Rethinking False Spring Risk: Supplement

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Defining False Spring: An example in one temperate plant community - *methods for calculating FSI in Harvard Forest example*

We collected data for determining biological spring onset using three methods for Harvard Forest. The first method for was from long-term observational data recorded for 33 tree species by John O'Keefe at Harvard Forest from 1990 to 2014 (O'Keefe, 2014). Budburst was defined as 50% green tip emergence. We subsetted this dataset to include only the tree species that were most consistently observed (eight species). The second dataset was from Harvard Forest's PhenoCam data, which are field cameras placed in the forest canopy that take real-time images of plant growth and are programmed to record initial green up. The final set was "First Leaf - Spring Onset" from the Extended Spring Index (SI-X, USA-NPN, 2016a), accessed via the "Spring Indices, Historic Annual" gridded layer of the USA National Phenology Network;s (USA-NPN) Data Visualization tool. The SI-x model was built from historical budburst data from honeysuckle and lilac clones clones around the U.S. combined with daily recordings from local weather stations (USA-NPN, 2016b; Ault *et al.*, 2015a,b; Schwartz *et al.*, 2013; Schwartz, 1997). Through assessing past years' weather and budburst, scientists are able to determine general weather trends that subsequently lead to leaf out. Based on these trends, SI-x values are calculated from daily weather data (USA-NPN, 2016b).

The date of last spring freeze was gathered from the Fisher Meteorological Station which was downloaded from the Harvard Forest web page (data available online[1]). The T_{min} values were used and the last spring freeze was determined from the latest spring date that the temperature reached -2.2°C or below.

PhenoCam data are not available for Harvard Forest until 2008 and observation data is only recorded through

[1]http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/meteorological-hydrological-stations

2014, so this evaluation assesses FSI values from 2008 through 2014.

The FSI values were calculated for each methodology using the formula based on the study performed by Marino et al. (2011).

How Species' Phenological Cues Shape Vegetative Risk - *methods for experiment*

We used data from a growth chamber experiment (Flynn & Wolkovich, 2018) to assess the phenological cue interaction with the duration of vegetative risk. Cuttings for the experiment were made in January 2015 at Harvard Forest (HF, 42.5°N, 72.2°W) and the Station de Biologie des Laurentides in St-Hippolyte, Québec (SH, 45.9°N, 74.0°W). The experiment considered here examined the 3 temperate trees and shrubs used in a fully crossed design of two levels of chilling (field chilling, field chilling plus 30 days at 4 °C), two levels of forcing (20°C/10°C or 15°C/5°C day/night temperatures, such that thermoperiodicity followed photoperiod) and two levels of photoperiod (8 versus 12 hour days) resulting in 12 treatment combinations. Observations on the phenological stage of each cutting were made every 2-3 days over 82 days. Phenology was assessed using a BBCH scale that was modified for trees (Finn *et al.*, 2007). We used the same statistical analyses as the original study: mixed-effects hierarchical models that included warming, photoperiod, and chilling treatments, and all two-way interactions as predictors and species modeled as groups.

The model equation is as from the original study:

$$
\begin{aligned}
y_i \sim N(\alpha_{sp[i]} &+ \beta_{site_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{forcing_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{photoperiod_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{chilling1_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{chilling2_{sp[i]}} \\
&+ \beta_{forcing \times photoperiod_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{forcing \times site_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{photoperiod \times site_{sp[i]}} \\
&+ \beta_{forcing \times chilling1_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{forcing \times chilling2_{sp[i]}} \\
&+ \beta_{photoperiod \times chilling1_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{photoperiod \times chilling2_{sp[i]}} \\
&+ \beta_{site \times chilling1_{sp[i]}} + \beta_{site \times chilling2_{sp[i]}})
\end{aligned}
$$

And the α and each of the 14 β coefficients were modeled at the species level in the original study, as follows:

1. $\beta_{site_{sp}} \sim N(\mu_{site}, {\sigma^2}_{site})$

   ...

14. $\beta_{site \times chilling2_{sp}} \sim N(\mu_{site \times chilling2}, {\sigma^2}_{site \times chilling2})$

Predictable Regional Differences in Climate, Species Responses and False Spring Risk - *climate data and phenology data*

We analyzed five archetypal regions across North America and Europe. We collected phenology data through the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), using their Data Visualization tool to gather Extended Spring Index values (SI-x) by accessing the "Spring Indices, Historic Annual" gridded layer and looking specifically at "First Leaf - Spring Onset" (USA-NPN, 2016a). We looked at each SI-x value for each North American site (i.e. Waterville, ME, Yakima, WA, and Reidsville, NC) from 1981-2016 to evaluate the spread of spring onset dates for those regions. SI-x data is only available for this timeframe and is based off the phenology of *Syringa vulgaris*, so we additionally used modeled plant phenology data in those regions from 1982-2006 (White *et al.*, 2009). For the European sites (i.e. Bamberg, Germany and Lyon, France) we used phenology studies that assessed multiple years of budburst to leafout dates (i.e., 2005-2013, Soudani *et al.* (2012) and 1880-1999, Schaber & Badeck (2005)) using remote-sensing and NDVI (Soudani *et al.*, 2012) and on-the-ground phenological observations for the dominant species in those regions (Schaber & Badeck, 2005). Species included in these studies were *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Betula pendula*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Molinia caeruluea*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Quercus ilex*, *Quercus patraea*, *Quercus robur*, and *Syringa vulgaris*. Using these data, we were able to determine the range of durations of vegetative risk over time. We then collected climate data by downloading Daily Summary climate datasets from the NOAA Climate Data Online tool (data available online[2]). We gathered 50 years of climate data for each location from NOAA, then calculated the number of years that fell below -2.2°C within the budburst to leafout date range for each region.

[2]https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/search?datasetid=GHCND

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