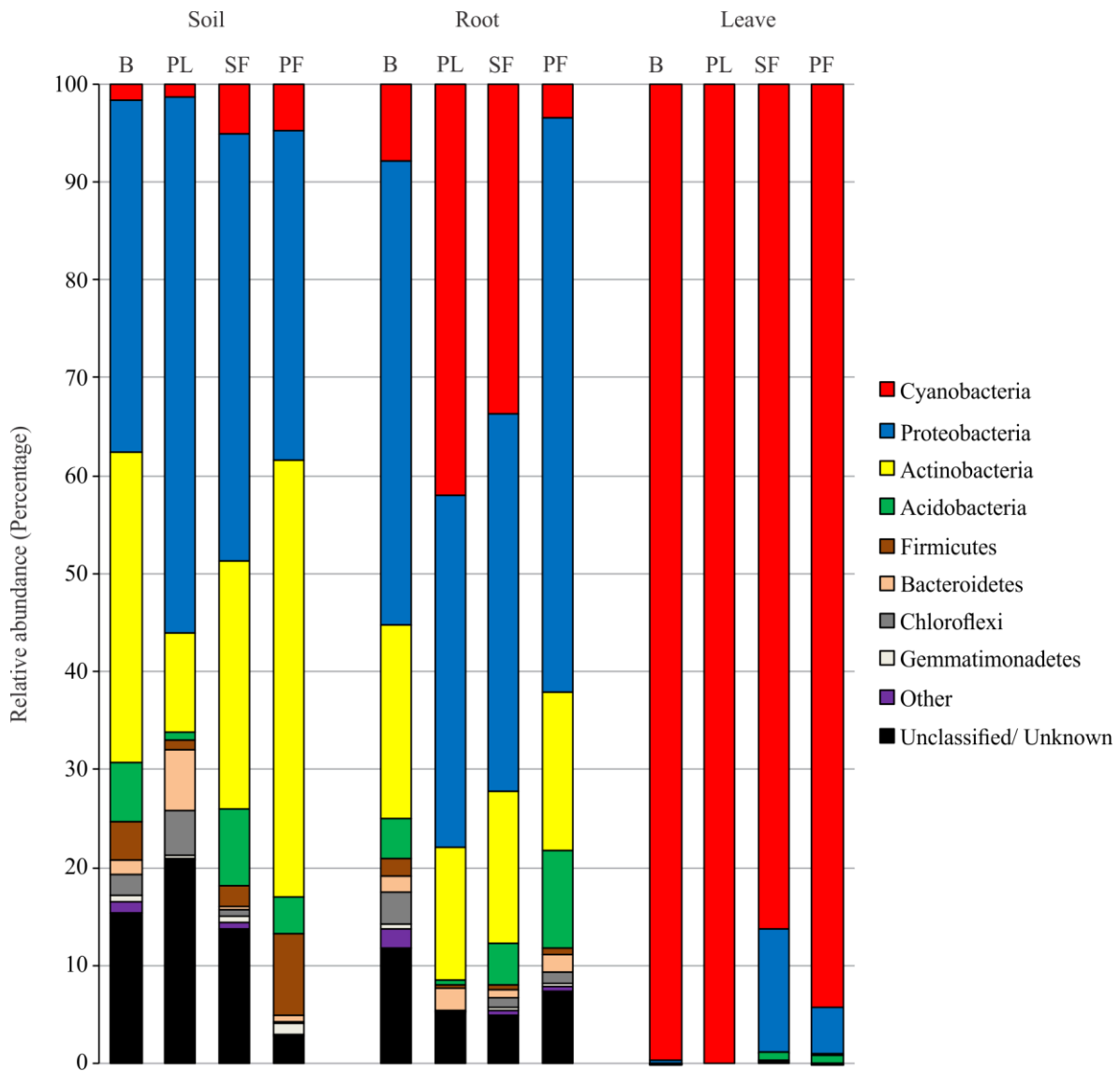
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709 Figure 2



