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Title: Dry deposition and canopy uptake in Mediterranean holm-oak forests estimated with a canopy budget model: a focus on N estimations

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Abstract: Bulk/wet and throughfall fluxes of major compounds were measured from June 2011 to June 2013 at four Mediterranean holm-oak (*Quercus ilex*) forests in the Iberian Peninsula. Regression analysis between net throughfall fluxes and precipitation indicated that the best defined canopy process was leaching for K^+ and uptake for NH_4^+ at all sites. A more variable response between sites was found for Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , SO_4^{2-} and Cl^- , which suggests that the interplay of dry deposition, leaching and uptake at the canopy was different depending on site climate and air quality characteristics.

A canopy budget model (CBM) was used to try to discriminate between the canopy processes and enable to estimate dry deposition and uptake fluxes at three of the sites that complied with the model specifications. To derive N uptake, an efficiency factor of NH_4^+ vs. NO_3^- uptake (x_{NH_4}) corresponding to moles of NH_4^+ taken up for each NO_3^- mol, has to be determined. Up to now, a value of 6 has been proposed for temperate forests, but we lack information for Mediterranean forests. Experimental determination of N absorption on *Quercus ilex* seedlings in Spain suggests efficiency factors from 1 to 6. Based on these values, a sensitivity analysis for x_{NH_4} was performed and the NH_4^-N and NO_3^-N modeled dry deposition was compared with dry deposition estimated with independent methods (inferential modeling and washing of branches). At two sites in NE Spain under a milder Mediterranean climate, the best match was obtained for $x_{NH_4} = 6$, corroborating results from European temperate forests. Based on this value, total DIN deposition was 12-13 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ at these sites. However, for a site in central Spain under drier conditions, variation of the NH_4^+ efficiency factor had little effect on DD estimates (which ranged from 2 to 2.6 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ with varying x_{NH_4}); when added to wet deposition, this produced a total N deposition in the range 2.6 to 3.4 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹. Dry deposition was the predominant pathway for N, accounting for 60-80% of total deposition, while for base cations wet deposition dominated (55-65%). Nitrogen deposition values at the northwestern sites were close to the empirical critical load proposed for evergreen sclerophyllous Mediterranean forests (15-17 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹).

When organic N deposition at these forests is added ($3 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$), the total N input to the sites in NE Spain are close to the critical loads for Mediterranean evergreen oak forests.

*Highlights (for review)

A canopy budget model is used to estimate dry deposition and canopy uptake

A sensitivity analysis is carried out to determine NH₄ canopy uptake

Dry deposition accounts for 60-80% of total N deposition in 2 oak forests in the NE Iberian Peninsula

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29 to June 2013 at four Mediterranean holm-oak (*Quercus ilex*) forests in the Iberian
30 Peninsula. Regression analysis between net throughfall fluxes and precipitation
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32 at all sites. A more variable response between sites was found for Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , SO_4^{2-} and
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34 canopy was different depending on site climate and air quality characteristics.

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39 mol, has to be determined. Up to now, a value of 6 has been proposed for temperate
40 forests, but we lack information for Mediterranean forests. Experimental
41 determination of N absorption on *Quercus ilex* seedlings in Spain suggests efficiency
42 factors from 1 to 6. Based on these values, a sensitivity analysis for xNH_4 was
43 performed and the NH_4 -N and NO_3 -N modeled dry deposition was compared with dry
44 deposition estimated with independent methods (inferential modeling and washing of
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49 efficiency factor had little effect on DD estimates (which ranged from 2 to 2.6 kg N ha^{-1}
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55 Mediterranean forests ($15\text{-}17 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$). When organic N deposition at these
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57 the critical loads for Mediterranean evergreen oak forests.

58 **1. Introduction**

59 Atmospheric deposition has an impact on forest ecosystem functioning, forest health
60 and biodiversity. However, quantification of atmospheric total deposition is scarce for
61 Iberian Peninsula forests. In general, the Iberian Peninsula is little affected by
62 acidification, partly due to the important neutralizing role of carbonate-rich dust
63 deposition from North African events (Avila et al., 1998; Rodà et al., 1993). However,
64 this region is currently receiving substantial nitrogen (N) deposition (Aguillaume et al.,
65 2016, Izquieta-Rojano et al., 2016; Fowler et al., 2007) which is expected to increase in
66 the future (Dentener et al., 2006). Nitrogen deposition may adversely affect
67 biodiversity (Ochoa-Hueso et al., 2011; Phoenix et al 2006). The Iberian Peninsula has
68 been considered as one of the 25 Global Biodiversity Hotspots for conservation
69 priorities (Myers et al., 2000), and N deposition may exacerbate the threats to
70 biodiversity. In fact, N empirical critical loads established for the protection of
71 terrestrial habitats under the UNECE CLRTAP Convention (Convention on Long-Range
72 Transboundary Air Pollution) seem to be currently exceeded in some habitats of
73 Community interest of the Spanish Natura 2000 network (García-Gómez et al., 2014).

74 Quantifying total atmospheric deposition entails some difficulties. Wet (WD) and bulk
75 (BD) atmospheric deposition can be directly measured by using wet-only or bulk
76 collectors. However, the estimation of dry deposition (DD) is still challenging.
77 Throughfall (TF) deposition has been widely used to indicate total deposition (TD) to
78 the forest soil (De Schrijver et al., 2007). However, exchanges at the canopy level,
79 either from leaching or uptake, complicate the quantification of DD. Methods for
80 separating in-canopy sources from external sources in TF deposition rely on two broad
81 type of approaches: 1) regression models relating net throughfall fluxes (netTF) and
82 rainfall, such as those described by Lovett and Lindberg (1984) and Lovett et al. (1996),
83 and 2) canopy budget models (CBM) such as the one first proposed by Ulrich (1983)
84 and subsequently extended by several authors (Adriaenssens et al., 2012; Balestrini
85 and Tagliaferri, 2001; Draaijers and Erisman, 1995; Zhang et al., 2006). Canopy budget
86 models estimate total deposition of major ions by using a tracer ion, based in the
87 following assumptions: (1) the tracer ion is not influenced by canopy exchange

88 processes, and (2) aerosols containing the other ions have similar deposition behavior
89 than the ion chosen for reference.

90 The model is based on the balance between fluxes above and below the canopy: $TF =$
91 $PD + DD + CE$, where PD stands for precipitation deposition (which can be wet or bulk
92 deposition) and CE for canopy exchange. Once DD is known, the CE flux can be
93 estimated from subtraction in the above equation. Negative values of CE are due to
94 canopy uptake (CU) while positive values, to canopy leaching (CL). Some ions do not
95 comply with the above assumptions (e.g. NH_4^+ and H^+), and DD cannot be estimated
96 with this approach. In this case, the calculation process is reversed: first the CE flux is
97 estimated and then DD is obtained from the balance equation (Staelens et al., 2008;
98 ICP-Forest Manual, 2010).

99 Up to now, and to our knowledge, no studies have applied the canopy budget model
100 to determine dry deposition and canopy exchange in Mediterranean European forests,
101 in contrast to various studies in temperate and boreal European forests (Adriaenssens
102 et al., 2012; Kirchner et al., 2014; Staelens et al., 2008; Thimonier et al., 2005).
103 Moreover, in the Mediterranean as in other aridic regions, DD may be very important
104 (García-Gómez et al., 2014). For N, canopy uptake can be biogeochemically significant
105 because N has been found to limit productivity in Mediterranean forests (Rodà et al.,
106 1999), foliar N uptake for *Quercus ilex* and other Mediterranean species has been
107 demonstrated experimentally (Uscola Fernández et al., 2014), and foliar nutrition has
108 been found to play relevant role in forest productivity (Sparks, 2009).

