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Variation in foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates among species and canopy layers in a wet tropical forest

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Running head: FOLIAR RESPIRATION AND WOOD CO_2 EFFLUX OF A TROPICAL FOREST

Summary

Autotrophic respiration may consume an increasing proportion of carbon fixed in photosynthesis at the expense of growth as tropical forests respond to environmental change, potentially turning the forests into a carbon source. Predicting such a response requires that we measure and place autotrophic respiration in a complete carbon budget, but extrapolating measurements of autotrophic respiration from chambers to ecosystem remains a challenge. High plant species diversity and complex canopy structure may cause respiration rates to vary and introduce bias in extrapolation. Using experimental plantations of four native tree species with two canopy layers, we examined if species and canopy layers vary in foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux and whether the variation relates to commonly used scalars, mass, nitrogen, photosynthetic capacity, and wood size. Foliar respiration rate varied three-fold between canopy layers, ~0.74 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in overstory and ~0.25 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in the understory, but little among species. Leaf mass per area, nitrogen, and photosynthetic capacity explained some of the variation, but canopy layer or height explained more. Chamber measurements of foliar respiration can be extrapolated to the canopy with rates and leaf area specific to each canopy layer or height class. If area-based rates are sampled throughout the canopy, mean respiration rate per mass, derived by regressing the area-based rate against leaf mass per area, can be extrapolated to the stand using total leaf mass. Wood CO_2 efflux for overstory trees varied 1.0 - 1.6 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for overstory trees and 0.6 - 0.9 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for understory species. The variation in wood CO_2 efflux rate was mostly related to wood size, and little to species, canopy layer, or height. Mean wood CO_2 efflux rate per surface area, derived by regressing CO_2 efflux per mass against the ratio of surface area to mass, can be extrapolated to the stand using total wood surface area. The temperature response of foliar respiration was similar among species,

and wood CO_2 efflux was similar between wet and dry seasons. For these species and this forest, vertical sampling may yield more accurate estimates than would temporal sampling.

Introduction

Autotrophic respiration consumes 30–70% of the carbon fixed in photosynthesis to supply energy for metabolism and growth (Charles-Edwards 1981, Ryan et al. 1997, Chambers et al. 2004, DeLucia et al. 2007, Litton et al. 2007, Luyssaert et al. 2007). It remains uncertain however whether autotrophic respiration will consume a greater fraction of photosynthesis at the expense of growth as forests respond to changes in temperature, precipitation, and species composition. Because of this uncertainty, predictions of future carbon balance remain difficult, particularly for tropical forests (Chambers et al. 2004, Malhi et al. 2011, Malhi 2012): will tropical forests remain a carbon sink (Fan et al. 1990, Grace et al. 1995, Cao and Woodward 1998, Malhi et al. 1998, Phillips et al. 1998, Loescher et al. 2003) or become a carbon source as temperatures increase (Kindermann et al. 1996, Braswell et al. 1997, Tian et al. 1998, Cox et al. 2000, White et al. 2000, Cramer et al. 2001, Clark et al. 2003)?

Crucial to prediction are fundamental questions about autotrophic respiration that can only be answered by measuring autotrophic respiration and placing it in a whole forest carbon budget. Is autotrophic respiration a constant fraction of photosynthesis (Waring et al. 1998, DeLucia et al. 2007, Litton et al. 2007)? Why then do black spruce (Picea mariana (Mill.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenburg (Ryan et al. 1997), and wet primary tropical forests (Chambers et al. 2004, Luyssaert et al. 2007, Malhi 2012) consume ~ 70% of photosynthesis compared to assumed 50% (Waring et al. 1998, Litton et al. 2007)? Will the fraction of respiration to photosynthesis change as temperatures increase (Ryan 1991, Atkin 2003, Atkin et al. 2005)? We will only answer these questions by placing autotrophic respiration in the context of a complete carbon balance (Ryan et al. 2004), by measuring the autotrophic respiration for studies where we have all of the other components of the carbon budget (Litton et al. 2007), and developing robust

sampling and extrapolation protocols (Sprugel et al. 1995, Cavaleri et al. 2006, Cavaleri et al. 2008).

Foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates can vary over 20x within a forest (Sprugel et al 1995), so schemes to sample, understand, and extrapolate respiration rates are critically important to producing estimates of aboveground foliar dark respiration and wood CO_2 efflux. Because respiration supports biochemical and physiological processes (Amthor 2000, Thornley and Cannell 2000), foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates per unit surface area generally vary with mass (Ryan 1990, Sprugel 1990, Wright et al. 2004), N content (Penning de Vries 1975, Field and Mooney 1986, Evans 1989, Ryan 1995, Reich et al. 2006), growth rate (Williams et al. 1987, Williams et al. 1989), and chemical composition of new tissue (Penning de Vries et al. 1974, Chapin 1989, Poorter and Bergkotte 1992).

Knowledge of these sources of variation does not yield simple schemes to extrapolate from the chamber to the ecosystem. The relationships between respiration and these predictor variables change within a stand, throughout the year, and with ontogeny (Ryan 1990, Sprugel et al. 1995, Ryan et al. 2009). Other less known sources of variation, such as phloem transport, waste respiration, and translocation of CO_2 from elsewhere (Amthor 2000, Thornley and Cannell 2000, Teskey et al. 2008) also may alter the relationship between CO_2 efflux and scaling variables. The few extant studies in tropical forests showed that species differences in wood CO_2 efflux were related to wood size (Yoda et al. 1965, Yoda 1967) but also to growth rate (Ryan et al. 1994, Ryan et al. 2009, Robertson et al. 2010), and functional groups differed in foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux independently of mass or N content (Cavaleri et al. 2006, Cavaleri et al. 2008).

In this study, we focus on determining how rates of foliar dark respiration and wood CO_2 efflux vary among species and canopy layers so we can understand where to best sample rates, what causes the variation in rates, and how to extrapolate those fluxes to produce unbiased estimates of aboveground autotrophic respiration. We hypothesized that foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates would vary among species and canopy layers because (1) for foliar respiration, leaves of different species and in different canopy layers have very different cellular activity related to differences in protein (N concentration), photosynthetic activity, and mass; (2) for foliar respiration, short-term temperature response will vary with respiration rate as it did for a primary forest (Cavaleri et al. 2008), (3) for wood CO_2 efflux, growth process dominate over maintenance of biomass and stems and branches of different species and canopy layers grow at different rates (Ryan et al. 1994). This variability with species and canopy layers thus (4) produce biased estimates of aboveground respiration flux if measurements are taken at a single point.

Materials and methods

Study site

We conducted this study at La Selva Biological Station, in the Atlantic lowlands of Costa Rica (10°26′N, 83°59′N). La Selva's climate is classified as Tropical Wet Forest in the Holdridge system (McDade 1994), with annual mean rainfall and temperature of 4000 mm and 26 °C. For 2009 and 2010, when measurements were taken, rainfall was 4500 mm and the temperature averaged 25°C. Soils at the site are acidic, highly leached, high in organic matter content, and classified as Mixed Haplic Haploperox (Kleber et al. 2007).

