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A defined medium based on R2A for cultivation and exometabolite profiling of soil bacteria

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Running title: A defined medium based on R2A

Originality-Significance Statement

We build a defined medium based on the metabolite composition of R2A medium and soil, elemental stoichiometry requirements, and knowledge of metabolite usage by different bacteria. The newly formulated defined medium was evaluated on its ability to support the growth of soil isolates and its application for metabolite utilization profiling. We found that of 53 phylogenetically diverse soil bacterial isolates grew on the defined medium and all of its metabolites were trackable through LC-MS/MS analysis. This demonstrates the viability and utility of the constructed defined medium for cultivating and characterizing diverse microbial isolates and communities.

Summary

Exometabolomics is an approach to assess how microorganisms alter their environments through the depletion and secretion of chemical compounds. Comparisons of inoculated with uninoculated media can be used to provide direct biochemical observations on depleted and secreted metabolites which can be used to predict resource competition, cross-feeding and secondary metabolite production in microbial isolates and communities. This approach is most powerful when used with defined media that enable tracking of all depleted metabolites. However, microbial growth media have traditionally been developed for the isolation and growth of microorganisms but not metabolite utilization profiling through LC-MS/MS. Here, we describe the construction of a defined medium, the Northen Lab Defined Medium (NLDM), that not only supports the growth of diverse bacteria but is defined and therefore suited for exometabolomic experiments. Metabolites included in NLDM were selected based on their presence in R2A

46 medium and soil, elemental stoichiometry requirements, as well as knowledge of metabolite
47 usage by different bacteria. We found that NLDM supported the growth of 53 phylogenetically
48 diverse soil bacterial isolates and all of its metabolites were trackable through LC-MS/MS
49 analysis. These results demonstrate the viability and utility of the constructed NLDM medium for
50 cultivating and characterizing diverse microbial isolates and communities.
51

52 Introduction

53 Exometabolomics, or metabolic footprinting, is an approach to determine the metabolites
54 produced or depleted in a given environment(Allen *et al.*, 2003). For example, an
55 exometabolomic experiment, may use Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry
56 (LC-MS/MS) to compare growth media before and after microbial growth to identify metabolites
57 that a given microorganism, or microbial community, secrete and consume under specific
58 growth conditions(Kosmidis *et al.*, 2013).

59
60 While any growth media can be used for exometabolite profiling, defined media are desirable as
61 their composition is more trackable and tractable. In addition, complex media components are
62 frequently derived from complex organisms (e.g. yeast extract) that can vary in relative
63 composition between batches. Thus, defined media enable a complete view of trade-offs in
64 substrate use and allow differentiation between secreted products and the breakdown of
65 complex substrates by extracellular enzyme activities on biopolymers. For example, sugars
66 resulting from extracellular polymer degradation could be misinterpreted as secreted products.
67

68 Many different media exist for culturing soil bacteria, for example the selective culturing of
69 environmental microbes. These culture media can be grouped as rich media or defined media.
70 For instance, Reasoner's 2A (R2A) medium is one of the most widely used nutrient-rich media
71 for isolating and culturing soil microbes and defined media designed for isolation often have a
72 single substrate or nutrient source to select for specific organisms(Reasoner and Geldreich,
73 1985; Vartoukian *et al.*, 2010; Trinh *et al.*, 2019). Although R2A medium was not designed to be
74 ecologically relevant for soil environments, it has been found to support the growth of a wide
75 variety of soil microbes (Reasoner and Geldreich, 1985; Marteinson *et al.*, 2015; Nguyen *et al.*,
76 2018; Chaudhary *et al.*, 2019). Previously, we reported the development of a defined medium
77 based on water soluble soil metabolites from saprolite soil (Jenkins *et al.*, 2017). Although it was
78 successfully used for metabolomic profiling, it was found to support the growth of only half as
79 many isolates as R2A medium.
80

