



Fig. S1. Experimental conditions, changes over time. **(a)** Non-symbiotic fungus (*C. rangiferina*) on deluted nutrient-poor medium (Fdl); **(b)** Non-symbiotic fungus (*C. rangiferina*) growing on the optimal nutrient-rich Malt Yeast Extract (Fopt); **(c)** a co-culture of *C. rangiferina* fungus and alga *A. glomerata* growing on the diluted medium (FA); **(d)** The natural thallus of *Cladonia rangiferina* (NT).