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## **WP1 Impacts on biodiversity - French site**

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# Ecological and socioeconomic impacts of climate-induced tree diebacks in highland forests




## WP1 Impacts on biodiversity - French site



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Belmont Forum Collaborative Research Action / Call for Proposals on Mountains as Sentinels of Change



How do forest insects respond to resource pulses induced by forest dieback is a « fundamental ecological question »

**100**  
YEARS **Journal of Ecology**



*Journal of Ecology* 2013, 101, 58–67

doi: 10.1111/1365-2745.12025

FORUM

## Identification of 100 fundamental ecological questions

William J. Sutherland<sup>1</sup>, Robert P. Freckleton<sup>2</sup>, H. Charles J. Godfray<sup>3</sup>, Steven R. Beissinger<sup>4</sup>, Tim Benton<sup>5</sup>, Duncan D. Cameron<sup>2</sup>, Yohay Carmel<sup>6</sup>, David A. Coomes<sup>7</sup>, Tim Coulson<sup>8</sup>, Mark C. Emmerson<sup>9</sup>, Rosemary S. Hails<sup>10</sup>, Graeme C. Hays<sup>11</sup>, Dave J. Hodgson<sup>12</sup>, Michael J. Hutchings<sup>13</sup>, David Johnson<sup>14</sup>, Julia P. G. Jones<sup>15</sup>, Matt J. Keeling<sup>16</sup>, Hanna Kokko<sup>17</sup>, William E. Kunin<sup>18</sup>, Xavier Lambin<sup>14</sup>, Owen T. Lewis<sup>3</sup>, Yadvinder Malhi<sup>19</sup>, Nova Mieszkowska<sup>20</sup>, E. J. Milner-Gulland<sup>21</sup>, Ken Norris<sup>22</sup>, Albert B. Phillimore<sup>23</sup>, Drew W. Purves<sup>24</sup>, Jane M. Reid<sup>14</sup>, Daniel C. Reuman<sup>21,25</sup>, Ken Thompson<sup>2</sup>, Justin M. J. Travis<sup>14</sup>, Lindsay A. Turnbull<sup>26</sup>, David A. Wardle<sup>27</sup> and Thorsten Wiegand<sup>28</sup>

**54** How do resource pulses affect resource use and interactions between organisms?

*Ecological Monographs*, 80(1), 2010, pp. 125–151  
© 2010 by the Ecological Society of America

*Ecology*, 89(3), 2008, pp. 621–634  
© 2008 by the Ecological Society of America

A meta-analysis of resource pulse–consumer interactions

LOUIE H. YANG,<sup>1,2,3,6</sup> KYLE F. EDWARDS,<sup>3</sup> JARRETT E. BYRNES,<sup>2,3</sup> JUSTIN L. BASTOW,<sup>3,4</sup> AMBER N. WRIGHT,<sup>3</sup>  
AND KENNETH O. SPENCE<sup>5</sup>

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM RESOURCE PULSES?

LOUIE H. YANG,<sup>1,3</sup> JUSTIN L. BASTOW,<sup>1</sup> KENNETH O. SPENCE,<sup>2</sup> AND AMBER N. WRIGHT<sup>1</sup>



## Ecological issues in the ClimTree project

In declining silver fir forests, how did insect communities respond to:

**A** the local fir dieback intensity?

**B** the regional fir dieback level ?

**C** Salvage logging in declining fir stands ?



# Sampling design and methods

AURE

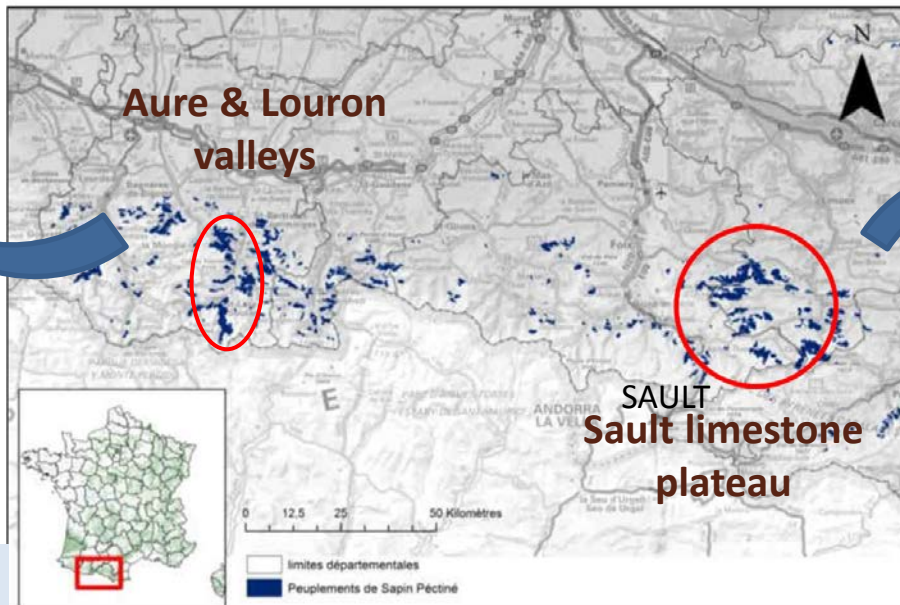
		Stand scale			
		Healthy	Declining		
			Low dieback level	High dieback level	
		No harvesting	No harvesting	Salvage logging	
Landscape scale (R=200m)	Low dieback level	10	3	2	-
	High dieback level	0	3	4	6

## A balanced sampling design

Stratifying factors

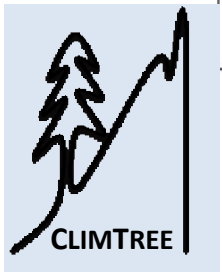
1. Local dieback intensity (-/+)
2. Dieback intensity at the landscape scale (-/+)
3. Salvage logging (0/1)

Design replicated in 2 regions



		Stand scale			
		Healthy	Declining		
			Low dieback level	High dieback level	
		No harvesting	No harvesting	Salvage logging	
Landscape scale (R=200m)	Low dieback level	5	3	3	-
	High dieback level	5	3	3	6

Landscape scale (R=200m)	Low dieback level	5	3	3	-
	High dieback level	5	3	3	6



# Objectives of the French sampling design

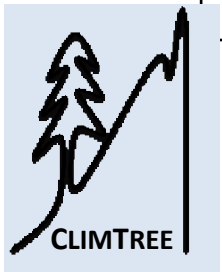
3 crossed gradients to tackle several questions

## 1. Local decline intensity

		Stand scale			
		Healthy	Declining		
Landscape scale (R=200m)	Low dieback level		High dieback level		Salvage logging
	No harvesting	No harvesting			
Low dieback level	15	6	5	-	
High dieback level	5	6	7	12	

## 2. Decline intensity at the landscape

## 3. Salvage logging





# Sampling methods



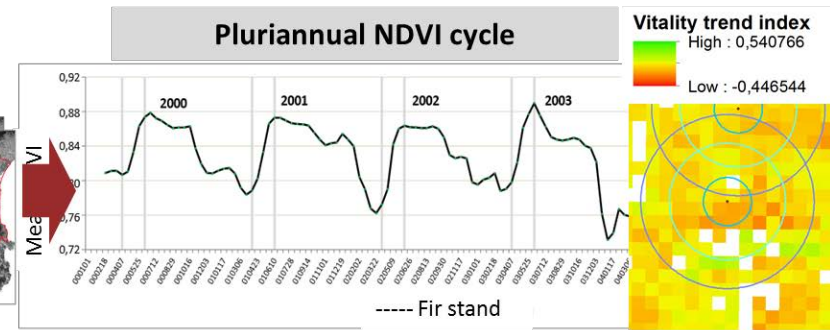
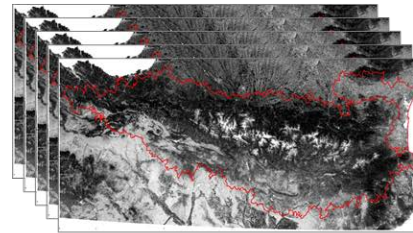
## Local stand structure

