

**METABOLITE PROFILING OF NON-STERILE RHIZOSPHERE
SOIL**

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Complete List of Authors:	Pétriacq, Pierre; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences Williams, Alex; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences Cotton, T. E. Anne; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences McFarlane, Alexander; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences Rolfe, Stephen; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences Ton, Jurriaan; University of Sheffield, Animal and Plant Sciences;
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3 1 **METABOLITE PROFILING OF NON-STERILE RHIZOSPHERE SOIL.**
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7 3 Pierre Pétriacq^{1, 2, 3 *}, Alex Williams³, T. E. Anne Cotton³, Alexander E. McFarlane³,
8
9 4 Stephen A. Rolfe^{1,3}, & Jurriaan Ton^{1, 3 *}
10
11

12 5
13
14 6 ¹ Plant Production and Protection (P³) Institute for Translational Plant & Soil Biology,
15
16 7 Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10
17
18 8 2TN, UK

19
20
21 9 ² biOMICS Facility, Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, The University of
22
23 10 Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, UK

24
25 11 ³ Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield,
26
27 12 S10 2TN, UK
28
29

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31
32 14 * Corresponding authors: p.petriacq@sheffield.ac.uk and j.ton@sheffield.ac.uk
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36 16 **Running title:** rhizosphere metabolomics.
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40 18 **Keywords:** rhizosphere chemistry, rhizosphere microbiome, root exudates,
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42 19 metabolomics, Arabidopsis, maize, soil, benzoxazinoids.
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47 21 **Significance statement:** Multitrophic interactions in the rhizosphere are critical for
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49 22 plant growth and health, and are influenced by root exudates and their microbial
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51 23 breakdown products. In this study, we describe a straightforward method for
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53 24 metabolic profiling of non-sterile rhizosphere soil, which represents a powerful
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3 25 technique to identify novel semiochemicals that shape the microbial community
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5 26 structure and activity of the rhizosphere.
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10 28 **Word Count:** Core (8955), Complete (14730), Summary (220), Significance
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18 32 Legends (758), Supplemental Methods (2734).
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33 **SUMMARY**

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35 Rhizosphere chemistry is the sum of root exudation chemicals, their breakdown
36 products and microbial products of soil-derived chemicals. To date, most studies
37 about root exudation chemistry are based on sterile cultivation systems, which limits
38 the discovery of microbial breakdown products that act as semiochemicals and
39 shape microbial rhizosphere communities. Here, we present a method for untargeted
40 metabolic profiling of non-sterile rhizosphere soil. We have developed an
41 experimental growth system that enables collection and analysis of rhizosphere
42 chemicals from different plant species. High-throughput sequencing of 16S rRNA
43 genes demonstrated that plants in the growth system support a microbial
44 rhizosphere effect. To collect a range of (a)polar chemicals from the system, we
45 developed extraction methods that do not cause detectable damage to root cells or
46 soil-inhabiting microbes, thus preventing contamination with cellular metabolites.
47 Untargeted metabolite profiling by UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry, followed by uni-
48 and multivariate statistical analyses identified a wide range of secondary metabolites
49 that are enriched in plant-containing soil compared to control soil without roots. We
50 show that the method is suitable for profiling rhizosphere chemistry of maize in
51 agricultural soil, demonstrating applicability to different plant-soil combinations. Our
52 study provides a robust method for comprehensive metabolite profiling of non-sterile
53 rhizosphere soil, which represents a technical advance towards the establishment of
54 causal relationships between the chemistry and microbial composition of the
55 rhizosphere.

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3 56 **INTRODUCTION**
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58 Plant roots convert their associated soil into complex mesotrophic
59 environments which support a highly diverse microbial community (Dessaux *et al.*,
60 2016). This so-called rhizosphere effect is mediated by exudation of plant
61 metabolites from roots (van Dam and Bouwmeester, 2016; Oburger and Schmidt,
62 2016; Badri and Vivanco, 2009). The chemical composition of these root exudates
63 and their microbial breakdown products plays a crucial role in rhizosphere
64 interactions between plants and beneficial soil microbes (Oburger and Schmidt,
65 2016). While developments in sequencing technology have revolutionised our ability
66 to characterise rhizosphere microbial communities (van Dam and Bouwmeester,
67 2016; Oburger and Schmidt, 2016), the chemical diversity of the rhizosphere
68 remains largely unexplored. This knowledge gap is mostly due to a lack of suitable
69 methods to collect and comprehensively analyse metabolites from non-sterile
70 rhizosphere soil.

71 It has been estimated that plants exude up to 21% of their carbon through
72 their roots, where it is metabolised by the microbial community in the rhizosphere
73 (Badri and Vivanco, 2009; Neumann *et al.*, 2009; Hinsinger *et al.*, 2006). Hence,
74 plant roots drive multitrophic interactions in the rhizosphere via root exudation
75 chemistry. Apart from serving as a primary carbon source for rhizosphere microbes,
76 root exudates can influence rhizosphere interactions via selective biocidal and/or
77 signalling activity (Berendsen *et al.*, 2012). Both polar and apolar compounds have
78 been reported to influence rhizosphere interactions. In addition to polar primary
79 metabolites, such as organic and amino acids (Rudrappa *et al.*, 2008; van Dam and
80 Bouwmeester, 2016; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015), more complex apolar secondary

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3 81 metabolites, like flavonoids, coumarins and benzoxazinoids (Hassan and Mathesius,
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5 82 2012; Neal *et al.*, 2012; Szoboszlay *et al.*, 2016; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015), have been
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7 83 reported to play an important role in influencing rhizosphere microbes. For instance,
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9 84 the benzoxazinoid DIMBOA, which is exuded by roots of maize seedlings, has
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11 85 chemotactic properties on *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 (Neal *et al.*, 2012), a
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13 86 rhizobacterial strain that primes host defences against herbivores (Neal and Ton,
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15 87 2013). Likewise, the release of malic acid from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*)
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17 88 roots attracts the Gram-positive rhizobacteria *Bacillus subtilis*, which in turn induces
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19 89 disease resistance against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (Rudrappa *et al.*,
20
21 90 2008). Furthermore, it was shown recently that plant-derived flavonoids have
22
23 91 profound impacts on the structure of soil bacterial communities (Szoboszlay *et al.*,
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25 92 2016). Although these studies illustrate the importance of specific classes of root-
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27 93 derived chemicals in rhizosphere interactions, untargeted metabolome studies of
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29 94 root exudation products remain scarce, thereby limiting scope for discoveries of
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31 95 important rhizosphere signals (Lakshmanan *et al.*, 2012; Neal *et al.*, 2012).

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36 96 In addition to plant genotype and nutrition, various other factors can influence
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38 97 root exudation chemistry, such as plant developmental stage, temperature, humidity,
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40 98 and physiochemical soil properties (Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Boyes *et al.*, 2001; Badri and
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42 99 Vivanco, 2009; Uren, 2007). Environmental **effects** of root exudation chemistry has
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44
45 100 been studied mostly in (semi)sterile hydroponic systems (Song *et al.*, 2012; Vranova
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47 101 *et al.*, 2013; da Silva Lima *et al.*, 2014). An important justification for the use of such
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49 102 soil-free growth conditions is that they allow for tight **maintenance** of environmental
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51 103 variables (Bowsher *et al.*, 2016; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015). In addition, hydroponic growth
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53 104 systems prevent sorption of metabolites to soil particles and microbial degradation. A
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55 105 recent study made a compelling case for the use of sterile root systems for studying
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3 106 root exudation chemistry by demonstrating that root exudates collected from non-
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5 107 sterile systems underestimated the quantity and diversity of carbon-containing
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7 108 metabolites due to microbial breakdown (Kuijken *et al.*, 2014). Using hydroponically
8
9 109 grown roots under sterile conditions, Strehmel *et al.* (2014) reported wide-ranging
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11 110 chemical diversity in root exudates of *Arabidopsis*, including mostly secondary
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13 111 metabolites such as (deoxy)nucleosides, anabolites and catabolites of
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15 112 glucosinolates, derivatives of phytohormones (*e.g.* SA, JA, oxylipins) and
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17 113 phenylpropanoids (*e.g.* coumarins, hydroxynammic acids). Nonetheless, there are
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19 114 disadvantages to hydroponically grown, sterile root systems. Hydroponically
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21 115 cultivated roots often develop root morphologies that differ from those of soil-grown
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23 116 roots, which likely reflects an underlying difference in physiology that may impact
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25 117 exudation chemistry (Sgherri *et al.*, 2010; Tavakkoli *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore,
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27 118 microbial degradation products of root exudates, rather than the root-exuded plant
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29 119 metabolites themselves, might act as potent rhizosphere signals. For instance,
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31 120 benzoxazinoids exuded from cereal roots can be converted into stable 2-
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33 121 aminophenoxazin-3-one, which has strong antimicrobial and allelopathic activities
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35 122 (Atwal *et al.*, 1992; Macías *et al.*, 2005). In addition, it is plausible that certain root
36
37 123 exudation products stimulate the production of signalling and/or biocidal compounds
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39 124 by rhizosphere microbes (Cameron *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, ignoring the rhizosphere
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41 125 microbiome by studying sterile root systems limits the identification of novel
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43 126 semiochemicals that can shape microbial communities and their activities in the
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45 127 rhizosphere (Prithiviraj *et al.*, 2007).

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52 128 To date, various methods have been described to collect root exudates from
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54 129 non-sterile rhizosphere soil. These methods have been used mostly to determine
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56 130 total organic carbon and/or nitrogen content (Yin *et al.*, 2014; Phillips *et al.*, 2008), or
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3 131 to assay for biological response activity (Khan *et al.*, 2002). Some of these studies
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5 132 revealed biological activities by amino acids, organic acids, and other extractable
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7 133 elements (Oburger *et al.*, 2013; Shi *et al.*, 2011; Haase *et al.*, 2008; Bravin *et al.*,
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9 134 2010; Chaignon *et al.*, 2009). However, the lack of comprehensive metabolic
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11 135 analyses of non-sterile rhizosphere soil limits our ability to establish relationships
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13 136 between microbial community structure and rhizosphere chemistry. Here, we
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15 137 describe a method for untargeted metabolite profiling from non-sterile rhizosphere
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17 138 soil with high microbial diversity. We have developed methods for extraction of polar
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19 139 and apolar metabolites that do not cause detectable levels of damage to root cells,
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21 140 nor affect viability of soil- and rhizosphere-inhabiting microbes. Using UPLC-Q-TOF
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23 141 mass spectrometry followed by uni- and multivariate statistical analyses, we
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25 142 demonstrate quantitative and qualitative differences in metabolite profiles between
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27 143 soil without plants and soil with plants, and putatively identify the rhizosphere
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29 144 metabolites that are enriched in extracts from *Arabidopsis* and maize soil. We
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31 145 discuss the potential of this technique for discovering semiochemicals that shape
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33 146 microbial community structure and activity in the rhizosphere.
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43 **RESULTS**

44 45 46 47 **Development of a plant cultivation system for extraction of rhizosphere** 48 49 **chemicals.** 50

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52 153 We used the model plant species *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*) to develop a
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54 154 plant cultivation system that is suitable for extraction of rhizosphere chemicals.
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56 155 Individual plants were grown for 5 weeks in 30-mL plastic tubes with drainage holes
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3 156 in the bottom (Figure 1). Since *Arabidopsis* naturally grows in sandy soils (Lev-
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5 157 Yadun and Berleth, 2009), the tubes contained a homogenous 1:9 (v/v) mixture of
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7 158 fresh M3 compost and sand. Control tubes without plants were included for
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9 159 extraction of chemicals from control soil. All tubes were placed in individual trays, in
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11 160 order to prevent cross contamination of microbes and chemicals (Figure 1). Each
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13 161 tube was watered once per week (5 mL) from the base with a final watering three
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15 162 days before sampling (relative water content after sampling of $88 \pm 4.5\%$ per g). This
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17 163 watering regime provided reproducible levels of relative water content at the time of
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19 164 sampling. Under these conditions, flushing the tubes with 5 mL of water or extraction
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21 165 solution (see below) consistently yielded 4 - 4.5 mL collected volume after 1 min of
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23 166 incubation.
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168 **Microbial diversity of roots and rhizosphere soil and rhizosphere effect.**

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31 169 Root-derived chemicals mediate the rhizosphere effect (Bakker *et al.*, 2013; Jones *et*
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33 170 *al.*, 2009). To verify whether plants in our cultivation system showed a rhizosphere
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35 171 effect, we extracted DNA from control soil (without plants) and *Arabidopsis* roots plus
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37 172 adhering rhizosphere soil. Thus, the 'root plus rhizosphere' samples capture
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39 173 microbial diversity of the rhizosphere, the rhizoplane, and the root cortex. Paired-end
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41 174 250 bp MiSeq Illumina sequencing of amplified partial 16S rRNA genes was used to
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43 175 profile microbial communities. A total of 2,280,754 raw sequences were obtained
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45 176 with an average of 285,094 per sample. Of these, 1,693,274 reads passed quality
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47 177 controls, chimera removal and singleton removal. Operational Taxonomic Units
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49 178 (OTUs) were generated by clustering at 97% similarity and cross-referenced against
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51 179 the Greengenes 13.8 database (DeSantis *et al.*, 2006), yielding a total of 3,863
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53 180 OTUs. Rarefaction analysis (Supplemental Figure S1) indicated sufficient
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3 181 sequencing depth to capture the majority of OTUs. Dominant bacterial taxa at the
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5 182 phylum level were *Actinobacteria* (10.0% across all samples), and *Proteobacteria*
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7 183 (87.8%) comprised mostly of α -, β - and γ -*Proteobacteria* (17.1%, 44.8% and 25.3%,
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10 184 respectively), while at the family level we detected *Burkholderiaceae* (16.6% across
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12 185 all samples), *Oxalobacteraceae* (16.4%), *Pseudomonadaceae* (14.6%) and
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14 186 *Xanthomonadaceae* (10.3%; Figure S2). In addition, we detected ten families of the
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16 187 *Rhizobiales* (9.1%) including *Bradyrhizobiaceae* (3.4%) and *Rhizobiaceae* (1.6%).
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18 188 Many of these phyla and families have previously been reported to be associated
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20 189 with plant roots (Lundberg *et al.*, 2012; Bulgarelli *et al.*, 2015), illustrating that the soil
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22 190 substrate of our cultivation system harbours a microbiome that is typical for microbe-
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24 191 rich soil. To investigate whether the growth system produced a rhizosphere effect by
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26 192 plant roots, we analysed samples for statistically significant differences in OTUs
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28 193 between 'root plus rhizosphere' samples and soil samples. To minimize confounding
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30 194 effects from low-abundance OTUs, data were filtered to include only sequences that
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32 195 appeared *i*) > 5 times across 30% of the samples, and *ii*) 20 times or more across all
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34 196 samples, resulting in a final selection of 662 OTUs. Principal Coordinate Analysis
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36 197 (PCoA) using Unifrac distances revealed a difference in phylogenetic similarity
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38 198 (Figure 2a) between the 'root plus rhizosphere' samples and control soil samples,
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40 199 which was confirmed by PERMANOVA analysis ($F_{1,6}$, $P = 0.023$). A total of 178
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42 200 OTUs were found to differ significantly in relative abundance between 'root plus
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44 201 rhizosphere' and control soil samples, including an increased abundance of 17
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46 202 *Rhizobiales* OTUs in root samples (*e.g.* *Rhizobiaceae*, *Methylobacteriaceae*,
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48 203 *Hyphomicrobiaceae*, *Phyllobacteriaceae* and *Bradyrhizobiaceae*; Figure 2b). While
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50 204 the mean Shannon diversity index did not differ between soil and 'root plus
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52 205 rhizosphere' samples (3.58; SD = 0.001 and 3.22; SD = 0.001, respectively;
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3 206 Student's *t*-test $t(3) = 0.92$, $P = 0.39$), mean OTU richness of 'root plus rhizosphere'
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5 207 samples (717, SD = 2.1) was significantly lower than that of control soil samples
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7 208 (1177, SD = 2.3; Student's *t*-test $t(3) = 3.51$, $P = 0.04$; Figure S1), showing an
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9 209 influence of roots on the microbial communities. Hence, the presence of plant roots
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11 210 in our experimental system produces a statistically significant rhizosphere effect.
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16 212 **Selection of extraction solutions that do not cause detectable damage to root**
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18 213 **and microbial cells.**

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20 214 Plant-derived metabolites range from polar/hydrophilic (e.g. organic and amino
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22 215 acids, nucleotides) to apolar/hydrophobic (e.g. lipids, phenylpropanoids).
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24 216 Consequently, comprehensive metabolic profiling of rhizosphere soil requires
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26 217 extraction solutions of different polarities. However, the extraction solution should not
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28 218 damage cells from roots or soil microbes, which could contaminate the extract with
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30 219 cellular metabolites (see Figure S3 for a conceptual model). Although water-based
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32 220 solutions without organic solvents are unlikely to cause cellular damage, they are
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34 221 unsuitable for extracting apolar (hydrophobic) metabolites. Conversely, solutions
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36 222 containing organic solvents extract apolar compounds, but risk cell damage by
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38 223 destabilization of membrane lipids (Patra *et al.*, 2006). With a polarity index of 5.1,
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40 224 methanol (MeOH) is capable of extracting polar and apolar metabolites (Figure S3).
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42 225 Accordingly, we selected MeOH as the organic solvent in our extraction solutions.
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47 226 To test whether exposure to the MeOH-containing extraction solutions has a
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49 227 damaging effect on plant roots, we incubated intact roots of *Arabidopsis* for 1 min in
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51 228 acidified extraction solutions with different MeOH concentrations (0, 50 and 95%
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53 229 (v/v) MeOH + 0.05 % (v/v) formic acid). As a negative control, tissues were
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55 230 incubated for 1 min in water. To minimize root damage prior to treatment, roots were
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3 231 collected from agar-grown plants. As a positive control for cell damage, tissues were
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5 232 wounded before incubation. After incubation, tissues were transferred to sterile water
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7 233 for quantification of electrolytes leakage, which is a sensitive method to quantify cell
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9 234 damage in *Arabidopsis* (Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a). As shown in Figure 3a, none of the
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11 235 extraction solutions increased the level of electrolytes leakage in comparison to
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13 236 water-incubated roots (Figure 3a). Hence, 1-min exposure to the MeOH-containing
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15 237 solutions does not induce ions leakage from root cells of *Arabidopsis*. To investigate
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17 238 further potentially damaging effects of the MeOH-containing solutions on root cell
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19 239 integrity, we carried out microscopy studies. Based on the assumption that cell
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21 240 damage by MeOH would permeabilise root cells and cause denaturation of
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23 241 cytoplasmic proteins, we used fluorescence of a C-terminal fusion between the
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25 242 cytoplasmic aspartyl-tRNA synthetase *IBI1* and YFP as a marker for root cell
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27 243 integrity (Luna *et al.*, 2014). Roots of two-week-old *35S::IBI1:YFP* plants were
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29 244 carefully removed from MS agar medium, incubated for 1 min in extraction solutions
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31 245 or water (negative control), and analysed for YFP fluorescence (Figure S4). As a
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33 246 positive control for cell damage, *35S::IBI1:YFP* roots were incubated for 15 min in
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35 247 100% MeOH. YFP fluorescence in roots incubated in acidified 0% MeOH and 50%
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37 248 MeOH solutions was similar to roots incubated for 1 min in water (negative control).
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39 249 Some roots incubated in acidified 95% MeOH showed a weaker YFP signal,
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41 250 although this reduction was less severe than the near complete loss of YFP
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43 251 fluorescence in roots after incubation for 15 min in 100% MeOH (positive control).
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45 252 Thus, 1-min exposures to the 0% and 50% MeOH solutions does not have
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47 253 detectable effects on root cell integrity, which is in line with our conductivity
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49 254 measurements (Figure 3).
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3 255 To investigate whether the extraction solutions affect soil microbes, control
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5 256 and Arabidopsis soils were drenched for 1 min with the extraction solutions, and
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7 257 microbial viability was tested by dilution plating onto (non-)selective LB agar plates.
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10 258 Viability of culturable soil bacteria was quantified by colony counting on non-selective
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12 259 plates. To test impacts on specific rhizosphere-colonizing bacterial strains, the
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14 260 Gram-negative *Pseudomonas (P.) simiae* WCS417r (formally known as *P.*
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16 261 *fluorescens* WCS417r; Berendsen *et al.*, 2012) and the Gram-positive *Bacillus (B.)*
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18 262 *subtilis* 168 (Yi *et al.*, 2016) were introduced into separate tubes two days prior to
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20 263 extraction solution treatment, and plated onto selective agar plates after application
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22 264 of extraction solution. Colony forming units (CFU) from solution-treated soils were
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24 265 compared to water-treated soils (1 min; negative control), as well as soils that had
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26 266 been treated for 45 min with 95% MeOH (positive control for microbial cell damage).
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28 267 While the 45-min incubation with 95% MeOH reduced bacterial counts by 10- to 100-
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30 268 fold, none of the acidified MeOH solutions had a statistically significant effect on CFU
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32 269 counts from either soil type in comparison to water-treated soil (Figures 3b and 3c).
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37 270 In summary, our control experiments for cell damage show that 1-min
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39 271 extraction with the 0% and 50% MeOH solutions does not have detectable impacts
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41 272 on root cell integrity and viability of soil bacteria. However, direct exposure of roots to
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43 273 acidified 95% MeOH solution does have a minor effect on root cell integrity, as
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45 274 evidenced by the faint loss of YFP fluorescence (Figure S4). Accordingly, we cannot
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47 275 exclude the possibility that metabolic profiles obtained with the 95 % MeOH solution
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49 276 are contaminated with cellular metabolites from damaged root cells.
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56 278 **Untargeted metabolic profiling of control and Arabidopsis soil by UPLC-Q-TOF**
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58 279 **mass spectrometry.**
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3 280 Soil samples were extracted with the three acidified solutions (0.05% formic acid,
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5 281 v/v), containing increasing MeOH concentrations (0, 50 and 95% MeOH). Chemical
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7 282 profiles were obtained by untargeted UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry (MS), using
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9 283 MS^E profiling technology (see Supplemental Methods), which enables simultaneous
10
11 284 acquisition of both intact parent ions and fragmented daughter ions (Glaser *et al.*,
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13 285 2013; Gamir *et al.*, 2014a, 2014b; Planchamp *et al.*, 2014; Pétriacyq *et al.*, 2016a,
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15 286 2016b). Prior to statistical analysis, chemical profiles of ion intensity were aligned
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17 287 and integrated using XCMS software (Smith *et al.*, 2006; Pétriacyq *et al.*, 2016a,
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19 288 2016b). Similarities and differences in ion intensities from both positive (ESI⁺, 17,518
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21 289 cations) and negative ionization modes (ESI⁻, 19,488 anions) were first examined by
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23 290 multivariate data analysis, using MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0) software (Xia *et al.*, 2015).
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25 291 Unsupervised three-dimensional principal component analysis (3D-PCA) separated
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27 292 samples from both soil types that had been extracted with the same solution (Figure
28
29 293 4a), indicating global metabolic differences between control and Arabidopsis soil.
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31 294 These differences were reproducible between three independent experiments
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33 295 (Figure S5). Extractions with the 95% MeOH solution resulted in higher levels of
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35 296 variation than extractions with the 50% and 0% MeOH solutions (Figure 4a and
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37 297 Figure S5). Cluster analysis (Pearson's correlation) revealed complete segregation
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39 298 between control soil samples and Arabidopsis soil samples analysed in positive
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41 299 ionization mode (ESI⁺), while samples analysed in negative ionization mode (ESI⁻)
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43 300 showed partial segregation between both these soil types. Although samples from
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45 301 the same extraction solution clustered relatively closely within the dendrogram,
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47 302 extracts from the 95% MeOH solution showed more variation than the other
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49 303 solutions (Figure 4b). Finally, we used supervised partial least square discriminant
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51 304 analysis (PLS-DA) to compare metabolite profiles between samples from control soil
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3 305 and Arabidopsis soil (Figure 4c). Comprehensive analysis of all samples revealed
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5 306 clear separation between all different soil/solution combinations, in both the ESI⁺ and
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7 307 ESI⁻ data. The corresponding PLS-DA models displayed high levels of correlation
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9 308 (R^2 ESI⁺ = 0.998; R^2 ESI⁻ = 0.951) and predictability (Q^2 ESI⁺ = 0.619; Q^2 ESI⁻ =
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11 309 0.657). Binary comparisons between control and Arabidopsis soil for each extraction
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13 310 solution confirmed these differences, each with high levels of correlation ($R^2 > 0.94$)
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15 311 and predictability ($Q^2 > 0.59$) of the PLS-DA models (Figure S6). However, as was
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17 312 also clear from 3D-PCA and Pearson's correlation analyses, samples extracted with
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19 313 the 95% MeOH solution were more variable than extracts obtained with the 0% and
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21 314 50% MeOH solutions (Figures 4a-c). The enhanced variation between samples
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23 315 extracted with the 95% MeOH solution is consistent with our finding that direct
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25 316 exposure of roots to 95% MeOH solution causes minor cell damage (Figure S4).
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27 317 Together, our results show consistent differences in polar and apolar metabolite
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29 318 composition between control soil and Arabidopsis soil, indicating a global influence
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31 319 of roots on the chemical composition of the soil in our cultivation system.
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321 **Quantitative differences in metabolites between extractions from rhizosphere**
322 **and control soil.**

