

Engineered symbiotic bacteria interfering *Nosema* redox system inhibit microsporidia parasitism in honeybees

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1 **Abstract**

2 *Nosema ceranae* is an emergent microsporidia parasite of the European honey
3 bee (*Apis mellifera*), which causes serious nosemosis implicated in honeybee colony
4 losses worldwide. *N. ceranae* is an obligate intracellular eukaryotic parasite that
5 mainly invades the midgut of honeybees. Recent studies find that bee gut microbiota
6 is potentially involved in protecting against parasitism. Here, using laboratory-
7 generated bees mono-associated with gut members, we find that *Snodgrassella alvi*
8 inhibited microsporidia proliferation, potentially via the stimulation of host oxidant-
9 mediated immune response. Accordingly, *N. ceranae* employs the thioredoxin and
10 glutathione systems to defend against oxidative stress and maintain a balanced redox
11 equilibrium, which is essential for the infection process. We knocked down the gene
12 expression using nanoparticle-mediated RNA interference, which targets the γ -
13 glutamyl-cysteine synthetase and thioredoxin reductase genes of microsporidia. It
14 significantly reduces the spore load, confirming the importance of the antioxidant
15 mechanism for the intracellular invasion of the *N. ceranae* parasite. Finally, we
16 genetically modified the symbiotic *S. alvi* to deliver dsRNA corresponding to the
17 genes involved in the redox system of the microsporidia. The engineered *S. alvi*
18 induces RNA interference and represses parasite gene expression, thereby inhibits the
19 parasitism by up to 99.8%. Specifically, *N. ceranae* was most suppressed by the
20 recombinant strain corresponding to the glutathione synthetase or by a mixture of
21 bacteria expressing variable dsRNA. Our findings extend our previous understanding

22 of the protection of gut symbionts against *N. ceranae* and provide a symbiont-
23 mediated RNAi system for inhibiting microsporidia infection in honeybees.

24 **Introduction**

25 Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are pollinators with global economic value
26 responsible for pollinating ecologically and agriculturally valuable crops. For the past
27 decade, a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder has posed a global threat
28 to honeybee health. Recent studies suggest several factors involved in colony decline,
29 such as parasite and pathogen invasion, pesticide use, and environmental stressors.
30 Honeybees are susceptible to a variety of pathogens and pests, including bacteria¹,
31 fungi², viruses³, *Varroa* destructors⁴, and microsporidian parasites⁵.

32 The microsporidia are obligate intracellular eukaryotic parasites of honeybees
33 and infect the midgut epithelial cells. Honeybees are mainly infected by two species
34 of microsporidia that cause nosemosis, one of the most severe bee diseases
35 worldwide⁶. *Nosema apis* was initially described in European honeybees and was
36 considered the exclusive parasite species causing nosemosis. Later, another species
37 *Nosema ceranae* was discovered in the Asian honeybee, *Apis cerana*, which is
38 presumed to be the original host, and it may transfer to *A. mellifera* during the past
39 decades⁷. It appears that *N. ceranae* displaces *N. apis* in *A. mellifera*, and the
40 prevalence studies found that *N. apis* infections are becoming rarer than *N. ceranae*⁸.

41 *N. ceranae* transmit via the fecal-oral route and the ingestion of spores from the
42 contaminated hive materials⁹. It can suppress the immune defense mechanism of

43 honeybees, ensuring the infection of epithelial cells^{10, 11}. The parasitic infection
44 reduces the lifespan and colony populations of *A. mellifera* and affects host
45 physiology and behaviors^{12, 13}.

46 Honeybees rely on innate immunity to defend against infectious agents, which
47 operate through cellular and humoral mechanisms¹⁴. The humoral immune system
48 consists of antimicrobial peptide production, which provides defense primarily against
49 bacterial pathogens. For intracellular parasites, insects can clear invading parasites by
50 eliciting oxidative stress^{15, 16, 17}. The intestinal epithelial and macrophage cells
51 produce reactive oxygen species (ROS)¹⁸, including superoxide anion (O_2^-), hydrogen
52 peroxide (H_2O_2), and hydroxyl radical ($HO\cdot$). While there is no evidence that ROS is
53 effective in clearing microsporidia, the infection of *N. ceranae* may disrupt the
54 oxidative balance of the honeybee gut¹⁹.

55 Host ROS production can be modulated by the gut microbiota to eliminate
56 opportunistic pathogens¹⁸. Although it is unclear whether the microbiota inhibits the
57 parasitism, *N. ceranae* infection perturbs the native gut composition, which may
58 enhance the intensity of the parasitic microsporidia²⁰. The honeybee gut microbiota
59 typically contains five core bacterial members²¹. It has been shown that the bee gut
60 bacteria influence bee health by modulating host immune responses. Specifically,
61 *Snodgrassella alvi* and *Lactobacillus apis* protect honeybees from opportunistic
62 bacterial pathogens by inducing host immune response and AMPs production^{22, 23}.
63 Furthermore, the native gut bacteria can be engineered to better improve honeybee

64 health²⁴. Leonard *et al.* recently genetically modified *S. alvi*, refining a system to
65 induce RNAi within hosts. By expressing dsRNA to interfere gene expression of
66 *Varroa* mite and DWV, the genetically engineered strains repress DWV and *Varroa*
67 infection²⁵. This symbiont-mediated RNAi provides a promising strategy for
68 improving bee resistance against stressors.

69 Here, we investigate the effect of honeybee gut members on the inhibition of
70 *N. ceranae* invasion. Specifically, *S. alvi* upregulated the expression of host genes
71 related to the ROS-associated immune response and significantly repressed the
72 proliferation of *N. ceranae*. Then, we evaluated the role of the antioxidant system of
73 *N. ceranae* in the adaptation and reproduction in the midgut epithelia. We found that
74 *N. ceranae* mainly employed the thioredoxin and glutathione systems to relieve the
75 intense oxidative stress from the host for parasitism. Finally, we constructed
76 recombinant *S. alvi* to continuously produce dsRNA corresponding to the thioredoxin
77 and glutathione system-related genes of *N. ceranae*, significantly inhibiting the *N.*
78 *ceranae* proliferation in the midgut cells.

