

Supplementary Information

to

Antimicrobial resistant bacteria in wastewater-irrigated Mexican soils and transfer of resistant bacteria from irrigated soils to cilantro plants

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Table S1. Physiochemical wastewater parameters and concentrations of antibiotic and biocidal compound present in or spiked to irrigation water types (according to Soufi *et al.*, 2025)

Parameters	WWTP influent	WWTP effluent	Spiked concentrations
pH	7.4	7.4	
EC	1300	1300	
BOD [mg/L]	50	12	
COD [mg/L]	320	110	
TOC [mg/L]	65	34	
Azithromycin [ng/L]	0-1390	0-1330	695000
Ciprofloxacin [ng/L]	2350-3390	1940-2270	1695000
Clindamycin [ng/L]	< DL	< DL	60000***
(Anhydro)Erythromycin [ng/L]*	210 (<QL) -370	170-250 (<QL)	185000
Sulfamethoxazole [ng/L]	3190-3990	2820-3780	1995000
Trimethoprim [ng/L]	1100-1300	1200-1400	650000
Sum ATMACs [ng/L]	170	98	84546
ATMAC-C8	12	12	5770
ATMAC-C10	11	10	5326
ATMAC-C12	24	16	11766
ATMAC-C14	13	11	6493
ATMAC-C16	110	49	55191
Sum BACs [ng/L]	524	200	261650
BAC-C8	9	9	4322
BAC-C10	12	12	6115
BAC-C12	318	95	158921
BAC-C14	141	53	70559
BAC-C16	19	14	9287
BAC-C18	25	17	12446
Sum DADMACs [ng/L]	208	53	156452
DADMAC-C8	0 (21)**	0 (21)**	10527
DADMAC-C10	0 (21)**	0 (21)**	10527
DADMAC-C12	0 (21)**	0 (21)**	10527
DADMAC-C14	0 (21)**	0 (21)**	10527
DADMAC-C16	0 (21)**	0 (21)**	10527
DADMAC-C18	208	53	103817

*Anhydroerythromycin = degradation product of erythromycin

** concentration <DL, therefore the median of all QAACs was used as concentration

*** Clindamycin was not detected. The spiked concentration was calculated using the concentration found in Siemens *et al.*, (2008) (120 [ng/L]).

EC: electrical conductivity; BOD: biochemical oxygen demand; COD: chemical oxygen demand; TOC: total organic carbon; N_{tot}: total nitrogen; NO₃⁻-N: Nitrate content; NH₄⁺-N: ammonium content; ATMACs: alkyltrimethyl ammonium compounds; BACs: benzylalkyldimethyl ammonium compounds; DADMAC: dialkyldimethyl ammonium compounds, QL: quantification limit; DL: detection limit

Table S2 Details of primer systems used in this study.

Target	Primers	5'-3' sequences	Primer concentration (μM)	Annealing temperature	Product size	Reference
Repetitive extragenic palindromic (REP) sequence	BOXA1R	CTACGGCAAGGCGACGCTGACG	1 μM	53°C	Strain specific genomic fingerprints	Versalovic et al. (1994) Glaeser et al. (2013)
16S rRNA gene	EUB9F EUB1492R	GAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG CGGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	54°C	~1470 bp	Lane (1991)
<i>nrdA</i>	<i>nrdA</i> -F <i>nrdA</i> -R	GAACTGGATTCCCGACCTGTTC TTCGATTTGACGTACAAGTTCTGG	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	56°C	954 bp	Spilker et al. (2012)
<i>gyrA</i>	<i>gyrA</i> -F1 <i>gyrA</i> -R1	CCGGTATCGCTGGAAGAAGAGA CCTGCTCGCTGCCGTCGTA	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	57°C	436 bp	Magallon et al. (2021)
<i>parC</i>	<i>parC</i> -F <i>parC</i> -R	ATCGGCGACGGCCTGAAGCC CGGGATTCGGTATAACGCAT	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	55°C	273 bp	Furlan et al. (2018)
<i>qnrB</i>	<i>qnrBm</i> -F <i>qnrBm</i> -R	GGMATHGAAATTCGCCACTG TTTGCYGYCGCCAGTCGAA	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	54°C	264 bp	Cattoir et al. (2007); Alipour et al. (2024)
<i>qnrS</i>	<i>qnrSm</i> -F <i>qnrSm</i> -R	GCAAGTTCATTGAACAGGGT TCTAAACCGTCGAGTTCGGCG	0.2 μM 0.2 μM	54°C	428 bp	Cattoir et al. (2007); Alipour et al. (2024)

Table S3. Absolute abundance (\log_{10} CFU mL⁻¹) of bacteria cultivated on MH and R2A from wastewater used for incubation experiment. The data represented the mean CFU mL⁻¹ obtained after spotting four independent dilution series of each wastewater types (influent, effluent, and both spiked) on respective media plates (four technical replications, see Fig. S2). Standard deviations reflect variability among the four technical replicates (independent dilution series; n=4). For water samples technical replicates were compared because just one water sample per water sample type was available for the experiment. Asterisk (*) showed significant difference (Two-way ANOVA; $p < 0.05$).

Targeted heterotrophic culturable bacteria	Concentration in \log_{10} CFU mL ⁻¹ [Mean (\pm Standard deviation)]			
	Unspiked		Spiked	
	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent
Bacteria cultivated on MH (-/+ supplements) 37°C, 24 h				
Bacteria on MH	5.9 (\pm 5.1)	5.3 (\pm 4.6)*	6.6 (\pm 6.0)*	5.6 (\pm 0.0)*
CIP resistant bacteria (MH+CIP)	4.4 (\pm 4.1)	4.1 (\pm 3.5)	4.2 (\pm 3.8)	3.4 (\pm 3.2)*
TRI/SUL resistant bacteria (MH+TRI/SUL)	5.3 (\pm 4.3)	3.7 (\pm 3.3)*	5.3 (\pm 0.0)	5.1 (\pm 4.7)*
ERY/CLI resistant bacteria (MH+ERY/CLI)	5.4 (\pm 4.7)	3.9 (\pm 3.5)*	6.5 (\pm 6.1)*	4.9 (\pm 4.6)*
BAC-C12 tolerant bacteria (MH+BAC-C12)	4.0 (\pm 3.3)	3.3 (\pm 2.9)*	4.3 (\pm 3.6)*	3.6 (\pm 3.0)*
Bacteria cultivated on R2A (-/+ supplements) 25°C, 48 h				
Bacteria on R2A	6.9 (\pm 6.2)	6.0 (\pm 5.3)*	6.9 (\pm 6.2)	6.2 (\pm 5.4)
CIP resistant bacteria (R2A+CIP)	5.7 (\pm 5.4)	4.2 (\pm 3.8)*	5.9 (\pm 5.3)	5.6 (\pm 5.2)*
TRI/SUL resistant bacteria (R2A+TRI/SUL)	5.6 (\pm 5.4)	4.4 (\pm 3.4)*	6.1 (\pm 5.7)*	5.3 (\pm 4.9)*
ERY/CLI resistant bacteria (R2A+ERY/CLI)	6.3 (\pm 5.6)	5.0 (\pm 5.0)*	6.7 (\pm 5.9)*	5.8 (\pm 5.0)*
BAC-C12 tolerant bacteria (R2A+BAC-C12)	3.6 (\pm 3.0)	3.3 (\pm 2.4)*	4.7 (\pm 0.0)*	4.0 (\pm 3.6)*
Significance test to		to Influent	to Unspiked-Influent	to Unspiked-Effluent

