

Supplementary Information for: Life history
strategies and niches of soil bacteria emerge from
interacting thermodynamic, biophysical, and
metabolic traits

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Table 1: Overview of *DEBmicro Trait* trait integration.

Trait	Source	Formula	Unit	Source	Formula	Unit
Life-history						
Genome-derived				Modelled		
Maximum specific growth rate	microTrait ^a	r_{max}	h^{-1}	Scaling law ^c Biophysical model ^c Scaling law ^d	$V_{DNA} = v_N L_{DNA}$ k_E 9.5 - 1.22log ₂ (rrn)	m^3 h^{-1} -
Genome size	microTrait/phylogeny	L_{DNA}	bp			
16S rRNA operon copy number	microTrait/rrnDB ^b	rrn	-			
DNA volume						
Translation power						
Translation efficiency						
Biophysical						
Literature				Modelled		
Cell volume				Scaling law ^c	$V_c = (\frac{V_{DNA}}{D_0})^{1/\beta_D}$	m^3
Protein volume				Scaling law ^c	$V_P = P_0 V_c^{\beta_P}$	m^3
Average protein length	Bionumber ^e 108986	$\bar{l}_P$	bp	Scaling law ^f	λ_B	-
Average ribosome length	Bionumber 101439	$\bar{l}_R$	bp			
Bacterial cell density						
Cell stoichiometry	Biophysical model ^g	$\text{CH}_u\text{N}_v\text{O}_w$	-			
Metabolic						
Literature				Modelled		
Ribosome volume				Biophysical model ^c	V_R	m^3
Specific ribosome degradation rate				Biophysical model ^c	$\eta = \phi$	s^{-1}
Maximum ribosome processing rate	Bionumber 100059	$\bar{r}_R$	bp s^{-1}	Biophysical model ^c Scaling law ^h	$\phi = 6.2e^{-7}$ $0.39V_c^{0.88}$	s^{-1} h^{-1}
Specific protein degradation rate						
Basal maintenance rate						
Average transport protein cost	Estimated ⁱ	1.09e-19	W			
Stress tolerance						
				Modelled		
Intrinsic mortality rate				Scaling law ^j	$\gamma_{V,0} = 0.23e^{0.88r_{max}}$	h^{-1}
Mortality half-saturation constant				Estimated	$\gamma_{V,1} = 98.8$	μM

Overview of *DEBmicroTrait* trait integration - continued.

Trait	Source	Formula	Unit	Source	Formula	Unit
Thermodynamic						
Reserve chemical potential	Estimated ^k	$\mu_E = 33$	kJ mol^{-1}			
Structure chemical potential	Estimated ^k	$\mu_V = 107$	kJ mol^{-1}			
Resource acquisition						
		Genome-derived			Modelled	
Membrane transport proteins	microTrait/TransportDB ^l		-			
Carbohydrate active enzymes	microTrait/CAZy ^m	z_ρ	-			
Membrane binding site density		z_X	-			
Biomass-specific site density				Estimated ⁿ	ρ_{porter}	-
Maximum specific uptake rate				ECA parameter ^f	$N_{SB} = \frac{\lambda_B N_{porter}}{12.011}$	mol gC^{-1}
Half-saturation constant				ECA parameter ^f	$V_{max} = k_{cat} N_{SB}$	h^{-1}
				ECA parameter ^f	K_D	μM
Max. substrate processing rate						
	Bionumber 114686	k_{cat}	s^{-1}			
Resource use						
		Modelled				
Reserve maintenance fraction	Default ^o	$y_{EM} = 1.0$	-			
Constitutive exoenzyme rate	Estimated ^p	$1e^{-z_X}$	-			

References: ^a: [1], ^b: [2], ^c: [3], ^d: [4], ^e: [5], ^f: [6], ^g: [7], ^h: [8], ⁱ: [9], ^j: [10], ^k: [11], ^l: [12], ^m: [13], ⁿ: [14], ^o: [15], ^p: [16]