The site was cleared of primary forest in 1955, converted to pasture in 1956, and then continually grazed until 1987. In 1988, an experiment was established with eleven tree species and an abandoned pasture control, replicated over four blocks in a randomized complete block design (Fisher 1995). Plots were 50 x 50 m (0.25 ha), with a single-tree species planted in each plot except for the unplanted control. Understory plants were cleared for the first 3 years until the trees were established, but then allowed to regenerate naturally. By 2009, only four species had enough surviving trees for plot-level measurements, and these were the subjects of this study.

The four species studied were *Hieronyma alchorneoides* Allemao (HIAL), *Pentaclethra macroloba* (Willd.) Kunth. (PEMA), *Virola koschnyi* Warb. (VIKO), and *Vochysia guatemalensis* Donn. Sm. (VOGU). All are native to the surrounding primary forest, and *Pentaclethra* is the dominant species of canopy trees at La Selva, and the only N-fixing species of the four. The stands had aboveground biomass 5410 – 9870 gC m^{-2} comparable to 7200 gC m^{-2} of surrounding primary forest, and LAI of 5.2 – 6.5 similar to 6.0 in the surrounding forest. The planted trees dominated each species stand with them consisting on average 88% of aboveground biomass. Stand characteristics are in Table 2.1, and further details on the site and its history can be found in Fisher (1995) and Russell et al. (2010). We conducted this study as part of a larger project, ECOS (http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/ECOS/home), examining tree species effects on ecosystem processes (Raich et al. 2007, Raich et al. 2009, Russell et al. 2010, Russell and Raich 2012).

Sampling

Canopy at the site consisted of two distinct layers, overstory in the upper 15-35 m and understory in the lower 0-15 m. The overstory was occupied by foliage of the planted trees, but

the understory included the planted trees, and other trees, forbs, grasses, and ferns from the surrounding forest. Species composition in the understory differed among the overstory species (Table 2.1).

Foliar respiration for the overstory trees was measured on ~20 branches (~16 near the top of the canopy and ~4 from lower in the canopy) from two to four individuals per plot using a 30 m scaffolding tower (Upright Inc., Dublin, Ireland) for access. Measurements were taken on one plot per species in 2009 during the wetter summer months and on a different plot in 2010 during the less wet winter and spring months. In the understory, 10–15 individuals were sampled per plot in all four blocks (two in summer 2009 and two in winter 2010).

Wood CO_2 efflux of the overstory trees was measured at 1.4 m height on 15 trees per plot for all four plots per species in summer 2009 and winter 2010. Wood CO_2 efflux was also measured from the scaffold tower on one to three stems at 1.8 m intervals above 1.4 m and on 10–15 branches in upper canopy in two of the four blocks (one in summer 2009 and one in winter 2010). Wood CO_2 efflux for woody understory plants were made on all four plots for the same sampling periods (0-6 trees per plot), but the sample was limited as only a few of the understory plants were large enough for measurement.

Ecophysiological measurements

Foliar respiration was measured on one to five leaves in a 1580 ml volume polycarbonate chamber on detached foliage at night. Branches were cut underwater in the afternoon, placed in a floral tube with water without exposing the cut surface to air, and and CO_2 efflux measured at the lab in the dark from 20:00 and 02:00 (after > 2 hours of darkness). Attached and detached foliage had similar respiration rate in a previous study at La Selva (Cavaleri et al. 2008) and in

several studies at other locations (Mitchell et al. 1999, Turnbull et al. 2005). Immediately after measurement, the foliage was measured for leaf area with a leaf area meter (LI-3100, LI-COR, Inc.). The foliage was then dried for 48 hours at 65 °C and measured for leaf dry mass, and ground to a powder with a Wiley mill and measured for leaf N with a C N analyzer (TruSpec CN, LECO, Inc., St. Joseph, Michigan, USA).

Wood CO_2 efflux was measured using clear polycarbonate chambers on intact stems or branches between 07:00 and 17:00. Because the chambers were clear, they allowed bark photosynthesis and our measurement was thus a sum of wood tissue respiration (+ flux), bark photosynthesis (– flux), and CO_2 dissolved in the xylem sap (Cernusak and Marshall 2000, McGuire and Teskey 2004, Bowman et al. 2005, Teskey et al. 2008). Wood surface area was estimated as the area inside the gasket creating the seal between the chamber and the wood. Wood volume sampled by the chamber was estimated by multiplying the volume of the underlying wood cylinder (height equal to chamber height) by the ratio of the surface area inside the chamber gasket to the surface area of the wood cylinder (generating a wedge-shaped slice). The volume was then converted to mass using species specific wood density.

All chambers had neoprene gaskets to form a seal and a small fan to mix the air inside but varied in size and shape. Chamber volume ranged from 16–47 mL for wood CO_2 efflux (enclosed wood surface area of 3–28 cm^2); different sized chambers were used to ensure fit on wood with different diameters. Chamber seals were checked with a flow meter, and wood and foliage surface temperature were measured with an infrared thermometer (OS423-LS, OMEGA Engineering, Stamford, Connecticut, USA). CO_2 efflux was measured with an open-system LCA-3 (Analytical Development Company, Hoddeson, UK) infrared gas analyzer (IRGA) for 2009 measurements, or a lab-built closed-system instrument with Li-820 (Li-COR, Inc., Lincoln,

Nebraska, USA) and CR10X data logger (Campbell Scientific, Logan, Utah, USA) for 2010 measurements. The open-system IRGA drew ambient air from a 19 L mixing container to maintain stable concentration of reference CO_2 during measurements, and the airflow rates through the chamber ranged between 200–340 μmol s^{-1} for measurements. Both instruments were regularly calibrated with a CO_2 standard.

Before detaching the branches to measure foliar respiration at night, the intact leaves were measured for photosynthesis using an open-system portable IRGA (LI-6400, LI-COR, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, USA). The measurements were taken on 5 fully expanded leaves, on the same branches sampled for respiration for foliage in the overstory but on different branches for foliage in the understory. Each leaf was measured once a day for 2–9 days for canopy foliage, and once for understory foliage. Photosynthesis was measured under a reference CO_2 of 390 μmol mol^{-1}; at an air flow rate of 500 μmol s^{-1}; and with a saturating level of photosynthetic photon flux density (2000 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for leaves at the canopy top and 1500 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for lower canopy and understory leaves) after the readings stabilized. Temperature and humidity were not controlled, and ranged 24.5–39°C and 0.5–2 kPa in vapor pressure deficit. Values reported are averages for each branch.

A subset of the foliage was also measured at night for the temperature response of foliar respiration by estimating Q_{10} from a temperature response curve. Of the foliage sampled for foliar respiration measurement, four branches from the overstory trees and three individuals of the understory plants from one block per species were measured for temperature response. Temperature response was quantified with Q_{10}, the change in respiration rate with 10°C change in temperature, for foliar respiration measured 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 °C in a temperature-controlled cuvette (Hubbard et al. 1995) and the closed-system IRGA described above. Foliar

respiration was standardized to 25°C using Q_{10} specific to each of the four species and two canopy layers. Wood CO_2 efflux was also standardized to 25°C, using a Q_{10} of 2, because the wood of two tree species in the surrounding forest had Q_{10} of 2.1 and 2.2 (Ryan et al. 1994), and trees in tropical rainforests in Cameroon and Brazil had 1.8 and 1.6 (Meir and Grace 2002).

