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Title	Atmospheric nitrogen deposition impacts on the structure and function of forest mycorrhizal communities: a review
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Abstract

Humans have dramatically increased atmospheric nitrogen (N) deposition globally. At the coarsest resolution, N deposition is correlated with shifts from ectomycorrhizal (EcM) to arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) tree dominance. At finer resolution, ectomycorrhizal fungal (EcMF) and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal (AMF) communities respond strongly to long-term N deposition with the disappearance of key taxa. Conifer-associated EcMF are more sensitive than other EcMF, with current estimates of critical loads at 5-6 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for the former and 10-20 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for the latter. Where loads are exceeded, strong plant-soil and microbe-soil feedbacks may slow recovery rates after abatement of N deposition. Critical loads for AMF and tropical EcMF require additional study. In general, the responses of EcMF to N deposition are better understood than those of AMF because of methodological tractability. Functional consequences of EcMF community change are linked to decreases by fungi with medium-distance exploration strategies, hydrophobic walls, proteolytic capacity, and perhaps peroxidases for acquiring N from soil organic matter. These functional losses may contribute to declines in forest floor decomposition under N deposition. For AMF, limited capacity to directly access complexed organic N may reduce functional consequences, but research is needed to test this hypothesis. Mycorrhizal biomass often declines with N deposition, but the relative contributions of alternate mechanisms for this decline (lower C supply, higher C cost, physiological stress by N) have not been quantified. Furthermore, fungal biomass and functional responses to N inputs probably depend on ecosystem P status, yet how N deposition-induced P limitation interacts with belowground C flux and mycorrhizal community structure and function is still unclear. Current 'omic analyses indicate potential functional differences among fungal lineages and should be integrated with studies of physiology, host nutrition, growth and health, fungal and plant community structure, and ecosystem processes.

Keywords	nitrogen deposition, mycorrhizal fungi, community response, function, critical loads
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Suggested reviewers	Kathleen Treseder, Louise Egerton-Warburton, Håkan Wallander, Richard Phillips, Björn Lindahl

Submission Files Included in this PDF

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November 21, 2018

Eddy Zeng, Editor
Special Issue
VSI: N Deposition and Forests
Environmental Pollution

Re: manuscript minor revisions for special issue

Dear Dr. Zeng:

Please find attached our minor revisions of the invited submission for the special issue on N Deposition and Forests. Thank you for your patience in waiting for this. If you need to communicate with me, please use the email address below.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer comments in italics, our responses in plain text.

Comments from the editors and reviewers:

-Reviewer 2

- The manuscript has revised properly. It can be accepted now.

-Reviewer 3

- The manuscript has been greatly improved and looks much better, so I recommend it to be accepted after consider the minor comments.

P85: comma
Fixed

P124: *natural terrestrial?*

That is over natural fixation, but not just terrestrial, it also includes marine fixation. Added the words “over natural rates”

P461-463: *the example here could be more clear.*
Revised for clarity.

Also, i think the graphical abstract should be more simplified.

Agreed. We have significantly revised and simplified the graphical abstract.

-Reviewer 4

- I acknowledge the effort done by the authors to address the comments by 5 reviewers. I can see that most, if not all, of them have been satisfactorily addressed.

Very minor comments to this version:

Link 112-116 with the previous paragraph. Perhaps starting the sentence with “Another important fungal trait...”.

Done. Added “Another”

Link 301-304 with the previous paragraph.

Done. Added: “One approach to incorporating mycorrhizal fungi into such models is to hypothesize...”

-Reviewer 5

-

The manuscript has improved considerably after revision. I only have a few additional comments that may improve it further:

Line 58: although it is true that N deposition usually acidifies the soil, it may sometimes have the opposite effects e.g. when N depositions is in the form of NH₃ volatiles from animal husbandry.

Yes if all N is retained and not taken up by plants, but even with NH₃ deposition if the N is taken up or becomes nitrified and leaches out, that does not alkalinize the soil because of the net production of H⁺ during uptake and nitrification/leaching. For the sake of brevity, we have added the word "typically" before "acidifies".

Line 155-157: It is confusing to state Lactarius as a genus that benefits from N deposition in line 155, and a genus that can both benefit and be inhibited by N deposition in line 157

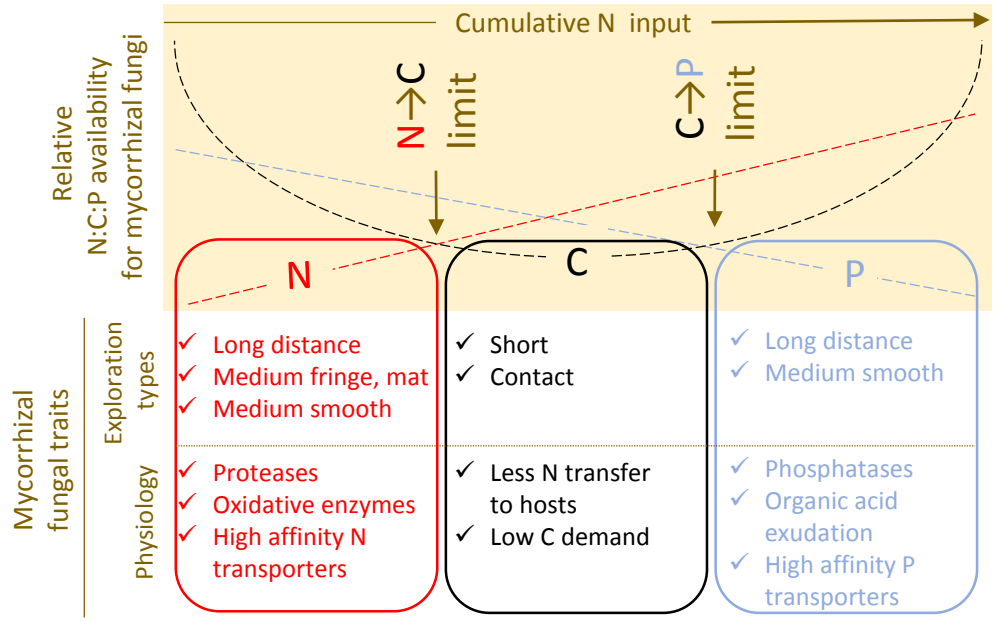
Agreed. We have removed the first mention of Lactarius. Thanks for catching that.

Line 366: Hagerberg et al 2003 is missing in the reference list

Added this reference- thanks.

Highlights

- Mycorrhizal fungal communities change in composition in response to N deposition.
- Critical loads for ectomycorrhizal fungi are lower for conifer than deciduous forests.
- Community shifts likely respond to and cause changes in C, N, and P cycling.
- Phylogenomic methods need integration with physiological and ecosystem studies.
- Tropical and arbuscular mycorrhizal communities are poorly understood.



1 **Title**

2 Atmospheric nitrogen deposition impacts on the structure and function of forest mycorrhizal
3 communities: a review

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 Humans have dramatically increased atmospheric nitrogen (N) deposition globally. At the coarsest
26 resolution, N deposition is correlated with shifts from ectomycorrhizal (EcM) to arbuscular mycorrhizal
27 (AM) tree dominance. At finer resolution, ectomycorrhizal fungal (EcMF) and arbuscular mycorrhizal
28 fungal (AMF) communities respond strongly to long-term N deposition with the disappearance of key
29 taxa. Conifer-associated EcMF are more sensitive than other EcMF, with current estimates of critical
30 loads at 5-6 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for the former and 10-20 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for the latter. Where loads are exceeded,
31 strong plant-soil and microbe-soil feedbacks may slow recovery rates after abatement of N deposition.
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35 distance exploration strategies, hydrophobic walls, proteolytic capacity, and perhaps peroxidases for
36 acquiring N from soil organic matter. These functional losses may contribute to declines in forest floor
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38 may reduce functional consequences, but research is needed to test this hypothesis. Mycorrhizal
39 biomass often declines with N deposition, but the relative contributions of alternate mechanisms for
40 this decline (lower C supply, higher C cost, physiological stress by N) have not been quantified.
41 Furthermore, fungal biomass and functional responses to N inputs probably depend on ecosystem P
42 status, yet how N deposition-induced P limitation interacts with belowground C flux and mycorrhizal
43 community structure and function is still unclear. Current 'omic analyses indicate potential functional
44 differences among fungal lineages and should be integrated with studies of physiology, host nutrition,
45 growth and health, fungal and plant community structure, and ecosystem processes.

46 **Keywords:** nitrogen deposition, mycorrhizal fungi, community response, function, critical loads

47

48 **Capsule**

49 Forest mycorrhizal fungal community composition responds strongly to N deposition across broad
50 ranges of spatial, temporal and phylogenetic scales, with functional consequences—including altered
51 tree nutrition and C, N, and P cycling—that are substantial but only partially understood.

52

53 **1. Introduction**

54 Trees and fungi form mycorrhizal symbioses, i.e., beneficial relationships between tree roots and root-
55 inhabiting fungi in which the tree provides the fungi with carbon (C), whereas the fungi provide the tree
56 with nutrients, including nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) along with other benefits such as improved
57 water uptake and protection from pathogens (Smith and Read 2010). Nitrogen deposition increases N
58 availability and typically acidifies ecosystems (Tian and Niu 2015, Stevens et al. 2018), both of which
59 alter the interactions of mycorrhizal fungi with their hosts and their abiotic environment. In this review,
60 we emphasize newer research and synthesize N deposition effects on mycorrhizal fungi in forests,
61 especially insights from studies into the large-scale distribution and physiological potential of
62 mycorrhizal fungi.

