Supplementary materials

Analysis of Ciliate Community Diversity in Decaying Pinus nigra Logs

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Table S1. Description of visual characteristics used to assign the decay class.

Decay class	Description
1	Recently dead - small branches, wood texture intact, visible little rotten areas under bark
2	Weakly decayed - twigs pertly present, wood texture intact, rotten areas < 3cm
3	Medium decay - no twigs, wood texture partly broken, rotten area > 3cm
4	Very decay - no twigs, wood soft, texture with blocky pieces, large rotten areas
5	Almost decomposed - no twigs, wood soft, powdery texture, very large rotten areas with musk and lichens

Source: modified by Paletto and Tosi (2009).

Table S2. BLAST analysis of 18S rDNA fragments selected from PCR-DGGE belonged to other Eukariota domain. The sequence coverage of the nearest match was also reported. The taxonomical identification was achieved by using different sequence similarity thresholds: a similarity ≥97%, ≥95%, ≥90%, ≥85%, ≥80% and ≥75% for assignment at the species-, genus-, family-, order-, class- and phylum-levels identification, respectively.

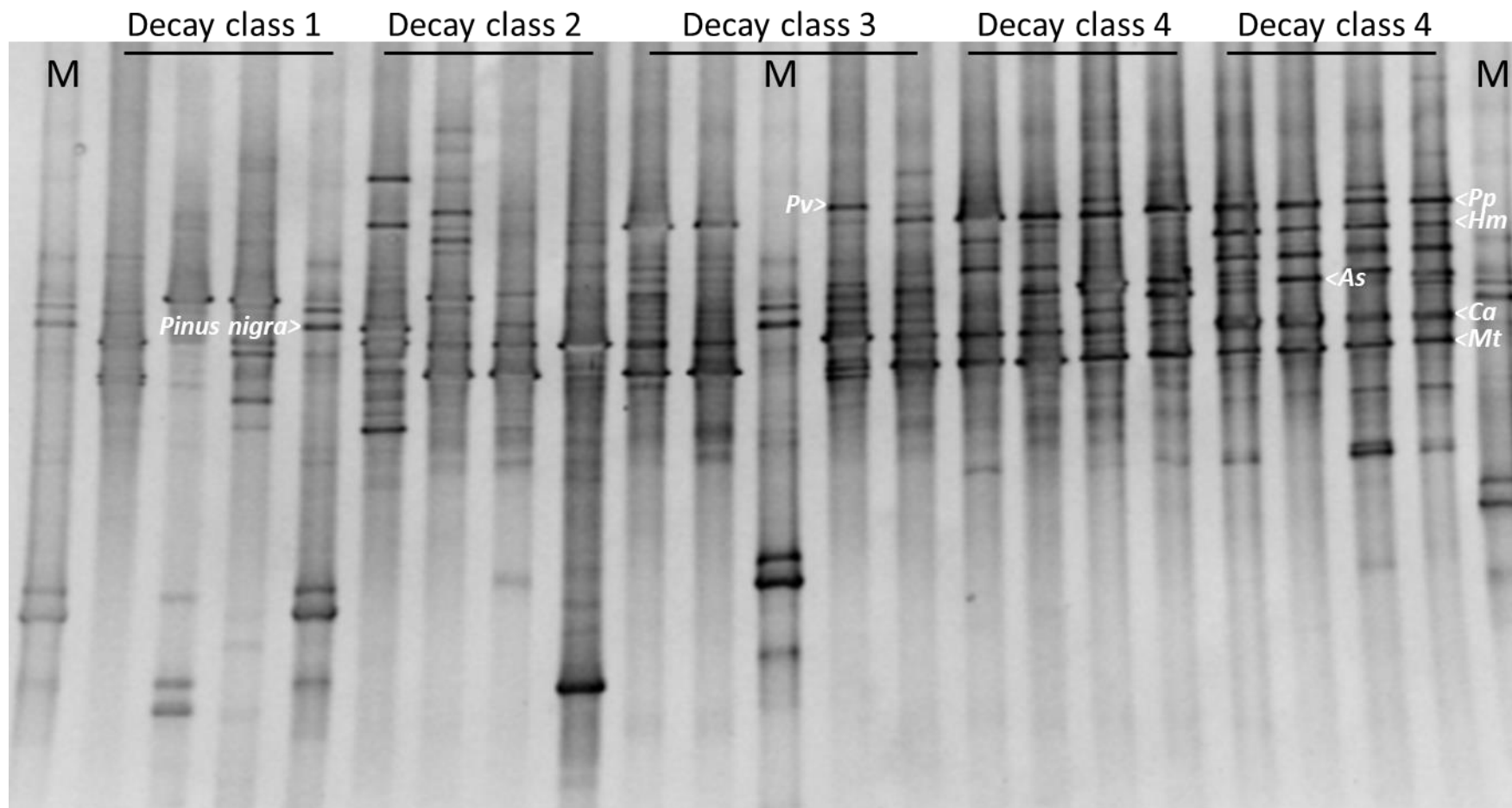| Clone	Query Cover	Nearest match (GenBank accession no.; % similarity)	Taxonomical classification
C14	82%	*Cladonia cerviconis* MACB90738 (JN940200; 90.87%)	Fungi; Division Ascomycota; Unclassified *Cladoniaceae*
C24	82%	*Micarea adnata* (AF455134; 94.66%)	Fungi; Division Ascomycota; Unclassified *Lecanorineae*
C31	82%	*Micarea adnata* (AF455134; 94.99%)	Fungi; Division Ascomycota; Unclassified *Lecanorineae*
C41	82%	*Micarea adnata* (AF455134; 94.82%)	Fungi; Division Ascomycota; Unclassified *Lecanorineae*
C78	82%	*Micarea adnata* (AF455134; 94.49%)	Fungi; Division Ascomycota; Unclassified *Lecanorineae*
B10	95%	*Poria versipora* ATCC32573 (AF082672; 99.82%)	Fungi; Division Basidiomycota; *Poria versipora*
C12	99%	*Eucephalobus striatus* EuceStr2 (AY284667; 97.02%)	Phylum Nematoda; Order Rhabditida; *Eucephalobus striatus*
C33	99%	*Aphelenchoides saprophilus* 2140 (FJ040408; 98.54%)	Phylum Nematoda; Order Rhabditida; *Aphelenchoides saprophilus*
C43	99%	*Aphelenchoides iranicus* S_R1 (KU565874; 98.70%)	Phylum Nematoda; Order Rhabditida; *Aphelenchoides iranicus*
C22	99%	uncultured soil eukaryote r516 (MK946118; 88.50%)	
C61	99%	uncultured soil eukaryote r516 (MK946118; 88.63%)	
B14	97%	*Pinus nigra* accession number (MT796546; 87.37%)	

