

1 Microbial Community Structure and Diversity of Shrimp 2 Paste at Different Fermentation Stages

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9 **Abstract**

10 High-throughput sequencing was used to reveal the highly diverse bacterial
11 populations in shrimp paste at different fermentation stages. We studied three stages of
12 fermentation and obtained 448,916 reads. Using this approach, we revealed the presence
13 of 30 phyla, 55 classes, 86 orders, 206 families and 695 genera of bacteria in the shrimp
14 paste. Shrimp paste in fermentation metaphase had a more diverse microbiota than that in
15 fermentation prophase and fermentation anaphase. Diversity appeared greatest in
16 fermentation anaphase. The four dominant phyla were *Proteobacteria*, *Firmicutes*,
17 *Actinobacteria*, and *Bacteroidetes*. The most common genera were *Psychrobacter*,
18 *Halomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Alteribacillus*, and *Lactococcus*. Their content varied at different
19 stages of fermentation. All the microbiome presented a variety of changes in the
20 microbial diversity of shrimp paste.

21 **Importance**

22 Most research on the microbial diversity of shrimp paste has focused on the shrimp
23 culture environment, or the chemical composition and sensory attributes of the paste.

24 Little research has been conducted on the microbial diversity and composition of shrimp
25 paste. The relationship between microbes and the flavor and quality of shrimp paste has
26 thus been unknown. We therefore analyzed the microbial composition and variation of
27 shrimp paste at different stages of fermentation. The dominant bacteria in fermentation
28 prophase, metaphase, and anaphase were identified. Our preliminary findings give some
29 insight into which microbes contribute to the flavor of shrimp paste and suggest how to
30 improve its flavor. In addition, our findings are relevant to optimizing the production of
31 shrimp paste and guaranteeing its quality and safety.

32 **Introduction**

33 Shrimp paste is widely consumed as a condiment and used as an ingredient
34 throughout China and the south-east Asian region (1-2) .It is normally produced by
35 fermenting small shrimp (*Acetes vulgaris*) with salt at a ratio of 5:1 (shrimp to salt, w/w).
36 The mixture is thoroughly blended or homogenized before being compacted in a
37 container. Shrimp paste is rich in protein, calcium, carotenoids, and chitin (3-4). It
38 exhibits anti-oxidant activity (5), lowers cholesterol and blood pressure, and enhances the
39 body's immune response and other biological activity (6). It thus has great potential as a
40 functional food. Shrimp paste produced using different fermentation technologies has
41 different fermentation cycles. Some pastes are fermented for 3-6 months (7), some for 2
42 months (8) and some for only 1 month, which is traditional in China (9). We took 1
43 month as a study period, and divided it into three fermentation stages: prophase,
44 metaphase, and anaphase, each of which was 10 days long.

45 High-throughput sequencing allows the simultaneous sequencing of millions of
46 DNA molecules, providing detailed and comprehensive analysis of the transcriptome and
47 genome of species (10). Compared to traditional sequencing methods, such as the
48 analysis of 16S rRNA genes through denaturing or temperature gradient gel
49 electrophoresis (DGGE/TGGE) (11), single-stranded conformation polymorphisms
50 (SSCP) (12) and Sanger sequencing (13), high-throughput sequencing has been widely
51 used in the analysis of the microbial populations of many fermented foods, including Fen
52 liquor, cheese, and kefir grains (14-17) due to its advantages of high read length, high
53 accuracy, high throughput, and unbiasedness (18).

54 Naturally fermented seafood usually contains microorganisms related to the raw
55 materials and the growth environment of the seafood (19). Bacteria are the main
56 microorganisms responsible for seafood fermentation. Research on the microbial
57 diversity of shrimp paste has mostly concentrated on the culture environment of shrimp
58 (20-22) and the chemical composition and sensory attributes of shrimp paste (23). There
59 has been little research into the microbial community structure and diversity in shrimp
60 paste. Studying the microbial diversity at different stages of the fermentation of shrimp
61 paste is of great significance for the dissemination of shrimp paste knowledge, the
62 predictability of the flavor of shrimp paste, and the control of shrimp paste production.

63 **RESULTS**

64 **Sequencing and bioinformatic analysis.**

65 DNA was extracted from shrimp paste at 11 stages of fermentation. Following total

66 genomic DNA extraction, amplicons of V3-V4 16S rRNA genes were generated, and
67 448,916 reads were obtained through high-throughput sequencing, corresponding to
68 153,766 reads from fermentation prophase, 169,915 reads from fermentation metaphase
69 and 125,235 reads from fermentation anaphase. Species diversity and richness were
70 calculated for each time point (Table 1). ACE values and Chao1 values reflect
71 community richness. Shannon values, Simpson values, and coverage values reflect
72 community diversity. Shrimp paste in fermentation prophase had a less diverse
73 microbiota than that in fermentation metaphase. Diversity appeared greatest in Stage 9 in
74 late fermentation, but it reduced again in the next stage.

75 **Microbial composition of shrimp paste as revealed by high-throughput** 76 **sequencing**

77 Phylogenetic assignment (Fig. 1) of high-throughput sequence data revealed the
78 presence of bacteria mainly corresponding to four phyla: *Proteobacteria*, *Firmicutes*,
79 *Actinobacteria*, and *Bacteroidetes*. As can be seen in Figure 1, *Proteobacteria* was
80 dominant in the fermenting shrimp paste, reaching 55.59%. The content of *Firmicutes*
81 was slightly lower than that of *Proteobacteria*, accounting for 35.3%. *Actinobacteria* and
82 *Bacteroidetes* were present at the lowest levels (3.09% and 4.89%, respectively).