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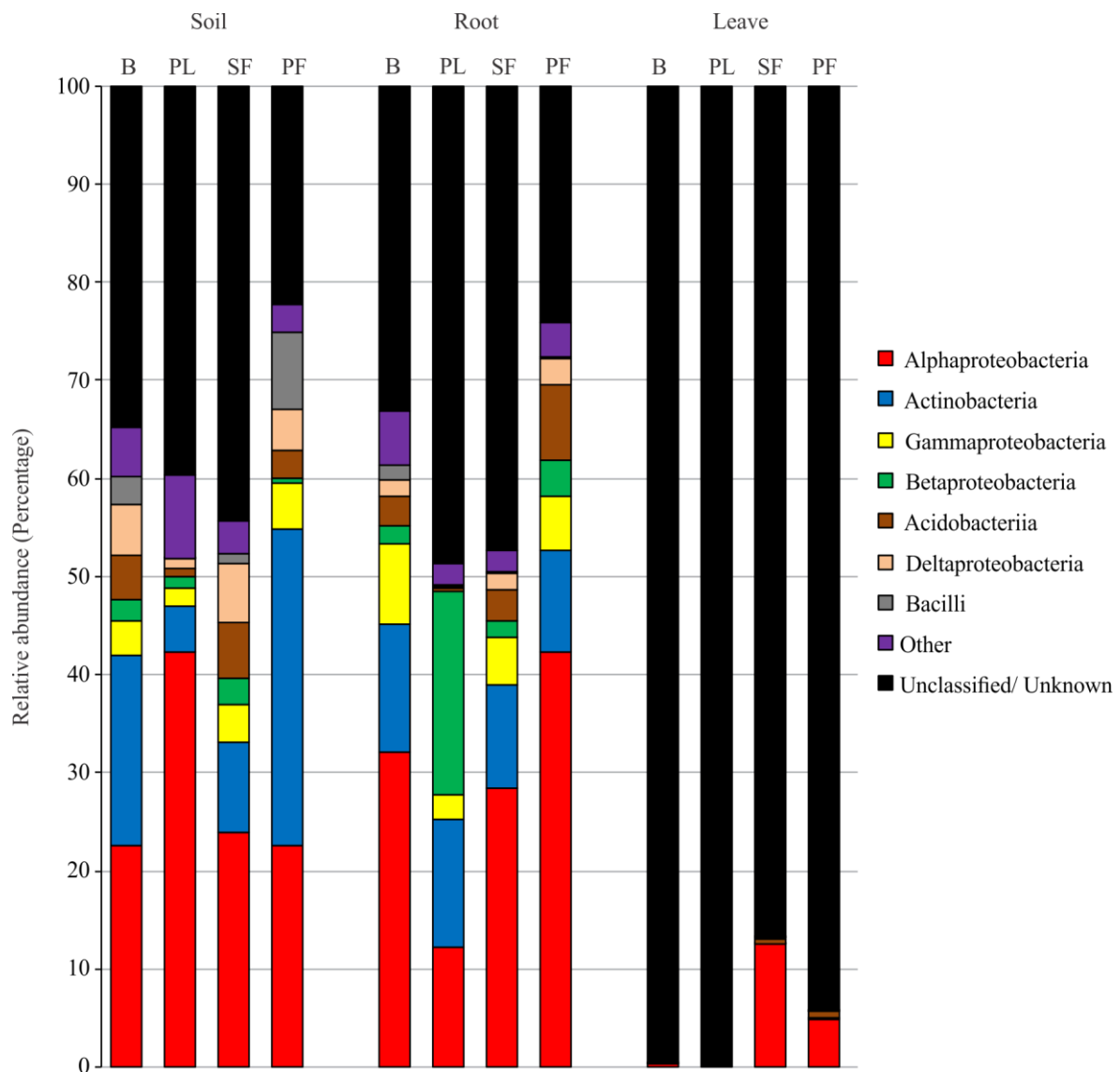
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