323 Quantification of the total number of detected ions (m/z values) yielded marginally
324 higher numbers from samples of control soil compared to that of Arabidopsis soil
325 (Figure S7a). A substantial fraction could be detected in both soil types (66.9%,
326 64.1% and 49.4% for the 0%, 50% and 95% MeOH solutions, respectively; Figure
327 S7a), indicating a large number of metabolites that were present in both rhizosphere
328 and control soil. Ions that were uniquely present in one or more sample from
329 Arabidopsis soil were most abundant in extractions with the 95% MeOH solution

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3 330 (6,448), followed by the 50% MeOH solution (4,362) and the 0% MeOH solution
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5 331 (3,991; Figure S7a). To select for ions that were statistically over- or under-
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7 332 represented in Arabidopsis soil, we constructed volcano plots that expressed
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9 333 statistical significance of each ion (m/z value) against fold-change between both soil
10
11 334 types (Figure 5a). Using a statistical threshold of $P < 0.01$ (Welch's t -test) and a cut-
12
13 335 off value of > 2 fold-change ($\text{Log}_2 > 1$), numbers of ions enriched in control soil were
14
15 336 generally higher than those enriched in Arabidopsis soil (Figure 5a). Furthermore,
16
17 337 there was relatively little overlap in differentially abundant ions between extraction
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19 338 solutions ($P < 0.01$, Welch's t -test, Figures 5b and S7). This pattern was equally
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21 339 clear for ions that were specifically enriched in either soil type ($P < 0.01$, Welch's t -
22
23 340 test, >2 fold-change; Figures 5b and S7b, middle and right), illustrating the fact that
24
25 341 the acidified solutions extracted different classes of metabolites. The 50% MeOH
26
27 342 solution yielded the highest number of rhizosphere-enriched ions (178), followed by
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29 343 the 0% MeOH solution (115) and 95% MeOH solution (81). Since the 50% MeOH
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31 344 solution also yielded relatively low levels of variability between replicate samples
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33 345 (Figure 4 and Figure S5), our results suggest that this solution is most suitable for
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35 346 extraction of rhizosphere-enriched metabolites.
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348 **Composition of rhizosphere- and control soil-enriched metabolites.**

349 To study which metabolite classes drive the global differences between rhizosphere
350 and control soil (Figure 4 and Figure 5), we pooled the top 20-ranking ions from each
351 volcano plot which were ranked by fold-change and statistically significant difference
352 between control and Arabidopsis soil, resulting in a total of 120 metabolic markers
353 for each soil type. To enhance statistical stringency, ions were subsequently filtered
354 by statistical significance between all soil/solution combinations (ANOVA; $P < 0.01$),

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3 355 using a Benjamini-Hochberg correction for false-discovery rate (FDR). The final
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5 356 selection yielded a total of 76 rhizosphere-enriched ions and 75 control soil-enriched
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7 357 ions. MarVis software (Kaeffer *et al.*, 2012) was used to correct for adducts and/or C
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9 358 isotopes (tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$ Da and RT = 10 s), after which the predicted masses
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11 359 were used for putative identification (Table S1), using METLIN, PubChem,
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13 360 MassBank, Lipid Bank, ChemSpider, Kegg, AraCyc and MetaCyc databases (Kaeffer
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15 361 *et al.*, 2009; Gamir *et al.*, 2014a, 2014b; Pastor *et al.*, 2014; Kaeffer *et al.*, 2012;
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17 362 Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b). To obtain a global profile of soil- and rhizosphere-
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19 363 enriched chemistry, putative compounds were assigned to different metabolite
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21 364 classes (Figure 6). Putative chemicals that unlikely accumulate as natural products
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23 365 in (rhizosphere) soil, such as synthetic drugs or mammalian hormones, were
24
25 366 excluded from these profiles (Table S1). In comparison to control soil, Arabidopsis
26
27 367 soil was enriched with ions that putatively annotate to flavonoids (8 vs 2%), lipids (33
28
29 368 vs 6%) and alkaloids (5% in Arabidopsis soil only; Figures 6 and S8; Table S1),
30
31 369 which supports the notion that rhizosphere soil is enriched with plant-derived
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33 370 metabolites. The global composition of control soil showed a higher fraction of
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35 371 metabolites that could not be annotated (Figures 6 and S8; Table S1), likely due to
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37 372 an under-representation of soil metabolites in publically available databases.
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374 **Applicability of the method to maize in agricultural soil.**

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48 375 Having established that our method is suitable for detecting rhizosphere-enriched
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50 376 metabolites from Arabidopsis, we investigated whether the method could be applied
51
52 377 to profile rhizosphere metabolites from a crop species (maize; *Zea mays*) in
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54 378 agricultural soil. To this end, the cultivation system was up-scaled to 50-mL tubes
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56 379 that were filled with a mixture of agricultural soil from arable farmland (Spen farm,
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3 380 Leeds, UK) and perlite (75:25, v/v). The perlite was added to improve drainage of the
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5 381 soil, which improved plant growth and ensured that sufficient solution was collected
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7 382 from the base of the tubes within 1 min of extraction solution application. Maize
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9 383 plants were grown for 17 days, and rhizosphere chemistry was extracted using the
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11 384 50% MeOH solution (+ formic acid 0.05%, v/v). Further validation experiments
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13 385 showed that 1-min exposure of maize roots to this solution did not lead to increased
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15 386 electrolytes leakage (Figure 7a). Comparative analysis of metabolites by UPLC-Q-
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17 387 TOF identified a total of 6,071 cations (ESI⁺) and 9,006 anions (ESI⁻). 3D-PCA
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19 388 showed complete separation between samples from control (red) and maize (green)
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21 389 soil (Figure 7b). Quantitative differences were determined by volcano plots (Welch's
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23 390 *t*-test, $P < 0.01$: fold-change > 2), revealing 287 cations (ESI⁺) and 197 anions (ESI⁻)
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25 391 that were statistically enriched in maize soil (Figure 7c). Cross-referencing the 100
26
27 392 most significant ions (top 50 anions + top 50 cations) against public databases
28
29 393 indicated higher levels of chemical diversity in maize soil samples compared to
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31 394 control soil samples. Most metabolic markers could be putatively identified (Table
32
33 395 S2) and annotated to different metabolite classes (Figure 7d). As described for the
34
35 396 profiling of the *Arabidopsis* rhizosphere (Figure 6), these final profiles did not include
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37 397 putative compounds that unlikely accumulate in (rhizosphere) soil, such as synthetic
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39 398 drugs (Table S2). Strikingly, a relatively large fraction of maize rhizosphere-enriched
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41 399 ions could be annotated to flavonoids (28%) and benzoxazinoids (21%), which
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43 400 mediate below-ground interactions (Neal and Ton, 2013; Neal *et al.*, 2012; Robert *et*
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45 401 *al.*, 2012) For instance, HBOA, DIBOA and HMBOA, displayed strong rhizosphere
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47 402 enrichment in maize soil samples (Figure S8), and are known to be produced by
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49 403 maize roots (Marti *et al.*, 2013). Thus, our profiling method is sufficiently robust and
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3 404 sensitive to profile plant-derived rhizosphere chemicals from a crop species in
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5 405 agricultural soil.
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10 407 **Profiling chemistry in distal rhizosphere fractions.**
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13 408 The rhizosphere was defined by Lorenz Hiltner in 1904 as '*the soil compartment*
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15 409 *influenced by the root*' (Smalla *et al.*, 2006). However, many rhizosphere studies
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17 410 focus exclusively on soil that is closely associated with plant roots (after removal of
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19 411 loosely associated soil), which may not encompass the total rhizosphere as more
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21 412 distal and loosely associated soil could still be influenced by root-derived chemistry.
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23 413 To investigate whether our profiling method detects chemical influences beyond soil
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25 414 that is closely associated with roots, we used an alternative growth system that
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27 415 separated roots from distal soil (Figure S9). Maize plants were grown in small, fine
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29 416 mesh bags within larger 150-mL tubes containing soil (see Supplemental Methods),
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31 417 which prevented outward root growth, yet allowed for passage of root-derived
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33 418 chemicals and microbes into the distal soil. Similar plant-free tubes were constructed
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35 419 as no plant controls. After 24 days of growth, mesh bags were carefully removed,
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37 420 after which metabolites were extracted from the remaining distal soil that surrounded
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39 421 the mesh bags, using the 50% MeOH extraction solution. As a control for whole soil
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41 422 fractions, metabolites from empty and maize-containing tubes were extracted before
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43 423 removing the mesh bag from the tube, as described earlier. Thus, the experimental
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45 424 design allowed comparison between four soil fractions: 1) distal soil surrounding
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47 425 mesh bags without roots, 2) distal soil surrounding mesh bags with maize roots, 3)
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49 426 whole soil from tubes with mesh bags without roots and 4) whole soil from tubes with
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51 427 mesh bags with maize roots. Extracts were analysed by UPLC-Q-TOF in ESI⁻
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53 428 (26,011 anions) and subjected to unsupervised PCA (Figure S9b). Comparison of
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3 429 whole soil fractions confirmed a clear separation between plant-free and maize soil
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5 430 samples, illustrating the chemical rhizosphere effect of maize. Although less
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7 431 pronounced than the whole soil fractions, PCA of the distal soil fractions still revealed
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9 432 separate clustering between plant-free and maize soil (Figure S9b), indicating that
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11 433 the chemical influence of the rhizosphere extended beyond soil closely associated
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13 434 with roots. To verify this distant rhizosphere effect, we quantified levels of DIMBOA,
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15 435 which acts as a relatively stable rhizosphere semiochemical influencing behaviour of
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17 436 both rhizobacteria and arthropods (Neal *et al.*, 2012; Robert *et al.*, 2012). In
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19 437 comparison to both plant-free soil fractions, statistically higher quantities of DIMBOA
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21 438 were detected in both whole maize soil and distal maize soil (Figure S9c). Hence,
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23 439 DIMBOA acts as a mobile long-range rhizosphere signal that extends beyond soil
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25 440 that is closely associated with roots. Considering that maize roots contain high
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27 441 quantities of DIMBOA (Robert *et al.*, 2012), and that the distal soil was separated
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29 442 from the roots prior to chemical extraction with the 50% MeOH solution, this result
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31 443 also confirms that the 50% MeOH extraction solution does not have a damaging
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33 444 effect on maize roots, as exemplified by similar DIMBOA levels in whole maize soil
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35 445 and distal maize soil (Figure S9c).

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448 DISCUSSION

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450 Rhizosphere chemistry is a complex mixture of root exudation chemicals, their
451 microbial breakdown products, and microbial breakdown products of soil-specific
452 chemicals. While it is known that microbial diversity in the rhizosphere can influence
453 plant growth and health (Berendsen *et al.*, 2012), the chemical signals mediating

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3 454 these interactions remain poorly understood. The majority of root exudation studies
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5 455 are based on hydroponic and/or sterile growth systems (Kuijken *et al.*, 2014;
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7 456 Khorassani *et al.*, 2011; Bowsheer *et al.*, 2016). Although sterile growth systems are
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9 457 appropriate for exact quantification of root-exuded plant chemicals (Kuijken *et al.*,
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11 458 2014), these systems do not consider the importance of rhizosphere signals that are
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13 459 of microbial origin, such as microbial breakdown products of root exudates, or
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15 460 metabolites that are specifically produced by rhizosphere-inhabiting microbes.
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17 461 Consequently, linking rhizosphere chemistry to microbial communities and/or
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19 462 activities remains problematic when the biochemical diversity of the non-sterile
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21 463 rhizosphere is not considered (Oburger and Schmidt, 2016). Furthermore, although
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23 464 root exudation studies are increasingly relying on sensitive analytical methods (van
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25 465 Dam and Bouwmeester, 2016; Khorassani *et al.*, 2011; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015), the
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27 466 majority of these studies employs targeted analyses of specific compounds (e.g.
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29 467 organic and amino acids, coumarins), which do not address the biochemical diversity
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31 468 of rhizosphere soil. Recent advances in liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry,
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33 469 and uni- and multivariate data analysis have made it possible to conduct untargeted
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35 470 metabolic profiling of complex metabolite mixtures, such as root exudates and soil
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37 471 extracts (van Dam and Bouwmeester, 2016; Khorassani *et al.*, 2011; Swenson *et al.*,
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39 472 2015; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015; Strehmel *et al.*, 2014). In this study, we employed
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41 473 untargeted UPLC-Q-TOF analysis of soil extracts, followed by uni- and multivariate
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43 474 data reduction to separate rhizosphere-specific chemistry from common soil
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45 475 chemistry. We show that this method is suitable to profile *in situ* rhizosphere
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47 476 chemistry from different plant species and soil types.

477 The microbial rhizosphere effect is driven by root exudation chemistry (Jones
478 *et al.*, 2009). Accordingly, we verified whether our cultivation system supported the

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3 479 generation of a difference in microbial communities between control soil samples
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5 480 (without plant roots) and root samples plus adhering rhizosphere soil, using 16S
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7 481 rRNA gene sequencing. This analysis identified a total number of 3,863 OTUs, which
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9 482 by rarefaction analysis appeared to be sufficient to cover the majority of dominant
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11 483 OTUs (Figure S1). Many of the taxa detected in our samples (e.g.
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13 484 *Oxalobacteraceae*, *Pseudomonadaceae*, *Xanthomonadaceae* and the
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15 485 *Rhizobiaceae*) are commonly associated with soil and/or plant roots (Lundberg *et al.*,
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17 486 2012). Comparative analysis identified a range of OTUs with differential relative
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19 487 abundance between control soil and 'root plus rhizosphere' samples (Figure 2),
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21 488 which provided evidence for a rhizosphere effect in our experimental growth system.
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23 489 Many of the corresponding taxa have been linked to rhizosphere effects, such as an
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25 490 enhanced relative abundance of *Oxalobacteraceae* (Figure 2b, Figure S2; Lundberg
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27 491 *et al.*, 2012; Bulgarelli *et al.*, 2015), as well as the *Rhizobiales*, which are commonly
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29 492 associated with plant roots (Hao *et al.*, 2016).
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34 493 Our cultivation system was designed for *in situ* extraction of chemicals from
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36 494 biologically complex non-sterile rhizosphere soils. The soil matrix for the Arabidopsis
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38 495 experiments consisted of 9:1 (v/v) mixture of sand and compost, which is
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40 496 comparable to the sandy soil types of naturally occurring Arabidopsis accessions
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42 497 (Lev-Yadun and Berleth, 2009). This matrix also allowed relatively short collection
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44 498 times of the extracts (1 min), which was sufficient to recover 90% of the volume
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46 499 applied and prevent root damage due to extended exposure to MeOH in the
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48 500 extraction solution. The soil matrix for the maize experiments contained agricultural
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50 501 soil from an arable farm field, which was supplemented with 25% (v/v) autoclaved
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52 502 perlite to prevent compaction and allowed sufficient elution of metabolites over the 1-
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54 503 min extraction period. Using this system, we detected quantitative and qualitative
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3 504 differences in chemistry between extracts from control and maize soil (Figure 7),
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5 505 demonstrating that the method was applicable for profiling of rhizosphere chemistry
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7 506 from a crop species in agricultural soil.
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10 507 A major challenge for *in situ* profiling of rhizosphere chemistry is to prevent
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12 508 damage of root cells and microbes during the extraction procedure that could
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14 509 otherwise contaminate the extract with metabolites that are not exuded from intact
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16 510 roots. While water-based extraction solutions are unlikely to cause cellular damage,
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18 511 they are less suitable for extraction of apolar metabolites. Conversely, solutions
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20 512 containing organic solvents extract apolar metabolites, but can damage cell
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22 513 membranes. Due to limited understanding of root exudation chemistry in natural soil
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24 514 types, it remains difficult to distinguish between naturally exuded metabolites and
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26 515 metabolites leaking from damaged root tissues or lysed microbial cells. Therefore,
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28 516 we carried out a range of experiments to investigate whether the MeOH-containing
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30 517 extraction solutions caused cell damage: (i) quantification of root electrolytes leakage
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32 518 (Figure 3a), (ii) epi-fluorescence microscopy to assess root cell integrity (Figure S4),
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34 519 (iii) dilution plating to assess viability of soil- and rhizosphere-colonising bacteria
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36 520 after incubation of the soil in extraction solutions (Figures 3b and 3c), and (iv)
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38 521 detection of plant-derived chemicals in root-free soil fractions (Figure S9). Firstly,
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40 522 exposure of both *Arabidopsis* and maize roots to the MeOH-containing solutions did
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42 523 not increase electrolytes leakage for the duration of the extraction procedure (1 min;
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44 524 Figures 3 and 7). Secondly, microscopic analysis of root cells from YFP-expressing
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46 525 *Arabidopsis* roots did not reveal loss of cell integrity after 1-min exposure to 0% and
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48 526 50% MeOH-containing solutions (Figure S4). However, this assay did reveal a weak
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50 527 impact by the 95% MeOH solution, indicating that extraction of rhizosphere
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52 528 chemistry with this solution could affect root cell integrity. Thirdly, extraction of
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3 529 control and Arabidopsis soil with the MeOH-containing extraction solutions did not
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5 530 reduce viability of culturable soil microbes, nor did it affect viability of the Gram-
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7 531 negative rhizobacterial strain *P. simiae* WCS417r and the Gram-positive
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9 532 rhizobacterial strain *B. subtilis* 168 (Figures 3b and 3c). Finally, using the 50%
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11 533 MeOH extraction solution and a compartmentalised growth system that separated
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13 534 maize roots from peripheral rhizosphere soil, we showed that extraction of the
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15 535 peripheral soil after removal of maize roots yielded similar DIMBOA quantities as
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17 536 extraction of soil containing maize roots (Figure S9c). Since maize roots accumulate
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19 537 high quantities of DIMBOA (Robert *et al.*, 2012), this result further confirms that the
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21 538 50% MeOH extraction solution does not damage maize roots in the soil. Accordingly,
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23 539 we conclude that 1-min exposure to the 0% or 50% MeOH extraction solution does
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25 540 not cause detectable levels of cell damage to roots and soil microbes that could
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27 541 contaminate the chemical profiles from the soils with intracellular metabolites.

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32 542 Multivariate data analysis and clustering revealed that the variability between
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34 543 replicate extractions was lower for the 0% and 50% MeOH extraction solutions
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36 544 compared to the 95% MeOH solution (Figure 4). This is consistent with our finding
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38 545 that direct exposure to this solution sometimes reduced YFP fluorescence in
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40 546 transgenic Arabidopsis roots (Figure S4). Data projection in volcano plots showed
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42 547 that extraction with the 50% MeOH solution yielded the highest number of
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44 548 rhizosphere-enriched ions in comparison to other extraction solutions (Figure 5a).
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46 549 Hence, the 50% MeOH extraction solution performs best in terms of variability
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48 550 between extractions and total numbers of differentially detected ions. Quantitative
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50 551 analysis of MS profiles revealed slightly lower numbers of rhizosphere-enriched ions
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52 552 than control soil-enriched ions, which was apparent for both Arabidopsis (Figure 5
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54 553 and Figure S7) and maize (Figure 7). It is possible that this difference is due to the
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3 554 rhizosphere effect, which reduces bacterial richness (Figure S1 and Figure 2),
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5 555 resulting in lower biochemical diversity in the rhizosphere (Prithiviraj *et al.*, 2007).
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7 556 The sets of ions enriched in control and plant-containing soil differed
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9 557 substantially in composition (Figures 6 and 7). Interestingly, the number of ions
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11 558 annotated to putative metabolites from publicly available databases was higher for
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13 559 rhizosphere selection (Tables S1 and S2). We attribute this difference to the fact that
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15 560 plant-containing soil is enriched with plant-derived metabolites, which are better
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17 561 represented in publicly available databases than soil-specific metabolites (Strehmel
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19 562 *et al.*, 2014; Swenson *et al.*, 2015). Indeed, the selection of putative rhizosphere
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21 563 metabolites from *Arabidopsis* contained a relatively high fraction of flavonoids, lipids,
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23 564 and other amino acid-derived secondary metabolites, such as alkaloids and
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25 565 phenylpropanoids (Figure 6, Table S1), whereas the set of putative rhizosphere
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27 566 metabolites from maize included relatively large fractions of flavonoids and
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29 567 benzoxazinoids (Figure 7, Table S2). It should be noted, however, that the analytical
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31 568 method used in this study is limited by the putative identification of single ions.
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33 569 Unless the identity of a single metabolite is confirmed by subsequent targeted
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35 570 analyses, such as specific chromatographic retention time, fragmentation or NMR
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37 571 patterns, its annotation remains putative (*i.e.* inconclusive). However, the novelty of
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39 572 our method does not come from the applied mass spectrometry detection method,
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41 573 but the combined use of the experimental design, extraction methods, mass
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43 574 spectrometry profiling and statistical techniques to deconstruct rhizosphere
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45 575 chemistry. Once a wider profile of rhizosphere chemistry has been established,
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47 576 targeted techniques can be used to confirm metabolite identities. Furthermore,
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49 577 where multiple putative metabolites annotate to the same metabolite class, a more
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51 578 reliable conclusion can be drawn about the involvement of this metabolite class. In
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3 579 our case, multiple rhizosphere ions could be annotated to the same plant-metabolic
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5 580 pathways, suggesting that the overall rhizosphere profile is influenced by these plant
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7 581 metabolite classes. In support of this, previous studies have reported the presence of
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9 582 the same secondary compounds in plant root exudates (Hassan and Mathesius,
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11 583 2012; Oburger *et al.*, 2013; Szoboszlay *et al.*, 2016; Oburger and Schmidt, 2016).
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13 584 Moreover, benzoxazinoids, such as DIMBOA, have previously been implicated to act
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15 585 as belowground semiochemicals during maize-biotic interactions (Neal *et al.*, 2012;
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17 586 Robert *et al.*, 2012; Marti *et al.*, 2013). Hence, our method provides a new tool to
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19 587 explore rhizosphere semiochemicals for different plant species and soils.
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23 588 Relatively few rhizosphere-enriched ions could be annotated to primary plant
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25 589 metabolites, such as proteinogenic amino acids or organic acids (Figures 6 and 7).
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27 590 Although these compounds are exuded in high quantities by roots (Rudrappa *et al.*,
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29 591 2008; van Dam and Bouwmeester, 2016; Ziegler *et al.*, 2015), the microbial activity
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31 592 in the rhizosphere will quickly metabolize them, and the C18-UPLC separation is not
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33 593 optimal for separation of (often very polar) primary metabolites. Above all, we stress
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35 594 that our method is not suitable for quantitative analysis of primary and secondary
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37 595 root exudates, for which sterile root cultivation systems are more appropriate
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39 596 (Kuijken *et al.*, 2014; Strehmel *et al.*, 2014). Our method should only be used for
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41 597 profiling, identification and/or quantification of rhizosphere chemicals. These
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43 598 compounds can be microbial breakdown products of secondary metabolites in root
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45 599 exudates, but could equally well be synthesised *de novo* by rhizosphere-specific
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47 600 bacterial and fungal microbes. Using the experimental pipeline detailed in this paper,
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49 601 stable isotope labelling of plant root exudates via leaf exposure to $^{13}\text{CO}_2$ can
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51 602 potentially differentiate between these classes of rhizosphere metabolites, where
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53 603 plant-derived breakdown products will likely retain higher levels of ^{13}C than *de novo*
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3 604 synthesised microbial products. Furthermore, as is illustrated by our study, the
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5 605 method allows for simultaneous assessment of rhizosphere chemistry and microbial
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7 606 composition, which can be used for genetic strategies that aim to establish a causal
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10 607 relationship between plant genotype, rhizosphere chemistry and microbial
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12 608 composition (Oburger and Schmidt, 2016). Such an approach would also advance
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14 609 studies on the effects of above-ground stimuli (such as light, atmospheric CO₂ and
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16 610 above-ground (a)biotic stresses) on below-ground plant-microbe interactions.
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19 611 In summary, our study presents a straightforward method to obtain profiles of
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21 612 rhizosphere chemistry in non-sterile rhizosphere soil. The method is applicable to
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23 613 both model systems and soil-grown crops in agricultural soil. Considering that the
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25 614 microbial interactions in the rhizosphere can have both beneficial and detrimental
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27 615 effects on plant performance (Berendsen *et al.*, 2012; Cameron *et al.*, 2013), our
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29 616 method entails a powerful tool to advance rhizosphere biology and to decipher the
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31 617 chemistry driving plant-microbe interaction in complex non-sterile soils.
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3 618 **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

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7 620 **Chemicals and reagents.**

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9 621 All chemicals and solvents used for metabolomics were of mass spectrometry grade
10 622 (Sigma-Aldrich, Germany). Other solvents were of analytical grade.

