

## *Metabarcoding, metagenomics*

### *Microbial DNA, environmental DNA (eDNA)*

Properties of the DNA fragment used for the barcode:

- variable between species
- conserved (conserved) flanking sites for annealing universal primers across species
- a sufficiently short region that can be sequenced using newer high-throughput technologies (short read sequencing technologies vs long read sequencing technologies)

1

*The term metabarcoding was introduced by Taberlet et al. (2012), and defined as an “automated identification of multiple species from a single bulk sample containing entire organisms or from a single environmental sample containing degraded DNA” (Taberlet et al., 2012). Although the term microbiota has been used interchangeably with the term microbiome, distinctions in the use of the term do exist. **Microbiome** refers to the study of the entirety of the microbial genetic material recovered directly from the environment, also known as shotgun metagenomics, while **microbiota** refers to the taxonomic composition of the microbial community as determined by metabarcoding analysis (Ursell et al., 2012). While the former term (microbiome) provides information about composition and function of the microbial community, the latter more simply allows one to answer the question: “who is there?”.*

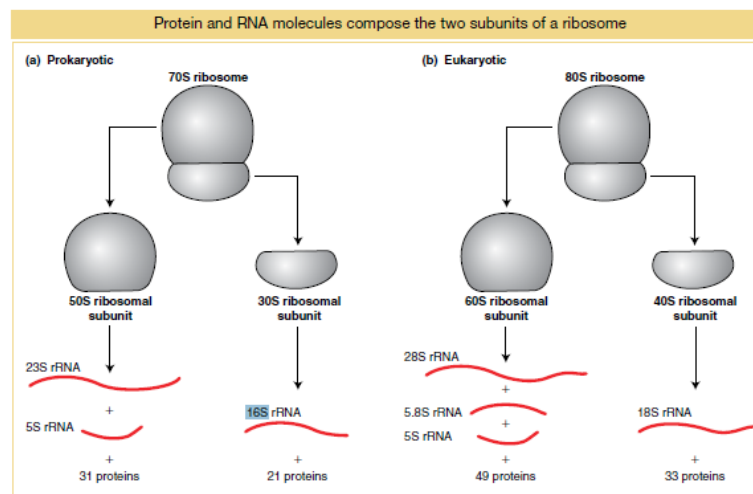
Abdelfattah, A., Malacrino, A., Wisniewski, M., Cacciola, S. O., & Schena, L. (2017). Metabarcoding: A powerful tool to investigate microbial communities and shape future plant protection strategies. *Biological Control*.

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Most commonly used genes for metabarcoding:

- prokaryotes: 16S rRNA
- eukaryotes: 18S rRNA, ITS1, ITS2

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**FIGURE 9-10** A ribosome contains a large and a small subunit. Each subunit contains both rRNA of varying lengths and a set of proteins. There are two principal rRNA molecules in all ribosomes. Prokaryotic ribosomes also contain one 120-base-long rRNA that sediments at 5S, whereas eukaryotic ribosomes have two small rRNAs: a 5S rRNA molecule similar to the prokaryotic 5S and a 5.8S molecule 160 bases long.

Griffiths in sod. 2015. Introduction to genetic analysis. 11. izd.

4

Variable regions of 16S rRNA (16s rDNA)

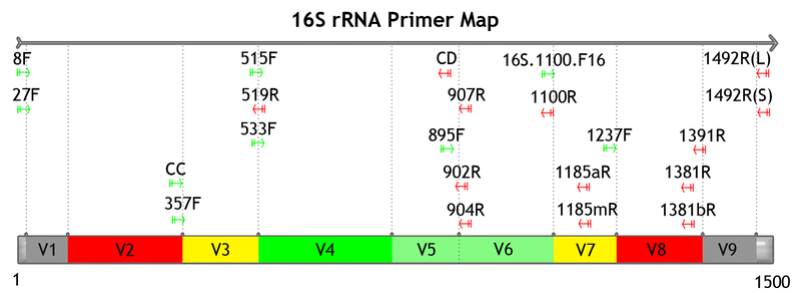
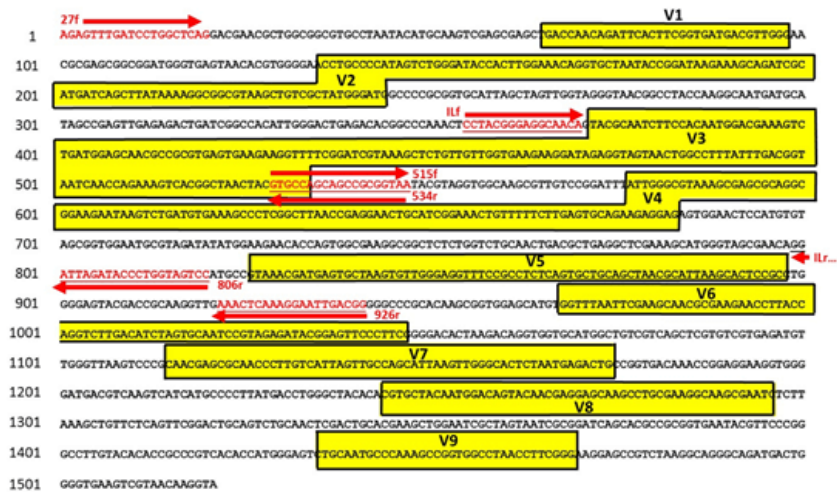


Illustration of different variable regions. Red regions (V2, V8) have a poor phylogenetic resolution at the phylum level. Green regions (V4, V5, V6) are associated with the shortest geodesic distance, which suggests that they may be the best choice for phylogeny-related analyses and the phylogenetic analysis of novel bacterial phyla. The figure refers to the primer map from Lutzonilab (<http://lutzonilab.org/16s-ribosomal-dna/>).