83 The proportion of *Proteobacteria* in the fermentation prophase was higher than in
84 metaphase and anaphase. *Firmicutes* was most abundant in the metaphase stage, and
85 present at the lowest levels in the prophase stage. *Bacteroidetes* showed a gradually
86 decreasing trend across the three stages. The content of *Actinobacteria* and

87 *Verrucomicrobia* differed little across the three stages. *Planctomycetes* and *Fusobacteria*
88 were more abundant in the fermentation prophase than in metaphase or anaphase, and
89 were present at extremely low levels in late fermentation (Table 2).

90 At the genus level, *Psychrobacter* was the dominant microorganism, accounting for
91 23.78%, followed by *Halomonas* at 9.46% (Fig. 1). During the whole fermentation
92 process, levels of *Psychrobacter* decreased (Fig.2), and the proportion of *Psychrobacter*
93 was greater in fermentation prophase than in metaphase or anaphase (Table 2).
94 *Halomonas* was not found in Stage 1 to Stage 4, but began to appear in Stage5, and
95 gradually increased and stabilized (Fig. 2). This growth pattern may be related to the salt
96 concentration of the shrimp paste during fermentation. Levels of *Bacillus* slowly
97 increased from Stage 1 to Stage 3, began to decrease at Stage 4 and then remained
98 essentially unchanged (Fig. 2). In general, *Bacillus* was most abundant in the
99 pre-fermentation period (Table 2). *Alteribacillus* began to appear at a low level at Stage 2,
100 gradually increased to Stage 8, then gradually reduced (Fig. 2). Its content was highest in
101 fermentation metaphase than in the other two periods (Table 2). *Lactococcus* began to
102 reduce after Stage 3 and then remained unchanged. After Stage 9 it decreased
103 significantly (Fig. 2). The proportion of *Lactococcus* declined across the three
104 fermentation phases (Table 2). *Carnobacterium* had the highest content mid-fermentation.
105 *Marinobacter* levels were extremely low in the early stage of fermentation, and increased
106 over time. *Salinicoccus*, *Chromohalobacter*, *Salimicrobium*, *Allobacillus*, and
107 *Tetragenococcus* were almost nonexistent at the early stage and began to appear in the

108 middle and late stage. There was little change in the content of *Oceanisphaera*, *Kocuria*,
109 *Pseudomonas*, *Pseudoalteromonas*, and *Aliivibrio* in the three stages. The proportions of
110 *Tissierella*, *Photobacterium*, *Gelidibacter*, *Pseudorhodobacter*, *Moritella*, *Vibrio*,
111 *Roseovarius*, *Aequorivita*, and *Flavobacterium* were higher in the early stage of
112 fermentation than in the other stages. *Staphylococcus* content was highest in fermentation
113 metaphase, followed by anaphase, and lowest in prophase.

114 Principal coordinate analysis clustered the communities according to different stages
115 (Fig. 3). Regardless of the community stage, there were no definitive splits in the
116 microbiota of the shrimp paste. However, the most extreme outliers tended to be in Stage
117 11 in the fermentation anaphase. No statistical differences were found in operational
118 taxonomic units at the genus level.

119 **Discussion**

120 In this study, high-throughput sequencing provided detailed insights into the
121 complex microbiota of shrimp paste at different fermentation stages. We found that there
122 were 30 phyla, 55 classes, 86 orders, 206 families, and 695 genera in the shrimp paste.

123 *Proteobacteria* was dominant, reaching 55.59%, and it was high at the
124 pre-fermentation stage. *Proteobacteria* is a major group of gram-negative bacteria, which
125 is widespread in humans (24), shrimp (25) and crabs (26-27). It is the dominant group in
126 coastal areas and aquaculture ponds (28-32). The shrimp used in this study came from the
127 Yellow Sea, where the major bacterial group is *Proteobacteria*, and therefore the
128 dominance of *Proteobacteria* in the shrimp paste may be related to its source materials.

129 The *Proteobacteria* is the largest group of bacteria, and it includes many pathogenic
130 bacteria, such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Helicobacter pylori* (33). *Proteobacteria* levels
131 in food are mainly related to its freshness, and transport and storage hygiene conditions.
132 Therefore, *Proteobacteria* may greatly influence the quality of shrimp paste, and it is
133 necessary to strictly control their growth during its fermentation, production, and storage
134 to standardize production.

