

1 **Title:** Does where you live influence what you are made of? Spatial correlates of chemical traits across commonly
2 occurring boreal plants

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32 **Abstract**

33 *Context:* Spatially explicit drivers of foliar chemical traits link plants to ecosystem processes to reveal landscape
34 functionality. Specifically, foliar elemental, stoichiometric, and phytochemical (ESP) compositions represent key
35 indicator traits.

36 *Objectives:* Here, we investigate the spatial drivers of foliar ESP at the species level and across species at the trait
37 level for five commonly occurring boreal forest understory plants.

38 *Methods:* On the island of Newfoundland, Canada, we collected foliar material from four chronosequenced forest
39 grids. Using response variables of foliar elemental (C, N, P, percent and quantity), stoichiometric (C:N, C:P, N:P),
40 and phytochemical (terpenoids) composition, we tested multiple competing hypotheses using spatial predictors of
41 land cover (e.g., coniferous, deciduous, mixedwood), productivity (e.g., enhanced vegetation index), biotic (e.g.,
42 stand age/height, canopy closure) and abiotic (e.g., elevation, aspect, slope) factors.

43 *Results:* We found evidence to support spatial relationships of foliar ESP for most species (mean $R^2 = 0.22$, max =
44 0.65). Spatial variation in elemental quantity traits of C, N, P were related to land cover along with biotic and abiotic
45 factors for 2 of 5 focal species. Notably, foliar C, C:P, and sesquiterpene traits between different species were
46 related to abiotic factors. Similarly, foliar terpenoid traits between different species were related to a combination of
47 abiotic and biotic factors (mean $R^2 = 0.26$).

48 *Conclusions:* Spatial-trait relationships mainly occur at the species level, with some commonalities occurring at the
49 trait level. By linking foliar ESP traits to spatial predictors, we can map plant chemical composition patterns that
50 influence landscape-scale ecosystem processes.

51 **Key words:** Spatial distribution modelling; plant traits; ecological interactions; ecological stoichiometry;
52 phytochemicals

53 1. Introduction

54 Environmental factors are known to influence the foliar traits of plants. For instance, differences in overstory
55 vegetation (i.e., landcover; Hallett & Hornbeck, 1997), productivity (Radwan & Harrington, 2011), community
56 structure (Sedio et al., 2017), and topographic conditions (Müller et al., 2017) may influence foliar chemical,
57 physiological, and morphological traits (Poorter & Bongers, 2006). Chemical traits such as elemental concentration
58 (% and quantity Carbon, Nitrogen, and Phosphorus), stoichiometric ratios (elemental concentrations on a biomass
59 basis, specifically molar C:N, N:P, and C:P ratios), and secondary carbon based compounds (terpenoids, phenols)
60 are often useful indicators of ecosystem processes. These traits can be indicators of processes such as decomposition
61 (Diaz et al., 2004), carbon sequestration/primary production (Harpole et al., 2011; Hessen et al., 2004),
62 evapotranspiration (Liu et al., 2019), and trophic interactions (Bryant et al., 1983; Hunter, 2016). Environmental
63 factors vary across the landscape and thus, species level intraspecific trait variability (ITV) mapped in response to
64 spatial gradients of varying environmental conditions may reveal how underlining ecological processes contribute to
65 spatial patterns that define landscape functionality (Harvey et al., 2017; Schmitz et al., 2018). As well, across
66 species, common environmental factors may drive interspecific trait variability, and if so, this provides room to
67 devise community-level generalities of landscape function (Santiago et al., 2004). Here, we investigate which
68 environmental factors drive the spatial variability of foliar elemental (E), stoichiometric (S) and phytochemical (P)
69 traits (hereafter labelled “ESP traits”) at a species level for common boreal plants, and we compare these factors
70 across the five species to determine if there are shared community-level drivers of traits.

71 Across the landscape, differing environmental conditions influence plant trade-offs of resource acquisition
72 and use, and as such the ITV of foliar traits (Lavorel et al., 2011). For instance, plants growing under different
73 overstory vegetation (e.g., deciduous, coniferous, and mixedwood land cover types), which experience varied light
74 conditions via canopy vertical and horizontal composition, may redistribute foliar N and P resources to optimize
75 growth while stabilizing for competitive interactions (Hassell et al., 1994). As well, nutrient recycling pathways may
76 vary by landcover types via litter inputs and canopy temperature/precipitation controls (Barron-Gafford et al., 2012;
77 Philben et al., 2016) which can influence soil productivity (Krishna & Mohan, 2017) N and P resource availability
78 (Gartner & Cardon, 2004; Knops et al., 2002), and plant N and P use efficiencies (Ashton et al., 2010). Moreover,
79 topographic gradients of elevation, aspect, and slope further define temperature, precipitation, and solar insolation

80 inputs (Macek et al., 2019) and as such can influence resource allocation (Müller et al., 2017). Indeed, many factors
81 likely influence resource trade-offs by plants and their foliar ESP traits, with the range of ITV constrained by a
82 species resource strategy (Grime & Pierce, 2012). Spatial gradients of environmental conditions create a landscape
83 of resource trade-offs where the ITV of foliar ESP traits provides mapped heterogeneity of inferred ecosystem
84 processes.

85 Identifying the spatial covariates of traits linked to ecosystem processes is an important topic in landscape
86 ecology (Pickett & Cadenasso, 1995; Turner, 1989). For instance, the distribution and movement of energy and
87 matter is a central focus for understanding landscape functionality via pattern and process relationships (Lavorel et
88 al., 2011; Shen et al., 2011; Monica Goigel Turner, 2005). Foliar ESP traits provide a direct link to thermodynamics
89 and entropy processes at landscape extents (Elser & Hamilton, 2007; Vranken et al., 2015). For example, foliar N
90 and P concentration and N:P ratios have been linked to primary productivity (Elser et al., 2010), while
91 stoichiometric traits have been associated with nutrient limitation and community structure processes (Harpole et al.,
92 2011; Urbina et al., 2017). Phytochemical defense traits have been linked to trophic interactions, spatial flows of
93 energy and matter, and nutrient recycling processes (Hunter, 2016). At the landscape level, spatial covariates of land
94 cover, productivity, forest structure, and topography are known drivers of foliar ESP trait variability. However,
95 different covariates likely influence different foliar traits between species. For example, balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*)
96 and red spruce (*Picea rubens*) foliar N and P follow elevational gradients (Richardson, 2004), while Scots pine
97 (*pinus sylvestris*) shifts foliar stoichiometric content in response to soil nutrients (i.e., site level productivity; He et
98 al., 2019), and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus urophylla*) foliar P decreases with stand age (Fan et al., 2015). Thus, a species
99 level approach to identifying spatial covariates of foliar ESP traits will allow us to obtain refined estimates that are
100 comparable across species and traits to derive potential generalities.

101 Here, we use spatially explicit covariates to investigate correlates of foliar ESP traits for five commonly
102 occurring juvenile boreal forest species. Our spatial predictors of land cover (i.e., coniferous, deciduous,
103 mixedwood), productivity (i.e., enhanced vegetation index), biotic factors (i.e., structural conditions of stand age,
104 height, and canopy closure), and abiotic factors (i.e., elevation, aspect, and slope), represent known and/or suggested
105 drivers of foliar ESP traits (see Table 1). Our aim is to investigate the spatial relationships influencing foliar ESP
106 traits by interrogating covariate selection for generalities at the trait and species level. Our integrative approach

107 investigates multiple components of foliar elemental and nutritional traits and their spatial drivers. This allows us to
108 link spatial patterns to ecosystem processes that contribute to landscape function.

109

110 **2. Methods**

111 *2.1. Study site and focal species description*

112 Our study area is located on the eastern side of the island and Newfoundland, Canada (Fig. 1a; a detailed description
113 of Fig. 1, is provided in Appendix 1). Here, the bedrock is generally a mixture of crystalline Paleozoic strata with
114 upland dominated by hummocky to ridged sandy morainal depositions (South, 1983). The vegetative cover is
115 dominated primarily by intermediate-aged, closed canopy, forest stands of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and black
116 spruce (*Picea mariana*) on steep, moist, upland areas. Alternatively, disturbed areas are dominated by paper birch
117 (*Betula papyrifera*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and black spruce with drier sites consisting of black
118 spruce and heaths of kalmia (*Kalmia angustifolia*) (South, 1983). On average this region experiences annual
119 temperature of 4.5°C, with a summer and winter mean of 12.5°C and -3.5°C, and mean annual precipitation of 100-
120 300 cm (South, 1983).

121 Our understory focal species consist of two coniferous species: balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), black spruce
122 (*Picea mariana*), two deciduous species: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and one
123 herbaceous plant: lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolia*). Our focal species commonly occur across the study
124 region and are largely co-distributed geographically across North America. Moreover, our focal species represent
125 common forage for the dominant herbivores within the boreal system: moose (*Alces alces*) and snowshoe hare
126 (*Lepus americanus*). As such, their foliar traits provide us with a useful measure of resource distribution by which
127 we can infer spatial patterns of herbivory (Balluffi-Fry et al., 2020; Rizzuto et al., 2019).

128 For each of our study species we assessed foliar traits of elemental concentration (i.e., percent and quantity C,
129 N, and P) and stoichiometric ratio (i.e., C:N, C:P, and N:P). For our coniferous species, balsam fir and black spruce
130 that have constituent phytochemical defence strategies, we assessed foliar phytochemical traits of terpene,
131 monoterpene, monoterpene alcohol, monoterpene ester, sesquiterpene, and phytochemical diversity.

132

133 2.2. *Data collection*

134 The following sections describe how we collected shrub belt, foliar material, and biomass data.

135 2.2.1. Sampling design

136 In black spruce leading stands, which is the predominant forest type for this region (South, 1983), we set up four
137 chronosequenced meandering transect grids (25 ha), differing in age by 20 year intervals (Fig. 1b; centroid locations
138 for each grid: Bloomfield 48.34°N, -53.98°W; Unicorn 48.63°N, -54.01°W; Terra Nova North 48.62°N, -53.97°W;
139 Dunphy's Pond 48.49°N, -54.05°W). Although heterogeneity in forest structure does exist across our grids,
140 including differences in tree age, height and canopy density, our sampling locations were designed to capture a
141 representative snapshot of forest structure in this region (see Appendix 2 for a comparison of forest structure
142 sampled versus available). These grids were originally designed for snowshoe hare live trapping, to investigate
143 animal spatial ecology related to spatially variable foliar ESP resources. Each grid is comprised of 50 sampling
144 locations (Fig. 1b).

145 2.2.2. Shrub belt

146 At each sample location, we set up a 22.6 m diameter circular plot (Fig. 1c). Within each plot, we collected density
147 estimates for each of our study species along a 22.6 m long and 1 m wide shrub belt transect (Fig. 1c). Moving in a
148 north to south direction, along the belt, for each of our study species encountered, we measured height and basal
149 diameter, and the distance at which it was encountered, for a maximum of five individuals per height class: 0-50 cm,
150 51-100 cm, 101-150 cm, and 151-200 cm, denoted as A, B, C, and D respectively (Fig. 1d). We restricted our
151 sampling to species within 0-2 m heights as these individuals represent the available forage for common boreal
152 herbivores such as moose and snowshoe hare.

153 2.2.3. Foliar material

154 Within our circular plots, we collected representative foliar material from each intercardinal corner. Starting in the
155 NE corner, we clipped foliar material (i.e., terminal and lateral leaves) and then moved to the next corner and
156 clipped a similar amount of foliar material, we continued this process, moving clockwise between the plot corners,
157 until we acquired an approximately 20 g foliar sample. We also measured height and basal diameter (used for
158 augmenting shrub belt data described below) of each individual sampled. Samples of balsam fir (n = 95), black
159 spruce (n = 157), red maple (n = 91), white birch (n = 71), and lowbush blueberry (n = 160) were frozen at -20C

160 until they were sent for foliar elemental analysis at the Agriculture Food Lab (AFL) at the University of Guelph
161 Ontario, Canada. Foliar C and N was determined using an Elementar Vario Macro Cube. Foliar P was determined
162 using a microwave acid digestion CEM MARSxpress microwave system and brought to volume using Nanopure
163 water. The clear extract supernatant was further diluted by 10 to accurately fall within calibration range and reduce
164 high level analyte concentration entering the inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) detector
165 (Poitevin, 2016). Foliar phytochemical analysis for balsam fir (n = 104) and black spruce (n = 163) was performed
166 at the Laboratoire PhytoChemia Inc. in Quebec, Canada, foliar terpenoid composition was determined using a gas
167 chromatography solvent extraction with an internal standard and a correction factor (Cachet et al., 2016).
168 Elemental/stoichiometric and phytochemical samples differ due to the amount of foliar material needed for each
169 analysis. Less foliar material is needed to perform the phytochemical analysis; thus, we were able to have more
170 samples processed. See Appendix 3 for a complete list of individual terpenoid compounds found in our balsam fir
171 and black spruce foliar samples.

172 2.2.4. Biomass

173 To determine the foliar biomass of new growth material for our focal species we collected all of the new growth
174 foliar material from approximately 50 individuals. We collected these individuals along the periphery of our study
175 grids, in randomly selected locations to avoid destructive sampling of foliage in our long-term monitoring grids. We
176 sampled individuals evenly across height classes to obtain a representative sample. In addition, we measured the
177 height and basal diameter for each individual sampled (Fig. 1d). Biomass samples were dried at 50°C for 2-3 days.
178 We used the resulting dry weights to perform allometric modelling (described below).

179

180 2.3. *Constructing foliar ESP response variables*

181 Following Leroux et al. (2017), we used three pieces of information to construct foliar ESP distribution models;
182 shrub belt data to determine plot level species density, foliar material to extract elemental percentages (i.e., % C, N,
183 and P) and phytochemical composition (raw basis mg/g), and biomass data to fit allometric models. We fit
184 allometric models using biomass as a function of height and basal diameter for each of our study species (goodness
185 of fit adjusted R² for balsam fir (0.82), black spruce (0.80), red maple (0.83), white birch (0.79), and lowbush
186 blueberry (0.47); see Appendix 4). The estimates of allometric correlates allow us to parameterize shrub belt density

187 data and predict plot level biomass estimates based on density of species in their respective height classes (Fig. 1d,f).
188 We then summed height class biomass estimates at the plot level. In the few instances where we did not encounter a
189 species on the shrub belt but had collected foliar material within that plot, we augmented shrub belt data by adding
190 the total number of individuals sampled for foliar material as ceiling estimate of abundance for a given height class
191 in that plot (see Appendix 5 for details). To acquire foliar elemental quantity traits, we divided plot level biomass by
192 the plot area (401.15 m²) multiplied by foliar elemental percentages. To acquire foliar stoichiometric traits, we
193 divided foliar elemental quantity traits of C, N and P by their respective molar masses and divided the resulting
194 values together to get ratios of C:N, C:P, and N:P (Fig. 1f). Similarly, to acquire phytochemical traits, we divided
195 plot level biomass by the plot area (401.15 m²) multiplied by our phytochemical raw measures.

196 2.4. Statistical analyses

197 Data processing and statistical analyses were done using R and Esri software (Esri, 2020; R Core Team, 2020).
198 Based on *a priori* reasons we used spatially explicit covariates of land cover, productivity, biotic and abiotic factors,
199 at a resolution of 30 m, to predict ESP trait distribution across the study area (see Table 1 for hypothesis rationale).
200 We investigated the relationship between all possible combinations of the four *a priori* covariate including a null
201 model (n = 16 total models per response variable, Table 2 for complete model list). In addition, we confirmed the
202 absence of collinearity among our spatial covariates. Our land cover covariate was derived from the Commission for
203 Environmental Cooperation (*Land Cover Map of North American at 30 m Resolution*, 2017) and consists of three
204 categorical conditions coniferous, deciduous and mixed wood. We used the Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI, 30 m
205 resolution) as a proxy of productivity, which does not saturate as easily as the Normalized Difference Vegetation
206 Index under wet boreal forest conditions (Vermote et al., 2016). Using Forest Resource Inventory (FRI, originally
207 digitized at a 1:12,500 scale and rasterized to a 30 m resolution) spatial datasets provided by the Provincial
208 Government of Newfoundland and the Federal Government of Canada we derived three biotic covariates of stand
209 height, age, and canopy closure, each having four factor levels. Our abiotic factors were derived from a Canadian
210 Digital Elevation Model (*Canadian Digital Elevation Model: Product Specifications-Edition 1.1.*, 2016, originally a
211 20 m resolution rasterized to a 30 m resolution) and includes covariates of elevation, aspect, and slope (see
212 Appendices 6 and 7 for spatial covariate description and processing).

213 We fit General Linear Models (GLM) with the response variables of foliar percent elemental traits (C, N, P
214 as a %), quantity elemental traits (C, N, P as g/m²), stoichiometric traits (molar ratios C:N, C:P, and N:P),
215 phytochemical traits for our coniferous species which includes terpene, monoterpene, monoterpene alcohol,
216 monoterpene ester, sesquiterpene, and phytochemical diversity on a raw (mg/g) and biomass basis (mg/m²). Our
217 terpene variable is the sum of all phytochemical compounds at the plot level. Phytochemical diversity is calculated
218 using a Shannon Diversity Index for all compounds identified per species (i.e., using our balsam fir phytochemical
219 matrix, sites x by individual phytochemical compounds, we calculated alpha diversity; this was performed again for
220 black spruce). We ranked models based on Akaike Information Criterion corrected for small sample size (AIC_c) and
221 only considered models within < 2 ΔAIC_c and those above the null model as having evidence to support a spatial
222 relationship. In addition, we removed models with uninformative variables (Leroux, 2019). If more than one model
223 was within a < 2 ΔAIC_c we averaged model coefficients and extracted full coefficient estimates for use in the
224 construction of distribution models (Burnham & Anderson, 2002).

225

226 3. Results

227 We begin each section below by reporting patterns and pseudo R² assessments of top ranked models (ΔAIC_c < 2,
228 excluding the null model) across all five species and sub-components of foliar traits: elemental (%C, %N, %P, and
229 quantity C, N, and P), stoichiometric (C:N, C:P, N:P ratios), and phytochemical (terpene, monoterpene,
230 monoterpene alcohol, monoterpene ester, sesquiterpene, and diversity). In addition, for each section, we report
231 patterns of top ranked models at the species level. Additional supporting results are reported in the appendix,
232 including an AIC_c table (Appendix 8), table of coefficient slopes and significance (Appendix 9), distribution plots of
233 pseudo R² for traits (Appendix 10), a comparison of observed versus spatially predicted values (Appendix 11), and
234 model coefficient estimate tables for top ranked models of traits %C, %N, and %P (Appendices 12-14), quantity C,
235 N, and P (Appendix 15), stoichiometric ratios of C:N, C:P and N:P (Appendices 16-18) and phytochemical groups
236 (terpene and monoterpene (Appendix 19), monoterpene alcohol and ester (Appendix 20), and sesquiterpenes and
237 phytochemical diversity (Appendix 21)). We include the predictive distribution maps of only a subset of the models
238 (Fig. 5); as there were 41 combinations of species-ESP trait models.

239

240 3.1. *Foliar percent elemental traits*

241 Across all species for foliar percent elemental traits (Fig. 2a), eleven models supported the data (R^2 min = 0.046,
242 max = 0.646, mean = 0.286). At the trait level (Fig. 2a), four models explain foliar percent carbon data (R^2 min =
243 0.092, max = 0.646, mean = 0.372), five models explain foliar percent nitrogen data (R^2 min = 0.071, max = 0.360,
244 mean = 0.233) and six models explain foliar percent phosphorus data (R^2 min = 0.046, max = 0.472, mean = 0.242).

245 Although top ranked models vary across species (Fig. 2c), we found trait spatial relationships for all species
246 except white birch foliar percent N and P. Notably, there are different patterns of top ranked models between species
247 and coefficient relationships. For balsam fir, our abiotic model explained foliar percent C and P while N is explained
248 by the combination model of land cover, EVI, and abiotic. For black spruce, our biotic and abiotic model explained
249 foliar percent C and P although our land cover, biotic, and abiotic model is within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$ for foliar percent C
250 (model averaged trait distribution map is shown in Fig. 5b). In addition, we found evidence for EVI and biotic
251 model to explain black spruce foliar N. For red maple, foliar percent C is explained by our abiotic model, foliar
252 percent N by our land cover and biotic model, and foliar percent P by two competing top models (1) EVI, and (2)
253 EVI and abiotic. Only white birch foliar percent C is explained by our biotic model. For lowbush blueberry, foliar
254 percent C is explained by our land cover, biotic, and abiotic model. In contrast foliar percent N is explained by two
255 competing top models of (1) EVI, and (2) land cover and EVI, and foliar percent P by is explained by two
256 competing top models of (1) EVI and biotic, and (2) biotic.