Bo Yang et al. 2017

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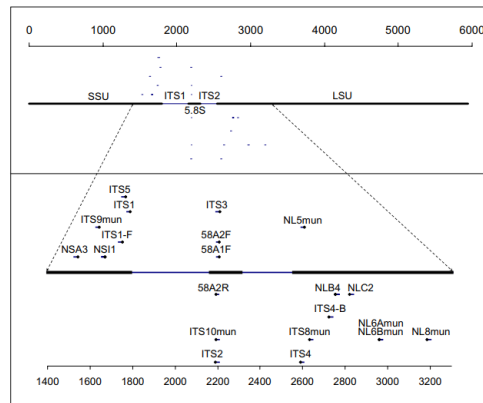


Ribosomal RNA gene sequence of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (EF533992.1) with putative primer binding sites and variable regions shown.

<http://omegabioservices.com/index.php/16s-reference/>

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ITS region (internal transcribed spacer (slo: notranji prepisani vmesnik), located between 18S, 5.8S and 25S rRNA



**Figure 1**  
Diagram of primer locations in the ribosomal cassette consisting of SSU, ITS1, 5.8S, ITS2, and LSU rDNA. Primers are positioned above (forward primers) or below (reverse) their sequence positions. ITS1, ITS2, ITS3, and ITS4 from White et al. [5], primers ITS8mun, ITS9mun, ITS10mun, NL5mun, NL6Amun, NL6Bmun, NL8mun from Egger [16], primers ITS1-F, ITS4-B from Gardes and Bruns [6] and the remaining primers (NSA3, NSI1, 58A1F, 58A2F, 58A2R, NLB4, NLC2) from this study. Scale is in base pairs according to the extension of the Gargas and DePriest [23] nomenclature system described in this study.

Kendall in Rygielwicz, 2005

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## Some reference databases

- GreenGenes. 16S rRNA.

<https://greengenes.lbl.gov/Download/>

- ITS2.

<http://its2.bioapps.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/>

- PR2. 18S rRNA (protist ribosomal reference)

<https://github.com/vaulot/pr2database>

- Silva.

<https://www.arb-silva.de/>

- UNITE: ITS

<https://unite.ut.ee/>

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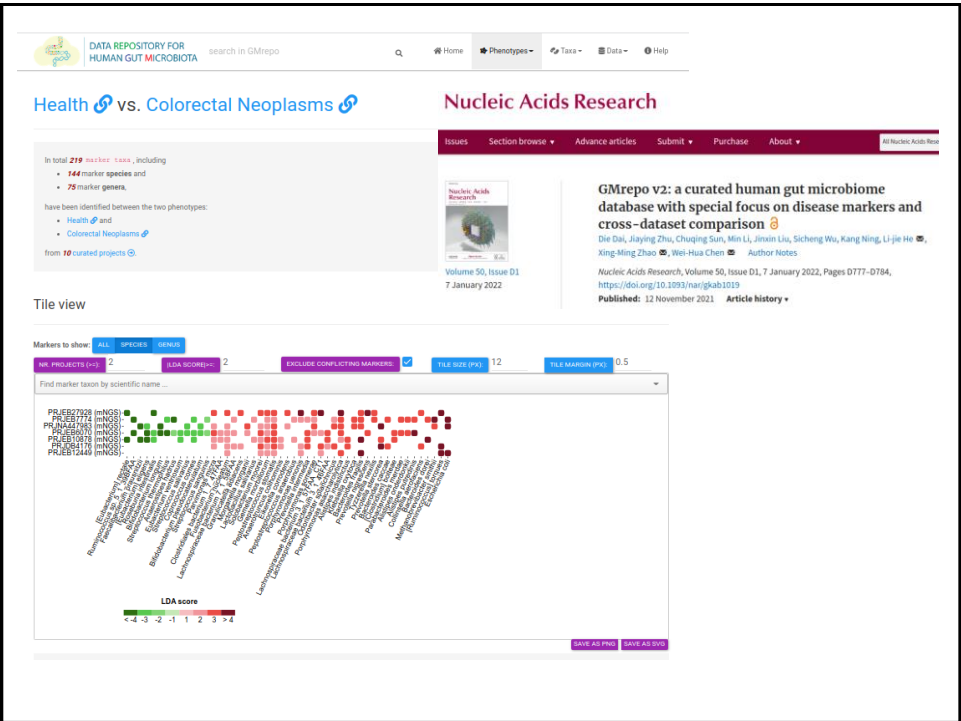
Several projects based on microorganism metabarcoding

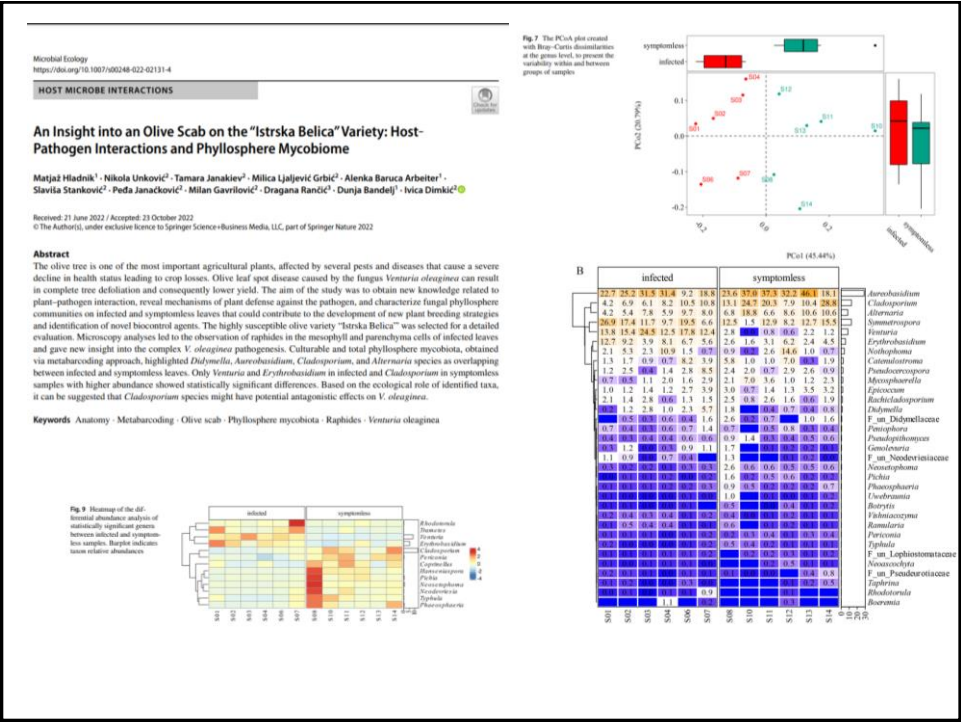
Human Microbiome Project  
<http://commonfund.nih.gov/hmp>

INTERNATIONAL CENSUS OF MARINE MICROBES  
<http://icomm.mbl.edu/>

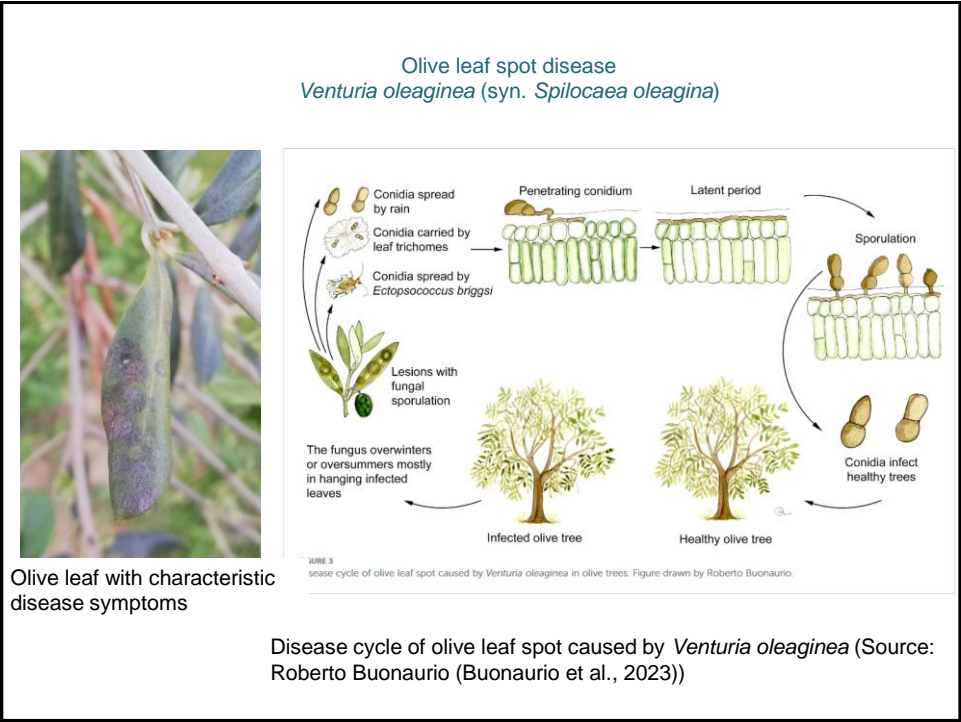
Earth Microbiome Project  
<http://www.earthmicrobiome.org/>

Terragenome – International Soil Metagenome Sequencing Consortium  
<http://www.terragenome.org/about/>






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Microbiota detection workflow




1) Sampling of infected and symptomless leaves.



3) Filtration of buffer with leaves using a sterile filter to collect all microorganisms.



2) Washing of leaves in 1X PBS buffer in ultrasonic bath.



4) Extraction of DNA, DNA barcodes amplification and sequencing with Ion S5 (Ion 530 chip).

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Data analysis workflow

Mycobiota (ITS1)

- Amplification of ITS1 with (P1-)ITS1f and (A-barcode-)ITS2
- Extraction of ITS using ITSx tool
- QIIME2 analysis package
  - DADA2 (denoise-pyro)
  - classify-sklearn with a Naive Bayes classifier based on UNITE database
- ASVs blasted against GeneBank nucleotide database and Fungi RefSeq ITS database  
(blastn -task blastn -word\_size 7)

Bacteriobiota (V4 16S rRNA)

