

How Do N Addition Affect Soil Fungal Community Assembly: Short- Versus Long-term Effects?

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1 **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

2 **How do N addition affect soil fungal community assembly: short- versus long-term**
3 **effects?**

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22 **Abstract**

23 **Background:** Soil fungi play critical roles in ecosystem processes and are sensitive to
24 global changes. Elevated atmospheric nitrogen (N) deposition has been well
25 documented to impact on fungal diversity and community composition, but how fungal
26 community assembly respond to short- and long-term simulative N deposition remains
27 poorly understood. Here, we carried out two field experiments to investigate the soil
28 fungal community variations and assembly processes under short- (2 years) versus
29 long-term (13 years) exogenous nitrogen addition ($100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) in a N-rich
30 tropical forest of China.

31 **Results:** We observed that short-term N addition significantly increased fungal
32 taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity, and shifted fungal community composition
33 with significant increases in the relative abundance of *Ascomycota* and saprotrophic
34 fungi, and decreases in the relative abundance of *Basidiomycota* and ectomycorrhizal
35 (EcM) fungi. However, unremarkable effects were found under long-term N addition.
36 The variations of fungal α -diversity, community composition, the relative abundance
37 of major phyla, genera and functional guilds were mainly correlated with soil pH and
38 the concentrations of NO_3^- -N, and these correlations were much stronger under short-
39 than long-term N addition. The results of null, neutral community models and the
40 normalized stochasticity ratio (*NST*) index consistently revealed that stochastic
41 processes played predominant roles in the assembly of soil fungal community under N
42 addition in the tropical forest, and that the relative contributions of stochastic processes

43 were higher at short-term site. Furthermore, both short- and long-term N addition
44 slightly loosened the co-occurrence networks of the fungal community.

45 **Conclusions:** These findings highlighted that the responses of fungal community
46 structure to N addition were duration-dependent, i.e., the fungal community was
47 sensitive to the short-term N addition but become acclimatized to long-term N
48 enrichment.

49 **Keywords:** Nitrogen addition, Fungal community, Stochastic processes, Deterministic
50 processes, Tropical forest, Co-occurrence network

51 **Background**

52 Fungi play vital roles in the structural and functional dynamics of terrestrial ecosystems.
53 Saprotrophic fungi are the primary decomposers of plant litter and soil organic matter
54 due to their relatively higher capability to degrade recalcitrant substances, such as
55 cellulose and lignin [1, 2]. Mycorrhizal symbionts can promote plant nutrient
56 acquisition and plant resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses, such as drought and
57 pathogen attacks [3]. Mycorrhizal fungi can also shape plant community dynamics by
58 affecting seed dispersal, seedling establishment and intra-/inter-specific interactions [4].
59 For these reasons, many studies have been devoted to understanding patterns in the
60 diversity, composition and function of fungal communities in natural and managed
61 ecosystems [5, 6], particularly in the past decade with the advance of the high-
62 throughput sequencing technologies. However, we still have a very limited
63 understanding on the assembly processes that structure fungal communities or
64 microbial communities in general [7, 8], albeit such knowledge is critical for predicting
65 ecosystem responses and for managing plant-fungi interactions under the context of
66 global environmental changes and maintaining sustainable agriculture and forestry [9,
67 10].

68 It is now widely recognized that microbial community assembly is often determined
69 by both deterministic and stochastic processes [11-13]. The deterministic processes
70 mainly include selection via environmental filtering and biotic interactions. The
71 stochastic processes consider that microbial species dynamics are controlled by

72 stochastic dispersal, ecological drift and diversification [12, 14]. While these are
73 conceptualized processes, new theoretical frameworks and experimental/analytical
74 methodologies are being developed to associate them with measurable ecological and
75 evolutionary processes, such as competition, predation, phylogenetic signals, network
76 interactions and trait variables [7, 15, 16]. In doing so, it is possible to quantify the
77 relative contribution of these assembly processes for different ecosystem types,
78 geographic scales and microbial categories [17-19], and to assess how the dominance
79 of the assembly process is affected by global or regional environmental changes [20-
80 22].

81 As one of the major global change drivers, anthropogenic reactive nitrogen (N) has
82 increased by 120% over the past few decades [23] and is expected to increase by 50-
83 100% from 2000 to 2030 [24]. The excessive loading of reactive N has been found to
84 have profound influences on soil microbial diversity, composition, activity and function
85 [25, 26]. Experimental N addition or fertilization generally reduces soil microbial
86 biomass and diversity directly by affecting microbial nutrition and indirectly by altering
87 edaphic conditions [26, 27]. In comparison with bacteria, fungi have been found to be
88 more responsive to N enrichment since they have lower N demands [28, 29]. Different
89 fungal guilds may exhibit different responses to N enrichment. For instance, the relative
90 abundance and diversity of mycorrhizal fungi decreased, whereas those of saprotrophs
91 increased with experimental N addition [30, 31], thus resulting in alterations in
92 community composition. More often, the N enrichment effects on fungal biomass and

93 diversity are positively related to the N application rate and duration, but we have very
94 limited knowledge on the duration effects, mainly because most N addition experiments
95 are short-termed and molecular approaches characterizing microbial diversity were not
96 available for early long-term experiments. Microbial communities are known for their
97 rapid evolution and adaptation to environmental disturbances [12, 32]. Understanding
98 the duration effects of N enrichment is therefore helpful for predicting the dynamic
99 responses of fungal communities to future environmental changes.

100 Nitrogen enrichment can also affect the processes underpinning fungal community
101 assembly but inconsistent results have been reported. For example, stochastic processes
102 dominate under the fertilization treatment in some studies [20, 21], whereas
103 deterministic processes were found to have a larger relative importance with
104 fertilization in other studies [31, 33]. Moreover, nitrogen fertilization resulted in
105 tightened network associations among fungal, bacterial and protists communities in
106 diverse agricultural soils [34], indicating increased importance of deterministic biotic
107 interactions in shaping microbiome. Contrastingly, nitrogen fertilization did not change
108 the fungal community networks in a temperate grassland soil [35]. The discrepancies
109 of fungal assembly process responses to N enrichment may be ascribed to the N
110 application rate, duration, ecosystem type and fungal categories of analysis; however,
111 existing studies were mainly carried out in cropland and grassland ecosystems.
112 Assessing the relative contribution of stochastic versus deterministic processes that

113 influence fungal community assembly under N enrichment in forest ecosystems remain
114 scarce.

115 To assess the effects of N addition and application duration on the relative importance
116 of deterministic versus stochastic processes in assembling forest soil fungal community,
117 we took advantage of an existing long-term (~ 13 years) N addition experiment (one of
118 the earliest N addition experiment in China) in a N-rich but phosphorus (P)-deficient
119 subtropical forest [36], and initiated a new N addition experiment (hereafter the short-
120 term (~ 2 years) experiment) in a nearby forest (~2 km away) with similar plant
121 community composition and edaphic conditions [37]. Previous studies at these sites
122 showed that N addition caused reductions in plant species diversity, soil acidification
123 and alteration in N- transformation processes [37-39]. For this study, soil samples were
124 taken at both sites in representative dry- and wet-season months and fungal diversity
125 and community composition were assessed through Illumina Hiseq sequencing of
126 internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region. We are aware that this is not an exact time-
127 series experiment with which to assess the duration effects but forms a feasible
128 comparison analogous to the space-for-time substitution principle. We hypothesized
129 that i) both the short- and long-term N additions would impose negative impacts on soil
130 fungal diversity and composition, and the negative effects would be stronger at the
131 long-term site; ii) stochastic processes would dominate at the short-term site since it
132 improves soil N availability for fungi, whereas deterministic processes would be
133 prevalent at the long-term site since excessive N inputs create a deleterious nutritional

134 environment [25]; iii) both the short- and long-term N additions would change the
135 network structures of the soil fungal community, more clustered network structure
136 would be observed at the long-term site since it creates a more stressful environment
137 that selects more adaptive fungal guilds.

138

139 **Results**

140 **Response of soil physicochemical properties**

141 Soils from both sites were strongly acidic with an average pH of 3.93, and N addition
142 significantly decreased the soil pH by 0.1 unit at both sites (Additional file 1: Fig. S1a).

143 Nitrogen addition also significantly increased the soil NO₃⁻-N concentrations by 56.11%
144 at the short-term site, but only slightly (by 33.14%) increased at long-term site
145 (Additional file 1: Fig. S1b). Of all the soil physicochemical parameters measured in
146 this study, only the soil water content (SWC) was significantly different between the
147 short- and long-term sites ($P = 0.013$; Additional file 1: Table S2).

148

149 **Response of fungal diversity and community composition**

150 After a series of qualified and filtered steps, 2,942,016 sequences were retained and
151 clustered into 4,672 fungal OTUs. Of all the samples, a total of 96.8% of the sequences
152 could be assigned into 11 phyla and 261 genera (Fig. 1). At the phylum level,
153 *Basidiomycota* was predominant, followed by *Ascomycota*. The relative abundance of
154 both phyla was significantly impacted by the N addition and differed significantly

155 between the long- and short-term sites ($P < 0.05$; the insert text in Additional file 1: Fig.
156 S2a, b). At the short-term site, the relative abundance of *Basidiomycota* was
157 significantly decreased by 27.19% by N addition, whereas that of *Ascomycota* was
158 significantly increased by 58.82% (Additional file 1: Fig. S2a, b). However, the relative
159 abundances of these phyla were not significantly affected by long-term N addition ($P >$
160 0.05). At the genera level, the 4 dominant taxa were *Inocybe*, *Lactarius*, *Russula* and
161 *Saitozyma* representing 13.5%, 10.8%, 9.1% and 6.0% of all sequences, respectively
162 (Figs. 1b and Additional file 1: S2c-f). At both sites, the N addition decreased the
163 relative abundance of *Inocybe* (by 90.93% and 79.32% at short- and long-term site,
164 respectively) but increased that of *Russula* (by 368.04% and 283.98% at short- and
165 long-term site, respectively), *Lactarius* (by 30.47% and 282.31% at short- and long-
166 term site, respectively), and *Saitozyma* (by 87.13% and 60.44% at short- and long-term
167 site, respectively). At the functional guild level, approximately 43.4% sequences were
168 categorized into EcM fungi, and the relative abundance of this group significantly
169 decreased by 26.13% at short-term site (Additional file 1: Fig. S3a). Nevertheless, only
170 3.5% of the sequences were classified as saprotrophic fungi, and the short-term N
171 addition significantly increased their relative abundance of this group (Additional file
172 1: Fig. S3b).

173 The results from two-way ANOVA indicated the fungal taxonomical and
174 phylogenetic α -diversity were significantly influenced by the duration of N addition
175 ($P < 0.05$; the insert text in Fig. 2a-c). Specifically, the three fungal α -diversity

176 indices (richness, Shannon and phylogenetic diversity) increased significantly (by
177 more than 10%) at short-term N addition site ($P < 0.05$), but by only approximately
178 1% at long-term site (Fig. 2a-c). Moreover, the PERMANOVA indicated that the
179 duration, rate of N addition and their interactions significantly shaped the fungal
180 community composition ($P < 0.05$; the insert text in the top right corner of Additional
181 file 1: Fig. S4a). Specifically, the soil fungal community could be distinctly separated
182 by short- and long-term N addition based on the Bray-Curtis distance metric by
183 NMDS plots (Additional file 1: Fig. S4a). In addition, the dissimilarity of soil fungal
184 community was significantly decreased by short-term N addition (Fig. 2d). When
185 considering the variation in phylogenetic community composition (based on
186 β MNTD), the duration of N addition significantly changed the fungal phylogenetic
187 community composition, and the N addition significantly decreased β MNTD at the
188 short-term site, while significant changes were not found at the long-term site (Fig. 2e
189 and Additional file 1: Fig. S4b). Niche breadth analysis was conducted to explain the
190 distinct responses of fungal community composition, and revealed that fungal
191 community in N addition soils had a higher habitat niche breadth than that in control
192 soils at both sites (Additional file 1: Fig. S5).

193

194 **Factors affecting fungal diversity and community composition**

195 The linear regression indicated that the relative abundance of major functional guilds,
196 phyla and genera was mainly correlated with soil pH and NO_3^- -N concentration, and

197 the correlations were more significant at short- than long-term site (Additional file 1:
198 Figs. S6 and S7). For instance, the relative abundance of EcM fungi and *Basidiomycota*
199 was significantly positively correlated with soil pH, and that of saprotrophic fungi and
200 *Ascomycota* was significantly negatively correlated with pH at the short-term site, while
201 these correlations were not significant at long-term site. The soil pH, not the NO₃⁻-N
202 concentration, was the dominant driver to predict the variations of fungal richness,
203 Shannon index and phylogenetic diversity (Fig. 3a-f). The aforementioned α -diversity
204 indices were negatively correlated with soil pH, and the correlations were more
205 significant at the short- than the long-term site. The CAP analysis also revealed that soil
206 pH was the most important variable for the shifts of fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic
207 community composition, and soil nutrients (such as DON, DOC and NO₃⁻-N) were also
208 important for fungal community composition (Fig. 3g-h, Additional file 1: Table S3).

209

210 **Response of assembly processes**

211 The mantel correlogram showed significant phylogenetic signals across relatively short
212 phylogenetic distances for the four sub-communities ($P < 0.05$, Fig. 4), indicating that
213 fungal N responses are phylogenetically conserved and that the closely related species
214 in fungal community exhibited more similar ecological preferences to the
215 environmental variables. Null model analysis revealed stochastic processes mainly
216 governed fungal community dynamics in the whole community and the four sub-
217 communities (Fig. 5a). In the sub-communities, the relative contribution of

218 stochasticity was increased by short-term N addition from 71.2% (control) to 90.9% (N
219 addition), while it was slightly decreased by long-term N addition from 78.8% (control)
220 to 66.7% (N addition). The *NST* results also showed the fungal community were
221 predominately governed by stochastic processes (*NST* = 81.8% and 82.7% for the
222 control treatment at the short- and long-term sites and 89.0% and 79.2% the N addition
223 treatment at the short- and long-term sites, respectively). Specifically, the *NST*
224 increased significantly by short-term N addition ($P < 0.01$) but decreased slightly by
225 long-term N addition (Fig. 5b). The neutral model explained a large fraction ($R^2 > 0.5$)
226 of the variability in occurrence frequency of the fungal community, with more than 80%
227 of species having frequencies within predicted ranges (Fig. S8).

228

229 **Response of co-occurrence patterns**

230 After data filtration, the remaining 405, 451, 369 and 461 OTUs were used to construct
231 networks for the four sub-communities (Table 1). The networks showed topological
232 properties of small-world, scale-free and modularity, and were significantly different
233 from randomly generated networks (Table 1). The N addition slightly weakened the
234 inter-connections among fungal species at both sites (Fig. 6, Table 1), with a lower
235 average clustering coefficient (avgCC) and average connectivity degree (avgK), and a
236 higher average path length (APL) and centralization of betweenness (CB). These results
237 indicated that the networks were less clustered in the N addition soils. Additionally,

238 positive correlations were predominant in all networks and the number of positive
239 correlations were decreased by N addition at both sites.

240 The topological roles of the OTUs identified in the networks were shown as a *Zi-Pi*
241 plot in Figure 7. The majority of the OTUs were peripherals (also regarded as specialist)
242 with most of their links being inside their modules. A total of 8, 15, 16 and 19 OTUs
243 were classified as module hubs, collectors and network hubs (putative keystone species)
244 for the four sub-networks (Fig 7; Additional file 1: Table S4-S7). The control and N
245 addition networks at short-term site shared 1 putative keystone species (OTU140;
246 *Eurotiomycetes, Ascomycota*), while the two networks at long-term site did not share
247 any keystone species. Most putative keystone species belonged to the classes
248 *Eurotiomycetes, Agaricomycetes, Sordariomycetes, Dothideomycetes, Leotiomyces,*
249 *Mortierellomycetes* and *Tremellomycetes*.

250

251 **Discussion**

252 **Soil fungal diversity and community composition were more sensitive to short-** 253 **term N addition**

254 In contravention to our first hypothesis, the soil fungal α -diversity was enhanced by N
255 addition ($100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) at both sites (Fig. 2a-c). The increased fungal diversity at
256 both sites may be ascribed to the following : i) the added N increased soil nutrient
257 availability, modifying the range of ecological niches and favoring the survival, growth
258 and reproduction of fungi [40]; ii) N addition enhanced the plant net primary

259 productivity of the tropical forest [41, 42], leading to more plant-derived resources for
260 soil fungal growth; iii) the rate of N addition ($100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) likely caused an
261 intermediate disturbance, and led to many vacant ecological niches that facilitate fungal
262 colonization, according to the intermediate disturbance hypothesis [43]; iv) the
263 adaptation of soil fungal diversity to acidic environments, as their internal pH
264 regulatory mechanism to maintain a relatively neutral pH in their cells [44], and thus
265 the acidic soil induced by N addition would result in acidophilic or acid-tolerant fungi
266 in the studied forest. However, some previous studies found that soil fungal diversity
267 was decreased or not significantly affected by N addition [45-47]. The discrepancies in
268 these findings are not entirely surprising given that variations in the ecosystem types,
269 background N deposition, soil layers, duration of treatment, and N addition rate [26, 48,
270 49].

