



The gut microbiome promotes the growth performance of black soldier fly larvae by detoxifying uric acid

Xiaowen Ji^{1, 2, 3#}, Shaojie Zhou^{1#}, Wenwen Chen^{1#}, Bin Cao¹,
Jingjing Zhuang¹, Sheng Zhang¹, Bingshuo Han¹, Benping Yang¹,
Shuxiang Zhang^{2,3}, Yanfeng Xue⁴, Jibin Zhang^{2*}, Yinglao Zhang^{3*}, Wei Liu^{1*}

¹Anhui Province Key Laboratory of Crop Integrated Pest Management,
School of Plant Protection, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, 230036, China

²National Key Laboratory of Agricultural Microbiology, College of Life Science and Technology,
Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, 430070, China

³Anhui Province Key Laboratory of Resource Insect Biology and Innovative Utilization,
School of Life Sciences, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, 230036, China

⁴College of Animal Science and Technology, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, 230036, China



Xiaowen Ji, Shaojie Zhou, Wenwen Chen, Bin Cao, Jingjing Zhuang, Sheng Zhang, Bingshuo Han, et al. 2025.

The gut microbiome promotes the growth performance of black soldier fly larvae by detoxifying uric acid.

iMetaOmics 2: e70070. <https://doi.org/10.1002/imo2.70070>



Background

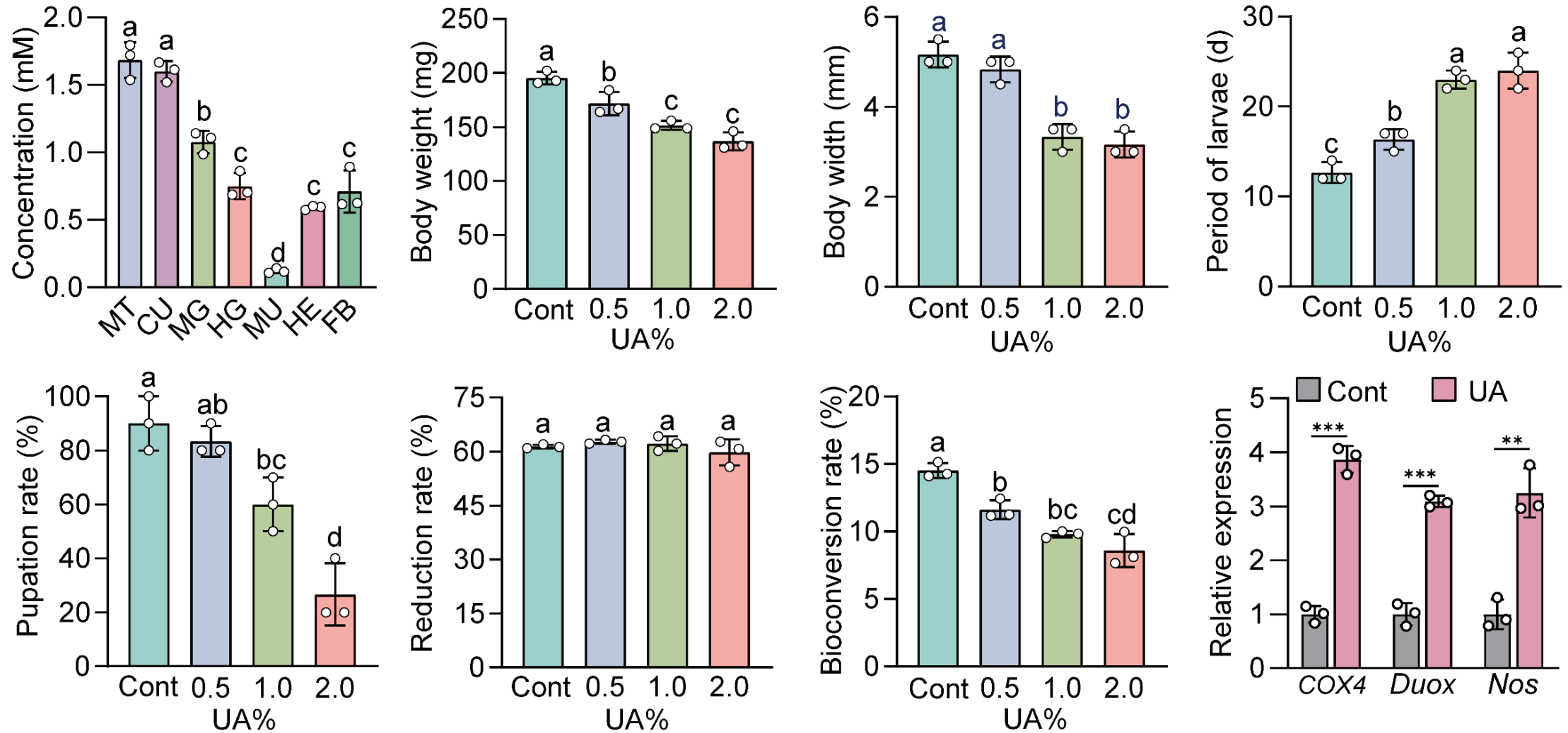
- Black soldier fly (BSF) larvae can convert various organic wastes, including livestock and poultry manure.
- Poultry manure contains high concentrations of uric acid (UA), representing about 50% of its nitrogen compounds, which poses a potential toxic threat to BSF larvae.
- Gut microbiome is crucial for BSF larvae in waste conversion.





Results

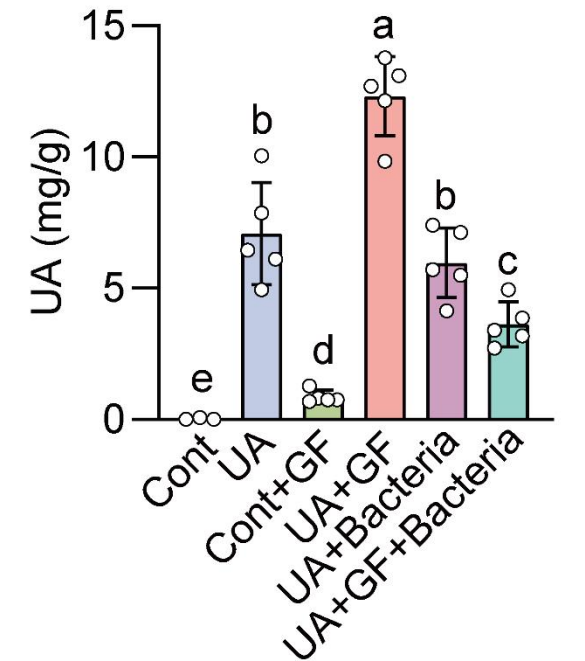
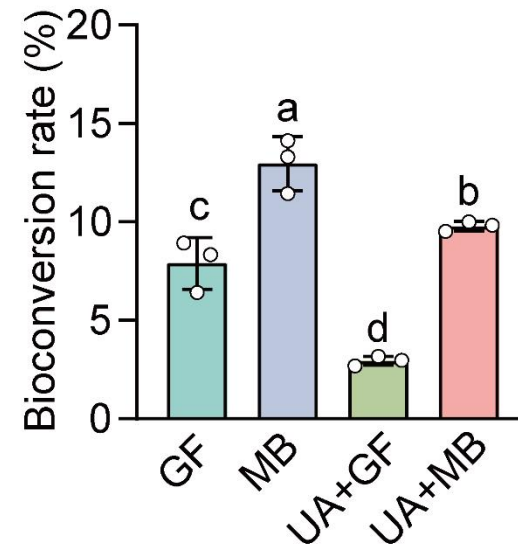
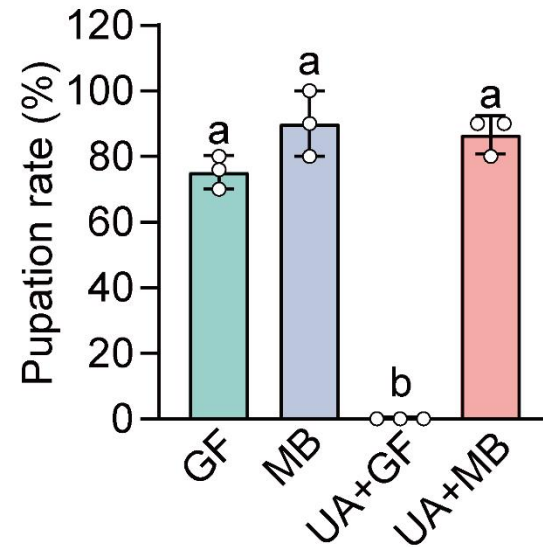
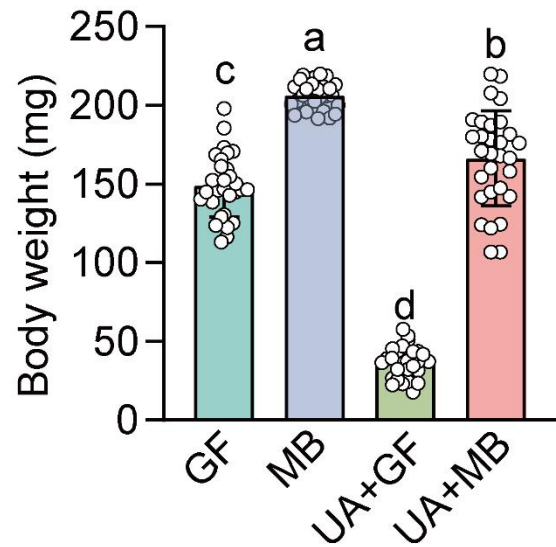
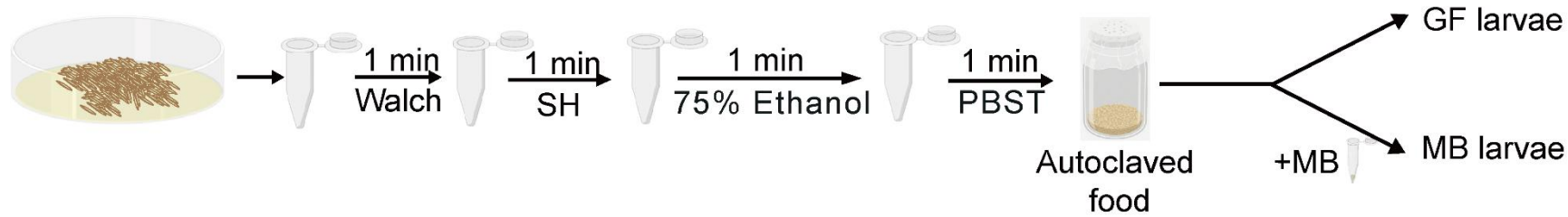
BSF larval growth is negatively affected by UA stress





Results

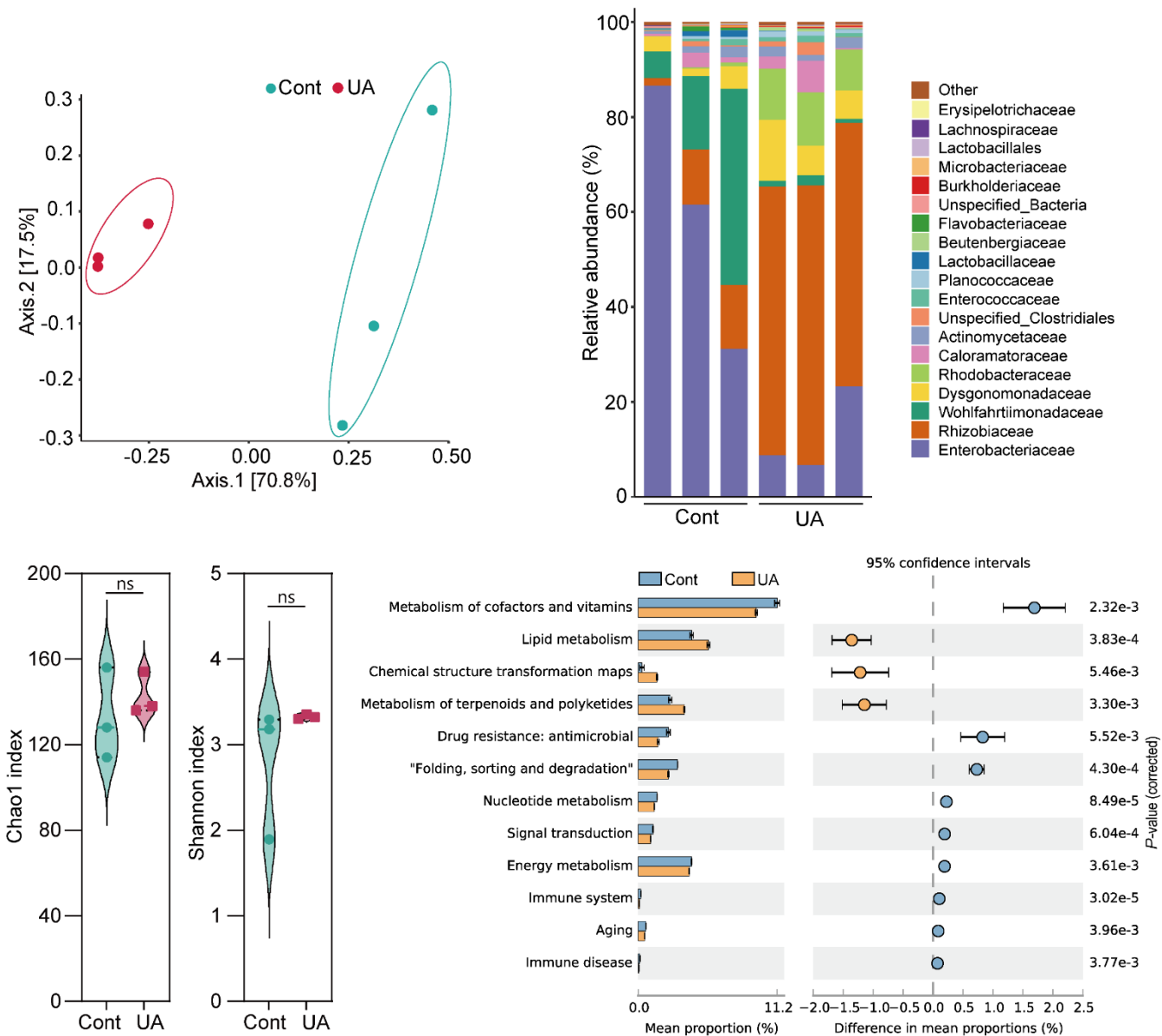
The microbiome mitigates UA toxicity to larval growth performance





Results

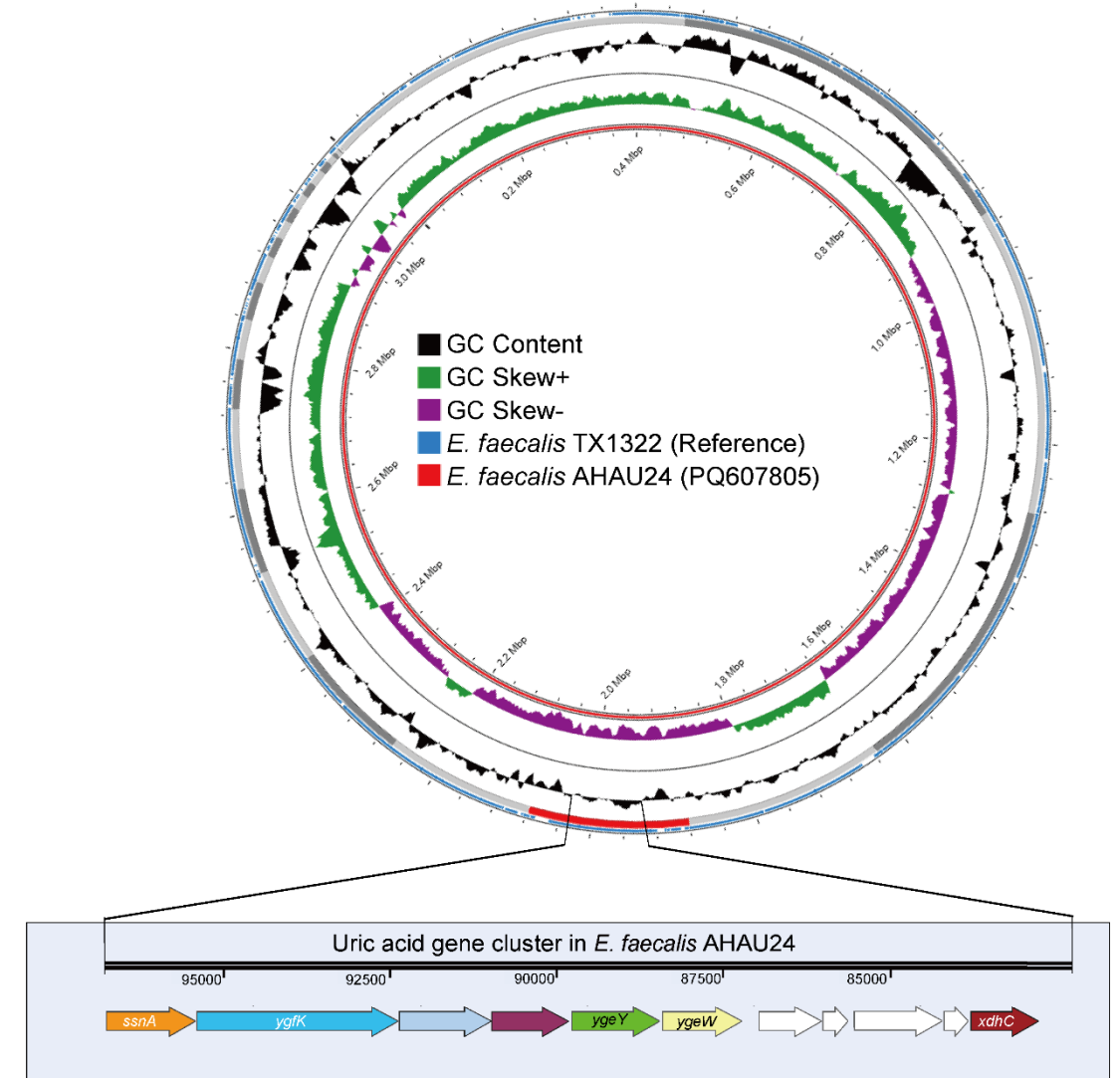
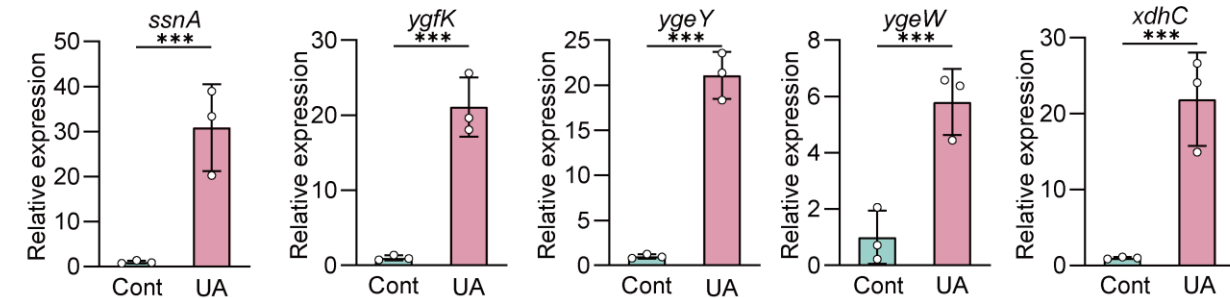
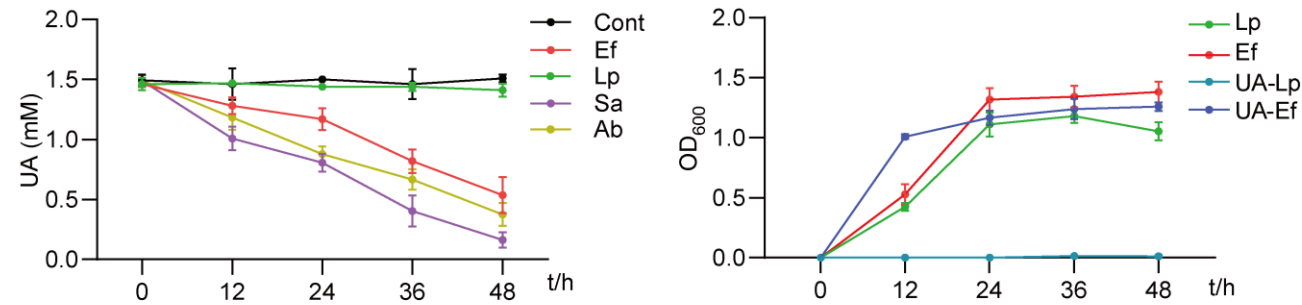
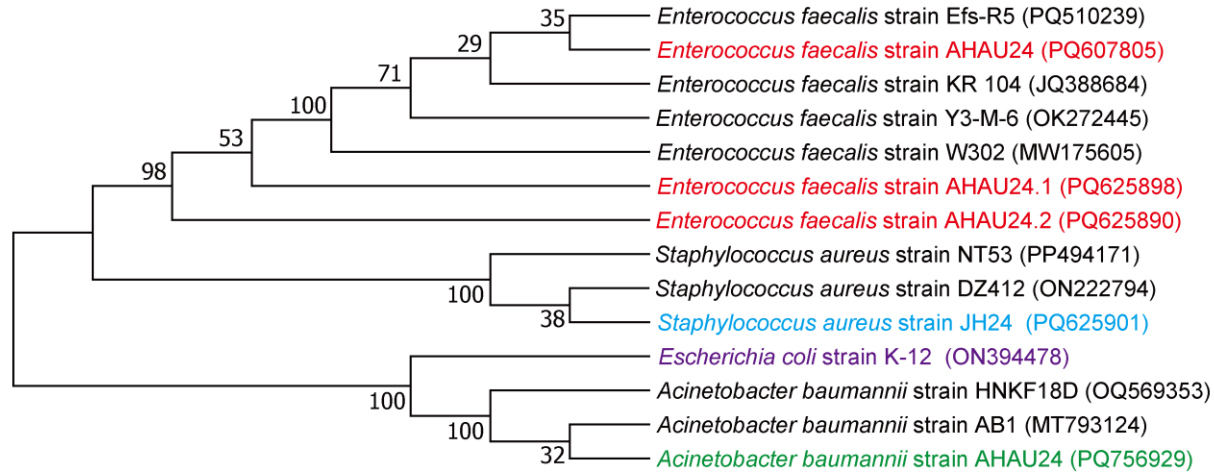
UA alters microbial composition in larval intestines





Results

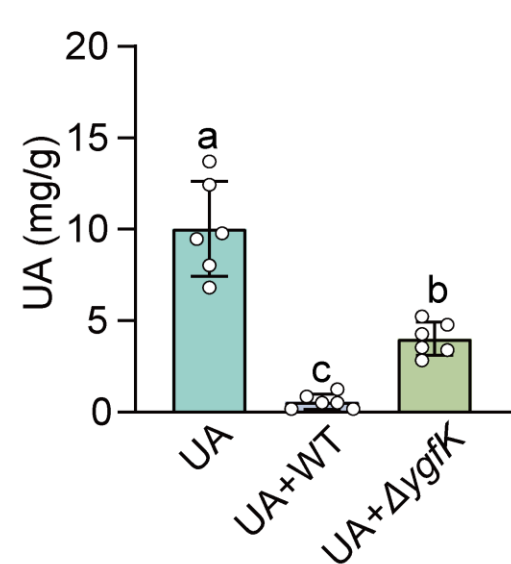
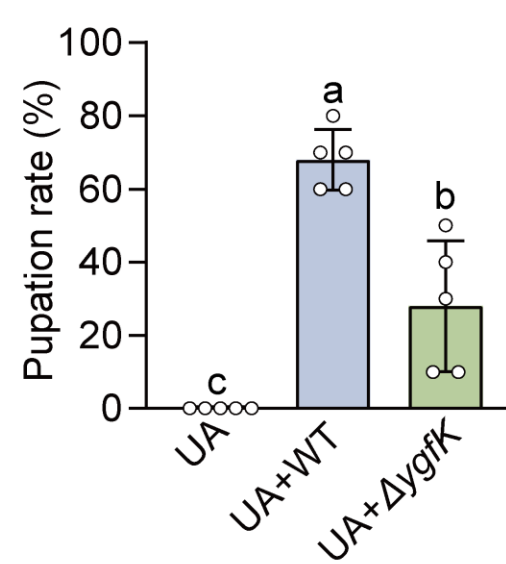
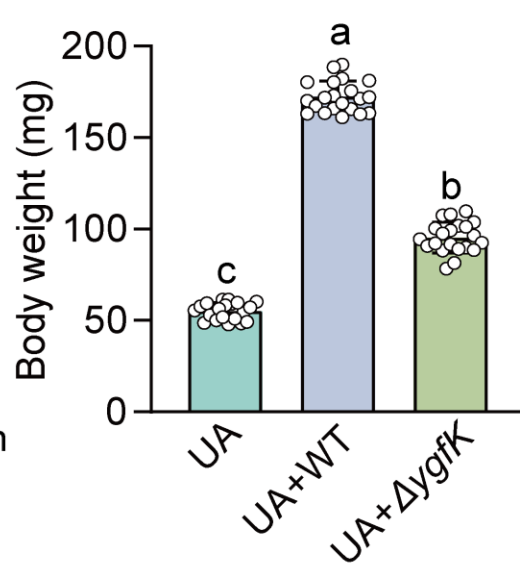
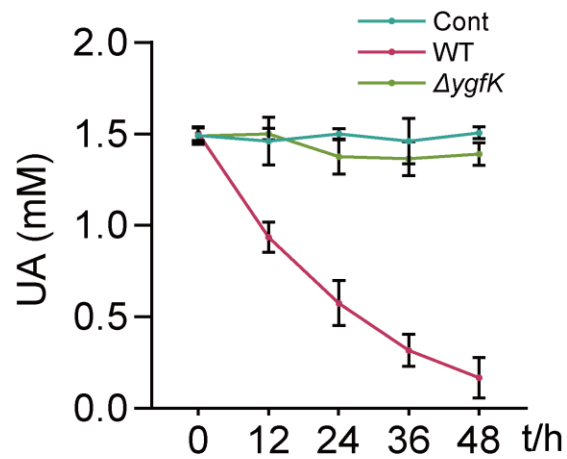
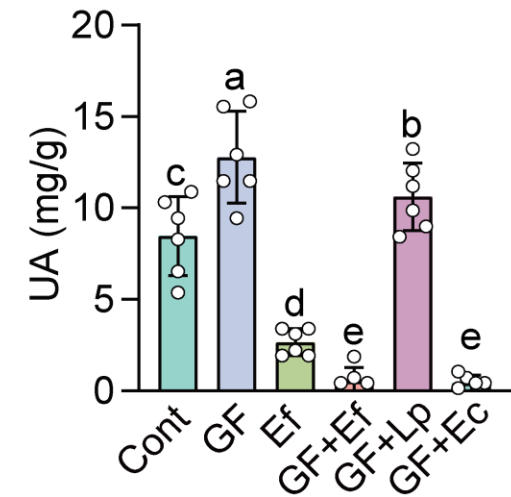
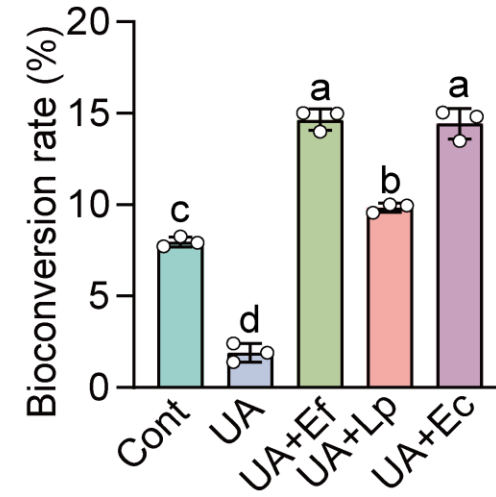
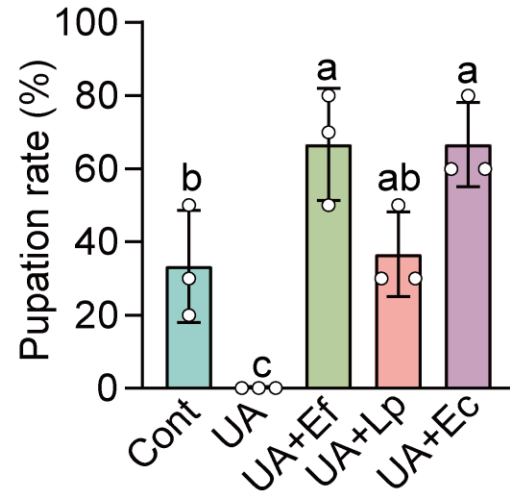
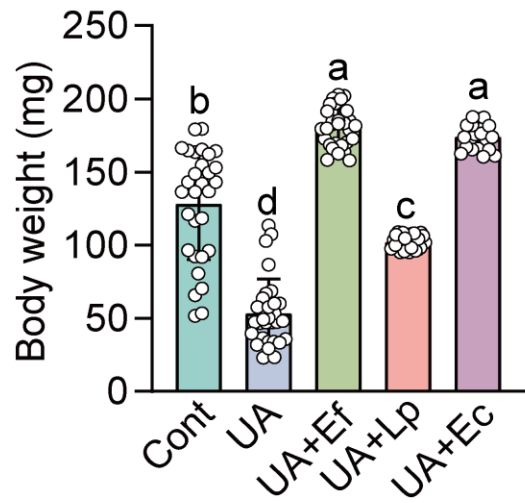
Characterization of UA-degrading bacteria and genomic insights into UA catabolism





