

Lignolytic-consortium omics analysis reveal novel genomes and pathways involved in lignin modification and valorization

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Methods

Cloning, expression and purification of genes involved in bioconversion of ferulic acid into vanillin production

LigMet metagenomic dataset was screened based on Pfam families (PF13380 and PF00378) to find the candidate sequences coding feruloyl coenzyme A synthetase and enoyl-CoA hydratase. Genes *ferA_B3* and *ferB_B11*, encoding feruloyl coenzyme A synthetase and enoyl-CoA hydratase, respectively, were employed in the biotransformation of ferulic acid into vanillin. The sequences were synthesized by Biomatik (Biomatik Corporation, Canada) and inserted into the pET28a-vector and transformed into *Escherichia coli* BL21(DE). The *ferA_B3* gene sequence was sub-cloned in the pETTRXA-1a/LIC by the ligase independent cloning (LIC) method [1]. The resulting plasmids were then transformed into *E. coli* BL 21 (DE) for expression. The recombinant *E. coli* were grown at 37 °C in Luria Bertani medium containing 100 mg/L kanamycin. When the culture reached an optical density (OD₆₀₀ nm) of 0.6~0.8, IPTG was added to the culture at a final concentration of 0.5 mM. Thus, the culture was incubated for 4 hours at 30 °C for over-expression. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and suspended in binding buffer (20 mM sodium phosphate pH 7.4, 100 mM sodium chloride and 5mM imidazole) supplemented with phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) at final concentration of 1 mM and lysozyme at final concentration of 0.5 mg/mL. Cells were incubated for 30 minutes on ice and then lysed by sonication. Soluble fractions were obtained by centrifugation at 14,000 x g at 4 °C for 30 minutes and then loaded in His-Trap-Ni-NTA columns (GE Healthcare), pre-equilibrated with binding buffer. Recombinant proteins were eluted with an elution buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 400 mM imidazole). Eluted fractions were evaluated by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and protein concentrations were determined according to the Bradford method. Purified proteins were stored at - 80 °C until further use.

Table S1. Compounds identified by gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) in the lignin-waste stream used for establishment of lignin-degrading microbial community (LigMet).

Retention Time (min)	Match (%)	Compound
9.739	87.6	Butanoic acid
10.241	96.1	Latic acid
12.235	93.8	Butanoic acid
12.995	94.3	3-Hydroxypropanoic acid
13.218	86.8	Butyric acid, 3-hydroxy
13.991	92	Oxalic acid
14.29	73.8	Pentenoic acid, 4-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-, trimethylsilyl ester
15.192	80	Pentenoic acid, 4-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-, trimethylsilyl ester
15.857	92.1	Glycerol
17.511	79.7	Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-2,3-bis[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-, trimethylsilyl ester
18.366	81.2	Glyceric acid
18.78	75.5	Succinic acid
21.744	84.8	2(3H)-Furanone, dihydro-3-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-3-[[[(trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl]-
25.209	73	Butyric acid, 4-hydroxy
25.901	75.8	Butyric acid, 4-hydroxy
27.251	80.5	Arabinoic acid, 2,3,5-tris-O-(trimethylsilyl)-, ζ -lactone, l-
28.221	81.6	D-Erythro-Pentonic acid, 3-deoxy-2,5-bis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-2-C-[[[(trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl]-, ζ -lactone
28.621	82.6	D-Erythro-Pentonic acid, 3-deoxy-2,5-bis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-2-C-[[[(trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl]-, ζ -lactone
31.212	61	Acetic acid, [4-methoxy-3-(trimethylsiloxy)phenyl]-, methyl ester
33.192	93.2	Cinnamic acid, 4-hydroxy-, trans-
36.393	76.6	Trans-ferulic acid

Legend. The lignin source used in this study was a soluble stream generated by pilot-scale steam explosion and alkaline delignification of sugar cane bagasse [2]. The lignin profiling was performed with derivatized samples by a gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) system (Agilent GC 6890 and MSD 5973N series, Agilent, USA), according to Suguiyama et al [3]. The peaks were identified and quantified in comparison with authentic standards and the NIST Mass Spectral Library. The peak retention time and confidence level in sample identification with GC-MS are presented.

Table S2. Sequencing statistics and data processing of amplicons libraries constructed for profiling of the LigMet and soil sample analyzed.

Gene amplicon/Target primers/Replicate	Raw sequences ¹	Sequences	Average amplicon size [bp]	OTUs ³
		Trimming/Merged/Chimeras ²		
LigMet				
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /A	744,353	310,123	292	353
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /B	519,315	212,420	292	343
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /C	519,302	206,284	292	355
Soil				
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /A	42,349	20,193	292	1,419
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /A	101,080	52,903	292	1,551
16S rRNA/ <i>Bacteria</i> /A	137,133	77,397	292	1,558
<i>LigMet</i>				
ITS2/ <i>Fungi</i> /A	51,188	41,600	337	11
ITS2/ <i>Fungi</i> /B	40,950	35,014	331	12
ITS2/ <i>Fungi</i> /C	52,795	40,914	334	9

¹ Total counting of paired-end reads.

² After quality filtering of reads, merged sequences and removal of chimeric sequences.

³ Number of Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs).

Table S3. Diversity and richness indices of LigMet and soil samples based on 16S rRNA and ITS2 region sequences.

Target region / Replicate	Chao1	se.chao1	ACE	se.ACE	Shannon	Simpson	InvSimpson
16S Soil1	1503.00	17.18	1497.26	17.85	6.19	0.99	158.94
16S Soil2	1552.12	1.24	1554.16	19.35	6.36	1.00	201.28
16S Soil3	1558.07	0.28	1558.55	17.67	6.34	0.99	184.25
16S LigMet1	354.74	1.71	357.49	9.26	3.39	0.92	12.38
16S LigMet2	347.36	2.89	353.83	9.15	3.40	0.92	12.56
16S LigMet3	338.09	2.39	342.42	9.08	3.39	0.92	12.51
ITS2 LigMet1	11	0.16	12.06	1.64	1.46	0.73	3.70
ITS2 LigMet2	12	0.48	12.37	1.68	1.45	0.71	3.47
ITS2 LigMet3	9	0.00	9.00	0.94	1.44	0.70	3.35

Table S4. Protozoa identified in LigMet based on 18S rRNA sequencing.

Clones	Taxonomic affiliation	Score	Query Cover	E.value	Ident ¹	Accession ²
1.6	<i>Metadinium minorum</i>	895	88%	0.0	99%	JN116224.1
1.10	<i>Metadinium minorum</i>	917	88%	0.0	99%	JN116224.1
2.4	<i>Metadinium medium</i>	904	91%	0.0	99%	JN116208.1
2.9	<i>Metadinium minorum</i>	922	88%	0.0	100%	JN116224.1

Legend. Fragments of 18S rRNA gene were amplified using primers [4] and total DNA from LigMet as templates. The PCR products were purified, cloned in pGEM-TEasy Vector, and transformed in *Escherichia coli* DH5α. Clones were sequenced with Sanger-sequencing technology, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sequences were compared with references sequences in the public databases GenBank using BLASTn tool.

