Meta-analysis suggests the microbiome responds to Evolve and Resequence experiments
in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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ABSTRACT

Background: Experimental evolution has a long history of uncovering fundamental insights into evolutionary processes, but has largely neglected one underappreciated component--the microbiome. As eukaryotic hosts evolve, the microbiome may also evolve. However, the microbial contribution to host evolution remains poorly understood. Here, we re-analyzed genomic data to characterize the metagenomes from ten Evolve and Resequence (E&R) experiment in *Drosophila melanogaster* to determine how the microbiome changed in response to host selection.

Results: Bacterial diversity was significantly different in 5/10 studies, primarily in traits associated with metabolism or immunity. Duration of selection did not significantly influence bacterial diversity, highlighting the importance of associations with specific host traits. Additionally, we find that excluding reads from a facultative symbiont, *Wolbachia*, in the analysis of bacterial diversity changes the inference, raising important questions for future E&R experiments in the *D. melanogaster* microbiome.

Conclusions: Our genomic re-analysis suggests the microbiome often responds to host selection; thus, the microbiome may contribute to the response of *Drosophila* in E&R experiments. We outline important considerations for incorporating the microbiome into E&R experiments. The E&R approach may provide critical insights into host-microbiome interactions and fundamental insight into the genomic basis of adaptation.

Keywords: experimental evolution, Drosophila melanogaster, microbiome

Background

The microbiome has emerged as a key modulator of many organismal phenotypes [1–3].
While many studies show the impact of the microbiome on host phenotypes, the evolutionary
implications remain enigmatic [4–6]. The microbiome may contribute to host evolution in unique
ways. First, large effective population sizes and rapid generation times may enable microbes to
evolve more rapidly than hosts [7]. Second, the microbiome likely encodes distinct genes
compared to the host genome, potentially expanding the genomic reservoir to enable adaptation
to diverse selective pressures [3, 8, 9]. If hosts can leverage this microbial evolution, then the
microbiome may alter host evolution.
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Experimental evolution is a powerful tool to study the basis of adaptation, but remains
underutilized in the study of host-microbiome evolution [6, 10, 11]. One particularly well-suited
class of these studies is Evolve and Resequence (E&R) experiments [12–14]. E&R experiments
build on the long history of using artificial selection in evolutionary biology by incorporating new
advances in sequencing technologies to measure the genomic responses to selection. E&R
experiments are commonly performed in microbes like *E. coli* or yeast, as well as eukaryotes
like *Drosophila* [13]. In general, E&R experiments begin with large outbred populations. The
population is reared under a particular selective regime. The selective regime can take many
forms, ranging from threshold selection (e.g., egg size) or general survival under some sort of
stressor (e.g., low nutrition diets). In parallel, to control for genetic drift, control populations are
maintained in a benign (i.e., non-selective) environment. After a number of generations, the
control and evolved populations are sequenced to identify regions of the genomes associated
with the response to selection. For flies and other eukaryotic hosts, selection is explicitly applied
to host populations, but may also act upon the microbiome. When the microbiome influences
host phenotypic variation, microbial variation may also affect the response to selection in hosts.
Thus, the underappreciated interplay between host and microbial variation has the potential to
complicate the interpretation of selection responses based strictly on host genetic variation.
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Microbes may be underappreciated drivers of host phenotypic variation. For example,
Wolbachia infection can rescue deleterious phenotypes in homozygous mutant *Drosophila* lines
[15–17]. Body color in aphids is partially determined by *Rickettsia* secondary symbionts [18].
These phenotypic effects are not limited to single microbial species, but also include more
complex microbiomes. In cows, the microbiome explained 13% of methane emissions [19] and
26-42% of fatty acid composition of milk [20]. The microbiome also explained 33% of weight
gain in pigs [21]. For both pigs and cows, the microbiome contributed almost as much to traits
as host genetics. These examples suggest that the microbiome in many host taxa is an
important determinant in host phenotypes, and, in turn, may shape the selection response for

hosts. E&R experiments may thus be missing a substantial component that shapes the host
evolutionary response.
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Here, we analyzed the metagenomes from 10 E&R experiments in *Drosophila*
melanogaster. Many phenotypes in *D. melanogaster* are responsive to microbial variation,
including developmental, metabolic, and immunological traits [22–24]. Furthermore, E&R
experiments in *D. melanogaster* capture the evolutionary response to a wide range of different
selective pressures, ranging from life history to nutritional to pathogen challenges (Table 1).
Thus, E&R experiments in *D. melanogaster* provide a unique opportunity to study how the
microbiome responds to host selection. Our goal here is to explore these publicly available data
and using meta-analysis, characterize patterns in the metagenomes of these experiments, and
to highlighting potential future directions to show how E&Rs can identify signatures of selection
in host-microbiome evolution.
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Results
The 10 E&R experiments analyzed for metagenomes ranged in a variety of selective
pressures (see Table 1 for full description)--from life history (accelerated development [25],
delayed reproduction [26], increased lifespan [27], egg size [28]) to abiotic pressures
(desiccation resistance [29], fluctuating temperature [30], salt and heavy metal resistance [31])
to biotic pressures (starvation resistance [32], parasitoid resistance [33], viral resistance [34]).
All experiments had replicated control and evolved populations, although replication varied from
as few as three to as many as 18 (Table 1). Given the importance of the diet in shaping
microbial variation, we examined the reported characteristics of the diet from each study.
Importantly, for 9/10 studies, the reported diets did not differ between control and evolved
populations (Table 1). Only for the cadmium and salt resistance study [31] were diets different
for the entire lifespan between control and evolved populations. The starvation resistance study
[32] exerted starvation on adults for four days, and then flies that survived were returned to a
standard diet to propagate the next generation. While the diets may have varied between
studies, only 5/10 studies described the diet (Table 1). The lack of consistent dietary reporting is
a major challenge for *Drosophila*-microbiome studies [35]. As the majority of these studies do
not report specific dietary information, we are unable to explore the effects of diet across E&Rs
in this analysis.
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Because each experiment has replicated control and evolved populations, we compared
microbiomes within each experiment. In the E&R context, control populations represent the
standing genetic variation from which selection proceeds. Thus, by comparing control and
evolved populations within experiment, the effects of many different factors (e.g., local

