

1 **Title:** Fungal communities are differentially affected by conventional and biodynamic  
2 agricultural management approaches in vineyard ecosystems.

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18

## 19 **Abstract**

20 There is increased need to identify sustainable agricultural methods which avoid  
21 environmental degradation. Previous studies have focused on the effect of specific  
22 agricultural interventions on large organisms, but we have fewer data evaluating how  
23 microbes, which are key components of ecosystems, might be affected. Additionally,  
24 previous studies have been constrained as they only examined one habitat in an ecosystem  
25 and have not gone on to evaluate the effect of agricultural approach on harvested crops.  
26 Here we take an ecosystems approach and evaluate the net effect of conventional versus  
27 biodynamic management on agricultural ecosystems by quantifying fungal communities in  
28 multiple habitats using metagenomics. We go on to measure biodiversity in the crop and key  
29 chemical quality parameters in the product consumed by humans. We find that the method  
30 of management significantly affects communities in soil, on plant structures, and on the  
31 developing crop in subtle but importantly different ways in terms of number, type, and  
32 abundance of species. However, management approach has no effect on communities in the  
33 final harvested juice, nor on product traits aligned with quality. This shows that while  
34 management approach impacts different habitats in the environment in different ways, this  
35 does not automatically flow onto the harvested crop.

36

37 **Keywords:** Agricultural microbiology, community ecology, vineyard fungi.

38

39

## 40 Introduction

41 How biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides, responds to the way we manage  
42 natural and agricultural ecosystems is a key area of modern ecology; it impacts both  
43 conservation efforts and the cultivation of crop species which provide essential food  
44 resources (Tanentzap et al., 2015). It is commonly asserted that agriculture conflicts with  
45 natural environments, and sustainable approaches to agriculture are now receiving greater  
46 attention (Edwards et al., 2015). While we may more readily perceive how various human-  
47 mediated ecosystem interventions impact larger plants and animals, we have a poor idea  
48 about how microbial communities respond, if they respond at all, to various management  
49 approaches. Microbial communities perform essential functions in all ecosystems and play a  
50 role in directly modulating plant health, productivity, and development (Lau and Lennon,  
51 2012; Panke-Buisse et al., 2015; Sugiyama et al., 2013). Studies to date have reported that  
52 the structure and composition of microbial communities often vary considerably over  
53 different spatial and ecological gradients (Hanson et al., 2012; Martiny et al., 2006;  
54 Nemergut et al., 2013). While the main drivers of microbial diversity may differ between  
55 ecosystems, it is generally held that terrestrial microbial communities are mostly driven by  
56 natural selection to specific habitats present in any particular environment (which would  
57 include selection pressures imposed by agrochemicals), though the significance of stochastic  
58 (neutral) effects in defining microbial community composition should not be ignored  
59 (Morrison-Whittle and Goddard, 2015; Stegen et al., 2013, 2012).

60

61 Modern agricultural management practices do not involve just one treatment but instead  
62 comprise a range of different biological, physical, and chemical treatments applied to  
63 cultivated land to maximise the health, resilience, and productivity of crop species. There is  
64 significant and seemingly growing public concern surrounding the use of agrochemical

65 interventions, though the science evaluating their effects at the ecosystems level is sparse  
66 (Edwards et al., 2015; Tanentzap et al., 2015). Due to concerns about environmental impacts  
67 of agrochemicals, alternative philosophies to agricultural management have emerged. These  
68 alternative approaches include "organic" and "biodynamic" styles of management that,  
69 while very similar to "conventional" practices, often differ in a few notable ways. At their  
70 core, organic and biodynamic practices are primarily shaped by their philosophical  
71 opposition to the use of agrichemical pesticides and herbicides, both of which are routinely  
72 used in conventional management (Tilman et al., 2002, 2002). In practice, this can often  
73 manifest as differential constraints on what specific treatment decisions can be made for any  
74 one site. Organic and biodynamic practices are constrained in what they may use by local  
75 commercial-certification bodies such as BioGro<sup>NZ</sup> or Demeter<sup>Int</sup>. As a part of formal  
76 certification from these agencies, companies are required to conform to approved codes of  
77 practice which either heavily restricts or forbids the use of most pesticide and fertiliser  
78 products.

79

80 The subject of alternative land management philosophies is a popular albeit controversial  
81 one, and has provoked a considerable shift in many industry practices globally. It is  
82 imperative that we objectively, quantitatively assess whether different practices differentially  
83 affect ecosystems, and the crops and products that derive from them. As huge areas of the  
84 planet have been dedicated to cultivating plant species, and realising that these are not  
85 completely isolated from surrounding natural ecosystems, any effect of different  
86 management approaches to cultivation may have significant implications for the diversity  
87 and functioning of ecosystems generally. Fungal communities form a core component of  
88 natural and agricultural ecosystems, and this where we focus here as a first step.

