

1 **Division of labour within psyllids: Metagenomics reveals an ancient dual**
2 **endosymbiosis with metabolic complementarity in the genus *Cacopsylla***

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26 **ABSTRACT**

27 Hemipteran insects are well-known for their ancient associations with beneficial bacterial
28 endosymbionts, particularly nutritional symbionts providing the host with essential nutrients
29 such as amino acids or vitamins lacking from the host's diet. Thereby, these primary
30 endosymbionts enable the exploitation of nutrient-poor food sources such as plant sap or
31 vertebrate blood. In turn, the strictly host-associated lifestyle strongly impacts the genome
32 evolution of the endosymbionts, resulting in small and degraded genomes. Over time, even
33 the essential nutritional functions can be compromised, leading to the complementation or
34 replacement of an ancient endosymbiont by another, more functionally versatile, bacterium.
35 Herein, we provide evidence for a dual primary endosymbiosis in several psyllid species.
36 Using metagenome sequencing, we produced the complete genome sequences of both the
37 primary endosymbiont '*Candidatus Carsonella ruddii*' and an as yet uncharacterized
38 *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterium from four species of the genus *Cacopsylla*. The latter
39 represents a new psyllid-associated endosymbiont clade for which we propose the name
40 '*Candidatus Psyllophila symbiotica*'. Fluorescent *in situ* hybridisation confirmed the co-
41 localization of both endosymbionts in the bacteriome. The metabolic repertoire of *Psyllophila*
42 is highly conserved across host species and complements the tryptophan biosynthesis
43 pathway that is incomplete in the co-occurring *Carsonella*. Unlike co-primary endosymbionts
44 in other insects, the genome of *Psyllophila* is almost as small as the one of *Carsonella*,
45 indicating an ancient co-obligate endosymbiosis rather than a recent association to rescue a
46 degrading primary endosymbiont.

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49 **IMPORTANCE**

50 Heritable beneficial bacterial endosymbionts have been crucial for the evolutionary success
51 of numerous insects, enabling the exploitation of nutritionally limited food sources such as
52 vertebrate blood and plant sap. Herein, we describe a previously unknown dual
53 endosymbiosis in the psyllid genus *Cacopsylla*, consisting in the primary endosymbiont
54 ‘*Candidatus Carsonella ruddii*’ and a co-occurring *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterium for which
55 we propose the name ‘*Candidatus Psyllophila symbiotica*’. Its localization within the
56 bacteriome and its small genome size confirm that *Psyllophila* is a co-primary endosymbiont
57 widespread within the genus *Cacopsylla*. Despite its highly eroded genome, *Psyllophila*
58 complements the tryptophan biosynthesis pathway that is incomplete in the co-occurring
59 *Carsonella*. Moreover, the genome of *Psyllophila* is almost as small as the one of *Carsonella*,
60 indicating an ancient dual endosymbiosis rather than a recent acquisition of a new symbiont.
61 Hence, our results shed light on the dynamic interactions of psyllids and their endosymbionts
62 over evolutionary time.

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72 **INTRODUCTION**

73 Numerous insects maintain long-lasting associations with heritable bacterial endosymbionts
74 that provide the host with essential nutrients lacking from its diet (1). Plant sap-feeding and
75 blood-feeding insects in particular are well-known to harbour nutrient-providing
76 endosymbionts in specialized cells called bacteriocytes, which may form a tissular structure
77 called a bacteriome (2, 3). These so-called primary endosymbionts are obligatory for host
78 survival and reproduction, as they provide essential amino acids and/or vitamins that the host
79 cannot produce or obtain from its food source (4-9). Hence, these bacteria have been crucial
80 for the evolutionary success of numerous insects, enabling the exploitation of nutritionally
81 unbalanced food sources such as vertebrate blood and plant sap.

82 In turn, the host-associated lifestyle has a strong impact on the genome evolution of the
83 endosymbionts: Their strictly intracellular environment, small effective population size and
84 frequent bottlenecks due to vertical transmission result in genomic decay through the
85 accumulation of deleterious mutations (Muller's ratchet) and the loss of genes that are no
86 longer needed (10-12). Over evolutionary time, this has produced some of the smallest
87 bacterial genomes known to date (6), streamlined for the production of nutrients required by
88 the host. However, eventually even these pathways can be degraded, leading either to the
89 complementation or the replacement of the ancient endosymbiont by another, more
90 functionally versatile, bacterium (13-18).

91 This dynamic can be observed in several plant sap-feeding hemipterans which rely on more
92 than one primary endosymbiont to produce all necessary nutrients. Notably, the
93 Auchenorrhyncha (cicadas, planthoppers, spittlebugs) are well-known for their ancient dual
94 endosymbiotic consortia where two co-primary endosymbionts jointly produce the complete
95 set of essential nutrients required by the host, resulting in an intricate metabolic

96 interdependence between the different partners (19). Nonetheless, multiple endosymbiont
97 replacements occurred over time to compensate for the extreme genome erosion of the
98 ancient symbionts (6, 16, 20-25). A similar pattern occurs in aphids (Sternorrhyncha):
99 Whereas most species harbour a single primary endosymbiont, *Buchnera aphidicola*, which
100 provides the host with the ten essential amino acids and the vitamins biotin and riboflavin
101 (26), dual-endosymbiotic systems have evolved repeatedly in multiple aphid lineages to
102 compensate for lost pathways in *B. aphidicola* (13, 14, 18, 27-29).
103 Similar dual primary endosymbioses may be widespread in psyllids (Hemiptera: Psylloidea),
104 a species-rich group of phloem-feeding jumping plant lice. Like other plant sap-feeding
105 insects, psyllids harbour a bacteriocyte-associated primary endosymbiont ('*Candidatus*
106 *Carsonella ruddii*', hereafter *Carsonella*), which provides the host with essential amino acids
107 (30-33). *Carsonella* is present in all investigated psyllid species and exhibits strict host-
108 symbiont co-divergence, suggesting a single infection of a common ancestor of all extant
109 psyllids (30, 34, 35). Its genome is extremely streamlined and figures among the smallest
110 bacterial genomes known to date (157-175 Kbp) (31). Due to this extreme genome reduction,
111 some *Carsonella* strains are no longer able to produce the full complement of essential amino
112 acids, questioning their ability to fulfil their symbiotic function without compensation from
113 host genes or co-occurring symbiotic bacteria (33, 36).
114 Additional endosymbionts have indeed been observed to co-inhabit the bacteriome with
115 *Carsonella* in several species (3, 37-39). In these cases, *Carsonella* is located in bacteriocytes
116 surrounding the bacteriome, while a second bacterium occurs in the syncytium at the center
117 of the bacteriome. Importantly, the taxonomy of the co-primary endosymbiont varies
118 depending on the psyllid species: Whereas the syncytium-symbiont ('Y-symbiont') of the
119 mulberry psyllid *Anomoneura mori* is an uncharacterized *Enterobacteriaceae* bacterium
120 (*Gammaproteobacteria*) (37) whose symbiotic role is unknown, the citrus psyllid *Diaphorina*

121 *citri* harbours ‘*Candidatus Profftella armatura*’ (*Betaproteobacteria*). The latter is a defensive
122 and nutritional endosymbiont which produces vitamins, carotenoids and a polyketide toxin,
123 i.e. metabolites that are not provided by *Carsonella* (39, 40). In contrast, the psyllid species
124 *Ctenarytaina eucalypti* and *Heteropsylla cubana* harbour symbionts closely related to the
125 insect endosymbionts ‘*Ca. Moranella endobia*’ and *Sodalis*, whose genomes precisely
126 complement several amino acid biosynthesis pathways missing from the co-occurring
127 *Carsonella* strains (33). Despite typical hallmarks of vertically transmitted intracellular
128 bacteria, the genomes of both endosymbionts are less reduced (>1 Mbp), suggesting a more
129 recent acquisition relative to *Carsonella*, presumably to compensate for lost functions in the
130 latter. In addition, numerous psyllid microbiome studies revealed highly abundant but yet
131 uncharacterized *Enterobacteriaceae* bacteria in diverse species from several psyllid families
132 (41-46), suggesting that dual primary endosymbioses may be more widespread in psyllids
133 than previously thought.

134 Herein, we aim to elucidate the evolutionary and metabolic relationships between psyllids of
135 the genus *Cacopsylla* (Psyllidae) and their *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts. Many
136 *Cacopsylla* species have indeed been shown to harbour highly abundant *Enterobacteriaceae*
137 endosymbionts that are closely-related to the Y-symbiont co-inhabiting the syncytium of the
138 bacteriome in *A. mori* (42, 45, 46). Furthermore, these symbionts were present in all tested
139 individuals of a given species, suggesting that they may represent co-primary endosymbionts
140 widespread in this genus. In this study, we produced the complete genome sequences of both
141 *Carsonella* and the *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts of four *Cacopsylla* species (*C.*
142 *melanoneura*, *C. picta*, *C. pyri* and *C. pyricola*) known to harbour closely-related
143 endosymbionts from our previous metabarcoding studies (45, 46). Fluorescent *in situ*
144 hybridisation confirmed the co-localization of both endosymbionts in the bacteriome.
145 Comparative genomic analyses revealed that the *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts

146 represent a psyllid-associated clade among other insect endosymbionts. Its genome is almost
147 as small as that of *Carsonella* and complements the tryptophan biosynthesis pathway that is
148 compromised in the co-occurring *Carsonella*.

