

1 **Unraveling biogeographical patterns and environmental drivers of soil**
2 **fungus diversity at the French national scale**

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31
32 **Abstract**

33 The fungal kingdom is among the most diversified kingdoms on earth with estimations up to
34 12 million species. Yet, it remains poorly understood with only 150,000 fungal species currently
35 described. Given the major ecological role of fungi in ecosystem functioning, these numbers
36 stress the importance of investigating fungal diversity description across different ecosystem
37 types. Here, we explored the spatial distribution of the soil fungal diversity on a broad
38 geographical scale, using the French Soil Quality Monitoring Network that covers the whole
39 French territory (2,171 soils sampled along a systematic grid). Fungal alpha-diversity was
40 assessed directly from soil DNA using a metabarcoding approach by targeting the 18S rDNA
41 gene. The total accumulated fungal diversity across France included 136,219 OTUs, i.e., about
42 1% of worldwide soil fungal diversity (based on a maximum diversity estimate of 12 million
43 for a territory representing only 0.3% of terrestrial surface on Earth. Based on this dataset, the
44 first extensive map of fungal alpha-diversity was drawn and evidenced a heterogeneous and
45 spatially structured distribution in large biogeographical patterns of 231 km radius for richness
46 (Hill diversity of order 0) and smaller patterns of 36 km radius for dominant fungi (Hill diversity
47 of order 2). As related to other environmental parameters, the spatial distribution of fungal
48 diversity (Hill numbers based on different orders of diversity) was mainly influenced by local
49 filters such as soil characteristics and land management, but also by global filters such as
50 climate conditions with various relative influences. Interestingly, cropped soils exhibited the
51 highest pool of fungal diversity relatively to forest and vineyard soils. In complement, soil
52 fungal OTUs network interactions were calculated under the different land uses across France.
53 They varied hugely and showed a loss of 75% of the complexity in crop systems and grasslands
54 compared to forests, and up to 83% in vineyard systems. Overall, our study revealed that a
55 nation-wide survey with a high spatial resolution approach is relevant to deeply investigate the
56 spatial distribution and determinism of soil fungal diversity. Our findings provide novel insights
57 for a better understanding of soil fungal ecology across the 18S rDNA gene and upgrade
58 biodiversity conservation policies by supplying representative repositories dedicated to soil
59 fungi.

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a supprimé: Total cumulated fungal diversity across France included 136,219 OTUs, i.e., about 1% of the global soil fungal diversity for a territory representing only 0.3% of terrestrial surface on Earth.

a supprimé: number $q=0$

a supprimé: number $q=2$

a supprimé: As related to other environmental parameters, the spatial distribution of fungal diversity was mainly influenced by local filters such as soil characteristics and land management, but also by global filters such as climate conditions. The spatial distribution of abundant and rare fungi was determined by distinct or similar filters with various relative influences.

a supprimé: Our findings provide novel insights for a better understanding of soil fungal ecology and upgrade biodiversity conservation policies by supplying representative repositories dedicated to soil microorganisms in a context of global change. ...

79 **1. Introduction**

80 The fungal kingdom has been evolving continuously for more than 800 million years to
81 adapt to and colonize a large number of habitats on Earth (Loron et al., 2019; Naranjo-Ortiz
82 and Gabaldón, 2019; Li et al., 2021; Bonneville et al., 2020; Berbee et al., 2020). This
83 heterotrophic kingdom represents about 2% of the global biomass on Earth (Bar-On et al., 2018)
84 and is among the most diverse kingdom in the Eukaryota domain (Mora et al., 2011; Blackwell,
85 2011; Taylor et al., 2014; Hawksworth and Lücking, 2017). Recent extrapolations based on
86 environmental DNA characterization using a metabarcoding approaches with mainly the
87 internal transcribed spacer (ITS), evaluated that the total number of fungal taxa ranged from
88 6.28 million to 12 million (Baldrian et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2019; Phukhamsakda et al., 2022).
89 To date, only 150,000 fungal species have been described by the scientific community to date
90 (Species Fungorum 2022, <http://www.speciesfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp>), namely only
91 1.25-2.4% of the whole estimated fungal diversity.

92 The majority of fungi is found in terrestrial ecosystems, especially in soils; only 4,000
93 extant fungi from freshwater habitats are presently listed (Calabon et al., 2022). Fungi play
94 crucial ecological roles in soils by contributing to their proper functioning due to a wide range
95 of functional guilds (Bar-On et al., 2018; Frac et al., 2018). Fungi are keystones of the soil food
96 web, both in biogeochemical cycles and in interactions with other macro- and microorganisms
97 (de Vries et al., 2013; Treseder and Lennon, 2015; Hannula and Träger, 2020). The functions
98 of fungal communities provide many ecosystem services that promote mineral nutrition of
99 plants linked to soil organic matter turnover, phosphorus and nitrogen availability (Miyachi et
100 al., 2020; Ward et al., 2022). They are important decomposers (saprotrophs) of organic matter:
101 they break down complex biopolymers and play a key role in organic matter recycling (Hage
102 and Rosso, 2021). Regarding symbiotic interactions, there are no less than 50,000 mycorrhizal
103 fungi interacting with 340,000 land plants representing 90% of beneficial symbiosis with a host
104 plant association (Genre et al., 2020). Fungal pathogens and parasites can cause diseases and
105 important crop losses and have a significant economic impact (Möller and Stukenbrock, 2017;
106 Fausto et al., 2019). Some of them are also identified as biocontrol agents and are involved in
107 plant protection through the regulation of pathogenic microorganisms and insect pests (Peng et
108 al., 2021). Fungi are also known as ecosystem engineers contributing to soil aggregation and
109 maintenance. Thus, the stability of the soil structure largely depends on mycelium density and
110 the pool of fungal enzymatic activities (Lehmann et al., 2020).

111 The spatial distribution of fungal diversity has been more recently and less studied than
112 the spatial distribution of bacterial diversity, in particular when it comes to identifying and

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a supprimé: Some of them are also identified as biocontrol agents and involved in plant protection through the regulation of pathogenic microorganisms

117 ranking the local and global filters that influence species richness (Griffiths et al., 2011; Terrat
118 et al., 2017; Fierer and Jackson, 2006; Delgado-Baquerizo et al., 2018; Ranjard et al., 2013;
119 Tedersoo et al., 2021). In 2014, Tedersoo and collaborators generated the first global map of
120 fungal richness by using the ITS marker and revealed that fungi are spatially structured and
121 exhibit biogeographical patterns (Tedersoo et al., 2014). One major hotspot of fungal diversity
122 was located in Latin America and a cold-spot in the Sahel region, whereas fungal diversity
123 distribution was shown homogeneous across Europe. A second global map of fungal diversity
124 was drawn from a meta-analysis of the *chao* index (Větrovský et al., 2019). Conversely to
125 Tedersoo and collaborators (2014), they highlighted a lower fungal diversity in Latin America
126 and a higher in North Africa (Větrovský et al., 2019). In parallel, Ma and collaborators (Ma et
127 al., 2017) revealed a heterogeneous spatial distribution according to a gradient of forest soils at
128 the continental scale in Eastern China. These differences and even discrepancies in the location
129 of biogeographical patterns at global scale reflect the huge gap of knowledge in fungal diversity
130 distribution and the need to complete these studies with high resolution approaches at a finer
131 scale.

132 Soil fungal communities are constantly subjected to natural biotic and abiotic stresses,
133 but also to human activities through global warming, deforestation, and land use intensification.
134 These stresses altogether have a significant influence on fungal abundance, diversity and
135 community assembly and lead to an overall impact on soil functions (Pärtel et al., 2017; Geisen
136 et al., 2019; Thomson et al., 2015; Tsiafouli et al., 2015; Shi et al., 2019). Several large- and
137 small-scale studies showed that fungal richness is driven by land uses, edaphic factors, climate
138 conditions, and spatial descriptors (Ma et al., 2017; Větrovský et al., 2019; George et al.,
139 2019a). Farming practices on cropped soils such as tillage, fertilization or crop rotation can
140 have an influence on fungal diversity (Sommermann et al., 2018; Sadet-Bourgeteau et al., 2019;
141 Stefan et al., 2021; Finn et al., 2021; Tedersoo et al., 2014) or not (Lentendu et al., 2014).
142 Altogether, soil pH emerges as the strongest driver of fungal alpha-diversity, similar to bacteria
143 at global or territorial scales (Delgado-Baquerizo et al., 2018; Terrat et al., 2017). Some studies
144 indicate a positive effect of soil pH on fungal richness at the national (George et al., 2019b) and
145 global (Bastida et al., 2021) scales, whereas others show a negative effect on a global scale
146 (Tedersoo et al., 2014). In 2020, Tedersoo and collaborators also proposed a unimodal
147 relationship between soil pH and fungal richness / Shannon diversity (Tedersoo et al., 2020).
148 Fungal richness also appears higher in fine soil textures than in coarse soil textures (George et
149 al., 2019b). In the same vein, plant cover – especially increased tree richness – shows a positive
150 impact on fungal richness and Shannon diversity (Tedersoo et al., 2020). Soil carbon is also an

151 important driver of fungal diversity, with a positive (Maestre et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2019;
152 Bastida et al., 2021) or a negative effect (George et al., 2019b), depending on the territory
153 studied, the scale investigated, and the molecular marker used. Other findings show that soil
154 calcium and phosphorus, the C:N ratio, bulk density, some spatial descriptors (e.g., latitude,
155 longitude, altitude), and climate conditions also have an influence on fungal alpha-diversity
156 (Maestre et al., 2015; Bastida et al., 2021; Tedersoo et al., 2014).

