

Metagenomic analysis of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense*-infected soil in banana plantation, Sukabumi, Indonesia

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Abstract. Effendi Y, Pambudi A, Pancoro A. 2019. Metagenomic analysis of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense*-infected soil in banana plantation, Sukabumi, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* 20: 1939-1945. *Fusarium* wilt is one of the most devastating diseases in banana plantation which caused by soil-borne fungal pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense*. In this study, metagenomic analysis of 16SrRNA gene was performed for comparing composition, richness, and abundance of healthy soils and *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* (Foc)-infected soil microbes in rhizospheral area of banana plants. Data showed about 10969 OTU and 10755 OTU of bacteria were identified in healthy soils and Foc-infected soils respectively. The Foc-infected soils showed higher species abundance than healthy soil (ACE index 73,6 and 68,8 respectively). However, healthy soils have more taxa richness than infected-soil (Fisher index 447,7 and 343,4 respectively). Beta diversity analysis indicated infected-soils had lower bacterial diversity in comparison with healthy soils. About 37 phyla were identified and no statistical difference between both soil conditions in the OTUs abundance. However, Acidobacteria (22%) and Verrucomicrobia (13%) tend more abundance in the health soils in comparison in the infected soils 19% and 10% respectively, whereas Proteobacteria was found more abundance in the infected soil (11%) in comparison with the health soil (7%). Interestingly, high abundance of Xanthomonadaceae, member of Proteobacteria was identified in the infected soils which might have a positive correlation with incidence of *Fusarium* development in the soils.

Keywords: Banana, *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense*, metagenomic, rhizospheral microbes

INTRODUCTION

Banana is one of the most widely grown fruit along tropic and sub-tropics. Due to its high health benefit and nutrient contains, Banana is the most popular fruit which consumes many people and widely grown in the world (FAO 2018). Banana is also popular fruit and widely consumed in Indonesia. Mostly banana production is done by smallholders in almost area in Indonesia, although there are also present some Banana estates Sumatra and Java islands. Banana production in Indonesia are mostly found in Java (54%) and contributing to 68% of national banana production. However, large potential lands of banana plantation are available in Sumatera (over 1 million ha), Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua (over 3 million ha) (Djohar et al. 1999). Unfortunately national production of Banana showed decreasing since 1990s (Nurhadi et al, 1994). Pests and diseases contributed mainly in production decreasing and a limiting factor of banana production worldwide including in Indonesia (Getha et al. 2002; FAO 2015).

From many banana diseases have been identified worldwide, *Fusarium* wilt of banana which is known as Panama disease, is the most devastating banana disease in the world. This disease is caused by pathogenic soil-borne fungi, *Fusarium oxysporum*, which is commonly colonizing in vascular tissues of Banana and prevent transportation of water and nutrient in the pseudostem of infected banana. Thus, the plants are getting wilt which

observed in yellowish leaves and later wilt totally on all leaves (Dita et al. 2010). *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* subgroup 'Tropical Race 4' (Foc TR4) is the most devastating race of Foc was recognized 1990s and had been identified as cause of serious losses of Cavendish banana in some areas of Southeast Asia (Ploetz and Churchill 2011).

Currently, no effective methods have been applied for avoiding Foc spreading. Few methods have been reported applied in some areas, but mostly has less effective impact not only economically but also less environmentally safe (Lin et al. 2016). Timely eradication of Foc-infected banana and avoiding Foc-contaminated soil are less methods which are applied in industrial banana plantation, although economically the methods are not applicable. A Foc-infected soil is difficult to be eradicated since Foc able to produce thick-cell wall chlamydospores, making it resistant to fungicides and fumigates (Shi et al. 1991). The spores of Foc can survive for long period under unsuitable soil condition for more than 30 years (Ploetz 2006; Ghag et al. 2015) and beginning actively infect banana root during banana plantation (O'Donnell et al. 1998).

During its life, plant develops important processes that necessary for its life. One of important processes is interaction with rhizosphere microbiome nearby plant root areas include bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa, algae, and microarthropods (Raaijmakers et al. 2001). These microbiomes play important roles in ecological fitness of plants which interact with the microbiomes (Kent and

Triplett 2002). Plant-microbe interactions may be considered beneficial, neutral, or harmful to the plant, depending on the specific microorganisms and plants involved and on the prevailing environmental conditions (Bais et al. 2006). In general, diversity of microbiomes in the soil is an important factor that has significant impacts on plant growth and development. However, to what level specificity of microbiomes especially bacteria, will contribute to plant-microbe interactions is remain unclear.

