

# Metagenomics Analysis Reveals An Extraordinary Bacterial Diversity in Anisakids (Nematoda: Anisakidae) L3 Larvae

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## Research

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# Abstract

**Background:** L3 larvae of anisakid nematodes are an important problem for the fisheries industry and pose a potential risk for human health by acting as agents causing allergies and as potential vectors of pathogens microorganisms. In spite of the close bacteria-nematode relationship very little is known of the Anisakids microbiote. Fresh fish could be contaminated by bacteria vectored in the cuticle or in the intestine of Anisakids when the L3 larvae migrate through the muscles. As a consequence the bacterial inoculum will be spread, affecting the quality of the fish, and possible clinical effects cannot be discarded

**Results:** A total of 2,689,113 16S rRNA gene sequences from a total of 113 L3 individuals obtained from fish captured along the FAO 27 area were studied. Bacteria were taxonomically characterized through 1803 representative OTU sequences. Fourteen Phyla, 31 Classes, 52 Orders, 129 Families and 187 genera were unambiguously identified. We have found as part of microbiome an average of 123 OTUs per L3 individual. Diversity Indices (Shannon and Simpson indices) indicate an extraordinary diversity of bacteria at a OTU level. There are clusters of Anisakids individuals (samples) defined by the associated bacteria which however are not significantly related with fish hosts or anisakid taxa. This suggests that association or relationship among bacteria in Anisakids, exists without the influence of fishes or nematodes. The lack of relationships with hosts of Anisakids taxa has to be necessarily expressed by the association among bacterial OTUs or other taxonomical levels which are ranging from OTUs to phylum level.

**Conclusions:** There are significant biological structural associations of microbiota in anisakid nematodes which manifest in clusters of bacteria ranging from phylum to genus level which could also be an indicator of degree of fish contamination or from the geographic zone of fish capture. Actinobacteria, Aquificae, Firmicutes, and Proteobacteria are the phyla whose abundance value discriminate for defining such structures.

## Background

Nematodes of Family Anisakidae are common parasites of marine mammals where these nematodes complete its biological cycle reaching the adult stage. With a World wide geographic distribution the L3 larvae of these nematodes (larvae in the third stage) are an important problem for the fisheries industry [1] due the commercial fishes are very important paratenic hosts. The L3 larvae of Anisakids pose a risk for human health by acting as agents causing allergies [2, 3], as potential vectors of allergens in foods (fish and fish products) [4, 5] and pathogens microorganisms [6]. These nematodes can infect humans after the ingestion of fish or cephalopods (paratenic hosts) which are intermediated host for L3 larvae. After the first clinical case in 1960 associated with the consumption of fresh raw fish infected by *Anisakis* [7], the incidence of these parasites is today considered as an international public health problem. Although the parasite does not develop and complete the biological cycle in the humans [8], the infestation by these nematodes or their excreted-secreted compounds in fish products may cause severe allergies [4, 9] in an ever increasing, more sensitized world wide population. According to the "Rapid Alert

System for Food and Feed of the European Union" *A. simplex sensu lato* is considered responsible of more than 33% of the biological risks alerts in Europe [10]. The epidemiological studies on the incidence of Anisakiasis (or Anisakiosis) in the Spanish population conclude that it is one of the affection due to nematodes with the highest prevalence in Spain with some regional variations ranging from 0.43% to 22% [11]. It is considered a problem associated to Spanish customs and habits given that Spain is one of the main consumer countries of fish and seafood products. The family Anisakidae (Nematoda: Rhabditida: Ascaridomorpha) represented by at least 24 genera split into three subfamilies: Goeziinae (parasites of Teleostii), Raphidascaridinae (fish parasites in general and occasionally birds) and Anisakinae (parasites of mammals, birds, reptiles and slasmobranchian fishes). Seven genera of Anisakidae are paratenic or obligatory parasites of marine fishes for human consumption (generally teleostii) [*Anisakis*, *Paranisakis*, *Contraecaecum* (*Thynascaris*), *Phocanema* (*Pseudoterranova*), *Raphidascaris* (*Hysterothylacium*), *Sulcascaris* and *Terranova*] [12]. The best known are *Phocanemea* (*Pseudoterranova*), *Contraecaecum* (*Thynascaris*), *Raphidascaris* (*Hysterothylacium*) and *Anisakis*. Although the real incidence of other species of the genus *Anisakis* is not known, the species complex *Anisakis simplex sensu lato* (formed by three true sister species *A. simplex sensu stricto*, *A. pegreffii* and *A. berlandi* [13]) is considered responsible for the majority of parasitosis and allergies by means of the consumption of raw or insufficiently processed or cooked fish in Spain and worldwide [14, 15]; the main reason could be due to that it is the most frequent species of the family Anisakidae. The infestation of fishes by other Anisakidae is considered restricted to certain geographic areas and associated mainly to cod (infestation by *Pseudoterranova decipiens*) or herring (*Clupea spp*); however, the distribution of Anisakid species is universal and having "multi hosts", with the common knowledge of the presence of L3 larvae of other Anisakids in comercial fishes, which are not members of the genus *Anisakis*.

The Phylum Nematoda includes a bacteriovorous trophic group which is in the beginning of former terrestrial colonization [16]. In addition, the bacteria have developed mechanisms of defense which, hypothetically are the origin of the bacterial infection processes in Metazoa, especially human infections [17]. For this reason, nematodes are able to provide valuable information on bacterial virulence mechanisms which are difficult to obtain with traditional animal models [18, 19]. In the review of [6] at least, 69 pathogenic microorganisms were considered be mainly propagated through the seafood products, suggesting that control of seafood is a relevant aspect in the sanitary alert in the public national health system. When *Caenorhabditis elegans* have been used as animal model [20] it has been observed that numerous bacteria infect the intestine and cuticular surface, a situation that may ground the hypoyhesis of dispersing infections among populations in contact with nematodes. It has also been demonstrated that bacteria that may be a risk for human health are also associated to nematodes, including: *Aeromonas hydrophila* [21], *Enterococcus faecalis* [22], *Escherichia coli* [23], *Salmonella enterica* [24], *Serratia marcescens* [25], *Staphylococcus aureus* [26], *Streptococcus spp* [27] and *Yersinia spp* [28]. Despite this close bacterial-nematode relationship very little is known on the role of nematodes in general in the spread of infectious diseases, a feature particularly relevant in the case of Anisakids given the cosmopolitan nature of the family Anisakidae. It is worthe mentioning that Fresh fish containing Anisakids could be contaminated by bacteria vectored in the cuticle or in the intestine of these

nematodes when the L3 larvae migrate through the muscles. As a consequence, the bacterial microbiome associated to Anisakids will be extended through all fish meat, affecting the shelf life and quality of the product, as well as acting as transmitters of potential pathogens. Indeed, to the known allergenic processes other symptomatic affections linked to Anisakids intake when raw or poorly cooked fish include, diarrheas, vomits, fever and abdominal pain, with all possible combinations [29], all symptoms of bacterial infections.

In this work we have studied the microbiome of Anisakidae based on the prospection of fishes parasitized by larval specimens in the same development stage (third stage larvae, L3) captured in waters from the FAO 27 fishing area (a very important commercial area for Europe) in a general survey carried out in the Central Fish Market of Madrid (Mercamadrid)

## Results

The 113 larva L3 individuals used for this study were taken from ten different fish species (Additional file 1: Table S1): *Micromesistius poutassou* (9), *Merluccius merluccius* (76), *Conger conger* (2), *Gadus morhua* (2), *Lepidorhombus boscii* (9), *Lophius budegassa* (5), *Lophius piscatorius* (5), *Phycis blennoides* (2), *Scomber scombrum* (1), *Thunnus thynnus* (2). The Anisakids taxa resulted as: *Pseudoterranova* sp (5), *Anisakis simplex* (100), *A. pegreffii* (7) and hybrid haplotypes from *A. simplex* and *A. pegreffii* (1). The asymmetric representation of these variables in the survey avoids the use of standard parametric statistics. However, the use of a multifactorial approach it is possible to detect the importance of each of the variables related to microbiota, even if they are spurious.

A total of 2689113 sequences were generated (average of 23797 sequences per analyzed sample) at the different taxonomical level (phyla, class, order, family, genus) of associated microbiota based on the 16S rRNA gene sequences for OTUs (Additional file 1: Table S2). The bacterial lineages which have been detected based on 16S rRNA gene sequencing follow a conservative taxonomy. Fourteen phyla have been taxonomically characterized through 1803 different sequences quoted to OTUs of which, one hundred five are "unclassified" (5.82% of the whole sequences). In total, 14 phyla, 31 classes and 52 orders were unambiguously identified (Table 1) except four orders from the phylum Cyanobacteria (from classes MLE1-12, Subsection IV and Subsection III in addition to other unclassified classes). Table 2 (a, b and c) shows the systematics of orders, families (129) and genera (187) (only unambiguous genera are considered; 6 with very scarce representation and 13 unclassified genera were excluded). For most of the Cyanobacteria it was not possible to classify them at phylum level. Proteobacteria (Table 2a) is represented by 92 genera (40% are members of the Class Alphaproteobacteria), Firmicutes (Table 2b) (75 genera, from which 68% are members from the order Clostridiales) and Actinobacteria (Table 2b) (46 genera, from which 74% are from the order Actinomycetales) are the most diverse phyla detected in this study. The genera of these three phyla represent 81% of the total associated genera to Anisakids. Taking this into account, the class Alphabacteria represented by 7 orders and 55 genera should be the most important from Proteobacteria; Rhizobiales (20 genera), Rhodospirales (14 genera) and Sphingomonadales (at least 9 genera) are the most important orders from Proteobacteria. Class

Clostridia would be the most important from Firmicutes, especially the order Clostridiales (51 genera) and class Actinobacteria represented by order Actinomycetales (34 genera) from the phylum Actinobacteria.