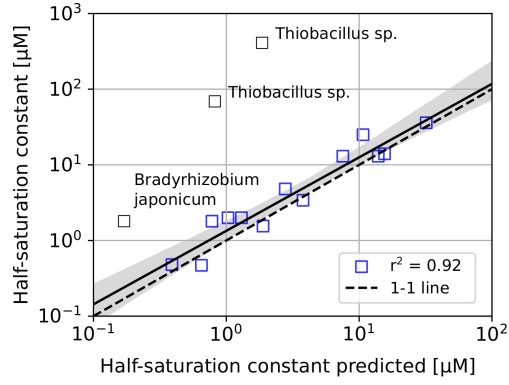


Fig. 1: Comparison of predicted half-saturation constants and measured half-saturation constants for 13 reference genomes as reported in [17]. The solid line indicates the regression line excluding outliers ($r^2=0.92$), while shaded areas indicate the 95% confidence bands. Data points that were excluded from the regression are labelled by species name. The dashed line corresponds to the 1-1 line for log-scaled observed vs. predicted values.

Table 2: Measured and modelled half-saturation constants for substrate uptake based on existing literature data [17].

Substrate	Taxonomy	Strain	Method, Incubation time	$g_{\max}$ [h ⁻¹]	$V_{\max}$ [h ⁻¹]	K_{meas} [μM]	K_{model} [μM]	
Glucose	Flavobacterium johnsoniae	C-21	Steady-state in continuous culture	0.2	[-]	1.55	1.89	[18]
Glucose	Escherichia coli	ML 308	Batch culture growth	1.238	[-]	13.0	13.93	[19]
Lactose	Lactocaseibacillus casei	64 H	Radioactivity uptake, 10 min	[-]	2.19	14.0	15.53	[20]
Glucose	Corynebacterium sp.	198	¹⁴ CO ₂ from continuous culture samples	0.15	[-]	0.48	0.39	[21]
Tyrosine	Brevibacterium linens	47	Initial uptake, 5 min	[-]	1.05	3.40	3.78	[22]
Phenylalanine	Brevibacterium linens	47	Initial uptake, 5 min	[-]	1.75	25.0	10.7	[22]
Tryptophan	Brevibacterium linens	[-]	Initial uptake, 5 min	[-]	0.35	1.8	0.78	[22]
Isoleucine	Streptococcus thermophilus	302	Radioactivity uptake, 1 min	[-]	0.95	36	32	[23]
Valine	Streptococcus thermophilus	302	Radioactivity uptake, 1 min	[-]	1.20	2.0	1.3	[23]
Glycerol-3-phosphate	Escherichia coli	[-]	Radioactivity uptake, 1 min	[-]	0.006	2.0	1.03	[24]
Succinate	Rhizobium leguminosarum	[-]	Radioactivity uptake, 2 min	[-]	0.06	2.0	1.3	[25]
Toluene	Pseudomonas sp	[-]	Total ¹⁴ C-labelled product production, 4 hrs	[-]	0.111	0.47	0.65	[26]
Methanol	Pseudomonas sp	MA	Radioactivity uptake, 10 min	[-]	0.05	4.8	2.78	[27]
Fructose	Thiobacillus sp.	A2	Dyalisis rate of ¹⁴ C labelled substrate, 5 min	0.39	0.68	410	1.86	[28]
Ribose	Thiobacillus sp.	A3	Dyalisis rate of ¹⁴ C labelled substrate, 5 min	0.03	0.02	69	0.86	[28]
Succinate	Bradyrhizobium japonicum	[-]	Radioactivity uptake, 10 min	[-]	0.001	1.8	0.17	[29]

Abbreviations: maximum specific growth rate: $g_{\max}$ [h⁻¹], maximum specific uptake rate: $V_{\max}$ [h⁻¹], measured half-saturation constant: K_{meas} [μM], estimated half-saturation constant: K_{model} [μM]. Literature maximum uptake rates reported in units of nmol/min/mg were converted to the given unit by scaling with estimates of cellular dry mass [3].

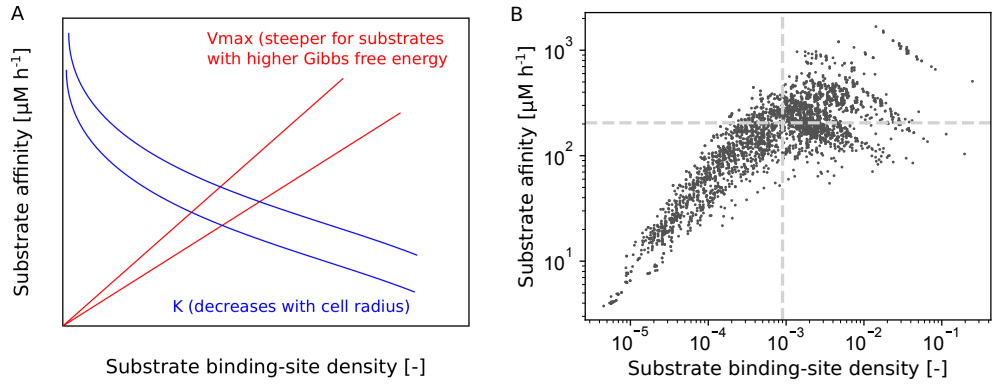


Fig. 2: **A** Relationship between the substrate uptake affinity at low external substrate concentration ($J_{S \rightarrow 0} = V_{max}/K$) and substrate binding-site density in the equilibrium chemistry approximation (ECA [6]) for substrate uptake. **B** Estimated substrate affinity as a function of the substrate binding-site density of rhizosphere isolates. The dashed lines indicate the substrate binding-site density corresponding to the locally weighted maximum substrate affinity. Substrates: $n=82$, consumers: $n=39$.

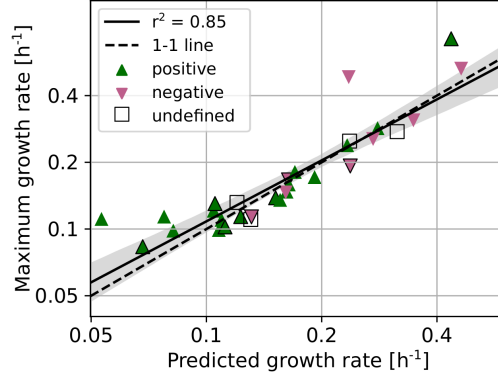


Fig. 3: Comparison of predicted maximum specific growth rates of rhizosphere isolates ($n=39$) and confirmed genome-predicted maximum specific growth rates through laboratory growth rate experiments [30]. Isolates are colored by their response to plant growth (green: positive, magenta: negative, white: undefined). Following guidelines developed for genome-scale models [31], the in-silico growth medium was designed to match the original R2 1/10 medium, on which the isolates were originally cultured at 28 °C. The solid line indicates the regression line ($r^2=0.85$), while shaded areas indicate the 95% confidence bands. The dashed line corresponds to the 1-1 line for observed vs. predicted values.

Table 3: Measured, genome-predicted, and modelled minimum generation times (minGT) of Hopland isolates.

Isolate	minGT measured [h]	minGT predicted [h]	minGT modelled [h]
HE68	-	7.00	6.43
HB09	-	1.31	1.50
HD36	1.55	2.78	2.93
HA02	6.05	6.09	8.94
HA13	5.9	5.73	6.63
HD69	5.93	5.32	6.58
HA54	2.31	2.43	2.48
HA33	-	2.90	2.97
HD24	3.57	2.52	2.20
HE23	2.34	3.57	2.90
HA28	3.1	6.24	13.03
HE60	5.96	6.09	5.64
HB58	3.59	3.33	3.08
HA31	3.28	2.72	2.54
HB48	4.67	3.60	2.92
HB62	3.62	2.24	2.00
HB13	2.55	2.25	2.11
HA19	1.87	5.26	5.77
HB36	3.99	3.88	3.67
HA56	4.25	4.70	4.28
HB07	5.58	5.01	4.57
HC08	5.07	5.12	4.45
HA36	2.45	1.82	1.57
HE70	-	4.16	4.23
HB44	4.34	4.36	4.22
HD25	3.87	3.83	4.07
HA20	5.41	6.28	5.31
HA32	4.44	4.82	3.87
HA14	-	1.43	2.95
HB15	2.52	0.96	1.59
HD17	-	7.05	8.46
HD88	3.69	7.49	7.94
HD82	4.95	6.11	5.29
HD59	6.29	4.74	4.30
HD07	6.22	6.30	6.33
HD57	-	6.78	6.20
HA57	-	0.75	0.81
HA41	-	4.04	3.62
HB20	7.13	8.33	10.17

Measured and genome-predicted minimum generation times as originally reported in [30].

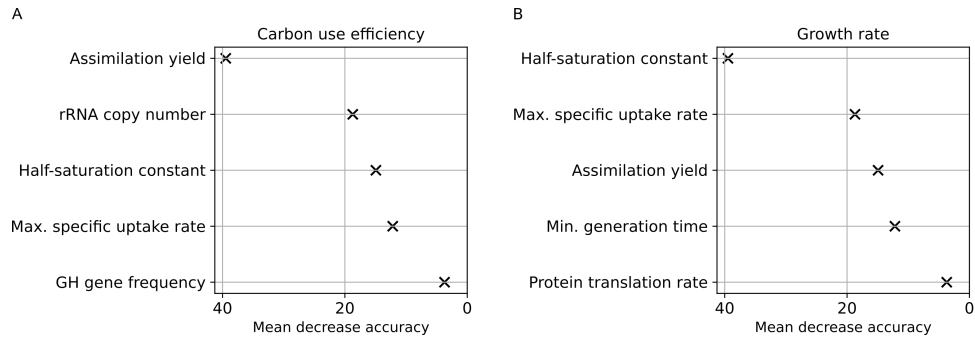
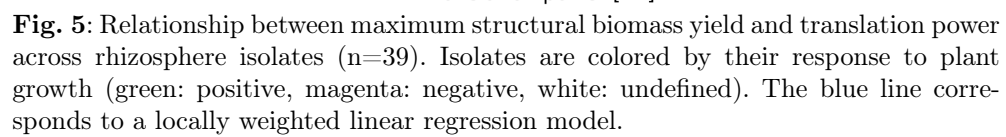


Fig. 4: Representation of the five most influential predictors of carbon use efficiency (**A**) and growth rate (**B**) in batch simulations as determined by mean decrease in accuracy. The mean decrease in accuracy is a measurement of the change in the accuracy of the random forest's predictions when the variable in question is randomly permuted. Labels on the y axis indicate the feature names. Feature contributions for all case studies were computed on predictions for the *undefined* rhizosphere isolate response group as out-of-bag samples.



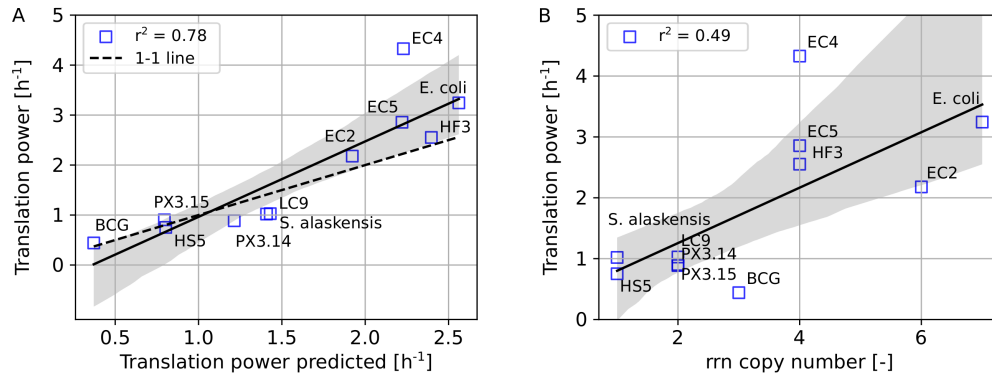


Fig. 6: **A** Regression scatter plot for protein synthesis power of phylogenetically diverse bacteria as reported in [4, 32]. The dashed line indicates the regression line ($r^2=0.84$), while shaded areas indicate the 95% confidence bands. The solid line corresponds to the 1-1 line for observed vs. predicted values ($n=11$). **B** Correlation between translation power and $\log_2$ rrn operon copy number ($r^2=0.49$). Species are the same as in **A**.

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