257

258 3.2. *Foliar quantity elemental traits*

259 Across all species (Fig. 2b) for foliar elemental quantity traits, two out of the fifteen potential models explain foliar
260 elemental quantity traits (across all traits R^2 min = 0.183, max = 0.350, mean = 0.263) of C (R^2 min = 0.193, max =
261 0.350, mean = 0.271), N (R^2 min = 0.183, max = 0.345, mean = 0.264), and P (R^2 min = 0.188, max = 0.321, mean =
262 0.254). This is, however, only for balsam fir and lowbush blueberry (Fig. 2d). At the species level, balsam fir foliar
263 quantity C, N, and P is explained by our biotic and abiotic model. For lowbush blueberry, foliar quantity C, N, and P
264 is explained by our land cover and abiotic model.

265

266 3.3. *Foliar stoichiometric traits*

267 Across all species (Fig. 3a) twelve of the potential fifteen models explain foliar stoichiometric traits (across all traits
268 R^2 min = 0.070, max = 0.427, mean = 0.262). At the trait level (Fig. 3a), foliar C:N is explained by five top ranked
269 models (R^2 min = 0.089, max = 0.385, mean = 0.253). Foliar C:P is explained by four top ranked models (R^2 min =
270 0.070, max = 0.336, mean = 0.234). Foliar N:P is explained by six top ranked models (R^2 min = 0.076, max = 0.427,
271 mean = 0.284).

272 Again, model specificity is variable at the species level (Fig. 3b), although some geographic commonalities
273 exist in terms of top model covariates and coefficient relationships. For balsam fir, foliar C:N is explained by our
274 land cover, EVI, and abiotic combination model, foliar C:P by our abiotic model, and foliar N:P by two top models
275 (1) abiotic, and (2) EVI and abiotic combination although the null model here was within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$. For black
276 spruce, foliar C:N is explained by our EVI and biotic model (model averaged predictive model is shown in Fig. 5b),
277 foliar C:P by our biotic and abiotic model, and foliar N:P by our EVI, biotic and abiotic model. For red maple, foliar
278 C:N is explained by our land cover and biotic model, while our abiotic model explains foliar C:P, however the null
279 model here was within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$. In addition, red maple foliar N:P is explained by our land cover and biotic model.
280 For lowbush blueberry, foliar C:N is explained by our EVI model, foliar C:P by competing models of (1) biotic, and
281 (2) EVI and biotic, and foliar N:P by four competing top models of (1) EVI, biotic and abiotic, (2) EVI and biotic,
282 (3) land cover, EVI, biotic and abiotic, and (4) land cover, EVI and biotic. For white birch, the null model was the
283 top ranked for all foliar stoichiometric traits.

284

285 3.4. *Foliar phytochemical traits*

286 Across all species (Fig. 4a) eight of the potential fifteen models explain foliar phytochemical traits on a raw and
287 biomass basis (across all traits R^2 min = 0.017, max = 0.272, mean = 0.138). At the trait level, terpene raw is
288 explained by three top ranked models (R^2 min = 0.047, max = 0.270, mean = 0.191), in comparison terpene on a
289 biomass basis is explained by one top ranked model ($R^2 = 0.270$). Monoterpene raw is explained by four top ranked
290 models (R^2 min = 0.041, max = 0.244, mean = 0.121), in comparison monoterpene on a biomass basis is explained
291 by one top ranked model ($R^2 = 0.272$). Monoterpenic alcohol raw is explained by two top ranked model (R^2 min =
292 0.046, max = 0.233, mean = 0.139). Monoterpenic ester raw is explained by one top ranked model ($R^2 = 0.265$), and

293 monoterpene ester on a biomass basis is also explained by one top ranked model ($R^2 = 0.265$). Sesquiterpene raw is
294 explained by seven top ranked models (R^2 min = 0.040, max = 0.194, mean = 0.098), while sesquiterpene on a
295 biomass basis is explained by two top ranked models (R^2 min = 0.023, max = 0.242, mean = 0.132). Phytochemical
296 diversity on a raw basis is supported by four top ranked models (R^2 min = 0.017, max = 0.122, mean = 0.060).

297 At the species level (Fig. 4b), balsam fir and black spruce share some geographic commonalities in terms of
298 top model covariates and coefficient relationships. For balsam fir, foliar terpene (raw) is explained by our EVI
299 model and terpene on a biomass basis by our biotic and abiotic model. In comparison black spruce foliar terpene
300 (raw) is explained by two competing top models of (1) EVI, biotic and abiotic, and (2) biotic and abiotic (model
301 averaged predictive model shown in Fig. 5d). Three competing top models of (1) EVI and abiotic, (2) abiotic, and
302 (3) EVI explain balsam fir foliar monoterpene (raw), while our biotic and abiotic model explain monoterpene on a
303 biomass basis. In comparison, black spruce foliar monoterpene (raw) is explained by our biotic and abiotic model.
304 Balsam fir foliar monoterpene alcohol (raw), although the null model is within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$, is explained by our land
305 cover model, while black spruce foliar monoterpene alcohol is explained by our biotic and abiotic combination
306 model. Balsam fir foliar monoterpene ester on a biomass basis is explained by our biotic and abiotic combination
307 model. While black spruce foliar monoterpene ester (raw) is explained by our biotic and abiotic combination model.
308 Balsam fir foliar sesquiterpene (raw) is explained by three competing top models of (1) EVI and abiotic, (2) EVI,
309 and (3) abiotic. Balsam fir sesquiterpene on a biomass basis is explained by two competing top models of (1) EVI,
310 and (2) biotic and abiotic, although the null model is within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$. In contrast, black spruce foliar sesquiterpene
311 is explained by four competing top models of (1) land cover, EVI and abiotic, (2) abiotic, (3) biotic and abiotic, and
312 (4) EVI and abiotic. Lastly, balsam fir foliar phytochemical diversity is explained by our abiotic model, although the
313 null model is within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$, while black spruce foliar phytochemical diversity is explained by three competing
314 top models of (1) land cover, (2) biotic, and (3) EVI.

315

316 4. Discussion

317 Identifying spatial explicit drivers of foliar ESP traits may be a starting point to study ecosystem processes at the
318 landscape extent. Our approach allows us to obtain spatially explicit estimates of heterogeneity through the
319 development of foliar ESP trait distribution models (e.g., Fig. 5, Pickett and Cadenasso, 1995; Shen et al., 2011;

320 Turner, 1989). Foliar ESP traits are often useful indicators of primary productivity, community structure, nutrient
321 cycling, and trophic interactions (Brauer et al., 2012; Hunter, 2016). Here, we use differing combinations of
322 spatially explicit covariates: land cover, productivity (EVI), biotic (forest structure: age, height, canopy closure), and
323 abiotic (elevation, aspect, slope) factors, to identify which combinations of these factors drive ESP traits for our
324 focal species at the landscape extent. In addition, we compare trait drivers across species to determine if there are
325 commonalities. We find that not all traits, across species, are driven by the same spatial covariates. Although many
326 studies have demonstrated community level coordination of foliar traits (Callis-Duehl et al., 2017; Descombes et al.,
327 2017; Fyllas et al., 2020; Jiang et al., 2016), our findings suggest that trait spatial patterns are largely species
328 specific. Thus, pattern-to-process relationships act at the species level to create landscapes of plant trait spatial
329 heterogeneity and provides us with a new lens to evaluate landscape function. For instance, the spatial co-location of
330 foliar resource convergence and divergence likely influence where, how, and why herbivores make foraging trade-
331 offs decision between multiple forage species (Balluffi-Fry et al., 2020; Haynes & Cronin, 2004; Hunter, 2016). By
332 developing spatial distribution models for multiple species and their traits (see Fig. 5 for an example) these maps can
333 aid us in identifying resource hot spots of ecosystem services (Bernhardt et al., 2017; Lavorel et al., 2011; McClain
334 et al., 2003), which in turn can inform herbivore foraging and pollinator (Filipiak, 2018) strategies and trade-off
335 decisions (Shepard et al. 2013; see also Appendix 20 Fig A6 for a spatial correlation matrix of observed versus
336 predicted ESP surfaces).

337

338 *4.1. Foliar percent elemental traits*

339 At the foliar percent elemental trait level, C, N, and P, we find mixed support for general patterns, as our results
340 support species-specific spatial covariate trait relationships. For instance, abiotic covariates occurred more often as a
341 top model, reinforcing a Humboltian perspective of plant distributions influence by soil and climate (Pausas &
342 Bond, 2019). Other top ranked models, however, with biotic components, suggest that land cover type, site
343 productivity, and forest structure have an influence on the spatial variability of foliar percent elemental traits. Across
344 species, the EVI covariate did not occur in top ranked models for foliar percent carbon, although land cover, biotic
345 and abiotic correlates did. Foliar percent C, N and P are often a useful measure of site level productivity, and EVI is
346 a measure of productivity from space, however, a difference in scale here is likely why EVI is not a spatial driver of

347 these foliar traits. Our results suggest that land cover and biotic factors of forest structure, likely have more of an
348 influence on these foliar traits at the landscape extent (Rijkers et al., 2000). However, we did find that different
349 combinations of EVI, biotic, and abiotic correlates influence foliar percent P at the trait level; suggesting that land
350 cover type may not regulate phosphorus pathways. The weathering of rocks and soil particles contribute to soil P
351 availability (i.e., EVI as a proxy for productivity/soil fertility) and P acquisition and nutrient uplift likely depends on
352 competitive interactions determined by community types (i.e., biotic factors), and soil and water movement that
353 facilitate anion and cation exchanges from soils particles to roots (Smith et al., 2000).

354 At the species level, general drivers of foliar percent C, N, P composition are more evident. For example,
355 our models of (1) abiotic and (2) land cover, biotic and abiotic were the top models for foliar percent carbon in red
356 maple and balsam fir and for lowbush blueberry and black spruce, respectively. This may suggest that between
357 species with differing life histories that operate on different ends of the leaf spectrum (i.e., long lived versus
358 seasonal foliar material); similar spatial predictors influence foliar percent carbon. Moreover, red maple foliar
359 percent N content showed specificity to deciduous land cover and open canopy conditions, which may suggest
360 increased N use efficiency in areas where deciduous leaf litter feedbacks ameliorate microbial community associated
361 with plant functional types (Hobbie, 2015). These patterns provide evidence that biotic interactions may have
362 important consequences for intraspecific variability of plant traits. Not all correlates within top models were,
363 however, significant drivers. Notably, elevation and slope were important for species foliar percent carbon,
364 supported by models with abiotic correlates. Together elevation and slope often have an influence on soil nutrient
365 retention due to drainage properties (Müller et al., 2017). In addition, age classes (a biotic correlate) was important
366 for black spruce foliar percent carbon, thus as the dominant tree species in this area, optimal carbon sequestration
367 potential may occur under black spruce canopy community types across various seral stages (Dunn et al., 2009). We
368 failed to find evidence to support models for foliar percent N and P of white birch. White birch is a clonal species
369 with ramets that connect neighbouring individuals and facilitate the sharing of elemental resources to enhance
370 collective nutrient use efficiencies (Bittebiere et al., 2019; Cornelissen and Cornwell, 2014). Ramet nutrient sharing,
371 coupled with high plasticity of intraspecific variability in foliar percent elemental traits likely explain why we failed
372 to detect a spatial signal with our covariates for white birch (Pyakurel and Wang, 2014; Wam et al., 2018). Overall,
373 on the landscape, different drivers of foliar resource quality (i.e., C, N, and P), result in spatially heterogeneous

374 species-specific resource hot spots. This may have far reaching implications for consumer dynamics and ecosystem
375 processes (Haynes and Cronin, 2004; Wam et al., 2018).

376

377 *4.2. Foliar quantity elemental traits*

378 We only found support for drivers of foliar quantity elemental traits for two out of our five study species; balsam fir
379 and lowbush blueberry. In each case, a single but different model explained all foliar quantity elemental traits.
380 Collectively, these covariate combinations suggest that community type along with the structural properties of
381 community conditions and abiotic factors highly determine the amount of foliar quantity C, N, and P resources.
382 Across the landscape, these spatial covariates allow us to map the distribution of foliar quantity C, N, and P to detect
383 areas of plant performance (i.e., optimal growth), resource abundance, and biogeochemical hot spots associated with
384 nutrient uplift and storage (McClain et al., 2003; Tang et al., 2018). In addition, foliar quantity C is often related to
385 leaf dry matter content, where increased dry matter correlates with decreased leaf palatability (Adler et al., 2014)
386 and as such is a suggested driver of herbivore foraging trade-offs between quantity and quality (Champagne et al.,
387 2018; Wam et al., 2018). The lack of evidence, however, to support foliar quantity elemental traits in our other study
388 species constrains our ability to form generalizations of species spatial patterns and the processes that drive them,
389 and as such suggests that these traits are either driven by different covariates or that inference may be limited to
390 smaller spatial extents (Smithwick et al., 2003).

391

392 *4.3. Foliar stoichiometric traits*

393 Across species at the trait level, we have limited evidence to support generalizations of spatial foliar stoichiometric
394 relationships. More notable are the foliar stoichiometric patterns that emerge at the species level. For instance, foliar
395 C:P and N:P between balsam fir and red maple share similar predictors. However, for red maple, elevation and slope
396 were determined to be key correlates, in comparison, aspect was a significant correlate for balsam fir. This suggests,
397 that although these traits share similar predictors, the impact of these correlates differ, likely due to species and
398 community level differences of nutrient co-limitation (Brauer et al., 2012). In contrast, lowbush blueberry and black
399 spruce share a similar predictor for foliar N:P and similar responses to significant correlates of EVI, age class (i.e.,
400 biotic factor), elevation, and slope. Here, although, lowbush blueberry and black spruce occupy different ecological

401 niches, they appear to respond to similar constraints of nutrient co-limitation, and thus may be nutrient limited under
402 similar conditions. Similar to foliar percent and quantity elemental traits, we did not find evidence of a spatial
403 covariate relationship for white birch foliar stoichiometric traits. Although communities are often spatially
404 structured by nutrient co-limitation (Harpole et al., 2011), clonal strategies of ramet nutrient transfer may diminish
405 these effects and as such constrain our ability to detect spatial predictors of foliar C:N, C:P, and N:P in white birch
406 (Alpert, 1991; Li et al., 2004; Zhang and He, 2009). Collectively, this information is vital to informing resource hot
407 spots, and mechanisms of nutrient co-limitation that structure biological communities (Gimona & van der Horst,
408 2007; Harpole et al., 2011). For instance, foliar N:P range maps for balsam fir and red maple provide nutrient use
409 efficiency contours from which we can make spatial comparisons of species interactions that scale to the community
410 structure level and aid us in identifying multi-species foliar resource hot spots. Moreover, by describing the spatial
411 patchiness of resources we can inform herbivore foraging decisions and begin to make novel spatially explicit
412 predictions associated with movement and behavioural trade-offs (Balluffi-Fry et al., 2020; Leroux et al., 2017;
413 Rizzuto et al., 2019).

414

415 *4.4. Foliar phytochemical traits*

416 Across species, at the trait level we potentially have support to form generalization of geographic commonalities of
417 foliar phytochemical traits. For all traits, except foliar sesquiterpene and phytochemical diversity, the biotic and
418 abiotic model was determined to be an important spatial driver. This may suggest that structural properties of
419 habitats (i.e., stand age, tree heights, and canopy conditions) and topographic conditions interact to determine foliar
420 phytochemical traits. This is, to some extent expected, given that phytochemical traits are influenced by the spatial
421 association of other species and their responses to the presence of herbivores (Champagne et al., 2018). On the
422 island of Newfoundland, moose often forage on balsam fir and not black spruce (Gosse et al., 2011). Given the
423 presented commonalities, consumption of balsam fir may elicit a non-consumptive phytochemical response in black
424 spruce, thus further decreasing its potential palatability and aligning their foliar phytochemical composition
425 (however, see Hussain et al., 2019).

426 At the species level, general patterns of foliar phytochemical trait correlates are less evident. Given the
427 predominance of our phytochemical groups in both balsam fir and black spruce, we expected that similar spatial

428 covariates should yield similar results between species. Our results, however, suggest foliar phytochemical traits
429 exhibit species specificity to many different correlates. For instance, balsam fir and black spruce foliar terpene had
430 differing predictors and differing significant correlates. Although some similarities between these two species exist,
431 they are for traits on a different basis. For example, balsam fir foliar monoterpene on a biomass basis and black
432 spruce foliar monoterpene on raw basis shared predictors; however, their response to specific correlates differed. For
433 balsam fir, EVI as a remotely sensed proxy for productivity correlates to foliar terpene and monoterpene traits,
434 suggesting optimal nutrient conditions may invoke a strong defence position (Lindroth et al., 2002). However, there
435 are potential confounding effects. Increased phytochemical production, in species with constituent strategies (i.e.,
436 maintained baseline phytochemical production), may occur in response to the presence and or interaction of an
437 herbivore (Kessler, 2015), which in turn influence top-down nutrient dynamics (Hunter, 2016) in positive or
438 negative ways depending on the soil condition and litter feedbacks (Hemming & Lindroth, 1999; Hobbie, 2015). As
439 well, when we relativized phytochemical variables on a biomass basis, for balsam fir, support for foliar terpene,
440 monoterpene, and monoterpenic ester traits was explained by the same combination of spatial covariates; abiotic and
441 biotic. In contrast, we had no evidence to support spatial relationships of black spruce foliar phytochemical traits on
442 a biomass basis. More notably, between the two species, abiotic covariates appear to influence foliar sesquiterpene.
443 Here, the intraspecific variability of phytochemical groups and measure of compound diversity are often used as a
444 proxy to indicate plant-herbivore interactions, herbivore diversity, and trophic specialization (Richards et al., 2015).
445 From our results, we find evidence to map phytochemical terpene groups and diversity, with some similarities in
446 covariate specificity between two species with similar life histories. The spatial variability of foliar phytochemical
447 composition provides us with a spatially explicit way to unravel the consequences and species interactions of
448 herbivore foraging patterns with links to nutrient cycling processes (i.e., soil trampling, nutrient transfer, and
449 changes in plant species composition Champagne et al., 2018; Gosse et al., 2011; Hunter, 2016).

450

451 *4.5 Implications of ESP spatial trait distributions beyond the boreal*

452 Foliar ESP traits represent a common currency of species (Elser & Hamilton, 2007). These traits are often used as
453 indicators for differing ecological conditions with consequences that reach across levels of biological organization
454 (Fajardo & Siefert, 2018). For instance, global patterns of N and P are associated with latitudinal gradients, with

455 northern plants having higher concentrations of N and P related to plants at the equator (Reich & Oleksyn, 2004). By
456 identifying the spatially explicit drivers of foliar N and P, we can map resource hot spots and compare how the
457 distribution of these resources influence primary production (Smithwick et al., 2003), nutrient uplift (Jobbágy &
458 Jackson, 2004), herbivore space use and forage selection (Duparc et al., 2020), and community assembly processes
459 (Harpole et al., 2011; Jung et al., 2010) in different ecosystems. Moreover, we can begin evaluate the spatial flows
460 of elements across the landscape (Shen et al., 2011). Indeed, many studies have identified spatial drivers of foliar
461 ESP traits in differing ecosystems (see Table 1 for a non-exhaustive list of studies) however, a spatially explicit
462 approach is needed to derive predictions from which we can map these resource distributions and obtain estimates of
463 spatial heterogeneity.

464

465 **5. Conclusion**

466 By identifying spatially explicit covariates for foliar ESP traits at the species level, we can develop distribution
467 models of intraspecific trait variability across a boreal landscape (for an example see Fig. 5). These distribution
468 models, allow us to explore the consequences of trait spatial heterogeneity and the processes that drive them with
469 implications for landscape functionality (Harvey et al., 2019). For example, we can test hypotheses about herbivore
470 resource selection across scales (Balluffi-Fry et al., 2020), infer landscape functionality via pattern and process
471 relationships (Turner, 1989), or explore how the spatial distribution of matter and energy feedbacks on landscape
472 structure with implications for the management of biogeochemical processes (Lovell & Johnston, 2009; Shen et al.,
473 2011). In addition, our work described here may be of use to carbon modelling approaches which largely focus on
474 sequestration and storage, or Net Ecosystem Production (NEP), and overlook carbon dynamics at the interface of
475 ecological interactions (Schmitz et al., 2018). Knowing how much carbon is sequestered, lost through respiration, or
476 through pathways of non-photosynthetic carbon, foliar carbon reabsorption, and foliar carbon loss through
477 consumptive activities allows for the refinement of carbon cycling models (Dirnböck et al., 2020). Given the
478 importance of the circumboreal in carbon cycles, our work here can help understand how carbon dynamics may
479 manifest in other parts of the boreal. Here, we investigated the drivers of foliar ESP traits for commonly occurring,
480 geographically widespread boreal species using accessible spatial covariates. We found some geographic
481 commonalities in spatial covariates at the trait and species level from which we can make generalities about

482 physiological links to ecosystem processes and landscape function (Hobbie, 2015; Li et al., 2004; McClain et al.,
483 2003; Poorter and Bongers, 2006). There are specificities in spatial predictors at the species level that suggest plants
484 respond differently to environmental conditions and that ideas of resources hot spots are likely species specific. How
485 different species of plants respond in different parts of the world merits further work like this that combines
486 landscape ecology, spatially modelling, and plant stoichiometry.

