



# A New Fast Method to Assess Urban Trees' Growth Sensitivity in Response to Habitat Stress

— A Case Study of Urban Trees under Drought Stress in Saxony, Germany

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## Outline

- ◆ Tree vitality assessment
- ◆ Drought impact in Central Europe
- ◆ Annual shoot length measurement
- ◆ Our findings and conclusion

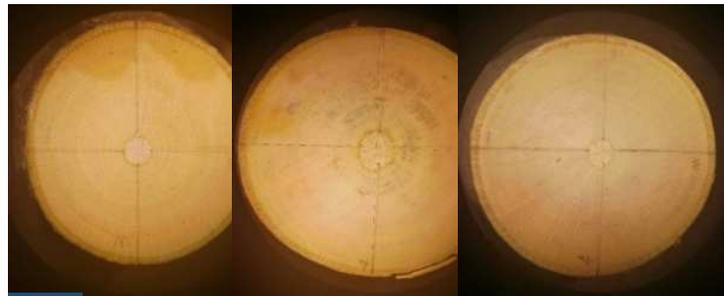


## Tree vitality assessment

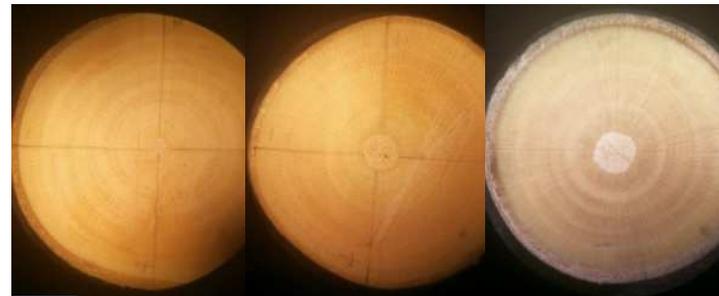
From the perspective of tree form, assessment methods, such as **visual vitality index**, **crown transparency**, and **crown morphology**, were explored as predictors of tree growth rate...



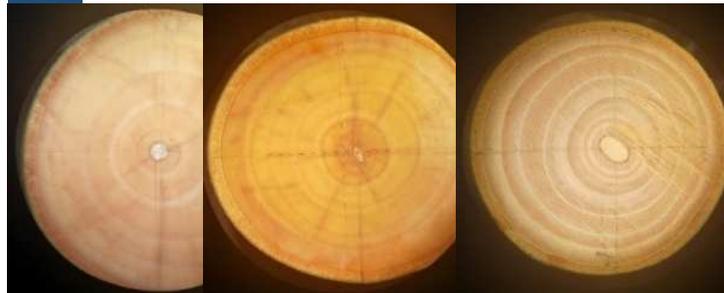
## Secondary growth: tree ring



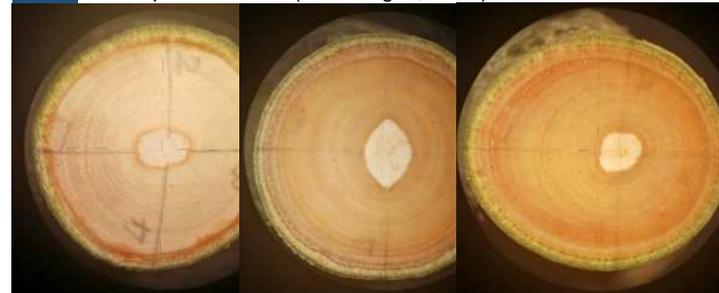
01 *A. platanoides* L. (young, Kreinitz)



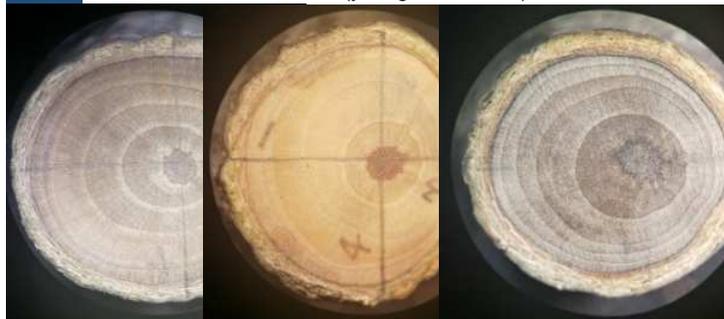
02 *A. platanoides* L. (middle-aged, Diera)



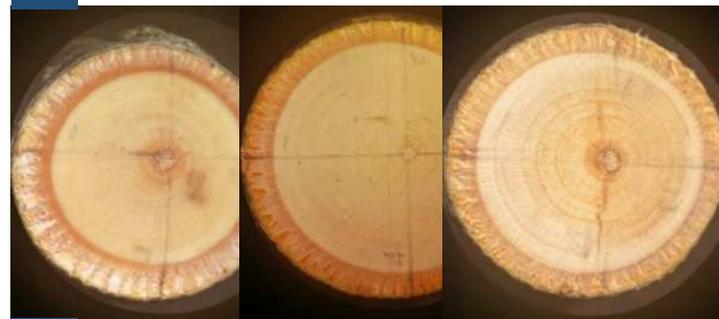
03 *Fraxinus excelsior* L. (young, Grumbach)



04 *F. excelsior* L. (middle-aged, Golk)



05 *Pyrus communis* L. (middle-aged, Merschwitz)



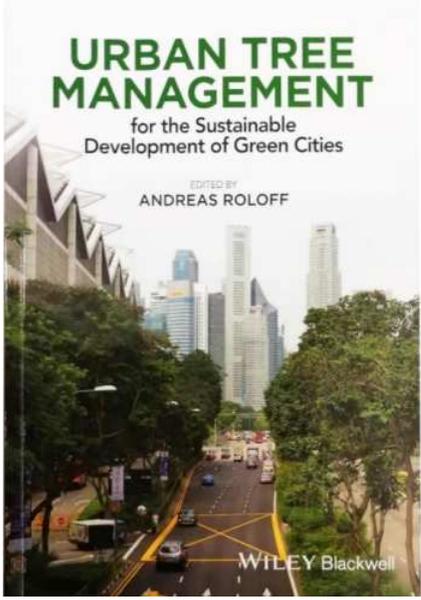
06 *Tilia cordata* Mill. (middle-aged, Goltzscha)

For tree growth rate assessment, many previous studies focused on examining tree species' stem radial growth to indicate their responses and resistance to drought stress by using an index of **tree ring increment**, such as earlywood/latewood ratio, intra-annual density fluctuations, and traumatic tissues as well as the sapwood/heartwood ratio.

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### Primary Growth: Shoot Growth 树梢生长



