

1    **Conditional forest models built using metagenomic data could accurately predict**

2    ***Salmonella* contamination in Northeastern streams**

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14   KEYWORDS: Surface water, *Salmonella*, water safety, microbiome, machine learning

## 15 ABSTRACT

16 The use of water contaminated with *Salmonella* for produce production contributes to foodborne  
17 disease burden. To reduce human health risks, there is a need for novel, targeted approaches for  
18 assessing the pathogen status of agricultural water. We investigated the utility of water  
19 microbiome data for predicting *Salmonella* contamination of streams used to source water for  
20 produce production. Grab samples were collected from 60 New York streams in 2018 and  
21 tested for *Salmonella*. Separately, DNA was extracted from the samples and used for  
22 Illumina shotgun metagenomic sequencing. Reads were trimmed and used to assign taxonomy  
23 with Kraken2. Conditional forest (CF), regularized random forest (RRF), and support vector  
24 machine (SVM) models were implemented to predict *Salmonella* contamination. Model  
25 performance was determined using 10-fold cross-validation repeated 10 times to quantify area  
26 under the curve (AUC) and Kappa score. Taxa identified as the most informative for accurately  
27 predicting *Salmonella* contamination based on conditional variable importance were compared to  
28 taxa identified by ALDEx2 as being differentially abundant between *Salmonella*-positive and -  
29 negative samples. CF models outperformed the other two algorithms based on AUC (0.82 - CF,  
30 0.76 - RRF, 0.67 - SVM) and Kappa score (0.41- CF, 0.38 - RRF, 0.19 - SVM). CF and  
31 differential abundance tests both identified *Aeromonas* (VI = 0.32) and *Tabrizicola* (VI =  
32 0.12) as the two most informative taxa for predicting *Salmonella* contamination. The taxa  
33 identified in this study warrant further investigation as indicators of *Salmonella* contamination in  
34 Northeastern freshwater streams.

## 35    **IMPORTANCE**

36    Understanding the associations between surface water microbiome composition and the presence  
37    of foodborne pathogens, such as *Salmonella*, can facilitate the identification of novel indicators  
38    of *Salmonella* contamination. This study assessed the utility of microbiome data and three  
39    machine learning algorithms for predicting *Salmonella* contamination of Northeastern streams.  
40    The research reported here both expanded the knowledge on the microbiome composition of  
41    surface waters and identified putative novel indicators (i.e., *Aeromonas* and *Tabrizicola*) for  
42    *Salmonella* in Northeastern streams. These putative indicators warrant further research to assess  
43    whether they are consistent indicators of *Salmonella* for regions, waterways, and years not  
44    represented in the dataset used in this study.

## 45 INTRODUCTION

46 According to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 46% of foodborne illnesses  
47 in the US caused by a known food vehicle between 1998 and 2008 were linked to produce  
48 commodities consumption (1). In the US, *Salmonella* is the most common bacterial pathogen  
49 associated with outbreaks linked to fresh produce (2, 3). Thus, preventing *Salmonella*  
50 contamination of fresh produce is critical for managing foodborne disease burden in the US.

51 Multiple produce-associated outbreaks have been putatively traced back to the use of  
52 contaminated water for produce production (4–7). Therefore, identifying when water is likely to  
53 be contaminated is a central component of produce safety risk management plans. In many  
54 countries, agricultural and recreational water *E. coli*-based standards have been established (8–  
55 11). However, *E. coli* is an indicator of fecal and not pathogen contamination. Indeed, the  
56 presence and direction of the association between *E. coli* levels and foodborne pathogen presence  
57 varies substantially within the scientific literature, with some studies reporting positive  
58 relationships (12–16), and others reporting negative or no relationship (17–20). As a result, *E.*  
59 *coli* appears to be an unreliable indicator of *Salmonella* contamination of surface waterways,  
60 even though *E. coli* can be used as a general indicator of hygienic condition of water (17, 21).  
61 Thus, there is a need for novel approaches for identifying when and where agricultural  
62 waterways may be contaminated with foodborne pathogens, such as *Salmonella*.

63 Metagenomics opened new avenues for characterization of water microbiomes.  
64 Concurrent characterization of microbiome and pathogen status in water provides an opportunity  
65 for the identification of microbial taxa associated with pathogen contamination of agricultural  
66 water. Such taxa could be identified by developing models that use microbiome data (i.e.,  
67 presence or absence of taxa, or differences in their relative abundance) to predict when and

68 where pathogens are present. However, since the existing water microbiome literature  
69 demonstrates substantial spatial and temporal variation in water microbiome composition (22–  
70 25), identification of such “indicator” taxa is difficult using conventional analytical approaches,  
71 such as multivariate ordination (25). Machine learning provides an alternative approach that may  
72 be useful for identifying “indicator”, or combinations of “indicator” taxa and for developing  
73 classification models that use these taxa to predict pathogen contamination status (26, 27).

74 Among classification machine learning models, supervised models are particularly useful  
75 when the outcome information, such as pathogen status, is known for a set of samples. Labelling  
76 the training dataset with an outcome class label allows for the development of a classifier that  
77 can predict pathogen status. A variety of supervised classification models have been developed  
78 to address different data structure challenges and improve the accuracy of prediction (28–31). A  
79 benchmarking study that applied multiple machine learning models on human gut microbiome  
80 found differences in the performance of models based on different machine learning algorithms.  
81 This is likely due to differences in the characteristics of algorithms, such as linear/non-linear  
82 separation, ensemble or regression approaches (30). This suggests the importance of selecting  
83 and testing multiple algorithms to improve the prediction accuracy. In addition to model  
84 selection, the performance of a model may be affected by microbiome data pre-processing, such  
85 as data normalization (28). The latter is commonly carried out to account for potential  
86 differences in sample library sizes, hence its effect on prediction accuracy needs to be assessed  
87 (31–33).

88 With the above-outlined consideration in mind, we applied multiple machine learning  
89 classifiers to normalized and non-normalized microbiome data for samples collected from 60  
90 different streams. Our goal was to identify microbial indicators predictive of *Salmonella*

91 contamination in stream water samples collected in a region in Northeastern United States.  
92 Lastly, we also assessed whether the addition of data on physicochemical properties of water  
93 samples increases the accuracy of predicting *Salmonella* contamination.

94

## 95 **RESULTS**

96 **Samples were sequenced with a median of 5,956,185 reads and a median of 8.955% reads**  
97 **were assigned bacterial taxonomic identifier.** A median of 5,956,185 reads per sample were  
98 obtained from 60 samples [min = 4,048,684, max = 9,301,059, standard deviation (SD) =  
99 1,125,759] and median of 8.95% reads were classified as bacterial using metagenomics  
100 taxonomic classifier Kraken2 [median = 529,963, min = 145,211, max = 1,059,311, standard  
101 deviation (SD) = 206,336]. Across samples, a total of 885 different genera from 307 different  
102 families were assigned.

103

104 **The overall microbiome composition was not associated with the presence of *Salmonella* in**  
105 **surface water samples.** The principal component analysis (PCA) biplot (Fig. 1B and 1D) and  
106 scree plot (Fig. 1A and 1C) showed that the sample microbiomes did not cluster based on the  
107 presence of *Salmonella*. As evident from the scree plot (Fig. 1A and 1C), the first two  
108 components explained a relatively low percent of variance in the microbiome composition.  
109 Specifically, they explained 28.3% of the variance at the genus level (Fig. 1A) and 26.5% of the  
110 variance at the family level (Fig. 1C). PERMANOVA results also did not indicate significant  
111 association between microbiome composition and *Salmonella* isolation (p = 0.318 (family-level),  
112 p = 0.349 (genus-level)).