487

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496

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498 The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

499 **Ethics approval** – n/a

500 **Consent to participate** – n/a

501 **Consent for publication** - there are no restrictions to publish

502 **Availability of data and material**

503 The datasets and associated R code used to conduct research presented in this manuscript are available on
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505 by the Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Federal Government of Canada may be made
506 available upon request, however additional permission through these agencies may be required.

507 **Code availability** The R code used to conduct research presented in this manuscript are available on Figshare.com
508 at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.11911455.v1>.

509

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- 838

839 **Figure legends**

840 **Figure 1.** The roadmap of our methods adapted from Leroux et al. 2017. Our study location occurred on the island
841 of Newfoundland, Canada (a) where we set up four chronosequenced meandering transect grids each consisting of
842 50 sampling locations (b). At each sample location we set up 22.6 m diameter circular plots (c), and along a 22.6 m
843 long, 1 m wide shrub belt (c) we collected density measures of our study species for a max of five per height class:
844 0-50 cm, 51-100 cm, 101-150 cm, 151-200 cm, coded as A, B, C, and D, respectively (d). We collected foliar
845 samples in each intercardinal corner of the sample plot, starting in the NE corner and moving clockwise until a
846 sufficient and representative sample was acquired (e). Species codes used: balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU),
847 white birch (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN) (e). We collected biomass samples (i.e.,
848 all new growth foliar material) on the periphery of the grids from approximately fifty individuals distributed across
849 height classes (f). Allometric models were fit using biomass as a function of height and basal diameter, from which
850 we parameterized shrub belt correlates to acquire plot level biomass estimates. We used these estimates to determine
851 foliar elemental quantity, stoichiometric ratios, and phytochemical (biomass) traits relativized to biomass density at
852 the plot level. We fit 16 models, including a null model, for response variables of foliar elemental (percent and
853 quantity), stoichiometric, and phytochemical traits using spatially explicit covariates of land cover, productivity,
854 biotic (stand age, height, canopy closure) and abiotic (elevation, aspect, and slope) factors (g). Using top model
855 coefficient estimates and or average coefficients for competing top models, we constructed spatial surfaces of foliar
856 ESP trait surfaces that link physiological properties to ecosystem processes at the landscape extent.

857
858 **Figure 2.** Top ranked model results (i.e., models $\Delta AIC_c < 2$) at the trait level (a, b) and species level (c, d) for foliar
859 percent elemental (a, c) and foliar quantity elemental (b, d) traits. Results are organized to show patterns of evidence
860 to support spatial relationships between response and explanatory variables. Superimposed descriptive text on each
861 portion of the stacked bar graphs includes the averaged pseudo R^2 values for top models if the count > 1 , if count is
862 = 1 then only the R^2 for that model is present. In addition, at the species level (c, d) for our response variables (i.e.,
863 C, N, and P) superimposed text indicates significant coefficients and their sign (+/-) for our explanatory variables of
864 land cover, EVI, biotic, and abiotic. Coded values for explanatory variables represent their comprised variables and
865 factor levels. For land cover, LC-C, LC-D, and LC-M indicate coniferous, deciduous, and mixed, respectively. EVI

866 represents the Enhanced Vegetation Index. For biotic variables, AC indicates age class with 3, 4, 5 representing
867 factor levels of 41-60, 61-80, and 81-100 years, respectively. HC indicates height class with 3, 4, 5 representing
868 factor levels of 6.6- 9.5, 9.6-12.5, 12.6-15.5 metres, respectively. CD indicates canopy density with 2, 3, 4
869 representing factor levels of 51-75, 26-50, 10-25 percent closed. For abiotic variables, Elev, Asp, T-Slp represent
870 elevation, aspect, and slope, respectively. If a response variable is supported by more than one top model, a
871 sequential numbering is used to indicate the rank of that model added as a suffix to the response variable text (i.e.,
872 C2 indicates the second top ranked model in support of foliar percent carbon). The asterisk symbol (*) is used to
873 indicate that the null model was within $\Delta AIC_c < 2$. See Appendix 9 for a coefficient signs (+/-) and Appendix 12-15
874 for coefficient estimates, standard deviations, and confidence intervals.

875
876 **Figure 3.** Top ranked model results (i.e., models $\Delta AIC_c < 2$) at the trait level (a) and species level (b) for foliar
877 stoichiometric traits (i.e., CN, CP, NP). All specifications as in Figure 2. See Appendix 9 for a coefficient signs (+/-)
878 and Appendix 16-18 for coefficient estimates, standard deviations, and confidence intervals.

879
880 **Figure 4.** Top ranked model results (i.e., models $\Delta AIC_c < 2$) at the trait level (a) and species level (b) for foliar
881 phytochemical traits. Coded values are supplied for response variables as with upper case letters representing the
882 trait and lower case letter representing either raw (r) or biomass basis (b). For response variables, T, M, MA, ME, S,
883 and D indicate terpene, monoterpene, monoterpene alcohol, monoterpene ester, sesquiterpene, and phytochemical
884 diversity, respectively. All specifications as in Figure 2. See Appendix 9 for a coefficient signs (+/-) and Appendix
885 19-21 for coefficient estimates, standard deviations, and confidence intervals.

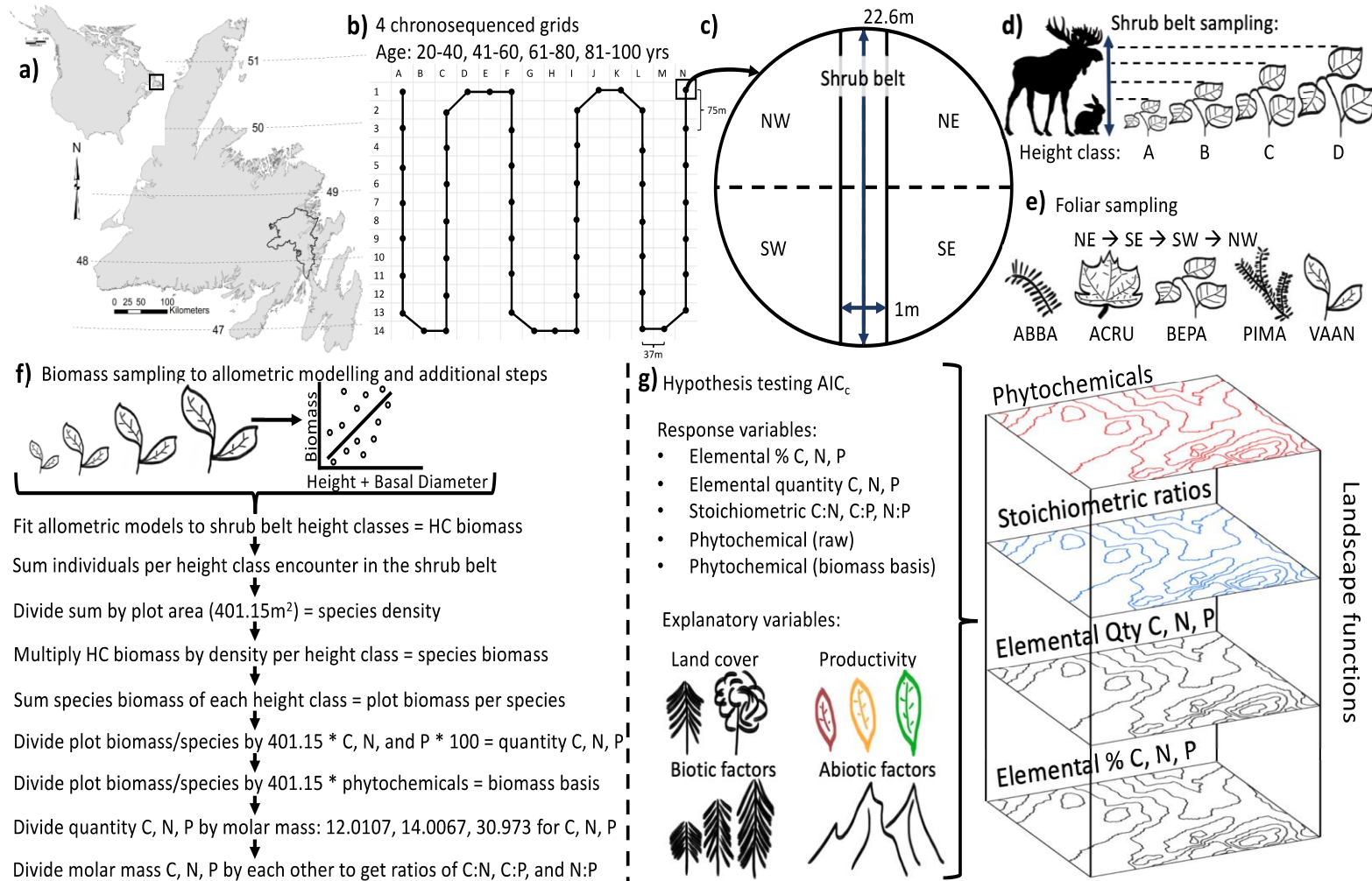
886
887 **Figure 5.** Example of spatially explicit foliar ESP trait distribution models. In (a) we show our spatial area of
888 interest as the black outlined region. Our grid locations are denoted in panel a using the star outline. The red box
889 shown in panel a, is the extent of the subsequent maps provided in this figure, a close up view of spatial foliar ESP
890 patterns for black spruce (PIMA). Foliar percent carbon (b) ranges from 47.9 to 56.04 and is predicted using spatial
891 correlates of land cover, biotic and abiotic factors (pseudo $R^2 = 0.65$). Foliar stoichiometric C:N ranges from 44.9 to
892 86.2 and is predicted using spatial correlates of EVI and biotic factors (pseudo $R^2 = 0.38$). Foliar terpene (raw)

893 ranges from 0.003 to 32.52 and is predicted using spatial correlates of biotic and abiotic factors (pseudo $R^2 = 0.26$).
894 Although these traits are predicted using different spatial correlates, emerging spatial patterns in trait variability
895 suggest different processes are acting on trait expressions in different areas. For instance, high foliar C areas may
896 relate to community type (land cover), forest structure (biotic), and topographic conditions (abiotic), however,
897 patterns of C:N forest structure (biotic) and site productivity (EVI) indicate nutrient limitation areas with lower
898 values have higher foliar nitrogen content. Moreover, foliar terpene patterns provide contours from which higher
899 herbivore interactions results in increased terpene production. When overlaid with C and C:N we can gleam spatial
900 patterns on the allocation of C to terpene production in terms of nutrient limitation constraints.

901 **Table Legend**

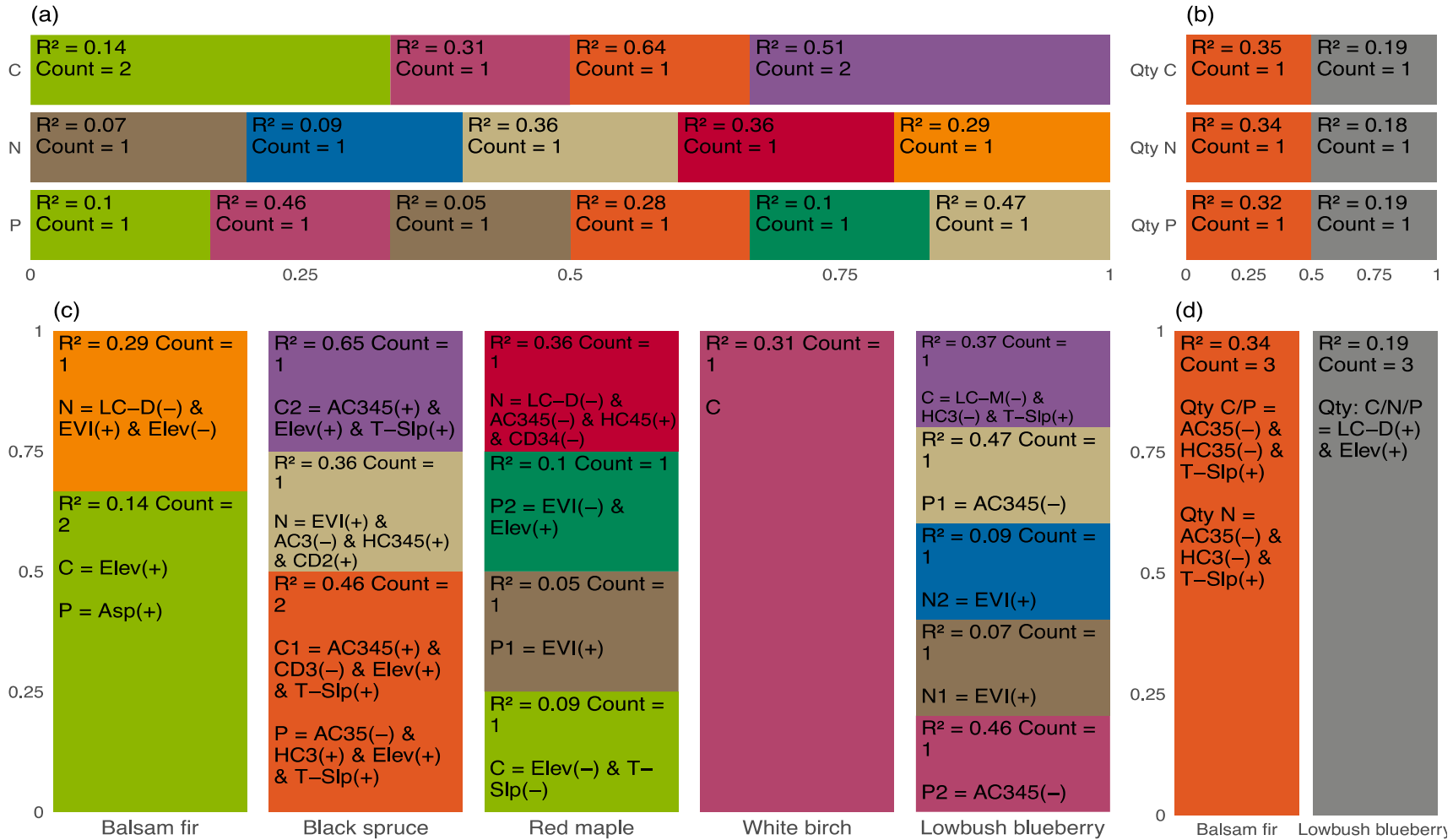
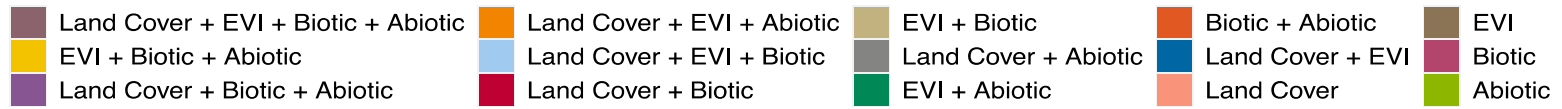
902 **Table 1.** Hypotheses for land cover, productivity, biotic (forest structure: age, height, canopy closure) and abiotic
903 (elevation, aspect, slope) spatial covariates relationship to the variability of foliar elemental, stoichiometric, and
904 phytochemical traits. For each spatial covariate we provide references to foliar ESP traits and to community level
905 coordination of trait variability. Our approach does not consider a community weighted assessment of foliar ESP
906 traits across species, instead we compare spatial covariates at the trait and species level to investigate potential
907 commonalities.

908 **Table 2.** List of models used to assess spatial covariates of foliar trait distribution. Land cover and productivity are
909 derived from Landsat 8 scenes. The land cover dataset was acquired from the Commission for Environmental
910 Cooperation and provides general classification of habitat types, i.e., coniferous, deciduous, mixedwood forests, as
911 well as others. Our proxy for productivity was acquired from Landsat 8 as the Enhanced Vegetation Index spectral
912 product. Our biotic factors include the grouped covariates of forest age, height, and canopy density. These variables
913 were derived from Forest Resource Inventory datasets supplied by the Provincial Government of Newfoundland and
914 Labrador and from the Federal Government of Canada's Park agency. These variables are grouped as their
915 designation of these three measures are contained within a single polygon and represents associated conditions.
916 Similarly, our abiotic factors include the grouped covariates of elevation, aspect, and slope derived from a single
917 source, a Digital Canadian Elevation Model.