81 Here, we describe the construction of another defined medium, Northern Lab Defined Medium
82 (NLDM), designed for exometabolomic analysis of soil bacteria while supporting the growth of
83 diverse bacteria. All metabolites and their relative abundances included in NLDM were selected
84 on the basis of 1) their presence in R2A medium, soil and other environments, 2) knowledge of
85 elemental stoichiometries for bacterial growth(Cleveland and Liptzin, 2007) and 3) existing
86 exometabolomic data on substrate use across diverse bacteria(Reasoner and Geldreich, 1985).
87 To validate NLDM as both a viable growth substrate and a valuable exometabolomic medium, a
88 panel of 53 phylogenetically diverse isolates from the Oak Ridge Field Research Center
89 (ORFRC) were grown in NLDM and R2A to compare their ability to support bacterial growth and
90 7 isolates were analyzed on substrate usage.

91 Results

92 NLDM is primarily composed of Wolfe's minerals, Wolfe's vitamins, and the metabolite
93 composition of R2A, to balance microbial growth, metabolite diversity, and compositional
94 simplicity (avoiding an excessive number of metabolites). In addition, the exometabolomic
95 assertion repository, Web of Microbes, was used to assess if the included metabolites are
96 commonly consumed by bacteria(Kosina *et al.*, 2018). Metabolite concentrations in NLDM were
97 adjusted to 1) have the C:N ratio consistent with the soil microbial biomass and 2) mimic
98 compound class ratios found in R2A(Cleveland and Liptzin, 2007).

99
100 **Metabolite selection.** Except for glucose and pyruvic acid, R2A is a complex and undefined
101 metabolite mixture, primarily based on yeast extract and proteose peptone(Reasoner and
102 Geldreich, 1985). To identify the small molecules from these complex components, we
103 previously analyzed R2A medium and several different soils using LC-MS/MS and gas
104 chromatography MS (Supplementary Table 1)(Liebeke *et al.*, 2009; Swenson *et al.*, 2015;
105 Jenkins *et al.*, 2017; Kosina *et al.*, 2018; Sasse *et al.*, 2019). Through these efforts, a number of
106 metabolites present in R2A and soils were identified. These included most of the standard
107 amino acids, all 5 standard nucleobases, and 3 standard ribonucleosides. Based on these
108 findings, we included all 20 standard amino acids, the 5 standard nucleobases, and the 5
109 standard ribonucleosides in NLDM. In addition, the nucleobases and ribonucleosides xanthine,
110 hypoxanthine, inosine and xanthosine were included in NLDM based on their presence in R2A
111 and soils.

112
113 Primary energy sources in R2A are the sugar glucose and the glucose polymer starch; the latter
114 is too large for small molecule LC-MS/MS detection. As a result, we included glucose plus two
115 additional sugars detected in R2A: the dihexose trehalose and the sugar alcohol myo-inositol. In
116 addition, to increase substrate diversity and assess additional metabolic pathways, we also
117 included the pentose xylose, and the amino sugar N-acetyl-glucosamine, which are commonly
118 found in soils(Gunina and Kuzyakov, 2015; Ni *et al.*, 2020).

119
120 Pyruvic acid is another major defined energy source in R2A medium. To capture organic acids
121 as potential energy sources for bacteria pyruvic acid was included along with 6 other common
122 organic acids detected in R2A medium and/or in soil (Supplementary Table 1). Seventeen other
123 metabolites were selected for NLDM based on analysis of R2A medium and/or soil.

124
125 We decided to include spermidine even though it was not detected in R2A or soil because
126 polyamines are 'essential' cofactors and because we had detected another polyamine, N-
127 acetylputrescine, in R2A medium(Xavier *et al.*, 2017). Also, the amino sugar n-acetylmuramic
128 acid was not detected in R2A or the soil samples, but we included it since it had been previously
129 found in soils and is a component of bacterial cell walls(Glaser *et al.*, 2004; Ni *et al.*, 2020).
130 Vitamins were not included in the formulation of NLDM as they will be added separately. In total,
131 64 metabolites were selected to be included in NLDM (Supplementary Table 2).

