

1 **Inducing Banana Fusarium Wilt Disease Suppression through Soil**
2 **Microbiome Reshaping by Pineapple-Banana Rotation Combined**
3 **with Biofertilizer Application**

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24 **Abstract**

25 Crop rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application have historically been employed as
26 efficient management strategies for soil-borne disease suppression through soil
27 microbiome manipulation. However, details of how this occurs and to what extent the
28 combination of methods affects soil microbiota reconstruction from diseased soils
29 lack investigation. In this study, pineapple-banana rotation combined with
30 biofertilizer application was used to suppress banana Fusarium wilt disease, and the
31 effects on both bacterial and fungal communities were investigated using the MiSeq
32 Illumine sequencing platform. Our results showed that pineapple-banana rotation
33 significantly reduced Fusarium wilt disease incidence, and that the application of bio-
34 organic fertilizer caused additional suppression. Bacterial and fungal communities
35 thrived using rotation in combination with bio-organic fertilizer application:
36 taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity in both bacteria and fungi increased along
37 with disease suppression. Between the two strategies, bio-organic fertilizer
38 application affected both bacterial and fungal community composition most
39 predominantly, followed by rotation. Large-scale changes in the fungal community
40 composition and special *Burkholderia*-related network contributed to the observed
41 soil-borne disease suppression. Our results indicated that pineapple-banana rotation
42 combined with bio-organic fertilizer application has strong potential for the
43 sustainable management of banana Fusarium wilt disease.

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45 **Keywords:** Banana Fusarium wilt; Pineapple-banana rotation; Biofertilizer; Disease
46 suppression; Microbiome structure

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49 **1 Introduction**

50 Banana Fusarium wilt disease, which is caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*
51 (FOC) race 4 forms a major constraint on the yield and quality of banana production
52 (Ploetz, 2015; Butler, 2013). Multiple studies have revealed that individual measures,
53 such as fumigation (Duniway, 2003; Liu et al., 2016), chemical fungicides (Nel et al.,
54 2007), crop rotation (Zhang et al., 2013b), and bio-control (Wang et al., 2013) have
55 particular effects on reducing the incidence of soil-borne disease by disrupting soil
56 microbial community membership and structure. Traditionally, fumigation, chemical
57 fungicides, or crop rotation is used in fields with high incidence rates, and bio-control
58 is used in low- or new-incidence fields because of its apparent mild effect (Shen et al.,
59 2018). However, single measures often have limited effectiveness, and a few studies
60 regarding soil-borne disease suppression focussed on using multiple strategies to
61 improve control efficiency. Shen et al. (2018) reported that biofertilizer application
62 after fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate was an effective strategy in
63 banana Fusarium wilt disease control. Thus, although many measures can individually
64 slow down the spread of Fusarium wilt disease (Pda et al., 2017), control effects can
65 be accelerated and amplified by using more than one agricultural practice.

66 Of all available management strategies, chemical pesticides are optimally
67 effective against soil-borne plant pathogens, but this strategy is not friendly to the
68 environment, including polluting soil and water and inducing the emergence of drug-
69 resistant strains (Le et al., 2016). Biological control using beneficial soil
70 microorganisms such as *Bacillus* and *Trichoderma* against soil-borne pathogens is
71 considered a sustainable alternative to chemical pesticides (Alabouvette et al., 2009;
72 Fravel et al., 2003; Qiu et al., 2012). Biofertilizers combine the advantage of
73 introducing beneficial microbes that will occupy niches with the inclusion of organic
74 material that will create additional niches for beneficial indigenous microbes (Cai et

75 al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2013). In our previous study, we investigated a biofertilizer
76 containing a *Bacillus* strain isolated from the rhizosphere of a continuously cropped
77 banana, and we investigated its ability to promote banana growth and control
78 Fusarium wilt in banana (Shen et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2016; Fu et al., 2017). Therefore,
79 we concluded that bio-organic fertilizer application is a practicable and worthy
80 measure for banana Fusarium wilt suppression.

81 In addition, crop rotation is also considered an alternative method in soil-borne
82 disease control because it is highly efficient and environmentally friendly (Krupinsky
83 et al., 2002). Crop rotation often breaks the microflora and chemical characteristics of
84 single continuously cropped soil (Christen and Sieling, 2010; Yin et al., 2010).
85 However, crop rotation has different effects on soil-borne diseases. The mechanisms
86 of crop rotation control soil-borne disease include inhibiting the reproduction of
87 pathogens through allelochemical secretion, inducing antagonistic microbes against
88 pathogens, and improving rhizosphere microbial community structure by introducing
89 different carbon compounds into the soil through root exudates or residues (Robert et
90 al., 2014). In our previous work, banana-pineapple rotation was selected for its high-
91 efficiency in banana Fusarium wilt disease prevention and control, as well as bio-
92 organic fertilizer application (Wang et al., 2015). However, the combined control
93 efficiencies of the two measures (pineapple-banana rotation and bio-organic fertilizer
94 application) remain unknown. Thus, there is a great need to investigate efficient
95 disease suppression-combined approaches for Fusarium wilt control in banana and
96 hence to work towards maintaining sustainable worldwide industrial banana
97 development.

98 The occurrence of soil-borne disease is mainly due to the imbalance of soil
99 microbial communities caused by soil-borne pathogen blooms (Mendes et al., 2014).
100 Effective soil-borne disease suppression management strategies must demonstrate

101 significant changes in the soil microbial community in addition to FOC minimization
102 (Cha et al., 2016; Chaparro et al., 2012; Gerbore et al., 2014; Mazzola and Freilich,
103 2017). We proved the effectiveness of microbial agents for biocontrol by changing the
104 structure of soil microbial communities in previous reports (Fu et al., 2017; Shen et al.,
105 2015). We also investigated the influences of quarterly rotation (pineapple) on FOC
106 population density and soil microbial community structure while attempting to
107 explain the mechanisms of pineapple-banana rotation on soil borne-disease
108 suppression (Wang et al., 2015). Our results suggested that fungal community
109 structure and several genera introduced in the rotation season may have been the most
110 critical factors in soil FOC decrease.

111 Unlike intercropping, controlling *Fusarium* pathogen accumulation through
112 effective crop rotation should be maintained for at least two seasons, including
113 rotation and a subsequent season (Bullock, 1992; Lupwayi et al., 1998). The
114 pineapple and banana growth cycles in our rotation pattern require long durations
115 (almost 15 and 10 months, respectively, in Hainan Province, China). Thus, the soil
116 microbial community structure of the original season is very important in evaluating
117 rotation validity. Furthermore, how the soil microbial community structure changes
118 using the combined control efficiencies of the two measures (pineapple-banana
119 rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application) remains unknown.

