

# MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

## High fire recurrence reduces ectomycorrhizal fungal diversity of Mediterranean pine forests

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| Journal:                      | <i>Molecular Ecology</i>   |
| Manuscript ID                 | MEC-20-0408  |
| Manuscript Type:              | Original Article   |
| Date Submitted by the Author: | 09-Apr-2020  |
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| Keywords:                     | ectomycorrhizal communities, enzymatic activity, fire recurrence, Mediterranean pines, serotiny  |
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1 **High fire recurrence reduces ectomycorrhizal fungal diversity of Mediterranean pine**  
2 **forests**

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18 **Running title:** Mycorrhizas in fire-prone Mediterranean ecosystems

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22 **Competing interests**

23 The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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26

28 **Abstract**

29 Fire is a major disturbance linked to the evolutionary history and climate of Mediterranean  
30 ecosystems, where the vegetation has evolved fire-adaptive traits (e.g., serotiny in pines). In  
31 Mediterranean forests, mutualistic feedbacks between trees and ectomycorrhizal (ECM)  
32 fungi, essential for ecosystem dynamics, might be drastically threatened by fire. We tested  
33 how fire regime alters the structure and function of ECM communities of *Pinus pinaster* and  
34 *Pinus halepensis* Mediterranean forests, and analyzed the relative contribution of  
35 environmental (climate, soil properties) and tree-mediated (serotiny) factors. For both pines,  
36 high fire recurrence significantly reduced local and regional ECM fungal diversity, although  
37 certain fungal species were favored by recurrent fire. The high fire recurrence also associated  
38 a general decline of ECM root-tip enzymatic activity for *Pinus pinaster*, while it did not  
39 imply major functional changes for *Pinus halepensis*. Separated effects of fire regime related-  
40 factors such as climate, soil properties or tree phenotype drove these processes. In addition to  
41 the main influence of climate, the tree fire-adaptive trait serotiny recovered a great portion of  
42 the variation in structure and function of fungal communities associated with the fire regime.  
43 Edaphic conditions (especially pH, tightly linked to bedrock type) were an important driver  
44 shaping ECM fungal communities, but mainly at the local scale and likely independently of  
45 the fire regime. Our results show that fire regime strongly impacts ECM fungal communities,  
46 and reveal complex feedbacks among trees, mutualistic fungi and surrounding environment in  
47 fire-prone Mediterranean forest ecosystems.

48

49 **Keywords:** ectomycorrhizal communities, enzymatic activity, fire recurrence, Mediterranean  
50 pines, serotiny

## 51 **Introduction**

52 Mediterranean climate is characterized by a marked seasonality with mild winters and hot dry  
53 summers, which gives rise to one of the most fire-prone ecosystems in the world (Pausas,  
54 2004). The evolutionary history of these ecosystems is tightly linked to fire (Keeley, Bond,  
55 Bradstock, Pausas, & Rundel, 2011). Recurrent burning has markedly structured plant  
56 communities in this area (Verdú & Pausas, 2007), where many species have developed  
57 evolutionary mechanisms of resistance and resilience to fire (Pausas, 2015; Tapias, Climent,  
58 Pardos, & Gil, 2004). A good example of fire-adaptive trait is serotiny, i.e., the retention of  
59 mature seeds in closed cones for more than a year until dispersion and germination is  
60 activated by fire, evolved by some representative Mediterranean pine species (Budde et al.,  
61 2014; Hernández-Serrano, Verdú, González-Martínez, & Pausas, 2013) and other conifers in  
62 fire-dominated systems (Greene et al., 1999). Fire generates phenotypic divergence on  
63 serotiny, a heritable trait in Mediterranean pines, ultimately producing local adaptation  
64 (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2014). There is evidence that serotiny is related to differences in  
65 fire regime, increasing with the frequency of stand-replacing fires (Hernández-Serrano et al.,  
66 2013; Radeloff, Mladenoff, Guries, & Boyce, 2004). Changes in the fire regime are closely  
67 linked to climate (Pausas, 2004), and predicted climate change scenarios make Mediterranean  
68 ecosystems especially vulnerable. Temperature rise and rainfall decrease are expected to  
69 increase drought risk and consequently forest wildfires, altering the structure and successional  
70 dynamics of Mediterranean forests (Lindner et al., 2010).

71 Ecosystem development is driven by interactions among climatic conditions, edaphic  
72 environment and biotic communities. Given the role of fungi in organic matter turnover and  
73 nutrient cycling, they are key players in the plant-soil-microbial feedbacks that determine  
74 ecosystem development after disturbances (Clemmensen et al., 2015). Specifically,

75 mutualistic ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi, which are tightly linked to the host through  
76 specialized symbiotic structures, mediate the uptake and transfer of water and nutrients to  
77 trees (Smith & Read, 2008). They channel the photosynthetic carbon (C) fixed by trees into  
78 the belowground, influencing soil C storage and nutrient cycling (Clemmensen et al., 2013;  
79 Talbot, Allison, & Treseder, 2008). This symbiosis can provide up to the 80% of nutrients to  
80 trees and alleviate their hydric stress (Kivlin, Emery, & Rudgers, 2013; van der Heijden,  
81 Martin, Selosse, & Sanders, 2015), and therefore can be especially relevant in severe  
82 environments e.g., recurrent fire and drought conditions in Mediterranean ecosystems  
83 (Egerton-Warburton, Querejeta, & Allen, 2007; Prieto et al., 2016; Querejeta, Egerton-  
84 Warburton, & Allen, 2007).

85 Fire affects ECM communities mainly through vegetation damages and altered soil properties  
86 (Buscardo et al., 2015; Hart, DeLuca, Newman, MacKenzie, & Boyle, 2005; Rincón &  
87 Pueyo, 2010), conditions that may favor fire-tolerant fungi (Glassman, Levine, Dirocco,  
88 Battles, & Bruns, 2016; Rincón, Santamaría-Pérez, Ocaña, & Verdú, 2014). Certain fungi can  
89 remain for long time in the soil spore banks and be advantaged after fire, as it has been shown  
90 in closed-cone pine forest populations with historical highly recurrent and intense fires (Baar,  
91 Horton, Kretzer, & Runs, 1999; Bruns et al., 2009; Glassman et al., 2016, 2015). Fire usually  
92 decreases root mycorrhizal colonization and fungal richness (Dove & Hart, 2017). More  
93 generally, fire drastically disrupts the species composition of the mycorrhizal communities,  
94 usually leading to their simplification with the dominance of pioneer fungi (Dove & Hart,  
95 2017; Buscardo et al., 2015; de Román & de Miguel, 2005; Rincón et al., 2014; Torres &  
96 Honrubia, 1997). Additionally, because intraspecific plant genotypic and phenotypic variation  
97 affects the structure of their associated ECM fungi (Gehring & Whitham, 1991; Pérez-  
98 Izquierdo et al., 2017, 2019; van der Heijden et al., 2015) it is plausible that genetically fire-

99 driven changes in trees, such as serotiny degree, may co-affect these mutualistic communities  
100 for example by determining the C available to exchange in symbiosis. Nevertheless, fires  
101 recurrently affect big areas of Mediterranean ecosystems, yet the cumulative effects of  
102 recurrent wildfires on ECM fungal communities are less known than those of single wildfires  
103 (Buscardo et al., 2015).

104 In our study, we targeted forests of two representative Mediterranean tree species, Maritime  
105 pine (*Pinus pinaster* Ait.) and Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis* Mill.), amply distributed in the  
106 Iberian Peninsula. While the Maritime pine usually grows in acid soils at 700-1700 m  
107 altitude, the Aleppo pine grows in basic substrate and below 800 m (Ruíz, Álvarez-Uria, &  
108 Zavala, 2009). *Pinus halepensis* is typically distributed in warm and dry areas, even under  
109 extreme drought induced either by climate or soil constituents (e.g., marls, gypsum, rocky  
110 slopes) (Ruíz et al., 2009). Both pine species have a life history related to fire adaptation  
111 (Tapias et al., 2004) displaying great post-fire colonizing abilities (Barbéro, Loisel, & Quézel,  
112 1998) and showing fire-adaptive traits such as serotiny (Pausas, 2015). The natural  
113 regeneration and dynamics of these pine forests critically relies on ECM fungal communities,  
114 because pine species are obligatory ectomycorrhizal (Nuñez, Horton, & Simberloff, 2009;  
115 Smith & Read, 2008). Recurrent fires, tightly linked to climate in these Mediterranean areas,  
116 might act as an environmental filter, culling plant and microbial species unable to tolerate  
117 conditions at a particular location and thus preventing their establishment or persistence  
118 (Kraft et al., 2015).

119 Based on all these premises, we expected that i) due to the habitat filtering imposed by the fire  
120 regime, the ECM fungal communities in high fire recurrence sites (HiFi hereafter) would be  
121 less diverse and more homogeneous than those in low fire recurrence sites (LoFi hereafter),  
122 and that it would imply different functional outcomes. In our study area, the distinct historical

123 fire recurrence has induced a sharp serotiny divergence in trees within the HiFi and LoFi  
124 populations along time (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013). Serotiny has been proven to be a  
125 heritable trait associated with the genotype of trees (Budde et al., 2014; Castellanos,  
126 González-Martínez, & Pausas, 2015; Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013). Because different tree  
127 genotypes can influence their associated ECM fungi (Gehring & Whitham, 1991; Pérez-  
128 Izquierdo et al., 2017), we further hypothesize that, at the finer scale of individuals, ii) the  
129 serotiny degree of trees, i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation, will explain structural and functional  
130 divergences of ECM fungal communities.

131 In order to address these predictions, we characterized the structure of root-tip ECM fungal  
132 communities of natural *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* forests (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013).  
133 For both pine forests, serotinous populations growing under a warm and dry Mediterranean  
134 climate subjected to high fire frequency and non-serotinous populations growing under a  
135 subhumid climate where fires are rare (Verdú & Pausas, 2007) were surveyed (Figure S1).  
136 Additionally, we determined, on excised ECM root-tips, potential fungal enzymatic traits  
137 related to C turnover and mobilization of nutrients. These are processes directly implicated in  
138 the exchange of resources that support most mycorrhizal symbioses and many essential  
139 ecosystem functions (Johnson et al. 2012).

140

## 141 **Material and Methods**

### 142 *Study sites and sampling*

143 Surveys were conducted in natural forests of *P. pinaster* (Ppi) and of *P. halepensis* (Pha)  
144 located in eastern Spain (Figure S1). We selected nine pine populations located in high fire  
145 recurrence sites where crown-fires are historically frequent and most regeneration events are  
146 driven by fire (HiFi populations), while the other selected six populations were located in low

147 fire recurrence areas where most regeneration events are independent of fire because fire  
148 events are rare (LoFi populations) (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013; Pausas et al., 2004). In the  
149 study area, fire is tightly linked to Mediterranean climatic conditions (i.e., drought) (Pausas,  
150 Bradstock, Keith, Keeley, & Network, 2004). Recent fire history information (Pausas &  
151 Fernández-Muñoz, 2012; Pausas, 2004) shows that more than 50% of the study area at HiFi  
152 conditions burned at least once during the 1978–2001 period, while for LoFi conditions, the  
153 proportion was about 15% (Abdel Malak & Pausas, 2006). From a microevolutionary point of  
154 view, this distinct fire regime has induced a sharp serotiny divergence within these  
155 populations (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013). More than 500 genes were differentially  
156 expressed across the two pine accessions from HiFi and LoFi populations (Pinosio et al.,  
157 2014) and three high-differentiation outlier single nucleotide polymorphisms-SNPs were  
158 identified between HiFi and LoFi stands, suggesting fire-related selection at the regional scale  
159 (Budde et al., 2017). Thus, despite the lack of long-term fire statistics for the specific study  
160 sites, there is strong evidence that the fire interval is much shorter in HiFi areas than in LoFi.  
161 The serotiny degree of these pine populations growing under distinct fire regime has been  
162 accurately characterized in Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013 (Table S1). Briefly, serotiny was  
163 estimated considering both the cone age and the proportion of serotinous cones, i.e., the  
164 number of closed cones, those remaining closed after maturation, with respect to the total  
165 fully ripe (open and closed) cones (see Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013 for details). The  
166 characteristics of pine populations related to productivity (diameter at breast height; DBH),  
167 fire-adaptation traits (bark thickness and serotiny degree), as well as location and local  
168 environmental variables are described in Table S1. All the selected stands were mature pine  
169 populations, with DBH between 20.8 and 35.4 cm corresponding to trees of more than 40 yr  
170 (Camarero, Olano, & Parras, 2010; Vieira et al., 2015).



171 In May 2013, five trees per population separated by more than 10 m were selected from a  
172 total of 15 populations ( $n = 75$ ). Under each tree, the litter was removed and samples were  
173 obtained, approximately 1 m far from the trunk, by excavating 10 x 10 x 20 cm soil holes at  
174 the four orientations (north, south, east and west). The four samples per tree were pooled into  
175 a combined sample and kept at 4 °C in plastic bags until processing. Once in the lab, roots  
176 were separated from soil, coarse roots discarded (diameter > 2 mm), and remaining roots  
177 gently washed with tap water over 2 and 0.5 mm sieves for collecting root tips. All  
178 ectomycorrhizal (ECM) root tips per each sample were carefully selected (Rincón et al.,  
179 2014), cleaned and sorted per sample under a stereomicroscope for further enzymatic and  
180 molecular analyses. Remaining soil was air dried and sieved (2 mm) for analysis.

181 The gravimetric soil moisture of soil samples was determined by drying at 105 °C for 48 h.  
182 Air-dried soils were measured for pH (2 g of soil in 10 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O, 1:5, w:v), electrical  
183 conductivity (EC) (1:5, w:v in H<sub>2</sub>O), organic matter (OM) (Walkley & Black, 1934), total N  
184 (Kjeldahl method). Extractable P was determined by the Bray & Kurtz (1945) method, after  
185 extraction in an ammonium fluoride and chloride acid solution. Extractable potassium (K)  
186 was determined after nitric acid digestion according to Isaac & Kerber (1971). Both P and K  
187 extracts were measured by inductively coupled plasma spectrometry (Optima 4300DV,  
188 Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, EE.UU.).

#### 189 *Enzymatic tests*

190 The fungal community functioning was evaluated on excised ECM root tips by measuring  
191 activities of eight hydrolytic and oxidative exoenzymes secreted by fungi. Seven enzymatic  
192 tests were based on fluorogenic substrate release, methylumbelliferone (MU) e.g.  $\beta$ -  
193 glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.3 at ExPasy-Enzyme database) and cellobiohydrolase (EC 3.2.1.91)  
194 that degrade cellulose,  $\beta$ -xylosidase (EC 3.2.1.37) and  $\beta$ -glucuronidase (EC 3.2.1.31) implied

195 in the degradation of hemicellulose, acid phosphatase (EC 3.1.3.2) involved in the  
196 mobilization of phosphorus, N-acetylglucosaminidase or chitinase (EC 3.2.1.14) which  
197 hydrolyses chitin, or methylcoumarine (AMC) for L-leucineaminopeptidase (3.4.11.1) related  
198 to the mobilization of nitrogen from peptidic substrates. The Laccase (1.10.3.2) activity was  
199 determined by a photometric assay based on ABTS substrate (2,2'-Azino-bis (3-ethylbenzo-  
200 thiazolin-6-sulfonic acid). This enzyme is related to the degradation of recalcitrant  
201 compounds such as lignin. Enzymatic activities were determined following the protocol  
202 described by Courty, Pritsch, Schloter, Hartmann, & Garbaye (2005), with modifications. A  
203 total of 280 ECM-tips were randomly collected per sample and separated in subsets of 7  
204 ECM-tips with 5 replicates per each enzymatic test. Each replicate thus consisted of a tube  
205 with 7 pooled ECM-tips that were incubated in buffer during the corresponding time for each  
206 enzyme (Courty et al., 2005), after which 100  $\mu$ l of the respective enzymatic reaction mix was  
207 added to 100  $\mu$ l of stopping buffer in 96-well microplates. Enzymatic activities were  
208 measured in a Victor microplate reader (Perkin-Elmer Life Sciences, Massachusetts, USA),  
209 with 355/460 nm excitation/emission wavelengths for the fluorogenic assays and 415 nm for  
210 laccase. After reading, the ECM-tips of each replicate were scanned and their area calculated  
211 with the software ImageJ 1.49. Enzymatic activities were expressed in  $\text{pmol min}^{-1}\text{mm}^{-2}$ .

### 212 *Molecular analyses*

213 Per each measured enzyme, the ECM-tips were pooled (7 ECM-tips subsets x 5 replicates =  
214 35), added of a pinch of polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP), and the DNA extracted with the  
215 Invisorb®DNA Plant HTS 96 Kit/C kit (Invitek GmbH, Berlin, Germany), making a total of  
216 600 DNA extractions (75 tree samples x 8 enzymes) corresponding to 280 root tips per tree.  
217 The internal transcribed spacer region ITS-1 of the nuclear ribosomal DNA was amplified  
218 with the primer pair ITS1F-ITS2 (Gardes & Bruns, 1993) adapted for Illumina-MiSeq. Each

219 sample was amplified in three independent 20  $\mu$ l PCR reactions, each containing 2  $\mu$ l of 10x  
220 polymerase buffer, 2.4  $\mu$ l of 25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.12  $\mu$ l of 10 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> BSA, 0.4  $\mu$ l of 10 mM  
221 Nucleotide Mix, 0.4  $\mu$ l of 10 mM forward/reverse primers and 0.2  $\mu$ l of AmpliTaqGold  
222 polymerase (5 U ml<sup>-1</sup>) (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Negative controls without  
223 DNA were included in all runs to detect possible contaminations. The PCR conditions were as  
224 follow: 3 min 94 °C, 30 cycles of 1 min 94 °C, 30 s 53 °C and 45 s 72 °C, with a final step of  
225 10 min 72 °C. Independent reactions were combined per sample, and each PCR product was  
226 purified (UltraClean PCR clean-up kit of MoBio, Carlsbad, CA, USA), quantified  
227 (PicoGreen, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA), and finally pooled in an equimolar  
228 library containing 75 samples. Sequencing was carried out on an Illumina MiSeq sequencer (2  
229  $\times$  300 bp paired-end reads) in an external service (Parque Científico de Madrid, Spain).

### 230 *Bioinformatic analyses*

231 Sequences were de-multiplexed according to their tags, filtered and trimmed using the  
232 *fastq\_filter* command and *fastq\_truncqual* option of Usearchv.7.0.1001 (Edgar, 2013) for  
233 eliminating quality scores  $\leq$  10. We used FLASH to merge reads with a minimum overlap of  
234 110 bp, resulting in 58.3 % of retained sequences (4205677 out of the initial set of 7215915  
235 sequences). Then, sequences were dereplicated with the *derep\_fulllength* Usearch command.  
236 De-replicated sequences were sorted by decreasing abundance, and singletons discarded with  
237 the *sortbysize* Usearch command. Finally, 4116377 sequences (57 %) were retained.  
238 Operational taxonomic units (OTUs) were generated from abundance-sorted sequences using  
239 the *cluster\_otus* Usearch command with a 97 % similarity threshold. Extracted ITS sequences  
240 were then mapped against the OTU representative sequences using the *usearch\_global*  
241 Usearch command. Taxonomic assignation of representative sequences for each OTU was  
242 done according to the 7.2 UNITE database (Kõljalg et al., 2013). Fungal taxonomic

243 assignment served to identify those OTUs closely related to recognized ECM taxa (Nguyen et  
244 al., 2016; Tedersoo et al., 2014; Tedersoo & Smith, 2013). The 86 % of the inferred  
245 sequences corresponded to ECM fungi and these were used for all subsequent analyses.

246

#### 247 *Statistical analyses*

248 The effect of the fire recurrence (HiFi vs LoFi) on the structure (i.e., alpha and beta-diversity)  
249 and functioning (i.e., enzymatic activities) of ECM fungal communities (hypothesis 1) was  
250 separately evaluated by pine forest. Beta-diversity of total and by phyla ECM fungal  
251 communities of the different pine populations was calculated with the functions `betadisper`  
252 and `permutest` of the `vegan` package (Anderson, Ellingsen, & McArdle, 2006; Oksanen et al.,  
253 2015), and visualized by Principal Component Analyses (PCoA). Beta-diversity was  
254 calculated on Bray-Curtis abundance matrix of OTUs previously normalized by variance  
255 stabilization according to McMurdie and Holmes (2014) by using the `DESeq` package  
256 (Anders & Huber, 2012).

257 Alpha-diversity was analysed by General Linear Models (GLMs) ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the number of  
258 fungal OTUs as response variable. In these models, the square root of the total number of  
259 sequences obtained per sample was included as a covariate to account for differences in  
260 sequencing depth (Tedersoo et al., 2014). Models at lower taxonomic levels were also  
261 performed (i.e., phyla and families). In all cases, before modelling, Shapiro and Levene tests  
262 were performed to test the normality and homocedasticity of data, and variables were log or  
263 square root transformed when needed. Firstly, we modelled the effect of the variable pine  
264 forest on ECM fungal alpha-diversity, using pine forest as fixed factor and the site nested  
265 within pine forest. Subsequent GLMs analyses were separately performed for each pine  
266 species. In these models, the fire regime was introduced as fixed factor and the site (i.e., pine

267 population) nested within fire regime (n = 35 *P. pinaster* trees and n = 40 *P. halepensis* trees).  
268 Same GLM syntaxes were used to test the effect of fire recurrence on the different root-tip  
269 enzymatic activities. Correlations between enzymatic activities and ECM fungal community  
270 assemblages of the pine populations were analyzed by Mantel tests with *ade4* R package.  
271 To identify representative fungal OTUs of each fire regime per pine species, the Indicator  
272 Species Analysis (with OTUs >100 reads to avoid spurious relations) was carried out  
273 ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the function *multipatt* of the *indicspecies* R package (Cáceres, Legendre, & He,  
274 2013).  
275 Climatic and edaphic characteristics are intimately associated with fire regime in  
276 Mediterranean ecosystems (Pausas et al., 2004). So, to separate the edaphic and climatic  
277 effects from that of the fire regime, we performed CCA on Hellinger-transformed relative  
278 fungal abundance data and RDA with the Euclidean distance matrix of enzymatic activities  
279 both with forward selection of explanatory variables. We used different analyses due to their  
280 different data assumptions, RDA assumes a linear relationship between predictors and data  
281 while CCA assumes a unimodal response curve. In these models, the variable fire regime and  
282 the edaphic and climatic indexes were included. Previously, to reduce the dimensionality of  
283 environmental data, Principal Component Analyses (PCA) were independently run for  
284 edaphic variables (pH, OM, EC, N, P, K) and climatic variables (mean annual temperature,  
285 mean annual precipitation and altitude), and the first two axes, explaining the maximum  
286 amount of variance, of respective PCAs were used as edaphic or climatic indexes (Figure S2).  
287 To test our hypothesis 2, effect of tree serotiny degree (i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation) on  
288 ECM fungal community, two additional models with the factor serotiny and the edaphic and  
289 climatic indexes were included. As before, we performed a CCA model on Hellinger-

290 transformed relative fungal abundance data and a RDA model with the Euclidean distance  
291 matrix of enzymatic activities both with forward selection of explanatory variables.

