

Field-based evidence of ozone impacts on vegetation: an update

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Importance of field-based evidence

- Verify predictions from experiments and models.
- Demonstrate to policy makers that ambient ozone is having an impact.
- Evidence can be used to validate risk maps created using modelled data, e.g. ozone concentration and flux.
- ICP Vegetation 'Evidence Report' in 2007, with >500 records of visible injury from 16 European countries. We present an update of this report.





Hayes et al. 2007







Sources of evidence

- ICP Vegetation biomonitoring experiments
- Records of visible leaf injury
 - Smart phone App
 - Ozone gardens
 - Published information from surveys and ambient air experimental treatments
 - ICP Forests visible injury records
- Charcoal-filtered vs. non-filtered air experiments
- Epidemiology studies











Ozone injury App

Recording incidences of leaf ozone injury





Submit photographs of ozone injury





Location on interactive map



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http://icpvegetation.ceh.ac.uk/record/index

2014/5 App progress

Registrations.....

- **36** people registered in 2014
- **33** further registrations in 2015

Primarily in ozone community, but records received from around the world.

Possible obstacles:

Not much ozone damage seen in the field?

No smart phone/lack of phone coverage? (use online form or complete form and save)

Not out in the field this summer?







Species showing ozone injury (2014/5, App)

- 1. Beech (Fagus sylvatica)
- 2. Ash (*Fraxinus spp*.)
- 3. Wayfaring tree (Viburnum lantana)
- 4. Poplar (Populus spp.)
- 5. Black cherry (Prunus serotina)
- 6. Alder (Alnus spp.)
- 7. Common hazel (Corylus avellana)
- 8. Common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)
- 9. Cutleaf coneflower (Rudbeckia laciniata)
- 10. Magnolia accuminata
- 11. White clover (Trifolium repens)
- 12. Alfalfa (Medicago sativa)
- 13. Wheat (Triticum spp.)
- 14. Tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum; Bel W3)
- 15. French bean (Phaseolus vulgaris)
- 16. Aubergine (Solanum melongena)
- 17. Onion (Allium cepa)
- 18. Lettuce (Lactuca sativa)
- 19. Basil (Ocimum basilicum)
- 20. Raspberry (Rubus idaeus)
- 21. Potato (La Chipper) (Solanum tuberosum)



y Belina, French bean, USA, July 2015

Gina Mills, white clover, Milan, July 2015

USA Ozone Bio-indicator Gardens



Boulder, Colorado



St Louis University







Great Smoky Mountains NP



Penn State University



NASA Goddard Research Station, Maryland



Ozone injury recording protocol

Recording the presence/absence of ozone injury using the smart-phone App or online recording form

Experimental Protocol

ICP Vegetation*, 2015





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* International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops.

- Use of the ozone App
- Ozone gardens





Ecology & Hydrology

http://icpvegetation.ceh.ac.uk/manuals/



Ozone gardens 2015



White clover





Poznan ozone garden (Klaudia Borowiak, Anna Budka)



French bean



Tobacco

Wheat

3 gardens: UK (Bangor), France (Paris), Poland (Poznan)







Visible injury in ambient air



- These records are from 2006 onwards, from the App, biomonitoring experiments and from published literature
- Visible injury symptoms have been observed on over 60 species of crops, grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.
- ICP Forests data also shows many records of ozone injury symptoms in central and Eastern Europe.
- Injury has been observed in 19 countries from Europe, Asia and North and South America.
- Records are still centred in areas where ozone specialists are active!

Evidence for Europe



 Field-based evidence of ozone damage on crops, trees and wild flowers (2007 – 2015) in Europe is coherent with risk of damage as estimated from ozone flux, i.e. widespread.



Crops – experimental evidence



Сгор	Number of data points	% crop reduction		Country	Number of data points	% crop reduction
Soybean	3	22.5	1	Belgium	2	5.9
Rice	17	9.4	China India	China	15	**
Sugar beet	2	5.9			19	19.5
Wheat	14	8.3				
Durum wheat	2	14.2		Japan	2	3.2
			Pakistan	5	40.0	
Peas and beans	4	26.1				

- Experiments using charcoal-filtered compared to non-filtered air have shown large reductions in crop yield.
- Changes in crop quality have been shown for some e.g. rice and wheat.
- There are some confounding factors because some countries only used the most sensitive crops.
- There were very high ozone concentrations for the Pakistan studies.
- The efficiency of the charcoal filter can have a large influence on reported reductions (range of CF is 4 to >20ppb).







(Semi-)natural vegetation

- Many species (>60) have been tested in filtered air vs non filtered experiments.
- Most of the data is from before 2006 and for many species there is no replication in different experiments.
- The parameters measured are also diverse. Many report biomass, but sometimes this is above-ground biomass only, and sometime total biomass only (there is evidence that root biomass is more sensitive than shoot biomass for some species).
- Size and direction of effect on biomass for semi-natural vegetation (grasses and forbs) from the CF NF experiments (2000-15) was variable (overall mean, 6% reduction).









Epidemiology studies

- Epidemiological studies have been used to show impacts on mature trees in the field.
- In Switzerland, based on measurements of ~ 4800 trees, it was estimated that the reduction in annual growth due to ozone during the period 1991 to 2011 was 19.5% for deciduous trees and 6.6% for conifers (Braun *et al.*, 2014).
- Epidemiological analysis has also been used in northern Italy and southern France to show that ozone injury symptoms on forest trees were better explained by ozone uptake (POD) rather than ozone concentrations (Sicard *et al.*, 2016).

Reduction in annual tree growth in Switzerland



Map from Braun et al., 2014

(Braun et al., 2014, Environmental Pollution 192, 129-138) (Sicard et al., 2016, Science of the Total Environment 541, 729-741)





Summary

- There is widespread field-based evidence of ambient ozone impacts.
- For some regions there is much evidence of impacts (particularly visible injury), but coverage remains poor in South America, Africa and Asia.
- The largest evidence source is visible leaf injury, but this is 'presence' only and not quantifiable.
- CF NF experiments remain good sources of evidence, but global coverage is very low and the relative sensitivity of the species tested is problematic when analysing data between sites.
- Epidemiological analysis is a useful tool, but requires a long timescale and so is less useful for investigating impacts in individual years.





Get involved?







http://icpvegetation.ceh.ac.uk/record/index





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Thank you for your attention!