Table S4. Absolute abundance (\log_{10} CFU g^{-1}) of bacteria cultivated on MH and R2A from soils before irrigation (0 days) and after four weeks following irrigation with unspiked-influent, unspiked-effluent, spiked-influent, and spiked-effluent, respectively. The data represent the mean CFU g^{-1} obtained for four fields analysed per soil type (Leptosol, Phaeozem, and Vertisol). Standard deviations given in brackets reflect variability among the four fields analysed per soil type (=biological replicates). Significant differences are marked in bold ($p < 0.05$, One-way ANOVA). The values for each biological replicate are arithmetic means of four technical replications (independent dilution series). For details see Figure S2.

	Soils - 0 days (before water addition)			Soils - four weeks after water addition											
Targeted cultivable heterotrophic bacteria	Absolute abundance in \log_{10} CFU g^{-1} [Mean (\pm Standard deviation)]														
Soil types	Leptosol	Phaeozem	Vertisol	Leptosol				Phaeozem				Vertisol			
				Unspiked		Spiked		Unspiked		Spiked		Unspiked		Spiked	
				Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent
Bacteria cultivated on MH (-/+ supplements) 37°C, 24 h															
Bacteria on MH	7.1 (\pm 0.1)	6.8 (\pm 0.1)	6.4 (\pm 0.6)	6.6 (\pm 0.3)	6.6 (\pm 0.2)	6.7 (\pm 0.3)	6.6 (\pm 0.2)	6.5 (\pm 0.4)	6.1 (\pm 0.4)	6.4 (\pm 0.3)	6.3 (\pm 0.4)	6.7 (\pm 0.3)	6.7 (\pm 0.4)	6.4 (\pm 0.6)	6.8 (\pm 0.3)
CIP resistant bacteria (MH+CIP)	5.7 (\pm 0.3)	5.6 (\pm 0.4)	5.7 (\pm 0.2)	5.1 (\pm 0.6)	5.1 (\pm 0.6)	5.0 (\pm 0.7)	5.2 (\pm 0.6)	4.8 (\pm 0.4)	5.1 (\pm 0.9)	5.1 (\pm 0.8)	5.4 (\pm 1.0)	5.0 (\pm 0.7)	5.1 (\pm 0.7)	5.2 (\pm 0.8)	5.1 (\pm 0.8)
TRI/SUL resistant bacteria (MH+TRI/SUL)	5.4 (\pm 0.2)	5.3 (\pm 0.1)	5.3 (\pm 0.3)	5.9 (\pm 0.1)	5.6 (\pm 0.4)	5.7 (\pm 0.3)	6.1 (\pm 0.2)	5.6 (\pm 0.6)	5.5 (\pm 0.5)	5.6 (\pm 0.4)	5.6 (\pm 0.6)	5.5 (\pm 0.5)	5.8 (\pm 0.2)	5.9 (\pm 0.1)	5.8 (\pm 0.1)
ERY/CLI resistant bacteria (MH+ERY/CLI)	5.5 (\pm 0.4)	4.9 (\pm 0.2)	4.9 (\pm 0.3)	5.6 (\pm 0.5)	5.7 (\pm 0.2)	5.3 (\pm 0.2)	5.5 (\pm 0.3)	5.2 (\pm 0.6)	5.1 (\pm 0.6)	5.0 (\pm 0.2)	5.2 (\pm 0.6)	5.5 (\pm 0.4)	5.2 (\pm 0.6)	5.8 (\pm 0.2)	5.6 (\pm 0.2)
BAC-C12 tolerant bacteria (MH+BAC-C12)	3.5 (\pm 0.6)	3.7 (\pm 0.5)	4.0 (\pm 0.2)	4.2 (\pm 0.1)	4.2 (\pm 0.2)	4.5 (\pm 0.7)	4.3 (\pm 0.1)	4.2 (\pm 0.5)	4.3 (\pm 0.6)	4.3 (\pm 0.5)	4.3 (\pm 0.4)	4.7 (\pm 0.4)	4.7 (\pm 0.6)	4.7 (\pm 0.4)	4.5 (\pm 0.4)
Bacteria cultivated on R2A (-/+ supplements) 25°C, 48 h															
Bacteria on R2A	6.6 (\pm 0.3)	6.4 (\pm 0.5)	6.5 (\pm 0.4)	6.7 (\pm 0.5)	6.7 (\pm 0.5)	6.6 (\pm 0.5)	6.5 (\pm 0.5)	6.4 (\pm 0.4)	6.1 (\pm 0.6)	6.2 (\pm 0.4)	6.3 (\pm 0.2)	6.3 (\pm 0.7)	6.5 (\pm 0.7)	6.3 (\pm 0.6)	6.4 (\pm 0.6)
CIP resistant bacteria (R2A+CIP)	6.0 (\pm 0.5)	5.7 (\pm 0.3)	5.4 (\pm 0.5)	5.8 (\pm 1.2)	6.0 (\pm 1.0)	6.0 (\pm 1.2)	5.8 (\pm 1.0)	5.6 (\pm 0.8)	5.5 (\pm 0.9)	5.6 (\pm 0.7)	5.6 (\pm 0.9)	5.9 (\pm 0.8)	5.8 (\pm 0.9)	5.9 (\pm 0.9)	5.5 (\pm 1.0)
TRI/SUL resistant bacteria (R2A+TRI/SUL)	5.0 (\pm 0.1)	5.1 (\pm 0.1)	4.9 (\pm 0.2)	5.1 (\pm 0.5)	5.1 (\pm 0.4)	5.0 (\pm 0.5)	5.0 (\pm 0.3)	4.7 (\pm 0.7)	4.7 (\pm 0.8)	4.7 (\pm 0.6)	4.7 (\pm 0.6)	5.0 (\pm 0.3)	5.3 (\pm 0.6)	4.7 (\pm 0.4)	5.5 (\pm 0.6)
ERY/CLI resistant bacteria (R2A+ERY/CLI)	6.1 (\pm 0.6)	5.5 (\pm 0.5)	5.7 (\pm 0.6)	6.0 (\pm 0.5)	5.8 (\pm 0.5)	5.6 (\pm 0.5)	5.8 (\pm 0.6)	5.5 (\pm 0.5)	5.2 (\pm 0.7)	5.5 (\pm 0.5)	5.5 (\pm 0.8)	5.7 (\pm 0.7)	5.7 (\pm 0.5)	5.7 (\pm 0.6)	5.9 (\pm 0.3)
BAC-C12 tolerant bacteria (R2A+BAC-C12)	3.6 (\pm 0.4)	3.7 (\pm 0.4)	4.0 (\pm 0.1)	4.0 (\pm 0.4)	4.0 (\pm 0.4)	4.2 (\pm 0.9)	4.0 (\pm 0.5)	4.0 (\pm 0.4)	4.0 (\pm 0.5)	4.0 (\pm 0.7)	4.0 (\pm 0.5)	4.3 (\pm 0.3)	4.8 (\pm 0.9)	4.1 (\pm 0.3)	4.4 (\pm 0.7)