271 Additionally, we found that N addition significantly increased the fungal α -diversity
272 at the short-term site ($>10\%$), but little enhanced at the long-term site ($<2\%$; Fig. 2a-c),
273 suggesting that soil fungal species could be sensitive to short-term N addition, and long-
274 term N enrichment may result in the acclimatization of the soil fungal community in
275 the tropical forest soil. Our results are in line with some of the observations from other
276 forest ecosystems [50, 51]. For instance, Zhao et al. [50] revealed that 5 years of N
277 addition increased the fungal α -diversity in a temperate forest, while Entwistle et al.
278 [51] showed there were no significant effects on fungal α -diversity under more than 15
279 years of N addition. We speculated that the different response patterns between short-

280 and long-term N addition in the present study could be attributed to the sensitivity of
281 fungal species to N availability and the niche differentiation. For instance, short-term
282 N addition significantly increased fungal richness (Fig. 2a), suggesting that some rare
283 taxa were stimulated and appeared, while the prolonged N addition at the long-term site
284 would form a relatively stable fungal community. Additionally, the forest age and tree
285 size are larger at the long-term site (400 years and 8 cm of diameter at breast height)
286 than at the short-term site (100 years and 6.6 cm) [39, 52], leading to more NO₃⁻-N
287 leaching and plant uptake [53], and probably more niche differentiation at the long-
288 term site. In contrast, the fungal species may be more equally distributed and have
289 higher NO₃⁻-N concentrations to use under short-term N addition, resulting in a higher
290 diversity.

291 Furthermore, nitrogen addition also altered the fungal community composition
292 between short- and long-term site, and the dissimilarities were much greater under
293 short-term than long-term N addition (Figs. 2d-e and Additional file 1: S4). This
294 dissimilarity of fungal community composition may result from the changes of
295 taxonomic structures. For example, N addition significantly decreased the relative
296 abundance of *Basidiomycota* and EcM fungi, and increased the relative abundance of
297 *Ascomycota* and saprotrophic fungi at the short-term site, while these taxa were not
298 significantly impacted by long-term N addition (Additional file 1: Figs. S2 and S3),
299 indicating the duration-dependent effects of nitrogen addition on fungal populations.
300 Wang et al. [52] revealed that N addition (105 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹) suppressed the fine root

301 production and turnover at the short-term site, and then would reduce the “mycorrhizal-
302 fine root system” and decrease the EcM colonization [54]. The positive effects of N
303 addition on relative abundance of saprotrophic fungi may be supported by the “Gadgil
304 effect”, in which N competition between EcM and saprotrophic fungi could benefit to
305 saprotrophic growth [55, 56]. Such shifts in fungal community composition could affect
306 the soil enzymatic activities and litter decomposition, and thus modulate soil C, N, and
307 P cycling in forests exposed to atmospheric N deposition [57]. Recent studies
308 demonstrated that soil pH and NO_3^- -N were the key drivers influencing fungal
309 community composition [58, 59]. The relative abundance of dominant functional guilds,
310 phyla and genera at the short-term site (Additional file 1: Figs. S4 and S5) was
311 significantly positively or negatively correlated with soil pH and NO_3^- -N concentrations,
312 depending on their preference to N and tolerance to pH, which indicated the sensitive
313 responses of soil fungal community to short-term N addition as well. Additionally, the
314 fungal community in N addition soils had a wider habitat niche breadth than that in
315 control soils at both sites (Additional file 1: Fig. S7), indicating the fungal community
316 has greater metabolic plasticity and governed less by environmental filtering under N
317 addition [60].

318

319 **Soil fungal community assembly was mainly shaped by stochastic processes**

320 The significant phylogenetic signals were found across relatively short phylogenetic
321 distances (Fig. 4), in line with previous studies on fungal communities [16, 61]. The

322 results suggested that closely related species exhibited more similar ecological
323 preferences across environmental variations, and fungal responses to N addition
324 exhibited phylogenetic conservation.

325 Revealing the assembly rules of microbial community is a central issue in microbial
326 ecology [12]. Deterministic and stochastic processes are two dominant themes in the
327 study of microbial community dynamics; therefore, it is critical to quantify the relative
328 contributions of the two processes to community assembly [28, 62]. In the present study,
329 the null model and *NST* analysis consistently showed that stochastic processes were
330 more important than deterministic processes with respect to soil fungal community
331 assembly under control and N treatments at both sites (Fig. 5), which were partially
332 consistent with our second hypothesis. We speculated the short-term N addition
333 enriched soil nutrients (e.g. NO_3^- -N), widened the habitat niche breadth of fungal
334 community, and weakened the effects of environmental filtering. However, the long-
335 term N addition didn't change the soil properties much (Additional file 1: Fig. S1 and
336 Table S2), and led to less habitat heterogeneity, resulting in a greater relative
337 importance of stochastic events on community composition. Additionally, the hyphal
338 networks, forming between fungi and the roots of their hosts, limit the dispersion of
339 fungal species (i.e., dispersal limitation), since most of the dominant trees in the forest
340 are ectomycorrhizal or arbuscular mycorrhizae [39, 63]. In general, our results are
341 supported by prior studies reporting that stochastic processes predominate in fungal
342 community assembly [13, 18, 21]. Furthermore, the neutral community model

343 explained a relatively large fraction ($R^2 > 0.5$) of fungal community variation,
344 indicating that the fungal community was more influenced by neutral (or stochastic)
345 processes.

346

347 **Co-occurrence patterns of microbial communities under short- and long-term N**
348 **addition**

349 Microorganisms can form complex interaction networks to coexist by occupying
350 specific ecological niches or responding similarly to environments [64]. The co-
351 occurrence networks can present the new insights into potential interactions and
352 assembly process of microbial communities under environmental disturbance [65]. The
353 N addition generated a looser and more random fungal networks at both sites (Fig. 6,
354 Table 1), indicating that the putative interactions between fungal species were
355 weakened by N addition and supporting our third hypothesis that N addition would alter
356 the fungal network structure. This is also supported by our observation that network
357 parameters such as *avgK* and *avgCC* were higher in control networks than N addition
358 networks. This result suggests that higher fungal diversity is not necessarily associated
359 with more complex co-occurrence networks. We speculated that higher fungal diversity
360 in N addition soils could lead to higher degree of functional redundancy, which
361 provides more opportunities for fungal species to correlate with their neighbours, as
362 microorganisms tend to interact with each other by function or metabolites preference
363 [66, 67]. As a result, N addition would lead to weak interspecies interactions and loose

364 co-occurrence networks of fungal community. However, Zhao et al. [34] suggested that
365 the application of nitrogen fertilizers tightened bacteria–fungi–protist interactions in
366 diverse agricultural soils. The discrepancies between these findings may result from our
367 fungal network analysis and forest ecosystems. Additionally, positive correlations
368 dominated all the networks (Fig. 6), implying that mutual cooperation rather than
369 competitive exclusion played a dominant role in fungal community assembly.

370

371 **Conclusions**

372 In this study, we compared the variations and responses of fungal taxonomic and
373 phylogenetic diversity and community composition between two nearby field
374 experiments in a tropical forest which had received short- (2 years) and long-term (13
375 years) simulated N deposition ($100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$). Our results indicated that fungal α -
376 diversity was significantly increased by the short-term N addition rather than the long-
377 term treatments. Additionally, the variations of fungal α -diversity and community
378 composition were greater in short-term compared to long-term N addition. Soil pH and
379 the concentrations of NO_3^- -N were the major factors mediating the variations of fungal
380 diversity and community composition. Stochastic processes played predominant roles
381 in the assembly of soil fungal community under N addition at both sites, and the
382 stochasticity was significantly increased by short-term N addition. Moreover, both
383 short- and long-term N addition slightly loosened the co-occurrence networks of fungal
384 community. Together, our results revealed that the soil fungal community structure

385 would be sensitive to short-term N addition, while become acclimatized to long-term
386 N enrichment. The study will contribute to our understanding of underlying
387 mechanisms that regulate the variations of soil fungal community, and facilitate the
388 prediction of fungal responses to the ongoing atmospheric nitrogen deposition in
389 tropical forests.

390

391 **Materials and methods**

392 **Site description**

393 The long- and short-term N addition experiments were established in Dinghushan
394 Biosphere Reserve (DHSBR) in the city of Zhaoqing, Guangdong province of south
395 China (112°10' E, 23°10'N). The reserve lies in a subtropical/tropical moist forest
396 region, and covers about 1,155 ha with a monsoon climate. The mean annual
397 precipitation is 1,748 mm, mainly concentrated from April to September, and only a
398 small part falling from October to March. The mean annual temperature is 21.0 °C, with
399 a monthly average temperature ranging from 12.6 °C in January to 28.0 °C in July. The
400 wet N deposition in the reserve had reached 34.4 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in 2009-2010 [38, 39].
401 The forest type is evergreen broadleaf forest and it has been characterized as N-rich but
402 P-limited in previous studies [36, 39]. The dominant tree species being *Castanopsis*
403 *chinensis* Hance, *Machilus chinensis* (Champ. Ex Benth.) Hemsl., *Schima superba*
404 Chardn. et Champ., *Cryptocarya chinensis* (Hance) Hemsl., *Cryptocarya concinna*

405 Hance and *Randia canthioides* Champion ex Bentham. The forest ages are
406 approximately 400 and 100 years for the long- and short-term sites, respectively.

407

408 **Experimental design and soil sampling**

409 The long-term experiment was established in 2002, and nitrogen addition started in July
410 2003 with monthly spraying ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) solution [36]. Three 10×20
411 m^2 plots were assigned for N addition (N; ambient + $100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$), and three
412 paired plots were designed as control (C; ambient nitrogen deposition). For each N
413 addition plot, the required NH_4NO_3 was weighed, dissolved in 20 L of water and
414 sprayed evenly below the canopy using a backpack sprayer. Control plots received 20
415 L of water, which is equivalent to an increase of 1.2 mm yr^{-1} precipitation. The short-
416 term experiment was established in October 2013; N addition began in September 2014,
417 with 0 and $105 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ NH_4NO_3 for control (C) and N addition (N) treatments,
418 respectively. A total of 6 (3 replicates per treatment \times 2 treatments) randomly scattered
419 plots ($15 \text{ m} \times 15 \text{ m}$ per plot) were set up. The required NH_4NO_3 was dissolved in 30 L
420 water and sprayed below the canopy monthly in each plot. The control plots received
421 an equivalent volume of water only, which corresponded to extra 1.6 mm of
422 precipitation occurred in each quadrat each year.

423 Surface soil samples (0-20 cm) were collected four times from each plot in wet (July
424 2015 and 2016) and dry (January 2016 and 2017) seasons. Within each plot, samples
425 were randomly taken using a soil auger (ϕ 5 cm) at 6 spots to form a composite sample

426 for analysis, which resulted in 24 soil samples for each site in the two years. Visible
427 roots and plant residues were removed from all samples, which were then sieved
428 through a 2-mm mesh. The sieved samples were divided into two groups. One group
429 was used to determine soil properties, and the other was kept at -80°C for subsequent
430 DNA extraction and microbial community analyses.

431

432 **Measurement of soil properties**

433 Soil water content (SWC) was measured gravimetrically using 10 g of fresh soil by
434 oven-drying at 105°C for 24 h. Soil pH was determined in a 1:2.5 air-dried soil:water
435 suspension (w:v) using a pH meter (F-71G, LAQUA, HORIBA, Japan). Soil
436 ammonium nitrogen ($\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$) and nitrate nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$) were extracted by 1 M
437 KCl from 20 g fresh soil samples, and detected using the Alpha-Naphthol Blue and dual
438 wavelength (220 nm and 275 nm) spectrophotometric methods (UV-6000, China),
439 respectively. Soil total organic carbon (TOC) was analyzed using an external heating
440 method with concentrated sulfuric acid and potassium dichromate ($\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\text{-K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$).
441 To examine the contents of soil total N (TN) and phosphorus (TP), semi-micro Kjeldahl
442 digestion was carried out followed by Alpha-Naphthol Blue-spectrophotometer method
443 and the Mo-Sb anti-spectrophotometer method. Soil dissolved organic carbon (DOC)
444 and nitrogen (DON) were measured with a TOC analyzer (Shimadzu TOC-VCSH
445 Analyzer, Kyoto, Japan), after filtering the extracts of 10 g fresh soil in a 0.5 M K_2SO_4
446 solution.

447

448 **Soil DNA extraction and sequencing**

449 Total DNA from soils was extracted using the PowerSoil[®] DNA Isolation Kit (MoBio
450 Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

451 The extracted DNA was examined for quantity and quality using a Nanodrop 2.0
452 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, CA, USA). The paired primers ITS3-F

453 (5'- GCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGC-3') and ITS4-R (5'-

454 TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC-3') were used to amplify the ITS2 region of the

455 fungal rRNA gene [68]. The PCR and tag-encoded high-throughput sequencing of the

456 ITS2 were performed using the Illumina HiSeq platform (PE 250) (Guangdong

457 Magigene Biotechnology Co., Ltd. Guangzhou, China).

458

459 **Sequences processing and bioinformatics**

460 The raw sequences were cleaned to ensure high quality data; the reads with short
461 sequences (< 200 bp), barcodes, and poly base etc. were removed using the Fastp

462 (V0.14.1, <https://github.com/OpenGene/fastp>) and cutadapt

463 (<https://github.com/marcelm/cutadapt/>) [69, 70]. The high-quality paired-end reads

464 were then merged by USEARCH (V10.0.240, <http://www.drive5.com/usearch/>) with

465 minimal overlap of 16 bp. Then the sequences were split into operational taxonomic

466 units (OTUs) through the UPARSE pipeline, which performed chimera filtering and

467 OTU clustering simultaneously, based on a 3% dissimilarity level. OTUs with fewer

468 than two sequences were removed, and the representative sequence of each OTU was
469 assigned to fungal taxonomic lineages by comparison with the UNITE database (V7.1;
470 <http://unite.ut.ee>). All the non-fungal OTUs were removed before the downstream
471 analyses. Eventually, to compensate for the uneven sequencing efforts of different
472 samples, the OTU table was randomly subsampled to obtain the same sequence number
473 (61,292) for all the fungal data samples using *vegan* package in R (V3.6.1;
474 <http://www.r-project.org/>).

475 We classified the fungal OTUs into functional groups according to the FUNGuild
476 database [71]. The taxa with confidence levels “highly probable” or “probable” and
477 unique trophic guilds which belong to saprotrophic fungi, pathogenic fungi or EcM
478 fungi were selected for further analyses.

479

480 **Phylogenetic community assembly**

481 The phylogenetic signals were assessed for the control and N addition treatments at
482 each site to test whether fungal community responses to N addition were
483 phylogenetically conserved. Phylogenetic correlogram was applied to test the
484 phylogenetic signals, and measured by the “mantel.correlog” function in *vegan* package.
485 The assembly processes of fungal community were evaluated using a null model
486 analysis [15, 72, 73]. Based on the null model, ecological processes, which were
487 classified into deterministic processes (e.g. variable and homogeneous selections) or
488 stochastic processes (dispersal limitation, homogenizing dispersal, and undominated),

489 were evaluated by β -nearest taxon index (β NTI) in combination with Raup-Crick
490 metric (Bray-Curtis-based Raup-Crick, RC_{bray}) [15, 28, 62, 72]. Briefly, pairwise
491 phylogenetic turnover between communities was quantified by the MNTD metric
492 (β MNTD), which calculated by the “comdistnt” function (abundance. weighted =
493 TRUE). The deviations between observed β MNTD and the null β MNTD distribution
494 were evaluated by β NTI. Based on Stegen et al. [72], β NTI > 2 (β NTI < -2) between a
495 pair of samples means the significantly higher (lower) phylogenetic turnover than
496 expected (null distribution), indicating the predominance of variable selection (i.e.,
497 homogeneous selection). Subsequently, the RC_{bray} was calculated to estimate the
498 pairwise comparisons which were $|\beta$ NTI| < 2. The percentage of homogeneous
499 dispersal was quantified as the fraction of pairwise comparisons with $|\beta$ NTI| < 2 and
500 $RC_{\text{bray}} < -0.95$, while the dispersal limitation was quantified as the fraction of the
501 pairwise comparisons with $|\beta$ NTI| < 2 and $RC_{\text{bray}} > 0.95$. Finally, the remaining
502 fractions ($|\beta$ NTI| < 2 and $|RC_{\text{bray}}| < 0.95$) were treated as undominated processes [15,
503 28].

504 To further quantify the contribution of stochastic (neutral) processes to fungal
505 community structure under different N treatments, a normalized stochasticity ratio
506 (*NST*) and neutral community model were applied. The *NST*, an index developed with
507 50% as the boundary point between more deterministic (< 50%) and more stochastic (>
508 50%) assembly, was quantified using a pipeline based on the phylogenetic distance
509 (<http://ieg3.rccc.ou.edu:8080/>; [74]). The neutral community model was fitted to

510 predict the relationship between the frequency taxonomic occurrence in a set of local
511 communities and the abundance of those taxa across the wider metacommunity [75].
512 R^2 indicates the fit of the parameter based on nonlinear least-squares fitting.

