

Metagenomics analysis of the effects of *Agaricus bisporus* mycelia on microbial diversity and CAZymes in compost

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Abstract

Agaricus bisporus growth alters the lignocellulosic composition and structure of compost. However, the use of compost by *A. bisporus* mycelia during large-scale tunneling production of *A. bisporus* is unclear owing to the difficulty ~~to~~ of completely ~~separate~~ separating the mycelia from compost cultures. Besides, it is difficult to differentiate the enzyme activities of *A. bisporus* mycelia from the wider microbial community. Although few studies have performed comparative investigations of inoculated and uninoculated mushroom composts, research on the use of compost by *A. bisporus* mycelia is still limited. Therefore, this study employed macro-genomics analysis to examine the fermentation substrate of *A. bisporus* before and after mycelial growth, and elucidate the molecular mechanism of substrate utilization by *A. bisporus* mycelia from the perspective of microbial communities and CAZymes in the substrate. The results showed that *Thermobifida* was always the dominant genus in the composting and mycelial growth stages, and the abundance of *Thermobifida*, *Thermostaphylospora*, and *Sphaerobacter* significantly increased after mycelial growth, whereas that of *Thermopolyspora*, *Rhodothermus*, and *Pseudoxanthomonas* significantly decreased. Although the presence of *A. bisporus* mycelia caused dramatic changes in the microbial community, the functional differences were not very pronounced during this period. The relative abundance of *A. bisporus* mycelia increased by 77.57-fold after the completion of

40 mycelial colonization. Interestingly, laccase-producing strains associated with lignin
41 degradation were mostly bacteria rather than fungi, and the main laccase-producing bacteria
42 belonged to *Thermobifida* and *Thermostaphylospora*, with *Thermostaphylospora* presenting a
43 significant increase, suggesting that these bacteria may play a synergistic role in lignin
44 decomposition along with *A. bisporus* mycelia. These findings provide preliminary evidence
45 for the molecular mechanism of compost utilization by *A. bisporus* mycelia and offer a
46 reference for the development and utilization of strains related to lignocellulose degradation.
47 Keywords: *Agaricus bisporus*; Metagenome; Community succession; CAZymes;
48 Lignocellulose; Laccase; Xylanase
49

50 Introduction

51 Agricultural biomass wastes comprise organic substances generated by humans during
52 agricultural activities (*Malool et al., 2021*). As these wastes are produced in abundant
53 quantities and pose disposal problems, there has been an increasing interest to develop
54 efficient and safe strategies to utilize agricultural biomass waste. At present, compost is still a
55 primary mode of organic matter degradation(*Wang et al., 2021*).

56 Industrial-scale production of *Agaricus bisporus*, an edible mushroom with a long
57 history of cultivation, has solved part of the problem of agricultural waste reuse to a certain
58 extent. In the process of large-scale production of *A. bisporus*, agricultural wastes, such as
59 wheat straw and chicken manure, are mainly used as raw materials for fermentation, which is
60 both environmentally-friendly and economical, addressing the issue of reusing of agricultural
61 waste to a certain extent. In recent years, significant improvements in the *A. bisporus*
62 cultivation process have been achieved, and the application of tunnel inoculation has altered
63 the cultivation pattern and increased the mycelial growth rate. It has been reported that the
64 localized tunnel-growth model achieved a 13.6% increase in *A. bisporus* growth rate, when
65 compared with the cultivation house growth model(*Wang et al., 2021*). However, only a few
66 studies have performed comparative investigations of inoculated and uninoculated mushroom
67 compost. Some studies have suggested that *A. bisporus* mycelial growth produces a range of
68 extracellular ligninases that are involved in the degradation of the lignocellulosic fraction in
69 compost. Lignin ~~has been found to be~~ mainly degraded during *A. bisporus* mycelial growth
70 stage (PIII), with an increase in guaiacyl lignin content (G-type lignin)(*Wood et al., 1983*),
71 and the lignin-degradation products have been speculated to be the substrate for subsequent
72 growth of *A. bisporus* (*Jurak et al., 2015, Jurak et al., 2014*). The decrease and changes in
73 lignin during the mycelial growth stage can improve the digestibility of carbohydrates in the
74 later growth phases. In a previous study, *A. bisporus* appeared to be the dominant fungal
75 species based on visual observation of cropping beds; however, phospholipid fatty acid
76 analysis (PLFA) conducted on mushroom compost revealed that *A. bisporus* mycelia
77 accounted for 6.8% w/w of the mushroom compost after complete colonization, with only less
78 than half of the mycelia being active(*McGee et al., 2017*).

