

Intraspecific leaf chemistry drives locally accelerated ecosystem function in aquatic and terrestrial communities

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Abstract. Resource patchiness influences consumer foraging, movement, and physiology. Fluxes across ecosystem boundaries can extend these effects to otherwise distinct food webs. Intraspecific diversity of these cross-ecosystem subsidies can have large consequences for recipient systems. Here, we show intraspecific variation in leaf defensive chemistry of riparian trees drives local adaptation among terrestrial and riverine decomposers that consume shed leaf litter. We found extensive geographic structuring of ellagitannins, diarylheptanoids, and flavonoids in red alder trees. Ellagitannins, particularly those with strong oxidative activity, drive aquatic leaf decomposition. Further, spatial variation in these leaf components drives local ecological matching: in experiments using artificial food sources distinguished only by the chemical content of individual trees, we found decomposers both on land and in rivers more quickly consumed locally derived food sources. These results illustrate that terrestrial processes can change the chemistry of cross-ecosystem subsidies in ways that ultimately alter ecosystem function in donor and recipient systems.

Key words: *defense chemistry; diarylheptanoids; ecosystem subsidies; ellagitannins; indirect effects; intraspecific variation; local adaptation; trophic interactions.*

INTRODUCTION

Organisms are tightly interconnected in tangled webs of interactions. Variation in organismal diversity across space and time can have cascading effects across multiple trophic levels (Bruno and O'Connor 2005), and even across-ecosystem boundaries. There are many examples of the tight interconnection between terrestrial and aquatic systems, particularly forest-river systems (Nakano and Murakami 2001, Knight et al. 2005). Preservation of biodiversity is a well-accepted means of preserving many key ecosystem functions by maintaining ecosystem resistance and resilience to disturbance (Cardinale et al. 2006, Ives and Carpenter 2007), but the mechanisms explaining why diversity maintains ecosystem stability are less known (Ives and Carpenter 2007). Understanding the effects diversity may have on adjacent ecosystems is critical for predicting and mitigating consequences of declining diversity. Species diversity remains the focus of biodiversity studies, but recent work has expanded this field into how biodiversity at the within-species scale affects community structure and ecosystem processes (Crutsinger et al. 2006, Whitham et al. 2006). Studying intraspecific diversity also illuminates the development of linkages at temporal and geographic scales, and points to possible experiments in nature.

Our study examines how selective forces driving divergence and creating diversity ultimately affect adjacent

ecosystems receiving subsidies. For example, a major component of plant diversity often arises from plastic and genetic responses to herbivore stress. Plant defenses against herbivores are varied and include production of mechanical and chemical defenses, reduction in tissue quality, and volatile signals to attract predators of the herbivores to sources of infestation (Agrawal 1998, Allmann and Baldwin 2010). Defenses employed by plants often depend on the availability of environmental resources and genetics. Neighboring individuals may share common abiotic resources such as nutrients, have closer genetic relatedness, and experience similar biotic pressures such as herbivory than individuals growing a distance apart (Coley et al. 1985, Schweitzer et al. 2008). Together, these spatial factors can cause a geographic mosaic of interactions (Thompson 2005) resulting in sustained spatial variation in plant diversity with potential consequences for other dependent organisms, such as the terrestrial and aquatic decomposers that consume 80–90% of carbon fixed by plants (Cebrian 1999). Assuming then that consumers should benefit from being adapted to efficiently consume available resources, in a scenario where we see spatial structuring in leaf traits of a plant species (such as defensive chemistry), do communities of consumers in recipient systems vary to efficiently match the plants in adjacent donor communities with different chemical signatures?

We address this question using riparian red alder trees (*Alnus rubra*), a dominant deciduous tree in the Pacific Northwest, as the model system where intraspecific variation in leaves has strong effects on herbivory rates, decomposition in soils, and decomposition in streams

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(Jackrel and Wootton 2014, 2015). Previously, we showed that induced defense responses of red alder trees to terrestrial herbivory stress slow leaf decomposition in streams (Jackrel and Wootton 2015). Additionally, intraspecific variation in red alder leaves causes local matching that enhances rates of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem function at small scales (<1.0 km) (Jackrel and Wootton 2014, 2015). We used reciprocal transplant experiments to show that local communities decomposed leaves from red alder trees growing in the immediate area more quickly than leaves from trees growing at further distances. These opportune systems with trophic effects crossing the aquatic-terrestrial boundary enable us to study the implications of intraspecific diversity on aquatic decomposers largely decoupled from the terrestrial herbivory processes shaping spatial patterns of diversity among trees. Leaf decomposition results from complex interactions among invertebrates, microbes, and hyphomycetes (Wright and Covich 2005). In this study, we demonstrate a chemical basis for the significant ecological variation we observed.

Here, we document presence and relative abundance differences in 10 diarylheptanoids (including two with mass spectra consistent with novel structures) and 13 ellagitannins in leaves from a population of 40 red alder trees growing along the banks of four rivers. Diarylheptanoids are notable in the biomedical literature for their toxicity (Sati et al. 2011) and promise for cancer treatments (Farrand et al. 2014); some evidence also suggests diarylheptanoids inhibit digestion in herbivores (Sunnerheim and Bratt 2004). We took advantage of technical developments to characterize these compounds and explore their ecological importance (González-Hernández et al. 2000, Muilenburg et al. 2011). Recent reviews stress that ellagitannins are an underappreciated class of secondary metabolites (Salminen and Karonen 2011), and plants are known to suppress ellagitannin production in response to reduced insect pressures (Agrawal et al. 2012). Ellagitannins may function as an herbivory defense via their oxidation activity, which can damage nutritional quality (Barbehenn et al. 2006). Because the relative magnitude of oxidation activity in ellagitannins differs from other tannins, which are less easily oxidized but rather are much more effective at binding and inhibiting digestion of plant proteins, traditional functional metrics (such as assays measuring protein-precipitation capacity) that are still frequently used for measuring secondary metabolites are inadequate to fully characterize plant defensive compounds (Stevens et al. 2014, Mason et al. 2015). We use high-resolution (i.e., accurate mass) mass spectrometry that enabled precise separation within classes of compounds (e.g., different ellagitannins) and allowed us to characterize specific compounds that may play important roles in ecology and ecosystem function. Here, we show how secondary metabolites, nutrients, and mechanical defense vary in a natural population of trees and regulate local stream decomposition rates. Further, our results show that