132
133 **Mining existing exometabolite data for refining NLDM formulation.** After the formulation of
134 NLDM, we checked if the selected metabolites can be used by microbes. To do this, we
135 analyzed the usage of the selected metabolites by microbes using existing exometabolomic
136 data collected in Web of Microbes(Kosina *et al.*, 2018). A metabolite was deemed
137 used/converted if the metabolite was significantly lower in the presence of a microbe compared
138 to the uninoculated control. Out of the 64 metabolites present in NLDM, 54 were in the Web of
139 Microbes database. All but 4 metabolites, α -ketoglutaric acid, cysteine, cytidine and uridine,
140 were used/converted by at least 1 microbe (Supplementary Table 3).

141
142 **NLDM formulation.** The quantitative formulation of the 64 selected metabolites was based on
143 the amount of organic carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) in R2A, calculated as 1146 mg/L and 144
144 mg/L, respectively (Kim *et al.*, 2019). We divided all 64 metabolites in NLDM into 4 different
145 groups: sugars, organic acids, amino acids and other metabolites (Supplementary Table 2).
146 Metabolites within each group were assigned fixed equimolar concentrations and the total
147 organic C and N was calculated (Table 1). This yielded a C:N ratio of 9:1, which is similar to
148 R2A (10:1) and the soil microbial biomass ratio (9:1) (Cleveland and Liptzin, 2007). As for the
149 salts, NLDM contains 5 mM phosphate, 1 mM ammonium, 2 mM sodium, 7 mM potassium, 1
150 mM magnesium, 1 mM sulfur, 1 mM calcium and 2 mM chloride (Supplementary Table 2).
151 NLDM is supplemented with 1x Wolfe's vitamins and 1x Wolfe's minerals.

152
153
154 **NLDM is a viable medium for exometabolite profiling.** To confirm that NLDM is suitable for
155 exometabolomic studies, the substrate preferences of 7 different bacterial isolates were
156 determined using LC-MS/MS. The isolates included 4 *Pseudomonas* species (FW305-3-2-15-E-
157 TSA4, GW531-R1, GW456-L15 and FW305-3-2-15-C-LB3), the *Cupriavidus* sp. FW305-77, the
158 *Delftia* sp. GW456-R20 and the *Sphingopyxis* sp. GW247-27LB. To compare substrate
159 preference between isolates from the same genus, 4 *Pseudomonas* isolates were selected. The
160 other isolates were selected based on their growth profiles, which were different to the
161 *Pseudomonas* isolates growth profiles. Using HILIC LC-MS/MS, all metabolites were detected in
162 the full medium formulation (Supplementary Table 4). Clear differences in metabolite depletion
163 were observed both between isolates and between metabolite classes (Figure 1). All 64
164 metabolites from the NLDM medium were utilized by at least 1 isolate after 24 h (compared to
165 medium control using ANOVA with Tukey's honestly significant difference test, $P < 0.05$).
166 *Pseudomonas* GW531-R1 and FW305-3-2-15-E-TSA4 used the most metabolites (57
167 significantly depleted) whereas *Cupriavidus* FW305-77 used the fewest (45). Hierarchical
168 clustering revealed multiple distinct clusters. Cluster 2 consists of the most depleted
169 compounds, and contains most of the nucleobases and nucleosides. Clusters 1 and 3 contain
170 the least depleted compounds. Clusters 4 and 5 are composed of intermediate depleted
171 metabolites and contain most of the amino acids and organic acids. All 4 *Pseudomonas* species
172 had similar utilization compared to the other isolates.

