

# Mixed-species forests. Their productivity and structure compared with monocultures

Hans Pretzsch  
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Technical University of Munich

<http://waldwachstum.wzw.tum.de/index.php?id=presentations>



*Mixed European beech forest in Central European lowlands*



*Mixed spruce-fir-beech mountain forest in montane and subalpine zones (600-1,400 m a.s.l.)*

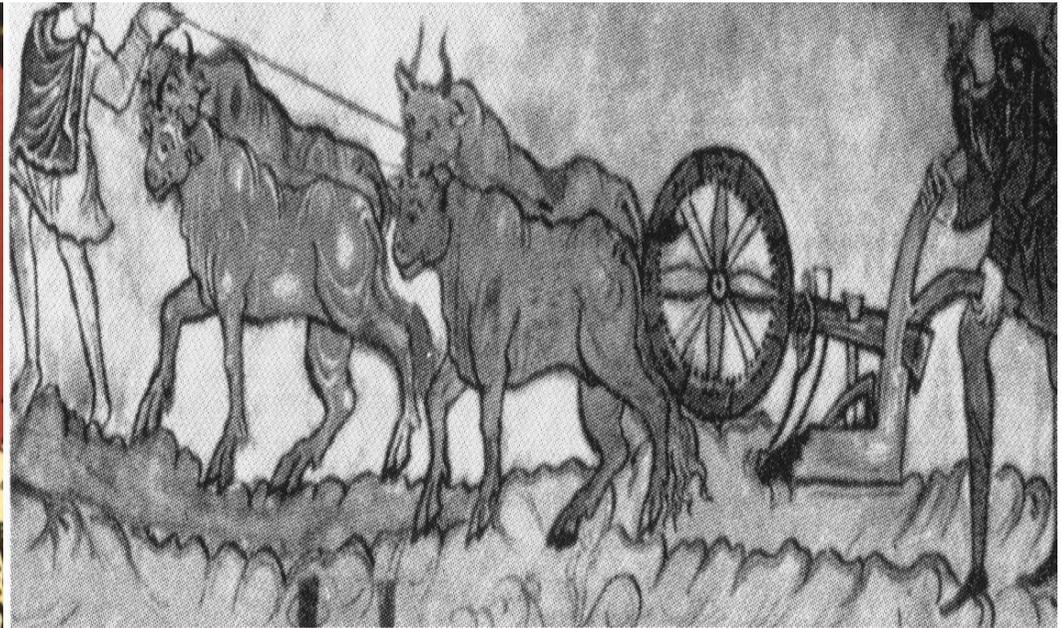
## Criteria for sustainable forest ecosystem management. Objective hierarchy for the municipal forest of Traunstein

Criteria for sustainable forest management	Indicators	Weight (%)
Forest resources	timber resources, area of forest, extension of area	20
Health and vitality	stability, fitness, elasticity	17
Productive functions	growth, yield, net return	12
Biological diversity	habitat quality, richness flora/fauna, conservation	10
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Socio-economic functions	employment, recreation, esthetics, proximity to nature	31

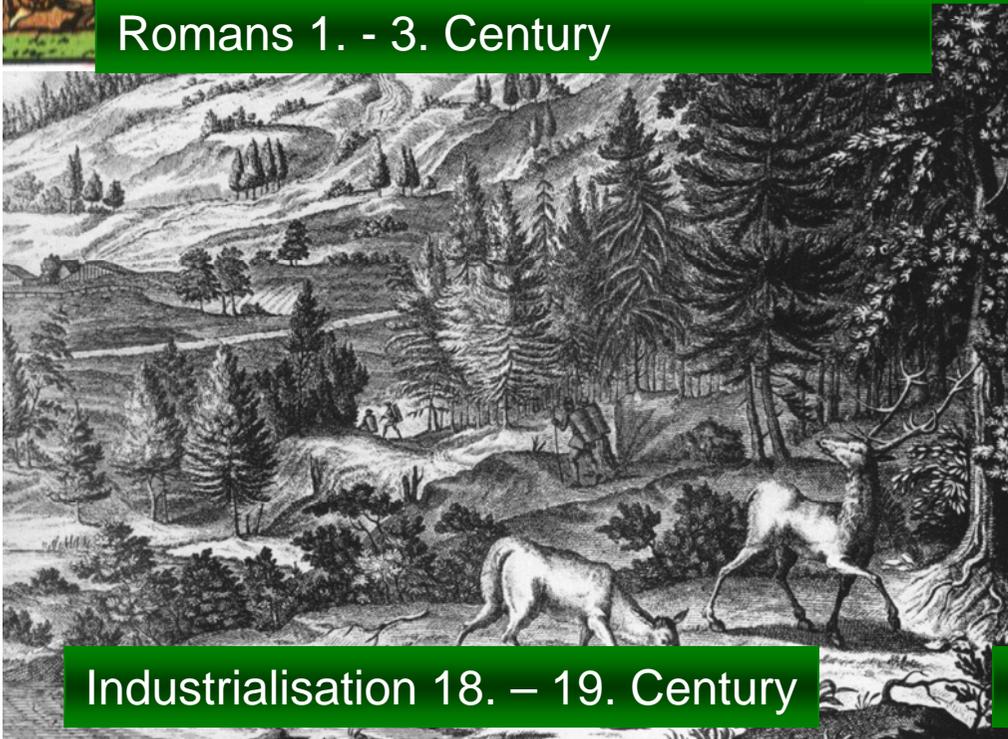




Romans 1. - 3. Century



Clearings in medieval times 12. – 13. Century



Industrialisation 18. – 19. Century



World War I. und II. 20. Century



*humanmade Norway spruce monocultures in the lowlands*



Neerdar, Sauerland, 1959

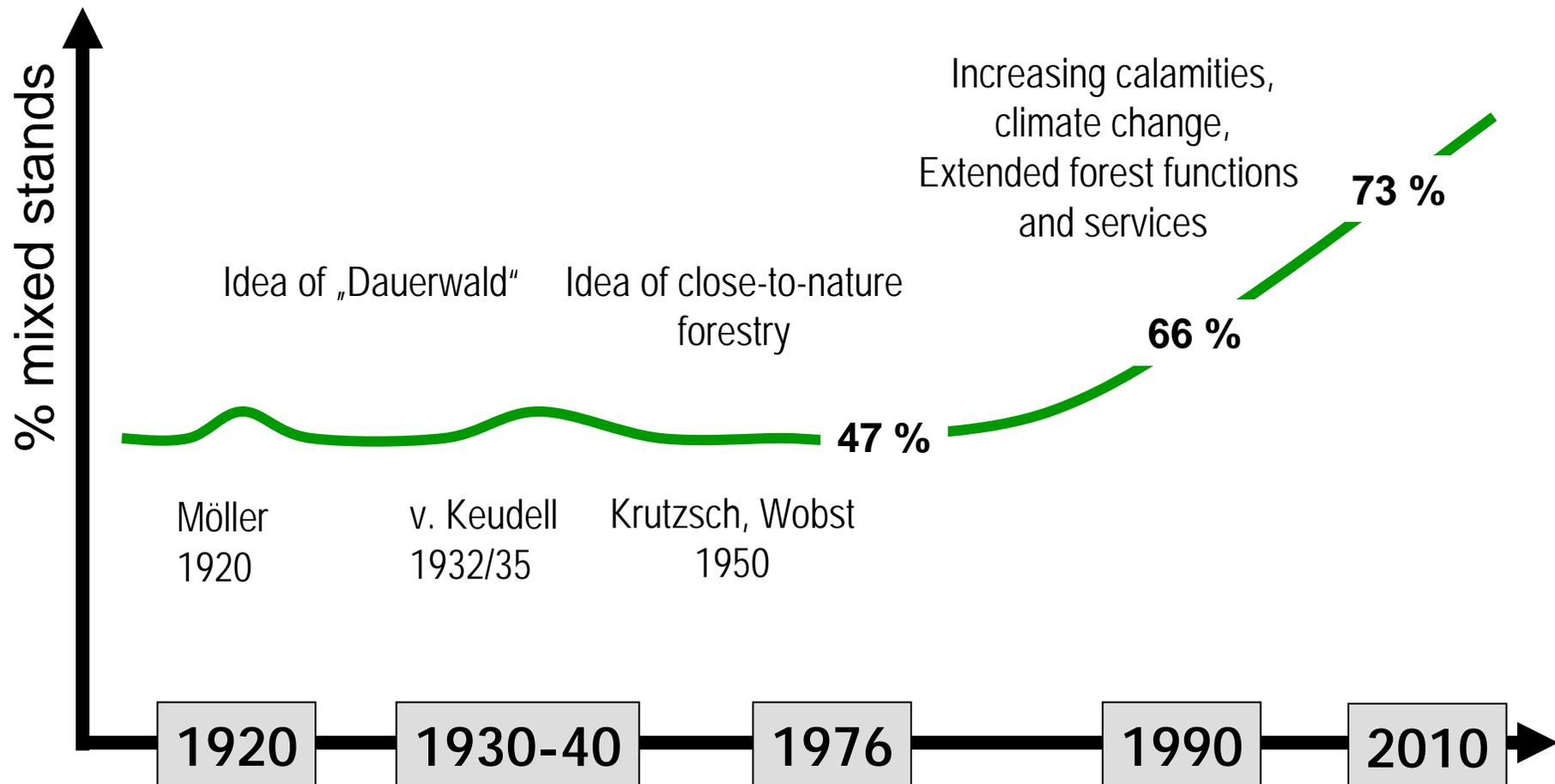


Norway spruce stands damaged by bark beetle  
Rachel und Lusen, Bavarian Forest, 2010



**Storm damage by Gudrun  
>75 million m<sup>3</sup> Småland,  
Schweden, 2005**

# Back to complex mixed-species forests. From the idea to realization in Bavaria



Mixing proportions (>10 % stand area) according to inventories GRI 1971, BWI I 1987, BWI 2 2002, BWI 3 2014 in Bavaria

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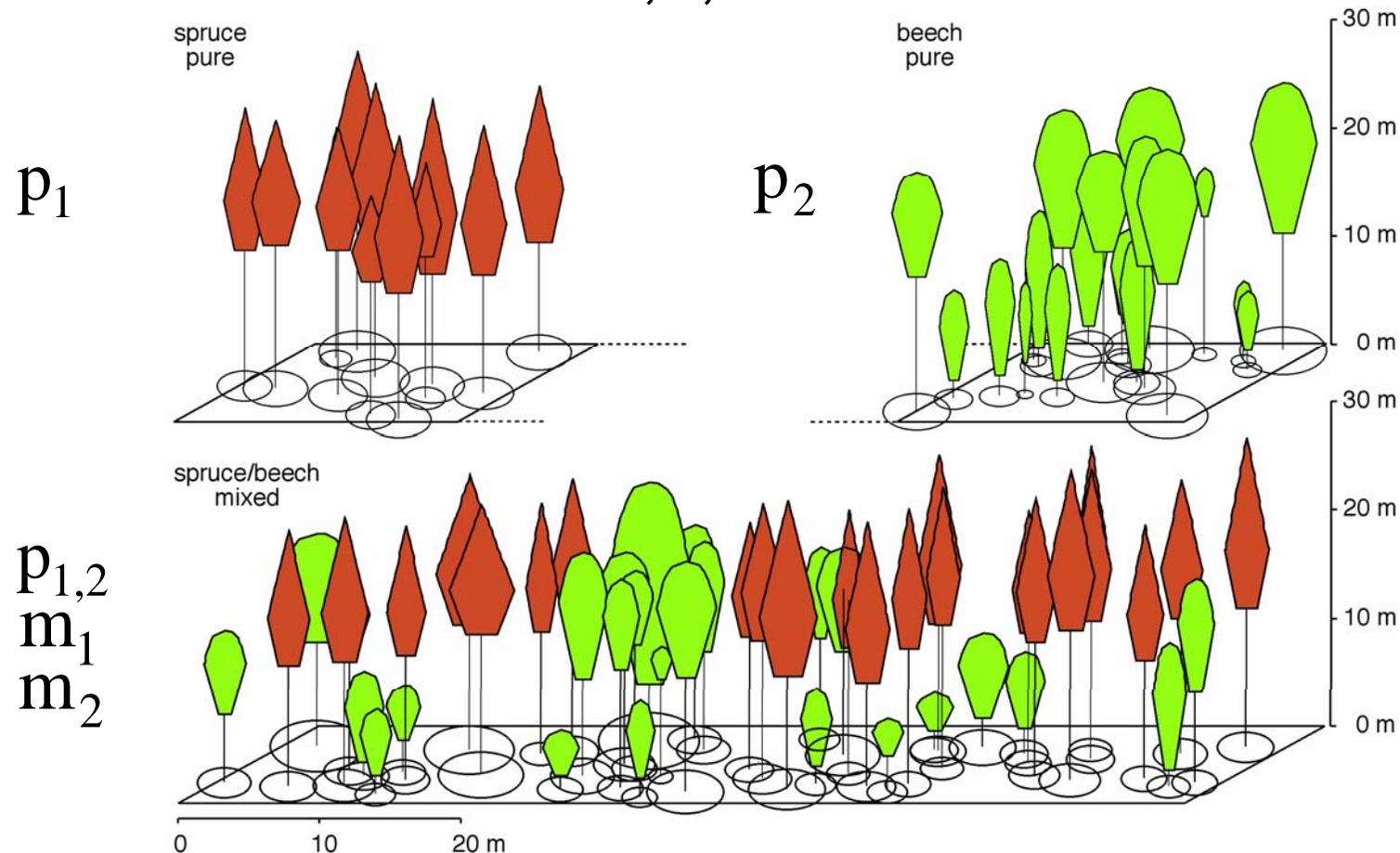
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- 1 Tree species mixing and stand productivity
- 2 Effect of mixing on population structure, size distribution
- 3 Effect on allometry at the tree and organ level
- 4 Main causes of mixing effects, modification with site conditions
- 5 Perspectives. From analysis to design of mixed species stands

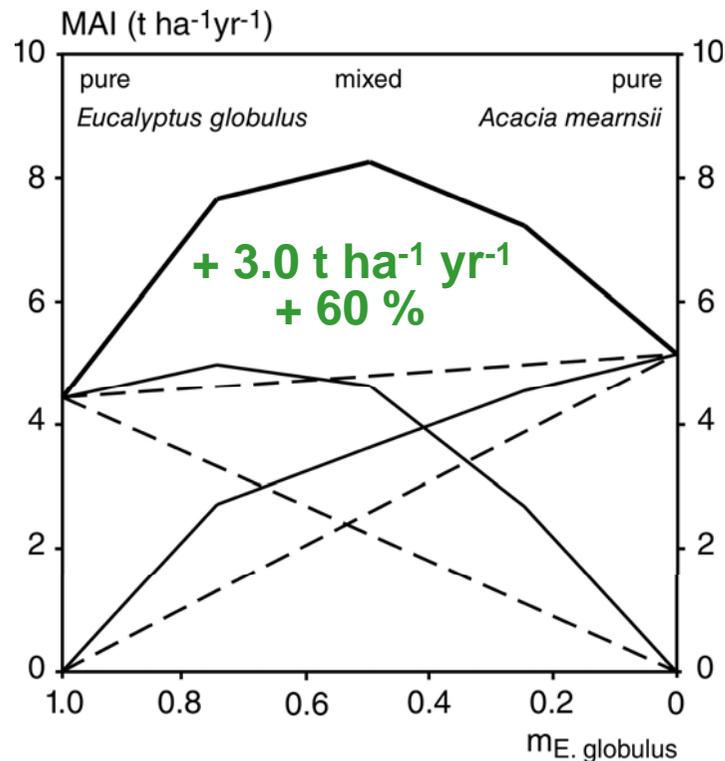
# Experimental setup for scrutiny of mixing effects

## Zwiesel 111/3,4,5 Bavarian Forest



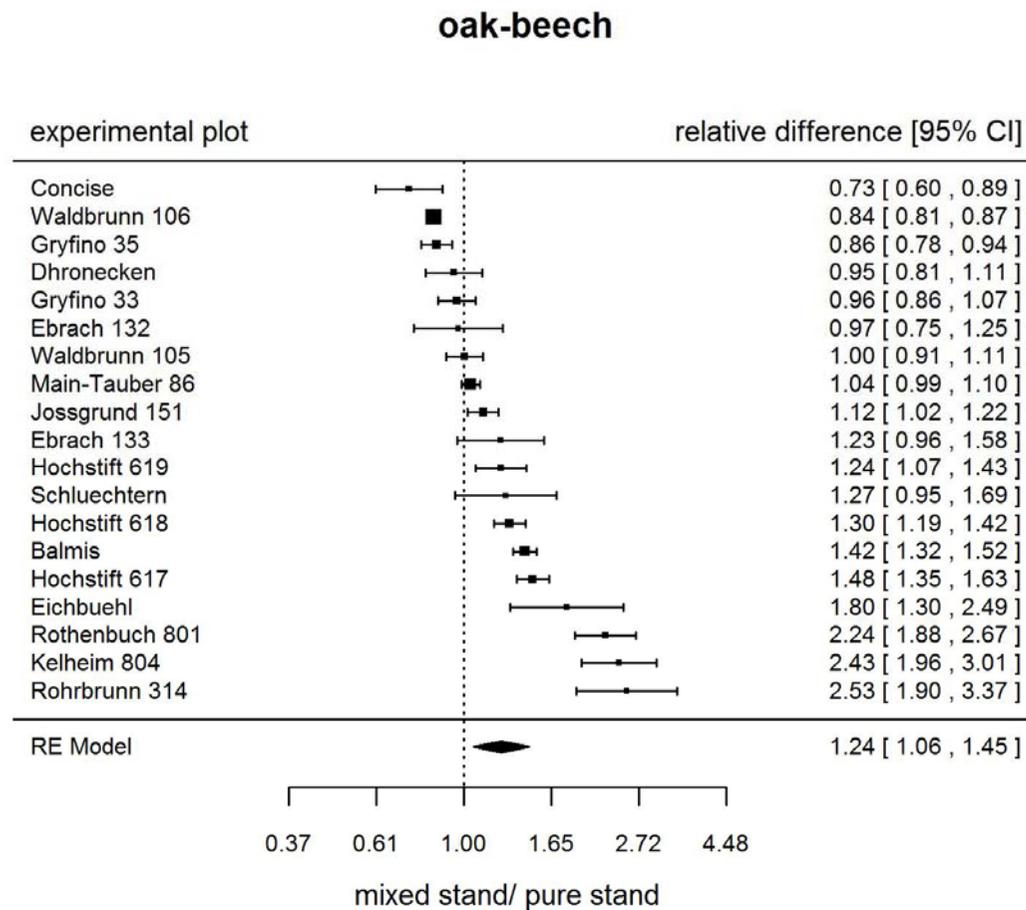
$p_{1,2}$  compared with  $p_1 \times m_1 + p_2 \times m_2$

