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6	Title:
7	Reduction of photosynthesis before midday depression occurred: leaf photosynthesis of
8	Fagus crenata in relation to canopy position and a number of days after rainfall.
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19 Abstract

We investigated an effect of canopy position and a number of days after rainfall on reduction of photosynthetic rate in a *Fagus crenata* forest in summer 2008, during days when midday depression was not apparent. We compared in-situ photosynthetic rate and photosynthetic rate that was calculated by photosynthetic light response curves measured in the morning. The ratio, in-situ photosynthesis divided by the curve-estimated value, declined towards the end of each day for the upper leaves, but not for the lower leaves. Total photosynthesis was reduced only for the upper leaves by 12% during five days after the rainfall.

Key words: Photosynthesis; stomatal conductance; net primary production; temperate forest; *Fagus crenata* Blume.

Introduction

Temperate forests are carbon sinks against climate change (Granier et al. 2000; 2002; Luyssaert et al. 2008; Saigusa et al. 2008; Kato and Tang 2008; Ito 2008; 2010; Koyama & Kikuzawa 2010a; Joo et al. 2011). The "big leaf model" extended single-leaf responses (Farquhar 1989) into whole-plant responses under the same scheme, and proposed simple relations predicting ecosystem carbon gain based on an optimization hypothesis (Sellers et al. 1992; Dewar et al. 1996; Haxeltine and Prentice 1996;

Terashima et al. 2005; Koyama and Kikuzawa 2009; 2010b). Recently, the big leaf model was validated even under fluctuating light intensity, both theoretically (Koyama and Kikuzawa 2010b), and empirically (Rosati and DeJong 2003; Rosati et al. 2004; Posada et al. 2009; Koyama and Kikuzawa 2010b). However, there have also been countless results showing that the optimization was not always realized (Field 1983; Hirose and Werger 1987; Meir et al. 2002; Posada et al. 2009). One possible explanation for this discrepancy is that photosynthesis is not only limited by light, but also by other factors (Mooney and Gulmon 1979; Meir et al. 2002; Niinemets and Valladares 2004). Even when light is plentiful, both stomatal and non-stomatal limitation plays important roles for reducing in-situ photosynthetic rate for trees (Ishida et al. 1999a; Muraoka et al. 2000; Niinemets et al. 2004; Valladares and Pearcy 2002; Misson et al. 2010). In this study, we will demonstrate that photosynthesis of upper leaves on Fagus crenata forest was not solely determined by light, but also by stomatal limitation. Leaf stomatal conductance is controlled by many factors. External environment

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Leaf stomatal conductance is controlled by many factors. External environment such as air humidity (Jarvis 1976; Tenhunen et al. 1987; Ball et al. 1987; Harley and Tenhunen 1991; Leuning 1995; see review by Damour et al. 2010) controls stomata via increment of transpiration (Mott and Parkhurst 1991; Mott and Peak 2010). However, Damour et al. (2010) concluded that in addition to those leaf-level responses, including an effect of soil water condition is needed. Tazaki et al (1980) reported that upper leaves of mulberry tree showed no midday depression in the second day after the last rainfall.

but apparent depression occurred in the eighth day. Nakai et al. (2010) also reported in the experiment of *Salix gracilistyla* cuttings, that the longer the drought treatment, the more stomatal limitation on photosynthesis. However, those studies did not investigate the difference of stomatal limitation between canopy positions.

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Within a single canopy, a limiting factor for photosynthesis may differ among different positions. Firstly, leaves from different positions within a canopy themselves differ morphologically, chemically, anatomically and physiologically. This is observed in Fagus crenata (Uemura et al. 2000; Yamasaki and Kikuzawa 2003; Iio et al. 2005; 2009; Koyama and Kikuzawa 2010ab), other temperate deciduous trees (Niinemets 1995; 2010; Koyama and Kikuzawa 2010b; Yoshimura 2010) and temperate evergreens (Hozumi and Kirita 1972; Katahata et al. 2007). Also, leaves on higher position may have smaller water reserves (Jarvis 1976) and / or longer water pathway from root (Ryan et al. 2006). Hence, it is expected that a degree of stomatal limitation of photosynthesis should differ among different canopy positions. However, in most of the previous studies, the effect of canopy position was not investigated (cf. Tazaki et al. 1980; Zotz and Winter 1996; Muraoka et al. 2000; Ishida et al. 1999a; 2000; Valladares et al. 2008; Misson et al. 2010; Nakai et al. 2010). For other studies which investigated different canopy positions, the temporal pattern in relation to soil water conditions was not investigated (cf. Muraoka and Koizumi 2005; Iio et al. 2009). To date, knowledge on the interaction between soil water condition and canopy position is very limited (cf.