Supplementary Figures



Location	Years of UWW irrigation	Soil type	Coordinates	
Ulapa de Melchor Ocampo	111	Leptosol (L1)	20° 8' 9.5" N	99° 10' 31.3" W
		Phaeozem (P1)	20° 8' 13.6" N	99° 10' 23.5" W
		Vertisol (V1)	20° 8' 30.9" N	99° 10' 25.3" W
Between Tetepango and Ulapa	60	Leptosol (L2)	20° 7' 24.5" N	99° 9' 13.3" W
		Phaeozem (P2)	20° 7' 45.7" N	99° 9' 18.4" W
		Vertisol (V2)	20° 7' 58" N	99° 9' 14.3" W
Tlaxcoapan (Bojayito Chico)	92	Leptosol (L3)	20° 4' 44.9" N	99° 12' 20.1" W
		Phaeozem (P3)	20° 4' 47" N	99° 12' 25" W
		Vertisol (V3)	20° 4' 45" N	99° 12' 37" W
Tlahuelilpan	101	Leptosol (L4)	20° 7' 28.4" N	99° 12' 36.3" W
		Phaeozem (P4)	20° 7' 40.4" N	99° 12' 54.5" W
		Vertisol (V4)	20° 7' 8.24" N	99° 14' 3.78" W

Figure S1. Geographical area, location, coordinates, and years of untreated wastewater (UWW) irrigation of the agricultural fields used for the study (L1: Leptosol field 1; L2: Leptosol Field 2; L3: Leptosol Field 3; L4: Leptosol Field 4; P1: Phaeozem field 1; P2: Phaeozem Field 2; P3: Phaeozem Field 3; P4: Phaeozem Field 4; V1: Vertisol field 1; V2: Vertisol Field 2; V3: Vertisol Field 3; V4: Vertisol Field 4). Adapted from Soufi *et al.*, (2025)

Per soil type: composite samples of four fields with an identical irrigation history were studied

Sampling and experimental setups:

Four composite field samples based each on eight soil cores

Composite field sample four field = four biol. replicates per soil type

Soil mesocosms (each 200 g soil)

Four irrigation water types (25 mL per soil microcosm)

Microbiological analysis:

Soil – 0 days before irrigation: Four technical replications (dilution series) per field composite sample per agar medium

Irrigation water: Four technical replication dilution series) per water type per agar medium

Soil – 4 weeks after irrigation: Four technical replications per soil microcosm (dilution series) were analysed per agar medium

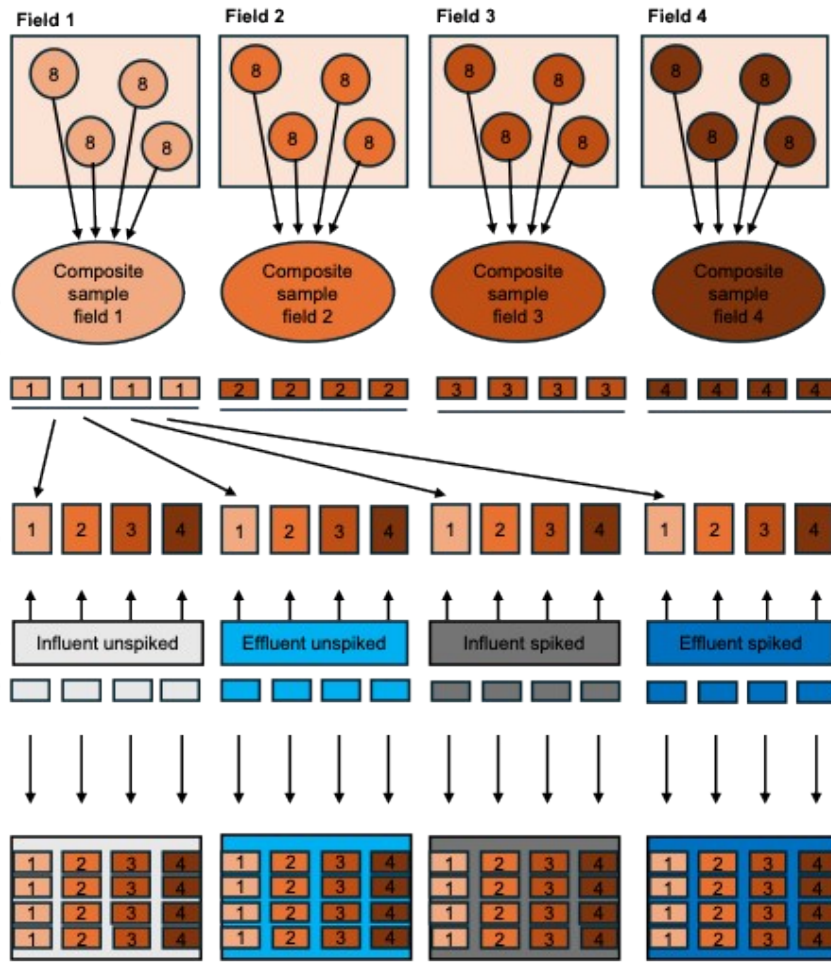
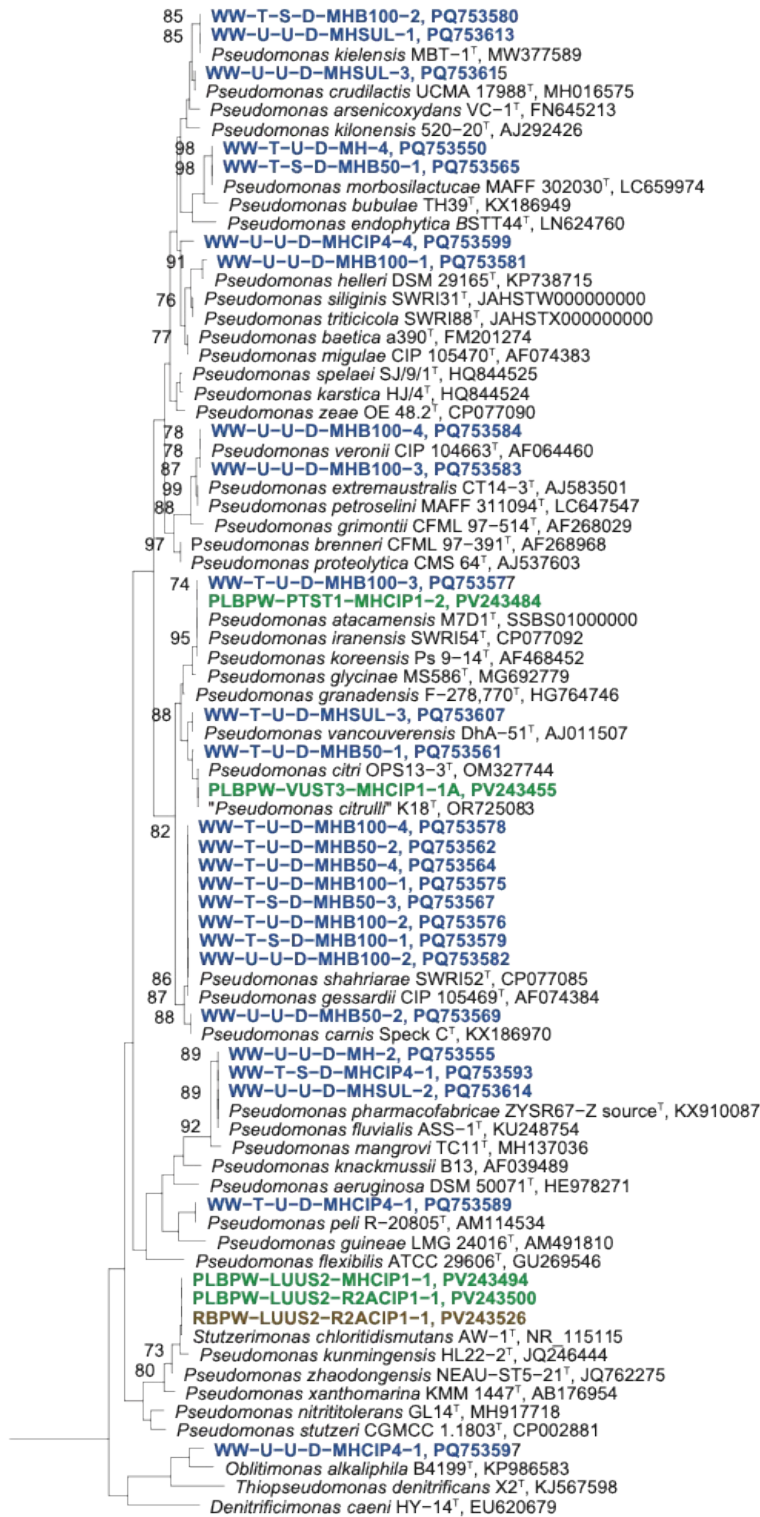


