1 Floral presence and flower identity alter cereal aphid endosymbiont communities on adjacent crops

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11 Abstract

- Floral plantings adjacent to crops fields can recruit populations of natural enemies by providing flower
 nectar and non-crop prey to increase natural pest regulation. Observed variation in success rates
 might be due to changes in the unseen community of protective endosymbionts hosted by many
 herbivorous insects, which can confer resistance to various specialist natural enemies, e.g. parasitoid
 wasps. Reduced insect control may occur if highly protective symbiont combinations increase in
 frequency via selection effects, and this is expected to be stronger in lower diversity systems.
- 2. We used a large-scale field trial to analyse the bacterial endosymbiont communities hosted by cereal aphids (*Sitobion avenae*) collected along transects into strip plots of barley plants managed by either conventional or integrated (including floral field margins and reduced inputs) methods. In addition, we conducted an outdoor pot experiment to analyse endosymbionts in *S. avenae* aphids collected on barley plants that were either grown alone or alongside one of three flowering plants, across three time points.
- In the field, aphids hosted up to four symbionts. The abundance of aphids and parasitoid wasps was
 reduced towards the middle of all fields while aphid symbiont species richness and diversity decreased
 into the field in conventional, but not integrated, field-strips. The proportion of aphids hosting different
 symbiont combinations varied across cropping systems, with distances into the fields, and were
 correlated with parasitoid wasp abundances.
- In the pot experiment, aphids hosted up to six symbionts. Flower presence increased natural enemy
 abundance and diversity, and decreased aphid abundance. The proportion of aphids hosting different
 symbiont combinations varied across the flower treatment and time, and were correlated with varying
 abundances of the different specialist parasitoid wasp species recruited by different flowers.
- 5. Synthesis and applications. Floral plantings and flower identity can have community-wide impacts on
 the combinations of bacterial endosymbionts hosted by herbivorous insects. Our work highlights the
 potential of within-season selection for symbiont-mediated pest resistance to natural enemies with
 biological control impacts. This could be mitigated through increased recruitment of diverse natural
 enemies by incorporating functional diversity of floral resources into the environment.
- 38 **Keywords:** insect pests, pest control, pest management, wildflower, sustainable agriculture, insect–plant

39 interactions, Hamiltonella, Regiella, Fukatsuia

40 Introduction

41 Floral plantings are a common measure to recruit and establish natural enemies for natural pest control in 42 adjacent crops under the framework of conservation biological control. However, inconsistent outcomes of 43 floral plantings have hindered more widespread use (Albrecht et al. 2020). While we know a substantial 44 amount about the effects of plant identity and diversity on insect herbivores and natural enemies of herbivores, 45 we still lack understanding of how these interactions mediate, or are mediated by, other trophic groups such as 46 insect-associated microbes, e.g. symbiotic bacteria (Hrcek, McLean & Godfray 2016). This has been 47 particularly studied in plant-sucking insects such as aphids, which are major pests of crop worldwide 48 (Zytynska, Tighiouart & Frago 2021). Since many aphid bacterial endosymbionts can also confer resistance to 49 specialist natural enemies it follows that floral plantings that recruit a low diversity of natural enemies may also 50 select for the optimal protective combination of microbes in the aphid host, with reduced biocontrol 51 effectiveness (Zytynska & Meyer 2019).

52 The diversity of the aphid microbiome is surprisingly low (Sugio et al. 2015), with one obligate (primary), and 53 nine common facultative (secondary) bacterial symbionts that have been identified in many different aphid 54 species across the world (Zytynska & Weisser 2016). Despite the low diversity, these bacterial symbionts can 55 have strong effects on aphid survival through providing essential nutrients and conferring resistance to natural 56 enemies (parasitoid wasps and entomopathogenic fungi) or resistance to heat-stress, among other potential 57 benefits (Oliver, Smith & Russell 2014; Guo et al. 2017). However, aphids experience fecundity and longevity 58 costs of hosting symbionts, with varying costs associated with multiple hosting of different symbiont species 59 (Zytynska, Tighiouart & Frago 2021). Furthermore, effects are highly aphid and symbiont species (and 60 strain/genotype), specific leading to highly variable outcomes. A recent meta-analysis highlighted this variation 61 and the bias towards information on a few common model aphid species (Acyrthosiphon pisum, Sitobion 62 avenae and Aphis fabae) (Zytynska, Tighiouart & Frago 2021). Briefly, across multiple aphid species, 63 endosymbionts Hamiltonella defensa and Regiella insecticola show strong protective effects against parasitism 64 by parasitoid wasps. Other protective effects were supported by too few studies to be assessed in a meta-65 analysis, but include resistance to entomopathogenic fungi by R. insecticola, Rickettsia, Ricketsiella viridis, 66 Spiroplasma and Fukatsuia symbiotica; parasitoid resistance by Serratia symbiotica, F. symbiotica; and heat-67 shock resistance by S. symbiotica, H. defensa, Rickettsia, and F. symbiotica (reviewed in Guo et al. (2017). 68 There is also some evidence that infection with *H. defensa* can alter aphid anti-predator behaviour against 69 generalist predators such as ladybirds (Polin, Simon & Outreman 2014; Humphreys, Ruxton & Karley 2022). 70 Generally, field-collected aphids have been found to host 1-4 symbionts per individual (Zytynska & Weisser

71 2016), leading to high chance of aphids co-hosting multiple symbionts with variable costs and benefits. 72 Furthermore, ineffective vertical transmission from mother to offspring (Rock et al. 2018) and variable selection 73 pressures over time (e.g. changing natural enemy abundances, Smith et al. (2015)), as well as incompatible 74 symbiont combinations in the field (Oliver, Moran & Hunter 2006) result in a polymorphism of infection within 75 populations even in the same host-plant patch (Russell et al. 2013; Smith et al. 2015; Zytynska et al. 2016). 76 Dynamic aphid-symbiont frequencies in a population will feedback to the interacting natural enemy 77 communities with community-wide consequences and potential impacts on biological pest control efforts 78 (Zytynska & Meyer 2019).

79 The impact of protective bacterial symbionts on plant-insect food webs, the regulation of aphid populations, 80 and predator-prey dynamics is only beginning to be considered (McLean et al. 2016; Simon, Biere & Sugio 81 2017; Preedy et al. 2020; Carpenter et al. 2021; Leclair et al. 2021). It was previously shown that as plant 82 species richness increased along a gradient (1-4 species, created as mixed plant communities from a pool of 83 20), so did the number and diversity of aphid symbionts identified in three aphid species (each exclusively 84 feeding on a different host plant) in a long-term grassland experiment (Zytynska et al. 2016). One hypothesis is 85 that that this is driven by a diversification in the number of selection pressures on the aphids (reviewed in 86 Zytynska & Meyer 2019), through increased natural enemy diversity; a previous study in the long-term 87 grassland experiment showed that as plant species richness increased so did parasitoid wasp diversity 88 (Petermann et al. 2010). Therefore, when natural enemy diversity is low (e.g. in crop monocultures) there may 89 be one optimal combination of symbionts that protects against a single main selection pressure (i.e. a 90 dominant natural enemy). If all surviving aphids host the highly protective symbionts, then the diversity of 91 symbionts in the population will be low (all aphids host similar symbiont communities). In a diverse plant 92 community, with higher natural enemy diversity (including various parasitoid wasp species, entomopathogenic 93 fungi and generalist predators), then there may be no single optimal symbiont combination. In this case, 94 variable costs and benefits of co-hosting multiple symbionts could lead to aphids hosting various combinations 95 of the available symbionts (higher diversity) (Hafer-Hahmann & Vorburger 2021). The idea is that with a 96 greater variety of natural enemies each aphid hosts a different symbiont combination but is not protected 97 against all attackers. Co-hosting symbionts can alter associated fitness costs (Zytynska, Tighiouart & Frago 98 2021), which can reduce aphid population growth rates or transmission of symbionts to the next generation 99 (Rock et al. 2018). Additionally, the presence of multiple different symbiont combinations in the aphid 100 population could alter competition among natural enemies (McLean & Godfray 2017), and as these selection 101 pressures alter symbiont infection frequencies over time (Carpenter et al. 2021; Smith et al. 2021) this can

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further affect outcomes of hosting different symbiont combinations. Some symbionts may also be present due to non-natural enemy factors (host-plant or temperature mediated selection), leading to a strong contextdependency effect on interaction outcomes (Lemoine, Engl & Kaltenpoth 2020). Here, we aim to determine if different agricultural management practices can alter these selective pressures with potential consequences for natural pest control in crop systems.

107 Herbivore regulation by natural enemies is one natural ecosystem function that is often disrupted in managed 108 landscapes, such as agroecosystems (Matson et al. 1997). The extent to which this is also exacerbated by insect protective symbionts is unknown. Many studies have shown the benefits of increasing plant diversity in 109 110 agroecosystems (via banker plants or wildflower strips; Gurr et al. 2016; Tschumi et al. 2016; Balzan 2017), for 111 pollinator and natural enemy populations, but often the effect of plant identity on specific plant-insect 112 interactions is overlooked. Flowering plants offer variable sources of nectar, which is useful for adult insects 113 whose offspring are the control agents (e.g. parasitoid wasps, lacewings, syrphids); parasitoid wasps can 114 survive two weeks longer when a nectar source is offered, increasing search and attack rates (Russell 2015). These additional plants can also host populations of non-pest aphids on which to establish a diverse natural 115 116 enemy population before pest aphids arrive on the crop plants. In a recent paper, we showed that aphid 117 suppression was a result of numerous weaker interactions between different flower, pest, and natural enemy 118 species, rather than a few dominant interactions (Zytynska et al. 2021), and here we used the same outdoor 119 pot experiment to analyse the aphid symbiont communities alongside an additional large-scale field 120 experiment.

121 We analysed bacterial symbiont communities hosted by cereal aphids (Sitobion avenae L.) and associations 122 among these symbionts within aphids in two barley crop experiments: The first was a large-scale agricultural 123 field experiment (Scotland), which compares long-term impacts of an integrated cropping system relative to 124 standard commercial practice (Hawes et al. 2019) and the second an outdoor pot experiment (South Germany) 125 where previous effects of flower identity on aphid control were demonstrated (Zytynska et al. 2021). Both 126 experiments manipulated the presence of flowering plants, defined as the flower strip combined with the 127 integrated approach for the field experiment or by the presence of three different flowering plant species for the 128 pot experiment, across multiple barley varieties. The field experiment additionally examined the effect on aphid 129 symbionts along a transect into the field, expecting decreased insect abundances into the fields (Thies & 130 Tscharntke 1999) while the pot experiment examined the effects across time (Smith et al. 2015).

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131 Our main hypotheses are (a) the presence of floral resources increases natural enemy abundance/diversity, 132 which reduces aphid abundance, and (b) changes in natural enemy abundances and diversity alters the 133 number, diversity and combination of symbionts hosted by aphids through changing selection pressures. We 134 expect differences to be attributed to specific symbiont combinations as individual symbionts are not 135 independent from one-another inside an aphid host (Mathé-Hubert et al. 2019); therefore, we examined effects 136 across common symbiont combinations shared across multiple aphids. For the field experiment, only the total 137 number of parasitoid wasps (via counts of aphid mummies, which host developing wasps) or general predators 138 were collected (via insect traps) and thus we test the hypothesis only for parasitoid abundance rather than 139 diversity. For the pot experiment, more comprehensive data was collected allowing for analysis of each type of 140 parasitoid wasp and predators on aphids and their symbionts.

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142 Methods

143 Large-scale agricultural field experiment

144 Study system and experimental design

145 The CSC platform at Balruddery Farm near Dundee, Scotland (described in Hawes et al. (2019)) is a 42-ha 146 contiguous block of six arable fields, based on a six-year rotation of the commonly grown crops in the region. 147 At the start of the first rotation in 2010, each of the six fields were divided in half. Conventional and integrated 148 management treatments were randomly allocated to each half, and (for the barley fields) in each field-half 149 three different barley varieties were planted as plot strips (i.e. 3 barley variety strips for conventional and 3 for 150 integrated). The conventional treatment is the standard commercial management practice typical for the crop 151 in terms of soil cultivation, fertiliser inputs and herbicide applications, while the integrated system aims to 152 maintain yields, enhance biodiversity and soil biophysical quality, reduce non-renewable inputs and minimise 153 losses from the system relative to conventional practice (Hawes et al. 2019). The integrated system includes 154 organic amendment, conservation tillage, soil nutrient supply calculations to minimise use of mineral fertiliser, and reduced reliance on crop protection chemicals (IPM strategies, targeted weed control and species rich 155 156 wildflower margins), Field margins around the integrated treatments were sown with a wildflower mix in 2015 (Balruddery Species Rich Meadow Margin, Scotia Seeds, UK containing seeds of 25 flower species). 157

Sitobion avenae aphids were collected on 6th July 2016 and 3rd July 2017, at four distances (5, 15, 30, 50 m)
from the edge of the field into each barley variety strip (2016: *Cassata, Retriever, Saffron* and 2017: *Bazooka, Infinity, Retriever*). Aphids were stored in 70% ethanol and shipped to Technical University of Munich for
symbiont analysis. At each sampling location (distance into the field strip), a maximum five aphids (one per

162 colony) were collected from three adjacent infested tillers in every barley strip (variety); aphids reproduce 163 asexually, and females deposit a group of offspring in one patch before moving away, this approach minimises 164 the chance of collecting aphids from the same clonal mother. Total aphid number was also counted for these 165 three tillers. In total, there were four sampling distances for three barley varieties, repeated across the two 166 management systems, and across two years. Additional data were collected on % cover of the crop and weed plants in the sampled areas using a 1 m² guadrat to estimate the projected area of ground covered by each 167 168 vegetation type in mid-July. Data on parasitoid and generalist natural enemy abundance were obtained from 169 two yellow sticky traps, one placed at the top and one at the bottom of the plant canopy, at each sampling 170 location, in mid-to-late July.

171 Aphid endosymbiont analysis

DNA was extracted from individual aphids using the salting out method (Sunnucks & Hales 1996) and examined for nine common bacterial symbionts (*Hamiltonella defensa, Regiella insecticola, Serratia* symbiotica, Rickettsia sp, Spiroplasma, Fukatsuia symbiotica, Rickettsiella viridis, Wolbachia, and *Arsenophonus*) plus the primary symbiont (*Buchnera aphidicola*) as a positive control using PCR-based assays (Table S1) via gel electrophoresis (Zytynska *et al.* 2016). All samples were run alongside negative controls, with a subset repeated to ensure accuracy.

178 Data analysis

Data were analysed in R (v. 3.6.3) using RStudio (v. 1.2.5033). We analysed the data at two levels: the individual aphid (i.e. how many and which symbionts are hosted by individual aphids) and the local population level (i.e. how many and which symbionts are hosted across all aphids at each sampling location) where up to five aphids were sampled from three tillers per location.

183 We used generalised linear models to analyse the effect of year (2016, 2017), management system 184 (conventional or integrated), distance in the field (5, 15, 30, 50 m), barley variety (Bazooka, Cassata, Infinity, 185 Retriever, Saffron), weed cover and crop cover on overall aphid, parasitoid, and generalist predator abundance 186 (quasipoisson error distribution for count data). Next, we used chi-square analyses to determine significant 187 associations between symbiont species. A linear mixed effects model with year and barley variety as random 188 effects was used to analyse the effect of management system, distance into field, crop cover, aphid 189 abundance and interactions on the number of symbionts hosted by aphids (individual aphid and local 190 population levels) and Shannon diversity of the aphid symbionts (local population level). Models were 191 simplified by removing non-significant terms and minimum adequate models are presented. Further linear

192 models were used to determine influences of management system and distance into the field on crop and 193 weed cover (Imer, using asin transformed data for % cover producing a F-value statistic), and on parasitoid 194 and predator abundances (glmer, using poisson error distribution for count data producing a Chi-square 195 statistic). We analysed the effect of the management system, distance into the field and the abundance of 196 parasitoid wasps (and interactions) on the proportion of aphids hosting different symbiont species (averaged 197 across combinations) or the different symbiont combinations using generalised mixed effects models with binomial error distribution including year as a random effect. Lastly, we used Structural Equation Modelling 198 199 (SEM) in the R package 'piecewise' (Lefcheck 2016), where responses included the proportion of aphids 200 hosting each different symbiont combination, as well as aphid and parasitoid abundances, and relevant crop 201 traits; predictors included experimental variables of management system and distance into the field. Model fit 202 was evaluated using Fisher's C statistic with the presented model reproducing the data well (P>0.05).

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204 Outside pot experiment

205 Study system and experimental design

The experiment was set up in Freising, Bavaria, South Germany on a paved surface next to a natural meadow, May-July 2018. We used four spring barley varieties that varied in aphid susceptibility in laboratory trials (Barke, Chevallier, Grace, and Scarlett) (Zytynska *et al.* 2020; Zytynska *et al.* 2021), and three flowering plant species commonly used as companion/intercropping plants with barley [Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), and Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) from Rühlemann's Kräuter & Duftpflanzen, Germany; and, Faba bean (*Vicia faba cv. Perla*), from Kiepenkerl seeds].

212 We used a factorial randomised block experimental design that was focused on the effect of flower 213 presence/absence and flower identity on aphid and natural enemy population dynamics on the barley (see 214 Zytynska et al. 2021). The plants were placed in a grid system (4 x 5 plants per block), with 50 cm between 215 each barley-flower combination, and 1.5 m between blocks. Here, we focus on Sitobion avenae aphids 216 collected from barley plants that were grown either alone, or next to Fagopyrum, Trifolium or Vicia. The 217 experiment also had a treatment with all three flower species (mixed) but aphid control was so effective here 218 (Zytynska et al. 2021) that insufficient aphids could be collected for symbiont analysis. Seeds were germinated 219 and grown in individual pots (2 litre pots filled with Floragard B Pot Medium-Coarse potting substrate, pH 5.6, 220 NPK 1-0.6-1.2); one plant per pot for barley, Fagopyrum and Vicia was used while Trifolium plants were 221 established from 15-20 sown seeds.

222 All plants were initially grown under an outdoor covered shelter for three weeks and then transferred fully 223 outdoors on 29th May 2018 and placed into individual 1 litre capacity pot trays. For the no flower treatment 224 there was a single barley pot, for the treatments with one flower there was one barley pot and one flower pot. 225 To avoid confounding factors related to 'barrier effects' of the plants, the flowers were placed behind the barley 226 plants, away from the natural meadow (i.e. not between the barley and the meadow). Once per week, a full 227 invertebrate survey was conducted by carefully examining every plant (both barley and flower) and recording 228 the number of all generalist predators, specialist parasitoid wasp adults (if observed), and parasitoid mummies 229 (hardened shell after an aphid has been parasitized, using form and colour to differentiate between mummies 230 formed by Aphidius sp, Aphelinus sp. or Praon sp.). Aphids were identified to species, and winged/unwinged 231 aphids were counted separately. Aphid and parasitoid DNA was amplified from a fragment of the insect CO1 232 gene using universal primers LCO1490 and HCO2198, to confirm species identification (Table S1). The 233 dominant parasitoid species were identified as Praon volucre (pink mummies, with cocoon under the body) and 234 Aphidius rhopalosiphi (copper-coloured mummies). No Aphelinus sp. parasitoid DNA was detected in any 235 collected aphid samples, but black mummies (representative of this genus) were observed during the 236 experiment.

237 Aphid endosymbiont analysis

Aphids were collected for endosymbiont analysis on 23rd June (late June), 11th July (early July) and 25th July (late July). One aphid per colony on every plant was collected and stored in 70% ethanol. Only *Sitobion avenae* aphids were present in sufficient numbers for symbiont analysis. DNA extraction from whole aphids, and subsequent endosymbiont analyses using PCR-based assays (Table S1) were performed as for the largescale experiment.

243 Data analysis

244 Data were analysed in R (v. 3.4.3) using RStudio (v. 1.0.143). We first analysed the effect of the presence and 245 identity of the flowers, date of collection, as well as barley variety on overall Sitobion avenae aphid, parasitoid 246 and generalist predator abundance using generalised linear models with quasipoisson error distributions. We 247 also calculated natural enemy diversity using Shannon diversity and analysed the same factors as for 248 abundance data but using a linear model with normal error distribution. Similarly, for the field experiment, we 249 used Chi-square analyses to identify non-random associations among the symbiont species, important to 250 interpret effects of symbiont combination as opposed to single individual symbiont species. Linear mixed 251 effects models with experimental block and row as random factors were used to analyse the effect of date of 252 collection, aphid abundance, barley variety, and flower treatment (and interactions) on the number of

symbionts hosted by aphids (symbiont richness at the individual aphid and plant level, i.e. collected from the 253 254 same plant) and on the Shannon diversity of symbionts at the plant level. We analysed the effect of symbiont 255 species/combinations, flower treatment, and the natural enemy Shannon diversity and abundances of the 256 different species (and interactions) on the proportion of aphids hosting different symbiont species or combinations (hosting or not hosting the symbiont) using generalised linear models with binomial error 257 distribution. We also used Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) in the R package 'piecewise' (Lefcheck 2016), 258 259 using linear mixed effect models with block and row as random effects. Responses included the proportion of aphids hosting each different symbiont combination, as well as abundance of aphids (winged and unwinged 260 261 separated), predator (all species grouped together), and parasitoid (separated by genus); the number of non-262 pest aphids on the flowers was initially included but removed as it was non-significant in all models. Each 263 aphid-symbiont combination was analysed using the number of aphids and natural enemies observed at the 264 time point of collection, to account for differences in time of collection. Predictors included each flower 265 resource as an individual variable to determine flower identity effects. Model fit was evaluated using Fisher's C 266 statistic with the presented model reproducing the data well (P>0.05).

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268 Results

269 Effects of integrated management practices on aphid endosymbionts (CSC field experiment)

270 Sitobion avenae aphids (N=219) were collected from 41 sampling areas across the fields (termed local 271 populations, 1-10 aphids per population, mean = 5.34 ± 0.29 SE, median/mode = 6). This included 144 aphids 272 (71 from conventional, 73 from integrated) from 24 local populations in 2016, and 75 aphids (11 from 273 conventional, 64 from integrated) from 17 local populations in 2017 from field strips that were managed 274 according to either a standard conventional cropping practice in one field half or an integrated management 275 system in the other field half (Hawes et al. 2019). We observed no significant effect of field management on 276 total aphid abundance (F_{1.36}=1.46, P=0.235; Fig. 1a) despite collecting fewer aphids from conventional fields in 277 2017 (but not 2016) - suggesting there were fewer but larger colonies in this year compared to integrated fields with more but smaller colonies (allowing for a greater number of aphids to be collected). We also 278 279 observed no effect of management system on parasitoid wasp abundance (F_{1,36}=0.71, P=0.403; Fig. 1b), but 280 insect abundances decreased into the field-halves (aphids: F1,36=6.17, P=0.018, Fig. 1a; parasitoids: 281 F_{1.36}=8.08, P=0.007; Fig. 1b).

We observed no effect of management system or distance in the field for generalist predators (system:
 F_{1,36}=0.12, P=0.730; distance: F_{1,36}=0.02, P=0.895; Fig. 1c). Hence, our overall hypothesis that floral resources

increase natural enemies and reduce aphids was not supported in this field system. However, across all field locations when there were more parasitoid wasps we observed fewer aphids (X^{2}_{1} =10.59, P=0.001), but the opposite with generalist predators where more predators were found in areas with higher aphid numbers (X^{2}_{1} =6.34, df=1, P=0.012). Lastly, integrated field-halves had reduced crop cover (F_{1,36}=4.95, P=0.032) with correlated increases in weed cover (r= -0.65, n=41, P<0.001). Generalist predator abundance was positively associated with higher crop (X^{2}_{1} =13.81, P<0.001) and weed cover (X^{2}_{1} =3.84, P=0.05), with no significant effects on the abundance of specialist parasitoid wasps.

291 We identified four bacterial endosymbionts with high prevalence within the sampled aphids: Hamiltonella 292 defensa (Hd) hosted by 63.9% of aphids; Regiella insecticola (Ri) hosted by 67.0% of aphids; Serratia 293 symbiotica (Ss) hosted by 59.8% of aphids; and Fukatsuia symbiotica (Fs) hosted by 63.5% of aphids. Fifteen 294 different combinations of these symbionts were identified in the aphids, with 20.1% of aphids (44/219) hosting 295 all four. The most frequent symbiont combination included the three symbionts without Serratia (HdRiFs: 296 55/219, 25.1% of aphids), followed by aphids hosting all four symbionts and then those aphids singly hosting 297 Serratia (Ss: 34/219, 15.5% of aphids). The average number of symbionts per aphid was 2.5 ± 0.1 , while the 298 average number of symbionts per sampling location (local population) was 3.3 ± 0.2 . Fewer aphids (than 299 expected at random) co-hosted any symbiont with Serratia, while more aphids co-hosted combinations of 300 Hamiltonella-Regiella (X²1=36.0, df=1, P<0.001), Hamiltonella-Fukatsuia (X²1=34.6, df=1, P<0.001) and 301 Regiella-Fukatsuia (X²1=50.1, df=1, P<0.001).

302 Aphids collected in integrated managed field strips co-hosted a slightly, but significantly higher number of 303 symbionts (2.60 ± 0.09) than those in the conventional field-halves (2.45 ± 0.11) , and symbiont richness per 304 aphid decreased with distance into both field types by 18.6 % (Distance into field: Table 1, Fig. 1d). At the local 305 population level, symbiont richness and diversity among aphids were also higher in the integrated fields (3.38 ± 306 0.18) than conventional (3.12 ± 0.28; Table 1). Symbiont species richness and diversity decreased into the 307 field but only under conventional management, while remaining relatively constant into the field under 308 integrated management (management system x distance into field, Table 1, Fig. 1e,f). The number of 309 symbionts hosted by individual aphids strongly increased with increasing crop cover (Table 1), despite no 310 effects of crop cover on aphid abundance (F_{1.28}=0.01, P=0.927). With a crop cover of 20-60%, individual 311 aphids hosted 1.85 ± 0.20 symbionts compared to 3.13 ± 0.12 symbionts with high crop cover of 65-95%. 312 There was no effect of crop cover on the richness and diversity of symbionts at the local population level 313 (Table 1).

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314 Table 1. Effects of field management and distance into field on aphid symbiont communties

	Symbiont richness					Symbiont diversity				
	Individual aphid level			Local population level			Local population level			
	df	F	Р	df	F	Р	df	F	Р	
Crop cover	1,212	14.22	<0.001	1,34	0.20	0.730	1,34	3.69	0.066	
Aphid abundance	1,212	0.16	0.686	1,34	1.63	0.210	1,34	0.29	0.593	
Parasitoid abundance	1,212	0.29	0.590	1,34	0.04	0.852	1,34	1.19	0.282	
Management system	1,212	8.94	0.003	1,34	0.74	0.396	1,34	0.01	0.986	
Distance into field	1,212	9.33	0.003	1,34	5.19	0.029	1,34	7.83	0.009	
System x Distance	1,212	2.42	0.121	1,34	7.59	0.009	1,34	9.70	0.004	

315 *Linear mixed effects models (Imer) with barley variety and year as random effects. Distance into the field is fitted as a continuous variable.*

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318 Distance into field (m) Distance into field (m) Distance into field (m)
319 Figure 1. Effects of field management and distance into field on (a) aphid abundance (log transformed),
320 (b) parasitoid abundance, (c) generalist predator abundance, (d) the number of symbionts hosted by individual
321 aphids, (e) the number of symbionts within the local population (sampling area), and (f) the Shannon diversity
322 of symbionts within the local population. Error bars represent ±1SE.

325 For further in-depth analysis of the endosymbiont combinations in aphids, we focus on the ten combinations

326 that are hosted by a minimum of 5% of aphids within one management system (N=201 out of 219 aphids). The

327 proportion of aphids hosting the different symbiont species varied across the management type (X^{2}_{1} =43.03,

328 P<0.001, Fig. S1a) but not with the distance into the field (X²₃=2.19, P=0.533, Fig. S1a). Aphids collected from

329 conventional field-halves were more likely to host *Regiella*, while those from integrated field-halves were more

- 330 likely to host Serratia. This is reflected in the common combinations of symbionts hosted by aphids
- 331 (combination x management system: X²₉=26.23, P=0.002; combination x distance: X²₉=8.41, P=0.493) (Fig.
- 232 2a). Here, it can also be seen that aphids collected from conventional field-halves host (on average)

combinations with fewer symbionts than aphids from integrated ones, with more aphids hosting 1-2 symbiontsin the inner part of conventional fields (Fig. 2a).

335 The abundance of parasitoid wasps in the local sampling area influenced the number of aphids hosting the different symbiont species ($X^{2}_{3}=50.87$, P<0.001; Fig. S1b) or combinations ($X^{2}_{9}=48.84$, P<0.001) (Fig. 2b). 336 337 This was also dependent on the management system (X^{2}_{2} =20.77, P<0.001; Fig. 2b) but not the distance into 338 the field, perhaps due to the mobility of the parasitoids. Using structural equation modelling (Fig 2c), we show 339 that there are direct positive and negative effects of integrated management as well as parasitoid and predator 340 abundances on the number of aphids hosting specific symbiont combinations. Indirect effects via the distance 341 into the field, and effects of management on crop and weed cover further mediate effects of natural enemies 342 on the number of aphids hosting the different symbiont combinations. The level of protection provided by these 343 different symbiont combinations against natural enemies remains to be tested.



344

Figure 2. Field experiment: effects of field variables on the aphid symbiont community. The proportion 345 346 of aphids hosting the ten most common most common combinations of symbionts within integrated and 347 conventionally managed fields across (a) distance into the field (edge, 5-15m or inner, 30-50m), and (b) 348 parasitoid wasp abundance, highlighting variation due to symbiont combinations as opposed to overall 349 symbiont richness or diversity (Table 1). Further explored in (c) via structural equation modelling showing 350 significant links between variables and symbiont combinations. Dashed lines show analysis at the level of 351 sampling location, with solid lines showing results at the individual aphid level. Serratia symbiotica (Ss), 352 Rickettsia (Rk), Wolbachia (W), Regiella insecticola (Ri), Hamiltonella defensa (Hd) and Spiroplasma (Sp).

353 Flower identity effects on aphid symbionts (outdoor pot experiment)

354 Outside pot experiment

363

355 Aphid abundance was reduced on barley plants by 30 % when grown next to a flower (F_{1,118}=10.06, P=0.002), with fewest aphids on barley grown next to Fagopyrum or Trifolium (F2.93=3.92, P=0.024; Fig 3a). Parasitoid 356 wasp abundance varied strongly with flower treatment and identity (F_{3,116}=5.76, P=0.001) and was lowest on 357 358 barley next to no flower while highest on barley next to Trifolium (120% higher, Fig. 3b), with effects on overall 359 natural enemy diversity incorporating parasitoid wasp species as well as generalist predators such as ladybird 360 and lacewing larvae primarily driven by the presence of flowers more than the identity (F1,94=3.78, P=0.055, 361 Fig. 3c). The abundance of S. avenae aphids was higher on barley varieties Grace and Scarlett than on Barke 362 or Chevallier (F_{3,110}=3.33, P=0.022), while there were no differences across barley varieties in parasitoid

abundances (F_{3.91}=0.85, P=0.467) or natural enemy diversity (F_{3.91}=1.43, P=0.239).





368 For symbiont analysis,127 Sitobion avenae aphids were collected from barley plants grown alone (N=34), next 369 to Fagopyrum (N=33), Trifolium (N=23) or Vicia (N=37) plants, with 29-36 aphids collected from each barley 370 variety across flower treatments. Of these aphids, we collected 63 in late June, 43 in early July and 21 in late 371 July. We identified six bacterial symbionts within the sampled aphids: Serratia symbiotica (Ss) was hosted by all sampled aphids (100%), Rickettsia (Rk) and Wolbachia (W) each were hosted by 77/127 (60.6%) aphids, 372 373 Regiella insecticola (Ri) and Hamiltonella defensa (Hd) were hosted by 72/127 (56.7%) aphids while 374 Spiroplasma (Sp) was hosted by 54/127 (42.5%) aphids. Thus, all aphids hosted at least one symbiont and 8 375 (6.3 %) aphids hosted all 6 symbionts. There were 29 different combinations of symbionts observed across all 376 aphids, however only eight combinations were each hosted by at least 5% of the population and these are the 377 focus for the analyses (N=84 aphids of 127 total aphids with symbionts). The remaining 21 less abundant 378 combinations had an average infection frequency of 2.0 ± 0.29 %. The most frequent symbiont combinations

379	were the 4-symbiont combination of SsRkHdW	(10.2%) and RiSsRkW (8.7%). There was a positive	
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association between frequencies of symbionts *Wolbachia* and *Regiella* (X²₁=5.41, P=0.020), and between

381 Wolbachia and Rickettsia (X²1=24.50, P<0.001), while we detected a negative association between Regiella

382 and *Hamiltonella* (X²₁=21.46, P<0.001).

383 The number of symbionts co-hosted by individual aphids, and the number and diversity across all aphids 384 collected from the same plant (local population level) was strongly influenced by the date of collection and the 385 overall abundance of aphids on each plant (Table 2). The number of symbionts hosted by aphids increased 386 from late June (3.56±0.14) to early July (4.26±0.17), and then dropped again towards the end of July 387 (3.43±0.17). Flower identity influenced the number of symbionts hosted by individual aphids and at the 388 population level (Table 2), with aphids hosting fewer symbionts when collected from barley grown next to 389 Trifolium or Vicia. At the population level, barley variety was not a significant main effect for symbiont species 390 richness or diversity. Nevertheless, the effect of the flower treatment was dependent on the barley variety 391 driven by a strong decrease in the number of symbionts hosted by aphids on Grace barley next to Trifolium.

392	Table 2. Effects of flower	presence and identity	y on aphid s	ymbiont communties

	Symbiont richness					Symbiont diversity			
	Individual aphid level			Plant	level		Plant level		
	df	F	Р	df	F	Р	df	F	Р
Date of collection	2,107	7.27	<0.001	2,56	8.91	<0.001	2,56	6.79	0.002
Aphid abundance	1,107	4.04	0.047	1,56	5.12	0.028	1,56	4.79	0.038
Nat. enemy diversity	1,107	0.13	0.717	1,56	2.57	0.114	1,56	4.24	0.044
Barley variety	3,107	1.30	0.278	3,56	1.83	0.152	3,65	2.44	0.074
Flower PA	1,107	0.72	0.397	1,56	0.11	0.741	1,56	0.03	0.873
Flower identity	3,107	3.35	0.039	3,56	3.71	0.031	1,56	2.68	0.078
Barlev x Flower id	9.107	0.87	0.551	9.56	2.25	0.032	3.56	2.25	0.031

Linear mixed effects models (block and row as random), aphid number is by date of collection. No significant
 interactions with date of collection were observed.

395

396 Flower identity strongly affected the symbiont combinations hosted by cereal aphids on the adjacent barley

plants. The proportion of aphids hosting each symbiont species ($X_{5}^{2}=25.37$, P=0.045; Fig. S2) and combination

of symbionts (X^{2} 7=42.43, P=0.004; Fig. 4a) differed among the flower treatments. Aphids collected next to

399 Trifoilum and Vicia (the legumes) did not host the 6-symbiont combination of symbionts, and no aphids hosting

400 the 2-symbiont combination of Regiella-Serratia were collected in the Fagopyrum treatment. The date of

401 collection altered the frequency of aphids hosting the different symbiont combinations (X²₂=65.30, P<0.001;

402 Fig. 4b). Of note, the six-symbiont combination plus the 5-symbiont combination without *Hamiltonella* was

403 hosted by half of all aphids collected in early July (peak aphid and natural enemy abundances), with a strong

404 decrease in these abundances by late July.



Figure 4. Outdoor pot experiment: the effect of flower treatment and time on aphid symbiont communities. The proportion of aphids hosting the eight most common symbiont combinations (a) across flower treatments, and (b) over time, highlighting variation on specific combinations of symbionts as well as on overall richness and diversity effects (Table 1). Further explored in (c) via structural equation modelling showing significant links between variables and symbiont combinations, using data combined across all dates but incorporating appropriate abundance data relating to aphid collection date (see methods). Dashed lines show analysis at the level of plant, with solid lines showing results at the individual aphid level. Serratia

symbiotica (Ss), Rickettsia (Rk), Wolbachia (W), Regiella insecticola (Ri), Hamiltonella defensa (Hd) and
Spiroplasma (Sp).

Lastly, we found that the number of aphids hosting the dominant symbiont combinations varied dependent on

the flower treatment and the natural enemy community recruited by the different flowers (Fig. 4c). Using

417 structural equation modelling, we were able to highlight direct and indirect effects of flower identity on the

418 number of aphids hosting the various symbiont combinations. For example, Vicia plants led to an increase in

419 Aphidius sp. parasitoid wasps that were negatively associated with aphids hosting Serratia-Hamiltonella

420 symbionts, and an increase in Aphidius sp. parasitoids that were positively associated with aphids hosting

- 421 Serratia-Regiella symbionts (Fig. 4c). We found that natural enemy diversity did not correlate with overall
- 422 symbiont diversity, except in the Trifoilum treatments (Fig S3), but rather via abundances of specific individual

423 symbiont combinations (Fig. 5). By analysing correlations between natural enemy diversity and the proportion

- 424 of aphids hosting the different common symbiont combinations (X^{2} 7=36.13, P=0.021; Fig. 5a) we identified
- 425 those symbiont combinations most associated with changes in natural enemy diversity and abundance of each
- 426 natural enemy group (Fig. 5b-e). While the level of protection provided by these different symbiont

- 427 combinations against natural enemies remains to be tested, we can highlight some interactions worthy of
- 428 future focus: a consistent increase in aphids hosting symbiont combination Serratia-Hamiltonella-Spiroplasma
- 429 (SsHdSp) was seen with increasing Aphidius sp. parasitoid wasp abundance while those hosting SsHd
- 430 decreased (Fig. 5b); Aphelinus sp. parasitoids were not present on barley plants next to no flower, but for
- 431 those next to Trifoilum or Vicia more aphids hosting Regiella-Serratia (RiSs) were collected when parasitoid
- 432 abundance was higher (Fig. 5c).



Generalist predator abundance (ladybirds, lacewing larvae, syrphid larvae)

Figure 5. Outdoor pot experiment: summary of associations between natural enemy abundance and
 aphid symbiont communities across the flower treatments. The proportion of aphids hosting the eight
 most common symbiont combinations across (a) natural enemy Shannon diversity, and abundance of (b)

- 436 Aphidius sp. (c) Aphelinus sp. (d) Praon sp. parasitoid wasps and (e) generalist predators. Statistical
- 437 significance of interaction shown to the right. Serratia symbiotica (Ss), Rickettsia (Rk), Wolbachia (W),
- 438 Regiella insecticola (Ri), Hamiltonella defensa (Hd) and Spiroplasma (Sp).

439 Discussion

440 The outdoor pot experiment showed a clear reduction in aphids on barley plants in the presence of flowers, 441 with correlated increases in natural enemy abundance and diversity; the mixed flower treatment suppressed 442 aphids so strongly that insufficient aphids could be collected for endosymbiont analyses (further explored in 443 Zytynska et al. (2021)). Flower identity affected the type of natural enemy recruited (species of parasitoid wasp 444 or combined generalist predators) and abundances of these correlated with the proportion of aphids hosting 445 different endosymbiont communities. Variation across time further demonstrated the importance of temporal 446 changes in aphid and natural enemy abundances on endosymbiont communities, also shown in pea aphid 447 systems by Smith et al. (2015) and to a limited extent by Leclair et al. (2021). The large-scale field experiment 448 comparing aphids collected from field plot strips grown under an integrated or conventional management 449 system (Hawes et al. 2019) did not result in reduced aphid or increased natural enemy abundances in 450 integrated-managed fields. However, in accordance with the pot experiment we again identified a range of 451 associations between natural enemy abundances and the proportion of aphids hosting specific endosymbiont 452 combinations. There were further links identified between integrated management and crop cover on aphid 453 endosymbiont communities independent of natural enemy variables, indicating additional effects beyond those 454 studied here. Overall, we observed aphids co-hosting a greater number of endosymbionts in integrated field 455 strips, while in the pot experiment this effect was dependent on the natural enemy abundance and driven by 456 effects with Trifoilum plants. This highlights the context-dependency aphid-endosymbiont-natural enemy 457 effects, but suggests management changes could have immediate effects on the surrounding ecological 458 community with potential within-season impacts for pest control of cereal aphids.

459 In the field experiment, aphids collected in the integrated field-strips hosted higher numbers of endosymbionts 460 (3- and 4-species combinations). While our study did not empirically test for symbiont-induced costs or the 461 protective benefits of hosting these symbionts, we infer that correlations with parasitoid abundances indicate 462 protective effects: aphids surviving in areas of higher parasitism are more likely to host protective symbionts. 463 The costs of co-hosting multiple symbionts also remain to be tested for these specific aphids and symbionts, 464 but since aphid abundances did not differ between conventional and integrated systems this may indirectly 465 indicate increased hosting costs. Previous work, predominantly on other aphid species, has shown that 466 parasitoid resistance can be conferred by all the symbionts we identified (reviewed by Guo et al. 2017). In 467 Sitobion avenae aphids experimental work with endosymbionts has shown R. insecticola to reduce parasitoid 468 emergence rates (Luo et al. 2020) while infection with H. defensa had no protective effect (Lukasik et al. 2013; 469 Zepeda-Paulo, Villegas & Lavandero 2017; Li et al. 2018). Effects of the other endosymbionts has not been

empirically tested in *S. avenae* sufficiently to make conclusions, but our results suggest that examining
variation between *Serratia symbiotic* and *R. insecticola* would be an informed starting point. Future work
should also focus on naturally occurring combinations of symbionts as opposed to single infections since these
drive the responses we identified rather than individual effects of one symbiont species.

474 In the pot experiment, aphid abundance was reduced and natural enemy diversity/abundance increased on 475 barley plants grown next to a flower through effects on non-pest aphids on the flowers before aphid 476 colonisation on the adjacent barley (also see Zytynska et al. 2021). Thus, our experiment confirms effects of 477 wildflower strips seen in small scale experiments (Tschumi et al. 2016; Balzan 2017; Albrecht et al. 2020), and 478 indicates a need for more in-field (close-range) floral resources to maximise effects; for example, via 479 intercropping or in-field floral rows. We observed significant variation in the symbionts hosted by aphids due to 480 flower identity as well as presence, and these correlated with abundances of the different natural enemies 481 recruited. These correlations can inform future studies to identify specific costs and benefits, which will allow a 482 greater understanding of how this trade-off differs among symbiont combinations to alter aphid population dynamics. Of particular interest are the correlations of multi-symbiont combinations SsWRkRi, SsHdSp and 483 484 SsWHdRk with Aphidius parasitoids and SsRi with Aphelinus parasitoids, again highlighting the potential 485 importance of R. insecticola (Ri) in these aphids (Luo et al. 2020). In our previous study (Zytynska et al. 2021) 486 we highlighted interactions among the different natural enemies within flower treatment and these could have 487 impacts also for the aphid endosymbiont community. Parasitoid wasps avoid attacking aphids that they detect to have been previously attacked, with this effect lasting up to two days (Outreman et al. 2001). This will 488 489 increase the survival chance of aphids resistant to the original parasitoid but perhaps not the second attacker, 490 especially if it is a different species. In contrast, generalist predators readily consume parasitized aphids before 491 mummification (Meisner et al. 2011), with some evidence that R. insecticola symbionts may also increase 492 predation risk of aphids by ladybirds (Ramírez-Cáceres et al. 2019). Predation of parasitised aphids removes 493 the parasitoid from the next generation via intraguild predation, thus the effect on biocontrol will be dependent 494 on the local aphid, symbiont, and natural enemy community composition. The rare but ecologically-important 495 potential of horizontal transmission of symbionts among aphids via natural enemies (Oliver et al. 2010; Gehrer 496 & Vorburger 2012; Zytynska & Venturino 2018) may further explain the ability of aphid populations to response 497 rapidly to changing natural enemy abundances. Overall, this leads to complex community dynamics and 498 diverse selection pressures acting on the symbiont communities, particularly where there is high natural enemy 499 diversity; any effect of aphid or parasitoid genotype (not studied here) can further influence outcomes. We also 500 observed effects of the number of winged aphids on the proportion of unwinged aphids hosting 2- and 3501 symbiont combinations. Winged aphids are long-distance dispersal morphs and could be important if they 502 bring in novel symbiont combinations, assuming reproduction within the crop, but few studies have so far 503 assessed symbionts in winged aphids (but see Smith *et al.* (2021)). Identifying source populations in the wider 504 ecological landscape, e.g. from surrounding cereal fields, will help us understand community dynamics and 505 potential effects on local biological control efforts.

506 Our hypothesis was that a low diversity of natural enemies favours selection for a combination of symbionts 507 that provides the highest level of protection (Oliver et al. 2008) and subsequent extinction of the natural enemy (Sanders et al. 2016; Vorburger 2018). From our data, a dominance of Aphelinus parasitoids might select for 508 509 aphids hosting Serratia-Regiella, while a dominance of Aphidius parasitoids might select for those hosting 510 Serratia-Hamiltonella-Spiroplasma. In a diverse system (e.g. with floral resources increasing natural enemy 511 diversity), there will be a mixture of these natural enemies leading to a mixture of symbiont combinations. 512 Variable effects of different natural enemies and interactions among them is key to disrupting selection for 513 symbiont combinations with high protective effects but low fecundity costs (Zytynska & Meyer 2019). We 514 showed this does not necessarily translate to increased diversity of aphid symbionts in a local population but 515 rather that it is specific to the symbiont combinations that are hosted and the interactions experienced by the 516 population. When every interaction differs for the various natural enemy species this can contribute to natural 517 regulation of pest populations (e.g. Preedy et al. 2020), by naturally diversifying biological control strategies for 518 crop protection (Pimentel 1991).

519 In conclusion, we show that floral plantings, and flower identity, can have community-wide effects on the 520 diversity of natural enemies of herbivores, aphid populations, and the bacterial endosymbionts hosted by the 521 aphids. Management of agricultural systems via conservation biological control and regenerative approaches 522 requires ecological knowledge to predict how these might impact other parts of the system to optimise yield 523 outputs. Unravelling what drives herbivore population regulation enables us to understand the important role of 524 complex multi-species interactions and highlights the processes we should aim to promote to enhance natural 525 pest regulation. Designing tailored floral plantings (e.g. Tschumi et al. 2016) to contain sufficient functional 526 diversity to recruit and establish an abundant and diverse community of natural enemies (via nectar and non-527 pest prev) is key to increasing their impact for pest control on neighbouring crops. A greater diversity of natural 528 enemies is likely to reduce in-field selection pressures favouring protective endosymbiont communities of pest 529 insects, which might otherwise undermine natural pest regulation, and suggests a mechanism by which 530 diversity can be utilised for internal system regulation, reducing reliance on agrochemical inputs for pest 531 control.

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532 Author contributions

- 533 SEZ, AK, CH designed the study and collected the data. SS performed the molecular analyses to identify the
- 534 symbionts. SEZ analysed the data, WWW supported the interpretation of results. SEZ wrote the manuscript
- 535 with comments from all authors.

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