aquatic and terrestrial decomposer communities are locally matched to leaf defensive chemistry differences in the local red alder individuals that frequently supply abundant leaf litter to these communities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To determine the driving factor behind local adaptation to intraspecific plant variation in decomposer communities, we first measure intraspecific leaf and tree traits: including secondary metabolites (ellagitannins and diarylheptanoids), nutrients (C, N, and P and the isotopes of C and N), leaf thickness, and trunk diameter. We ask which traits best predict aquatic ecosystem function using data from leaf pack experiments. After finding that ellagitannins are one of the strongest predictors of aquatic decomposition, we use the structure of each ellagitannin to predict the strength of their function (oxidation) against consumers. We then determine whether strength of oxidative function is predictive of aquatic decomposition. Next, we test whether secondary metabolite composition can be predicted by other leaf traits, and whether these metabolites vary geographically. After finding geographic structuring, we completed a diet field experiment to determine whether this geographic variation in chemical components drives adaptation in streams and soils.

Study sites

Red alder is an abundant deciduous tree in riparian zones of the Pacific Northwest. We chose 40 trees growing along four rivers in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State: the South Fork Pysht (48.167° N, 124.157° W), Hoko (48.261° N, 124.354° W), Little Hoko (48.255° N, 124.343° W), and Sekiu (48.282° N, 124.409° W) (for river descriptions, see Jackrel and Wootton 2014). Riparian zones at each river consisted of early successional forest dominated by red alder with small numbers of bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and other conifers.

Leaf field experiment and leaf preparation

To test how individual variation in alder leaf traits affects aquatic ecosystem function, we used data on leaf decomposition rates in streams from our previous experiment (Jackrel and Wootton 2014). This experiment was replicated in two different pairs of similar sized rivers (between two fourth-order streams, Sekiu River and Hoko River, and between two third-order streams, South Fork Pysht River and Little Hoko River). In brief, green leaves were collected from five red alder trees growing in the riparian zone immediately upstream of each of the eight aquatic deployment sites (two sites per river and 40 trees in total) and used to construct four leaf packs per tree to measure decomposition rate at four locations: two sites in the adjacent river and two sites in the paired river

(see Appendix S3 for an illustration of the reciprocal transplant experimental design). Green leaves are a substantial and consistent energy resource available in these streams for aquatic decomposers during their summer growing season, a time when high quality resources are essential (Stout et al. 1985, Jackrel and Wootton 2014). Initial and final leaf weights were recorded for each leaf pack, yielding four decomposition rates per tree. These data were collected from the Pysht and Sekiu Hoko rivers in July 2012 and the Hoko and Sekiu Rivers in August 2012 (Jackrel and Wootton 2014). Our linear mixed-effects models use individual tree identity as our random effect for our four repeated decomposition measurements, and due to the experimental design, tree identity also incorporates temporal differences between the two experimental rounds.

As an indicator of leaf thickness, we took leaf cores 12 mm in diameter from an additional 20 leaves per tree, then oven dried for 48 h and weighed each core to the nearest milligram. As a proxy for tree age, we measured tree trunk diameter at 1.5 m above ground. Additional leaves were oven dried, ground in a mortar, and stored at room temperature until further analyses.

CNP measurements

We packed 3 mg of leaf powder into 3.5×5 mm tin capsules and measured percent nitrogen, percent carbon, and $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios using a Costech 4010 Elemental Analyzer combustion system coupled to a Thermo DeltaV Plus IRMS via a Thermo Conflo IV interface at the University of Chicago Stable Isotope Ratio facility. The reproducibility was 0.11‰ for ^{13}C and 0.17‰ for ^{15}N , and cocoa powder and glutamic acid were used as isotopic controls. To measure phosphorus we used an ashing, acid-hydrolysis, and phosphomolybdate-blue spectrophotometric protocol (Jackrel and Wootton 2015). In addition to %C and %N, total C and N isotopic ratios were measured as proxy indicators for different leaf components (e.g., ^{13}C -depleted leaves may contain more lignin, while ^{13}C -rich may contain more polysaccharides [Benner et al. 1987, Teece and Fogel 2007]).

Mass spectrometry analyses

We extracted 100 mg of leaf powder in 10 mL 70% methanol at ambient temperature, and auto injected 5 μL aliquots of each sample through a Zorbax SB-C18 2.1×150 mm, 3.5 μm column on an Agilent Q-TOF LC-MS with dual ESI (Agilent 6,520). We ran each sample separately in negative mode and positive mode using the Auto MS/MS mode with the following parameters: 35 eV fixed collision energy, 325°C gas temperature, 9 mL/min drying gas, 40 psig nebulizer, 170 V fragmentor, 120 V skimmer voltage, 750 V OCT 1 RF Vpp, and 4,500 V capillary voltage. We eluted the samples with 0.1% formic acid in water (A) and 0.1% formic acid

in 100% methanol (B). The separation was carried out with the following program: 5 min of 100% A at a rate of 0.2 mL/min, followed by a gradient from 100% to 60% A (0% to 40% B) over 20 min at a rate of 0.1 mL/min. Flow was then held for 5 min at 60% A (40% B) at a rate of 0.3 mL/min. Then a gradient from 60% to 0% A (40% to 100% B) was carried out over 15 min at 0.3 mL/min, and then held for 10 min at 0% A (100% B) at 0.3 mL/min. Additionally, we did targeted Q-TOF runs in High Resolution mode at varied collision energies in precursor and product ion modes to further aid compound characterization (data not shown).

We characterized compounds using retention times and fragmentation patterns of chromatograms with automatic agile integration using Agilent Mass Hunter Software (Qualitative Analysis B6 2012). Additional software was used for heuristic filtering of the obtained molecular formulas (Kind and Fiehn 2007). Commercial standards including oregonin (Sigma-Aldrich, CAS #55303-93-0) and curcumin (Sigma-Aldrich, CAS #458-37-7, St. Louis, Missouri, USA) were used to aid in characterization. We recorded base peak chromatogram (BPC) abundance for each peak, standardized abundance as BPC per milligram of leaf material extracted to account for slight deviations from 100 mg of leaf powder extractions, and log transformed BPC data to consider relative compound abundances. Samples from all forty trees were run on the machine in a randomized order to control for any potential deviations over time in mass spectrometer performance.

Diet field experiment

In a second field experiment, we measured potential responses to individual variation in leaf chemistry by offering to decomposers extracted leaf compounds in an agar matrix. We completed these experiments using the same river pairings as in previous reciprocal transplant experiments (see Appendix S3 for an illustration of the experiment). We collected leaves from the 40 alder trees in June 2013 and used the same protocol for extracting secondary metabolites as described for mass spectrometry analyses. We allowed the methanol fractions to evaporate and then resuspended the remaining residue in 10 mL of water. We prepared a general purpose Lepidoptera diet (BioServe, Product #F9772, Flemington, New Jersey, USA) according to package instructions except for doubling the gelling agent to avoid disintegration of the diet underwater (10.5% supplied agar, 10.5% agarose (Sigma-Aldrich), and 79% dry diet). We chose this proportion of agar, agarose, diet, and water because we found this formula resulted in no visible fragmentation or substantial mass loss after submerging in tap water for 7 d. We added 10 g of prepared diet into glass vials, warmed the vials to melt, added 3.3 mL of tree-specific extract, and mixed thoroughly. We immediately loaded liquid diets using 10 cc syringes into randomly selected well locations in 96-well microplates in

batches of four plates (e.g., one plate for each of four sites in the Pysht and Little Hoko Rivers). Each of these plates contained 20 different types of diets, one for each of the 20 trees growing along one set of the paired rivers.

For aquatic plates, we surrounded diet options by empty wells and used the middle of each plate to avoid edge effects. We repeated the experiment twice for a total of 16 plates across four rivers. We recorded starting mass of each well filled with diet by taring the balance between diet additions. We placed each plate in bags made of 4.75 mm mesh nylon seine netting fixed across the plate surface with mini-binder clips. This arrangement permitted feeding while providing a gripping surface for macroinvertebrates, and enabled attachment to the stream bed via cable ties attached to steel reinforcing bars pounded into the stream bed (Appendix S3). We secured plates to the stream bed immediately downstream of the five study trees at each deployment site along the four rivers. We retrieved plates after 2–6 d, depending on general feeding rate, with the goal of removing plates once $\approx 50\%$ of the diet had been consumed. We weighed each well of diet to the nearest centigram and calculated percent mass lost. We observed caddisflies, which are known to consume alder litter, actively feeding on the diets. However, we note that in situ feeding experiments cannot preclude other consumers that may not typically feed on intact leaf litter (such as algivores). Any mass loss due to algivore feeding or abiotic processes was controlled by our randomized intermixing of home and away diets that minimized any systematic differences in biotic and abiotic conditions affecting each group.

In riparian soil, instead of duplicate rounds, we assigned each specific diet to two well locations per plate, filling the top four rows of cells. We filled each well to the rim, but did not measure starting weights. The average starting weight for each individual well of diet from the 16 aquatic plates ($\mu = 0.420 \text{ g} \pm 0.0089 \text{ SD}$) was substituted as the approximate starting weight of each well of diet for the soil plates. We placed plates in mesh bags, secured with mini-binder clips, and buried the plates beneath 10–15 cm of soil under the most downstream tree at each deployment site along the Pysht and Little Hoko rivers. We did not implement the experiment in the Sekiu and Hoko rivers. Plates were retrieved after 29 d, washed gently to dislodge soil, weighed to the nearest centigram, and percent mass loss for each well was calculated. Replicate measures were incorporated into a nested random term of analysis of variance models, as described in detail below.