Figure S2 Overview of sample collection in Mexican fields, set up of the incubation experiment, and performed microbiological analyses

A	Absolute abundance (log ₁₀ CFU per mL wastewater or g soil)	Fecal indicator bacteria	<i>E. coli</i> 3GCR <i>E. coli</i> Enterococci VRE	Irrigation water				Soil - 0 days			Soil - four weeks after irrigation													
				Wastewater				Leptosol	Phaeozem	Vertisol	Leptosol				Phaeozem				Vertisol					
				Unspiked		Spiked					Unspiked		Spiked		Unspiked		Spiked		Unspiked		Spiked			
				Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Non-irrigated			Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent		
B	Relative abundance (log ₁₀ units)	Bacteria cultivated on MH at 37°C	CIP resistant	0.5	0.8	-0.5*	-0.2*	0.6	0.8	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3		
			TRIM/SUL resistant	1.4	0.5*	0.6*	1.5*	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.4*	1.0	1.1*	1.5*	1.1*	1.4*	1.3*	1.3*	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.0		
			ERY/CLIN resistant	1.5	0.6*	1.9*	1.4*	0.4	0.1	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.7*	1.1*	0.7*	0.8*	0.8	0.4	1.4	0.9		
			BAC-C12 tolerant	0.1	-0.0	-0.4*	0.1	-1.6	-1.1	-0.4	-0.3*	-0.4*	-0.2*	-0.3*	-0.3	0.3*	-0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-0.0	0.3	-0.3	
		Bacteria cultivated on R2A at 25°C	CIP resistant	0.8	0.1*	1.0	1.4*	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.1		
			TRIM/SUL resistant	0.7	0.4*	1.2*	1.1*	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.1*		
			ERY/CLIN resistant	1.4	1.0*	1.8*	1.6*	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5		
			BAC-C12 tolerant	-1.3	-0.8*	-0.2*	-0.2*	-1.1	-0.6	-0.4	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.4	-0.2	0.0		
		Bold font/Asterick - significant differences				to in-fluent		to unspiked Wastewater		among soil types			to non irrigated soil (0 days)				to non irrigated soil (0 days)				to non irrigated soil (0 days)			