113

114 **CF models outperformed RRF and SVM models at predicting *Salmonella* contamination.**

115 Regardless of feature set, the area under the curve (AUC) and Kappa score were always higher  
116 for conditional forest (CF) compared to regularized random forest (RRF) and support vector  
117 machine (SVM) when genus-level microbiome data were used (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the AUC  
118 was also consistently higher for CF models compared to RRF and SVM models when family-  
119 level microbiome data were used. However, the Kappa values were similar for CF and RRF  
120 models when family-level microbiome data were used (Fig. 2). RRF models (AUC = [0.68, 0.75],  
121 Kappa = [0.24 ,0.35]) and SVM models (AUC = [0.61, 0.64], Kappa = [0.1, 0.15]) had lower  
122 AUC and Kappa score than CF models (AUC = [0.76, 0.82], Kappa = [0.32, 0.42]). We found  
123 that the AUC range for CF did not overlap with AUC ranges of other two methods, indicating  
124 that CF has outperformed RRF and SVM. Hence, further analyses were carried out using the CF  
125 models.

126 Across all models using the genus-level data, the CF model run on CLR-transformed  
127 relative abundance data without environmental features had the highest AUC (0.81) and Kappa  
128 score (0.42) (Fig. 2). When using family level data, the CF model using the relative abundance  
129 data, without environmental features resulted in the highest Kappa score (0.42), and second  
130 highest AUC (0.80) (Fig. 3).

131

132 ***Aeromonas* and *Tabrizicola* were most informative for accurately predicting *Salmonella***  
133 **presence.** Using genus-level microbiome data, CF identified *Aeromonas*, *Tabrizicola*,  
134 *Haematobacter*, *Defluviimonas*, and *Rhizobium* as the five most informative genera for  
135 predicting *Salmonella* contamination (Fig. 3A). In family level analysis, *Aeromonadaceae*,  
136 *Rhodobacteraceae*, and *Methanobacteriaceae* were identified as the three most informative

137 families. Furthermore, four environmental features (i.e., stream level, dissolved oxygen level, pH,  
138 and changes of elevation and length of the stream) were also identified as informative features in  
139 the CF model that included environmental features (Fig. 3B).

140 The differential abundance analysis carried out using ALDEx2 and Kruskal-Wallis test  
141 identified two bacterial genera, *Aeromonas* and *Tabrizicola*, (Fig. 4) as significantly  
142 differentially abundant between *Salmonella*-positive and *Salmonella*-negative samples. These  
143 two genera belong to *Aeromonadaceae* and *Rhodobacteraceae* families, respectively. These two  
144 families are among the families identified as differentially abundant between *Salmonella*-positive  
145 and -negative samples (i.e., *Aeromonadaceae*, *Parvibaculaceae*, *Rhodobacteraceae*, and  
146 *Shewanellaceae*) (Fig. 5).

147

## 148 **DISCUSSION**

149 This study was based on the premise that contamination of surface waters with enteric pathogens  
150 such as *Salmonella*, co-occurs with other microbiota that is either linked with the contamination  
151 source or linked with the environmental conditions that favor pathogen introduction to or  
152 survival in freshwater systems. As such, these taxa could be used to identify when and where  
153 surface waters may be contaminated by *Salmonella*. Hence, we aimed to leverage water  
154 microbiome data and machine learning classifiers to identify specific taxa predictive of  
155 *Salmonella* contamination that could be further developed into rapid detection assays (10). For  
156 example, taxa that (i) consistently occur in samples contaminated with *Salmonella* or are (ii)  
157 consistently present in a significantly different relative abundance in samples contaminated with  
158 *Salmonella*, may be utilized to develop rapid PCR-based indicator assays.

159

160 **Data transformation did not have a notable effect on the performance of predictive models.**

161 Microbiome data analyses are challenging due to inherent data complexities. These include data  
162 sparsity (i.e., many taxa are only present in small proportions of samples, resulting in a large  
163 proportion of zero counts), collinearity (i.e., some taxa are highly correlated), imbalanced library  
164 sizes, and a well-known "small n large p" problem (i.e., small number of samples and a large  
165 number of taxa). Some of these challenges can be addressed prior to applying machine learning  
166 models or can be addressed by applying machine learning methods that can address certain  
167 microbiome data challenges. Here, we used a central log-ratio (CLR) transformation to mitigate  
168 the potential effects of different library sizes, and to take into consideration the compositional  
169 nature of microbiome data (33, 34). We found that the microbiome data transformation had an  
170 inconsistent effect on a model performance, as it improved the AUC of some models (e.g., CF  
171 using genus- and family-level data, SVM using family-level data) while it decreased the AUC of  
172 other models (e.g., RRF using genus- and family-level data, SVM using genus-level data).  
173 Previous studies on gut microbiome data emphasized the importance of data transformation due  
174 to the compositionality of the microbiome data (28, 30, 32). However, they also reported that the  
175 performance of tree-based algorithms (i.e., random forest and XGBoost) was not significantly  
176 affected by data transformation (32).

177

178 **Model selection is critically important when applying machine learning to microbiome data.**

179 Different machine learning classifiers address microbiome data challenges to various degrees;  
180 hence we assessed the performance of three different machine learning algorithms for prediction  
181 of *Salmonella* contamination. At both genus-level and family-level classification, we found that  
182 CF performed overall better than RRF and SVM. This is consistent with other studies that

183 compared multiple algorithms for predicting foodborne pathogen contamination of surface water,  
184 and consistently found that CF was a high performing algorithm (27). However, many of these  
185 studies also found that RRF and/or SVM also performed well. Given the highly correlated nature  
186 of microbiome data, it is not surprising that CF, which was developed to address limitations of  
187 other random forest algorithms for handling correlated data, outperformed the RRF and SVM  
188 (35–37). Moreover, given the complex relationships that underpin microbial ecosystems,  
189 hierarchical relationships between the presence-absence of various taxa (e.g., models that  
190 incorporate “interactions” or hierarchy such as CF and RRF) may predict pathogen presence  
191 better than algorithms that do not (e.g., SVM).

192

193 **Differential abundance analysis and conditional forest models identified putative indicators**  
194 **of *Salmonella* contamination in surface waters.** When assessing the association between the  
195 overall microbiome composition and *Salmonella* contamination, associations between certain  
196 taxa and *Salmonella* contamination may be missed due to the large number of taxa included in  
197 the analyses. Indeed, we found the lack of association between the overall microbiome  
198 composition and the presence of *Salmonella* based on the Principal Component Analysis (PCA)  
199 and PERMANOVA. Hence, we used differential abundance analysis and machine learning  
200 algorithm CF to discover individual taxa (or their relative abundance) associated with *Salmonella*  
201 contamination.

202 Both, differential abundance analysis and CF identified some of the same taxa predictive  
203 of *Salmonella* contamination in stream water samples. Using ALDEx2 differential abundance  
204 analysis and CF, we identified two bacterial genera (*Aeromonas* and *Tabrizicola*) which were  
205 present in a significantly lower relative abundance in samples contaminated with *Salmonella*.