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150 RESULTS

151 All four *Cacopsylla* species harbour two endosymbionts with tiny genomes

152 To investigate endosymbiont genetic diversity across different *Cacopsylla* species and
153 genotypes, 12 insect metagenomes were sequenced. These metagenomes encompassed four
154 different host species: *C. melanoneura* and *C. picta*, which complete their development on
155 apple (or hawthorn in the case of *C. melanoneura*) and the pear psyllids *C. pyri* and *C.*
156 *pyricola*. Multiple metagenomes were sequenced for *C. melanoneura* (N=8) and *C. picta*
157 (N=2), covering different Cytochrome Oxidase I (COI) haplotypes and, in the case of *C.*
158 *melanoneura*, different regions of origin (Aosta Valley vs. South Tyrol, Italy) and different
159 host plants (apple vs. hawthorn) (Table 1). As expected, the majority of the Nanopore reads
160 belonged to the insect genome and only about 5% of the reads (range: 2.94-9.80%)
161 corresponded to non-host reads. Nonetheless, circular genomes of the primary endosymbiont
162 *Carsonella* could be assembled from all metagenomes (Table 1) with coverages of 85-408x.
163 Genome size ranged from 169,917 to 171,920 bp with 14.98-15.53% GC content, similar to
164 previously sequenced *Carsonella* genomes from other psyllid genera (31, 33, 39, 40). The
165 genomes encoded 182-190 protein-coding genes, one ribosomal rRNA operon and 26-27
166 tRNAs (Table 1). Synteny and gene content were highly conserved across all genomes, with
167 161 out of 184 orthogroups (87.5%) shared across all twelve genomes (Fig. 1a, b).
168 In addition to *Carsonella*, a second circular genome could be assembled from 10 out of the
169 12 metagenomes (Table 1) with coverages of 19-431x. These genomes belonged to the
170 uncharacterized *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbiont previously identified through 16S rRNA

171 gene metabarcoding (45, 46). Contigs of this symbiont were also present in the two remaining
172 metagenomes (both from *C. melanoneura*), but the coverage was insufficient to assemble
173 complete genomes. The ten complete chromosomes of the *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbiont
174 ranged from 221,413 bp in *C. pyri* to 237,114 bp in a strain from *C. melanoneura* from Aosta
175 Valley (strain PSmelAO1, Table 1). GC content varied from 17.30-18.60%. Despite the
176 variations in genome size, synteny and gene content were highly conserved across all
177 *Enterobacteriaceae* genomes (Fig. 1c, d). They contained 205-208 protein-coding genes, 1-3
178 pseudogenes, one ribosomal rRNA operon, 27 tRNAs and 2 ncRNAs (Table 1). Moreover,
179 196 out of 209 orthogroups (93.78%) were shared across all ten genomes (Fig. 1d), indicating
180 that the functional repertoire is highly similar across all four host species. Taken together, all
181 four *Cacopsylla* species harbour two endosymbionts with typical hallmarks of a long
182 intracellular symbiotic lifestyle, such as extremely small genomes and low GC content.

183

184 **The *Enterobacteriaceae* symbionts represent a new clade of insect endosymbionts**

185 To determine the phylogenetic position of the newly-sequenced psyllid endosymbionts, we
186 performed a Maximum Likelihood phylogenomic analysis based on 67 single-copy genes
187 present in 46 genomes, namely the 10 *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp.,
188 33 insect endosymbionts from the *Gammaproteobacteria* and three *Pseudomonas*
189 *entomophila* strains as outgroup (Fig. 2). The insect endosymbionts included the two
190 previously sequenced endosymbionts of the psyllid species *C. eucalypti* and *H. cubana* as
191 well as both obligate and facultative endosymbionts of diverse hemipterans (aphids, adelgids,
192 leafhoppers, mealybugs, stinkbugs), beetles (reef beetles and weevils) and the tsetse fly
193 (Table S1). Interestingly, the *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp. were not
194 closely-related to the previously sequenced endosymbionts of the psyllids *C. eucalypti* and *H.*
195 *cubana* (33) (Fig. 2). Instead, they formed a clade with full bootstrap support that was most

196 closely-related to ‘*Ca. Annandia adelgestsuga*’ and ‘*Ca. Annandia pinicola*’, nutritional
197 endosymbionts of adelgids (47) as well as ‘*Ca. Nardonella* sp.’, ancient endosymbionts of
198 weevils (48) (Fig. 2). Hence, the *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp.
199 represent a new psyllid-associated clade of insect endosymbionts for which we propose the
200 name ‘*Ca. Psyllophila symbiotica*’ (hereafter *Psyllophila*).

201

202 **Both *Cacopsylla* endosymbionts are localized in the bacteriome**

203 Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization with *Carsonella* and *Psyllophila*-specific probes revealed
204 that all *Cacopsylla* species exhibit the same pattern of endosymbiont co-localization in the
205 same bacteriome (Fig. 3). The bacteriomes are large, paired organs localized in the insect's
206 abdomen. A single bacteriome contains two distinct parts: central and peripheral.
207 Uninucleated bacteriocytes filled with *Carsonella* are located in the peripheral zone of the
208 bacteriome (Fig. 3), whereas the central part is occupied by a multinucleated syncytium filled
209 with *Psyllophila* cells as well as some bacteriocytes containing *Carsonella* (Fig. 3).

210

211 **Metabolic complementarity between *Carsonella* and *Psyllophila***

212 The COG category “Amino acid transport and metabolism” was enriched in all sequenced
213 *Carsonella* genomes (Fig. 4a), in line with its role as a nutritional symbiont. Indeed, based on
214 the KEGG pathway annotation, the biosynthesis pathways for eight of the ten essential amino
215 acids are complete or almost complete in all 12 *Carsonella* strains from the four *Cacopsylla*
216 species (Fig. 4b). Most of the missing functions (*hisN* in the histidine pathway, *dapC* in the
217 lysine pathway, *thrB* in the threonine pathway and *aroE* in the Shikimate pathway, Fig. 4b)
218 are also missing in all previously sequenced *Carsonella* genomes (Table S2, S3). The same
219 applies to the methionine biosynthesis pathway, for which only the last reaction (*metE*) is
220 present in all sequenced *Carsonella* genomes from this and previous studies (Fig. 4b, Table

221 S3). The only difference between the *Cacopsylla*-associated *Carsonella* strains was the
222 absence of *aroB* in the stains from *C. picta* and *C. pyri*, whereas this gene is present in all
223 *Carsonella* strains from *C. melanoneura* and *C. pyricola* (Fig. 4b, Table S3). Interestingly,
224 the tryptophan biosynthesis pathway was incomplete in all 12 *Carsonella* strains from
225 *Cacopsylla* spp., in that only *trpE* and *trpG* were present, whereas the rest of the pathway was
226 missing (Fig. 4b).

227 In contrast to *Carsonella*, the genomes of *Psyllophila* have lost almost all genes involved in
228 amino acid synthesis ((Fig. 4a). Only four genes were retained and these precisely
229 complement the incomplete tryptophan biosynthesis pathway in *Carsonella*, namely *trpD*,
230 *trpCF*, *trpB* and *trpA* (Fig. 4b). The four genes were arranged consecutively in the genomes.
231 In addition, all *Psyllophila* genomes encoded partial biosynthesis pathways for the vitamins
232 biotin (*bioA*, *bioB*, *bioD*) and riboflavin (*ribA*, *ribB*, *ribD*, *ribH*) as well as all necessary
233 genes for the biosynthesis of carotenoids (*crtB*, *crtI*, *crtY*) (Fig. 4b).

234

235 **Repeated gene losses throughout *Carsonella* evolution**

236 Apart from the *Carsonella* genomes presented herein, complete genome sequences are
237 available for 11 *Carsonella* strains from nine psyllid species representing five genera and
238 three families (Aphalaridae, Psyllidae and Triozidae) (Table S2). The functional repertoire of
239 these genomes is quite conserved, since 135 out of 197 orthogroups (68.5%) were shared
240 across all 33 genomes and specific orthogroups occurring only in strains from particular host
241 species or genera were rare (14/197) (Fig. 5a). In contrast, host lineage-specific losses of
242 orthogroups were more common. For instance, 12 orthogroups were specifically absent from
243 the three *Carsonella* strains from *H. texana*, *P. celtidis* and *P. venusta* (Fig. 5a). Similarly, six
244 orthogroups were specifically absent from the *Carsonella* strains from *Ctenarytaina* spp.,
245 four orthogroups were absent from strains from *Cacopsylla* spp. and three orthogroups were

246 absent from strains from *Pachypsylla* spp. (Fig. 5a). These differences are also reflected in
247 repeated losses of genes or entirely pathways involved in essential amino acid biosynthesis
248 across the *Carsonella* phylogeny (Fig. 5b). Notably, the tryptophan pathway has been lost at
249 least three times independently, as it is incomplete or missing in all *Carsonella* strains
250 associated with the genera *Cacopsylla* and *Heteropsylla* (Psyllidae) as well as *Ctenarytaina*
251 and *Pachypsylla* (Aphalaridae) (Fig. 5b, Table S3). In contrast, this pathway is complete in
252 the *Carsonella* strains from *Bactericera* spp. (Triozidae) and *Diaphorina citri* (Liviidae) (Fig.
253 5b, Table S3). Other repeatedly lost functions include the histidine biosynthesis pathway as
254 well as the genes *aroB* and *dapE*, implicated in the Shikimate and lysine pathways,
255 respectively (Fig. 5b, Table S3). Concomitantly, co-primary endosymbionts complementing
256 the missing amino acid biosynthesis pathways have been identified in several species, i.e.
257 complementing tryptophan in *Cacopsylla* spp. (this study) and *H. cubana* (33) and both
258 tryptophan and arginine in *Ct. eucaalypti* (33) (Fig. 5b).

259

260 **DISCUSSION**

261 Herein, we present the complete genome sequences of both *Carsonella* and the
262 uncharacterized *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts of four *Cacopsylla* species from different
263 host plants. The *Enterobacteriaceae* endosymbionts represent a psyllid-associated clade
264 among other insect endosymbionts, for which we propose the name ‘*Ca. Psyllophila*
265 *symbiotica*’. Both endosymbionts co-occur within the bacteriome, exhibiting the same co-
266 localization pattern (*Carsonella* in peripheral bacteriocytes, *Psyllophila* in the central
267 syncytium) as for other dual endosymbioses in *D. citri* and *A. mori* (37-39). In combination
268 with a small and AT-rich genome, the bacteriome localization confirms that *Psyllophila* is a
269 co-primary endosymbiont widespread within the genus *Cacopsylla*. Interestingly, unlike co-
270 occurring endosymbionts in other psyllid species (33, 39, 40), the *Psyllophila* genome is

271 almost as small as the genome of *Carsonella*, indicating an ancient dual endosymbiosis rather
272 than a recent acquisition of a more versatile symbiont to rescue a degrading primary
273 endosymbiont.

274 Despite having a tiny and functionally limited genome, *Psyllophila* has retained the necessary
275 genes to complement the tryptophan biosynthesis pathway that is compromised in the co-
276 occurring *Carsonella*. This appears to be a recurring theme across *Carsonella* evolution,
277 since the tryptophan pathway is the most frequently lost amino acid biosynthesis pathway
278 based on the genomes available to date. Specifically, this pathway has been lost multiple
279 times independently, namely in the *Carsonella* strains associated with species from the
280 genera *Pachypsylla* and *Ctenarytaina* (Aphalaridae), and the psyllid lineage leading to both
281 *Heteropsylla* and *Cacopsylla* (Psyllidae). Apart from tryptophan, the arginine and histidine
282 pathways have also been lost in specific *Carsonella* strains, albeit less frequently (33).
283 Concomitantly, co-primary endosymbionts complementing the missing amino acid
284 biosynthesis pathways have been identified in several species, namely *Psyllophila* and a
285 *Sodalis*-like symbiont complementing tryptophan in *Cacopsylla* spp. (this study) and *H.*
286 *cubana* (33), respectively, and another *Sodalis*-like symbiont complementing both tryptophan
287 and arginine in *Ct. eucalypti* (33). Intriguing cases in this context are the psyllid species *H.*
288 *texana*, *P. celtidis* and *P. venusta*, whose *Carsonella* strains have lost both the histidine and
289 tryptophan pathways, but no co-primary endosymbionts have been observed to date (33).
290 Possible alternative scenarios are that the missing genes are encoded by the host, e.g. after
291 horizontal transfers of bacterial genes to the host genome, or that the amino acids in question
292 are present in sufficient quantities in the phloem sap of the psyllid's host plant. Although
293 numerous genes of bacterial origin have indeed been identified in the genome of *P. venusta*,
294 they do not restore the missing amino acid pathways (36).