Vitality assessment, tree architecture 89

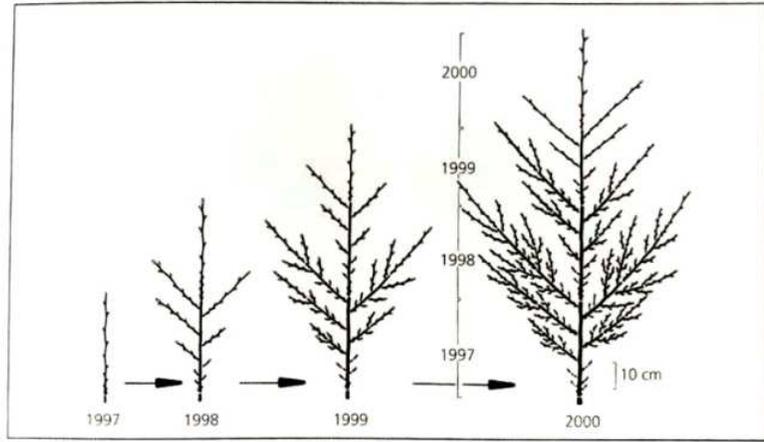
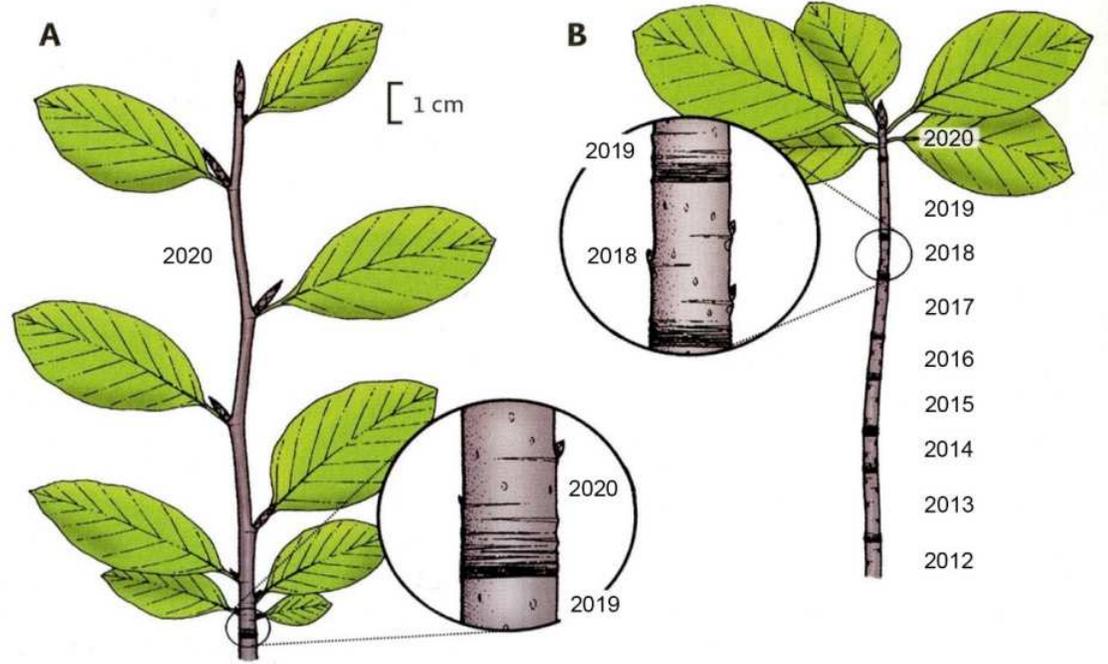


Figure 7.6 Branching pattern of a vigorous hardwood tree leader shoot during three years' development (*Fagus sylvatica*).



Roloff, A. Urban tree management: for the sustainable development of green cities. John Wiley & Sons, 2016.

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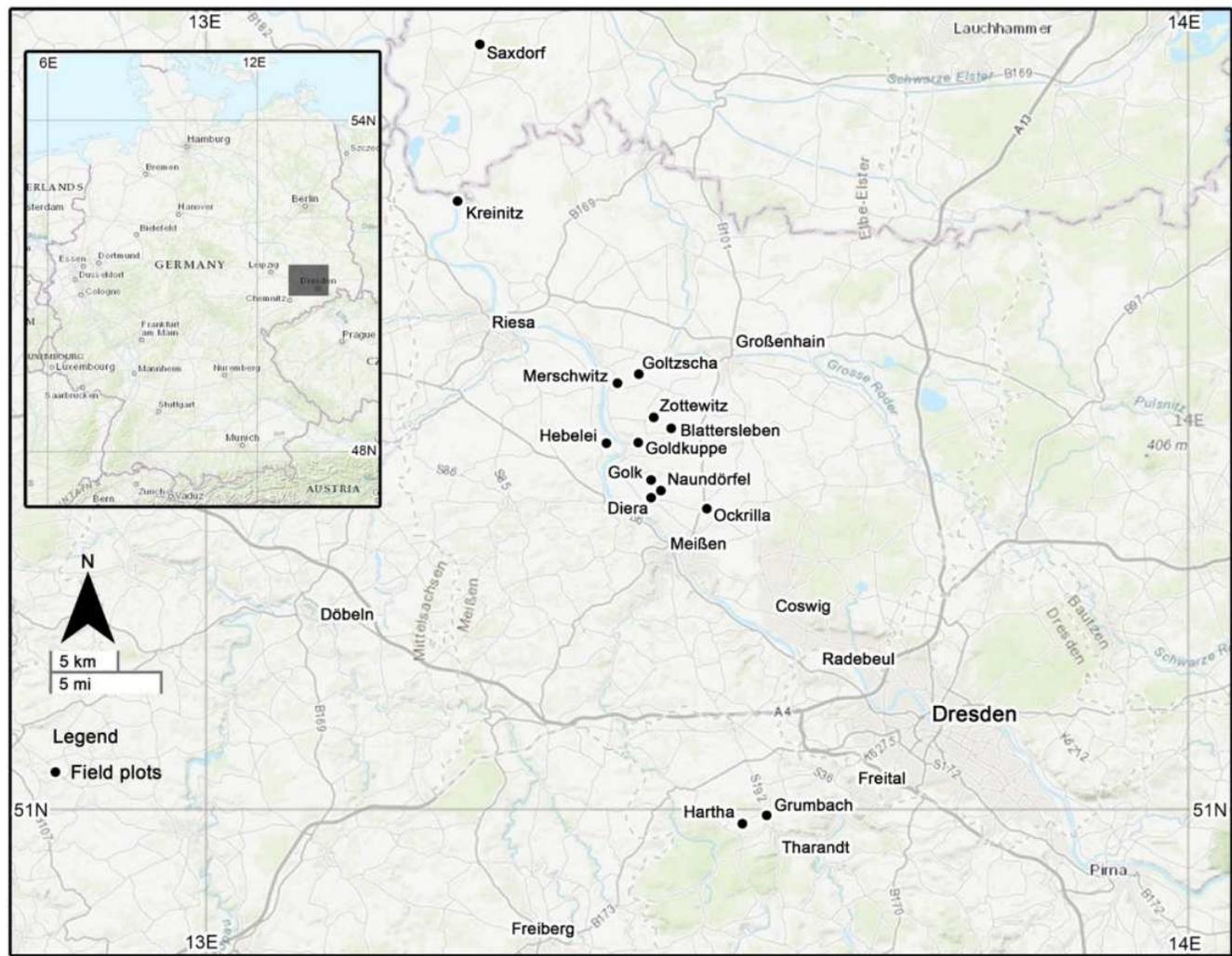
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## Study area





## Drought impact in Central Europe

- ◆ In recent years, Central European forests and trees have severely suffered from **drought events** in the growing season.
- ◆ Trees with a relatively **slow growth rate** have a higher risk of **mortality**.
- ◆ Increasing drought-induced tree mortality has led to interest in the identification and selection of the potential **drought-tolerant tree species** to substitute drought-sensitive species for the future oriental afforestation and urban greenery.



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## Standardized Precipitation Index/ SPI

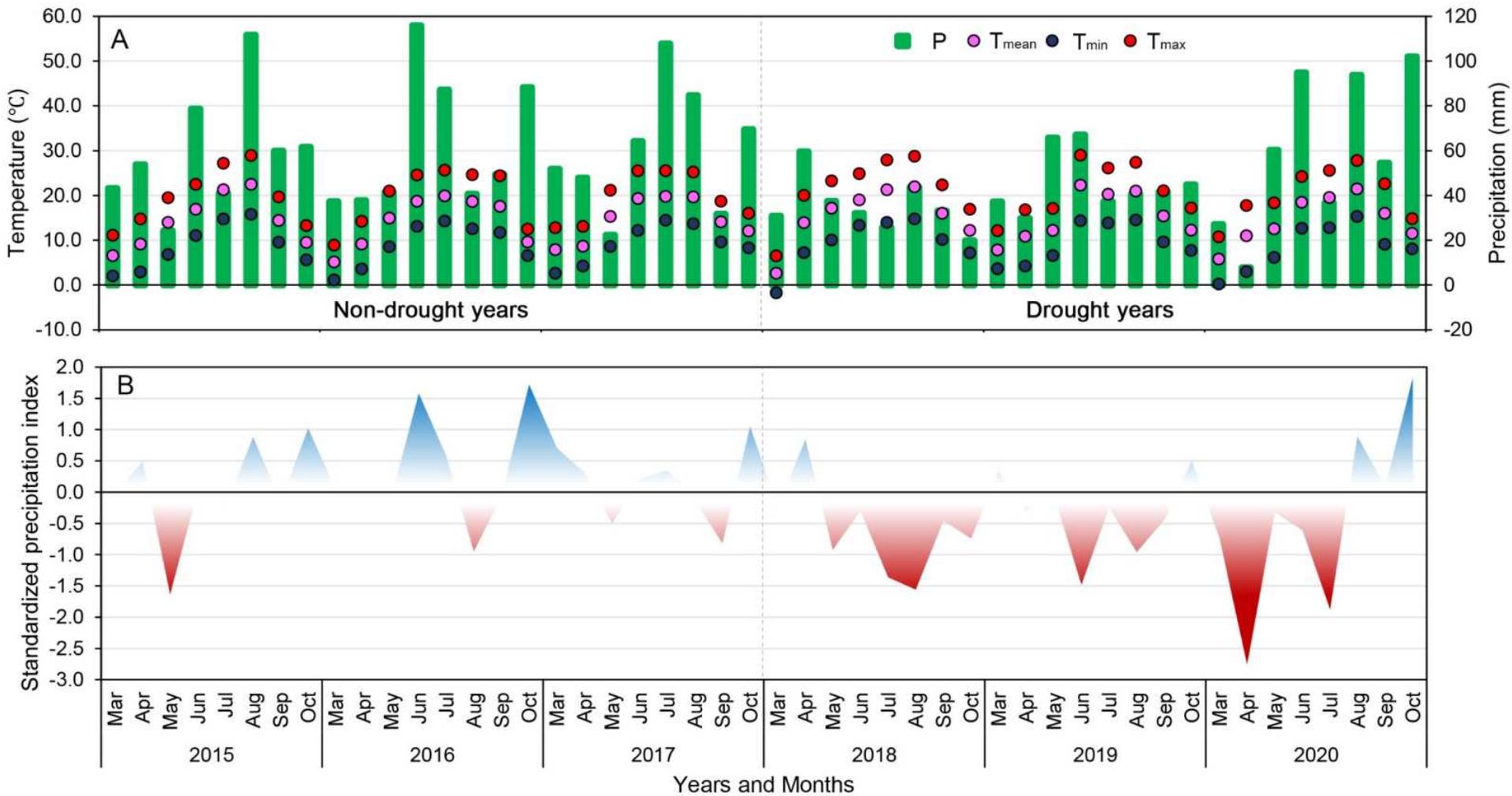


Table1 The information of 22 sampling trees grouped by different age phases

| No. | Age                          | Species                                    | English name               | Location                    | Habitat          | Porosity         | Height   | DBH      | Age   |
|-----|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1   | early-young                  | <i>Acer campestre</i> L.                   | Field maple                | Hebelei                     | Stand            | Diffuse-porous   | 3.5±0.6  | 5.9±1.6  | 6~8   |
| 2   |                              | <i>Acer negundo</i> L.                     | Boxelder maple             | Hebelei                     | Stand            | Diffuse-porous   | 3.8±0.8  | 5.6±1.7  | 6~8   |
| 3   |                              | <i>Acer platanoides</i> L.                 | Norway maple               | Kreinitz                    | Stand            | Diffuse-porous   | 6.2±1.0  | 6.4±1.1  | 8~10  |
| 4   |                              | <i>Carpinus betulus</i> L.                 | European hornbeam          | Hebelei                     | Stand            | Diffuse-porous   | 3.6±0.9  | 6.4±1.4  | 6~8   |
| 5   |                              | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.               | European ash               | Grumbach                    | Stand            | Ring-porous      | 4.1±0.8  | 3.9±1.0  | 5~8   |
| 6   |                              | <i>Prunus avium</i> (L.) L.                | Sweet cherry               | Hebelei                     | Stand            | Semi-ring-porous | 3.2±0.8  | 8.7±2.9  | 6~8   |
| 7   |                              | <i>Quercus robur</i> L.                    | English oak                | Grumbach                    | Stand            | Ring-porous      | 3.1±0.9  | 4.7±1.6  | 5~8   |
| 8   |                              | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> L.                 | Rowan                      | Hebelei                     | Stand            | Semi-ring-porous | 3.1±0.6  | 4.3±0.9  | 6~8   |
| 9   | late-young                   | <i>Acer platanoides</i> L.                 | Norway maple               | Diera                       | Avenue           | Diffuse-porous   | 9.7±2.0  | 24.8±3.8 | 10~12 |
| 10  |                              | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L.           | Horse-chestnut             | Hartha/Grumbach             | Avenue           | Diffuse-porous   | 7.6±1.0  | 19.6±3.5 | 10~15 |
| 11  |                              | <i>Pyrus communis</i> L.                   | Pear                       | Merschwitz                  | Avenue           | Diffuse-porous   | 7.0±1.2  | 32.6±5.8 | 12~15 |
| 12  |                              | <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl.      | Sessile oak                | Naundörfel                  | Stand            | Ring-porous      | 5.9±1.1  | 9.3±2.5  | 10~12 |
| 13  |                              | <i>Quercus robur</i> L.                    | English oak                | Grumbach(38)/Naundörfel(12) | Avenue           | Ring-porous      | 8.2±1.5  | 17.6±4.4 | 12~15 |
| 14  |                              | <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L.             | Black locust               | Saxdorf                     | Stand            | Ring-porous      | 6.6±1.0  | 8.0±1.1  | 10~12 |
| 15  | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> L.   | Rowan                                      | Goldkuppe(23)Zottewitz(27) | Avenue                      | Semi-ring-porous | 5.0±1.0          | 9.6±3.7  | 10~15    |       |
| 16  | <i>Tilia × europaea</i> L.   | European linden                            | Blattersleben              | Avenue                      | Diffuse-porous   | 7.6±0.9          | 16.8±3.9 | 12~15    |       |
| 17  | middle-aged                  | <i>Acer negundo</i> L.                     | Boxelder maple             | Ockrilla(22)/Diera(28)      | Avenue           | Diffuse-porous   | 11.8±2.5 | 27.3±7.4 | 15~20 |
| 18  |                              | <i>Acer saccharinum</i> L.                 | Silver maple               | Diera                       | Avenue           | Diffuse-porous   | 14.1±2.4 | 27.2±3.8 | 15~25 |
| 19  |                              | <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle | Tree of heaven             | Diera                       | Avenue           | Ring-porous      | 9.2±1.7  | 32.9±6.6 | 15~20 |
| 20  | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L. | European ash                               | Golk                       | Avenue                      | Ring-porous      | 11.3±2.5         | 29.4±6.6 | 25~30    |       |
| 21  | <i>Prunus avium</i> (L.) L.  | Sweet cherry                               | Hartha(35)/Diera(15)       | Avenue                      | Semi-ring-porous | 5.7±1.2          | 14.9±7.2 | 15~20    |       |
| 22  | <i>Tilia cordata</i> Mill.   | Littleleaf linden                          | Goltzscha                  | Avenue                      | Diffuse-porous   | 6.6±1.5          | 26.5±5.2 | 25~30    |       |

## Sampled trees



The habitats were categorized into two groups:

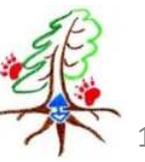
stand trees and avenue trees.

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*Acer campestre*



*Acer negundo*



*Acer platanoides*



*Carpinus betulus*



*Fraxinus excelsior*



*Prunus avium*

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*Quercus robur*



*Sorbus aucuparia*



*Robinia pseudoacacia*



*Quercus petraea*



*Acer negundo*



*Acer platanoides*



*Acer saccharinum*



*Aesculus hippocastanum*

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*Ailanthus altissima*



*Fraxinus excelsior*



*Prunus avium*



*Pyrus communis*



*Quercus robur*



*Sorbus aucuparia*



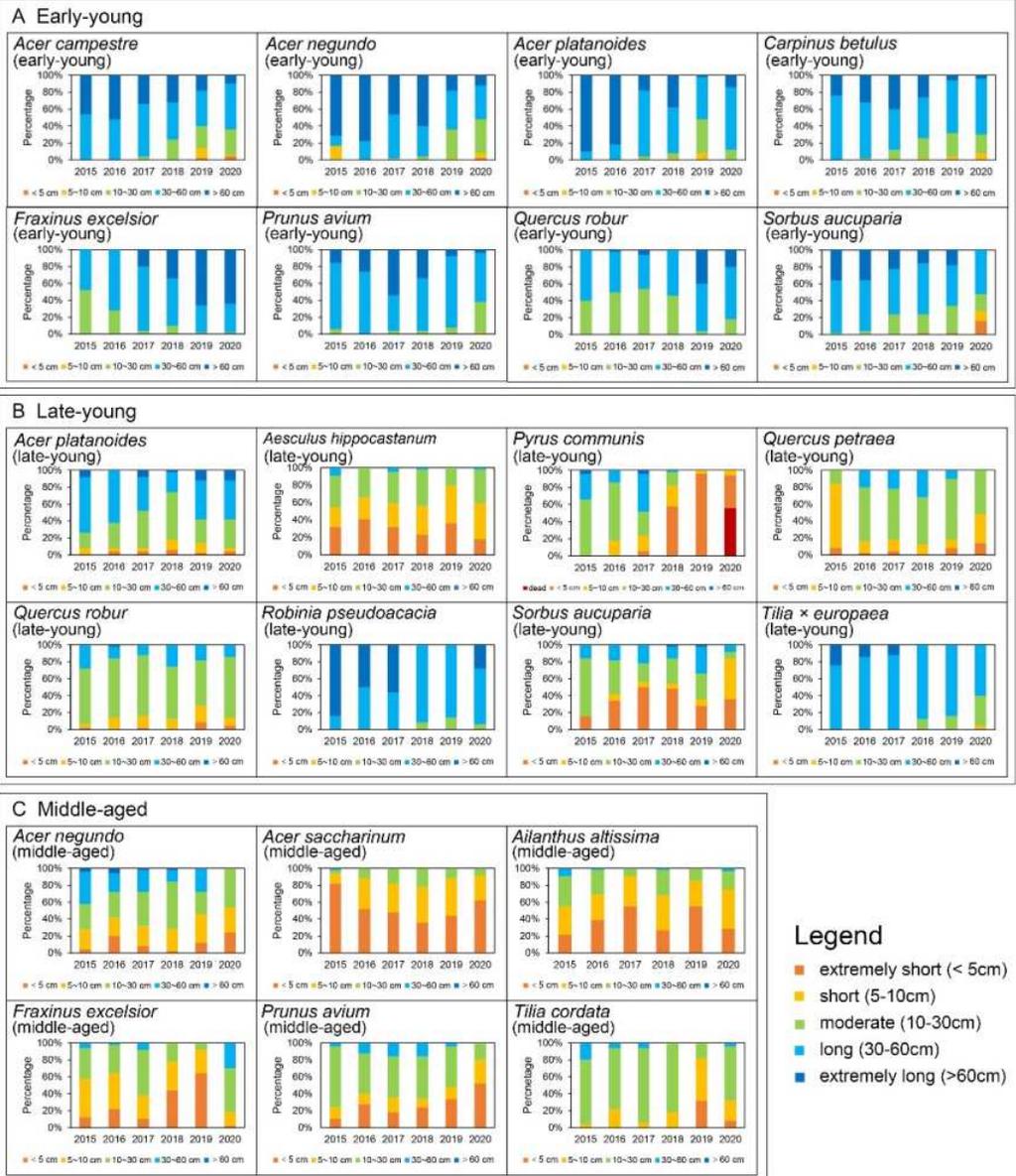
*Tilia X europae*



*Tilia cordata*

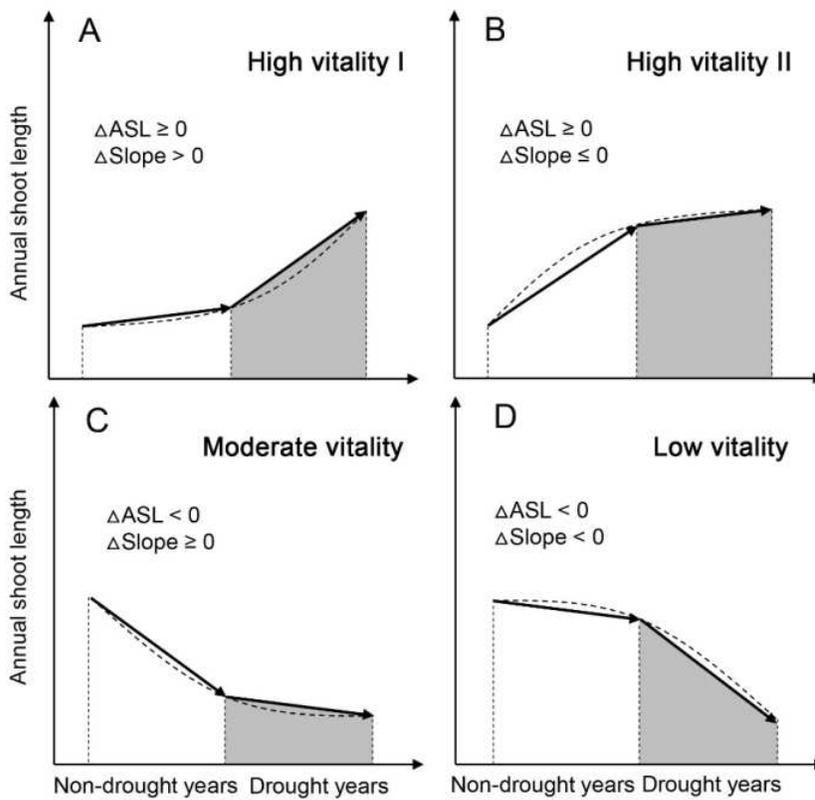
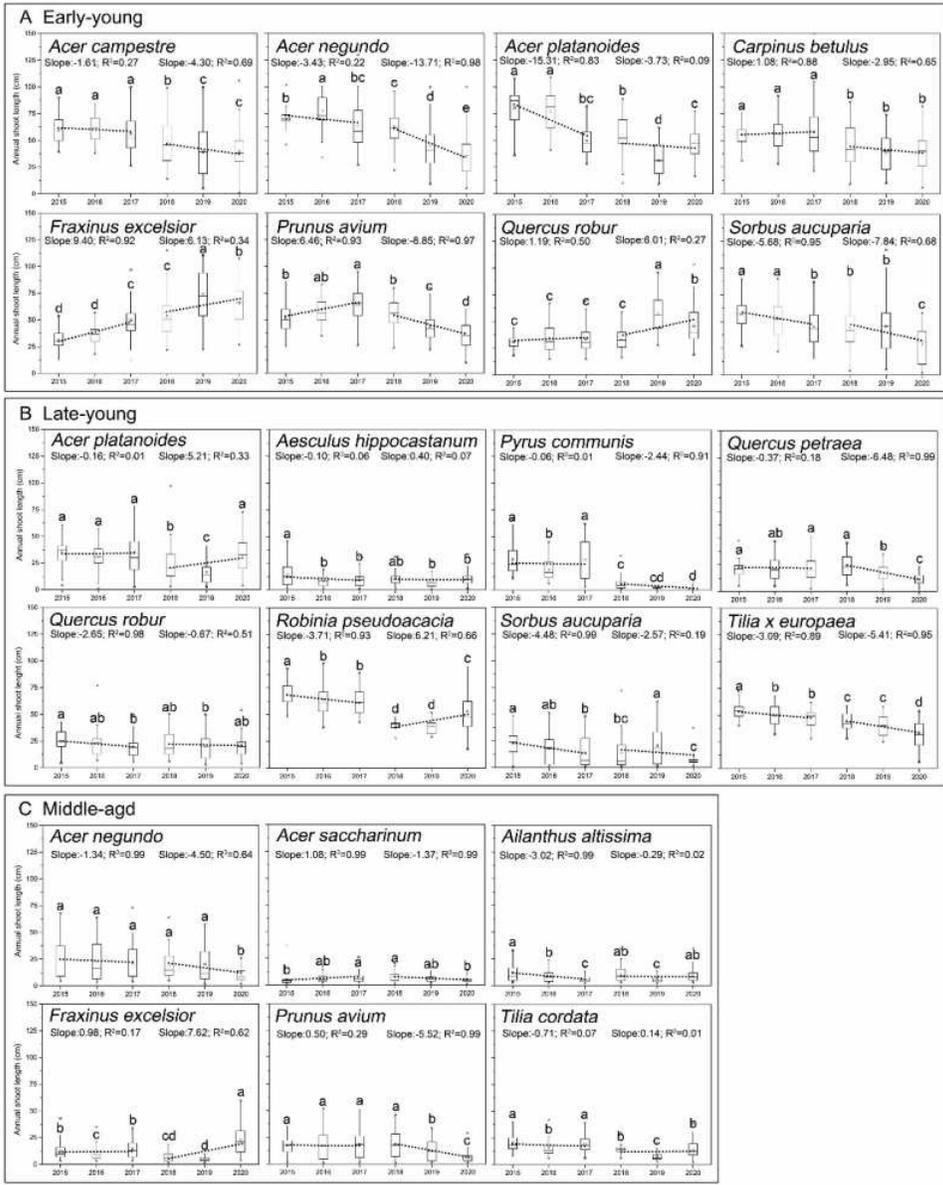
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## Results



- Length groups:
- 1) extremely short (< 5cm);
  - 2) short (5-9cm);
  - 3) moderate (10-29cm);
  - 4) long (30-59cm); and
  - 5) extremely long (> 60cm).

## Results



Three scenarios of ASL assessment:  
 A) Adaptive scenario I and II;  
 B) Tolerant scenario;  
 C) Sensitive scenario.



## Assessment method

To compare the ASL performance of different tree species under a unified assessment criterion, the index of **relative ASL increase** (RAI) was calculated as below:

$$RAI = \left( \overline{DrASL} - \overline{PrASL} \right) / \overline{PrASL}$$

where  $\overline{DrASL}$ ,  $\overline{PrASL}$  indicate the mean ASL value of the non-drought period and the drought period, respectively.

Additionally, the index of **ASL tendency variation** (ATV) was calculated to indicate each species'  $\Delta$ Slope performance as follows:

$$ATV = DrRad - PrRad$$

where  $DrRad$ ,  $PrRad$  indicates the slope value of linear regression within the non-drought period and the drought period, respectively.

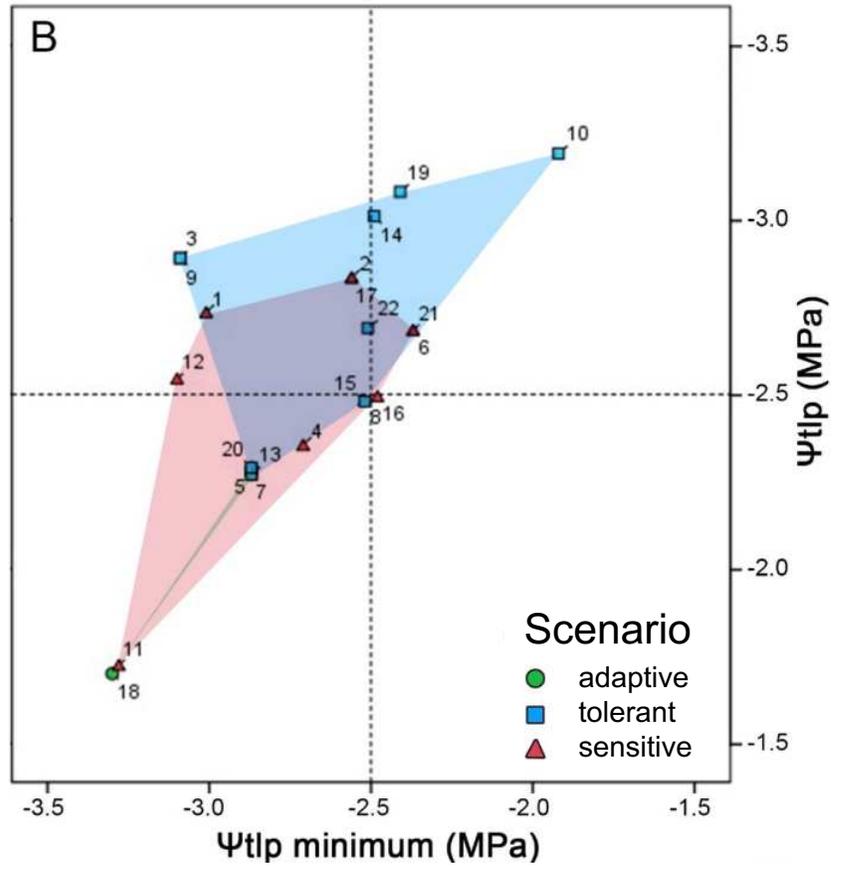
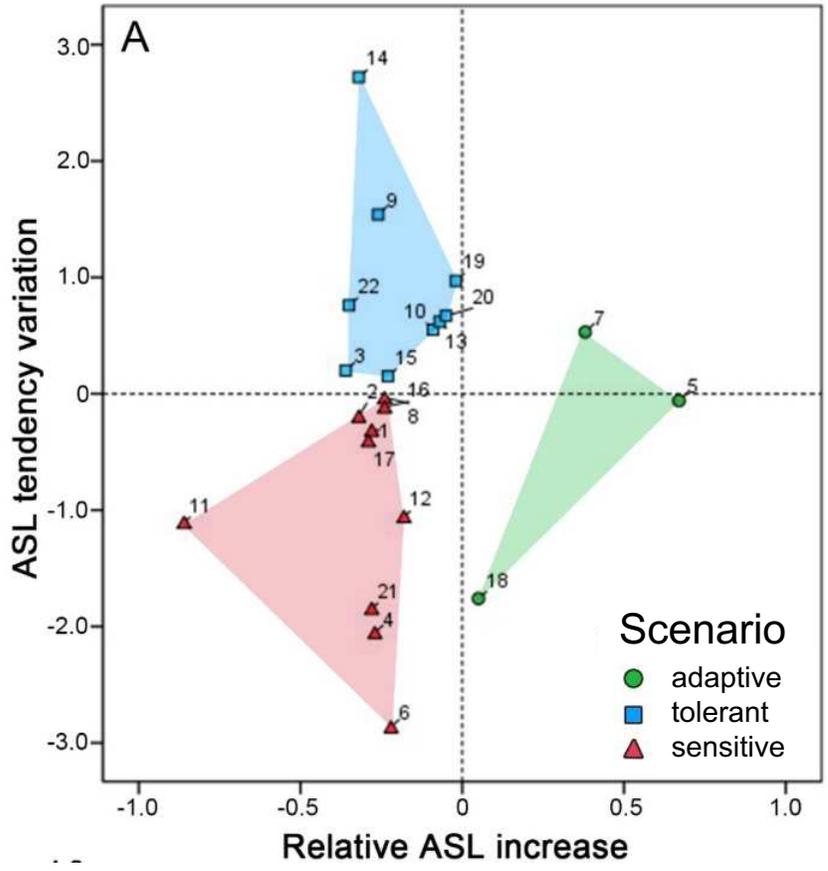
## Drought tolerance evaluation

Table2 Drought tolerance evaluation of tree species

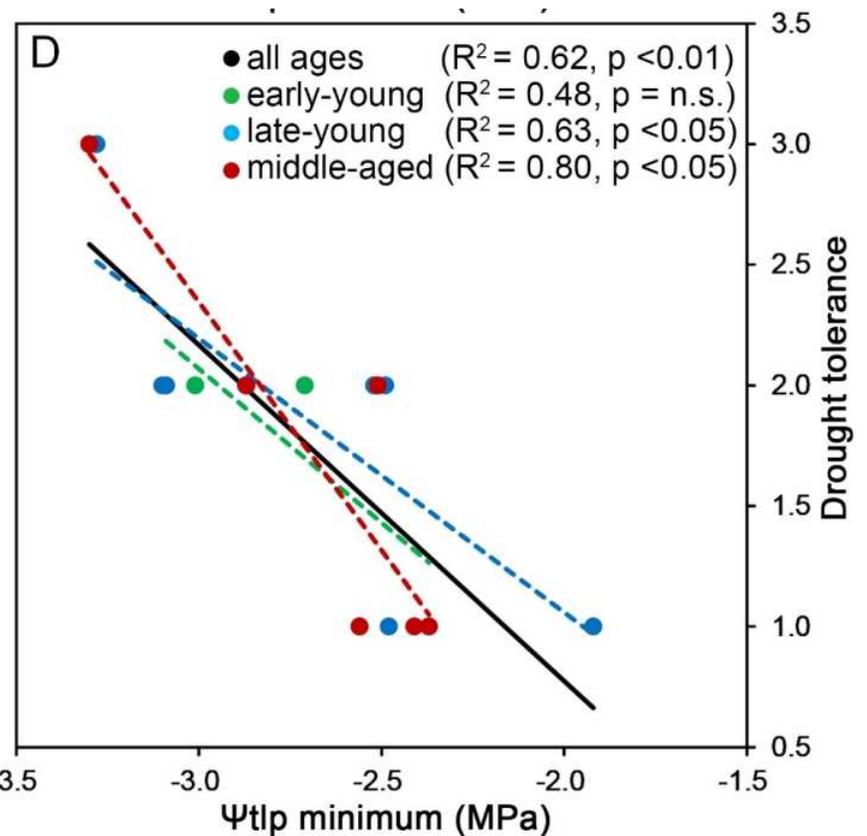
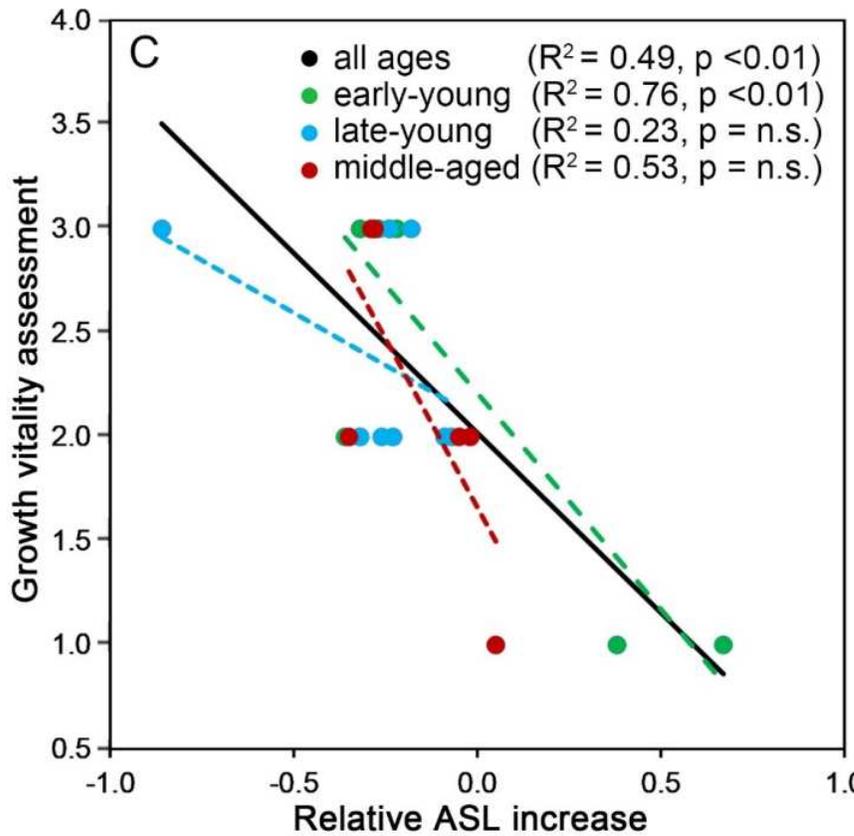
| Species                                   | Xylem structure | Hydraulic strategy | I | I I | III | IV | Primary evaluation (Average) | $\Psi_{tip}$ (-MPa) Mean $\pm$ SD | $\Psi_{tip}$ (-MPa) Minimum | Final evaluation | References    |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|-----|-----|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i>                     | D               | A                  | 3 | 3   | 2   | 2  | 2.50                         | 2.32 $\pm$ 0.55                   | 3.01                        | 2 moderate       | f, g, k       |
| <i>Acer negundo</i>                       | D               | I                  | 3 | 3   | 2   | 3  | 2.75                         | 2.22 $\pm$ 0.52                   | 2.56                        | 1 low            | n, p          |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i>                   | D               | A                  | 2 | 2   | 2   | 2  | 2.00                         | 2.16 $\pm$ 0.53                   | 3.09                        | 2 moderate       | c, b, f, g    |
| <i>Acer saccharinum</i>                   | D               | A                  | 1 | 1   | 2   | 2  | 1.50                         | 3.30 $\pm$ 0.03                   | 3.30                        | 3 high           | p, q          |
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>             | D               | I                  | 1 | 0   | 2   | 2  | 1.25                         | 1.81 $\pm$ 0.16                   | 1.92                        | 1 low            | b, f          |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>                | R               | I                  | 3 | 3   | 2   | 2  | 2.50                         | 1.95 $\pm$ 0.36                   | 2.41                        | 1 low            | l, m, o,      |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i>                   | D               | A                  | 2 | 2   | 1   | 2  | 1.75                         | 2.65 $\pm$ 0.05                   | 2.71                        | 2 moderate       | c, f, h, i    |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>                 | R               | A                  | 2 | 2   | 1   | 2  | 1.75                         | 2.71 $\pm$ 0.18                   | 2.87                        | 2 moderate       | b, f, h, i,   |
| <i>Prunus avium</i>                       | S               | I                  | 2 | 3   | 1   | 2  | 2.00                         | 2.32 $\pm$ 0.06                   | 2.37                        | 1 low            | b, f          |
| <i>Pyrus communis</i>                     | D               | A                  | 2 | 2   | NA  | 2  | 2.00                         | 3.28 $\pm$ 0.05                   | 3.28                        | 3 high           | j             |
| <i>Quercus petraea</i>                    | R               | A                  | 3 | 2   | 2   | 3  | 2.50                         | 2.49 $\pm$ 0.38                   | 3.10                        | 2 moderate       | a, d, f, g, k |
| <i>Quercus robur</i>                      | R               | A                  | 2 | 1   | 2   | 2  | 1.75                         | 2.73 $\pm$ 0.12                   | 2.87                        | 2 moderate       | a, b, f       |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>               | R               | A                  | 3 | 3   | 3   | 3  | 3.00                         | 2.01 $\pm$ 0.27                   | 2.49                        | 2 moderate       | n, o, r       |
| <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>                   | S               | A                  | 1 | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1.00                         | 2.52 $\pm$ 0.27                   | 2.52                        | 2 moderate       | f             |
| <i>Tilia <math>\times</math> europaea</i> | D               | I                  | 2 | 1   | 2   | NA | 1.67                         | 2.51 $\pm$ 0.05                   | 2.48                        | 1 low            | f             |
| <i>Tilia cordata</i>                      | D               | I                  | 2 | 2   | 2   | 2  | 2.00                         | 2.32 $\pm$ 0.11                   | 2.51                        | 2 moderate       | c, e, f, h, i |