120 We hypothesized that *Fusarium* wilt can be effectively controlled in high-
121 incidence fields by pineapple-banana rotation and that the control efficiency can be
122 increased when biocontrol is added to the rotation. In addition, this scheme will
123 concurrently change soil microbial community membership and structure. Therefore,
124 based on our previous research, we conducted field experiments to investigate the
125 effects of pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer on next season
126 banana *Fusarium* wilt disease suppression and soil microbial communities. Our

127 objectives were to 1) determine the direct effects of pineapple-banana rotation alone
128 and pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application to control
129 banana Fusarium wilt disease; 2) explore the characteristics of the soil microbial
130 communities prompted by crop rotation and biocontrol strategies after banana harvest
131 using the MiSeq platform; and 3) evaluate the probable disease suppression
132 mechanisms caused by our rotation and biocontrol strategy.

133 **2 Materials and Methods**

134 **2.1 Field experimental design**

135 The field experimental site was set at Hainan Wanzhong Industrial Co., Ltd., China, a
136 company that specialized in banana planting during December 2011 and June 2014.
137 The field soil had a chemical background of pH 5.12, soil organic matter (SOM) 5.57
138 g kg⁻¹, NH₄⁺-N 7.39 mg kg⁻¹, NO₃-N 6.68 mg kg⁻¹, available P 56.9 mg kg⁻¹ and
139 available K 176.4 mg kg⁻¹. Fertilizer was supplied by Lianye Biofertilizer Engineering
140 Center, Ltd., Jiangsu, China. The organic fertilizer (OF) used in our study was a first
141 fermentation with a 2:3 weight ratio using amino acid fertilizer and pig manure. The
142 bio-organic fertilizer (BIO) was a secondarily fermentation based on OF according to
143 the solid fermentation method (Wang et al., 2013). The research was carried out in a
144 field in which a serious Fusarium wilt disease incidence (>50%) was observed after a
145 continuous banana cropping for more than 6 years. Nine replicates in each treatment
146 were set up with a randomized complete block design, and the area of each block was
147 300 m². Banana cultivar *Musa acuminate AAA Cavendish* cv. Brazil and the pineapple
148 cultivar Golden pineapple were used in the field experiment. Three treatments were
149 assigned: (1) banana continuously cropped for two years with common organic
150 fertilizer applied (BOF); (2) banana planted after an eighteen-month pineapple
151 rotation with common organic fertilizer applied in the banana season (POF); and (3)

152 banana planted after an eighteen-month pineapple rotation treatment with bio-organic
153 fertilizer applied (PBIO). In the rotation system, pineapple and banana were planted at
154 densities of 45000 and 2,400 seedlings ha^{-1} , respectively. All organic fertilizer was
155 applied to the soil at once as base fertilizer before banana planting; other measures
156 were consistent with common banana production.

157 **2.2 Banana Fusarium wilt disease incidence statistics**

158 Old leaves yellowing, stem crack and new leaves diminishing were the three typical
159 wilt symptoms of banana Fusarium wilt disease. Disease incidence was calculated
160 based on the appearance of the all three symptoms weekly since first sick banana
161 appeared. Finally, banana wilt disease incidence was determined in the harvest time.
162 The percentage of sick plants among the total banana plants was calculated as the
163 Fusarium wilt disease incidence.

164 **2.3 Soil sample collection and DNA extraction**

165 During the harvest time of last banana season, 5 healthy plants were randomly picked
166 out in each biological replicate plots for soil samples collection. Soil samples were
167 collected from four random sites at a distance of 10 cm from banana plant, a depth of
168 20 cm soil column were picked out using soil borer in each sampling site. All the 5
169 soil columns from each biological replicate plots were mixed for DNA extraction. All
170 mixed samples were placed in cold storage and transported to the laboratory. After
171 screening used a 2-mm soil sieve, total soil DNA was extracted using Clean Soil
172 DNA Isolation Kits (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, USA) from fine grained soil.
173 After a determination of DNA concentration and quality using NanoDrop 2000
174 (Thermo Scientific, USA), all soil DNA were diluted to a concentration of $20 \text{ ng } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$
175 for PCR amplification.

176 **2.4 Polymerase chain reaction amplification and Illumina Miseq sequencing**

177 Primers F520 (5'-AYTGGGYDTAAAGNG-3') and R802 (5'-
178 TACNVGGGTATCTAATCC-3') were chosen to amplify the V4 regions of 16 S
179 rRNA gene (Claesson et al., 2009). Primers ITS (5'-GGA AGT AAA AGT CGT
180 AAC AAG G-3') and ITS (5'-TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC-3') were chosen
181 for amplification of the fungal ITS region (Schoch et al., 2012).

182 PCR reactions for each sample were performed according to established
183 protocols by Xiong et al. (2016). 27 cycles were performed to amplify the templates.
184 After purification, PCR products were diluted to a concentration of 10 ng μ l⁻¹. of
185 Fungal and bacterial PCR products sequencing were performed on the Illumina
186 MiSeq platform of Personal Biological Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China).

187 **2.5 Bioinformatic analysis**

188 Raw sequences were separated based on the unique 6-bp barcode and sheared of the
189 adaptor and primer using QIIME (Caporaso et al., 2010). Forward and reverse
190 sequences were merged after removal of low-quality sequences. Then, the merged
191 sequences were processed to build the operational taxonomic unit (OTU) at an
192 identity level of 97% according to the UPARSE pipeline. Next, representative
193 sequences of each OTU were classified in the RDP and UNITE databases for bacteria
194 and fungi, respectively (Edgar, 2013; Wang et al., 2007). All raw sequences were
195 deposited in NCBI, the accession number was SRP234066.

196 To compare the relative levels of OTU diversity across all samples, a rarefaction
197 curve was formed using Mothur software (Schloss et al., 2009). The fungal and
198 bacterial diversity was estimated using phylogenetic diversity (PD) indices and Chao1
199 richness which were also calculated based on neighbor-joining phylogenetic trees
200 generated using Mothur pipeline (Faith, 1992).

