



Protisten, belangrijke en wonderlijk organismen

Stefan Geisen

Assistent Professor Wageningen University

stefan.geisen@wur.nl

 @stefan_geisen

Personal introduction

- Assistant Prof since 2019 @ Wageningen Uni, Nematology
- Focus: soil biodiversity, microbiome, ecology
- NWO Veni, EU Horizon, COST...
- Top 10 Biodiversity Researcher in NL
- Guest Prof Nanjing Agriculture Uni
- Scientific Editor (in Chief, Field/Section and board)
- Board member NWO RC
- *Beyond work...*



European Journal of Soil Biology | Supports open access

Articles & Issues ▾ About ▾ Publish ▾ Order journal ↗

Search in this journal

Editors-in-Chief | [View full editorial board](#)

 <p>Stefan Geisen PhD Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen, Netherlands</p>	 <p>Martin Hartmann PhD ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland</p>
--	---



Biodiversity research in the Netherlands and worldwide
What published academic research tells us

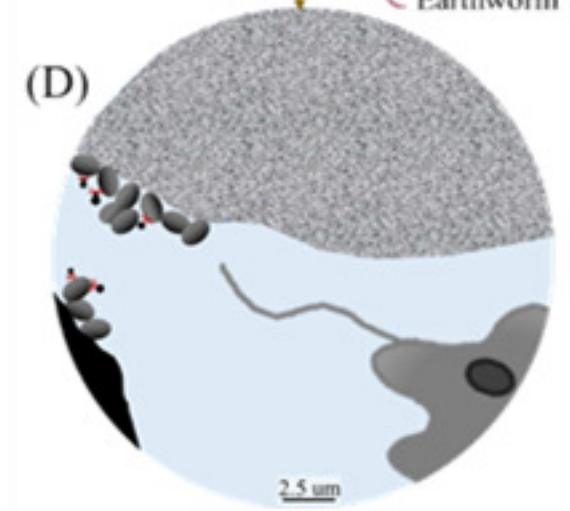
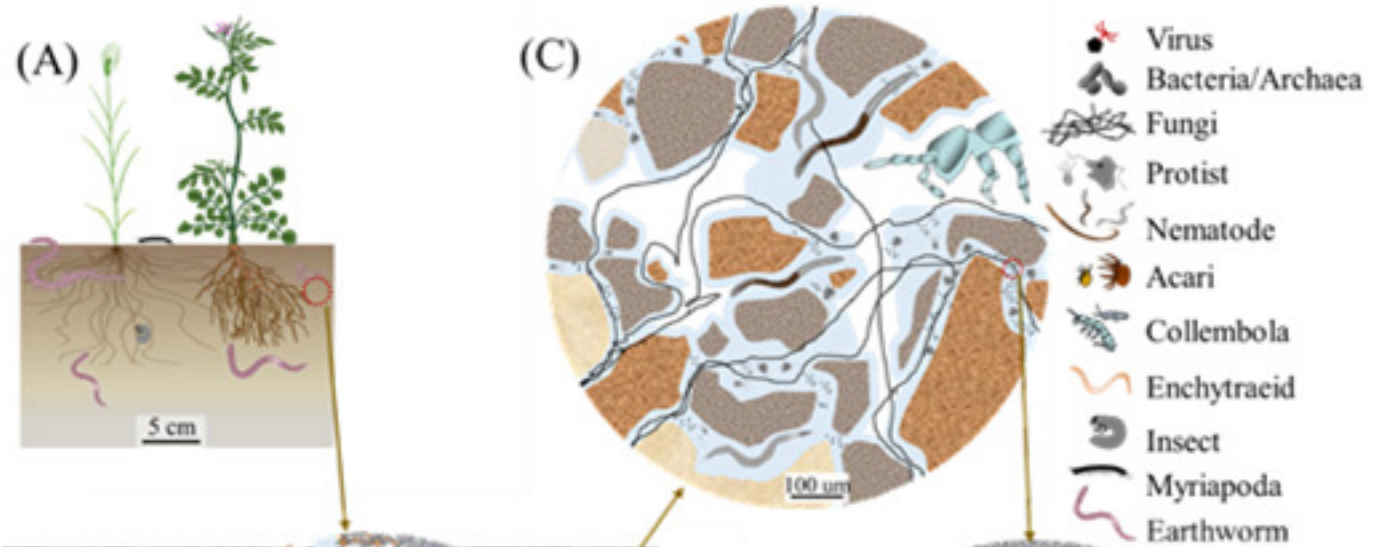


Video on Soil Biodiversity

- Title: Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
- Duration: 5m 20s
- Organization: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- Location: Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbdsHOnd_gw

(Soil) Complexity

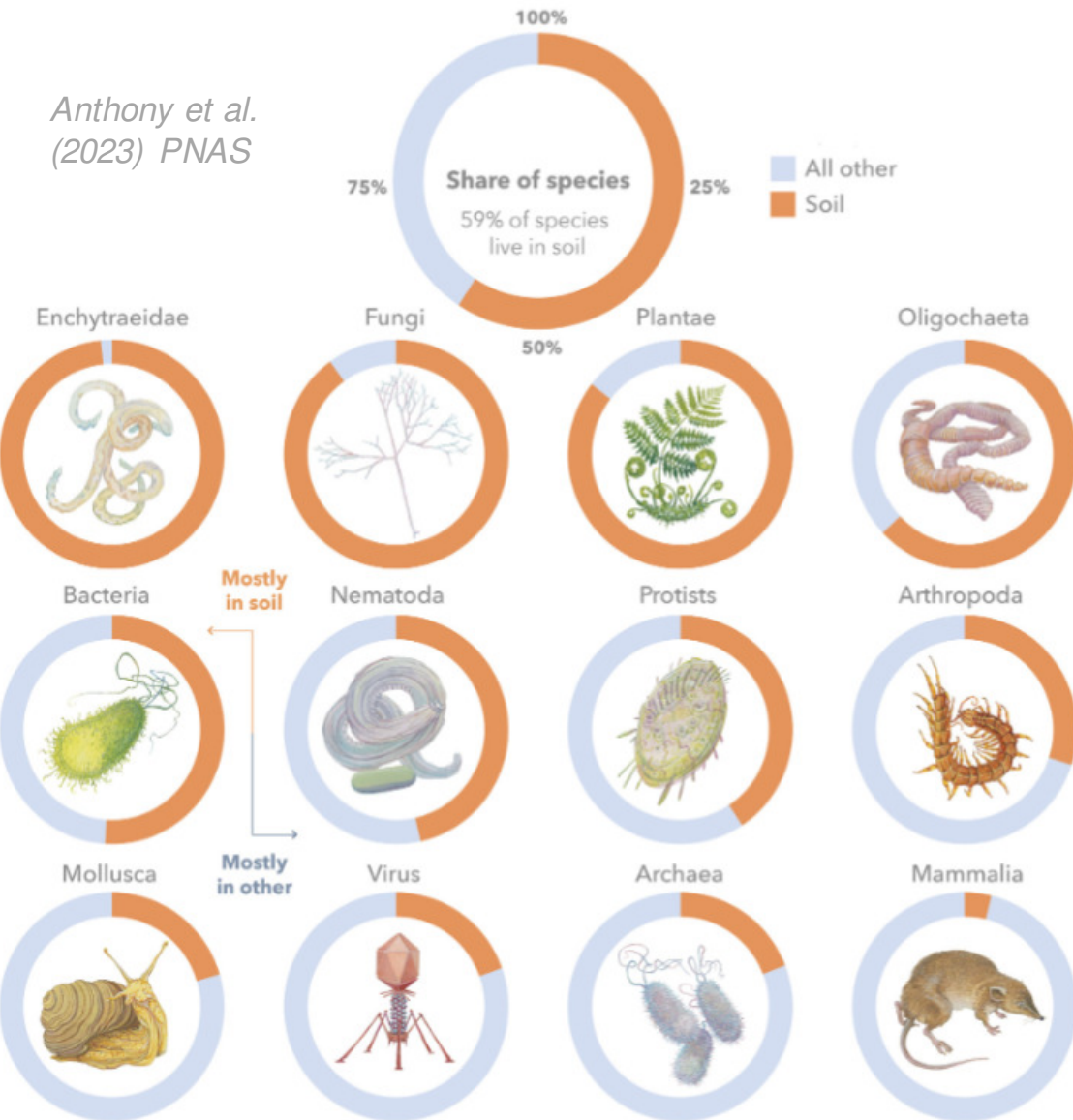
Soil is...
a nightmare



Geisen et al. (2019) SBB

Soil Biodiversity

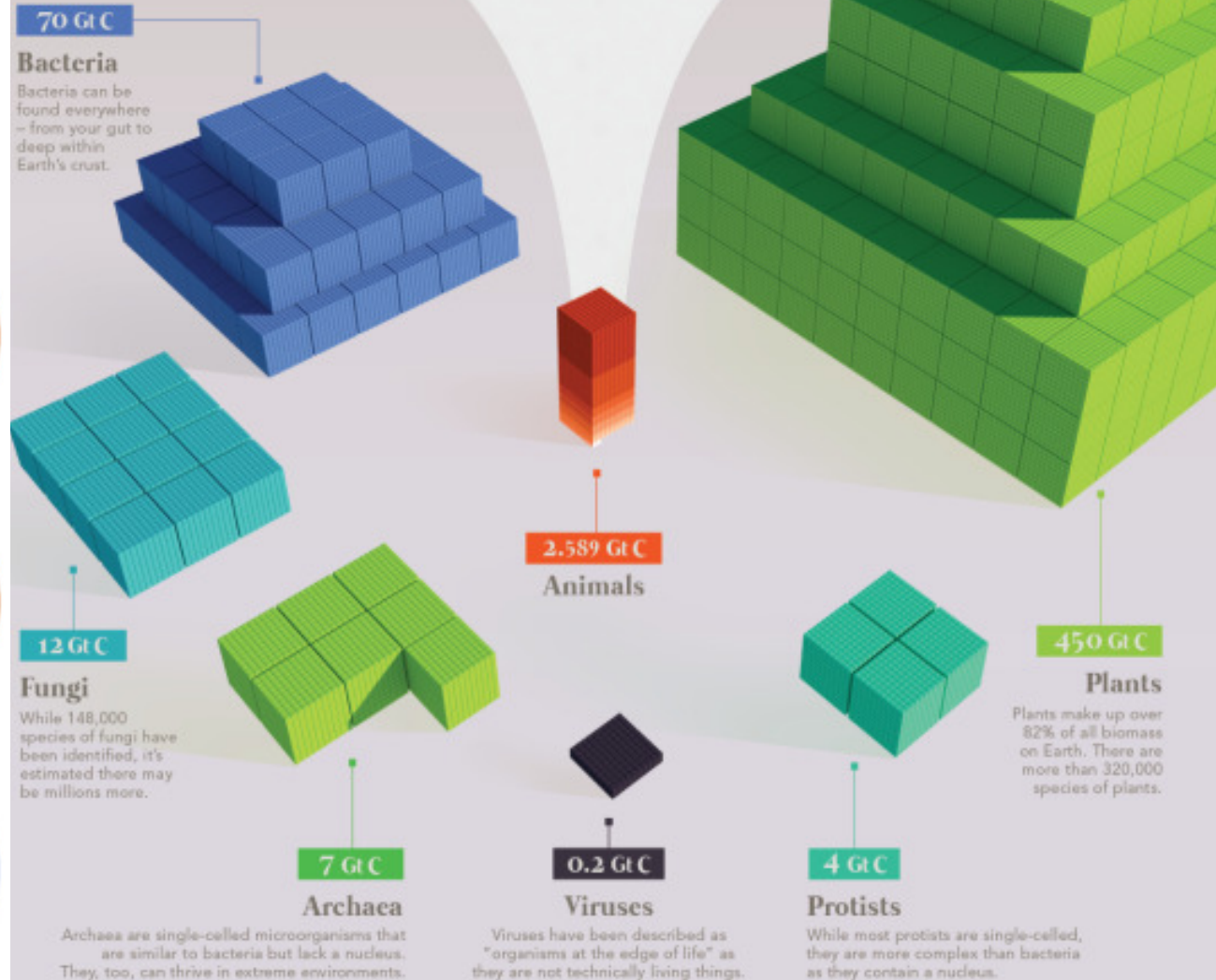
Anthony et al.
(2023) PNAS



Stefan Geisen

stefan.geisen@wur.nl

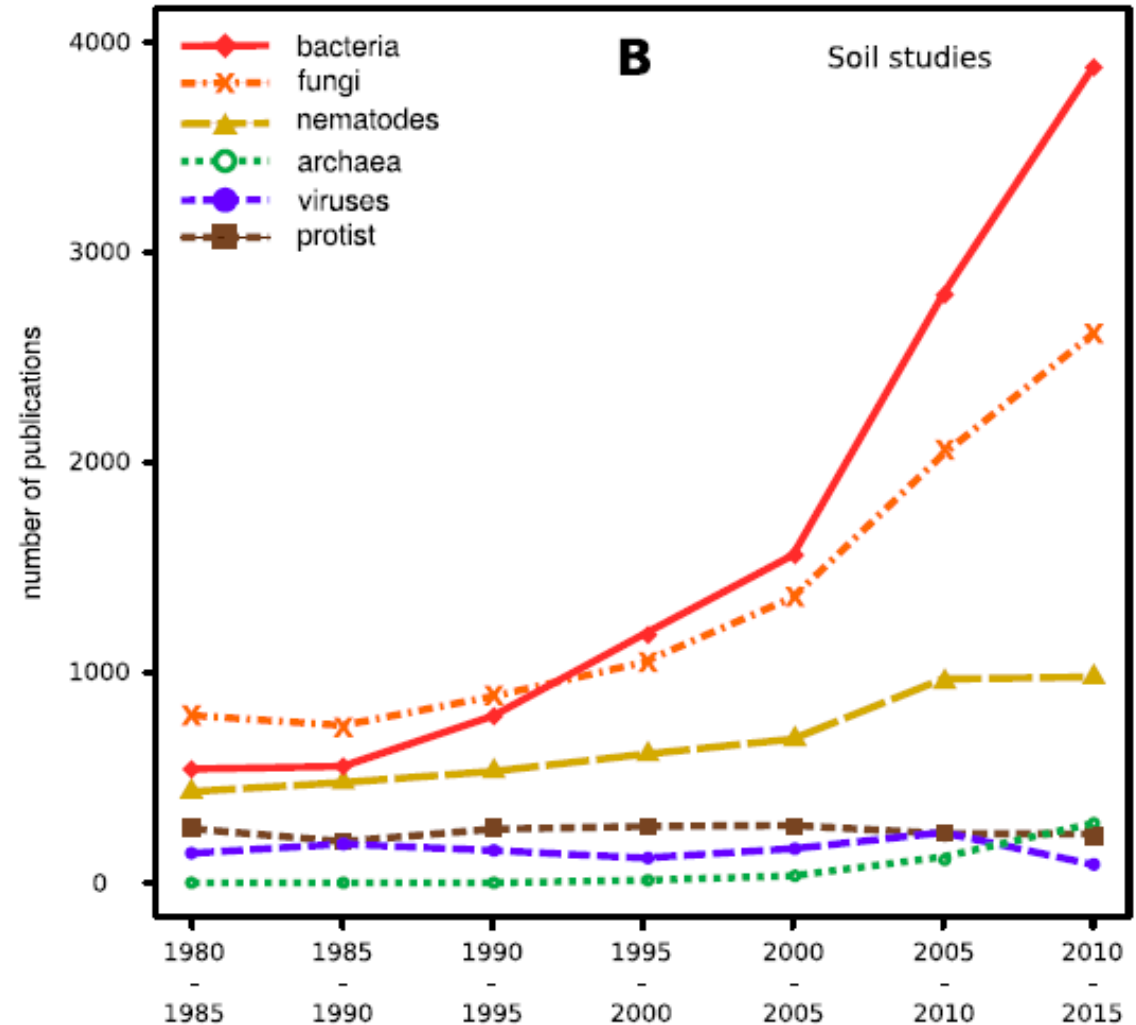
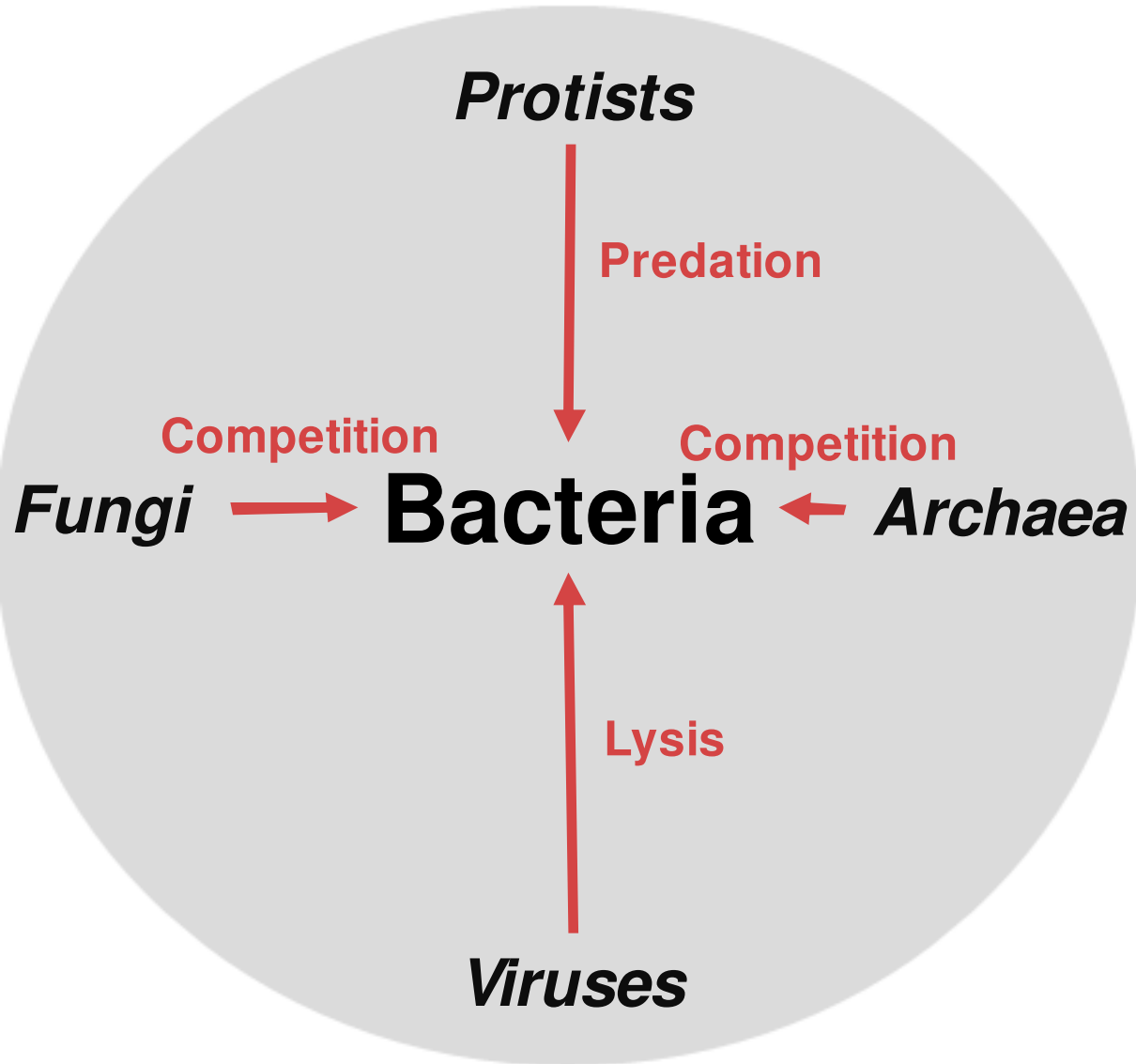
Comparing All Biomass of Life on Earth