513

514 **Co-occurrence networks of microbial communities**

515 Microbial interaction is one of the main drivers that contributes to deterministic process
516 of community assembly. To estimate the interspecies interaction within the fungal
517 community across the control and N treatments at each site, co-occurrence networks
518 were constructed based on the Random Matrix Theory (RMT) using the Molecular
519 Ecological Network Analysis Pipeline (<http://ieg4.rccc.ou.edu/mena>) [76]. Briefly,
520 fungal OTU table was square-root transformed and then split into 4 sub-datasets
521 according to duration and rate of N addition. For each sub-dataset, only those nodes
522 detected more than half of the total samples (majority rule) were kept for subsequent
523 network construction. More information on theories, algorithms, pipeline structure and
524 procedures can be found in references [76, 77]. Network visualization was conducted
525 using the interactive platform Gephi (WebAtlas, Paris, France). The “randomize the
526 network structure and then calculate network” function was run to compare the
527 properties of the empirical and randomly-generated networks. The connectivity of each
528 node was determined based on its within-module connectivity (Z_i) and among-module
529 connectivity (P_i) [78]. Node topologies were organized into four categories: (1) module
530 hubs (highly connected nodes within modules, generalists, $Z_i > 2.5$); (2) network hubs

531 (highly connected nodes within the entire network, supergeneralists, $Z_i > 2.5$ and $P_i >$
532 0.62); (3) connectors (nodes connecting modules, generalists, $P_i > 0.62$), and (4)
533 peripherals (interconnected nodes in modules with few outside connections, specialists,
534 $Z_i < 2.5$ and $P_i < 0.62$) [76, 77].

535

536 **Statistical analyses**

537 The phylogenetic α -diversity was calculated with *picante* package in R. The taxonomic
538 α -diversity (richness and Shannon indexes) was calculated by USEARCH. The
539 richness was calculated by counting the observed OTUs in each sample. The Shannon
540 diversity index was calculated according to the following equation:

$$541 \quad \text{Shannon index} = - \sum_{i=1}^S p_i \log_2 p_i$$

542 where S is the number of observed OTUs and p_i is the relative abundance of species i.

543 Three-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the effects of the duration, rate and season
544 of N addition and their interactions on fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity.
545 As the results showed that season had no significant effect on fungal α -diversity, we
546 considered the seasons as the replicates for downstairs analysis (Table S1). Therefore,
547 two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to analyze the effects of
548 duration, rate of N addition and their interactions on soil properties, fungal α -diversity,
549 and the relative abundance of major phyla, genera and functional guilds. Student's t-test
550 was used to assess the differences of aforementioned parameters between the control

551 and N addition treatments in the short- and long-term sites, respectively. Before two-
552 way ANOVA and Student's t-test were performed, the data were checked for normality
553 (Shapiro test) and homoscedasticity (Bartlett test). If the datasets were not normal or
554 homoscedastic, they were subjected to the Box–Cox transformation, ensuring that they
555 met the assumptions of these tests. A linear regression model was used to express the
556 correlations between soil properties and community variables, such as α -diversity and
557 relative abundance of major phyla, genera and functional guilds.

558 The multivariate permutational analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) was
559 conducted to analyze the variances in taxonomic (based on Bray-Curtis distance) and
560 phylogenetic (based on β MNTD) community composition and visualized by non-
561 metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS). Analysis of similarities (ANOSIM) with
562 999 permutations based on Bray-Curtis dissimilarity and β MNTD was conducted to
563 identify differences in OTU composition within and between treatments. The
564 potential relationships between environmental variables and fungal taxonomic and
565 phylogenetic community composition were assessed using constrained analysis of
566 principal coordinates (CAP) analysis based on “capscale” function of the *vegan*
567 package in R. The significantly environmental factors were selected using “envfit”
568 function of the *vegan* package with 999 random permutations. The variables that
569 displayed significant effects ($P < 0.05$) were included in the ordination plot.

570 To help reveal the variation in species composition of the fungal community, the
571 Levins' niche breadth (B) index [79] was determined with the following formula:

572
$$B_j = 1 / \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N P_{ij}^2}$$

573 where B_j represents the habitat niche breadth of OTU_{*j*} in a metacommunity; N is the
574 total number of communities of each metacommunity; and P_{ij} is the proportion of OTU_{*j*}
575 in community i . A high B value represents wide habitat niche breadth. Community-
576 level B (B_{com}) was calculated as the average B values from all the taxa in a single
577 community. The analysis was conducted using the “niche.width” function in *spaa*
578 package in R. All the statistical analyses were performed in R.

579

580 **Additional files**

581 **Additional file 1:**

582 **Table S1** The effects of duration (D), rate (R), season (S) of N addition and their
583 interactions on soil fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity.

584 **Table S2** The effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on
585 soil properties.

586 **Table S3** ANOVA of environmental factors correlate with soil fungal taxonomic
587 (based on Bray-curits distance) and phylogenetic (based on β MNTD) community
588 composition at short- and long-term sites.

589 **Table S4** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
590 putative keystone species in control network at short-term site.

591 **Table S5** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
592 putative keystone species in N addition network at short-term site.

593 **Table S6** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
594 putative keystone species in control network at long-term site.

595 **Table S7** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
596 putative keystone species in N addition network at long-term site.

597

598 **Supplementary Figures S1–S8**

599 **Fig. S1** The variations of soil pH and concentrations of NO_3^- -N under N addition.

600 **Fig. S2** The variations of relative abundance of major phyla and genera under N
601 addition.

602 **Fig. S3** The variations of relative abundance of major functional guilds under N
603 addition.

604 **Fig. S4** Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plots based on Bray-Curtis
605 distance and β MNTD of fungal community.

606 **Fig. S5** Comparison of mean habitat niche breadths (*Bcom*) in all taxa of fungal
607 community between control and N addition at short- and long-term site, respectively.

608 **Fig. S6** Relationships between soil pH and the relative abundance of major functional
609 guilds, phyla and genera.

610 **Fig. S7** Relationships between soil NO_3^- -N concentrations and the relative abundance
611 of major functional guilds, phyla and genera.

612 **Fig. S8** Fit of the neutral community model of community assembly for control and N
613 addition at the short- and long-term site, respectively.

614

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623

624 **Availability of data and materials**

625 All raw sequences from this paper have been submitted to the NCBI Sequence Read
626 Archive (SRA) database under the BioProject number PRJNA664903.

627

628 **Authors' contributions**

629 WJS and JHH conceived, designed the study and wrote the manuscript. JHH, XPT,
630 HW, XMM and YXN were responsible for performing the field and lab experiments.
631 JHH and SJ analyzed the data. All authors discussed the results, critically reviewed
632 the manuscript, and approved its publication. All authors read and approved the final
633 manuscript.

634

635 **Declarations**

636 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

637 Not applicable.

638

639 **Consent for publication**

640 Not applicable.

641

642 **Competing interests**

643 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

644

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865 **Tables**866 **Table 1** Detailed topological properties of the empirical and random networks of

867 fungal communities in soils under control and N addition at short- and long-term site,

868 respectively.

Network Index	Short-term site		Long-term site	
	Control	N addition	Control	N addition
<i>Empirical networks</i>				
Total nodes	405	451	369	461
Total links	596	638	630	770
Positive links (%)	65.94	55.96	72.06	65.58
Negative links (%)	34.06	44.04	27.94	34.42
Similarity threshold (St)	0.81	0.81	0.85	0.82
R ² of power-law	0.848	0.894	0.91	0.805
Average connectivity(<i>avgK</i>)	2.943	2.829	3.415	3.341
Average clustering coefficient (<i>avgCC</i>)	0.159	0.149	0.152	0.122
Average path distance (GD)	7.55	8.589	5.803	7.662
Modularity (Module No.)	0.792 (50)	0.825 (48)	0.678 (49)	0.781 (40)
Diameter	21	22	14	24
Density (D)	0.007	0.006	0.009	0.007
Geodesic efficiency (E)	0.171	0.15	0.214	0.171
Harmonic geodesic distance (HD)	5.861	6.687	4.679	5.85
Maximal degree	20	13	21	43
Centralization of degree (CD)	0.042	0.023	0.048	0.087
Centralization of betweenness (CB)	0.081	0.159	0.083	0.169
Centralization of stress centrality (CS)	0.357	2.258	1.133	3.413
<i>Random network</i>				
Avg. clustering coefficient	0.015 (0.005)	0.007 (0.003)	0.020 (0.005)	0.021 (0.005)
Average path distance	4.619 (0.081)	5.309 (0.077)	4.202 (0.056)	4.332 (0.053)
Avg. modularity	0.625 (0.007)	0.658 (0.006)	0.555 (0.007)	0.573 (0.006)

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871

872 **Figure legends**

873 **Fig. 1** Relative abundance of major soil fungal phyla and genera at the short- and
874 long-term N addition sites. Phyla and genera with the relative abundance > 0.2% are
875 included.

876 **Fig. 2** The variations of fungal α -diversity and community composition under short-
877 and long-term N addition. **(a-c)** The variations of fungal α -diversity under N addition
878 are indicated by student's t-test at short- and long-term sites, respectively. The bold
879 numbers denote the significantly differences ($P < 0.05$) of fungal α -diversity between
880 control and N addition at each site. The insert texts indicate the effects of duration
881 (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on fungal α -diversity detected by
882 two-way ANOVA. **(d-e)** The boxplots show community dissimilarities between
883 control and N addition in short- or long-term site based on Bray–Curtis distance and
884 β MNTD, respectively (*, $P < 0.05$; ***, $P < 0.001$; Wilcoxon rank-sum test).

885 **Fig. 3** Factors affecting fungal diversity and community composition. **(a-f)**
886 Relationships between fungal α -diversity and soil pH and NO_3^- -N concentrations are
887 revealed by linear regression model. **(g, h)** CAP analysis show the community
888 dissimilarities based on Bray-Curtis distance and β MNTD against environmental
889 variables among samples. SWC, soil water content; NH_4^+ -N, ammonium nitrogen;
890 NO_3^- -N, nitrate nitrogen; TOC, total organic carbon; TN, total nitrogen; C/N, total
891 organic carbon / total nitrogen; TP, total phosphorus; DOC, dissolved organic carbon;
892 DON, dissolved organic nitrogen.

893 **Fig. 4** Phylogenetic Mantel correlogram between the Euclidean distance matrix of
894 OTU niche values and phylogenetic distance matrix shows significant phylogenetic
895 signal across short phylogenetic distances. Solid and open symbols denote significant
896 ($P < 0.05$) and non-significant ($P > 0.05$) correlations (phylogenetic signal),
897 respectively.

898 **Fig. 5** The assembly processes in shaping fungal communities. **(a)** The relative
899 contributions (%) of the five community assembly processes. **(b)** Boxplot shows the
900 variation in *NST* under control and N addition at short- and long-term sites (**, $P <$
901 0.01; Wilcoxon rank-sum test).

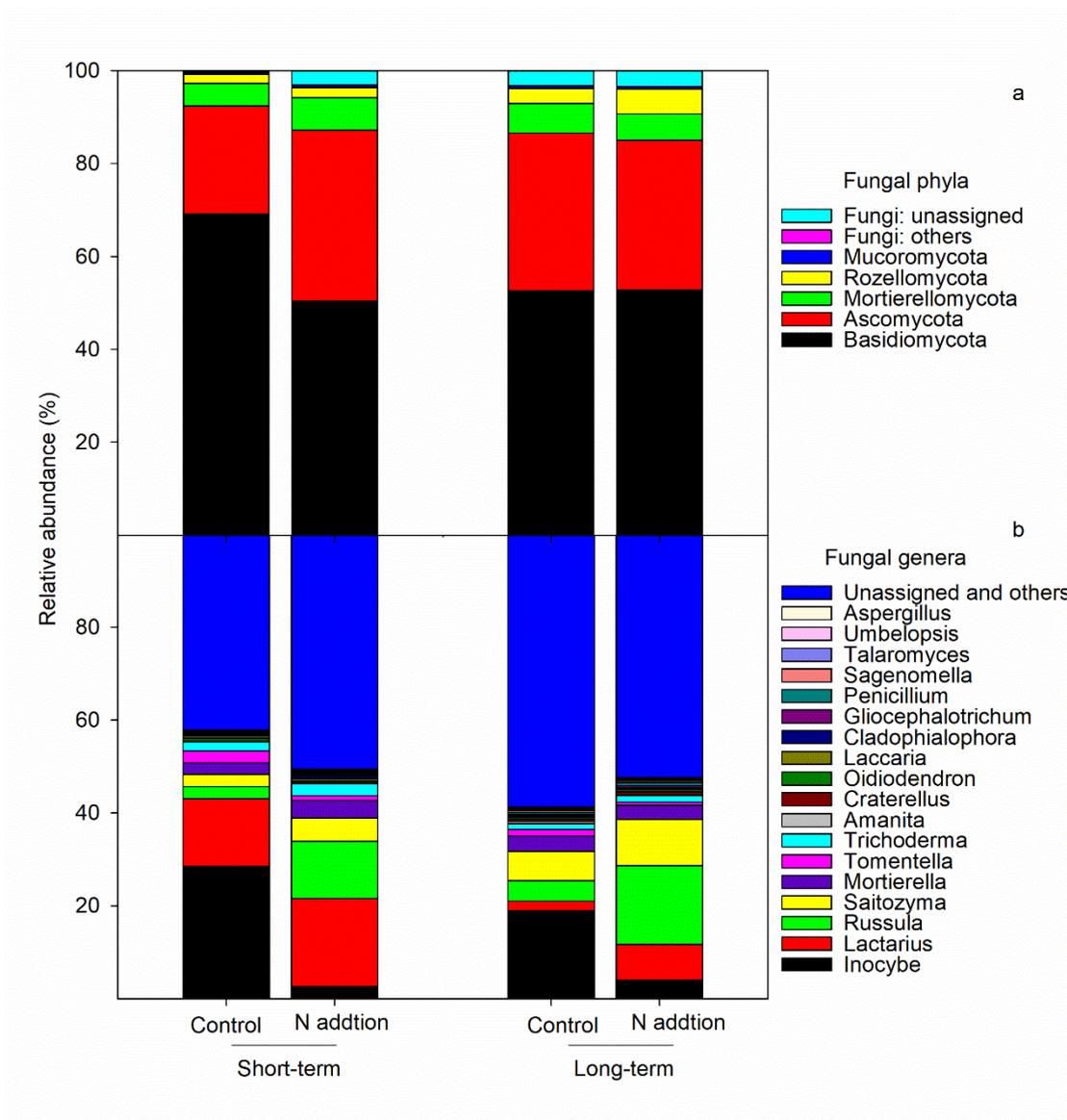
902 **Fig. 6** Co-occurrence patterns of OTUs of fungal community in control and N
903 addition treatment at short- and long-term site, respectively. The size of each
904 node is proportional to the number of connections (i.e. degree). The red and green
905 edges indicate positive and negative interactions between two individual nodes,
906 respectively.