## Scenarios

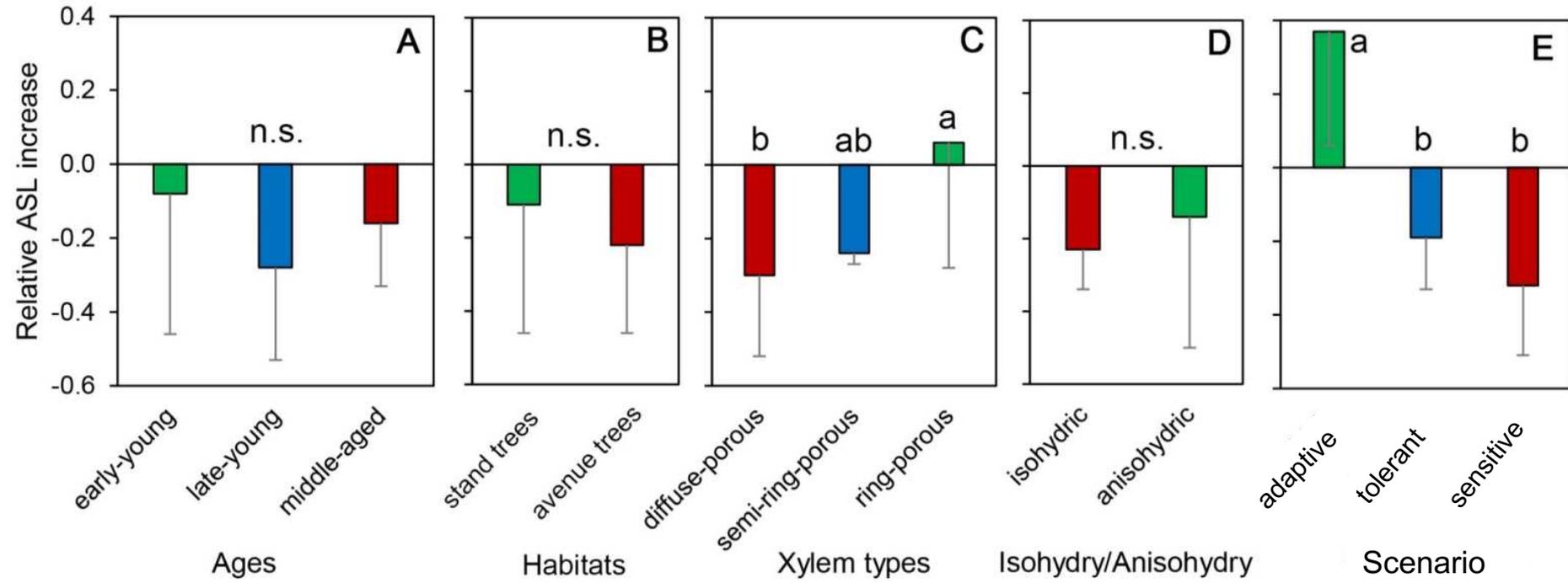


## Relationship



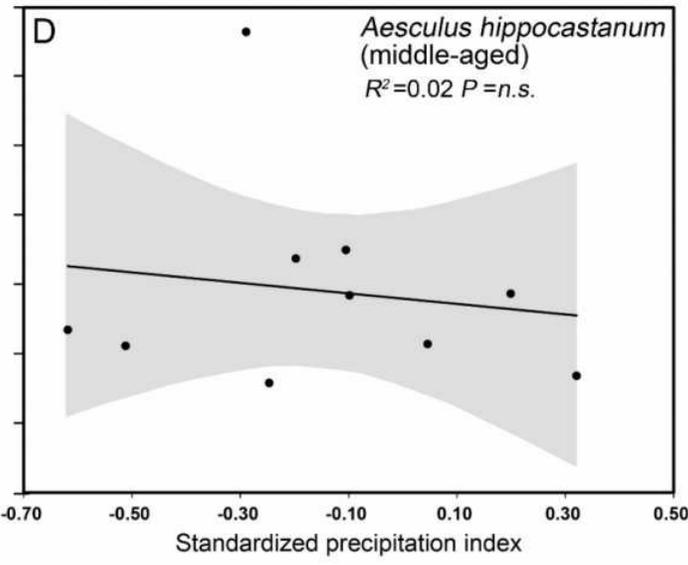
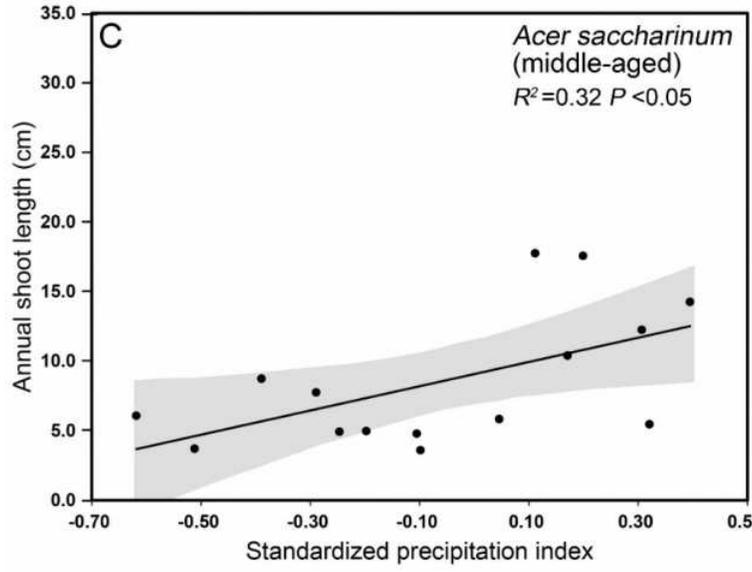
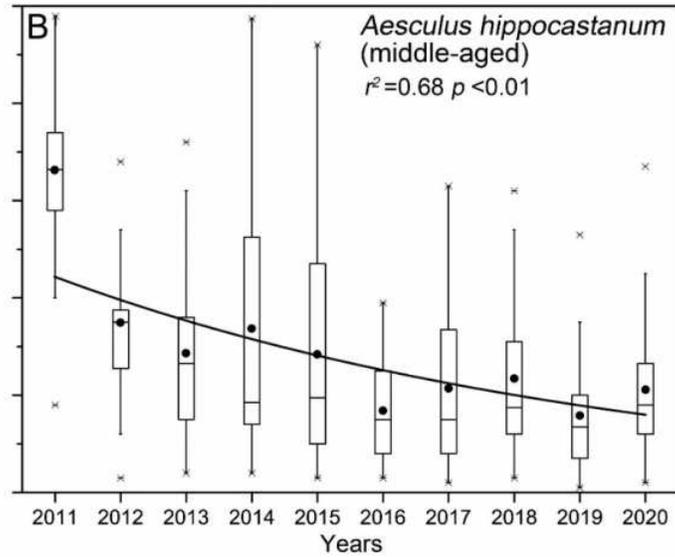
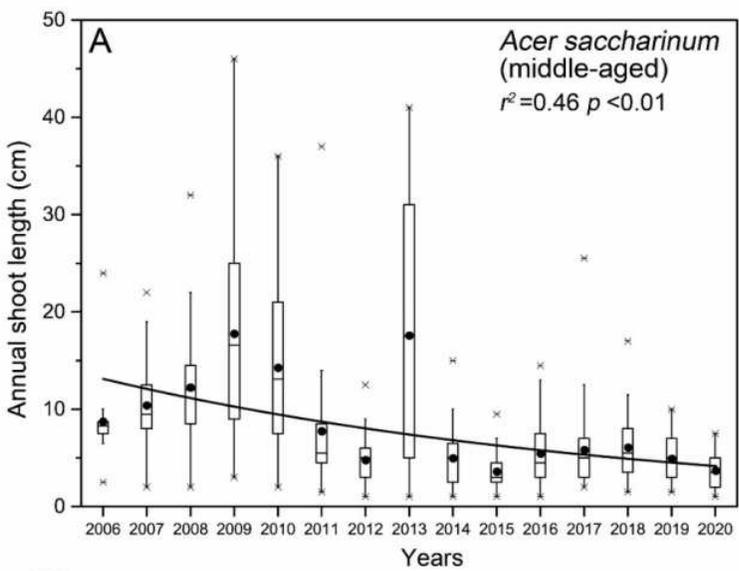


## Factors analysis





## Tree ages





## Discussion

- ◆ Our result showed that the responses of tree growth to drought varied among different species and habitats, and strongly depended on **species-** and **site-specific** characteristics.
- ◆ However, **no relationships** between annual shoot length and **climatic parameters** were found in our analysis.
- ◆ **Grafting effect** may lead to permanently reduced growth.



## Conclusion

- ◆ The annual shoot length of different tree species was affected by multiple **internal** and **external factors**.
- ◆ Tree shoot growth did not directly correlate with **drought tolerance** of tree species.
- ◆ **Ring-porous** species with **anisohydric** behavior were likely have better ASL performance associated with higher drought tolerance than diffuse-porous species with isohydric behavior.



## Outlook

- ◆ ASL measurement was recommended to be an easy, fast and effective method to assess tree growth vitality and adaptability in response to their habitat stress, this method was also helpful to select urban tree species with high tolerance under climate change impacts.
- ◆ Further post-drought research work is recommended to further test our hypothesis.