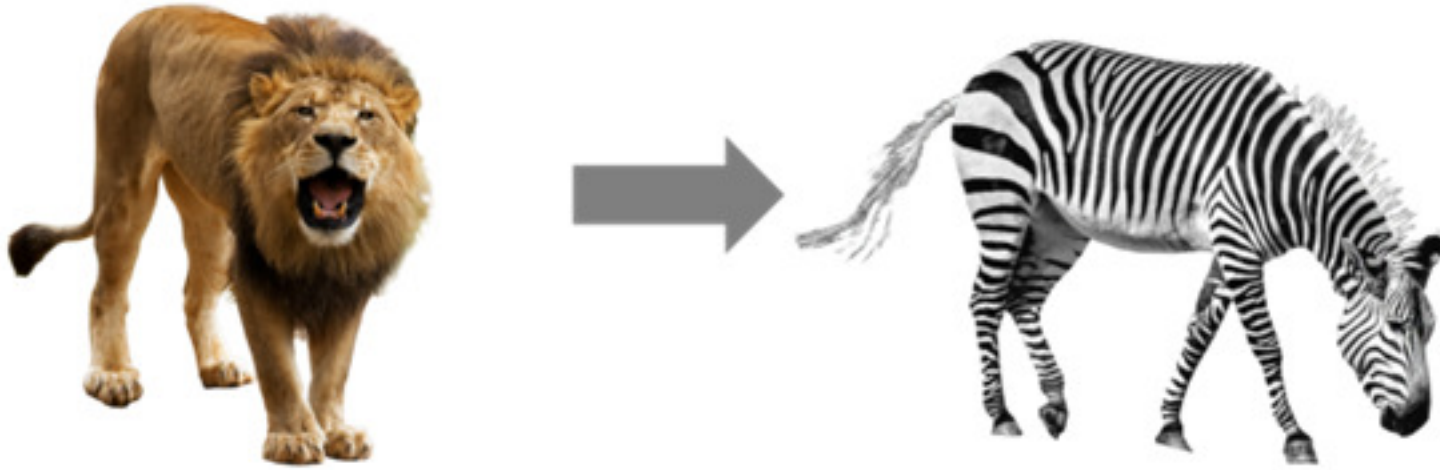
Wessel Knoop

10 Sept 2024

Microbiome?



The Soil Microbiome and its Predators

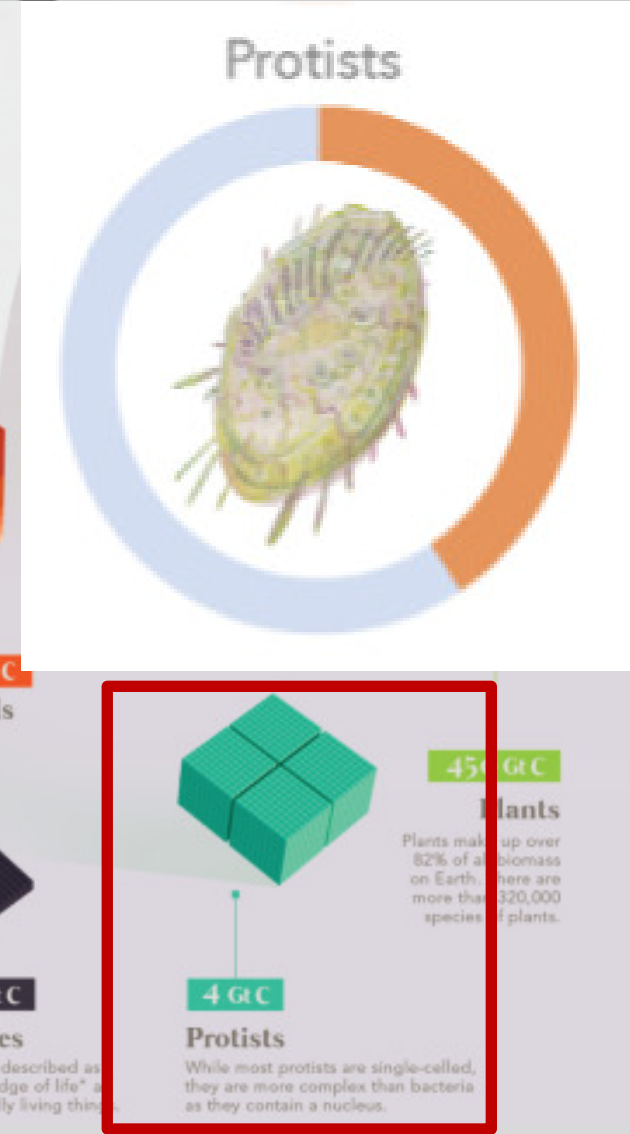
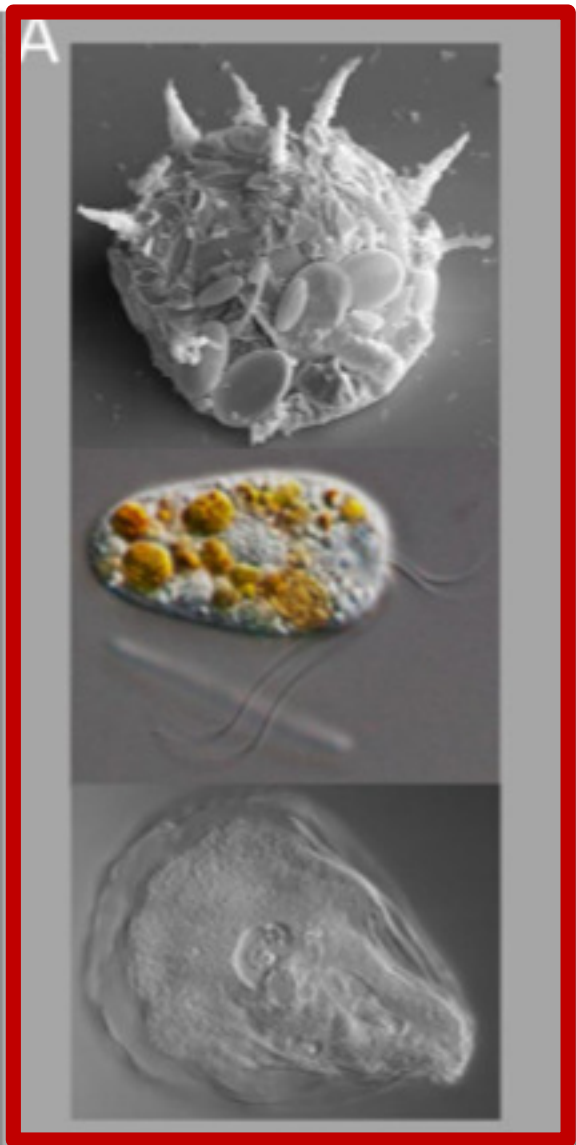


Thakur & Geisen (2019)
Trends in Microbiology



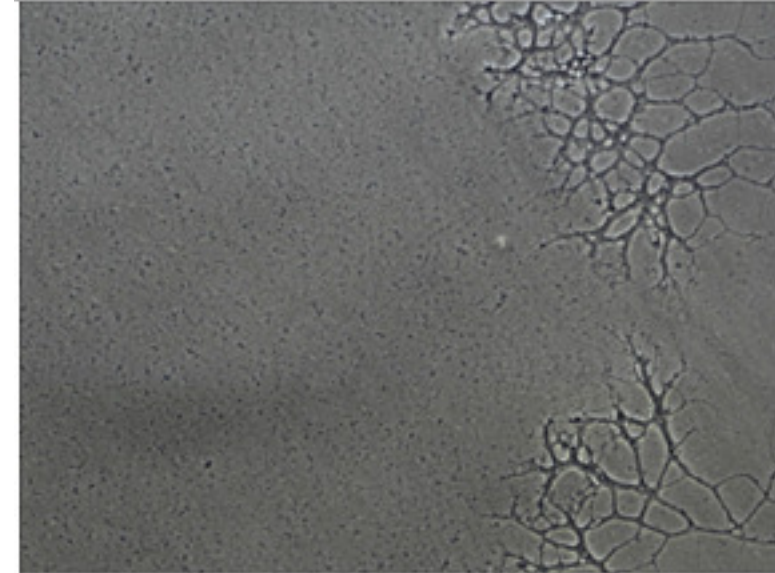
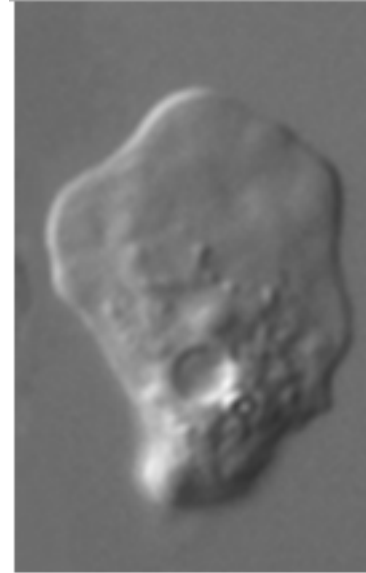
Protists????

Protists

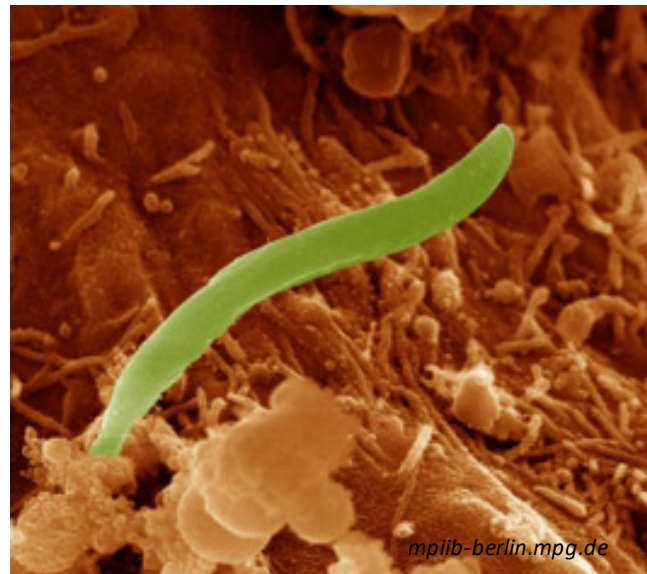


Protists?