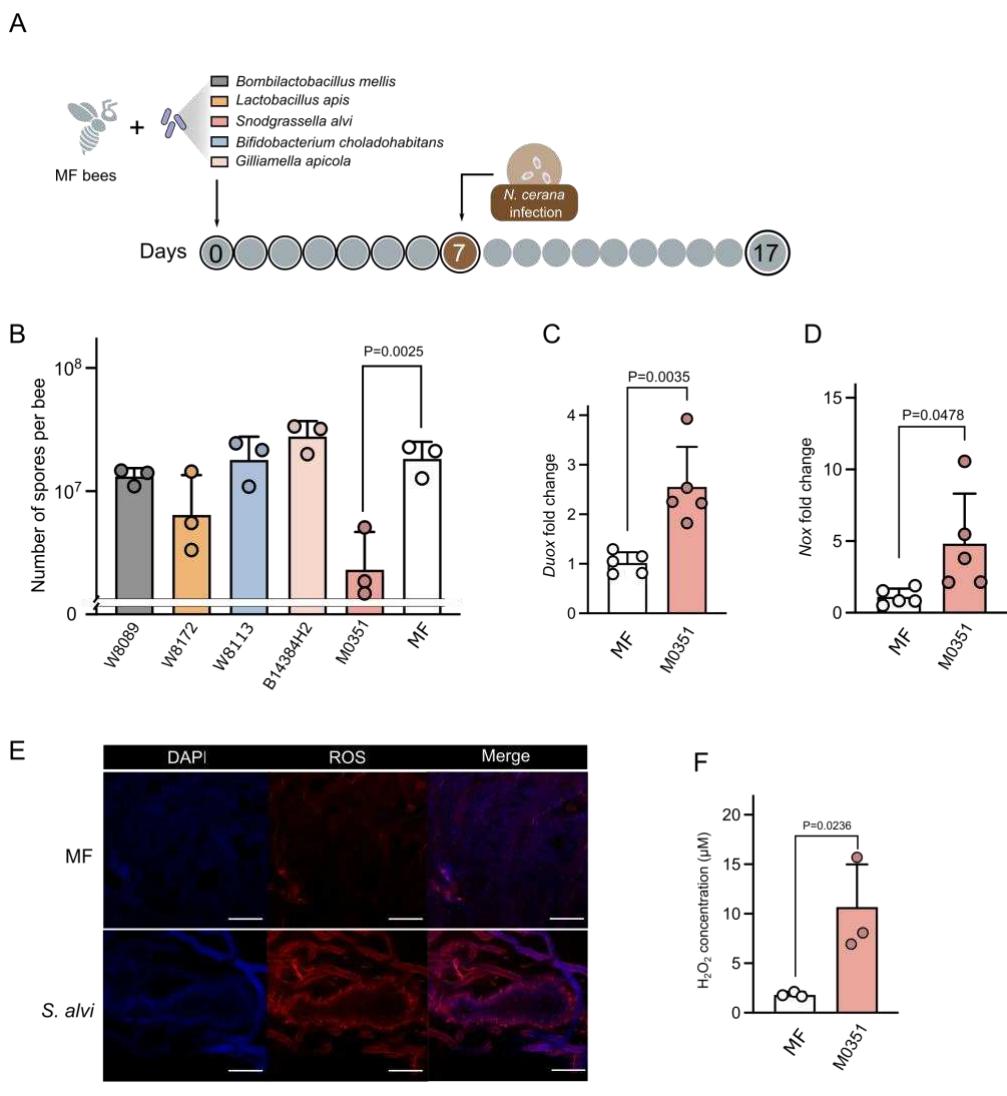
79 **Results**

80 **Gut bacteria aid in the clearance of the pathogenic *N. ceranae***

81 We first determined whether the core gut members prevent the invasion of *N.*
82 *ceranae* *in vivo*. Gnotobiotic bees mono-associated with different gut bacteria,
83 *Bifidobacterium cholodohabitans* W8113, *Bombilactobacillus mellis* W8089,

84 *Lactobacillus apis* W8172, *Gilliamella apicola* B14384H2, and *Snodgrassella alvi*
85 M0351, were generated in the lab. Microbiota-free honeybees were fed with pure
86 cultures of bacterial strains. After allowing the colonization of symbiotic strains in the
87 gut for seven days, each bee individual was manually infected with *N. ceranae* cell
88 suspensions of 10^4 spores by oral feeding (Fig. 1A). On Day 17, we quantified the
89 absolute abundance of *N. ceranae* spores in the midguts. It showed that the spore load
90 was significantly lowered in bees mono-colonized with *S. alvi*, while bees colonized
91 by other gut members did not show a significant reduction of *N. ceranae* (Fig. 1B).

92 Insects can clear parasites from invasion by eliciting oxidative stress,
93 primarily by producing ROS in gut epithelia^{26, 27}. Thus, we assessed whether *S. alvi*
94 stimulated the production of ROS in the gut, which may fight against invading
95 intracellular *N. ceranae* parasite. In the honeybee, the production of ROS is mainly
96 regulated by the Nox/Duox NADPH oxidases, as in other insects²⁸. We found that the
97 expression of genes encoding Duox and Nox were upregulated in the midgut of bees
98 24 h post-colonization by *S. alvi* M0351 (Fig. 1C, D). Correspondingly, both the
99 intracellular ROS signal tested by the fluorogenic sensor and the production of
100 hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) increased in the midgut following the colonization by *S.*
101 *alvi* (Fig. 2E, F). These results indicate that the colonization of the core gut member,
102 *S. alvi*, triggered the redox response involved in gut immunity, which may inhibit the
103 *N. ceranae* infection in the honeybees.



105 **Fig. 1.** *Snodgrassella* strains protect against *N. ceranae* via the ROS-
106 associated immune response in the honeybee gut. (A) Schematic illustration
107 of experimental design. Microbiota-free (MF) bees were colonized with *B.*
108 *cholodohabitans* W8113, *B. mellis* W8089, *L. apis* W8172, *G. apicola*
109 and *S. alvi* M0351 for seven days and then orally infected with *N.*
110 *ceranae*. (B) Absolute abundance of *N. ceranae* spores in the midgut 10 days
111 post-infection with *N. ceranae*. (C-D) The expression level of the *Duox* and
112 *Nox* genes in the midgut following *S. alvi* M0351 colonization. (E)

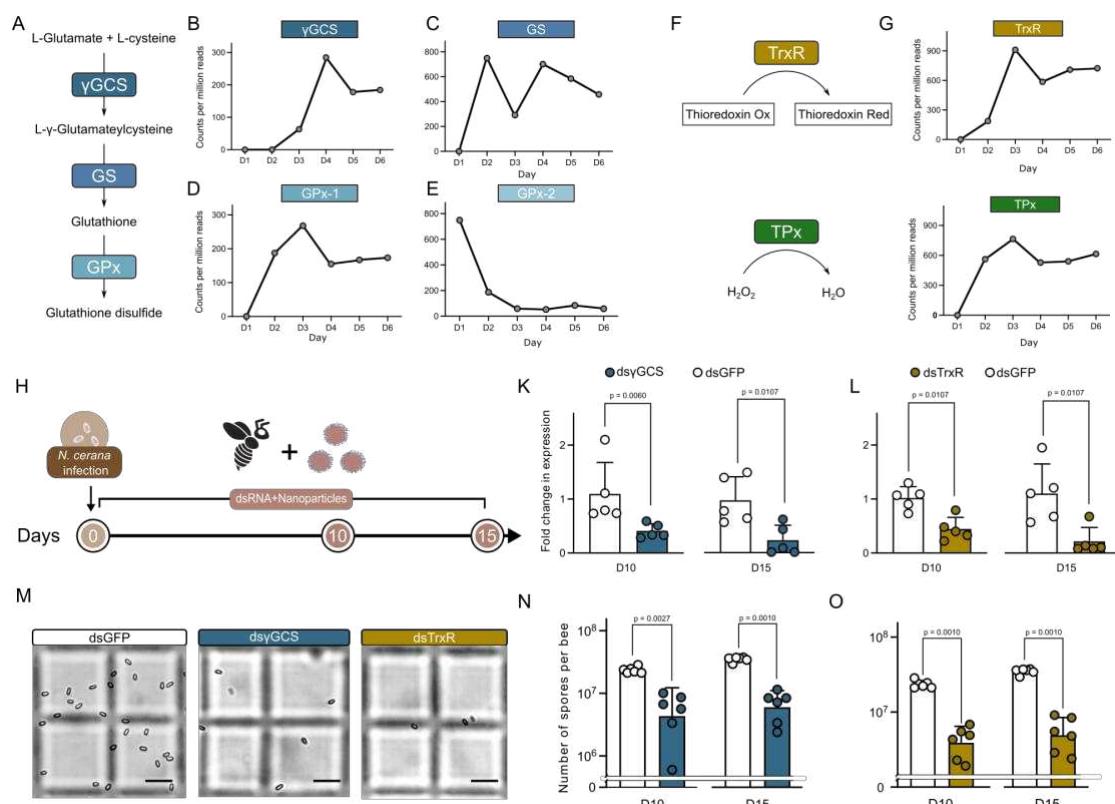
113 Fluorescence staining for ROS signal within the midgut cells of MF and mono-
114 colonized bees with *S. alvi*. (F) H₂O₂ concentration in the midgut of MF and
115 mono-colonized bees with *S. alvi*. Scale bars = 250 μ m. Statistical analysis
116 was performed by using multiple two-tailed t-test.

117 ***N. ceranae* employs antioxidant systems to adapt and reproduce in the midgut
118 epithelium**

119 We have shown that ROS produced by the bees is implicated in the defense
120 against *N. ceranae*, and typically, the parasites employ endogenous antioxidant
121 systems to relieve intense oxidative stress^{29, 30}. To examine the pathways used by *N.*
122 *ceranae* to resist honeybee gut oxidative stress during infection, we reanalyzed an
123 RNA-seq dataset that documents the changes in gene expression of *N. ceranae* when
124 colonizing the bee gut³¹. *De novo* synthesis of reduced glutathione synthesized by γ -
125 glutamyl-cysteine synthetase (γ GCS) and glutathione synthetase (GS) is crucial in the
126 antioxidant defense of *N. ceranae* (Fig. 2A). By following the time-series gene
127 expression profiles, we found that both the expression of γ GCS and GS of *N. ceranae*
128 increased along with the infection (Fig. 2B, C). Moreover, glutathione can be further
129 catalyzed by the Glutathione peroxidases (GPx) to reduce H₂O₂³². We identified that
130 *N. ceranae* possessed two genes encoding GPx in the genome of *N. ceranae*, GPx-
131 1(AAJ76_3500027152) and GPx-2 (AAJ76_3500027978). Interestingly, the

132 expression of GPx-1 increased during the first 3 days of infection, but GPx-2 was
133 downregulated during invasion (Fig. 2D, E). In addition, *N. ceranae* also possesses a
134 complete thioredoxin system, consisting of the key enzymes of thioredoxin reductase
135 (TrxR, AAJ76_5800012528) and thioredoxin peroxidase (TPx, AAJ76_280004776),
136 in defense against oxidative stress (Fig. 2F). We found that the expression of TrxR
137 and TPx genes of *N. ceranae* were elevated from day 2 post-infection (Fig. 2G, H).

