

# Deposition of nitrogen in Mediterranean forests of *Quercus ilex*: Significance of dry deposition



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Anna Àvila, Isaura Rábago,  
Rocío Alonso, Victoria Bermejo-Bermejo

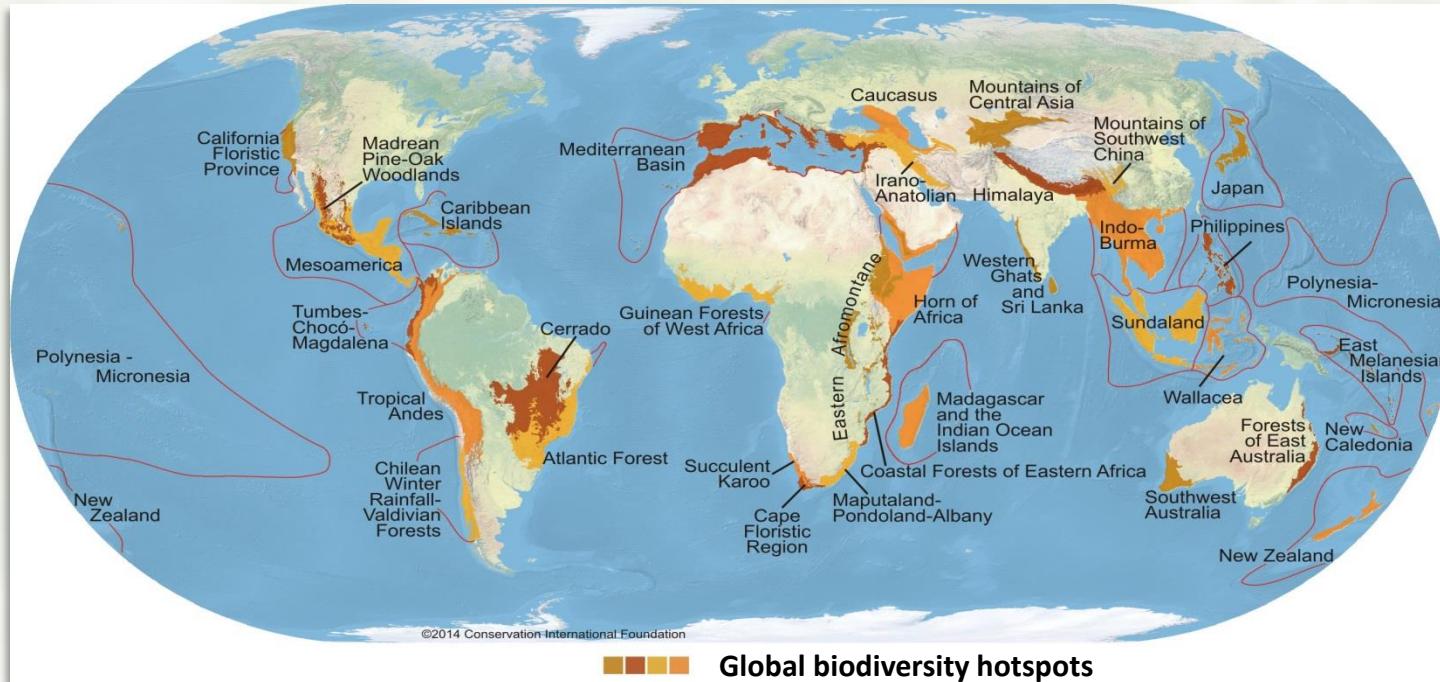
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GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

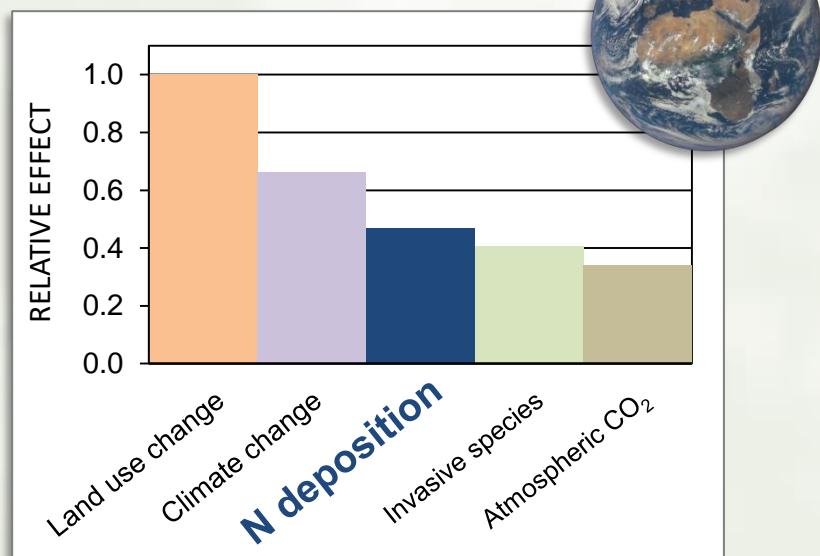
MINISTERIO  
DE ECONOMÍA  
Y COMPETITIVIDAD

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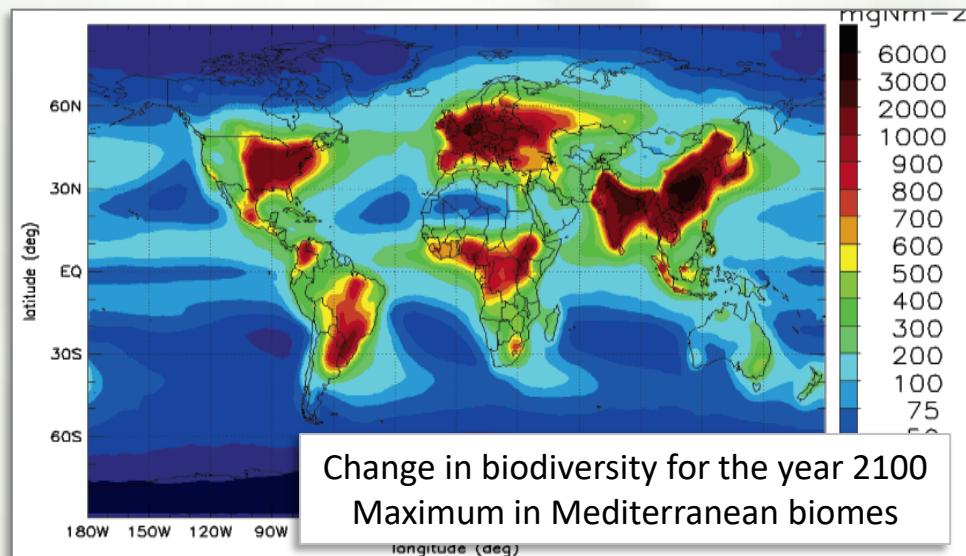


Myers et al. 2000, *Nature*

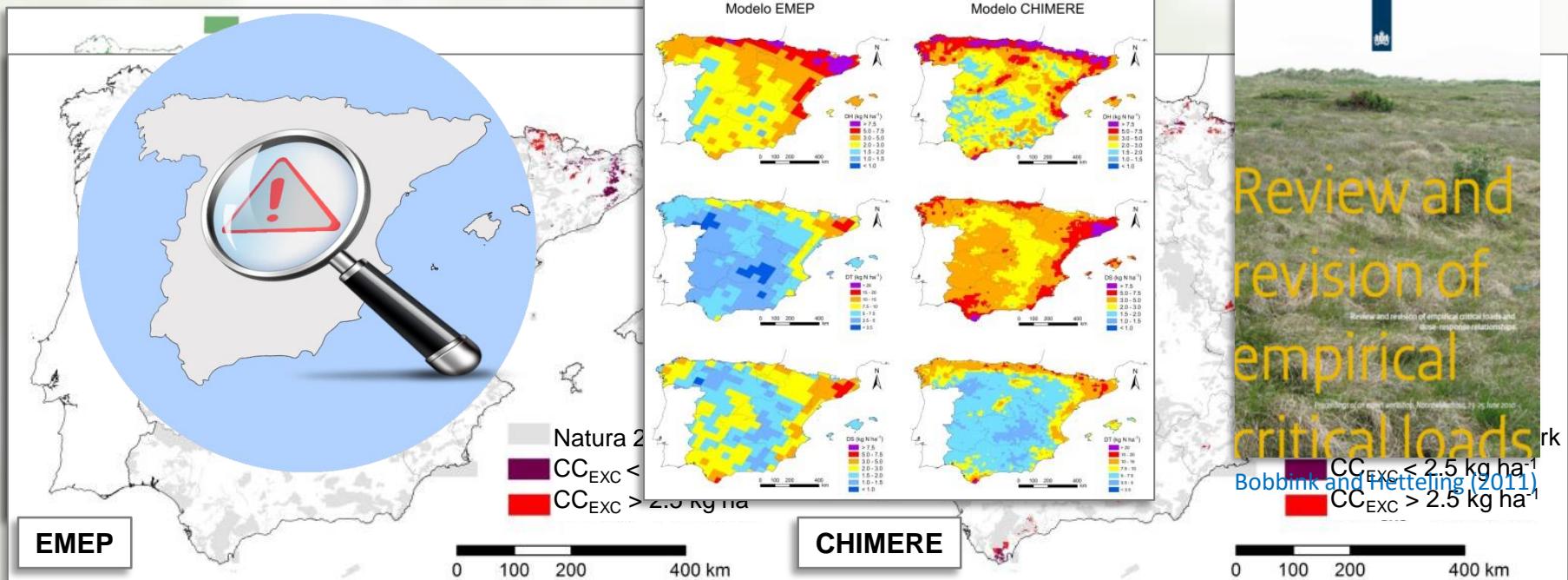
Artwork: <http://atlas-for-the-end-of-the-world.com>



Sala et al., 2000, *Science*



Sala et al., 2000, *Science*



## RESULTS FOR FOREST HABITATS

### Threatened forest habitats (according to CHIMERE model)

- Subalpine and montane *Pinus uncinata* forests (86%)
- Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines (71%)  
*(Pinus halepensis, P. pinaster, P. pinea)*
- Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests (71%)
- *Abies pinsapo* forests (57%)

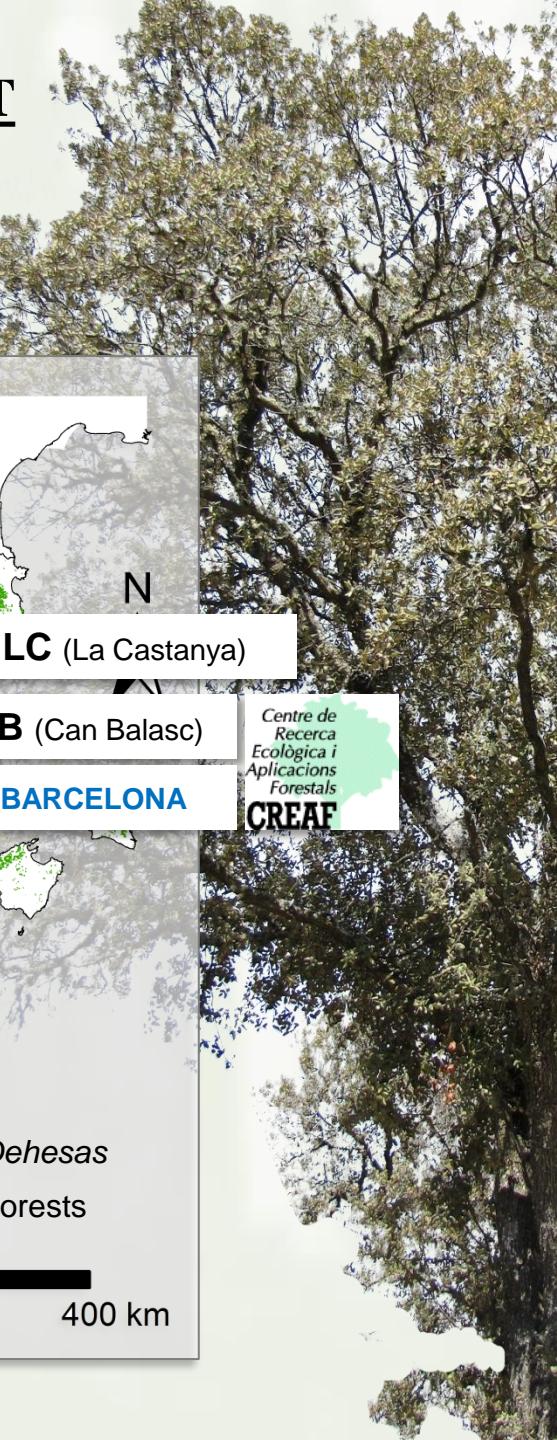
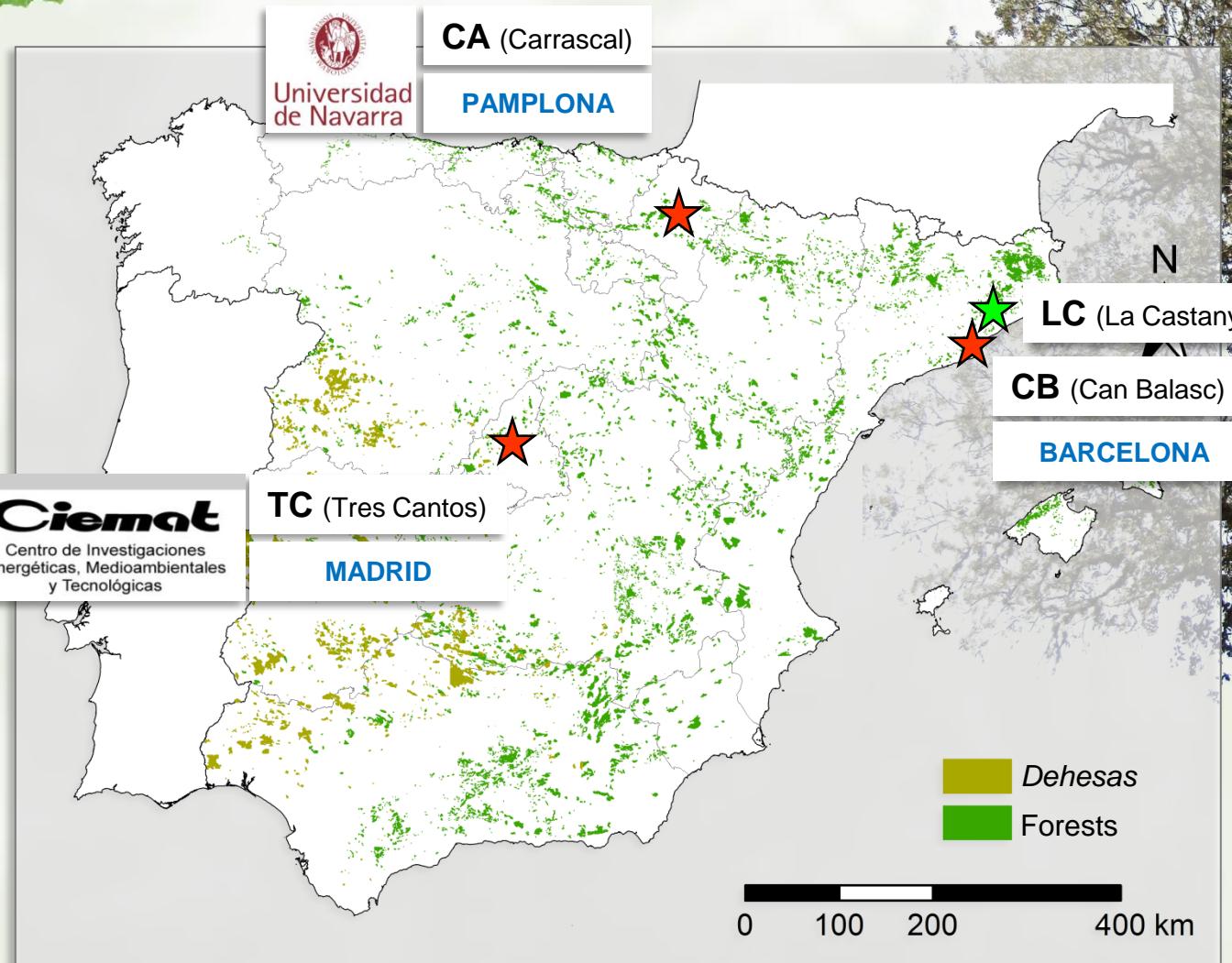


UNDERESTIMATION ~~RELIABLE~~ DRY DEPOSITION DATA  
DRY DEPOSITION ~~INFORMATION~~ → FOR IMPROVING  
MEDIT. FORESTS RISK ASSESSMENT

# RESULTS FROM EDEN PROJECT



## DRY DEPOSITION



# EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

## Branch washing



## Passive sampling

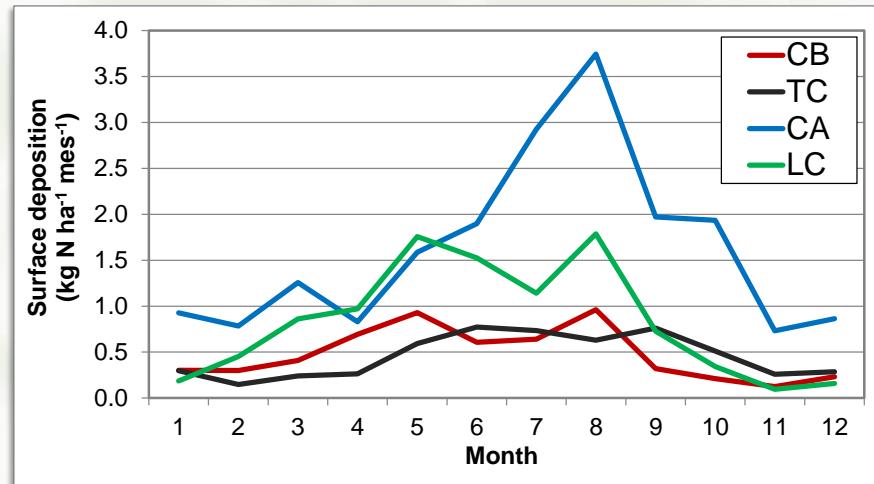


SURFACE CONDUCTANCE

$$K_N = F_N / C_N$$

SURFACE DEPOSITION

$$DD_{surface} = K_N \times C_N \times LAI$$



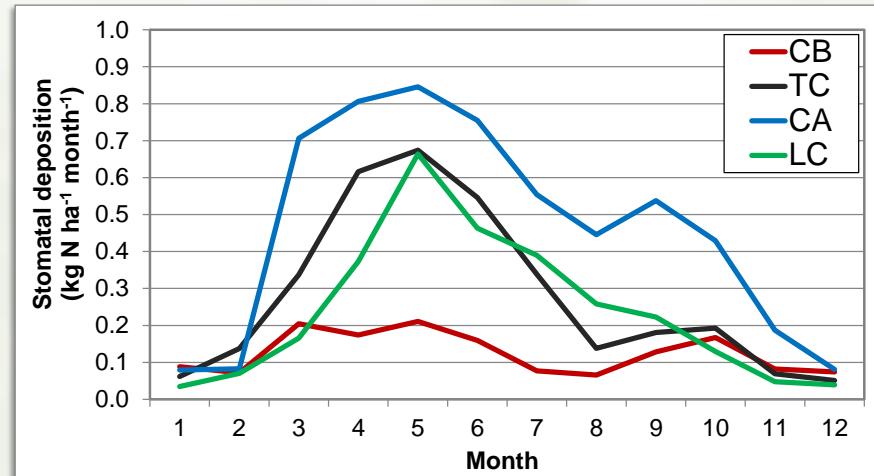
## STOMATAL UPTAKE MODELLING

Model DO<sub>3</sub>SE (*Deposition of Ozone and Stomatal Exchange*)

Jarvis, 1976 - Emberson et al., 2000 - Alonso et al., 2007, 2008

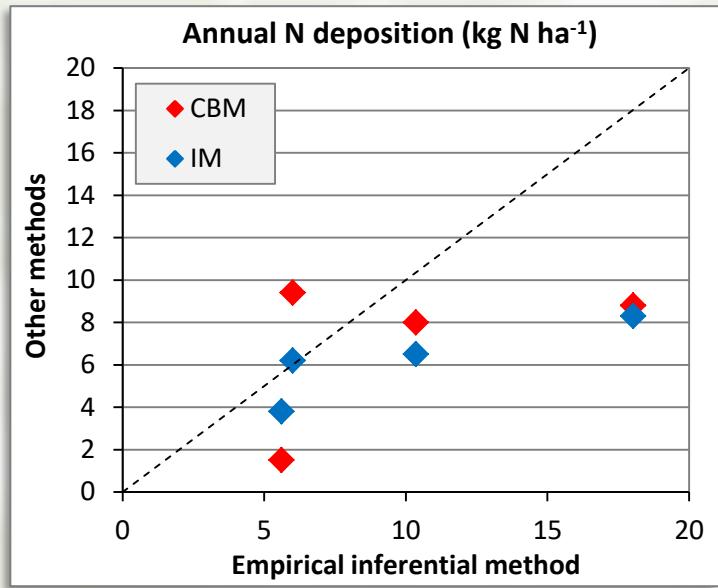
$$g_s = g_{max} \times f_{light} \times \max \{ f_{min}, (f_{temp} \times f_{VPD} \times f_{SWP} \times f_{phen}) \}$$

$$DD_{stomatal} = C_N \times g_s \times LAI$$

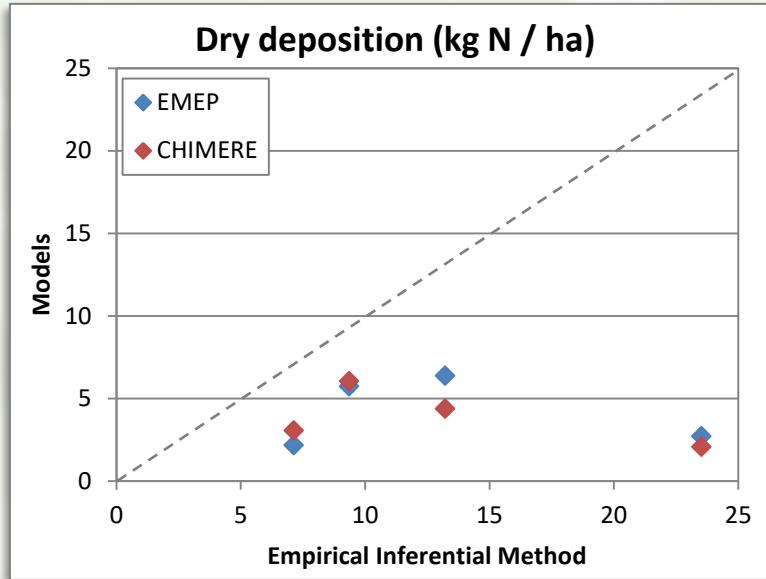


# EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

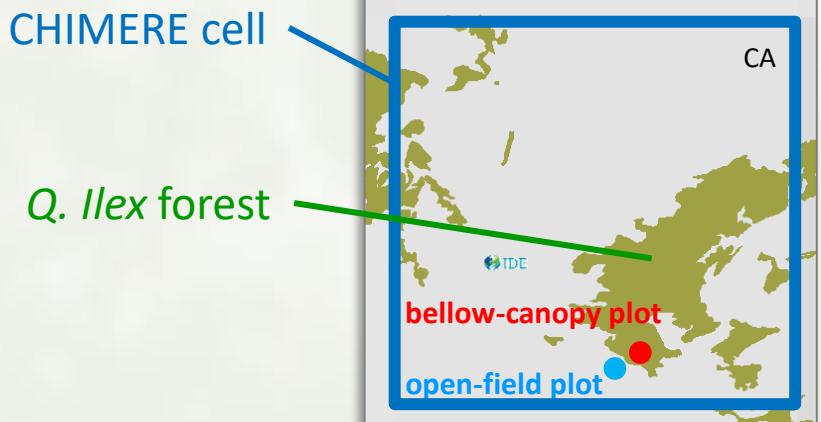
## Comparison with other methods



## Comparison with models



Models' output are commonly cell- (and habitat-) averaged values



# EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

Easy-to-apply, not expensive.

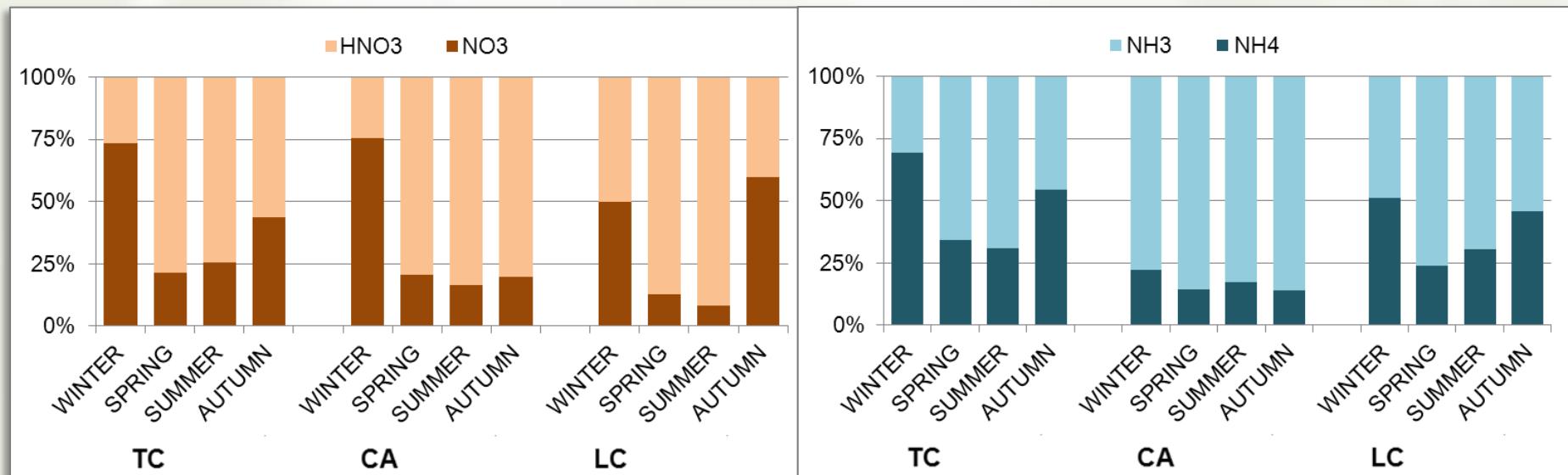
Site-specific results

## Sources of uncertainty:

Representativeness of selected trees

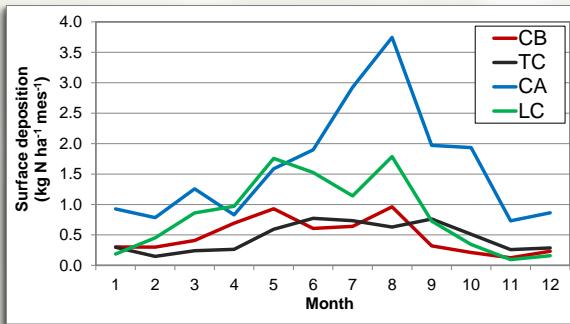
EIM does not include particulate N in the estimation

RATIO GAS / PM

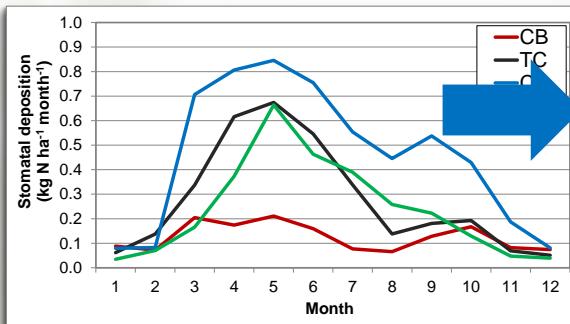


# TOTAL DEPOSITION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

## Surface deposition estimation



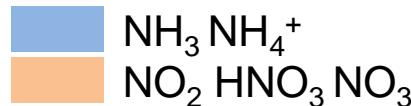
## Stomatal uptake modelization



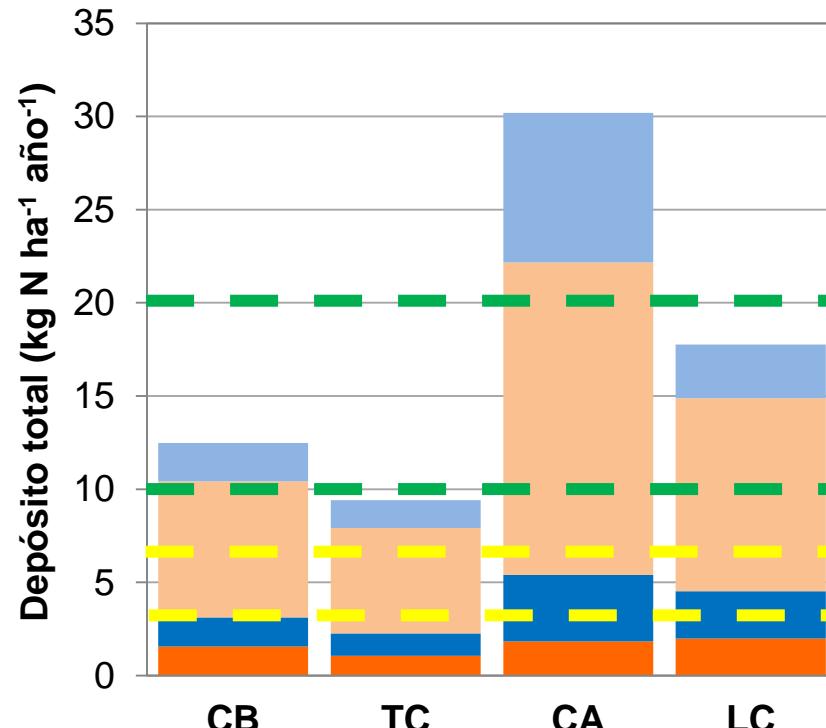
## Wet deposition measurements



## Dry deposition



## Wet deposition



García-Gómez et al. In prep. (2011-2013 data)

## Empirical CL (mostly based on lichens)

- Bobbink et al. 2011
- Pardo et al. 2011

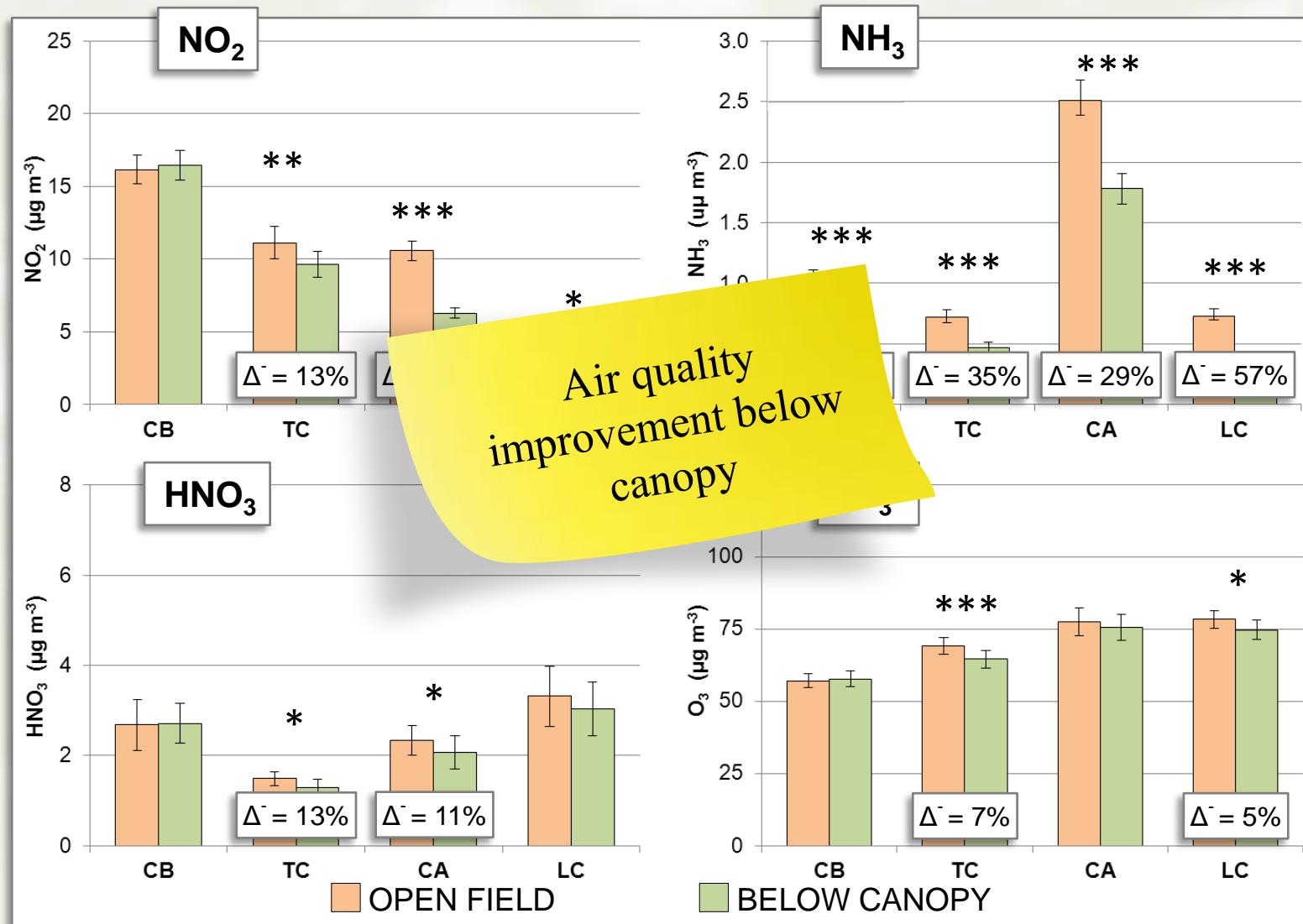
A photograph of a large, mature tree with a dense canopy of green leaves. A white, cylindrical pipe is attached to the trunk of the tree, extending downwards. The background shows other trees and foliage.

... but, apart from assessing risk of eutrophication,  
why dry deposition matters?

## CONCENTRATION OF GASEOUS N: BELOW CANOPY *vs.* OPEN FIELD



## BELOW-CANOPY REDUCTION OF GASEOUS POLLUTANTS



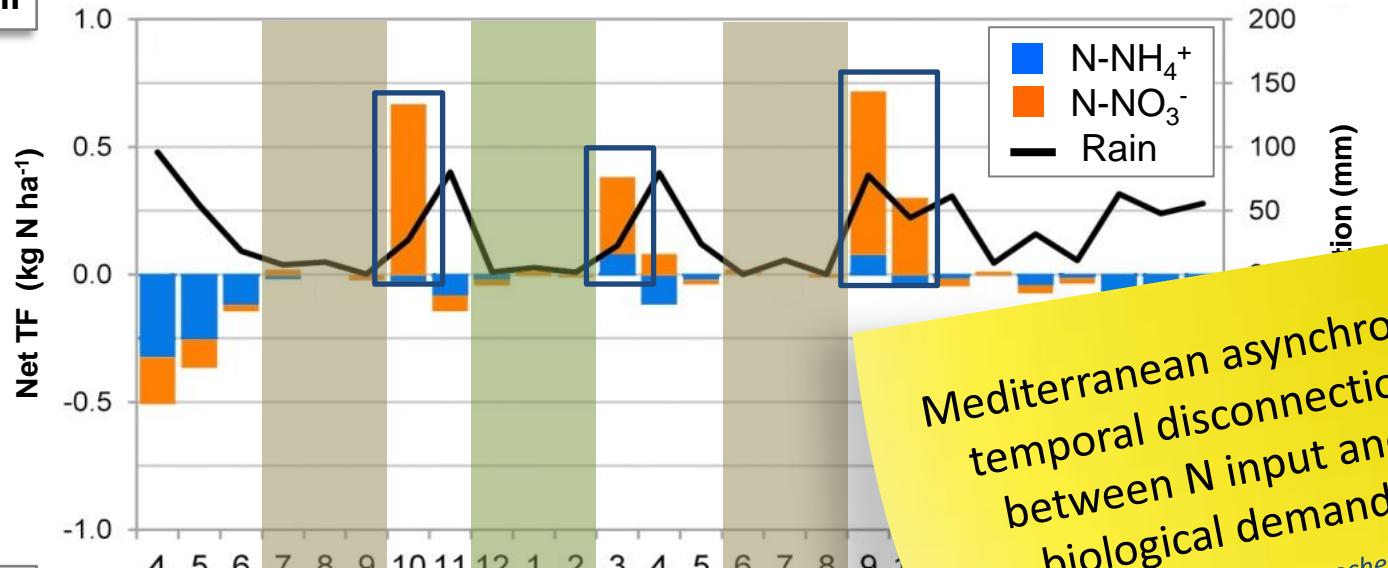
Wilcoxon (for matched pairs)    \*:  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*:  $p < 0.10$ ; \*\*\*:  $p < 0.01$

## SEASONALITY OF N INPUTS



## SEASONALITY OF NUTRIENT INPUTS

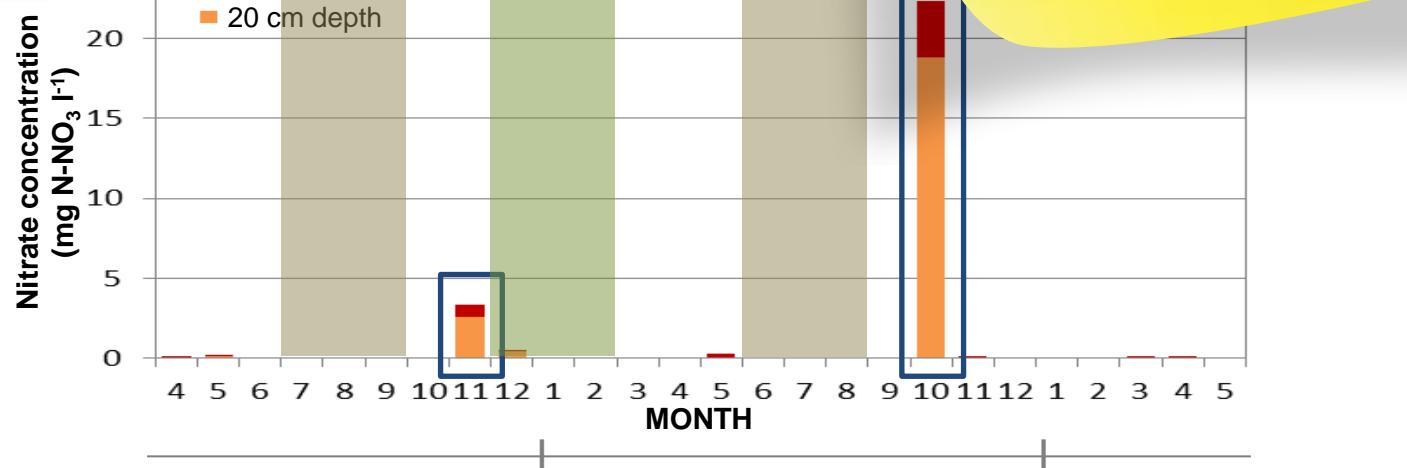
Net throughfall



Mediterranean asynchrony:  
temporal disconnection  
between N input and  
biological demand

Meixner y Fenn, 2004, Biogeochemistry

Soil water



## Dry deposition significance

- ✓ Atmospheric **models** are useful tools for risk assessment but further developments are still needed for **dry deposition** measurements and modelling
- ✓ Deposition of **atmospheric N** might be an important added stress to some **forest** habitats in Spain and other Mediterranean areas
- ✓ **EIM** is an easy-to-apply method for estimating dry deposition and originates site-specific results
- ✓ According to the EIM, dry deposition represented **77%** of the total N input to *Q. ilex* forests, dominated by the oxidized N
  - further efforts in **HNO<sub>3</sub>** measurements
- ✓ Meteorology and N deposition show important seasonal and inter-annual **variations in Mediterranean** region
  - implications for effects and CL estimation



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NACIONAL  
DE NAVARRA  
Universidad  
de Navarra



*Gracias  
Thank you  
Paldies*

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AGRISOST, Com. Madrid

CONcumbres- Fundación Biodiversidad







# ESTIMATING ATMOSPHERIC DRY DEPOSITION

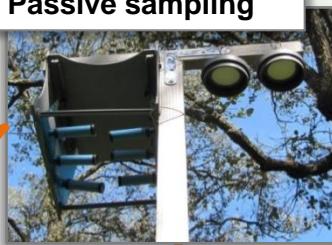
## METHODOLOGY: EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

### Branch washing

$$K_{NH_4^+} = \frac{F_{NH_3 + NH_4^+}}{C_{NH_3}}$$

$$K_{NO_3^-} = \frac{F_{HNO_3 + NO_3^-}}{C_{HNO_3}}$$

Passive sampling



LAI



(Bytnerowicz et al., 2015, EP)

Natural branches



Lyophilized branches



SURFACE  
DEPOSITION

**Model DO<sub>3</sub>SE (*Deposition of Ozone and Stomatal Exchange*)**  
CLRTAP, 2004

$$g_s = g_{max} \times f_{light} \times \max\{ (1 - \alpha) \times t_{leaf} \times f_{SWP} \times f_{phen} ) \}$$

$$F_{surface} = C \times K \times LAI$$

$$\approx$$

$$F_{stomatal} = C \times c_s \times LAI$$

C: Pollutant concentration in air

K: Surface conductance

LAI: Leaf area index

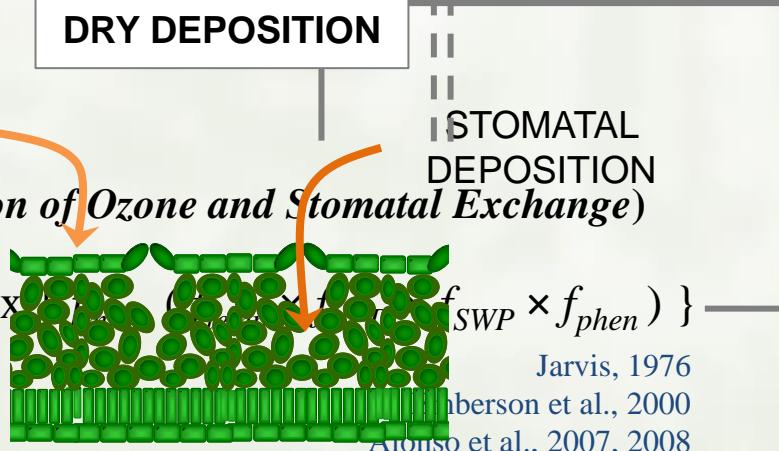
$F_{surface}$ : Flux of N onto the leaf surface (surface dry deposition)

$F_{stomatal}$ : Flux of N into the stomata (stomatal dry deposition)

$c_s$ : Stomatal conductance

$$c_s = g_s \times D_u$$

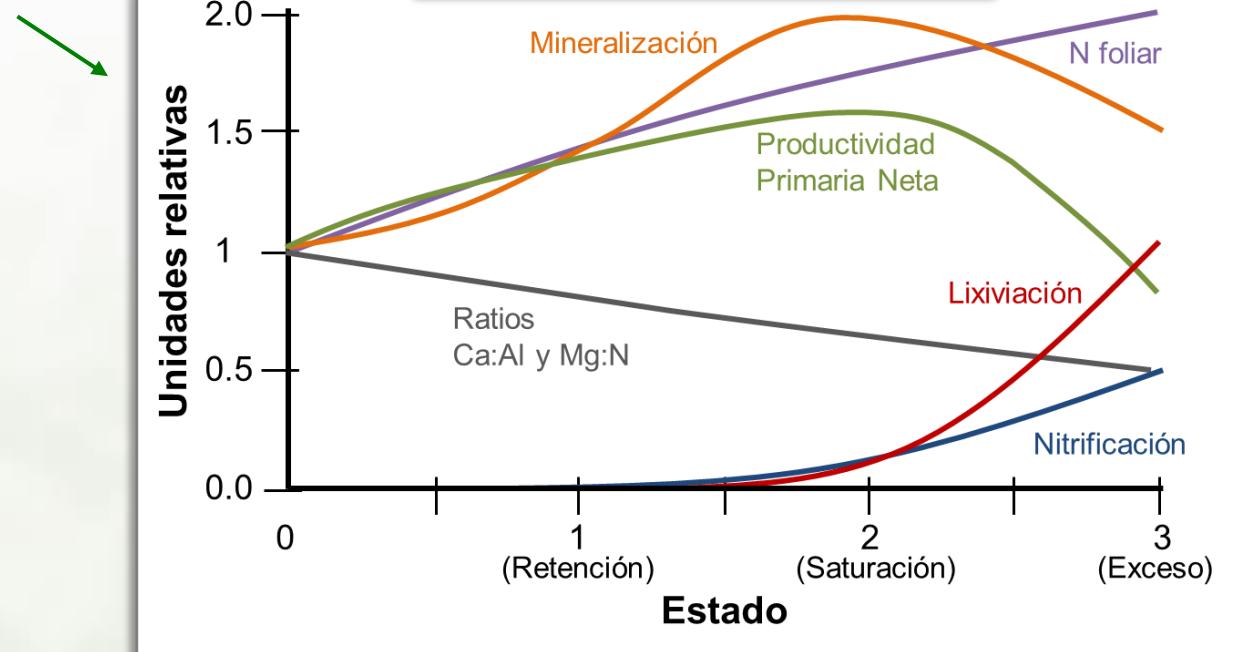
Bytnerowicz et al., 2015  
Massman, 1998



EFFECTOS DEL DEPÓSITO DE NITRÓGENO

## Ecosistemas terrestres:

- Toxicidad directa
- Acidificación de los suelos
- Mayor susceptibilidad a otros factores de estrés
- Eutrofización de ecosistemas



**Saturación por N:** Cambio de un ecosistema limitado por el N a uno enriquecido en N

Aber et al., 1998, *BioScience*  
Emmett, 2007, WASP



# ESTIMATING ATMOSPHERIC DRY DEPOSITION

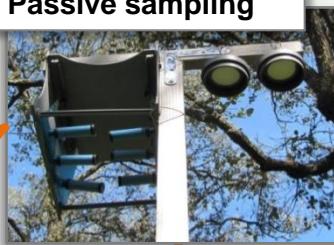
## METHODOLOGY: EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

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Passive sampling



LAI



(Bytnerowicz et al., 2015, EP)

Natural branches



Lyophilized branches



SURFACE  
DEPOSITION

**Model DO<sub>3</sub>SE (*Deposition of Ozone and Stomatal Exchange*)**  
CLRTAP, 2004

$$g_s = g_{max} \times f_{light} \times \max\{ (1 - \exp(-f_{SWP} \times t)) \times f_{SWP} \times f_{phen}, 0 \}$$

$$F_{surface} = C \times K \times LAI$$

$$\approx$$

$$F_{stomatal} = C \times c_s \times LAI$$

C: Pollutant concentration in air

K: Surface conductance

LAI: Leaf area index

$F_{surface}$ : Flux of N onto the leaf surface (surface dry deposition)

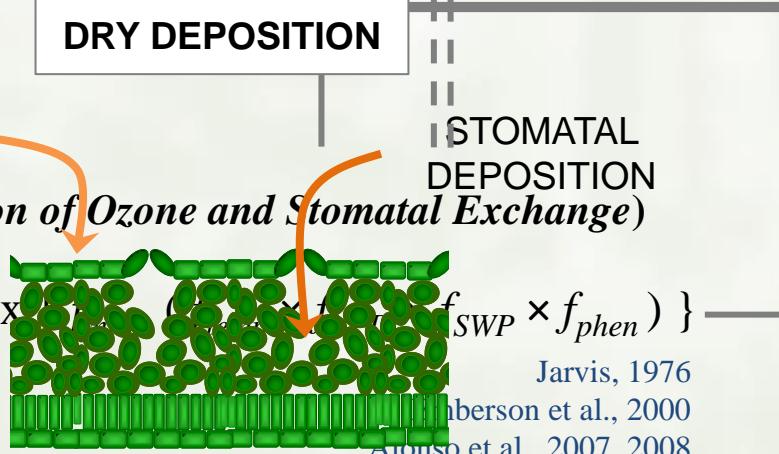
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$c_s$ : Stomatal conductance

$$c_s = g_s \times D_u$$

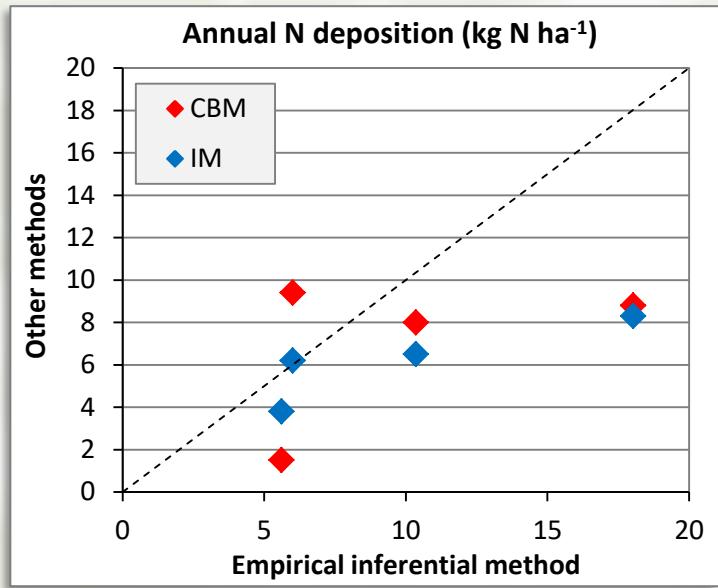
Bytnerowicz et al., 2015  
Massman, 1998

Jarvis, 1976  
Riberson et al., 2000  
Alonso et al., 2007, 2008

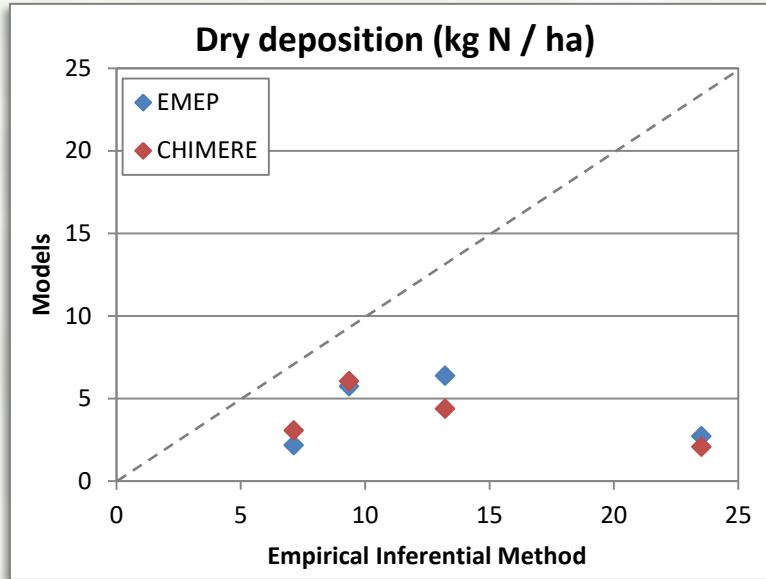


# EMPIRICAL INFERENTIAL METHOD

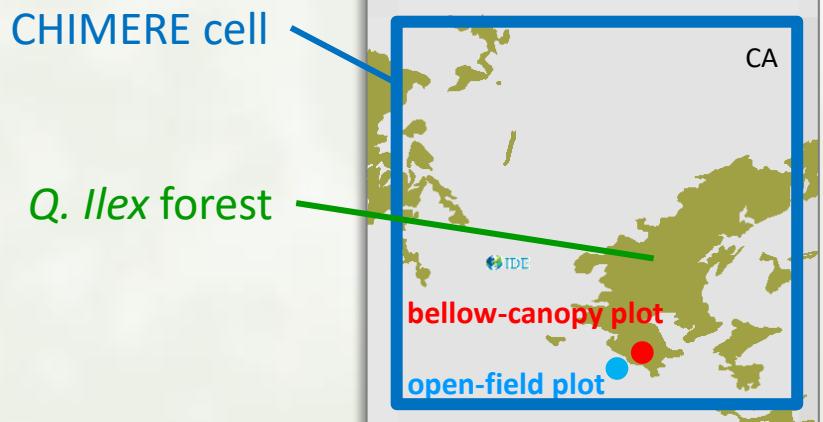
## Comparison with other methods



## Comparison with models



Models' output are commonly cell- (and habitat-) averaged values





## METHODOLOGY

**Branch washing:** alive branches (NB) and lyophilized branches (LB)



NB



LB



**Seasonal**   Same sampling day for LB and NB

Exposure period = number of days from last rain

Exposure period = 7 – 14 days



# ESTIMATING ATMOSPHERIC DRY DEPOSITION

## RESULTS: SURFACE CONDUCTANCE ( $K_{sup}$ )

NB



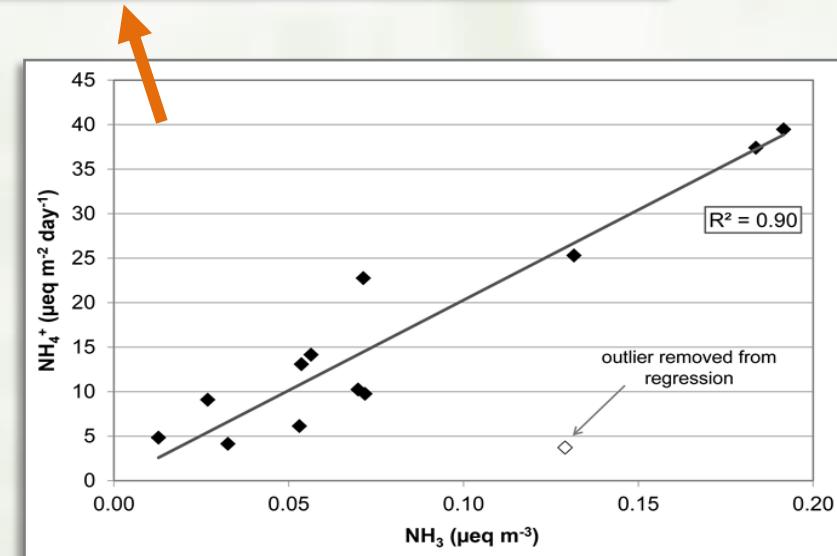
Study of NB washing experiment

Region	Sites	N	$K_{NH_4^+} \text{ (cm s}^{-1}\text{)}$		$K_{NO_3^-} \text{ (cm s}^{-1}\text{)}$	
			Avg.	Std. error	Avg.	Std. error
CENTRAL	TC	5	<b>0.258</b>	0.065	<b>1.405</b>	0.478
NORTH-EAST	CB, LC	4	<b>0.272</b>	0.046	<b>0.491</b>	0.168
NORTH	CA	4	<b>0.232</b>	0.052	<b>1.826</b>	0.775



*K was consistent for reduced N, but it varied largely among regions for oxidized N*

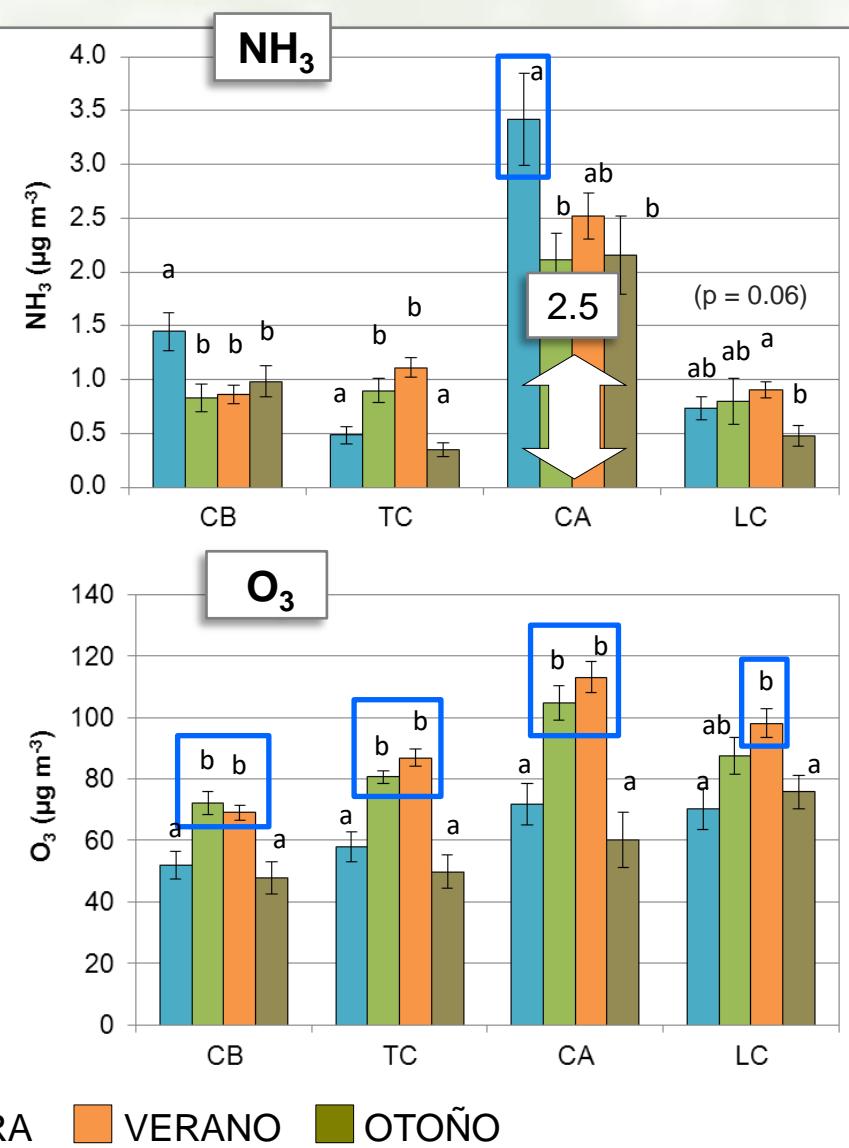
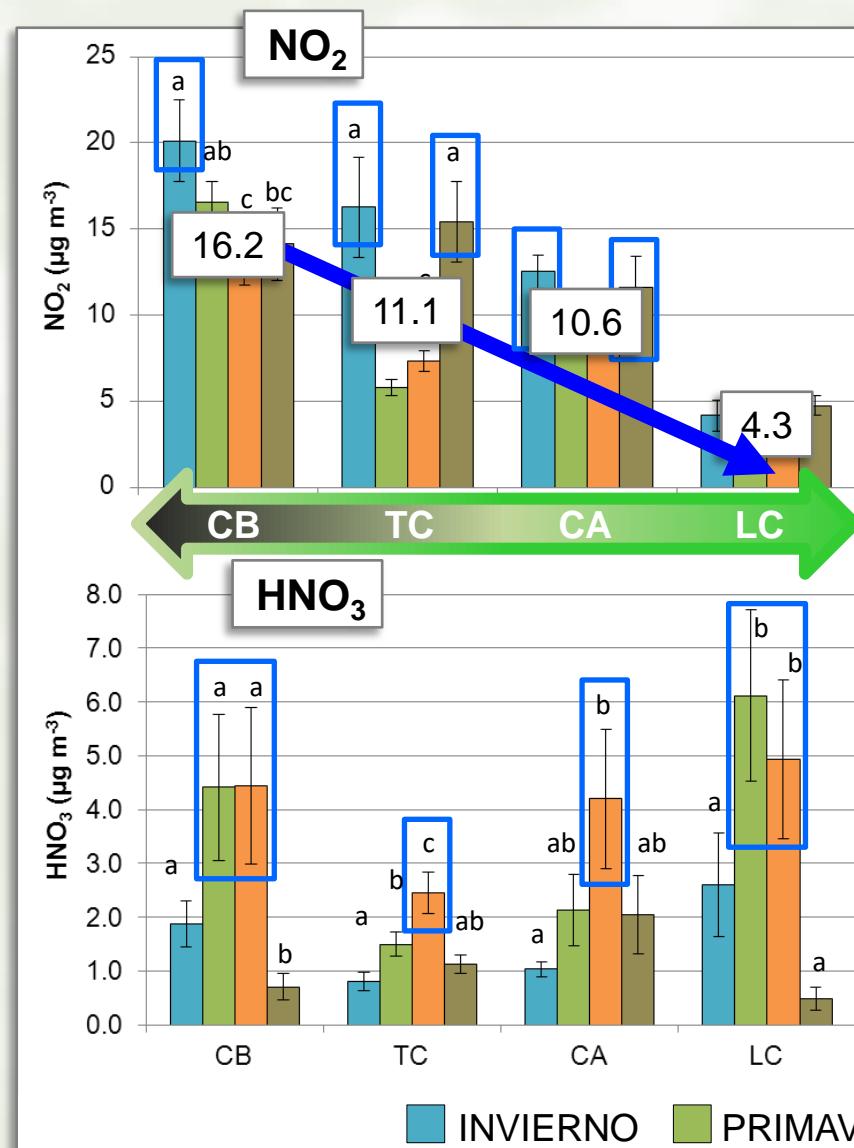
Average	3	0.238	0.028	1.241	0.394
Regression	12	<b>0.235</b>	0.013	n.s.	





# CONCENTRACIÓN ATMOSFÉRICA DE CONTAMINANTES

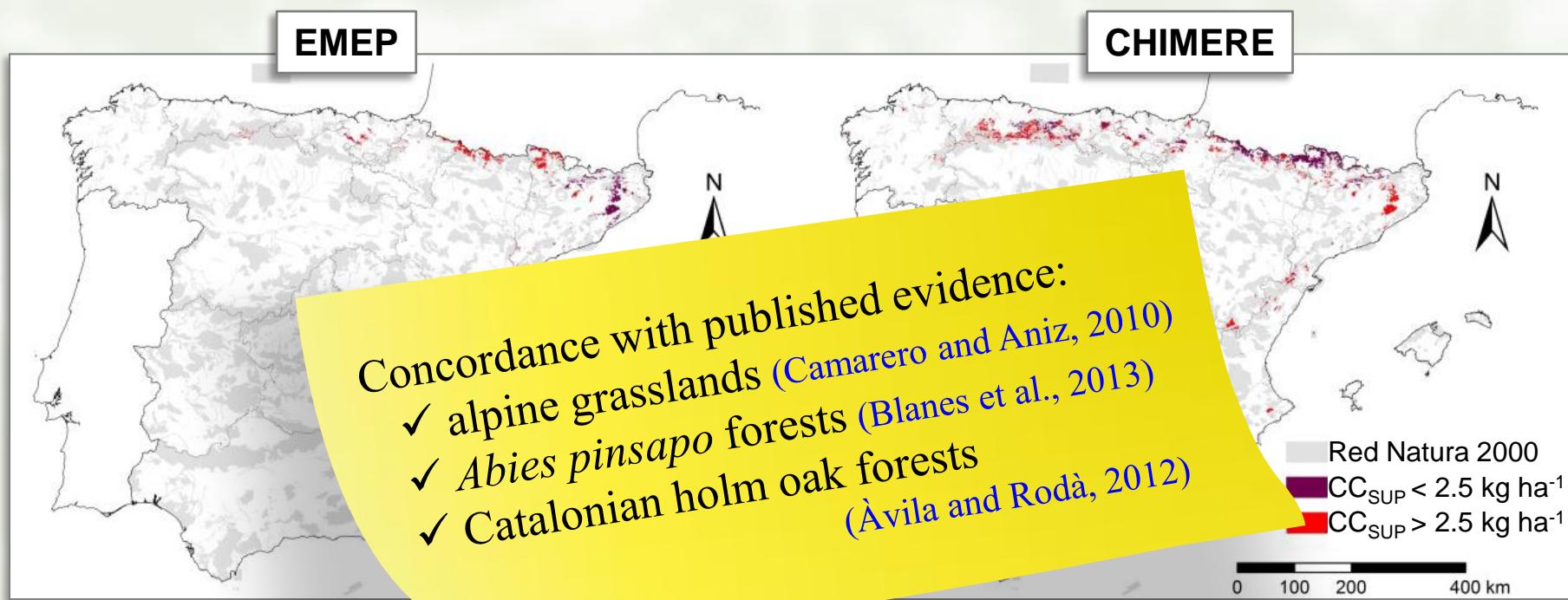
## VARIABILIDAD ESPACIAL Y TEMPORAL





# RISK ASSESSMENT OF N<sub>r</sub> DEPOSITION

## MAIN RESULTS



Assessed: 52 183 km<sup>2</sup>

2.8 – 7.3% threatened

Avg. CL<sub>EXC</sub>: 2.7 – 3.0 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>

Higher risk using CHIMERE model

Threatened habitats:

- Mainly in areas with high deposition and for habitats with  $CL \leq 10 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$
- Most threatened habitat: natural grasslands, according to both models (30 – 60%)
- Other mountainous habitats



# RISK ASSESSMENT OF N<sub>r</sub> DEPOSITION

## RESULTS FOR FOREST HABITATS

### Threatened species:

- Relictic temperate and temperate-like mountainous forest: *Pinus uncinata* and *Abies Pinsapo*
- Mediterranean esclerophyllous evergreen forest: *Quercus ilex* (in NE Spain)
- Endemic coastal pines: *Pinus halepensis*, *P. pinaster*, *P. pinea* (according to CHIMERE model)

### Dry deposition:

- Comparison of modeled dry deposition values with estimations obtained by other authors ([Rodá et al., 2002](#); [Sanz et al., 2002](#); [Aguillaume et al., 2017](#)) showed that the modelled dry deposition could be underestimated for Spanish Mediterranean forests.
- Mediterranean forests (and other forests) in Spain could be withstanding a higher risk derived from N deposition than the one resulting from this first approach

The most endangered tree species were either relictic, endemic or representative of the Mediterranean region

The assessment might be improved by using dry deposition values estimated for each particular habitat type

$$F_{surface} = C_{GAS} \times K_{GAS}$$

$$F_{N_{GAS}+N_{PM}} = C_{GAS} \times K_{GAS} + C_{PM} \times K_{PM}$$

$$\frac{F_{N_{GAS}+N_{PM}}}{C_{GAS}} = K_{GAS} + K_{PM} \times \frac{C_{PM}}{C_{GAS}}$$