¹ Best Blast hit reference nucleotides sequences from NCBI database.

² GenBank accession numbers.

Table S5. Assembly statistics from draft genomes recovered from LigMet (all assemblies).

Bin Id	Taxonomy	Completeness (%)	Contamination (%)	Heterogeneity (%)	Total length (bp)	contigs	Predicted genes	GC (%)
0	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.008	1	1	67.86
1	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	347.543	168	395	33.47
2	<i>Burkholderiales</i>	15.60	0.39	100.00	1.450.957	664	1791	70.95
3	<i>Sphingomonadales</i>	97.85	2.10	0.00	2.600.224	14	2487	63.85
4	<i>Betaproteobacteria</i>	96.64	3.15	8.33	4.071.016	139	3831	63.90
5	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.902	3	3	72.60
6	<i>Actinomycetales</i>	93.03	2.30	25.00	2.775.244	23	2744	70.21
7	<i>Actinomycetale</i>	98.15	4.70	7.41	8.113.983	152	7824	67.03
8	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.703	1	1	74.99
9	<i>Bacteria</i>	65.96	29.90	22.00	4.259.062	2507	5745	71.51
10	<i>Burkholderiales</i>	65.56	57.81	69.51	4.042.450	1865	4847	67.40
11	<i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>	96.56	0.19	50.00	2.670.248	112	2600	67.01
12	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	96.97	79.92	2.96	6.835.854	532	6769	66.99
13	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.010	2	2	68.74
14	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	97.00	1.88	0.00	3.723.529	25	3637	62.37
15	<i>Bacteria</i>	100.00	5.96	0.00	4.073.576	105	3540	39.91
16	<i>Bacteria</i>	95.30	84.12	46.15	8.685.285	96	8342	64.68
17	<i>Actinomycetales</i>	96.42	1.35	12.50	5.940.093	80	5417	67.93
18	<i>Bacteria</i>	75.09	67.76	13.33	3.651.647	1656	4885	70.57
19	<i>Rhodobacteraceae</i>	97.47	3.53	0.00	4.829.944	102	4636	66.36
20	<i>Burkholderiales</i>	76.05	1.77	0.00	5.317.169	797	5668	69.45
21	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.075	1	1	56.19
22	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	91.16	2.39	42.86	3.339.285	178	3466	64.59
23	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	97.58	132.77	12.48	7.677.502	928	7988	64.43
24	<i>Bacteroidetes</i>	92.20	2.22	0.00	5.342.826	905	5155	40.87
25	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.316	1	1	63.75
26	<i>Bacteria</i>	4.02	0.00	0.00	785.243	366	929	56.40
27	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	43.20	12.76	10.23	2.498.284	1672	3453	68.27
28	<i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>	99.09	10.50	0.00	8.098.959	173	7885	56.49
29	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.544	1	1	58.87

30	<i>Bacillaceae</i>	92.62	3.65	0.00	4.962.376	118	4977	35.39
31	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.220	22	31	64.11
32	<i>Actinomycetales</i>	97.87	4.23	28.57	7.050.587	101	6810	67.08
33	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.005	1	2	38.81
34	<i>Bacteria</i>	99.37	268.86	8.94	19.268.557	1141	18967	62.86
35	<i>Rhodospirillales</i>	96.72	1.99	0.00	5.217.664	48	5050	70.22
36	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.311	15	13	44.24
37	<i>Sphingomonadales</i>	98.08	9.27	5.66	6.313.527	428	6265	59.70
38	<i>Bacteria</i>	97.77	318.77	39.02	16.058.880	881	15609	70.68
39	<i>Rhodospirillales</i>	94.41	78.08	43.04	10.169.992	724	9860	67.73
40	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.000	1	1	71.56
41	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.049	1	1	68.64
42	<i>Bacteria</i>	25.86	154.26	8.01	1.201.784	543	1420	65.79
43	<i>Bacteria</i>	48.33	13.31	9.09	2.081.579	1291	2700	42.00
44	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.241	3	2	49.34
45	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.859	1	2	63.26
46	<i>Bacteria</i>	85.55	82.24	58.33	7.703.438	167	6796	69.33
47	<i>Xanthomonadaceae</i>	97.33	1.46	0.00	3.192.941	22	2886	71.25
48	<i>Micrococcaceae</i>	96.96	4.12	0.00	4.259.515	57	3930	68.16
49	<i>Bacteria</i>	89.05	0.47	0.00	4.183.797	1099	4424	62.61
50	<i>Alphaproteobacteria</i>	97.76	1.83	50.00	3.596.013	141	3525	67.47
51	<i>Actinomycetales</i>	90.37	1.68	27.27	6.098.250	277	5994	68.00
52	<i>Bacteria</i>	12.41	0.00	0.00	2.264.077	1256	2977	65.64
53	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.370	1	-	40.51
54	<i>Bacteria</i>	73.28	78.79	9.27	7.202.492	3594	9569	64.18
55	<i>Micrococcaceae</i>	97.31	1.59	0.00	4.537.449	80	4185	63.52
56	<i>Rhodospirillales</i>	92.74	1.66	25.00	5.069.773	252	4671	70.35
57	<i>Bacteria</i>	27.74	13.79	87.50	9.205.553	1115	9326	68.01
58	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.000	1	10	63.64
59	<i>Burkholderiales</i>	97.97	116.83	30.02	15.353.582	830	14711	67.27
60	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	97.93	0.86	0.00	3.563.628	12	3278	64.65
61	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.300	16	36	73.91

62	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.426	2	2	69.09
63	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.900	112	179	59.75
64	<i>Rhizobiales</i>	94.80	1.62	25.00	3.854.043	176	3682	70.11
65	<i>Actinomycetales</i>	96.80	1.75	0.00	5.770.250	74	5292	70.80
66	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.662	3	4	70.74

Table S6. Genome statistics for *Paenarthrobacter* sp. HW13

Feature	Chromosome
Total length (bp)	4,091,031
Scaffold	3
Largest contig (bp)	2,064,645
GC (%)	63.43
Total number of genes	3,797
Protein coding genes	3,731
Protein coding genes with function prediction	3,033
rRNA operons	6
tRNAs	52
Gene completeness	99.71%

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. S1. Microbial growth was monitored by OD 600 nm, observing exponential growing during the first 40 hours of consortium growth. The consumption of reducing sugars over time was monitored by DNS, and the exponential phase was completed after the first 40 hours of growth when monitoring sugar consumption.

Fig. S2. Rarefaction curves based on target sequencing 16S rRNA gene amplicons derived from LigMet (**A**) and sugarcane soil (**B**) samples. The rarefaction curves of each replicate are shown in different color.

Fig. S3. Rarefaction curves based on target sequencing ITS2 region derived from LigMet sample. The rarefaction curves of each biological replicate are shown in different color.

Fig. S4. The taxonomic profile of LigMet and sugarcane soil at class level based on 16S rRNA gene amplicon. The respective relative abundances of each biological replicate for LigMet and sugarcane soil are shown.

Fig. S5. The archaeal phylum abundance in LigMet and sugarcane soil sample. The relative abundance is shown in percentage for each biological replicate of the LigMet and sugarcane soil.