Data analysis

Foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates, standardized to 25ºC, and Q_{10} values were compared among species and between canopy layers using both a linear model ANOVA and a liner mixed effects model ANOVA at an experiment-wise $\alpha = 0.05$. A mixed effects model was used because the overstory trees and understory plants were sampled in different blocks in 2009 than in 2010 with unequal block replicates, and block nested within year was included as a random intercept. The model's independent variables were linear combinations of species and canopy layers, and the dependent variable was foliar respiration, the natural log of wood CO_2 efflux, or Q_{10}. Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison procedure was used to account for unbalanced sample sizes. The procedure yielded the same result for both fixed-effects only and mixed-effects models, and we present the results of the simpler fixed-effects only model.

Models of foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux and various predictor variables were constructed using both fixed- and mixed-effects models. Both model types produced comparable significance and R^2 values for the same candidate variable combinations. For simplicity, we report the result of fixed-effects model, but the reported R^2 values may slightly overestimate the true value. Foliar respiration rate was modeled using three predictor variables: canopy layer (categorical; overstory or understory), species of planted trees (categorical; *Hieronyma*, *Pentaclethra*, *Virola*, or *Vochysia*), and a continuous variable of either LMA (g m^{-2}), leaf N

content (g m^{-2}), or photosynthetic capacity (μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}). Because all understory samples were taken at ground level (at the same height), we examined the contribution of height of the foliage using height as the continuous variable replacing canopy layer. The predictor variables and their interactions were sequentially omitted from the full model (with all three variables and their interactions) and examined for their significance in predicting foliar respiration.

Wood CO_2 efflux was modeled with three predictor variables: canopy layer, species, and a continuous variable of wood surface area to mass ratio enclosed within the measurement chamber. The ratio was used to determine whether wood CO_2 efflux was related to surface area or mass (Levy and Jarvis 1998). The ratio was defined as mass per surface area for modeling area-based rate, and as surface area per mass for mass-based rate: if wood CO_2 efflux per unit surface area is related to mass per surface area, wood CO_2 efflux is related to mass, and if wood CO_2 efflux per unit mass is related to surface area per mass, wood CO_2 efflux is related to surface area (Levy and Jarvis 1998). We separately examined the contribution of wood height as the continuous variable. All analysis were done in R (R Core Team 2014), with lme4 (Bates et al. 2012), multcomp (Hothorn et al. 2008), and MASS (Venables and Ripley 2002) packages, and plotted with ggplot2 package (Wickham 2009).

Results

Foliar respiration rates varied more within a species than among species, and were higher for the overstory (Fig. 2.1a, $P < 0.01$). Average foliar respiration in the overstory was about three times that in the understory: 0.78 vs. 0.27 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Hieronyma*, 0.70 vs. 0.19 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Pentaclethra*, 0.66 vs. 0.28 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Virola*, and 0.80 vs. 0.26 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Vochysia*. Pair-wise comparisons of foliar respiration rates within species and canopy layers

(because of a significant interaction in the main effects, $P < 0.01$), showed higher rates for *Hieronyma* and *Vochysia* than for *Virola*, while *Pentaclethra* did not differ from others. Foliar respiration did not differ among species for the understory.

Wood CO_2 efflux was also as much as two times higher in the overstory than in the understory (Fig. 2.1b, $P < 0.01$), with means of 1.6 vs. 0.88 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Hieronyma*, 1.4 vs. 0.90 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Pentaclethra*, 0.97 vs. 0.87 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Virola*, and 1.0 vs. 0.60 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} for *Vochysia*. Pair wise comparisons of CO_2 efflux rates within species and canopy layers (because of a significant interaction in the main effects, $P < 0.03$) showed that the overstory CO_2 efflux rate differed from the understory for all species except *Virola*. Overstory wood CO_2 efflux rates were higher in *Hieronyma* and *Pentaclethra* than in *Virola* and *Vochysia*, and rates for understory wood were similar among species.

Hypothesis 1: *The variation in foliar respiration among species and canopy layers is related to mass, N content, and photosynthetic capacity*

Foliar respiration rate varied with LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity strongly across canopy layers but only marginally within (Fig. 2.2). The variation in foliar respiration was explained well by the analysis of covariance models with only the single factor of LMA, N content, or photosynthetic capacity (Fig. 2.2, thin lines; Table 2.2). However, canopy layer explained more variability than those leaf traits, and with canopy layer in the model, model performance improved only slightly by adding LMA, N content, or photosynthetic capacity (Table 2.2). The relationship between foliar respiration rate and LMA, N content, or photosynthetic capacity also had much lower slope within a canopy layer than across (Fig 2.2, thick lines).

Height related changes in LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity explained most of the variation in foliar respiration rate across canopy layers. We calculated foliar respiration rate per unit mass, per unit N, and per unit photosynthetic capacity to account for height related changes in LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity (Fig. 2.3). For every meter in height, the respiration rates increased only slightly with height for both mass based rate ($P < 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.07$, $y = 0.070x + 5.4$ nmol g^{-1} s^{-1}) and N based rate ($P < 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.11$, $y = 0.0038x + 0.25$ μmol g^{-1} N s^{-1}), while photosynthetic capacity based rate did not change ($P = 0.73$, $y = 0.066$). Height alone explained area based respiration rate well (Fig. 2.3, $P < 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.68$, $y = 0.021x + 0.23$ μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}), and model R^2 slightly but always increased when canopy layer was replaced with height for area based respiration rate (Table 2.2).

Photosynthetic capacity best explained the variation among species in foliar respiration (Table 2.2). In the model analysis, adding species failed to improve the model fit if the models already contained canopy layer and photosynthetic capacity ($P = 0.08$) but improved fit if the models contained canopy layer and LMA or N content (Table 2.2). Surprisingly, N content explained the least amount of the variation among species, primarily because *Pentaclethra*, the N-fixing species, had much lower foliar respiration rate per g N ($P < 0.01$). Its foliage on average contained 42 % more N than other leaves of overstory species, but had similar foliar respiration rate per unit area (Fig. 2.1).

Hypothesis 2: *Short-term temperature response of foliar respiration will vary with respiration rate*

Instantaneous temperature response (Q_{10}) of foliar respiration did not vary with respiration rate ($P = 0.80$). The values of Q_{10} were similar for all species and canopy layers,

except for *Pentaclethra* foliage in the overstory. The mean values of Q_{10} were, *Hieronyma* = 1.6, *Pentaclethra* = 2.6, *Virola* = 1.6, *Vochysia* = 1.8 for overstory; and 1.9, 1.7, 1.5, and 1.4 respectively in the understory.