292 Since the distribution of the two pine species considered in our study is closely linked to the  
293 bedrock type, i.e., *P. pinaster* preferentially settled on siliceous soils, while *P. halepensis*  
294 include both siliceous and calcareous soils (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013), we made  
295 additional analyses for testing possible confounding effects of pine species and bedrock type  
296 (both factors included in the variable pine forest). For this, the pine species effect on ECM  
297 fungal community structure and enzymatic activities was respectively checked by Canonical  
298 Correspondence (CCA) and Redundancy (RDA) analyses, only with data of Sinarcas, the  
299 unique location where populations of both pine species grow under a common bedrock  
300 environment (Table S1). No significant effects of the pine species identity on the ECM fungal  
301 community structure (CCA: n=218; explained variation %=12.4; P=0.204) or on the  
302 enzymatic profile (RDA: n=8; explained variation %=44.4; P=0.094) in the location Sinarcas  
303 were observed.

304 Ordinations were done with the software CANOCO v.5.0 (Biometris Plant Research  
305 International, Wageningen, Netherlands), and the rest of analyses with the R software v.3.5.2  
306 (R Core Team, 2014).

## 308 **Results**

### 309 *Sequencing yields and taxonomic identification of fungi*

310 A total of 501 ECM fungal OTUs corresponding to 3182548 sequences were identified.

311 Almost half of OTUs were found in both pine species and ~26 % exclusively in one of them

312 (Figure S3a). LoFi and HiFi pine populations shared the 54.8 % of OTUs, while ~21-23 %

313 were only found either in LoFi or HiFi (Figure S3a). Most OTUs belonged to Basidiomycota

314 (89.4 %), 10.2 % to Ascomycota, and 0.4 % to Zygomycota (Figure S3b; Table S2). The

315 taxonomic classification of OTUs allowed identifying 12 fungal orders, 30 families and 47

316 genera, most of them represented across all treatments (Table S2).

317 The majority of the 20 most abundant fungi and of the indicator species found in root tips of

318 *P. pinaster* belonged to *Tomentellaceae*, *Inocybaceae*, *Russulaceae*, and *Rhizopogonaceae*

319 and, in the case of *P. halepensis*, to *Pezizales*, *Thelephoraceae* and *Sebacinaceae* (Table S3;

320 Figure S4). The indicator species analysis revealed 54 fungal OTUs preferentially associated

321 to *P. pinaster* forests and 37 to *P. halepensis* forests (Table S3). Besides, 31 fungi belonging

322 to 14 different genera were indicators of LoFi populations of *P. pinaster* and 31 fungi

323 belonging to 13 different genera were indicators of LoFi populations of *P. halepensis*. In

324 contrast, 11 indicators from 5 different genera and 6 from 5 different genera were associated

325 with HiFi populations of *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* respectively (Table S3).

326

### 327 *Root-tip ectomycorrhizal fungal diversity*

328 Total fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity marginally varied between pine forests ( $R^2=0.13$ ;  $F=3.62$ ;  $P=0.062$ ).

329 At the phylum level, significantly less Basidiomycetes ( $R^2=0.24$ ;  $F=6.12$ ;  $P=0.016$ ) and

330 marginally more Ascomycetes ( $R^2=0.81$ ;  $F=3.88$ ;  $P=0.053$ ) were found in *P. halepensis* forest

331 compared with *P. pinaster*. The root-tips of *P. pinaster* were enriched of *Amanitaceae*,

332 *Atheliaceae*, *Cantharellaceae*, *Clavariaceae*, *Cortinariaceae*, *Gloniaceae*, *Rhizopogonaceae*  
333 and *Russulaceae* species, while in *P. halepensis* root-tips prevailed species of the families  
334 *Pezizaceae*, *Pyronemataceae* and *Sebacinaceae* (Table 1). At regional scale, root-tip ECM  
335 fungal  $\beta$ -diversity of both pine forests was similar ( $R^2=0.01$   $F=1.34$ ,  $P=0.265$ ), although  
336 Basidiomycetes were more dissimilar in *P. pinaster* than in *P. halepensis* forests ( $R^2=0.01$   
337  $F=4.44$ ,  $P=0.033$ ), and the opposite pattern was observed for Ascomycetes ( $R^2=0.03$ ;  $F=11.62$ ,  
338  $P=0.001$ ).

339 The ECM fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity was significantly lower in high fire recurrence (HiFi)  
340 populations compared with low fire recurrence (LoFi) populations in both pine forests (Figure  
341 1a), and this difference was consistent within the two fungal phyla i.e., Ascomycetes and  
342 Basidiomycetes (Figure 1b-c). Although the  $\alpha$ -diversity of many ECM fungal families  
343 decreased in HiFi populations of both pine forest (Table 1), some taxa were more diverse in  
344 HiFi, e.g. *Amanitaceae*, *Cantharellaceae* and *Rhizopogonaceae* for *P. pinaster*, or *Pezizaceae*  
345 for *P. halepensis* (Table 1). At regional scale, a consistent reduction of ECM fungal  $\beta$ -  
346 diversity was observed in HiFi populations of both pine forests (i.e., more homogeneous  
347 ECM communities in HiFi than LoFi) (Figure 2a). Likewise, Basidiomycetes were less  $\beta$ -  
348 diverse in HiFi than LoFi populations, while no difference was observed for Ascomycetes  
349 (Figure 2b-c).

350

### 351 *Potential enzymatic activity of ECM root-tips*

352 The enzymatic activity of the ECM root tips varied between pine forests (Figure 3). In LoFi  
353 populations, the enzymatic activity of ECM root tips was very similar for both pines, except  
354 in the case of cellobiohydrolase and phosphatase that were respectively higher and lower in *P.*  
355 *halepensis* compared with *P. pinaster* (Figure 3). By contrast, in HiFi populations, the activity



356 of most of the C-degrading enzymes (i.e., cellobiohydrolase,  $\beta$ -xylosidase and  $\beta$ -  
357 glucuronidase), and of those mobilizing nitrogen (i.e., chitinase and L-leucineaminopeptidase)  
358 was higher for *P. halepensis* than *P. pinaster*, with the exception of laccase that was lower  
359 (Figure 3).

360 The ECM fungal species assemblage of *P. pinaster* root-tips significantly correlated with their  
361 enzymatic profile (Mantel  $r=0.14$ ;  $P=0.003$ ). The HiFi populations of *P. pinaster* had higher  
362 root-tip laccase activity and lower hemicellulose degrading activity (i.e.,  $\beta$ -xylosidase,  $\beta$ -  
363 glucuronidase), and of enzymes mobilizing nitrogen (i.e., chitinase and L-  
364 leucineaminopeptidase) and phosphorus (i.e., acid phosphatase) (Figure 3). No significant  
365 relation between fungal community structure and enzymatic activity was observed for *P.*  
366 *halepensis* (Mantel  $r=0.03$ ;  $P=0.287$ ), although laccase activity significantly increased in HiFi  
367 populations (Figure 3).

368

### 369 *Main drivers of the structure and function of ECM fungal communities*

370 Climate, in particular temperature (Climate 1, first axis from PCA in Figure S2), together with  
371 fire recurrence, were major factors determining ECM fungal communities of Mediterranean  
372 pine forests (Table S4A; Figure 4a). As hypothesized, the tree trait serotiny (selected by fire  
373 regime) did affect the structure of root-tip ECM fungal communities (Table S4B; Figure 4a).  
374 Higher levels of serotiny significantly correlated with the ECM fungal community structure  
375 of HiFi populations in both *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* forests (Table S4B; Figure 4a).  
376 Contrarily, the edaphic effects were likely related to differences among plots inside LoFi or  
377 HiFi populations, i.e. the strength and direction of edaphic vectors along plots displayed in  
378 Figure 4a.

379 Regarding ECM functionality (i.e., enzymatic activities), the fire recurrence together with  
380 climatic variables explained root-tip enzymatic activity in *P. pinaster* forest (Table S4A;  
381 Figure 4b). Moreover, the serotiny degree of *P. pinaster* populations significantly correlated  
382 with the ECM root-tip enzymatic profile in HiFi populations, while soil characteristics mainly  
383 drove variations in enzymes among sites inside LoFi and HiFi populations (Table S4B; Figure  
384 4b). For *P. halepensis*, root-tip enzymatic activity was essentially driven by the surrounding  
385 edaphic environment (Table S4; Figure 4b), mainly by high pH and low phosphorus  
386 availability (see PC2 in Figure S2a).

387

## 388 Discussion

389 Mutualistic feedbacks between trees and ectomycorrhizal fungi that are essential for  
390 ecosystem dynamics can be highly vulnerable to fire in Mediterranean ecosystems. Our  
391 results show that fire regime shapes the structure and functioning of root-tip ECM fungal  
392 communities in fire-prone Mediterranean forests. Divergent ECM fungal communities  
393 associate with *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis*, which are highly influenced by the edaphic  
394 environment and climate. According to our first hypothesis, high fire recurrence reduces ECM  
395 fungal diversity and has a homogenizing effect on these communities, which leads to a  
396 reduced enzymatic activity for *P. pinaster* (but not for *P. halepensis*). Confirming our second  
397 hypothesis, this effect is evidenced at the finer scale of individuals since the serotiny degree  
398 of trees, i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation, does significantly affect the structure (for both *P.*  
399 *pinaster* and *P. halepensis*) and functioning (in the case of *P. pinaster*) of ECM fungal  
400 communities. In this work, relative contribution of main variables related to fire such as  
401 climate, soil properties and the tree trait serotiny structuring ECM fungal communities have  
402 been disentangled.

403

404 *ECM communities in P. pinaster and P. halepensis forests*

405 The tree species had a marginal effect on ECM fungal communities probably blurred by the  
406 strong effect of the local environmental conditions. The degree of tree host specificity for  
407 ECM fungi seems to be correlated with the phylogenetic distances between hosts (Tedersoo,  
408 Mett, Ishida, & Bahram, 2013). However, it has been shown that the genus *Pinus* associates  
409 with specialized ECM fungi, in particular within the genera *Suillus* and *Rhizopogon* (Smith &  
410 Read, 2008) and that even the *Pinus* genotype play an essential role in structuring ECM  
411 fungal communities (Gehring, Mueller, Haskins, Rubow, & Whitham, 2014; Pérez-Izquierdo  
412 et al., 2017, 2019). Given the importance of pH shaping fungal communities (Coince et al.,  
413 2014; Glassman, Wang, & Bruns, 2017; Rincón et al., 2015; Tedersoo et al., 2014), these  
414 divergent observations could be interpreted as context-dependent, i.e., in our study, soil pH  
415 (ranging from 5.1 to 8) was higher, even in Sinarcas where both pine species grew under a  
416 similar local environment, than in the mentioned studies (average pH of 5). The strong  
417 environmental filter imposed by the bedrock influence, mainly siliceous for *P. pinaster* and  
418 calcareous for *P. halepensis* (Ojeda, Pausas, & Verdú, 2010), was reflected in more diverse  
419 and more heterogeneous Ascomycetes species together with less diverse and more  
420 homogeneous Basidiomycetes in the case of *P. halepensis*, whereas the opposite pattern was  
421 observed for *P. pinaster*. We observed a preferential association of *P. halepensis* with fungal  
422 species of the genus *Sebacina* and the order Pezizales. So far, no tree host specificity has been  
423 observed among the *Sebacina* species (Ray & Craven, 2016; Selosse, Bauer, & Moyersoen,  
424 2002). Given the reported positive effects of sebacinous fungi against stresses such as  
425 herbivory, salinity or drought (Barazani & Baldwin, 2013; Ray & Craven, 2016; Zarea,  
426 Miransari, & Karimi, 2014), they could play a key role in the resistance of *P. halepensis* to

427 limited nutrient availability (i.e., related to high soil pH) and the restrictive conditions  
428 imposed by the Mediterranean climate. Similarly, ascomycetous ECM Pezizales, which tend  
429 to be favoured in basic soils, have traits such as their melanin production capacity that make  
430 them perfect symbionts under stressful conditions including post-fire scenarios (Koide,  
431 Fernandez, & Malcolm, 2014; Lamit et al., 2014; Rincón et al., 2014; Rincón & Pueyo, 2010;  
432 Tedersoo, Hansen, Perry, & Kjølner, 2006; Torres & Honrubia, 1997). On the other hand,  
433 species from the genera *Rhizopogon*, *Craterellus*, *Cenococum*, *Russula* and *Lactarius* were  
434 enriched under *P. pinaster* (less basic pH). Although ECM fungi tolerate a wide range of pH  
435 (Rousk et al., 2010), most of these fungi grow better under acidophilic conditions (Yamanaka,  
436 2003).

437

#### 438 *Structural and functional shifts of root-tip ECM fungal communities due to the fire regime*

439 As we firstly hypothesized, for both pine species, the local and regional diversity of root-tip  
440 ECM fungi significantly declined in populations where fires are historically frequent, and this  
441 implied functional outcomes e.g., laccase activity of ECM root-tips increased in HiFi  
442 populations of both pine forests. Many fire studies have ascribed decreases in fungal diversity  
443 to the reduction of heat resistant propagules, elimination of rare species from the spore bank,  
444 the scarcity of suitable hosts, the direct burning of mycelium and roots, and/or the disturbed  
445 soil properties (Glassman et al., 2016; Holden, Gutierrez, & Treseder, 2013; Rincón & Pueyo,  
446 2010). These processes do have a great importance on ECM fungal communities in the short  
447 term after disturbance, giving the way to other processes such as dispersion through time  
448 (Dooley & Treseder, 2011; Kipfer, Moser, Egli, Wohlgemuth, & Ghazoul, 2011; Rincón et  
449 al., 2014; Sun et al., 2015), similar to that reported in succession studies where fungal  
450 richness increases with forest age (Kyaschenko, Clemmensen, Hagenbo, Karlton, & Lindahl,

451 2017; Twieg, Durall, & Simard, 2007). In our study, it does not seem that ECM fungal  
452 diversity has not been yet restored since the last fire (at least more than 40 years ago), because  
453 typical late-stage species such as *Amanita* or *Lactarius* (Cairney & Chambers, 2013; Taylor &  
454 Bruns, 1999) were indicators in HiFi areas. On the contrary, our results suggest that, the  
455 initial ruderal symbionts that facilitate the establishment of seedlings are replaced over time  
456 by ECM fungi that respond more efficiently to the new environmental conditions, probably  
457 driving plant-soil feedbacks to different directions (Duhamel et al., 2019).

458 The ECM species composition diverged between fire regimes and, although fungal diversity  
459 decreased with high fire recurrence, some fungal families were more diverse in HiFi  
460 populations, e.g. *Amanitaceae*, *Cantharellaceae* and *Rhizopogonaceae* for *P. pinaster*, or  
461 *Pezizaceae* for *P. halepensis*. Different authors have proposed that in ecosystems subjected to  
462 frequent fires, the positive response of microorganisms would indicate a selection of the fire-  
463 tolerant ones over time (Buscardo et al., 2015; Dooley & Treseder, 2011; Rincón et al., 2014).  
464 Fire recurrence in Mediterranean forests is intimately linked to temperature and drought  
465 (Pausas, 2004), so as expected, in our work, climate was a strong determinant of fire regime  
466 effects on fungal communities. All these results, together with the observed decline in ECM  
467 fungal  $\beta$ -diversity, seem to indicate that the habitat filtering was likely the dominant  
468 ecological process assembling root-tip ECM fungal communities under high fire recurrence,  
469 while without the fire pressure (i.e., low fire recurrence) and milder climate conditions,  
470 competition among fungi could prevail, similar to that described across biological groups  
471 (Pérez-Valera, Verdú, Navarro-Cano, & Goberna, 2018; Verdú & Pausas, 2007). The  
472 diversity of plant and microbial communities is regulated by sequentially operating assembly  
473 rules: abiotic filtering is an omnipresent structuring force, and biological interactions e.g.,

474 competition, further fine-tunes the community assemblages (Pérez-Valera et al., 2018; Verdú  
475 & Pausas, 2007).

476 Fire regime and climate can filter directly different biotic organisms (i.e., trees and ECM  
477 fungi), however our results did provide significant clues about indirect plant-mediated effects  
478 of high fire recurrence on ECM fungal communities. We observed that serotiny, previously  
479 demonstrated to be a tree heritable trait shaped by recurrent fires (Budde et al., 2014;  
480 Castellanos, González-Martínez, & Pausas, 2015; Hernández-Serrano et al., 2014),  
481 significantly explained the variation of ECM fungal communities, aside from the accounted  
482 climatic effects for both pine species. This could be attributed to climatic constraints in the  
483 channel of C from the tree towards the ECM fungi, although, on the other hand, serotiny is a  
484 trait that requires resources (water and C) for maintaining a large amount of seeds alive in the  
485 canopy with a cost for the plant (Cramer & Midgley, 2009; Harris & Pannell, 2010). Another  
486 possible explanation is that the ability of the different tree genotypes/phenotypes to  
487 preferentially allocate photosynthates to the more beneficial ECM fungi, or to those with low  
488 C demands and/or high abilities to cope with hydric/nutrient stress can be the prevailing  
489 mechanism explaining such plant-mediated effects (Bever, Richardson, Lawrence, Holmes, &  
490 Watson, 2009; Gehring et al., 2014). This was to some extent supported by our results, at least  
491 in *P. pinaster*, for which a direct effect of tree phenotype (serotiny) on enzymatic responses of  
492 ECM fungi, but no effect of climatic variables was observed. We have previously shown that  
493 particular *P. pinaster* genotypes can impact enzymatic activities through changes in the  
494 composition of the associated microbial communities (Pérez-Izquierdo et al., 2017, 2019).  
495 Additionally, it cannot be ruled out that, the fire recurrence negatively affects other tree traits  
496 such as root development and/or architecture constraining the space for ECM fungal  
497 colonization, which would make mechanisms like priority effects particularly important

498 (Kennedy, Peay, & Bruns, 2009; Peay, Belisle, & Fukami, 2012). In any case, further  
499 experimentation would be needed to shed light on these assumptions.

500 The increased fire recurrence affected ecosystem functions differently in the two pine species  
501 by reducing most enzymatic activities in the case of *P. pinaster*, but not for *P. halepensis*.

502 This suggests functional redundancy between ECM fungal communities associated with *P.*  
503 *halepensis* in low and high fire recurrence sites, since diversity and assemblage shifts were

504 not translated into functional changes (Jones et al., 2010). These results might indicate a high  
505 capacity of *P. halepensis* forests to recover its functionality among recurrent fires in warmer

506 areas probably by shifting plant-microbial feedbacks to readjust to the environment  
507 (Clemmensen et al., 2015; Johnstone et al., 2010). The edaphic conditions (mainly pH and P)

508 were main factors explaining differences in enzymatic profiles among populations of both  
509 pine species. Among their multiple functions, an outstanding feature of ectomycorrhizal fungi

510 is their ability to mobilize nutrients from the soil (Smith & Read, 2008). Because of their  
511 direct access to C from the host, they are able to invest energy (i.e., enzymatic production) to

512 mine for N and/or P from hardly accessible sources (Fernandez, See, & Kennedy, 2020;  
513 Lindahl & Tunlid, 2015), as it could be the case for basic soils in our study together with

514 recalcitrant pine litter. Our findings are in line with previous studies indicating that the  
515 availability of resources in surrounding soil together with tree host genetics strongly regulate

516 ECM enzymatic production (Aponte, García, Marañón, & Gardes, 2010; Courty et al., 2016;  
517 Courty et al., 2011; Schneider et al., 2012). As previously mentioned, the laccase activity

518 increased in high fire recurrence populations of both pines. Laccase is an oxidative enzyme  
519 related to several processes like the degradation of recalcitrant C compounds (i.e., lignin), but

520 also to the production of melanin by fungi (Baldrian, 2006; Eisenman et al., 2007). Melanin is  
521 a group of complex polymers deposited in the cell wall associated with resistance to stresses

522 such as drought (Koide et al., 2014) and moderately resistant to decomposition (Fernandez,  
523 Heckman, Kolka, & Kennedy, 2019). It is also possible that in our study sites, changes in  
524 traits like production of melanin by fungi or more litter tannins by trees associated to the fire  
525 regime and climatic stress might have affected organic matter turnover and feedback cycles,  
526 issues that would deserve further analyses. In fact, in a 2-million-year chronosequence,  
527 Albornoz et al. (2016) showed strong variation of ECM fungal communities even within the  
528 same hosts, attributable not only to short-term fungal edaphic specialization or different  
529 inoculum density and composition, but also likely to a much longer-term ecosystem-level  
530 feedbacks among soil, plants and ECM fungi during pedogenesis.

531

### 532 **Conclusions**

533 In *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* Mediterranean forests, the high fire recurrence filters the  
534 ECM fungal community composition, even favoring some ECM fungal species, but reduces  
535 local and regional ECM diversity. Factors such as climate, which is intimately related to fire,  
536 and soil properties in particular pH, affect ECM fungal communities composition and their  
537 enzymatic functions. Aside from the climatic filter, local adaptation in pine populations to  
538 recurrent fires (i.e., increased serotiny) selects for different ECM fungal communities,  
539 accompanying different functional responses. ECM fungal communities associated with  
540 serotinous *P. pinaster* trees imply a reduced enzymatic activity, but for *P. halepensis*, a  
541 functional redundancy in LoFi and HiFi fire regimes likely exists. Edaphic variables, highly  
542 linked to the bedrock type in Mediterranean ecosystems, are main drivers of ECM fungal  
543 structure and functioning but generally independent of the fire regime. The bedrock material  
544 is also a main factor driving differences in ECM fungal communities associated with *P.*  
545 *pinaster* and *P. halepensis*, overriding the possible effect of the tree species. Although fire is a



546 main factor shaping Mediterranean ecosystems, changes in fire frequency because of  
547 predicted warmer and longer dry periods have the potential to affect the plants and their  
548 symbionts altering the structure, functioning and successional dynamics of Mediterranean  
549 forests ecosystems. The observed fire regime-related structural and functional shifts in ECM  
550 fungal communities might have essential implications for Mediterranean pine forests  
551 dynamics, which should be carefully considered to promote the sustainable management of  
552 these vulnerable ecosystems and to maintain their resilience under future climatic scenarios.