Fig. S6. Metabolic pathways related to aromatic compounds degradation identified in LigMet according to KEGG automatic annotation.

Fig. S7. Classification of the predicted proteins from LigMet metagenome according to the dbCAN database.

Fig. S8. Predicted auxiliary activity (AA) and carbohydrate esterase (CE) families from LigMet and draft genomes, based on the dbCAN database. AA and CE families are related to peroxidase activity and break down of lignin ester cross links, respectively.

Fig S9. Phylogenetic position of strain HW13 relative to the most closely related strains of the genus *Paenarthrobacter*. EzBioCloud webserver [5] was used to perform a similarity-based search of HW13 16S rRNA to retrieve the most closely related sequences. The resulting 16S rRNA sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.299b software [6]. A phylogenetic tree was inferred using maximum likelihood method implemented in RAxML v8.2.0 [7], evolutionary distances were based on the GTRGAMMAI model, inferred as the best model by jModelTest2 [8]. Numbers at the nodes are percentages of bootstrap values obtained by repeating the analysis 1,000 times to generate a consensus tree. The type strains are marked with a superscript 'T'. Accession numbers are shown in parentheses.

Fig S10. Phylogenetic relationships among feruloyl-CoA synthetase (upper) and Enoyl-CoA hydratase/aldolase. The phylogenetic tree was generated using amino acid sequences retrieved from NCBI

and Uniprot database. The sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.299b software [6]. The phylogenetic tree was reconstructed using maximum likelihood method implemented in RAxML v8.2.0 [7], evolutionary distances were based on the GTRGAMMAI model, inferred as the best model by jModelTest2 [8]. The bootstrap values (1,000 replicate runs, shown as %) higher than 70 % are represented. Accession numbers are listed in parentheses. The FerA_B3 and FerB_B11 amino acid sequence retrieved from LigMet dataset is printed in bold.

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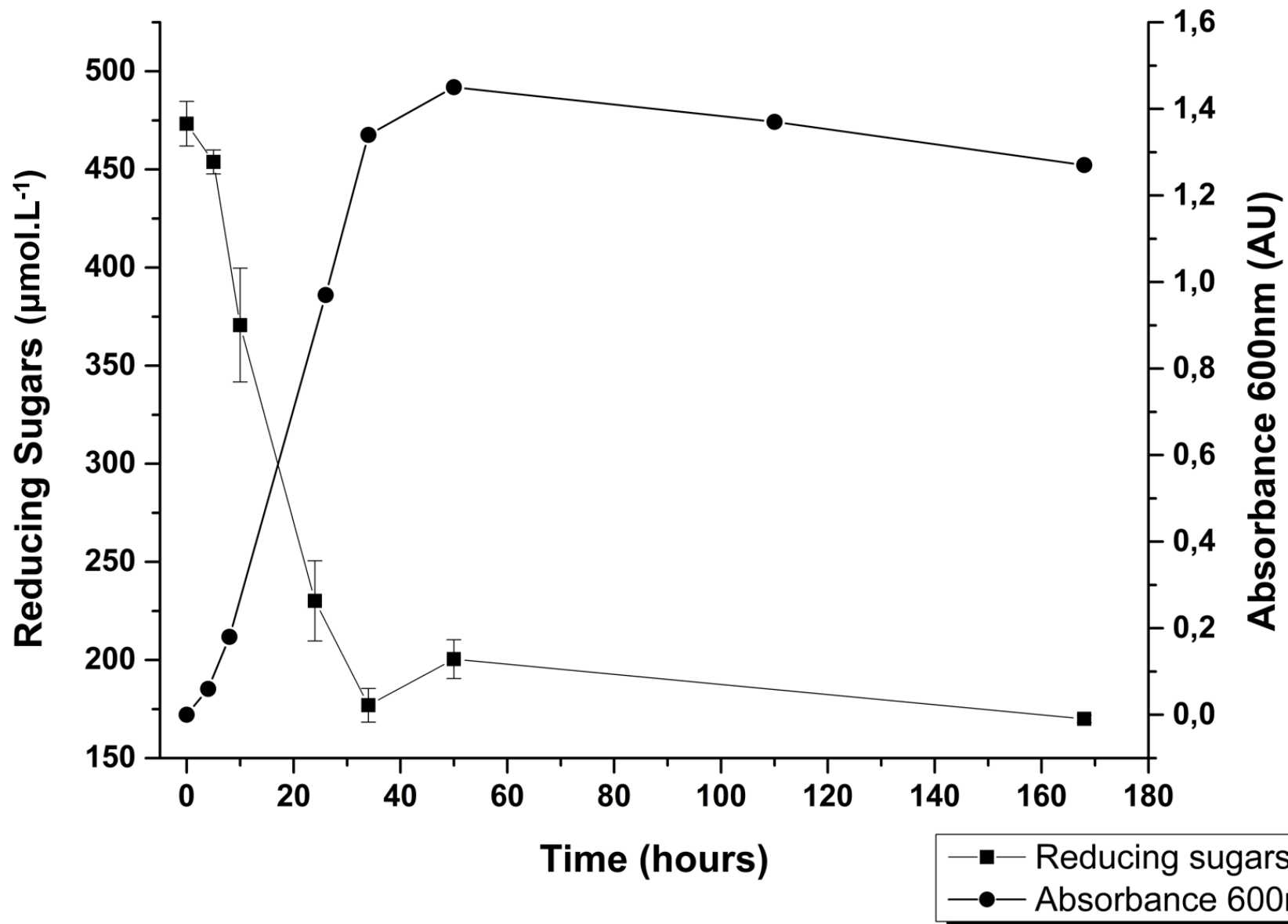


