

A

Ecological
background
(**s**)

Function: $F(\mathbf{s})$

Functional effect:

$$\Delta F_i(\mathbf{s}) = F(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{i}) - F(\mathbf{s})$$



Focal
species (*i*)

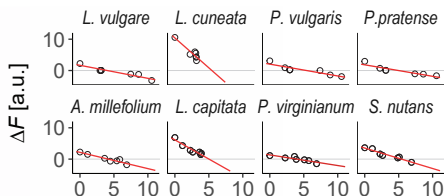


Background
+ species *i*
(**s + i**)

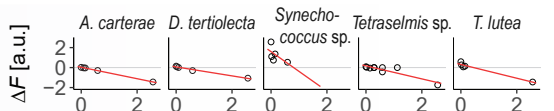
Function: $F(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{i})$

B

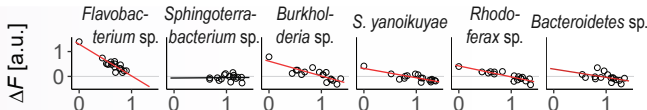
Above-ground plant biomass

**C**

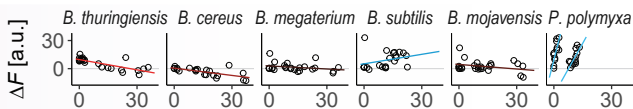
Phytoplankton biomass

**D**

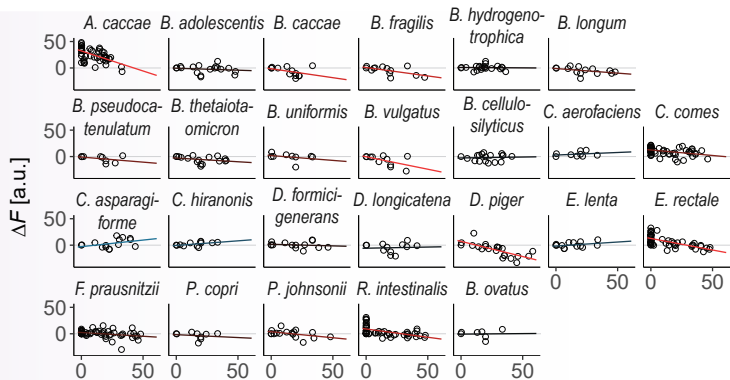
Bacterial
xylose oxidation

**E**

Bacterial
starch hydrolysis

**F**

Bacterial
butyrate
secretion



Function of ecological background [a.u.]