

While soils are an extremely diverse microbial environment, only a select and consistent set of microbial taxa colonize the endophytic compartment (EC) of *Arabidopsis thaliana* roots, indicating that transition by microbes from life in the soil to the EC requires passing several levels of selection. Our studies explore microbial activities required for robust colonization and potential selective pressures applied by either the host and established microbiota to gate subsequent root microbiome membership. We use a combination of *A. thaliana* mutants with a large collection of bacterial isolates to define the orchestration of multiple selective mechanisms to control root microbiome membership.