Figure S1

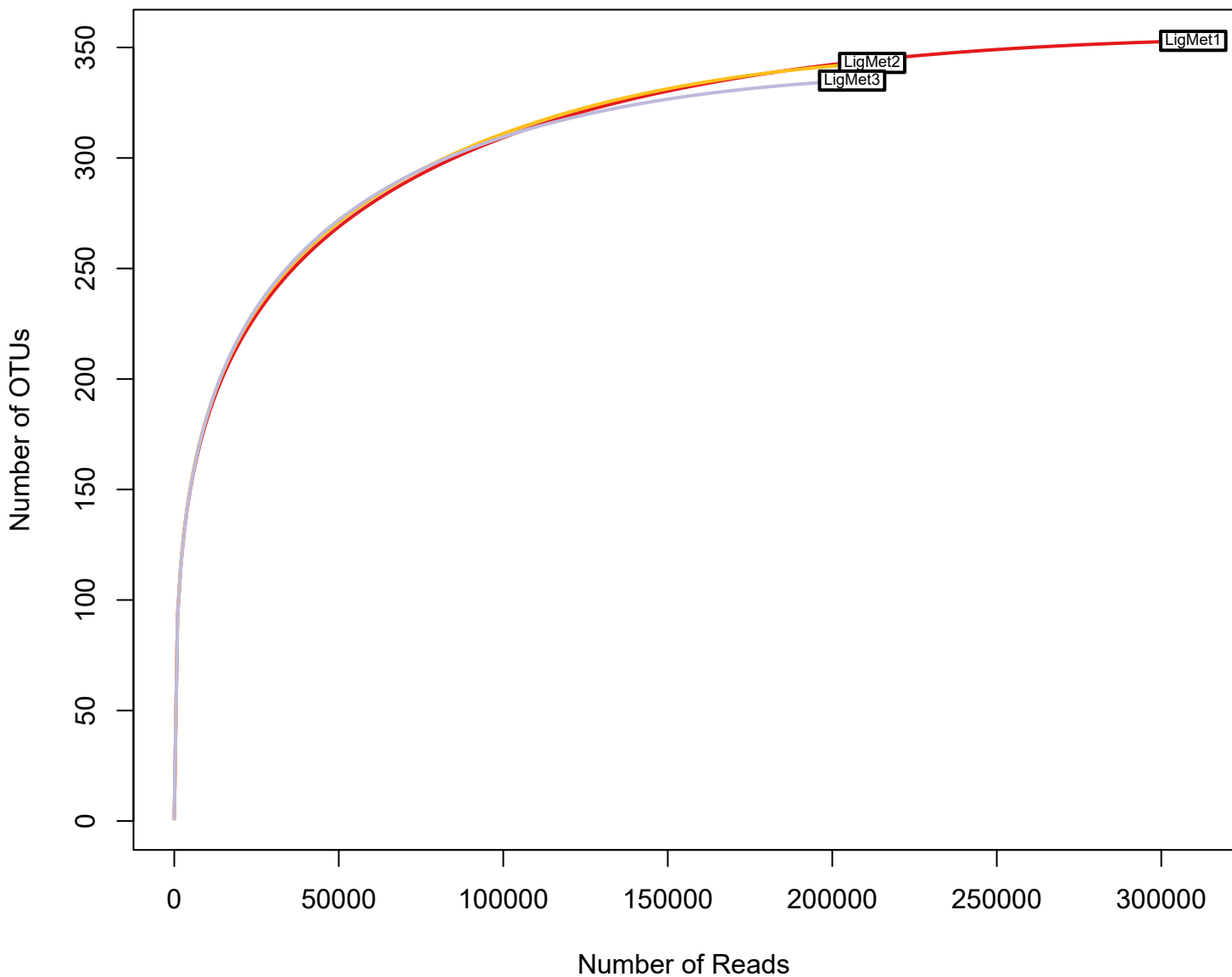


Figure S2A

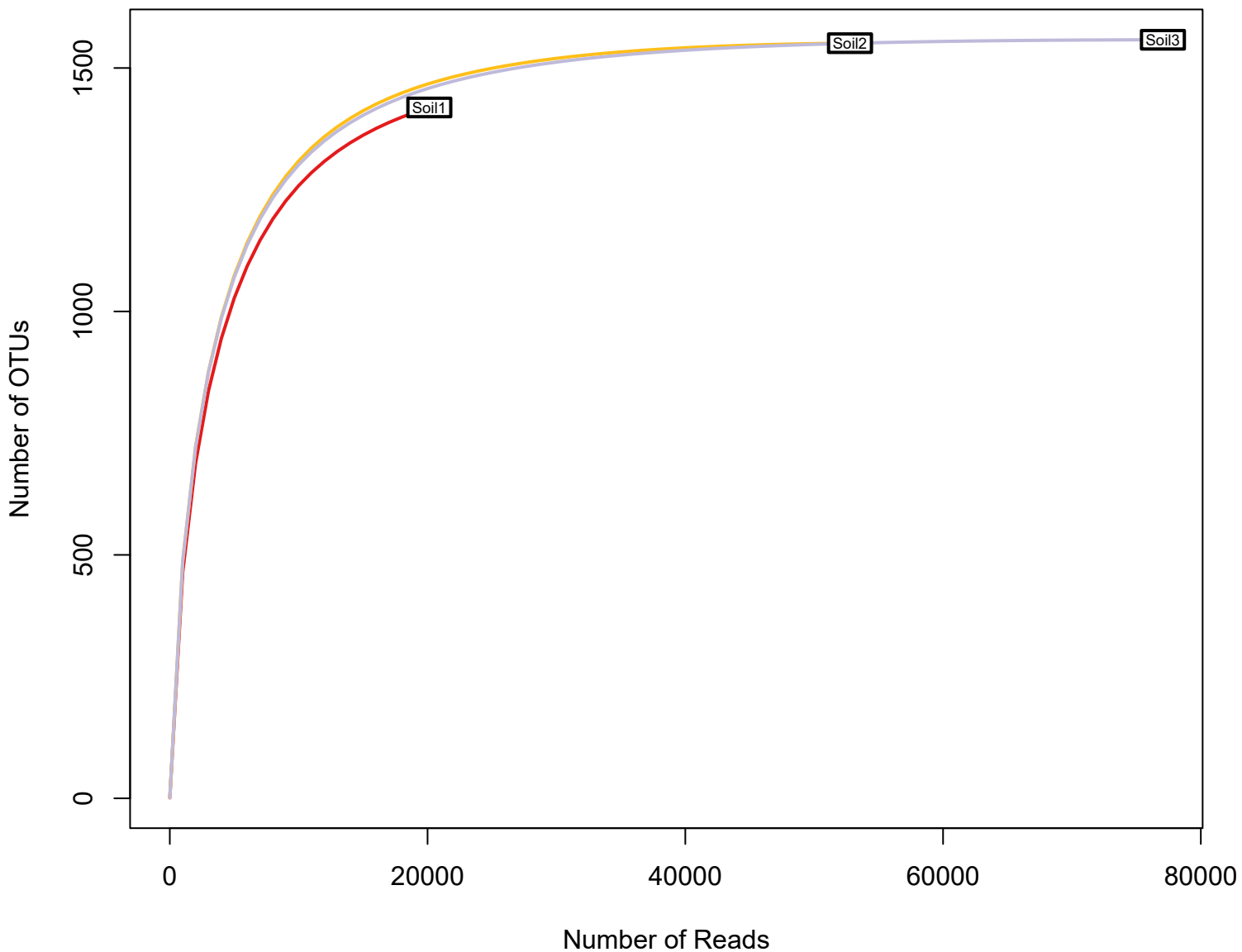