138 To further validate the importance of the thioredoxin and glutathione redox
139 systems for the *N. ceranae* invasion, we knocked down γ GCS from the glutathione
140 system and TrxR from the thioredoxin system, respectively. Here, we used the
141 nanoparticle-mediated dsRNA delivery system to improve RNAi efficiency³³. By
142 feeding the nanoparticle-mediated dsRNA, the mRNA transcript levels of *N. ceranae*
143 γ GCS and TrxR genes were reduced by ~80% on Day 10 and Day 15 after
144 inoculation. Microscopic observation confirmed that the proliferation of *N. ceranae*
145 was significantly depressed by both ds γ GCS and dsTrxR silencing in the midgut.
146 Altogether, these results indicate that *N. ceranae* probably maintains the redox state
147 by employing the thioredoxin and glutathione systems to relieve the oxidative stress
148 from the host and to adapt and reproduce in the midgut epithelium³⁴. This also implies
149 that host ROS-associated immunity is responsible for the defense against intracellular
150 parasitism in honeybees.



151

152 **Fig. 2.** The thioredoxin and glutathione systems of *N. ceranae* are significant

153 for the proliferation in the epithelial cells. (A) The glutathione system forms

154 glutathione by γ-glutamyl-cysteine and glutathione synthetases in *N. ceranae*.

155 (B-E) The expression level of the γGCS, GS, GPx-1, and GPx-2 genes over

156 the infection process. (F) *N. ceranae* possesses a complete thioredoxin

157 system consisting of the thioredoxin reductase and thioredoxin peroxidase.

158 (G) The expression level of the TrxR and TPx genes over the infection

159 process. (H) Knockdown of *N. ceranae* γGCS and TrxR gene expression by

160 feeding nanoparticle-mediated dsRNA. (K-L) Relative expressions of the

161 γGCS and TrxR genes of *N. ceranae* before and after RNAi on Days 10 and

162 15. (M) The load of *N. ceranae* spores was quantified by microscopy using a

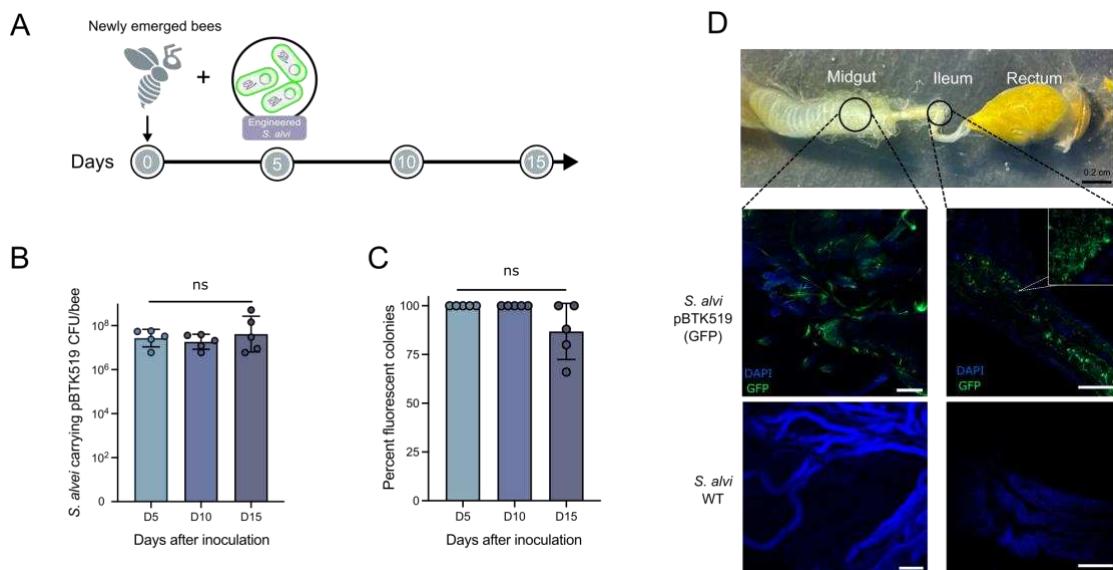
163 hemocytometer. (N-O) Silencing of γGCS and TrxR genes inhibited *Nosema*

164 infection levels. Scale bars = 0.025mm. Statistical analysis was performed by
165 the Mann-Whitney U test.

166 **Inhibition of *N. ceranae* infection by engineered *S. alvi***

167 Since the antioxidant defense is crucial for *N. ceranae* parasitism, we next
168 engineered *S. alvi* strain M0351 to produce dsRNA targeting microsporidian genes.
169 First, we transformed strain M0351 with a stable plasmid pBTK519 expressing GFP
170 from the Bee Microbiome Toolkit platform²⁴ and tested whether it could re-colonize
171 bee gut robustly. The engineered strain M0351 was inoculated into newly emerged
172 bees treated with ampicillin to eliminate native microbiota (Fig. 3A)²⁵. We inoculated
173 bee individuals with $\sim 10^5$ CFU of GFP-tagged *S. alvi*. They grew to $\sim 8.0 \times 10^7$
174 CFU/bee after five days of colonization and persisted stably throughout the 15-day
175 experiments (Fig. 3B). The majority of engineered *S. alvi* cells ($\sim 80\%$) remained
176 functional with a high density of fluorescent signal, while some bacterial cells lost the
177 fluorescence in the guts at the endpoint (Day 15; Fig. 3C). While *Snodgrassella*
178 preferentially colonizes the ileum, they also distribute in all compartments of the bee
179 gut³⁵. The confocal microscopy showed that 15 days after colonization, the
180 engineered M0351 effectively colonized both the ileum and midguts of 10 inspected
181 bees, showing the same spatial distributions as the wild-type strain (Fig. 3D-F)³⁶.
182 Thus, our results showed that the engineered *S. alvi* could persistently colonize the

183 honeybee ileum and midgut, and the plasmid pBTK519 functioned reliably in strain
184 M0351 throughout the experiments.



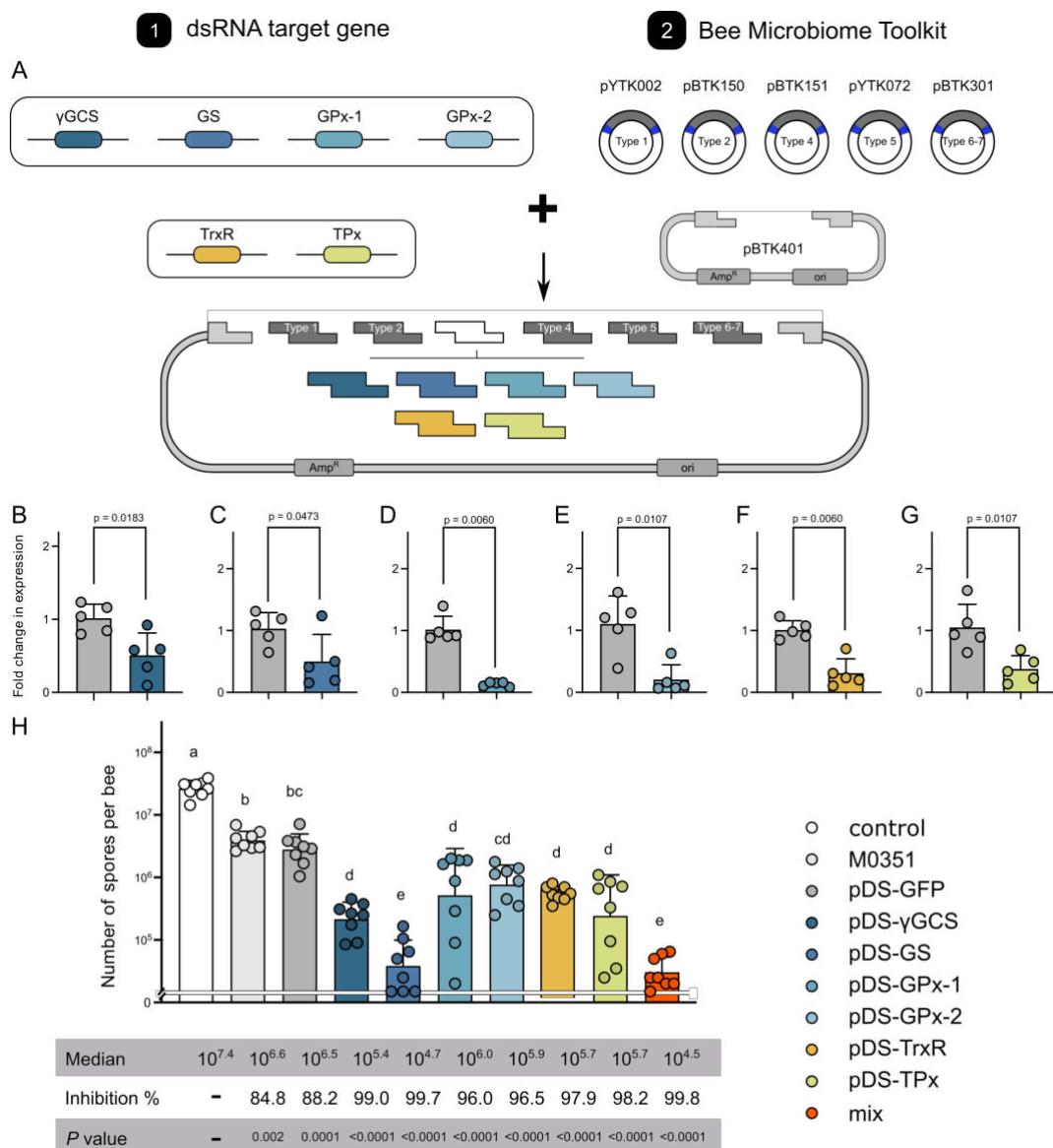
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186 **Fig. 3.** The engineered *S. alvi* M0351 showed stable colonization and function
187 in bee guts. (A) Newly emerged bees were colonized with *S. alvi* transformed
188 with a plasmid expressing a green fluorescent protein. The colonization level
189 was checked on Days 5, 10, and 15. (B-C) Engineered *S. alvi* M0351 stably
190 colonized and expressed GFP continuously over time. Each dot represents an
191 individual bee sample. (D) Engineered *S. alvi* M0351 colonized both the
192 midgut and ileum of bees. Scale bars = 200 μ m. Statistical analysis was
193 performed by the Mann-Whitney U test.