201 To compare bacterial and fungal community structures among all soil samples,
202 principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) was set up based on the unweighted UniFrac
203 metric matrix (Lozupone et al., 2005). Multiple regression tree (MRT), based on
204 Bray-Curtis distance metric, was carry out to evaluate the effects of rotation and
205 fertilizer type on the whole soil bacterial and fungal community by using vegan and
206 MVPART wrap package in R (version 3.2.0). In addition, to exclude the influence of
207 low abundance species, only the OTUs with average relative abundance of equal or
208 greater than 0.1% in each sample were retained (defined as retained OTUs).

209 **2.6 Network analyses**

210 Based on retained OTUs, interaction networks between OTUs were constructed using
211 the phylogenetic Molecular Ecological Network (pMEN) method according to (Zhou
212 et al., 2011) and (Deng et al., 2012). All analyses were performed using the Molecular
213 Ecological Network Analyses Pipeline (MENA). Cytoscape 2.8.2 software was used
214 to visualize the network.

215 **2.7 Statistical analysis**

216 Differences statistical analyses between the three treatments were carried out in SPSS
217 20.0 and R software. Pearson correlations among disease incidence, different Phylum
218 and FOC relative abundance were analysed in R. Linear models were also proformed
219 using R after stepwise model selection using Akaike information criteria.

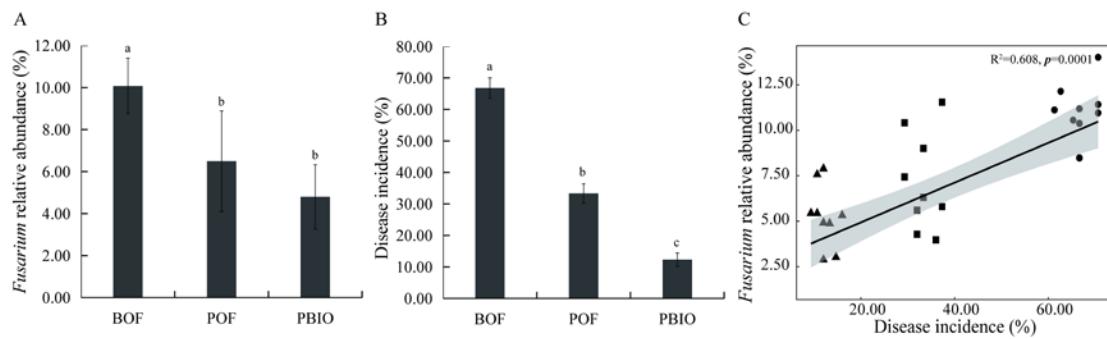
220 **3 Results**

221 **3.1 Disease incidence and relative abundance of *Fusarium***

222 Pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application effectively reduced *Fusarium* wilt
223 disease incidence and the relative abundance of *Fusarium* in the next season's banana
224 plantation (**Fig. 1A and B**). The incidences of banana *Fusarium* wilt disease in the

225 POF and PBIO treatments were 33.3% and 12.3%, respectively, which were
 226 significantly lower than those in the BOF treatment, which reached up to 66.8%. The
 227 treatment, PBIO with rotation and biofertilizer application, showed the lowest disease
 228 incidence with a 63.1% decrease compared with POF (**Fig. 1B and Table S1**). The
 229 relative abundance of *Fusarium* showed the same tendency as disease incidence, and
 230 disease incidence was significantly correlated with the relative abundance of
 231 *Fusarium*, as revealed by MiSeq sequencing data (**Fig. 1C**).

232



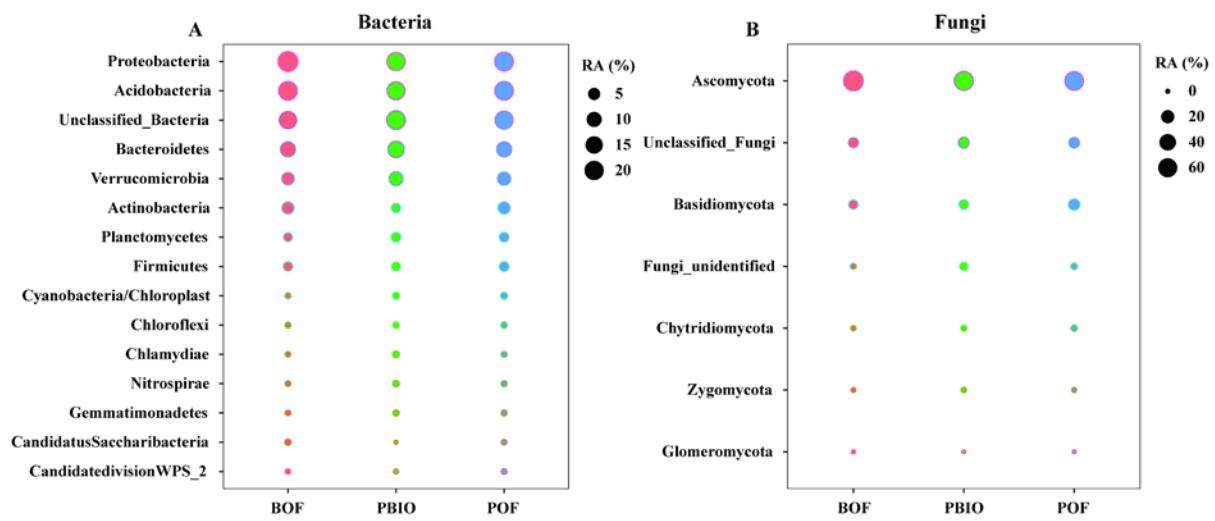
233 **Figure 1. *Fusarium* relative abundance (A), *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence (B) and**
 234 **Pearson correlations between** *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence and *Fusarium* relative
 235 abundance (C). BOF=banana continuously cropped with OF applied; POF= banana-pineapple
 236 rotation with OF applied in the banana season; and PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with
 237 BIO applied in the banana season. Bars above the histogram represent standard errors and
 238 different letters indicate significant differences ($p < 0.05$) according to multivariate variance
 239 analysis and multiple comparison results.

241 **3.2 General analyses of the high-throughput sequencing data**

242 After quality control, 908,506 16S rRNA and 1,950,262 ITS sequences were retained,
 243 and based on 97% similarity, a total of 8,346 16S and 5,647 ITS Operational
 244 taxonomic units (OTUs) were obtained. For bacteria, Acidobacteria, Actinobacteria,
 245 Bacteroidetes, Firmicutes, Proteobacteria and Verrucomicrobia were the most
 246 abundant phyla, with relative abundances all greater than 1%. For fungi, Ascomycota,

247 followed by Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota, Zycomycota, and Glomeromycota
 248 were the most abundant phyla (Fig. 2). ANOVA showed that Chlamydiae,
 249 Cyanbacteria/chloroplast, Gemmatimonadetas, Nitrospirae, Planctmycetes, and
 250 Verrucomicrobia abundances were significantly higher in the PBIO and POF
 251 treatment samples than in the BOF treatments, and the relative abundance of
 252 Ascomycota was lower in the PBIO treatment (Duncan test, $p < 0.05$).