Figure S2B

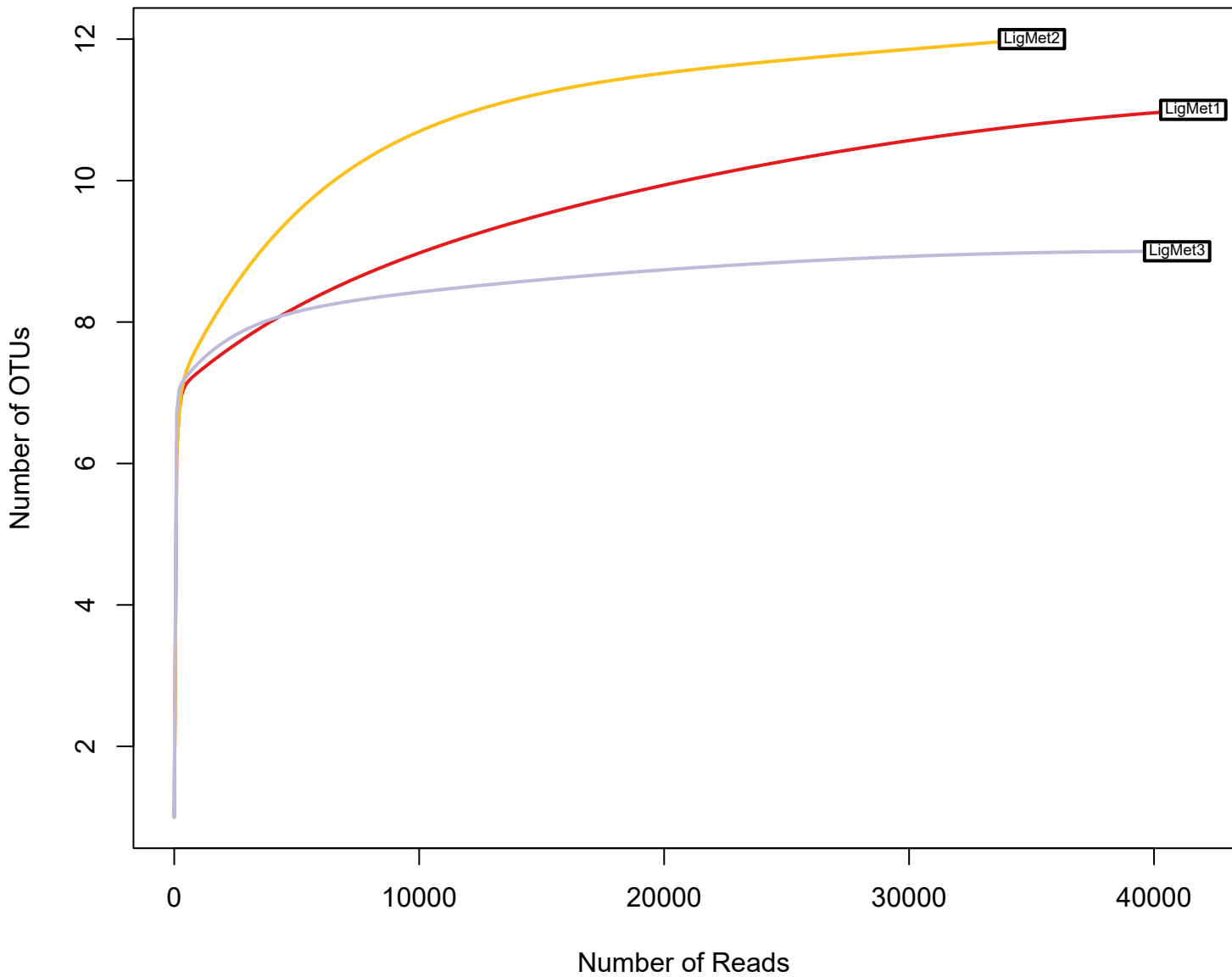


Figure S3

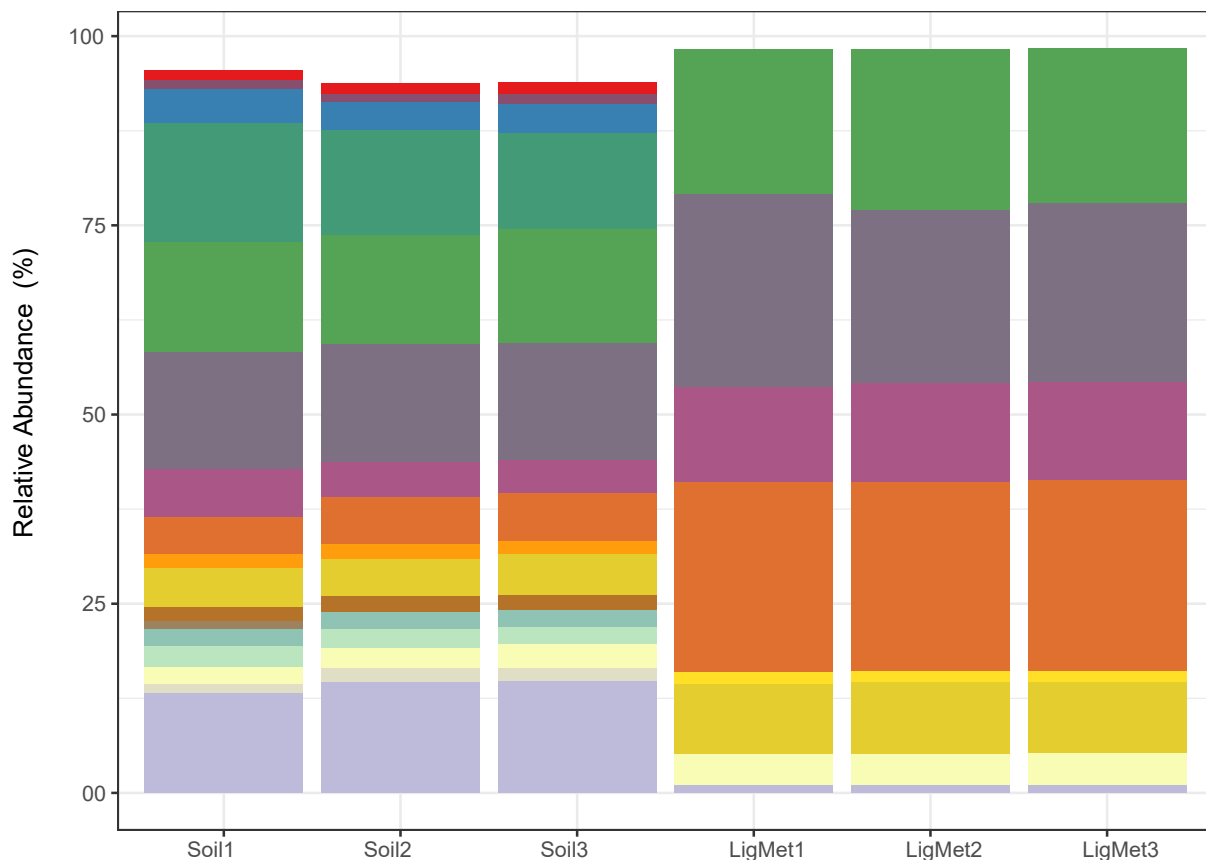