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157 In the face of these discrepancies and given the essential role of fungi for ecosystem functioning
158 and sustainability, it is essential to deeply characterize soil fungal diversity – in terms of alpha-
159 and beta-diversity –, using the most recent molecular and high-throughput methods to better
160 decipher the impacts of global and local filters (Chu et al., 2020; Hyde, 2022). In this context,
161 we investigated the French Soil Quality Monitoring Network (RMQS) using a metabarcoding
162 approach to determine the soil fungal diversity at a national scale. Based on a regular grid of
163 2,171 sites across France, this survey captured the various land uses, climates, geomorphology
164 types, and soil characteristics. Located in Western Europe, France is the third largest European
165 country and exhibits the third highest pedological diversity across the world according to the
166 WRB classification (Minasny et al., 2010), and is also known to exhibit diversified land use
167 and climate conditions (Ballabio et al., 2016; Karimi et al., 2020). Main land uses in France are
168 dominated by croplands, grasslands, and forests. Climate conditions are also among the most
169 diverse ones in Europe and organized in three major poles: oceanic, Mediterranean, and
170 mountainous. All these facts lead us to conclude that France could be considered as an ideal
171 national-scale observatory for monitoring the variations of biotic and abiotic components of
172 soil ecosystems. The RMQS soil sampling strategy is probably one of the most intensive and
173 extensive national soil sampling strategies in the world, and this systematic random sampling
174 leads to good spatial coverage profitable both for mapping soil characteristics and unraveling
175 environmental variation. Using this soil survey, a substantial body of scientific knowledge on
176 soil bacterial biogeography has been produced by the use of molecular tools (Ranjard et al.,
177 2013; Terrat et al., 2017; Karimi et al., 2018, 2020), associated with several technical
178 developments to standardize metabarcoding, associated bioinformatics, and statistical analysis
179 (Djemiel et al., 2020; Terrat et al., 2019, 2012).

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180 Here, we explored the spatial distribution of the soil fungal communities on a broad
181 geographical scale in order to better understand fungal diversity determinism according to
182 environmental filters using high-throughput sequencing of the small 18S rDNA gene subunit
183 directly amplified from soil DNA. In most studies, alpha-diversity is characterized by one
184 index. However, in order to obtain a global overview of fungal diversity in a biogeographical

a supprimé: , we used high-throughput sequencing to study the small subunit 18S rDNA gene directly amplified from soil DNA to characterize the soil fungal diversity

193 context, it is important to explore deeper the distribution of rare and dominant taxa and ranking
194 the influence of environmental filters in a deterministic process (Jousset et al., 2017; Rivett and
195 Bell, 2018; Jiao and Lu, 2020). To reach this objective, we used Hill numbers to combine
196 complementary diversity indexes such as richness, exponential Shannon diversity, and inverse
197 Simpson. Methods based on spatial prediction (geostatistics) were applied to the data to map
198 and explore the macro-ecological patterns of soil fungal diversity along the environmental
199 gradients encountered in France. We used a set of environmental datasets – including soil
200 physico-chemical characteristics, climate conditions, and land use – to explain variations in soil
201 fungal diversity and rank the environmental filters structuring the spatial fungal distribution on
202 a wide extent. Finally, we compared the variations of fungal diversity across different land uses
203 plus climate types with the variations of the complexity of the fungal interaction networks by
204 inferring co-occurrence networks at the operational taxonomic unit (OTU) level.

206 2. Methods

207 2.1. Soil sampling design

208 Soils were sampled from 2,171 locations across France between June 2000 and June 2009 as
209 part of the RMQS set up to monitor the quality of French soils. As described previously
210 (Ranjard et al., 2013), these sites included a wide range of land uses: forests (n=589), grasslands
211 (n=537), crops (n=886), vineyards/orchards (n=65), and low anthropized environments (n=94),
212 and eight climatic regions: type 1 (n=284), type 2 (n=270), type 3 (n=545), type 4 (n=418), type
213 5 (n=265), type 6 (n=86), type 7 (n=94), and type 8 (n=95). In France, low anthropized
214 environments group wetlands, peatlands, sclerophyllous forests, natural grasslands, sparsely
215 vegetated areas, and bare rocks (Karimi et al., 2020). Inside each of the 2,171 cells of a regular
216 16 km × 16 km grid throughout France, a smaller 20 m × 20 m grid was used for sampling
217 where 25 core samples of topsoil (approximately 0-30 cm depth) were taken. The core samples
218 were pooled and homogenized to obtain a composite sample. The sampling protocols applied
219 on the RMQS are available through the RMQS2 manual (Jolivet et al., 2022). Each sample was
220 air-dried following a standardized procedure at 35°C until the soil humidity was below 1%,
221 then sieved to 2 mm and separated into two sub-samples. The first sub-sample was frozen at -
222 40 °C for molecular analyses, while the second sub-sample was used for physico-chemical
223 analyses. A detailed description of the physico-chemical analyses performed in this study (soil
224 pH, texture, organic carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus) is accessible from (Jolivet et al., 2006).
225 All the data are available in dataverse Gis Sol (<https://doi.org/10.15454/QSXXKGA>).

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a supprimé: To reach this objective we used Hill numbers to combine complementary diversity indexes such as richness, Shannon diversity and inverse Simpson

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a supprimé: In fine, we compared the variations of fungal diversity across different land uses with the variations of the complexity of fungal interactions network by inferring co-occurrence networks at the operational taxonomic unit (OTU) level....

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241 2.2. Molecular characterization of fungal communities

242 2.2.1. Soil DNA extraction

243 Soil DNA was extracted from 1g of soil using the GnS-GII standard procedure (Terrat et al.,
244 2012, 2015). Briefly, the soil underwent two lysis steps, i.e., mechanical lysis and chemical
245 lysis. In both cases, the soil was ground and homogenized for 90 s with 2 g of 0.1 mm diameter
246 silica beads, 2.5 g of 1.4 mm diameter ceramic beads, and 4 glass beads of 4 mm diameter in 5
247 ml of a mix solution containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 100 mM EDTA (pH 8), 100 mM
248 NaCl, 2% (wt/vol) sodium dodecyl sulfate, and up to 2.5 ml ultrapure water using a Fast-Prep-
249 24 classic kit, and then incubated at 70 °C for 30 min. The mixture was centrifuged (7,000 g,
250 20 °C, 5 min) to retrieve the lysate. A deproteinization step was necessary using 1/10th of
251 volume with 3 M potassium acetate (pH 5.5) followed by a centrifugation step (14,000 g, 4 °C,
252 5 min) to recover the supernatant containing the soil DNA. DNA was precipitated using
253 isopropanol at -20 °C, and stored at -20 °C for 30 min. The last step consisted in washing the
254 DNA pellet with ethanol and resuspending it in 200 µl of ultrapure water. Then, crude DNA
255 were purified with NucleoSpin Soil kits following the manufacturer's instructions (NucleoSpin
256 Soil, Macherey-Nagel). The purified DNA were quantified by fluorescence (QuantiFluor,
257 Promega) using an Infinite® 200 PRO plate reader (Tecan) and then normalized to 1 ng/µl.

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259 2.2.2. Library preparation for sequencing

260 The V7-V8 regions of the fungal 18S rDNA gene were amplified from purified DNA using
261 forward primer FR1 and reverse primer FF390 (Chemidlin Prévost-Bouré et al., 2011) with a
262 two-step PCR. Both amplifications were carried out in a total volume of 25 µl using 1 to 5 ng
263 of DNA, 4 µl of 5x HOT FIREPol® Blend Master Mix with 7.5 mM MgCl₂ (Solis Biodyne,
264 Tartu, Estonia), and 1 µl (10 µM) of each primer (Eurogentec). The first step amplified the
265 target region under the following conditions: initial denaturation at 94 °C for 3 min, followed
266 by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 30 s; 52 °C for 1 m; 72 °C for 1 mn, and final extension at 72 °C for
267 5 min. The 18S PCR products were purified using an AMPure bead kit (Beckman) and
268 quantified using a QuantiFluor staining kit (Promega, USA). The second amplification was
269 performed to add barcodes for multiplexing samples. The conditions of the second PCR were
270 similar, with a reduced number of cycles (seven) and a specific purification with a MinElute kit
271 (Qiagen). Library preparation for the 2,171 samples was conducted at the GenoSol platform;
272 Illumina HiSeq 2 × 250 bp paired-end sequencing was conducted by Genoscope (Evry, France).

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274 2.3. Bioinformatic analysis

279 We used BIOCUM-PIPE v.20 pipeline (<https://forgemia.inra.fr/biocom/biocom-pipe>) to
280 process the 18S rRNA gene sequences (Djemiel et al., 2020). FASTQ paired-end raw reads
281 were filtered with PRINSEQ to keep the good-quality sequences and then overlapped with
282 FLASH to form contiguous reads. The libraries were demultiplexed and trimmed with zero
283 difference between the barcode and primer sequences. The sequences were aligned with the
284 Infernal tool based on RNA structures (Nawrocki and Eddy, 2013). Chimeras were removed by
285 a “hunting-recovering” step specific to BIOCUM-PIPE (Djemiel et al., 2020). An additional
286 step allowed us to check whether all our sequences were indeed affiliated to fungal sequences.
287 Following this, a global clustering at 95% similarity was performed with the cleaned sequences,
288 to cluster into Operational Taxonomic Units (or OTUs), followed by a post-clustering step with
289 ReClustOR to improve the clustering (Terrat et al., 2019). All our diversity indices
290 (geostatistical modeling, variance partitioning) and co-occurrence networks analyzes are
291 performed on this OTU-based approaches with a post-clustering step for consistence with the
292 evaluations of fungal diversity generally described in the literature (Terrat et al., 2015; Karimi
293 et al., 2019).

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295 2.4. Statistical analysis

296 Hill numbers were calculated to estimate alpha-diversity and compare samples on a linear scale
297 to provide a complete interpretation of alpha-diversity through different metrics. Hill numbers
298 with $q = 0$ corresponded to the OTU richness observed in a sample (emphasizes rare fungal
299 OTUs), $q = 1$ to the exponential of Shannon diversity (correspond to “typical” or “common”
300 fungal OTUs), and $q = 2$ to inverse Simpson index (correspond to dominant fungal OTUs)
301 (Alberdi and Gilbert, 2019). We tested if the variables were normally distributed or
302 approximately so, using the *shapiro.test* function (R “stats” package). Depending on the result,
303 we applied a boxcox transformation if the gaussian assumption was not satisfied. To compute
304 the boxcox transformation from the “forecast” R package (Hyndman et al., 2020), we estimated
305 the lambda value with the *BoxCox.lambda* function and applied the transformation with the
306 *BoxCox* function. Outliers were tracked using the *grubbs.test* function in the “outliers” R
307 package (Komsta and Komsta, 2011) for each Hill number dataset. Once the outliers were
308 removed, to estimate the multiple comparisons across the modalities (land uses or climate
309 types), analyses of variance (ANOVAs) were used, and we verified the normality assumption
310 of residuals. If it was satisfied, we used a Least Significant Difference (LSD) test with adjusted
311 p-value < 0.05 ; if it was not satisfied, we used a nonparametric test with *kruskal* function from
312 “agricolae” package and a correction by the Bonferroni method for the multiple comparisons.