The presence (frequency) and abundance of phyla and orders in the individuals of Anisakids (samples) is summarized in Table 1: Actinobacteria, Bacteroidetes, Firmicutes, Fusobacteria, Proteobacteria and Cyanobacteria are present in all Anisakids specimen. Other important presence is for Acidobacteria (present in 76% of samples), Chloroflexi (74.33%), Planctomycetes (63.72%) and Deinococcus-Thermus (61.94%). Minor presence is for Verrucomicrobia (23.9%), Chlamydiae (15.93%), Synergistetes (10.62%) and Aquificae (2.65%). The most abundant phyla into the Anisakids are Proteobacteria (with an average of 9291 bacteria per L3 larvae), Firmicutes (average 5659) and Actinobacteria (average 2838). Fusobacteria (average 755), Bacteroidetes (average 705) and Cyanobacteria (average 297) could be considered of medium abundance into the L3 larvae comparing with rest of the phyla wich range from 9 to 76 bacteria per L3 larva: Aquificae (average 76), Synergistetes (average 73), Chloroflexi (average 66), Acidobacteria (average 59), Planctomycetes (average 35), Deinococcus-Thermus (23), Verrucomicrobia (average 17) and Chlamydiae (average 9).

Orders with higher presence (frequency) are ranging between 75–100% considering the total individuals (samples). These are: Acidobacteriales, Actinomycetales, Bacteroidales, Flavobacteriales, Sphingobacteriales, Deinococcales, Bacillales Lactobacillales, Clostridiales, Fusobacteriales, Caulobacterales, Rhizobiales, Rhodobacterales, Rhodospirillales Sphingomonadales, Burkholderiales, Neisseriales,

Campylobacteriales Enterobacteriales, Pasteurellales, Pseudomonadales and Vibrionales. Orders present in the samples (Anisakids individuos) with a frequency between 40–75% are: Acidimicrobiales, Bifidobacteriales, Coriobacteriales, Erysipelothrichales, Planctomycetales, Aeromonadales, Alteromonadales and Xanthomonadales. Orders with a frequency between 10–40% are: Rubrobacterales, Chlamydiales, Anaerolineales, Chloroflexales, Bdellovibrionales, Myxococcales, Cardiobacteriales and Oceanospirillales, Finally, orders with a frequency below 10% in the total of samples are: Aquificales, Caldilineales, Thermales, Mycoplasmatales, Thermoanaerobacteriales, Phycisphaerales, Parvularculales, Rickettsiales, Desulfobacterales, Desulfovibrionales, Desulfuromonadales and Cardiobacteriales. The most abundant orders (number of bacteria per L3 larva) are clearly diferenciaded from the rest: Actinomycetales (2625), Clostridiales (4450), Rhizobiales (2472) and Sphingomonadales (2692). There are other group of orders whose abundance into the Anisakids individuals range between 300 to 800 bacteria per juvenil L3 such as: Lactobacillales, Fusobacteriales, Caulobacterales and Pseudomonadales. Rest of the orders have and average of abundance under 300 bacteria per L3 larva.

## **Microbial richness and diversity of samples (Anisakids individuals).**

In order to avoid redundancy, the statistical analysis is applied to phylum, order, family and genus levels where taxonomy is well established.

The rarefaction curves per each sample indicate that most of the OTUs in the “sampled community” have not been observed because new OTUs would be found with additional sampling. According our data the “asymptotic stage” would be reached in 80% if we would have taken 2500 samples (Fig. 1a) (values in Additional file 2: Table S3). In the present study, based only in 113 samples (L3 individuals), we have found an average of 123 OTUs per L3 individual (minimum 20 OTUs, maximum 281 OTUs). All of this indicates the extraordinary diversity of bacteria associated to Anisakids nematodes and also than this study can be considered representative of that diversity. The diversity ordering by mean of Renyi’s index family curves (Fig. 1b) shows independent differences in OTUs diversity comparing all Anisakids individuals demonstrating that diversity among them are non-comparable (most of the diversity profiles intersect among them). The use of Shannon and Simpson Diversity Indices scatter graphically the samples (Additional file 2: Fig. S1a-b) indicating again an extraordinary diversity of bacteria at OTUs level. These values range from 0.3 to 4.7 for Shannon and from 2 to 45 for Simpson diversity index (the inverse option better represents diversity). Both indices clearly detected clusters of samples which are not significantly related with fish hosts or anisakid taxa at the phyla or order levels. This implies that any relationship would exist at a genus or family level without the influence of fish species. The lack of relationships of the microbiome composition with hosts of Anisakids taxa has to be necessarily expressed by the association among bacterial OTUs or other taxonomical levels which are ranging from OTUs to phylum level.

## Quantitative analysis (correlation) does not support inference of microbiota structure

Little relationship was obtained at OTUs level considering the total number of samples if Pearson or Spearman correlation indices are used (Additional file 3: Fig. S2a-b). The average number of sequences per phylum, Anisakids and fish hosts are calculated for the most frequent bacteria phyla according to the frequency and are represented in Additional file 3: Fig S3a-c, Table S4. At a bacterial phyla level, Pearson correlation index express better than Spearman some quantitative relationship among Anisakids and fish hosts (Additional file 3: Fig S4a-b). Hosts (fish and Anisakids) seems to have some influence in the abundance of each phyla within the microbiome according to the Pearson index. Using this analysis, we found two positive relationships among *A. simplex*, *A. pegreffii*, their hybrids and *Pseudoterranova sp* when their hosts are SS (*Scomber scombrum*), MM (*Merluccius merluccius*), TT (*Thunnus thynnus*), LoB (*Lophius budegassa*), GM (*Gadus morhua*), MP (*Micromesistius poutassou*) and CC (*Conger conger*) and another positive correlation between *A. simplex* and *A. pegreffii* when the hosts are LP (*Lophius piscatorius*), MP (*Micromesistius poutassou*), PB (*Phycis blennoides*) and LeB (*Lepidorhombus bosci*). This (the Pearson correlation) could be considered the unique quantitative relationships among bacterial phyla, Anisakids and fishes. No other taxonomical level of bacteria below phylum showed any significance. Additional file 3: Table S5 shows the abundance values of the most representative orders

according to Anisakids and hosts, while their frequency profiles are represented in Additional file 3:Fig S5a-c. Order composition and their relationships according to Anisakids species and fish hosts does not support also influence of hosts in the microbiome relationships (Additional file 3: Fig S6a-b) above order level, but little more information could be obtained according the data reflect the lower taxonomical level, as is the family and genus level. By this reason we think than an analysis of the microbiome structure, in other words the bacterial clusters that are associated accross the different samples would clarify the factors, which lead the associated microbiome structure to Anisakids nematodes.

## Microbiota structure associated to Anisakids

Discriminant Cluster analysis (Fig. 2a-c) of samples based in microbiome composition reflects almost an identical structure of samples through phylum and order levels (Fig. 2a, b). At a class level the cluster distribution of the samples is identical to phylum (data at class level not shown); both are practically the same cluster than at order level. The only difference of cluster based in order level with that based on phylum level is that some samples formerly present in a group (G2 or G3) in phylum cluster are “moving” to other group in order cluster (sample 115 from G2 to G1 and samples 86A, 102A and 105PS from G3 to G1). At the family and genus level it is almost identical (data at families level is not shown), however the structure of the cluster at a family and genus levels (Fig. 2c) is very different to the former clusters phylum to order (Fig. 2a,b).

Groups of samples are statistically compared by means of Discriminant Analysis reflecting the differences among them and determining which are the most important variables (bacteria) included in the analysis (Table 3). Actinobacteria (total average = 2838,283), Aquificae (2,017699), Firmicutes (total average = 5659,035) and Proteobacteria (total average = 9291,938) are the phyla whose abundance determines the sample groups in the clusters. Aquificae, exclusively represented by the genus *Hydrogenobacter* (total average = 2,0176), is absent in G1, with very scarce representation in G3. The statistical values are very significant and also the percentage of classification for each group of samples; total percent of correct classification is 96.46% (Table 3a). When orders are included (Table 3b) the statistical significance as well as the percent of correct classification is also very high (97.34%). Actinobacteria is exclusively represented by the order Actinomycetales (34 genera, including some unclassified), Firmicutes is represented by the orders Bacillales (5 genera including some unclassified) and Clostridiales (51 genera including some unclassified) and Proteobacteria is represented by the orders Campylobacterales (3 genera: *Arcobacter*, *Campylobacter* and *Sulfurospirillum*), Caulobacterales (4 genera: *Caulobacter*, *Brevundimonas*, *Phenylobacterium* and *Asticcacaulis*). Table 3b also includes the orders Anaerolineales (one unclassified genus) and Caldilineales (genus *Caldilinea*) from the phylum Chloroflexi and the order Bacteroidales (6 genera) from phylum Bacteroidetes which did not reach the established level of significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in Table 3a. At the family and genus levels (Fig. 2c) the clusters of samples maintain three different groups (G1, G2 and G3). But the new G1 is mainly formed with samples which were formerly at Order level from G1, five samples of G2 (97, 101 s, 101p,107, 109, 151) and one sample from from G3 (98). The Discriminanta Analysis was not applied at this level due the number of “empty cells” in the data matrix.

