**Supplementary Information**

**Title:** What drives study-dependent differences in distance-decay relationships of microbial communities?

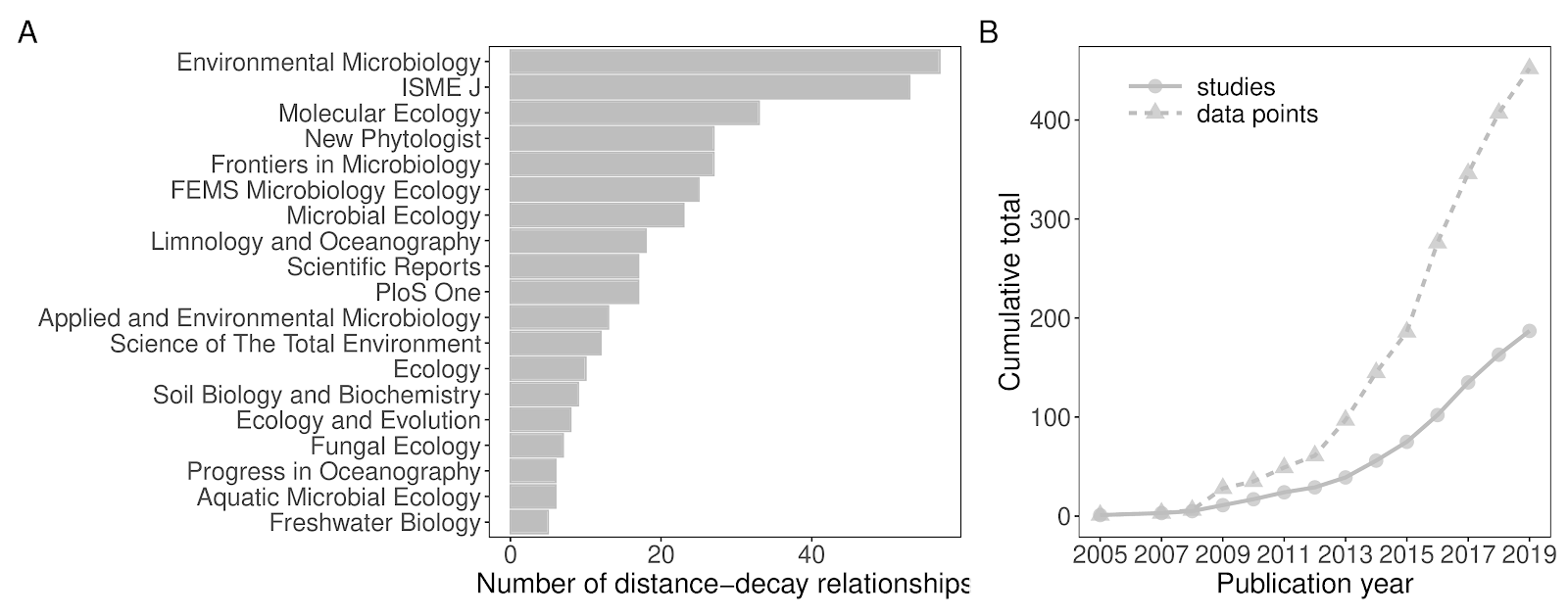


Figure S1. (A) The number of distance-decay relationships obtained from each journal. Only journals with five or more distance-decay relationships are shown for clarity. (B) The cumulative total of suitable studies (circles) and distance-decay relationships (triangles) according to publication year.

