



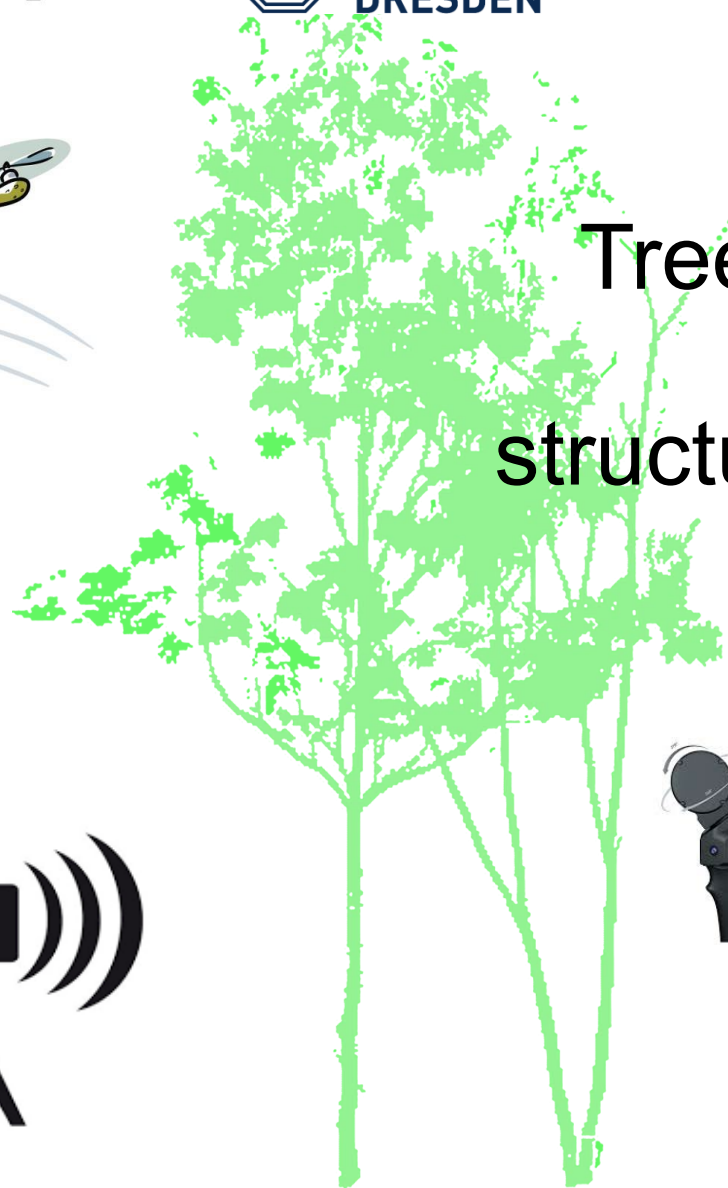
# Tree diversity increases productivity through enhancing structural complexity across mycorrhizal types



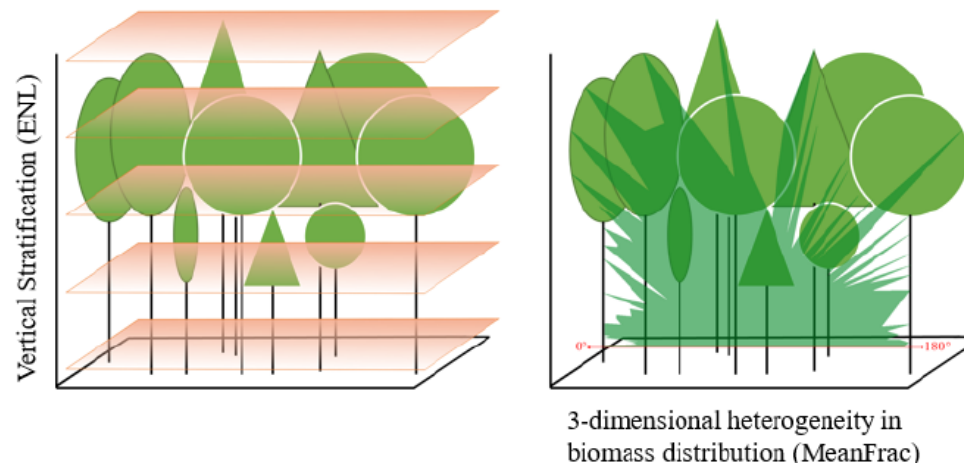
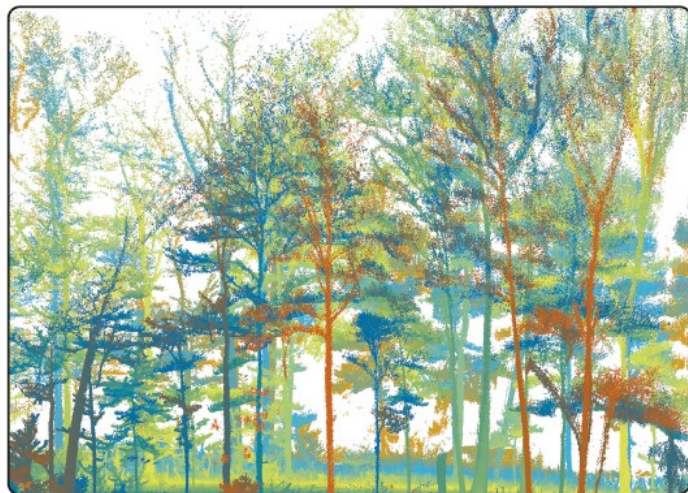
Tama Ray