295 Based on its genome sequence, *Psyllophila* not only rescues tryptophan biosynthesis, it also
296 encodes partial biosynthesis pathways for the vitamins biotin and riboflavin, as well as all
297 necessary genes for the synthesis of carotenoids, pigments that may protect against oxidative
298 damage of DNA (49). This represents a striking convergence with ‘*Ca. Profftella armatura*’,
299 the co-primary endosymbiont in several *Diaphorina* species, which has an almost identical
300 gene set for these pathways as *Psyllophila* (40). As in *Psyllophila*, the last step in the
301 riboflavin pathway is missing in ‘*Ca. Profftella armatura*’, but the relevant gene has been
302 detected in the genomes of the psyllids *D. citri* and *P. venusta*, likely due to a horizontal
303 transfer from an unknown bacterium (36). Likewise, we identified a similar riboflavin
304 synthase gene encoded in the genomes of all four *Cacopsylla* species via blast searches of the
305 *D. citri* gene against preliminary assemblies of the insect genomes from our metagenomic
306 datasets. Hence, it is likely that riboflavin can be jointly synthesized by *Psyllophila* and its
307 psyllid hosts, just like in the symbiosis of *D. citri* and *Profftella*. In any case, the functional
308 similarity between two distantly-related psyllid endosymbionts highlights the importance of
309 these metabolites for the psyllid hosts and/or the endosymbionts.

310 Taken together, our data shed light on the dynamic interactions of psyllids and their
311 endosymbionts over evolutionary time. Notably, the tiny and highly eroded genome of
312 *Psyllophila* suggests a long-lasting dual endosymbiosis of *Carsonella* and *Psyllophila* within
313 the genus *Cacopsylla*. However, this dual endosymbiosis has likely reached a highly labile
314 state, since no functional redundancy exists between the two endosymbionts and any
315 additional gene loss would destabilise the symbiotic system. Considering the diversity of
316 predominant psyllid-associated bacteria revealed by previous studies (34, 41-46, 50), it is
317 likely that the ancient endosymbiont *Psyllophila* has already been replaced by younger
318 symbionts in some psyllid lineages. For instance, this may have been the case in *H. cubana*
319 and *C. eucalypti*, which harbour more recently acquired co-primary endosymbionts with

320 larger genomes (33). It is tempting to speculate that species which do not harbour co-primary
321 endosymbionts today (e.g. *P. venusta*) may have harboured a similar dual endosymbiosis in
322 the past, but the co-symbiont was lost without replacement, maybe because its functions were
323 no longer required after a change in ecological conditions (e.g. change of host plant,
324 evolution of gall-forming behaviour). This could also explain why the *Carsonella* strains in
325 these species have lost similar genes and pathways as the strains existing in dual
326 endosymbiotic systems today.

327 This raises the question whether these pathways were lost before or after the establishment of
328 the dual primary endosymbiosis. According to the Black Queen Theory on the evolution of
329 dependencies within bacterial communities (51), it is advantageous for bacteria to lose costly
330 metabolic functions (i.e. to streamline their genomes), as long as another species within the
331 community still produces these metabolites as “common goods”. Applying this concept to a
332 community with two partners would imply that any essential pathway can be lost in only one
333 of them but has to be retained in the other, to maintain all essential functions in the system.
334 Hence, in the dual endosymbioses in psyllids, *Carsonella* may have lost the tryptophan
335 pathway, since it was encoded by its symbiotic partner. In turn, the co-primary
336 endosymbionts lost all other genes involved in amino acid biosynthesis, since these were
337 maintained in *Carsonella*, thus establishing the existing metabolic complementarities in
338 different psyllids. However, only a few psyllid endosymbionts have been characterized at the
339 genomic level and more studies across the psyllid tree of life will be necessary to obtain a
340 more complete picture of the evolutionary dynamics of psyllids and their primary
341 endosymbionts.

342

343 MATERIALS AND METHODS

344 Psyllid samples

345 Genomic data was obtained from four psyllid species: the apple psyllids *Cacopsylla*
346 *melanoneura* and *C. picta* as well as the pear psyllids *C. pyri* and *C. pyricola*. All four
347 species are vectors of plant pathogens, namely ‘*Ca. Phytoplasma mali*’ and ‘*Ca. Phytoplasma*
348 *pyri*’, respectively causing Apple proliferation and Pear decline (52, 53). Remigrants (i.e.
349 adults that return to their host plants for reproduction after overwintering on shelter plants) of
350 *C. melanoneura* were captured in various apple orchards in two Italian regions (Aosta Valley
351 and South Tyrol) in March 2020 and March 2021. Additional *C. melanoneura* specimens
352 were sampled on hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) in a single location (Aosta Valley) in March
353 2021. Remigrants of *C. picta* were captured from apple orchards in Trentino (Italy) in April
354 2021. Adults of *C. pyri* and *C. pyricola* were collected in pear orchards in Litenčice (Czech
355 Republic) in December 2019 and in Starý Lískovec (Czech Republic) in July 2020,
356 respectively. Sampling was done using the beating tray method.

357 Since psyllids are too small to obtain sufficient DNA for long-read sequencing from a single
358 individual, several specimens need to be pooled, which introduces genetic variation that can
359 hinder genome assembly. We used two different strategies to reduce the genetic variation
360 among the pooled individuals, depending on the host plant of the different species. For *C.*
361 *melanoneura* and *C. picta* collected on apple trees, we applied the same experimental design
362 as in (52): In the green house, the field-caught adults were sorted into mating couples and
363 each couple was caged on a branch of an apple tree (cultivar Golden Delicious) using nylon
364 nets. Once the offspring of the mating couples had reached adulthood, all newly-emerged
365 siblings were collected and stored at -20°C. Since the primary endosymbionts are vertically
366 transmitted from mother to offspring, all siblings harbour genetically identical endosymbionts
367 and can therefore be pooled without introducing genetic variation for the endosymbionts. In
368 addition, the Cytochrome Oxidase I (COI) haplotype was determined for two individuals per
369 sibling group according to (54), to determine the genetic diversity among the different

370 populations and mating couples. For all psyllids that do not develop on apple (*C.*
371 *melanoneura* from hawthorn and the pear psyllids *C. pyri* and *C. pyricola*), adults collected in
372 the field were immediately stored at -20°C. Subsequently, the COI haplotype was determined
373 for numerous individuals of each species, in order to select individuals with identical COI
374 haplotype for pooling.

375

376 **DNA extraction**

377 For each sibling group of the apple psyllids *C. melanoneura* and *C. picta* selected for long-
378 read metagenome sequencing, DNA was extracted from two pools, each containing 4-6
379 whole females. For the field-caught *C. melanoneura* from hawthorn and *C. pyricola* from
380 pears, DNA was first extracted from individual females and subjected to COI haplotype
381 determination as outlined above. Subsequently, two pools, each combining the DNA extracts
382 of five females with identical haplotypes, were established for each species. Only females
383 were used since they are larger and hence provide more DNA and because we reasoned that
384 their endosymbiont titers may be higher since the endosymbionts are harboured in two
385 tissues, the bacteriome and the ovaries. DNA extraction was performed using a modified
386 protocol of the PureGene Tissue kit (Qiagen). Whole insects were ground in 100 µl of Cell
387 Lysis Solution and 5 µl Proteinase K solution and incubated at 56°C for three hours, followed
388 by an incubation with 1.5 µl RNase A at 37°C for 30 minutes. Subsequently, proteins were
389 precipitated by adding 35 µl of Protein Precipitation Solution. DNA was then extracted with
390 one volume chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1 v/v) and precipitated in one volume of
391 isopropanol after overnight incubation at -20°C. The DNA pellet was resuspended in 40 µl of
392 sterile water and incubated at 65°C for one hour to increase DNA rehydration. For *C. pyri*,
393 DNA was extracted from a single female using the QIAamp DNA Micro Kit (Qiagen)
394 according to the manufacturer's instructions.

395

396 **Metagenome sequencing and assembly**

397 Long-read metagenome sequencing using an Oxford Nanopore-Illumina hybrid approach was
398 performed for *C. melanoneura*, *C. picta* and *C. pyricola*. For each sample, one pool was used
399 for long-read sequencing on the MinION (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK) and the
400 second pool was used for 2 x 150 bp paired-end sequencing on an Illumina NovaSeq
401 (Macrogen). About 1.5 µg of DNA was used for library preparation using the Oxford
402 Nanopore Ligation Sequencing kit SQK-LSK 109 (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK).
403 Each library was sequenced on an entire R9.4 flowcell for 43-72 hours, depending on pore
404 activity. Basecalling was done using Guppy v5.0.11 (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, UK) in
405 high-accuracy mode. Low quality (< Q7) and short (< 500 bp) reads were discarded and host
406 reads were removed via mapping against a genome scaffold of *C. melanoneura* (J. M. Howie
407 & O. Rota-Stabelli, unpublished data) using Minimap2 v2.15 (55). The remaining non-host
408 reads \geq 500 bp were assembled using Flye v2.9 (56) with the --metagenome option. Contigs
409 belonging to the endosymbionts were identified using blast (57). Reads were mapped back
410 onto the endosymbiont contigs using Minimap2 v2.15 and all mapped reads were assembled
411 again with Flye v2.9 using the same parameters. This produced two circular genomes for
412 most datasets. These genomes were first polished with Nanopore reads using Medaka v1.5.0
413 (<https://github.com/nanoporetech/medaka>) and subsequently with Illumina reads using
414 several iterations of Polca, a genome polisher integrated in the MaSuRCa toolkit v4.0.7 (58),
415 until no more errors were found. It is important to note that the two endosymbiont genomes
416 need to be polished together to avoid the introduction of errors in highly conserved regions
417 (e.g. ribosomal RNA operon) of the endosymbiont genome with lower coverage. In rare
418 cases, two rounds of Flye assemblies did not produce circular endosymbiont genomes. Two
419 of these genomes (CRmelAO2 and PSmelET) could be finished using alternative assembly

420 approaches: (i) Assembly with Canu v2.1.1 (59), polishing with Medaka and Polca as
421 outlined above, followed by scaffolding and gap-closing with Redundans v0.14 (60) and (ii)
422 Nanopore and Illumina reads mapping onto the complete endosymbiont genomes were
423 assembled together using SPAdes v3.15.1 (61). Genome coverage was estimated by mapping
424 the Nanopore reads onto the finished genomes during the polishing step with Medaka.
425 The metagenome of *C. pyri* was assembled from 42 million 2 x 250 paired-end reads from a
426 single female sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,
427 USA). The metagenome was assembled using SPAdes v3.15.1 (61) with the --meta option
428 and default kmers. Endosymbiont contigs were identified based on coverage, which initially
429 produced two contigs for *Carsonella* and three contigs for the *Enterobacteriaceae* symbiont.
430 These contigs were ordered based on the complete genomes obtained using long-read
431 sequencing and closed after scaffolding and gap-closing with Redundans v0.14 (60). The
432 completeness of all genomes was assessed using BUSCO (gammaproteobacteria_odb10
433 dataset) (62).

