

# 1 **Woody plants optimize stomatal behavior relative to hydraulic risk**

## 3 **Supporting Information**

### 4 **Supplementary Methods**

#### 5 *Dataset processing*

6 In four of the tropical understory plants, measurements from extremely low light  
7 conditions ( $\text{PAR} < 70 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) were excluded because the plant was estimated to be in  
8 negative carbon balance unrelated to water stress. Excluding these is unlikely to change the cost  
9 function calculations, as they would be entirely during low water stress conditions and the cost  
10 functions should mostly diverge during dry conditions (Fig 1). Leaf temperatures were not  
11 available for 1 species (*Prosopis velutina*) and thus leaf temperatures were assumed to be air  
12 temperature for that species.

#### 14 *MXTE functional form*

15 Because the MXTE is the derivative of the cost function, this linear formulation of the  
16 MXTE assumes a parabolic functional form of the costs/risk of low water potential (e.g.  
17 Equation 9). This was chosen because it had the fewest parameters that allowed distinguishing  
18 whether observed MXTE was constant/increasing (CM) or decreasing (WUE) with more  
19 negative  $\psi_L$  (Fig. 1a) and can capture a general threshold pattern in response to changing  $\psi_L$  with  
20 a relatively constant region around the parabola maximum/minimum and then a quadratically  
21 increasing or decreasing risk as water potentials decline.

#### 23 *Sensitivity analyses and statistics*

24 The bootstrap analysis using the input driving data should capture much of the potential  
25 error within driving variables and measurements within the estimated 95% confidence intervals  
26 for the cost function parameters (e.g. Fig 3). We next examined the sensitivity of the stomatal  
27 cost function to species' traits in a sensitivity analysis. The estimated  $K_{\max}$  and  $V_{\max}$  were varied  
28 independently +/- 10% for a representative subset of species (Table S4). The parameter  
29 estimation procedure was run as described above with the new parameter values.

30 Controls of the MXTE slope were tested against the hydraulic traits (c and d parameters  
31 of the xylem vulnerability curve), mean annual precipitation and temperature of the species  
32 drawn from the source studies,  $V_{\max}$ , and percent loss of stomatal conductance ( $g_s$ ) during the  
33 most water-stressed measurement divided by the percent loss of hydraulic conductivity of stems  
34 (K) during the most water-stressed measurement. We used ordinary least-squares linear models  
35 with weighting based on the inverse of the variance based on bootstrapping. We verified the  
36 appropriateness of statistical models by analyzing the residual and quantile plots. We consider  
37 alternate model formulations and model assumptions in the Supporting Information.

38

### 39 *Alternate model form*

40 Although the analyses presented in the main text provide robust tests of the WUE versus  
41 CM hypotheses, there are two differences between these two hypotheses. The most fundamental  
42 difference is that the pure carbon maximization in the CM hypothesis is the optimal strategy  
43 when plants compete for water, whereas the constant marginal water use efficiency in the WUE  
44 hypothesis is the optimal strategy when plants do not compete. But the CM hypothesis included  
45 carbon costs (as a proxy for risk) of hydraulic damage, whereas the WUE hypothesis model  
46 tested thus far does not. Which difference – the optimization criterion or the presence of carbon

47 costs of hydraulic damage – is responsible for improvements in predictive ability? To answer this  
48 question, we also included the risk of hydraulic damage in both models in the Supplementary  
49 Methods, so that the only difference between them is the optimization criterion itself. In this  
50 broadened form, the WUE hypothesis seeks to maximize  $C = A_N - \Theta$  subject to the classic water  
51 loss constraint (Cowan & Farquhar 1977; Givnish & others 1986) over a given interval of time.  
52 This form gives the broader form of  $MXTE_{WUE} = \lambda \frac{dE}{d\psi_L} - \Theta'(\psi_L)$  and allows parsing of whether  
53 the improvement in the CM hypothesis is the optimization (constrained versus profit  
54 maximization) or the carbon costs of water potential. This analysis further corroborated the  
55 initial analysis (in all cases, the CI of  $\lambda$  overlapped zero) and found that both aspects of the CM  
56 hypothesis are critical (Fig. S4, S5).

57

#### 58 *Model assumptions*

59 We next consider some of the assumptions made in our physiological model and how  
60 they might influence the results.

61 *Variation in plant hydraulic vulnerability and resistances across tissues* could be  
62 problematic for using the branch xylem vulnerability curve measured in the vast majority of  
63 studies for estimating leaf water potential. We believe this is unlikely to greatly influence our  
64 results for several reasons. First, there is a general expectation, which is supported by data  
65 (Domec *et al.* 2004; Domec *et al.* 2006; Meinzer *et al.* 2008), that relative hydraulic  
66 vulnerabilities of different organs are expected to be coordinated within species. Indeed, a  
67 previous modeling study using a similar but more developed hydraulic model on 8 of the same  
68 species included here (2 conifers and 6 tropical angiosperms) found that the single branch  
69 vulnerability curve was a useful proxy for the whole-plant vulnerability curve and allowed

70 accurate prediction of measured leaf water potentials (Sperry *et al.* 2016). Third, simulated leaf  
71 water potentials generally agreed well with measured leaf water potentials ( $R^2_{\text{WUE}}=0.76$ ,  
72  $p<0.0001$ ;  $R^2_{\text{CM}}=0.8$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ) (Fig. S6). Finally, we expect that as stem water potential values  
73 approach the stem embolism threshold, stomata will be closed enough to minimize transpiration-  
74 induced differences between stem and leaf water potential.

75 *Cuticular conductance* is not directly included in our model, but we do not believe it to  
76 be an issue here. The reason is that cuticular conductance is implicitly included in the  
77 measurements of stomatal conductance and because we are not trying to estimate a specific  
78 stomatal conductance model with a cuticular conductance term, our hydraulics equations  
79 implicitly include cuticular conductance within stomatal conductance. Further, a large  
80 contribution from cuticular conductance would lead to a biased pattern in the residuals of our  
81 predicted versus observed stomatal conductance, which we do not observe (Fig. 2).

82 *Boundary layer conductance* is not considered within our physiological model. If  
83 boundary layer conductance were small relative to stomatal conductance, this could potentially  
84 lead to stomatal response that appeared to be less sensitive to changes in water potential. All else  
85 equal, this would primarily decrease the statistical power of the model, expanding the confidence  
86 intervals of the parameters and leading to lower explanatory power. The strong fits across all  
87 species (Fig. 2) indicate that ignoring boundary layer conductance is likely a reasonable  
88 approach, although we acknowledge that uncertainty remains and the lack of boundary layer  
89 conductance could be important in several tropical species (e.g. *Ficus insipida* and *Cordia*  
90 *alliodora*) that have relatively poorer model fits, which are species where limiting boundary  
91 layer conductances have been observed by previous studies (Andrade *et al.* 1998; Meinzer *et al.*  
92 2004).

93           *Hydraulic capacitance* could also potentially give rise to a decoupling between stomata  
94 and the transpiration stream at sub-daily timescales, though likely not at longer timescales where  
95 soil water potential varies. To examine the potential influence of capacitance, we compared the  
96 residuals of predicted versus observed stomatal conductance to the time of day for the seven  
97 species with adequate daily data, relying on frequent observations that capacitance discharge  
98 occurs primarily in the morning (Meinzer *et al.* 2003, 2004). We observed very few trends in the  
99 residuals during the course of a day and thus do not believe this is a large concern for our  
100 analysis.

101           *Non-stomatal limitation of photosynthesis* can occur and is likely important under severe  
102 drought conditions (Flexas & Medrano 2002). In theory, this cost to the plant is included in our  
103 CM hypothesis because we do not specify where the costs come from and the direct effects of  
104 low water potentials on the photosynthetic machinery would be included in these costs. The  
105 reasonable prediction of photosynthesis compared to measured photosynthesis values (Fig. S7)  
106 supports our model because photosynthesis was not fit at any stage (only stomatal conductance is  
107 fit via the parameter estimation procedure). Direct effects of drought on photosynthesis have  
108 been shown to lead to variable  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  in some species, including two species analyzed here (Xu &  
109 Baldocchi 2003; Martin-StPaul *et al.* 2013). We tested for the potential importance of variable  
110  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  on a random subset of 8 species, including the two oak species where  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  has been  
111 documented to change over the course of a season. For this analysis, after fitting  $K_{\text{max}}$  we further  
112 fit  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  for every datapoint or for every day using the observed photosynthesis and stomatal  
113 conductance measurements before running the parameter estimation. We compared the variable  
114  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  and fixed  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  models with Akaike Information Criterion that accounts for the increased  
115 number of parameters. We found that variable  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  improved prediction (i.e.  $\Delta\text{AIC} < -3$ ) only in

116 the two oak species that it had been observed in previously (*Quercus ilex* and *Quercus douglasii*)  
117 and *Prosopis velutina* and thus used variable  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  in those species for all subsequent analyses  
118 and fixed  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  in all other species.

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### 120 *Scaling up stomatal conductance optimizations in a land surface model*

121 We used the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory's Land-Model 3 with Perfect  
122 Plasticity Approximation (GFDL LM3-PPA) land surface model (Weng *et al.* 2015) to perform  
123 first-order tests of the potential magnitude of implementing a hydraulic stomatal control  
124 algorithm consistent with the CMH optimization. LM3-PPA is a full land surface model built to  
125 be coupled to the GFDL Earth system model and calculates fluxes of carbon, water, and energy  
126 at half-hour time-steps. Critically, this model uses the "perfect plasticity approximation" (PPA)  
127 algorithm, which assumes that plants can bend to grow towards the light and fill a canopy, to  
128 simulate cohorts of vegetation (trees) that compete for water, nutrients, and light. This enables  
129 the implementation of a tree hydraulic schema that can calculate water transport from the soil to  
130 canopy (including tree height effects) and leaf water potential, which can be used to influence  
131 stomatal conductance. The previous implementation of stomatal control used one of the standard  
132 empirical models (Leuning 1995), which is consistent with the WUE optimization approach over  
133 most conditions (Medlyn *et al.* 2011), accounting for soil moisture constraints using a "supply-  
134 demand" approach where soil moisture constrained supply.

135 Water limitation in LSMs generally take one of two forms, both of which use soil  
136 moisture as an endogenous state variable to impose a limitation on evapotranspiration, and have  
137 no mechanistic connection to physiology in the canopy, where the valves that reduce ET are  
138 located (as in this paper). The first method is known as the "Jarvis-type" soil moisture limitation,

139 and multiplies the default ET (calculated, e.g. by Ball-Leuning-Berry) by a scalar ranging from 0  
140 to 1 which depends on soil moisture. The exact shape of this function varies depending on the  
141 model and species/plant-functional-type under consideration. The second method, used in  
142 GFDL's LM3 is less widely adopted because it has more sophisticated computational  
143 requirements. In this method, the flux of soil moisture from the soil to the root is estimated using  
144 the integral of the unsaturated soil moisture characteristic curve imposed by the driving gradient  
145 of water potential from the root surface to the bulk soil. This scheme preserves mass (i.e. water)  
146 and energy (i.e. potential), but most relevant here it imposes a limit to the amount of water  
147 supplied to the plant as a function of soil properties and soil water potential. ET in LSM is then  
148 set as the minimum of the unstressed ET (demand driven) and soil moisture flux (supply driven).  
149 The new hydraulic framework described below is a unification of the supply and demand, in  
150 essence finding a solution water potential where supply and demand are equal, which is  
151 conceptually similar to solving the combined photosynthesis and Ball-Berry-Leuning model for  
152 the equilibrium leaf CO<sub>2</sub> that satisfies supply and demand, or solving the Penman-Monteith by  
153 solving the equilibrium leaf surface temperature.

154         The model was implemented at the Missouri Ozark Ameriflux site in Missouri, USA,  
155 because it contained concurrent eddy flux data and measurements of leaf water potentials. The  
156 default model parameters described in (Weng *et al.* 2015) were used except the tree species was  
157 parameterized for one of the dominant species – *Quercus alba*. The following parameter values  
158 were changed to capture the key components of *Quercus alba* physiology: Xylem c parameter =  
159 -2.0, xylem d parameter = 1.5; water potential at leaf turgor loss: -4.5 MPa ; LMA = 0.86e-01;  
160 Vcmax = 0.45e-04; rho\_wood = 317.0 (units as in (Weng *et al.* 2015)), values drawn from  
161 (Kattge *et al.* 2011; Bartlett *et al.* 2014; Gleason *et al.* 2015). The forest was spun up from 1700-

162 1980 using the looped 1948-1979 climatology period from the Sheffield dataset (Sheffield *et al.*  
163 2006). Leaf area index and NPP reasonably reflected observed values at the site. The model spin-  
164 up period used the default water stress scheme. Subsequently, a simulation using the default  
165 scheme and a simulation using the new hydraulic-stomata scheme (below) were each run from  
166 1980-2008 using the Sheffield data for that time period. Because both simulations used the same  
167 spin up (thus starting with identical carbon and water pools and forest demography) and the same  
168 forcing data, all differences between the models should reflect the stomatal algorithm. We focus  
169 on the years 2006-2008, where two very dry years were documented in 2006-2007, followed by  
170 a wet year in 2008 (Gu *et al.* 2015). For these years, we summed the latent energy exchange for  
171 the growing season (DOY 100-300) for both water stress formulations. The larger decline in  
172 latent energy in 2007 is consistent with two years of drought in a row leading to lower soil water  
173 potentials during the second year, but full examination and comparison of these algorithms to  
174 flux data will require separate treatment.

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#### 176 *New hydraulic-stomata scheme in the land surface model*

177 While the full behavior of the new water stress scheme in LM3-PPA will require separate  
178 treatment, we describe here the core components that allowed a first order test of ecosystem  
179 water fluxes in the two different stomatal algorithms. In the new water stress scheme, stomatal  
180 conductance and photosynthesis are first calculated using the standard iterative procedure  
181 described in (Collatz *et al.* 1991). This is considered a “potential stomatal conductance” absent  
182 water stress constraints. The water required to meet that stomatal conductance is calculated.  
183 Next, water flux from the soil to the roots and from the roots up to the sub-stomatal pore is  
184 calculated as a series of resistances (soil-root, root xylem, stem xylem, and leaf xylem)



185 formulated in Richard's equations, per (Sperry *et al.* 1998). The flux of water is solved using  
186 integral transforms (approximated as an incomplete gamma function) across these water  
187 potential gradients. In theory, each of these elements can have a different vulnerability curve, but  
188 data is rarely available to parameterize these curves. Thus, as is commonly done (Mackay *et al.*  
189 2015; Sperry *et al.* 2016), we assume that the stem vulnerability curve can be used to  
190 approximate the whole-plant curve. Next, stomatal sensitivity to water potential is captured by an  
191 additional stomatal conductance equation as a Weibull function of leaf water potential. While the  
192 LSM is not implementing the CM optimization directly, this stomatal sensitivity to leaf water  
193 potential is the identical functional form of the CM hypothesis derived in Wolf *et al.* 2016 for  
194 simplified conditions (e.g. an exact analog of the approach of how the WUE hypothesis has been  
195 incorporated into LSMs recently (De Kauwe *et al.* 2015; Kala *et al.* 2015)). The parameter  $c$  of  
196 the Weibull function is determined by the measured species' leaf turgor loss point, such that the  
197 95% loss of stomatal conductance occurs around leaf turgor loss (Bartlett *et al.* 2016). Finally,  
198 transpiration and stomatal conductance are determined such that water demand is capped by  
199 water supply provided via the hydraulic continuum to the leaf. The strengths of this model are  
200 that it 1) incorporates in soil water potential, 2) translates soil water potential through species-  
201 specific xylem and stomatal traits to leaf water potential, 3) can be parameterized by traits  
202 commonly measured in the ecophysiology literature 4) provides a direct feedback mechanism of  
203 leaf water potential on stomatal conductance, and 5) yields a stomatal optimization consistent  
204 with the CM hypothesis (Wolf *et al.* 2016).

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208 **Supplementary Tables and Table Legends**

209 Table S1: Species included in the analysis with their biome (needleleaf evergreen temperate  
 210 (NET), broadleaf evergreen temperate (BET), broadleaf deciduous temperate (BDT), tropical  
 211 deciduous (TPD), and tropical evergreen (TPE), references of studies (Xu & Baldocchi 2003;  
 212 Meinzer *et al.* 2004; Choat *et al.* 2006; Resco *et al.* 2009; Arango-Velez *et al.* 2011; Anderegg  
 213 2012; Koepke & Kolb 2013; Limousin *et al.* 2013; Martin-StPaul *et al.* 2013; Lin *et al.* 2015;  
 214 Chmura *et al.* 2016; Hernandez *et al.* 2016; Li *et al.* 2015; Wolfe *et al.* 2016), the “c” and “d”  
 215 parameters of the Weibull hydraulic vulnerability curve from Gleason *et al.* (2015) sample size  
 216 of stomatal conductance measurements (N), and  $V_{cmax}$  at 25 C (with V indicating varying  $V_{cmax}$ ).

Species name	Biome	W <sub>b</sub> <sub>c</sub>	W <sub>b</sub> <sub>d</sub>	N	$V_{cmax}$	Reference
<i>Acer campestre</i>	BDT	4.8	3.8	41	36.6	Li et al. 2015
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	BDT	3.3	3.2	39	50	Li et al. 2015
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	TPE	6.2	2	173	42.9	Choat et al. 2006
<i>Anacardium excelsum</i>	TPD	1.8	2.1	14	27.2	Meinzer et al. 2004
<i>Annona hayesii</i>	TPD	5	4.3	46	13.6	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Astronium graveolens</i>	TPE	4.9	3.3	91	19.7	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Austromyrtus bidwillii</i>	TPE	6.4	1.4	35	28.5	Choat et al. 2006
<i>Brachychiton australis</i>	TPD	3.6	1.9	100	57.2	Choat et al. 2006
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	TPD	1.4	3.2	104	17.4	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	BDT	4	3.8	48	31.4	Li et al. 2015
<i>Cavanillesia platanifolia</i>	TPD	1.3	2.3	41	11.6	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i>	TPD	2	1.4	75	52.1	Choat et al. 2006
<i>Cojoba rufescens</i>	TPE	4.5	2	319	26.4	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	TPD	3.3	1.7	18	69	Meinzer et al. 2004
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	BDT	2.3	3.5	35	20.4	Li et al. 2015
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	BET	1.6	1.4	73	81.7	Hernandez et al. 2016
<i>Ficus insipida</i>	TPE	2.3	1.4	14	74.6	Meinzer et al. 2004
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	BDT	3	2.9	40	65	Li et al. 2015
<i>Genipa americana</i>	TPD	2.7	1.3	109	26	Wolfe et al. 2016
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	NET	8.8	3	576	40	Limousin et al. 2013

<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	NET	9	3	34	31.3	Koepke & Kolb 2013
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	BET	9.9	6	17	12.9	Resco et al. 2009
<i>Picea abies</i>	NET	4.7	3.3	544	43	Chmura et al. 2015
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	NET	4	6	511	35	Limousin et al. 2013
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	NET	3.75	3.2	146	35	Kolb & Stone 1999
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	BET	3.5	1.6	23	37	Resco et al. 2009
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	BDT	2	2.5	29	50.9	Arango-Velez et al. 2011
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	BDT	2.7	2	43	95	Anderegg 2012
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	BDT	2.98	1.19	23	V	Lin et al. 2015
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	BET	2.1	0.3	166	V	Xu & Baldochhi 2003
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	BDT	0.6	1	12	84.6	Kolb & Stone 1999
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	BET	4.2	1.4	110	V	St. Paul et al. 2012
<i>Schefflera morototoni</i>	TPE	1.85	3.4	19	69.1	Meinzer et al. 2004
<i>Tapirira guianensis</i>	TPE	2	1.6	33	21.6	Meinzer et al. 2004

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232 Table S2: Environmental conditions experienced by species included in the analysis: the sample  
 233 size of stomatal conductance measurements (N), “c” parameters of the Weibull hydraulic  
 234 vulnerability curve, minimum leaf water potential experienced by the species ( $\psi_{Lmin}$ , MPa),  
 235 maximum leaf water potential experienced by the species ( $\psi_{Lmax}$ , MPa), and minimum stomatal  
 236 conductance measured for the species ( $g_{smin}$ , mol m<sup>-2</sup> sec<sup>-1</sup>). \* $\psi_{Lmax}$  estimated from hydraulics  
 237 equations.  $\psi_{Lmin}$  estimated from hydraulics equations.

Species name	N	Weib c	$\psi_{Lmin}$	$\psi_{Lmax}$	$g_{smin}$
<i>Acer campestre</i>	41	4.8	-5.57	-0.24*	0.0000
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	39	3.3	-6.6	-0.05*	0.0027
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	173	6.2	-5.45	-0.20	0.0000
<i>Anacardium excelsum</i>	14	1.8	-0.75	-0.30	0.0510
<i>Annona hayesii</i>	46	5	-3.36	-0.35	0.0074
<i>Astronium graveolens</i>	91	4.9	-3.41	-0.44	0.0066
<i>Austromyrtus bidwillii</i>	35	6.4	-2.5	-0.20	0.0100
<i>Brachychiton australis</i>	100	3.6	-2.5	-0.18	0.0000
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	101	1.4	-1.03	-0.43	0.0010
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	48	4	-4.85	-0.49*	0.0138
<i>Cavanillesia platanifolia</i>	41	1.3	-0.86	-0.35	0.0049
<i>Cochlospermum gillivraei</i>	75	2	-1.75	-0.28	0.0100
<i>Cojoba rufescens</i>	319	4.5	-4.4	-0.42	0.0007
<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	18	3.3	-2.5625	-0.75	0.1307
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	35	2.3	-3.44	-0.78*	0.0066
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	73	1.6	-1.75	-0.80*	0.0340
<i>Ficus insipida</i>	14	2.3	-1.25	-0.40	0.0985
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	40	3	-4.35	-0.05*	0.0130
<i>Genipa americana</i>	109	2.7	-2.73	-0.48	0.0042
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	576	8.8	-7	-0.67	0.0018
<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	34	9	-3.6	-1.07	0.0403
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	17	9.9	-2.38	-2.28	0.0600
<i>Picea abies</i>	544	4.7	-3.52	-0.07	0.0058
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	511	4	-3.7	-0.68	0.0020
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	146	3.75	-2.02	-0.47	0.0209
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	23	3.5	-1.5^	-1.05	0.0360
<i>Populus balsamifora</i>	29	2	-1.05	-0.05*	0.1440

<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	43	2.7	-2	-0.15	0.0052
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	23	2.98	-7^	-0.12	0.0433
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	166	2.1	-3.52	-0.30	0.0082
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	12	0.6	-2.53	-0.16	0.0449
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	110	4.2	-4^	-0.35	0.0065
<i>Schefflera morototoni</i>	19	1.85	-1.775	-0.30	0.1050
<i>Tapirira guianensis</i>	33	2	-1.45	-0.44	0.0909

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257 Table S3: Mathematical symbols used throughout the manuscript, their definition, units, and  
 258 their use in the model as input, output, fixed parameter, or estimated parameter.

Symbol	Definition	Units	Status
$g_s$	Stomatal conductance	$\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Model output
C	Carbon gain as the balance of net assimilation minus the carbon costs incurred by a given water potential	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	NA
$A_n$	Net assimilation (photosynthesis minus respiration) of the leaf	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Model output
$\Theta$	Carbon costs of the risk of a given water potential	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	NA
$\Theta'$	Marginal carbon costs of the risk of a given water potential (partial derivative of $\Theta$ with respect to leaf water potential)	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-1}$	CM: Estimated parameter
$\psi_L$	Leaf water potential	MPa	Model output
$\psi_S$	Soil water potential	MPa	Input variable
$\psi$	Tissue water potential	MPa	NA
K	Hydraulic conductance to water	$\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-1}$	Model output
E	Transpiration	$\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Model output
$\lambda$	Marginal water use efficiency (here $\partial A_n / \partial E$ ) in the WUE optimization	$\mu\text{mol} / \text{mmol}$	WUE: Estimated parameter
$C_i$	Internal leaf $\text{CO}_2$ concentration	ppm	Model output
$C_a$	Atmospheric $\text{CO}_2$ concentration at the leaf surface	ppm	Input variable
PAR	Photosynthetically active radiation	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Input variable
$a$	Slope of the $\Theta'$ function	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-2}$	CM: Estimated parameter
$b$	Intercept of the $\Theta'$ function	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-1}$	CM: Estimated parameter
$\beta_l$	Slope of the marginal xylem tension efficiency function	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-2}$	Estimated parameter
$B_0$	Intercept of the marginal xylem tension efficiency function	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-1}$	Estimated parameter
$V_{\text{cmax}}$	Maximum rate of carboxylation at 25 C	$\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Fixed parameter
$K_{\text{max}}$	Maximum hydraulic conductance through the hydraulic continuum	$\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MPa}^{-1}$	Fixed parameter

259 Table S4: Sensitivity analyses of the slope of the MXTE to 10% change in input of species'  
260 xylem and photosynthetic traits – the maximum hydraulic conductance (K) and the maximum  
261 carboxylation rate at 25 C (V).

Species	Original	K-10%	K+10%	V-10%	V+10%
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	-10.13	-5.83	-12.57	-9.39	-9.02
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	-6.39	-4.92	-7.96	-0.74	-7.42
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	-9.79	-16.29	-6.41	-17.01	-5.28
<i>Austromyrtus bidwillii</i>	1.54	1.33	1.84	1.31	1.89
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	-12.48	-11.11	-13.83	-11.02	-13.26

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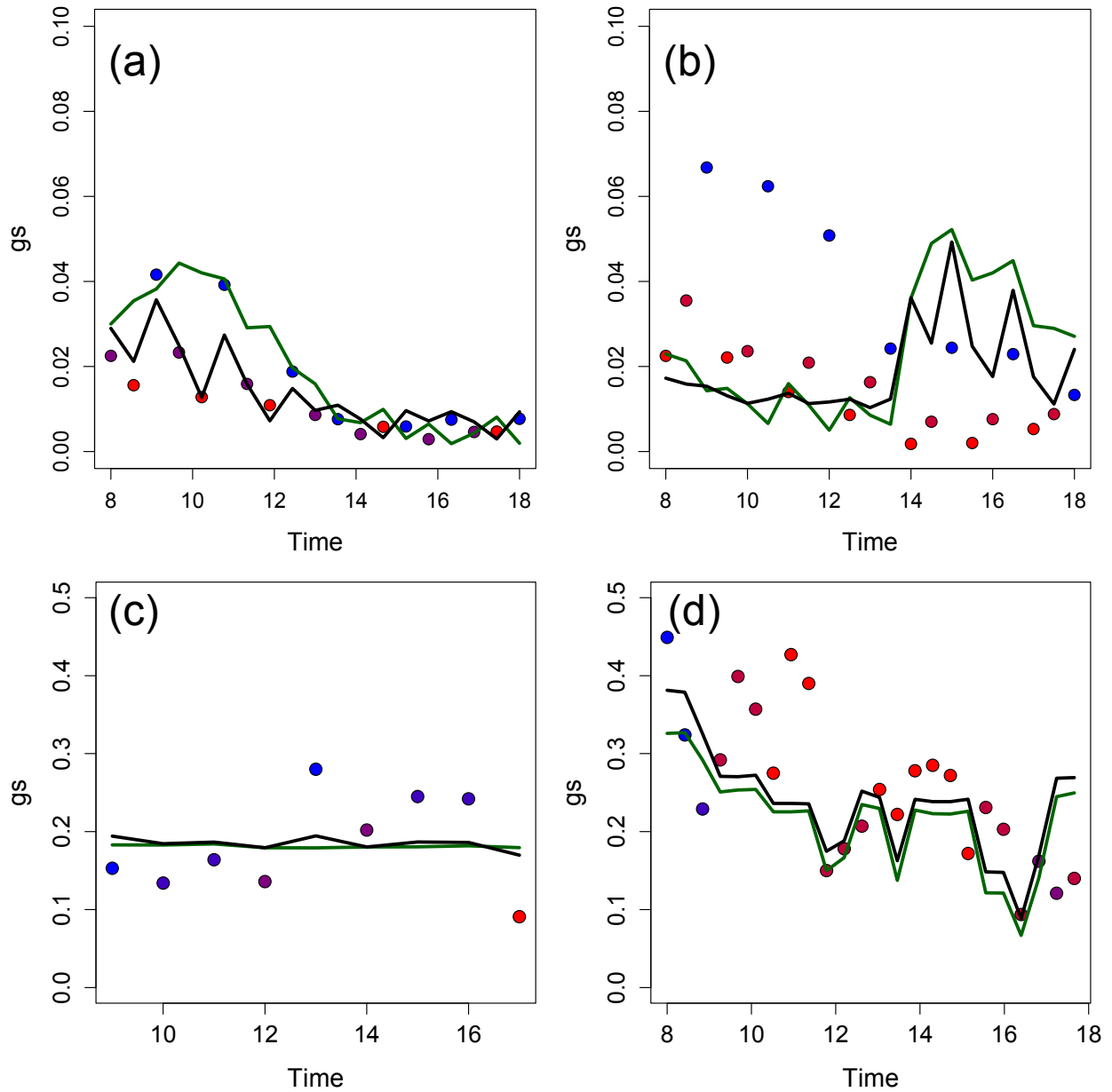
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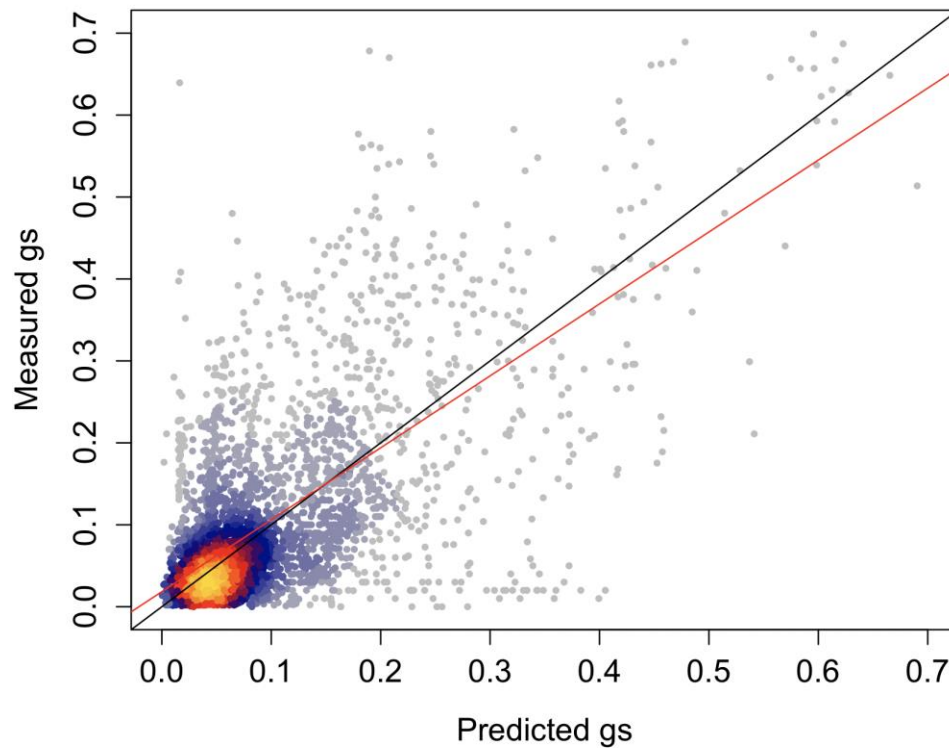
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281 Figure S1: Illustrative time-series (time of day) of observed (dots) and predicted stomatal  
 282 conductance for the CMH (black line) and WUEH (green line) over individual days for  
 283 *Pinus edulis* (a,b) and *Tapirira guianensis* (c,d). Colors in (a,b) represent soil water  
 284 potential of different individual trees measured and in (c,d) represent leaf water potential  
 285 with red indicating more negative water potentials.





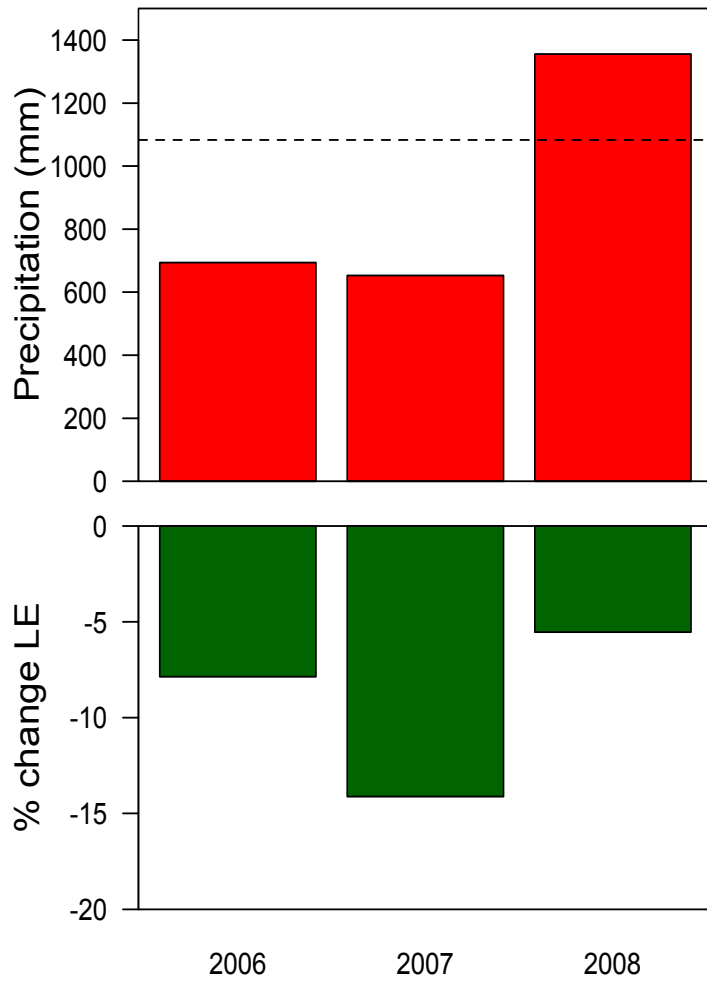
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287 Figure S2: The predicted versus measured stomatal conductance ( $gs$ ;  $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$ ) for models fit  
288 on each of 34 species for the WUE with  $\lambda$  modified by a non-linear function of soil water  
289 potential ( $R^2=0.52$ ). Black lines represent the 1:1 line and red lines are the best fit for  
290 ordinary least squares regression. Colors indicate the density of points from highest  
291 density (yellow) to lowest (blue to gray).

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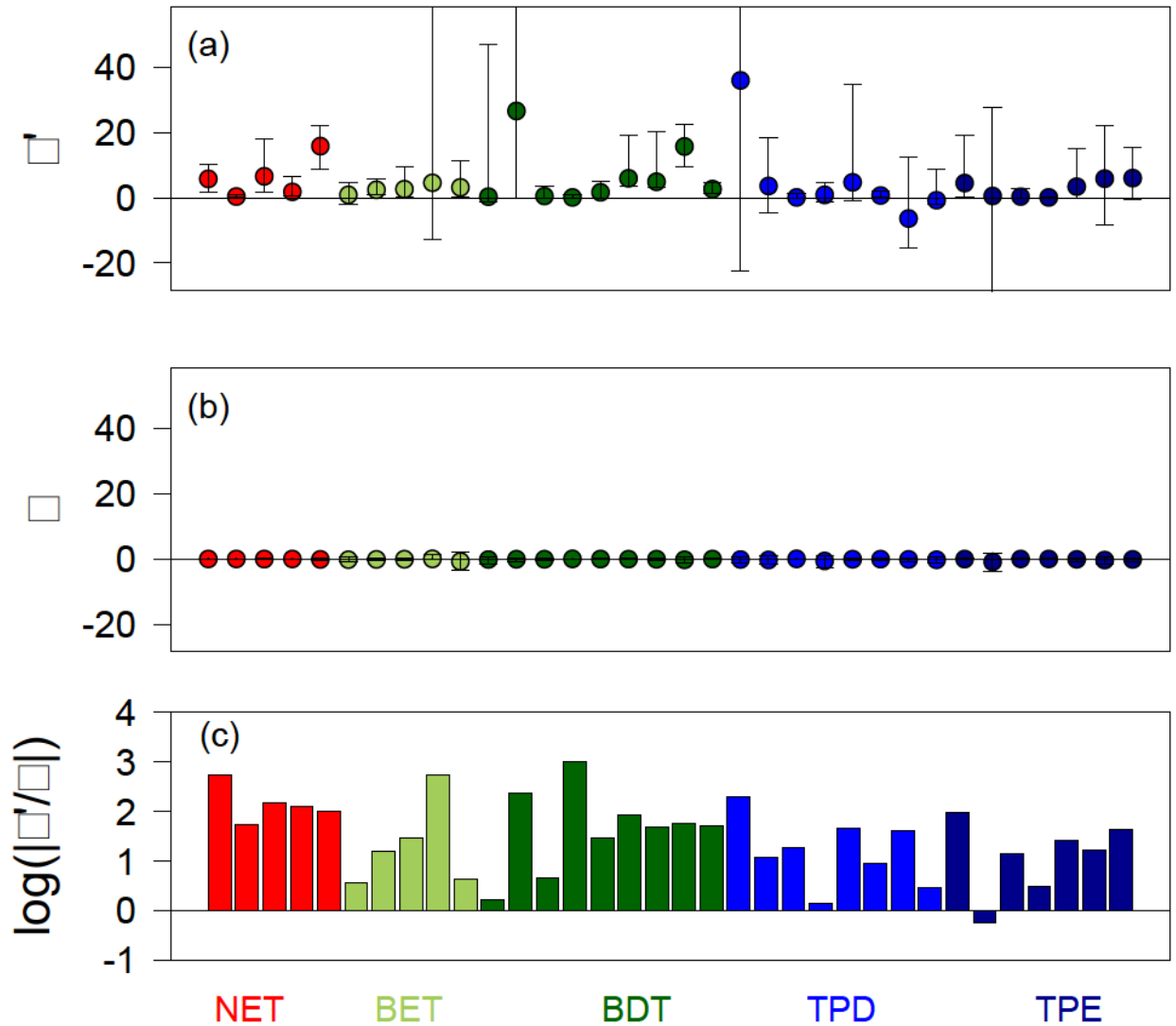
296 Figure S3: Precipitation at the Missouri Ozark Ameriflux site from 2006-2008 (dashed line is the

297 1970-2000 average) (top). Change in latent energy exchange (%) between the default

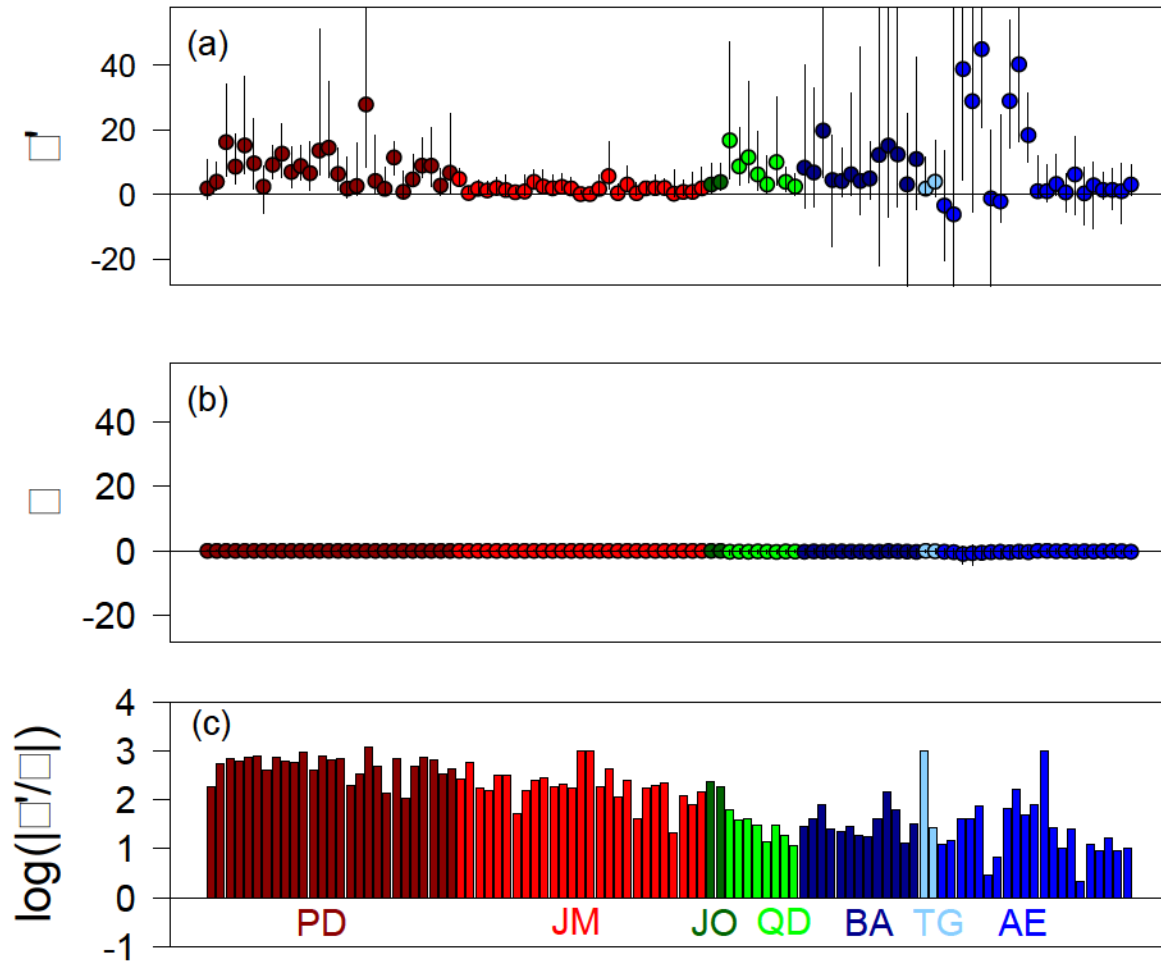
298 water stress scheme in the LM3-PPA land surface model and the hydraulic-stomatal

299 water stress scheme (bottom).

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301  
 302 Fig. S4: MXTE functions support the carbon maximization optimization. (a) The opposite of the  
 303 slope of the MXTE function ( $-\Theta'(\psi_L)$ ) shown across biomes (NET: needleleaf evergreen  
 304 temperate; BET: broadleaf evergreen temperate; BDT: broadleaf deciduous temperate; TPD:  
 305 tropical deciduous; TPE: tropical evergreen). Error bars are the 95% confidence intervals. (b)  
 306 The estimated  $dA/dE$  ( $\lambda$ ) values of the marginal cost function. (c) The  $\log_{10}$  of the absolute value  
 307 of the slope of the marginal cost function divided by the  $dA/dE$  ( $\lambda$ ), where positive values  
 308 indicate  $\Theta' > \lambda$  and values of  $>1$  indicate  $\Theta' \gg \lambda$ .