Supervisors: Prof. Goddert von Oheimb

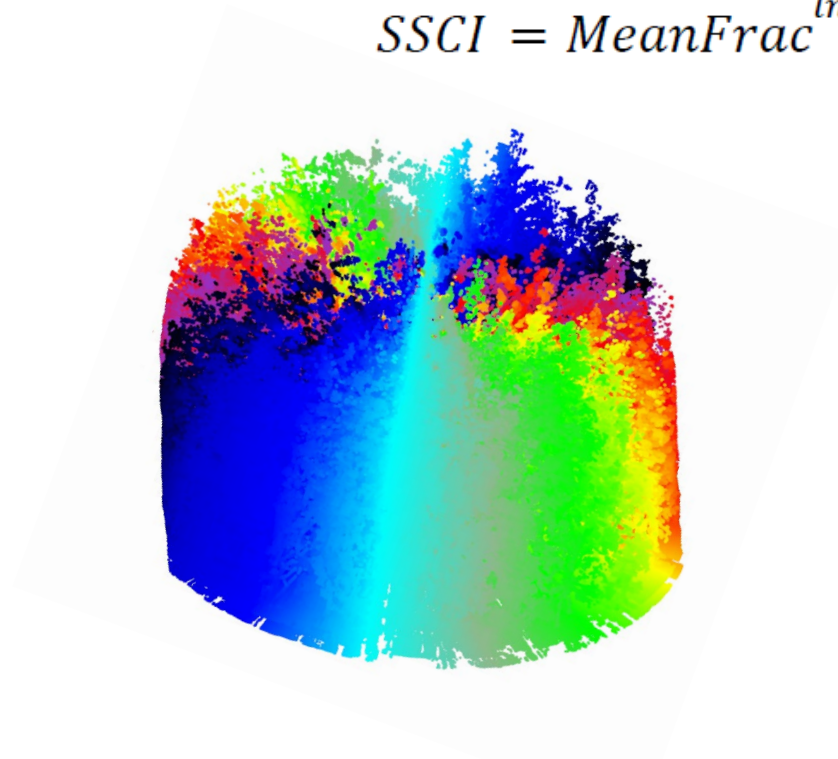
PD. Dr. Andreas Fichtner



# Background: Structural complexity



$$SSCI = MeanFrac^{\ln(ENL)}$$

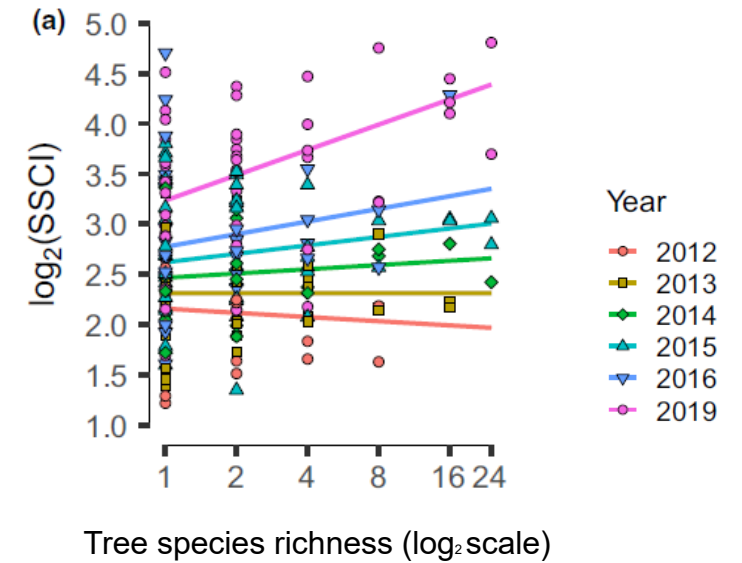
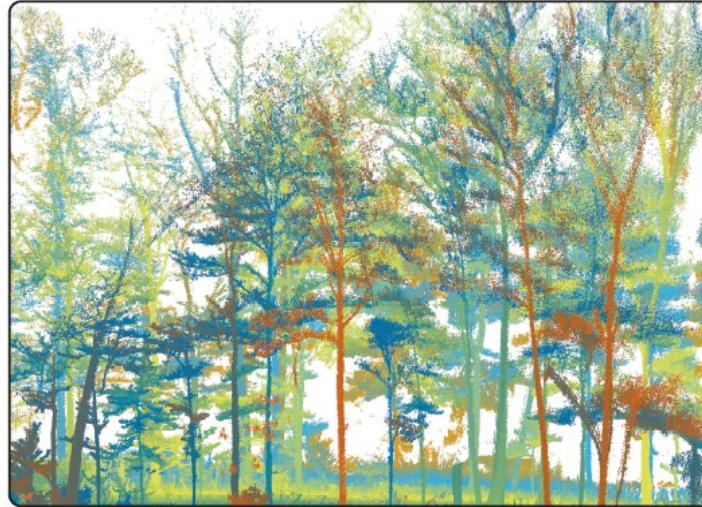
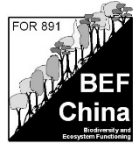
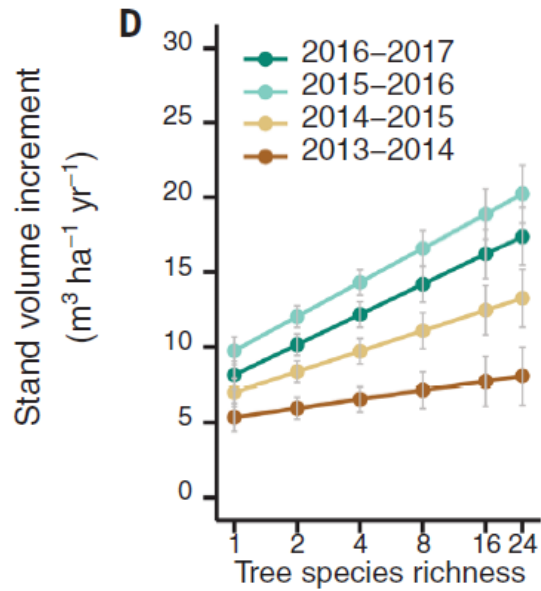


Ehbrecht et al. (2017),  
*Agricultural and Forest  
Meteorology*

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**FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY**  
*and the* **ENVIRONMENT**

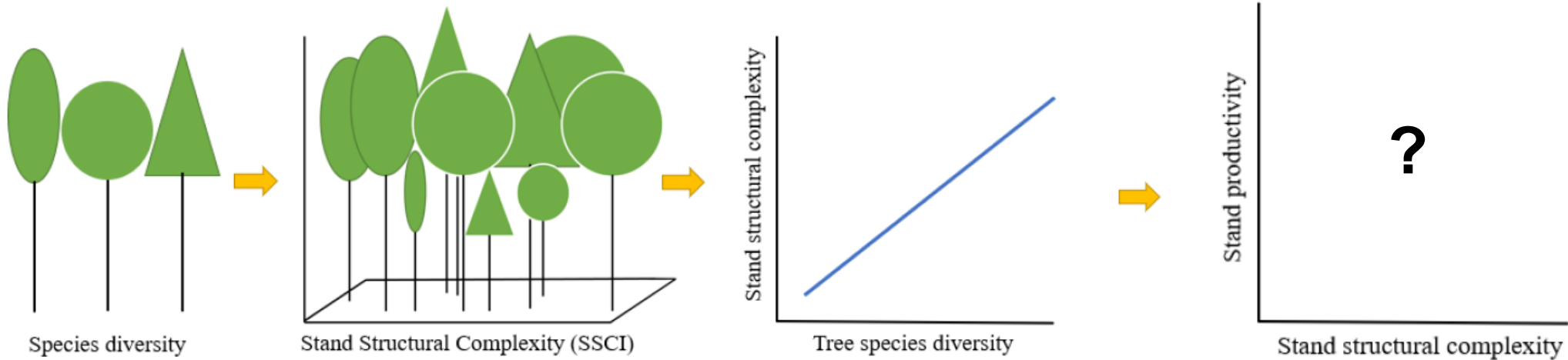
SPECIAL ISSUE:  
ECOLOGICAL ROLES OF STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY

# Biodiversity-productivity relationships – aboveground perspective

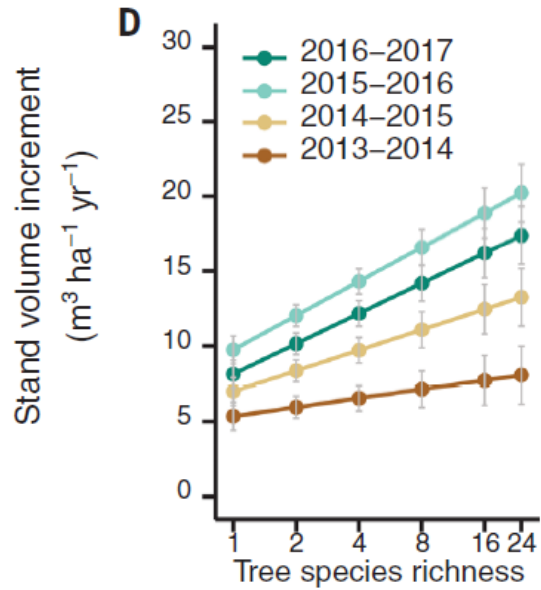


Huang et al. (2018), *Science*

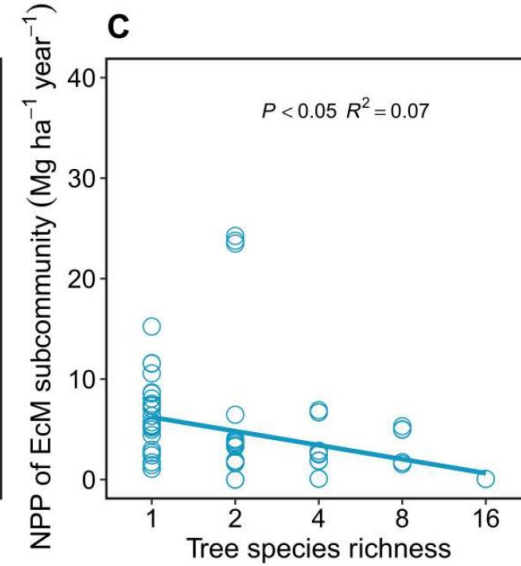
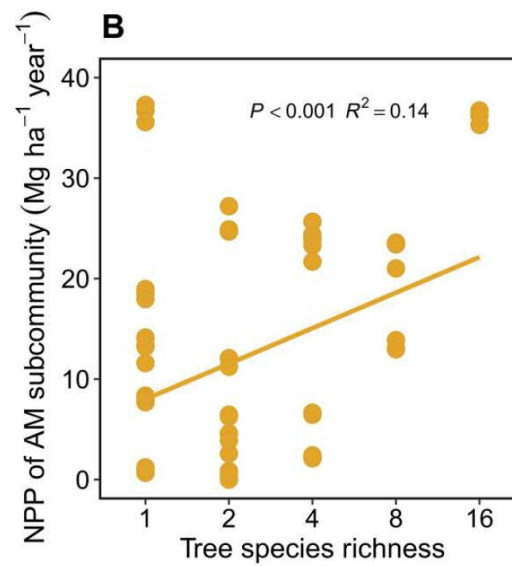
Perles-Garcia et al. (2021), *Journal of Applied Ecology*



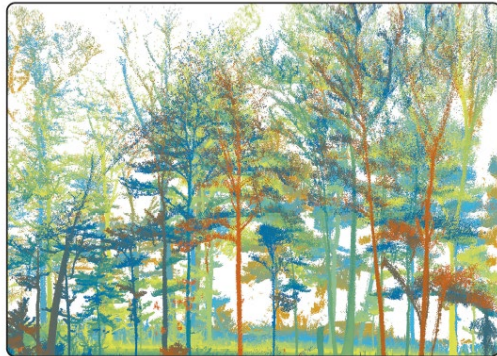
# Biodiversity-productivity relationships – belowground perspective



Huang et al. (2018), *Science*



Deng et al. (2023), *Science Advances*



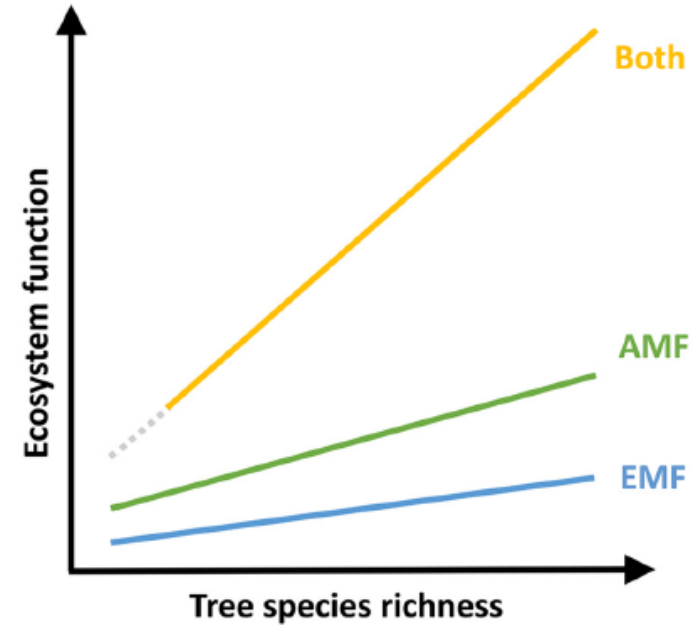
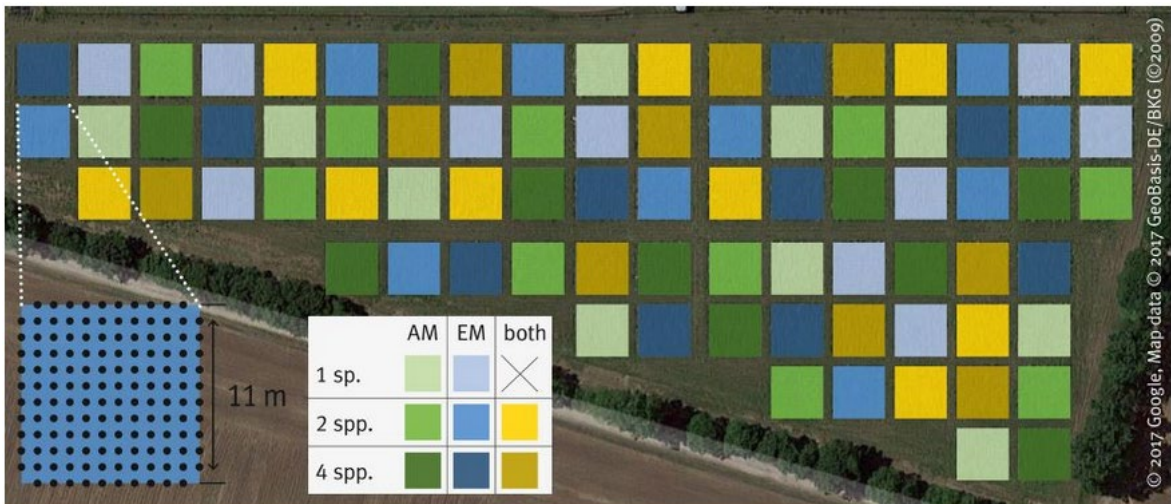
above