173
174 **Comparable growth is observed on NLDM and R2A.** To determine if NLDM was suitable for
175 the growth of diverse soil bacteria, 53 bacterial isolates from the ORFRC were grown in both
176 NLDM and R2A (R2A was used to isolate these isolates). It was found that all of the isolates
177 grew in both media (Supplementary Table 5A and 5B). The overall biomass yield (as measured
178 as the highest observed OD_{600} after background correction) was similar for R2A and NLDM
179 (Supplementary Figure 1). While individual isolates exhibited significant differences in biomass
180 yields on one medium vs the other, no significant differences between the biomass yields
181 across phylogenetic classes or families were observed for NLDM vs R2A. Isolate growth rates
182 were also similar on the two media (Supplementary Figure 1 and 2). There were no significant
183 differences between the growth rates of different phylogenetic classes or families on NLDM as
184 compared with R2A.

185 Discussion

186 The goal of this study was to develop a defined medium suitable for both the cultivation and
187 exometabolite profiling of diverse soil bacteria. R2A, which was developed for the isolation and
188 growth of oligotrophic, environmental bacteria and is perhaps the most widely used medium for

189 that purpose(Nishioka *et al.*, 2016). For this reason, the composition of R2A was used to guide
190 the NLDM formulation. We additionally considered metabolites previously detected in soil,
191 existing isolate exometabolomics data, elemental stoichiometry in refining the media
192 formulation, and limited the number of metabolites to balance relevance with the cost and time
193 required to prepare the media. NLDM supported the growth of all screened bacterial isolates
194 and all the metabolites included in NLDM were traceable by LC-MS/MS.

195
196 Most of the metabolites included in NLDM are also present in several other soil-extract based
197 media(Liebeke *et al.*, 2009; Jenkins *et al.*, 2017; Nguyen *et al.*, 2018; Sasse *et al.*, 2019). A
198 major difference between these media and NLDM is that NLDM contains a single phospholipid
199 whereas other soil-extract media contain a range of different fatty acids. The metabolite diversity
200 in NLDM is lower than rich media, which include undefined and variable components such as
201 yeast extract. However, we determined this is a worthwhile tradeoff given that this media allows
202 for a comprehensive view of metabolite use using LC-MS/MS. We anticipate that NLDM can be
203 used as a base medium for supplementation with other compounds of interest to increase its
204 relevance to soil and to extend to additional classes of metabolites.

205
206 The final concentrations of sugars, organic acids, amino acids, and other metabolites included
207 in NLDM make up a C:N ratio that is consistent with R2A and the “redfield ratio” for soil bacterial
208 biomass(Cleveland and Liptzin, 2007). Compared to soil bacterial biomass, the phosphate
209 concentration in NLDM is high to ensure that phosphate is not limited during culturing. We
210 acknowledge that the chosen metabolite concentrations do not reflect ecological soil conditions,
211 as metabolite concentrations in soil vary by type. Like R2A, NLDM is a nutrient rich medium.
212 This can be an issue since it is thought that nutrient rich culture media favor the growth of
213 faster-growing bacteria at the expense of slow-growing species which can also be inhibited by
214 substrate-rich conventional media(Vartoukian *et al.*, 2010; Nunes da Rocha *et al.*, 2015;
215 Overmann *et al.*, 2017; Bartelme *et al.*, 2020). We anticipate that NLDM can also be diluted to
216 examine more oligotrophic bacteria, however, the culture volume will need to be increased to
217 provide sufficient signal for LC-MS/MS analyses in exometabolomic experiments.