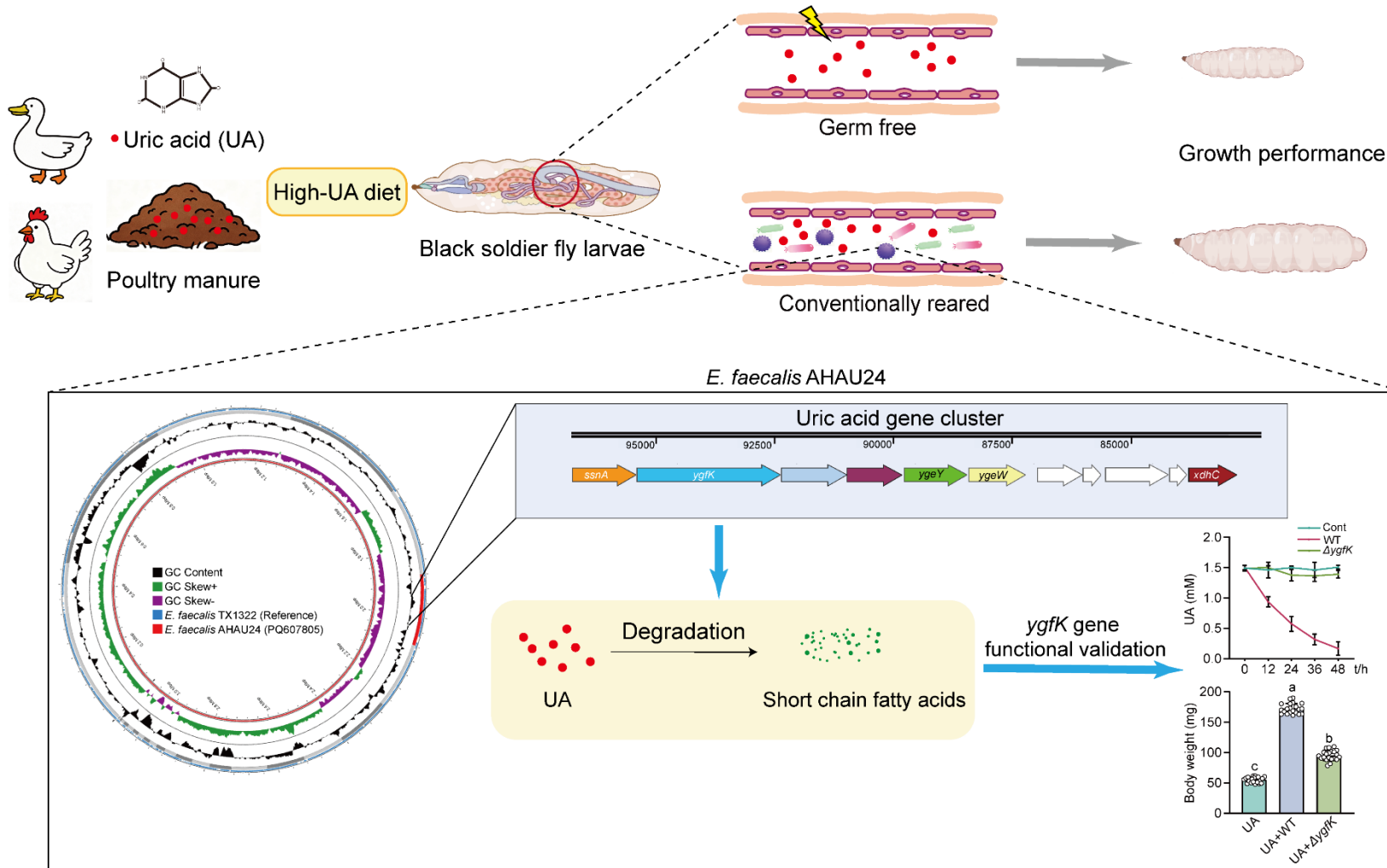
Results

E. faecalis alleviates larval growth arrest under UA stress





Conclusion



- ❑ UA stress impaired the growth performance of black soldier fly larvae and reduced bioconversion rate.
- ❑ The gut microbiome mitigated these detrimental effects on the host by degrading uric acid, thereby providing a protective role.
- ❑ We isolated uric acid-degrading bacterial strains from the BSF larval gut and identified a specific gene cluster responsible for uric acid degradation that conferred a protective effect on the host.

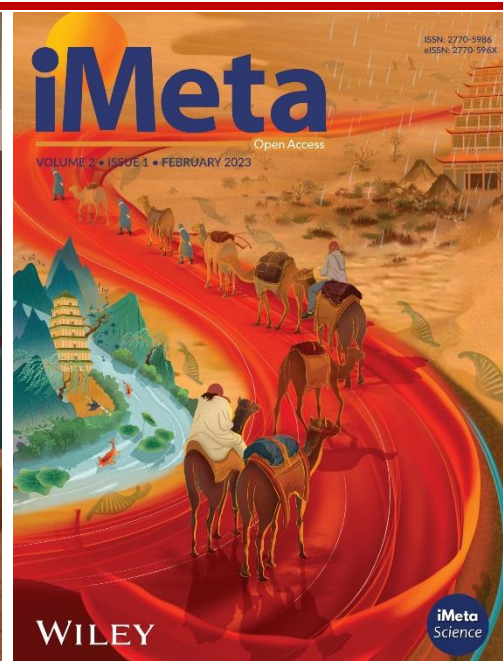
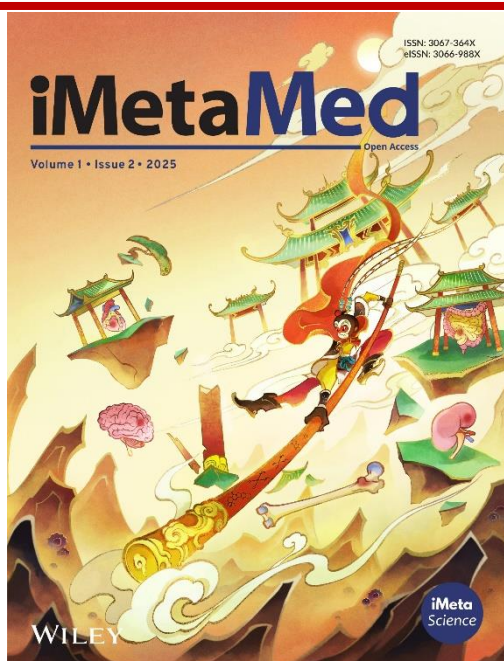
Xiaowen Ji, Shaojie Zhou, Wenwen Chen, Bin Cao, Jingjing Zhuang, Sheng Zhang, Bingshuo Han, et al. 2025.

The gut microbiome promotes the growth performance of black soldier fly larvae by detoxifying uric acid.

iMetaOmics 2: e70070. <https://doi.org/10.1002/imo2.70070>

iMeta: To be top journals in biology and medicine

WILEY



“***iMeta***” launched in 2022 by iMeta Science Society, **impact factor (IF) 33.2**, ranking **top 65/22249 in world and 2/161 in the microbiology**. It aims to publish innovative and high-quality papers with broad and diverse audiences. **Its scope is similar to *Cell*, *Nature Biotechnology*/*Methods*/*Microbiology*/*Medicine*/*Food***. Its unique features include video abstract, bilingual publication, and social media with 600,000 followers. Indexed by **SCIE/ESI**, **PubMed**, **Google Scholar** etc.

“***iMetaOmics***” launched in 2024, with a **target IF>10**, and its scope is similar to ***Nature Communications*, *Cell Reports*, *Microbiome*, *ISME J*, *Nucleic Acids Research*, *Briefings in Bioinformatics***, etc.

“***iMetaMed***” launched in 2025, with a **target IF>15**, similar to ***Med*, *Cell Reports Medicine*, *eBioMedicine*, *eClinicalMedicine*** etc.



Society: <http://www.imeta.science>

Publisher: <https://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/imeta>

iMeta: <https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/IMT2>

Submission: iMetaOmics: <https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/IMO2>

iMetaMed: <https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/IMM3>



[iMetaScience](#)



[iMetaScience](#)



office@imeta.science

imetaomics@imeta.science



[Promotion Video](#)

Update
2025/7/6