194 We have shown that *S. alvi*-treated honeybees prevent *N. ceranae* infection by
195 triggering ROS production (Fig. 1), and *N. ceranae* employed the thioredoxin and
196 glutathione system to relieve the intense oxidative stress (Fig. 2). Thus, we engineered
197 *S. alvi* M0351 using plasmid pBTK519 to express dsRNA targeting the glutathione
198 and thioredoxin systems of *N. ceranae*. Target sequences from the γ GCS, GS, GPx-1,
199 GPx-2, TrxR, and TPx genes were designed and amplified from the cDNA of *N.*
200 *ceranae* (Fig. 4A; Fig. S1). Using the Bee Microbiome Toolkit, we assembled
201 plasmids with an inverted arrangement of two promoters (pBTK150, pBTK151) and
202 other previously designed parts for the production of dsRNA^{24, 37}. We built six
203 complete dsRNA-producing plasmids targeting different genes and transformed these
204 plasmids into *S. alvi* M0351 by conjugation. We inoculated newly emerged
205 honeybees with $\sim 10^5$ cells of *S. alvi* bearing different plasmids that expressed dsRNA
206 corresponding to the GFP coding sequence (pDS-GFP) or those expressed target
207 sequences. Then, the bees were challenged by oral feeding with *N. ceranae* spores
208 (10^4 spores/bee), and 10 days later, we tested whether the *Snodgrassella*-produced
209 dsRNA could inhibit the proliferation of *N. ceranae*.

210 We first extracted the RNA of *N. ceranae* to confirm the depression of targeted
211 pathways. Compared to the pDS-GFP off-target control, a significantly lower
212 expression of target genes from *N. ceranae* was identified (Fig 4B–G). Expression of
213 all targeted genes is decreased by 50–86% in *N. ceranae* with different recombinant
214 strains, suggesting that the dsRNA is delivered from the engineered *S. alvi* to allow

215 diffusion to the parasite. After 10 days of dsRNA silencing, we evaluated the
216 inhibitory capacity of various engineered *S. alvi* strains by quantifying the spore load
217 with microscopic observation. First, both the wild-type *S. alvi* and the pDS-GFP
218 provided protection compared with the controls without symbiont inoculation (Fig.
219 4H), confirming the role of *S. alvi* in defending against *N. ceranae*. Engineered *S. alvi*
220 strains expressing γ GCS, GPx-1, GPx-2, TrxR, or TPx dsRNA had a 99%, 96%,
221 96.5%, 97.9%, and 98.2% decrease in *N. ceranae* spore load, respectively. Notably,
222 pDS-GS targeting the glutathione synthetase of the glutathione system showed the
223 highest inhibition (99.7%) of the microsporidia spore invasion. Moreover, we also
224 evaluated the effect of mixing engineered strains, and the inhibitory effect by a
225 mixture of bacteria delivering all six dsRNA was better than the colonization with
226 single strains.



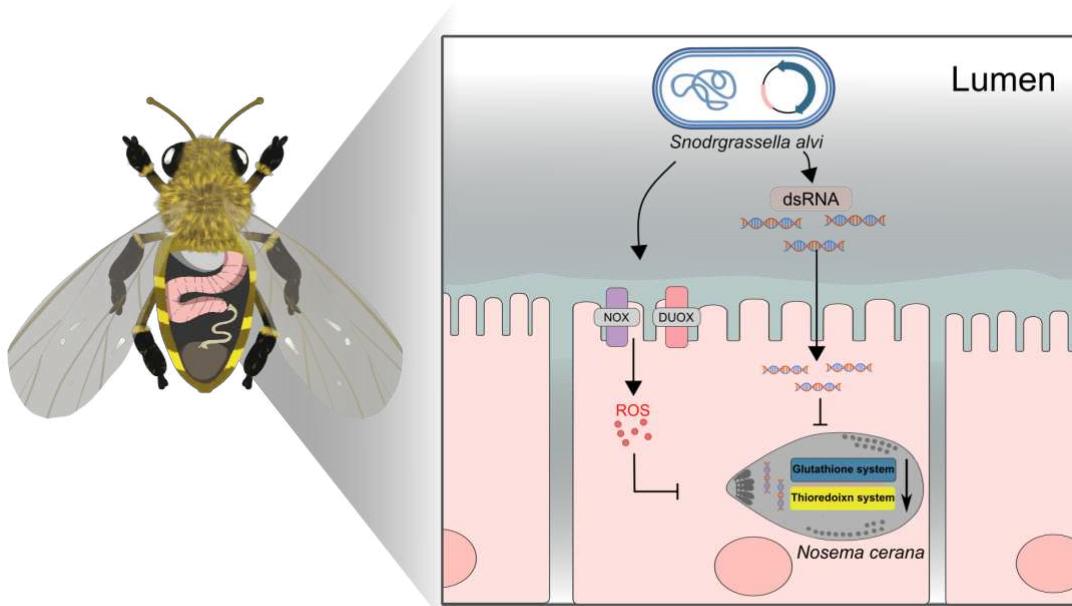
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228 **Fig. 4.** Recombinant *S. alvi* M0351 strains engineered to deliver dsRNA inhibit
 229 the infection of *N. ceranae*. (A) Schematic illustration of the Golden Gate
 230 assembly strategy for constructing plasmids expressing targeted dsRNA. (B-
 231 G) Engineered *S. alvi* strains to produce dsRNA targeting genes of the
 232 thioredoxin and glutathione systems inhibited the gene expression of *N.*
 233 *ceranae* in the midgut. (H) Inhibition of *N. ceranae* infection by engineered *S.*
 234 *alvi* M0351 strains. Each dot represents the spores number of an individual

235 bee in the midgut. Letters above each bar stand for statistical differences
236 between sampling sites (least-significant difference (LSD) test, $P < 0.05$). The
237 median number of spores of each treatment group and the percent inhibition
238 (inhibition %) of spore load relative to the non-colonized control are indicated.

239 **Discussion**

240 *Nosema ceranae* is a microsporidian parasite initially identified from the *Apis*
241 *cerana* in the 1990s³⁸ and later detected in different honeybee species worldwide,
242 becoming a globally distributed pathogen²⁷. In this study, we found that *N. ceranae*
243 employs the thioredoxin and glutathione system to relieve oxidative stress from the
244 host for the adaptation in the midgut epithelium (Fig. 5). We showed that the core gut
245 bacteria, *S. alvi*, triggers the redox response involved in honeybee gut immunity,
246 which inhibits the proliferation of *N. ceranae* by up to 85.5%. Moreover, we
247 successfully constructed engineered *S. alvi* M0351 based on the Bee Microbiome
248 Toolkit and the Functional Genomics Using Engineered Symbionts procedure
249 (FUGUES) to continuously produce dsRNA for critical genes of the *N. ceranae*
250 thioredoxin and glutathione systems. Engineered *S. alvi* can stably re-colonize bees
251 and repress the parasite's thioredoxin and glutathione system-related gene expression.
252 The γ GCS and GS of the glutathione system are the most effective targeted genes for
253 *N. ceranae* inhibition. Furthermore, the inhibitory effect by the mixture of all six
254 engineered *S. alvi* strains showed the highest inhibition (99.8%).



