

# Co-invasion of invasive trees and their associated belowground mutualists

**Martin. A. Nuñez\***, Nahuel Policelli & Romina Dimarco

*\*Grupo de Ecología de Invasiones – INIBIOMA, CONICET/U. del Comahue, Argentina*

[@martin\\_a\\_nunez](https://sites.google.com/site/nunezm)

# Biological invasions are a problem





Diversity and Distributions, (*Diversity Distrib.*) (2011) 17, 788–809

**BIODIVERSITY REVIEW**

**Trees and shrubs as invasive alien species – a global review**

David M. Richardson<sup>1\*</sup> and Marcel Rejmánek<sup>2</sup>



434  
tree species



Biol Invasions (2014) 16:473–481  
DOI 10.1007/s10530-013-0606-9

ORIGINAL PAPER

**Tree invasions: patterns, processes, challenges and opportunities**

David M. Richardson · Cang Hui ·  
Martín A. Nuñez · Aníbal Pauchard



Main reasons for introduction  
of invasive tree species:

56% ornamental

22% forestry

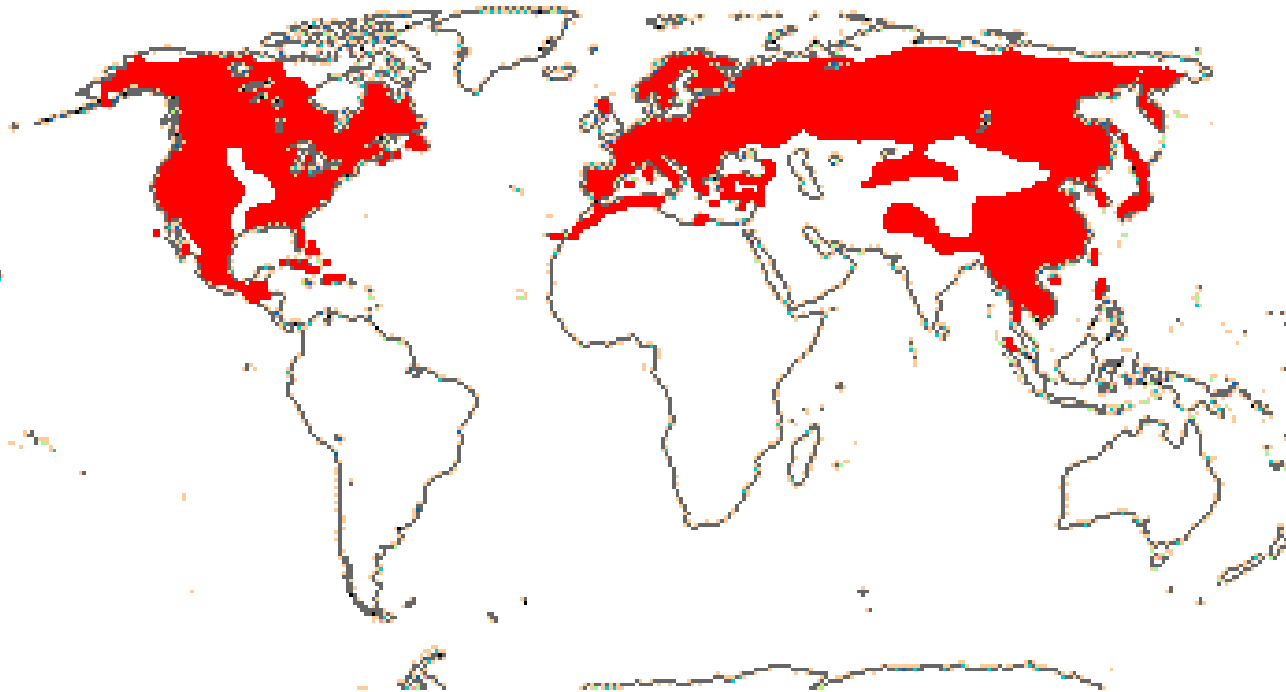


8% agroforestry

5% sand stabilization

4% fuel wood

Pines are native to the Northern hemisphere and **highly invasive** in the Southern hemisphere



A

SCREE  
FOREST

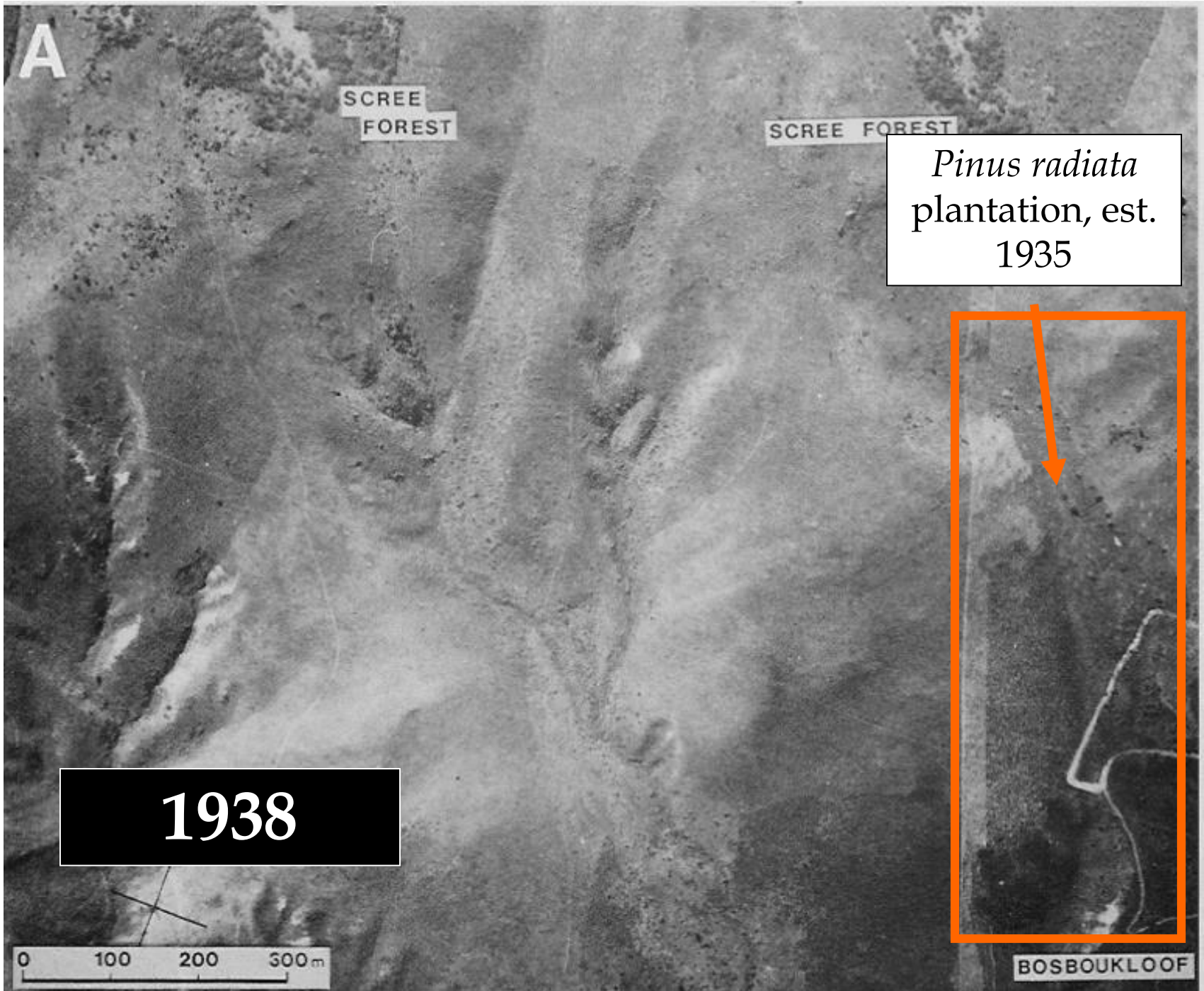
SCREE FOREST

*Pinus radiata*  
plantation, est.  
1935

1938

0 100 200 300m

BOSBOUKLOOF



B

SCREE  
FOREST

SCREE FOREST

*Pinus radiata*  
plantation, est.  
1935

FIREBREAK

1981

*Pinus radiata* invasion,  
Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch

(Richardson & Brown 1986; *S. Afr. J. Bot.* 52: 529-536)