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310 Figure S5: MXTE functions support the carbon maximization optimization at daily timescales.

311 (a) The opposite of the slope ( $-\beta_j$ ) of the MXTE function ( $\Theta'(\psi_L)$ ) shown across 7 species with

312 adequate data (PD: *Pinus edulis*; JM: *Juniperus monosperma*; JO: *Juniperus osteosperma*; QD:

313 *Quercus douglasii*; BA: *Brachychiton australis*; TG: *Tapirira guianensis*; AE: *Alphitonia*

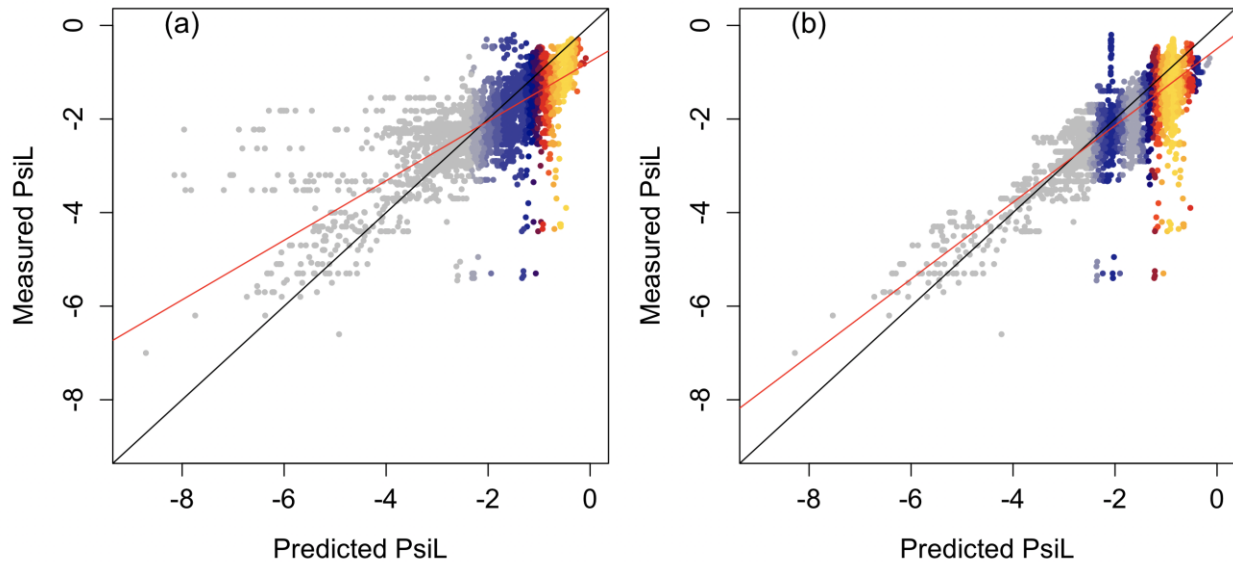
314 *excelsa*). Error bars are the 95% confidence intervals. (b) The estimated dA/dE ( $\lambda$ ) values of the

315 marginal cost function. (c) The  $\log_{10}$  of the absolute value of the slope of the marginal cost

316 function divided by the dA/dE ( $\lambda$ ), where positive values indicate  $\Theta' > \lambda$  and values of  $>1$

317 indicate  $\Theta' \gg \lambda$ .

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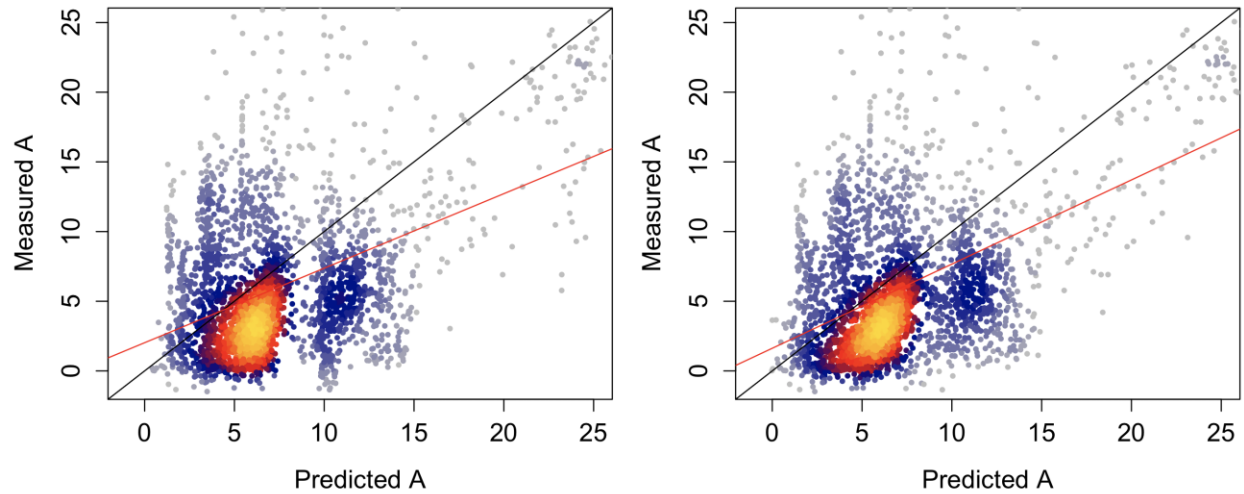


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320 Figure S6: Heat scatterplot of estimates of the predicted leaf water potential (MPa) versus the  
321 observed leaf water potential estimates of all species combined for the WUEH (a) and  
322 CMH (b) ( $R^2_{WUEH}=0.76$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ;  $R^2_{CMH}=0.8$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ). Colors signify the density of  
323 points in a given region from low (gray) to high (yellow) density. Black line is the 1:1  
324 line and red line is the OLS regression best fit.

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328 Figure S7: Heat scatterplot of estimates of the predicted photosynthesis ( $A$ ;  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) versus  
329 the observed photosynthesis estimates of all species combined for the WUEH (a) and  
330 CMH (b). Colors signify the density of points in a given region from low (gray) to high  
331 (yellow) density. Black line is the 1:1 line and red line is the OLS regression best fit.

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