Niinemets et al. 2004). Regarding the above argument, it is necessary to simultaneously investigate both of the above two factors (Niinemets and Valladares 2004). The aim of this study is to elucidate spatial and temporal pattern of efficiency of photosynthetic rate under field condition in a Japanese beech forest (*Fagus crenata* Blume). We tested the following two hypotheses. (1) Daytime reduction of photosynthesis was apparent for the upper leaves, but not for the lower leaves. (2) This reduction was interactively affected by the soil water condition. There will be no apparent reduction in daily photosynthetic rate just after a rainfall, but will be a significant reduction when the number of days after the last rainfall increased.

Methods

90 Species and Site

Fagus crenata Blume is a late-successional deciduous canopy tree distributed in mountainous regions in Japan (Matsui et al. 2004). The site was a 15-year-old plantation in the Ishikawa Prefectural Forest Experiment Station (36°25'N, 136°38'E, elevation 220 m), which is located at the foot of Mt. Hakusan. At the plantation, 130 trees were planted in 1995 in the area of 171 m². Those trees were grown by seeds from Mt. Hakusan (Jiro Kodani, personal communication), and hence they should belong to the Japan Sea coast haplotypes (cf. Okaura and Harada 2002). The stand height and the mean DBH were around 6 m and 4.7 cm in 2008, respectively. The canopy was closed

and there was almost no vegetation on the forest floor.

The site climate was one of the typical Japan Sea coast regions, characterized by heavy snowfall in winter. The measurement was conducted from 27 July to 1 August 2008, when the summer rainy season was finished. Mean annual temperature and mean annual precipitation are 13.0 °C and 2438 mm, respectively (2003 – 2007). Mean temperature in August was 25.0 °C (2003 – 2007), being the hottest month. However, in August there usually was no severe drought in that region, and rainfall typically occurs at least in every one week (Koyama K, personal obs.). Mean monthly precipitation was 184 mm (2003 – 2007), which was slightly lower than the mean monthly precipitation (203 mm). The mean temperature and total precipitation in 2008 was 12.8 °C and 2229 mm, respectively. The mean temperature and the total precipitation in August 2008 was 24.2 °C and 182 mm, respectively, being not greatly different from the normal years. The above data were from the Annual Report of the Ishikawa Prefectural Forest Experiment Station (2003 – 2008).

114 Photosynthesis measurement

A total of 91 mm rainfall was observed within two days in 27 and 28 July 2008 at the site (data from the Ishikawa Prefectural Forest Experiment Station, by courtesy of Dr. Jiro Kodani). There was no rain during successive measurement days as confirmed by a plastic funnel-top container set above the canopy. The measurements were conducted on

the 1st, the 3rd and the 5th day after the last rainfall on 28 July. We used two portable photosynthesis systems (LI-6400, LI-COR, Lincoln, USA), with CO₂ supply inside the chambers kept at 350 ppm. Four leaves on the upper part of the canopy (i.e. "the upper leaves") were selected from one branch at the height of 5.7 m. Those were accessed by a scaffolding tower. Another four leaves on the lower canopy (i.e. "the lower leaves") were selected from one branch on an adjacent tree at the height of 1.5 m, as there were no accessible lower leaves on the same tree. For each position (the upper and lower), incident photosynthetically active photon flux density (PPFD) were measured for seven times with 1 - 2 hours intervals during daytime (8:30 - 16:00) with a quantum sensor (IKS-27, KOITO Kogyo, Yokohama, Japan) placed above the branch of those leaves. Hence, the angle of each leaf was not considered in this study. Net photosynthetic rates of those intact leaves at each moment were measured by the two LI-6400s under the PPFD of the same intensity just recorded on those leaves on each occasion, which were supplied by the LED light sources (LI-6400-02B). On each occasion, the PPFDs were kept constant until the equilibration of the leaves (typically, 20 - 40 min). Leaf conductance to H₂O (g) (mol m⁻² s⁻¹), leaf temperature, and vapor pressure deficit based on leaf temperature (VPD) (kPa) were simultaneously calculated by the LI-6400s. In the following, we will regard g as equivalent to leaf stomatal conductance, assuming that leaf boundary layer resistance was negligible. Immediately after each occasion of the photosynthetic measurement, dark respiration rate was measured with zero light.

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We simultaneously measured one photosynthetic light response curve for each of the same sample leaves with the same LI-6400s. Those measurements were conducted from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., intermittently between the in-situ photosynthesis measurements described above. For the lower leaves, all the four leaves were measured on the 1st day. For the upper leaves, as we could not finish the measurement on the 1st day, each two of the four leaves were measured on the 1st and the 3rd day. On each measurement, the leaves were firstly induced by PPFD = 1500 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹ until equilibration. Then, PPFD was changed from higher to lower (2000, 1500, 1000, 750, 500, 250, 125, 63, 32 and 0 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹) with the LEDs. On each occasion of the change, PPFD was kept constant until the equilibration of the leaves. During those light-response measurements, leaf temperatures were not controlled and ranged 28.6 °C – 33.2 °C and 28.1 °C – 31.9 °C for the upper and the lower leaves, respectively.

Data analysis

Diurnal course of in-situ gross photosynthetic rate ($P_{\rm g_mes}$, µmol m⁻² s⁻¹) for each leaf was calculated as the sum of net photosynthesis and dark respiration rate at each moment. We set another open-sky PPFD sensor set above the canopy during the measurement days, and we set $P_{\rm g_mes}$ at the dawns and the sunsets as both zeros (i.e. when the open-sky PPFD became zero) on each day. Daily photosynthesis for each leaf was estimated by interpolations of those $P_{\rm g_mes}$ values.

We alternatively calculated hypothetical diurnal courses of gross photosynthetic rate, estimated solely by the diurnal change of the light intensity. Each net photosynthetic rate during the light-response measurement (from PPFD 0 to 2000 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹, see above) were converted to gross photosynthetic rate by adding dark respiration rate (PPFD = 0). Then, non-rectangular hyperbola (Marshall and Biscoe 1980) was fitted by KaleidaGraph 4 (Synergy Software, Reading, USA) ($r^2 > 0.997$):

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$$P_{\text{g.cv}} = \frac{\Phi I + P_{\text{max}} - \sqrt{(\Phi I + P_{\text{max}})^2 - 4\theta \Phi I P_{\text{max}}}}{2\theta}$$
 (µmol m⁻² s⁻¹) Eq. 1

In Eq. 1, $P_{\rm g}$ cv (µmol m⁻² s⁻¹) indicates a curve-estimated gross photosynthetic rate at each incident PPFD intensity (I, μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹). P_{max} indicates maximum gross photosynthetic rate of that leaf when I approaches infinity. The other two parameters, ϕ (μ mol μ mol⁻¹) and θ (dimensionless) indicate initial slope and convexity, respectively. The curve-estimated photosynthetic rate ($P_{\rm g}$ cv, μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹) at each time was estimated by substituting the same incident PPFD as was used in the in-situ photosynthetic rate described above into Eq.1 with each different set of parameters P_{max} , ϕ and θ for each different leaf. We used each single set of parameters for each leaf, such that same photosynthetic light response curves were assumed throughout the five measurement days. In other words, we hypothetically fixed conditions of the leaves at the time of light-response curve measurements, and only PPFD was changed as the same way as the actual diurnal courses.

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- Efficiency of photosynthesis
- 182 Actual photosynthetic rate $(P_{g \text{ mes}})$ should be under the effect of diurnal change of both 183 light intensity and all the other factors. In contrast, hypothetical $P_{g_{_cv}}$ should be 184 independent of diurnal change of the factors other than light. Then, the ratio between the 185 above two values $(P_{g_{-}mes} / P_{g_{-}cv})$ will be interpreted as diurnal change of efficiency of 186 photosynthesis, as affected by the non-light limitation. This ratio should be reduced, 187 when in-situ photosynthesis at that moment $(P_{g_{-}mes})$ was reduced by non-light factors. 188 Note that P_{g_cv} (and hence P_{g_mes} / P_{g_cv} as well) also depends on the non-light factors at 189 the time of the measurement of the photosynthetic light response curve, but was 190 independent of "diurnal change" of non-light factors, as we fixed each leaf at one 191 particular time of the day. Because of this, $P_{g_{mes}} / P_{g_{cv}}$ can be higher than unity, when 192 photosynthesis was limited less compared with the time of the measurement of

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- 195 Statistics
- 196 Linear regressions and Pearson's correlation coefficients (r) were calculated by SPSS
- 197 13.0J for Windows (SPSS Japan Inc, Tokyo, Japan).

photosynthetic light response curves.

