

Next generation sequencing reveals endosymbiont variability in cassava whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*, across the agro-ecological zones of Kerala, India

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15 **ABSTRACT**

16 Silverleaf whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), is one of
17 the most notorious invasive insect pests reported, infesting more than 900 species of plants
18 and spreading more than 200 viral diseases. This polyphagous agricultural pest harbours
19 diverse bacterial communities in its gut, which perform multiple functions in whiteflies,
20 including nutrient provisioning, amino acid biosynthesis and virus transmission. The present
21 exploratory study compares bacterial communities associated with silverleaf whitefly
22 infesting cassava, also known as cassava whitefly, collected from two different zones (zone
23 P: plains, zone H: high ranges), from Kerala, India, using next-generation sequencing of 16S
24 rDNA. The data sets for these two regions consisted of 1,321,906 and 690,661 high quality
25 paired end sequences with mean length of 150 bp. Highly diverse bacterial communities were
26 present in the sample containing approximately 3,513 operational taxonomic units (OTUs).
27 Sequence analysis had shown a marked difference in the relative abundance of bacteria in the
28 populations. A total of 16 bacterial phyla, 27 classes, 56 orders, 91 families, 236 genera and
29 409 species were identified from P population, against 16, 31, 60, 88, 225 and 355,
30 respectively in H population. *Arsenophonus* sp. (Enterobacteriaceae), which is important for
31 virus transmission by whiteflies, was relatively abundant in P population, whereas in H
32 population *Bacillus* sp. was the most dominant group. The association of whitefly biotypes
33 and secondary symbionts suggests a possible contribution of these bacteria to host
34 characteristics such as virus transmission, host range, insecticide resistance and speciation.

35 **Keywords:** *Arsenophonus*; cassava mosaic; NGS; 16S rDNA; symbiotic bacteria

36 **Introduction**

37 Microorganisms and insects are the two most successful groups of organisms on
38 planet earth. The ubiquitous microbes are also present inside the body of insects in close
39 association and are known as endosymbionts. Of the symbionts, bacteria perform the most
40 diverse roles and hence most studied (Engel and Moran 2013). Less than 1% of
41 endosymbionts are culturable, but techniques such as next-generation sequencing enable
42 researchers to explore more deeply the true complexity of insect-microbe associations and to
43 understand the profound influence of microbial metabolic activity on the other organisms
44 (Schloss and Handelsman 2003).

45 Endosymbiotic theory (Mereschkowski 1910) classifies endosymbionts into primary
46 and secondary. Primary endosymbionts (P-endosymbionts) shall be associated with insect
47 hosts for long period of time and form obligate associations and co-speciation with their
48 insect hosts, whereas secondary endosymbionts (S-endosymbionts) are more recently
49 developed associates which sometimes get horizontally transferred between hosts, live in the
50 hemolymph of the insects but never obligate. S-symbionts are not confined into specialized
51 S-bacteriocytes found in gut tissues, glands, body fluids, cells surrounding the P-
52 bacteriocytes or even invading the P-bacteriocytes themselves (Baumann et al. 2006). S-
53 symbionts seem to be the result of multiple independent infections and, although they are
54 usually maternally inherited, their transmission may also occur horizontally across the hosts.

55 These microbes help in a variety of ways for the dominance of insects. They provide
56 various fitness advantages, such as increased fecundity, increased longevity, female-biased
57 sex ratio as well as greater immunity against natural enemies and pathogens (Su et al. 2013).
58 S-symbionts are shown to increase resistance of insects to fungal pathogens (Aksoy et al.
59 1997). In their host insects, endosymbionts play various roles such as nutrition; eg. *Buchnera*
60 provides essential amino acids that are lacking in the plant sap diet of its aphid host (Xie et al.

61 2018), detoxification of toxins, plant allelochemicals and insecticides (Kikuchi et al. 2012),
62 source of cues and signals (Dillon et al. 2002), defense toward pathogens and parasites
63 (Oliver et al. 2003), adaptation to environment shock (Montllor et al. 2002), virus-vector
64 interaction (Chiel et al. 2007), population dynamics (Kikuchi et al. 2012), insect-plant
65 interactions (Hosokawa et al. 2007), biotype determinants (Gueguen et al. 2010) and
66 protectants against natural enemies (Oliver et al. 2003). Rosell et al. (2010) described
67 mutualistic and dependent relationships of endosymbionts with other organisms.

68 Sequencing the 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) was the most popular method adopted to
69 identify the bacteria (Petti et al. 2005; Ranjith et al. 2016). Nearly 1500 bp of 16S rDNA is
70 large enough for bioinformatics analyses (Patel 2001) and additionally, it is present in all
71 bacteria and function is well defined (Janda and Abbott 2007). But, this fails in polymicrobial
72 specimen wherein multiple templates result in uninterpretable Sanger reads (Drancourt 2000).
73 Next-generation sequencing with the primer spanning hypervariable regions (V1-V9) of 16S
74 rRNA gene circumvents these limitations. Metagenomics applies a suite of genomic
75 technologies and bioinformatics tools to directly access the genetic content of entire
76 communities of organisms (Thomas et al. 2012).

77 Root and tuber crops, including cassava, provide a substantial part of the world's food
78 supply (Chandrasekara and Kumar 2016). Cassava whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) transmitted
79 cassava mosaic disease causes 30-40% yield losses on a global scale (Malathi et al. 1985). As
80 a phloem-feeding homopteran, *B. tabaci* harbours various endosymbionts for its nutritional
81 requirements and functionality. These endosymbionts act as carotenoids sources of whiteflies
82 (Sloan and Moran 2012); few endosymbionts such as *Portiera aleyrodidarum* provides B-
83 complex vitamins and amino acids lacking in fly feeds (Lai et al. 1996; Xie et al. 2018). They
84 also assist in virus transmission (Nirgianaki et al. 2003; Chiel et al. 2007) and a GroEL
85 homologue from endosymbionts assists in the circulative transmission of virus by protecting

86 the virus from destruction during its passage through the haemolymph (Morin et al. 1999;
87 Rana et al. 2012). According to Gottlieb et al. (2010), *Hamiltonella* sp. found in B-biotype of
88 whiteflies help them to become successful vectors of *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus*.

89 Endosymbionts play crucial roles in making whitefly a pest of global importance.
90 Keeping in view of the economic losses by cassava whitefly, as the vector of *Cassava mosaic*
91 *virus*, this study answers the hypothesis that under different agro-ecological zones, at various
92 disease severities and in genetically varying populations, the endosymbiont population varies.
93 Using next-generation sequencing of 16S rDNA from gut microbiome, variation in the
94 relative abundance of different bacterial endosymbionts in cassava whitefly populations from
95 different agro-ecological zones of Kerala, India, is shown. Further, the pest management
96 application of the understanding of endosymbiont variability under specific physiological
97 conditions is also discussed.

98 **Materials and methods**

99 **Collection of whiteflies**

100 *Bemisia tabaci* samples were collected from cassava fields of 13 different agro-
101 ecological zones of Kerala (Mohankumar 2007) (Latitudes 8.1730° N to 12. 4740° N and
102 Longitudes 74.2747° E to 77.3712° E), India (Harish et al. 2016; Supplementary Table 1;
103 Supplementary Figure 1). Whiteflies were collected individually (March 2014-May 2016) in
104 microfuge tubes containing 70% ethanol and stored at -20 °C. Each sample was identified as
105 *B. tabaci* by adopting the morphological identification keys (Martin 1987).

