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## **Rapid compensatory evolution can rescue low fitness symbioses following partner-switching**

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## 1 **Summary**

2 Partner-switching plays an important role in the evolution of symbiosis, enabling local  
3 adaptation and recovery from the breakdown of symbiosis. Because of intergenomic  
4 epistasis, partner-switched symbioses may possess novel combinations of phenotypes but  
5 may also exhibit low fitness due to their lack of recent coevolutionary history. Here, we  
6 examine the structure and mechanisms of intergenomic epistasis in the *Paramecium-*  
7 *Chlorella* symbiosis and test if compensatory evolution can rescue initially low fitness  
8 partner-switched symbioses. Using partner-switch experiments coupled with metabolomics  
9 we show evidence for intergenomic epistasis wherein low fitness is associated with  
10 mismatched photoprotection traits and the resulting light stress experienced by non-native  
11 symbionts when in high light environments. Experimental evolution under high light  
12 conditions revealed that an initially low fitness partner-switched non-native host-symbiont  
13 pairing rapidly adapted, gaining fitness equivalent to the native host symbiont pairing in less  
14 than 50 host generations. Compensatory evolution took two alternative routes: Either, hosts  
15 evolved higher symbiont loads to mitigate for their new algal symbiont's poor performance,  
16 or the algal symbionts themselves evolved higher investment in photosynthesis and  
17 photoprotective traits to better mitigate light stress. These findings suggest that partner-  
18 switching combined with rapid compensatory evolution can enable the recovery and local  
19 adaptation of symbioses in response to changing environments.

20

21 **Keywords:** Symbiosis, Experimental evolution, photosymbiosis, partner-switching

22

## 23 **Introduction**

24 Beneficial symbioses have an inherent potential for conflict between the symbiotic partners.  
25 This can drive the breakdown of symbiosis if environmental conditions change the net  
26 benefit of interacting or if the pursuit of individual fitness favours cheating <sup>1</sup>. Both situations  
27 can select for partner-switching to recombine symbiotic partnerships <sup>2</sup>. Partner-switching can  
28 provide hosts with access to favourable symbiotic phenotypes to overcome maladaptation to

29 the prevailing environmental context<sup>3</sup> or restore symbiont function following breakdown<sup>4,5</sup>.  
30 The generation of phenotypic plasticity through partner-switching arises from genetic  
31 variation of hosts ( $G^H$ ) and symbionts ( $G^S$ ) and intergenomic epistasis<sup>6</sup>, that is, genetic  
32 variation for the outcome of symbiosis in the form of host genotype by symbiont genotype  
33 interactions ( $G^H \times G^S$ ) for symbiotic traits or fitness. Furthermore, the fitness effects of  
34 symbiosis can be mediated by the environmental context<sup>7</sup>, causing host-genotype-by-  
35 symbiont-genotype-by-environment interactions ( $G^H \times G^S \times E$ ). A consequence of  $G^H \times G^S \times$   
36  $E$  interactions is that there is unlikely to be an optimal host-symbiont pairing across all  
37 environments, further driving selection for partner-switching or dynamic coevolution of the  
38 symbiosis<sup>8</sup>. As such, partner-switching can enable niche-expansion by hosts<sup>9,10</sup> and  
39 provide a mechanism by which hosts can adapt to local environmental conditions faster than  
40 through *de novo* adaptation of the current symbiont<sup>11,12</sup>.

41

42 Newly interacting partner-switched host-symbiont pairings are, however, unlikely to be co-  
43 adapted due to their lack of recent coevolutionary history and may, therefore, initially have  
44 low fitness<sup>13-15</sup>. Indeed, despite the adaptive potential of partner-switching, new host-  
45 symbiont pairings, like genetic mutations, may more often be deleterious than beneficial to  
46 host fitness due to phenotypic mismatches or genetic incompatibilities. This has been  
47 observed in a range of symbiotic interactions: for example, a newly acquired *Symbiodinium*  
48 endosymbiont was found to translocate less fixed carbon than the native symbiont to its  
49 cnidarian host<sup>13</sup>; novel bacterial endosymbionts had reduced vertical transmission rates in  
50 aphid hosts<sup>14</sup>; and novel *Wolbachia* endosymbionts reduced the reproductive fitness of  
51 *Drosophila simulans*<sup>15</sup>. How then do newly-formed, poorly co-adapted host-symbiont  
52 pairings become stable, beneficial symbioses? We hypothesise that rapid compensatory  
53 evolution (that is adaptation of the host, the symbiont, or both to ameliorate the deleterious  
54 fitness effects of partner-switching) could allow partner-switched symbioses to overcome  
55 their initially low fitness. Indeed, there is some, albeit limited, experimental evidence to  
56 support this idea: For example, the high fitness cost of newly acquired *Spiroplasma*

57 endosymbionts in *Drosophila melanogaster* was ameliorated within only 17 host  
58 generations<sup>16</sup>, although the underlying mechanisms of this fitness recovery remain unknown.  
59 Furthermore, horizontal gene transfers were found to have caused the rapid evolution of  
60 nonsymbiotic strains of rhizobia bacterial symbionts into symbiotic partners in field-site tests  
61 with *Lotus* plant hosts<sup>17</sup>.

62

63 The microbial symbiosis between *Paramecium bursaria* and *Chlorella* provides an  
64 experimentally tractable model system to study intergenomic epistasis and the underlying  
65 molecular mechanisms. The ciliate host, *P. bursaria*, is a single-celled eukaryote, and each  
66 host cell contains 100-600 cells of the algal endosymbiont, *Chlorella*<sup>18,19</sup>. The *P. bursaria* -  
67 *Chlorella* symbiosis is based on a primary nutrient exchange of fixed carbon from the  
68 photosynthetic alga for organic nitrogen from the heterotrophic host<sup>18,20</sup>. *Chlorella* algal  
69 symbionts are primarily vertically transmitted to daughter cells at *Paramecium* cell division,  
70 although additional algal symbionts can also be acquired from the environment by  
71 ingestion<sup>21,22</sup>. This symbiosis is geographically widespread and genetically diverse, in part  
72 due to multiple independent acquisitions of algal symbionts by *P. bursaria*. The primary  
73 nutrient exchange is convergent among these origins, facilitating partner-switching, with  
74 concurrent divergence in other metabolic traits, causing phenotypic mismatches in partner-  
75 switched host-symbiont pairings<sup>23</sup>. Here, using experimental partner-switches, we examined  
76 the pattern and mechanisms of intergenomic epistasis for three diverse host-symbiont  
77 strains, observing significant  $G^H \times G^S \times E$  interactions for host-symbiont growth rate and  
78 symbiont load (that is the number of symbionts per host cell), together with corresponding  
79 differences in metabolism. We then experimentally evolved a low fitness partner-switched  
80 host-symbiont pairing for ~50 host generations. We observed rapid compensatory evolution  
81 by hosts and symbionts that improved fitness to equal to that of the native host-symbiont  
82 pairing mediated by evolved changes in host control of symbiont load and in symbiont  
83 metabolism.

84

## 85 **Results and Discussion**

86 **Intergenomic epistasis for host-symbiont growth and symbiont load.** We constructed  
87 all possible host-symbiont genotype pairings ( $n = 9$ ) of 3 diverse strains of *Paramecium*-  
88 *Chlorella* and confirmed their identity by diagnostic PCR (Figure S1). We measured the  
89 growth reaction norm of each host-symbiont pairing across a light gradient (Figure 1a). All  
90 host-symbiont pairings showed the classic photosymbiotic reaction norm<sup>24</sup>, such that growth  
91 rate increased with irradiance, but we observed a significant  $G^H \times G^S \times E$  interaction for  
92 host-symbiont growth rate ( $G^H \times G^S \times E$  interaction, ANOVA,  $F_{17,162} = 18.81$ ,  $P < 0.001$ )  
93 consistent with intergenomic epistasis. This was driven by contrasting effects of symbiont  
94 genotype on growth in the different host backgrounds across light environments. In the HK1  
95 and HA1 host-backgrounds, similar growth reaction norms with light were observed for each  
96 symbiont genotype, whereas in the 186b host background the growth reaction norm varied  
97 according to symbiont genotype. Interestingly, the native 186b host-symbiont pairing had  
98 both the lowest intercept and the highest slope, indicating that in the 186b host background  
99 the native algal symbiont genotype was costlier in the dark yet more beneficial in high-light  
100 environments than non-native algal symbiont-genotypes.

101

102 *P. bursaria* host cells regulate their algal symbiont load (i.e. the number of symbionts per  
103 host cell) according to light irradiance to maximise the benefit-to-cost ratio of symbiosis,  
104 such that, for naturally occurring host-symbiont pairings, symbiont load peaks at  
105 intermediate irradiance and is reduced both in the dark and at high irradiance<sup>24–26</sup>. To test if  
106 regulation of symbiont load varied among host-symbiont pairings, we measured symbiont  
107 load across the light gradient as the intensity of single-cell fluorescence, which is correlated  
108 with the number of symbionts per host cell<sup>19</sup>, by flow cytometry (Figure 1b). All host-  
109 symbiont pairings showed the expected unimodal symbiont load curve with light, but  
110 nevertheless we observed a significant  $G^H \times G^S \times E$  interaction for symbiont load ( $G^H \times G^S \times$   
111  $E$  interaction, ANOVA,  $F_{17,162} = 3.78$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) consistent with intergenomic epistasis.  
112 Whereas, in the HA1 host similar symbiont load reaction norms were observed for each

113 symbiont genotype, for the HK1 and 186b host backgrounds the form of the symbiont load  
114 reaction norms varied according to symbiont genotype. In the HK1 host, the magnitude of  
115 the symbiont load varied by symbiont genotype, such that higher symbiont loads were  
116 observed for the native compared to the non-native symbiont-genotypes. In the 186b host,  
117 peak symbiont load occurred at different light levels according to symbiont genotype, such  
118 that for the native symbiont the symbiont load curve peaked at a higher light intensity when  
119 compared to the non-native symbionts. (For the full output of the polynomial model, see  
120 Table S1.) Because symbiont load is primarily host-controlled in this system<sup>24,25</sup>, this  
121 suggests that the HK1 and 186b host-genotypes discriminated among symbiont-genotypes,  
122 and then regulated symbiont load accordingly.

123

124 **Metabolic mechanisms of intergenomic epistasis.** To investigate the potential metabolic  
125 mechanisms underlying the observed intergenomic epistasis we performed untargeted  
126 global metabolomics with ESI-ToF-MS independently for the host and symbiont metabolite  
127 fractions for each host-symbiont pairing across the light gradient<sup>23</sup>. Light irradiance was the  
128 primary driver of differential metabolism for both host and symbiont, however, host-  
129 dependent differences in the metabolism of symbiont-genotypes could be detected. For the  
130 symbiont metabolite fraction subset by host-genotype, we observed native versus non-native  
131 clustering of symbiont metabolism only when associated with the 186b host-genotype  
132 (Figure S2). This is consistent with the larger phenotypic differences in growth and symbiont  
133 load observed among host-symbiont pairings with the 186b host-genotype compared to with  
134 either the HK1 or HA1 host-genotypes. We therefore focused our analyses on comparing the  
135 metabolic profiles of the different symbiont genotypes within the 186b host background.  
136 Pairwise contrasts of the symbiont-genotypes in the 186b host-genotype background  
137 revealed a range of candidate symbiont metabolites which distinguished the native pairing  
138 from either non-native host-symbiont pairing. Putative identifications included, in the dark,  
139 elevated levels of candidate metabolites associated with stress responses (stress-  
140 associated hormones, jasmonic acid and abscisic acid, and stress associated-fatty acids,

141 such as arachidonic acid) but reduced production of vitamins and co-factors by the native  
142 symbiont, compared to the non-native symbionts (Table S2). At high irradiance, the native  
143 symbiont showed higher levels of candidate metabolites in central metabolism, hydrocarbon  
144 metabolism and of biotin (vitamin B7), compared to the non-native symbionts (Table S2). In  
145 contrast, the non-native symbionts produced elevated levels, relative to native symbionts, of  
146 a candidate glutathione derivative; glutathione is an antioxidant involved in the ascorbate-  
147 glutathione cycle that combats high UV stress through radical oxygen scavenging <sup>27,28</sup>.  
148 Together, these data suggest that intergenomic epistasis was associated with mismatches in  
149 photoprotection and consequent responses to light stress by symbionts in non-native host-  
150 symbiont pairings.

