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Title: Differences in biotic interactions across range edges have only minor effects on plant performance

Running Head: Will biotic interactions affect range shifts?

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Summary

1. It is widely expected that plant species will expand their ranges poleward in response to climate change. In the process, individuals establishing beyond existing range margins will be exposed to new biotic communities, including different assemblages of natural enemies. The resulting differences in biotic interactions could lead to scenarios of enemy release or biotic resistance and if the interactions are strong, they could influence plant performance and therefore colonization success.

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28 **2.** In order to test whether natural enemies will affect range expansion dynamics, we transplanted
29 seven species along a 450 km latitudinal gradient that spanned the range edges of five of these
30 species. The experiment was conducted over five years with ~ 13,000 seedlings and included
31 pesticide treatments to reduce invertebrate herbivory. We measured foliar damage caused by
32 disease and invertebrate herbivores, seedling survival, light availability, soil moisture, soil
33 nutrient concentrations and several other variables in nine forests located in four regions along
34 the latitudinal gradient.

35 **3.** We found that several species (*Carya glabra*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Quercus velutina* and
36 *Robinia pseudoacacia*) tended to have less foliar disease beyond their range but there were few
37 substantial differences in herbivory across range edges (with the exception of *Liriodendron*
38 *tulipifera*). After accounting for other variables, including environmental conditions and
39 vertebrate herbivory, we found that foliar disease decreased survival for four species (*Acer*
40 *rubrum*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus rubra* and *Quercus velutina*) and foliar herbivory reduced
41 survival for three species (*Acer rubrum*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Quercus rubra*).

42 **4.** However, the effects of these biotic interactions on survival were very small (0 – 5 %
43 reductions in survival at observed levels of damage after four years), which is verified by the
44 minor effects of the pesticide treatment on seedling survival.

45 **5. Synthesis.** Our results suggest that foliar herbivores and pathogens are unlikely to play a major
46 role in the range expansion dynamics of these temperate tree species.

47
48 **Key words:** biotic interactions, plant-insect interactions, plant-pathogen interactions, range
49 expansion, species distributions, survival, temperate forest

50
51 Survival of tree seedlings beyond current distributions is largely unrelated to differences in
52 herbivory and disease

53 54 55 INTRODUCTION

56 Climate change is expected to cause shifts in species distributions as plants and animals
57 track changing temperatures and precipitation (Parmesan & Yohe 2003; Hickling *et al.* 2006;
58 Crimmins *et al.* 2011). Predictions of poleward range expansion of plant species over the

59 coming decades and centuries are drawn from correlations between current species distributions
60 and climate (Iverson & Prasad 1998; Guisan & Zimmermann 2000; Pearson & Dawson 2003),
61 and paleo-reconstructions of shifts in vegetation composition during previous periods of climate
62 change (Davis 1983; Graumlich & Davis 1993; Petit *et al.* 2002; Williams *et al.* 2004). Some
63 studies have found empirical evidence for contemporary latitudinal shifts of tree species
64 distributions in North America (Woodall *et al.* 2009; Murphy, Vanderwal & Lovett-Doust 2010;
65 Boisvert-Marsh, Périé & de Blois 2014; Desprez *et al.* 2014), whereas others have not (Zhu,
66 Woodall & Clark 2012). The variability in how species distributions respond to climate change
67 highlights the potential importance of non-climatic drivers, such as biotic interactions.

68 Biotic interactions with natural enemies, competitors and mutualists have the potential to
69 influence range expansion dynamics of terrestrial plants by systematically affecting the
70 performance of plants establishing beyond their current range, where populations do not yet exist
71 (hereafter referred to as ‘migrants’) (Cairns & Moen 2004; Moorcroft, Pacala & Lewis 2006;
72 Morriën *et al.* 2010; Wisz *et al.* 2013; HilleRisLambers *et al.* 2013). The effects of natural
73 enemies on plant populations are often substantial (Katz 2016), as are their subsequent effects on
74 ecosystem function (Hicke *et al.* 2012). It is increasingly thought that predictions of changes in
75 species distributions in response to climate change should take herbivores and pathogens into
76 account (Van der Putten, Macel & Visser 2010; Zarnetske, Skelly & Urban 2012; Svenning *et al.*
77 2014). While several studies have investigated how soil communities differentially affect native
78 vs. migrant plants (van Grunsven *et al.* 2010; Stanton-Geddes & Anderson 2011; McCarthy-
79 Neumann & Ibáñez 2012), little is known about whether existing above-ground herbivore and
80 pathogen communities will affect latitudinal range expansion.

81 Populations on the expanding edge of a species distribution often escape from specialist
82 natural enemies, as is shown by an increasing number of case studies from various organisms
83 (Alexander *et al.* 2007; Menéndez *et al.* 2008; Phillips *et al.* 2010b; Patot *et al.* 2010; Tsai &
84 Manos 2010). This can happen because of low host densities on range edges and because
85 migrant populations on expanding range fronts originate from repeated founding events, each of
86 which offers a chance to leave specialists behind (Phillips, Brown & Shine 2010a). Moreover, in
87 a greenhouse experiment, successful range expanding plants were less affected by a naïve
88 herbivore (Engelkes *et al.* 2008) showing that migrants can also be released from generalist
89 herbivores. Even though enemy release is transient because of pest and pathogen accumulation

90 (Brändle *et al.* 2008; Mitchell *et al.* 2010; Diez *et al.* 2010), it could still help migrant plants
91 outperform native ones, increasing colonization success and overall rates of range expansion
92 (Moorcroft *et al.* 2006).

93 However, as range expanding species enter new areas, they will encounter indigenous
94 natural enemies; biotic resistance from the existing community could potentially prevent new
95 plant species from establishing there. There are many examples of native generalist herbivores
96 reducing the performance of plants of exotic (i.e., intercontinental) origin (Levine, Adler &
97 Yelenik 2004; Parker, Burkepile & Hay 2006). However, there are substantial differences
98 between intra-continental range expansion and inter-continental range expansion (as reviewed in
99 Morriën *et al.* 2010, Van der Putten *et al.* 2010). First, natural enemy community composition
100 may not change abruptly at the edge of a plant species range. Second, existing plant
101 communities may contain species that are closely related to the migrant; in this case, specialist
102 natural enemies may transfer quickly (Connor *et al.* 1980; Bertheau *et al.* 2010). Scenarios of
103 both enemy release and biotic resistance are possible and only in situ experimental field studies
104 can determine how the net effects of biotic interactions will vary across range edges (Morriën *et*
105 *al.* 2010; van der Putten 2011; Renwick & Rocca 2015).

106 Whether the net differences in biotic interactions are positive or negative, they are likely
107 to have the largest effect on early life stages, which tend to be more strongly affected by density
108 dependent forces (Green *et al.* 2014, Zhu *et al.* 2015 but see Piao *et al.* 2013). Many of the
109 strongest examples of habitat filtering driven by biotic interactions have been found at the
110 seedling stage (HilleRisLambers, Clark & Beckage 2002; Fine *et al.* 2006; Andersen, Turner &
111 Dalling 2014). This may be in part because small individuals have low energy reserves, are
112 especially vulnerable to biotic and abiotic forces and tend to have weaker chemical defenses
113 (Myers & Kitajima 2007; Barton & Koricheva 2010; Boege, Barton & Dirzo 2011; Massad
114 2013). If biotic forces have the potential to limit range expansion, the seedling stage would be
115 the first place to look for it.

116 Here, we test how biotic interactions vary across range edges and assess their effects on
117 plant performance. We use a seedling transplant experiment with seven temperate tree species
118 plants to answer the following questions: 1) Are migrant species exposed to different amounts of
119 herbivory and disease than in their native range? And, 2) How important are any differences in
120 herbivory and disease to plant survival? Answers to these questions will help determine whether

121 foliar herbivores and pathogens have the potential to substantially affect colonization success and
122 therefore range expansion dynamics.

123

124

METHODS

125 We initiated a seedling transplant experiment in 2010, and over the following four years
126 we planted seedlings in four regions across a 450 km latitudinal gradient (Fig. 1). Species
127 origins varied (Table 1): five were native or naturalized (self-sustaining populations were
128 present) at some regions and migrants at others (*Carya glabra* P. Mill., *Liriodendron tulipifera*
129 L., *Q. alba* L., *Q. velutina* Lam. and *Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) and two species were native
130 across all regions (*Acer rubrum* L. and *Quercus rubra* L.). We selected species based on their
131 current and predicted distributions (Iverson *et al.* 2008) and on their light and soil moisture
132 requirements. At each region we established between one and four sites in different forest types,
133 and at each site we planted seedlings in two to 21 plots (Table 2; Fig. 1); this design was dictated
134 by logistical constraints (i.e., site establishment was restricted to University of Michigan
135 properties or areas we possessed permits to work in) and the unbalanced experimental set up
136 does not pose a challenge for the analyses used. Each plot was composed of between one and
137 three subplots, some of which were used for experimental treatments (see below). Sites and
138 plots were established in a variety of different forest types (Table 2; Fig. 1) and in a range of
139 environmental conditions (Supporting Information A: Plot Environmental Characteristics). A
140 total of 12,762 seedlings were planted between 2010 and 2013 (Table 1).

141

142 *Seedlings*

143 Seeds were germinated at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens (Ann
144 Arbor, MI) in potting soil (Metro-Mix 380; SunGro Horticulture, Agawam, Massachusetts,
145 USA), where they were watered daily. Seeds were collected from wild sources within Michigan
146 when available, but were otherwise obtained from outside of Michigan (Supporting Information
147 B: Seed Sources). To account for maternal effects (i.e., seed size), we measured the height of the
148 seedlings (defined as the distance from the soil to the tip of the apical meristem) one month after
149 emergence. Bare root seedlings were then transplanted into the study plots in May and June of
150 2010 – 2014, with a minimum distance of 25 cm between seedlings. Seedlings were watered
151 upon planting (125 ml/seedling) to decrease transplant shock and existing vegetation was left

152 intact. A total of 2196 seedlings were transplanted in the fall instead of in the spring in 2011,
153 2012 and 2013; this was done in order to both increase the range of seedling sizes and to increase
154 total sample size.

155

156 *Pesticide treatment*

157 We experimentally reduced herbivory in 48 sub-plots in 2012 and 2013 using a
158 pyrethroid pesticide (Talstar P, active ingredient bifenthrin; Fecko 1999). This pesticide has
159 been successfully used by other researchers (e.g., Suwa and Louda 2012, Spiers et al. 2006), and
160 does not contain nitrogen. To ensure that it caused no direct effects on the plants, either through
161 phytotoxicity or phytostimulation, we conducted a greenhouse control experiment; survival and
162 relative growth rates were not impacted, although there is mixed evidence of mild phytotoxicity
163 for *Acer rubrum* (Supporting Information C: Greenhouse Control Experiment). We sprayed a
164 solution of bifenthrin (0.008% active ingredient) on the tops and bottoms of the leaves of
165 seedlings in treatment sub-plots three times a year during 2012 and 2013. We sprayed the same
166 amount of water on leaves in paired control sub-plots (Fig. 1, panel D). We also distributed a
167 molluscicide, metaldehyde, along one outside edge of pesticide sub-plots to reduce herbivory by
168 slugs and snails. The molluscicide was distributed on the side of the treatment plot furthest from
169 the paired control sub-plot; no metaldehyde was distributed within 5 m of a control sub-plot
170 seedling. Metaldehyde reduces slug abundance and herbivory at the microsite level, without
171 impacting plots as close as 5 m (Ferguson 2004). In 2010 and 2011 we built insect enclosures
172 around a subset of first year seedlings, but neither year's enclosure design consistently reduced
173 herbivory. Only mortality from years after the enclosures were removed is included in the
174 analysis.

175

176 *Seedling measurements*

177 Seedlings were censused three times a year, in early, mid and late summer. Seedling
178 height (defined as the distance from the soil to the highest bud) and diameter (1 cm above the
179 soil) were measured during the first and last census of each year. Leaf damage was quantified by
180 visually surveying up to 25 leaves per seedling using cover classes (<1%, 1-5%, 6-15%, 16-25%,
181 26-50%, 51-75%, >75%). For seedlings that had more than 25 leaves, the 25 leaves surveyed
182 were selected at random. The same person (D. Katz) conducted all surveys to ensure that visual

183 estimates were consistent. During each census foliar damage was categorized as being caused by
184 herbivory, disease, physical damage, or desiccation. Damage types counted as herbivory
185 included chewing (e.g., skeletonizing, window feeding, hole feeding), piercing-sucking (e.g.,
186 stippling; regularly shaped small round discolorations in leaves), leaf mining and galling.
187 Damage was counted as disease if symptoms included abnormal coloration, blackening of the
188 leaf, dark spots with necrosis, spots with discolorations surrounding them and the presence of
189 fungal fruiting bodies. Both infectious and non-infectious diseases (e.g., nutrient deficiencies)
190 are therefore included in the disease category (Sinclair & Lyon 2005). We also recorded whether
191 seedlings exhibited stem damage patterns typical of those caused by browsing by mammals at
192 each census; this was recorded as a binary variable. The role of vertebrate herbivores was
193 further investigated using deer exclosures and trail cameras that were deployed at study plots
194 during 2013 and 2014 (Supporting Information D: Vertebrate Herbivory). Although leaf litter
195 was disturbed during censuses, which could have reduced potentially fatal burial in leaf litter
196 (Patterson *et al.* 2011), this disturbance was consistent for all seedlings at all sites.

197

198 *Environmental Data*

199 Environmental variables measured included light availability, temperature, soil nutrients
200 and soil moisture. Hemispherical canopy photos were taken 1 m above seedlings, using a Sigma
201 SD14 camera (Sigma Corporation, Japan) with a sigma 4.5 mm circular fisheye lens (Sigma
202 Corporation, Japan) to measure light availability. At least two photos were taken per sub-plot
203 when canopy closure was greatest (i.e., in mid-summer). Photos were taken under uniform sky
204 conditions (i.e., dusk, dawn, or uniformly cloudy days). The global site factor (GSF), the
205 proportion of total possible sunlight reaching the forest floor, was calculated using Hemiview
206 (Delta-T Devices, Cambridge, UK). GSF was averaged across subplots and across years.

207 Temperature was measured hourly at each site with a HOBO Pro V2 U23 Temperature
208 Data Logger (Onset Computer Corporation, Pocasset, MA). Soil water (percent moisture by
209 volume) was measured hourly at each site with a HOBO Micro Station Data Logger (Onset
210 Computer Corporation, Pocasset, MA). Volumetric soil water content in the top 7.5 cm of soil
211 was measured with a FieldScout TDR 300 Soil Moisture Meter (Spectrum Technologies,
212 Plainfield, IL, USA) in at least six points per sub-plot several times during the growing seasons
213 of 2011-2014. The relationship between soil moisture at the sub-plot level and at the site level

214 was quantified using linear regressions (mean $R^2 = 0.67$); these regressions were then used to
215 predict soil moisture between censuses. For the first census in each spring, soil moisture was
216 estimated from the beginning of the growing season, which we defined as starting after the last
217 day where the minimum temperature fell below -3°C . For other censuses, the soil moisture
218 values used in the analysis were the mean and standard deviation of soil moisture between that
219 and the previous census.

220 Soil nutrients were measured in 2013 using resin packs (Unibest International
221 Corporation, Walla Walla, WA, USA). Resin packs in the southernmost region (region A; see
222 Fig. 1) were deployed between 4/8/2013 – 10/30/2013 and resin packs were deployed from
223 4/23/2013 – 10/23/2013 in the other regions (regions B, C and D; see Fig. 1). Between two and
224 four resin packs were deployed per plot, depending on the number of subplots. Four resin packs
225 could not be retrieved because they were moved by burrowing animals or were otherwise
226 damaged, and no nutrient data are available for the two plots that were not yet established at the
227 time of resin pack deployment. Resin packs were retrieved and refrigerated until they were
228 shipped to Unibest for analysis. Analysis was conducted by Unibest; ions were extracted using
229 2mHCL and the ion exchange resin analysis was conducted using inductively coupled
230 plasmaspectroscopy analysis (Perkin Elmer 3300 DV; Ca, Mg, Mn, P) and FIA Lab Flow
231 Injection (FIA 2500; NO_3^- , NH_4^+).

232 233 *Statistical Analysis*

234 *Differences in foliar herbivory and disease.*— To compare foliar disease and herbivory across
235 species and sites, we used ANOVA and conducted post-hoc pairwise comparisons using max-t
236 tests through the multcomp package in R (Hothorn, Bretz & Westfall 2008). Max-t tests are
237 robust for comparisons of non-normal distributions, unbalanced sample sizes and heterogeneity
238 of variances (Herberich, Sikorski & Hothorn 2010). To compare whether herbivory varied
239 between seedlings in control and pesticide treatments, we used Wilcoxon Rank Sum Tests.

240
241 *Seedling survival*— To analyze how herbivory, foliar disease and region affected seedling
242 survival, we used a counting process in a Cox survival model (Andersen & Gill 1982) in which
243 we took into account both abiotic and biotic variables: light, soil moisture, soil nutrients,
244 seedling maternal effects, mammal browse and treatment effects (control and pesticide

245 application). This type of model has been used for seedling survival because it allows for the
246 inclusions of both fixed and random effects and for time dependent covariates (McCarthy-
247 Neumann & Ibáñez 2012). We only included seedlings that had survived to their second year in
248 this analysis, to minimize any artifacts from transplanting the seedlings and to reduce the effects
249 of seed resources on survival. The likelihood for the model is:

$$N_{it} \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_{it})$$

250 where N is whether seedling i was found dead at time t and λ is estimated as a function of the
251 intrinsic rate of mortality, or hazard h , and the extrinsic risk of mortality, or risk μ :

$$\lambda_{it} = h_t e^{\mu_{it}}$$

252 Parameter estimation was conducted using a Bayesian approach, which allowed us to incorporate
253 different sources of uncertainty and missing data (Gelman & Hill 2007). The hazard was
254 estimated at each time step, h_t , from a gamma distribution, $h_t \sim \text{Gamma}(1, 0.05)$. The hazard
255 reflects differences in mortality rates through the course of the experiment that are not accounted
256 for by the risk (e.g., survival rates that are age dependent).

257 The risk, μ_{it} , was estimated as a function of the covariates included in the analysis,
258 $\mu_{it} = X_{it}\beta$, where X_{it} is the matrix of covariates associated with each seedling i at time t . β is the
259 vector of fixed effect coefficients associated with each covariate. We explored several different
260 models, including different covariates and random effects (e.g., plot and year) and selected the
261 model with the lowest DIC (Deviance Information Criterion; Spiegelhalter et al. 2002) that
262 allowed us to answer our questions. In the final model, plot effects were drawn from a normal
263 distribution with a mean of μ_{native} or μ_{migrant} depending on whether the focal species was native in
264 that plot; plot effects $\sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, where $\sigma \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 10)$. Thus, differences between
265 μ_{native} and μ_{migrant} represent a difference in survival within a species range compared to beyond a
266 species range. Random effects were included for site and the following covariates were also
267 included (data ranges are described in parentheses): observed proportion of leaf area affected by
268 herbivory over the previous year (continuous: 0 – 1), observed proportion of leaf area affected by
269 disease over the previous year (continuous: 0 – 1), whether or not the seedling was browsed by a
270 mammal since the previous census (binary: 0, 1), seedling height at planting (continuous, 3 – 390
271 mm), the number of leaves in the previous census (continuous, 0 – 60 leaves), the proportion of
272 available light that reached the seedling (continuous: 0 – 1), volumetric soil moisture since the
273 last census (continuous: 0 – 1), whether the seedling was planted in the spring or fall (binary: 0,

274 1) and a fixed effect was included for the indirect effects of the invertebrate herbivory pesticide
275 treatment (binary: 0,1). To improve comparisons between variables, we standardized seedling
276 height at time of transplant, the number of leaves, light and soil moisture. Light and soil
277 moisture were modeled as latent variables characterized by their measured mean and standard
278 deviation for each inter-census time period. Fixed effect coefficients were drawn from non-
279 informative prior distributions: $\beta \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1000)$. The random effects for site was drawn
280 from a normal distribution: random effect $\sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2)$, where $\sigma \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 10)$. We
281 predicted survival where seedlings were native or migrants, \hat{S}_{native} or $\hat{S}_{migrant}$ at average
282 herbivory and disease levels for native and migrant seedlings. Survival of seedlings in the
283 pesticide treatment were estimated separately. The proportion of seedlings surviving, \hat{S} was
284 predicted over time (up to five years), under the following conditions: average light, average soil
285 moisture, average transplant height, average number of leaves, no browsing and spring planting.

$$\hat{S}_{migratory\ status, treatment} \sim \text{Power}(e^{-\sum_t^{time} h_t}, e^{x\beta})$$

286 We then simulated survival for control seedlings throughout all regions across the range of
287 possible herbivory values but with no disease and then vice versa.

288 Survival of each species was modeled separately. Posterior densities of the parameters
289 were obtained by Gibbs sampling (Geman & Geman 1984) using JAGS 3.4 (Plummer 2003) via
290 the rjags package in R (Plummer 2014). Convergence occurred after 1,000 to 10,000 iterations
291 and chains were inspected visually. Each species was run for 40,000 iterations and posterior
292 parameter values were based on postconvergence results. Statistical model code is provided in
293 Supporting Information E: Model Code. Visualization was conducted using the ggplot2 package
294 in R (Wickham 2009). All analyses were conducted using R (R Core Team 2013).

295

296

RESULTS

297 *Differences in herbivory.*— We found extensive variation in herbivory across species and sites,
298 but there were few systematic differences in herbivory across range edges; four out of five
299 migrant species encountered some sites beyond their ranges where herbivory was higher and
300 others where herbivory was lower than in sites located within their ranges (Fig. 2). An exception
301 was *Liriodendron tulipifera*; the three sites within its range were the sites with the highest
302 herbivory levels, although herbivory was only consistently significantly higher at one site within
303 its range than at sites beyond its range ($p < 0.05$). In general, species showed wide amounts of

304 variation between sites, regardless of migratory status; this is especially apparent for the species
305 that were native at all regions (*Quercus rubra* and *Acer rubrum*). Likewise, migrant species did
306 not tend to have different amounts of herbivory than native species within sites. The pesticide
307 treatment successfully reduced observed herbivory at all sites for three species (Supporting
308 Information F: Efficacy of Pesticide), *Carya glabra*, *Q. velutina* and *Q. alba*, and significantly
309 reduced herbivory in some regions for the other species (*Q. rubra*, *A. rubrum*, *L. tulipifera* and
310 *Robinia pseudoacacia*; $p < 0.05$); in 22 out of 23 comparisons, herbivory was lower in the
311 pesticide plots.

312
313 *Differences in foliar disease.*—Foliar disease varied according to species and region, but four
314 species, *C. glabra*, *L. tulipifera*, *Q. velutina* and *Q. alba*, tended to have lower disease rates at
315 sites beyond their ranges, although these results were not always statistically significant (Fig. 2).
316 This resulted in migrant plants having somewhat lower foliar disease rates than native plants at
317 many sites. However, it should be noted that *Q. rubra*, which was native at all sites, also had
318 higher disease levels at two of the southern sites ($p < 0.05$). For *A. rubrum*, the other species that
319 was native in all areas, there were no consistent latitudinal patterns.

320
321 *Seedling survival.*—Herbivory tended to reduce survival for most species, but parameter
322 estimates for the effects of herbivory on survival were only statistically significant for three
323 species, *A. rubrum* (mean and 95% CI: 1.56, 0.53 – 2.55), *Q. rubra* (0.78, 0.23 – 1.31) and *Q.*
324 *velutina* (1.03, 0.10 – 1.92; Fig. 3). Foliar disease had a significantly negative effect on survival
325 for *A. rubrum* (2.27, 1.22 – 3.25), *Q. alba* (1.59, 0.62 – 2.47), *Q. rubra* (1.10, 0.59 – 1.60) and *Q.*
326 *velutina* (1.73, 0.70 – 2.70; Fig. 3). A full list of parameter estimates for the survival model are
327 given in Table 3. Even for species for which leaf damage had significant negative effects on
328 survival, survival simulations showed it caused only small reductions in survival at average
329 amounts of herbivory (Fig. 4) and disease (Fig. 5). Seedling survival in pesticide treatments was
330 never significantly higher than in control treatments (Fig. 6), and overall differences were minor.
331 The modeled proportion of seedlings alive after five years was significantly higher beyond range
332 edges for *L. tulipifera* (mean \pm SD for native: 0.003 ± 0.010 compared to migrant: $0.071 \pm$
333 0.055) and although not significant, some species had similar trends, including *Q. velutina*

334 (native: 0.177 ± 0.126 compared to migrant: 0.389 ± 0.136 and *C. glabra* (native: 0.163 ± 0.162
335 compared to migrant: 0.366 ± 0.146).

336

337

DISCUSSION

338 The potential importance of biotic interactions to plant range expansion has received increased
339 attention in recent years, but a lack of empirical evidence of how biotic interactions vary across
340 range edges has precluded understanding how this may affect plant species range expansion in
341 response to climate change. Our results reveal that systematic differences in invertebrate
342 herbivory across range edges are relatively uncommon, but do occur. In contrast, several plants
343 tended to have more foliar disease in regions where they are native than in regions where they
344 are migrant. Within many sites, migrant species also tended to have less disease than native
345 species. However, our analysis found only minor effects of foliar herbivory and disease on
346 seedling survival at common amounts of damage. This is supported by results from the pesticide
347 treatment, which was generally effective in reducing herbivory, but resulted in minor and
348 idiosyncratic responses in survival. Thus, our results suggest that foliar herbivores and disease
349 are unlikely to have strong effects on latitudinal range expansion dynamics of these temperate
350 trees.

351

352 *Foliar herbivory across range edges.*— There were few systematic differences in foliar herbivory
353 across range edges, which demonstrates that commonly occurring abundances of invertebrate
354 herbivores are unlikely to play a consistent role in intra-continental range expansion of these
355 species. Although it is possible that enemy release will occur for particular species (e.g., *L.*
356 *tulipifera*) or in particular forest types, foliar herbivory depended more upon conditions at the
357 site and plot level than upon whether a species was native or migrant. The magnitude of spatial
358 heterogeneity in herbivory between sites is similar to that found by other studies (Adams *et al.*
359 2008; Adams & Zhang 2009); if there are regional trends in herbivory, its signal is easily lost in
360 the high inter-site variability. One explanation for why there are not systematic differences is
361 that diet breadth is especially wide for leaf chewing invertebrates in temperate forests (Forister *et*
362 *al.* 2015).

363

364 *Foliar disease across range edges.*— Several migrant plants tended to have lower levels of foliar
365 disease symptoms outside of their ranges. These findings highlight the relatively higher
366 importance of enemy release from pathogens than from herbivores. The patterns we found are
367 also conservative because our measure of foliar disease includes non-infectious diseases (e.g.,
368 nutrient deficiencies), which are unlikely to be systematically lower beyond a species range.
369 Two of the species that tended to have reduced foliar disease outside of their ranges were *Q. alba*
370 and *Q. velutina*, even though the con-generic *Q. rubra* was common in all regions. This was
371 unexpected, because more closely related plants share more natural enemies, generally
372 facilitating transfer of natural enemies from indigenous relatives to newly arrived plants (Pearse
373 & Hipp 2009; Ness, Rollinson & Whitney 2011; Gilbert, Briggs & Magarey 2015; Parker *et al.*
374 2015), and pathogen host range is often somewhat constrained to host phylogeny (Gilbert &
375 Webb 2007). Thus, the species chosen in this study may lead to especially conservative
376 conclusions about the potential for enemy release from foliar pathogens.

377 The potential for escape from foliar pathogens at range edges is corroborated by other
378 studies on above-ground pathogens (e.g., Alexander *et al.* 2007), although substantially more
379 work has been conducted on differences in plant-soil interactions across range edges (e.g., van
380 Grunsven *et al.* 2010, Stanton-Geddes and Anderson 2011, McCarthy-Neumann and Ibáñez
381 2012). For one of the focal species, *R. pseudoacacia*, negative soil feedbacks are more common
382 within than beyond its range (Callaway *et al.* 2011). Similar patterns are also implied by studies
383 that have found correlations between pathogen load and time since plant introduction (Diez *et al.*
384 2010; Flory & Clay 2013). There is also evidence of reduced negative soil feedback outside of
385 plant ranges from greenhouse experiments (Engelkes *et al.* 2008). These patterns may partially
386 result from migrant seedlings not being near adult con-specifics, which reduced negative plant-
387 soil feedback in the same system as this study (McCarthy-Neumann & Ibáñez 2012). Indeed,
388 even when species encounter the same types of pathogens outside of their range, those strains
389 may be less virulent (Reinhart *et al.* 2010). One potential explanation for why there was a
390 stronger signal of enemy release from pathogens than invertebrate herbivores is that invertebrate
391 herbivores in this system could be more on the generalist range of the spectrum (Forister *et al.*
392 2015) than the comparable pathogens (Barrett *et al.* 2009).

393

394 *Effects of leaf damage on survival.* – The modeled effects of foliar herbivory and foliar disease
395 on seedling survival tended to be small. Although even small responses can have important
396 effects at high levels of damage, herbivory and disease each tended to affect less than 10% of
397 leaf area on average. Thus, even though high levels of leaf damage were likely to kill individual
398 seedlings, the proportion of seedlings that were killed by foliar damage was low. Moreover, the
399 species that were most sensitive to foliar damage did not have large differences in damage across
400 range edges (e.g., *Q. velutina* responded strongly to disease, but it had similar amount of disease
401 in areas where it was native and migrant, whereas *L. tulipifera* had far less disease in areas where
402 it was a migrant, but that had only small and insignificant effects on survival). Our estimates for
403 the effects of foliar damage on survival are somewhat smaller than other researchers have
404 reported (e.g., Meiners et al. 2000, Yamazaki et al. 2009, Cleavitt et al. 2011, Coyle et al. 2014),
405 but are corroborated by similar levels of survival between the control and pesticide treatments,
406 although some caution is warranted, given that two species (*A. rubrum* and *Q. rubra*)
407 experienced negative indirect effects of the pesticide treatment on survival in the field. Although
408 seedlings that experienced vertebrate herbivory had low survival rates, vertebrate herbivory was
409 rare at our study sites. Thus, even though browse damage has the potential to shift competitive
410 hierarchies for temperate and boreal tree species in the transition zone (Fisichelli, Frelich &
411 Reich 2012), it seems unlikely to have much of an effect on colonization success by migrant
412 seedlings in these forests.

413
414 *Implications for range shifts in response to climate change.* – We found that seedlings from non-
415 native species can establish in areas beyond their current ranges, as have several other studies
416 (Kellman 2004; Ibáñez, Clark & Dietze 2009; Samis & Eckert 2009; McCarthy-Neumann &
417 Ibáñez 2012). Although we found cases where biotic interactions systematically varied beyond
418 range edges, commonly observed levels of foliar damage did not translate into substantial effects
419 on seedling survival. Similarly, even in cases where there were large differences in survival
420 across range edges, differences in foliar damage only accounted for very small amounts of these
421 differences. However, it is possible that other types of biotic interactions may be more
422 important; for example, below-ground herbivory was not explicitly measured in this study, but
423 can be an important source of damage to plants (Van der Putten et al. 2001, 2003) and often has
424 stronger effects on mortality than damage to leaves (Zvereva & Kozlov 2012; Dietze & Matthes

425 2014). It will also be important to test for effects on other plant performance metrics; lower
426 growth and reproductive rates beyond range edges can also play a role in determining species
427 distributions (Angert & Schemske 2005). Although much remains to be explored, our findings
428 show that even in cases where biotic interactions vary across range edges, they still may not have
429 important effects on colonization success or range expansion dynamics.

430

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437

438 DATA ACCESSIBILITY

439 Seedling data (foliar damage, planting heights, vertebrate herbivory, etc.) and
440 environmental data (soil moisture, light, temperature, soil nutrients etc.) are available from the
441 Dryad Digital Repository (Katz & Ibáñez 2016).

442

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685
 686 **Table 1.**
 687 Plant species used in transplant experiments and their residency status at each study region.
 688 Species residency status (native, naturalized, or migrant) was determined using Little’s range
 689 maps, FIA data (via the Climate Change Tree Atlas; Prasad et al. 2007- ongoing), and county
 690 data from the USDA Plants database and the Michigan Flora Online. In some cases these data
 691 sources provide conflicting information, which is indicated with an asterisk. The number of
 692 seedlings of each species planted in each region is also included
 693

Species	Species code	Common name	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	acru	Red maple	Native 487	Native 75	Native 282	Native 0
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	quru	Red oak	Native 1937	Native 345	Native 989	Native 315
<i>Quercus alba</i>	qual	White oak	Native 829	Native 140	Migrant/rare* 344	Migrant 187
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	quve	Black oak	Native 777	Migrant/rare* 417	Migrant 417	Migrant 230
<i>Carya glabra</i>	cagl	Pignut hickory	Native 930	Migrant 344	Migrant 344	Migrant 110
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	rops	Black locust	Native/ naturalized * 806	Migrant; planted horticulturally 165	Migrant; planted horticulturally 476	Migrant 270
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	litu	Tulip tree	Native/ naturalized * 836	Migrant 255	Migrant 656	Migrant 255
Total planted			6602	1741	3508	1367

694
 695 **Table 2.**
 696 Description of sites used in the transplant experiment. Environmental variables at the plot and
 697 sub-plot level are given in Supporting Information 4.A: Plot Environmental Characteristics.

Site	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Average number of frost free days	Soil texture	Major vegetation	Average growing season length (days)	Number of plots
A1	-83.673	42.324	175	loam	maple	205	9
A2	-84.023	42.457	167	sandy loam	oak-maple	203	21
A3	-84.012	42.459	169	sandy loam	oak- hickory	199	2
B1	-85.751	44.218	157	sand	oak-maple	187	8
C1	-84.714	45.553	164	loamy sand	aspen- maple	205	5
C2	-84.682	45.568	180	sand	maple- beech	212	7
C3	-84.673	45.559	180	sand	maple	212	3
C4	-84.748	45.556	118	sand	pine-aspen- oak	146	6
D1	-84.141	46.350	161	loamy sand	oak-maple	179	6

698 **Table 3.**

699 Survival model parameters (mean \pm standard deviation) indicate effects on mortality (i.e., higher values indicate higher probability of
 700 death). Parameter estimates that were significantly different from zero (95% CI does not include zero) are in bold, except for the fixed
 701 effects for migratory status, which are in bold if μ_{native} is significantly different from μ_{migrant} .

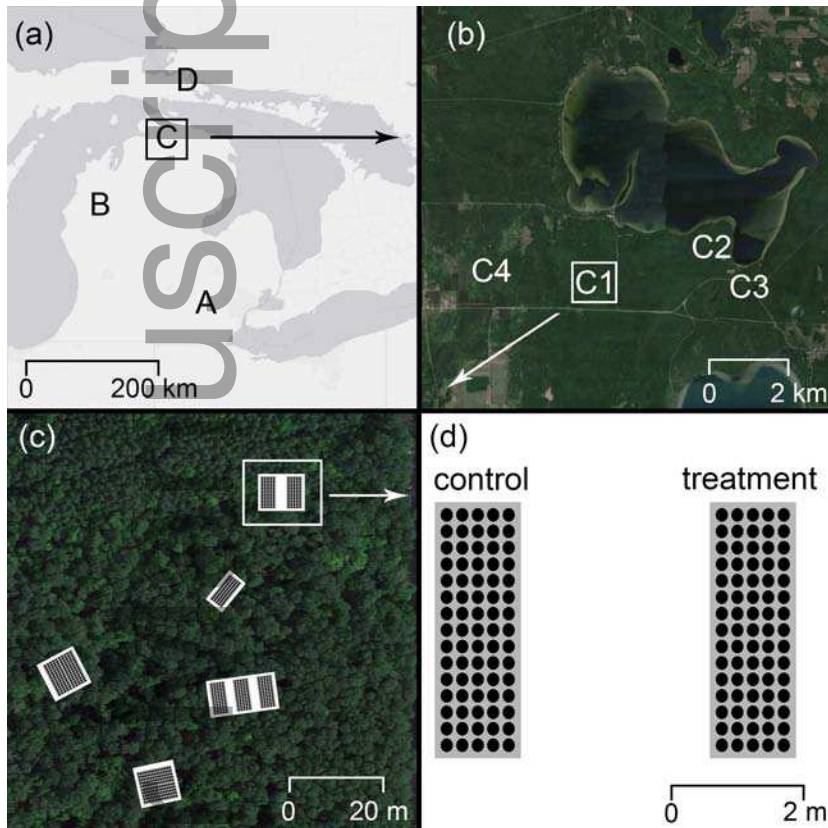
Parameter	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	<i>Quercus alba</i>	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	<i>Carya glabra</i>	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
browse	1.02 \pm 0.60	0.81 \pm 0.27	1.62 \pm 0.49	-1.19 \pm 1.30	2.09 \pm 0.46	0.17 \pm 0.65	0.36 \pm 0.54
disease	2.27 \pm 0.52	1.11 \pm 0.26	1.59 \pm 0.47	1.74 \pm 0.51	0.23 \pm 0.41	0.45 \pm 0.56	1.58 \pm 2.13
herbivory	1.56 \pm 0.52	0.78 \pm 0.28	0.34 \pm 1.00	1.03 \pm 0.46	0.65 \pm 0.48	0.78 \pm 0.43	0.42 \pm 0.71
light	0.95 \pm 0.88	-0.67 \pm 0.53	-0.67 \pm 0.91	-1.57 \pm 0.84	-0.36 \pm 0.84	0.30 \pm 0.75	0.19 \pm 0.76
μ_{native}	-4.06 \pm 0.52	-2.85 \pm 0.38	-3.18 \pm 0.55	-2.91 \pm 0.55	-2.62 \pm 0.72	-1.27 \pm 0.44	-2.13 \pm 0.47
μ_{migrant}	NA	NA	-3.16 \pm 0.54	-3.57 \pm 0.49	-3.34 \pm 0.51	-2.27 \pm 0.41	-2.32 \pm 0.44
number of leaves	-1.67 \pm 0.25	-1.64 \pm 0.14	-1.07 \pm 0.27	-1.62 \pm 0.22	-0.42 \pm 0.12	-0.73 \pm 0.11	-1.52 \pm 0.19
pesticide	0.44 \pm 0.16	0.21 \pm 0.09	-0.16 \pm 0.20	-0.09 \pm 0.25	0.08 \pm 0.09	-0.06 \pm 0.11	0.09 \pm 0.16
planting height	0.03 \pm 0.16	-0.04 \pm 0.09	-0.27 \pm 0.19	0.00 \pm 0.17	-0.05 \pm 0.10	-0.18 \pm 0.12	0.06 \pm 0.15
soil moisture	-0.63 \pm 1.61	-3.57 \pm 0.94	-3.29 \pm 2.21	-0.15 \pm 1.56	-2.63 \pm 1.8	-2.85 \pm 0.98	0.98 \pm 1.47
time of planting	0.61 \pm 0.91	0.59 \pm 0.89	0.81 \pm 0.89	-0.48 \pm 0.90	0.57 \pm 0.83	-0.48 \pm 0.87	-0.99 \pm 0.93

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704 **Fig. 1.**

705 Regions A – D (panel a) contained one to four sites (panel b), which were located in distinct
706 forest types (e.g., sites C1 - C4). Each site had between two and 21 plots (white boxes in panel
707 c). Each plot had between one and three subplots (grey boxes in panel d) to which pesticide or
708 control treatments were applied.



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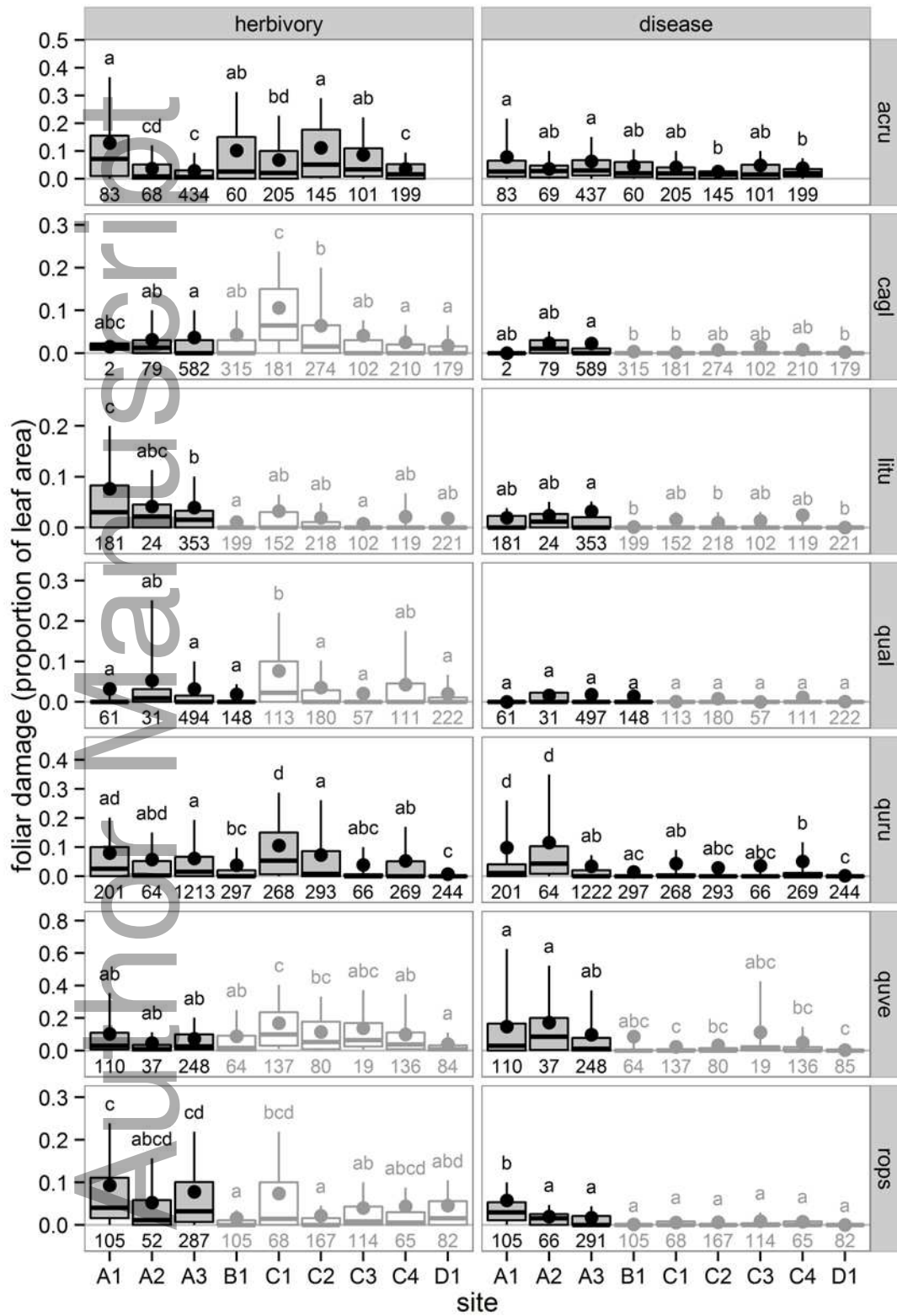
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717 **Fig. 2.**

718 Boxplots of the proportion of leaf area affected by foliar herbivory (column 1) and disease
719 (column 2) in midsummer for each species across the latitudinal gradient, which extended from

720 the southern region (A) to the northernmost region (D). The box consists of the first, second, and
721 third quartiles, the whiskers extend to the 10th and 90th percentiles, the mean is shown with a
722 circle, the sample size is shown below the boxplot for each site, and different letters above the
723 whiskers represent significant differences in foliar herbivory between sites. Boxplot tone
724 represents migratory status (dark gray = native, light gray = migrant). Data from seedlings in
725 experimental treatments are not shown.

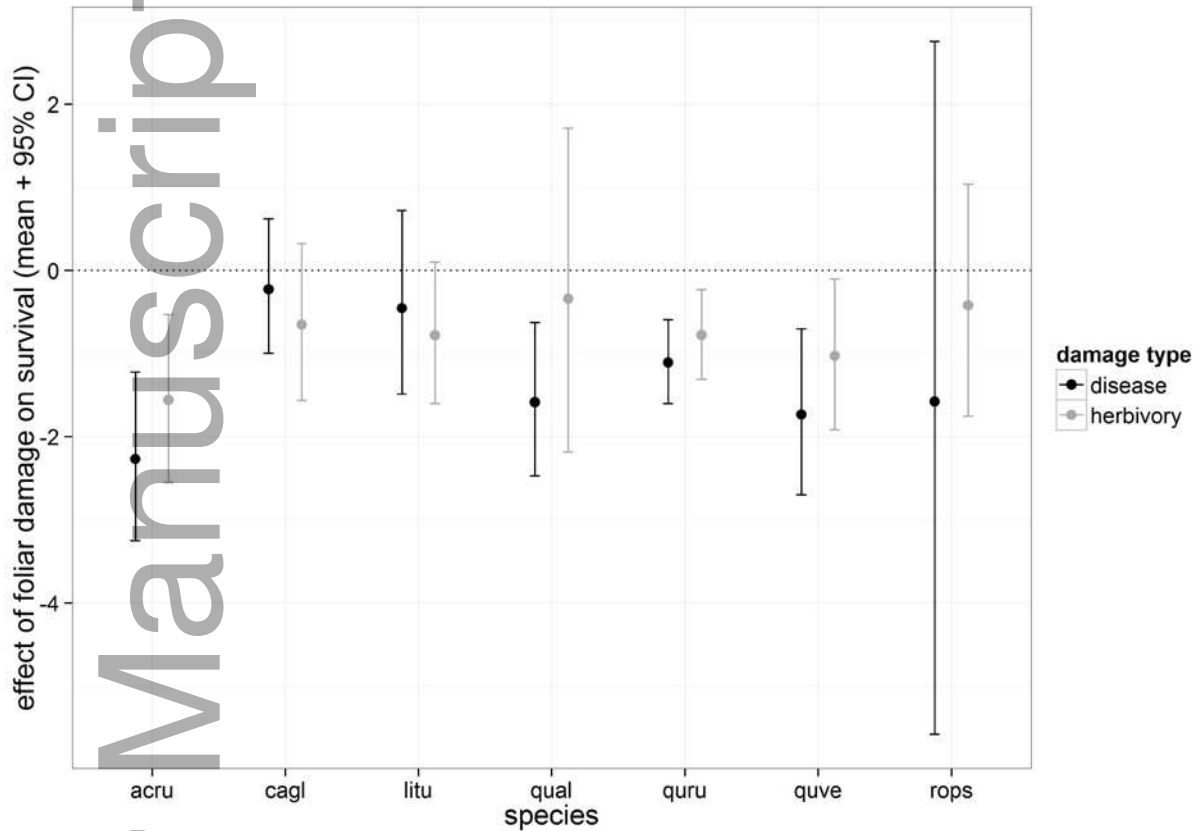
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727 **Fig. 3.**

728 Effects of foliar herbivory and foliar disease on seedling survival (estimates from the mortality
729 model are multiplied by -1). Parameter estimates below 0 indicate a negative effect on survival;
730 95% credible intervals that cross zero are not statistically significant.

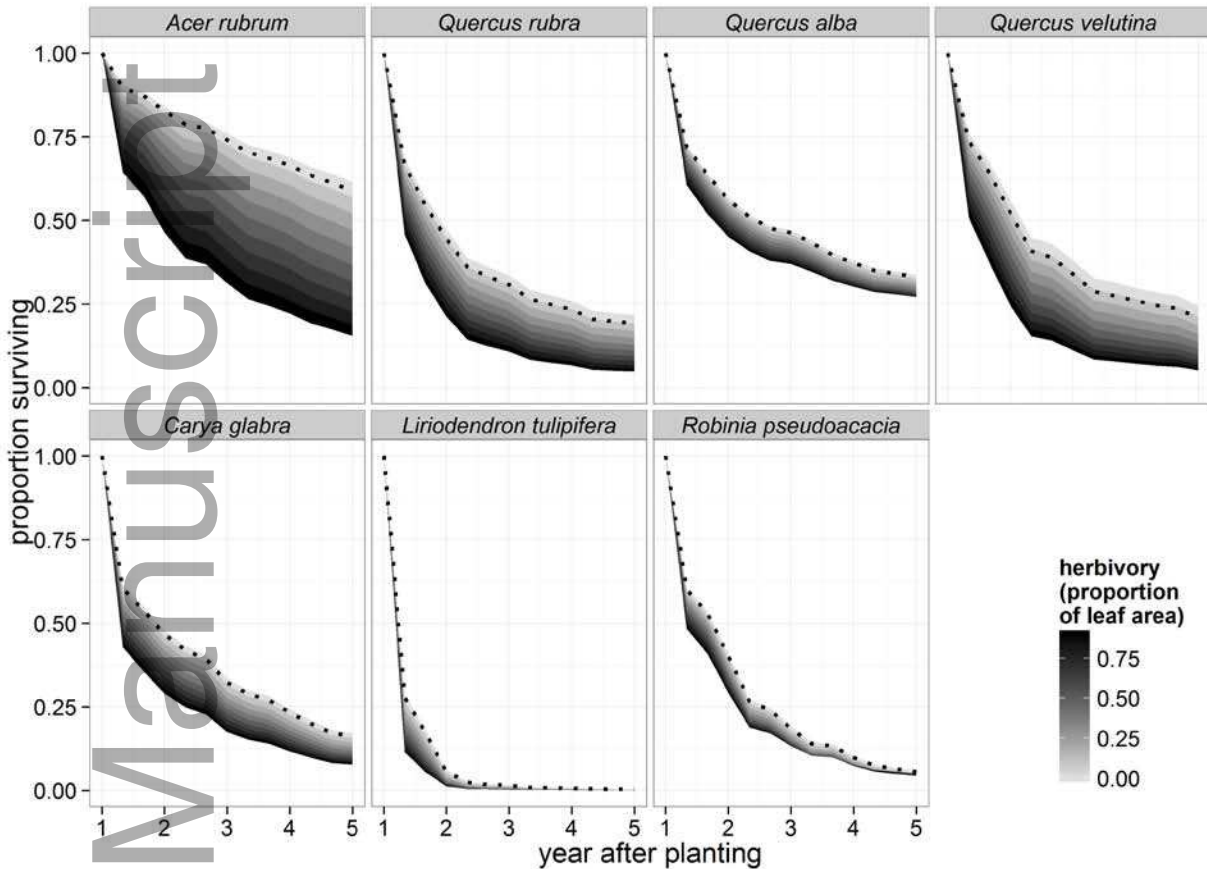


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738 **Fig. 4.**

739 Simulated seedling survival at invertebrate herbivory levels ranging from 0% (light) to 100%
740 (dark). Simulations assumed average environmental conditions, planting height, number of
741 leaves, and spring planting with no foliar disease or vertebrate herbivory. The dotted line shows

742 simulated survival at the average level of observed herbivory across all regions. Simulations
743 begin one year after planting.



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Fig. 5.

749 Simulated seedling survival at disease levels ranging from 0% (light) to 100% (dark).
750 Simulations assumed average environmental conditions, planting height, number of leaves, and
751 spring planting and no herbivory. The dotted line shows simulated survival at the average level
752 of observed foliar damage due to disease across all regions. Simulations begin one year after
753 planting.

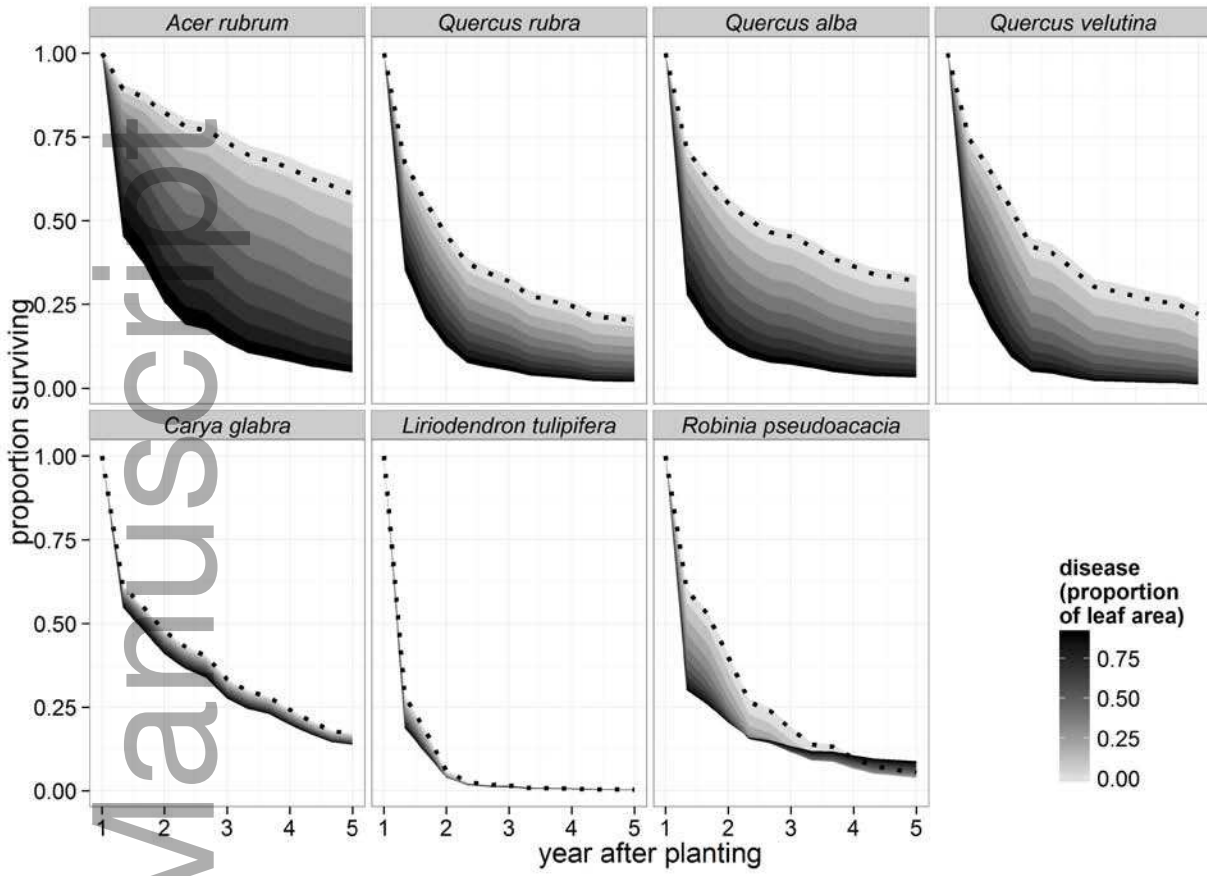


Fig. 6.

Modeled survival after five years for seedlings in control and pesticide treatments (± 1 SD). Survival estimates include the variability associated with the intercept for each treatment in each region and the average effects of herbivory and disease in each region. Survival is estimated at the average conditions for the following covariates: initial seedling height, light availability, and soil moisture. Different letters above different bars denote statistically significant differences and sample sizes are listed below bars.