135 *Psychrobacter* was the most abundant genus in the shrimp paste. It was present at
136 highest levels in the early stage of fermentation. *Psychrobacter* is facultatively anaerobic
137 and is common in high-salt foods (34). Once it appears in high-salt foods, it multiplies
138 and can easily cause food spoilage, so it is key to the control of fermented foods (35-36).
139 The gram-negative bacteria *Halomonas*, which also grows in high concentrations of salt
140 (37-38), occurred mainly in late fermentation. Its presence has been suggested to be an
141 indicator of hygiene problems in shrimp paste (39). *Psychrobacter* and *Halomonas* can
142 produce lipolytic enzymes that promote the degradation of flavoring substances and play
143 an important role in the formation of flavor (40-41). Across the three fermentation stages,
144 *Bacillus* and *Lactococcus* generally presented a decreasing trend. *Bacillus* can produce
145 butyric acid, which can promote the growth of less acid-tolerant spoilage microorganisms
146 and thus contaminate the shrimp paste (42). *Lactococcus* can react with the alcohols,
147 aldehydes, and ketones produced during fermentation to form a variety of new taste
148 substances. In addition, various antibacterial substances such as organic acids, diacetyl,
149 hydrogen peroxide, and bacteriocins produced by *Lactococcus* may prevent the growth of

150 food spoilage bacteria and extend the shelf life of shrimp paste. *Lactococcus* may thus
151 improve the functional attributes and shelf life of shrimp paste (43-45).

152 Several previous studies have focused on naturally fermented foods, including
153 artisanal cheeses (46), Chinese liquor (47), and dairy products (48-49). In addition, there
154 has been some research into the microbial diversity of shrimp culture environments, and
155 the chemical composition and sensory attributes of shrimp paste [50]. However, there has
156 not been a study of the microbial diversity of shrimp paste, which is a naturally fermented
157 food. We addressed this research gap and found that the presence of bacteria
158 corresponded mainly to four phyla (*Proteobacteria*, *Firmicutes*, *Actinobacteria*, and
159 *Bacteroidetes*), and five major genera (*Psychrobacter*, *Halomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Alteribacillus*,
160 and *Lactococcus*). These microbes all have a certain influence on the quality and flavor of
161 shrimp paste.

162 We used high-throughput sequencing to investigate the microbiota of shrimp paste at
163 different fermentation stages. Our analysis furthers understanding of the microbial
164 community of shrimp paste and the relationship between microbial diversity and shrimp
165 paste flavor. Our findings are of great significance to the technological control of shrimp
166 paste. The standardization of production is important for ensuring the quality and safety
167 of shrimp paste and improving its quality and nutritional value.

168

169 **Materials and Methods**

170 **Sample collection and nucleic acid extraction**

171 Shrimp paste samples were collected from Lianyungang, in Jiangsu Province. The
172 shrimp paste was freshly produced in May 2017. During the production process, three
173 stages of shrimp paste were analyzed. Samples were obtained during fermentation
174 prophase, fermentation metaphase, and fermentation anaphase. The whole fermentation
175 process lasted for 1 month and each stage took 10 days. The samples taken from
176 fermentation prophase were labeled S1–S4, and the samples taken from fermentation
177 metaphase and fermentation anaphase were defined as S5–S8 and S9–S11, respectively.
178 DNA was extracted using an E.Z.N.A.TM Mag-Bind Soil DNA Kit (OMEGA, USA).

179 **PCR amplification of the microbial community 16S rRNA genes**

180 The DNA extracts were used as a template for PCR amplification according to the
181 methods described for Qubit 2.0 (Life, USA). The V3-V4 region of bacterial 16S rRNA
182 was amplified by PCR for high-throughput sequencing. The PCR reaction included two
183 rounds of amplification, resulting in more specific and accurate results by sequencing at
184 both ends. In the first round of amplification, the bacterial 16S rRNA gene V3-V4 region
185 was amplified with the universal forward 341F (CCTACGGGNGGCWGCAG) and
186 reverse 805R (GACTACHVGGGTATCTAATCC) primers. These primers contained a
187 set of 6-nucleotide barcodes. The PCR mixture contained 15 µl 2× Taq master mix, 1 µl
188 bar-PCR primer F (10 uM), 1 µl primer R (10 uM), 10–20 ng genomic DNA, and
189 ultra-pure H₂O to give a final reaction volume of 30 µl. PCR amplification of the 16S
190 rRNA V3-V4 regions was performed using a T100TM Thermal Cycler (BIO-RAD, USA).
191 The amplification program was as follows: 1 cycle of denaturing at 94 °C for 3 min, 5

192 cycles of denaturing at 94 °C for 30 s, annealing at 45 °C for 20 s, elongation at 65 °C for
193 30 s, then 20 cycles of denaturing at 94 °C for 20 s, annealing at 55 °C for 20 s, elongation
194 at 72 °C for 30 s and a final extension at 72 °C for 5 min. In the second round of
195 amplification, the PCR mixture contained 15 µl 2× Taq master mix, 1 µl primer F (10
196 uM), 1 µl primer R (10 uM), 20 ng genomic DNA, and ultra-pure H₂O to give a final
197 reaction volume of 30 µl. PCR amplification of the 16S rRNA V3-V4 regions was
198 performed using a T100TM Thermal Cycler (BIO-RAD, USA). The amplification program
199 was as follows: 1 cycle of denaturing at 95 °C for 3 min, then 5 cycles of denaturing at
200 94 °C for 20 s, annealing at 55 °C for 20 s, elongation at 72 °C for 30 s and a final
201 extension at 72 °C for 5 min. The PCR products were checked using electrophoresis in 1%
202 (w/v) agarose gels in TBE buffer (Tris, boric acid, EDTA) stained with ethidium bromide
203 and visualized under UV light. We used Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman, USA)
204 to purify the free primers and primer dimer species in the amplification product. Before
205 sequencing, the DNA concentration of each PCR product was determined using a Qubit
206 2.0 kit and it was quality controlled using a bioanalyzer (Agilent, USA). The
207 amplifications from each reaction mixture were pooled in equimolar ratios based on their
208 concentrations.