Factor Analysis allows to define the number of clusters of bacteria in addition to their association (microbiota association) in spite that the percentage of representation is low when the number of variables is high as is the case at the genus level. This method, combines the bacteria (active variables) explaining the total variability of the factorial space, with the bacteria which explain the variability into each cluster. At the phylum level (Fig. 3) the percentage of explanation for the first three factors is 46.62% of the total. The correlations of variables clusters with what are the primary and secondary factors are very high indicating the existence of at least three clusters of phyla: cluster 1 (Cyanobacteria and Proteobacteria), cluster 2 (Bacteroidetes, Aquificae, Firmicutes, Fusobacteria and Synergistetes) and Cluster 3 (Verrucomicrobia, Planctomycetes, Chloroflexi, Deinococcus-Thermus; Acidobacteria, Actinobacteria, Chlamidiae;). The association defined by cluster 1 (Cyanobacteria, Proteobacteria) should be more specific of samples from group 1 (G1); the association defined by cluster 2 (Bacteroidetes, Aquificae, Firmicutes, Fusobacteria and Synergetes) are more related to samples from group 2 (G2) while the other association from cluster 3 are mainly related to Group 1 and 2. Group 3 of samples gather all the associations. The most important phyla to establish the association among them are: Proteobacteria and Cyanobacteria (Cluster 1); Aquificae, Bacteroidetes and Firmicutes (Cluster 2) and Actinobacteria, Chloroflexi, Deinococcus-Thermus and Planctomycetes (Cluster 3).

The total variability at the order level (Fig. 4) is explained by 25.75% for the three first factors. One of the reasons could be that it was not possible to classify any order from Cyanobacteria. However, five bacterial clusters can be detected in the hierarchical analysis that involves at least five main factors for ordering the microbiota in the factorial space (36.78% of total explanation). The clustering of associated microbiota detected at phylum level it is also detected at order level confirming the relationships. The main influence for conforming the five associated clusters of orders are due to fourteen of them: Two orders of Bacteroidetes (Flavobacteriales and Bacteroidales), one of Firmicutes (Clostridiales), the only order of Aquificae (Aquificales, due to its central position in the factorial space), one of Planctomycetes (Planctomycetales), six of Proteobacteria (Chromatiales, Neisseriales, Parvularculales, Pasteurellales, Sphingomonadales, Rhodobacterales), one of Actinobacteria (Bifidobacteriales), one of Verrucomicrobia (Opitutales) and one of Chloroflexi (Chloroflexales). Regarding the clusters of orders (Fig. 4), they can be related with groups of samples (Fig. 2b): cluster 1 is mainly associated to samples in group 1, cluster 2 is mainly associated to samples in group 2, clusters 3 and 4 could be associated to any group of samples, and cluster 5 is mainly related to samples of group 3. Factor Analysis and its hierarchical analysis also identified three clusters of bacterial association when it is applied to the genus level (Fig. 5). In spite the large number of variables (187 genera), the clusters are quite well defined with very high correlations (values ranging from 0.88 to 0.948) among clusters and variables. Comparison with Fig. 2c, Cluster 1 is clearly associated to samples in group 2, cluster 2 with samples of group 1 and 3 and cluster 3 with samples of group 1. In table 2 (a,b,c) the genera which conform the three clusters are highlighted by three colors (black, green and red) and those which are of highest influence in the factorial space are marked with asterisk.

Genus level associations (clusters description): The ultimate test is the significant structure (Fig. 5) which represents the microbiota association at genus level.

The **Cluster 1** merges independently 28 genera which are thermophiles or mesophiles, anaerobics (facultative or strict). This cluster is mainly related with the set of samples from **G2** (Fig. 2c). In this cluster *Wolbachia*, genus of Rickettsiales which is an endosymbiont of arthropods and nematodes. It is estimated to infect more than 65% of insect species and considered an extensive symbiont in Nematoda [30]. At least 60.71% of the cluster members are considered typical periodontal and oral bacteria of mammals (some of them include species causing gingival or dental disease in humans) such as: *Campylobacter*, *Capnocytophaga*, *Eubacterium*, *Fusobacterium*, *Porphyromonas*, *Prevotella*, *Tannerella* [31]; *Selenomonas*, *Leptotrichia* and *Peptococcus* [32, 33]; *Bulleida* [34]; *Mogibacterium* [35]; *Catonella*, *Johnsonella* and *Dialister* [36]; *Filifactor* [37] and *Parvimonas* [38, 39]. Species of genus *Carnobacterium* are not known to be pathogenic in humans; *C. divergens* and *C. maltaromaticum* may cause disease in fish [40]. *Succinivibrio* is an obligate anaerobe which was firstly considered inhabitants of the rumen of cattle and sheep [41]. the rest of the bacteria are considered part of the Human gastrointestinal microbiome: *Olsonella* [42], *Slackia* [43], *Collinsella* [44] and *Peptococcus* [45]. From what can be considered members of a generalistic human microbiome we found: *Anaerococcus* [46] and other opportunistic human pathogens causing nosocomial infections such as *Finegoldia* [47], *Peptoniphilus* [48] and *Dolosigranulum* with only one known species, *D. pigrum* [49].

The **Cluster 2**, associated to samples which have defined the Fig. 2c is characterized by 158 genera (unclassified genera has not been included in factorial analysis). Except three genera (*Wolbachia*, *Campylobacter* and *Succinivibrio*) all the recorded genera from phylum Proteobacteria are represented in this Cluster by: classes Alphaproteobacteria (37 genera), Betaproteobacteria (4), Epsilonproteobacteria (2), Deltaproteobacteria (6) and Gammaproteobacteria (10).

Alphabacteria are represented by 7 orders: Rhizobiales (13 genera) some of which are endosymbions of animals [50] such as *Devosia* [51], endosymbionts of plants such as *Bradyrhizobium*, *Bosea* and *Mesorhizobium* [52], but most of the Rhizobiales which have been found in this study are common components of soil and water microbiota: *Hyphomicrobium* used in the denitrification of sewage [53], *Methylobacterium* [54], *Angulomicrobium*, *Pedomicrobium* [55], *Rhodobium* [6], *Chelatococcus* [57], *Parvibaculum* [58], *Nordella* [59] and *Ochrobactrum* (also isolated from the intestinal tract in human) has been associated to nosocomial infections in immunocompromised patients by [60, 61].

In this **cluster 2** there are the four genera of the order Caulobacterales (*Asticcacaulis*, *Brevundimonas*, *Phenylobacterium* and *Caulobacter*) usually described as freshwater bacteria [62]. The Order Parvularculales is represented by the marine genus *Parvularcula* [63]. Order Rhodobacterales is represented by water eutrophic bacteria *Paracoccus* and *Roseobacter sensu lato* clade, with important functions in the marine biogeochemical cycle (25% of coastal marine bacteria are members of the *Roseobacter* clade [64]). All the genera found in this study from the order Rhodospirillales are members of Cluster 2. They are typical bacteria of aquatic and soil environment producing acetic acid (*Gluconobacter*, *Roseomonas*, *Acetobacter*, *Acidocella*, *Acidiphilium*) or what are considered purple non sulfur bacteria (*Skermanella*, *Azospirillum*, *Caenispirillum*, *Magnetospirillum* and *Defluviicoccus* [65]). Although they are considered mainly as environmental bacteria (air, soil and water), some of these

species such as *Roseomonas* are isolated frequently from wounds, abscesses and genitourinary track [66]. The Order Rickettsiales is represented by the genus *Rickettsia*, which is a symbiont of Eukaryota and can induce disease in humans [67]. Sphingomonadales (*Sphingomonas*, *Novosphingobium*, *Sphingobium*, *Sphingopyxis* and *Erythrobacter*) are common aerobic bacteria isolated from a wide range of environments, including temperate and polar soils, marine sediments and plant surfaces and tissues [68].

Genera of the class Betaproteobacteria are *Janthinobacterium*, *Alcaligenes*, *Ralstonia* and *Neisseria*. Some species have clinical importance for humans [such as *Neisseria* [69], can be agents of nosocomial and opportunistic infections (*Alcaligenes* [70]), plant pathogens (*Ralstonia* [71]) or have antifungal properties able to control *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* when the bacteria is symbiont of amphibians (i. e. *Janthinobacterium* [72]).

*Arcobacter* and *Sulfurospirillum* are the genera of class Epsilonproteobacteria which are in this cluster; *Arcobacter* comprises some species which can be human and animal pathogens widely distributed in many environment including marine ones [73] while *Sulfurospirillum* is found in contaminated sediments, wastewater plants, marine environments or on biocathodes [74]. Class Deltaproteobacteria is represented by the following orders and genera: Bdellovibrionales (*Peridibacter* and *Bdellovibrio*), Desulfobacterales (*Desulfobulbus*), Desulfuromonadales (*Geobacter*) and Myxococcales (*Haliangium*). All of these genera are quite uniform from an ecological and physiological point of view (sulfur-reducing bacteria). These genera are very common in anaerobic aquatic and marine sediments [75].