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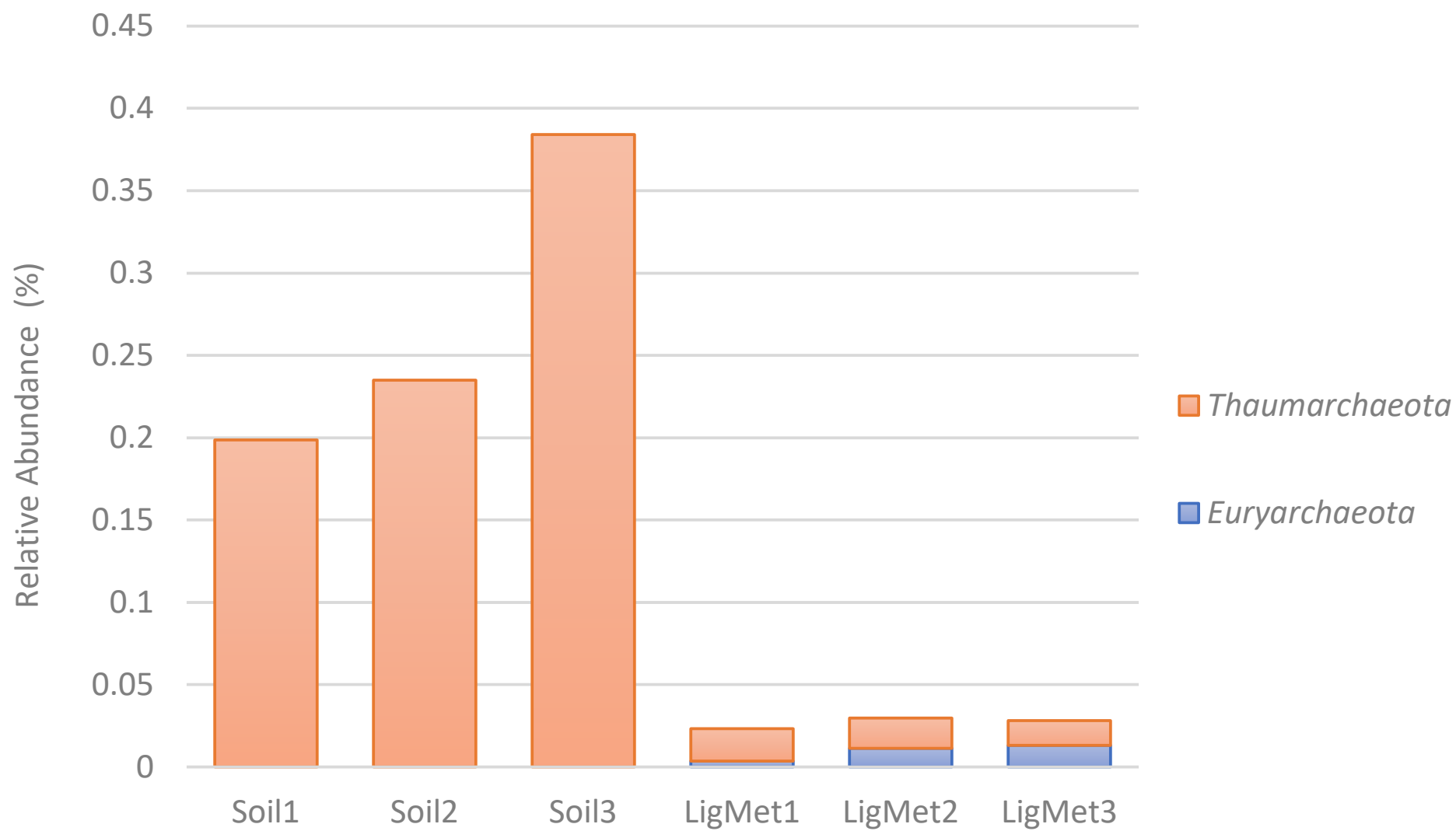