below

The relative importance of **above**- and **below**ground processes in shaping biodiversity-productivity relationships is still unclear

# Study Site



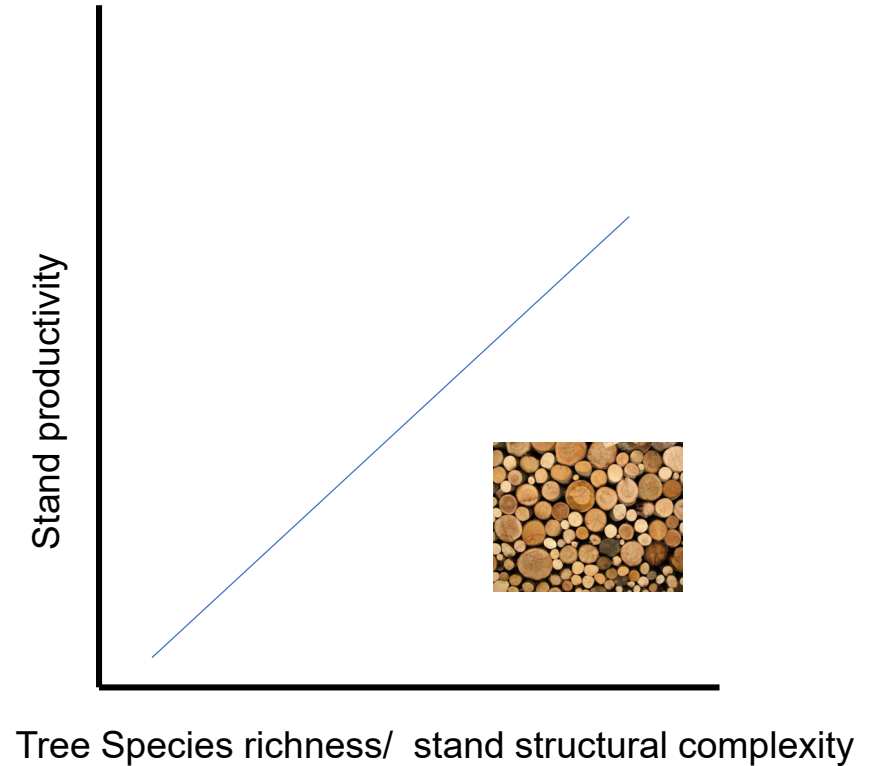
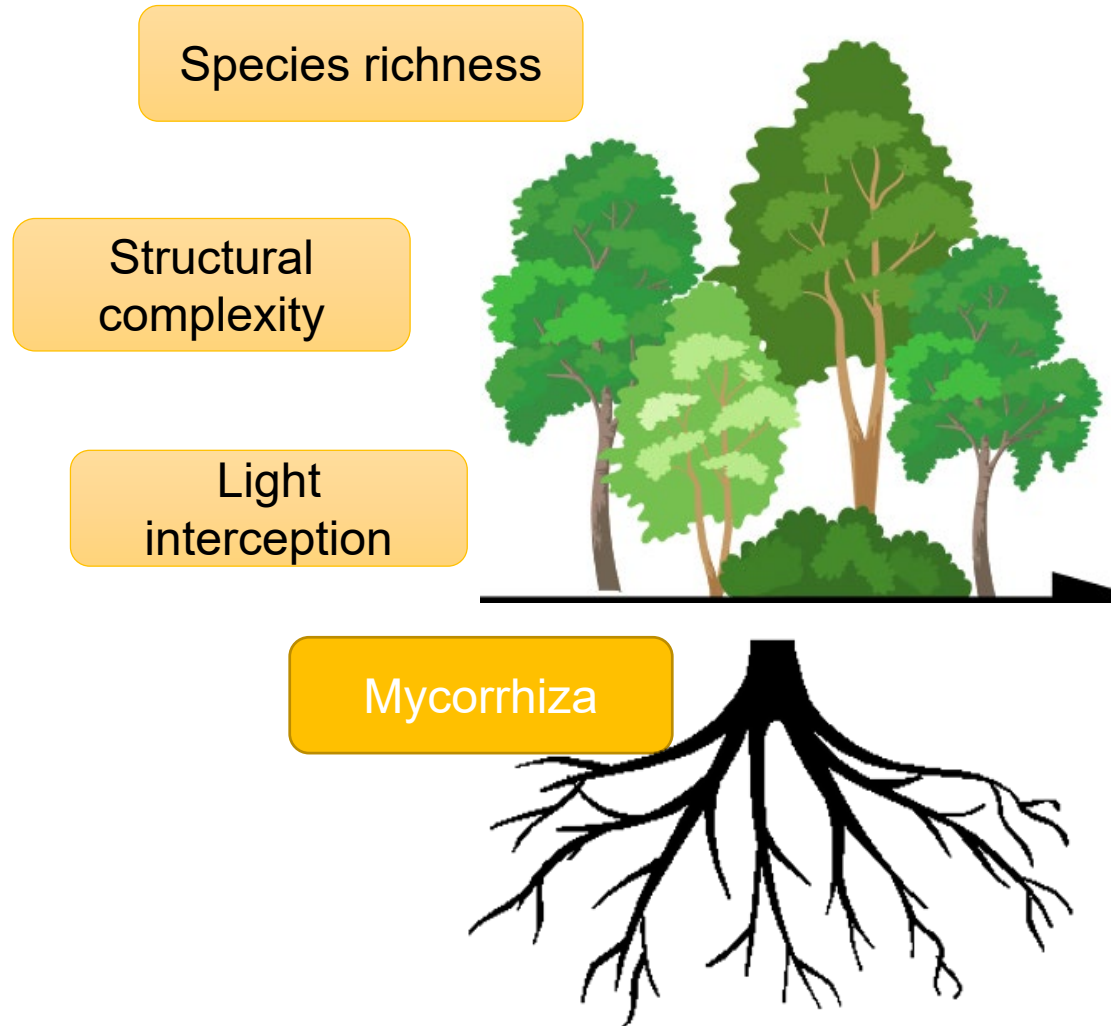
## MyDiv key hypothesis

Stands with a high species richness of trees and the presence of functionally dissimilar mycorrhizal types show the highest levels of ecosystem functioning.

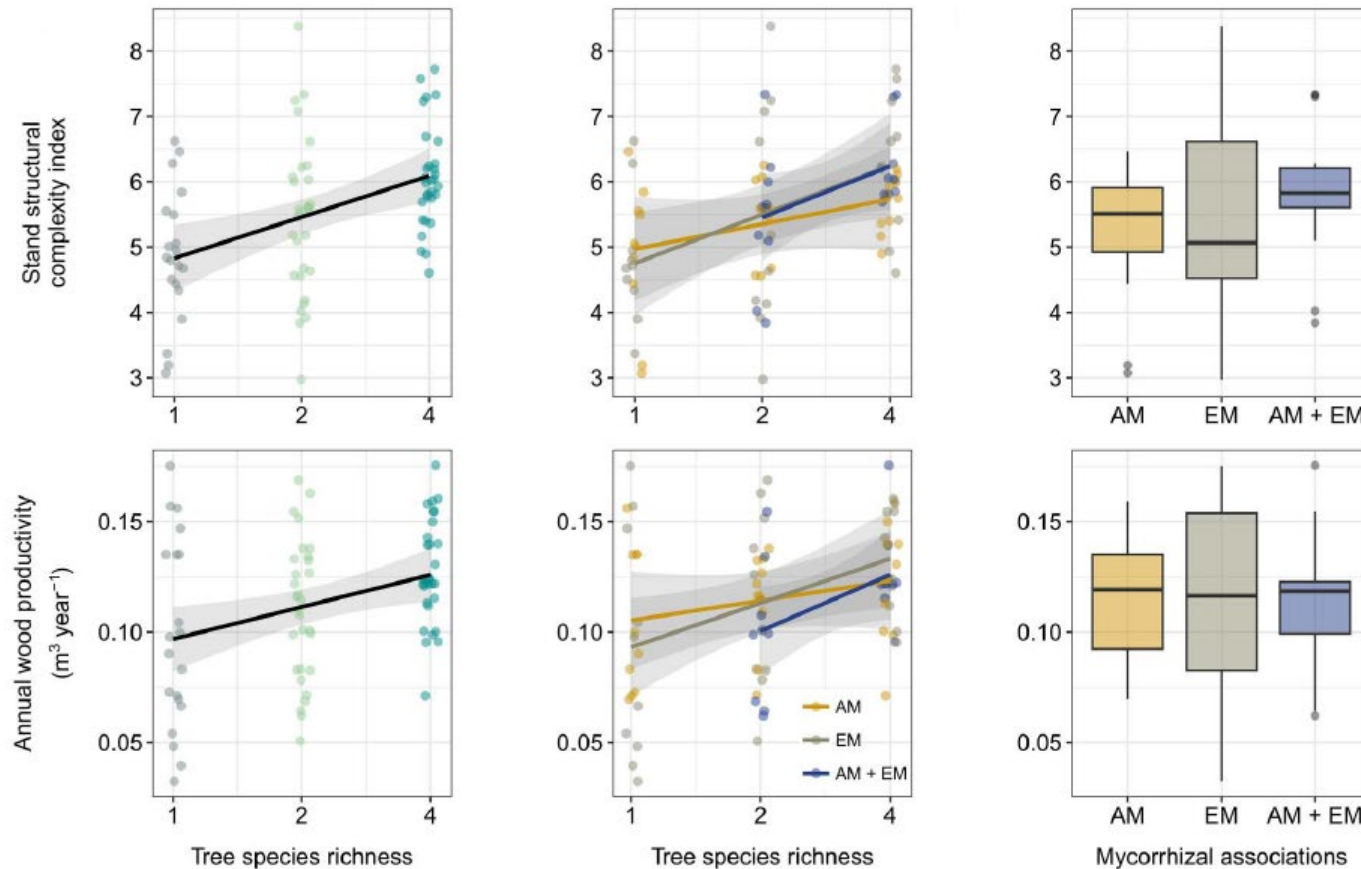
# Methods

ECOLOGY

## Tree diversity increases productivity through enhancing structural complexity across mycorrhizal types



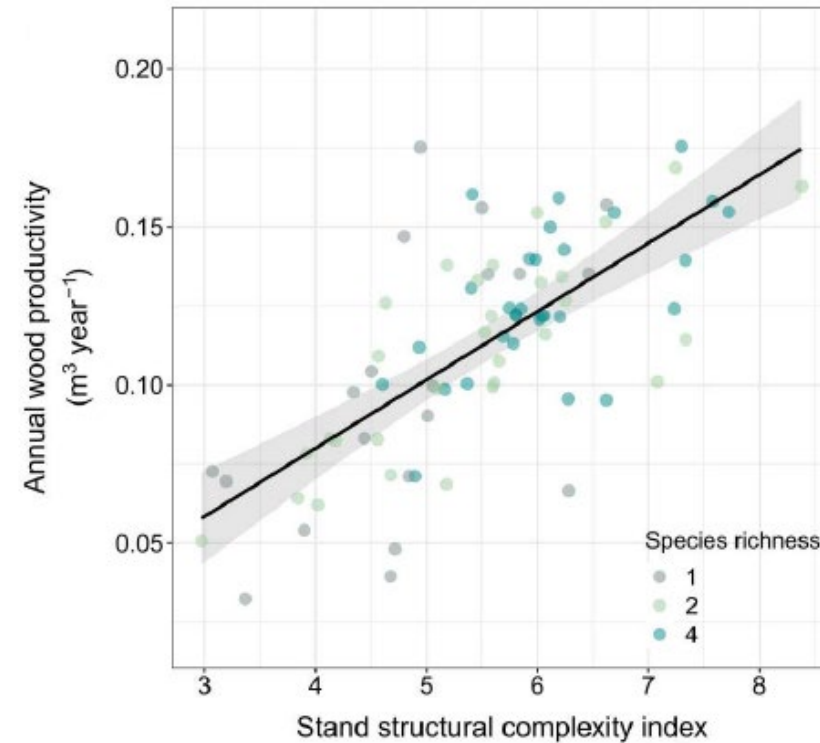
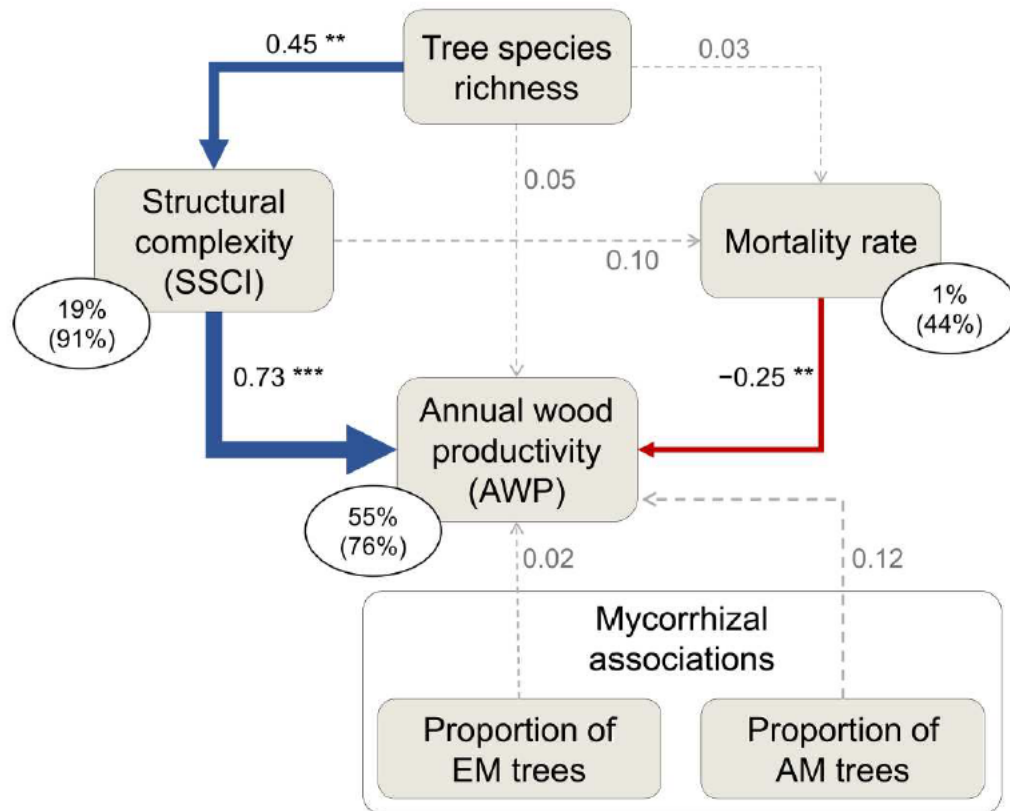
**Hypothesis:** Structural complexity and wood productivity increase with tree species richness, and mixtures composed of AM and EM tree species are most productive and structurally more complex.



	df	ddf	F value	P value
<b>SSCI</b>				
Species richness (SR)	1	52.7	8.41	<b>0.005</b>
Mycorrhizal association (MA)	2	52.8	0.10	0.903
SR x MA	2	52.0	0.40	0.671
<b>AWP</b>				
Species richness (SR)	1	54.7	8.11	<b>0.006</b>
Mycorrhizal association (MA)	2	53.1	0.80	0.453
SR x MA	2	50.6	0.63	0.535

**Tree species richness has a positive effect on stand structural complexity and productivity across mycorrhizal types**

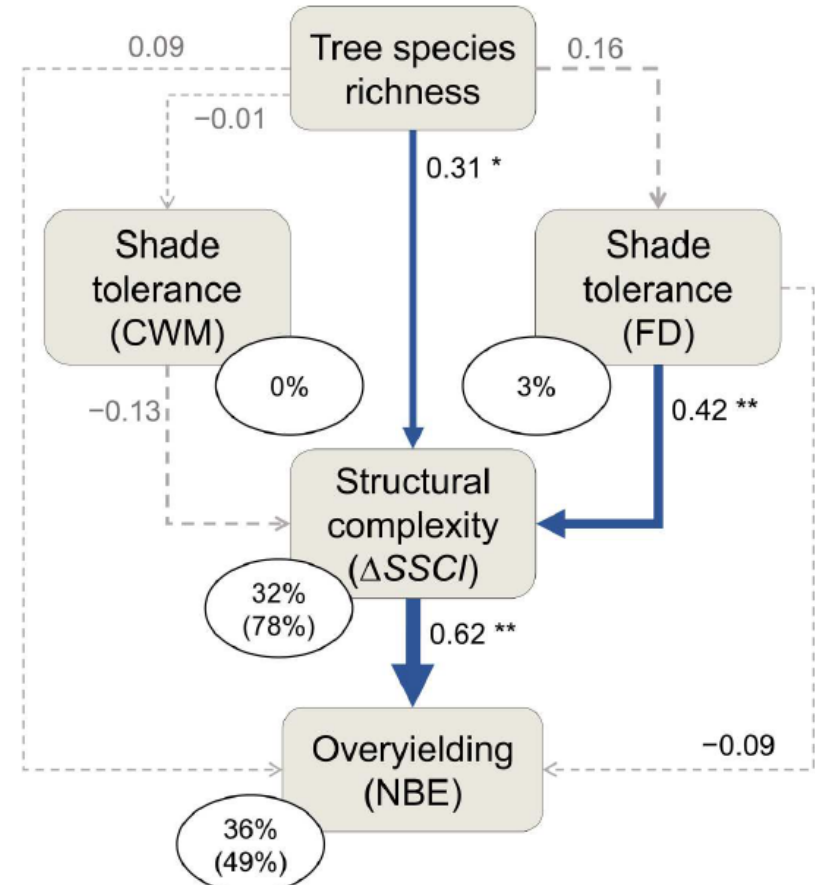
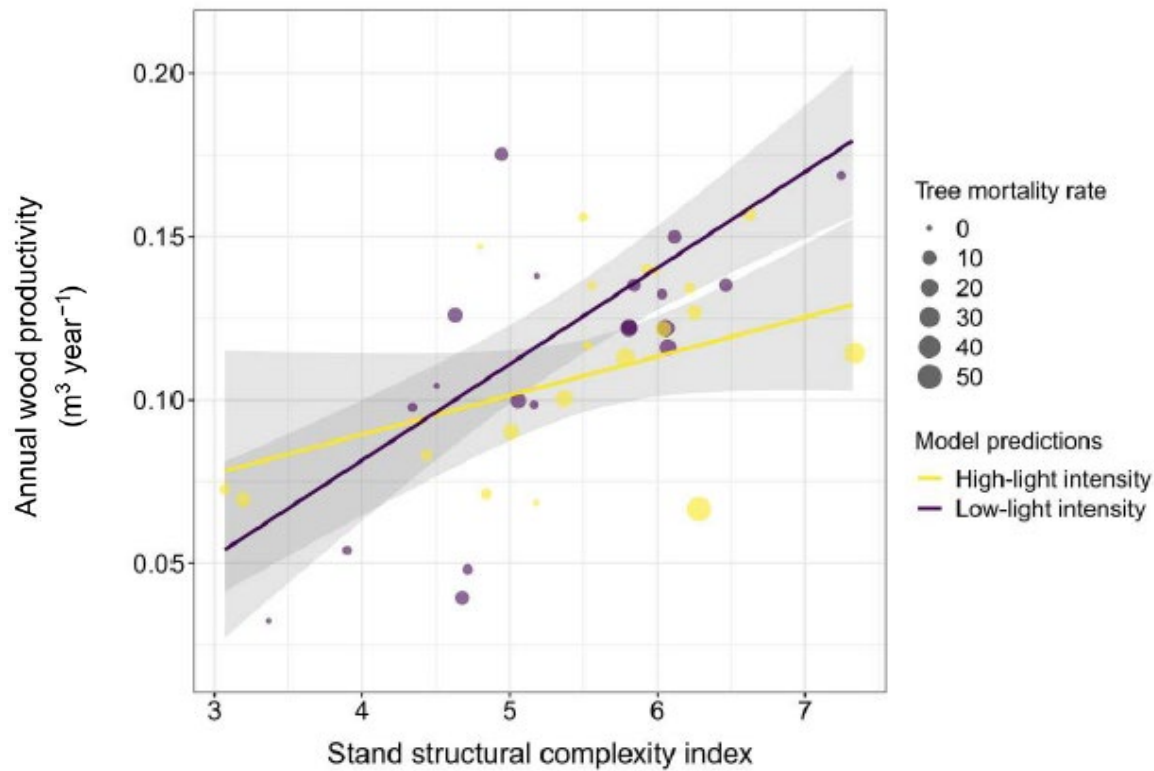
# Above- and belowground processes on community productivity



Community productivity is largely driven by stand structural complexity, but not by mycorrhizal associations



# Mechanisms underlying the positive relationship between tree species richness, structural complexity and wood productivity



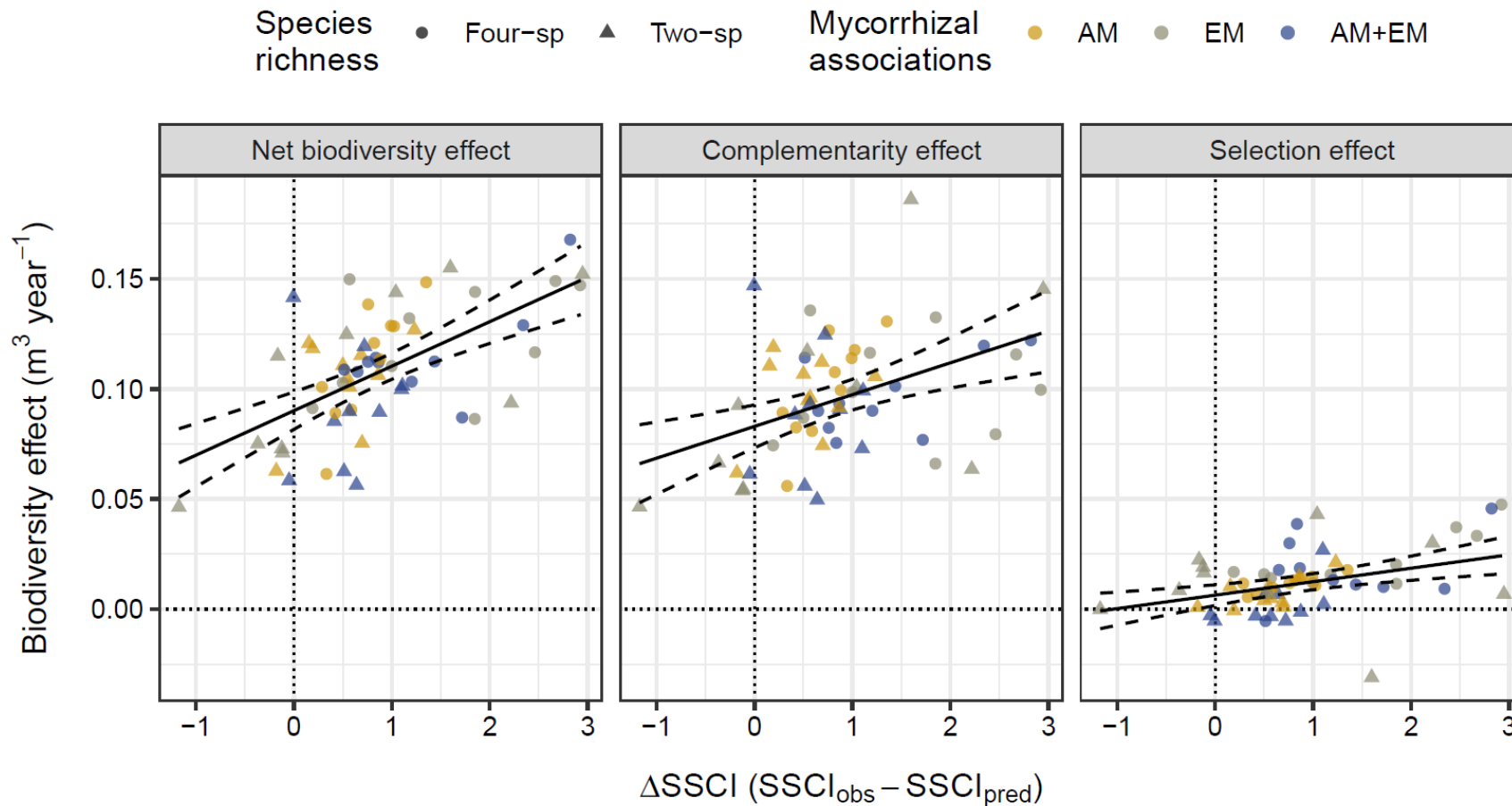
Net biodiversity effects on structural complexity ( $\Delta\text{SSCI}$ ) are strongly associated with functional variation in shade tolerance and to a lesser extent to taxonomic diversity

# Mechanisms underlying the positive relationship between tree species richness, structural complexity and wood productivity

Net effect of tree species richness on

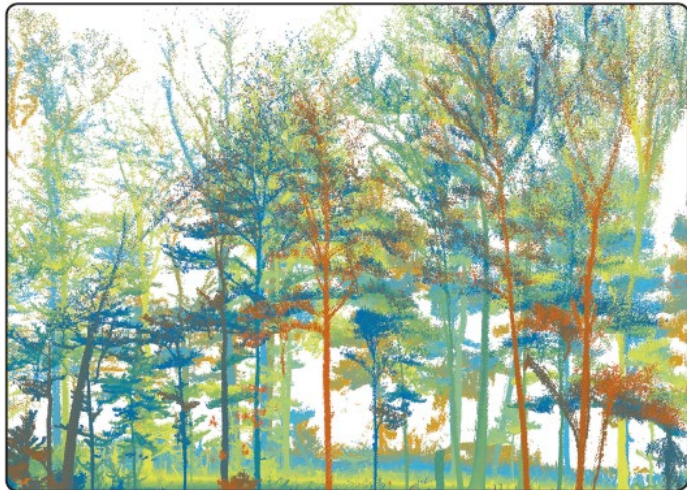
(1) wood productivity > overyielding = net biodiversity effect and

(2) stand structural complexity =  $\Delta\text{SSCI}$



- Biodiversity effects on structural complexity ( $\Delta\text{SSCI}$ ) explain overyielding in species mixtures
- The positive relationship between overyielding and  $\Delta\text{SSCI}$  is mainly driven by greater complementarity effects in structurally more complex tree communities

# Conclusion



## PERSPECTIVES

### ECOLOGY

## Tree planting is not a simple solution

Tree planting must be carefully planned and implemented to achieve desired outcomes

By Karen D. Holl<sup>1</sup> and Pedro H. S. Brancalion<sup>2</sup>



Consideration of stand structural complexity appears to be a crucial element in predicting carbon sequestration in the early successional stages of mixed-species forests

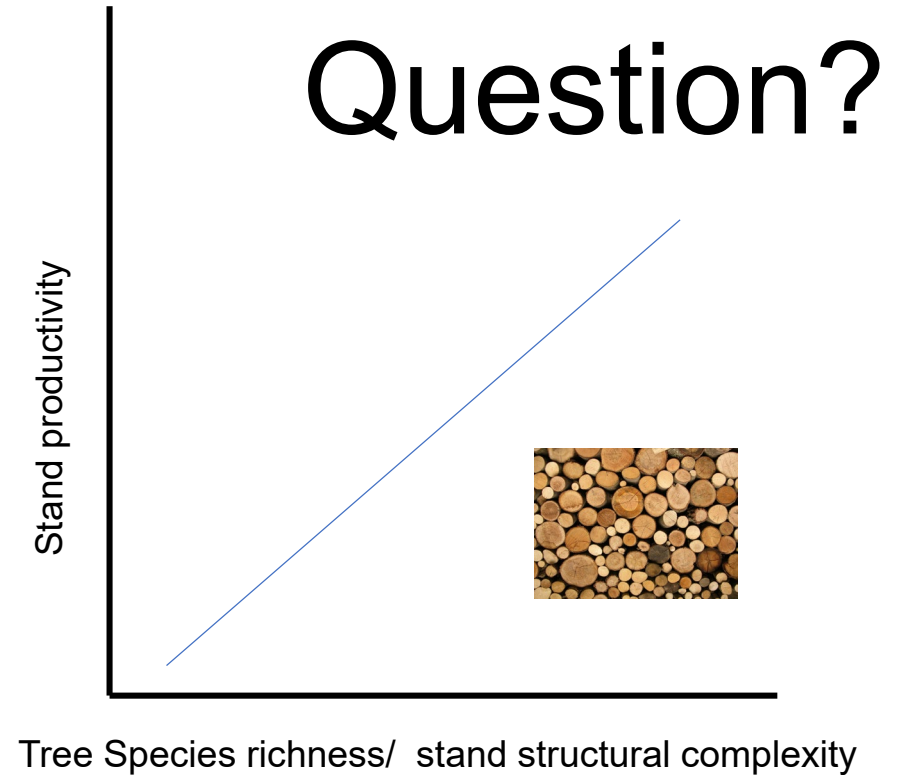
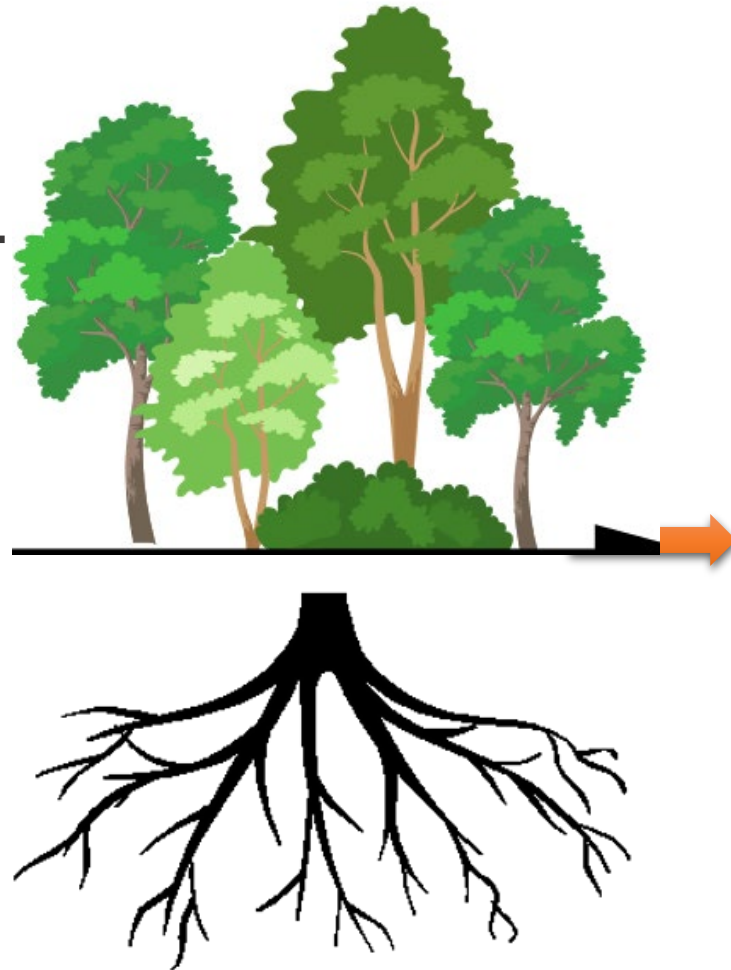
We can relate this to MASSIVE data (potentials) from remote-sensing work to come up with global relationships for Earth System Models.

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Full paper:

