

# Data from: Microbiome interactions shape host fitness

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#### **Abstract**

Gut bacteria can affect key aspects of host fitness, such as development, fecundity, and lifespan, while the host, in turn, shapes the gut microbiome. However, it is unclear to what extent individual species versus community interactions within the microbiome are linked to host fitness. Here, we combinatorially dissect the natural microbiome of Drosophila melanogaster and reveal that interactions between bacteria shape host fitness through life history tradeoffs. Empirically, we made germ-free flies colonized with each possible combination of the five core species of fly gut bacteria. We measured the resulting bacterial community abundances and fly fitness traits, including development, reproduction, and lifespan. The fly gut promoted bacterial diversity, which, in turn, accelerated development, reproduction, and aging: Flies that reproduced more died sooner. From these measurements, we calculated the impact of bacterial interactions on fly fitness by adapting the mathematics of genetic epistasis to the microbiome.

Development and fecundity converged with higher diversity, suggesting minimal dependence on

interactions. However, host lifespan and microbiome abundances were highly dependent on interactions between bacterial species. Higher-order interactions (involving three, four, and five species) occurred in 13–44% of possible cases depending on the trait, with the same interactions affecting multiple traits, a reflection of the life history tradeoff. Overall, we found these interactions were frequently context-dependent and often had the same magnitude as individual species themselves, indicating that the interactions can be as important as the individual species in gut microbiomes.

# **Usage Notes**

# **Development Data**

Raw development time data for Drosophila melanogaster raised with all possible combinations of the five gut bacterial species examined in this study.

DevelopmentData.csv

## **Daily Fecundity Data**

Raw daily fecundity data for Drosophila melanogaster raised with all possible combinations of the five gut bacterial species examined in this study.

DailyFecundityData.csv

#### Survival Data

Raw survival data for Drosophila melanogaster raised with all possible combinations of the five gut bacterial species examined in this study.

SurvivalData.csv

# Fly Gut CFU Data

Raw bacterial load data for the guts of Drosophila melanogaster raised with all possible combinations of the five gut bacterial species examined in this study.

FlygutCFUsData.csv

# **Development Time Data Under Different Conditions**

Development time data for Drosophila melanogaster under different experimental conditions and fed various combinations of five species of gut bacteria.

DevelopmentData\_CompareMethods.csv

#### Survival Data for Antibiotic Treatments

Female survival data for Drosophila melanogaster under different experimental conditions and fed various combinations of five species of gut bacteria.

 $Female Survival Data\_Antibiotic Treatments.csv$ 

# **Fecundity Data for Antibiotic Treatments**

Fecundity data for Drosophila melanogaster under different experimental conditions and fed various combinations of five species of gut bacteria.

 $Fecundity Data\_Antibiotic Treatments.csv$ 

# **Summary of Bacteria Treatments**

Reference table of the gut bacteria treatments used in this study. The 32 treatments listed include all possible combinations of the 5 species of gut bacteria examined in this study.

TreatmentSummary.csv



Download dataset

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# Keywords

epistasis

fitness landscape

microbial ecology

species diversity

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