434

435 **Functional genome analyses**

436 All complete endosymbiont genomes were annotated using the NCBI Prokaryotic Genome
437 Annotation Pipeline (PGAP) version 2021-07-01.build5508 (63). Circular plots of conserved
438 protein-coding genes were produced using MGCPLOTTER
439 (<https://github.com/moshi4/MGCPLOTTER>). For each endosymbiont (i.e. *Carsonella ruddii* and
440 *Psyllophila symbiotica*), all protein-coding genes were assigned to orthogroups using
441 Orthofinder v2.5.2 (64) and shared orthogroups were plotted using the package UpsetR (65).
442 Clusters of Orthologous Genes (COG) categories were determined using eggNOG-mapper
443 v2.1.7 (66) and KEGG pathway annotations were obtained using BlastKOALA v2.2 (67).

444

445 **Phylogenomics**

446 Orthofinder v2.5.2 (64) was used to identify single-copy orthologous genes shared (i)
447 between all available *Carsonella* genomes and (ii) between the *Enterobacteriaceae*
448 endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp., 33 other nutritional endosymbionts from the
449 *Gammaproteobacteria* and three *Pseudomonas entomophila* strains as outgroup. The amino
450 acid sequences of each conserved gene were aligned using Muscle v3.1.31 (68) and the
451 alignments were concatenated into a partitioned supermatrix using the script geneStitcher.py
452 (<https://github.com/ballesterus/Utensils/blob/master/geneStitcher.py>). IQ-TREE v1.6.1 (69)
453 was used to predict the optimal amino acid substitution model for each gene partition (70, 71)
454 and to produce a Maximum Likelihood phylogenetic tree with 1000 bootstrap iterations. The
455 tree was visualized in FigTree v1.4.4 (<https://github.com/rambaut/figtree>).

456

457 **Fluorescence *in situ* hybridisation**

458 Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization was conducted with symbiont-specific probes
459 complementary to their 16S rRNA gene sequences (*Carsonella*: Probe Carso107 ‘Cy3-
460 ATACTAAAAGGCAGATTCTTG’, *Psyllophila*: Probe Psyllo118 ‘Cy5-
461 TCCATTGAGTAGTTCCCAG’). For *Carsonella*, two helper probes were used to increase
462 the signal (helperFCarso107: ‘AGCGAACGGGTGAGTAATATG’, helperRCarso107:
463 ‘ACATTTCTATATACTTTCCA’).

464 Insects preserved in ethanol were rehydrated and then postfixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for
465 two hours at room temperature. Next, the specimens were dehydrated again by incubation in
466 increased concentrations of ethanol and acetone, embedded in Technovit 8100 resin (Kulzer,
467 Wehrheim, Germany), and cut into semithin sections (1 μ m). The sections were then
468 incubated overnight at room temperature in hybridization buffer containing the specific
469 probes at a final concentration of 100 nM. After hybridization, the slides were washed three

470 times in PBS, dried, covered with ProLong Gold Antifade Reagent (Life Technologies) and
471 observed using a Zeiss LSM 900 Airyscan 2 confocal laser scanning microscope.

472

473 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

474 The genomes produced in this work are accessible in the NCBI database under BioProject
475 accessions PRJNA803426 (endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla melanoneura*), PRJNA853274
476 (endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla picta*), PRJNA853282 (endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla*
477 *pyricola*) and PRJNA853726 (endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla pyri*). New COI haplotypes for
478 *C. melanoneura*, *C. picta* and *C. pyricola* were deposited under accessions OQ106377 –
479 OQ106379.

480

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487

488 **FIGURES AND TABLES**

489

490 **Table 1.** Properties of the endosymbiont genomes obtained in this study.

491

492 **Fig. 1. Endosymbiont genomes are highly conserved across *Cacopsylla* host species. (a, c)**
493 Circular genome plots of the twelve *Carsonella* genomes (a) and the ten *Psyllophila* genomes
494 (c) produced in this study. The three outer-most circles represent forward CDS, reverse CDS

495 and the ribosomal RNA operon of a reference genome (CRmelAO1 and PSmelAO1,
496 respectively). The inner circles represent the conserved genes in all other genomes of the
497 same taxon (the order is identical to b and d), the shading indicating the degree of sequence
498 similarity compared to the reference genome. (b, d) Intersection plots showing the number of
499 shared orthogroups across all *Carsonella* (b) and *Psyllophila* (d) genomes. The matrix lines
500 are coloured according to host species.

501

502 **Fig. 2. The *Enterobacteriaceae* symbiont represents a new psyllid-associated genus.**
503 Maximum-likelihood tree based on the concatenated amino acid sequence alignment of 67
504 single-copy orthologous genes from 46 genomes, namely the 10 *Enterobacteriaceae*
505 endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp., 33 insect endosymbionts from the *Gammaproteobacteria*
506 and three *Pseudomonas entomophila* strains as outgroup. The *Enterobacteriaceae*
507 endosymbionts of *Cacopsylla* spp. are colour-coded based on host species. Branch support is
508 based on 1000 bootstrap iterations. Blue dots on branches indicate full bootstrap support.

509

510 **Fig. 3. Both *Cacopsylla* endosymbionts are localized in the bacteriome.** Fluorescent *in situ*
511 hybridisation of *Carsonella* (Cy3, red) and *Psyllophila* (Cy5, green) symbionts in the
512 bacteriomes of *Cacopsylla pyri* (A, B) and *C. melanoneura* (C). Blue represents DAPI. Scale
513 bar = 10 μ m.

514

515 **Fig. 4. Metabolic complementarity between *Carsonella* and *Psyllophila*.** (a) COG
516 functional categories for the *Carsonella* and *Psyllophila* genomes show different proportions
517 of genes involved in amino acid transport and metabolism (red). (b) Schematic representation
518 of the metabolic complementarity between the two symbionts for the biosynthesis of essential

519 amino acids, vitamins and carotenoids. Genes present in *Carsonella* genomes are shown in
520 blue, genes present in *Psyllophila* in red.

521

522 **Fig. 5. Repeated gene losses throughout *Carsonella* evolution.** (a) Intersection plot
523 showing the distribution of orthogroups across 33 *Carsonella* genomes depending on host
524 species. (b) Maximum-likelihood tree based on the concatenated amino acid sequence
525 alignment of 119 single-copy orthologous genes present in all 33 *Carsonella* genomes. The
526 *Carsonella* strains of *Cacopsylla* spp. are colour-coded based on host species. Branch support
527 is based on 1000 bootstrap iterations. Blue dots on branches indicate full bootstrap support.
528 Losses of genes or pathways involved in the biosynthesis of essential amino acids are
529 indicated on the branches. (See Table S3 for a detailed list of genes identified based on
530 KEGG pathway annotation). The presence of known co-primary endosymbionts is indicated
531 using blue dots for amino acid-providing nutritional co-primary endosymbionts and using red
532 dots for the defensive and nutritional endosymbiont ‘*Ca. Profftella armatura*’.

533

534 **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

535

536 **Supplementary Table S1.** List of insect endosymbiont genomes included in the
537 phylogenomics analysis of ‘*Ca. Psyllophila symbiotica*’.

538

539 **Supplementary Table S2.** Table of previously published *Carsonella* genomes used for
540 comparative and phylogenomic analyses.

541

542 **Supplementary Table S3.** Presence of genes involved in the biosynthesis of essential amino
543 acids in all available *Carsonella* genomes based on KEGG pathway annotations using
544 BlastKoala.

545

546

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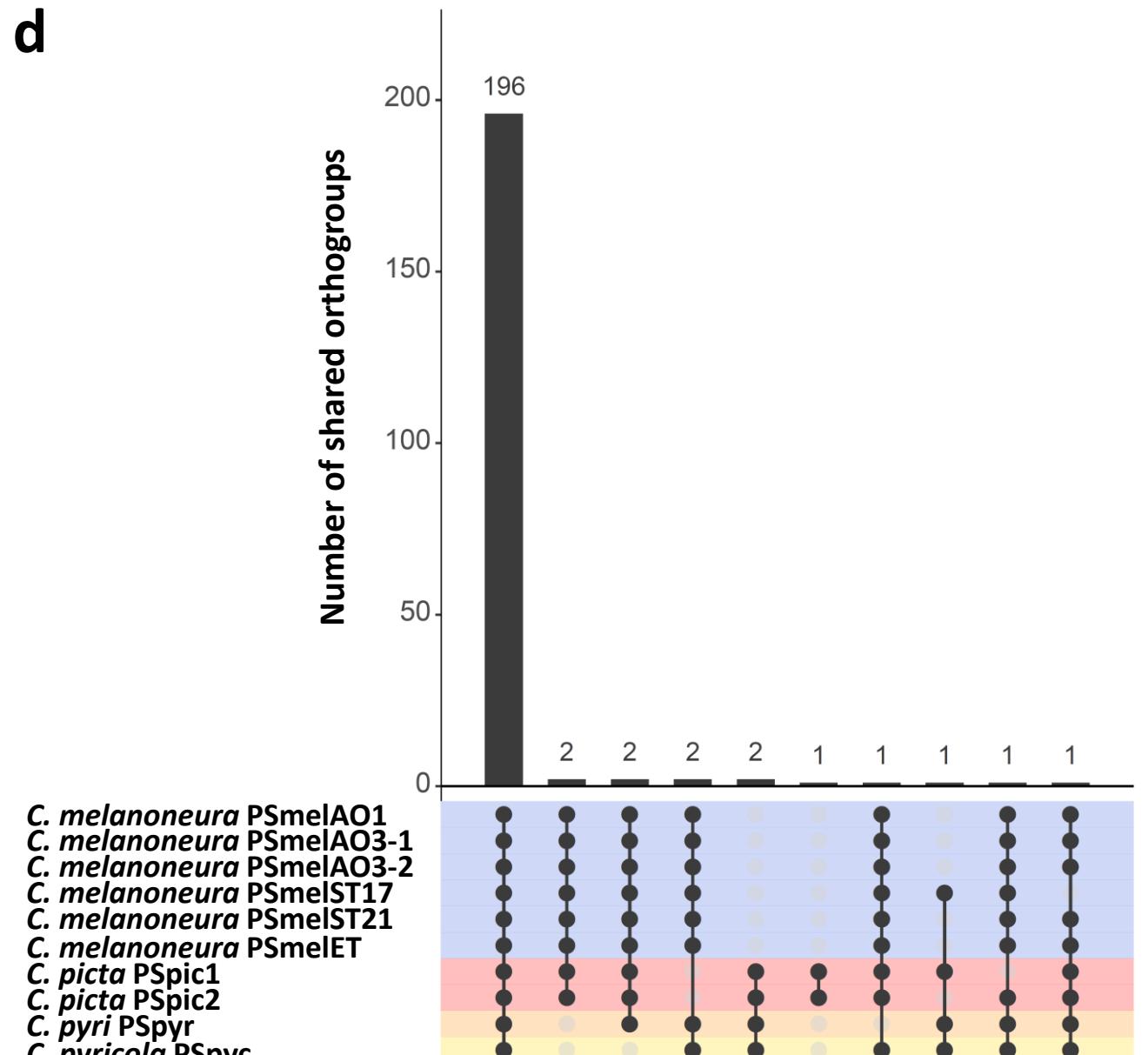
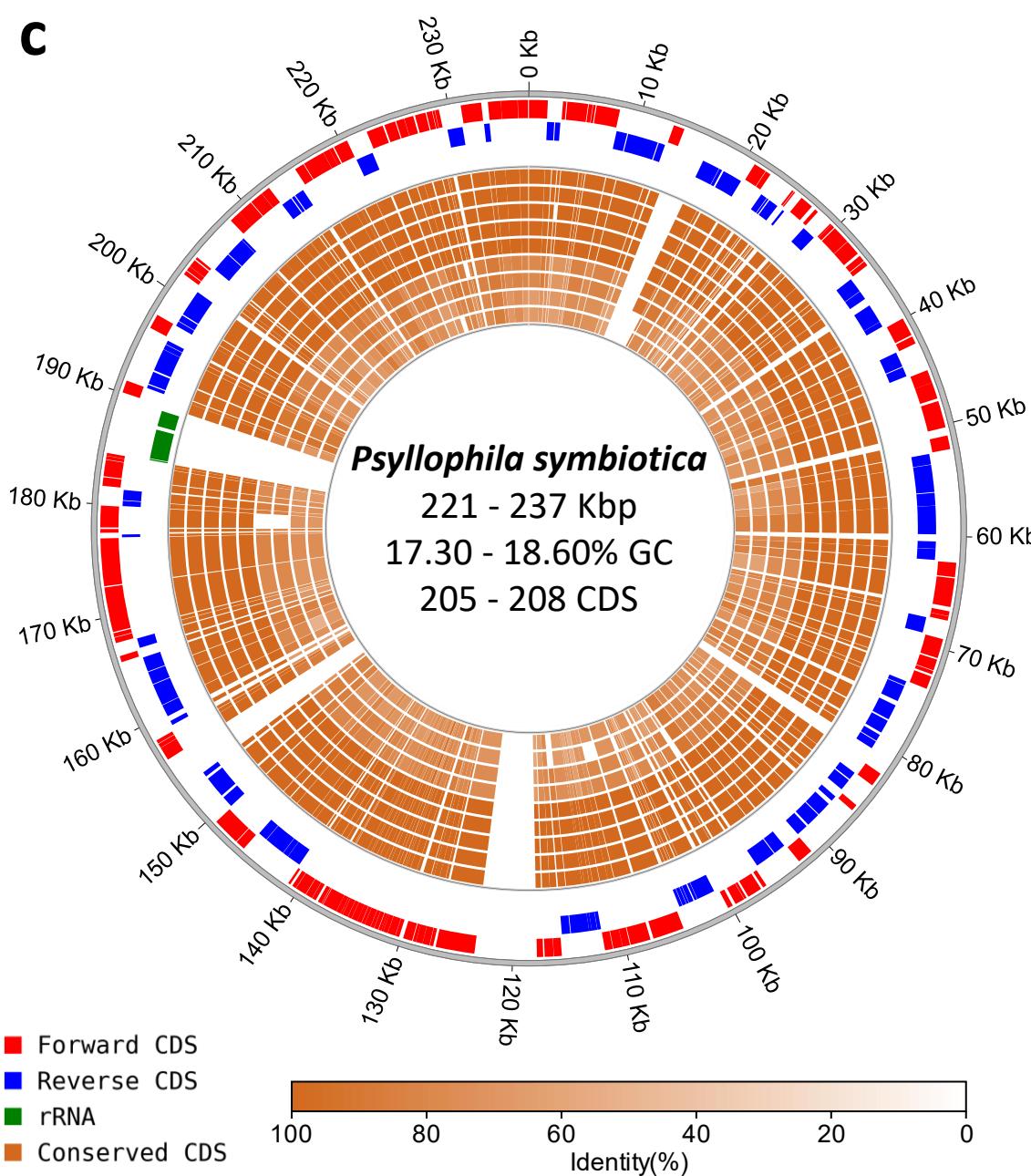
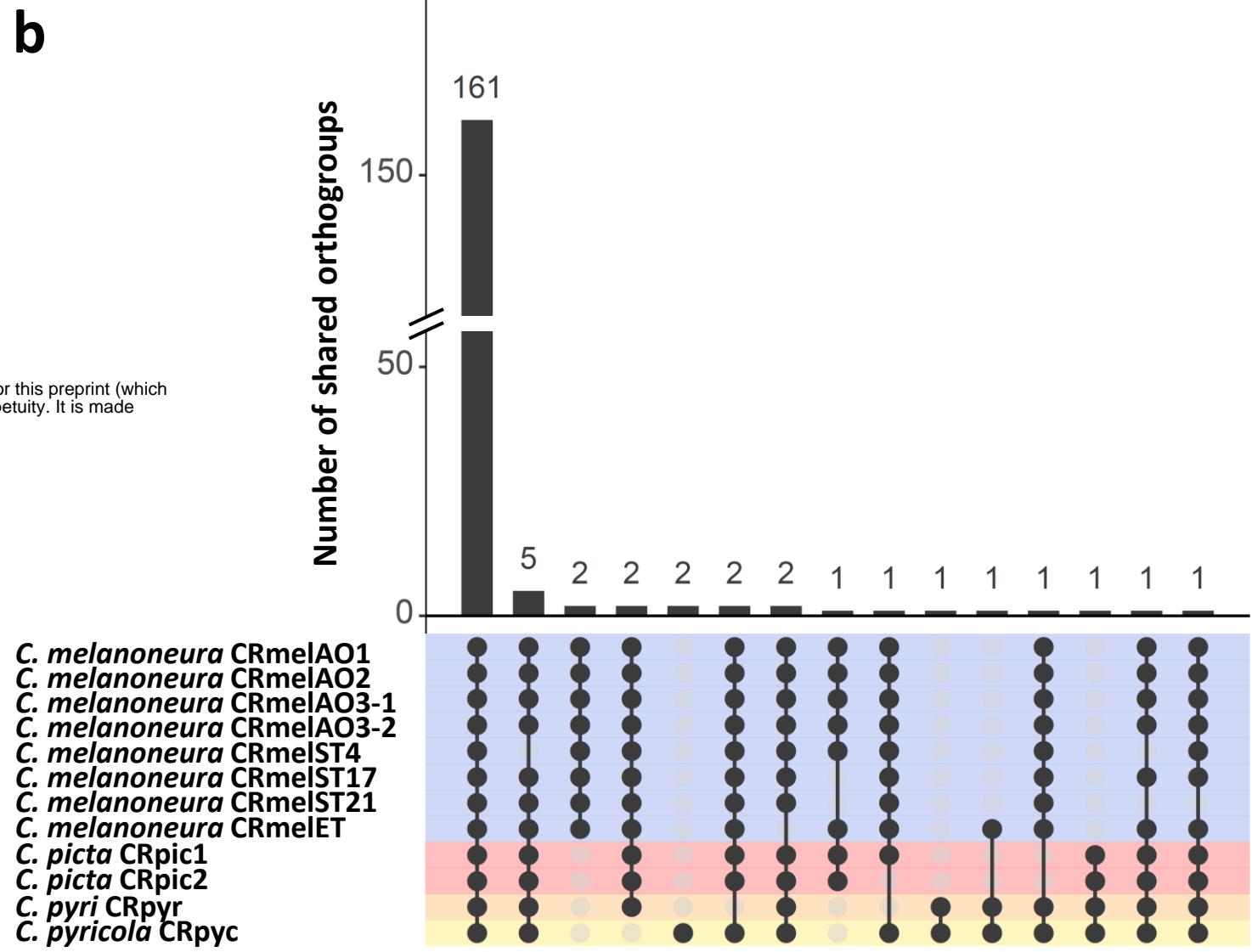
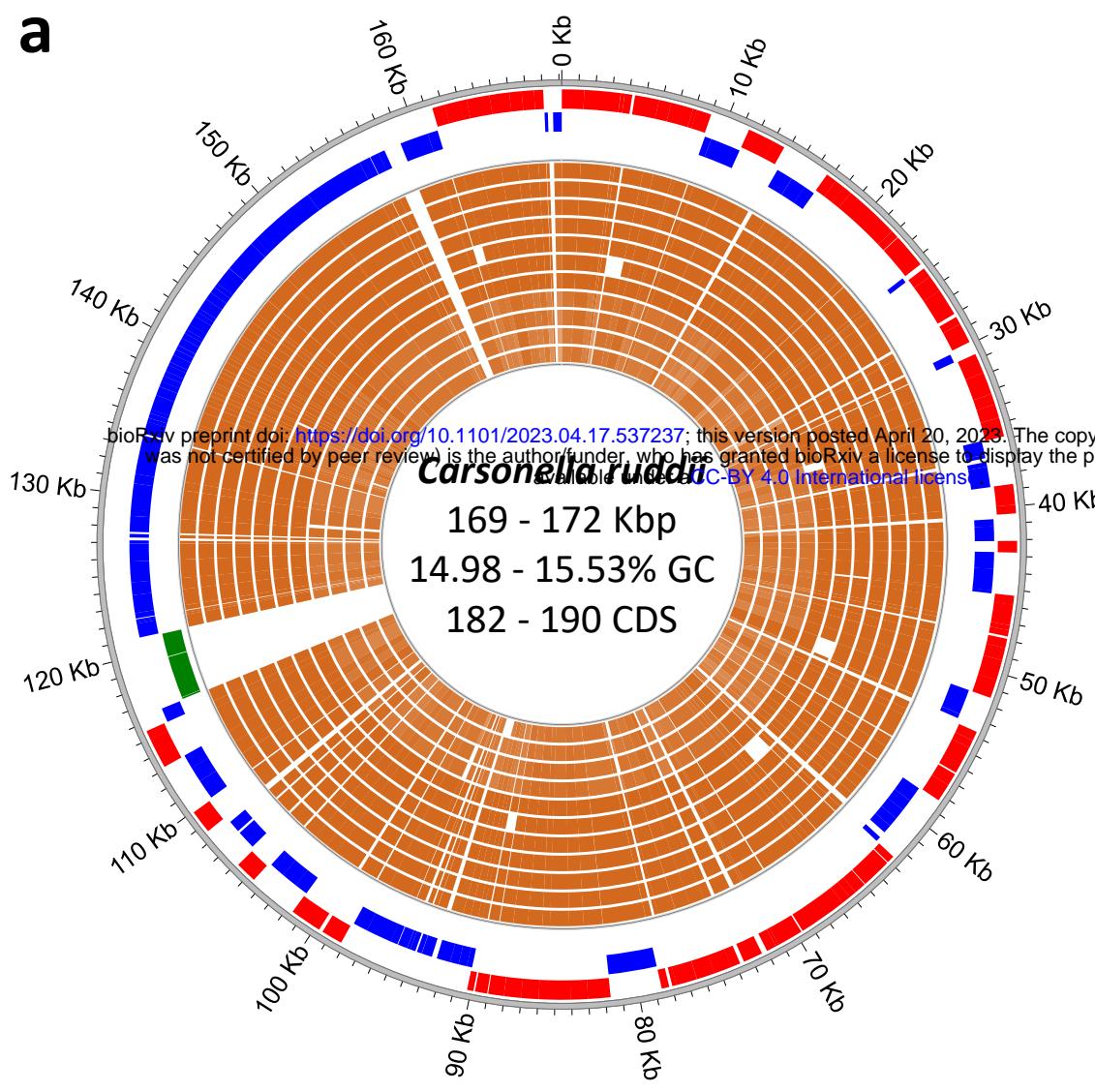
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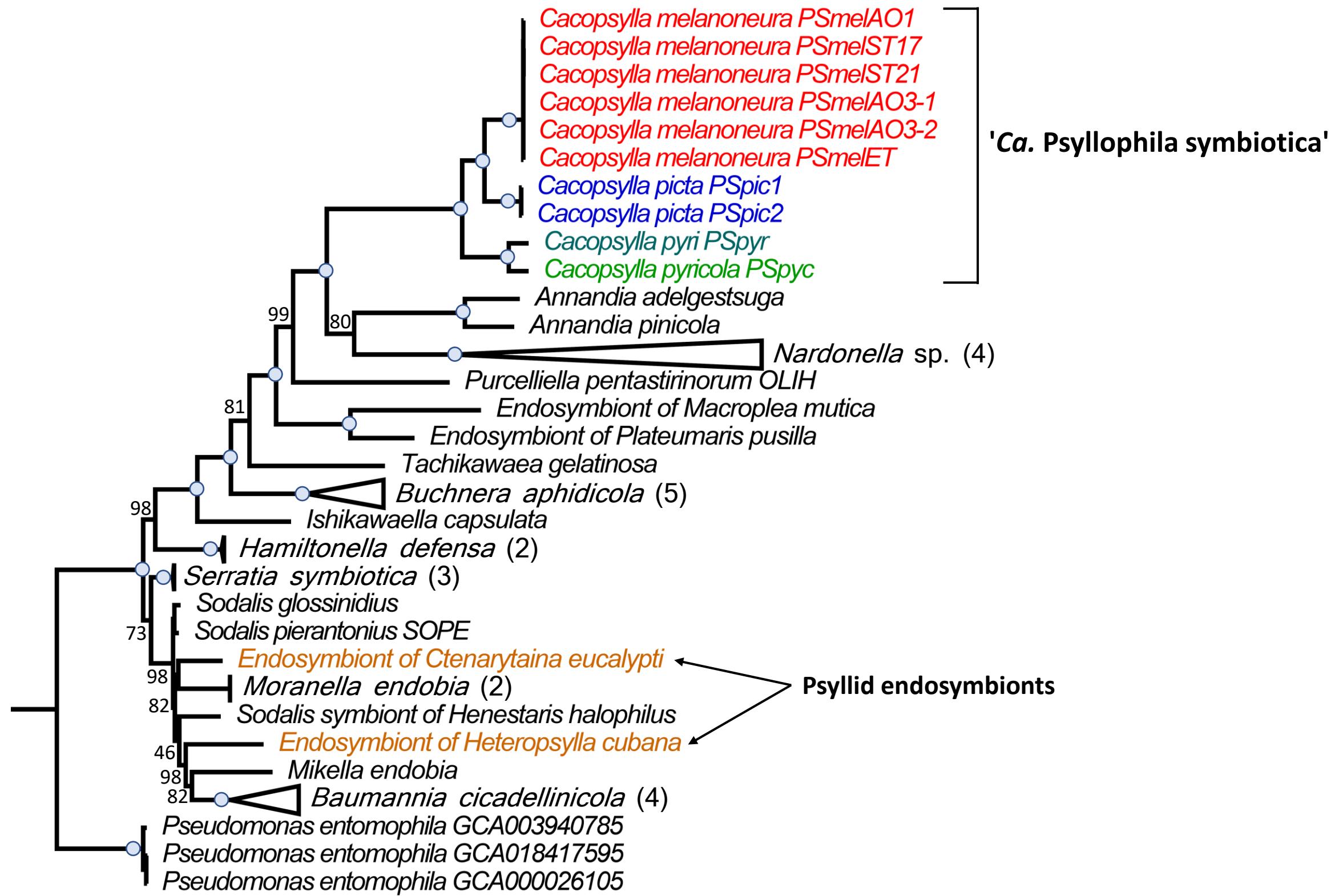