Hypothesis 3: *The variation in wood CO_2 efflux is related to growth process (surface area) not maintenance (biomass)*

Surface area better explained the variability in wood CO_2 efflux than did mass (Fig. 2.4), but both were significant ($P < 0.01$; Fig. 2.4). The greater R^2 for the relationship indicating surface area (0.49 vs. 0.31) suggests that growth processes contribute more to efflux than does the maintenance of woody tissues (Levy and Jarvis 1998). We used rates based on surface area for further analysis to account for the relationship between growth processes and wood CO_2 efflux, and the variation in the efflux rate per surface area was only marginally related to canopy layer ($R^2 = 0.07$, $P < 0.01$) species ($R^2 = 0.05$, $P < 0.01$), or the two combined ($R^2 = 0.14$, $P < 0.01$). Unlike foliar respiration, wood CO_2 efflux per unit surface area slightly decreased with height ($P < 0.01$, $R^2 = 0.01$, slope = 0.99).

Hypothesis 4: *Variability in foliage respiration and wood CO_2 efflux with species and canopy position will bias ecosystem estimates if measurements are taken at a single point*

Because foliar respiration rate at the leaf level was higher in the overstory than in the understory, measurements taken only in either one would produce biased estimates of foliar respiration for the ecosystem (Fig. 2.5). As an example, consider a forest with an LAI of six, four in the overstory and two in the understory, with the mean foliar respiration rates of this study, 0.25 µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in the understory and 0.74 µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in the overstory. This would

yield an ecosystem estimate of 3.5 μmol m^{-2} ground s^{-1}, compared with 4.4 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} if just the overstory was sampled, or 1.5 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} if just the understory were sampled. A sampling scheme focused on fewer samples would also likely bias the ecosystem estimate, given the large within-species variability.

Unlike foliar respiration, variation in wood CO_2 efflux was not well explained by the canopy layer when differences in the ratio of wood surface area to mass were accounted for, and extrapolations based on surface area are unlikely to produce bias estimates of wood CO_2 efflux. Wood surface area is rarely measured however, and most often wood mass is used to extrapolate chamber measurements to the stand. Mass based measurements of wood CO_2 efflux increases for wood as diameter decreases, and because smaller diameter branches and stems have higher efflux, extrapolation using rates per mass and wood biomass will underestimate stand wood CO_2 efflux (Fig. 2.6). With a wood mass of 20,000 g m^{-2}, and 1/3 of that with diameter < 10 cm, wood CO_2 efflux for the stand would be 1.2 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} (using the mean efflux for wood with diameter > 10 cm in this study of 0.06 nmol CO_2 g^{-1} s^{-1}). Accounting for higher mean wood CO_2 efflux rate for small wood (0.22 nmol CO_2 g^{-1} s^{-1}) yielded a stand-level estimate of 2.3 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}. The larger the fraction of large wood in the forest, the lower the bias would be.

The temperature response of foliar respiration differed among species, but the difference produced only a minor bias compared with a single temperature response because temperature varies very little in this forest (Fig. 2.7). Agren and Axelsson (1980)(Agren and Axelsson 1980) derived a formula to calculate the effect on respiration sums from variation in daily and annual temperature relative to constant temperature, and we calculated how this effect changes with Q_{10}. The difference in the lowest to highest Q_{10} we observed (1.4 to 2.6) increased the annual CO_2 efflux estimated from mean temperature by 1.04 to 1.16 with an daily and annual amplitude of

2°C and 8 °C, within a range of historic values (McDade 1994). Annual fluxes could be estimated with low bias from mean annual temperature and common Q_{10}.

Discussion

Foliar respiration was only weakly related to mass, N, and photosynthetic rate within the overstory and understory

Leaf N content, photosynthetic capacity, or LMA were of minor importance in explaining the variability of foliar respiration within a canopy layer (Fig. 2.2). These weak relationships suggest that predictions of the worldwide leaf economic spectrum (Wright et al. 2004, Shipley et al. 2006) may not be appropriate for explaining differences within a canopy. This is not to say that the maintenance of dry mass and proteins, especially those associated with photosynthesis, is unrelated to foliar respiration. Across canopy layers, the variability of foliar respiration did follow the predictions of the spectrum as we hypothesized (Fig. 2.2), consistent with existing data in the neotropics (Oberbauer and Strain 1986, Meir et al. 2001, Domingues et al. 2005, Cavaleri et al. 2008, Ryan et al. 2009, Metcalfe et al. 2010). However, the weak relationships within a canopy layer suggests that foliar respiration in these species includes components unrelated to maintenance respiration, such as overflow respiration to decrease excess carbohydrates, respiration to fuel phloem loading, and respiration for ion gradient maintenance (Penning de Vries 1975, Bouma et al. 1995, Amthor 2000, Cannell and Thornley 2000). Presence of these components is supported by existing data as well. In the surrounding primary forest, foliar respiration increased with height even for mass based and N based rates accounting for height related changes in LMA and N content (~0.08 nmol g^{-1} s^{-1} and ~0.004 μmol g^{-1} N s^{-1} for every meter; Cavaleri et al 2008). Mass based foliar respiration rate increased 43% under

imposed drought from rainfall exclusion (Metcalfe et al. 2010), and area based foliar respiration rate increased 60 – 250% during the dry season in the Amazon (Miranda et al. 2005). Hourly rates of foliar respiration varied diurnally between 0.34 – 0.74 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} without a clear pattern (Chambers et al. 2004). Determining how foliar respiration reflects components unrelated to maintenance respiration will not only improve the accuracy of stand level estimates and account for special and temporal variations, but also of prediction of foliar respiration response under climate change.

Wood CO_2 efflux rates and patterns between plantation secondary forests and primary forests

Wood CO_2 efflux rates and their variability were generally similar to the studies in the primary forests. The rates we observed are consistent with those measured at the ground level on two different species of the primary forest in an earlier study (~1.0 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}, Ryan et al 1994), on wood > 10 cm in diameter in lowland Amazon forest (~1.1 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}, Robertson et al 2010) and in *Eucalyptus* plantations in Hawaii and Brazil (0.06 nmol g^{-1} s^{-1} this study; ~0.06 nmol g^{-1} s^{-1}, Ryan et al 2009). We found that wood CO_2 vary considerably from 0.09 to 3.9 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}, and the variation was mostly unrelated to species and canopy layer. The variability was also large in primary forests (in μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}: 0.1 – 5.2, Meir and Grace 2002, 0.03 – 3.6, Chambers et al 2004, ~0 – 4.5, Cavaleri et al 2006, ~0 – 4.5, Robertson et al 2010), but smaller for two species of trees in the surrounding primary forest (0.3 – 2.1, Ryan et al. 1994) perhaps due to smaller sample size. The variability was related to both growth and maintenance processes, and the relationships were fairly similar among species and canopy layers, also consistent with other studies (Ryan et al. 1994, Meir and Grace 2002, Robertson et al 2010).

Respiratory cost of growth and maintenance may be well conserved within a functional group in tropical forests.