89 We currently have no clear idea whether organic/biodynamic or conventional practices  
90 translate to real variation in microbial communities, nor their effect on the products deriving  
91 from these systems. Many studies have found that specific agricultural interventions can  
92 significantly impact microbial diversity in agricultural ecosystems (Čadež et al., 2010;  
93 Gomiero et al., 2011; Hartmann et al., 2015; Martins et al., 2014, 2012; Perazzolli et al.,  
94 2014; Saison et al., 2006). However, very few studies have tested whether overall treatments  
95 culminate in detectable differences in biodiversity between different agricultural  
96 philosophies. One recent long-term study found organic farming increased richness,  
97 decreased evenness, and shifted the structure of the soil microbiota compared to  
98 conventional approaches (Hartmann et al., 2015). This is an excellent study producing an  
99 important result, but only examines soil: one, albeit important, habitat in agricultural  
100 systems. To achieve a more holistic picture of the effects of different management  
101 approaches on agricultural ecosystems requires examining multiple habitats in these  
102 ecosystems. Importantly, for the consumer, the status of the produce that is cropped also  
103 needs evaluation.

104

105 Here we take an approach that samples multiple habitats in vineyard ecosystems, including  
106 the harvested juice and wine, and use DNA sequencing to enumerate the fungal  
107 communities in multiple habitats from six conventional as well as six “biodynamically”  
108 managed vineyards. We test the null hypothesis that there is no difference in the effect of  
109 management approach on microbial biodiversity across this agricultural ecosystem. We do  
110 this by breaking down and analysing different components of microbial diversity in different  
111 habitats. Since fungi are the key component that drives the fermentation of juice to wine,  
112 and produce many key quality flavour and aroma compounds as they do so, we also go onto  
113 analyse fungal diversity in juice and key fungal-derived quality flavour compounds in the

114 wines: varietal thiols (Anfang et al., 2009; Harsch and Gardner, 2013; Masneuf-Pomarède et  
115 al., 2006; Santiago and Gardner, 2015). By quantifying community structure across multiple  
116 vineyard habitats, and key microbe-derived compounds in wine, we can more powerfully  
117 assess the ecosystem level effects of management approach that would not be possible by  
118 characterising one habitat or aspect of the ecosystem in isolation.

## 119 **Methods**

### 120 **Sampling viticulture ecosystems**

121 Soil, bark, and ripe fruit habitats were sampled from 12 commercial sauvignon blanc  
122 vineyards managed by nine different companies across the Wairau valley in the Marlborough  
123 region on the South Island of New Zealand, approx. 41°S, 173°E. The experimental design  
124 was such that  $n=6$  for each habitat for each management type; thus, 36 samples were  
125 collected from vineyards comprising six biodynamic and six conventionally managed  
126 vineyards for a fully-balanced design. All biodynamically managed vineyards had achieved  
127 BioGro™ organic certification. Approximately two weeks before harvest, around 30g of each  
128 habitat was aseptically collected. Each sample comprised three pooled sub-samples taken  
129 across each vineyard. All samples were taken at least 5m into the vineyard to avoid edge  
130 effects. Soil samples were taken 50cm away from a grapevine trunk at a depth of ~10cm.  
131 Bark samples were taken from at least 30 cm above the soil, and whole bunches of fruit were  
132 cut into sterile bags. All samples were taken with sterile tools and placed into sterile  
133 containers, and transported on ice to the laboratory for processing. Microbes were washed  
134 off fruit samples by immersion in sterile water with rocking for 30 minutes. The resulting  
135 solution was then centrifuged at 3000rpm, and the resulting pellet re-suspended in 500  $\mu$ l of  
136 sterile water. Soil and bark samples were homogenised mechanically using aseptic technique  
137 to increase surface area for DNA extraction.

138

139 We also collected commercially harvested juice from these same vineyards. Approximately  
140 10L of juice was transferred into sterile jerry cans at each winery and transported to the  
141 laboratory on ice. 50ml of homogenised juice was centrifuged at 3000 rpm and the resulting  
142 pellets suspended in 500  $\mu$ l of sterile water. Twelve juice samples directly deriving from the

143 six biodynamic vineyards and six conventionally managed vineyards were collected. Thus, in  
144 total 48 samples were collected from the twelve vineyards and the juice derived from them.

### 145 **Extraction and Sequencing**

146 All samples were frozen at -20°C prior to processing. DNA was extracted using the Zymo  
147 Research Soil Microbe DNA MiniPrep™ kits. We empirically determined this kit was sufficient  
148 to extract DNA from all substrates. Fungal communities were characterised and enumerated  
149 by 454-sequencing of the D1/D2 region of 26S ribosomal RNA, and amplified using NL1 and  
150 NL4 primers described in Kurtzman and Robnett (2003) with unique multiplex identifiers  
151 added as appropriate. Sequencing this locus provides an effective method for taxonomic  
152 identification down to at least genus level as well as the quantification of the relative  
153 richness and abundances of fungal communities (Morrison-Whittle and Goddard, 2015;  
154 Taylor et al., 2014). All PCR products were cleaned using AmpureXP beads and their quality  
155 checked by Agilent DNA1000 chips. Juice samples were uni-directionally sequenced on a  
156 454-junior instrument by New Zealand Genomics Limited. Vineyard communities were  
157 sequenced on a full plate of a 454 Life Sciences GS FLX instrument by Macrogen (Korea).