209 **High-throughput sequencing and bioinformatics analysis**

210 The V3-V4 region of bacterial 16S rRNA was sequenced on an Illumina MiSeq system
211 (Illumina MiSeq, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Raw sequences
212 were selected based on sequence length, quality, primer, and tag, and data were collected

213 as follows. (i) The two short Illumina readings were assembled by PEAR (v.0.9.6)
214 software according to the overlap and fastq files were processed to generate individual
215 fasta and qual files, which could then be analyzed by standard methods. (ii) Sequences
216 containing ambiguous bases and any longer than 480 bp were dislodged and those with a
217 maximum homopolymer length of 6 bp were allowed. Sequences shorter than 200 bp
218 were removed. (iii) All identical sequences were merged into one. (iv) Sequences were
219 aligned according to a customized reference database. (v) The completeness of the index
220 and the adaptor was checked and removed all of the index and the adaptor sequence. (vi)
221 Noise was removed using the Pre.cluster tool. Chimeras were detected using Chimera
222 UCHIME (v.4.2.40). We submitted the effective sequences of each sample to the RDP
223 Classifier to identify bacterial and fungal sequences. Species richness and diversity
224 statistics including coverage, chao1, ACE, Simpson and Shannon indexes were calculated
225 using MOTHUR (v.1.30.1). A rarefaction curve was used to monitor results for
226 sequencing abundance with the MOTHUR package. Principal coordinate analysis,
227 measuring dissimilarities at phylogenetic distances based on weighted and unweighted
228 Unifrac analysis, was performed using the QIIME suite of programs. According to the
229 classification results, it was possible to determine the classification of the samples at the
230 taxonomic level. The results indicated (i) which microorganisms were contained in the
231 sample, and (ii) the relative abundance of each microorganism in the sample. The results
232 at the species level can be analyzed by R(v3.2). We used MUSCLE (v.3.8.31) for
233 multi-sequence alignment to obtain the alignment file, and FASTTREE (v.2.1.3)

234 approximately-maximum-likelihood to construct the phylogenetic tree, inferring the order
235 of the biological evolution of the sample. After analyzing the composition of the gene
236 functions of the sequenced microbial genome, PICRUST (v.1.0.0) was used to analyze
237 the differences in function between different samples and groups obtained by sequencing
238 according to their functional gene composition.

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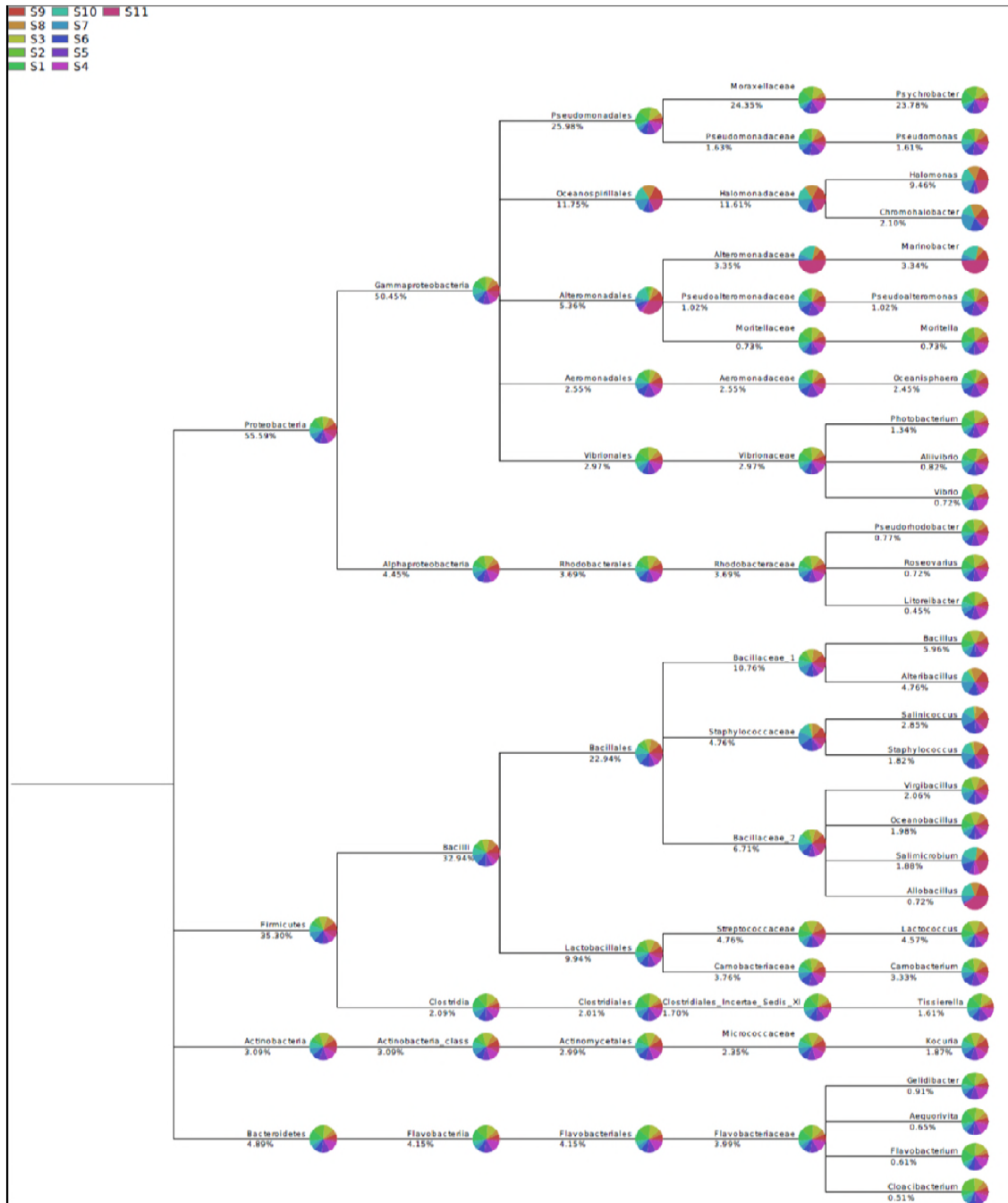
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408 TABLE 1 Sequencing richness, diversity and coverage of shrimp paste