198 Results

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Upper leaves had higher maximum gross photosynthetic rate (P_{g_max}) and dark 199 200 respiration rate (Table 1), which is consistent with the previous studies (Iio et al. 2005; 201 Koyama and Kikuzawa 2010b). Diurnal course of in situ gas exchange rate ($P_{\rm g\ mes}$) 202 basically followed incident PPFD both for the upper and the lower leaves, except in the 203 afternoon on the fifth day (Fig. 1a). There were no apparent "midday" depressions for 204 the both positions. The only visible difference was found in the upper leaves on the 5th 205 day, in which afternoon photosynthetic rate was apparently lower than that in the 206 morning. Diurnal course of VPD and leaf temperature showed similar pattern as that of 207 PPFDs (Fig. 1c). Leaf conductance to H₂O (g) tended to decline towards the end of 208 each day (Fig. 1b). This trend was evident on all the days for the upper leaves, but only 209 on the 5th day for the lower leaves. The actual in-situ daily gross photosynthetic rate 210 averaged over the three measurement days was 0.35 and 0.042 (mol m⁻² day⁻¹) for the 211 upper and lower leaves, respectively. 212 Although "midday depression" was not apparent, a clear difference was 213 detected between canopy positions when we compare $P_{g_{-}mes}$ / $P_{g_{-}cv}$ (Fig. 2). For the 214

detected between canopy positions when we compare $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ (Fig. 2). For the upper leaves $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ linearly declined towards the end of each day. In contrast, for the lower leaves $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ only fluctuated around the mean value for all the days. The slope of the decline of the upper leaves became steeper (i.e. more negative), as the number of days after the last rain increased (Fig. 3). The $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ were strongly and

positively correlated with leaf conductance to H_2O for the upper leaves, but there were no consistent relationships for the lower leaves (Fig. 4).

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Discussion

222 We found a clear difference between canopy positions; only the upper leaves showed 223 declining trends in photosynthetic efficiency (Fig. 2). We estimated the percentage loss 224 of daily gross photosynthetic rate due to this decline as follows. When $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ of 225 one particular time (say, 15:00) on one day was 0.85, while $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$ of the earliest 226 morning within that day was 1.1 (see Fig. 2 upper), we calculated the ratio 1.1 / 0.85 (= 227 1.3). It means that leaves in the earliest morning can conduct 1.3 times more 228 photosynthesis than the actual leaf exists at 15:00 under the same PPFD observed at 229 15:00. Then, we calculated product of this ratio and $P_{\rm g}$ mes on each time on each day. It 230 is the estimation of hypothetical photosynthetic rate conducted by a leaf, being "fixed" 231 at the condition of that in the earliest morning, whilst PPFD on that leaf was changed as 232 the same way as the actual diurnal course. Finally, we calculated potential gross daily 233 photosynthetic rate by the interpolation of those values as the same manner as the above 234 actual ones. Compared with those potential values, actual gross daily photosynthetic 235 rates were 12% and 1% less for the upper and the lower leaves, respectively. Hence, the 236 reduction was modest for the upper leaves, and did not exist for the lower leaves. Those 237 results supported the hypothesis that photosynthesis is constrained more greatly for the

upper leaves than the lower leaves (Jarvis 1976; Niinemets et al. 2004).

239 Among the upper leaves, $P_{g \text{ mes}} / P_{g \text{ cv}}$ decreased towards the end of each day. 240 This result supported Jarvis (1976), who suggested that water reserves within branches 241 or stems were gradually exhausted in upper canopies towards the end of each day. This 242 diurnal decline became steeper, as the number of days after the rainfall increased (Fig. 243 3). Then, the visible reduction of photosynthetic rate was eventually observed in the 244 afternoon on the fifth day (Fig. 1a). Those results are consistent with the study of a 245 mulberry tree (Tazaki et al. 1980), which showed that midday depression was not 246 evident until the second day after the last rainfall, but it was apparent from one week 247 after the rainfall. Those results were consistent with the classical scheme of the 248 periodical decline of soil water potential from morning to sunset within each day, with 249 the absolute water availability decreases as days after the last rain proceeds (Slatyer 250 1967). Kikuzawa et al. (2004) reported 46.5% reduction of daily photosynthesis for the 251 sun leaves of *Alnus sieboldiana*, when the apparent midday depression occurred. Our 252 results (12% loss without visible midday depression) suggests that a reduction of 253 photosynthesis does not abruptly rises up to 46% when an apparent midday depression 254 is observed, but it gradually increases from the onset of a rainless period. This indicates 255 that there may be no threshold condition for a midday depression. Hence, our results 256 depicted more general pattern than that of Tazaki et al. (1980), since it showed reduction 257 of photosynthesis before "midday depression" was apparent.

