Supporting Information

Fierer *et al*. 10.1073/pnas.0807920105

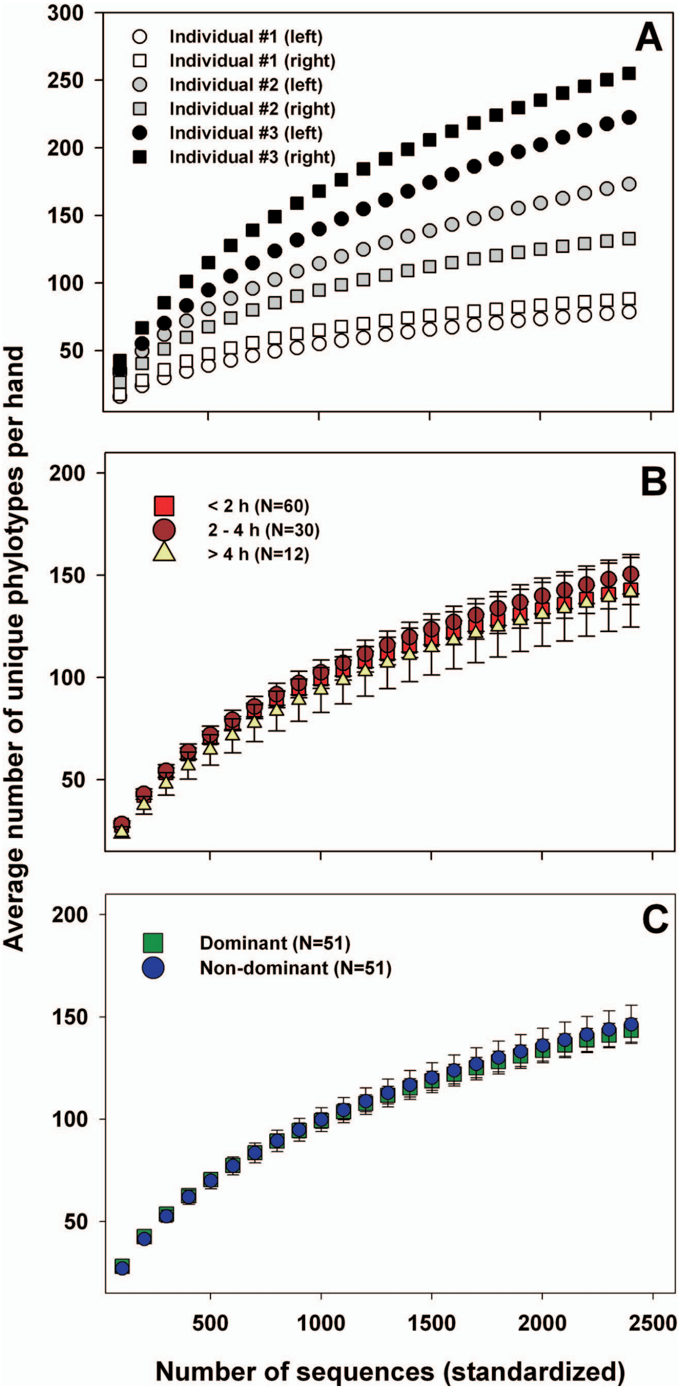

Fig. S1. (*A*) Rarefaction curves from three individual hand samples, selected to be representative of individual palms with low, average, and high levels of bacterial diversity. (*B* and *C*) Rarefaction curves for samples grouped into categories based on time since last hand washing (*B*) and the dominant versus nondominant hands (*C*). Curves were estimated by randomly selecting 2,400 sequences per hand sample so the average number of phylotypes per hand is lower than that estimated for the full dataset. The number of individual hand samples included in each category is indicated in the legend. Confidence intervals are shown at the 95% level.