218
219 The application of NLDM to investigate the substrate preferences of 7 isolates revealed an
220 interesting pattern of substrate utilization. Notably, all metabolites in NLDM were utilized by at
221 least 1 isolate after 24 hours. Interestingly, sugars were among the least depleted chemical
222 classes, with the *Cupriavidus* sp. FW305-77 not utilizing any of the sugars. In contrast,
223 nucleosides and nucleobases were used by all isolates. Presumably, this is via purine and
224 pyrimidine salvage pathways which are known to be major pathways for bacteria to obtain
225 carbon, energy, and nitrogen for growth(Vogels and Van der Drift, 1976; Nygaard, 1993).
226 Metabolite depletion patterns were similar for closely related isolates, the 4 *Pseudomonas*
227 isolates, although differences between the individual isolates can be observed (Figure 1). The 2
228 most closely related isolates GW531-R1 and FW305-3-2-15-C-LB3 (with an ANI of 88%) also
229 had the most similar utilization patterns.

230
231 The observation that all of the bacteria tested grew on NLDM suggests that this is a useful
232 media for both exometabolite profiling and bacterial cultivation. In fact, 29 of the 53 isolates
233 tested reached higher biomass yields on NLDM compared to R2A. All but one of the 14
234 *Pseudomonads* tested reached a higher biomass yield in NLDM than in R2A. This is interesting
235 because R2A was originally developed to isolate *Pseudomonads* from treated potable
236 water(Reasoner and Geldreich, 1985). The growth rates of the isolates on R2A and NLDM were
237 similar, indicating that the isolates have a similar fitness on both media(Ram *et al.*, 2019).

238

239 A shorter lag phase was observed for some isolates on NLDM. This could be attributed to the
240 higher concentration of immediately accessible metabolites in NLDM compared to R2A as R2A
241 contains biopolymers which require depolymerization prior to use, resulting in delayed isolate
242 growth(Korem Kohanim *et al.*, 2018). Specifically, all sugars in NLDM are simple substrates
243 (mono- or disaccharides) whereas half of the sugars in R2A are complex polysaccharides,
244 which requires breakdown by extracellular glycosyl hydrolases. In addition, R2A is known to
245 contain a diversity of peptides, which are presumably less metabolically accessible than the
246 amino acids included in NLDM.

247
248 Compared to our previously reported soil defined medium (SDM), NLDM is richer (1146 mg/L vs
249 355 mg/L organic C, for NLDM and SDM respectively), has a more balanced C:N ratio (9:1 vs
250 1:1) and contains a wider selection of metabolites (64 vs 46 metabolites)(Jenkins *et al.*, 2017).
251 Furthermore, NLDM supported the growth of 9 isolates that did not grow on SDM(Jenkins *et al.*,
252 2017).

253
254 There are a number of limitations to NLDM that are important to consider. As discussed above,
255 the relative simplicity and lack of biopolymers in this media compared to soil and R2A causes its
256 culturing characteristics to slightly differ from those of R2A. The 1x concentration of NLDM,
257 while designed to mimic 1x R2A, is dramatically richer than soil dissolved organic carbon and
258 nitrogen, which typically range between 0.42 to 372.1 mg C/L and 0.025 to 10 mg N/L,
259 respectively(Ros *et al.*, 2009; Langeveld *et al.*, 2020).

260 Conclusion

261 This study created a defined medium, NLDM, that enables both exometabolomic
262 characterization and the requisite bacterial cultivation based on the metabolite composition of
263 R2A and soil, metabolite usage by microbes, and biologically relevant elemental stoichiometry
264 of these compounds. NLDM was found to support the growth of all of the 53 phylogenetically
265 diverse isolates tested with comparable biomass yields and growth rates. An exometabolomics
266 study using NLDM and 7 different isolates showed that all metabolites in NLDM were
267 significantly depleted by at least one isolate. We anticipate that the NLDM medium will enable
268 the examination of microbial substrate utilization for a broad range of isolates. We speculate
269 that this media may have additional value in supporting microbial isolations and additional types
270 of microbial characterization.

271

272 Materials and Methods

273 **Chemicals.** All individual chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA)
274 except for sn-glycero-3-Phosphocholine (Cayman Chemical, Ann Arbor, MI, USA). Wolfe's
275 Vitamin supplement (MD-VS™) and Wolfe's Trace Mineral supplement (MD-TMS™) were
276 purchased from ATCC (Manassas, VA, USA).