### 158 **Sequencing Pipeline**

159 Sequence processing was carried out using Mothur v.1.30 (Schloss et al., 2009). Primers and  
160 sequences <200bp were removed. Low quality reads were removed using the pyronoise  
161 algorithm. Chimeric sequences produced during PCR were identified and removed using the  
162 uchime algorithm. Once the remaining high-quality sequences were bioinformatically  
163 assigned labels based on their multiplex identifier sequence, they were merged and analysed  
164 together. Unique sequences were compared to a reference database of fungal sequences.  
165 Sequences that were not identified as fungal were removed (11,105, 7.26% of all reads). The  
166 remaining 141,940 fungal sequences were then aligned using a fungal reference database  
167 and clustered at >98% identity.

168 The 98% identity threshold was used to approximate clusters of fungal species (Kurtzman  
169 and Robnett, 2003; Romanelli et al., 2010) and was the lowest level of molecular operational  
170 taxonomic unit (MOTU) in this study. Any MOTU that was represented by a single read (a  
171 singleton) was conservatively removed from the sequence pool. To effect equal sampling  
172 effort for these DNA sequences, reads were sub-sampled (rarefied) to the sample with the  
173 lowest read count, resulting in 509 reads per sample. Representative sequences of each  
174 MOTU were then classified against a fungal taxonomic database using a Bayesian approach.  
175 Each MOTU was classified to the genus level and above using the 'classify.seqs' command in  
176 Mothur. Sequences were listed as unclassified at any one taxonomic level if their sequence  
177 match fell below 70%.

### 178 **Winemaking and thiol analyses**

179 No additions were made to juices once they arrived in the laboratory, where they were fitted  
180 with an air-lock and allowed to spontaneously ferment at 15°C, the standard temperature for  
181 sauvignon blanc ferments in Marlborough. Ferment progression was monitored by weight  
182 loss, and once complete the varietal thiols 3-mercaptohexan-1-ol (3MH) and 3-  
183 mercaptohexyl acetate (3MHA) were quantified to  $\text{ng L}^{-1}$  by the standard commercial GC-MS  
184 service available at Hill Laboratories (<http://www.hill-laboratories.com>).

185

### 186 **Statistical Analysis**

187 The effect of vineyard management on total species richness was tested using a two-way  
188 ANOVA with management and habitat as fixed effects followed by Tukey's Honestly  
189 Significant Differences (Tukey HSD) adjustment of pairwise comparisons. Differences in  
190 relative species abundance and community structure was evaluated with two-way full  
191 factorial permutational multivariate ANOVA (permanova) of Jaccard dissimilarities  
192 (Anderson, 2001) with management and habitat as fixed effects. Variation in community

193 structure of bark, fruit, soil, and juice habitats across conventional and biodynamic vineyards  
194 was visualised using classic multidimensional scaling of Jaccard community dissimilarities.  
195 All statistical testing was conducted using R (R Core Team, 2016), including tests available in  
196 the 'vegan' package (Dixon, 2003). The relative abundance of fungal taxa in biodynamic and  
197 conventional soil and fruit was visualised using CYTOSCAPE 3.4 (Shannon et al., 2003). To  
198 explore the importance of different fungal taxa in influencing significant patterns of diversity,  
199 we examined the effect of removing each taxa from the dataset. Wherever significant  
200 differences in fungal diversity were found, we repeated the analysis while removing one  
201 fungal taxonomic level from the dataset at a time for each phylum, class, order, family, and  
202 genus levels. Whenever removing a fungal taxonomic level resulted in a test going from  
203 significant to non-significant, we considered that as contributing to the original difference.  
204

## 205 Results

206 Characterising fungal diversity using amplicon sequencing is not quantitative in terms of  
207 evaluating the total numbers of organisms from any given sample. However, by ensuring  
208 equal biological and analytical sampling effort of communities across habitats and vineyard  
209 management systems, we can quantify relative differences in fungal diversity. We point out  
210 that, as with most ecological studies, we do not sample all organisms in any given habitat,  
211 but we randomly sub-sample the same number of individuals (DNA sequences) and use  
212 these to make comparative inferences. For example, while one habitat may contain ten times  
213 more individuals than another, one randomly sub-samples the same number of individuals  
214 from both, and uses these for analyses.