An exception was the higher wood CO_2 efflux from large diameter wood and the lack of increase in wood CO_2 efflux with height compared to the observations in the primary forest (Cavaleri et al. 2006). Wood CO_2 efflux for larger diameter wood averaged 1.2 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} at ground level and slightly decreased with height in the secondary forest, compared to ~0.8 at the ground level increasing to ~1.7 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in the upper canopy of the primary forest (Cavaleri et al. 2006). The difference may be related to some combination of greater proportion of large size classes, higher growth rate for branches in upper canopy (Ryan et al. 1994, Ryan et al. 2009), or composition of species or functional groups (Cavaleri et al. 2006). These interpretations are complicated by limits to radial diffusion of CO_2 in wood. The interpretations assume that local processes alone cause the variation in chamber measurements, but wood tissue, especially cambium, limits radial diffusion of CO_2 and causes CO_2 from elsewhere in the stem or roots to dissolve in xylem and phloem streams and be transported to the site of measurement (McGuire and Teskey 2004, Spicer and Holbrook 2005, Teskey et al. 2008, Aubrey and Teskey 2009, Trumbore et al. 2012). The diffusion barrier itself may explain why wood CO_2 efflux was proportional to surface in this study.

Sampling scheme reduce bias in estimating annual aboveground autotrophic respiration

Our results suggest a vertical transect to reduce bias in estimates of annual aboveground autotrophic respiration for a wet tropical forest. Sampling within a canopy layer or at any position within the canopy fails to measure the substantial variation in foliar respiration within the upper and lower canopy and with height (Fig. 2.2), primarily driven by the differences in

respiration rates among sampling positions and not the distribution of LAI (Fig. 2.5). Cavaleri et al. (2008) showed that when full vertical transect is taken, overall mean respiration rate and LAI produces similar estimates compared to more complex models with height structure. Taken together, they suggest that simple extrapolation models with mean respiration rate and stand LAI produces unbiased estimates of ecosystem foliar respiration as long as the vertical transect is made to capture the variability in respiration rate along height. Similarly, unbiased estimates of ecosystem wood CO_2 efflux may require a vertical transect, although our results suggests that stand level estimates may be made with little bias if enough small diameter wood can be sampled at the ground level, as wood size was the primary cause of the variation in wood CO_2 efflux. Our finding contradicted the observations in the primary forest, and thus vertical transect should be sampled, if only to test whether wood CO_2 efflux changes with height.

Though ecosystem respiration may be uniquely aseasonal in wet tropical forests, the variation in foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux may be common in all forests. The forest in this study has some seasonality in air temperature and rainfall, with slightly less wet season in the spring months (McDade 1994). We measured wood CO_2 efflux during the wet season in 2009 and again during the less wet season in 2010 on the same individual, and all species had similar wood CO_2 efflux at 1.4 m height ($P = 0.26$), except *Hieronyma*. The difference in wood CO_2 efflux for *Hieronyma* was small, 1.9 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in 2009 and decreased to 1.6 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1} in 2010 ($P < 0.01$). Wood CO_2 efflux at breast height showed no clear seasonality in a more detailed measurement in the primary forest (Cavaleri et al. 2006). The smaller temperature fluctuation also reduces the effect of Q_{10} on annual estimates of respiratory flux (Fig. 2.7). This evidence combined support the idea that plant respiration can be estimated and studied from measurements made once or twice a year (Yoda et al. 1965, Ryan et al. 1994, Chambers et al.

2004, Cavaleri et al. 2006). However, tropical forests may not be unique in the variation in foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux within and among canopy layers. Foliar respiration varies within a canopy in other forests likely as a function of light and height (Brooks et al. 1991, Bolstad et al. 1999, Griffin et al. 2001, Law et al. 2001, Rayment et al. 2002, Turnbull et al. 2003). Wood CO_2 efflux varies within canopy also, as a function of size and height (Lavigne 1988, Sprugel 1990, Edwards and Hanson 1996, Ceschia et al. 2002, Damesin et al. 2002).

Conclusions

Foliar respiration varied a little among species and more substantially between canopy layers. The variation was related to LMA, leaf N, and photosynthetic capacity across canopy layers, but only marginally within, perhaps because foliar respiration includes a substantial contribution from components unrelated to maintenance. Wood CO_2 efflux varied slightly among species and canopy layers and much more within, and the variation was related to the ratio of wood mass to surface area. Wood CO_2 efflux may depend on wood growth, but other factors such as diffusion and CO_2 dissolved in xylem stream may need to be accounted for. Temperature response was similar for all but *Pentaclethra*, and relatively constant temperature reduced the effect of different Q_{10} in producing a bias in annual estimates. Our results suggest that chamber measurements of foliar respiration can be extrapolated to the canopy with rates and leaf area specific to each canopy layer or height class. Alternatively, if area-based rates are sampled throughout the canopy, mean respiration rate per unit mass derived by regressing the area-based rate against leaf mass per area can be extrapolated to the stand using total leaf mass. Mean wood CO_2 efflux rate per unit surface area, derived by regressing CO_2 efflux per unit mass against the ratio of surface area to mass, can be extrapolated to the stand using total woody tissue

surface area. For these species and this forest, vertical sampling may yield more accurate estimates than would temporal sampling.

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Table 1. Mean and maximum values of density, diameter at breast height and height, and leaf area index (LAI) for overstory (planted) trees and understory plants of each species' plot.

Planted species	Stem Density (trees ha^{-1})		Diameter (cm)		Height (m)		LAI	
	Mean	Max	Mean	Max	Mean	Max	Over-story	Under-story
Hieronyma alchorneoides (HIAL)	165	176	25	33	23	47	3.7	1.6
Pentaclethra macroloba (PEMA)	294	380	21	27	14	52	5.0	1.5
Virola koschnyi (VIKO)	226	284	24	30	20	43	3.7	2.6
Vochysia guatemalensis (VOGU)	255	280	31	40	24	62	3.1	3.1

Data taken in 2009 survey as part of a larger study (ECOS, http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/ECOS/home), and LAI taken from Russell et al (2010).

Table 2. Values of R^2 for models predicting foliar respiration rate (μmol CO_2 m^{-2} s^{-1}). All models had $P < 0.01$ except of species only model (NS). Continuous variables were LMA (g m^{-2}), N content (g m^{-2}), photosynthetic capacity (μmol CO_2 m^{-2} s^{-1}), and height (of foliage sample taken, m), and categorical variables were canopy layer (overstory or understory) and species (*Hieronyma*, *Pentaclethra*, *Virola*, or *Vochysia*).

Predictor variables	R^2
Species	NS
Canopy layer	0.65
Species × Canopy layer	0.67
LMA	0.50
LMA × Species	0.58
LMA x Canopy layer	0.66
LMA × Canopy layer × Species	0.70
LMA x Height x Species	0.73
N content	0.45
N content × Species	0.63
N content × Canopy layer	0.66
N content × Canopy layer × Species	0.72
N content × Height × Species	0.75
Photosynthetic capacity	0.61
Photosynthetic capacity × Species	0.63
Photosynthetic capacity × Canopy layer	0.71

Photosynthetic capacity × Canopy layer × Species	0.72
Photosynthetic capacity × Height × Species	0.75

723

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Box plots of per unit area foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates show that the rates vary more within than between species and are generally higher in the overstory. Open boxes represent overstory, and grey boxes represent understory. Solid squares show means. The data were normally distributed for foliage, but were not for wood with skew toward zero and long tail of larger flux values.