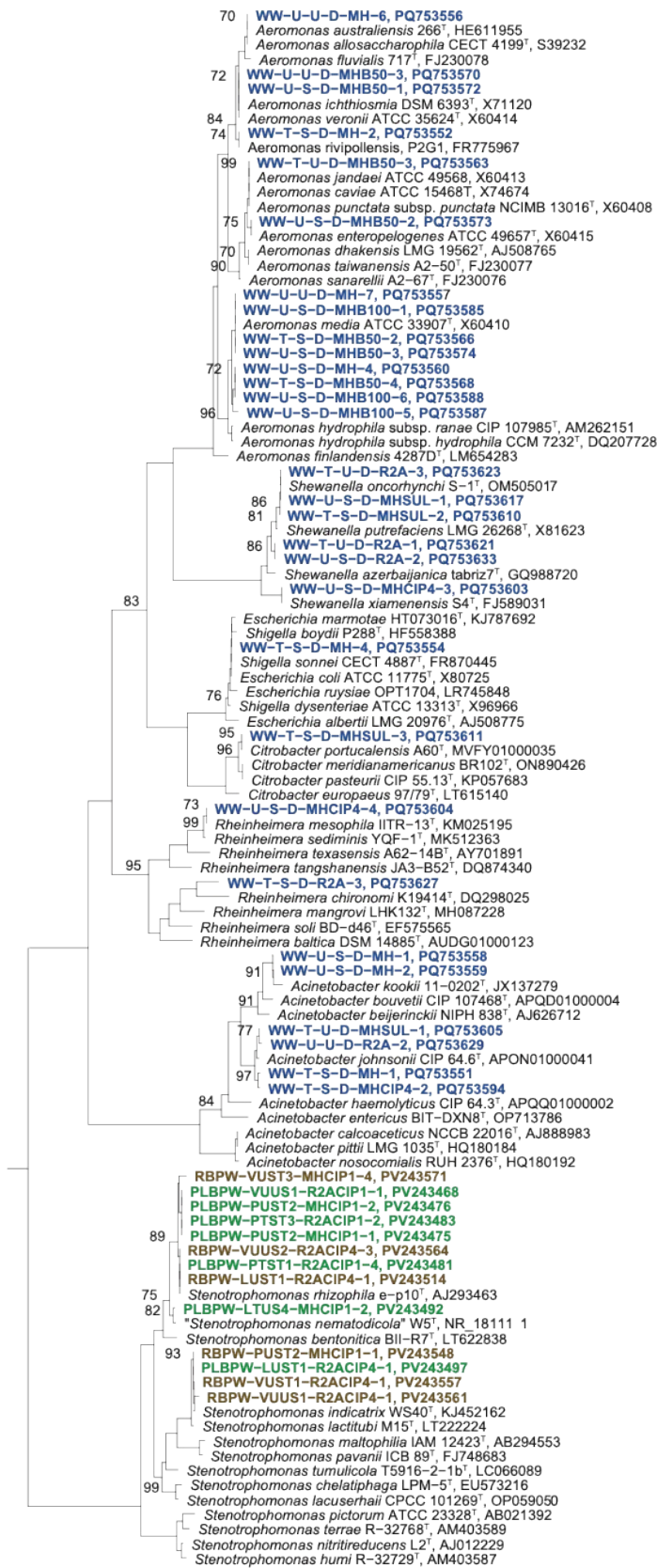
Figure S3. Heat map showing (A) mean absolute abundance (Log₁₀ CFU mL⁻¹ or g⁻¹) of total and antimicrobial (CIP, TRIM/SUL, ERY/CLIN, and BAC-C12) resistant bacteria cultivable on MH and R2A and (B) mean relative abundances in WWTP influent and effluent and soil before (0 days) and after irrigation with both unspiked and spiked influent or effluent. Significant differences ($p < 0.05$) are indicated with bold font and asterisks (*). No growth: n.g. Mean values of four technical replications (irrigation water types) or four biological replications (four fields per soil type) are presented. Each biological replicate based on four technical replications. For details see Figure S2.

A



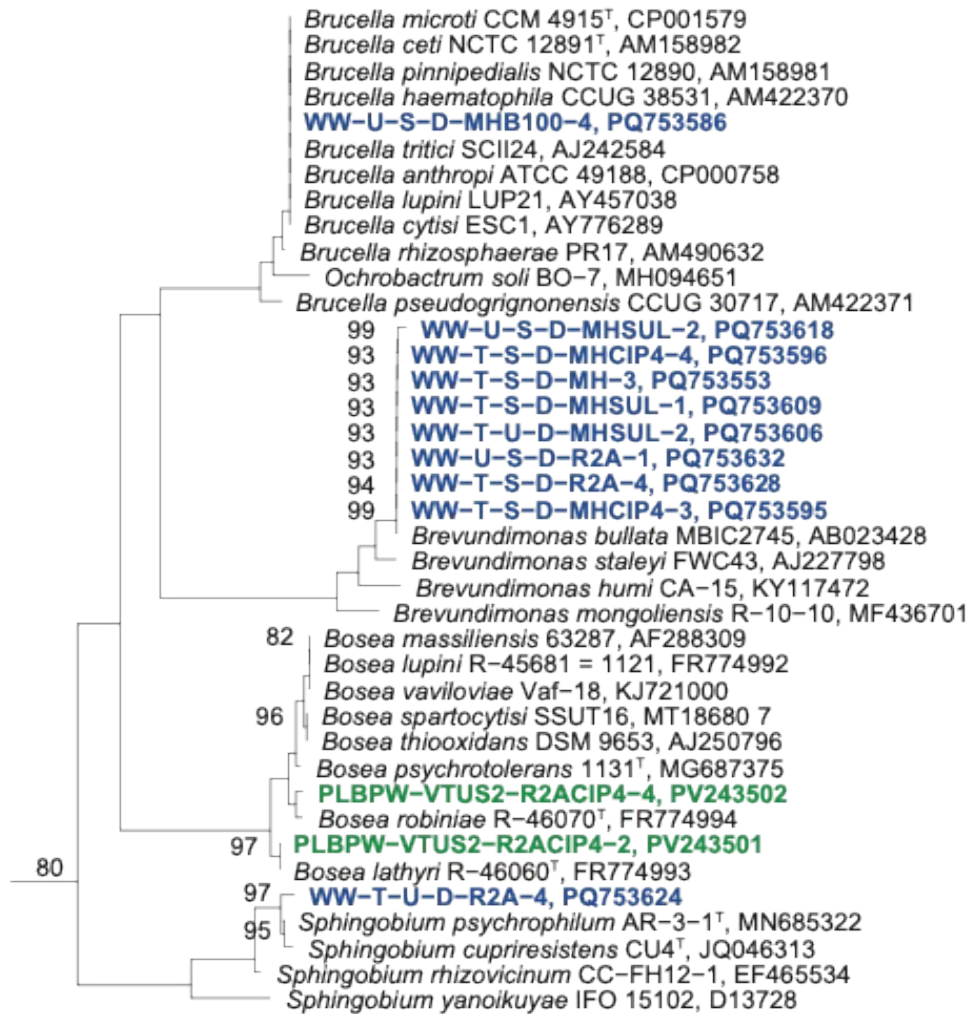
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B