Statistical analyses

We describe variation in 35 chemical compounds among 40 trees using a principal component analysis. Principal components were extracted using singular value decomposition of the correlation matrix to weight common and less common compounds equally (prcomp function, R Development Core Team, 2014). We tested

whether ellagitannin content (via PC1 scores), diarylheptanoid content (via PC2 scores), and flavonoid content (via PC3 scores) were predicted by measured tree traits (including leaf %C, %N, %P, leaf thickness, and trunk diameter) using linear regression (Table S2D). We tested what traits (including leaf %C, %N, %P, leaf thickness, trunk diameter, and scores for PC1, 2 and 3) best predicted decomposition rates in rivers using linear mixed-effects models with individual tree as the random effect. In addition to using PC scores as metrics of secondary metabolites, we also tested which specific compounds (either within the class of ellagitannins, or within diarylheptanoids) best predicted decomposition rates in rivers using linear mixed-effects models. We selected best fitting models by comparing AIC scores and for mixed-effect models report marginal R^2 values to describe variance explained by the fixed factors (Nakagawa and Schielzeth 2013). We tested whether differences in chemical classes (quantified as differences in scores along each principal component) among trees corresponded to geographic distance among trees using a Mantel test. Because ellagitannins can be quite complex in molecular structure (Karonen et al. 2010) and vary six-fold in their oxidative capacity, we estimated oxidative function of each ellagitannin using the following formula (Barbehenn et al. 2006, Moilanen and Salminen 2008):

$$\text{OA} = (15.5A + 6.6B + 4.9C + 4.5D + 3.6E + 1.9F + 1.1G) / W$$

where A = number of valoneoyl groups, B = number of nonahydroxytriphenoyl groups, C = number of valoneoyl or sanguisorboyl groups, D = number of xylose/lyxose groups, E = number of acyclic castalagin-type glucoses, F = number of hexahydroxydiphenoyl groups, and G = number acyclic vescalagin-type glucoses, and W is the molecular weight of the ellagitannin (g/mol). We then used these calculations to ask whether the ellagitannins selected by our model as the strongest predictors of decomposition in rivers also had relatively strong oxidative function.

For the diet experiments, we tested whether diets prepared from alder leaves sourced from different relative locations decomposed at different rates using a five group ANOVA. The diets were prepared from trees either growing (1) at the home site on the home river; (2) upstream on the home river; (3) downstream on the home river; (4) upstream on the away river; (5) or downstream on the away river. Our two fixed factors were this home/away variable and tree identity, and our two random factors were deployment location and a nested term of plate replicate nested within tree identity and deployment location. Because we had hypotheses based on prior results from reciprocal transplant leaf pack experiments in streams (Jackrel and Wootton 2014), we used our a priori ordered predictions to calculate a directional five-group ANOVA using Spearman rank correlations (Rice and Gaines 1994). For the riparian soil data, we used a

three-group ANOVA (home site, away site on the home river, or away river) because we did not have an a priori expectation that upstream vs. downstream sites on the home river would yield different results in a terrestrial system.

To test whether alder trees growing in geographic proximity were more similar in chemical composition than distant neighbors, we constructed a chromatogram distance matrix among trees (with elements S_{ij}) by calculating pairwise Euclidean distances between tree pairs:

$$S_{ij} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{35} (C_{ik} - C_{jk})^2}$$

where C_{ij} is the log BPC of chemical compound k in tree i . We log transformed data because relative ratios of chemical compounds are often essential for conferring information (Christensen et al. 1989). We tested whether this chromatogram distance matrix was significantly correlated with a geographic distance matrix (using GPS coordinates for each tree) using a Mantel test. We determined whether a model including chromatogram data alone could predict tree growing location in nature with a discriminant function analysis (DFA) (SPSS IBM Corp. 2013, Armonk, New York, USA). Using the DFA, we identify which chemical compounds differ most among riparian sites. To maximize statistical power and identify a more parsimonious model, we entered all 35 chemical compounds into the model and iteratively removed variables one-by-one by selecting the variable with the smallest standardized coefficient on DF1 until any additional removal reduced cross-validation reclassification accuracy. We report these results with and without leave-one-out cross-validation, because our experimental design required

an unusually large removal (20%) of the original data set one of the five trees per riparian site).

RESULTS

Each red alder tree contained a mixture of 35 compounds that were eluted within the first 45 min of each chromatography column run (Fig. 1). We characterized 13 ellagitannins (Appendix S1: Fig. S1), three flavonoids, and 10 diarylheptanoids (Appendix S1: Fig. S2) (Appendix S1: Table S1 provides references for each characterization). Ellagitannin elution order has been clearly modeled (Moilanen et al. 2013), which facilitates mass spectrometry characterization. We characterized each compound, molecular mass, and formulae of parent molecules, fragmentation patterns, and corresponding peak numbers, as illustrated (Fig. 1). The ellagitannin di-HHDP-glucose (consistent with pedunculagin α), diarylheptanoid oregonin, and flavonoid quercetin glucuronide were generally observed at the highest levels in each tree chromatogram (Appendix S1: Table S1). We found two potentially novel diarylheptanoids with mass spectra not yet reported in the literature, and though definitive identification will require future investigations via NMR, both contain glucose rather than xylose and elute prior to previously studied compounds, as expected given the increased polarity of the glucoside (Appendix S1: Fig. S2, Table S1).

Principal components analysis independently separated the chemical signatures of individual trees primarily along the three compound families (ellagitannins, diarylheptanoids, and flavonoids; Appendix S4: Table S1; Fig. 2). The first axis is loaded most strongly by nine ellagitannins, the second axis is loaded with eight diarylheptanoids, and the third axis contains the three