151

152 **Rapid compensatory evolution can rescue an initially low fitness partner-switched**  
153 **symbiosis.** The partner-switched pairing of the 186b host with the HK1 symbiont showed  
154 substantially reduced growth at high light relative to the native 186b host-symbiont pairing.  
155 To test if this fitness deficit could be overcome through compensatory evolution, we  
156 established six replicate populations of each of these two symbiotic partnerships (i.e., the  
157 186b host with the 186b algal symbiont and the 186b host with the HK1 algal symbiont),  
158 which were propagated by weekly serial transfer for 25 transfers (approximately 50 host  
159 generations) at a high light regime (50 $\mu$ E; 14:10 L:D). The growth rate per transfer was  
160 higher for the native pairing than the non-native pairing (Figure S3a) (linear mixed effect  
161 model, HK1 symbiont fixed effect of  $-0.08 \pm 0.006$ , T-value =  $-14.126$ , see Table S1 for full  
162 statistical output), but increased over time for both pairings (transfer number fixed effect  
163  $0.001 \pm 0.0004$ , T-value =  $3.088$ ). To test for adaptation, we compared the fitness effect of  
164 symbiosis at the beginning and the end of the transfer experiment by direct competition of  
165 either the ancestral or evolved host-symbiont pairings against the symbiont-free ancestral  
166 186b host genotype across a light gradient. Fitness at the start of the evolution experiment  
167 of symbiotic relative to non-symbiotic hosts increased more steeply with irradiance for the  
168 native than the partner-switched non-native pairing (Figure 2), but this difference had



169 disappeared by the end of the evolution experiment, such that both the native and non-  
170 native host-symbiont pairings showed increasing fitness relative to non-symbiotic hosts with  
171 increasing irradiance (symbiont genotype by light intensity by transfer number interaction  
172 term: ANOVA,  $F_{7,45}=6.20$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Indeed, at  $50 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ , the light level used in the  
173 selection experiment, the large fitness deficit observed between the native and non-native  
174 pairing at the beginning of the experiment had been completely compensated. Comparison  
175 of the growth reaction norms of the evolving populations over time suggested that this  
176 amelioration occurred rapidly: By the tenth transfer, the native and non-native host-symbiont  
177 pairings showed equivalent growth responses to light (Welch t-test  $t(45.96) = -0.26$ ,  $p =$   
178  $0.80$ ), in contrast to their substantially different ancestral growth reaction norms observed at  
179 the start of the evolution experiment (Welch t-test  $t(35.79) = 3.59$ ,  $p = <0.001$ ) (Figure S3b).  
180 These data suggest that newly established partner-switched symbioses can rapidly achieve  
181 equivalent growth performance and fitness benefits as the native host-symbiont pairing by  
182 compensatory evolution.

183

184 **Evolved changes in symbiont load regulation and metabolism.** To understand the  
185 mechanisms of compensatory evolution, we first compared the symbiont load reaction  
186 norms of the ancestral and evolved native and non-native pairings (Figure 3). Both ancestral  
187 host-symbiont pairings showed the expected unimodal symbiont load curve with light, albeit  
188 with higher symbiont loads for the native compared to the non-native pairing at the highest  
189 light level,  $50 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  irradiance, as used in the transfer experiment. By the end of the  
190 evolution experiment, the shape of the symbiont load reaction norms were altered in both  
191 the native and non-native pairings. Most notably, at  $50 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  irradiance, whereas the  
192 non-native pairing had increased symbiont load, symbiont load had decreased in the native  
193 pairing, such that symbiont load was now higher in the non-native pairing (transfer by  
194 symbiont genotype interaction at high light: ANOVA,  $F_{3,20} = 16.88$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Higher  
195 symbiont loads may therefore have contributed to the observed increased fitness of evolved  
196 compared to ancestral non-native pairings in the high light environment.

197

198 Next, to investigate the potential underlying metabolic mechanisms, we performed  
199 untargeted metabolomics analyses on the separated *Chlorella* and *P. bursaria* fractions from  
200 samples taken the start and end of the evolution experiment grown at  $50 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . The  
201 ancestral *P. bursaria* and *Chlorella* metabolic profiles of native and non-native host-symbiont  
202 pairings could be clearly distinguished (Figure 4). At the end of the evolution experiment, *P.*  
203 *bursaria* metabolism displayed a high degree of apparent convergence between hosts  
204 evolved with the native versus the non-native symbionts (Figure 4a,c). This was driven by  
205 decreased levels of compounds of central metabolism (such as pyruvate and TCA cycle  
206 intermediates, antioxidants, lipids, and some amino acids) (Table S3), suggesting either  
207 increased pathway completion or a reduced metabolic rate, both of which can lead to  
208 increased efficiency. In addition, we observed increased levels of the amino acid cysteine  
209 and a shikimate pathway component in hosts evolved with the native versus the non-native  
210 symbionts (Figure S4). Levels of algal-cell degradation components (Figure S4), such as  
211 cell-wall degradation product chitotriose, were increased in some replicates of hosts evolved  
212 with either symbiont, potentially suggesting increased digestion of *Chlorella*, which is a  
213 known mechanism by which hosts control their symbiont load <sup>29,30</sup>.

214

215 In contrast, evolved changes to the metabolic profiles of the algal symbiont genotypes  
216 showed less consistent differences among treatments (Figure 4b,d). Whereas all replicates  
217 of the native 186b *Chlorella* evolved in a similar direction, the replicates of the non-native  
218 HK1 *Chlorella* evolved in two different directions. Two of the HK1 replicates took a similar  
219 trajectory to the 186b symbionts, while the remaining four replicates all followed an  
220 alternative evolutionary trajectory. The group of four HK1 replicates that diverged during the  
221 experiment had lower production of metabolites within core aspects of metabolism, such as  
222 lipids, amino acids and carbohydrates. The second group, including the remaining two HK1  
223 replicates and all the 186b replicates, had for the most part higher production of metabolites  
224 within primary metabolism pathways, particularly within lipids and carbohydrates, as well as

225 a key chlorophyll compound, a photo-protective carotenoid (though not for all of the 186b  
226 replicates), and secondary metabolites with potential antioxidant properties (Figure S4,  
227 Table S3). This greater investment into photosynthesis and photo-protection may improve  
228 carbon transfer to the host<sup>31,32</sup>, and decrease light stress, which aligns with the decrease in  
229 host antioxidants. Interestingly, the two HK1 replicates that appeared to converge  
230 metabolically with the native symbionts had a lower increase in symbiont load compared to  
231 the replicates that metabolically diverged (Table S4). This implies that the evolution of  
232 metabolism and symbiont load were linked, and that overall two alternative strategies of  
233 compensatory evolution emerged: either to have fewer, more beneficial symbionts or to have  
234 more, less-beneficial symbionts.

235

## 236 **Conclusion**

237 Partner switching plays an important role in the evolution of a wide range of symbioses  
238<sup>2,4,5,33,34</sup> enabling adaptation to changing environments and recovery from the breakdown of  
239 symbiosis. Because of intergenomic epistasis, partner-switched host-symbiont pairings may  
240 possess novel adaptive phenotypes, but will sometimes exhibit low fitness associated with  
241 mismatches between host and symbiont traits, owing to their lack of recent coevolutionary  
242 history<sup>14,15,35</sup>. In the *Paramecium-Chlorella* symbiosis, low fitness following partner switching  
243 was associated with mismatching putative photoprotection traits and the resulting light stress  
244 experienced by non-native symbionts when in high light environments. This corresponds  
245 with findings from other photosynthetic symbioses, including coral-*Symbiodinium* and *Hydra-*  
246 *Chlorella*, where mismatching thermal and light stress tolerances contribute to the  
247 breakdown of symbiosis<sup>36-39</sup>. Low fitness, partner-switched host-symbiont pairings were  
248 rescued by compensatory evolution, which took one of two routes: Either, hosts evolved  
249 higher symbiont loads to mitigate for their new algal symbiont's poor performance, or the  
250 algal symbionts themselves evolved higher investment in photosynthesis and  
251 photoprotection traits to better mitigate light stress. Given that symbiont load varies with light  
252 due to host control<sup>24,25</sup>, it seems likely that the evolved change in symbiont load is due to

253 phenotypic plasticity through altered host regulation, whereas the evolved change in algal  
254 photosynthetic metabolism could be due to either genetic or physiological adaptation by the  
255 symbionts. Both strategies increased growth of the non-native host-symbiont pairing, leading  
256 to higher fitness equivalent to that of the native host-symbiont pairing. Together, these data  
257 suggest that, partner-switching combined with rapid compensatory evolution can contribute  
258 to the recovery of symbiosis and local adaptation of hosts to changing environmental  
259 conditions. Partner-switching combined with rapid compensatory evolution could thus  
260 enhance the resilience of symbioses to environmental change, enabling the maintenance of  
261 their contribution to ecosystem function. Moreover, the potential fitness benefits of the  
262 phenotypic plasticity provided by partner-switching may select against the evolution of strict  
263 vertical transmission in symbioses that inhabit fluctuating or rapidly changing environments.

264

265

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275 M.E.S.S conducted experimental work. M.E.S.S and D.D.C analysed the data. M.E.S.S and  
276 M.A.B drafted the manuscript. All authors commented on the manuscript.

277

278 **Competing Interest Statement:** The authors declare no conflict of interests.

279

280

281

282

283 **Figure Legends**

284

285 **Figure 1. Intergenomic epistasis of host symbiont growth rate and symbiont load**

286 **reaction norms.** For both A and B, each panel presents the data for a specific genotype of  
287 *P. bursaria* host, as indicated at top of each panel, and the symbiont genotypes are  
288 distinguished by colour. A) Initial growth rates of the host-symbiont pairings across a light  
289 gradient over three days. The data points show the mean (n=3) initial growth rate  $\pm$ SE. The  
290 host-symbiont growth rate reaction norm varied by symbiont genotype in the 186b host  
291 genotype but did not vary in the HA1 or HK1 host genotypes, consistent with intergenomic  
292 epistasis. B) Symbiont load of the host-symbiont pairings across a light gradient. The data  
293 points show the mean (n=3) symbiont load, measured as relative chlorophyll fluorescence,  
294  $\pm$ SE. The lines show polynomial models; the model coefficients showed a significant  $G^H \times G^S$   
295 interaction (ANOVA,  $F_{8,36} = 27.22$  (the intercept); 8.58 (first coefficient); 6.09 (second  
296 coefficient),  $P < 0.001$ ). For full statistical output see Table S1. The symbiont load reaction  
297 norm varied by symbiont genotype in both the HK1 and 186b host genotypes but did not  
298 vary in the HA1 host genotype, consistent with intergenomic epistasis.

299

300

301 **Figure 2. Relative fitness reaction norms at the start and end of the evolution**

302 **experiment.** Panels show relative fitness reaction norms across a light gradient of various  
303 host-symbiont pairings in the 186b host genotype in direct competition with the symbiont-  
304 free 186b host genotype. The left-hand panel shows fitness reaction norms measured at the  
305 start of the evolution experiment (T0) and the right-hand panel shows fitness reaction norms  
306 measured at the end of the evolution experiment (T25), as indicated at the top of each  
307 panel. Relative fitness was calculated as the selection rate, where a value above 0 indicates  
308 a fitness benefit to the host of carrying algal symbionts. Colours show the symbiont  
309 genotype treatment, where blue denotes that the 186b host carried the native 186b symbiont  
310 genotype whereas grey denotes that the 186b host carried the non-native HK1 symbiont  
311 genotype. Dark, thick lines show the mean (n=6) relative fitness reaction norms and light,  
312 thin lines show the relative fitness reaction norms for each individual replicate. At the start of  
313 the evolution experiment only the native host-symbiont pairing showed an increasing fitness  
314 benefit of carrying symbionts with increasing irradiance, whereas at the end of the evolution  
315 experiment both the native and non-native host symbiont pairings showed an increasing  
316 fitness benefit of carrying symbionts with increasing irradiance.