63 Although N deposition and N fertilization experiments differ in multiple ways, we consider the latter
64 useful in providing mechanistic insights, especially studies that attempt to mimic N deposition via
65 chronic inputs. Most studies on N deposition and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are from non-
66 forested ecosystems (see, e.g., Treseder and Allen 2000, Pardo et al. 2011b and references therein; but
67 see van Diepen et al. 2007, 2010, 2011). For biological, practical and historical reasons, most research on
68 N deposition effects in forests has focused on ectomycorrhizal fungi (EcMF) rather than AMF. In contrast
69 with AMF, which produce belowground spores asexually, some EcMF produce large aboveground
70 sporocarps, so a long record of the spatiotemporal patterns of reproduction can be related to trends in
71 N deposition (Arnolds 1991). Additionally, some EcMF can be grown in pure culture whereas AMF
72 require a host, so physiological studies on EcMF interactions with N are more feasible. Finally, Sanger
73 sequencing DNA barcoding can be applied without cloning to ectomycorrhizas, whereas AMF required
74 cloning PCR products, which made it simpler to characterize communities of EcMF prior to next-
75 generation sequencing. Several reviews have characterized various aspects of the relationship between

76 N deposition and mycorrhizal fungi, e.g., Wallenda and Kottke (1998), Treseder (2004), and Lilleskov et
77 al. (2011). Given the literature available and our focus on forests, the present review emphasizes EcMF
78 and higher-latitude mycorrhizal responses to N while covering AMF and tropical studies where possible.

79 **1.1 Mycorrhizal diversity and its role in relation to nitrogen**

80 Almost all trees form one of two types of mycorrhizal associations, either arbuscular mycorrhiza (AM) or
81 ectomycorrhiza (EcM), which differ in fungal partners. Almost all AMF belong to the Glomeromycotina
82 (Mucoromycota), a monophyletic clade that evolved more than 400 million years ago (Spatafora et al.
83 2016). In contrast, EcMF evolved more than eighty times (Tedersoo & Smith, 2017), forming a
84 convergent assemblage of fungi mainly belonging to the Basidiomycota and Ascomycota, plus a small
85 number of Mucoromycotina (Mucoromycota). Major EcM host families include Pinaceae, Fagaceae,
86 Betulaceae, Salicaceae, Cistaceae, Dipterocarpaceae, and Myrtaceae. Most other trees form AM. Trees
87 forming functional symbioses with both AMF and EcMF are rare (e.g. some Myrtaceae and Salicaceae;
88 Adjoud-Sadadou & Hargas 2017).

89 The different types of mycorrhizal symbioses also differ in ecological niches. Read (1991) was first to
90 explicitly link functional differences between EcM and AM symbioses to broad patterns of plant
91 distributions, positing that gradients from AM to EcM dominance were parallel to increases in soil
92 organic horizons, reliance on organic nutrients, and higher C:N and C:P litter. Furthermore, AM forests
93 are typified by mull humus with thin to no organic horizons, whereas EcM forests generally have moder
94 or mor humus with thicker organic horizons (Read 1991). In support of this model, more recent
95 syntheses have confirmed that, whereas AMF can take up inorganic N and amino acids (Hodge and
96 Storer 2015), they cannot mine organic N from complex organic matter using hydrolytic and oxidative
97 enzymes, as many EcMF do (Read 1991, Read and Perez-Moreno 2003, Shah et al. 2016; but see Talbot
98 et al. 2013). This model was extended by Phillips et al. (2013) in the MANE (mycorrhiza-associated

99 nutrient economy) framework. Comparing AM and EcM stands in the same area, they found that,
100 relative to EcM stands, AM stands had soils with a higher pH, higher nitrification and more
101 decomposable litter, but lower activities of N- and P-cycling extracellular enzymes, a lower ratio of
102 organic N to inorganic N, and lower amounts of dissolved organic carbon. A further difference between
103 AM and EcM systems is the relative importance of P versus N limitation, with AM plants more commonly
104 P-limited and EcM plants more commonly N-limited, as judged by their leaf N:P ratios (Rosling et al.,
105 2016). There may also be parallel differences in root traits between EcM and AM trees (e.g., foraging
106 strategy; Chen et al., 2016), although root traits may also vary independently of mycorrhizal type
107 (Weemstra et al. 2016). Averill et al. (2014) found that temperate EcM forests had significantly higher
108 C:N ratios of surface soil organic matter than temperate AM forests. This may be primarily attributed to
109 lower N stocks rather than higher C stocks in EcM forests (Zhu et al. 2018; but see section 3.7). The
110 conceptual framework for different niches of EcM and AM trees has been developed for temperate and
111 boreal forests, and Tedersoo et al. (2012) argued that both AM and ECM tropical forests are equally
112 characterized by an open and inorganic N cycle.

113 Another important mycorrhizal fungal trait is the extent and anatomy of extraradical hyphal
114 development (termed exploration type). In EcMF, this morphological characteristic appears to track with
115 other important attributes such as C demand, enzymatic capabilities, and presence of rhizomorphs for
116 long-distance transport (Agerer, 2006; Hobbie & Agerer 2010). EcMF have greater diversity of
117 exploration types than AMF, whose exploration strategies are poorly characterized.

118 Under this general model of AM and EcM nutrient economies, we predict that N deposition, with
119 resultant declines in N limitation and/or increases in P limitation (Li et al. 2016, Braun et al. 2010,
120 Johnson 2010) will affect EcM and AM forests differently; therefore, we will treat the two types
121 separately. As mycorrhizal symbioses are drivers of differential responses, N deposition could result in

122 plant-microbe-soil feedbacks and in legacies of N deposition that likely persist even if deposition levels
123 have been substantially reduced (see below).

124 **1.2 Spatiotemporal patterns and trends in N deposition**

125 Human activities have more than doubled N fixation globally over natural rates, much of which is
126 mobilized into the atmosphere from fossil fuel combustion and agriculture (Fowler et al. 2013). Because
127 atmospheric N residence times are relatively short, and forests have high aerodynamic resistance,
128 atmospheric deposition of NH_x , NO_y or organic N does not fall evenly over the Earth's surface. As a
129 result, atmospheric N deposition can be locally elevated more than 10x over pre-industrial levels. During
130 the 20th century, the highest N deposition levels were in Europe and eastern North America but with
131 declines in Europe and increases in Asia, the latter now has the highest N deposition rates (Liu et al.
132 2013, Kanakidou et al. 2016). Hence, forests globally have experienced spatiotemporally variable
133 deposition of anthropogenic N.

134 **2. Patterns of taxonomic response at different scales**

135 **2.1 AM vs EcM responses**

136 Given EcM and AM differences in mobilization of organic N sources, N deposition should favor AM over
137 EcM host plants by relieving N limitation, all else being equal. Consistent with this hypothesis, N
138 deposition is positively correlated with greater growth and recruitment of AM trees compared with EcM
139 trees in North America (Averill et al. 2018). However, co-variation between N deposition and climate
140 change in the dataset is reason for caution. If N deposition is indeed the cause of this pattern, there are
141 major implications for the future of forest composition, structure, and function in regions experiencing
142 elevated N deposition.

143 2.2 EcMF responses

144 Ectomycorrhizal fungal community composition changes in both sporocarp and belowground studies
145 (Lilleskov et al. 2011, van der Linde et al. 2018). At local to regional scales, aboveground sporocarp
146 surveys consistently indicate responses across EcMF genera and species ranging from negative for many
147 nitrophobic species to positive for a few nitrophilic species (see below; Arnolds 1991, Lilleskov et al.
148 2001, 2011). These changes in sporocarp production should affect long-term fungal population and
149 community dynamics, but this is yet to be tested. Similarly, the belowground composition of EcMF
150 communities in boreal and temperate forests shifts consistently with longer-term N inputs, driven by
151 significant changes in the abundances of certain EcMF (Avis et al. 2003, 2008, Cox et al. 2010, Lilleskov
152 et al. 2011, Jarvis et al. 2013, Suz et al. 2014, Morrison et al. 2016, van der Linde et al. 2018; see below).
153 In a tropical montane forest, N addition shifted ectomycorrhizal communities similarly to high-latitude
154 forests (Corrales et al. 2017), but studies in lowland tropical forests, with warmer conditions and more
155 weathered soils, are rare (See section 4.3).

156 Across both fruiting and belowground studies, *Thelephora* and *Laccaria* show largely positive responses,
157 while *Cortinarius*, *Tricholoma*, *Piloderma*, Bankeraceae and *Suillus* show consistently negative responses,
158 and species within *Russula*, *Lactarius*, Boletales, Thelephoraceae and Atheliaceae show divergent
159 sensitivities to atmospheric N deposition (Lilleskov et al. 2011). At the species level, significant responses
160 have been demonstrated for abundant fungi, most recently through the application of indicator analysis
161 (Suz et al. 2014, van der Linde et al. 2018; Figure 1). EcM taxonomic richness seems most affected by pH,
162 while EcM evenness and functional composition are more strongly influenced by N (Hobbie and Agerer
163 2010, Suz et al. 2014, 2017).

164 Host identity and condition (e.g. foliar nutrient concentrations) are major predictors of EcMF community
165 diversity (Cox et al. 2010, Suz et al. 2014, Bahram et al. 2014, Tedersoo et al. 2014). Intensive below-

166 ground analysis across Europe shows: 1) EcMF specialists (i.e. limited to conifers or broadleaves) match
167 or exceed generalists (i.e. with conifer and broadleaves) in both richness and relative abundance, 2)
168 conifer specialists outnumber broadleaf specialist EcMF, and 3) conifer specialists respond more
169 negatively to elevated N (van der Linde et al. 2018). Based on both sporocarp and EcM data, the conifer-
170 specific fungi – most showing abundant hyphae and rhizomorphs – declined more than broadleaf-
171 specific and host generalist fungi over the 20th century in Europe when N deposition was increasing
172 (Arnolds 1991), and were more negatively affected by increasing N than broadleaf-specific and host
173 generalist fungi (van der Linde et al. 2018).