Figure S5

DEGRADATION OF AROMATIC COMPOUNDS

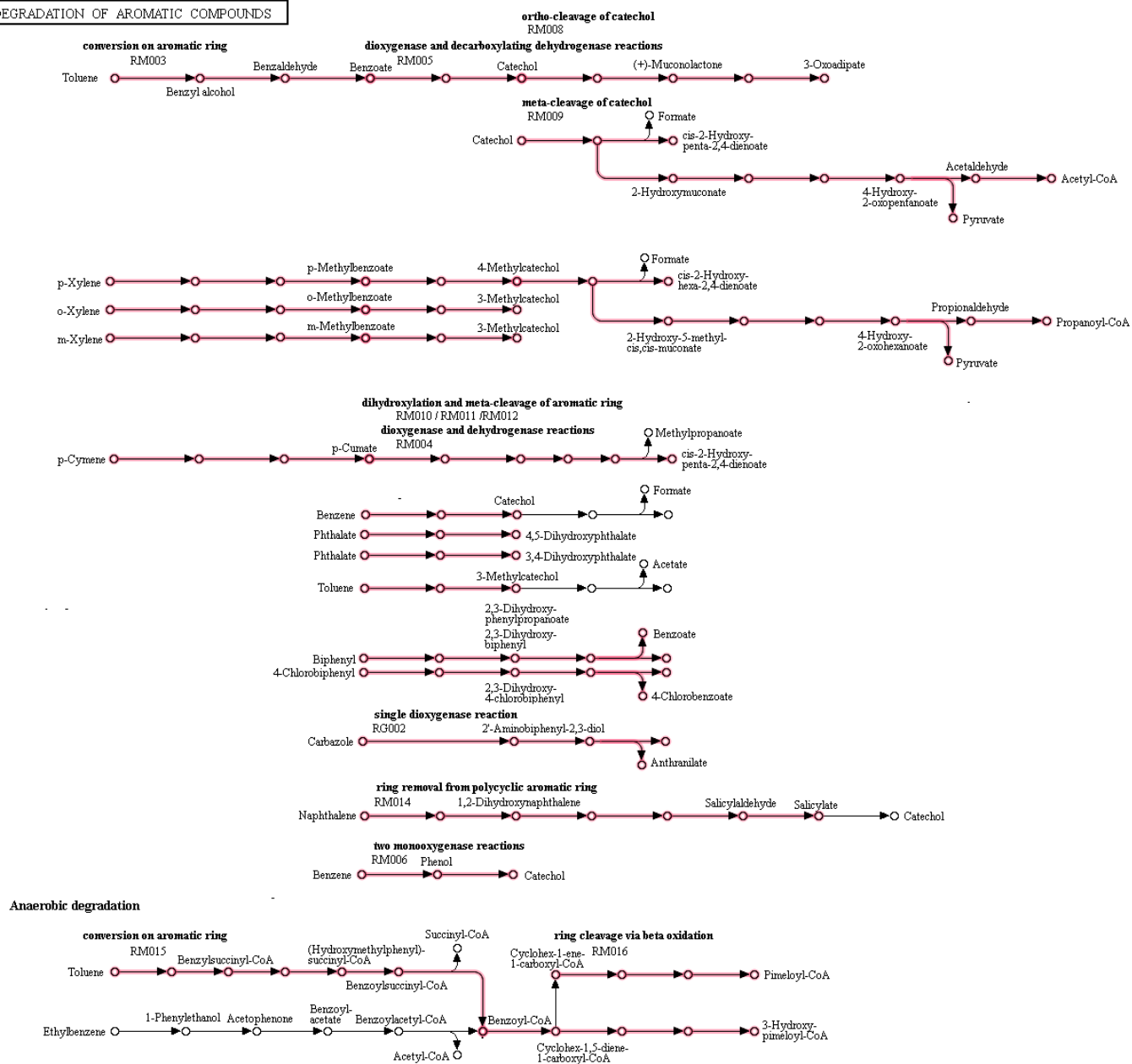


Figure S6

LigMet CAZyme Profile

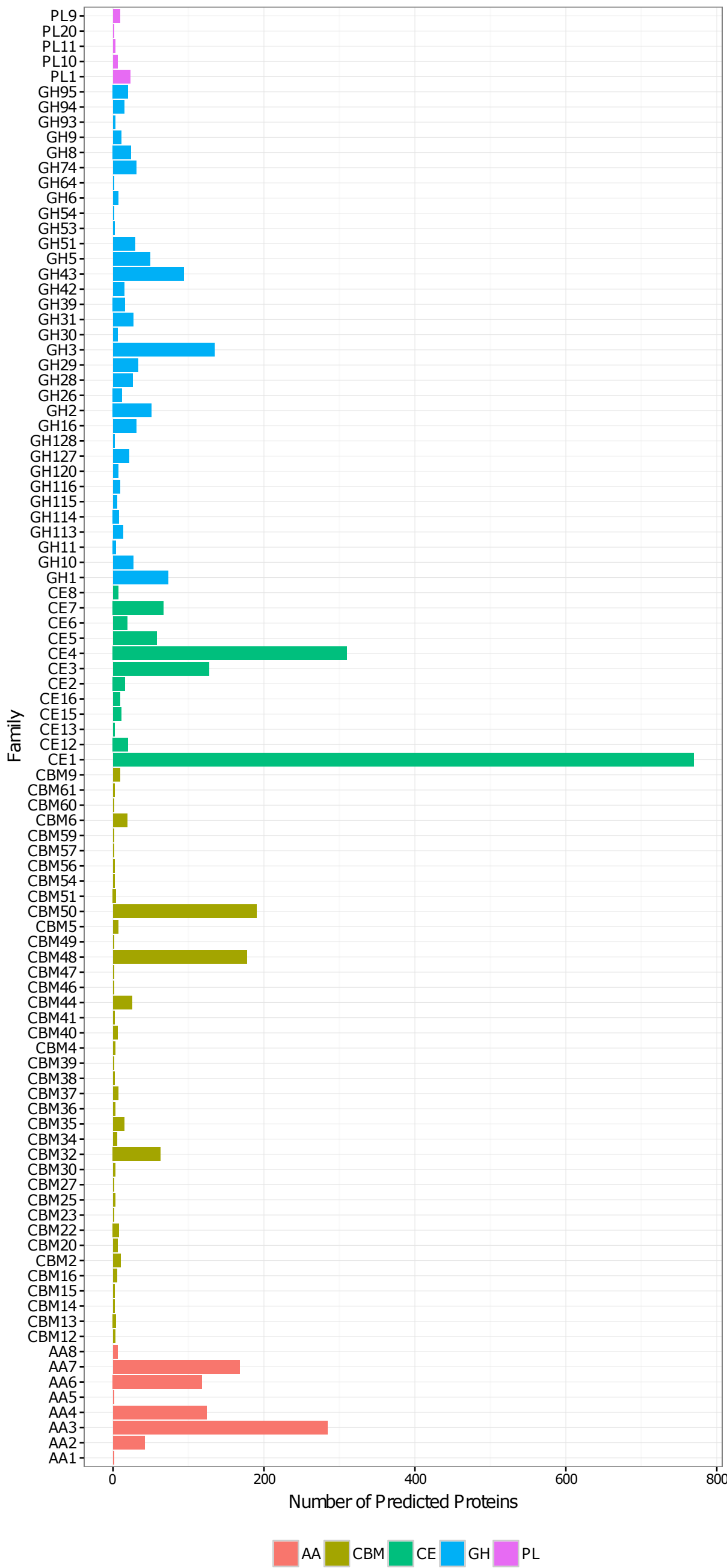