Stomatal limitation was expected to be higher for the upper leaves, which were exposed to high light environment (Niinemets and Valladares 2004). In addition, leaves on the higher position may have smaller water reserves (Jarvis 1976), longer water pathway from root (Ryan et al. 2006) and, specifically for tall trees, less water potential due to gravitation (Ishii et al. 2008; Nabeshima and Hiura 2008). Another mechanism suggested that sunlit upper leaves may have more water supplies by a selective investment of water into favorable sunlit leaves (Sprugel et al. 2002). In this study (6 m height), the gravitational effect should be negligible. However, we could not separate each of those confounding effects, as we selected upper and lower leaves from different individuals. Hence, before generalizing our results to other forests, mechanistic measurements including investigation of water supply on each position is needed to separate those factors.

We did not measured photoinhibition. Actual reduction is caused by both stomatal limitation and photoinhibition (Ishida et al. 1999abc; 2000; 2001; Muraoka et al. 2000; Werner et al. 2001; Valladares and Pearcy 2002; Yamazaki et al. 2007; Misson et al. 2010). Uemura et al. (2005) discussed that the reduction of photosynthesis in another *Fagus crenata* forest was due to photoinhibition, rather than stomatal closure. Our results showed that at least some part of reduction of photosynthesis was related to stomatal closure, which did not violate the conclusion by those studies.

We used LED light-sources, such that an effect of heat loading (Ishida et al.

2000; Uemura et al. 2005; Iio et al. 2009; Vogel 2009) may not have been properly evaluated. Although our method has a clear disadvantage in these points, it has another merit than those using natural sunlight. Diurnal course of incident photosynthetic rate did not show a visible midday depression on the 1st day (Fig 1a), which is consistent with Tazaki et al. (1980). However, when we calculated the $P_{\rm g_mes}$ / $P_{\rm g_cv}$, the reduction became apparent from the 1st day (Fig. 2). Hence, the reduction was detected only when we evaluated the ratio of the two kind of photosynthetic rates, $P_{\rm g_mes}$ and $P_{\rm g_cv}$, both of which were measured by the same LEDs, so that were readily comparable.

The study period was during the hottest season of one year on one particular ecotype of *Fagus crenata*. However, patterns of photosynthetic limitation should vary among seasons or years (Ishida et al. 1999b; Valladares et al. 2008; Misson et al. 2010). Generally, responses to environment differ among species (Turner et al. 1984; Ishida et al. 1999a; Uemura et al. 2000; 2005; Turnbull et al. 2002; Oguchi et al. 2005; Valladares et al. 2008; Kitaoka et al. 2009; Kamiyama et al. 2010), among ecotypes of *Fagus crenata* (Yamazaki et al. 2007; Tateishi et al. 2010), and between microhabitats (Koyama and Kikuzawa 2008; Nagano et al. 2009). A behavior of a plant can be considered as a summation of simple basic principles and those situation-dependent factors (Koyama and Kikuzawa 2009). Simple theories and complex factors are not mutually exclusive, but are compensatory for each other.

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Table 1 The photosynthetic light response curve parameters and dark respiration rate (R_d) at the time of the curve measurement.

	Upper	Lower	Units
$P_{ m max}$	13.7ª	3.8 ^b	μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹
φ	0.055	0.049	mol mol ⁻¹
θ	0.21	0.55	
R_{d}	1.8°	0.2 ^d	μmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹

Different uppercase letters: (a, b) p < 0.01 and (c, d) p < 0.05 (t - test).