Figure 2. The variation in foliar respiration was related to LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity across canopy layers but only marginally within. Filled points represent overstory, and open points represent understory. Circles represent *Hieronyma*, squares *Pentaclethra*, diamonds *Virola*, and triangles *Vochysia*. Thin lines were drawn across canopy layers, using the models from Table 2.1, with only LMA (intercept = 0.067, slope = 0.0052), N content (0.088, 0.24), or photosynthetic capacity (0.061, 0.054). Thick lines were drawn using the models with canopy layer and LMA (intercept = 0.61, slope = 0.011 for overstory; 0.18, 0.011 for understory), N content (0.58, 0.064; 0.26, -0.01), or photosynthetic capacity (0.42, 0.027; 0.20, 0.011).

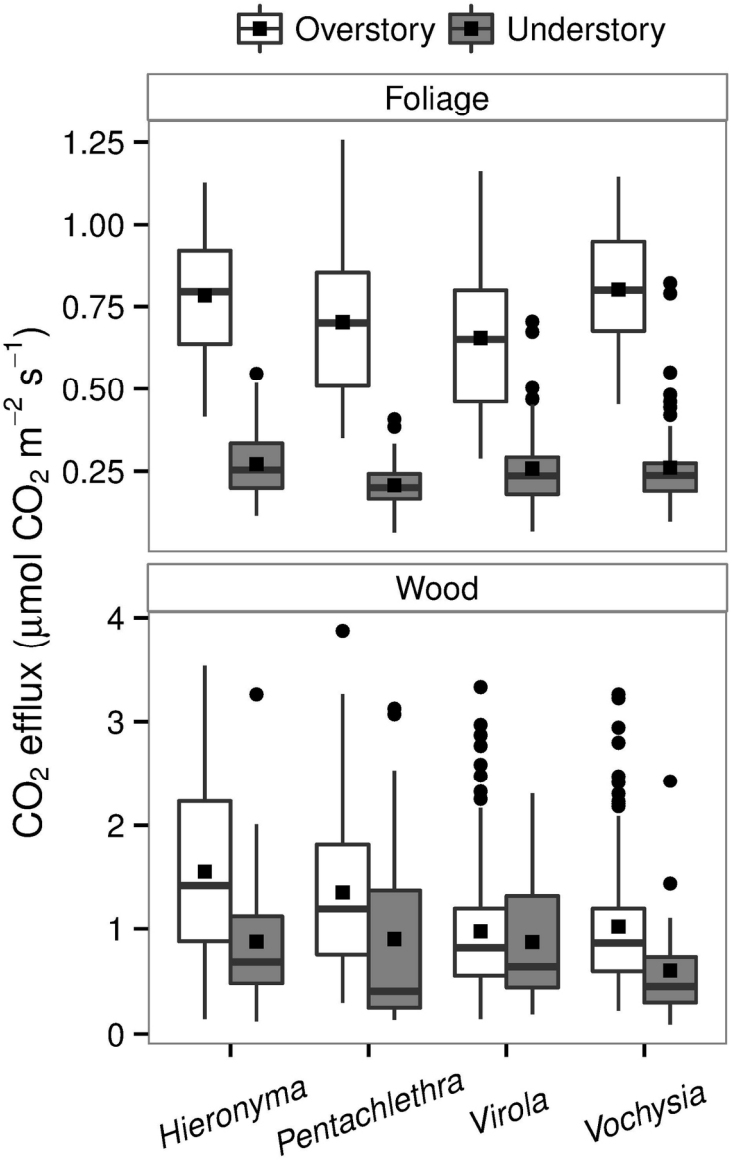
Figure 3. Relationship between height and foliar respiration calculated as leaf area, mass, N, and photosynthetic capacity based rates show that the increase in foliar respiration with height is mostly explained by incrases in LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity. Filled points represent overstory, and open points represent understory. Circles represent *Hieronyma*, squares *Pentaclethra*, diamonds *Virola*, and triangles *Vochysia*. See text for regression line equations.

Figure 4. The variation in ln-transformed rate of wood CO_2 efflux per mass was related to surface area per mass (top) more than log-transformed rate of wood CO_2 efflux per surface area was related to mass per surface area (bottom). Regression lines were drawn with intercept = -3.2 and slope = 3.6 for top plot, and -0.66 and 0.030 for bottom plot.

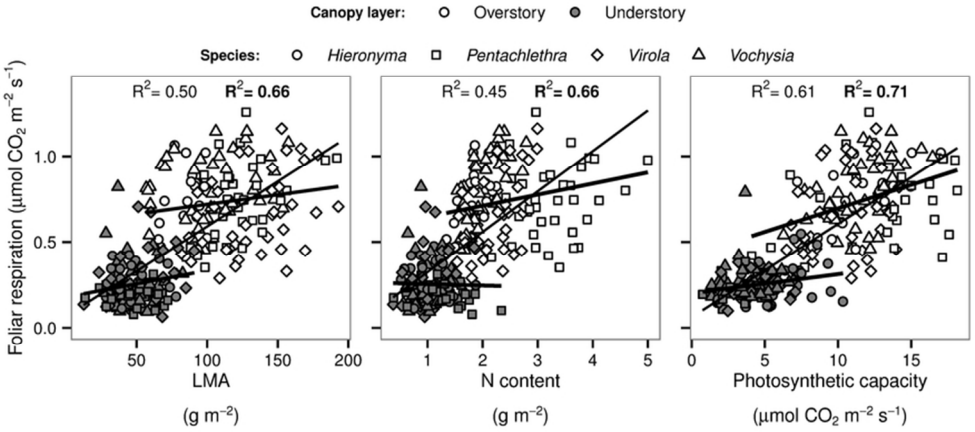
Figure 5. Change in total foliar respiration estimated from leaf-level rates, assuming total LAI of 6 and understory respiration rate of 0.25 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}. Total foliar respiration was underestimated if the overstory rate was unaccounted for, and the bias increased with the ratio of overstory to understory rates. The bias also increased slightly with the ratio of overstory to understory LAI.

Figure 6. Change in total wood CO_2 efflux estimated from tissue-level rates, assuming total wood mass of 20,000 g m^{-2} and large wood CO_2 efflux rate of 0.06 nmol g^{-1} s^{-1}. Total wood CO_2 efflux was underestimated if wood CO_2 efflux rate for small wood was unaccounted for, and the bias increased with the ratio of small to large wood rates. The bias decreased with the ratio of small to large wood mass.

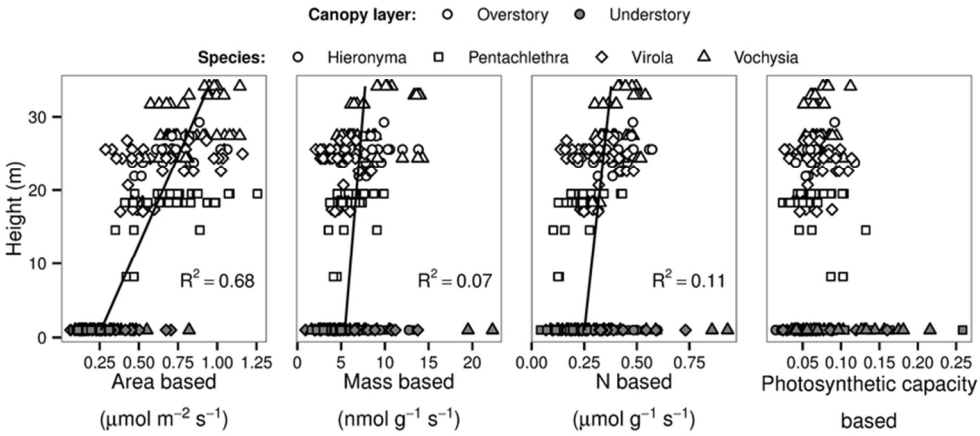
Figure 7. Variation in Q_{10} increased the multiplicative effect of temperature variation on annual respiration estimated using constant temperature. The variation in temperature was assumed to follow sinusoidal cycle daily and annually, and the amplitude of the annual cycle is $1/4^{th}$ of the amplitude of the daily cycle.



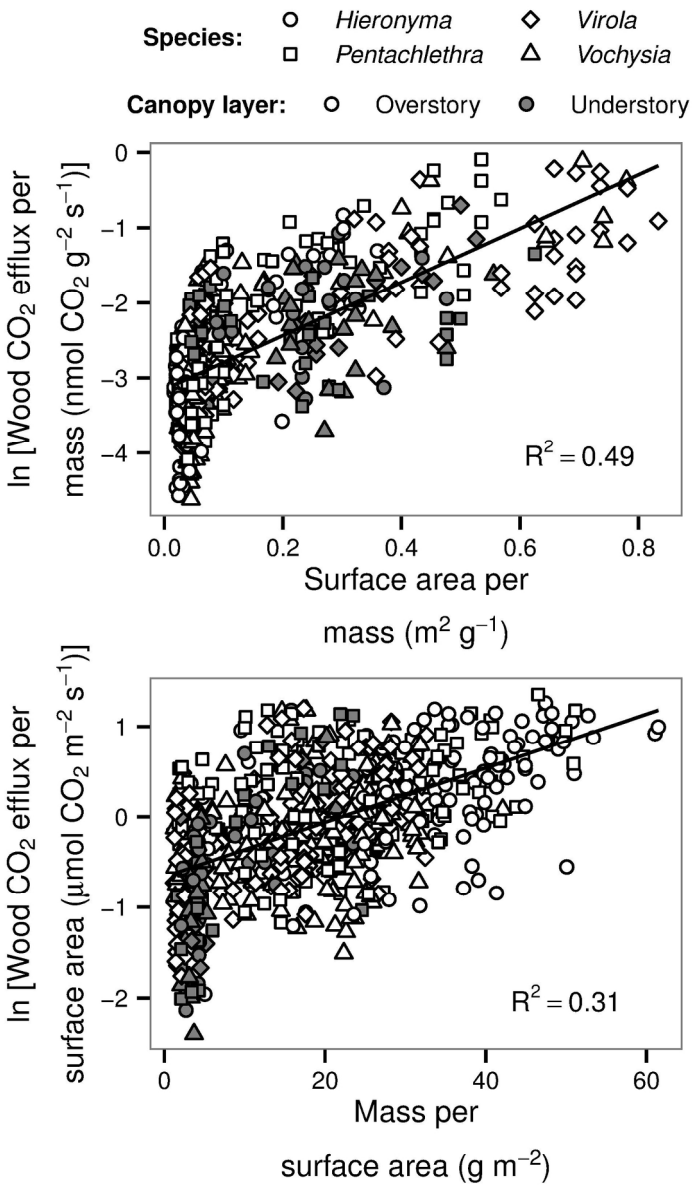
Box plots of per unit area foliar respiration and wood CO_2 efflux rates show that the rates vary more within than between species and are generally higher in the overstory. Open boxes represent overstory, and grey boxes represent understory. Solid squares show means. The data were normally distributed for foliage, but were not for wood with skew toward zero and long tail of larger flux values.
130x206mm (300 x 300 DPI)



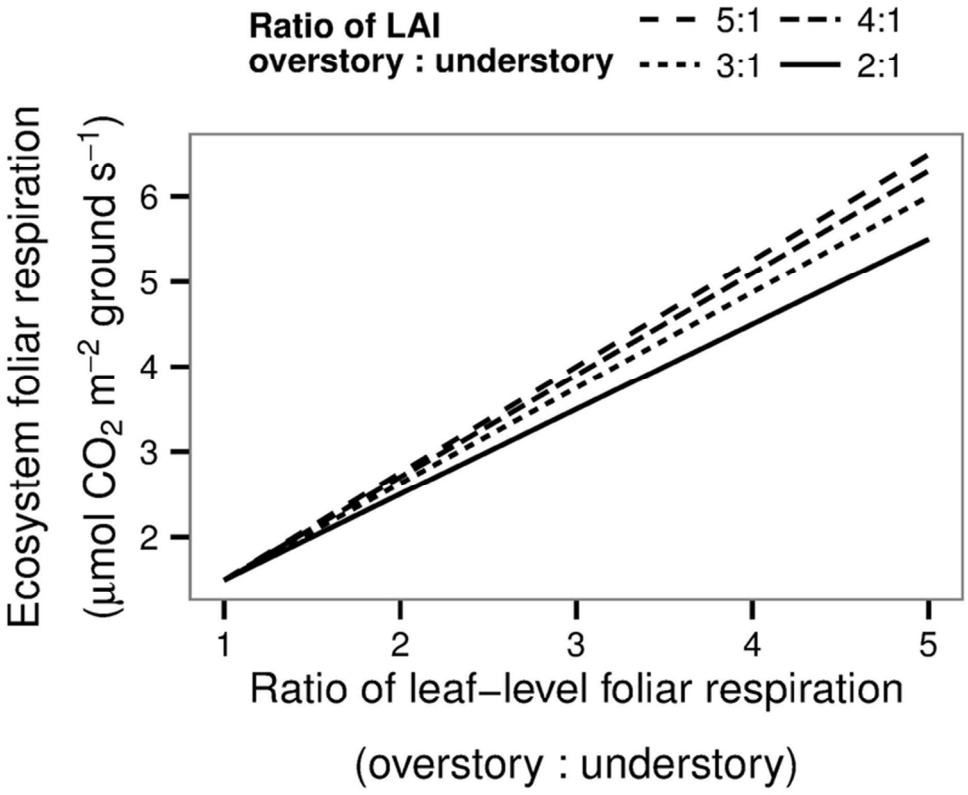
The variation in foliar respiration was related to LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity across canopy layers but only marginally within. Filled points represent overstory, and open points represent understory. Circles represent *Hieronyma*, squares *Pentaclethra*, diamonds *Virola*, and triangles *Vochysia*. Thin lines were drawn across canopy layers, using the models from Table 2.1, with only LMA (intercept = 0.067, slope = 0.0052), N content (0.088, 0.24), or photosynthetic capacity (0.061, 0.054). Thick lines were drawn using the models with canopy layer and LMA (intercept = 0.61, slope = 0.011 for overstory; 0.18, 0.011 for understory), N content (0.58, 0.064; 0.26, -0.01), or photosynthetic capacity (0.42, 0.027; 0.20, 0.011).
76x33mm (300 x 300 DPI)