Finally, class Gammaproteobacteria (excluding the unclassified genera) is represented by orders Aeromonadales (*Aeromonas*), Alteromonadales (*Shewanella*, *Psychromonas*), Enterobacteriales (Enteric Bacteria cluster), Oceanospirillales (*Marinomonas*), Pseudomonadales (*Pseudomonas*, *Psychrobacter*, *Acinetobacter*), Vibrionales (*Photobacterium*) and Xanthomonadales (*Nevskia*). *Aeromonas* is an ubiquitous genus present in continental and marine water, in which most of their species have been associated to human diseases (as opportunistic in immunocompromised patients, gastroenteritis and infected injuries); it is also considered a pathogen in fishes, amphibians and reptiles [76]. *Shewanella* and *Psychromonas* are marine genera from cold waters [77, 78]. Bacteria from "Enteric\_Bacteria\_cluster" [79] (order Enterobacteriales) includes medically important genera and species which are part of human and animal microbiota. Its distribution is widespread along any environment. *Marinomonas* is a marine bacteria [80] with important ecological implication. Order Pseudomonadales is represented by three genera (*Psychrobacter*, *Acinetobacter* and *Pseudomonas*). *Psychrobacter* is recorded frequently in marine environments [81] but also in terrestrials and some species has been isolated from foods [82]. *Acinetobacter* is a typical bacteria from soils [83]. *Pseudomonas* is a well known genus with at least eight different phylogenetic groups of species [84]; its distribution is ubiquitous and present in all type of ecological niches from terrestrial to marine. Some species are pathogens of animals and plants. *Pseudomonas* and *Acinetobacter* are considered pathogens for immunocompromised patients [85]. Vibrionales (*Photobacterium*) and Xanthomonadales (*Nevskia*) are present in this cluster. Most of the species of *Photobacterium* are symbionts of marine organisms [86] and it is demonstrated that also

some of them are pathogens of fishes [87]. *Nevskia* is an aquatic bacteria living at the air-water interface (the epineuston) forming hydrophobic surface films [88] and constitutes a clade of sister species into Xantomonadales [89].

Phylum Actinobacteria is represented in this cluster 2 by two Classes and 33 genera (unclassified genera are not included): Rubrobacteria [order Rubrobacterales (1 genus)], Actinobacteria [orders Actinomycetales (29) and Bifidobacteriales (2)] and Coriobacteria [order Coriobacteriales (1)]. Rubrobacterales is represented by the extremophilic genus *Rubrobacter* considered to be radiotolerant [90]. From Coriobacteriales we have recorded the genus *Atopobium* [91] a common member of human pathogenic biota [92, 93]. The Order Actinomycetales has a complex taxonomy; they can be found mostly in soil and organic matter and also in animals. In addition, they constitute symbiotic nitrogen fixing associations with over 200 species of plants; they can serve as biocontrol agents, or be plant pathogens. Genera of this order are also component of the human urogenital tract or the oral digestive system. They also have wide medicinal (antibiotic production; i.e. *Streptomyces spp*) and botanical applications [94]. In cluster 2 is represented by the 29 genera recorded in Table 2b. It can be considered as the most important genera: *Brachy bacterium* which has been isolated from sea water [95]; *Dietzia* considered as opportunistic human pathogen [96]; *Rothia* which causes a wide range of serious infections, especially in immunocompromised hosts [97]; *Mycobacterium*, a genus free-living in soil and water widely distributed but the major habitat for some species is the diseased tissue of warm-blooded hosts (*M. tuberculosis* and *M. leprae* are the most known pathogens of this genus for humans) [98]; some species of *Nocardia* cause disease in immunocompromised patients [99].

Phylum Bacteroidetes is represented in cluster 2 by orders Flavobacteriales (*Flavobacterium*, *Cloacibacterium*, *Chryseobacterium*, *Polaribacter*, *Wautersiella*, *Amoebinatus*) and Sphingobacteriales (*Pedobacter*, *Sphingobacterium*, *Hymenobacter*, *Dyadobacter*, *Chitinophaga*). Flavobacteriales have been isolated in many environments, including soil, marine water, plants, and animal gut. They play an important role in aquatic and terrestrial environments, accounting for more than 20% of microbial communities. Some flavobacterial species (*Flavobacterium spp*) are also responsible for severe fish disease [100, 101]. Sphingobacteriales are all considered as “environmental” bacteria with a wide ecological niche, from water to soil [102]. Phylum Chloroflexi is represented by orders Caldilineales (*Caldilinea*) and Chloroflexales (*Roseiflexus*). Both genera are filamentous thermophilic and found in hot springs [103, 104]. All members of phylum Chloroflexi are considered to be the origin of photosynthesis [105].

The phylum Firmicutes is represented by Classes Bacilli (14 genera), and Clostridia (22 genera). The genera of Bacilli are members of two orders [orders Bacillales (*Listeria*, *Ammoniphillus*, *Kurthia*, *Staphylococcus* and *Laceyella*) and Lactobacillales (*Desemzia*, *Alloiococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Lactococcus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Weissella*, *Lactobacillus*, *Flacklamia*, *Aerococcus*)]. From Bacillales *Listeria*, *Kurthia* and *Ammoniphillus* can be found in soil, but the former also is found in vegetable and animals where can be considered a pathogen [106, 107, 108]. Eleven species of *Staphylococcus* can be isolated from humans as commensals, some of them pathogenic in persons debilitated by chronic illness,

traumatic injury, burns or immunosuppression [109]; *Laceyella* is considered to be an environment thermophilic bacteria [110]. From Lactobacillales, *Desemzia* is a lactic acid bacteria (as the rest of the order) common in fish gut considered to be sometimes abundant in the intestine, notably in freshwater fish [111]; *Alloiococcus* has only one known species with implications as a secondary pathogen in human otitis [112]. The rest of Lactobacillales of this cluster 2 are ubiquitous bacteria, usually found in decomposing plants, milk products and foods in fermentation (including fish) contributing to the healthy microbiota of animals and humans [113].

The genera of Clostridia is represented by two orders [Thermoanaerobacterales (*Caldicellulosiruptor* and *Thermoanaerobacter*) and Clostridiales (*Helcococcus*, *Eubacterium*, *Sedimentibacter*, *Shuttleworthia*, *Oribacterium*, *Moryella*, *Butyrivibrio-Pseudobutyrvibrio*, *Fastidiosipila*, *Ethanoligenens*, *Acetivibrio*, *Sporacetigenium*, *Desulfosporosinus*, *Veillonella*, *Mitsuokella* *Megamonas*, *Clostridium*, *Caloramator*, *Acetobacterium*)]. Both species of Thermoanaerobacterales are thermophilic and anaerobic showing adaptation to survive in elevated temperatures (up to 80–90 °C) without oxygen [114]. Regarding Clostridiales, all genera are strict anaerobic bacteria; the ability to form spores makes them highly stable in the environment being natural soil inhabitants as saprophytic bacteria [115]. However, genera of this order have also common presence as members of gut microbioma with clinical and health functions [116].

The rest of the genera from this **Cluster 2**, are members of the phyla Acidobacteria (*Chloroacidobacterium*, *Acidobacterium*, *Edaphobacter*, *Koribacter* and *Solibacter*), Aquificae (*Hydrogenobacter*), Deinococcus-Thermus (*Truepera* and *Deinococcus*), Fusobacteria (*Psychrilyobacter* and *Sneathia*), Planctomycetes (*Singulisphaera*, *Planctomyces*, *CL500-3* and *Phycisphaera*) and Synergistetes (*Jonquetella*). The genera of Acidobacteria are considered soil inhabitants with a ubiquitous distribution along many ecosystems [117, 118]. Aquificae (*Hydrogenobacter*) encompasses a set of bacteria able to live in harsh environments (these bacteria have been found in springs, pools, and oceans) [119, 120]. *Truepera* and *Deinococcus* from phylum Deinococcus-Thermus are considered as typical extremophiles bacteria [121, 122, 123]. From Fusobacteria, *Psychrilyobacter* was isolated from marine sediment from the Atlantic Ocean [124] and *Sneathia* appears to be a significant, emerging opportunistic pathogen that may play a significant role in urogenital track for humans (male and female); as a common component of the vaginal microbiota that can affect vaginal and reproductive health [125]. Planctomycetes (*Singulisphaera*, *Planctomyces*, *CL500-3* and *Phycisphaera*) are aquatic bacteria (brackish water mass, fresh water and marine) [126, 127] but also present in wastewater and terrestrial soils [128]. Genus *Jonquetella* is considered to be a bacterium of anaerobic environments including soil, oil wells, and wastewater treatment plants and animal gastrointestinal tracts; as other members of Synergistetes they are also associated to human pathology such as cysts, abscesses, and periodontal diseases [129].

