Stable Isotopes and Plant Carbon-Water Relations

Edited by

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Carbon Isotope Composition and Gas Exchange of Loblolly and Shortleaf Pine as Affected by Ozone and Water Stress

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I. Introduction

Ozone (O₃), a photochemical oxidant, has been recognized as the most phytotoxic of the widespread air pollutants (Reich, 1987) and has been implicated as a factor in the recent forest growth decline in the southeastern United States (Sheffield and Cost, 1987). Injury to plant tissue results from oxidation of biological compounds by O₃ and the free radicals it forms, impacting several biochemical and physiological processes, and leading to alterations in growth and biomass allocation (Guderian et al., 1985). Air pollution is among the environmental factors affecting leaf internal carbon dioxide concentration (c_i) through effects on rates of net photosynthesis (A) and stomatal conductance (g), justifying stable carbon isotope analysis as a tool in the study of plant response to air pollution. Stable carbon isotope analysis has been used previously in the study of pollutant effects on trees and crop plants (Freyer, 1979; Greitner and Winner, 1988; Martin et al., 1988; Becker et al., 1989; Boutton and Flagler, 1990; Martin and Sutherland, 1990; Saurer et al., 1991; Taylor, 1991).

Growth declines resulting from elevated O_3 levels have been correlated with decreased photosynthesis in crop and tree species (Reich and Amundson, 1985). Whether the O_3 -induced decrease in A results from stomatal or nonstomatal limitations remains controversial, but information on the effect of O_3 on c_i can clarify the mechanism (Runeckles and Chevone, 1992). Ozone may decrease A through increased mesophyll resistance, resulting in increased c_i (Reich, 1987). Alternatively, O_3 may affect guard cells directly, decreasing g, causing decreased c_i , and resulting in diminished A (Moldau

et al., 1990). There is no direct evidence supporting an immediate effect of O₃ on guard cell function in tree species (Chappelka and Chevone, 1992); however, stable carbon isotope analysis has indicated stomatal limitation to A in tree and crop species (Greitner and Winner, 1988; Martin et al., 1988; Boutton and Flagler, 1990; Saurer et al., 1991; Taylor, 1991).

Since O₃ enters the leaf through the stomata, environmental variables which affect g, such as water stress, alter plant response to O₃. Stomatal regulation can be a protective mechanism against both drought and air pollution; stomatal closure minimizes water loss (Teskey and Hinckley, 1986) and reduces O₃ injury through decreased O₃ uptake (Harkov and Brennan, 1980; Olszyk and Tibbitts, 1981). Alternatively, O₃ exposure may alter plant response to water stress by modifying g (Reich and Lassoie, 1984). The effects of O₃ on g in tree species are inconsistent. Ozone may increase stomatal sensitivity to vapor pressure deficit (Chappelka et al., 1988), preventing possible drought injury, or may reduce stomatal responsiveness and increase transpiration (Keller and Hasler, 1984; Reich and Lassoie, 1984), increasing the likelihood of desiccation during periods of drought.

Ozone and water deficit can alter transpiration efficiency (W), the ratio of biomass produced to total water transpired. As a result of the different diffusive conductances for carbon dioxide and water vapor, reduced g decreases transpiration to a greater extent than carbon dioxide uptake (Nobel, 1991). Moderate water deficit generally increases W by inducing partial stomatal closure. Ozone also alters W through effects on g and the biochemical reactions of photosynthesis. Ozone-induced stomatal closure, without a reduction in A, would result in increased W, while decreased stomatal sensitivity to water deficit or decreased A would cause a reduction in W. Since W is related to integrated c_i , carbon isotope analysis may be used to assess W (Farquhar et al., 1989b).

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of O_3 and water deficit and their interaction on $\delta^{13}C$ and c_i of loblolly and shortleaf pines. Seedlings were exposed to different levels of O_3 and soil moisture in opentop chambers during their first growing season. Stable carbon isotope composition was determined in order to assess integrated gas exchange characteristics. In addition, conventional gas exchange methods were used to measure A, g, and c_i .

II. Experimental Methods

A. Study Area

The research site was located in the USDA Forest Service Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest (31° 30′ N latitude, 94° 46′ w longitude), roughly 12 km southwest of Nacogdoches, Texas. The mean annual maximum and minimum temperatures are 24.2°C and 11.2°C, respectively, and the mean

annual precipitation is 115.6 cm. The area immediately surrounding the site consists of mature loblolly and shortleaf pine forest.

B. Plant Material

Seeds from one half-sib shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata* Mill.) family (S2PE-3) and one half-sib loblolly (*P. taeda* L.) pine family (GR1-8) were stratified for 90 days and then sown, in January 1990, in 7-liter pots containing a fritted clay medium that had been leached with reverse osmosis water. Until treatments began, the seedlings were maintained in a greenhouse and were fertilized weekly beginning 12 weeks after the sowing date with 15:30:15 (N:P:K) and a micronutrient mix supplemented with chelated iron.

C. Ozone Exposure Chambers

The seedlings were exposed to O₃ in 10 cylindrical open-top field chambers 3 m in diameter and 2.5 m in height (Heagle et al., 1973). Chambers were equipped with a fixed cap to exclude ambient rainfall. Air was forced through a plenum surrounding the lower portion of each chamber at approximately 60 m³ min⁻¹, during the hours 0600 to 2400 CST daily.

Ozone was generated from O₂ by a corona discharge type generator and was metered to chambers through needle valves. Air from inside each chamber was sampled through Teflon tubing. The O₃ concentration was monitored continually with a uv-photometric O₃-specific analyzer on a time-shared basis in each chamber. The O₃ monitors were calibrated with a uv-photometry transfer standard.

D. Experimental Design and Treatment Regimes

The experimental design was a split-split plot conducted within a completely randomized design. The whole plots were five levels of O₃; the subplots were two water regimes; the sub-subplots were two species. Each treatment combination was replicated twice, requiring 10 chambers. Each treatment combination included 18 seedlings per replication, for a total of 720 seedlings.

Seedlings were placed in the chambers and O₃ treatments were initiated on 25 June 1990, approximately 24 weeks after sowing, when substantial secondary needle tissue had developed in both species. The five O₃ treatments ranged from a subambient level to 2.5 times ambient O₃ concentration. Charcoal filters were used to remove O₃ for the subambient treatment (CF); the ambient treatment consisted of nonfiltered air (NF). The three O₃ addition treatments were 1.7, 2.0, and 2.5 times the ambient O₃ concentration (1.7×, 2.0×, and 2.5×, respectively), and fluctuated as a proportion of ambient O₃, during the hours 0800 to 2000 CST.

All seedlings were watered daily to field capacity with reverse osmosis water to maintain the ψ_{soil} at -0.08 MPa until 10 August 1990. After this date, the two water regimes, well-watered (WW) and water-stressed (WS), were imposed. The WW and WS treatments received water whenever the

soil volumetric water content was less than 34% ($\psi_{\text{soil}} = -0.08$ MPa) and 28% ($\psi_{\text{soil}} = -0.3$ MPa), respectively. The intent was to the allow WW seedlings to experience virtually no water stress, while the WS seedlings undergo mild water deficit. Soil moisture was characterized with a Trase System soil moisture device (Soil Moisture Equipment Corp., Santa Barbara, CA) based on time domain reflectometry. A moisture retention curve for the medium was produced, using the pressure plate technique, so that volumetric water content could be related to soil water potential. Trase measurements were taken daily for two randomly selected seedlings per plot to determine whether that plot needed to be watered, at which time reverse osmosis water was added to field capacity. All treatments were watered with fertilizer solution once every 2 weeks on a day that water addition was necessary.

E. Carbon Isotope Composition

Carbon isotope composition was determined for foliage and stems of five seedlings per plot. Carbon isotope composition, expressed as δ^{13} C, was determined using the technique of Boutton (1991). Five milligrams of dried tissue, ground to pass a 40-mesh screen, was combusted to CO₂ in sealed quartz tubes at 850°C. The CO₂ was purified cryogenically and analyzed on a VG-903 dual-inlet, triple collector, gas isotope ratio mass spectrometer (VG Isogas, Middlewich, UK). Precision was approximately 0.1% for all δ^{13} C measurements.

F. Gas Exchange Characteristics

Gas exchange characteristics (A, g, and c_i) were measured biweekly with a portable photosynthesis system (LI-6200, LI-COR, Inc., Lincoln, NE) equipped with a 0.25-liter leaf chamber. Measurements were made on detached fascicles from the oldest flush of each seedling. Previous studies have shown that gas exchange characteristics of shortleaf pine are not significantly affected by fascicle detachment for up to 90 s (Lock and Flagler, 1992), and that photosynthetic rates of loblolly pine are not affected by detachment of fascicles from branches which had been removed from the tree for up to 30 min (Ginn et al., 1991). During each sample period, measurements were made on one fascicle per seedling and two seedlings per treatment combination, on all treatment combinations. The replications were measured on 2 consecutive days, between 1000 and 1400 h CST. During measurements, the leaf chamber was kept in a light box, so that photosynthetically active radiation reaching the chamber would be kept constant at approximately 1300 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹ using two 300-Watt cool beam lamps (General Electric, Cleveland, OH). The light box was equipped with an air blower for cooling and supplying fresh ambient air to the leaf chamber.

G. Data Analysis and Statistics

Response variables were analyzed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) for differences due to O₃, water regime, and interactions for species sepa-

rately. Ozone effects were broken down to linear and curvilinear orthogonal contrasts. Regression analysis was performed on the moisture treatments separately, using the seasonal sum of hourly O₃ averages between the hours 0800 and 2000 CST (12 h sum zero) as the regressor.

III. Results

A. Ozone Exposures and Meteorology

During the exposure period (25 June–31 October) the mean ambient 12 h d⁻¹ O₃ concentration for the hours 0800 to 2000 CST was 0.047 ppm. The highest ambient 1-h peak O₃ concentration was 0.109 ppm. The federal secondary ambient air quality standard for O₃ of 0.120 ppm was exceeded by the three O₃ addition treatments. Ozone exposure statistics for the five treatments are given in Table I. Seasonal and diurnal mean O₃ concentration trends have been illustrated in a previous paper (Elsik et al., 1992). The average temperature and relative humidity during the treatment period (25 June–31 October) was 19.2°C and 81.7%, respectively. The average daily maximum and average daily minimum temperatures were 27.1 and 13.1°C, respectively. The maximum and minimum 1-h temperatures were 33.1, and -0.6°C, respectively. The average daily maximum and average daily minimum relative humidities were 97.2 and 52.9%, respectively. The maximum and minimum 1-h relative humidities were 99.5 and 28.8%, respectively.

Table I Ozone Exposure Statistics for Ambient Air and Loblolly and Shortleaf Pine Exposed to Five Levels of O₃ in Open-Top Chambers in East Texas⁴

	12 h da concn	·	l h day ⁻¹ peak O ₃ concn (ppm)		
Ozone level ^b	Seasonal mean	Highest	Seasonal mean	Highest	Sum zero ^c (ppm-h)
CF	0.005	0.018	0.013	0.066	9.6
NF	0.037	0.076	0.058	0.108	58.1
1.7×	0.078	0.161	0.123	0.252	118.3
2.0×	0.099	0.218	0.157	0.348	148.7
2.5×	0.114	0.238	0.178	0.357	170.5
AA	0.047	0.079	0.069	0.109	44.1

^{*}Each value is the mean from two chambers except for AA values, which are the mean from one ambient air monitor, for the daily period 0800 to 2000 h CST from 25 June to 31 October 1990.

⁶Ozone levels CF, NF, 1.7×, 2.0×, 2.5×, and AA are charcoal filtered, non-filtered, 1.7 times ambient, 2.0 times ambient, 2.5 times ambient, and ambient air, respectively.

^{&#}x27;Seasonal sum of hourly O₃ averages between the hours 0800 and 2000 CST from 25 June to 31 October 1990.

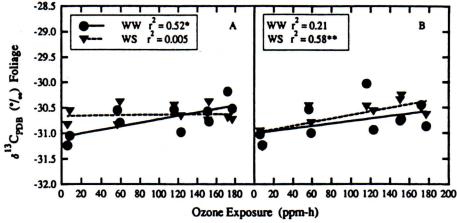


Figure 1. Foliar δ^{15} C of loblolly (A) and shortleaf (B) pine versus O₅ exposure (O₅ sum zero) for well-watered (WW) and water-stressed (WS) seedlings. Significance at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels are signified by * and **, respectively (n = 10).

B. Carbon Isotope Composition

Foliar δ^{13} C increased with O_3 exposure in both species (P < 0.1) (Table II). Increased δ^{13} C indicates decreased long-term internal CO_2 concentration, and, thus, increased W with elevated O_3 . Stem δ^{13} C increased significantly (P < 0.05) with O_3 exposure in loblolly pine only (Table II). A tendency for δ^{13} C to increase with O_3 exposure was observed in shortleaf pine stems, but this trend was not significant. A consistent increase in δ^{13} C attributable to moisture deficit was observed only in stem tissue of shortleaf pine (P < 0.1) (Table II). Linear regressions for separate moisture regimes are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 for foliage and stem, respectively. Regression analysis indi-

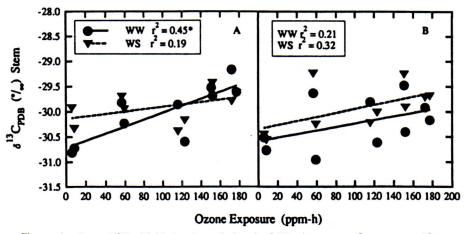


Figure 2. Stem δ^{13} C of loblolly (A) and shortleaf (B) pine versus O_3 exposure (O_3 sum zero) for well-watered (WW) and water-stressed (WS) seedlings. Significance at the 0.05 level is signified by *(n = 10).

Table II Carbon Isotope Composition of Foliage and Stem Tissue of Loblolly and Shortleaf Pine Seedlings Exposed to O₃ and Water Deficit*

			S13C	8 ¹³ C(% ₀)	
-0020	Water	Loblol	Loblolly pine	Shortleaf pine	af pine
level*	regime	Foliage	Stem	Foliage	Stem
CF	WW	-31.65 (0.09)	-30.77 (0.21)	-31.14 (0.11)	-30.65 (0.12)
NF	WW	-30.68 (0.12)	-30.03(0.21)	-30.77(0.23)	-30.30 (0.63)
1.7×	WW	-30.77 (0.22)	-30.23(0.75)	-30.48(0.45)	-30.22(0.41)
5×	MM	-30.68 (0.10)	-29.60 (0.09)	-30.75 (0.01)	-29.95(0.47)
2.5×	WW	-30.36 (0.17)	-29.38 (0.22)	-30.66(0.21)	-30.05 (0.13)
CF	WS	-30.70(0.14)	-30.14(0.25)	-31.12(0.15)	-30.52(0.06)
NF	WS	-30.63(0.22)	-29.83(0.12)	-30.65 (0.16)	-29.75 (0.54)
1.7×	WS	-30.57 (0.10)	-30.28 (0.11)	-30.54(0.04)	-30.13(0.10)
2.0×	WS	-30.58(0.18)	-29.52 (0.09)	-30.32(0.05)	-29.59(0.33)
2.5×	WS	-30.73 (0.02)	-29.71 (0.09)	-30.59 (0.06)	-29.71 (0.03)
			ANC	ANOVA'	
ó		0.24	0.04	0.19	0.53
Linear		90.0	0.01	0.07	0.17
Quadratic		0.45	0.81	0.10	0.55
Residual		0.57	0.08	0.95	0.75
Water regime		0.43	0.25	0.24	0.02
Interaction		0.26	0.42	0.54	89.0

•Values are means and standard errors (in parentheses) of 10 samples.
•Ozone levels CF, NF, 1.7x, 2.0x, and 2.5x are charcoal filtered, nonfiltered, 1.7 times ambient, 2.0 times ambient, and 2.5 times ambient,

respectively.

Water regimes WW and WS are well-watered and water-stressed, respectively.

Tabular values are probability levels associated with ANOVA. Degrees of freedom associated with the sources of variation are O₃, 4 df; O₃ contrasts, 1 df; water regime, 1 df; interaction, 4 df.

Table III Net Photosynthesis (A), Stomatal Conductance (g), and Internal CO₂ Concentration (c_i) of Loblolly Pine Seedlings Exposed to O₃ and Water Deficit*

			13 October 1990	9	23	27 October 1990	¥
Ozone level*	Water regime	Α (μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	$g \pmod{m^{-2} s^{-1}}$	_{сі} (ppm)	Α (μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	$g \pmod{m^{-2} s^{-1}}$	6, (ppm)
Ç	WW	4.33 (0.17)	0.129 (0.003)	271 (4)	4.34 (0.23)	0.116 (0.002)	265 (2)
Z	WW	4.08 (0.12)	0.112 (0.021)	268 (16)	3.76 (0.16)	0.090 (0.009)	278 (18)
1.7×	WW	4.02 (0.20)	0.111 (0.008)	267 (2)	3.42 (0.16)	0.090 (0.015)	271 (21)
2×	WW	3.10 (0.93)	0.078 (0.027)	285 (18)	2.24 (0.35)	0.062 (0.004)	288 (15)
2.5×	WW	2.53 (0.33)	0.060 (0.002)	272 (11)	2.50 (0.87)	0.088 (0.029)	301 (6)
CF	WS	4.51 (0.13)	0.092 (0.000)	245 (0)	4.25 (0.76)	0.095 (0.020)	257 (5)
NF	WS	5.70 (0.97)	0.109 (0.022)	242 (6)	4.77 (0.54)	0.104 (0.025)	257 (11)
1.7×	WS	4.47 (0.12)	0.089 (0.004)	243 (7)	3.87 (0.64)	0.075 (0.017)	267 (29)
2×	WS	3.69 (0.70)	0.073 (0.014)	256 (11)	2.55 (0.20)	0.047 (0.014)	255 (35)
2.5×	WS	3.25 (0.20)	0.077 (0.015)	267 (9)	2.65 (0.74)	0.067 (0.008)	271 (10)
				ANC	ANOVA*		
ó		0.11	0.22	0.65	0.10	0.27	0.87
Linear		0.02	0.04	0.25	0.02	60.0	0.36
Quadratic		0.25	0.59	0.64	0.91	0.42	0.80
Residual		0.62	0.78	0.72	0.43	0.46	0.95
Water regime		0.02	80.0	0.00	0.14	0.17	0.02
Interaction		0.39	90.0	0.24	0.59	0.59	0.47

*Values are means and standard errors (in parentheses) of four measurements taken during the last two sample periods.
*Vozone levels CF, NF, 1.7x, 2.0x, and 2.5x are charcoal filtered, nonfiltered, 1.7 times ambient, 2.0 times ambient, and 2.5 times ambient, respectively.
*Water regimes WW and WS are well-watered and water-stressed, respectively.
*Tabular values are probability levels associated with ANOVA. Degrees of freedom associated with the sources of variation are O₃, 4 df; O₃ contrasts, 1 df; water regime, 1 df; interaction, 4 df.

Table IV Net Photosynthesis (A), Stomatal Conductance (g), and Internal CO₂ Concentration (c_i) of Shortleaf Pine Seedlings Exposed to O₃ and Water Deficit*

			13 October 1990		2	27 October 1990	
Ozone level*	Water regime	$A (\mu \mod m^{-2} s^{-1})$	$g \pmod{m^{-2} s^{-1}}$	с _і (ррт)	Α (μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	g (mol m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	с _і (ррт)
Ç.	WW	5.51 (0.14)	0.169 (0.008)	275 (0)	4.54 (0.05)	0.128 (0.016)	273 (12)
NF	WW	5.42 (0.43)	0.154 (0.006)	274 (0)	4.42 (0.54)	0.126 (0.030)	284 (16)
1.7×	WW	3.48 (0.58)	0.094 (0.015)	271 (0)	4.71 (0.93)	0.107 (0.024)	264 (10)
2×	WW	3.62 (1.97)	0.107 (0.041)	293 (5)	3.59 (0.44)	0.098 (0.005)	288 (9)
2.5×	WW	4.17 (0.08)	0.107 (0.013)	274 (8)	2.42 (0.23)	0.073 (0.016)	300 (0)
CF	WS	4.54 (0.51)	0.108 (0.033)	253 (14)	4.76 (0.04)	0.100 (0.004)	252 (5)
NF	WS	6.07 (0.80)	0.122 (0.011)	246 (0)	5.37 (0.43)	0.115 (0.017)	255 (5)
1.7×	WS	5.83 (1.05)	0.128 (0.017)	248 (7)	4.63 (1.94)	0.099 (0.052)	253 (9)
2×	WS	4.43 (1.06)	0.094 (0.012)	264 (2)	4.94 (0.24)	0.105 (0.013)	264 (2)
2.5×	WS	5.09 (0.88)	0.127 (0.018)	269 (7)	4.44 (0.23)	0.084 (0.013)	254 (1)
				ANG	ANOVA'		
ď		0.64	0.48	0.79	19:0	0.57	0.34
Linear		0.35	0.19	0.56	0.21	0.17	0.16
Ouadratic		0.94	0.46	06.0	0.40	0.56	0.52
Residual		0.49	0.61	60.0	0.99	0.88	0.65
Water regime		0.15	0.37	0.05	90.0	69.0	0.02
Interaction		0.36	91.0	0.29	0.48	88.0	0.47

*Values are means and standard errors (in parentheses) of four measurements taken during the last two sample periods.
*Ozone levels CF, NF, 1.7x, 2.0x, and 2.5x are charcoal filtered, nonfiltered, 1.7 times ambient, 2.0 times ambient, and 2.5 times ambient, respectively.
*Water regimes WW and WS are well-watered and water-stressed, respectively.
*Tabular values are probability levels associated with ANOVA. Degrees of freedom associated with the sources of variation are Os, 4 df; Os contrasts, 1 df; water regime, 1 df; interaction, 4 df.

cated that δ^{13} C of foliage and stem tissue in WW loblolly pine seedlings were linearly related to O_3 exposure (P < 0.05), but δ^{13} C of WS loblolly pine seedlings was not significantly related to O_3 . This suggests an $O_3 \times$ water stress interaction. The opposite relationship was observed in shortleaf pine foliage, in which δ^{13} C of WS seedlings was linearly related to O_3 exposure (P < 0.01), but δ^{13} C of WW seedlings was not significantly related to O_3 .

C. Gas Exchange Characteristics

Results for A and g, which have been reported previously (Elsik et al., 1992), are reviewed, to provide a basis for comparison with carbon isotope and instantaneous c_i data. Divergence in A and g were initially observed during the 13 September measurement period in both species; however, significant differences were not observed until the 13 October measurement period. The seasonal trends in A and g for each O_3 level have been illustrated elsewhere (Elsik et al., 1992). Assimilation rate and g decreased linearly due to O₃ in loblolly pine during the last two measurement periods (Table III). Downward trends in A and g with O_3 exposure were observed in shortleaf pine, but were not significant (Table IV). Water-stressed seedlings of both species tended to possess higher A than WW seedlings, but this was significant in loblolly pine only during the 13 October measurement period (P < 0.05) and in shortleaf pine only during the 27 October measurement period (P < 0.1). Water stress tended to decrease g in both species, but this was significant in loblolly pine only during the 13 October measurement period (P < 0.1) and was not significant in shortleaf pine. There were no consistent $O_3 \times$ water stress interactions on A or g in either species.

There were no consistent $O_3 \times$ water stress interactions on c_i (Tables III and IV), so data were averaged over moisture regimes to reveal the seasonal pattern in O_3 main effects on c_i (Fig. 3). Internal CO_2 concentration tended to increase due to O_3 exposure during most measurement periods, but this was significant (P < 0.05) only in shortleaf pine during the 13 October measurement period (Table IV). The pattern was not consistent throughout the season, often with a decrease in c_i in the 1.7× treatment compared to CF. Water deficit caused decreased c_i during all measurement periods beginning 22 August in loblolly pine (P < 0.001 to P < 0.05) and shortleaf pine (P < 0.01 to P < 0.05).

IV. Discussion

The linear increase in δ^{13} C with O₃ exposure in both species is consistent with previous studies using stable carbon isotope composition to assess O₃ response by loblolly pine (Taylor, 1991), shortleaf pine (Boutton and Flagler, 1990), and other C₃ plant species (Greitner and Winner, 1988; Martin *et al.*, 1988; Saurer *et al.*, 1991). These data indicate a decreased c_i ,

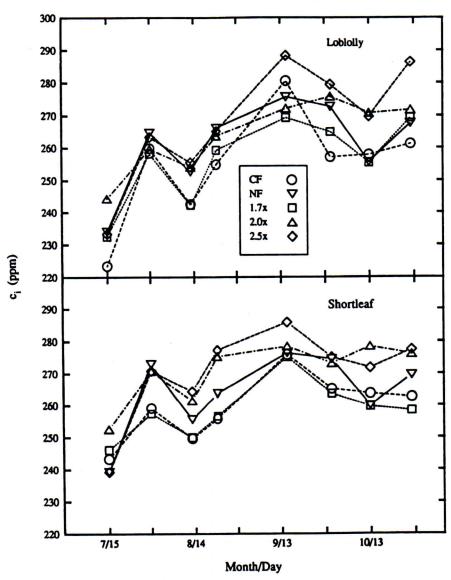


Figure 3. Seasonal pattern of instantaneous internal CO₂ concentration (c_i) of loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings as affected by five levels of O₃ (n = 8).

which could result from either increased A or, more likely, decreased g. Instantaneous gas exchange measurements have indicated a linear decrease in A due to O_3 in loblolly pine. Consequently, it can be concluded that decreased c_i due to O_3 is a result of decreased g. These results are in agreement with measurements of g, which tended to decrease in response to O_3 exposure in both species, although significant in loblolly pine only. The δ^{13} C values indicate increased W with higher O_3 concentrations, in

agreement with a previous study on shortleaf pine (Boutton and Flagler, 1990).

The increase in δ^{13} C in stem tissue of shortleaf pine due to water deficit indicated a water-stress-induced increase in W, in agreement with instantaneous water-use efficiency (A/E) (Elsik et al., 1992). This is in accordance with previous studies on the effect of water deficit on δ^{13} C in C_3 plants (Hubick et al., 1986; Martin and Thorstenson, 1988). However, the water stress did not have a consistent effect on δ^{13} C in loblolly pine, and water deficit did not affect A/E in this species (Elsik et al., 1992).

Increased instantaneous c_i values attributable to O_3 suggested that the O_3 -induced decrease in A was a result of biochemical processes, such as light harvesting or dark reactions of photosynthesis, rather than g, in accordance with a previous study on loblolly pine (Sasek and Richardson, 1989). This does not agree with the integrated c_i values as measured by δ^{13} C. Instantaneous water-use efficiency was not significantly related to O₃ (Elsik et al., 1992), also contrary to δ^{13} C, which indicated increased W with elevated O_3 . This variation may be related to the calculation of c_i in instantaneous gas exchange measurements. The calculation assumes that stomata are uniformly open or there is sufficient conductance between substomatal cavities, but a significant overestimation of c_i may occur if stomatal apertures vary or if lateral diffusion is limited (Laisk, 1983; Downton et al., 1988; Terashima et al., 1988). The homogeneity of stomatal response to O₃ has not been reported in loblolly or shortleaf pine. This may explain findings in a previous study, in which instantaneous gas exchange measurements indicated nonstomatal limitations to photosynthesis attributable to O₃ in loblolly pine (Sasek and Richardson, 1989).

In addition to possible errors in the calculation of c_i values in instantaneous gas exchange measurements, error may arise due to the need for constant environmental conditions throughout each measurement period of gas exchange. Light, humidity, and temperature were maintained relatively constant in the cuvette of the gas analyzer during each measurement, but the seedlings experienced different levels of soil moisture, humidity, and temperature throughout the day. Although the daily time frame within which measurements were made was kept to a minimum, there was still a notable change in atmospheric temperature and relative humidity during this period. Gas exchange characteristics exhibit a diurnal pattern, which may be affected by treatments. Therefore, seedlings may not be at the peak level of carbon assimilation when measurements were made. Both c_i and A/E are especially sensitive to environmental conditions, because they are dependent on A and g. Instantaneous gas exchange measurements may also have been obscured by the method in which treatments were applied, because seedlings within the same water regime but different chambers were at varying levels of moisture stress when gas exchange measurements were made.

In addition to variability in immediate environmental conditions, physiological responses to O₃ exposure may confound the relationship between

 δ^{13} C and c_i . Changes in respiration due to O_3 have been reported in pine species (Barnes, 1972; McLaughlin et al., 1982; Yang et al., 1983) and would obscure the response of δ^{13} C to O_3 if fractionation is associated with respiration. It is assumed that isotope discrimination associated with respiration is negligible, but this has not been confirmed (O'Leary, 1988). PEP carboxylation is another process affecting carbon isotope composition. A fourfold increase in PEP carboxylase activity due to O_3 was observed in Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) (Leuthy-Krause et al., 1990). Since PEP carboxylation discriminates against ¹²C (Farquhar et al., 1989a), an increase in PEP carboxylase activity would cause increased δ¹³C. Fractionation during secondary metabolism could also obscure δ^{13} C response to O₃. Sharkey et al. (1991) reported fractionation associated with the synthesis of isoprene in red oak (Quercus rubra), in which the magnitude of discrimination was dependent on plant response to environmental conditions. Finally, variability in resistance to CO₂ diffusion within the leaf may modify δ^{13} C (Vitousek et al., 1990). While δ^{13} C reflects c_i at the sites of carboxylation, gas exchange parameters yield c_i of the substomatal cavities (Evans et al., 1986). In this study, O₃ significantly increased specific leaf area (m² leaf area/g foliage biomass), indicating decreased needle thickness or less densely packed cells (Elsik et al., 1992). In either case, the result may be decreased internal resistance to CO2 diffusion to the sites of carboxylation. Thus, the effect of O_3 on specific leaf area would result in increased c_i at the sites of carboxylation, consequently decreasing δ^{13} C. This would conceal the effect of stomatal response to O_3 on δ^{13} C, in which decreased g causes decreased c_i in the substomatal cavities, increasing δ^{13} C.

There were no $O_3 \times$ water-stress interactions on instantaneous c_i or other gas exchange measurements. The relationship between watering and fertilizing schedules for each chamber with the timing of O_3 peaks may have obscured this potential interaction. Since O_3 was added in proportion to ambient, and watering and fertilizing cycles within a water stress treatment were different in each chamber, it is possible that seedlings within the same watering regime, but different chambers, were at different water-stress levels when O_3 peaks occurred. The integrated nature of stable carbon isotope composition allowed an interaction to be detected, because, unlike instantaneous gas exchange measurements, $\delta^{13}C$ is not immediately dependent on environmental variables at the time of measurement, which may or may not represent typical conditions.

The interaction suggested by regression analysis, in which the effects of O_3 on $\delta^{13}C$ of foliage and stem tissue in WW seedlings of loblolly pine were greater than those of WS seedlings, indicated that water stress provided protection from O_3 through stomatal closure. This is supported by the tendency of WS loblolly pine seedlings to possess lower g than WW loblolly pine seedlings. Similar interactions, in which the WS treatment lessened the O_3 effect, were observed in foliage biomass of loblolly pine (Elsik et al., 1992). The opposite interaction was observed in foliar $\delta^{13}C$ of shortleaf pine, with a greater O_3 effect in WS seedlings than in WW seedlings. This

interaction in shortleaf pine suggested that O_3 may have increased stomatal response to water stress. Instantaneous measurements of g in shortleaf pine, indicating that water stress tended to increase g at the higher O_3 levels, do not support this hypothesis. Alternatively, this apparent interaction may be a result of the high degree of variability in O_3 response of foliar δ^{13} C of WW seedlings as opposed to WS seedlings.

The results reported here and the previously reported growth measurements (Elsik et al., 1992) indicate that the loblolly pine family was more sensitive to O₃ than the shortleaf pine family. Differences in O₃ sensitivity have been attributed to inherent differences in g, because O3 uptake is limited by stomatal aperture (Reich, 1987). This is not the case in the present study. The loblolly pine family used here (GR1-8) is drought-hardy (van Buijtenen, 1966) and is expected to exhibit lower g than a droughtsensitive family. Seiler and Johnson (1988) reported that this family had lower rates of transpiration than two drought-susceptible families. In this study, instantaneous gas exchange measurements indicated that loblolly pine did indeed possess significantly lower g (P < 0.05) than shortleaf pine throughout the experiment. Alternatively, the difference in O₃ sensitivity may be related to mesophyll properties (Taylor et al., 1982). According to Knauf and Bilan (1977), a drought-hardy loblolly pine family possessed more closely packed mesophyll than loblolly pine families from mesic seed sources. This would provide more surface area on which O₃ molecules can dissolve. The difference may also be related to the ability of the plant to compensate for O₃ damage. Loblolly pine exhibited significantly greater height growth (P < 0.001) throughout the season, while shortleaf pine exhibited significantly greater A (P < 0.05) (Elsik et al., 1992). The additional carbon assimilated in shortleaf pine may have been allocated to compensatory processes. Differences in carbon allocation to roots and foliage may also have contributed to the difference in response and has been addressed elsewhere (Elsik et al., 1992).

The difference between the two tissues in their response of δ^{13} C to the treatments may be related to the timing of seedling susceptibility to treatment and carbon allocation patterns. Ozone injury does not occur until a plant is unable to compensate for the cellular damage caused by O_3 (Tingey and Taylor, 1982). The stem tissue may contain a higher percentage of the carbon that had been assimilated previous to O_3 injury. Stem tissue may, therefore, provide a better estimate of integrated seedling response. The lack of significant stem δ^{13} C response to O_3 in shortleaf pine, despite the significant increase in foliar δ^{13} C due to O_3 , is most likely related to the timing of O_3 injury. Loblolly pine, which showed a significant O_3 response in both tissues, and was more responsive to O_3 in growth and gas exchange characteristics (Elsik *et al.*, 1992), was unable to compensate for O_3 damage at a time preceding the onset of O_3 injury in shortleaf pine.

The increase in A due to water stress may cause one to question the effectiveness of the WS treatment. However, the aim of the WS treatment was merely to provide a mild water deficit compared to the WW treatment.

Although the WS treatment did not consistently result in significantly lower g, it did tend to decrease g. The increased A in WS seedlings may be explained by a fertilizer effect, in which nitrate was leached from the fritted clay medium more quickly in the WW treatment than in the WS treatment. This is supported by higher foliar N content and foliar chlorophyll concentration in WS seedlings than WW seedlings (Elsik, 1992).

V. Summary

Chronic environmental stress, such as O_3 exposure, may have subtle effects on physiological processes in trees, while greatly impacting growth over time. Instantaneous measurements of plant gas exchange response may not be sufficient to detect subtle changes in physiology. Therefore, an integrated measure is necessary to determine the long-term effect of physiological response to O_3 . In this study, container-grown seedlings were exposed to both chronic O_3 and mild water stress in open-top field chambers throughout one growing season. Stable carbon isotope composition of foliage and stem tissue was determined in order to assess integrated gas exchange response, which may not have been detected by instantaneous measurements.

After 4 months of treatments, O₃ significantly increased δ¹³C values of foliage and stem tissue in loblolly pine and foliage tissue in shortleaf pine, indicating decreased c_i , evidence that O_3 had a greater effect on g than on light harvesting or photosynthetic enzyme processes in loblolly and shortleaf pine. The results also indicate that O_3 exposure increased W in both species. Stable carbon isotope composition did not reflect instantaneous c_i measurements. Interactions between O_3 and water stress were not observed in gas exchange measurements, but the integrated nature of stable carbon isotope analysis permitted the detection of an interaction effect on δ¹³C. The interaction in loblolly pine suggested that water deficit provided protection from O₃ through partial stomatal closure, in agreement with instantaneous measurements of g. The interaction in shortleaf pine suggested that O₃ increased stomatal response to water deficit, but this is not supported by instantaneous measurements of g. Stable carbon isotope analysis proved to be an important tool in resolving long-term O₅ effects, while instantaneous gas exchange measurements were not sufficient to detect effects of chronic O_3 exposure on c_i and W. The application of this technique to air pollution studies can be enhanced through the investigation of O₃ effects on processes other than RuBP carboxylation that may affect δ^{13} C.

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