907 **Fig. 7** Classification of nodes to identify putative keystone species within the
908 networks. The topological role of each OTU is determined according to the scatter
909 plot of within-module connectivity (Z_i) and among-module connectivity (P_i).
910 Modules hubs have $Z_i > 2.5$, whereas connectors have $P_i > 0.62$. The number of
911 module hubs and connectors is presented on the plot and the network hub is labeled
912 with the OTU number. The abbreviations of C and N are defined as control and N

913 addition, respectively. Detailed taxonomic information for module hubs and
914 connectors is shown in Tables S4 to S8

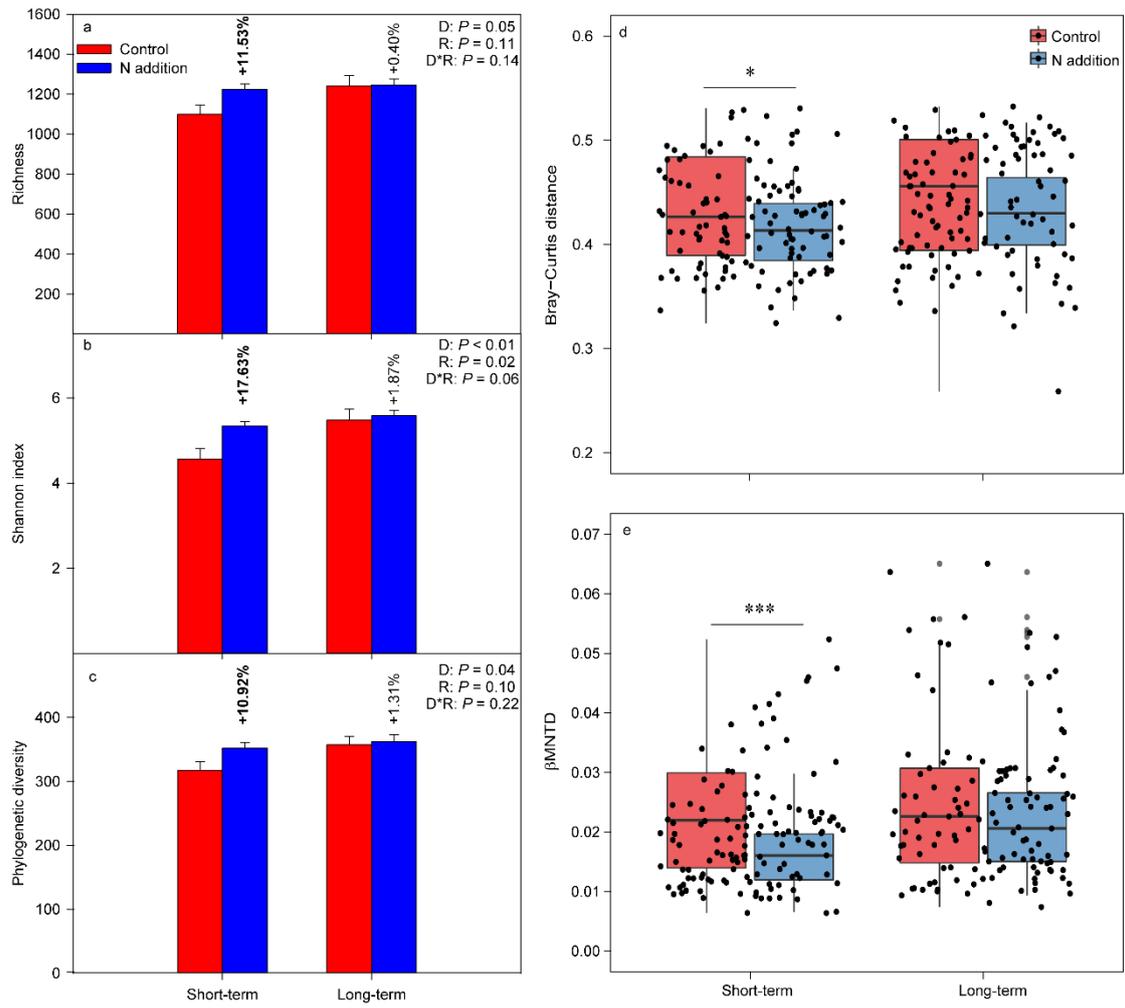
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Fig. 1

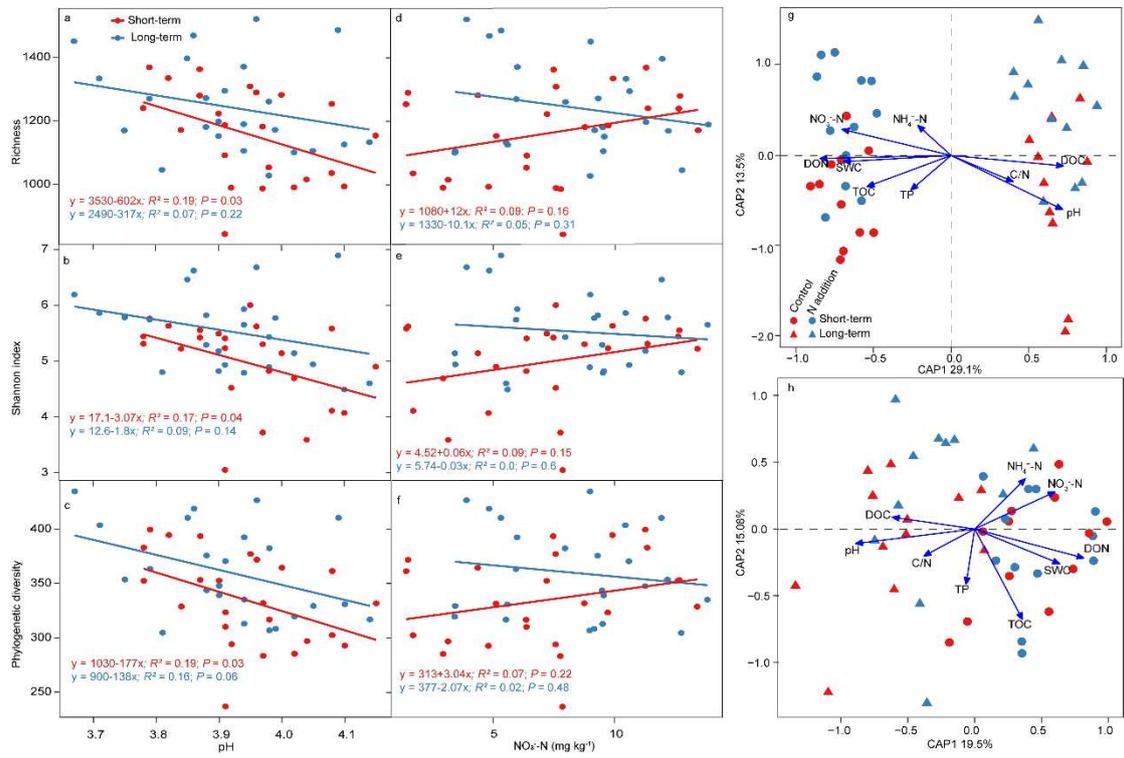


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920 **Fig. 3**



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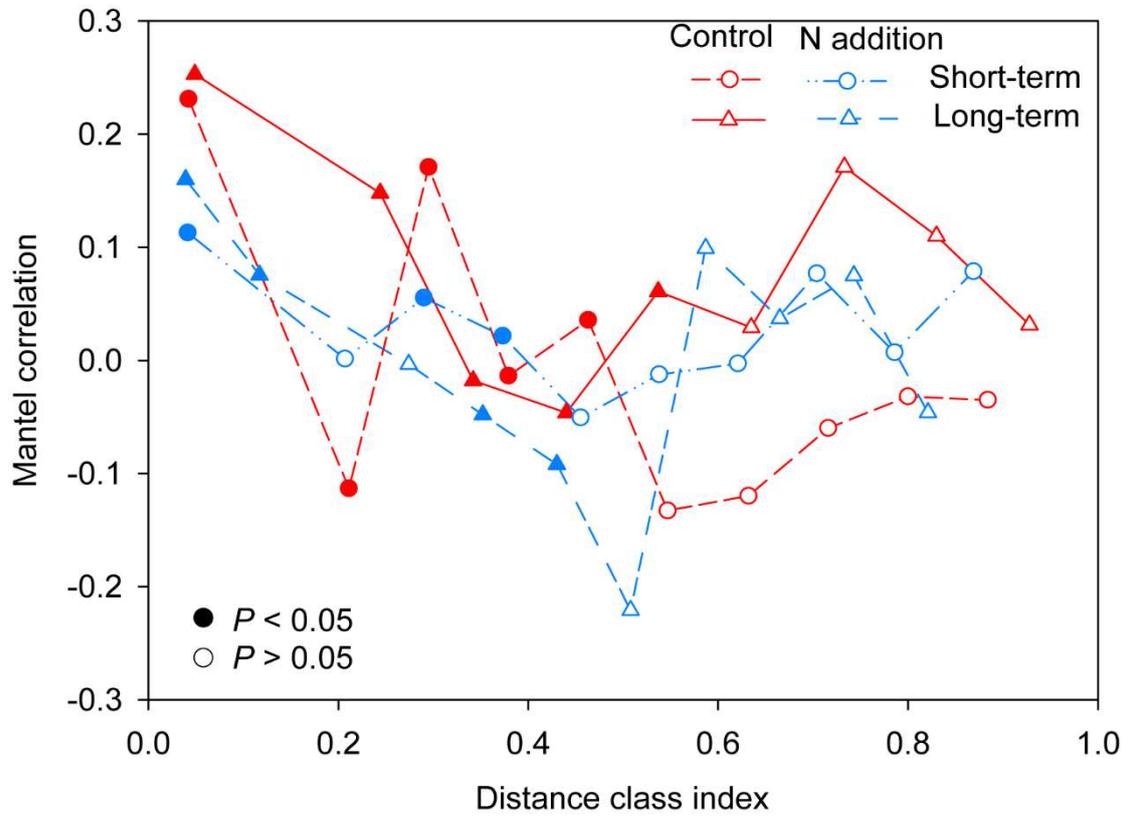
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933 **Fig. 4**

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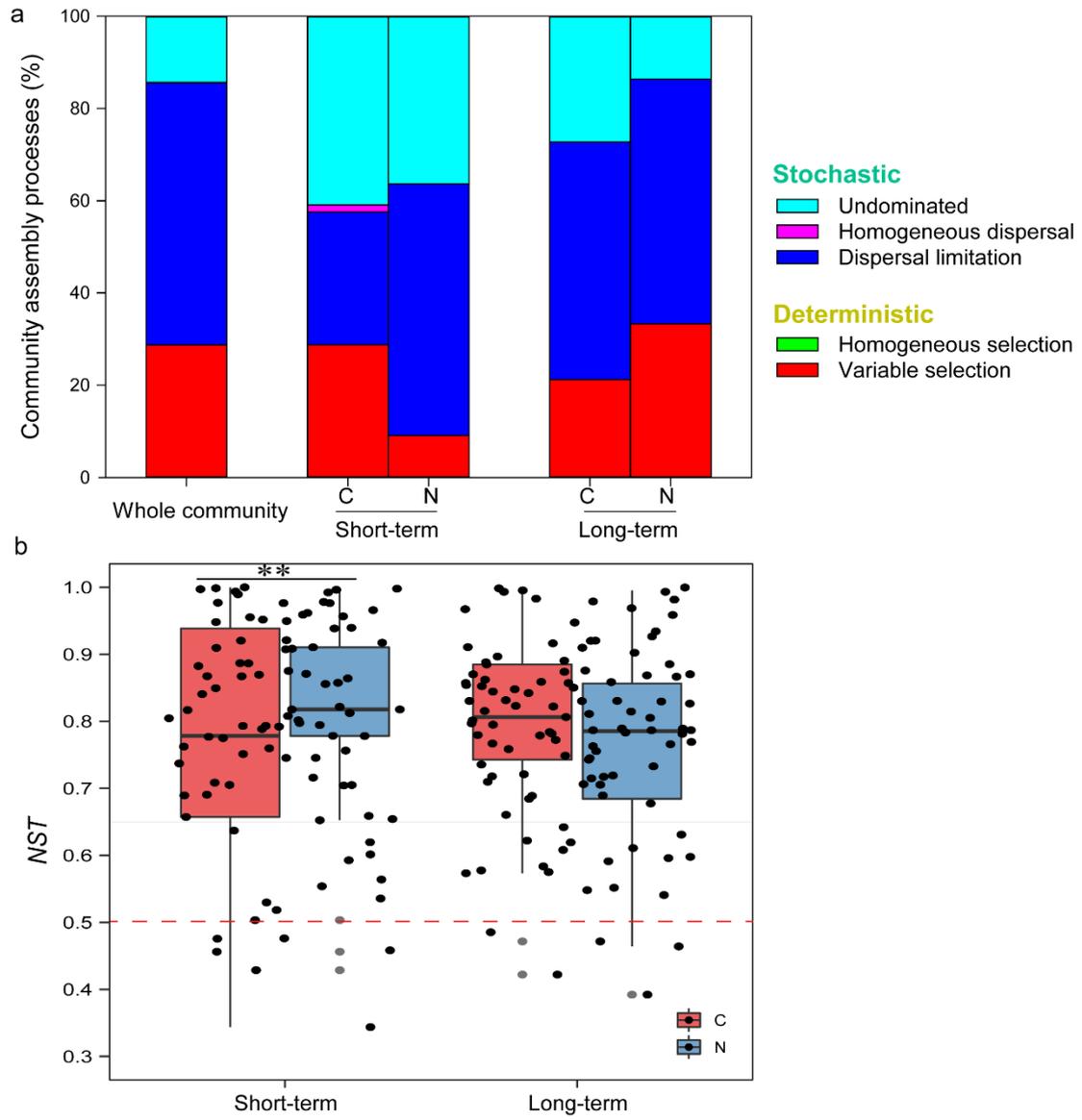
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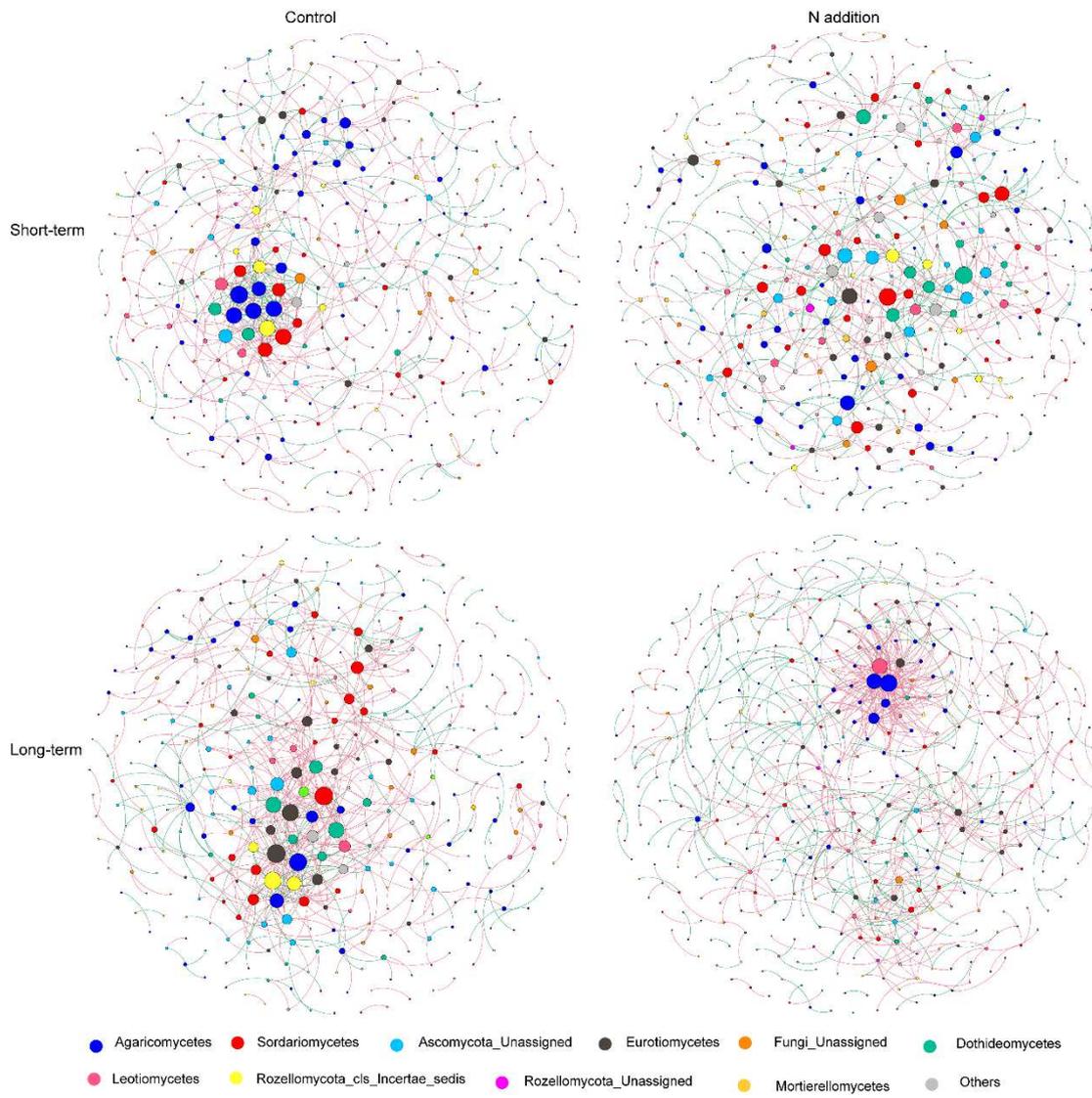
946 **Fig. 5**



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949 **Fig. 6**



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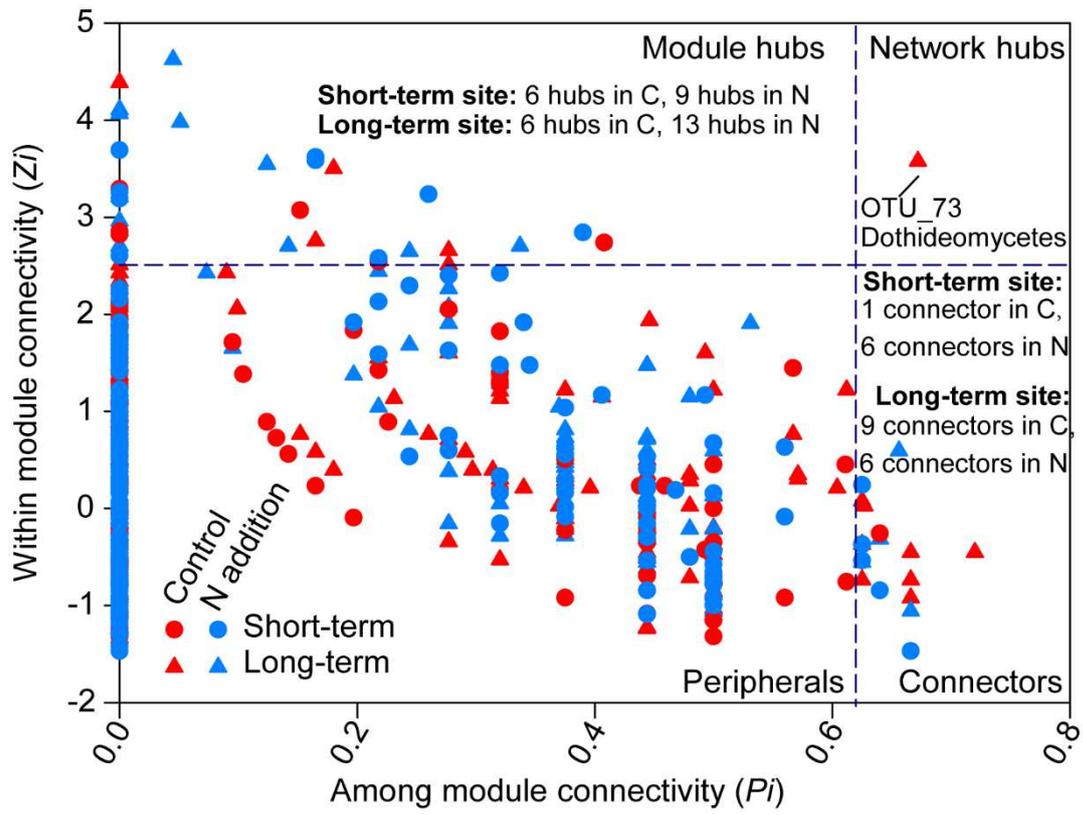
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957 Fig. 7



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1 **Supplementary materials for**

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3 How do N addition affect soil fungal community assembly: short- versus long-term
4 effects?