277
278 **Media preparation.** NLDM was prepared by adding the 64 metabolites to a base medium
279 composed of 1x Wolfe's mineral and 1x Wolfe's vitamin solutions, potassium phosphate, sodium
280 phosphate, calcium chloride, magnesium sulfate and ammonium chloride (Supplementary Table
281 2). NLDM was sterilized using a 0.22um filter.

282

283 **Growth of 53 phylogenetically diverse ORFRC isolates.** NLDM was compared to R2A
284 medium at 1x concentration (Tecknova, Hollister CA) in their ability to support the growth of a
285 broad range of ORFRC isolates, each in triplicate. For growth analysis, the 53 phylogenetically
286 diverse isolates (Supplementary Table 6) were revived in liquid R2A medium from frozen
287 glycerol stocks. Aliquots were washed twice with PBS and diluted with the test medium to an
288 OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 prior to inoculation into 96-well plates. For each fresh medium, 36 uL of starter
289 culture was added to 144 uL test medium and plates were incubated under aerobic conditions
290 for 24 h at 27°C, and shaken at 250 rpm. Growth data were collected by measuring OD₆₀₀ on a
291 TECAN Microplate reader at 15 min intervals. Growth was defined as an increase of 0.05 or
292 greater from the first time point (max OD₆₀₀ - initial OD₆₀₀) after subtraction of the media control.
293

294 **Exometabolomics Sample Preparation.** Quadruplicate 1 mL cultures (including medium
295 controls) of 7 different isolates (FW305-3-2-15-E-TSA4, GW531-R1, GW456-L15, FW305-3-2-
296 15-C-LB3, FW305-77, GW456-R20 and GW247-27LB) from the ORFRC isolate collection were
297 cultured in NLDM at 27°C using 96 deep well plates (same inoculation technique described in
298 the previous section). A single time point was collected from individual wells, each at 24 h. A
299 culture fraction of 0.4 mL was centrifuged at 7,000 x g for 5 min at 4°C and 0.25 mL of the
300 supernatant was collected. The supernatants were then frozen at -80°C, lyophilized to dryness
301 and resuspended in 250 µL methanol. The resuspended samples were filtered through 0.2µm
302 centrifugal filters (Pall Corporation, Port Washington, NY, USA) for 2 min at 5,000 x g and
303 analyzed as described in the previous LC-MS/MS section.
304

305 **LC-MS/MS analysis and metabolite identification and statistical analysis.** Metabolites in
306 the NLDM were chromatographically separated using hydrophilic interaction liquid
307 chromatography (HILIC) and detected by high resolution tandem mass spectrometry. Analyses
308 were performed using an InfinityLab Poroshell 120 HILIC-Z column (Agilent, Santa Clare, CA,
309 USA) on an Agilent 1290 stack connected to a Q-Exactive Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap Mass
310 Spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) equipped with a Heated
311 Electrospray Ionization (HESI-II) source probe. Separation, ionization, fragmentation and data
312 acquisition parameters are specified in Supplementary Table 7. Briefly, metabolites were
313 separated by gradient elution followed by MS1 and data dependent (top 2 most abundant MS1
314 ions not previously fragmented in last 7 s) MS2 collection; targeted data analysis was
315 performed by comparison of sample peaks to a library of analytical standards analyzed under
316 the same conditions. Three parameters were compared: matching m/z, retention time and
317 fragmentation spectra using Metabolite Atlas (<https://github.com/biorack/metatlas>) (Bowen and
318 Northen, 2010; Yao *et al.*, 2015). Metabolite background signals detected in the extraction
319 blanks were subtracted from the experimental sample peak heights/areas. Metabolite peak
320 heights and peak areas were normalized by setting the maximum peak height or peak area
321 detected in NLDM uninoculated control samples to 100%. Metabolite feature peak heights or
322 peak areas were used for relative abundance comparisons. Hierarchical clustering analysis with
323 a Bray–Curtis dissimilarity matrix was performed with the Python 3.7.4 Seaborn 0.9.0 package.
324 The significance between control medium and isolate metabolic profiles was analyzed with the
325 Python statsmodels 0.10.1 ANOVA test coupled to a Python Tukey's honestly significant
326 difference test with $\alpha = 0.05$ corresponding to a 95% confidence level for each metabolite.