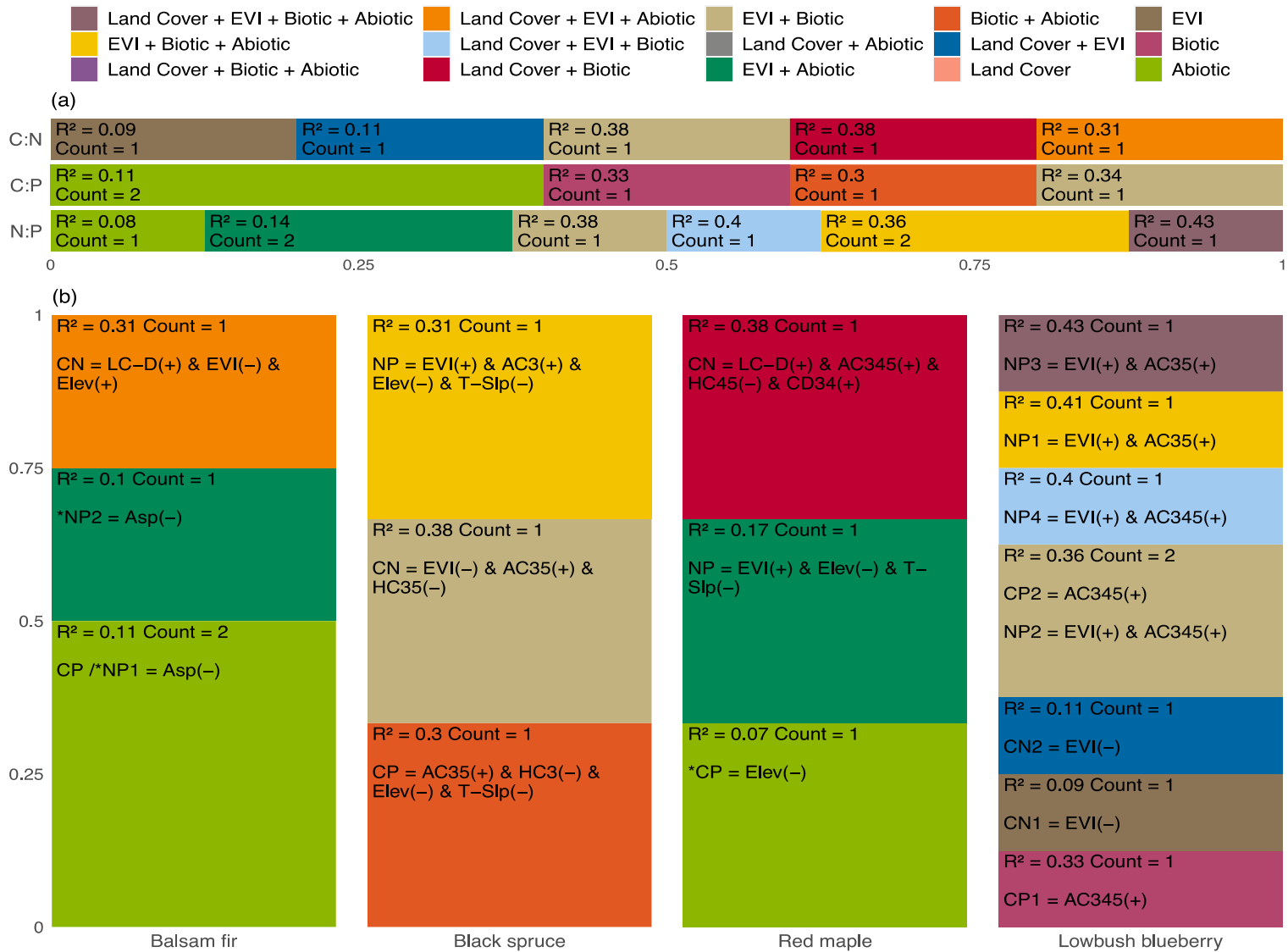
919

920 **Figure 1.**



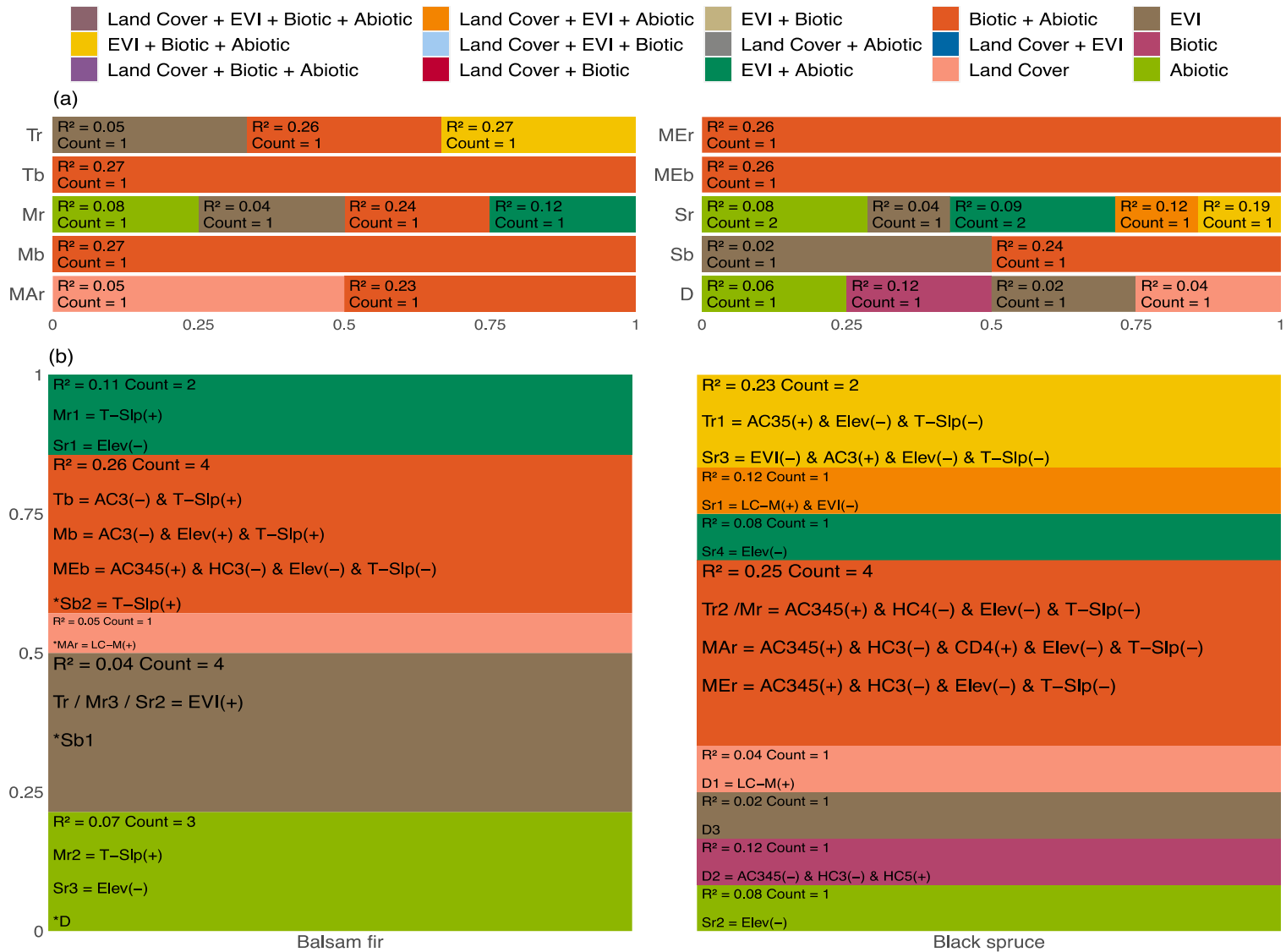
921

922 **Figure 2.**



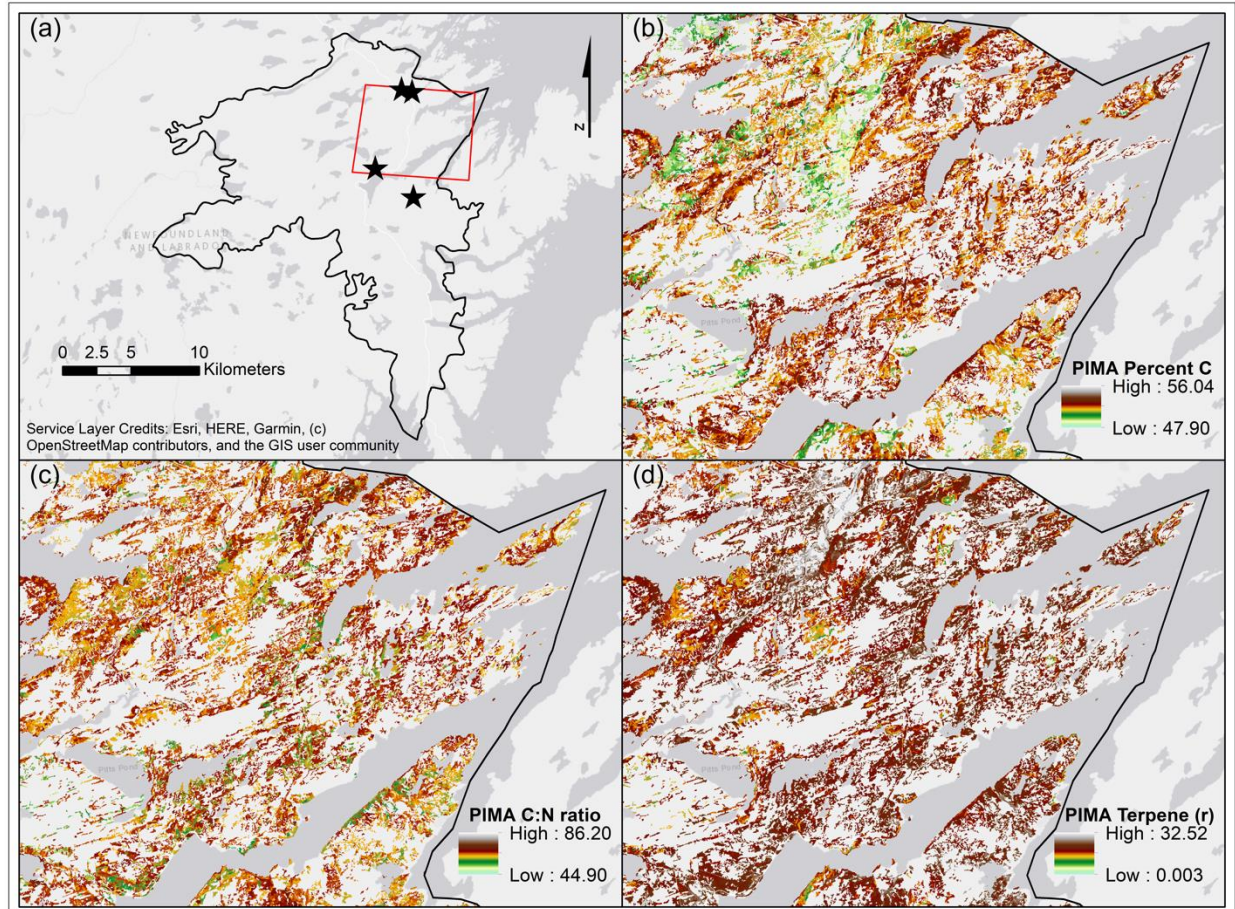
923

924 **Figure 3.**



925

926 **Figure 4.**



927

928 **Figure 5.**

929 **Tables**

930 *Table 1.*

Spatial covariate	Hypothesized relationship
Land cover	Land cover types, such as coniferous, deciduous, mixedwood, provide a proxy for community-level processes associated with litter-soil-nutrient feedbacks, nitrogen deposition, and competition for those elemental resources that influence foliar elemental traits (Hallett & Hornbeck, 1997; Ponette-González et al., 2010; Sardans et al., 2016); stoichiometric traits (Leroux et al., 2017; J. Sardans et al., 2016); and phytochemical traits (Hunter, 2016; Morquecho-Contreras et al., 2018). In addition across species coordination of foliar trait variability has been observed for some species (Yong Jiang et al., 2015; Strahan et al., 2016).
Productivity	The Enhanced Vegetation Index is a Landsat derived proxy for productivity (i.e., the rate of greenness across time). Productivity is often a site level proxy associated with soil fertility, nutrient availability, and biomass production, as such it has been shown to influence foliar elemental traits (Ågren, 1988; Pan et al., 2004; Radwan & Harrington, 2011); stoichiometric traits (Blanes et al., 2013; Kerkhoff et al., 2005; Mendez & Karlsson, 2005); and phytochemical traits (Booker & Maier, 2001; Hunter & Schultz, 1995; Lindroth et al., 2002). As well productivity has been shown to influence foliar traits across species at the community level (Fyllas et al., 2020; Santiago et al., 2004; Tang et al., 2018).
Forest structure (biotic)	Forest structure is characterized by the structural variability of forest conditions such as dominant tree height, stand age, and canopy closure. Collectively these parameters link structural characteristics with solar radiation interception across vertical and horizontal gradients of forest vegetation, precipitation interception, and space competition. As such, for understory vegetation these structural characteristics have been shown to influence foliar elemental traits (Becknell & Powers, 2014; Richardson, 2004; Rijkers et al., 2000; Smithwick et al., 2003); stoichiometric traits (Fan et al., 2015; Niinemets & Kull, 1998; Sardans et al., 2016); phytochemical traits (Couture et al., 2014; Forkner & Marquis, 2004;

Hemming & Lindroth, 1999; Sedio et al., 2017; Shure & Wilson, 1993); and notable examples show multi-species trait response to these structural conditions (Kichenin et al., 2013; Lohbeck et al., 2013).

**Topographic
(abiotic)**

Topographic position defined by elevation, aspect, and slope are key parameters of the abiotic environment link to temperature/precipitation (including type) gradients, the incidence angle of solar radiation. Collectivity these parameters have been useful in explaining the variability of foliar elemental traits (Balzotti et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2014); stoichiometric traits (Müller et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2014); phytochemical traits (Glassmire et al., 2016; Pellissier et al., 2016); and there is evidence to suggest trait variability coordination across species, occurs in response to these abiotic parameters (Callis-Duehl et al., 2017; Descombes et al., 2017).

932 *Table 2.*

Model Number	Explanatory Variables
1	~ Land Cover + Productivity + Biotic + Abiotic
2	~ Productivity + Biotic + Abiotic
3	~ Land Cover + Biotic + Abiotic
4	~ Land Cover + Productivity + Abiotic
5	~ Land Cover + Productivity + Biotic
6	~ Land Cover + Biotic
7	~ Productivity + Biotic
8	~ Land Cover + Abiotic
9	~ Productivity + Abiotic
10	~ Biotic + Abiotic
11	~ Land Cover + Productivity
12	~ Land Cover
13	~ Productivity
14	~ Biotic
15	~ Abiotic
16	~ Null

933

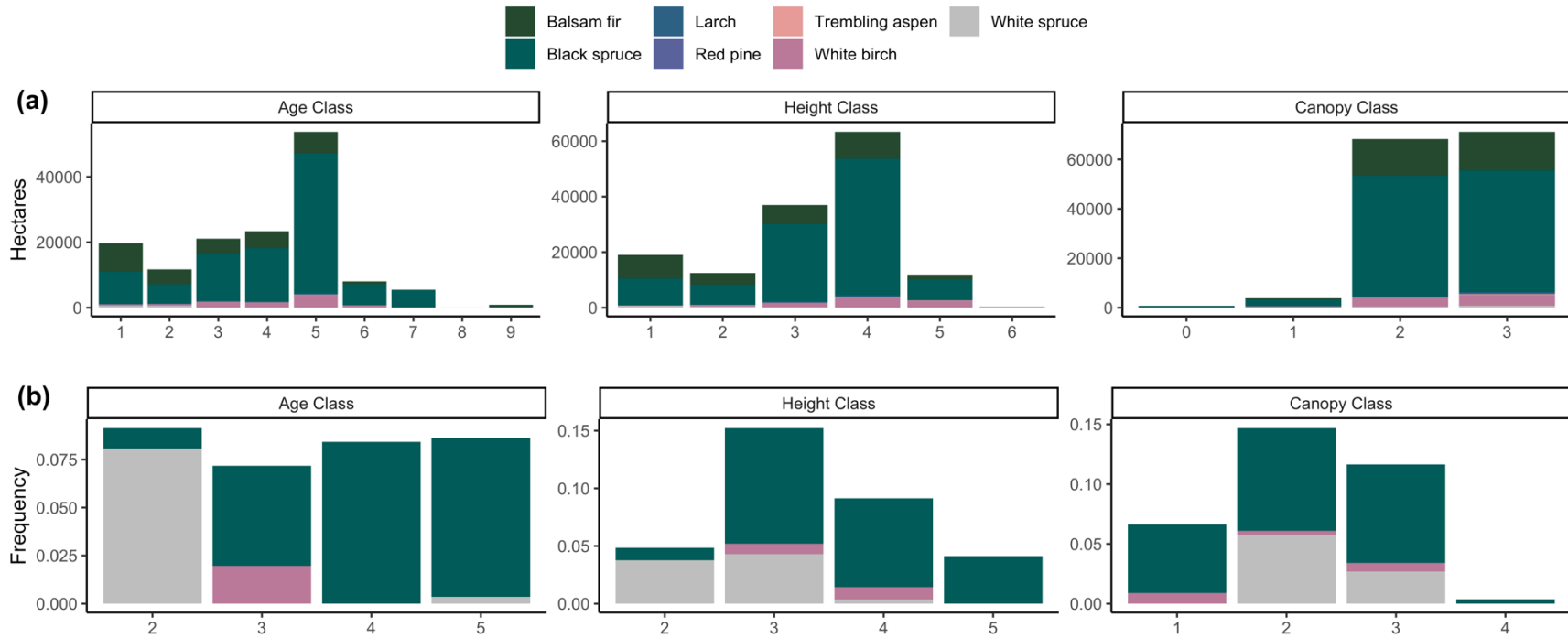
934 **Appendices**

935 **Appendix 1**

936 Detailed description of Fig. 1: the roadmap of our methods. Our study area (a) is location on the eastern side of the
937 island of Newfoundland, North America, Canada, as shown by the outlined area. Generally, bounded between the
938 47th and 48th latitude this biogeographical area is composed of boreal forest conditions primarily dominated by
939 intermediate-aged, closed canopy, forest stands of black spruce (*Picea mariana*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), white
940 birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) (Ecological Stratification Working Group,
941 1996; South, 1983). Within this area we set up four chronosequenced grids, consisting of connected meandering
942 transects. Age classes and grid layout shown in panel b. Grids were originally designed for snowshoe hare (*Lepus*
943 *americanus*) trapping and to allow us to relate foliar resource quality to hare home range size and ecology. Each grid
944 is comprised of 50 sampling locations, spaced equally apart by 75 m with closer sample location rounding the
945 corners (b). At each sample location we set up 22.6 m diameter circular plots (c). Within each plot we collected
946 density estimates for each of our study species along a 22.6 m long and 1 m wide shrub belt transect (c/d). Moving
947 in a north to south direction, along the belt, for each of our study species encountered we measured their height and
948 basal diameter, and the distance at which it was encountered, for a maximum of five individuals per height class: 0-
949 50 cm, 51-100 cm, 101-150 cm, and 151-200 cm, denoted as A, B, C, and D respectively (d). We restricted our
950 sampling to species within 0-2 m heights (d) as these individuals represent the available forage for common boreal
951 herbivores, moose (*Alces alces*) and snowshoe hare. Within each plot, starting in the NE corner (e), we moved in a
952 clockwise direction and collected foliar samples of our study species, as well we measured their height and basal
953 diameter. In panel e, we use coded names for our study species, balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch
954 (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN); see Appendix 2 for a description of our study
955 species. We collect foliar material for our study species until we had a sufficient sample size of approximately 10-20
956 g. Using foliar samples for each of our study species, we combined representative units of foliar material until a wet
957 weight sample of 10 g and 4 g was amassed – the amount required for elemental and phytochemical analysis,
958 respectively. At the Agriculture Food Lab (AFL) at the University of Guelph Ontario, Canada the carbon and
959 nitrogen composition of foliar material determined using an Elementar Vario Macro Cube. Foliar phosphorus
960 content was determined using a microwave acid digestion CEM MARSxpress microwave system and brought to

961 volume using Nanopure water. The clear extract supernatant was further diluted by 10 to accurately fall within
962 calibration range and reduce high level analyte concentration entering the inductively coupled plasma mass
963 spectrometry (ICP-MS) detector (Poitevin, 2016). This provides us with a measure of percent foliar C, N, and P. At
964 the Laboratoire PhytoChemia Inc in Quebec, Canada, the phytochemical composition of balsam fir and black spruce
965 foliar samples were determined using a gas chromatography solvent extraction with an internal standard and a
966 correction factor (Cachet et al., 2016). This procedure produced mg/g measures of individual terpene compounds,
967 see Appendix 7 Table A2 for a complete list of identified terpene compounds and groups. In addition, along the
968 periphery of our study grids and outside of the sample plots, in randomly selected locations we collected all new
969 growth foliar material for each of our study species from approximately 50 individuals, the number of samples
970 distributed across the height classes listed above (f). As well, we measured the height and basal diameter for each
971 individual sampled. The foliar material was dried, providing a measure of biomass from which we fit linear
972 allometric models using covariates of height and basal diameter (f). Using coefficient estimates from our allometric
973 models we predicted biomass estimates for our study species per height class from shrub belt measurements. In the
974 few instances where we had obtained foliar samples but did not encounter individuals on the shrub belt we
975 augmented the total number of individuals per height class as the total number of foliar samples in that height class.
976 We subsequently summed biomass estimates per height class for each of our study species and divided this measure
977 by the area of the circular plot (401.15 m^2) to get a density estimate. We then multiplied biomass by density for each
978 height class to get a species biomass estimate, which was summed together, providing a plot level biomass estimate
979 per species. To obtain elemental quantity estimates we divided biomass by the plot area multiplied by the foliar
980 percentage of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. As well, we did the same for phytochemicals to obtain a plot level
981 biomass basis estimate of foliar phytochemicals. To determine stoichiometric ratios, we divided quantity C, N, and P
982 estimates by their corresponding molar mass and then divided the resulting value together to get foliar C:N, C:P, and
983 N:P for each study species. Using response variables of foliar percent elemental, quantity elemental, stoichiometric,
984 and phytochemical we constructed sixteen plausible model combinations with spatially explicit covariates of land
985 cover, productivity, abiotic, and biotic factors and used Akaike Information Criterion to determine plausible
986 explanations (g). We then assessed top models and extracted coefficient estimates for use in constructing

987 distribution models of foliar elemental, stoichiometric, and phytochemical traits which provides us surfaces to
988 inform landscape function (g).



990
 991 **Figure A1.** The top (a) shows the total number of hectares for each dominant species forest type within our landscape area of interest, for stand metrics of age,
 992 height, and canopy class. Age class codes represent 20-year intervals ranging from 1 (0-20 years) to 9 (161+ years). Height class codes represent 3.5 m intervals
 993 of tree heights ranging from 1 (0-3.5 m) to 6 (15.6-18.5 m). Canopy class codes represent 25 % intervals of canopy closeness where 0 indicates a regenerating
 994 stand that is 100 % closed and 4 indicates a 10 -25% closed canopy conditions. The bottom (b) shows the frequency in which these dominant species forest
 995 stands were sampled for foliar ESP traits of our study species. Here we show that although our sampling design is not ideal for spatial distribution modelling, we

996 sampled within representative units of forest types available on the landscape, thus strengthening our inference for the spatial distribution of foliar ESP traits on
997 this landscape.
998

999 **Appendix 3**

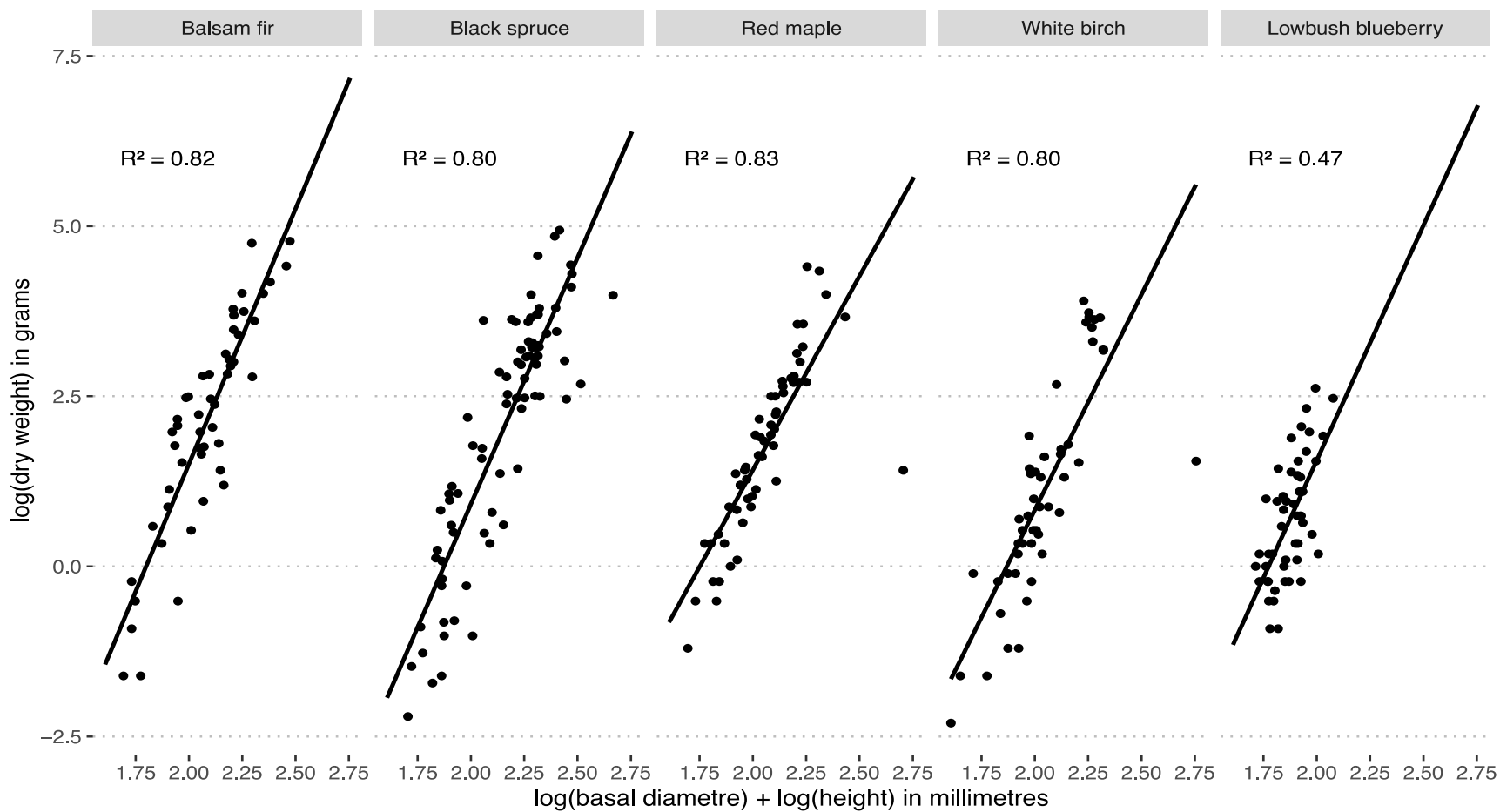
1000 **Table A1.** A complete list of phytochemical compounds and classes for terpenes identified in balsam fir and black spruce foliar samples. Only common terpene
 1001 groups between these two coniferous species were used: terpene (includes all compounds identified), monoterpene, monoterpene alcohol, monoterpene ester,
 1002 sesquiterpene, and diversity (computed using all compounds identified).

Group	Balsam fir	Black spruce
	<i>Chemical Name</i>	<i>Chemical Name</i>
Monoterpene	Tricyclene	Tricyclene
	α -Pinene	α -Pinene
	Camphene	Camphene
	β -Pinene (main) + Sabinene	β -Pinene (main) + Sabinene
	Myrcene	Myrcene
	Δ -Carene	Δ -Carene
	Limonene (main) + β -Phellandrene	α -Phellandrene
	γ -Terpinene	Limonene (main) + 1,8-cineole
	Terpinolene	Terpinolene
	Monoterpenic	Linalool
Alcohol	Camphene hydrate	Camphene hydrate
	Borneol	Citronellol
	α -Terpineol	α -Terpineol

	Thymol	---
Monoterpenic Ester	Bornyl acetate	Unknown "PIMA 6" Bornyl acetate (main) + Isobornyl acetate endo-Fenchyl acetate trans-Pinocarvyl acetate cis-Piperityl acetate Geranyl acetate
Sesquiterpene	Longifolene β -Caryophyllene α -Humulene (E)- β -Farnesene Unknown sesquiterpene α -Muurolene (Z)- α -Bisabolene β -Bisabolene (E)- α -Bisabolene	β -Elemene β -Caryophyllene α -Humulene Germacrene D γ -Cadinene (main) + Cubebol α -Muurolene δ -Cadinene Unknown sesquiterpene (E)- α -Bisabolene
Sesquiterpenic alcohol	--	Germacrene D-4-ol τ -Cadinol + τ -Muurolol (approx 1:1) α -Cadinol

		Oplopanone
Sesquiterpenic ether	Caryophyllene oxide	
Monoterpenic aldehyde	--	α -Campholenal
Monoterpenic ketone	Piperitone	--
Maltol	Maltol	--
Oxygenated sesquiterpene	--	Unknown "PIMA 18"
Unknown	--	Unknown "PIMA 9"

1003



1005

1006 **Figure A2.** Allometric modelling of biomass in terms of basal diameter and height for each of our study species, balsam fir, black spruce, red maple, white birch,

1007 and lowbush blueberry. The goodness of fit (adjusted R²) is superimposed on each species regression plot.

1008 **Appendix 5**

1009 **Table A2.** The number of individuals that we augmented using foliar samples to obtain density measures when
1010 individuals of that species were not encountered on the shrub belt. Numbers are shown for each species per height
1011 class relative to the total number of individuals used in that height class. Height class is coded as A = 0-50 cm, B =
1012 51-100 cm, C = 101-150 cm, and D = 151-200 cm.

Species	Height Class	Elemental Sample	Phytochemical Sample
ABBA	A	29/326	30/310
ABBA	B	6/89	9/91
ABBA	C	2/6	1/5
ABBA	D	0/1	0/1
ACRU	A	13/217	
ACRU	B	26/164	
ACRU	C	6/28	
ACRU	D	1/3	
BEPA	A	10/34	
BEPA	B	33/63	
BEPA	C	11/14	
BEPA	D	3/6	
PIMA	A	8/127	8/120
PIMA	B	33/229	35/223
PIMA	C	43/206	44/199
PIMA	D	28/136	29/135
VAAN	A	14/852	
VAAN	B	2/160	
VAAN	C	0/2	

1013

1014 **Appendix 6**

1015 Our spatial resolution was constrained by our coarsest dataset, Landsat 8, i.e., 30 m resolution. In ArcGIS, we
1016 resampled elevation and our Digital Elevation Model from a 20 m to a 30 m resolution. The Forest Resource
1017 Inventory vector dataset was rasterized at a 30 m resolution.

1018

1019 **Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI):** Landsat 8 satellite imagery was acquired from the Earth Resources
1020 Observation (EROS) and Science Centre Science Processing Architecture (ESPA). There were three Landsat 8
1021 scenes available during our 2016 sampling time period; June 28, August 15, and September 16, 2016 with 0.46%,
1022 20.18%, 4.39% land cloud cover respectively. As a standard product, Landsat 8 acquisitions contain a preprocessed
1023 EVI surface reflectance scene. Newfoundland boreal forest demonstrably receives a greater amount of precipitation
1024 and experiences shorter growing seasons due to Atlantic Ocean influence creating colder climatic conditions
1025 compared to continental boreal forest conditions (South, 1983). Under these conditions, the EVI as a measure of
1026 biological productivity performs better than the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index which commonly saturates
1027 early in the season and does not account for the structural complexity of vegetative canopies (Muraoka et al., 2013;
1028 Requena-Mullor et al., 2017; Waring et al., 2006). Using the Landsat Quality Assurance ArcGIS toolbox, publicly
1029 accessible software from the U.S. Geological Survey, we extracted the following cloud coded bits from the pixel QA
1030 band: cloud shadow, snow, cloud, high cloud confidence and high cirrus confidence (Jones et al., 2013; U.S.
1031 Geological Survey, 2017). Using the 'Extract by Mask' ArcGIS function we removed cloudy pixels from our EVI
1032 scenes. In R, we rescaled EVI scenes by dividing by 0.0001. Using the 'approxNA' function from the 'raster' R
1033 package (Hijmans, 2020), we computed a linear interpolation across our temporal scenes to fill cloud removed
1034 pixels, see Appendix 7 Fig. 3, for before and after interpolation maps and pixel histograms. We average our
1035 temporal EVI scene to obtain an estimated seasonal measure of productivity. Using the 'raster.transformation'
1036 function from the 'spatialEco' R package, we standardized the EVI annual productivity scene by subtracting the
1037 scene mean from each pixel and dividing by the scene standard deviation (Evans, 2020).

1038

1039 **Elevation, Aspect, Slope and Land Cover:** A Canadian Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was retrieved from
1040 Natural Resources Canada. Using ArcGIS, we combined DEM images together to create a seamless raster. In

1041 ArcGIS, using the ‘Clip’ function we limited our DEM raster to our AOI. Using the ‘terrain’ function from the
1042 ‘raster’ R package we constructed aspect and slope raster. We normalized our aspect raster by replacing any value >
1043 180 by subtracting -180 (e.g., an aspect of 240 is now an aspect of 60; changing the scale from 0-360 to 0-180). We
1044 used the base R ‘subs’ function with a legend of corresponding values to normalize the aspect raster. As we did for
1045 the EVI raster, we standardized elevation, aspect, and slope rasters using the ‘raster.transformation’ function from
1046 the ‘spatialEco’ R package. In addition, we used the freely accessible Commission for Environmental Cooperation
1047 Land Cover dataset; derived from Landsat images, to obtain categorical values of forest type: coniferous, deciduous,
1048 mixed coniferous and deciduous.

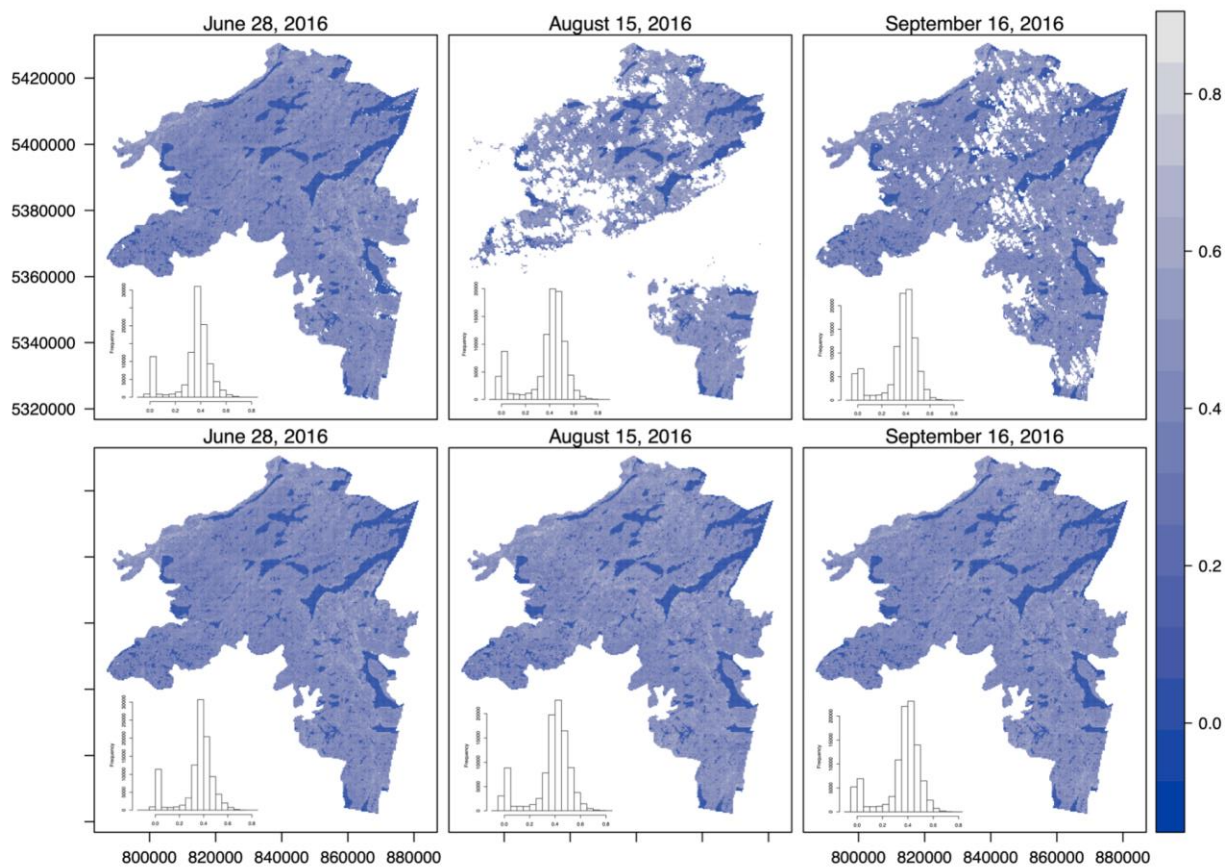
1049
1050 **Forest Resource Inventory:** our AOI covers a national park, Terra Nova National Park (TNNP) and public land.
1051 Spatial information regarding forest stand attributes, Forest Resource Inventory (spatial vector), were supplied to us
1052 from two sources: Parks Canada and the Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Using unique
1053 forest polygon identifiers, we attributed spatial covariates to the FRI datasets (attributes also contained non-interest
1054 covariates). To construct a seamless FRI layer across our AOI we combined the two sets of Forest Resource
1055 Inventory together. In ArcGIS, using the ‘clip’ function we constrained the geographic extents of the two FRI
1056 datasets to our AOI; to alleviate spatial data processing time. Using the ‘erase’ function in ArcGIS we removed any
1057 spatially overlapping boundaries between the two FRI datasets. Using the ‘merge’ ArcGIS function we create a
1058 single FRI dataset by spatially joining the two FRI datasets together. In R, we subset the FRI dataset to only include
1059 covariates of interest: forest stand age class, height class, and crown density – categorical properties that likely
1060 influence growing conditions and thus the elemental and phytochemical properties of our plants. In R, we further
1061 cleaned the FRI dataset by removing any non-intention ‘white space’ in the text of the categorical data. For each co-
1062 variate we extracted unique values and re-coding text values as integers. Using the ‘rasterize’ function from the
1063 ‘raster’ R package, we convert our FRI vector data into a raster for each co-covariate, using the integer values as a
1064 coded legend for our categories. In addition, we created binary layers for each factor in the age class, height class,
1065 and crown density variables. Binary layers were used when model average estimates were extracted as the predict
1066 function in the ‘raster’ package is limited to single model objects.

1067 **Inference Mask:** Using species composition codes derived from the FRI dataset for each of our sample points, we
1068 create a vector mask of forest polygons types for which we have spatial inference. These codes represent community
1069 types dominated by either black spruce, white spruce, and white birch. In R, we used the ‘mask’ function from the
1070 ‘raster’ package to clip spatial covariate surfaces.

1071

1072 **Spatial Data Extraction:** At each sample location, using the ‘extract’ function from the ‘raster’ R package we
1073 spatially extracted pixel values from each of our raster datasets: elevation, aspect, slope, and land cover. We used
1074 the ‘intersect’ function from the ‘raster’ R package to extract polygon forest stand attributes from the FRI dataset:
1075 age class, height class, and crown density. At some sample locations the FRI was either inaccurate or our sample
1076 location was within a wetland type area with no attributes. For these instances, we attributed our sample locations
1077 with the values from the closest forest stand polygon. In total there were 14, 3, and 5 incorrect spatial designations
1078 for age class, height class, and crown density.

1079 **Appendix 7**



1080
1081 **Figure A3.** Using the ‘approxNA’ function from the ‘raster’ package in R, we performed a linear temporal
1082 interpolation to determine pixel values for areas of cloud cover for our three Enhanced Vegetation Index scenes,
1083 June 28, August 15, and September 16, 2016. The top panel shows each scene before interpolation and the bottom
1084 panel shows each scene after interpolation. Accompanying histograms are provided for each EVI scene,
1085 demonstrating the change in pixel value distribution after interpolation.
1086

1087 **Appendix 8**

1088 **Table A3.** AIC_c results for foliar elemental (percent and quantity), stoichiometric, and phytochemical traits.

1089 Explanatory variables include land cover, EVI, biotic, and abiotic. Land cover is a categorical variable with three
 1090 factor levels which include coniferous, deciduous, and mixed. EVI is the Enhanced Vegetation Index and performs
 1091 better than NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) under wet conditions. Our biotic variable represents
 1092 forest structural conditions and is comprised of three variables, age class, height class, and canopy density, each
 1093 containing four factors levels of increasing age, height, and canopy density. Abiotic is comprised of three continuous
 1094 variables for elevation, aspect, and slope. Results are shown for models within 2 delta AIC_c, K is the number of
 1095 parameters, LL represents the model log likelihood, ΔAIC_c for the interpretation of model ranking, ωAIC_c for model
 1096 weights, and R² is presented as Efron’s goodness of fit. Pretending variables are denoted with an asterisk and were
 1097 removed from any model averaging. Biomass basis phytochemical models are identified with (bm).

Species	Explanatory Variables	K	LL	ΔAIC _c	ωAIC _c	R ²
Elemental: percent carbon						
ABBA	Abiotic	5	-47.96	0.00	0.52	0.19
	EVI* + Abiotic	6	-47.36	1.08	0.31	0.20
ACRU	Abiotic	5	-51.43	0.00	0.37	0.09
	EVI* + Abiotic	6	-50.54	0.52	0.28	0.11
BEPA	Biotic	10	-72.14	0.00	0.48	0.31
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-202.13	0.00	0.38	0.64
	Land Cover + Biotic + Abiotic	16	-199.88	0.42	0.31	0.65
VAAN	Land Cover + Biotic + Abiotic	16	-92.50	0.00	0.44	0.37
	Land Cover + EVI* + Biotic + Abiotic	17	-91.78	1.06	0.26	0.37
Elemental: percent nitrogen						
ABBA	Land Cover + EVI + Abiotic	8	48.53	0.00	0.62	0.29
ACRU	Land Cover + Biotic	13	20.02	0.00	0.36	0.36
	Land Cover + EVI* + Biotic	14	21.05	0.75	0.25	0.37

BEPA	Intercept	2	-45.13	0.00	0.41	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-42.47	1.43	0.20	0.07
	EVI	3	-44.96	1.85	0.16	0.00
PIMA	EVI + Biotic	12	112.91	0.00	0.68	0.36
VAAN	EVI	3	33.08	0.00	0.45	0.07
	Land Cover + EVI	5	34.82	0.76	0.31	0.09
Elemental: percent phosphorus						
ABBA	Abiotic	5	199.02	0.00	0.52	0.10
ACRU	EVI	3	134.27	0.00	0.39	0.05
	EVI + Abiotic	6	136.95	1.35	0.20	0.10
BEPA	Intercept	2	94.94	0.00	0.51	0.00
	EVI	3	95.44	1.19	0.28	0.01
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	345.69	0.00	0.42	0.28
	EVI* + Biotic + Abiotic	15	346.63	0.57	0.32	0.29
VAAN	EVI + Biotic	12	419.42	0.00	0.60	0.47
	Biotic	11	417.36	1.78	0.25	0.46
Elemental: quantity carbon						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-158.93	0.00	0.68	0.35
ACRU	Intercept	2	-190.97	0.00	0.60	0.00
	EVI	3	-190.84	1.87	0.23	0.00
BEPA	Intercept	2	10.10	0.00	0.60	0.00
PIMA	Intercept	2	-497.69	0.00	0.43	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-495.20	1.34	0.22	0.03
VAAN	Land Cover + Abiotic	7	-444.06	0.00	0.56	0.19
Elemental: quantity nitrogen						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	227.46	0.00	0.68	0.35

ACRU	Intercept	2	121.64	0.00	0.58	0.00
	EVI	3	121.87	1.67	0.25	0.01
BEPA	Intercept	2	251.05	0.00	0.62	0.00
PIMA	Intercept	2	146.79	0.00	0.38	0.00
	Abiotic	5	149.56	0.79	0.25	0.03
	EVI	3	146.97	1.74	0.16	0.00
VAAN	Land Cover + Abiotic	7	166.00	0.00	0.54	0.18
	Land Cover + EVI* + Abiotic	8	166.19	1.84	0.22	0.19
Elemental: quantity phosphorus						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	449.29	0.00	0.53	0.32
ACRU	Intercept	2	334.15	0.00	0.61	0.00
	EVI	3	334.24	1.96	0.23	0.00
BEPA	Intercept	2	433.74	0.00	0.62	0.00
PIMA	Intercept	2	470.41	0.00	0.48	0.00
VAAN	Land Cover + Abiotic	7	581.16	0.00	0.72	0.19
Stoichiometric: C:N ratio						
ABBA	Land Cover + EVI + Abiotic	8	-364.16	0.00	0.72	0.31
ACRU	Land Cover + Biotic	13	-267.39	0.00	0.40	0.39
	Land Cover + EVI* + Biotic	14	-266.49	0.99	0.24	0.40
BEPA	Intercept	2	-291.69	0.00	0.48	0.00
	EVI	3	-291.22	1.25	0.26	0.01
PIMA	EVI + Biotic	12	-559.84	0.00	0.70	0.38
VAAN	EVI	3	-539.51	0.00	0.44	0.09
	Land Cover + EVI	5	-537.79	0.79	0.30	0.11
Stoichiometric: C:P ratio						
ABBA	Abiotic	5	-755.06	0.00	0.63	0.14