### 215 *Overview of fungal diversity*

216 The analyses of DNA from the 48 samples spanning four habitats (soil, bark, fruit, and juice)  
217 revealed the presence of 1,496 fungal MOTUs - hereafter referred to as species. Raw  
218 sequences for each sample are available in GenBank (accession number: SRP106145).  
219 Overall, we recovered five phyla, 25 classes, 66 orders, 143 families, and 268 genera of fungi.  
220 The most diverse and abundant phylum overall was Ascomycota, which comprised 55.5 % of  
221 species and 70.6% of reads, followed by Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota, Glomeromycota,  
222 and Blastocladiomycota which comprised 13.1%, 4.0%, 0.2%, and 0.3% of species  
223 respectively (19.3% ,1.6%, 0.0%, and 0.1% of reads respectively); see Figure 1. Ascomycota  
224 were the most diverse and abundant phylum in all habitats except fruit, where  
225 Basidiomycota were the most diverse (52.2% of all fruit species) and abundant (56.7% of all  
226 fruit reads). Diversity was greatest in soil which contained 927 species, followed by bark  
227 with 521 species, then fruit with 134 species, and least diverse in juice with 97 species.  
228 Analyses of variance revealed that soil communities had significantly greater numbers of  
229 species than any other habitat ( $F_{3,44} = 176.8, P < 0.001$ , Tukey HSD:  $P < 0.001$ ). The bark habitat

230 harboured significantly greater numbers of species than both fruit and juice (Tukey HSD:  $P <$   
231 0.001), and the fruit and juice habitats contained the lowest numbers of species, which did  
232 not numerically significantly differ from one other (Tukey HSD:  $P = 0.63$ ). In total only 16  
233 species (1.1 %) were found across all four habitats with 117 species (7.8 %) found across at  
234 least two habitats. Conversely, 1,363 species (91.1 % of all species) were exclusively found in  
235 one habitat only. Of the four habitats sampled, soil had the highest proportion of habitat-  
236 specific species (88.8% of all soil species) followed by bark, fruit, and juice (79.1%, 56.7%,  
237 and 53.6% respectively).

238

### 239 *Evaluating the effect of management on communities*

240 Given the same random sampling effort from all habitats, we define three possible types of  
241 differences among communities: 1 – absolute species richness: the difference in number of  
242 species; 2 - relative species richness: the difference in types of species present in the sub-  
243 sample; and 3 - community composition: the differential abundances of species in the sub-  
244 sample. The difference between these is important and using these we may test whether  
245 management approach changes the numbers of species present, the types of species that  
246 are present, the relative abundances of species, or all of these (Figure 2).

247

248 We first simultaneously analysed the effect of habitat and management approach on  
249 absolute numbers of fungal species using a two-way full-factorial ANOVA. This revealed  
250 habitat significantly affects species numbers (see Table 1A), but the effect of management  
251 approach on the number of species was much weaker. We found no significant interaction  
252 between these two main factors, meaning management does not dramatically differentially  
253 affect species richness in the different habitats. We then analysed how habitat and  
254 management approach affects the types of fungal species present using a 2-way  
255 PERMANOVA on a Jaccard community similarity matrix, and this revealed a similar pattern:

256 that overall, habitat significantly influenced the types of species present ( $R^2 = 0.287$ ,  $P <$   
257  $0.001$ ) but management approach had no effect ( $R^2 = 0.021$ ,  $P < 0.087$ ), again with no  
258 significant interaction between habitat and management. Lastly, we analysed how habitat  
259 and management approach affects fungal community composition, and this again revealed a  
260 similar pattern: habitat significantly influenced the relative abundances of species in fungal  
261 communities ( $R^2 = 0.346$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) but management approach did not ( $R^2 = 0.017$ ,  $P <$   
262  $0.263$ ), with no significant interaction between habitat and management approach. The  
263 relationships between communities deriving from different habitats and management  
264 approaches are shown in Figure 3.

265

266 The effect of habitat eclipses the effect of management practice in terms of fungal  
267 biodiversity, and this result aligns with our previous findings in terms of the strong  
268 structuring effect of habitat (Morrison-Whittle and Goddard, 2015). Taking the  $R^2$  values,  
269 which indicate the proportion of variance explained by a variable, we estimate that habitat is  
270 approximately 17 times stronger than management practice in determining the number,  
271 type, and abundance of fungal species across this agricultural ecosystem. However, this does  
272 not necessarily mean management approach has no effect on these fungal communities.

273

#### 274 *Effect of management on absolute number of species among habitats*

275 We went onto examine each habitat independently as the previous analyses show these  
276 differ significantly in terms of biodiversity, and management practices are not discrete effects  
277 and may thus differentially affect habitats (e.g. fungicides are sprayed on the crop but not  
278 usually on soil). First, we evaluated the effect of agricultural management on the absolute  
279 number of species present. One-way ANOVAs revealed that management approach only  
280 affected the number of species present in two of the four habitats we analysed. Significantly

281 more fungal species were found on the bark and fruit of biodynamic than conventionally  
282 managed vineyards (Bark:  $F_{1,10} = 7.524$ ,  $P = 0.020$ ; Fruit:  $F_{1,10} = 11.56$ ,  $P = 0.007$ ). However,  
283 management approach did not significantly affect the number of species in either the soil or  
284 juice (Soil:  $F_{1,10} = 0.12$ ,  $P = 0.733$ ; Juice:  $F_{1,10} = 0.418$ ,  $P = 0.533$ ). Overall bark communities in  
285 biodynamically managed vineyards had 102 or 35.8% more species than those in  
286 conventionally managed ones, and fruit communities 41 or 63.1% more species. These  
287 represent a reasonable fraction of 19.6% of the 521, and 30.6% of the 134 total species in  
288 bark and fruit respectively.