206 *Aeromonas* species have previously been found in natural water and a broad range of foods, in  
207 addition to human and animal gastrointestinal tracts (38, 39). *Aeromonas* is regarded not only as  
208 an important pathogenic bacterium in fish and cold-blooded animals, but also as an opportunistic  
209 pathogen in immunocompromised humans (38). *Aeromonas* (belonging to *Aeromonadaceae*) has  
210 similar morphological and biochemical characteristics as *Enterobacteriaceae*, a family of  
211 microorganisms commonly used as an indicator of poor hygienic conditions in food systems (40).  
212 Bonadonna et al. reported that the presence of *E. coli* and fecal coliforms were associated with  
213 lower counts of *Aeromonas*, whereas the prevalence of total coliforms was associated with  
214 higher counts of *Aeromonas* in bathing waters along the sea-coast of the Adriatic Sea (41, 42).  
215 Another identified genus, *Tabrizicola*, belongs to a family of *Rhodobacteraceae*, which is  
216 usually found in aquatic environment, including lakes and wastewater treatment facilities (43–  
217 45). However, the ecological role of *Tabrizicola* is still understudied. In addition to the two  
218 genera discussed above, we identified several bacterial families positively and negatively  
219 associated with *Salmonella* contamination in water. Four families were identified in both  
220 differential abundance analysis and machine learning variable importance analysis (i.e.,  
221 *Aeromonadaceae*, *Rhodobacteraceae*, *Shewanellaceae*, and *Parvibaculaceae*). These four  
222 families are known marine or aquatic microbiome members commonly found in natural waters  
223 (46–48). However, their relationship with *Salmonella* is unknown. A study by Gu et al. used 16S  
224 rDNA amplicon sequencing data and found an association between specific microbial taxa and  
225 the prevalence and population density of *Salmonella enterica* detected in ponds and wells in  
226 Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESV) between January to December (49). They found that the relative  
227 abundance of *Sphingomonadales* was significantly correlated with *S. enterica* prevalence as well  
228 as its population density in irrigation ponds and water wells. However, in our study,

229 *Sphingomonadales* were not identified as informative for prediction of *Salmonella* contamination  
230 using machine learning nor differential abundance analysis (49). This inconsistency could  
231 potentially be explained by regional differences in the water microbiome composition, which is  
232 known to be influenced by environmental features such as natural variation over time, weather,  
233 and adjacent land use (22, 23, 25).

234 In this study, we found that several environmental features were informative for  
235 classification in the CF model. CVI of stream level was the second most informative feature for  
236 predicting *Salmonella* contamination, and level of dissolved water, pH, and change in elevation  
237 and length (CSL 10\_85) were weakly associated with *Salmonella* contamination. Previous study  
238 reported that environmental features had an effect on the level of *E. coli* and the probability of  
239 detecting foodborne pathogen from the fresh water samples (20). Therefore, it is important to  
240 consider environmental condition as supplementary features when developing new tools for  
241 predicting *Salmonella* contamination of fresh water based on the specific taxa.

242 Some of the differences between taxa identified in this study and previous studies may be  
243 due to the differences in microbiome composition between surface, pond, and well waters. Thus,  
244 future studies that sample the same (or multiple) water types over multiple growing regions from  
245 multiple states are needed to assess whether the putative indicators of *Salmonella* contamination  
246 identified in this study are reproducible more broadly and are suitable candidates for the  
247 development of a rapid nucleic acid-based diagnostic assay.

248

249 **Conclusions.** This study applied machine learning classifiers and differential abundance  
250 analyses of surface water microbiome data to identify putative novel indicators of *Salmonella*  
251 contamination. We identified *Aeromonas* and *Tabrizicola* bacterial genera and *Aeromonadaceae*,

252 *Rhodobacteraceae*, *Shewanellaceae*, and *Parvibaculaceae* families that warrant further  
253 assessment as putative indicators of *Salmonella* contamination of the water. The identified taxa  
254 are potential targets for the development of an alternative or complementary (to *E. coli*  
255 quantification) water quality/safety monitoring strategy focused on mitigating the use of surface  
256 waters likely contaminated with *Salmonella*. However, the models developed in this study first  
257 need to be validated on new samples collected from a broader geographic area and over multiple  
258 seasons to assess the predictive accuracy of taxa identified here. Furthermore, deeper  
259 metagenomic sequencing that would enable metagenome assembly may facilitate identification  
260 of putative novel indicators of *Salmonella* contamination at a species level, as well as  
261 characterization of their functional potential.

262

## 263 MATERIALS AND METHODS

264 **Sample collection and processing.** Water samples were collected from sixty streams in Upstate  
265 New York state between July and October 2018 as described by Weller et al. (2020) (20). All  
266 chemical, microbial, and environmental water quality data were previously reported by Weller et  
267 al. (2020) (20). Briefly, 10 L grab samples were collected from each stream and tested for  
268 *Salmonella* presence. Each grab sample was filtered through modified Moore swabs (mMS).  
269 Buffered peptone water supplemented with novobiocin (20 mg/l) was added to Whirl-Pak bags  
270 containing mMS and incubated at 35°C for 24 h. After incubation, a BAX real-time PCR screen  
271 was used to identify samples that were presumptively positive for *Salmonella*. *Salmonella*  
272 presence was confirmed using culture-based methods fully described in Weller et al. (20)

273 Separately, 100 ml grab samples were collected for metagenomic analysis. The 100-mL  
274 samples were filtered through a 0.45 mm filter (Nalgene, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham,  
275 MA USA). Filters were then stored at -80 °C until DNA extraction.

276

277 **DNA extraction and microbiome sequencing.** DNA was extracted using DNeasy Power Water  
278 kit (Qiagen, MD, USA) per manufacturer's instructions. Extracted DNA was examined for  
279 quality and quantified using Nanodrop One (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA) and Qubit 3  
280 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA), respectively. DNA was then sent to the Penn State  
281 Genomics Core Facility for library preparation and sequencing. Libraries were prepared using  
282 Nextera XT Flex per manufacturer's instructions. Pooled libraries were sequenced on an  
283 Illumina NextSeq with 150 bp paired end reads.

284

285 **Sequence quality control and taxonomic classification.** FastQC version 0.11.5 was used to  
286 assess read quality using default parameters (50). Illumina adapters and low-quality bases were  
287 trimmed using Trimmomatic (v 0.36) (51) with default parameters. Trimmed reads were  
288 taxonomically classified using Kraken2 (v 2.1.2) (52) and relative abundances inferred using  
289 Bracken (v 2.5) (53). The NCBI's RefSeq nucleotide database (v 207) (54) was used to build a  
290 Kraken2 database. Any read that mapped to a single reference genome was labeled with the  
291 NCBI taxonomic annotation (taxid) corresponding to that reference genome. Any read that  
292 mapped to multiple reference genomes, or did not meet or exceed the confidence scoring  
293 threshold was assigned a last common ancestor (LCA) taxonomic identification (taxid) (52).  
294 Confidence scores were set to 0.1, meaning that at least 10% of the total number of kmers from a  
295 read were classified. Bracken was used to estimate the abundance of taxa by re-distributing reads

296 in the taxonomy using Bayes' theorem (53). Assigned taxonomy and taxid counts of all samples  
297 were merged into a table that was used for downstream analyses.

298

299 **Microbiome Analyses.** All statistical analyses of microbiome data were performed in R (version  
300 4.1.0; R core Team, Vienna, Austria) (55), using a compositional analyses framework (33). First,  
301 the estimated abundances were transformed using the centered log-ratio (CLR) transformation  
302 (34). Ratio transformations capture the relationship between the taxonomic units in the data, and  
303 logarithm of these ratios ensures that the data are symmetric and linearly related (34). Distances  
304 between samples were calculated using the Aitchison distance (i.e., Euclidian distance after CLR  
305 transformation) to investigate the among-sample differences in microbiome composition [11].  
306 Principle component analysis (PCA) was carried out using the 'princomp' function in R on  
307 relative abundances of taxids to visualize the ordination and clustering of samples based on the  
308 microbiome composition (33). The first two principal components were plotted using the  
309 'ggplot2' package (v 3.3.3) (56). Samples were color-coded to visually assess whether they  
310 cluster based on the *Salmonella* presence/absence. Permutational Multivariate Analysis of  
311 Variance (PERMANOVA) was carried out to assess statistical associations between microbiome  
312 composition and *Salmonella* presence using the 'adonis' function in the 'vegan' package (v 2.5.7)  
313 (57). Differential abundance test was conducted using the ALDEx2 R package (58) to identify  
314 bacterial genera and families that were differentially abundant between *Salmonella*-positive and -  
315 negative samples. Each identified bacterial genus and family were tested using Kruskal-Wallis  
316 test to assess statistical significance of detected differences in their relative abundance (59).