- Dead wood
- Tree-related microhabitats
- Canopy openness



## Fir dieback level

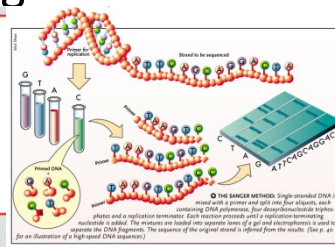
- Local scale
- Landscape scale



## Insect communities

Malaise traps : all flying insects

WFT=Window-flight traps : sx beetles







# Selected preliminary results

- Only sx beetles from WFT



# Contrasting conditions between the two French study sites

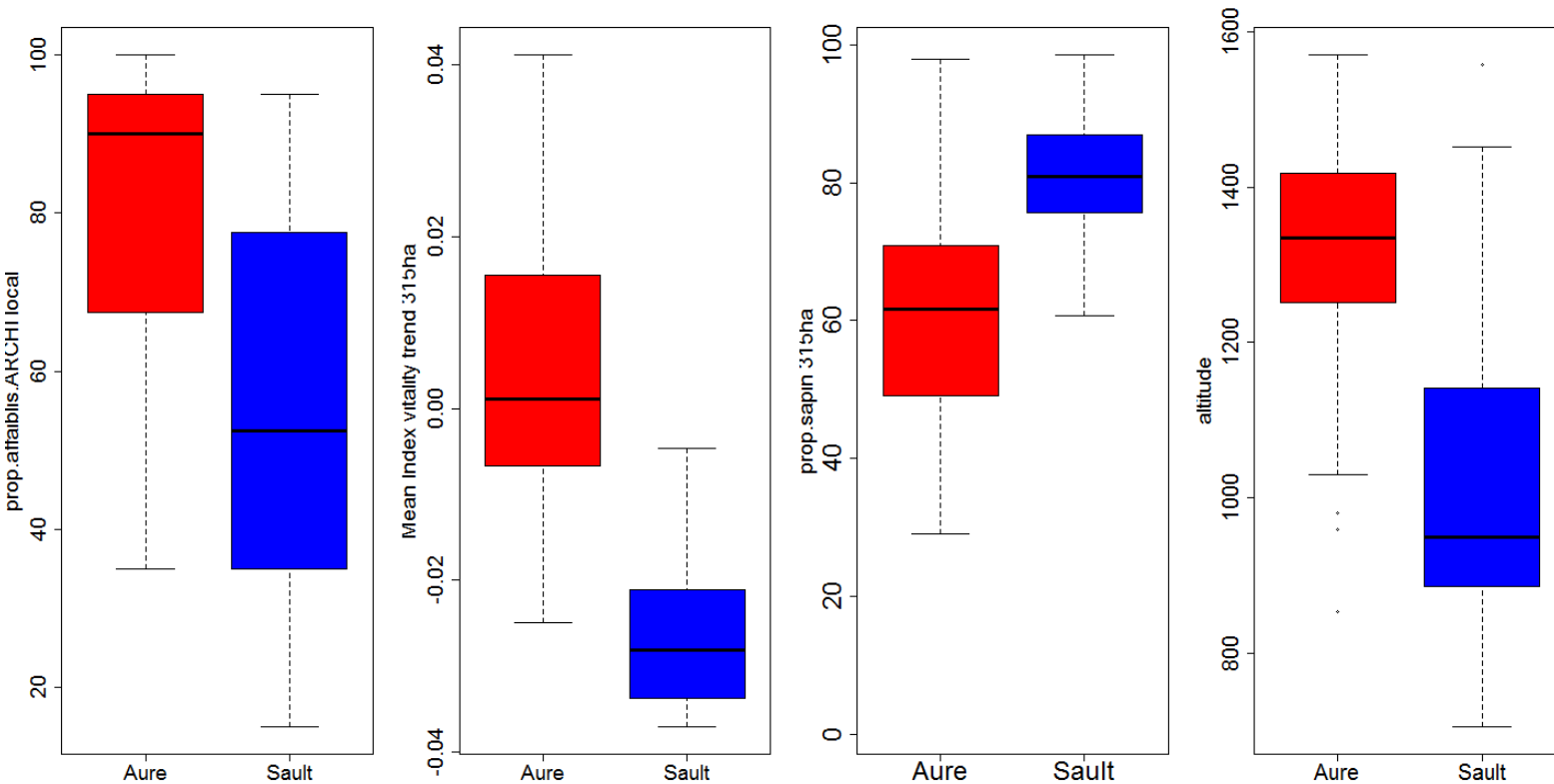
A DIFFÉRENTES ÉCHELLES SPATIALES

Local dieback level **AURE** > SAULT

Regional dieback level **SAULT** > AURE

Landscape fir proportion **SAULT** > AURE

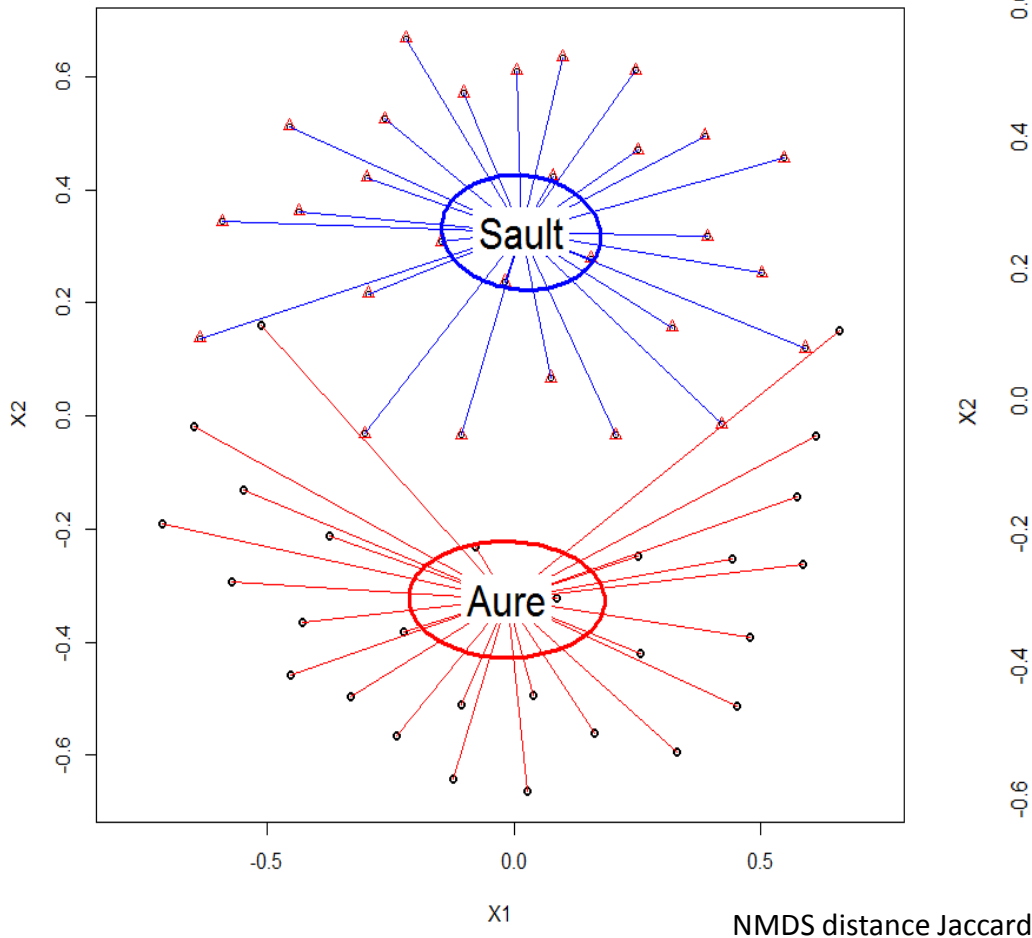
Altitude **AURE** > SAULT



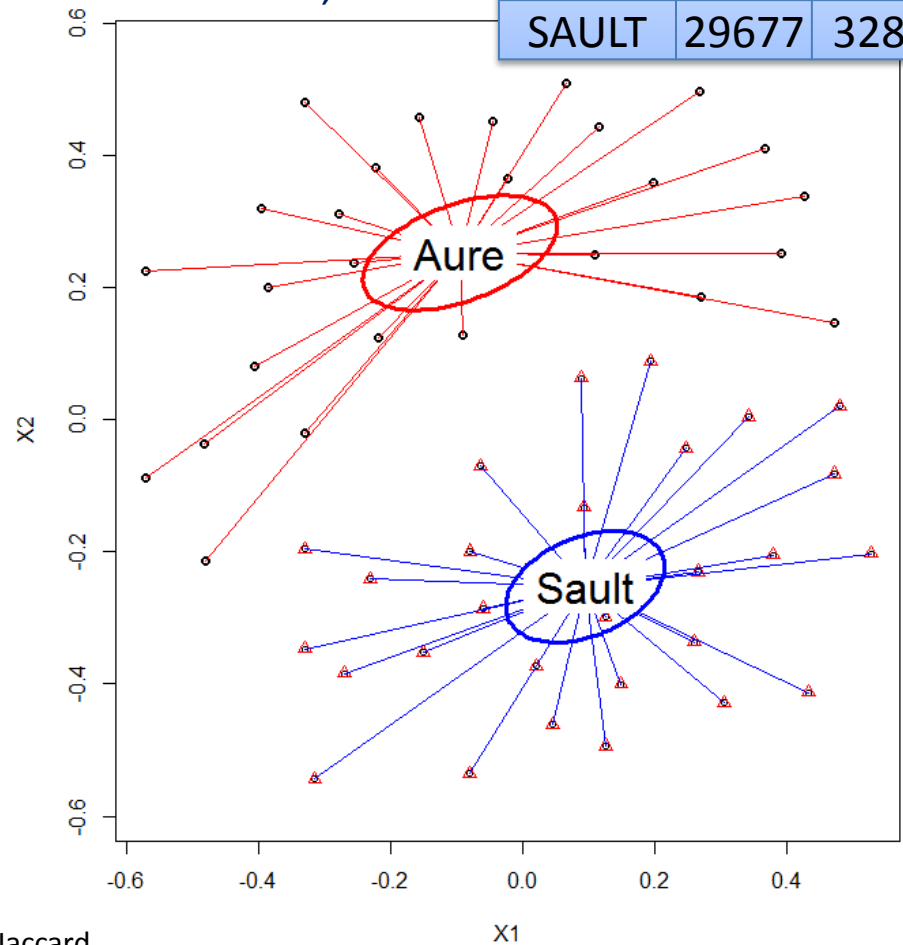
# A strong region effect on insect assemblages !