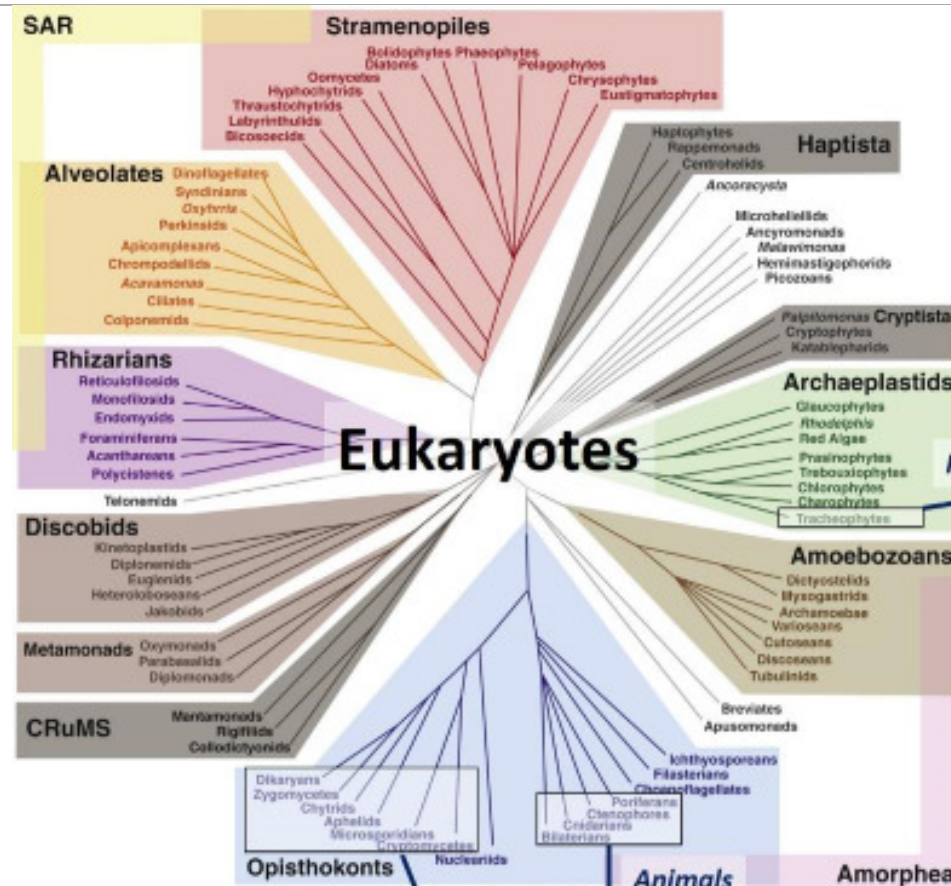
- Amoebae



- Pathogens



Taxonomic Biodiversity



Plants



Fungi

Coleman, Geisen, Wall 2024
Soil Microbiology, Ecology and
Biochemistry

Protist species richness

Anthony et al.
(2023) PNAS

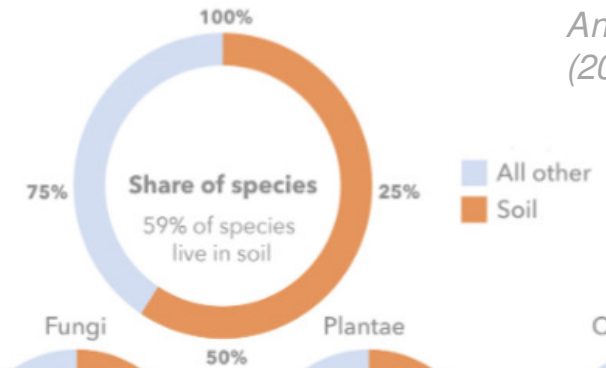
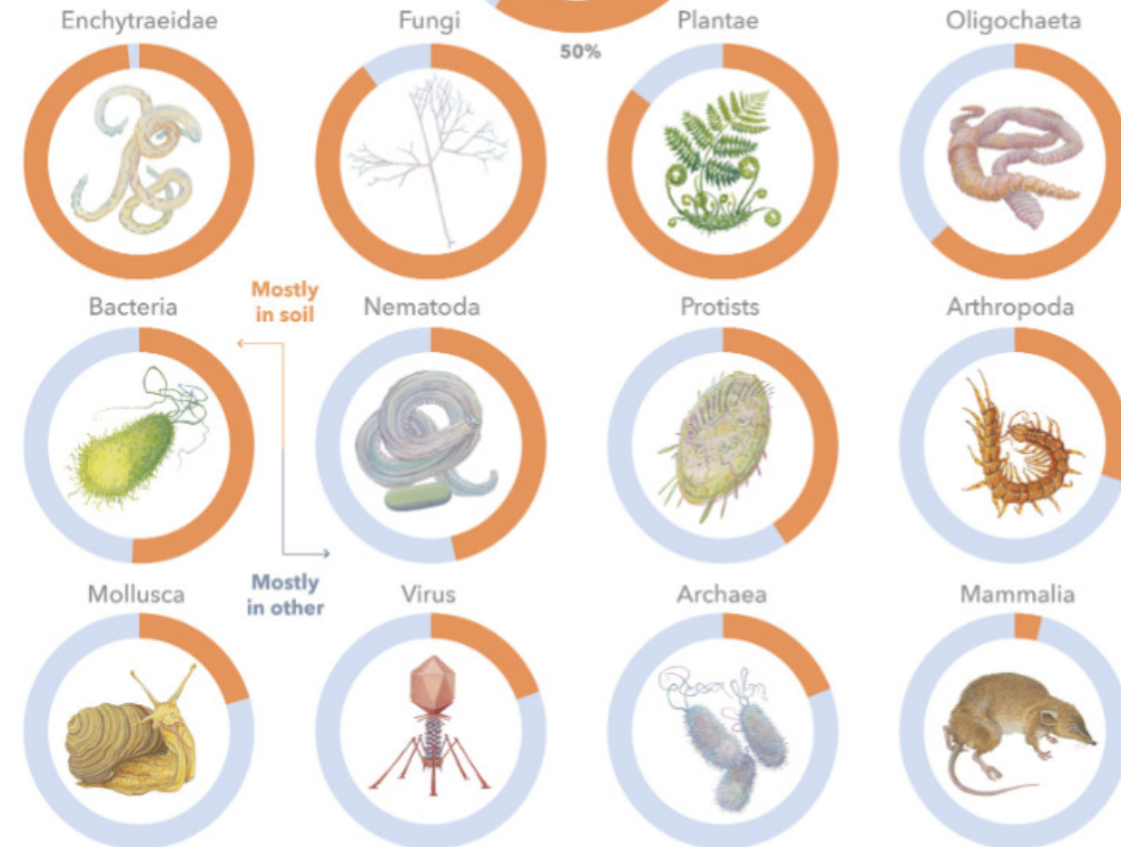
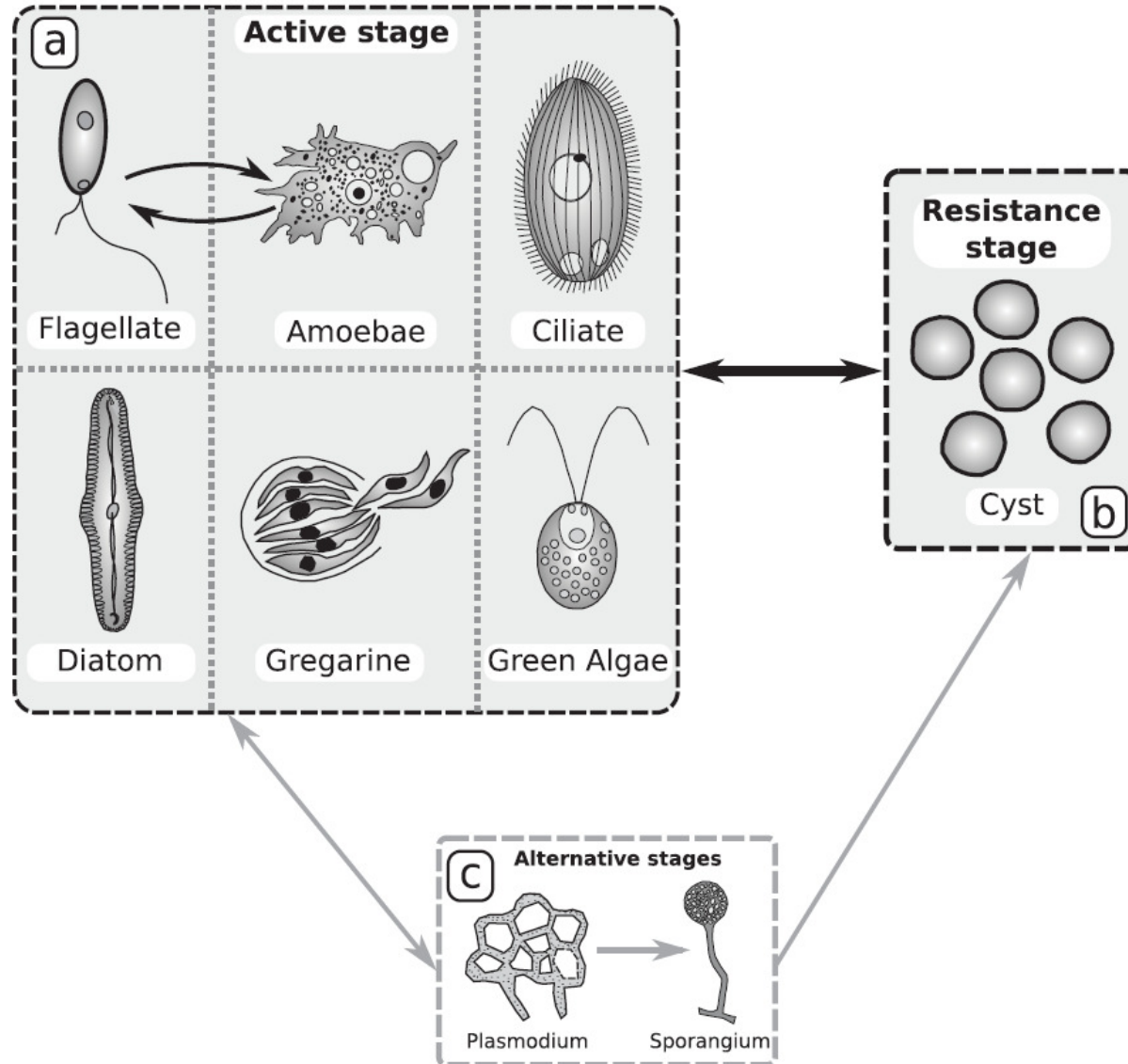


Table 1. Enumeration of biodiversity on Earth and in soil (Table view)

	Total species			Conf.
	Lower	Central	Upper	
Macrobes				
Mammalia	n/a	6.5×10^3 (16, 49)	4.5×10^4 (41)	H
Nematoda	5×10^5 (50, 51)	1×10^6 (33, 52)	1×10^8 (52)	L
Arthropoda	1.14×10^6 (53)	7×10^6 (32)	3×10^7 (54) ^{b,?}	M
<i>Insecta</i>	9.5×10^5 (53)	$5\text{-}5.5 \times 10^6$ (32, 41)	1×10^8 (55) ^{b,?}	M
Arachnida	9×10^4 (53)	1.1×10^5 (41)	7.5×10^5 (50)	M
Collembola	6.5×10^3 (56)	8.7×10^3 (53)	5×10^4 (57)	M
Diplopoda	1.3×10^4 (53, 58)	1.5×10^4 (58)	$7\text{-}8 \times 10^4$ (41, 59)	M
Isoptera	3×10^3 (53)	5.4×10^3 (60)	1×10^4 (7)	M
Formicidae	1×10^4 (53)	1.5×10^4 (61)	2.1×10^4 (62)	M
Oligochaeta	5×10^3 (63)	1×10^4 (64)	?	H
Enchytraeidae	7.1×10^2 (65)	7.8×10^2 (53)	1.2×10^3 (7)	H
Mollusca	8×10^4 (41)	1.2×10^5 (53)	2×10^5 (50)	H
Plantae	3.8×10^5 (53)	5.37×10^5 (64)	n/a	H
Microbes ^k	$6.7 \times 10^{8,k}$	$1.01 \times 10^{8,k}$	$1 \times 10^{12-14}$ (34, 66) [?]	L
Phage	1×10^8 (67) [?]	1×10^{11} (68) ^{l,?}	3.7×10^{11} (68) ^{l,?}	VL
Bacteria	$4.3\text{-}4.5 \times 10^6$ (19, 39)	1×10^9 (17)	3.7×10^9 (43) ⁿ	L
Fungi	2.2×10^6 (35)	6.2×10^6 (69)	1.65×10^8 (42) ^{p,?}	M
Archaea	1.1×10^4 (70)	1.9×10^5 (19) ^r	3.8×10^5 (19) ^r	L
Protists	6×10^4 (55)	$1\text{-}3 \times 10^5$ (12, 55, 71)	$8.4\text{-}16.2 \times 10^7$ (42, 72) [?]	L

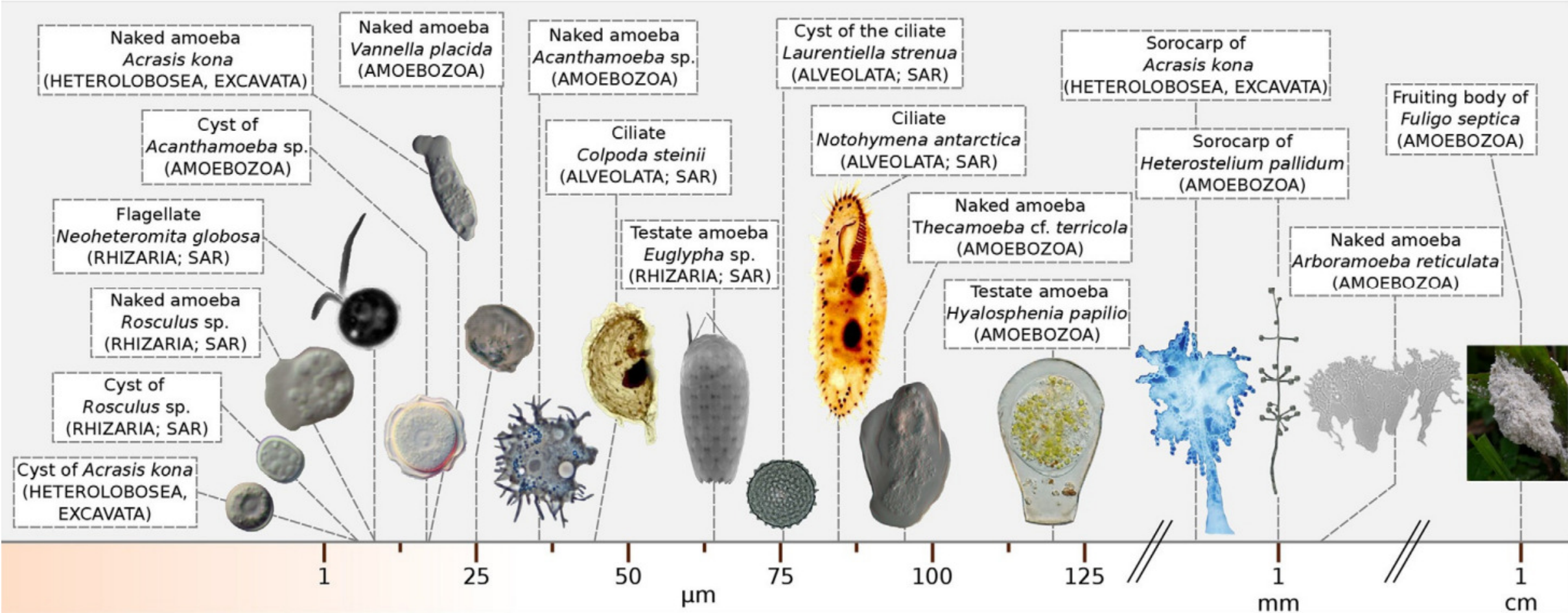


Protist Traits



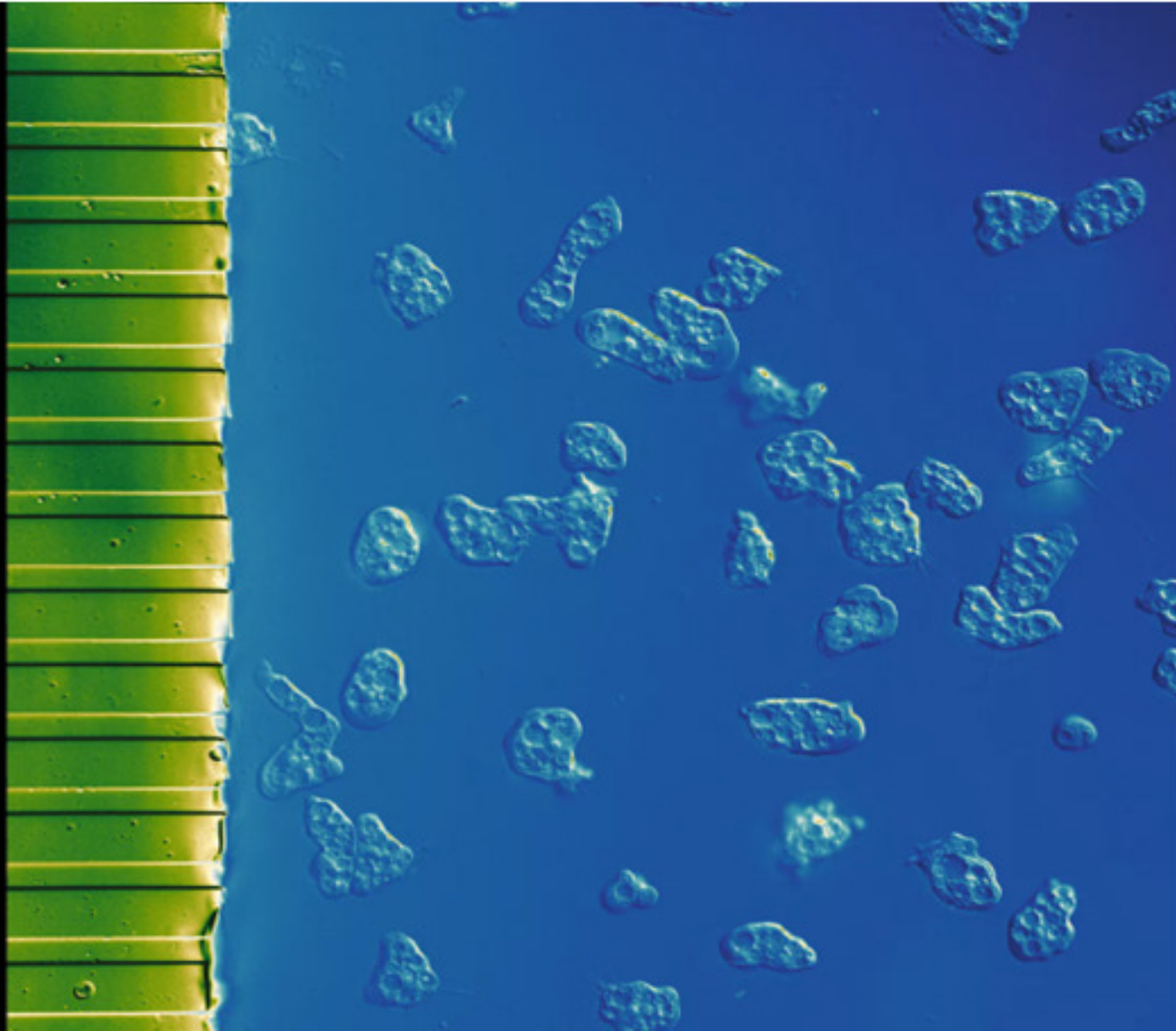
Geisen et al 2017 SBB

Trait Variation



Geisen et al 2017 SBB

Cool organisms!



Impressions



Amoeba proteus



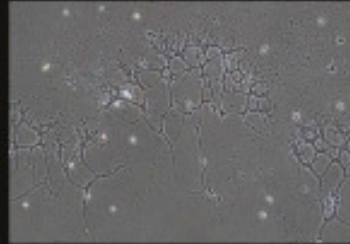
Didymium sp.



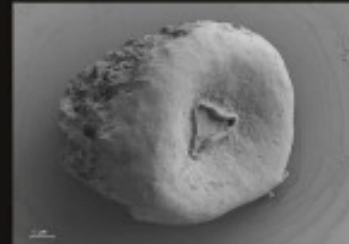
Dictyostellium sp.



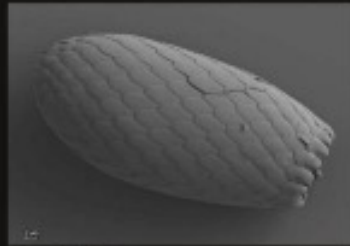
Arachnula impatiens



Arboramoeba reticulata



Trigonopyxis arcula



Euglypha sp.



Quadrulella variabilis



Sphenoderia lenta



Viridiraptor invadens



Thaumatomonas sp.

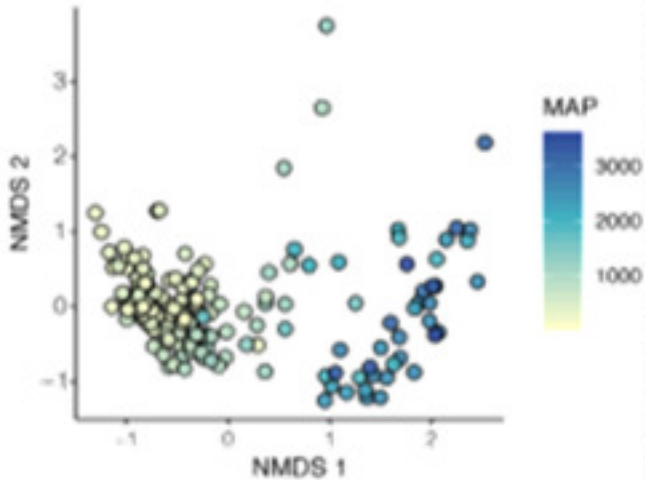


Cochliopodium vestitum

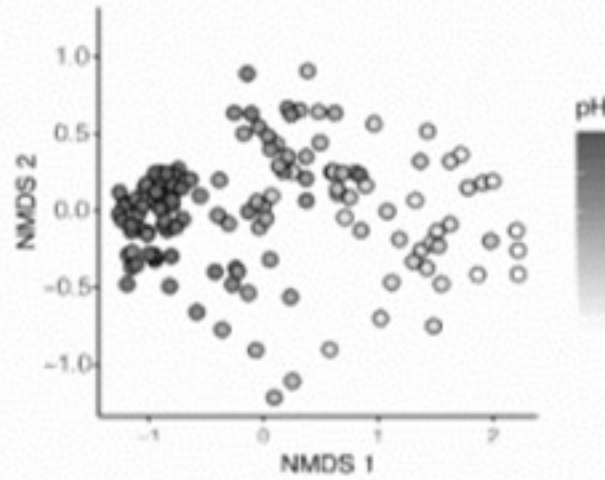
Geisen et al. 2020
Soil Org

What Determines Soil Protists?