Most of bacteria in soils are unculturable (Nihorimbere et al. 2011) and using standard culturing techniques, less than 1% of bacterial diversity in most environmental samples was accounted (Amann et al. 1995). In other side, it well understands that knowing microbial diversity and their functional role in rhizosphere areas of plants is important information for understanding the role of bacteria and other microbes for plant growth. Metagenomic is a molecular-ecology based technique which provides a high throughput method for analyzing collective genome of bacterial and other microbial from environmental samples without providing standard cultivation (Ravin et al. 2015). Metagenomic analysis is initially performed by extracting of total DNA from samples (soil, water, food, etc) and followed by constructing of genomic library. Using high throughput sequencing technique (Next Generation Sequencing/NGS), specific conserved genes or genomic fragments such as 16S rRNA, 18S rRNA or Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) were sequenced and analyzed for diversity, abundance, phylogenetic and functional analysis

of the all microbes that identified in the samples (Riesenfeld et al. 2004; Ghosh et al. 2019). Since the technique analyzes the entire presented DNA from the sample, thus all microbes (cultured and uncultured microbes) are counted.

In this study, analysis of soil bacterial diversity from banana plantation in Sukabumi, West Java-Indonesia was performed. Metagenomic analysis was performed by sequencing 16srRNA gene using NGS Illumina platform. Comparison of diversity, richness, and abundance of soil bacteria between Foc-infected soils and Foc-uninfected soils were done.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling

Soil samples were collected from Banana plantation of PTPN VIII in Parakan Salak Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia with map coordinate 6°49'42.2"S 106°44'40.3"E. Four soils samples were collected from 2 different sites. Two samples were collected from Foc-uninfected soil, whereas two other samples were collected from Foc-infected soils (Figure1). Each sample consisted of 500 g soil samples which collected from 3 different sites nearby rhizosphere areas of infected or uninfected banana plants. The soil mixes were then homogenized and took 100 g. The soil samples were kept in -4°C until used.