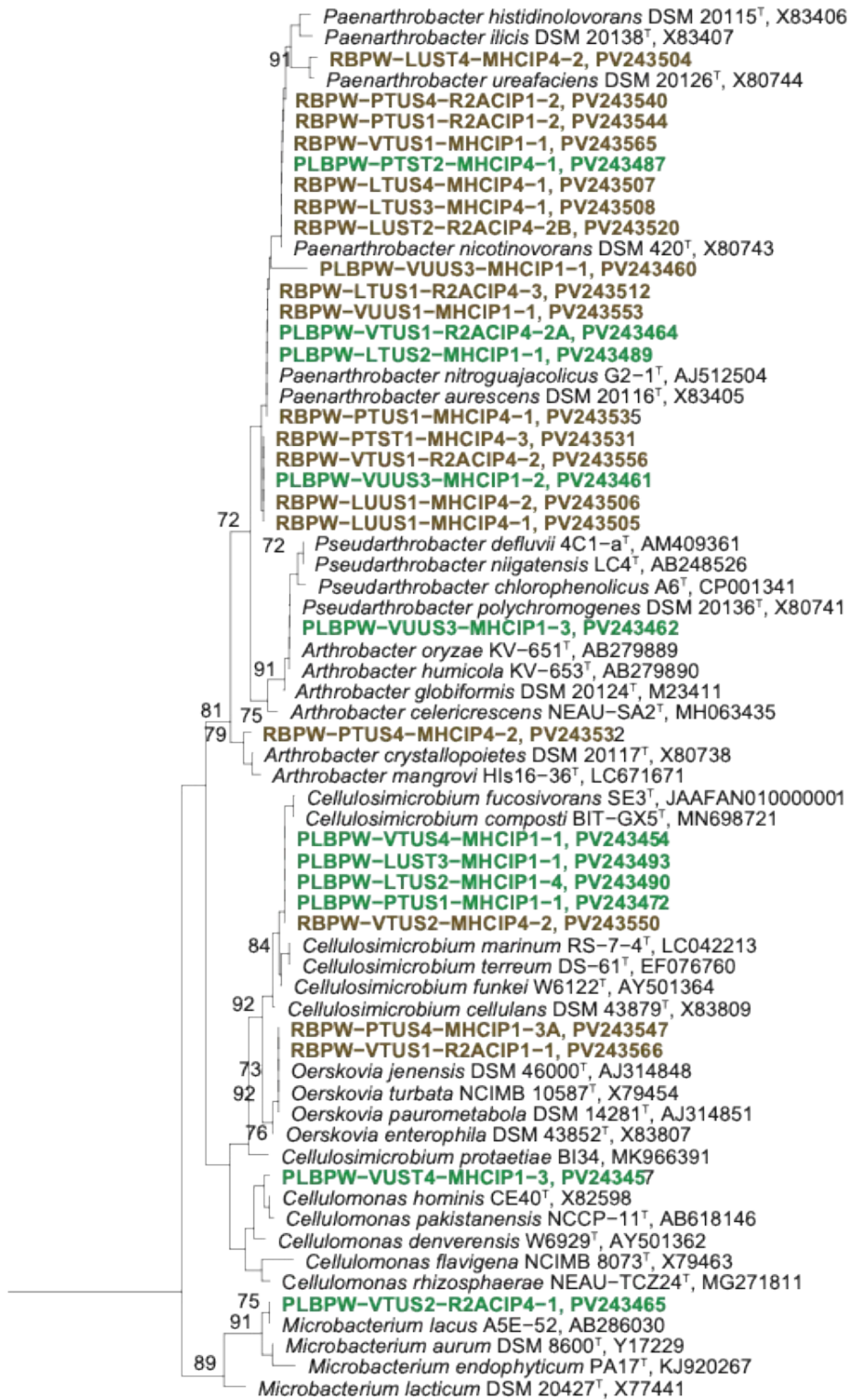
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C



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E



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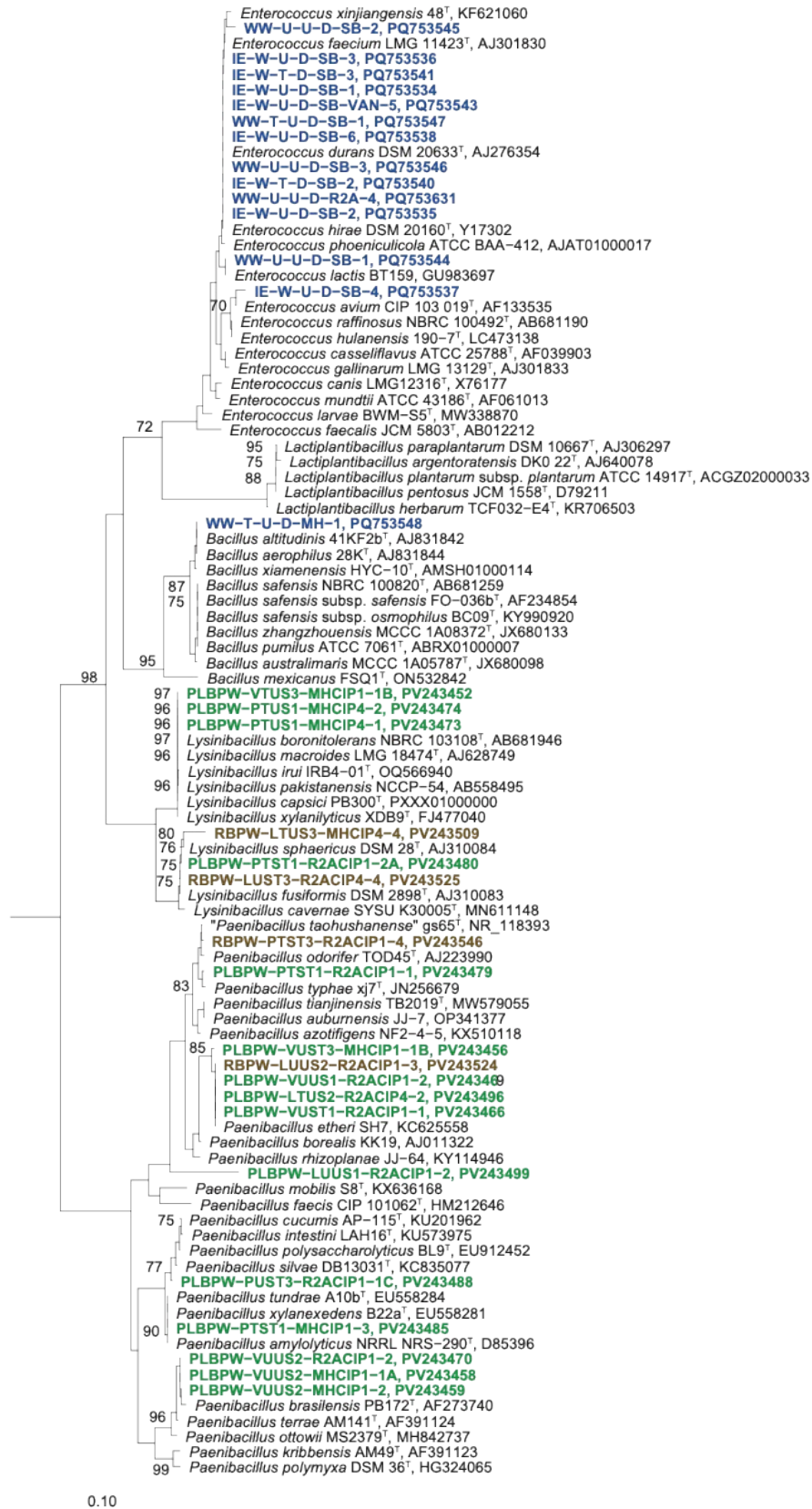


Figure S4. Phylogenetic placement of cultivated bacterial strains from this study based on partial 16S rRNA gene sequences. The phylogenetic tree was calculated in ARB in the LTP type strain database using the Neighbour joining method. Due to a better overview the calculated tree was split in subtrees. A/B: *Pseudomonadota* (*Gammaproteobacteria*); C: *Pseudomonadota* (*Alphaproteobacteria*); D: *Pseudomonadota* (*Betaproteobacteria*), *Campylobacterota*; *Bacteroidota*; E: *Actinomycetota*; F: *Bacillota*. Numbers at nodes: bootstrap values of 70% and larger. Scale bars: 0.1 substitutions per nucleotide position. Bold: sequences of strains cultivated from surface washed cilantro leaves (green coloured) and roots (brown colours) in this study or by irrigation water types (blue coloured) as described by Soufi *et al.* (2025).

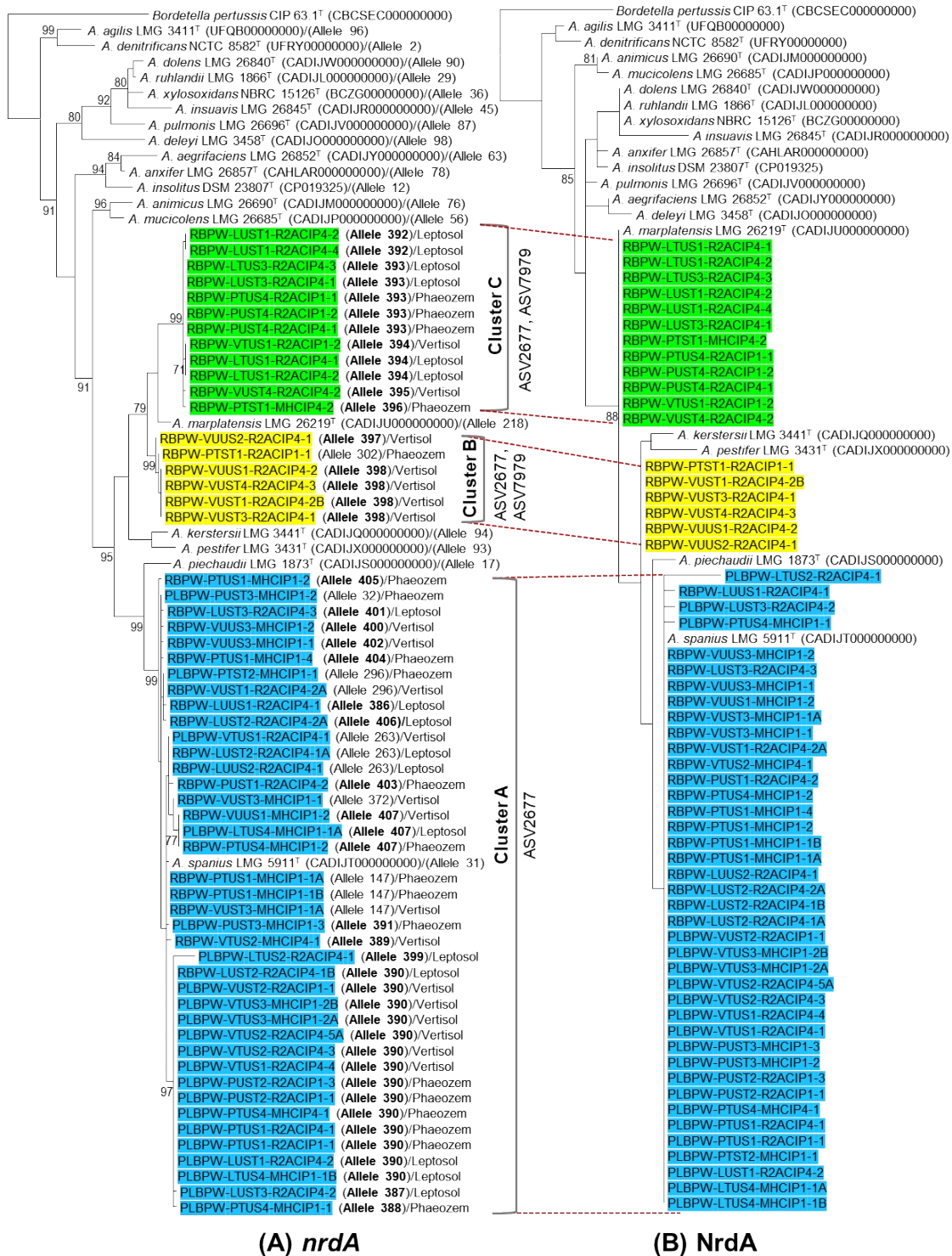


Figure S5. Phylogenetic placement of *Achromobacter* spp. strains within the genus *Achromobacter*. Phylogenetic analyses were performed using Maximum Likelihood method (Felsenstein 1981). Nucleotide based analysis was carried out by the General Time Reversible model (GTR; Nei and Kumar 2000). Amino acid-based analysis was done by the JTT matrix-based model (Jones, Taylor and Thornton. 1992). A discrete Gamma distribution was used to model evolutionary rate differences among sites [5 categories (+G)] assuming some sites to be evolutionarily invariable (+I). The trees of (A) *nrdA* and (B) *NrdA* were based on total of 765 nucleotides and 255 amino acids positions in the final datasets. All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated. Bootstrap values ($\geq 70\%$) after 100 resamplings are indicated at branch nodes; bar, number of substitutions per site. Evolutionary analyses were conducted in MEGA11 (Tamura *et al.*, 2021). Novel alleles from this study were given in bold font.