5

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27 **Supplementary Table S1–S7**

28 **Table S1** The effects of duration (D), rate (R), season (S) of N addition and their
29 interactions on soil fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity.

30 **Table S2** The effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on
31 soil properties.

32 **Table S3** ANOVA of environmental factors correlate with soil fungal taxonomic
33 (based on Bray-curits distance) and phylogenetic (based on β MNTD) community
34 composition at short- and long-term sites.

35 **Table S4** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
36 putative keystone species in control network at short-term site.

37 **Table S5** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
38 putative keystone species in N addition network at short-term site.

39 **Table S6** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
40 putative keystone species in control network at long-term site.

41 **Table S7** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the
42 putative keystone species in N addition network at long-term site.

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44 **Supplementary Figures S1–S8**

45 **Fig. S1** The varaitions of soil pH and concentrations of NO_3^- -N under N addition.

46 **Fig. S2** The varaitions of relative abundance of major phyla and genera under N
47 addition.

48 **Fig. S3** The varaitions of relative abundance of major funtional guilds under N addition.

49 **Fig. S4** Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plots based on Bray-Curtis
50 distance and β MNTD of fungal community.

51 **Fig. S5** Comparison of mean habitat niche breadths (*Bcom*) in all taxa of fungal
52 community between control and N addition at short- and long-term site, respectively.

53 **Fig. S6** Relationships between soil pH and the relative abundance of major functional
54 guilds, phyla and genera.

55 **Fig. S7** Relationships between soil NO₃⁻-N concentrations and the relative abundance
56 of major functional guilds, phyla and genera.

57 **Fig. S8** Fit of the neutral community model of community assembly for control and N
58 addition at the short- and long-term site, respectively.

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61 **Supplementary Tables**

62 **Table S1** The effects of duration (D), rate (R), season (S) of N addition and their
 63 interactions on soil fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity

	Taxonomic diversity				Phylogenetic diversity	
	Richness		Shannon index		<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>		
Duration (D)	3.83	0.06	7.90	<0.01	4.29	0.045
Rate (R)	2.46	0.12	4.60	0.04	2.71	0.11
Season (S)	0.51	0.48	0.54	0.47	1.13	0.30
D*R	2.11	0.15	2.71	0.11	1.51	0.23
D*S	0.86	0.36	0.43	0.52	0.54	0.47
R*S	0.12	0.73	0.00	0.96	0.22	0.64
D*R*S	0.11	0.74	0.01	0.94	0.19	0.66

64 Notes: Three-way ANOVA was used to test the effects of duration (D), rate (R), season
 65 (S) of N addition and their interactions on soil fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic α -
 66 diversity. Significant effect ($P < 0.05$) is highlighted in bold.

67 **Table S2** The effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on soil properties

	SWC (%)		pH		NH ₄ ⁺ -N (mg kg ⁻¹)		NO ₃ ⁻ -N (mg kg ⁻¹)		TOC (%)		TN (%)		C/N		TP (%)		DOC (mg kg ⁻¹)		DON (mg kg ⁻¹)	
	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
	Duration (D)	6.67	0.01	0.65	0.43	0.50	0.48	1.58	0.22	2.84	0.10	2.01	0.16	0.10	0.76	0.09	0.76	1.82	0.19	0.01
Rate (R)	0.24	0.63	12.65	<0.01	3.01	0.09	9.47	<0.01	0.15	0.70	1.51	0.23	2.27	0.14	0.18	0.67	0.12	0.74	0.50	0.48
D*R	1.1	0.3	0.003	0.95	0.00	0.99	0.19	0.66	1.02	0.32	1.03	0.32	0.42	0.52	0.58	0.45	0.17	0.68	0.24	0.63

68 Notes: The *F* and *P* values detected from a two-way ANOVA are listed. Numbers in bold indicate the significant effects ($P < 0.05$).

69 Abbreviation: SWC, soil water content; NH₄⁺-N, ammonium nitrogen; NO₃⁻-N, nitrate nitrogen; TOC, total organic carbon; TN, total nitrogen;

70 C/N, total organic carbon / total nitrogen; TP, total phosphorus; DOC, dissolved organic carbon; DON, dissolved organic nitrogen.

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73 **Table S3** ANOVA of environmental factors correlate with soil fungal taxonomic
 74 (based on Bray-curits distance) and phylogenetic (based on β MNTD) community
 75 composition at short- and long-term sites

	<i>Factor</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Pseudo-F</i>	<i>p-value</i>
Bray-curits	pH	1	0.557	2.5326	0.001
	DON	1	0.3993	1.8157	0.001
	DOC	1	0.305	1.387	0.02
	NO ₃ ⁻ -N	1	0.2699	1.2272	0.048
	SWC	1	0.232	1.0549	0.28
	TOC	1	0.2381	1.0828	0.211
	C/N	1	0.2308	1.0494	0.293
	TP	1	0.2185	0.9934	0.442
	NH ₄ ⁺ -N	1	0.197	0.8957	0.803
	Residual	38	8.3572		
β MNTD	pH	1	0.13107	1.7925	0.001
	NO ₃ ⁻ -N	1	0.08566	1.1715	0.046
	DON	1	0.08473	1.1588	0.058
	TOC	1	0.08363	1.1438	0.083
	SWC	1	0.0712	0.9737	0.585
	DOC	1	0.07331	1.0026	0.421
	NH ₄ ⁺ -N	1	0.0719	0.9833	0.516
	C/N	1	0.07706	1.0538	0.211
	TP	1	0.07206	0.9855	0.542
	Residual	38	2.7786		

76 Abbreviation: SWC, soil water content; NH₄⁺-N, ammonium nitrogen; NO₃⁻-N, nitrate
 77 nitrogen; TOC, total organic carbon; TN, total nitrogen; C/N, total organic carbon/ total
 78 nitrogen; TP, total phosphorus; DOC, dissolved organic carbon; DON, dissolved
 79 organic nitrogen.

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82 **Table S4** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the putative keystone species in control network at short-term site

Network category	ID	Classification					No. module	Connectivity
		Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus		
Module hubs	OTU_967	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Sebacinales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	0	6
	OTU_61	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Trechisporales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	6	12
	OTU_477	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	6
	OTU_344	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Thelephorales</i>	<i>Thelephoraceae</i>	<i>Tomentella</i>	3	7
	OTU_66	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetothyriales</i>	<i>Herpotrichiellaceae</i>	<i>Cladophialophora</i>	5	7
	OTU_44	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Eurotiales</i>	<i>Trichocomaceae</i>	<i>Sagenomella</i>	10	8
	OTU_11	<i>Mortierellomycota</i>	<i>Mortierellomycetes</i>	<i>Mortierellales</i>	<i>Mortierellaceae</i>	<i>Mortierella</i>	1	6
Connectors	OTU_140	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	4	5

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85 **Table S5** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the putative keystone species in N addition network at short-term

86 site

Network category	ID	Classification					No. module	Connectivity
		Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus		
Module hubs	OTU_3025	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	10	8
	OTU_706	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Eurotiales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	3	12
	OTU_439	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Dothideomycetes</i>	<i>Pleosporales</i>	<i>Didymosphaeriaceae</i>	Unassigned	9	11
	OTU_27	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Boletales</i>	<i>Boletaceae</i>	Unassigned	2	11
	OTU_63	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Hypocreales</i>	<i>Hypocreaceae</i>	<i>Hypocrea</i>	2	13
	OTU_1014	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetothyriales</i>	<i>Herpotrichiellaceae</i>	<i>Cladophialophora</i>	17	8
	OTU_135	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Ophiostomatales</i>	<i>Ophiostomataceae</i>	<i>Ophiostoma</i>	6	11
	OTU_87	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Hypocreales</i>	<i>Hypocreaceae</i>	<i>Hypomyces</i>	5	7
	OTU_73	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Dothideomycetes</i>	<i>Venturiales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	4	13
Connectors	OTU_470	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	1	4
	OTU_874	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetosphaeriales</i>	<i>Chaetosphaeriaceae</i>	Unassigned	0	4
	OTU_140	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	8	4
	OTU_240	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Leotiomycetes</i>	<i>Helotiales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	11	4
	OTU_115	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	7	3
	OTU_7	<i>Mortierellomycota</i>	<i>Mortierellomycetes</i>	<i>Mortierellales</i>	<i>Mortierellaceae</i>	<i>Mortierella</i>	3	5

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91 **Table S6** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the putative keystone species in control network at long-term site

Network category	ID	Classification					No. module	Connectivity
		Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus		
Module hubs	OTU_2359	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	9	6
	OTU_302	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Dothideomycetes</i>	<i>Venturiales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	4	5
	OTU_295	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Xylariales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	1	14
	OTU_183	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	11	11
	OTU_276	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Russulales</i>	<i>Russulaceae</i>	<i>Russula</i>	4	6
	OTU_12	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Russulales</i>	<i>Russulaceae</i>	<i>Russula</i>	3	10
Connectors	OTU_737	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	4	4
	OTU_359	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Sebacinales</i>	<i>Sebacinaceae</i>	<i>Sebacina</i>	1	3
	OTU_3153	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	11	5
	OTU_539	<i>Rozellomycota</i>	<i>Rozellomycota_cls_Incertae_sedis</i>	<i>GS11</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	4
	OTU_223	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Leotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	11	6
	OTU_84	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Leotiomycetes</i>	<i>Helotiales</i>	<i>Myxotrichaceae</i>	<i>Oidiodendron</i>	4	3
	OTU_66	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetothyriales</i>	<i>Herpotrichiellaceae</i>	<i>Cladophialophora</i>	1	3
	OTU_85	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	4	4
OTU_4	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Tremellomycetes</i>	<i>Tremellales</i>	<i>Trimorphomycetaceae</i>	<i>Saitozyma</i>	0	13	
Network hub	OTU_73	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Dothideomycetes</i>	<i>Venturiales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	18

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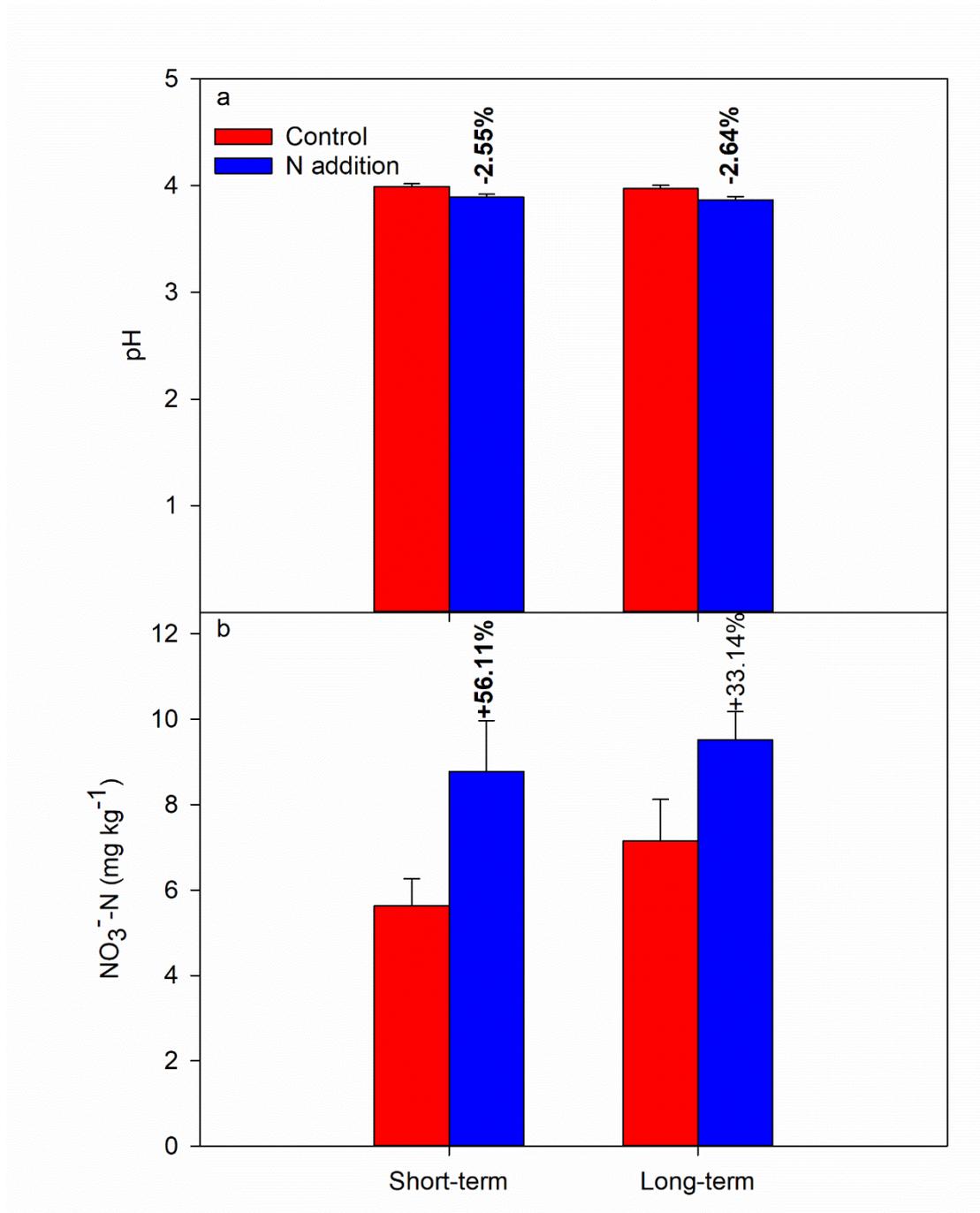
94

95 **Table S7** Summary of the basic taxonomies and the network connectivity of the putative keystone species in N addition network at long-term