106 Genetic variability study/ barcoding using mitochondrial *Cytochrome oxidase I* gene
107 (primers C1-J2195 and L2-N-3014) had shown the presence of two biotypes/ genetic groups
108 of *Bemisia*, Asia I and Asia II5 in cassava plants of Kerala and the biotypes were confirmed
109 by using reference sequences from NCBI database. According to Dinsdale et al. (2010), 3.5%
110 genetic divergence is the minimum requirement to separate two putative species/ biotypes/

111 genetic groups of whitefly. In this case, up to 15.96% sequence divergence was observed
112 between the biotypes. Whiteflies collected from plains (elevation less than 150 m from MSL)
113 belonged to Asia II5 biotype, whereas whiteflies collected from hilly regions (elevation more
114 than 900 m) belonged to Asia I biotype. Composite samples, P and H, were made from the
115 two biotypes identified (biotypes Asia II5 from plains and Asia I from hills) and analysed
116 using metagenomic approach to compare the endosymbiont variations. Sample P included
117 one whitefly each from 12 agro-ecological zones of plains (<150 m from MSL) and H had 12
118 whiteflies from hilly regions of Sulthan Bathery. Also, from the cassava plants surveyed for
119 severity of cassava mosaic disease symptoms, plants in high elevations of Sulthan Bathery
120 region (> 900 m from MSL) had shown very less severity with a score of 1 compared to
121 plants from other areas (severity score 3-5, Ikotun and Hahn 1994).

122 **Isolation of metagenomic DNA from adult *Bemisia tabaci***

123 The insects were surface sterilized with ethanol and household chlorine bleach, as
124 described by Davidson et al. (1994). Metagenomic DNA from samples P and H were isolated
125 through the direct method (Zhou et al. 1996). They were homogenized in 400 µl of extraction
126 buffer [200 mM Tris-HCl (pH-8.0), 25 mM EDTA (pH-8.0), and 250 mM NaCl, SDS
127 (0.5%)] in a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube, using liquid nitrogen. The homogenized samples were
128 incubated at room temperature for 1 hr and centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 5 min. at 4 °C. The
129 supernatants were collected in fresh tubes, and equal volume of phenol:chloroform:isoamyl
130 alcohol (24:25:1) was added to the supernatants and again centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 20
131 min. at 4 °C. The aqueous phase was transferred to fresh tube and equal volume of iso
132 propanol was added, the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 15 min., centrifuged
133 at 13,000 rpm for 5 min. at room temperature and the metagenomic DNA pellet was
134 precipitated out. DNA pellet was washed with ethanol (95%) by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm

135 for 10 min., air dried, dissolved in 25 µl of autoclaved distilled water and stored in deep
136 freezer (-80 °C) for future use.

137 **Quality checking of metagenomic DNA**

138 The 16S rDNA fragment was amplified by polymerase chain reaction from the
139 metagenomic DNA using the universal 16S rDNA primers fD1 (5'-
140 GAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3') and rP2 (5'-ACGGCTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3')
141 (Haris et al., 2014). Reaction had 0.2 µl template DNA (20 ng), 0.1 µl each of the forward
142 and reverse primers, 1 µl of 10 mM dNTP (Genei®), 0.2 µl of Taq DNA polymerase
143 (Genei®), 2.5 µl of Taq DNA buffer A (Genei®) and 15.9 µl of grade I water. Thermal
144 cycling included initial denaturation at 94 °C for 2 min. followed by 29 cycles with
145 denaturation at 94 °C for 45 sec., primer annealing at 55 °C for 1 min. and primer extension
146 at 72 °C for 2 min. and final extension at 72 °C for 10 min. The products were
147 electrophoresed on agarose gel (0.8%).

148 **Sequencing of 16S ribosomal RNA amplicon**

149 The metagenomic DNA isolated from *B. tabaci* adults were sequenced using Next-
150 Generation Illumina MiSeq™. Amplicon library was prepared with specific primers spanning
151 the hypervariable V3 region of 16S rRNA gene (Supplementary Figure 2) and used for
152 sequencing and subsequent classification.

153 **Amplicon PCR**

154 Metagenomic DNA samples were normalized to 5 ng/ µl in 10 mM Tris (pH 8.5) and
155 amplicon PCR was carried out using V3 primers (341F - 5'CCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG3',
156 518R - 5'ATTACCGCGGCTGCTGG3') (Bartram et al. 2011). PCR master mix consisted of
157 2 µl each of forward and reverse primers (10 pM/ µl), 0.5 µl 40 mM dNTPs, 5 µl 5X Phusion
158 HF reaction buffer, 0.2 µl 2U/ ul or µl F-540 Special Phusion HS DNA polymerase, 5 ng
159 input DNA and water to make up the volume to 25 µl. PCR reaction was programmed with

160 initial denaturation at 98 °C for 30 sec. followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 98 °C for 10
161 sec., primer annealing at 55 °C for 30 sec., primer extension at 72 °C for 30 sec. and final
162 extension at 72 °C for 5 min. PCR products were quantified using the fluorescence
163 quantitative fluorometer (Qubit 2.0®) with the Qubit dsDNA HS assay kit (Invitrogen, USA).

164 **16S rDNA amplicon library preparation**

165 **PCR clean-up**

166 PCR clean-up was carried out using AMPure XP beads to purify the 16S V3 amplicon
167 away from free primers and primer dimer species. The reagents consisted of 10 mM Tris (pH
168 8.5) (52.5 µl per sample), AMPure XP beads (20 µl per sample) and freshly prepared ethanol
169 (80%) (400 µl per sample). Standard protocol (Amplicon et al. 2013) was followed and the
170 cleaned products were stored at -20 °C.

171 **Index PCR**

172 Illumina™ Truseq adapters and indices were added to the cleaned PCR products.
173 PCR master mix consisted of 2 µl each of 10 pM/ µl forward and reverse primers, 1.0 µl 40
174 mM dNTP, 10 µl 5X Phusion HF reaction buffers, 0.4 µl 2U/ µl F-540 special Phusion HS
175 DNA polymerase, 10 µl (minimum 5 ng) PCR1 amplicon and water to make up the total
176 volume to 50 µl. PCR reaction was programmed with initial denaturation at 98 °C for 30 sec.,
177 15 cycles with denaturation at 98 °C for 10 sec., primer annealing at 55 °C for 30 sec. and
178 primer extension at 72 °C for 30 sec. followed by final extension at 72 °C for 5 min.

179 **PCR clean-up 2**

180 AMPure XP beads were used to clean up the final library before quantification. The
181 reagents consisted of 10 mM Tris (pH 8.5) (27.5 µl per sample), AMPure XP beads (56 µl per
182 sample), freshly prepared 80% ethanol (400 µl per sample).

183 **Library quantification, normalization, and pooling**

184 Libraries were quantified using a fluorometric quantification method and concentrated
185 final library was diluted using distilled water. Diluted DNA (5 µl) from each library was
186 pooled with unique indices.

187 **Library denaturing and MiSeq sample loading**

188 In preparation for cluster generation and sequencing, pooled libraries were denatured
189 with NaOH, diluted with hybridization buffer, and then heat denatured before MiSeq®
190 sequencing. Each run included a minimum of PhiX (5%) to serve as an internal control for
191 these low diversity libraries. Denatured library was loaded into the reagent cartridge of
192 Illumina MiSeq™ sequencer. The output files (fastq) generated from the sequencer were
193 analysed.