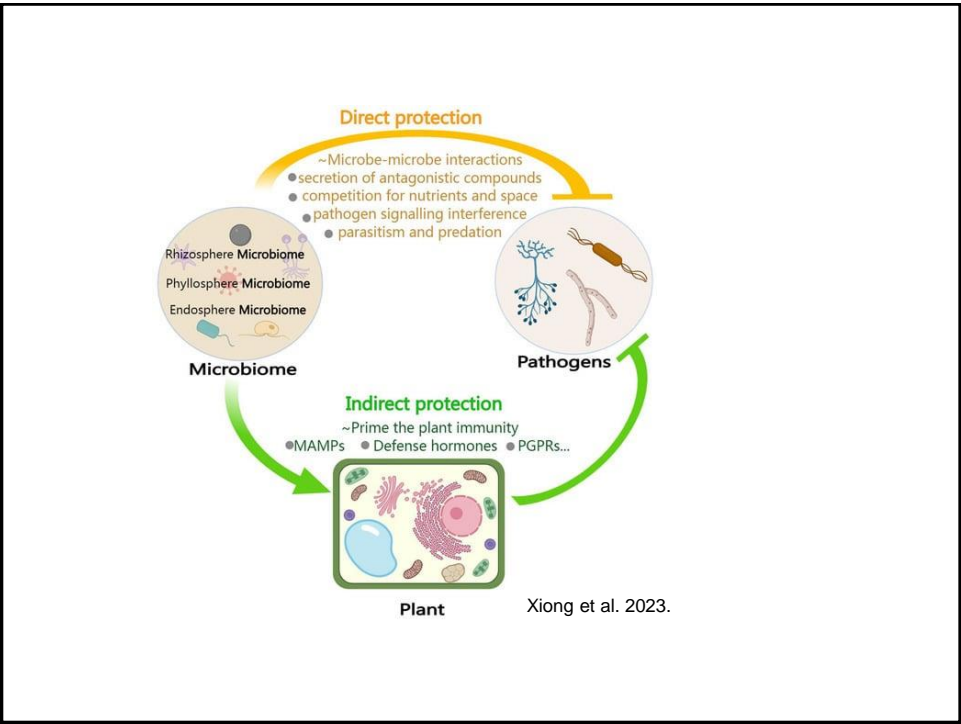
- Amplification of V4 16S rRNA with (A-barcode-)515F and (P1-)806R
- QIIME2 analysis package
  - qiime cutadapt
  - qiime cutadapt trim single \
  - p-adapter
  - ^GTGYCAGCMGCGCGGTAA...ATTAGAWACCCBNGTAGTCC\$ \ --p-discard untrimmed
  - DADA2 (denoise-pyro)
  - classify-sklearn with a Naive Bayes classifier based on SILVA database (Silva 138 SSURef NR99 515F/806R)

M. Hladnik et al. 2022. An Insight into an Olive Scab on the "Istrska Belica" Variety: Host-Pathogen Interactions and Phyllosphere Mycobiome', Microb. Ecol.

**For statistical analysis methods implemented in R packages were used:**

- Data wrangling: qiime2R, microviz, ggClusterNet, phyloseq
- Diversity analysis: phyloseq, vegan, MicrobiotaProcess
- Differential abundance analysis: MaASLin2, ANCOMBC, DESeq2

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Buzan et al. *Frontiers in Zoology* (2024) 21:9  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12983-024-00530-6>

Frontiers in Zoology

**RESEARCH** **Open Access**

**Molecular analysis of scats revealed diet and prey choice of grey wolves and Eurasian lynx in the contact zone between the Dinaric Mountains and the Alps**

Elena Buzan<sup>1,2</sup>, Hubert Potočník<sup>3</sup>, Boštjan Pokorný<sup>2,4</sup>, Sandra Potušek<sup>1</sup>, Laura Iacolina<sup>1,5</sup>, Urška Gerič<sup>1</sup>, Felicita Urzi<sup>1</sup> and Ivan Kos<sup>3</sup>


**Abstract**

A comprehensive understanding of the dietary habits of carnivores is essential to get ecological insights into their role in the ecosystem, potential competition with other carnivorous species, and their effect on prey populations. Genetic analysis of non-invasive samples, such as scats, can supplement behavioural or microscopic diet investigations. The objective of this study was to employ DNA metabarcoding to accurately determine the prey species in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) scat samples collected in the Julian Alps and the Dinaric Mountains, Slovenia. The primary prey of wolves were red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) (detected in 96% scat samples), European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) (68%), and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) (45%). A smaller portion of their diet consisted of mesocarnivores, small mammals, and domestic animals. In contrast, the lynx diet mostly consisted of European roe deer (82%) and red deer (64%). However, small mammals and domestic animals were also present in lynx diet, albeit to a lesser extent. Our findings indicate that the dietary habits of wolves and lynx are influenced by geographical location. Snapshot dietary analyses using metabarcoding are valuable for comprehending the behaviour and ecology of predators, and for devising conservation measures aimed at sustainable management of both their natural habitats and prey populations. However, to gain a more detailed understanding of wolf and lynx dietary habits and ecological impact, it would be essential to conduct long-term genetic monitoring of their diet.

**Keywords** Dietary analysis, Non-invasive samples, Scats, Metabarcoding, *Canis lupus*, *Lynx lynx*

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### Gut microbiota's effect on mental health: The gut-brain axis

Megan Clapp,<sup>1</sup> Nadia Aurora,<sup>1</sup> Lindsey Herrera,<sup>1</sup> Manisha Bhatia,<sup>1</sup> Emily Wilen,<sup>1</sup> Sarah Wakefield<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>School of Medicine and <sup>2</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University, TX, USA

### Trends in Cognitive Sciences

#### Feature Review

## The Microbiome in Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience

Amar Sarkar,<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup> Siobhán Harty,<sup>1,4</sup> Soili M. Lehto,<sup>5,6,7</sup> Andrew H. Moeller,<sup>8</sup> Timothy G. Dinan,<sup>9,10</sup> Robin I.M. Dunbar,<sup>1</sup> John F. Cryan,<sup>10,11</sup> and Philip W.J. Burnet<sup>12</sup>



ML Med Res 2017; 4: 14.  
Published online 2017 Apr 27. doi: 10.1186/s40778-017-0122-9

Interaction between the gut microbiome and mucosal immune system

Na Shi<sup>#1</sup>, Na Li<sup>#2</sup>, Xinwang Duan<sup>2</sup> and Haitao Niu<sup>#1</sup>

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PMCID: PMC5408367  
PMID: 28465931

## ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature.11234

### Structure, function and diversity of the healthy human microbiome

The Human Microbiome Project Consortium\*

**Review**

#### The Host Microbiome Regulates and Maintains Human Health: A Primer and Perspective for Non-Microbiologists

Sunil Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Jacques Izard<sup>2</sup>, Emily Walsh<sup>3</sup>, Kristen Batich<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Pakawet Chongsathidkiet<sup>4,5,7</sup>, Gerard Clarke<sup>7</sup>, David A. Sela<sup>8,9,10</sup>, Alexander J. Muller<sup>1</sup>, James M. Mullin<sup>1</sup>, Korin Albert<sup>1,12</sup>, John P. Gilligan<sup>1</sup>, Katherine DiGiulio<sup>1</sup>, Rima Dibarova<sup>1</sup>, Walker Alexander<sup>1</sup>, and George C. Prendergast<sup>1</sup>

*Indeed, emerging data suggests communication between the gut and the brain in anxiety, depression, cognition and autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Research over the past few years reveals that the gut microbiome plays a role in basic neurogenerative processes such as the formation of the blood-brain-barrier, myelination, neurogenesis, and microglia maturation, and also modulates many aspects of animal behavior.*

\*Cell: Author manuscript available in PMC 2017 Nov 3.  
Published in final edited form as:  
Cell. 2016 Nov 3; 167(4): 915-932.  
doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2016.10.027

PMCID: PMC5127403  
NLMID: NLM5824282  
PMID: 27814521

#### The Central Nervous System and the Gut Microbiome

Gill Sharon,<sup>1,\*</sup> Timothy R. Sampson,<sup>1</sup> Daniel H. Geschwind,<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup> and Sarkis K. Mazmanian<sup>1,\*</sup>

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See other articles in PMC that cite the published article.

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### Clinical Psychology Review

Volume 83, February 2021, 101943



Review

## The gut microbiota in anxiety and depression – A systematic review

Carra A. Simpson<sup>a,b,\*,†</sup>, Carmela Diaz-Arteche<sup>b</sup>, Djamilia Eliby<sup>a,b</sup>, Orli S. Schwartz<sup>c</sup>, Julian G. Simmons<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Caitlin S.M. Cowan<sup>d,1</sup>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2020.101943> [Get rights and content](#)

### Abstract

Growing evidence indicates the community of microorganisms throughout the gastrointestinal tract, (i.e., gut microbiota), is associated with anxiety and depressive disorders. We present the first systematic review of the gut microbiota in anxiety disorders, along with an update in depression. Consideration of shared underlying features is essential due to the high rates of comorbidity. Systematic searches, following PRISMA guidelines, identified 26 studies (two case-control comparisons of the gut microbiota in generalised anxiety disorder, 18 in depression, one incorporating both anxiety/depression, and five including symptom-only measures). Alpha and beta diversity findings were inconsistent; however, differences in bacterial taxa indicated disorders may be characterised by a higher abundance of proinflammatory species (e.g., *Enterobacteriaceae* and *Desulfovibrio*), and lower short-chain fatty acid producing-bacteria (e.g., *Faecalibacterium*). Several taxa, and their mechanisms of action, may relate to anxiety and depression pathophysiology via communication of peripheral inflammation to the brain. Although the gut microbiota remains a promising target for prevention and therapy, future research should assess confounders, particularly diet and psychotropic medications, and should examine microorganism function.

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**Gut microbes promote colonic serotonin production through an effect of short-chain fatty acids on enterochromaffin cells**

Christopher S. Relgstad, Charles E. Salmonson, John F. Rainey III, Joseph H. Szurszewski, David R. Linden, Justin L. Sonnenburg, Gianrico Farrugia, Purna C. Kashyap 

First published: 30 December 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1096/fj.14-259598> | Citations: 30

This article includes supplemental data. Please visit <http://www.fasebj.org> to obtain this information.

Example of analysis with qiime2

Example of primers 515F in 806R for amplification of V4 16S rRNA with Ion Torrent technology.

	P1 ADAPTER	806R PRIMER
P1-806R	CCACTACGCCTCCGCTTCTCTCTATGGGCAGTCGGTGAT	GGACTACNVGGGTWTCTAAT

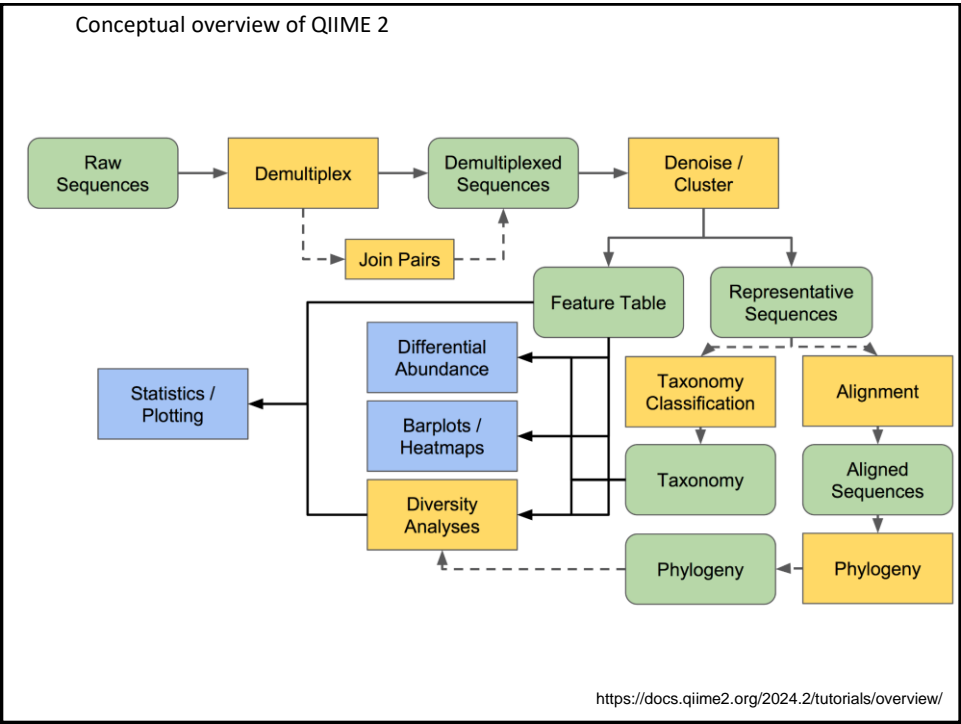
Complementary sequence of 806R - ATTAGAWACCCBNGTAGTCC

