

Diversity and pathogenicity of microbial communities causing grape sour rot in eastern coastal areas of China (#37985)

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Diversity and pathogenicity of microbial communities causing grape sour rot in eastern coastal areas of China

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Background As a polymicrobial disease, grape sour rot can lead to the decrease in the yield of grape berries and wine quality. The diversity of microbial communities in sour rot-infected grapes depends on the planting location of grapes and the identified methods. The east coast of China is one of the most important grape and wine regions in China and even in the world.

Methods To identify the pathogenic microorganisms causing sour rot in table grapes of eastern coastal areas of China, the diversity and abundance of the bacteria and fungi were assessed based on two methods, including traditional culture-methods, and 16S rRNA and ITS gene high-throughput sequencing. Then the pathogenicity of cultivable microorganisms was determined in laboratory.

Results Based on traditional culture-methods, we identified 15 cultivable bacterial species and 10 fungal species from sour rot-infected grapes. The pathogenicity assay confirmed five cultivated fungi species (three *Aspergillus* species, *Alternaria tenuissima*, and *Fusarium proliferatum*), and four bacteria species (two *Cronobacter* species, *Serratia marcescens* and *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*) as mainly pathogenic on grape. *A. tenuissima*, and *F. proliferatum* were the firstly discovered as pathogens on harvesting grape. Moreover, high-throughput sequencing revealed the OTUs numbers of bacteria and fungi were 1343.33 and 1038.67 respectively. Proteobacteria (72.15%) and Firmicutes (26.83%) were dominant phylums among the 19 bacterial phyla identified, while Ascomycota (93.86%) was the dominant fungal phylum. Then, bacteria such as *Acetobacter* sp., *Gluconobacter* sp., *Bacillus* sp., and *Lactococcus* sp. and fungi such as *Incertae sedis* sp., *Issatchenkia terricola*, *Colletotrichum viniferum*, *Hanseniaspora vineae*, *Saprochaete gigas*, and *Candida diversa* took the vast majority of microbial species in sour rot-infected grapes. Therefore, more accurate and abundant microbial communities in sour rot-infected grapes could be identified using the traditional culture-methods and high-throughput sequencing.

1 **Diversity and pathogenicity of microbial**
2 **communities causing grape sour rot in eastern**
3 **coastal areas of China**

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24 **Abstract**

25 **Background**

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27 berries and wine quality. The diversity of microbial communities in sour rot-infected
28 grapes depends on the planting location of grapes and the identified methods. The east
29 coast of China is one of the most important grape and wine regions in China and even in
30 the world.

31 **Methods**

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33 coastal areas of China, the diversity and abundance of the bacteria and fungi were
34 assessed based on two methods, including traditional culture-methods, and 16S rRNA
35 and ITS gene high-throughput sequencing. Then the pathogenicity of cultivable
36 microorganisms was determined in laboratory.

37 **Results**

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39 10 fungal species from sour rot-infected grapes. The pathogenicity assay confirmed five
40 cultivated fungi species (three *Aspergillus* species, *Alternaria tenuissima*, and *Fusarium*
41 *proliferatum*), and four bacteria species (two *Cronobacter* species, *Serratia marcescens*
42 and *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*) as mainly pathogenic on grape. *A. tenuissima*, and *F.*
43 *proliferatum* were the firstly discovered as pathogens on harvesting grape. Moreover,
44 high-throughput sequencing revealed the OTUs numbers of bacteria and fungi were
45 1343.33 and 1038.67 respectively. Proteobacteria (72.15%) and Firmicutes (26.83%)
46 were dominant phylums among the 19 bacterial phyla identified, while Ascomycota

47 (93.86%) was the dominant fungal phylum. Then, bacteria such as *Acetobacter* sp.,
48 *Gluconobacter* sp., *Bacillus* sp., and *Lactococcus* sp. and fungi such as *Incertae sedis*
49 sp., *Issatchenkia terricola*, *Colletotrichum viniferum*, *Hanseniaspora vineae*,
50 *Saprochaete gigas*, and *Candida diversa* took the vast majority of microbial species in
51 sour rot-infected grapes. Therefore, more accurate and abundant microbial communities
52 in sour rot-infected grapes could be identified using the traditional culture-methods and
53 high-throughput sequencing.

54

55 Introduction

56 Grape sour rot is a polymicrobial disease characterized by disaggregation of the internal
57 tissues of berries, detachment of the rotten berry from the pedicel, and a strong ethyl
58 acetate smell. It often causes millions of dollars revenue loss per year due to decrease in
59 quality of the berries (Barata et al., 2011; Steel, Blackman & Schmidtke, 2013). A
60 number of microorganisms such as ascomycota yeasts, acetic acid bacteria (AAB), and
61 filamentous fungi, infecting ripe and thin-skinned grape berries (Nally et al., 2013), are
62 often considered as the causes of grape sour rot. However, microorganisms in sour rot-
63 infected grapes depends on the planting location and varieties of grapes.
64 Studies have analyzed the frequency and density of yeast species associated with sour
65 rot in different wine grape cultivars. The most frequent ascomycetous species recovered
66 from rotten wine grapes include *Candida krusei*, *Kloeckera apiculata*, and
67 *Metschnikowia pulcheryima* and a less frequent species *Issatchenkia occidentalis*

68 (Guerzoni & Marchetti, 1987). Barata et al. (2008) reported *Candida vanderwaltii*,
69 *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, and *Zygoascus hellenicus* as the most frequent species in rotten
70 grapes (Trincadeira Preta red grape variety). Moreover, the proportion of these
71 microorganisms depends on the ripening stage and the availability of
72 nutrients. Intact grape berries are dominated by basidiomycetous yeasts and the yeast-
73 like fungus *Aureobasidium pullulans*. However, ascomycetes with higher fermentative
74 activity like *Pichia* spp. and *Zygoascus hellenicus*, wine spoilage yeasts, and AAB
75 in rotten grape samples were more than those found in healthy grapes (Barata, Malfeito-
76 Ferreira & Loureiro, 2012a; Barata, Malfeito-Ferreira & Loureiro, 2012b).
77 Expect for widespread *Hanseniaspora uvarum* in sour rot wine grape and table grape,
78 the non-*saccharomyces* yeast (NSY) and acetic acid bacteria (AAB) could also be
79 identified in sour rot table grape. Pinto et al. (2017) proved that among all NSY-AAB
80 associations, the yeast-bacterium association composed of *Candida zemplinina* CBS
81 9494 and *Acetobacter syzygii* LMG 21419 showed the highest prevalence. However,
82 studies on the microbial diversity of bacteria and fungi in rotten grapes are limited,
83 especially for the eastern coast of China, which is a very important grape growing
84 region in China. Pathogenicity of bacteria and fungi associated with grape sour rot is
85 ambiguous and controversial.
86 At least 99% of microbes in the natural environment is uncultivable in the laboratory
87 (Kamagata & Tamaki, 2005). With the development of molecular biology techniques

88 and its application in microbial ecology, metagenomics has facilitated microbial
89 community analysis for the diversity of microorganism. Not relying on our traditional
90 culture methods, this technique excludes the limitations and biases from non-cultivable
91 bacteria in the samples (Andreote, Azevedo & Araújo, 2009). In view of this, a great
92 progress has been gained about the research on microbial diversity in plant disease. For
93 example, Huang et al. (2017) reported the influence of a bioorganic fertilizer, used to
94 control cucumber Fusarium wilt, on the soil microbial community. This study was
95 based on high-throughput sequencing of 16S rRNA, 18S rRNA, and ITS genes. Recent
96 study on bacterial wilt of banana revealed a significant difference in the diversity of
97 microbiota associated with symptomatic and asymptomatic plants using
98 metagenomic 16S rRNA sequencing (Shen et al., 2018). A recent metagenomic study
99 revealed that a microbiome consisting predominantly of *Brenneria goodwinii*,
100 *Gibbsiella quercinecans*, and *Rahnella victoriana* caused necrotic lesions in acute oak
101 decline (Brady et al., 2017). Therefore, a combination of traditional culture methods and
102 metagenomic analysis was used in the present study and ~~may analyze provide~~ more
103 precise information for the microbial diversity in sour rot-~~in~~ infected grapes.
104 Yantai, a city of Shandong Province, located in the eastern coastal part of China, is an
105 important grape growing region. The objective of this study was to determine: (1) the
106 diversity and abundance of bacteria and fungi in sour rot-~~in~~ infected table grapes collected
107 from Yantai city based on traditional culture methods; (2) the pathogenicity of bacteria

108 and fungi associated with grape sour rot; and (3) the diversity and abundance of bacteria
109 and fungi in sour rot-infected table grapes based on 16S rRNA and ITS high-throughput
110 sequencing analysis.

111

112 **Materials & Methods**

113 **Sour rot-infected grapes**

114 Sour rot-infected grapes infested with fruit flies were collected from the vineyards in
115 Yantai (N36°27', E117°10'), Shandong Province, China. Approximately 1.0 g of the
116 fruit tissue was sliced from 100 sour rot-infected grapes, and collected together in a 50
117 ml sterile centrifuge tube. Three replicates were maintained used for separation and
118 identification of bacteria and fungi. Another three replicates were stored at -80°C for
119 16S rDNA and ITS high-throughput sequencing.

120 **Diversity of cultivable microorganisms in sour rot-infected grapes**

121 The samples were suspended in phosphate buffered saline (PBS, 0.2 M, pH 7.2) and
122 diluted (10^3 , 10^4 and 10^5 times) using PBS. The suspension (200 μ L; different
123 concentrations) was inoculated in nutrient agar medium and potato dextrose agar
124 medium with three replicates for each. After culturing for 48h in nutrient broth and for
125 seven days in potato dextrose agar medium in an incubator (25°C in RXZ-328A, Ningbo),
126 single colonies was purified from microorganism medium the using primary medium.

127 *(1) Identification of cultivated bacteria*

128 We analyzed the physiological and biochemical characteristics of each bacterium
129 according to the methods by Dong & Cai (2010). We performed Gram staining, spore
130 staining, bacterial motility test, catalase reaction, methyl red test, starch hydrolysis,

131 benzpyrole test, V-P test, malonic acid test, gelatin test, H₂S test, citrate test, ammonia
132 production test, litmus milk test, and urease test.

133 We extracted DNA of single colony of each bacterium using the Bacterial DNA Kit
134 (OMEGA, USA) and purified using the DNA Clean-Up Kit (OMEGA, USA). The 16S
135 rDNA was amplified for each DNA template using the instrument of Bio-Rad 1000-
136 Series Thermal Cycler PCR (Bio-Rad, US). The thermal profile is as follows: an initial
137 denaturation at 95°C for 3 min, quantification for 35 cycles (95°C for 15 sec followed
138 by 52°C for 30 sec and 72°C for 1min), and a final extension at 72°C for 5min.

139 Sequences of the primers used are as follows: 16S rDNA-27F: 5'-AGAGT
140 TTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3'; 16S rDNA-1492R: 5'-TACGGYTACCTTGTTACGACTT-
141 3'.

142 (2) *Identification of cultivated fungi*

143 We analyzed the morphological features of each fungus using a light microscope
144 (Olympus CX41RF; Olympus Corporation, TOKYO) according to the methods by Wei
145 (1979), and Dai (1988). The mycelium of each purified fungus was collected in PDA
146 medium. DNA was extracted using the Fungal DNA kit (OMEGA, USA) and purified
147 using the DNA Clean-Up Kit (OMEGA, USA). ITS gene was amplified according to
148 the following thermal profile: an initial denaturation at 95°C for 3 min, quantification
149 for 35 cycles (95°C for 15 sec followed by 52°C for 30 sec and 72°C for 1min), and a
150 final extension at 72°C for 5min. Sequences of the universal primer are as follows: ITS1:
151 5'-TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGG-3'; ITS4: 5'-TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC -3'.

152 (3) *Sequencing*

153 PCR products were purified using TaKaRa Mini BEST Agarose Gel DNA Extraction
154 kit (Takara, Japan), cloned into pEASY-T3vector (Takara, Japan), and transformed into
155 *Escherichia coli* JM109 cells. The positive clones were sequenced on anABI-3730 DNA
156 analyzer (Applied Biosystems, USA).The sequences obtained were analyzed using
157 BLAST (<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). Phylogenetic trees of the bacteria and fungi were
158 separately constructed using neighbor-joining method (NJ; Saitou andNei 1987) with
159 MEGA 6.0 software (LynnonBiosoft, USA). The sequences of bacteria and fungi were
160 submitted to GenBank using SEQUIN software, and the accession numbers were
161 included in the phylogenetic trees.