253



254

255 **Figure 2. Bubble chart of bacterial (A) and fungal (B) phyla in BOF, POF and PBIO**
 256 **treatments.** BOF=banana continuously cropped with OF applied; POF= banana-pineapple
 257 rotation with OF applied in the banana season; and PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with
 258 BIO applied in the banana season; Values represent the average abundance across the nine
 259 replicate libraries for soil samples collected from each treatment.

260

261 3.3 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil microbial 262 diversity and community structure

263 Rarefaction analyses, Chao1 and Faith's PD were performed to characterize α -
 264 diversity. Rarefaction analyses showed that the number of OTUs tended to smooth at
 265 14,900 selected bacterial sequences and 34,943 fungal sequences. Compared with the

266 BOF treatment, more OTUs were observed in the POF and PBIO treatments, both for
267 bacteria and fungi, and the PBIO treatment exhibited the most OTUs of all treatments
268 (**Table 1, Fig. S1**). Compared with the BOF treatment, the pineapple-banana rotation
269 treatments, POF and PBIO, increased both taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity in
270 both bacteria and fungi. In addition, the PBIO treatment showed the highest Chao1
271 richness and Faith's PD values (**Table 1**).

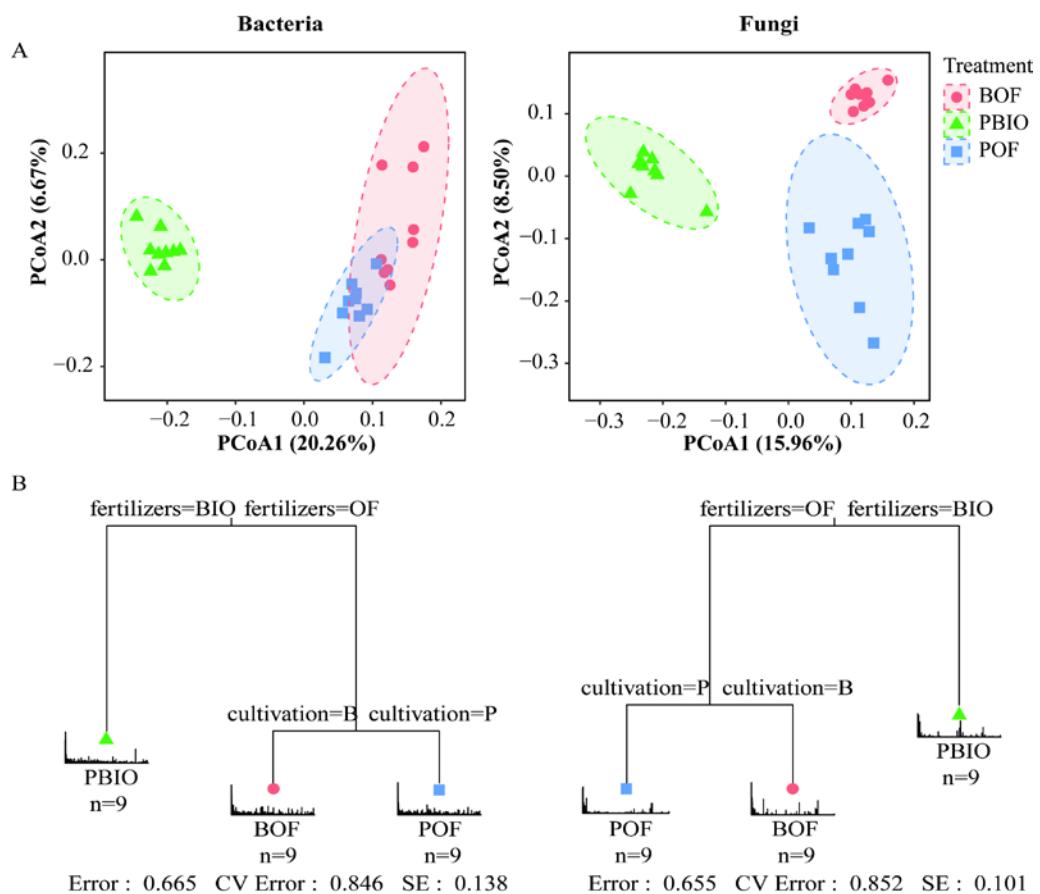
272 **Table 1.** Bacterial and fungal α -diversity indexes of the three treatments. BOF=banana
273 continuously cropped with OF applied; POF= banana-pineapple rotation with OF applied in
274 the banana season; PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with BIO applied in the banana season;
275 Values represent the average index of nine replicates. Means followed by different letters for
276 a given factor are significantly different ($p < 0.05$; Duncan test).

	Treatment	Numbers of Otus	Chao1	Faith's PD
Bacteria	BOF	2606 \pm 71b	3906.81 \pm 275.21 b	48.47 \pm 1.51 b
	POF	2963 \pm 613 a	4444.28 \pm 189.98 a	51.61 \pm 0.87 a
	PBIO	3210 \pm 108 a	4751.95 \pm 149.49 a	52.10 \pm 1.11 a
Fungi	BOF	1163 \pm 64 b	1751.71 \pm 74.85 a	114.88 \pm 4.78 b
	POF	1277 \pm 708 ab	1705.78 \pm 126.73 a	120.24 \pm 2.12 b
	PBIO	1496 \pm 980 a	2096.32 \pm 323.60 a	127.31 \pm 7.91 a

277
278 We evaluated microbial community structure by using PCoA based on a UniFrac
279 unweighted distance matrix to analyze differences in community composition in the
280 three treatments. Fungal PCoA showed three distinct groups representing samples
281 taken from the three treatments. However, bacterial PCoA showed only two groups.
282 Unweighted UniFrac distances showed that PBIO treatment was separate from BOF
283 and POF treatments along the first component (PCoA1), both in bacteria and fungi.
284 POF treatment was separated from BOF treatment along the second component in

285 fungi, whereas in bacteria, POF and BOF treatments were not separate along the
 286 second component (**Fig. 3A**).