79 Many studies have focused on the crucial role of bacteria and fungi in the degradation of
80 organic compounds, and their diverse modes of action on organic matter decomposition.
81 While bacterial growth becomes restricted owing to their enhanced propagation on the surface
82 of organic matter that acts as the main source of nutrients, the fungal hyphae have a strong

83 | penetrating ability. ~~With regard to~~About concerning *Agaricus* growth, both mycelia and
84 | fruiting body production are not only dependent on the mushroom itself, but also ~~on~~ bacteria
85 | and other fungi in the substrate, and the microbial community dynamics can completely
86 | change at the end of the composting process(*Song et al., 2021*). It has been noted that the final
87 | secondary fermentation (PII) compost mainly comprised lignocellulosic components from
88 | wheat straw together with microbial biomass(*Martínez et al., 2008*). Pasteurization of the
89 | compost material ~~prior to~~before inoculation has been found to result in the predominance of
90 | fungal community in the substrate, with *A. bisporus* becoming the major fungal strain and its
91 | mycelia subsequently colonizing the substrate by degrading the organic material to release
92 | nutrients(*McGee, 2018*). However, little is known about the composition and activity of the
93 | wider fungal community in the compost substrate besides *A. bisporus* throughout the
94 | mushroom cultivation process. Therefore, the present study aimed to reveal the utilization of
95 | compost substrate before and after *A. bisporus* mycelial growth and compare the differences
96 | in the microbial communities and enzyme families in the compost. Furthermore, the effects of
97 | *A. bisporus* mycelial growth on other microorganisms during large-scale cultivation of *A.*
98 | *bisporus* were determined to identify novel microorganisms with potential roles in lignin
99 | degradation.

100

101 | **Materials & Methods**

102 | **Sample collection and DNA extraction**

103 | Commercial strain A15 of *A. bisporus* from Sylvan (USA) was used in this study and
104 | stored in the Engineering Research Center of Chinese Ministry of Education for Edible and
105 | Medicinal Fungi (ERCCMEEMF) at Jilin Agricultural University (Changchun, China). The
106 | compost fermentation and mycelial culture experiments were performed at Zhejiang
107 | Longchen Modern Agricultural Science and Technology Co. Ltd, Jiaxing City, Zhejiang
108 | Province, China. The compost comprised wheat straw (90 t), chicken manure (83 t), peanut
109 | meal (3 t), and gypsum (9 t). Peanut meal was added as an auxiliary nitrogen source because
110 | the components of wheat straw and chicken manure in China were different from those in
111 | Europe and America. Before commencing compost fermentation, the initial C/N ratio of the
112 | compost was adjusted to 25:1. The straws were completely dampened and piled up for 1–3
113 | days, and then the other materials were mixed and piled again for 2–3 days. The pre-compost
114 | was placed into the tunnel for primary fermentation (PI). The pile was turned ~~for~~ three times
115 | on days 2, 4, and 7, respectively. The treatment parameters were adjusted based on compost
116 | temperature to allow the material temperature to reach 70°C–80°C and remain constant for 6
117 | days. Immediately after that, secondary fermentation (Compost-PII) was conducted for 6–7
118 | days by pasteurization. After secondary fermentation, inoculation was performed when the
119 | temperature decreased to 24°C and NH₃ level was ≤10 mg/L. The temperature, humidity, air
120 | pressure, air volume, and other environmental factors were adjusted using Dutch Christiaens
121 | Group equipment for the intelligent control system. Under ~~the~~ optimal environmental
122 | conditions, *A. bisporus* mycelia could grow all over the compost after 18 days (Mycelium-
123 | PIII).

124 | Subsequently, samples were collected from the uninoculated compost and mycelia-filled
125 | compost, respectively. Before sample collection, the composts in the top, middle, and bottom

126 layers of the reactor were fully mixed. All the samples were divided into two parts: one part
127 was stored at 4°C for physicochemical analysis and the other was frozen at -80°C for DNA
128 extraction. The genomic DNA was extracted from the samples using [an](#) Omega EZNA soil
129 DNA kit, and the integrity, purity, and concentration of the extracted genomic DNA were
130 examined by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis (100 V, 1.5 h), NanoDrop 2000, and Qubit 3.0,
131 respectively. The extracted DNA was stored in an ultra-low-temperature freezer at -20°C and
132 transported to OE Biomedical Technology (Shanghai, China) for sequencing.

133 **Analysis of compost physicochemical properties**

134 The compost samples were dried in an oven at 105°C for 5 h to assess the moisture
135 content. The dried samples were crushed and placed in the control box of a resistance furnace
136 at 600°C for 2 h to determine the ash content. The total nitrogen (Total-N) and carbon (Total-C)
137 content in the samples were determined using [the](#) Kjeldahl method and K₂Cr₂O₃ oxidation.
138 Determination of the pH values with an electronic pH meter (Mettler-Toledo Instruments Co.,
139 Ltd., Shanghai, China) using 10%(w/v) sample suspensions were used. Laccase and xylanase
140 activities in the samples were evaluated using a Solarbio kit, and lignin, cellulose, and
141 hemicellulose components were determined according to Van Soes method.

142 **Metagenome sequencing, assembly, and annotation**

143 Metagenome sequencing was accomplished using the Illumina HiSeq platform with [a](#)
144 500-bp sequencing library. The raw data (raw reads) quality was pre-processed using
145 Trimmomatic (*Bolger et al., 2014*) software, [and](#) optimized sequences were spliced and
146 assembled using MEGAHIT (*Li et al., 2015, Li et al., 2016*) software based on De-[Bruijn](#)
147 [Bruijn](#) graph principle, and contigs with length < 500 bp were filtered out for subsequent
148 analysis. The open reading frame (ORF) of the spliced contigs was predicted with Prodigal
149 software (*Hyatt et al., 2010*). CD-HIT software was adopted to remove redundant- and non-
150 redundant initial unigenes. The clustering parameters included 95% identity and 90%
151 coverage. The clean reads of each sample were aligned to the non-redundant genes set (95%
152 identity) using bowtie 2 software to calculate the gene abundance in the corresponding
153 samples. The representative sequences in [the](#) non-redundant unigenes set were annotated to
154 the obtained species information according to the best alignment attained by BLASTP (E
155 value<1e-5) to National Center for Bio-technology Information (NCBI) Non-Redundant
156 Database (Nr). Then, the sum of gene abundances for the corresponding species was used to
157 calculate species abundance-.

158 **Identification of carbohydrate-active enzymes**

159 To evaluate the carbon utilization potential of microbial communities during *A. bisporus*
160 mycelial growth, the non-redundant genes were compared with the carbohydrate-active
161 enzymes database (CAZy) using DIAMOND software ($e < 1e^{-5}$) (*Buchfink et al., 2015*). First,
162 all proteins with the highest sequence similarity were screened and subjected to CAZy to
163 search against sequence libraries with the families of glycoside hydrolases (GHs), auxiliary
164 activities (AAs), carbohydrate-binding modules (CBMs), glycosyltransferases (GTs),
165 polysaccharide lyases (PLs), and carbohydrate esterases (CEs). Then, the differences in [the](#)
166 CAZyme family between the two samples (uninoculated compost and mycelia-filled compost)
167 were compared and analyzed (*Donhauser et al., 2021*).