194 **Analysis of NGS data**

195 Total raw reads of samples obtained from Illumina sequencing platform were quality
196 checked for base quality (Phred Score), base composition, adapter dimer contamination,
197 ambiguous bases and GC content using Fast QC (Version0.11.8) tool with default parameter.
198 The 16S rDNA V3 hypervariable region specific primers were checked in the paired-end
199 reads and allowed to merge using Clustal Omega (version 1.2.0) program with minimum
200 overlap length of 10 bp. The merged consensus fasta of all samples were pooled and taken for
201 various downstream analyses.

202 As a part of pre-processing of sequence reads, singletons, generated due to the
203 sequencing errors and could result in spurious operational taxonomic units (OTUs), were
204 removed before starting OTU clustering, by removing the reads that did not cluster with other
205 sequences (abundances <2). Singleton are the R1+R2 merged consensus of V3 FASTA
206 contig sequence whose frequency is only one, or present only one time. Chimeras were also
207 removed using the *de novo* chimera removal method UCHIME implemented in the tool
208 USEARCH.

209 Using Uclust program, pre-processed reads from all samples were pooled and
210 clustered into OTUs based on their sequence similarity (similarity cut off at 0.97). QIIME
211 (Caporaso et al. 2010) and MG-RAST (Meyer et al. 2008) programmes were used in
212 downstream analyses. Representative sequences were identified for each OTU and aligned
213 against Greengenes core set of sequences using PyNAST program (DeSantis et al. 2006a,
214 2006b). Further, these representative sequences were aligned against reference chimeric
215 datasets, and taxonomic classification was performed using RDP classifier and Greengenes
216 OTUs database.

217 The taxonomic categories of bacteria (from phylum to species level) present in both P and
218 H populations of *Bemisia tabaci* were compared using Jaccard distance (a measure of how
219 dissimilar the sets are) in R software (version 3.6.0). More the distance between each taxonomic
220 category means more the variation between them.

221 Community matrices at phylum, class, order, family, genus and species levels were
222 prepared for both the populations and the relative abundances (P_i) were prepared based on OTU
223 counts. The data was further analyzed using Shannon Weiner diversity Index, with function $H =$
224 $-\sum[(P_i) \times \ln(P_i)]$. P_i is per cent of a particular bacterium compared to the total bacteria identified
225 in that population at that taxonomic level, using the pre-processed total reads. For example, when
226 we compare the variability between P and H populations at Phylum level in terms of the
227 bacterium Proteobacteria, P population has the per cent abundance of 87.57 whereas it is 13.40 in
228 H population. Thus, P_i values shall be 0.8757 and 0.1340, respectively and corresponding index
229 values -0.116 (0.8757×-0.1327) and -0.269 (0.1340×-2.0099), respectively. Index ratio between
230 the populations indicated the variation across both the populations in each level. Similarly, at
231 each level of taxonomic classification, indices for every bacterial community were calculated and
232 compared.

233 Rarefaction analysis was carried out to assess species richness of the samples based
234 on the construction of rarefaction curves using MG-RAST software. A phylogenetic tree of
235 bacteria at family level was also constructed using MG-RAST with Illumina sequencing data
236 set. The RDP database was used as annotation source, and a minimum identity cutoff (90%)
237 was applied.

238 **Sequence Read Archive (SRA) submission**

239 Metagenomic sequences were submitted to Sequence Read Archive (SRA) at
240 <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs/sra/>. Experiment ID and Run ID were received for each
241 submission.

242 **Results**

243 **Isolation and quality checking of metagenomic DNA from adult *Bemisia tabaci***

244 Metagenomic DNA isolated from the two samples of *B. tabaci* were confirmed with
245 the presence of 16S rDNA fragment in the isolated products by amplification of band of 1500
246 bp with universal 16S rDNA primers (Supplementary Figure 3). The metagenomic DNA was
247 quantified with fluorometer (Qubit 2.0) and the concentrations were 30.6 ng/ μ l and 30.4 ng/
248 μ l, respectively, in samples H and P. The hypervariable V3 region of 16S rDNA was
249 amplified with specific primers (Supplementary Figures 4a, 4b) and preceded with 16S rDNA
250 library preparations.

251 **Illumina sequencing data**

252 Total raw sequencing reads (paired end) of 1,321,906 and 690,661 with average
253 sequence length of 150 bp each was obtained from Illumina MiSeqTM sequencer. The quality
254 of left and right end of the paired-end read sequences of the sample are shown in the
255 Supplementary Figures 5a, 5b and 6a, 6b. Nearly 90% of the total reads had phred score
256 greater than 30 ($>Q30$; error-probability ≤ 0.001).

257 The base composition distribution of two samples was adenine (24.05%, 23.63%),
258 cytosine (24.06%, 24.64%), guanine (27.46%, 27.78%) and thiamine (24.43%, 23.95%) and
259 the average GC content was 40-50%. Application of multiple filters such as conserved region
260 filter, spacer filter, quality filter and mismatch filter had resulted 1240613, 1240116, 1239993
261 and 640996 reads, respectively for sample P. For H, corresponding values were 640923,
262 640500, 640450 and 341937. While making consensus V3 sequence, more than 48% of the
263 paired-end reads were aligned to each other with zero mismatches with an average contig
264 length of 135 to 165 bp (Supplementary Figures 7a and 7b).

265 From the 640,996 and 341,937 consensus reads from samples, singletons and
266 chimeric sequences were removed to obtain 611,218 and 334,634 high quality pre-processed
267 reads. These were pooled and clustered into OTUs based on their sequence similarity
268 (similarity cut off = 0.97) and a total of 3,513 OTUs were identified from 945,852 reads
269 (Figure 1).

270 The rarefaction analysis, carried out to verify the amount of sequencing reflected in
271 the diversity of original microbial community, has revealed that the slopes of the curves
272 decline markedly with increasing sequences (Figure 2). The alpha diversity (6.22 and 3.82 for
273 P and H populations, respectively) indicated the extent of bacterial species diversity present
274 in *B. tabaci*.

275 **Composition of bacterial community of *Bemisia tabaci***

276 The bacteria present in adult *B. tabaci* were analysed and taxonomically grouped from
277 phyla to species levels using RDP classifier and Greengenes OTUs database. The relative
278 abundance of 10 major bacterial groups in each taxonomic category is given in Tables 1 and
279 2. Altogether, 16 bacterial phyla were detected from samples P and H. Most dominant
280 phylum in P population was *Proteobacteria* (87.5% of total bacterial community) and in H

281 population, it was *Firmicutes* (82.6%). This was followed by *Firmicutes* (9.3%) in P
282 population and *Proteobacteria* (13.4%) in H population.

283 P population had *Bacteroidetes* bacteria to the tune of 2.9%. *Chlorobi*,
284 *Actinobacteria*, *Planctomycetes*, *Verrucomicrobia*, *Spirochaetae*, *Tenericutes* and
285 *Acidobacteria* were other phyla, constituting less than 1% whereas, H population had only a
286 meagre count of *Bacteroidetes*, *Chlorobi*, *Actinobacteria*, *Planctomycetes*, *Verrucomicrobia*,
287 *Spirochaetae*, *Tenericutes* and *Acidobacteria*. A total of 27 and 31 bacterial classes were
288 identified for P and H population, respectively. For sample P, class *Gammaproteobacteria*
289 was most dominant (86.4%) and for H, it was *Bacilli* (82.6%). In population P, 56 bacterial
290 orders have been detected of which *Enterobacteriales* was dominant (85%). Of the 60 orders
291 seen in population H, *Bacillales* was most dominant (82.5%). Analyses at family level have
292 revealed a total of 91 and 88 bacterial families in P and H population, respectively, major
293 groups being *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Bacillaceae*, *Flavobacteriaceae*, *Vibrionaceae*,
294 *Oxalobacteraceae* etc. for P and *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Bacillaceae*, *Alcanivoracaceae* etc. for
295 H (Figure 3). Among the 236 genera identified in P sample, *Bacillus* (35.5%) and
296 *Arsenophonus* (24.6%) were the most dominant. Other important genera in P population were
297 *Vibrio*, *Riemerella*, *Lysinibacillus*, *Flavobacterium*, *Janthinobacterium*, *Sphingobacterium*,
298 *Bacteroides* and *Enterococcus*. For H population, the order of abundance was *Bacillus*
299 followed by *Alcanivorax*, *Staphylococcus*, *Pantoea*, *Lysinibacillus*, *Bacteroides*, *Alistipes*,
300 *Photorhabdus*, *Terribacillus* and *Enterococcus*. A total of 409 species were identified in
301 sample P and 355 in sample H (Figure 2). From RDP database, sequence similarities were
302 observed with *Arsenophonus* spp., *Bacillus* spp., *Riemerella anatipestifer*, *Vibrio harveyi*,
303 *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* and *Janthinobacterium* spp. for P population and *Bacillus*
304 *thuringiensis*, *Staphylococcus* spp. *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Pantoea*
305 *dispersa* and *Bacillus pumilus* for H population.

306 Comparison between different taxonomic categories of bacteria present in P and H
307 populations of *Bemisia tabaci* using Jaccard dissimilarity index shows that at species level, the
308 bacteria present in both P and H populations of *B. tabaci* showed maximum dissimilarity to the
309 tune of 99.9%, whereas the bacteria at genus level were recorded the least dissimilarity of 50.5%.
310 At phylum level, the bacteria were dissimilar to the tune of 84.9%, whereas 82.7% of
311 dissimilarity at class level was observed among bacteria population in P and H populations of *B.*
312 *tabaci*. The bacteria at order and family level were dissimilar to the tune of 88.8-88.9%. Shannon
313 Weiner diversity index was used to assess the relative diversity of bacteria in both the
314 populations at each taxonomic level (Supplementary Table 4). Higher index values had shown
315 higher diversity of the bacterium. At phylum, class and order levels, both the populations were
316 found to have equal level of diversity, though they differed in four bacterial orders. At family
317 level, population H was distinctly more diverse but at genus level population P had shown better
318 diversity. This shows that different genus found in population P belonged to same family and
319 even though the number of genera was less, bacteria in population H belonged to different
320 family. Diversity index at species level was high (> 1.0) in both the populations and the species
321 accommodated in both populations varied.

322 **SRA submission:** SRA submission has generated the experiment ID SRX1592694 and run
323 ID SRR3178391.

324 **Discussion**

325 **Microbial community vary between our study populations**

326 Polyphagous agricultural pests harbour diverse bacterial communities in their gut,
327 which assist diverse functions including polyphagy and general fitness. In the present study,
328 bacterial communities associated with cassava whiteflies collected from different agro-
329 ecological zones of Kerala, India were compared. Metagenomic DNA of *B. tabaci* strains
330 have been isolated by standard protocol (Zhou et al. 1996) and sequenced in Illumina NGS

331 platform. Analysis of hypervariable V3 region of 16S rDNA fragment resulted in 1,321,906
332 and 690,661 high quality paired end sequences with mean length of 150 bp. Number of
333 bacterial species detected was a function of the number of sequence analyzed (Shi et al.
334 2012). Highly diverse bacterial communities were present in the sample containing
335 approximately 3,513 operational taxonomic units (OTUs). Studies by Chiel et al. (2007) and
336 Gueguen et al. (2010) for identifying bacterial community of *B. tabaci* also have used the
337 amplification of 16S rDNA of bacteria. Parallel studies on *B. tabaci* from 14 different
338 locations in Northern India, using 16S rDNA clone library sequences had shown that *Portiera*
339 is the primary endosymbiont and secondary endosymbionts include *Cardinium*, *Wolbachia*,
340 *Rickettsia* and *Arsenophonus* along with *Bacillus*, *Enterobacter*, *Paracoccus* and
341 *Acinetobacter* (Singh et al. 2012) but in the present study *Portiera* was not identified,
342 whereas secondary endosymbionts such as *Bacillus*, *Arsenophonus*, *Enterococcus*,
343 *Bacteroides* etc. were identified.

344 Downstream analysis using QIIME (Caporaso et al. 2010) and MG-RAST (Meyer et
345 al. 2008) and statistical analysis using Shannon Weiner diversity index (Shannon and Weaver
346 1949) had shown a marked difference in relative diversity of bacteria in the populations at
347 various taxonomic levels. Altogether, 16 bacterial phyla were detected from P and H samples.
348 Among the phyla from P population, *Proteobacteria* was most dominant followed by
349 *Firmicutes* and *Bacteroidetes* and for H population, it was *Firmicutes*, *Proteobacteria* and
350 *Bacteroidetes*. Su et al. (2016), identified 27 different phyla of bacterial community
351 associated with *B. tabaci*, from different crops, in which; *Proteobacteria* (94.0-98.0%) was
352 the most dominant, followed by *Bacteroidetes* (0.5-4.5%) and *Firmicutes* (0.2-2.0%) and the
353 present study also shown similar results.

354 **Importance of endosymbionts for insect function**

355 Bacterial endosymbionts are essential for survival, spread and evolution of *B. tabaci*

356 (Thao and Baumann 2004; Himler et al. 2011). Even though they are known to perform a
357 variety of roles in whiteflies (Rana et al. 2012; Xie et al. 2018), functions of many of these
358 endosymbionts remain still unknown. Detailed examination of their presence and functions in
359 other insects with the help of literature can provide an idea about their possible roles in
360 whiteflies (Supplementary Tables 2 and 3). *Proteobacteria* associated with insects aid in
361 carbohydrate degradation (Delalibera et al. 2005), synthesis of B vitamins and essential
362 amino acids (Bennet et al. 2014) and pesticide detoxification (Werren 2012). Oesi-Poku et al.
363 (2012) and Jones et al. (2013) found that *Proteobacteria* is typically the predominant
364 bacterial taxon in the gut of mosquitoes. *Proteobacteria* followed by *Firmicutes* and
365 *Actinobacteria* were the major bacterial phyla detected in the midgut of *H. armigera* larvae
366 (Priya et al. 2012), gut and reproductive organs of both male and female fruit fly *Bactrocera*
367 *minax*, gut of ground beetles (Jonathan et al. 2007), and desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria*
368 (Dillon et al. 2010). However, *Bacteroidetes* and *Firmicutes* were dominant in gut of termites
369 (Xiang et al. 2012) and bees (Mohr and Tebbe 2006). Some members of *Firmicutes* assist
370 insects in cellulose and hemicellulose digestion (Brown et al. 2012). Higher termites harbour
371 *Bacteroidetes*, in their hindgut, to degrade lignocellulose, with the host enzymes acting on the
372 amorphous regions of cellulose and the symbiotic enzymes targeting the crystalline regions
373 (Brune 2014). These bacteria also induce cytoplasmic incompatibility in the parasitoid wasp
374 *Encarsia pergandiella* (Hunter et al. 2003).

375 In the present study on whiteflies, for both P and H populations, reads for phyla
376 *Chlorobi*, *Actinobacteria*, *Planctomycetes*, *Verrucomicrobia*, *Spirochaetes*, *Tenericutes* and
377 *Acidobacteria* were also seen. *Chlorobi* is a salivary-associated unique bacterial community
378 in *Anopheles culicifacies* (Sharma et al. 2014), and their role in the insect is unknown. In
379 insects, *Actinobacteria* exhibit diverse physiological and metabolic properties such as
380 production of extracellular enzymes and formation of a wide variety of secondary metabolites

381 (Schrempf 2001). In termites, they assist in nutrient acquisition from polysaccharides
382 including cellulose (Pasti and Belli 1985; Watanabe et al. 2003) and hemicellulose (Schafer
383 et al. 1996). According to Douglas (2015), *Actinobacteria* is the most dominant phylum of
384 bacteria in whitefly, followed by *Bacteroidetes*, *Firmicutes*, and *Proteobacteria*. This
385 variation can be attributed to the host variations.

386 The extreme alkalinity in some compartments of termite guts supports the growth of
387 specialized alkaline-tolerant symbiotic bacteria from *Planctomycetes* (Köhler et al. 2008;
388 Bignell 2010). Beetles and termites feeding on wood or detritus have higher populations of
389 *Verrucomicrobia* in their gut (Colman et al. 2012), and in the hindgut of the wood-feeding
390 termites, *Spirochaetae* are present in abundance (Köhler et al. 2012). The *Tenericutes* are
391 present in termites and cockroaches also (Sabree and Moran 2014). *Acidobacteria* were
392 identified from the larvae of the cerambycid *Leptura rubra* feeding on rotten softwood
393 (Grünwald et al. 2010). *Acidobacteria* uses plant polymers, including xylan and cellulose,
394 and degrade these polymers in the larval gut (Eichorst et al. 2011).

395 Using 16S rDNA clone library sequences, Singh et al. (2012) identified more than
396 300 bacterial genera from whiteflies, including secondary endosymbionts such as *Cardinium*,
397 *Wolbachia*, *Rickettsia* and *Arsenophonus*, *Bacillus*, *Enterobacter*, *Paracoccus* and
398 *Acinetobacter*. Secondary endosymbionts were not uniformly distributed in different
399 locations. In the present study, 236 and 225 bacterial genera were present in P and H
400 population, respectively. For P population, *Bacillus* was the most dominant group followed
401 by *Arsenophonus*, *Vibrio*, *Riemerella*, *Lysinibacillus*, *Flavobacterium*, *Janthinobacterium*,
402 *Sphingobacterium*, *Bacteroides*, *Enterococcus* and for H population, the order of relative
403 abundance was *Bacillus*, *Alcanivorax*, *Staphylococcus*, *Pantoea*, *Lysinibacillus*, *Bacteroides*,
404 *Alistipes*, *Photobacterium*, *Terribacillus* and *Enterococcus*. At species level, a total of 409
405 species were identified in sample P and total of 355 species were identified in sample H.

406 Secondary endosymbiont of *Bemisia tabaci* [unspecified/ unidentified by the software and
407 identified as a single species group], *Arsenophonus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus megaterium*,
408 *Bacillus flexus*, *Riemerella anatipestifer*, *Vibrio harveyi*, *Lysinibacillus sphaericus*,
409 *Janthinobacterium* sp. and *Bacillus pumilus* were the major 10 species identified for P
410 population. For H population, the major species identified were *Bacillus thuringiensis*,
411 *Alcanivorax* sp., *SBR proteobacterium*, *Staphylococcus pasteurii*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*,
412 *Staphylococcus sciuri*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Pantoea dispersa*, *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* and
413 *Bacillus pumilus*.

414 Many *Bacillus* members are present in *B. tabaci* and they may contribute in nutrition.
415 According to Chandler et al. (2011), host diet has a greater effect on the bacterial microbiome
416 composition. As *Bacillus* strains have the ability to produce amylase enzyme (Amund and
417 Ogunsina 1987; Oyewole and Odunfa 1992), these amylases may be involved in the initial
418 breakdown of cassava starch into simple sugars. *Bacillus megaterium* isolates were found to
419 produce medium-length sugars from sucrose (Davidson et al. 1994). Also, *Bacillus* spp.
420 associated with *B. tabaci* may produce long-chain sugars which contribute to the stickiness of
421 the honeydew of the insect (Davidson et al. 1994).

422 Interestingly, *Bemisia* also harbours various entomopathogens such as *Bacillus*
423 *thuringiensis* (Raymond et al. 2010; Walters et al. 1995) and *Bacillus cereus* (Song et al.
424 2014), which are effective biocontrol agents for whiteflies (El-Assal et al. 2013). *Bacillus*
425 *pumilus* is effective in reducing second nymphal instar populations of *B. tabaci* (Ateyyat et
426 al. 2010) and entomopathogen *Bacillus megaterium* manages *Aphis pomi* (Aksoy and Ozman-
427 Sullivan 2008). *Bacillus flexus* induces the oviposition of sand fly (*Phlebotomus papatasi*)
428 (Mukhopadhyay et al. 2012), whereas *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* has strong mosquito
429 larvicidal and pupicidal action, and are used in mosquito control programmes (Geetha et al.
430 2014).

431 Endosymbiont, *Arsenophonus* is important in virus transmission by whiteflies (Rana
432 et al. 2012) and are relatively abundant in P population. GroEL molecular chaperones from
433 *Arsenophonus* sp. are found to be associated with coat proteins of *Cassava mosaic virus* and
434 help them from disintegration in the insect haemolymph. Similar results are reported by
435 Morin et al. (1999) and Gottlieb et al. (2010) in the case of *TYLCV* (*Tomato yellow leaf curl*
436 *virus*), for *Buchnera* GroEL and *Hamiltonella* GroEL respectively. Since cassava plants from
437 where P population of whiteflies are collected had shown high severity (Scale 3-5) (Ikotun
438 and Hahn 1994) of cassava mosaic disease, the results are in agreement with the findings of
439 Rana et al. (2012). Our results indicate a possible association of whitefly endosymbiont,
440 *Arsenophonus* with *Cassava mosaic virus* in its transmission. Compared to disease spread by
441 P population, cassava mosaic disease intensity was negligible (Scale 0-1) in Sulthan Bathery,
442 where *Arsenophonus* was absent in the H population. *Arsenophonus* is also suspected to
443 reduce the fecundity of its host (Gherna et al. 1991; Duron et al. 2008). Raina et al. (2015)
444 observed that the elimination of *Arsenophonus* and decrease in the diversity of bacterial
445 symbionts by antibiotic treatment leads to increase in fitness of whiteflies.

446 Luciferases from luminous bacteria, *Vibrio harveyii* and the presence of *Riemerella*,
447 in ant species, *Nylanderia fulva* were reported by Schmidt et al. (1989) and McDonald
448 (2012), respectively. Santos-Garcia et al. (2014) reported symbiotic association of
449 *Alcanivorax* in moss bugs to fulfil their nutritional requirements, resulting from their
450 unbalanced diet and their role in marine oil-spill degradation is reported by McGenity et al.
451 (2012). Apart from whitefly management, *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* (El-Assal et al. 2013)
452 can also be used as a biological control agent for insecticide-resistant *Aedes aegypti* (Rojas-
453 Pinzón and Dussán 2017). *Staphylococcus* from *Bemisia* produces medium length sugars
454 from sucrose and contributes to the stickiness of the honeydew secreted by the host insect
455 (Indiragandhi et al. 2010). McDonald (2012) reported the presence of *Staphylococcus*

456 *pasteuri* and *Staphylococcus sciuri* from ant species *Nylanderia fulva* and Ateyyat et al.
457 (2010) reported their potential as biocontrol agents.

458 Rosenblueth et al. (2012) reported evolutionary relationships of flavobacterial
459 endosymbionts with their scale insect hosts. The endosymbiont *Pantoea*, observed in the
460 study may perform semiochemical effects, as it is already reported for *Pantoea agglomerans*,
461 which is producing a chemical Guaiacol and helps in the aggregation of desert locust,
462 *Locusta migratoria* (Dillon and Charnley 2002; Davis et al. 2013). *Pantoea dispersa* is
463 reported in wild mosquito *Aedes albopictus* (Moro et al. 2013). Evidence for the microbial
464 utilization of nitrogenous waste products by *Bacteroides* has been obtained for termites,
465 cockroaches and hemipterans (Potrikus and Breznak 1981). *Janthinobacterium* strains
466 reported to have the capacity to degrade chitin (Gleave et al. 1995; Xiao et al. 2005) and
467 *Janthinobacterium* sp. J3 isolated from the gut contents of *Batocera horsfieldi* larvae (Zhang
468 et al. 2011).

469 *Sphingobacterium griseoflavum* sp. nov., isolated from the insect *Teleogryllus*
470 *occipitalis* living in deserted crop land (Long et al. 2016) and *Sphingobacterium* isolate
471 exhibiting xylanolytic activity has been isolated from the gut of a cerambycid larva (Zhou et
472 al. 2009). *Alistipes fingoldii* and *Alistipes putredinis* are reported in the gut of medicinal
473 leech (*Hirudo verbena*) (Maltz et al. 2014) and *Alistipes fingoldii* attenuates colitis in mice
474 (Dziarski et al. 2016). *Photorhabdus luminescens* is a bioluminescent entomopathogen which
475 comes under the genus *Photorhabdus*, reported in the study (Schmidt et al. 1989).

476 An et al. (2007) reported the presence of *Terribacillus halophilus* in various insects,
477 even though their role is unknown. *Enterococcus* sp. found in *Bemisia* was reported to
478 produce cyanide oxygenase and utilize cyanide as a nitrogenous growth substance (Fernandez
479 and Kunz 2005). According to Bressan et al. (2008) *SBR proteobacterium* is a pathogen
480 associated with the disease syndrome “basses richesses” of sugar beet in France and are

481 spread by planthoppers - *Cixius wagneri*, *Hyalesthes obsoletus*, and *Pentastiridius leporinus*.

482 **Concluding remarks**

483 Our study revealed the composition and diversity of bacterial community associated
484 with *B. tabaci* based on Illumina next-generation sequencing of 16S rDNA amplicons. The
485 study was not extrapolated to know the correlation of endosymbiont bacterium and genetic
486 variability in whitefly, as the study conducted by Singh et al. (2012) already ruled out any
487 such possibility. Mining the diversity of bacterial community present in the insects has
488 revealed their role in making *B. tabaci* a successful vector and polyphagous pest of global
489 importance. Our analysis had shown that the specific endosymbiont *Asenophonus* is present
490 only in the heavily cassava mosaic disease infested areas. Insecticidal toxin producing
491 opportunistic bacteria such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* and *Bacillus cereus* were also found in
492 *B. tabaci*. Further studies from more regions and detailed analyses are required to determine
493 the trend in endosymbiont variations based on genetic as well as agro-ecological zone
494 variations. Functional roles of endosymbionts in making *B. tabaci* as a successful vector and
495 invasive plant pest have to be thoroughly studied. Elaborated understanding on
496 endosymbionts could very well be utilized not only for planning alternative pest management
497 strategies but also for enhancing efficiency of beneficial insects.

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875 **Tables**

876

877 **Table 1.** Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from P population (Values in the parenthesis are per cent of particular
878 taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

Sl. No.	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Proteobacteria (87.57)	Gammaproteobacteria (86.47)	Enterobacteriales (85.00)	Enterobacteriaceae (85.01)	<i>Bacillus</i> (35.57)	Secondary endosymbiont of <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> [non-specified] (70.38)
2	Firmicutes (9.29)	Bacilli (9.14)	Bacillales (8.70)	Bacillaceae (8.25)	<i>Arsenophonus</i> (24.69)	<i>Arsenophonus</i> endosymbiont of <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> (7.19)
3	Bacteroidetes (2.91)	Flavobacteriia (1.70)	Flavobacteriales (1.71)	Flavobacteriaceae (1.71)	<i>Vibrio</i> (5.83)	<i>Bacillus cereus</i> (4.07)
4	Chlorobi (0.16)	Betaproteobacteria (0.94)	Vibrionales (1.30)	Vibrionaceae (1.30)	<i>Riemerella</i> (4.53)	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (3.78)
5	Actinobacteria (0.02)	Bacteroidia (0.59)	Burkholderiales (0.69)	Oxalobacteraceae (0.65)	<i>Lysinibacillus</i> (4.20)	<i>Bacillus flexus</i> (1.70)
6	Planctomycetes (0.01)	Sphingobacteriia (0.59)	Bacteroidales (0.60)	Sphingobacteriaceae (0.58)	<i>Flavobacterium</i> (2.87)	<i>Riemerella anatipestifer</i> (1.32)
7	Verrucomicrobia (0.007)	Chlorobia (0.16)	Sphingobacteriales (0.59)	Bacteroidaceae (0.39)	<i>Janthinobacterium</i> (2.94)	<i>Vibrio harveyi</i> (1.30)
8	Spirochaetae (0.005)	Deltaproteobacteria (0.16)	Lactobacillales (0.47)	Enterococcaceae (0.38)	<i>Sphingobacterium</i> (2.79)	<i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> (1.22)
9	Tenericutes (0.004)	Negativicutes (0.15)	Pseudomonadales (0.38)	Pseudomonadaceae (0.37)	<i>Bacteroides</i> (1.90)	<i>Janthinobacterium sp. J3</i> (0.86)
10	Acidobacteria (0.002)	Cytophagia (0.03)	Chlorobiales (0.17)	Staphylococcaceae (0.24)	<i>Enterococcus</i> (1.83)	<i>Bacillus pumilus</i> (0.69)

879

880 **Table 2.** Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from H population (Values in the parenthesis are per cent of particular
881 taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

Sl. No.	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Firmicutes (82.67)	Bacilli (82.65)	Bacillales (82.58)	Bacillaceae (77.42)	<i>Bacillus</i> (82.27)	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (72.62)
2	Proteobacteria (13.40)	Gammaproteobacteria (16.28)	Enterobacteriales (8.34)	Enterobacteriaceae (8.34)	<i>Alcanivorax</i> (8.19)	<i>Alcanivorax sp. EPR 6</i> (7.58)
3	Bacteroidetes (0.84)	Bacteroidia (0.71)	Oceanospirillales (7.62)	Alcanivoracaceae (7.62)	<i>Staphylococcus</i> (5.58)	<i>SBR proteobacterium</i> (6.97)
4	Actinobacteria (0.07)	Flavobacteriia (0.12)	Bacteroidales (0.71)	Staphylococcaceae (5.19)	<i>Pantoea</i> (1.13)	<i>Staphylococcus pasteurii</i> (3.31)
5	Chlorobi (0.05)	Deltaproteobacteria (0.09)	Vibrionales (0.23)	Bacteroidaceae (0.41)	<i>Lysinibacillus</i> (0.76)	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> (1.75)
6	Planctomycetes (0.04)	Actinobacteria (class) (0.05)	Lactobacillales (0.16)	Vibrionaceae (0.23)	<i>Bacteroides</i> (0.44)	<i>Staphylococcus sciuri</i> (1.63)
7	Verrucomicrobia (0.04)	Betaproteobacteria (0.03)	Flavobacteriales (0.12)	Rikenellaceae (0.20)	<i>Alistipes</i> (0.22)	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (1.10)
8	Spirochaetae (0.02)	Chlorobia (0.03)	Actinomycetales (0.05)	Enterococcaceae (0.09)	<i>Photorhabdus</i> (0.21)	<i>Pantoea dispersa</i> (1.02)
9	Tenericutes (0.01)	Negativicutes (0.02)	Chlorobiales (0.03)	Prevotellaceae (0.07)	<i>Terribacillus</i> (0.16)	<i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> (0.70)
10	Acidobacteria (0.01)	Cytophagia (0.01)	Pseudomonadales (0.03)	Paenibacillaceae (0.04)	<i>Enterococcus</i> (0.10)	<i>Bacillus pumilus</i> (0.34)

883

Legends to Tables and Figures

884 **Table 1.** Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from P population (Values
885 in the parenthesis are per cent of particular taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to
886 the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

887 **Table 2.** Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from H population (Values
888 in the parenthesis are per cent of particular taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to
889 the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

Figure 1. A graphical representation of reads and OTU proportion (The blue bar represents percentage of total OTUs in the read-count groups. The red bar represents percentage of total read contributed by the OTUs in the read-count group)

890 **Figure 2.** Rarefaction analyses of *Bemisia tabaci* bacterial communities (P-population: blue
891 line, H-population: red line)

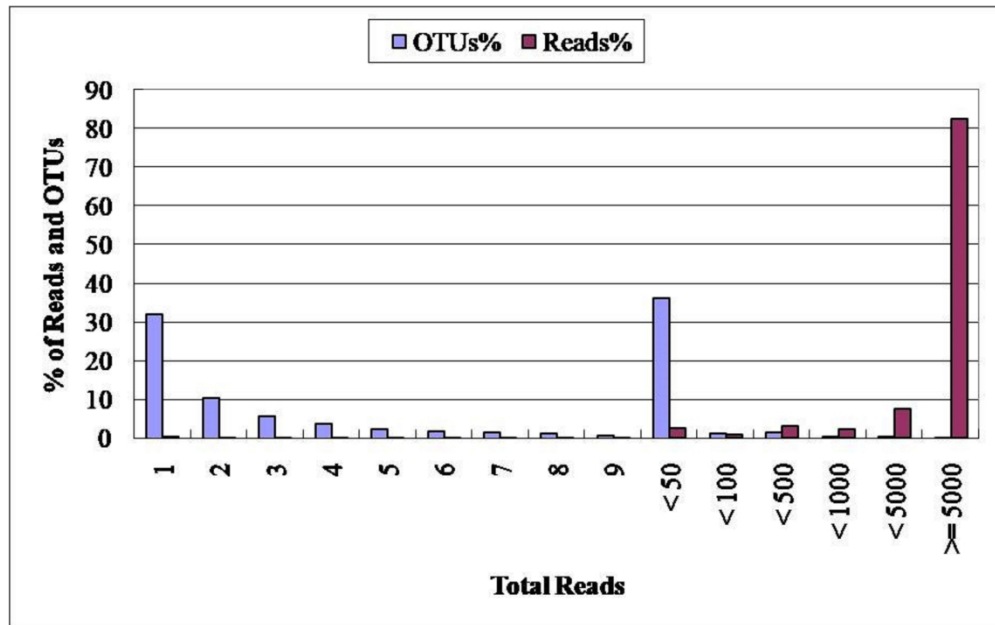
892 **Figure 3.** Phylogenetic tree of bacteria at family level constructed in MG-RAST with
893 Illumina sequencing data set (Tree is present with orders (colored slices) and families belong
894 to each orders are given inside colored slices. Magenta box inside the colored slice indicate
895 P-population and green box indicate H-population. The RDP database was used as annotation
896 source, and a minimum identity cutoff (90%) was applied).

Table 1. Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from P population (Values in the parenthesis are per cent of particular taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

Sl. No.	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Proteobacteria (87.57)	Gammaproteobacteria (86.47)	Enterobacteriales (85.00)	Enterobacteriaceae (85.01)	<i>Bacillus</i> (35.57)	Secondary endosymbiont of <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> [non-specified] (70.38)
2	Firmicutes (9.29)	Bacilli (9.14)	Bacillales (8.70)	Bacillaceae (8.25)	<i>Arsenophonus</i> (24.69)	<i>Arsenophonus</i> endosymbiont of <i>Bemisia tabaci</i> (7.19)
3	Bacteroidetes (2.91)	Flavobacteriia (1.70)	Flavobacteriales (1.71)	Flavobacteriaceae (1.71)	<i>Vibrio</i> (5.83)	<i>Bacillus cereus</i> (4.07)
4	Chlorobi (0.16)	Betaproteobacteria (0.94)	Vibrionales (1.30)	Vibrionaceae (1.30)	<i>Riemerella</i> (4.53)	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (3.78)
5	Actinobacteria (0.02)	Bacteroidia (0.59)	Burkholderiales (0.69)	Oxalobacteraceae (0.65)	<i>Lysinibacillus</i> (4.20)	<i>Bacillus flexus</i> (1.70)
6	Planctomycetes (0.01)	Sphingobacteriia (0.59)	Bacteroidales (0.60)	Sphingobacteriaceae (0.58)	<i>Flavobacterium</i> (2.87)	<i>Riemerella anatipestifer</i> (1.32)
7	Verrucomicrobia (0.007)	Chlorobia (0.16)	Sphingobacteriales (0.59)	Bacteroidaceae (0.39)	<i>Janthinobacterium</i> (2.94)	<i>Vibrio harveyi</i> (1.30)
8	Spirochaetae (0.005)	Deltaproteobacteria (0.16)	Lactobacillales (0.47)	Enterococcaceae (0.38)	<i>Sphingobacterium</i> (2.79)	<i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> (1.22)
9	Tenericutes (0.004)	Negativicutes (0.15)	Pseudomonadales (0.38)	Pseudomonadaceae (0.37)	<i>Bacteroides</i> (1.90)	<i>Janthinobacterium sp. J3</i> (0.86)
10	Acidobacteria (0.002)	Cytophagia (0.03)	Chlorobiales (0.17)	Staphylococcaceae (0.24)	<i>Enterococcus</i> (1.83)	<i>Bacillus pumilus</i> (0.69)

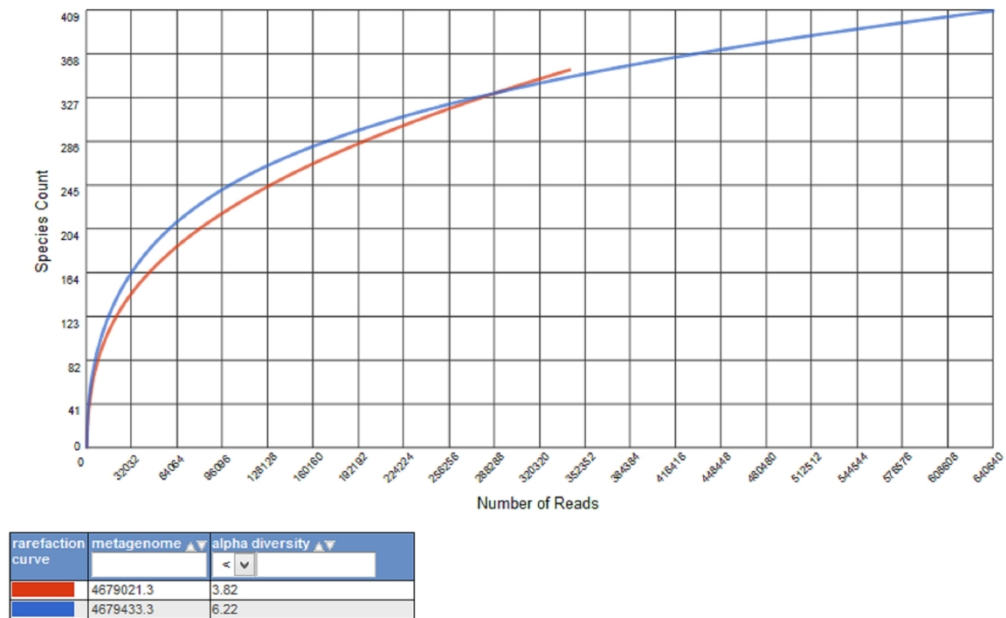
Table 2. Ten major bacteria in each taxonomic category, recorded from H population (Values in the parenthesis are per cent of particular taxonomic category of the bacteria compared to the total identified, when the pre-processed total reads were taken for downstream analyses)

Sl. No.	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
1	Firmicutes (82.67)	Bacilli (82.65)	Bacillales (82.58)	Bacillaceae (77.42)	<i>Bacillus</i> (82.27)	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (72.62)
2	Proteobacteria (13.40)	Gammaproteobacteria (16.28)	Enterobacteriales (8.34)	Enterobacteriaceae (8.34)	<i>Alcanivorax</i> (8.19)	<i>Alcanivorax sp. EPR 6</i> (7.58)
3	Bacteroidetes (0.84)	Bacteroidia (0.71)	Oceanospirillales (7.62)	Alcanivoracaceae (7.62)	<i>Staphylococcus</i> (5.58)	<i>SBR proteobacterium</i> (6.97)
4	Actinobacteria (0.07)	Flavobacteriia (0.12)	Bacteroidales (0.71)	Staphylococcaceae (5.19)	<i>Pantoea</i> (1.13)	<i>Staphylococcus pasteurii</i> (3.31)
5	Chlorobi (0.05)	Deltaproteobacteria (0.09)	Vibrionales (0.23)	Bacteroidaceae (0.41)	<i>Lysinibacillus</i> (0.76)	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> (1.75)
6	Planctomycetes (0.04)	Actinobacteria (class) (0.05)	Lactobacillales (0.16)	Vibrionaceae (0.23)	<i>Bacteroides</i> (0.44)	<i>Staphylococcus sciuri</i> (1.63)
7	Verrucomicrobia (0.04)	Betaproteobacteria (0.03)	Flavobacteriales (0.12)	Rikenellaceae (0.20)	<i>Alistipes</i> (0.22)	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (1.10)
8	Spirochaetae (0.02)	Chlorobia (0.03)	Actinomycetales (0.05)	Enterococcaceae (0.09)	<i>Photorhabdus</i> (0.21)	<i>Pantoea dispersa</i> (1.02)
9	Tenericutes (0.01)	Negativicutes (0.02)	Chlorobiales (0.03)	Prevotellaceae (0.07)	<i>Terribacillus</i> (0.16)	<i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> (0.70)
10	Acidobacteria (0.01)	Cytophagia (0.01)	Pseudomonadales (0.03)	Paenibacillaceae (0.04)	<i>Enterococcus</i> (0.10)	<i>Bacillus pumilus</i> (0.34)



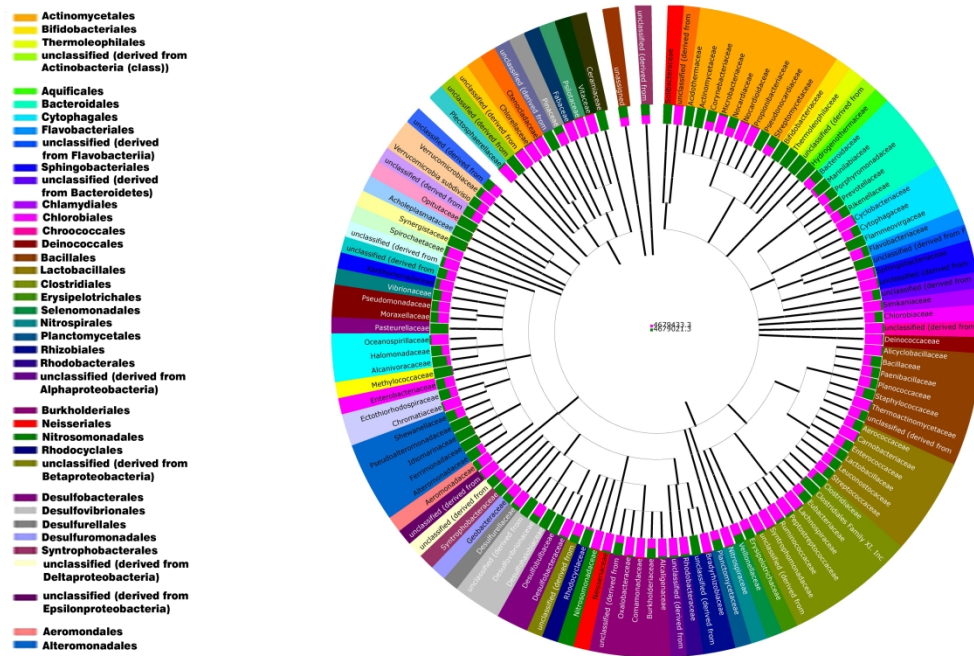
A graphical representation of reads and OTU proportion (The blue bar represents percentage of total OTUs in the read-count groups. The red bar represents percentage of total read contributed by the OTUs in the read-count group)

677x423mm (150 x 150 DPI)



Rarefaction analyses of *Bemisia tabaci* bacterial communities (P-population: blue line, H-population: red line)

952x592mm (96 x 96 DPI)



Phylogenetic tree of bacteria at family level constructed in MG-RAST with Illumina sequencing data set (Tree is present with orders (colored slices) and families belong to each orders are given inside colored slices. Magenta box inside the colored slice indicate P-population and green box indicate H-population. The RDP database was used as annotation source, and a minimum identity cutoff (90%) was applied).

304x203mm (300 x 300 DPI)