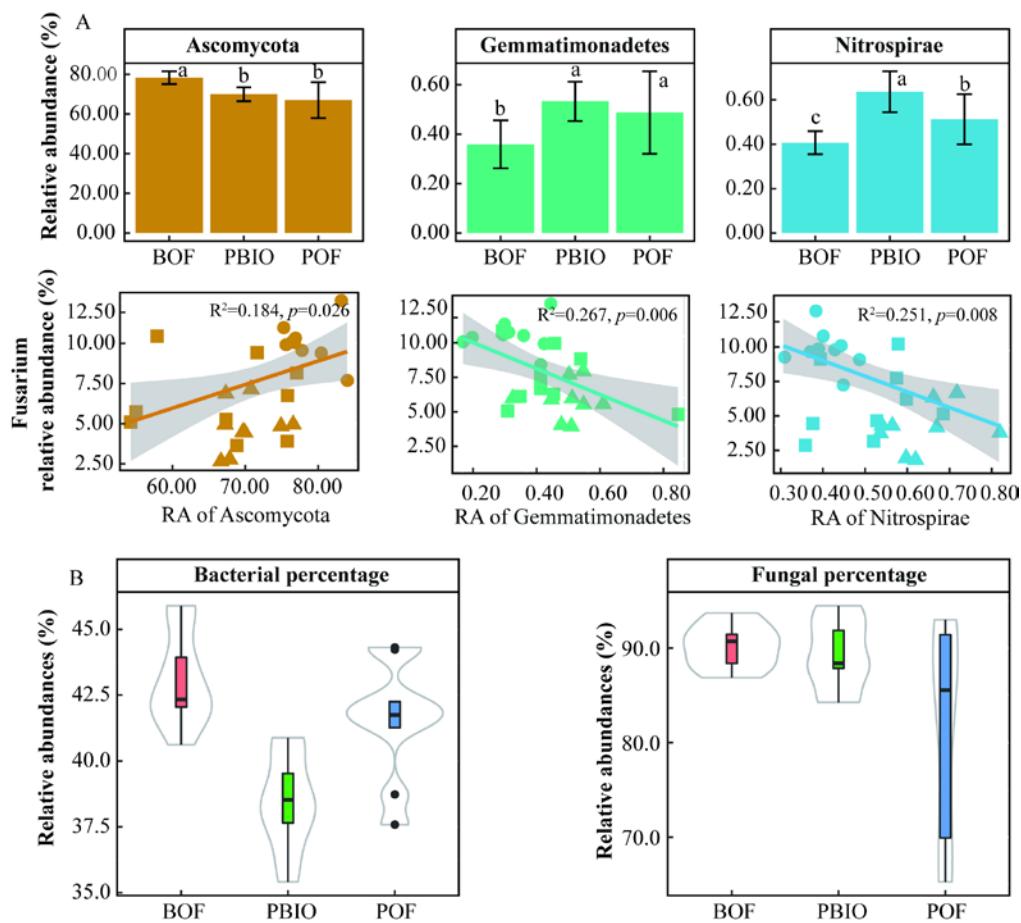
287 Furthermore, MRT results indicated that biofertilizer application had the largest
 288 deterministic influence on the composition of both bacterial and fungal communities,
 289 and that cultivation was secondarily important. Driven by fertilization, the PBIO
 290 treatment was separated from the BOF and POF treatments, and then the BOF and
 291 POF treatments were driven by cultivation (**Fig. 3B**).



292 **Figure 3. (A) UniFrac-unweighted principal coordinate analysis of fungal and bacterial**
 293 **community structures in different treatments.** BOF=banana continuously cropped with OF
 294 applied; POF= banana-pineapple rotation with OF applied in the banana season;
 295 PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with BIO applied in the banana season. **(B)** Multiple
 296 regression tree (MRT) analysis for the bacterial and fungal communities showed the variables
 297 of fertilization and cultivation in each branch.

299 **3.4 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil fungal and**
 300 **bacterial community composition**

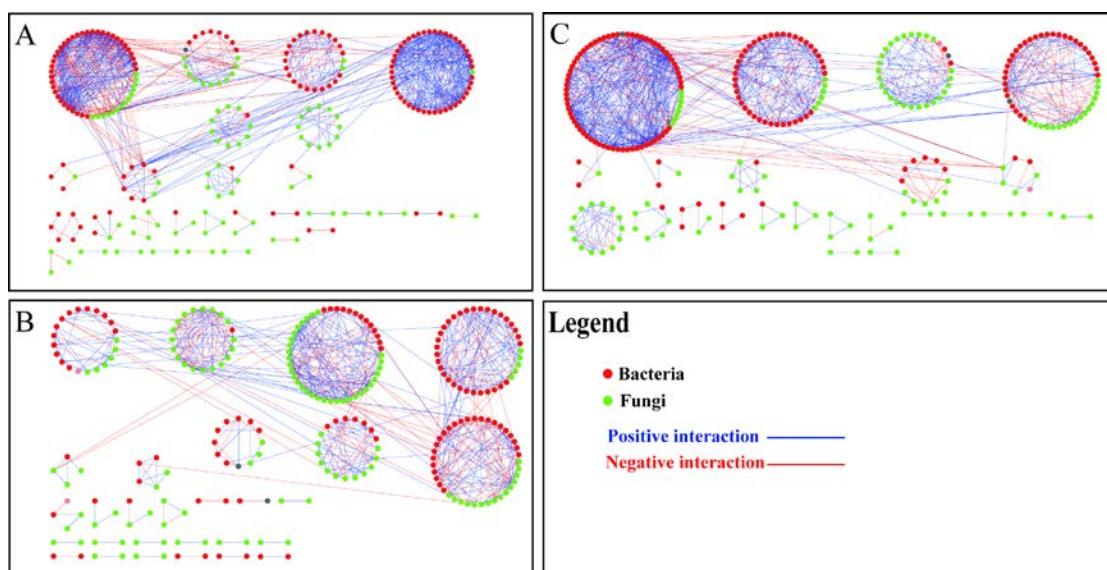
301 Phyla that were significantly correlated with FOC abundance were selected for the
 302 evaluation of effects on soil fungal and bacterial community composition versus
 303 relative FOC abundance. Seven bacterial phyla and three fungal phyla were
 304 significantly correlated with pathogen abundance (**Tables S3 and S4**). Moreover,
 305 more fungi were significantly correlated with FOC abundance compared with bacteria,
 306 based on the percentage of FOC related phyla showing this trend (**Fig. 4B**).