255

256 **Fig. 5.** Graphical summary of the *N. ceranae* inhibition by the engineered *S.*
257 *alvi* M0351 strains. By triggering *Duox* and *Nox* genes, *S. alvi* induces ROS
258 production in the midgut of honeybees, which may kill *N. ceranae* via
259 perturbation of redox homeostasis. *N. ceranae* may employ the thioredoxin
260 and glutathione antioxidant systems to relieve the intense oxidative stress for
261 intracellular proliferation. Engineered *S. alvi* M0351 expressing the dsRNA
262 corresponding to the genes of the oxidation-reduction systems of *N. ceranae*
263 can significantly inhibit parasitism in the honeybee gut.

264 The microsporidia *N. ceranae* is an obligate intracellular parasite that develops
265 in the ventricular epithelia of *A. mellifera*, and the spores can spread the infection
266 quickly across epithelial cells³⁹. The concept that the immune activation of honey

267 bees plays a role against *N. ceranae* is not new, but the exact mechanism remains
268 unclear. In all invertebrates, including insects, the adaptive system is missing, and
269 hence, defense is entirely ensured by the innate immune system. The innate immune
270 system provides organisms with a rapid, non-specific first line of defense against
271 colonization by pathogenic microorganisms⁴⁰. Honeybees' cell-mediated innate
272 immune system consists of hemocytes, which produce ROS essential for cell
273 signaling and pathogen clearance⁴¹. ROS are produced during the recognition and
274 phagocytosis response against the foreign bodies inside the cells⁴². In insects, ROS
275 was shown to be particularly important in the fight against parasites and pathogenic
276 bacteria in the gut^{27, 43}. The production of ROS has been observed following the
277 infection of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito by different microsporidian species⁴⁴. In
278 honeybees, genes involved in the production of ROS are overrepresented in the
279 midgut upon the spore infection, suggesting that the increased ROS level is an
280 immune response against intracellular parasitism¹⁹. Our results confirmed that the
281 ROS-associated immune response in the epithelial cells is indispensable for
282 preventing microsporidia infection in bees.

283 Two ROS-producing enzymes, the NADPH oxidases Duox and Nox, are
284 identified in *A. mellifera*, similar to *Drosophila*. Here, we found that the expression of
285 both *Duox* and *Nox* genes was activated in the midgut of bees post-colonization by *S.*
286 *alvi*. It has been documented that *S. alvi* protects honeybees from the opportunistic
287 pathogen *Serratia marcescens* by triggering the Toll and Imd pathway to upregulate

288 the expression of host antimicrobial peptides abaecin, apidaecin, and
289 hymenoptaecin⁴⁵. *S. alvi* colonizes the honeybee gut in contact with the gut epithelia
290 and forms a dense biofilm, which may stimulate pattern recognition receptors such as
291 Toll-like receptors of bees⁴⁵. Interestingly, the activation of Toll-like receptors
292 possibly conjugates the NADPH oxidases, which are involved in the ROS production
293 on the membranes of the endosome of cells⁴⁶. Notably, bees mono-colonized with *S.*
294 *alvi* strain inhibit the proliferation of *N. ceranae* by up to 85.5%. In contrast, bees
295 colonized by other gut members did not show a significant reduction of *N. ceranae*.
296 Thus, the ROS immune response may be activated by *S. alvi* by regulating the Toll
297 signaling and the NADPH complex. The ROS system is also a gut-immune immune
298 response involved in gut-microbe homeostasis¹⁸. In honeybees, the *N. ceranae*
299 infection can perturb the gut composition, and a normal microbiota is required for
300 host resistance to *N. ceranae*^{47, 48}. The bore gut members of honeybees, including the
301 *S. alvi* and *Lactobacillus apis*, have been shown to activate the humoral innate
302 immune system to produce antimicrobial peptide (AMP), which protects against
303 pathogens^{22, 23}. Our data shows that the bee gut bacteria also plays a pivotal role in
304 controlling microsporidia invasion by inducing de novo generation of ROS¹⁸.

305 To protect itself against host defenses of ROS, the parasite may have an
306 internal antioxidant system to maintain a normal redox state. For example,
307 *Plasmodium falciparum* scavenges ROS from hosts by employing antioxidant
308 systems, including the NADPH-dependent thioredoxin and the glutathione system³⁴.

309 49. We found that *N. ceranae* also possesses balanced redox pathways, including the
310 thioredoxin and glutathione systems, which may be necessary for counteracting ROS
311 attacks from the host. Analyzing the time series of gene expression of *N. ceranae*
312 colonizing the bee gut, we found significant upregulation in the expression of
313 thioredoxin and glutathione system genes, suggesting that the maintenance of the
314 normal redox state is significant in the invasion process of *N. ceranae*. Previous
315 studies that used RNAi targeting on variable *N. ceranae* genes, such as the polar tube
316 protein 3 (ptp3) and the spore wall protein (SWP), reduce parasite load and improve
317 the physiological performance of honeybees^{50, 51}. Our results showed that the delivery
318 of dsRNA corresponding to γ GCS and TrxR led to a significant reduction in spore
319 load by 82% and 85%, respectively, indicating that the endogenous antioxidant
320 enzymes of *N. ceranae* provide a novel therapeutic target for the control of the
321 parasitic invasion in honeybees.

322 Although RNAi is widely used, it is expensive for application in agricultural
323 fields, and its efficiency is also unsatisfactory. Recently, researchers have engineered
324 host-associated bacterium to produce dsRNA as a novel delivery modality. Taracena
325 *et al.* used engineered *Escherichia coli* to produce dsRNA to control the *Rhodnius*
326 *prolixus* parasite, a vector of the Chagas disease⁵². Although laboratory *E. coli* is easy
327 to be engineered, the symbiotic bacteria with minimal fitness cost and stable
328 association with the host are more promising for *in vivo* treatment⁵³. Recently,
329 Leonard *et al.* have designed the Functional Genomics Using Engineered Symbionts

330 (FUGUES) procedure for engineering the native bacterial species of honeybees²⁵. The
331 engineered *S. alvi* produces dsRNA to inhibit parasitic *Varroa* by inducing mite RNAi
332 response³⁷. It documents that the RNA produced by the recombinant strains can be
333 transported to the gut, hemolymph, and head of bees, which alters host physiology
334 and behavior. *N. ceranae* infects and proliferates intracellularly in the epithelial cells
335 of the midgut³⁸. While *Snodgrassella* mainly localizes to the ileum region of the
336 hindgut, it also colonizes the midgut intensively³⁵. Our results illustrated that the
337 recombinant *S. alvi* strain stably re-colonizes both ileum and midgut post-inoculation,
338 and the plasmid exhibit a robust expression *in vivo*. Thus, the dsRNA produced by the
339 symbiotic *S. alvi* may enter into the midgut cells and destroy the redox homeostasis of
340 *N. ceranae*. Here, we targeted all six genes involved in the glutathione and
341 thioredoxin systems of the microsporidia. Interestingly, the repression of the GS gene
342 showed the highest inhibition efficiency. GS is not subject to feedback inhibition by
343 GSH and is important in determining overall GSH synthetic capacity, specifically
344 under pathological conditions⁵⁴. In addition, the inhibition of a mixture of the
345 recombinant strains is more significant than the single-targeting strains, suggesting a
346 more effective perturbation of the parasitic antioxidant system. *S. alvi* and other bee
347 gut bacteria can be naturally transmitted within the colony via social contact, and
348 engineered *S. alvi* strains are transferred between co-housed bees, which suggests that
349 the use of native gut bacteria can facilitate the treatment of individual bees from an
350 entire colony³⁷. Although gene escape is a major ethical issue for the application of

351 engineered bacteria, honeybee symbiotic bacteria are generally restricted to the bee
352 gut environment²¹. Moreover, *S. alvi* shows even more strict host specificity that only
353 specific strains are associated with different bee species or even individuals within the
354 colony⁵⁵. Thus, symbiont-mediated RNAi provides a new tool to improve resilience
355 against current and future challenges to honey bee health.

356 Materials and Methods

357 Generation of microbiota-free and mono-colonized honeybees

358 Honeybees (*A. mellifera*) used in this study were from colonies maintained in
359 the experimental apiary of the China Agricultural University. Pupae and newly
360 emerged bees used in all the experiments were obtained from brood frames taken
361 from the experimental hives and kept in an incubator at 35 °C, with a humidity of
362 50%. All honeybee gut bacterial strains used in this study are listed in Table S1.
363 *Snodgrassella alvi* M0351, *Bifidobacterium cholodohabitans* W8113, and *Gilliamella*
364 *apicola* B14384H2 isolated from honeybee guts were grown on HIA supplemented
365 with 5% (vol/vol) sterile sheep blood (Solarbio). *Bombilactobacillus mellis* W8089
366 and *Lactobacillus apis* W8172 were grown on MRS agar plates (Solarbio)
367 supplemented with 0.1% L-cystine and 2.0% fructose.

