

# Fungal, bacterial, and archaeal diversity in the digestive tract of several beetle larvae (coleoptera)

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## Abstract

© Copyright 2018 Elvira E. Ziganshina et al. Interpretation of how partnerships between fungi, bacteria, archaea, and insects are maintained through the life of the hosts is a big challenge within the framework of symbiosis research. The main goal of this work was to characterize the gut microbiota in larvae of several Coleoptera species using sequencing of the bacterial and archaeal 16S rRNA genes and fungal internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region. Thus, larvae with various food preferences, including *Amphimallon solstitiale*, *Oryctes nasicornis*, *Cucujus cinnaberinus*, *Schizotus pectinicornis*, *Rhagium mordax*, and *Rhagium inquisitor*, were thoroughly investigated in this work. We revealed an association of these beetle species mainly with four bacterial phyla, Proteobacteria, Firmicutes, Actinobacteria, and Bacteroidetes, as well as with three fungal phyla, Ascomycota, Zygomycota, and Basidiomycota, but microbial communities varied depending on the beetle host, individual organism, and surrounding environment. Moreover, archaea within the phyla Euryarchaeota and Crenarchaeota in the hindgut content of *O. nasicornis* and *A. solstitiale* were additionally detected. The identified microbial communities suggest their potential role in the exploitation of various resources, providing nutritional needs for the host organism. These microorganisms can also represent a valuable source of novel metabolic capacities for their application in different biotechnologies.

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