	Colsx	
	Indiv.	Sp.
AURE	20390	315
SAULT	29677	328

All insects, Malaise traps

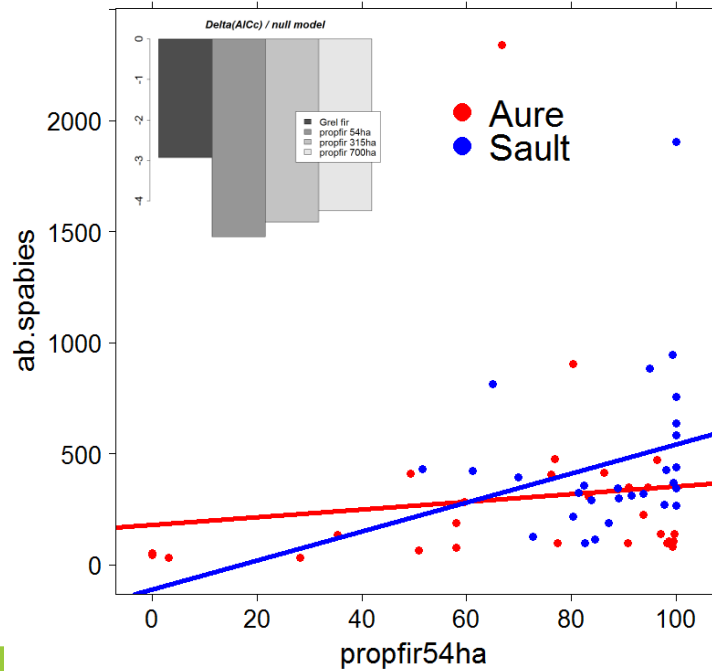


Sx beetles, WFT

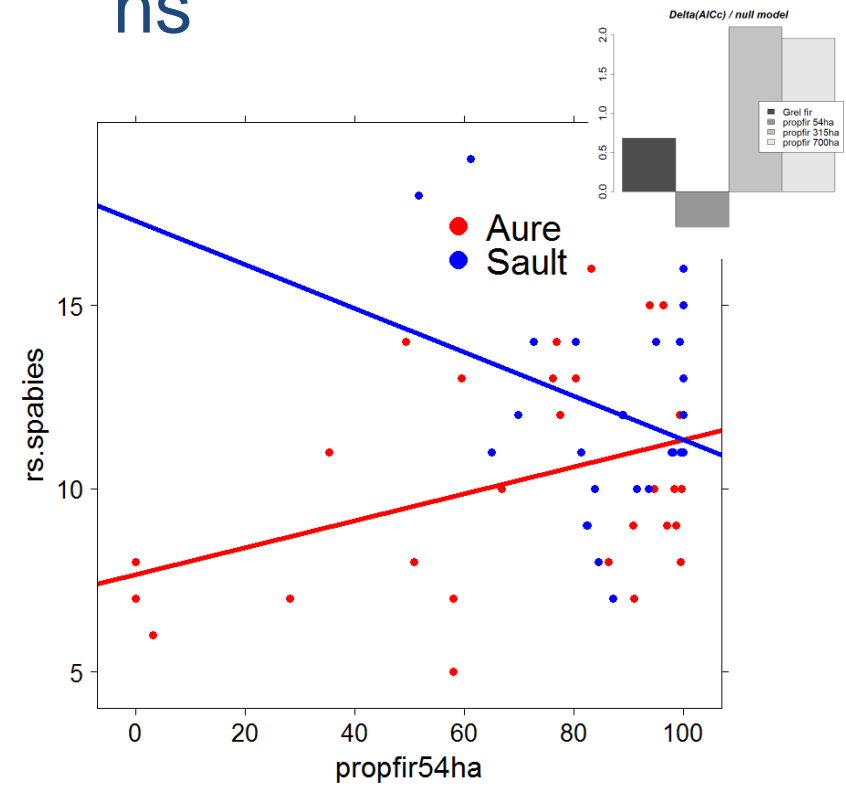


# More individuals of fir-associated species in landscapes more dominated by fir trees

\*\*



ns

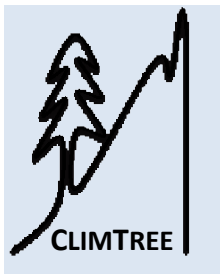
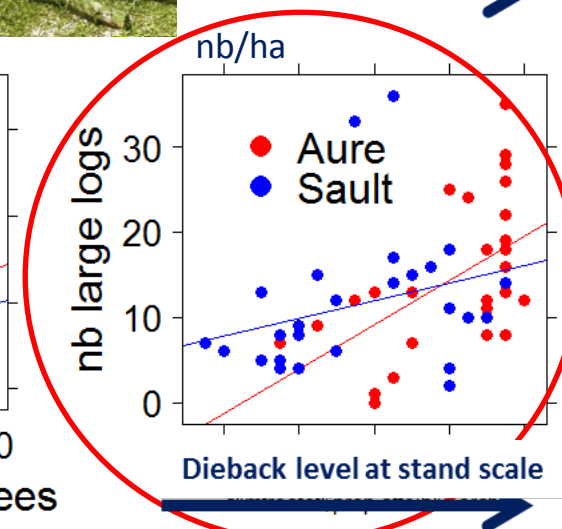
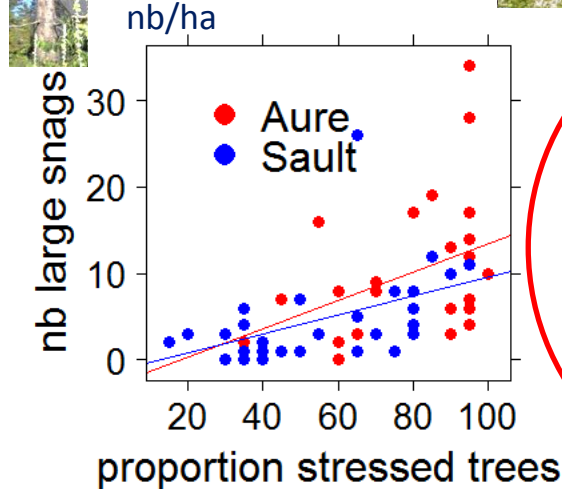
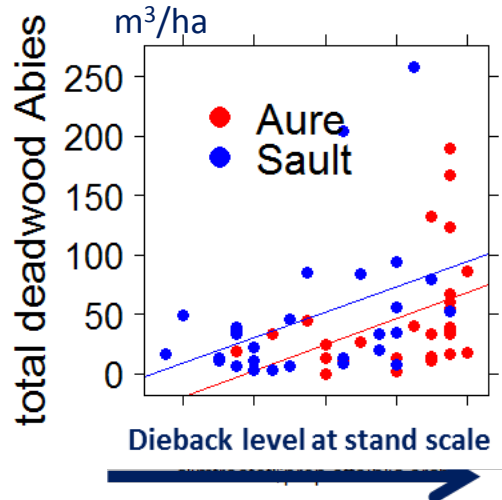
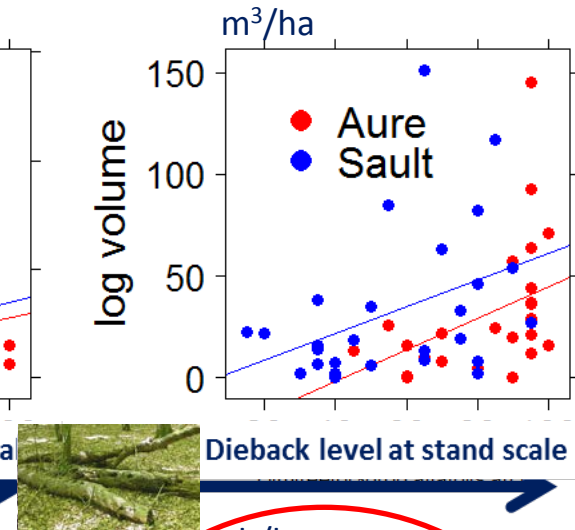
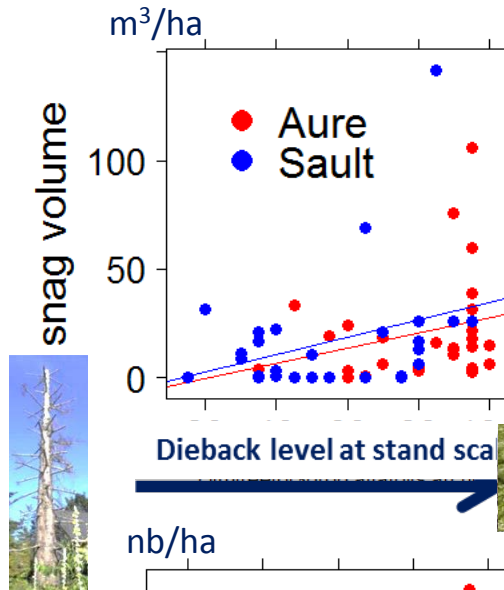
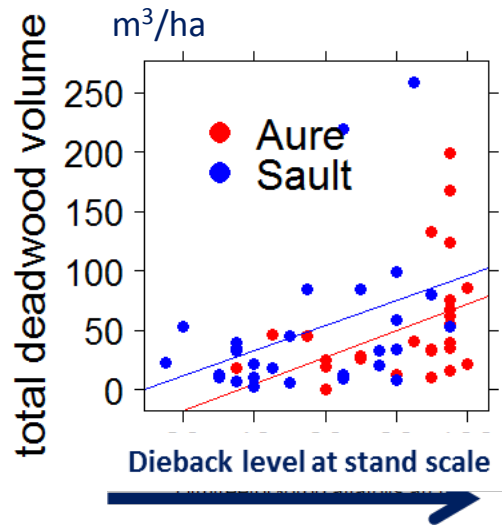


	Colsx Abies	
	Indiv.	Sp.
AURE	8420	37
SAULT	12882	36



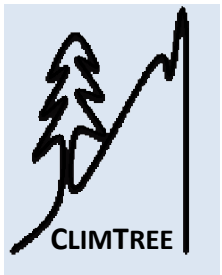
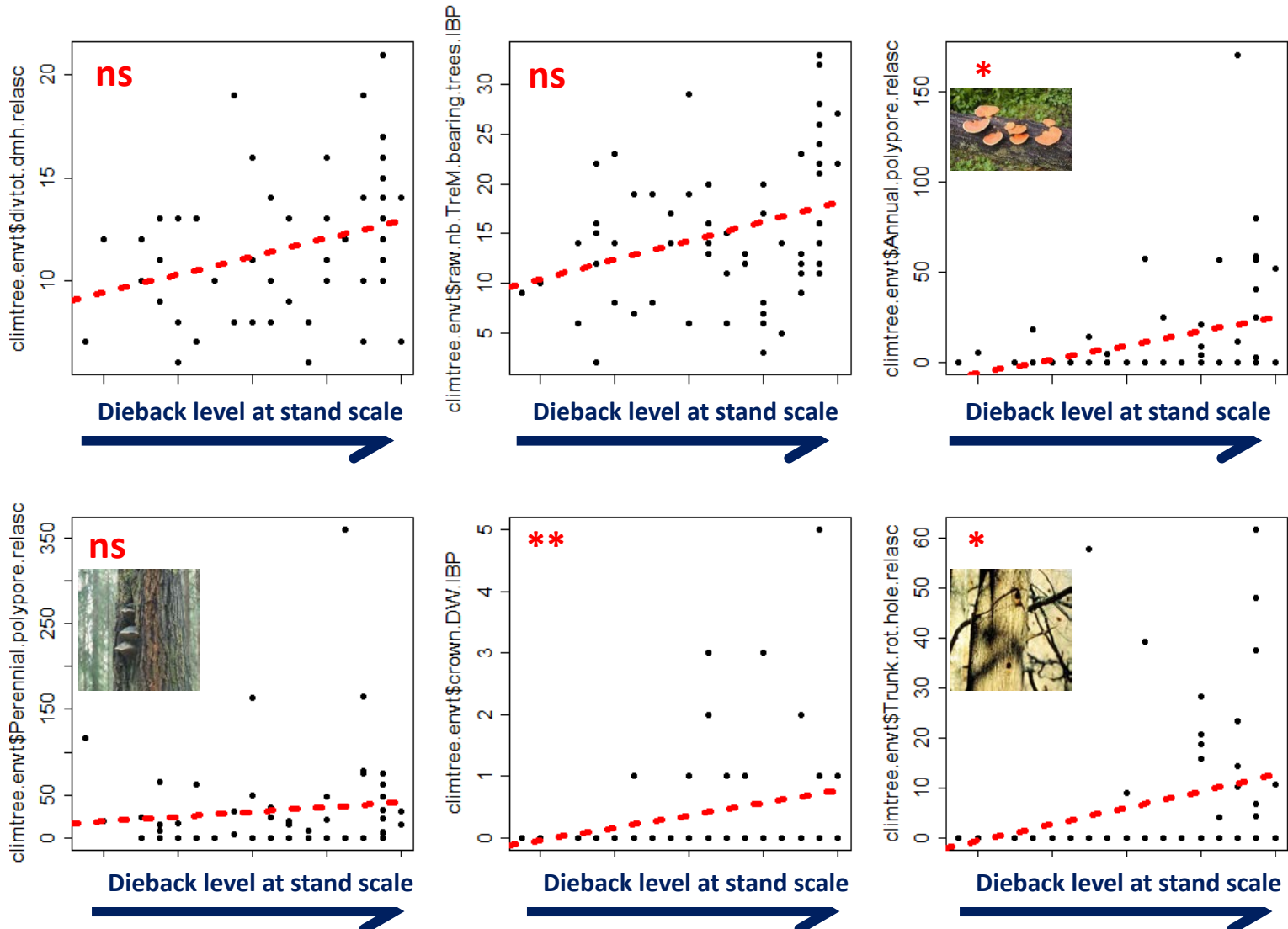
# Significant effects of local dieback level on fir stand structure

An overall increase in deadwood, mainly fir deadwood in declining stands, depending on the region



