# Photosynthetic acclimation and sensitivity to VPD and soil moisture changes

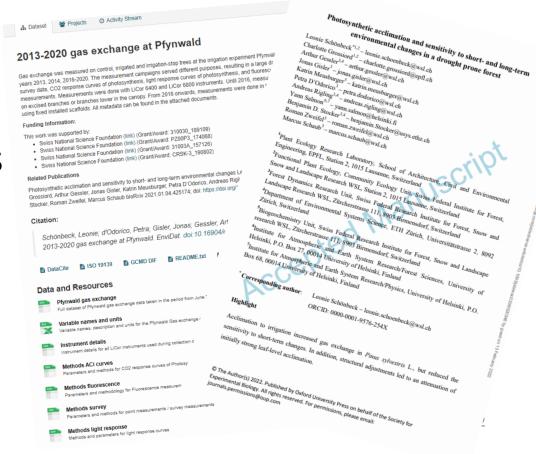
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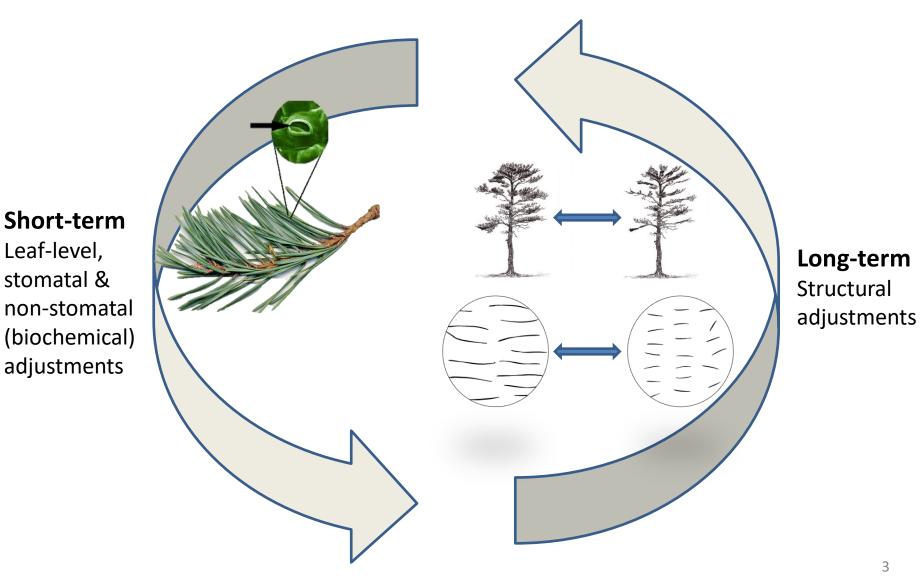
## The power of Pfynwald