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315 The details of the removed samples (i.e., the samples considered to be outliers and the ‘low
316 anthropized environment’ samples that we decided to exclude) in the different land uses are
317 available in Supplementary Figure 1, as recommended by Dini-Andreote et al. (2021) (Dini-
318 Andreote et al., 2021)), who developed a data management strategy with good practices for
319 biogeographical studies.

a supprimé: The details of the samples removed in the different land uses are available in Supplementary Figure 1, as recommended by

320 The environmental data that did not follow a Gaussian distribution were log-transformed.
321 Moreover, the soil pH covaries with land uses, with a majority of acidic soils in forests and a
322 majority of neutral and basic soils in croplands and vineyards/orchards (Supplementary Figure
323 2). Therefore, we performed a polynomial transformation of degree 2 for the soil pH variable
324 to improve the accuracy of fitting for the variance partitioning analysis.

a supprimé: For all these reasons, we transformed the soil pH variable with a polynomial transformation of degree 2.

325 Relationship between fungal alpha-diversity and environmental filters was assessed using
326 variance partitioning. Briefly, the first step consisted in reducing the effect of model collinearity
327 to obtain the most parsimonious models. We used the *vif* function (the variance inflation factors
328 (VIF)) in the “usdm” R package (Naimi, 2015) and kept the explanatory variables with $VIF \leq$
329 5. A second filtering step was performed to determine the best environmental variables using
330 the *regsubset* function (“leaps” R package (Lumley and Lumley, 2013)) and based on the
331 Bayesian information criterion (BIC) and adjusted R^2 . Lastly, we conducted a redundancy
332 analysis (Legendre, 2018) to model variation of the overall environmental filters using the *rda*
333 and *ordiR2step* functions (“vegan” R package (Oksanen et al., 2013)). To select the best
334 variables, we performed a forward multiple regression selection to build a model maximizing
335 the adjusted R^2 . We used the *ordiR2step* function with 10,000 permutations maximum and the
336 *anova.cca* function (“vegan” R package) to evaluate the variance explained by the best
337 explanatory environmental filtering variables.

338 Geostatistical modeling was used to assess the alpha-diversity spatial variations. We followed
339 a standard approach as proposed in Granger and collaborators (2015). First, a variogram model
340 was fitted to the experimental variogram computed using alpha-diversity observed at the sample
341 sites. Then, we predicted the unsampled locations by a global kriging approach that used all the
342 points in the dataset (global neighborhood). We implemented this approach with the “gstat” R
343 package (Bivand et al., 2015). We tried to fit various authorized variogram models and kept the
344 one that minimized the objective function. Then, we used the results of leave-one-out cross-
345 validation (LOOCV) to evaluate the performance of the best fitted geostatistical model by
346 computing the standardized squared prediction errors (Lark, 2002).

a supprimé: unsampled positions by kriging method using a local neighborhood

354 To obtain the information of the putative OTU richness across France, we computed the
355 rarefaction (interpolation) and prediction (extrapolation) curves for fungal richness (q=0) using
356 the R package iNEXT (Hsieh et al., 2016).

357

358 2.5. Fungal co-occurrence networks

359 We used the methodological analysis previously described in Karimi and collaborators (2020,
360 2019) to compute the fungal co-occurrence networks between land uses and climate types.
361 Briefly, two main steps were required: i) standardizing the number of soils (fixed at 60 samples
362 for land uses and 83 for climate types) used to compute the networks per land use to avoid a
363 sampling size effect, and ii) carrying out network repetitions (100 repetitions) to integrate the
364 residual heterogeneity of the soils within each land use and climate type. Thus, the minimum
365 number of combinations ensured that each network was computed from a unique combination
366 of sites. Then, for each replicate, network computation was based on a contingency matrix of
367 136,219 fungal OTUs for the 60 or 83 randomly selected soil samples. The Spearman
368 correlation coefficient for each pair of OTUs was used as a similarity index to estimate fungal
369 OTU co-occurrence. A correlation was considered robust and non-random if the p-value was
370 below 0.06 after correction using the false-discovery rate (FDR) method. To describe the
371 topology of the networks, a set of metrics was calculated using “statnet” package (Handcock et
372 al., 2019),), including the number of connected nodes, the proportion of connected nodes, the
373 number of links, connectance, and the ratio between the positive and negative links. These
374 metrics are defined in Karimi and collaborators (2017). We used a Kruskal-Wallis test with
375 Bonferroni correction for the multiple comparisons of the fungal networks across land uses and
376 climate types, using 100 repetitions. The median networks were mapped using Cytoscape
377 software (v. 3.9.1) (Shannon et al., 2003).

378

379 3. Results

380 3.1. Evaluation and extrapolation of fungal alpha-diversity across France

381 Based on 18S rDNA amplicon sequencing to characterize the fungal diversity of the 2,171
382 sampled soils, we obtained a total of 180 million raw sequences. The use of bioinformatic filters
383 (in BIOCOM-PIPE workflow) resulted in 2,060 samples with sufficient high-quality data for
384 the assessment of fungal communities. Regarding the cumulated fungal diversity from the
385 whole France, we identified 136,219 OTUs from the 2,060 samples. Thanks to our intensive
386 soil sampling strategy combined with in-depth sequencing, we obtained an extrapolated total
387 value of 186,794 fungal OTUs (Fig.1) at the national scale.

a mis en forme : Anglais (E.U.)

a supprimé : Briefly, two main steps were required: i) standardizing the number of soils (fixed at 60 samples) used to compute the network per land use to avoid a sampling size effect, and ii) carry out network repetitions (100 repetitions) to integrate the residual heterogeneity of the soils within each land use. Thus, the minimum number of combinations ensured that each network was computed from a unique combination of sites. Then, for each replicate, network computation was based on a contingency matrix of 136,219 fungal OTUs for the 60 randomly selected soil samples. The Spearman correlation coefficient for each pair of OTUs was used as a similarity index to estimate fungal OTU co-occurrence. A correlation was considered robust and non-random if the p-value was below 0.06 after correction using the False-Discovery Rate method. To describe the topology of the networks, a set of metrics was calculated using the “statnet” package

a supprimé: including the number of connected nodes, the proportion of connected nodes, the number of links, and the connectance. These metrics are defined in

a supprimé: We used a *kruskal* test with a correction by the Bonferroni method for the multiple comparisons of the fungal networks based on land uses, using 100 repetitions. The networks were mapped using Cytoscape version 3.9.1.

a supprimé: After applying different bioinformatic filters (using BIOCOM-PIPE workflow), we validated fungal diversity on 2,060 samples

a supprimé: Thanks to our intensive soil sampling strategy combined with in-depth sequencing, we extrapolated with iNEXT a total of 186,794 OTUs (Fig. 1) at the national scale.

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3.2. Spatial distribution of fungal alpha-diversity across France

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We generated three national maps showing the soil fungal alpha-diversity based on Hill numbers with orders of diversity of zero, one and two using a kriging interpolation approach

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(Fig. 2). The results of the LOOCV show very low R^2 values equal to 0.058, 0.057 and 0.038

423

for $q=0$, $q=1$ and $q=2$, respectively. However, the median and the mean of the SSPES are very

424

close to the expected values (e.g., 0.45 and 1). The fitted variograms reveal different spatial

425

structuring depending on the weighting of OTU relative abundances (Supplementary Table 1).

426

Thus, the predicted map of fungal richness (Hill diversity of order 0) exhibited a heterogeneous

427

and spatially structured distribution with a large autocorrelation distance of about 231-km

428

radius (Fig. 2a, 2d). More or less wide regions with hot or cold spots of fungal diversity were

429

observed. More specifically, soils from the north-west to the center of France support a high

430

fungal richness whereas soils from the north-east, the south-east, and the southwest support a

431

lower fungal richness.

432

The models fitted for $q=1$ (exp. Shannon diversity) and $q=2$ (inverse Simpson) exhibited the

433

spottiest distribution with short autocorrelation distances (27-km radius and 36-km radius,

434

respectively) (Fig. 2b, 2e and 2c, 2f). The hotspots observed for $q=1$ and $q=2$ were less diffuse

435

and remained strongly present in the north-west to the center of France. This spotty distribution

436

highlighted small hotspots of abundant fungal OTUs in certain geographical zones described as

437

having low fungal diversity by $q = 0$, such as the south-east and the north-east of France.

438

439

3.3. Relationship between sets of environmental filters and fungal alpha-diversity

440

We used a variance partitioning approach to evaluate the relative share of fungal diversity

441

explained variance by each set of environmental variables (soil characteristics, land use, climate

442

conditions, and spatial descriptors) for the different Hill numbers in partial models using a

443

redundancy analysis (RDA). Globally, environmental filters explained 20.1%, 15.52, % and

444

7.54% of the total variance of fungal richness for $q=0$, $q=1$ and $q=2$, respectively (Fig. 3a, 4a,

445

5a and Supplementary Table 2). For $q=0$, the main drivers of fungal richness variance were the

446

soil characteristics (11.30%), and then to a lesser extent climate conditions (0.88%), land use

447

(0.39%), and spatial descriptors (0.26%) (Fig. 3a). For $q=1$, the soil characteristics (9.30%)

448

were the main drivers, and then to a lesser extent, spatial descriptors (0.90%), climate conditions

449

(0.63%), and land use (0.44%) (Fig. 4a). For $q=2$, the soil parameters (4.25%) and land use

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(2.16%) were the main drivers, followed to a lesser extent by climate conditions (0.69%) and

451

spatial descriptors (0.31%) (Fig. 5a). The percentage of interactions between the environmental

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a supprimé: We generated three national maps showing the soil fungal alpha-diversity for all Hill numbers using a kriging interpolation approach (Fig. 2)

a supprimé: number $q=0$

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456 filters decreased from 7.25% for q=0 to 4.25% for q=1, and neared zero for q=2 (0.12%). The
457 main soil physical and chemical properties for each land use and climate condition are
458 summarized in Supplementary Figures 3 and 4.