109 Holm-oak (*Quercus ilex* L.) is a typical broadleaf evergreen sclerophyllous tree widely
110 distributed in the Mediterranean Basin, whose traditional management has led to a
111 diversity of forest types differing in structure and maturity. Nitrogen DD has been
112 found to make an important contribution to total deposition inputs in Mediterranean
113 forests as derived from modeling exercises (García-Gómez et al., 2014) or from branch
114 and surrogate surfaces washing experiments in holm-oaks (Avila and Rodà, 2012;
115 Rodrigo and Àvila, 2002). In spite of this research, more work is needed to define
116 atmospheric N inputs to the Iberian Peninsula, as model predictions presented a poor
117 match with measurements in some regions, notably for the Northeastern Iberian

118 fringe (García-Gómez et al., 2014), and measurements of deposition in the Iberian
119 Peninsula (e.g. Camarero and Catalan 1996; Morales-Baquero et al., 2006; Sanz et al.,
120 2002) comprise a low spatial coverage.

121 This work attempts to fill this gap by modeling DD of the major ions in Iberian
122 Peninsula holm-oak forests with a canopy budget model, with a special focus on N
123 deposition. Total N deposition (obtained from the sum of dry plus wet deposition) will
124 then permit to assess the status of these forests regarding the N critical loads
125 proposed for Mediterranean sclerophyllous forests.

126 **2. Material and methods**

127 **2.1 Locations and experimental sites**

128 The study was conducted at 4 holm-oak forests (*Quercus ilex* L.) in the north, center
129 and north-east of the Iberian Peninsula (Fig. 1). Two sites were located in Catalonia (La
130 Castanya and Can Balasc, LC and CB respectively), one in Madrid (Tres Cantos, TC) and
131 another site in Navarra (Carrascal, CA). The main characteristics of the sampling sites
132 are shown in Table 1.

133 The LC site (41°46'N, 2°21'E, 696 m.a.s.l.) is located in the Montseny Mountains of the
134 Pre-littoral Catalan Range, 40 km to the NNW of Barcelona city. This site is considered
135 as a rural background station, even though pollution from the Barcelona metropolitan
136 area may reach it transported by sea-land breezes (Pérez et al., 2008). Vegetation at LC
137 consists of a closed canopy forest dominated by holm-oak (*Quercus ilex* L.) trees.
138 Lithology at this area is composed by schists and granodiorites. Climate is
139 Mediterranean, with a clear seasonal cycle with lower precipitation in summer and
140 winter.

141 The CB site (41°25'N, 2°04'E, 255 m.a.s.l.) is located in the Collserola Natural Park, a
142 protected lying to the west of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (3.5
143 million inhabitants). The plot lies at 4 km linear distance from Barcelona outskirts. A
144 moderate to heavy traffic highway (C-16) runs about 150 m from the study plot.
145 Vegetation at CB is characterized by a continuous cover of holm-oak (*Quercus ilex* L.)

146 mixed with *Quercus humilis* Mill. Lithology consists of shales and slates with granitic
147 outcrops. Climate is Mediterranean.

148 The CA site (42°39'N, 1°38'W, 645 m.a.s.l.) is situated at the foot of the Alaitz-Izco hills,
149 in central Navarra. The nearest larger city, Pamplona (197 604 inhabitants) is 15 km to
150 the North. The site lies at ~100 m from a heavy traffic highway (AP-15) and is
151 surrounded by fields of irrigated cereal. An opencast limestone quarry is located
152 approximately 2 km to the north of the plots. The forest comprises mostly *Quercus*
153 *ilex* L. trees with scattered *Quercus faginea* Lam. and *Quercus humilis* Mill. individuals.
154 The site lies on calcareous soils mainly composed by washed clays. The climate at CA is
155 Mediterranean continental with oceanic influence from the Atlantic sea.

156 The TC site (40°35'N, 3°43'W, 705 m.a.s.l.) is located 9 km NE from Madrid outskirts
157 (3.2 million inhabitants). The site lies in the north-eastern border of the holm-oak
158 forest of El Pardo, which extends over an area of 170 km² and is a protected area.
159 Vegetation was historically managed as a traditional 'dehesa', a savannah-type
160 managed formation of low density isolated trees. The low management level during
161 the last decades has allowed the vegetation to grow as an open forest with an
162 understory of shrubs and grasslands. Lithology is composed by sandy arkoses
163 sediments from granites and gneisses. A moderate to high traffic intensity highway (M-
164 607) is located at 2 km from the monitoring site. The climate is continental
165 Mediterranean, characterized by long dry periods and a more contrasted seasonality
166 than the typical Mediterranean climate.

167 **2.2 Field sampling and chemical analysis**

168 In every location, an open-field (for WD and BD) and a below-canopy plot (for TF) were
169 instrumented. The same model of sampler was used to collect bulk and throughfall
170 deposition at all sites. It was composed of an ISO-standardized funnel (Norwegian
171 Institute for Air Research, NILU) with a 314 cm² horizontal interception surface,
172 connected to a polypropylene 2 L bottle. A bugsieve was placed at the funnel neck to
173 prevent leaves and other materials from entering into the bottle. The upper edge of
174 the funnel was equipped with an external ring to prevent contamination from bird
175 droppings. The rim of the funnel stood approximately at 1.5 m above ground level. For

176 bulk sampling, two collectors were used per site at LC and CB, and 4 at CA and TC. For
177 throughfall sampling, 12 collectors were used at all sites; they were randomly located
178 in a forest plot of 30*30 m² at LC, CB and CA. At TC, which had a more open canopy,
179 each collector was placed in the mid-distance between the trunk and the canopy
180 border in 12 trees encompassing the range of diameters. Collectors were permanently
181 open to the atmosphere, so they collected dry deposited coarse particles onto the
182 funnel. During no-rain periods the funnel was rinsed with 100 ml of deionized water in
183 order to collect particles that settle gravitationally, corresponding to coarse dry
184 deposition. The recovered dry deposition during dry periods made a low contribution
185 to the total bulk deposition, but nevertheless it was added to BD and TF deposition
186 collected in the next period. WD was also measured at LC and TC in the open-field plot,
187 by means of an automatic Andersen sampler (ESM Andersen instruments, G78-1001)
188 at each site. All funnels and WD buckets were thoroughly cleaned in the field with
189 deionized water after each sampling. Bulk and throughfall sampling bottles were
190 retrieved and replaced by clean ones at each site. Field blanks (recovered distilled
191 water after rinsing the funnels and buckets in the field) were periodically obtained and
192 analyzed.

193 Sampling took place from June 2011 to June 2013 in a weekly schedule (biweekly in
194 case of rainless weeks). All collected samples were kept refrigerated (4°C) in the
195 darkness until analyzed for conductivity, pH and alkalinity (within 24–48h of
196 collection). Alkalinity was measured by a conductivity titration (Golterman et al., 1978)
197 at LC, CB, and TC and Gran titration at CA. Samples were filtered with 0.45 µm size
198 pore membrane filters of cellulose (Millipore) and frozen until analysis. The ionic
199 measurements from the LC and CB were performed at CREAM by ionic chromatography
200 as described in Izquierdo and Avila (2012). In samples from CA and TC, ammonium and
201 anions were determined by ion chromatography, whereas cations were analyzed by
202 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) as described in Izquieta-
203 Rojano et al. (2016).