174 **2.3 AMF responses**

175 The AMF respond to N inputs in both temperate and tropical forests with strong declines in root
176 colonization, spore density and external hyphal length (Treseder 2004, Zhang et al. 2018, Sheldrake et
177 al. 2018), particularly in soils with initially low N:P where N deposition causes both N and P to be in high
178 supply (Johnson et al. 2003). There are only a few studies on AM forests (van Diepen et al. 2007, 2010,
179 2011, 2013; Camenzind et al. 2014; Sheldrake et al. 2018); as in EcMF, there are reports of nitrophobic
180 AMF species with high soil exploration capacity (e.g. Gigasporaceae and Acaulosporaceae) and
181 nitrophilic fungi with limited soil exploration (e.g. Glomeraceae) (Egerton-Warburton & Allen 2000,
182 Treseder & Allen 2002, Johnson et al. 2003, Egerton-Warburton et al. 2007, Chagnon et al. 2013,
183 Treseder et al. 2018). Thus, as predicted by theoretical models (Johnson 2010), the abundance and
184 diversity of large-spored AM species declines, generally shifting in composition from Gigasporaceae
185 under low N to Glomeraceae under high N (Eom et al. 1999, Egerton-Warburton et al. 2007, Antoninka
186 et al. 2011, Allen et al. 2016, Chen et al. 2017, Williams et al. 2017, Jiang et al. 2018) and only rarely
187 neutral or positive effects (Zheng et al. 2014). Small-spored fine root endophytes, which are
188 anatomically and phylogenetically distinct from all other AMF, have recently been identified as

189 Mucoromycotina rather than Glomeromycotina (Orchard et al. 2017, Hoysted et al. 2018) and appear to
190 be insensitive to high N conditions (Allen et al. 2016). Decreases in overall AMF functional diversity may
191 also decrease functional capabilities (van der Heijden et al. 1998, Maherali & Klironomos 2007).

192 **2.4 Interactions with other global change factors**

193 The interactions of nitrogen deposition effects on mycorrhizal symbioses with the effects of other
194 global-change factors, e.g., climate change, ozone, elevated CO₂, have been addressed in detail
195 elsewhere (see, e.g., Mohan et al. 2014 and references therein) so will only be summarized here. Briefly,
196 these can act by moderating or exacerbating N deposition effects on host C fixation and belowground C
197 flux (CO₂, O₃, temperature, drought) or by altering soil resource availability (temperature, drought).
198 Under elevated CO₂, mycorrhizal plants and fungi generally benefit (Alberton et al. 2005), although CO₂
199 fertilization effects are best explained by an interaction between N availability and mycorrhizal
200 association (Terrer et al. 2016). EcM plants increased their biomass in response to elevated CO₂
201 regardless of N availability, apparently by accelerating N cycling (e.g., Drake et al. 2011, Phillips et al.
202 2012), whereas for AM plants, low N availability limits the biomass response to CO₂ fertilization. Thus,
203 AM and EcM forests may differ in their responses to N deposition under rising CO₂ levels. By increasing
204 belowground C allocation, elevated CO₂ may mitigate some negative impacts of atmospheric N
205 deposition on EcMF, especially on nitrophobic species that are often more carbon-demanding (see
206 below). In contrast, ozone damage on aboveground tissues of trees has potential negative effects on
207 belowground carbon allocation and mycorrhizas (Andersen 2003, Lilleskov 2005, Mohan et al. 2014).
208 The effects of ozone can sometimes moderate those of CO₂, e.g., on sporocarp production (Andrew et
209 al. 2009), presumably by opposing effects on host C balance.

210 Climate change can have complex interactive effects on mycorrhizas. For example, warming in the
211 absence of drought could both (a) reduce host carbon supply by increasing respiratory costs more than

212 photosynthesis (Yamori et al. 2014) and (b) change soil resources by increasing N mineralization. Both
213 could exacerbate N deposition effects on ecosystems, the former by reducing belowground C flux, and
214 the latter by increasing soil inorganic N availability. However, in most warming studies, mycorrhizal
215 hyphal abundance increases, but hyphal activity decreases (Mohan et al. 2014). Where moisture effects
216 occur, one might expect a shift in hyphal anatomy and biochemistry, e.g., an increase in hydrophobic
217 long-distance types or melanized hyphae with drought and increased hydrophilic taxa at higher humidity
218 (Parts et al. 2013). These shifts could affect the ability of mycorrhizal fungi to forage for nutrients,
219 interacting with N deposition in as yet untested ways.

220 **2.5 Recovery from N deposition**

221 Due to plant-soil feedbacks, acidification, litter accumulation and long-term storage of soil N, N
222 deposition can have long-lasting legacies (Hasselquist & Högberg, 2014). While the direct effects of N
223 are likely larger than the acidification effects (many EcMF evolved under acid soil conditions and most
224 boreal forests occur on somewhat acidic soils), simultaneous eutrophication and acidification can leave
225 legacies from which recovery can also be very slow (Kjøller et al., 2017).

226 Reduced levels of N deposition lead to a slow recovery of EcMF community structure over many years.
227 From sporocarp surveys, Van Strien et al. (2018) noted widespread recovery of fruiting by some EcMF
228 since the 1990s in the Netherlands concurrent with reduced N deposition, although the most
229 nitrophobic species had not recovered, probably because deposition is still above critical loads (21-35 kg
230 $\text{ha}^{-1} \text{yr}^{-1}$). Nitrogen fertilization in Norway spruce led to residual fungal community effects even after 23
231 years (Choma et al. 2017) or 47 years of recovery (Strengbom et al. 2001). In a boreal Scots pine forest,
232 EcM sporocarp production and species richness had recovered to control levels 23 years post-
233 fertilization, but N availability was still elevated and the EcMF community was still enriched in nitrophilic
234 taxa, especially *Lactarius* (Högberg et al. 2014, Hasselquist & Högberg 2014).

235 Where EcM forests are replaced in the understory by AM saplings and trees, it is likely that the system
236 becomes dominated by litter inputs characterized by lower C:N ratios, lower lignin content and hence
237 higher leaf litter decomposability (Phillips et al., 2013). This functional group replacement will therefore
238 speed up the N cycling rate, creating positive plant – soil feedbacks, which slow down the return to the
239 previous EcM state. Thus, N deposition needs to be reduced to lower levels for recovery of EcM forests
240 than for short-term maintenance of EcM forests. In AM forests, as N deposition may affect carbon
241 cycling due to alterations in decomposition and humification rates, recovery may be slow, as feedbacks
242 and legacies could also affect restoration here. Restoration methods tested with some success focus on
243 removal of the forest floor (see e.g., De Vries et al. 1995, Baar and Kuyper 1998, Smit et al. 2003) which
244 would be difficult to implement at larger spatial scales.

245 **2.6 Critical loads**

246 Critical loads are “a quantitative estimate of an exposure to one or more pollutants below which
247 significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to
248 present knowledge” (UBA 2004). For mycorrhizal fungi this can be declines in abundance, diversity, or
249 loss of species of EcMF. Wallenda & Kottke (1998) suggested a critical N load of 15-20 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for
250 sporocarp production, and 20-30 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for belowground EcMF communities in sensitive
251 ecosystems. However, based on accumulation of data from long-term studies, more recent efforts
252 (Bobbink & Hettelingh 2011) estimated a critical load of 10-20 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹, and Pardo et al. (2011a,b)
253 and Jarvis et al. (2013) estimated critical loads at 5-10 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ for conifer-dominated ecosystems.
254 Suz et al. (2014) defined a critical load for temperate European oak forests of 9.5-17 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹
255 depending on the level of EcMF community change. Recently, van der Linde et al. (2018) estimated a
256 critical load of 5-6 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ from 137 intensively monitored European ICP Forests plots using threshold
257 indicator analysis of ectomycorrhizas. Although they included pine, spruce, beech and oaks, the critical

258 load was largely determined by conifer ECM communities because few beech and oak occur in low-N
259 deposition regions of Europe. There has been some partial community recovery in conifers and birch in
260 the Netherlands (Van Strien et al., 2018) and a spruce site in Sweden (Choma et al., 2017) after
261 reduction of deposition or cessation of fertilization, respectively. The EcMF associated with conifers are
262 more sensitive to N deposition than broadleaf-associated EcMF (Arnolds 1991, Cox et al. 2010, van der
263 Linde et al. 2018). Therefore, host-specific analysis should assign a lower critical load for conifer-
264 dominated ecosystems than for deciduous ecosystems.

265 Estimates of critical loads for AMF in forests are sparse. Based on changes in AMF community structure
266 and loss of fungal biomass in roots and soil (van Diepen et al. 2007, 2010, 2011), a critical load for AMF
267 in sugar maple-dominated forests of eastern North America was estimated at $<12 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Pardo et
268 al. 2011a, Gilliam et al. 2011).

269 **3. Causes and functional consequences of community change**

270 Nitrogen deposition influences mycorrhizal fungi both directly (fungal- or soil-mediated) and indirectly
271 (tree-mediated) (Smithwick et al. 2013). The relative importance of both pathways has long been
272 disputed; here we suggest a middle ground of both viewpoints and propose how both pathways interact
273 (Fig. 2). The impacts of these different pathways have been framed from the perspective of either fungal
274 fitness (mycocentric) or plant fitness (phytocentric), both of which must be considered to understand
275 the symbiosis.