laboratory environment, different diets, different fly populations) are controlled for in our

analysis. For each experiment, bacterial families were differentially abundant in control and

evolved populations (Fig. 1; Supp. Figs 1-10 for individual replicates for each experiment).

Control and evolved populations tended to harbor similar bacterial families across replicates,

within each experiment, as measured through beta-diversity (Jaccard similarity; Fig. 2, Table 2).

Only in two experiments did control and evolved populations differ in community membership--

accelerated development time and delayed reproduction. Bacterial alpha-diversity frequently

responded to experimental evolution (Fig. 3). Evolved populations often exhibited reduced

levels of bacterial diversity (4/10 studies), though in one case (accelerated development time)

bacterial diversity increased (Table 3 for statistical summary). Taken together, the microbiome

frequently shifts in response to host selection (i.e., differences in alpha-diversity), but does not

necessarily gain different microbes (i.e., no difference in beta-diversity).

Because the number of generations varied across E&R experiments (from 5-605

Drosophila generations; see Table 1), we also tested if change in microbial diversity was

correlated with duration of host selection. One hypothesis is that shorter selection experiments

provide less opportunity for the microbiome to change, while longer selection provides more

opportunity for increased microbial change. The change in microbial diversity was not correlated

with duration of selection after controlling for each study as a random effect (Fig. 4, r=0.05,

p=0.649). The specific nature of the selective pressure appears to be more important in driving

changes in the evolving microbiome as experiment explained 76% of variance in our model

(Table 4). For example, the evolved microbiome in the starvation resistance experiment

exhibited the greatest change in bacterial diversity. This may not be surprising given that the

Drosophila microbiome has been shown to be tightly linked to the regulation of metabolic

networks [22]. For other traits, like egg size, the microbiome did not significantly respond to

experimental evolution. This analysis suggests that the effect of selection on microbiome is

likely trait specific.

We note that, in seven out of ten studies, flies were infected with *Wolbachia* (Table 1).

Wolbachia was <2% of reads for three studies, but 48-98% for the other four studies. To better

understand the association between *Wolbachia* and the microbial response to selection, we

focused on these four studies with high relative abundance (Fig. 5). *Wolbachia* was significantly

more abundant for evolved populations in starvation and viral resistance, though also tended to

increase for desiccation resistance and fluctuating temperatures (Table 5 for statistical

summary). Furthermore, excluding *Wolbachia* reads from our analysis revealed different

inferences about the response of the evolved microbiome (Fig. 6, Table 3 for statistical

summary). First, in desiccation resistance, excluding *Wolbachia* reads reduced the difference in

diversity between control and evolved populations, but did not change our inference as no
significant difference was observed for the full bacterial community. Second, excluding
Wolbachia reads leads to an increase in environmentally acquired bacterial diversity in the
evolved lines under fluctuating temperatures. Third, excluding *Wolbachia* reads shows that
environmentally acquired bacteria did not respond to selection in starvation resistance as there
was no difference between control and evolved lines. Finally, in viral resistance, excluding
Wolbachia increased environmentally acquired bacterial diversity in evolved lines, while the
whole community showed reduced diversity. For the three studies with low *Wolbachia*
abundance, excluding *Wolbachia* reads did not impact estimates of diversity (Table 3). Taken
together, importantly, we suggest careful consideration towards considering inclusion or
exclusion of *Wolbachia* reads, as it will significantly alter the observed response to selection in
the microbiome.
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Discussion
To our knowledge, this is the first systematic examination of the microbiome in E&R
experiments in *D. melanogaster*. Given the many fundamental insights gained from *Drosophila*
in E&R experiments [13], our results here uncover another layer of variation previously
unexplored--the microbiome. The microbiome changed under some selective pressures, while it
was unaffected by others (Fig. 1, 3). Pressures closely linked to metabolic processes, like
starvation resistance or development time, or immunity affected microbial diversity the most. In
Drosophila, bacterial genes that increase glucose assimilation and fat storage are necessary for
bacterial establishment in the host gut, suggesting that hosts select for bacteria to enhance
metabolism [36–38]. Other pressures, like selection for increased lifespan, egg size, or abiotic
stressors (e.g temperature and heavy metals), did not substantially impact microbial diversity
(Fig. 3). It is not surprising that not all selection pressures shape the microbiome; indeed, in
Drosophila, traits such as activity level, sleep, and some aspects of nutrition are known to not be
influenced by the microbiome [39–42]. Our results suggest that the microbiome changes along
with host evolution in the E&R context – although we emphasize that the data we present are a
re-analysis of existing genomic data and not derived from new manipulative experiments. Our
results here contribute to a growing body of literature suggesting that when the microbiome
contributes to host phenotypic variation, the microbiome has the potential impact host
evolutionary trajectories [6, 43]. The evolutionary interplay between host and their microbiome
may play an important role in driving host evolution (beyond the explicit selective pressures
exerted in these experiments), and this level of variation should not be ignored in E&R analyses.
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We observed several generalities in the microbial response in E&R experiments. First,
the microbiome in both control and evolved populations was composed of similar bacterial