	Sample	Sequence Number	OTUs	ACE value	Chao1 value	Shannon value	Simpson value	Coverage value
Pre-fermentation	S1	38839	1126	2271.33	1733.72	3.65	0.11	0.99
	S2	38189	1267	2711.08	2033.24	4.05	0.08	0.99
	S3	38118	1175	2737.034	1928.85	4.11	0.04	0.99
	S4	38620	1183	2523.93	1881.28	4.01	0.08	0.99
	S5	43141	1360	3043.06	2375.37	4.22	0.06	0.99
Mid-fermentation	S6	42339	1354	2984.96	2036.04	4.18	0.04	0.99
	S7	42317	1247	2841.50	2029.11	4.27	0.04	0.99
	S8	42118	1358	2710.46	2032.13	4.07	0.07	0.99
Late-fermentation	S9	50558	1499	3274.64	2373.14	4.16	0.05	0.99
	S10	37849	1082	2209.89	1657.94	3.99	0.05	0.99
	S11	36828	1217	2707.96	2056.04	3.92	0.06	0.98



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FIG 1 Phylogenetic tree of shrimp paste

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TABLE 2 Summary of reads calculated from total phylum reads for variable assessed

	% of reads In the phylum or genus per:										
	Pre-fermentation				Mid-fermentation				Late-fermentation		
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11

Phyla

<i>Proteobacteria</i>	60.02	59.61	53.43	53.27	55.24	50.64	52.51	52.1	53.18	54.65	58.15
<i>Firmicutes</i>	28.52	28.51	34.64	35.39	33.41	39.97	39.98	41.14	39.54	38.69	36.55
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>	7.7	7.71	6.89	5.76	6.19	4.67	3.51	3.17	3.29	2.98	2.16
<i>Actinobacteria</i>	2.16	2.85	3.83	4.32	3.43	3.48	3.02	2.52	3.02	2.34	2.53
<i>Verrucomicrobia</i>	0.48	0.46	0.49	0.52	0.77	0.61	0.43	0.43	0.44	0.64	0.26
<i>Planctomycetes</i>	0.27	0.13	0.23	0.19	0.2	0.18	0.11	0.15	0.18	0.25	0.1
<i>Fusobacteria</i>	0.31	0.16	0.19	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.16	0.1	0.1	0.13	0.05
Genera											
<i>Psychrobacter</i>	40.04	38.67	34.67	34.32	29.43	22.02	12.98	13	11.47	10.61	7.95
<i>Halomonas</i>	0	0.02	0.14	0.24	5.94	6.7	16.03	15.91	18.79	18.85	21.89
<i>Bacillus</i>	8.98	7.38	8.88	6.24	5.76	7.27	3.86	6.1	5.29	4.11	4.23
<i>Alteribacillus</i>	0.04	0.65	2.11	5.12	2.04	5.54	9.16	8.16	7.63	7.15	4.67
<i>Lactococcus</i>	6.97	5.54	6.87	4.71	4.86	5.56	2.92	5.26	3.93	3.25	3.35
<i>Carnobacterium</i>	2.93	3.12	3.85	4.33	3.99	4.25	3.13	3.29	2.82	2.72	2.13
<i>Marinobacter</i>	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.1	0.6	2.48	2.85	4.8	7.77	19.04
<i>Salinicoccus</i>	0.01	0.09	0.67	1.78	2.58	4	5.46	4.28	4.03	4.29	3.22
<i>Oceanisphaera</i>	2.75	1.93	1.82	2.27	3.89	2.77	2.24	2.41	2.24	2.18	1.59
<i>Chromohalobacter</i>	0	0.02	0.15	0.22	0.78	3.63	5.82	3.37	3.12	3.04	2.88
<i>Virgibacillus</i>	0.1	3.53	2.36	1.75	1.77	2.13	2.78	2.3	2.03	1.71	1.41
<i>Oceanobacillus</i>	3.01	2.38	2.99	1.94	2	2.48	1.3	1.93	1.8	1.27	1.52
<i>Kocuria</i>	0.98	1.7	2.28	2.47	1.85	1.81	1.89	1.9	1.9	1.53	1.62
<i>Salimicrobium</i>	0	0.01	0.03	2.6	1.07	2.43	2.26	2.17	2.58	4.98	3.81
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	0.01	0.78	0.69	1.35	1.48	2.51	3.26	2.76	3.05	2.8	1.95
<i>Tissierella</i>	2.7	2.12	2.31	2.04	2.05	1.65	1.66	1.11	0.95	0.77	0.47
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	2.09	1.48	1.45	1.34	2.64	1.78	1.55	1.61	1.52	1.49	0.81
<i>Photobacterium</i>	2.07	2.56	2.21	1.89	1.06	0.89	0.87	1	0.77	0.81	0.48
<i>Pseudoalteromonas</i>	0.82	0.68	0.84	0.84	1.42	1.43	1.18	1.21	1.11	1.01	0.72
<i>Gelidibacter</i>	1.21	1.25	1.23	1.1	0.91	0.8	0.69	0.78	0.56	0.57	0.31
<i>Aliivibrio</i>	0.79	1.52	0.64	0.75	0.95	0.93	0.88	0.48	0.8	0.76	0.47
<i>Pseudorhodobacter</i>	1	0.92	0.92	0.84	0.83	0.68	0.59	0.62	0.67	0.49	0.37
<i>Moritella</i>	0.98	1.14	0.99	0.86	0.81	0.64	0.54	0.63	0.54	0.64	0.31
<i>Vibrio</i>	1.41	0.65	1.2	1.49	0.53	0.39	0.73	0.74	0.37	0.37	0.19
<i>Roseovarius</i>	0.94	1.01	1.05	0.75	0.96	0.85	0.57	0.3	0.48	0.54	0.44
<i>Allobacillus</i>	0	0	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.59	0.83	1.52	1.38	3.33
<i>Aequorivita</i>	1.2	0.76	1.01	0.9	0.63	0.6	0.47	0.49	0.42	0.42	0.2
<i>Flavobacterium</i>	1.21	1.12	1.08	0.68	0.57	0.69	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.3	0.17
<i>Tetragenococcus</i>	0	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	0.31	0.46	0.39	0.68	1.36	1.44