ACRU	Abiotic	5	-665.73	0.00	0.26	0.07
	Intercept	2	-669.06	0.07	0.25	0.00
	EVI + Abiotic	6	-664.89	0.61	0.19	0.09
	EVI	3	-668.32	0.75	0.18	0.02
BEPA	Intercept	2	-568.29	0.00	0.49	0.00
	EVI	3	-567.62	0.85	0.32	0.02
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-1095.54	0.00	0.59	0.30
	EVI* + Biotic + Abiotic	15	-1095.19	1.75	0.25	0.30
VAAN	Biotic	11	-1189.78	0.00	0.40	0.33
	EVI + Biotic	12	-1188.63	0.03	0.39	0.34
Stoichiometric: N:P ratio						
ABBA	Abiotic	5	-331.11	0.00	0.31	0.08
	EVI + Abiotic	6	-330.06	0.18	0.28	0.10
	Intercept	2	-334.87	0.99	0.19	0.00
ACRU	EVI + Abiotic	6	-324.45	0.00	0.54	0.17
BEPA	Intercept	2	-245.07	0.00	0.44	0.00
	EVI	3	-244.16	0.36	0.37	0.03
PIMA	EVI + Biotic + Abiotic	15	-410.79	0.00	0.73	0.31
VAAN	EVI + Biotic + Abiotic	15	-541.26	0.00	0.32	0.41
	EVI + Biotic	12	-544.89	0.04	0.31	0.39
	Land Cover + EVI + Biotic + Abiotic	17	-539.24	0.94	0.20	0.43
	Land Cover + EVI + Biotic	14	-543.20	1.44	0.15	0.40
Phytochemical: terpene (raw)						
ABBA	EVI	3	-269.49	0.00	0.52	0.05
PIMA	EVI + Biotic + Abiotic	15	-471.87	0.00	0.47	0.27
	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-473.22	0.28	0.41	0.26

Phytochemical: terpene (bm)						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-516.39	0.00	0.54	0.27
PIMA	Intercept	2	-1126.03	0.00	0.40	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-1123.40	1.05	0.24	0.03
	EVI	3	-1125.99	2.00	0.15	0.00
Phytochemical: monoterpene (raw)						
ABBA	EVI + Abiotic	6	-229.81	0.00	0.44	0.12
	Abiotic	5	-231.81	1.75	0.18	0.08
	EVI	3	-234.08	1.93	0.17	0.04
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-290.67	0.00	0.67	0.24
Phytochemical: monoterpene (bm)						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-461.32	0.00	0.57	0.27
PIMA	Intercept	2	-944.97	0.00	0.41	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-942.37	1.12	0.23	0.03
Phytochemical: monoterpenic alcohol (raw)						
ABBA	Land Cover	4	42.49	0.00	0.26	0.05
	Intercept	2	40.04	0.61	0.19	0.00
	Land Cover + EVI	5	43.01	1.17	0.15	0.06
	Land Cover + Abiotic	7	45.16	1.42	0.13	0.09
	Abiotic	5	42.64	1.90	0.10	0.05
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	149.34	0.00	0.53	0.23
Phytochemical: monoterpenic alcohol (bm)						
ABBA	Intercept	2	-179.59	0.00	0.30	0.00
	EVI	3	-178.87	0.67	0.21	0.01
	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-165.76	0.94	0.19	0.23
PIMA	Intercept	2	-487.60	0.00	0.42	0.00

	Abiotic	5	-485.08	1.27	0.22	0.03
	EVI	3	-487.49	1.86	0.16	0.00
Phytochemical: monoterpene ester (raw)						
ABBA	Intercept	2	-115.95	0.00	0.21	0.00
	Land Cover	4	-113.88	0.13	0.19	0.04
	Land Cover + EVI	5	-112.80	0.19	0.19	0.06
	Abiotic	5	-113.31	1.22	0.11	0.05
	EVI	3	-115.73	1.67	0.09	0.00
PIMA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-310.53	0.00	0.57	0.27
	EVI* + Biotic + Abiotic	15	-309.93	1.23	0.31	0.27
Phytochemical: monoterpene ester (bm)						
ABBA	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-332.19	0.00	0.47	0.27
PIMA	Intercept	2	-926.76	0.00	0.42	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-924.24	1.26	0.22	0.03
Phytochemical: sesquiterpene (raw)						
ABBA	EVI + Abiotic	6	-61.73	0.00	0.33	0.10
	EVI	3	-65.31	0.54	0.25	0.04
	Abiotic	5	-63.51	1.31	0.17	0.07
PIMA	Land Cover + EVI + Abiotic	8	4.46	0.00	0.28	0.12
	Abiotic	5	0.93	0.50	0.22	0.08
	EVI + Biotic + Abiotic	15	11.98	1.29	0.15	0.19
	EVI + Abiotic	6	1.53	1.45	0.13	0.08
Phytochemical: sesquiterpene (bm)						
ABBA	EVI	3	-284.44	0.00	0.23	0.02
	Biotic + Abiotic	14	-271.25	0.08	0.22	0.24
	Intercept	2	-285.69	0.36	0.19	0.00

PIMA	Intercept	2	-566.61	0.00	0.38	0.00
	Abiotic	5	-563.89	0.86	0.25	0.03
	EVI	3	-566.55	1.95	0.15	0.00
Phytochemical: diversity						
ABBA	Abiotic	5	113.25	0.00	0.31	0.06
	Intercept	2	109.95	0.11	0.30	0.00
	EVI	3	110.17	1.79	0.13	0.00
	EVI + Abiotic	6	113.45	1.85	0.12	0.07
PIMA	Land Cover	4	189.24	0.00	0.31	0.04
	Biotic	11	196.43	1.11	0.18	0.12
	EVI	3	187.20	1.98	0.11	0.02

1098

1099

1100 **Appendix 9**

1101 **Table A4.** Shows the coefficient sign (+/-) for all for top ranked models. Top models are presented in order of rank
 1102 with Efron pseudo R² presented in the last column. We use red coloured coefficients signs to indicate statistical
 1103 significance at alpha =0.05. For land cover, Decid, and Mix indicate, deciduous, and mixed cover types respectively.
 1104 EVI represents the Enhanced Vegetation Index. For biotic variables, AC indicates age class with 3, 4, 5 representing
 1105 factor levels of 41-60, 61-80, and 81-100 years, respectively. HC indicates height class with 3, 4, 5 representing
 1106 factor levels of 6.6-9.5, 9.6-12.5, 12.6-15.5 metres, respectively. CD indicates canopy density with 2, 3, 4
 1107 representing factor levels of 51-75, 26-50, 10-25 percent closed. For abiotic variables, E, A, and S represent
 1108 elevation, aspect, and slope, respectively.

Species	Land cover		Prod	Biotic factors									Abiotic factors			R ²
	Decid	Mix	EVI	AC3	AC4	AC5	HC3	HC4	HC5	CD2	CD3	CD4	E	A	S	
Elemental: percent carbon																
ABBA													+	-	+	0.19
ACRU													-	-	-	0.09
BEPA				+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-					0.31
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	0.64
PIMA	-	-		+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	0.65
VAAN	-	-		+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	0.37
Elemental: percent nitrogen																
ABBA	-	-	+										-	+	+	0.29
ACRU	-	-		-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-				0.36
PIMA			+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+				0.36
VAAN			+													0.07
VAAN	-	-	+													0.09

Elemental: percent phosphorus																		
ABBA															+	+	+	0.1
ACRU			+															0.05
ACRU			-												+	+	+	0.1
PIMA				-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-			+	+	+	0.28
VAAN			-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-						0.47
VAAN				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-						0.46
Elemental: quantity carbon																		
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+			0.35
VAAN	+	+													+	+	-	0.19
Elemental: quantity nitrogen																		
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+			0.35
VAAN	+	+													+	+	-	0.18
Elemental: quantity phosphorus																		
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		0.32
VAAN	+	+													+	+	-	0.19
Stoichiometric: C:N ratio																		
ABBA	+	+	-												+	-	-	0.31
ACRU	+	+		+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+						0.39
PIMA			-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-						0.38
VAAN			-															0.09
VAAN	+	+	-															0.11
Stoichiometric: C:P ratio																		

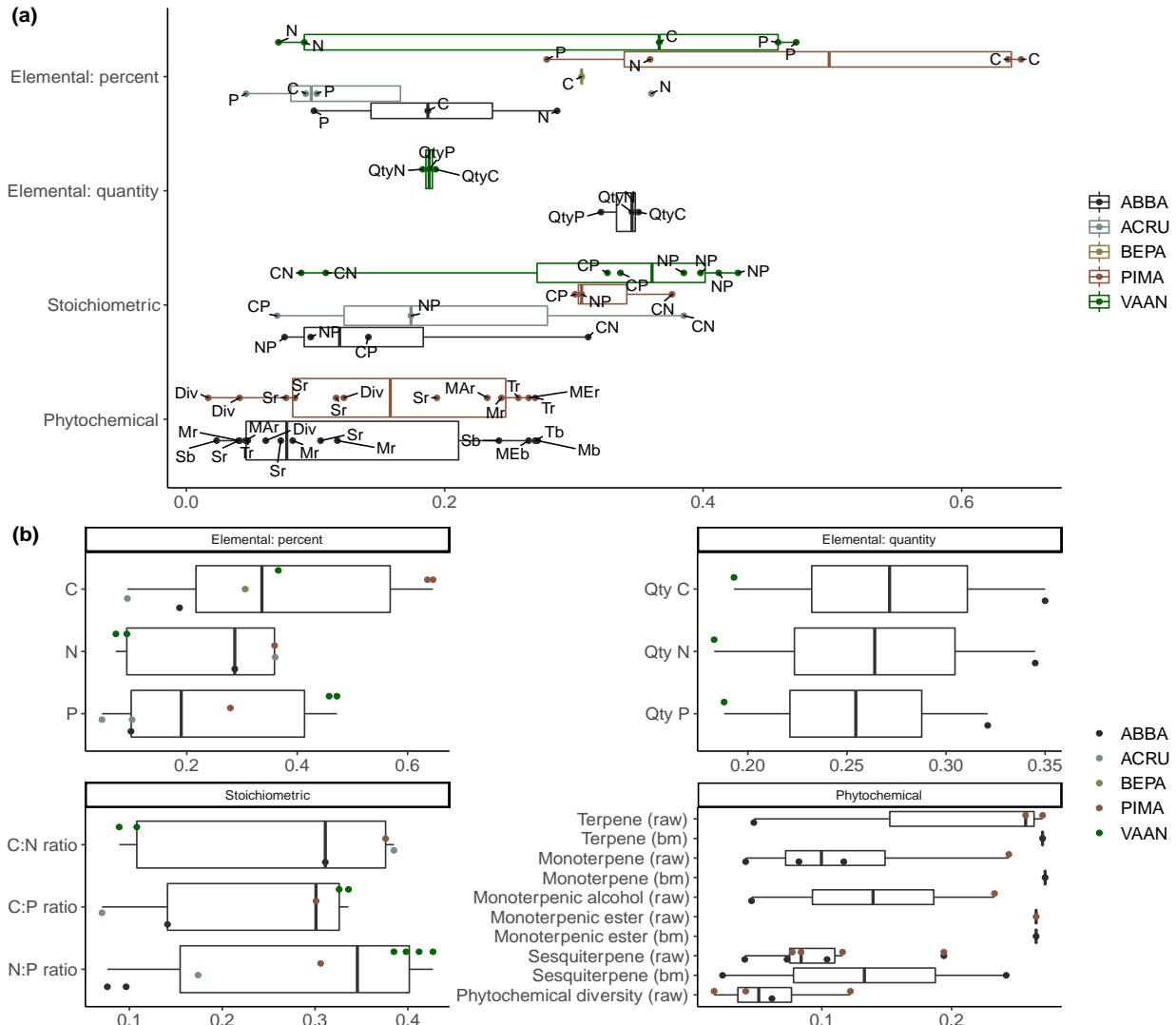
ABBA														+	-	-	0.14
*ACRU														-	-	-	0.07
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	0.3	
VAAN				+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+				0.33	
VAAN			+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+				0.34	
Stoichiometric: N:P ratio																	
*ABBA														-	-	-	0.08
*ABBA			+											-	-	-	
ACRU			+											-	-	-	0.17
PIMA			+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	0.31	
VAAN			+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	0.41
VAAN			+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+					0.39
VAAN	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+		0.43
VAAN	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+					0.4
Phytochemical: terpene (raw)																	
ABBA			+														0.05
PIMA			-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-		0.27
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-		0.26
Phytochemical: terpene (bm)																	
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+		0.27
Phytochemical: monoterpene (raw)																	
ABBA			+											+	-	+	0.12
ABBA														+	-	+	0.08

ABBA			+														0.04
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-		0.24
Phytochemical: monoterpene (bm)																	
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+		0.27
Phytochemical: monoterpene alcohol (raw)																	
*ABBA	+	+															0.05
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-		0.23
Phytochemical: monoterpene ester (raw)																	
PIMA				+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-		0.27
Phytochemical: monoterpene ester (bm)																	
ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+		0.27
Phytochemical: sesquiterpene (raw)																	
ABBA			+										-	-	-		0.1
ABBA			+														0.04
ABBA													-	-	-		0.07
PIMA	-	+	-										-	-	-		0.12
PIMA													-	-	-		0.08
PIMA			-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-		0.19
PIMA			-										-	-	-		0.08
Phytochemical: sesquiterpene (bm)																	
*ABBA			+														0.02
*ABBA				-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+		0.24
Phytochemical: diversity																	

*ABBA														-	-	+	0.06
PIMA	+	+															0.04
PIMA				-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-					0.12
PIMA			+														0.02

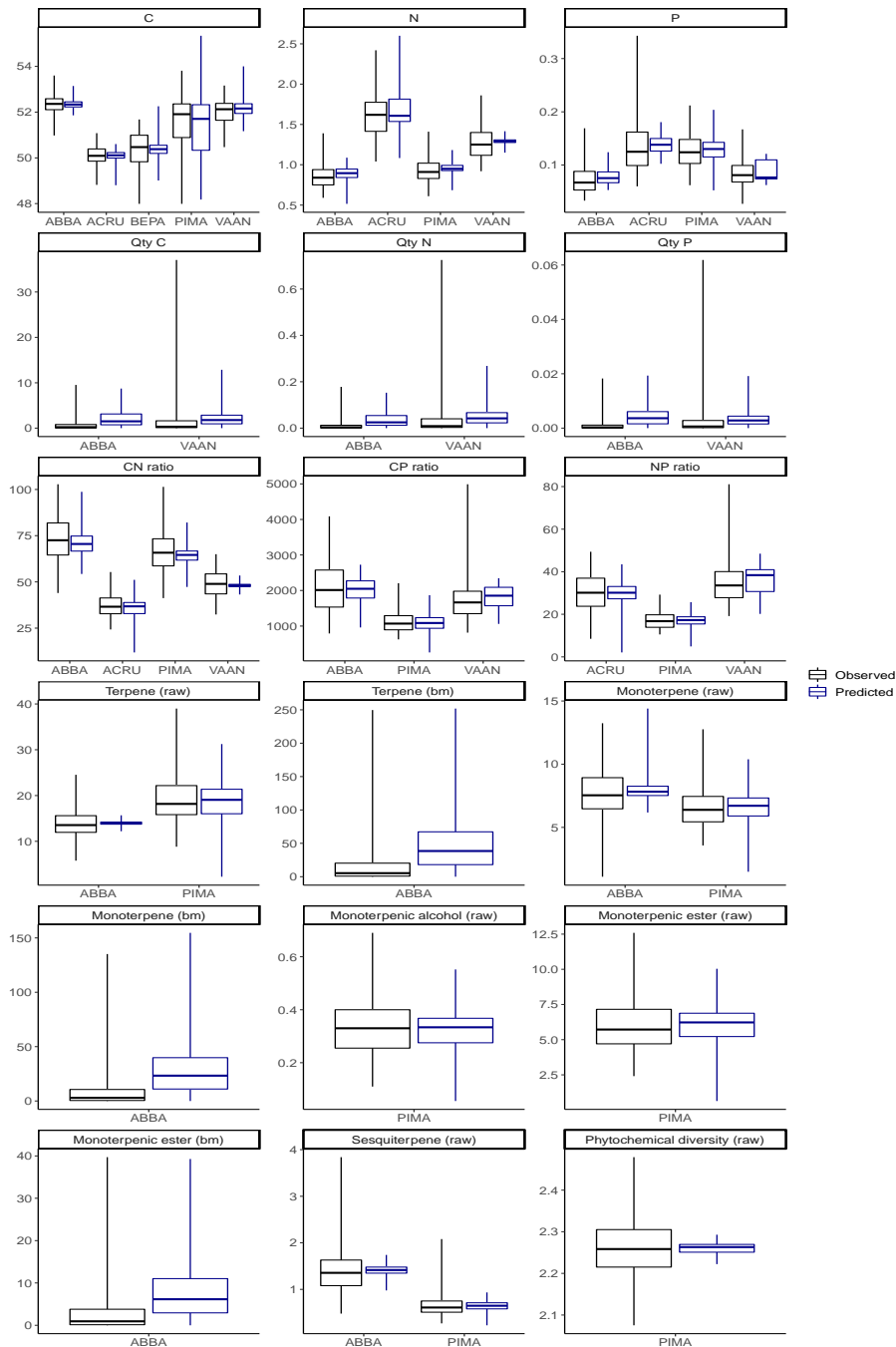
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1110 **Appendix 10**



1111
 1112 **Figure A4.** Distribution of pseudo R^2 values across species, at the trait type level (a) and at the trait level (b), for all
 1113 top ranked models. At trait type level, we show pseudo R^2 values for element percent and quantity, stoichiometric,
 1114 and phytochemical traits. At the trait level we show individual traits of percent elemental (i.e., %C, %N, and %P),
 1115 quantity elemental (i.e., C, N, and P on a g/m² biomass basis), stoichiometric ratios (i.e., C:N, C:P, and N:P), and
 1116 phytochemical groups (terpene, monoterpene, monoterpenic alcohol, monoterpenic ester, sesquiterpene, and
 1117 phytochemical diversity) on a raw of biomass basis, indicated as either (raw) or (bm) suffixes, respectively. Species
 1118 bar and point colours are the same between plots. In addition, labels are provided in (a) to identify individual traits
 1119 for a given species within a trait type.

1120 *Appendix 11*



1121
1122 **Figure A5.** Comparison of observed (data) and predicted (raster values) data for foliar elemental, stoichiometric,
1123 and phytochemical traits for each of our study species where a plausible explanation was determined. Generally,
1124 medians are consistent between observed and predicted data, however, ranges differ with predicted often having a
1125 larger variance.