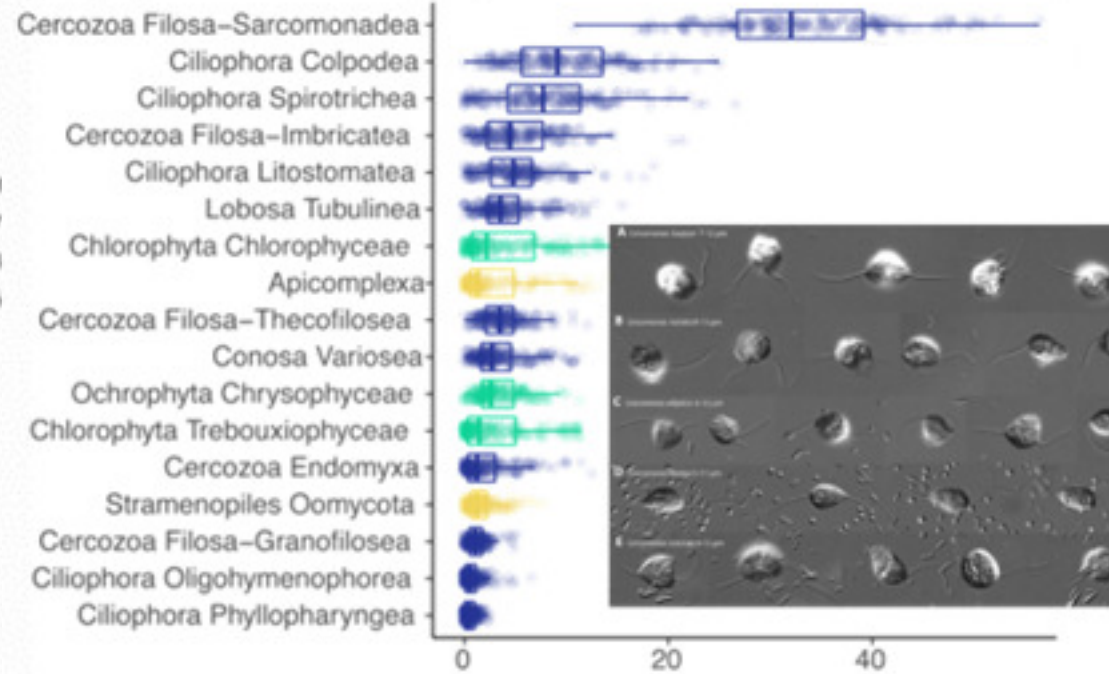
(A) Protistan NMDS by MAP



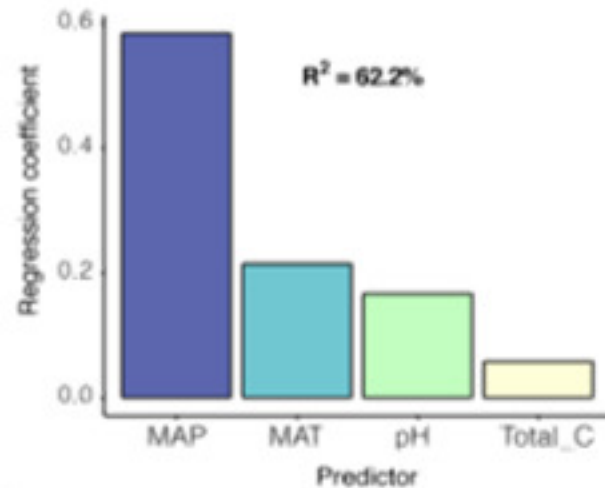
(B) Bacterial & Archaeal NMDS by pH



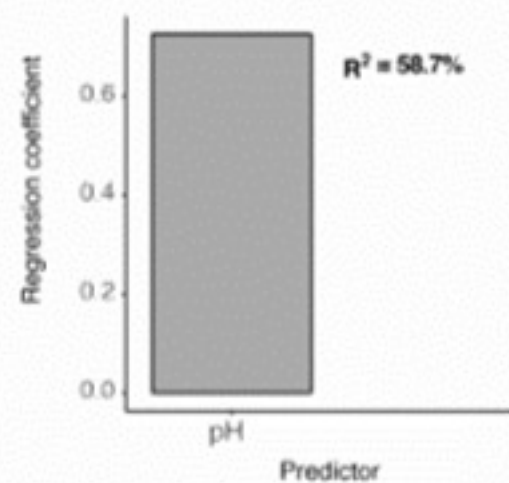
(A) Major protistan taxonomic groups



(C) Protistan predictors



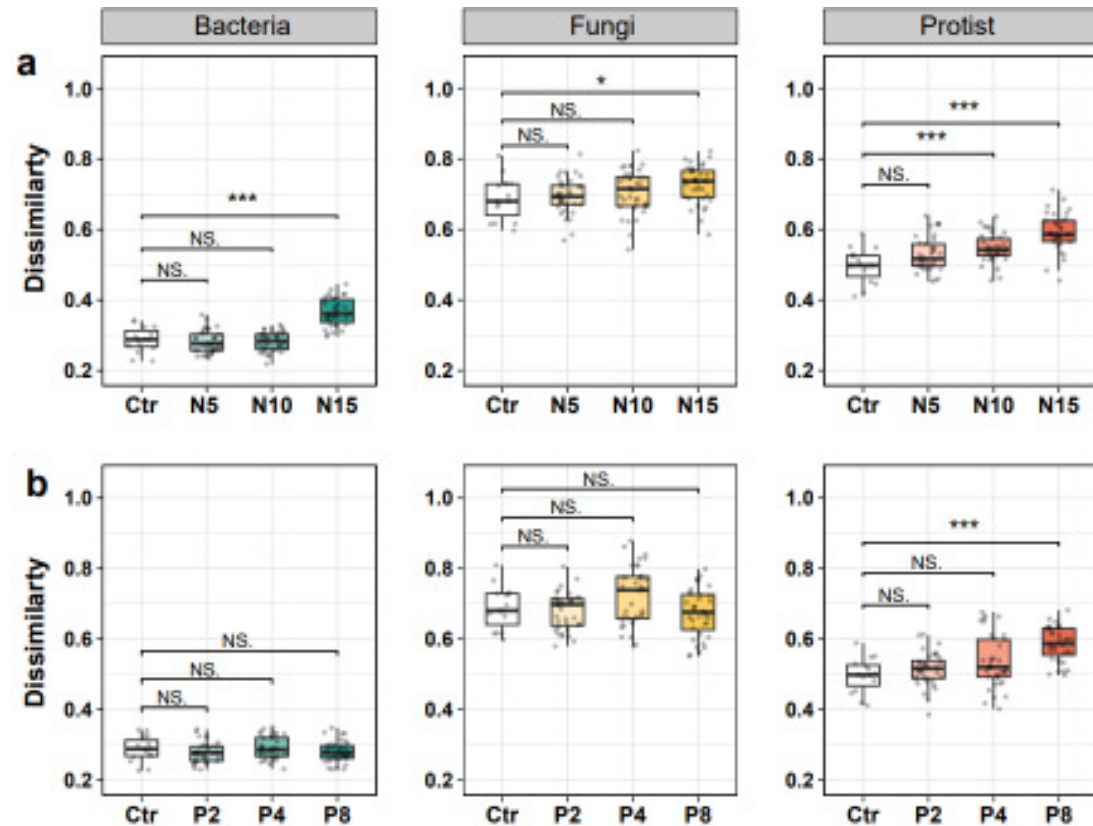
(D) Bacterial & Archaeal predictors



Oliverio, Geisen et al 2020
Science Advances

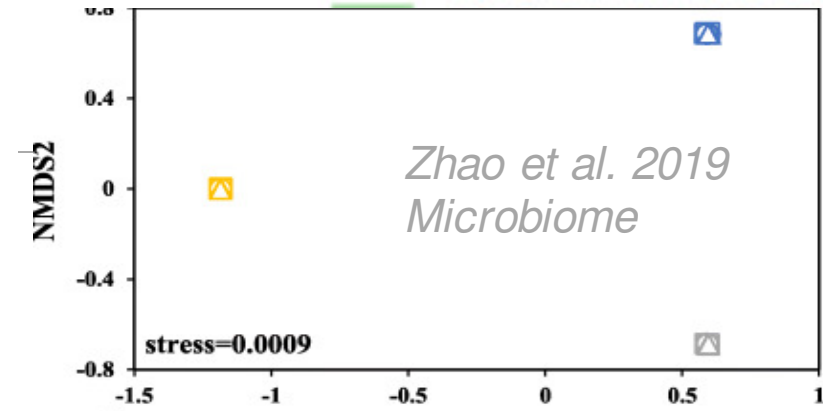
Protist Traits

- Protist ≠ Protist
- Sensitivity!

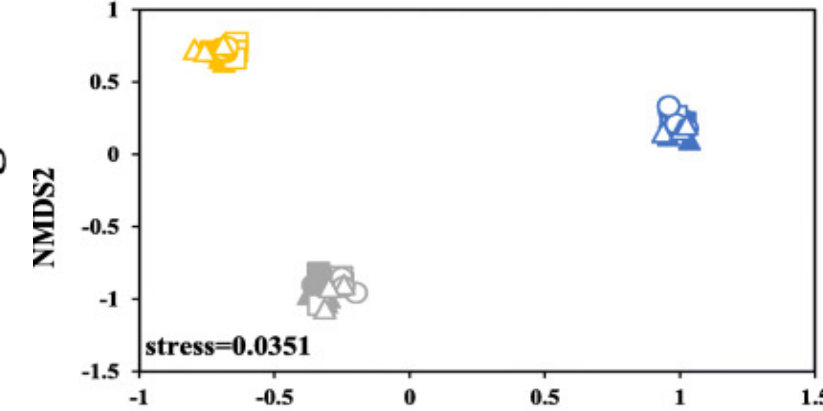


*Xiong et al.
In prep*

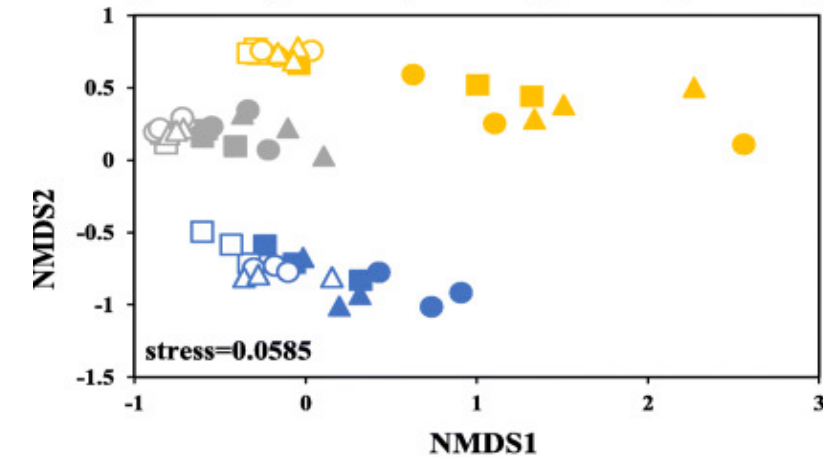
Bacteria



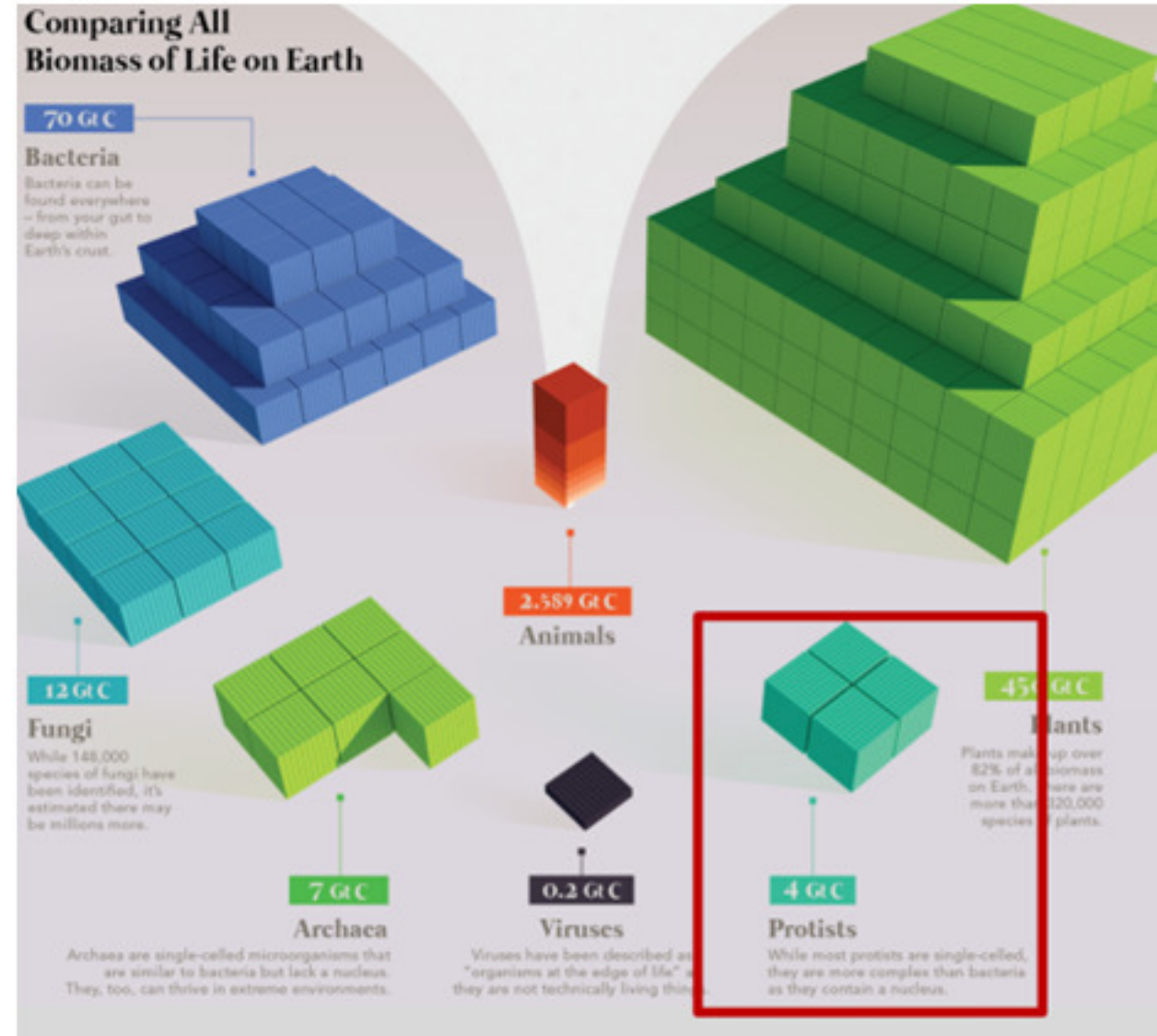
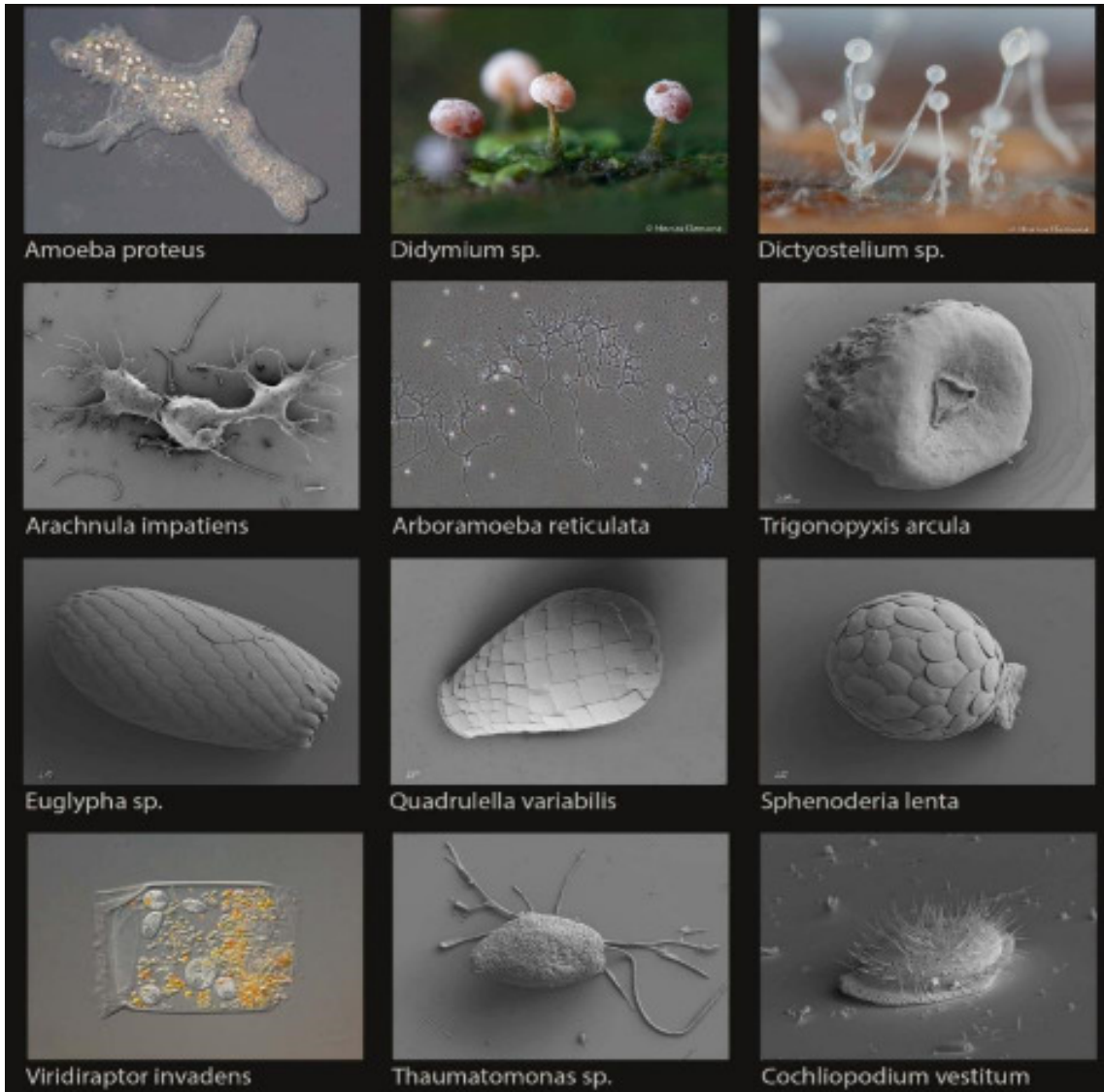
Fungi