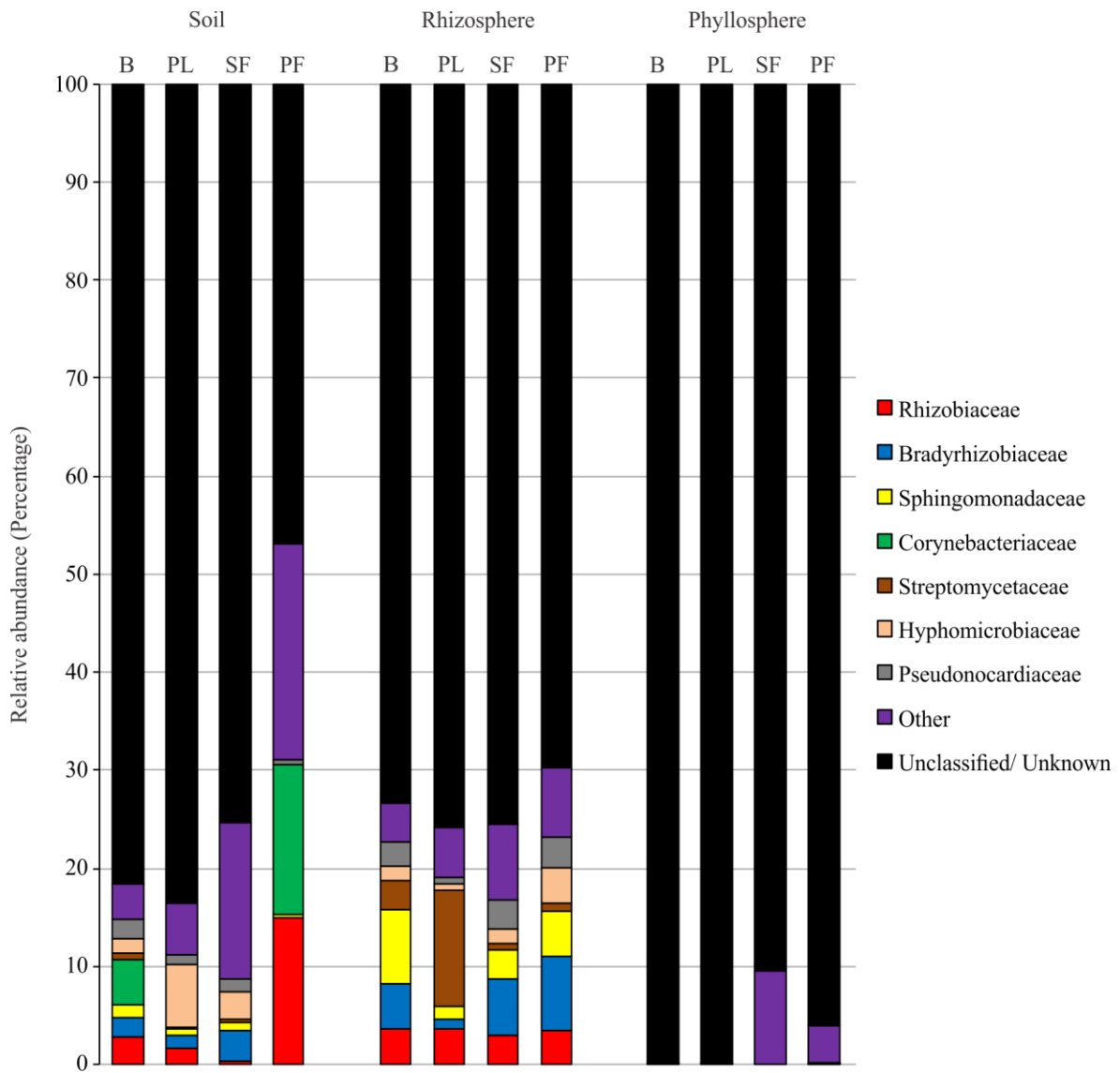
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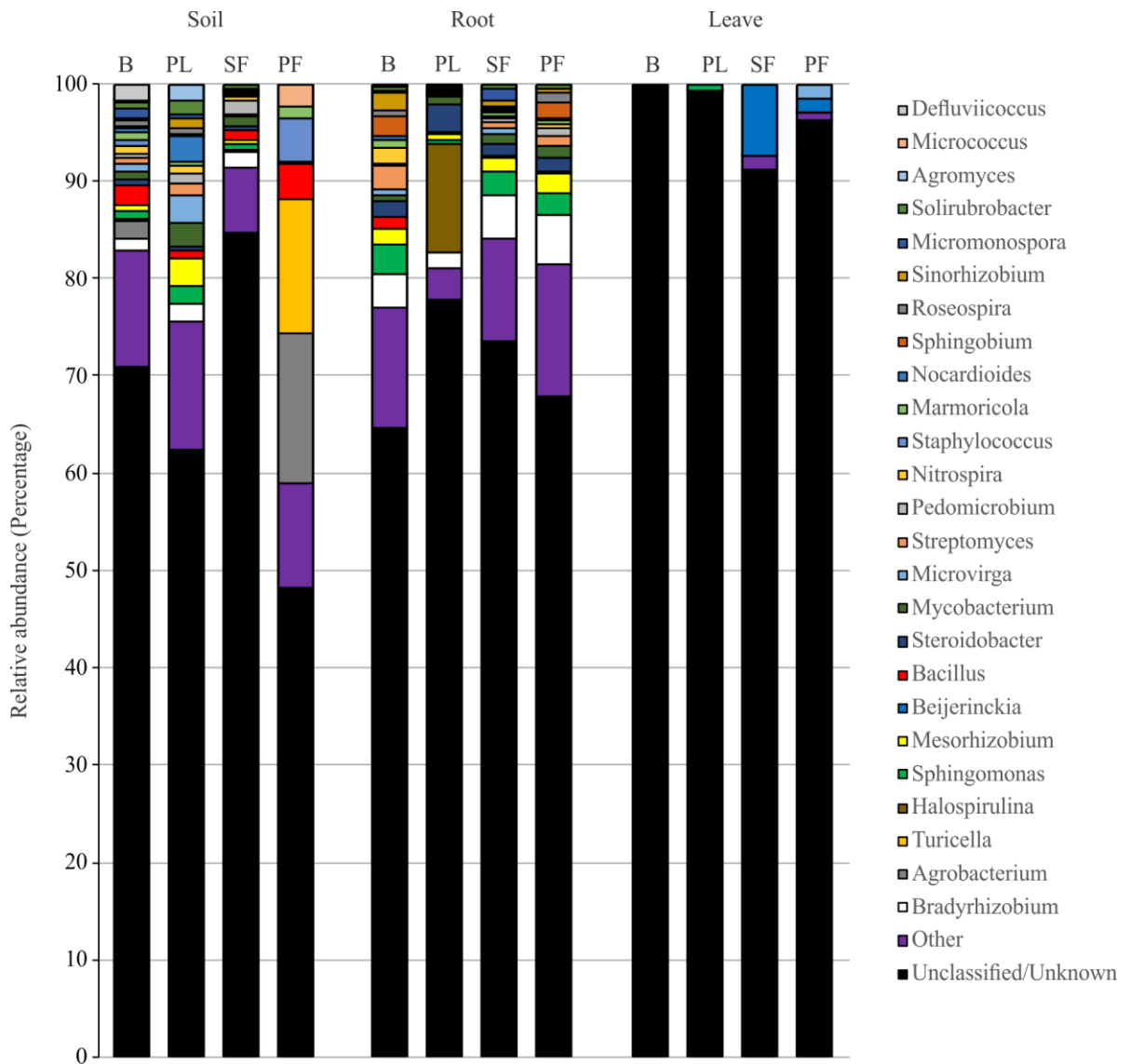
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