	A ADAPTER	BARKODA	LINKER	515F SEQUENCE
IonXpress_1	CCATCTCATCCCTGCGTGTCTCCGACTCAG	CTAAGGTAAC	GAT	GTGYCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA



A shorter sequence added to the 5' end of primer, so that when sequencing with several samples simultaneously is performed, distribution of reads per sample is possible. (This barcode has nothing to do with taxon identification!)

NHC9H:00667:05772  
GTGTGAGCCGCGCGGTAAACGGGAGGAGCGAGCATTATTCGGAATGATTAGCGGTAAAGAGTTTGTAGGTGGTTTTTAAGTTGAAAGAAACAAATTAAGCTCAACTT  
TATACATTTTTTCAAACTGATAAATCGAGTATAAATAGAGGTAATGGAATTTCTATTGGAGTGATAAAATACGTTGATAATAGAAGGAAGATCGACGGCGAAGGCAAT  
TACCTGGGTATATCTGACACTGAGAAACGAAAGCTTGGGTAGCGAAGGGGATTAGATACCCCTGTAGTCC



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An example of data analysis with qiime2

Tutorial with qiime2:  
<https://docs.qiime2.org/2024.2/tutorials/>

OTU: *angl. operational taxonomic unit (slo operative taksonomske enote)*

- Clustering of sequences with 97 % similarity or 99 %
- New methods – DADA2, Deblur – identification of ASV, amplicon sequence variant (slo: različica pomnoženega zaporedja)

The diagram illustrates the workflow for identifying OTUs (Operational Taxonomic Units) from sample sequences. It shows 'Sample Sequences' being processed through 'DADA2' to identify 'Errors' and 'OTUs'. The 'OTUs' are then clustered into 'OTUs' (Operational Taxonomic Units) and 'OTUs' (Operational Taxonomic Units). The diagram uses colored dots to represent sequences and arrows to show the flow of data.

Vir: [http://crusade1096.web.fc2.com/qiime2\\_renew.html](http://crusade1096.web.fc2.com/qiime2_renew.html)

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## Bioinformatics analysis steps

- Demultiplexing
- Denoising / clustering
- Taxonomy classification
  - Alignment based methods
  - Machine-learning based classification methods (the multinomial Naive Bayes machine learning classifier in q2-feature classifier)
- Diversity analysis
  - alpha diversity
  - beta diversity

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## QIIME 2 2024.2 distributions

As of 2024.2, QIIME 2 releases now include the following QIIME 2 distributions that are available for install:

- `amplicon`
- `shotgun`
- `tiny`

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https://github.com/DerrickWood/kraken2

README

MIT license

install with

bioconda

usegalaxy .eu

## Kraken 2

The second version of the Kraken taxonomic sequence classification system

Please refer to the Operating Manual (in [docs/MANUAL.html](#) ) for details on how to use Kraken 2.

### Publications

For additional implementation details and guidance on using Kraken 2, you can also refer to:

- The [paper describing the first version of Kraken](#). Note that Kraken 2 is a rewrite of Kraken 1 and is not backwards compatible with Kraken 1.
- The [paper describing KrakenUniq](#). KrakenUniq's HLL-based functionality is incorporated in Kraken 2 when using the `--report-minimizer-data` flag described in the Operating Manual.
- The [Kraken 2 paper](#).
- A [protocol paper describing use of Kraken 2](#).

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RESOURCE ARTICLE

Open Access

## Short- and long-read metabarcoding of the eukaryotic rRNA operon: Evaluation of primers and comparison to shotgun metagenomics sequencing

Meike A. C. Latz, Vesna Grujic, Sonia Brugel, Jenny Lycken, Uwe John, Bengt Karlson, Agneta Andersson, Anders F. Andersson