0 100 200 300m

BOSBOUKLOOF





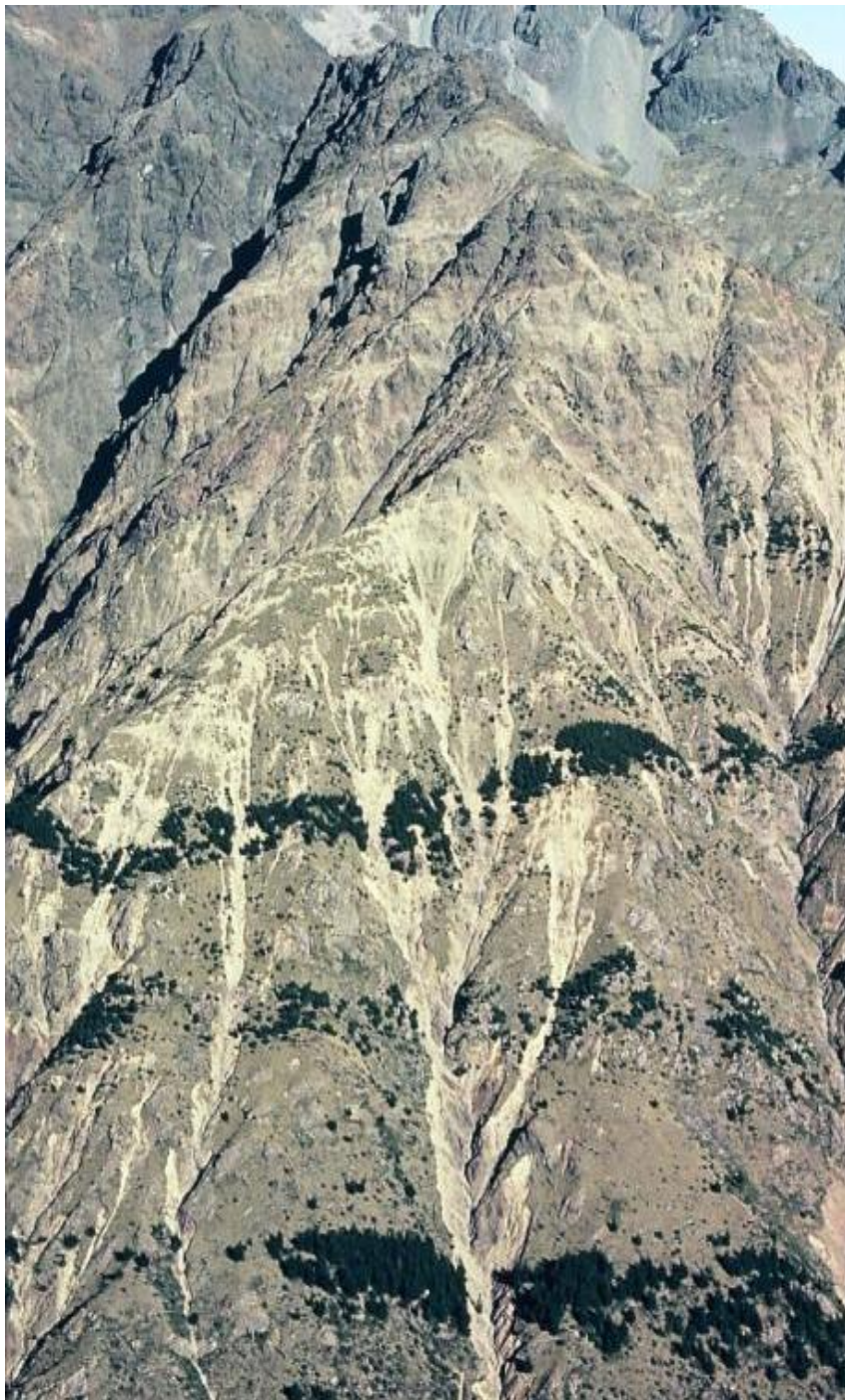
## Plantations in New Zealand



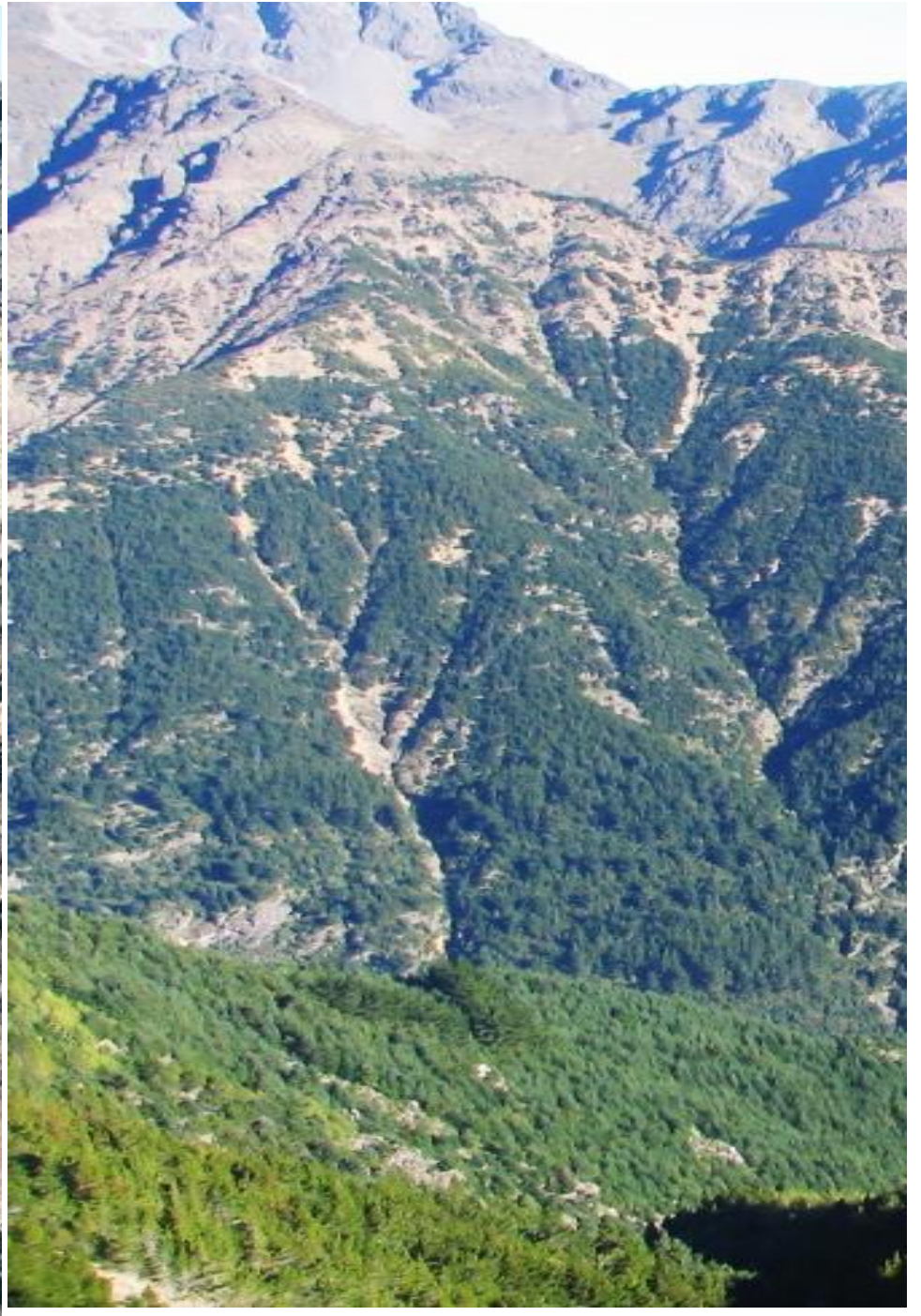
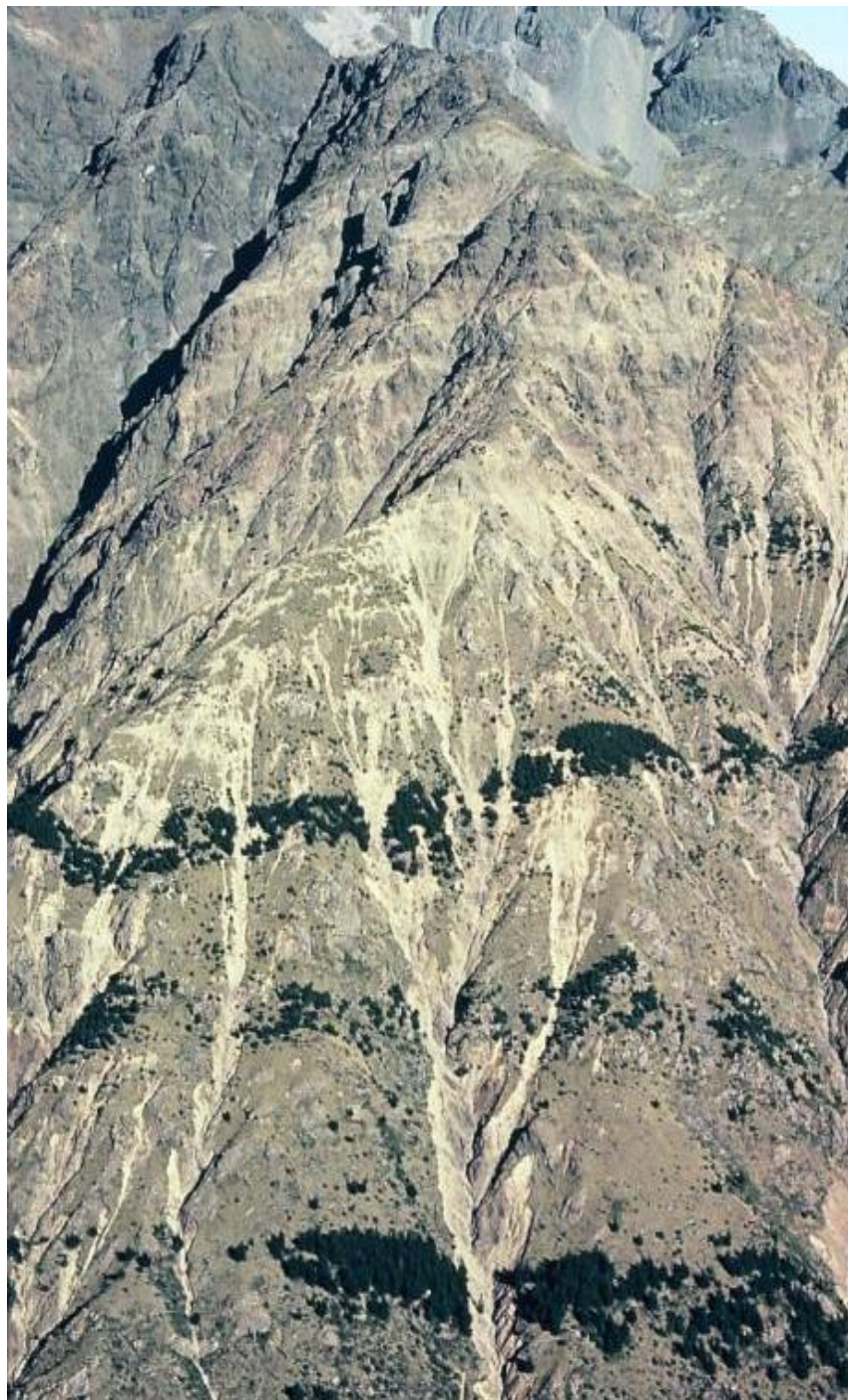


