

内陸アラスカにおける広葉樹の葉の機能的形質と生活形

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Leaf functional traits of different life forms of various broadleaf woody plants in the Alaskan interior

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The morphological and physicochemical traits of leaves are important in terms of plant adaptation to various growth environments, because such traits play central roles in various functions including photosynthesis. We measured the toughness, mass per unit area (LMA), nitrogen content, and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ levels of the leaves of different life forms of 39 broadleaf woody plants in interior Alaska. The plants were divided into three life forms based on the maximum height of adult plants: understory (<1 m), small (≥ 1 m to <5 m), and canopy (≥ 5 m). Evergreen species accounted for a large proportion of understory woody plants (44%), whereas most small (87%) and canopy (100%) trees were deciduous. Higher LMA, increased toughness, and higher C/N ratios prolonged leaf lifespan in evergreen species. We also evaluated the presence/absence of bundle-sheath extensions (BSEs), which contribute to the mechanical support of leaves and enhance photosynthetic ability by improving hydraulic properties. In total, 11 species (28%) had homobaric leaves (BSEs were absent) and 28 species (72%) had heterobaric leaves; these proportions are similar to those of woody plants of other temperate deciduous forests. The $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ values reflected the presence of root symbionts such as ericoid mycorrhiza or Frankia sp. Our results suggest that leaf traits may affect both the life form of the host plants and leaf longevity in both evergreen and deciduous species. Those results have been published in Kenzo et al. (2016).

葉の形態や物理化学性などの機能的形質は、光合成など生理的機能や植物の環境適応能力と密接に関係している。近年、葉の機能的形質についての世界的なデータベース化が進み、バイオーム間での比較や、植生モデルへの応用などが行われている。我々は、アラスカ内陸部の広葉樹を対象に、様々な生活形間でどのように葉の形質が異なるのか明らかにするために、39種を対象に、葉の強度、葉面積当たりの葉重(LMA)、炭素と窒素含有量、炭素と窒素安定同位体比を調べた。また、葉内の維管束の周囲に発達する維管束鞘延長部(BSE)の有無にも着目した。延長部が存在する葉は異圧葉(heterobaric leaf)、存在しない葉は等圧葉(homobaric leaf)と呼ばれている。この延長部は、葉緑素を含まない透明な繊維質の組織からなるため、葉を光に透かすと透明な葉脈網がはっきり確認でき比較的容易に識別できる(Fig 1, Terashima 1992)。機能面でもこの部位が光ファイバーの様な働きをし、葉内部への光透過に役立つことや、高い通水機能を持ち、葉の構造強化に貢献することなど様々な機能の存在が明らかになっている(Inoue et al. 2015)。生活形は成木の樹高別に林冠木(5m以上)、低木(1~5m)、林床木(1m未満)に分け、また常緑樹と落葉樹についてもそれぞれ区分し解析した(Kenzo et al. 2016)。

樹木の生活形や常緑・落葉性と葉の形質には密接な関係が見られた。林床木には常緑樹が多く44%を占めたが、低木では13%、林冠木では0%で全種が落葉樹であった(Fig.2)。また、林床木に比べ林冠木は異圧葉の割合が高かった(Fig.2)。落葉樹は葉内窒素濃度が高く、BSEを持つ異圧葉樹種が80%近くあった(Table 1)。異圧葉樹種は等圧葉樹種に比べ光合成能力が高いことが知られており(Inoue et al. 2015)、林冠など光環境の強い環境に生育する落葉樹は、異圧葉を持ち葉の窒素濃度を高めることで短い生育期間に高い光合成生産を行い(Kenzo et al. 2006)短命な葉の製造コストを短期間で回収していると考えられた(Chabot and Hicks 1982)。一方、林床など暗い環境に多い常緑樹は、LMAや葉の強度が落葉樹の2倍以上あり、炭素濃度やC/N比も高いことから(Table 1)、葉の構造強化に投資し、窒素濃度が低いため光合成は低いが(Kenzo et al. 2006, 2015)葉寿命を延ばすことで葉の製造コストを長期間で回収する戦略を取っていると考えられた(Chabot and Hicks 1982)。また、常緑樹は約半数がBSEを持たない等圧葉であった。分厚い葉を持つ常緑樹は、葉内のガス拡散抵抗が高く、光合成が制限される場合が多い。等圧葉はガス拡散障壁となるBSEを欠くため常緑樹に多くなると考えられた(Terashima 1992)。今回アラスカ寒帯林で得られた異圧葉樹種の割合は72%で、これまで北米や日本の落葉樹が優占する冷温帯林で得られた値(75~90%)とほぼ同じであった。一方、常緑樹主体の暖温帯から熱帯林で得られた値は35~57%とかなり低く(Wylie 1952, Kenzo et al. 2011, 2007)、今回得られた常緑樹の異圧葉樹種の割合(56%)とほぼ同じで、世界的な傾向と一致していた。なお、本成果の一部はKenzo et al. (2016)で公表した。

Table 1. Ratio of heterobaric tree species, leaf mass per area (LMA), leaf toughness, nitrogen and carbon contents, C/N ratio, and stable carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) isotope ratios of deciduous and evergreen leaves. Asterisks indicate significant differences.

Leaf habit	Heterobaric species (%)	LMA (g m^{-2})	Toughness (N cm^{-2})	Nitrogen (%)	Carbon (%)	C/N	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (‰)
Deciduous	77*	59.9 \pm 3.1*	29.4 \pm 2.5*	2.04 \pm 0.1*	52.8 \pm 0.5*	30 \pm 3*	-29.3 \pm 0.2 ^{ns}	-0.65 \pm 0.5*
Evergreen	56*	123 \pm 12.4*	66.6 \pm 7.5*	1.10 \pm 0.9*	57.0 \pm 1.4*	55 \pm 5*	-30.0 \pm 0.4 ^{ns}	-4.10 \pm 0.7*

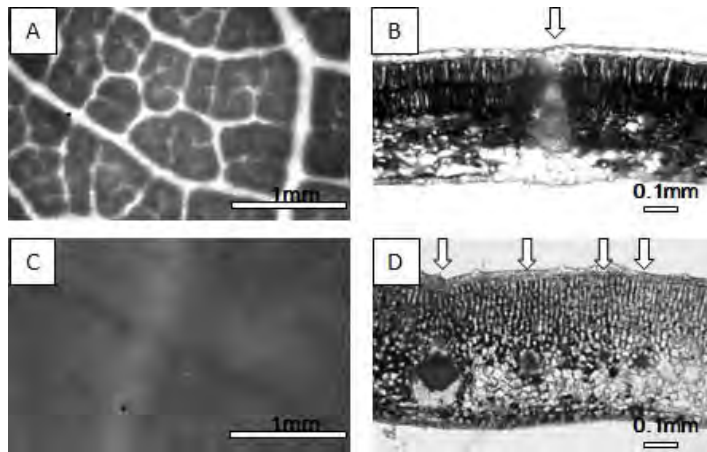


Figure 1. Transmission micrographs of surface and transverse sections of leaves. Arrows indicate bundle sheaths. (A) A heterobaric leaf from a canopy woody plant (*Populus tremuloides*), (B) A heterobaric leaf from a canopy woody plant (*Populus balsamifera*), (C, D) A homobaric leaf from an understory woody plant (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)

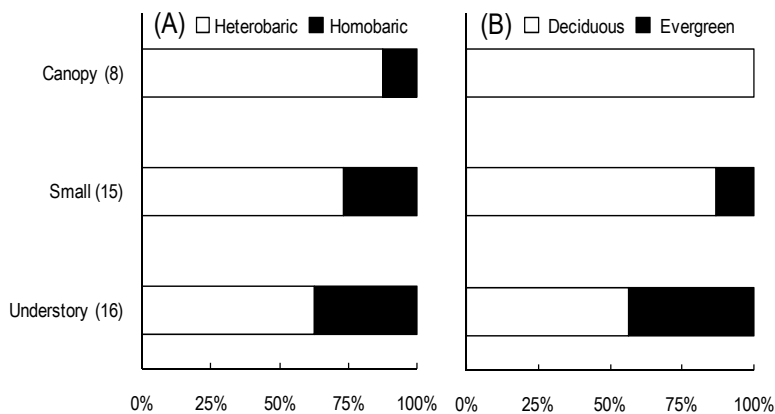


Figure 2. The percentages of trees with heterobaric and homobaric leaves (A), deciduous and evergreen species (B) among different life forms. The numbers in parentheses are the numbers of species analyzed.

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