168 **Data and statistical analyses**

169 Raw data were entered and stored in Excel. The differences among the samples were

170 examined by independent samples *t*-tests with statistical significance at $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$.
171 The data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). GraphPad Prism 8.0 software and
172 Origin 2021 were applied for statistical analysis and plotting, and a cloud platform
173 (<http://www.cloudtutu.com/>) was employed for plotting.
174

175 Results

176 Physicochemical properties of Compost-PII and Mycelium-PIII

177 After completion of PII, the material temperature was reduced using fans. Subsequently,
178 *A. bisporus* was inoculated (4‰ (w/w)) and the compost substrate was filled with mycelial
179 growth after 18 days of incubation at 22 °C–24 °C. During this period, the water content in the
180 compost decreased from 66.48% to 61.77% with the increase in mycelial growth, whereas the
181 ash content increased by 1.71% (Table 1). It must be noted that the water content can affect
182 microbial activities, which in turn can influence ~~the~~ enzyme activities. During *A. bisporus*
183 mycelial growth, carbon consumption predominantly increased, whereas nitrogen utilization
184 was relatively less maintained at 2.12–2.13%, and no significant difference (Table 1). After
185 mycelial growth, the pH of the compost decreased from 7.80 to 6.27. Analysis of the cellulose
186 and lignin contents in the compost by Van Soes method revealed that the cellulose content and
187 lignin content significantly decreased (Fig. 1). Furthermore, evaluation of the activities of
188 several known carbon-source-degradation-related enzyme families indicated a moderate
189 increase in xylanase and laccase activities after *A. bisporus* mycelial growth (Figs. 2B & 2C).
190 Similar findings have also been reported in several previous studies that indicated a sharp
191 increase in laccase and xylanase activities during mycelial growth (Zhang *et al.*, 2019, Hildén
192 *et al.*, 2013, De Groot *et al.*, 1998). It must be noted that xylanase is mainly associated with
193 hemicellulose degradation, whereas laccase is predominantly involved in lignin degradation.
194 The solubility of lignin in aqueous solutions was low, and the decrease in the pH of the
195 culture material ~~may had~~ have a significant effect on lignin solubility. In addition, the
196 increase in protease (Figs. 2D) also promotes better development of the mycelium (Wang *et al.*,
197 2021).

198 Diversity of microbial communities in Compost-PII and Mycelium-PIII

199 The effective data volume of each sample in this experiment was 11.23–17.22 G. The
200 N50 statistics of Contigs were distributed between 1631–2349 bp, and the number of OFR in
201 the set of non-redundant genes was 1029162 after redundancy. The annotation rates were
202 89.44%, 74.62%, 42.21% and 2.57% for the non-redundant genes compared with NR,
203 eggNOG, KEGG and CAZy databases respectively. Metagenomics analysis indicated the
204 dominance of bacterial community in Compost-PII and Mycelium-PIII samples (93.17% and
205 94.27%, respectively), followed by fungi (0.25% and 0.29%, respectively), whereas the
206 archaeal abundance remained almost unchanged. However, the abundance of viruses declined
207 with *A. bisporus* mycelial growth (1.18% in Compost-PII and 0.13% in Mycelium-PIII). A
208 total of 181 phyla, 157 classes, 805 families, 3460 genera, and 22,567 species were detected
209 in the samples. The six most prominent bacterial phyla were Proteobacteria, Actinobacteria,
210 Chloroflexi, Planctomycetes, Bacteroidetes, and Firmicutes (Zhang *et al.*, 2014), and the
211 abundances of Actinobacteria and Planctomycetes significantly increased after *A. bisporus*
212 mycelial growth (Fig. 3A). Intriguingly, numerous lignocellulose-decomposing bacteria have

213 been reported to belong to Proteobacteria, Firmicutes, Actinobacteria, and
214 Bacteroidetes (Lewin et al., 2013, Pankratov et al., 2011). Proteobacteria and Bacteroidetes are
215 known to play a major role in organic matter degradation and C cycling (Wang et al., 2018),
216 and Bacteroidetes can break down lignocellulose into short-chain fatty acids (Dodd et al.,
217 2011). Therefore, it was speculated that Actinobacteria and Planctomycetes are the key fungi
218 that degrade lignocellulose at the late stage of mycelium growth. It is noteworthy that
219 although the relative abundance of [the](#) Basidiomycota phylum was low, it showed a great
220 increase (Fig. 3B).