162 **Pathogenicity assay of cultivated bacteria and fungi**

163 Isolated bacteria and fungi were tested for pathogenicity on grape berries. Healthy grape
164 berries of Midnight Beauty, a susceptible variety, were collected and surface sterilized
165 with 1% sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) solution for one minute. Excess NaClO was
166 removed by washing (twice) the berries in sterile distilled water. The experimental
167 berries were pricked 2–3mm deep using a dissecting needle. Bacterial suspension and
168 spore suspension of the cultivable microorganisms were prepared having approximately
169 1×10^6 conidia/ml in the suspension. This suspension (5 μ l per berry) was used to
170 inoculate the wound of healthy grape berries. Sterile water was used instead of the
171 suspension that served as a negative control. Subsequently, the inoculated grape berries
172 were kept in a moisture chamber at 27/25°C (day/night) and 80% humidity, and

173 observations were made at 5th days to record the symptom. The bacterial and fungal
 174 species were reisolated from these artificially inoculated grape berries using NA
 175 medium and PDA medium, respectively. The culture obtained was compared with the
 176 original culture (Jenkins, 1933; Hyun et al., 2001).
 177 Based on the ratio of infected area to total area, grading was done as follows (Rouxel et
 178 al., 2013; Zhou et al., 2014): ~~0, No disease spot; 1, less than 5.0% of the total area~~
 179 ~~infected; 3, 5.1% to 25.0% of the total area infected; 5, 25.1% to 50.0% of the total area~~
 180 ~~infected; 7, 50.1% to 75.0% of the total area infected; 9, 75.1% to 100.0% of the total~~
 181 ~~area infected.~~

$$182 \quad \text{The morbidity} = 100 * \frac{\text{the number of diseased berries}}{\text{the number of all berries}} \quad (1)$$

$$183 \quad \text{The disease index} = 100 * \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k*x}{N*9} \quad (2)$$

184 Where, x is the representative value of each grade; n is the number of diseased berries at
 185 each level; and N is the total number of fruits investigated.

186 **16S rDNA and ITS high-throughput sequencing analysis**

187 *(1) DNA extraction and Illumina MiSeq sequencing of 16S rRNA and ITS genes*

188 DNA was extracted from each sample using the insect DNA kit (OMEGA, USA) and
 189 further purified using the MoBioPowerSoilkit. DNA (10 ng) was amplified by
 190 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to create a cDNA library of V3+V4 region of 16S
 191 rRNA gene. The bacterial universal primers used were 341 F (5' -CCTAC
 192 ACGACGCTCTCCGATCTN (barcode) CCTACGG-GNGGCWGCAG-3') and 805 R
 193 (5' -GACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA (barcode) GACTA

194 CHVGGGTATCTAATCC-3'). Similarly, a cDNA library of ITS gene was also created
195 using 10 ng of DNA. The fungal universal primers used were ITS4 F (5' –
196 CCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCTN (barcode) TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATG-3')
197 and ITS3 R (5' - GTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGG
198 CACCCGAGAATTCCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGC -3'). In the primer
199 sequences, the barcode was used to sort the groups in a single run. The cDNA library
200 was sequenced on an Illumina Miseq platform (Hiseq 2000; PE250) (Illumina, USA).
201 After removal of low-quality reads containing primer/adaptor sequences and cleaning
202 the reads using SeqClean, high-quality reads (clean data) were generated that were used
203 for further analysis.

204 (2) *Alpha diversity analysis*

205 Sequences were clustered into operational taxonomic units (OTUs) using the 97%
206 identity threshold (3% dissimilarity level). According to the number of OTUs, Shannon
207 and Simpson diversity index were calculated to indicate the microbial diversity among
208 these OTUs of microorganism, and Chao1 and ACE indices were calculated to indicate
209 the microbial richness using Mothur software. All the OTUs were analyzed using
210 BLASTN and the 16S rDNA database and ITS database (<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). The
211 best results (similarity >90% and coverage>90%) were used for the next classification.
212 The sequences that did not satisfy these criteria were defined as “unclassified”. We
213 measured the species richness and relative abundance. The pie graph were used to
214 depict the microbial community structure of microorganism.

215 (3) *Functional Analysis*

216 According to the microbial community structure generated by16S rDNA sequencing,
217 The annotation and composition of the functional genes were speculated based on COG

218 (clusters of orthologous groups) and KEGG (kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes)
219 using PICRUSt software.

220

221 **Results**

222 **Diversity of cultivable microorganisms in sour rot-infected grapes**

223 15 bacterial species were identified from sour rot-infected grapes infested by fruit flies
224 (Table 1). We identified Firmicutes as the dominant phylum (60%) with nine species
225 such as *Staphylococcus saprophyticus*, *Lactococcus garvieae*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*,
226 two *Lysinibacillus* species, and four *Bacillus* species. Six bacterial species of
227 Proteobacteria phylum were also identified. The physiological and biochemical
228 characteristics of bacteria are shown in Table 2. All were gram-positive bacteria and
229 presented positive results in catalase reaction, gelatin test, H₂S test, and ammonia
230 production; however, they were methyl red negative. Moreover, *Cronobacter*
231 *malonaticus*, *Cronobacter sakazakii*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* presented negative
232 results in the biochemical tests.

233 Among ten cultivable fungi identified from sour rot-infected grapes, five were
234 Deuteromycotina fungi including *Cladosporium oxysporum*, *Alternaria tenuissima*,
235 *Geotrichum gigas*, *Fusarium proliferatum*, and *Nigrospora sp.* (Table 1). The
236 characteristics of fungal colony, hyphae, and spores are shown in Fig. 1. *C. oxysporum*
237 with bottle-green colonies developed into conidia through asexual reproduction. *A.*
238 *tenuissima* colonies with white front side and brown reverse side developed into conidia
239 in the form of a chain lattice. The hyphae of *Saprochaetegigas* or *Geotrichumgigas* with
240 white colonies developed into arthrospores through asexual reproduction. *F.*

241 *proliferatum* with red colonies had branched conidiophores and sickle or long column-
242 shaped conidia. *Nigrospora sp.* had irregular colonies, branched conidiophores, and
243 ball-shaped conidia. Moreover, five species including *Penicillium citrinum*, *P.*
244 *georgiense*, *Aspergillus niger*, *A. aculeatus*, *A. oryzae*, belonged to Ascomycotina. The
245 sporophores of *P. citrinum* and *P. georgiense* grew from hyphae and developed into
246 brush-like structures. However, these two *Penicillium* species differed in colony color.
247 The conidia of *A. niger*, *A. aculeatus*, and *A. oryzae* were black, green, and yellow,
248 respectively.
249 These 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal species were identical with the species in
250 NCBI (97-100% identity). The phylogenetic trees of the bacteria and fungi are shown in
251 Fig. 2, and their GenBank accession numbers are shown in Table 1.

252 **Pathogenicity of cultivable bacteria and fungi for grape sour rot**

253 Each Bacterial and fungal suspensions was inoculated on healthy grape berries of the
254 susceptible variety Midnight Beauty. All the 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal species
255 demonstrated pathogenicity in grapes with different degrees of damage (Fig. 3). Most of
256 the microorganisms caused ~~cracking in grapes~~ except for *B. amyloliquefaciens*, which
257 was similar to the sour rot symptom in the field. The bacterial species and the fungal
258 species reisolated from these diseased grapes using NA medium and PDA medium were
259 confirmed as the original microorganisms in Table 1.

260 The morbidity and disease index of 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal species were
261 significantly different from the control such as, sterile water and LB medium
262 (Morbidity: $F=10.439$, $P<0.01$; disease index: $F=43.277$, $P<0.01$; Fig. 4). Fungal
263 isolates demonstrated stronger pathogenicity in the grape berries with a morbidity of

264 more than 75%. Except for *C. oxysporum* and *P. citrinum*, the disease index of all other
265 fungi was more than fifty, which was more than that of bacteria. Three *Aspergillus*
266 species and *P. georgiense* with a morbidity of 100% recorded the highest disease index.
267 Healthy grapes were also highly sensitive to *A. tenuissima* and *F. proliferatum*, which
268 had the high disease index with 51.57 ± 0.57 and 49.57 ± 2.15 , respectively. Among the
269 bacteria, the morbidity and disease index of two *Cronobacter species*, *Serratia*
270 *marcescens* and *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* was higher than the other bacteria. *B.*
271 *amyloliquefaciens* and *B. cereus* led to less serious sour rot than other bacteria (Fig. 3,
272 then Fig. 4).

273 **Sequencing and alpha diversity analysis**

274 We performed Illumina MiSeq sequencing of 16S rRNA and ITS genes of sour rot-
275 infected grapes (Table 3). The information of raw data and clean sequences of 16S
276 rDNA of bacteria were more than that of the ITS genes of fungi. However, the mean
277 length of ITS gene of fungi was 279.37 ± 4.52 bp, which was shorter than that of 16S
278 rDNA of bacteria (412.86 ± 2.76 bp). The OTUs numbers of bacteria and fungi were
279 1343.33 ± 282.94 and 1038.67 ± 386.36 respectively (Table 3).

280 Phylogenetic trees were constructed for the top 50 OTUs of bacteria and fungi
281 according to the number of sequences (Fig. 5, then Fig. 6). For bacteria, 15 OTUs were
282 classified in Firmicutes phylum, Bacilli class. Among other 35 Proteobacteria OTUs, 21
283 belonged to Alphaproteobacteria class, three to Betaproteobacteria class, and 11 to
284 Gammaproteobacteria class. In the top 50 fungal OTUs, one belonged to Basidiomycota
285 phylum and eight were not identified in the ITS database. Among other 41 Ascomycota

286 OTUs, 29 belonged to Saccharomycetes class, nine to Sordariomycetes class, and two to
287 Dothideomycetes class.

288 The diversity indices of OTUs of bacteria and fungi are shown in Table 3. The
289 microbial diversity and richness were higher for bacteria.

290 **Microbial taxonomy analysis**

291 The bacterial community structure(phylum and genus) in sour rot-infected grapes is
292 shown in Fig. 7. Proteobacteria (72.15%) and Firmicutes (26.83%) were dominant
293 among the 19 phyla identified (Fig. 7A). The proportion of other bacteria was less than
294 1.00%. The dominant genera in sour rot-infected grapes were *Acetobacter* (37.62%),
295 *Gluconobacter* (23.64%), *Bacillus* (12.38%), and *Lactococcus* (Fig. 7B).

296 The fungal community structure (phylum and species) in sour rot-infected grapes is
297 shown in Fig. 8. Ascomycota (93.86%) was the dominant phylum identified (Fig. 8A).
298 The dominant species identified in sour rot-infected grapes were *Incertaesedis* sp.
299 (32.40%), *Issatchenkia terricola* (17.57%), *Colletotrichum viniferum* (13.43%),
300 *Hanseniaspora vineae* (13.40%), *Saprochaete gigas* (4.44%), and *Candida diversa*
301 (3.94%) (Fig. 8B).

302 The COG function of bacteria OTUs in sour rot-infected grapes is shown in Fig. 9A. In
303 the COG functional classification, seven categories were dominant except for “the
304 general function prediction only” (1137145) such as “function unknown” (894042),
305 “amino acid transport and metabolism” (882372), “cell wall/membrane/envelope
306 biogenetic” (729731), “transcription” (694607), “carbohydrate transport and
307 metabolism” (645873), and “energy production and conversion” (634499). Moreover,
308 “transport and metabolism of inorganic ion, coenzyme and lipid” (1301247) and
309 “secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport, and catabolism” (217135) were the

310 important functions of bacteria in sour rot-infected grapes. In the KEGG functional
311 classification (Fig. 9B), four main categories were dominant such as “amino acid
312 metabolism” (1179865), “carbohydrate metabolism” (1177863), “membrane transport”
313 (1176255), and “replication and repair” (935634).

314

315 Discussion

316 As a serious and polymicrobial disease in grapes during the ripening stage, yeasts and
317 acetic acid bacteria (AAB) are usually recognized as the pathogens causing sour rot. For
318 example, AAB such as *Acetobacter leaniensis*, *A. syzygii*, *A. malorum*,
319 *Gluconacetobacter hansenii*, and *G. intermedius* were recovered from sour rot-
320 infected grapes (Barata, Malfeito-Ferreira & Loureiro, 2012b). Mateo et al. (2014)
321 identified AAB including four species of *Gluconobacter* genus, two of *Asaia*, and one
322 of *Acetobacter* from rot-affected grapes collected from three vineyards of Adelaide
323 Hills (South Australia) through molecular typing and identification methods. In the
324 present study, *Acetobacter* sp. was also recovered from sour rot-infected grapes.
325 Moreover, 14 other cultivable species of bacteria were identified in the samples
326 including nine species from Firmicutes and six species from Proteobacteria. However,
327 the microbial taxonomy analysis by high-throughput sequencing revealed that the
328 Proteobacteria phylum was predominant. AAB such as *Acetobacter* sp. (37.62%) and
329 *Gluconobacter* sp. (23.64%) alone constituted 61.26% of the bacteria which is
330 consistent with previous studies.