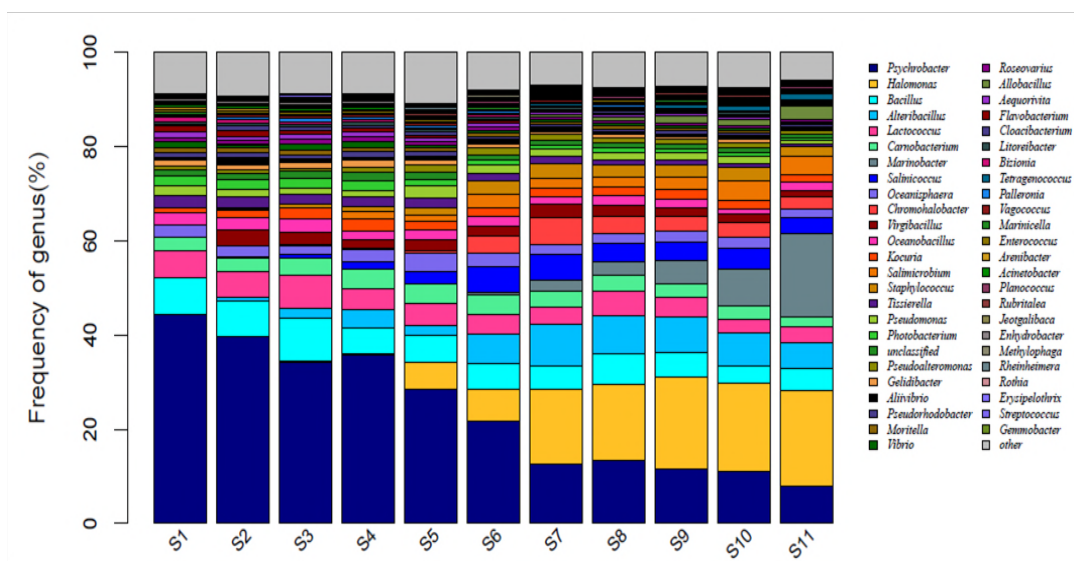


FIG 2 Assignment of shrimp paste at the genus level

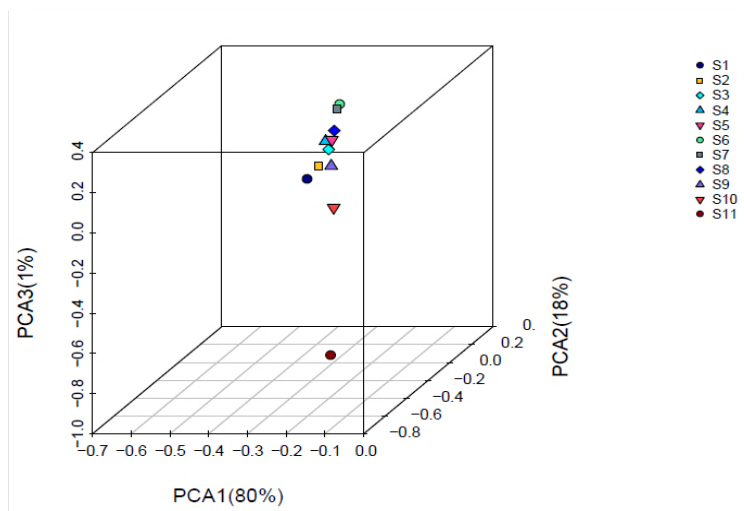


FIG 3 Principal coordinate analysis graphs of shrimp paste

TABLE 1 Sequencing richness, diversity and coverage of shrimp paste

	Sample	Sequence Number	OTUs	ACE value	Chao1 value	Shannon value	Simpson value	Coverage value
Pre-fermentation	S1	38839	1126	2271.33	1733.72	3.65	0.11	0.99
	S2	38189	1267	2711.08	2033.24	4.05	0.08	0.99
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	S11	36828	1217	2707.96	2056.04	3.92	0.06	0.98

OTU: operational taxonomic unit. In order to understand the community distribution information in sample sequencing, it is necessary to cluster the sequence (cluster). By clustering, it can be divided into many sequences according to the similarity of sequences, and the set of each sequence is an OTU. **Chao1:** Using Chao1 algorithm to estimate the index of OTU number in community, Chao1 is often used to estimate the total number of species in ecology. **Ace:** An index used to estimate the number of OTU in community, Proposed by Chao1, it is one of the common indices for estimating the total number of species in ecology, and the algorithm is different from Chao1. **Shannon:** It is used to estimate one of the microbial diversity indices in samples. Shannon and Simpson diversity index are often used to reflect alpha diversity index. The greater the Shannon value is, the higher the community diversity is. **Simpson:** Used to estimate one of the microbial diversity indices in samples. In ecology, it is often used to quantitatively describe the biodiversity of a region. The greater the Simpson index is, the lower the community diversity is. **Coverage:** Coverage rate of each sample library, the higher the values, the lower the probability

that the sequence is not detected in the sample. The index actually reflects whether the results of the sequencing represent the real situation of the sample.

TABLE 2 Summary of reads calculated from total phylum reads for variable assessed

	% of reads In the phylum or genus per:										
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<i>Oceanobacillus</i>	3.01	2.38	2.99	1.94	2	2.48	1.3	1.93	1.8	1.27	1.52
<i>Kocuria</i>	0.98	1.7	2.28	2.47	1.85	1.81	1.89	1.9	1.9	1.53	1.62
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<i>Aliivibrio</i>	0.79	1.52	0.64	0.75	0.95	0.93	0.88	0.48	0.8	0.76	0.47
<i>Pseudorhodobacter</i>	1	0.92	0.92	0.84	0.83	0.68	0.59	0.62	0.67	0.49	0.37
<i>Moritella</i>	0.98	1.14	0.99	0.86	0.81	0.64	0.54	0.63	0.54	0.64	0.31
<i>Vibrio</i>	1.41	0.65	1.2	1.49	0.53	0.39	0.73	0.74	0.37	0.37	0.19
<i>Roseovarius</i>	0.94	1.01	1.05	0.75	0.96	0.85	0.57	0.3	0.48	0.54	0.44
<i>Allobacillus</i>	0	0	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.59	0.83	1.52	1.38	3.33

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<i>Tetragenococcus</i>	0	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	0.31	0.46	0.39	0.68	1.36	1.44