## Visualization of the overyielding in mixed vs. pure stands of *Eucalyptus globulus* Labill and *Acacia mearnsii* De Wild. by a cross diagram

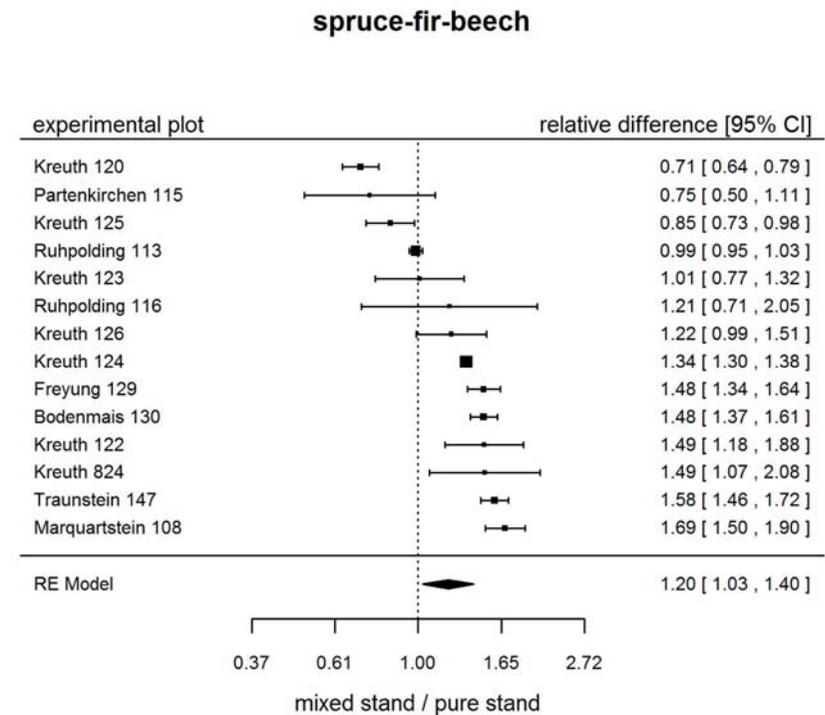
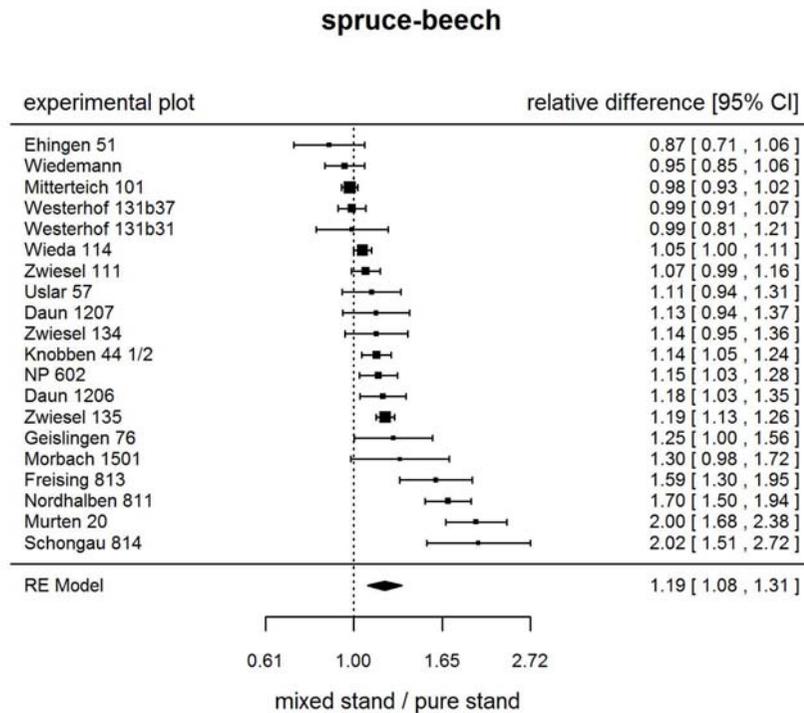


Forrester et al. (2006), Pretzsch and Forrester (2017)

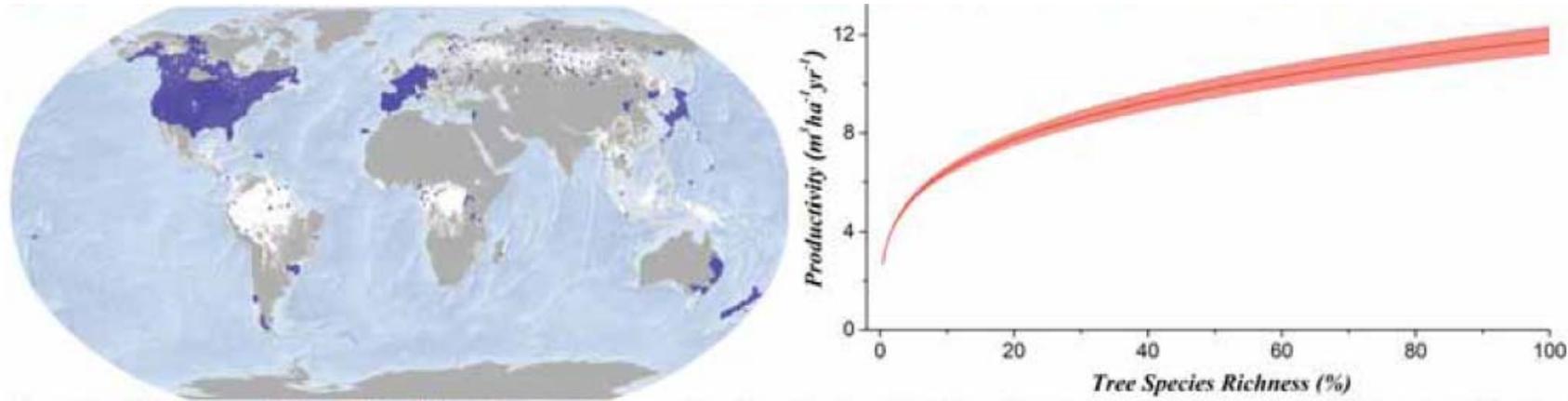
# Meta-analysis on overyielding of mixed stands of sessile oak and European beech versus pure stands in Europe based on long-term experiments



# Meta-analysis on overyielding of mixed stands of Norway spruce, European beech, silver fir in Europe based on long-term experiments



# Mixing effects on productivity of forests worldwide and in Central Europe

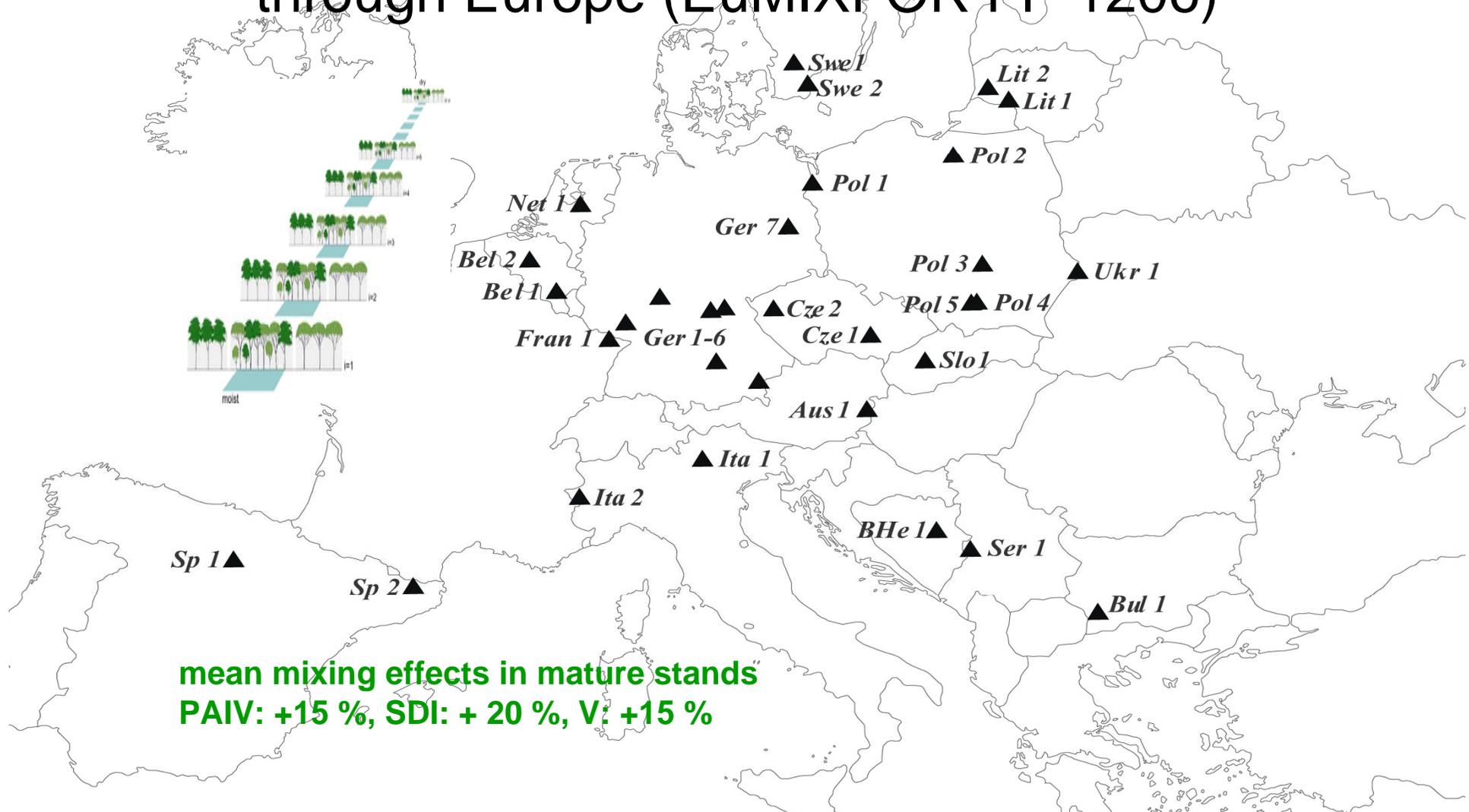


Liang, J. et al. (2016) Positive Biodiversity-Productivity Relationship Predominant in Global Forests, *Science*, 354 (6309), aaf8957

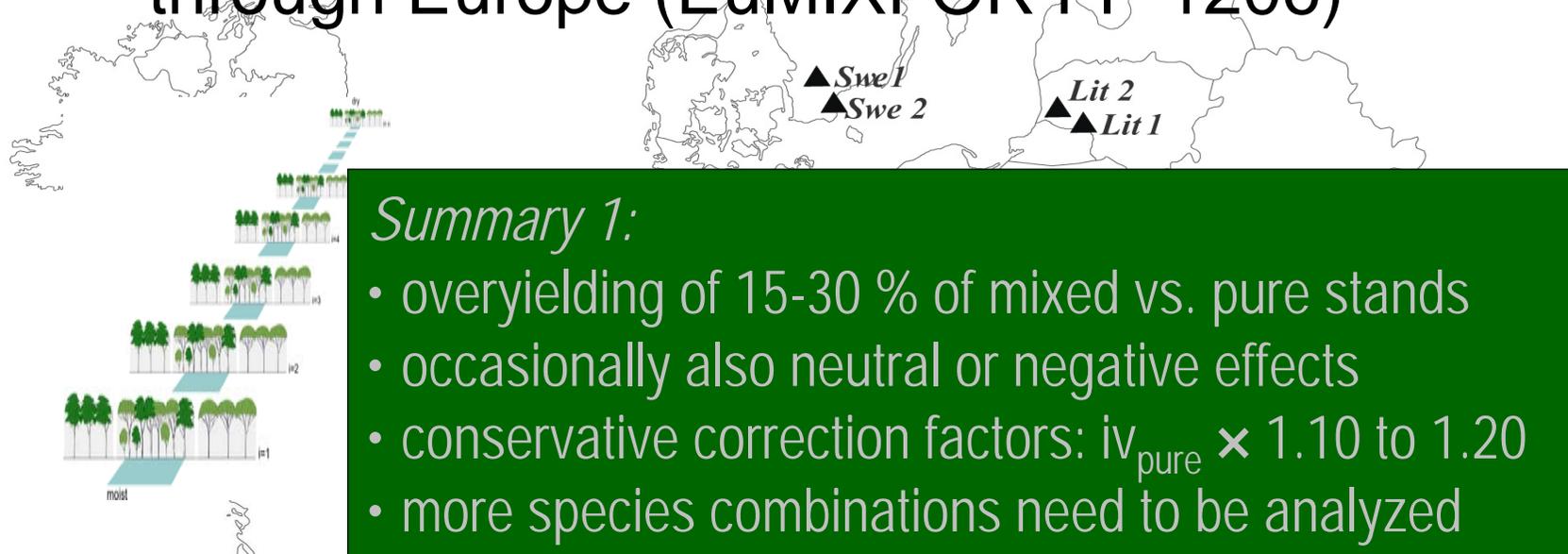
Species combination	N. sp/ E. be	S. pi/ E. be	s. oak/ E. be	E. be/ D-fir	S. pi/ N. sp	E. la/ N. sp	N. sp/ s. fir	mean
overyielding (± SE) in %	21 (± 3)	30 (± 9)	20 (± 3)	11 (± 8)	21 (± 11)	25 (± 6)	13 (± 6)	
corr. factor	1.10	1.20	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.10

Pretzsch (2016) Ertragstafel-Korrekturfaktoren für Umwelt- und Mischungsgeffekte, *AFZ Der Wald*, 14/2016: 47-50

# Mixing effects on 32 triplets of Scots pine and European beech along a productivity gradient through Europe (EuMIXFOR FP 1206)