 Long-term yearly measurements as monitoring tool for plant physiology

Insights into acclimation processes



#### Acclimation



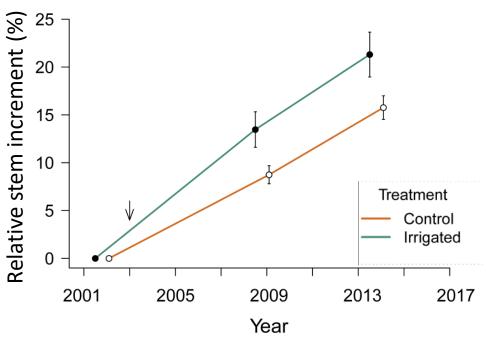
Leaf-level,

### Pfynwald – structural acclimation

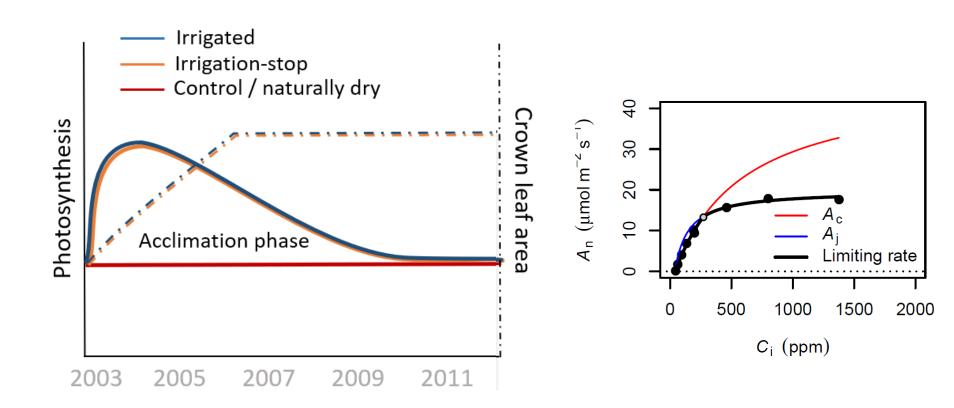
#### Relative leaf area crown

#### 

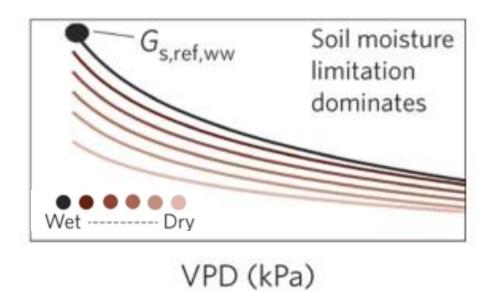
#### Relative stem increment



### Photosynthetic acclimation



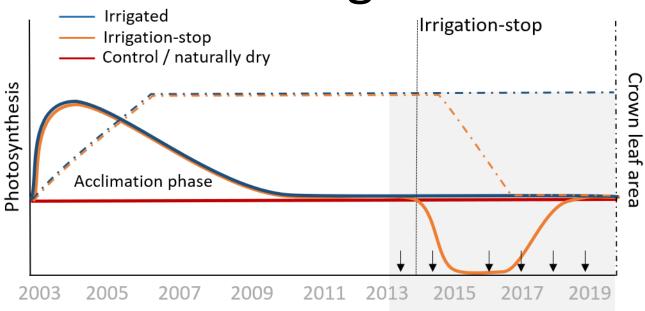
### Stomatal sensitivity





- **1. Acclimation** of stomatal and photosynthetic properties in response to long-term change in soil moisture
- 2. Sensitivity of stomatal conductance to short-term VPD and soil moisture variation
- **3. Recovery** of photosynthetic properties when drought follows a long-term acclimation to high soil moisture

### Design



Gas exchange measurements



### Design

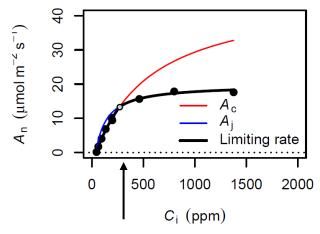
Irrigated
Irrigation-stop
Control / naturally dry

#### In general:

- Three times per year June, August, October
- 9 Scaffolds, 3 trees per scaffold = 27 trees (9 per treatment)
- A / Ci curves photosynthesis at increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentration
- Other data diurnal measurements, point measurements, gas exchange during 2017 labelling experiment, etc.