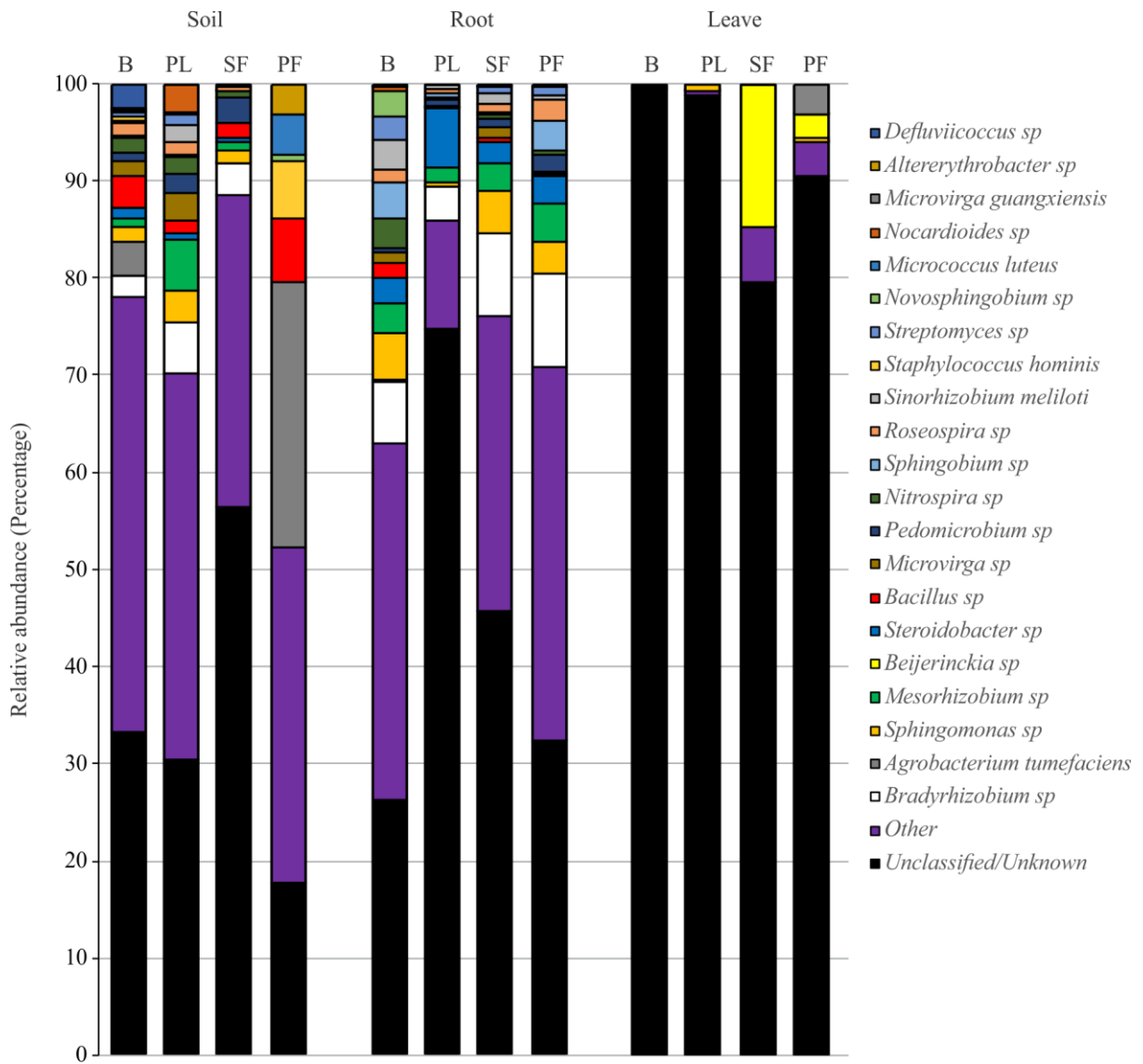
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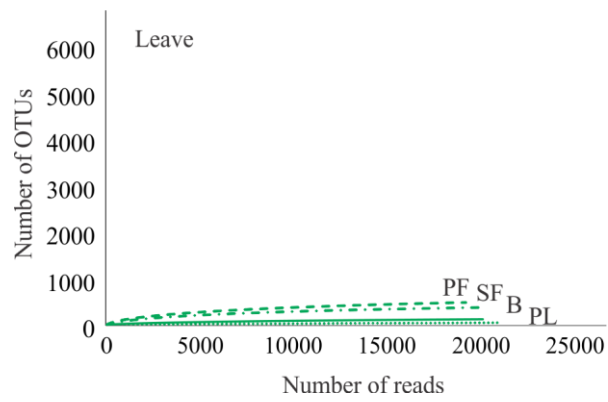
