

**Supplementary information**

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**Host preference and invasiveness of commensal bacteria in the *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis* root microbiota**

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**Host preference and invasiveness of commensal bacteria in the *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis*  
root microbiota**

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**This PDF file includes the following Supplementary Information:**

Supplementary Note

Supplementary Figures 1 to 3

Supplementary Tables 1 and 2

## 1 **Supplementary Note**

### 2 Culture collection recovery rates

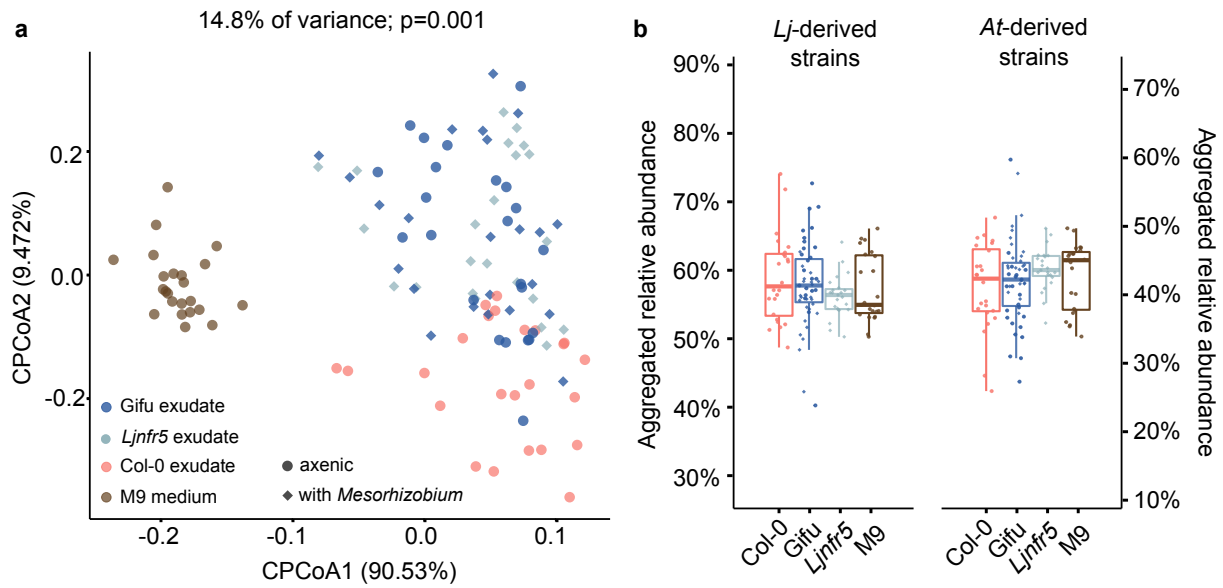
3 To explore the mechanisms by which different plant species assemble distinct microbial  
4 communities, we established a taxonomically and functionally diverse culture collection of the  
5 *Lotus* root and nodule microbiota ([Methods](#)). A total of 3,960 colony-forming units (CFUs)  
6 were obtained and taxonomically characterized by sequencing the bacterial *16S* ribosomal  
7 RNA (rRNA; [Supplementary Data 1](#)), resulting in a comprehensive sequence-indexed  
8 rhizobacterial library from *L. japonicus* (*Lj*-IRL). In parallel, a subset of the root samples was  
9 also subjected to amplicon sequencing to obtain culture-independent community profiles for  
10 cross-referencing with the *Lj*-IRL data. Recovery rates were estimated by calculating the  
11 number of bacterial OTUs (Operational Taxonomic Units, defined by 97% sequence identity)  
12 found in the natural communities that had at least one isolate in our culture collection  
13 ([Methods](#)). For *Lotus*, the recovery rates varied between 50% (based on the top 100 most  
14 abundant OTUs), 53% (OTUs with RA  $\geq$  0.1%), and 64.58% (prevalent OTUs, found in at  
15 least 80% of the natural community samples). Recovered OTUs accounted for up to 82% of  
16 the cumulative relative abundance of the entire culture-independent community ([Fig. 1c](#)),  
17 indicating that our collection is representative of a large fraction of the *Lotus* root microbiota.  
18 By comparison, the recovery rates for the *A. thaliana* culture collection (*At*-IRL) varied  
19 between 51% (top 100 OTUs), 57% ( $\geq$  0.1% relative abundance), and 62.82% (prevalent  
20 OTUs), while recovered OTUs recovered from *Arabidopsis* roots reached a cumulative relative  
21 abundance of 59% of the entire community ([Fig. 1e](#)). Interestingly, 45.57% of the abundant  
22 OTUs found in the natural communities of *Lj* roots were recovered in the *At*-IRL, whereas  
23 45.19% of abundant OTUs from *At* roots were recovered in the *Lj*-IRL ([Fig. 1d](#), and [1f](#)). These  
24 results are indicative of a substantial overlap of the recovered bacterial OTUs.