307
 308 **Figure 4.** Relative abundance of key phyla and linear regression relationship between key
 309 phyla and disease incidence (A). Percentage of FOC related bacterial and fungal phyla in all
 310 treatments (B). Different letters above the bars indicate a significant difference at the 0.05
 311 probability level according to the Duncan test.

312 **3.5 Key topological properties of the networks**

313 We built networks to show interactions among genera in the different treatments;
314 those OTUs with a relative abundance greater than 0.1% were selected from each
315 treatment. A total of 301 OTUs were selected from the BOF treatment (122 bacterial
316 and 179 fungal), 323 OTUs were selected from the PBIO treatment (152 bacterial and
317 171 fungal), and 324 OTUs were selected from the POF treatment (140 bacterial and
318 184 fungal). Random matrix theory was used to build the networks. As shown in **Fig.**
319 **5**, each node represents an OTU, each link shows a significant correlation between
320 two OTUs, red and green represent bacterial and fungal OTUs, respectively, and blue
321 and red represent positive and negative correlations, respectively.



323 **Figure 5. Network plots of bacterial and fungal communities in soil BOF (A), PBIO (B)**
324 **and POF(C).** BOF=banana continuously cropped with OF applied; POF= banana-pineapple
325 rotation with OF applied in the banana season; PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with BIO
326 applied in the banana season; Red nodes indicate bacteria; Green nodes indicate fungi; red
327 lines between nodes (links) indicate negative interaction; and blue lines indicate positive
328 interaction.

329

330 Networks with 286 (143 bacterial and 98 fungal), 245 (122 bacterial and 123
331 fungal), and 241 (163 bacterial and 123 fungal) nodes were selected from the BOF,
332 PBIO, and POF treatments, respectively. F/B represents ratio of fungal to bacterial
333 nodes. The F/B ratios were 0.69, 1.01, and 0.75 in the BOF, PBIO, and POF
334 treatments, respectively. These results suggest more active fungal OTUs in the PBIO
335 treatment sample, followed by the POF and BOF treatments.

336 The structure index network from the different treatments showed 24, 28, and 30
337 modules in the BOF, PBIO, and POF treatments, respectively (**Table 2**).

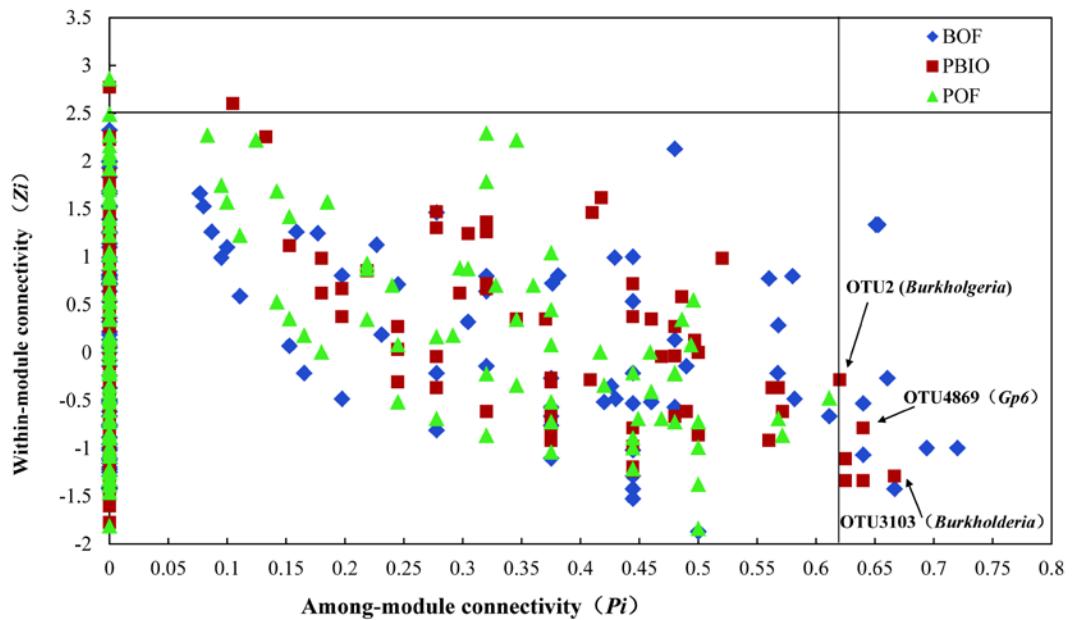
338 **Table 2.** Topological properties of the empirical and associated random pMENs of microbial
339 communities under BOF, POF and PBIO. BOF=banana continuously cropped with OF
340 applied; POF= banana-pineapple rotation with OF applied in the banana season;
341 PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with BIO applied in the banana season; Avg K=average
342 connectivity; Avg CC=average clustering coefficient; and GD=average path distance.

Treatment	Network size	R ²	Empirical networks				Random networks		
			AvgK	AvgCC	GD	Modularity	AvgCC	GD	Modularity
BOF	241	0.793	6.71	0.366	2.921	0.62 (30)	0.073	2.96	0.322
POF	286	0.796	5.64	0.412	3.739	0.64 (24)	0.041	3.34	0.385
PBIO	245	0.739	5.16	0.397	3.642	0.72 (28)	0.033	3.28	0.407

343

344 The threshold value Z_i measures the connected degree between two nodes in the
345 same module, and P_i measures the connected degree between two nodes from
346 different modules. According to the Z_i and P_i values found in our study, all nodes
347 were divided into four categories (**Fig. 6**). Three nodes were categorized as generalists
348 (module hubs) with intense connectivity to many nodes in the same modules, two
349 from the PBIO network and one from the POF network. However, no module hubs
350 were found in the BOF network. Fourteen nodes were categorized as connectors

351 (generalists) with high connectivity to several modules, eight from the BOF network
 352 and six from the PBIO network. Interestingly, module hubs (generalists) were only
 353 found in the pineapple-banana treatment (PBIO and POF), and connectors (generalists)
 354 and module hubs (generalists) were found at the same time only in the pineapple-
 355 banana with the bio-organic fertilizer applied treatment (PBIO). Annotation
 356 information from all generalists showed that bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belonging
 357 to *Burkholderia* were generalists in the PBIO network, but were absent in the POF
 358 and BOF networks. Additionally, another generalist OTU4869, from the PBIO
 359 network was identified as *Gp6* in Acidobacteria.



360
 361 **Figure 6. Zi-Pi plot showing the distribution of OTUs based on their topological roles.**
 362 Each symbol represents an OTU in different treatment. BOF=banana continuously cropped
 363 with OF applied; POF= banana-pineapple rotation with OF applied in the banana season;
 364 PBIO=banana-pineapple rotation with BIO applied in the banana season; The threshold
 365 values of Zi and Pi for categorizing OTUs were 2.5 and 0.62, respectively, as proposed by
 366 Guimera and Amaral (2005) and simplified by Olesen et al. (2007).