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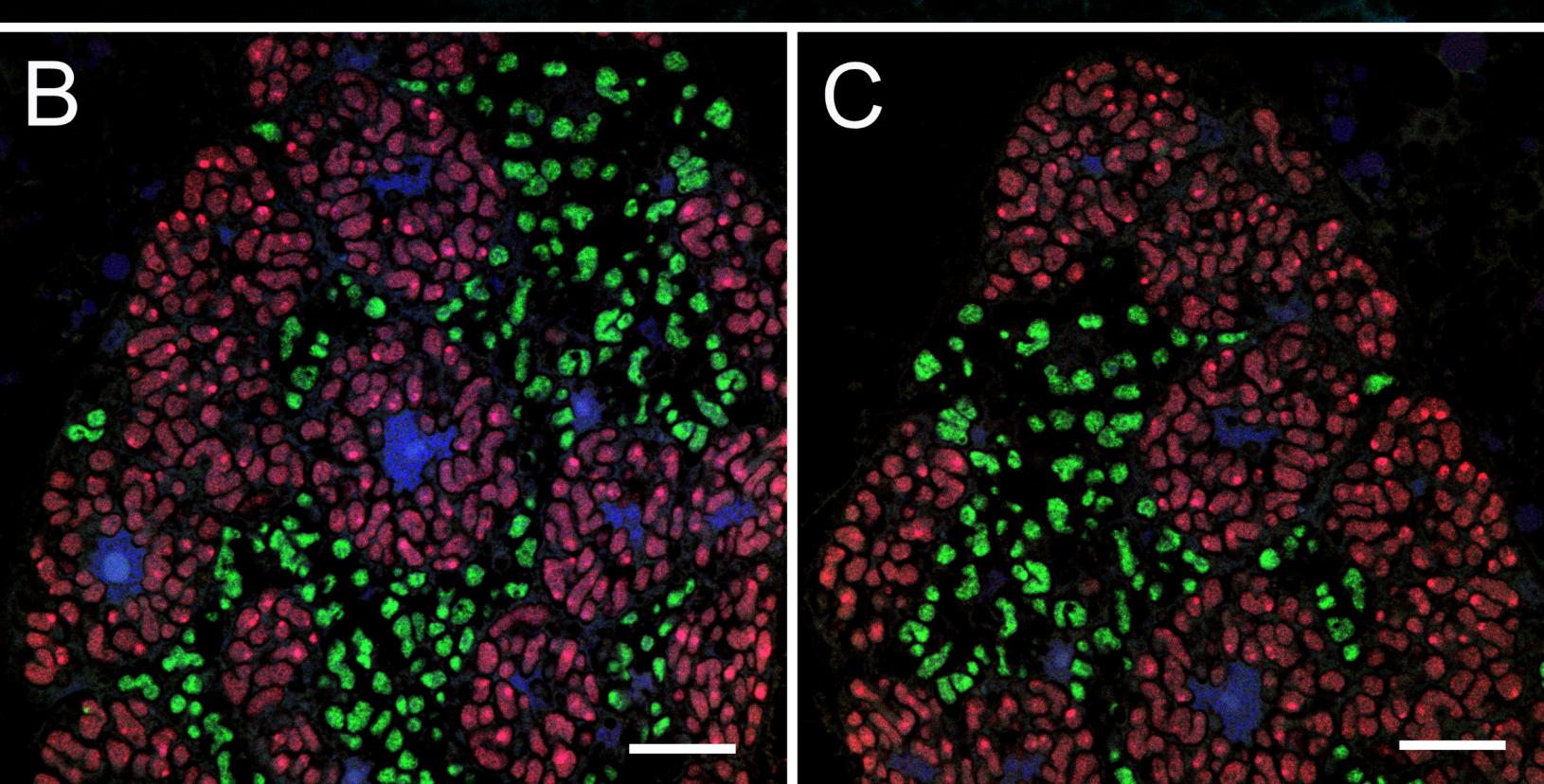
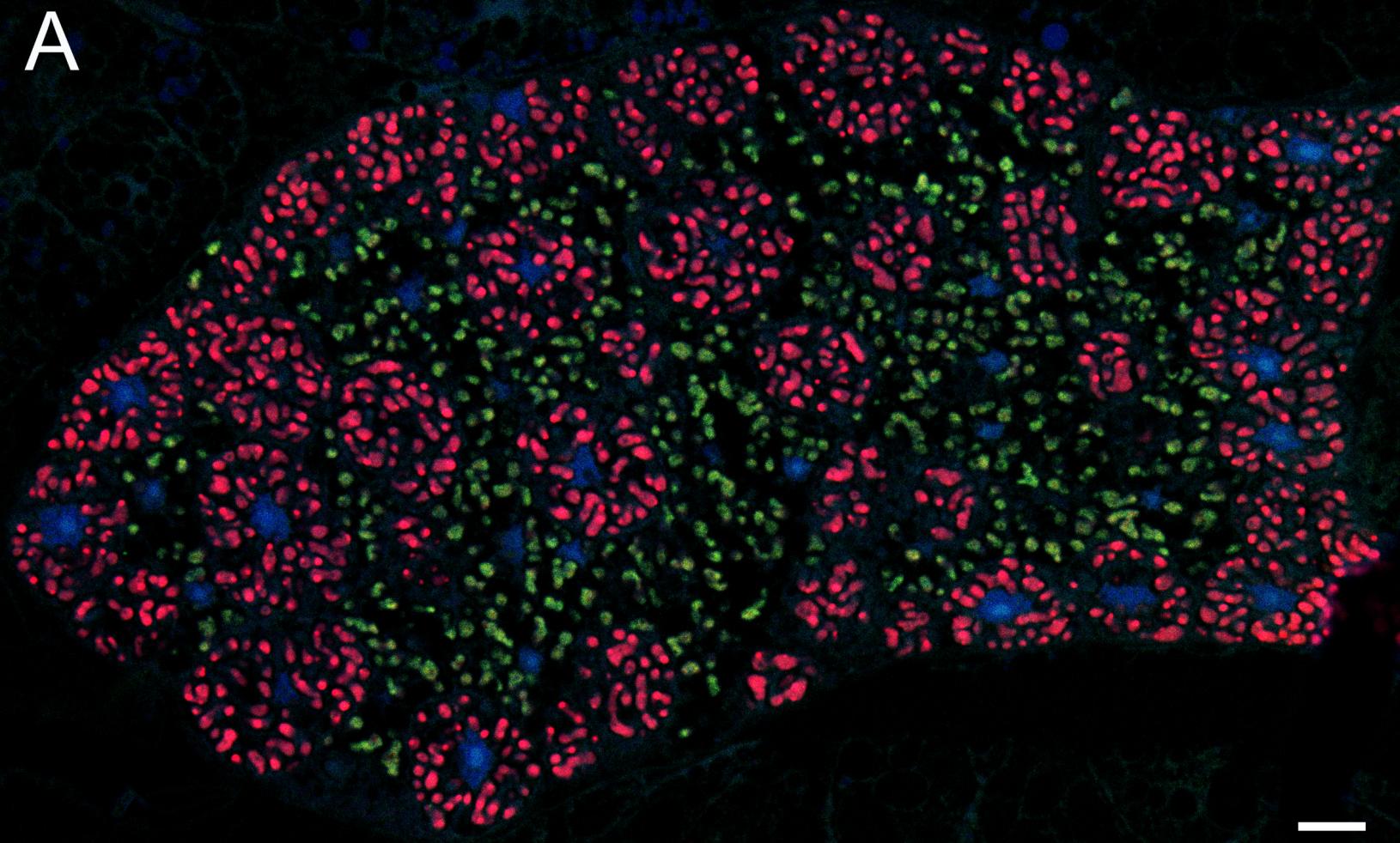
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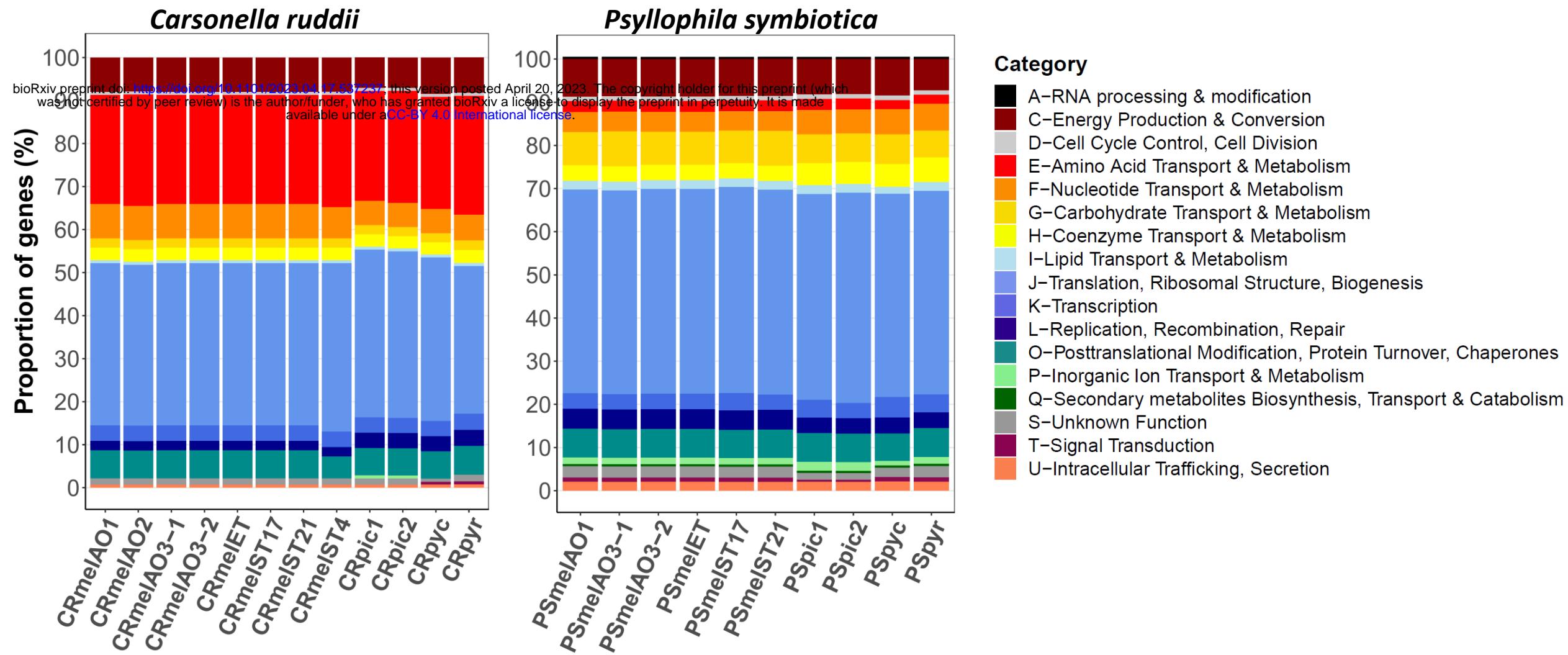
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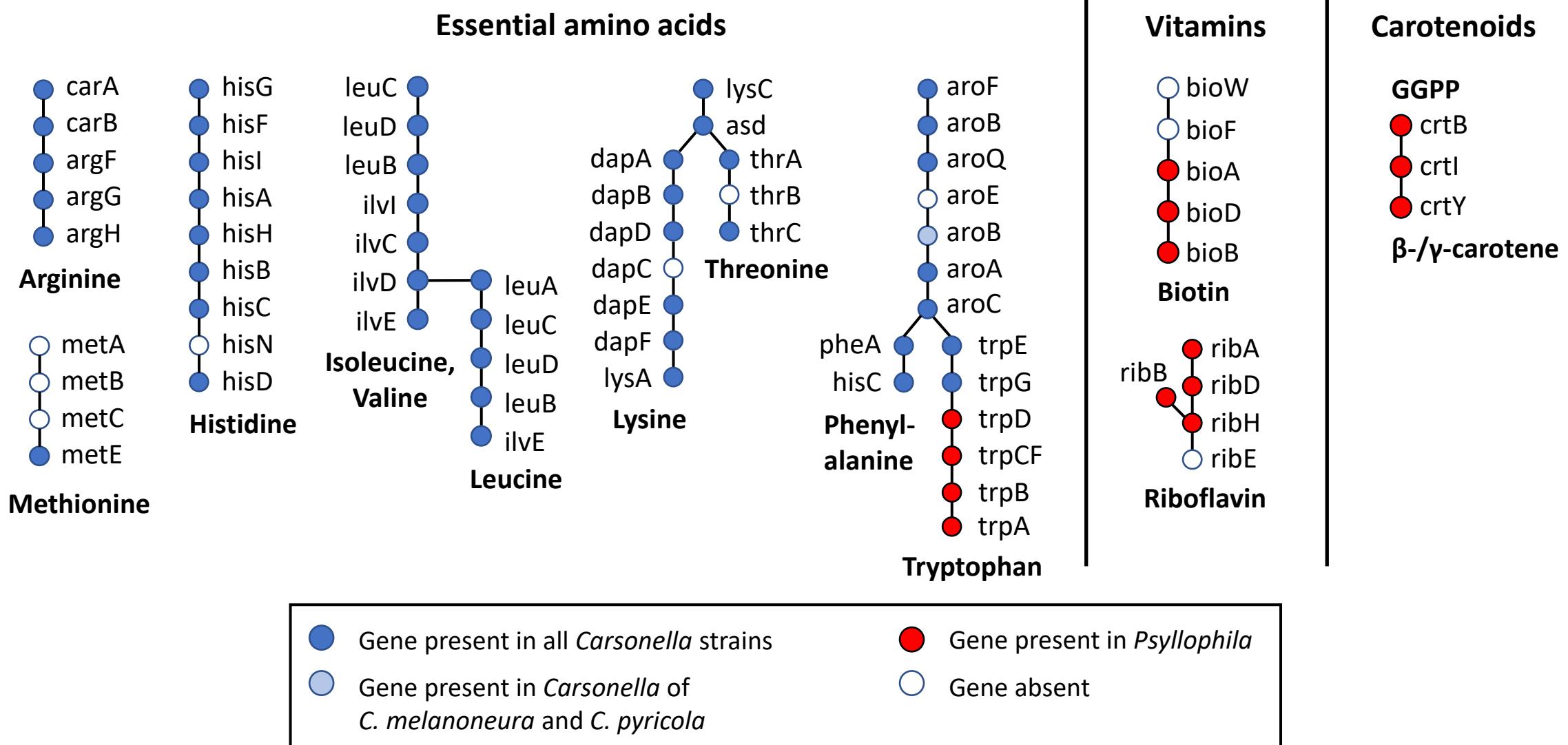