276 **3.1 Carbon supply from hosts**

277 As N availability increases, *relative* C allocation (carbohydrates) to roots declines. Depending on
278 circumstances, trees could also reduce *absolute* C allocation to roots and their associated mycorrhizal
279 fungi. Whether absolute C flux belowground decreases will depend on how photosynthetic rates

280 respond to higher N availability (Brassard et al. 2009) and the sinks for that photosynthate. In a meta-
281 analysis, N addition reduced soil microbial biomass and respiration but not fine-root litter inputs to soil
282 (Liu and Greaver 2010). In several studies, elevated soil N leads to reduced fine-root density, mycelial
283 biomass or production, or respiration (e.g., Kjølner et al. 2012, Almeida et al. 2018). Analysis of ^{13}C
284 tracers indicated that N additions to forests can reduce *net* belowground C flux to EcM PLFAs (Högberg
285 et al. 2010). Similarly, six years of fertilization at $100 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ suppressed hyphal respiration
286 (Hasselquist et al. 2012). Furthermore, nitrogen inputs decrease the abundance of EcMF relative to
287 saprotrophic fungi (Morrison et al. 2016), consistent with the greater declines in EcMF than saprotroph
288 sporocarps in regions with high N input (Arnolds 1991) Despite these declines in abundance, extreme
289 decreases in percentage of roots colonized at high N levels are often assumed (Franklin et al. 2014), but
290 not consistently observed (Taylor et al. 2000, Peter et al. 2001, Treseder 2004, Lucas & Casper 2008,
291 Corrales et al. 2017).

292 One model of the effect of N on C allocation is that, because leaves are stoichiometrically constrained by
293 N availability, C allocation belowground declines when aboveground growth sinks are stimulated by high
294 N availability (e.g. Ingestad & Ågren, 1991, Poorter and Nagel 2000, but see Smithwick et al. 2013).
295 These models avoid questions of ultimate causes of allocation toward mycorrhizal fungi, defining them
296 as a sink like others (e.g., roots) directly feeding on host sugars, competing with other sinks in the
297 process of balancing resource capture between above- and belowground resources. This model explains
298 the common observation of greater sensitivity of sporocarp production than root tip colonization to N
299 deposition: with enhanced carbohydrate competition due to N deposition, sinks for C that are farthest
300 from the source (EcMF sporocarps) suffer more than sinks closer to the source (EcM root tips), even
301 though root tip density is usually also reduced under high N availability.

302 One approach to incorporating mycorrhizal fungi into such models is to hypothesize that under nutrient
303 sufficiency the change in C balance shifts mycorrhizal fungal communities towards different suites of
304 beneficial traits (Fig. 2). Because fungi also vary in their sensitivity to this reduction in carbon flux, large
305 changes in species richness and species composition could occur.

306 These models have the virtue of simplicity, but there are two concerns here. First, this formulation
307 ignores the potential for non-beneficial mycorrhizal interactions. These can occur if both plant and
308 fungus are limited by the same nutrient (Treseder and Allen 2002, Franklin et al. 2014) or if the plant
309 cannot regulate carbon supply to mycorrhizal roots based on return for other benefits. The conditions
310 under which plants can actively select for more mutualistic mycorrhizal fungal species on roots have still
311 not been resolved. Preferential allocation to beneficial AMF occurs under some conditions (Bever et al.
312 2009, Kiers et al. 2011, Zheng et al. 2015), but the generality of this phenomenon has been questioned,
313 especially under high N (Johnson 2010, Walder and Van der Heijden 2015). There may also be
314 evolutionary constraints to that solution for EcM trees, if the mechanism uses host N status as the
315 regulating principle. In that case, under N deposition a tree might then reduce allocation to EcMF,
316 including those fungal species specialized in P acquisition (but see section 3.3).

317 **3.2 N-supply from soils**

318 In addition to tree-mediated mechanisms, high soil N may directly affect mycorrhizal fungi, particularly
319 EcMF. Species sensitivity is partly phylogenetically conserved (Lilleskov et al. 2011), that is many fungal
320 genera can be classified along this gradient from nitrophobic to nitrophilic (section 2.2). Species
321 sensitivity is also correlated with morphological and physiological fungal traits, such as hydrophobic
322 mycelium, abundance of extraradical hyphae and rhizomorphs, ability to acquire N from organic
323 sources, production of proteolytic enzymes, and the $^{15}\text{N}:^{14}\text{N}$ ratios in mycelium and sporocarps, due to
324 both differential access to organic versus inorganic N sources and differential N allocation from fungus

325 to tree (Hobbie & Agerer, 2010). One hypothesis is that differences in host specificity among EcMF are
326 linked to differences in enzymatic capacities to acquire N directly from complex soil organic substrates
327 and in resource exchange rate, e.g. if host-specific fungi transfer more soil N per unit of tree C than
328 generalists (Gorissen & Kuyper 2000, Molina & Horton 2015). Alternatively, adaptations for mobilizing
329 organic N may be more beneficial in the recalcitrant litter produced by most conifers than in deciduous
330 litter. Host and soil pathways interact, as nitrophobic fungi are generally more C-demanding (Lilleskov et
331 al. 2011), and hence respond more strongly to changes in C allocation by the tree.

332 Whether because of changes in host allocation, host selection, or soil-mediated direct effects, EcMF
333 with organic N-mobilizing capacities decline with elevated soil N (Fig 1). For example, elevated N greatly
334 reduces the abundance of many *Cortinarius* species with strong peroxidative potential, which is
335 hypothesized to be used to mobilize organic N (Bödeker et al. 2014, Lindahl and Tunlid 2015). Although
336 AMF are not known to have such organic N-mobilizing capacity, it is possible that AMF with high uptake
337 of amino acids are differentially affected by deposition.

338 One hypothesized N-mediated community filtering mechanism was proposed by Wallander (1995). He
339 proposed that under higher N, for species adapted to N deficiency that have obligate high N transfer
340 rates to hosts, C will be used in acquiring and incorporating N into amino acids, and in the case of EcMF
341 a significant amount of C will be transferred back to the host in amino acids transported from the
342 fungus. For AMF, the fungus can transfer N as NH_4^+ (Govindarajulu et al 2005), therefore the fungal
343 carbon budget is more favorable because C skeletons from amino acids are retained by the fungus,
344 although still at some cost related to hyphal transport as arginine (Hodge & Storer 2015). Typically,
345 studies do not distinguish between the effect of host C supply limitation vs. additional costs of N uptake
346 and transfer. Without a full accounting of C costs of N and transfer to hosts and gross C flux into
347 mycorrhizas, it will be difficult to distinguish the relative importance of the two as drivers of mycelial

348 biomass, production and respiration. Their relative importance is worth distinguishing because, although
349 both mechanisms enhance C limitation, which should select for fungi that can persist with low C supply
350 from hosts, only the Wallander (1995) mechanism posits a C penalty to EcMF that transfer more N to
351 hosts, providing an additional agent of community structuring.

352 **3.3 N-mediated shifts in physiological potential**

353 **3.3.1 Shifting limitations and P mobilization**

354 In an extremely N-poor ecosystem both trees and mycorrhizal fungi may be limited by N (Treseder et al.
355 2004; Fig. 2), resulting in a trap where plant growth can be constrained by N immobilization in the
356 mycelium (Franklin et al. 2014; Püschel et al. 2016). With small increases in N availability the tree may
357 still be N-limited, whereas the fungus is likely C-limited. With further increases in N the tree will no
358 longer be N-limited. How do trees respond to those new conditions? In some cases, trees will likely
359 maintain belowground C allocation, while in other cases they may not, selecting for fungi with a
360 favorable N for C trade. As N is added, there are three potential host nutritional statuses likely to filter
361 mycorrhizal fungi differently: 1) high overall nutrient availability, 2) limitation by cations, such as Mg or
362 K, which is especially relevant with cation leaching due to acidification that normally accompanies N
363 enrichment, 3) limitation by P, which can be exacerbated in acid soils by N deposition (Fig. 2). In the
364 latter case, P limitation should stimulate belowground allocation (Ericsson 1995). In support of this
365 conceptual model, K and Mg limitation suppressed C allocation to root growth (Wickström and Ericsson
366 1995) and to EcMF growth, whereas P limitation stimulated C allocation to roots and EcMF growth
367 (Hagerberg et al. 2003 and references therein). The spectrum of competitive fungal traits is likely to
368 differ greatly among these three cases.

369 **Case 1 and 2, C limitation.** As discussed earlier, high overall fertility may sometimes reduce
370 belowground C flux. If high overall fertility and limitation by nutrients affecting light harvest more than
371 growth (e.g., Mg, K) reduce C allocation belowground, lower C demand would likely be a strongly
372 selected trait (Fig. 2c). It has been noted that under many N fertilization scenarios the medium-distance
373 fringe and mat, and sometimes long-distance, exploration types decline in abundance (Lilleskov et al.
374 2011, Treseder et al. 2018), being replaced by fungi with shorter-distance exploration types. If C
375 limitation is a dominant community filter, one prediction would be that C limitation by any mechanism,
376 regardless of site N status, might select for mycorrhizal communities with similar functional traits.
377 Consistent with this, EcMF hemlock and birch seedling roots in densely shaded, low N availability rotting
378 logs under hemlock canopies (Poznanovic et al. 2015), shared the same dominant taxa, *Tomentella*
379 *sublilacina* and *Lactarius tabidus* (= *L. theiogalus*), as canopy spruce trees under high N deposition in
380 Alaska (Lilleskov et al. 2002). This suggests that both low light availability and N deposition, by reducing
381 belowground C allocation, may select similar dominants, despite large differences in N availability.
382 Clearly, this hypothesis requires testing, especially in the case of cation limitation. Even if the same EcMF
383 are selected by low C availability and high N availability, it remains to be tested whether these fungi can
384 supply key nutritional or other benefits.