96 site

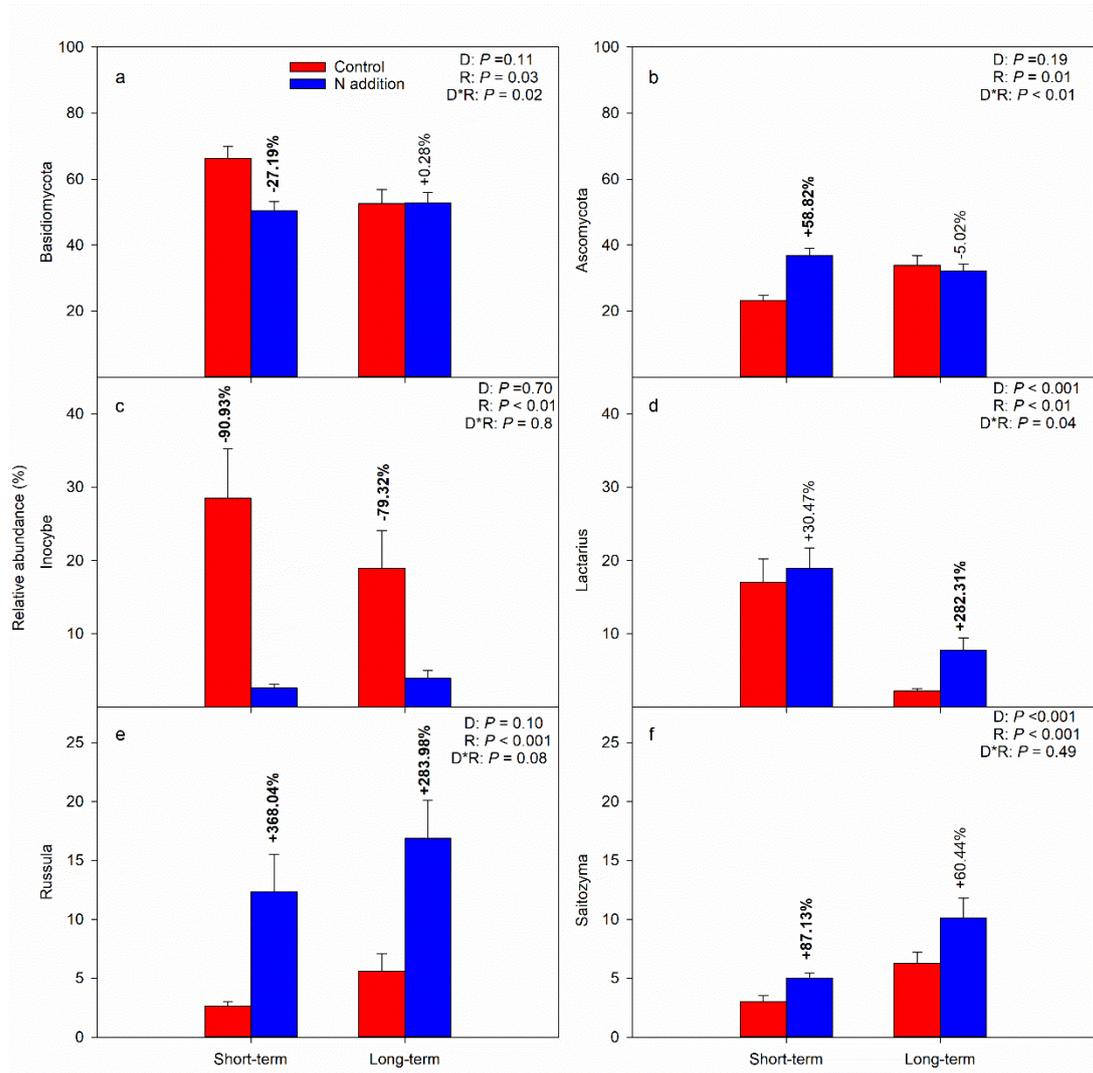
Network category	ID	Classification					No. module	Connectivity
		Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus		
Module hubs	OTU_1359	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	<i>Hypocreales</i>	<i>Cordycipitaceae</i>	<i>Lecanicillium</i>	1	12
	OTU_703	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	1	15
	OTU_2555	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Sordariomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	7
	OTU_353	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetothyriales</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	1	13
	OTU_147	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Leotiomycetes</i>	<i>Helotiales</i>	<i>Hyaloscyphaceae</i>	Unassigned	0	38
	OTU_308	<i>Rozellomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	9	6
	OTU_47	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	6	7
	OTU_39	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Agaricales</i>	<i>Hydnangiaceae</i>	<i>Laccaria</i>	0	38
	OTU_158	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Chaetothyriales</i>	<i>Herpotrichiellaceae</i>	<i>Cladophialophora</i>	8	15
	OTU_86	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	5	6
	OTU_385	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	7
	OTU_28	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Russulales</i>	<i>Russulaceae</i>	Unassigned	0	43
	OTU_3	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Russulales</i>	<i>Russulaceae</i>	<i>Lactarius</i>	7	11
Connectors	OTU_1020	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>	<i>Eurotiales</i>	<i>Aspergillaceae</i>	<i>Penicillium</i>	2	3
	OTU_315	<i>Basidiomycota</i>	<i>Agaricomycetes</i>	<i>Agaricales</i>	<i>Tricholomataceae</i>	Unassigned	2	5
	OTU_670	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	3
	OTU_175	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	2	3
	OTU_464	<i>Ascomycota</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	8	4
	OTU_5094	<i>Ascomycota</i>	<i>Leotiomycetes</i>	Unassigned	Unassigned	Unassigned	3	8

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99

100 **Fig. S1** The variations of soil pH (a) and concentrations of NO₃⁻-N (b) under N addition
 101 are indicated by student's t-test at short- and long-term sites, respectively. The bold
 102 numbers denote the significantly differences ($P < 0.05$) of aforementioned parameters
 103 between control and N addition at each site.



104

105 **Fig. S2** The variations of relative abundance of major phyla (a, b), genera (c-f) under

106 N addition are indicated by student's t-test at short- and long-term sites, respectively.

107 The insert texts indicate the effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their

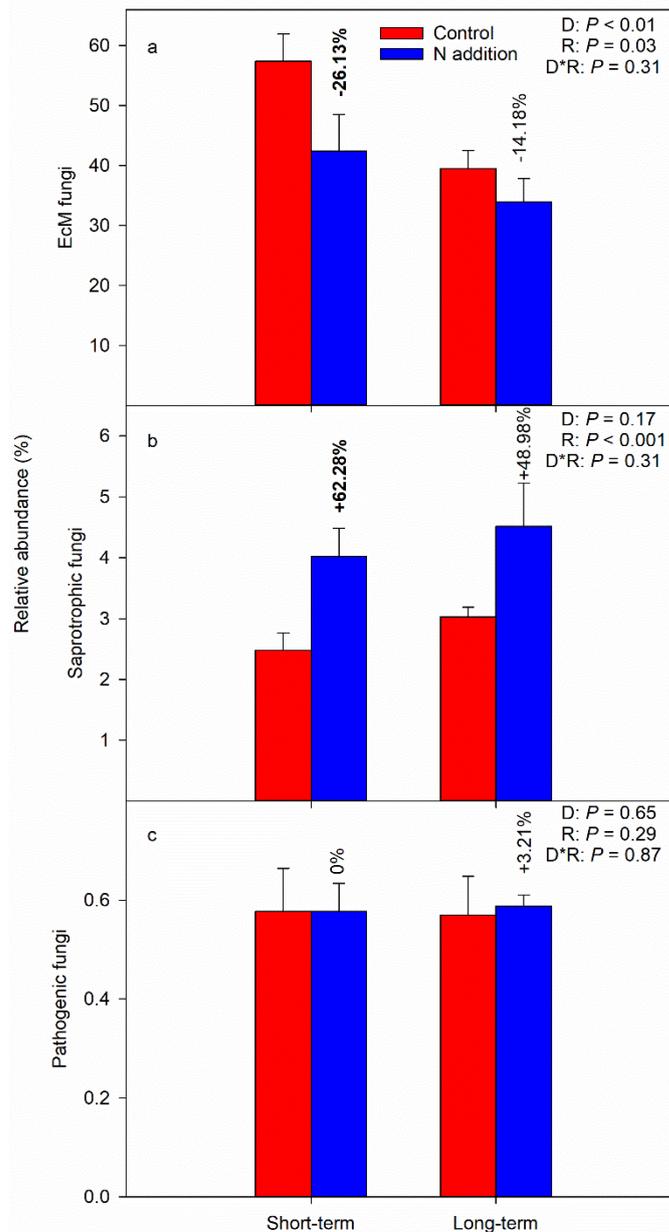
108 interactions on the relative abundance of fungal major phyla and genera detected by

109 two-way ANOVA. The bold numbers denote the significantly differences ($P < 0.05$) of

110 aforementioned parameters between control and N addition at each site.

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114 **Fig. S3** The variations of relative abundance of major functional guilds under N addition

115 are indicated by student's t-test at short- and long-term sites, respectively. The insert texts

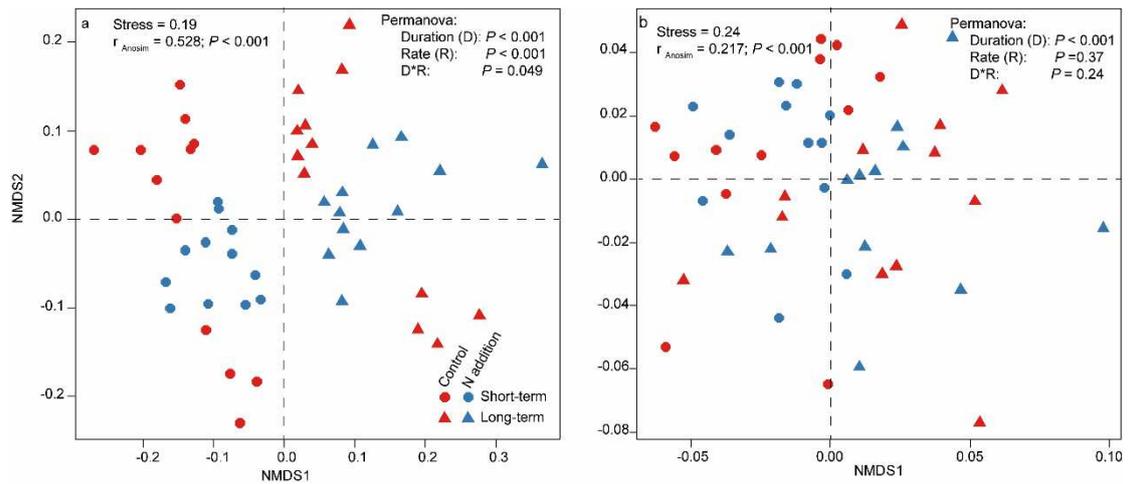
116 indicate the effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on the

117 relative abundance of fungal major functional guilds detected by two-way ANOVA. The

118 bold numbers denote the significant differences ($P < 0.05$) of major functional guilds

119 between control and N addition at each site.

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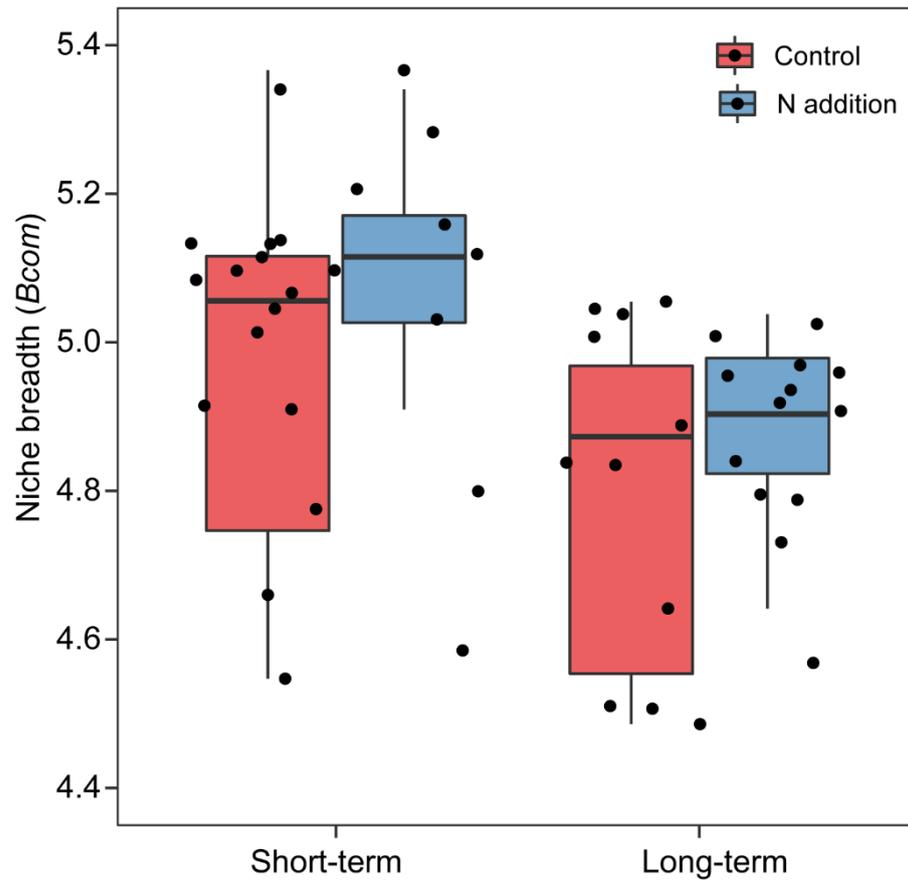
121

122 **Fig. S4** Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) plots based on Bray-Curtis
 123 distance (a) and β MNTD (b) of fungal community. The results of Permanova show in
 124 the graph to reveal the effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their
 125 interactions on taxonomic and phylogenetic community dissimilarity.

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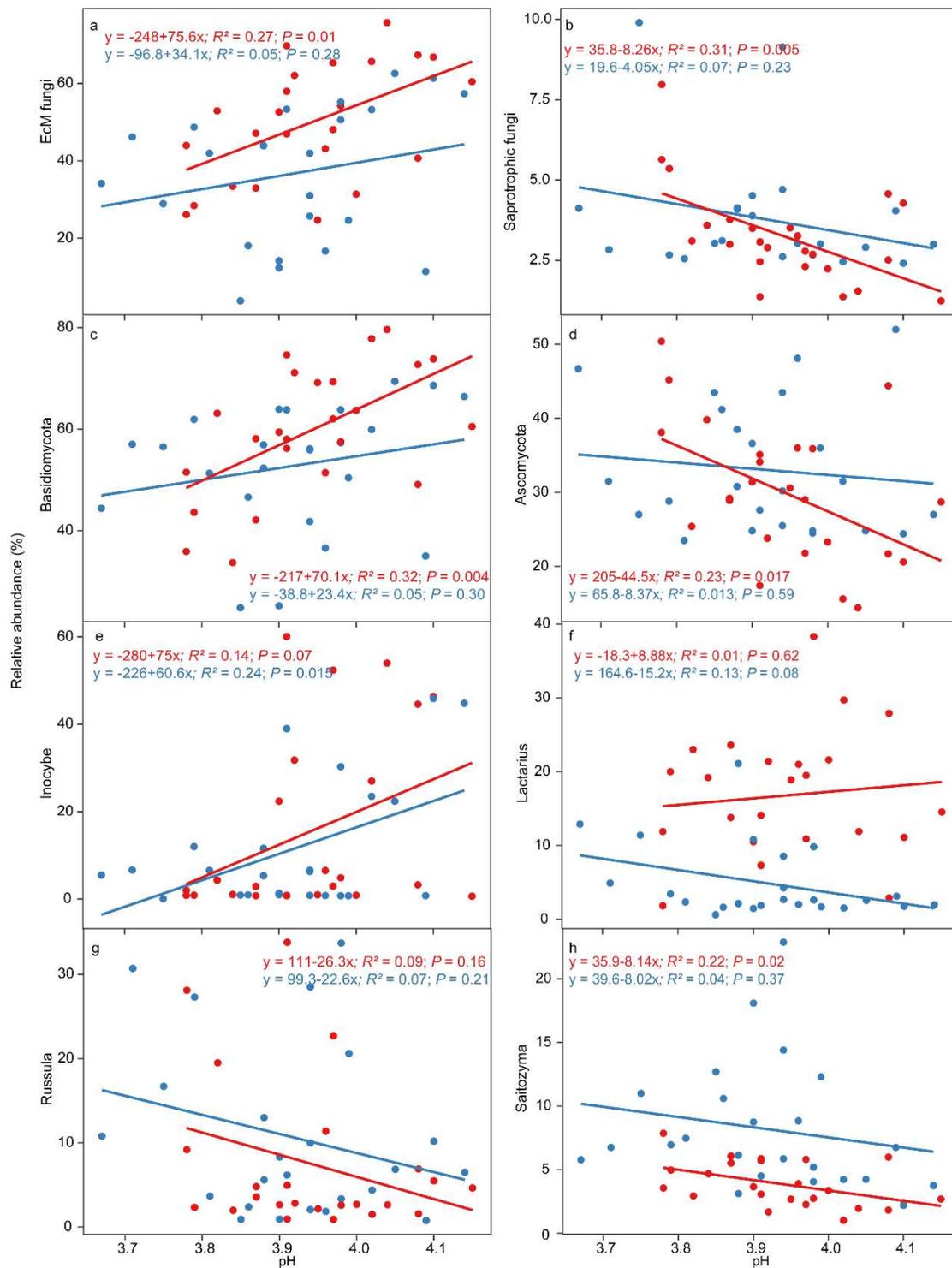


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130 **Fig. S5** Comparison of mean habitat niche breadths (B_{com}) in all taxa of fungal
 131 community between control and N addition at short- and long-term site, respectively.

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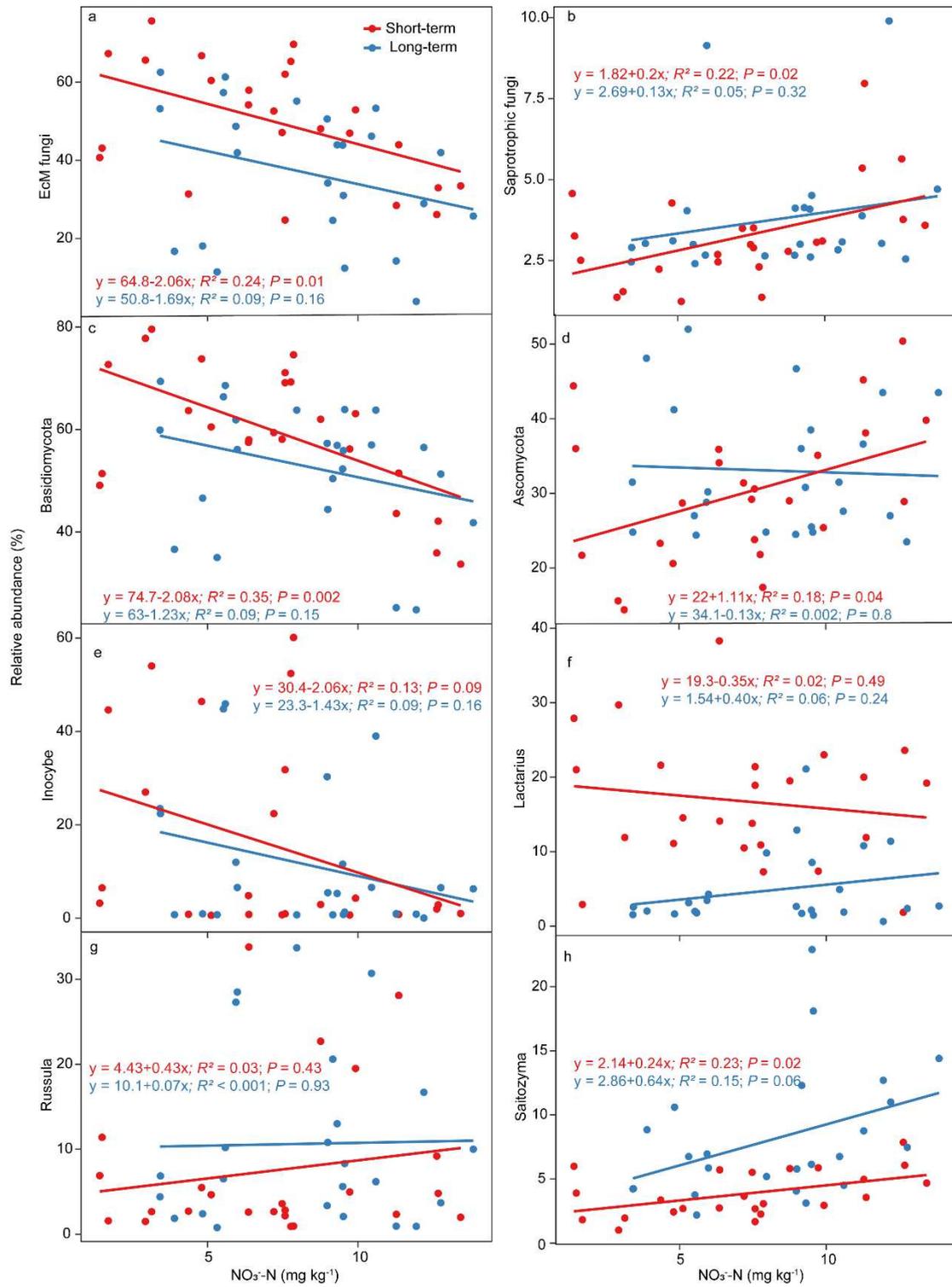
134

135 **Fig. S6** Relationships between soil pH and the relative abundance of major functional

136 guilds (a, b), phyla (c, d) and genera (e-h) are indicated by linear regressions model.

