

in collaboration with Cornell University





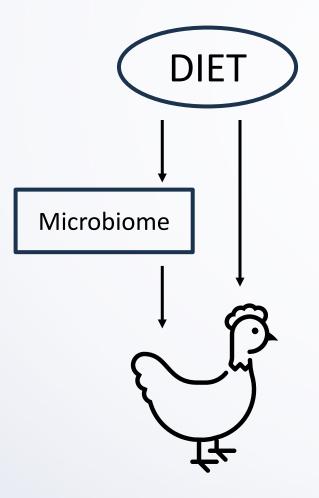
## Fecal Metabolome of Chicken Fed Black Soldier Fly and Yellow Mealworm-Based Diets

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#### Background



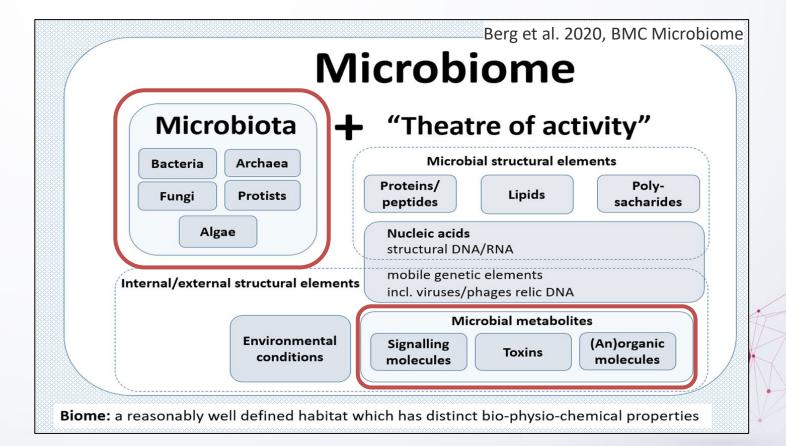
Journal of Insects as Food and Feed, 2020 online

SPECIAL ISSUE: Advancement of insects as food and feed in a circular economy



Beyond the protein concept: health aspects of using edible insects on animals

L. Gasco<sup>1\*</sup>, A. Józefiak<sup>2</sup> and M. Henry<sup>3</sup>



### **Hypothesis**

HI: Hermetia illucens

TM: Tenebrio molitor

 Dietary inclusion of HI, TM, and HI+TM can modulate the intestinal microbiome of chicken, reflected by altered microbial metabolite concentrations in the cecum

### **Objectives**

 Quantify and compare the cecal concentration of microbial metabolites in a metabolomics approach



# Study design

- Ross 308 broiler chickens at the University of Turin
- Feeding trial from 1 days until 38 days of age
- Dietary treatments (n=6 pens, 2 chicken sampled in each pen)
  - Control
  - HI 5% or 10%
  - TM 5% or 10%
  - HI+TM mix 5% or 10%
- Sampling cecal content upon sacrificing

- o C
- HI10
- O HIS
- TM10
- O TM5
- MIX10
- O MIX5

# **Metabolomics analysis**



- TMIC Microbiome Metabolism (MEGA) Assay
  - Targeting 692 metabolites
- Fecal metabolite extraction
- LC-MS-based quantification
  (μM)



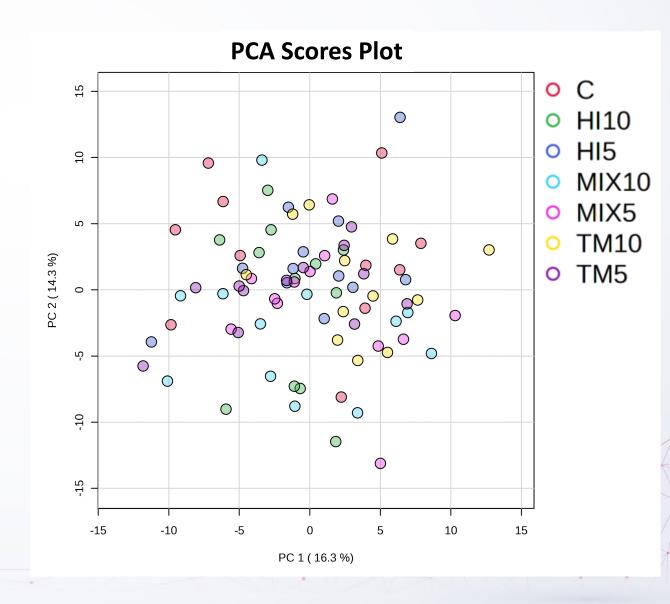
Statistics: MetaboAnalyst

PCA and ANOVA

Metabolite Classes	# of Metabolites
Organic Acids	82
Amino Acids & Derivatives	56
Acylcarnitines	40
Biogenic Amines	34
Phosphatidylcholines	23
Nucleotide/Nucleoside	26
Indoles & Derivatives	11
Sphingolipids	10
Sugars	1
Others	5
Lipids (Phosphatidylcholines & Sphingoloipids)	103
Lipids (Ceramides, Cholesterol esters, diacylglycerols)	89
Lipids (Triacylglycerols)	212
· ·	

#### **Results - Overview**

- 601 features effectively quantified (<LOD excluded)</li>
- Data log-transformed and Pareto-scaled
- PCA scores plot:
  - No major separation patterns associated with dietary treatments



# Significant metabolites across all treatments

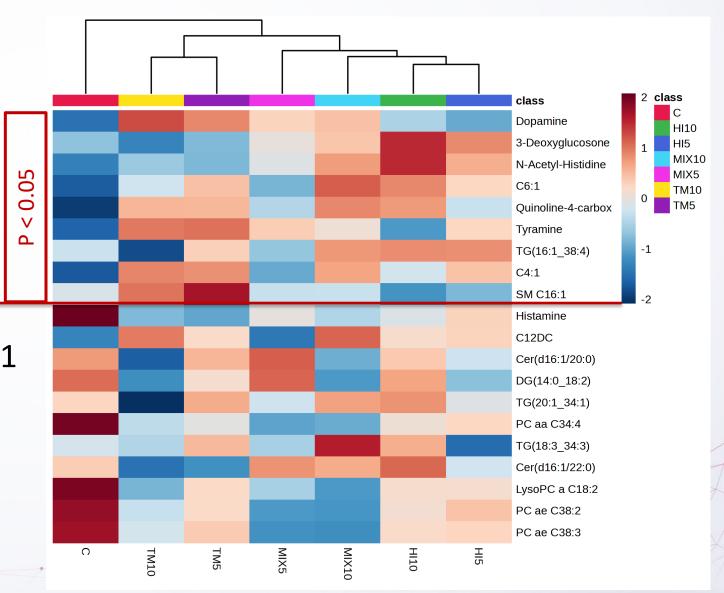
Heatmap of top 20 metabolites

One-way ANOVA:

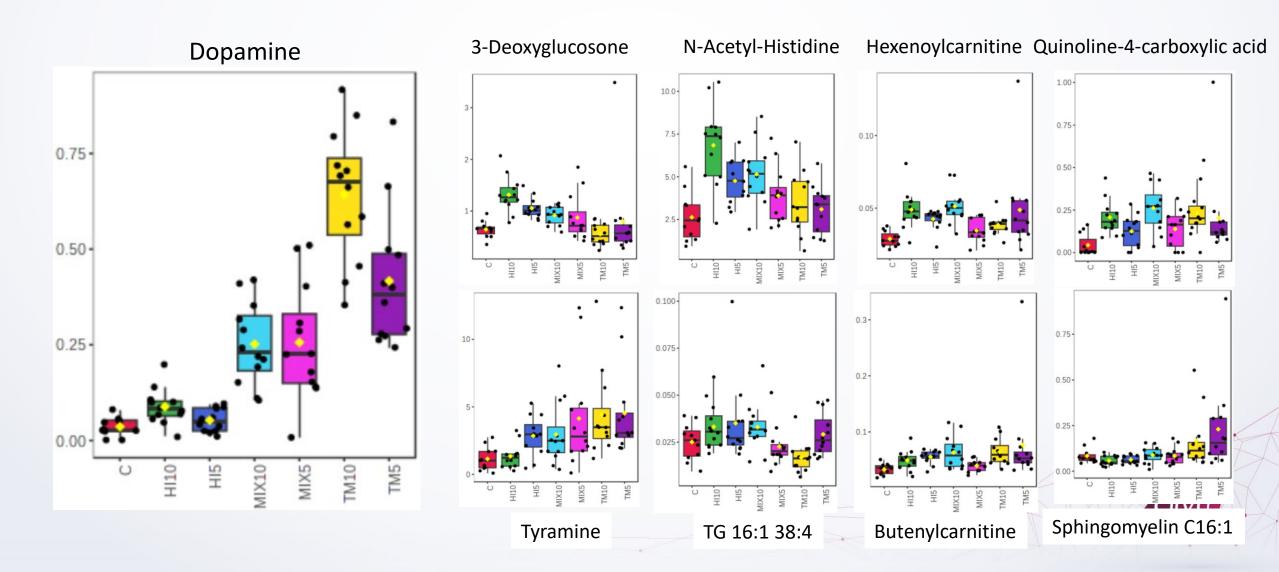
- 9 metabolites P < 0.05

- 4 metabolites 0.05 < P < 0.1

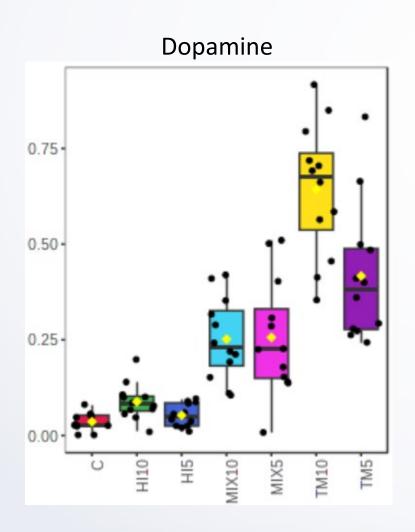
– [FDR corrected P values]

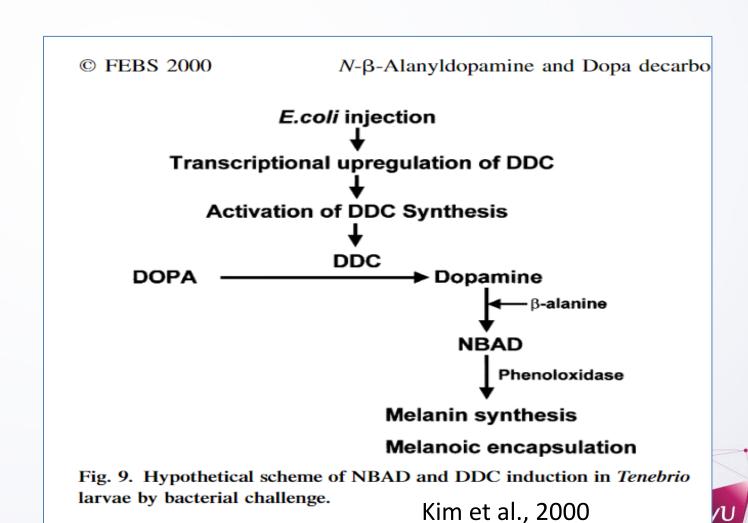


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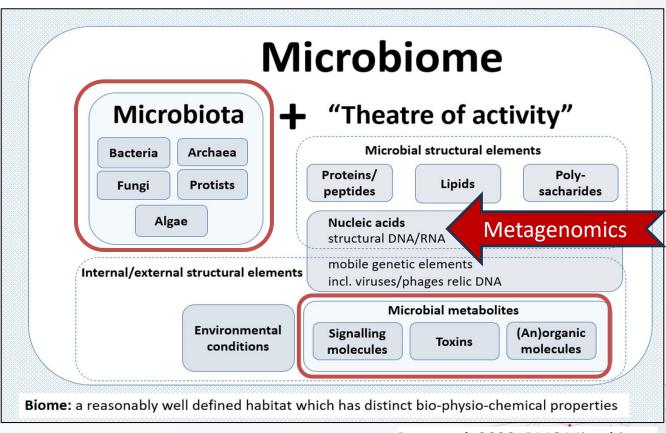
# Increased dopamine in TM treatments





#### Conclusions

- Insect-based diets associated with functional alteration in intestinal microbiome
  - Caveat: Microbial metabolites or feed-derived compounds
- Dopamine effect in GI
- Future work: Integrated microbiome
- Fecal metabolomics might help elucidate physiological effects of insect-based diets



Berg et al. 2020, BMC Microbiome