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SECTIONS

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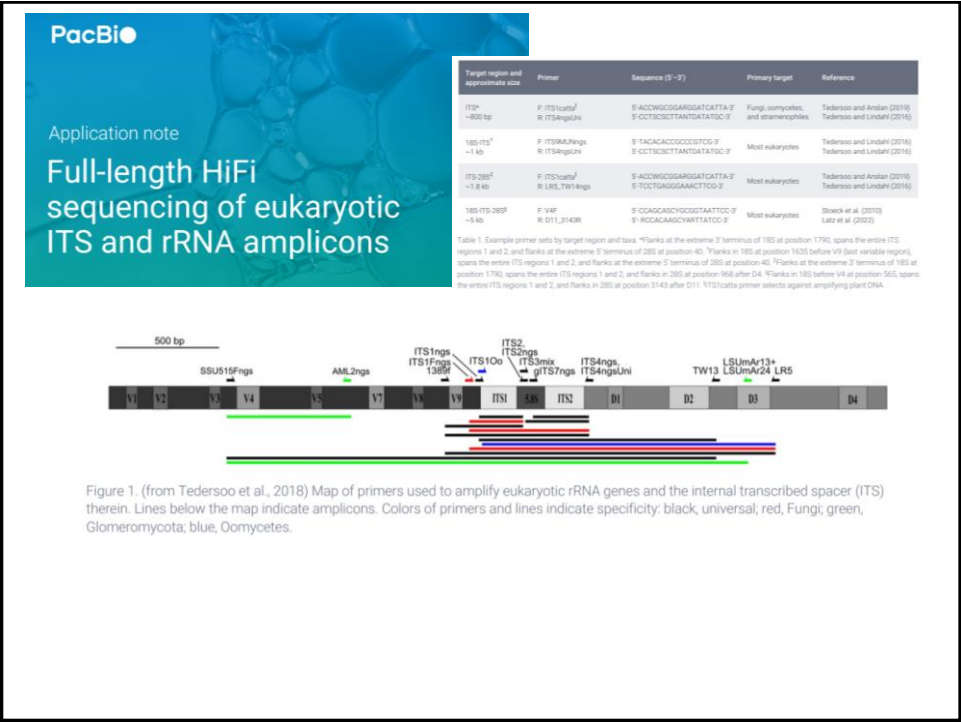
TOOLS

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### Abstract

High-throughput sequencing-based analysis of microbial diversity has evolved vastly over the last decade. Currently, the go-to method for studying microbial eukaryotes is short-read metabarcoding of variable regions of the 18S rRNA gene with <500 bp amplicons. However, there is a growing interest in applying long-read sequencing of amplicons covering the rRNA operon for improving taxonomic resolution. For both methods, the choice of primers is crucial. It determines if community members are covered, if they can be identified at a satisfactory taxonomic level, and if the obtained community profile is representative. Here, we designed new primers targeting 18S and 28S rRNA based on 177,934 and 21,072 database sequences, respectively. The primers were evaluated *in silico* along with published primers on reference sequence databases and marine metagenomics data sets. We further evaluated a subset of the primers for short- and long-read sequencing on environmental samples *in vitro* and compared the obtained community profile with primer-unbiased metagenomic sequencing. Of the short-read pairs, a new V6-V8 pair and the V4\_Balzano pair used with a simplified PCR protocol provided good results *in silico* and *in vitro*. Fewer differences were observed between the long-read primer pairs. The long-read amplicons and ITS1 alone provided higher taxonomic resolution than V4. Together, our results represent a reference and guide for selection of robust primers for research on and environmental monitoring of microbial eukaryotes.

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Methodology article | [Open access](#) | Published: 26 January 2021

## Full-length 16S rRNA gene amplicon analysis of human gut microbiota using MinION™ nanopore sequencing confers species-level resolution

Yoshiyuki Matsuo<sup>1</sup>, Shinnoh Komiya<sup>2</sup>, Yoshiaki Yasumizu<sup>3</sup>, Yuki Yasuoka<sup>4</sup>, Katsura Mouchima<sup>5</sup>, Tomohisa Takagi<sup>6</sup>, Kirill Knyukoz<sup>7</sup>, Aisaku Fukuda<sup>8</sup>, Yoshiharu Morimoto<sup>9</sup>, Yui Naito<sup>10</sup>, Hidetaka Okada<sup>11</sup>, Hidemasa Bono<sup>12</sup>, So Natsagasa<sup>13</sup>, Kichiro Hirota<sup>14</sup>

**BMC Microbiology** 21: Article number: 35 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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Jochen Pöting J, Thomas Braun T, Sabine Pankewitz S,  
Eberhard Weihe E, Ralf Kirschner R, Bernhard Schaefer B,  
Ulrich Luescheink U, Muhindiri Soufi S and Volker Ruppert V (2021)

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF  
FULL-LENGTH 16S RIBOSOMAL RNA  
GENOME SEQUENCING IN HUMAN  
FECAL SAMPLES USING PRIMER SETS  
WITH DIFFERENT DEGREES OF  
DEGENERACY**

**KEYWORDS:**  
Nanopore sequencing, MinION, 16S rRNA, human gut microbiota, species-level resolution

**Amplification of bacterial full-length 16S gene with barcoded primers**

Procedure & checklist

This procedure describes the PCR amplification of bacterial full-length 16S rRNA genes (V1–V9 regions) using up to 192 dual indices. See [Preparing multiplexed amplicon libraries using SMRTbell prep kit 3.0](#) for a detailed library preparation procedure.

Overview	
Samples	1–192
Metagenomic DNA input for PCR	1–2 ng
16S rRNA degenerate forward primer sequence*	5'-GATC/barcode/AGGTTTGGATTTGCTGACG-3'
16S rRNA degenerate reverse primer sequence*	5'-GATC/barcode/AGTACCTGTTGACGACCT-3'

\*Full sequence with barcode shown in the appendix

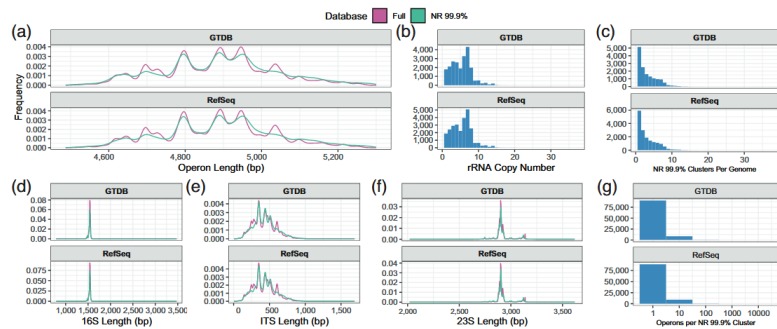
**NATURE PROTOCOLS**

**PROTOCOL**

**Fig. 1 | Example of equipment used in situ for MinION-based DNA amplicon sequencing. (A) BioBricks (B) MinION (C) MinION (D) MinION (E) MinION (F) MinION (G) MinION (H) MinION (I) MinION (J) MinION (K) MinION (L) MinION (M) MinION (N) MinION (O) MinION (P) MinION (Q) MinION (R) MinION (S) MinION (T) MinION (U) MinION (V) MinION (W) MinION (X) MinION (Y) MinION (Z) MinION (AA) MinION (AB) MinION (AC) MinION (AD) MinION (AE) MinION (AF) MinION (AG) MinION (AH) MinION (AI) MinION (AJ) MinION (AK) MinION (AL) MinION (AM) MinION (AN) MinION (AO) MinION (AP) MinION (AQ) MinION (AR) MinION (AS) MinION (AT) MinION (AU) MinION (AV) MinION (AW) MinION (AX) MinION (AY) MinION (AZ) MinION (BA) MinION (BB) MinION (BC) MinION (BD) MinION (BE) MinION (BF) MinION (BG) MinION (BH) MinION (BI) MinION (BJ) MinION (BK) MinION (BL) MinION (BM) MinION (BN) MinION (BO) MinION (BP) MinION (BQ) MinION (BR) MinION (BS) MinION (BT) MinION (BU) MinION (BV) MinION (BW) MinION (BX) MinION (BY) MinION (BZ) MinION (CA) MinION (CB) MinION (CC) MinION (CD) MinION (CE) MinION (CF) MinION (CG) MinION (CH) MinION (CI) MinION (CJ) MinION (CK) MinION (CL) MinION (CM) MinION (CN) MinION (CO) MinION (CP) MinION (CQ) MinION (CR) MinION (CS) MinION (CT) MinION (CU) MinION (CV) MinION (CW) MinION (CX) MinION (CY) MinION (CZ) MinION (DA) MinION (DB) MinION (DC) MinION (DD) MinION (DE) MinION (DF) MinION (DG) MinION (DH) MinION (DI) MinION (DJ) MinION (DK) MinION (DL) MinION (DM) MinION (DN) MinION (DO) MinION (DP) MinION (DQ) MinION (DR) MinION (DS) MinION (DT) MinION (DU) MinION (DV) MinION (DW) MinION (DX) MinION (DY) MinION (DZ) MinION (EA) MinION (EB) MinION (EC) MinION (ED) MinION (EE) MinION (EF) MinION (EG) MinION (EH) MinION (EI) MinION (EJ) MinION (EK) MinION (EL) MinION (EM) MinION (EN) MinION (EO) MinION (EP) MinION (EQ) MinION (ER) MinION (ES) MinION (ET) MinION (EU) MinION (EV) MinION (EW) MinION (EX) MinION (EY) MinION (EZ) MinION (FA) MinION (FB) MinION (FC) MinION (FD) MinION (FE) MinION (FF) MinION (FG) MinION (FH) MinION (FI) MinION (FJ) MinION (FK) MinION (FL) MinION (FM) 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**Rapid in situ identification of biological specimens via DNA amplicon sequencing using miniaturized laboratory equipment**

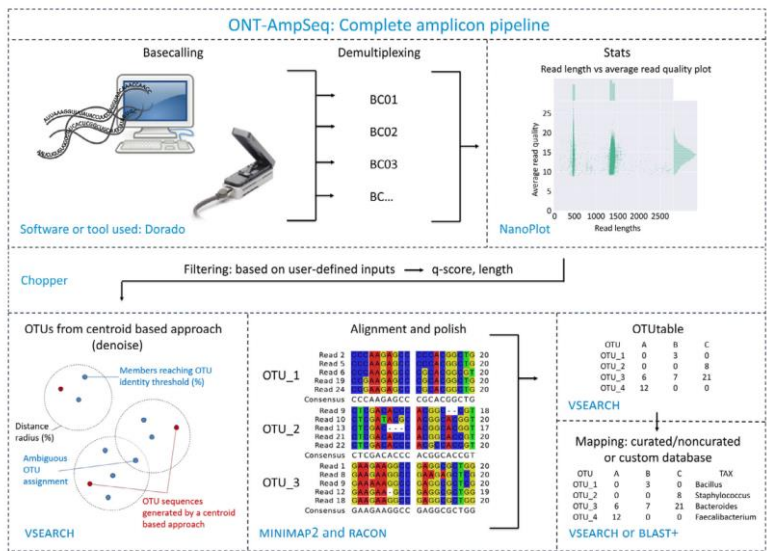
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**Fig. 2.** Summary statistics of the full and non-redundant (NR 99.9%) GROND databases. (a) Length distribution of 16S-ITS-23S rRNA operons using the GTDB and RefSeq derived databases. (b) Number of distinct rRNA operons in genomes represented in the database. (c) Number of NR clusters per genome. (d-f) Length distribution of individual 16S-ITS-23S rRNA operon regions. (g) Number of rRNA operons represented by each NR cluster. Operons identified as outliers based on length (quartile 1/3±1.5× interquartile range [IQR]) are not included in this plot to increase readability.

**GROND: a quality-checked and publicly available database of fulllength 16S-ITS-23S rRNA operon sequences**

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**Fig. 1.** A schematic flowchart of the ONT-AmpSeq pipeline illustrating the bioinformatic processing of raw reads to the final operational taxonomic units (OTU) table. It outlines the preprocessing of raw sequence data and the six main steps of ONT-AmpSeq, along with the primary software utilised during each step.

**Complete pipeline for Oxford Nanopore Technology amplicon sequencing (ONT-AmpSeq): from pre-processing to creating an operational taxonomic unit table**

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