For Review Only

**553 Acknowledgements**

554 We gratefully acknowledge A. Hernández-Serrano, A. Montesinos and D.A. Rodríguez  
555 for their help in field, L. López for its support in the lab work and E. Sentausa for assistance  
556 in data analyses. This work was supported by the projects MyFUNCO (CGL2011-29585-  
557 C02-02) and PiroPheno (CGL2017-89751-R) founded by the Spanish Ministry for Economy  
558 and Competitiveness (MINECO), and by the LABORatoire d'EXcellence Arbre (LABEX  
559 Arbre). LPI held a pre-doctoral fellowship awarded by MINECO. We also acknowledge three  
560 anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments that highly improved the quality of the  
561 manuscript.

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898 **Data Accessibility**

899 Data were deposited in the Sequence Read Archive (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) as  
900 PRJNA324224.

901

902 **Author contribution**

903 AR and MV designed the experiment; LPI, MZA and AR collected the data; LPI and MB  
904 performed the bioinformatics analysis, LPI performed the statistical analyses. LPI and AR  
905 wrote the first draft of the manuscript, and all authors contributed substantially to revisions.

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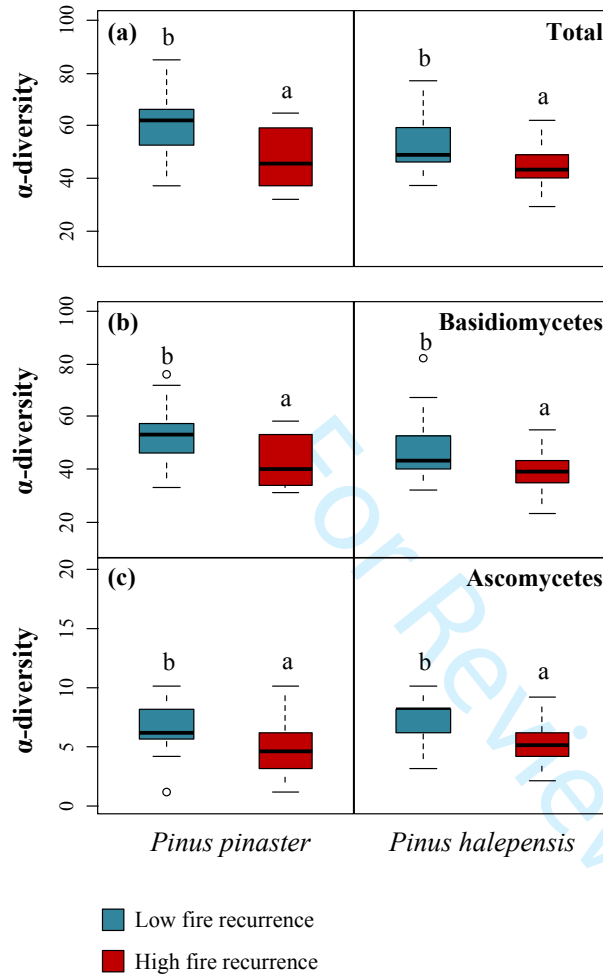
922 **Table 1.** Alpha-diversity of representative ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungal families analysed  
 923 by General Linear Models (GLMs) ( $p < 0.05$ ). Main effects of the pine species (Ppi = *Pinus*  
 924 *pinaster* and Pha = *Pinus halepensis*) (left) and the fire regime (LoFi = low fire recurrence and  
 925 HiFi = high fire recurrence) (right) are shown. The site was nested within the fix factor fire  
 926 regime in the GLMs. Data represent means  $\pm$  SE. Arrows indicate significantly higher  $\alpha$ -  
 927 diversity, and “=” indicates no variation between pine species according to the GLM (F  
 928 values; \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ). In the separate analyses on the right, for each pine  
 929 forest, different letters denote significant differences between fire regimes ( $p < 0.05$ ) (in bold).  
 930 A = Ascomycetes (orange); B = Basidiomycetes (green).

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|                                     | Pine Forest |     |             | <i>P. pinaster</i> |                    | <i>P. halepensis</i> |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | Ppi         | Pha | F (p-value) | LoFi               | HiFi               | LoFi                 | HiFi                |
| <i>Amanitaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 9.2**       | <b>0.1 ± 0.1 a</b> | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 b</b> | 0.1 ± 0.1            | 0.2 ± 0.1           |
| <i>Atheliaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 6.8*        | <b>9.7 ± 0.6 b</b> | <b>6.7 ± 0.6 a</b> | 6.3 ± 0.5            | 5.9 ± 0.4           |
| <i>Bankeraceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | =           | =   | 2.0         | 1.8 ± 0.4          | 1.3 ± 0.3          | <b>1.7 ± 0.5 b</b>   | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 a</b>  |
| <i>Cantharellaceae</i> <sup>B</sup> | ↑           |     | 41.7***     | <b>1.0 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>2.8 ± 0.4 b</b> | 0.7 ± 0.2            | 0.5 ± 0.2           |
| <i>Clavariaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    | ↑           |     | 36.9***     | 0.8 ± 0.2          | 1.2 ± 0.4          | <b>0.3 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.1 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Clavulinaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>   | =           | =   | 2.4         | <b>2.9 ± 0.3 b</b> | <b>1.7 ± 0.3 a</b> | <b>2.7 ± 0.5 b</b>   | <b>1.3 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Cortinariaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>  | ↑           |     | 16.2***     | <b>2.2 ± 0.7 b</b> | <b>0.4 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>0.6 ± 0.4 b</b>   | <b>0.2 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Gloniaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      | ↑           |     | 5.7*        | <b>2.5 ± 0.3 b</b> | <b>1.2 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>1.7 ± 0.4 b</b>   | <b>0.9 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Hydnaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>       | =           | =   | 0.8         | 0.3 ± 0.1          | 0.2 ± 0.1          | <b>0.6 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.2 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Inocybeaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    | =           | =   | 1.4         | <b>5.5 ± 0.8 b</b> | <b>3.0 ± 0.5 a</b> | 3.1 ± 0.3            | 2.8 ± 0.3           |
| <i>Pezizaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      |             | ↑   | 22.8***     | 0.2 ± 0.1          | 0.2 ± 0.1          | <b>0.5 ± 0.2 a</b>   | <b>1.1 ± 0.2 b</b>  |
| <i>Pyronemataceae</i> <sup>A</sup>  |             | ↑   | 30.7***     | 0.6 ± 0.2          | 0.9 ± 0.2          | <b>2.9 ± 0.3 b</b>   | <b>1.6 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Rhizopogonaceae</i> <sup>B</sup> | ↑           |     | 29.1***     | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>1.8 ± 0.2 b</b> | <b>0.8 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.4 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Russulaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 14.0***     | <b>7.3 ± 0.6 b</b> | <b>5.5 ± 0.7 a</b> | 4.3 ± 0.8            | 4.3 ± 0.5           |
| <i>Sebacinaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    |             | ↑   | 33.6***     | 5.7 ± 1.1          | 4.5 ± 0.4          | 8.7 ± 0.8            | 9.0 ± 0.8           |
| <i>Suillaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>      | =           | =   | 0.0         | 1.6 ± 0.3          | 1.2 ± 0.2          | <b>1.6 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>1.2 ± 0.2 a</b>  |
| <i>Telephoraceae</i> <sup>B</sup>   | =           | =   | 0.0         | 11.9 ± 1.0         | 11.0 ± 1.0         | <b>14.1 ± 1.8 b</b>  | <b>10.4 ± 0.8 a</b> |
| <i>Tuberaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      | =           | =   | 0.0         | 1.4 ± 0.3          | 1.6 ± 0.3          | 1.6 ± 0.3            | 1.4 ± 0.2           |

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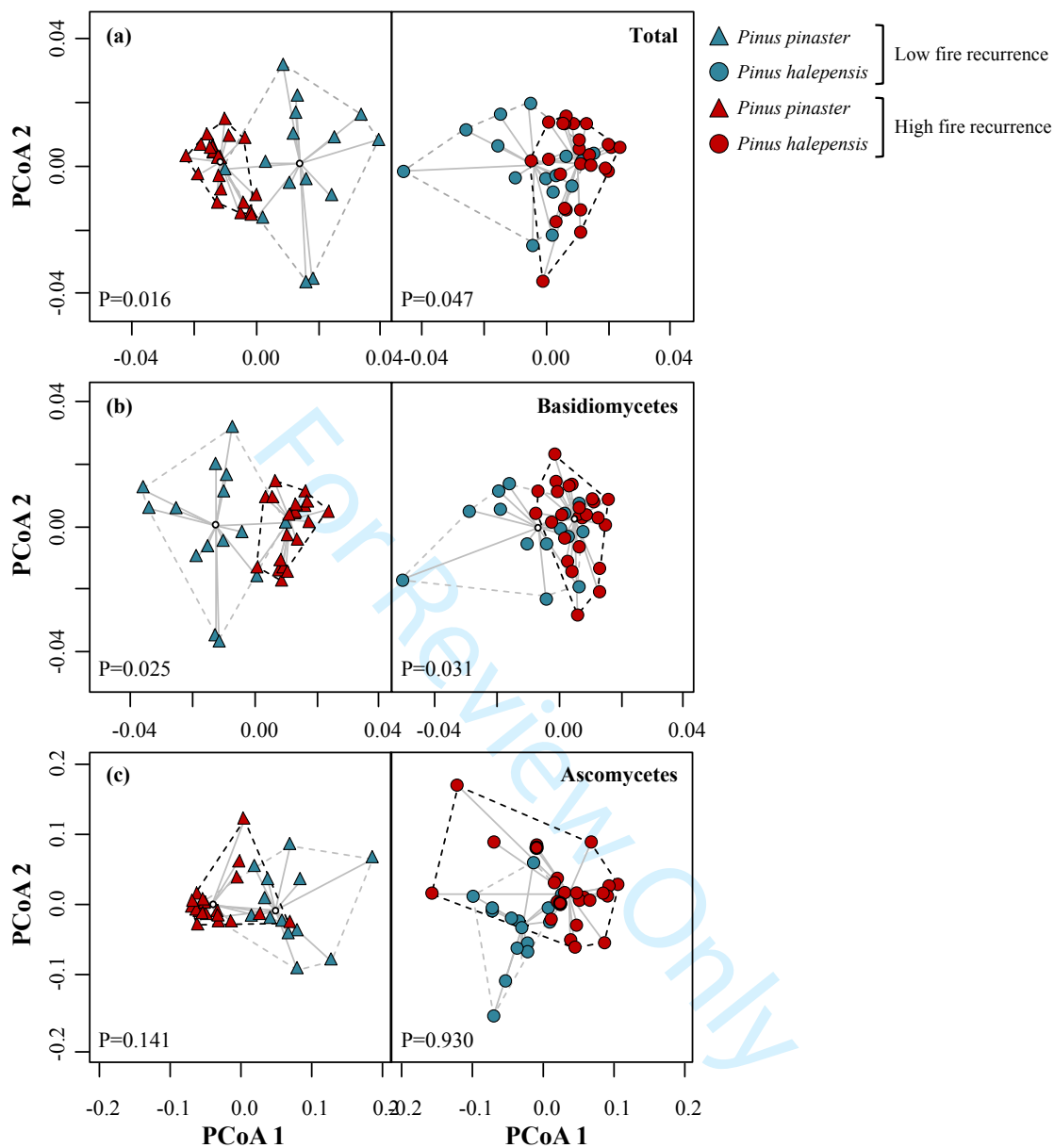
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941 **Figure 1.** Alpha-diversity of (a) total, (b) Basidiomycetes and (c) Ascomycetes  
 942 ectomycorrhizal fungal communities associated with root-tips of low (blue) or high (red)  
 943 fire recurrence populations of *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus halepensis*, analysed by Generalized  
 944 Linear Models ( $p < 0.05$ ). Boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR) between first and third  
 945 quartiles and the horizontal line inside is the median. Whiskers denote the lowest and highest  
 946 values within  $1.5 \times$  IQR from the first and third quartiles, respectively. Within each graph,  
 947 different letters denote significant differences among fire regimes.

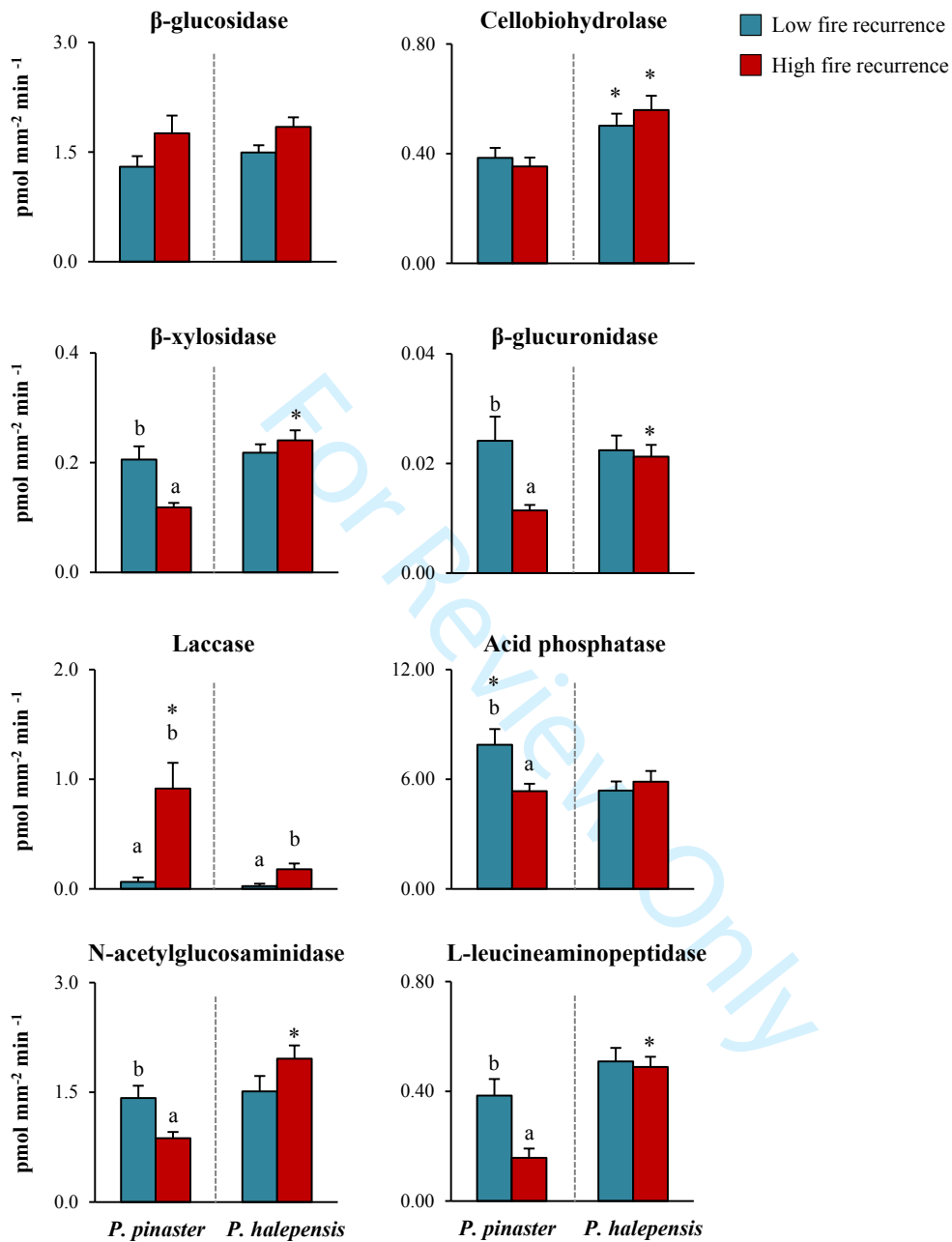
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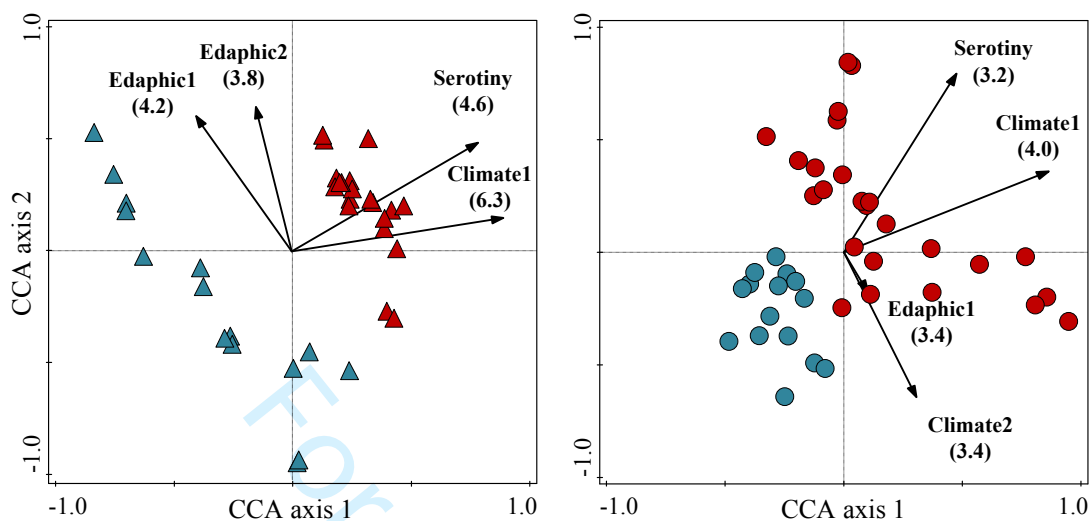
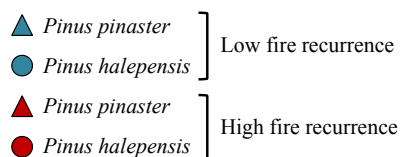
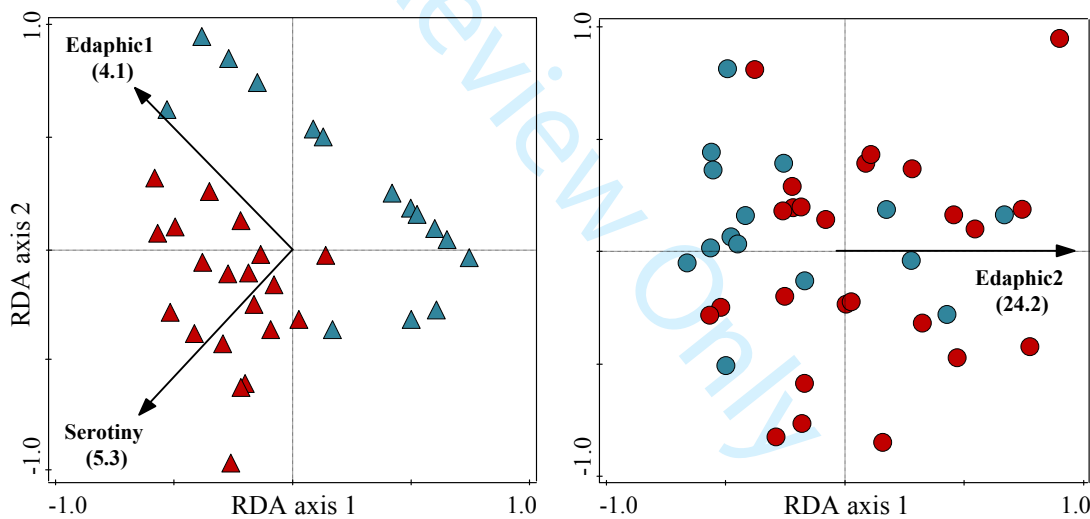
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952 **Figure 2.** Beta-diversity of (a) total, (b) Basidiomycetes and (c) Ascomycetes  
 953 ectomycorrhizal fungal communities associated with root-tips of low (blue) or high (red)  
 954 fire recurrence populations of *Pinus pinaster* (triangles) and *Pinus halepensis* (circles).  
 955 The centroids within each group are represented by small white dots. Grey solid lines give  
 956 the relative position of the point with respect to the respective centroid. Dotted lines reflect  
 957 the area occupied by all plots of a given treatment, which is inversely proportional to the  
 958 similarity of their ECM fungal communities.

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**Figure 3.** Enzymatic activity of ectomycorrhizal root tips (means  $\pm$  SE) of low (LoFi, blue) or high (HiFi, red) fire recurrence populations of *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus halepensis*, analysed by Generalized Linear Models ( $p < 0.05$ ). For each pine species, different letters denote significant differences between fire recurrence levels, while for each LoFi/HiFi treatment, asterisks denote significant differences between pine forest levels.