459

460 3.4. Influence of the soil characteristics on soil fungal alpha-diversity

461 The key determining soil parameter for fungal richness was pH (variation explained by 6.72%),
462 A unimodal relationship was evidenced, with minimum fungal diversity in the most acidic and
463 alkaline soils (Supplementary Figure 2). For q=0, a significant influence of the soil texture was
464 also demonstrated, with a linear negative relationship observed with clay (2.38%) and silt
465 (0.65%). Conversely, a positive relationship was observed with the total lead content (0.58%)
466 and a negative relationship with the total nickel content (0.53%) and the total cadmium content
467 (0.37%) (Fig. 3b).

468 For q=1, soil pH (6.30%) had a unimodal distribution and was also the strongest driver followed
469 by the clay content (3%) with a negative linear correlation (Fig. 4b). For q=2, the soil pH
470 remained the strongest driver with also a unimodal relationship, and organic carbon and the
471 total iron content were also identified as secondary drivers, with a negative linear relationship
472 (Fig. 5b). Moreover, a weak positive relationship was observed with silt (variation explained
473 by 0.16% with a significance level of 0.1).

474

475 3.5. Influence of climate conditions on soil fungal alpha-diversity

476 The great diversity of climate conditions in France allowed us to compare fungal diversity
477 across eight types of climates (Fig. 6a). Temperature, rainfall, and elevation are summarized in
478 Supplementary Figure 4. Our analyses revealed that fungal diversity for q=0 and q=1 was
479 highest under oceanic climate (type 5) and lowest under Mediterranean climate (types 6 and 8)
480 and under the climate of the southwestern basin (type 7) (Fig. 6b and 6c). Moreover, we
481 observed no significant difference from types 6, 7 and 8. Fungal diversities for q=0 and q=1
482 under mountain and continental climates had an intermediate value between oceanic and
483 Mediterranean climates. Regarding the dominant OTUs (q=2), there was no significant
484 difference in fungal diversity across the various climate types of France (Fig. 6d).

485

486 3.6. Variation of soil fungal diversity as related to land uses

487 By comparing fungal richness (q=0) across the different land uses encountered in France (Fig.
488 7a), we observed several significant differences (Fig. 7b). Forest and vineyard/orchard soils

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a supprimé: The key determining soil parameter for fungal richness was the pH (6.72%)

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a supprimé: Conversely, a weak positive relationship was observed with the total lead content (0.58%) and available phosphorus (0.08%) (Fig. 3b).

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a supprimé: Interestingly, there was no significant difference in fungal diversity based on dominant OTUs (q=2) across the various climate types of France (Fig. 6d).¶

501 harbored lower fungal richness than grassland and agricultural soils, and can be ranked as
502 follows: vineyards/orchards ($\bar{x}_v = 1,384$ OTUs) \leq forests ($\bar{x}_f = 1,393$ OTUs) $<$ grasslands ($\bar{x}_g =$
503 $1,469$ OTUs) \leq crops ($\bar{x}_c = 1,498$ OTUs) (Fig. 7b). The same trend was observed for $q=1$ (Fig.
504 7c) but was different for $q=2$ (Fig. 7d). For $q=2$, fungal diversity in grassland and vineyard soils
505 appeared lowest compared to forest and crop soils.

506 Within the four major land uses of French soils, we identified and compared more precisely
507 land managements (Fig. 8). For example, forests can be categorized into three groups –
508 deciduous forests, coniferous forests, and mixed forests. Among forest managements, we
509 observed significant differences between deciduous and mixed forests: the lowest richness was
510 found in mixed forests (Fig. 8a). For $q=1$, fungal diversity in deciduous forests was significantly
511 higher than in coniferous and mixed forests (Fig. 8b), while no difference was detected for $q=2$
512 (Fig. 8c). Significant differences were also recorded by comparing the different land
513 managements of the crop systems: whatever the metrics, soil fungal diversity was higher under
514 crops with a grassland rotation than under crops without a grassland rotation. No significant
515 difference was recorded between vineyards and orchards or between the various grassland
516 managements (Fig. 8).

517
518 3.7. Comparison of soil fungal co-occurrence networks between land uses and climate types

519 The networks were graphically composed of connections (links) between the nodes
520 corresponding to the OTUs. The links represented the significant positive and negative
521 correlations between the OTUs occurring in the soils under the respective land uses or climate
522 types (Fig. 9). A visual analysis of the networks obtained for the different land uses revealed a
523 significant shift in structure ranging from a highly connected, tightly closed structure in forests
524 to a sparse, open structure in vineyards (Fig. 9a). In grassland and crop soils, the networks
525 exhibited an intermediate structural complexity in terms of their numbers of links and connected
526 OTUs (Fig. 10a). Statistical comparisons of the network metrics between land uses confirmed
527 a highly significant decreasing gradient of network complexity, with a pattern: forest \gg
528 grassland \geq crop system $>$ vineyard & orchard soils (Supplementary table 3, Fig. 10a). The
529 average number of links significantly decreased by 84% from forest to vineyard soils, and by
530 76% from forest to field crop and grassland soils. The average connectance also progressively
531 decreased by 81% from forest to vineyard soils, and by 78% from forest to field crop and
532 grassland soils. The ratio between the positive and negative links was lower in forest soil and
533 higher in vineyard & orchard soil (Fig. 10a). The fungal networks across the eight climate types
534 exhibited a progressive decrease in connectivity between climate types 1, 2, 3 and 4, then a very

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a supprimé: Furthermore, the extreme fungal diversity values greatly varied according to the land use, whatever the metrics used.

a supprimé: Significant differences were also recorded by comparing the different land managements of crop systems: soil fungal diversity was higher under crops with grassland rotation whatever the metrics

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546 significant drop for types 5 and 7, and the greatest connectivity for types 6 and 8 (Figs. 9b and
547 10b, Supplementary table 4). Conversely, the highest ratio between the positive and negative
548 links was observed in networks within types 5 and 7, and the lowest one for type 8.

550 4. Discussion

551 Two molecular markers are commonly used to explore fungal diversity thanks to
552 metabarcoding approaches: the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region, accepted as a universal
553 barcode, and the 18S rRNA gene as an alternative, the two being considered today as
554 complementary. Both have advantages and drawbacks, in particular to observe specific
555 functional groups. For example, members of the class Glomeromycetes are better characterized
556 using 18S rDNA than ITS, especially in the soil microbiota, and this could have a significant
557 impact on fungal diversity metrics (George et al., 2019b). In addition, important reference
558 sequences are only annotated at the phylum level in the international databases (Nilsson et al.,
559 2012, 2016; Banos et al., 2018). Moreover, a recent study highlighted that national-scale fungal
560 biogeography studies based on 18S rDNA were robust and sensitive to decipher the
561 relationships between fungal diversity and environmental filters (George et al., 2019b). For all
562 these reasons, the use of 18S rDNA gene to characterize fungal alpha-diversity in soil can be
563 relevant. Once the molecular marker was chosen, the hypervariable region had to be selected
564 for sequencing. Various criteria had to be taken into account such as amplicon length in relation
565 to the sequencer, or the desired taxonomic and phylogenetic resolution. We sequenced the V7-
566 V8 regions because they appeared to be the most promising regions for fungal diversity
567 assessment (Banos et al., 2018). The last tricky step of a fungal diversity study is the
568 bioinformatics analysis, which is dependent on the pipeline (Pauvert et al., 2019). Nevertheless,
569 our previous studies on bacterial biogeography showed that our metabarcoding pipeline and
570 associated tools were highly appropriate to analyze large microbial datasets (Djemiel et al.,
571 2020; Terrat et al., 2019).

572 As for the alpha-diversity analysis, we chose to use the Hill numbers – which have several
573 advantages (Roswell et al., 2021) – to provide an overview of fungal diversity for each site.
574 This allowed us to observe all OTUs – "typical" OTUs and dominant ones –, based on their
575 abundance frequencies (Chao et al., 2014), especially as fungal diversity can be represented by
576 a few dominant species with a high relative abundance (Egidi et al., 2019a).

577 The first predictions of worldwide fungal diversity ranked from 2.2 to 3.8 million
578 species (Hawksworth and Lücking, 2017), but recent molecular works updated estimations up

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a supprimé: The networks were graphically composed of connections (links) between the nodes corresponding to the OTUs. The links represented the significant positive and negative correlations between the OTUs occurring in the soils under the respective land uses (Fig. 9). A visual analysis of the networks obtained for the different land uses revealed a significant shift in structure ranging from a highly connected, tightly closed structure for forests to a sparse, open structure for vineyards (Fig. 9). In grassland and crop soils, the networks exhibited an intermediate complexity of the structure in terms of number of links and connected OTUs (Supplementary Figure 5). Statistical comparisons of the network metrics between the land uses confirmed a highly significant decreasing gradient of network complexity, with forest >> grassland ≥ crop system > vineyard and orchard soils (Supplementary table 3, Supplementary Figure 5). The average number of links significantly decreased by 84% from forest to vineyard soils and by 76% from forest to crop and grassland soils. The average connectance also progressively decreased by 81% from forest to vineyard soils and by 78% from forest to crop and grassland soils.