331 Barata, Malfeito-Ferreira & Loureiro (2012b) also recovered yeast species such as
332 *Issatchenkia occidentalis*, *Zygoascus hellenicus*, *Zygosacchar omycesbailii* from

333 sour rot-infected grapes⁷. However, the fungi excluding yeasts could also contribute the
334 sour rot disease of grapes. For instance, *Aspergillus* species were predominantly
335 isolated from sour rot-infected table grapes and wine-producing grape cultivars. *A.*
336 *niger* and *A. carbonarius* were firstly recovered from the grapes on the island of Rhodes,
337 Greece (Tjamos et al., 2004). *A. carbonarius* could causing sour rot of table grapes
338 (*Vitisvinifera*) in California (Rooney-Latham et al., 2008). In present study, we also
339 identified and cultured three *Aspergillus* fungi (*A. niger*, *A. aculeatus*, and *A. oryzae*) in
340 eastern coastal areas of China. Moreover, *Issatchenkia occidentalis*, *Hanseniaspor*
341 *auvarum*, and *Candida vanderwaltii* were recovered from damaged grapes (Trincadeira
342 Preta red grape variety) (Guerzoni & Marchetti, 1987; Barata et al. 2008). According to
343 the microbial taxonomy analysis by high-throughput sequencing in present study,
344 34.91% of the fungi were *Issatchenkia terricola*, *Hanseniaspora vineae*, and *Candida*
345 *diversa*. However, *Incertaesedis* sp. (the new species), *Colletotrichum viniferum*, and
346 *Saprochaete gigas* with a total proportion of 50.27% were still dominant in sour rot-
347 infected grapes. Although the cultivated bacteria and fungi did not identify the overall
348 microorganism, it was necessary to analyze the pathogenicity of the identified microbes
349 to determine the pathogenic species of sour rot-infected grapes. Fungal isolates
350 demonstrated greater pathogenicity in the grape berries. Except for three *Aspergillus*
351 species with the higher disease index, healthy grapes were also sensitive to the
352 pathogenic fungi (*A. tenuissima* and *F. proliferatum*) of common grape diseases. As the
353 most common species in the cosmopolitan genus *Alternaria*, *A.tenuissima* was found on
354 a broad range of fruit products and caused diseases like post harvest black rot of fruit
355 (Logrieco, Moretti & Solfrizzo, 2009). Bakshi, Sztejnberg & Yarden (2001) reported
356 that *F. proliferatum* could also cause the rot of corn, rice, and lily. Therefore,

357 *Aspergillus* species, *A. tenuissima* and *F. proliferatum* were the main cultivated
358 pathogenic fungi causing sour rot of grapes. Moreover, among the bacterial isolates, *B.*
359 *amyloliquefaciens* and *B. cereus* led to the less serious sour rot in this study. It is
360 possibly due to the antibacterial active substances generated by *B. amyloliquefaciens*
361 and *B. cereus*, which have been used as biological agents (Risoen, Ronning & Hegna,
362 2004, Wang et al., 2014). Although *L. fusiformis* restricts biofilm formation of some
363 pathogenic bacteria, it caused the serious rot of grape berries (Fig. 3). Moreover,
364 healthy grapes were sensitive to *Cronobacter* sp. and *S. marcescens*, which are
365 opportunistic pathogens (Healy et al., 2010). Therefore, the pathogenicity assay
366 confirmed *Cronobacter* species, *S. marcescens*, and *L. fusiformis* as the main cultivated
367 pathogenic bacteria causing sour rot of grapes.

368 It's worth mentioning that insects lay eggs on the grape berries and spread the disease to
369 other healthy grape berries. Insects involved in this process include *Drosophila*
370 ~~*melanogaster* and *D. suzukii*~~, which survive feeding yeasts and other microorganisms
371 (Barata et al., 2012c). The disease increases grape attractiveness to ovipositing *D.*
372 *melanogaster* females and oviposition by *D. suzukii* facilitates sour rot development
373 (Rombaut et al., 2017; Ioriatti et al., 2018). Additionally, as a relevant player in the sour
374 rot microbial ecology of vineyards, the paper wasp *Polistes dominula*, could facilitate
375 sour rot diseases though increasing host susceptibility and transmitting these microbial
376 communities to healthy grapes (Madden et al., 2017). Due to the multiple species
377 associated with sour rot in grapes including bacteria, fungi, and insects, the control of
378 the disease is difficult. Calvo-Garrido et al. (2013) revealed that *Candida sake* CPA-1

379 strain isolated from the surface of apples was an effective control agent against grape
380 bunch rot. Phyllosphere yeast *Aureobasidium pullulans* Y-1 isolated from the leaves of
381 vine (*Vitis vinifera* L.) was also effective to control *Aspergillus carbonarius* present on
382 sour rot-infected berries at harvest (Dimakopoulou et al., 2008). In the terminal storage
383 stage, cold ozonation used as an effective approach to control the development of
384 pathogenic bacteria such as *Acetobacter syzygii* and *Candida zemplinina* extended the
385 shelf-life of table grapes (Pinto et al. 2017). To conclude, identification and analysis of
386 pathogenic bacteria and fungi is necessary for the prevention and treatment of plant
387 diseases.

388

389 **Conclusions**

390 This study identified more pathogenic species in sour rot-infected grapes of China using
391 the traditional culture-methods combined with high-throughput sequencing, which
392 would provide comprehensive information on targets for the control of the disease. *A.*
393 *tenuissima*, and *F. proliferatum* were the firstly discovered as pathogens on harvesting
394 grape. We need to continue to find the effective prevention and control method for the
395 new pathogenic bacteria found in this study. However, the insects, such as *D.*
396 *melanogaster*, *D. suzukii* females and paper wasp, all could facilitate sour rot
397 development. More comprehensive analysis of nosogenesis based on the research of
398 relationship among insects, microorganism and grapes in our future study.

399

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403

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517

518 **Figure legends**

519 Figure 1 Colony morphology and the light mophology of the fungi in sour rot-infected
520 grapes. A: Colony morphology; *r* indicates the reverse side of colony; *f* indicates
521 the front side of colony; B: Light morphology of the fungi in sour rot-infected
522 grapes

523 Figure 2 The phylogenetic trees of bacteria (A) and fungi (B) in sour rot-infected grapes.
524 Phylogenetic trees were constructed using neighbor-joining method(NJ) with Mega
525 6.0 software

526 Figure 3 The pathogenicity of fungi in healthy grape berries.

527 Figure 4 The morbidity (A) and disease index (B)of 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal
528 species. Different letters in each figure (A and B) indicate significant difference
529 between adults and larvae (One-way ANOVA; $\alpha = 0.05$).

530 Figure 5 The first 50 OTUs of the bacteria by high-throughput sequencing

531 Figure 6 The first 50 OTUs of the fungi by high-throughput sequencing

532 Figure 7 The bacterial community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour
533 rot-infected grapes based on 16S rDNA high-throughput sequencing

534 Figure 8 The fungal community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour
535 rot-infected grapes based on ITS high-throughput sequencing

536 Figure 9 The COG (A) and KEGG (B) functional categories of bacterial OTUs in sour
537 rot-infected grapes.

538

Table 1 The cultivable microorganism in the sour rotted grapes

Microognism	Phylum	Species	Accession numbers
Bacterium	Proteobacteria	<i>Cronobacter malonaticus</i>	MK743990
		<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	MK743989
		<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	MK743987
		<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	MK743980
		<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	MK743984
		<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	MK743988
	Firmicutes	<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	MK743982
		<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	MK743983
		<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	MK743986
		<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	MK753026
		<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	MK743985
		<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	MK743994
		<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	MK743993
		<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	MK743992
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	MK743991		
Fungus	Deuteromycotina	<i>Cladosporium oxysporum</i>	MK748311
		<i>Alternaria tenuissima</i>	MK748314
		<i>Saprochaete gigas or Geotrichum gigas</i>	
		<i>Fusarium proliferatum</i>	MK748309
		<i>Nigrospora sp.</i>	MK748317
	Ascomycotina	<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	MK748316
		<i>Penicillium georgiense</i>	MK748315
		<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	MK748313
		<i>Aspergillus oryzae</i>	MK748312
		<i>Aspergillus aculeatus</i>	MK748310

Table 2 The physiological and biochemical characteristic of bacterium in sour rotted grape

Bacterium	Gram staining	Spore staining	Bacterial motility	Catalase reaction	Methyl red test	Starch hydrolysis test	Benzpyrole test	V-P test
<i>Cronobacter malonaticus</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	-		+	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	-		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	-		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	+		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	+		-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	+		-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	+	pink	+	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>		purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
Bacterium	Malonic acid test	Gelatin test	H ₂ S test	Citrate test	Ammonia production test	Litmus milk test	Urease test	
<i>Cronobacter malonaticus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	
<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	

<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	-	+	+	-	+	+	-
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	+

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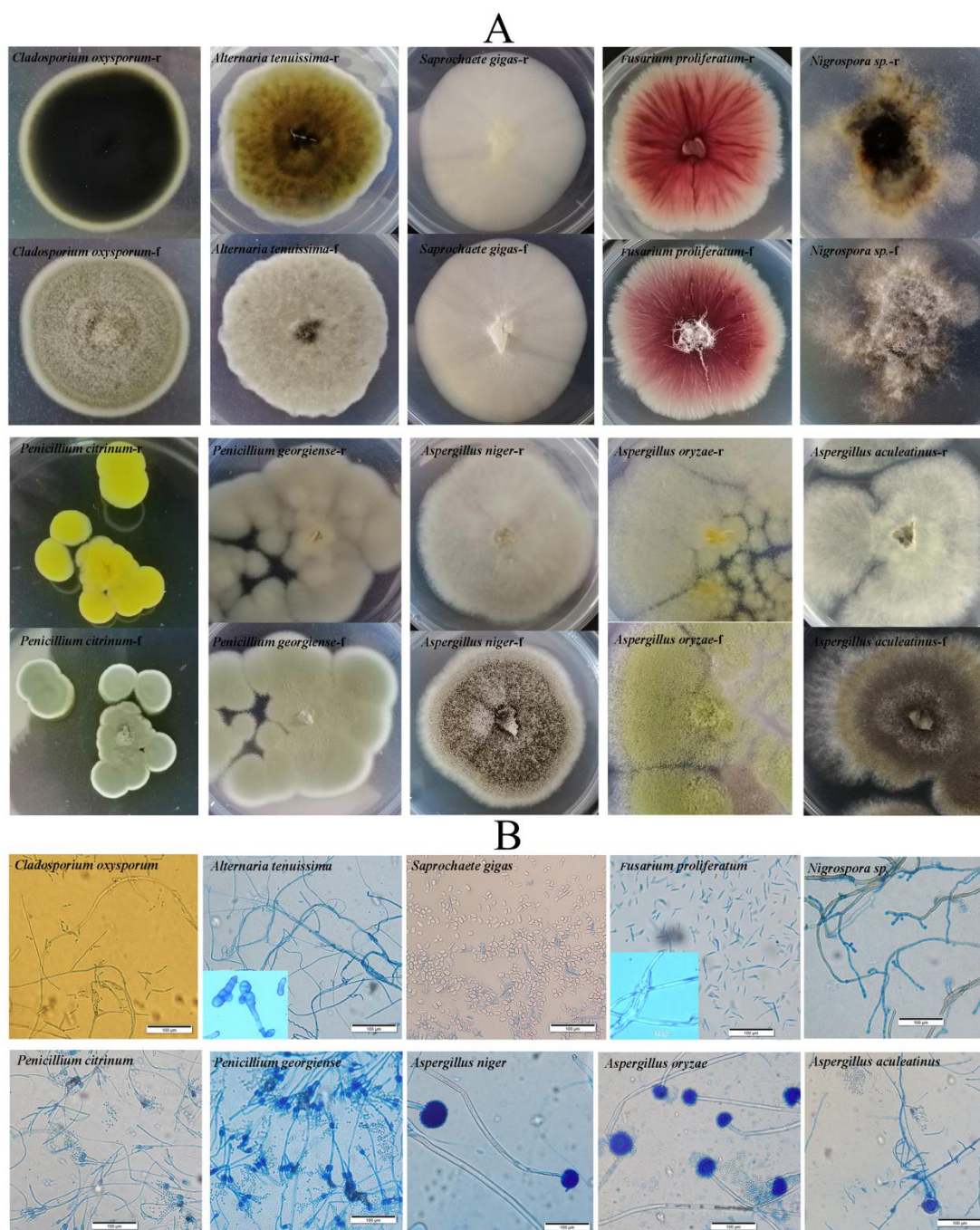
Table 3 Sequence information and OTUs diversity, number of bacterium and fungi