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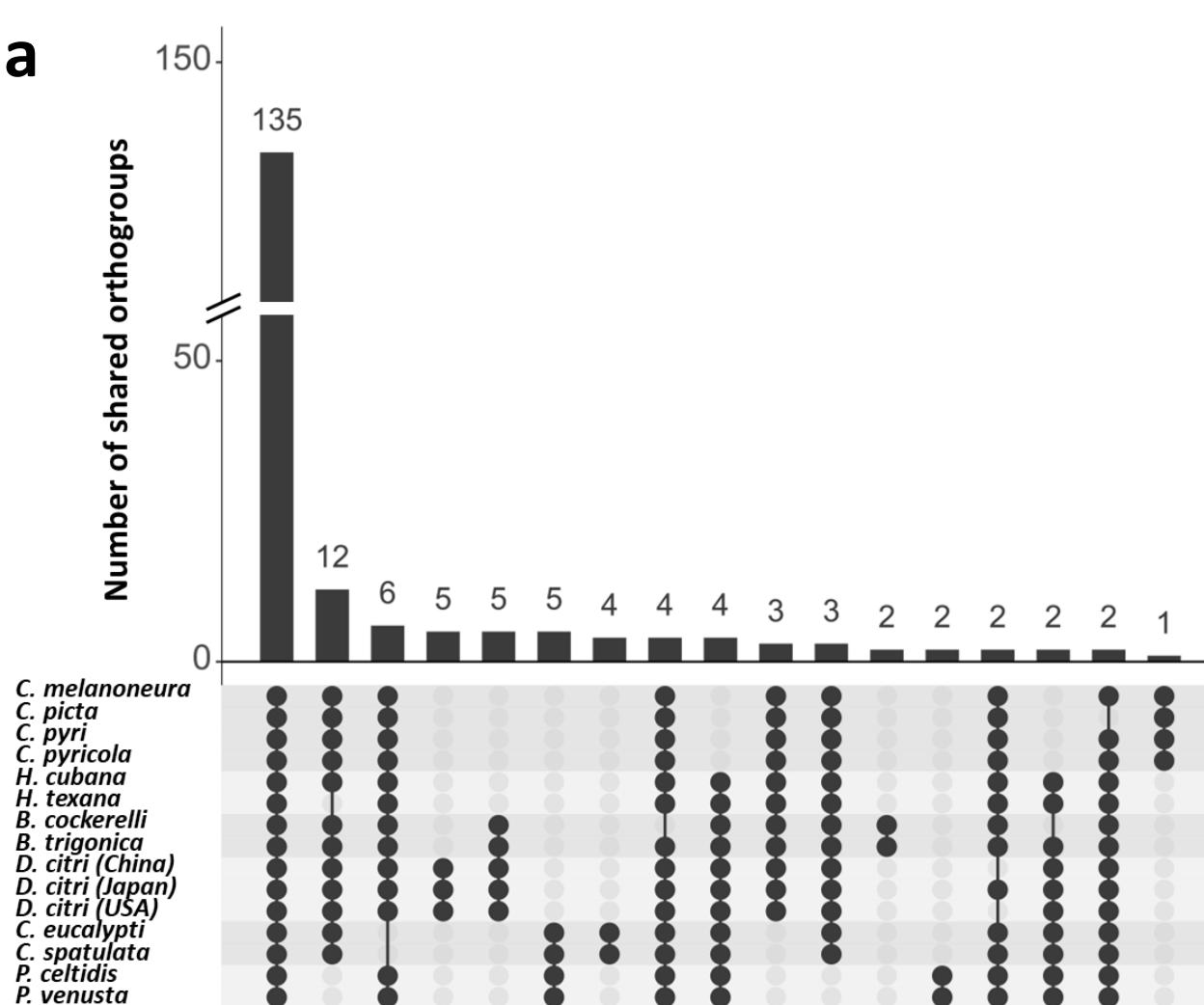
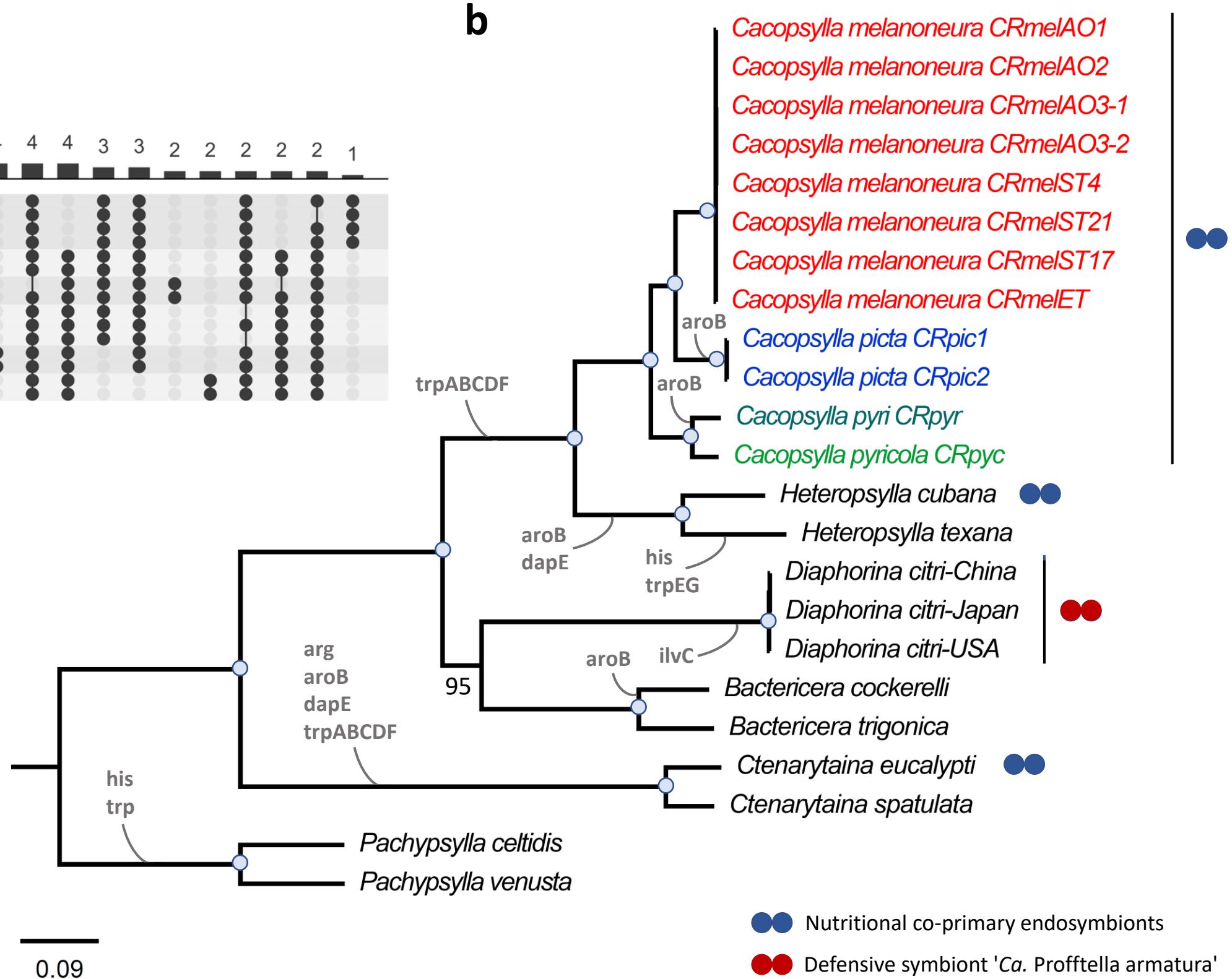
a**b**