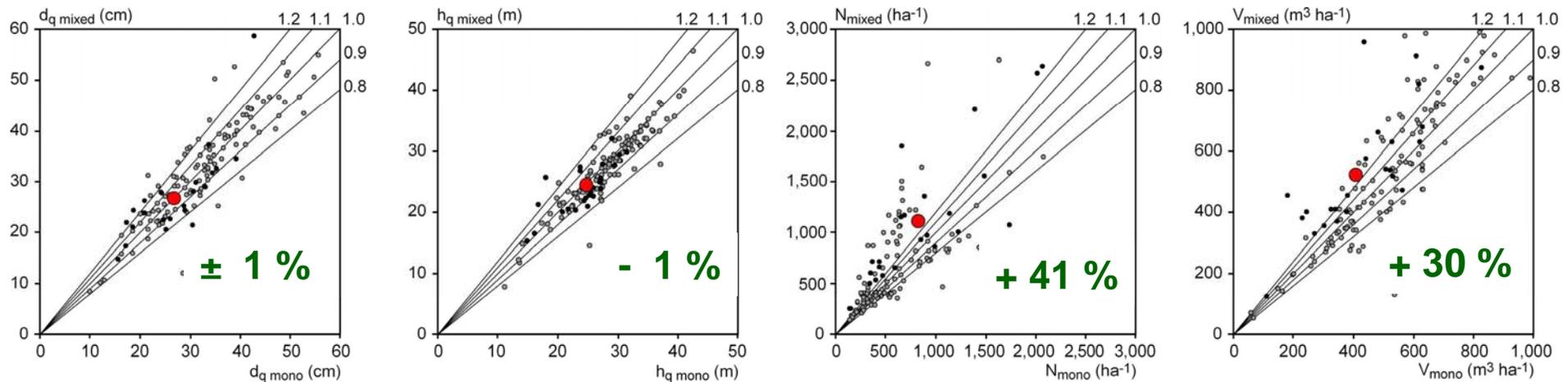


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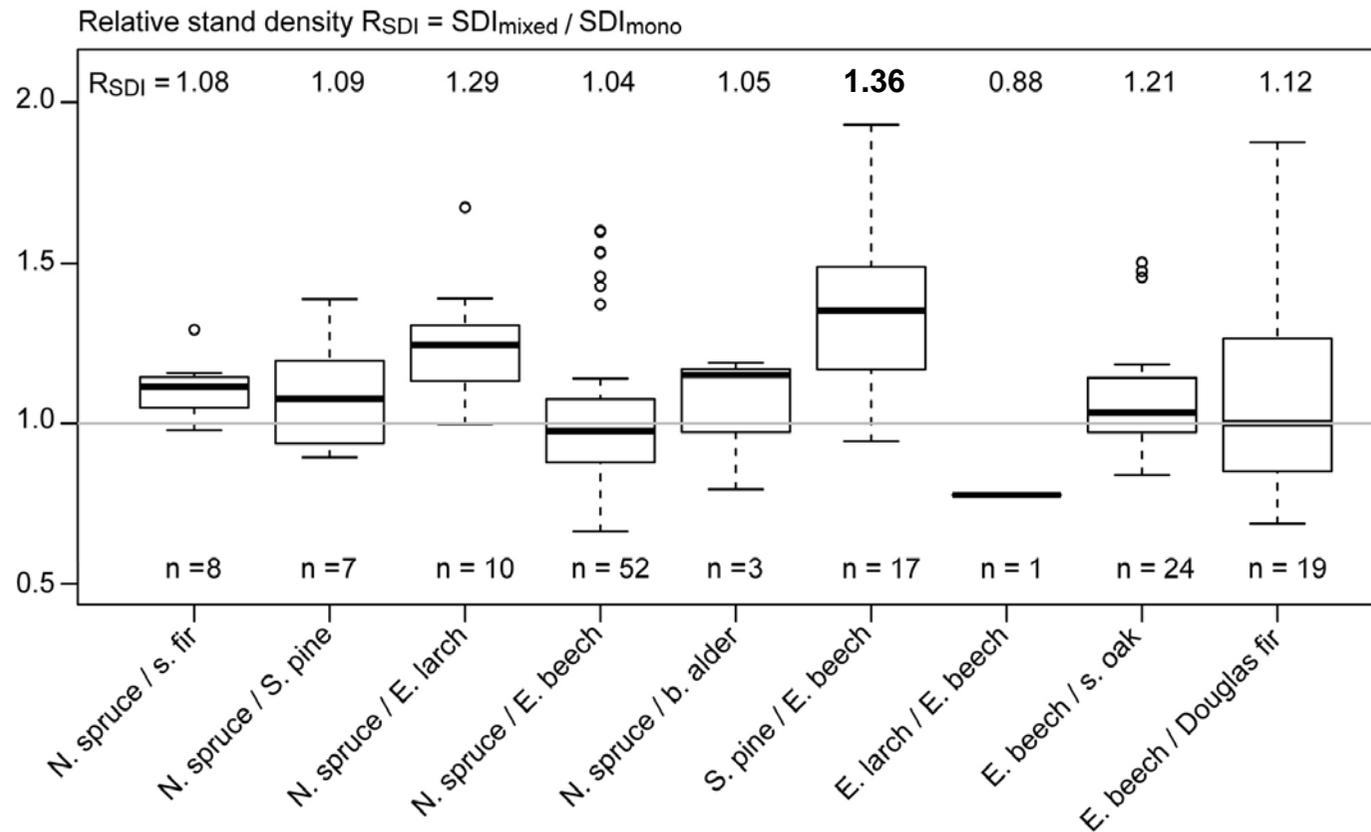


mean mixing effects in mature stands  
PAIV: +15 %, SDI: + 20 %, V: +15 %

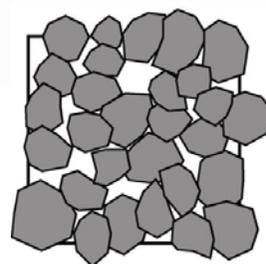
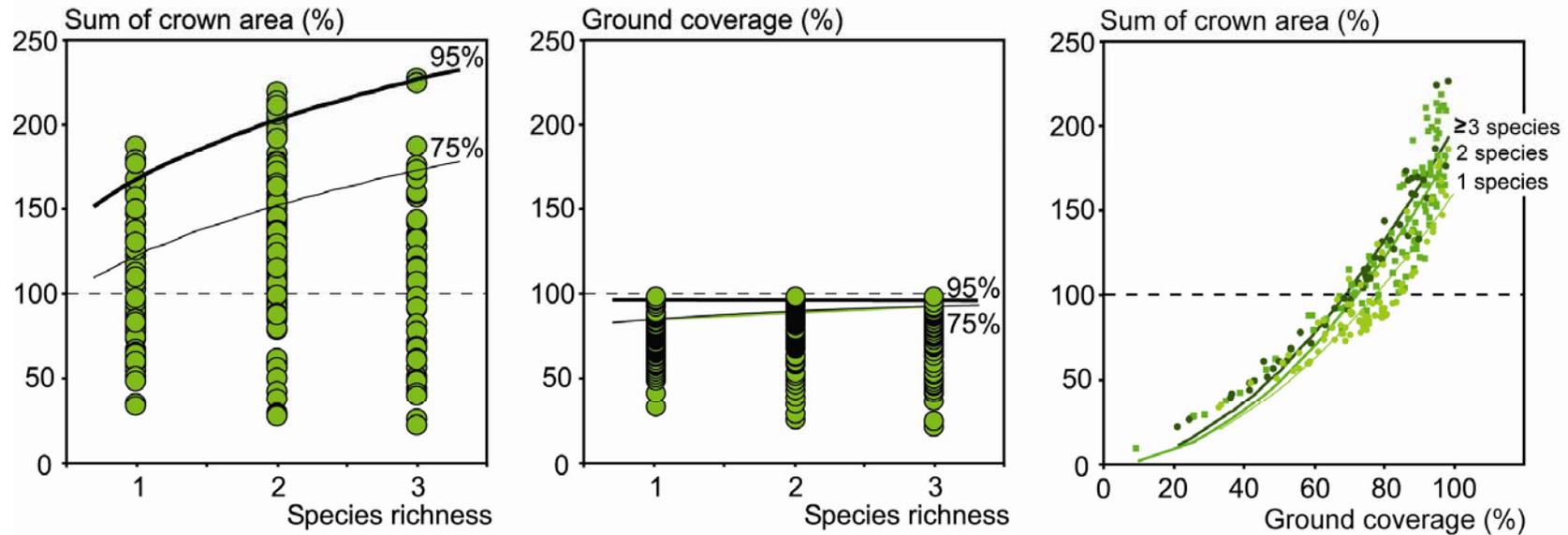
# Mixing increases tree number and standing volume rather than mean tree diameter or height



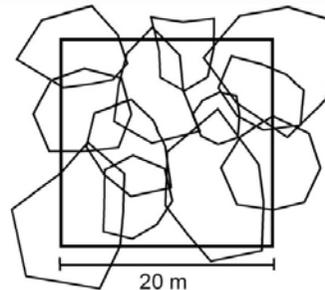
# Stand density (SDI) of mixed-species stands versus monocultures on long-term experiments in Central Europe



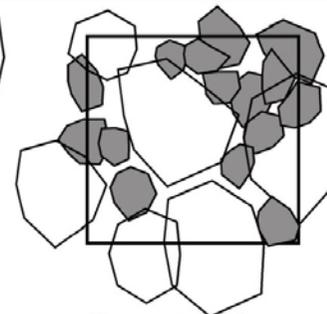
# Denser canopy space filling in mixed stands: higher sum of crown area and multiple ground coverage



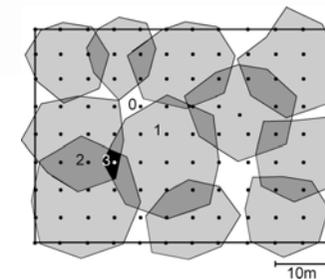
Norway spruce  
pure



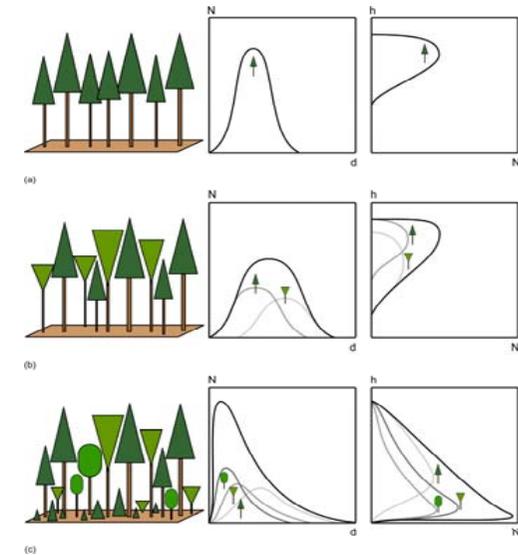
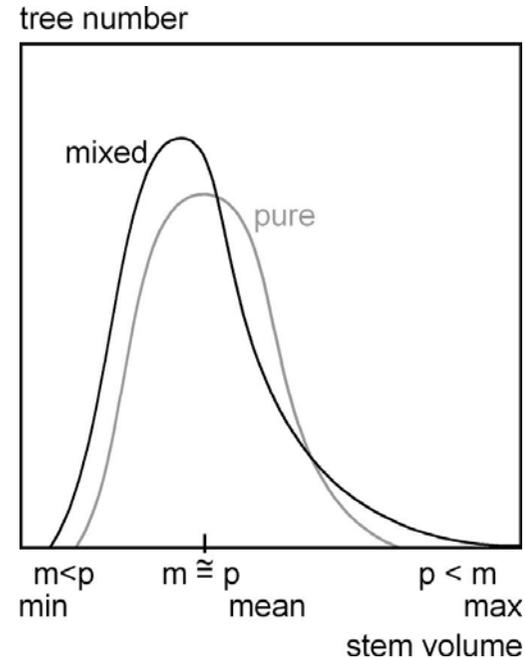
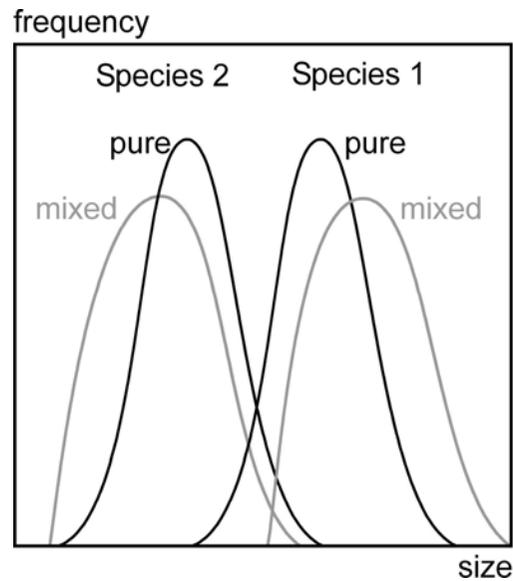
European beech  
pure



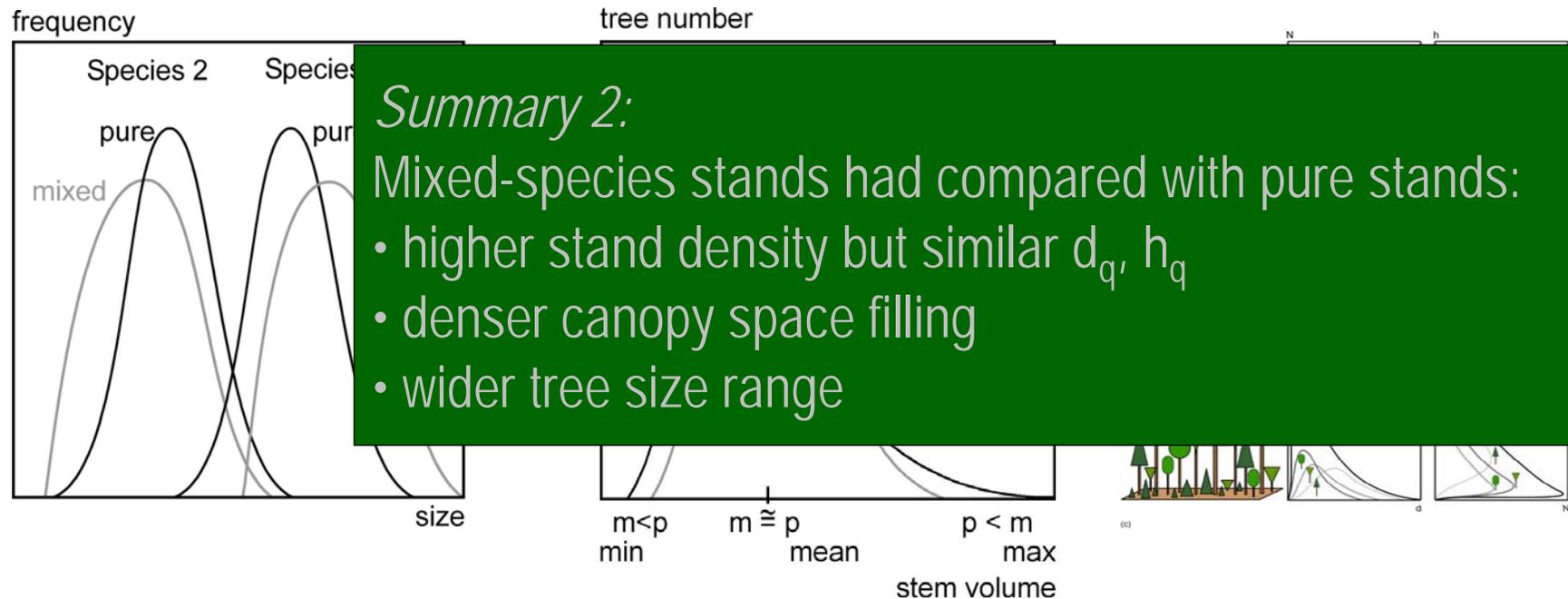
Norway spruce /  
European beech  
mixed



More trees, wider size range, stronger right-skewness in mixed stands; often species 1 ahead, species 2 behind the monoculture