Parameters	Parameters	Bacterium	Fungi
Sequence information	Raw number	57503.67±3213.31	76211±2711.94
	Mean length (bp)	451.07±3.32	322.36±4.66
	Clean number	55895.33±3088.35	76113.67±2703.97
	Mean length (bp)	412.86±2.76	279.37±4.52
Diversity indices	Shannon	3.26±0.13	2.20±0.17
	ACE	22033.53±2927.20	32667.47±1384.78
	Chao1	9744.84±1429.46	10778.66±1475.59
	Simpson	0.10±0.02	0.21±0.04
OTUs number		1343.33±282.94	1038.67±386.36

2

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4 Fig.1

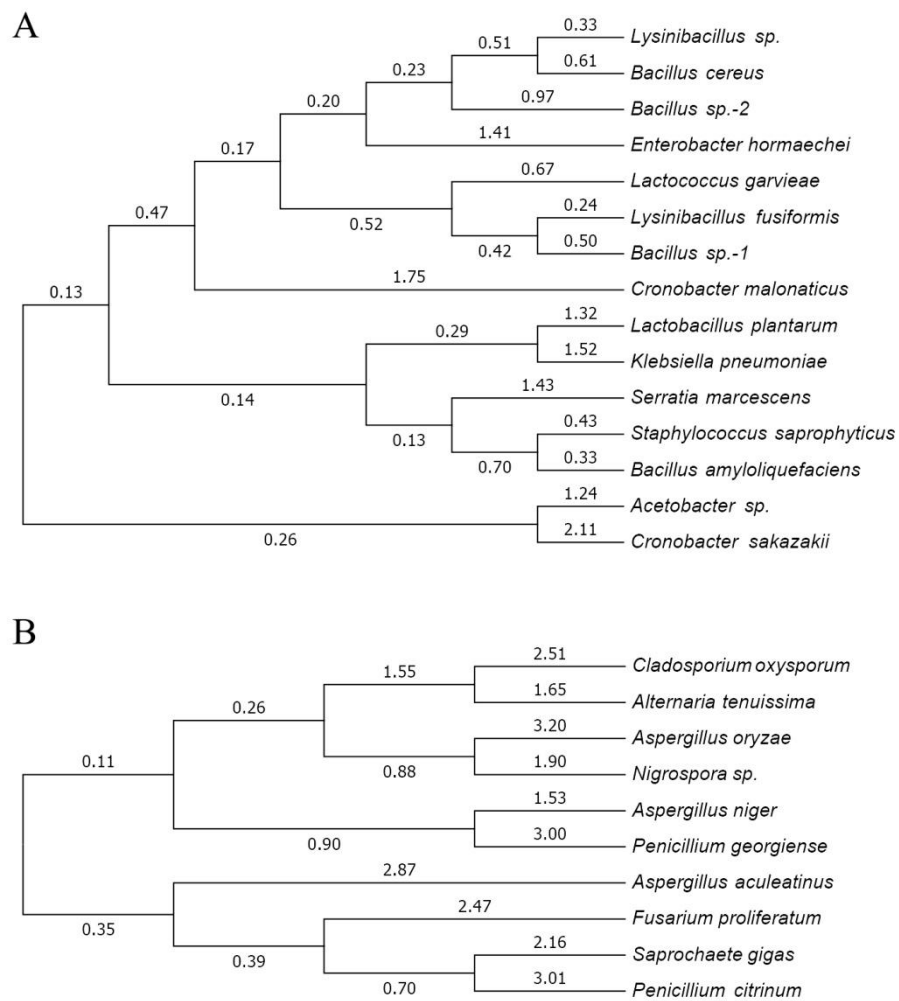


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7 Fig.2

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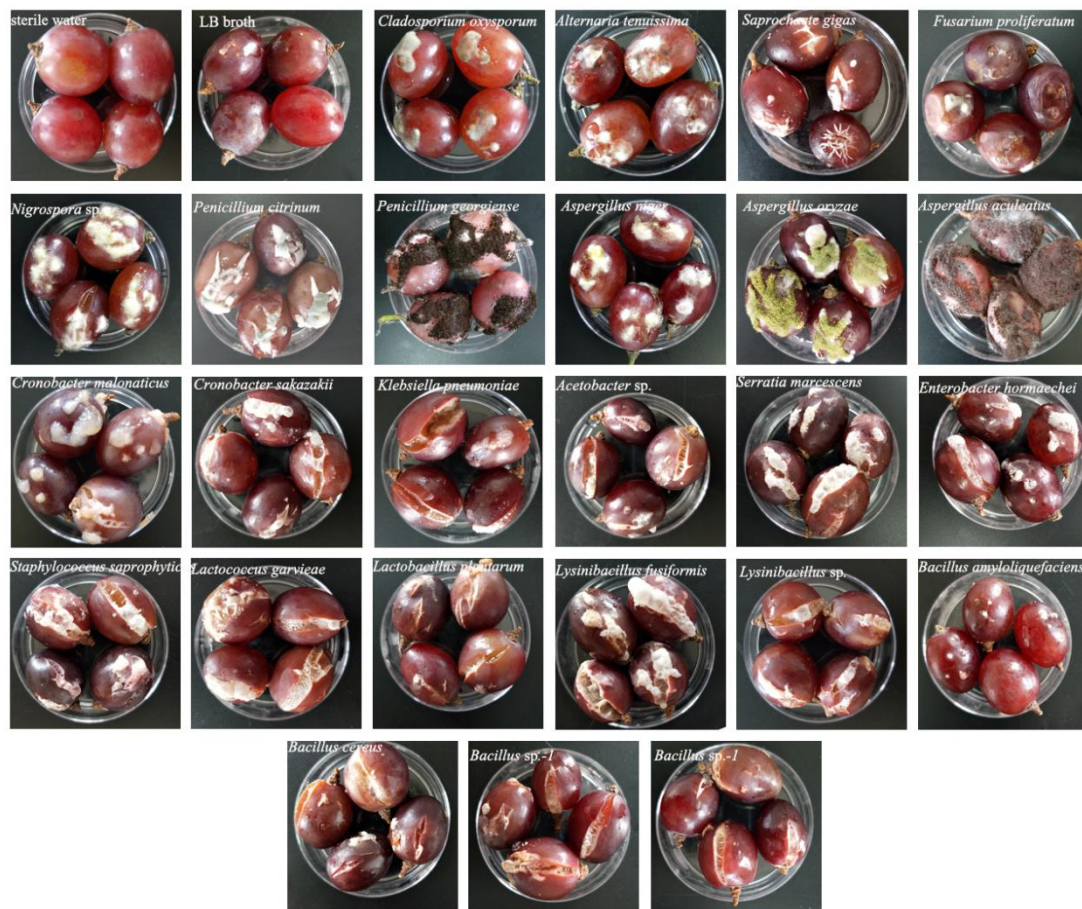


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11 Fig.3

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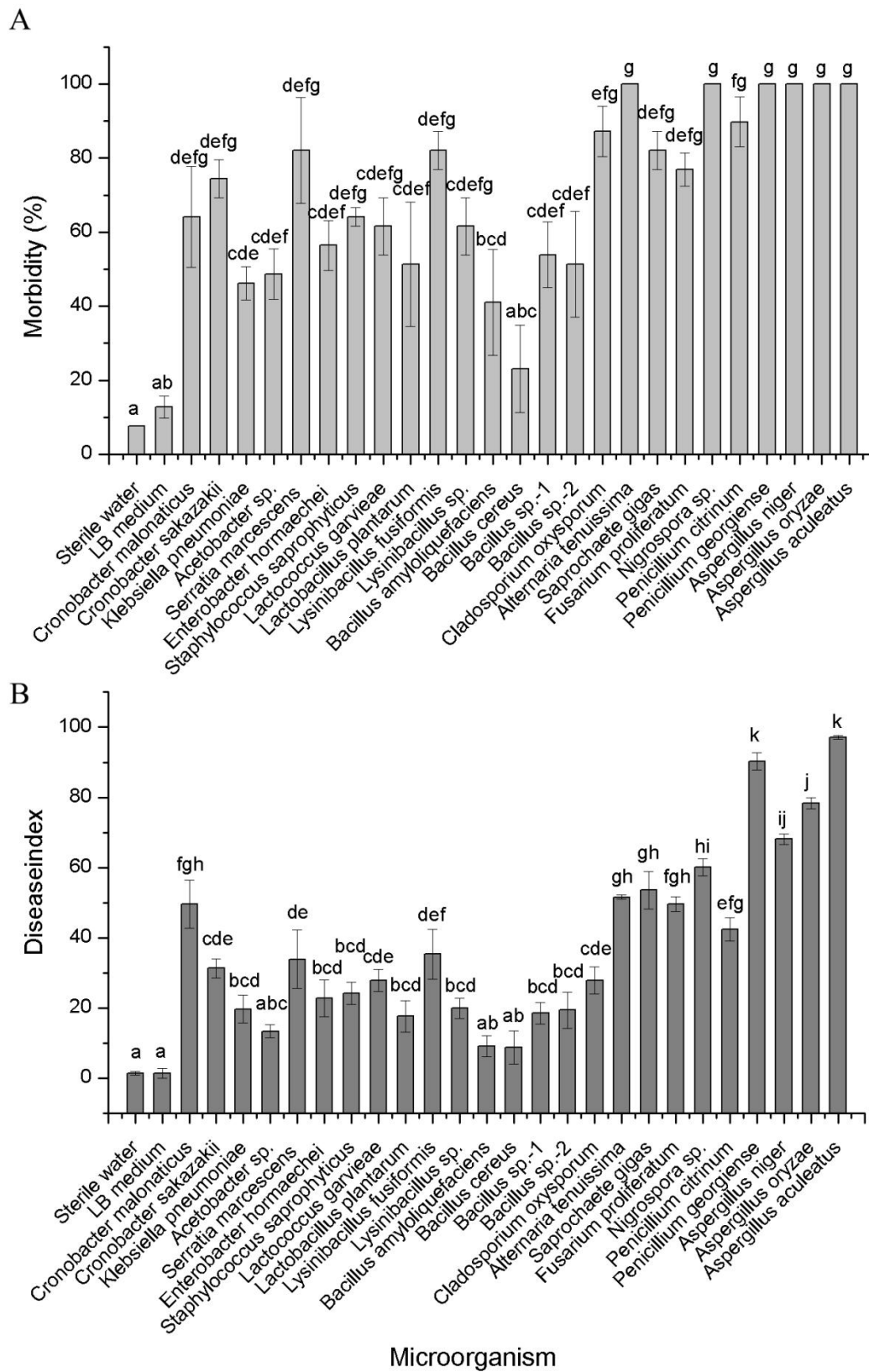