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Table 1. Breakdown of organic C and N in NLDM

	uM of each metabolite	# of compounds	C (mg/L)	N (mg/L)
Sugars	875	7	578	12
Organic Acids	525	7	195	22

Amino Acids	175	20	225	71
All other metabolites	17.5	30	43	18
	Total	64	1042	123

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Figure 1. NLDM metabolite utilization patterns by soil isolates. NLDM metabolites utilization after 24 hours displayed as the log₂ of the average normalized peak height or peak area relative to the medium control in a clustering heatmap. n=4 for each isolate. Metabolite row groups are colored according to their chemical class (orange = sugar, sky blue = organic acid, bluish green = amino acid, vermilion = nucleoside/nucleobase, reddish). Strains are abbreviated as follows: 'Pseudomonas-1' *Pseudomonas* sp. FW305-3-2-15-C-LB3, 'Pseudomonas-2' *Pseudomonas* sp. GW531-R1, 'Pseudomonas-3' *Pseudomonas* sp. GW456-L15, 'Pseudomonas-4' *Pseudomonas* sp. FW305-3-2-15-E-TSA4, 'Delftia' *Delftia* sp. GW456-R20, 'Cupriavidus' *Cupriavidus* sp. FW305-77, 'Sphingopyxis' *Sphingopyxis* sp. GW247-27LB'. * indicates $P < 0.05$ (ANOVA with Tukey's honestly significant difference test).

Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of all isolates with corresponding ratio of biomass yield on NLDM and R2A.

Branch colors indicate the phylogenetic origin of each isolate by class (orange = Actinobacteria, sky blue = Alphaproteobacteria, bluish green = Bacilli, vermilion = Betaproteobacteria, reddish purple = Flavobacteria, black = Gammaproteobacteria, blue = Sphingobacteriaceae). Bars on the outer circle indicate the average (n=3) log₂ ratio of the biomass yield (maximum OD₆₀₀) of each isolate grown on NLDM and R2A. Ratios >0 indicate that biomass yield on NLDM was larger than on R2A and ratios <0 indicate that that biomass yield on R2A was larger than on NLDM. Black dots indicate significant difference (two-sample *t*-test, $P < 0.01$). All growth data (OD₆₀₀ values over time for all isolates) can be found in Supplementary Table 5A and 5B.

438 **Supplementary Figure 1. Biomass yield and growth rates of isolates grown on R2A and NLDM over 24 h.**

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441 **Supplementary Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of all isolates with corresponding ratio of growth rates on NLDM**

442 **and R2A.** Branch colors indicate the phylogenetic origin of each isolate by class (orange = Actinobacteria, sky blue =

443 Alphaproteobacteria, bluish green = Bacilli, vermillion = Betaproteobacteria, reddish purple = Flavobacteria, black =

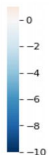
444 Gammaproteobacteria, blue = Sphingobacteriaceae). Bars on the outer circle indicate the average (n=3) log₂ ratio of

445 the growth rate (slope of exponential growth phase) of each isolate grown on NLDM and R2A. Black dots indicate

446 significant difference (two-sample *t*-test, $P < 0.01$). All growth data (OD₆₀₀ values over time for all isolates) can be

447 found in Supplementary Table 4.

\log_2 fold change



Row labels

- sugar
- organic acid
- amino acid
- nucleobase/nucleoside
- amino acid derivative
- other