## 25 Taxonomic and functional overlap of the *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis* culture collections

26 To establish a core *Lotus* culture collection of whole-genome sequenced strains (*Lj*-SPHERE),  
27 we selected from the *Lj*-IRL a taxonomically representative subset of bacterial isolates  
28 maximizing the number of taxa covered (Methods). A total of 294 isolates belonging to 20  
29 families and 124 species, including both commensal and symbiotic bacteria, were subjected to  
30 whole-genome sequencing (Supplementary Data 2). This core collection is of a similar size  
31 and diversity as the collection from *Arabidopsis* roots (*At*-SPHERE)<sup>8</sup>. A whole-genome  
32 phylogeny of all sequenced isolates from both collections revealed an extensive taxonomic  
33 overlap between exemplars derived from *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis* (Fig. 2), indicating that the  
34 observed differences in natural community structures (Fig. 1b) are likely not driven by the  
35 presence of host-specific bacterial taxonomic groups. Instead, the distinct root community  
36 profiles of the two hosts are possibly due to differences in the relative abundance of shared  
37 taxonomic groups (Extended Data Fig. 2).

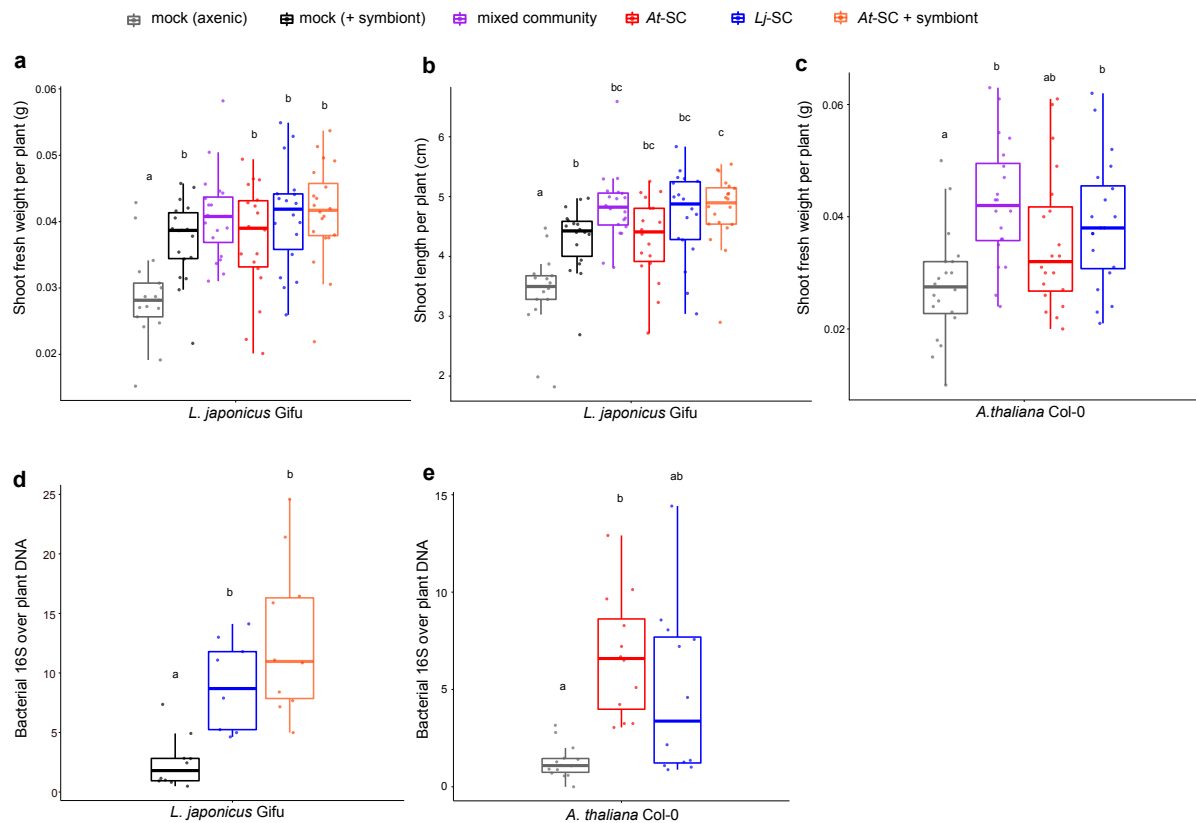
38 We hypothesized that bacterial preference for a plant species should be accompanied by the  
39 acquisition of a set of genes required for preferential colonization of a specific host. In order  
40 to test this, we characterized the functional potential encoded in the genomes of the sequenced  
41 isolates using the KEGG orthology database as a reference<sup>61</sup>. We observed that a large  
42 proportion of annotated gene families was shared between the two culture collections (6,712  
43 out of 7,456), and that the number of gene families exclusively found in genomes of strains  
44 derived from *Lotus* or *Arabidopsis* roots (3.51% and 6.47%, respectively) did not significantly  
45 deviate from what would be expected by chance ( $P = 0.49$ ). However, additional host-specific  
46 genes are likely encoded in sequences for which a functional annotation is currently  
47 unavailable (~27%). Principal coordinates analysis (PCoA) of functional distances revealed a  
48 high degree of overlap between isolates of the same taxonomic groups, which was independent

49 of their host of origin ([Extended Data Fig. 3](#)). Permutation analysis of variance confirmed that  
50 the main driver of functional variation encoded in the genomes of our culture collections was  
51 the taxonomy of the isolates (79.70% of variance explained;  $P = 0.001$ ), and that the origin of  
52 isolation (i.e., host species) only explained a small fraction of the functional diversity encoded  
53 by these genomes (4.27% of variance;  $P = 0.001$ ).



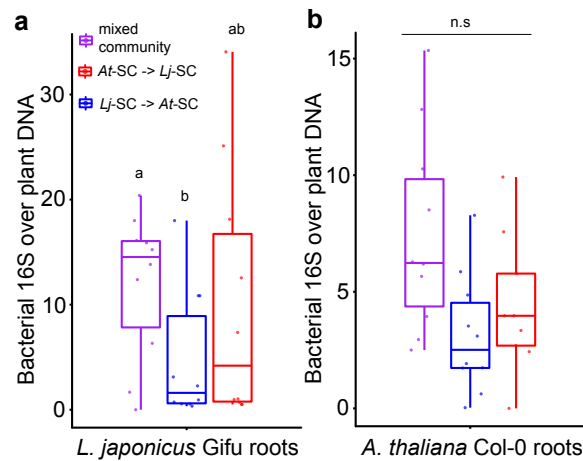
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56 **Supplementary Figure 1 | Effect of soluble root exudates on host preference of**  
 57 **commensals. a**, Constrained PCoA of Bray-Curtis dissimilarity (constrained by all biological  
 58 factors and conditioned by all technical variables;  $n = 116$ ) of the mixed SynCom *LjAt*-SC1  
 59 incubated in root exudates from axenically grown Gifu or Col-0, from Gifu or *Ljnr5*  
 60 inoculated with the symbiont *Mesorhizobium*, or in a carbon-rich control medium M9 (exp.  
 61 D). **b**, Aggregated relative abundance of the 16 *Lj*-derived and the 16 *At*-derived strains in the  
 62 *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis* exudates. A Kruskal-Wallis test showed no significant differences in  
 63 the distribution of values among groups.  $n = 24$  for Col-0,  $n = 47$  for Gifu,  $n = 23$  for *Ljnr5*  
 64 and M9.  $n$  refers to biologically independent samples.



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67 **Supplementary Figure 2 | Shoot phenotypes of *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis* plants inoculated**  
 68 **with different commensal communities.** *L. japonicus* Gifu and *A. thaliana* Col-0 plants  
 69 were co-cultivated with the mixed community *LjAt-SC3*, or individual SynComs *Lj-SC3* and  
 70 *At-SC3* (exp. K). Shoot fresh weight of *Lotus* (**a**) and *Arabidopsis* (**c**), as well as shoot length  
 71 of *Lotus* (**b**) were measured after five weeks. Bacterial load on Gifu (**d**) and Col-0 (**e**) roots  
 72 was quantified *via* qPCR. Each data point corresponds to one replicate comprising roots of 2-  
 73 4 plants grown in the same pot. Shared letters indicate no significant difference based on  
 74 Kruskal-Wallis and Wilcoxon rank sum test ( $P < 0.05$ ). In **a** and **b**,  $n = 17$  for mock (axenic),  
 75  $n = 18$  for mock (+symbiont), for *At-SC* and *Lj-SC*,  $n = 20$  for mixed community and *At-SC*  
 76 +symbiont. In **c**,  $n = 20$  for all conditions. In **d**,  $n = 10$  for all conditions. In **e**,  $n = 14$  for  
 77 mock,  $n = 12$  for *Lj-SC* and *At-SC*.  $n$  refers to biologically independent samples. A Kruskal-  
 78 Wallis test followed by a Dunn's *post hoc* was used to assess significant differences in the  
 79 distribution of values among groups ( $P < 0.05$ ).



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82 **Supplementary Figure 3 | Quantification of bacterial load on plant roots after**  
 83 **sequential inoculation with native and non-native commensals.** *L. japonicus* Gifu and *A.*  
 84 *thaliana* Col-0 plants were co-cultivated with the mixed community *LjAt-SC3*, or individual  
 85 SynComs *Lj-SC3* and *At-SC3*, followed by inoculation with the remaining SynCom (exp. L).  
 86 Colors relate to the early-arriving community. Amount of 16S rRNA gene copies relative to  
 87 plant gene copies as proxy for bacterial load on *Lotus* (**a**) and *Arabidopsis* (**b**) roots is shown.  
 88 Each data point corresponds to one replicate comprising roots of 2-4 plants grown in the  
 89 same pot. A Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Dunn's *post hoc* was used to assess significant  
 90 differences in the distribution of values among groups ( $P < 0.05$ ,  $n = 10$  biologically  
 91 independent samples for each condition in **a** and **b**).



**Supplementary Table 1 | Bacterial SynComs used in this study**

Class	Family	<i>LjAt</i> -SC1		<i>LjAt</i> -SC2		<i>LjAt</i> -SC3		<i>LjAt</i> -SC4		<i>LjAt</i> -SC5	
		<i>At</i> -SC1	<i>Lj</i> -SC1	<i>At</i> -SC2	<i>Lj</i> -SC2	<i>At</i> -SC3	<i>Lj</i> -SC3	<i>At</i> -SC4	<i>Lj</i> -SC4	<i>At</i> -SC5	<i>Lj</i> -SC5
Betaproteobacteria	Alcaligenaceae	AtRoot83	LjRoot1	AtRoot170	LjRoot1	AtRoot83	LjRoot1	AtRoot83	LjRoot1	AtRoot83	LjRoot1
Firmicutes	Bacillaceae	AtRoot131	LjRoot5	AtRoot111	LjRoot53	AtRoot131	LjRoot5	AtRoot131	LjRoot5	AtRoot147	LjRoot15
Alphaproteobacteria	Bradyrhizobiaceae	AtRoot123D2	LjRoot52	AtRoot123D2	LjRoot4	AtRoot123D2	LjRoot52	AtRoot123D2	LjRoot52	AtRoot670	LjRoot90
Alphaproteobacteria	Caulobacteraceae	AtRoot77	LjRoot17	AtRoot1290	LjRoot17	AtRoot77	LjRoot17	AtRoot77	LjRoot17	AtRoot655	LjRoot284
Betaproteobacteria	Comamonadaceae	AtRoot404	LjRoot109	AtRoot16D2	LjRoot72	AtRoot1221	LjRoot72	AtRoot1221	LjRoot72	AtRoot29	LjRoot20
Bacteroidetes	Flavobacteriaceae	AtRoot186	LjRoot149	AtRoot935	LjRoot82	AtRoot935	LjRoot82	AtRoot935	LjRoot82	AtRoot901	LjRoot82
Alphaproteobacteria	Hyphomicrobiaceae	AtRoot436	LjRoot16	AtRoot436	LjRoot3	AtRoot685	LjRoot16	AtRoot685	LjRoot16	AtRoot635	LjRoot222
Actinobacteria	Intrasporangiaceae	AtRoot85	LjRoot27	AtRoot101	LjRoot24	AtRoot101	LjRoot24	AtRoot101	LjRoot24	AtRoot563	LjRoot49
Actinobacteria	Microbacteriaceae	AtRoot61	LjRoot44	AtRoot4	LjRoot42	AtRoot61	LjRoot44	AtRoot61	LjRoot44	AtRoot53	LjRoot12
Actinobacteria	Mycobacteriaceae	AtRoot265	LjRoot80	AtRoot135	LjRoot80	AtRoot265	LjRoot80	AtRoot265	LjRoot80	AtRoot135	LjRoot80
Betaproteobacteria	Oxalobacteraceae	AtRoot335	LjRoot35	AtRoot1485	LjRoot33	AtRoot1485	LjRoot33	AtRoot1485	LjRoot33	AtRoot418	LjRoot25
Alphaproteobacteria	Phyllobacteriaceae	AtRoot695	LjNodule218	AtRoot554	LjNodule210	AtRoot695	LjNodule218	AtRoot695	LjNodule218	AtRoot157	LjNodule215
Gammaproteobacteria	Pseudomonadaceae	AtRoot71	LjRoot54	AtRoot68	LjRoot59	AtRoot68	LjRoot59	AtRoot68	LjRoot59	AtRoot569	LjRoot154
Alphaproteobacteria	Rhizobiaceae	AtRoot142	LjRoot46	AtRoot142	LjRoot2	AtRoot142	LjRoot46	AtRoot142	LjRoot46	AtRoot473	LjRoot11
Actinobacteria	Streptomycetaceae	AtRoot63	LjRoot303	AtRoot1295	LjRoot303	AtRoot1310	LjRoot303	AtRoot1310	LjRoot303	AtRoot173	LjRoot303
Gammaproteobacteria	Xanthomonadaceae	AtRoot480	LjRoot21	AtRoot627	LjRoot60	AtRoot480	LjRoot60	AtRoot480	LjRoot60	AtRoot559	LjRoot143
Sphingomonadales	Sphingomonadaceae									AtRoot1720	LjRoot262
Actinobacteria	Cellulomonadaceae							AtRoot137			
Gammaproteobacteria	Moraxellaceae							AtRoot1280			
Actinobacteria	Nocardiaceae							AtRoot136			
Actinobacteria	Nocardioidaceae							AtRoot224			
Actinobacteria	Promicromonosporaceae							AtRoot22			
Betaproteobacteria	Burkholderiaceae								LjRoot22		
Actinobacteria	Micrococcaceae								LjRoot78		

present in <i>LjAt</i> -SC1
present in <i>LjAt</i> -SC2
present in all mixed SynComs
present in <i>LjAt</i> -SC3 and <i>LjAt</i> -SC4
members of host-specific families
present in <i>LjAt</i> -SC5

*LjAt*-SC1 was used in experiments C, G, and I (see Supplementary Table 2).

*LjAt*-SC2 was used in experiment B, (full-factorial replicate of C) to comprise independent strains of the same families, as far as possible (distinguishable 16S sequence).

*LjAt*-SC3 was built using strains from *LjAt*-SC1 and *LjAt*-SC2 to generate an independent community.

*LjAt*-SC4 is identical to *LjAt*-SC3, but includes strains from host-specific bacterial families.

*LjAt*-SC5 was used in experiment M, (full-factorial replicate of D) to comprise independent strains of the same families.

In general, mixed communities were designed to include strains distinguishable based on 16S rRNA gene sequence, to have a similar number of strains in the *Lj* and *At* SynCom, to consist of taxonomically paired *Lj* and *At* SynComs (so that any differences in community structure would be attributable to the origin of strain isolation, i.e., the host plant). In addition, the SynCom design was influenced by practical constraints, e.g., not all strains of the current culture collection or their genome sequences were available at the

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**Supplementary Table 1 | Bacterial SynComs used in this study**

