

Publication

Lack of hydraulic recovery as cause of post-drought foliage reduction and canopy decline in European beech

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4642368

Author(s) Arend, Matthias; Link, Roman Mathias; Zahnd, Cedric; Hoch, Günter; Schuldt, Bernhard; Kahmen, Ansgar

Author(s) at UniBasel [Kahmen, Ansgar](#) ; [Arend, Matthias](#) ; [Zahnd, Cedric](#) ; [Hoch, Günter](#) ;

Year 2022

Title Lack of hydraulic recovery as cause of post-drought foliage reduction and canopy decline in European beech

Journal New Phytologist

Volume 234

Number 4

Pages / Article-Number 1195-1205

Keywords Fagus sylvatica; canopy dieback; drought legacy; leaf development; leaf-to-sapwood area; loss of xylem hydraulic conductance; non-structural carbohydrates

Mesh terms Droughts; Fagus, physiology; Plant Leaves, physiology; Trees; Water; Xylem, physiology
European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) was among the most affected tree species during the severe 2018 European drought. It not only suffered from instant physiological stress but also showed severe symptoms of defoliation and canopy decline in the following year. To explore the underlying mechanisms, we used the Swiss-Canopy-Crane II site and studied in branches of healthy and symptomatic trees the repair of hydraulic function and concentration of carbohydrates during the 2018 drought and in 2019. We found loss of hydraulic conductance in 2018, which did not recover in 2019 in trees that developed defoliation symptoms in the year after drought. Reduced branch foliation in symptomatic trees was associated with a gradual decline in wood starch concentration throughout summer 2019. Visualization of water transport in healthy and symptomatic branches in the year after the drought confirmed the close relationship between xylem functionality and supported branch leaf area. Our findings showed that embolized xylem does not regain function in the season following a drought and that sustained branch hydraulic dysfunction is counterbalanced by the reduction in supported leaf area. It suggests acclimation of leaf development after drought to mitigate disturbances in canopy hydraulic function.

Publisher Blackwell

ISSN/ISBN 0028-646X ; 1469-8137

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/89240/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1111/nph.18065

PubMed ID <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35238410>

ISI-Number 000772097200001

Document type (ISI) Journal Article