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15 624 **Experimental set-up of growth system.**

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17 625 Collection tubes for the Arabidopsis experiments were constructed by melting 7 mm
18 626 holes in the base of 30-mL plastic tubes (Sterilin 128A, ThermoScientific, UK), using
19 627 a soldering iron (see Figure 1). The drainage hole was covered with 4-cm² pieces of
20 628 Millipore miracloth (pore size of 22-25 µm, <https://uk.vwr.com>) to avoid loss of soil
21 629 and to prevent outgrowth by roots. Tubes were filled with ~ 45 g soil matrix,
22 630 consisting of a homogenous 9:1 (v/v) mixture of sand (silica CH52) and dry compost
23 631 (Levington M3), which is comparable to sandy soil types of naturally occurring
24 632 *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*) accessions (Lev-Yadun and Berleth, 2009). To
25 633 prevent cross contamination of rhizosphere microbes and chemicals between
26 634 samples, each collection tube was placed onto an individual petri-dish (Nunclon™
27 635 Delta, 8.8 cm² ThermoScientific, UK) (Figure 1). Collection tubes were wrapped in
28 636 aluminium foil to limit algal growth in the soil matrix. Seeds of Arabidopsis accession
29 637 Columbia (Col-0) were stratified for two days in the dark in autoclaved water at 4 °C.
30 638 Three to four seeds were pipetted onto individual tubes and placed into a growth
31 639 cabinet (Fitotron, SANYO, UK) with the following growth conditions: 8.5/15.5 h
32 640 light/dark at 21/19 °C with an average of 120 µmol m⁻² s⁻¹ photons at the top of the
33 641 collection tubes and a relative humidity of 70%. Four days later, seedlings were
34 642 removed to leave one seedling per pot, which was grown for 5 weeks until sampling.

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3 643 All pots were watered twice per week by applying 5 mL of autoclaved distilled water
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5 644 to the petri-dishes, using a 5-mL pipette (Starlab, UK). The final watering date was
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7 645 set at three days before sampling, which resulted in consistent soil water contents at
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9 646 the time of sampling. Relative water content (RWC) was determined by the ratio of
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11 647 soil weight (W) minus soil dry weight (DW), divided by water-saturated soil weight
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13 648 (SW) minus soil dry weight:

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16 649
$$RWC = \frac{W-DW}{SW-DW}$$

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19 650 The applied watering regime provided reproducible RWC values at the time of
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21 651 sampling ($88 \pm 4.5\%$). Although the RWC during the cultivation of plants was
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23 652 frequently lower, the relatively high RWC value at the time of sampling allowed for
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25 653 constant and relatively high recovery volumes (4 - 4.5 mL) from the soil matrix.

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28 654 Collection tubes for the maize experiments were constructed by melting 7 mm
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30 655 holes in the base of 50-mL plastic tubes. Tubes were fitted with miracloth at the
31
32 656 bottom and filled with a water-saturated mixture of agricultural soil:autoclaved perlite
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34 657 (75:25; v/v), in order to allow for sufficient collection volume 1 min after application of
35
36 658 extraction solutions (see below). Soil was collected from an arable field (Spen farm;
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38 659 Leeds, UK), air-dried, sieved to a maximum particle size of 4.75 mm, and
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40 660 homogenised using a mixer. Maize seeds (*Zea mays* variety W22) were surface
41
42 661 sterilised for 3 h by placing them in petri-dishes in an airtight container with 100 mL
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44 662 of bleach, to which 5 mL of concentrated HCl had been added. Seeds were imbibed
45
46 663 overnight in autoclaved, sterile water before placing on petri-dishes containing
47
48 664 sterile, damp filter paper in the dark at 23 °C for two days. Germinated seeds were
49
50 665 planted in filled collection tubes, 1.5 cm from the soil surface. Collection tubes were
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52 666 wrapped in foil, covered with black plastic beads, and placed in a growth chamber
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57 667 with the following conditions: 12/12 h light/dark at 25/20 °C. The additional maize
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3 668 experiment to profile distal rhizosphere chemistry is described in the Supplemental
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5 669 Methods.

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10 671 **Profiling of root associated microbial communities.**

11 672 Details about DNA extraction, 16S rRNA gene sequencing and analysis of root-
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13 associated prokaryotic operational taxonomic units (OTUs) are presented in the
14 673 Supplemental Methods.
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20 676 **Metabolite extraction from control and Arabidopsis/maize soil.**

21 677 Plant soil samples were collected from tubes containing one 5-week-old Arabidopsis
22
23 678 plant, or one 17-day-old maize plant. Plant soil chemistry was analysed from five
24
25 679 replicated samples, whereas control soil chemistry was analysed from three
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27 680 replicated samples. All samples were all collected at the same time. For the
28
29 681 Arabidopsis system, cold extraction solution (5 mL) containing 0%, 50% or 95%
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31 682 methanol (v/v) with 0.05% formic acid (v/v) was applied to the top of the tubes. After
32
33 683 1 min, 4 - 4.5 mL were collected from the drainage hole in 5-mL centrifuge tubes
34
35 684 (Starlab, UK). For the maize system, 15 mL of the 50% methanol solution (0.05 %
36
37 685 formic acid, v/v) was applied and flushed through the soil by applying pressure to the
38
39 686 top of the pot, using a modified lid containing a syringe. After 1 min, 10 mL were
40
41 687 collected in centrifuge tubes. For both cultivation systems, extracts were centrifuged
42
43 688 to pellet soil residues (5 min, 3,500 g), after which 4 mL of supernatant were
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45 689 transferred into a new centrifuge tube and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, freeze-dried
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47 690 for 48 hours until complete dryness (Modulyo benchtop freeze dryer, Edwards, UK),
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49 691 and stored at - 80 °C. Dried aliquots were re-suspended in 100 µL of methanol:
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51 692 water: formic acid (50: 49.9: 0.1, v/v), sonicated at 4 °C for 20 min, vortexed and
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3 693 centrifuged (15 min, 14,000 g, 4 °C) to remove potential particles that could block the
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5 694 UPLC column. Final supernatants (80 µL) were transferred into glass vials containing
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7 695 a glass insert prior to UPLC-Q-TOF analysis.
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697 **Assessment of cell damage by extraction solutions**

14 698 Impacts of acidified extraction solutions on integrity of root cells were determined by
15
16 699 conductivity measurement from electrolytes leakage and epi-fluorescence
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18 700 microscopy of transgenic YFP-expressing roots, as detailed in the Supplemental
19
20 701 Methods. Impacts of extraction solutions on culturable soil bacteria and introduced
21
22 702 soil- and rhizosphere-colonising bacteria were determined by dilution plating, as
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24 703 described in the Supplemental Methods.
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705 **UPLC-Q-TOF analysis of soil chemistry**

31 706 Details of the UPLC-Q-TOF analysis, including targeted detection of DIMBOA, and
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33 707 uni- and multivariate data analyses to deconstruct rhizosphere chemistry are
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35 708 presented in Supplemental Methods.
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11 722 **SHORT LEGENDS FOR SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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16 724 Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

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18 725 **Supplemental Figure S1.** Rarefaction curves of 16S rRNA Operational Taxonomic
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21 726 Units (OTUs).

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23 727 **Supplemental Figure S2.** Relative abundance of bacterial taxa.

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25 728 **Supplemental Figure S3.** Solvent polarity and extraction of rhizosphere chemistry.

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27 729 **Supplemental Figure S4.** Epi-fluorescence microscopy analysis of Arabidopsis root
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30 730 cell damage.

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32 731 **Supplemental Figure S5.** Reproducibility of metabolite profiles between
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34 732 experiments.

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36 733 **Supplemental Figure S6.** Binary PLS-DA analysis of metabolite profiles.

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38 734 **Supplemental Figure S7.** Details of quantitative differences in metabolites.

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40 735 **Supplemental Figure S8.** Relative quantities of benzoxazinoids.

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42 736 **Supplemental Figure S9.** Profiling distal rhizosphere chemistry.

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45 737 **Supplemental Table S1.** Putative identification of Arabidopsis metabolic markers.

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47 738 **Supplemental Table S2.** Putative identification of maize metabolic markers.

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49 739 **Supplemental Methods.**

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52 928 phosphate limitation. *J. Exp. Bot.*, **67**, 1421–1432.
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931 **ACCESSION NUMBERS**

932 The sequences used in this study can be found in the European Nucleotide Archive
933 (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>) under accession number PRJEB17782.

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936 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

937

938 **Figure 1.** Experimental growth system and analytical approach for comprehensive
939 chemical profiling of non-sterile rhizosphere soil.

940 **(a)** 1. Collection tubes (30 mL) with bottom holes (7 mm) covered by miracloth were
941 filled with a sand:compost mixture 9:1 (v/v) and wrapped in aluminium foil to prevent
942 excess algal growth. Individual Arabidopsis plants (Col-0) were grown for 5 weeks in
943 tubes. Additional tubes containing control soil without plants were maintained under
944 similar conditions. 2. After application of 5 mL of extraction solution, metabolite
945 samples were collected for 1 min, centrifuged and freeze-dried. 3. Concentrated
946 samples were analysed by ultra-high-pressure liquid chromatography coupled to
947 quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (UPLC-Q-TOF). 4. Multi- and univariate
948 statistical methods were used to determine qualitative and quantitative differences
949 between extracts from control soil and Arabidopsis soil. Selection of ions by
950 statistical difference and fold-change between soil types enabled putative
951 identification of metabolites that were enriched in non-sterile rhizosphere soil.

952 **(b)** Photographs of the experimental system. Top: tubes after 4.5 weeks of growth.
953 Bottom: tubes after 3 weeks of growth taped onto petri-dishes to prevent cross
954 contamination of metabolites and microbes.

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3 956 **Figure 2.** Rhizosphere effect by Arabidopsis in the cultivation system based on 16S
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5 957 rRNA gene sequencing.

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7 958 Shown are comparisons of bacterial communities between samples from control soil
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9 959 (without roots) and root samples plus adhering rhizosphere soil.

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11 960 (a) Principal coordinate analysis of OTUs in root + rhizosphere samples (red) and
12
13 961 control soil samples (green). Ordinations were performed using weighted Unifrac
14
15 962 distances. PERMANOVA analysis showed that the root and control soil samples
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17 963 differed significantly ($P = 0.023$).

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19 964 (b) OTUs that differ in relative abundance between root + rhizosphere samples and
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21 965 control soil samples. OTUs with positive fold changes are more abundant in the root
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23 966 plus rhizosphere samples than control samples. Results are plotted by family for
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25 967 OTUs that showed a significant difference in abundance as calculated using
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27 968 DESeq2, corrected for false discovery. Only OTUs which have a mean count ≥ 20
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29 969 are shown for clarity. NA, taxonomy not available.

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36 971 **Figure 3.** Effects of methanol (MeOH)-containing extraction solutions on electrolytes
37
38 972 leakage from Arabidopsis roots (a) and viability of soil microbes (b, c).

39
40 973 (a) Quantification of electrolytes leakage from Arabidopsis roots after incubation for 1
41
42 974 min in acidified extraction solutions containing 0%, 50% or 95% MeOH (v/v) and
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44 975 0.05% formic acid (v/v). The negative control treatment (-ctrl) refers to intact roots
45
46 976 that had not been exposed to any extraction solution. As a positive control treatment
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48 977 for cell damage, wounding was inflicted prior to incubation by cutting roots with a
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50 978 razor blade. Shown are average levels of conductivity ($n = 4$, \pm SEM), relative to the
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52 979 maximum level of conductivity after tissue lysis (set at 100%). Statistically significant
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54 980 differences between treatments were determined by a Welch's F test for ranked data
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3 981 (P values indicated in the upper left corner), followed by Games-Howell post-hoc
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5 982 tests ($P < 0.05$; different letters indicate statistically significant differences).

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7 983 **(b-c)** Effects of MeOH-containing extraction solutions on viability of soil **(b)** and
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9 984 rhizosphere **(c)** microbes. Shown are average values of colony forming units (CFU)
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11 985 per g of soil for culturable soil bacteria, *Bacillus subtilis* 168 and *Pseudomonas*
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13 986 *simiae* WCS417r from extraction solution-treated soils ($n = 3$, \pm SEM). Asterisks
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15 987 indicate statistically significant differences between negative control (water-flushed
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17 988 soil) and the corresponding treatment ($P < 0.05$, Student's t -test). In all cases, only
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19 989 positive controls (*i.e.* incubation in 95% MeOH for 45 min) showed statistically
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21 990 significant differences.
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27 992 **Figure 4.** Global differences in metabolite profiles between extracts from control soil
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29 993 ('soil') and Arabidopsis soil ('plant').

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32 994 Shown are multivariate and hierarchical cluster analyses of mass spectrometry data
33
34 995 from extracts with different extraction solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Ions (m/z
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36 996 values) were obtained by UPLC-Q-TOF analysis in both positive (ESI⁺) and negative
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38 997 (ESI⁻) ionization mode. Prior to analysis, data were median-normalized, cube-root-
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40 998 transformed and Pareto-scaled.

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43 999 **(a)** Unsupervised three-dimensional principal component analysis (3D-PCA). Shown
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45 1000 in parentheses are the percentages of variation explained by each principal
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47 1001 component (PC).

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49 1002 **(b)** Cluster analysis (Pearson's correlation).

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52 1003 **(c)** Supervised partial least square discriminant analysis (PLS-DA). R^2 and Q^2 values
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54 1004 indicate correlation and predictability values of PLS-DA models, respectively.

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3 1006 **Figure 5.** Quantitative differences in metabolite abundance between extracts from
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5 1007 control soil and Arabidopsis soil.

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7 1008 (a) Volcano plots expressing statistical enrichment of ions (Welch's *t*-test) as a
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9 1009 function of fold-difference in control soil (red; 'soil') and Arabidopsis soil (green;
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11 1010 'rhizosphere'). Data shown represent positive (ESI⁺) and negative (ESI⁻) ions from
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13 1011 extractions with different solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Cut-off values were set at
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15 1012 $P < 0.01$ ($-\text{Log}_{10} = 2$) and fold-change > 2 ($\text{Log}_2 = 1$).

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18 1013 (b) Venn diagrams showing overlap in ions (cations and anions combined) that are
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20 1014 significantly different between control and Arabidopsis soil samples (left panel; $P <$
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22 1015 0.01, Welch's *t*-test; without fold-change threshold), enriched in extracts from
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24 1016 Arabidopsis soil (middle panel; > 2 -fold enrichment to soil at $P < 0.01$, Welch's *t*-
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26 1017 test), and enriched in control soil (right panel; < 2 -fold enrichment to rhizosphere at P
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28 1018 < 0.01 , Welch's *t*-test).
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34 1020 **Figure 6. Composition of putative metabolites enriched in control soil (left) or**
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36 1021 **Arabidopsis soil (right).**

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38 1022 Differentially abundant ions were selected from the top 20-ranking ions of each
39
40 1023 volcano plot (Figure 5a) and filtered for statistical significance between all
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42 1024 soil/extraction solution combinations (ANOVA with Benjamini-Hochberg FDR; $P <$
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44 1025 0.01). The resulting 76 rhizosphere-enriched ions and 75 control soil-enriched ions
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46 1026 were corrected for adducts and/or C isotopes (tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$ Da and RT = 10
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48 1027 s), and cross-referenced against publicly available databases for putative
49
50 1028 identification. A comprehensive table of all rhizosphere- and soil-enriched markers is
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52 1029 presented in Supplemental Table S1. Multiple ions putatively annotating to the same
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54 1030 metabolite were counted additively towards the metabolite classes in the pie-charts.
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3 1031 Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate as natural products in (rhizosphere)
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5 1032 soil (e.g. synthetic drugs, mammalian hormones) were not included in the final
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7 1033 selection presented. Miscellaneous: putative metabolites that do not belong to any of
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10 1034 the other metabolite classes listed. Unknown: ion markers that could not be assigned
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12 1035 to any known compound.
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16 1037 **Figure 7.** Applicability of the profiling method for maize in agricultural soil.

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18 1038 The experimental system for extracting soil chemistry was based on 50-mL collection
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20 1039 tubes filled with a mixture of agricultural soil from arable farmland and perlite (75:25,
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22 1040 v/v). Samples were extracted with the 50% MeOH (v/v) solution 17 days after
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24 1041 planting.

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27 1042 (a) Quantification of maize root damage after direct exposure to the extraction
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29 1043 solutions. Five day-old maize roots were incubated for 1 min in acidified extraction
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31 1044 solutions containing 0%, 50% or 95% MeOH (v/v) and tested for electrolytes leakage
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33 1045 by conductivity. For details, see legend to Figure 3a. Shown are average levels of
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35 1046 conductivity ($n = 4$, \pm SEM), relative to the maximum level of conductivity after tissue
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37 1047 lysis (set at 100%). Statistically significant differences between treatments were
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39 1048 determined by a Welch's F test for ranked data (P values indicated in the upper left
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41 1049 corner of each panel), followed by Games-Howell post-hoc tests ($P < 0.05$; different
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43 1050 letters indicate statistically significant differences).

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47 1051 (b) Unsupervised 3D-PCA, showing global differences in metabolic profiles between
48
49 1052 control soil (red) and maize soil (green). Shown are data from extracts with the 50%
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51 1053 MeOH (v/v) extraction solution. For further details, see legend to Figure 4.

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54 1054 (c) Volcano plots expressing statistical enrichment of ions (Welch's t -test) as a
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56 1055 function of fold-difference in control soil (red; 'soil') and maize soil (green;
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3 1056 'rhizosphere'). Cut-off values were set at $P < 0.01$ ($-\text{Log}_{10} = 2$) and fold-change > 2
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5 1057 ($\text{Log}_2 = 1$).

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7 1058 **(d) Relative composition of putative metabolite classes enriched in control soil (left)**
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10 1059 **or maize soil (right). Differentially abundant metabolites were selected from the top**
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12 1060 **50-ranking ions of each volcano plot (ESI^+ and ESI^- ; **c**), corrected for adducts and/or**
13
14 1061 **C isotopes (tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$ Da and $\text{RT} = 10$ s), and cross-referenced against**
15
16 1062 **publicly available databases for putative identification. A comprehensive table of all**
17
18 1063 **rhizosphere- and soil-enriched markers is presented in Supplemental Table S2.**
19
20 1064 **Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate as natural products in (rhizosphere)**
21
22 1065 **soil (e.g. synthetic drugs, mammalian hormones) were not included in the final**
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24 1066 **selection presented. For further details, see legend to Figure 6.**
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1069 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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36 1071 **Supplemental Figure S1.** Rarefaction curves of detected OTUs.

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38 1072 Shown are curves after removal of singletons for replicate root + rhizosphere
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40 1073 samples (green) and control soil samples (red).
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45 1075 **Supplemental Figure S2.** Relative abundance (%) of selected families in control soil
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47 1076 samples ('Soil'; red) and root + rhizosphere samples ('Root'; green) from the
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49 1077 *Arabidopsis* growth system.

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51 1078 Shown are families containing OTUs with relative abundances $> 2\%$ in one or more
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53 1079 samples. Each bar represents an individual biological replicate. NA, taxonomy not
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55 1080 available.
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5 1082 **Supplemental Figure S3.** Model of expected impacts of solvent polarity on the
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7 1083 extraction of soil metabolites.8
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10 1084 (a) Examples of solvent polarities and their impact on the type of metabolites
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12 1085 extracted. Polarity index of water, methanol (MeOH) and hexane are shown within
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14 1086 parentheses.15
16 1087 (b) Hypothesized impact of solvent polarity on cell damage of plant roots and soil
17
18 1088 microbes.19
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21 108922
23 1090 **Supplemental Figure S4.** Epi-fluorescence microscopy analysis of cell damage in
24
25 1091 Arabidopsis roots after exposure to MeOH-containing extraction solutions.26
27 1092 Transgenic roots producing the cytoplasmic aspartyl-tRNA synthase IBI1 fused to
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29 1093 YFP (*35S::IBI1:YFP*; Luna *et al.*, 2014) were incubated for 1 min in water or acidified
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31 1094 extraction solutions with increasing MeOH concentration (0, 50 or 95% MeOH, v/v +
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33 1095 0.05% formic acid, v/v). After incubation, roots were then rinsed in sterile water, and
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35 1096 analysed for YFP fluorescence. Photographs show representative examples from
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37 1097 observations of at least 12 roots for each treatment. As a positive control for cell
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39 1098 damage, roots were incubated in 100% MeOH for 15 min. The experiment was
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41 1099 performed four time with similar results. Scale bars: 50 μ m.42
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44 110045
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47 1101 **Supplemental Figure S5.** Reproducibility of differences in metabolite profiles
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49 1102 between control and Arabidopsis soil over three independent experiments.50
51 1103 Shown are unsupervised three-dimensional principal component analyses (3D-PCA)
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53 1104 from extracts by the different solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Ions (*m/z* values)
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55 1105 were obtained by UPLC-Q-TOF in positive (ESI^+ , left panels) and negative (ESI^- ,
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3 1106 right panel) ionization modes. Analysis was carried out with MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0),
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5 1107 after median normalization, cube-root transformation and Pareto scaling of data. In
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7 1108 parentheses are shown the percentages of variation explained by each principal
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9 1109 component.

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14 1111 **Supplemental Figure S6.** Binary PLS-DA analysis of metabolite profiles from
15
16 1112 control soil and Arabidopsis soil for different extraction solutions (indicated by %
17
18 1113 MeOH).

19
20
21 1114 Ions (m/z values) were obtained by UPLC-Q-TOF analysis in both positive (ESI⁺, left
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23 1115 panels) and negative (ESI⁻, right panel) ionization mode. Prior to analysis, data were
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25 1116 median-normalized, cube-root-transformed and Pareto-scaled. All R^2 (correlation)
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27 1117 and Q^2 (predictability) values of PLS-DA models were above 0.94 and 0.59,
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29 1118 respectively.