Figure Legends (Figs. 1 - 4)

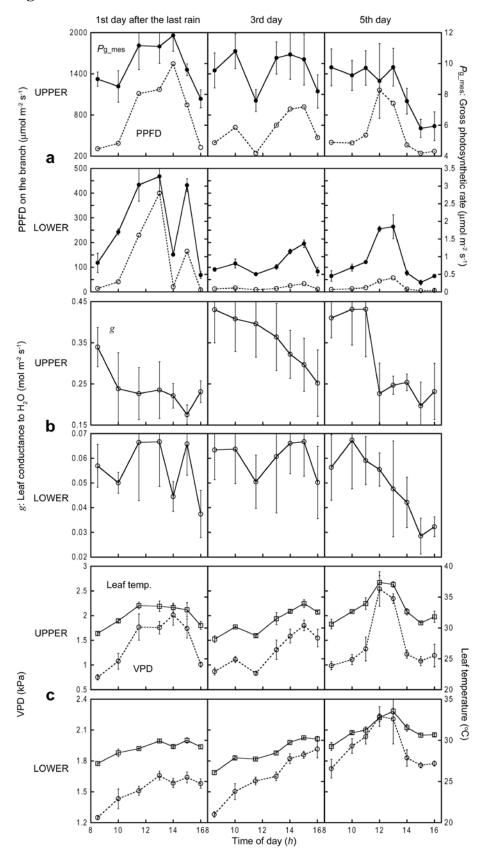
Fig. 1 Diurnal courses of the parameters. The left, the middle and the right column shows the 1st, the 3rd and the 5th day after the last rain in 28 July 2008, respectively. For each parameter but PPFD (one sensor), the mean value of the four leaves on each position are respectively shown. The error bars indicate the unbiased estimate of the standard deviation.

a (Closed circles) in situ gross photosynthetic rate of the leaves ($P_{g_{mes}}$). (Open circles) PPFD on the branch. **b** Leaf conductance to $H_2O(g)$. **c** (Open boxes) leaf temperature.

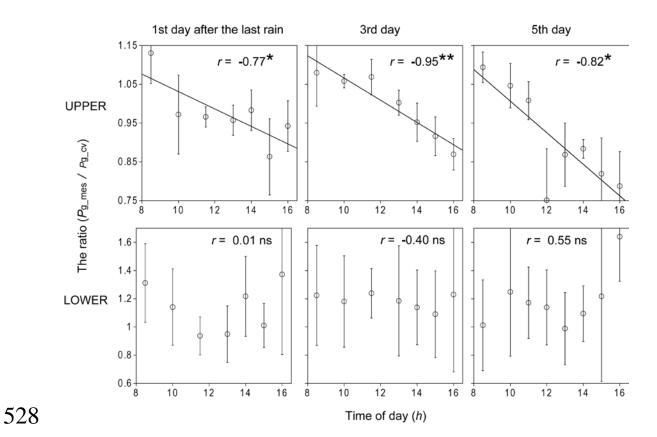
503 (Open circles) vapor pressure deficit based on the leaf temperature (VPD).

- 505 Fig. 2 Diurnal course of $P_{g_{mes}}$ / $P_{g_{cv}}$, the ratio between in-situ photosynthetic rate on
- 506 each time and photosynthetic rate estimated by photosynthetic light response curve,
- which was measured at one particular time during measurement days for each leaf. Each
- 508 open circle and its error bars indicate mean value and its unbiased standard deviation,
- respectively, for the four leaves on each canopy position. Solid lines indicate significant
- 510 linear regressions (*p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01):
- 511
- 512 (1st day) $P_{g_{\text{mes}}} / P_{g_{\text{cv}}} = 1.3 2.2 \times 10^{-2}$ Time of day (h).
- 513 (3rd day) $P_{g_{\text{mes}}} / P_{g_{\text{cv}}} = 1.4 2.9 \times 10^{-2} h$.
- 514 (5th day) $P_{g_{\text{mes}}} / P_{g_{\text{cv}}} = 1.4 4.1 \times 10^{-2} h$.
- 515
- 516 Fig. 3 The slopes of the diurnal decline of $P_{g_{\text{mes}}} / P_{g_{\text{cv}}}$ (i.e. the slopes of the linear
- 517 regressions for the upper leaves shown in Fig. 2) in relation to number of days after the
- 518 last rain.
- 519
- 520 Fig. 4 $P_{g_{mes}}$ / $P_{g_{cv}}$ in relation to g. Each open circle and its error bar indicate mean
- 521 value and standard deviation, respectively, for the four leaves in each position.
- Pearson's correlation coefficients (r) were shown (* p < 0.05, *** p < 0.001).
- 523

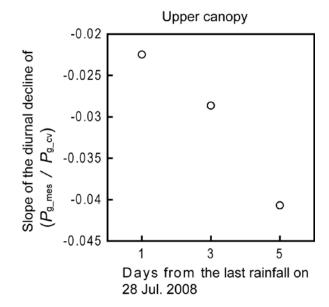
524 Fig. 1



527 Fig. 2



530 Fig. 3



533 Fig. 4