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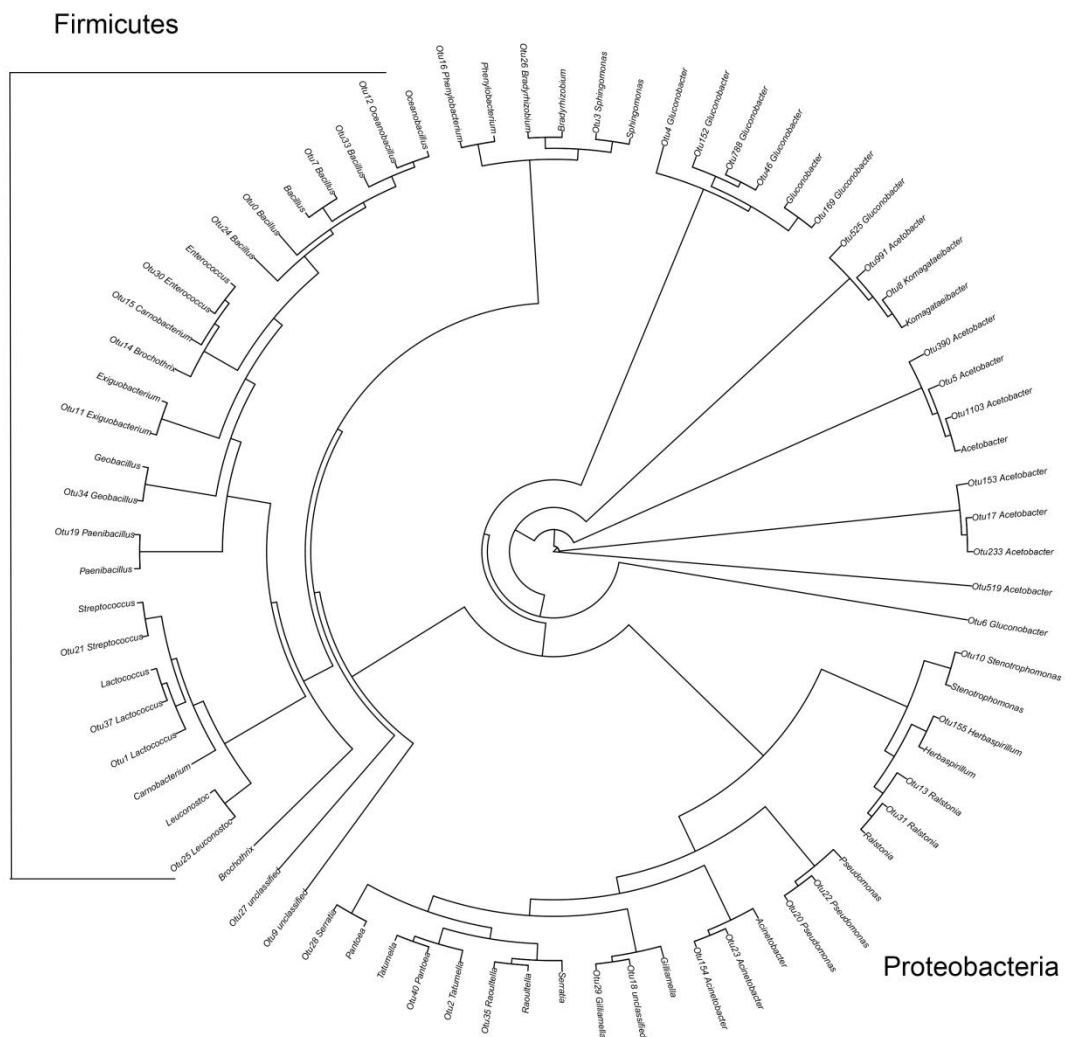
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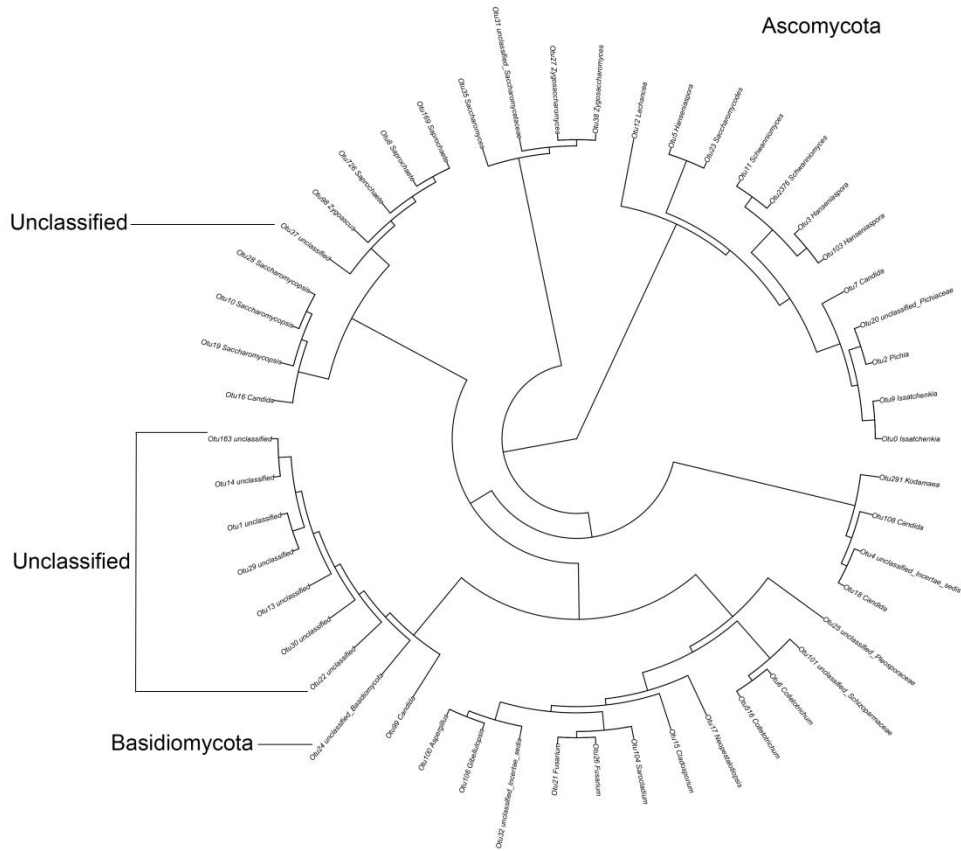


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22 Fig.6

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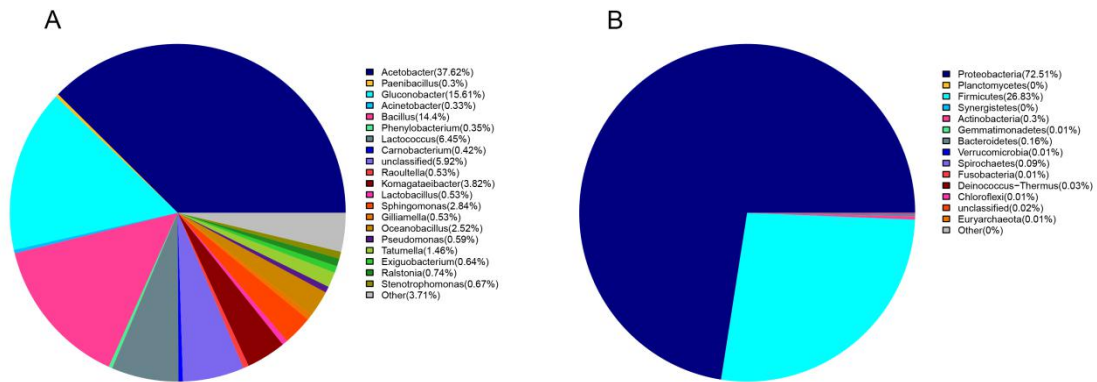
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27 Fig. 7

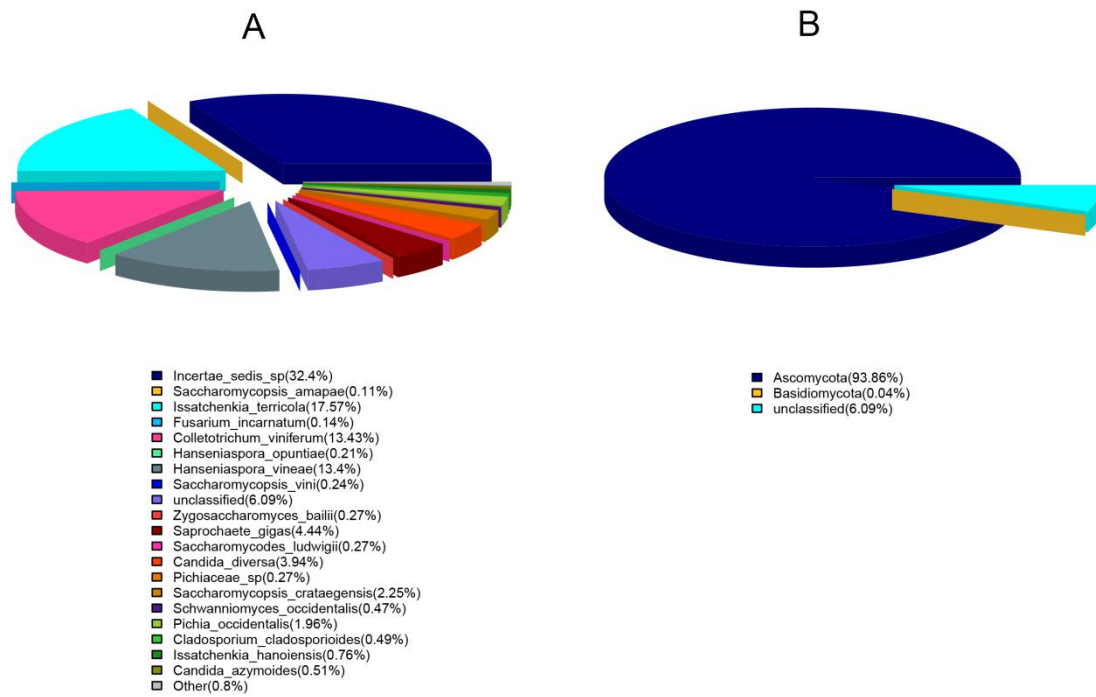
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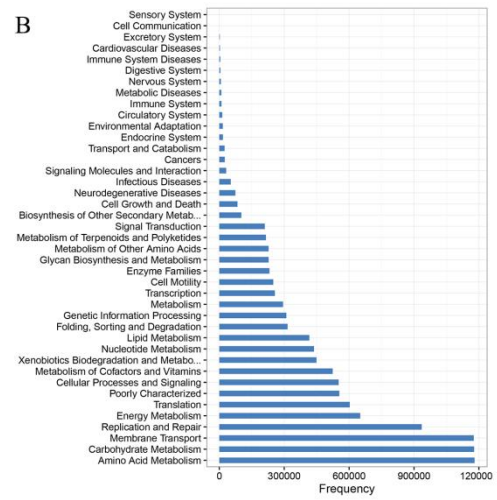
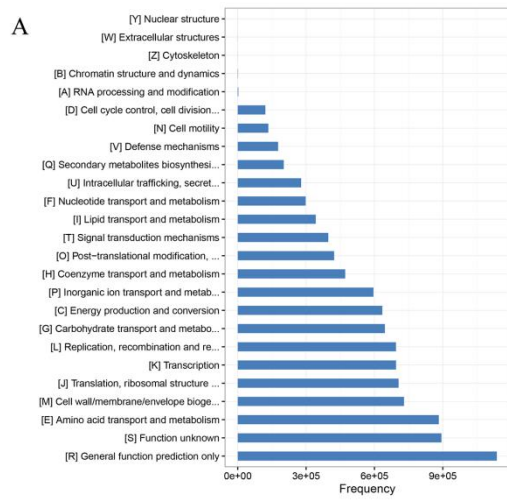
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34 Fig.9

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Table 1 (on next page)

The cultivable microorganism in the sour rotted grapes

The cultivable microorganism in the sour rotted grapes

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Table 1 The cultivable microorganism in the sour rotted grapes

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		<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	MK743980	
		<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	MK743984	
		<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	MK743988	
		<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	MK743982	
Bacterium		<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	MK743983	
		<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	MK743986	
		<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	MK753026	
		Firmicutes	<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	MK743985
			<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	MK743994
			<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	MK743993
			<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	MK743992
		<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	MK743991	
		<i>Cladosporium oxysporum</i>	MK748311	
		<i>Alternaria tenuissima</i>	MK748314	
Fungus	Deuteromycotina	<i>Saprochaete gigas or</i> <i>Geotrichum gigas</i>		
		<i>Fusarium proliferatum</i>	MK748309	

	<i>Nigrospora sp.</i>	MK748317
<hr/>		
	<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	MK748316
	<i>Penicillium georgiense</i>	MK748315
Ascomycotina	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	MK748313
	<i>Aspergillus oryzae</i>	MK748312
	<i>Aspergillus aculeatus</i>	MK748310
<hr/>		

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Table 2 (on next page)

The physiological and biochemical characteristic of bacterium in sour rotted grape

The physiological and biochemical characteristic of bacterium in sour rotted grape

Table 2 The physiological and biochemical characteristic of bacterium in sour rotted grape

Bacterium	Gram staining	Spore staining	Bacterial motility	Catalase reaction	Methyl red test	Starch hydrolysis test	Benzpyrole test	V-P test
<i>Cronobacter malonaticus</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	-		-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	-		+	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	-		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	-		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	+		+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	+		-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	+		-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	+	pink	+	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+

<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>		purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	+	purple	+	+	-	+	-	+
Bacterium	Malonic acid test	Gelatin test	H ₂ S test	Citrate test	Ammonia production test	Litmus milk test	Urease test	
<i>Cronobacter malonaticus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	
<i>Acetobacter sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	
<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	
<i>Lysinibacillus fusiformis</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	
<i>Lysinibacillus sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	