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34 1120 **Supplemental Figure S7.** Quantitative differences in detected ions (UPLC-Q-TOF)
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36 1121 between extracts from control and Arabidopsis soil.

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38 1122 (a) Total numbers of ions (top) detected in Arabidopsis soil and control soil after
39
40 1123 extraction with the different extraction solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Venn
41
42 1124 diagrams (bottom) show overlap in total ion numbers between extracts for each
43
44 1125 extraction solution.

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47 1126 (b) Venn diagrams showing overlap in cations (ESI⁺) and anions (ESI⁻) that are
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49 1127 statistically different between control and Arabidopsis soil (left panel; $P < 0.01$,
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51 1128 Welch's t -test), that are enriched in extracts from Arabidopsis soil (middle panel; > 2 -
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53 1129 fold enrichment to soil at $P < 0.01$, Welch's t -test), and that enriched are in extracts
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55 1130 from control soil (right panel; < 2 -fold enrichment to soil at $P < 0.01$, Welch's t -test).

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5 1132 **Supplemental Figure S8.** Relative quantities of selected benzoxazinoid ions in
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7 1133 extracts from maize soil and corresponding control soil.

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10 1134 Selective ions (m/z) of HBOA (2-hydroxy-4H-1,4-benzoxazin-3-one), DIBOA (2,4-
11
12 1135 dihydroxy-1,4-benzoxazin-3-one) and 2-hydroxy-7-methoxy-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-
13
14 1136 3(4H)-one were detected on the basis of retention time and m/z value, using UPLC-
15
16 1137 Q-TOF (ESI⁺, Δ ppm = 0). Charts indicate means of relative abundances ($n = 5$, \pm
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18 1138 SEM). Levels of statistical significance are indicated in red above the corresponding
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20 1139 bars (Student's t -test).

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25 1141 **Supplemental Figure S9.** Profiling distal rhizosphere chemistry.

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27 1142 (a) Experimental growth system to profile chemistry of distal rhizosphere fractions.
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29 1143 Maize was grown within nylon mesh bags inside 150-mL tubes, containing
30
31 1144 agricultural soil from arable farmland and perlite (75:25, v/v). Similar plant-free tubes
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33 1145 were constructed as controls. After 24 days of growth, chemicals were extracted with
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35 1146 the 50% MeOH solution from either the entire pot (whole soil), or the soil surrounding
36
37 1147 the root containing mesh bag after its careful removal (distal soil).

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39 1148 (b) Binary PCAs showing chemical rhizosphere effects in whole soil fractions (upper
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41 1149 panel; short + long distance influence) and distal soil fractions (lower panel; long
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43 1150 distance influence), illustrating that the rhizosphere extends beyond soil that is
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45 1151 closely associated with roots.

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47 1152 (c) Targeted quantification of DIMBOA by UPLC-Q-TOF. Shown are average ion
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49 1153 intensities (\pm SEM; $n = 6$), normalised by soil weight. Letters indicate statistically
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51 1154 significant differences between soil types (Student's t -test, $P < 0.05$).

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3 1156 **Supplemental Table S1.** Putative identities of ions enriched in Arabidopsis soil and
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5 1157 corresponding control soil.

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7 1158 ¹ Percentages indicate relative MeOH contents of the acidified extraction solutions.

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9 1159 ² *P* values are derived from ANOVA followed by false discovery rate correction
10
11 1160 (Benjamini-Hochberg).

12
13 1161 ³ Retention times (RT) and accurate *m/z* values, detected by UPLC-Q-TOF in
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15 1162 negative (-) or positive (+) ion mode.

16
17 1163 ⁴ Predicted parameters were derived from the METLIN database, using accurate *m/z*
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19 1164 values.

20
21 1165 ⁵ Putative metabolites and their corresponding pathways were validated by
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23 1166 information from the PubMed chemical database.

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25 1167 ⁶ Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate in (rhizosphere) soil.

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33 1169 **Supplemental Table S2.** Putative identities of ions enriched in maize soil and
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35 1170 corresponding control soil.

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37 1171 ¹ Fold-change between maize rhizosphere samples and control soil samples.

38
39 1172 ² *P* values are derived from Welch's *t*-test.

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41 1173 ³ Retention times (RT) and accurate *m/z* values, detected by UPLC-Q-TOF in
42
43 1174 negative (-) or positive (+) ion mode.

44
45 1175 ⁴ Predicted parameters were derived from the METLIN database, using accurate *m/z*
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47 1176 values.

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49 1177 ⁵ Putative metabolites and their corresponding pathways were validated by
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51 1178 information from the PubMed chemical database.

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53 1179 ⁶ Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate in (rhizosphere) soil.

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3 11814
5 1182 **SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS**6
7 11838
9 1184 **DNA extraction, 16S rRNA gene sequencing and analysis.**

10 1185 For microbial profiling, eight additional growth tubes were set up, as described in the

11 1186 Experimental Procedures, but were not used for the collection of chemicals. Four of

12 1187 these tubes contained one Arabidopsis plant and four contained only growth

13 1188 substrate. After 5 weeks, plants were sampled by carefully loosening the soil around

14 1189 the edges of the growth tube, pulling up the roots and removing excess soil by

15 1190 shaking. Soil samples were also taken from the tubes without plants, using a sterile

16 1191 spatula and avoiding surface material. DNA was extracted from the resulting

17 1192 samples consisting of either roots covered in their closely adhering soil (root plus

18 1193 rhizosphere samples), or only soil (control soil), using a PowerSoil DNA extraction kit

19 1194 (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's

20 1195 instructions. Partial prokaryotic 16S rRNA genes were amplified from this extract,

21 1196 using primers 799F and 1193R (Chelius and Triplett, 2001; Bodenhausen *et al.*,

22 1197 2013), which were modified to include the Illumina overhang adapter nucleotide

23 1198 sequences (adapters shown in normal typeface, locus specific primers in bold letter

24 1199 font):

25 1200 799F:

26 1201 TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAG**AACMGGATTAGATACCKG**

27 1202 1193R:

28 1203 GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAG**ACGTCATCCCCACCTTCC**.29 1204
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3 1205 PCRs were carried out, using 0.4 U of KAPA HiFi HotStart DNA polymerase (Kapa
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5 1206 Biosystems Ltd, London, UK) on 2 μ L of DNA extract in the presence of 2.5 mM
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7 1207 $MgCl_2$, 1.2 mM deoxynucleoside triphosphates (dNTPs), 0.2 μ M of each primer, and
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10 1208 the manufacturer's reaction buffer in a total reaction volume of 20 μ L (PCR
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12 1209 conditions: 95 °C for 3 min; 25 cycles at 95 °C for 30 s, 58 °C for 30 s and 72 °C for
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14 1210 30 s; and 72 °C for 5 min). To reduce PCR bias, the PCR was performed in triplicate
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16 1211 and amplicons were pooled. A sequencing library was constructed by cleaning up
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18 1212 pooled PCR products, using AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter (UK) Ltd, High
19
20 1213 Wycomb, UK), followed by attachment of dual indices and Illumina sequencing
21
22 1214 adapters, using the Nextera XT Index Kit (Illumina Inc. Essex UK) and following the
23
24 1215 manufacturer's instructions. The indexed PCR products were cleaned using AMPure
25
26 1216 XP beads and sequencing was performed using a paired end 2 x 250 bp cycle kit v2
27
28 1217 on a MiSeq machine running v2 chemistry (Illumina Inc, at The Genome Analysis
29
30 1218 Centre, Norwich, UK). Raw sequencing data were deposited in the European
31
32 1219 Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under accession number PRJEB17782. Sequences were
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34 1220 analysed by USEARCH (Edgar, 2010) and Qiime pipelines (Caporaso *et al.*, 2010a).
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36 1221 Sequences were filtered using USEARCH, retaining those with a maxEE value of 1
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38 1222 (equivalent to 1 in 1,000 errors) and 251 bp long. Chimeras were detected using
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40 1223 UCHIME (Edgar *et al.*, 2011), using both reference based and *de novo* detection
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42 1224 methods. After selection of OTUs by USEARCH (97% similarity), the representative
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44 1225 sequences were aligned to the Greengenes 13_8 core reference alignment
45
46 1226 (DeSantis *et al.* 2006) using PyNAST (Caporaso *et al.*, 2010b). All other steps
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48 1227 leading to the generation of OTU abundance tables were performed using Qiime. All
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50 1228 statistical analyses of community data were performed using the R programming
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52 1229 language (R Development Core Team, 2016; <https://www.R-project.org/>) and with
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3 1230 the packages phyloseq (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013), vegan
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5 1231 (<https://github.com/vegandevs/vegan>) and DESeq2 (Love *et al.*, 2014).
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10 1233 **Quantification of plant tissue damage by electrolytes leakage.**

11 1234 Tissue damage by the acidified extraction solutions was quantified by conductivity of
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13 1235 cell electrolytes leakage, as described previously (Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b). For
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15 1236 *Arabidopsis*, roots were collected from plants cultivated in half strength Murashige-
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17 1237 Skoog, solidified with 0.8% Phytigel (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) and adjusted to pH 5.8.
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19 1238 Root replicates consisted of one intact root system from 2-week-old plants, which
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21 1239 was removed carefully from the agar medium. For maize, roots were collected from
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23 1240 surface sterilised seeds, germinated and grown for five days on wetted filter paper in
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25 1241 sealed petri-dishes. Tissues were incubated for 1 min in 10 mL of different acidified
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27 1242 extraction solutions, containing 0.05% formic acid (v/v) and 0%, 50% or 95%
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29 1243 methanol (v/v). As a negative control, tissues were incubated in double-distilled
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31 1244 sterile water. As a positive control for cell damage, tissues were wounded prior to
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33 1245 extraction solution incubation by cutting roots into 10 pieces with a razor blade.
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35 1246 Directly after incubation, tissues were rinsed in double-distilled sterile water, then
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37 1247 transferred into glass bottles containing 5 mL of double-distilled sterile water, and
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39 1248 subsequently agitated at room temperature for 2 hours on an orbital shaker (200
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41 1249 rpm). Conductivity was then measured in the balanced solution, using a CMD 500
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43 1250 WPA conductivity meter. Subsequently, all samples were boiled for 30 min and re-
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45 1251 measured for conductivity of lysed tissue. Cell damage was expressed as the
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47 1252 average level of conductivity, relative to the maximum level of conductivity after
48
49 1253 tissue lysis (set at 100%). Each treatment was based on 4 replicated samples ($n =$
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51 1254 4). Data were analysed in IBM SPSS (v. 22), using a Welch's F test for ranked data,
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3 1255 followed by Games-Howell tests to assess individual differences ($P < 0.05$). The
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5 1256 experiments were repeated three times with similar results.
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10 1258 **Analysis of microscopic root cell damage by extraction solutions.**

11 1259 Transgenic Arabidopsis plants (Col-0) expressing the *35S::IBI1::YFP* construct,
12
13 1260 encoding the cytoplasmic aspartyl-tRNA synthetase IBI1 with a C-terminal fusion to
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15 1261 Yellow Fluorescent Protein (Luna *et al.*, 2014; *35S::IBI1::YFP*), were cultivated for
16
17 1262 two weeks (8.5/15.5 h light/dark at 21/19 °C, 120 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ photons, 70% relative
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19 1263 humidity) on half strength Murashige-Skoog agar plates, solidified with 0.8%
20
21 1264 Phytigel (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) and adjusted to pH 5.8. Roots were extracted carefully
22
23 1265 form agar plates, and incubated for 1 min in the acidified MeOH-containing extraction
24
25 1266 solutions (0, 50, 95% MeOH with 0.05% formic acid, v/v). As negative and positive
26
27 1267 controls for cell damage, roots were incubated for 1 min in double-distilled sterile
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29 1268 water, or for 15 min in 100% MeOH, respectively. After incubation, roots were rinsed
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31 1269 in double-distilled sterile water prior to epi-fluorescence microscopy analysis.
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33 1270 Fluorescence was observed using an epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus BX51,
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35 1271 excitation filter BP 470/40 nm, barrier filter BP 525/50 nm). For each treatment, root
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37 1272 systems from 12 different plants were analysed and photos were taken of
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39 1273 representative samples. The experiment was performed four times with similar
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41 1274 results.
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50 1276 **Analysis of impacts on soil and rhizosphere bacteria by extraction solutions.**

51 1277 Tubes (30 mL; $n = 3$) containing the sand:compost mixture (9:1 v/v) with or without 5-
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53 1278 week-old Arabidopsis were left untreated, or were bacterized by syringe injection
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55 1279 with 5 mL of 10 mM MgSO_4 , containing either YFP-expressing *P. simiae* WCS417r
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3 1280 (Zamioudis *et al.*, 2014), or rifampicin-resistant *B. subtilis* 168 (Yi *et al.*, 2016), to a
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5 1281 final density of 10^7 colony CFU g^{-1} . After 48 h, tubes were flushed with extraction
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7 1282 solution (as detailed in Experimental procedures). Additional tubes were flushed with
8
9 1283 double-distilled sterile water (control), or 95% MeOH and left for 45 min (positive
10
11 1284 control for cell damage). Subsequently, 1 g of either control soil (without roots), or
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13 1285 *Arabidopsis* roots plus adhering rhizosphere soil, was sampled from the tubes,
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15 1286 suspended for 5 min into 50 mL of 10 mM $MgSO_4$, and centrifuged (5 min, 3,500 g).
16
17 1287 Pellets were re-suspended in 1 mL of 10 mM $MgSO_4$, and subjected to dilution
18
19 1288 plating onto Luria Broth (LB) agar medium supplemented with $5 \mu g mL^{-1}$ of the anti-
20
21 1289 fungal cycloheximide. For testing impacts on culturable soil bacteria, LB agar
22
23 1290 contained no further antibiotics; for testing impacts on *P. simiae* WCS417r and *B.*
24
25 1291 *subtilis* 168, plates were supplemented with $5 \mu g mL^{-1}$ tetracycline + $25 \mu g mL^{-1}$
26
27 1292 rifampicin and $50 \mu g mL^{-1}$ rifampicin, respectively. Plates were kept for 24 - 48 h at
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29 1293 $28^\circ C$. Each biologically replicated sample was plated four times, after which the
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31 1294 technical replicates were averaged to minimize confounding effects of heterogeneity
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33 1295 in suspended pellets. Experiments were repeated twice with comparable results.
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1297 **UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry.**

1298 Untargeted metabolic profiling by UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry (MS) was
1299 performed as described previously (Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016b) using an ACQUITY ultra-
1300 high-pressure liquid chromatography (UPLC) system coupled to a SYNAPT G2 Q-
1301 TOF mass spectrometer with an electrospray (ESI) ionization source (Waters, UK).
1302 The system was controlled by MassLynx v. 4.1 software (Waters). Chromatographic
1303 separation of samples was carried out at a flow rate of $0.4 mL min^{-1}$ using an
1304 ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 column ($2.1 \times 50 mm$, $1.7 \mu m$, Waters) coupled to a C18

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3 1305 VanGuard pre-column (2.1 x 5 mm, 1.7 μm , Waters). The mobile phase consisted of
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5 1306 solvent A (0.05 %, formic acid v/v, in water) and solvent B (0.05 % formic acid v/v in
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7 1307 acetonitrile) with the following gradient: 0 – 3 min 5 – 35 % B, 3 – 6 min 35 – 100 %
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9 1308 B, holding at 100 % B for 2 min, 8 – 10 min, 100 – 5 % B. The column was
10
11 1309 maintained at 45 °C and the injection volume was 10 μL . Between each condition, a
12
13 1310 blank was injected with 50% methanol (v/v) to clean the column. Sample runs in
14
15 1311 negative and positive ionization mode (ESI^- and ESI^+) were separated by two
16
17 1312 consecutive injections with 50% methanol (v/v) to allow stabilization of the ionization
18
19 1313 modes. An ACQUITY PDA detector (Waters) was used to monitor the UV trace
20
21 1314 (range 205 – 400 nm, sampling rate 40 points s^{-1} , resolution 1.2 nm). MS detection
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23 1315 of ions was operated in sensitivity mode by SYNAPT G2 (50 - 1200 Da, scan time =
24
25 1316 0.2 s) in both ESI^- and ESI^+ , using a full MS scan (*i.e.* no collision energy) and
26
27 1317 applying the MS^E function with a ramp in the transfer cell in elevated energy mode (5
28
29 1318 to 45 eV). The following conditions were applied for ESI^- (capillary voltage - 3 kV,
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31 1319 sampling cone voltage - 25 V, extraction cone voltage -4.5 V, source temperature
32
33 1320 120 °C, desolvation temperature 350 °C, desolvation gas flow 800 L h^{-1} , cone gas
34
35 1321 flow 60 L h^{-1}), and for ESI^+ (capillary voltage 3.5 kV, sampling cone voltage 25 V,
36
37 1322 extraction cone voltage 4.5 V, source temperature 120 °C, desolvation temperature
38
39 1323 350 °C, desolvation gas flow 800 L h^{-1} , cone gas flow 60 L h^{-1}). Prior to analyses, the
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41 1324 Q-TOF was calibrated by infusing a sodium formate solution. Accurate mass
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43 1325 detection was ensured by infusing the internal lockmass reference peptide leucine
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45 1326 enkephalin during each run.
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1328 **Statistical analysis of MS data.**

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3 1329 Prior to multivariate analyses, the XCMS R package (v. 3.1.3; Smith *et al.*, 2006)
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5 1330 was used to align and integrate raw UPLC-Q-TOF peaks, to correct for total ion
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7 1331 current (TIC) and median fold-change. All statistical analyses were performed with
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9 1332 median-normalized, cube-root-transformed and Pareto-scaled data, using
10
11 1333 MetaboAnalyst software (v. 3.0, <http://www.metaboanalyst.ca>; Xia *et al.*, 2015).
12
13 1334 Three-dimensional principal component analyses (3D-PCA) were based on the first
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15 1335 three principal components (PCs) that explain most variation of the dataset.
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17 1336 Supervised partial least square discriminant analyses (PLS-DAs) were conducted to
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19 1337 quantify discriminative power between soil types and extraction solutions. PLS-DA
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21 1338 models were validated by correlation (R^2) and predictability (Q^2) parameters for both
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23 1339 ESI^+ and ESI^- modes ($R^2 > 0.94$ and $Q^2 > 0.59$, respectively). Numbers of total ions
24
25 1340 were obtained from XCMS output datasets. To quantify metabolic differences
26
27 1341 between rhizosphere and control soil, volcano plots were constructed at a
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29 1342 statistically significant threshold of $P < 0.01$ (Welch's *t*-test) and a fold-difference
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31 1343 threshold of 2, using MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0, <http://www.metaboanalyst.ca>; Xia *et al.*,
32
33 1344 2015). To obtain putative identities of a combined set of ions from all three extraction
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35 1345 solutions that are either enriched in Arabidopsis soil, or its corresponding control soil,
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37 1346 the top-20 ranking ions from each volcano plot were selected by fold-change (above
38
39 1347 2 or below -2) and P value, followed by an ANOVA ($P < 0.01$) for statistical
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41 1348 differences between all soil/extraction solution combinations, using a Benjamini-
42
43 1349 Hochberg false discovery rate (FDR) correction for multiple hypothesis testing
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45 1350 (Hochberg and Benjamini, 1990). To obtain putative identities from the 50% MeOH
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47 1351 extraction solution that are either enriched in the maize rhizosphere, or
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49 1352 corresponding control soil, the top-50 ranking ions from each volcano plot (ESI^+ and
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51 1353 ESI^-) were selected. For both cultivation systems, ions were corrected for adducts
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3 1354 and/or isotopes, using MarVis (v. 1.0; <http://marvis.gobics.de>; tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$
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5 1355 Da, RT = 10 s; Kaefer *et al.*, 2012). Putative metabolites were identified by
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7 1356 referencing the final set of detected accurate m/z values against publicly available
8
9 1357 chemical databases using METLIN, PubChem, MassBank, Lipid Bank, ChemSpider,
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11 1358 Kegg, AraCyc and MetaCyc database, as documented in several studies (Kaefer *et*
12
13 1359 *al.*, 2009; Kaefer *et al.*, 2012; Gamir *et al.*, 2014a, 2014b; Pastor *et al.*, 2014;
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15 1360 Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b). METLIN (<https://metlin.scripps.edu>) was used to
16
17 1361 determine accuracy and chemical formulae for the putative compounds. PubChem
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19 1362 (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) was used to check the predicted pathway
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21 1363 classification. In cases where multiple ions could be annotated to the same putative
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23 1364 metabolite (due to different adducts and ionization modes; Tables S1 and S2), they
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25 1365 were counted additively to the metabolite class presented in the pie-charts of Figures
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27 1366 6 and 7.
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1368 **Experimental system for profiling distant rhizosphere fractions.**