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140 **Fig. S7** Relationships between soil $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ concentrations and the relative abundance
 141 of major functional guilds (a, b), phyla (c, d) and genera (e-h) are indicated by linear
 142 regressions model.

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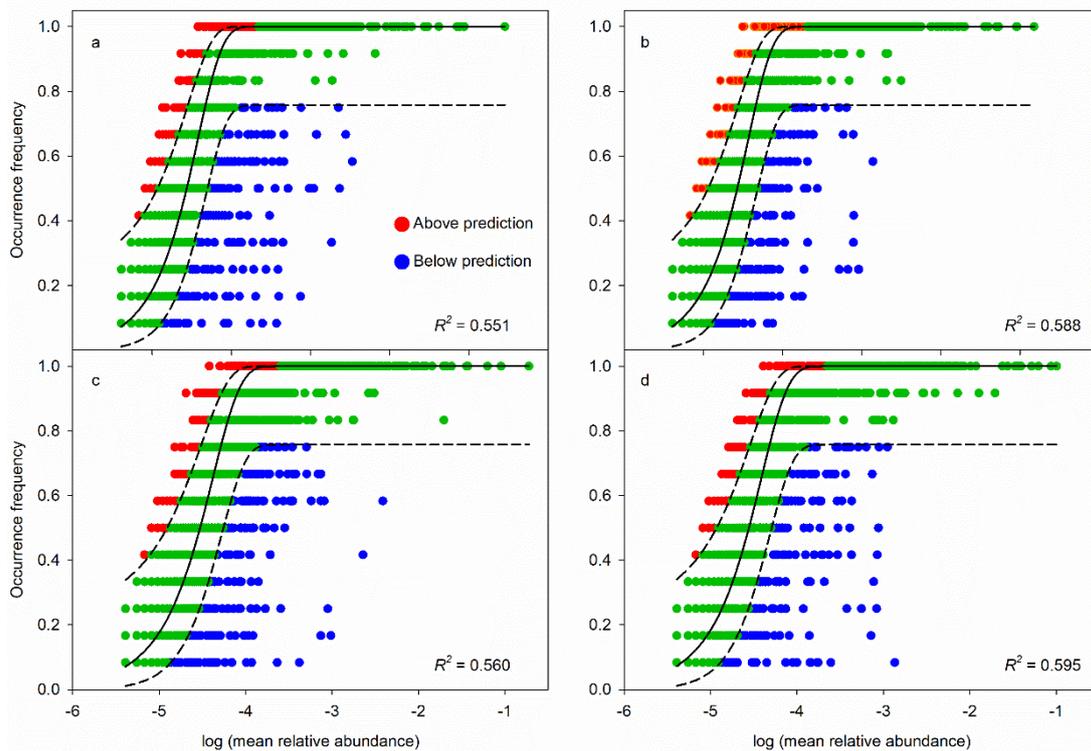
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157 **Fig. S8** Fit of the neutral community model of community assembly for control **(a, c)**

158 and N addition **(b, d)** at the short- and long-term site, respectively. OTUs that

159 occurred more frequently than predicted by the model are shown in red, while those

160 that occurred less frequently than predicted are shown in blue. OTUs that occurred

161 within prediction are shown in green. Dashed lines represent 95% confidence

162 intervals around the model prediction (black line). R^2 indicate the fit to this model.

163

Figures

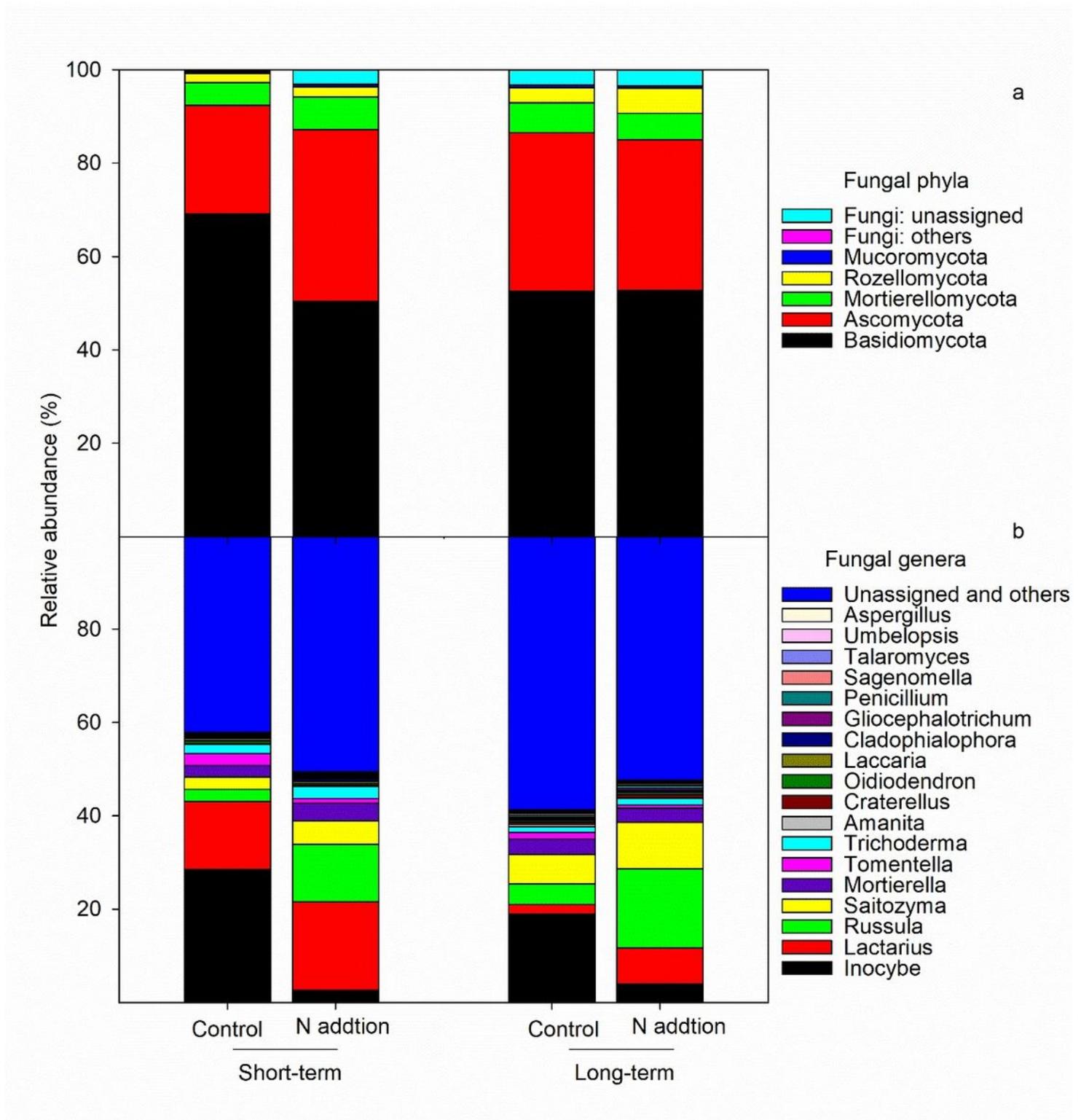


Figure 1

Relative abundance of major soil fungal phyla and genera at the short- and long-term N addition sites. Phyla and genera with the relative abundance > 0.2% are included.

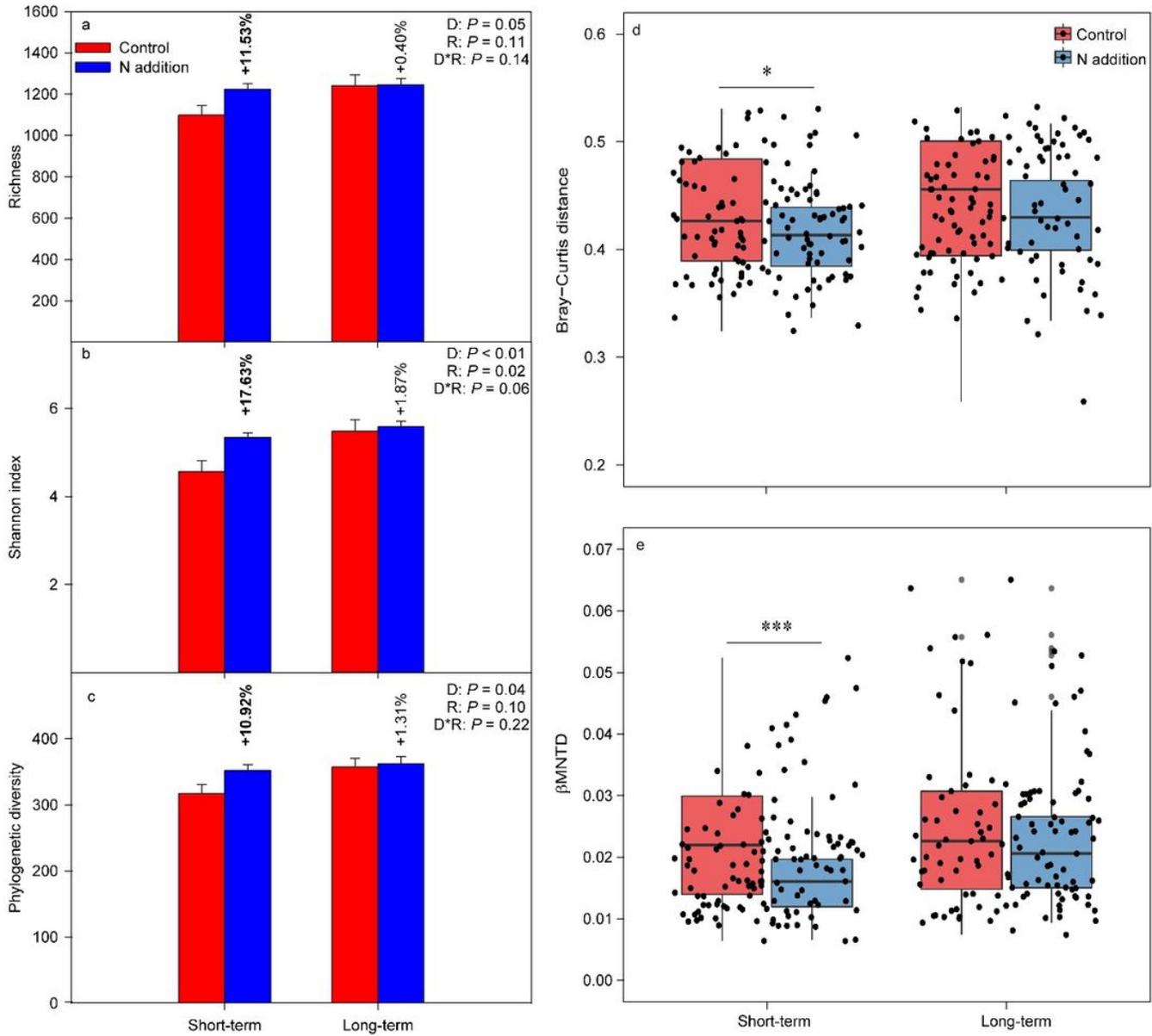


Figure 2

The variations of fungal α -diversity and community composition under short- and long-term N addition. (a-c) The variations of fungal α -diversity under N addition are indicated by student's t-test at short- and long-term sites, respectively. The bold numbers denote the significantly differences ($P < 0.05$) of fungal α -diversity between control and N addition at each site. The insert texts indicate the effects of duration (D), rate (R) of N addition and their interactions on fungal α -diversity detected by two-way ANOVA. (d-e) The boxplots show community dissimilarities between control and N addition in short- or long-term site based on Bray-Curtis distance and β MNTD, respectively (*, $P < 0.05$; ***, $P < 0.001$; Wilcoxon rank-sum test).

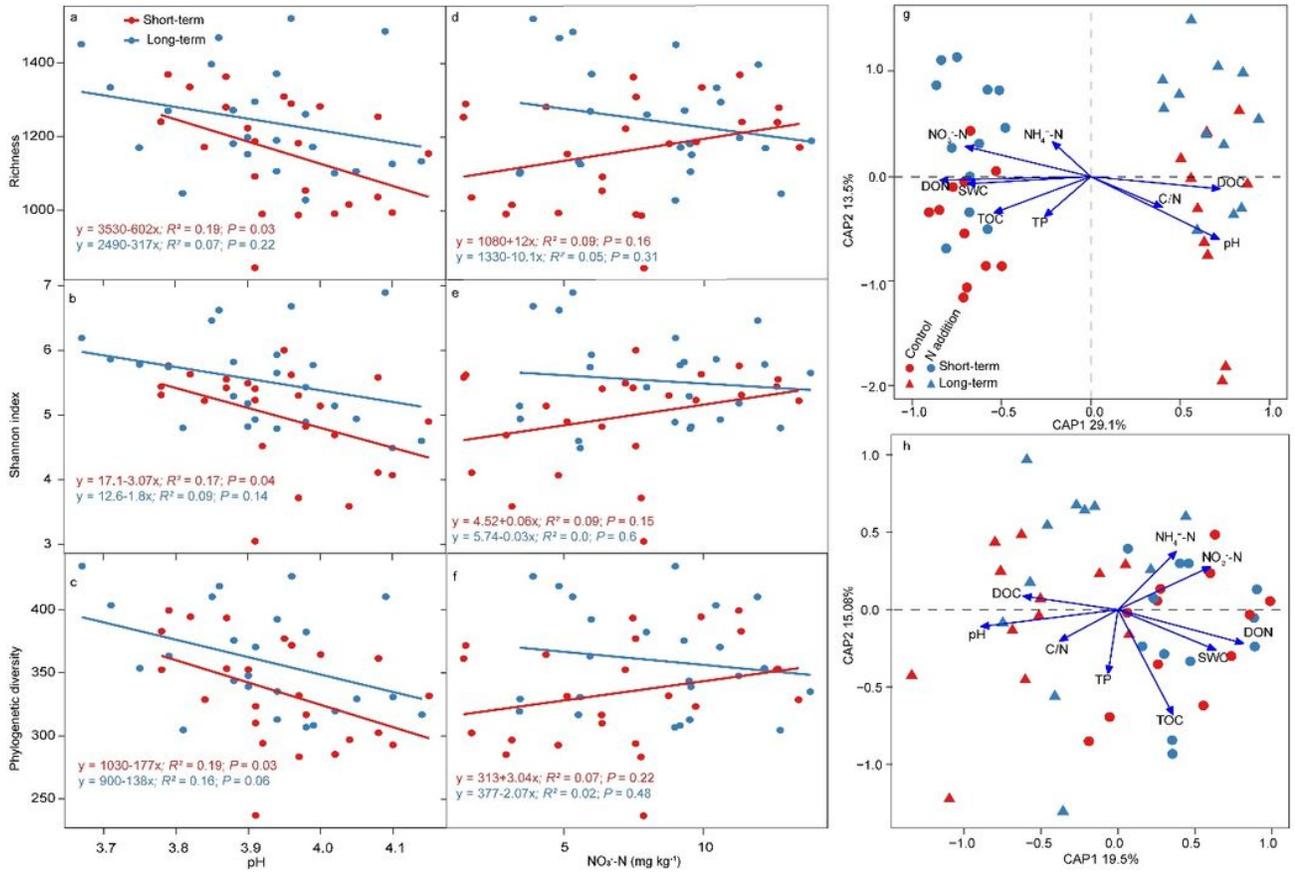


Figure 3

Factors affecting fungal diversity and community composition. (a-f) Relationships between fungal α -diversity and soil pH and $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ concentrations are revealed by linear regression model. (g, h) CAP analysis show the community dissimilarities based on Bray-Curtis distance and βMNTD against environmental variables among samples. SWC, soil water content; $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, ammonium nitrogen; $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, nitrate nitrogen; TOC, total organic carbon; TN, total nitrogen; C/N, total organic carbon / total nitrogen; TP, total phosphorus; DOC, dissolved organic carbon; DON, dissolved organic nitrogen.