317

318

319 **Figure 3. Symbiont load reaction norms at the start and end of the evolution**  
320 **experiment.** Panels show symbiont load reaction norm across a light gradient of various  
321 host-symbiont pairings in the 186b host genotype. The left-hand panel shows symbiont load  
322 reaction norms measured at the start of the evolution experiment (T0) and the right-hand  
323 panel shows symbiont load reaction norms measured at the end of the evolution experiment  
324 (T25), as indicated at the top of each panel. Colours show the symbiont genotype treatment,  
325 where blue denotes that the 186b host carried the native 186b symbiont genotype whereas  
326 grey denotes that the 186b host carried the non-native HK1 symbiont genotype. Symbols  
327 show the mean ( $n=6$ )  $\pm$  standard error symbiont load and lines show the symbiont load  
328 reaction norms for each individual replicate. At the irradiance level used in the evolution  
329 experiment ( $50 \mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ), we observed that whereas mean symbiont load of the native  
330 symbiont had reduced, symbiont load of the non-native symbiont had increased, by the end  
331 of the evolution experiment.

332  
333

334 **Figure 4. Evolutionary trajectories of *Paramecium* and *Chlorella* metabolism.** Panels A  
335 and C show PCA plots for *P. bursaria* metabolism, while panels B and D show PCA plots for  
336 *Chlorella* metabolism, as indicated in the panel labels. The top row (A and B) plot PC1  
337 versus PC2. The bottom row (C and D) plot PC2 versus PC3. The percent variation  
338 explained by each PC is shown on the associated axis label. Colours show the symbiont  
339 genotype treatment, where blue denotes that the 186b host carried the native 186b symbiont  
340 genotype whereas grey denotes that the 186b host carried the non-native HK1 symbiont  
341 genotype. Dark points show ancestral metabolism at the state of the evolution experiment  
342 (mean of  $n=6$ ) whereas light points show the metabolism of each individual replicate  
343 population at the end of the evolution experiment (mean of  $n=3$  technical replicates per  
344 population). Arrows show the trajectory of metabolic evolution followed by each replicate  
345 population during the evolution experiment, and 95% confidence ellipses have been drawn  
346 for each treatment. The metabolite identifications for the top loadings are shown in their  
347 corresponding location. Related to Table S3 and Figure S4.

348  
349

350 **STAR Methods**

351 **Resource availability**

352 **Lead contact**

353 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will  
354 be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Michael Brockhurst  
355 (michael.brockhurst@manchester.ac.uk). The natural strains used in this paper are available  
356 from culture collections (see below), unfortunately all our experimental populations were lost  
357 during the lab closures at the beginning of the global Covid pandemic.

358

359 **Materials availability**

360 This study did not generate new unique reagents.

361

362 **Data and code availability**

363 The data has been deposited within Mendeley Data (DOI: 10.17632/m7tpzttjx.1).

364

365 **Experimental Model and Subject Details**

366 The three natural strains of symbiotic *P. bursaria* used were: 186b (CCAP 1660/18) obtained  
367 from the Culture Collection for Algae and Protozoa (Oban, Scotland), and HA1 and HK1  
368 isolated in Japan and obtained from the Paramecium National Bio-Resource Project  
369 (Yamaguchi, Japan). *P. bursaria* stock cultures were maintained at 25°C under a 14:10 L:D  
370 cycle with 50  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  of light (a high light condition). The stocks were maintained by batch  
371 culture in bacterized Protozoan Pellet Media (PPM, Carolina Biological Supply), made to a  
372 concentration of 0.66 g L<sup>-1</sup> with Volvic natural mineral water, and inoculated approximately  
373 20 hours prior to use with *Serratia marscesens* from frozen glycerol stocks.

374

375 To isolate *Chlorella* from the symbiosis, symbiotic cultures were first washed and  
376 concentrated with a 11  $\mu\text{m}$  nylon mesh using sterile Volvic. The suspension was then  
377 ultrasonicated using a Fisherbrand™ Q500 Sonicator (Fisher Scientific, NH, USA), at a  
378 power setting of 20% for 10 seconds sonification to disrupt the host cells. The liquid was  
379 then spotted onto Bold Basal Media plates (BBM)<sup>40</sup>, from which green colonies were

380 streaked out and isolated over several weeks. Plate stocks were maintained by streaking out  
381 one colony to a fresh plate every 3/4 weeks.

382

383 Symbiont-free *P. bursaria* were made by treating symbiotic cultures with paraquat (10 µg  
384 mL<sup>-1</sup>) for 3 to 7 days in high light conditions (>50 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>), until the host cells were visibly  
385 symbiont free. The cultures were then extensively washed with Volvic and closely monitored  
386 with microscopy and flow cytometry over a period of several weeks to check that re-greening  
387 by *Chlorella* did not occur. Stock cultures of the symbiont-free cells were maintained by  
388 batch culture at 25°C under a 14:10 L:D cycle with 3 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> of light and were given fresh  
389 PPM weekly. Symbiont-free *Paramecium* stocks have been maintained for a substantial  
390 period of time (months/years) without *Chlorella* ever being observed either inside or outside  
391 of *Paramecium* cells. In addition, using flow cytometry we have never observed chlorophyll  
392 fluorescence for *Paramecium* cells sampled from these stocks (methodology detailed in  
393 symbiont Load section). Together these tests confirms that paraquat treatment successfully  
394 removes all of the native *Chlorella*.

395

## 396 **Method Details**

### 397 *Cross infection*

398 Symbiont-free populations of the three *P. bursaria* strains were re-infected by adding a  
399 colony of *Chlorella* from the plate stocks derived from the appropriate strain. This was done  
400 with all three of the isolated *Chlorella* strains to construct all possible host-symbiont  
401 genotype pairings (n=9). The regreening process was followed by microscopy and took  
402 between 2-6 weeks. Over the process, cells were grown at the intermediate light level of 12  
403 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and were given bacterized PPM weekly.

404

### 405 *Diagnostic PCR*

406 The correct algae genotype within the cross-infections was confirmed using diagnostic PCR.  
407 The *Chlorella* DNA was extracted by isolating the *Chlorella* and then using a standard 6%  
408 Chelex100 resin (Bio-Rad) extraction method. A nested PCR technique with overlapping,  
409 multiplex Chlorophyta specific primers were used as described by Hoshina et al. <sup>41</sup>.  
410 Standard PCR reactions were performed using Go Taq Green Master Mix (Promega) and  
411 0.5µmol L<sup>-1</sup> of the primer. The thermocycler programme was set to: 94°C for 5min, 30 cycles  
412 of (94°C for 30sec, 55°C for 30sec, 72°C for 60sec), and 5 min at 72°C.

413

### 414 *Growth rate*



415 Growth rates of the host-symbiont pairings were measured across a light gradient. The cells  
416 were washed and concentrated with a 11µm nylon mesh using sterile Volvic and re-  
417 suspended in bacterized PPM. The cultures were then split and acclimated to their treatment  
418 light condition (0, 12, 24, & 50 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) for five days. The cultures were then re-suspended  
419 in bacterized PPM to a target cell density of 150 cell mL<sup>-1</sup>. Cell densities were measured at  
420 0, 24, 48 and 72 hours by fixing 360µL of each cell culture, in triplicate, in 1% v/v  
421 glutaraldehyde in 96-well flat-bottomed micro-well plates. Images were taken with a plate  
422 reader (Tecan Spark 10M) and cell counts were made using an automated image analysis  
423 macro in ImageJ v1.50i<sup>42</sup>. The initial host-symbiont growth rate was measured over a period  
424 of three days.

425

#### 426 *Symbiont load*

427 The symbiont load (i.e., the number of symbionts per host cell) was measured in cultures  
428 derived from the growth rate experiment so that the data could be integrated between the  
429 two measurements. Triplicate 300µl samples of each cell culture were taken from 72-hour  
430 cultures for flow cytometry analysis. Host symbiont load was estimated using a CytoFLEX S  
431 flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter Inc., CA, USA) by measuring the intensity of chlorophyll  
432 fluorescence for single *P. bursaria* cells (excitation 488nm, emission 690/50nm) and gating  
433 cell size using forward side scatter; a method established by Kadono et al.<sup>19</sup>. The  
434 measurements were calibrated against 8-peak rainbow calibration particles (BioLegend),  
435 and then presented as relative fluorescence to reduce variation across sampling sessions.

436

#### 437 *Partner-switching - Metabolomics*

438 Cultures of the host-symbiont pairings were washed and concentrated with a 11µm nylon  
439 mesh using sterile Volvic and re-suspended in bacterized PPM. The cultures were then split  
440 and acclimated at their treatment light condition (0, 12 & 50 µE m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) for seven days. The  
441 symbiotic partners were separated in order to get *P. bursaria* and *Chlorella* metabolic  
442 fraction. The *P. bursaria* cells were concentrated with a 11µm nylon mesh using Volvic and  
443 then the *P. bursaria* cells were disrupted by sonication (20% power for 10 secs). 1ml of the  
444 lysate was pushed through a 1.6µm filter, which caught the intact *Chlorella* cells, and the  
445 run-through was collected and stored as the *P. bursaria* fraction. The 1.6µm filter was  
446 washed with 5ml cold deionized water, and then reversed so that the *Chlorella* cells were  
447 resuspended in 1ml of cold methanol, which was stored as the *Chlorella* fraction. After which  
448 the *Chlorella* fraction samples were already in methanol, but the *P. bursaria* fraction samples  
449 had then to be diluted by 50% with methanol.

450

451 Metabolic profiles were recorded using ESI ToF-MS, on the Qstar Elite with automatic  
452 injection using Waters Alliance 2695 HPLC (no column used), in positive mode. This is an  
453 established high-throughput method with a large mass range (50 Da to 1000 Da).

454

455 Mass spectrometry settings:

456	Polarity:	positive
457	Ion Spray voltage:	4.2 kV
458	Declustering potential:	120 V
459	Focusing potential:	265 V
460	Source temperature:	200°C
461	Gas Flow:	40 ml min <sup>-1</sup>
462	Solvent:	50:50 methanol to water at flow rate 40µl min <sup>-1</sup>
463	Injected volume:	10µl

464

465 The processing was performed using in-house software Visual Basic macro 216<sup>43</sup>, which  
466 combined the spectra across the technical replicates by binning the crude m/z values into  
467 0.2-unit bins. The relative mass abundances (% total ion count) for each bin was summed.  
468 Pareto scaling was applied to the results, and the data was then analysed by principal  
469 component analysis using SIMCA-P software (Umetrics). When treatment-based separation  
470 was observed, supervised orthogonal partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA)  
471 separation was then performed using the discriminatory treatment with the SIMCA-P  
472 software.

473

#### 474 *Partner-switching - Identification of significant masses*

475 Masses of interest were annotated using the initial identifications from the in-house  
476 software program and further comparisons against KEGG (<https://www.genome.jp/kegg/>)  
477<sup>44,45</sup> and Metlin (<https://metlin.scripps.edu>)<sup>46</sup> databases. The Metabolomics Standards  
478 Initiative requires two independent measures to confirm identity, this partner-switching  
479 metabolomic analysis only used one measure (accurate mass) and therefore, meets only the  
480 level 2 requirements of putative annotated compounds.

481

#### 482 *Evolution Experiment*

483 The populations used derive from the cross-infections and, therefore, the  
484 host-symbiont pairings come from the same cured 186b ancestor that was then re-infected  
485 with either its native (186b) or non-native (HK1) symbionts. The two host-symbiont pairings  
486 were split into six replicate populations that were used as the starting populations. The  
487 200ml populations were propagated by weekly serial transfer for 25 transfers at a high light

488 (50  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) 14:10 L:D cycle. At every transfer, cell-density was equalised to 100 cells mL<sup>-1</sup>  
489 and the transferred cells were washed with a 11 $\mu\text{m}$  nylon mesh using Volvic before being  
490 re-suspended in bacterized PPM. Cell density was measured before and after each transfer  
491 by fixing 360 $\mu\text{L}$  of each cell culture, in triplicate, in 1% v/v glutaraldehyde in 96-well flat-  
492 bottomed micro-well plates. Images were taken with a plate reader (Tecan Spark 10M) and  
493 cell counts were made using an automated image analysis macro in ImageJ v1.50i<sup>42</sup>.  
494 Growth rate and symbiont load assays were conducted at the start, T10, T20 and end of the  
495 experiment using the method described above.

496

#### 497 *Evolution experiment - Fitness assay*

498 Fitness assays were conducted at the start and end of the evolution experiment. *P. bursaria*  
499 cultures, both the symbiotic pairings and the symbiont-free ancestor, were washed with  
500 Volvic and resuspended in bacterized PPM. The cultures were then split and acclimated at  
501 their treatment light level (0,12,50  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for five days. Cell densities were counted by  
502 fixing 360 $\mu\text{L}$  of each cell culture, in triplicate, in 1% v/v glutaraldehyde in 96-well flat-  
503 bottomed micro-well plates. Images were taken with a plate reader (Tecan Spark 10M) and  
504 cell counts were made using an automated image analysis macro in ImageJ v1.50i<sup>42</sup>. The  
505 competitions were started by setting up microcosms that each contained 50:50 populations  
506 of green and white cells (with target values of 20 green cells and 20 white cells per mL) that  
507 were in direct competition. Cells were sampled on day 0 and day 7 on a flow cytometer and  
508 the proportion of green to white cells was measured and used to calculate the selection rate.  
509 Selection rate (R) is calculated as the difference in Malthusian parameters of green (test)  
510 versus white (reference) cell populations in direct competition:  $R = (\ln(\text{test}_{\text{start}}/\text{test}_{\text{end}}) -$   
511  $\ln(\text{reference}_{\text{start}}/\text{reference}_{\text{end}})) / \text{day}$ <sup>47</sup>. Green versus white cells were distinguished using  
512 single cell fluorescence estimated using a CytoFLEX S flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter  
513 Inc., CA, USA) by measuring the intensity of chlorophyll Fluorescence (excitation 488nm,  
514 emission 690/50nm) and gating cell size using forward side scatter; a method established by  
515 Kadono et al.<sup>19</sup>. The measurements were calibrated against 8-peak rainbow calibration  
516 particles (BioLegend), and then presented as relative fluorescence to reduce variation  
517 across sampling sessions. The re-establishment of endosymbiosis takes between 2-4  
518 weeks, and this method was tested to ensure that the symbiont-free cells do not re-green  
519 over the course of the experiment.

520

#### 521 *Evolution experiment - Metabolomics*

522 The cultures were sampled at the start and end of the evolution experiment. Cultures were  
523 washed and concentrated with a 11 $\mu\text{m}$  nylon mesh using Volvic and re-suspended in  
524 bacterized PPM. The cultures were acclimated at their treatment light condition (50  $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ )

525 1) for seven days. At the start of the evolution experiment we analysed a sample from each  
526 of the 6 replicate populations per treatment to determine the ancestral metabolomes of each  
527 host-symbiont pairing (i.e., n=6). At the end of the evolution experiment, we increased our  
528 replication such that for each of the 6 replicate populations per treatment we analysed 3  
529 technical replicates, allowing us to determine differences between replicate populations as  
530 well as between treatments in their evolved metabolomes. At each sampling event, the  
531 symbiotic partners were separated in order to get *P. bursaria* and *Chlorella* metabolic  
532 fraction using the extraction method described above. Samples were freeze-dried for  
533 storage, and then resuspended in 50:50 methanol to water prior to mass spectrometry.

534

535 The samples were analysed with a Synapt G2-Si with Acuity UPLC, recording in positive  
536 mode over a large untargeted mass range (50 – 1000 Da). A 2.1x50mm Acuity UPLC BEH  
537 C18 column was used with acetonitrile as the solvent. The machine settings are listed in  
538 detail below:

539

540 Mass spectrometry settings:

541 Polarity: positive  
542 Capillary voltage: 2.3 kV  
543 Sample Cone voltage: 20 V  
544 Source Temperature: 100°C  
545 Desolvation temperature: 280°C  
546 Gas Flow: 600 L hr<sup>-1</sup>  
547 Injected volume: 5 µl  
548 Column temperature: 45°C

549

550 Gradient information:

551

Time (mins)	Water (%)	Acetonitrile (%)
0	95	5
3	65	35
6	0	100
7.5	0	100
7.6	95	5

555

556 The *P. bursaria* and *Chlorella* fraction were analysed separately. The xcms R package<sup>48–50</sup>  
557 was used to extract the spectra from the CDF data files, using a step argument of 0.01 m/z.  
558 Peaks were identified, and then grouped across samples. These aligned peaks were used to  
559 identify and correct correlated drifts in retention time from run to run. Pareto scaling was  
560 applied to the resulting intensity matrix.

561

562 *Evolution experiment - Metabolomics analysis*

563 The metabolic profiles from the start and end of the experiment were compared using  
564 principal component analysis (PCA) with the `prcomp()` function in Base R  
565 (<https://www.rproject.org/>). For both fractions the first three components were considered,  
566 this accounted for >88% of the variance. The top 1% of the loadings were selected using the  
567 absolute magnitude of the loadings. These top loadings were identified where possible, and  
568 the identified loadings were then depicted in their associated component space. The relative  
569 abundance of these top loadings was visualised using heatmaps drawn with the `heatmap.2()`  
570 function from the `gplot` package <sup>51</sup>. The phylogenies were based on UPGMA clustering of the  
571 PCA coordinates of the samples using the `hclust()` function. This approach of integrating  
572 metabolic data and genotypes in heatmaps has been used previously <sup>52</sup>.

573

574 *Evolution experiment - Identification of significant masses*

575 Masses of interest were investigated using the MarVis-Suite 2.0 software  
576 (<http://marvis.gobics.de/>) <sup>53</sup>, using retention time and mass to compare against KEGG  
577 (<https://www.genome.jp/kegg/>) <sup>44,45</sup> and MetaCyc (<https://biocyc.org/>) <sup>54</sup> databases. The  
578 Metabolomics Standards Initiative requires two independent measures to confirm identity,  
579 which the combination of retention time and accurate mass achieves for the analysis of the  
580 evolution experiment metabolomics.

581

582 **Quantification and Statistical analysis**

583 Statistical analyses were performed in Rv.3.5.0 <sup>55</sup> and all plots were produced using  
584 package `ggplot2` <sup>56</sup> unless otherwise stated. Physiology tests were analysed by both ANOVA  
585 and ANCOVA, with transfer time, host and symbiont identity as factors. A linear mixed effect  
586 model was used to analysis the growth rate per transfer using `lm()` function from the `nlme`  
587 package <sup>57</sup>. The `lm` model included fixed effects of symbiont genotype and transfer number,  
588 and random effects of transfer number given sample ID. Where parametric tests were used  
589 the data conformed to parametric assumptions of independence, normality and homogeneity  
590 of variance, which was confirmed using the appropriate tests and plots (e.g normal QQ and  
591 residual vs fitted values). Summary details of the data is provided in the figure legends (e.g  
592 the value of n and type of error used) and details of the statistical methods used are within  
593 the supplementary statistics table (Table S1).

594

595 **Supplementary excel table**

596 **Table S1.** Statistical outputs for analyses associated with the figures of the main manuscript  
597 and supplementary figures. Related to Figures 1A, 1B, 2, 3, & S3.

598

599

600

601

602

603

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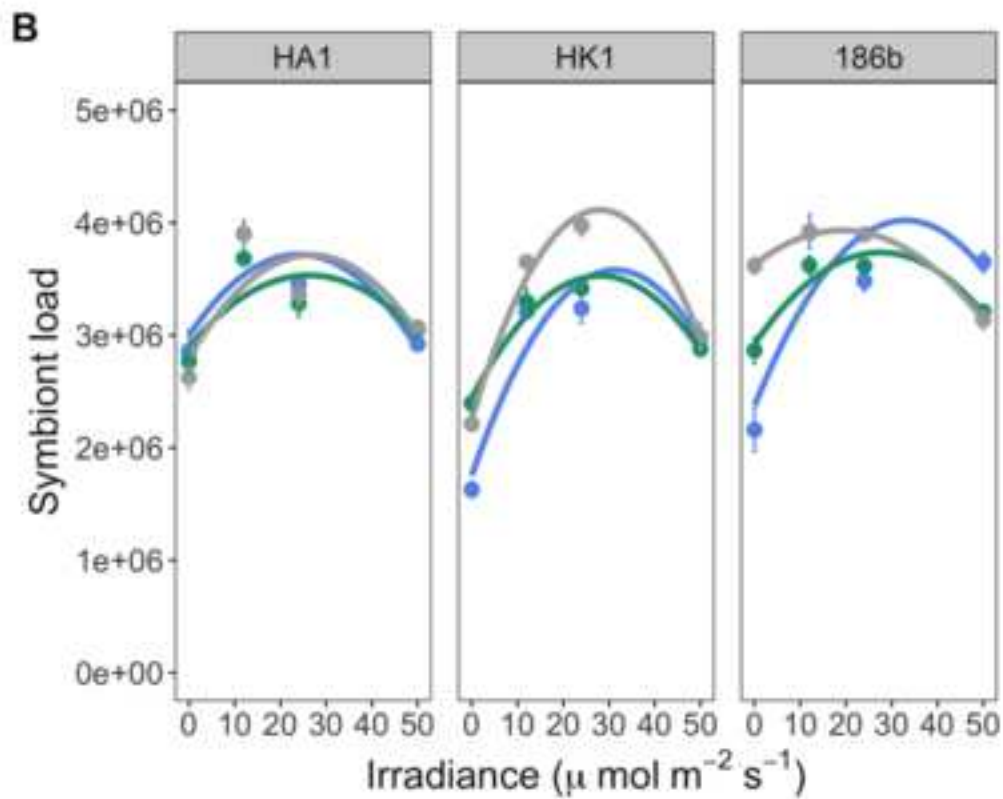
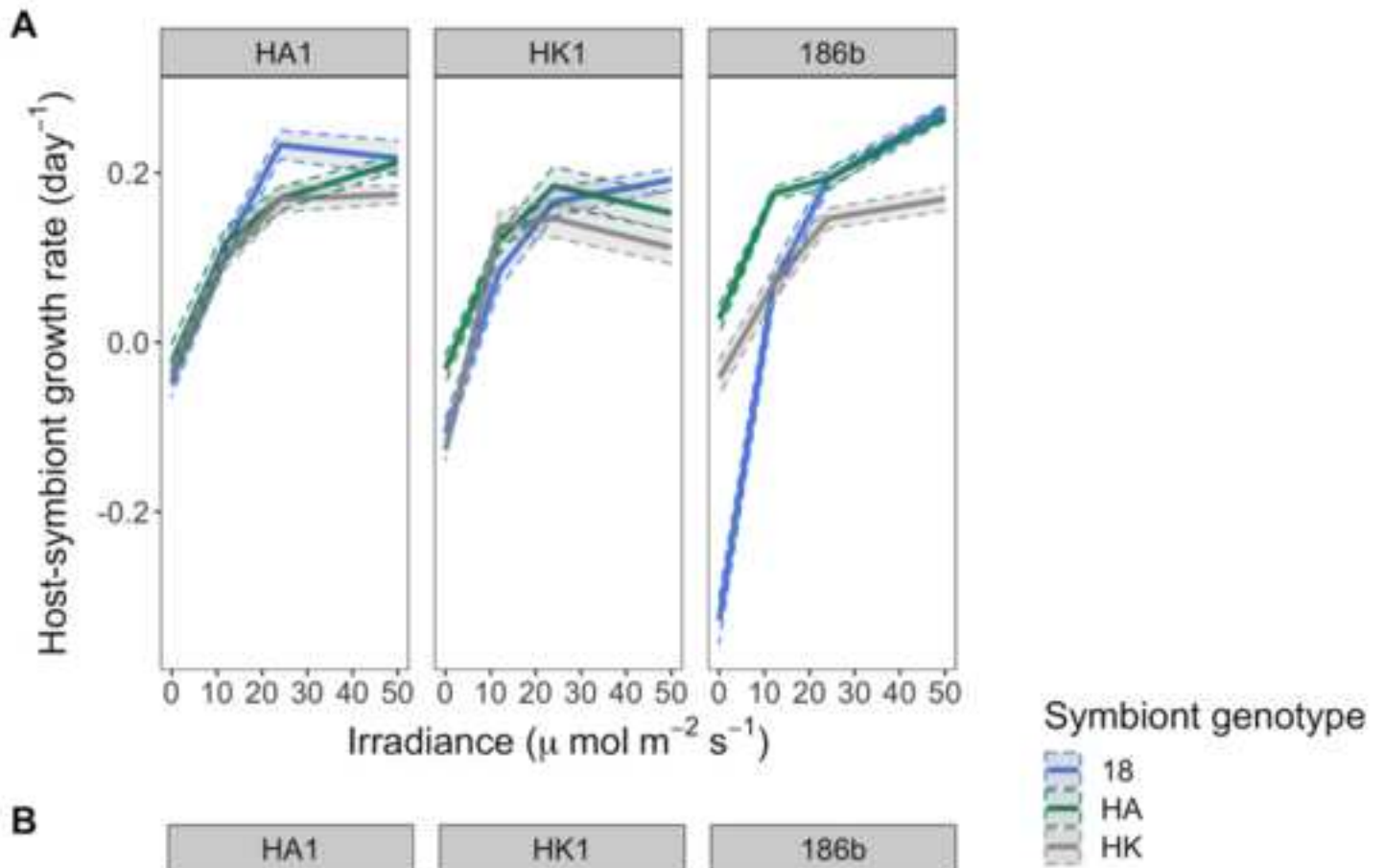
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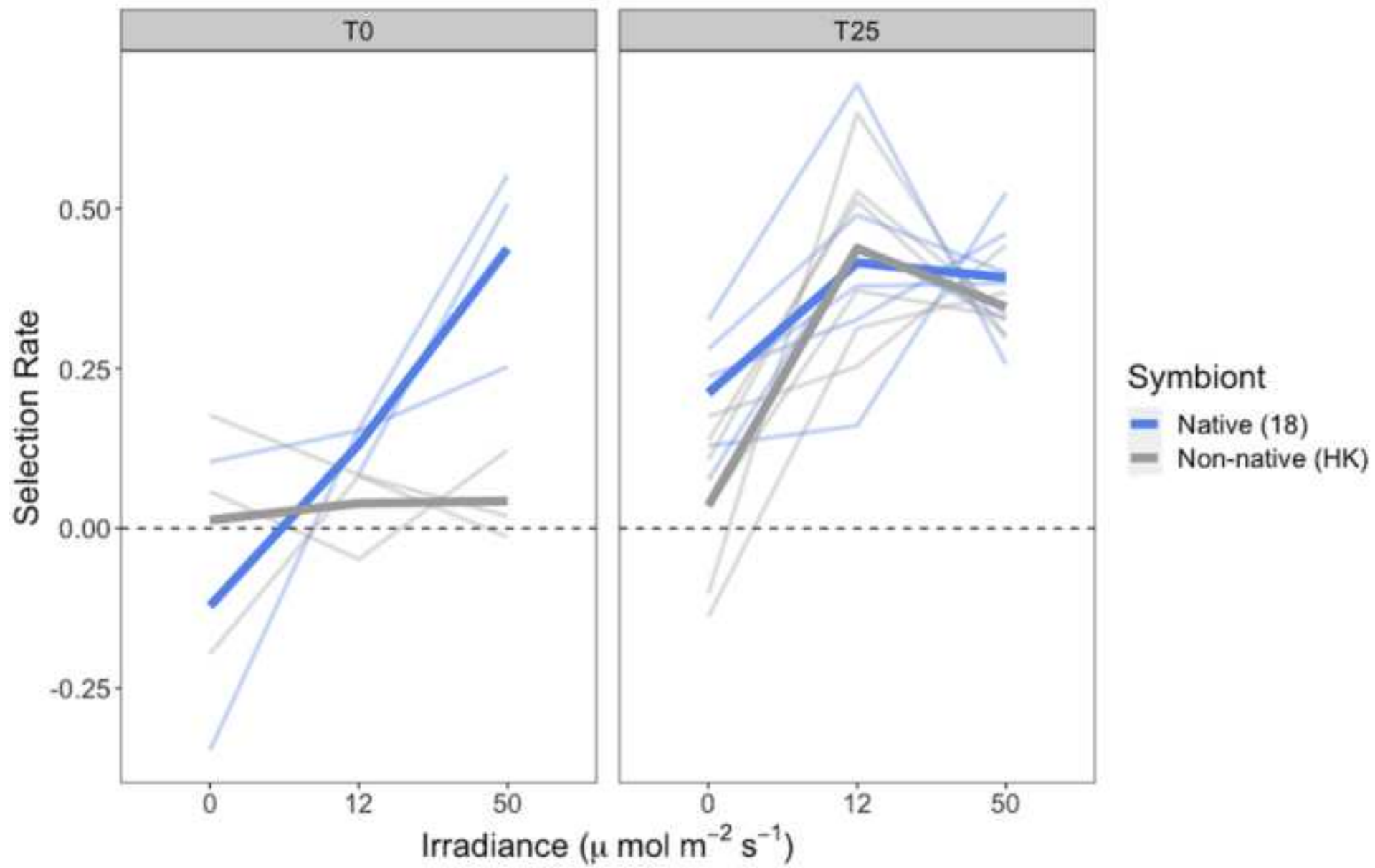
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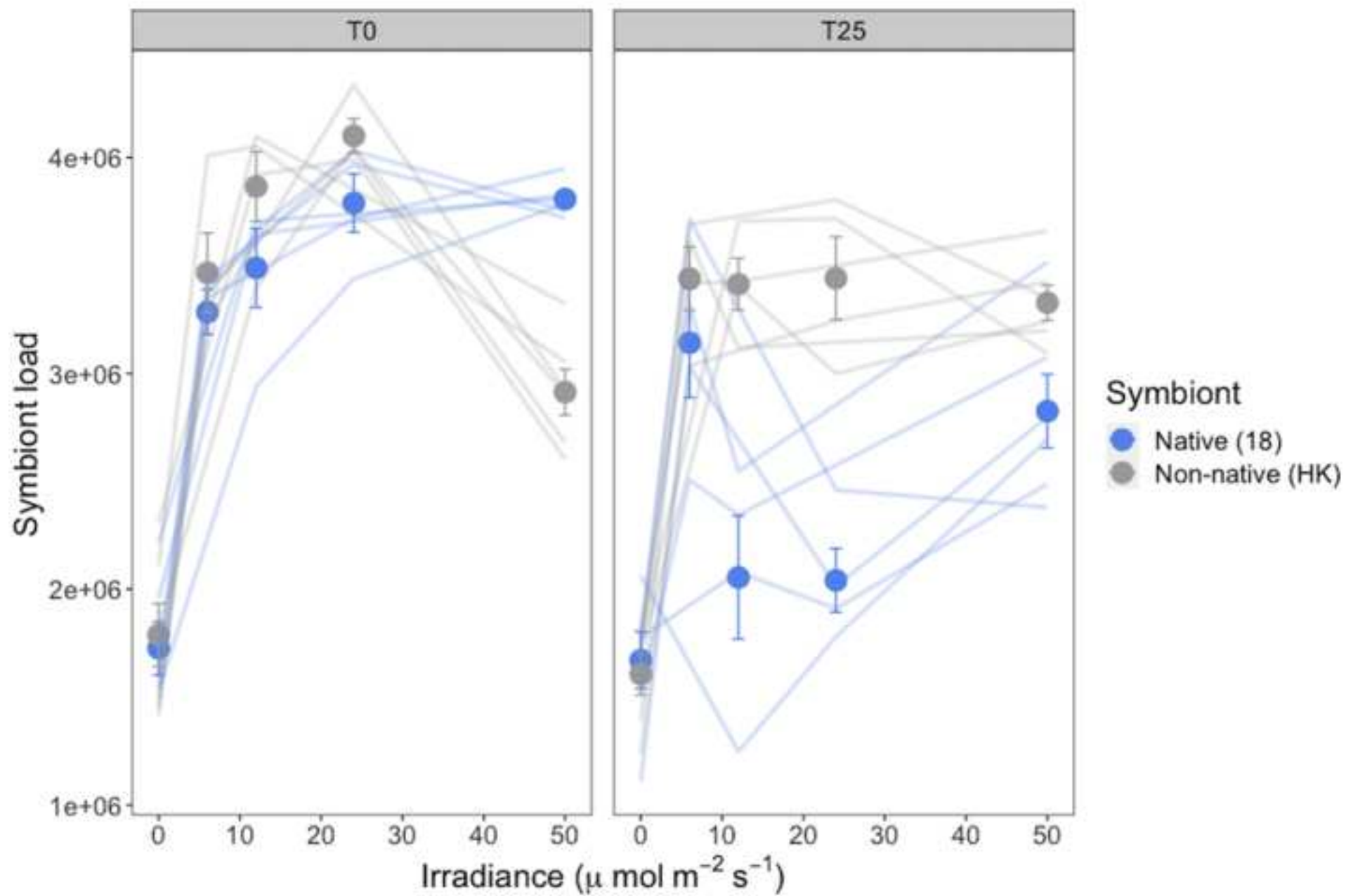
**KEY RESOURCES TABLE**

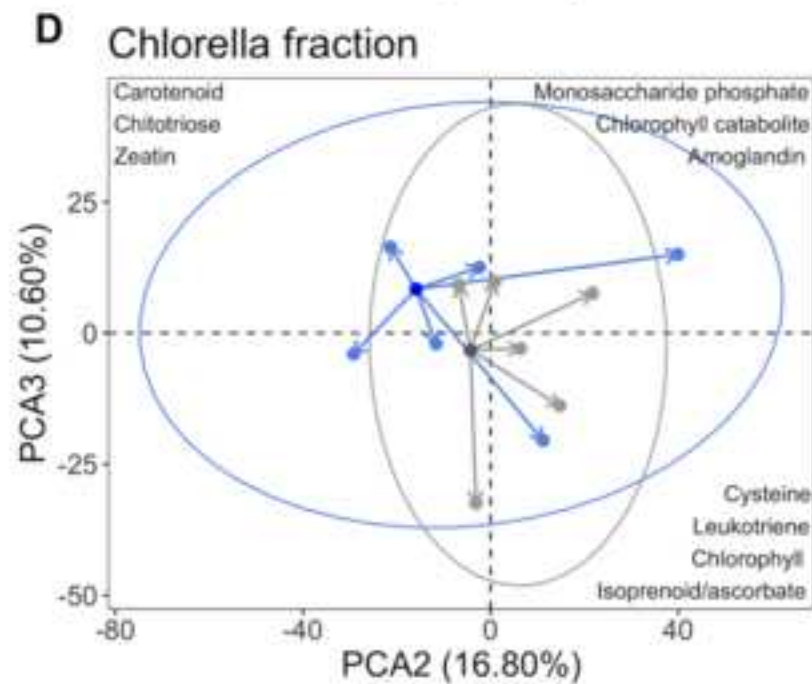
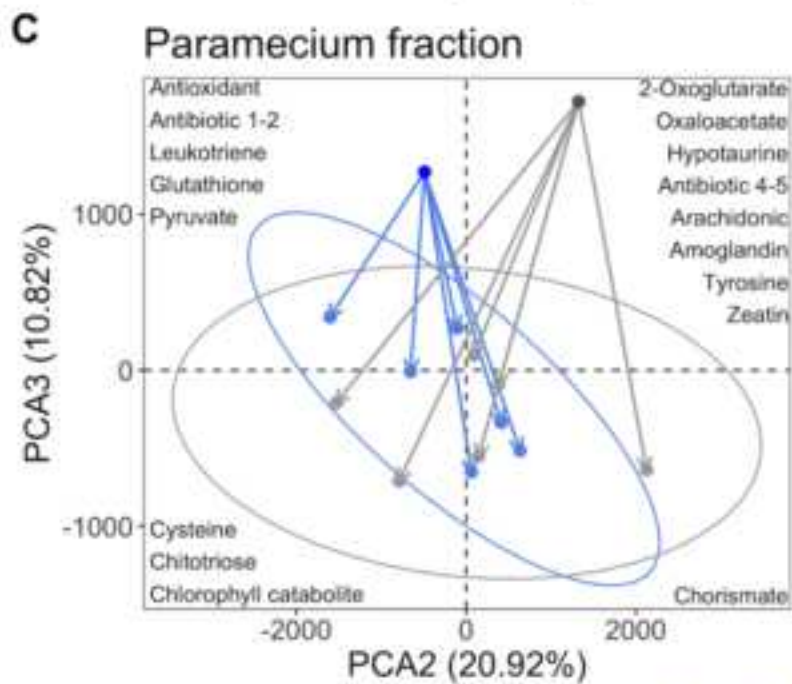
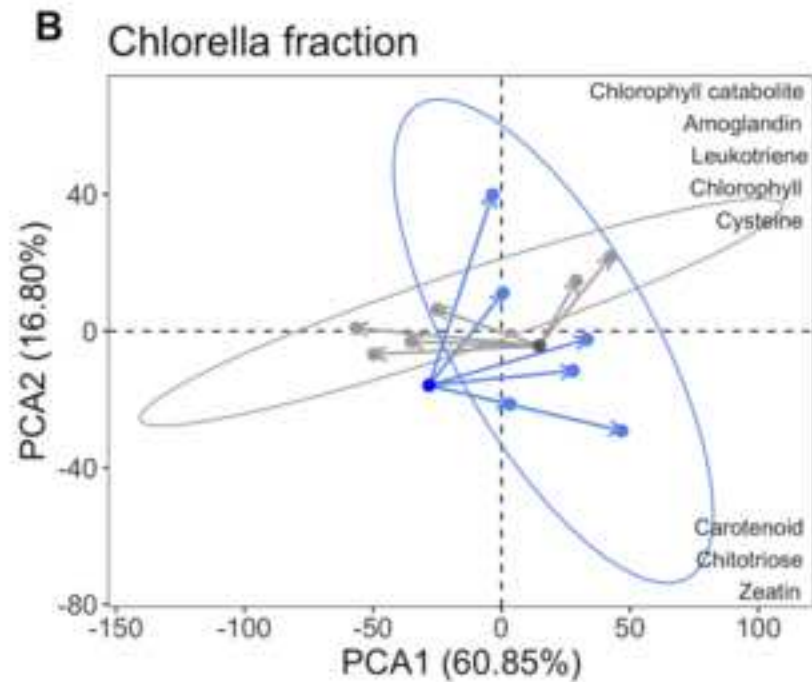
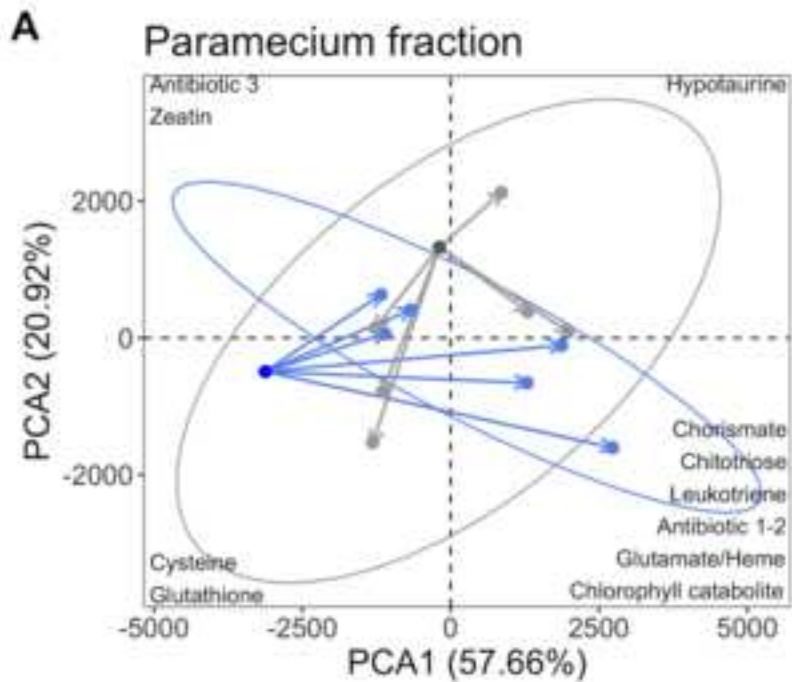
REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
<i>Serratia marscesens</i>	Collection of Institut Pasteur	CIP 103235T
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Protozoan Pellet Media	Carolina Biological Supply	132360
Paraquat dichloride	Sigma-Aldrich	36541; CAS: 75365-73-0
8-peak rainbow calibration particles	BioLegend	422903
Chelex100 resin	Bio-Rad Laboratories	1421253
Deposited Data		
Mass spectrometry, growth rate, fitness assays and flow cytometry data	This paper	DOI: 10.17632/m7tpztyjx.1
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
<i>P. bursaria</i> – <i>Chlorella</i> 186b strain	Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa	CCAP 1660/18
<i>P. bursaria</i> – <i>Chlorella</i> HA1 strain	National BioResource project	NBRP ID: PB034004A
<i>P. bursaria</i> – <i>Chlorella</i> HK1 strain	National BioResource project	NBRP ID: PB033003A
Oligonucleotides		
primer 'SR1' (F): TACCTGGTTGATCCTGCCAG	[41]	N/A
Primer 'CHspeRmaeF' (F): GGCCTTTTCAGGTCTGGTA	[41]	N/A
Primer 'INT4F': TGGTGAAGTGTTCCGATTGG	[41]	N/A
Primer 'SR8' (F): GGATTGACAGATTGAGAGCT	[41]	N/A
Primer 'chSsotoR': CCCTCTAAGAAGTCCGCCG	[41]	N/A
Primer 'INT5R': AGGTGGGAGGGTTTAATGAA	[41]	N/A
Primer 'HLR3R': TCCCAAACAACCCGACTCT	[41]	N/A
Primer 'TreSR': GCCAGTGCACACCGAAAC	[41]	N/A

Primer 'CHspeHLR1R': CACTAGACTACAATTCGCCAGCC	[41]	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Visual Basic macro 216	[43]	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15596481/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15596481/</a>
ImageJ v1.50i	[42]	<a href="https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/">https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/</a>
xcms R package	[48–50]	<a href="https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/xcms.html">https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/xcms.html</a>
MarVis-Suite 2.0 software	[53]	<a href="http://marvis.gobics.de/">http://marvis.gobics.de/</a>



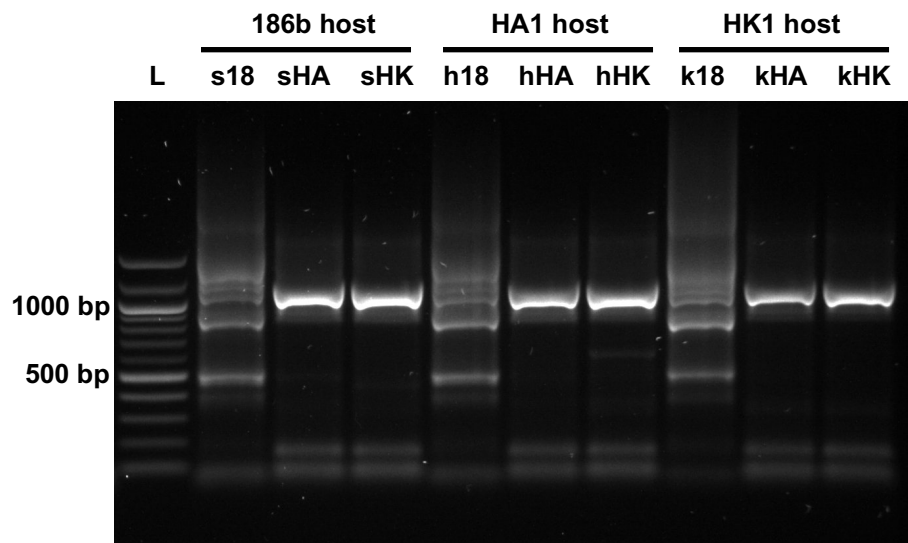






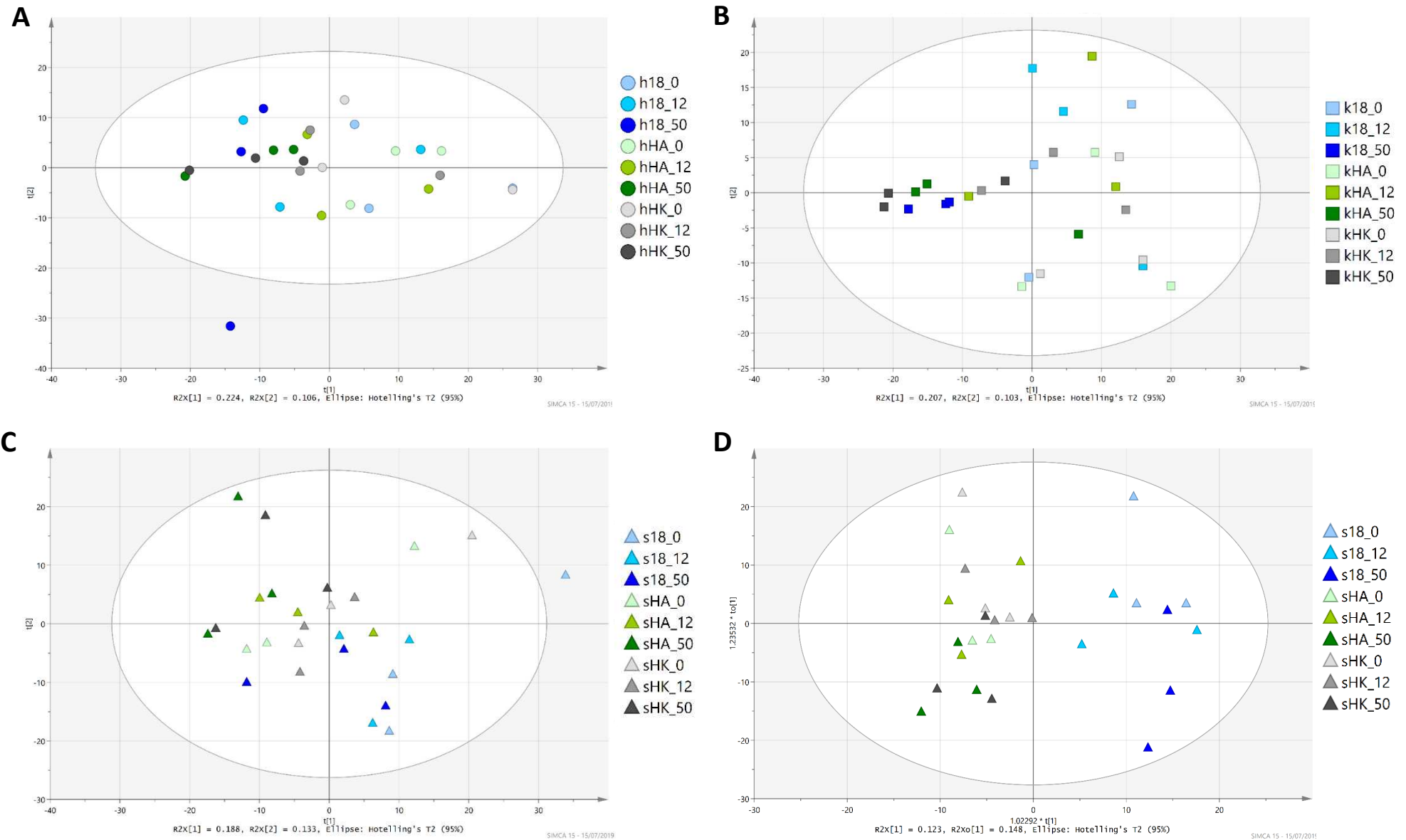
Group 18 18start HK HKstart





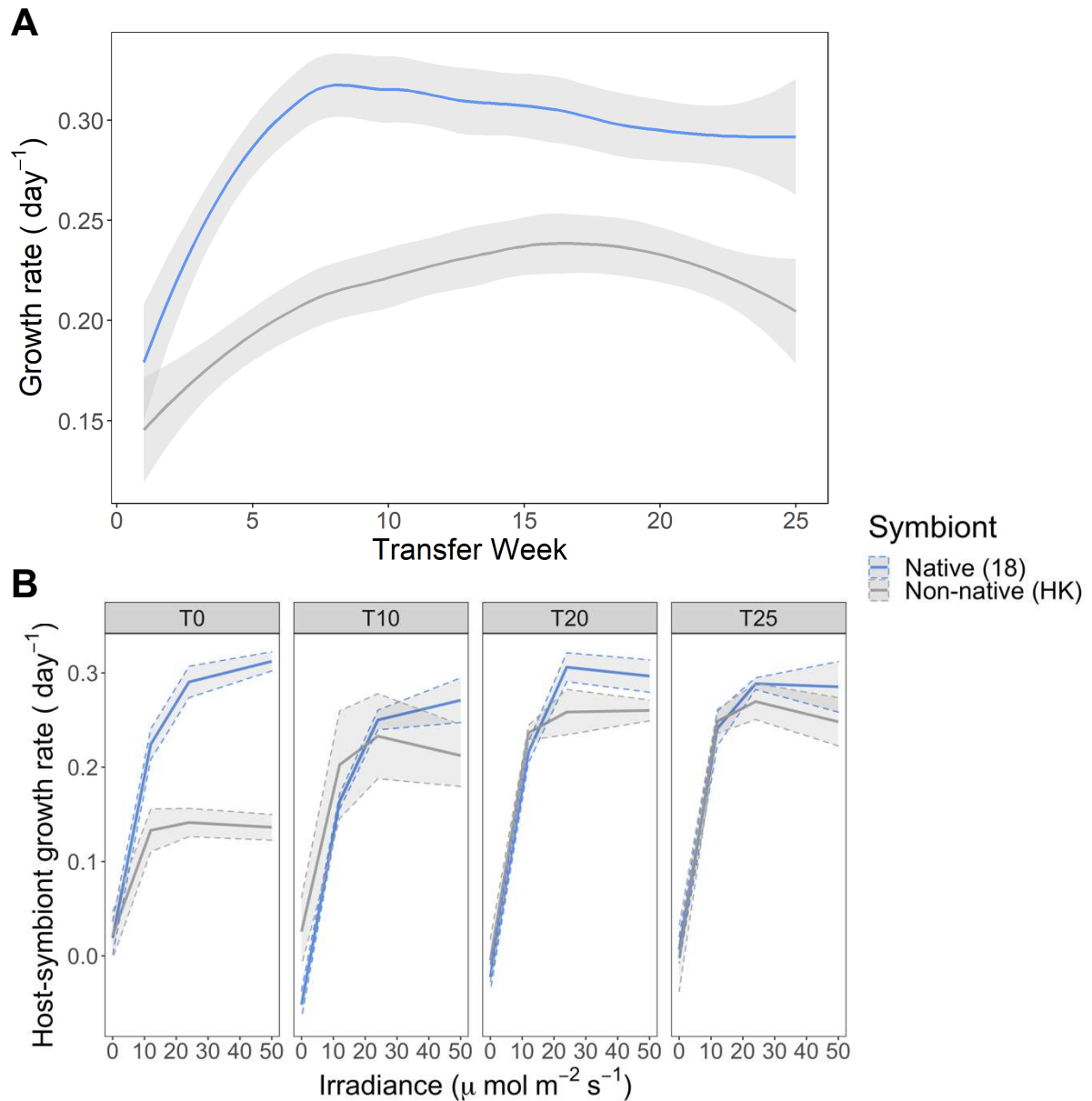
**Figure S1. PCR confirmation of symbiont-genotype within the reciprocal cross infections. Related to STAR Methods and main text.**

Overlapping, multiplex primers were used to amplify fragments within the 18S rDNA and ITS region of the *Chlorella* nuclear genome. In this region the ‘American/Japanese’ strains, such as HA1 and HK1, have had three introns inserted that the ‘European’ strains, such as 186b, lack (Hoshina and Imamura, 2008; Hoshina et al., 2005). The banding pattern results here confirm that the cross-infections were successful and contain the correct *Chlorella* genotype, specifically that the distinct banding pattern of 186b was present when expected. This PCR method can distinguish between ‘American/Japanese’ and ‘European’ strains, but not between strains that come from the same biogeographical clade. Host genotype has been shortened to a letter (‘s’ = 186b host, ‘h’ = HA1 host, ‘k’ = HK1 host); symbiont genotype is shown by two capitals (‘18’ = 186b symbiont, ‘HA’ = HA1 symbiont, ‘HK’ = HK1 symbiont). Shown alongside a 100bp ladder.



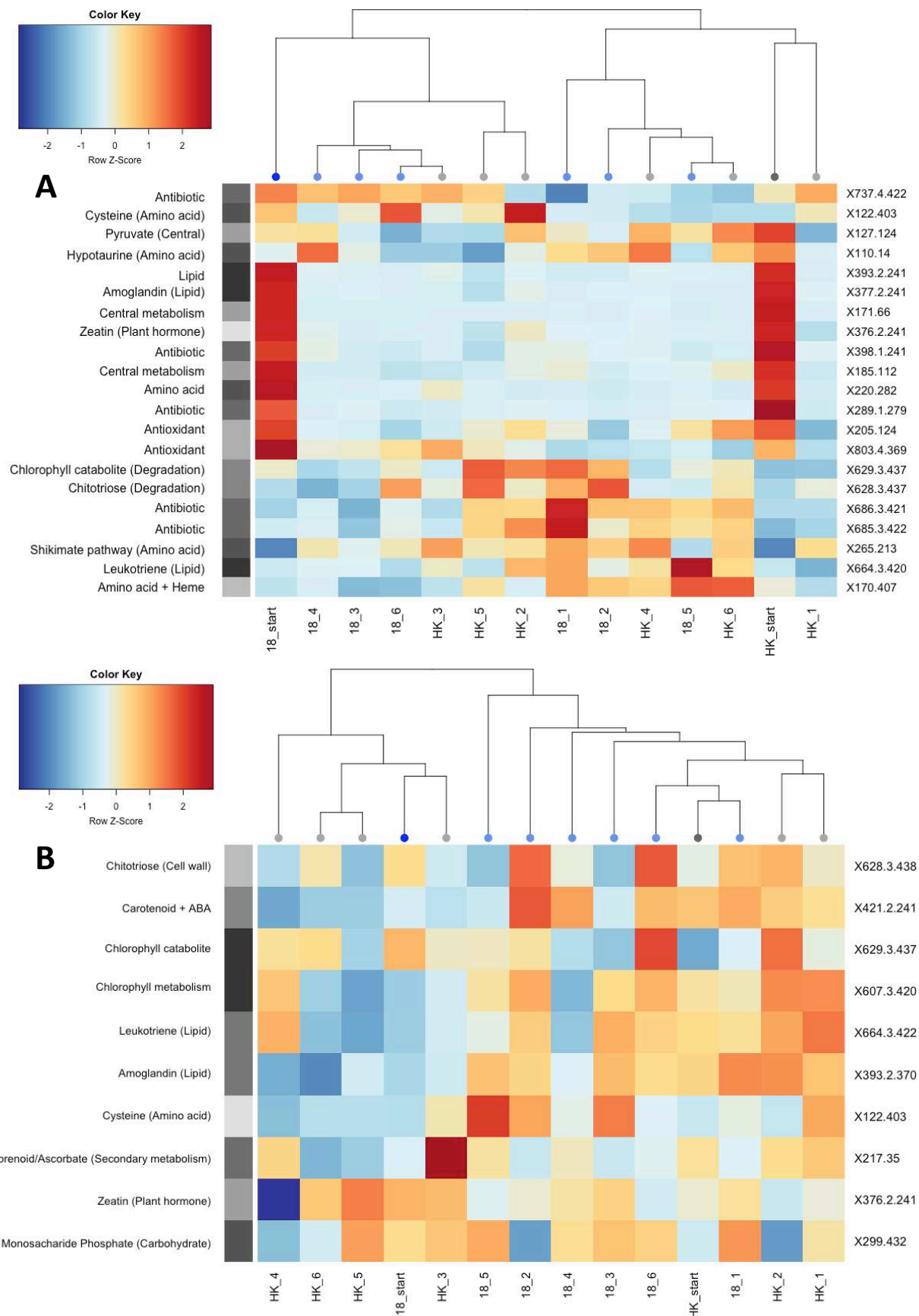
**Figure S2. Clustering patterns of the *Chlorella* metabolic fraction subset by host-genotype. Related to the main text.**

Plots A-C are PCA plots and show the HA1 host (A), the HK1 host (B), and the 186b host (C). Each point represents the metabolic profile of a sample; with the shape denoting the *P. bursaria* host genotype, the colour denoting the *Chlorella* symbiont genotype and the colour shade denoting the light intensity. Only within the 186b host (C) do the samples cluster by colour, and therefore, symbiont genotype. Following this initial clustering, the 186b host subset was subject to OPLS-DA (D). Here the samples separate between the 'blue' samples (186b symbiont-genotype) and the 'green' and 'grey' samples (HA1 and HK1 symbiont genotypes). There are 3 replicates of each combination of host, symbiont and light intensity.



**Figure S3. Growth rate across and within the evolution experiment. Related to the main text.**

The weekly growth rate of the native and novel symbioses across the experiment are shown in plot A. The lines show the smoothed mean ( $n=6$ ) growth rates  $\pm$  SE. The smoothing function used was the loess method. Over the course of the experiment, the growth rate with either symbiont increases, though the growth rate with the native symbiont was consistently higher than with the non-native symbiont. Plot B depicts the growth rate assays performed at multiple points throughout the experiment. Each panel shows the mean ( $n=6$ ) initial growth rate measured over three days across a light gradient and the shaded area denotes  $\pm$  SE. The panels represent the transfer week within the evolution experiment at which the growth assay was performed (T0 = week 0, T10 = week 10, T20 = week 20 & T25 = week 25). At the start of the evolution experiment, there was a difference between the growth rates with the native compared to the non-native symbiont at high light, over the course of the experiment this difference disappeared. In both plots colour denotes the symbiont genotype within the 186b host.



**Figure S4. Metabolites of interest across the start and end of the evolution experiment. Related to Figure 4 and the main text.**

The *P. bursaria* metabolic fraction is shown in A and the *Chlorella* fraction in B. The data is presented as heatmaps with colour representing the relative abundance of the metabolites. The metabolites depicted were identified from the top loadings of the PCA plots. The columns in the heatmap correspond to sample; these are labelled with their symbiont-genotype (18 = 186b; HK = HK1) and with the replicate number if from the end of the experiment or 'start' if from the start. The column on the left of the heatmap indicates the compound/functional group of the metabolites and the column on the right indicates the loading ID, which corresponds to the identification Table S3. The phylogeny of the samples was calculated with their principal component coordinates using UPGMA clustering, and the order of the rows was assigned by UPGMA clustering performed on the rows' distance measures (based on the Pearson correlation co-efficient).

**Table S2 Symbiont-genotype specific metabolites within the 186b *P. bursaria* host. Related to the main text.** These metabolite IDs were highlighted by the pairwise contrasts and were found to have significantly higher abundances in one symbiont-genotype compared to another within the 186b host subset of the *Chlorella* metabolic fraction in the dark (0 $\mu$ E) and in the highest light condition (50 $\mu$ E).

Light Condition	Strain associated	Comparison	mz ID	Detected mass	Accurate mass	Adduct	Candidate Compound	Pathway	Stress Associated
0 $\mu$ E	s18	s18 vs sHA	118	117.966	117.0426	H+	Aspartate-4-semialdehyde	Amino acid	
					117.0578	H+	Indole	Amino acid + hormone	
					117.0790	H+	Glycinebetaine	Amino acid + osmolyte	
					117.0790	H+	Valine	Amino acid	
		s18 vs sHA	134.2	134.109	133.1040	H+	Aspartate	Amino acid	
		s18 vs sHA	255.2	255.104	216.1725	K+	w-hydroxydodecanoic acid	Hydroxy fatty acids	
					254.2246	H+	Palmitoleic acid	Unsaturated fatty acids	
		s18 vs sHA	343.2	343.153	342.1162	H+	Disaccharide	Carbohydrate	
					304.2402	K+	Arachidonic acid	Unsaturated fatty acids	Yes
					304.2402	K+	Kaurenoic acid	Diterpenoid (related to GA)	
		s18 vs sHK	247.2	247.117	224.1412	Na+	Methyl jasmonate	Hormone (JA)	Yes
		s18 vs sHK	267.2	267.102	228.2089	K+	Myristic acid	Saturated fatty acids	
					244.2263	Na+	N1-acetylspermine	Amino acid	
		s18 vs sHK	271.2	271.167	248.1412	Na+	Abcisic acid aldehyde	Hormone (ABA)	Yes
		s18 vs sHK	686.4	686.391	663.3748	Na+	1-Palmitoyl-2-(5-keto-6-octenedioyl)-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Glycerophospholipids	Yes
sHK	s18 vs sHK	220.2	220.153	219.1107	H+	Pantothenate	Vitamin (B5)		
				219.1120	H+	Zeatin	Hormone (cytokinin)		
	s18 vs sHK	238	238.053	199.0246	K+	O-phospho-L-homoserine	Amino acid		
				215.0195	Na+	O-phospho-4-hydroxy-L-threonine	Vitamin (B6)		
				215.0807	Na+	Kinetin	Hormone (cytokinin)		
	s18 vs sHK	241.2	241.188	202.2157	K+	Spermine	Amino acid		
	s18 vs sHK	335.2	335.115	334.2144	H+	Prostaglandin	Fatty acyls		
312.3028				Na+	Eicosanoic acid	Saturated fatty acids			
sHK	sHA vs sHK	355	355.048	354.0577	H+	5-amino-(5'-phosphoribosylamino)uracil	Riboflavin		

Table S2 continued

Light Condition	Strain associated	Comparison	mz ID	Detected mass	Accurate mass	Adduct	Compound	Pathway	Stress Associated			
50μE	s18	s18 vs sHA	171	171.088	132.0059	K+	Oxalacetic acid	TCA /central				
					169.9980	H+	Glycerone phosphate	Glycolysis / central				
					169.9980	H+	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate	Glycolysis / central				
					132.0423	K+	3-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-oxobutanoate	Amino acid				
					132.0423	K+	2-acetolactate	Amino acid				
					132.0423	K+	Glutarate	Amino acid				
					132.0535	K+	Asparagine	Amino acid				
					148.0372	Na+	Citramalate	C5-Branched dibasic acid				
					132.0899	K+	Ornithine	Amino acid				
					148.0736	Na+	Mevalonic acid	Mevalonate pathway				
					148.0736	Na+	Pantoate	Pantothenate biosynthesis				
					s18 vs sHA	237.2	237.181	214.1317		Na+	Dethiobiotin	Vitamin (B7)
					s18 vs sHA	239.2	239.145	200.1776		K+	Lauric acid	Saturated fatty acids
										216.1725	Na+	w-hydroxydodecanoic acid
					s18 vs sHA	251.2	251.146	228.2089		Na+	Myristic acid	Saturated fatty acids
										212.2504	K+	Pentadecane
					s18 vs sHA	537.4	537.356	536.4382		H+	α/β/γ/δ carotene	Carotenoid
										536.4382	H+	Lycopene (all-trans or tetra cis)
					s18 vs sHK+sHA	213	213.097	174.0164		K+	Aconitic acid	TCA cycle / central
190.0114	Na+	Oxalosuccinate	TCA cycle / central									
174.0528	K+	3-Carboxy-4-methyl-2-oxopentanoate	Amino acid									
174.0528	K+	Shikimic acid	Shikimate pathway									
190.0477	Na+	3-dehydroquinate	Shikimate pathway									
174.0793	K+	Indole-3-acetamide	Amino acid + hormone									
174.0892	K+	Suberic acid	Fatty acid									
174.1004	K+	N2-acetyl-L-ornithine	Amino acid									
190.1066	Na+	γ-hydroxy-l-arginine	Arginine-nitric oxide									
212.0896	H+	Volemitol	Carbohydrate									

Table S2 continued

Light Condition	Strain associated	Comparison	mz ID	Detected mass	Accurate mass	Adduct	Compound	Pathway	Stress Associated
50μE	s18	s18 vs sHK+sHA	257.2	257.123	256.2402	H+	palmitic acid	saturated fatty acid	
					256.1172	H+	2-(3-Carboxy-3-aminopropyl)-L-histidine	unusual amino acid	
		s18 vs sHK	235.2	235.131	212.2504	Na+	pentadecane	Hydrocarbon - metabolite	
	sHK	s18 vs sHK	220.2	220.153	219.1120	H+	Zeatin	Hormone	
					219.1107	H+	Pantothenate	vitamin B5	
sHK + sHA	s18 vs sHK+sHK	465	465.096	426.0879	K+	S-Glutathionyl-L-cysteine	Cysteine + methionine	Yes	
sHK	sHA vs sHK	329.2	329.178	328.2402	H+	Docosahexaenoic acid	Unsaturated fatty acids		

**Table S3. Identified metabolites associated with PCA trajectories for the *P. bursaria* and *Chlorella* fraction in the evolution experiment. Related to Figure 4 and the main text. These were identified from the top 1% of loadings when using the first three principal components. The metabolite ID is that referred to in Figure 4.**

Fraction	PC of loading	ID	Detected mass	Accurate mass	Adduct	Function	Pathway	Compound	Kegg / Metacyc
<i>P. bursaria</i>	PC1,3	X110.14	110	109.0197	H+	Amino acid	Taurine metab	Hypotaurine	C00519
	PC1	X170.407	170	131.0582	K+	Amino acid+Heme	Heme biosynthesis	5-Amino-4-oxopentanoate	C00430
				147.0532	Na+		Amino acid/Central	Glutamate	C00025
				131.0582	K+		Amino acid	Glutamate 5-semialdehyde	C01165
	PC1,2,3	X265.213	265	226.0477	K+	Amino acid	Shikimate pathway	Chorismate	C00251
				226.0477	K+		Shikimate pathway	Prephenate	C00254
				242.0192	Na+		Shikimate pathway	Deoxy-ketofructose-phosphate	C16848
	PC1,2,3	X376.2.241	376.2	353.1699	Na+	Plant hormone	Plant hormone (zeatin)	Dihydrozeatin riboside	C16447
	PC1,2,3	X628.3.437	628.3	627.2487	H+	Plant degradation	Chitin degradation	Chitotriose	CPD13227
	PC1, 2	X629.3.437	629.3	628.2897	H+	Plant degradation	Chlorophyll degradation	Chlorophyll catabolite	C18098
	PC1, 2	X664.3.420	664.3	625.3033	K+	Lipid	Lipid - Arachidonic acid	Leukotriene C4	C02166
	PC1,2,3	X685.3.422	685.3	684.3178	H+	Antibiotic	Antibiotic	gamma-L-Glutamyl-butirosin B	C18005
	PC1, 2	X686.3.421	686.3	685.3256	H+	Antibiotic	Antibiotic	Viomycin	C01540
	PC1	X737.4.422	737.4	714.3979	Na+	Antibiotic	Antibiotic	Avermectin B1b monosaccharide	C11965
	PC1,3	X803.4.369	803.4	780.3622	Na+	Antioxidant	Glutathione metabolite	Bis(glutathionyl)spermine	C16563
	PC2	X122.403	122	121.0197	H+	Amino acid	Amino acid	Cysteine	C00736
				88.0160	K+		Central	TCA/Glycolysis	Pyruvate
	PC3	X127.124	127	104.0110	Na+	Central	Amino acid	Hydroxypyruvate	C00168
				132.0059	K+		Central/TCA/Glycolysis	Oxaloacetate	C00036
				169.9980	H+		Glycolysis/Carbohydrate	Glycerone phosphate	C00111
				169.9980	H+		Glycolysis/Carbohydrate	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate	C00118
PC3	X185.112	185	132.0535	K+	Central	Amino acid	L-Asparagine	C00152	
			146.0215	K+		Central/TCA/amino acids	2-Oxoglutarate	C00026	
			146.0579	K+		Pantothenate + CoA	2-Dehydropantoate	C00966	
			146.0579	K+		Amino acid	2-Aceto-2-hydroxybutanoate	C06006	
PC3	X205.124	205	182.0579	Na+	Antioxidant	Amino acid/antioxidant	4-Hydroxyphenyllactate	C03672	
			182.0215	Na+		Antibiotic	3;5-Dihydroxyphenylglyoxylate	C12325	
			166.0491	K+		Purine alkaloid	Methylxanthine	C16353	



Table S3 continued

Fraction	PC of loading	ID	Detected mass	Accurate mass	Adduct	Function	Pathway	Compound	Kegg / Metacyc
<i>P. bursaria</i>	PC3	X220.282	220	181.0739	K+	Amino acid	Amino acid	Tyrosine	C00082
				181.0739	K+		Amino acid	N-Hydroxy-L-phenylalanine	C19712
	PC3	X289.1.279	289.1	288.0998	H+	Antibiotic	Antibiotic	6-Deoxydihydrokalafungin	C12435
	PC3	X377.2.241	377.2	354.2406	Na+	Lipid	Lipid - Arachidonic acid	Amoglandin	C00639
	PC3	X393.2.241	393.2	354.2406	K+	Lipid	Lipid - Arachidonic acid	Amoglandin	C00639
					Na+		Lipid - Arachidonic acid	6-Keto-prostaglandin F1alpha	C05961
					Na+		Lipid - Arachidonic acid	Thromboxane B2	C05963
	PC3	X398.1.241	398.1	359.1151	K+	Antibiotic	Antibiotic	Penicillin N	C06564
				397.0798	K+		Antibiotic	4-Ketoanhydrotetracycline	C06627
	<i>Chlorella</i>	PC1,2,3	X122.403	122	121.0197	H+	Amino acid	Amino acid	Cysteine
PC1, 3		X393.2.370	393.2	354.2406	K+	Lipid	Arachidonic acid	Amoglandin	C00639
				370.2355	Na+		Arachidonic acid	6-Keto-PGF1a	C05961
				370.2355	Na+		Arachidonic acid	Thromboxane B2	C05963
PC1, 2		X421.2.241	421.2	382.2508	K+	Carotenoid + ABA	Carotenoid+ABA synthesis	C25-Allenic-apo-aldehyde	C14044
PC1, 3		X628.3.438	628.3	627.2487	H+	Cell wall metab	Chitin degradation	Chitotriose	CPD13227
PC1, 3		X629.3.437	629.3	628.2897	H+	Chlorophyll degradation	Chlorophyll degradation	Chlorophyll catabolite	C18098
PC1,2,3		X664.3.422	664.3	625.3033	K+	Lipid	Arachidonic acid	Leukotriene C4	C02166
PC2, 3		X376.2.241	376.2	353.1699	Na+	Plant hormone	Plant hormone (Zeatin)	Dihydrozeatin riboside	C16447
PC2		X607.3.420	607.3	568.305	K+	Chlorophyll	Chlorophyll metabolism	Protoporphyrinogen IX	C01079
				584.2635	Na+		Chlorophyll metabolism	Bilirubin	C00486
PC3		X217.35	217	178.0477	K+	Secondary metabolite	Ascorbate/Vitamin C	L-Galactono-1;4-lactone	C01115
				194.0579	Na+		Phenylpropanoid/cell walls	Ferulate	C01494
				216.0399	H+		Isoprenoid biosynthesis	2-Methylerythritol 4-phosphate	C11434
				178.063	K+		Phenylpropanoid/cell wall	Coniferaldehyde	C02666
PC3		X299.432	299	260.0297	K+	Monosaccharide	Starch + sucrose	Glucose 6-phosphate	C00092
	260.0297			K+	Phosphate	Glycolysis	Glucose 1-phosphate	C00103	
	260.0297			K+		Fructose and mannose	Mannose 6-phosphate	C00275	
	276.0246			Na+		Pentose phosphate	6-Phospho-D-gluconate	C00345	
	260.0297			K+		Galactose	Galactose 1-phosphate	C00446	
	260.0297			K+		Fructose and mannose	Mannose 1-phosphate	C00636	

**Table S4. Change in symbiont load for each HK1 replicate between the start and end of the evolution experiment. Related to the main text.**

The metabolic group column denotes whether the replicate's metabolic profile appeared converged with the profile of the native 186b symbionts or diverged. From these two groups ('converge' or 'diverge') a group mean difference in symbiont load was calculated.

<b>HK1 replicate</b>	<b>Difference in symbiont load</b>	<b>Metabolic trajectory appeared to</b>	<b>Mean difference in symbiont load</b>
1	145404.2	converge	
2	337137.9	converge	241271
3	745804.2	diverge	
4	426775.4	diverge	
5	490066.7	diverge	500951.4
6	341159.3	diverge	