families (Fig. 1), suggesting selection did not lead to the complete replacement by different
bacterial taxa in evolved populations. In evolved populations, only a few of the bacterial families
increased in relative abundance. Furthermore, in all studies, replicate lines from both control
and evolved populations show similar community compositions, suggesting consistent effects
on the microbiome (Figure 2, Supp. Figs. 1-10). Bacteria that contribute to the host adaptation
may be more likely to persist under the selective pressure, increasing in abundance and
facilitating local adaptation. Second, the increase in abundance of particular bacterial families
also contributed to the frequent reduction in diversity. The reduction in diversity likely reflects
local adaptation in the microbiome, but potentially also the loss of genetic diversity in the host.
We expect that the rapid nature of E&R experiments, combined with strong selective pressures,
results in lower heterozygosity levels across the genome following selection in E&R experiments
[13]. Host genetics shapes a significant fraction of the fly microbiome [44], and perhaps the loss
of diversity in the host genome also contributed to the reduction in microbial diversity observed
here. While evolved populations have reduced heterozygosity, they still maintain substantial
heterozygosity across the genome. More research is necessary to understand how host
genome-wide diversity affects microbial diversity, or if only certain host loci are the key drivers
of changes in microbial diversity. Uncovering the specific host genetic loci that may be
associated with microbial changes is beyond the scope of this current study; however this is an
important factor to consider in future studies.
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For the evolved microbiomes, bacteria may have evolved different functions that hosts
can leverage. For example, the relative abundance of *Acetobacteraceae* is enriched in the
evolved populations for accelerated development time (Fig. 1A). *Acetobacter* produces acetic
acid that modulates the insulin/insulin-like signalling (IIS) growth factor pathway in flies [36].
More so, *Acetobacter* is frequently associated with accelerated development compared to other
bacteria [24, 36, 45, 46]. The IIS pathway may also integrate metabolic products from other
bacteria in the microbiome to help regulate fly metabolism. *Wolbachia* infection has been shown
to increase insulin signaling in *Drosophila* [17]. The increased *Anaplasmataceae* abundance in
the evolved populations may better regulate metabolic traits to mitigate selection in the
starvation resistance experiment (Fig. 1H). We hypothesize that increased relative abundance
for particular bacteria in the evolved populations corresponds to functional changes and is
suggestive of fitness benefits for the fly. Subsequently, flies transmit and preferentially associate
with the beneficial microbes. However, bacteria may also be increasing in the evolved
conditions independently of any host selection. To better understand how microbial evolution
interacts with host evolution, longitudinal sampling over the course of the evolutionary trajectory
is necessary. Identifying if beneficial adaptations emerge first in the microbiome and then alter

allele frequencies in host populations would provide key insights into how host-microbiome
interactions shape eukaryotic evolutionary processes.
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The temporal aspect of host-microbiome evolution is important, but underexplored and
thus poorly understood. Our analysis suggests that time did not significantly affect the difference
in diversity between control and evolved populations (Fig. 4). This might be because the
microbiome changes rapidly, within a single host generation, but the evidence for rapid change
is inconsistent. One study found that the microbiome was significantly different when flies were
starved or shifted to a high fat diet [47], while another study found no differences when shifted to
low or high sugar diets [48] within their lifespan. Finally, in flies mono-associated with
Lactobacillus reared in nutrient poor diets, *Lactobacillus* evolved beneficial mutations that
promoted fly growth in only 5 fly generations [49]. While most experiments did not manipulate
diets in our E&R analysis, the findings from these three studies suggest a range of timescales in
which the microbiome may evolve. Conducting longitudinal surveys of the microbiome during
experimental evolution is essential to understanding if and how the microbiome shapes host
evolutionary trajectories.
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Excluding *Wolbachia* reads from the analysis had substantial effects on the inference for
the observed response in the microbiome (Fig. 6). This change in inference often resulted from
an increase in *Wolbachia* abundance in evolved populations (Fig. 5). The phenotypic effects
exerted by *Wolbachia* on their hosts often depend on the degree of increase in abundance. For
example, higher abundance provided stronger cytoplasmic incompatibilities [50], increased
protection from viruses [51], or greater reductions in lifespan [52]. However, several factors may
actually confound the *Wolbachia* results observed in our meta-analysis here. Infection was only
assessed from pools of flies – we do not have access to individual level status (Table 1).
Relative abundance may reflect the average relative abundance within individuals or
heterogeneous infection patterns across individuals. We believe this second scenario of
heterogeneous infection across individuals is not likely for the four high *Wolbachia* studies we
examined in more detail. In a study that examined how *Wolbachia* infection spreads within
outbred populations, *Wolbachia* infection across individuals increased to 80% by 10 generations
and nearly 100% by 32 generations [53]. This suggests that for the four high Wolbachia studies,
most individuals were infected. However, for the three studies with low *Wolbachia* abundance, it
may be that *Wolbachia* infection status is highly heterogeneous across individuals or reflects
recent *Wolbachia* infections (or simply contamination). Fly age also affects *Wolbachia*
abundance, increasing in older flies [54]. Unfortunately, age of flies was only described in 3/10
studies (Table 1), but was always similar between control and evolved populations. Age might
affect our results if control and evolved populations were systematically collected at different

ages. We think this unlikely as it would also bias the genomic analysis as survival may differ

between control and evolved populations at different ages (e.g., viability selection). Overall,

designing experiments that explicitly control for *Wolbachia* infection is necessary to understand

its potential influence on host-microbiome evolution [14, 23].