385 For AM fungi, a recent trait-based synthesis suggests that elevated N selects for certain genera over
386 others (Treseder et al. 2018). In a regional deposition gradient, the N deposition-associated taxa
387 conferred a smaller P benefit on hosts than those negatively associated with N deposition, yet these
388 taxa did not produce fewer extraradical hyphae. However, in a parallel analysis based on a large global
389 sampling, taxa that were more commonly found at lower soil C:N were found to have lower external
390 hyphal length, providing an equivocal view of the links between the two (Treseder et al. 2018). The
391 latter is consistent with a model of lower C supply and consequent lower P benefit, whereas the former
392 does not link reduced P benefit to C supply. However, this synthesis study did not explicitly address

393 whether the community response to N depends on variation in soil P (see Case 3). The regional gradient
394 was on relatively P-rich soils, but soil P varied widely in the global study.

395 **Case 3, P limitation.** Under P limitation, C allocation belowground should increase (Ericsson 1995),
396 increasing C availability for fungi and increasing P demand for both fungal and host nutrition, which
397 would favor a diversity of P-mobilizing strategies (Fig. 2a,b). Consistent with a model of P mediation of C
398 supply to symbionts, Johnson et al. (2003) found that at a P-rich site, N addition decreased AMF
399 biomass, whereas at P-limited sites N addition enhanced AMF biomass.

400 Under these conditions, additional potential trait combinations could be favored because the increased
401 C and limiting P create niches for fungi with higher C demand, lower N-mobilizing capacity, and greater
402 inorganic P- or organic P-mobilizing capacity (Johnson 2010). Mycorrhizal fungi can enhance P
403 mobilization via four mechanisms: high affinity transporters, increased soil exploration, mobilization of
404 inorganically bound P, or mobilization of organically bound P. Although the diversity of P transporters in
405 mycorrhizal fungi is unknown, with continued expansion of the pool of available fungal genomes (Martin
406 et al. 2011, Grigoriev et al. 2014) and transcriptomes, the suite of transporters associated with taxa
407 responding differentially to N deposition and resultant P limitation will become increasingly apparent.

408 Different fungal exploration types should vary in their ability to forage for P in soils (Plassard et al. 2011).
409 In particular, given the low mobility of P in soils, contact and short-distance exploration types (e.g.,
410 many *Russula* and *Lactarius* species), would likely do a poor job of exploring for P. In contrast many of
411 the medium-distance fringe and mat types that are suppressed by elevated N, and especially the
412 medium-distance smooth exploration types that are not suppressed, should be more effective at P
413 exploration. Some species with rhizomorphic long-distance exploration types are suppressed by
414 elevated N (e.g., *Suillus* spp.) whereas others may be stimulated e.g., *Paxillus involutus*, *Tylopilus*, and
415 *Imleria badia* (Lilleskov et al. 2011, Almeida et al. 2018), and would be especially good candidates for

416 effective P scavengers under high-N conditions (Fig 2a, b). Consistent with this, the nitrophilic *P.*
417 *involutus* was more efficient at inorganic P uptake than the nitrophobic *Suillus bovinus* under similar
418 conditions, although both are long-distance exploration types (Van Tichelen and Colpaert 2000).
419 Similarly, *I. badia* responded positively to P limitation enhanced by N additions, and preferentially
420 colonized apatite ingrowth bags over quartz bags, apparently stimulated by primary inorganic P
421 (Almeida et al. 2018).

422 For AM fungi, taxa in the Gigasporaceae have more extraradical hyphae than taxa in the Glomeraceae,
423 so would be expected to be better at mobilizing P, but to be suppressed by low C availability (Treseder
424 et al. 2018). Therefore, one might expect that Gigasporaceae would be favored under N or P limitation
425 when C availability is high, but not under high N and P conditions (Fig. 2). Consistent with this, at P-rich
426 sites, Gigasporaceae were most abundant under N limitation, whereas at a P-poor site, Gigasporaceae
427 were most abundant under N fertilization (Johnson et al. 2003), suggesting an overarching role of C
428 supply rather than N availability in their abundance. Additionally, Gigasporaceae greatly enhanced foliar
429 P compared to most genera, including *Glomus* (Treseder et al. 2018).

430 The evidence for N-mediated increase in mycorrhizal taxa with high phosphatase activity is limited and
431 mixed. Taniguchi et al. (2008) found higher phosphatase activity in EcMF from more N-rich forests
432 (*Tomentella* and *Amanita* species) compared with those from more nutrient-limited forests (*Suillus* and
433 *Rhizopogon* species). In contrast, in a montane tropical EcM forest, overall soil phosphatase activity was
434 suppressed under elevated N inputs and was positively correlated with the abundance of the
435 nitrophobic genus *Cortinarius* and negatively correlated with abundances of the nitrophilic genera
436 *Russula* and *Tomentella* (Corrales et al. 2017). In these cases, understanding the P status of the soils will
437 be critical, because high phosphatase activity should only be favored if P becomes limiting to growth. In
438 the absence of P limitation, a decline in phosphatase activity could be associated with a decline in EcMF

439 biomass. Although AM fungi also produce acid phosphatases, including free phosphatases in soil
440 solution (Sato et al. 2015) nothing is known about AMF community members differing in phosphatase
441 activity in response to the interaction of N deposition, C and P availability to the fungi.

442 High concentrations of exuded organic acids can mobilize inorganic P (Lambers et al. 2006). High rates of
443 organic acid production were found in both nitrophilic (e.g., *Paxillus*) and nitrophobic (e.g., *Cortinarius*,
444 *Piloderma*, *Suillus*) EcMF genera (Plassard et al. 2011), suggesting that potential for inorganic P
445 mobilization spans the spectrum of tolerance of N deposition. However, other nitrophilic taxa show little
446 capacity for organic acid exudation (e.g., *Thelephora*, *Tylospora*, *Laccaria bicolor*, *Hebeloma*
447 *cylindrosporum*). The AM species *Rhizophagus clarus* had higher organic acid concentrations in the
448 rhizosphere and host foliar P than four other AMF species across a range of soil aluminum
449 concentrations (Klugh and Cumming 2007). It is unknown whether P limitation under high N conditions
450 could stimulate this species, as was found for Gigasporaceae (Johnson et al. 2003).

451 The above exemplifies the complexities involved in forms of P targeted and mechanisms of P
452 mobilization, and our limited understanding of how P-mobilizing traits respond to shifts in both N and P
453 limitation. Additionally, diverse traits could enhance P mobilization, pointing to a need to expand our
454 profiling of phylogenetic distribution of suites of P-mobilizing traits to develop integrated estimates of
455 the combined effect of the suite of traits, such as host stoichiometry.

456 **3.3.2 Host stoichiometry**

457 Given that EcMF capacities for uptake and transfer of different nutrients might shift under N
458 enrichment, Lilleskov (2005) hypothesized that EcMF communities might shift the relative supply rate of
459 different nutrients, at least partially buffering stoichiometric impacts on hosts. Surprisingly, effects of
460 EcMF or AMF fungal taxa on host stoichiometry have been rarely investigated, although individual

461 studies are suggestive. For example, van der Heijden and Kuyper (2001) found that host N:P was
462 regulated by fungal species, and the effect depended on substrate N:P. Similarly, Taniguchi et al. (2008)
463 found that when seedlings were N-fertilized, those inoculated with ectomycorrhizal fungal isolates from
464 high N sites had lower N:P than those inoculated with isolates from low N sites. Smith et al. (2015) found
465 large fungal species effects on the stoichiometry of white spruce seedlings. Under unfertilized conditions
466 *Amphinema* sp. (Atheliaceae) had a strong negative effect on host N:P ratio compared with *Thelephora*
467 *terrestris* and another Atheliaceae species, apparently by preferentially supplying P. Some Atheliaceae
468 are nitrophilic, whereas others are not, (Lilleskov et al. 2011), and it is unclear where these two
469 Atheliaceae lie on that spectrum.

470 There is evidence that AMF species also differ in effects on host stoichiometry, suggesting that N-
471 mediated community change could have stoichiometric consequences for hosts (e.g., Fellbaum et al.
472 2014). Johnson (2010) synthesized conceptual understanding of resource stoichiometry impacts on AMF
473 communities and function. Although not explicitly addressing the issue of how the fungal community
474 affects host stoichiometry, she emphasized the limited evidence of AM benefit to host N nutrition vs the
475 extensive literature on AM benefit to P nutrition. If correct, this suggests that the dominant mechanism
476 by which AMF affect host stoichiometry would be variation in the P supply rate, rather than the N supply
477 rate.

478 **3.4 EcM-AM comparisons**

479 Given the apparent shifts from EcM to AM forest composition under N deposition in North America, it is
480 critical to understand the functional consequences of such shifts. If we accept conceptual models in
481 which, in contrast with EcMF, AMF lack the ability to mobilize polymeric or phenolically bound organic N
482 from the environment but can access inorganic P effectively (Read 1991), we might expect that
483 increased N deposition would favor AMF, and the findings of Averill et al. (2018) are consistent with this.

484 However, several experimental studies also suggest that AMF communities are less beneficial under N
485 fertilization than under unfertilized conditions (e.g., Treseder et al. 2018), perhaps because high
486 background P availability reduced the likelihood of a shift from N to P limitation and the potential for
487 nutritional mutualism (Hoeksema et al. 2010). Key studies are needed to test the N-P interactions in AM
488 trees.