## Plantations in New Zealand





## Plantations in New Zealand





Invasion *Pinus  
contorta*:  
2007



Invasion *Pinus  
contorta*:  
2007 2011



Invasion *Pinus  
contorta*:  
2007    2011  
2015

# *Pinus* invasions in the southern hemisphere



*P. radiata* into forest; Australia



*P. pinaster* into fynbos; RSA



*P. nigra* into grassl.; N. Zeal.



*P. contorta* into grassl.; N. Zeal.



*P. radiata* into forest; Chile



*P. kesiya* into grassl; Madagas.

# What are the impacts of pine invasions?

- Ecosystem changes caused by the “novel” tree cover.
- Changes in fire regimes.
- Reduction in local diversity by competitive exclusion.
- Economic impacts.
- Change in ecosystem services
- Changes in scenic values.



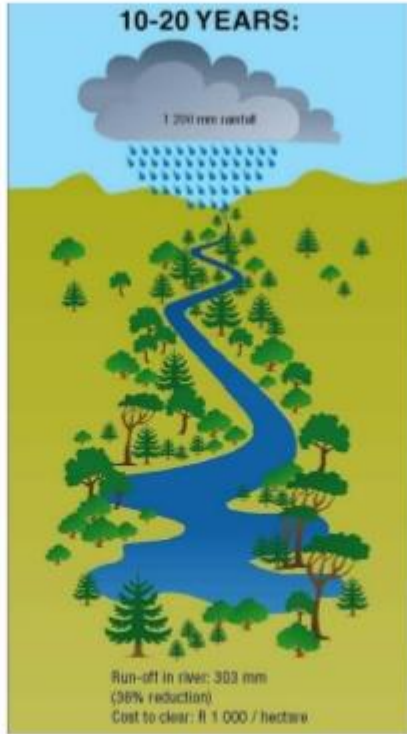
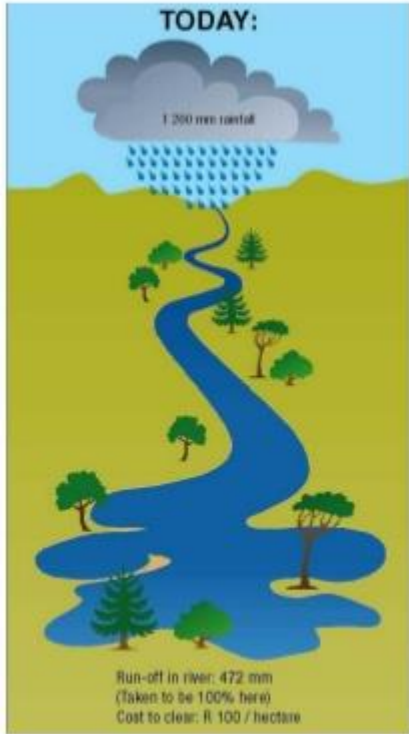
*P. contorta* in Chile





2006 2 9

If we do not clear invasive alien plants ...



# What are the impacts of pine invasions?

- Invasion of open ecosystems and disturbed environments.
- Ecosystem changes caused by the “novel” tree cover.
- Changes in fire regimes.
- Reduction in local diversity by competitive exclusion.
- Economic impacts
- Change in ecosystem services
- Changes in scenic values.



*P. contorta* in Chile

But pines cannot invade alone...

# Mycorrhizae

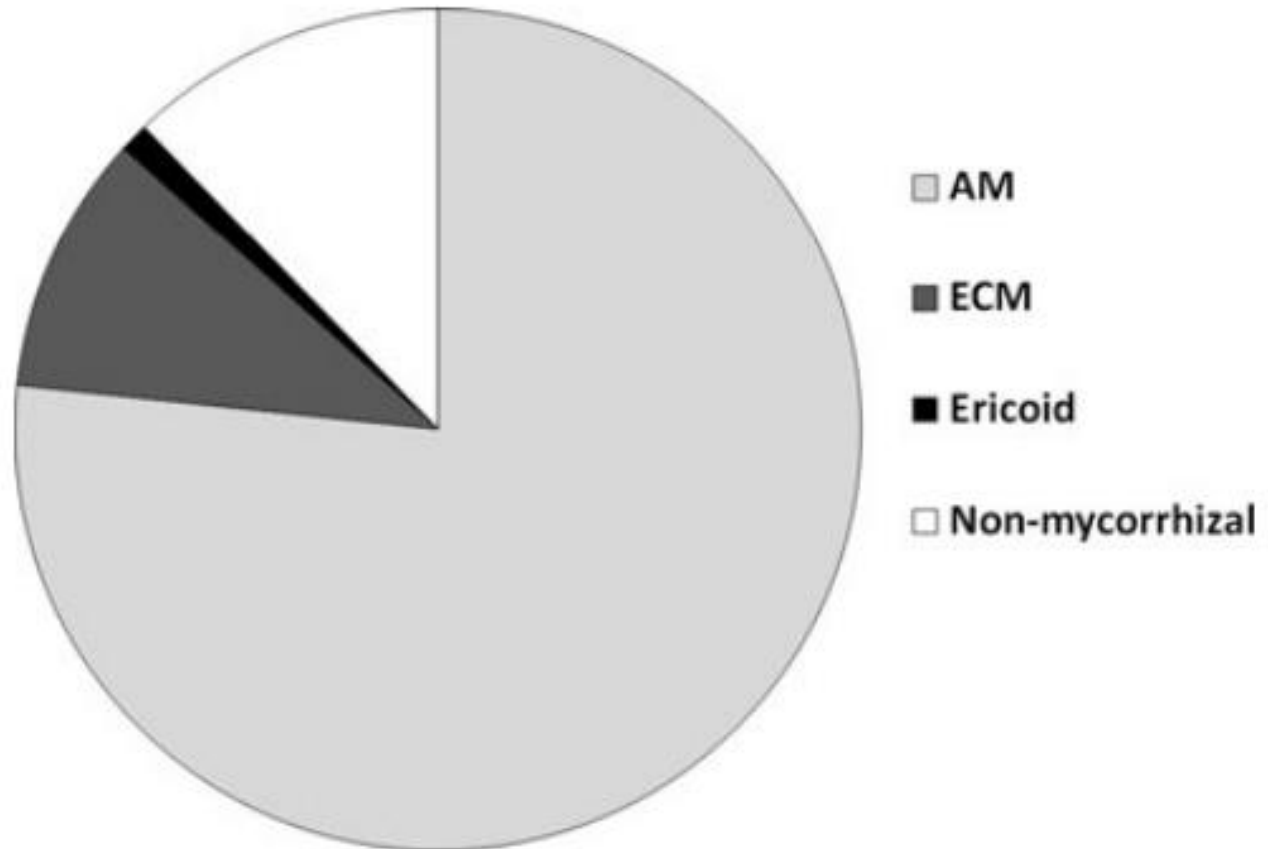
Plant-fungi mutualism



# Proportion of invasive trees

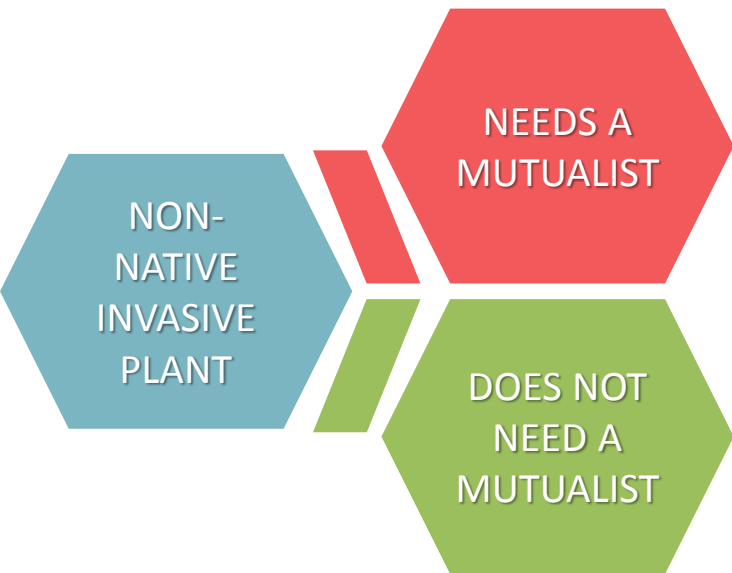
M. A. Nuñez, I. A. Dickie

---



A teal-colored hexagonal shape with a white border, containing the text "NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT" in white, uppercase letters.