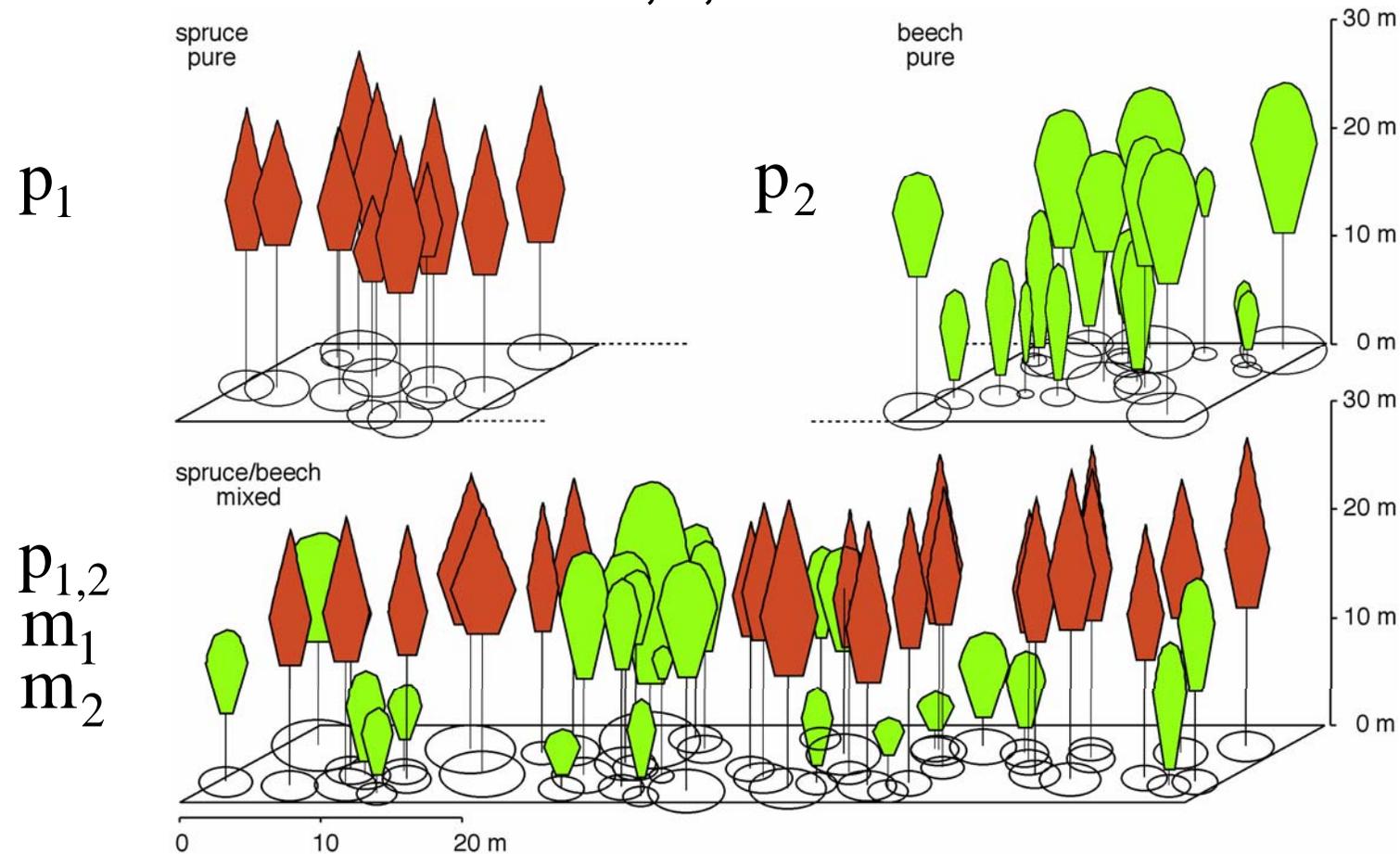


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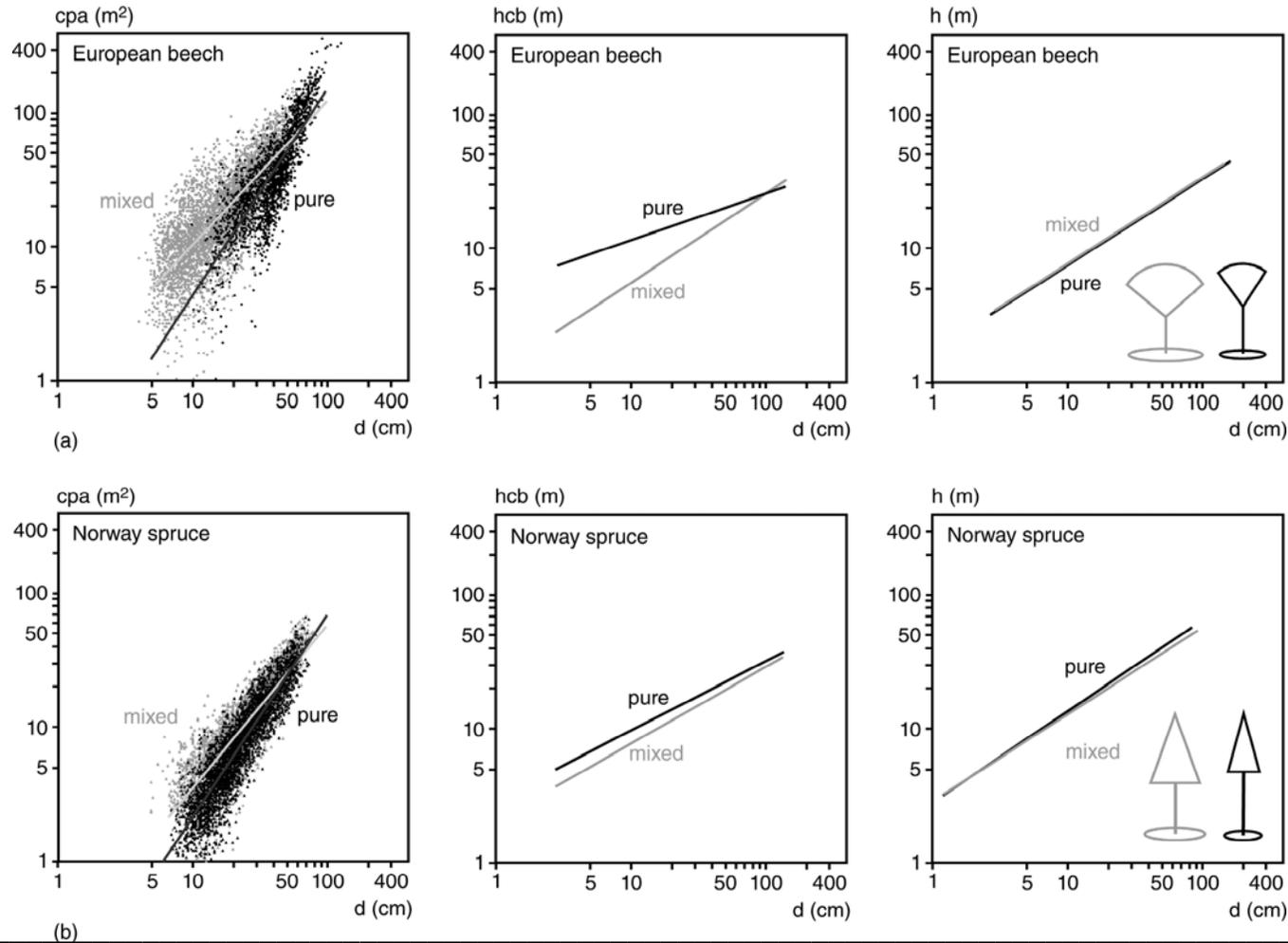
# Experimental setup for scrutiny of mixing effects

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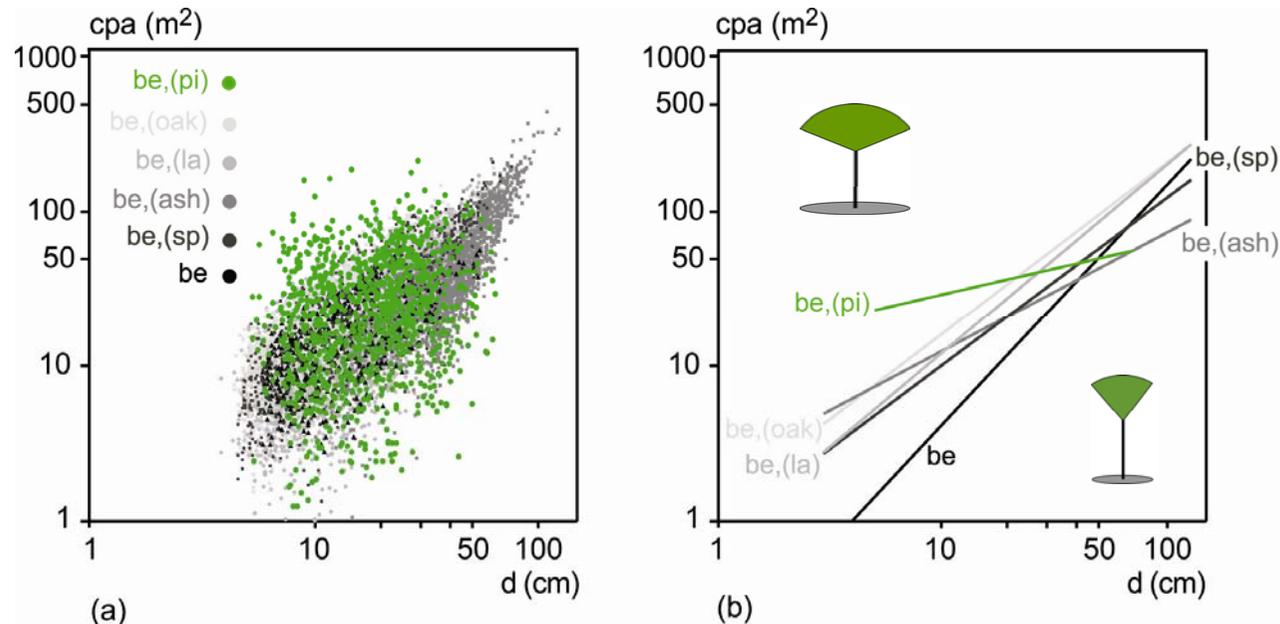
$p_{1,2}$  compared with  $p_1 \times m_1 + p_2 \times m_2$

# Effect of species mixing on the crown allometry of European beech and Norway spruce



Pretzsch, H. (2014) Canopy space filling and tree crown morphology in mixed-species stands compared with monocultures. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 327: 251-264.

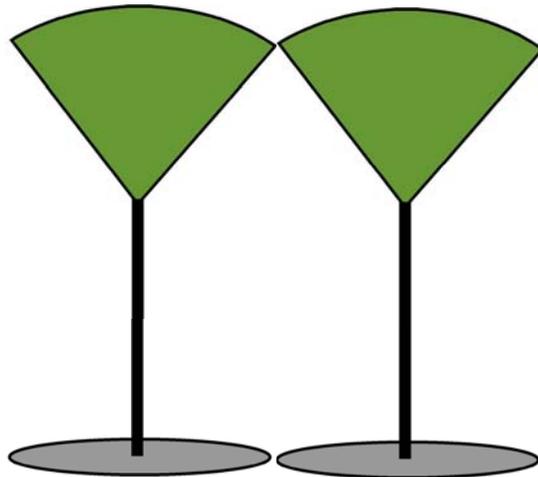
# Allometry between crown projection area and stem diameter of European when growing in mono-specific versus mixed stands



S. pine  
 s. oak  
 E. ash  
 E. larch  
 N. spruce

## Morphological differences in intra- vs. inter-specific environment despite of equal biomass

beech/beech



branch number  
19 vs. 36

branch length  
4.8 m vs. 4.3 m

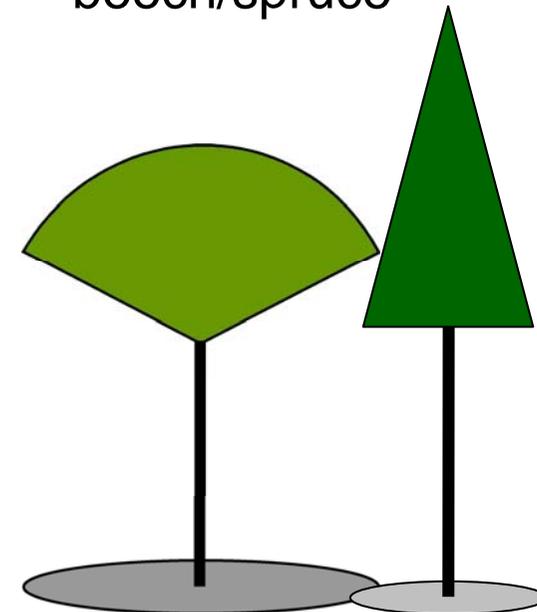
branch angle  
139° vs. 128°

branch straightness  
96 vs. 94

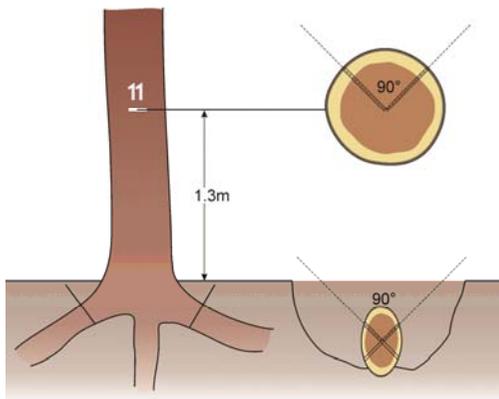
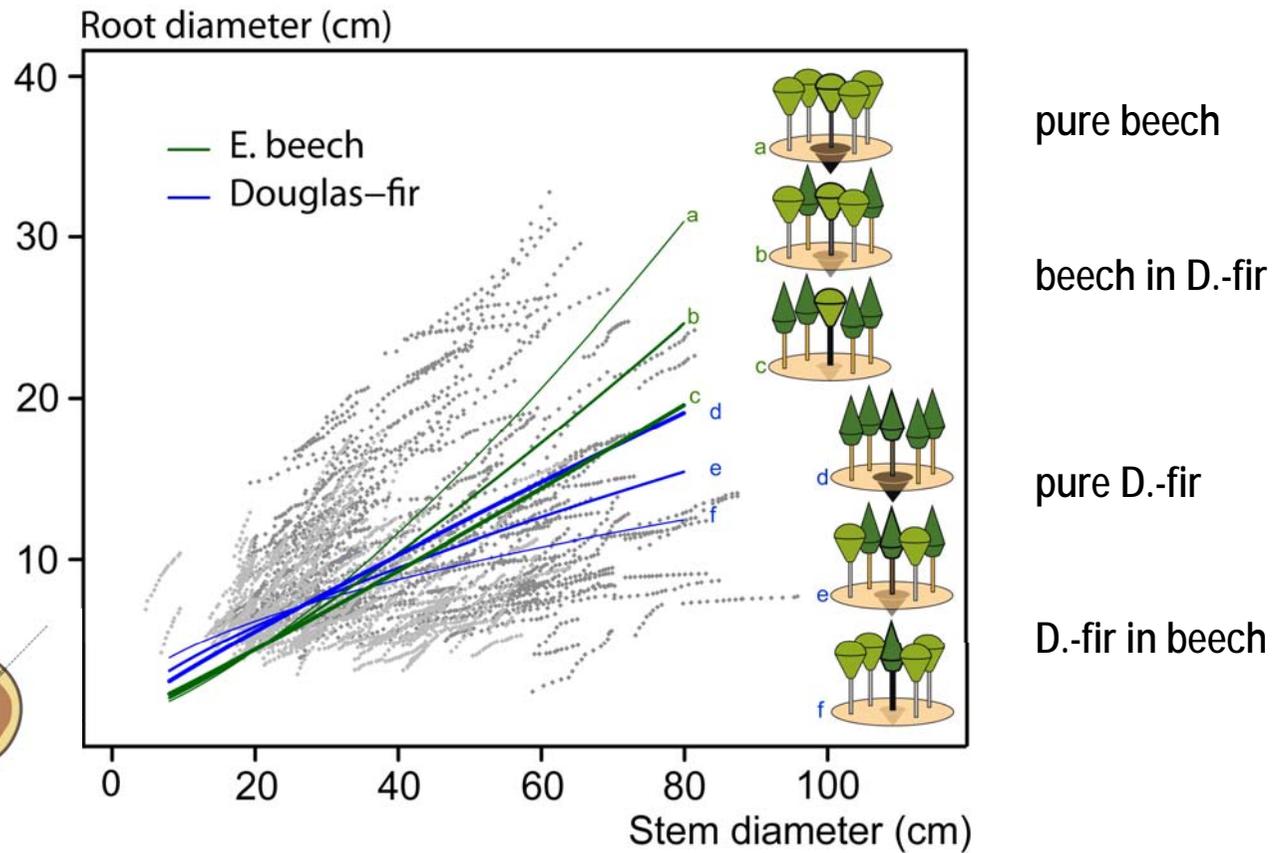
stem inclination  
2° vs. 3.5°

crown volume  
25 m<sup>3</sup> vs. 59 m<sup>3</sup>

beech/spruce

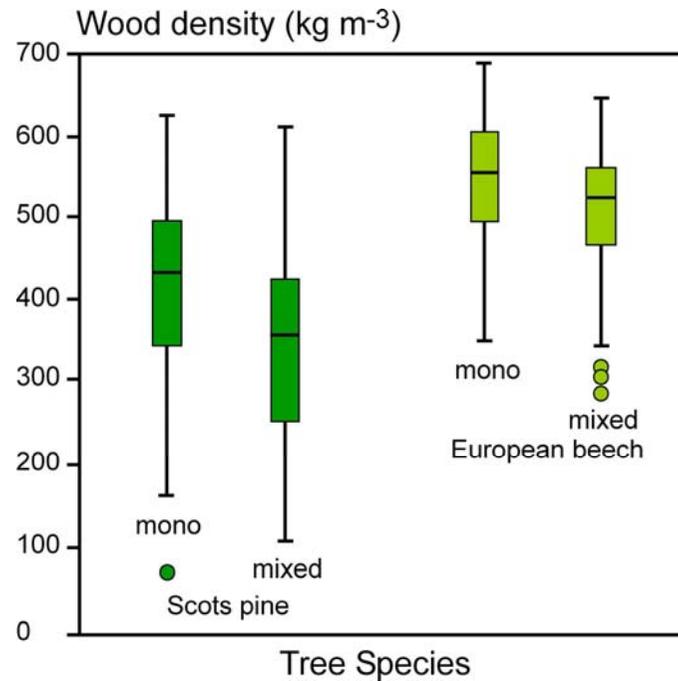
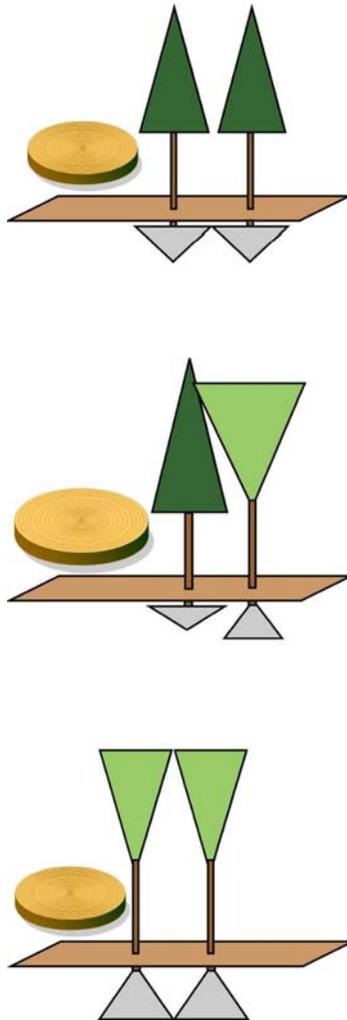


# Enhancement of shoot in relation to coarse root growth in mixed compare with mono-specific stands of European beech and Douglas-fir



Thurm et al. (2017)

# Wood density in mixed-species stands of S. pine and E. beech compared with monocultures



Zeller et al. 2017, Pretzsch and Rais 2016

## Wood density in mixed-species stands of S. pine and E. beech compared with monocultures

Wood density (kg m<sup>-3</sup>)

700

### Summary 3:

- Mixing modifies stem, crown, root allometry, wood density
- Allometric reactions depend on both the tree species and the neighbouring species
- For beech neighbouring beeches are most strongest competitors, other species mean relieve/thinning