368 Microbiota-free (MF) bees were obtained as described by Zheng *et al.*⁵⁶. In
369 brief, we manually removed pupae from brood frames and placed them in sterile
370 plastic bins. Newly emerged MF bees were kept in axenic cup cages with sterile

371 sucrose syrup for 24h. For each mono-colonization setup, 20–25 MF bees were placed
372 in a cup cage and fed bacterial culture solutions for 24 hours. Colonization levels
373 were determined by colony-forming units from dissected guts, as described by Kwong
374 *et al.*⁵⁶ 1 mL of 1×PBS was combined with 1 mL of sucrose solution and 0.3 g of
375 sterilized pollen for the MF group. For the mono-colonization bees, glycerol stock of
376 bee gut strains was resuspended in 1 mL 1×PBS at a final concentration of ~10⁸
377 CFU/mL and then mixed with 1 mL sterilized sucrose solution with 0.3 g of sterilized
378 pollen. The bees were incubated at 35°C and RH 50% until Day 7.

379 ***N. ceranae* spore purification**

380 *N. ceranae* spores were isolated from worker honeybees collected from
381 heavily infected colonies in the summer of 2022. After immobilizing bees by chilling
382 them on ice, the guts were removed from individual bees with forceps. The midguts of
383 infected honeybees were homogenized in distilled water and filtered using Whatman
384 filtering paper. The filtered suspension was centrifuged at 3,000×g for 5 minutes, and
385 the supernatant was discarded. The re-suspended pellet was purified on a
386 discontinuous Percoll (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) gradient of 5 ml each of 25%,
387 50%, 75%, and 100% Percoll solution. The spore suspension was overlaid onto the
388 gradient and centrifuged at 8,000 × g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was
389 discarded, and the spore pellet was washed by centrifugation and suspension in
390 distilled sterile water⁵⁷. The number of spores was quantified using a Fuchs-Rosenthal
391 hemocytometer. The identity of the isolated *N. ceranae* or *N. apis* was determined by

392 amplifying the ribosomal RNA gene sequences with species-specific primers (Table
393 S3)⁵⁸.

394 **Bees mono-colonized with gut symbionts challenged with *N. ceranae***

395 To accurately control the number of *N. ceranae* cells infecting each bee
396 individual, bees were orally fed the same amount of *N. ceranae* spores. Each bee was
397 starved for 2 hours and given 2 µl of a 50% sucrose solution containing 10^4 *N.*
398 *ceranae* spores. After 10 days, the number of spores in the intestinal specimen of
399 infected bees was quantified as described by Huang *et al.*⁴⁷. The midguts were
400 dissected, resuspended in 500 µl of double-distilled water, and then subjected to
401 vortex mixing. The suspension was put onto the hemocytometer for microscopic
402 observation.

403 **Honeybee gut RNA extraction and quantitative PCR**

404 Each dissected gut was homogenized with a plastic pestle, and total RNA was
405 extracted from individual samples using a Zymo Quick-RNA Tissue/Insect Microprep
406 Kit (Zymo Research, #R2030). RNA was eluted into 50 µL of RNase-free water and
407 stored at -80°C prior to reverse transcription. cDNA was synthesized using the
408 HiScript III All-in-one RT SuperMix Perfect for qPCR (Vazyme). Quantitative real-
409 time PCR was performed using the ChamQ Universal SYBR qPCR Master Mix
410 (Vazyme) and QuantStudio 1 Real-Time PCR Instrument (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
411 Waltham, MA, USA) in a standard 96-well block (20-µl reactions; incubation at

412 95 °C for 3 min, 40 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C for 10 s, annealing/extension at
413 60 °C for 20 s). The primers for the genes of *Duox* (LOC551970) and *Nox*
414 (LOC408451) of *A. mellifera* were designed with IDT qPCR PrimerQuest Tool
415 (<https://www.idtdna.com/pages/tools/primerquest>) (Table S3). The actin gene of *A.*
416 *mellifera* was used as the control, and the relative expression was calculated using the
417 $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method⁵⁹.

418 ***In vivo* detection of reactive oxygen species**

419 Three days after inoculation, the midguts of the honeybees mono-colonized
420 with *S. alvi* M0351 and the MF bees were dissected in PBS containing 50 μM
421 intracellular ROS-sensitive fluorescent dye dihydroethidium (Invitrogen, #C10422).
422 The tubes were placed in the dark for 10 min at room temperature. Then, the midguts
423 were washed twice with a fresh dye-free PBS, and the tissues were immediately
424 transferred to an μ-Dish^{35 mm, high} microscope dishes (Ibidi, #81156). We imaged the
425 gut tissues on a Zeiss 910 Laser Scanning Confocal microscope with a 20× objective.

426 **Measurement of the H₂O₂ production**

427 The generation of H₂O₂ was determined using the Hydrogen Peroxide Assay
428 Kit (Beyotime Biotech). In this assay, H₂O₂ converts Fe²⁺ to Fe³⁺, which then reacts
429 with xylene orange dye to become purple with a maximum absorbance at 560 nm.
430 The midguts were homogenized in 200 μL lysis buffer and centrifuged at 12,000 × g
431 at 4 °C for 5 min, and the supernatant was collected. Aliquots of 50 μL of

432 supernatants and 100 μ L of test solutions from the Hydrogen Peroxide Assay Kit were
433 incubated at room temperature for 20 minutes and measured immediately with a
434 spectrometer at a wavelength of 560 nm. The measurement was repeated three times
435 for each sample.

436 **RNA isolation of *N. ceranae***

437 To extract the RNA of *N. ceranae*, the honeybee gut was individually
438 transferred into 2 ml tubes. Each tube contained 100 μ L sterile 1.4-mm zirconium
439 silicate grinding beads (Quackenbush). One milliliter of TRIzol reagent (Ambion)
440 was added to the tube, disrupting the samples using the FastPrep. The samples were
441 treated with DNase I (Invitrogen) to remove genomic DNA contamination. The purity
442 and quantity of RNA samples were determined using a NanoDrop 8000
443 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). cDNA was synthesized using the
444 HiScript III All-in-one RT SuperMix Perfect for qPCR (Vazyme) and stored at –
445 20°C.

446 ***Nosema* inoculation and Nanocarrier-mediated dsRNA feeding assay**

447 To produce the double-stranded RNA of the γ GCS (AAJ76_1100057370) and
448 TrxR (AAJ76_5800012528) genes, the coding regions of the genes were amplified
449 from *N. ceranae* cDNA with forward and reverse primers containing the T7 promoter
450 sequence at their 5'ends (5'-TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCGA-3'). The partially
451 amplified segments of the genes were cloned into the pCE2-TA-Blunt-Zero vector

452 (Vazyme, China) and verified by Sanger sequencing. The fragment was amplified
453 from the plasmid using specific primers with a T7 promoter and then used for dsRNA
454 synthesis using the T7 RNAi Transcription Kit (Vazyme, China). The fragment
455 amplified from the GFP gene (MH423581.1) was used as the control. The sequences
456 of the primers are given in Table S3. Here, we used the star polycation as a gene
457 nanocarrier to protect dsRNA molecules from enzymatic degradation and promote
458 their translocation across cell membranes⁶⁰. The nanocarrier was mixed with γ GCS
459 and TrxR dsRNA gently at a mass ratio of 1:1. (The final concentration for both SPc
460 and dsRNA was 100 ng/ μ L.) The final concentrations for dsRNA + nanocarrier, and
461 sucrose were 100 ng/ μ l and 50% (wt/vol), respectively. Newly emerged bees were
462 removed from the frames and kept without food for at least 2 h before the subsequent
463 *N. ceranae* inoculation. Individual bees were fed 2 μ L of spores suspensions prepared
464 by mixing purified spores into 50% sucrose (~10⁴ spores/ μ L). From the day after *N.*
465 *ceranae* inoculation, honeybees from each treatment were fed on different dsRNA
466 mixtures in an incubator at 35°C. The dsRNA mixture was supplied daily, and each
467 bee ingested about 10 μ g of dsRNA per day.

468 The treatment effect of dsRNA was determined by comparing the spore
469 production rate for individual honey bees. The *N. ceranae* spore production rate was
470 measured by counting the spores from the extracted midgut of live honey bees 15
471 days after inoculation. To investigate the effect of dsRNA treatment on the expression
472 of each target gene of *Nosema*, qRT-PCR was performed after 15 days of dsRNA

473 treatment. After extracting the midguts from honeybees treated with *Nosema* and
474 dsRNA, the total RNA was extracted. cDNA was synthesized using the HiScript III
475 All-in-one RT SuperMix Perfect for qPCR (Vazyme). Each gene-specific primer is
476 given in Table S3. The β -tubulin gene of the *N. ceranae* was used as the control, and
477 relative expression was analyzed using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method⁵⁹.