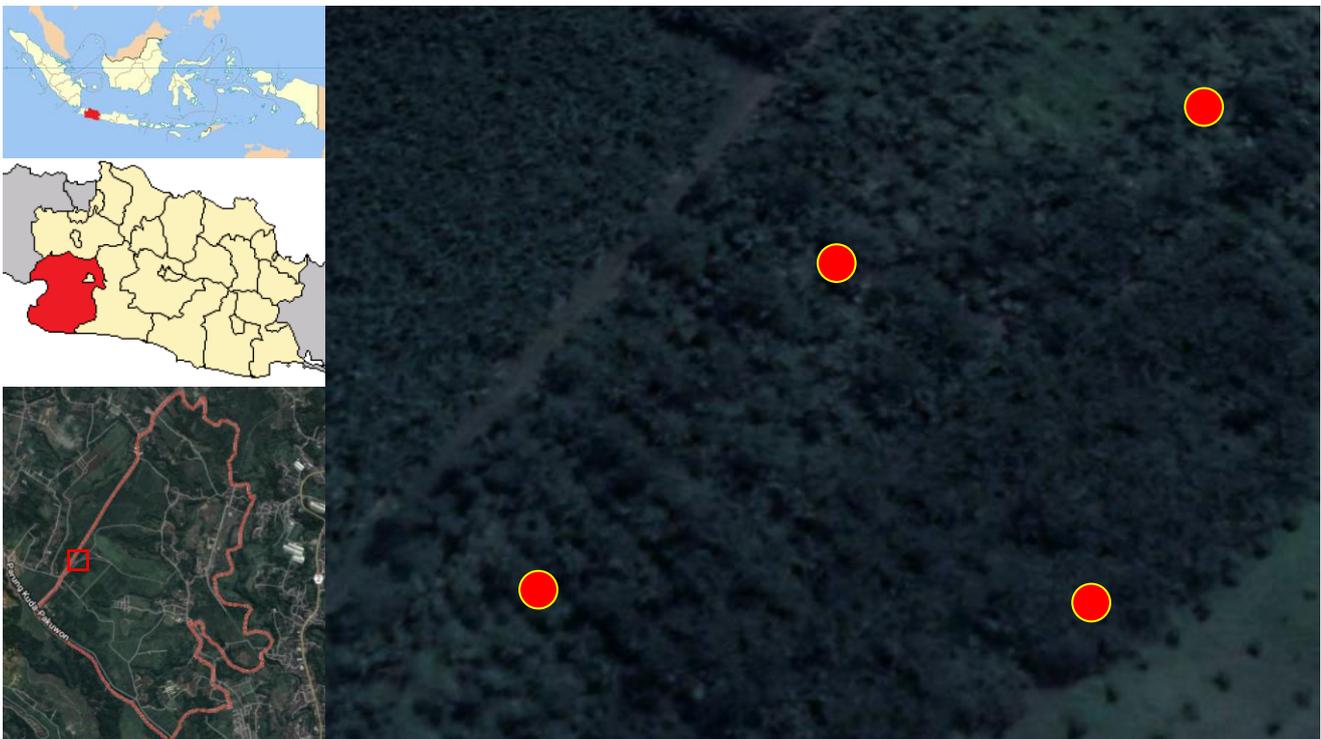


Figure 1. Sampling location is located in banana plantation of PTPN VIII-Parakansalak, Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia. Samples were collected from 2 different soil conditions (Foc-infected and healthy soils), from each soil conditions were taken two independently soil samples (●)

DNA extraction and molecular works

Whole genomic DNA was extracted using PowerSoil DNA kit (MoBio). DNA extraction was done following manual procedure of the kit. A 0.25 gr soil of each sample were used as source of the genomic DNA. All procedures were performed aseptically for avoiding contamination. The DNA results were quantified using NanoDrop and checked its quality using gel electrophoresis. The DNA was used as template for PCR. A 2 μ L of DNA was added to 10 μ L PCR mix (GoTaq® Green Master mix-PROMEGA) and 1 nmol of each forward and reverse 16srRNA primer. Reaction was performed 35 cycles which consisted of 30 sec at 94°C and continued with 57°C of annealing for 20 sec, followed with 2 min 72°C for elongation.

A region V4 of 16srRNA gene was amplified with primer F515 (5'-GTGCCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA-3') and 907R (5'-CCGTC AATTCMTTTRAGTTT-3') (Lane 1991). The PCR products were purified and subjected for automated Illumina Miseq platform (1st BASE-Malaysia) after the PCR products were normalized in equimolar amounts.

Sequences analysis

Raw sequence data generated from Illumina Miseq platform were processed in QIIME Ver 6.0 (Caporaso et al. 2010). All sequences are shorter than 150 bp or longer than 600 bp are removed from downstream processing. Read were then aligned with 16srRNA SILVA database (www.arb-silva.de) and GRD database (metasystems.riken.jp/grd/), then followed inspected for chimeric errors. "Species-level" of OUT was used in analysis, thus reads then were clustered at 97% similarity into OTUs. In this step, rare OTUs with only 1 (singleton) or 2 reads (doubleton) are deleted from downstream processing. Taxonomic assignment was carried out with the RDP Classifier (Wang et al. 2007).

Data analysis

Alpha and Beta diversity analysis were performed using Explicit ver 2.10.5 software (Robertson et al. 2013). Statistical comparison of alpha diversity between samples was carried out with Excel (Microsoft) whereas statistically different (*P-value*) was calculated with T-test. Sample-specific OTUs (showing significantly different relative abundances between samples) were assessed by T-test. Heat map which showed relative abundances between samples in certain taxa level was generated with Explicit ver 2.10.5 software. Venn diagrams were made to visualize which OTUs were shared between infected and healthy soils using Explicit ver 2.10.5 software.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Structure and diversity of soil bacteria

A total of 37,909,152 reads was obtained using Illumina Miseq sequencing of 16srRNA gene. Of it total of 35,149,668 reads (87.5%) passed filter. After primer removal and length-and quality filtering, followed with removal of singleton as well as doubletons, about 20,000

reads for each sample were obtained. These reads have passed quality filtering control (mean of read length and GC%). "Species-level" of OUT was used in analysis, thus reads were clustered at 97% similarity into OTUs. About 9,000-11,000 OTUs were identified for each sample (Table 1).