1126 **Appendix 12**

1127 **Table A5.** Foliar percent carbon trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2 ΔAIC_c). Species codes are
 1128 used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top ranked
 1129 model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model descriptions).
 1130 Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity), abiotic factors
 1131 (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeClss3 (41-60 years old), AgeClss 4 (61-80 years old), AgeClss5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3 (6.6 -9.5 m),
 1132 HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of observations
 1133 are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA 15	ABBA 9	ACRU 15	ACRU 9	BEPA 14	PIMA 10	PIMA 3	VAAN 3	VAAN 1
<i>Predictors</i>									
Intercept	52.33 *** (52.24-52.41) (0.04)	52.33 *** (52.24 -52.41) (0.04)	50.12 *** (50.03 -50.21) (0.05)	50.12 *** (50.03-50.21) (0.05)	51.00 *** (50.08 -51.93) (0.47)	49.93 *** (49.16 -50.70) (0.39)	50.40 *** (49.50-51.29) (0.46)	52.45 *** (51.97-52.93) (0.24)	52.50 *** (52.01-52.98) (0.25)
Aspect	-0.09 (-0.19-0.01) (0.05)	-0.10 (-0.20-0.01) (0.05)	-0.08 (-0.18-0.03) (0.06)	-0.08 (-0.19-0.03) (0.06)		0.14 (-0.07-0.35) (0.11)	0.16 (-0.05-0.37) (0.11)	-0.05 (-0.15-0.05) (0.05)	-0.05 (-0.15-0.05) (0.05)

Slope	0.07	0.06	-0.11 *	-0.12 *		0.24 *	0.28 **	0.16 **	0.17 **
	(-0.03-0.18)	(-0.04-0.17)	(-0.22--0.00)	(-0.23--0.01)		(0.04-0.44)	(0.08-0.49)	(0.06-0.27)	(0.06-0.27)
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.06)		(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.05)	(0.05)
Elevation	0.14 **	0.14 **	-0.16 **	-0.15 **		0.28 **	0.26 *	0.08	0.06
	(0.04-0.25)	(0.04-0.25)	(-0.26--0.05)	(-0.26--0.05)		(0.08-0.48)	(0.06-0.46)	(-0.02-0.17)	(-0.04-0.16)
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)		(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.05)	(0.05)
EVI		0.05		0.06					-0.06
		(-0.04-0.13)		(-0.03-0.15)					(-0.17-0.04)
		(0.04)		(0.05)					(0.05)
AgeClss3					1.25 ***	2.03 ***	1.97 ***	0.34	0.30
					(0.62-1.88)	(1.28-2.79)	(1.21-2.73)	(-0.04-0.72)	(-0.09-0.69)
					(0.32)	(0.39)	(0.39)	(0.20)	(0.20)
AgeClss4					0.71	2.97 ***	2.52 ***	0.08	-0.06
					(-0.14-1.55)	(2.18-3.77)	(1.61-3.42)	(-0.39-0.56)	(-0.59-0.47)
					(0.43)	(0.41)	(0.46)	(0.24)	(0.27)
AgeClss5					0.78	2.54 ***	2.37 ***	0.27	0.20
					(0.00-1.56)	(1.89-3.18)	(1.71-3.03)	(-0.05-0.59)	(-0.14-0.55)
					(0.40)	(0.33)	(0.34)	(0.17)	(0.18)

HghtCls3	-1.39 **	-0.47	-0.46	-0.49 ***	-0.49 ***
	(-2.18--0.60)	(-1.03-0.08)	(-1.02-0.09)	(-0.76--0.23)	(-0.76--0.23)
	(0.40)	(0.28)	(0.28)	(0.14)	(0.14)
HghtCls4	-0.80	-0.11	-0.09	-0.31	-0.28
	(-1.66-0.06)	(-0.74-0.52)	(-0.72-0.53)	(-0.62--0.00)	(-0.60-0.03)
	(0.44)	(0.32)	(0.32)	(0.16)	(0.16)
HghtCls5	-0.98	-0.06	-0.02	-0.24	-0.18
	(-1.95--0.02)	(-0.81-0.69)	(-0.76-0.73)	(-0.61-0.12)	(-0.56-0.20)
	(0.49)	(0.38)	(0.38)	(0.19)	(0.19)
CrwnDns2	-0.36	0.04	0.17	-0.07	-0.10
	(-1.01-0.29)	(-0.62-0.70)	(-0.52-0.85)	(-0.45-0.30)	(-0.48-0.28)
	(0.33)	(0.34)	(0.35)	(0.19)	(0.19)
CrwnDns3	-0.60	-0.67 *	-0.48	0.20	0.20
	(-1.28-0.07)	(-1.29--0.05)	(-1.14-0.17)	(-0.15-0.55)	(-0.16-0.55)
	(0.34)	(0.32)	(0.34)	(0.18)	(0.18)
CrwnDns4		-0.14	-0.03	0.14	0.14
		(-1.14-0.87)	(-1.03-0.98)	(-0.33-0.60)	(-0.32-0.61)
		(0.51)	(0.51)	(0.24)	(0.24)

LandCover5							-0.14	-0.40	-0.37
							(-1.02-0.73)	(-0.87-0.08)	(-0.84-0.11)
							(0.45)	(0.24)	(0.24)
LandCover6							-0.57	-0.44 **	-0.43 **
							(-1.17-0.03)	(-0.75--0.14)	(-0.73--0.12)
							(0.31)	(0.16)	(0.16)
Observations	95	95	91	91	71	157	157	160	160

1134

1135 **Appendix 13**

1136 **Table A6.** Foliar percent nitrogen trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2 ΔAIC_c). Species codes
 1137 are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top
 1138 ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1139 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1140 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1141 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of
 1142 observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA 4	ACRU 6	ACRU 5	PIMA 7	VAAN 13	VAAN 11
<i>Predictors</i>						
Intercept	0.90 *** (0.80-0.99) (0.05)	2.17 *** (1.87-2.47) (0.15)	2.11 *** (1.80-2.42) (0.16)	0.84 *** (0.74-0.94) (0.05)	1.27 *** (1.24-1.30) (0.02)	1.29 *** (1.21-1.37) (0.04)
LandCover5	-0.20 * (-0.35--0.05) (0.08)	-0.32 * (-0.57--0.07) (0.13)	-0.33 * (-0.57--0.08) (0.12)			-0.17 (-0.35-0.02) (0.09)

LandCover6	-0.02 (-0.12-0.08) (0.05)	-0.10 (-0.29-0.09) (0.09)	-0.10 (-0.28-0.09) (0.09)			-0.02 (-0.11-0.07) (0.05)
EVI	0.04 * (0.00-0.07) (0.02)		0.04 (-0.02-0.09) (0.03)	0.05 *** (0.02-0.07) (0.01)	0.05 *** (0.02-0.09) (0.02)	0.06 ** (0.02-0.10) (0.02)
Aspect	0.02 (-0.02-0.06) (0.02)					
Slope	0.00 (-0.04-0.04) (0.02)					
Elevation	-0.07 ** (-0.11--0.03) (0.02)					

AgeCls3	-0.45 ** (-0.76--0.14) (0.16)	-0.43 ** (-0.74--0.13) (0.16)	-0.16 *** (-0.23--0.08) (0.04)
AgeCls4	-0.63 *** (-0.95--0.30) (0.16)	-0.56 ** (-0.89--0.22) (0.17)	-0.08 (-0.19-0.03) (0.06)
AgeCls5	-0.51 *** (-0.77--0.25) (0.13)	-0.47 *** (-0.73--0.21) (0.13)	-0.07 (-0.16-0.01) (0.04)
HghtCls3	0.12 (-0.16-0.40) (0.14)	0.14 (-0.14-0.43) (0.14)	0.14 *** (0.07-0.21) (0.04)
HghtCls4	0.23 * (0.02-0.45) (0.11)	0.23 * (0.02-0.44) (0.11)	0.09 * (0.00-0.17) (0.04)

HghtCls5	0.43 ***	0.40 ***	0.17 **
	(0.23-0.64)	(0.19-0.61)	(0.07-0.27)
	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.05)
CrwnDns2	-0.18	-0.15	0.09 *
	(-0.37--0.00)	(-0.34-0.04)	(0.00-0.18)
	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.04)
CrwnDns3	-0.25 *	-0.23 *	0.06
	(-0.46--0.05)	(-0.43--0.03)	(-0.02-0.15)
	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.04)
CrwnDns4	-0.30 *	-0.28 *	0.02
	(-0.54--0.05)	(-0.53--0.04)	(-0.11-0.16)
	(0.13)	(0.13)	(0.07)

Observations	95	91	91	157	160	160
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1144 **Appendix 14**

1145 **Table A7.** Foliar percent phosphorus trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2 ΔAIC_c). Species codes
 1146 are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top
 1147 ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1148 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1149 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1150 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of
 1151 observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA 15	ACRU 13	ACRU 9	PIMA 10	PIMA 2	VAAN 7	VAAN 14
<i>Predictors</i>							
Intercept	0.08 *** (0.07-0.08) (0.00)	0.14 *** (0.13-0.15) (0.01)	0.14 *** (0.13-0.15) (0.01)	0.13 *** (0.10-0.15) (0.01)	0.13 *** (0.11-0.15) (0.01)	0.12 *** (0.10-0.13) (0.01)	0.11 *** (0.10-0.13) (0.01)
Aspect	0.01 ** (0.00-0.02) (0.00)		0.01 (-0.00-0.02) (0.01)	0.00 (-0.01-0.01) (0.00)	0.00 (-0.01-0.01) (0.00)		

Slope	0.00	0.01	0.01 *	0.01 *		
	(-0.00-0.01)	(-0.01-0.02)	(0.00-0.01)	(0.00-0.01)		
	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)		
Elevation	0.00	0.02 *	0.01 **	0.01 **		
	(-0.01-0.01)	(0.00-0.03)	(0.00-0.02)	(0.00-0.02)		
	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)		
EVI		-0.01 *	-0.01 *	-0.00	-0.00	
		(-0.02--0.00)	(-0.02--0.00)	(-0.01-0.00)	(-0.01--0.00)	
		(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)	
AgeClss3			-0.06 ***	-0.06 ***	-0.04 ***	-0.04 ***
			(-0.09--0.04)	(-0.09--0.04)	(-0.05--0.03)	(-0.05--0.03)
			(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
AgeClss4			-0.01	-0.02	-0.04 ***	-0.03 ***
			(-0.03-0.01)	(-0.05-0.01)	(-0.06--0.02)	(-0.05--0.02)
			(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)

AgeCls5	-0.02 *	-0.02 *	-0.04 ***	-0.03 ***
	(-0.04--0.00)	(-0.05--0.00)	(-0.05--0.02)	(-0.05--0.02)
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
HghtCls3	0.02 *	0.02 *	-0.00	-0.00
	(0.00-0.04)	(0.00-0.04)	(-0.01-0.01)	(-0.01-0.01)
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
HghtCls4	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.01
	(-0.02-0.02)	(-0.02-0.02)	(-0.02-0.01)	(-0.02-0.01)
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
HghtCls5	0.02	0.02 *	0.00	-0.00
	(-0.00-0.04)	(0.00-0.05)	(-0.01-0.02)	(-0.02-0.01)
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
CrwnDns2	0.01	0.01	-0.00	0.00
	(-0.01-0.03)	(-0.01-0.03)	(-0.01-0.01)	(-0.01-0.02)
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)

CrwnDns3				0.01	0.01	-0.00	-0.00
				(-0.01-0.03)	(-0.01-0.03)	(-0.02-0.01)	(-0.02-0.01)
				(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
CrwnDns4				-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.01
				(-0.03-0.03)	(-0.03-0.03)	(-0.03-0.01)	(-0.03-0.01)
				(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Observations	95	91	91	157	157	160	160

1152

1153 *Appendix 15*

1154 **Table A8.** Foliar elemental quantity trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models ($< 2 \Delta AIC_c$). Species codes
 1155 are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top
 1156 ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1157 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1158 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1159 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). In addition,
 1160 asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA QtyC 10	VAAN QtyC 8	ABBA QtyN 10	VAAN QtyN 8	VAAN QtyN 4	ABBA QtyP 10	VAANQtyP 8
<i>Predictors</i>							
Intercept	4.07 *** (2.40-5.75) (0.86)	1.58 * (0.21-2.95) (0.70)	0.07 *** (0.04-0.10) (0.01)	0.04 * (0.01-0.07) (0.02)	0.04 * (0.01-0.08) (0.02)	0.01 *** (0.00-0.01) (0.00)	0.00 * (0.00-0.00) (0.00)
AgeCls3	-2.53 * (-4.42--0.64) (0.97)		-0.04 ** (-0.08--0.01) (0.02)			-0.00 * (-0.01--0.00) (0.00)	

AgeClss4	-1.77 (-3.65-0.11) (0.96)	-0.03 (-0.06-0.00) (0.02)	-0.00 (-0.01-0.00) (0.00)
AgeClss5	-2.17 ** (-3.72--0.63) (0.79)	-0.04 ** (-0.07--0.01) (0.01)	-0.00 * (-0.01--0.00) (0.00)
HghtCls3	-1.81 * (-3.38--0.24) (0.80)	-0.03 * (-0.06--0.00) (0.01)	-0.00 * (-0.01--0.00) (0.00)
HghtCls4	-1.26 (-2.56-0.05) (0.67)	-0.02 (-0.04-0.00) (0.01)	-0.00 (-0.00-0.00) (0.00)
HghtCls5	-1.44 * (-2.86--0.03) (0.72)	-0.02 (-0.05-0.00) (0.01)	-0.00 (-0.00-0.00) (0.00)

CrwnDns2	-0.08		-0.00			0.00	
	(-1.26-1.09)		(-0.02-0.02)			(-0.00-0.00)	
	(0.60)		(0.01)			(0.00)	
CrwnDns3	0.39		0.01			0.00	
	(-0.92-1.70)		(-0.02-0.03)			(-0.00-0.00)	
	(0.67)		(0.01)			(0.00)	
CrwnDns4	1.68		0.02			0.00	
	(-0.21-3.57)		(-0.01-0.05)			(-0.00-0.00)	
	(0.96)		(0.02)			(0.00)	
Aspect	-0.29	0.26	-0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
	(-0.78-0.21)	(-0.43-0.95)	(-0.01-0.01)	(-0.01-0.02)	(-0.01-0.02)	(-0.00-0.00)	(-0.00-0.00)
	(0.25)	(0.35)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Slope	0.67 **	-0.17	0.01 **	-0.00	-0.00	0.00 ***	-0.00
	(0.27-1.07)	(-0.84-0.49)	(0.00-0.02)	(-0.02-0.01)	(-0.02-0.01)	(0.00-0.00)	(-0.00-0.00)
	(0.20)	(0.34)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)

Elevation	0.15	1.44 ***	0.00	0.03 ***	0.03 ***	0.00	0.00 **
	(-0.32-0.62)	(0.71-2.17)	(-0.01-0.01)	(0.02-0.05)	(0.02-0.05)	(-0.00-0.00)	(0.00-0.00)
	(0.24)	(0.37)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)
LandCover5		7.27 ***		0.14 ***	0.14 **		0.01 ***
		(3.80-10.73)		(0.07-0.22)	(0.05-0.22)		(0.01-0.02)
		(1.77)		(0.04)	(0.04)		(0.00)
LandCover6		0.06		0.01	-0.00		0.00
		(-1.51-1.63)		(-0.03-0.04)	(-0.04-0.04)		(-0.00-0.00)
		(0.80)		(0.02)	(0.02)		(0.00)
EVI					0.01		
					(-0.01-0.02)		
					(0.01)		
Observations	95	160	95	160	160	95	160

1162 **Appendix 16**

1163 **Table A9.** Foliar stoichiometric C:N trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2 ΔAIC_c). Species codes
 1164 are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top
 1165 ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1166 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1167 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1168 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of
 1169 observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA 4	ACRU 6	ACRU 5	PIMA 7	VAAN 13	VAAN 11
<i>Predictors</i>						
Intercept	70.34 *** (63.17-77.51) (3.66)	23.77 *** (16.69-30.85) (3.61)	25.12 *** (17.75-32.48) (3.76)	70.61 *** (63.24-77.99) (3.76)	48.81 *** (47.71-49.91) (0.56)	48.14 *** (45.35-50.93) (1.42)
LandCover5	15.56 * (3.85-27.27) (5.98)	7.80 * (2.01-13.59) (2.95)	7.92 ** (2.15-13.70) (2.95)			5.87 (-0.62-12.37) (3.31)

LandCover6	2.24	3.02	2.98			0.60
	(-5.59-10.08)	(-1.36-7.40)	(-1.39-7.34)			(-2.67-3.86)
	(4.00)	(2.24)	(2.23)			(1.66)
EVI	-3.48 **		-0.80	-3.26 ***	-2.21 ***	-2.45 ***
	(-6.00--0.96)		(-2.05-0.45)	(-5.16--1.36)	(-3.31--1.11)	(-3.79--1.11)
	(1.29)		(0.64)	(0.97)	(0.56)	(0.68)
Aspect	-1.99					
	(-4.90-0.92)					
	(1.48)					
Slope	-0.15					
	(-3.25-2.96)					
	(1.58)					
Elevation	4.90 **					
	(1.75-8.05)					
	(1.61)					

AgeCls3	12.05 ** (4.81-19.29) (3.69)	11.68 ** (4.45-18.92) (3.69)	11.75 *** (6.23-17.27) (2.82)
AgeCls4	16.38 *** (8.79-23.97) (3.87)	14.80 *** (6.84-22.75) (4.06)	8.10 (0.00-16.19) (4.13)
AgeCls5	13.51 *** (7.45-19.58) (3.09)	12.62 *** (6.42-18.82) (3.16)	7.42 * (1.15-13.69) (3.20)
HghtCls3	-4.60 (-11.19-1.98) (3.36)	-5.15 (-11.77-1.47) (3.38)	-9.44 *** (-14.70--4.17) (2.69)
HghtCls4	-7.48 ** (-12.45--2.50) (2.54)	-7.36 ** (-12.32--2.41) (2.53)	-5.10 (-11.21-1.01) (3.12)

HghtCls5	-11.94 ***	-11.30 ***	-11.42 **
	(-16.77--7.10)	(-16.22--6.38)	(-18.77--4.08)
	(2.47)	(2.51)	(3.75)
CrwnDns2	4.10	3.38	-6.14
	(-0.20-8.40)	(-1.05-7.81)	(-12.52-0.24)
	(2.19)	(2.26)	(3.26)
CrwnDns3	6.04 *	5.51 *	-5.22
	(1.28-10.79)	(0.70-10.32)	(-11.22-0.77)
	(2.43)	(2.45)	(3.06)
CrwnDns4	6.98 *	6.67 *	-1.90
	(1.19-12.77)	(0.88-12.47)	(-11.52-7.73)
	(2.96)	(2.96)	(4.91)

Observations	95	91	91	157	160	160
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1171 **Appendix 17**

1172 **Table A10.** Foliar stoichiometric C:P trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models ($< 2 \Delta AIC_c$). Species codes
 1173 are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one top
 1174 ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1175 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1176 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1177 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of
 1178 observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA 15	PIMA 10	PIMA 2	VAAN 14	VAAN 7
<i>Predictors</i>					
Intercept	2060.13 *** (1919.44-2200.82) (71.78)	1050.36 *** (822.39-1278.32) (116.31)	1023.84 *** (786.47-1261.22) (121.11)	1236.55 *** (871.64-1601.45) (186.18)	1188.23 *** (819.07-1557.39) (188.35)
Aspect	-251.44 ** (-424.38--78.50) (88.24)	-17.44 (-79.52-44.63) (31.67)	-16.83 (-79.00-45.34) (31.72)		

Slope	-85.87 (-263.30-91.56) (90.53)	-87.56 ** (-146.45--28.67) (30.05)	-88.31 ** (-147.30--29.32) (30.10)		
Elevation	69.19 (-108.96-247.33) (90.89)	-96.17 ** (-155.76--36.57) (30.41)	-88.44 ** (-151.06--25.83) (31.95)		
AgeClss3		660.74 *** (436.52-884.95) (114.40)	671.90 *** (445.73-898.08) (115.40)	600.19 *** (347.73-852.65) (128.81)	653.17 *** (391.96-914.39) (133.28)
AgeClss4		195.92 (-39.39-431.22) (120.06)	255.05 (-21.81-531.91) (141.26)	438.81 * (82.57-795.06) (181.76)	578.27 ** (177.66-978.87) (204.39)
AgeClss5		250.32 * (58.96-441.68) (97.64)	276.94 ** (74.47-479.42) (103.31)	585.00 *** (305.37-864.64) (142.67)	652.94 *** (360.03-945.85) (149.45)

HghtCls3	-204.19 *	-201.20 *	18.98	18.95
	(-368.92--39.45)	(-366.30--36.09)	(-224.77-262.73)	(-223.87-261.76)
	(84.05)	(84.24)	(124.37)	(123.89)
HghtCls4	-15.32	-22.18	118.38	84.36
	(-201.75-171.10)	(-209.61-165.24)	(-170.51-407.27)	(-206.97-375.69)
	(95.12)	(95.63)	(147.39)	(148.64)
HghtCls5	-198.13	-219.18	-6.08	-90.02
	(-420.27-24.01)	(-447.55-9.18)	(-335.39-323.23)	(-436.61-256.58)
	(113.34)	(116.52)	(168.02)	(176.84)
CrwnDns2	-74.85	-64.88	-48.19	-33.56
	(-269.80-120.10)	(-261.61-131.85)	(-384.27-287.89)	(-368.91-301.79)
	(99.47)	(100.37)	(171.47)	(171.10)
CrwnDns3	-109.94	-109.96	49.93	45.40
	(-293.56-73.68)	(-293.82-73.89)	(-265.13-365.00)	(-268.51-359.31)
	(93.69)	(93.81)	(160.75)	(160.16)

CrwnDns4		65.42	66.59	204.86	190.11
		(-231.27-362.11)	(-230.49-363.67)	(-224.67-634.39)	(-238.21-618.44)
		(151.38)	(151.58)	(219.15)	(218.54)
EVI			25.14		69.94
			(-36.66-86.93)		(-23.29-163.18)
			(31.53)		(47.57)
Observations	95	157	157	160	160

1179

1180 **Appendix 18**

1181 **Table A11.** Foliar stoichiometric N:P trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models ($< 2 \Delta AIC_c$). Species
 1182 codes are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA, and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there is more than one
 1183 top ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table 1 for model
 1184 descriptions). Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity),
 1185 abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41- 60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61- 80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3
 1186 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of
 1187 observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ACRU 9	PIMA 2	VAAN 2	VAAN 7	VAAN 1	VAAN 5
<i>Predictors</i>						
Intercept	29.44 *** (27.63-31.25) (0.92)	14.38 *** (11.34-17.42) (1.55)	29.35 *** (22.46-36.24) (3.52)	27.62 *** (21.02-34.23) (3.37)	31.58 *** (23.67-39.50) (4.04)	29.27 *** (21.88-36.66) (3.77)
EVI	2.37 * (0.52-4.21) (0.94)	1.45 *** (0.66-2.24) (0.40)	2.44 ** (0.70-4.19) (0.89)	3.05 *** (1.38-4.72) (0.85)	2.63 ** (0.89-4.37) (0.89)	3.26 *** (1.58-4.94) (0.86)

Aspect	-1.87 (-4.07-0.33) (1.12)	-0.42 (-1.22-0.37) (0.41)	-1.33 (-3.00-0.34) (0.85)	-1.30 (-2.96-0.36) (0.85)		
Slope	-2.52 * (-4.72--0.33) (1.12)	-1.22 ** (-1.98--0.47) (0.38)	0.05 (-1.59-1.69) (0.84)	0.26 (-1.42-1.94) (0.86)		
Elevation	-3.67 ** (-5.84--1.50) (1.11)	-0.88 * (-1.68--0.08) (0.41)	-1.72 * (-3.36--0.08) (0.84)	-1.74 * (-3.38--0.11) (0.83)		
AgeClss3		6.38 *** (3.48-9.27) (1.48)	11.99 *** (5.63-18.35) (3.24)	13.24 *** (8.57-17.91) (2.38)	11.98 *** (5.58-18.37) (3.26)	13.57 *** (8.89-18.25) (2.39)
AgeClss4		2.45 (-1.10-5.99) (1.81)	7.76 (-0.20-15.73) (4.06)	10.93 ** (3.76-18.10) (3.66)	6.42 (-2.25-15.10) (4.43)	10.27 ** (2.64-17.90) (3.89)