0

● mixed  
Scots pine

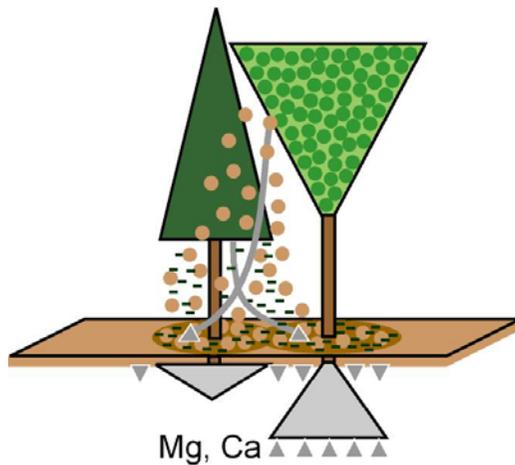
Tree Species

Zeller et al. 2017

Pretzsch and Rais 2016

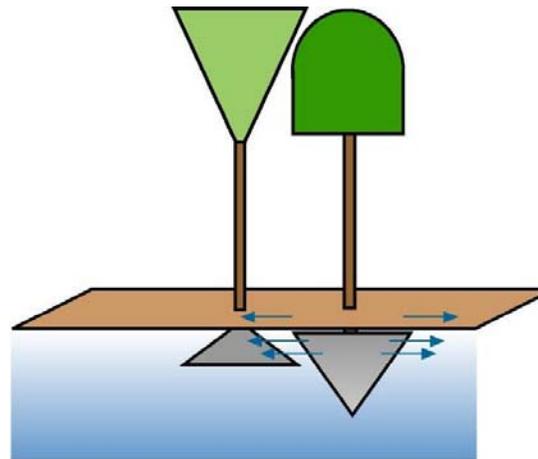
# Facilitation by better mineral nutrients and water exploitation

nutrients  
upward transport



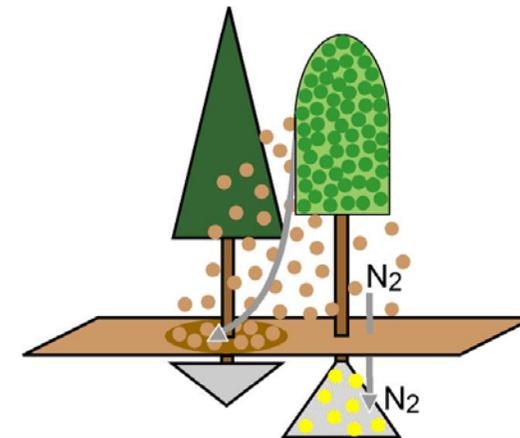
e.g. Rothe, Binkley (2001)

hydraulic  
redistribution



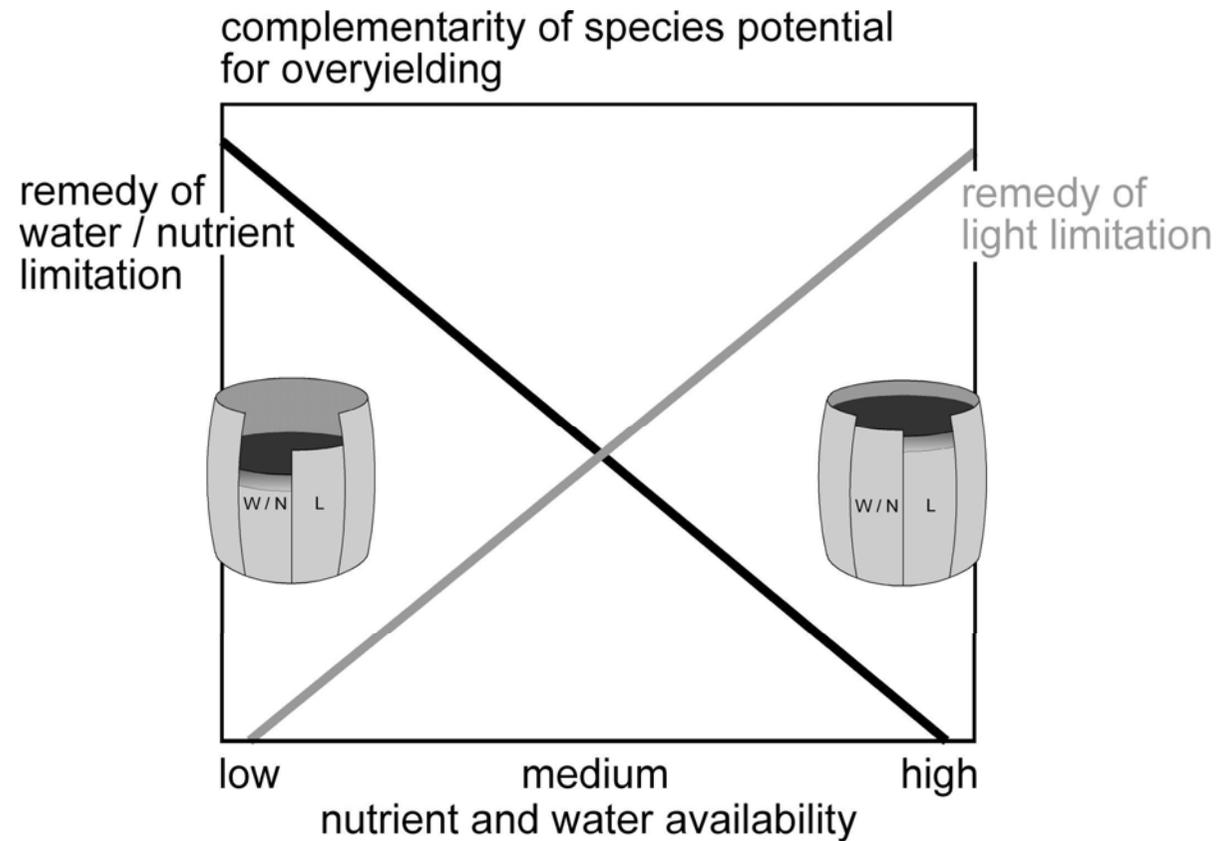
e.g. Prieto et al. 2012

atmospheric  
N<sub>2</sub> fixation



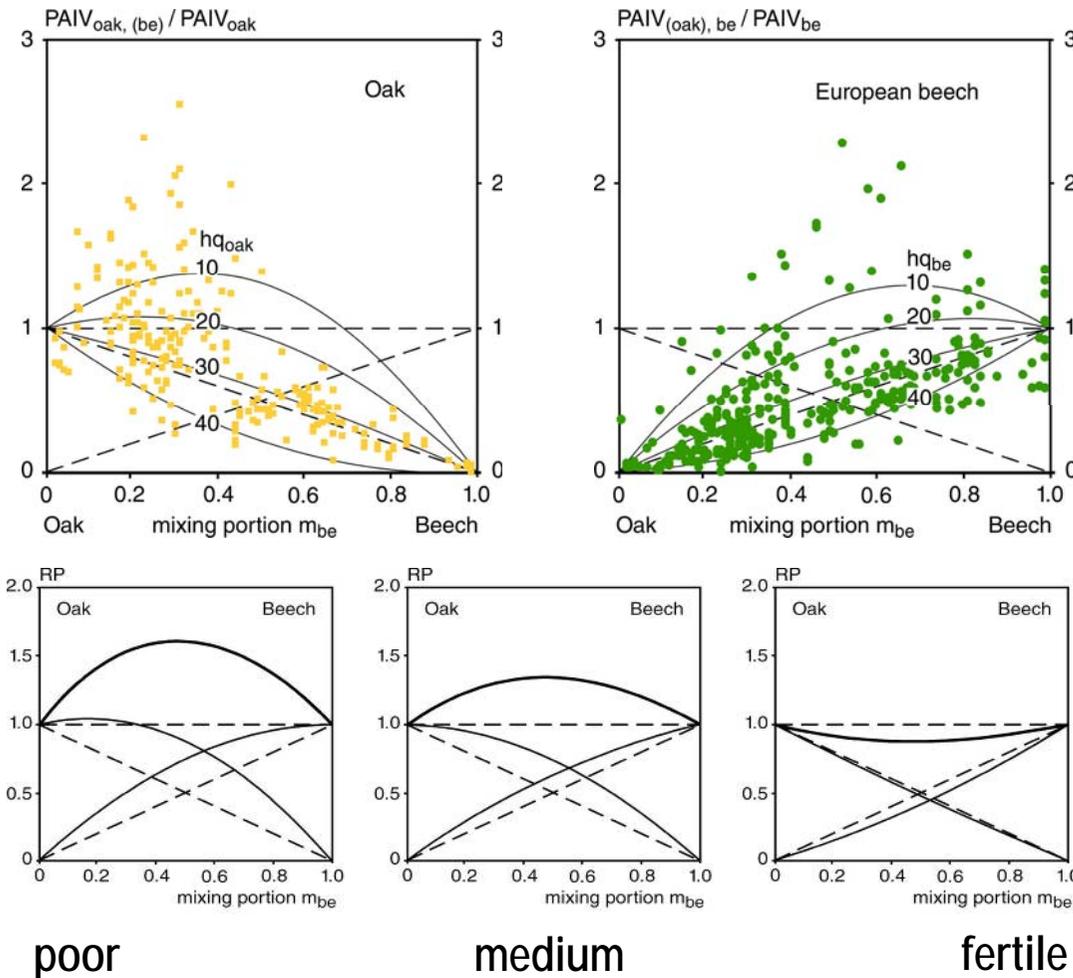
e.g. Forrester et al. 2007, 2007

# Conceptual model for the dependency of overyielding on site conditions



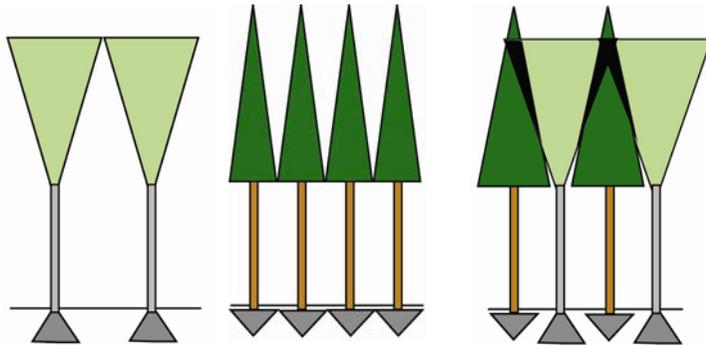
e. g. Forrester (2017), Pretzsch (2017), Jactel et al. (2018)

# Transect study: Overyielding increases with water and nutrient scarcity

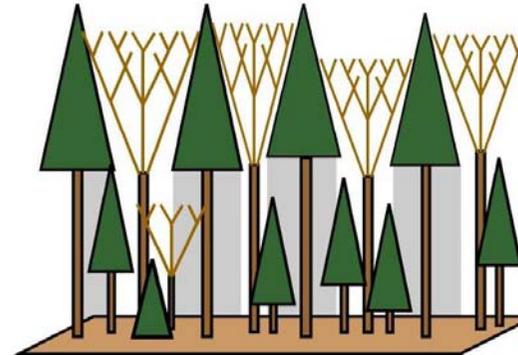


# Complementarity in light use causes competition reduction

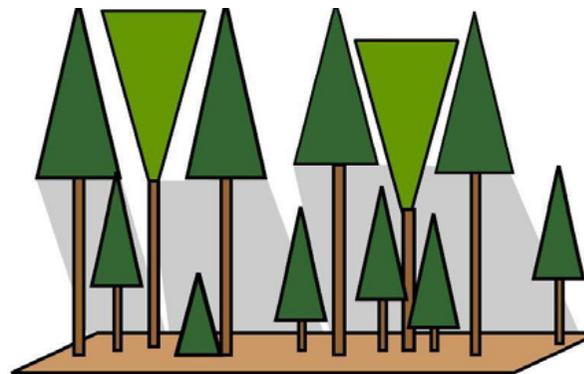
Morphological complementarity



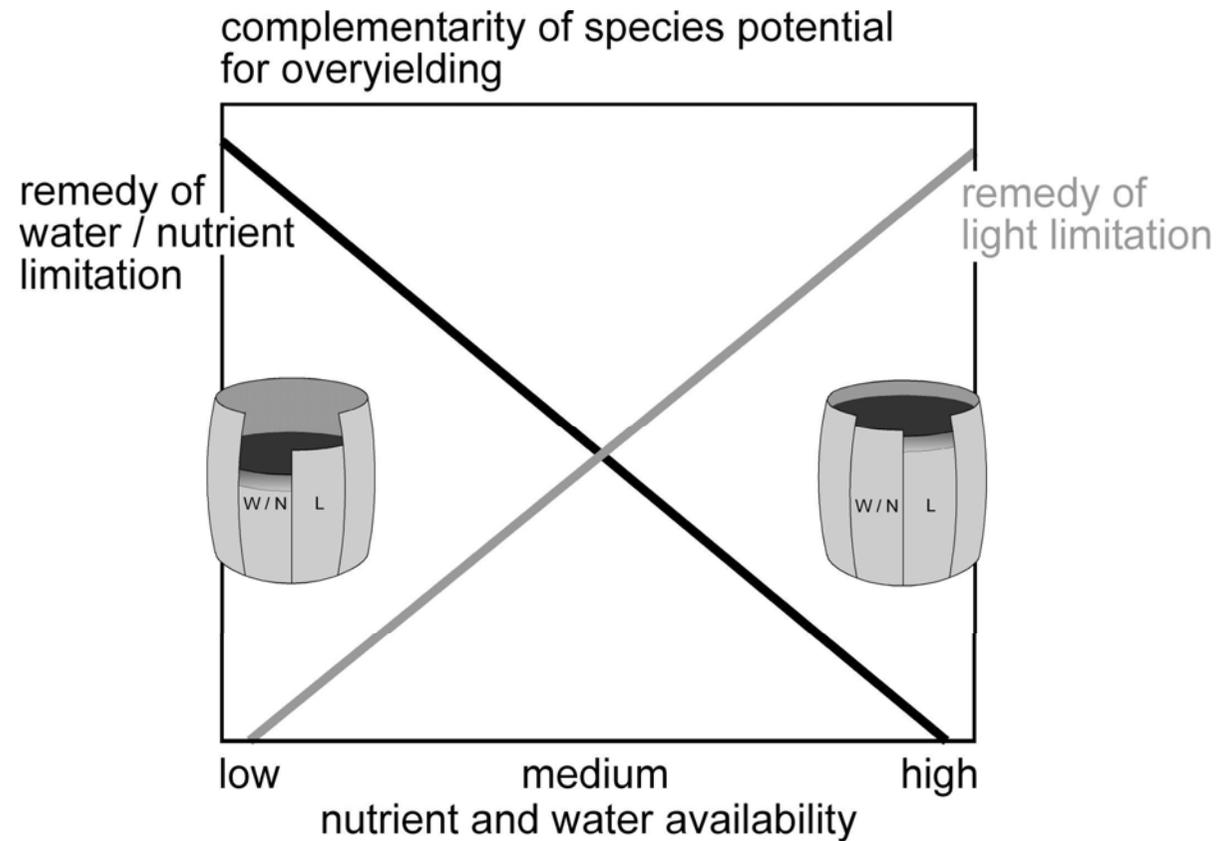
Temporal complementarity



Physiological complementarity

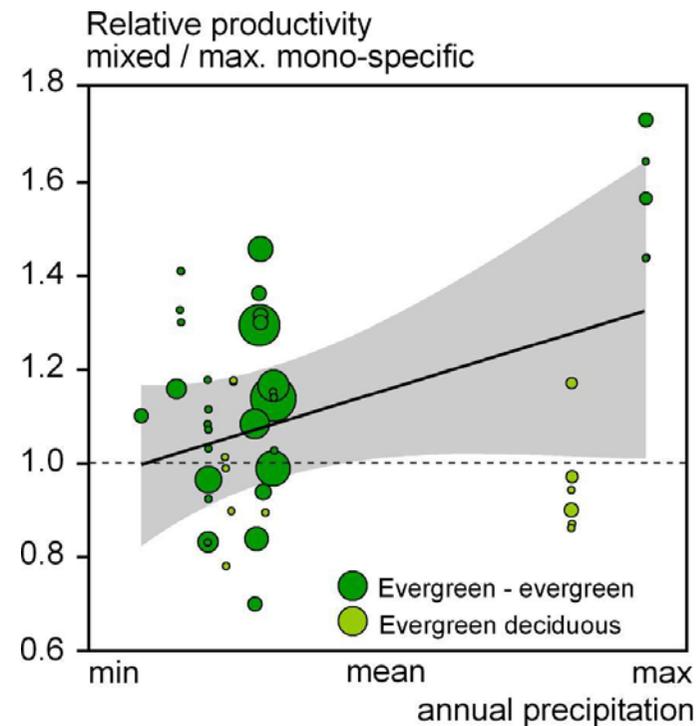
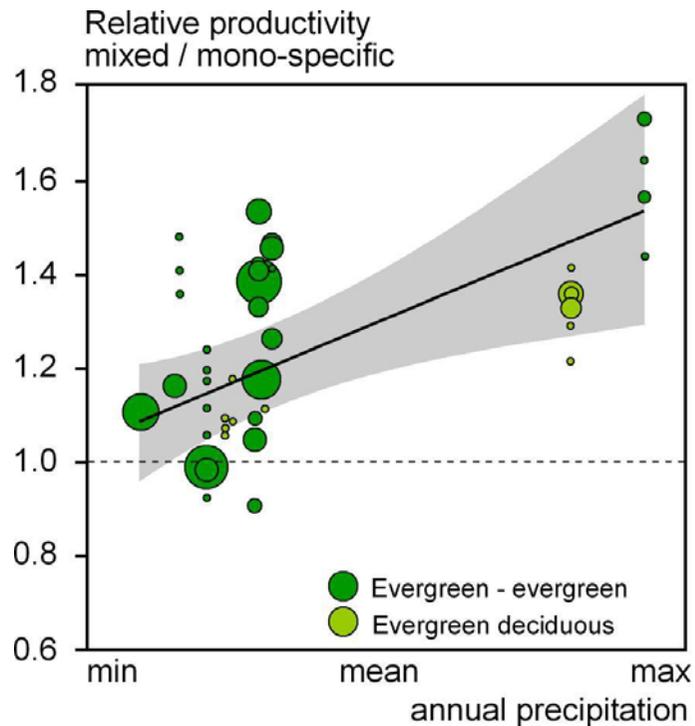