Bacterial community analyses showed that the infected soils had relative higher of species richness and had more species abundance than the health soils. Nevertheless, there was no significant differences in species richness between the infected soils and the health soils. Alpha diversity analysis summarized that species diversity (richness) of health soils was higher than infected soils, which showed on higher Simpson diversity index (7.5-7.7) and Fisher alpha indexes (379.4-516.1). The richness index of the Chao1 estimator (Chao1) (Chao 1984) and the abundance-based Coverage estimator (ACE) (Eckburg et al. 2005) was calculated to estimate the number of observed OTUs that were present in the sampling assemblage. The diversity within each individual sample was estimated using the nonparametric Shannon diversity index (Washington 1984).

The ACE estimator indicated that species abundance was observed relative higher in the infected soils than in the health soils, even Chao1 index indicated only a slight difference of species abundance between these soils (Table 2).

Metagenomic analysis showed that bacteria dominate the diversity of microbiome in the soil samples (99%) of both soil conditions. Archaea presented 0.04% and 0.012% in health soil and infected soil respectively. A total of 39 phyla were identified in the soil samples, however, the abundance of these phyla are statistically not different (Table 3).

Analysis of taxonomic abundance of species between the health and the infected soils showed varied diversity within samples. The abundance of major bacterial phylum was observed less different (Figure 2). From 11 major bacteria phylum which was compared, no significant difference between health soils and infected soils was found. However, some phyla tend to present more abundance in one of the soil conditions.

Table 1. Number of sequences and OTUs after filtering

Group	Screen < 150 bp and > 600 bp	Chimera, singleton, and doubletons removal	Number of OTUs
Health soil1	244147	118229	11364
Health soil2	213990	105205	9630
Infected soil1	205317	91449	10575
Infected soil2	247097	109523	11880

Table 2. Diversity and richness indexes

Group	Chao1	ACE	Shannon	Simpson	Fisher
Infected soils1	9956	79.33211	48.0574	7.798442	504.8816
Infected soils2	8278	67.98454	42.94576	7.239521	181.9179
Health soils1	9300	63.20111	43.50184	7.773869	516.0863
Health soils2	9469	74.49042	46.99294	7.540323	379.3965

Table 3. Abundance of taxonomic phyla groups health and infected soils

Phylum	Health soil	Infected soil	p-value
Archaea			
<i>Crenarchaeota</i>	0.00033±0.00006	0.00017±0.00004	0.27
<i>Euryarchaeota</i>	0.00003±0.00002	0.00026±0.00020	0.07
<i>Parvarchaeota</i>	0.00005±0.00005	0.00000±0.00000	0.26
Bacteria			
<i>AD3</i>	0.05517±0.02247	0.08320±0.01472	0.41
<i>Acidobacteria</i>	0.20938±0.01099	0.17915±0.00467	0.06
<i>Actinobacteria</i>	0.02296±0.00359	0.02922±0.00246	0.31
<i>Armatimonadetes</i>	0.00410±0.00054	0.00356±0.00041	0.42
<i>BHI80.139</i>	0.00010±0.00003	0.00009±0.00002	0.17
<i>BRC1</i>	0.00025±0.00025	0.00020±0.00020	0.56
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>	0.00789±0.00019	0.00232±0.00192	0.07
<i>Chlamydiae</i>	0.00094±0.00047	0.00102±0.00053	0.33
<i>Chlorobi</i>	0.00012±0.00001	0.00056±0.00044	0.11
<i>Chloroflexi</i>	0.21542±0.02283	0.20454±0.01260	0.46
<i>Cyanobacteria</i>	0.00129±0.00004	0.00194±0.00054	0.11
<i>Elusimicrobia</i>	0.00197±0.00028	0.00144±0.00011	0.25
<i>FBP</i>	0.00000±0.00000	0.00001±0.00001	0.21
<i>FCPU426</i>	0.00282±0.00067	0.00212±0.00015	0.51
<i>Fibrobacteres</i>	0.00014±0.00004	0.00042±0.00031	0.23
<i>Firmicutes</i>	0.00054±0.00032	0.00054±0.00012	0.24
<i>GAL15</i>	0.00716±0.00309	0.01918±0.00502	0.09
<i>GN02</i>	0.00001±0.00001	0.00001±0.00001	0.22
<i>Gemmatimonadetes</i>	0.00942±0.00192	0.00976±0.00069	0.31
<i>Kazan.3B.28</i>	0.00004±0.00004	0.00000±0.00000	0.34
<i>NC10</i>	0.00000±0.00000	0.00003±0.00003	0.44
<i>NKB19</i>	0.00124±0.00123	0.00058±0.00058	0.43
<i>Nitrospirae</i>	0.01218±0.00175	0.01494±0.00217	0.12
<i>OD1</i>	0.00004±0.00004	0.00000±0.00000	0.24
<i>OP11</i>	0.00000±0.00000	0.00003±0.00003	0.32
<i>OP3</i>	0.00124±0.00123	0.00058±0.00058	0.09
<i>Planctomycetes</i>	0.01218±0.00175	0.01494±0.00217	0.33
<i>Proteobacteria</i>	0.02411±0.00601	0.02245±0.00378	0.15
<i>Synergistetes</i>	0.00000±0.00000	0.00002±0.00002	0.23
<i>TM6</i>	0.00118±0.00092	0.00044±0.00025	0.15
<i>TM7</i>	0.16714±0.01058	0.00820±0.00639	0.37
<i>Verrucomicrobia</i>	0.06428±0.00510	0.10006±0.02639	0.31
<i>WPS.2</i>	0.00004±0.00004	0.00012±0.00009	0.25
<i>WS3</i>	0.00292±0.00269	0.00007±0.00002	0.24
<i>Thermi</i>	0.00294±0.00049	0.00820±0.00639	0.16