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**(a) ECM fungal community****(b) Enzymatic activity**

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**Figure 4.** (a) Ectomycorrhizal fungal community structure and (b) enzymatic activities associated with root-tips of *Pinus pinaster* (triangles) and *Pinus halepensis* (circles) forests subjected to low (blue) or high (red) fire recurrence, respectively analyzed by Canonical Correspondence (CCA) and Redundancy (RDA) analyses. In all cases, the weight, direction

978 and separate effects of serotiny, climatic and edaphic conditions is represented by vectors (see  
979 model details in Table S4). Serotiny degree is the number of closed cones by total number of  
980 cones in the tree. Edaphic and climatic conditions are represented by the first two axes  
981 (Edaphic1 and Edaphic2; Climate1 and Climate2) of Principal Coordinates Analyses (PCA)  
982 performed considering the pH, electric conductivity and potassium, nitrogen, phosphorus and  
983 organic matter content in the first case, and mean temperature, mean precipitation and altitude  
984 in the second case (Figure S2). Only significant variables are shown, \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ ,  
985 \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

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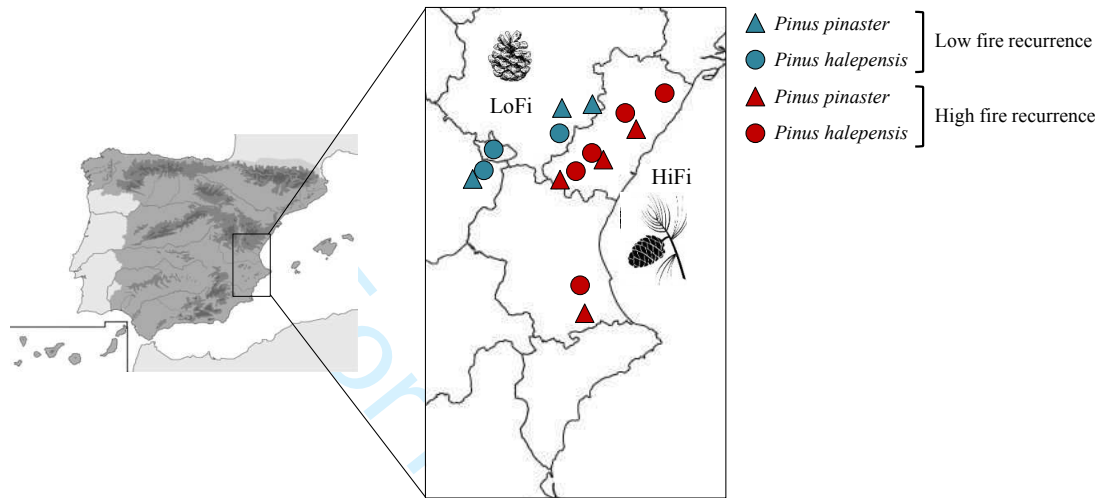


986 **Supplementary Figures**

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988 **Figure S1**

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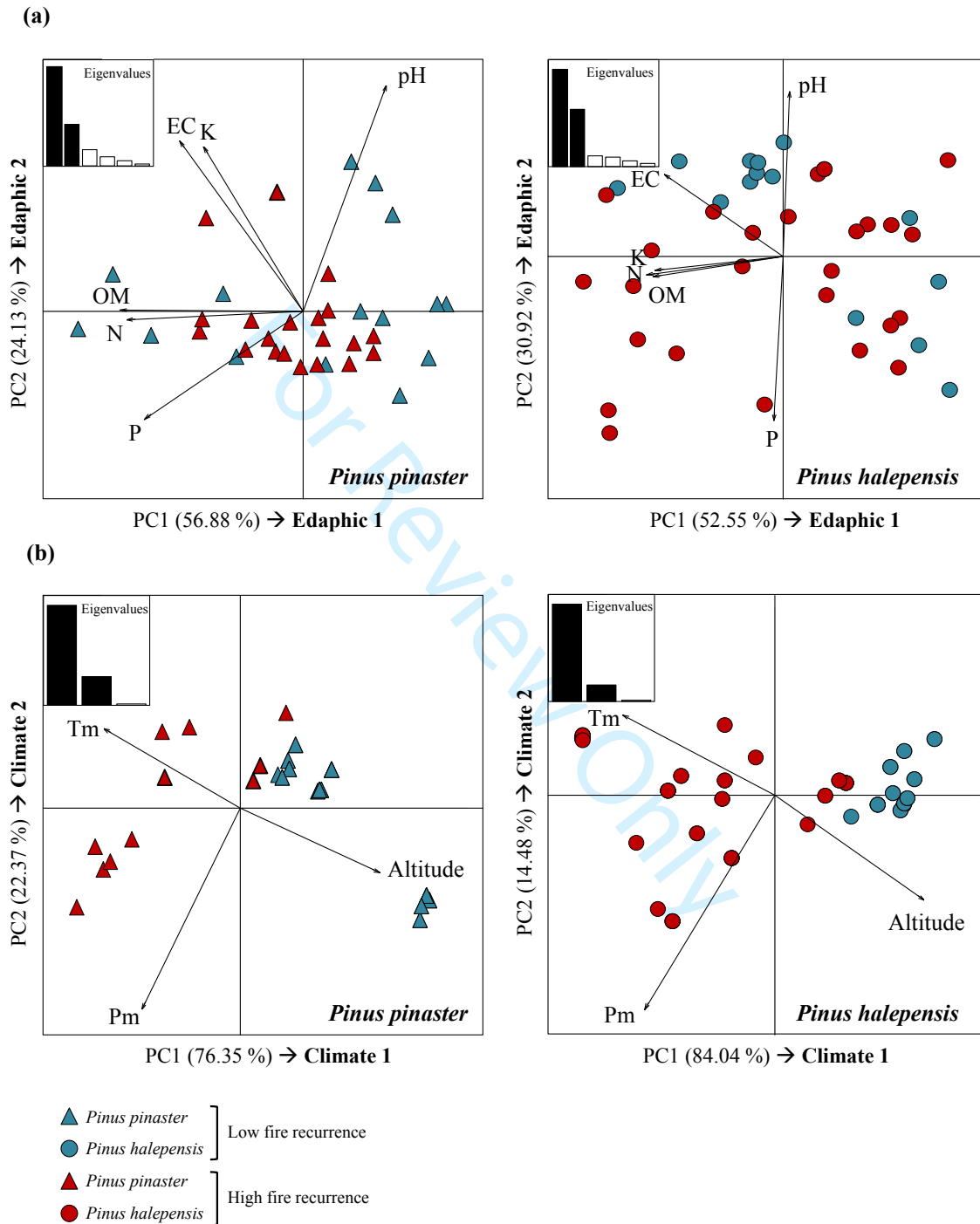
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992 **Figure S1.** Location of the fifteen study sites with pine populations of *Pinus pinaster* Ait.  
 993 (*Pinus pinaster* (triangles) and *Pinus halepensis* Mill. (circles), growing in areas of low (LoFi, blue) and high  
 994 (HiFi, red) fire recurrence, in eastern Spain. The distinct historical fire regime has induced a sharp serotiny divergence within these pine populations along time. Serotinous populations  
 995 associate to HiFi while non-serotinous populations associate to LoFi.  
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1000 **Figure S2**  
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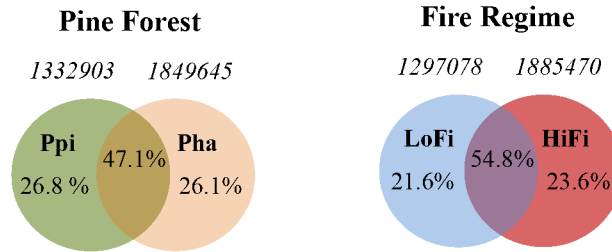
1003 **Figure S2.** Principal component analyses (PCA) performed with (a) the edaphic variables pH,  
 1004 electric conductivity (EC), potassium (K), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and organic matter  
 1005 (OM), and (b) the climate-related variables altitude, mean temperature (Tm) and mean

1006 precipitation (Pm) of each pine forest. The first two axes of each analysis explaining the  
1007 maximum of variance (in parenthesis) were used as edaphic or climatic indexes in models  
1008 (i.e., proxies of edaphic and climatic conditions of each pine forest *Pinus pinaster* or *Pinus*  
1009 *halepensis*).

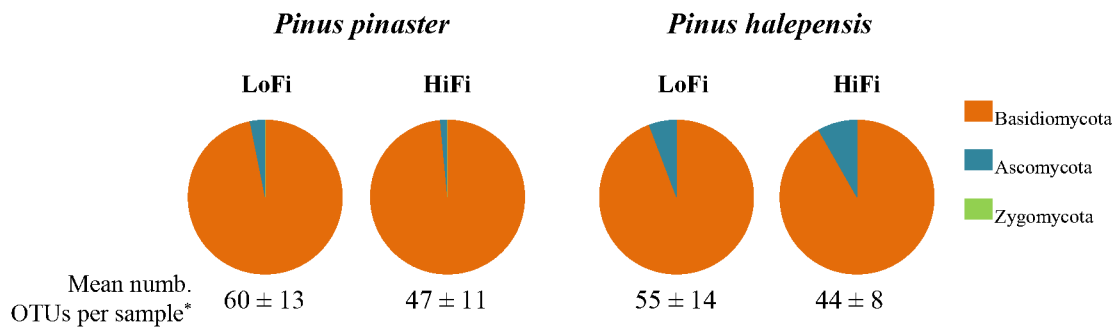
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1011 **Figure S3**  
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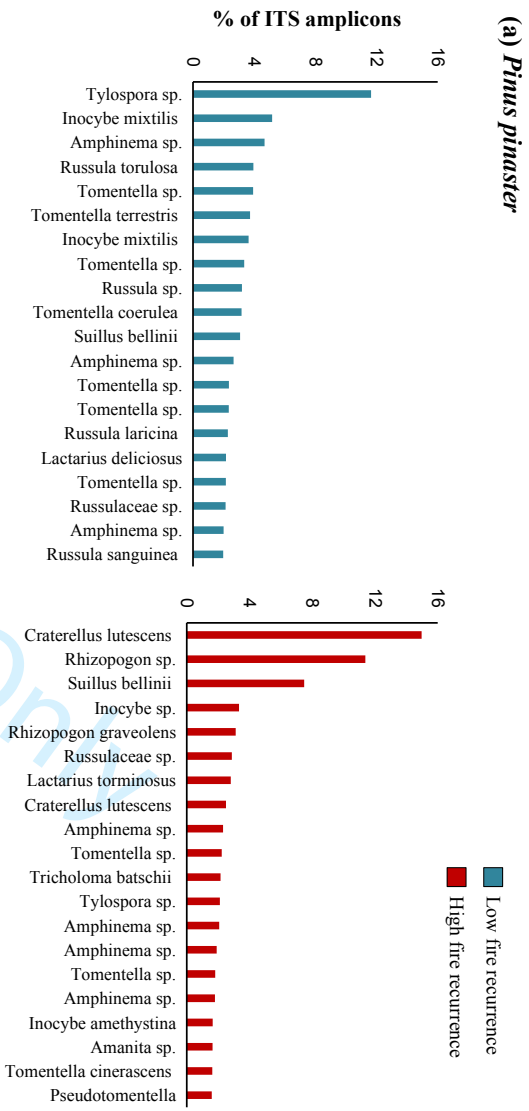
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1015 **Figure S3.** (a) Number of sequences (*italics*) and percentage of ectomycorrhizal (ECM)  
 1016 fungal OTUs by pine forest (Ppi = *Pinus pinaster* and Pha = *Pinus halepensis*) and fire regime  
 1017 (HiFi and LoFi fire recurrence). (b) Percentages of fungal phyla for each pine species and fire  
 1018 regime. \*Mean ± SD. (See Table S2 for percentages and abundance of other taxonomic ranks  
 1019 across treatments).

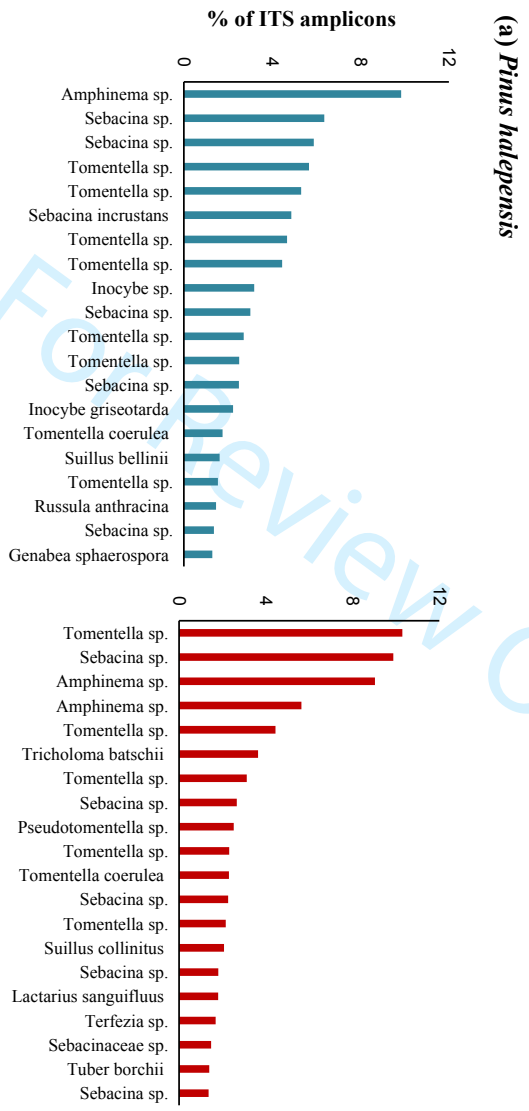
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**Figure S4**



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**Figure S4.** Abundance rank (%) of the 20 most abundant species of low (blue) or high (red) fire recurrence populations of (a) *Pinus pinaster* and (b) *Pinus halepensis* forests.

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1032 ~~High Fire regime determines the structure and function of ectomycorrhizal fungal~~  
1033 ~~communities of Mediterranean pine forests~~ fire recurrence reduces ectomycorrhizal  
1034 fungal diversity of Mediterranean pine forests

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1036 Pérez-Izquierdo L<sup>1\*</sup>, Zabal-Aguirre M<sup>1</sup>, Verdú M<sup>2</sup>, Buée M<sup>3</sup>, Rincón A<sup>1</sup>

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1050 **Running title:** ~~ECM fungi~~ Mycorrhizas in fire-prone Mediterranean ecosystems

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1054 **Competing interests**

1055 The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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1062 **Abstract**

1063 Fire is a major disturbance linked to the evolutionary history and climate of Mediterranean  
1064 ecosystems, where the vegetation has evolved fire-adaptive traits (e.g., serotiny in pines). In  
1065 Mediterranean forests, mutualistic feedbacks between trees and ectomycorrhizal (ECM)  
1066 fungi, essential for ecosystem dynamics, might be drastically threatened by fire. We tested  
1067 how fire regime alters the structure and function of ECM communities of *Pinus pinaster* and  
1068 *Pinus halepensis* Mediterranean forests, and analyzed the relative contribution of  
1069 environmental (climate, soil properties) and tree-mediated (serotiny) [factors](#) and [effectors](#). For  
1070 both pines, high fire recurrence significantly reduced local and regional ECM fungal diversity,  
1071 although certain fungal species were favored by recurrent fire. The high fire recurrence also  
1072 associated a general decline of ECM root-tip enzymatic activity for *Pinus pinaster*, while it  
1073 did not imply major functional changes for *Pinus halepensis*. Separated effects of fire regime  
1074 related-[factors](#) and [effectors](#) such as climate, soil properties or tree phenotype drove these  
1075 processes. In addition to the main influence of climate, the tree fire-adaptive trait serotiny  
1076 recovered a great portion of the variation in structure and function of fungal communities  
1077 associated with the fire regime. Edaphic conditions (especially pH, tightly linked to bedrock  
1078 type) were an important driver shaping ECM fungal communities, but mainly at the local  
1079 scale and likely independently of the fire regime. Our results show that fire regime strongly  
1080 impacts ECM fungal communities, and reveal complex feedbacks among trees, mutualistic  
1081 fungi and surrounding environment in fire-prone Mediterranean forest ecosystems.

1082

1083 **Keywords:** ectomycorrhizal communities, enzymatic activity, fire recurrence, Mediterranean  
1084 pines, \_\_\_\_\_ serotiny

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1086 **Introduction**

1087 Mediterranean climate is characterized by a marked seasonality with mild winters and hot dry  
1088 summers, which gives rise to one of the most fire-prone ecosystems in the world (Pausas,  
1089 2004). The evolutionary history of these ecosystems is tightly linked to fire (Keeley, Bond,  
1090 Bradstock, Pausas, & Rundel, 2011). Recurrent burning has markedly structured plant  
1091 communities in this area (Verdú & Pausas, 2007), where many species have developed  
1092 evolutionary mechanisms of resistance [and resilience](#) to fire (Pausas, 2015; Tapias, Climent,  
1093 Pardos, & Gil, 2004). A good example of fire-adaptive trait is serotiny, i.e., the retention of  
1094 mature seeds in closed cones for more than a year until dispersion and germination is  
1095 activated by fire, evolved by some representative Mediterranean pine species (Budde et al.,  
1096 2014; Hernández-Serrano, Verdú, González-Martínez, & Pausas, 2013) [and other conifers in](#)  
1097 [fire-dominated systems](#) (Greene et al., 1999). Fire generates phenotypic divergence on  
1098 serotiny, [a](#) heritable trait in Mediterranean pines, ultimately producing local adaptation  
1099 (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2014). There is evidence that serotiny is related to differences in  
1100 fire regime, increasing with the frequency of stand-replacing fires (Hernández-Serrano et al.,  
1101 2013; Radeloff, Mladenoff, Guries, & Boyce, 2004). Changes in the fire regime are closely  
1102 linked to climate (Pausas, 2004), and predicted climate change scenarios make Mediterranean  
1103 ecosystems especially vulnerable. Temperature rise and rainfall decrease are expected to  
1104 [increase](#) drought risk and consequently forest wildfires, altering the structure and  
1105 successional dynamics of Mediterranean forests (Lindner et al., 2010).

1106 Ecosystem development is driven by interactions among climatic conditions, edaphic  
1107 environment and biotic communities. Given the role of fungi in organic matter turnover and  
1108 nutrient cycling, they are key players in the plant-soil-microbial feedbacks that determine



1109 ecosystem development after disturbances (Clemmensen et al., 2015). Specifically,  
1110 mutualistic ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi, which are tightly linked to the host through  
1111 specialized symbiotic structures, mediate the uptake and transfer of water and nutrients to  
1112 trees (Smith & Read, 2008). They channel the photosynthetic carbon (C) fixed by trees into  
1113 the belowground, influencing soil ~~Ccarbon~~ storage and nutrient cycling (Clemmensen et al.,  
1114 2013; Talbot, Allison, & Treseder, 2008). This symbiosis can provide up to the 80% of  
1115 nutrients to trees and alleviate their hydric stress (Kivlin, Emery, & Rudgers, 2013; van der  
1116 Heijden, Martin, Selosse, & Sanders, 2015), and therefore can be especially relevant in severe  
1117 environments e.g., recurrent fire and drought conditions in Mediterranean ecosystems  
1118 (Egerton-Warburton, Querejeta, & Allen, 2007; Prieto et al., 2016; Querejeta, Egerton-  
1119 Warburton, & Allen, 2007).

1120 Fire affects ECM communities ~~are affected by fire~~ mainly through vegetation damages and  
1121 altered soil properties (Buscardo et al., 2015; Hart, DeLuca, Newman, MacKenzie, & Boyle,  
1122 2005; Rincón & Pueyo, 2010), conditions that may favor fire-tolerant~~prone~~ fungi (Glassman,  
1123 Levine, Dirocco, Battles, & Bruns, 2016; Rincón, Santamaría-Pérez, Ocaña, & Verdú, 2014).

1124 Certain fungi can remain for long time in the soil spore banks and be advantaged after fire, as  
1125 it has been shown in closed-cone pine forest populations with historical highly recurrent and  
1126 intense fires- (Baar, Horton, Kretzer, & Runs, 1999; Bruns et al., 2009; Glassman et al., 2016,  
1127 2015). Fire usually decreases root mycorrhizal colonization and fungal richness (Dove &  
1128 Hart, 2017). ~~However, exceptions of high colonization rates after fire have been seen for~~  
1129 ~~seedlings of fire adapted Mediterranean pines. More generally, fire drastically disrupts the~~  
1130 ~~species composition of the mycorrhizal communities, usually leading to their simplification~~  
1131 ~~with the dominance of pioneer fungi (Dove & Hart, 2017; Buscardo et al., 2015; de Román &~~  
1132 ~~de Miguel, 2005; ~~A.~~ Rincón et al., 2014; Torres & Honrubia, 1997) ~~(Torres and Honrubia~~~~

1133 ~~1997; de Román and de Miguel 2005; Martín-Pinto et al. 2006; Buscardo et al. 2015; Rincón~~  
1134 ~~and Pueyo 2010; Rincón et al. 2014; Vasquez-Gassibe et al. 2016).~~ Certain fungi can remain  
1135 for long time in the soil spores banks and be advantaged after fire, as it has been shown in  
1136 closed-cone pine forest populations with historical highly recurrent and intense fires (Baar,  
1137 Horton, Kretzer, & Runs, 1999; Bruns et al., 2009; Glassman et al., 2016, 2015).  
1138 ~~Additionally~~Moreover, because intraspecific plant genotypic and phenotypic variation affects  
1139 the structure of their associated ECM fungi (Gehring & Whitham, 1991; Pérez-Izquierdo et  
1140 al., 2017, 2019; van der Heijden et al., 2015) ~~it is and~~plausibly ~~that~~, genetically fire-driven  
1141 changes in trees, such as serotiny degree, may co-affect these mutualistic communities for  
1142 example by determining the ~~Cearbon~~carbon available to exchange in symbiosis. ~~Nevertheless, fires~~  
1143 ~~recurrently affect big areas of Mediterranean ecosystems, yet the cumulative effects of~~  
1144 ~~recurrent wildfires on ECM fungal communities are less known than those of single wildfires~~  
1145 ~~(Buscardo et al., 2015).~~

1146 In our study, we targeted forests of two representative Mediterranean tree species, Maritime  
1147 pine (*Pinus pinaster* Ait.) and Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis* Mill.), amply distributed in the  
1148 Iberian Peninsula. While the Maritime pine usually grows in acid soils at 700-1700 m  
1149 altitude, the Aleppo pine grows in basic substrate and below 800 m (Ruíz, Álvarez-Uria, &  
1150 Zavala, 2009). *Pinus halepensis* is typically distributed in warm and dry areas, even under  
1151 extreme drought induced either by climate or soil constituents (e.g., marls, gypsum, rocky  
1152 slopes) (Ruíz et al., 2009). Both pine species have a life history related to fire adaptation  
1153 (Tapias et al., 2004) displaying great ~~post-fire~~post-fire colonizing abilities (Barbéro, Loisel, & Quézel,  
1154 1998) and showing fire-adaptive traits such as serotiny (Pausas, 2015). The natural  
1155 regeneration and dynamics of these pine forests critically ~~relaieys~~relies on ECM fungal  
1156 communities, because pine species are obligatory ectomycorrhizal (Nuñez, Horton, &

1157 Simberloff, 2009; Smith & Read, 2008). Recurrent fires, tightly linked to climate in these  
1158 Mediterranean areas, might act as an environmental filter, culling plant and microbial species  
1159 unable to tolerate conditions at a particular location and thus preventing their establishment or  
1160 persistence (Kraft et al., 2015).