478 **Vector construction to express dsRNA expression and *S. alvi* M0351**

479 **engineering**

480 All the plasmids and MFD*pir* were kindly donated by the Moran Lab and
481 Barrick Lab (University of Texas at Austin). We designed dsRNA-producing plasmid
482 parts based on the previously published Bee Microbiome Toolkit and functional
483 genomics using engineered symbionts procedure (FUGUES) (Fig. 4A)²⁵. First, PCR is
484 used to amplify the knockdown region γ GCS, GS, GPx-1, GPx-2, TrxR, and TPx
485 from the cDNA of *N. ceranae* and append BsaI cut sites to each end. Following PCR,
486 amplicons are purified and cloned into a dsRNA expression vector. We combined
487 previously designed parts pYTK002 (Type 1), pBTK150(Type 2), pBTK151(Type 4),
488 pYTK072 (Type 5), pBTK301 (Type 6-7), and pBTK401 (Type 8) (Addgene_65109,
489 Addgene_183127, Addgene_65179, Addgene_183126, Addgene_110593,
490 Addgene_110597), and dsRNA target sequence (Type 3) to assemble complete
491 plasmids that express dsRNA of the target sequence³⁷. Golden Gate assembly
492 reactions were performed as previously described²⁴, and enzyme BsaI-HFv2 (New
493 England Biolabs) was used to increase assembly efficiency.

494 Assemblies were transformed into electroporated into *E. coli* donor strain
495 MFD*pir*. The plasmids were verified with Sanger sequencing. MFD*pir* cells with the
496 dsRNA expression vector and *S. alvi* cells are grown, washed, and combined to
497 initiate conjugation. Then, this mixture is plated on media containing 0.30 mM DAP.
498 The next day, cells are scraped, washed, and plated on media containing 100 µg/mL
499 ampicillin but without DAP to select for *S. alvi* cells that have acquired the plasmid
500 and against MFD*pir* cells. Transconjugant *S. alvi* colonies are passaged onto a second
501 plate containing 100 µg/mL ampicillin. These transconjugants can be confirmed to be
502 pure *S. alvi* cultures by performing 16S rRNA sequencing to ensure no unexpected
503 contaminants have been introduced during the conjugation process.

504 After 2–3 d of growth, we scraped the engineered *S. alvi* grown on the plates into
505 PBS. These cells were spun in a centrifuge (3824 × g, 5 min) and then resuspended in
506 500 µL PBS. Engineered *S. alvi* was diluted in 500 µL 1×PBS at a final concentration
507 of ~10⁸ CFU/mL and combined with 500 µL of a 1:1 sucrose: water solution
508 supplemented with 200 µg/mL ampicillin. We fed engineered *S. alvi* solutions to age-
509 controlled newly emerged worker bees for 24 h (pDS-γGCS, pDS-GS, pDS-GPx-1,
510 pDS-GPx-2, pDS-TrxR, pDS-TPx) and non-targeted (pDS-GFP) served as a negative
511 control group. The next day, each bee was given 2 µl of a 50% sucrose solution
512 containing 10⁴ *N. ceranae* spores. After ten days, honeybee gut was collected to
513 quantify the number of *N. ceranae* spores, and gene knockdown was validated using
514 qPCR on the cDNA of *N. ceranae* synthesized as described above.

515 To test whether engineered *S. alvi* robustly colonizes bees, we inoculated bees
516 with *S. alvi* transformed with a plasmid expressing GFP. Firstly, we transformed
517 strain M0351 with a stable plasmid pBTK519 expressing GFP from the Bee
518 Microbiome Toolkit platform ²⁴ and inoculated bees with *S. alvi* M0351::pBTK519
519 (~10⁵cfu/bee). After every five days, we dissected bees, homogenized their whole
520 guts in 500 µL PBS, and plated dilutions onto HIA plates with a final concentration of
521 100 µg/mL ampicillin to estimate CFUs of *S. alvi* in the gut. The number of
522 fluorescent and non-fluorescent colonies on the plates was quantified to track the
523 stability of engineered strains over time. After 15 days, we dissected the guts and
524 imaged them on a Laser Scanning Confocal microscope.

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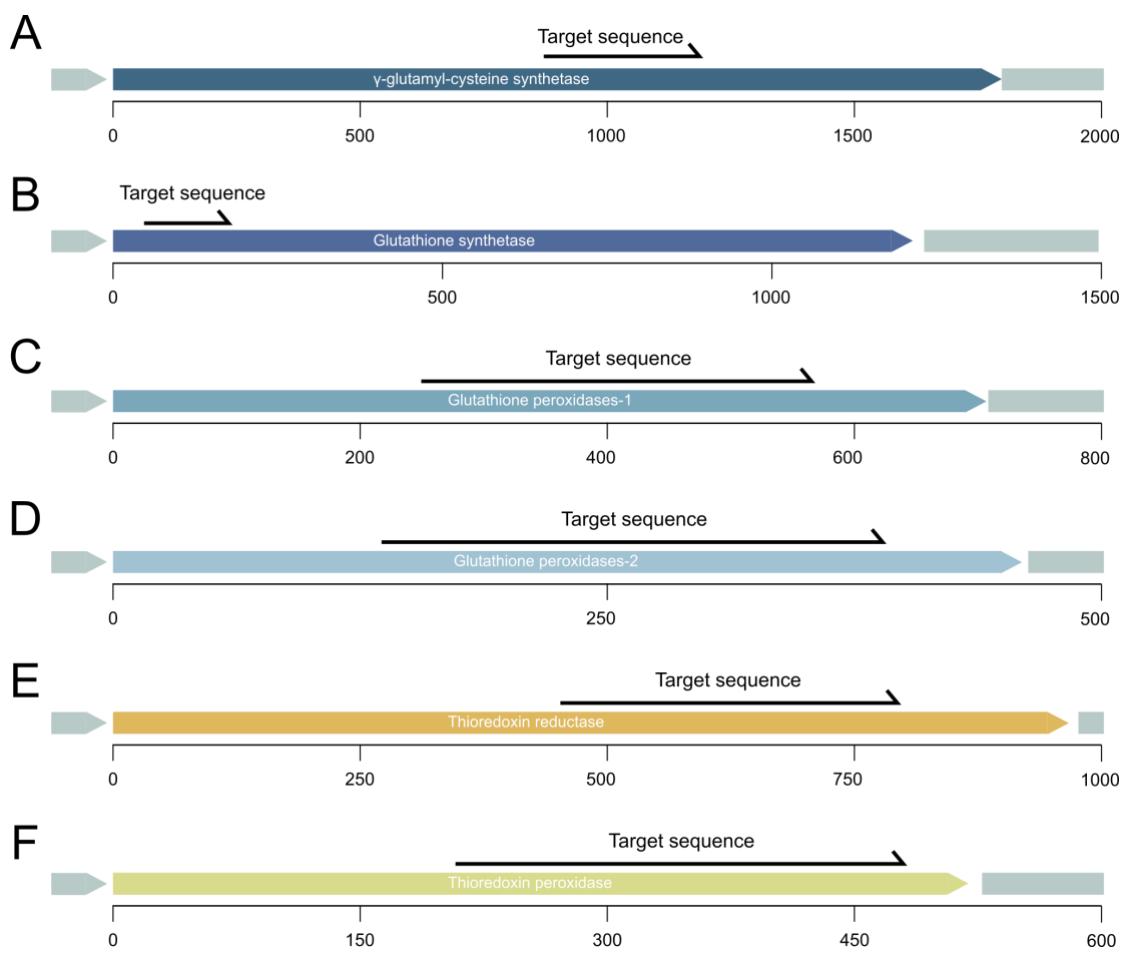
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759

760

761 **Supplementary Information**



762
763 **Fig. S1.** Design of *N. ceranae* targets. This diagram shows the overall gene
764 organization for *N. ceranae* *gamma*-glutamyl-cysteine synthetase (A), glutathione
765 synthetase (B), Glutathione peroxidases-1 (C), Glutathione peroxidases-2 (D),
766 thioredoxin reductase (E), and thioredoxin peroxidase (F). The targeted region
767 in each gene is denoted, and the designed target sequences are listed in
768 Table S4.

769

770 **Table S1.** List of bacterial strains.