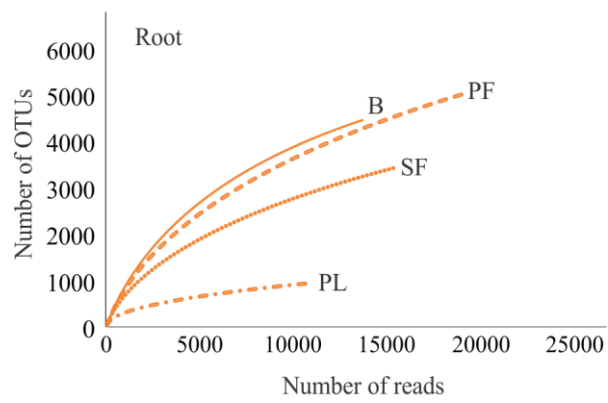
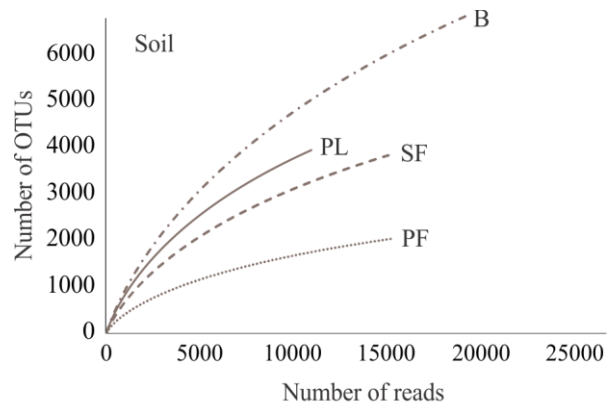
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768 Table 1