489 At the level of EcM—AM comparisons, it is worth integrating this conceptual understanding with that of
490 Albornoz et al. (2016), who found that on roots of *Acacia rostellifera*, an N₂-fixing dual mycorrhizal
491 legume (where N supply should be sufficient), under high inorganic P availability AMF dominate,
492 whereas as soils age and P is increasingly found in organic forms, EcMF dominate. They hypothesized
493 that this trend was driven by the ability of the EcMF to access organic P via phosphatases, a function
494 that is comparatively limited (Phillips et al. 2013, Rosling et al. 2016), but not absent (e.g., Sato et al.
495 2015) in AMF. This has relevance to differential AMF-EcMF responses to high N deposition.

496 **3.5 New insights from phylogenetics and omics**

497 Genomic methods are generating new insights into functional differences among and within groups that
498 respond differentially to N deposition. The two sequenced Glomeromycotina genomes, *Rhizophagus*
499 *irregularis* (Tisserant et al. 2013, Lin et al. 2014) and *R. clarus* (Kobayashi et al. 2018) revealed low copy
500 number of CAZymes compared to many EcMF (Kuo et al. 2014, Kohler et al. 2015). Additionally,
501 comparative genomics suggests the convergent loss of enzymes involved in the decay of lignocellulosic
502 material in EcMF (Kohler et al. 2015), yet certain lineages appear to have retained high levels of
503 oxidative activity, possessing Class II peroxidases hypothesized as potentially important mechanism for
504 organic N mobilization (Lindahl & Tunlid 2015). These peroxidases are largely absent in the Ascomycota
505 and early-branching Basidiomycota (Sebacinales) that form some ectomycorrhizal and other mycorrhizal
506 symbioses (Nagy et al. 2015).

507 Secreted proteases are also important in mobilizing organic N, and so we might expect taxa adapted to
508 higher N conditions to possess a lower complement. Extracellular protease activity by many EcMF in the
509 Ascomycota and Basidiomycota is well-documented (e.g., Talbot and Treseder 2010) but lacking or
510 greatly reduced in the Glomeromycotina (Hodge and Storer 2015; Talbot et al. 2013). Consistent with
511 this, the latter possess a reduced complement of serine proteases compared with saprotrophs and EcMF
512 (Muszewska et al. 2017). A better understanding of the integrated function of secreted proteases will be
513 necessary to link genomics to organismal function.

514 Within the EcMF, taxa that have a lower genomic potential or expression of genes involved in mining
515 organic N appear likely to thrive under higher N availability. Although full genome analyses are only now
516 under way, there are hints revealed in the recent literature. For example, *Laccaria bicolor* is tolerant of
517 elevated N deposition (Lilleskov et al. 2011). Like most EcMF, *L. bicolor* possesses a broad suite of an
518 estimated 116 secreted proteases (Martin et al. 2008), which is surprising given its low but variable
519 growth on protein as a sole N source (Lilleskov et al. 2011). It is possible that experimental conditions do
520 not always capture its enzymatic potential, for example, *L. bicolor* may extract N from soil fauna such as
521 *Collembola* (Klironomos and Hart 2001), perhaps via extracellular proteases that target animal protein.
522 Some secreted proteases could be involved in functions other than nutrient mobilization (e.g., defense),
523 and some modeled secreted proteases might not actually be transported into the soil. Consistent with
524 this, Shah et al. (2016) found that *L. bicolor* had a smaller fraction of upregulated secreted peptidases
525 when challenged with soil organic matter compared with *Paxillus involutus*, *Hebeloma cylindrosporum*,
526 *Suillus luteus* and *Piloderma croceum*. The largest contrast was with *P. croceum*, a nitrophobic taxon that
527 has both a larger number of secreted proteins and a larger fraction of those that are peptidases. These
528 species also differed in their expressed suite of extracellular oxidative enzymes, which is also important
529 for mobilizing N that is organically bound. Again, there is a need to characterize the integrated
530 functioning of these suites of enzymes.

531 Since class II peroxidases are phylogenetically constrained (Bödeker et al. 2014), it is worth asking
532 whether lineages possessing them are more sensitive to N deposition. A *Cortinarius* genome has 11
533 copies of Mn peroxidases, equivalent to white rot fungi (Bödeker et al. 2014). The high sensitivity of this
534 genus to N deposition is consistent with the hypothesis that EcMF with peroxidases are selected against
535 under higher N conditions. Bödeker previously found class II peroxidases in 5 of 14 *Cortinarius* species
536 screened, hence there is the possibility of infrageneric variation in presence of these enzymes.
537 *Cortinarius* species also vary somewhat in their sensitivity, but whether this relates to peroxidase copy
538 number or activity is untested. The only other sequenced EcM genomes with >1 copy of Class II
539 peroxidases are Russulaceae and *Hebeloma* spp. The Russulaceae in particular vary widely in sensitivity
540 to N deposition (Lilleskov et al. 2011, van der Linde et al. 2018). They also have variable numbers of
541 peroxidase gene copies. Elucidation of the distribution of these oxidative enzymes among N tolerant and
542 sensitive species, and tests of their extracellular function, would be enlightening.

543 **3.6 Implications of large-scale changes in tree nutrition**

544 The preceding overview reveals clear functional diversity among and within mycorrhizal types, providing
545 the potential for functional shifts as N, C and P shift in relative availability. However, it is still uncertain
546 whether N inputs lead to changes in mycorrhizal community structure that are optimal for the plant or
547 that show reduced benefit for the plant (e.g., in P acquisition). This has been challenging to investigate
548 robustly using dominant organisms at ecosystem scales. However, strong declines in tree mineral
549 nutrition at ICP Forests plots across Europe, including lowered P and higher foliar N:P of EcM trees, and
550 negative health effects at least for conifers, even under N-limiting conditions (Veresoglou et al. 2014,
551 Jonard et al. 2015), suggest that limits to the nutritional buffering capacity of EcMF communities at high
552 N deposition levels have been reached. Arbuscular mycorrhizal trees were not abundant enough at ICP
553 Forests sites to evaluate in these studies. Field surveys and experiments in AM and EcM forest

554 ecosystems are needed to resolve the sign and magnitude of the integrated impact of N-mediated
555 mycorrhizal fungal community change on host nutrition and plant community dynamics.

556 **3.7. Nitrogen deposition, organic matter decomposition, and soil carbon storage**

557 Whether changes in mycorrhizal communities in response to N deposition limit decomposition is an
558 active area of research. In addition to direct nutritional and population effects on EcMF and trees,
559 chronic N additions can suppress decomposition and increase soil carbon accumulation across AM and
560 EcM temperate forests (Pregitzer et al. 2008, Frey et al. 2014). Changes in decomposition could be
561 driven by multiple factors, including changing plant communities, litter chemistry, the environment, and
562 both saprotrophic and mycorrhizal community function.

563 In this context, there has been a long-standing debate about whether EcMF have retained not only the
564 capabilities for organic matter transformation, but also still have a facultative saprotrophic lifestyle. The
565 evidence strongly indicates that EcMF lack a fully saprotrophic lifestyle, but that they can have
566 substantial capabilities to transform soil organic matter, thereby affecting soil carbon pools and fluxes
567 (Lindahl & Tunlid 2015, Kuyper 2017).

568 Gadgil and Gadgil (1971, 1975) proposed a conceptual model in which EcMF competitively suppressed
569 decomposer activity, thereby reducing net decomposition. Although developed for EcMF, recent
570 evidence suggests that this effect may also be seen with AMF (Leifheit et al. 2015). Fernandez and
571 Kennedy (2015) summarized the potential mechanisms by which EcMF could suppress saprotrophs, one
572 of which is especially relevant to this review, i.e., competition for N between both fungal guilds given
573 high belowground C allocation which advantages EcMF. Under this model of fungal N competition,
574 increased N deposition should reduce the Gadgil effect, accelerating saprotrophic activity, all else being

575 equal. However, that does not seem to align with observations of reduced decomposition under N
576 deposition, suggesting other mechanisms are at play.

577 An alternative mechanism is related to the peroxidative capabilities of certain EcMF (e.g., species of the
578 genus *Cortinarius*; Bödeker et al., 2014) noted above, which could affect soil carbon dynamics, because
579 peroxidases can cause extracellular mineralization of soil organic matter. These species show a high
580 sensitivity to N deposition (Lilleskov et al. 2011), so their decline under N deposition could contribute to
581 accumulation of soil organic matter. In fact, EcMF, which are less carbon-limited than saprotrophic
582 fungi, may be more important in their contribution to the degradation of old soil organic matter than
583 saprotrophic fungi (Lindahl et al. 2007).

584 Models linking the capacity of EcMF to acquire organic N from soil organic matter to transformations of
585 soil organic matter by free-living heterotrophs vary widely in predictions. Whereas Orwin et al. (2011), in
586 agreement with the Gadgil effect, predicted that EcMF will slow down decomposition, Moore et al.
587 (2015) suggested that EcMF would increase decomposition under some scenarios. These predictions
588 have a direct bearing on how N deposition could have cascading effects via changes in EcMF functioning
589 into carbon pools and fluxes. Orwin's model, like that of Talbot (2008), predicts that, all other things
590 being equal, decrease in EcM activity enhances decomposition rates, while some of Moore's models
591 suggest the opposite. However, N deposition clearly slows decomposition of litter (Knorr et al. 2005) and
592 soil organic matter, especially by fungi. For that reason, it is uncertain how declines of EcMF under N
593 deposition would directly affect carbon storage.