NON-  
NATIVE  
INVASIVE  
PLANT





NON-  
NATIVE  
INVASIVE  
PLANT

NEEDS A  
MUTUALIST

DOES NOT  
NEED A  
MUTUALIST

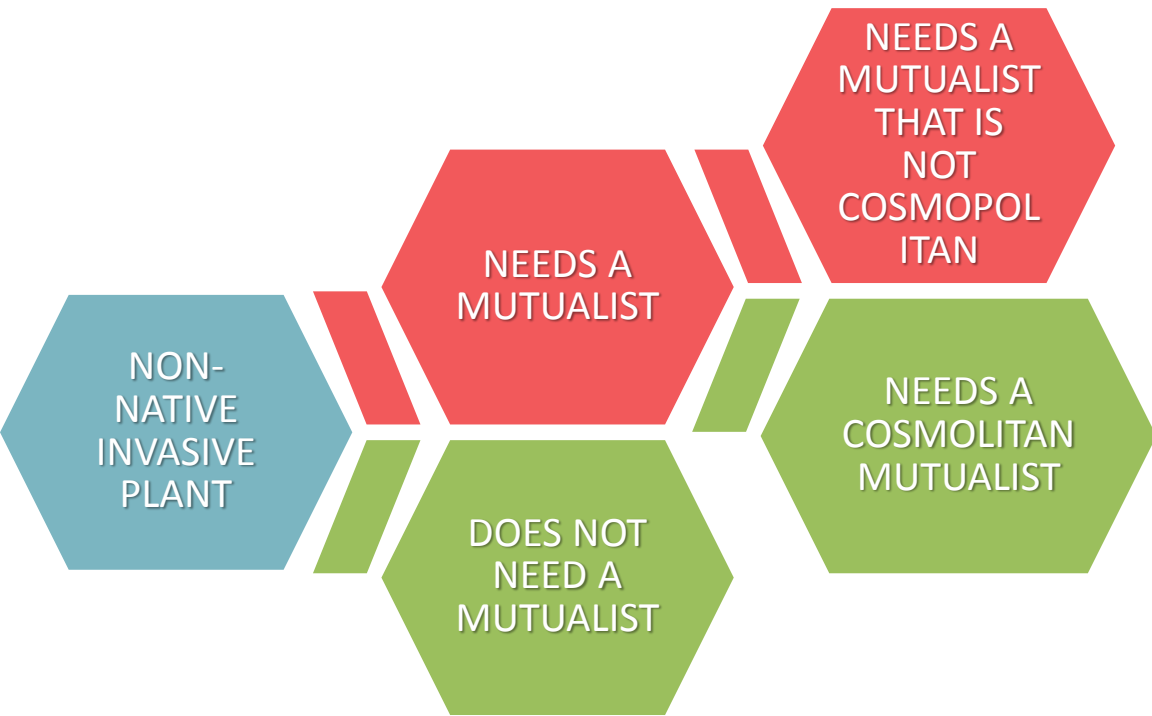
Proteaceae;  
some  
members of  
Brassicaceae  
family.  
*Tamarix* spp.  
*Polygonum*  
spp.