Figure S1. DGGE profiles of ciliate 18S rDNA gene fragments obtained from deadwood samples in Pratomagno area. Samples were grouped in base of decay class and the letter M on the gel image indicates the marker used marker used for normalization of bands. Excised sequenced band related to *Pinus nigra* and those that significant contribute to separate last decay classes were pointed out: *Holosticha multistylata*, Hm; *Platyophrya vorax*, Pv; *Mykophagophrys terricola*, Mt; *Anteholosticha sigmoidea*, As; *Colpoda aspera*, Ca; *Paraholosticha pannonica*, Pp.
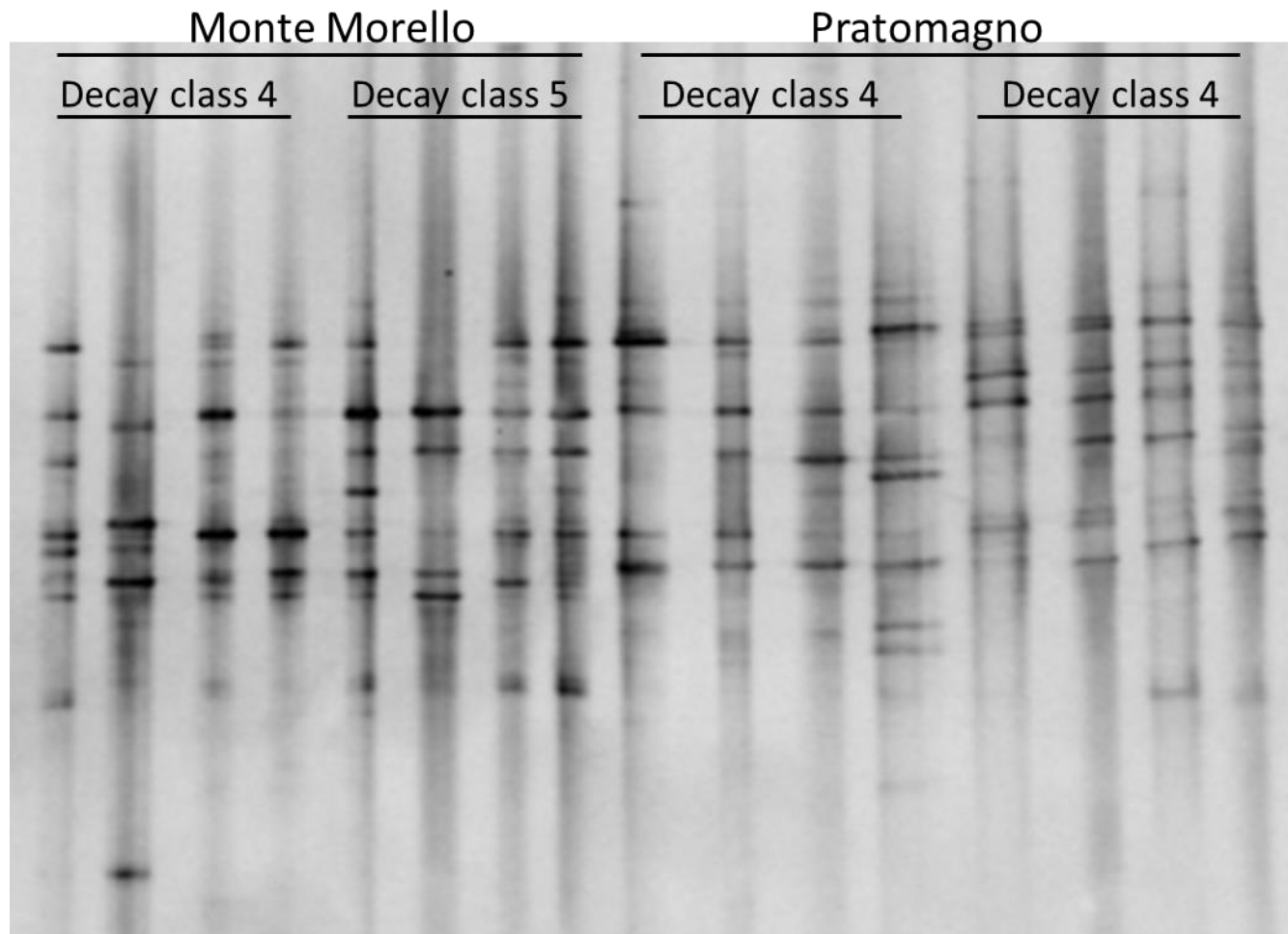
Figure S2. DGGE profiles of ciliate 18S rDNA gene fragments obtained from deadwood decay classes 4 and 5 collected in Monte Morello and Pratomagno areas. Samples were grouped in base of decay class and the letter M on the gel image indicates the marker used marker used for normalization of band.