204 Analytical accuracy was checked with internal control samples of known
205 concentrations, with differences being lower than 10% except for K⁺ and NH₄⁺ (12 and
206 15%). The balance of the sum of cations vs. the sum of anions was also scrutinized. A

207 systematic excess of cations was found in all sample types, especially for TF. Since the
208 analytical accuracy was acceptable, the anion deficit was attributed to the anions of
209 weak acids, as done elsewhere (Balestrini and Tagliaferri, 2001; Hoffman et al., 1980).

210

211 **2.3 Data handling and statistical analysis**

212 Annual mean concentrations were calculated as volume-weighted means (VWM,
213 expressed as $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$). Annual WD, BD and TF fluxes were obtained as the product of
214 their respective VWM by the annual precipitation (for WD and BD) or throughfall
215 volume for TF fluxes.

216 Precipitation-ion and pair-wise ion relationships were analyzed with Spearman
217 regressions using weekly/biweekly data.

218 Model calculations in the CBM were performed in terms of equivalents (in $\text{meq m}^{-2} \text{y}^{-1}$)
219 and were then transformed into $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$. The CBM is based on the following balance
220 between fluxes above and below the canopy:

$$221 \text{TF} + \text{SF} = \text{PD} + \text{DD} + \text{CE} \quad (1)$$

222 where TF stands for throughfall, SF for stemflow, PD for Precipitation Deposition, DD
223 for Dry Deposition and CE for Canopy Exchange. **Canopy exchange can arise from**
224 **leaching of ions from the leaf pool (canopy leaching, CL) or from the uptake of**
225 **deposited ions (canopy uptake, CU).**

226

227 Stemflow at the LC site contributed only 3% of total rainfall (Rodrigo et al., 2003) and
228 because of its small contribution and to optimize sampling time and efforts, SF was not
229 measured in this study. Regarding PD, either WD or BD can be used, but WD is
230 recommended (Staelens et al., 2008) since BD includes the fraction of DD
231 corresponding to coarse particle deposition.

232

233 Then,

$$234 \text{TF} - \text{WD} = \text{net TF} = \text{DD} + \text{CE} \quad (2)$$

235 In this study we have used WD measurements at LC (measured in parallel to BD), and
236 applied the ratio WD/BD from this site to derive WD fluxes at CB which is only ~ 40 km
237 distant. For TC, WD and BD measurements were available for 6 months (January to
238 June 2013), and the ratios WD/BD for this period were applied to the 2011-2013
239 period (Table 2). To ascertain the validity of a short term period to infer yearly ratios,
240 we took advantage of the data series at LC. BD/WD ratios at LC from January to June
241 2013 were compared to the annual values (June 2012 - June 2013) with an unpaired
242 Student t-test, and differences were non-significant ($p>0.05$) for all ions, except for H^+
243 and alkalinity. While acknowledging a degree of uncertainty due to site differences, we
244 have considered this result to back up the use of the half-year ratios at TC. At CA, only
245 bulk deposition measurements were available, and because of the probable influence
246 of local agriculture and due to the carbonate lithology at this site, WD/BD ratios from
247 the other sites were considered not to apply for CA. Therefore, CBM calculations were
248 not performed at CA.

249

250 For ions such as Na^+ , SO_4^{2-} and Cl^- it is often assumed that the exchange between
251 precipitation and plant tissue is negligible and that their netTF fluxes represent their
252 dry deposition; i.e., they are considered as tracer ions. However, in this study we have
253 chosen Na^+ as tracer since it is the most commonly recommended tracer (Staelens et
254 al., 2008) and previous research in the LC forest has shown it to be mostly derived
255 from dry deposition (Rodrigo et al., 2003).

256

257 To obtain DD of an ion x (DD_x), the dry deposition factor based on Na^+ ($TF_{Na} - WD_{Na} /$
258 WD_{Na}) is multiplied by the WD of this particular ion:

259

$$260 \quad DD_x = (TF - WD)_{Na} / WD_{Na} * WD_x \quad (3)$$

261

262 This approach is quite straightforward for estimating DD for base cations and sulphate
263 aerosols, assuming that the particles containing them are deposited at similar
264 deposition velocities as the Na^+ particles.

265

266 For N to in its reduced or oxidized forms, which are mostly present as gases at the
 267 study sites (García-Gomez et al., 2016), the above assumptions do not hold and other
 268 approaches must be implemented. Furthermore, N compounds are known to be
 269 retained at the canopy level (and H^+ as well), thus netTF does not represent DD or
 270 canopy leaching (Brumme et al., 1992; Ferm, 1993; Geßler et al., 2002). It has been
 271 proposed (Balestrini and Tagliaferri, 2001; Staelens et al., 2008) that the NH_4^+
 272 exchange flux can be estimated by considering that its canopy uptake equals the
 273 canopy leaching of base cations (the sum of leaching of Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} and K^+) once
 274 corrected by the anion leaching (Staelens et al., 2008; Zhang et al. 2006). **Several**
 275 **studies have only taken into account the leaching of anions of weak acids**
 276 **(corresponding to HCO_3^- and organic acids in the form of $RCOO^-$) to compensate base**
 277 **cation leaching (Adrianssens et al., 2012; Balestrini and Tagliaferri 2001; Thimonier et**
 278 **al. 2005). Our data suggested that Cl^- was also leached from the canopy, thus, it was**
 279 **also included in equation 4 (CL_{Cl^-}) as suggested in Staelens et al. (2007). Evidence of**
 280 **Cl^- leaching in our study sites was indicated by the correlation analysis (Section 3.2).**

281

282 **Uptake of NH_4^+ has been then equated to:**

283

$$284 \quad CU_{NH_4^+} = CL_{bc} - [CL_{Cl^-} + CL_{wa}] \quad (4)$$

285

286 **Where $CU_{NH_4^+}$ = canopy uptake of NH_4^+**

287 **CL_{bc} = Canopy leaching of base cations**

288 **CL_{wa} = Canopy leaching of anions of weak acids**

289 **CL_{Cl^-} = Canopy leaching of Cl^- .**

290

291 **The leaching of anions of weak acids (CL_{wa}) was calculated based in eq. 2 as $CL_{wa} =$**
 292 **$TF_{wa} - WD_{wa} - DD_{wa}$. Thus, an estimation of the concentrations of anions in weak acids**
 293 **in TF, WD and DD was required; however, the concentrations of bicarbonate and**
 294 **organic acids were not measured directly in these water fluxes. Several methods**
 295 **exist to estimate the concentrations of weak acids in water samples (Staelens et al.**
 296 **2008). One of the mostly used is the ion charge balance, the difference in**
 297 **concentration of major cations minus strong acid anions (De Vries et al., 2001) and is**

298 **the procedure we employed here to estimate WD_{wa} and TF_{wa} . For DD_{wa} , the same**
299 **procedure as with the other ions was considered, based on equation 3.**

300

301 Once CU of NH_4^+ is obtained, and assuming that there is no leaching of NH_4^+ , the NH_4^+
302 DD flux can be derived from equation 2. Besides, there might be also NO_3^- canopy
303 uptake and a further step is therefore needed to estimate the NO_3^- canopy retention
304 flux. For this, we followed an approach that considers a proportional uptake of NO_3^-
305 related to that of NH_4^+ :

306

$$307 \quad CU_{(NH_4^+ + NO_3^-)} = [x_{NH_4^+} \cdot (TF_{NH_4^+} + TF_{NO_3^-}) / x_{NH_4^+} \cdot TF_{NH_4^+}] \cdot CU_{NH_4^+} \quad (5)$$

308

309 An efficiency factor of NH_4^+ vs. NO_3^- uptake of 6 ($x_{NH_4^+} = 6$) has been generally
310 applied for temperate forests (de Vries et al., 2003). For Mediterranean vegetation,
311 the experimental work of Uscola Fernández et al. (2014) has shown this factor to vary
312 in the range 1 to 6.5. Thus, here $x_{NH_4^+}$ has been here varied between 1.5 to 6 based
313 on literature proposed values (De Vries et al., 2003; Schmitt et al., 2005; Thimonier et
314 al., 2005; Uscola Fernández et al. 2014; Zhang et al., 2006).