Table 1. Properties of the complete endosymbiont genomes obtained in this study. IT=Italy, CZ= Czech Republic. ND=Not determined. Empty columns for *Psyllophila* indicate that the genome could not be assembled due to insufficient coverage.

Host species	<i>Cacopsylla melanoneura</i>								<i>Cacopsylla picta</i>		<i>Cacopsylla pyricola</i>	<i>Cacopsylla pyri</i>
COI haplotype	mel01 ^a	mel01 ^a	mel01 ^a	mel01 ^a	mel01 ^a	mel01 ^a	mel21 ^b	mel09 ^c	pic18 ^d	pic01 ^e	pyc01 ^f	ND
Origin	Aosta Valley (IT)	Aosta Valley (IT)	Aosta Valley (IT)	Aosta Valley (IT)	South Tyrol (IT)	South Tyrol (IT)	South Tyrol (IT)	South Tyrol (IT)	Trentino (IT)	Trentino (IT)	Starý Lískovec (CZ)	Litenčice (CZ)
Host plant	Apple	Apple	Hawthorn	Hawthorn	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple	Apple	Pear	Pear
Sequencing method	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Nanopore + Illumina	Illumina only	
<i>Carsonella</i> Strain	CRmelAO1	CRmelAO2	CRmelAO3-1	CRmelAO3-2	CRmelET	CRmelST4	CRmelST17	CRmelST21	CRpic1	CRpic2	CRpyc	CRpyr
Length (bp)	169,165	169,273	169,079	169,081	169,051	169,046	169,064	169,056	171,569	171,920	168,917	169,395
%GC	15.52	15.53	15.52	15.52	15.52	15.52	15.52	15.52	15.42	15.40	14.98	15.19
Genes	216	216	215	215	215	216	215	214	212	211	220	214
CDS	186	186	185	185	185	183	185	184	183	182	190	184
Pseudogenes	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
rRNA	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
tRNA	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	26	26	27	27
<i>Psyllophila</i> strain	PSmelAO1		PSmelAO3-1	PSmelAO3-2	PSmelET		PSmelST17	PSmelST21	PSpic1	PSpic2	PSpyc	PSpyr
Length (bp)	237,114		236,266	235,918	231,767		236,072	235,744	225,730	225,865	222,755	221,412
%GC	18.26		18.29	18.33	18.60		18.32	18.34	17.80	17.79	17.36	17.30
Genes	239		240	239	239		242	243	240	240	241	240
CDS	205		206	205	205		207	208	207	207	207	205
Pseudogenes	2		2	2	2		3	3	1	1	2	3
rRNA	3		3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3
tRNA	27		27	27	27		27	27	27	27	27	27
ncRNA	2		2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2

^a Identical to Accession no. KM206163

^b Accession no. OQ631077

^c Identical to Accession no. KM206167

^d Accession no. OQ631078

^e Identical to Accession no. KM206174

^f Accession no. OQ631079