289

290 We evaluated the potential contributions of different taxonomic groups underpinning the  
291 significant differences we observed, and this revealed the significant differences between  
292 biodynamic and conventional bark communities collapsed only when the class  
293 Dothideomycetes (largest and most diverse class of ascomycete fungi) and the order  
294 Pleosporales were excluded from analysis.

295

### 296 *Effect of management on the types of species among habitats*

297 To examine whether management approach differentially affects the types of species in  
298 different habitats, we carried out one-way PERMANOVA on binary (presence/absence)  
299 Jaccard dissimilarities for each habitat independently. Management approach had a  
300 significant effect on the types of fungal species in soil and fruit (Soil:  $R^2 = 0.107$ ,  $P = 0.003$ ;  
301 Fruit:  $R^2 = 0.152$ ,  $P = 0.005$ ; Table 1), but not in bark or juice (Bark:  $R^2 = 0.095$ ,  $P = 0.260$ ;  
302 Juice:  $R^2 = 0.092$ ,  $P = 0.420$ ). We evaluated whether there were any consistent patterns in the  
303 types of species that differentiate soil and fruit fungal communities of biodynamic and  
304 conventional vineyards. We found the significant effect of management on communities in  
305 both fruit and soil habitats was not driven by the differential presence of any one taxonomic

306 group as significant differences remained even when every individual class, order, family, and  
307 genus was systematically excluded from the dataset.

308

### 309 *Effect of management on community composition among habitats*

310 Lastly, we evaluated the effect of management approaches on the abundance of species in  
311 habitats. One-way PERMANOVA on abundance-based Jaccard dissimilarities revealed that  
312 the structure and composition of soil and fruit communities significantly differed according  
313 to the management approach (Soil:  $R^2 = 0.113$ ,  $P = 0.013$ ; Fruit:  $R^2 = 0.156$ ,  $P = 0.046$ ). Again,  
314 the bark and juice communities showed no significant differences between the two  
315 management approaches (Bark:  $R^2 = 0.080$ ,  $P = 0.566$ ; Juice:  $R^2 = 0.082$ ,  $P = 0.552$ ). Variation  
316 in the structure and composition of fungal communities is represented by classic  
317 multidimensional scaling of non-binary Jaccard measures of community dissimilarity in  
318 Figure 4. The significant effect of management on communities in fruit and soil appeared to  
319 be differentially underpinned by various taxonomic groups. In soil, only the removal of  
320 Sordariomycetes (class) disrupted the significant difference detected. However, differences  
321 between biodynamic and conventional fruit communities appeared to be affected by the  
322 differential abundance of five separate genera: *Columnosphaeria*, *Davidiella*, *Hanseniaspora*,  
323 *Chalara*, and *Trichothecium*.

324

### 325 *Effects of management on fungal-derived quality indicators in wine*

326 Finally, we evaluated the concentrations of volatile thiols in spontaneously fermented wines  
327 deriving from these vineyards. Two volatile thiols are important in sauvignon blanc aroma  
328 and quality, and these are metabolically liberated by yeasts from aroma-less precursors in  
329 juice during fermentation (Anfang et al., 2009; Harsch and Gardner, 2013; Masneuf-  
330 Pomarède et al., 2006; Santiago and Gardner, 2015). A simple t-test reveals there was no

331 difference in the concentrations of 3MH and 3MHA in wines deriving from vineyards with  
332 different management approaches:  $P = 0.053$ ; t-ratio 2.193, 10 d.f.) and  $P = 0.706$  (t-ratio  
333 0.388, 10 d.f.); see Supplementary table 1.

334

335 In summary, habitat is approximately 17 times more important than management practice in  
336 determining the number, type, and abundance of fungal species across this agricultural  
337 ecosystem. However, it appears that management approaches also subtly effect fungal  
338 communities, and the striking observation is that these effects differ according to habitat in  
339 the ecosystem. Communities in all vineyard habitats are affected by management approach  
340 in some way, while communities in juice are not affected nor are some important quality  
341 parameters in the final wine, and these differences are summarised in Table 2.

## 342 Discussion

343 We have shown that conventional and biodynamic agricultural practices significantly  
344 differentially influence patterns of fungal diversity in vineyards. Whilst this is not striking, the  
345 fact that biodiversity was affected differentially between habitats is of significance. Perhaps  
346 most importantly, these data show no difference in biodiversity associated with the  
347 harvested products from alternate management systems, and this translated to no effect of  
348 management approach for one key fungal-derived quality component in wine. Exploring the  
349 impacts of commercial management on microbial diversity is particularly relevant to the  
350 practice of commercial winemaking, as the process itself hinges on the activity of naturally  
351 occurring fungal species that convert sugars to ethanol and other flavour compounds from  
352 harvested grapes (Barata et al., 2012; Swiegers et al., 2005; Zott et al., 2011, 2010).

