

## Responses to reviewers and editor

Here are our responses:

- Please provide full name of the abbreviation LEfSe in the abstract.

**Reply:** LEfSe is an abbreviation of LDA Effect Size analysis and this is fully spelled out in L207. We also added the full name in the abstract (L37).

- I assume Tax4Fun is the name of a software. Please indicate so in the abstract (e.g. write "Using the software Tax4Fun for functional profiling indicated...").

**Reply:** Thanks for the correction. We have revised accordingly as suggested (L39-40).

- Comment for BG editorial: I believe the references in the supplementary should come after the text (not in-between tables), correct?

**Reply:** Thanks for the comment. We have moved the references to the end in the revised submission.