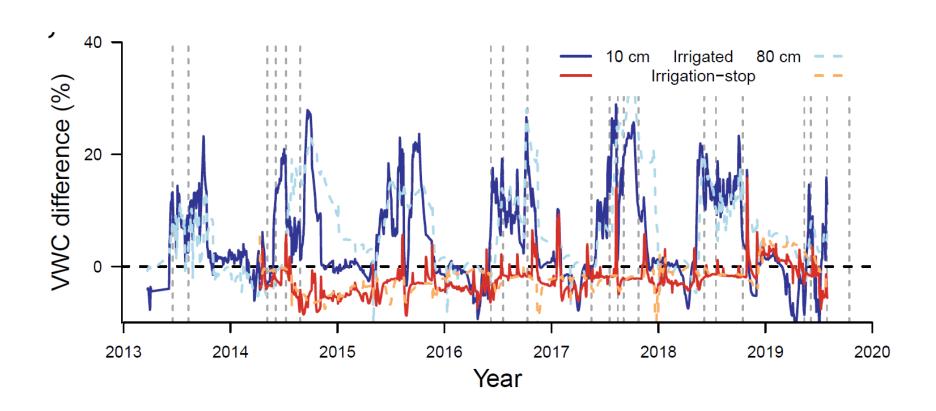


#### Gas exchange measurements

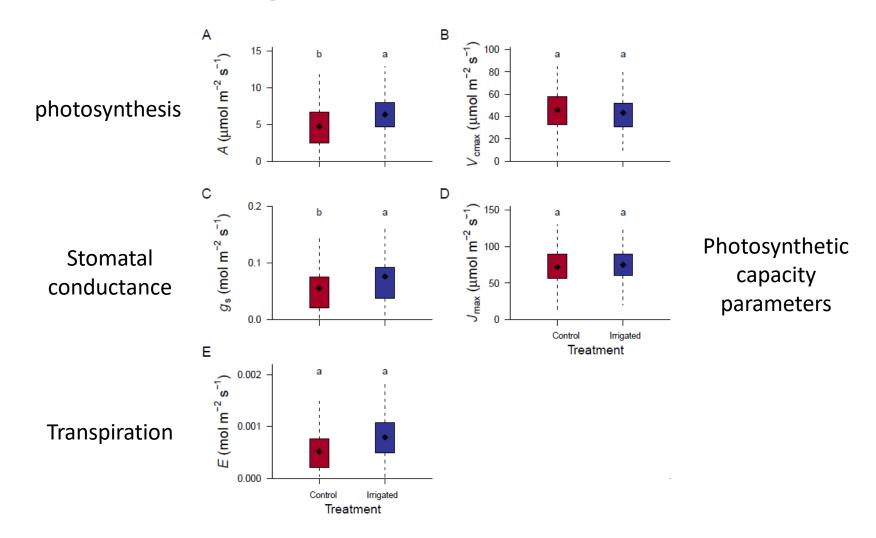


$$CO_2 = 400 \text{ ppm}$$

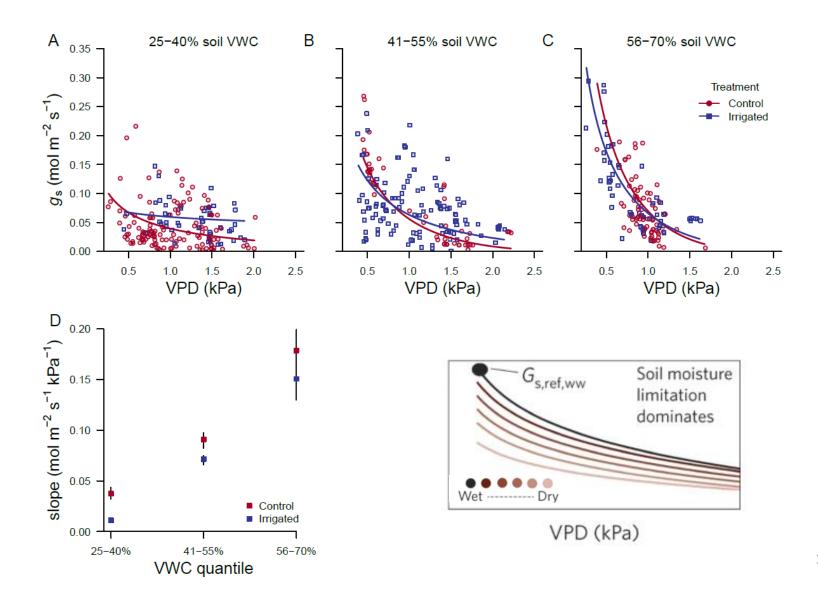
#### Soil water



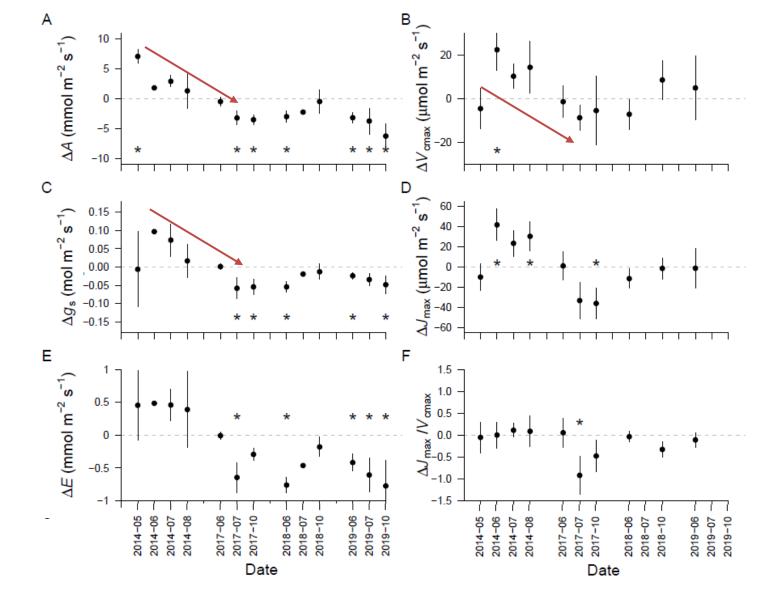
#### Long term acclimation



### Stomatal sensitivity to VPD



### How fast do trees react / acclimate?



Difference with irrigated trees

### Slow response to extreme drought

- Gas exchange measurements done on previous years' needles
  - Physiological characteristics

- Ecological memory effect into newly built structures
  - Pines need +- 4 years to renew the full crown

#### Conclusions

#### 1. Acclimation

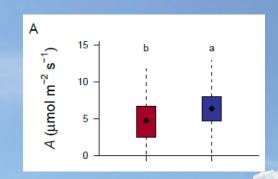