367 **3.6 Relationship between microbial indicators and incidence of banana Fusarium
368 wilt disease**

369 Bacterial and fungal structure (unweighted PCoA1), richness (Chao1), and Faith's PD;
370 Ascomycota, Gemmatimonadetes, and Nitrospirae phyla relative abundances; and
371 *Fusarium*, *Burkholderia*, and *Bacillus* genus relative abundances were selected in the
372 linear model and explored for the best contribution factor of disease incidence (**Table
373 3**).

374 **Table 3** Linear models (LM) for the relationships of microbial indicators with disease
375 incidence and the relative importance of each indicator. P was the result from ANOVAs. The
376 bold values represent *p* values lower than 0.05 from the ANOVA results.

	df	F	P	Relative Importance
Bac-PCoA1	1	304.09	<0.0001	19.32%
Fun-PCoA1	1	1.11	0.31	16.32%
Bac-Chao1	1	4.10	0.062	9.60%
Fun-Chao1	1	1.11	0.309	4.19%
Bac-Faith's PD	1	1.59	0.227	6.80%
Fun-Faith's PD	1	1.64	0.221	6.05%
Ascomycota	1	2.11	0.168	1.93%
<i>Fusarium</i> Relative abundance	1	1.01	0.332	8.23%
Nitrospirae	1	0.88	0.363	7.29%
Gemmatimonadetes	1	0.04	0.852	2.61%
<i>Burkholderia</i>	1	0.76	0.399	10.17%
<i>Bacillus</i>	1	0.33	0.574	3.29%
Residuals	14			

Model summary: $R^2=0.9417$, AIC =123.26, $p < 0.0001$

Total response variance: 95.79%

377

378 Importantly, bacterial structure ($F = 304.09$, $p < 0.0001$, relative importance =
379 19.32%), fungal structure ($F = 1.11$, $p < 0.31$, relative importance = 16.32%), and
380 *Burkholderia* relative abundance ($F = 0.76$, $p < 0.399$, relative importance = 10.17%)
381 constrained disease incidence the most (with a relative importance greater than 10%).

382 In addition, based on linear regression analyses between disease incidence and
383 selected microbial indicators, we found that bacterial structure ($F = 304.09$, $p <$
384 0.0001, relative importance = 19.32%) had a significant relationship with disease
385 incidence.

386 **4 Discussion**

387 In our previous research, the effectiveness of pineapple-banana rotation and bio-
388 organic fertilizer application were proven in the control of banana Fusarium wilt
389 disease (Wang et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2017). Soil microbial community change is an
390 important indicator for exploring the mechanisms behind these two control measures.
391 In this study, disease incidence and soil microbial community characteristics during
392 the banana-growing season were measured to evaluate the control effect and potential
393 impact of rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application.

394 Our previous results indicated that the pineapple-banana rotation treatments
395 significantly reduced Fusarium wilt disease incidence when compared with banana
396 monoculture. Moreover, the application of bio-organic fertilizer enhances this
397 suppression ability. Shen et al., (2018) reported that bio-fertilizer application after
398 fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate was highly effective in controlling
399 banana Fusarium wilt disease. Thus, although many measures can slow down the
400 spread of Fusarium wilt disease, effective control can be enhanced by the combined
401 use of more than one measure (Pda et al., 2017). Therefore, in the current study, we
402 explored the combined use effect of pineapple-banana rotation and bio-organic
403 fertilizer application to provide a promising strategy to manage banana Fusarium wilt
404 disease. The results were consistent with previous reports.

405 Significantly higher Chao1 and Faith's PD were detected in the rotation and
406 biofertilizer treatments. Previous studies have shown a high positive correlation
407 between disease suppression and a high diversity of bacteria with a concurrent low
408 diversity of fungi (Bonanomi et al., 2010; Fu et al., 2017). However, inconsistent with
409 these results, the pineapple-banana rotation and biofertilizer treatment (PBIO)
410 harbored a significantly higher fungal richness and diversity than the other two
411 treatments (BOF and POF). This agrees with two other previous studies that indicated
412 the importance of fungal diversity in the suppressive capacity of vanilla soils and
413 potato cropping systems (Xiong et al., 2017). Many previous studies have shown that
414 a decrease in soil pH is an important factor leading to soil-borne diseases. Microbial
415 diversity has been seen to increase with higher soil pH values (Liu et al., 2014; Shen
416 et al., 2013). We observed that soil pH increased in the rotation and bio-organic
417 fertilizer treatments (**Table S2**); therefore, the high bacterial and fungal diversity
418 observed in our rotation and bio-organic fertilizer system may have been due to the
419 high soil pH.

420 Both PCoA ordinations and MRT results revealed significant differences in
421 microbial community structure after rotation and biofertilizer applications. This is
422 supported by previous studies stating that rotation (Helena et al., 2016; Hartmann et
423 al., 2015) and bio-organic fertilizer application (Sun et al., 2015) altered the soil
424 microbial community composition. Despite the apparent cultivation, MRT analysis
425 revealed fertilization effects on microbial community composition, indicating that
426 bio-organic fertilizer application in the banana season was the most important factor
427 in determining microbial community composition. These results were similar to
428 previous results where bio-organic fertilizer application was the greatest factor in
429 determining microbial community composition rather than temporal variability (Fu et

430 al., 2017). This is also a powerful illustration of the necessity of bio-organic fertilizer
431 application in pineapple-banana rotation.

432 Phylum-level results show that rotation and biofertilizer application decreased
433 the relative abundance of Ascomycota, and increased the relative abundance of
434 Chlamydiae, Gemmatimonadetes, Nitrospire, Planctomycetes, and Verrucomicrobia,
435 which were all associated with disease suppression in previous reports (Trivedi et al.,
436 2017; Shen et al., 2018). Our fungal results are consistent with previous observations
437 of low Ascomycota phylum abundance in suppressed soil, which is logical because
438 Ascomycetes constitutes the largest group of soil pathogens (Lu et al., 2013).
439 Furthermore, this tendency was observed in our previous report, in which a decrease
440 in Ascomycetes was considered an important factor in FOC decrease during the
441 pineapple season (Wang et al., 2015). The bacterial results are partly consistent with
442 previous observations that rotations with wild rocket and Indian mustard increased the
443 *Nitrospira* and Gemmatimonadetes contents (Jin et al., 2019). It is worth noting that
444 our BIO treatment was secondary fermentation with *Bacillus* added, while the
445 *Bacillus* genus was not enriched in the BIO treatment soil. Moreover, microbial
446 structure appeared to be the most constrained factor with disease incidence in linear
447 models between microbial indicators and the incidence of banana Fusarium wilt
448 disease. Xiong et al (2017) suggested that microbial species introduced by
449 biofertilizer application induced wilt suppression by microbiome transformation
450 rather than pathogen suppression directly. Alteration of the soil microbiome may
451 cause a greater response than the added *Bacillus* in the PBIO treatment sample in our
452 case.