<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	+

Table 3 (on next page)

Sequence information and OTUs diversity, number of bacterium and fungi

Sequence information and OTUs diversity, number of bacterium and fungi

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Table 3 Sequence information and OTUs diversity, number of bacterium and fungi

Parameters	Parameters	Bacterium	Fungi
Sequence information	Raw number	57503.67±3213.31	76211±2711.94
	Mean length (bp)	451.07±3.32	322.36±4.66
	Clean number	55895.33±3088.35	76113.67±2703.97
	Mean length (bp)	412.86±2.76	279.37±4.52
Diversity indices	Shannon	3.26±0.13	2.20±0.17
	ACE	22033.53±2927.20	32667.47±1384.78
	Chao1	9744.84±1429.46	10778.66±1475.59
	Simpson	0.10±0.02	0.21±0.04
OTUs number		1343.33±282.94	1038.67±386.36

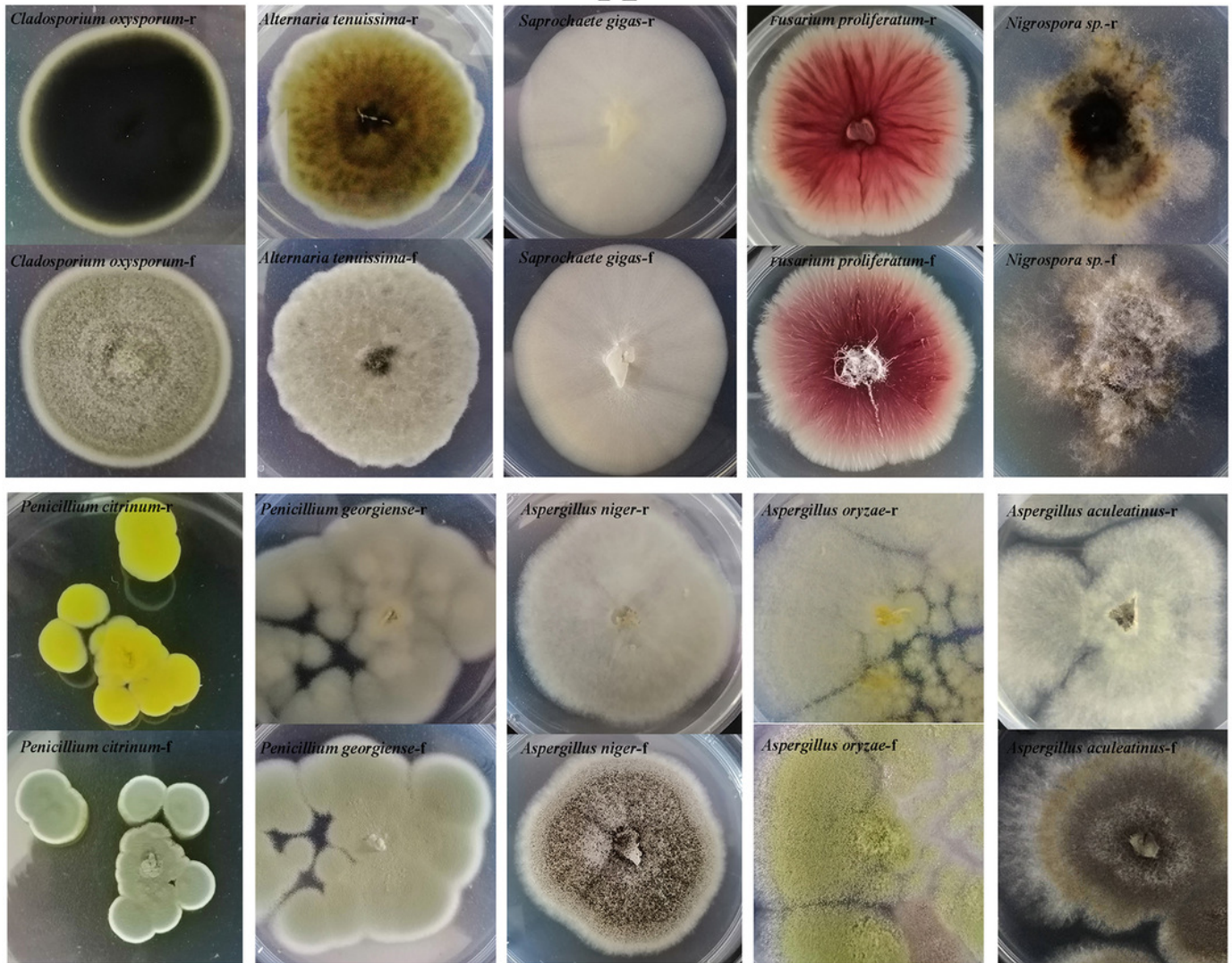
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Figure 1

Colony morphology and the light mophology of the fungi in sour rot-infected grapes

Colony morphology and the light mophology of the fungi in sour rot-infected grapes. A:
Colony morphology; *r* indicates the reverse side of colony; *f* indicates the front side of colony;
B: Light morphology of the fungi in sour rot-infected grapes

A



B

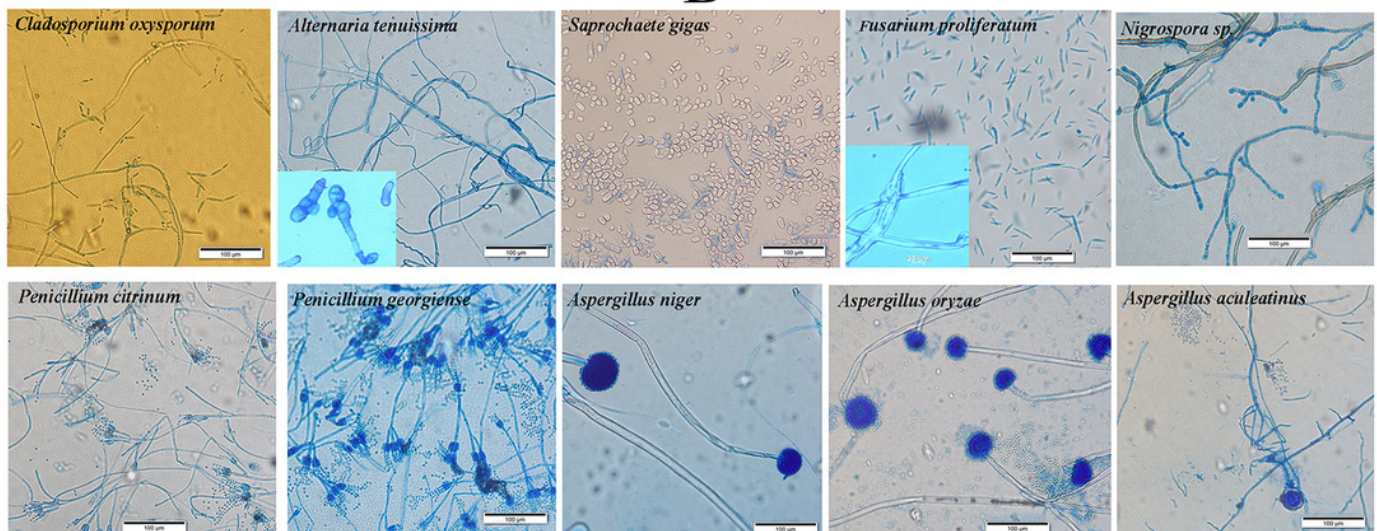
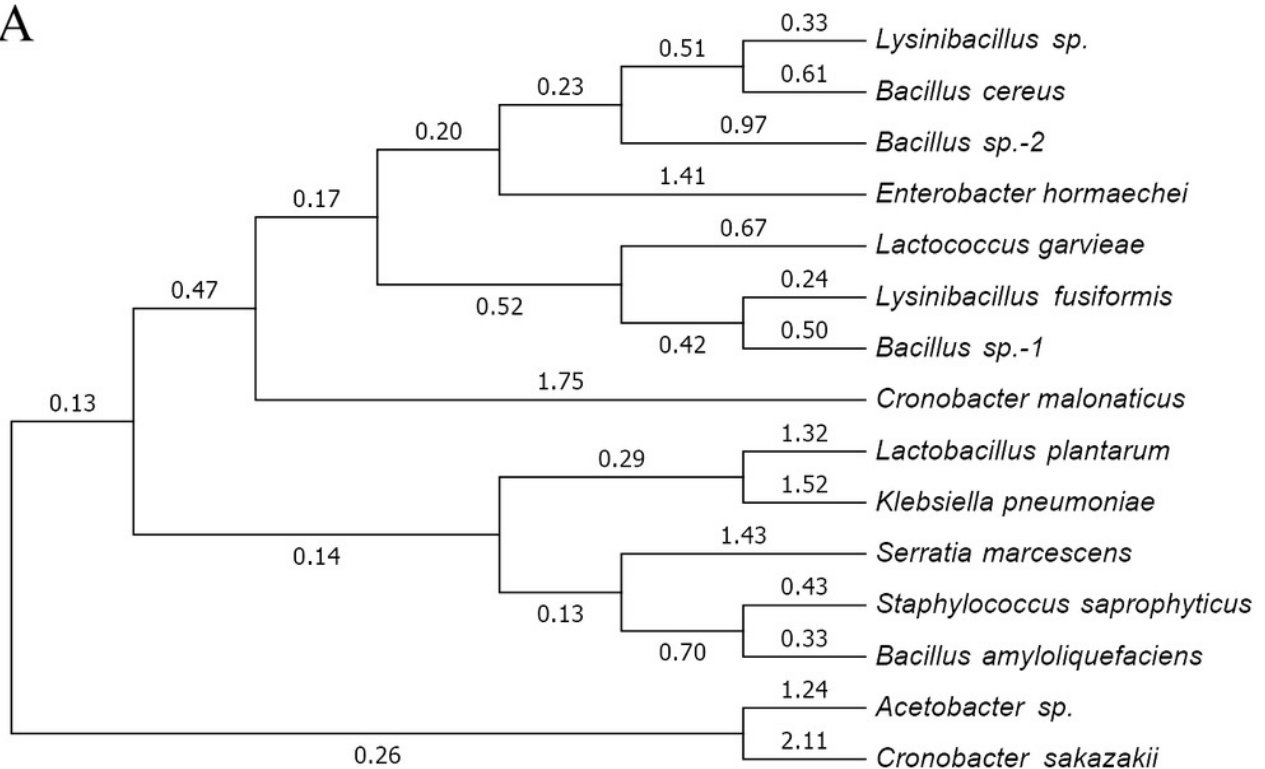


Figure 2

The phylogenetic trees of bacteria (A) and fungi (B) in sour rot-infected grapes

The phylogenetic trees of bacteria (A) and fungi (B) in sour rot-infected grapes. Phylogenetic trees were constructed using neighbor-joining method(NJ) with Mega 6.0 software