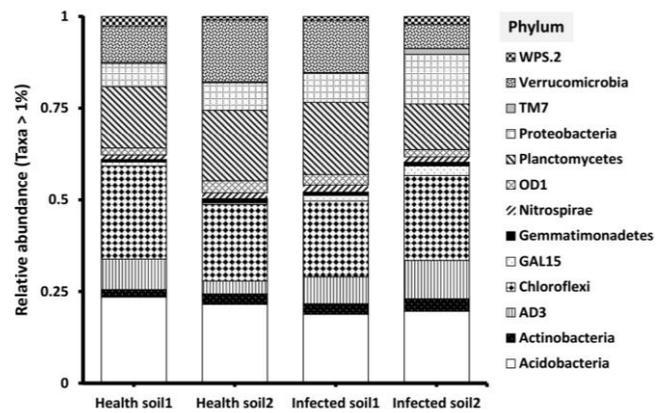


Figure 2. Relative abundance of phylum taxa in health- and Foc-infected soils.

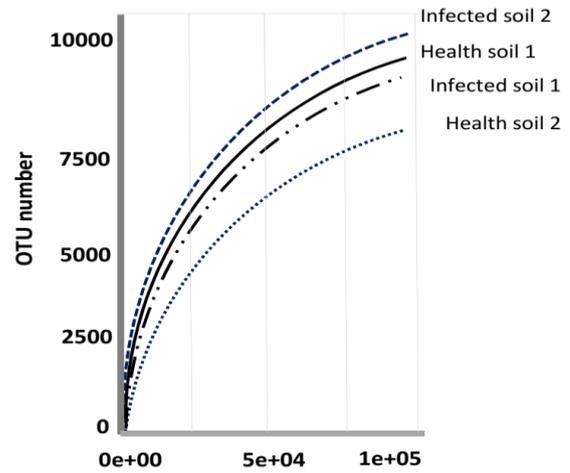


Figure 4. Rarefaction curve of all soil samples. Data showed number of OTUs abundance of each soil condition

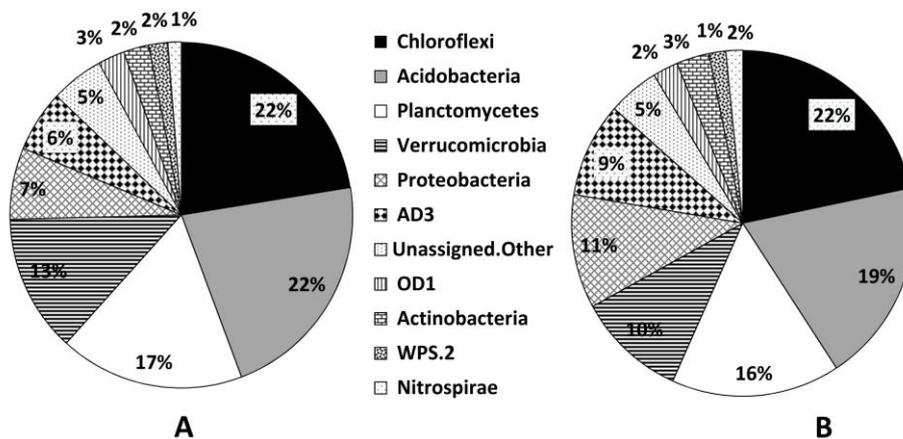


Figure 3. Relative abundance of major phyla taxa of both soil conditions. a) Relative abundance of phyla in health soils indicated that *Acidobacteria* and *Verrucomicrobia* were higher than in infected soil, b) Relative abundance of phyla in infected soils, *Proteobacteria* had more abundance in comparison to health soil.

Relationship between soil conditions and microbial abundances

Acidobacteria (22%) ($P < 0.06$) and *Verrucomicrobia* (13%) ($P < 0.31$) were more abundant in the health soils in comparison in the infected soils 19% and 10% respectively, whereas *Proteobacteria* was found more in the infected soil (11%) ($P < 15$) in comparison with the health soil (7%) (Figure 3).

Nevertheless, there were no significant differences in the relative abundances of these dominant species in both soil conditions. Rarefaction curve confirmed the data that number of OTUs is varied abundance in range from 9360-11880 OTUs in the soil samples (Figure 4). *Proteobacteria* was found higher in infected soil than in health soils. The more abundance of *Proteobacteria* in infected soils in this study was suggested as one of important factors which composed a suitable environment for pathogenic microbes growing. Sanguin et al. (2009) reported *Proteobacteria* abundance was negatively correlated with disease suppression.

The relatively high abundance of *Acidobacteria* in both soils in our study might correspond with acid soil condition (pH 4.9-5.1). In addition, the data showed that the *Acidobacteria* was found relative higher (22%) in the health soils than in the infected soil (19%). Whether it contributed to incidence of higher number of Foc in the soils or not, it remained a hypothesis. Soil pH strongly influences the composition of soil microbial community. Soil acidity is linked to the decrease of available carbon for soil microbes (Wang et al. 2007), thus acidity of soil will contribute significantly diversity of soil microbes. Indeed, several study of a bio-organic fertilizer (BIO) application to various orchard with serious *Fusarium* wilt disease showed effectively enhancing suppression of *Fusarium* wilt disease by ameliorating structure of the microbial community (Cotxarrera et al. 2002; Kavino et al. 2010; Zhao et al. 2011; Shen et al. 2013). Shen et al. (2014) showed that BIO-treated soil effectively decreased the number of soil *Fusarium* sp. and controlled the soil-borne disease. Correlation analysis indicated that there was a significant correlation between the abundance of *Gemmatimonadetes* ($r = -0.579$, $p = 0.024$) and *Bacteroidetes* ($r = 0.600$, $p = 0.018$) phyla and *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence (Shen et al. 2014). Shen et al. result are more or less similar to our data. Our data showed infected soils have slightly lower abundance of *Gemmatimonadetes* (0.947%) and higher abundance of *Bacteroidetes* (0.732%), whereas health soils have 0.972% and 0.289% respectively. Statistical analysis indicated *Bacteroidetes* phylum showed a slightly different in abundance (P -value > 0.07) (Tabel 2). In a high abundance, the *Bacteroidetes* has positive corresponding to initial and disease stage of *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence whereas decreasing of the *Fusarium* disease incidence was significantly shown when suppressiveness of this phyla was reached (Kyselková et al. 2009; Shen et al. 2014).

Moreover, significantly different in abundance of *Sphingomonas* genus which 3.4 time more frequently found in infected soils than in health soils is also consistent with Shen et al. (2014). On their report, Shen et al. (2014)

described a strong negative correlation between *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence and *Gemmatimonas* ($r = -0.579$, $p = 0.024$) and *Sphingomonas* ($r = -0.689$, $p = 0.005$) abundance. Indeed, *Gemmatimonas* and *Sphingomonas* genus were found frequently in the *Fusarium* wilt disease infected soils than in the health soils (Shen et al. 2014).

The composition of the soil microbial community and induced changes caused by its amendment, provide useful information on soil health and quality (Poulsen et al. 2013). Maintaining biodiversity of soil microbes is crucial to soil health because a decrease in soil microbial diversity is responsible for the development of soil-borne diseases (Mazzola 2004). Determining the responses of soil bacterial communities to different organic amendments is particularly important because the bacterial community is one of the main components that determine soil health and is believed to be one of the main drivers in disease suppression (Garbeva et al. 2004).