Sample	pH (H ₂ O)	EC μS cm ⁻¹	OM Percentage	N	K cmol Kg ⁻¹	P mg Kg ⁻¹	Clay	Silt	Sand	Classification texture
B	7.23	1997	15.92	0.67	0.77	16.29	48	8	44	Clay - Sandy
PL	7.34	2059	18.6	0.82	0.77	24.43	45	8	47	Clay - Sandy
SF	7.38	380	21.79	0.77	0.77	18.74	48	5	48	Clay - Sandy
PF	7.43	631	22.04	0.51	0.77	12.37	43	6	52	Clay - Sandy

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790 Table 2

Samples	# seq	MSL (bp)	Phylum level				Species level				
			H'	Chao 1	Evenness	OTUs	H'	Chao 1	Evenness	OTUs	
Soil	B	13122	281	4.01	164	0.78	164	7.23	4,677	0.89	3,342
	P	14813	293	3.8	151	0.76	150	6.6	4,127	0.84	2,572
	SF	18423	293	3.63	119	0.76	119	7.16	5,931	0.87	3,778
	PF	10547	286	3.2	54	0.8	54	4.71	1,156	0.72	700
Root	B	11947	283	3.9	145	0.78	145	7.18	5,427	0.88	3,364
	P	16640	281	2.47	83	0.56	83	4.5	2,639	0.6	1,730
	SF	16448	281	3.31	140	0.67	139	6.25	5,180	0.77	3,269
	PF	21218	288	4.03	220	0.75	220	7.76	9,746	0.89	5,873
Leaf	B	19802	293	0.04	6	0.02	6	0.2	133	0.04	92
	P	20655	283	0	2	0	2	0.05	196	0.01	34
	SF	18910	293	0.72	15	0.27	15	1.54	501	0.26	372
	PF	19665	293	0.46	16	0.17	16	0.93	383	0.16	288

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Capítulo 3. Conclusiones

Hasta donde se tiene conocimiento el presente estudio es el primer reporte en la Reserva de la Biosfera de Calakmul en el que se presenta la secuenciación masiva de ADN para analizar la comunidad bacteriana asociada al suelo, raíces y hojas en un microhabitat modelo, en zonas con distintas fases de perturbación del bosque tropical.

Con los datos obtenidos podemos concluir que en las zonas muestreadas las comunidades bacterianas asociadas suelo y raíces son más diversas que la comunidad bacteriana asociadas a las hojas, en la comunidad bacteriana de suelo y raíces los fila dominantes son Proteobacteria y Actinobacteria, mientras que en las hojas Cianobacteria. Los grupos bacterianos más abundantes (Proteobacteria y Actinobacteria) podrían desempeñar una gran cantidad de funciones importantes para la recuperación de los ecosistemas, sin embargo, en este estudio no se evaluó la funcionalidad bacteriana, por lo que solo se describió, lo cual solo nos permite suponer la gran gama de funciones metabólicas que desempeñan estos grupos. Por ultimo nuestros resultados sugieren que las comunidades bacterianas son resistentes a las perturbaciones antrópicas y que la especie vegetal a la que se asocian, así como las características del suelo son factores determinantes de la composición de la comunidad, ya que podemos encontrar una composición taxonómica similar en cada zona de recuperación.

Cabe señalar que los resultados obtenidos solo nos muestran una visión panorámica de lo que podría estar pasando con la comunidad bacteriana en las zonas tropicales, por lo que es necesario seguir estudiando y poder evaluar algunos aspectos que no se tomaron en cuenta en este trabajo, como la variación en las condiciones climáticas en distintas temporadas del año, la interacción con distintos tipos de vegetación, ampliar el área de estudio y si podemos encontrar el mismo patrón con otros microhábitats, también poder evaluar de manera más precisa las funciones metabólicas de las bacterias conocida y desconocidas, estas últimas encontrándose en mayor proporción que en zonas tropicales, siendo un

gran reservorio de diversidad el cual puede tener un gran potencial biotecnológico y un papel clave en la recuperación de los ecosistemas tropicales.

Para finalizar, es importante recalcar que tomar en cuenta a la diversidad y la gama de funciones que desempeña las comunidades microbianas, puede ser un factor muy importante para el manejo y conservación de los ecosistemas, complementando al componente vegetal y animal, que por lo general son los únicos que se toman en cuenta.

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