Importantly, the data presented here cannot answer the question whether *Wolbachia*

influences the microbiome during fly evolution--rather, our analysis highlights several

complications of *Wolbachia*. There are both practical and biological reasons to exclude

Wolbachia from most microbiome studies as it is intracellular, low abundance in the gut, has

complex effects on host traits, overrepresentation in 16S rRNA profiling--all characteristics

distinct from the more common bacteria in the fly microbiome, like *Acetobacter* and

Lactobacillus [23, 55, 56]. Indeed, many studies in *D. melanogaster* either only use uninfected

flies [23, 39, 45, 46] or computationally remove *Wolbachia* reads during 16S rRNA microbiome

analysis [24, 57–60]. We emphasize the importance of considering and testing the potential

influence of *Wolbachia* on fly adaptation and trait variation. In the studies analyzed here, 7/10

studies used flies infected with *Wolbachia*, but only two explicitly mention *Wolbachia* infection

status in their flies--fluctuating temperature [30] and viral resistance [34]. Furthermore, only

Martins et al. [34] estimated the effects of Wolbachia on host phenotype by clearing *Wolbachia*

infections and then re-measuring phenotypes. Notably, no study assessed the change in

Wolbachia relative abundance. While our approach cannot assess the functional importance,

future studies could take a similar approach to Martins et al. by clearing *Wolbachia* infections

and re-phenotyping. We acknowledge there is currently ambiguity about including *Wolbachia* in

the microbiome as discussed here. We raise these points to highlight unintended potential

complications of *Wolbachia* infection, particularly for incorporating the microbiome into E&R

studies.

Furthermore, *Wolbachia* has a variety of effects on fly biology, ranging from reproductive

phenotypes to immunity to nutrition [61–63] and may substantially influence *Drosophila*

evolution [61, 64]. *Wolbachia* may also affect the microbiome. In a comparison of a single

genotype of flies infected and uninfected with *Wolbachia*, uninfected flies had twice as much

Acetobacter [55]. However, in the same study, a different fly genotype did not display this effect.

Yet, another study found that *Wolbachia* infection increased *Acetobacter* abundance [56]. These

effects are inconsistent and likely depend on interactions between fly genotype, *Wolbachia*

genotype, and environmental conditions. If *Wolbachia* interacts positively or negatively with

different bacteria, then *Wolbachia* may also influence how the microbiome shapes host

phenotypes and contributes to the host evolutionary trajectory. Taken together, the interactions

between *Wolbachia*, host, and microbiome are likely complicated. Many insects are infected

with *Wolbachia* or similar intracellular symbionts, and these microbe-microbe interactions may
have important implications for the host [65].

While this is the first examination of the microbiome in the E&R context, other studies
have implicated the microbiome in host adaptation in *D. melanogaster*. For example, as
previously mentioned, when flies were monoassociated with *Lactobacillus plantarum* in nutrient
poor environments, *L. plantarum* rapidly evolved symbiotic benefits to increase fly fitness [49].
Across replicates, the *de novo* appearance of several SNPs in the acetate kinase gene (*ackA*)
in *L. plantarum* promoted larval growth and nutrition, and subsequently, this *L. plantarum* variant
increased in frequency across fly generations. In another study, microbiome manipulation
shifted allele frequency in seasonally evolving *D. melanogaster* to match latitudinal patterns of
fly genetics [59]. Both of these studies rely on mono-associations with single microbes, but this
likely does not realistically capture host-microbe dynamics. Higher order interactions among
bacteria shape phenotypes in *Drosophila* [45, 46]. Interaction among microbes, like cross-
feeding of metabolites between *Acetobacter* and *Lactobacillus*, can enable mutually beneficial
growth for both bacteria species as well as increases bacterial growth, but critically also alters
fly metabolism [66]. Furthermore, even strain-level variation within a bacterial species can have
divergent effects on host phenotypes [67, 68]. The technical challenges associated with
accurately quantifying genetic variation across complex microbial populations necessitated
these mono-association experiments. Fortunately, new emerging methods are enabling the
identification of signatures of selection in complex microbiomes [69, 70]. Future experiments
with more complex and realistic microbiomes will show how microbe-microbe interactions
contribute to host adaptation.

Taken together with our analyses, both the host and microbiome likely evolve in
response to selection. More generally, other systems like *Brassica* and *Arabidopsis* have also
shown that selection on hosts changes the microbiome as well [71, 72]. In both these studies,
transplanting an evolved microbiome into unevolved hosts changed host phenotypes,
suggesting that the microbiome has the capacity to transfer adaptive potential. Similar
approaches could be applied to *Drosophila* following E&R experiments. Combined with the rich
genetic resources and experimental ease in *Drosophila*, microbiome transplants could illuminate
key processes underlying host-microbiome evolution.

We note the experiments analyzed here were not designed explicitly to test the role of
the microbiome in host adaptation. This may impact our results in several ways. None of these
studies were executed with quality control measures that can affect estimates of microbial
diversity, such as process blanks during DNA extraction, no template controls during PCR, and

batch effects during library preparation [69, 73–75]. While we applied an arbitrary cutoff to
remove contaminants, it is difficult to know how potential contaminants may affect the observed
results. However, contamination would have to differentially affect control and evolved
microbiomes to influence our results--which we believe is unlikely. Surveys of microbial diversity
in *D. melanogaster* typically use 16S rRNA profiling and find bacteria from the
Acetobacteraceae, *Firmicutes*, and *Enterobacteriaceae* [22, 24, 76]. Our mapping approach
detected these bacteria commonly associated with *D. melanogaster*, but also found abundant
methanogens and human commensal microbes (Fig. 1). One discrepancy could arise from our
metagenomic approach, which will often lead to different conclusions than 16S rRNA profiling
[69]. Mining metagenomes from existing whole genome sequencing is an emerging area of
research in the microbiome, and more work is necessary for biological interpretations [5, 69].
Finally, none of the flies sequenced in these studies were surface sterilized, and thus, the
metagenomes characterized here result from both the external body surface and internal gut
microbiome. However, the external microbiome is orders of magnitude less abundant than the
internal microbiome across the fly lifespan [77]. While we cannot distinguish between external
and internal microbiomes in this analysis, future studies should be clear if the total (external and
internal) or gut microbiomes were sequenced. Nevertheless, the consistent differences in the
microbiome across experiments shown here highlight how E&R experiments could provide
exemplary opportunities to investigate the genetic basis underlying host-microbiome evolution.
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Conclusions
For researchers interested in adapting the E&R approach for host-microbiome
interactions, we have several key recommendations. As we have suggested above, more
intensive temporal sampling to capture both microbial and host evolution is necessary. For
Drosophila-microbiome E&R experiments, researchers may wish to begin the experimental
evolution by standardizing the microbiome between control and evolved populations, like with
the 5-species bacterial community commonly used [23, 78] or fly feces to mimic natural, but
standardized microbial inoculation [79, 80]. Second, as much of the microbiome is determined
by the environment in flies, researchers need to use consistent brands of yeast, preservatives,
and other aspects of diet/environment. For example, different preservatives have different
effects on the microbiome and behavioral traits [40, 41]. *Drosophila* in different labs in the same
building (with the same kitchen for fly food) had different microbiomes [76], suggesting that
several aspects of the environment are important in shaping the fly microbiome. Finally, as
outlined by Goodrich et al. [81], microbiome research requires careful planning (with both
biological and technical controls), extensive documentation, and consistency. Importantly, we
are not advocating that every E&R experiment incorporates the microbiome, but note that the
microbiome may impact conclusions from E&R experiments. For researchers not explicitly

interested in the microbiome, our primary recommendation is to clear fly lines of *Wolbachia* to
avoid potential confounding effects between host genetic and *Wolbachia* evolution as others
have suggested [14, 23].

In conclusion, the microbiome frequently responded to selection in ten E&R studies in *D.*
melanogaster. Our results here associate the microbiome in the host response to some
selective pressures, but more work is necessary to partition the relative effects of host genetics
and microbial evolution. We observed large differences in bacterial diversity between control
and evolved populations, but a key question remains--if and how the microbiome alters the host
response to selection. Combining E&R experiments with approaches from quantitative genetics
will be especially fruitful to dissecting the microbial contribution to host evolution [6]. Tracking
the rate of microbial evolution over multiple timepoints during fly adaptation will be particularly
helpful to elucidate whether the microbiome shapes the host evolutionary trajectory. Partitioning
the microbial effects on host phenotype during adaptation may show that microbiome facilitates
or impedes host adaptation. Reciprocal transplants over the course of host adaptation will also
demonstrate how the microbiome modifies host evolution. Our results here suggest that the
microbiome might influence host evolution, but do not prove it. To measure how the microbiome
affects host evolutionary trajectory, combining several of these techniques will be necessary.
Overall, incorporating the microbiome into E&R experiments will provide fundamental insights
into host-microbiome evolution.

Methods

We searched the literature for E&R experiments in *D. melanogaster* where replicated
control and selection lines were derived from outbred populations and raw .fastq data were
publicly available*.* We found 10 studies that met these criteria. Our analyses captured a wide
range of different selection pressures, from life-history traits to abiotic and pathogen pressures,
enabling generalizations about the microbiome response to host selection*.* In all cases, the E&R
approach sequenced pools of individuals from different selection regimes, but each E&R study
had different levels of replication (summarized in Table 1). We report the diet as described in
the publication for each study (Table 1). While most studies did not publish specifics about the
diet, we noted the diets that differed between control and evolved populations (only one study
[31]); if the publication did not specify, we reasonably assumed diets were the same. These
were the only data available from published E&R experiments in *D. melanogaster* at the time of
submission.

Raw sequences were cleaned using Trimmomatic [82] to remove sequencing adapters,
remove low quality reads (average quality per base > 15), and drop reads shorter than 20 bases

long. Then, bacterial reads were assigned at the family level using Kraken [83]. Relative

abundance of bacterial families were determined using Bracken [84]. We removed any low

abundance bacterial family that was assigned fewer than 100 reads as potential contaminants.

Bacterial data was analyzed using the phyloseq package [85]. To assess if bacterial

communities were fully sampled, rarefaction was performed (step size =1000) using ggrare [86].

Rarefaction curves indicate communities were fully sampled in all experiments (Supp. Figs 1-

10). Beta-diversity to test differences in community composition between control and evolved

populations was performed using PERMANOVA on Jaccard similarity. Bacterial alpha-diversity

was calculated using the Shannon diversity index. For each experiment, each line was

subsampled with replacement to the minimum number of reads in the experiment. Diversity was

calculated on this rarefied library. The subsampling was performed 100 times to minimize

stochasticity and artificial inflation of diversity associated with rarefaction [87]. Diversity was

then averaged across the 100 subsampling efforts and compared between control and evolved

lines. We determined significance using Welch's t-test. We then tested whether two factors

were sufficient to explain variation in microbial diversity between control and evolved lines:

duration of selection (i.e., the number of fly generations) and *Wolbachia* infection.

First, the duration of selection ranged from 5-605 generations. We reasoned that

selection response in the microbiome might be influenced by length of selection (the longer the

selection, the more divergent the microbiome between control and evolved lines). To test if the

duration of selection was correlated with changes in microbial diversity, we first calculated the

average microbial diversity for the control lines. We then subtracted the diversity of each

evolved line from the averaged control diversity to calculate change in diversity. Because we

had positive and negative changes in diversity, we used the absolute difference. We performed

a linear regression between change in diversity and the log10 duration of selection, modeled as

$Y = a + b + e$, where Y= change in diversity, a = log10 duration of selection, b = random effect of

experiment, and e = residual error. Lme4 was used to perform the regression in R [88].

Given that *Wolbachia* reads frequently make up the majority of the microbial reads

(Supp. Table 1), we examined if *Wolbachia* relative abundance differed between control and

evolved populations. We focused on only the four studies with *Wolbachia* relative abundance

>2%. Statistical significance was assessed with a Kruskal-Wallis test on Wolbachia relative

abundance. Second, we tested whether or not excluding *Wolbachia* reads influenced bacterial

diversity. *Wolbachia* is a facultative, intracellular bacteria transmitted exclusively from mother to

offspring. *Wolbachia* has no known environmental reservoir and cannot exist outside of the host.

These intracellular, maternally transmitted bacteria have the same evolutionary trajectory as the

host genome. The shared transmission mode with the host genome may change the response
to selection compared to the other portions of the microbiome that are acquired from the
environment [5, 6]. Furthermore, recent studies suggest that *Wolbachia* may interact with other
bacteria in the microbiome [55, 56]. Finally, many studies in *D. melanogaster* exclude
Wolbachia reads when analyzing microbial communities [24, 57–60], leaving an open question
as to if *Wolbachia* is considered part of the *Drosophila* microbiome. To test the effect of
Wolbachia on our inference, we removed the Anaplasmataceae family (all of which are
Wolbachia in flies) reads from the communities, and then recalculated Shannon diversity
through the same procedure as above. Libraries were rarified to the new minimum size following
Wolbachia removal. We compared if bacterial communities without *Wolbachia* reads
significantly differed between control and evolved lines using a t-test.

List of abbreviations: E&R: Evolve and Resequence; IIS: insulin/insulin-like signalling

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695 ***Supplementary information***
696 Supplementary information accompanies this manuscript.
697 Additional file 1: Supp. Table 1: Relative abundance of Wolbachia in each of the 10 E&R
698 experiments.
699
700 Additional file 2: Supp. Table 2: List of accession numbers for raw genomic data from the 10
701 E&R experiments.
702
703 Additional file 3: Supp. Figures 1-10: Distribution of sequencing depth, rarefaction curves, and
704 relative abundance of bacteria (family-level) for each of the 10 E&R experiments.
705
706 Additional file 4: Supp. Figure 11: Estimates of random effects (i.e., E&R experiment) from linear
707 model to test the correlation between microbial change and duration of selection.

716   **Table 1: Evolve & Resequence studies analyzed**

Pressure	Evolved Phenotype	Duration of Selection (generations)	*Wolbachia* (% reads, min-max)	Experimental design (D: diet, S: sequencing)
Accelerated development[25]	Flies developed from egg to adult 20% faster than control	605	Infected (0.01-1.40%)	D: Banana, corn syrup, agar. S: 25 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 4 control and 4 evolved.
Delayed reproduction[26]	Age of reproduction increased from 28 to 40 days	50	Uninfected (0%)	D: Not specified. S: 100 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 18 control and 18 evolved.
Increased lifespan[27]	Median lifespan was increased from 4 weeks to 7-8 weeks	48	Uninfected (0%)	D: Agar, yeast, sugar, oatmeal. S: 250 males + 250 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 3 control and 3 evolved.
Egg size[28]	Egg size was selected ~20% larger and smaller eggs	16	Infected (0.02-0.11%)	D: Not specified. S: 100 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 3 control, 3 small, 3 large.
Desiccation resistance[29]	Desiccation resistance (hrs until 80% mortality) increased 70-80%	48	Infected (70.2-89.7%)	D: Yeast, cornmeal, agar. S: 100 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 3 control and 3 evolved.
Fluctuating temperature[30]	Survival under fluctuating temps 18-28ºC daily	37	Infected (48.7-75.1%)	D: Standard media. S: 500 females (~7 days old) pooled for each line at different time points; beginning, middle, and end; 3 control and 3 evolved--only compared beginning and end.
Salt + cadmium resistance[31]	Survival in constant, spatially, temporally varying salt and/or cadmium	42	Infected (0.01-0.03%)	D: Yeast, cornmeal, sugar agar. Diet differed between control and evolved. S: 70 females (age not reported) pooled from each line; 3 control lines and 5 lines for each selection pressure.
Starvation resistance[32]	Starvation resistance (hrs to death w/o food) increased ~25%	83	Infected (53.0-78.4%)	D: Not specified. S: 100 females (4 days old) pooled for each line; 3 control and 3 evolved lines.
Parasitoid resistance[33]	Resistance to parasitoid increased from 20% to 50%	5	Uninfected (0%)	D: Not specified. S: 50 females (~5 hrs old) pooled from each line; 16 control and 16 evolved lines.
Viral resistance[34]	Resistance to Drosophila C virus increased from 25% to 75%	20	Infected (95.1-98.1%)	D: Standard cornmeal-agar. S: 200 individuals (age not reported) pooled from each line; 4 control, 4 procedure control, 4 evolved.