A



B

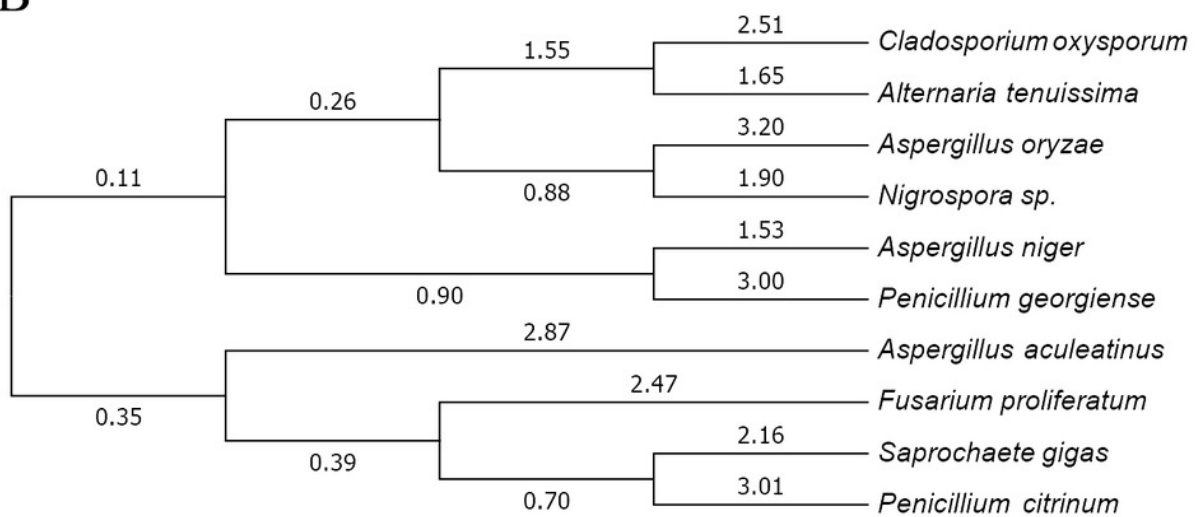


Figure 3

The pathogenicity of fungi in healthy grape berries

The pathogenicity of fungi in healthy grape berries

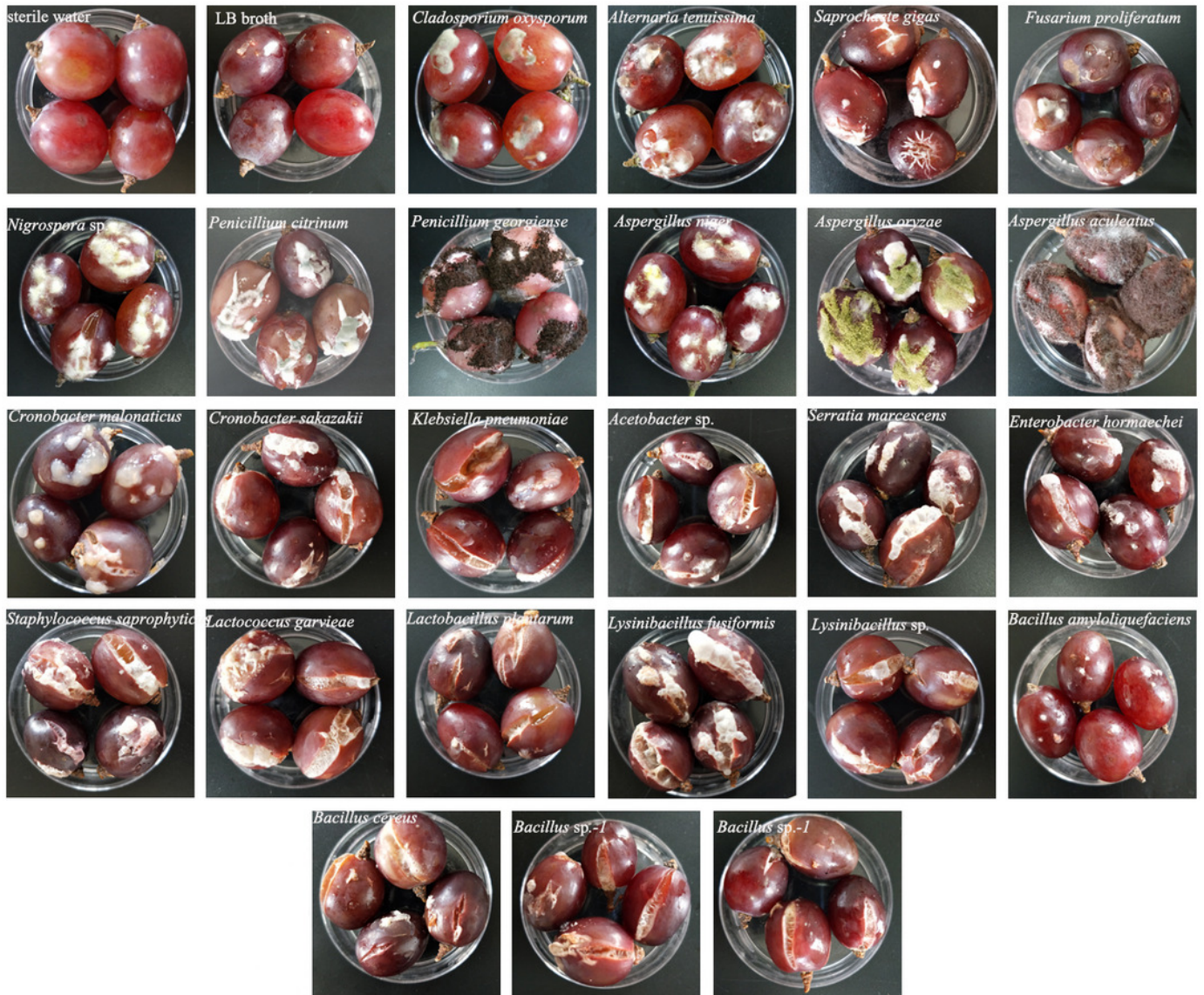


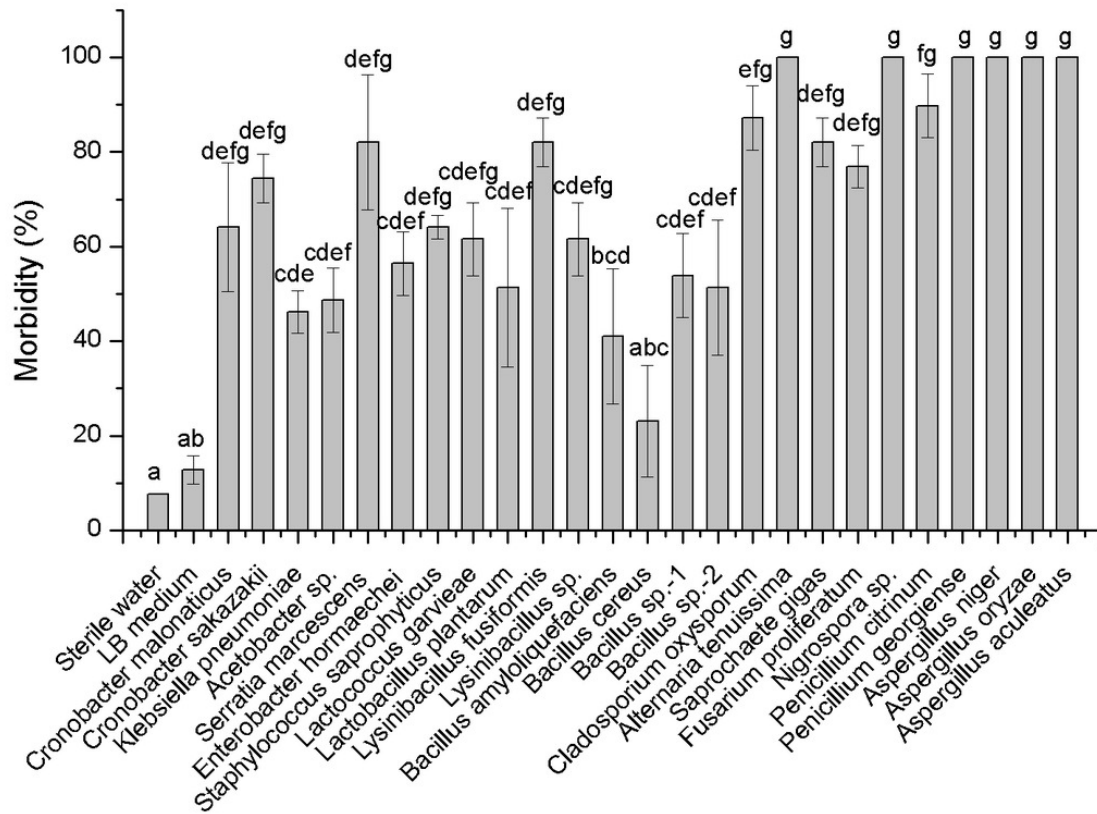
Figure 4

The morbidity (A) and disease index (B) of 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal species

The morbidity (A) and disease index (B) of 15 bacterial species and 10 fungal species.

Different letters in each figure (A and B) indicate significant difference between adults and larvae (One-way ANOVA; $\alpha = 0.05$).

A



B

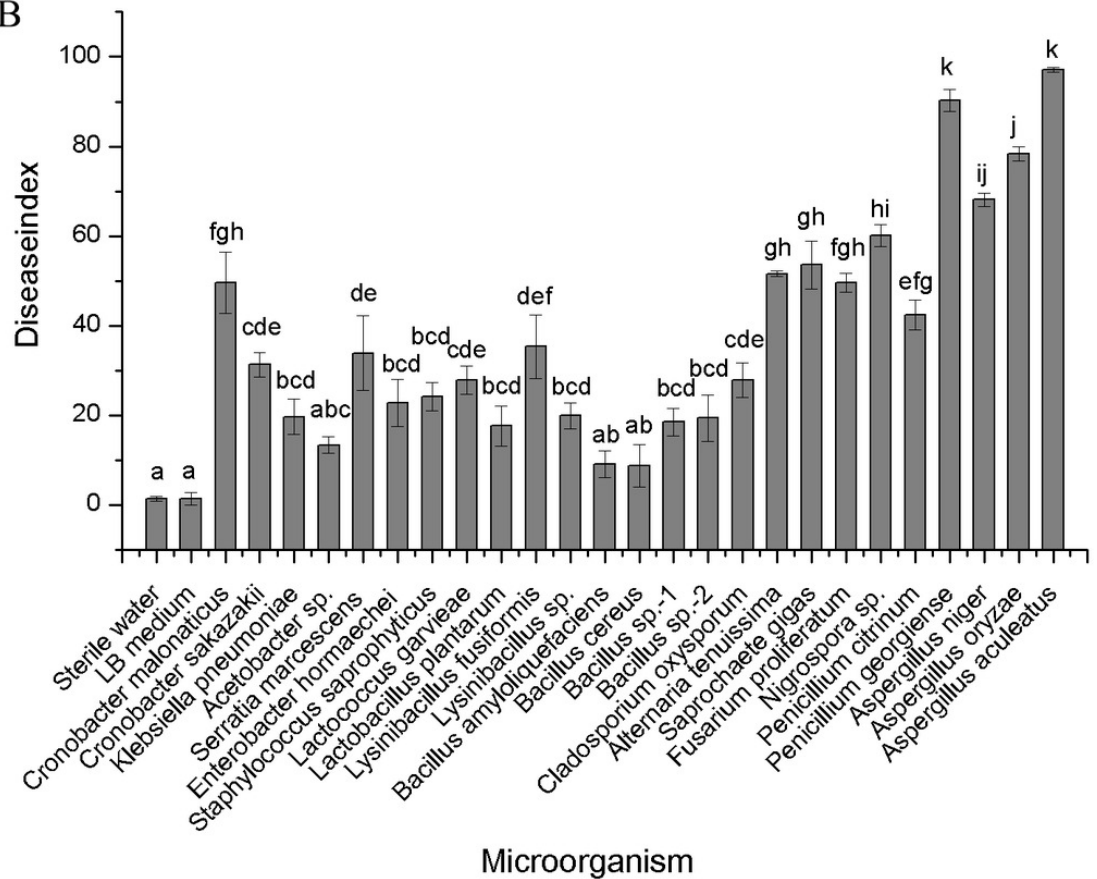


Figure 5

The first 50 OTUs of the bacteria by high-throughput sequencing

The first 50 OTUs of the bacteria by high-throughput sequencing

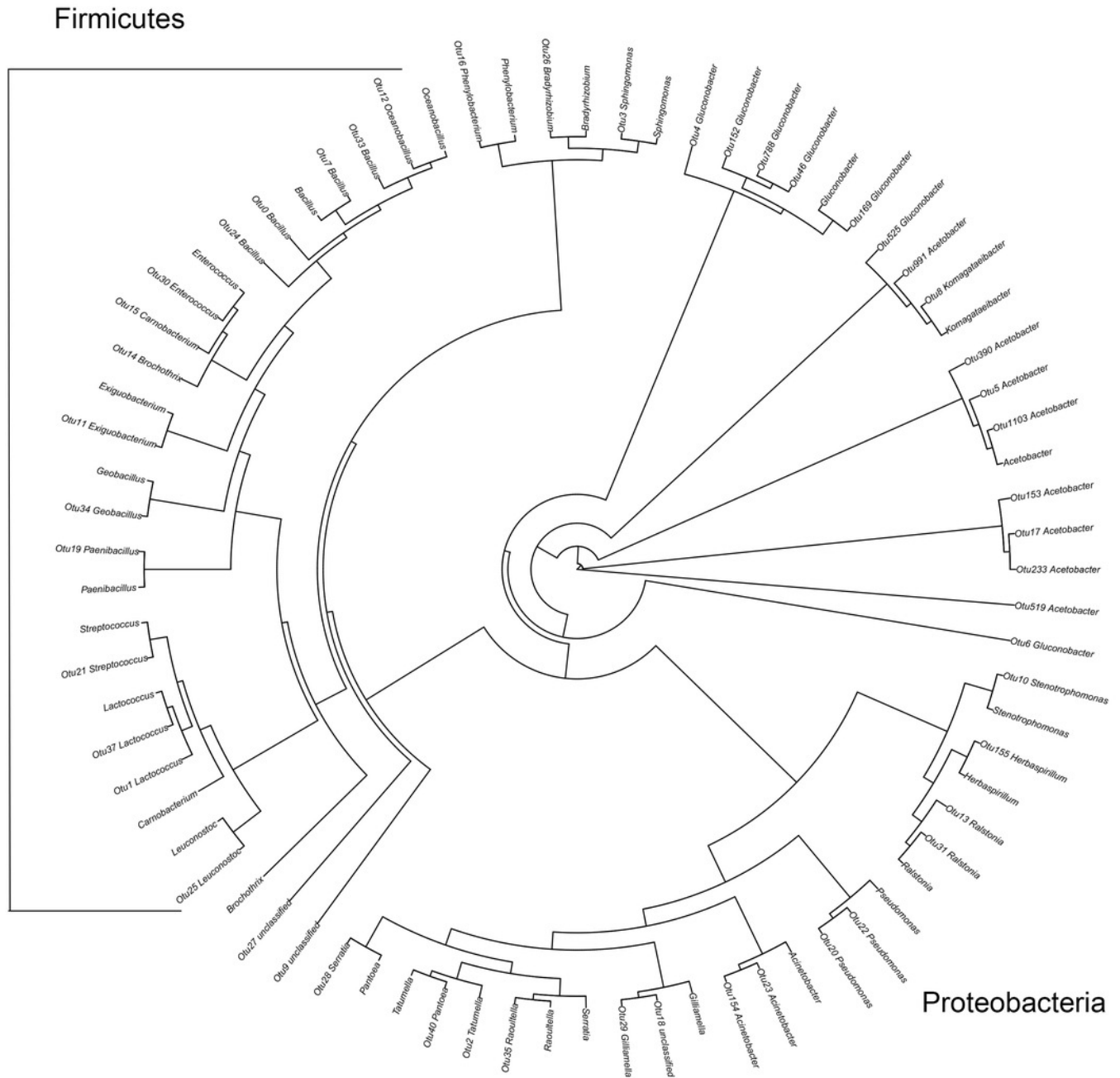


Figure 6

The first 50 OTUs of the fungi by high-throughput sequencing

The first 50 OTUs of the fungi by high-throughput sequencing

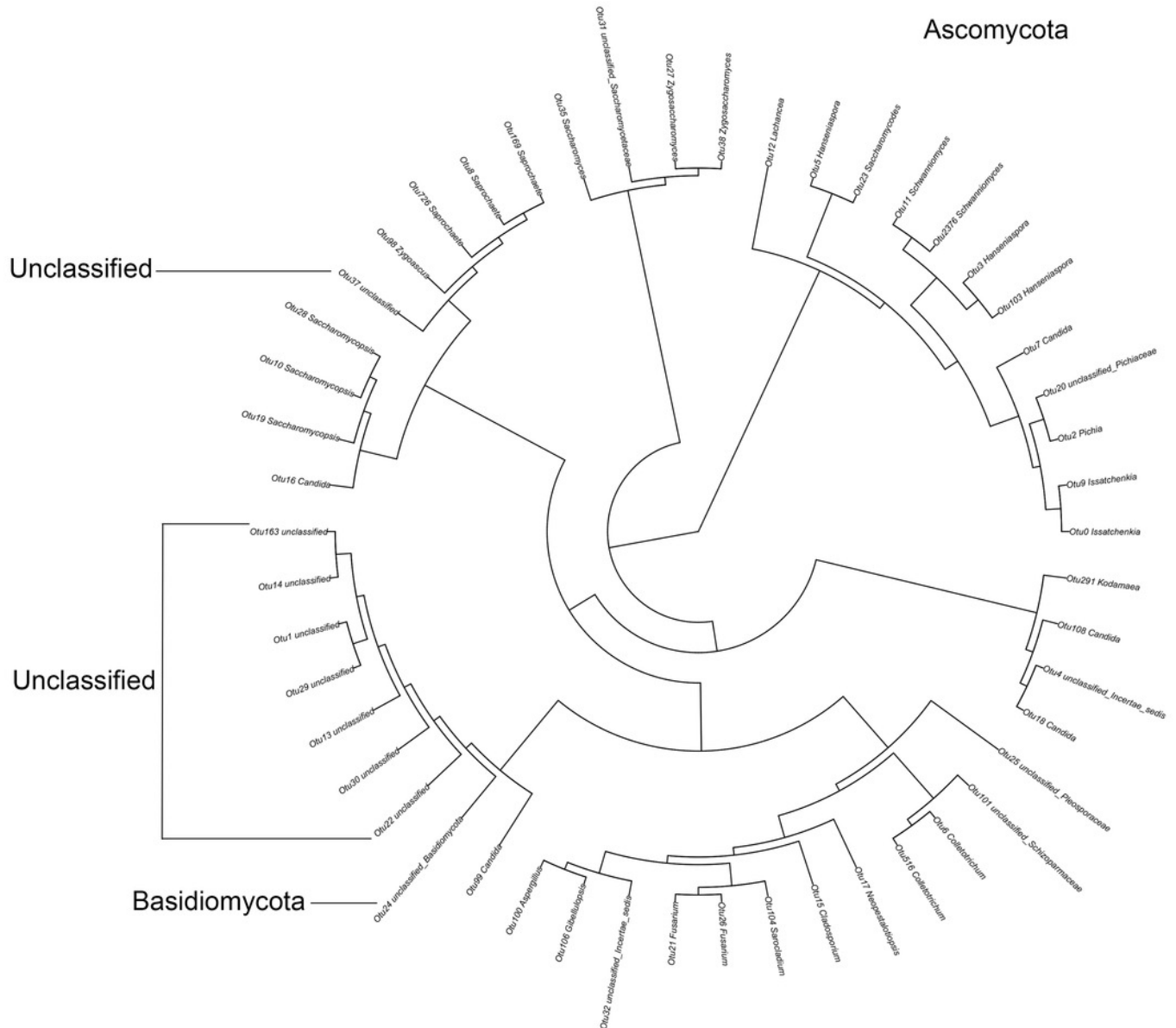


Figure 7

The bacterial community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour rot-infected grapes based on 16S rDNA high-throughput sequencing

The bacterial community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour rot-infected grapes based on 16S rDNA high-throughput sequencing

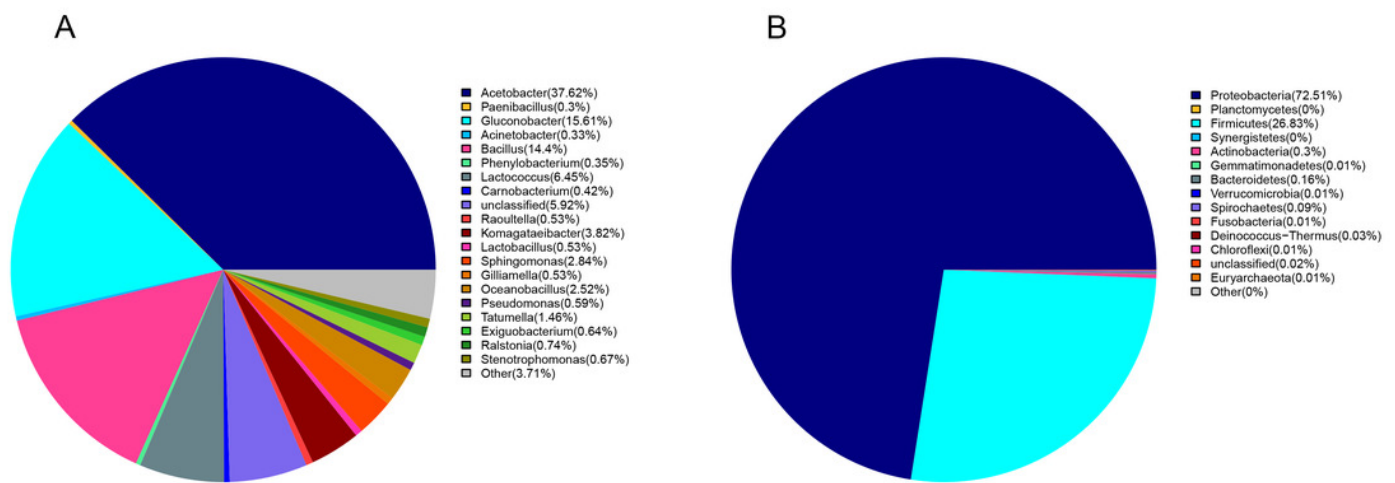


Figure 8

The fungal community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour rot-infected grapes based on ITS high-throughput sequencing

The fungal community structure based on phylum (A) and genus (B) in sour rot-infected grapes based on ITS high-throughput sequencing

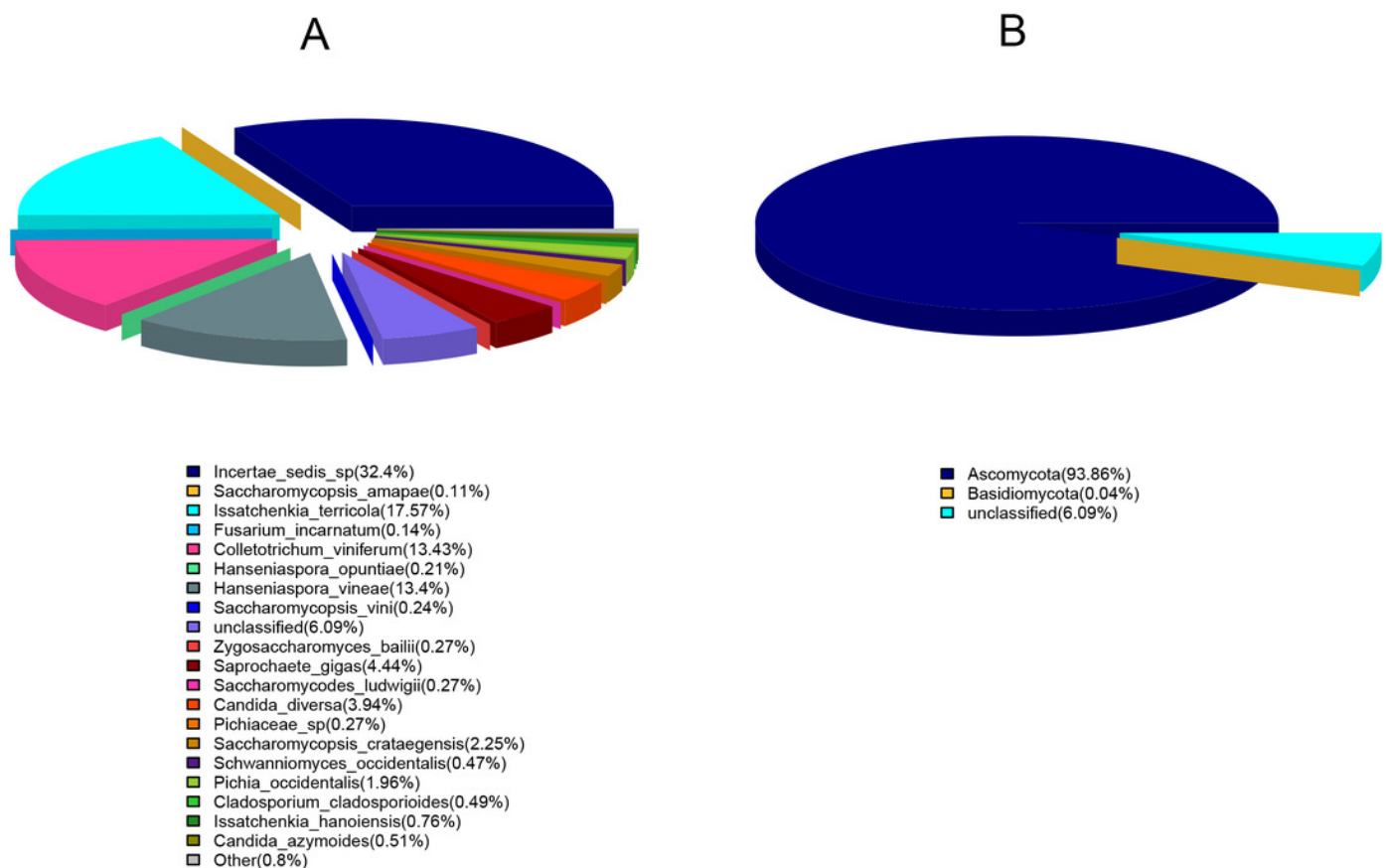


Figure 9

The COG (A) and KEGG (B) functional categories of bacterial OTUs in sour rot-infected grapes

The COG (A) and KEGG (B) functional categories of bacterial OTUs in sour rot-infected grapes