353

354 This study represents a significant step forward as it both quantifies how biodiversity is  
355 affected by different agri-management approaches, and evaluates the flow-through effect on  
356 the harvested crop and its microbially-derived products. As far as we are aware, this is the  
357 first study to test these questions. In characterising diversity across multiple habitats, we  
358 show not only that different management practices for the cultivating plant species can  
359 significantly impact resident microbial communities, but also that these effects are complex  
360 and that communities are differentially affected contingent upon habitat. Additionally, our  
361 data show that while we can observe differences in diversity between different management  
362 practices, these differences are far less pronounced than differences imposed by selection in  
363 different habitats. Understanding the relationship between human interventions and the  
364 ecology of microbial ecosystems represents an exciting frontier of research. It is especially  
365 relevant for the wine industry as it demonstrates that management decisions in the vineyard

366 can directly affect microbe communities that surround commercially valuable grape vines.  
367 Here we show that such impacts on vineyard diversity may not necessarily affect the harvest  
368 crop or the products the crop might be transformed into by microbes. Moving forward, these  
369 impacts are likely to become the subject of commercial and scientific interest as we  
370 understand more about how terrestrial microbial communities can affect the health,  
371 development, and resilience of plant species and the crops and products derived from them  
372 (Lau and Lennon, 2012, 2011; Panke-Buisse et al., 2015; Sugiyama et al., 2013).

373

374 Another key challenge to understanding the impacts of human intervention on complex  
375 microbial ecosystems is the requirement to measure and quantify the impacts on  
376 communities in different habitats within larger ecosystems. To date, the vast majority of  
377 studies only measure microbial diversity of one habitat at a time – principally soil  
378 communities. While the soil microbiome represents a crucial component of terrestrial  
379 ecosystems, these data suggest we may not necessarily use it to directly assess other  
380 microbial communities in the ecosystem.

381

382 Our study reports differential patterns of fungal diversity between various habitats in  
383 biodynamic and conventionally managed vineyards, and there are a number of factors that  
384 could plausibly be driving these differences. Other studies have reported that a number of  
385 specific human interventions can affect microbial diversity in specific habitats of  
386 commercially managed ecosystems (Čadež et al., 2010; Gomiero et al., 2011; Hartmann et  
387 al., 2015; Martins et al., 2014, 2012; Perazzolli et al., 2014). One central component of  
388 biodynamic viticulture is the regular and systematic use of different organic composting  
389 techniques which are used extensively over vineyard blocks. Composting techniques are  
390 used by conventionally managed vineyards to some degree, but generally are implemented

391 less intensively and less frequently than biodynamic vineyards. Studies have thus reported  
392 corresponding significant effects of composting techniques and soil management on soil  
393 microbial diversity in agricultural environments (Bossio et al., 1998; Girvan et al., 2003;  
394 Gomiero et al., 2011; Hartmann et al., 2014; Hartmann and Widmer, 2006; Saison et al.,  
395 2006; Vega-Avila et al., 2015). Another key feature of biodynamic viticulture (and organic  
396 viticulture generally) is the heavily reduced use of pesticide sprays. Pesticide use is rare/non-  
397 existent in biodynamic viticulture contrasting conventional vineyards who routinely use them  
398 to control the spread and development of various fungal diseases. In cases when biodynamic  
399 vineyards are permitted to apply pesticides, the number of approved fungicides is  
400 considerably fewer than those available to conventionally managed vineyards. The impacts  
401 of fungicide sprays on fungal diversity has been documented in terrestrial ecosystems that  
402 are commercially managed (reviewed in Bünemann et al, (2006) and Barata et al, (2012)). In  
403 vineyard studies these effects have been reported but have almost exclusively come from  
404 examinations of specific fungicides on fruit-associated fungi (Barata et al., 2012; Čadež et al.,  
405 2010; Comitini and Ciani, 2008; Martins et al., 2014, 2012; Perazzolli et al., 2014; Schmid et  
406 al., 2011).

407

408 Broadly, the fungal diversity we observed in fruit and soil habitats appear consistent with  
409 previous research examining soil or fruit independently from separate conventional or  
410 biodynamic or other organic vineyards (Hartmann et al., 2015; Martins et al., 2014; Saison et  
411 al., 2006). Other than our previous report of bark associated fungi at the landscape scale  
412 (Morrison-Whittle and Goddard, 2015), we cannot compare and contrast our findings of  
413 fungal communities associated with vineyard bark as such data are lacking.

414

415 Not all the patterns commonly associated with organically managed agri-systems were  
416 supported by our results. Many studies have reported the tendency of increased levels of  
417 biodiversity in organically managed ecosystems (reviewed in Hole et al, (2005); Setati et al,  
418 (2012); Martins et al, (2014); Bossio et al, (1998) (biomass not diversity); Gomiero et al,  
419 (2011); Hartmann et al, (2015); Saison et al, (2006)). While we did see significantly higher  
420 species richness in biodynamic fruit and bark communities, this was not detectable in soil  
421 communities where this trend is most often reported. Overall species richness did not  
422 significantly differ between management approaches in this study.