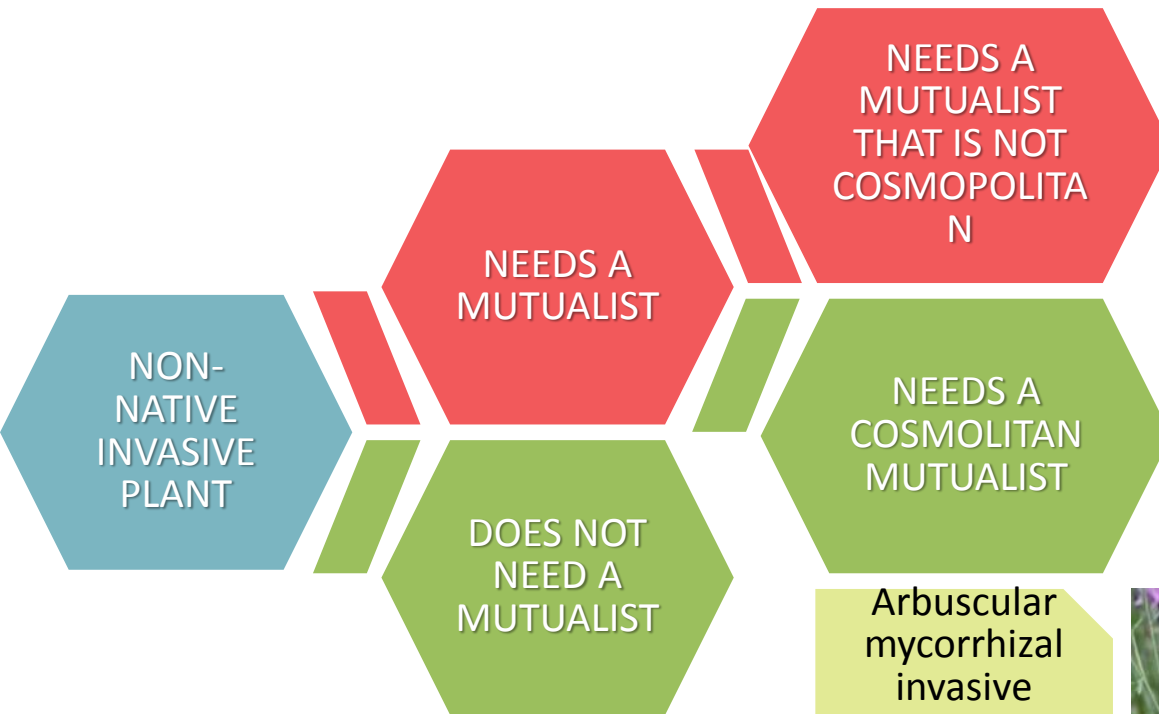


*Alliaria petiolata*



*Embothrium coccineum*

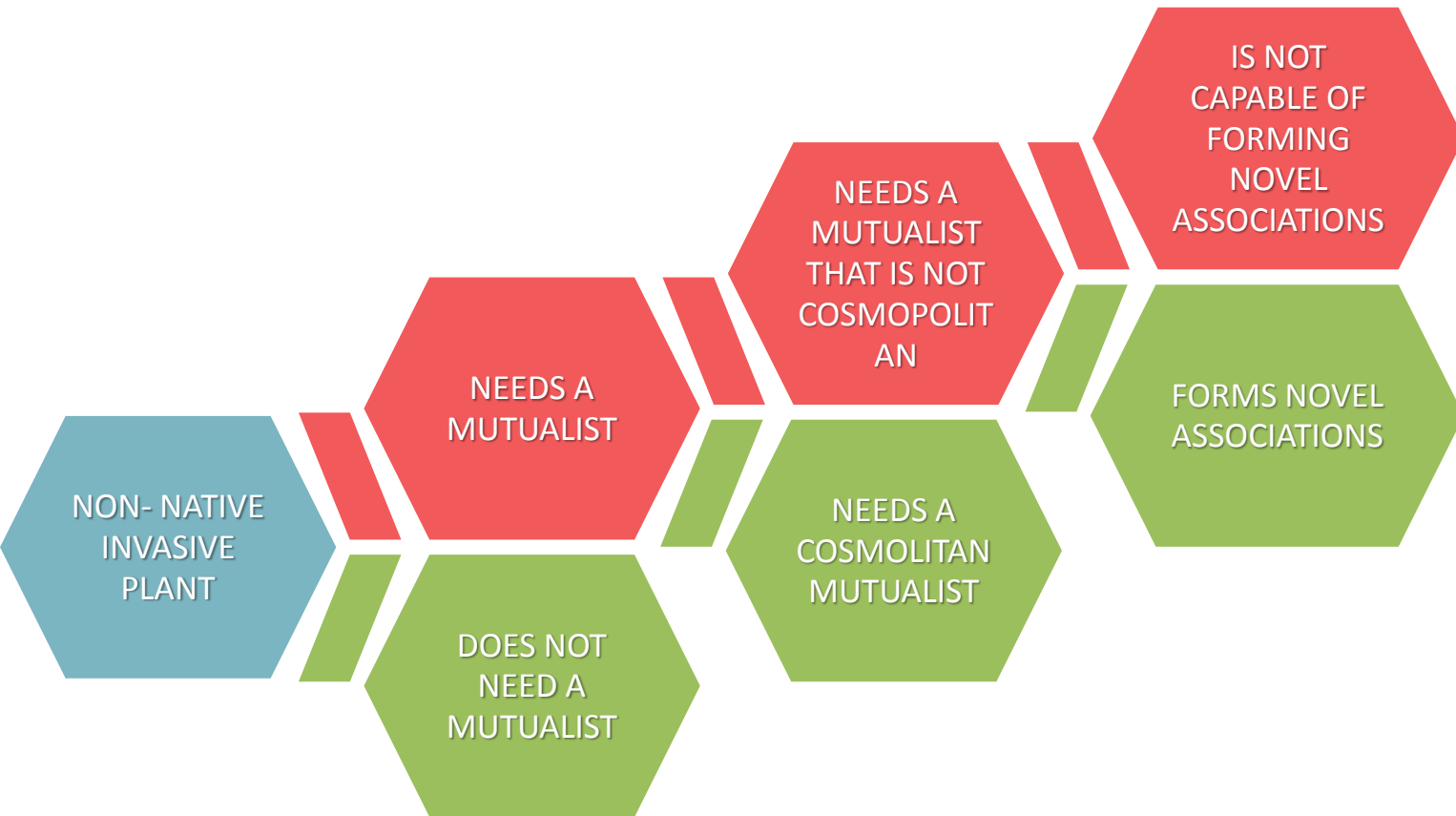


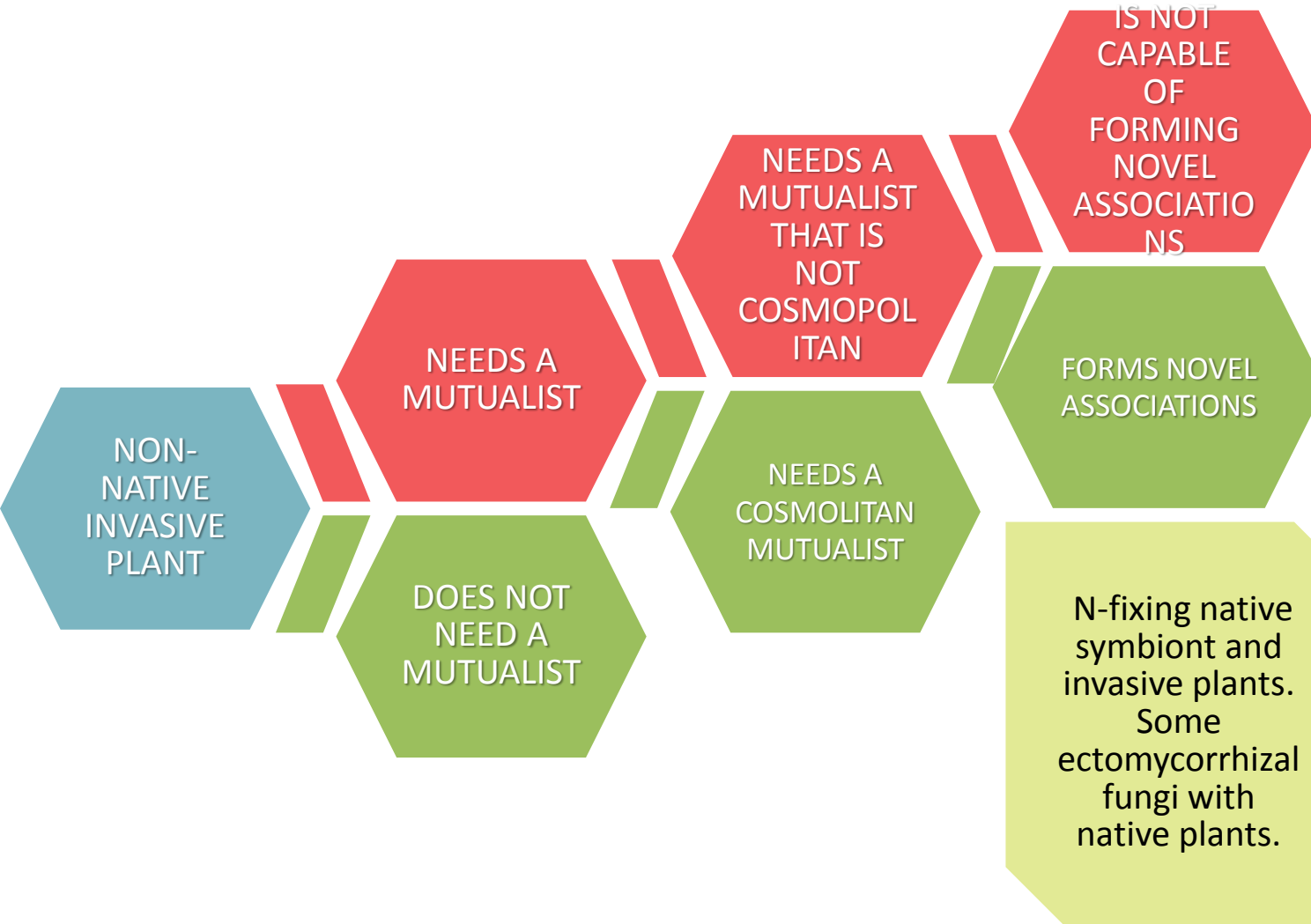


Arbuscular mycorrhizal invasive plants associated with generalist mycorrhizal fungi.



*Centaurea stoebe* *Trachycarpus fortunei*

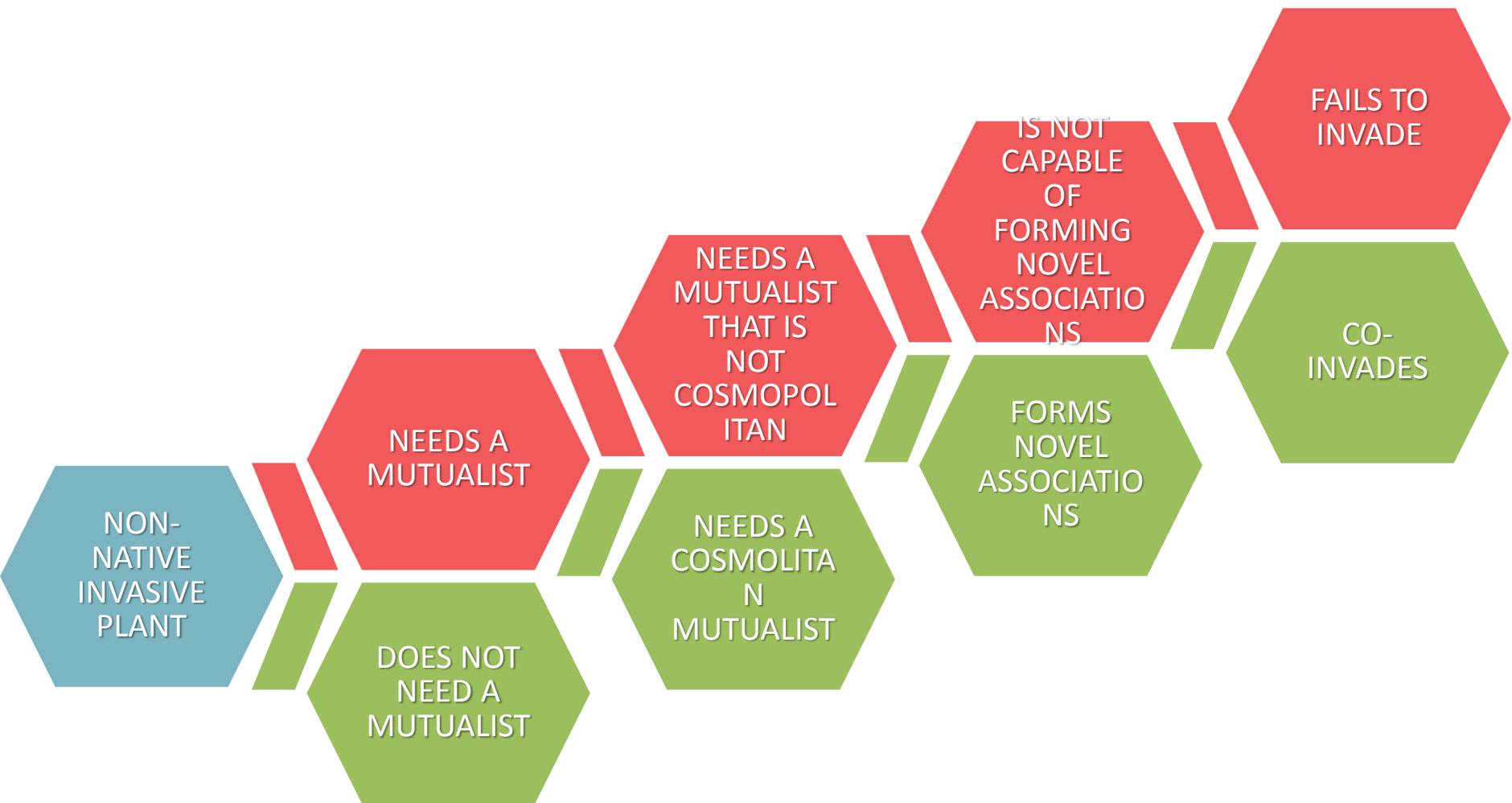




*Eucalyptus* sp



*Nothofagus antarctica*

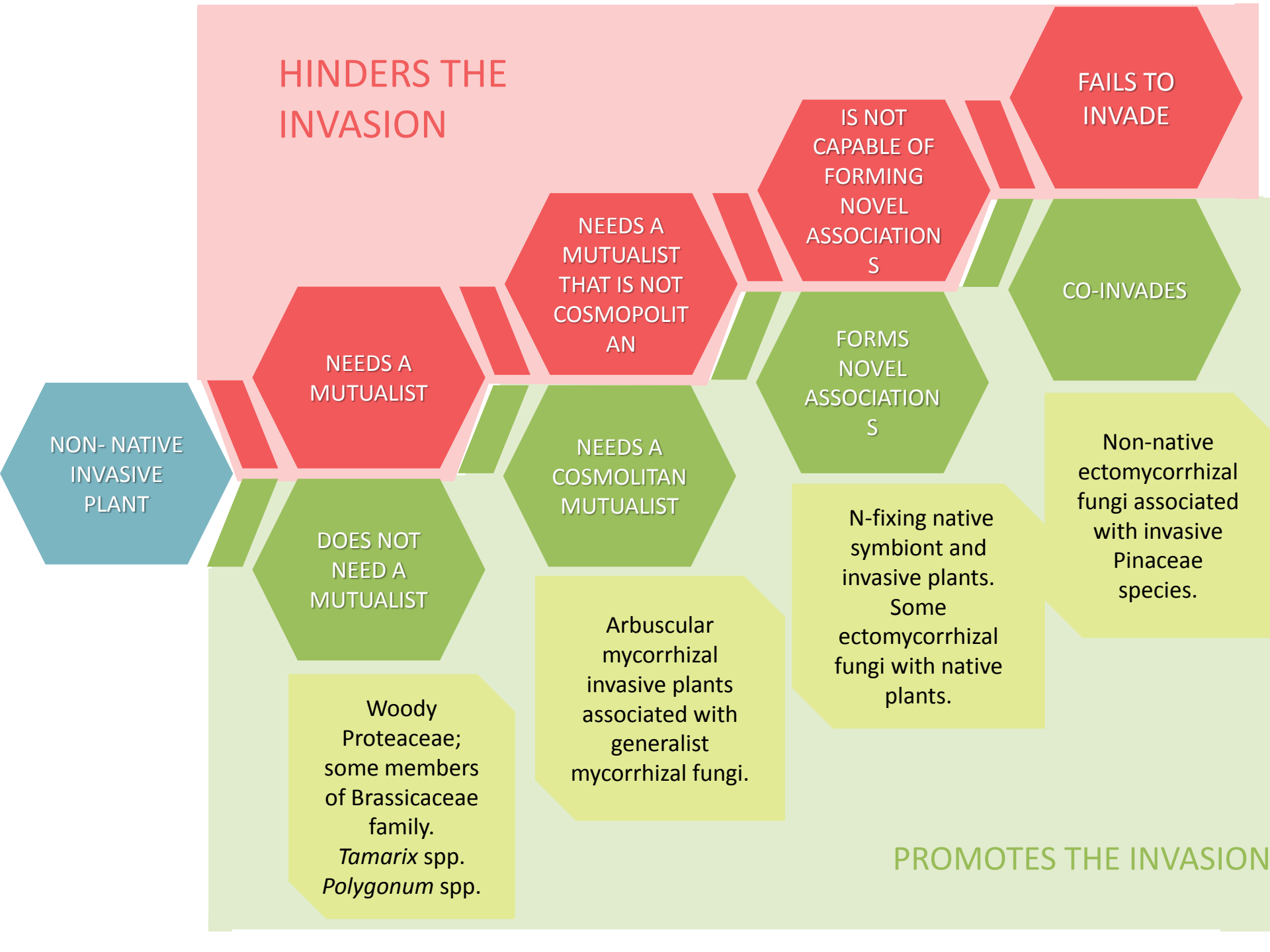




*Pinus contorta*



*Pseudotsuga menziesii*



HINDERS THE INVASION

FAILS TO INVADE

IS NOT CAPABLE OF FORMING NOVEL ASSOCIATIONS

NEEDS A MUTUALIST THAT IS NOT COSMOPOLITAN

CO-INVADES

NEEDS A MUTUALIST

FORMS NOVEL ASSOCIATIONS

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT

NEEDS A COSMOLITAN MUTUALIST

DOES NOT NEED A MUTUALIST

N-fixing native symbiont and invasive plants. Some ectomycorrhizal fungi with native plants.

Non-native ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with invasive Pinaceae species.

Woody Proteaceae; some members of Brassicaceae family.  
*Tamarix* spp.  
*Polygonum* spp.

Arbuscular mycorrhizal invasive plants associated with generalist mycorrhizal fungi.