317

318 **Predictive modelling.** Three machine learning algorithms (i.e., conditional forest (CF) (35),  
319 regularized random forest (RRF) (36), and support vector machine (SVM) with sigmoid kernel  
320 (37)) that had previously been applied on microbiome data (60–62) and were suitable for  
321 microbiome data structure (27) were used in this study. Additionally, these algorithms were  
322 previously reported to outperform others for predicting *Salmonella* presence using environmental  
323 data (27). These methods were used to develop models that predict *Salmonella* presence or  
324 absence in water samples. Both relative abundance of taxid and CLR transformed relative  
325 abundance of taxid were separately used as features to assess the effect of microbiome data  
326 transformation on model performance. Model training and evaluation was performed using the  
327 ‘mlr’ package (v 2.19.0) (63). Ten-fold cross-validation repeated three-times was used to tune  
328 hyperparameters to maximize area under the curve (AUC) (64, 65). In total, analyses were  
329 conducted using two feature sets: (i) untransformed relative abundances of microbial taxa and (ii)  
330 CLR-transformed relative abundances of microbial taxa, to assess whether models perform better  
331 on transformed microbiome data. Analyses were also carried out at two different taxonomic  
332 levels (i.e., genus and family) and with or without environmental data. In total, 24 models were  
333 constructed separately based on the AUC and kappa scores (Table 1). The best performing model  
334 for each combination of algorithm and input data (Table 1) was selected for identifying  
335 informative taxa. conditional variable importance (CVI) was calculated using the ‘party’ package  
336 (v. 1.3.7) for CF models (35).

337

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344

345 **Data availability**

346 Sequences generated in this study are available in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive database  
347 under the BioProject accession number PRJNA849616. Script used for bioinformatics and  
348 statistical analyses are available in GitHub repository:

349 <https://github.com/tuc289/SurfaceWaterMicrobiome/tree/master/Year2>.

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521

522 **TABLES**

523 **TABLE 1** Machine learning algorithms, data types, data transformation, and taxonomic levels

524 used for prediction of *Salmonella* contamination.

Machine learning algorithm <sup>a</sup>	Data type	Data transformation	Taxonomic level
Conditional forest	Microbiome data	Centered log-ratio transformed relative abundances	Genus
Regularized random forest	Microbiome data + environmental features	Untransformed relative abundances	Family
Support vector machine			

525 <sup>a</sup>Each machine learning algorithm was run using all combinations of data type, data  
526 transformation, and taxonomic level.

527 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

528

529 **FIG 1.** Principal Component Analysis (PCA) based on the Aitchison distance. Scree plot  
530 between principal components and eigen values are shown at the **(A)** genus level and **(C)** family  
531 level. The PCA biplot showing ordination of samples between based on the microbiome  
532 composition at the **(B)** genus level and **(D)** family level and color-coded based on whether  
533 *Salmonella* was detected (orange) or not detected (blue) in water samples.

534

535 **FIG 2.** Kappa score and Area Under the Curve (AUC) for each machine learning algorithm.  
536 Results are shown at two taxonomic levels used for the classification (left – genus, right – family).  
537 Two different data transformation method (CLR [blue] – centered log-ratio transformation, and  
538 RA [orange] – relative abundance) were compared with two different data structures: M (circles)  
539 – microbiome data only and M+E (triangles) – microbiome and environmental data.