594 Given possible shifts from EcM to AM forests under N deposition, it is important to determine the net
595 effect of N deposition-mediated shifts between mycorrhizal types (EcM-AM) on C storage in the entire
596 soil profile. Decomposition in organic horizons is only one determinant of soil carbon storage, and not
597 necessarily the most important one (Schmidt et al. 2011). Most of the processes described above are

598 primarily focused on the organic horizon, and as such influence the most vulnerable pool of soil carbon,
599 yet interactions of partially degraded root and microbial inputs with mineral horizons are important
600 determinants of total soil carbon storage (e.g., Torn et al. 1997, Doetterl et al. 2015). Averill et al. (2018)
601 state that an observed shift from EcM to AM trees under N deposition was associated with decreased
602 soil carbon storage, but other studies have found elevated mineral soil C and total organic C under AMF
603 (Craig et al. 2018, Zhu et al. 2018). The Averill et al. (2018) analysis only extends to 20 cm depth in the
604 mineral soil, and so captures effects on surface soil C, but would miss deeper soil carbon captured by the
605 other studies. EcM forests are associated with greater C storage near the surface (Vesterdal et al. 2013,
606 Craig et al. 2018) and so a bias toward surface sampling would overestimate soil C loss with decreased
607 dominance of EcM trees.

608 **4. The way forward—recommendations for future studies**

609 There is a need to move the science forward on multiple fronts. Although we have a good picture of
610 fungal community responses to N deposition in some boreo-temperate forests, the functional
611 consequences are much less well sorted out. Additionally, our understanding of tropical community
612 responses is still limited.

613 **4.1 Integrating emerging 'omic resources with field and laboratory investigations of fungal** 614 **functioning.**

615 A fruitful line of research will be to test the predictive utility of the genomic and transcriptomic
616 information vs. *in situ* assays of taxon-specific enzymatic and nutrient-mobilizing potential under
617 variable levels of inorganic N addition. Currently, our understanding of the obligate vs. facultative
618 extracellular and intracellular *in symbio* deployment of the genomic arsenal of peptidases and oxidative
619 enzymes possessed by EcMF is rudimentary (Talbot et al. 2013). We do not yet understand interactions

620 between these enzymes in mobilizing N under field conditions (Pellitier & Zak 2018). For example, if
621 certain *Cortinarius* species express intense peroxidative capacity, which is non-specific in bonds
622 targeted, then where, when, and how do they mobilize proteases to complement those enzymes? Are
623 taxon-specific traits of organic and inorganic N and P uptake correlated? How much predictive power do
624 genome analyses provide regarding enzymatic potential to target complex organic matter? Are these
625 suites of genes regulated together by higher level transcription factors that are sensitive to N
626 availability? Although these are fundamental questions about fungal ecophysiology, they have clear
627 implications for understanding how function is likely to respond to N deposition.

628 **4.2 Testing the concepts presented here in tropical forests.**

629 Most studies of N deposition impacts have been in temperate and boreal regions, yet lower latitudes
630 deserve more attention given the rapid increase in N deposition, especially in Asia. Most tropical forests
631 are dominated by AM trees, so it is important to understand how tropical AMF will respond functionally
632 to N deposition. Given that P limitation predominates over N limitation in older, more weathered,
633 tropical soils (Vitousek & Howarth 1991), combined with the apparent specialization of AMF on P over
634 N, functional shifts with N deposition might simply push systems to even greater emphasis on P
635 acquisition. However, especially given the uncertainty about whether N deposition will enhance or
636 inhibit AMF acquisition of P (Johnson 2010, Treseder et al. 2018), the role of N in altering AMF nutrient
637 acquisition in the tropics demands attention. Camenzind et al. (2014) found that in a high-elevation
638 tropical forest, N additions decreased intraradical fungal abundance and reduced richness of
639 Diversisporales but not of Glomerales, whereas P addition reduced Glomerales richness. Given the
640 cooler environment and younger soils in montane forests, it remains to be determined whether this
641 response is representative of warmer, more weathered low-elevation tropical forests.

642 Within EcMF, dominant tropical taxa are hypothesized to be poorly adapted for complex organic N
643 uptake given the more open N cycle (Kuyper 2012). As for AMF, this raises the question of whether
644 tropical EcMF would be as sensitive to N deposition. Tropical EcM forests can form monodominant
645 stands with substantial litter accumulation on nutrient-poor soils where organic N use could be
646 beneficial (Connell and Lowman 1989), and may reduce inorganic N availability (Corrales et al. 2016).
647 Some tropical EcMF can grow on protein as a sole N source in sterile culture (Brearley et al. 2005),
648 suggesting extracellular protease activity. Furthermore, tropical EcMF tend to be more diverse on low-
649 nutrient soils (Corrales et al. 2018). For example, Peay et al. (2010) found that EcMF associated with
650 Dipterocarpaceae were more diverse at low-fertility sites with sandy soils than high-fertility sites with
651 clay soils, with all 12 identified Cortinariaceae restricted to low-fertility sites. Similarly, N fertilization of a
652 montane tropical EcM forest led to community shifts identical to those at higher latitudes (Corrales et al.
653 2017). Given that the broadly dominant lineages in the tropics are the Russulaceae, *Amanita*, *Boletus*,
654 *Sebacina*, and Thelephoraceae (Corrales et al. 2018), none of which is known to predominantly harbor
655 nitrophobic species, it is unclear whether the findings of Corrales et al. (2017) can be generalized across
656 tropical EcM forests or limited to a small N-poor subset of ecosystems. Research is needed especially in
657 subtropical China, considering its high levels of N deposition. In one such forest in Fujian, Fan et al.
658 (2018) concluded that N deposition had increased both P limitation and EcM mobilization of organic
659 phosphate.

660 **4.3 Additional areas for further investigation**

- 661 • Improved understanding of responses of AMF community structure and function to N deposition,
662 with particular attention to integrated effects of C, N, and P limitations on functional organization
663 of the community.

- 664 • Experimental tests of the effects of N deposition on shifts from EcM to AM tree dominance and
665 their consequences for soil C storage.
- 666 • Refined critical loads, especially for EcM temperate broadleaf, AMF, and tropical forests.
- 667 • Improved understanding of the strength of legacies and feedbacks to predict recovery rates after
668 reduction of N deposition.
- 669 • Improved understanding of mycorrhizal community mediation of shifts in P uptake rate and uptake
670 mechanisms from different sources during the transition from N to P limitation.
- 671 • Robust data directly linking changes in 1) environment (soil, atmospheric), 2) mycorrhizal
672 taxonomic and functional diversity, and 3) forest nutrition, growth, and health.
- 673 • Understanding the effects on ecosystem processes (e.g. nitrate leaching, greenhouse gas
674 emissions) of transition to low-diversity nitrophile-dominated EcM forests with inorganic N
675 enrichment.
- 676 • Expanded investigation into interactive effects of N deposition and other global change factors on
677 mycorrhizal community structure and function.
- 678 • Mechanistically linking mycorrhizal fungi into models of forest C, N, and P cycling.
- 679 • Defining and testing C use efficiency and nutrient use efficiency by mycorrhizal fungi, especially in
680 response to changing N and P availability.
- 681 • Increased understanding of the functioning of the mycorrhizas of N-fixing trees as a natural analog
682 to N deposition.

683 **5. Conclusions**

684 Recent studies confirm the clear and strong sensitivity of mycorrhizal fungal communities to N inputs;
685 this has clear conservation implications given their high beta diversity. The N impact on these
686 communities is at all levels, including mycorrhizal types, as well as dominant families, genera, and

687 species. The functional differences at the coarsest phylogenetic and functional level (Dikarya/EcM –
688 Glomeromycotina/AM) are clear, suggesting N-mediated shifts from EcM to AM forests would reduce
689 the capacity to access organic N, organic P, and soil carbon cycling. The functional shifts at finer
690 taxonomic levels within EcMF suggest that functional suites of soil exploration types have declined
691 under N deposition, with a probable loss of N- and C-mobilizing enzymatic potential, and continuing
692 uncertainty about effects on P cycling. Genomics has opened up new areas of investigation,
693 simultaneously revealing both the presence of diverse suites of putative extracellular hydrolytic and
694 oxidative enzymes and our lack of understanding of the functional integration of these enzymes.
695 Similarly, taxon-level understanding of traits relevant to C, N, and P dynamics is improving, suggesting
696 that community functional shifts may be contingent on P availability. How these trait suites are coupled
697 and how they mediate the soil-fungal community-host system must be explored to understand the
698 functional consequences of observed community shifts and to predict changes in ecosystem processes
699 and forest condition under increased N deposition.