771

Species and strain	Source
<i>E. coli</i> MFD _{pir}	²⁴
<i>E. coli</i> DH5 α	Vazyme
<i>Snodgrassella alvi</i> M0351	This study
<i>Bifidobacterium choladohabitans</i> W8113	This study
<i>Bombilactobacillus mellis</i> W8089	This study
<i>Lactobacillus apis</i> W8172	This study
<i>Gilliamella apicola</i> B14384H2	This study
<i>Snodgrassella alvi</i> M0351	This study

772

773 **Table S2.** Plasmid list.

774

Name	Use	Source
pBTK519	Constitutive GFP	24
pYTK002	Type 2 YTK/BTK connector sequence part plasmid	24
pYTK072	Type 5 YTK/BTK connector sequence part plasmid	24
pBTK301	Type 6-7 BTK bridge connector sequence part plasmid	24
pBTK401	Type 8 origin of replication and origin of transfer plasmid, <i>rsf1010</i> broad-host-range origin	24
pBTK150	Type 2 BTK part: terminator, CP25 promoter, no RBS	37
pBTK151	Type 4 BTK part: reverse CP25 promoter, terminator, no RBS	37
pYTK001_T1T2	Insulated part vector with flanking terminators	37
pDS-GFP	Control dsRNA GFP	37
pDS- γ GCS	dsRNA target γ GCS	This Study
pDS-GS	dsRNA target GS	This Study
pDS-GPx-1	dsRNA target GPx-1	This Study
pDS-GPx-2	dsRNA target GPx-2	This Study
pDS-TrxR	dsRNA target TrxR	This Study
pDS-TPx	dsRNA target TPx	This Study

775

Table S3. Primer list.

Purpose	Gene	Source	Forward	Reverse
qPCR	β -tubulin(<i>N. ceranae</i>)	⁶¹	AGAACCGAGGAACGATGGAGA	TCCTTGCAAACAATCTGCAC
qPCR	Duox (<i>A.mellifera</i>)	⁶²	CCCTAATAGCCCTCGTGAAC 3	GAGCATTCTCATACGTGTG
qPCR	Nox (<i>A.mellifera</i>)	This study	ACCTGCTCTGTTGGTCTCG	ACATCCACCACGTCGAACAA
qPCR	Glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit(<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	AACAGGCGAGGGAAGAACCC	CAACCCATACCTGGCCAT
qPCR	Glutathione synthetase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	TGGGAGTTAACCGTCTTGATGG	TCTAAACCGCCATTGCCAGA
qPCR	Glutathione peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	GGCAAATCCACATGTAGAACG	TCTGCTATAGACTACAAAGACAAGA
qPCR	Glutathione peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	TGCAGTTGATTCAAAACAGTCAC	AGGCCTTGTATAAAATCGTCT
qPCR	Thioredoxin reductase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	GTGGTCTGCAGCCTATTCT	TACTCCTACCATCCCGCCT
qPCR	Thioredoxin peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	TGATTTTACTTTGTGTGTCACACT	CACCGTCTGTCTGGGAG
RNAI_Type3	Glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgCCAAAAGCAGGTGTTCTCCA	tGGTCTCaggatGGGAGTTGCTTGCAATTCCAT
RNAI_Type3	Glutathione synthetase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgGCTAGAGCGGTGGGTTAGT	tGGTCTCaggatACCAAATGATAACAAACACTGTGAA
RNAI_Type3	Glutathione peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgGCGCACTTCTAGACGATCTCC	tGGTCTCaggatACATGTGGATTGCCAAGAGT
RNAI_Type3	Glutathione peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgTCCCTGTTCGCAATTAAACCA	tGGTCTCaggatATAACCTCTGTTGGTCCATATCGC
RNAI_Type3	Thioredoxin reductase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgAGGAGGAGACTCTGCTATGGA	tGGTCTCaggatCGCAGTCGTACAATCCTCGT
RNAI_Type3	Thioredoxin peroxidase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	cGGTCTCatatgACGTTGTCAGTGATAGGAAGGA	tGGTCTCaggatACACATGATCCATTGCGTCCA
ds_RNAi	Glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGTGGATTCTGGGCAACGGT	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCGAACCTCGTCAGCAAAAGG
ds_RNAi	Thioredoxin reductase (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	This study	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGGAGACTCTGCTATGGA	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCGCAGTCGTACAATCCTCGT
<i>N. apis</i>	rRNA (<i>N. apis</i>)	⁵⁸	CCATTGCCGGATAAGAGAGT	TATATTATTGTATTGCGCGTGCT
<i>N. ceranae</i>	rRNA (<i>N. ceranae</i>)	⁵⁸	AGAAACTACAACAGCATCACTGGGA	AGTGAATATTCCAATTCCAAACGACTT

Table S4. Target sequences of dsRNA.

ID	Use	Length (bp)	GC %	Sequence Source
pDS-γGCS	γ GCS knockdown	339	35	This Study
	CCAAAAAGCAGGTGTTCTCCATTGATTATTCTAATGACGCTAGAAATTAGACAAGTACAACGATACAAATCCACCG ATCCACGTGCCGATTTAATAAATTAAAGAAAGGTGTTGATGAAAAATTGTCGCGACATGAGCATCTTATTATTCGC GATCCTATACTCATGACGAAACAGATGAAAGCACATTGACGATTTGAAACATACAAAGTCAAATTGGAGATCTGTA AGGTTAAAGTACCAACAGAAAGTTCTGATAAAGATTAAAGAGGATGAAAGATTGAGTTCGTCCTATGGAAATGCAAGCAAC TCCC			
pDS-GS	GS knockdown	330	27	This Study
	GCTAGAGCGGTGGGTTAGTAAATCCATCTACAGGAAACATACTAAATATAACTATAAGACCCCTCTAAAATATCAAGATTACAT TTTTATCGATAAAAAATTACAATTAAACTTACTGTACTACAATCTAAGCAAAGACTTAGATTACACTTTGATGA ACCAATGTACAATTGGCACTCGATTACACTGAAAAAAATGGTAAAAAAAGACAATATAAGTAGCACTTATATTAGATCT GATTATTATTAGACGGTGACCAATATAACAAAGTAGAAATTAAACTATTACAGTGTGATCATTTGGT			
pDS-GPx-1	GPx-1 knockdown	348	28	This Study
	ACATGTGGATTGCCAAGAGTAATCTTCTATACTAGCTGATATTATGACACTGTATAAGAATATGGCCTAAATATTGATC TTCTTGCTGCAATTCAAAAGATGATACTGATTACTTAAAGATGTATAACTTAAACAGAAATTCTGATGATT CAGTATTAGTGTATTAAATTGGTCGGTAAAAATACATCCTGTTATAAGCATATTGTAAGGTATAGAAAAGAGTTGATG GAGATTTATAAAATGGAATTGCAAAATTATTGTTAATGAATACGGTAAAGTAGTAAAATTGGACCAGGAGATCGC TAGAAGTGCGC			
pDS-GPx-2	GPx-2 knockdown	250	30	This Study
	TTCTTGTGCGCAATTAAACCAAGGAATCTGGTGATATTGAAACTATTGCAATTATGCGCATTCTATTCTGATAAAATT CGTATTGACAAGTTAATGTATTGGATCTAAAAAGATCCTGTTTAAGTATTAAACAGAACAGTTGAGAAAGTTTT AAGTTGTAATGGAACTTACAAATGGGTTGTTAAGATGGAAAGATTAAAGCGATATGGACCAACAGAGGTTAT			
pDS-TrxR	TrxR knockdown	349	28	This Study
	AGGAGGAGACTCTGCTATGGAAGAAGTCTTATTCTAAATATGTTCTAAAGTTATTAAATTGAGAAATGAAATT AGAAGCAGGAAGGATAATTAGAAGAAGTAAAGAAGAACAAAAATAGTTATAGTTACACCATATAATCTAAAATCTGCCAT GGAATTGATAAATTAGAATATATTACCTGAAATGGGGCAGAAACTAAAAATTAGAAGTAGATGGATTGTTCTTGGTAC GGTCATACACCTAATACTCAATTAGAAGAAAATTGTTACATGTTAGACAAAGATAAGTTATTAAAGTAAACGAGGATT GTACGACTGCG			
pDS-TPx	TPx knockdown	330	37	This Study
	ACGTTGTCAGTGTAGGAAGGAAGAGTTATTAAACGCAATGTTGTTGTTACAATTCTAAAGATTCCGCATACAATCATC AAGCATGGGCTAAACTCCAAAGACAGGACGGTGGCGTAGAAGGAATACAATGGCCAATGTTGGCAGATAAGATGCTCGTT TAAGTCGACAGTTGGTTGTATGATGATGAGGAAGATATCACCAAAAGGGCTACTGTAATGATTGATGTTCTGGAAATGTG TTAATATTCTATCATGAAAAATAGGAAGAAATGTTGATGAAATTGAGGTTATTGGACGCAATGGATCATGTG			