Protist

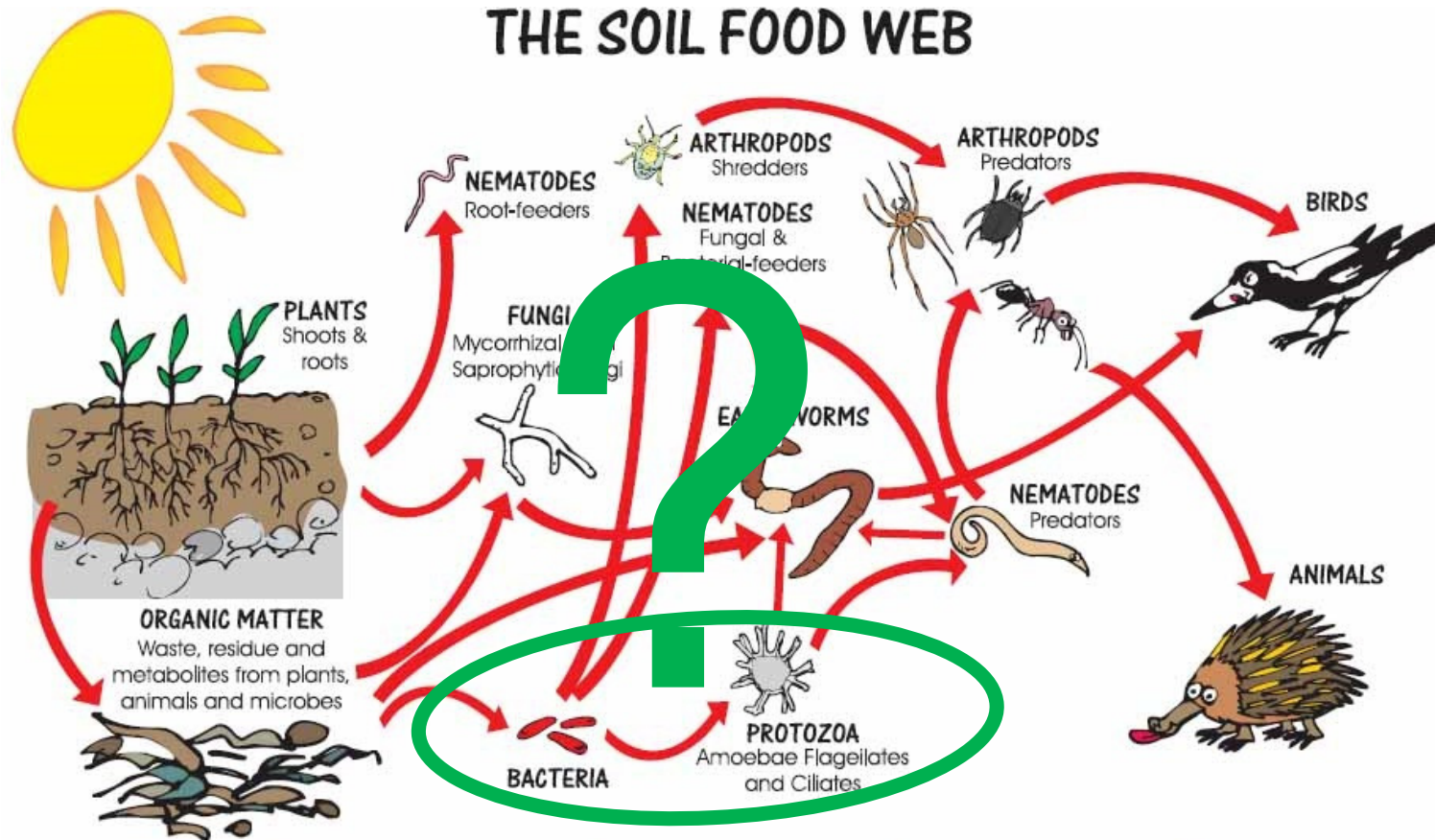


Recap: What are protists?



Functions of Soil Protists

Key position in soil food webs as bacterial consumers



FIRST TROPHIC LEVEL:
Photosynthesizers

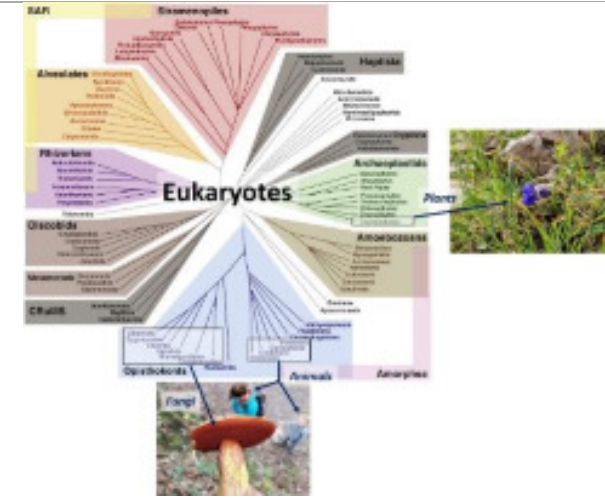
SECOND TROPHIC LEVEL:
Decomposers Mutualists
Pathogens, Parasites,
Root-feeders

THIRD TROPHIC LEVEL:
Shredders
Predators
Grazers

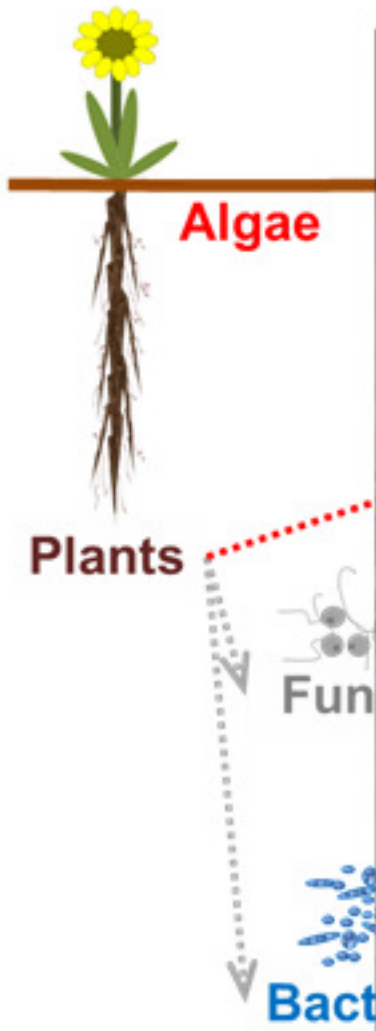
FORTH TROPHIC LEVEL:
Higher level predators

FIFTH & HIGHER TROPHIC LEVELS:
Higher level predators

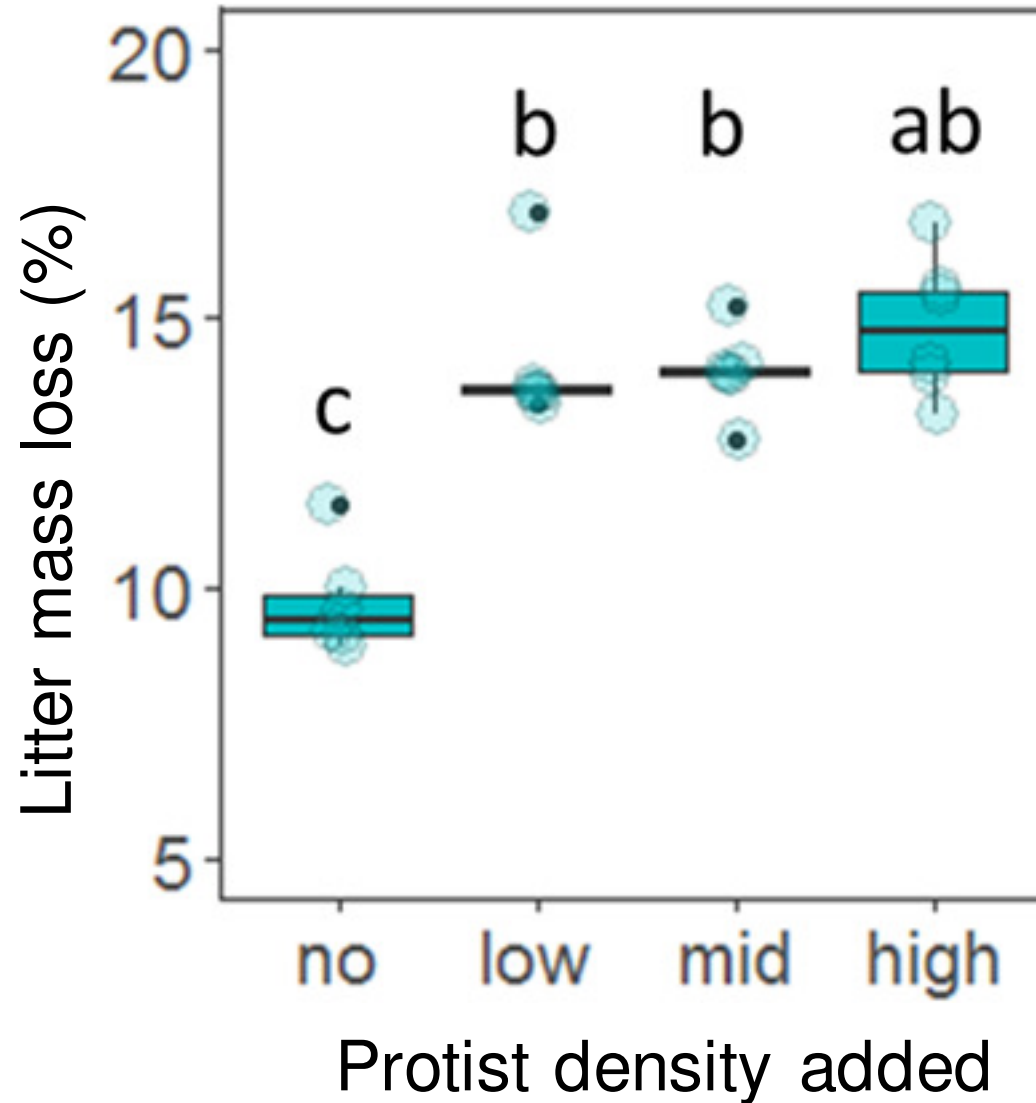
© SLTEC 2009



Functions of Soil Protists



Protists and Decomposition



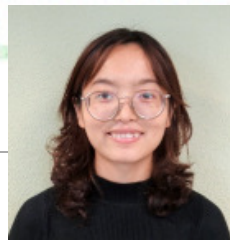
Ciska Veen



Shunran Hu

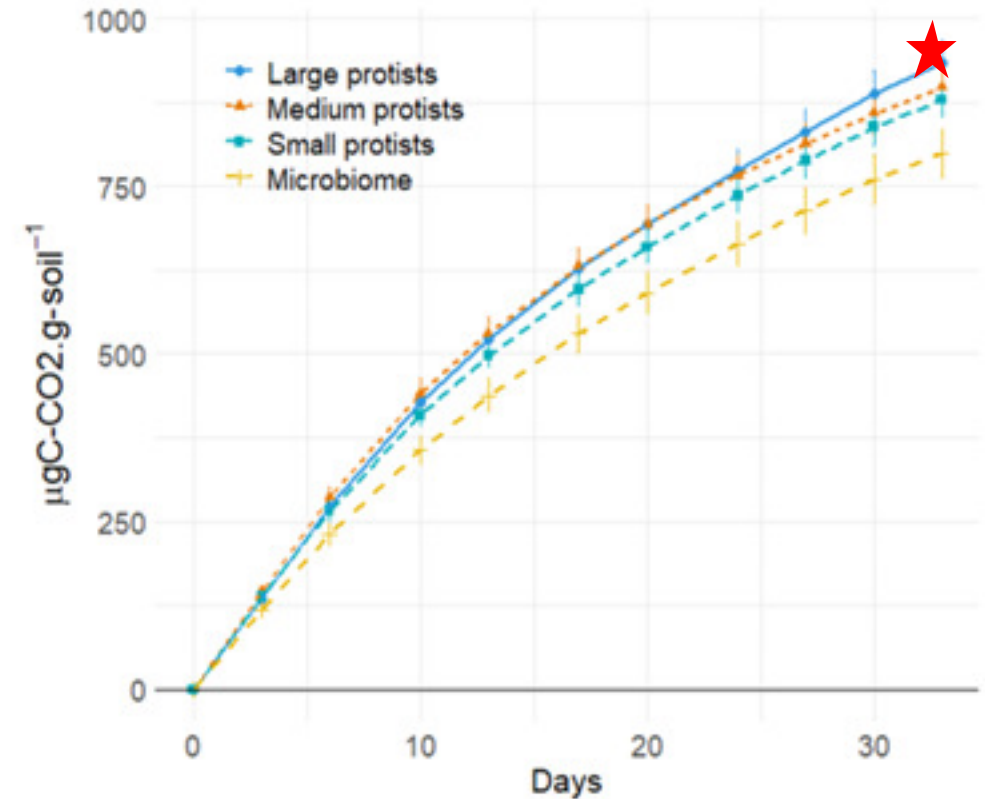
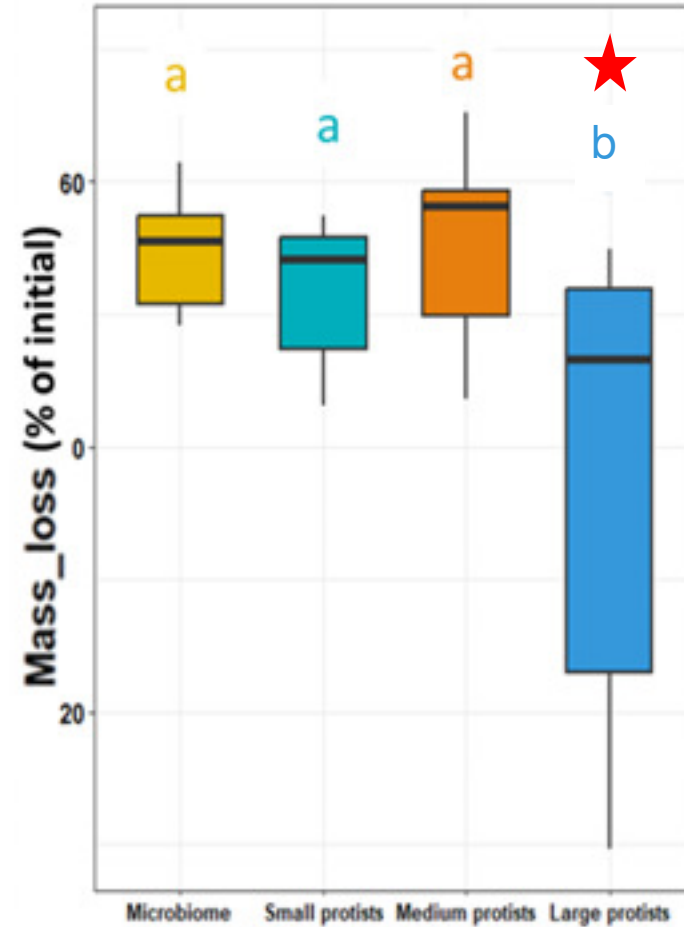
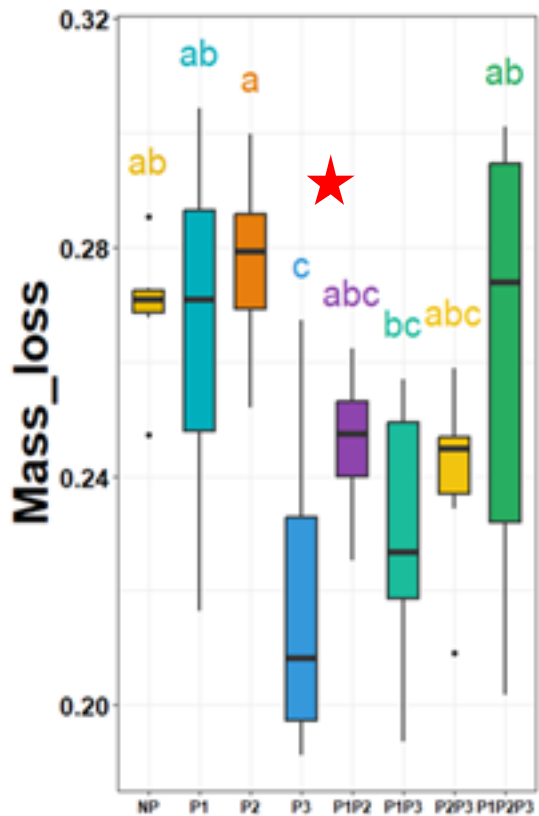
Geisen et al. ISME 2020