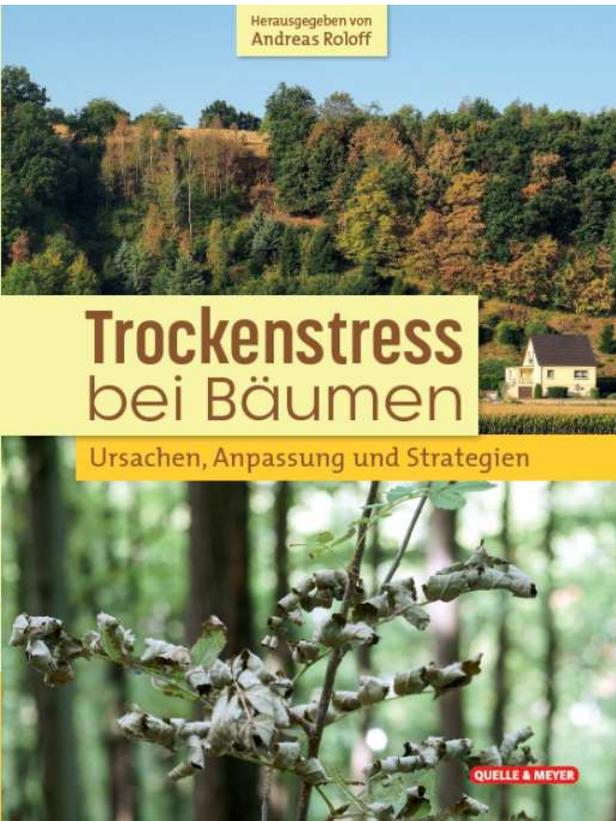
## Acknowledgments

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## Publications



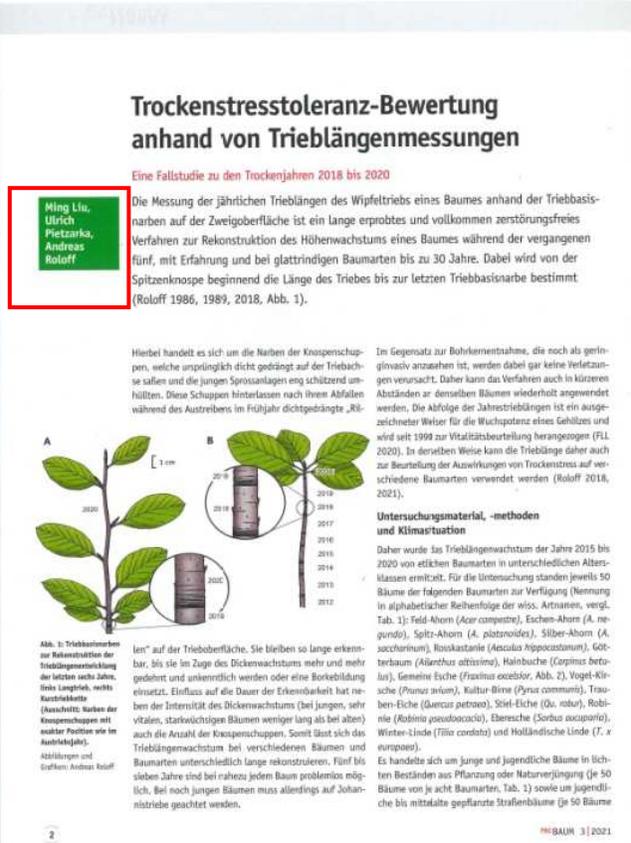
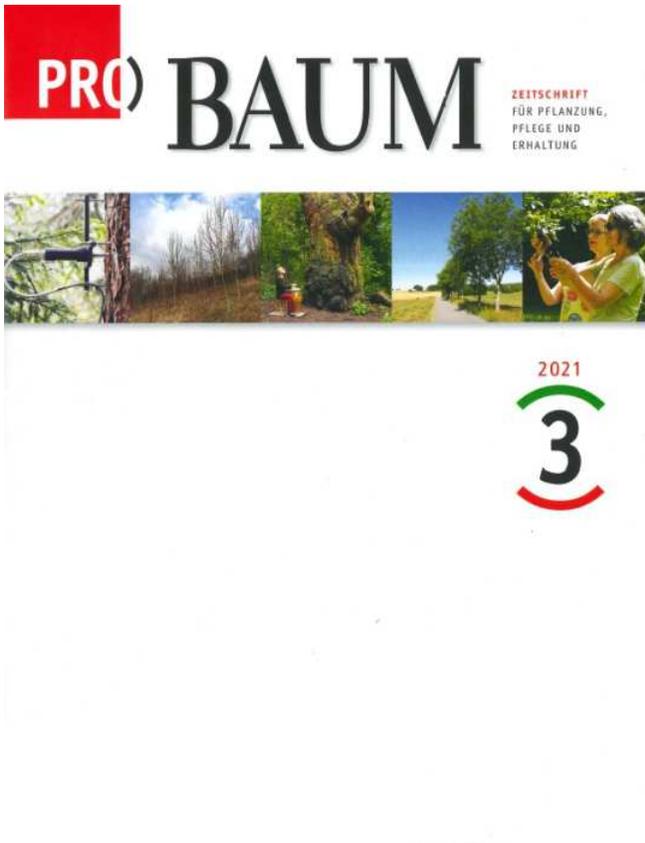
### 7 Klimasensitivität der Triebblängen verschiedener Baumarten – Eine Fallstudie zu den Trockenjahren 2018 bis 2020

Ming Liu (unter Mitarbeit von Ulrich Pietzarka und Andreas Roloff)

#### 7.1 Einführung

Die Messung der jährlichen Triebblängen des Wipfeltriebes eines Baumes anhand der Triebbasissnarben auf der Zweigoberfläche ist ein lange erprobtes und vollkommen zerstörungsfreies Verfahren zur Rekonstruktion des Höhenwachstums eines Baumes während der vergangenen 5, mit Erfahrung und bei glattrindigen Baumarten bis zu 30 Jahre. Dazu wird von der Spitzenknospe beginnend die Länge des Triebes bis zur letzten Triebbasissnarbe bestimmt (ROLOFF 1986, 1989). Dabei handelt es sich um die Narben der Knospenschuppen, die ursprünglich dicht gedrängt auf der Triebachse saßen und die jungen Sprossanlagen eng schützend umhüllten. Diese Schuppen hinterlassen nach ihrem Abfallen während des Austreibens im Frühjahr dichtgedrängte „Rillen“ auf der Trieboberfläche. Sie bleiben so lange erkennbar, bis sie im Zuge des sekundären Dickenwachstums mehr und mehr gedehnt und unkenntlich werden oder eine Borkebildung einsetzt. Einfluss auf die Dauer der Erkennbarkeit hat neben der Intensität des Dickenwachstums (bei jungen, sehr vitalen, starkwüchsigen Bäumen weniger lang als bei alten) auch die Anzahl der Knospenschuppen. Somit lässt sich das Triebblängenwachstum bei verschiedenen Bäumen und Baumarten unterschiedlich lange rekonstruieren. Fünf bis sieben Jahre sind bei nahezu jedem Baum problemlos möglich. Bei noch jungen Bäumen muss auch auf Johannistriebe und darauf geachtet werden, ob in den ersten Jahren Auswirkungen eines Pflanzschocks vorliegen.

Im Gegensatz zur Bohrkernentnahme, die noch als geringinvasiv anzusehen ist, werden dabei gar keine Verletzungen verursacht. Daher kann das Verfahren auch in kürzeren Abständen an denselben Bäumen wiederholt angewendet werden. Die Abfolge der Jahrestriebblängen ist ein ausgezeichneter Weiser für die Wuchspotenz eines Gehölzes und wird seit 1990 zur Vitalitätsbeurteilung herangezogen. In derselben Weise kann die Triebblänge daher auch zur Beurteilung der Auswirkungen von Trockenstress auf verschiedene Baumarten verwendet werden (ROLOFF 2018).





## Reference

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Thanks for your concerns !

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TU Dresden