

# For Understanding Wood Production and Forest Carbon Accumulation:

## Ecological, Physiological, and Environmental Engineering Approaches

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Many functions are expected of forests such as biodiversity conservation, enhancing water resources, disaster prevention, and, of course, wood production. To effectively utilize these functions, we need much information ranging from organization of woody cells to structure of the whole forest. Our research covers wood formation and quality, eco-physiological characteristics of trees, and structure of the entire forest, all of which are necessary for understanding wood production and carbon accumulation functions of the forest leading to its sustainable management.

### Stand development and carbon accumulation of forests

Patterns and mechanisms of stand development are bases for understanding forest functions related to wood production, carbon sequestration and accumulation, and are examined with tree-growth rings, mathematical models and ecological field studies. Carbon dynamics study in Circum-polar boreal forest is an example.



Litter traps for evaluating carbon dynamics in Siberian larch forest (L) and Canadian pine stand (R).

### Variation of wood structure leads to the species diversity of forests

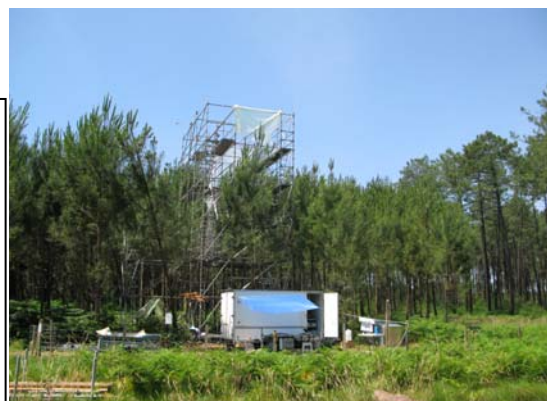
We have not yet found the main factor deciding the maximum tree height. Wood structure is probably one of the keys to answering the question, because it affects the water transport to the canopy and then photosynthesis. Variation of wood structure may be a basis of species diversity.

Dry evergreen (more than 30m high, left) and dry deciduous (less than 20m high, right) forests in Thailand.



### Understanding forest carbon cycling

Forest is known to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. It not only fixes carbon, but it also releases CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere through respiration, remaining of which is stored in the ecosystem. We study this carbon flow with gas analyses and the use of stable isotopes. Still little understood cycling of carbon in the belowground part of the ecosystem is being examined in deciduous broadleaf forests of Japan and France.



Labeling experiment with stable isotopes in a French pine forest

## Keywords

*Forest stand development, carbon dynamics, Space-filling by plant organs, boreal forest, ecological wood anatomy, maximum tree height, tropical trees, vessel arrangement, water potential, ground-based LIDAR, remote sensing, fine root dynamics, soil respiration, sustainable forest management*

## Recent publication

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