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35 1369 To investigate whether the chemical influence of the rhizosphere extends beyond
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37 1370 soil that is closely associated with roots, maize plants were grown in mesh bags,
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39 1371 which allowed for physical separation of root systems from the distal soil in the
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41 1372 periphery of the growth tube. Bags were constructed from a nylon mesh (35 μm
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43 1373 diameter holes), folded over and heat sealed to produce bags (6 cm x 11 cm,
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45 1374 approximate diameter when filled = 3.5 cm). These bags were filled with 85 cm^3 of a
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47 1375 mixture of 75:25 (v/v) agricultural soil:perlite, as used previously for maize
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49 1376 experiments. Each mesh bag was placed into the centre of the 150-mL plastic tube
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51 1377 (11 cm high and 5 cm diameter; Starlab) with a miracloth sheet covering the bottom
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53 1378 hole of the tube. Seventy cm^3 of the same soil substrate was used to fill the
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3 1379 peripheral space between the mesh bag and tube wall. A total of 24 pots were set up
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5 1380 in this manner. Pre-germinated maize seeds (W22) were planted into the bags of 12
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7 1381 tubes. The other 12 tubes were left unplanted to serve as plant-free controls. All
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9 1382 tubes were wrapped in foil and covered with black plastic beads to prevent algal
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11 1383 growth. Sixty mL of distilled water was added to each tube to saturate the soil with
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13 1384 water before seeds were planted, after which all pots were transferred to a growth
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15 1385 cabinet with the following conditions: 16/8 h light/dark with an average light intensity
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17 1386 of $140 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ at the top of the collection tubes, a relative humidity of 60%, and
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19 1387 a constant temperature of 20 °C. Soil metabolites were extracted from the different
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21 1388 soil fractions after 24 days of growth. To collect metabolites from the distal soil
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23 1389 fractions, black beads were removed, and mesh bags were carefully removed from
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25 1390 half of the pots (6 tubes with maize and 6 without). The remaining distal soil in the
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27 1391 tube (*i.e.* the soil that had been outside the bag) was tapped to the bottom of the
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29 1392 150-mL tubes and extracted by applying 25 mL of acidified 50% (v/v) MeOH to the
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31 1393 top of the soil. The solution was flushed through the tube by applying pressure for 1
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33 1394 min through a modified 150-mL tube lid containing a 50-mL syringe, until ~10 mL of
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35 1395 solution was collected from the base of the tube into new 50-mL tubes. To collect
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37 1396 metabolites from the whole soil fractions, plastic beads were removed from the
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39 1397 remaining 12 pots and maize shoots were cut from the 6 that contained plants.
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41 1398 Subsequently, 50 mL of acidified 50% MeOH (v/v) was applied to the top of the tube,
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43 1399 keeping the mesh bags in place. The solution was flushed through by applying
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45 1400 pressure for 1 min using the modified lid, as previously described, resulting in a least
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47 1401 10 mL of collection volume at the base of the tube. All extracts were centrifuged to
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49 1402 pellet soil residues (5 min, 3,500 g), after which 8 mL of supernatant were
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51 1403 transferred into a new 15-mL centrifuge tube and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. All
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3 1404 samples were freeze-dried for two days, after which dried material was re-
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5 1405 suspended in 500 μ L of methanol: water: formic acid (50: 49.9: 0.1, v/v/v), sonicated
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7 1406 at 4 °C for 20 min, vortexed, transferred into 2-mL microtubes and centrifuged (15
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9 1407 min, 14,000 g, 4 °C). Final supernatants (180 μ L) were transferred into glass vials
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11 1408 containing a glass insert before injection through the UPLC system. UPLC-Q-TOF
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13 1409 analysis was conducted in ESI⁻ as described above. For DIMBOA targeted
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15 1410 quantitation, a purified and NMR-verified standard (Ahmad *et al.*, 2011) was run
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17 1411 alongside the samples. Metabolomics data were normalised for soil amount ($n = 6$),
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19 1412 and subsequent analysis performed with MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0), as described above
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22 1413 (*i.e.* median normalisation, cube-root transformation, Pareto scaling).
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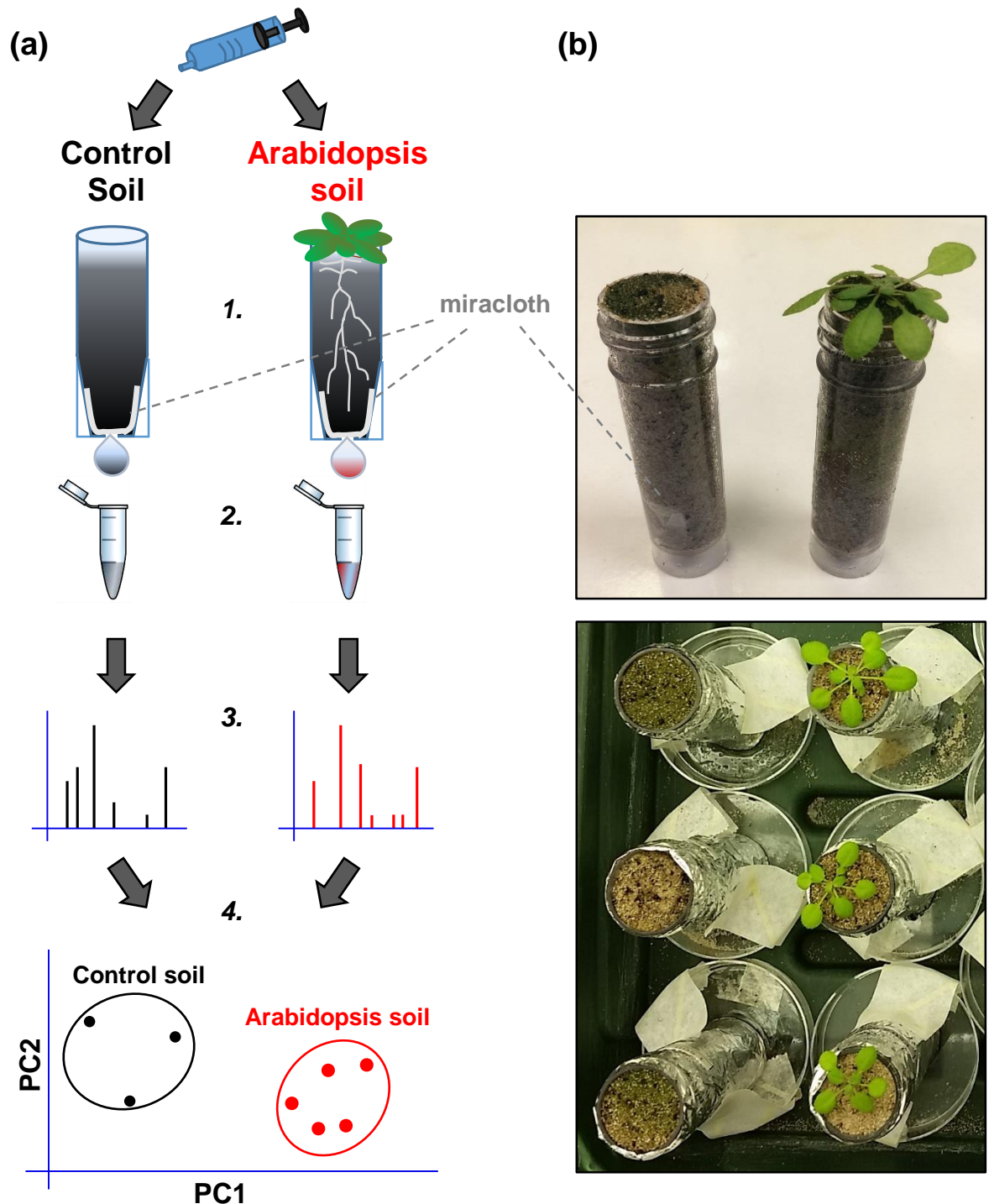


Figure 1. Experimental growth system and analytical approach for comprehensive chemical profiling of non-sterile rhizosphere soil.

(a) 1. Collection tubes (30 mL) with bottom holes (7 mm) covered by miracloth were filled with a sand:compost mixture 9:1 (v/v) and wrapped in aluminium foil to prevent excess algal growth. Individual *Arabidopsis* plants (Col-0) were grown for 5 weeks in tubes. Additional tubes containing control soil without plants were maintained under similar conditions. 2. After application of 5 mL of extraction solution, metabolite samples were collected for 1 min, centrifuged and freeze-dried. 3. Concentrated samples were analysed by ultra-high-pressure liquid chromatography coupled to quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (UPLC-Q-TOF). 4. Multi- and univariate statistical methods were used to determine qualitative and quantitative differences between extracts from control soil and *Arabidopsis* soil. Selection of ions by statistical difference and fold-change between soil types enabled putative identification of metabolites that were enriched in non-sterile rhizosphere soil.

(b) Photographs of the experimental system. Top: tubes after 4.5 weeks of growth. Bottom: tubes after 3 weeks of growth taped onto petri-dishes to prevent cross contamination of metabolites and microbes.

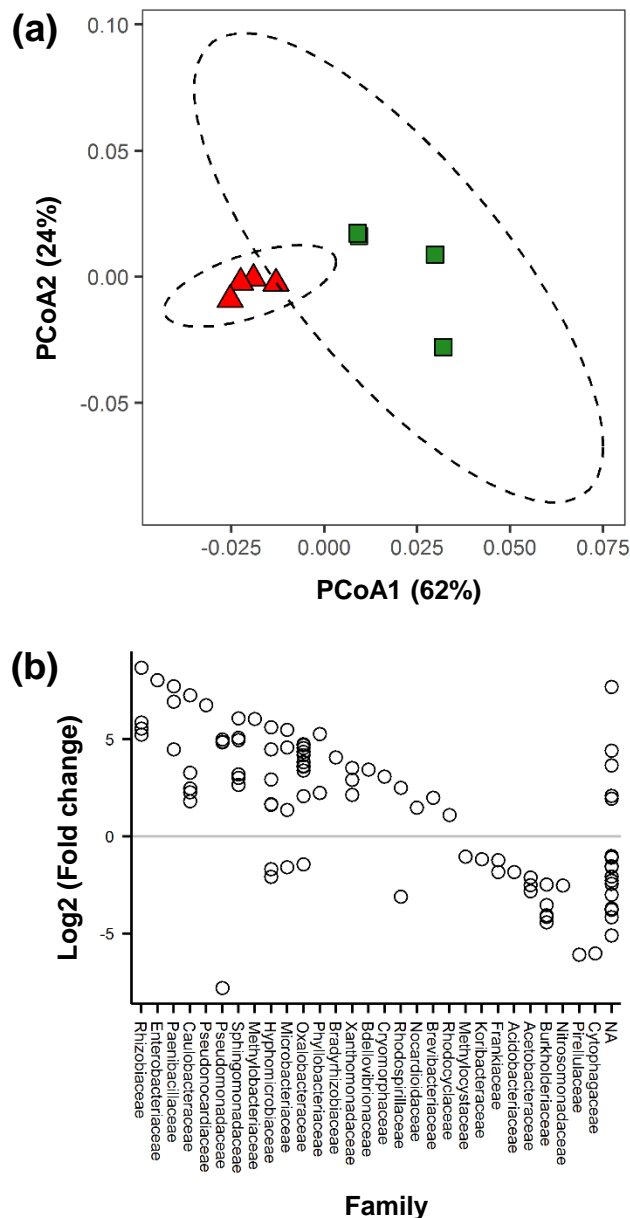


Figure 2. Rhizosphere effect by Arabidopsis in the cultivation system based on 16S rRNA gene sequencing.

Shown are comparisons of bacterial communities between samples from control soil (without roots) and root samples plus adhering rhizosphere soil.

(a) Principal coordinate analysis of OTUs in root + rhizosphere samples (red) and control soil samples (green). Ordinations were performed using weighted Unifrac distances. PERMANOVA analysis showed that the root and control soil samples differed significantly ($P = 0.023$).

(b) OTUs that differ in relative abundance between root + rhizosphere samples and control soil samples. OTUs with positive fold changes are more abundant in the root plus rhizosphere samples than control samples. Results are plotted by family for OTUs that showed a significant difference in abundance as calculated using DESeq2, corrected for false discovery. Only OTUs which have a mean count ≥ 20 are shown for clarity. NA, taxonomy not available.

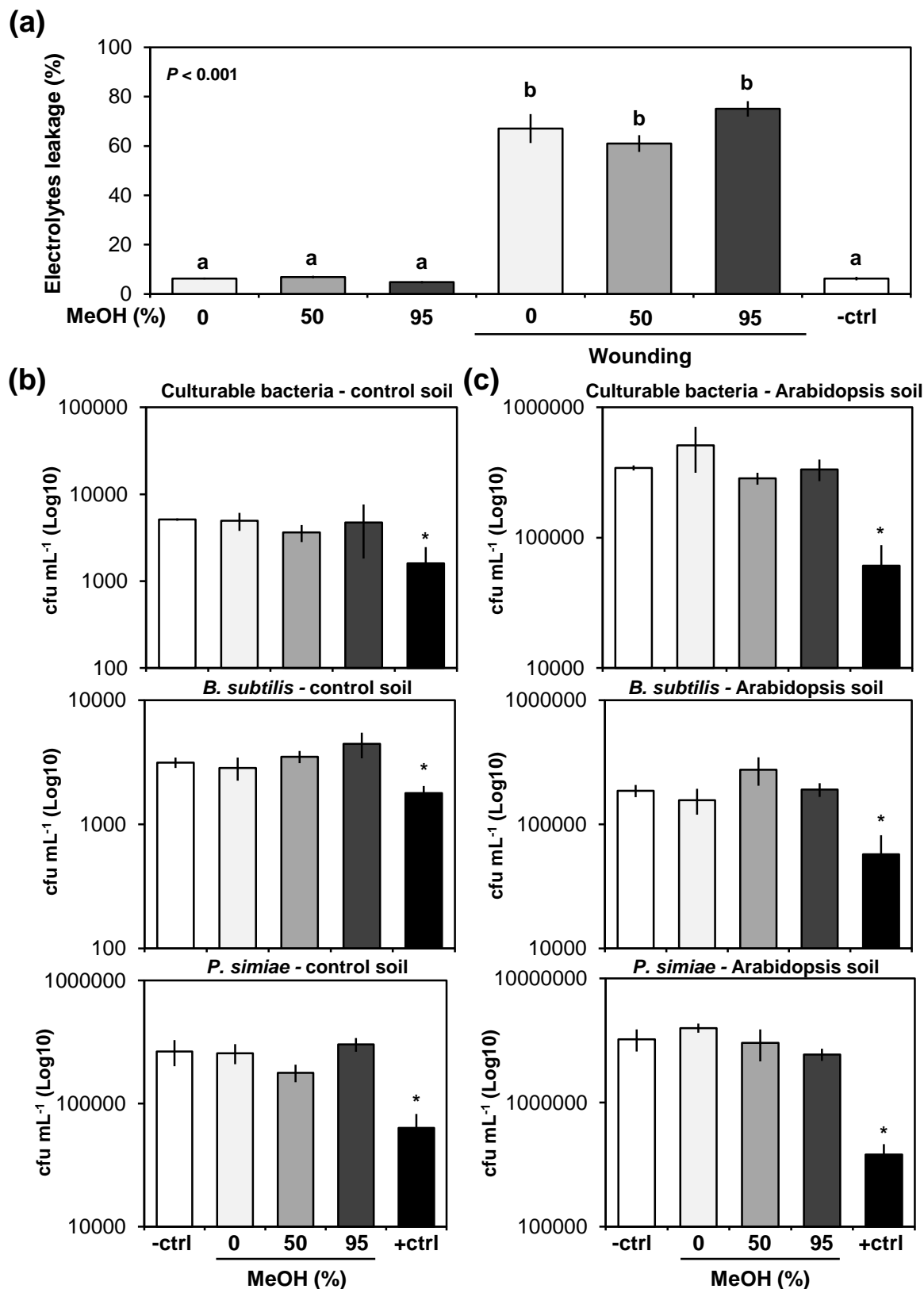
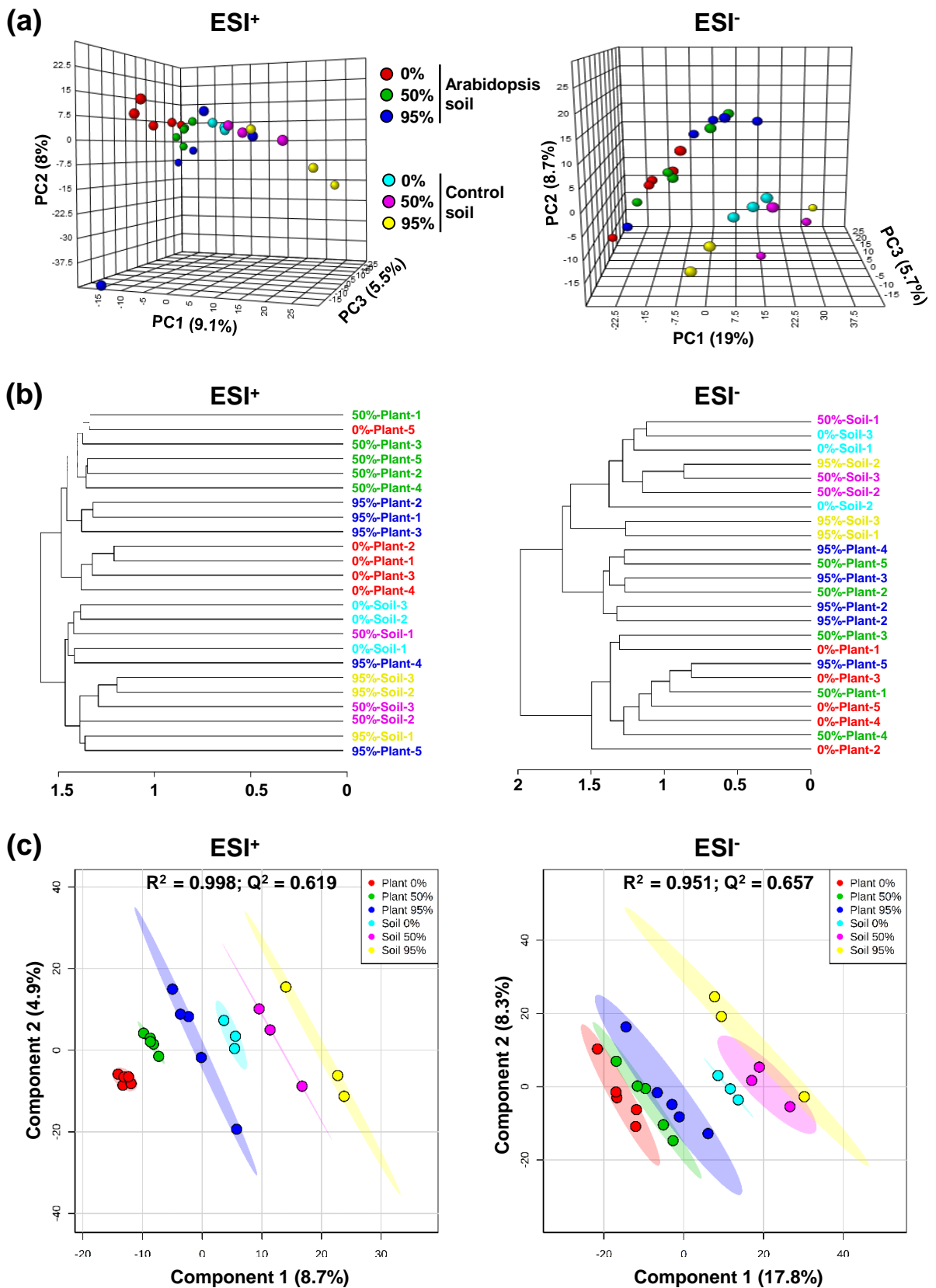


Figure 3. Effects of methanol (MeOH)-containing extraction solutions on electrolytes leakage from Arabidopsis roots (a) and viability of soil microbes (b, c).

(a) Quantification of electrolytes leakage from Arabidopsis roots after incubation for 1 min in acidified extraction solutions containing 0%, 50% or 95% MeOH (v/v) and 0.05% formic acid (v/v). The negative control treatment (-ctrl) refers to intact roots that had not been exposed to any extraction solution. As a positive control treatment for cell damage, wounding was inflicted prior to incubation by cutting roots with a razor blade. Shown are average levels of conductivity ($n = 4$, \pm SEM), relative to the maximum level of conductivity after tissue lysis (set at 100%). Statistically significant differences between treatments were determined by a Welch's F test for ranked data (P values indicated in the upper left corner), followed by Games-Howell post-hoc tests ($P < 0.05$; different letters indicate statistically significant differences).

(b-c) Effects of MeOH-containing extraction solutions on viability of soil (b) and rhizosphere (c) microbes. Shown are average values of colony forming units (CFU) per g of soil for culturable soil bacteria, *Bacillus subtilis* 168 and *Pseudomonas simiae* WCS417r from extraction solution-treated soils ($n = 3$, \pm SEM). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between negative control (water-flushed soil) and the corresponding treatment ($P < 0.05$, Student's *t*-test). In all cases, only positive controls (i.e. incubation in 95% MeOH for 45 min) showed statistically significant differences.



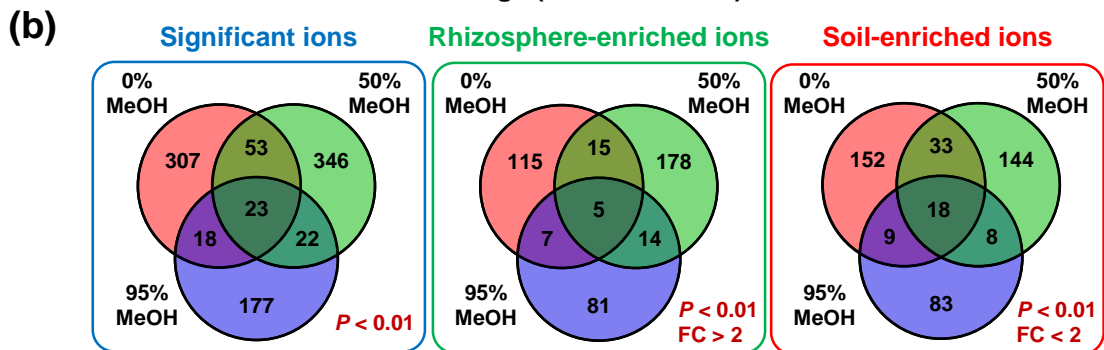
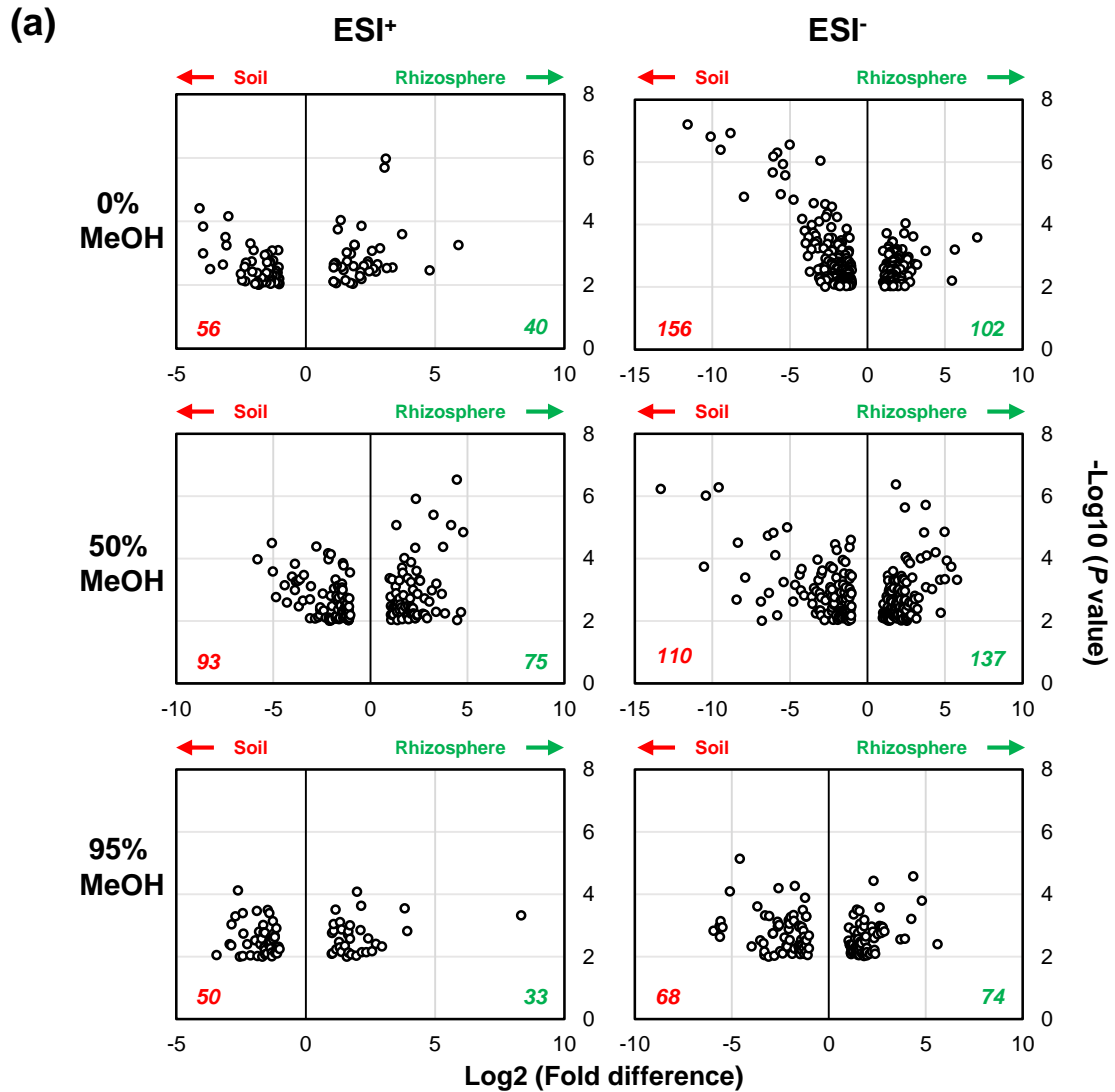


Figure 5. Quantitative differences in metabolite abundance between extracts from control soil and Arabidopsis soil.

(a) Volcano plots expressing statistical enrichment of ions (Welch's *t*-test) as a function of fold-difference in control soil (red; 'soil') and Arabidopsis soil (green; 'rhizosphere'). Data shown represent positive (ESI⁺) and negative (ESI⁻) ions from extractions with different solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Cut-off values were set at $P < 0.01$ ($-\text{Log}_{10} = 2$) and fold-change > 2 ($\text{Log}_2 = 1$).

(b) Venn diagrams showing overlap in ions (cations and anions combined) that are significantly different between control and Arabidopsis soil samples (left panel; $P < 0.01$, Welch's *t*-test; without fold-change threshold), enriched in extracts from Arabidopsis soil (middle panel; > 2 -fold enrichment to soil at $P < 0.01$, Welch's *t*-test), and enriched in control soil (right panel; < 2 -fold enrichment to rhizosphere at $P < 0.01$, Welch's *t*-test).

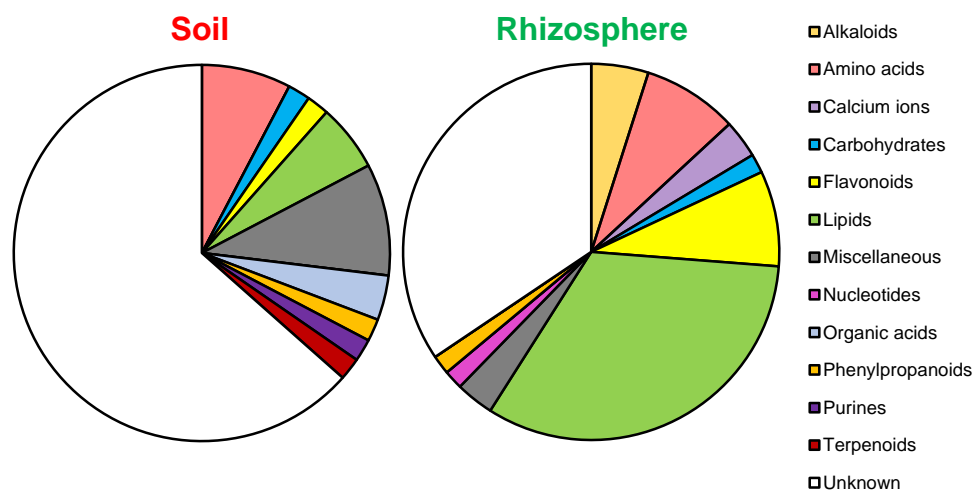


Figure 6. Composition of putative metabolite classes enriched in control soil (left) or Arabidopsis soil (right).

Differentially abundant ions were selected from the top 20-ranking ions of each volcano plot (Figure 5a) and filtered for statistical significance between all soil/extraction solution combinations (ANOVA with Benjamini-Hochberg FDR; $P < 0.01$). The resulting 76 rhizosphere-enriched ions and 75 control soil-enriched ions were corrected for adducts and/or C isotopes (tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$ Da and RT = 10 s), and cross-referenced against publicly available databases for putative identification. A comprehensive table of all rhizosphere- and soil-enriched markers is presented in Supplemental Table S1. Multiple ions putatively annotating to the same metabolite were counted additively towards the metabolite classes in the pie-charts. Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate as natural products in (rhizosphere) soil (e.g. synthetic drugs, mammalian hormones) were not included in the final selection presented. Miscellaneous: putative metabolites that do not belong to any of the other metabolite classes listed. Unknown: ion markers that could not be assigned to any known compound.

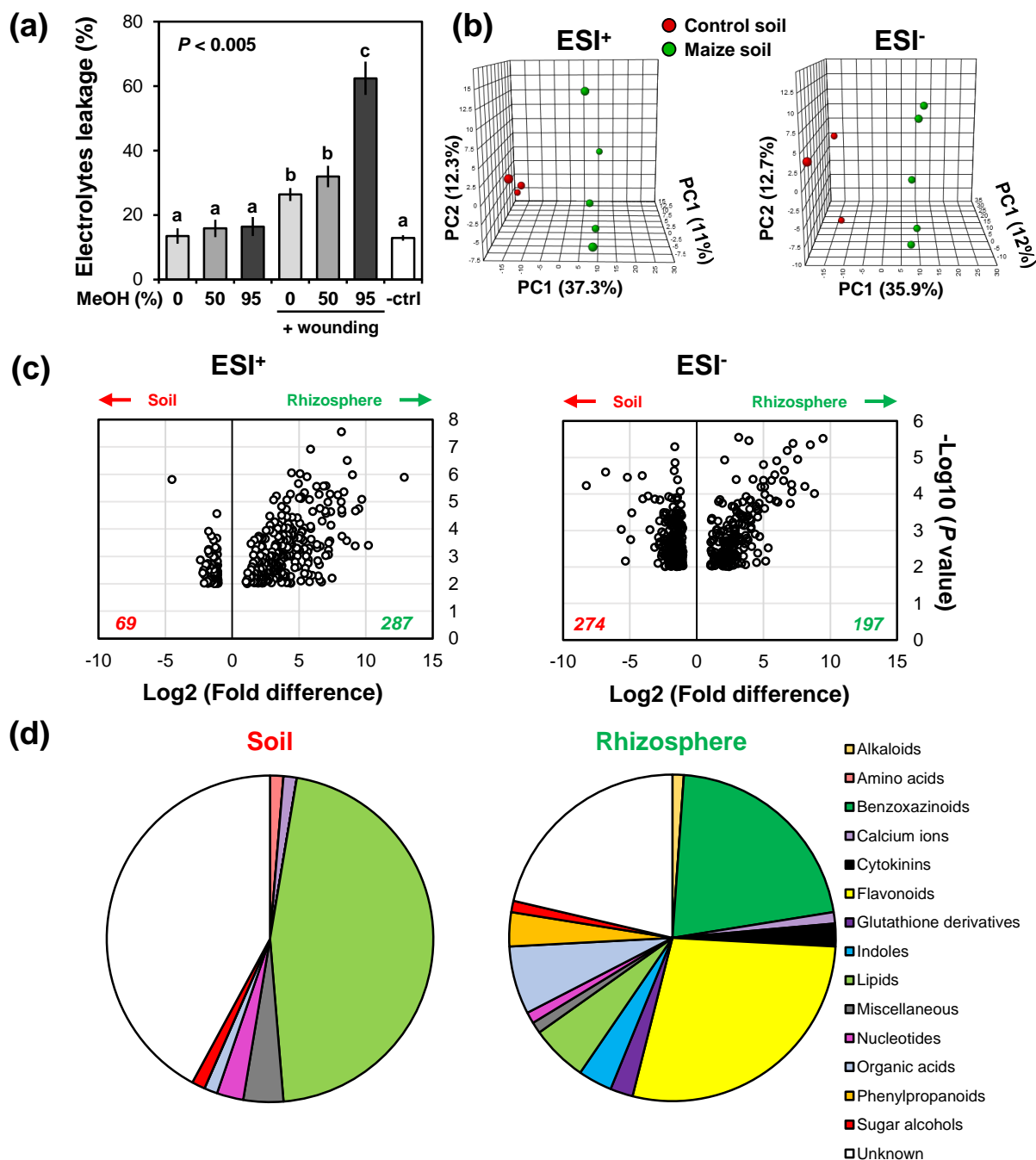


Figure 7. Applicability of the profiling method for maize in agricultural soil.

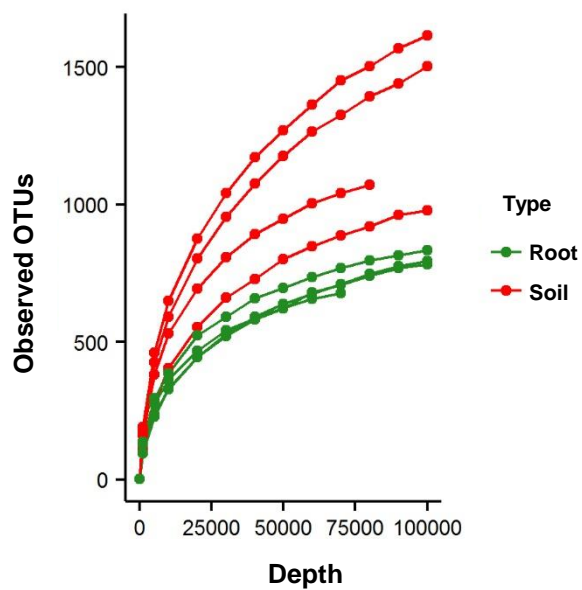
The experimental system for extracting soil chemistry was based on 50-mL collection tubes filled with a mixture of agricultural soil from arable farmland and perlite (75:25, v/v). Samples were extracted with the 50% MeOH (v/v) solution 17 days after planting.

(a) Quantification of maize root damage after direct exposure to the extraction solutions. Five day-old maize roots were incubated for 1 min in acidified extraction solutions containing 0%, 50% or 95% MeOH (v/v) and tested for electrolytes leakage by conductivity. For details, see legend to Figure 3a. Shown are average levels of conductivity ($n = 4$, \pm SEM), relative to the maximum level of conductivity after tissue lysis (set at 100%). Statistically significant differences between treatments were determined by a Welch's F test for ranked data (P values indicated in the upper left corner of each panel), followed by Games-Howell post-hoc tests ($P < 0.05$; different letters indicate statistically significant differences).

(b) Unsupervised 3D-PCA, showing global differences in metabolic profiles between control soil (red) and maize soil (green). Shown are data from extracts with the 50% MeOH (v/v) extraction solution. For further details, see legend to Figure 4.

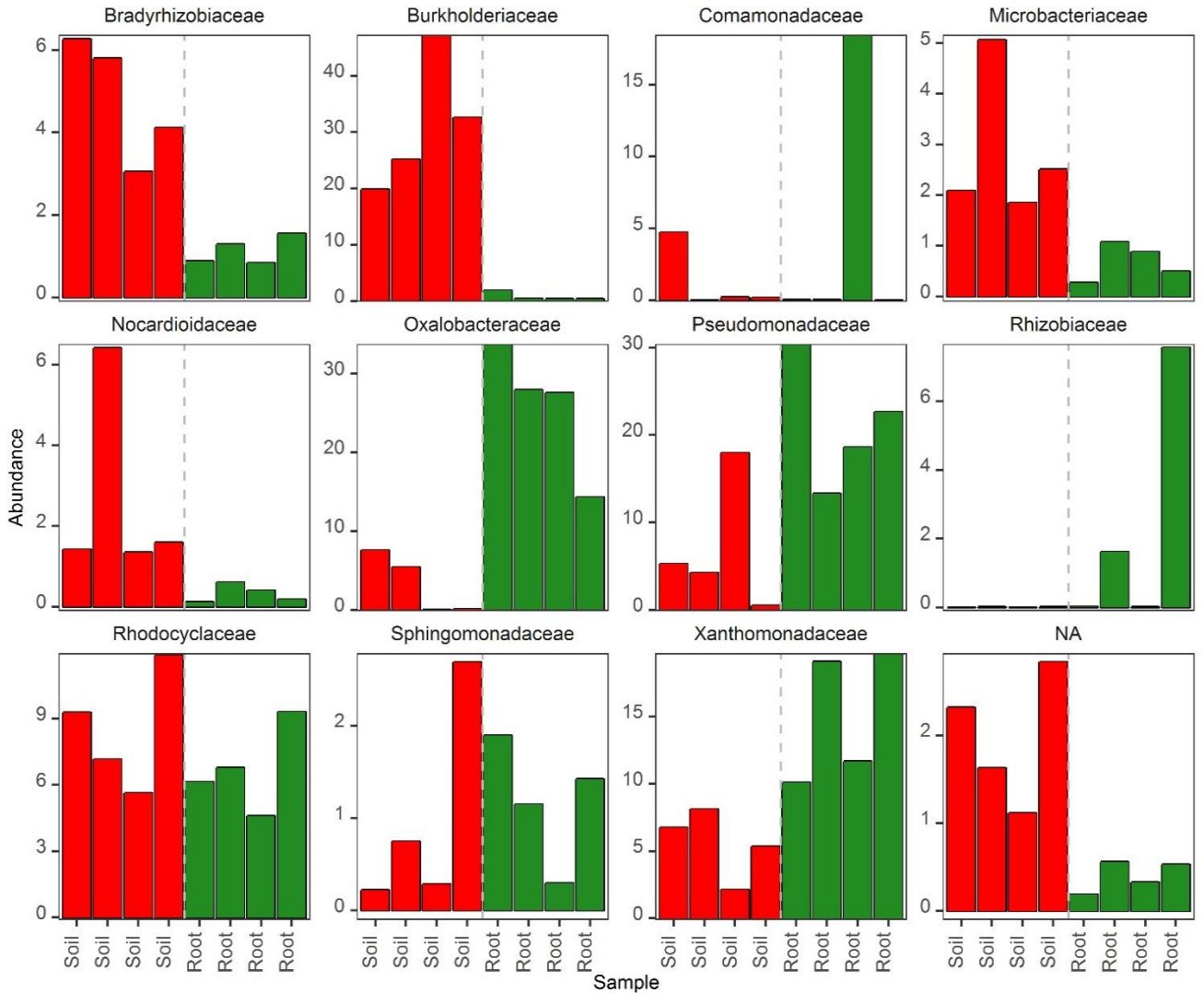
(c) Volcano plots expressing statistical enrichment of ions (Welch's t -test) as a function of fold-difference in control soil (red; 'soil') and maize soil (green; 'rhizosphere'). Cut-off values were set at $P < 0.01$ ($-\text{Log}_{10} = 2$) and fold-change > 2 ($\text{Log}_2 = 1$).

(d) Relative composition of putative metabolite classes enriched in enriched in control soil (left) or maize soil (right). Differentially abundant metabolites were selected from the top 50-ranking ions of each volcano plot (ESI+ and ESI-; c), corrected for adducts and/or C isotopes (tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$ Da and RT = 10 s), and cross-referenced against publicly available databases for putative identification. A comprehensive table of all rhizosphere- and soil-enriched markers is presented in Supplemental Table S2. Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate as natural products in (rhizosphere) soil (e.g. synthetic drugs, mammalian hormones) were not included in the final selection presented. For further details, see legend to Figure 6.



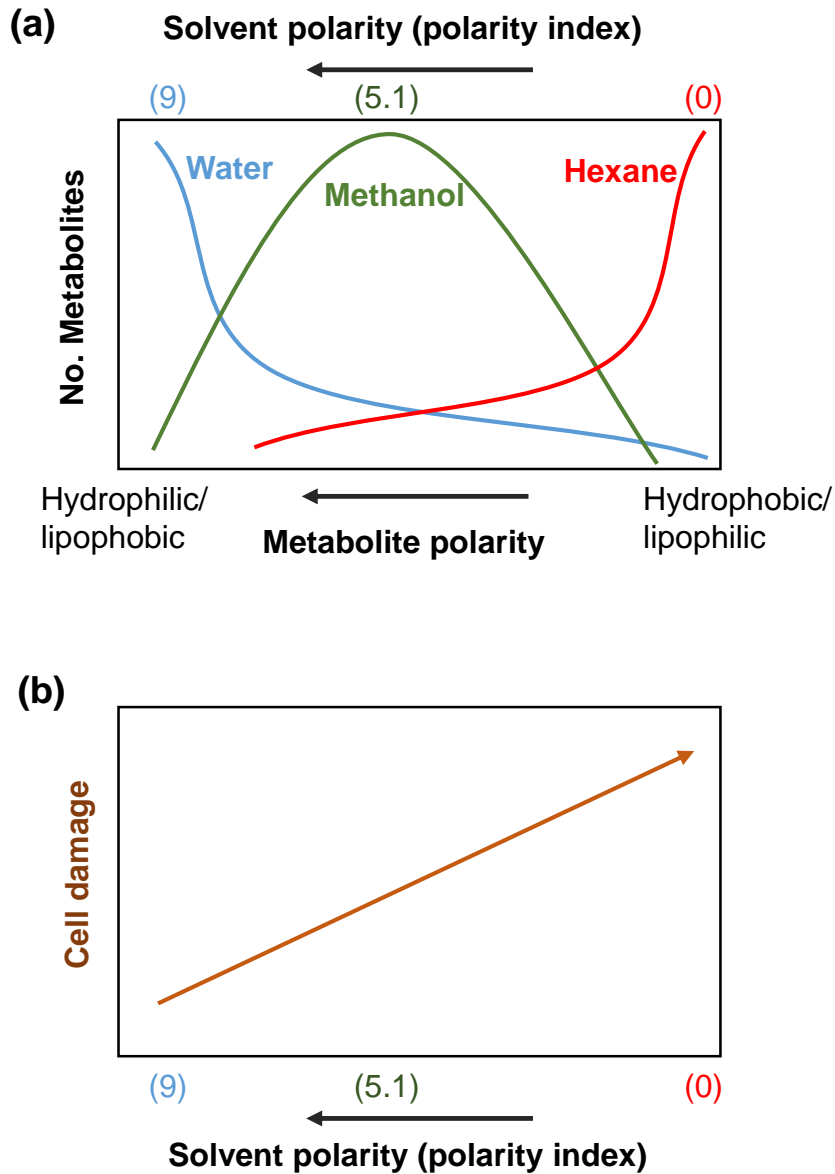
Supplemental Figure S1. Rarefaction curves of detected OTUs.

Shown are curves after removal of singletons for replicate root + rhizosphere samples (green) and control soil samples (red).



Supplemental Figure S2. Relative abundance (%) of selected families in control soil samples ('Soil'; red) and root + rhizosphere samples ('Root'; green) from the *Arabidopsis* growth system.

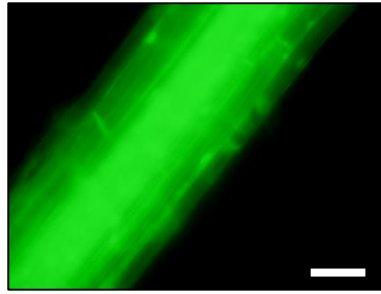
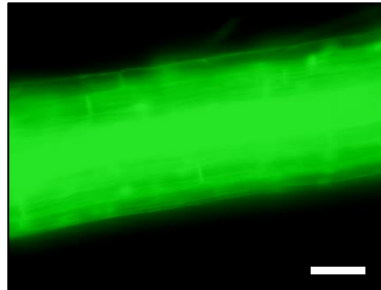
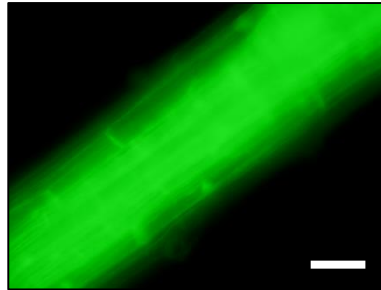
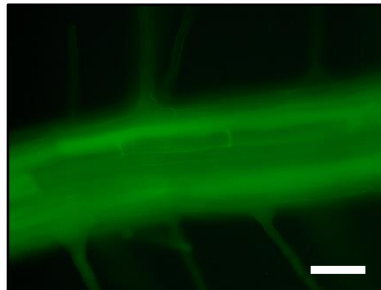
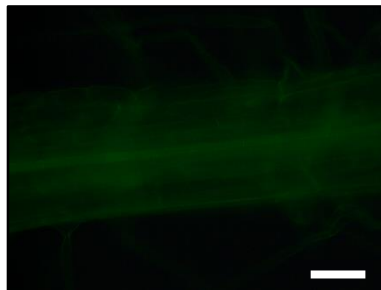
Shown are families containing OTUs with relative abundances > 2% in one or more samples. Each bar represents an individual biological replicate. NA, taxonomy not available.



Supplemental Figure S3. Model of expected impacts of solvent polarity on the extraction of soil metabolites.

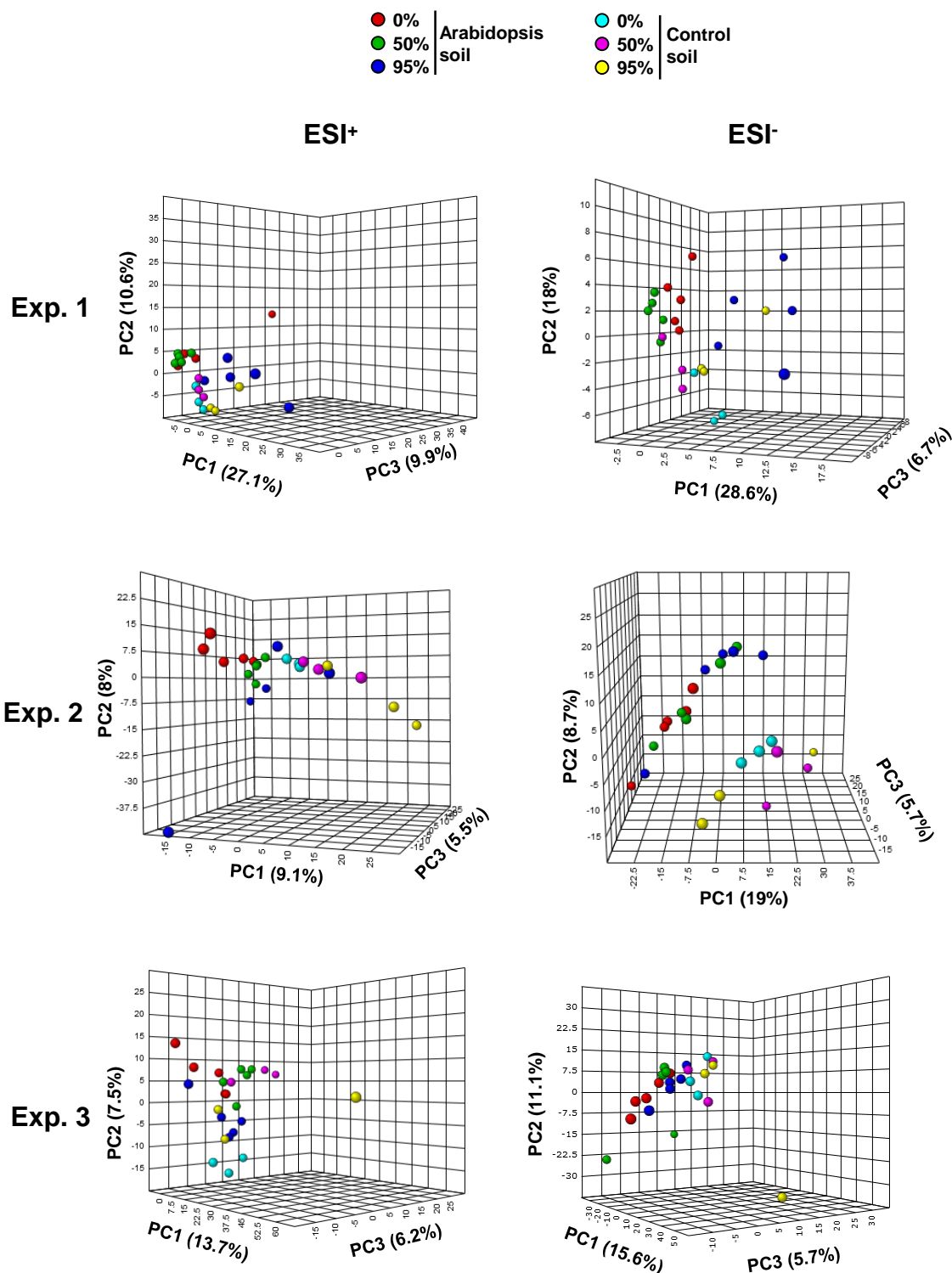
(a) Examples of solvent polarities and their impact on the type of metabolites extracted. Polarity index of water, methanol (MeOH) and hexane are shown within parentheses.

(b) Hypothesized impact of solvent polarity on cell damage of plant roots and soil microbes.

35S::*IB11*-YFP**Water****0%
MeOH****50%
MeOH****95%
MeOH****Positive
control**

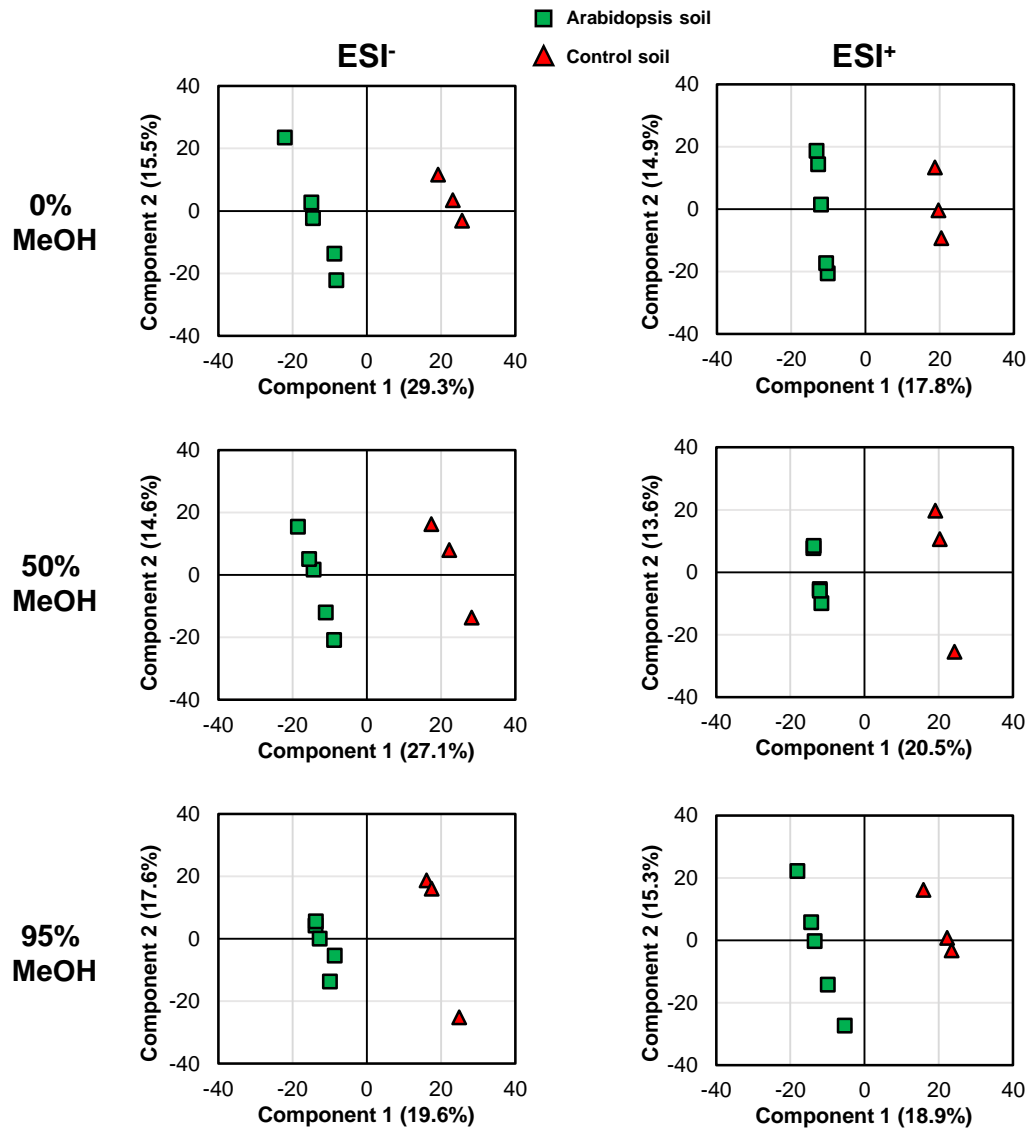
Supplemental Figure S4. Epi-fluorescence microscopy analysis of cell damage in Arabidopsis roots after exposure to MeOH-containing extraction solutions.

Transgenic roots producing the cytoplasmic aspartyl-tRNA synthase IB11 fused to YFP (35S::*IB11*:YFP; Luna *et al.*, 2014) were incubated for 1 min in water or acidified extraction solutions with increasing MeOH concentration (0, 50 or 95% MeOH, v/v + 0.05% formic acid, v/v). After incubation, roots were then rinsed in sterile water, and analysed for YFP fluorescence. Photographs show representative examples from observations of at least 12 roots for each treatment. As a positive control for cell damage, roots were incubated in 100% MeOH for 15 min. The experiment was performed four times with similar results. Scale bars: 50 μ m. **SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPT**



Supplemental Figure S5. Reproducibility of differences in metabolite profiles between control and Arabidopsis soil over three independent experiments.

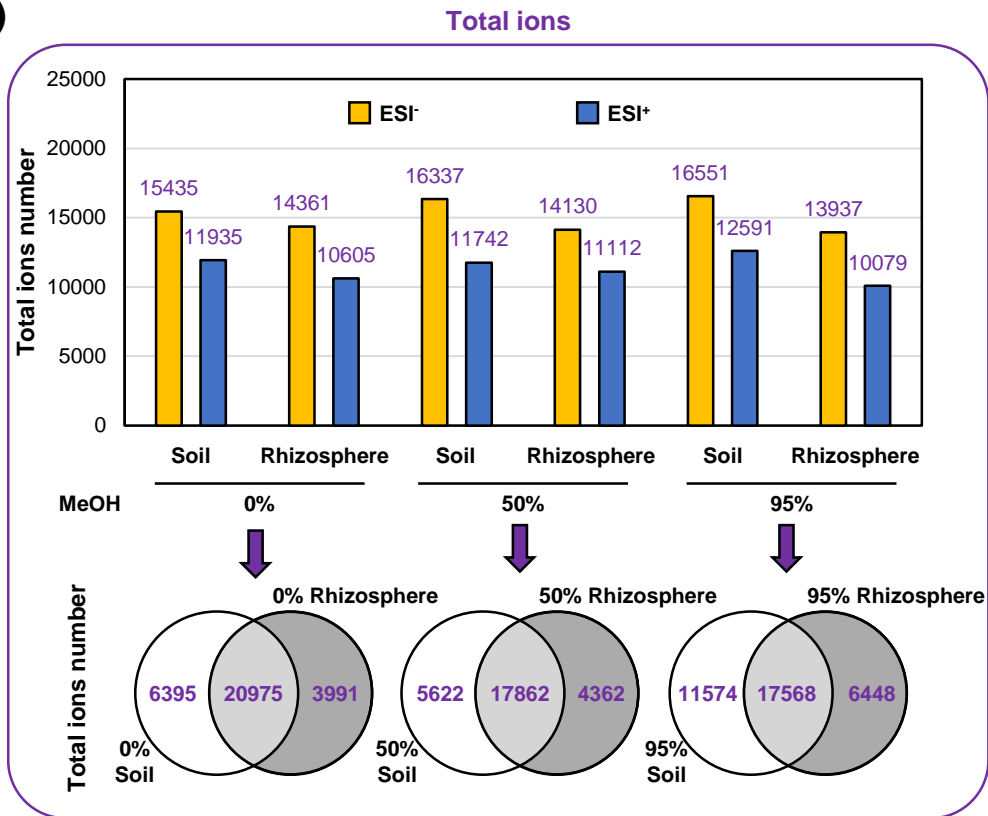
Shown are unsupervised three-dimensional principal component analyses (3D-PCA) from extracts by the different solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Ions (m/z values) were obtained by UPLC-Q-TOF in positive (ESI⁺, left panels) and negative (ESI⁻, right panel) ionization modes. Analysis was carried out with MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0), after median normalization, cube-root transformation and Pareto scaling of data. In parentheses are shown the percentages of variation explained by each principal component.



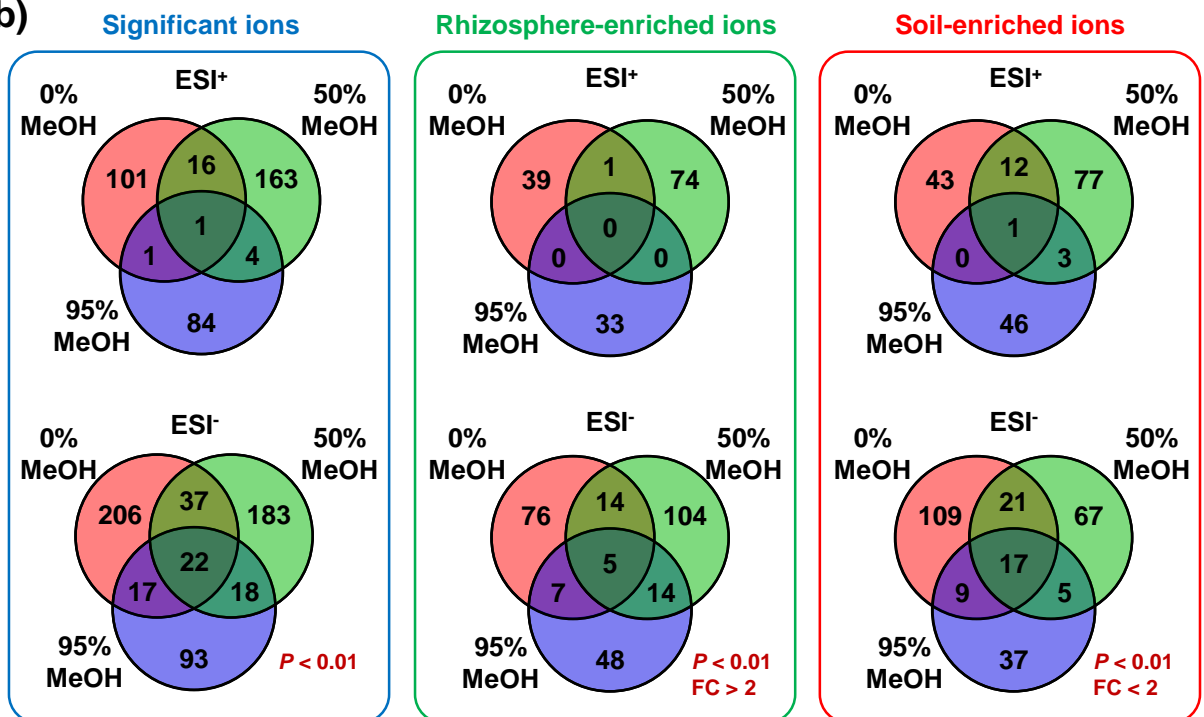
Supplemental Figure S6. Binary PLS-DA analysis of metabolite profiles from control soil and Arabidopsis soil for different extraction solutions (indicated by % MeOH).

Ions (m/z values) were obtained by UPLC-Q-TOF analysis in both positive (ESI⁺, left panels) and negative (ESI⁻, right panel) ionization mode. Prior to analysis, data were median-normalized, cube-root-transformed and Pareto-scaled. All R^2 (correlation) and Q^2 (predictability) values of PLS-DA models were above 0.94 and 0.59, respectively.

(a)



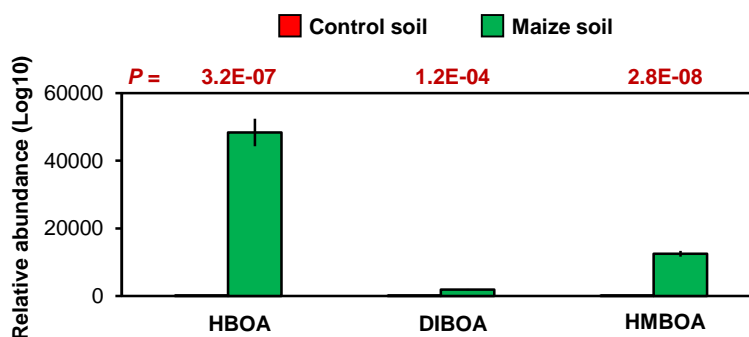
(b)



Supplemental Figure S7. Quantitative differences in detected ions (UPLC-Q-TOF) between extracts from control and Arabidopsis soil.

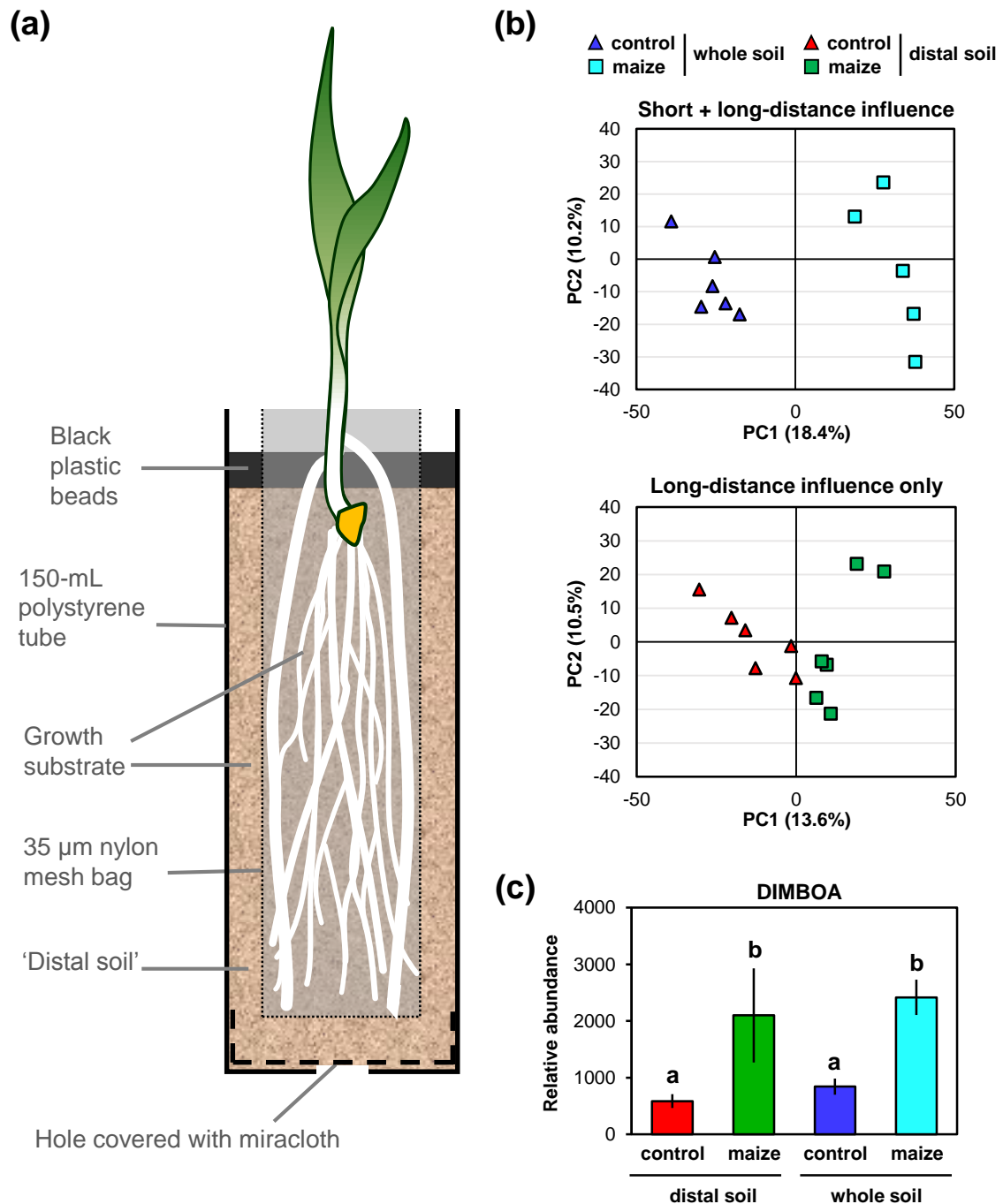
(a) Total numbers of ions (top) detected in Arabidopsis soil and control soil after extraction with the different solutions (indicated by % MeOH). Venn diagrams (bottom) show overlap in total ion numbers between extracts for each extraction solution.

(b) Venn diagrams showing overlap in cations (ESI⁺) and anions (ESI⁻) that are statistically different between control and Arabidopsis soil (left panel; *P* < 0.01, Welch's *t*-test), that are enriched in extracts from Arabidopsis soil (middle panel; > 2-fold enrichment to soil at *P* < 0.01, Welch's *t*-test), and that enriched are in extracts from control soil (right panel; < 2-fold enrichment to soil at *P* < 0.01, Welch's *t*-test).



Supplemental Figure S8. Relative quantities of selected benzoxazinoid ions in extracts from maize soil and corresponding control soil.

Selective ions (m/z) of HBOA (2-hydroxy-4H-1,4-benzoxazin-3-one), DIBOA (2,4-dihydroxy-1,4-benzoxazin-3-one) and 2-hydroxy-7-methoxy-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one were detected on the basis of retention time and m/z value, using UPLC-Q-TOF (ESI⁺, Δ ppm = 0). Charts indicate means of relative abundances ($n = 5$, \pm SEM). Levels of statistical significance are indicated in red above the corresponding bars (Student's t -test).



Supplemental Figure S9. Profiling distal rhizosphere chemistry.

(a) Experimental growth system to profile chemistry of distal rhizosphere fractions. Maize was grown within nylon mesh bags inside 150-mL tubes, containing agricultural soil from arable farmland and perlite (75:25, v/v). Similar plant-free tubes were constructed as controls. After 24 days of growth, chemicals were extracted with the acidified 50% MeOH solution from either the entire pot (whole soil), or the soil surrounding the root containing mesh bag after its careful removal (distal soil).

(b) Binary PCAs showing chemical rhizosphere effects in whole soil fractions (upper panel; short + long distance influence) and distal soil fractions (lower panel; long distance influence), illustrating that the rhizosphere extends beyond soil that is closely associated with roots.

(c) Targeted quantification of DIMBOA by UPLC-Q-TOF. Shown are average ion intensities (\pm SEM; $n = 6$), normalised by soil weight. Letters indicate statistically significant differences between soil types (Student's t -test, $P < 0.05$).

Supplemental Table S1. Putative identification of Arabidopsis rhizosphere- and control soil-enriched metabolic markers

1 Percentages indicate relative MeOH contents of the extraction solutions.
2 P values are derived from ANOVA followed by false discovery rate correction (Benjamini-Hochberg).
3 Retention times (RT) and accurate m/z values, detected by UPLC-Q-TOF in negative (-) or positive (+) ion mode.
4 Predicted parameters from the METLIN database using the detected accurate m/z.
5 Putative metabolites and their corresponding pathways were validated by information from the PubMed chemical database.
6 Putative metabolites that unlikely accumulate in (rhizosphere) soil.

Table with columns: Sample, Extraction solution, P value, RT (min), Detected m/z, Ion mode, Predicted mass, Adduct, Appm, Putative Compound, Predicted Formula, Putative Pathway, soil- or plant-derived. Includes sub-header RHIZOSPHERE -ENRICHED and a large 'SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPT' watermark.

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Sample	Extraction solution ¹	P value ²	RT (min) ³	Detected m/z ³	Ion mode	Predicted mass ⁴	Adduct ⁴	Δppm ⁴	Putative Compound ⁴	Predicted Formula ⁴	Putative Pathway ⁵	soil- or plant-derived ⁶
	50%	< E-13	1.2	130.086	-	131.095	[M-H]-	10	L-Isoleucine	C6H13NO2	Amino acids	
	50%	1.89E-04	1.0	216.035	+	215.019	[M+H]+	38	O-Phospho-4-hydroxy-L-threonine	C4H10NO7P	Amino acids	
	50%	5.77E-05	3.0	245.079	+	280.092	[M+H-2H2O]+	0	Methionyl-Methionine	C10H20N2O3S2	Amino acids	
	50%	1.12E-04	1.4	284.061	+	283.046	[M+H]+	28	N2-Acetyl-L-aminoadipyl-δ-phosphate	C8H14NO8P	Amino acids	
	50%	1.41E-07	1.3	1103.693	+	215.986	[M+H]+	46	S-Methyl-3-phospho-1-thio-D-glycerate	C4H9O6PS	Carbohydrates	
	95%	8.67E-05	6.1	335.033	+	334.032	[M+H]+	20	Heptahydroxylavone	C15H10O9	Flavonoids	
	95%	2.36E-03	7.6	553.287	+	570.289	[M+H-2H2O]+	1	2-O-(beta-D-galactopyranosyl-(1->6)-beta-D-galactopyranosyl) 2S,3R-dihydroxytridecanoic acid	C25H46O14	Lipids	Unlikely
	95%	6.51E-08	8.0	553.513	+	552.491	[M+H]+	27	Linoley arachidonate	C38H64O2	Lipids	
	50%	2.05E-05	4.9	620.535	+	619.530	[M+H]+	3	Diacylglycerol	C39H71D5O5	Lipids	
	0%	5.33E-03	9.4	701.408	+	700.432	[M+H]+	43	Phosphatidylglycerol	C37H65O10P	Lipids	
	95%	5.36E-03	8.1	172.063	-	173.069	[M-H]-	8	2,6-Piperidinedicarboxylic acid	C7H11NO4	Miscellaneous	
	0, 50%	6.49E-06	0.8	184.926	-	185.932	[M-H]-	8	4-Bromo-3,5-cyclohexadiene-1,2-dione	C6H3BrO2	Miscellaneous	Unlikely
	0%	3.48E-03	7.9	296.181	+	331.194	[M+H-2H2O]+	0	Currayanine	C23H25NO	Miscellaneous	Unlikely
	50%	2.64E-03	9.4	495.013	+	494.019	[M+H]+	27	Sodium cumeneazoo-beta-naphthol disulfonate	C19H16N2Na2O7S2	Miscellaneous	Unlikely
	0%	7.92E-07	9.3	163.943	+	198.948	[M+H-2H2O]+	47	Bronopol	C3H6BrNO4	Miscellaneous/Antimicrobials	Unlikely
	95%	3.16E-03	9.4	1088.122	+	1123.158	[M+H-2H2O]+	21	Mycolic acid	C77H150O3	Miscellaneous/Antimicrobials	Unlikely
	50%	1.01E-05	0.8	110.009	+	145.020	[M+H-2H2O]+	18	3,4-Dihydrothiomorpholine-3-carboxylate	C5H7NO2S	Miscellaneous/Carboxylic acids	
	0, 95%	5.65E-13	1.1	148.043	+	147.035	[M+H]+	2	Thiomorpholine 3-carboxylate	C5H9NO2S	Miscellaneous/Carboxylic acids	
	0, 50%	7.86E-06	1.1	346.099	+	345.091	[M+H]+	0	Clopidamide	C14H20ClN3O3S	Miscellaneous/Diuretics	Unlikely
	50%	3.85E-03	1.7	346.096	+	345.091	[M+H]+	7	Clopidamide	C14H20ClN3O3S	Miscellaneous/Diuretics	Unlikely
	50%	5.41E-03	6.9	382.128	+	383.134	[M-H]-	2	Fuazifop butyl	C19H20F3NO4	Miscellaneous/Herbicides	Unlikely
	95%	1.44E-03	2.9	303.049	+	304.058	[M-H]-	4	Brompheniramine (monodemethylated)	C15H17BrN2	Miscellaneous/Histamines	Unlikely
	0, 50%	1.44E-04	0.8	183.928	+	184.934	[M-H]-	8	Iodoacetamide	ICH2CONH2	Miscellaneous/Lipids	Unlikely
	95%	1.67E-04	8.6	584.329	+	585.345	[M-H]-	15	Janthitrem B	C37H47NO5	Miscellaneous/Mycotoxins	Unlikely
	0%	8.26E-03	1.2	234.048	+	269.061	[M+H-2H2O]+	0	2-(p-Methoxyphenyl)-3-(m-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile	C16H12ClNO	Miscellaneous/Nitriles	Unlikely
	50%	1.63E-05	0.8	199.045	+	198.039	[M+H]+	5	Nitrofurazone	C6H6N4O4	Miscellaneous/Nitrofurans	Unlikely
	95%	< E-13	1.7	288.046	-	289.054	[M-H]-	1	Isocarbofos	C11H16NO4PS	Miscellaneous/Pesticides	Unlikely
	50%	4.74E-04	1.4	303.871	-	258.876	[M+FA-H]-	10	Tecnazene	C6HCl4NO2	Miscellaneous/Pesticides	Unlikely
	95%	2.65E-04	7.1	775.262	+	774.247	[M+H]+	9	7,8-Dihydromethanopterin	C30H43N6O16P	Miscellaneous/Pteridines	
	0%	5.61E-03	7.7	549.916	+	584.937	[M+H-2H2O]+	14	HLo7	C15H17I2N5O4	Miscellaneous/Pyridines	
	95%	1.64E-04	4.2	596.085	+	551.106	[M+FA-H]-	32	11-O-Demethylpradimicinone II	C27H21NO12	Miscellaneous/Quinones	Unlikely
	0%	1.88E-03	9.3	405.185	+	404.175	[M+H]+	5	Chlormadinone acetate	C23H29ClO4	Miscellaneous/Steroids	Unlikely
	0%	5.20E-03	7.8	457.263	+	456.255	[M+H]+	2	Lithocholic acid sulfate	C24H40O6S	Miscellaneous/Steroids	Unlikely
	0%	1.66E-04	1.1	370.066	+	369.059	[M+H]+	2	4-Pyridinol, 2-[[[5-(difluoromethoxy)-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl]sulfinyl]methyl]-3-methoxy-	C15H13F2N3O4S	Miscellaneous/Sulfonamides	Unlikely
	0, 50, 95%	2.37E-06	0.9	210.949	+	211.960	[M-H]-	18	Thiotropococin	C8H4O3S2	Miscellaneous/Tropolones	Unlikely
	0, 50%	1.00E-04	1.3	216.983	+	215.986	[M+H]+	46	S-Methyl-3-phospho-1-thio-D-glycerate	C4H9O6PS	Organic acids	
	50%	2.61E-04	3.3	263.094	+	262.089	[M+H]+	8	Thiamine aldehyde	C12H14N4OS	Organic acids	
Control soil	0, 50%	2.26E-07	0.8	182.929	-	183.935	[M-H]-	5	Arsenoacetate	C2H5AsO5	Organosulfur acids	Unlikely
	0%	4.39E-04	6.5	321.094	+	320.090	[M+H]+	8	4-Coumaroylshikimate	C16H16O7	Phenylpropanoids	
	0%	6.17E-07	9.4	1049.027	+	1084.067	[M+H-2H2O]+	25	Punicalagin	C48H28O30	Phenylpropanoids	Unlikely
	50%	6.61E-03	2.2	1117.153	+	1072.183	[M+FA-H]-	25	CoA-glutathione	C31H51N10O22P3S2	Purines	
	50%	1.50E-08	9.3	349.184	+	348.178	[M+H]+	4	cis-10-Hydroxylinalyl oxide 7-glucoside	C16H28O8	Terpenoids	
	0, 50%	1.48E-07	0.9	61.987	-	61.988	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	2.61E-05	1.6	61.988	-	61.988	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	1.78E-05	1.0	123.941	+	123.941	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	3.03E-05	1.1	160.841	-	160.841	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	3.15E-04	1.9	165.936	-	165.936	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	5.05E-04	2.0	175.968	-	175.968	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 95%	7.65E-03	0.8	192.957	-	192.957	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	3.88E-06	4.8	195.925	+	195.925	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	4.24E-03	1.8	209.948	-	209.948	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	5.78E-06	0.9	211.946	-	211.946	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	7.37E-04	9.7	245.894	-	245.894	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	4.85E-04	1.3	261.870	-	261.870	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	7.08E-04	1.3	299.842	-	299.842	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	3.80E-03	5.4	307.150	+	307.150	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	5.18E-03	4.9	319.154	+	319.154	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	1.00E-04	1.7	325.894	-	325.894	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	3.88E-03	1.3	351.873	-	351.873	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	1.72E-04	1.4	379.788	-	379.788	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	1.40E-04	1.4	409.834	-	409.834	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	1.80E-05	1.3	414.120	+	414.120	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	3.50E-03	1.5	443.807	-	443.807	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	50%	8.21E-06	1.1	445.806	-	445.806	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	50%	1.70E-07	1.5	475.778	-	475.778	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	3.03E-05	9.4	741.928	-	741.928	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	5.54E-03	8.5	776.674	+	776.674	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	95%	1.40E-04	6.7	891.384	+	891.384	+	+	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	3.83E-03	2.2	992.858	-	992.858	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0%	3.95E-05	0.9	146.965	-	146.965	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	9.75E-07	1.8	146.965	-	146.965	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	1.72E-03	0.9	148.968	-	148.968	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	1.16E-05	0.8	209.948	-	209.948	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	9.40E-03	1.8	210.949	-	210.949	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	
	0, 50%	3.24E-04	1.8	211.946	-	211.946	-	-	Unknown	-	Unknown	