1161 Based on all these premises, we expected that ii) due to the habitat filtering imposed by the  
1162 fire regime ~~and subjacent Mediterranean climatic conditions~~, the ECM fungal communities in  
1163 ~~sites subjected to~~ high fire recurrence sites (HiFi hereafter) would be less diverse and more  
1164 homogeneous than those in ~~sites exposed to~~ low fire recurrence sites (LoFi hereafter), ~~and~~  
1165 ~~that this it would imply different functional outcomes. Conversely, increasing diversity might~~  
1166 ~~act as an insurance for ecosystem functions during extreme perturbations (e.g. fire and/or~~  
1167 ~~drought).~~

1168 ~~In the our study area, the distinct historical fire regime recurrence frequency~~ has induced a  
1169 sharp serotiny divergence in trees ~~within the HiFi and LoFi populations along time~~  
1170 (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013). Serotiny has been proven to be a heritable trait associated  
1171 with the genotype of trees (Budde et al., 2014; Castellanos, González-Martínez, & Pausas,  
1172 2015; ~~A. Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013).~~ ~~Despite the low specificity of the mycorrhizal~~  
1173 ~~symbiosis for pines (Smith & Read, 2008),~~ Because different tree genotypes can influence  
1174 their associated ECM fungi (Gehring & Whitham, 1991; Pérez-Izquierdo et al., 2017),  
1175 ~~we This led us to~~ further hypothesize that, at the finer scale of individuals, iii) the trees  
1176 differing in their serotiny degree of trees, i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation, ~~would will explain~~  
1177 affect differentially the structural and functional divergences of harbor dissimilar ECM fungal  
1178 communities. ~~Moreover, given expectable changes in nutrient availability and ECM structural~~  
1179 ~~shifts, we assumed (iii) different functional outcomes among root-tip ECM fungi associated~~

1180 ~~with pines growing under distinct fire regime, i.e., either increased or decreased nutrient~~  
1181 ~~mobilization depending on fungal and/or tree adaptation to the new environmental conditions.~~

1182 In order to address these predictions, we characterized the structure of root-tip ECM fungal  
1183 communities of natural *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* forests (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013).

1184 For both pine forests, serotinous populations growing under a warm and dry Mediterranean  
1185 climate subjected to high fire frequency and non-serotinous populations growing under a  
1186 subhumid climate where fires are rare (Verdú & Pausas, 2007) were surveyed ([Figure S1](#)).

1187 Additionally, we determined, on excised ECM root-tips, potential fungal enzymatic traits  
1188 related to ~~C~~carbon turnover and mobilization of nutrients. These are processes directly  
1189 implicated in the exchange of resources that support most mycorrhizal symbioses and many  
1190 essential ecosystem functions (Johnson et al. 2012).

1191

## 1192 **Material and Methods**

### 1193 *Study sites and sampling*

1194 Surveys were conducted in natural forests of *P. pinaster* (Ppi) and of *P. halepensis* (Pha)  
1195 located in eastern Spain ([Figure S1](#)). ~~We selected n~~Nine pine populations ~~are located in high~~  
1196 ~~fire recurrence sites where crown-fires are historically frequent and most regeneration events~~  
1197 ~~are driven by fire (HiFi populations), while the other selected six populations were~~are located  
1198 ~~in low fire recurrence areas where most regeneration events are independent of fire because~~  
1199 ~~fire events are rare (LoFi populations) (Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013; Pausas et al., 2004).~~

1200 ~~The serotiny degree of these pine populations growing under distinct fire regime has been~~  
1201 ~~accurately characterized in Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013 (Table S1). Briefly, serotiny was~~  
1202 ~~estimated considering both the cone age and the proportion of serotinous cones the number of~~  
1203 ~~closed cones, those remaining closed after maturation, with respect to the total number (open~~

1204 ~~and closed~~). In the study area, fire is tightly linked to Mediterranean climatic conditions (i.e.,  
1205 drought) (Pausas, Bradstock, Keith, Keeley, & Network, 2004), ~~and fire history makes it~~  
1206 ~~possible a clear differentiation of sites with a much shorter fire return interval than others~~  
1207 ~~(Abdel Malak & Pausas, 2006)~~. Recent fire history information (Pausas & Fernández-Muñoz,  
1208 2012; Pausas, 2004) shows that more than 50% of the study area at HiFi conditions burned at  
1209 least once during the 1978–2001 period, while for LoFi conditions, the proportion was about  
1210 15% (Abdel Malak & Pausas, 2006). From a microevolutionary point of view, this distinct  
1211 fire regime has induced a sharp serotiny divergence within these populations (Hernández-  
1212 Serrano et al., 2013). More than 500 genes were differentially expressed across the two pine  
1213 accessions from HiFi and LoFi populations (Pinosio et al., 2014) and three high-  
1214 differentiation outlier single nucleotide polymorphisms-SNPs were identified between HiFi  
1215 and LoFi stands, suggesting fire-related selection at the regional scale (Budde et al., 2017).  
1216 Thus, despite the lack of long-term fire statistics for the specific study sites, there is strong  
1217 evidence that the fire interval is much shorter in HiFi areas than in LoFi. Nine pine  
1218 populations are located in high fire recurrence sites where crown fires are historically  
1219 frequent and most regeneration events are driven by fire (HiFi populations), while the other  
1220 six populations are located in low fire recurrence areas where most regeneration events are  
1221 independent of fire because fire events are rare (LoFi populations) (Hernández-Serrano et al.,  
1222 2013; Pausas et al., 2004). The serotiny degree of these pine populations growing under  
1223 distinct fire regime has been accurately characterized in Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013  
1224 (Table S1). Briefly, serotiny was estimated considering both the cone age and the proportion  
1225 of serotinous cones, i.e., the number of closed cones, those remaining closed after maturation,  
1226 with respect to the total fully ripe (open and closed) cones ~~(see Hernández-Serrano et al.,~~  
1227 2013 for details). The characteristics of pine populations related to productivity (diameter at

1228 breast height; DBH), fire-adaptation traits (bark thickness and serotiny degree), as well as  
1229 location and local environmental variables are described in Table S1. [All the selected stands](#)  
1230 [were mature pine populations, with DBH between 20.8 and 35.4 cm corresponding to trees of](#)  
1231 [more than 40 yr](#) (Camarero, Olano, & Parras, 2010; Vieira et al., 2015).

1232 In [Mayspring](#) 2013, five trees per population separated [by](#) more than 10 m were selected  
1233 [from](#) a total of 15 populations (n = 75). Under each tree, the litter was removed and samples  
1234 were obtained, approximately 1 m far from the trunk, by excavating 10 x 10 x 20 cm soil  
1235 holes at the four orientations ([north, south, east and west](#)). The four samples per tree were  
1236 pooled into a combined sample and kept at 4 °C in plastic bags until processing. Once in the  
1237 lab, roots were separated from soil, coarse roots discarded (diameter > 2 mm), and remaining  
1238 roots gently washed with tap water over 2 and 0.5 mm sieves for collecting root tips. All  
1239 ectomycorrhizal (ECM) root tips per each sample were carefully selected (Rincón et al.,  
1240 2014), cleaned and sorted per sample under a stereomicroscope for further enzymatic and  
1241 molecular analyses. Remaining soil was air dried and sieved (2 mm) for analysis.

1242 The [gravimetric soil moisture](#)~~relative humidity (RH)~~ of soil samples was determined by  
1243 drying at [106](#)5 °C for 48 h. Air-dried soils were measured for pH ([2 g of soils](#) ~~1:5, w:v~~ in [10](#)  
1244 [ml of](#) H<sub>2</sub>O, ~~1:5, w:v~~), electrical conductivity (EC) (1:5, w:v in H<sub>2</sub>O), organic matter (OM)  
1245 (Walkley & Black, 1934), total N (Kjeldahl method). Extractable P was determined by the  
1246 Bray & Kurtz (1945) method, after extraction in an ammonium fluoride and chloride acid  
1247 solution. Extractable potassium (K) was determined after nitric acid digestion according to  
1248 Isaac & Kerber (1971). Both P and K extracts were measured by inductively coupled plasma  
1249 spectrometry (Optima 4300DV, Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, EE.UU.).

1250 *Enzymatic tests*

1251 The fungal community functioning was evaluated on excised ECM root tips by measuring  
1252 activities of eight hydrolytic and oxidative exoenzymes secreted by fungi. Seven enzymatic  
1253 tests were based on fluorogenic substrate release, methylumbelliferone (MU) e.g.  $\beta$ -  
1254 glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.3 [at ExPasy-Enzyme database](#)) and cellobiohydrolase (EC 3.2.1.91)  
1255 that degrade cellulose,  $\beta$ -xylosidase (EC 3.2.1.37) and  $\beta$ -glucuronidase (EC 3.2.1.31) implied  
1256 in the degradation of hemicellulose, acid phosphatase (EC 3.1.3.2) involved in the  
1257 mobilization of phosphorus, N-acetylglucosaminidase or chitinase (EC 3.2.1.14) which  
1258 hydrolyses chitin, or methylcoumarine (AMC) for L-leucineaminopeptidase (3.4.11.1) related  
1259 to the mobilization of nitrogen from peptidic substrates. The Laccase (1.10.3.2) activity was  
1260 determined by a photometric assay based on ABTS substrate (2,2'-Azino-bis (3-ethylbenzo-  
1261 thiazolin-6-sulfonic acid). This enzyme is related to the degradation of recalcitrant  
1262 compounds such as lignin. Enzymatic activities were determined following the protocol  
1263 described by Courty, Pritsch, Schloter, Hartmann, & Garbaye (2005), with modifications. A  
1264 total of 280 ECM-tips were randomly collected per sample and separated in subsets of 7  
1265 ECM-tips with 5 replicates per each enzymatic test. Each replicate thus consisted of a tube  
1266 with 7 pooled ECM-tips that were incubated in buffer during the corresponding time for each  
1267 enzyme (Courty et al., 2005), after which 100  $\mu$ l of the respective enzymatic reaction mix was  
1268 added to 100  $\mu$ l of stopping buffer in 96-well microplates. Enzymatic activities were  
1269 measured in a Victor microplate reader (Perkin-Elmer Life Sciences, Massachusetts, USA),  
1270 with 355/460 nm excitation/emission wavelengths for the fluorogenic assays and 415 nm for  
1271 laccase. After reading, the ECM-tips of each replicate were scanned and their area calculated  
1272 with the software ImageJ 1.49. Enzymatic activities were expressed in  $\text{pmol min}^{-1}\text{mm}^{-2}$ .

1273 *Molecular analyses*

1274 Per each measured enzyme, the ECM-tips were pooled (7 ECM-tips subsets x 5 replicates =  
1275 35), added of a pinch of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVPP), and the DNA extracted with the  
1276 Invisorb®DNA Plant HTS 96 Kit/C kit (Invitex GmbH, Berlin, Germany), making a total of  
1277 600 DNA extractions (75 tree samples x 8 enzymes) corresponding to 280 root tips per tree.  
1278 The internal transcribed spacer region ITS-1 of the nuclear ribosomal DNA was amplified  
1279 with the primer pair ITS1F-ITS2 (Gardes & Bruns, 1993) adapted for Illumina-MiSeq. ~~PCR~~  
1280 ~~amplifications (3 min 94 °C, 30 cycles of 1 min 94 °C, 30 s 53 °C and 45 s 72 °C, with a final~~  
1281 ~~step of 10 min 72 °C) were conducted in a Verity Thermal Cycler (Life Technologies), and~~  
1282 ~~e~~Each sample was amplified in three independent 20 µl PCR reactions, each containing 2 µl  
1283 of 10x polymerase buffer, 2.4 µl of 25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.12 µl of 10 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> BSA, 0.4 µl of 10  
1284 mM Nucleotide Mix, 0.4 µl of 10 mM forward/reverse primers and 0.2 µl of AmpliTaqGold  
1285 polymerase (5 U ml<sup>-1</sup>) (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Negative controls without  
1286 DNA were included in all runs to detect possible contaminations. The PCR conditions were as  
1287 follow: 3 min 94 °C, 30 cycles of 1 min 94 °C, 30 s 53 °C and 45 s 72 °C, with a final step of  
1288 10 min 72 °C. Independent reactions were combined per sample, and each PCR product was  
1289 purified (UltraClean PCR clean-up kit of MoBio, Carlsbad, CA, USA), quantified  
1290 (PicoGreen, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA), and finally pooled in an equimolar  
1291 library containing 75 samples. Sequencing was carried out on an Illumina MiSeq sequencer (2  
1292 × 300 bp paired-end reads) in an external service (Parque Científico de Madrid, Spain).

### 1293 *Bioinformatic analyses*

1294 Sequences were de-multiplexed according to their tags, filtered and trimmed using the  
1295 *fastq\_filter* command and *fastq\_truncqual* option of Usearchv.7.0.1001 (Edgar, 2013) for  
1296 eliminating quality scores ≤ 10. We used FLASH\_~~was used~~to merge reads with a minimum  
1297 overlap of at 97 % of similarity using 110 bp and 160 of minimum and maximum overlap



1298 ~~respectively, resulting in and the~~ 58.3 % of retained sequences ~~was retained~~ (4205677 out of  
1299 the initial set of 7215915 sequences). ~~Then, s~~Sequences were dereplicated with the  
1300 *derep\_fulllength* Usearch command. De-replicated sequences were ~~then~~ sorted by decreasing  
1301 abundance, and singletons discarded with the *sortbysize* Usearch command. Finally, 4116377  
1302 sequences (57 %) were retained. ~~Molecular~~ operational taxonomic units (MOTUs) were  
1303 generated from abundance-sorted sequences using the *cluster\_otus* Usearch command with a  
1304 97 % similarity threshold. Extracted ITS sequences were then mapped against the MOTU  
1305 representative sequences using the *usearch\_global* Usearch command. Taxonomic  
1306 assignment of representative sequences for each MOTU was done ~~by using the Basic Local~~  
1307 ~~Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) (Altschul, Gish, Miller, Myers, & Lipman, 1990) according~~  
1308 ~~to against~~ the 7.2 UNITE database (Kõljalg et al., 2013). Fungal taxonomic assignment served  
1309 to identify those MOTUs closely related to recognized ECM taxa (Nguyen et al., 2016;  
1310 Tedersoo et al., 2014; Tedersoo & Smith, 2013). The 86 % of the inferred sequences  
1311 corresponded to ECM fungi and these were used for all subsequent analyses.

1312

### 1313 *Statistical analyses*

1314 ~~To test the hypothesis 1,~~ the effect of the fire recurrence frequency (HiFi vs LoFi) on the  
1315 structure (i.e., alpha and beta-diversity) and functioning (i.e., enzymatic activities) of ECM  
1316 fungal communities (hypothesis 1) was separately evaluated by pine forest. Beta-diversity of  
1317 total and by phyla ECM fungal communities of the different pine populations was calculated  
1318 with the functions *betadisper* and *permutest* of the *vegan* package (Anderson, Ellingsen, &  
1319 McArdle, 2006; Oksanen et al., 2015), ~~and visualized results of the dissimilarity betadisper~~  
1320 ~~object were plotted by~~ Principal Component Analyses (PCoA). ~~graphs~~. Beta-diversity was  
1321 calculated on Bray-Curtis abundance matrix of OTUs previously normalized by variance

1322 stabilization according to McMurdie and Holmes (2014) by using the DESeq package  
1323 (Anders & Huber, 2012).

1324 Alpha-diversity was analysed by General Linear Models (GLMs) ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the number of  
1325 fungal OTUs as response variable. In these models, the square root of the total number of  
1326 sequences obtained per sample was included as a covariate to account for differences in  
1327 sequencing depth (Tedersoo et al., 2014). Models at lower taxonomic levels were also  
1328 performed (i.e., phyla and families). In all cases, before modelling, Shapiro and Levene tests  
1329 were performed to test the normality and homocedasticity of data, and variables were log or  
1330 square root transformed when needed. Firstly, we modelled the effect of the variable pine  
1331 forest on ECM fungal alpha-diversity, using pine forest as fixed factor and the site nested  
1332 within pine forest and the site as random factor (i.e., pine population). Subsequent GLMs  
1333 analyses were separately performed for each pine species. In these models, the fire regime  
1334 was introduced as fixed factor and the site (i.e., pine population) nested within fire regime ( $n$   
1335 = 35 *P. pinaster* trees and  $n = 40$  *P. halepensis* trees). Same GLM syntaxes were used to test  
1336 the effect of fire recurrence frequency on the different root-tip enzymatic activities.  
1337 Correlations between enzymatic activities and ECM fungal community assemblages of the  
1338 pine populations were analyzed by Mantel tests with ade4 R package.

1339 To identify representative fungal OTUs of each fire regime per pine species, the Indicator  
1340 Species Analysis (with OTUs >100 reads to avoid spurious relations) was carried out  
1341 ( $p < 0.05$ ) with the function *multipatt* of the indicpecies R package (Cáceres, Legendre, & He,  
1342 2013).

1343 Climatic and edaphic characteristics are intimately associated with fire regime in  
1344 Mediterranean ecosystems (Pausas et al., 2004). So, to separate the edaphic and climatic  
1345 effects from that of the fire regime, we performed CCA on Hellinger-transformed relative

1346 fungus abundance data and RDA with the Euclidean distance matrix of enzymatic activities  
1347 both with forward selection of explanatory variables. We used different analyses due to their  
1348 different data assumptions, RDA assumes a linear relationship between predictors and data  
1349 while CCA assumes a unimodal response curve. In these models, the variable fire regime and  
1350 the edaphic and climatic indexes were included. Previously, to reduce the dimensionality of  
1351 environmental data, Principal Component Analyses (PCA) were independently run for  
1352 edaphic variables (pH, OM, EC, N, P, K) and climatic variables (mean annual temperature,  
1353 mean annual precipitation and altitude), and the first two axes, explaining the maximum  
1354 amount of variance, of respective PCAs were used as edaphic or climatic indexes (Figure S2).  
1355  
1356 To test our hypothesis 2, effect of tree serotiny degree (i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation) on  
1357 ECM fungal community, two additional models with the factor serotiny and the edaphic and  
1358 climatic indexes were included. As before, we performed a CCA model on Hellinger-  
1359 transformed relative fungal abundance data and a RDA model with the Euclidean distance  
1360 matrix of enzymatic activities both with forward selection of explanatory variables.

1361 Since the distribution of the two pine species considered in our study is closely linked to the  
1362 bedrock type, i.e., *P. pinaster* preferentially settled on siliceous soils, while *P. halepensis*  
1363 include both siliceous and calcareous soils (A. Hernández-Serrano et al., 2013) (Ojeda,  
1364 Pausas, & Verdú, 2010), we made additional analyses for testing possible confounding effects  
1365 of pine species and bedrock type (both factors included in the variable pine forest). For this,  
1366 the pine species effect on ECM fungal community structure and enzymatic activities was  
1367 respectively checked by Canonical Correspondence (CCA) and Redundancy (RDA) analyses,  
1368 only with data of Sinarcas, the unique location where populations of both pine species grow  
1369 under a common bedrock environment (Table S1). No significant effects of the pine species

1370 identity on the ECM fungal community structure (CCA:  $n=218$ ; explained variation %=12.4;  
1371  $P=0.204$ ) or on the enzymatic profile (RDA:  $n=8$ ; explained variation %=44.4;  $P=0.094$ ) in  
1372 the location Sinarcas were observed.

1373 Ordinations were done with the software CANOCO v.5.0 (Biometris Plant Research  
1374 International, Wageningen, Netherlands), and the rest of analyses with the R software v.3.5.2  
1375 (R Core Team, 2014).

1376

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1378

1379 **Results**1380 *Sequencing yields and taxonomic identification of fungi*

1381 A total of 501 ECM fungal MOTUs corresponding to 3182548 sequences were identified.

1382 Almost half of MOTUs were found in both pine species and ~26 % exclusively in one of

1383 them (Figure S32a). LoFi and HiFi pine populations shared the 54.8 % of MOTUs, while

1384 ~21-23 % were only found either in LoFi or HiFi (Figure S32a). Most MOTUs belonged to

1385 Basidiomycota (89.4 %), 10.2 % to Ascomycota, and 0.4 % to Zygomycota (Figure S32b;

1386 Table S2). The taxonomic classification of OTUs allowed identifying 12 fungal orders, 30

1387 families and 47 genera, most of them represented across all treatments (Table newS2).

1388 The majority of the 20 most abundant fungi and of the indicator species fungi most commonly

1389 found in root tips of *P. pinaster* belonged to Tomentellaceae, Inocybaceae, Russulaceae, and

1390 Rhizopogonaceae and, in the case of *P. halepensis*, to Pezizales, Thelephoraceae and

1391 Sebacinaceae (Table S2, S3; Figure S4). The indicator species analysis revealed 54 fungal

1392 MOTUs preferentially found associated to in *P. pinaster* forests and 37 to in *P. halepensis*

1393 forests (Table S3). Besides, 31 fungi belonging to 14 different genera were indicators of LoFi

1394 populations of *P. pinaster* and 31 fungi belonging to 13 different genera were indicators of

1395 LoFi populations of *P. halepensis*. in each respective pine species, while In contrast, 11

1396 indicators from 5 different genera for *P. pinaster* and 6 from 5 different genera for *P.*

1397 *halepensis* were associated with HiFi populations of *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis*

1398 respectively indicators (Table S3).

1399

1400 *Root-tip ectomycorrhizal fungal diversity*

1401 Total fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity marginally varied between pine forest species ( $R^2=0.13$ ;  $F=3.62$ ;  
 1402  $P=0.062$ ). At the phylum level, *P. halepensis* harboured significantly less Basidiomycetes  
 1403 ( $R^2=0.24$ ;  $F=6.12$ ;  $P=0.016$ ) and marginally more Ascomycetes ( $R^2=0.81$ ;  $F=3.88$ ;  $P=0.053$ )  
 1404 were found in *P. Pinus halepensis* forest compared with than *P. pinaster* (Figure 1). The root-  
 1405 tips of *P.inus pinaster* root tips were enriched of Amanitaceae, Atheliaceae, Cantharellaceae,  
 1406 *Clavariaceae, Cortinariaceae, Gloniaceae, Rhizopogonaceae* and *Russulaceae* species, while  
 1407 in *P. halepensis* root-tips prevailed species of the families *Pezizaceae, Pyronemataceae* and  
 1408 *Sebacinaceae* (Table 1). At regional scale, rRoot-tip ECM fungal  $\beta$ -diversity of both pine  
 1409 forest species was similar ( $R^2=0.01$   $F=1.34$ ,  $P=0.265$ ), although Basidiomycetes were more  
 1410 dissimilar in *P. pinaster* than in *P. halepensis* forests ( $R^2=0.01$   $F=4.4451$ ,  $P=0.03304$ ), and the  
 1411 opposite pattern was observed for Ascomycetes ( $R^2=0.03$ ;  $F=11.62$ ,  $P=0.001$ ).  
 1412 The HiFi populations harboured significantly lower ECM fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity was significantly  
 1413 lower in high fire recurrence frequency (HiFi) populations compared with than low fire  
 1414 recurrence frequency (LoFi) populations in both pine forest species (Figure 1a), and this  
 1415 difference was consistent within the two fungal phyla i.e., Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes  
 1416 (Figure 1b-c). Total fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity marginally varied between pine species ( $F=3.62$ ;  
 1417  $P=0.062$ ). At the phylum level, *P. halepensis* harboured significantly less Basidiomycetes  
 1418 ( $F=6.12$ ;  $P=0.016$ ) and marginally more Ascomycetes ( $F=3.88$ ;  $P=0.053$ ) than *P. pinaster*  
 1419 (Figure 1). *Pinus pinaster* root-tips were enriched of *Amanitaceae, Atheliaceae,*  
 1420 *Cantharellaceae, Clavariaceae, Cortinariaceae, Gloniaceae, Rhizopogonaceae* and  
 1421 *Russulaceae* species, while in *P. halepensis* root-tips prevailed species of the families  
 1422 *Pezizaceae, Pyronemataceae* and *Sebacinaceae* (Table 1). Although the  $\alpha$ -diversity of many  
 1423 ECM fungal families decreased in HiFi populations of both pine forest species (Table 1), some

1424 taxa were ~~clearly more diverse favoured by fire~~ in HiFi, e.g. *Amanitaceae*, *Cantharellaceae*  
1425 and *Rhizopogonaceae* for *P. pinaster*, or *Pezizaceae* for *P. halepensis* (Table 1).