315 Finally, to maintain the charge balance, CU of H^+ was equated to the uptake of NO_3^-
316 (Stachurski and Zimka, 2002; Staelens et al., 2008).

317

318 The CBM calculations considered the average fluxes for the 2 years at all sites. The dry
319 deposition factor based on Na^+ varied between 0.5 at CB to 0.8 at TC.

320

321 For a further check of the N compound DD estimates from the CBM, the modeled
322 values were compared with those obtained with two independent methods: inferential
323 modeling and washing of branches. The inferential method is a combination of
324 measurement and modelling that involves indirect estimation of dry deposition rates
325 on the basis of routinely measured air concentrations and meteorological parameters.
326 The method is based on an assumed steady-state relationship $F = V_d * C$, where the dry
327 deposition flux or rate (F) is a product of the dry deposition velocity (V_d) and the
328 concentration (C) of an airborne pollutant.

329

330 For inferential calculations we have used the gas and particle atmospheric information
331 of N compounds from García-Gómez et al., (2016) which sampled gases (February 2011
332 to February 2013) and aerosols (February 2012 to February 2013) during periods
333 encompassing the period of throughfall measurements, while V_d values were selected
334 from literature reports of deposition unto forests: for NH_3 and HNO_3 , 2.0 cm s^{-1} ; for
335 NO and NO_2 , 0.1 cm s^{-1} , from Holland et al., (2005), Kalina et al., (2002), Krupa (2003)
336 and Muller et al., (1993). Particulate nitrate and ammonium was not included in these
337 calculations. A study in NE Spain indicates that particle N deposition can represent 4-
338 8% of total N dry deposition (Avila and Rodà, 2012).

339

340 Branch washing was performed as described in Rodrigo and Avila (2002). In brief, 8 to
341 10 top holm oak branches were obtained at LC during rain-free periods in 1996 and
342 again in 2016. Collected branches were included in a plastic bag carefully keeping
343 branch tips out of the bag and were rinsed for 3 minutes with distilled water. The
344 branch foliar surface was measured at CREAM with a Li-Cor 3100 area meter, and the
345 liquid samples from the washes were filtered and frozen until analysis. Analytical
346 routine was similar to the one for BD, WD and TF sample types.

347

348 **3. Results and Discussion**

349 **3.1. Water and nutrient fluxes**

350 The annual BD and TF water fluxes are shown in Table 3. Rainfall amount differed
351 markedly between the studied sites, with TC being the driest site. These differences in
352 rainfall amount are explained by the climatic characteristics of the study regions and
353 are in accordance with the precipitation patterns and inter-annual variability in Spain
354 (Rodríguez-Puebla et al., 1998). TC, located at the center of the Iberian Peninsula is
355 under a continental Mediterranean climate, drier and colder than the coastal
356 Mediterranean. By contrast, the CA site receives an important oceanic influence from
357 the Cantabric Ocean while the sites in NE Spain are influenced by the Mediterranean
358 Sea. Throughfall water volume represented on average a 66-77% of precipitation
359 (Table 3). The lowest percentage was at TC, which can be explained by lower weekly

360 precipitation which would favor higher interception. Since BD and TF fluxes depend on
361 the amount of precipitation, lower BD and TF fluxes were found at the driest TC site
362 compared to the other sites (Table 3).

363 Calcium, followed by Cl^- and K^+ , were the most abundant ions transferred to soils
364 through bulk and throughfall deposition. Except for $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ (and for $\text{SO}_4\text{-S}$ at TC where it
365 was near zero), TF fluxes were always enriched in relation to BD and thus, netTF fluxes
366 were positive (Table 3). The negative netTF of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ indicates that retention within
367 the tree crowns is greater than any DD that may have occurred.

368 Alkalinity fluxes were higher than those of H^+ , indicating the non-acidic nature of
369 deposition at these sites probably due to the neutralizing role of bicarbonate dust
370 deposited on leaves (Rodrigo et al. 2003), even at sites with non-calcareous litologies
371 such as in LC, CB and TC. When acid and alkaline episodes alternate in a year, as was
372 here the case at all sites, the conservative variable that indicates the acid status of the
373 solution is the net alkalinity instead of H^+ (Liljestrang, 1985; Stumm and Morgan,
374 1981). Therefore, H^+ fluxes are given here only for comparison with other studies.
375 Alkalinity fluxes in TF about doubled those in BD, and presented very higher
376 enrichments at CA, suggesting the washing of calcareous soil dust deposited on the
377 canopy at this site that may derive from the calcareous nature of soils, the influence of
378 fugitive emissions from a nearby quarry and the important resuspension of soil dust
379 due to a windy meteorology. Consistently, calcium TF and netTF fluxes were higher at
380 CA than at the other sites. Also, at this site, the influence of the intense agricultural
381 activities in its surroundings was reflected in $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ fluxes in BD and TF higher than at
382 the other sites (Table 3).

383 Bulk and TF deposition of anthropogenic related compounds were not negligible at LC,
384 being similar to fluxes at CB and CA (Table 3). Thus, this site, which a priori was
385 considered as a background station, is receiving similar loads of pollutants than sites
386 closer to traffic and urban pollution. This suggests the influence of pollutants carried
387 by rain from regional and long-range transport to the Montseny Mountains, as already
388 found for aerosols (Pérez et al. 2008; Pey et al. 2009). The forest close to Barcelona
389 (CB) registered the highest $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ and $\text{SO}_4\text{-S}$ netTF loads (Fig.2), suggesting higher dry

390 deposition, which is consistent with its higher concentrations of gaseous pollutants
391 (NO_2 , HNO_3) found at this site compared to the other sites of this study (García-Gómez
392 et al., 2016).

393 **3.2. Main canopy processes**

394 In order to understand and describe canopy processes, the correlations between
395 weekly/biweekly rainfall amount and net TF fluxes were explored. It has been
396 proposed that, for individual events, a positive correlation between net throughfall
397 and rainfall amount will indicate leaching, a negative correlation will indicate uptake,
398 while the absence of correlation may be attributed to dry deposition (Balestrini and
399 Tagliaferri, 2001; Kopáček et al., 1997; Lovett and Lindberg, 1984; Rodrigo et al., 2003).
400 This approach is based on the assumptions that dry deposition is completely and
401 quickly removed from the canopy by the rain and that foliar leaching proceeds
402 unstopped as precipitation washes the leaves, being therefore correlated to the
403 amount of rain.