453 We previously confirmed that pineapple-banana rotation reduced the amount of
454 *Fusarium oxysporum* mainly by modulating fungal communities during the pineapple
455 season (Wang et al., 2015). In the present research, compared with bacteria, a higher

percentage of FOC-correlated fungi genera was observed in all treatments. Even though more kinds of bacteria are related to FOC, a higher percentage of fungi showed relevance. These results agree with the findings of Mona et al. (2014) and Cai et al. (2017), who reported that fungal communities have a more crucial response to soil factor changes than bacterial communities. It is worth noting that fungal communities were more dissimilar between the pineapple-banana rotation and maize-banana rotation treatments than bacteria in our previous studies (Wang et al., 2015). Thus, the higher FOC-relevance found in the fungal community in both the pineapple and banana seasons further reinforced the importance of fungal community changes in our case.

Several researchers have used microbial molecular ecological networks to study complex microbial ecological systems in suppressed soils, including corn-potato rotations (Lu et al., 2013) and vanilla (Xiong et al., 2017). We found microbial molecular ecological networks revealing distinct differences between the microbial communities associated with the three treatments in our research. More fungal OTUs were selected in the PBIO treatment samples, followed by the POF and BOF treatments, based on the F/B ratio. Although the OTUs selected to build the network were only a part of the entire system, there is no doubt that these OTUs were very important for soil function (Coyte et al., 2015). Therefore, we conclude that the large number of fungal OTUs present in the system may have led to changes in soil function. PBIO, POF, and BOF soils harbored modules with modularity values of 0.718, 0.642, and 0.616, respectively, in this study. Modularity represents how well the network was organized (Zhou et al., 2011). Thus, the PBIO network, which possessed high modularity, had more connections between nodes in the same modules, followed by the POF and BOF networks. The altered networks compared with POF and BOF networks may have partially contributed latent attributes to higher disease

482 suppression in our rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application trials. Furthermore,
483 no module hubs (generalists) were present in the BOF network, whereas all three
484 module hubs were found in the pineapple-banana rotation network, as indicated by the
485 *Zi-Pi* relationship. In all three networks, connectors (generalists) and module hubs
486 (generalists) were found at the same time only in the PBIO treatment. Generalists
487 typically only occupy a small fraction of a community; however, the presence of those
488 generalists is very important (Zhou et al., 2011; Jens et al., 2011). These nodes could
489 have enhanced connectors within or among modules. If the network is poorly
490 connected or not connected at all, the community is predicted to be disordered, and
491 fluxes of energy, material, and information would not be efficient (Lu et al., 2013).
492 Therefore, in our case, these generalists found in the PBIO treatment suggest that the
493 microbial community structure was more orderly and powerful than in the other two
494 treatments.

495 Annotation information from all generalists found in our study shows that
496 bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belong to *Burkholderia*, which were generalists in the
497 PBIO network, but were not observed in the POF and BOF networks.
498 Correspondingly, a high abundance of *Burkholderia* and a high percentage of
499 antagonistic *Burkholderia* were found during the pineapple season in our previous
500 report (Wang et al., 2015). In addition, our linear model analysis shows that in
501 addition to bacterial and fungal structure, *Burkholderia* relative abundance
502 constrained disease incidence with a high relative importance factor of 10.17%.
503 *Burkholderia* is a versatile organism due to its powerful ability to occupy ecological
504 niches and a variety of functions, including biological control and plant growth
505 promotion, in agriculture (Coenye and Vandamme, 2003). This suggests that even
506 though the relative abundance of *Burkholderia* in the PBIO treatment was not that
507 high, the change in network structure in the rotation and bio-organic fertilizer

508 treatments may have been attributed to the general wilt suppression activity, and that
509 change may have specifically been due to the special functions of *Burkholderia*.
510 Additionally, one generalist in the PBIO treatment sample was identified as *Gp6* in
511 Acidobacteria. Although no Acidobacteria antimicrobial activities have previously
512 been recorded, several studies have demonstrated that Acidobacteria is greatly
513 affected by soil pH and that *Gp6* is positively correlated with soil pH (Bartram et al.,
514 2014; Jones et al., 2009). Therefore, the special function of *Gp6* in the PBIO network
515 probably resulted from an increase in soil pH.

516 **5 Conclusions**

517 An expansion of previous work revealed that pineapple-banana rotation combined
518 with bio-organic fertilizer application during the banana season was effective in
519 reducing *Fusarium* spp. abundance and banana Fusarium wilt. Several different
520 analyses indicate that bacterial and fungal communities, especially fungal structure,
521 were changed by rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application. Bio-organic fertilizer
522 inhibited Fusarium wilt disease by changing the soil microbial structure, rather than
523 any designated microorganism. Large changes in the fungal community and special
524 *Burkholderia* functions in the network were likely the most responsible factors for
525 soil-borne disease suppression. Pineapple-banana rotation combined with bio-organic
526 fertilizer application has strong potential for the sustainable management of banana
527 Fusarium wilt disease.

528 **Data availability**

529 All data are available. The sequencing data have been submitted to the NCBI
530 Sequence Read Archive database (SRP234066).

531 **Author contributions**

532 Rong Li and Beibei Wang designed the research and wrote the manuscript. Beibei
533 Wang, YannanOu and ZongzhanShen performed trials and conducted fieldwork.
534 Beibei Wang and Jinming Yang analyzed the data. Rong Li, Lin Fu, Yunze Ruan,
535 Yan Zhao and Qirong Shen participated in the design of the study, provided
536 comments and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final
537 manuscript.

538 **Competing interests**

539 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial
540 or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

541 **Acknowledgments**

542 This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China
543 (41867006 and 31760605), the Hainan Provincial Natural Science Foundation of
544 China (320RC483), the National Key Research and Development Program of China
545 (2017YFD0202101).

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