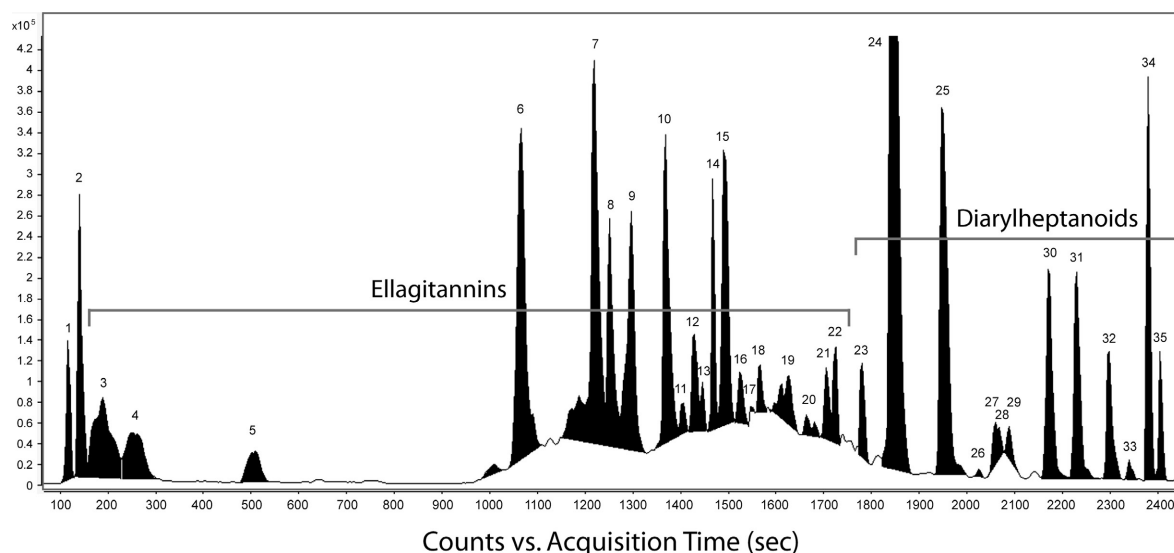


FIG. 1. Example chromatogram from a red alder tree growing in the riparian zone of the Pysht River (ELK 4). Black shading indicates the area of each peak after baseline correction. Note peak 24 (oregonin) is cutoff to provide a better view of less relatively abundant compounds.

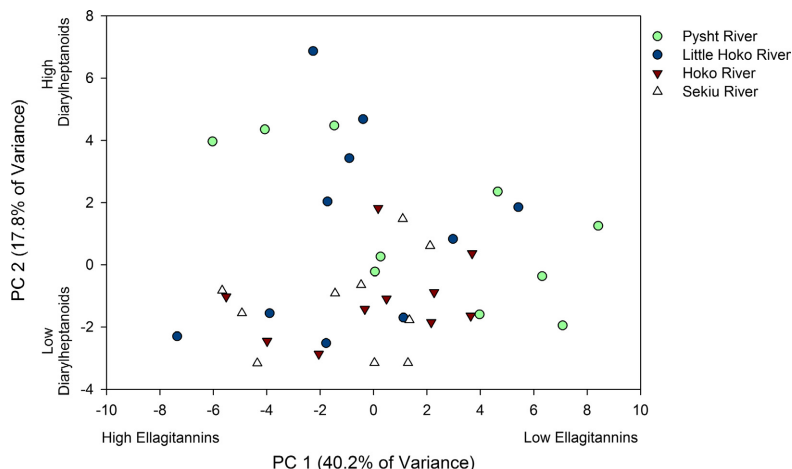


FIG. 2. Individual red alder trees growing in the riparian zones of four rivers vary in leaf chemistry along a largely ellagitannin axis and of secondary importance, a diarylheptanoid axis via a principle component analysis. The analysis includes 35 variables, one for the size of each of the 35 peaks as shown in Fig. 1. See Appendix S4: Table S1 for PC loadings.

flavonoids (Appendix S4: Table S1). Trees varied considerably in secondary metabolite composition: some ellagitannin relative abundances varied over 12-fold (#15 di-HHDP-galloyl-glucose β , consistent with casuarictin) and some diarylheptanoids varied over 300-fold (#23 HOG). We then asked if this variation in defensive compounds corresponded with ecologically important traits, most of which showed substantial variation within the population: %N content ranged two-fold (mean $2.89\% \pm 0.42\%$ SD), %P content ranged three-fold ($0.16\% \pm 0.047\%$), leaf thickness ranged four-fold (0.007 ± 0.002 g/unit area²), tree diameter ranged 46-fold (55.8 ± 24.1 cm), and $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ranged three-fold ($-1.48\% \pm 0.27\%$), whereas $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ was fairly constant ($-32.00\% \pm 0.97\%$). Stepwise regression showed that trees with leaves containing a high relative abundance of ellagitannins, as measured by PC 1, tended to contain less nitrogen and relatively less phosphorus (i.e. elevated N:P) ($F_{2,37} = 13.84$, $P < 0.001$; Appendix S2: Table S1, Appendix S4: Table S1; Fig. 3a). Trees with leaves containing high relative abundances of diarylheptanoids, as measured by PC 2, tended to have thinner leaves, reduced C:P and elevated C:N and N:P than leaves lower in diarylheptanoids ($F_{4,35} = 10.42$, $P < 0.001$; Appendix S4: Table S1, Appendix S2: Table S2). Leaf flavonoids (PC 3) exhibited a weak inverse correlation with $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ (Appendix S2: Table S3).

We then found that leaf decomposition in streams is best predicted by both chemistry and mechanical traits. Based on our leaf pack experiments across four rivers, ellagitannin content (as represented by PC1) and leaf thickness were the best predictors of leaf decomposition rate in streams (marginal $R^2 = 0.48$, $n = 148$ leaf packs; Appendix S2: Table S4), exceeding all other measured variables including all of our nutrient variables, tree diameter, diarylheptanoid content (as represented by PC2), and flavonoid content (as represented by PC3).

Ellagitannin content alone explained 18% of the variance in decomposition rate (Fig. 3b), and we found that disparity among pairs of red alder trees along this ellagitannin axis (via pairwise distances between PC1 scores) corresponded with geographic distance between them (Mantel test, $P = 0.014$). Among the 13 compounds largely contributing to that ellagitannin axis of PC1 (Appendix S4: Table S1), HHDP-galloyl-glucose (consistent with isostrictinin) and di-HHDP-galloyl-glucose β (consistent with casuarictin) appeared to be the strongest inhibitors of aquatic decomposition (linear mixed-effects model: marginal $R^2 = 0.30$, HHDP-galloyl-glucose, $t_{37} = 3.0$, $P = 0.0048$, di-HHDP-galloyl-glucose β , $t_{37} = -4.7$, $P < 0.001$). When we used molecular structure to calculate approximate oxidation rate for ellagitannins we characterized in red alder, these two compounds had among the highest oxidation rates (4.1 and 4.9 abs/s/mM; Appendix S1: Table S1).

Relative abundance of several diarylheptanoids also predicted substantial variation in aquatic decomposition rate (linear mixed-effects model: marginal $R^2 = 0.155$, methylhirsutananol $t_{35} = 2.11$, $P = 0.043$, oregonin $t_{35} = -1.73$, $P = 0.093$, platyphylanolanol-xyloside $t_{35} = -2.10$, $P = 0.043$, alnside A $t_{35} = 1.77$, $P = 0.086$). Additionally, these compounds were fairly variable in the population (mean relative abundance ± 1 SD of each compound is reported in Appendix S1: Table S1), but unlike ellagitannins, this variation did not correspond with the scale of geographic distances our study explored: pairwise distances between PC2 scores were not correlated with geographic distance between red alder trees (Mantel test, $P = 0.15$).

We constructed a chromatogram distance matrix to consider the relative abundances of all 35 chemical compounds, and we again found that red alder trees growing in geographic proximity shared more similar secondary metabolite chemistry than more distant neighbors

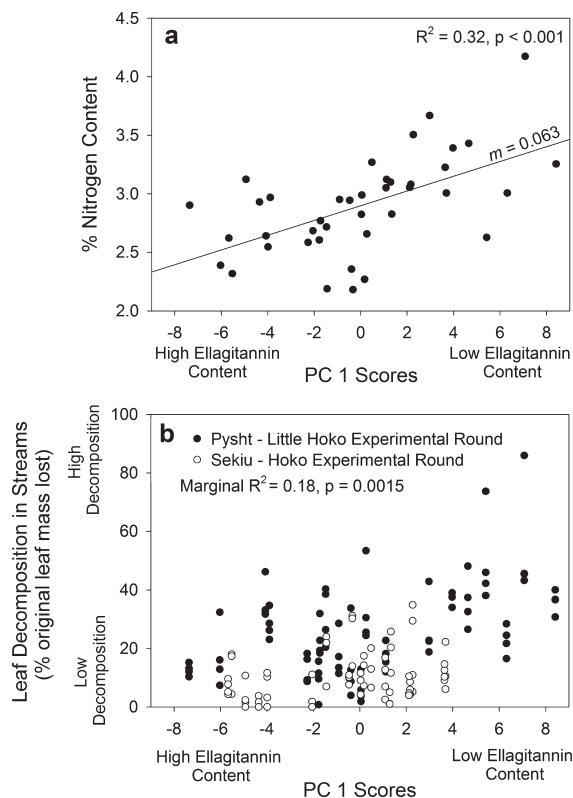


FIG. 3. Variation in ellagitannins (as shown by PC 1 of Appendix S4: Table S1) predicts (a) % nitrogen content of leaves from individual red alder trees and (b) aquatic decomposition rate of leaves in streams.

(Mantel test, $P = 0.0035$). Entering all 35 compounds in a discriminant function, across the eight riparian sites (Wilk's $\lambda < 0.001$, $\chi^2_{189} = 288.9$, $P < 0.0001$), illustrates the strong effects of geography on the chemical profiles of these trees. The first discriminant function accounted for 93.9% of the variation and was such a strong predictor of geographic location that 100% of the 40 trees

were classified to the correct site on the correct river (compared to 12.5% correct classification by chance) (Fig. 4). Even when removing 20% of the original data to enable cross-validation, reclassification was correct in 45% of the trees, which is 3.5-fold more trees than expected by chance. The first discriminant function is a complex compilation of 27 compounds (Appendix S5: Table S1), including at least 13 ellagitannins, which as we showed above are generally strong predictors of aquatic decomposition.

We found that this spatial structuring of ellagitannins, diarylheptanoids, and flavonoids in riparian trees drove local decomposer responses both in the terrestrial and riparian environment. To separate chemistry from structural leaf properties, we prepared 40 diets containing tree extracts (prepared in the same way as extracts loaded onto the mass spectrometer) for in situ feeding experiments. We found aquatic communities consumed diets prepared with local red alder extracts 24.7% more than diets prepared with red alder growing along a different river. We also found this same pattern of local matching at the within-river scale. Our a priori prediction was that communities are most efficient at consuming chemical components that are present in leaves supplied to that particular location. Due to our experimental design, our away sites on the home river represent one of two scenarios: at downstream sites, leaves from the upstream site wash downstream and represent a natural food resource, but at upstream sites, leaves from the downstream sites wash further downstream and represent a novel food resource. In the first scenario, we found that aquatic communities consumed 11.2% less diet prepared from alder trees growing at an upstream site on the same river compared to trees growing at that deployment site, but in the second scenario, aquatic communities consumed 19.9% less diet prepared from alder trees growing at a downstream site on the same river (Fig. 5a, Table 1; $P < 0.025$, ordered heterogeneity test). This result emphasizes that regular exposure, rather than distance alone, appears to

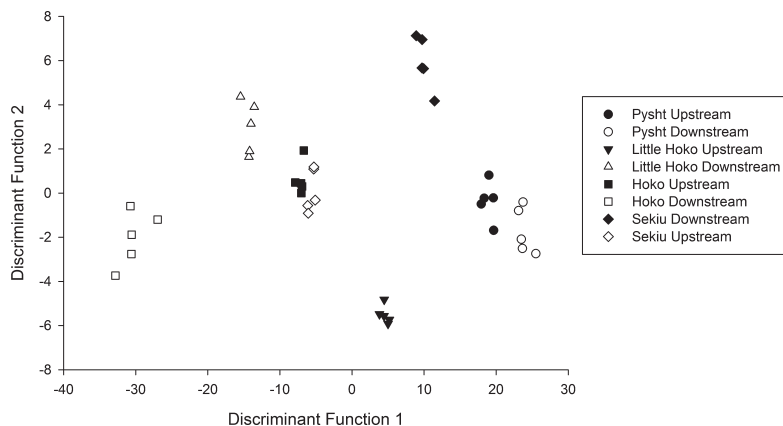


FIG. 4. Secondary metabolite composition of 40 riparian alder trees groups trees into actual growing locations in nature via discriminant function analysis.

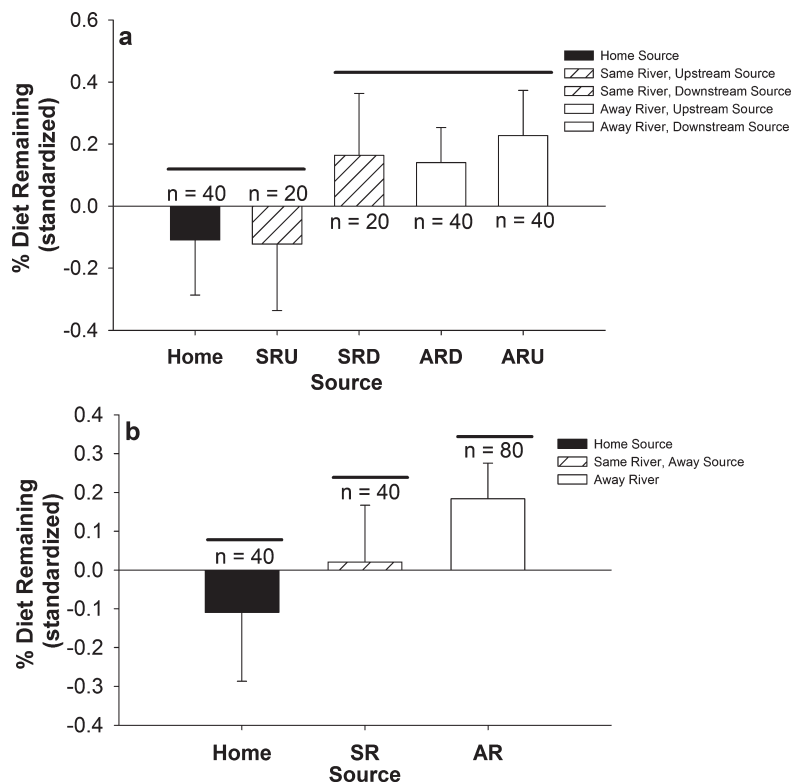


FIG. 5. Average decomposition (\pm SE) in (a) streams and (b) soils of forty commercial diets prepared containing added leaf extracts from individual red alder trees.

TABLE 1. Analysis of variance comparing aquatic decomposition rates of diets containing red alder leaf extracts from individual riparian trees that were each deployed at four sites: the home site immediately downstream of the focal tree, the same river at a different site either upstream or downstream of the focal tree, and at two sites on a different river.

Source	df	SS	MS	F	P_{\ddagger}^{\dagger}
Leaf source	4	0.056	0.014	1.371	
Home river vs. away river	1	0.032	0.032	3.171	<0.025
Local vs. non-local†	1	0.051	0.051	5.100	<0.025
Tree identity	38	0.539	0.014	1.382	
Error	160	6.99	0.044		

Notes: Indented lines are planned a priori comparisons. †Local indicates diets made using extracts from red alder trees growing at the deployment site (Home in Fig. 5a) or a same river site upstream (SRU in Fig. 5a). Non-local indicates diets were made using extracts from trees growing downstream of the deployment site, or a different river entirely (indicated SRD, ARD, ARU in Fig. 5a). ‡Reported P -values include a-priori ordered heterogeneity corrections (Rice and Gaines 1994).

contribute to local adaptation. We regularly observed *Psychoglypha* and *Dicosmoecus* caddisflies feeding on aquatic plates and assume them to be important consumers.

We found a similar pattern of local adaptation in riparian soils: the soil community consumed diets prepared from local red alder diets 11.3% more than diets prepared from red alder growing elsewhere along the same river, and 25.4% more than diets prepared from red alder growing next to different rivers (Fig. 5b; $P < 0.025$, ordered heterogeneity test).