1426 At regional scale, a consistent reduction of ECM fungal  $\beta$ -diversity was observed in HiFi  
1427 populations of both pine ~~forest~~ species (i.e., more homogeneous ECM communities in HiFi  
1428 than LoFi) (Figure 2a). Likewise, Basidiomycetes were less  $\beta$ -diverse in HiFi than LoFi  
1429 populations, while no difference was observed for Ascomycetes (Figure 2b-c). ~~Root-tip ECM~~  
1430 ~~fungal  $\beta$  diversity of both pine species was similar (F=1.34, P=0.265), although~~  
1431 ~~Basidiomycetes were more dissimilar in *P. pinaster* than in *P. halepensis* forests (F=4.51,~~  
1432 ~~P=0.004), and the opposite pattern was observed for Ascomycetes (F=11.62, P=0.001).~~

1433

1434 *Potential enzymatic activity of ECM root-tips*

1435 The enzymatic activity of the ECM root tips varied between pine forests (Figure 3). In LoFi  
1436 populations, the enzymatic activity of ECM root tips was very similar for both pines, except  
1437 in the case of cellobiohydrolase and phosphatase that were respectively higher and lower in *P.*  
1438 *halepensis* compared with *P. pinaster* (Figure 3). By contrast, in HiFi populations, the activity  
1439 of most of the C-degrading enzymes (i.e., cellobiohydrolase,  $\beta$ -xylosidase and  $\beta$ -  
1440 glucuronidase), and of those mobilizing nitrogen (i.e., chitinase and L-leucineaminopeptidase)  
1441 was higher for *P. halepensis* than *P. pinaster*, with the exception of laccase that was lower  
1442 (Figure 3).

1443 The ECM fungal species assemblage of *P. pinaster* root-tips ~~was~~ significantly  
1444 ~~correlated~~ associated with their enzymatic profile (Mantel  $r=0.14$ ;  $P=0.003$ ) (Figure 3a). ~~The~~  
1445 HiFi populations of *P. pinaster* had ~~higher~~ increased root-tip laccase activity and  
1446 ~~lower~~ reduced hemicellulose degrading activity (i.e.,  $\beta$ -xylosidase,  $\beta$ -glucuronidase), and of  
1447 enzymes mobilizing nitrogen (i.e., chitinase and L-leucineaminopeptidase) and phosphorus

1448 (i.e., acid phosphatase) (Figure 3a, Figure S3).  $\beta$ -glucosidase and laccase did correlate with  
 1449 the ECM fungal families favoured in HiFi, such as *Cantharellaceae* or *Rhizopogonaceae*  
 1450 (Table 1; Figure 3a). No significant relation between fungal community structure and  
 1451 enzymatic activity was observed for *P. halepensis* (Mantel  $r=0.03$ ;  $P=0.287$ ) (Figure 3b),  
 1452 although laccase activity significantly increased in HiFi populations (Figure 3b, Figure  
 1453 S3).

1454

1455 *Main drivers of the structure and function of ECM fungal communities*

1456 Climate, in particular temperature (Climate 1, first axis from PCA in Figure S2), together with  
 1457 fire regime recurrence frequency, and the tree fire-adaptive trait serotiny were revealed as  
 1458 major fire regime factors determining effectors on ECM fungal communities of Mediterranean  
 1459 pine forests (Table S4A; Figure 4a). As hypothesized, the CCA analysis clearly showed that  
 1460 the tree trait serotiny (selected by fire regime) did also affect the structure of explained  
 1461 differences in root-tip ECM fungal communities structure (Table S4B; Table 2B; Figure  
 1462 4a). Higher levels of serotiny significantly correlated with the ECM fungal community  
 1463 structures in between LoFi and HiFi populations in apart from the climatic effects,  
 1464 both in *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* forests (Table S4B; Figure 4a). Contrarily, the  
 1465 edaphic effects were likely related to differences among plots inside LoFi or HiFi populations,  
 1466 i.e. the (Table 2; Figure 4a) strength and direction of edaphic vectors along plots displayed in  
 1467 Figure 4a.

1468 Regarding ECM functionality (i.e., enzymatic activities), the fire recurrence together with the  
 1469 climatic variables explained did not affect root-tip enzymatic activity in *P. pinaster*  
 1470 forest any pine forest (Table S4A; Figure 4b). Moreover, the serotiny degree of *P. pinaster*  
 1471 populations significantly correlated with the ECM root-tip enzymatic profile in HiFi



1472 populations, while soil characteristics mainly drove variations in enzymes among sites inside  
 1473 LoFi and HiFi populations (Table S42B; Figure 4b). For *P. halepensis*, root-tip enzymatic  
 1474 activity was essentially driven by the surrounding edaphic environment (Table S42; Figure  
 1475 4b), mainly by high pH and low phosphorus availability (see PC2 in Figure S24a).

1476

## 1477 **Discussion**

1478 Mutualistic feedbacks between trees and ectomycorrhizal fungi that are essential for  
 1479 ecosystem dynamics can be highly vulnerable to fire in Mediterranean ecosystems. Our  
 1480 results show that the fire regime shapes the structure and functioning of root-tip ECM fungal  
 1481 communities in fire-prone Mediterranean forests. According to our H1D, d Divergent ECM  
 1482 fungal communities associated with *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis*, which –are highly  
 1483 influenced by the bedrock-type edaphic environment (siliceous vs. calcareous), and by the  
 1484 strong habitat filter imposed by the fire regime and the Mediterranean climate these fungal  
 1485 communities differently respond to the fire regime. According to our first hypothesis, As we  
 1486 hypothesized (H2h), high fire recurrence reduces ECM fungal diversity and has a  
 1487 homogenizing effect of ECM fungal on these communities, which leads to a reduced  
 1488 enzymatic activity for one of the pine species *P. pinaster* (but not for *P. halepensis*).  
 1489 Confirming our second hypothesis, this effect is evidenced at the finer scale of individuals  
 1490 since the serotiny degree of trees, i.e., genotypic fire-adaptation, does significantly affect the  
 1491 structure (for both *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis*) and functioning (in the case of *P. pinaster*)  
 1492 of ECM fungal communities. In this work, rR Our results demonstrate that relative. An overall  
 1493 simplification of the ECM community structure is observed under high fire recurrence, which  
 1494 associates a general enzymatic activity decline for *P. pinaster* but not for *P. halepensis*.  
 1495 Separated effects contribution on ECM fungal communities of main variables related to fire-

1496 ~~related effectors~~ such as climate, soil properties ~~and~~ the ~~tree trait ee phenotype~~ (serotiny  
1497 ~~degree~~) structuring ECM fungal communities have been ~~have can en~~ able to be disentangled in  
1498 ~~this study~~.

1499

1500

1501 *ECM communities in P. pinaster and P. halepensis forests*

1502 The tree species had a marginal effect on ECM fungal communities probably blurred by the  
1503 strong effect of the local environmental conditions. ~~.. The contrasted local environment rather~~

1504 ~~than the tree species was the main driver of the differences in ECM fungal assemblages~~  
1505 ~~observed between P. pinaster and P. halepensis forests~~ The degree of tree host specificity for

1506 ECM fungi seems to be correlated with the phylogenetic distances between hosts (Leho

1507 Tedersoo, Mett, Ishida, & Bahram, 2013). However, it has been shown that the genus Pinus

1508 associates with specialized ECM fungi, in particular within the genera *Suillus* and *Rhizopogon*

1509 (Smith & Read, 2008) and ~~Opposite to other mutualistic relationships, the mycorrhizal~~

1510 ~~symbiosis is low specific e.g., for Pinus spp. it can reach the genus level (Smith & Read,~~

1511 ~~2008). However, the tree species identity or even that even the Pinus tree genotype has been~~

1512 ~~previously demonstrated to~~ play an essential role in structuring ECM fungal communities

1513 (Gehring, Mueller, Haskins, Rubow, & Whitham, 2014; ~~Leticia~~ Pérez-Izquierdo et al., 2017,

1514 2019) ~~(Aponte, García, Marañón, & Gardes, 2010; Barbi et al., 2016; Pérez-Izquierdo et al.,~~

1515 ~~2017)~~. Given the importance of pH shaping fungal communities (Coince et al., 2014;

1516 Glassman, Wang, & Bruns, 2017; ~~Ana~~ Rincón et al., 2015; ~~L.~~ Tedersoo et al., 2014) ~~(Coince~~

1517 ~~et al., 2014; Rincón et al., 2015; Rousk et al., 2010; Tedersoo et al., 2014)~~, these divergent

1518 observations could be interpreted as context-dependent, i.e., in our study, soil pH (ranging

1519 from 5.1 to 8) was ~~two points~~ higher, even in Sinarcas where both pine species grew under a

1520 ~~similar local environment, than in the mentioned studies (average pH of ;5) even in Sinareas,~~  
1521 ~~where both pine species grew under a similar local environment. Thus, together with climate~~  
1522 ~~limitations, the bedrock influence, mainly siliceous for *P. pinaster*, and calcareous for *P.*~~  
1523 ~~*halepensis*, was a~~The strong environmental filter ~~imposed by the bedrock influence, mainly~~  
1524 ~~siliceous for *P. pinaster* and calcareous for *P. halepensis* (Ojeda, Pausas, & Verdú,~~  
1525 ~~2010)(Ojeda, Pausas, & Verdú, 2010), for their associated ECM fungal communities,~~  
1526 ~~probably overtaken other possible effect of the tree species. This was also reflected in more~~  
1527 diverse and more heterogeneous Ascomycetes species together with less ~~diverse~~ and more  
1528 homogeneous Basidiomycetes in the case of *P. halepensis*, ~~whereas, tT and the opposite~~  
1529 ~~pattern was observed for *P. pinaster*. In fact, Ascomycetes have been often associated with~~  
1530 ~~environmental stressful conditions, by traits such as their melanin production capacity (Koide,~~  
1531 ~~Fernandez, & Malcolm, 2014; Treseder & Lennon, 2015). Accordingly, w~~We observed a  
1532 preferential association of *P. halepensis* with fungal species of the genus *Sebacina* and the  
1533 order Pezizales. So far, ~~noany~~ tree host specificity has been observed among the *Sebacina*  
1534 species (Ray & Craven, 2016; Selosse, Bauer, & Moyersoen, 2002). Given the reported  
1535 positive effects of sebacinous fungi against stresses such as herbivorye, salinity or drought  
1536 (Barazani & Baldwin, 2013; Ray & Craven, 2016; Zarea, Miransari, & Karimi, 2014), they  
1537 could play a key role in the resistance of *P. halepensis* to limited nutrient availability (i.e.,  
1538 related to high soil pH) and the restrictive conditions imposed by the Mediterranean climate.  
1539 Similarly, ascomycetous ECM Pezizales, which tend to be favoured in basic soils, have traits  
1540 ~~that such as their melanin production capacity that~~ make them perfect symbionts under  
1541 stressful conditions- ~~including post-fire scenariosones~~ (Koide, Fernandez, & Malcolm, 2014;  
1542 Lamit et al., 2014; ~~A.~~Rincón et al., 2014; ~~Ana~~Rincón & Pueyo, 2010; ~~Leho~~ Tedersoo,  
1543 Hansen, Perry, & Kjøller, 2006; Torres & Honrubia, 1997)-(~~Lamit, Holeski, Flores-Rentería,~~

1544 ~~Whitham, & Gehring, 2016; Tedersoo, Hansen, Perry, & Kjeller, 2006~~). On the other hand,  
1545 species from the genera *Rhizopogon*, *Craterellus*, *Cenococum*, *Russula* and *Lactarius* were  
1546 enriched under *P. pinaster* (less basic pH). Although ECM fungi tolerate a wide range of pH  
1547 (Rousk et al., 2010), most of these fungi grow better under acidophilic conditions (Yamanaka,  
1548 2003).

1549

1550 *Structural and functional shifts of root-tip ECM fungal communities due to the fire regime*

1551 As we firstly hypothesized, for both pine species, the local and regional diversity of root-tip  
1552 ECM fungi significantly declined in populations where fires are historically frequent, and this  
1553 implied functional outcomes e.g., —laccase activity of ECM root-tips increased in HiFi  
1554 populations of both pine forests.

1555 Many fire studies have ascribed decreases in fungal diversity to the reduction of heat resistant  
1556 propagules, elimination of rare species from the spore bank, the scarcity of suitable hosts, the  
1557 direct burning of mycelium and roots, and/or the disturbed soil properties (Glassman et al.,  
1558 2016; Holden, Gutierrez, & Treseder, 2013; Rincón & Pueyo, 2010). These processes do have  
1559 a great importance on ECM fungal communities in the short term after relatively post-  
1560 disturbance—short term, giving the way to other processes such as dispersion through time  
1561 (Dooley & Treseder, 2011; Kipfer, Moser, Egli, Wohlgemuth, & Ghazoul, 2011; Rincón et  
1562 al., 2014; Sun et al., 2015), similar to that reported in succession studies, where fungal  
1563 richness increases with forest age (Kyaschenko, Clemmensen, Hagenbo, Karlton, & Lindahl,  
1564 2017; Twieg, Durall, & Simard, 2007). In our study, it does not seem ~~not a plausible~~  
1565 ~~explanation~~ that ECM fungal diversity has ve not been yet restored since the last fire (at least  
1566 more than 40 years ago), because typical late-stage species such as *Amanita* or *Lactarius*  
1567 (Cairney & Chambers, 2013; Taylor & Bruns, 1999) were indicators in HiFi areas. On the

1568 contrary, our results suggest that, the initial ruderal symbionts that facilitate the establishment  
1569 of seedlings are replaced over time by ECM fungi that respond more efficiently to the new  
1570 environmental conditions, probably driving plant-soil feedbacks to different directions ~~and~~  
1571 creating a different soil ecosystem (Duhamel et al., 2019).

1572 The ECM species composition diverged between fire regimes and, although fungal diversity  
1573 decreased with high fire recurrence, some fungal families were more diverse in HiFi  
1574 populations early favoured by fire, e.g. *Amanitaceae*, *Cantharellaceae* and *Rhizopogonaceae*  
1575 for *P. pinaster*, or *Pezizaceae* for *P. halepensis*. Different authors have proposed that in  
1576 ecosystems subjected to frequent fires, the positive response of microorganisms would  
1577 indicate a selection of the fire-tolerant ones over time (Buscardo et al., 2015; Dooley &  
1578 Treseder, 2011; Rincón et al., 2014). Fire recurrence in Mediterranean forests is intimately  
1579 linked to temperature and drought (Pausas, 2004), so as expected, in our work, climate was a  
1580 strong determinant of fire regime effects on fungal communities. ~~Similar to that described for~~  
1581 ~~plant communities (Pausas & Verdú, 2008; Verdú & Pausas, 2007),~~ All these results,  
1582 together with the observed decline in ECM fungal  $\beta$ -diversity, seem to indicate that the  
1583 habitat filtering was likely the dominant ecological process assembling root-tip ECM fungal  
1584 communities under high fire recurrence, while without the fire pressure (i.e., low fire  
1585 recurrence) and milder climate conditions, competition among fungi could prevail, si-  
1586 imilar to that described across biological groups (Pérez-Valera, Verdú, Navarro-Cano, & Goberna,  
1587 2018; Verdú & Pausas, 2007). The diversity of plant and microbial communities is regulated  
1588 by sequentially operating assembly rules: abiotic filtering is an omnipresent structuring force,  
1589 and biological interactions e.g., competition, further fine-tunes the community assemblages  
1590 (Pérez-Valera et al., 2018; Verdú & Pausas, 2007).

1591

1592 ~~Fire regime and climate can filter directly different~~ ~~Beyond co-variation of~~ biotic organisms  
1593 (i.e., trees and ECM fungi) ~~filtered by the fire regime and climate,~~ however our results did  
1594 provide significant clues about indirect plant-mediated effects of high fire recurrence on ECM  
1595 fungal communities. We observed that serotiny, previously demonstrated to be a tree  
1596 heritable trait shaped by recurrent fires (Budde et al., 2014; Castellanos, González-Martínez,  
1597 & Pausas, 2015; ~~Anna~~ Hernández-Serrano et al., 2014), significantly explained the  
1598 variability of ECM fungal communities, aside from the accounted climatic effects for both  
1599 pine species. This could be attributed to climatic constraints in the channel of Cearbon from  
1600 the tree towards the ECM fungi, although, on the other hand, serotiny is a trait that requires  
1601 resources (water and Cearbon) for maintaining a large amount of seeds alive in the canopy  
1602 with a cost for the plant (Cramer & Midgley, 2009; Harris & Pannell, 2010). ~~Thus, we~~  
1603 suggest Another possible explanation is that the ability of the different tree  
1604 genotypes/phenotypes to preferentially allocate photosynthates to the more beneficial ECM  
1605 fungi, or to those with low Cearbon demands and/or high abilities to cope with hydric/nutrient  
1606 stress is can be the prevailing mechanism explaining such plant-mediated effects (Bever,  
1607 Richardson, Lawrence, Holmes, & Watson, 2009; Gehring et al., 2014). This was further to  
1608 some extent supported by our results, at least in *P. pinaster*, for which a direct effect of tree  
1609 phenotype (serotiny) on enzymatic responses of ECM fungi, but no effect of climatic  
1610 variables was observed. We have previously shown that particular *P. pinaster* genotypes can  
1611 impact enzymatic activities through changes in the composition of the associated microbial  
1612 communities (Pérez-Izquierdo et al., 2017, 2019). Additionally, it cannot be ruled out that, as  
1613 for serotiny, the fire recurrence negatively affects other tree traits, such as root development  
1614 and/or architecture constraining, ~~which would consecutively reduce~~ the space for ECM  
1615 fungal colonization, which would make mechanisms like priority effects particularly

1616 ~~important making that mechanisms such as priority effects could gain importance~~ (Kennedy,  
1617 Peay, & Bruns, 2009; Peay, Belisle, & Fukami, 2012). In any case, further experimentation  
1618 would be needed to shed light on these assumptions.

1619

1620 The increased fire recurrence affected ecosystem functions differently in the two pine species  
1621 by reducing most enzymatic activities in the case of *P. pinaster*, but not for *P. halepensis*.

1622 This suggests functional redundancy between ~~HiFi and LoFi~~-ECM fungal communities  
1623 associated with *P. halepensis* in low and high fire recurrence frequency sites, since diversity

1624 and assemblage shifts were not translated into functional changes (Jones et al., 2010). These  
1625 results might indicate a high capacity of *P. halepensis* forests to recover its functionality

1626 among recurrent fires in warmer areas probably by shifting plant-microbial feedbacks to  
1627 readjust to the environment (Clemmensen et al., 2015; Johnstone et al., 2010). The edaphic

1628 conditions (mainly pH and P) were ~~a main factor~~ explaining differences in enzymatic  
1629 profiles, indistinctively in LoFi and HiFi populations among populations of both pine species.

1630 Among their multiple functions, an outstanding feature of ectomycorrhizal fungi is s,  
1631 emphasizing again the main role of the bedrock type in nutrient availability and ecosystem

1632 functionality in Mediterranean forests. Ectomycorrhizal fungi display multiple functions,  
1633 among them, they are able to able to such as mobilizing nutrients from the soil (Smith &

1634 Read, 2008). for the host, with particular N mining abilities where litter N is hard to access  
1635 (Smith & Wang 2019; Fernandez et al., 2020), as could be also the case for pine litter in our

1636 study. Because of their direct access to C from the host, they are able to invest energy (i.e.,  
1637 enzymatic production) to mine for N and/or P from hardly accessible sources (Fernandez,

1638 See, & Kennedy, 2020; Lindahl & Tunlid, 2015) which are often limiting nutrients in forests,  
1639 as it could be the case for pine litter and/or basic soils in our study together with recalcitrant

1640 ~~pine litter in our study. Our results show that the ECM enzymatic production is mainly~~  
1641 ~~regulated by the availability of P which is in turn highly dependent on the bedrock type in~~  
1642 ~~Mediterranean ecosystems. Ectomycorrhizal fungi act on soil nutrient and carbon dynamics~~  
1643 ~~directly affecting tree productivity, and contributing soil organic matter and priming or~~  
1644 ~~inhibiting its turnover in soils (Clemmensen et al., 2013; Fernandez et al., 2020), which can~~  
1645 ~~be of prime importance in Mediterranean soil formation. Our findings are in line with~~  
1646 ~~previous studies indicating that the availability of resources in surrounding soil and together~~  
1647 ~~with tree host genetics strongly regulates ECM microbial enzymatic production in surrounding~~  
1648 ~~soils among the key factors affecting the enzymatic activity of ECM fungal communities~~  
1649 (Aponte, García, Marañón, & Gardes, 2010; ~~P.-E.~~ Courty et al., 2016; ~~Pierre Emmanuel~~  
1650 Courty et al., 2011; Schneider et al., 2012).

1651 ~~As previously mentioned,~~ the laccase activity ~~of ECM root tips~~ increased in high fire  
1652 recurrence populations of both pine ~~s~~ forests. Laccase is an oxidative enzyme related to several  
1653 processes like the degradation of recalcitrant C compounds (i.e., lignin), but also to the  
1654 production of melanin by fungi (Baldrian, 2006; Eisenman et al., 2007). Melanin is a group of  
1655 complex polymers deposited in the cell wall associated with resistance to stresses such as  
1656 drought (Koide et al., 2014) and moderately resistant to decomposition (Fernandez, Heckman,  
1657 Kolka, & Kennedy, 2019). It is also possible that in our study sites, changes in traits like  
1658 production of melanin by fungi or more litter tannins by trees associated to the fire regime and  
1659 climatic stress might have affected organic matter turnover and feedback cycles, issues that  
1660 would deserve further analyses. In fact, in a 2-million-year chronosequence, Albornoz et al.  
1661 (2016) showed strong variation of ECM fungal communities even within the same hosts,  
1662 attributable not only to short-term fungal edaphic specialization or different inoculum density



1663 and composition, but also likely to a much longer-term ecosystem-level feedbacks among soil,  
1664 plants and ECM fungi during pedogenesis.