423

424 As we grow more aware of the role of microbial assemblages in the health, development,  
425 and productivity of plant species, it will become more imperative that we characterise and  
426 manage the way in which we influence plant-associated microbial diversity - intentionally or  
427 not. Our approach provides insight into the complex microbial ecosystem surrounding and  
428 potentially affecting a commercially valuable plant species and represents a significant step  
429 forward in our attempts to understand the impacts of human activities on microbial  
430 ecosystems. While it is unsurprising to discover that different management approaches  
431 mainly based around the use of anti-fungal sprays and microbially-based fertilisers affect  
432 fungal biodiversity, our data reveal that: 1) the way biodiversity is affected by management  
433 approach differs between habitats; and 2) that management approach does not necessarily  
434 translate to biodiversity differences associated with the harvested product or quality  
435 signature which are microbially-derived from them.

436

437 By understanding the impacts of specific ecosystem interventions and practices on microbial  
438 communities, we glean valuable insight into the ecology of these ecosystems. This provides a  
439 baseline by which to objectively develop approaches that safeguard and strategically manage

440 biodiversity and the environment. It may also pave the way for deliberate and targeted  
441 manipulation of microbial communities and ecosystems, and to minimise harmful impacts on  
442 the environment while maintaining the value of products derived from it.

443

444

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- 603
- 604

605 **Tables**

606 Table 1: A) Results of two-way full-factorial ANOVA of absolute species richness for habitat  
 607 and vineyard management effects. Results of two-way full factorial PERMANOVA on B)  
 608 relative richness - binary Jaccard community dissimilarities (9999 permutations) C)  
 609 Community composition - non-binary Jaccard community dissimilarities (9999  
 610 permutations).

		<b>EFFECT</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>SS</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>	
A)	Absolute Richness	Habitat	3	122420	40806	197.13	<0.001	
		Management	1	768	768	3.71	0.061	
		Interaction	3	1110	370	1.79	0.165	
		Residuals	40	8280	207			
		<b>Effect</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>SS</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>Pseudo-F</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>
B)	Relative Richness	Management	1	0.4	0.4	1.33	0.087	0.02
		Habitat	3	5.6	1.9	6.02	<0.001	0.29
		Interaction	3	1.1	0.4	1.19	0.095	0.06
		Residuals	40	12.4	0.3	0.64		
		Total	47	19.5	1.0			
C)	Community Composition	Management	1	0.3	0.3	1.14	0.263	0.02
		Habitat	3	6.9	2.3	7.87	<0.001	0.35
		Interaction	3	1.0	0.3	1.13	0.217	0.05
		Residuals	40	11.7	0.3	0.59		
		Total	47	20.0	1.0			

611

612

613 Table 2: Summary of fungal community differences across habitats by agricultural  
 614 management.

Habitat	Number of species	Types of species	Abundance of species
Soil	No difference	Different	Different
Bark	biodynamic > conventional	Not different	Not different
Fruit	biodynamic > conventional	Different	Different
Harvested juice	No difference	Not different	Not different

615

## 616 **Figure legends**

617

618 Figure 1: A) Overlap of community diversity across vineyard habitats (bark, fruit, soil) and the  
619 overlap of separate vineyard communities to those found in juice. B) The relative diversity of  
620 each of the five detected fungal phyla across all four habitats in 12 vineyards (six biodynamic  
621 and six conventionally managed vineyards).

622

623 Figure 2: The three measures of biological diversity examined across four habitats (bark,  
624 fruit, soil, and juice) and across two vineyard management practices (six biodynamic and six  
625 conventionally managed vineyards). Note these differences are relative measures and based  
626 on identical sampling effort in each habitat for each management system.

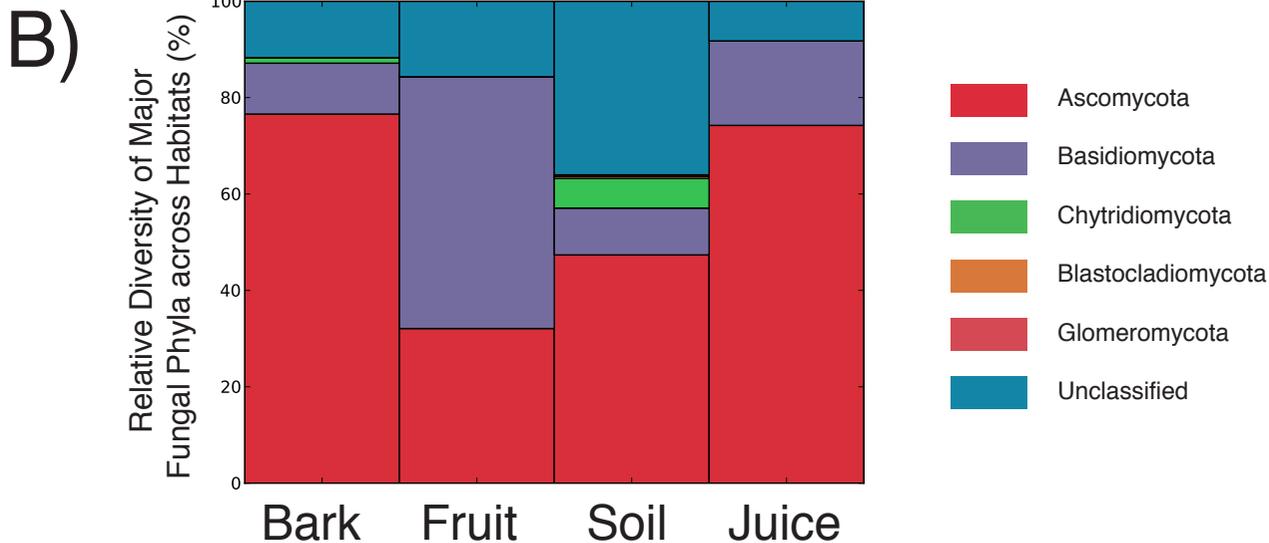
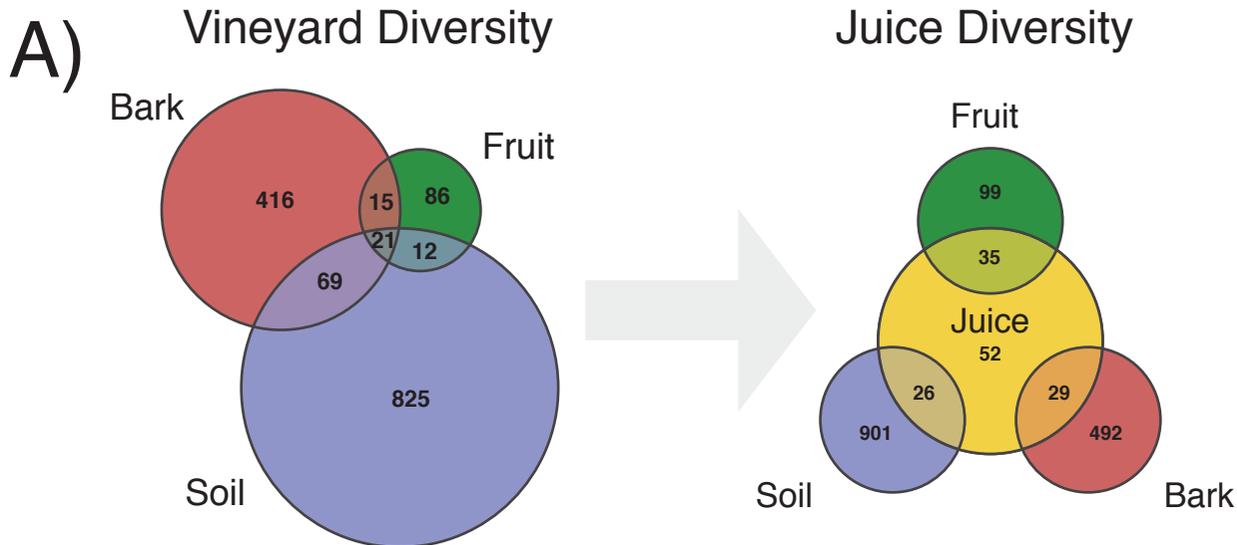
627

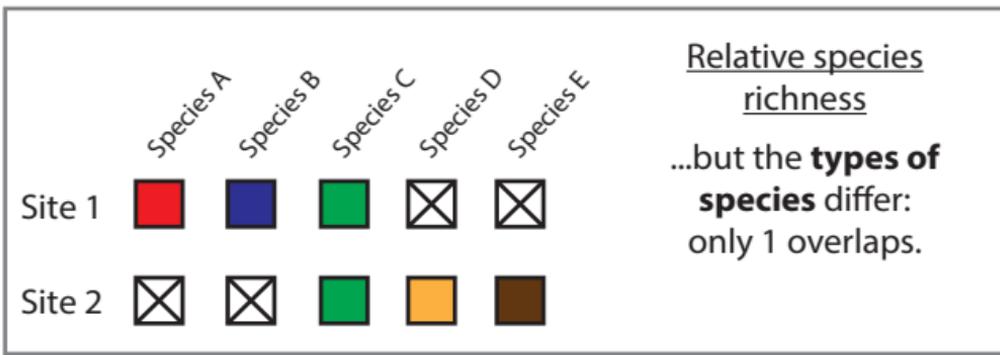
628 Figure 3: Relative abundances of identified taxa in biodynamic and conventional samples that  
629 compose >1% of all reads in: A) Soil B) Fruit habitats using CYTOSCAPE. The size of taxa nodes  
630 is proportional to their relative abundance in their respective habitat.

631

632 Figure 4: Classic multidimensional scaling of community composition measures (non-binary  
633 Jaccard dissimilarity) across: A) All samples: bark (red), soil (blue), fruit (green), and juice  
634 (yellow) communities; biodynamic communities are represented by darker shades and  
635 conventional by lighter shades; and B) by each habitat.

636





A)  Biodynamic  
 Conventional

B)  Biodynamic  
 Conventional