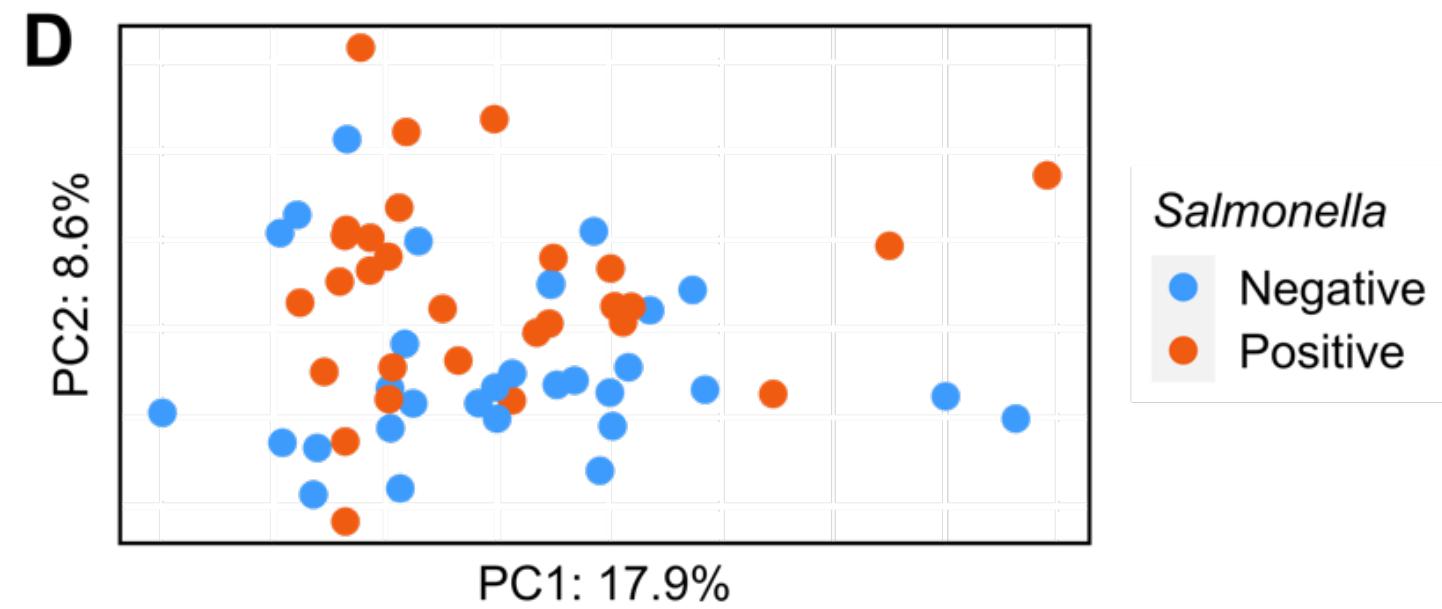
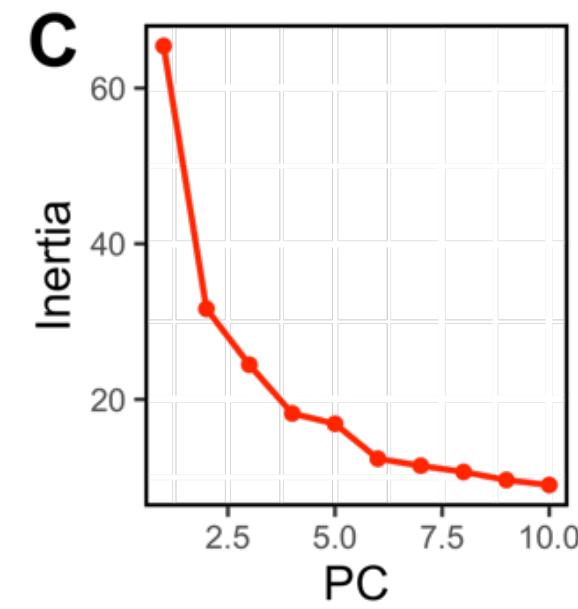
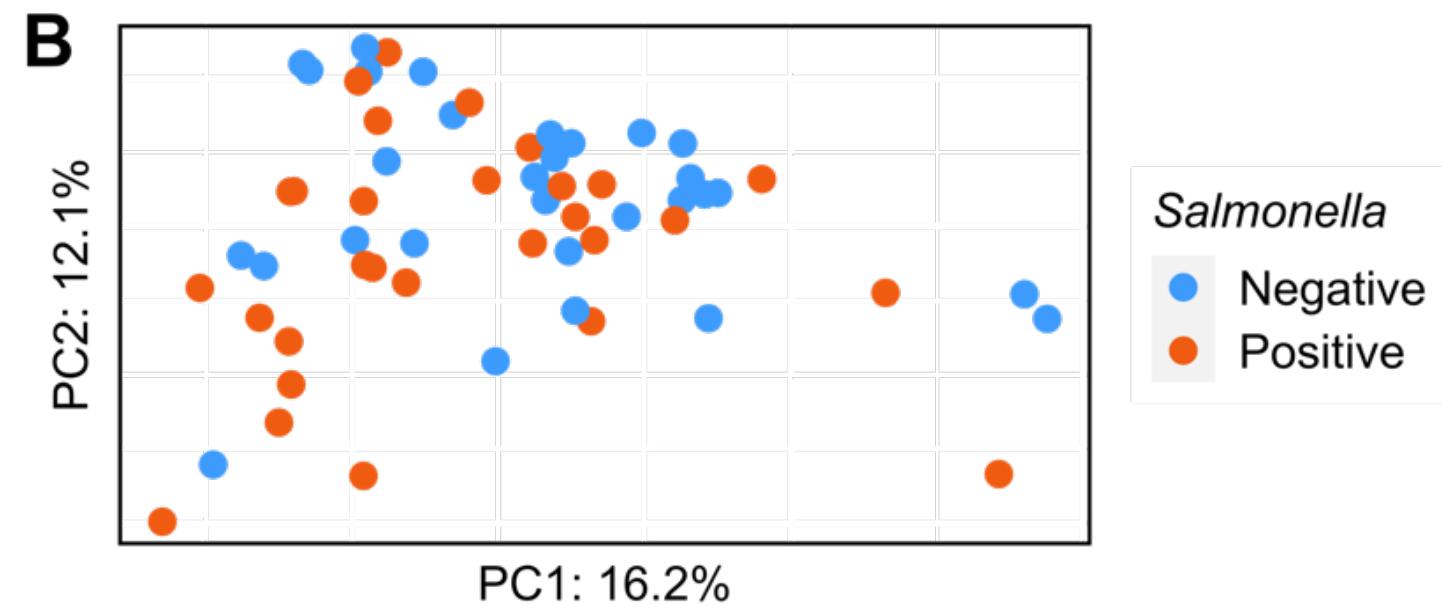
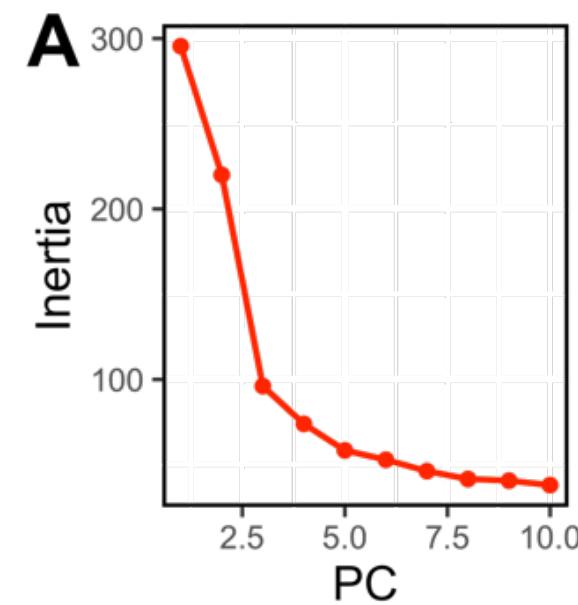
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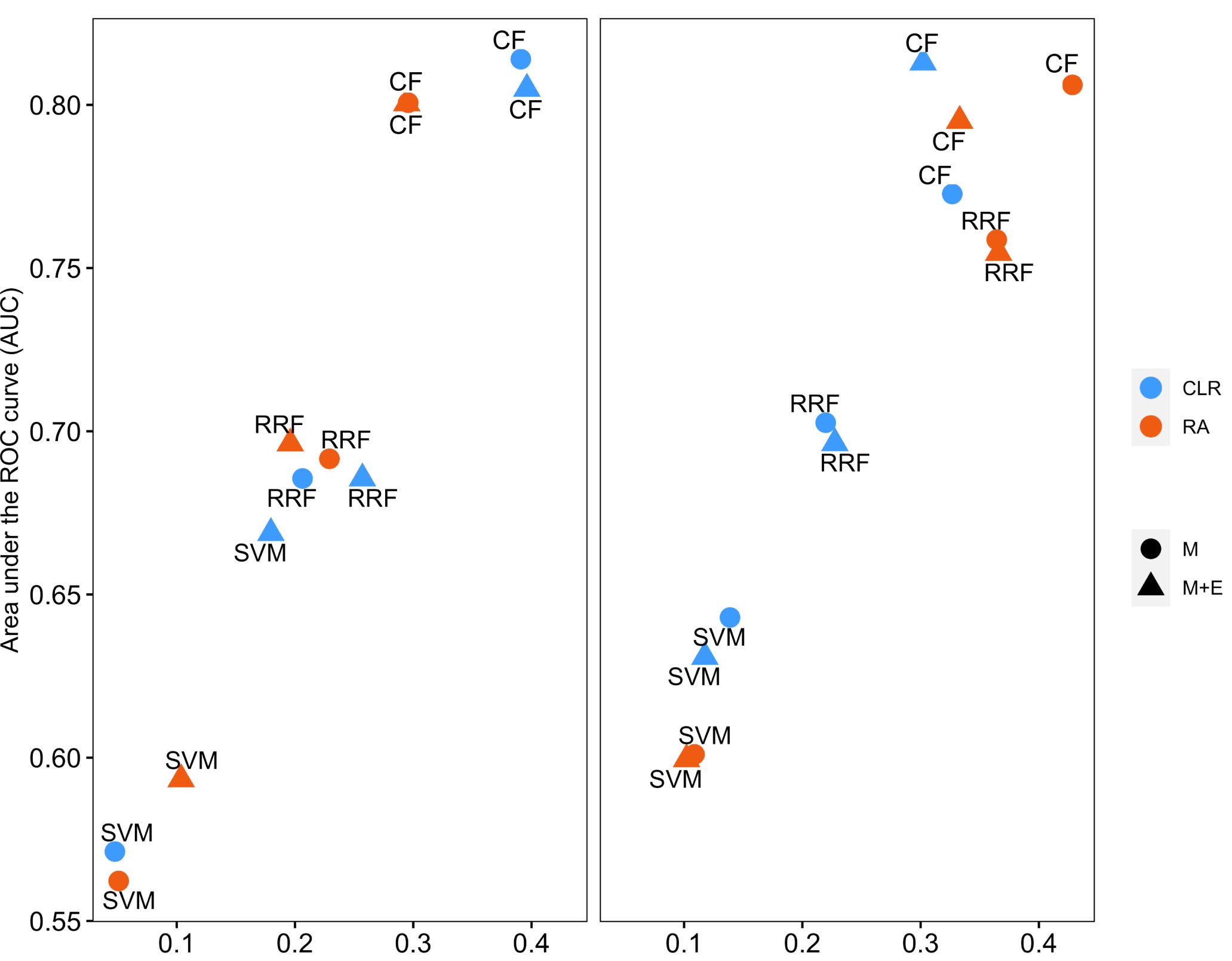
541 **FIG 3. Conditional variable importance of taxa.** Conditional variable importance was  
542 calculated from best performing conditional forest (CF) models of **(A)** genus level and **(B)**  
543 family level. Top 15 most informative for prediction of *Salmonella* contamination are presented.  
544 Orange bars indicate taxa significantly differentially abundant, blue bars indicate taxa not  
545 significantly differentially abundant, and black bars indicate environmental features (CSL 10\_85  
546 = change in elevation divided by the length between points 10 and 85 percent of distance along  
547 main channel to basin divide).

548 **FIG 4.** Relative abundance of **(A)** *Aeromonas* and **(B)** *Tabrizicola* in water samples. These  
549 genera were identified as significantly differentially abundant between *Salmonella* positive and  
550 negative water samples.

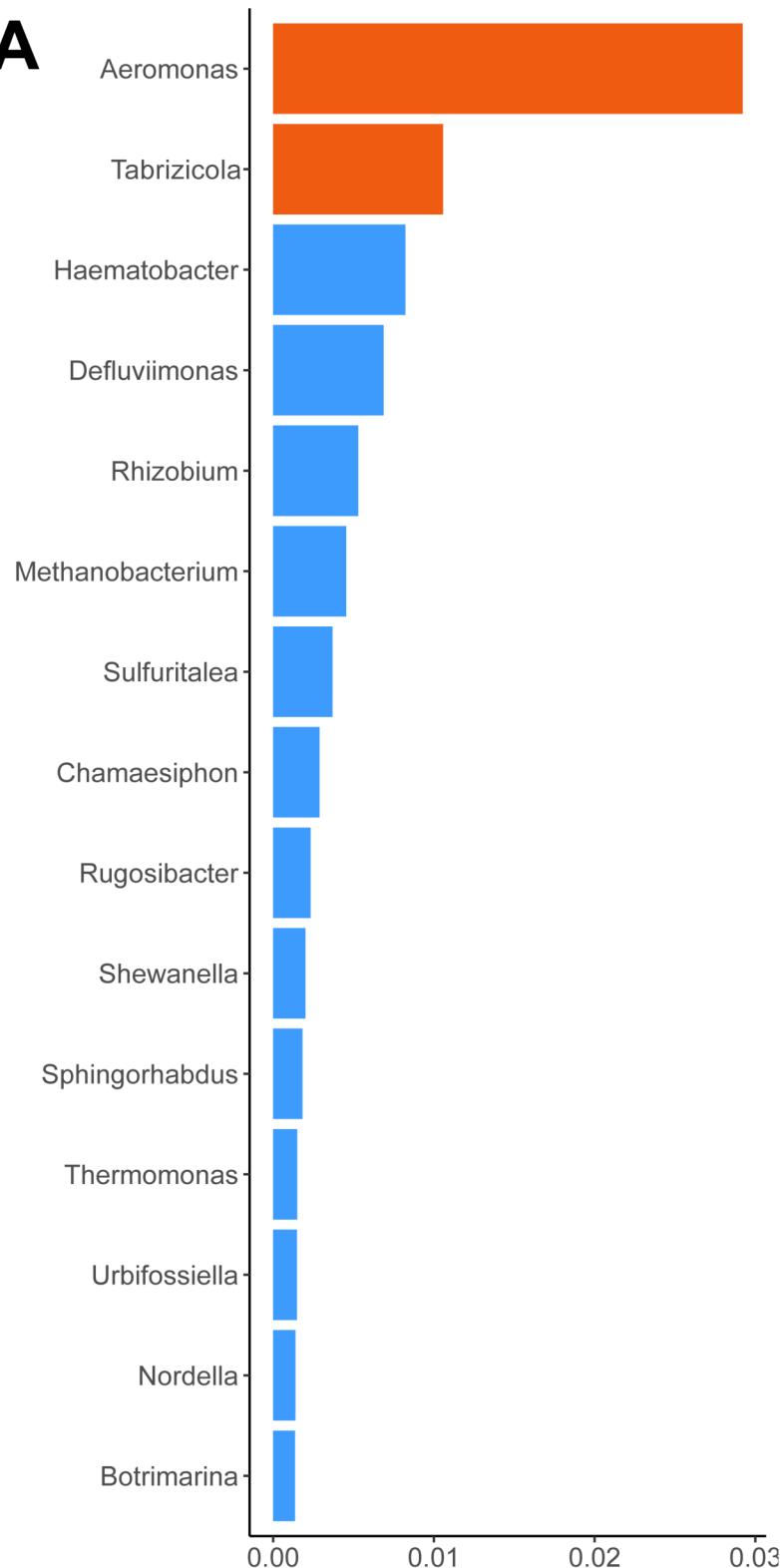
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552 **FIG 5.** Relative abundance of **(A)** *Aeromonadaceae* **(B)** *Parvibaculaceae* **(C)** *Rhodobacteraceae*,  
553 and **(D)** *Shewanellaceae*. These families were identified as significantly differentially abundant  
554 between *Salmonella* positive and negative water samples.

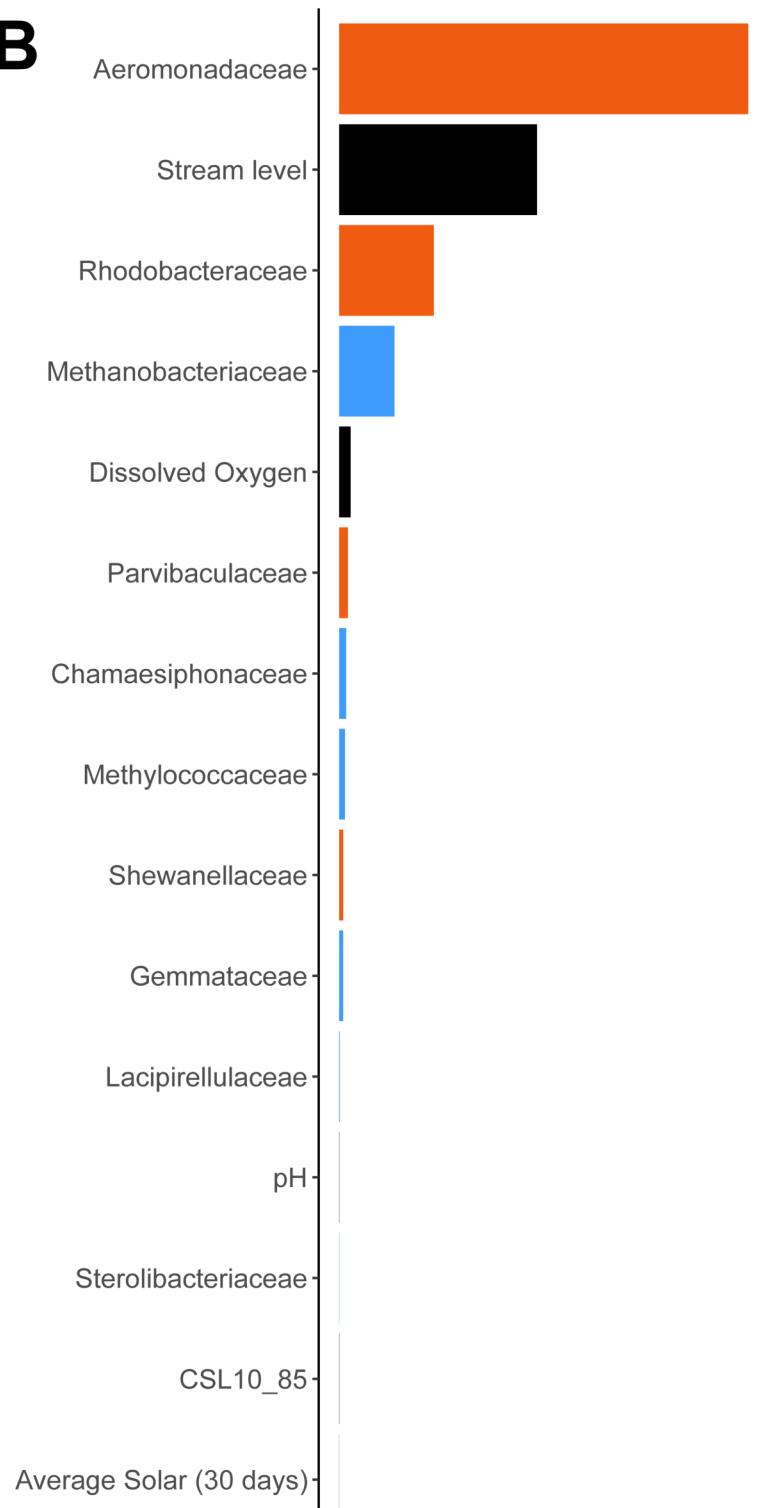


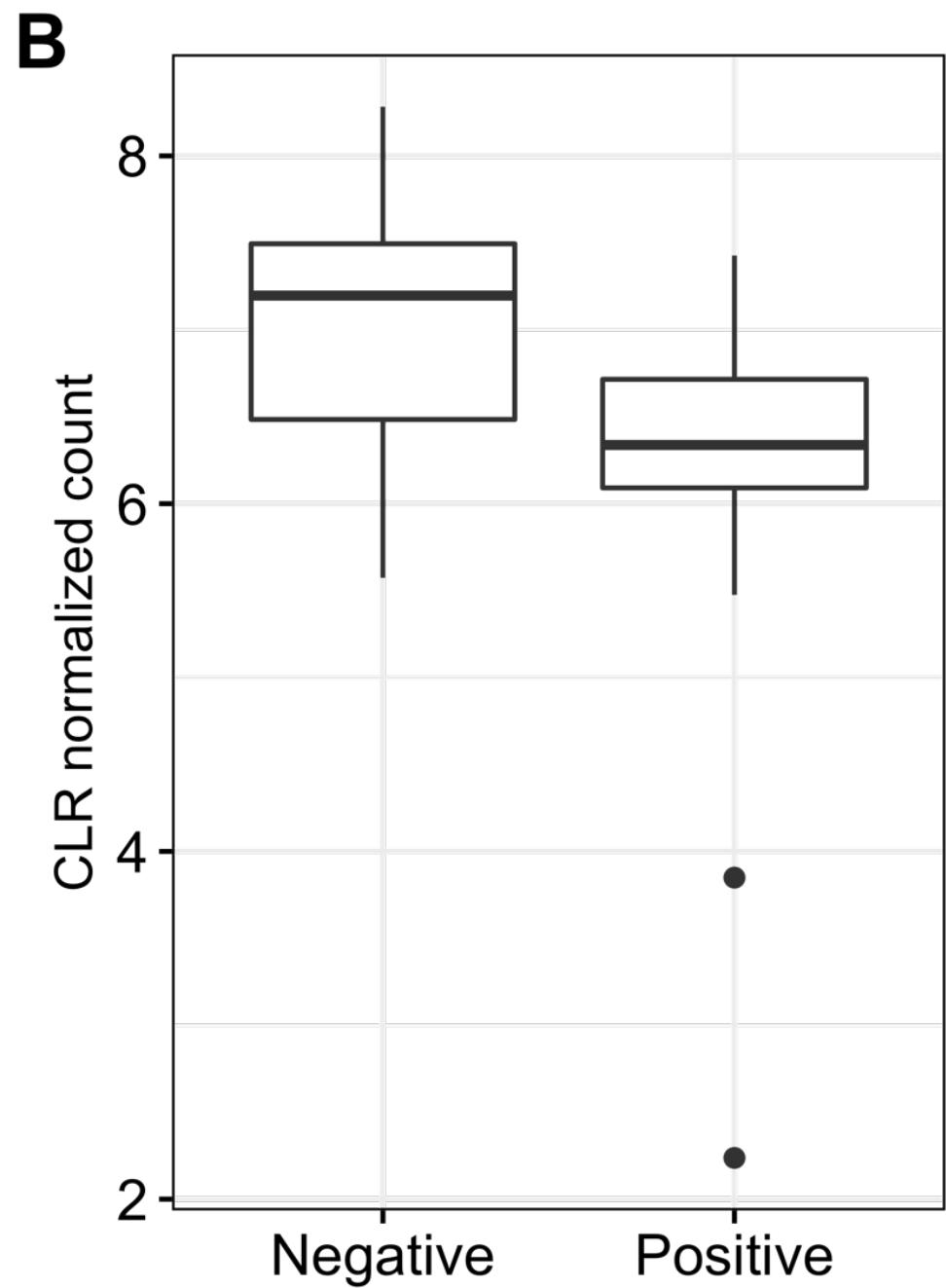
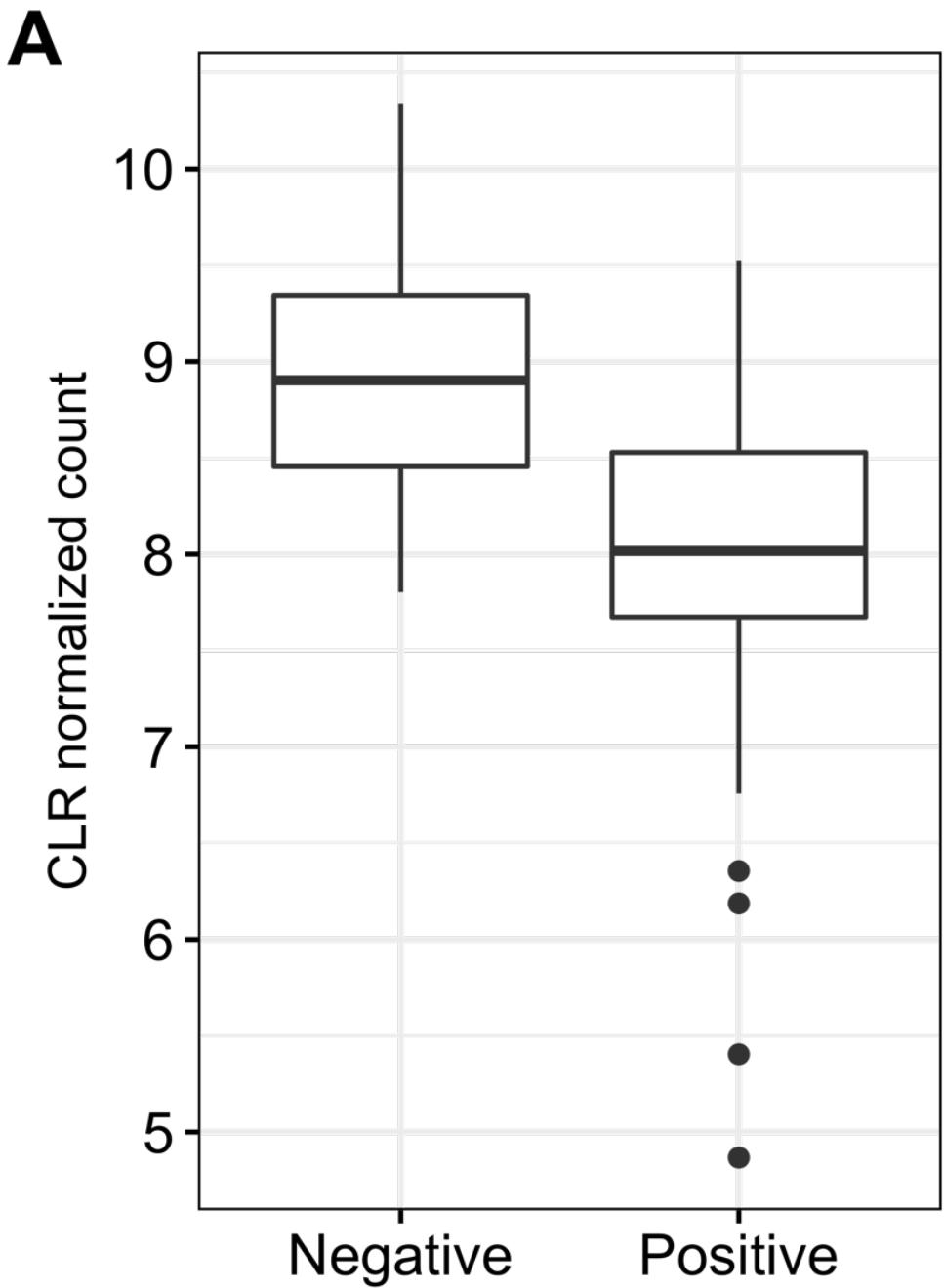


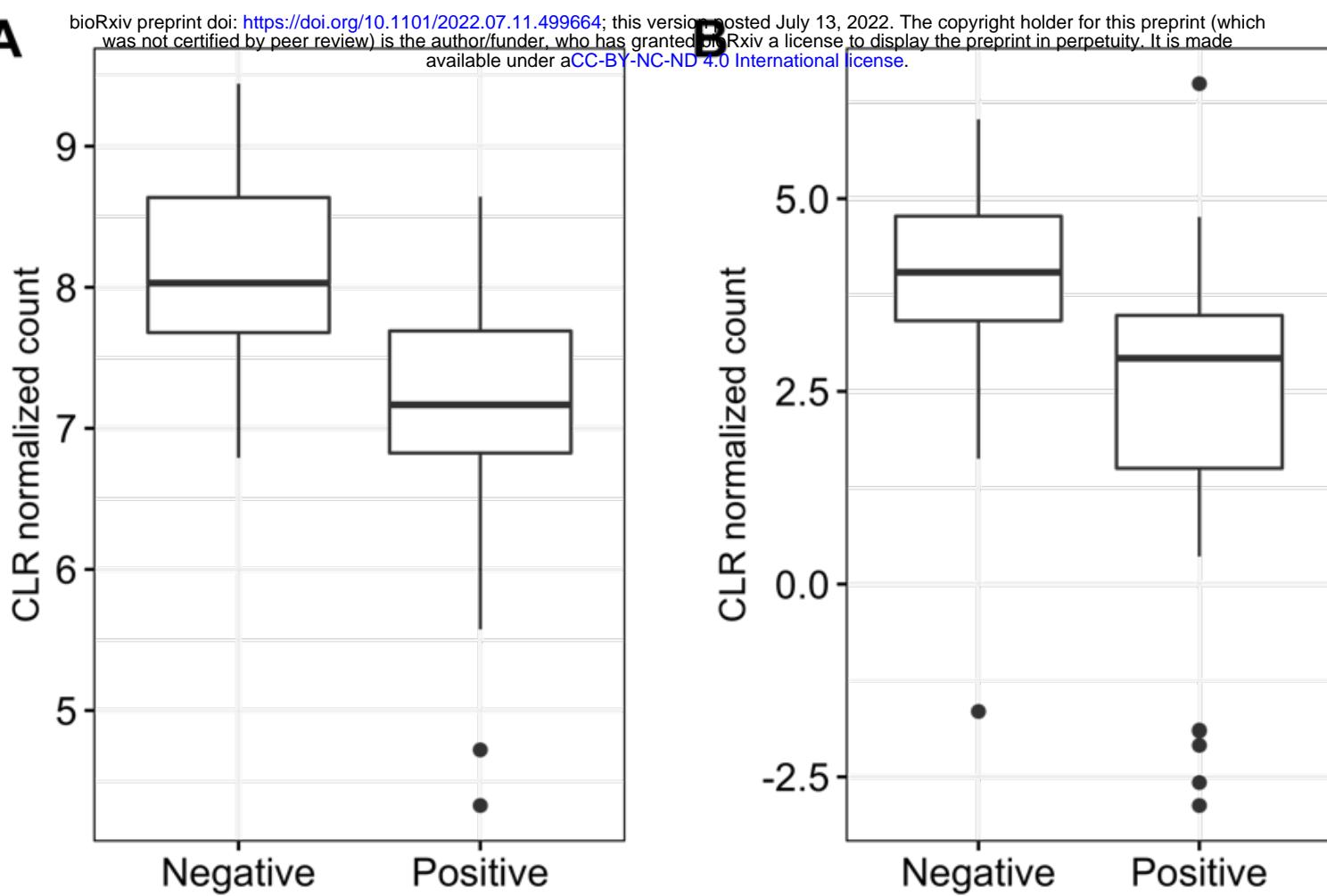
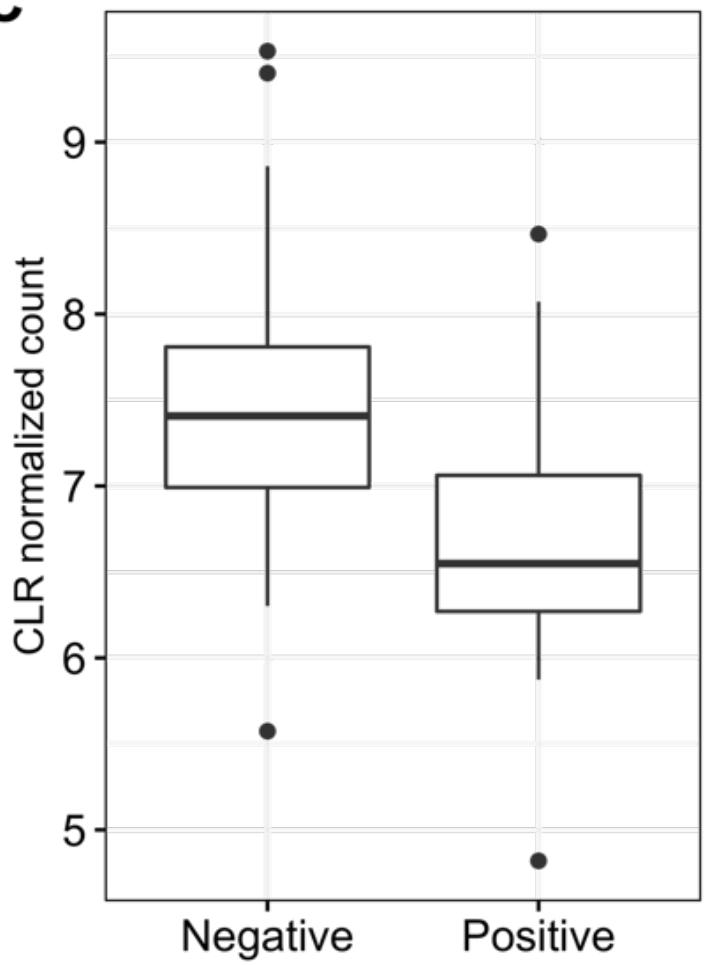
**A**



**B**





**A****C****D**