221 **Analysis of bacterial and fungal communities**

222 In the present study, *Thermobifida*, *Thermostaphylospora*, *Sphaerobacter*,
223 *Thermopolyspora*, *Pseudoxanthomonas*, and *Rhodothermus* were the predominant bacterial
224 genera in the Compost-PII and Mycelium-PIII samples (Cao et al., 2019, Durrant et al., 1991).
225 When compared with the Compost-PII samples, the relative abundances of *Thermobifida*,
226 *Thermostaphylospora*, *Sphaerobacter*, *Thermomonospora*, and *Chelatococcus* were
227 significantly increased in Mycelium-PIII samples; in contrast, the relative abundances of
228 *Thermopolyspora*, *Rhodothermus*, and *Pseudoxanthomonas* presented the opposite trend (Fig.
229 4A). Analyses of the microbial community composition confirmed significant shifts in the
230 microbial community structure between the two groups, and many of the enriched genera also
231 co-varied with function. Moreover, the variability of these microbial communities may be
232 correlated with nutrients, compost temperature, moisture content, and pH.

233 At the species level, the relative abundance of *A. bisporus* presented the highest increase
234 among fungi, exhibiting [a](#) 77.57-fold increase after complete mycelial growth (Figs. 4D).
235 Despite the relatively low mass of *A. bisporus* mycelia in the compost substrate and less than
236 half of the mycelia being active, the *A. bisporus* mycelia massively proliferated to become
237 dominant during this period. In addition to *A. bisporus*, the activities of other microorganisms,
238 such as the bacteria (Figs. 4C) *Thermostaphylospora_chromogena*,
239 *Thermomonospora_sp._CIF_1*, *Sandaracinaceae_bacterium*, and *Chelatococcus_compostii*,
240 and fungi (Figs. 4D) *Spizellomyces_punctatus*, *Rozella_allomycis*, and
241 *Basidiobolus_meristosporus*, were also enhanced during *A. bisporus* mycelial growth.

242 **Analysis of CAZymes**

243 The carbon-utilization potential of the microbial communities in the compost was
244 assessed to evaluate the effects of altered substrate quantity and quality resulting from the
245 shift in microbial activity during *A. bisporus* mycelial growth. Among the genes annotated
246 with CAZy, in total, 431 different CAZyme families (229 GHs, 81 GTs, 48 PLs, 17 AAs, 16
247 CEs, and 40 CBMs) were detected in the samples. The most abundant enzyme classes at all
248 temperatures were GHs and GTs, whereas those with [the](#) lowest abundance were PLs and AAs.
249 At the family level, GTs were especially abundant in all the samples, with GT2
250 (cellulose/chitin synthase and other functions), GT4 (sucrose synthase and other functions),
251 and GT83 (galacturonosyl transferase and other functions) being the most abundant (Paixão
252 et al., 2021, Leadbeater et al., 2021).

253 Cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin are major constituents of lignocellulose-containing
254 raw materials (Stech et al., 2014). In the present study, cellulose- and hemicellulose-degrading
255 enzymes exhibited the highest activities in Compost-PII and Mycelium-PIII samples, with
256 GH5, GH8, and GH9 families being the predominant cellulose-degrading enzymes and GH2,

257 GH10, GH11, GH26, and GH53 families being the major hemicellulose-degrading
258 enzymes (Table 2). The GH2 family includes multiple enzymes, and it has been demonstrated
259 that α -1,3-L-arabinofuranosidase activity on substituted xylan does not improve compost
260 degradation by *A. bisporus*. Additionally, [the](#) degradation of lignin is an oxidative process
261 mainly attributed to secondary metabolism or to restricted availability of carbon and nitrogen,
262 and lignin is usually not degraded as the sole carbon and energy source (*Silva et al., 2010*). In
263 nature, it is generally attributed to the metabolism of basidiomycetes white-rot fungi, since
264 they degrade lignin more rapidly and extensively than other microorganisms (*Woiciechowski et*
265 *al., 2013*). Although not a wood-rotting fungus, [the](#) *Agaricus bisporus* still plays a key role in
266 the degradation of lignin as a grass-rotting fungus. Lignin consumption is mainly
267 accomplished by laccases, manganese-dependent peroxidases, lignin peroxidases, and
268 versatile peroxidases, which are the major groups of ligninolytic enzymes produced by the
269 white-rot fungi (*Kracher et al., 2019*). Although AA7 family genes have been reported to play
270 a role in lignin degradation (*Andlar et al., 2018*) and the content of these genes was relatively
271 high in the lignin-degradation-related enzymes family in the present study, this enzymes
272 family was not significantly different. There is a large content of the AA3 and AA6 enzyme
273 families associated with lignin breakdown (Table 2).