1665

## 1666 **Conclusions**

1667 In *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis* Mediterranean forests, the high fire recurrencefrequency  
1668 filters the ECM fungal community composition, even favoring some ECM fungal species, but  
1669 reduces local and regional ECM diversity. Factors such as climate, which is intimately related  
1670 to fire, and soil properties in particular pH, affect ECM fungal communities composition and  
1671 their enzymatic functions. Separated effects of fire regime related effectors such as climate,  
1672 soil properties or the tree phenotype are driving these processes in Mediterranean ecosystems.

1673 Aside from the climatic filter, local adaptation in pine populations to recurrent fires (i.e.,  
1674 increased serotiny) selects for different ECM fungal communities, accompanying different  
1675 functional responses. ECM fungal communities associated with serotinous *P. pinaster* trees  
1676 imply a reduced enzymatic activity, but for *P. halepensis*, a functional redundancy in LoFi  
1677 and HiFi fire regimes likely exists. Edaphic variables, highly linked to the bedrock type in  
1678 Mediterranean ecosystems, are main drivers of ECM fungal structure and functioning but  
1679 generally independent of the fire regime. The bedrock material is also a main factor driving  
1680 differences in ECM fungal communities associated with *P. pinaster* and *P. halepensis*,  
1681 overriding the possible effect of the tree species. Although fire is already a main ecological  
1682 factor shaping in the Mediterranean ecosystemsarea, changes in fire frequency because of  
1683 predicted warmer and longer dry periods have the potential to affect the plants and their  
1684 symbionts altering the structure, functioning and successional dynamics of Mediterranean  
1685 forests ecosystems. The observed fire regime-related structural and functional shifts in ECM  
1686 fungal communities might have essential implications for Mediterranean pine forests

1687 dynamics, which should be carefully considered to promote the sustainable management of  
1688 these vulnerable ecosystems and to maintain their resilience under future climatic scenarios.

For Review Only

1690

1691 **Acknowledgements**

1692 We gratefully acknowledge A. Hernández-Serrano, A. Montesinos and D.A. Rodríguez  
1693 for their help in field, L. López for its support in the lab work and E. Sentausa for assistance  
1694 in data analyses. This work was supported by the projects MyFUNCO (CGL2011-29585-  
1695 C02-02) ~~and by the project PiroPheno (CGL2017-89751-R)~~ founded by the Spanish Ministry  
1696 for Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), and by the LABoratoire d'EXcellence Arbre  
1697 (LABEX Arbre). LPI held a pre-doctoral fellowship awarded by MINECO. We also  
1698 acknowledge three anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments that highly  
1699 improved the quality of the manuscript.

1701

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2054 **Data Accessibility**

2055 Data were deposited in the Sequence Read Archive (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) as  
2056 PRJNA324224.

2057

2058 **Author contribution**

2059 AR and MV designed the experiment; LPI, MZA and AR collected the data; LPI and MB  
2060 performed the bioinformatics analysis, LPI performed the statistical analyses. LPI and AR  
2061 wrote the first draft of the manuscript, and all authors contributed substantially to revisions.

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2078 **Table 1.** Alpha-diversity of representative ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungal families analysed  
 2079 by General Linear Models (GLMs) ( $p < 0.05$ ). Main effects of the pine species (Ppi = *Pinus*  
 2080 *pinaster* and Pha = *Pinus halepensis*) (left) and the fire regime (LoFi = low fire recurrence and  
 2081 HiFi = high fire recurrence) (right) are shown. The site was nested within the fix factor fire  
 2082 regime in the Generalized Linear Models (GLMs). Data represent means +/- SE. Arrows  
 2083 indicate significantly higher  $\alpha$ -diversity, and “=” indicates no variation between pine species  
 2084 according to the GLM (F values; \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ). In the separate analyses  
 2085 on the right, for each pine forest, different letters denote significant differences between fire  
 2086 regimes ( $p < 0.05$ ) (in bold). A = Ascomycetes (orange); B = Basidiomycetes (green).

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|                                     | Pine Forest |     |             | <i>P. pinaster</i> |                    | <i>P. halepensis</i> |                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                                     | Ppi         | Pha | F (p-value) | LoFi               | HiFi               | LoFi                 | HiFi                |
| <i>Amanitaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 9.2**       | <b>0.1 ± 0.1 a</b> | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 b</b> | 0.1 ± 0.1            | 0.2 ± 0.1           |
| <i>Atheliaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 6.8*        | <b>9.7 ± 0.6 b</b> | <b>6.7 ± 0.6 a</b> | 6.3 ± 0.5            | 5.9 ± 0.4           |
| <i>Bankeraceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | =           | =   | 2.0         | 1.8 ± 0.4          | 1.3 ± 0.3          | <b>1.7 ± 0.5 b</b>   | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 a</b>  |
| <i>Cantharellaceae</i> <sup>B</sup> | ↑           |     | 41.7***     | <b>1.0 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>2.8 ± 0.4 b</b> | 0.7 ± 0.2            | 0.5 ± 0.2           |
| <i>Clavariaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    | ↑           |     | 36.9***     | 0.8 ± 0.2          | 1.2 ± 0.4          | <b>0.3 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.1 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Clavulinaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>   | =           | =   | 2.4         | <b>2.9 ± 0.3 b</b> | <b>1.7 ± 0.3 a</b> | <b>2.7 ± 0.5 b</b>   | <b>1.3 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Cortinariaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>  | ↑           |     | 16.2***     | <b>2.2 ± 0.7 b</b> | <b>0.4 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>0.6 ± 0.4 b</b>   | <b>0.2 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Gloniaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      | ↑           |     | 5.7*        | <b>2.5 ± 0.3 b</b> | <b>1.2 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>1.7 ± 0.4 b</b>   | <b>0.9 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Hydnaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>       | =           | =   | 0.8         | 0.3 ± 0.1          | 0.2 ± 0.1          | <b>0.6 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.2 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Inocybeaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    | =           | =   | 1.4         | <b>5.5 ± 0.8 b</b> | <b>3.0 ± 0.5 a</b> | 3.1 ± 0.3            | 2.8 ± 0.3           |
| <i>Pezizaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      |             | ↑   | 22.8***     | 0.2 ± 0.1          | 0.2 ± 0.1          | <b>0.5 ± 0.2 a</b>   | <b>1.1 ± 0.2 b</b>  |
| <i>Pyronemataceae</i> <sup>A</sup>  |             | ↑   | 30.7***     | 0.6 ± 0.2          | 0.9 ± 0.2          | <b>2.9 ± 0.3 b</b>   | <b>1.6 ± 0.3 a</b>  |
| <i>Rhizopogonaceae</i> <sup>B</sup> | ↑           |     | 29.1***     | <b>0.9 ± 0.2 a</b> | <b>1.8 ± 0.2 b</b> | <b>0.8 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>0.4 ± 0.1 a</b>  |
| <i>Russulaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>     | ↑           |     | 14.0***     | <b>7.3 ± 0.6 b</b> | <b>5.5 ± 0.7 a</b> | 4.3 ± 0.8            | 4.3 ± 0.5           |
| <i>Sebacinaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>    |             | ↑   | 33.6***     | 5.7 ± 1.1          | 4.5 ± 0.4          | 8.7 ± 0.8            | 9.0 ± 0.8           |
| <i>Suillaceae</i> <sup>B</sup>      | =           | =   | 0.0         | 1.6 ± 0.3          | 1.2 ± 0.2          | <b>1.6 ± 0.2 b</b>   | <b>1.2 ± 0.2 a</b>  |
| <i>Telephoraceae</i> <sup>B</sup>   | =           | =   | 0.0         | 11.9 ± 1.0         | 11.0 ± 1.0         | <b>14.1 ± 1.8 b</b>  | <b>10.4 ± 0.8 a</b> |
| <i>Tuberaceae</i> <sup>A</sup>      | =           | =   | 0.0         | 1.4 ± 0.3          | 1.6 ± 0.3          | 1.6 ± 0.3            | 1.4 ± 0.2           |

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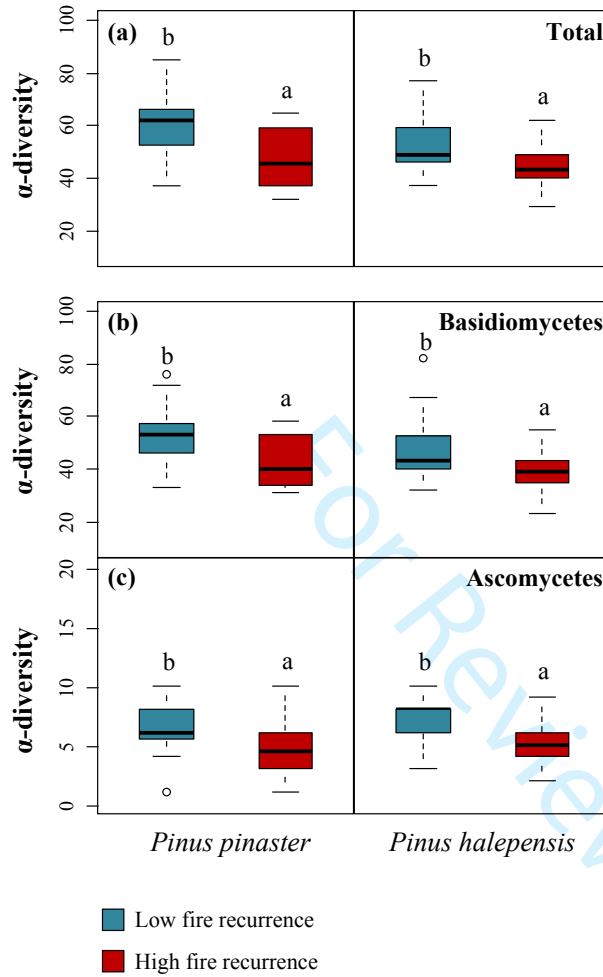
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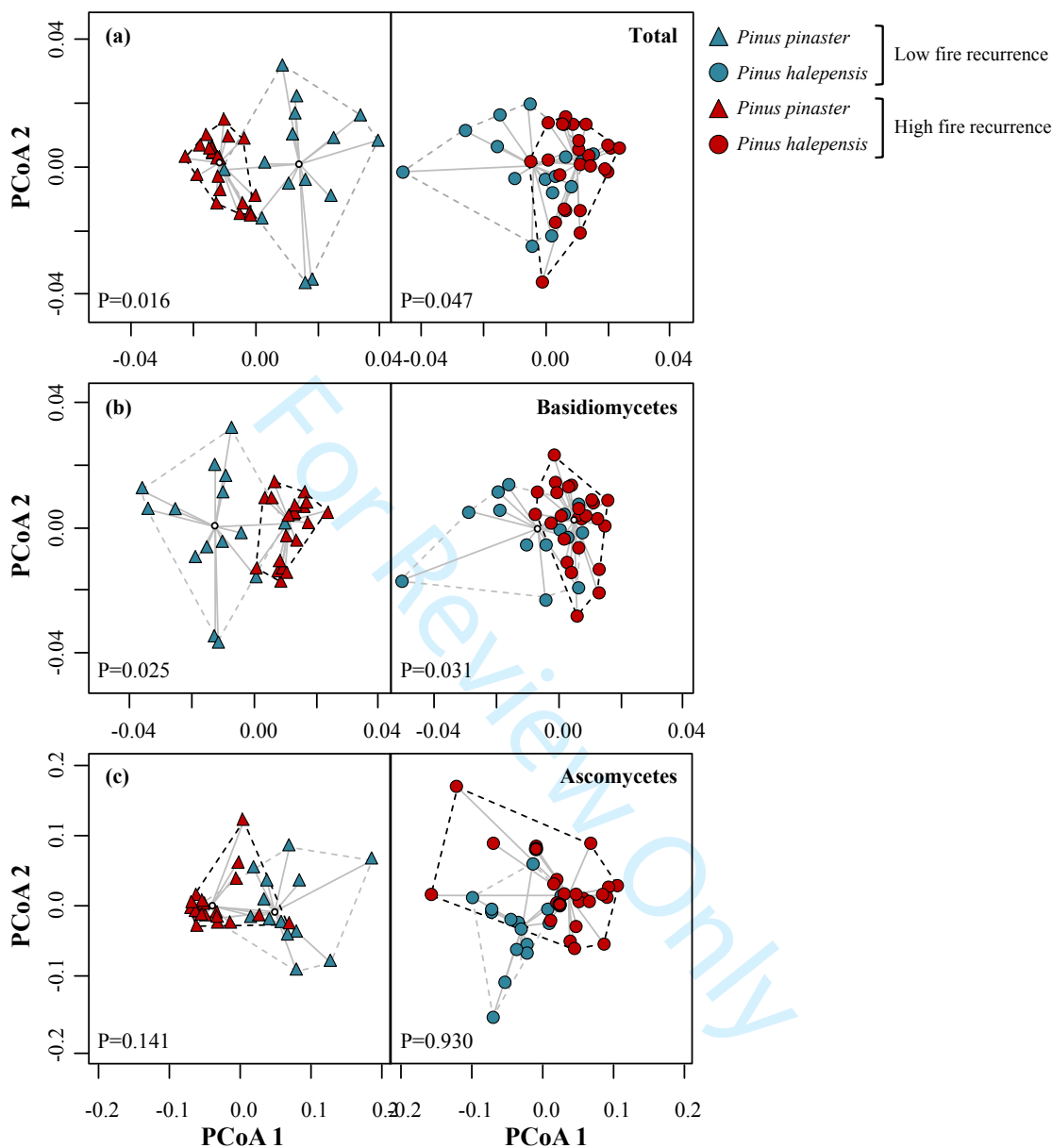
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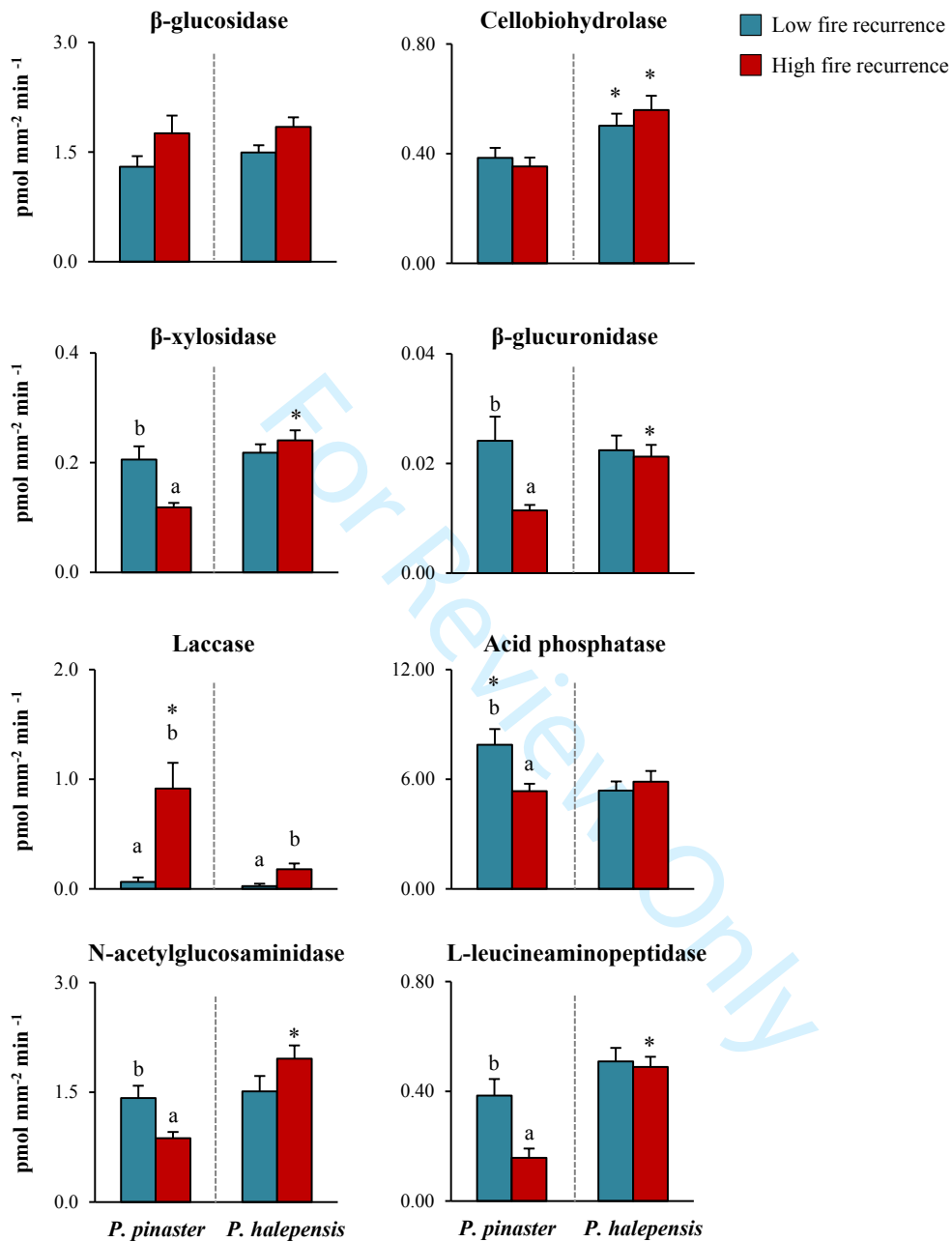
2098 **Figure 1.** Alpha-diversity of (a) total, (b) Basidiomycetes and (c) Ascomycetes  
 2099 ectomycorrhizal fungal communities associated with root-tips of low (blue) or high (red) fire  
 2100 recurrenceLoFi (blue/light bars) and HiFi (dark bars) populations of *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus*  
 2101 *halepensis*, analysed by Generalized Linear Models ( $p < 0.05$ ). Boxes represent the  
 2102 interquartile range (IQR) between first and third quartiles and the horizontal line inside is the  
 2103 median. Whiskers denote the lowest and highest values within 1.5 x IQR from the first and  
 2104 third quartiles, respectively. Within each graph, different letters denote significant differences  
 2105 among fire regimes.

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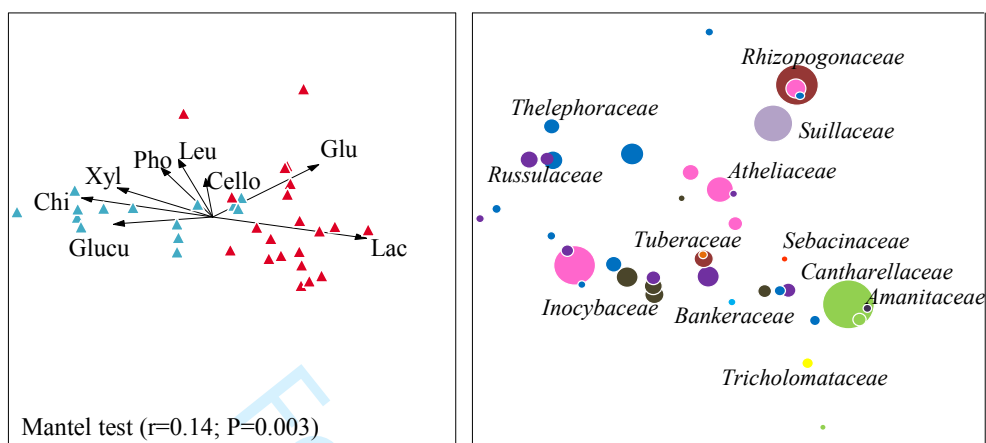
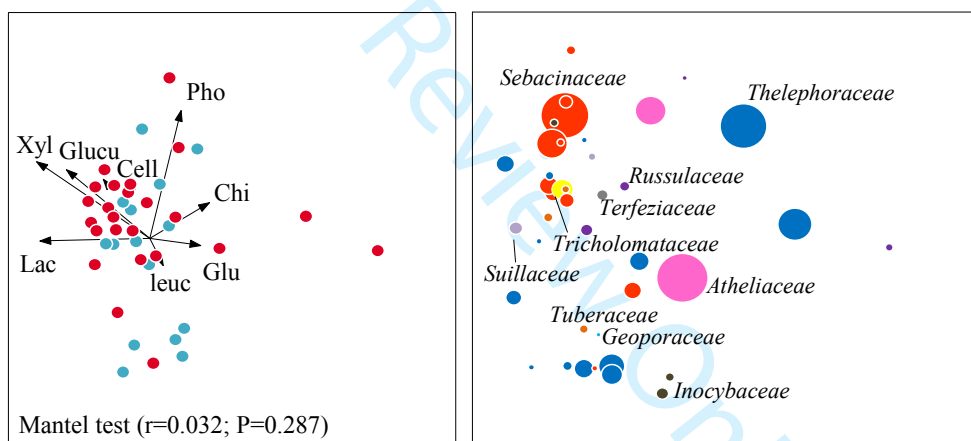
2111 **Figure 2.** Beta-diversity of (a) total, (b) Basidiomycetes and (c) Ascomycetes  
 2112 ectomycorrhizal fungal communities associated with root-tips of low (blue) or high (red) fire  
 2113 recurrence LoFi (grey/blue) and HiFi (black/red) populations of *Pinus pinaster* (triangles) and  
 2114 *Pinus halepensis* (circles). The centroids within each group are represented by small white  
 2115 dots. Grey solid lines give the relative position of the point with respect to the respective  
 2116 centroid. Dotted lines reflect the area occupied by all plots of a given treatment, which is  
 2117 inversely proportional to the similarity of their ECM fungal communities.

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**Figure 3.** Enzymatic activity of ectomycorrhizal root tips (means  $\pm$  SE) of low (LoFi, blue) or high (HiFi, red) fire recurrence populations of *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus halepensis*, analysed by Generalized Linear Models ( $p < 0.05$ ). For each pine species, different letters denote significant differences between fire recurrence levels, while for each LoFi/HiFi treatment, asterisks denote significant differences between pine forest levels.



