Distribution of epiphytic macrolichens in relation to remnant trees in a multiple-age Douglas-fir forest

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Abstract: Alternatives to clear-cutting are being implemented to increase biodiversity of managed forests in the Pacific Northwest. Lichens are an integral component of old growth, but lichen biomass develops slowly in forests. We evaluated the long-term potential of live tree retention for lichen conservation in Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) forests. We sampled lichen litterfall in a 2-ha stand that contained 200- to 600-year-old remnant trees scattered in a forest composed mostly of 100-year-old trees that established following fire. We used association, principal components, and regression analyses to relate lichen litterfall biomass to the proximity of remnant trees. Two epiphytic lichens were strongly associated with remnant trees: the foliose cyanolichen *Lobaria oregana* (Tuck.) Müll. Arg. and the fruticose green algal lichen *Sphaerophorus globosus* (Hudson) Vainio. Biomass of both species was highest near remnant trees, and biomass was slightly higher within groves of remnant trees than it was at the edges of these groves or near isolated trees. Lichens appear to have persisted on remnant trees through the last fire and are slowly recolonizing younger trees from this source of propagules. Retention of live trees, maintenance of hardwoods, and longer rotation periods have great potential to maintain old-growth-associated lichens in at least some managed forests.

Résumé : Dans la région du nord-ouest du Pacifique, on applique d'autres traitements que la coupe à blanc aux forêts aménagées afin d'augmenter leur biodiversité. Les lichens constituent une partie intégrante des vieux peuplements, mais la biomasse lichénique se développe lentement dans les forêts. Les auteurs ont évalué le potentiel à long terme du maintien des arbres vivants pour la conservation des lichens dans les forêts de sapin de Douglas (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco). Ils ont échantillonné la litière lichénique tombée au sol dans un peuplement de 2 ha qui comprenait des vétérans âgés de 200 à 600 ans, dispersés dans une forêt composée principalement d'arbres âgés de 100 ans, établie après feu. Des analyses d'association, en composante principale et de régression ont été utilisées pour relier la biomasse de la litière tombée au sol à la proximité des vétérans. Deux lichens épiphytes étaient fortement associés aux vétérans : un lichen foliacé à cyanobactéries, le *Lobaria oregana* (Tuck.) Müll. Arg., et un lichen fruticuleux à algues vertes, le *Sphaerophorus globosus* (Hudson) Vainio. La biomasse de chacune de ces deux espèces était la plus élevée près des vétérans, et légèrement plus élevée dans les groupes de vétérans qu'en bordure de ceux-ci ou près des arbres isolés. Les lichens semblent avoir persisté sur les vétérans pendant le dernier incendie et avoir lentement recolonisé, à partir de cette source de propagules, les arbres plus jeunes. Le maintien des arbres vivants, la conservation des feuillus et une révolution plus longue représentent un grand potentiel pour la conservation des lichens associés aux vieux peuplements, du moins dans quelques forêts aménagées.

[Traduit par la Rédaction]

Introduction

Epiphytic lichens are an integral but vulnerable component of many temperate forest ecosystems, where they contribute to nutrient cycles (Pike 1978; Knops et al. 1991), provide food and habitat for animals (Stiles 1978; Carroll 1979; Maser et al. 1985; Hayward and Rosentreter 1994), and constitute a major part of species diversity (Lesica et al. 1991). In general, old forests support higher epiphytic lichen biomass than young forests, and many epiphytic species are closely associated with old growth (McCune 1993; Selva

1994; USDA 1994; Esseen et al. 1996). Human activities can have severe and lasting effects on epiphytic lichens in temperate forests. For example, air pollution and forest management have greatly reduced the abundance and distribution of many lichen species in Europe (Rose 1988, 1992).

The ongoing reassessment of forest management practices in the Pacific Northwest has included discussions of lichen conservation (FEMAT 1993; Rosentreter 1995). Alternatives to clear-cutting, such as the retention of large, live trees in cutting units for the duration of stand rotation, are being implemented to increase structural complexity of managed forest canopies (Franklin 1992; Swanson and Franklin 1992). In contrast to young forests, old-growth Douglas-fir forests in this region support a high biomass and diversity of epiphytic lichens, including many nitrogen-fixing species (Pike et al. 1975; Sillett 1995). Nitrogen fixed by these cyanolichens represents a major input to this nitrogen-limited ecosystem (Pike 1978; Denison 1979; Sollins et al. 1980). Live tree retention may enable old-growth-associated

Received August 6, 1998. Accepted January 28, 1999.

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Fig. 1. Stem map of the Eagle Rock RS in western Oregon. Locations of remnant trees and hardwoods are indicated for the 2-ha stand and a 25 m wide buffer around the perimeter of the stand. Crown projected areas and crown centers are shown for remnant Douglas-fir trees. Elevation contours are drawn at 5-m intervals, beginning with the 700-m contour in the southeastern corner and extending to the 800-m contour in the northwestern corner of the stand. The position of a year-round stream just beyond the eastern boundary is also indicated.

lichens to persist in managed forests, thereby enhancing productivity and biodiversity of these ecosystems. Lichen populations on retained trees could serve as a source of propagules for inoculation of the regenerating forest if the young canopy provides suitable lichen habitat and if lichens can persist on retained trees.

We evaluated the long-term potential of live tree retention for lichen conservation in Douglas-fir forests. Lichen litterfall biomass was compared with the distribution of remnant trees (i.e., >200-year-old survivors of multiple fires) in a natural, multiple-age forest containing predominantly 100-year-old trees. We had two major objectives: (i) to determine if remnant trees influence the composition of lichen litterfall in this stand and (ii) to assess the spatial scale(s) of remnant tree effects on the biomass of old-growth-associated lichen species.

Methods

Study site

The site of this investigation is a 2-ha reference stand near Eagle Rock in the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest, western Oregon (40°47'N, 122°3'W). This stand (hereafter Eagle Rock RS) represents the *Tsuga heterophylla* / *Berberis nervosa* plant association (Hemstrom et al. 1987) of the *Tsuga*

heterophylla Zone (Franklin and Dyrness 1973). Average annual rainfall is 1.9 m with over 90% of the precipitation occurring from October through June (Daly et al. 1994). The average annual temperature is 9°C, with January and July means of 0.5 and 16.5°C, respectively (National Weather Service). Elevation ranges from 700 to 800 m.

Topography is relatively uniform (average slope 40–60%) and south facing in all but two regions of the Eagle Rock RS (Fig. 1). The eastern edge of the stand grades into a southeast-facing riparian slope. A small ridge adjoining a seep traverses the western edge of the stand. Vegetation on the lower portion of the ridge is particularly distinctive. It grades into the drier *Pseudotsuga menziesii* – *Tsuga heterophylla* / *Berberis nervosa* plant association (Hemstrom et al. 1987). The canopy is sparse here, and cyanolichens cover lower trunks and branches of conifers in the well-illuminated understory. Throughout the rest of the stand, however, cyanolichens are relatively scarce in the understory, attaining much greater abundance higher up in the conifers and on hardwoods (see Discussion).

Canopy vegetation in the Eagle Rock RS is heterogeneous because of a complex fire history (Goslin 1997). A series of three moderate-intensity fires occurred in 1848, 1870, and 1892. Fire intensity was higher in some portions of the stand than others, killing large trees in several areas. Some incense cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens* Torr., 1.5/ha) and western redcedar (*Thuja plicata* Donn., 0.5/ha) survived the fires, but 93% (26/ha) of the remnant trees are Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco;

distance variables include three measures of distance between litterfall plot centers and the nearest remnant Douglas-fir tree trunk center (DTRUNK), crown center (DCENTER), and crown edge (DEDGE). Single tree size variables include diameter at breast height (DBH), total height (HEIGHT), crown area (AREA), and crown volume (VOLUME) of the remnant tree with the nearest crown center. Multiple tree variables incorporate information from multiple trees without accounting for distances to individual trees. These variables address issues of spatial scale, however, by using incremental search radii to determine inclusion of remnant trees. We calculated basal area variables by summing basal areas of all remnant trees within fixed radius plots of 5–25 m centered on litterfall plots (BA5, BA10, BA15, BA20, BA25). We included remnant trees on the basis of whether their crown center, rather than their trunk center, fell within the search radius. Basal area measures were calculated using a program written by B. Marks. We summed surface areas of those portions of projected crown polygons that fell within intercepting search radii of 5 and 10 m centered on litterfall plots (O5AREA, O10AREA). Using the same approach, we estimated the amount of crown volume falling within search radii of 5 and 10 m (O5VOLUME, O10VOLUME). These last two variables assume that crown volume of each remnant tree is evenly distributed over its projected crown polygon.

Statistical analyses

We used the procedure CROSSTABS in SPSS/PC+ (SPSS, Inc. 1988) to perform association analyses. These analyses tested whether individual lichen species occurred close to a particular kind of tree more or less often than expected by chance. For each kind of tree (i.e., remnant Douglas-fir, young conifers, and hardwoods by species), we divided litterfall plots into two categories: those with plot centers within 5 m of a tree and those with plot centers over 5 m away from the nearest tree. DCENTER was used for remnant trees and distance to nearest trunk was used for hardwood trees. A 2×2 contingency table was generated for each tree – lichen species pair. The likelihood ratio G (Sokal and Rohlf 1995) was used as the test statistic.

We explored potential effects of remnant trees on epiphytic lichen distribution in the Eagle Rock RS by relating proximity variables to lichen litterfall biomass via regression analysis. Average biomass values (g/m^2) of individual lichen species in each litterfall plot were used as the dependent variables. When necessary, dependent variables were square-root transformed prior to analysis to alleviate positive skewness and normalize residuals. Because there was strong multicollinearity among the proximity variables, we used principal component analysis (PCA) to derive orthogonal linear combinations, or components, of these variables (McCune and Mefford 1995). The amount of variation extracted by a component was calculated as its eigenvalue divided by 16, the number of proximity variables used in the PCA. Significant components (eigenvalues >1) were then used as independent variables in regression analysis. Interpretation of these independent variables was based on correlations (r) between the original proximity variables and the principal components themselves. We applied multiple-regression analysis to independent variables and a categorical variable representing the 14 litterfall plots located on the anomalous lower ridge (see Study site section above). Use of this categorical variable in multiple regression allowed us to assess the amount of variation in lichen litterfall biomass attributable to the distinctive environment of the lower ridge without reducing either sample size or total variation explained by the analysis.

Contour plots of lichen biomass and independent variables across the Eagle Rock RS were generated with SigmaPlot for Windows (Jandal Corp. 1994). In these plots, a 5 m square grid was interpolated from the original 10 m square grid by an inverse distance weighting method such that one quarter of the grid points

coincided with litterfall plot centers. We used interpolation to smooth contour lines by placing less emphasis on distant points.

Results

Fifty macrolichen species were encountered in the 231 litterfall plots (Table 1). Two species dominated epiphyte assemblages, contributing over 4 kg/ha to litterfall: the pendant green algal lichen *Alectoria sarmentosa* and the foliose cyanolichen *Lobaria oregana*. Six other species also occurred in most of the plots (*Hypogymnia enteromorpha*, *Hypogymnia imshaugii*, *Hypogymnia inactiva*, *Platismatia glauca*, *Platismatia herrei*, and *Sphaerophorus globosus*), but these species each contributed less than 1 kg/ha to litterfall. Only one species, *Platismatia glauca*, was found in every plot. Fourteen species were found in only one or two plots. About one third of total lichen litterfall biomass was contributed by cyanolichens. Finally, bryophytes were sparse in the forest canopy; there were no thick moss mats in the crowns of several remnant trees that we surveyed.

Association analyses revealed several significant associations between lichen species and particular kinds of trees (Table 1). Six species (*Bryoria friabilis*, *Letharia vulpina*, *Lobaria oregana*, *Lobaria scrobiculata*, *Sphaerophorus globosus*, and *Sticta beauvoisii*) were positively associated with remnant Douglas-fir trees, occurring more frequently in litterfall plots near (<5 m) remnant trees than in plots farther away from remnant trees. Eight cyanolichen species (*Lobaria oregana*, *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *Lobaria scrobiculata*, *Peltigera collina*, *Peltigera neopolydactyla*, *Pseudocyphellaria anthraspis*, *Pseudocyphellaria crocata*, and *Sticta beauvoisii*) were positively associated with hardwood species. No lichens were associated with young conifers. Neither total lichen biomass nor lichen species richness were associated with particular kinds of trees. Only two spatial associations were highly significant ($p < 0.001$): those among remnant Douglas-fir trees and both *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus* (Table 1). Additional analyses focused on these two associations.

Many of the variables describing the proximity of remnant trees to litterfall plots were significantly correlated with biomass of *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus* (Table 2). Biomass of both species decreased with increasing distance from the nearest remnant tree. A scatterplot of *Lobaria oregana* biomass versus DEDGE clearly illustrates this trend (Fig. 3). There were no significant correlations between biomass of either species and size of the nearest remnant tree. Multiple-tree variables were significantly correlated biomass of both species, but correlations were highest for variables within 5 or 10 m of litterfall plot centers. The significant correlation of *Lobaria oregana* biomass with the categorical variable “lower ridge” indicates that biomass of this lichen was generally higher here than elsewhere in the reference stand. The first and third principal components were also significantly correlated with biomass of both species (see below).

Severe multicollinearity among the proximity variables was eliminated by PCA, which extracted three significant components accounting for 80% of the total variation in these 16 variables (Table 3). Eleven proximity variables were strongly correlated ($r > 0.5$) with the first component

Table 1. Summary of macrolichen litterfall composition in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon.

	Biomass (g/ha)		%	Spatial
	Mean	SE	Frequency	associations
Cyanolichens				
<i>Fuscopannaria saubinetii</i>	0.45	0.37	0.9	
<i>Lobaria oregana</i>	4026.28	454.26	90.0	rPM**, CN*
<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>	715.99	268.91	24.7	AC*, CN*
<i>Lobaria scrobiculata</i>	19.47	15.97	2.2	rPM*
<i>Nephroma helveticum</i>	0.14	0.16	0.4	
<i>Nephroma laevigatum</i>	0.10	0.10	0.4	
<i>Nephroma occultum</i>	0.48	0.37	0.9	
<i>Peltigera collina</i>	3.82	3.19	0.9	AM*
<i>Peltigera neopolydactyla</i>	0.86	0.84	0.4	AM*
<i>Pseudocyphellaria anomala</i>	15.23	5.97	9.5	
<i>Pseudocyphellaria anthraspis</i>	37.72	17.54	4.3	CC*, CN*
<i>Pseudocyphellaria crocata</i>	0.10	0.10	0.4	AM*
<i>Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis</i>	6.03	5.24	1.3	
<i>Sticta beauvoisii</i>	1.83	1.62	0.9	rPM*
Foliose chlorolichens				
<i>Ahtiana pallidula</i>	0.34	0.26	0.9	
<i>Esslingeriana idahoensis</i>	14.54	5.13	6.5	
<i>Hypogymnia apinnata</i>	19.26	6.13	4.8	
<i>Hypogymnia enteromorpha</i>	887.62	40.58	99.6	
<i>Hypogymnia imshaugii</i>	509.61	27.91	97.0	
<i>Hypogymnia inactiva</i>	980.15	49.06	97.8	
<i>Hypogymnia metaphysodes</i>	4.06	1.57	3.9	
<i>Hypogymnia occidentalis</i>	11.71	5.03	3.0	
<i>Hypogymnia physodes</i>	14.02	3.30	9.5	
<i>Hypogymnia rugosa</i>	0.07	0.05	0.4	
<i>Hypogymnia tubulosa</i>	7.48	2.25	6.5	
<i>Parmelia pseudosulcata</i>	1.52	0.63	3.0	
<i>Parmelia saxatilis</i>	2.34	1.26	2.6	
<i>Parmelia sulcata</i>	17.19	9.84	5.2	
<i>Parmeliopsis hyperopta</i>	0.03	0.05	0.4	
<i>Platismatia glauca</i>	967.16	53.88	100.0	
<i>Platismatia herrei</i>	193.74	18.48	52.8	
<i>Platismatia stenophylla</i>	80.47	9.27	43.3	
<i>Tuckermannopsis chlorophylla</i>	17.29	3.35	17.3	
<i>Tuckermannopsis orbata</i>	31.07	5.03	26.8	
Pendant fruticose lichens				
<i>Alectoria sarmentosa</i>	4734.76	322.63	99.6	
<i>Alectoria vancouverensis</i>	26.28	9.63	6.1	
<i>Bryoria capillaris</i>	24.39	5.50	16.5	
<i>Bryoria friabilis</i>	76.58	11.68	43.7	rPM*
<i>Bryoria fuscescens</i>	9.34	3.82	5.6	
<i>Bryoria pseudofuscescens</i>	6.89	2.83	4.8	
<i>Bryoria</i> sp. A	13.57	5.13	10.4	
<i>Nodobryoria oregana</i>	57.84	12.41	33.3	
<i>Usnea</i> spp.	341.36	47.17	59.7	
Other fruticose lichens				
<i>Cladonia</i> spp.	4.65	2.20	2.6	
<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	0.31	0.26	0.9	
<i>Letharia vulpina</i>	1.48	1.05	0.9	rPM*
<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>	0.24	0.26	0.4	
<i>Sphaerophorus globosus</i>	395.27	62.04	61.5	rPM**

Note: Significant positive associations between lichens and tree species (rPM, remnant *Pseudotsuga menziesii*; AC, *Acer circinatum*; AM, *Acer macrophyllum*; CC, *Castanopsis chrysophylla*; CN, *Cornus nuttallii*) are shown using the following symbols: *, $p < 0.01$; **, $p < 0.001$.

Table 2. Correlation coefficients (r) between biomass of two lichen species and 16 variables describing the proximity of remnant Douglas-fir trees to litterfall plots in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon ($n = 231$ plots).

	<i>Lobaria oregana</i>	<i>Sphaerophorus globosus</i>
Single-tree distance measures		
DTRUNK	-0.420**	-0.251**
DCENTER	-0.490**	-0.300**
DEDGE	-0.486**	-0.304**
Single-tree size measures		
DBH	0.006	0.102
HEIGHT	-0.032	0.066
AREA	0.005	0.143
VOLUME	0.021	0.126
Multiple-tree measures		
O5AREA	0.508**	0.472**
O10AREA	0.474**	0.304**
O5VOLUME	0.464**	0.486**
O10VOLUME	0.432**	0.305**
BA5	0.394**	0.521**
BA10	0.414**	0.265**
BA15	0.266**	0.126
BA20	0.172*	0.050
BA25	0.116	0.058
Principal components		
PC1	0.482**	0.360**
PC2	0.094	0.102
PC3	0.236**	0.342**
"Lower ridge"	0.345**	0.036

Note: Principal components were derived from a PCA of 16 proximity variables. "Lower ridge" is a categorical variable representing 14 plots from the anomalous southwest corner of the stand. Significant correlations are indicated by the following symbols: *, $p < 0.01$; **, $p < 0.001$.

Table 3. First three principal components from analysis of 16 proximity variables ($n = 231$ plots).

Component	Eigenvalue	% of Variation
PC1	8.03	50.19
PC2	3.07	19.16
PC3	1.71	10.67

(PC1), four with the second component (PC2), and two with the third component (PC3; Table 4). PC1 represented the proximity of litterfall plots to the nearest remnant tree or trees. The highest values of PC1 occurred close to remnant trees, while the lowest values occurred far from remnant trees (Fig. 4). PC2 represented the size of the nearest remnant tree. PC3 represented an interior to edge gradient: highest values occurred in the centers of remnant tree groves (i.e., areas with several remnant trees within 20–25 m), and lowest values occurred near the edges of these groves or near isolated trees (Fig. 5). PC3 contained only that portion

Table 4. Correlation coefficients (r) between 16 proximity variables and the first three principal components ($n = 231$ plots).

	PC1	PC2	PC3
Single-tree distance measures			
DTRUNK	0.854	0.284	-0.052
DCENTER	0.902	0.241	0.041
DEDGE	0.914	0.090	0.042
Single-tree size measures			
DBH	-0.078	0.804	0.127
HEIGHT	-0.155	0.777	0.181
AREA	-0.044	0.848	-0.118
VOLUME	-0.124	0.940	-0.024
Multiple-tree measures			
O5AREA	-0.848	-0.008	-0.454
O10AREA	-0.941	0.016	-0.054
O5VOLUME	-0.823	0.144	-0.422
O10VOLUME	-0.904	0.197	-0.026
BA5	-0.649	-0.009	-0.494
BA10	-0.858	-0.035	0.002
BA15	-0.745	-0.007	0.446
BA20	-0.684	-0.055	0.628
BA25	-0.571	-0.036	0.642

of the variation in BA20 and BA25 that was uncorrelated with PC1 (Table 4).

Multiple regression analysis showed that PC1 (hereafter the "nearest remnant effect") and PC3 (hereafter the "grove effect") accounted for about one quarter of the variation in litterfall biomass of both *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus* (Table 5). For *Lobaria oregana*, the nearest remnant effect was much stronger than the grove effect. Biomass of both species was highest near remnant trees, and biomass was slightly higher within groves of remnant trees than it was at the edges of these groves or near isolated trees. Lichen biomass was not correlated with variation in the size of remnant trees. The distinctive environment of the lower ridge accounted for almost 17% of the variation in *Lobaria oregana* biomass, but it was unrelated to the biomass of *Sphaerophorus globosus*. A contour plot clearly shows the close association of *Lobaria oregana* with remnant trees (Fig. 6). Biomass of this species was very low (<0.1 g/m²) in areas lacking remnant trees, except for the lower ridge, where it was high (>1 g/m²) even where no remnant trees occurred within 20 m. Nevertheless, *Lobaria oregana* biomass in the lower ridge was still higher near remnant trees (Fig. 3).

Discussion

Litterfall as a canopy signal

The close relationship between litterfall biomass and standing crop of epiphytic lichens in Douglas-fir forests allowed us to rapidly survey canopy lichen biomass across 2 ha of heterogeneous forest without directly sampling from tree crowns. The litterfall method was originally intended for use in among-stand comparisons of lichen biomass because it yields accurate estimates of stand-level biomass for

Fig. 3. Scatterplot of *Lobaria oregana* litterfall biomass vs. the proximity variable DEDGE. The solid line is the least-squares linear regression line ($r^2 = 0.41$) for 215 litterfall plots, excluding 14 plots from the lower ridge and 2 plots from the riparian slope (see Discussion). Plots to the left of the broken line occurred within projected crown areas of remnant Douglas-fir trees. The Y-axis is on a square-root scale.

Fig. 4. Contour plot of the 5th, 50th, 65th, 80th, and 95th percentiles of the independent variable PC1 (the nearest remnant effect) in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon. Locations of remnant Douglas-fir crown centers are indicated by solid circles.

many species (McCune 1994). Our data demonstrate that the method can also be used to assess within-stand distribution patterns of abundant species. Litterfall deposition beneath a tree crown is probably too variable to permit accurate esti-

mates of lichen biomass for individual trees, but the bulk of lichen thalli falling from a tree crown are probably deposited within the projected area of that crown. Proximity variables accounting for crown asymmetry (e.g., DCENTER and

Fig. 5. Contour plot of the 5th, 50th, 65th, 80th, and 95th percentiles of the independent variable PC3 (the grove effect) in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon. Locations of remnant Douglas-fir crown centers are indicated by solid circles.

Table 5. Proportion of variation (adjusted r^2) explained by variables in multiple regression analysis of lichen litterfall plots ($n = 231$) in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon.

Lichen species	PC1	PC2	PC3	Lower ridge	Total variation	P
<i>Lobaria oregana</i>	0.229	—	0.030	0.168	0.434	<0.0001
<i>Sphaerophorus globosus</i>	0.126	—	0.114	—	0.240	<0.001

Note: "Lower ridge" is a categorical variable representing 14 plots in the anomalous southwestern corner of the stand. PC1 (the nearest remnant effect), PC2, and PC3 (the grove effect) represent independent variables derived from principal components analysis of the 16 proximity variables.

DEDGE) yielded substantially higher correlations with lichen biomass than those relating only to locations of tree trunks (e.g., DTRUNK).

Remnant tree effects

Remnant Douglas-fir trees influenced the composition of lichen litterfall more than any other kind of tree in the Eagle Rock RS. Our analyses revealed two independent spatial scales of remnant tree effects on biomass of *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus*: the nearest remnant effect and the grove effect. The nearest remnant effect is clearly visible in the contour plot of *Lobaria oregana* litterfall where lichen biomass diminishes rapidly with increasing distance from individual crowns (Fig. 6). The simplest explanation for this effect is that both species are most abundant on remnant trees and that litterfall deposition beneath source trees accounts for much of this pattern. However, limited dispersal of both species from remnant trees into the regenerating canopy has also occurred because we found thalli growing on trunks and branches of young conifers and hardwoods.

For both species, correlations with multiple-tree variables diminished with increasing search radii, but this decline was more drastic for *Sphaerophorus globosus*. This suggests that *Sphaerophorus globosus* litterfall is deposited closer to the source tree than *Lobaria oregana* litterfall (see Table 2). *Sphaerophorus globosus* occurred primarily on the trunks and inner branches of remnant trees while *Lobaria oregana* was more widespread, occurring abundantly on branchlets in the outer crown. The effect of remnant trees on *Lobaria oregana* biomass clearly extends well beyond the crown edge (see Fig. 3), a pattern attributable, in part, to successful colonization of young trees by *Lobaria oregana*.

If some lichens are largely restricted to remnant trees, these populations may be relicts from the intact forest canopy that existed prior to the fires. Alternatively, these species may have colonized remnant trees since the fires. Two pieces of evidence point to the former possibility. First, epiphyte assemblages in large trees are resistant to moderate levels of disturbance (Sillett 1995), and some cyanolichens

Fig. 6. Contour plot of *Lobaria oregana* litterfall biomass (g/m^2) in the Eagle Rock RS, western Oregon. Contour intervals represent a doubling series of litterfall biomass: 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0 g/m^2 . Locations of remnant Douglas-fir crown centers are indicated by solid circles.

can acclimate to changing environments in tree crowns (Sillett 1994). Second, we found healthy populations of three old-growth-associated cyanolichens (*Nephroma occultum*, *Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis*, and *Sticta beauvoisii*) while climbing remnant trees scattered throughout the stand. These species are scarce or absent in even-aged Douglas-fir forests less than a century old (Neitlich 1993). Potential reasons for their scarcity in younger forests include dispersal limitations (Sillett et al. 1999) and (or) slow growth combined with poor competitive abilities of juvenile thalli (Scheidegger 1995; Gauslaa and Solhaug 1998). Regardless of the cause, these species would not have been able to thoroughly recolonize the Eagle Rock RS had their populations been completely destroyed by the last fire.

The grove effect on biomass of *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus* is attributable to edge effects. Recall that litterfall biomass of both species was slightly higher within groves of remnant trees than on the edges of groves or near isolated trees. There are few differences in lichen biomass between the forest interior and clearcut edge of humid old-growth Douglas-fir stands, but the drier environment of the Eagle Rock RS might lead to more pronounced edge effects in the canopy, especially in the absence of thick moss mats (Sillett 1995). Exposed trees in the Eagle Rock RS provide fewer suitable habitats for *Lobaria oregana* and *Sphaerophorus globosus* than more sheltered trees within groves.

Hardwood effects

Factors that affect epiphytic lichen habitat (e.g., crown architecture, microclimate, bark chemistry, and bark texture)

overlap broadly between tree species. Consequently, few (if any) lichens are truly restricted to a single kind of tree in temperate forests (Schmitt and Slack 1990). Many of the most abundant lichens in the Eagle Rock RS (e.g., *Alectoria sarmentosa*, *H. enteromorpha*, *H. imshaugii*, *H. inactiva*, *Platismatia glauca*, *Platismatia herrei*) were not associated with particular kinds of trees. They occurred on a wide variety of substrates throughout the stand. Associations between several cyanolichens (e.g., *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *Peltigera* spp., and *Pseudocyphellaria* spp.) and hardwoods reflect preferences of these epiphytes for habitat conditions more prevalent on hardwoods than on conifers (Bates 1992; Kuusinen 1994). Furthermore, epiphytic cyanolichens tend to colonize hardwoods more quickly than conifers (Sillett and Neitlich 1996), and cyanolichen diversity in young conifer forests can be high in canopy gaps containing hardwoods (Neitlich and McCune 1997).

Topographic effects

The highest biomass of *Lobaria oregana* in the Eagle Rock RS occurred in two areas of the stand possessing distinctive topography: the lower ridge and a trough within the riparian slope (Fig. 6). The lower ridge was the only area of the stand where cyanolichens, including *Lobaria oregana*, were abundant on the lower trunks and branches of young conifers. Our regression analyses could not determine the cause of *Lobaria oregana* abundance on the lower ridge, but we suspect a strong role of dispersal effects. A dense grove of remnant trees in the southwestern corner of the stand represents a propagule source that finds its sink on the leeward slope of the ridge; prevailing winds are from the southwest.

A secondary source of *Lobaria oregana* propagules are several hardwoods (see Fig. 1), whose crowns may have provided suitable habitat for its initial establishment on the lower ridge. The typically low abundance of *Lobaria oregana* and other epiphytic cyanolichens in dense, young forests has been attributed to low light availability (Rose 1992), an unfavorable moisture regime (Franklin et al. 1981), or a shortage of suitable substrates (Esseen et al. 1996). Recent experiments, however, demonstrate that particular substrates and microclimates found only in old growth are not essential for establishment of *Lobaria oregana* in a forest canopy. In the western Oregon Cascades, it is capable of rapid establishment and growth on smooth-barked branches of young conifers as long as there is an adequate source of propagules (Sillett et al. 1999).

The other area of the stand with very high *Lobaria oregana* litterfall biomass ($>2 \text{ g/m}^2$) was located within an east-facing trough along the riparian slope (compare Figs. 1 and 6). The two nearest remnant trees are located on the edge of an area that burned in 1870 but was unaffected by the 1892 fire (Goslin 1997). We found large populations of *Lobaria oregana* and other cyanolichens (e.g., *Sticta beauvoisii*) in the crowns of these trees. Canopy humidity is higher here than elsewhere in the stand because of the proximity of a year-round stream located just beyond the eastern boundary of the mapped area (Fig. 1). Abundance of epiphytic cyanolichens is typically higher in riparian areas than in drier sites located farther away from streams (Sillett and Neitlich 1996). Thus, elevated humidity probably contributed to the unusually high *Lobaria oregana* biomass in this portion of the Eagle Rock RS, which is otherwise south facing and far removed from riparian influence.

Management implications

The cyanolichen *Lobaria oregana* is a major nitrogen source in some old-growth Douglas-fir forests (Pike 1978; Denison 1979; Sollins et al. 1980). Maintenance of this species and other cyanolichens in managed forests will increase both biodiversity and ecosystem productivity. Unfortunately, cyanolichen colonization of regenerating forests is a slow process; even a century after the last major fire, *Lobaria oregana* is still most abundant in the vicinity of remnant trees. The generality of this result from the Eagle Rock RS is supported by a recent study that found a similar pattern in thirteen Douglas-fir forest stands: cyanolichen biomass was 233% higher in stands with remnant trees than in those without remnant trees (Peck and McCune 1997). *Lobaria oregana* slowly invades regenerating forest canopies by dispersal from remnant tree crowns. Its persistence on remnant trees after fire indicates that *Lobaria oregana* populations on remnant trees can serve as a long-term source of propagules in managed forests.

Our results suggest that cyanolichen conservation in at least some managed forests will be facilitated by recently implemented silvicultural practices in the Pacific Northwest. One stand-level component of silviculture being reconsidered is the retention level of live trees in cutting units (Gillis 1990). We expect large, retained trees to mimic remnant trees in terms of their resident epiphytes. Like remnant trees, retained trees will continue to harbor epiphyte populations that can then inoculate younger trees. Retaining groves of

live trees rather than scattered, isolated trees may improve the chances for cyanolichen persistence in retained tree crowns because of more favorable canopy microclimates within groves. However, our data indicate that the nearest remnant effect is much stronger than the grove effect for *Lobaria oregana*. Recent experiments also demonstrated that dispersal, not microclimate, is the major factor limiting development of *Lobaria oregana* populations in Douglas-fir forests of the western Oregon Cascades (Sillett et al. 1999). Therefore, retaining scattered, isolated trees may lead to more effective dispersal of this species over a broader area.

In addition to live tree retention, a number of other silvicultural practices will contribute to cyanolichen conservation in managed forests. Lengthening rotation ages from 60–100 years to over 100 years will improve chances of successful dispersal and establishment of cyanolichens in regenerating forests. Douglas-fir forests 140–150 years old often have considerable cyanolichen biomass in the canopy (Neitlich 1993; Sillett and McCune 1998). Cyanolichen recruitment is likely to be patchy in the regenerating forest, but some areas will develop a high cyanolichen biomass relatively quickly, much like the lower ridge in the Eagle Rock RS. Maintaining hardwoods will facilitate cyanolichen recovery in managed forests because cyanolichen biomass and diversity can often develop more quickly on hardwoods than on conifers (Neitlich and McCune 1997; Sillett and Neitlich 1996). These populations will serve as secondary sources of propagules for the inoculation of young conifers. Finally, protection of the riparian zone with riparian buffers (Swanson and Franklin 1992) will contribute to cyanolichen conservation because epiphytic cyanolichen biomass is highest near streams or other humid sites (Sillett and Neitlich 1996).

Acknowledgements

We thank Edward LeBrun, Becca Kolasky, Lewis Goslin, Suzanne Remillard, Dana Blumenthal, Michael LeMaster, Mark Woodward, Coulter Rose, and Andi Eicher for assistance with field work. Fred Rhoades, Trevor Goward, Scott Sillett, Tom Spies, Bruce McCune, George Carroll, Bill Denison, and an anonymous reviewer provided constructive comments on the manuscript. Bruce McCune and Peter Neitlich assisted with the identification of lichens. Bruce McCune and Scott Sillett provided advice on statistical analyses. Financial support was provided by a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship and the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service.

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