PROMOTES THE INVASION

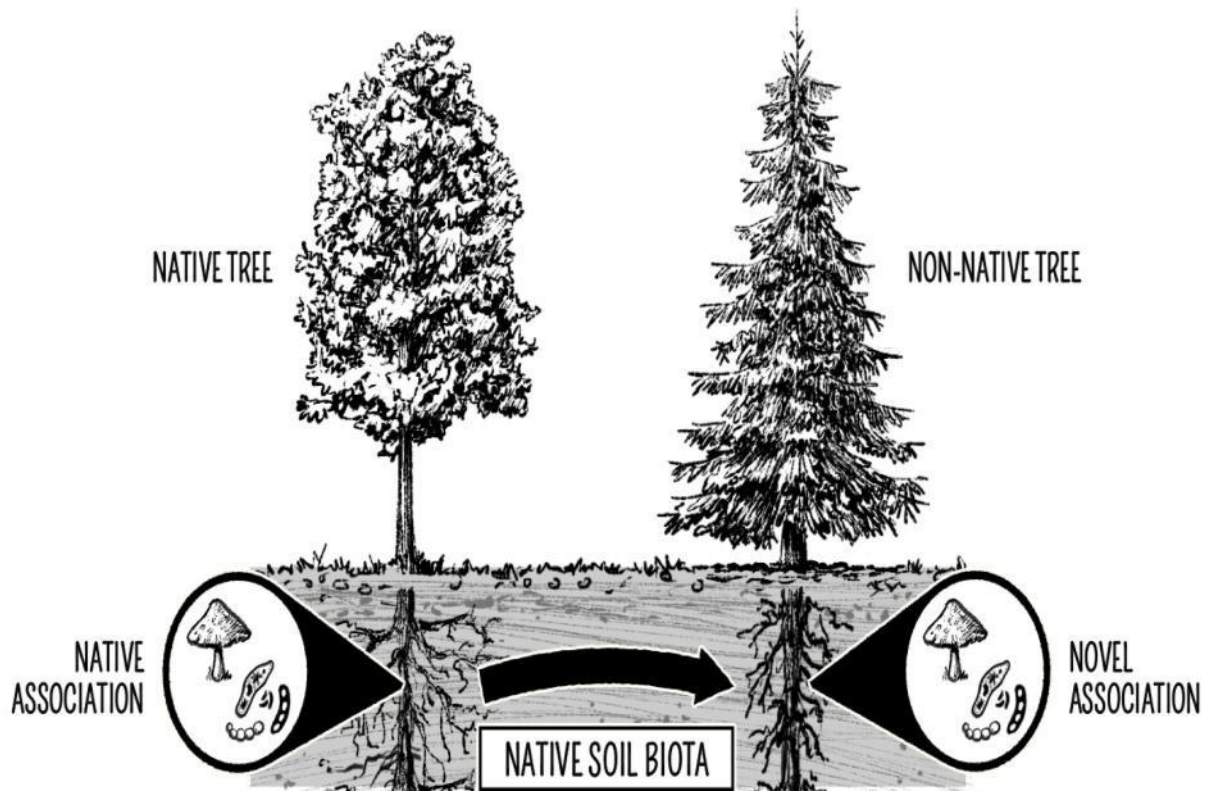


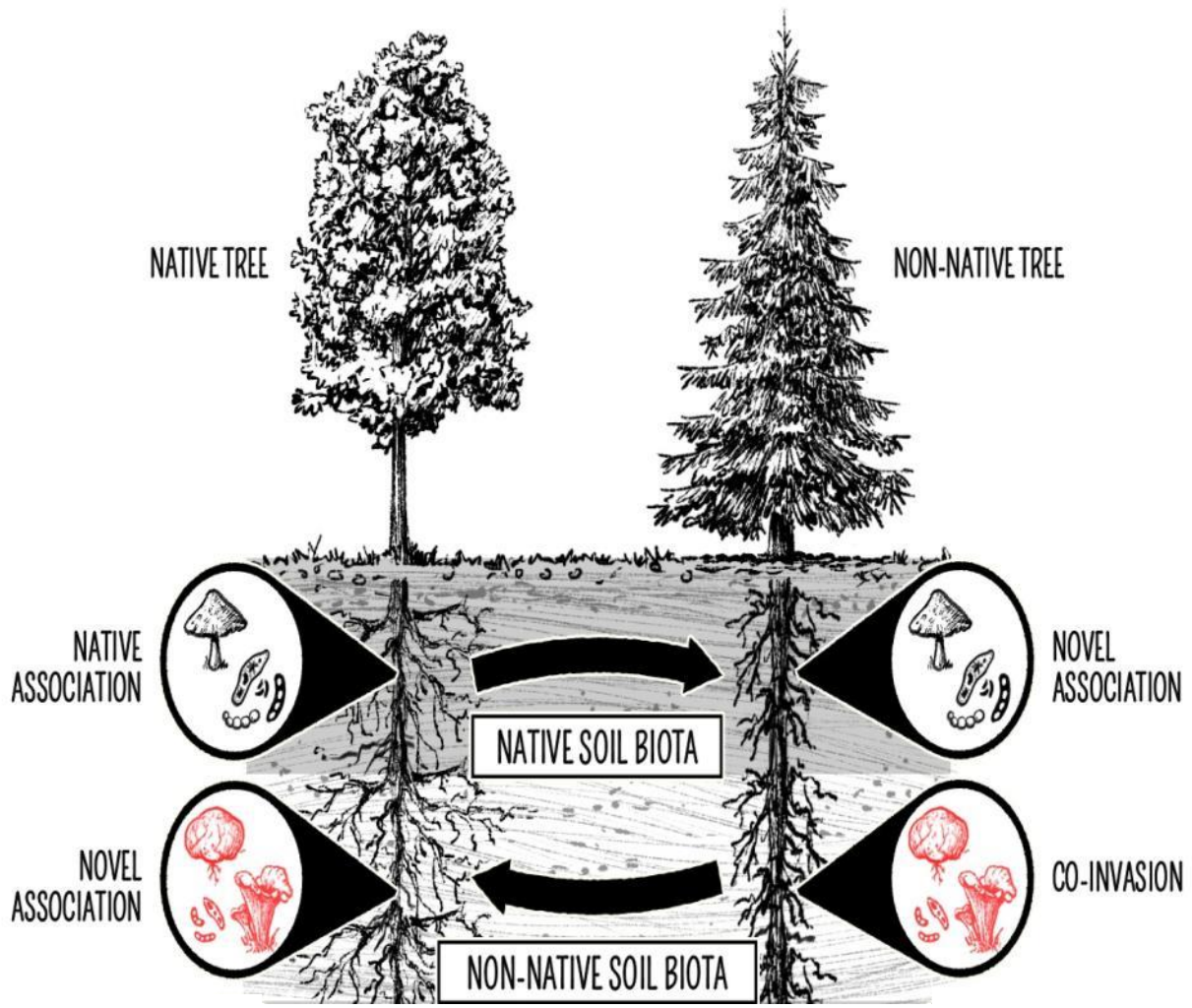
NATIVE TREE

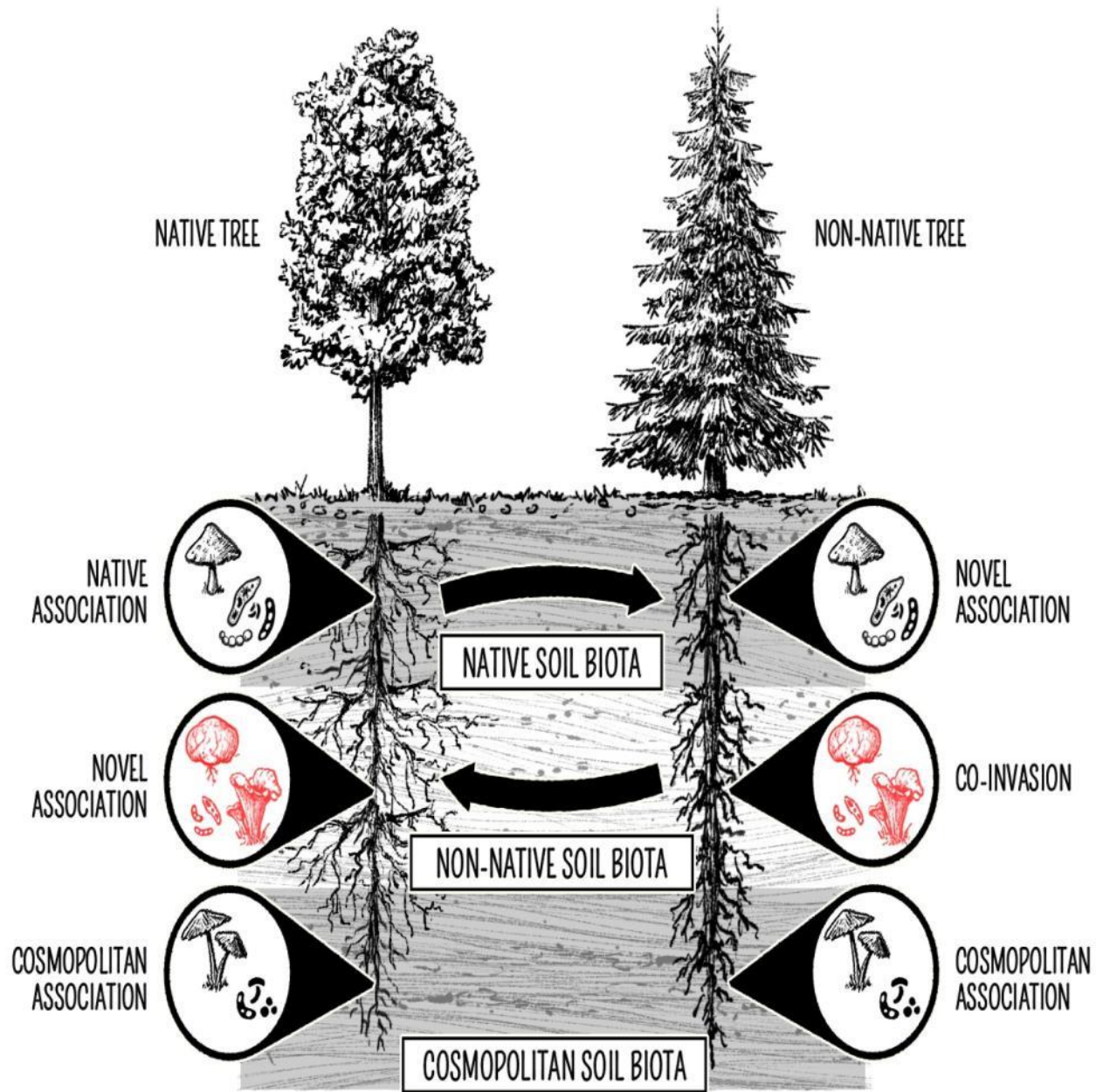


NON-NATIVE TREE

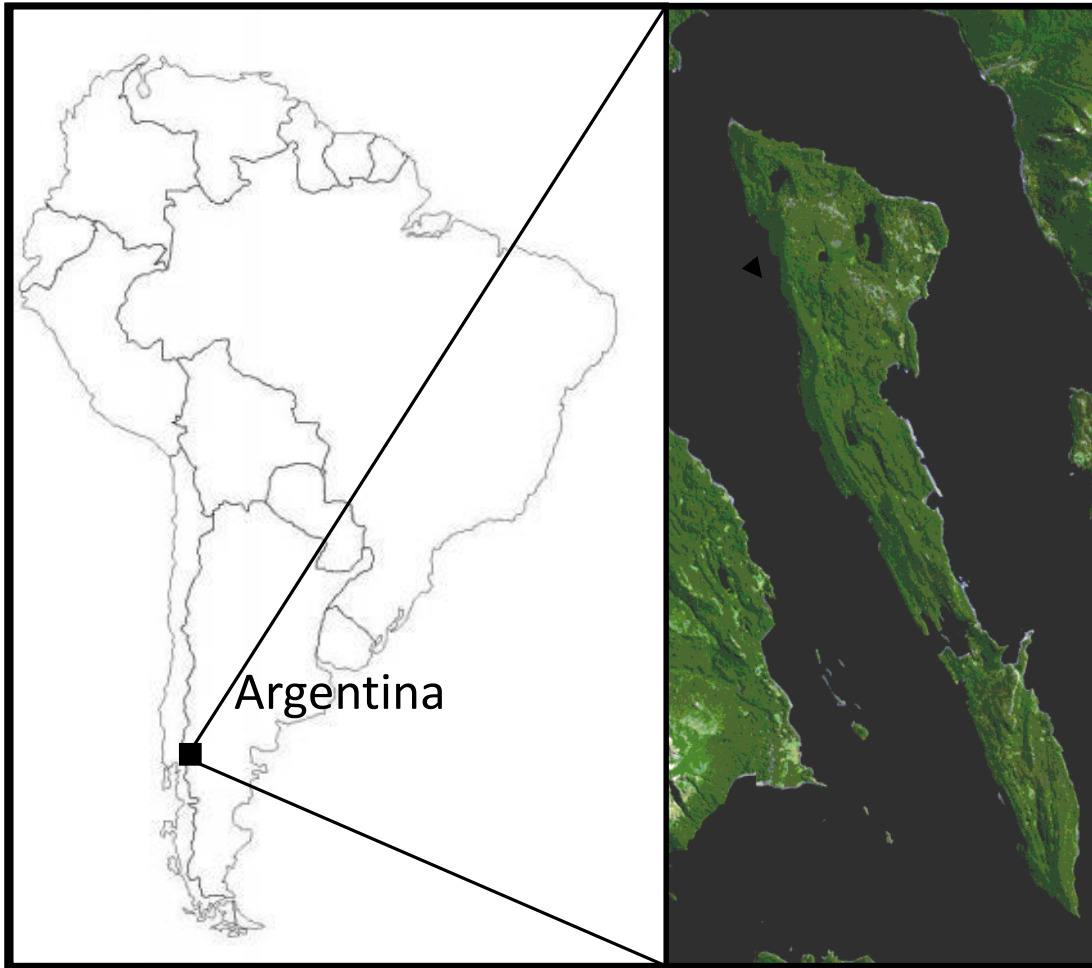








# Isla Victoria



Argentina

1925-1939; 135 exotic species were planted, many of them highly invasive elsewhere

## Observed pattern of invasion:

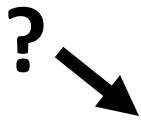