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604 to 6.28 to 12 million species predicted by computing several hundreds of international studies
605 (Phukhamsakda et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2019; Baldrian et al., 2022). At the national scale, this
606 question remains unexplored for soil ecosystems. In our study, we predict total fungal richness
607 at a national scale for the first time by an extrapolation analysis from metabarcoding at the OTU
608 levels. Compared to the estimated worldwide diversity, France exhibits a very high cumulated
609 soil fungal richness (about 1% of the global soil fungal diversity based on a maximum diversity
610 estimate of 12 million) relative to its small surface (0.3 % of terrestrial land). Independently to
611 the molecular marker used, this suggests that global soil fungal richness is under-estimated
612 worldwide partly due to the poor intensive sampling strategy that has only been extensive to
613 date, with few sampling sites. Consequently, this strategy seems relatively inefficient to capture
614 the local environmental heterogeneity that hosts and shapes fungal richness. Therefore, it is
615 important to gather several deeply investigated national surveys to estimate global soil fungal
616 diversity more robustly (Dini-Andreote et al., 2021). Another example of soil fungal diversity
617 estimation at a national scale has been described in Wales, where 437 samples were collected
618 in sites on a surface area of 20 x 10³ km², leading to a total evaluation of 4,408 OTUs based on
619 18S rDNA characterization (George et al., 2019b).
620 Our first maps of the three Hill numbers were provided to describe the spatial distribution of
621 soil fungal alpha-diversity across France, as previously done for molecular microbial biomass
622 and bacterial richness (Dequiedt et al., 2011; Terrat et al., 2017). The heterogeneous spatial
623 distribution of fungal diversity observed in France is not congruent with several studies using
624 ITS marker (Větrovský et al., 2019; Tedersoo et al., 2014), which did not observe significant
625 variations across Europe with a global soil mapping approach. The two studies computed 365
626 and 3,085 soil samples across the world, respectively, compared to 2,171 in the present study
627 at the scale of France. In addition, these global sampling strategies were based on non-random
628 designs that generally left aside difficult access (polar, arid, mountainous) regions, hence with
629 possible biases on the environmental representativeness of soil fungal habitats. A recent study
630 in northern Europe generated an extrapolated fungal richness map of Estonia using ITS marker
631 that confirmed a heterogeneous geographic distribution with hot- and cold-spots at the national
632 scale (Tedersoo et al., 2020). Altogether, these observations stress the need to assess more
633 intensive samplings at different scales in order to describe robustly the global distribution of
634 soil fungal diversity and its determinism (Dini-Andreote et al., 2021).
635 The soil fungal community is well known to be largely dominated by a few highly abundant
636 taxa and to include a large number of rare taxa (Egidi et al., 2019). Few biogeography studies
637 have focused on abundant and rare taxa through the different alpha-diversity metrics (e.g., Hill

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a supprimé: Compared to the estimated worldwide diversity, France exhibits a very high cumulated soil fungal richness (of about 1%) relative to its small surface (0.3 % of terrestrial land)

a supprimé: This suggests that global soil fungal diversity is strongly under-estimated worldwide mainly due to the poor intensive sampling strategy that has been to date only extensive with few sampling sites

a supprimé: For other soil organisms, total bacterial richness has been evaluated to reach a total of 188,030 OTUs across France (Terrat et al., 2019). Earthworm richness has been evaluated more globally by compiling 6,928 sites in 57 countries, leading to an estimated 1,376 cumulated species across the world (Phillips et al., 2019).

a supprimé: (Tedersoo et al., 2014a)

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a supprimé: The community of soil microorganisms – especially fungi – is well known to be largely dominated by a few highly abundant taxa and to include a large number of rare taxa

a supprimé: Fuhrman, 2009; Pedrós-Alió, 2012;

a supprimé: ; Bickel and Or, 2021

660 numbers) (Bent and Forney, 2008). Yet, comparing the spatial distribution of dominant and rare
661 biosphere fungi is important to better grasp the environmental determinism that shapes soil
662 fungal diversity (Mo et al., 2018). Mapping of richness (q=0, including all OTUs), and “typical”
663 (q=1, including common fungal OTUs abundances) and dominant (q=2, including OTUs with
664 high relative abundance) fungal OTUs revealed different spatial patterns, “patchier” (i.e.,
665 spatially more diffuse) for q=0 with 231 km radius, and “spottier” (i.e. spatially more restricted)
666 for q=1 (27 km) and q=2 (36 km). *These results altogether suggest a 'patchier' pattern, generally
667 considered less stochastic than a 'spottier' distribution (Dequiedt et al., 2011; Terrat al., 2015).
668 A similar observation was made in eastern China, with different spatial distributions of rare and
669 dominant soil fungal OTUs based on ITS marker (the authors did not use Hill numbers but
670 relative abundance and a threshold to group rare and dominant OTUs), suggesting differential*
671 sensitivity to various environmental filters leading to increase the endemicity of particular
672 dominant taxa (Jiao and Lu, 2020).

673 The decrease of the explained variance between the q=0, q=1 and q=2 Hill numbers indicates
674 that environmental and spatial characteristics had a low influence on the national distribution
675 of dominant OTUs. These are generally considered as generalist and more driven by stochastic
676 processes, whereas rare taxa are more driven by deterministic processes (Zhao et al., 2022; Jia
677 et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2022b, a). The spottier distribution observed for q=2 could support this
678 hypothesis of a more random distribution across France, less influenced by environmental
679 filters. Whatever the Hill numbers, the main filters explaining the variance of fungal diversity
680 were the soil characteristics: soil pH was the main driver, followed by clay content for q=0 and
681 q=1, and the trophic conditions for q=2 (organic C and total Fe contents). Such an influence of
682 soil trophic resources on dominant fungal OTU diversity seems in accordance with their
683 generalist and copiotrophic strategy (Wang et al., 2021). Numerous studies have reported the
684 importance of soil pH in the distribution of fungal richness across different scales (Rousk et al.,
685 2010; Glassman et al., 2017; Tedersoo et al., 2014, 2020; George et al., 2019b). Interestingly,
686 we revealed a unimodal relationship of soil pH with fungal diversity, whereas most studies
687 found either a positive or a negative linear relationship (Tedersoo et al., 2014; Maestre et al.,
688 2015; Bastida et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2019). Such a discrepancy could be partly explained by
689 the large pH range recorded in France – 3.7 to 9 –, versus 3.6 to 5.2 in Wales (George et al.,
690 2019b) or more surprisingly 3.34 to 10.43 at the European scale (Fernandez-Ugalde et al.,
691 2022). Emphasizing our hypothesis, other studies report the same unimodal relationship for
692 fungi by using ITS marker and even for bacteria (Bickel et al., 2019; Tedersoo et al., 2020). As
693 for bacterial richness across France, fungal richness was lower in fine-textured soil, which is

a supprimé: A similar observation was made in eastern China, with different spatial distributions of rare and dominant soil fungal OTUs,

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703 not congruent with the results obtained in Wales based on the 18S rDNA marker (George et al.,
704 2019b). In France, we may think that fine-textured soils offer less diverse habitats for fungi, as
705 previously reported (Witzgall et al., 2021; Tecon and Or, 2017). This might be partly explained
706 by the decrease in microscale heterogeneity with increasing clay content, leading to a lower
707 diversity of microbial habitats and a smaller hosting capacity for various indigenous microbial
708 species (Tecon and Or, 2017). Finally, some soil heavy metals were minor but represented
709 significant drivers of fungal richness. A positive relationship was observed with total lead, but
710 a negative one with cadmium and nickel. These metallic elements occur naturally but also result
711 from human activities and are known to be toxic for soil fungi when accumulated in the
712 environment (Sun et al., 2022; Ding et al., 2022). In crop soils, significant Cd accumulation
713 through the input of phosphate fertilizers extracted from contaminated limestone rocks has been
714 observed (Khan et al., 2017) and our results could reflect the significant impact of this
715 contamination on soil fungi at a broad scale.
716 Conversely to bacterial biogeography at the scale of France, climate conditions have been
717 identified as important global filters of the distribution of fungal diversity across France for all
718 Hill numbers based on three different orders of diversity (Terrat et al., 2017). The highest fungal
719 richness and highest typical OTU diversity found under oceanic climate may be partly
720 explained by particular conditions such as buffered mean temperature and humidity inducing
721 soil homeothermy and stability of water availability favorable to fungal development (Canini
722 et al., 2019; Jiao et al., 2021). On the contrary, the high variability of these conditions between
723 seasons could explain the decline observed under Mediterranean climate. The poor influence of
724 climate on the diversity of abundant fungal OTUs across France could reflect their generalist
725 strategy better adapted to a high magnitude of environmental fluctuations over time, as
726 previously observed in eastern China (Jiao and Lu, 2020). Moreover, our results indicate that
727 rare fungi were more present in geographical regions with abundant annual rainfall and mild
728 mean temperature, in line with the observation of increasing fungal richness with frequent
729 rainfall (Tedersoo et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2018; Bahram et al., 2018).
730 In France, each land use corresponds to a particular intensity of soil disturbance resulting from
731 the intensification of agricultural practices. We can rank the different land uses according to the
732 intensity level of their soil disturbance as follows: forests < grasslands < crops <
733 vineyards/orchards. The crop systems – vineyards in particular – use pesticides and soil tillage
734 that have deleterious effects on fungal diversity (Karimi et al., 2021; Christel et al., 2021). We
735 observed the highest richness (q=0) and typical (q=1) OTU diversity in grasslands and crops
736 corresponding to the intermediate levels of disturbance. Similar observations have been

a supprimé: favorable

a supprimé: These metallic elements occur naturally but also result from human activities and are known to be toxic for soil microorganisms when accumulated in the environment

a supprimé: and our results could reflect the significant impact of this contamination on soil microorganisms at a broad scale

a supprimé: of the distribution of fungal diversity across France whatever the Hill number

a supprimé: In France, each land use corresponds to a particular intensity of soil disturbance resulting from more or less important human activities

749 reported about nematodes (Vazquez et al., 2019), bacteria (Delgado-Baquerizo et al., 2018;
750 Terrat et al., 2017), and fungi by using 18S rDNA marker (George et al., 2019b) at different
751 scales. Conversely, no difference has been reported between forest, grassland, and crop soils in
752 Estonia (Tedersoo et al., 2020), and decreased fungal richness has been reported between
753 temperate-forest and crop soils at a global scale (Bastida et al., 2021). Our observations support
754 the intermediate disturbance hypothesis (IDH) stating that the species richness of an ecosystem
755 is maximized when it is submitted to an intermediate disturbance, and minimized when it is
756 submitted to either a low disturbance by a competitive exclusion process or to a high
757 disturbance by a selection process (Connell, 1978; Wilkinson, 1999; Giller et al., 1998). More
758 precisely, agricultural practices such as tillage can stimulate microbial richness in crop systems
759 (Szoboszlay et al., 2017; Lienhard et al., 2013), and the highest level of richness is generally
760 explained by the coexistence of microorganisms with different ecological strategies that
761 promote ecosystem stability (Griffiths and Philippot, 2013). Interestingly, we also observed the
762 highest diversity of dominant fungal OTUs (inverse Simpson, Hill q=2) in crop systems, *versus*
763 lowest diversity in grasslands, in line with previous studies reporting a similar trend in grassland
764 and crop soils (Xu et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2022). This observation suggests that increased
765 fungal diversity in intensive soil management crop systems is concurrent with decreased fungal
766 evenness.
767 Analyzing fungal diversity according to the different land managements within each land use
768 highlighted the highest fungal diversity in the agricultural systems when crop rotation included
769 grasslands. Inserting temporary grasslands in the rotations is well known to improve soil quality
770 in terms of nutrient provision and recycling, soil structure, and biological regulation (Martin et
771 al., 2020) and could favor the development of soil fungi, as previously described at the
772 landscape scale in Brittany by using 18S rDNA marker (Western France, Le Guillou et al.,
773 2019). More fundamentally, this statement also raises the question of the influence of
774 aboveground (plant) diversity on the abundance and diversity of belowground (micro-)
775 organisms due to the maintenance of diverse habitats in soils and to changes in nutrient cycling
776 poorly investigated in crop systems to date (Wardle et al., 2004). Among forest ecosystems,
777 deciduous forests seem to provide the most favorable conditions for fungal diversity. Across
778 France, deciduous forests present the highest tree family richness compared to mixed and
779 coniferous forests (data not showed). Therefore, our results are in line with studies showing that
780 plant species richness positively affects the soil fungal diversity (Tedersoo et al., 2016; Hiiesalu
781 et al., 2017). The lowest fungal diversity observed in coniferous forest soil also confirmed the
782 strong influence of the lower availability and/or degradability of organic substrates provided by

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786 this litter for microorganisms (Leckie et al., 2004; De Boer et al., 2005). However, other
787 parameters such as plant genotype, forest stand age or tree density, not taken into account in
788 the present study, could also affect fungal diversity (Tedersoo et al., 2016; Hazard and Johnson,
789 2018; Spake et al., 2015). In contrast, no difference related to the different types of grassland
790 or to the distinction between vineyards and orchards was recorded.

791 Beyond fungal alpha-diversity, the analysis of co-occurrence networks is a relevant way of
792 providing a more comprehensive view of fungal diversity and its interactions according to
793 environmental variations on a broad scale (Karimi et al., 2017). As previously observed for
794 bacterial co-occurrence networks across France, land use intensity affects the complexity of
795 fungal networks (Karimi et al., 2019). Although forest ecosystems exhibited the lowest fungal
796 richness, they harbored the highest complexity of fungal co-occurrence networks. Strong losses
797 of about 83% of the links between forests and vineyards and about 75% between ‘forests’ on
798 the one hand and ‘grasslands and crop systems’ on the other hand were observed across France.

799 A similar trend has been observed for bacterial networks across France (Karimi et al., 2019)
800 and also for fungi along a transect from forest to vineyards in Australia (Xue et al., 2022).
801 However, soil fungal interaction networks remain poorly described by comparing land uses on
802 a broad scale. The lowest fungal diversity and lowest complexity of interaction networks
803 observed in vineyard and orchard soils could be related to the intensification of agricultural
804 practices in these systems (Karimi et al., 2019). Vineyard soils are indeed known to be strongly
805 disturbed by intensive tillage, a restricted plant cover and large pesticide inputs (Quiquerez et
806 al., 2022). This intensification of agricultural practices can lead to the isolation of fungal taxa
807 and the loss of links between taxa in these soils by i) reducing microbial biomass, hence a lower
808 probability of each cell encountering another and interacting with it (Dequiedt et al., 2011), ii)
809 stimulating self-sufficient opportunistic microorganisms that do not interact with others
810 (Lienhard et al., 2013), and iii) reducing spatial connectivity between soil ecological niches due
811 to soil tillage and compaction, hence physical isolation of fungal taxa (Cordero and Datta,
812 2016). Altogether, our results confirm that forest soils remain a favorable habitat for soil fungi
813 by representing a mosaic of connected ecological niches that are fully complete and shared by
814 non-opportunistic taxa (Karimi et al., 2019). Interestingly, the highest fungal diversity and
815 lowest complexity of interaction networks were observed in oceanic climate soils. The lowest
816 fungal diversity and a very low complexity of interaction networks were also observed under
817 the climate of the south-western basin. Finally, the lowest fungal diversity and lowest
818 complexity of interaction networks were observed under Mediterranean climate (region types
819 6 and 8). The soils under Mediterranean climate presented the greatest level of stress, with the

a supprimé: interaction

821 highest annual temperatures and the lowest annual precipitation, and did not provide favorable
822 ecological niches for fungal diversity.

823

824 5. Conclusions

825 At the scale of France, by using 18S rDNA gene, the soil fungal diversity is driven by soil
826 characteristics, land management and climatic conditions. Soil pH was the most important soil
827 property explaining rare and abundant fungal diversity. The lowest fungal richness was found
828 in less disturbed environments (forests) and highly disturbed environments (vineyards &
829 orchards) compared to grasslands and croplands. Highly disturbed environments (crops,
830 vineyards & orchards) harbored the lowest fungal network complexity compared to forest soils,
831 which harbored the most connected networks. Our study confirms that a nation-wide survey is
832 relevant to deeply investigate the spatial distribution and determinism of soil fungal diversity.
833 In addition, compiling data obtained from different molecular markers (ITS and 18S rDNA)
834 could also significantly improve the description and comprehensiveness of the soil fungal
835 diversity. The multiplication and the sum of such studies conducted across the world could
836 highly upgrade biodiversity conservation policies and provide representative repositories
837 dedicated to soil microorganisms in a context of global change. To go further, it will be
838 important to explore fungal beta-diversity and fungal taxonomy at the scale of France in order
839 to reach a more comprehensive understanding of spatial distribution, ecological processes, and
840 environmental filters. Finally, it will also be important to investigate the ecological and
841 functional traits assignment of soil fungal communities, using recent tools and databases
842 developed to better predict the shift in soil functioning according to land management intensity
843 (Djemiel et al., 2022).

844

845 **Code and data availability**

846 The fungal DNA sequencing datasets supporting the results presented in this article are
847 available at the EBI ENA under accession number PRJEB57875. The code that supports the
848 findings of this study are available from the first author upon request.

849

850 **Authors' contributions**

851 All authors conceptualized the research project. Claudy Jolivet coordinated the RMQS program
852 and the soil sampling at the territory scale. Lionel Ranjard is the scientific coordinator of the
853 different projects dealing with the characterization of the soil microbial communities at the

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854 scale of France. Charles Guillard, Solène Perrin, Gwendoline Comment, Julie Tripied and
855 Mélanie Lelièvre performed the molecular analyses. Patrick Wincker and Corinne Cruaud
856 contributed to DNA sequencing. Christophe Djemiel and Sébastien Terrat performed the
857 bioinformatic analyses. Claudy Jolivet, Nicolas P.A. Saby, Line Boulonne provided the
858 environmental dataset. Christophe Djemiel, Samuel Dequiedt, Walid Horrigue, Arthur Bailly,
859 and Nicolas P.A. Saby contributed to the statistical and geostatistics analyses. Christophe
860 Djemiel and Lionel Ranjard wrote the original draft. Christophe Djemiel, Sébastien Terrat,
861 Nicolas P.A. Saby, Claudy Jolivet, Line Boulonne, Antoine Pierart, Pierre-Alain Maron, and
862 Lionel Ranjard reviewed and edited the final manuscript.

863

864 **Competing interests**

865 One author is member of the editorial board of SOIL journal. The peer-review process was
866 guided by an independent editor, and the authors have also no other competing interests to
867 declare.

868

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1413 **Figures**

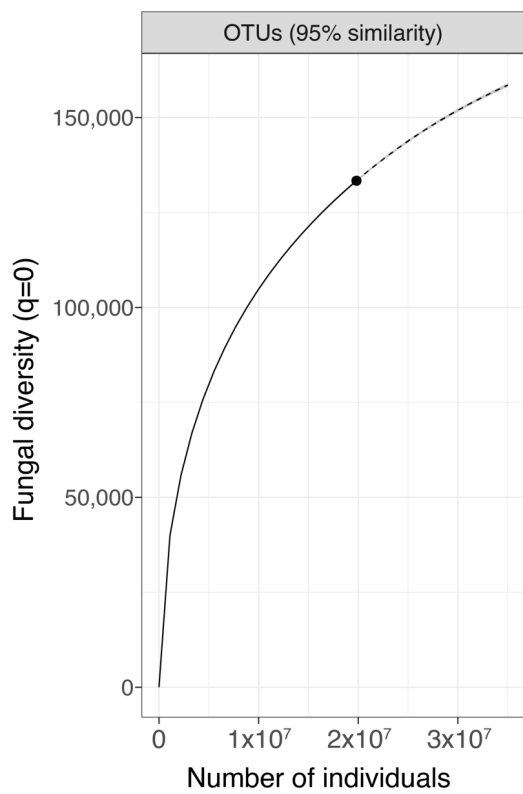
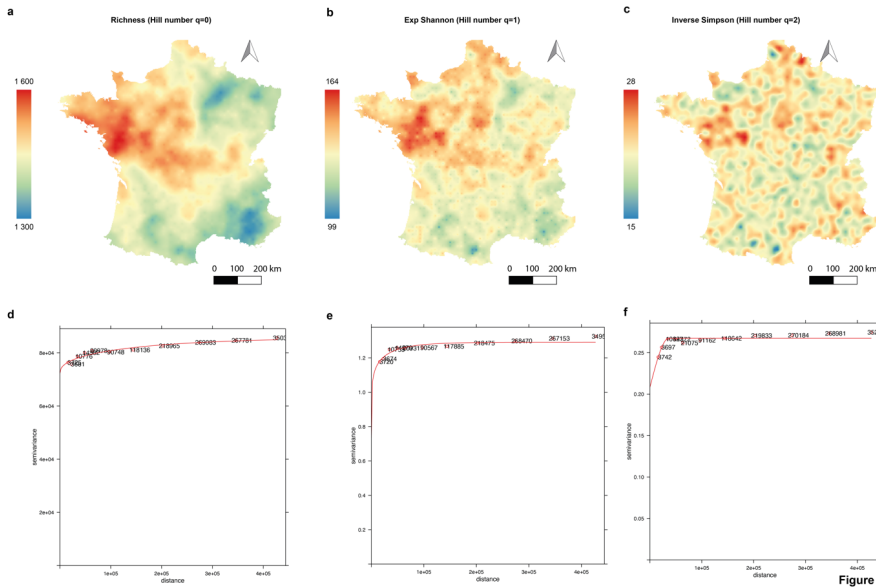


Figure 1

1414
1415 Fig. 1: Maximum number of fungal species expected across France based on OTUs. The
1416 analyses of fungal richness rarefaction (solid line segment) and extrapolation (dotted line
1417 segment) was performed with iNEXT.



1418
 1419 Fig. 2: National soil fungal alpha-diversity maps and robust variograms in France. Map of
 1420 fungal richness (a). Map of fungal exponential of Shannon diversity (b). Map of fungal inverse
 1421 Simpson (c). The variogram of fungal richness and the exponential of Shannon diversity are
 1422 based on Matern model with M. Stein's parameterization (d and e). The variogram of fungal
 1423 inverse Simpson is based on a spherical model. Colors correspond to the extrapolated values
 1424 expressed as OTUs *per* soil sample (f).

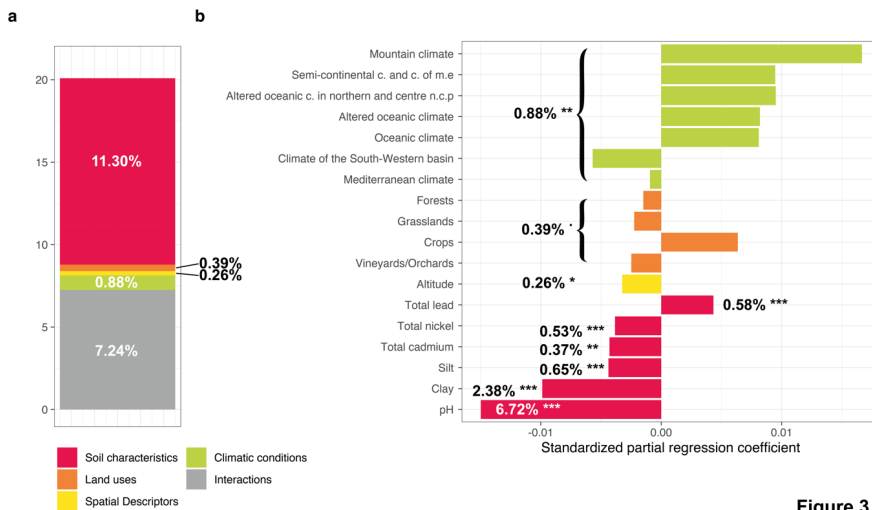


Figure 3

1426 Fig. 3: Variance partitioning analysis to determine how local factors and factors related to
 1427 global environmental filters explained variance in fungal richness (a). The amount of explained
 1428 variance corresponds to the adjusted R^2 values of the contextual groups using partial
 1429 redundancy analysis. (b) Model parameters for the distribution of fungal richness. Each
 1430 parameter is presented with its estimated model coefficients and its marginal effect assessed by
 1431 a permutation test. * $P < 0.1$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$. Missing values indicate that the variable
 1432 was not retained in the model. Sand was removed prior to model evaluation since it was
 1433 represented by the opposite of the sum of the silt and clay contents.

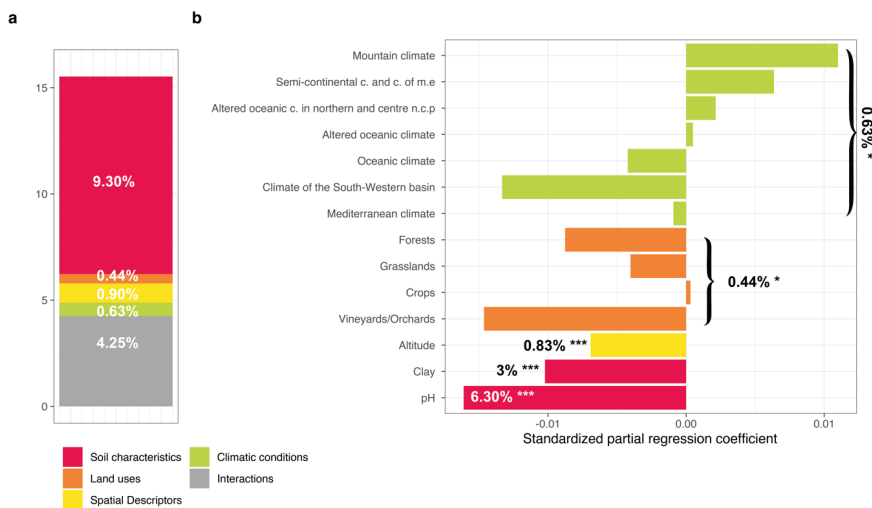


Figure 4

1434 Fig. 4: Variance partitioning analysis to determine how local factors and factors related to
 1435 global environmental filters explained variance in the exponential of fungal Shannon diversity
 1436 (a). The amount of explained variance corresponds to the adjusted R^2 values of the contextual
 1437 groups using partial redundancy analysis. Model parameters for the distribution of the
 1438 exponential of fungal Shannon diversity (b). Each parameter is presented with its estimated
 1439 model coefficients and its marginal effect assessed by a permutation test. * $P < 0.1$; ** $P < 0.01$;
 1440 *** $P < 0.001$. Missing values indicate that the variable was not retained in the model. Sand was
 1441 removed prior to model evaluation since it was represented by the opposite of the sum of the
 1442 silt and clay contents.

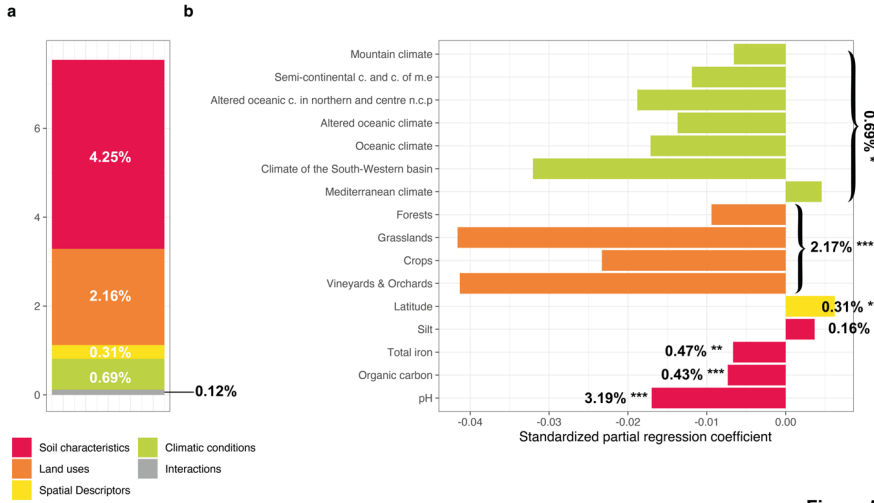
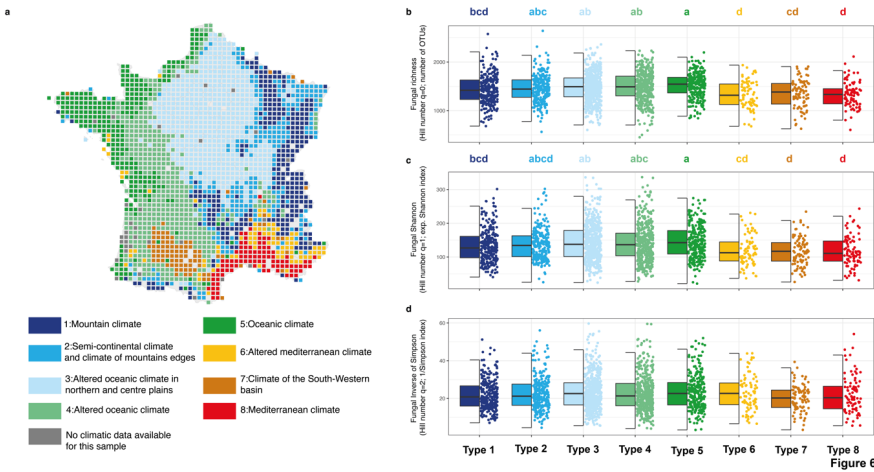


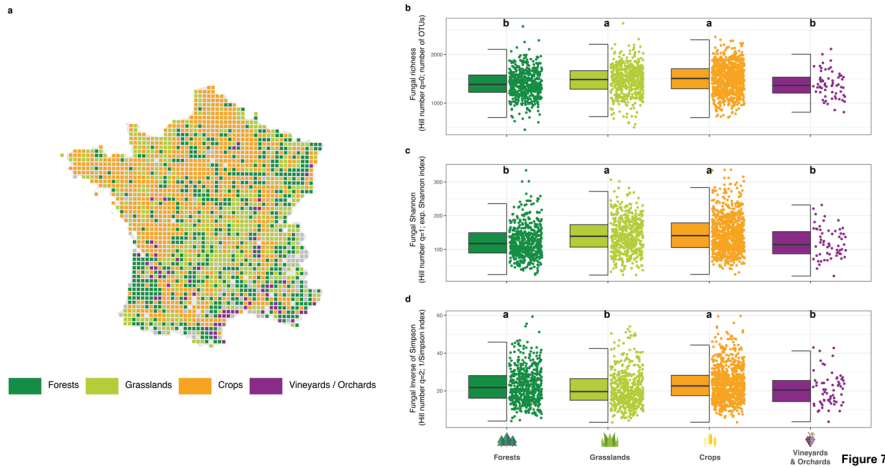
Figure 5

1444
 1445 Fig. 5: Variance partitioning analysis to determine how local factors and factors related to
 1446 global environmental filters explained variance in fungal inverse Simpson (a). The amount of
 1447 explained variance corresponds to the adjusted R^2 values of the contextual groups using partial
 1448 redundancy analysis. Model parameters for the distribution of fungal inverse Simpson (b). Each
 1449 parameter is presented with its estimated model coefficients and its marginal effect assessed by
 1450 a permutation test. * $P < 0.1$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$. Missing values indicate that the variable
 1451 was not retained in the model. Sand was removed prior to model evaluation since it was
 1452 represented by the opposite of the sum of the silt and clay contents.