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Table with columns: Sample, FC, P value, RT (min), Detected mz, Ion mode, Predicted mass, Adduct, Appm, Putative Compound, Predicted Formula, Putative Pathway, Soil- or plant-derived. Includes a 'Control soil' section with multiple entries.

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1 SUPPLEMENTAL METHODS

3 DNA extraction, 16S rRNA gene sequencing and analysis.

4 For microbial profiling, eight additional growth tubes were set up, as described in the
5 Experimental Procedures, but were not used for the collection of chemicals. Four of
6 these tubes contained one Arabidopsis plant and four contained only growth
7 substrate. After 5 weeks, plants were sampled by carefully loosening the soil around
8 the edges of the growth tube, pulling up the roots and removing excess soil by
9 shaking. Soil samples were also taken from the tubes without plants, using a sterile
10 spatula and avoiding surface material. DNA was extracted from the resulting
11 samples consisting of either roots covered in their closely adhering soil (root plus
12 rhizosphere samples), or only soil (control soil), using a PowerSoil DNA extraction kit
13 (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's
14 instructions. Partial prokaryotic 16S rRNA genes were amplified from this extract,
15 using primers 799F and 1193R (Chelius and Triplett, 2001; Bodenhausen *et al.*,
16 2013), which were modified to include the Illumina overhang adapter nucleotide
17 sequences (adapters shown in normal typeface, locus specific primers in bold letter
18 font):

19 799F:

20 TCGTCGGCAGCGTCAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGA**AACMGGATTAGATACCCKG**

21 1193R:

22 GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAG**ACGTCATCCCCACCTTCC**.

24 PCRs were carried out, using 0.4 U of KAPA HiFi HotStart DNA polymerase (Kapa
25 Biosystems Ltd, London, UK) on 2 µL of DNA extract in the presence of 2.5 mM

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2
3 26 MgCl₂, 1.2 mM deoxynucleoside triphosphates (dNTPs), 0.2 μM of each primer, and
4
5 27 the manufacturer's reaction buffer in a total reaction volume of 20 μL (PCR
6
7 28 conditions: 95 °C for 3 min; 25 cycles at 95 °C for 30 s, 58 °C for 30 s and 72 °C for
8
9 29 30 s; and 72 °C for 5 min). To reduce PCR bias, the PCR was performed in triplicate
10
11 and amplicons were pooled. A sequencing library was constructed by cleaning up
12
13 pooled PCR products, using AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter (UK) Ltd, High
14
15 Wycomb, UK), followed by attachment of dual indices and Illumina sequencing
16
17 adapters, using the Nextera XT Index Kit (Illumina Inc. Essex UK) and following the
18
19 manufacturer's instructions. The indexed PCR products were cleaned using AMPure
20
21 XP beads and sequencing was performed using a paired end 2 x 250 bp cycle kit v2
22
23 on a MiSeq machine running v2 chemistry (Illumina Inc, at The Genome Analysis
24
25 Centre, Norwich, UK). Raw sequencing data were deposited in the European
26
27 Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under accession number PRJEB17782. Sequences were
28
29 analysed by USEARCH (Edgar, 2010) and Qiime pipelines (Caporaso *et al.*, 2010a).
30
31 Sequences were filtered using USEARCH, retaining those with a maxEE value of 1
32
33 (equivalent to 1 in 1,000 errors) and 251 bp long. Chimeras were detected using
34
35 UCHIME (Edgar *et al.*, 2011), using both reference based and *de novo* detection
36
37 methods. After selection of OTUs by USEARCH (97% similarity), the representative
38
39 sequences were aligned to the Greengenes 13_8 core reference alignment
40
41 (DeSantis *et al.* 2006) using PyNAST (Caporaso *et al.*, 2010b). All other steps
42
43 leading to the generation of OTU abundance tables were performed using Qiime. All
44
45 statistical analyses of community data were performed using the R programming
46
47 language (R Development Core Team, 2016; <https://www.R-project.org/>) and with
48
49 the packages phyloseq (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013), vegan
50
51 (<https://github.com/vegandevs/vegan>) and DESeq2 (Love *et al.*, 2014).
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5 52 **Quantification of plant tissue damage by electrolytes leakage.**

6
7 53 Tissue damage by the acidified extraction solutions was quantified by conductivity of
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9 54 cell electrolytes leakage, as described previously (Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b). For
10
11 55 *Arabidopsis*, roots were collected from plants cultivated in half strength Murashige-
12
13 56 Skoog, solidified with 0.8% Phytigel (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) and adjusted to pH 5.8.
14
15 57 Root replicates consisted of one intact root system from 2-week-old plants, which
16
17 58 was removed carefully from the agar medium. For maize, roots were collected from
18
19 59 surface sterilised seeds, germinated and grown for five days on wetted filter paper in
20
21 60 sealed petri-dishes. Tissues were incubated for 1 min in 10 mL of different acidified
22
23 61 extraction solutions, containing 0.05% formic acid (v/v) and 0%, 50% or 95%
24
25 62 methanol (v/v). As a negative control, tissues were incubated in double-distilled
26
27 63 sterile water. As a positive control for cell damage, tissues were wounded prior to
28
29 64 extraction solution incubation by cutting roots into 10 pieces with a razor blade.
30
31 65 Directly after incubation, tissues were rinsed in double-distilled sterile water, then
32
33 66 transferred into glass bottles containing 5 mL of double-distilled sterile water, and
34
35 67 subsequently agitated at room temperature for 2 hours on an orbital shaker (200
36
37 68 rpm). Conductivity was then measured in the balanced solution, using a CMD 500
38
39 69 WPA conductivity meter. Subsequently, all samples were boiled for 30 min and re-
40
41 70 measured for conductivity of lysed tissue. Cell damage was expressed as the
42
43 71 average level of conductivity, relative to the maximum level of conductivity after
44
45 72 tissue lysis (set at 100%). Each treatment was based on 4 replicated samples ($n =$
46
47 73 4). Data were analysed in IBM SPSS (v. 22), using a Welch's F test for ranked data,
48
49 74 followed by Games-Howell tests to assess individual differences ($P < 0.05$). The
50
51 75 experiments were repeated three times with similar results.
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77 Analysis of microscopic root cell damage by extraction solutions.

78 Transgenic Arabidopsis plants (Col-0) expressing the *35S::IBI1:YFP* construct,
79 encoding the cytoplasmic aspartyl-tRNA synthetase IBI1 with a C-terminal fusion to
80 Yellow Fluorescent Protein (Luna *et al.*, 2014; *35S::IBI1:YFP*), were cultivated for
81 two weeks (8.5/15.5 h light/dark at 21/19 °C, 120 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ photons, 70% relative
82 humidity) on half strength Murashige-Skoog agar plates, solidified with 0.8%
83 Phytigel (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) and adjusted to pH 5.8. Roots were extracted carefully
84 from agar plates, and incubated for 1 min in the acidified MeOH-containing extraction
85 solutions (0, 50, 95% MeOH with 0.05% formic acid, v/v). As negative and positive
86 controls for cell damage, roots were incubated for 1 min in double-distilled sterile
87 water, or for 15 min in 100% MeOH, respectively. After incubation, roots were rinsed
88 in double-distilled sterile water prior to epi-fluorescence microscopy analysis.
89 Fluorescence was observed using an epi-fluorescence microscope (Olympus BX51,
90 excitation filter BP 470/40 nm, barrier filter BP 525/50 nm). For each treatment, root
91 systems from 12 different plants were analysed and photos were taken of
92 representative samples. The experiment was performed four times with similar
93 results.

94

95 Analysis of impacts on soil and rhizosphere bacteria by extraction solutions.

96 Tubes (30 mL; $n = 3$) containing the sand:compost mixture (9:1 v/v) with or without 5-
97 week-old Arabidopsis were left untreated, or were bacterized by syringe injection
98 with 5 mL of 10 mM MgSO_4 , containing either YFP-expressing *P. simiae* WCS417r
99 (Zamioudis *et al.*, 2014), or rifampicin-resistant *B. subtilis* 168 (Yi *et al.*, 2016), to a
100 final density of 10^7 colony CFU g^{-1} . After 48 h, tubes were flushed with extraction

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3 101 solution (as detailed in Experimental procedures). Additional tubes were flushed with
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5 102 double-distilled sterile water (control), or 95% MeOH and left for 45 min (positive
6
7 103 control for cell damage). Subsequently, 1 g of either control soil (without roots), or
8
9 104 *Arabidopsis* roots plus adhering rhizosphere soil, was sampled from the tubes,
10
11 105 suspended for 5 min into 50 mL of 10 mM MgSO₄, and centrifuged (5 min, 3,500 g).
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13 106 Pellets were re-suspended in 1 mL of 10 mM MgSO₄, and subjected to dilution
14
15 107 plating onto Luria Broth (LB) agar medium supplemented with 5 µg mL⁻¹ of the anti-
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17 108 fungal cycloheximide. For testing impacts on culturable soil bacteria, LB agar
18
19 109 contained no further antibiotics; for testing impacts on *P. simiae* WCS417r and *B.*
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21 110 *subtilis* 168, plates were supplemented with 5 µg mL⁻¹ tetracycline + 25 µg mL⁻¹
22
23 111 rifampicin and 50 µg mL⁻¹ rifampicin, respectively. Plates were kept for 24 - 48 h at
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25 112 28 °C. Each biologically replicated sample was plated four times, after which the
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27 113 technical replicates were averaged to minimize confounding effects of heterogeneity
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29 114 in suspended pellets. Experiments were repeated twice with comparable results.
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36 116 **UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry.**

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38 117 Untargeted metabolic profiling by UPLC-Q-TOF mass spectrometry (MS) was
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40 118 performed as described previously (Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016b) using an ACQUITY ultra-
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42 119 high-pressure liquid chromatography (UPLC) system coupled to a SYNAPT G2 Q-
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44 120 TOF mass spectrometer with an electrospray (ESI) ionization source (Waters, UK).
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46 121 The system was controlled by MassLynx v. 4.1 software (Waters). Chromatographic
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48 122 separation of samples was carried out at a flow rate of 0.4 mL min⁻¹ using an
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50 123 ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 column (2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 µm, Waters) coupled to a C18
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52 124 VanGuard pre-column (2.1 × 5 mm, 1.7 µm, Waters). The mobile phase consisted of
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54 125 solvent A (0.05 %, formic acid v/v, in water) and solvent B (0.05 % formic acid v/v in
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3 126 acetonitrile) with the following gradient: 0 – 3 min 5 – 35 % B, 3 – 6 min 35 – 100 %
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5 127 B, holding at 100 % B for 2 min, 8 – 10 min, 100 – 5 % B. The column was
6
7 128 maintained at 45 °C and the injection volume was 10 µL. Between each condition, a
8
9 129 blank was injected with 50% methanol (v/v) to clean the column. Sample runs in
10
11 130 negative and positive ionization mode (ESI⁻ and ESI⁺) were separated by two
12
13 131 consecutive injections with 50% methanol (v/v) to allow stabilization of the ionization
14
15 132 modes. An ACQUITY PDA detector (Waters) was used to monitor the UV trace
16
17 133 (range 205 – 400 nm, sampling rate 40 points s⁻¹, resolution 1.2 nm). MS detection
18
19 134 of ions was operated in sensitivity mode by SYNAPT G2 (50 - 1200 Da, scan time =
20
21 135 0.2 s) in both ESI⁻ and ESI⁺, using a full MS scan (*i.e.* no collision energy) and
22
23 136 applying the MS^E function with a ramp in the transfer cell in elevated energy mode (5
24
25 137 to 45 eV). The following conditions were applied for ESI⁻ (capillary voltage - 3 kV,
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27 138 sampling cone voltage - 25 V, extraction cone voltage -4.5 V, source temperature
28
29 139 120 °C, desolvation temperature 350 °C, desolvation gas flow 800 L h⁻¹, cone gas
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31 140 flow 60 L h⁻¹), and for ESI⁺ (capillary voltage 3.5 kV, sampling cone voltage 25 V,
32
33 141 extraction cone voltage 4.5 V, source temperature 120 °C, desolvation temperature
34
35 142 350 °C, desolvation gas flow 800 L h⁻¹, cone gas flow 60 L h⁻¹). Prior to analyses, the
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37 143 Q-TOF was calibrated by infusing a sodium formate solution. Accurate mass
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39 144 detection was ensured by infusing the internal lockmass reference peptide leucine
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41 145 enkephalin during each run.
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147 **Statistical analysis of MS data.**

148 Prior to multivariate analyses, the XCMS R package (v. 3.1.3; Smith *et al.*, 2006)
149 was used to align and integrate raw UPLC-Q-TOF peaks, to correct for total ion
150 current (TIC) and median fold-change. All statistical analyses were performed with

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3 151 median-normalized, cube-root-transformed and Pareto-scaled data, using
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5 152 MetaboAnalyst software (v. 3.0, <http://www.metaboanalyst.ca>; Xia *et al.*, 2015).
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7 153 Three-dimensional principal component analyses (3D-PCA) were based on the first
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9 154 three principal components (PCs) that explain most variation of the dataset.
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11 155 Supervised partial least square discriminant analyses (PLS-DAs) were conducted to
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13 156 quantify discriminative power between soil types and extraction solutions. PLS-DA
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15 157 models were validated by correlation (R^2) and predictability (Q^2) parameters for both
16
17 158 ESI⁺ and ESI⁻ modes ($R^2 > 0.94$ and $Q^2 > 0.59$, respectively). Numbers of total ions
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19 159 were obtained from XCMS output datasets. To quantify metabolic differences
20
21 160 between rhizosphere and control soil, volcano plots were constructed at a
22
23 161 statistically significant threshold of $P < 0.01$ (Welch's *t*-test) and a fold-difference
24
25 162 threshold of 2, using MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0, <http://www.metaboanalyst.ca>; Xia *et al.*,
26
27 163 2015). To obtain putative identities of a combined set of ions from all three extraction
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29 164 solutions that are either enriched in Arabidopsis soil, or its corresponding control soil,
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31 165 the top-20 ranking ions from each volcano plot were selected by fold-change (above
32
33 166 2 or below -2) and P value, followed by an ANOVA ($P < 0.01$) for statistical
34
35 167 differences between all soil/extraction solution combinations, using a Benjamini-
36
37 168 Hochberg false discovery rate (FDR) correction for multiple hypothesis testing
38
39 169 (Hochberg and Benjamini, 1990). To obtain putative identities from the 50% MeOH
40
41 170 extraction solution that are either enriched in the maize rhizosphere, or
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43 171 corresponding control soil, the top-50 ranking ions from each volcano plot (ESI⁺ and
44
45 172 ESI⁻) were selected. For both cultivation systems, ions were corrected for adducts
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47 173 and/or isotopes, using MarVis (v. 1.0; <http://marvis.gobics.de>; tolerance: $m/z = 0.1$
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49 174 Da, RT = 10 s; Kaefer *et al.*, 2012). Putative metabolites were identified by
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51 175 referencing the final set of detected accurate m/z values against publicly available
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3 176 chemical databases using METLIN, PubChem, MassBank, Lipid Bank, ChemSpider,
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5 177 Kegg, AraCyc and MetaCyc database, as documented in several studies (Kaever *et*
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7 178 *al.*, 2009; Kaever *et al.*, 2012; Gamir *et al.*, 2014a, 2014b; Pastor *et al.*, 2014;
8
9 179 Pétriacq *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b). METLIN (<https://metlin.scripps.edu>) was used to
10
11 180 determine accuracy and chemical formulae for the putative compounds. PubChem
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13 181 (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) was used to check the predicted pathway
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15 182 classification. In cases where multiple ions could be annotated to the same putative
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17 183 metabolite (due to different adducts and ionization modes; Tables S1 and S2), they
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19 184 were counted additively to the metabolite class presented in the pie-charts of Figures
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21 185 6 and 7.
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27 **Experimental system for profiling distant rhizosphere fractions.**

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29 188 To investigate whether the chemical influence of the rhizosphere extends beyond
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31 189 soil that is closely associated with roots, maize plants were grown in mesh bags,
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33 190 which allowed for physical separation of root systems from the distal soil in the
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35 191 periphery of the growth tube. Bags were constructed from a nylon mesh (35 μm
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37 192 diameter holes), folded over and heat sealed to produce bags (6 cm x 11 cm,
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39 193 approximate diameter when filled = 3.5 cm). These bags were filled with 85 cm^3 of a
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41 194 mixture of 75:25 (v/v) agricultural soil:perlite, as used previously for maize
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43 195 experiments. Each mesh bag was placed into the centre of the 150-mL plastic tube
44
45 196 (11 cm high and 5 cm diameter; Starlab) with a miracloth sheet covering the bottom
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47 197 hole of the tube. Seventy cm^3 of the same soil substrate was used to fill the
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49 198 peripheral space between the mesh bag and tube wall. A total of 24 pots were set up
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51 199 in this manner. Pre-germinated maize seeds (W22) were planted into the bags of 12
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53 200 tubes. The other 12 tubes were left unplanted to serve as plant-free controls. All
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3 201 tubes were wrapped in foil and covered with black plastic beads to prevent algal
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5 202 growth. Sixty mL of distilled water was added to each tube to saturate the soil with
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7 203 water before seeds were planted, after which all pots were transferred to a growth
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9 204 cabinet with the following conditions: 16/8 h light/dark with an average light intensity
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11 205 of $140 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ at the top of the collection tubes, a relative humidity of 60%, and
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13 206 a constant temperature of 20 °C. Soil metabolites were extracted from the different
14
15 207 soil fractions after 24 days of growth. To collect metabolites from the distal soil
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17 208 fractions, black beads were removed, and mesh bags were carefully removed from
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19 209 half of the pots (6 tubes with maize and 6 without). The remaining distal soil in the
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21 210 tube (*i.e.* the soil that had been outside the bag) was tapped to the bottom of the
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23 211 150-mL tubes and extracted by applying 25 mL of acidified 50% (v/v) MeOH to the
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25 212 top of the soil. The solution was flushed through the tube by applying pressure for 1
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27 213 min through a modified 150-mL tube lid containing a 50-mL syringe, until ~10 mL of
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29 214 solution was collected from the base of the tube into new 50-mL tubes. To collect
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31 215 metabolites from the whole soil fractions, plastic beads were removed from the
32
33 216 remaining 12 pots and maize shoots were cut from the 6 that contained plants.
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35 217 Subsequently, 50 mL of acidified 50% MeOH (v/v) was applied to the top of the tube,
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37 218 keeping the mesh bags in place. The solution was flushed through by applying
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39 219 pressure for 1 min using the modified lid, as previously described, resulting in a least
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41 220 10 mL of collection volume at the base of the tube. All extracts were centrifuged to
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43 221 pellet soil residues (5 min, 3,500 g), after which 8 mL of supernatant were
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45 222 transferred into a new 15-mL centrifuge tube and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. All
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47 223 samples were freeze-dried for two days, after which dried material was re-
48
49 224 suspended in 500 μL of methanol: water: formic acid (50: 49.9: 0.1, v/v/v), sonicated
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51 225 at 4 °C for 20 min, vortexed, transferred into 2-mL microtubes and centrifuged (15
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3 226 min, 14,000 g, 4 °C). Final supernatants (180 µL) were transferred into glass vials
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5 227 containing a glass insert before injection through the UPLC system. UPLC-Q-TOF
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7 228 analysis was conducted in ESI⁻ as described above. For DIMBOA targeted
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9 229 quantitation, a purified and NMR-verified standard (Ahmad *et al.*, 2011) was run
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11 230 alongside the samples. Metabolomics data were normalised for soil amount ($n = 6$),
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13 231 and subsequent analysis performed with MetaboAnalyst (v. 3.0), as described above
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15 232 (*i.e.* median normalisation, cube-root transformation, Pareto scaling).
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