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Table 2: Summary statistics for beta-diversity (Jaccard similarity)

Accelerated development time						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.30394	0.303937	40.862	0.89098	0.022*
Residuals	5	0.03719	0.007438		0.10902	
Total	6	0.34113			1	

Delayed reproduction						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.09902	0.099022	3.9017	0.10294	0.008**
Residuals	34	0.86288	0.025379		0.89706	
Total	35	0.9619			1	

Increased lifespan						
	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F	N.Perm	Pr(>F)
Groups	1	0.0031624	0.0031624	1.846	719	0.3014
Residuals	4	0.0068525	0.0017131			

Egg size						
	Df	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F	N.Perm	Pr(>F)
Groups	1	0.0020672	0.0020672	0.7579	999	0.434
Residuals	7	0.0190935	0.0027276			

Desiccation resistance						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.044141	0.044141	1.8976	0.32176	0.2
Residuals	4	0.093047	0.023262		0.67824	
Total	5	0.137188			1	

Fluctuating temperature						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.11007	0.11008	1.9823	0.19858	0.203
Residuals	8	0.44424	0.05553		0.80142	
Total	9	0.55432			1	

Salt + cadmium resistance						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.05652	0.056519	2.1164	0.09155	0.085
Residuals	21	0.56081	0.026705		0.90845	
Total	22	0.61733			1	

Starvation resistance						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.019872	0.019872	2.0937	0.34359	0.2
Residuals	4	0.037964	0.009491		0.65641	
Total	5	0.057836			1	

Parasitoid resistance						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.04295	0.04295	0.64716	0.02112	0.533
Residuals	30	1.99099	0.066366		0.97888	
Total	31	2.03394			1	

Viral resistance						
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R2	Pr(>F)
group	1	0.0384	0.0384	2.673	0.21092	0.088
Residuals	10	0.14366	0.014366		0.78908	
Total	11	0.18206			1	

722   Table 3: Statistical differences between control and evolved microbiomes

Pressure	test stat	df	significance
accelerated development	t = -8.116	df = 3.009	p-value = 0.004
accelerated development without *Wolbachia*	t = -5.511	df = 3.052	p-value = 0.011
delayed reproduction	t = 3.558	df = 33.652	p-value = 0.001
increased lifespan	t = 1.364	df = 3.172	p-value = 0.261
egg size	t = 0.213	df = 3.105	p-value = 0.845
egg size without *Wolbachia*	t = 0.250	df = 3.077	p-value = 0.818
desiccation resistance	t = 2.883	df = 2.224	p-value = 0.090
desiccation resistance without *Wolbachia*	t = 0.394	df = 3.985	p-value = 0.714
fluctuating temperature	t = 1.238	df = 7.996	p-value = 0.251
fluctuating temperature without *Wolbachia*	t = -4.135	df = 6.886	p-value = 0.005
salt and cadmium resistance	t = 1.431	df = 2.287	p-value = 0.274
salt and cadmium resistance without W*olbachia*	t = 1.431	df = 2.287	p-value = 0.274
starvation resistance	t = 10.448	df = 2.065	p-value = 0.008
starvation resistance without *Wolbachia*	t = -1.413	df = 2.903	p-value = 0.255
parasitoid resistance	t = 2.179	df = 28.394	p-value = 0.038
viral resistance	t = 4.265	df = 9.829	p-value = 0.002
viral resistance without *Wolbachia*	t = -2.851	df = 7.193	p-value = 0.024

724   Table 4: Summary statistics of mixed model to assess the relationship between duration of

725   selection and change in diversity. Random effect was modeled as experiment (i.e., accelerated

726   development time, starvation resistance, etc.).

Fixed effects			
	Estimate (std. error)	T-value	Pr (> | t |)
Intercept	-0.185 (0.162)	-1.137	0.291
log10.length	0.046 (0.097)	0.473	0.649
Random effects			
	Variance	Std. deviation	
Experiment	0.0225	0.1500	
Residual	0.007	0.084	
Summary			
Observations		79	
Log Likelihood		66.128	
Akaike Inf. Crit.		-124.256	
Bayesian Inf. Crit.		-114.779	

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729 Table 5: Statistical differences in *Wolbachia* relative abundance between control (C) and
730 evolved (E) populations.

Experiment	C min	C max	C avg	E min	E max	E avg
Desiccation resistance						
Relative abundance	0.775	0.906	0.849	0.926	0.936	0.932
Kruskal-Wallis X^2 = 3.8571, df = 1, p-value = 0.04953						
Fluctuating temperature						
Relative abundance	0.488	0.757	0.628	0.685	0.752	0.723
Kruskal-Wallis X^2 = 1.0519, df = 1, p-value = 0.3051						
Starvation resistance						
Relative abundance	0.837	0.854	0.844	0.918	0.943	0.932
Kruskal-Wallis X^2 = 3.8571, df = 1, p-value = 0.04953						
Viral resistance						
Relative abundance	0.955	0.977	0.968	0.98	0.984	0.981
Kruskal-Wallis X^2 = 7.3846, df = 1, p-value = 0.006578						

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Fig 1: Relative abundance for bacterial families from the 10 E&R experiments. Each experiment

was grouped separately; the colors represent different bacterial families in each. Only bacteria

that comprised >1% of total reads were visualized.

Fig. 2: PCoA plots for beta-diversity using Jaccard similarity for the 10 E&R experiments show

the majority of control and evolved populations harbor similar bacterial families. Each

experiment was grouped separately; grey color represents control populations, and the colored

points represent evolved populations. Each sequenced pool is shown as a point with lines

connecting to the centroid based on PCoA clustering. The two studies (accelerated

development time and delayed reproduction) with significantly divergent microbiomes between

control and evolved populations are outlined in colored boxes. P-values are shown for all

studies.