Protist Traits → Functions



Yuxin Wang

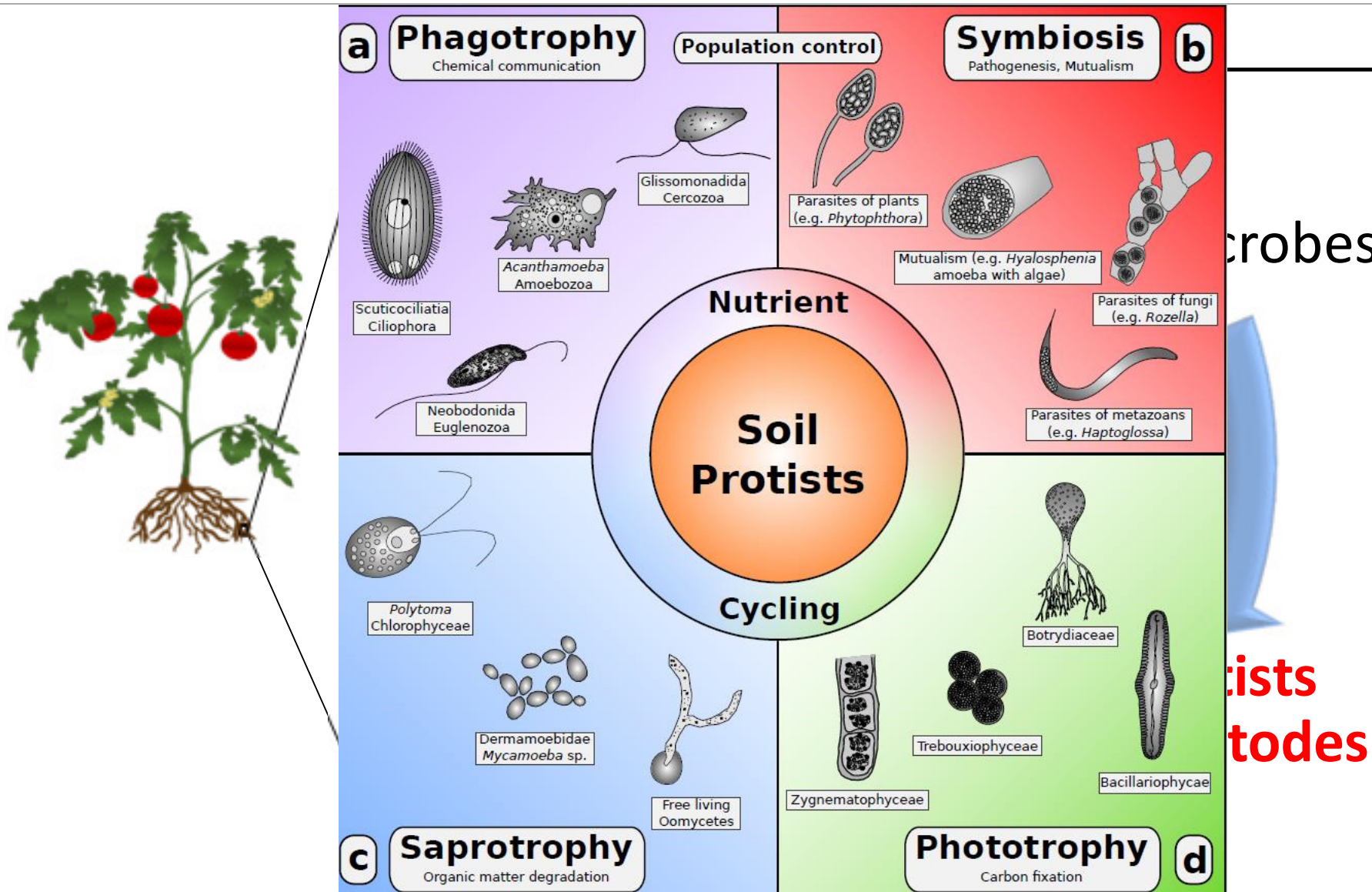
- Protist ≠ Protist



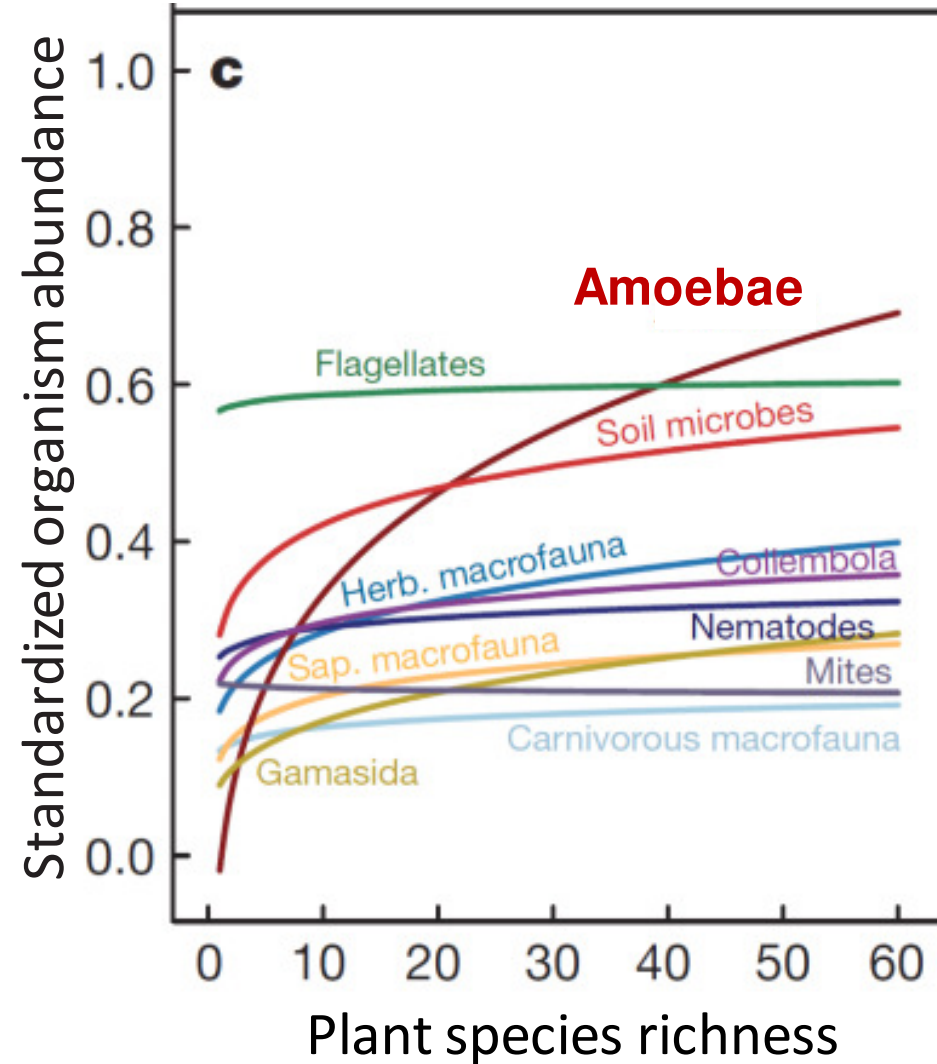
Protists Promote Plants



Protists/Nematodes Promote Plant Performance



Plants Promote Protists



Scherber et al. 2010 Nature

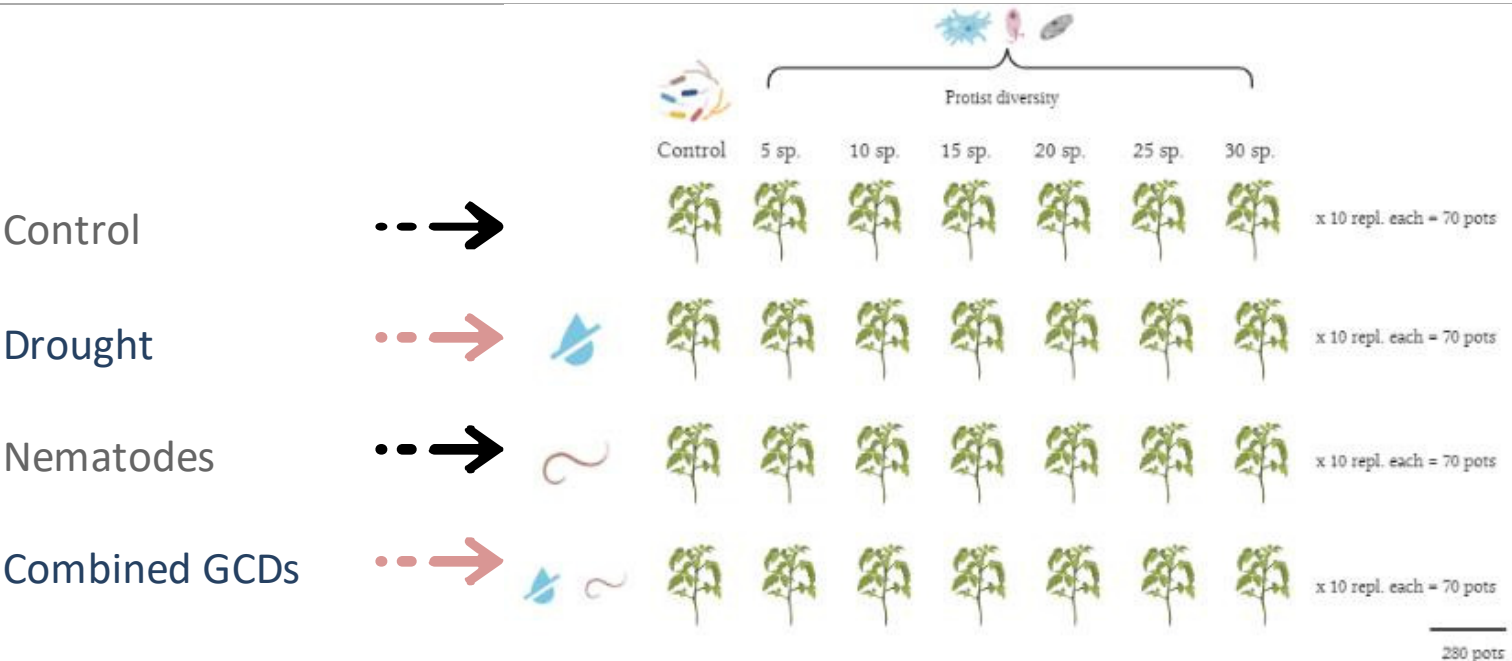
Protists & Plant Yield



Guo, Xiong et al.
2021
Microbiome

ot 2024

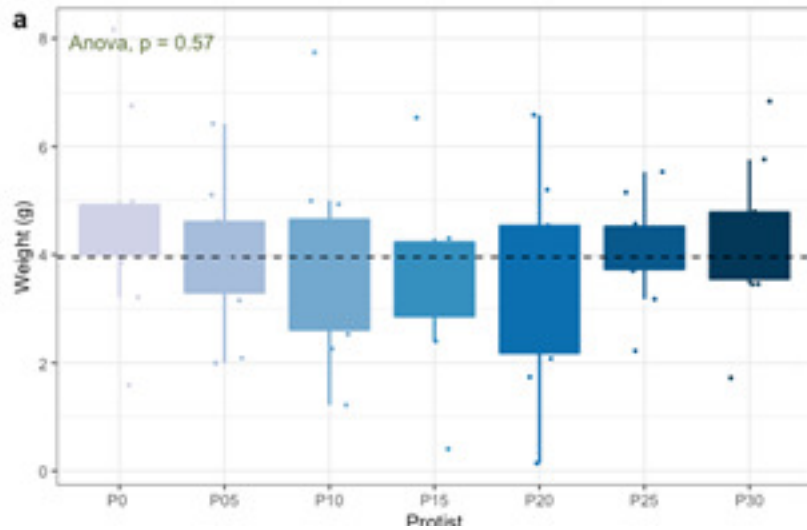
Protists as Models for Global Change Research



Berlinches de Gea et al 2023 SBB

Protist diversity can matter

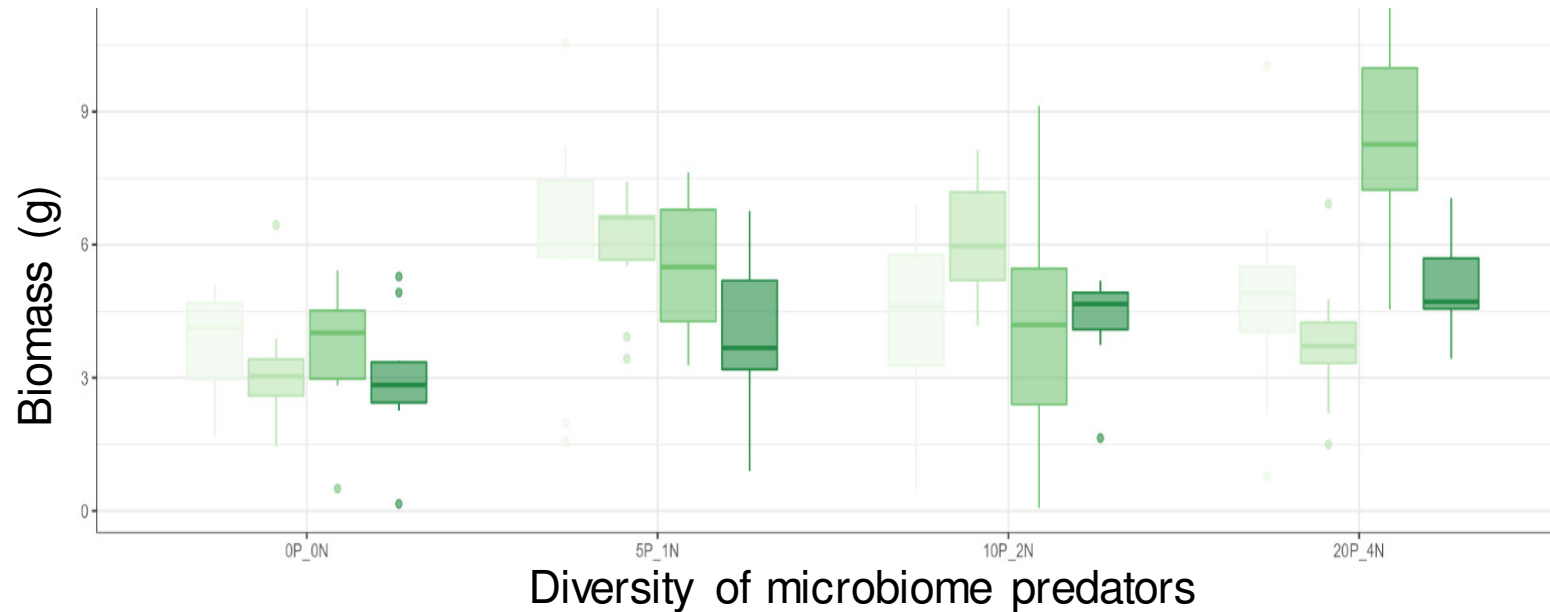
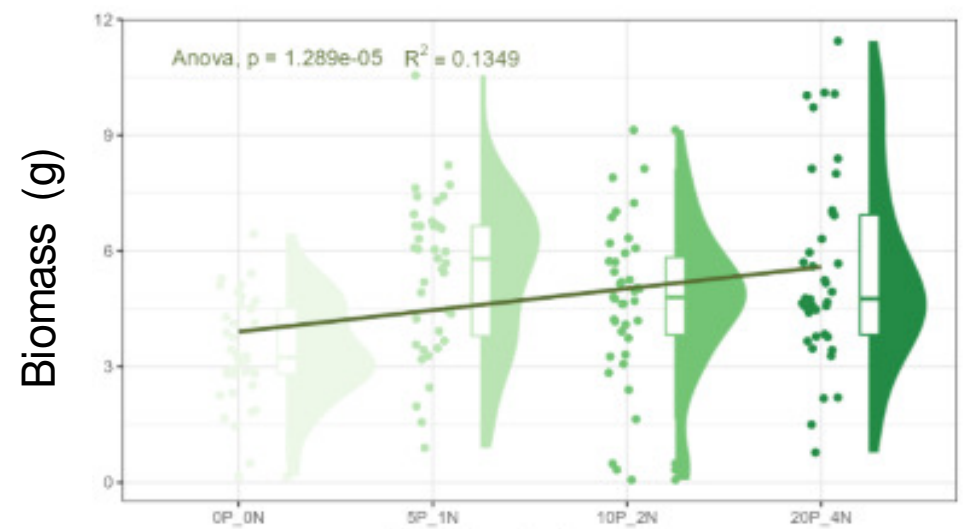
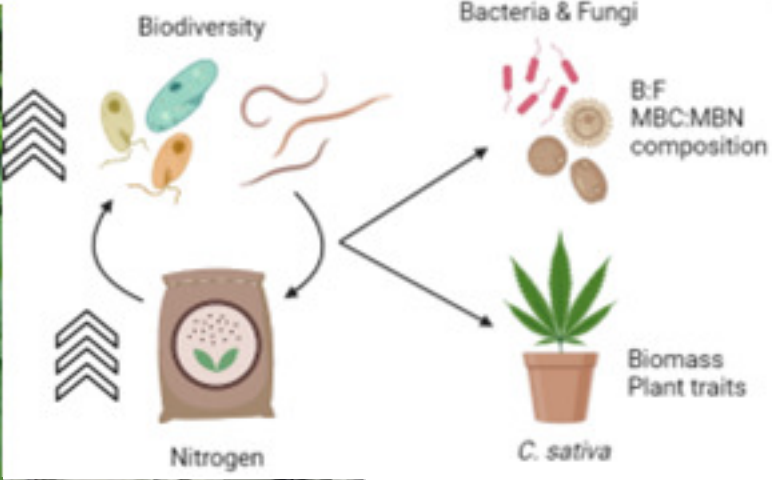
Shoot biomass