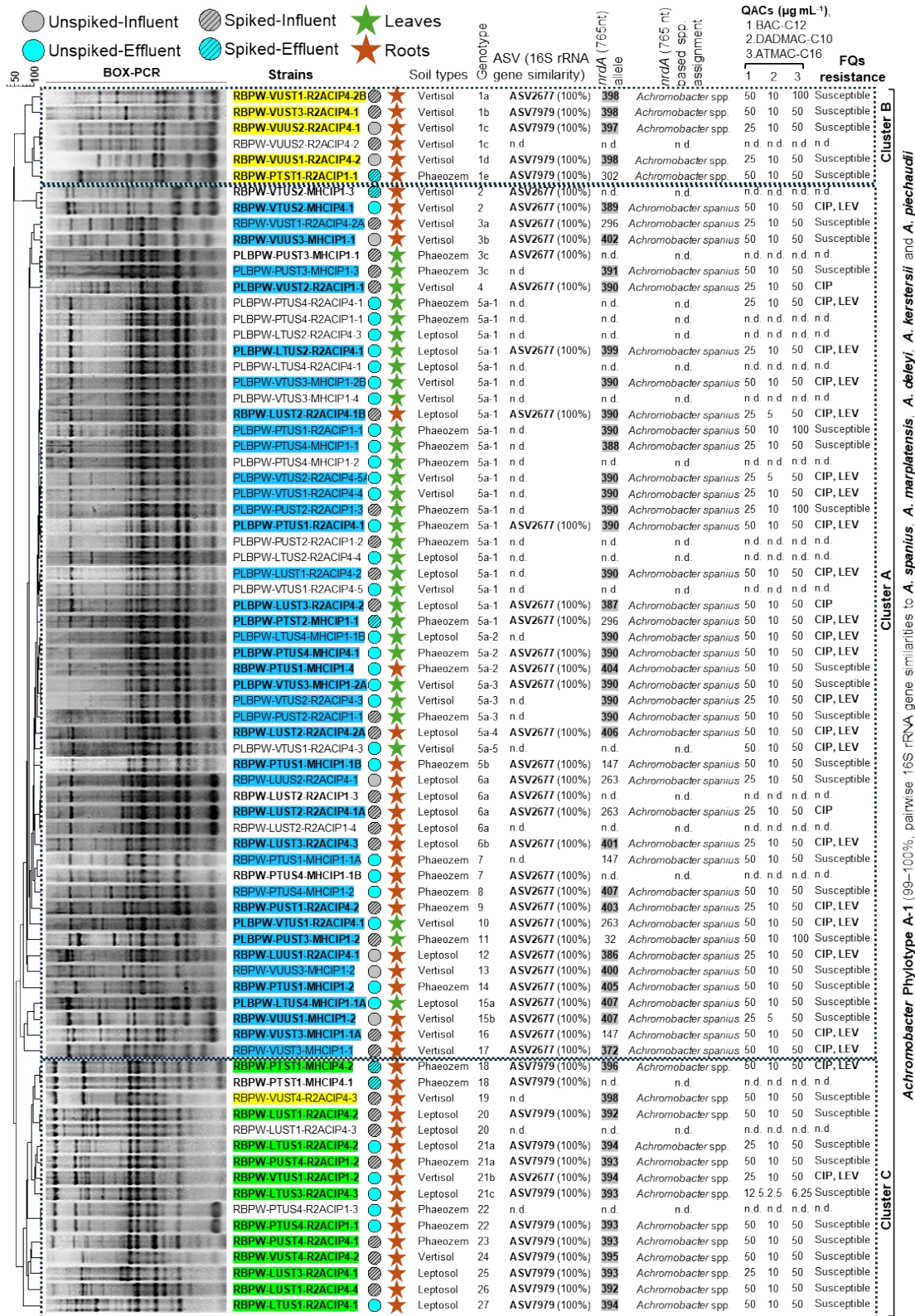


Figure S6. Genotyping of all *Achromobacter* spp. strains based on fingerprint patterns obtained by genomic fingerprinting using primers targeting BOX repetitive elements. Cluster analysis was performed in BioNumerics version 8 (Applied Maths, Belgium) using UPGMA clustering, based on a dissimilarity matrix generated by the Pearson correlation coefficient. Strains in bold font were identified by partial 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Species assignment as *Achromobacter spanius* was based on *nrdA* gene, and species assignment provided inside the brackets were based on identical BOX pattern (same genotype). Allele numbers with bold font represented novel alleles from this study.

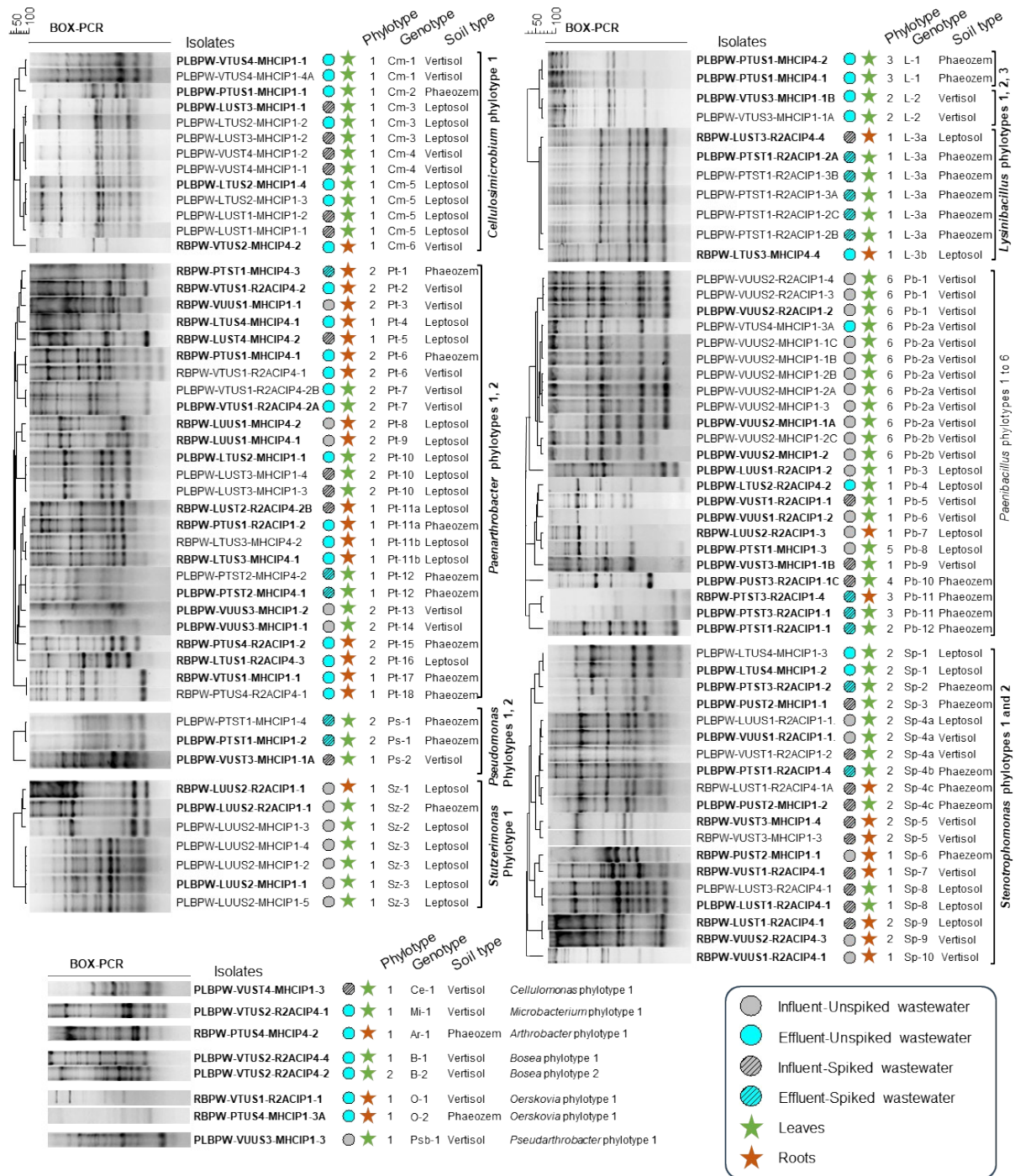


Figure S8. Genotyping of all bacterial phylotypes beside *Achromobacter* based on fingerprint patterns obtained by genomic fingerprinting using primer BOXA1R. Cluster analysis was performed in BioNumerics version 8 (Applied Maths, Belgium) using UPGMA clustering, based on a dissimilarity matrix generated by the Pearson correlation coefficient. Strains in bold font were identified by partial 16S rRNA gene sequencing.

Supplementary reference

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