1453

1454 Fig. 6: Map of the RMQS sampling sites and classification of the eight climate types (a). Soil
 1455 fungal alpha-diversity distribution across climate types for fungal richness (b), the exponential
 1456 of fungal Shannon diversity (c), and fungal inverse Simpson (d). Different letters designate
 1457 significantly different values following multiple comparisons.



1458
 1459 Fig. 7: Map of the RMQS sampling sites and classification for the four land uses (a). Fungal
 1460 richness distribution across land uses (b). Distribution of the exponential of fungal Shannon
 1461 diversity across land uses (c). Fungal inverse Simpson distribution across land uses (d).
 1462 Different letters designate significantly different values following multiple comparisons.

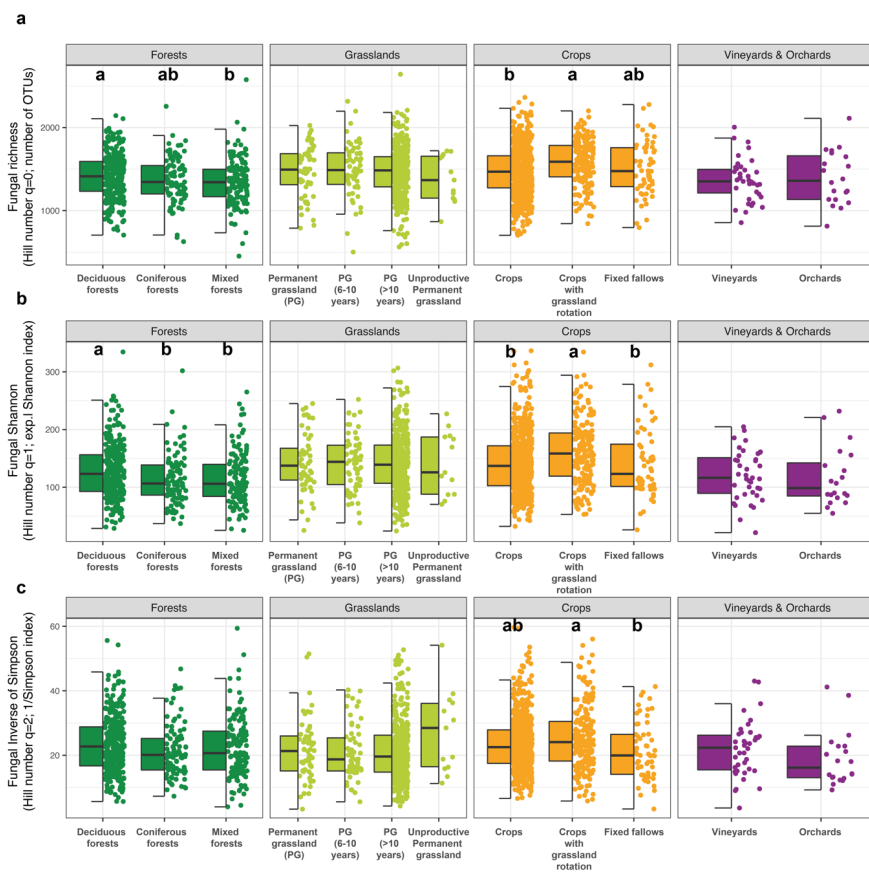
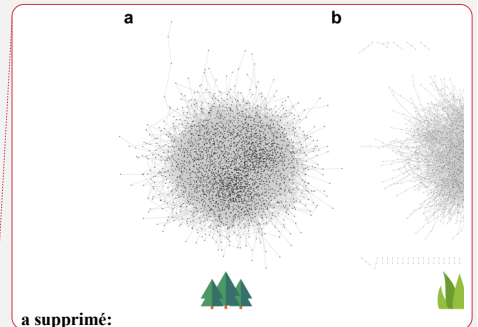
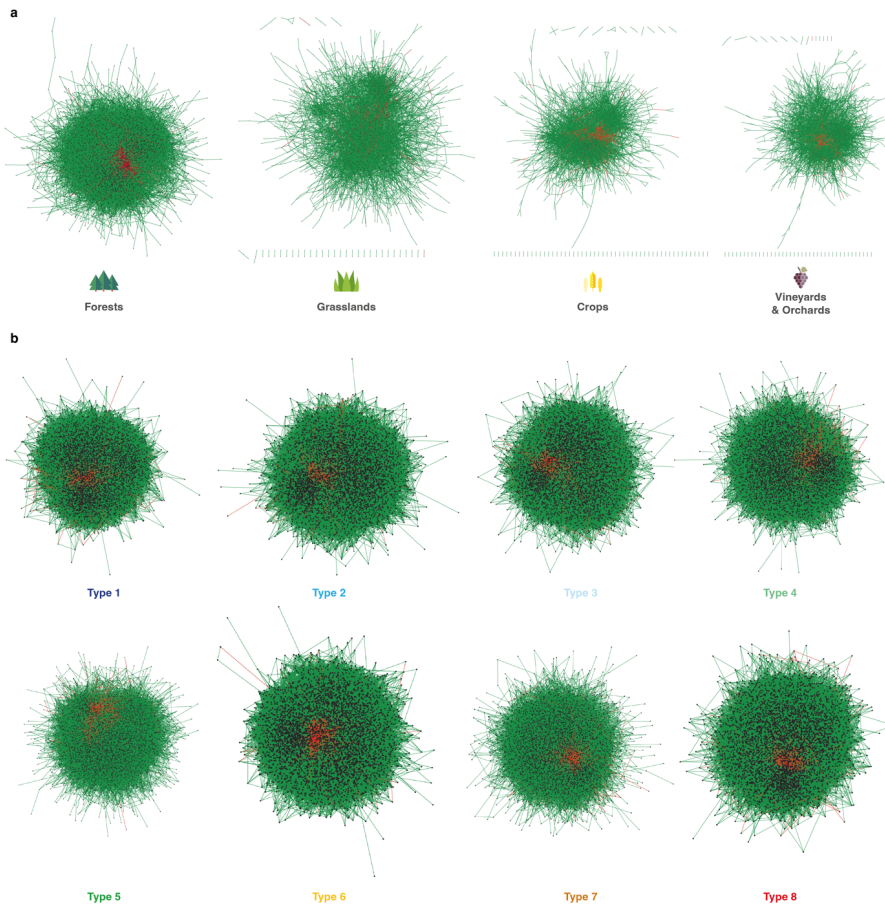


Figure 8

1463
 1464 Fig. 8: Distribution of soil fungal alpha-diversity within the four major land uses of French soils
 1465 according to a more precise land management characterization for fungal richness (a), the
 1466 exponential of fungal Shannon diversity (b), and fungal inverse Simpson (c). Different letters
 1467 designate significantly different values following multiple comparisons.



1468 **Figure 9**

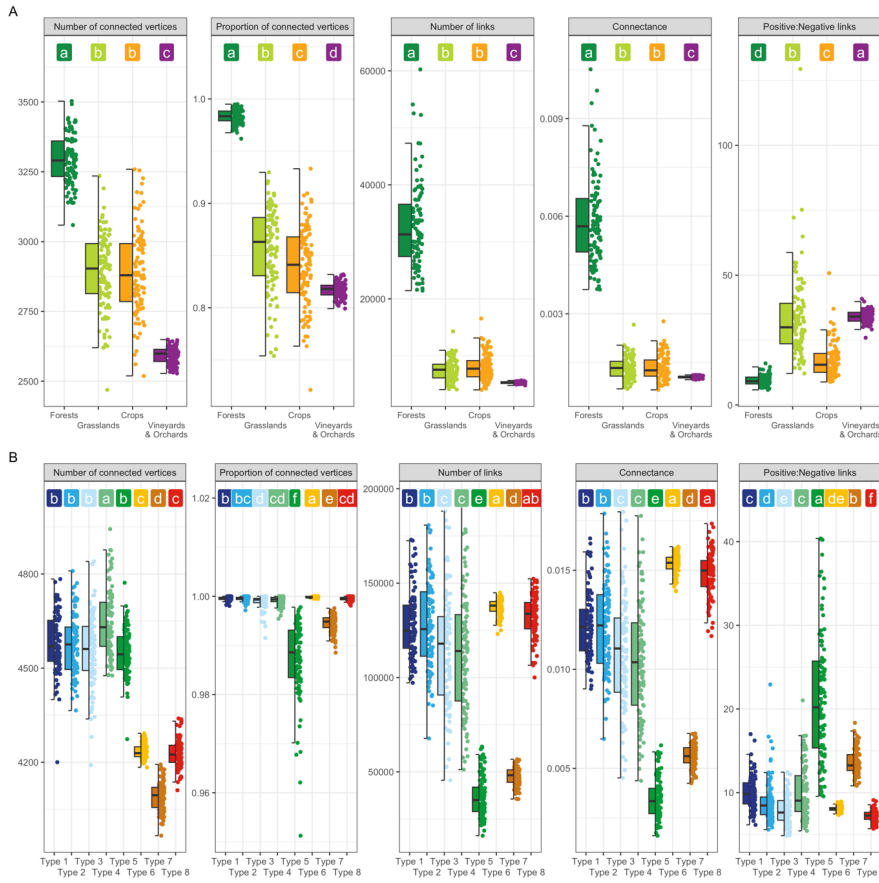
1469 Fig 9. Co-occurrence networks of fungal OTUs across land uses (a) and climate types (b) in

1470 France. Among the 100 replicates of the 4 types of land cover or 8 climate types, we visualized

1471 the network closest to the median network based on the number of links and connectance. The

1472 red edges represent the negative links, and the green edges represent the positive links. Nodes,

1474 OTUs; edges, links between the nodes.



1475
 1476 **Fig 10. Fungal co-occurrence network metrics for the four land uses (a) and eight climate types**
 1477 **(b) based on five indices. Different letters designate significantly different values following**
 1478 **multiple comparisons.**

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