

Tree-related Microhabitat (TreM) spatial patterns in European beech-dominated forests

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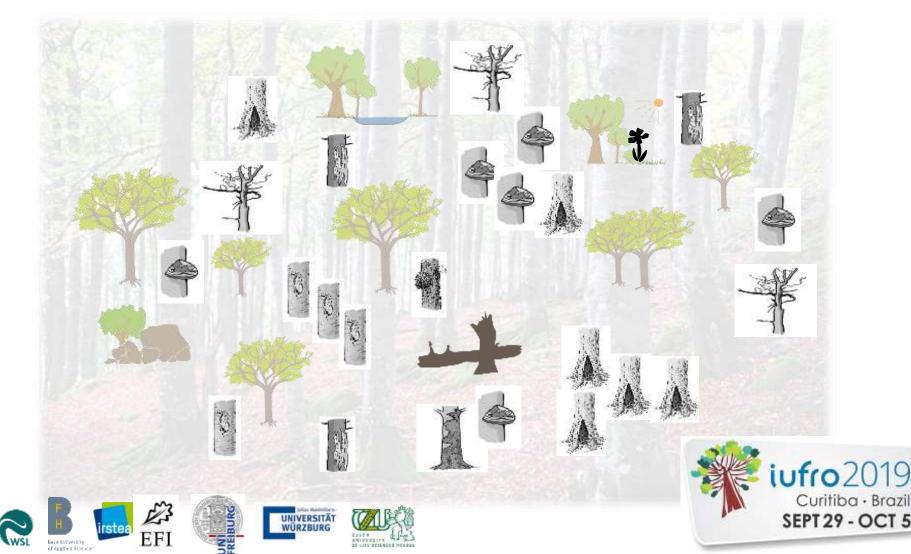
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Tree-related Microhabitat (TreM) spatial patterns in European beech-dominated forests

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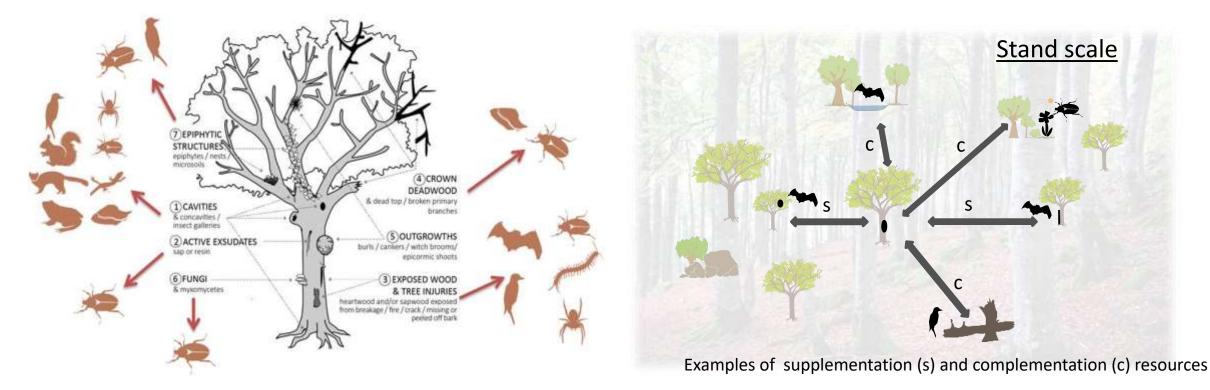


A TreM is a specific above-ground tree morphological singularity

- distinct, well delineated structure
- borne by standing living or dead trees
- essential substrate or life-site for taxa
- encompassing decaying wood (=saproxylic TreM) or not (=epixylic TreM)



TReMs are key features for many taxa and participate in a complex functional habitat network in species life cycles



- By harvesting TreM-bearing trees, management impacts both TreM density and diversity (e.g. Larrieu & Cabanettes 2012)
- We observe poorer communities of TreM-dwelling taxa in managed stands (e.g. Bouget et al. AC 2014)
- Is this lower biodiversity due to a lower TreM supply only or also to changes in spatial distribution pattern?

Are spatial distribution patterns of TreMs different in harvested stands compared to unharvested ones?

