Re: "Treatment effects of nitrogen and phosphorus addition on foliar traits in six northern hardwood tree species" (Ms. No. OECO-D-24-00124R1)
Decision: Accept, subject to authors carrying out corrections

Dear Dr. Yanai,

Congratulations! The Handling Editor who reviewed your manuscript has recommended that your paper be accepted for publication in Oecologia pending minor revision (see comments below). I concur with this recommendation. My decision, therefore, is "Accept, subject to authors carrying out corrections".

Please incorporate all changes recommended by the Handling Editor in their comments that appear below this message. In addition, my assistant and I have reviewed your paper for formatting issues, particularly regarding the figures and request the following changes listed below.

Once you have incorporated all of the recommended changes, please upload the final version as the revision to Editorial Manager at https://www.editorialmanager.com/oeco/. Please let me know if you have any questions about your manuscript. Be sure to include the manuscript number (OECO-D-24-00124R1) in all inquiries.

Please make sure to submit editable source files (e.g. Word).

I look forward to seeing your manuscript published in Oecologia.

Sincerely,
Ülo Niinemets
Editor in Chief, Plant Physiological and Ecosystem Ecology
Oecologia

Comments to Authors from Handling Editor and Reviewers (if any):

The authors received two thorough, thoughtful reviews, and have done a thorough, thoughtful job of responding to the reviews. Most of the suggestions were incorporated into the paper with the sort of care and consideration I like to see. Those that were not were explained clearly in the response. Overall, this is an excellent piece of work, and I look forward to seeing it published.

My one very minor suggestion concerns the equation for RBAI, which was raised by one of the reviewers. I have three sub-suggestions. First, I suggest including a reference for the calculation. Second, I suggest mentioning explicitly that it assumes geometric growth rather than linear, to avoid readers having the same confusion as the reviewer. (The authors say it is exponential, whereas some theoreticians would say it's geometric - from discrete time rather than continuous time.) Given that both continuous time ($r = (\ln(x_t) - \ln(x_0))/t$, from $dx/dt = rx$) and discrete time (as in the paper) are used in the literature, and that they give slightly different numerical results, it should be clearly specified that this assumes discrete (annual) growth. Third, I suggest the authors consider a simpler presentation of the equation. $RBAI = ((BA2019 - BA2011)/BA2011 + 1)^{(1/n)} - 1$ is the same as $RBAI = (BA2019/BA2011)^{(1/n)} - 1$, which is both simpler and the easier solution from solving the discrete time geometric growth equation:

$$BA2019 = BA2011(1 + RBAI)^n$$

$$(BA2019/BA2011)^{(1/n)} = 1 + RBAI$$
$$RBAI = (BA2019/BA2011)^{(1/n)} - 1$$