**Supplementary Table 2 | List of experiments**

ID	Sequencing run ID	Growth or incubation system	Treatments	2nd inoculation (at 4 weeks)	Genotypes	Compartments harvested	No. of samples for sequencing	Growth period	Analysis			
A	AtLj_009	greenhouse pots with CAS soil	CAS soil		Gifu	roots	13	5 weeks	16S profiling			
						rhizosphere	13					
					Col-0	roots	15					
						rhizosphere	15					
				unplanted	soil	8						
B	AtLj_002	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC2</i>		Gifu	root	24	5 weeks	16S profiling			
						rhizosphere	24					
					Col-0	root	19					
						rhizosphere	24					
					<i>Ljnr5</i>	root	23					
						rhizosphere	24					
			unplanted	soil	18							
C	AtLj_001	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC1</i>		Gifu	root	24	5 weeks	16S profiling			
						rhizosphere	24					
					Col-0	root	21					
						rhizosphere	22					
					<i>Ljnr5</i>	root	23					
						rhizosphere	23					
			unplanted	soil	18							
D	AtLj_006	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC4</i>		Gifu	root	18	5 weeks	16S profiling			
						rhizosphere	18					
					Col-0	root	16					
						rhizosphere	15					
						soil	20					
E	n.a.	agar plates	individual strains of <i>LjAt-SC3</i>		Gifu	roots	n.a.	2 weeks	CFU counts for bacterial load, shoot fresh weight			
					Col-0	roots	n.a.	2 weeks				
F	AtLj_007	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC3</i>		Gifu	root	18	5 weeks	16S profiling			
						rhizosphere	18					
					Col-0	root	19					
						rhizosphere	19					
										<i>L. comiculatus</i> wild type	root	16
											rhizosphere	17
										<i>A. lyrata</i> MN47	root	19
											rhizosphere	19
										unplanted	soil	28
G	AtLj_003	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC1</i>		Gifu	root	21	5 weeks	16S profiling			
					Col-0	root	16					
						<i>Ljfls2</i>	root			20		
						<i>Atfls2</i>	root			20		
						<i>Atbbc</i>	root			18		
H	AtLj_005	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC3</i>		Gifu	root	14	5 weeks	16S profiling			
					Col-0	root	20					
						<i>Atdeps</i>	root			20		
						<i>Atcyp79b2 Atcyp79b3</i>	root			6		
						unplanted	soil			10		
I	MDA10	MilliDrop millifluidics	<i>LjAt-SC1</i>		Gifu (exudates)	droplets	47	3 days	16S profiling			
					Col-0 (exudates)	droplets	24					
					<i>Ljnr5</i> (exudates)	droplets	23					
					M9 medium	droplets	23					

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**Supplementary Table 2 | List of SynCom experiments**

**Supplementary Table 2 cont. | List of experiments**

ID	Sequencing run ID	Growth or incubation system	Treatments	2nd inoculation (at 4 weeks)	Genotypes	Compartments harvested	No. of samples for sequencing	Growth period	Analysis		
J	AtLj_008	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC3</i>		Gifu (dead roots)	dead root	45	5, 12, 19	16S profiling		
						detritosphere	45				
					Col-0 (dead roots)	dead root	44				
						detritosphere	45				
					toothpick unplanted	wood soil	35 36				
K	n.a.	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC3</i>		Gifu	roots	n.a.	5 weeks	qPCR for bacterial load, shoot fresh weight, RNA seq		
					Col-0	roots	n.a.				
					<i>Lj-SC3</i>	roots	n.a.				
					Col-0	roots	n.a.				
					<i>At-SC3</i>	roots	n.a.				
					Col-0	roots	n.a.				
					Col-0	roots	n.a.				
L	AtLj_004	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC3</i>	mock	Gifu	root	20	6 weeks	16S profiling, qPCR for bacterial load		
						rhizosphere	20				
					Col-0	root	20				
						rhizosphere	20				
					unplanted	soil	10				
					<i>Lj-SC3</i>	<i>At-SC3</i>	Gifu			root	10
						rhizosphere	20				
			Col-0	root	20						
				rhizosphere	20						
			unplanted	soil	10						
			<i>At-SC3</i>	<i>Lj-SC3</i>	Gifu	root	19				
				rhizosphere	19						
			Col-0	root	19						
				rhizosphere	20						
unplanted	soil	10									
M	AtLj_010	gnotobiotic FlowPots with sterilized potting soil	<i>LjAt-SC5</i>		Gifu	root	20	5 weeks	16S profiling		
						rhizosphere	20				
					Col-0	root	20				
						rhizosphere	20				
					unplanted	soil	20				

Gifu, *L. japonicus* wild type; Col-0, *A. thaliana* wild type; SC, synthetic community (see also Supplementary Table 1).

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**Supplementary Table 2 cont. | List of SynCom experiments**