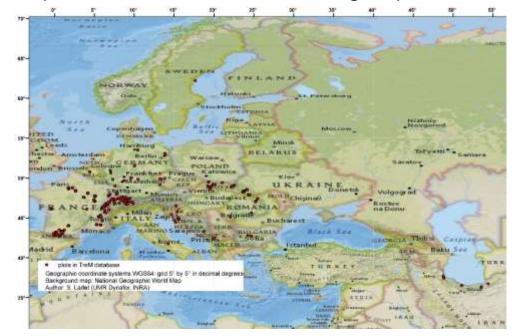
Hypothesis 1: TreM distribution is spatially structured in old-growth forests (>100 years)

Hypothesis 2: The spatial distribution of TreMs is mainly driven by the spatial distribution of tree dbh

Hypothesis 3: Management affects these patterns by controlling dbh range, density and location of TreM-bearing trees

An analysis focusing on beech-dominated stands, recently harvested or not

International standardized TreM database: 267 sites, 1492 plots, 86 754 trees, 17 TreM groups



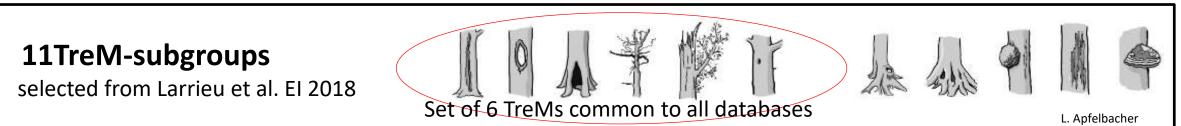
- Beech-dominated (>50% trees) stands
 Tree coordinates
 >20 trees/plot
 >10 TreM/plots
- 2 time categories since the last harvest

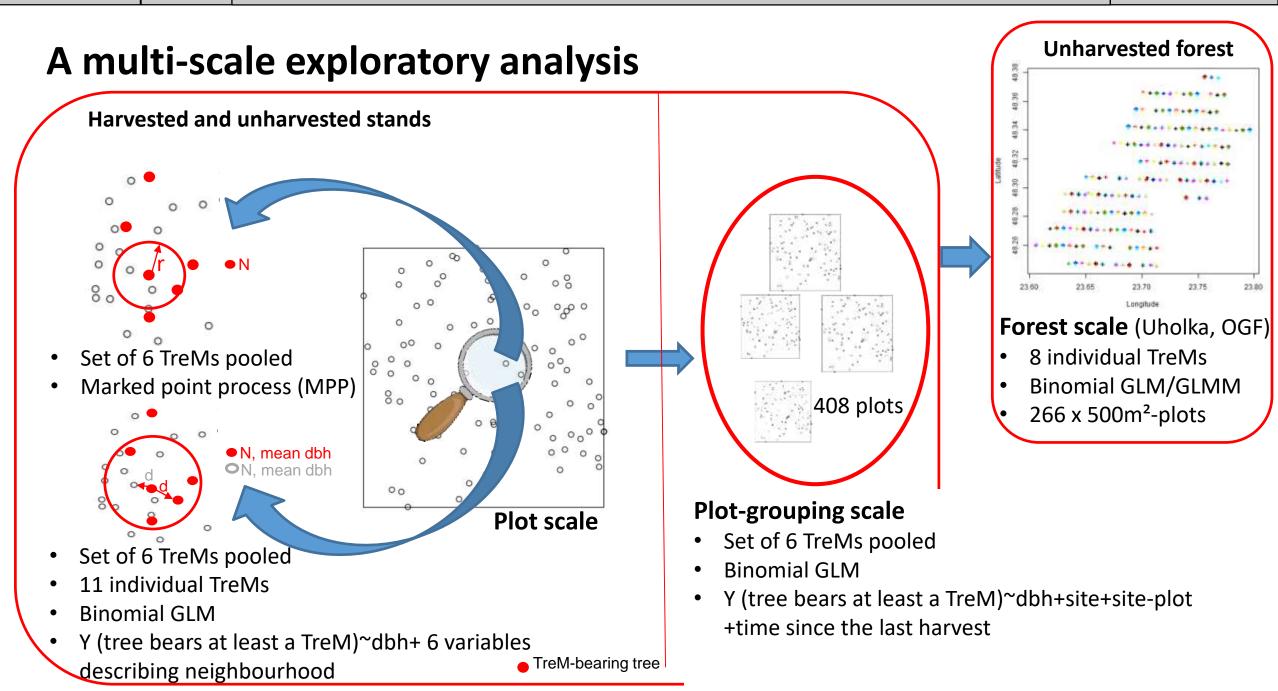
< 50 y: managed forest > 100 y: old-growth forest



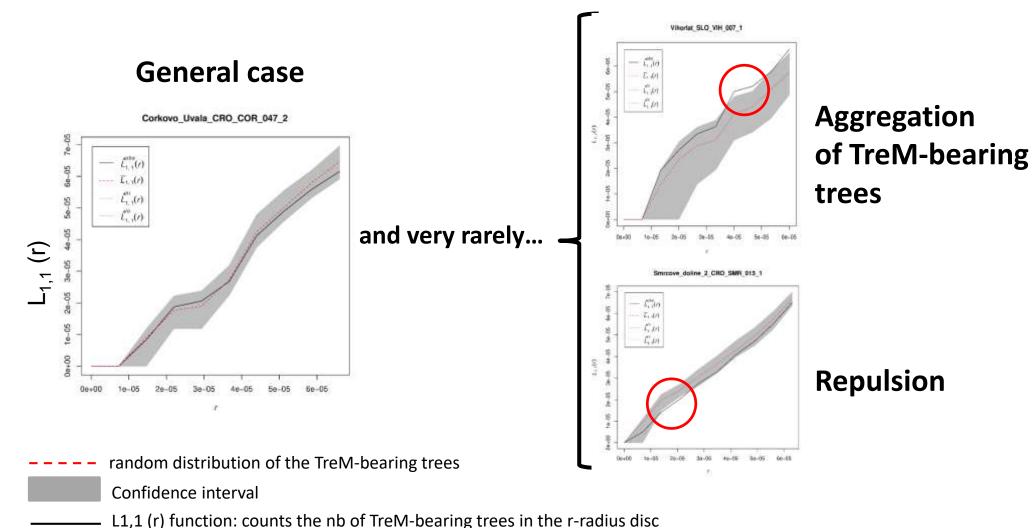
55 sites, 408 plots (0.05-1ha),

20346 living and standing dead trees





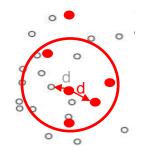
No consistent spatial pattern, neither in managed nor in old growth forests





MPP without control of the spatial structure for dbh

Neighbourhood features have a significant effect on TreM bearing tree occurrence



GLM binomial Y=tree bears a TreM or not

for 50 % of the plots in Managed forest



+ 10% of variance explained by neighbourhood (in addition to dbh)

for 25% of the plots in Old-growth forest



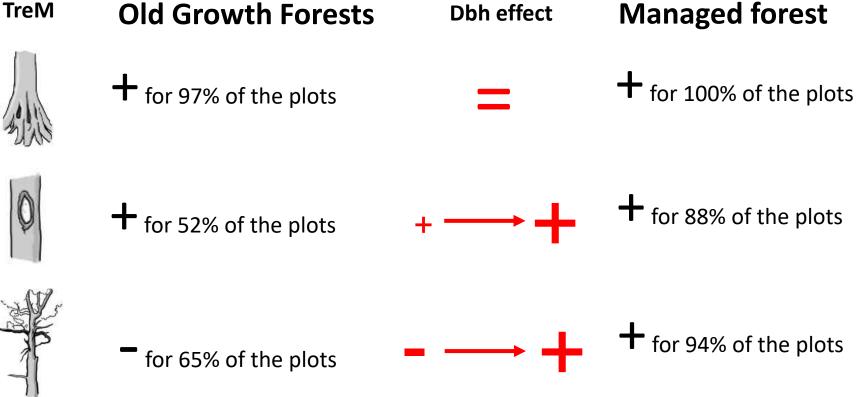
+ 18% of variance explained by neighbourhood (in addition to dbh)

The effect of dbh on TreM occurrence depends on both **TreM and forest status**



GLM binomial Y=tree bears a TreM or not





% var. explained by plot:dbh >> % var. explained by dbh

Local conditions are the main driver of TreM occurrence



GLM binomial Y=tree bears a TreM or not

- > dbh ***, but low explanatory power (3%)
- Time since the last harvest (dbh*time) ***, medium explanatory power (17%)
- Site (dbh*site)***, high explanatory power (36%)
- Site-plot (dbh*site-plot)***, the highest explanatory power (42%)

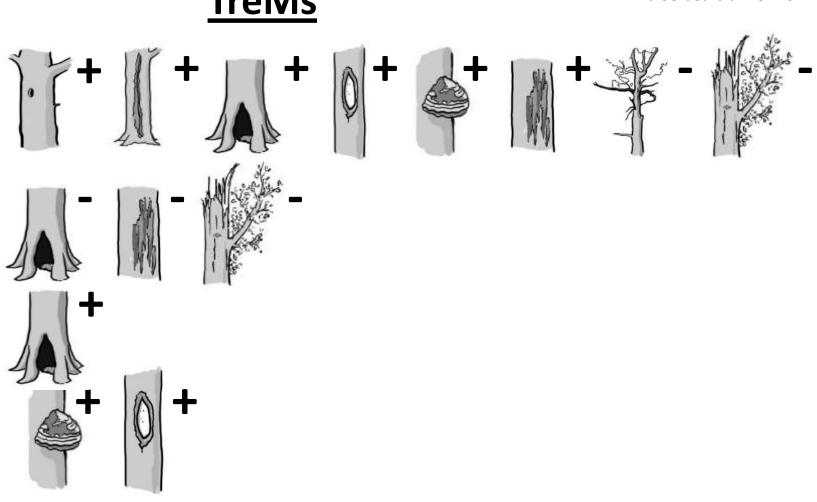
Same trend observed at the individually TreM level!

In addition to dbh, plot features matters for explaining the occurrence of most of the TreMs $\frac{\text{Drivers}}{1} \qquad \frac{\text{TreMs}}{1} \qquad \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{$

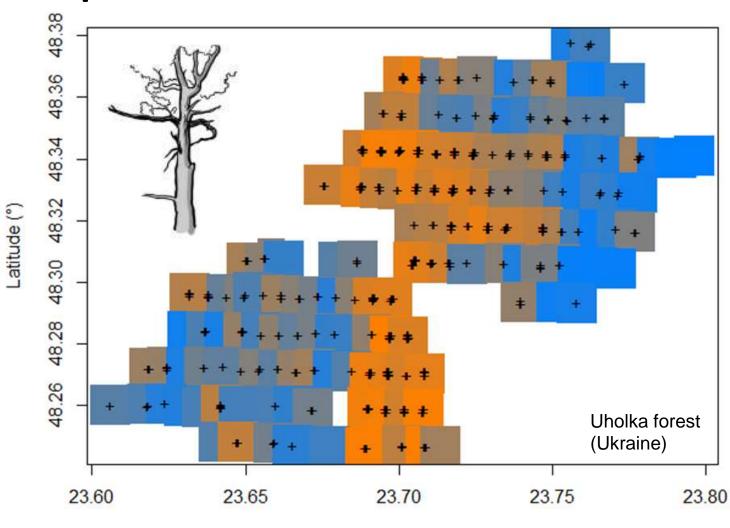
> DBH

Plot features

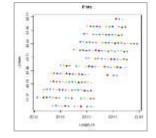
- canopy cover
- slope
- elevation



Crown deadwood is mostly driven by a spatiallyautocorrelated plot random effect



Longitude (°)





posteriori residual variation of crown deadwood occurrence

Distance decay=260m

In a nutshell

- Tree dbh spatial distribution is not a consistent surrogate within plot for TreM spatial distribution in old-growth forests
- > Strong effect of local conditions on TreM spatial structuration
- Management influences the way TreM spatialization occurs (mainly by changing relationship between TreM and dbh)

Thanks for your attention