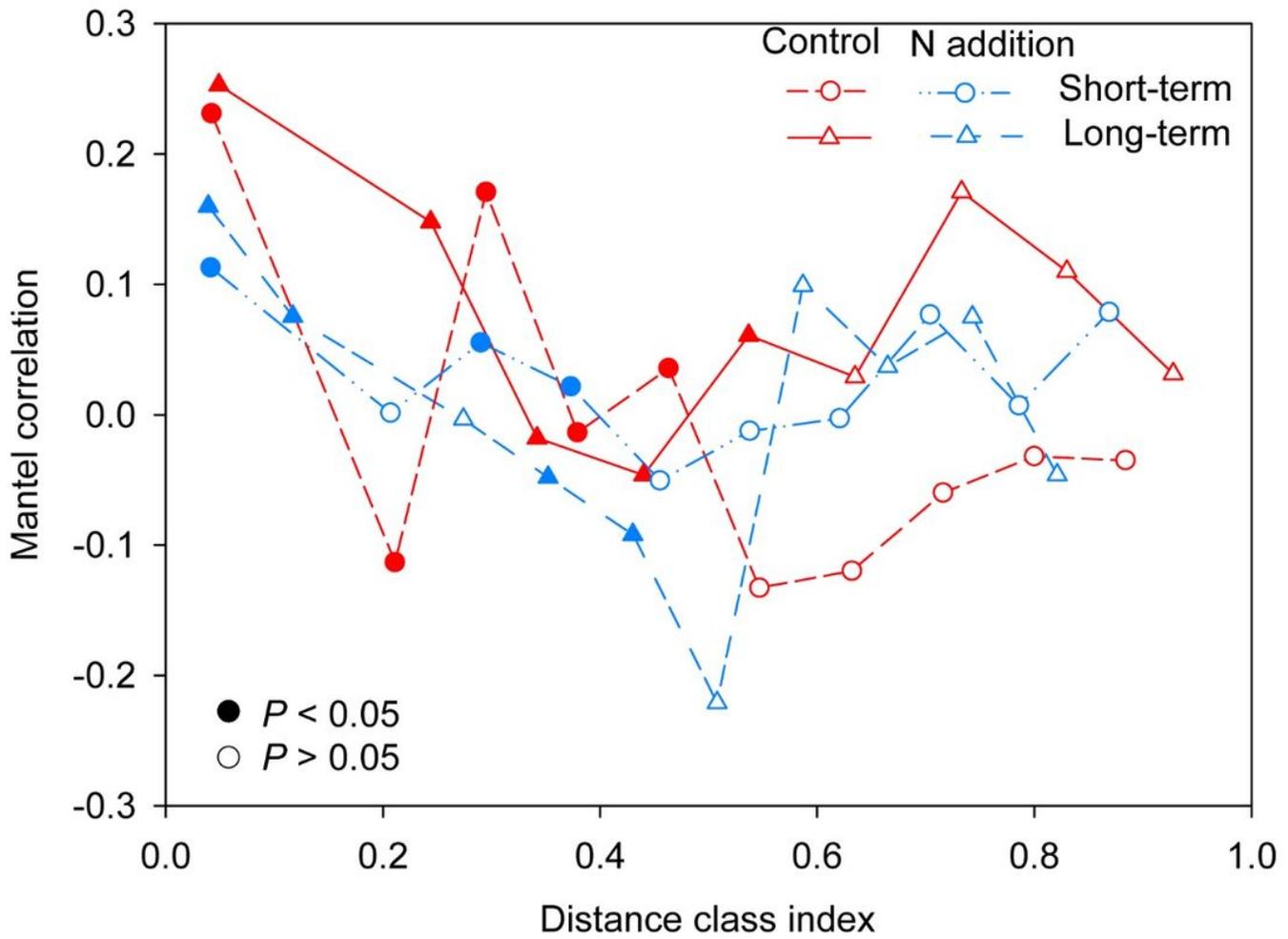


Figure 4

Phylogenetic Mantel correlogram between the Euclidean distance matrix of OTU niche values and phylogenetic distance matrix shows significant phylogenetic signal across short phylogenetic distances. Solid and open symbols denote significant ($P < 0.05$) and non-significant ($P > 0.05$) correlations (phylogenetic signal), respectively.

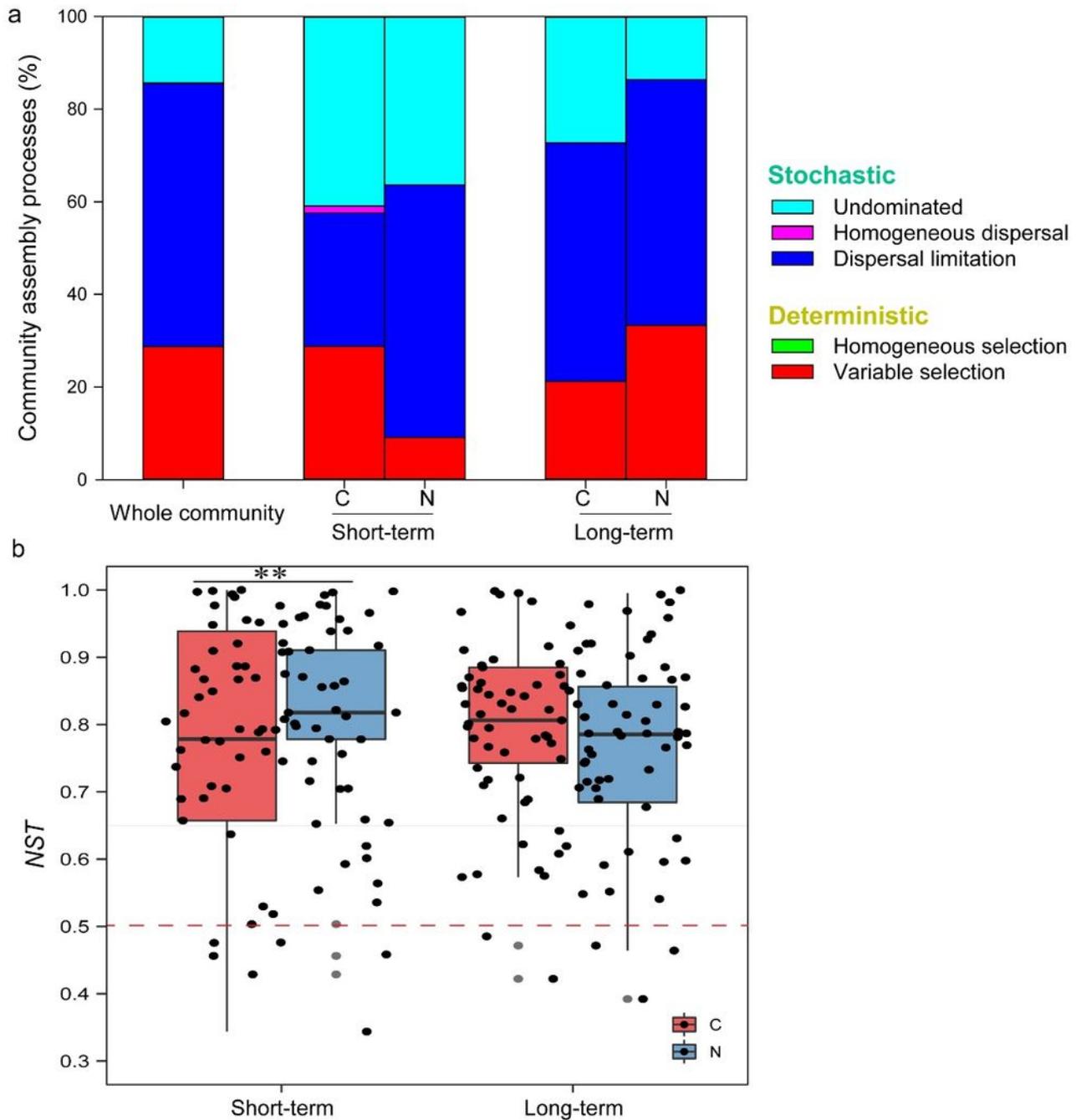


Figure 5

The assembly processes in shaping fungal communities. (a) The relative contributions (%) of the five community assembly processes. (b) Boxplot shows the variation in NST under control and N addition at short- and long-term sites (**, $P < 0.01$; Wilcoxon rank-sum test).

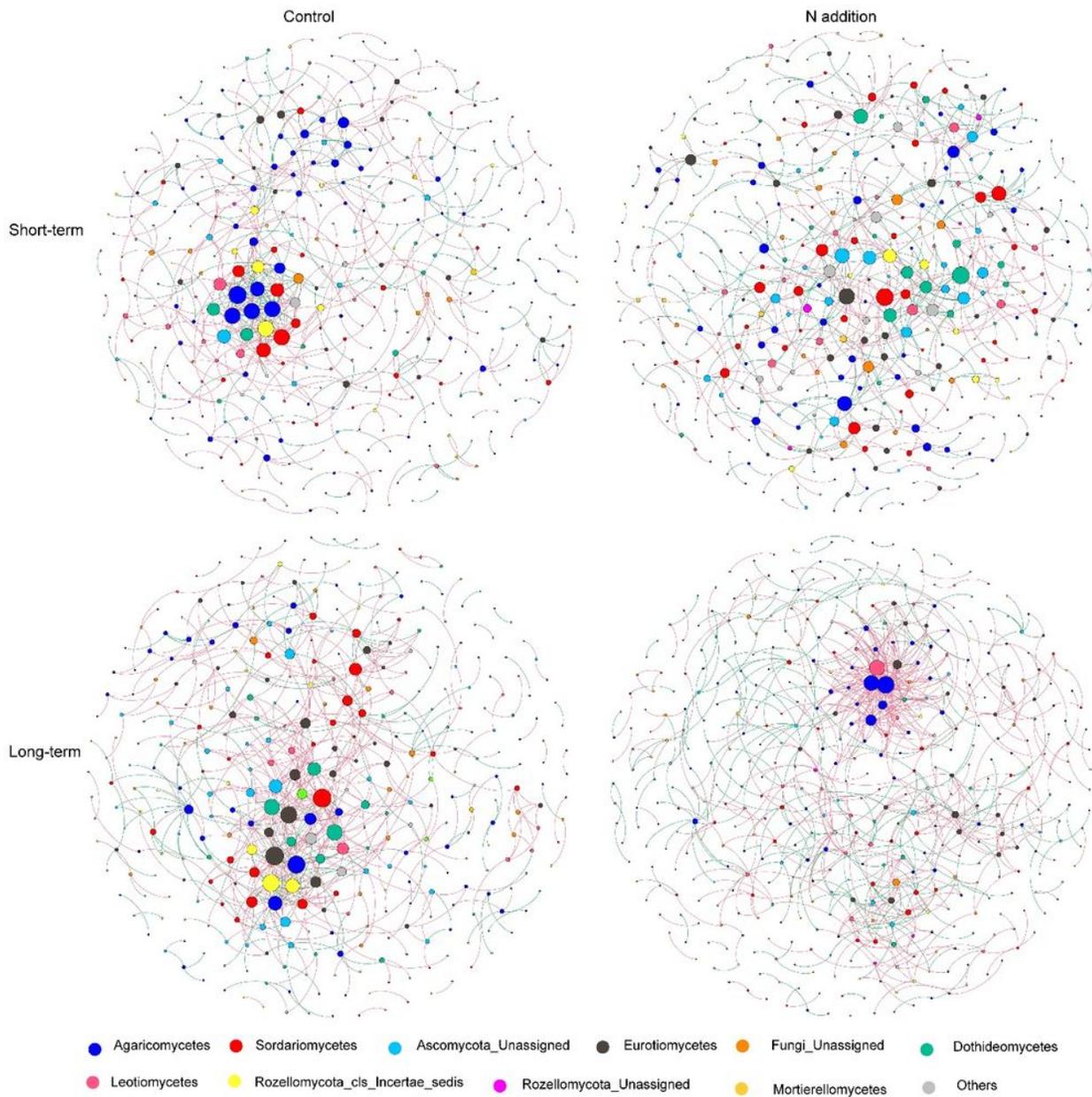


Figure 6

Co-occurrence patterns of OTUs of fungal community in control and N addition treatment at short- and long-term site, respectively. The size of each node is proportional to the number of connections (i.e. degree). The red and green edges indicate positive and negative interactions between two individual nodes, respectively.

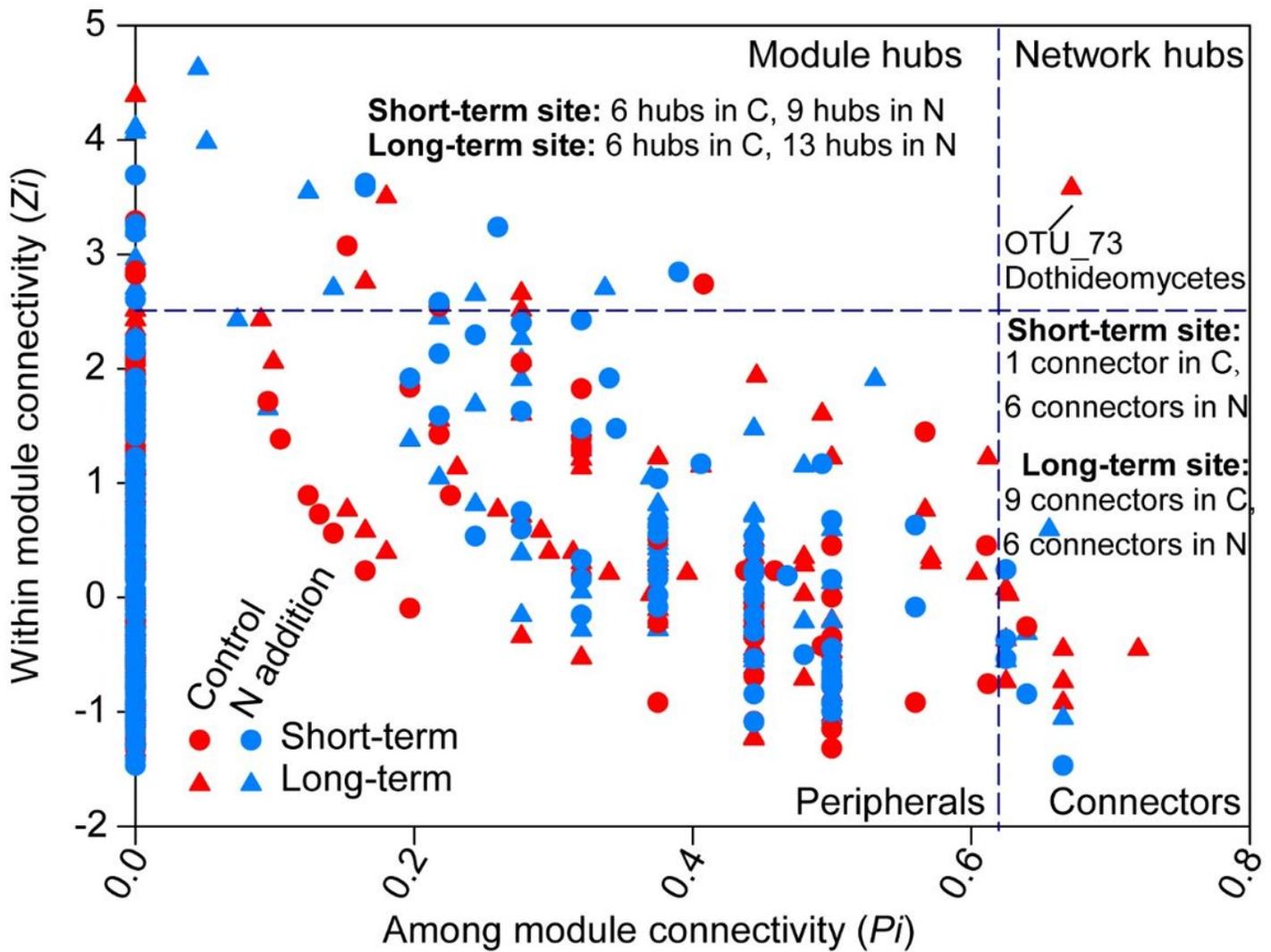


Figure 7

Classification of nodes to identify putative keystone species within the networks. The topological role of each OTU is determined according to the scatter plot of within module connectivity (Z_i) and among module connectivity (P_i). Modules hubs have $Z_i > 5$, whereas connectors have $P_i > 0.62$. The number of module hubs and connectors is presented on the plot and the network hub is labeled with the OTU number. The abbreviations of C and N are defined as control and N addition, respectively. Detailed taxonomic information for module hubs and module hubs and connectors connectors is shown in Tables S4 to S8