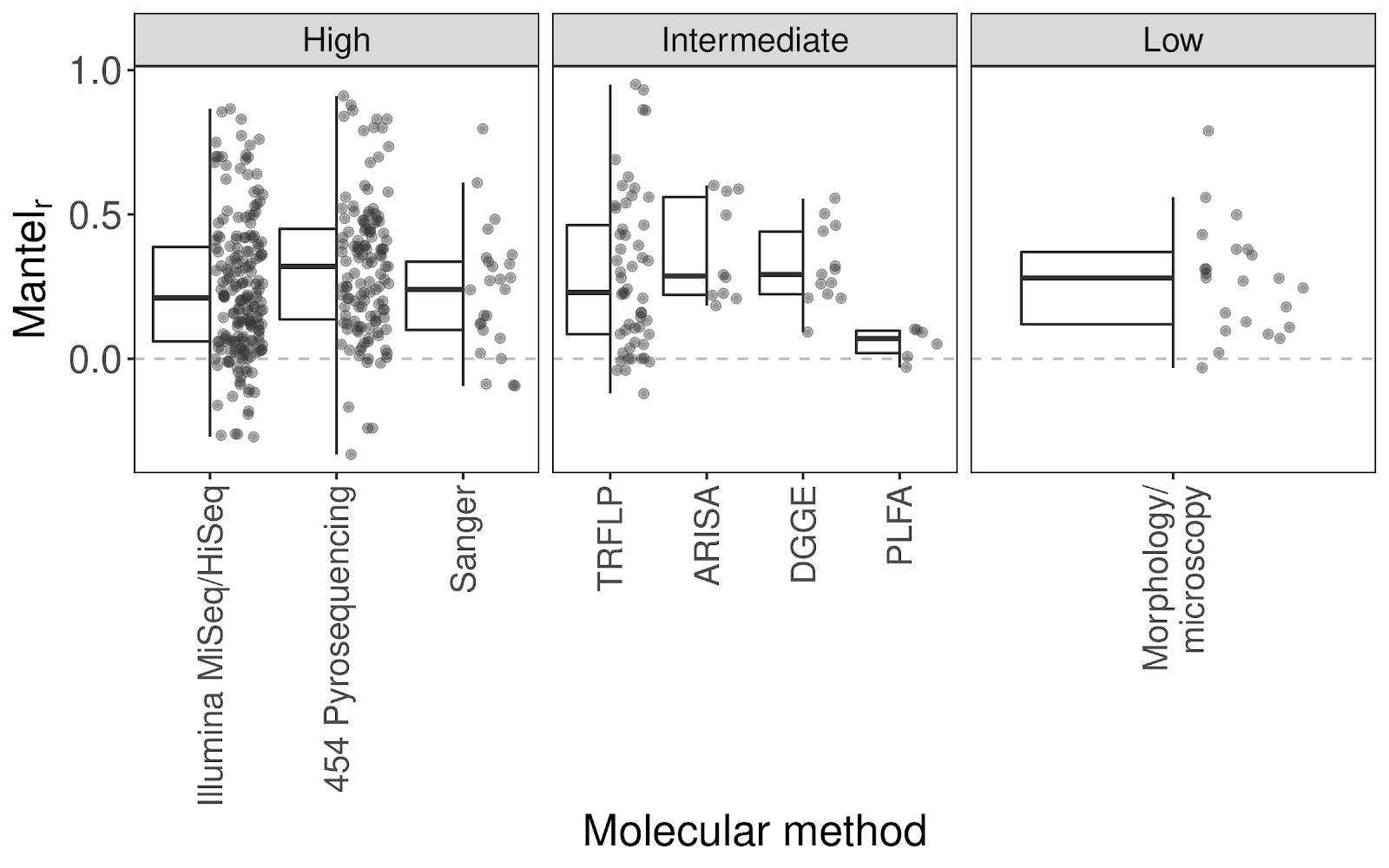


Figure S2. Mantel correlation coefficients of distance-decay relationships where the microbial community was characterised using molecular or morphological methods of varying resolution. High Mantel correlation coefficients indicate a stronger distance-decay relationship. Abbreviated molecular techniques are defined as follows: (TRFLP = Terminal Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism; ARISA = Automated Ribosomal Intergenic Spacer Analysis; DGGE = Denaturing Gradient Gel Electrophoresis; PLFA = PhosphoLipid Fatty Acid analysis).

Table S1. Metadata extracted from each study confirmed to be suitable for inclusion in this study. Data will be deposited to the Dryad data repository upon acceptance of this manuscript.