404 The results of Spearman correlations between rainfall amount and netTF fluxes (Table
405 4) showed a consistent behavior at the 4 sites for some elements (K^+ , $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, $\text{SO}_4\text{-S}$)
406 and marked differences for other elements ($\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, Na^+ , Cl^- , Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+}). Based on
407 the previous assumptions, K^+ in netTF should derive from leaching (positive
408 relationship with $p < 0.05$), $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ should result from uptake (negative relationship
409 with $p < 0.05$, except at CB where $p < 0.1$), and $\text{SO}_4^{2-}\text{-S}$ would derive from dry deposition
410 (non significant relationships). For $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, results suggested uptake at LC and TC (the
411 later with $p < 0.1$), but leaching at CA and dry deposition at CB.

412 On the other hand, for Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} and Cl^- , highly significant positive relationships
413 were found at CA and TC, while they were non-significant at LC and CB (Table 4).
414 Therefore, results at the Catalan sites would suggest dry deposition for these
415 elements, which is consistent with previous research in Montseny (Rodrigo and Avila,
416 2002; Rodrigo et al., 2003). However, results at CA and TC suggested leaching of these
417 ions from internal canopy pools, which is a non-expected result.

418 This unexpected result may derive from the fact that the above approach has been
419 usually employed to describe canopy processes in temperate forests, but under the
420 Mediterranean drier climate the relationships between net throughfall and rainfall
421 may be complicated by the fact that events with low precipitation may not provide
422 enough water to wash the accumulated dry deposition from previous events, or that
423 small events may evaporate leaving their content to be washed in future rainier
424 events. This may be the case at the driest site TC (annual precipitation of only 346 mm
425 during the study period, half of that at CB and CA and one third of that at LC and
426 showing the highest water interception rates). On the other hand, CA received very
427 high amounts of dust deposition and the amount of weekly rain might not have been
428 enough to wash all the deposited material in some sampling periods. Therefore,
429 positive relationships for Na^+ , Ca^{2+} and NO_3^- that conventionally would be interpreted
430 as leaching, in these cases may in fact indicate a delayed washout of dry deposition
431 due to low rain amount and elevated dry deposition. This casts doubts on the
432 application of the correlational procedure for semi-arid environments.

433 On the other hand, correlation results clearly suggested uptake of NH_4^+ by *Quercus ilex*
434 canopies at all sites. This is also corroborated by the significant negative relationships
435 between NH_4^+ in netTF and BD fluxes (Fig. 3) suggesting NH_4 uptake by the leaves in
436 the canopy, since lichen and mosses are scarce in these forests. In this figure, outliers
437 above the regression line corresponded to rainfall events after long dry periods, thus
438 corroborating the mentioned assumption of dry deposition accumulation during dry
439 spells at the Mediterranean sites.

440

441 **3.3. Estimating total atmospheric inputs with the canopy budget model**

442 **3.3.1. Base cations, Cl and SO_4 -S**

443 Dry deposition fluxes of Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} and K^+ estimated with the CBM were, respectively,
444 6.5, 0.8 and 0.5 $\text{kg ha}^{-1}\text{y}^{-1}$ at the Catalan sites (two-site means), and 1.3, 0.2, 0.5 kg ha^{-1}
445 y^{-1} at TC (Table 5). Values at the Catalan sites can be compared with those from a
446 previous study at the Montseny Mountains in which DD fluxes were obtained by
447 washing surrogate plates and branches (Rodrigo and Avila, 2002). For Ca^{2+} , DD fluxes
448 from the CBM were similar to those of the mentioned study when considering foliage

449 washes ($6.6 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$) but not when compared with plate washes ($3.8 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$). On
450 the other hand, CBM results for Mg^{2+} and K^+ were consistent with those from plate
451 washing (1.0 and $0.24 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$) but not from foliage washing (2.0 and $18 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$).
452 This indicated that foliage-washes better represent DD since branches are organized in
453 the three dimensions of the canopy, except for K^+ and Mg^{2+} which are strongly leached
454 ions (Parker 1983; Tukey, 1970). Dry deposition of base cations (Ca^{2+} , Mg^+ and K^+)
455 contributed 40, 34, and 45% of their total deposition at LC, CB, and TC, respectively.
456 Thus, for base cations, wet deposition was the dominant deposition pathway.

457

458 Potassium was the most leached base cation (Table 5), which was consistent with the
459 correlational analysis as K^+ netTF fluxes always presented the highest correlation
460 coefficients with precipitation (Table 4). Leaching of K^+ is a common result in TF studies
461 (Langusch et al., 2003; Likens et al., 1994; Tukey, 1970; Vitousek and Sanford, 1986). In
462 general, K^+ leaching is accompanied by weak acid leaching and/or K^+ ions are
463 exchanged cations, typically NH_4^+ (Stachurski and Zimka, 2002).

464 Dry deposition of SO_4^{2-} -S ranged between 0.8 to $1.7 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$ at the study sites. At LC,
465 SO_4^{2-} canopy exchange was near zero, indicating DD as the main netTF component at
466 this site. At CB and TC, the CBM indicates leaching and uptake, respectively, with the
467 leached/ taken up amounts of similar size as dry deposition (Table 5).

468

469 The CBM indicated that canopy leaching was the dominant flux for Cl^- at LC and CB,
470 which is not consistent with results from regression analysis, where dry deposition was
471 suggested. For Cl^- , both processes may have a significant influence in netTF. At sites
472 receiving marine air masses, as is the case in these two sites not far from the
473 Mediterranean Sea, sea-salt aerosols may be responsible of Cl^- dry deposition. But on
474 the other hand, the Na/Cl ratios in TF were significantly lower than in BD (t-test of
475 paired observations, $p \leq 0.0001$ at both sites), and Cl^- was highly correlated with K, a
476 ion representative of leaching ($r=0.71$, $p < 0.0001$ and $=0.44$; $p < 0.05$ at LC and CB,
477 respectively). Therefore, the interplay of dry deposition and canopy leaching is
478 responsible of Cl^- netTF fluxes at these sites.

479

480

481

3.3.2. Nitrogen compounds

482 To calculate DD for N compounds, an efficiency coefficient for the uptake exchange
483 between NH_4^+ and NO_3^- ($x \text{NH}_4^+$) has to be defined in the CBM (ICP-Forest, 2010). Up to
484 now, a value of 6 moles of NH_4^+ exchanged per each each mol of NO_3^- has been
485 commonly accepted (De Vries et al. 2003; Staelens et al. 2008). To check whether this
486 value was adequate for a Mediterranean species such as the holm-oak, we took
487 advantage of the work of Uscola Fernández et al. (2014) which determined N foliar
488 absorption from oxidized (NO_3^-) and reduced (NH_4^+ and urea) forms in *Quercus ilex*
489 seedlings. From these experiments, $x\text{NH}_4^+ = 1.5$ (in equivalents) was obtained when
490 considering only the NO_3^- and NH_4^+ forms, but when considering the NO_3^- absorption
491 vs. [NH_4^+ + urea], a value of $x\text{NH}_4^+ = 6.5$ was obtained. It is possible that part of the
492 sprinkled urea in fact might be taken up as NH_4^+ since urea deposited on leaves can
493 undergo a rapid conversion to NH_4^+ by the enzyme ureasa present in bacterial and
494 fungal populations that colonize the phyllosphere (Peñuelas and Terradas, 2013;
495 Redford et al., 2010) and then be absorbed as NH_4^+ . Also urea can decompose to NH_3
496 and NH_4^+ at high pH values on wetted surfaces, though we do not know the extent of
497 these transformations. To account for the possible range of exchange values pointed
498 out from this study and the usual values in the literature ($x\text{NH}_4^+ = 6$) we performed a
499 sensitivity analysis with $x\text{NH}_4^+ = 1.5, 3$ and 6 in the CBM. Dry deposition resulting from
500 this exercise was compared with N dry deposition derived from the inferential model
501 and with results from leaf washing experiments conducted in 1996 (Rodrigo and Avila,
502 2002) and repeated again in 2016 at LC (Table 6).

503 Dry deposition of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ estimated with the CBM varied between 0.25 to 4.0 kg N ha^{-1}
504 y^{-1} , with the lowest dry deposition at the TC site and the highest at the CB site near
505 Barcelona (Table 6). The CMB approach used here equates NH_4^+ uptake with the net
506 canopy leaching of base cations once corrected for anion leaching (eq. 4) and this is
507 constant along the sensitivity analysis. At LC (where this comparison is possible) dry
508 deposition of $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ estimated with the CBM was closer to inferential estimations
509 (77%) than to leaf washes. This is attributed to the probable NH_4^+ uptake at the leaf
510 surfaces during the washings, as seen in other works (Adrianssens et al., 2011;

511 Ignatova and Dambrine, 2000). Therefore, for NH_4^+ -N, the CBM and the inferential
512 calculations seem to be better descriptors of dry deposition than the leaf washes.
513 On the other hand, DD estimates varied considerably for NO_3^- -N when testing the
514 different efficiency factors: DD estimates decreased as the efficiency factor increased
515 (Table 6). When comparing CBM dry deposition estimates with the other methods, a
516 good match was found at LC and CB between $\text{CMB} \times \text{NH}_4^+ = 6$ and the inferential
517 estimation (80% and 102%, respectively) while $\text{xNH}_4^+ = 1.5$ produced too high results
518 both at these sites (Table 6). Leaf wash NO_3^- -N dry deposition estimates were similar
519 for the two periods separated by a 20-year lapse (Table 6) and were 70% lower than
520 the inferential result. On the other hand, at TC, variation of the NH_4^+ efficiency factor
521 had little effect on NO_3^- -N DD estimates which ranged from 1.2 to 2.0 $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$ with
522 the xNH_4 variation from 1.5 to 6. The CBM estimates at this site did not adjust to dry
523 deposition derived from the inferential method. This can be attributed to several
524 factors: 1) the low deposition fluxes at this site and its particular dry meteorology
525 during the study years, 2) uncertainties in the parameters for NH_4 exchange in the
526 CBM, 3) uncertainties in the inferential model parameters and calculations. While
527 more refinement is needed in this regard, and work is in progress to develop a more
528 accurate inferential model, presently we will use the CBM flux results to provide a
529 range of possible values of dry deposition at TC. On the other hand, for the
530 northwestern sites of LC and CB, the CBM dry deposition estimates with $\text{xNH}_4^+ = 6$
531 were within 77-102% of the estimates obtained from inferential and washing
532 methodologies.

533

534 **Considering an efficiency factor $\text{xNH}_4 = 6$ and based in the assumption NO_3^- uptake is**
535 **balanced by H^+ uptake, H^+ DD and CE fluxes can be calculated (Table 5) . It can be**
536 **seen that H^+ deposition is 2-10 fold higher in DD than in WD, with the highest DD flux**
537 **at the sites close to Barcelona. This DD may occur under particular atmospheric**
538 **conditions when air masses carry urban pollutants to the study sites. This does not**
539 **impede, however, that under other atmospheric scenarios, carbonate dust might**
540 **also be deposited on the leaves and neutralize acidity on the leaves surface.**

541

542

543 **3.4 Assessment of the exceedance of empirical N critical loads proposed for**
544 **Mediterranean sclerophyllous forests**

545 Dry deposition of N estimated with the CBM using an efficiency factor of 6 was 8.0 and
546 9.4 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ at LC and CB, respectively, and the total deposition (sum of wet + dry) of
547 Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) was 12.3 and 12.6 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ respectively (Table 7).
548 At TC, N dry deposition ranged between 1.5 – 2.3 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ and total deposition was
549 2.7 – 3.5 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ (Table 7). The contribution of DD to TD was between 57-72% for
550 NH₄-N and 71-77% for NO₃-N in the northwestern sites (Table 7), percentages that are
551 in accordance with other deposition studies in the western fringe of the Iberian
552 Peninsula (Avila and Rodà, 2012; Sanz et al., 2002) and in other Mediterranean-type
553 ecosystems as well (Anatolaki and Tsitouridou, 2007; Bytnerowicz and Fenn, 1996). For
554 the site in central Spain, similar dry deposition percentages were obtained for NO₃-N
555 (63-74%), but they were much lower for NH₄-N (33%).

556

557 The consistency of the dry deposition estimates using different approaches (CBM,
558 inferential model and branch washing) at the sites with wetter meteorology in NE
559 Spain provides ground for accepting DIN deposition fluxes under these conditions.
560 Accepting the CBM estimates, total deposition of inorganic N (DIN) to LC and CB was
561 around 12 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹. Recent studies in these sites indicated that dissolved organic
562 nitrogen (DON) would add around 3 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ (Izquieta-Rojano et al., 2016),
563 indicating a total N input to the holm-oak forests in Northeastern Spain of 15 kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹.
564 Since the current empirical critical loads proposed for sclerophyllous forests are in the
565 range of 15-17 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ (Bobbink et al., 2010), these forests are close to the critical
566 value. This is in accordance with results from a modeling exercise for the Iberian
567 Peninsula that suggested that mountain areas in the Northeastern region could be
568 close or even exceed the critical loads in some habitats of Community interest from
569 the Spanish Natura 2000 network (García-Gómez et al., 2014). On the other hand, the
570 study site in central Spain submitted to a drier environment received much lower total
571 DIN deposition inputs (about 3 kg N ha⁻¹ y⁻¹), far from the critical loads proposed for
572 sclerophyllous forests.

573 **The high variability of deposition estimates between sites of contrasted climate**
574 **found in this study and the fact that deposition estimates from the sites under a**
575 **milder Mediterranean climate showed a higher match with procedures in use for**
576 **temperate forests, indicates the strong effect of climate in the deposition processes**
577 **and the need to better understand dry deposition for N compounds in semi-aridic**
578 **ecosystems.**

579

580

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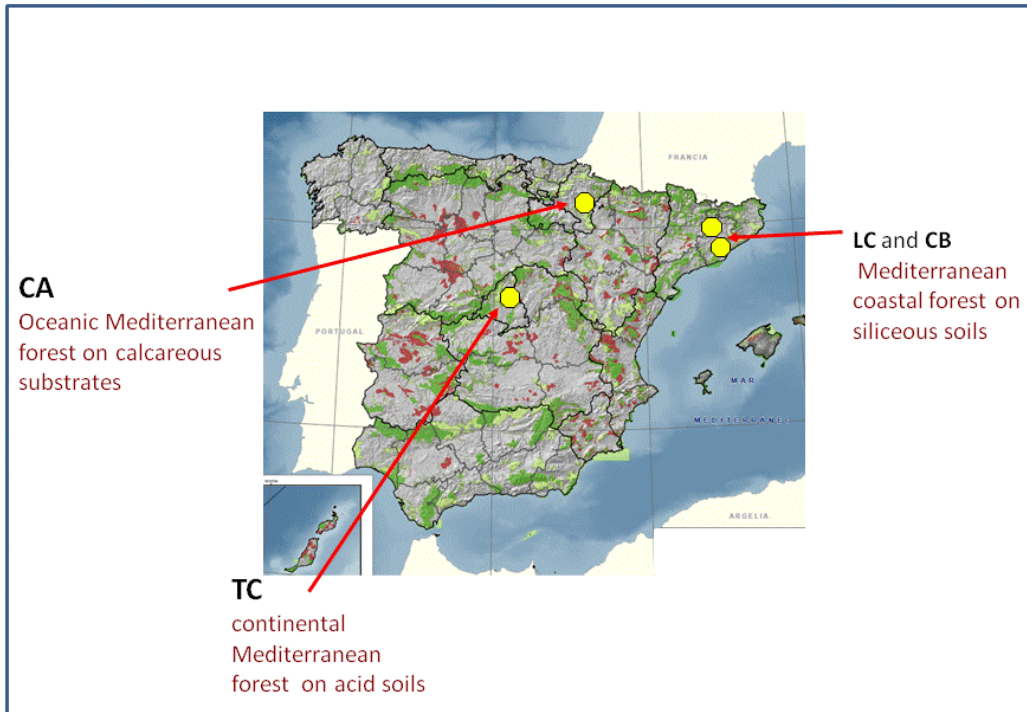
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776

777 **Figure 1.** Location of the study sites (name and province) in the Iberian Peninsula. LC =
778 La Castanya (Barcelona), CB = Can Balasc (Barcelona) , CA= Carrascal (Pamplona), and
779 TC = Tres Cantos (Madrid).

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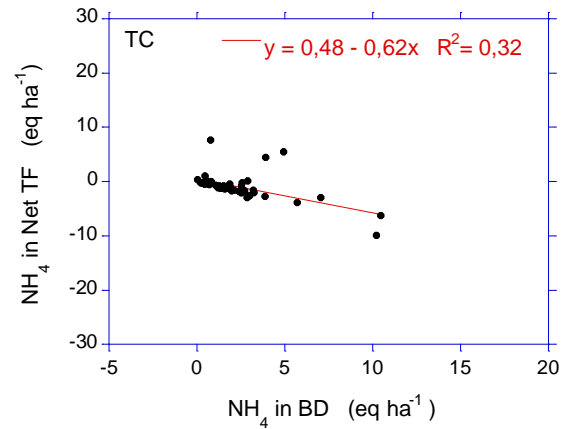
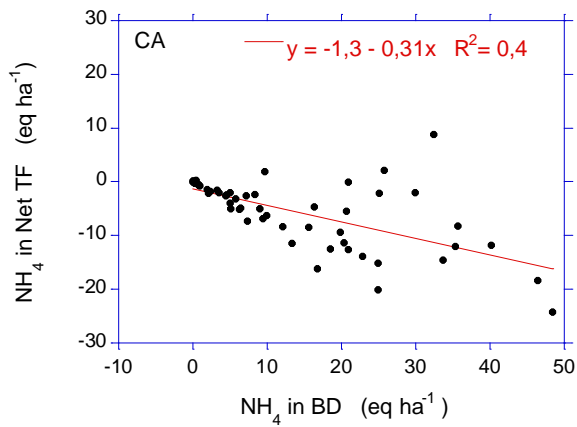
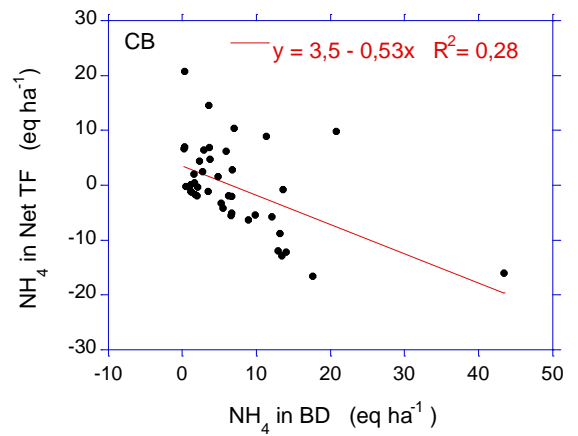
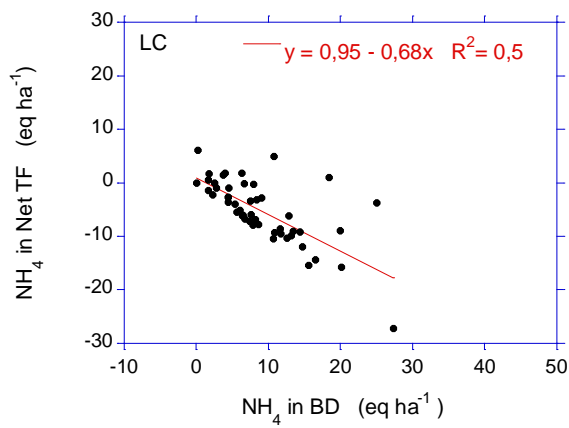
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791 **Figure 2.** Linear relationships of bulk vs. netTF fluxes of NH₄⁺ (units in eq ha⁻¹ episode⁻¹)
 792 at each studied site. N= 49 for LC, 41 for CB, 55 for CA and 51 for TC. Notice the
 793 different x axis scale for TC.

794

795 **Table 1.** Study site characteristics, climatic features, forest stand parameters,
 796 atmospheric information and air quality at the study sites. Climate and pollutant data
 797 are mean values for the study period.

		LC	CB	CA	TC
Study site characteristics	Aspect	SE	NE	SE	S
	Distance to the sea (km)	27	11	80	310
Climatic parameters	Climate	Mediterranean	Mediterranean	Mediterranean continental with oceanic influence	Mediterranean continental
	Mean annual Temperature (°C)	9.0	15.1	12.6	14.4
	Mean annual Rainfall (mm y ⁻¹)	938	723	786	343
Stand parameters	Leaf area index (m ² ·m ⁻²)	6.1	4.7	5.3	3.0
	Number of trees·ha ⁻¹	2571	1429	1760	491
	Mean diameter at breast high (cm)	13.0	12.6	16.1	41
Air Quality	NO ₂ (µg m ⁻³)	4.3	16.2	10.6	11.1
	NH ₃ (µg m ⁻³)	0.7	1.0	2.5	0.7
	PM ₁₀ (µg m ⁻³)	18.0	-	26.9	23.0
Potential pollution sources		Distant urban agglomerations	Barcelona city	Small urban agglomerations	Madrid city
		Routes within the park	Transportation routes (highways and railways connecting Barcelona to other urban sites)	High traffic intensity highway lying at 100m distance to the study site	High traffic intensity highway lying at 2 km distance to the study site
		Moderate agricultural activities	Air masses influenced by sea traffic	Agriculture in the fields surrounding the studied site Opencast limestone quarry	

798

799 **Table 2.** Ratios between bulk deposition and wet deposition (BD/WD) at LC (June
800 2011-June 2013) and TC (January to June 2013).

BD/WD	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	NH ₄ ⁺	NO ₃ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	Cl ⁻
LC	1.39	1.64	1.33	1.63	1.31	1.60	1.36	1.63
TC	1.18	1.39	2.13	1.47	1.45	1.51	1.27	1.17

801

802 **Table 3.** Mean annual precipitation and bulk (BD), throughfall (TF) and net throughfall
 803 (netTF) deposition fluxes ($\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$) at each studied site. Fluxes for alkalinity are given
 804 in $\text{eq ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$. Mean and \pm standard deviation for two years are given.

805

	Prec.	Alk.	H ⁺	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ⁺	NH ₄ -N	NO ₃ -N	SO ₄ -S	Cl ⁻
	L m ⁻²	eq ha ⁻¹ y ⁻¹	kg ha ⁻¹ y ⁻¹ *10 ⁻³	kg ha ⁻¹ y ⁻¹							
BD											
LC	938 ± 46	260 ± 51	29 ± 5	6.3 ± 0.9	1.6 ± 0.2	13 ± 2.7	1.9 ± 0.3	3.1 ± 0.6	3.2 ± 0.1	3.4 ± 0.1	11 ± 1.5
CB	723 ± 63	340 ± 91	14 ± 7	9.3 ± 2.3	1.3 ± 0.2	17 ± 5.1	2.3 ± 0.6	2.1 ± 0.1	2.6 ± 0.1	4.0 ± 0.5	16 ± 4.0
CA	786 ± 290	670 ± 210	1 ± 0.1	7.6 ± 1.3	2.4 ± 0.0	24 ± 2.7	1.1 ± 0.2	5.2 ± 1.3	3.0 ± 0.2	3.5 ± 0.6	12 ± 3.2
TC	343 ± 69	62 ± 12	7 ± 2	1.5 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.0	3.4 ± 0.5	0.3 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.0	1.2 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.0
TF											
LC	695 ± 47	620 ± 15	12 ± 4	7.5 ± 0.5	17 ± 0.5	17 ± 0.1	4.2 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.1	4.5 ± 0.5	4.0 ± 0.6	18 ± 1.2
CB	491 ± 54	620 ± 14	18 ± 2	10 ± 0.9	15 ± 0.5	21 ± 0.7	4.3 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.1	5.5 ± 0.0	6.1 ± 0.3	23 ± 1.8
CA	607 ± 257	2000 ± 53	1 ± 0.1	12 ± 0.9	16 ± 2.6	57 ± 3.7	3.1 ± 0.5	3.1 ± 0.9	4.3 ± 0.4	4.6 ± 0.0	20 ± 2.1
TC	230 ± 16	140 ± 10	14 ± 1	2.3 ± 0.0	13 ± 1.3	6.6 ± 1.0	1.5 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.0	1.6 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.2	2.9 ± 0.2
netTF											
LC	-243 ± 1,4	360 ± 50	-17 ± 5	1.3 ± 1.3	17 ± 0.7	4.5 ± 2.8	2.3 ± 0.4	-1.8 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 0.4	0.6 ± 0.5	7.4 ± 2.7
CB	-232 ± 12	280 ± 45	4 ± 7	0.9 ± 1.4	14 ± 0.3	4.7 ± 4.4	2.0 ± 0.4	0.0 ± 0.3	2.9 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.2	7.3 ± 2.2
CA	-179 ± 46	1330 ± 15	0 ± 0.1	4.0 ± 0.3	12 ± 2.6	35 ± 1.0	2.0 ± 0.2	-2.1 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.6	1.2 ± 0.5	8.0 ± 1.1
TC	-113 ± 75	78 ± 11	7 ± 2	0.8 ± 0.1	12 ± 1.3	3.2 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.1	-0.4 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0	-0.3 ± 0.0	1.6 ± 0.2

806

807 **Table 4.** Spearman correlations (r) between rainfall amount (in mm) and net
 808 throughfall fluxes (in eq ha⁻¹) at the four studied sites. The probability value (p) is also
 809 given. Number of observations = 49 for LC, 41 for CB, 55 for CA and 51 for TC.

810

	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	NH ₄ ⁺	NO ₃ ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	Cl ⁻
LC								
r	0.25	0.65	0.15	0.21	-0.28	-0.28	0.02	0.16
p	0.08	0.00	0.30	0.15	0.05	0.05	0.88	0.28
CB								
r	0.25	0.84	0.12	0.09	-0.27	-0.10	0.05	0.21
p	0.12	0.00	0.45	0.59	0.09	0.52	0.76	0.18
CA								
r	0.62	0.89	0.79	0.76	-0.53	0.41	0.20	0.54
p	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00
TC								
r	0.33	0.67	0.54	0.62	-0.54	-0.18	-0.27	0.34
p	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.00

811

812 **Table 5.** Results from the canopy budget model at LC, CB and TC for H⁺, base cations,
 813 SO₄-S and Cl⁻ (in kg ha⁻¹ y⁻¹) obtained in the Canopy Budget Model with a dry
 814 deposition factor based on Na⁺. WD= Wet deposition, DD= Dry deposition, CU/CL=
 815 Canopy uptake (CU) corresponding to negative CU/CL values and canopy leaching (CL)
 816 to positive ones; TD= Total deposition.

817

	H ⁺	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	SO ₄ -S	Cl ⁻
LC							
WD	0.03	4.5	1.0	9.7	1.2	2.5	6.4
DD	0.15	3.0	0.7	6.5	0.8	1.7	4.2
CU/CL	-0.18	0.0	17.2	1.2	2.2	-0.1	7.2
TD	0.18	7.5	1.6	16.2	1.9	4.2	10.6
CB							
WD	0.02	6.7	0.8	12.5	1.4	2.9	9.7
DD	0.16	3.5	0.4	6.5	0.7	1.5	5.0
CU/CL	-0.16	0.0	14.1	2.3	2.1	1.7	8.4
TD	0.17	10.2	1.2	19	2.1	4.5	14.7
TC							
WD	0.007	1.2	0.6	1.6	0.2	1.0	1.1
DD	0.015	1.0	0.5	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.9
CU/CL	-0.002	0.0	11.7	3.7	1.2	-0.8	0.8
TD	0.023	2.3	1.1	2.9	0.4	1.8	2.1

818

819 **Table 6.** Dry deposition and canopy uptake fluxes for N compounds (in $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$)
 820 estimated with different methods: the CBM with different efficiency factors between
 821 NH_4^+ vs NO_3^- ($\chi_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ =1.5, 3 and 6), the inferential method based on in situ gas
 822 measurements and bibliographic values for V_d and canopy leaf washings in two
 823 periods, 1996 and 2016 (only at the LC site).
 824

	Method	LC	CB	TC
Dry Deposition ($\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$)				
NH4-N	CBM	3.11	4.0	0.25
	inferential	4.0	5.4	3.9
	leaf wash 1996	1.1		
	leaf wash 2016	1.6		
NO3-N	CBM 1.5	12.0	10.3	2.0
	CBM 3	7.3	7.0	1.5
	CBM 6	4.9	5.4	1.2
	inferential	6.2	5.3	4.6
	leaf wash 1996	4.5		
	leaf wash 2016	4.2		
Canopy uptake ($\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$)				
NH4-N	CBM	-4.1	-3.5	-0.38
NO3-N	CBM 1.5	-9.6	-6.4	-1.03
	CBM 3	-4.8	-3.2	-0.50
	CBM 6	-2.4	-4.6	-0.25

825

826

827 **Table 7.** N fluxes for $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$, $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ and their sum (Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen, DIN)
 828 in wet deposition (WD), dry deposition (DD) and total deposition (TD) in $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{ y}^{-1}$.
 829 DD estimated with a canopy budget model with $x\text{NH}_4^+=6$ at LC and CB, and a fork
 830 comprising from 1.5, 3 and 6 at TC.
 831

		LC	CB	TC
$\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$	WD	2.33	1.56	0.5
	DD	3.11	3.97	0.25
	TD	5.44	5.53	0.75
	%DD	57	72	33
$\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$	WD	2	1,63	0,67
	DD	4.89	5.43	1.2-2.0
	TD	6.89	7.06	1.9-2.7
	%DD	71	77	63-74
DIN	TD	12.3	12.6	2.7-3.5

832