700

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1107

1108 **Figure legends**

1109

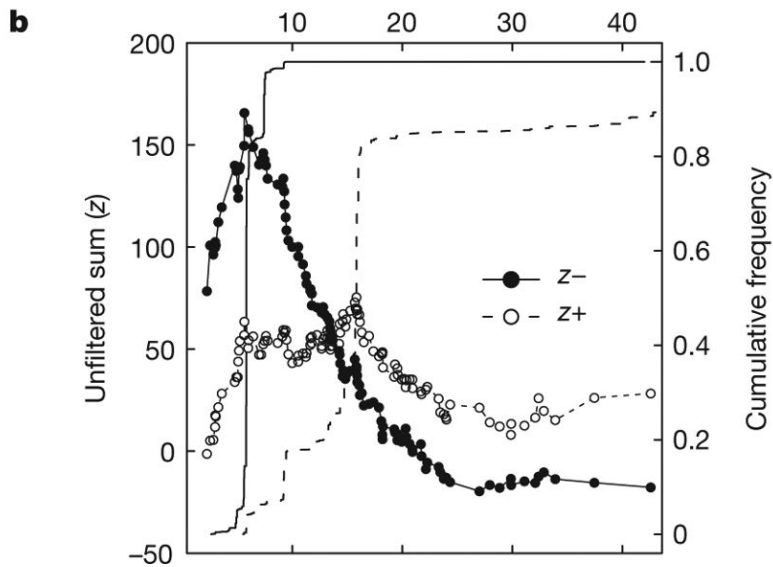
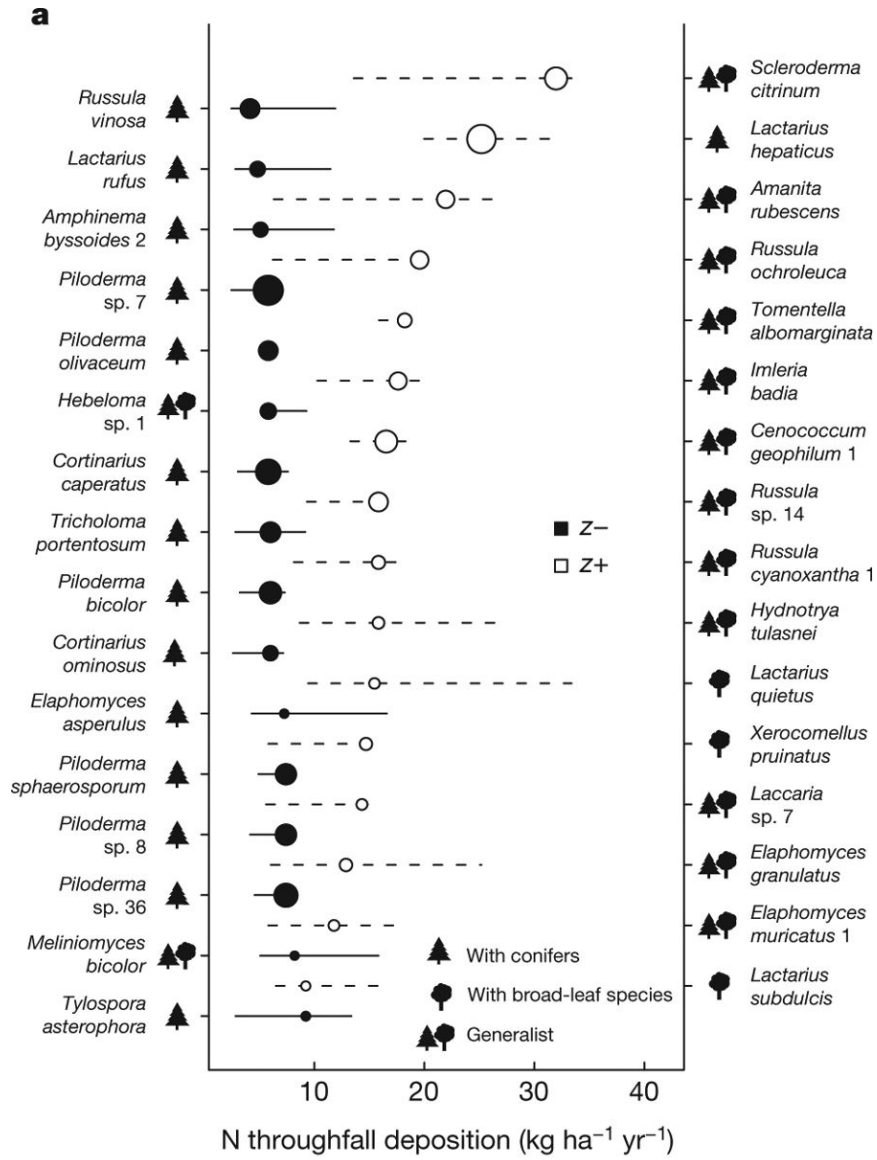
1110 **Fig. 1. a)** The belowground abundances of individual EcM species in relation to nitrogen deposition
1111 across 137 intensively monitored ICP Forests plots in Europe. Black symbols show species declining
1112 with increasing nitrogen deposition (z-) and open symbols depict species increasing with increasing
1113 nitrogen deposition (z+). The symbol size is proportional to the magnitude of the response (z-score).
1114 The horizontal lines represent 5th and 95th quantiles of values resulting in the largest change in
1115 species z-scores among 1,000 bootstrap replicates. Tree shapes next to species names indicate host
1116 generalist, conifer- or broadleaf-specific species. **b)** In response to nitrogen deposition, a drastic
1117 mycorrhizal community shift occurs at $5.8 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{yr}^{-1}$, and a secondary shift occurs for positively-
1118 affected fungi at $15.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1} \cdot \text{yr}^{-1}$, based on the community-level output of accumulated z-scores per
1119 plot. Reproduced from van der Linde et al. 2018.

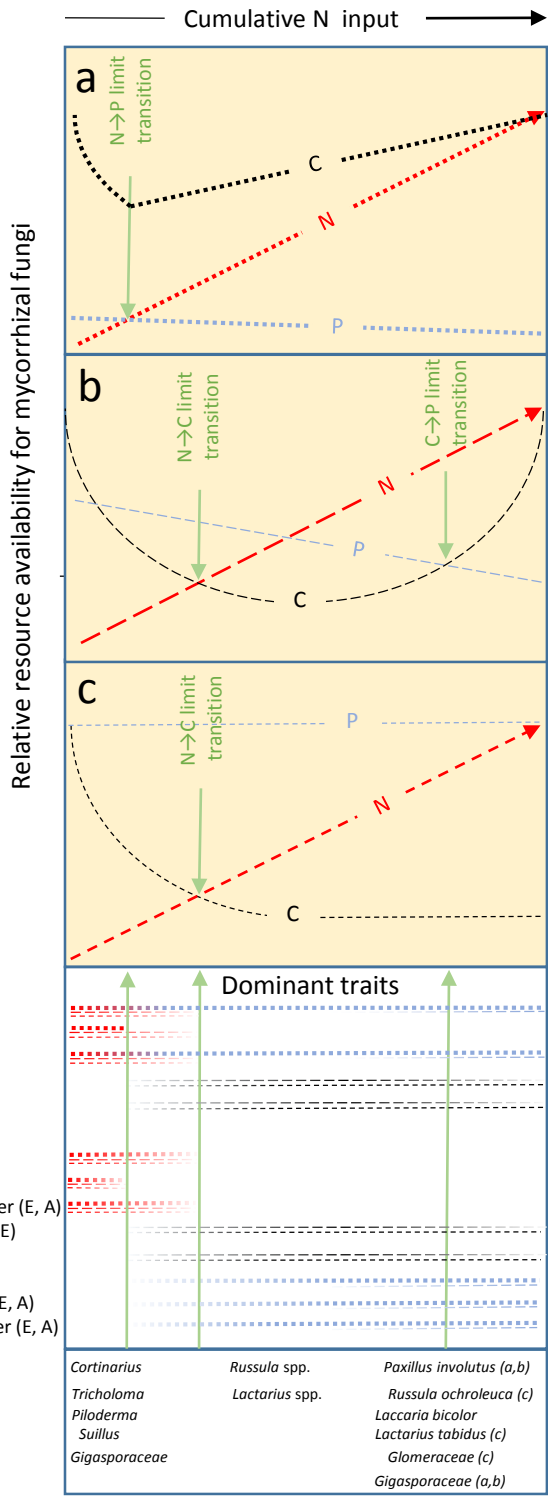
1120

1121 **Fig.2.** As N availability increases, there are three scenarios of P availability represented in the three
1122 panels: (a) low, b) medium, c) high; these are hypothesized to lead to different relative N and P
1123 limitation of hosts and resultant C flux belowground available for ectomycorrhizal activity; and would
1124 select differing dominant traits hypothesized to be associated with the shifting limitations. We assume
1125 that belowground C availability is high under low N or low P availability, but low under high N and P
1126 availability. In **scenario a)** P is very low, and hence limitation transitions rapidly from N to P and stays
1127 there, with relatively high C availability maintained by P limitation. In **scenario b)** P availability is higher,
1128 so as N increases, N and P are both readily available, and belowground C declines until N stimulates
1129 greater C flux belowground, or P availability declines because of uptake, acidification, or other factors,
1130 leading to greater P limitation and a steeper increase in belowground C availability. In **scenario c)** P

1131 availability is very high, and as N availability increases, neither N nor P is limited, and belowground C
1132 availability is reduced. (N→Mg limitation shift could also have an even more extreme effect on
1133 belowground C availability). Dominant traits are coded according to their association with a putative
1134 limiting resource: red = nitrogen limitation; blue = P limitation; black = C limitation, and dash style
1135 corresponds to those of the three scenarios with which they are associated. E and A after traits refer to
1136 putative EcMF and AMF traits, respectively. Note that AMF exploration types have not been formally
1137 defined and should differ from those described for EcMF, so the short and medium smooth types are
1138 considered approximations. (a), (b), and (c) after taxon names refer to the scenario in which that taxon
1139 is expected to possess some of the dominant traits under high N. Green vertical lines indicate transitions
1140 of nutrient and C limitations with increasing N in the three scenarios.

1141





Exploration types

- Long distance (E)
- Medium fringe, mat (E)
- Medium smooth (E,A)
- Short (E, A)
- contact (E)

Physiology:

- Proteases (E)
- oxidative enzymes (E)
- High affinity N transporter (E, A)
- Less N transfer to hosts (E)
- Low C demand (E,A)
- Phosphatases (E,A)
- Organic acid exudation (E, A)
- High affinity P transporter (E, A)

Example taxa: