

May 4, 2024

Dear *Oikos* editors:

I am writing to express our interest in submitting our manuscript, “Changes in foliar chemistry and nutrient resorption in northern hardwood forests in response to long-term experimental nitrogen and phosphorus addition” for consideration by *Oikos*. In our study, we compared community-level foliar and litter nutrient concentrations and resorption efficiency over time in a long-term nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) fertilization study across 10 forest stands at three sites in New Hampshire. All authors have read the manuscript and agree to its submission.

Overall, foliar and litter nutrient concentrations and resorption efficiency indicated co-limitation of N and P in these forests, which is consistent with the latest interpretation of our tree-growth results. Temperate forests are often assumed to be primarily N-limited; our results add to the growing body of literature suggesting that co-limitation may be more prevalent than once thought. In addition to insights on co-limitation by N and P and mechanisms thereof, we also observed biogeochemical interactions among N and P and base cations calcium (Ca) and potassium (K). While decreases in Ca and K concentrations with N fertilization are likely explained by dilution due to the addition of a limiting nutrient, increases in Ca and K with P addition were not expected and may indicate coupling of Ca and K with P that is worth further investigation.

Our study takes place within the Multiple Element Limitation in Northern Hardwood Ecosystems (MELNHE) study. With annual fertilization first occurring in 2011, this study is now the world’s longest-running factorial N x P experiment in temperate forests. Our investigation of foliar and litter chemistry over time in this experiment is therefore the longest record possible in this forest type. Due to the long-term nature of this experiment, you may notice a relatively high self-citation rate as we situate our current study and interpret results within the context of earlier findings.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and thank you kindly for considering our submission.

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