# Significant effects of local dieback level on fir stand structure

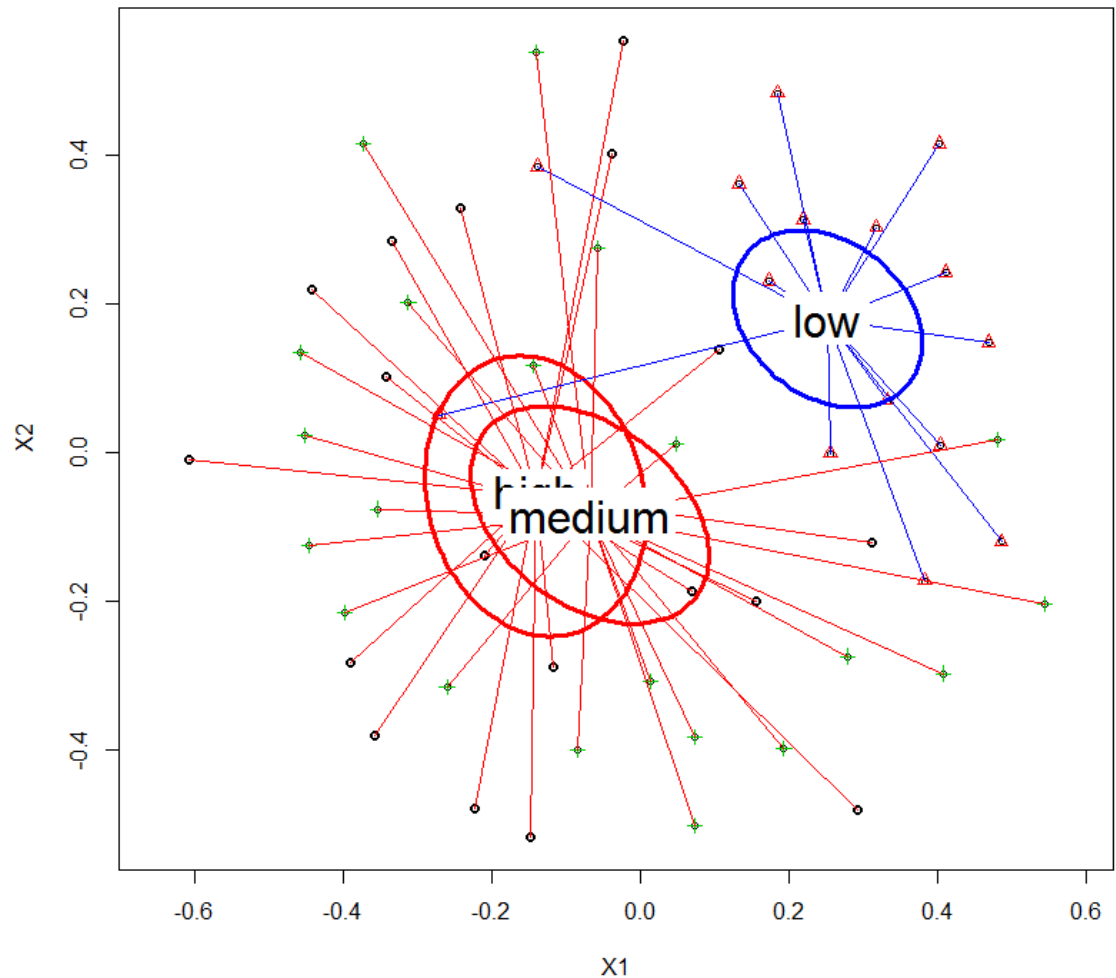
A slight increase in tree-related microhabitat density



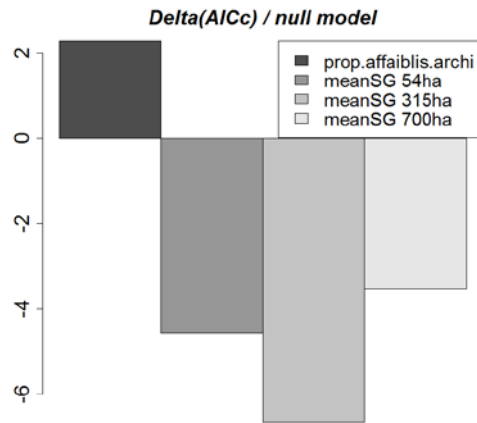
# Significant effects of local dieback level on species composition of saproxylic beetle communities

Jaccard dissimilarity,  
singletons excluded  
NPMANOVA (site  
constrained)

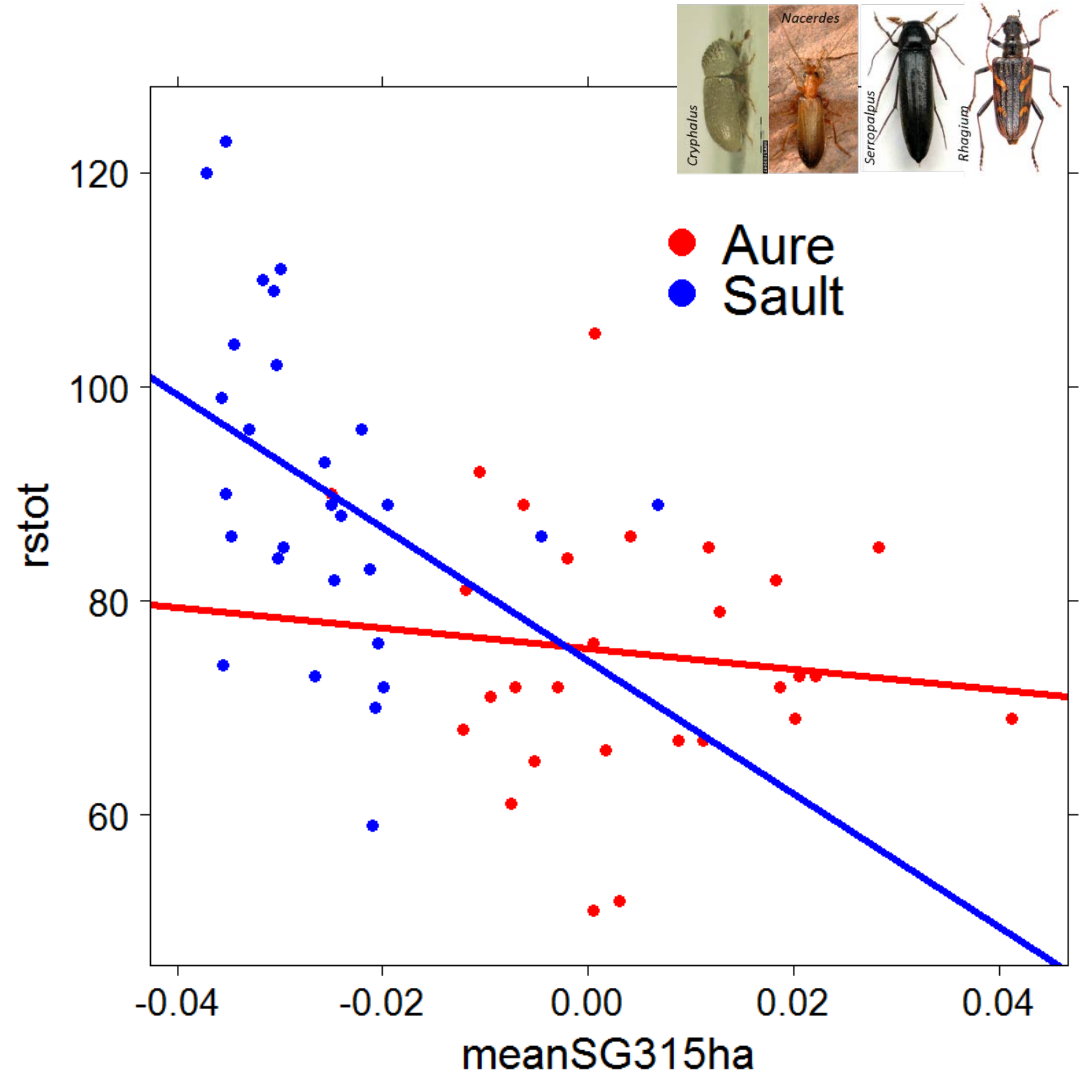
low-medium \*\*\*  
Low-high ns  
High-medium ns



No effect of local dieback level on mean saproxylic beetle species richness...

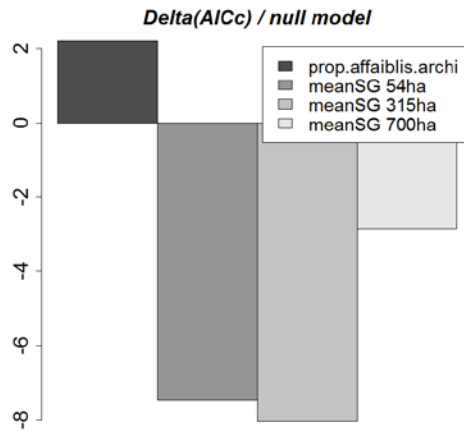


...but positive effect of regional dieback level !

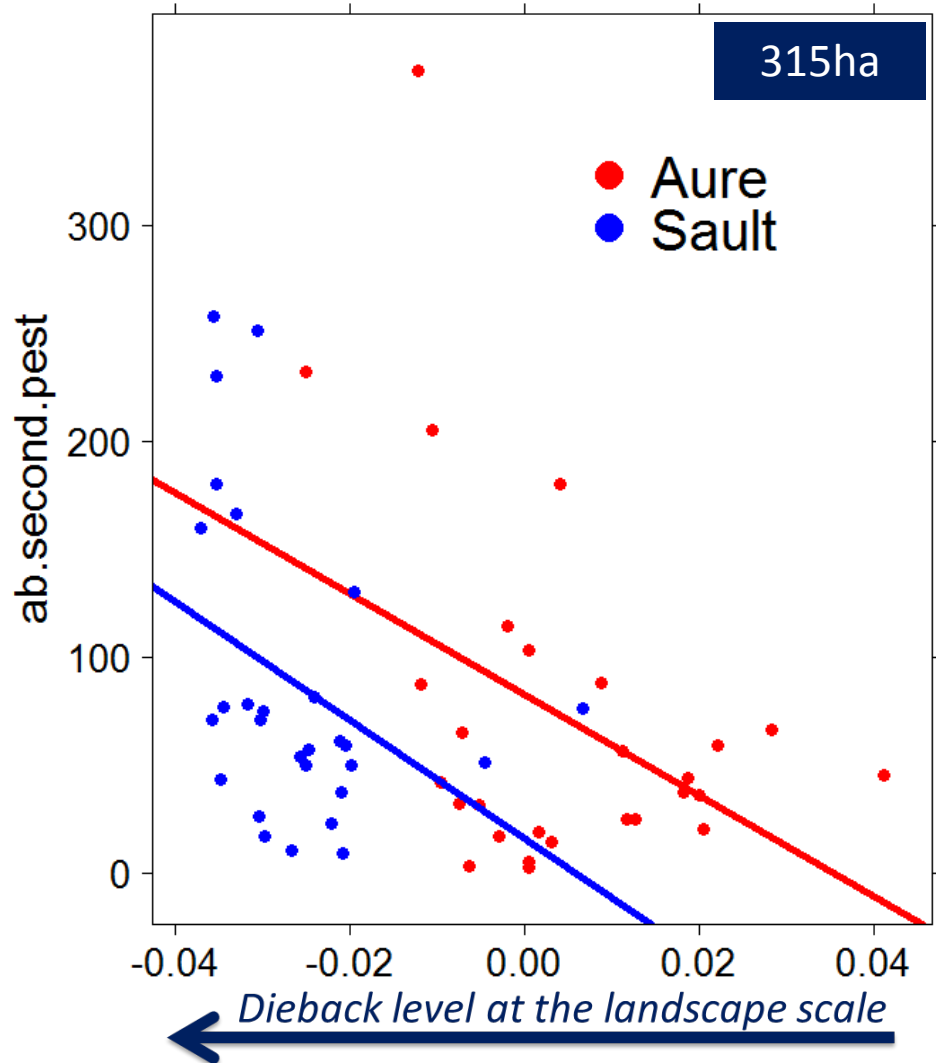




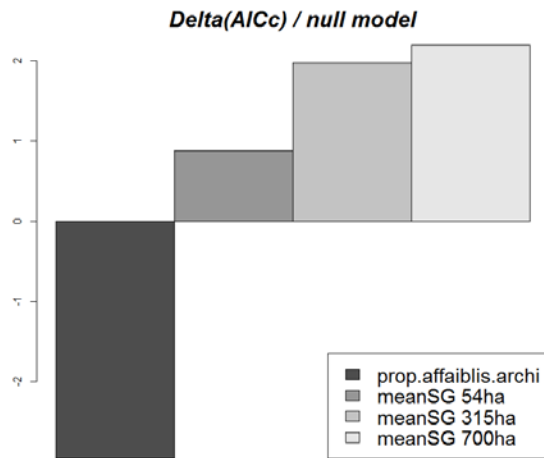
# Significant positive effect of regional dieback level on secondary fir pest abundance (xylophagous beetles)