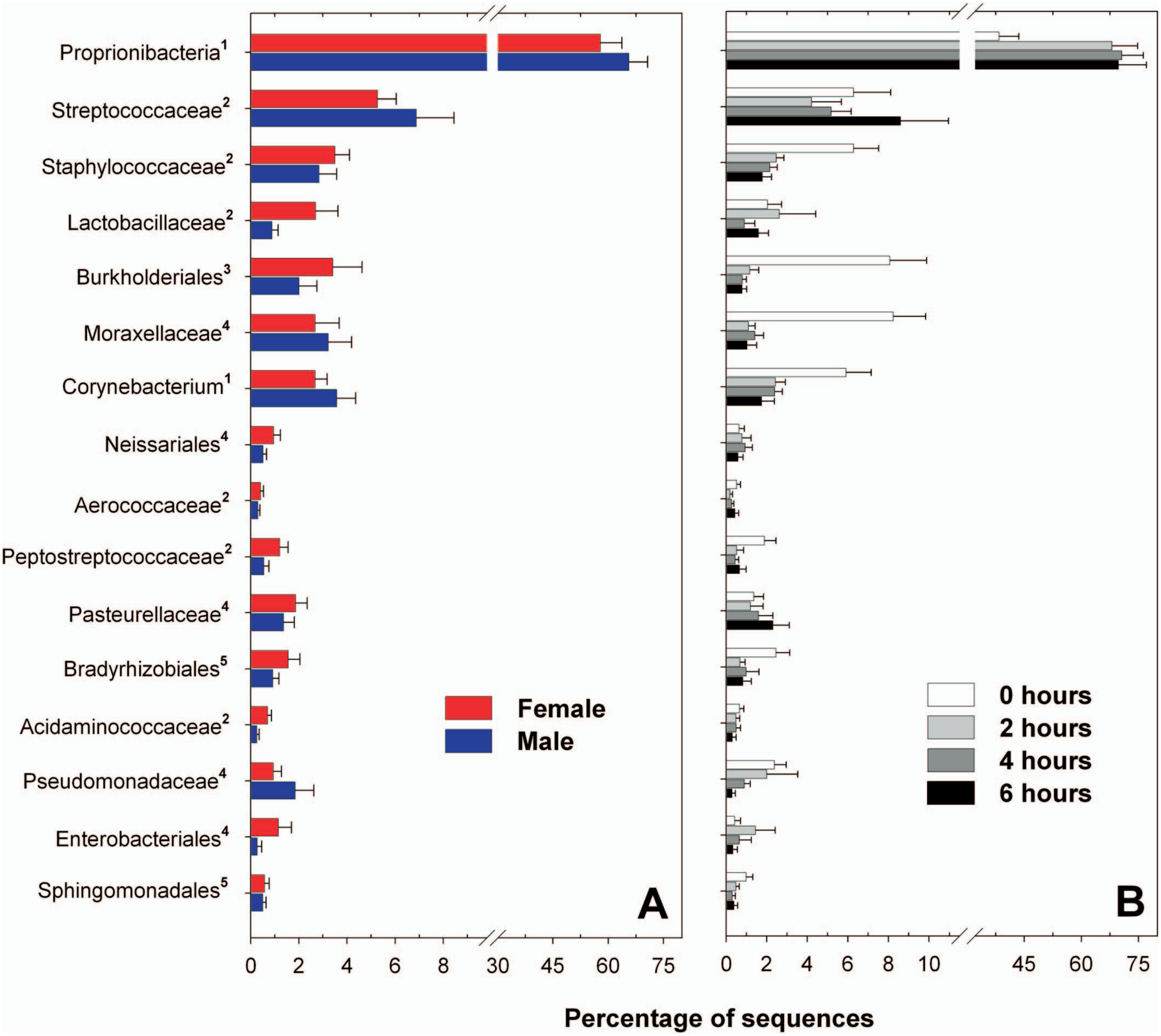

Fig. S2. Relative abundances of the most abundant bacterial g0 0roups on the hand surfaces sampled as part of the smaller scale study, with the hand samples divided into categories of sex (*A*) and time since last hand washing (*B*). Four men and 4 women were sampled every 2 h for a 6-h period after hands were thoroughly washed. Error bars are one standard error of the mean. For the number of sequences and number of samples included in each category and the full taxonomic description of the hand-surface bacterial communities see Table S2. Superscripts on the taxon name indicate the phylum or subphylum: 1, Actinobacteria; 2, Firmicutes; 3, Betaproteobacteria; 4, Gammaproteobacteria; 5, Alphaproteobacteria.

Fig. S3. Differentiation in hand-surface communities with time since last hand washing for each sex as determined from the smaller-scale study of 8 individuals. Community differentiation was measured by using the unweighted UniFrac algorithm; the length of the branches corresponds to the degree of differentiation between bacterial communities in each category. All of the branch nodes shown here were found to be significant ($P < 0.001$), indicating that each of these 8 categories harbored distinct bacterial communities.