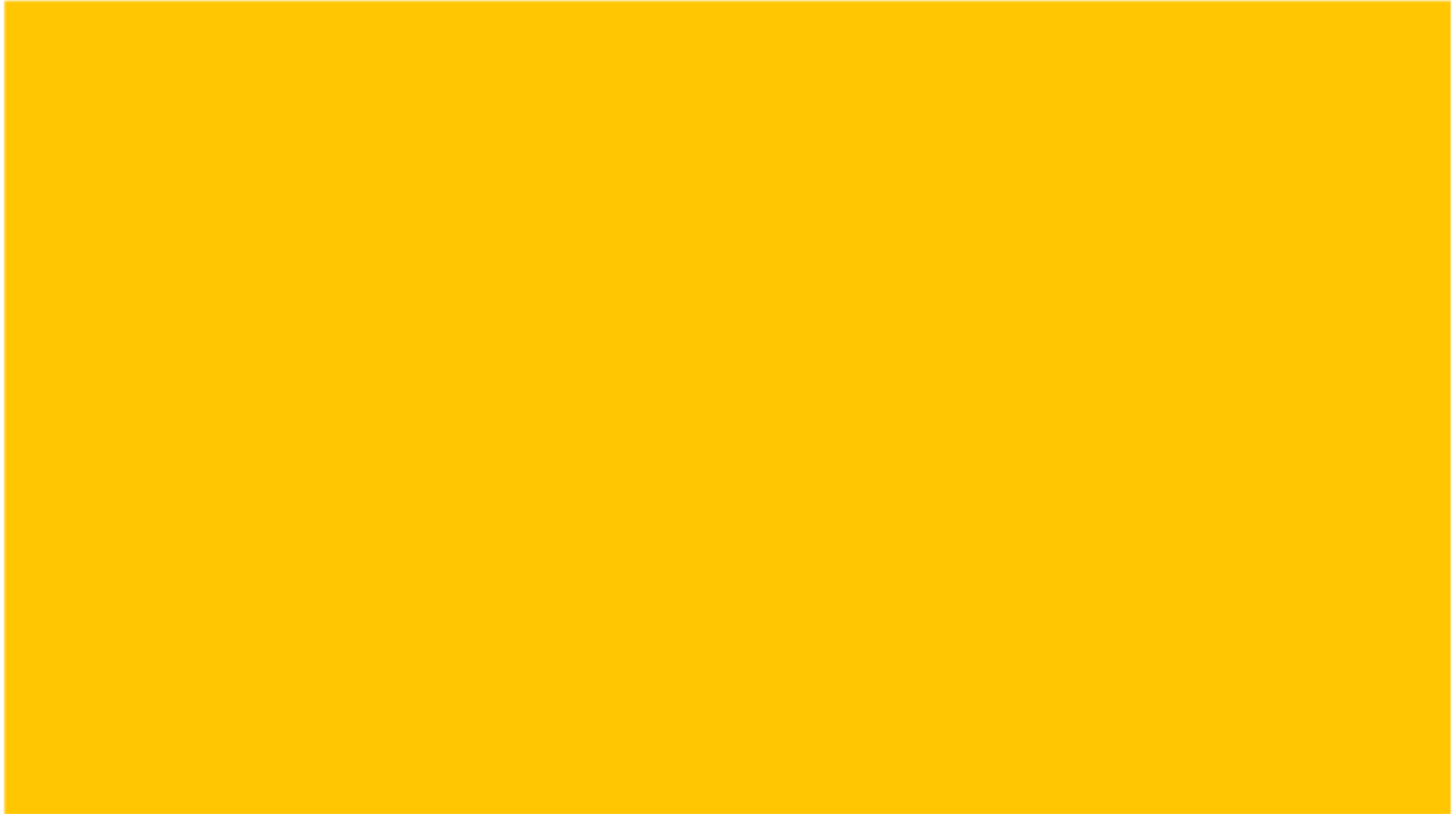
Protist diversity

Berlinches de Gea et al 2023 SBB

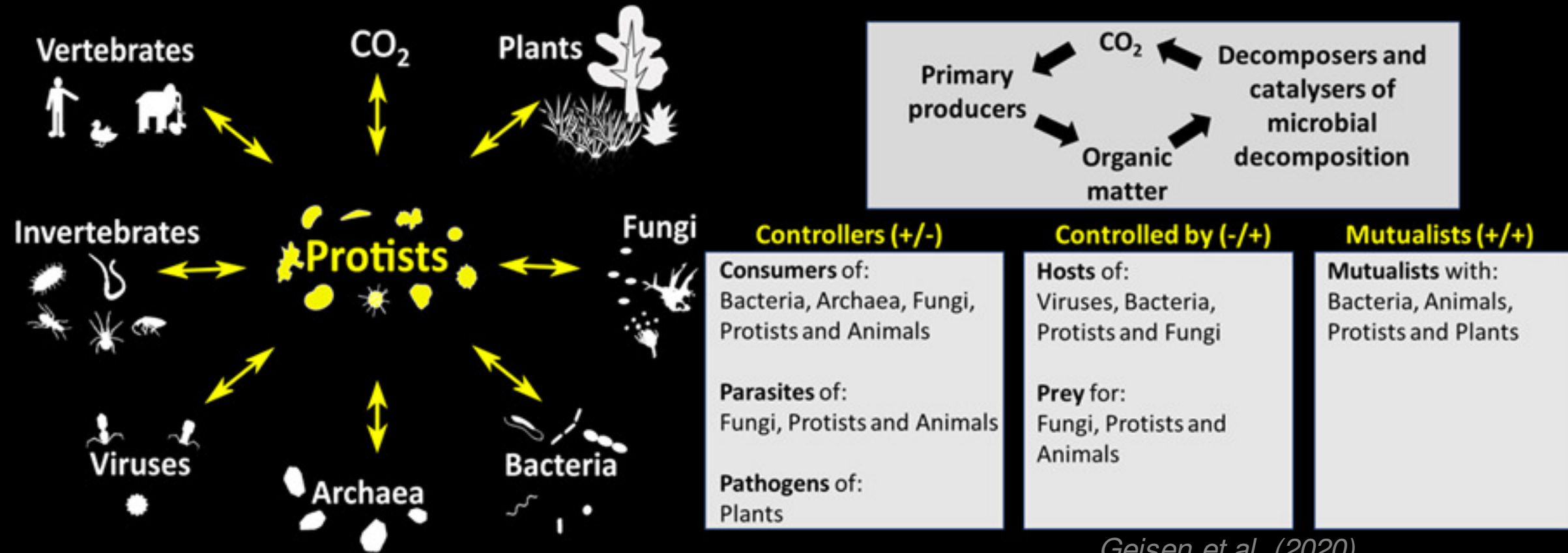
Protists: Chance for N Reduction?



Soil Protists in Application



Protists: What they do

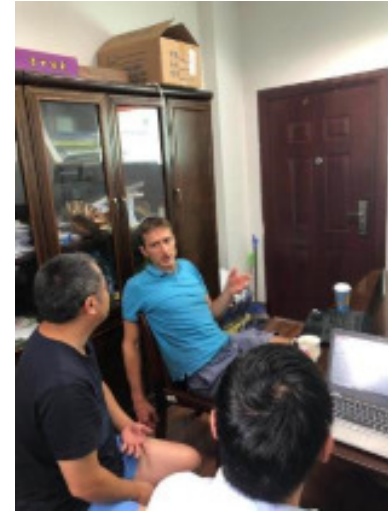


Geisen et al. (2020)
Soil Organisms

Summary

- Soil (microbial) biodiversity pivotal for planet's health
- Protists taxonomically and functionally diverse
- Protists key for soil/plant functioning
- Many open questions and potentials
- Growing interest in Science & More (Publications, proposals, consortia...)

FUN!



Next steps – Biodiversity???



Stefan Geisen

stefan.geisen@wur.nl




Wessel Knoop



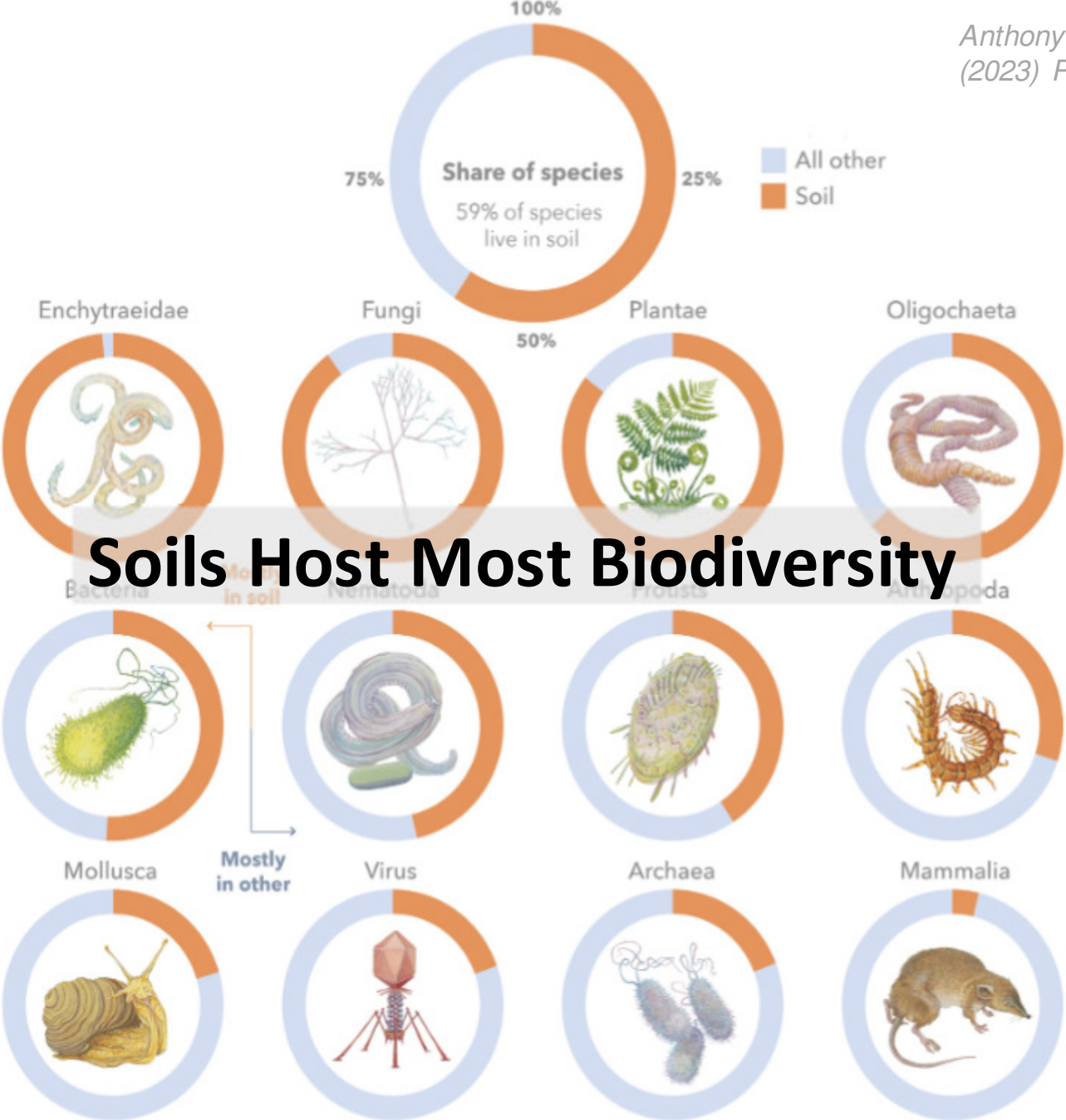
10 Sept 2024



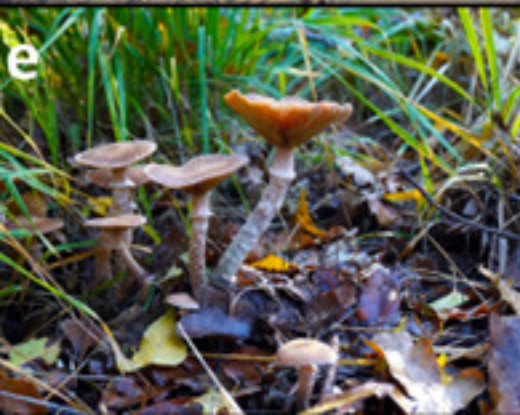
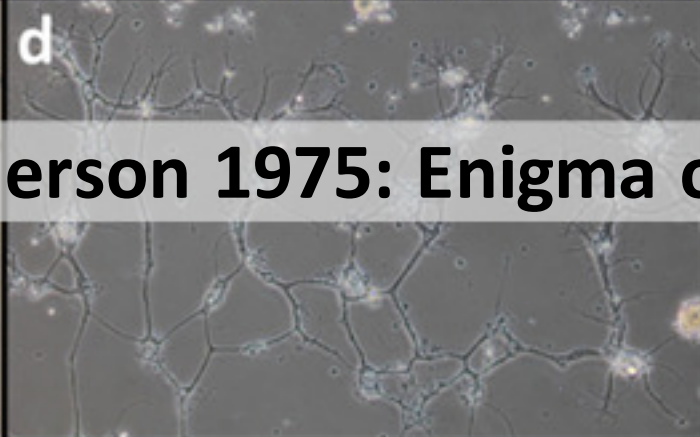
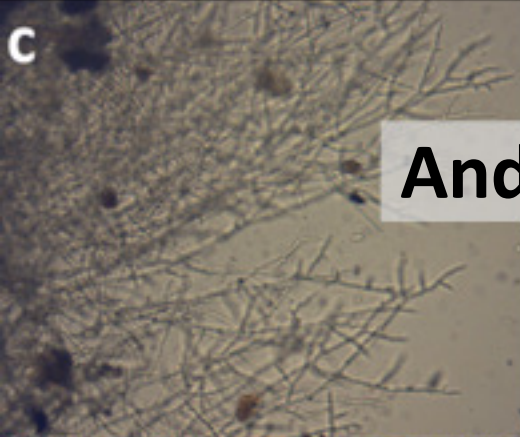
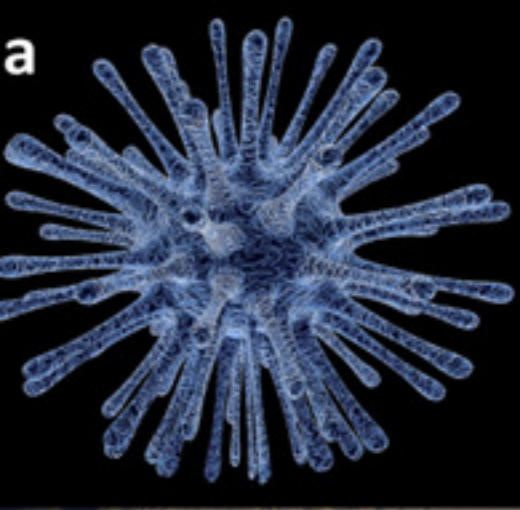
***Why is there so much
Biodiversity?***

A microscopic view of a plankton community. The background is dark, and the foreground is filled with various organisms. There are several large, yellowish, elongated organisms with multiple circular holes, likely diatoms. There are also many smaller, blue, circular organisms, possibly ciliates or other small protists. The overall scene is a complex, diverse community of plankton.

Hutchinson 1961: Paradox of the plankton



Soils Host Most Biodiversity



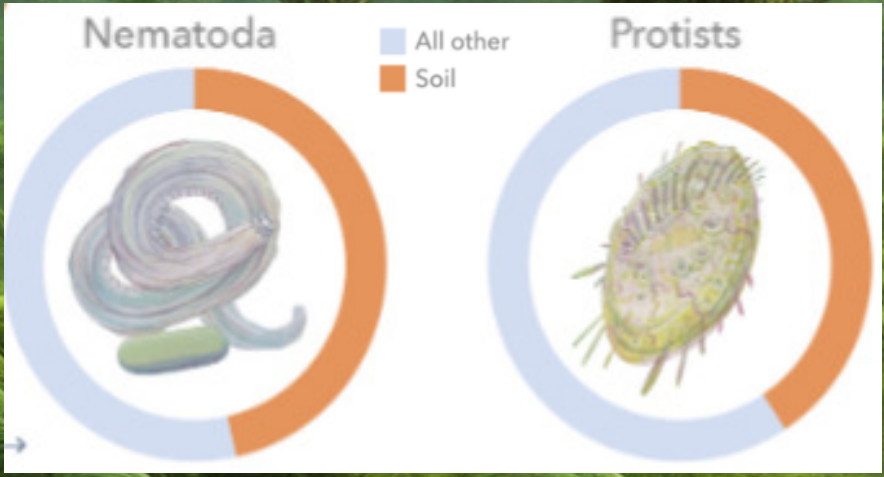
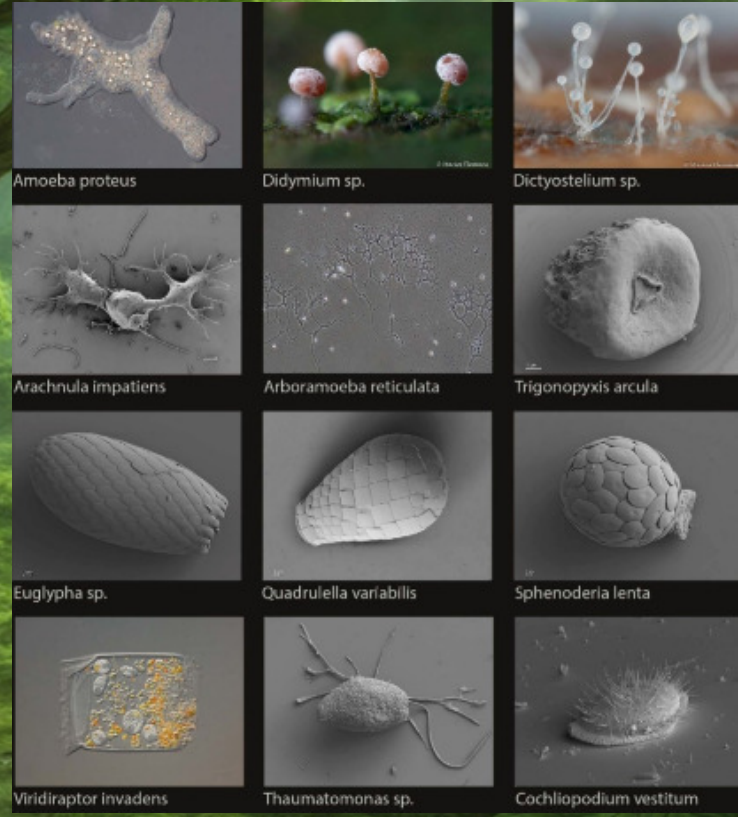
Anderson 1975: Enigma of Soil Animal Biodiversity