Figure S7

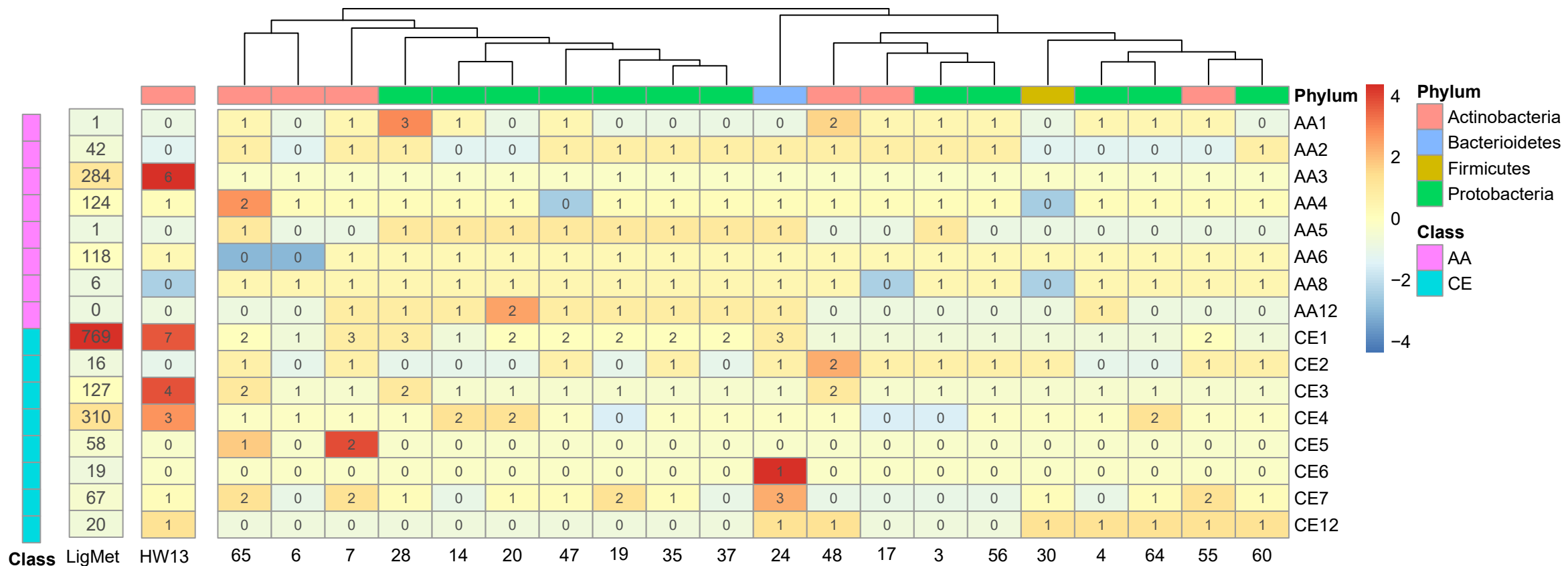


Figure S8

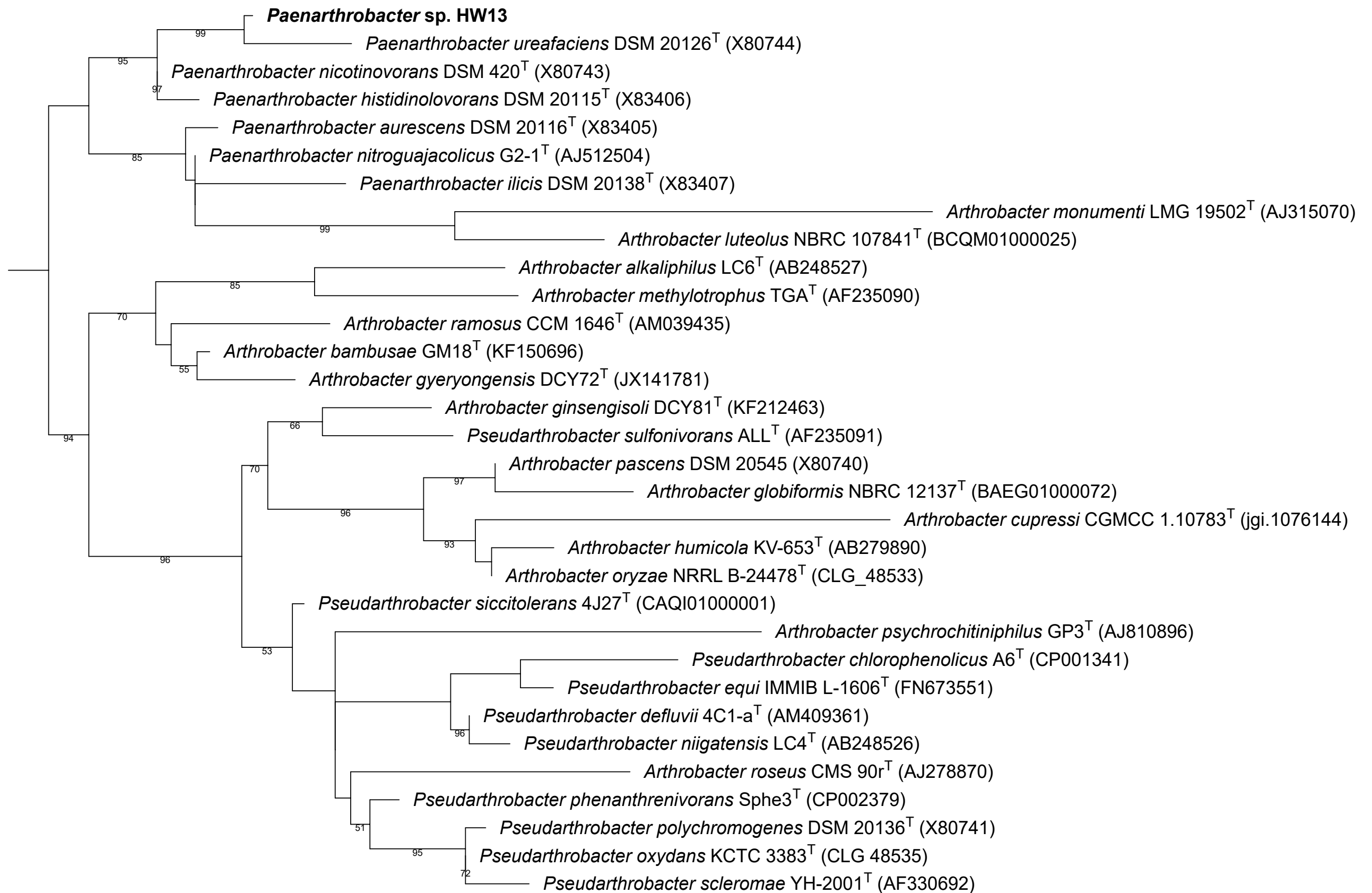


Figure S9

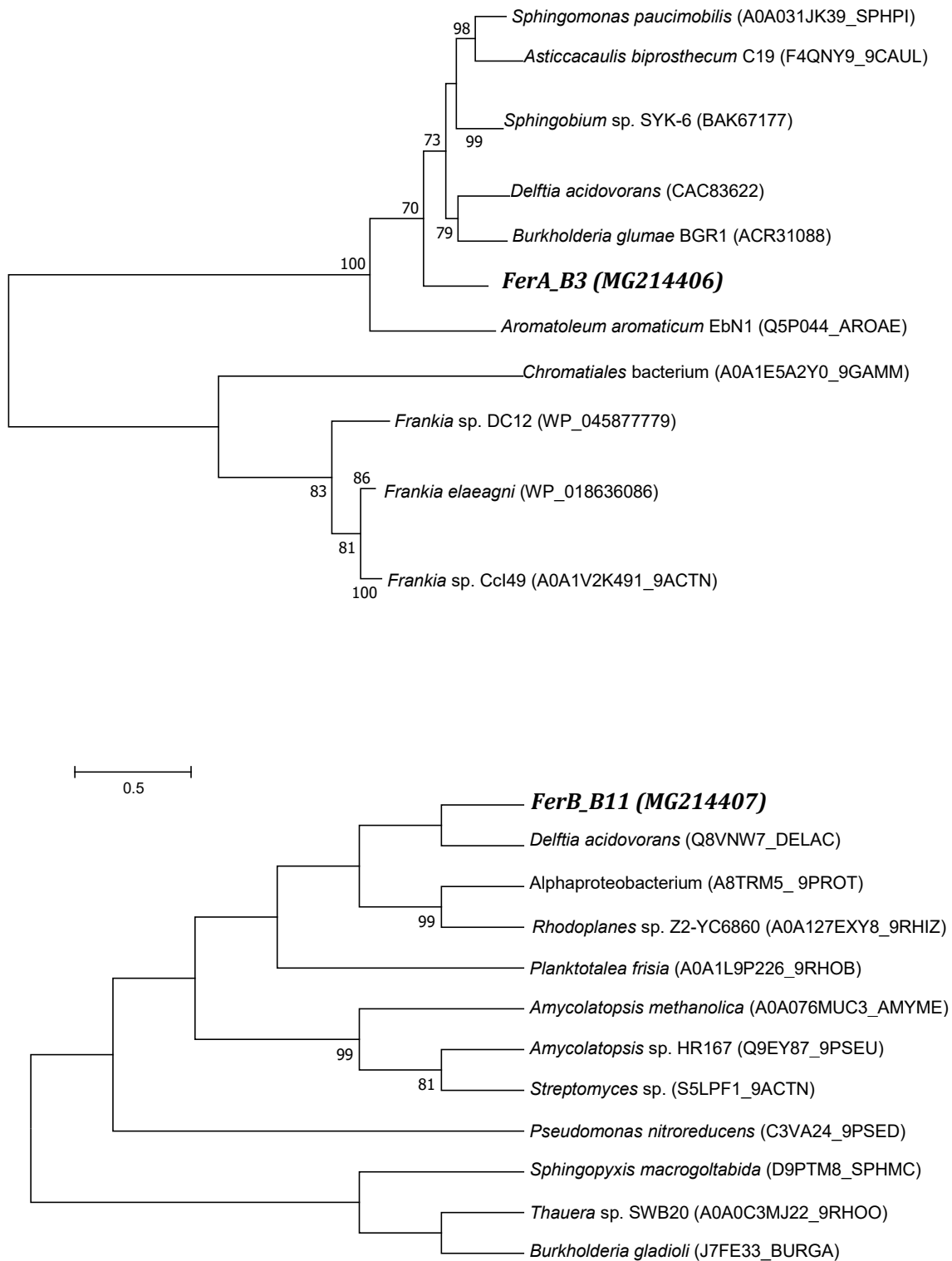


Figure S10