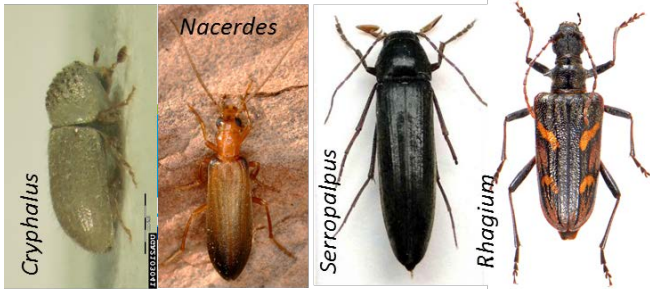
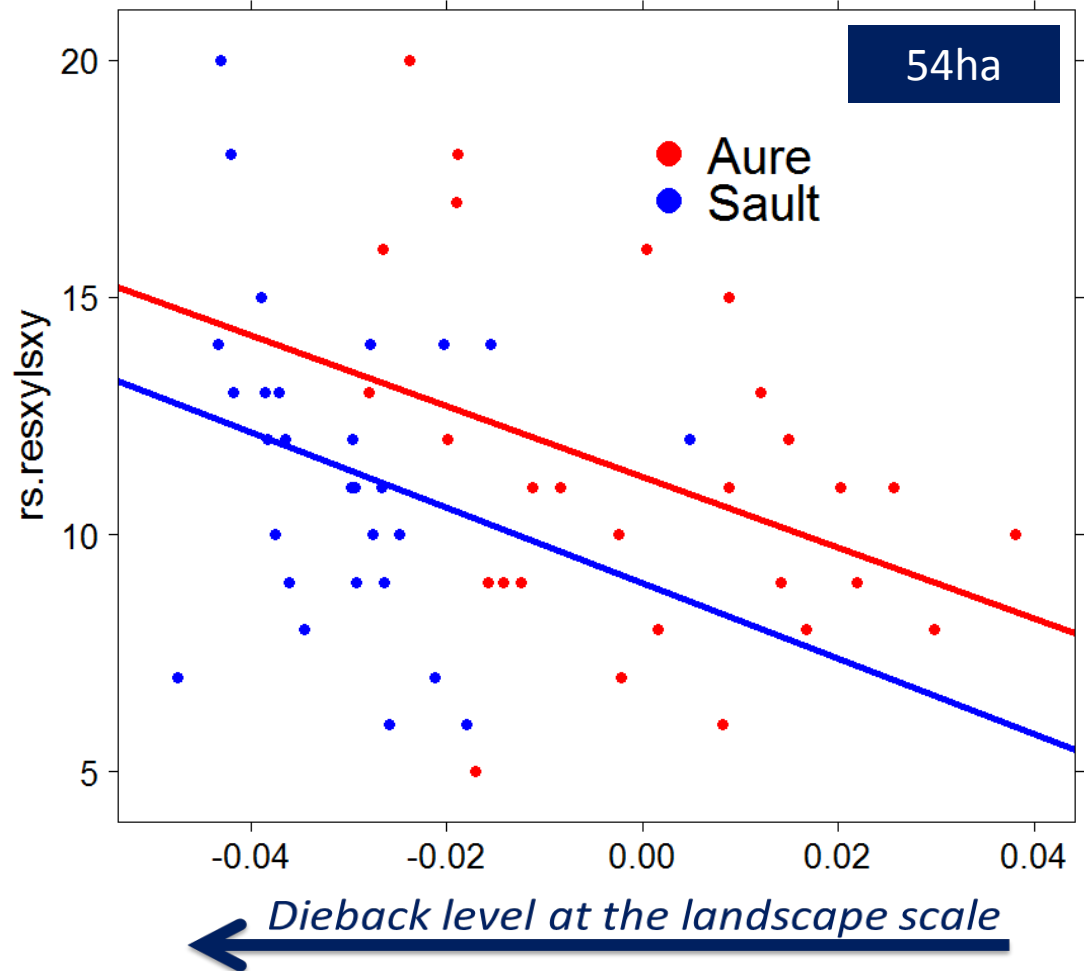
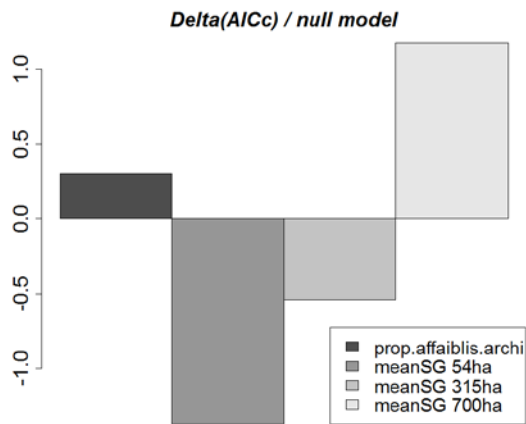
*Pityokteines*



# Conifer deadwood borers increase in abundance with local dieback intensity, in one of the two regions only

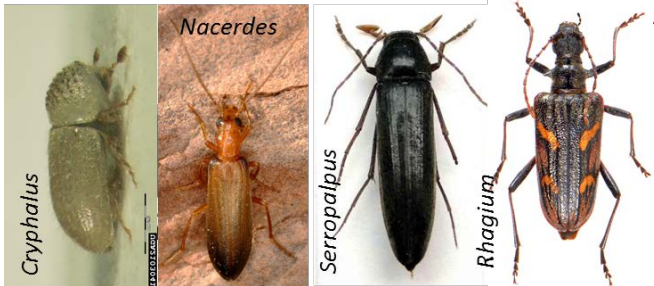
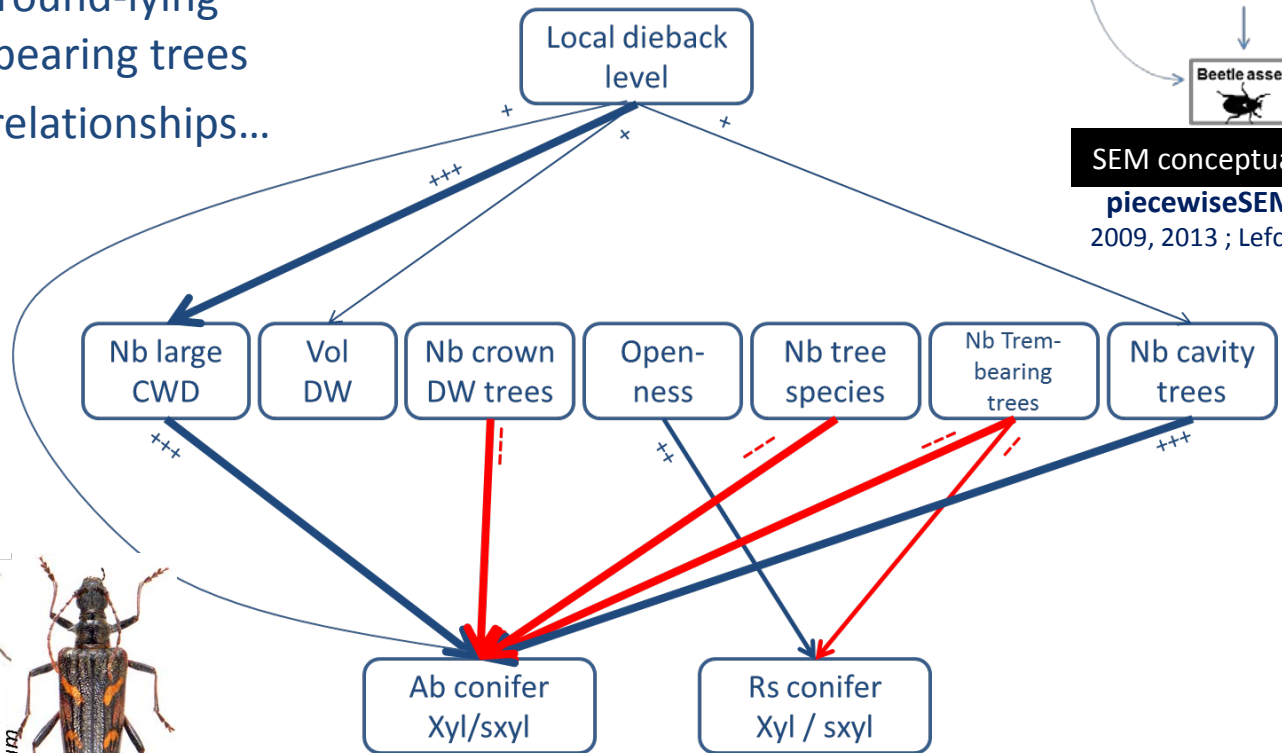
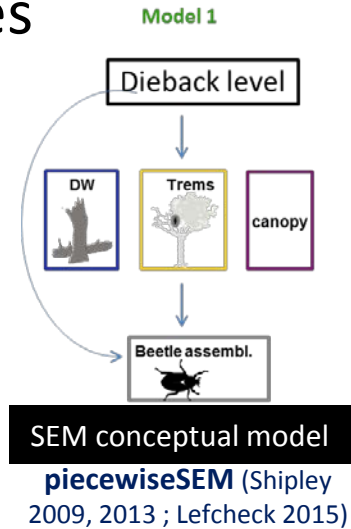


# Conifer deadwood borers increase in richness with regional dieback intensity

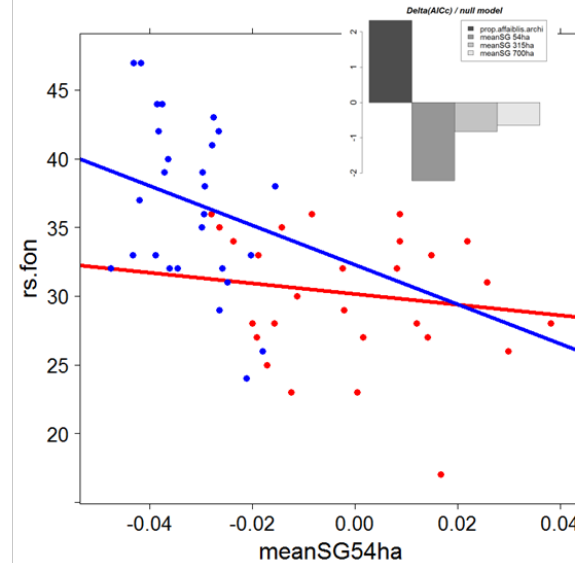
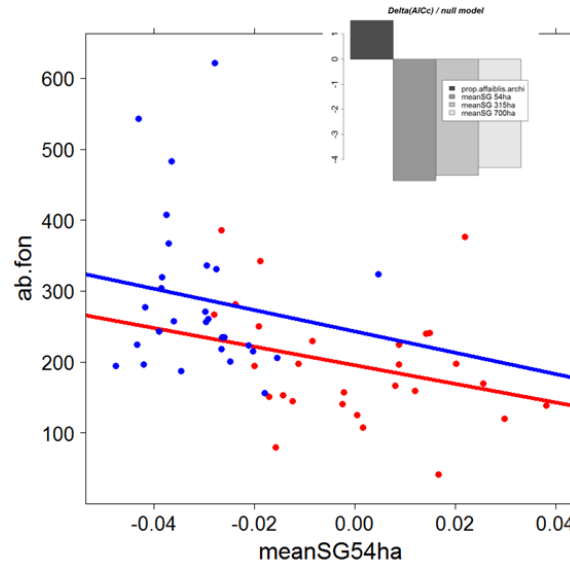
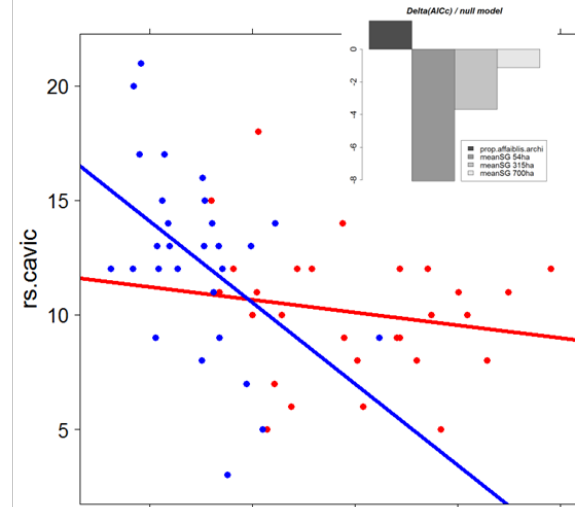
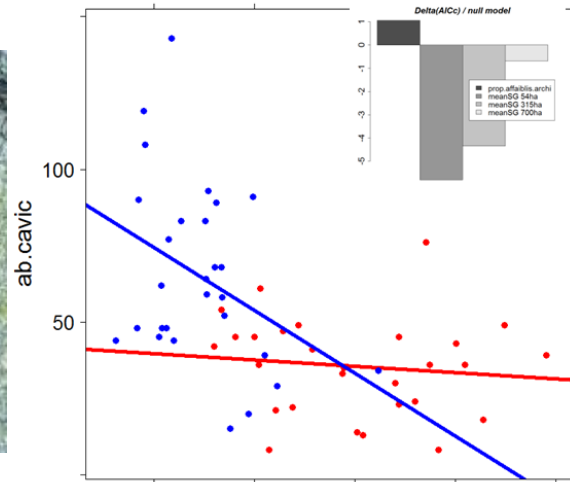


# The response of conifer deadwood borers to local dieback intensity is mediated by stand variables

Positive effect of dieback level seems to be mediated by resource metrics such as the density of large ground-lying deadwood and canopy-bearing trees ...but other ambiguous relationships...

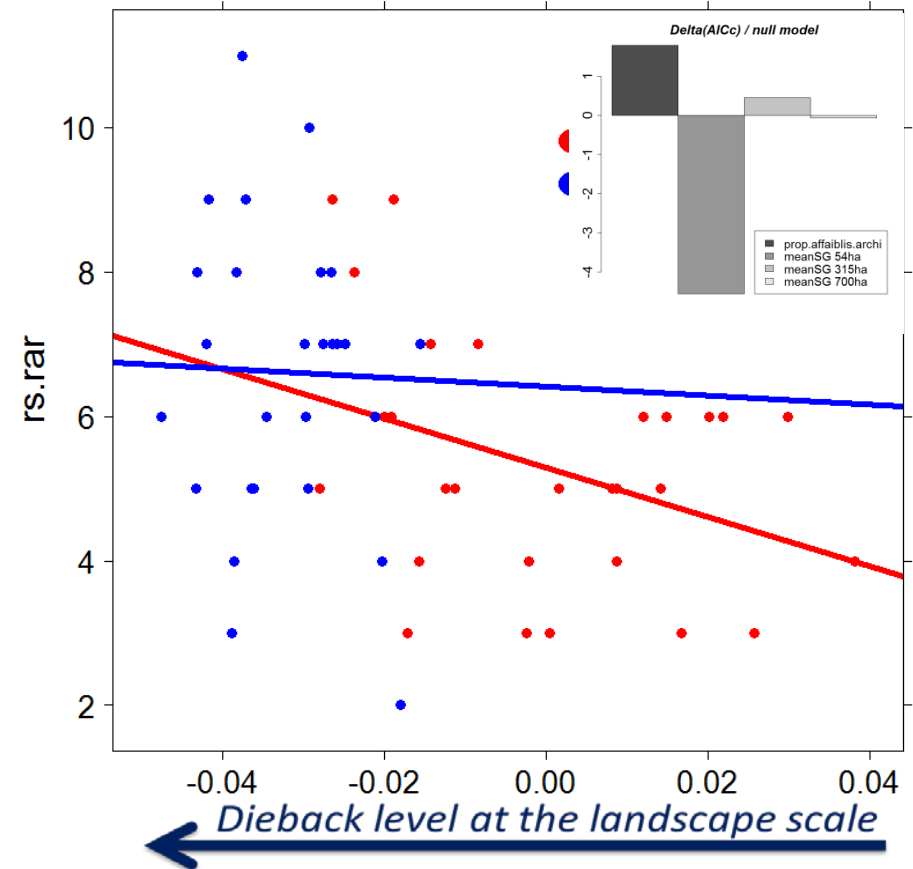
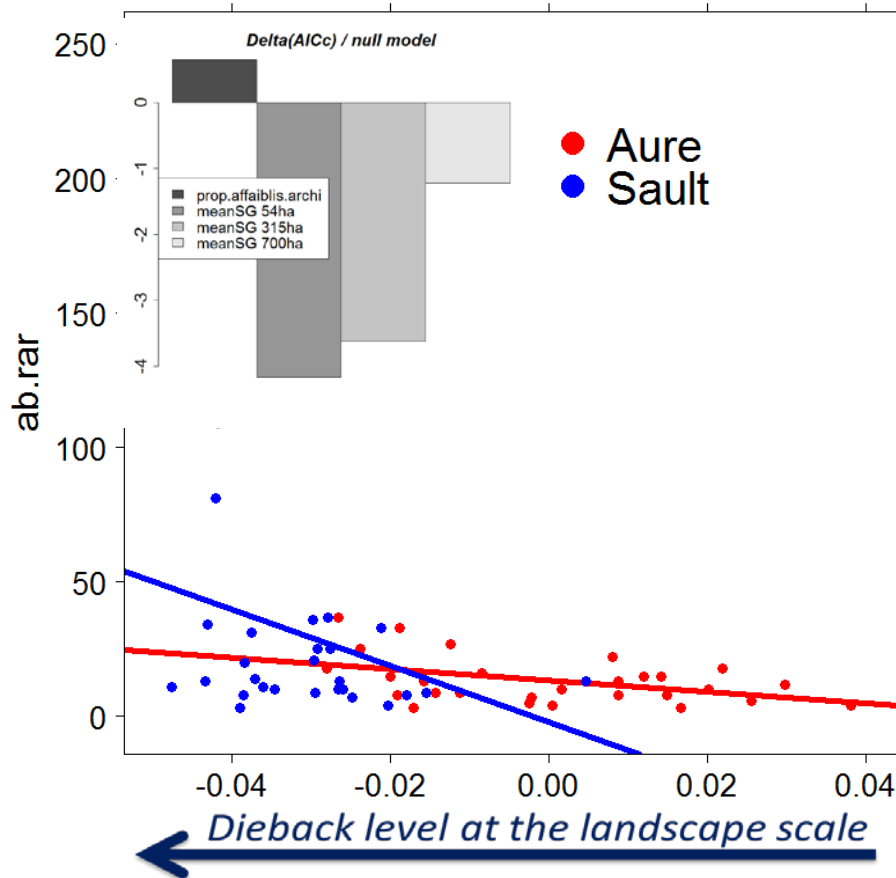


# Tree-related microhabitat-associated beetle increase in abundance and richness with dieback intensity at the landscape but not at the stand scale



# Rare sx beetles increase in richness and abundance with the regional dieback level

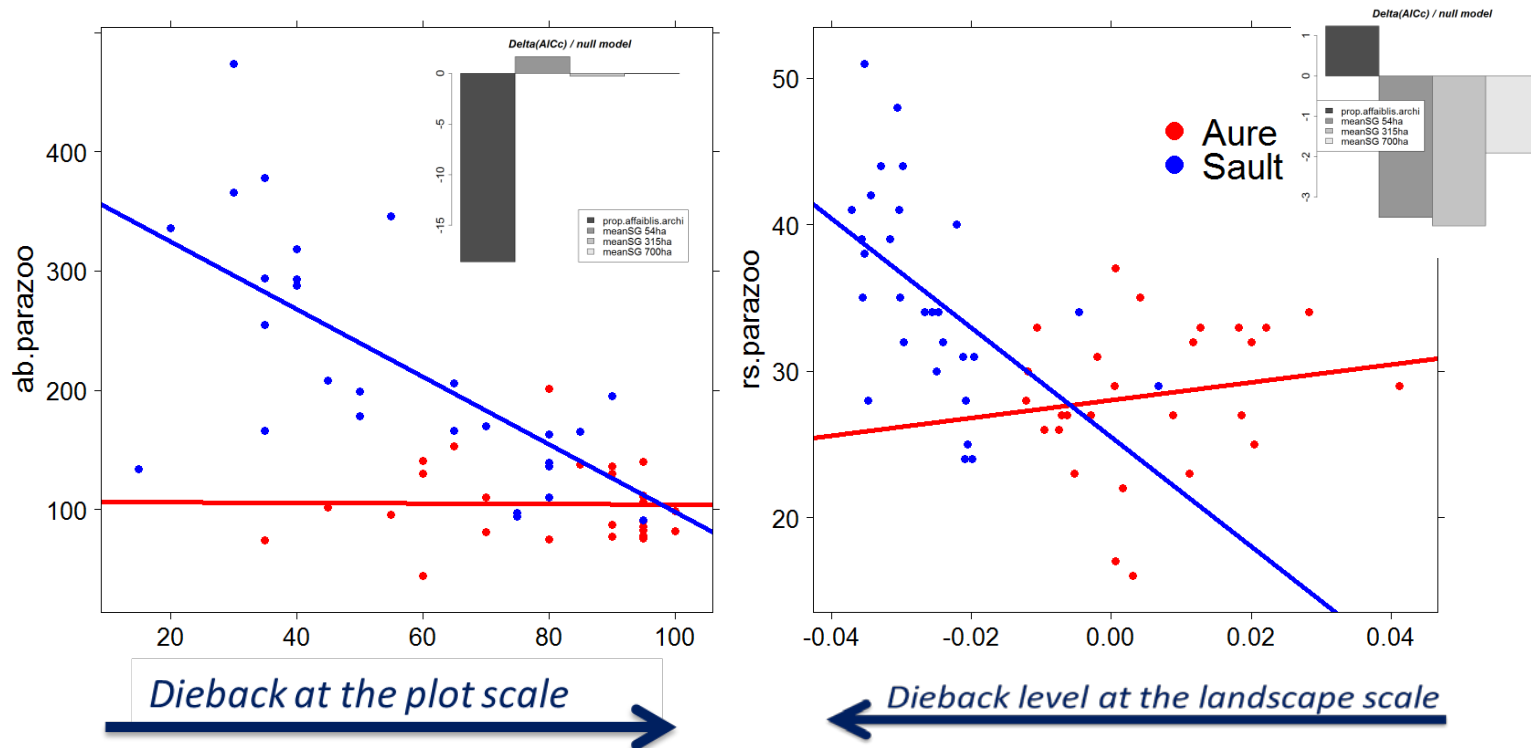
54ha-scale



# Some functional responses...

In the Sault region :

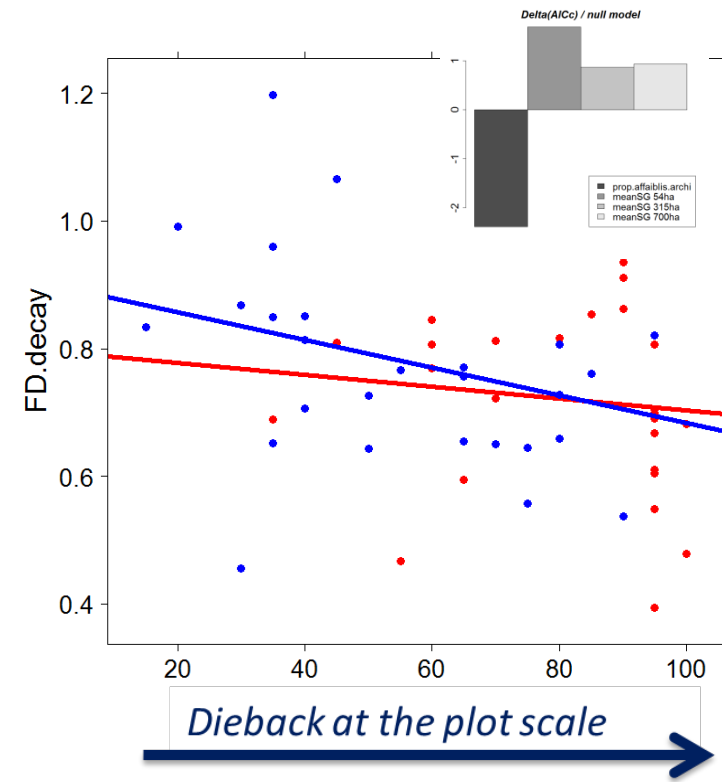
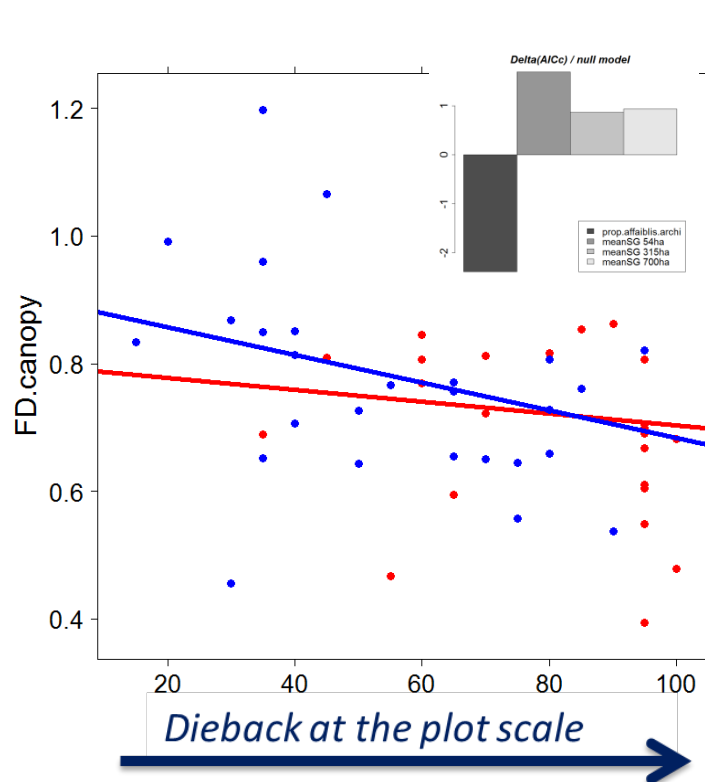
- fewer sx beetle predator individuals in the most declining stands
- but more sx beetle predator species in the most declining landscapes (315ha)



# Some functional responses...

Despite potential increase in canopy heterogeneity and deadwood diversity with increasing dieback :

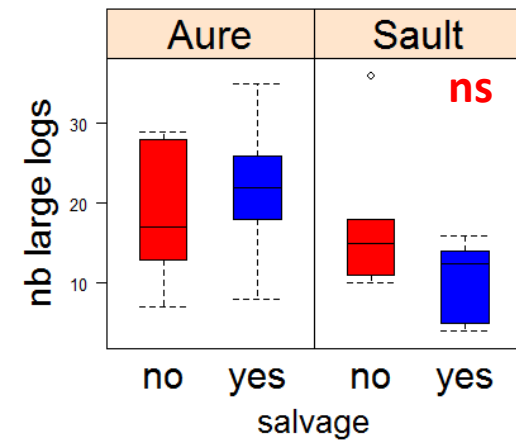
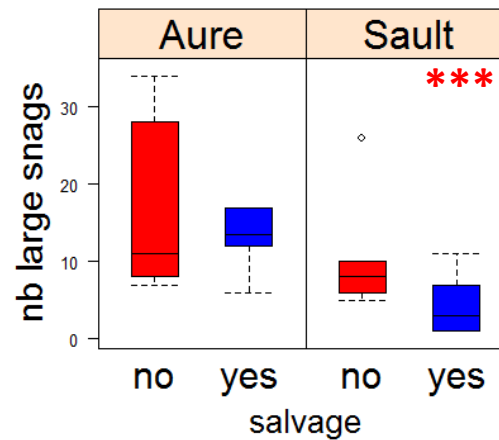
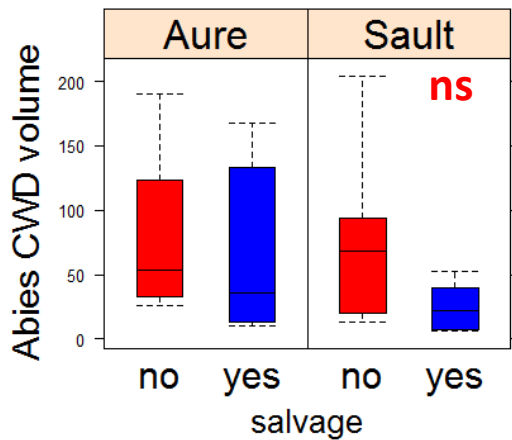
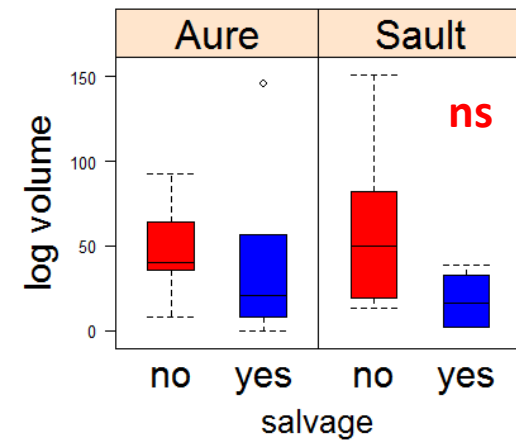
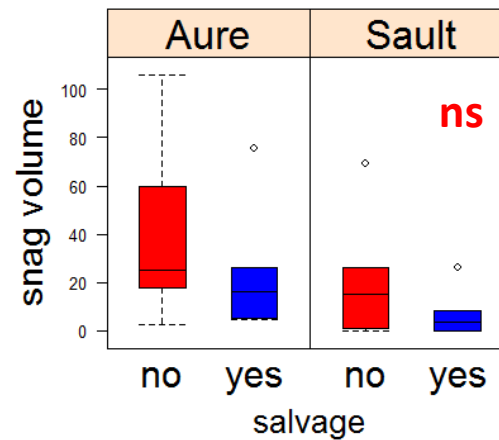
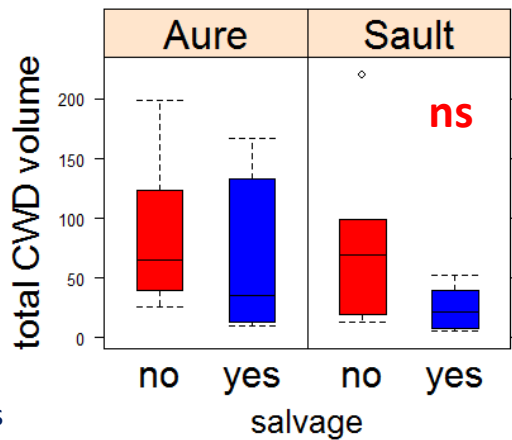
slight but significant decrease of functional dispersion of canopy and decay trait with increasing local dieback



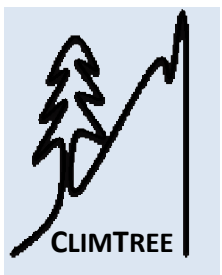


# Slight effects of salvage logging on stand structure

Overall but slight decrease in deadwood...

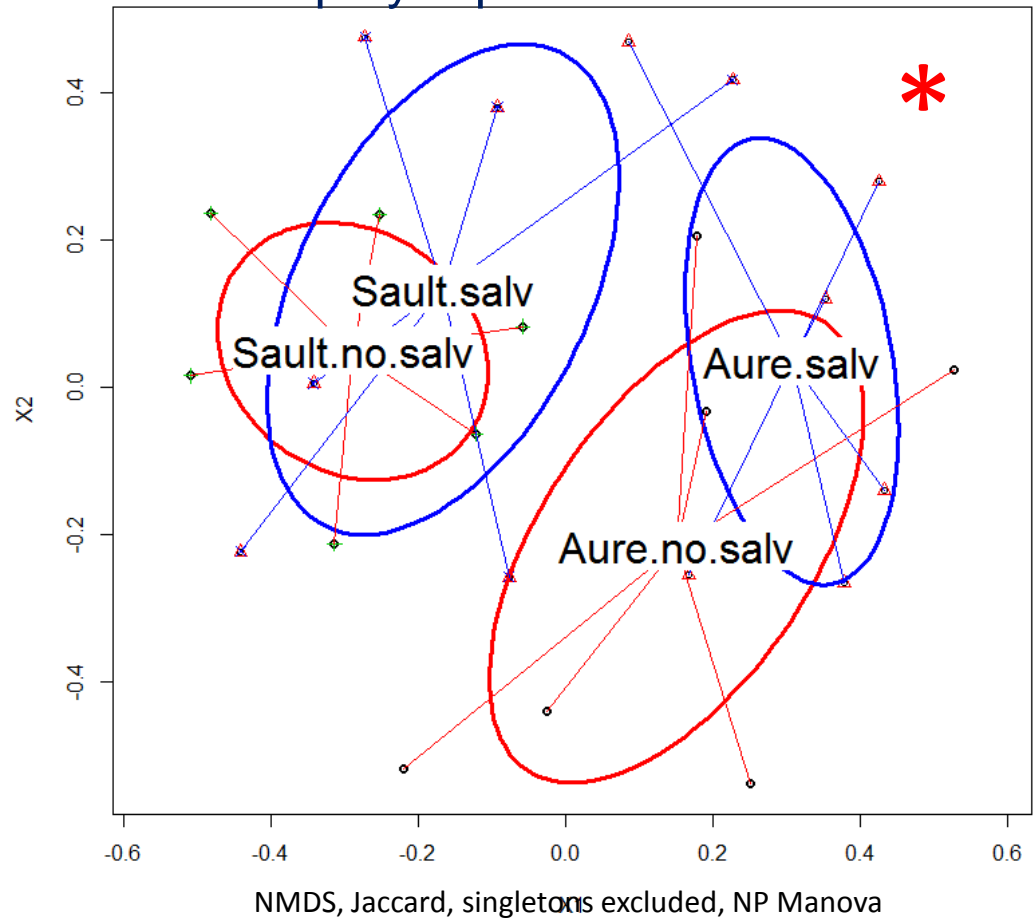


Mixed models  
(« region » as a random variable)

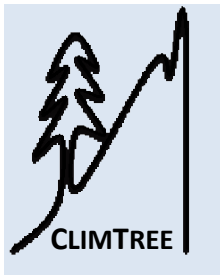
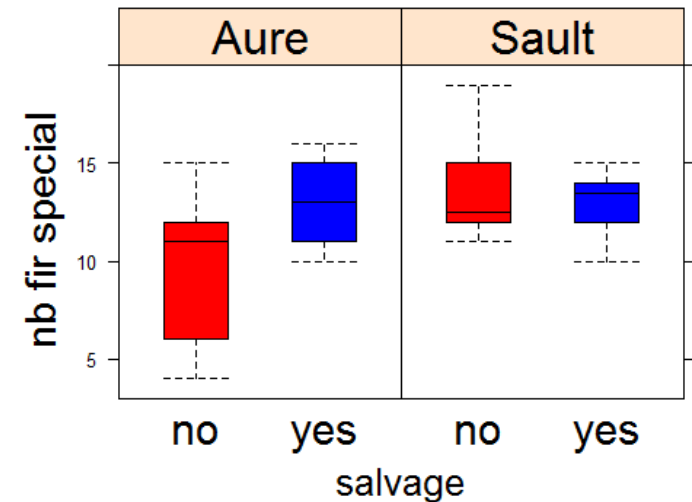
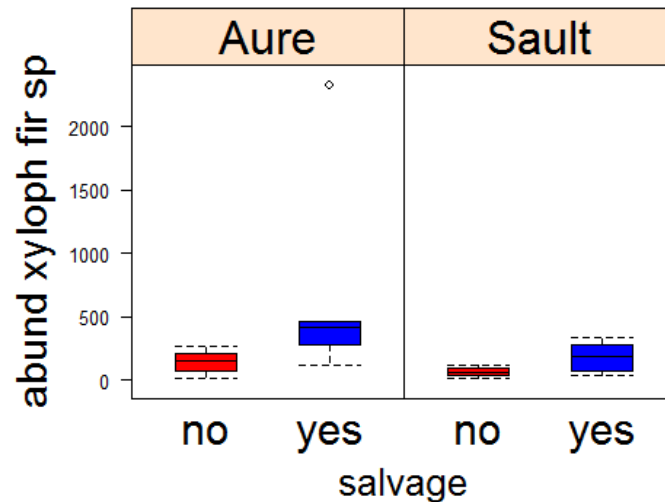
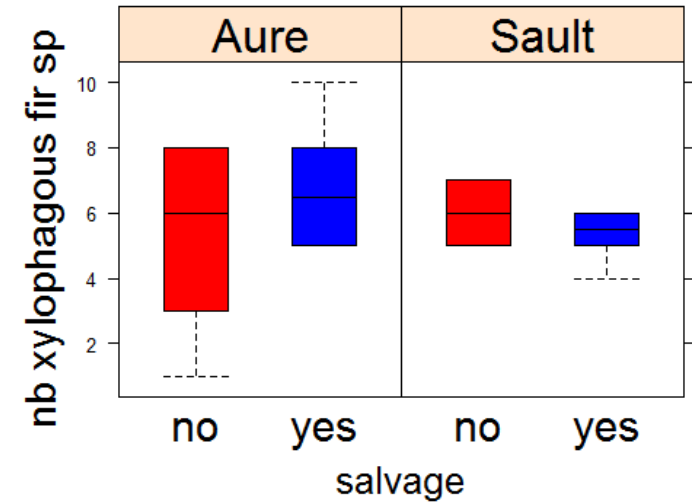
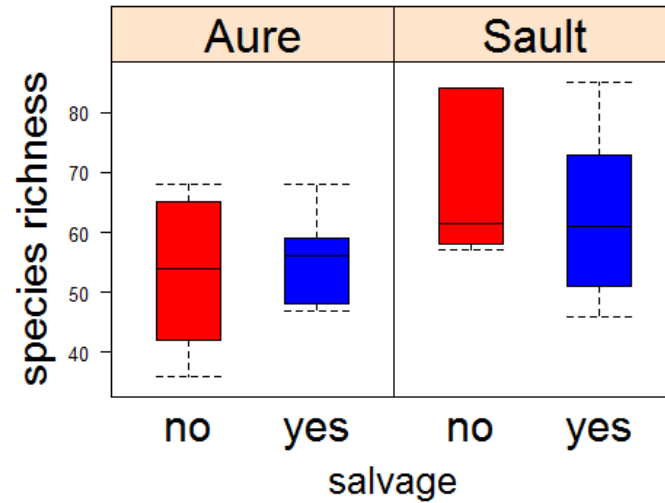


# Slight changes induced by salvage logging in community species composition

Colsx - polytraps



# No overall decrease of sx beetles in salvaged stands



# Perspectives

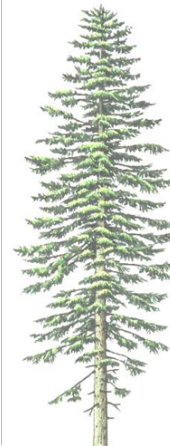


## PhD study in forest entomology at Irstea lab

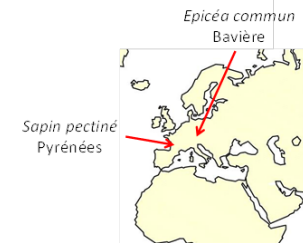
- *How do forest diebacks drive tree-associated insect communities?*
- November 2019 – October 2022
- Jérémie COURS

## Merging French and German WFT-caught sx beetle datasets for opportunistic co-analyses ?

France  
2017  
Silver fir



Treatment
declining stands (n=24 plots)
salvage (n=12 plots)
vital fir forest (n=20 plots)
<b>TOTAL</b>



Germany  
2016  
Spruce

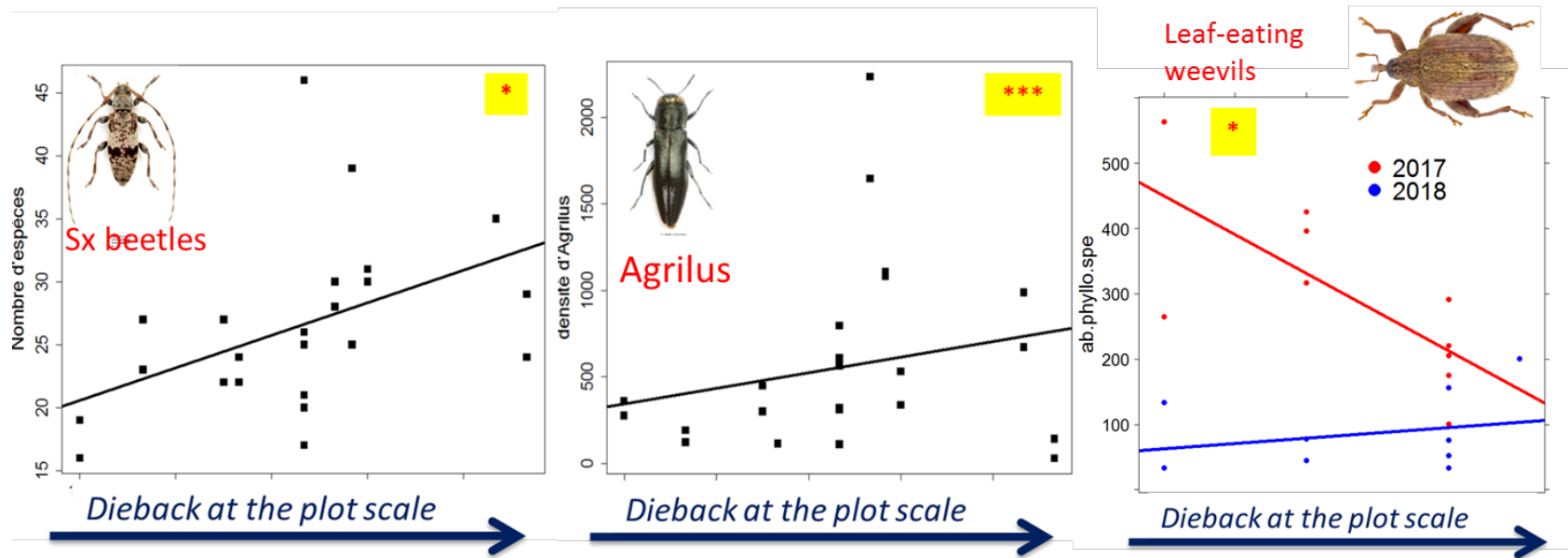


Treatment
lps forest (n=10 plots)
salvage (n=10 plots)
vital spruce forest (n=10 plots)
<b>TOTAL</b>

# Perspectives

+ French research projects focusing on ecological effects of oak diebacks

- BUCHE & CANOPEE (beetles & lowland oak dieback)
- Interesting first trends





Many thanks to:

Sylvie Ladet, Véronique Cheret,

Benoit Nusillard, Wilfried Heintz,

Olivier Rose, Gianfranco Liberti, Fabien Soldati,  
Thomas Barnouin, Thierry Noblecourt, Yves Gomy,  
Olivier Courtin, Benedikt Feldmann, Pierre Zagatti



...for **field**, **lab** and **GIS** work