DISCUSSION

Variation in food resource quality affects consumer movement patterns, metamorphic and reproductive decisions, and plastic and genetic changes in physiology (Hunter and McNeil 1997, Awmack and Leather 2002). We show that variation within species in one ecosystem can alter key processes in another ecosystem through fluxes across boundaries. By pairing mass spectrometry data with reciprocal transplant experiments in the field, we show that intraspecific variation in plant chemistry drives an ecosystem function in streams and causes local terrestrial and aquatic communities to adjust to local leaf chemistry. Geographic variation among complex mixtures of secondary metabolites, notably ellagitannins, seems to drive these local matching patterns, which are evident at large (across-river) and small (within-river) scales. Within rivers, diets containing secondary metabolite extracts from upstream trees decompose quickly at

downstream locations relative to diets from downstream trees at upstream locations, further suggesting that it is the exposure to leaves from local trees that is driving this process among aquatic decomposer communities. These results demonstrate that terrestrial processes shaping the chemical composition of ecosystem subsidies from donor habitats drives locally adaptive changes in recipient communities.

Red alder trees were highly variable in two classes of secondary metabolites: ellagitannins and diarylheptanoids. Both classes of compounds have only just begun to receive ecological consideration (Salminen and Karonen 2011), primarily for technical reasons. We show how frequent drivers of consumer population ecology, such as leaf nutrients and thickness, are correlated with these secondary metabolites. Further, we show that ellagitannin variation plays a key role in affecting rates of decomposition in streams. To estimate tannin content, studies have used functional metrics to measure important anti-herbivory properties, such as protein-precipitation capacity. Condensed tannin content correlates well with this measurement, but ellagitannins are poor protein precipitators and are consequently underestimated in these assays, and more generally have been underestimated in their ecological importance. Ellagitannins, however, are strong oxidants, a chemical property associated with increased metabolic costs in alkaline guts of herbivores, such as those of terrestrial lepidopterans and aquatic Chironomidae and Tipulidae insects (Clark 1999, Barbehenn et al. 2009, Salminen and Karonen 2011). Our finding that aquatic decomposition was best estimated by relative abundances of ellagitannins with relatively high oxidative measures, suggests that oxidative function may be important in aquatic systems. Therefore, we need additional studies that consider the role of ellagitannins in plant defense, insect metabolism, and decomposition by microbes and hyphomycetes.

Diarylheptanoids are found in substantial diversity in alder species (Sati et al. 2011), including at least six in the bark of red alder (González-Laredo et al. 1998, Chen et al. 2000). Our results show they are present in leaves, and are thus of relevance to folivores. Ecological studies on diarylheptanoids are limited, but biomedical research (Farrand et al. 2014) and traditional medicine records (McCutcheon et al. 1994) have noted anti-microbial and anti-oxidant properties, suggesting these compounds likely play substantial ecological roles. Interestingly, given their noted toxicity, we found that several diarylheptanoids appear to inhibit decomposition. However, given their limited geographic variation at the scales we studied, they seem unlikely to explain the local adaptation patterns of decomposition in this system.

In our previous work, we have shown that induced plant defense to herbivory stress suppressed detrital energy capture in streams (Jackrel and Wootton 2015). We found that red alder trees given an herbivory stress showed a marked decline in leaf nitrogen content, and thus aquatic decomposers preference for nitrogen-rich

leaves seemed to be driving the observed effect on aquatic ecosystem function. Here, in a nonexperimental setting, we found that ellagitannins are a stronger predictor of aquatic decomposition than %N (Appendix S2: Table S4), but there is a negative correlation between ellagitannin and nitrogen content ($R^2 = 0.32$). Soil nitrogen additions are not known to effect ellagitannin content (estimated as ellagic acid equivalents) in non-nitrogen fixing trees including poplar, maple and oak (Kinney et al. 1997), but condensed tannins from poplar can inhibit nitrogen fixation in thinleaf alder (Schimel et al. 1998). Further study may clarify the interactive effects among induced defense responses to herbivory, ellagitannin production, and nitrogen fixation and allocation.

We found ellagitannin, diarylheptanoid and flavonoid variation were all correlated with leaf traits, such as thickness and nutrients that are well-known to affect consumers (Coley 1980, Mattson 1980, Jackrel and Wootton 2015). But our results from both leaf pack and diet experiments suggest ellagitannin content is a greater predictor of ecosystem processes than nutrients (Appendix S2: Table S4), and therefore warrants further study into plant production pathways of these compounds and the ecological implications of relative nutrient vs. defense compound content in red alder and other plants.

The importance of intraspecific diversity has only recently been recognized in a community ecology context (Violle et al. 2012). We show that spatially variable factors such as genetics, environmental resources, or ecological interactions caused tree conspecifics growing a distance apart to produce more divergent leaf chemistry traits than nearby neighbors. Different genetic constraints may lead to variation in chemistry under similar environmental pressures, as in the genetically controlled variation of condensed tannins in cottonwoods (Schweitzer et al. 2004). Alternatively, divergent chemistry could be caused by environmental gradients in soil nutrients or variation in plant-insect interactions due to spatial changes in terrestrial herbivore composition or densities (Bryant et al. 1987, Lankau 2007). Determining the relative contributions of and interaction between genetic and environmental factors in spatial variation of plant subsidies is an important future direction for predicting how natural and anthropogenic changes to the terrestrial environment will affect stream systems.

To predict the extent of such interactions in nature, we need to investigate the evolutionary development of these complex cross-ecosystem interactions. To do this, we need to understand the mechanisms of aquatic and terrestrial decomposers matching to these local subsidies. Accelerated decomposition efficiency may be arising from shifts in community composition (such as shifting aquatic invertebrates along gradients in stream size [Vannote et al. 1980]) or phenotypically plastic or genetic shifts in individuals. Comparing stream and riparian decomposer communities in this system provides an ideal opportunity to compare evolutionary trajectories to local

adaptation in the presence and absence of feedback interactions of decomposition processes on host trees. These insights may suggest the time-scale needed for these processes to occur, and therefore their potential generality in other ecosystems.

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