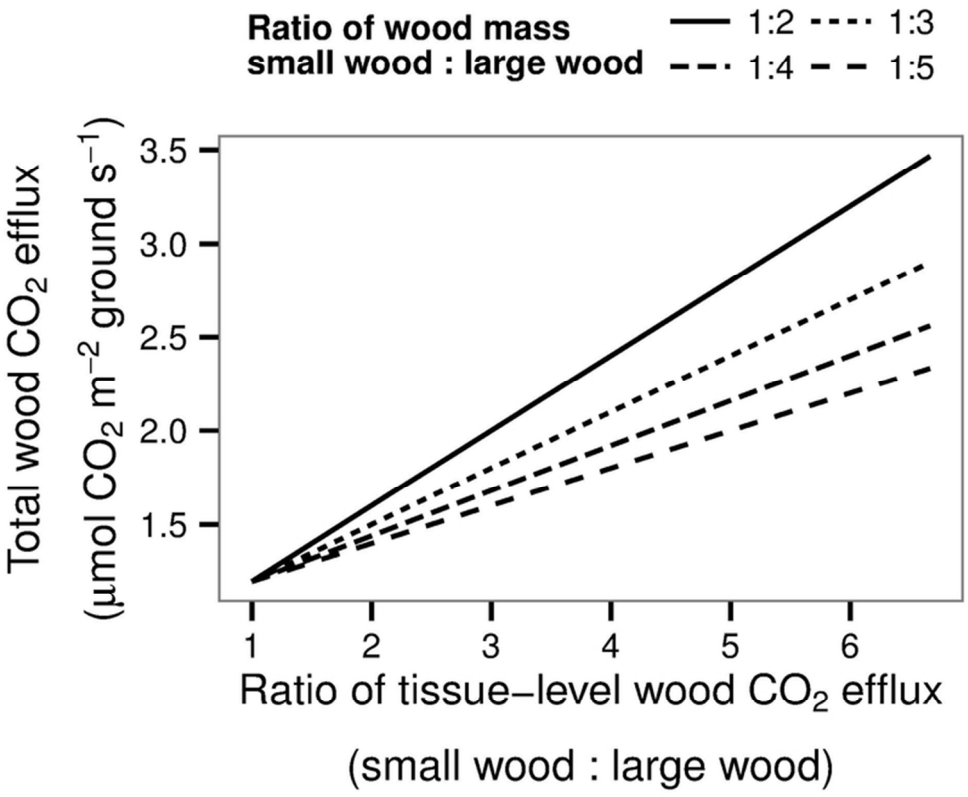
Relationship between height and foliar respiration calculated as leaf area, mass, N, and photosynthetic capacity based rates show that the increase in foliar respiration with height is mostly explained by incrases in LMA, N content, and photosynthetic capacity. Filled points represent overstory, and open points represent understory. Circles represent *Hieronyma*, squares *Pentaclethra*, diamonds *Virola*, and triangles *Vochysia*. See text for regression line equations.
76x33mm (300 x 300 DPI)



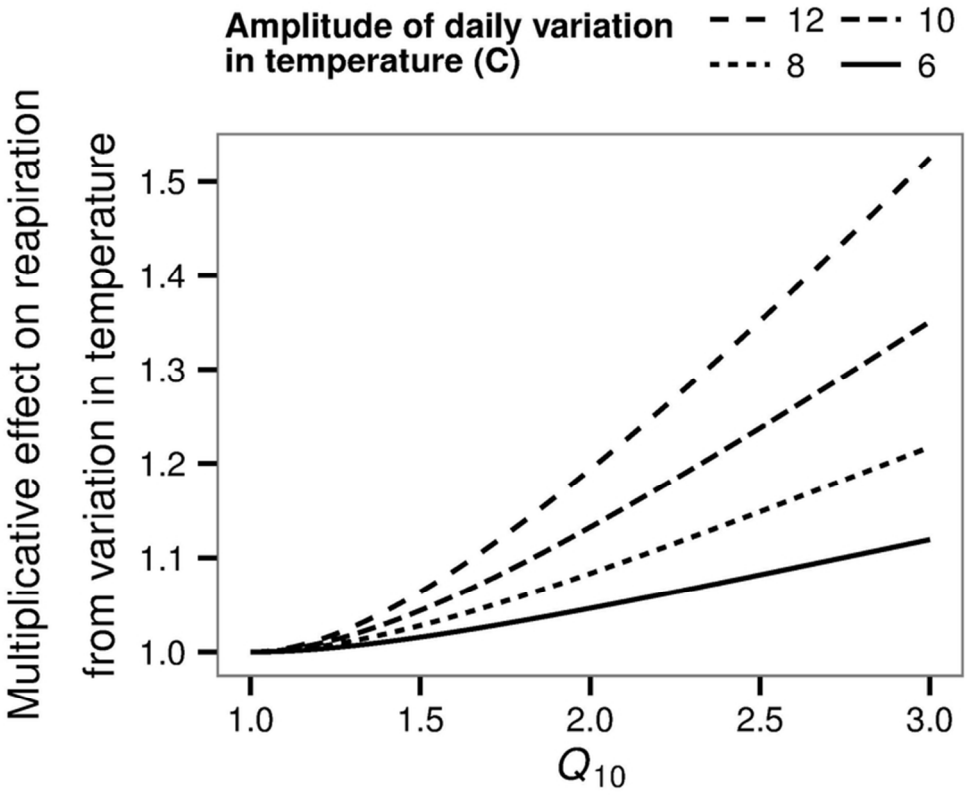
The variation in ln-transformed rate of wood CO_2 efflux per mass was related to surface area per mass (top) more than log-transformed rate of wood CO_2 efflux per surface area was related to mass per surface area (bottom). Regression lines were drawn with intercept = -3.2 and slope = 3.6 for top plot, and -0.66 and 0.030 for bottom plot.
139x237mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Change in total foliar respiration estimated from leaf-level rates, assuming total LAI of 6 and understory respiration rate of 0.25 μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}. Total foliar respiration was underestimated if the overstory rate was unaccounted for, and the bias increased with the ratio of overstory to understory rates. The bias also increased slightly with the ratio of overstory to understory LAI.
69x59mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Change in total wood CO_2 efflux estimated from tissue-level rates, assuming total wood mass of 20,000 g m^{-2} and large wood CO_2 efflux rate of 0.06 nmol g^{-1} s^{-1}. Total wood CO_2 efflux was underestimated if wood CO_2 efflux rate for small wood was unaccounted for, and the bias increased with the ratio of small to large wood rates. The bias decreased with the ratio of small to large wood mass.
69x59mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Variation in Q_{10} increased the multiplicative effect of temperature variation on annual respiration estimated using constant temperature. The variation in temperature was assumed to follow sinusoidal cycle daily and annually, and the amplitude of the annual cycle is 1/4th of the amplitude of the daily cycle.
69x59mm (300 x 300 DPI)