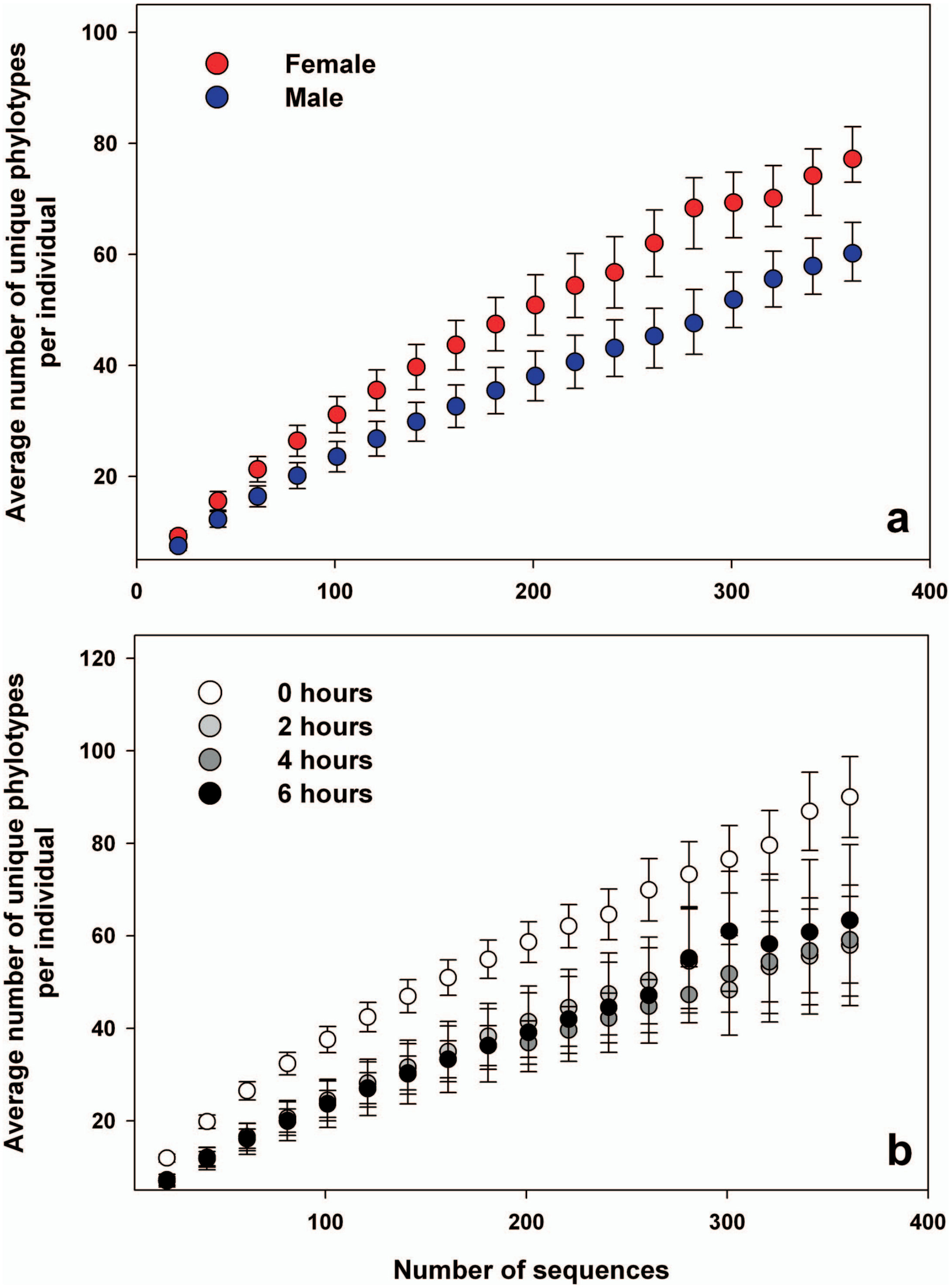

Fig. S4. Rarefaction curves for samples grouped into categories based on sex (*a*) and time since last hand washing (*b*) from the smaller-scale study. Notice that the number of sequences collected is far less than the number collected for the main study. Confidence intervals are shown at the 95% level. Results are from the 4 men and 4 women sampled immediately after an initial hand washing (0 h) and every 2 h thereafter for a 6-h period.

Other Supporting Information Files

Table S1 (PDF)
Table S2 (PDF)
Table S3 (PDF)