The main phyla and genera in three fermentation stages of shrimp paste

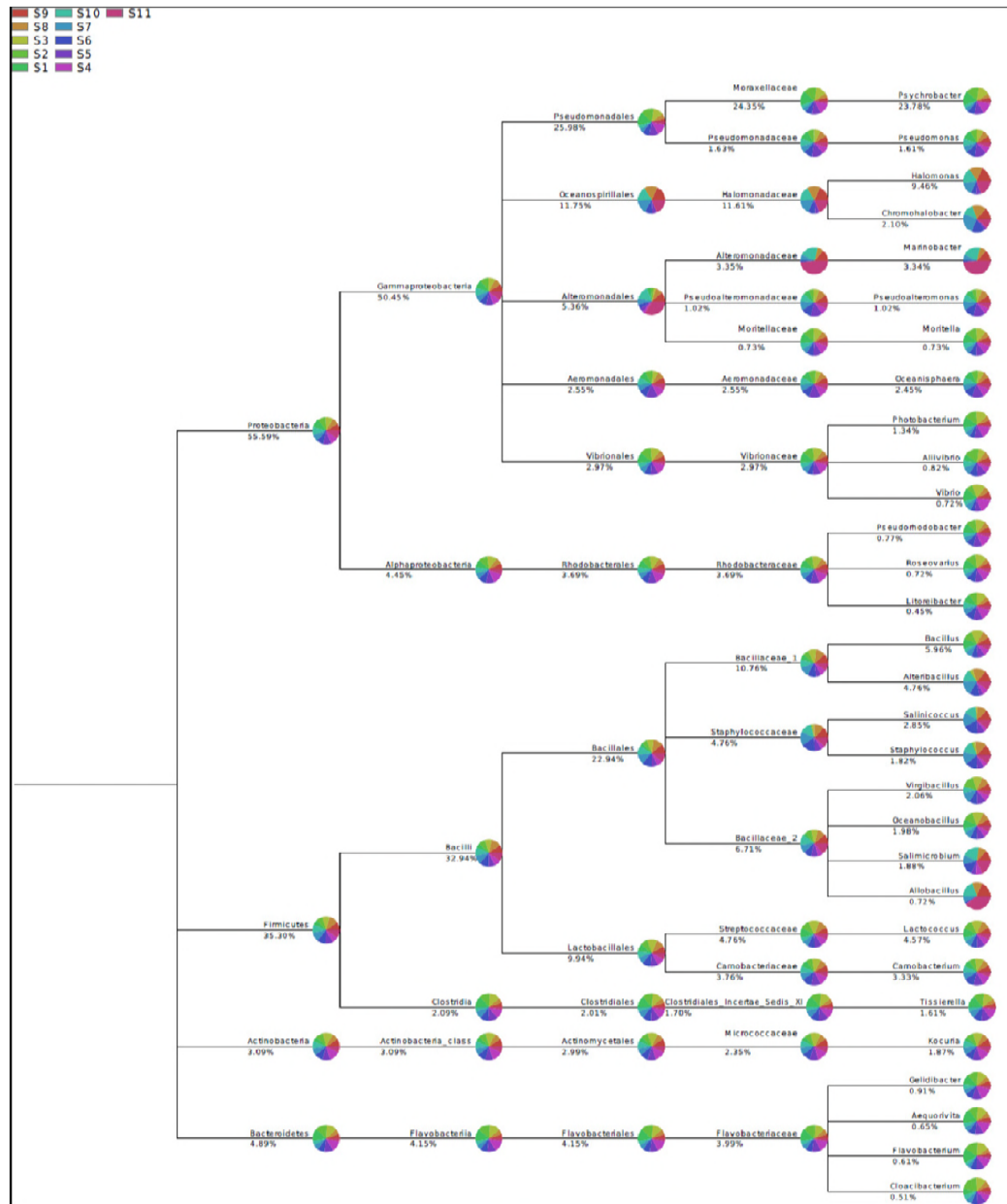


Figure 1 Phylogenetic tree of shrimp paste

The pivot points in the graph represent the corresponding Taxonomy records in the NCBI database, the English name is spelled near the pivot point. The larger the abundance of a species is, the larger the circle of the fulcrum is. When a number of samples are plotted simultaneously, the relative abundance of different samples can be expressed in different colors by means of a small pie chart at the branches or nodes.

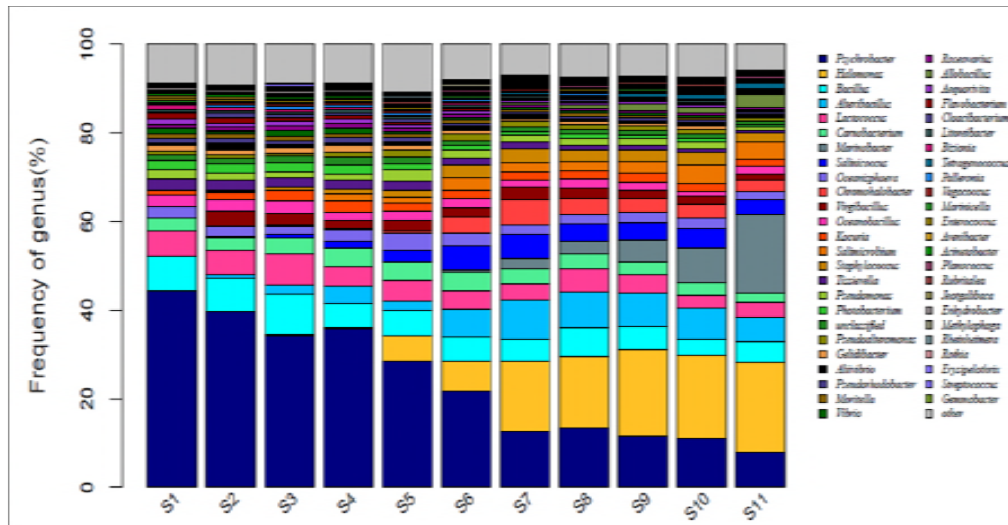


Figure 2 Assignment of shrimp paste at the genus level

The horizontal axis is the number of each sample, and the longitudinal axis is the relative abundance ratio. The color corresponds to the species name under the taxonomic level, and the width of different color blocks indicates the relative abundance ratio of differential species.

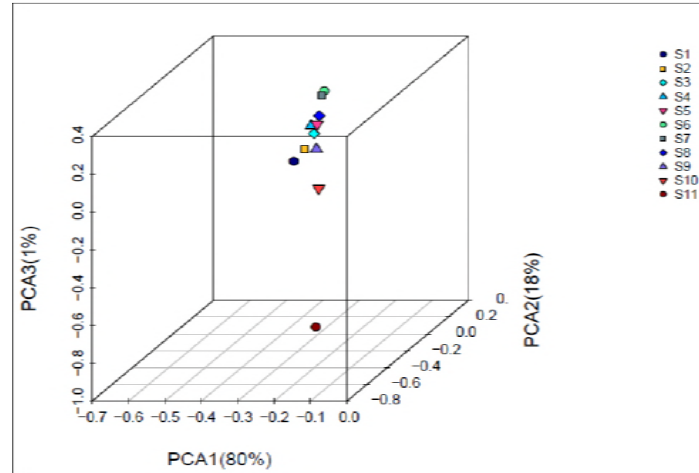


Figure 3 Principal coordinate analysis graphs of shrimp paste

Different colors represent different samples or different group samples in the graph, the higher the similarity between samples, the more likely to be aggregated in the graph.