Fig. 3: Bacterial diversity between control and evolve populations in 10 E&R experiments. 5/10

experiments had significantly different bacterial diversity (denoted with the colored outline and

asterisk). Bacterial diversity was calculated at the family level using Shannon diversity metric.

Comparisons between control and evolved populations were within each experiment. Each point

represents a pool of sequenced flies showing replication within control and evolved groups, and

the details of how many flies/experiments are described in Table 1. Color represents each

experiment.

Fig. 4: Evolved bacterial diversity was not significantly correlated with duration of selection after

controlling for differences between experiments as random effects (r = 0.05, p=0.649). Random

effects (experiment) explained 76% of variation (see Supp. Fig. 11). Generations of selection

range from 5 generations (parasitoid resistance) to > 500 generations (accelerated

development). Each point represents the difference between average control diversity and each

pool of evolved flies for each experiment. Points are colored by experiment.

Fig. 5: *Wolbachia* relative abundance tended to increase in evolved populations for four studies,

but was only statistically significant in starvation resistance and viral resistance (denoted with

colored box and asterisk). Comparisons were made within each study between control and

evolved populations. Each point represents a pool of flies.

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Fig. 6: Differences in bacterial diversity when including (full bacterial community) or excluding

Wolbachia reads in four of the E&R experiments analyzed. Each point represents bacterial

diversity for a pool of sequenced flies. Scale bars are different because diversity comparisons

are within either the full community or *Wolbachia* removed groupings for each experiment. The

four experiments highlight how the difference between control and evolved microbiomes

depends on whether *Wolbachia* is included. For example, for starvation resistance, diversity for

the whole community is reduced when *Wolbachia* is included. However, when *Wolbachia* is

excluded, there is no response in bacterial diversity between control and evolved populations.

Full summary of differences can be found in Table 2.

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The figure legend shows:
- accelerated development time
- delayed reproduction
- increased lifespan
- egg size
- desiccation resistance
- fluctuating temperature
- salt and cadium resistance
- starvation resistance
- parasitoid resistance
- viral resistance

$r^2_{log10.selection} = 0.02$
$r^2_{experiment} = 0.76$

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excluded, there is no response in bacterial diversity between control and evolved populations.

Full summary of differences can be found in Table 2.

Supp. Table 1: Relative abundance of Wolbachia in each experiment. For each experiment, the minimum, max, and average percentage of Anaplasmataceae reads is presented for both control (C) and evolved (E) lines, as well as total average for the experiment.

Study	C-Wolb avg	C-Wolb min	C-Wolb max	E-Wolb avg	E-Wolb min	E-Wolb max	Average
Accelerated development	0.02	0.02	0.03	1.32	1.24	1.41	0.67
Delayed reproduction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Increased lifespan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Egg size	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.12	0.05
Desiccation resistance	76.86	70.21	81.53	88.86	88.43	89.72	82.86
Fluctuating temps	62.51	48.69	75.35	72.22	68.45	75.15	65.42
Salt + cadmium resist	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Starvation resistance	56.21	53.03	58.22	75.48	72.30	78.37	65.85
Parasitoid resistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Viral resistance	96.39	95.20	97.31	97.72	97.57	98.09	96.84

Supp. Table 2: Accession numbers for E&R experiments

Experiment	*Citation*	*Accession*
Accelerated development time	Burke Nature 2010	SRP002024
Delayed reproduction	Remolina Evolution 2012	SRA038471
Increased lifespan	Michalak BMC Genomics 2017	SRP092765
Egg size	Jha MBE 2015	PRJNA281953
Desiccation resistance	Kang BMC Genomics 2016	SRP066877
Fluctuating temperature	Orozco-terWengel Molecular Ecology 2012	ERP001290
Salt + cadmium resistance	Huang PLOS Genetics 2014	PRJNA257179
Starvation resistance	Hardy MBE 2018	PRJNA315172
Parasitoid resistance	Jalvingh PRSB 2014	PRJNA170455
Viral resistance	Martins PNAS 2014	ERX409654

Supp. Fig. 1: Accelerated development time. The control population is in grey, while dark red denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the seven pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth was lower for the evolved populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 2: Delayed reproduction. The control population is in grey, while red denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the 36 pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth tended to be lower for the evolved populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. *Wolbachia* was not present in this study.

Supp. Fig. 3: Increased lifespan. The control population is in grey, while dark orange denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the six pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth was lower for the evolved populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. *Wolbachia* was not present in this study.

Supp. Fig. 4: Egg size. The control population is in grey, while orange denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the nine pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth was tended to be lower for the control populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 5: Desiccation resistance. The control population is in grey, while dark yellow denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the six pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 6: Fluctuating temperature. The control population is in grey, while yellow denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the 10 pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth was lower for the control populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 7: Salt and cadmium resistance. The control population is in grey, while green denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the 23 pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled, even though sequencing depth was lower for the evolved populations. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. While *Wolbachia* was present in this study, it was below 1% relative abundance.

Supp. Fig. 8: Starvation resistance. The control population is in grey, while teal denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the six pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 9: Parasitoid resistance. The control population is in grey, while blue denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the 24 pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. *Wolbachia* was not present in this study.

Supp. Fig. 10: Viral resistance. The control population is in grey, while purple denotes the evolved populations. A) Histogram of sequencing depth for the 12 pools in this study. B) Rarefaction curves suggest that bacterial communities were fully sampled. C) Relative abundance of each pool shows bacterial taxa with each color. D-F) Histogram of sequencing depth, rarefaction, and relative abundance of bacterial families following removal of *Wolbachia* reads.

Supp. Fig. 11: Estimates of random effects for each experiment. Points show conditional means for the random effects and lines show +/- 2 conditional SD.