274 **Variations in enzyme families between Compost-P11 and Mycelium-P111**

275 The effect of *A. bisporus* mycelium on the compost substrate was mainly reflected in the
276 enzyme families with low relative abundance at the population level. For instance, the
277 abundances of GT32 and GH24 significantly decreased, whereas those of GH42, AA10, and
278 CBM13 significantly increased. Furthermore, the abundance of GH8 presented a slight
279 decrease (Figs. 5A). GH24 is known to act in association with lysozyme, GH8 is the main
280 family of enzymes involved in cellulose degradation, and GH42 plays an important role in
281 hemicellulose degradation. *Thermotaphylospora* belonging to Actinobacteria mainly causes
282 an increase in the activities of β -galactosidase and α -L-arabinofuranosidase of the GH42 family in
283 the galactose metabolism pathway during the mycelial growth stage, and CBM67 has been
284 reported to exhibit α -L-rhamnose-binding activity (*Fujimoto et al., 2013*).

285 In the present study, the increase in the laccase content during the mycelial growth stage
286 was mainly related to the AA10 family (Table 2). AA10 (formerly, CBM33) proteins are
287 copper-dependent lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases (LPMOs), and the functionality of
288 C1/C4 oxidizing, cellulose-active, and chitin-active AA10 LPMOs has been documented in
289 bacteria and fungi (*Bissaro et al., 2020*). The major strains that cause differential laccase
290 production are *Thermobifida*, *Thermotaphylospora*, and *Cellulomonas*, and in the present
291 study, the relative abundances of *Thermobifida* and *Cellulomonas* decreased, while that of
292 *Thermotaphylospora* increased (Figs. 5B&5C). Furthermore, the increase in the xylanase
293 content during *A. bisporus* mycelial growth stage was mainly related to [the](#) CBM13 family,
294 and *Thermotaphylospora* was also the dominant genus that caused this increase (Figs.
295 5D&5E).

297 **Discussion**

298 Degradation of lignin during the composting process has been reported to be caused by
299 certain fungi and several species of bacteria and Actinomycetes (*Kabel et al., 2017, Fermor et*

300 | *al.*, 1981). In the present study, the artificial introduction of *A. bisporus* at the end of the
301 | composting process and the resultant dominance of *A. bisporus* in the fungal community
302 | played a major role in lignin degradation. ~~Similar~~ A similar finding has also been reported by
303 | Jean-Michel Savoie et al. (Savoie, 1998). During the mycelial growth of *A. bisporus*, the
304 | oxidative phosphorylation pathway became dominant, which subsequently affected the
305 | bacterial and fungal communities' composition, and a part of lignin degradation originated
306 | from bacterial action. Jurak et al. showed that xylan solubility increased by 20% during
307 | mycelial growth, indicating partial degradation of the xylan skeleton. In the present study,
308 | xylan degradation was mainly associated with the action of *Thermostaphylospora*. However,
309 | despite xylan degradation, the carbohydrate composition and degree of substitution of xylan
310 | in the compost at the beginning and end of the mycelial growth stage were rather similar
311 | (Jurak et al., 2014).