AgeCls5	2.48	11.98 ***	13.45 ***	12.28 ***	14.00 ***
	(-0.11-5.07)	(6.45-17.51)	(8.21-18.69)	(6.64-17.91)	(8.69-19.32)
	(1.32)	(2.82)	(2.67)	(2.88)	(2.71)
HghtCls3	-0.55	-1.98	-1.26	-2.28	-1.61
	(-2.66-1.56)	(-6.35-2.39)	(-5.61-3.08)	(-6.65-2.09)	(-5.96-2.74)
	(1.08)	(2.23)	(2.22)	(2.23)	(2.22)
HghtCls4	0.93	1.17	1.20	0.62	0.64
	(-1.47-3.33)	(-3.99-6.32)	(-4.02-6.41)	(-4.55-5.79)	(-4.59-5.88)
	(1.22)	(2.63)	(2.66)	(2.64)	(2.67)
HghtCls5	-0.06	-2.31	-2.89	-2.30	-2.85
	(-2.98-2.86)	(-8.54-3.92)	(-9.09-3.31)	(-8.50-3.89)	(-9.03-3.33)
	(1.49)	(3.18)	(3.16)	(3.16)	(3.15)
CrwnDns2	0.55	-2.84	-2.39	-1.37	-0.95
	(-1.97-3.06)	(-8.86-3.19)	(-8.39-3.61)	(-7.56-4.81)	(-7.16-5.27)
	(1.28)	(3.07)	(3.06)	(3.16)	(3.17)

CrwnDns3	-0.52	-1.46	-1.84	-0.06	-0.58
	(-2.87-1.83)	(-7.02-4.10)	(-7.46-3.77)	(-5.83-5.71)	(-6.41-5.26)
	(1.20)	(2.84)	(2.87)	(2.94)	(2.98)
CrwnDns4	0.66	-0.13	0.06	0.48	0.62
	(-3.14-4.46)	(-7.71-7.44)	(-7.60-7.73)	(-7.10-8.06)	(-7.07-8.31)
	(1.94)	(3.86)	(3.91)	(3.87)	(3.92)
LandCover5				-7.48	-7.02
				(-15.25-0.29)	(-14.86-0.83)
				(3.97)	(4.00)
LandCover6				-3.46	-3.00
				(-8.47-1.56)	(-7.92-1.91)
				(2.56)	(2.51)
Observations	91	157	160	160	160

1189 **Appendix 19**

1190 **Table A12.** Part one of three for foliar phytochemical trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2
 1191 ΔAIC_c). Species codes are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPa), black spruce (PIMA), and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there
 1192 is more than one top ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table
 1193 1 for model descriptions). Models denoted with the suffix “r” and “b” represent raw and biomass basis respectively. Predictors include land cover (LandCover5
 1194 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity), abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors:
 1195 AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m),
 1196 CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition,
 1197 asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	ABBA	PIMA	PIMA	ABBA	ABBA	ABBA	ABBA	PIMA	ABBA
	Terpene	PIMA	Terpene	Terpene	Monoterpene	Monoterpene	Monoterpene	Monoterpene	Monoterpene
	13r	Terpene 2r	10r	10b	9r	15r	13r	10r	10b
<i>Predictors</i>									
Intercept	13.69 ***	16.02 ***	15.17 ***	73.58 ***	7.63 ***	7.63 ***	7.63 ***	5.12 ***	41.28 ***
	(13.07-	(12.11-	(11.38-	(33.79-	(7.20-8.07)	(7.19-8.07)	(7.19-8.08)	(3.88-6.35)	(17.85-64.71)
	14.32)	19.93)	18.96)	113.37)	(0.22)	(0.22)	(0.23)	(0.63)	(11.95)
	(0.32)	(2.00)	(1.93)	(20.30)					

EVI	0.73 *	-0.83		0.45		0.48 *	
	(0.10-1.36)	(-1.85-		(0.00-0.90)		(0.03-0.93)	
	(0.32)	0.20)		(0.23)		(0.23)	
		(0.52)					
AgeClss3		8.84 ***	9.28 ***	-49.73 *		2.66 ***	-30.43 *
		(5.10-	(5.55-	(-97.16--		(1.44-3.87)	(-58.35--2.50)
		12.59)	13.00)	2.31)		(0.62)	(14.25)
		(1.91)	(1.90)	(24.20)			
AgeClss4		4.11	6.09 **	-24.13		2.29 ***	-14.26
		(-0.47-	(2.19-9.99)	(-70.13-		(1.02-3.56)	(-41.35-
		8.70)	(1.99)	21.87)		(0.65)	12.83)
		(2.34)		(23.47)			(13.82)
AgeClss5		5.41 **	6.31 ***	-37.93		1.83 ***	-22.02
		(2.05-8.77)	(3.12-9.49)	(-75.56--		(0.79-2.87)	(-44.17-0.14)
		(1.71)	(1.62)	0.31)		(0.53)	(11.30)
				(19.20)			

HghtCls3	-2.67	-2.65	-30.52	-1.09 *	-15.95
	(-5.35-	(-5.34-	(-71.55-	(-1.97--0.21)	(-40.11-8.21)
	0.00)	0.04)	10.51)	(0.45)	(12.33)
	(1.37)	(1.37)	(20.93)		
HghtCls4	-2.86	-3.14 *	-23.45	-1.04 *	-12.72
	(-5.97-	(-6.25--	(-57.58-	(-2.06--0.03)	(-32.82-7.37)
	0.25)	0.03)	10.68)	(0.52)	(10.25)
	(1.59)	(1.59)	(17.41)		
HghtCls5	-2.06	-2.79	-31.17	-0.86	-18.03
	(-5.89-	(-6.53-	(-68.43-	(-2.08-0.36)	(-39.97-3.91)
	1.78)	0.95)	6.09)	(0.62)	(11.19)
	(1.95)	(1.91)	(19.01)		
CrwnDns2	1.05	1.40	3.75	0.90	2.67
	(-2.24-	(-1.88-	(-27.06-	(-0.17-1.97)	(-15.47-
	4.33)	4.67)	34.55)	(0.55)	20.81)
	(1.68)	(1.67)	(15.72)		(9.25)

CrwnDns3	1.56	1.57	12.28			0.76	8.56
	(-1.52-	(-1.54-	(-21.71-			(-0.25-1.77)	(-11.45-
	4.65)	4.67)	46.27)			(0.52)	28.57)
	(1.57)	(1.58)	(17.34)				(10.21)
CrwnDns4	4.20	4.24	46.34			1.37	29.79 *
	(-0.81-	(-0.80-	(-3.47-			(-0.28-3.01)	(0.46-59.11)
	9.21)	9.27)	96.14)			(0.84)	(14.96)
	(2.56)	(2.57)	(25.41)				
Aspect	-0.11	-0.11	-2.23	-0.09	-0.00	-0.19	-1.55
	(-1.14-	(-1.15-	(-14.14-	(-0.62-0.44)	(-0.53-0.53)	(-0.53-0.15)	(-8.57-5.47)
	0.92)	0.92)	9.69)	(0.27)	(0.27)	(0.17)	(3.58)
	(0.52)	(0.53)	(6.08)				
Slope	-1.60 **	-1.61 **	20.40 ***	0.67 *	0.75 **	-0.38 *	12.61 ***
	(-2.61--	(-2.63--	(9.52-31.28)	(0.11-1.22)	(0.19-1.30)	(-0.71--0.04)	(6.20-19.02)
	0.59)	0.60)	(5.55)	(0.28)	(0.28)	(0.17)	(3.27)
	(0.52)	(0.52)					

Elevation	-2.69 ***	-2.45 ***	7.45	0.29	0.28		-0.70 ***	4.55
	(-3.69--	(-3.41--	(-4.62-	(-0.26-0.85)	(-0.28-0.84)		(-1.01--0.38)	(-2.55-11.66)
	1.68)	1.49)	19.52)	(0.28)	(0.29)		(0.16)	(3.63)
	(0.51)	(0.49)	(6.16)					
Observations	104	163	163	104	104	104	163	104

1198

1199 **Table A13.** Part two of three for foliar phytochemical trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2
1200 ΔAIC_c). Species codes are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA, and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there
1201 is more than one top ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table
1202 1 for model descriptions). Codes are used for monoterpene alcohol (MA) and monoterpene ester (ME). Models denoted with the suffix “r” and “b” represent
1203 raw and biomass basis respectively. Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy
1204 for productivity), abiotic factors (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years
1205 old), HghtCls3 (6.6-9.5 m), HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed).
1206 Total number of observations are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ **
1207 $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

	PIMA MA 10r	PIMA ME 10r	PIMA ME 2r	ABBA ME 10b
<i>Predictors</i>				
Intercept	0.23 *** (0.15-0.31) (0.04)	4.37 *** (2.97-5.76) (0.71)	4.57 *** (3.13-6.02) (0.74)	12.89 *** (6.12-19.66) (3.45)
AgeCls3	0.19 *** (0.10-0.27) (0.04)	3.21 *** (1.84-4.58) (0.70)	3.10 *** (1.72-4.49) (0.71)	-7.81 (-15.88-0.26) (4.12)

AgeClss4	0.17 *** (0.09-0.26) (0.04)	2.66 *** (1.22-4.09) (0.73)	2.17 * (0.47-3.87) (0.87)	-3.97 (-11.80-3.85) (3.99)
AgeClss5	0.13 *** (0.06-0.20) (0.04)	2.17 *** (1.00-3.35) (0.60)	1.95 ** (0.71-3.20) (0.63)	-6.36 (-12.76-0.04) (3.27)
HghtCls3	-0.08 ** (-0.14--0.02) (0.03)	-1.33 ** (-2.32--0.34) (0.51)	-1.33 ** (-2.33--0.34) (0.51)	-5.78 (-12.76-1.20) (3.56)
HghtCls4	-0.06 (-0.13-0.00) (0.03)	-0.99 (-2.13-0.16) (0.58)	-0.92 (-2.07-0.23) (0.59)	-4.38 (-10.18-1.43) (2.96)
HghtCls5	-0.04 (-0.13-0.04) (0.04)	-0.67 (-2.05-0.71) (0.70)	-0.49 (-1.91-0.93) (0.72)	-5.86 (-12.19-0.48) (3.23)

CrwnDns2	0.05 (-0.02-0.12) (0.04)	0.87 (-0.33-2.08) (0.62)	0.79 (-0.43-2.01) (0.62)	0.53 (-4.71-5.77) (2.67)
CrwnDns3	0.04 (-0.02-0.11) (0.03)	0.69 (-0.45-1.83) (0.58)	0.69 (-0.45-1.83) (0.58)	1.89 (-3.90-7.67) (2.95)
CrwnDns4	0.14 * (0.03-0.25) (0.06)	1.16 (-0.69-3.02) (0.95)	1.15 (-0.70-3.01) (0.95)	6.61 (-1.86-15.09) (4.32)
Aspect	-0.00 (-0.02-0.02) (0.01)	-0.08 (-0.47-0.30) (0.19)	-0.08 (-0.46-0.30) (0.19)	-0.06 (-2.08-1.97) (1.03)
Slope	-0.03 ** (-0.05--0.01) (0.01)	-0.42 * (-0.79--0.05) (0.19)	-0.42 * (-0.79--0.04) (0.19)	3.15 ** (1.30-5.01) (0.94)

Elevation	-0.03 *	-0.73 ***	-0.79 ***	1.32
	(-0.05--0.00)	(-1.08--0.37)	(-1.16--0.41)	(-0.73-3.38)
	(0.01)	(0.18)	(0.19)	(1.05)
EVI			-0.20	
			(-0.58-0.18)	
			(0.19)	
Observations	163	163	163	104

1208

1209 **Table A14.** Part three of three for foliar phytochemical trait coefficient estimates, confidence intervals, and standard error values for top ranked models (< 2
1210 ΔAIC_c). Species codes are used for balsam fir (ABBA), red maple (ACRU), white birch (BEPA), black spruce (PIMA, and lowbush blueberry (VAAN). If there
1211 is more than one top ranked model per species, we present in order of ΔAIC_c rank. Model numbers are supplied beside the species code in the top row (see Table
1212 1 for model descriptions). Sesquiterpene is truncated as sesq. Models denoted with the suffix “r” and “b” represent raw and biomass basis respectively.
1213 Predictors include land cover (LandCover5 and LandCover6 represent deciduous and mix wood conditions), EVI (i.e., proxy for productivity), abiotic factors
1214 (aspect, slope, elevation), and biotic factors: AgeCls3 (41-60 years old), AgeCls 4 (61-80 years old), AgeCls5 (81-100 years old), HghtCls3 (6.6-9.5 m),
1215 HghtCls4 (9.6-12.5 m), HghtCls5 (12.6-15.5m), CrwnDns2 (51-75 % closed), CrwnDns3 (26-50%), CrwnDn4 (10-25 % closed). Total number of observations
1216 are provided in the bottom row. In addition, asterisks are used to indicate coefficient significance as follows: * $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$ *** $p < 0.001$.

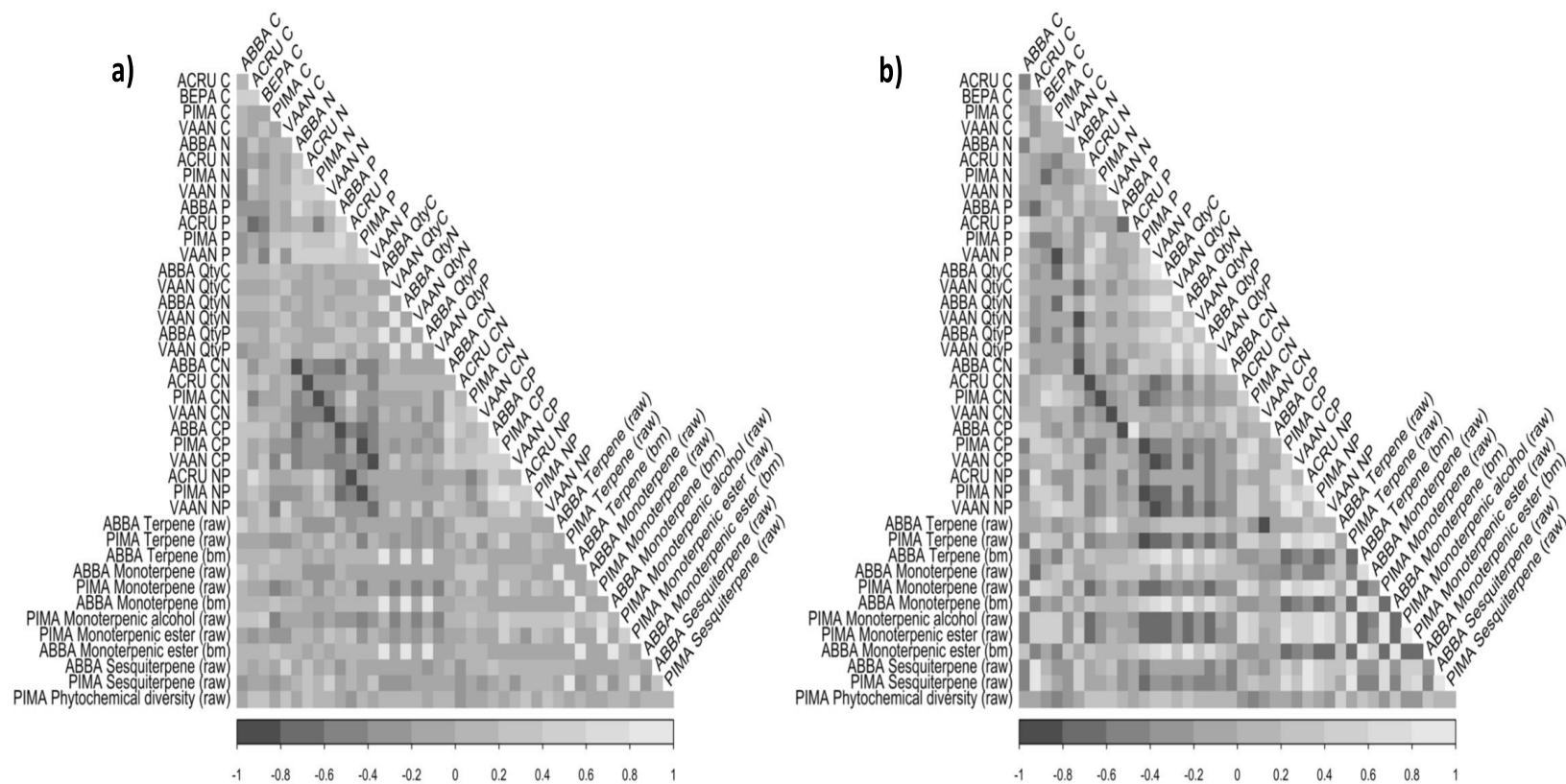
	ABBA Sesq 9r	ABBA Sesq 13r	ABBA Sesq 15r	PIMA Sesq 4r	PIMA Sesq 15r	PIMA Sesq 2r	PIMA Sesq 9r	PIMA Diversity 12	PIMA Diversity 14	PIMA Diversity 13
<i>Predictors</i>										
Intercept	1.38 *** (1.30-1.47) (0.04)	1.38 *** (1.29-1.47) (0.04)	1.38 *** (1.30-1.47) (0.04)	0.58 *** (0.48-0.67) (0.05)	0.66 *** (0.63-0.70) (0.02)	0.66 *** (0.46-0.86) (0.10)	0.66 *** (0.63-0.70) (0.02)	2.23 *** (2.21-2.26) (0.01)	2.28 *** (2.22-2.34) (0.03)	2.26 *** (2.25-2.27) (0.01)
EVI	0.08 (-0.00-0.17) (0.05)	0.09 * (0.01-0.18) (0.05)		-0.05 * (-0.10-0.00) (0.02)		-0.06 * (-0.11- - (0.02)	-0.02 (-0.06-0.02) (0.02)			0.01 (-0.00-0.02) (0.01)

					0.01)	
					(0.03)	
Aspect	-0.05	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	-0.03
	(-0.15-0.06)	(-0.13-0.08)	(-0.07-0.01)	(-0.07-0.02)	(-0.04-0.07)	(-0.07-0.02)
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)
Slope	-0.06	-0.04	-0.03	-0.02	-0.06 *	-0.02
	(-0.17-0.05)	(-0.15-0.07)	(-0.07-0.02)	(-0.06-0.02)	(-0.11--0.01)	(-0.06-0.02)
	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)
Elevation	-0.15 *	-0.15 *	-0.09 ***	-0.08 ***	-0.13 ***	-0.08 ***
	(-0.25--0.04)	(-0.26--0.04)	(-0.14--0.05)	(-0.13--0.04)	(-0.19--0.08)	(-0.13--0.04)
	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)
LandCover5			-0.02			0.03
			(-0.23-0.18)			(-0.04-0.09)
			(0.10)			(0.03)
LandCover6			0.12 *			0.04 **
			(0.00-0.23)			(0.01-0.07)
			(0.06)			(0.01)

AgeCls3	0.26 ** (0.07-0.46) (0.10)	-0.04 * (-0.09--0.00) (0.02)
AgeCls4	-0.06 (-0.30-0.17) (0.12)	-0.09 ** (-0.15--0.03) (0.03)
AgeCls5	0.15 (-0.02-0.32) (0.09)	-0.05 * (-0.10--0.00) (0.03)
HghtCls3	-0.03 (-0.17-0.10) (0.07)	0.05 * (0.01-0.09) (0.02)
HghtCls4	-0.08 (-0.24-0.08) (0.08)	0.04 (-0.02-0.09) (0.03)
HghtCls5	-0.07 (-0.27-0.13) (0.10)	0.06 * (0.00-0.12) (0.03)

CrwnDns2						-0.05				-0.01
						(-0.22-0.12)				(-0.06-0.04)
						(0.09)				(0.03)
CrwnDns3						-0.03				-0.00
						(-0.19-0.13)				(-0.05-0.05)
						(0.08)				(0.03)
CrwnDns4						0.07				-0.04
						(-0.19-0.32)				(-0.12-0.05)
						(0.13)				(0.04)

Observations	104	104	104	163	163	163	163	163	163	163
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1219

1220 **Figure A6.** Correlation plot showing the relationships between our study species foliar elemental, stoichiometric, and phytochemical traits for top ranked models

1221 where the intercept was not with $< 2 \Delta AIC_c$. The left correlation plot (a) shows data space comparisons, for this we only compared plots in which all species

1222 were present ($n = 29$). The right correlation plot (b) shows spatial comparisons of predictive trait raster/surfaces. Correlation in data space is limited to co-

1223 occurrence of observations, while spatial correlation considers all pixels. In panel (b), we can see emergent patterns that are less apparent in data space
1224 comparisons (a).