Naturally, suppressive soil condition on certain pathogenic microbes relies on at least two important factors, first a general mechanism of competition for nutrients caused by the whole soil microflora and the second a specific competition between pathogenic and non-pathogenic microbes strains. Composition and diversity of microflora at the end will determine whether certain pathogenic microbes dominate the soil or not.

The abundance of *Proteobacteria* members on healthiness banana plants has been reported in several studies (Shen 2014; Köberl et al. 2017). Comparative microbiome analyses between healthy and diseased Gros Michel plants on *Fusarium* Wilt-infested farms in Nicaragua and Costa Rica revealed significant shifts in the gammaproteobacterial microbiome (Köberl et al. 2017). The Author found diversity and community members of Gammaproteobacterial were identified as potential health indicators. Indeed, increasing of plant-beneficial *Pseudomonas* and *Stenotrophomonas* correlated positively with healthy plants (Köberl et al. 2017).

In contrast with our study, the abundance *Xantomonadaceae* family, one of *Proteobacteria* phyla member was found relatively higher in infected soils than in health soils (Figure 5). The family of *Xantomonadaceae* has been known well as one of the pathogenic family which caused Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) (Biruma et al. 2007). However, Köberl et al. (2017) reported that *Xantomonadaceae* presented in higher number in healthy plants. In other studies, *Proteobacteria* abundance was identified negatively correlated with *Fusarium* disease suppression thus confirming that the outbreak stage of wheat take-all disease is mainly attributed to the prevalence of *Proteobacteria* (Sanguin et al. 2009). It may be concluded *Proteobacteria* might present as positive or negative factors on the development of pathogenic bacteria in the soil is dependent on which specific bacterial taxa dominate in the soil (Biruma et al. 2007; Shen et al. 2015; Köberl et al. 2017).

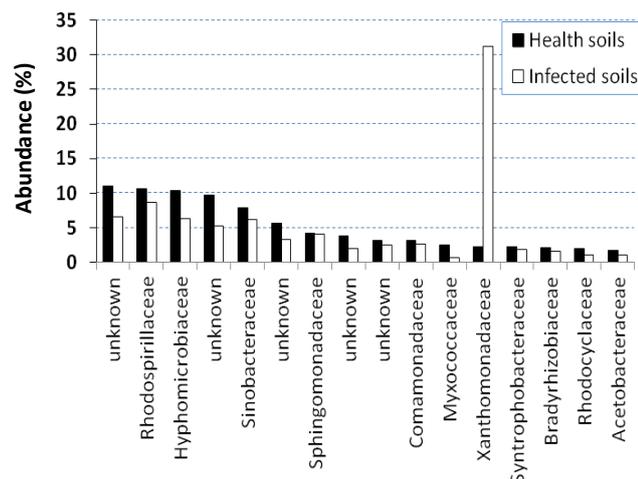


Figure 5. Top 16 families belong *Proteobacteria* which identified in healths and infected soils. *Xanthomonadaceae* showed more abundance in infected soils than in health soils (P -value > 0.07)

In our data, the abundance of various genus members of *Proteobacteria* phyla which commonly are known as plant disease-caused bacteria (Peeters et al. 2013; Safni et al. 2018) was also found more in the infected soils than in healthy soils. *Ralstonia* genus present 5 times more frequently in infected-soils than in healthy soils. But we found some beneficial genus members of *Proteobacteria* phyla were also higher abundance in infected soils than in health soils (Azospirillum-free-living aerobic nitrogen fixer, Rhodanobacter-denitrifying bacteria). Those indicated *Proteobacteria* was not a proper phylum for indicating healthiness of soils.

In conclusion, the result from the present study demonstrated that composition, diversity, and richness of microbiome in rhizospheral areas of banana plants in banana plantation Sukabumi might correspond with the incidence of *Fusarium* development in the rhizosphere soils. The more abundances of bacteria belong to *Acidobacteria* and *Verrucomicrobia* phyla might associate with the healthiness of the soils, whereas higher abundances of *Proteobacteria*, particularly *Xanthomonadaceae* family might contribute positively to *Fusarium* development in the soils.

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