 Irrigated trees still have higher photosynthesis; control trees still have similar capacity

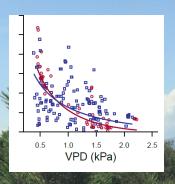
#### 2. Sensitivity

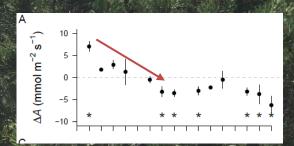
 Control trees show slightly higher sensitivity to VPD changes – can capitalize beneficial circumstances

#### 3. Recovery

 Time lag in response, due to structural and ecological memory?

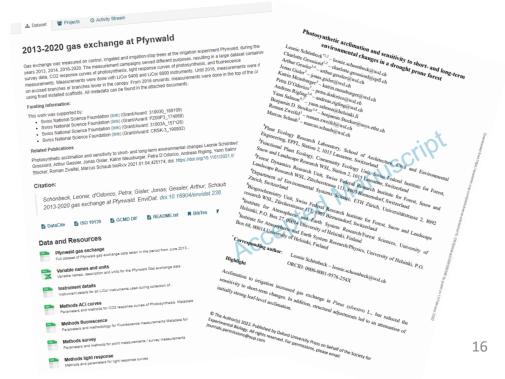






#### Resources

- https://www.envidat.ch/dataset/pfynwaldgasexchange
  - DOI: 10.16904/envidat.238
- <a href="https://academic.oup.com/jxb/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/jxb/erac033/6520546">https://academic.oup.com/jxb/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/jxb/erac033/6520546</a>
  - DOI: 10.1093/jxb/erac033



### Thank you!