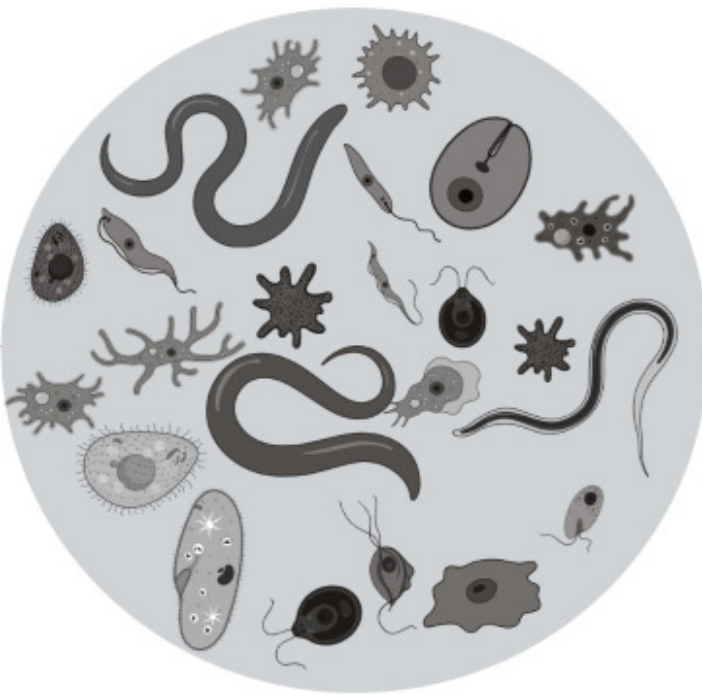


Nematodes

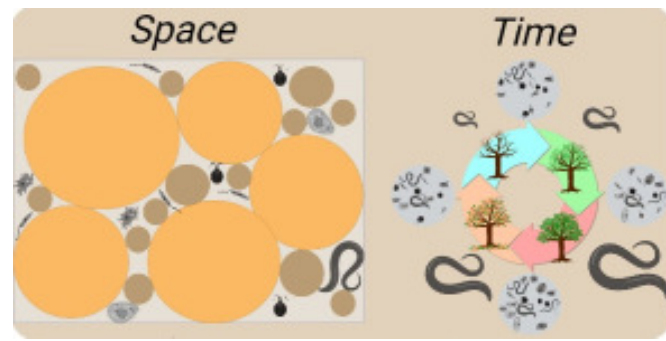
Protists

Green World Hypothesis

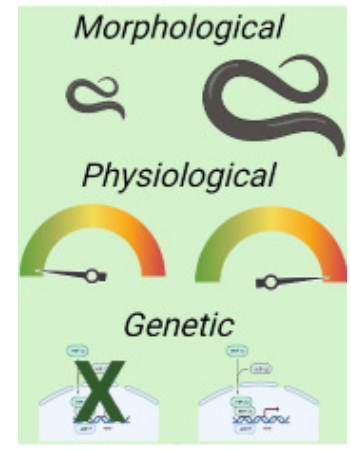




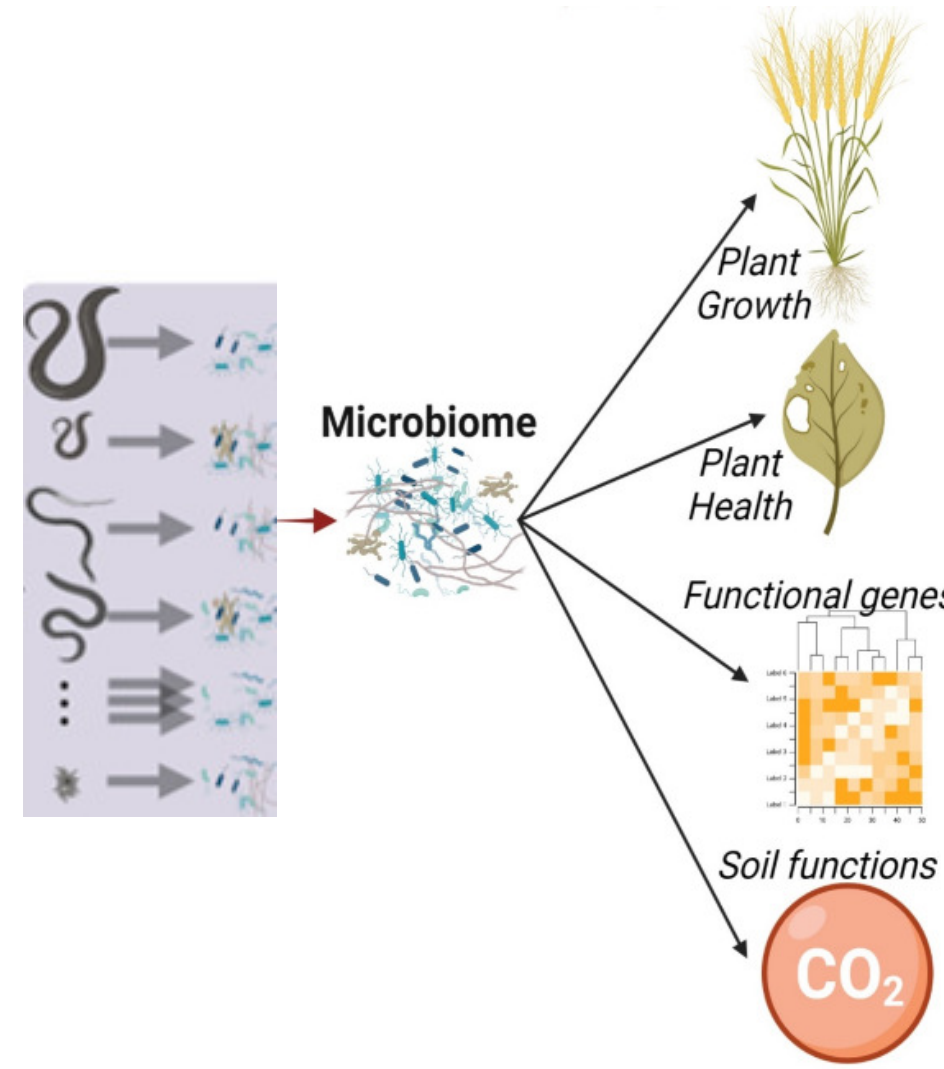
Real Biodiversity



Proposed Work



Underlying Reasons



Functional Impact



Why Now?

[Home](#) > [Press](#) > [Press releases](#)

 Council of the EU | Press release | 17 June 2024 13:45

Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050



IMPACT

Understanding Mechanisms of Soil Microbiome Predator Diversity
➤ *Predict & Create Biodiverse Soils*

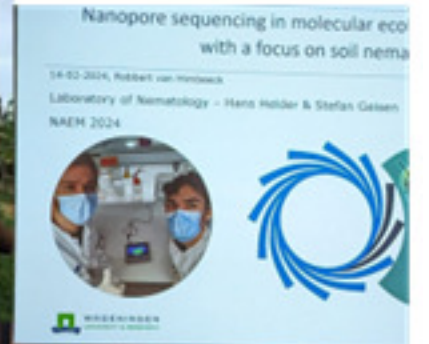
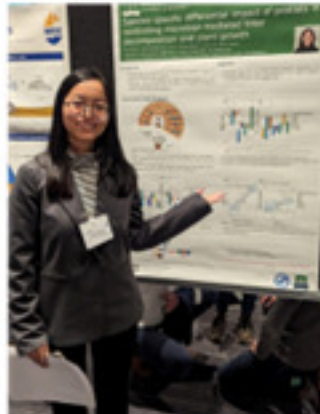
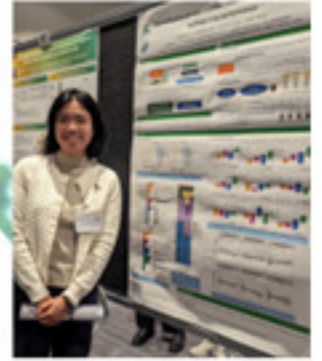
Farmhealth

We will make it!

Anthelmintics
EGOTIST



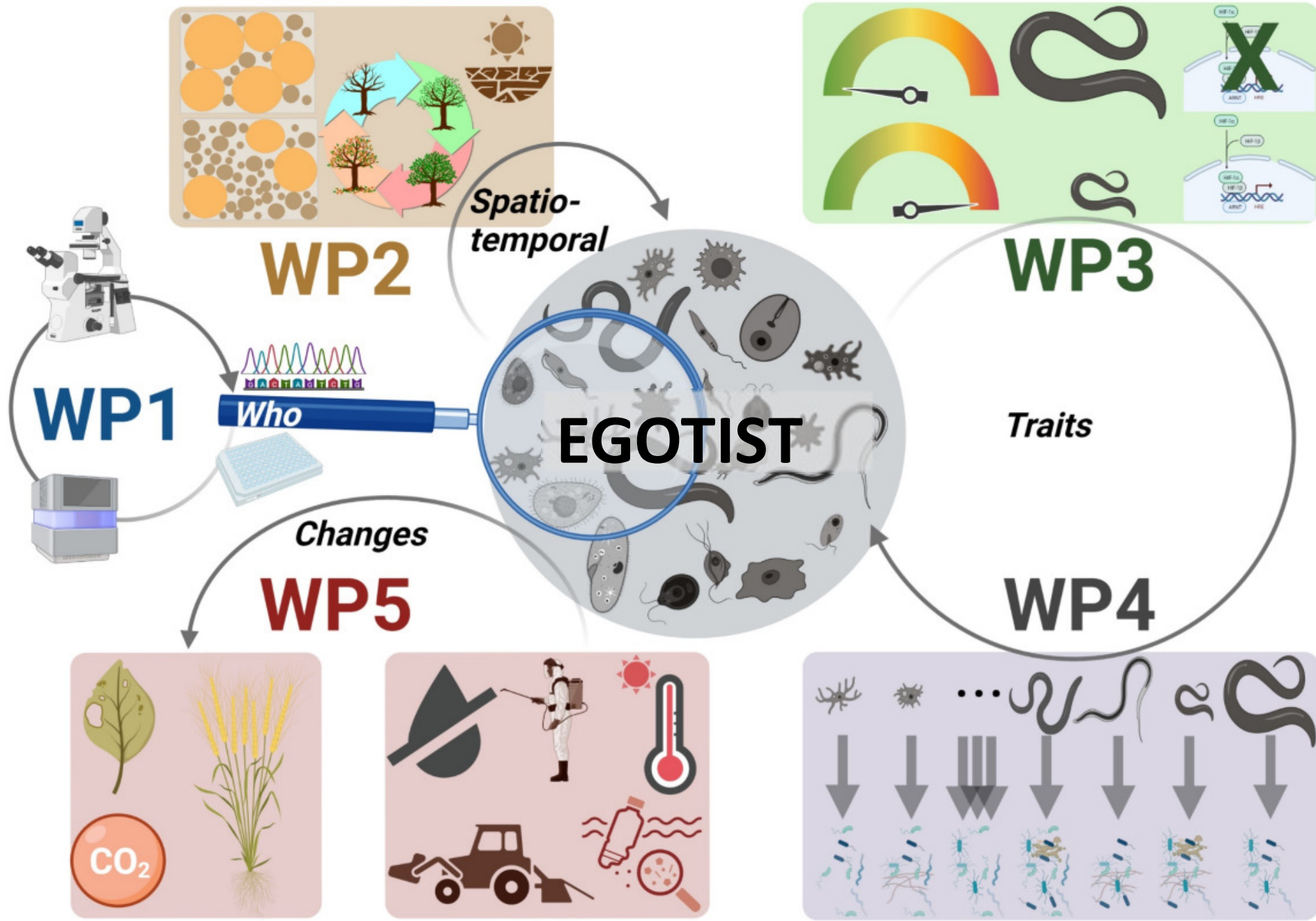
MINAGRIS
Eleni Lamprou

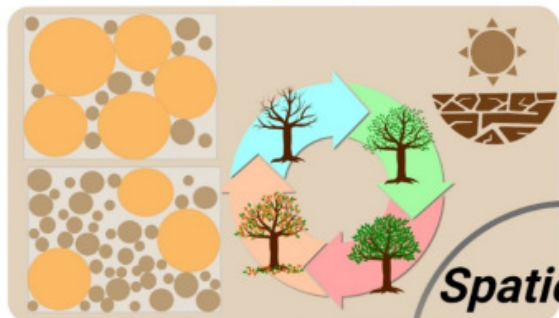


Acknowledgements

- Wageningen University & Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW)
 - Alejandro Berlinches de Gea, Guixin Li, Arne Schwelm, Yuxin Wang, Shunran Hu, Rutger Wilschut...
 - Wim van der Putten, Ciska Veen...
- Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (especially Diana Wall)
- Nanjing Agricultural University
 - Rong Li, Qirong Shen, Xiong Wu, Sai Guo

YOU!!!



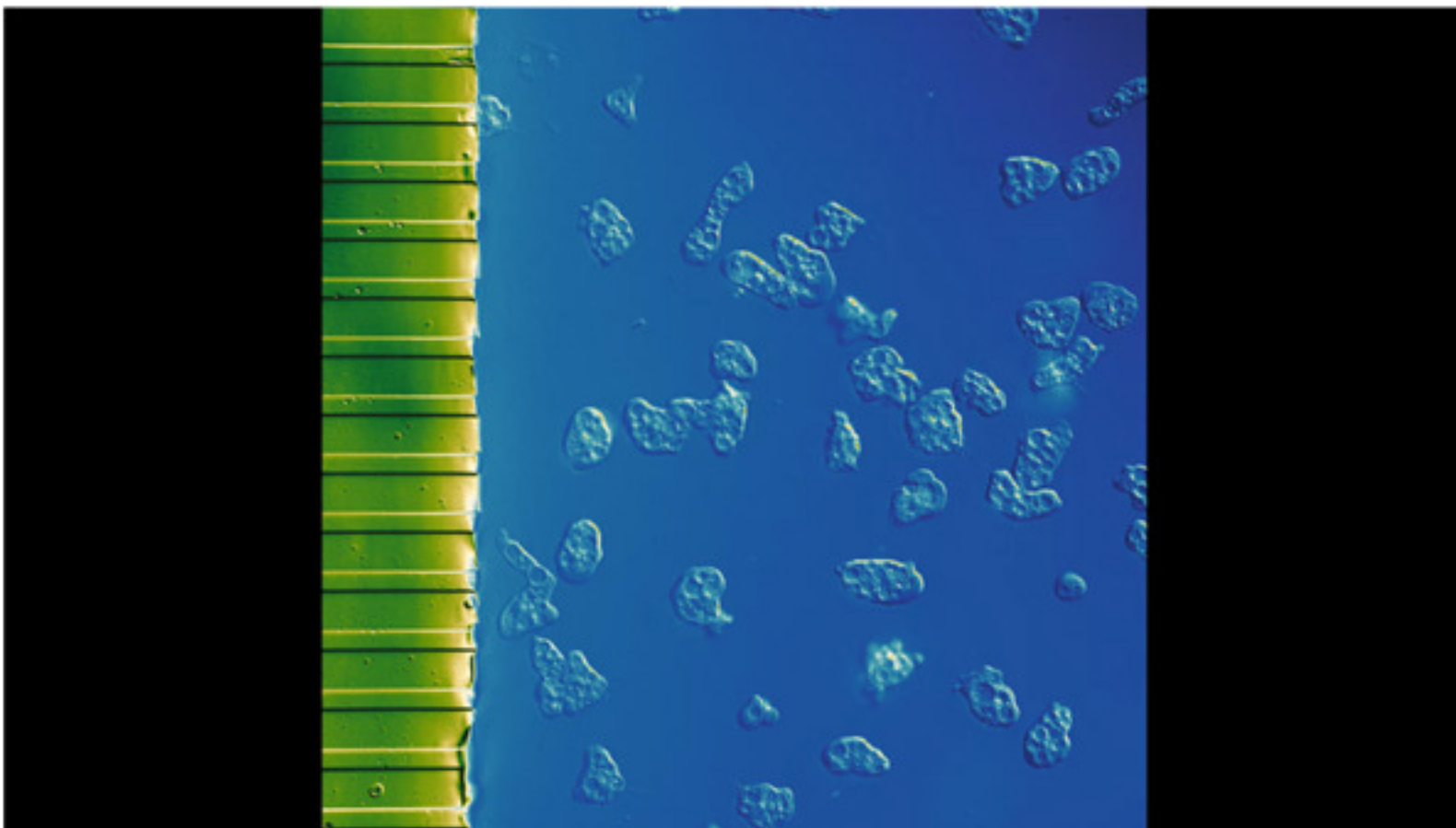


WP2

Spatio-temporal



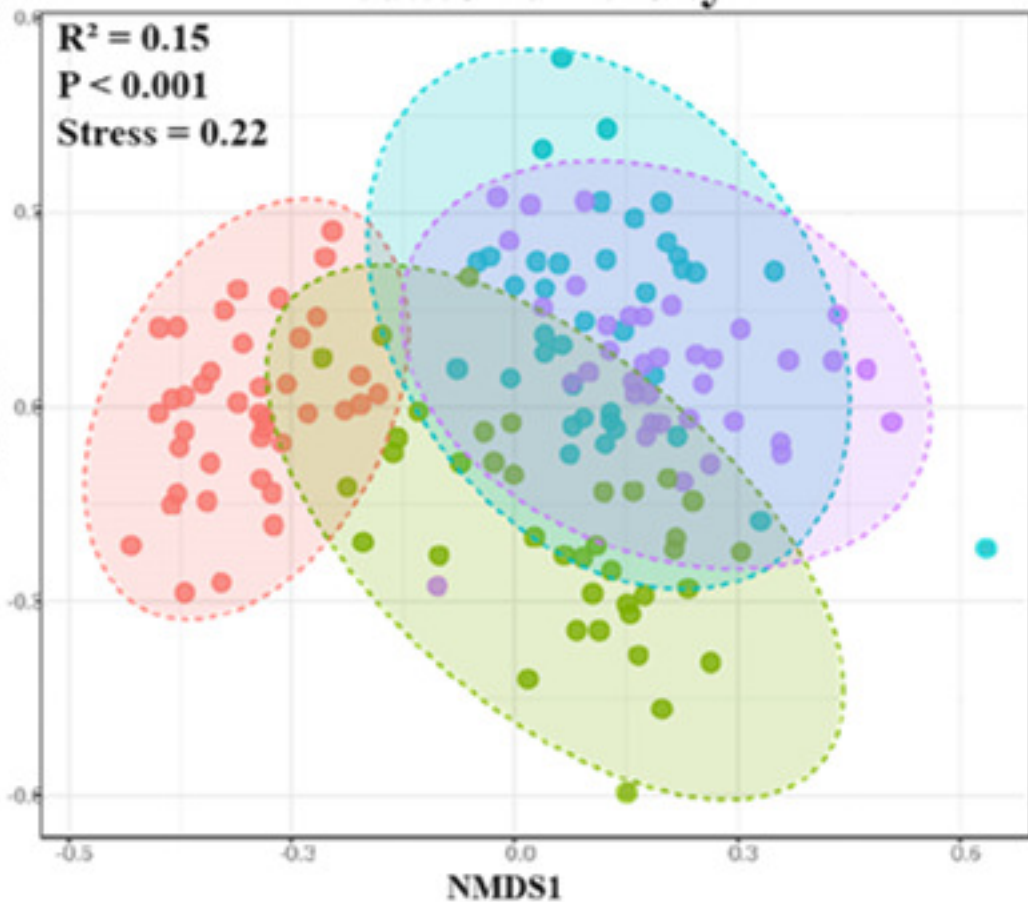
WP3



C)

Predator diversity

$R^2 = 0.15$
 $P < 0.001$
 Stress = 0.22



Preliminary data

