# Could landscape ecology principles apply at the microscale? A metabarcoding approach on Trichoptera larvae-associated microbial diversity

Allen Joey <sup>1, 2, \*</sup>, Sire Marion <sup>1</sup>, Belouard Nadège <sup>1</sup>, Gorzerino Caroline <sup>4</sup>, Coutellec Marie-Agnès <sup>4</sup>, Mony Cendrine <sup>1, 2</sup>, Pannard Alexandrine <sup>1, 4</sup>, Piscart Christophe <sup>1, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ECOBIO, CNRS, University of Rennes, UMR 6553, Rennes, France

<sup>2</sup> LTSER-FR Zone Atelier Armorique, France

<sup>3</sup> Centre de Recherche sur la Biodiversité et l'Environnement (CRBE), Université de Toulouse, CNRS, IRD, Toulouse INP, Université Toulouse 3 – Paul Sabatier (UT3), Toulouse, France

<sup>4</sup> DECOD (Ecosystem Dynamics and Sustainability), INRAE, IFREMER, L'Institut Agro, Rennes, France

\* Corresponding author : Joey Allen, email address : joeyallen@orange.fr

#### Abstract :

Landscape heterogeneity is known as a major factor of community structure and composition. Whether this effect of the landscape extends at different scales and particularly at the relevant scale for microorganisms remained to be determined. We used the cases produced by aquatic larvae of Trichoptera, which assemble organic or mineral particles, as naturally replicated experimental systems representing structured substrates to determine the effect of landscape structuration on microbial communities. A metabarcoding approach was used to characterise fungal, bacterial and diatom communities on cases produced by six Trichoptera species and related unstructured organic and mineral substrates. The structuration of the particles constituting the cases was also determined as a measure of microscale landscape. Structured substrates harboured communities of diatoms, fungi and bacteria that differed from those found on unstructured substrates. Microbial communities also differed between organic and mineral substrates. We found a higher microbial diversity on structured substrates than on unstructured substrates. The heterogeneity of the microscale landscape also affected bacterial and fungal communities within cases. These results highlight the importance of microscale landscape structuration for microbial diversity and demonstrate that approaches of landscape ecology could be downscaled to the microscale. 1

#### **Graphical abstract**



#### Highlights

▶ The structuration of substrate by Trichoptera larvae affects microbial communities. ▶ Trichoptera case hosts higher microbial richness than the unstructured substrates. ▶ Fine scale heterogeneity of structured substrates promotes bacterial diversity. ▶ Microscale landscape heterogeneity promotes microbial richness. ▶ Trichoptera are ecosystem engineer that increase stream microbial diversity.

Keywords : Diatoms, Fungi, Bacteria, Stream microbial ecology, Landscape heterogeneity, Biodiversity

#### 45 Introduction

- 46 Predicting community structure has been formalized using a large conceptual framework
- 47 including biogeography (Macarthur and Wilson, 1967), niche theory (Hutchinson, 1957),

species selection through environmental filters (Lortie et al., 2004), and neutral theory (Hubbell, 48 2001). Community assembly is driven by stochastic processes and by deterministic 49 environmental filters that select from a regional species pool, species able to survive and 50 develop in a specific local habitat patch (Mittelbach and Schemske, 2015). Factors operating 51 both at the local scale (abiotic stresses, disturbances, biotic interactions) and at the landscape 52 scale (dispersal) shape species selection (Vellend, 2010). Application of these theories to the 53 microbial world has been slow to develop. However, due to the short generation time and the 54 small-distance dispersal of most microbes (Telford et al., 2006), the need for investigating the 55 relevance of these concepts at scales smaller than those effective in macroorganisms has been 56 highlighted (Bergmann and Leveau, 2022; Mony et al., 2020). 57

Microbes include an incredible biodiversity colonising all ecosystems worldwide (Marsland et 58 al., 2020). The diversity and composition of microbial communities display a huge spatial 59 heterogeneity recorded at the millimetric and centimetric scales (Besemer, 2016; Fierer, 2008; 60 Li et al., 2023). Downscaling the landscape parameters considered may be necessary to 61 62 understand this heterogeneity in microbial community. In streams, due to high water flow, microbial communities mainly develop as biofilms attached to any solid, stable surface 63 (Stoodley et al., 2002). Biofilm is known as one of the most successful lifeforms (Stoodley et 64 al., 2002), generating a complex ecosystem within the "microbial landscape" (Battin et al., 65 2007; Besemer, 2016, 2015). The microorganisms present in biofilms include protozoa, 66 microalgae, archaea, bacteria and fungi, and contribute to all the main geochemical cycles in 67 aquatic ecosystems (Battin et al., 2016). The ability of microorganisms to form biofilm is 68 related to substrate properties, which influence its colonisation (Dang and Lovell, 2015; Kearns 69 70 and Bärlocher, 2008; Laviale et al., 2019; Zheng et al., 2021), which is likely to result in deterministic assemblages. Microbial communities are likely to be controlled by a number of 71

other environmental factors influencing small-scale heterogeneity of microbial communities,which is still poorly understood.

74 Habitat heterogeneity over space has been recorded as impacting biodiversity, through 75 changes in the composition of habitat patches (i.e. landscape element that forms part of or the 76 entire species habitat), but also in terms of patch size and arrangement in space (i.e., landscape 77 configuration) (Fahrig et al., 2011; Riera et al., 2023; Wiens, 1995). Biodiversity is expected 78 to increase with habitat heterogeneity, due to the diversification of habitat types available for colonisation by different species. Furthermore, species dispersal within the landscape is 79 favoured by the reduction of between-patch distances (Fahrig et al., 2011). Applying this 80 81 rationale to small-scale studies, it is expected that substrate heterogeneity may influence biofilm composition and diversity. Considering that substrate particles would correspond to a given 82 habitat type (i.e. set of environmental characteristics), substrate heterogeneity may be described 83 by change in particle composition, but also by change in particle configuration (i.e. spatial 84 arrangement of particles). Therefore, based on the landscape ecology framework, it is expected 85 86 that biofilm diversity would increase with substrate heterogeneity in terms of composition and configuration. 87

Aquatic larvae of caddisflies (Insecta, Trichoptera) form cases that provide protection 88 89 and camouflage (Frandsen et al., 2023), using mineral materials (sand, small gravel), plant materials (fragments of dead leaves and wood) or a mix of them, collected in the environment. 90 91 These cases constitute specific microenvironments that offer specific conditions favourable to the development of microbial communities: physical stability in terms of hydraulic constraints 92 and exposure to light, as well as local nutrient enrichment from excretion by the larvae within 93 94 the case (Bergey and Resh, 1994). The preferred materials and the architecture of the case vary according to the species. Several dozens of trichopteran species are potentially present in a 95 stream, resulting in a large variability of cases shape, size, structure and composition. 96

97 Trichoptera cases are thus naturally replicated "landscape" systems that differ from surrounding
98 substrates in terms of composition and configuration of the physical environment.

The objective of this study is to test whether landscape ecology predictions apply to 99 100 biofilms at a microscale. The regional species pool is constituted of the microbial community growing on all the different kinds of substrates present in the stream, including materials used 101 102 by larvae to build their cases. Our overall hypothesis is that species assembly of microbial 103 communities on Trichoptera cases is deterministic, *i.e.* there is a species selection from the regional pool due to the composition and configuration of trichopteran cases, and that 104 105 heterogeneity of substrate configuration at the stream and at the case level promote microbial 106 diversity. After characterizing the composition and structure of cases (thereafter referred to as structured substrates) from various trichopteran species sampled in a stream, we compared the 107 biofilm communities developed on these structured substrates to those found on other substrates 108 present in the same sampling sites that were not structured by Trichoptera larvae (leaves, sand, 109 gravels, wood pieces). We expected differences in the composition of microbial communities 110 111 between structured and unstructured substrates used by the different trichopteran species to produce cases. An effect of the type of substrate (i.e. organic or mineral) was also expected. If 112 our hypotheses are verified, we would observe higher biodiversity on cases than on unstructured 113 114 substrate particles. For similar reasons, we expected that differences in heterogeneity at the case scale would affect microbial communities, *i.e.* increased species richness with increased case 115 structural heterogeneity. 116

117

#### 118 Material and method

119 *Sampling* 

Trichoptera larvae, leaf and twig litter, sand and pebbles were collected in a sandy bottom 120 circumneutral stream (le Petit Hermitage stream 48°26'6''N 1°34'7''O) located in the forest of 121 Villecartier (Brittany, N.-W France) in Spring 2022. Six different species of Trichoptera were 122 sampled. Two of these build their cases with exclusively mineral material: Sericostoma 123 *personatum* (n = 5) and *Athripsodes aterrimus* (n = 5), thereafter referred to as min1 and min2, 124 three with exclusively organic material derived from plant litter: Halesus radiatus (large woody 125 cases, n = 6), *Chaetopteryx villosa* (small wood and leaf litter-based cases, n = 6), and 126 Lepidostoma basale (with cases made of leaf litter cut in small squares, n = 6), thereafter 127 referred to as org1, org2 and org3, and one creates mixed organic-mineral cases with a mostly 128 mineral central part to which are generally attached two wooden twigs longer than the mineral 129 central part (Anabolia nervosa, thereafter referred to as mixed cases, n = 5). Larvae were 130 extracted from the cases, and larvae and cases were fixed in 96% ethanol rapidly after 131 132 collection. Additionally, other mineral (sand, gravels) and organic substrates (wood, leaves) were sampled at the same time (5 to 6 replicates each). They represent the raw materials used 133 by Trichoptera larvae to build their cases, but without the structuration done by larvae. These 134 substrates will thereafter be referred to as unstructured substrates. They also represent the most 135 abundant substrates in the study area. 136

137

#### 138 Substrate characterisation

All the samples (cases and unstructured substrates) were photographed using a Leica M205 C
 stereomicroscope (Leica microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) before the DNA extraction step.

Pictures were then used to measure various structure parameters with ImageJ (Schneider et al., 2012). We measured classical landscape metrics transposed to this case study. Composition heterogeneity was assessed through substrate roughness. Case width was measured every millimetre along the largest dimension. These measures were used to calculate roughness, based

on the root-mean-square method (Huber et al., 2007; Jacobs et al., 2017). Roughness values 145 close to 0 are indicative of smooth cases, while they increase with increasing three-dimensional 146 heterogeneity. Heterogeneity of case configuration was assessed through an aggregation index, 147 which analyses the degree of intermixing of different classes of particles. We measured each 148 individual particle found along a line from the anterior to the posterior end of the case. Then, 149 particles were pooled into seven size classes according to their visual distribution in the whole 150 dataset and we calculated a juxtaposition index (JI) (Heinen and Cross, 1983) corresponding 151 the number of successive changes of particle class from anterior to posterior end of each case 152 divided by the total number of particles measured. The value of JI varies from 0 when all 153 particles are of similar size class to 1 when all particles differ from the adjacent one. The 154 coefficient of variation of particle size within case was also calculated from these measures. 155 The total surface of the cases was also measured. 156

157

## 158 Microbial community characterisation

159 The microbial community associated with each sample (structured and unstructured substrates) 160 was characterised using a metabarcoding approach. For DNA extraction on cases, only one half of each sample (cut in half following the median plane) was used, except for min2 (A. 161 aterrimus) cases, which were too small. For the mixed cases, the mineral part and the organic 162 part were separated and treated as different samples (thereafter referred as mixed-min and 163 mixed-org). DNA was extracted using the NucleoSpin® Tissue purification kit (Macherey-164 Nagel, Düren, Germany), with an additional mechanical lysis step using a steel ball and Tissue-165 Lyzer for 5 minutes at 30 Hz (Ferreira et al., 2020) before adding the first extraction buffer. 166

167

168 Three separate PCRs were performed on each extract. The first PCR targeted the rbcL plastid169 gene, which is specific of photosynthetic organisms, using a primer pair optimized for diatoms

(Tapolczai et al., 2019) based on previous observations that diatoms largely dominated phototroph community in this stream, as in most headwater streams (Allen et al., 2024). The second PCR targeted the ITS, to amplify the DNA of non-photosynthetic eukaryotic organisms, particularly fungi (Gardes and Bruns, 1993). The third PCR targeted the V4 and V5 regions of the 16S gene for prokaryotic organisms. All primer sequences are available in Table S1.

PCRs were performed in 25 µL of reaction mixture containing 12.5 µL of 2x Multiplex 175 PCRMaster Mix (Qiagen®, Venlo, Netherlands), 9.5 µL of pure water, 0.5 µL of forward and 176 177 reverse primers at 0.2 µM, and 2 µL of DNA extract. PCR conditions included an initial heat activation at 95 °C for 15 min, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C for 30 s, annealing 178 at 57 °C for 90 s and extension at 72 °C for 90 s, and a final extension step at 72 °C for 10 min. 179 The quality of the amplifications was checked by gel electrophoresis using a 1.5% agarose gel 180 made from a 1:1 mixture of standard and low-melting agarose. Amplification failed for some 181 182 DNA extracts (corresponding to abnormally brown DNA extracts). For those samples (one leaf sample, two org1 and one org2), a 1:10 dilution of the DNA extract was used to obtain a correct 183 amplification. A negative control was prepared by carrying out all the extraction and PCR 184 procedures without the biological sample. 185

Amplicon sequencing was performed on the 180 samples (60 samples \* 3 PCR) on an Illumina
MiSeq in 2x250 bp, in paired-ended reads using V3 chemistry on the EcogenO platform
(https://osur.univ-rennes.fr/EcogenOENG OSUR, Rennes, France).

189

DADA2 (Callahan et al., 2016) was used for the bioinformatic treatment of the demultiplexed MiSeq reads. Primer sequence removal was done using Cutadapt 4.3 (Martin, 2011). DNA reads were filtered for length and quality with the following parameters: Q score  $\geq$  2, a minimal length equal to 50. Sequences were truncated to 220 bp for rbcL. The maximum number of expected errors was set to 2 for forward and reverse reads. Given the large size of the dataset,

a process of pseudo-pooling was applied to samples in order to ensure rare variant resolution 195 while keeping computation time reasonable (see DADA2 documentation for details). For the 196 merging of forward and reverse reads, the minimum overlap was set to 12 bp and the maximum 197 198 number of mismatches to 1. Chimeras and singletons were also removed from the dataset. The taxonomic assignment of Amplicon Sequence Variants (ASV) was performed automatically. 199 The R package "Diat.barcode" (v.11.1 published on 25-05-2022) was used for rbcL (Rimet et 200 al., 2019), Silva v138 (McLaren, 2020) for 16S, and Unite database (Abarenkov et al., 2022) 201 202 for ITS. Analyses of microbial diversity were performed using the ASV contingency table (ASV frequency across samples). The correlation between the ASV richness and the species 203 204 richness based on the taxonomic assignation of the ASV was checked for all three markers, considering the strong correlation between measurements made on an ASV or taxonomic basis, 205 only results based on ASV are presented. For all statistical analyses, ASVs that totalise 5 reads 206 207 or less across all samples were discarded to avoid false-positives. A rarefied ASV table was computed to account for differences in the number of reads per sample using the 208 209 rarefy\_even\_depth function of the phyloseq R package (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013). For each marker, samples with fewer reads than the extraction blank were excluded as they might 210 represent failure in the extraction or amplification step rather than true absence (3 samples were 211 discarded for rbcL and ITS, 4 for 16S). The rarefaction depth was set as the minimum number 212 of reads for the remaining samples (612, 1404 and 756 for rbcL, ITS and 16S respectively). 213

214

#### 215 Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were conducted with R version 4.2.3 (R Core Team, 2023). To test the first hypothesis (*i.e.*, that the substrate heterogeneity of structured substrates favours microbial biodiversity compared with unstructured substrates), we analysed the effect of substrate structure (structured versus unstructured), considering also substrate type (mineral or organic), on microbial community composition and richness. The effect of structure (structured or
unstructured) and substrate type (mineral or organic) on ASV richness was determined
independently for the data obtained with each barcode using two-way ANOVAs after
controlling for residuals normality and homoscedasticity. ASV richness was compared between
structured and unstructured substrates, based on ASV rarefaction curves drawn with the iNEXT
R package (Hsieh et al., 2022).

To identify changes in community composition between different substrate types, we used nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) on presence/absence datasets using Jaccard's dissimilarity index as the distance metric. To identify the significance of these differences, a PERMANOVA was performed using the vegan package (Oksanen et al., 2022).

To evaluate the contribution of neutral processes to community composition, community data 230 were fitted on a Sloan neutral community model (Burns et al., 2016; Sloan et al., 2006). This 231 232 model determines the relationship between the total number of reads of an ASV and its frequency across all samples and estimate the rate of migration from source community to local 233 234 community. The model was constructed on a pool of all samples (structured and unstructured 235 substrates). Observed ASV frequencies were compared to those predicted based on the neutral model. ASV were considered neutral when their frequency in structured substrates samples was 236 237 within the 95% confidence interval of the neutral model. Over-represented and underrepresented ASVs were determined as those present at a frequency higher or lower than the 238 95% confidence interval of the frequency predicted by the model. The proportion of 239 deterministic processes was assessed as the proportion of non-neutral ASV. Models were well 240 fitted for bacteria and diatoms but not for fungi. Normalised stochasticity ratio were computed 241 following Ning et al. (2019). A multiblock sparse partial least square discriminant analysis 242 (sPLS-DA) was used to identify the microbial groups specifically associated with structured 243 and unstructured substrates (Singh et al., 2019). 244

We used *SourceTracker* (Knights et al., 2011) to identify the contribution of the different possible sources (within the unstructured substrates) of microbial communities on the cases.

To test the second hypothesis (i.e. that increased case heterogeneity favours microbial 247 diversity), we analysed the effect of case heterogeneity (roughness, variation of particle size 248 and JI) on the composition and ASV richness of diatoms, fungi and bacteria. To determine the 249 effect of heterogeneity on community composition, we used a distance-based redundancy 250 analysis (dbRDA; Legendre and Anderson, 1999) using Jaccard distances for the three 251 252 microbial communities and the measured descriptors of case heterogeneity (roughness, variation of particle size and JI), case surface area and case substrate type, to construct our 253 254 dbRDA model. An ANOVA was used to test the significance of the different terms included in the model. To test the effect of the same factors on ASV richness, we used a multiple linear 255 regression approach. Best models were selected based on the Akaike Information Criterion and 256 257 the genetic algorithm method using the glmulti package (Calcagno and Mazancourt, 2010).

258

#### 259 **Results**

#### 260 Description of the microbial communities in structured and unstructured substrate

The sequencing of DNA samples amplified with the RbcL primers generated 2,041,407 reads 261 262 after quality filtering and chimera/singleton removal, which were distributed into 546 distinct ASVs. Of these, 529 ASVs were found to belong to 39 different genera of diatoms (fig1). ITS-263 amplified DNA samples produced 3857 ASVs, as obtained from 2,389,650 filtered reads. 264 Among these ASVs, the dominant phyla were Ascomycota (37%) and Basidiomycota (14%) 265 respectively (fig1). The sequencing of DNA samples amplified with 16S primers generated 266 1,997,863 filtered reads assigned to 13,436 distinct ASVs, principally representative of the 267 Proteobacteria and Bacteroidota phyla (fig 1). For simplicity, the different communities 268

investigated using RbcL, ITS and 16S primers will thereafter be referred to as diatom, fungiand bacterial communities.

271

#### 272 Comparison of microbial communities on structured and unstructured substrates

Through NMDS ordination, we demonstrated that communities differed between structured and unstructured substrates, and substrate type for bacterial, fungal and diatoms communities. For bacterial and fungal communities, we detected an additional interactive effect between both factors (fig 2; table 1).

The proportion of deterministic (non-neutral) processes in community composition was 277 estimated by the quantification of the ASV that did not follow a neutral community model (table 278 1, fig S1). This approach also allowed us to determine the migration rate (e.g. the probability 279 that a place in the local community is taken by an individual immigrating from source 280 281 community). We detected 11.3% of bacterial ASVs and 16.7% of diatom ASVs on structured substrates that were present more frequently or less frequently than predicted by the neutral 282 model. The diatom genera Nitzschia, Navicula, Planothidium and Fragilaria had a high 283 proportion of over-represented ASVs (supplementary table S2). For bacteria, high proportion 284 of ASVs belonging to the Rhodobacterales and Acetobacterales orders were overrepresented 285 on structured substrates (supplementary table S4 Migration rates for diatoms and bacteria were 286 0.41 and 0.51 respectively.). The multiblock sPLS-DA performed on the three microbial 287 communities indicated Staurosira, Pinnularia and Caloneis as diatom genus associated with 288 structured substrates and strongly co-occuring with bacteria from the Phormidiaceae, 289 Bryobacteraceae and Spirochaetaceae family (fig 3). 290

For diatoms, most of the community originated from organic unstructured substrates for all types of cases (fig 4). Gravels were detected as the major and nearly unique source of the fungal communities for min1 and min2, while leaf and woody litter were the major sources for org1, org2 and org3 (fig 4). For bacteria, 50% to 80% of the community originated from mineral unstructured substrate, mainly the gravels for the two exclusively mineral cases (min1 and min2). The bacterial community of mixed and organic structured substrates originated from both mineral and organic unstructured substrates (fig 4).

Trichoptera cases significantly promoted ASV richness for diatoms, fungi and bacteria 298 compared with unstructured substrates (fig 5, fig 6). Mineral substrates promoted fungal 299 richness, but no effect of substrate type was observed for diatoms or bacteria. Similar results 300 were observed when considering species or genus richness based on sequence annotations (fig 301 5). The richness of fungal community was higher on mineral substrates compared to organic 302 303 ones (fig 5). Rarefaction curves indicate that a higher number of different ASVs are found on structured substrates than on unstructured substrates for a similar number of samples for 304 305 diatoms and fungi (fig 6).

306 In diatoms, the structured substrates sample rarefaction curve presents a steeper slope than that of unstructured substrates, indicating a higher diversity within and among samples collected on 307 308 trichopteran cases (fig 6). The extrapolations of the rarefaction curves indicate that for a higher 309 number of samples the richness of unstructured substrates and cases may have converged to around 200 ASVs. This indicates that there are no diatom species or ASV specific to 310 311 Trichoptera cases but that these structured substrates support a high number of ASVs from the local pool (fig 6). For the fungal and bacterial diversity, the rarefaction curves did not reach a 312 stable state, indicating that our sampling did not cover all fungal and bacterial ASV richness. 313 With respect to fungal diversity, structured substrates harboured both a steeper curve and a 314 higher number of ASVs when extrapolating the curves for a higher number of samples, 315 indicating that a part of the fungal diversity was specific to the environment created by the 316 317 cases. For the bacterial diversity, nearly no difference appears in the slope, but the extrapolation of the rarefaction curves indicates a higher richness on structured substrates than onunstructured substrates (fig 6).

320

#### 321 Influence of spatial heterogeneity within structured substrates

Structured substrates spatial heterogeneity influenced the composition and richness microbial communities associated with cases. More especially, the case heterogeneity of composition (i.e. particle roughness) influenced both fungal and bacterial communities but not diatoms, while the heterogeneity of configuration (JI and variation of particle size) influenced only bacterial communities. Structured substrates type affected community composition for all three groups of microorganisms while the size of the case had a significant effect only for bacterial communities (fig 7).

Bacterial ASV richness was affected positively by two of the variables used to characterise the heterogeneity of structured substrates: roughness and JI. Bacterial richness was also affected positively by case size (table 3). Fungal richness was found to decrease with increasing case size. Heterogeneity affected only marginally fungal richness by the interaction between case size and JI (table 3).

334

335

#### 336 **Discussion**

337 Structured substrates harbour different microbial communities and higher diversity than
 338 unstructured substrates

Our first hypothesis was that structured substrates microbial communities were deterministic compared to the unstructured substrate. Indeed, by associating substrates in a stable conformation Trichoptera larvae create a stable microscale landscape that offers particular ecological niches for microbes. Our results confirmed this hypothesis as we found marked

significant compositional differences between structured and unstructured substrates for 343 bacterial, fungal and diatoms communities (fig 2, table 1). The comparison with a neutral 344 community model confirmed that the observed differences are not due only to neutral processes 345 346 but results from deterministic processes. Diatom taxa occurring more frequently on structured than on unstructured substrates are diverse, including large motile diatoms (Nitzschia sp., 347 Navicula sp.) and small adnate diatoms (Planothidium sp.) (Rimet and Bouchez, 2012). For 348 bacteria, we noticed phototrophic species-containing groups such as *Rhodobacter* sp., 349 *Rhodoferax* sp. and *Rhodomicrobium* sp. among the bacterial ASV more frequent on the cases. 350 This result reinforces a previous study that highlights that net-spinning Trichoptera create 351 352 different microenvironments hosting different microbial communities (Bertagnolli et al., 2023). More generally, several studies have shown that aquatic macroorganisms bear host-specific 353 microbial communities (Chiarello et al., 2020; Falasco et al., 2018; Receveur et al., 2020). This 354 355 host-specificity is generally attributed to direct interaction between the host and its microbiome through the secretion of a mucus containing diverse compounds that may affect microbial 356 357 community (notably antimicrobial compounds) and immune cells (Esteban, 2012). In the present study, we focused on microbial community associated with Trichoptera cases. This 358 approach limits the direct effect of the animal compared to study where skin or internal 359 microbial community is used, while animals' behaviour may still affect the microbial 360 community. Considering that a sand grain or a piece of leaf litter would have similar physical 361 and chemical properties whether they are part of a case or not, the observed differences in 362 microbial community are more likely a direct effect of microscale landscape through substrate 363 spatial structuration. 364

Such host-specificity was shown here through the deterministic proportion of microbes that was
associated with cases. Further analysis could investigate the relationships between Trichoptera
species or larvae phenological development on microbial communities associated with cases

and analyse the underlying mechanisms of this specificity. We also expected higher microbial diversity on structured substrates than on the unstructured substrates, because cases represent areas with stable exposure to light and water current compared to sand and litter. This expectation was verified for the three groups of microorganisms studied (fig 5, 6). While these substrates are regularly remobilised by the current, Trichoptera larvae activity and case structure stabilize the case environmental conditions (Otto and Johansson, 1995; Statzner and Holm, 1989), and therefore offer a more stable habitat to microorganisms.

375

#### 376 The nature of the substrate also affects microbial communities

377 Our first hypothesis assumed that the nature of the substrate may affect its colonisation by microorganisms. In our results we observed, as expected, an important effect of organic versus 378 mineral substrates on microbial community composition (fig 2, table 1) for all taxonomic 379 groups. Indeed, the surface properties, that may strongly differ between mineral and organic 380 substrates, affect diatoms, fungi and bacteria adhesion and colonization abilities (Kearns and 381 382 Bärlocher, 2008; Laviale et al., 2019; Rosenhahn et al., 2010) and organic substrate may also be used as a carbon and nutrient source by some organisms. Substrate type influenced also 383 richness but only for fungi (fig 5). The observed lower richness of fungi on organic substrate 384 385 may be explained by the abundance of decomposers on organic substrates that can exclude other fungal species (Ferreira et al., 2010). Migration from the source community contribute around 386 40-50% to the community at the surface of the cases and the assemblages are mostly but not 387 uniquely driven by stochasticity. Microbial assemblages colonizing cases are originated from 388 the dominant substrates in the streams, but we demonstrated that species of other substrate types 389 colonized cases and contributed to the microbial assemblages: for instance, diatom 390 communities associated with mineral structured substrates are recruited from organic 391

unstructured substrates, while bacterial communities associated with organic structuredsubstrates are originated partly from mineral unstructured substrates (Fig 4).

394

## 395 Microscale landscape heterogeneity affects microbial diversity

To analyse the relationship between microscale substrate heterogeneity and microbial diversity, 396 397 we tested among the different structured substrate types the extent to which the spatial 398 heterogeneity of composition and configurations affected microbial community composition and richness. Heterogeneity contributed to explaining differences in community composition 399 for fungi and bacteria (fig 7). However, the expected heterogeneity-diversity relationship was 400 401 found only for bacterial community (table 3). More especially, fungi responded to only compositional heterogeneity (case roughness), while both compositional and configurational 402 heterogeneity influenced bacterial communities (high turnover between particle size, high 403 coefficient of variation in size). Diatoms were not influenced by small-scale heterogeneity, 404 likely because diatoms are large and motile they are less affected by factors at the scale 405 406 considered.

The size of the case was also found to affect ASV composition in bacteria, and ASV richness 407 in bacteria and fungi, with opposite effects between fungi and bacteria (table 3). Biofilm 408 409 microbial communities are hotspots of interactions that occurs notably between diatoms, fungi and bacteria (e.g. Allen et al., 2017; Zancarini et al., 2017). These interactions may have been 410 interfering with the effect of the microscale landscape parameters (e.g. effect on fungi, possibly 411 not due directly to microscale landscape but mediated by competition with bacteria). 412 Considering these interactions may be key in the downscaling of landscape ecology at the 413 microbial scale. However, cases represent a complex structure with a highly fractal 414 structuration, and many parameters should be considered to completely characterise these 415

structures as it can be done to characterise the heterogeneity of macroscale landscapes (Rieraet al., 2023).

418

419 *Conclusion* 

Landscape heterogeneity is known to promote diversity at the macroscale. We expected to find the same relationship for stream microbial communities. In this study, this question was explored at two levels: at the stream level we found that Trichoptera larvae, creating heterogeneity by the simple structuration of substrates already present in the stream, change microbial community and promote diversity of diatoms, fungi and bacteria. At the case level, we found some insights that heterogeneity of structured substrates in terms of configuration affects bacterial and fungal communities and promotes bacterial diversity.

Overall, our results show that by creating diverse structurally complex heterogeneous microscale landscapes, Trichoptera larvae act as engineer species and increase microbial diversity in streams. This suggests a positive relationship between diversity of Trichoptera larvae and microbial diversity. The decline in the diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates in streams is therefore likely to lead to an invisible decline in the diversity of microorganisms.

432

Acknowledgements: Funding was provided by the LTSER "Zone atelier armorique" and the
"Observatoire des Sciences de l'Environnement de Rennes" (OSERennes). We thank L.
Favier for technical help for the sampling and L. Pellan for help with the identification of the
larvae. We are thankful to the molecular ecology platform of Ecobio laboratory and
particularly V. Daburon and C. Roose-Amsaleg for help with DNA extraction. We
acknowledge R. Causse-Védrines and the EcoGeno platform that performed the sequencing.

439

- **Data availability statement:** All data and R code to replicate the analyses and to reproduce
- the figures are deposited on a public database <u>https://doi.org/10.48579/PRO/HDWUK8</u>.

## 443 **References**

444 Abarenkov, K., Zirk, A., Piirmann, T., Pöhönen, R., Ivanov, F., Nilsson, R.H., Kõljalg, U., 2022. UNITE 445 general FASTA release for eukaryotes. Version 16.10.2022. 446 https://doi.org/10.15156/BIO/2483913 447 Allen, J., Danger, M., Wetzel, C.E., Felten, V., Laviale, M., 2024. Diatom Primary Production in 448 Headwater Streams, in: Diatom Photosynthesis. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, pp. 327–349. 449 https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119842156.ch11 450 Allen, J.L., Leflaive, J., Bringuier, C., Ten-Hage, L., Chauvet, E., Cornut, J., Danger, M., 2017. Allelopathic inhibition of primary producer growth and photosynthesis by aquatic fungi. 451 452 Fungal ecology 29, 133–138. 453 Battin, T.J., Besemer, K., Bengtsson, M.M., Romani, A.M., Packmann, A.I., 2016. The ecology and 454 biogeochemistry of stream biofilms. Nature Reviews Microbiology 14, 251–263. 455 Battin, T.J., Sloan, W.T., Kjelleberg, S., Daims, H., Head, I.M., Curtis, T.P., Eberl, L., 2007. Microbial landscapes: new paths to biofilm research. Nat Rev Microbiol 5, 76-81. 456 457 https://doi.org/10.1038/nrmicro1556 458 Bergey, E.A., Resh, V.H., 1994. Interactions between a stream caddisfly and the algae on its case: 459 factors affecting algal quantity. Freshwater Biology 31, 153–163. 460 https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2427.1994.tb00849.x 461 Bergmann, G.E., Leveau, J.H.J., 2022. A metacommunity ecology approach to understanding 462 microbial community assembly in developing plant seeds. Front. Microbiol. 13. 463 https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2022.877519 464 Bertagnolli, A.D., Maritan, A.J., Tumolo, B.B., Fritz, S.F., Oakland, H.C., Mohr, E.J., Poole, G.C., 465 Albertson, L.K., Stewart, F.J., 2023. Net-spinning caddisflies create denitrifier-enriched niches 466 in the stream microbiome. ISME COMMUN. 3, 1–6. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43705-023-467 00315-8 468 Besemer, K., 2016. Microbial biodiversity in natural biofilms. Aquatic biofilms: ecology, water quality 469 and wastewater treatment 63–88. 470 Besemer, K., 2015. Biodiversity, community structure and function of biofilms in stream ecosystems. 471 Research in microbiology 166, 774–781. 472 Burns, A.R., Stephens, W.Z., Stagaman, K., Wong, S., Rawls, J.F., Guillemin, K., Bohannan, B.J., 2016. 473 Contribution of neutral processes to the assembly of gut microbial communities in the 474 zebrafish over host development. ISME J 10, 655–664. 475 https://doi.org/10.1038/ismej.2015.142 476 Calcagno, V., Mazancourt, C. de, 2010. glmulti: An R Package for Easy Automated Model Selection 477 with (Generalized) Linear Models. Journal of Statistical Software 34, 1–29. 478 https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v034.i12 479 Callahan, B.J., McMurdie, P.J., Rosen, M.J., Han, A.W., Johnson, A.J.A., Holmes, S.P., 2016. DADA2 : High-resolution sample inference from Illumina amplicon data. Nature Methods 13, 581–583. 480 481 https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.3869 482 Chiarello, M., Auguet, J.-C., Graham, N.A.J., Claverie, T., Sucré, E., Bouvier, C., Rieuvilleneuve, F., 483 Restrepo-Ortiz, C.X., Bettarel, Y., Villéger, S., Bouvier, T., 2020. Exceptional but vulnerable microbial diversity in coral reef animal surface microbiomes. Proceedings of the Royal Society 484 485 B: Biological Sciences 287, 20200642. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.0642 486 Dang, H., Lovell, C.R., 2015. Microbial Surface Colonization and Biofilm Development in Marine 487 Environments. Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews 80, 91–138. 488 https://doi.org/10.1128/mmbr.00037-15 489 Esteban, M.Á., 2012. An Overview of the Immunological Defenses in Fish Skin. International Scholarly 490 Research Notices 2012, 853470. https://doi.org/10.5402/2012/853470

491 Fahrig, L., Baudry, J., Brotons, L., Burel, F.G., Crist, T.O., Fuller, R.J., Sirami, C., Siriwardena, G.M., 492 Martin, J.-L., 2011. Functional landscape heterogeneity and animal biodiversity in agricultural 493 landscapes. Ecology Letters 14, 101–112. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01559.x 494 Falasco, E., Bo, T., Ghia, D., Gruppuso, L., Bona, F., Fenoglio, S., 2018. Diatoms prefer strangers: non-495 indigenous crayfish host completely different epizoic algal diatom communities from 496 sympatric native species. Biol Invasions 20, 2767–2776. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-018-497 1728-x 498 Ferreira, S., Ashby, R., Jeunen, G.-J., Rutherford, K., Collins, C., Todd, E.V., Gemmell, N.J., 2020. DNA 499 from mollusc shell: a valuable and underutilised substrate for genetic analyses. PeerJ 8, 500 e9420. https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.9420 501 Ferreira, V., Gonçalves, A.L., Pratas, J., Canhoto, C., 2010. Contamination by uranium mine drainages 502 affects fungal growth and interactions between fungal species and strains. Mycologia 102, 503 1004-1011. https://doi.org/10.3852/09-248 504 Fierer, N., 2008. Microbial Biogeography: Patterns in Microbial Diversity across Space and Time, in: 505 Accessing Uncultivated Microorganisms. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, pp. 95–115. 506 https://doi.org/10.1128/9781555815509.ch6 507 Frandsen, P.B., Holzenthal, R.W., Espeland, M., Breinholt, J., Thomas, J.A., Simon, S., Kawahara, A.Y., 508 Plotkin, D., Hotaling, S., Li, Y., Nelson, C.R., Niehuis, O., Mayer, C., Podsiadlowski, L., Donath, 509 A., Misof, B., Lemmon, E.M., Lemmon, A., Morse, J.C., Pauls, S., Zhou, X., 2023. 510 Phylogenomics recovers multiple origins of portable case-making in caddisflies (Insecta: 511 Trichoptera), the world's most common underwater architects. 512 https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.12.21.572910 513 Gardes, M., Bruns, T.D., 1993. ITS primers with enhanced specificity for basidiomycetes - application to the identification of mycorrhizae and rusts. Molecular Ecology 2, 113–118. 514 515 https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-294X.1993.tb00005.x 516 Heinen, J., Cross, G.H., 1983. An Approach to Measure Interspersion, Juxtaposition, and Spatial 517 Diversity from Cover-Type Maps. Wildlife Society Bulletin (1973-2006) 11, 232–237. 518 Hsieh, T.C., Ma, K.H., Chao, A., 2022. iNEXT: iNterpolation and EXTrapolation for species diversity 519 [WWW Document]. URL http://chao.stat.nthu.edu.tw/wordpress/software-download/ 520 Hubbell, S.P., 2001. The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography. Princeton 521 University Press. 522 Huber, G., Gorb, S., Hosoda, N., Spolenak, R., Arzt, E., 2007. Influence of surface roughness on gecko 523 adhesion. Acta Biomaterialia 3, 607–610. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actbio.2007.01.007 524 Hutchinson, G.E., 1957. Concluding Remarks. Cold Spring Harb Symp Quant Biol 22, 415–427. 525 https://doi.org/10.1101/SQB.1957.022.01.039 526 Jacobs, T.D.B., Junge, T., Pastewka, L., 2017. Quantitative characterization of surface topography 527 using spectral analysis. Surface Topography: Metrology and Properties 5, 013001. 528 https://doi.org/10.1088/2051-672X/aa51f8 529 Kearns, S.G., Bärlocher, F., 2008. Leaf surface roughness influences colonization success of aquatic 530 hyphomycete conidia. Fungal Ecology 1, 13–18. 531 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funeco.2007.07.001 532 Knights, D., Kuczynski, J., Charlson, E.S., Zaneveld, J., Mozer, M.C., Collman, R.G., Bushman, F.D., 533 Knight, R., Kelley, S.T., 2011. Bayesian community-wide culture-independent microbial source tracking. Nat Methods 8, 761–763. https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.1650 534 535 Laviale, M., Beaussart, A., Allen, J., Quilès, F., El-Kirat-Chatel, S., 2019. Probing the Adhesion of the 536 Common Freshwater Diatom Nitzschia palea at Nanoscale. ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 11, 537 48574–48582. https://doi.org/10.1021/acsami.9b17821 Legendre, P., Anderson, M.J., 1999. Distance-Based Redundancy Analysis: Testing Multispecies 538 539 Responses in Multifactorial Ecological Experiments. Ecological Monographs 69, 1–24. 540 https://doi.org/10.1890/0012-9615(1999)069[0001:DBRATM]2.0.CO;2 541 Li, Y., Ma, K., Song, W., Zhou, J., Liu, X., Wang, M., Tu, Q., 2023. Environmental heterogeneity and 542 dispersal limitation simultaneously determine the spatial scaling of different microbial

- 543 functional groups. Science of The Total Environment 885, 163854.
- 544 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.163854
- Lortie, C.J., Brooker, R.W., Choler, P., Kikvidze, Z., Michalet, R., Pugnaire, F.I., Callaway, R.M., 2004. 545 546 Rethinking plant community theory. Oikos 107, 433–438. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0030-547 1299.2004.13250.x
- 548 Macarthur, R.H., Wilson, E.O., 1967. The Theory of Island Biogeography, REV-Revised. ed. Princeton 549 University Press.
- 550 Marsland, R., Cui, W., Mehta, P., 2020. A minimal model for microbial biodiversity can reproduce 551 experimentally observed ecological patterns. Sci Rep 10, 3308. 552 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-60130-2
- 553 Martin, M., 2011. Cutadapt removes adapter sequences from high-throughput sequencing reads. 554 EMBnet.journal 17, 10-12. https://doi.org/10.14806/ej.17.1.200
- 555 McLaren, M., 2020. Silva SSU taxonomic training data formatted for DADA2 (Silva version 138) 556 (Version 2). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3986799
- 557 McMurdie, P.J., Holmes, S., 2013. phyloseq: An R Package for Reproducible Interactive Analysis and 558 Graphics of Microbiome Census Data. PLOS ONE 8, e61217. 559
  - https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0061217
- 560 Mittelbach, G.G., Schemske, D.W., 2015. Ecological and evolutionary perspectives on community 561 assembly. Trends in Ecology & Evolution 30, 241–247. 562 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.02.008
- Mony, C., Vandenkoornhuyse, P., Bohannan, B.J.M., Peay, K., Leibold, M.A., 2020. A Landscape of 563 564 Opportunities for Microbial Ecology Research. Frontiers in Microbiology 11.
- 565 Ning, D., Deng, Y., Tiedje, J.M., Zhou, J., 2019. A general framework for quantitatively assessing 566 ecological stochasticity. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 116, 16892–16898. 567 https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1904623116
- 568 Oksanen, J., Simpson, G.L., Blanchet, F.G., Kindt, R., Legendre, P., Minchin, P.R., O'Hara, R.B., 569 Solymos, P., Stevens, M.H.H., Szoecs, E., Wagner, H., Barbour, M., Bedward, M., Bolker, B., 570 Borcard, D., Carvalho, G., Chirico, M., Caceres, M.D., Durand, S., Evangelista, H.B.A., FitzJohn, 571 R., Michael Friendly, Brendan Furneaux, Hannigan, G., Hill, M.O., Lahti, L., McGlinn, D.,
- 572 Ouellette, M.-H., Cunha, E.R., Tyler Smith, Stier, A., Braak, C.J.F.T., Weedon, J., 2022. vegan: 573 Community Ecology Package [WWW Document]. URL https://CRAN.R-
- 574 project.org/package=vegan
- 575 Otto, C., Johansson, A., 1995. Why do some caddis larvae in running waters construct heavy, bulky 576 cases? Animal Behaviour 49, 473-478. https://doi.org/10.1006/anbe.1995.0061
- 577 R Core Team, 2023. R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing.
- 578 Receveur, J.P., Fenoglio, S., Benbow, M.E., 2020. Insect-associated bacterial communities in an alpine 579 stream. Hydrobiologia 847, 331–344. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-019-04097-w
- 580 Riera, E., Mauroy, B., Francour, P., Hubas, C., 2023. Unleashing the Potential of Artificial Reefs Design: 581 A Purpose-Driven Evaluation of Structural Complexity.
- 582 Rimet, F., Bouchez, A., 2012. Life-forms, cell-sizes and ecological guilds of diatoms in European rivers. 583 Knowl. Managt. Aquatic Ecosyst. 01. https://doi.org/10.1051/kmae/2012018
- 584 Rimet, F., Gusev, E., Kahlert, M., Kelly, M.G., Kulikovskiy, M., Maltsev, Y., Mann, D.G., Pfannkuchen, 585 M., Trobajo, R., Vasselon, V., Zimmermann, J., Bouchez, A., 2019. Diat.barcode, an open-586 access curated barcode library for diatoms. Sci Rep 9, 15116. 587 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-51500-6
- 588 Rosenhahn, A., Schilp, S., Jürgen Kreuzer, H., Grunze, M., 2010. The role of "inert" surface chemistry 589 in marine biofouling prevention. Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics 12, 4275–4286. 590 https://doi.org/10.1039/C001968M
- 591 Schneider, C.A., Rasband, W.S., Eliceiri, K.W., 2012. NIH Image to ImageJ: 25 years of image analysis. Nat Methods 9, 671–675. https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.2089 592

593	Singh, A., Shannon, C.P., Gautier, B., Rohart, F., Vacher, M., Tebbutt, S.J., Lê Cao, KA., 2019. DIABLO:
594	an integrative approach for identifying key molecular drivers from multi-omics assays.
595	Bioinformatics 35, 3055–3062. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty1054
596	Sloan, W.T., Lunn, M., Woodcock, S., Head, I.M., Nee, S., Curtis, T.P., 2006. Quantifying the roles of
597	immigration and chance in shaping prokaryote community structure. Environmental
598	Microbiology 8, 732–740. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1462-2920.2005.00956.x
599	Statzner, B., Holm, T.F., 1989. Morphological adaptation of shape to flow: Microcurrents around lotic
600	macroinvertebrates with known Reynolds numbers at quasi-natural flow conditions.
601	Oecologia 78, 145–157. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00377150
602	Stoodley, P., Sauer, K., Davies, D.G., Costerton, J.W., 2002. Biofilms as complex differentiated
603	communities. Annu Rev Microbiol 56, 187–209.
604	https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.micro.56.012302.160705
605	Tapolczai, K., Keck, F., Bouchez, A., Rimet, F., Kahlert, M., Vasselon, V., 2019. Diatom DNA
606	Metabarcoding for Biomonitoring: Strategies to Avoid Major Taxonomical and
607	Bioinformatical Biases Limiting Molecular Indices Capacities. Frontiers in Ecology and
608	Evolution 7.
609	Telford, R.J., Vandvik, V., Birks, H.J.B., 2006. Dispersal Limitations Matter for Microbial
610	Morphospecies. Science 312, 1015–1015. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1125669
611	Vellend, M., 2010. Conceptual Synthesis in Community Ecology. The Quarterly Review of Biology 85,
612	183–206. https://doi.org/10.1086/652373
613	Wiens, J.A., 1995. Habitat fragmentation: island v landscape perspectives on bird conservation. Ibis
614	137, S97–S104. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919X.1995.tb08464.x
615	Zancarini, A., Echenique-Subiabre, I., Debroas, D., Taïb, N., Quiblier, C., Humbert, JF., 2017.
616	Deciphering biodiversity and interactions between bacteria and microeukaryotes within
617	epilithic biofilms from the Loue River, France. Sci Rep 7, 4344.
618	https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-04016-w
619	Zheng, S., Bawazir, M., Dhall, A., Kim, HE., He, L., Heo, J., Hwang, G., 2021. Implication of Surface
620	Properties, Bacterial Motility, and Hydrodynamic Conditions on Bacterial Surface Sensing and
621	Their Initial Adhesion. Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology 9.
622	
623	
624	
024	
625	
626	
627	
628	Tables

## **Table 1: Results of the PERMANOVA on the microbial communities**

	F	p-value	
Diatoms			
Substrat (organic-mineral)	2.5351	0.007 **	
Structure (case-unstructured)	2.9545	0.002 **	
interaction	1.0690	0.316	

Fungi			
Substrat (organic-mineral)	2.7259	0.001	***
Structure (case-unstructured)	1.9774	0.001	***
interaction	1.2961	0.036	*
Bacteria			
Bacteria			
Substrat (organic-mineral)	3.6117	0.001	***
Structure (case-unstructured)	3.6564	0.001	***
interaction	1.8877	0.002	**

630

631

## Table 2: Results of the neutral community model and normalised stochasticity ratio.

	Migration rate [confidence interval]	Above	Below	Neutral	non-neutral proportion (%)	R <sup>2</sup>	Normalised Stochasticity ratio
Diatoms	0.41 [0.33;0.49]	35	11	229	16.7	0.86	0.59
	0.0084						0.88
Fungi	[0.0076;0.0094]	185	28	1595	11.8	0.07	
Bacteria	0.51 [0.48; 0.55]	388	73	3636	11.3	0.46	0.84

633

634

# Table 3. Results of the multiple regression for the best models for fungal and bacterial ASV richness on cases.

	Fungi		Вас	teria
	t	p-value	t	p-value
II			2.761	0.012
Roughness			3.312	0.003
Variation of particle size			-1.461	0.159
Case size	-2.408	0.023	3.807	0.001
JI: Roughness			-2.680	0.014
Case size:JI	-2.107	0.044		
Roughness: Variation of particle size			1.973	0.062
Roughness: Case surface			-5.405	<0.001
Case size:Substrate(org.)			4.699	<0.002

- 637 Figures
- Fig. 1 Treemaps presenting the representation of ASV among genera (for RbcL) or phylum (for ITS and16S).
- 640
- Fig. 2. Non-metric multidimensional scaling ordination (NMDS) of microbial communities.
- 642
- Fig. 3. Results of the *SourceTracker* analysis indicating the contribution of different sources to the microbial communities found on Trichoptera cases.
- 645
- 646 Fig. 4. Co-occurrence diagram presenting the correlations greater than 0.6 between different diatoms
- 647 (grouped by genus) bacteria (grouped by family) and fungi (grouped by genus). Open symbols denote
- 648 groups that are over-represented on unstructured substrates while closed symbols denotes groups
- over-represented on structured substrate. Presented groups are those selected by the multiblock sPLS-
- DA algorithm to better discriminate better structured and unstructured substrates.
- 651
- Fig. 5. Richness of microbial communities on the different types of substrates, expressed as ASV
- richness (a, c, e) and taxonomic richness (b, d, f) for diatoms (a-b) fungi (c-d) and bacteria (e-f).
- 654 Significant effect of the structure (structured vs. unstructured) and the substrate type (organic vs.
- mineral) on ASV and taxonomic richness based on a ANOVA is indicated by asterisks (\*: p<0.05, \*\*:
- 656 p<0.01, \*\*\*: p<0.001, ns: not significant).
- 657
- Fig. 6. Rarefaction curves for substrates grouped as structured and unstructured substrates. Shaded
  area around rarefaction curves indicates 95% confidence intervals.
- 660

- 661 Fig. 7. dbRDA biplot of the diatom, fungal and bacterial community on Trichoptera cases. Arrows
- 662 indicates environmental factors. Asterisks indicate factors that significantly affect microbial
- 663 community (\* : <0.05, \*\*: <0.01, \*\*\*: <0.001).

664

665

666

# RbcL











unmodified substrates mineral cases plant litter based cases

mineral cases

plant litter based cases



