



1     **Coalescence of bacterial groups originating from urban runoffs**  
2     **and artificial infiltration systems among aquifer microbiomes**

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18 **Abstract.** The invasion of aquifer microbial communities by aboveground micro-organisms, a phenomenon  
19 known as community coalescence, is likely to be exacerbated in groundwaters fed by stormwater infiltration  
20 systems (SIS). Here, the incidence of this increased connectivity with upslope soils and impermeabilized surfaces  
21 was assessed through a meta-analysis of 16S rRNA gene libraries. Specifically, free-living and attached aquifer  
22 bacteria (i.e., water and biofilm samples) were characterized upstream and downstream a SIS, and compared with  
23 bacterial communities from watershed runoffs, detention and infiltration basins. A significant bacterial transfer  
24 was observed, with aquifer bacterial biofilms being largely made up of taxa occurring in aboveground sediments  
25 and urban runoffs (44 to 67% of the total reads). This coalesced biofilm community was rich in hydrocarbon  
26 degraders such as *Sphingobium* and *Nocardia*. The bacterial community of the downstream SIS aquifer waters  
27 showed similar coalescence with aboveground taxa (26.7-66.5%) but a higher number of taxa involved in the N-  
28 and S-cycles was observed. A DNA marker named *tpm* enabled a tracking of bacterial species from 24 genera  
29 including the *Pseudomonas*, *Aeromonas* and *Xanthomonas* among these communities. Reads related to the  
30 *Pseudomonas* were allocated to 50 species, of which 16 were found in the aquifer samples. *P. umsongensis* and *P.*  
31 *chengduensis* were inferred to be in higher proportions among the *tpm*-harboring bacteria, respectively, of the  
32 aquifer biofilms, and waters. Several of these aquifer species were found involved in denitrification but also  
33 hydrocarbon degradation (*P. aeruginosa*, *P. putida*, and *P. fluorescens*). Reads related to *Aeromonas* were  
34 allocated to 11 species but only those from *A. caviae* were recovered in the aquifer samples. DNA imprints  
35 allocated to the *X. axonopodis* phytopathogen were recorded in higher proportions among the *tpm*-harboring  
36 bacteria of the aquifer waters than aboveground samples. A coalescence of microbial communities from an urban  
37 watershed with those of an aquifer was thus observed, and recent aquifer biofilms were found dominated by runoff  
38 opportunistic taxa able to use urban C-sources from aboveground compartments.  
39



## 40 1 Introduction

41 Urbanization exerts multiple pressures on natural habitats and particularly on aquatic environments (Konrad and  
42 Booth, 2005; McGrane, 2016; Mejía and Moglen, 2009). The densification of urban areas, combined with the  
43 conversion of agricultural and natural lands into urban land-use, led to the replacement of vegetation and open  
44 fields by impervious urban structures (*i.e.* roads, rooftops, side-walks and parking lots) (Barnes et al., 2001). These  
45 impervious structures reduce the infiltration capacity of soils. They also exacerbate the speed and volume of  
46 stormwater runoff that favor soil erosion, flooding events, and affect adversely natural groundwater recharge  
47 processes (Booth, 1991; Shuster et al., 2005). Due to these consequences, stormwater infiltration systems (SIS) or  
48 managed aquifer recharged systems (MAR) have been developed during the last decades, and are gaining more  
49 interest in developed countries (Pitt et al., 1999). Such practices reduce direct stormwater discharges to surface  
50 waters and alleviate water shortages (Barba et al., 2019; Dillon et al., 2008; Marsalek and Chocat, 2002). However,  
51 stormwater represents a major source of nonpoint pollution, and its infiltration into the ground may have adverse  
52 ecological and sanitary impacts (Chong et al., 2013; Pitt et al., 1999; Vezzaro and Mikkelsen, 2012).

53 The vadose zone of a SIS can act as a natural filter towards pollutants (hydrocarbons and heavy metals), and  
54 micro-organisms washed-off by runoffs (e. g. Murphy and Ginn, 2000; Tedoldi et al., 2016). Nevertheless, the  
55 effectiveness of SIS in preventing the migration of contaminants towards aquifers is not always optimal (Borchardt  
56 *et al.*, 2007; Lapworth *et al.*, 2012; Arnaud *et al.*, 2015; Voisin et al., 2018). The filtering properties of SIS are  
57 influenced by various abiotic factors such as the nature of the media (rocks, sand and other soil elements), the  
58 physical properties (e. g. granulometry, hydrophobicity index, organization), and the runoff water flow velocity  
59 (Lassabatere et al., 2006; Winiarski et al., 2013). These constraints will impact water transit time from the top  
60 layers to the aquifer, but also the biology of these systems including the plant cover and root systems, worms and  
61 microbiota (Barba et al., 2019; Bedell et al., 2013; Crites, 1985; Pignoret et al., 2016). The thickness of the vadose  
62 zone was found to be one of the key parameters explaining chemical transfers such as phosphate and organic-  
63 carbon sources (Voisin et al., 2018). The situation is much less clear regarding the microbiological communities  
64 that flow through these systems (e. g. Barba et al., 2019; Voisin et al., 2018).

65 According to the microbial community coalescence concept conceptualized by Tikhonov, (2016) and adapted  
66 to riverine networks by Mansour et al. (2018), urban aquifers fed by SIS should harbor microbiota reflecting the  
67 coalescence (community assemblages and selective sorting) of aboveground microbial communities with those of  
68 the aquifer. Indeed, during rain events, microbial communities will be re-suspended through runoff-driven surface  
69 erosion processes, favoring detachment of micro-organisms from plant litter, wastes, soil, and other particles.  
70 These re-suspended communities will merge and generate novel assemblages. The resulting community will  
71 initially match the relative contributions of the various sub-watersheds to the overall microbiological complexity  
72 of the assemblages. The prevailing ecological constraints among the downward systems will then gradually drive  
73 this coalescence towards the most fit community structures. These resulting communities might be highly efficient  
74 at degrading urban pollutants trapped among a SIS but could also disturb the ecological equilibria of the connected  
75 and more sensitive systems like those of deep aquifers.

76 Here, the study explored the impact of a SIS, with a thick vadose zone (> 10 m), on the coalescence of urban  
77 runoff microbial communities in a connected aquifer. The tested hypotheses were that (1) highly specialized taxa  
78 (often termed K-strategists e. g. Vadstein et al., 2018) of an aquifer should outcompete the intrusive community  
79 members of aboveground taxa but (2) nutrient inputs from runoffs and pollutants could also drive changes among



80 these communities and favour environmental opportunists (often termed r-strategists e. g. Vadstein et al., 2018).  
81 The targeted SIS is part of a long-term experimental site  
82 (<http://www.graie.org/portail/dispositifsderecherche/othu/>) for which physico-chemical and biological  
83 monitorings have been implemented. It is connected to the eastern aquifer of Lyon (France) which is fed by three  
84 low hydraulic conductivity corridors ( $10^{-5}$ – $10^{-8}$  m s<sup>-1</sup>) separated by moraine hills (Foulquier et al., 2010). It has  
85 an average vadose zone thickness of 15 m, and the delay between a rainfall event and the impact on the aquifer  
86 waters was estimated at  $86 \pm 11$  h (Voisin et al., 2018). A large DNA meta-barcoding dataset was built for this site,  
87 in order to investigate bacterial community coalescence from top compartments among the connected aquifer  
88 waters but also biofilm communities developing on inert surfaces. This investigation was built on the hypothesis  
89 that a less significant microbial community coalescence was likely to be observed among aquifer water samples  
90 than biofilms. This is supported by previous reports which suggested the occurrence of transient free-living  
91 bacteria among aquifers acting as a traveling seed bank (Griebler et al., 2014). More precisely, water grab samples  
92 were found to give access to snapshots of the diversity found among an aquifer (Voisin et al., 2018) while aquifer  
93 biofilms developing on artificial surfaces (clay beads) have been shown to be more integrative and informative of  
94 the groundwater microbiological quality (Mermillod-Blondin et al., 2019). Clay bead biofilms were found to  
95 capture the most abundant aquifer taxa, and taxa that could not be detected from grab samples. A field based  
96 investigation was thus performed to further explore the relative contributions of a set of sources such as runoffs  
97 and urban soils on the observed biofilm assemblages recovered from an aquifer. A Bayesian methodology, named  
98 SourceTracker (Knights et al., 2011), was used to investigate community coalescence from 16S rRNA gene –  
99 based DNA meta-barcoding datasets. To go deeper into these inferences, complementary datasets were built from  
100 an additional DNA marker named *tpm* (encoding EC:2.1.1.67 which catalyzes the methylation of thiopurine drugs)  
101 (Favre-Bonté et al., 2005). This genetic marker enables finer taxonomic allocations down to the species level, and  
102 allowed gaining further insights on the coalescence of a set of waterborne bacterial species and sub-species,  
103 including plant and human pathogens, with the aquifer microbial community.

## 104 2 Material and Methods

### 105 2.1 Experimental site

106 The Chassieu urban catchment is located in the suburbs of Lyon (France). It has a surface of 185 ha and hosts  
107 mainly industrial and commercial activities (*i.e.* wholesaling, recovery and waste management, metal surface  
108 treatment, car wash and repair services). The imperviousness coefficient of the catchment area is about 75 %.  
109 Stormwater and dry weather flows from industrial activities are drained by a network separated from the sewer.  
110 This network transfers waters into the Django-R SIS, which is part of the OTHU long term experimental  
111 observatory dedicated to urban waters (<http://www.graie.org/othu/>). This SIS contains an open and dry detention  
112 basin (DB) (32,000 m<sup>3</sup>), built on a concrete slab, with edges impermeabilized by a thick plastic lining. This DB  
113 allows a settling of coarse and medium size particles, resulting in sedimentary deposits which favor development  
114 of a plant cover. The DB water content is delivered within 24h into an infiltration basin (IB) (61,000 m<sup>3</sup>), which  
115 favors the recharge of the connected aquifer (AQ). This infiltration basin had a vadose zone of about 11 m during  
116 the experiments, and its geology, hydrology, ecology and pollution levels have been deeply investigated e. g.  
117 Barraud et al. (2002); Le Coustumer and Barraud (2007).



118 The Chassieu watershed, the Django-R SIS, and the Lyon aquifer were considered for this study (Figure 1,  
119 Table S1). Watershed runoff waters (hereafter WS) have been collected from sampling points spread over the  
120 catchment (21 sub-watersheds over three sampling periods, n=64 samples). Sediments from the detention basin  
121 (hereafter DB) have been recovered from 50 cm<sup>2</sup> area covering the full sediment column down to the concrete slab  
122 of the DB (n=20 samples). These sediments (or urban soils) often had an herbaceous plant cover, and were sampled  
123 in four areas defined according to the hydrological forces prevailing in the basin (e. g. Marti et al., 2017; Sébastien  
124 et al., 2014). Infiltration basin soil samples (hereafter IB) had been collected from 3 main zones (the area receiving  
125 the inflow waters, the bottom area of the basin, and an upper zone of the basin exposed to inflow waters only  
126 during strong rain events) (n=5 samples per zone), at a 0-10 cm depth covering a surface of 50 cm<sup>2</sup>. The aquifer  
127 samples have been recovered from piezometers located upstream (up, in a zone of the aquifer not influenced by  
128 water recharge) and downstream (dw, in a zone of the aquifer influenced by water recharge) of the SIS of the  
129 Django-R site at a depth of 2 m below the water table (e. g. Barraud et al., 2002; Voisin et al., 2018) (Fig. 1).  
130 Groundwater samplings (n=6; named AQ\_wat) had been performed with an immersed pump, used at a pumping  
131 rate of 6–8 L/min (PP36 inox, SDEC, Reignac-sur-Indre, France), and previously cleaned with 70% ethanol. The  
132 first 50 L were used to rinse the sampling equipment and discarded. The following 6 L were used for the  
133 microbiological analyses. The biofilm samples (AQ\_bio) from the aquifer were recovered using clay beads  
134 incubated in the aquifer over 10 days using the same piezometers as those used for the aquifer water samplings  
135 (n=6 samples). Clay beads were used as physical matrix to sample groundwater biofilms according to Voisin et al.  
136 (2016).

## 137 2.2 PCR products DNA sequencings

138 Sequencing of the V5-V6 16S rRNA gene (*rrs*) PCR products were performed by the MrDNA company  
139 (Shallowater, TX, USA) with Illumina MiSeq technology and using the primers set 799F-1193R. The *tpm* DNA  
140 libraries were generated using the following mix of degenerated primers: ILMN-PTCF2  
141 (GTGCCGYTRTG YGGCAAGA), ILMN-PTCR2 (ATCAKYGCGGCGGTCRTA), ILMN-PTCF2m  
142 (GTGCCYTRTG YGGCAAGT), and ILMN-PTCR2m (ATGAGBGCTGCCCTGTCRTA) as suggested by  
143 Favre-Bonté et al. (2005). PCR reactions were performed under the following conditions: (1) a hot start at 94°C  
144 for 3 min, (2) 35 cycles consisting of 94°C for 30 s, 55°C for 30 s and 72°C for 30 s, and (3) a final extension of 5  
145 min at 72°C. The PCR products were sequenced by Biofidal (Vaulx-en-Velin, France) using the Illumina MiSeq  
146 technology. The 16S rRNA and *tpm* gene sequences are available at the European Nucleotide Archive  
147 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>).

## 148 2.3 Bioinformatic analyses

149 All MiSeq sequences were processed using Mothur (v.1.40.4) (Schloss et al., 2009) following the standard  
150 operating procedure developed by Kozich *et al.* (2013). For the 16S rRNA (*rrs*) gene sequences, reads were filtered  
151 for length (>300bp), quality score (mean, ≥25), number of ambiguous bases (=0), and length of homopolymer runs  
152 (<8) using the trim.seqs script in Mothur, and singletons were discarded. The 16S rRNA gene sequences passing  
153 these quality criteria were aligned to the SILVA reference alignment template (release 128) and an 80% bootstrap  
154 P-value threshold was used for taxonomic assignments. Chimeric sequences were identified using the  
155 chimera.uchime command and removed. To avoid any biases related to sequencing depth, a subsampling-based  
156 normalization was applied (20,624 sequences per sample) and the normalized dataset was used for all downstream



157 analyses. Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) were defined using a 97% identity cut-off. FAPROTAX (Louca  
158 et al., 2016) functional inferences were performed on the MACADAM Explore web site  
159 (<http://macadam.toulouse.inra.fr/>) according to Le Boulch et al. (2019). For the *tpm* gene sequences, chimeric  
160 sequences, primers, barcodes were removed, and the dataset was limited to sequences of a minimum length of 210  
161 bp (average length=215 bp). The number of sequences was then normalized between the samples (4,636 sequences  
162 per sample) and Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) were defined with a 100% identity cut-off. The  
163 “BD\_TPM\_Mar18\_v1.unique\_770seq” database (<http://www.graie.org/othu/donnees>) was used to classify the  
164 sequences using the “Wang” text-based Bayesian classifier (Wang et al., 2007) and a P-bootstrap value above  
165 80%. Local Blast analyses were performed on the “BD\_TPM\_Mar18\_v1.unique\_770seq” database using the  
166 NCBI BLASTX program in order to check the quality of the taxonomic affiliations.

#### 167 **2.4 Statistical analyses**

168 All statistical analyses were carried out in R (v.3.5.1). For the 16S rRNA gene sequences, alpha-diversity estimates  
169 were computed using the function “rarefy” from the ‘Vegan’ package (Oksanen et al., 2015). Richness ( $S_{obs}$ ) was  
170 computed as the number of observed OTUs in each sample. The diversity within each individual sample was  
171 estimated using the non-parametric Shannon index. To estimate whether the origin of the samples influenced the  
172 alpha-diversity, an ANOVA with Tukey’s post-hoc tests was performed for each index. Shared and unique OTUs  
173 were depicted in Venn-diagrams with the “limma” package (Ritchie et al., 2015). Concerning the beta-diversity  
174 between samples, a neighbor-joining tree was constructed with a maximum-likelihood approximation method  
175 using FastTree (Price et al., 2009). Weighted UniFrac distances were calculated for all pairwise OTU patterns  
176 according to Lozupone et al. (2011). Based on the distance matrices, Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA)  
177 (Anderson and Willis, 2003) were used to determine changes in the bacterial community structure from the  
178 watershed down to the aquifer. Permutation tests of distances (PERMANOVA) (Anderson, 2001) were performed  
179 using the “vegan” package (Oksanen et al., 2015), in order to establish the significance of the observed groupings.

#### 180 **2.5 Bacterial community coalescence analyses**

181 The SourceTracker computer package (Knights et al., 2011) was used to investigate community coalescence.  
182 SourceTracker is a Bayesian approach built to estimate the most probable proportion of user-defined “source”  
183 OTU in a given “sink” community. In the present analysis, various scenarios of community coalescence were  
184 investigated such as the coalescence of bacterial taxa from the watershed runoff waters and sediments from the  
185 detention and infiltration basins, with those of the downstream SIS aquifer water samples or of recent biofilms  
186 developing on clay beads incubated in the aquifer. SourceTracker was run with the default parameters (rarefaction  
187 depth 1000, burn-in 100, restart 10) to identify sources explaining the OTU patterns observed among the aquifer  
188 samples (waters and clay bead biofilms,  $n=12$ ). Alpha values were tuned using cross-validation ( $\alpha_1 = 0.001$   
189 and  $\alpha_2 = 1$ ). The relative standard deviation (RSD) based on three runs was used as a gauge to evaluate  
190 confidence on the computed values (Henry et al., 2016; McCarthy et al., 2017).

### 191 **3. Results**

#### 192 **3.1 16S rRNA V5-V6 gene sequences distribution biases and profilings**

193 The analysis of the 16S rRNA V5-V6 gene libraries yielded 2,124,272 high-quality sequences distributed across  
194 103 samples. Subsampling-based normalization was applied (20,624 reads per sample) and sequences were



195 distributed into 10,231 16S rRNA gene OTUs at a 97 % threshold. The rarefaction curves indicated that the  
196 sequencing depth was sufficient to cover bacterial diversity (Figure S1). At all sampling sites, bacterial  
197 communities were dominated by Proteobacteria, Bacteroidetes and Actinobacteria (WS=95.1% of total reads,  
198 DB=84.3%; IB=71.4%; AQ\_bio=98.8% and AQ\_wat=58.6%), but 10 other phyla with relative abundances  
199 superior to 0.5% were also detected (Figure 2A and Table S2). Alpha-diversity estimates showed that aquifer  
200 samples harbored a microbiome with a significantly lower richness (AQ\_bio:  $S_{\text{obs}}=278 \text{ OTUs} \pm 106$  and AQ\_wat:  
201  $S_{\text{obs}}=490 \text{ OTUs} \pm 333$ ) and a less diverse bacterial community (AQ\_bio:  $H'=2.9 \pm 0.3$  and AQ\_wat:  $H'=4.3 \pm 0.7$ )  
202 than the ones of the upper compartments ( $S_{\text{obs-WS}}=1,288 \text{ OTUs} \pm 232$ ;  $S_{\text{obs-DB}}=1,566 \text{ OTUs} \pm 245$ ,  $S_{\text{obs-IB}}=1,503$   
203  $\text{OTUs} \pm 177$  and  $H'_{\text{WS}}=5.0 \pm 0.5$ ;  $H'_{\text{DB}}=5.4 \pm 0.5$ ,  $H'_{\text{IB}}=5.7 \pm 0.4$ ) (ANOVA,  $p<0.001$ ) (Figure 2B and Table S3).  
204 Among the surface samples, a greater diversity was observed among the soil samples from the infiltration basin  
205 than from samples of watershed runoff waters and sediments of detention basin (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ). In the aquifer,  
206 water grab samples were more diverse and showed higher 16S rRNA gene OTU contents than biofilms recovered  
207 from clay beads incubated for a 10-day period (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) (Figure 2B and Table S3).

208 The structure of bacterial communities inferred from V5-V6 16S rRNA gene sequences changed markedly  
209 along the watershed down the aquifer. A PCoA ordination of the OTU profiles based on weighted Unifrac distances  
210 revealed that samples clustered according to their compartment of origin (*i.e.* WS, DB, IB, AQ\_bio and AQ\_wat)  
211 (Figure 3). These changes in community structures between compartments were supported by PERMANOVA  
212 statistical tests ( $F=20.7$ ,  $P<0.001$ ). Bacterial communities per compartment were found to be made of core and  
213 flexible (defined as not conserved between all sampling periods) bacterial taxa. Within a same compartment,  
214 similarities between bacterial community profiles ranged from 64.9% (AQ\_wat) to 82.0% (IB), while similarities  
215 across compartments ranged from 47.8% (DB vs AQ\_bio) to 65.9% (DB vs IB) (Figure S2). Bacterial community  
216 profiles of the aquifer waters were found closer to the ones of the detention basin deposits (57.5%) and soils of the  
217 infiltration basin (61.4%) than those of the aquifer biofilms (47.8 and 49.2%, respectively). However, more than  
218 89% of the 16S rRNA gene OTUs ( $n=8,284$ ) identified above the aquifer (WS, DB and IB) were not detected in  
219 groundwater samples (AQ\_bio and AQ\_wat) (Figure S3). This large group of OTUs was made of minor taxa which  
220 accounted for 37.1%, 44.3% and 47.3% of the total reads recovered from the WS, DB and IB samples, respectively.

### 221 3.2 Coalescence of surface and aquifer bacterial communities

222 A SourceTracker analysis was performed to estimate the coalescence of V5-V6 16S rRNA gene OTUs from the  
223 watershed and SIS down into the aquifer waters and biofilm bacterial communities. This analysis indicated  
224 significant coalescence between the bacterial communities of the runoffs, the soils of the SIS, and the aquifer  
225 samples. The aquifer water microbial community upstream the SIS was found to explain between 0.02%-12.6%  
226 of the downstream water microbial community (Table 2), while OTUs from the runoff waters were found to  
227 explain 23 to 59% of the observed patterns (Table 2). OTUs from the infiltration basin explained 0.8-3.8% of the  
228 observed diversity among the SIS impacted aquifer community, and, those of the detention basin, between 0.02  
229 and 9% of the community. The aquifer biofilm bacterial communities were also found to be assemblages of  
230 communities from the surface environments. The origin of more than 90% of the SIS impacted aquifer biofilms  
231 could be explained. Main sources were the runoff waters (33%), the sediments of the detention basin (20%), and  
232 the upstream aquifer waters (39%) (Table 2). Soils from the infiltration basin did not appear to have contributed  
233 much to taxa recovered from these aquifer biofilms (<4%) (Table 2). Content of the aquifer biofilms recovered  
234 upstream the SIS showed similar origins with a high proportion related to those observed among the runoff waters





235 (64%) and the aquifer waters (30%). This was not considered surprising because runoff infiltration can occur in  
236 several sites upstream of the SIS (even though no direct relation with other SIS were made).

### 237 3.3. 16S rRNA gene inferred bacterial taxa undergoing coalescence in the aquifer

238 In order to identify the bacterial taxa involved in the coalescence process, OTUs of the 16S rRNA gene dataset  
239 were allocated to taxonomic groups using the SILVA reference alignment template. These taxonomic allocations  
240 indicated that (1) 14 genera were only recorded in the aquifer samples, (2) 421 genera were only recorded in the  
241 upper surface compartments of the watershed, and (3) 219 were recorded among aboveground and aquifer  
242 compartments (Table S4). The following bacterial genera were exclusively associated to the aquifer bacterial  
243 communities: *Turicella*, *Fritschea*, *Metachlamydia*, *Macrococcus*, *Anaerococcus*, *Finegoldia*, *Abiotrophia*,  
244 *Dialister*, *Leptospirillum*, *Omnitrophus*, *Campylobacter*, *Sulfurimonas*, *Haemophilus*, *Nitratireductor*. These  
245 bacterial genera were recovered from all water samples while 5 were also detected in biofilms (Table S4). These  
246 genera were associated to 926 16S rRNA gene OTUs that accounted for 48.0% and 1.8% of total reads recovered  
247 from aquifer waters and aquifer biofilms developing on clay beads, respectively. FAPROTAX functional  
248 inferences indicated some of these genera to be host-associated such as *Fritschea*, *Metachlamydia*, *Finegoldia*,  
249 *Campylobacter* and *Haemophilus*, with the latter two being well-known to contain potential pathogens.  
250 *Campylobacter* and *Sulfurimonas* cells have also been associated with nitrogen and sulfur respiration processes,  
251 and *Leptospirillum* with nitrification.

252 Regarding the bacterial taxa of the aboveground communities matching those of the aquifer samples, a total of  
253 1,021 16S rRNA gene OTUs was found to be shared between these compartments (Table 1 and Figure S3). These  
254 OTUs consisted of abundant taxa as they accounted for 9.7-39.4% of the total reads for the samples recovered  
255 from the surface compartments, and for 33.6-83.4% and 95.0-99.4% of the total reads of the water and biofilm  
256 aquifer samples, respectively. The  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -proteobacteria dominated this group. It is noteworthy that aquifer  
257 samples collected upstream of the SIS shared less OTUs with the surface compartments (125 OTUs  $\pm$  41) than  
258 samples under the influence of the infiltration system (332 OTUs  $\pm$  85) (Table 1). The shared OTUs between  
259 aquifer samples and the upper compartments represented a higher fraction of bacterial communities in samples  
260 recovered downstream the SIS (81.3%  $\pm$  22.8 of total reads) compared to those collected upstream (68.9%  $\pm$  30.9  
261 of total reads) (Table 1). Reads from *Pseudomonas*, *Nitrospira*, *Neisseria*, *Streptococcus*, *Flavobacterium* were  
262 the most abundant (>1%) of the shared OTUs recovered in the aquifer water samples, while those allocated to  
263 *Pseudomonas*, *Duganella*, *Massilia*, *Nocardia*, *Flavobacterium*, *Aquabacterium*, *Novosphingobium*,  
264 *Sphingobium*, *Perluclidibaca*, *Meganema* were the most abundant (>1%) among the aquifer biofilms (Table S4).  
265 Most of these aquifer water taxa (except *Streptococcus*) were found involved in denitrification or nitrification as  
266 inferred from FAPROTAX. The biofilm taxa were more often associated with hydrocarbon degradation  
267 (*Novosphingobium*, *Sphingobium*, and *Nocardia*) by FAPROTAX. Several of these biofilm bacterial genera were  
268 also found to be likely containing potential human pathogens (*Duganella*, *Massilia*, *Nocardia*, and *Aquabacterium*)  
269 by FAPROTAX (and published clinical records). A set of 14 potentially hazardous bacterial genera was selected  
270 from Table S4, and used to illustrate the coalescence of bacterial taxa among the aquifer samples on Fig. 4. The  
271 16S rRNA gene reads from *Flavobacterium* prevailed in all upper compartments (WS=6.9% of total reads,  
272 DB=13.4% and IB=8.3%) and were in significant numbers among the connected aquifer (AQ\_wat = 1.1% and  
273 AQ\_bio = 3.1%) (Figure 4B and Table S4C). *Pseudomonas* 16S rRNA gene reads were in relatively lower numbers





274 in the upper compartments (WS = 0.4% of total reads, DB = 0.4% and IB < 0.05%) but increased in the aquifer  
275 samples (AQ\_wat = 8.4% and AQ\_bio = 35.5%) (Figure 4B and Table S4). Similar trends were observed for  
276 *Nocardia* and *Neisseria* OTUs (Figure 4B). It is to be noted that OTUs exclusively recovered from the upper  
277 compartments were mainly part of the *Gemmatimonas* (0.2-1.6% of total reads), *Geodermatophilus* (0.1-1.8%)  
278 and *Roseomonas* (0.1-1.0%) (Table S4).

### 279 3.4 Coalescence of *Pseudomonas* and other *tpm*-harboring bacterial species

280 DNA sequences from *tpm* PCR products generated according to Favre-Bonté et al. (2005) allowed a deeper  
281 analysis of the bacterial species undergoing a coalescence with the aquifer microbiome. A total of 19,129 *tpm*  
282 OTUs was identified among the samples (from datasets re-sampled to reach 4,636 reads per sample). As expected,  
283 these *tpm* reads were mainly assigned to the *Proteobacteria* (WS = 91.7% of total reads, DB = 86.5% ; IB = 76.3%  
284 ; AQ\_wat = 82.9% and AQ\_wat = 85.0%), but some reads could also be attributed to the *Bacteroidetes*, *Nitrospirae*  
285 and *Cyanobacteria* (Table S5). These taxonomic allocations allowed the identification of 24 bacterial genera and  
286 91 species whose distributions are summarized in Tables S6 and S7. The *tpm* sequences were mainly allocated to  
287 the *Pseudomonas* (WS = 35.5% of total reads, DB = 27.2% ; IB = 7.3% ; AQ\_wat = 51.4% and AQ\_bio = 47.6%),  
288 *Aeromonas* (WS = 0.8% of total reads, DB = 2.7% ; IB < 0.05% ; AQ\_wat = 0.07% and AQ\_bio < 0.05%),  
289 *Xanthomonas* (WS = 4.4% of total reads, DB < 0.05% ; IB = 1.3% ; AQ\_wat = 8.3% and AQ\_bio < 0.05%),  
290 *Herbaspirillum* (WS = 10.74% of total reads) and *Nitrosomonas* (DB = 4.4% of total reads ; IB = 0.23%) (Table  
291 S6). Reads related to *Pseudomonas* were allocated to 50 species, including pollutant-degraders (*P.*  
292 *pseudoalcaligenes*, *P. aeruginosa*, *P. fragi*, *P. alcaligenes*, *P. putida* and *P. fluorescens*), phytopathogens (*P.*  
293 *syringae*, *P. viridiflava*, *P. stutzeri*, and *P. marginalis*) and human opportunistic pathogens (*P. aeruginosa*, *P.*  
294 *putida*, *P. stutzeri*, *P. mendocina*, *S. acidaminiphila*) (Table S7). Reads related to the *Aeromonas* were attributed  
295 to 11 species but only reads allocated to *A. caviae* could be recovered from the aquifer and aboveground  
296 compartments (Table S7). Reads related to the *Xanthomonas* were allocated to 9 species but only those allocated  
297 to the *X. axonopodis/campestris* complex and *X. cannabis* species were recovered from the aquifer and upper  
298 compartments (Table S7). Regarding the *Pseudomonas*, *tpm* reads allocated to *P. jessenii*, *P. chlororaphis*, and *P.*  
299 *resinovorans* were restricted to the aquifer samples. Reads allocated to *P. aeruginosa*, *P. anguilliseptica*, *P.*  
300 *chengduensis*, *P. extremaustralis*, *P. fluorescens*, *P. fragi*, *P. gessardii*, *P. koreensis*, *P. pseudoalcaligenes*, *P.*  
301 *putida*, *P. stutzeri*, *P. umsongensis*, and *P. viridiflava*, were recovered from the aquifer and upper compartments  
302 (Table S7). FAPROTAX analysis indicated that a significant number of the species detected in the aquifer can be  
303 involved in denitrification (*P. aeruginosa*, *P. fluorescens*, *P. putida*, *P. stutzeri*, *S. acidaminiphila*, *X.*  
304 *autotrophicus*, *P. chlororaphis*) or nitrification (*Nitrospira defluvii*, *Nitrosomonas oligotropha*) but also in  
305 hydrocarbon degradation (*P. aeruginosa*, *P. fluorescens*, *P. putida*). Some were also suggested by FAPROTAX to  
306 be human pathogens or invertebrate parasites (e. g. *P. chlororaphis*). These functional inferences were in line with  
307 those obtained with the 16S rRNA gene dataset.

308 The *tpm* OTUs (representative of infra-specific complexes) shared between the upper compartments and the  
309 aquifer (Table 3 and Table S8) were allocated to 14 species and 5 genera (Table 3). Four of these OTUs led to  
310 higher relative numbers of reads in the aquifer samples, in the following decreasing order: *P. umsongensis*  
311 (Otu00005) > *P. chengduensis* (Otu00024) > *X. axonopodis/campestris* (Otu00019 & Otu00878) > *P. stutzeri*  
312 (Otu00119 & Otu10066). These co-occurrences of OTUs between aboveground and aquifer samples support the



313 hypothesis of significant coalescence between these bacterial communities. The other OTUs showed higher  
314 number of reads among the top compartments. The OTU allocated to *X. cannabis* showed the highest relative  
315 number of reads of this group among runoff waters. The distribution pattern of this OTU suggested a relative  
316 decline while moving down the aquifer. The *P. aeruginosa* Otu00066 was recovered in the runoff waters, and  
317 biofilms developing on clay beads incubated in the aquifer.

#### 318 4. Discussion

319 Urban microbial communities mobilized by runoffs will merge, after migration through a vadose zone, with aquifer  
320 communities. This coalescence will lead to novel microbial assemblages through selective species sorting. SIS are  
321 significantly contributing at the recharge of aquifers by runoff waters. They can receive large volumes of runoff  
322 waters that will contain significant amount of chemical pollutants but also microbial assemblages representative  
323 of the connected urban biomes. Here, the incidence of a SIS on the microbial assemblages observed among an  
324 aquifer was investigated. The structure and fate of such assemblages remain poorly investigated but must be better  
325 understood to assess the environmental and health risks related to stormwater infiltration practices (Abu-Ashour  
326 et al., 1994; Powelson et al., 1993; Redman et al., 2001). The tested hypotheses were that (1) highly specialized  
327 K-strategists of an aquifer should outcompete the intrusive community members of aboveground systems but (2)  
328 nutrient inputs from runoffs and pollutants could also drive changes among these communities and favour some  
329 environmental opportunists or r-strategists which are growing fast when significant energy sources are available.  
330 The genetic structure of coalesced aquifer communities should be representative of these trade-offs. Here, DNA  
331 meta-barcoding datasets were thus used to estimate the proportion of communities from sediments of a detention  
332 basin, soils of an infiltration basin, and runoff waters from a watershed that have merged with communities of an  
333 aquifer. Furthermore, taxonomic and functional inferences were performed in order to assess changes among the  
334 aquifer bacterial functional groups. A genetic marker named *tpm* was used to track species and particular sequence  
335 types of the *Pseudomonas*, *Aeromonas*, *Xanthomonas*, and a few other genera, from runoffs down into the SIS  
336 impacted aquifer. These trackings demonstrated the successful coalescence of some species like *P. umsongensis*,  
337 *P. chengduensis*, *X. axonopodis/campestris* and *P. stutzeri*.

338 Estimation of alpha-diversity indices from the 16S rRNA bacterial community profilings indicated that  
339 groundwater samples (*i.e.* waters and biofilms) harbored a less diverse microbiome than those of the top  
340 compartments (*i.e.* WS, DB, IB). A 2 to 5-fold reduction in bacterial richness was observed from the surface  
341 compartments down into the aquifer. This result suggests that a large proportion of bacterial taxa carried by  
342 stormwater runoffs or thriving in the detention/infiltration basins were retained and/or eliminated by the vadose  
343 zone filtration process. In fact, more than 89% of the 16S rRNA gene OTUs in the top compartments were not  
344 detected in the underground samples. This is in agreement with previous works which have shown that  
345 immobilization of micro-organisms through porous media are high in the top soil layers, and triggered by  
346 mechanical straining, sedimentation and adsorption (Kristian Stevik et al., 2004; Krone et al., 1958). Moreover,  
347 particles that accumulate as water passes through the soil can form a mat that can also enhance this straining  
348 process (Krone et al., 1958). Nevertheless, despite this filtering effect, infiltration has induced significant changes  
349 in the diversity of groundwater bacterial communities. Both water and biofilm aquifer samples recovered  
350 downstream the SIS had higher bacterial richness than those collected upstream. These diversity changes were  
351 found related to a coalescence of bacterial taxa from the top compartments with the aquifer microbial communities.



352 Indeed, downstream the SIS, aquifer water samples shared more OTUs (up to 47%) with those of the runoff waters  
353 than those upstream the SIS. Furthermore, aquifer biofilms downstream the SIS were heavily colonized by OTUs  
354 (90% of the datasets) from the top compartments.

355 The SourceTracker Bayesian probabilistic approach based on 16S rRNA gene meta-barcoding datasets  
356 (Knights et al., 2011) was applied to refine our understanding of the coalescence of microbial communities from  
357 aboveground environments down into an aquifer. These inferences revealed variable levels of coalescence in the  
358 SIS recharged aquifer depending upon the investigated sink *i.e.* waters or biofilms developing on clay beads  
359 incubated in the aquifer. Bacterial community structures of the groundwater samples (upstream and downstream  
360 the SIS) were significantly built from aboveground communities (*e. g.* those from runoff waters). However, the  
361 origin of a high proportion of the diversity observed among the aquifer waters downstream the SIS remained  
362 undefined. This is likely related to the emergence of novel biomes among the vadose zone of a SIS fed with urban  
363 waters and pollutants. These biomes would have emerged from the build-up of novel biotopes during the  
364 construction and functioning of the SIS. The prevailing environmental constraints and pollutants would then have  
365 favored minor taxa (not detectable by meta-DNA barcoding approaches) from the aboveground compartments. It  
366 is to be noted that functional inferences from the knowledge on bacterial genera suggested an occurrence of several  
367 aquifer taxa involved in the nitrogen and sulfur cycles. *Campylobacter*, *Flavobacterium*, *Pseudomonas*,  
368 *Sulfurimonas* cells have been associated with nitrogen and sulfur respiration processes, and *Nitrospira* and  
369 *Leptospirillum* with nitrification. The oligotrophic nature of the aquifer waters (concentrations of biodegradable  
370 dissolved organic carbon < 0.5 mg/L, Mermillod-Blondin et al., 2015) is thus likely to have induced a significant  
371 selective sorting of microbial taxa among the merged community. Most abundant above ground taxa often require  
372 high energy (organic carbon) and nutrient levels to proliferate (Cho and Kim, 2000; Griebler and Lueders, 2009).

373 Similarly, a large part of the bacterial taxa identified from aquifer biofilms was attributed to aboveground  
374 sources by the SourceTracker approach. Indeed, watershed runoff waters and detention basin deposits were found  
375 to have significantly contributed to the build-up of the observed biofilm community structures. Aquifer waters  
376 collected upstream the SIS were also major contributors (11-46%) of taxa for these biofilm assemblages. These  
377 biofilms showed a high content of 16S rRNA gene sequences belonging to the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -proteobacteria. According  
378 to the ecological concept of r/K selection, these proteobacteria are often considered as r-strategists, able to respond  
379 quickly to environmental fluctuations, and colonize more efficiently newly exposed surfaces than other groups of  
380 bacteria (Araya et al., 2003; Fierer et al., 2007; Lladó and Baldrian, 2017; Manz et al., 1999; Pohlen et al., 2010).  
381 Moreover, because they tend to concentrate nutrients (Flemming et al., 2016), biofilms are likely to favor the  
382 survival of opportunistic bacterial cells capable of exploiting spatially and temporally variable carbon and nutrient  
383 sources. Here, taxa recovered from aquifer biofilms were previously recorded to have the ability to use  
384 hydrocarbons as carbon- and energy sources *e. g.* *Nocardia*, *Pseudomonas*, *Sphingobium*, and *Novosphingobium*.  
385 SIS and urban runoffs are well known to be highly polluted by such molecules (*e. g.*, Marti et al., 2017) and  
386 significant organic matter enrichments were detected in aquifers downstream to SISs (*e. g.* Mermillod-Blondin et  
387 al., 2015). The r/K selection ecological concept thus seems to apply to the community assemblages observed in  
388 this work. K-strategists would be the specialists described above which can perform well at densities close to the  
389 carrying capacity of the system, while the r-strategists would be environmental opportunists taking advantage of  
390 the newly available surfaces offered by the clay beads and the co-occurrence of aboveground C-sources.



391 Taxonomic allocations of the 16S rRNA OTUs suggested the aquifer waters and biofilms to likely harbor  
392 opportunistic human, plant and animal pathogens of the genus *Finegoldia*, *Campylobacter*, *Haemophilus*,  
393 *Duganella*, *Massilia*, *Nocardia*, *Aquabacterium*, *Flavobacterium*, *Pseudomonas*, *Streptococcus*, and *Aeromonas*.  
394 Among these, the most striking results were the observed enrichment of 16S rRNA gene reads allocated to the  
395 *Nocardia* (about 4% of total reads) and *Pseudomonas* (about 35% of total reads) in the biofilms recovered from  
396 clay beads incubated downstream the SIS. *Nocardia* and *Pseudomonas* 16S rRNA gene sequences were in much  
397 lower relative proportions in the aboveground compartments. The genus *Pseudomonas* was previously found to  
398 be abundant under low flow conditions, and was often associated with biofilm formation (Douterelo et al., 2013).  
399 Moreover, pseudomonads are well-known for their ability at using hydrocarbons as energy and C-sources.  
400 Regarding the *Nocardia* cells, there is a poor knowledge of their ecology but a few reports indicated a tropism for  
401 hydrocarbon polluted urban soils and sediments (e. g., Bernardin-Souibgui et al., 2018; Sébastien et al., 2014).  
402 There was no additional approach to further investigate the molecular ecology of *Nocardia* cells found among the  
403 investigated urban watershed. However, a *tpm* meta-barcoding analytical scheme could be applied on DNA  
404 extracts investigated in this study in order to go deeper into the taxonomic allocations of the pseudomonads and  
405 some other *tpm*-harboring genera. The applied *tpm* meta-barcoding approach allowed an investigation of the  
406 coalescence of about 90 species among the investigated watershed including 50 species of *Pseudomonas*, 11  
407 species allocated to the *Aeromonas*, and some additional species allocated to the *Nitrospira*, *Nitrosomonas*,  
408 *Stenotrophomonas*, *Xanthobacter*, and *Xanthomonas*. A single *Aeromonas* species, *A. caviae*, was recorded among  
409 the above- and under-ground environments. More than 10 *Pseudomonas* species thriving in the recharged aquifer  
410 were detected among the aboveground compartments. *P. umsongensis* and *P. chengduensis tpm* OTUs were  
411 detected aboveground, and represented a significant fraction of the *tpm*-harboring bacteria retrieved from the  
412 aquifer samples. These two species were initially isolated from farm soil and landfill leachates (Kwon et al., 2003;  
413 Tao et al., 2014), further supporting the hypothesis that such soil-associated bacteria can be transferred from  
414 runoffs down to natural hydrosystems, and can merge with aquifer communities. Regarding the *Pseudomonas*  
415 species that may pose health threats to humans, a *tpm* OTU affiliated to *P. aeruginosa* was found to be shared  
416 between the surface compartments and the biofilm *tpm* community developing on clay beads incubated  
417 downstream the SIS. *P. aeruginosa* thus had the properties allowing an opportunistic development among the  
418 aquifer. This species is known for its metabolic versatility and ability to thrive on hydrocarbons. It would thus be  
419 part of the r-strategists that could get opportunistically established in aquifer biofilm communities impacted by  
420 urban pollutants. Apart from *P. aeruginosa*, the species *P. putida* and *P. stutzeri*, frequently detected in soils and  
421 wastewater treatment plants (e.g. Igbino et al., 2012; Luczkiewicz et al., 2015; Miyahara et al., 2010), were also  
422 recovered along the watershed and aquifer. However, although these two species were identified in human  
423 infections (Fernández et al., 2015; Noble and Overman, 1994), information about their virulence remains scarce.  
424 These species are therefore considered to be of less concern than *P. aeruginosa* and *A. caviae*, another  
425 opportunistic infectious agent (Antonelli et al., 2016). *P. putida* isolates have been shown involved in hydrocarbon  
426 degradation, and *P. stutzeri* to play part in the N-cycle either through denitrification or nitrogen-fixation.

## 427 5 Conclusions

428 The knowledge gained from the present study demonstrated that coalescence of microbial communities from an  
429 urban watershed with those of an aquifer can occur, and yield novel assemblages. Specialized bacterial



430 communities of aquifer waters were slightly re-shuffled by aboveground communities. However, the assemblages  
431 observed among recent aquifer biofilms were found dominated by opportunistic r-strategists coming from  
432 aboveground compartments, and often associated with the ability at degrading hydrocarbons e. g. the  
433 pseudomonads, *Nocardia* and *Novosphingobium* cells. The aquifer of the investigated site was found, for the first  
434 time, to be specifically colonized by species like *P. jessenii*, *P. chlororaphis*, and *P. resinovorans* but also  
435 undesirable human opportunistic pathogens such as *P. aeruginosa* and *A. caviae*. Artificial clay beads incubated  
436 in the aquifer through piezometers appeared highly efficient germcatchers to evaluate the ability of a SIS at  
437 preventing transfer of undesirable r-strategists down to an aquifer. The long term incidence of allochthonous  
438 bacteria on the integrity of aquifer microbiota remains to be investigated. Free-living communities are not likely  
439 to be much impaired but those developing as biofilms on inert surfaces might be. Microbial biofilms are key  
440 structures in the transformation processes of several elements and nutrients. They often display much higher cell  
441 densities than free-living populations (Crump and Baross, 1996; Crump et al., 1998; van Loosdrecht et al., 1990).  
442 Here, we have demonstrated that runoff and SIS bacterial taxa can colonize solid matrices of a deep aquifer. The  
443 next step is now to investigate whether native aquifer biofilm communities can resist to these repeated invasions  
444 by opportunistic r-strategists.

445

446 *Data availability.* The 16S rRNA gene sequences are available at the European Nucleotide Archive  
447 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena>) using the following accession numbers: PRJEB33510 (IB), PRJEB21348 (DB),  
448 PRJEB29925 (AQ), and PRJEB33507 (WS), and the *tpm* gene sequences using the PRJEB33622 accession  
449 number.

450

451 *Supplement.* The supplementary materials related to this article is available online at: <https://doi.org/>

452

453 *Author contribution.* BC coordinated the work. YC and BC designed the experiments. YC, VRN, TW, FMB, RB,  
454 LM, RM, FV, EB, DB, JV, and BC performed the experiments and contributed at the analysis of the datasets. YC  
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456

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- 678



679

**Table 1.** Aquifer 16S rRNA gene (*rrs*) OTUs detected in the upper compartments of the investigated watershed and SIS\*.

	Upstream SIS					
	AQ_bio_up1	AQ_bio_up2	AQ_bio_up3	AQ_wat_up1	AQ_wat_up2	AQ_wat_up3
(A) Number of aquifer <i>rrs</i> OTUs shared with the upper compartments	185/220	110/160	118/173	93/143	80/164	165/464
(B) Relative abundance of the shared <i>rrs</i> OTUs in the aquifer (in %)	99.4	95.0	96.4	43.8	45.4	33.6
(C) Relative abundance of the shared <i>rrs</i> OTUs in the upper compartments (in %)	24.9	15.5	15.8	9.7	9.8	11.3
	downstream SIS					
	AQ_bio_dw1	AQ_bio_dw2	AQ_bio_dw3	AQ_wat_dw1	AQ_wat_dw2	AQ_wat_dw3
(A) Number of aquifer <i>rrs</i> OTUs shared with the upper compartments	340/403	308/353	321/362	203/523	357/594	468/1052
(B) Relative abundance of the shared <i>rrs</i> OTUs in the aquifer (in %)	99.4	99.4	99.6	52.2	83.4	53.7
(C) Relative abundance of the shared <i>rrs</i> OTUs in the upper compartments (in %)	29.7	30.7	39.4	12.5	32.0	24.2

\*in (A), the number of aquifer *rrs* OTUs found in the upper compartments (WS, DB, IB) was computed per aquifer sample recovered upstream (up) or downstream (dw) the SIS (see Fig. 1 for the sampling design), after a re-sampling of the reads set at 20,624 per sample; in (B), the relative abundance of these shared OTUs per aquifer sample is indicated; in (C), the relative abundance of these shared aquifer OTUs among the upper compartments is indicated. AQ\_wat: Aquifer waters; AQ\_bio: Aquifer clay beads biofilms; up: upstream the SIS, dw: downstream the SIS.



680

**Table 2.** Coalescence of surface and aquifer bacterial communities inferred by the SourceTracker Bayesian approach and the 16S rRNA gene meta-barcoding dataset\*

samples	WS			DB			IB			AQ_wat_up			unknown		
	mean	rsd	rsd	mean	rsd	rsd	mean	rsd	rsd	mean	rsd	rsd	mean	rsd	rsd
AQ_wat_dw1	22.82%	9.67	0.02%	0.02%	94.37	10.71	3.83%	10.71	0.02%	96.25	73.31%	2.49	73.31%	2.49	
AQ_wat_dw2	58.94%	6.03	6.26%	10.74	1.27%	20.32	1.27%	20.32	12.64%	21.27	20.89%	20.27	20.89%	20.27	
AQ_wat_dw3	25.49%	7.06	9.07%	10.47	0.81%	24.58	0.81%	24.58	3.83%	31.01	60.81%	2.06	60.81%	2.06	
AQ_bio_dw1	24.04%	13.55	19.95%	8.47	0.17%	107.45	0.17%	107.45	46.37%	4.71	9.14%	4.72	9.14%	4.72	
AQ_bio_dw2	29.44%	18.54	17.28%	9.91	0.16%	94.43	0.16%	94.43	44.71%	7.05	8.40%	6.77	8.40%	6.77	
AQ_bio_dw3	44.66%	8.39	22.22%	15.6	0.37%	105.66	0.37%	105.66	25.90%	4.21	6.84%	13.55	6.84%	13.55	
AQ_bio_up1	51.18%	0.98							46.35%	1.14	2.47%	1.12	2.47%	1.12	
AQ_bio_up2	81.11%	0.23							10.93%	4.68	7.95%	4.19	7.95%	4.19	
AQ_bio_up3	60.31%	0.74							32.30%	1.32	7.39%	4.31	7.39%	4.31	

\* Two analyses are shown: (1) reads from WS, DB, IB, and aquifer waters from upstream the SIS were considered as the sources of taxa for the aquifer samples downstream the SIS; (2) reads from WS and the aquifer waters upstream the SIS were considered as the sources of taxa for the aquifer biofilms recovered upstream the SIS. SourceTracker was run 3 times using the 16S rRNA gene OTU contingency table and the default parameters. Relative contributions of the sources were averaged. Relative standard deviations (%RSD) are indicated, and used as confidence values. RSD > 100% indicates low confidence on the estimated value. WS: Watershed runoff waters; DB: Detention basin sediments; IB: Infiltration basin sediments. Sequences that could not be attributed to one of the tested sources were grouped under the term unknown.





681

**Table 3.** Relative distribution of *tpm* reads per OTU (mean ± sd) shared between the upper compartments and the aquifer, and that were allocated to well-defined species.<sup>1</sup>

Genus	Species	OTU code <sup>2</sup>	WS	DB	IB	AQ_Wat_up	AQ_Bio_up	AQ_Wat_dw	AQ_Bio_dw
<i>Nitrosomonas</i>	<i>oligotropha</i>	Otu00035	nd	1.5 ± 3.40	0.15 ± 0.30	nd	+	+	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>aeruginosa</i>	Otu00066	0.42 ± 1.13	nd	+	nd	nd	nd	0.17 ± 0.30
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>chengduensis</i>	Otu00024	nd	+	+	20.43 ± 35.39	nd	+	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>extremaustralis</i>	Otu04178	nd	+	nd	nd	nd	+	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>fragi</i>	Otu00197	0.61 ± 4.05	nd	nd	nd	nd	+	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>pseudoalcaligenes</i>	Otu00197	0.07 ± 0.38	+	nd	+	nd	nd	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>putida</i>	Otu00800	+	+	nd	nd	nd	+	nd
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>stutzeri</i>	Otu00119 & Otu10066	0.06 ± 0.33	nd	+	3.06 ± 5.29	nd	nd	+
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>tomsonensis</i>	Otu00005	+	+	nd	0.41 ± 0.71	17.79 ± 20.11	5.34 ± 8.58	11.71 ± 13.17
<i>Pseudomonas</i>	<i>viridiflava</i>	Otu00204	0.06 ± 0.31	nd	0.3 ± 1.09	nd	nd	0.07 ± 0.12	nd
<i>Stenotrophomonas</i>	<i>acidaminiphila</i>	Otu00072 & Otu01119	0.09 ± 0.42	0.29 ± 0.91	0.06 ± 0.22	nd	nd	+	nd
<i>Xanthobacter</i>	<i>autotrophicus</i>	Otu00501	+	+	nd	nd	nd	0.06 ± 0.11	+
<i>Xanthomonas</i>	<i>axonopodis/campesstris</i>	Otu00019 & Otu00878	0.25 ± 0.75	nd	1.24 ± 2.07	16.04 ± 27.78	nd	nd	+
<i>Xanthomonas</i>	<i>canabis</i>	Otu00004	3.74 ± 9.47	nd	nd	nd	+	+	+

<sup>1</sup> All reads from *tpm*. OTUs shared between the upper compartments and the aquifer were used to compute the relative abundances.

<sup>2</sup> *tpm* sequences of the OTUs are shown in Table S8. WS: Watershed runoff waters; DB: Detention basin deposits; IB: soil of the infiltration basin; AQ\_water: Aquifer waters; AQ\_bio: Aquifer biofilms. + : OTUs with a relative abundance < 0.05%. nd : not detected.



682 **Figure captions**

683 **Figure 1.** Scheme illustrating the stormwater runoff path from the industrial watershed (WS) towards the  
684 stormwater infiltration system (SIS) used in this study. The urban watershed is located in Chassieu (France). The  
685 SIS is made of a detention basin (DB) and an infiltration basin (IB), and is connected to the Lyon 200 km<sup>2</sup> east  
686 aquifer (AQ). (© Google)

687 **Figure 2.** General features of the V5-V6 16S rRNA gene meta-barcoding DNA sequences obtained from runoffs,  
688 SIS, and aquifer samples. See Fig. 1 for a description of the experimental design. The main bacterial phyla (A),  
689 and alpha diversity indices (B), are shown per sampled compartment. Bacterial diversity was estimated using the  
690 Shannon index. One-way ANOVA with multiple Tukey post hoc tests were performed to investigate the  
691 differences between compartments. Different letter codes indicate significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ). WS, runoff  
692 waters from the watershed; DB: sediments from the detention basin; IB: soils from the infiltration basin;  
693 AQ\_water: Aquifer waters; AQ\_bio: Aquifer clay beads biofilms.

694 **Figure 3.** PCoA analysis of weighted UniFrac dissimilarities between the V5-V6 16S rRNA gene OTU profiles  
695 of the watershed runoff waters (WS), urban sediments and soils from the connected detention (DB) and infiltration  
696 (IB) basins receiving the runoffs, and waters (AQ\_water) and biofilms (AQ\_bio) from the connected aquifer. See  
697 Fig. 1 for a description of the experimental site. Ellipses are representative of the variance observed (standard  
698 error) between the ordinations of a group of samples. PERMANOVA tests confirmed the significance ( $p < 0.001$ )  
699 of the groupings.

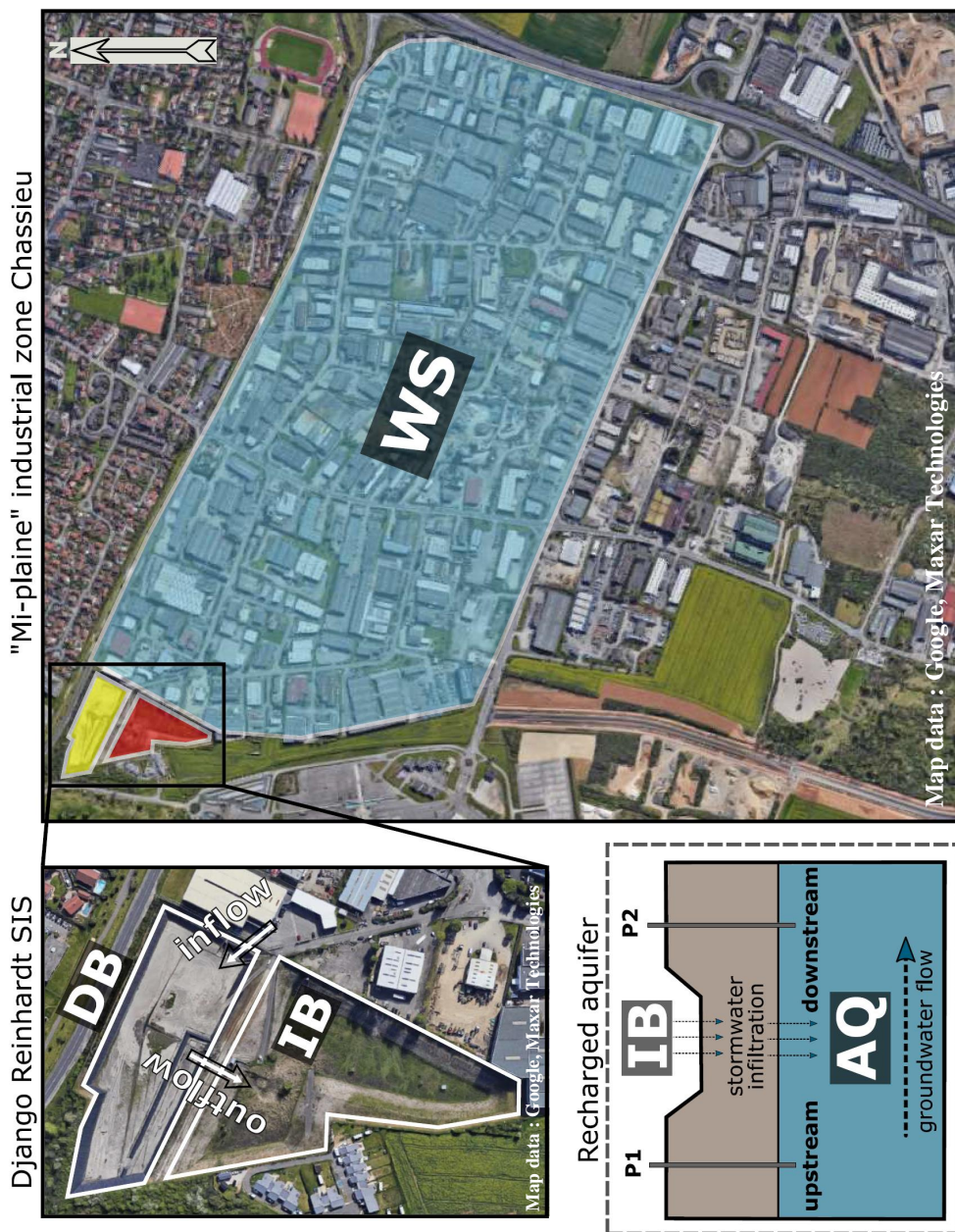
700 **Figure 4.** Relative numbers of potentially pathogenic bacterial genera along the watershed down the aquifer. The  
701 abundance (rel. abund.) of bacterial genera exclusively detected in upper compartments (A) or both in upper  
702 compartments and aquifer (B) are presented. Size of bubbles is proportional to the relative abundance (in %) of  
703 each bacterial genus per sampled compartment. WS, runoff waters from the watershed; DB: sediments from the  
704 detention basin; IB: sediments from the infiltration basin; AQ\_water: Aquifer waters; AQ\_bio: Aquifer clay beads  
705 biofilms.

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708 Fig. 1 - Colin et al. hess-2020-39

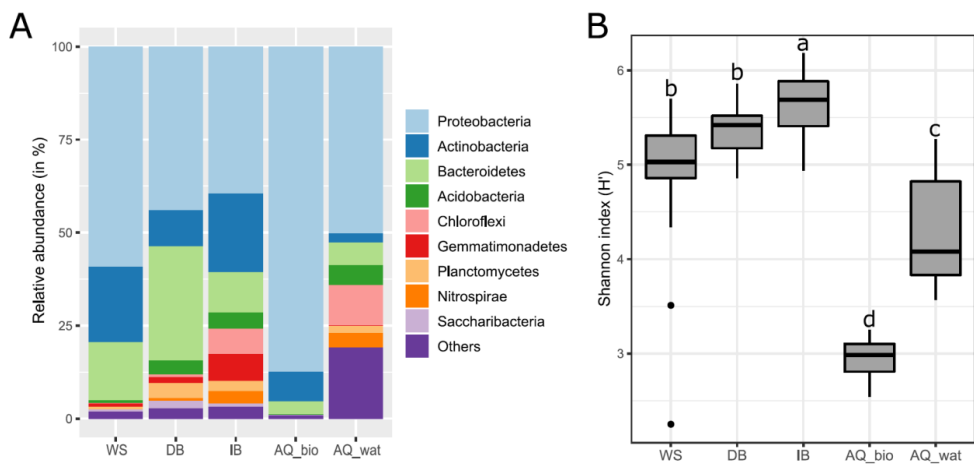


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713 Fig. 2 - Colin et al. hess-2020-39

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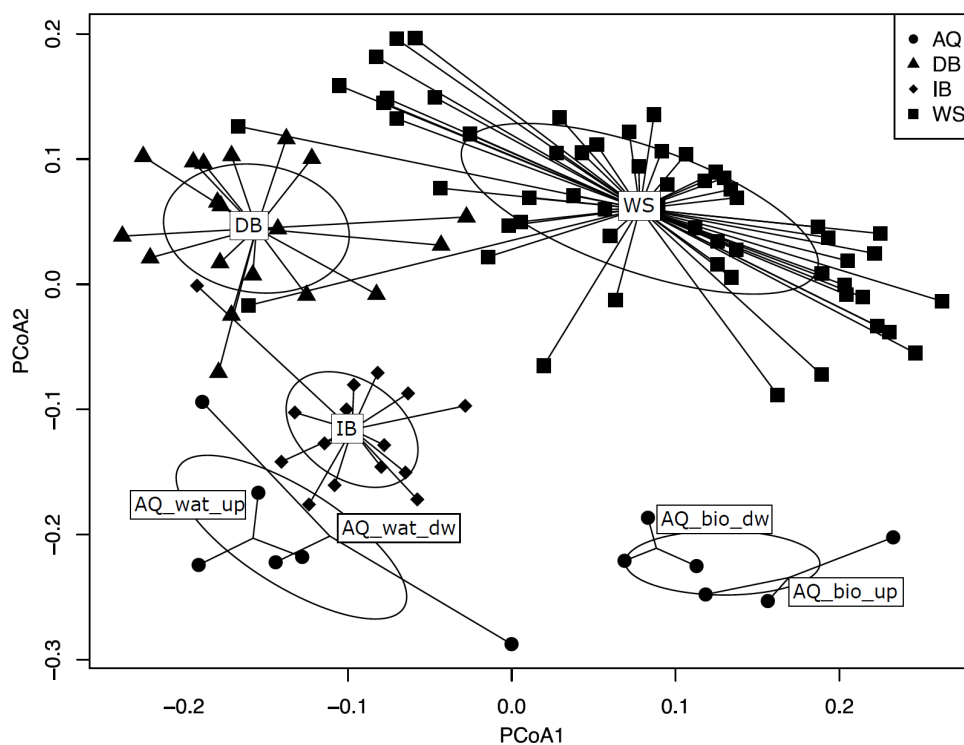
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718 Fig. 3 - Colin et al. hess-2020-39

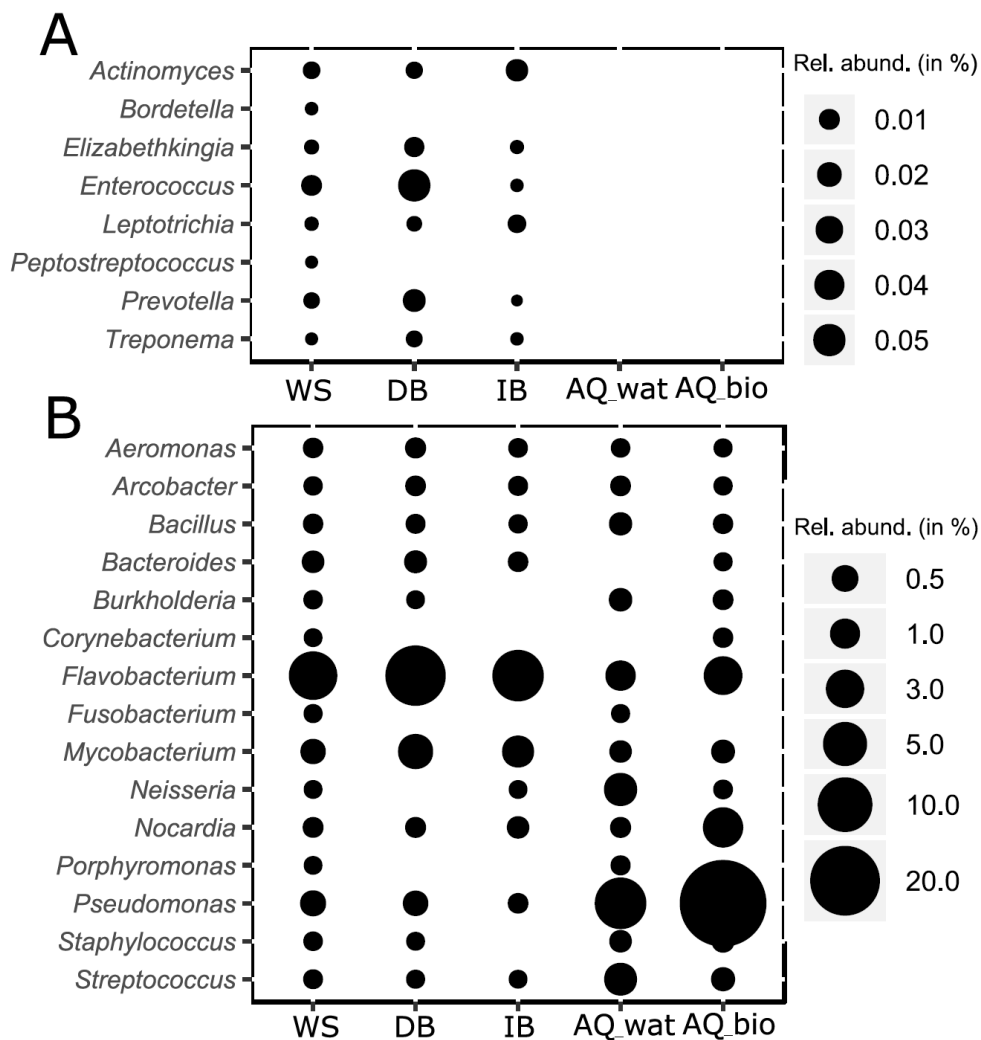


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734 Fig. 4 - Colin et al. hess-2020-39

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