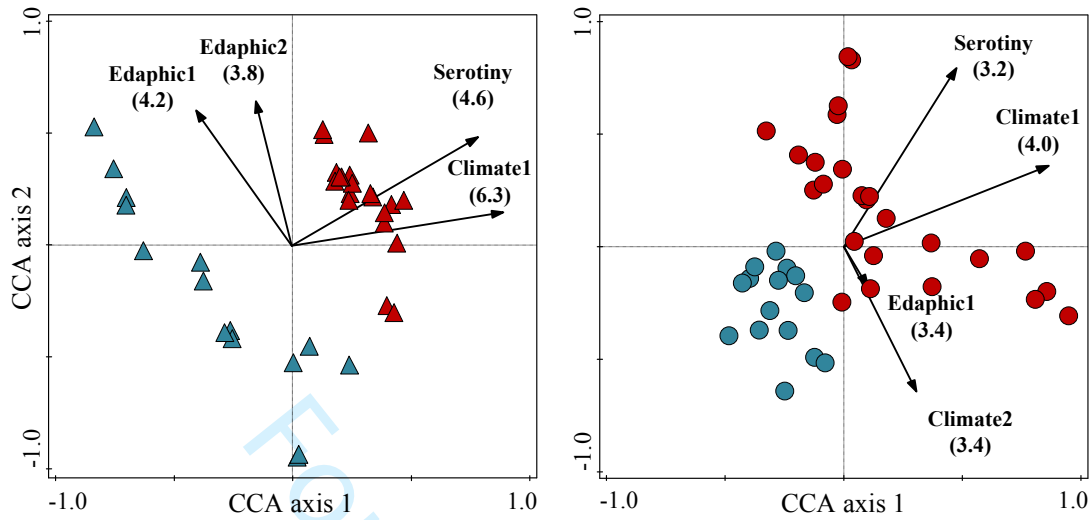
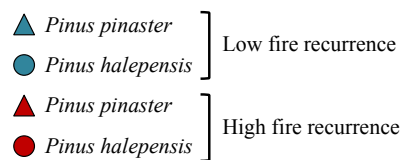
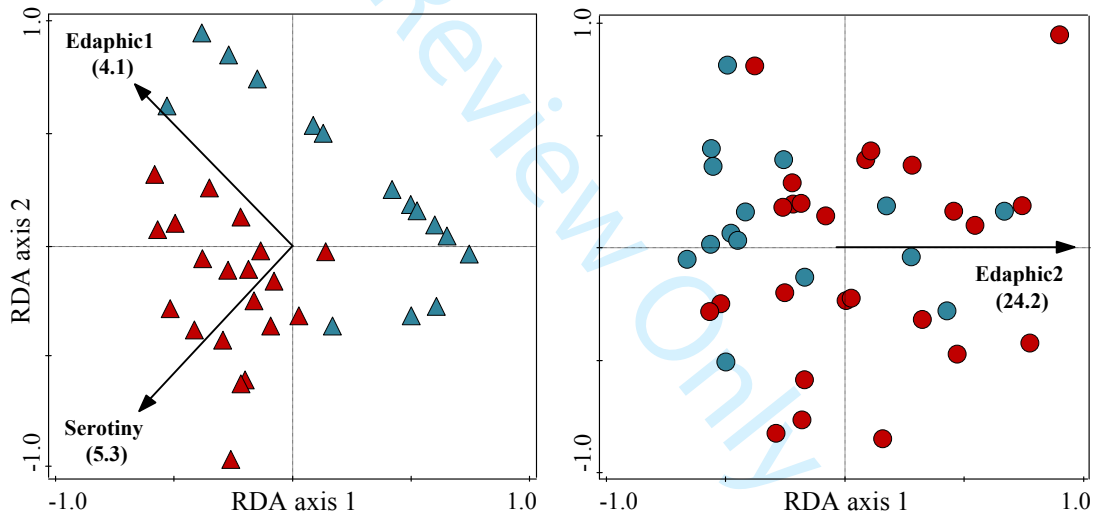
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(a) *Pinus pinaster*(b) *Pinus halepensis*

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2134 **Figure 3.** Variation of root tip ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungal community composition  
 2135 associated with LoFi (blue) and HiFi (red) populations of (a) *Pinus pinaster* and (b) *Pinus*  
 2136 *halepensis* by sample plots (left) and fungal families (right) and correlation with enzymatic  
 2137 activities, analyzed by Detrended Correspondence Analysis (DCA). Vectors represent the  
 2138 weight and direction of enzymatic activities plotted in the ordination space. In the fungal  
 2139 species graphs on the right, only the most abundant taxa (proportional to the diameter of the  
 2140 circles) are shown. The correlation between ECM fungal community structure and enzymatic  
 2141 activities dissimilarity matrices is shown through Mantel test.

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**(a) ECM fungal community****(b) Enzymatic activity**

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2151 **Figure 4.** ~~Distribution of~~ (a) E-ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungal community structure and (b)  
2152 enzymatic activitiesy composition associated with root-tips of LoFi (blue) and HiFi (red)  
2153 *Pinus pinaster* (triangles) and *Pinus halepensis* (circles) fforests subjected to low (blue) or  
2154 high (red) fire recurrence, analyzed by Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA), and (b)  
2155 their enzymatic profiles analyzed-respectively analyzed by Canonical Correspondence (CCA)  
2156 and Redundancy (RDA) aAnalyseis. In all cases, -(RDA) showing the weight, direction and  
2157 separate effects of serotiny, climatic and edaphic conditions in sample plotsis represented by  
2158 vectors (see model details in Table S4). Serotiny degree is the number of closed cones by total  
2159 number of cones in the tree. Edaphic and climatic conditions are represented by the first two  
2160 axes (Edaphic1 and Edaphic2; Climate1 and Climate2) of Principal Coordinates Analyses  
2161 (PCA) performed considering the pH, electric conductivity and potassium, nitrogen,  
2162 phosphorus and organic matter content in the first case, and mean temperature, mean  
2163 precipitation and altitude in the second case (Figure S24). Only significant variables are  
2164 shown, \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001.

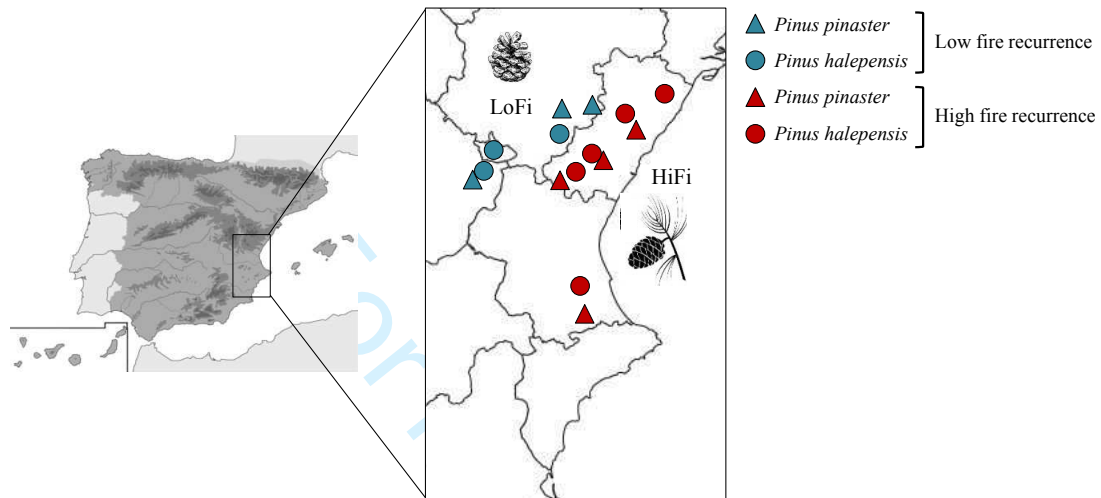
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2166 **Supplementary Figures**

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2168 **Figure S1**

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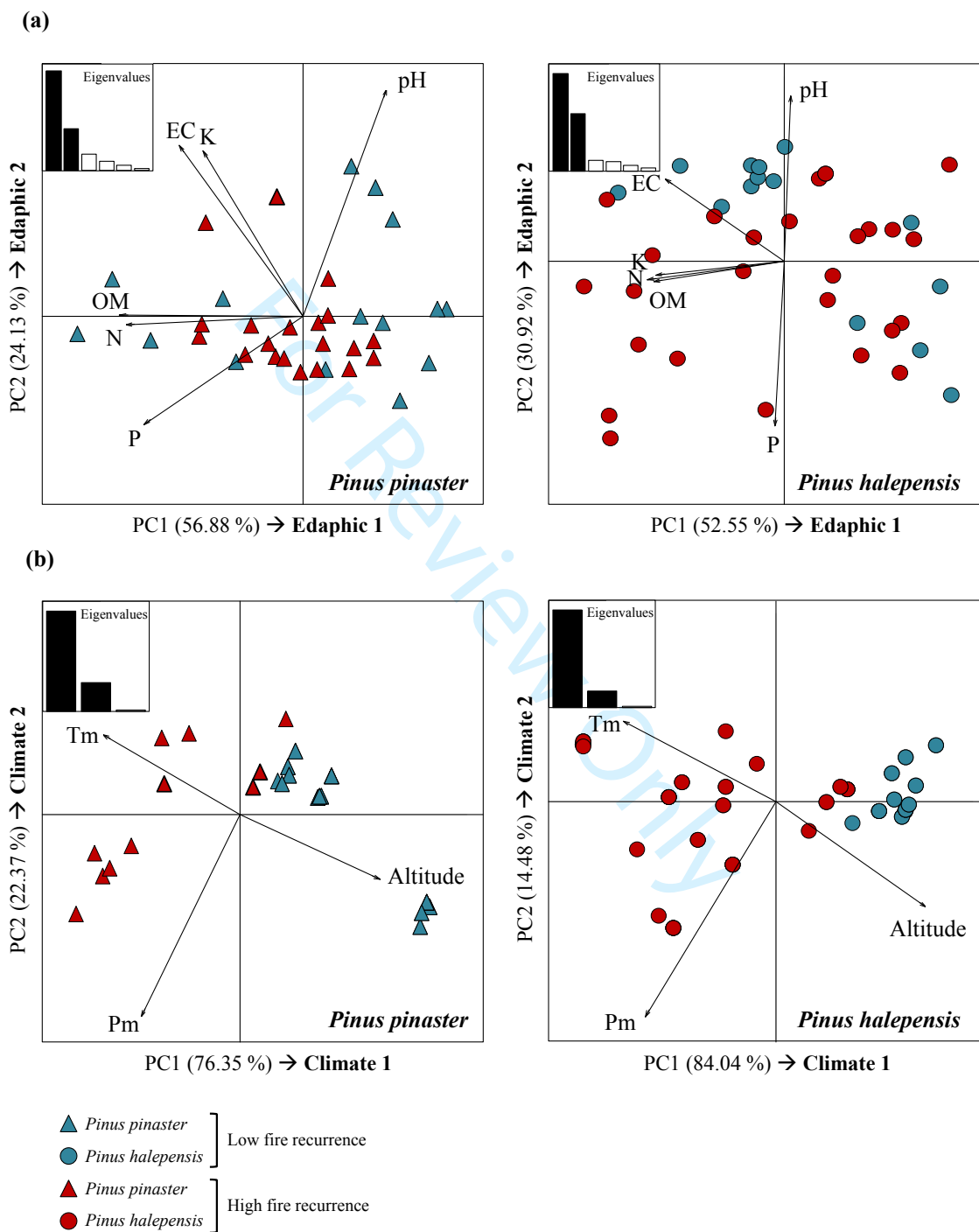
2172 **Figure S1.** Location of the fifteen study sites with pine populations of *Pinus pinaster* Ait.  
 2173 (triangles) and *Pinus halepensis* Mill. (circles), growing in areas of low (LoFi, blue) and high  
 2174 (HiFi, red) fire recurrence, in eastern Spain. The distinct **historical** fire regime has induced a  
 2175 sharp serotiny divergence within these pine populations **along time**. Serotinous populations  
 2176 associate to HiFi while non-serotinous populations associate to LoFi.

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**Figure S2**



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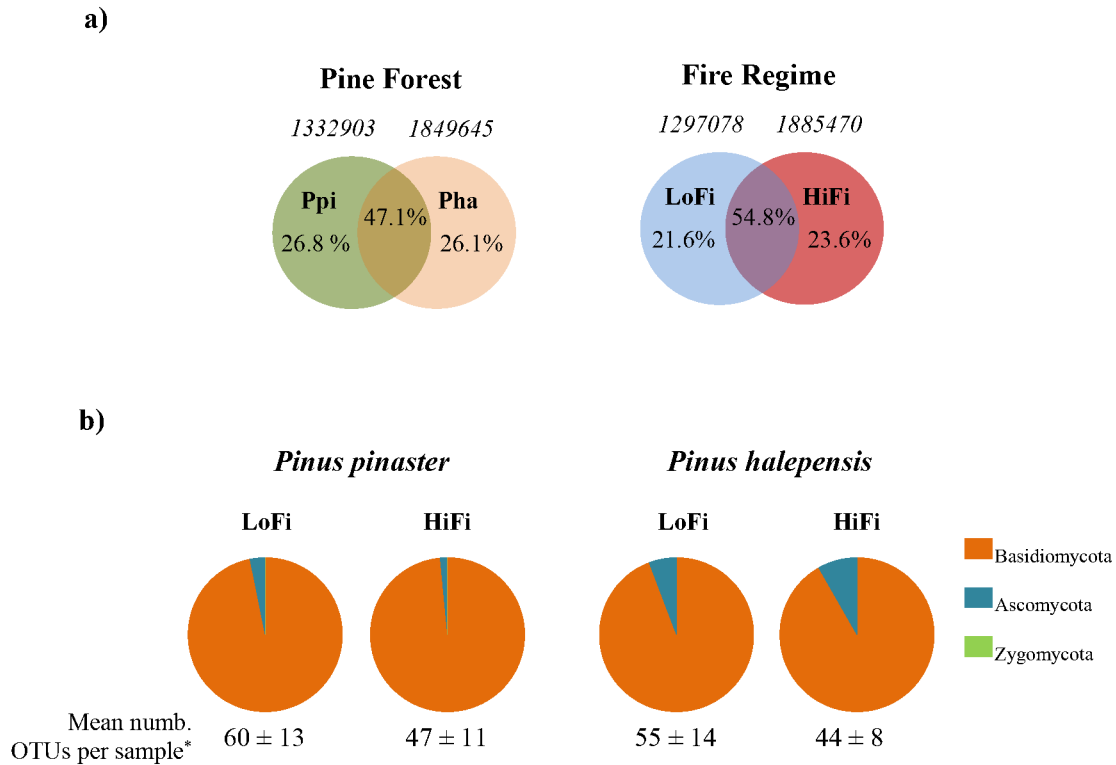
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2188 **Figure S21.** Principal component analyses (PCA) performed with (a) the edaphic variables  
2189 pH, electric conductivity (EC), potassium (K), nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and organic  
2190 matter (OM), and (b) the climate-related variables altitude, mean temperature (Tm) and mean  
2191 precipitation (Pm) of each pine forest. The first two axes of each analysis explaining the  
2192 maximum of variance (in parenthesis) were used as edaphic or climatic indexes in models  
2193 (i.e., proxies of edaphic and climatic conditions of each pine forest *Pinus pinaster* or *Pinus*  
2194 *halepensis*).

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**Figure S3**



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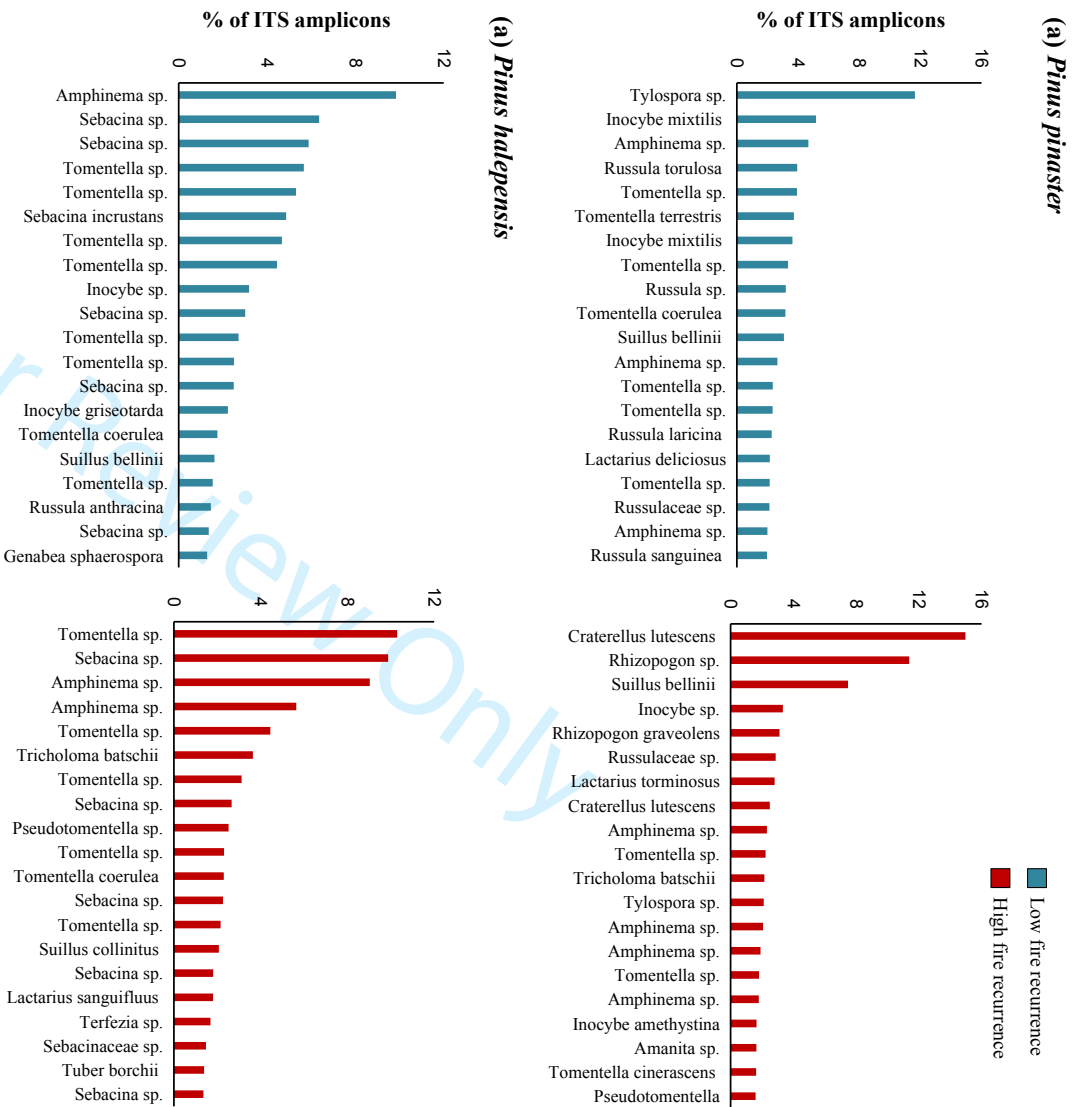
2201 **Figure S32.** (a) Number of sequences (*italics*) and percentage of ectomycorrhizal (ECM)  
 2202 fungal MOTUs by pine forest (Ppi = *Pinus pinaster* and Pha = *Pinus halepensis*) and fire  
 2203 regime (HiFi and LoFi fire [recurrence frequency](#)). (b) Percentages of fungal phyla for each  
 2204 pine species and fire regime. \*Mean  $\pm$  SD. ([See Table S2 for percentages and abundance of](#)  
 2205 [other taxonomic ranks across treatments](#)).

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**Figure S4**

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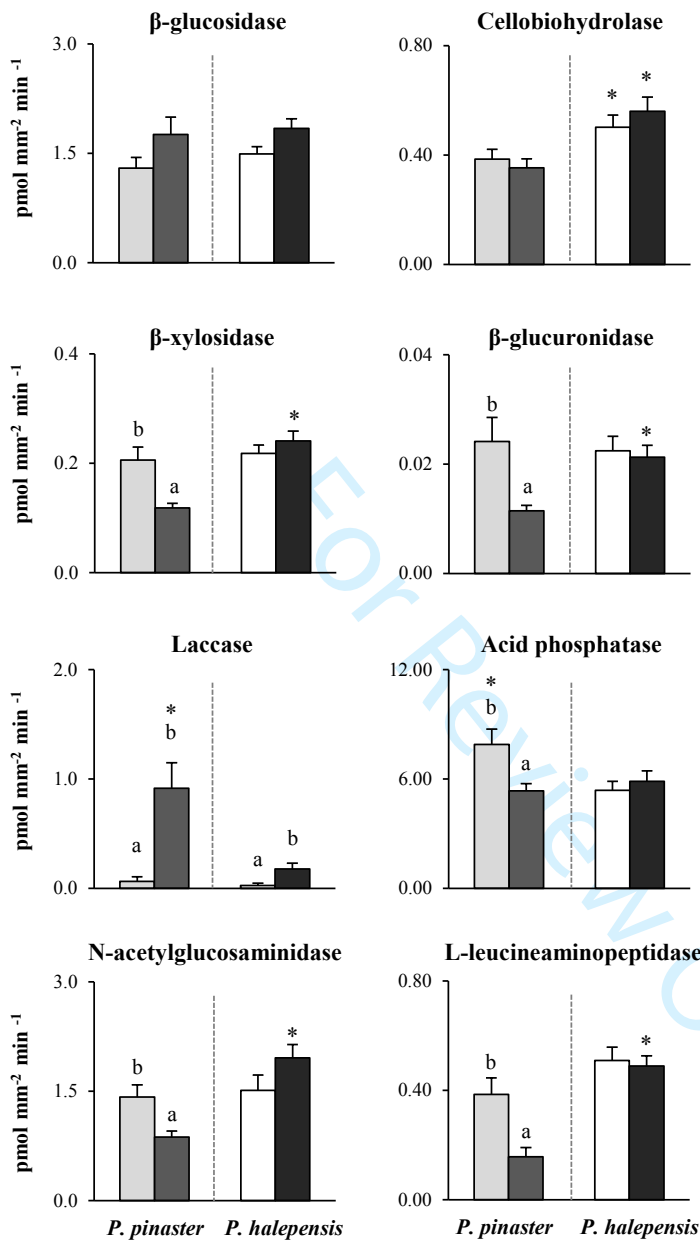


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**Figure S4.** Abundance rank (%) of the 20 most abundant species of low (blue) or high (red) fire recurrence populations of (a) *Pinus pinaster* and (b) *Pinus halepensis* forests.

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2223 **Figure S3.** Enzymatic activity of ectomycorrhizal root tips (means  $\pm$  SE) of LoFi (light bars)  
 2224 and HiFi (dark bars) populations (low and high fire recurrence, respectively) of *Pinus pinaster*  
 2225 (*Ppi*) and *Pinus halepensis* (*Pha*), analysed by Generalized Linear Models ( $p < 0.05$ ). For each  
 2226 pine species, different letters denote significant differences between fire recurrence levels,  
 2227 while for each LoFi/HiFi treatment, asterisks denote significant differences between pine  
 2228 forest levels.