The **Cluster 3, associated to samples from G1** (Fig. 2c) is formed by 22 genera from phyla Proteobacteria (*Labrys* and *Cardiobacterium*), Deinococcus-Thermus (*Meiothermus*), Verrucomicrobia (*Opitutus*), Actinobacteria (*Micrococcus*, *Arthrobacter*, *Alloscardovia*, *Adlercreutzia* and *Eggerthella*), Bacteroidetes

(*Bacteroides*, *Parabacteroides* and *Odoribacter*) and Firmicutes (*Solobacterium*, *Roseburia*, *Coprococcus*, *Blautia*, *Dorea*, *Lachnospira*, *Faecalibacterium*, *Subdoligranulum*, *Ruminococcus* and *Oscillibacter*). This cluster groups bacteria mesophiles aerobic or anaerobic. The genus *Labrys* (mesophile, 30°C) contains soil inhabiting bacteria species (Rhizobiales) including aerobes or facultative anaerobes bacteria [130]. *Cardiobacterium* is a part of normal human microbiome (specially oropharyngeal zone) (aerobes and enriched CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere) [131]. *Meiothermus* (thermophilic, 35–68 °C) aerobic and facultative anaerobes genus [132]. *Opitutus* behave as an obligate anaerobe in oxygen-tolerance test growing at temperatures of 10 to 37 °C [133]. Genus *Micrococcus* (strict aerobe), include species generally mesophile but some may be also cryophiles; although this genus have been isolated from human skin and animals, it is considered to be a normal environmental inhabitant, especially water, dust, and soil [134]. *Arthrobacter* is a strict aerobe genus, usually found in soil. Although *Alloscardovia*, *Adlercreutzia* and *Eggerthella* have been isolated from human and animal digestive tracts [135, 136, 43], could potentially be present in soil and water as the other Actinobacteria. *Alloscardovia*, shows high aerotolerance while some species of *Adlercreutzia* and *Eggerthella* are anaerobic. As Bacteroidites (order Bacteroidiales) *Bacteroides*, *Parabacteroides* and *Odoribacter* are widely distributed in the environment, including sea, soil, water and digestive tract of humans and animals [137]; they are anaerobic genera. Firmicutes of this cluster are represented by orders Erysipelotrycales by means of *Solobacterium* (anaerobe, family Erysipelotrichaceae) considered to be a common member of the microbiome of human salivary glands [138] and two families of order Clostridiales (Lachnospiraceae and Ruminococcaceae). In general bacteria of the family Lachnospiraceae are considered to be very abundant in rumens [139] and the human gut microbiota [140]: *Roseburia* (anaerobe) is associated to the digestive tract (cecum) of mammals [141, 142]; *Coprococcus*, anaerobic, is part of the human faecal microbiota [143]; *Blautia* from humans, cattle and chickens [144], *Dorea* isolated in human faeces [145] and *Lachnospira* found in the rumen of bovine animals since [146] and intestine of others such as pigs [147]. Regarding Ruminococcaceae, all members of this family are obligate anaerobes and mesophiles [148]. *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* the unique species of the genus is very abundant in the human gut microbiota [149]. Members of *Ruminococcus* and *Subdoligranulum* are also found in the human gut and or faeces [150, 151] while the genus *Oscillibacter*, first isolated from the clam *Corbicula japonica* [152] has been also recorded in the rumen of cattle [153].

## Discussion

In this study, we report the first detailed composition of the bacterial diversity associated to anisakid nematodes based on the analysis of bacterial rRNA sequences belonging to the microbiome of Anisakids present in paratenic hosts from a large geographical area (FAO 27). The association of microbial organisms with metazoa is now recognized to be inter-dependent, and has been a new frontier in Zoology [154]. This association has been denominated metaorganism first and holobiont afterwards [155] and has been considered as a “unit of natural selection” [156]. Following theses assumptions, [157] the first systematic analysis of the native microbiome of *Caenorhabditis elegans*, which is mainly characterized by Proteobacteria including the genera *Ochrobactrum*, *Pseudomonas*, *Stenotrophomonas* and

*Sphingomonas* was performed. In that study the native microbiome of wild type natural *C. elegans* strains in comparison with the congeneric species *C. briggsae* and *C. remanei* was described. However, it is necessary to assume that while any microbiome can present some biological associations with the host, these are not necessarily symbiont ones. Therefore, the bacterial communities in nematodes can be composed by associated and symbiotic bacteria.

Our results are obtained after an individualized canonical disinfection of the external cuticle of all Anisakids individuals which were used for the experiment. Consequently, the metagenomics analysis reports the symbionts and associated microbial communities. Because of the individuals were in the L3 stage, many of the bacterial communities have necessary to be related with the bacteria which are present in the fish host since the time it has been parasited by the anisakid larvae and the time the fish reach the market. This is time enough to have a realistic panorama about the microbiota composition of Anisakids nematodes in the FAO 27 fishing area. Also it is worth considering the ability of Proteobacteria for colonizing the nematode gut in accordance with experiments carried out by [157]; the plant and fungal endosymbiont bacteria family Burkholderiaceae (represented in our study by genus *Ralstonia*) has been also demonstrated as a symbiont in the plant parasitic nematode *Xiphinema americanum* [158]. This would confer possible beneficial fitness, incrementing the resistance of nematodes against bacterial pathogens [159] and even antifungal activity as is known from [160]. Mutualism among bacteria and nematodes are well known [161]. Recently *Oncholaimus dyvae* (sp. nov.) was described from Lucky strike vent field on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge [162, 163] which was previously considered to harbour bacterial symbionts typical of hydrothermal vent fauna, such as sulfur-oxidizing bacteria related to classes Epsilonproteobacteria and Gammaproteobacteria which are frequently found in our study.

No reports are available regarding the microbiota associated to Anisakids on such a large geographic area such as FAO 27. Despite the scarce number of samples (113) and the asymmetric representation in the survey of Anisakids and fish taxa (not equally represented), the diversity present in the total of studied populations is rather high; however it only represents part of the possible diversity according the rarefaction curves of the samples (Fig. 1a). Logically it is impossible to discover all the OTUs or species of microbial communities, but the observed bacterial OTUs are compared among them by direct comparison of different samples sizes. Rarefaction (Fig. 1a), as a significant general method of significant value [164] suggests that the characterization of most of the diversity would be reached between 5000 and 10000 Anisakids individuals where each individual can be considered as a "microbial population" [165] although our results are statistically representative. Microbiome composition is not substantially affected by the studied fish hosts and their diversity, in general is non-comparable according to Renyi's index (Fig. 1b). Proteobacteria, Firmicutes and Actinobacteria are the most diverse compared with the other eleven phyla detected in this study. All of this indicates an extraordinary bacterial diversity associated to these nematodes. Neither evenness (Shannon index) nor dominance (inverse of Simpson's index) [166] show any fish host trend at OTUs level analysis (Additional file 2: Fig. S1a-b) but clusters of samples (individuals) are detected, indicating bacterial associations over OTUs level and independent from fish influence. This fact, added to the high level of diversity values suggests a "functional redundancy" in the sense of [167] (within an ecosystem, different species contribute in equivalent ways to

an equal function) as detected in gut microbiota when carnivore and herbivore are compared [168] providing support for detecting the microbiome structure, and grounding the hypothesis that bacterial communities associated to Anisakids are developed independently of what could be a *priori* considered the major influence variable such as fish host (or even Anisakids taxa).

Within the metazoans, the nematodes occupy third place in number of species, after arthropods and molluscs. However, the abundance of their populations is greater than that of any other multicellular organism. They are extraordinarily versatile (parasites of marine and terrestrial animals, plants, and human beings), and of great trophic diversity occupying all the niches in all ecosystems on the planet. Therefore, they are a very diverse group from a taxonomical, ecological, and geographical points of view [16, 169, 170, 171]. The bacterivory is a common and unspecific phenomenon in many species of nematodes. Bacterivores are members of at least seven of the sixteen orders of Nematoda from marine and terrestrial habits (Rhabditida, Chromodorida, Plectida, Monhysterida, Desmoscolecida, Araeolaimida and Enoplida) [172]. Also specific and mutualistic include *Steinernema carposae* and *Xenorhabdus nematophila* [173] or symbionts as is the case for *Wolbachia* and filarial nematodes [30]. Finally, pathogenic bacteria have been demonstrated as an evolutionary force for nematodes [18, 161].

The water temperature where samples were taken for this study ranges from - 2°C to + 18°C therefore cryophiles are represented in the bacterial communities (typically: *Aeromonas*, *Alcaligenes*, *Alteromonas*, *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Flavobacterium*, *Lactobacillus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Listeria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Serratia*, *Bacillus*, *Micrococcus*, *Clostridium*, *Lactobacillus* and *Corynebacterium*) [174, 175]. Regarding fish hosts, except the internal organs and the muscles, the scales, the skin, the gills and the digestive tract, harbor a high number of bacteria [176] which is incremented by the intestinal emissions of fish during fishery manipulation [175] and by L3 Anisakids larvae which contaminate the fish muscle by means of post migration after death of fish hosts [177, 178].

Many of the bacteria genera we have found in this study encompass non typical marine bacterial that might cause infections in humans through contaminated fish products due to handling during the processing and distribution chains before reaching consumers. According to some authors [179, 180] human pathogen bacteria in the marine environment have been demonstrated to be vectored by fish and 69 human pathogenic microorganisms are considered to be the main source of contamination in sea food products [6]. However the real incidence of bacteria related to seafood illnesses might be dependent on gastronomic tradition (high incidence in countries where there is a high consumption of seafood [181]). .

Our results suggest a geographical or ecological influence of bacterial communities association in addition to fish contamination after the capture and during the fish processing manipulations until its arrival to the consumer. At least in this study the fish paratenic host seems a secondary variable as determinant of bacterial community.

Methodologically in addition to the classical cluster analysis, the Factorial approach allows to define significant clusters in spite the percentage of representation (related with the number of variables) being

low. This implies, but does not explain a general variability in the whole set of OTUs, genera etc; that is, there is detected variability into each cluster, but that variability is due to a not considered or studied variable. The number of bacterial genera found in this study is at least 187 (excluding spurious and unclassified OTUs at a genus level). The structure of bacterial communities associated to the samples was substantially maintained and clusters similarities were generally the same along the taxonomic scale from phyla to families. Statistically it was not possible to test it at the genus level owing to gaps in the samples which corrupt the statistics (due the unclassified OTUs). It seems that bacteria OTUs are a mixture of environmental and fish intestinal microbiota. Firmicutes, Actinobacteria, Bacteroidetes and Proteobacteria were the core of sea food bacterial community in what is an important study [182]. Comparing our results with those of these authors we have obtained the same phyla plus Acidobacteria (3%) as the core of associated bacteria to Anisakids, but with different representations, that is: in our case Bacteroidetes has a scarce representation (5%) while previous authors recorded 40%; Proteobacteria (70% vs 50%); Actinobacteria (15% vs 4.5%) Firmicutes (40% vs 5%). Interestingly Chaillou et al [182] considered that 83% of the associated microbiota in sea food is from water, sediment and soil origin.

Following that, we think regarding our study, that in most of the cases, the associations within groups of bacteria could be linked to the ecological or geographical niches in which the fishes were captured or be dependent of the time since capture and fishing manipulation.

## Conclusions

There are significant biological structural associations of microbiota in anisakid nematodes which can only be explained or determined by geographic and human influence. It manifests in clusters and association of bacteria ranging from phylum to genus level which could be also indicator of degree of fish contamination or from the geographic zone of fishing. Actinobacteria (Actinomycetales), Aquificae (Aquificales), Firmicutes (Bacillales and Clostridiales), Proteobacteria (Campylobacterales and Caulobacterales) are the Phyla whose value of abundance discriminate for defining such structure

## Material And Methods

### Anisakids collection and Taxonomic identification

Anisakids were collected during a general survey carried out in Mercamadrid Central Fish Market, related to the incidence of these nematodes in commercial fish species. All specimens studied were captured in the FAO 7 fishing area of distribution. Pools of L3 larvae specimens (12–20) were randomly obtained from each of 113 different individual fishes hosts in which the presence of Anisakids were evident in a visual inspection (Additional file 1: Table S1); they were removed from each fish following published procedures [183, 184, 185]. The 113 larvae pools were rinsed in 0.9% saline solution and placed in an antibiotic-antimitotic solution (80 mg gentamicine sulphate, 0.625 mg amphotericine B, 10.000 IU penicilin G, 10 mg streptomycin sulphate, 4.5 ml of Saline Hank's solution making up to 10 ml of volume with bi-distilled water). After 40 minutes in this disinfectant solution the larvae pools were rinsed in bi-distilled water for 1 h. From each 113 larvae pools (from each fish host), a specimen was isolated and for

each of these larvae specimens, the caudal part was used for DNA extraction and PCR amplification for species identification; this caudal part and the rest of the body (used for 16S rRNA gene amplification) were separately stored at -80 °C until required. Anisakids species identification was performed following the taxonomic criteria of [186, 187] by using the ITS1 region of the nuclear ribosomal DNA (rDNA). Briefly: individual Anisakids L3 stage juveniles was placed in an Eppendorf tube after previously having a small part of the caudal region removed to allow molecular identification of each individual. DNA was extracted and purified using the Speedtools Tissue DNA Extraction Kit (Biotools) following manufactures instructions. Molecular identification was carried out for each individual using PCR-RFLP. The forward primer A 5'-GTCGAATTCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGGAAGGATCA-3' and reverse primer B 5'-GCCGGATCCGAATCCTGGTTAGTTTCTTTTCCT - 3' [187] were used in reactions containing, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3), 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM KCl, 200 µM each of dATP, dCTP, dGTP and dTTP and 1 unit of DNA polymerase (Biotools B and M labs, S.A. Madrid, Spain). Initial denaturalization was carried out for a period of 2 min at 94 °C followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 1 min, 58 °C for 1 min, 72 °C for 1 min followed by a final 7 min extension at 72 °C. Amplified DNA fragments were digested with the restriction enzymes HhaI and HinfI (New England Biolabs, Massachusetts, MA, USA) following manufacturer's instructions. Restriction fragments were separated by electrophoresis in a Tris- Borate-EDTA (TBE) buffered 2.5% agarose gel, stained with SYBERsafe and visualized with UV illumination.

#### **16S rRNA-rRNA amplicons. Preparation and Illumina sequencing.**

Total DNA of L3 individual without caudal part previously used for taxonomic Anisakids identification were extracted as above [Speedtools Tissue DNA Extraction Kit (Biotools)]. Purified DNAs were quantified by Picogreen and 3 ng of input DNA were used for specific amplification using the primers 5'-ACACTGACGACATGGTTCTACACCTACGGGNGGCWGCAG-3' and

5'- TACGGTAGCAGAGACTTGGTCTGACTACHVGGGTATCTAATCC-3',

which amplify the V3-V4 region of 16S rRNA rRNA gene [188] and include an extension tail that allows further processing. As standard, the first PCR was done for 20 cycles using Q5® Hot Start High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs) in the presence of 100 nM primers.

Positive amplifications were assessed by gel electrophoresis and positive samples were used for a second PCR of 15 cycles using with Q5® Hot Start High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs) in the presence of 400 nM of second-step primers:

5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTGACGACATGGTTCTACA-3' and

5'-CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATAACGAGAT-[10 nucleotides barcode]-TACGGTAGCAGAGACTTGGTCT-3')

which anneal over the extension of the first primer pair and serve also for sample barcoding, taken from the Access Array Barcode Library for Illumina Sequencers (Fluidigm). The final amplicons were validated and quantified in a Bioanalyzer (Agilent) so that an equimolecular pool could be prepared. The pool of amplicons was further purified by agarose gel extraction and was titrated after purification and checking

by quantitative PCR, using the “Kapa-SYBR FAST qPCR kit forLightCycler480” and a reference standard for quantification. This pool was finally denatured and seeded on an Illumina flowcell at a density of 10pM, where clusters were formed and sequenced using a “MiSeq Reagent Kit v3”, in a 2 × 300 pair-end sequencing run on a MiSeq sequencer (illumina).

### **Bioinformatics analysis and data availability**

To analyze the structure of the microbiota, the V4 variable region of the microbial 16S rRNA RNA was amplified using the standard Illumina primers (Illumina Inc., San Diego). The resultant libraries were sequenced at the facilities from the “Fundación Parque Científico de Madrid” (FPCM, Spain) using the Illumina platform in a pair-end reads with 280 cycles. Approximately 25 Mb were sequenced from the 113 microbiota with an average of ~ 250.000 reads for each sampled microbiota (151.171 bp to 412.396 bp) and were analyzed using MOTHUR v.1.35.1 software [189] following the standard procedure (SOP) for Illumina MiSeq sequences ([http://www.mothur.org/wiki/MiSeq\\_SOP](http://www.mothur.org/wiki/MiSeq_SOP)) to check the raw data using the FASTQC tool [190]. The sequences were filtered by quality using PRINSEQ-lite v.0.20.4 [191]. To this work, some modifications at the SOP were implemented [192]. Quality control of sequences eliminated low-quality reads (shorter than 200 bp and average quality lower than 25) as described in [193]. The paired-end reads were assembled and sequences were removed if they did not have a length ranging between 280 and 320 base pairs. After assembling, all sequences were trimmed to start and finish at the same coordinates [194]. Unique sequences from all samples were merged and aligned to the SILVA (<https://www.arb-silva.de>) bacteria reference database [195, 196]. Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) identified and grouped using the software package MOTHUR v.1.31.2 following the recommendations of the standard operating procedure for Illumina MiSeq platform ([https://www.mothur.org/wiki/MiSeq\\_SOP](https://www.mothur.org/wiki/MiSeq_SOP)).

According the pipeline followed, paired-end reads were merged and chimeric reads were removed using USEARCH v6.1 [197, 198] implemented in MOTHUR. After, resultant sequences were clustered into taxonomic units (OTUs). The resulting sequences that were not classified at least at the kingdom level or identified as Archaea, Eukaryota, chloroplast or mitochondria were removed from the analysis. After, the sequences were classified into groups corresponding to their taxonomy at different levels (kingdom, order, family and genus) and then assigned to operational taxonomic units (OTUs) using a phylotype threshold of equal or greater than 97% with further taxonomic classification using Silva database [199]. After OTUs assignation the data were corrected to fix the misallocated taxa adjusting it to the right level using a custom Perl script. All taxa were counted in respect to their presence in each sample and the taxa with less than 20 sequences counted in all 113 samples were considered less representative and then were culled to avoid misunderstood analysis. Taxa with  $\geq 20$  sequences were maintained for further analysis.

### **Statistical Analysis**

MOTHUR was also used to generate diversity indices (Simpson and Shannon) and rarefaction curves of samples. The Renyi diversity index was used to explore differences in OTUs diversity among L3 Anisakids individuals. This index provided the profile of four diversity indices (Total richness, Shannon-Weiner, Simpson-Yule, and Berger-Parker) according a value ( $\alpha$ ). The Renyi index has the advantage that allows in a glance to compare independence of samples diversity; that is, when different profiles intercept, their

diversity are non-comparables [200]. Calculation of Renyi index was carried out using PAST software [201] (<http://folk.uio.no/ohammer/past>);

MOTHUR was also used for quantitative analysis by means of correlations (Pearson and Spearman) according to number of sequences in each individual (samples). The programme also provide cluster analysis based in correlations indices in order to detect nematode taxon or host (fish) influence. For detection of bacterial biota structure (clusters or bacterial association), we have used Statistica v.6 programme (STATISTICA data analysis software system, version 6. 2001, [www.statsoft.com](http://www.statsoft.com)) [202].

Cluster analysis of samples and Factorial Analysis, including hierarchical analysis option for classification clusters of variables into de factorial space was performed. Microbiota comparison of clusters was made by Discriminant Analysis option after logarithm transformation of abundance [ $\log(x + 1)$ ]. When need, graphic representation of most significant microbiota was referred according those values and clusters of samples. Linkage of clusters of samples with inferred microbiota structure was performed by projection of the active and supplementary variables option through Principal Component option into the Factor Analysis programme; this was used due the facilities for hierarchical analysis of oblique factors which allow to detect the number of clusters into the set of variables.

## **Declarations**

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### **Authors' contributions**

AN, JLM, SCA, LR, MGM and MC, conceived and designed the study. AN and JLM coordinated the study. SCA, ISA, NCS, LR, RR, MRG, YJR, MC and MGM performed the biological and taxonomic experiments. SCA, LR, NCS, MRG, ISA and RR, performed the 16S rRNA gene experiments. FL, CL, SCA, YJR, RR and AN performed the bioinformatics analyses. AN, FL, SCA, CL, LZ, AO, JLM, analyzed and interpreted the data. AN and JLM wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### **Availability of data and materials**

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this article and its Additional information files. The 16S rRNA gene sequences have been deposited at .....under the accession numbers .....

### **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

The animals used in this study are nematode parasites. No ethics approval is needed.

### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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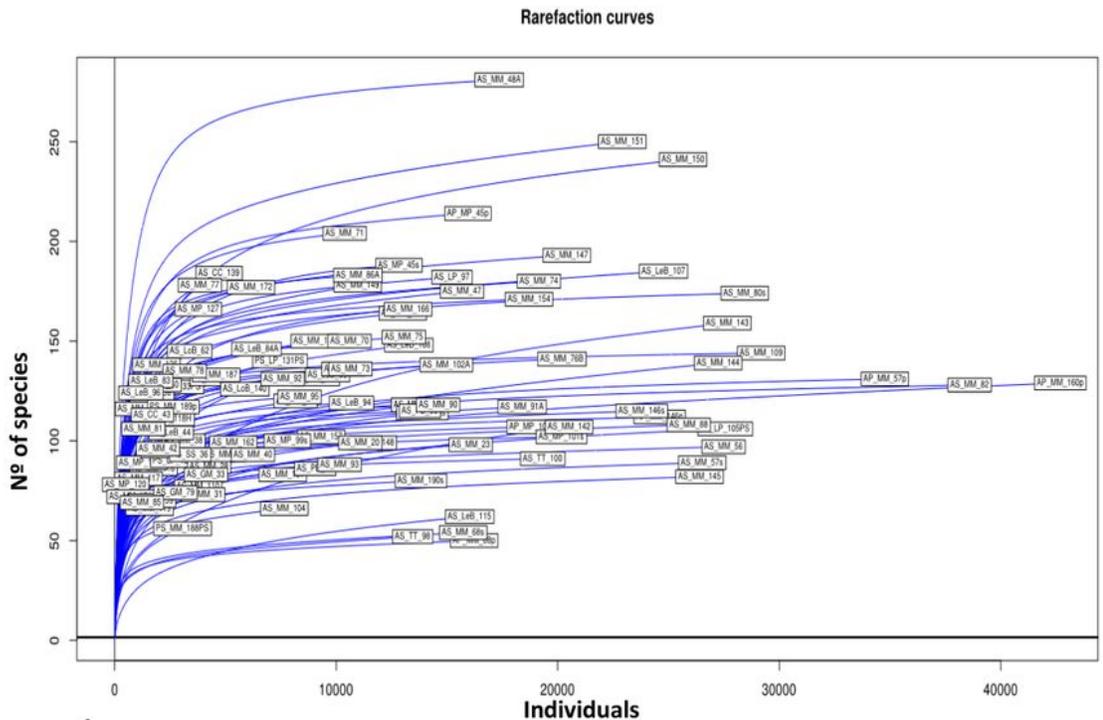
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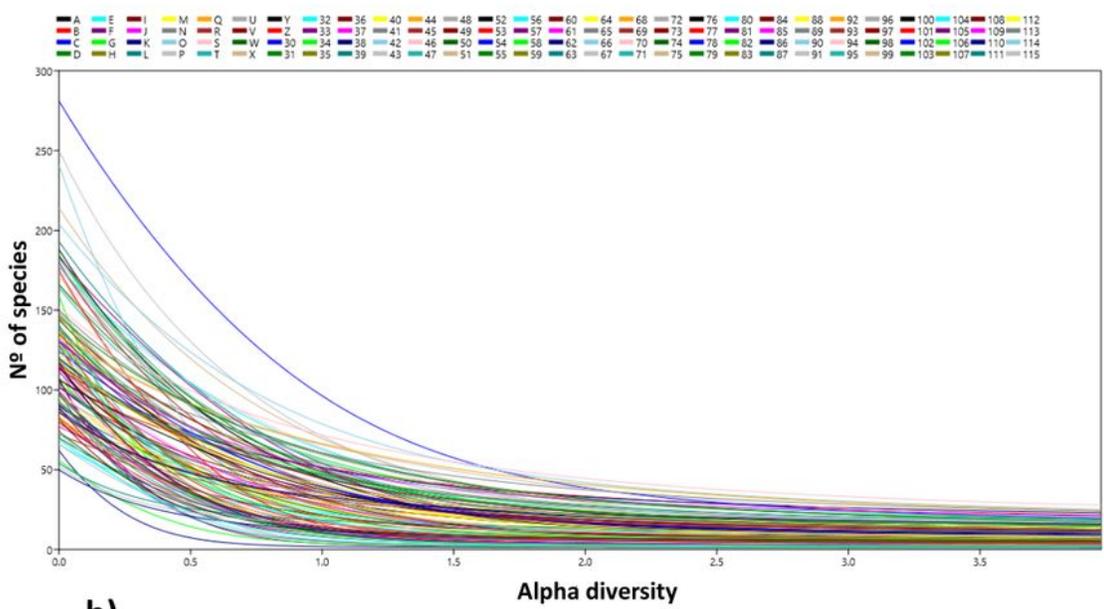
## Tables

Due to technical limitations, table 1,2,3 is only available as a download in the Supplemental Files section.

## Figures



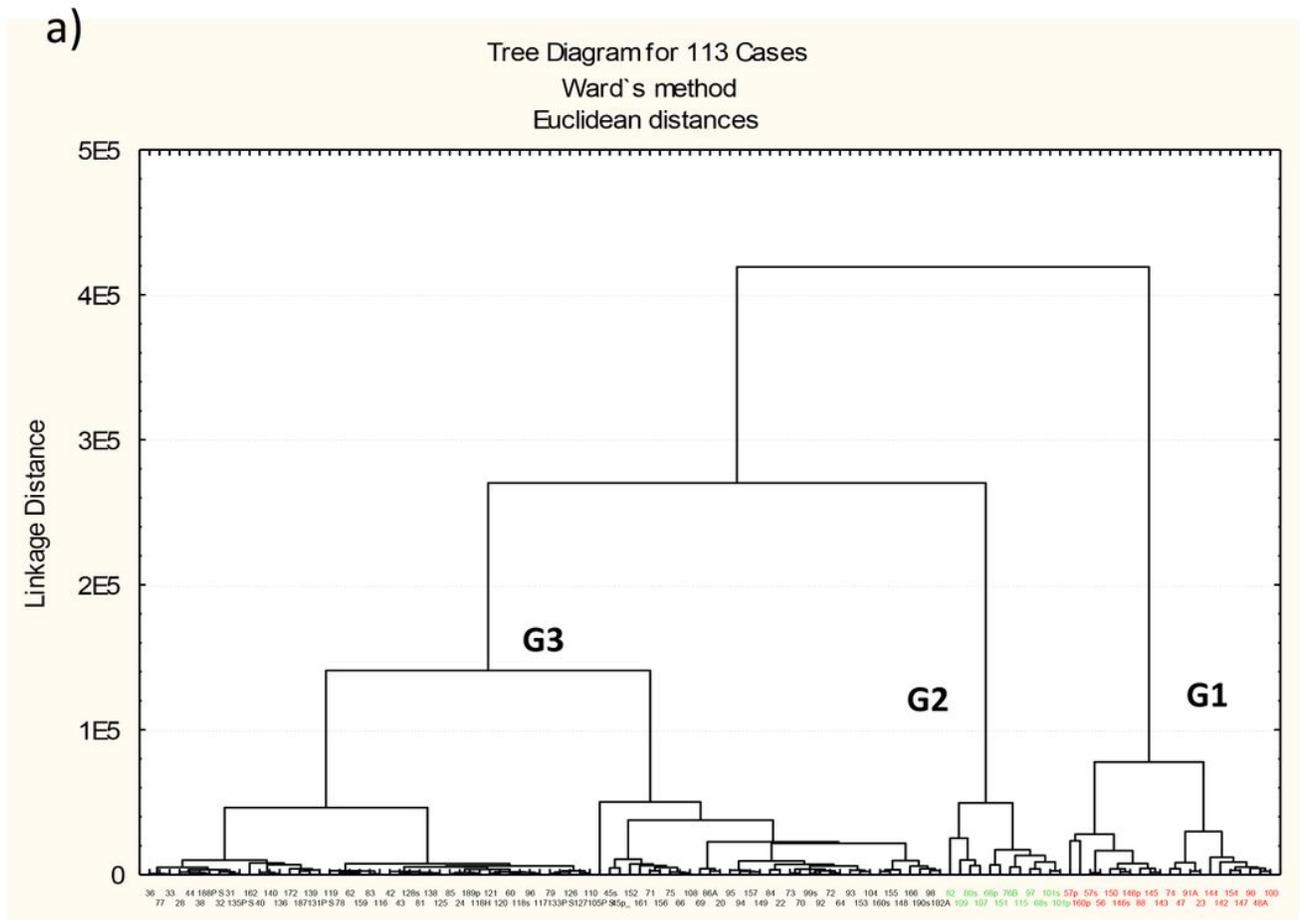
a)



b)

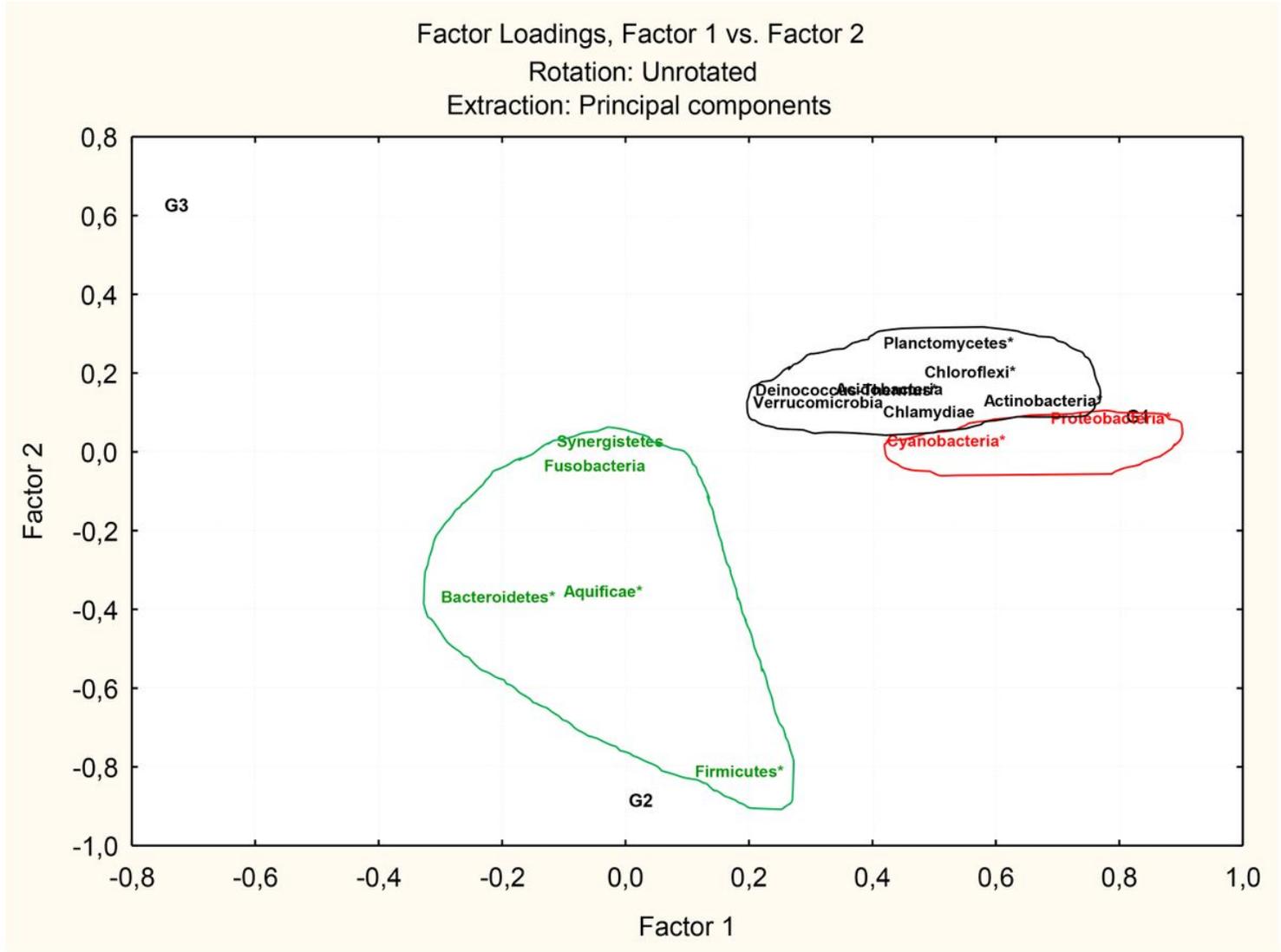
**Figure 1**  
 Diversity profiles. a Rarefaction curves of OTUs which are clustered at 97% sequence identity across the 113 samples of Anisakids. All samples are represented. None fish host or Anisakids species seems to be related with the bacterial OTUs diversity structure. b Diversity ordering by mean of Renyi's index family curves showing differences in OTUs diversity among each anisakid individuals. The Renyi index estimates total richness for  $\alpha = 0$ , Shannon-Weiner index for  $\alpha = 1$ , the inverse Simpson-Yule index for  $\alpha =$

2 and 1/Berger-Parker index for  $\alpha = \text{Infinite}$ . Most of the Anisakids individuals are non-comparable because their diversity profiles are intersecting.



**Figure 2**

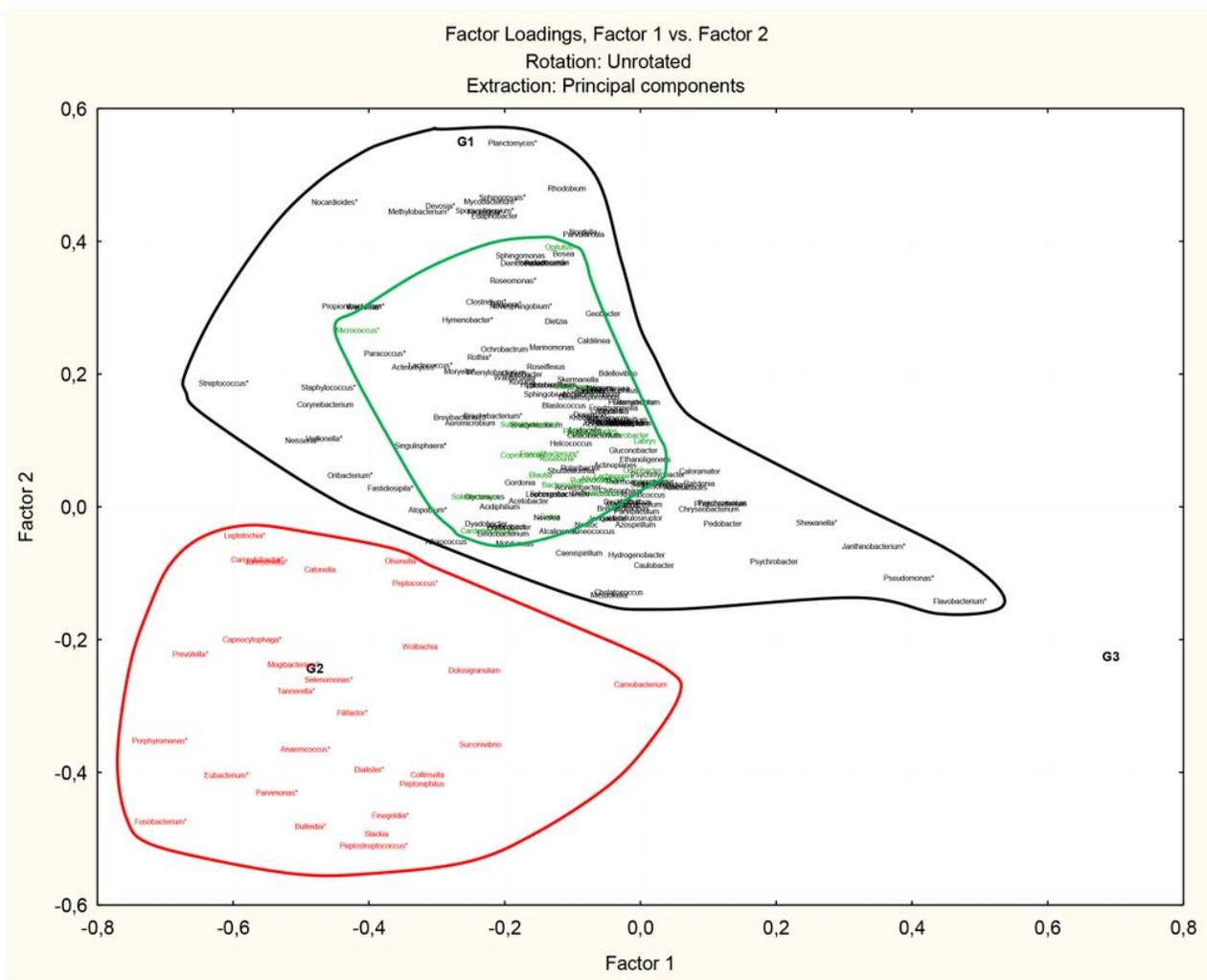
Cluster analysis of Anisakids samples L3 considering three different taxonomic levels of Bacteria; phyla (a), order (b) and genus (c). Substantially the same structure is maintained from phyla to order level. At genus level a new significant cluster (green) is formed joining samples from red and green clusters from higher taxonomic levels, while the extended black cluster from phyla and order levels is split in two news (black and red). This structure is manifested by ordination methods through correspondence and detected by the factorial analysis (Figures 3-5).



**Figure 3**

Factorial Analysis considering the Anisakids samples and bacteria at phyla level. In the Factorial Space (Factor 1 vs Factor 2 and Factor 1 vs Factor 3) is disposed the correspondence with the classified clusters of Fig. 2a.





**Figure 5**

Factorial Analysis considering the Anisakids samples and bacteria at genus level. In the Factorial Space (Factor 1 vs Factor 2 and Factor 1 vs Factor 3) is disposed the correspondence with the classified clusters of Fig. 2c.

## Supplementary Files

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