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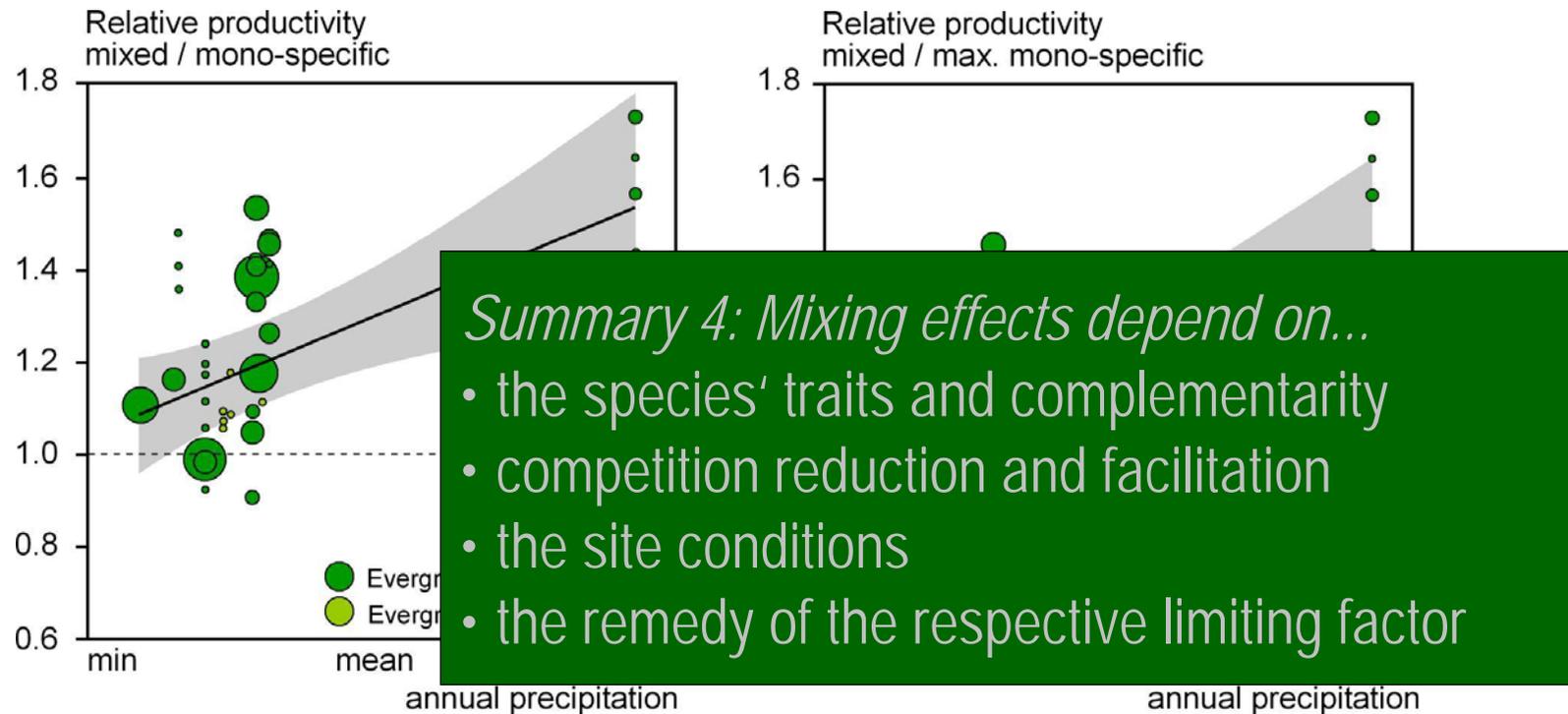
e. g. Forrester (2017), Pretzsch (2017), Jactel et al. (2018)

# Increasing overyielding (15 %) and transgressive overyielding with water availability



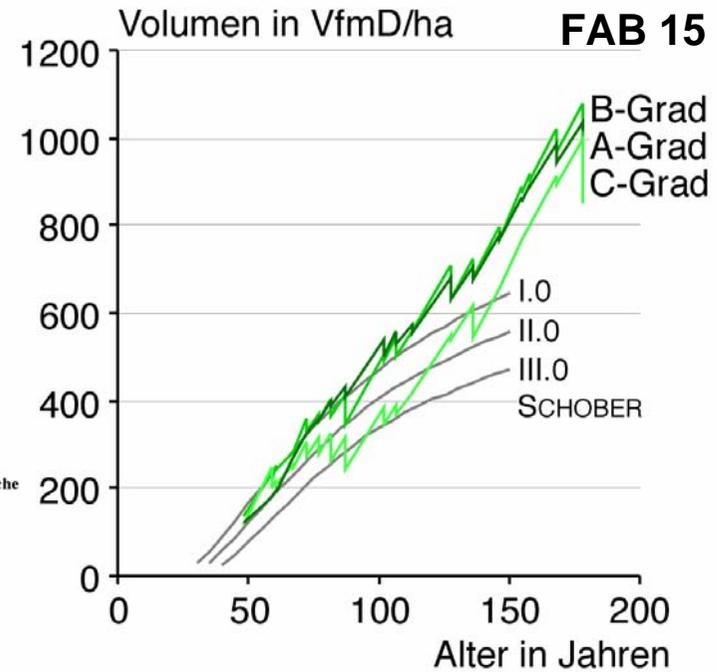
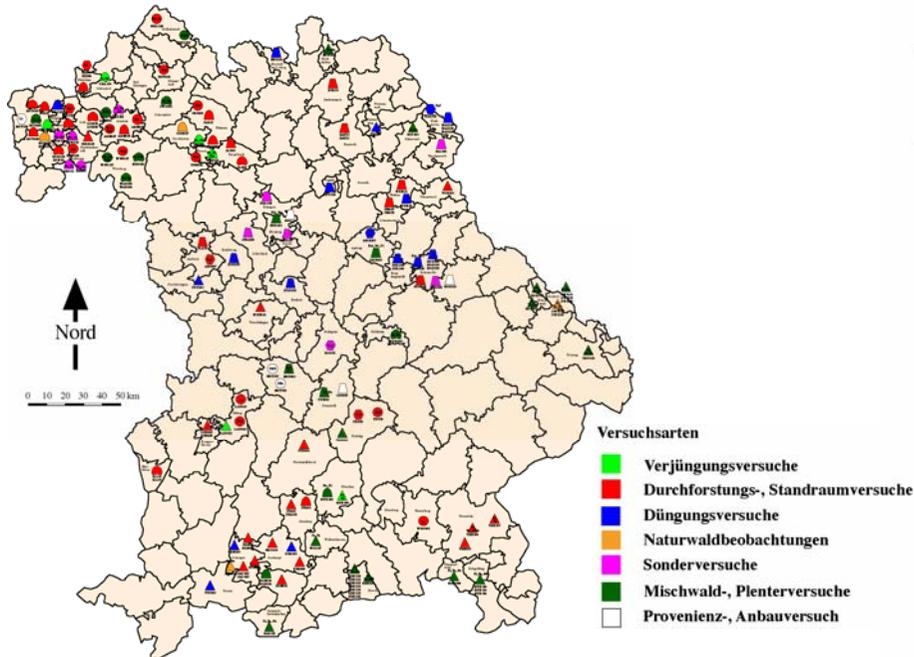
no significant transgressive underyielding

## Increasing overyielding (15 %) and transgressive overyielding with water availability



no significant transgressive underyielding

# Long-living organisms need long-term research



A. v. Ganghofer  
\*1827 †1900



F. v. Baur  
1878-1897



R. Weber  
1897-1905



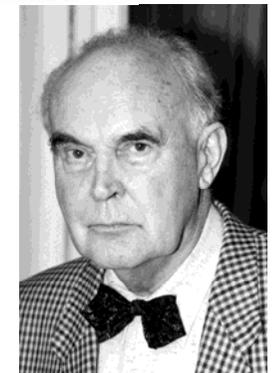
V. Schüpfer  
1905-1937



K. Vanselow  
1937-1951



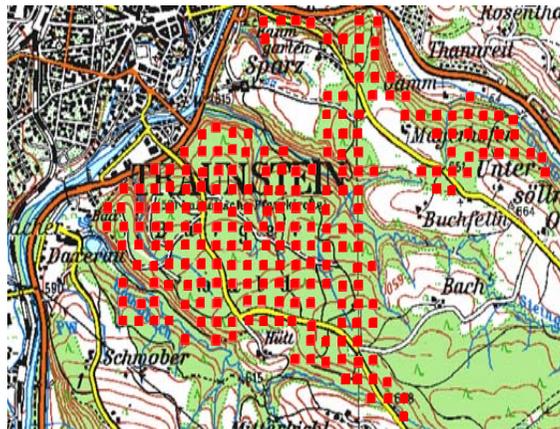
E. Assmann  
1951-1972



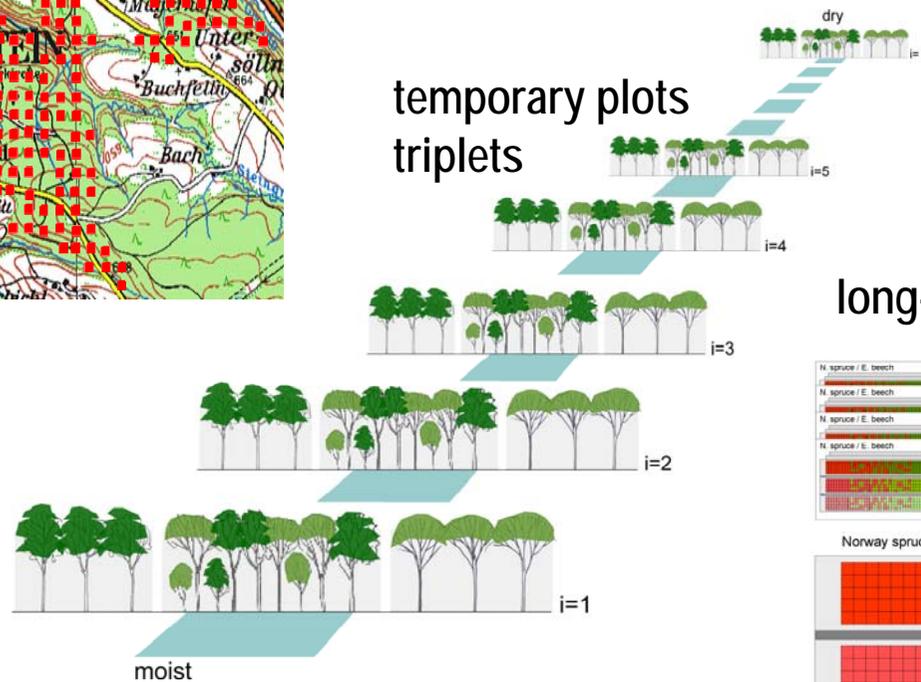
F. Franz  
1972-1993

# Data base: From forest inventories to temporary plots and long-term experiments

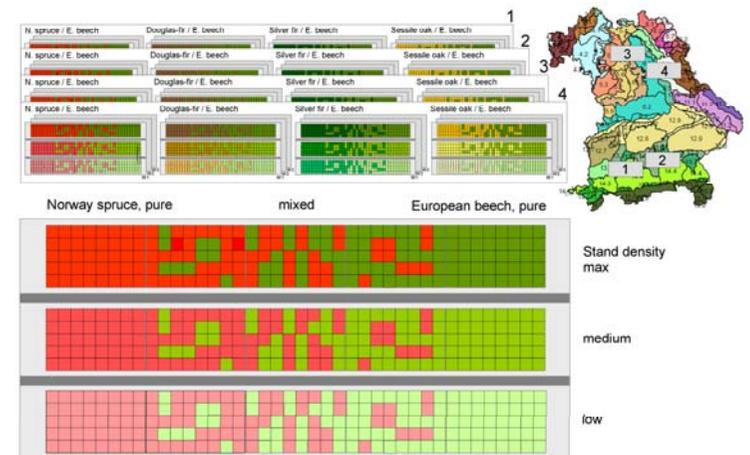
forest inventories



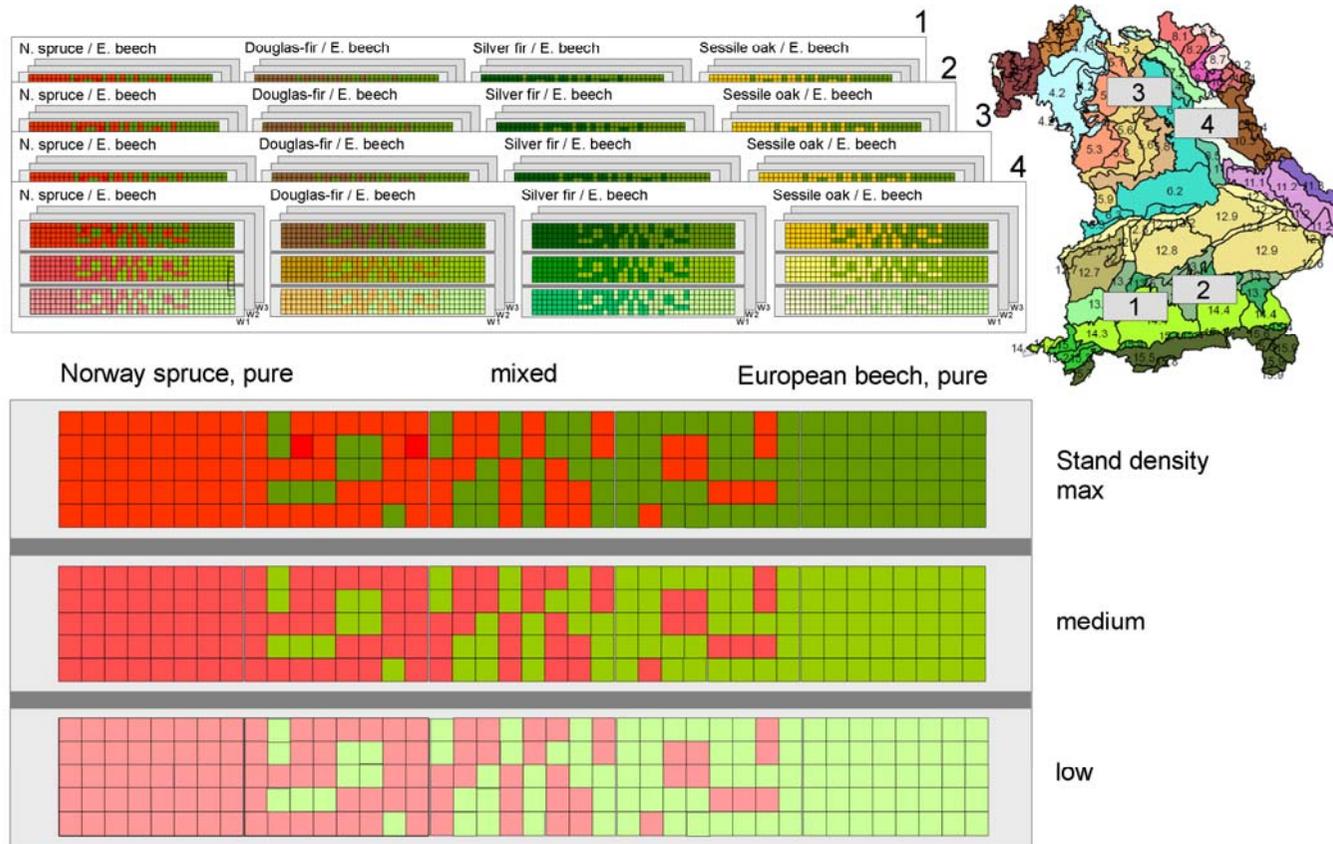
temporary plots triplets



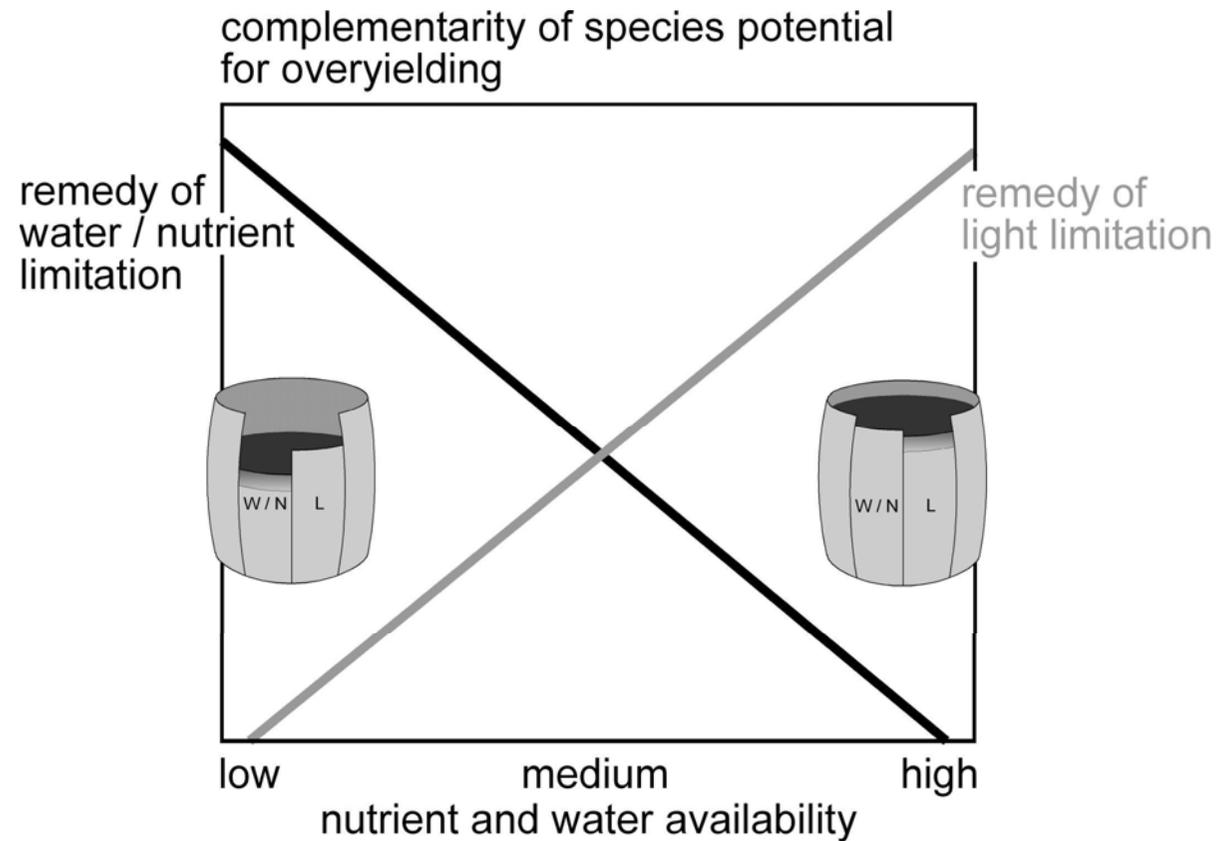
long-term experiments



# Long-term experiments for data acquisition, model parameterization, teaching and training

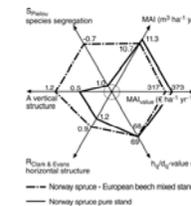
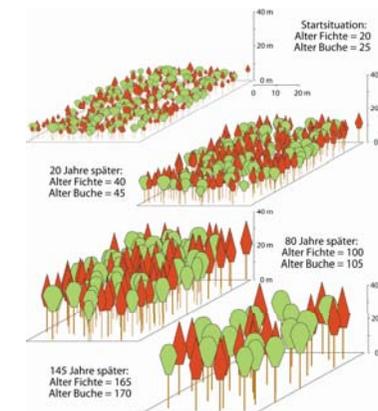
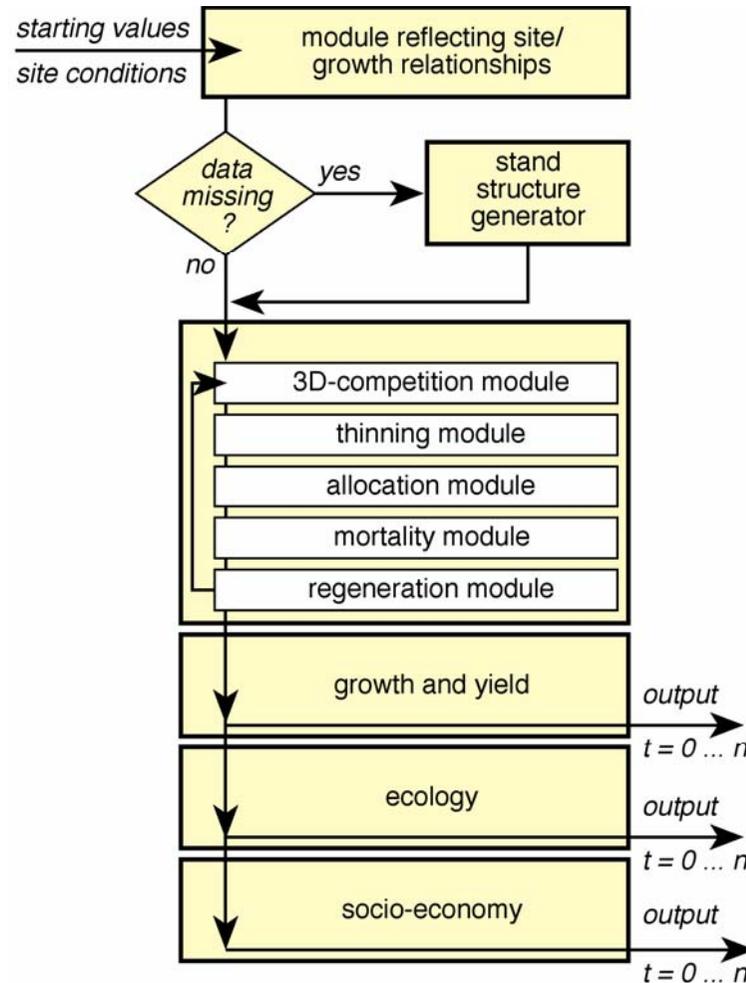


# Conceptual model for the dependency of overyielding on site conditions

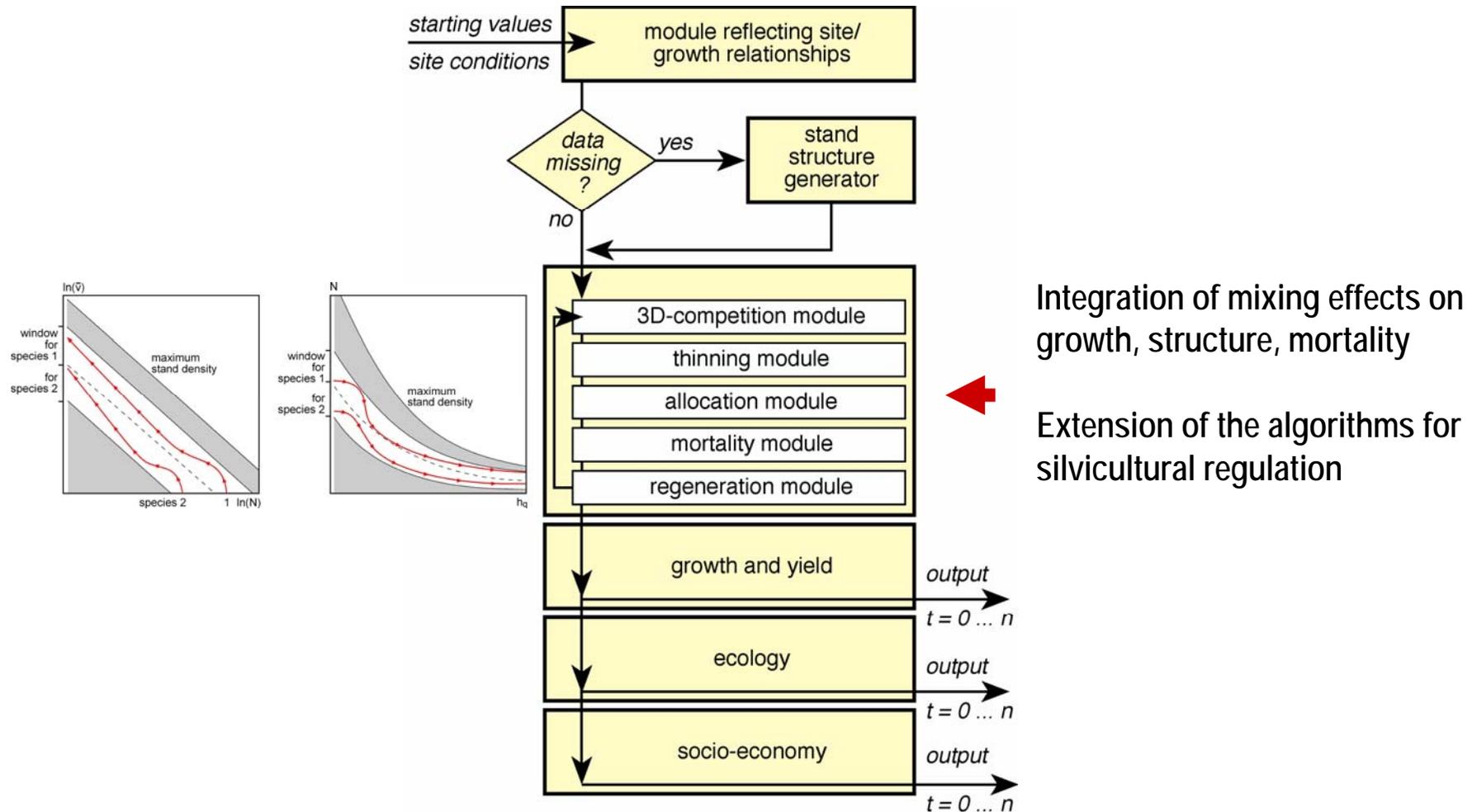


e. g. Forrester (2017), Pretzsch (2017), Jactel et al. (2018)

# SILVA 3.0 as example of a spatially explicit individual tree model for pure and mixed stands



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## Criteria for sustainable forest ecosystem management. Objective hierarchy for the municipal forest of Traunstein

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*Summary 5: Next steps are...*

- additional experimental plots
- analyses of site dependency
- models and silvicultural guidelines
- extension of criteria and model outputs

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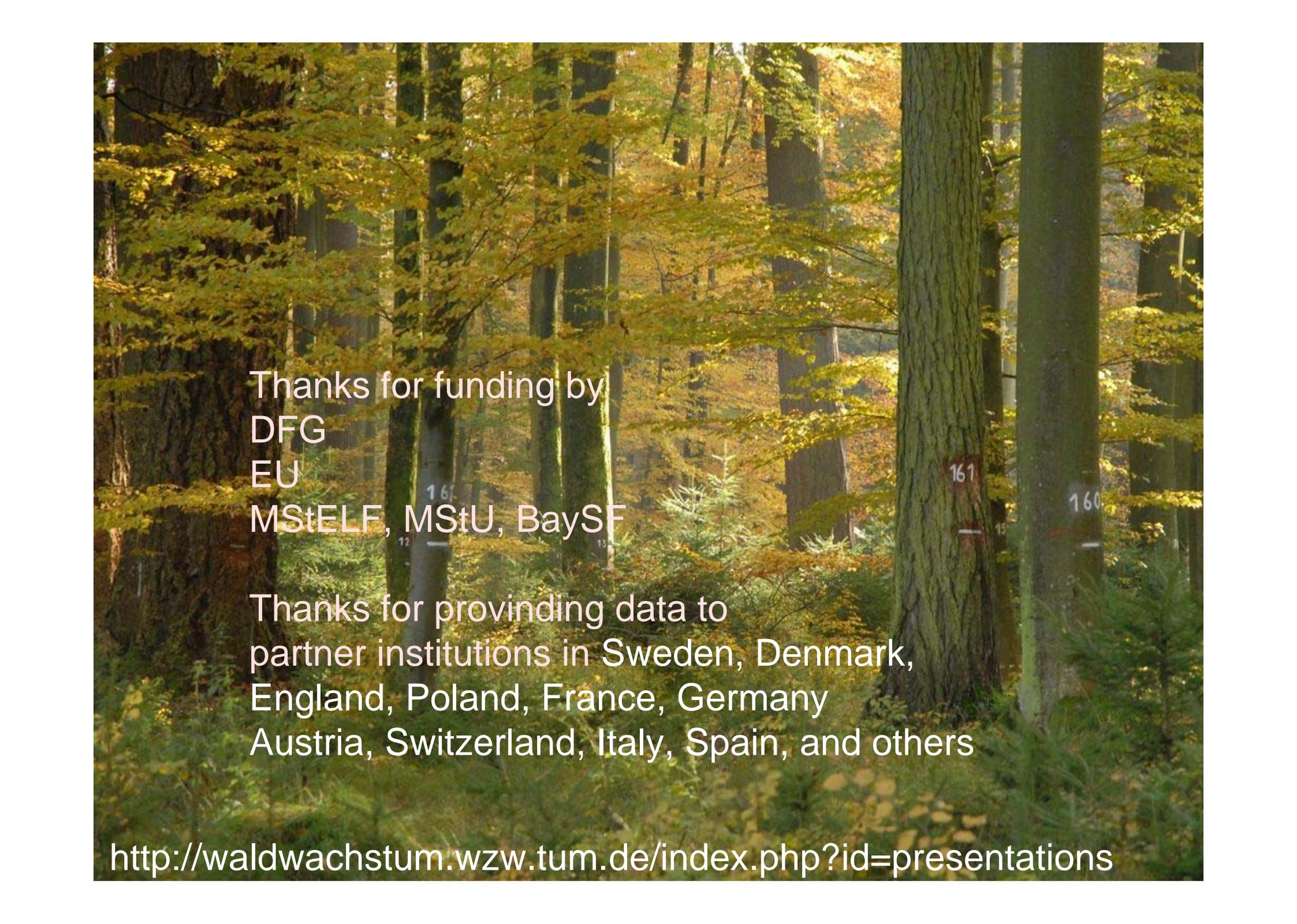
Hans Pretzsch

Chair for Forest Growth and Yield Science

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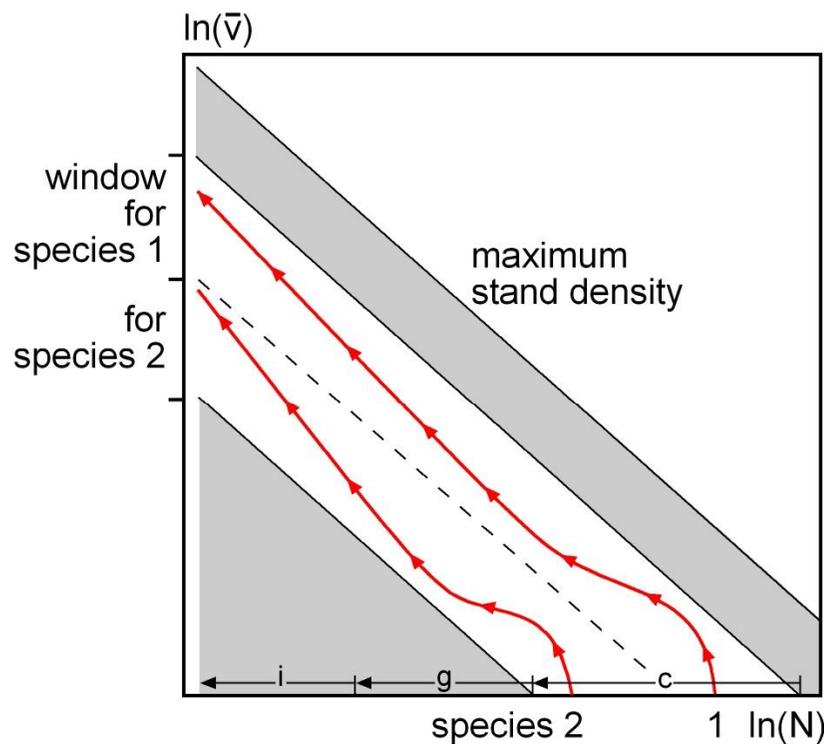


Thanks for funding by  
DFG  
EU  
MStELF, MStU, BaySF

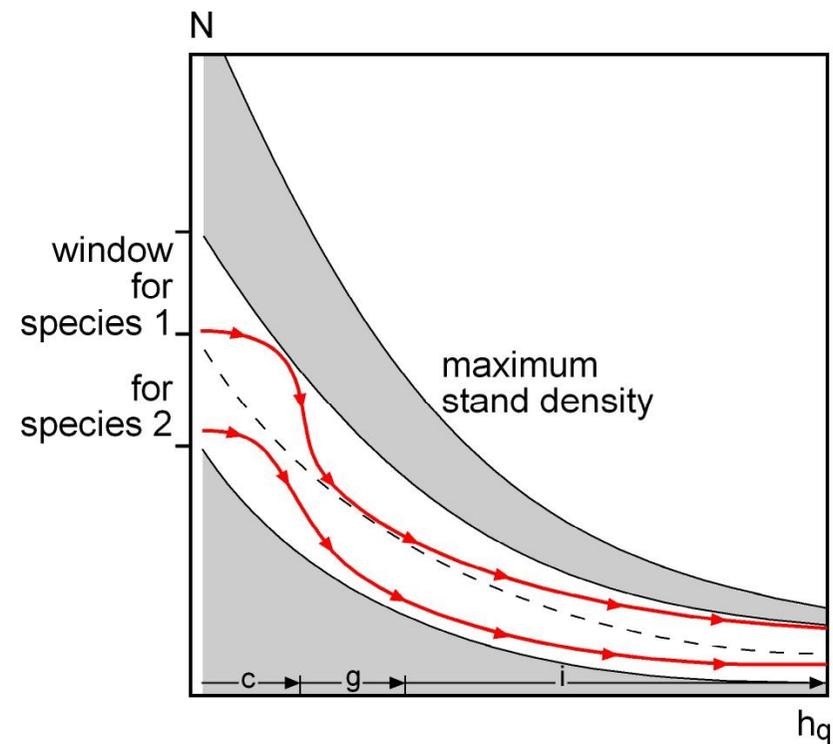
Thanks for providing data to  
partner institutions in Sweden, Denmark,  
England, Poland, France, Germany  
Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and others

<http://waldwachstum.wzw.tum.de/index.php?id=presentations>

# Guidelines for silvicultural regulation of mixed-species stand can bring the mixing idea onto the ground

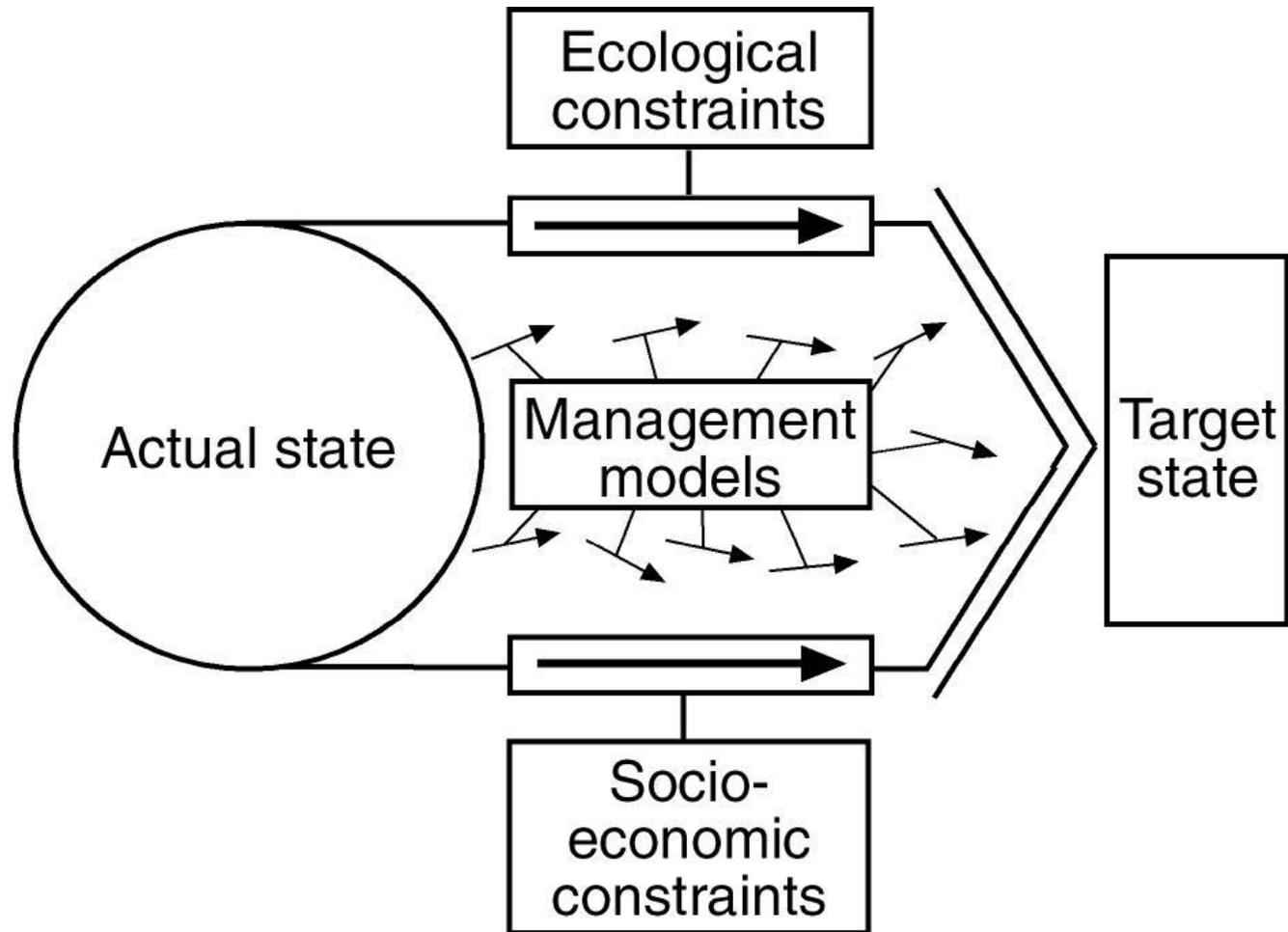


(a)

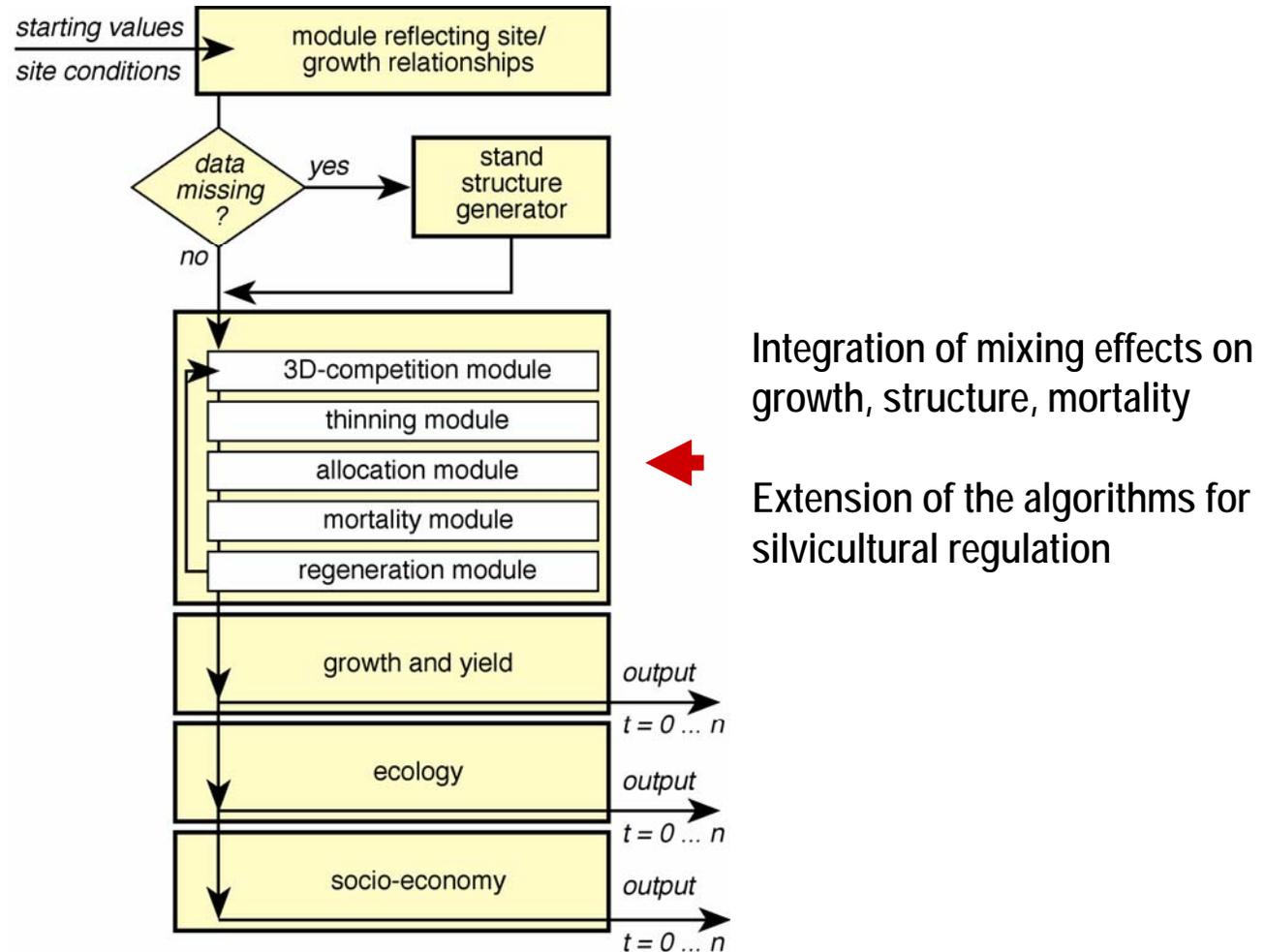


(b)

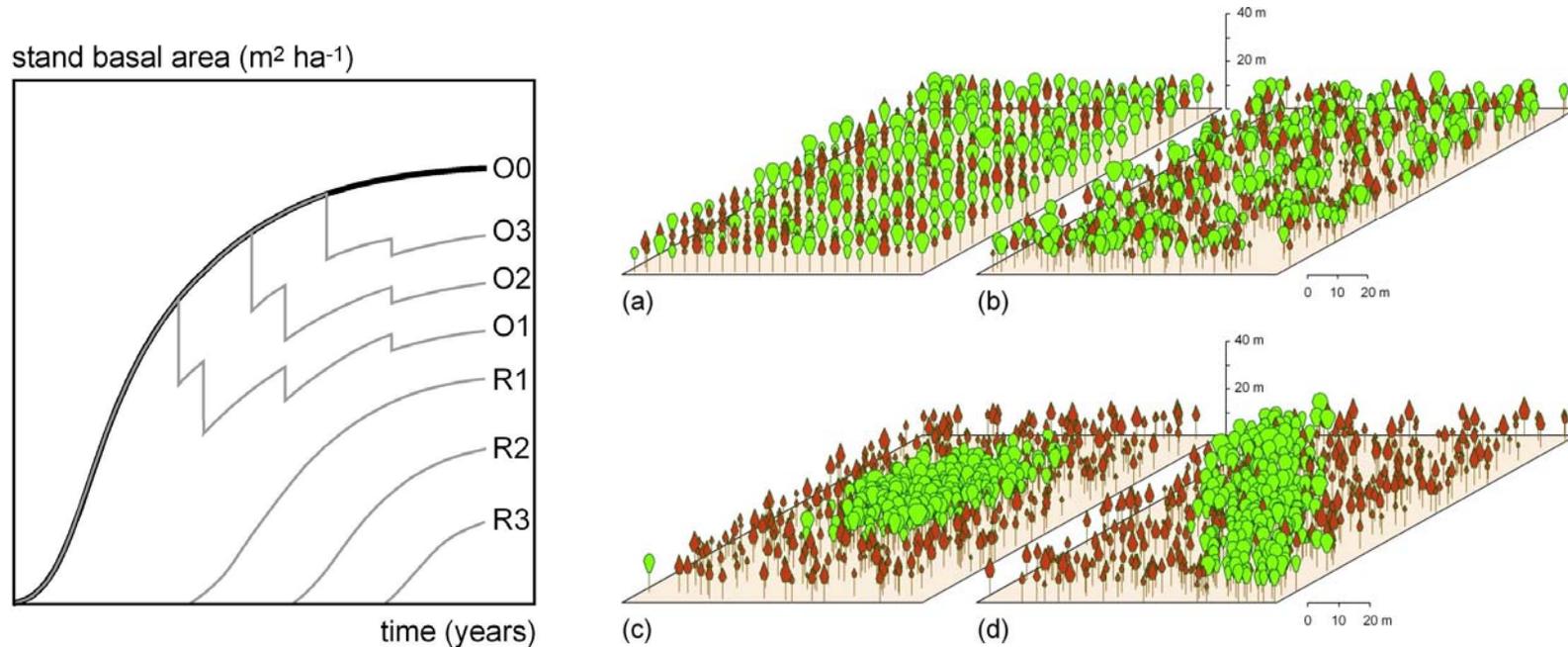
# Model application for deriving silvicultural guidelines



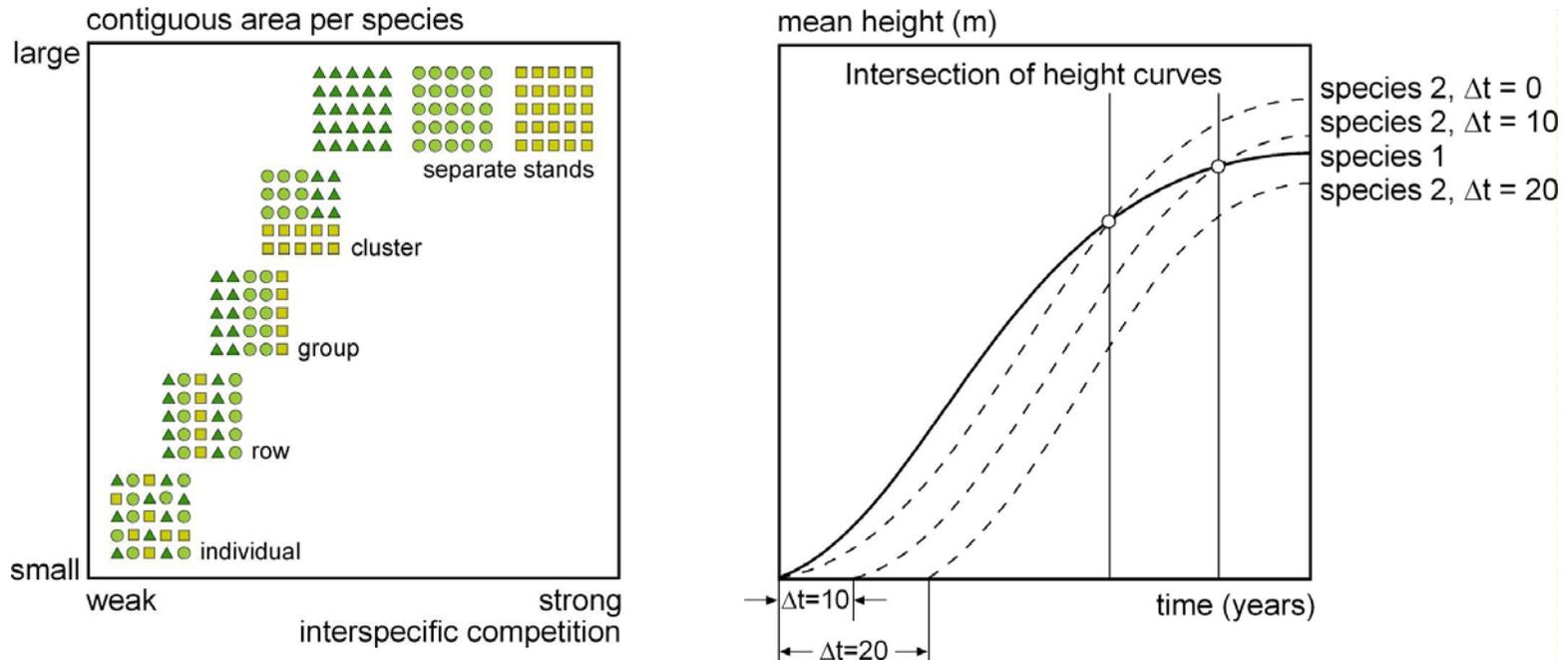
# SILVA 3.0 as example of a spatially explicit individual tree model for pure and mixed stands



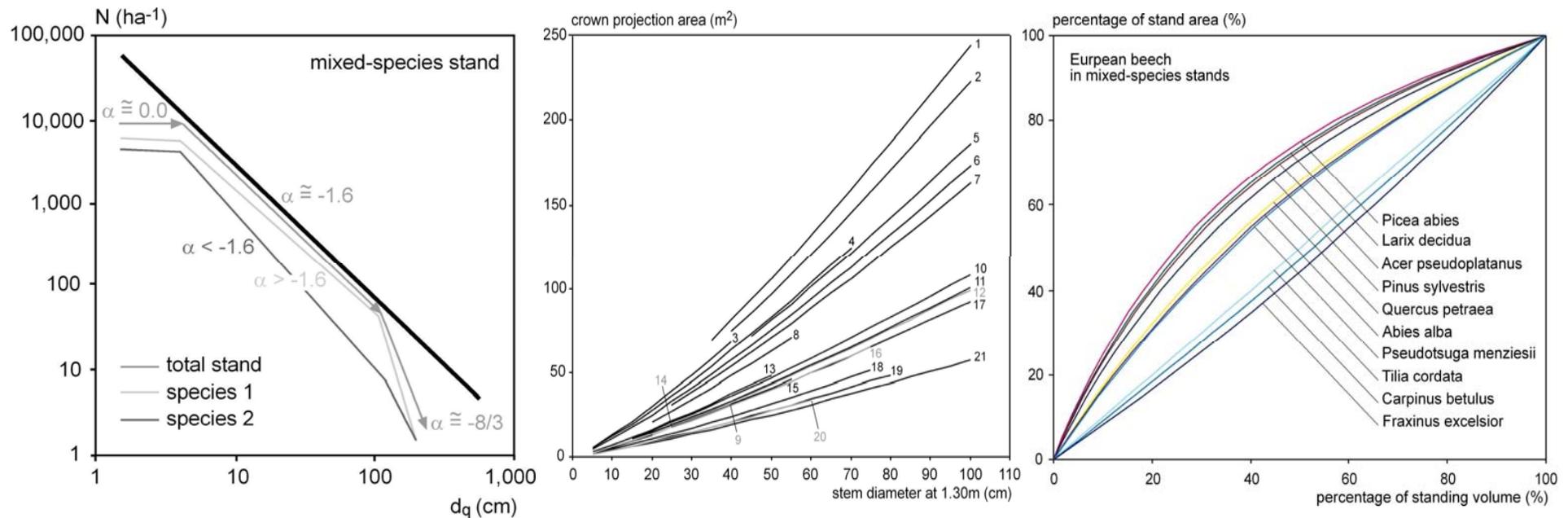
# Rules and algorithms for initiating the regeneration depending on the density of the overstorey



# Rules and algorithms for regulation of competition by spatial or temporal separation



# Rules and algorithms for regulation of stand density and species-specific mixing proportions



- 1) *Quercus nigra* L., 2) *Platanus x hispanica* Münchh., 3) *Carpinus betulus* L., 4) *Tilia cordata* Mill.,  
 5) *Khaya senegalensis* (Desr.) A.Juss., 6) *Fagus sylvatica* L., 7) *Aesculus hippocastanum* L.,  
 8) *Robinia pseudoacacia* L., 9) *Alnus glutinosa* [L.] Gaertn., 10) *Araucaria cunninghamii* Aiton ex. D.Don,  
 11) *Pseudotsuga menziesii* [Mirb.], 12) *Abies alba* Mill., 13) *Sorbus aucuparia* L., 14) *Betula pendula* Roth,  
 15) *Acer pseudoplatanus* L., 16) *Abies sachalinensis* Mast., 17) *Quercus petraea* [Matt.] Liebl.,  
 18) *Pinus sylvestris* L., 19) *Larix decidua* Mill., 20) *Fraxinus excelsior* L., 21) *Picea abies* [L.] Karst.