312 | In a previous study, some researchers (Zhang et al., 2014) determined the rRNA gene
313 | copy number of Actinomycetes and fungi during the composting process by quantitative PCR,
314 | and found that the fungal genus *Agaricus* and unknown fungal community accounted for 45%
315 | and 55% of the microbial community, respectively, while the bacterial genus *Streptomyces*
316 | accounted for 60% of the total bacterial community during the mycelial growth phase. In
317 | contrast, in the present study, although the abundance of *Streptomyces* varied before and after
318 | the mycelial growth stage, the difference was not significant. Moreover, besides *Agaricus*,
319 | *Basidiobolus* and *Spizellomyces* were also the predominant fungi, thus providing further
320 | insights into the composition of the fungal community in the compost.

321 | During the *A. bisporus* mycelial growth stage, the relative abundances of gene sequences
322 | still remained high at high-temperature composting, and although the abundance of fungal
323 | communities increased, the number of bacterial genes was much higher than that of fungal
324 | genes. However, as it was not possible to determine the number of active bacteria during this
325 | stage, microbial communities with a higher relative abundance of gene sequences were
326 | compared, and *A. bisporus* was found to be dominant in the fungal community. While
327 | enzymes related to lignocellulose breakdown were not detected in the macro-genome of *A.*
328 | *bisporus*, analysis of whole-genome data of *A. bisporus* substrate confirmed the presence of a
329 | large number of genes encoding lignocellulose-degrading enzymes (Morin et al., 2012),
330 | because macrogenome sequencing results did not assemble genes encoding lignocellulose-
331 | degrading enzymes in *A. bisporus*. Moreover, variations were also noted in the expression of
332 | genes encoding CAZymes between compost-grown mycelia and fruiting body, with genes
333 | encoding plant cell wall degrading enzymes detected in compost-grown mycelia, but largely
334 | undetected in the fruiting body. Similarly, Patyshakuliyeva et al. also confirmed that compost-
335 | grown mycelia could express a large variety of CAZyme genes related to the degradation of
336 | plant biomass components (Patyshakuliyeva et al., 2013). In addition, transcriptomics and
337 | proteomics investigations performed in a previous study also demonstrated that genes related
338 | to lignin degradation were only highly expressed on day 16 of mycelial growth, indicating
339 | that lignin was degraded at the initial stage of mycelial growth and was no longer altered after
340 | complete growth of mycelia (Patyshakuliyeva et al., 2015). Moreover, compost-grown
341 | mycelia were found to express a large number of CAZymes-encoding genes associated with
342 | the degradation of plant biomass components. In summary, the present study uncovered
343 | lignocellulose-degrading microorganisms and enzyme expressions in bacteria during *A.*

344 *bisporus* mycelial growth stage in the composting process, providing further insights into
345 lignin degradation in compost. The results obtained can further strengthen our understanding
346 of the specificity of *A. bisporus* mycelial growth.
347

348 **Conclusions**

349 The present study found the dominance of *A. bisporus* during the mycelial growth stage.
350 Although pasteurization during composting effectively inhibited lignin-degrading fungi in the
351 compost substrate, these fungi competed with *A. bisporus* during the mycelial growth stage.
352 As the majority of sequences belonging to the AA family were of fungal origin and the fungal
353 community abundance increased after the mycelial growth stage, the potential for lignin-
354 degrading enzymes of bacterial origin may be grossly underestimated. Furthermore, *Agaricus*
355 proliferation may require an interacting consortium of both bacteria and fungi for effective
356 lignocellulose degradation. The results obtained offer insights into the difference in enzyme
357 activities between *A. bisporus* mycelia and other microbial communities, and enhance our
358 understanding of the changes in microbial communities and enzyme families during *A.*
359 *bisporus* mycelial growth phase in the composting process.
360

361 **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS**

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371 **Conflict of interest statement**

372 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

373 **Author Contributions**

- 374 •Wanqiu Chang designed the experiments, analyzed the data, and approved the final draft.
- 375 •Yang Yang and Tingting Song reviewed and modified the original draft.
- 376 •Weilin Feng and Yingyue Shen provide study materials; [and](#) reagents.
- 377 •Yu Li and Weiming Cai conceived and designed the experiments.

378 **Data Availability**

379 | Sequence data were deposited in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive under the BioProject Accession

380 Number PRJNA859554.

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