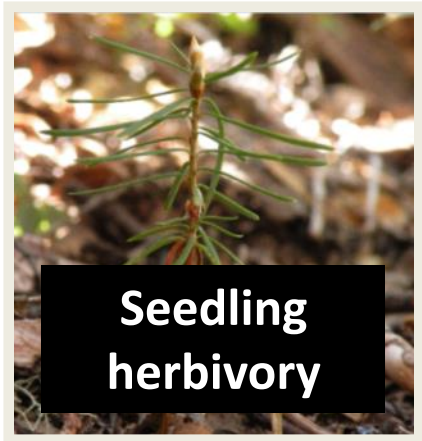
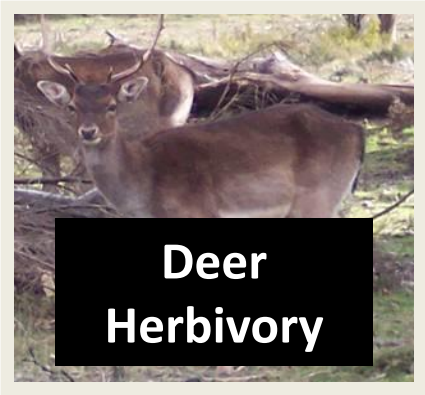
-High densities of exotic trees *only* near plantations (<50 m)



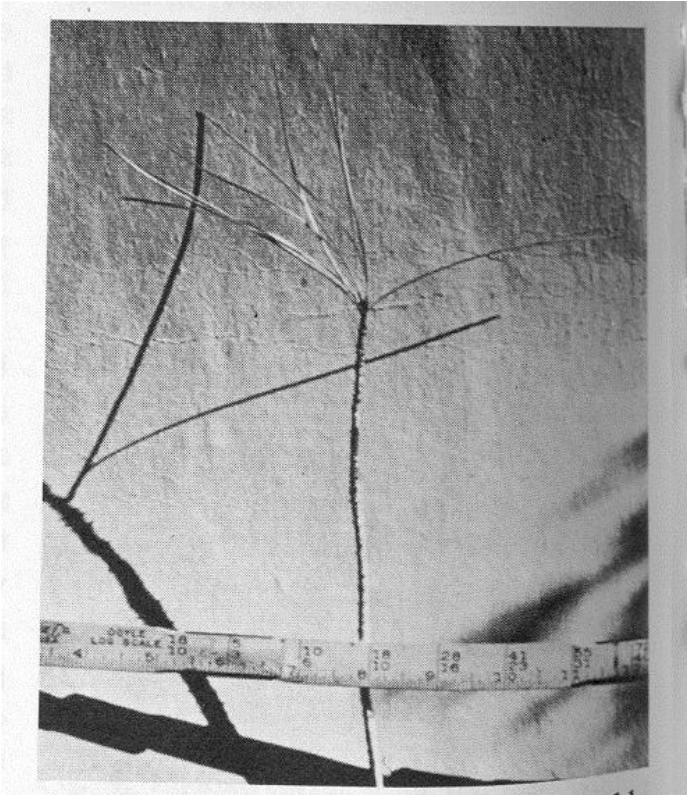
Invaded forest



Non-invaded forest



# Many attempts to plant pines failed due to the absence of mycorrhizae



5 year old pine WITHOUT mycorrhizae



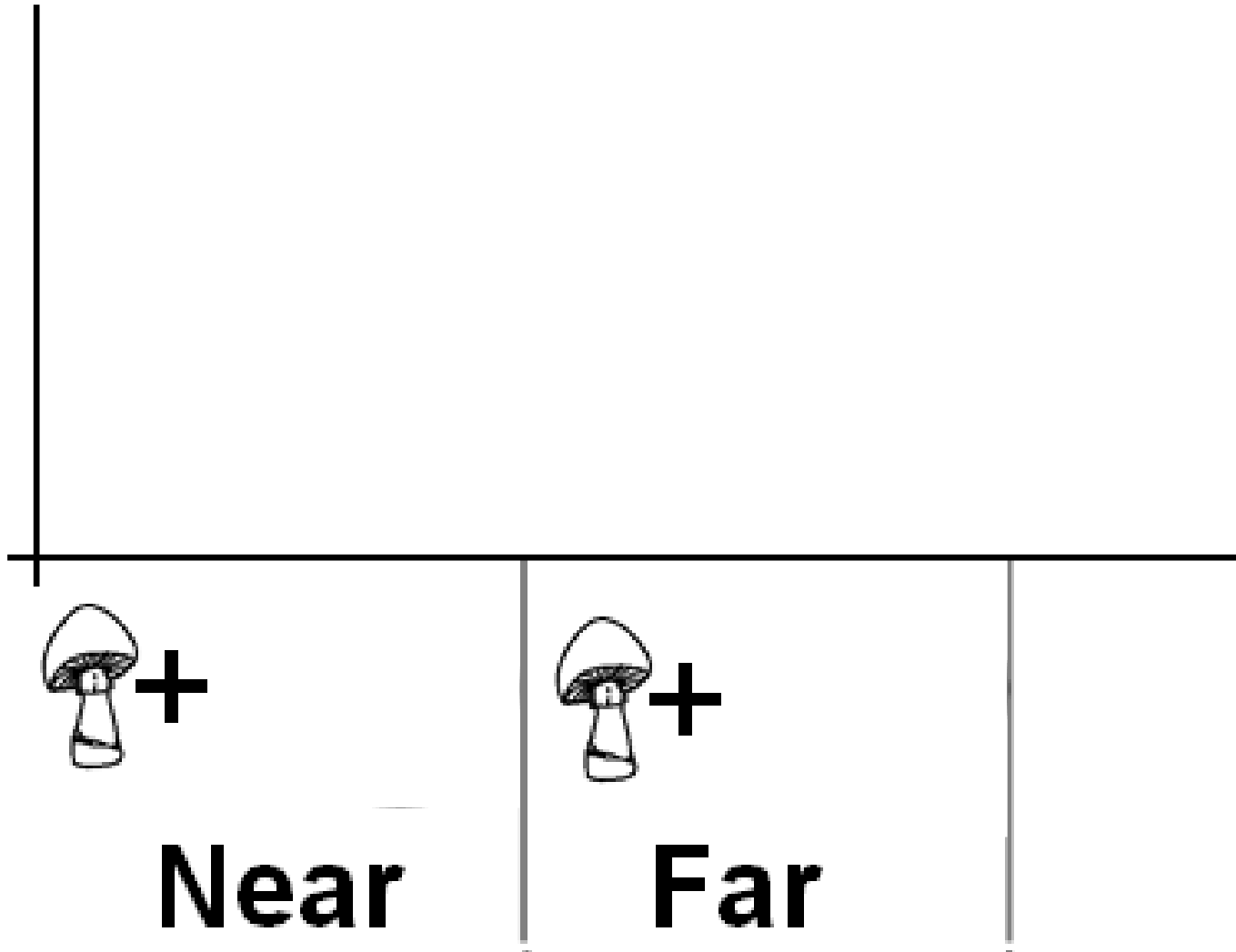
6 year old pine with mycorrhizae



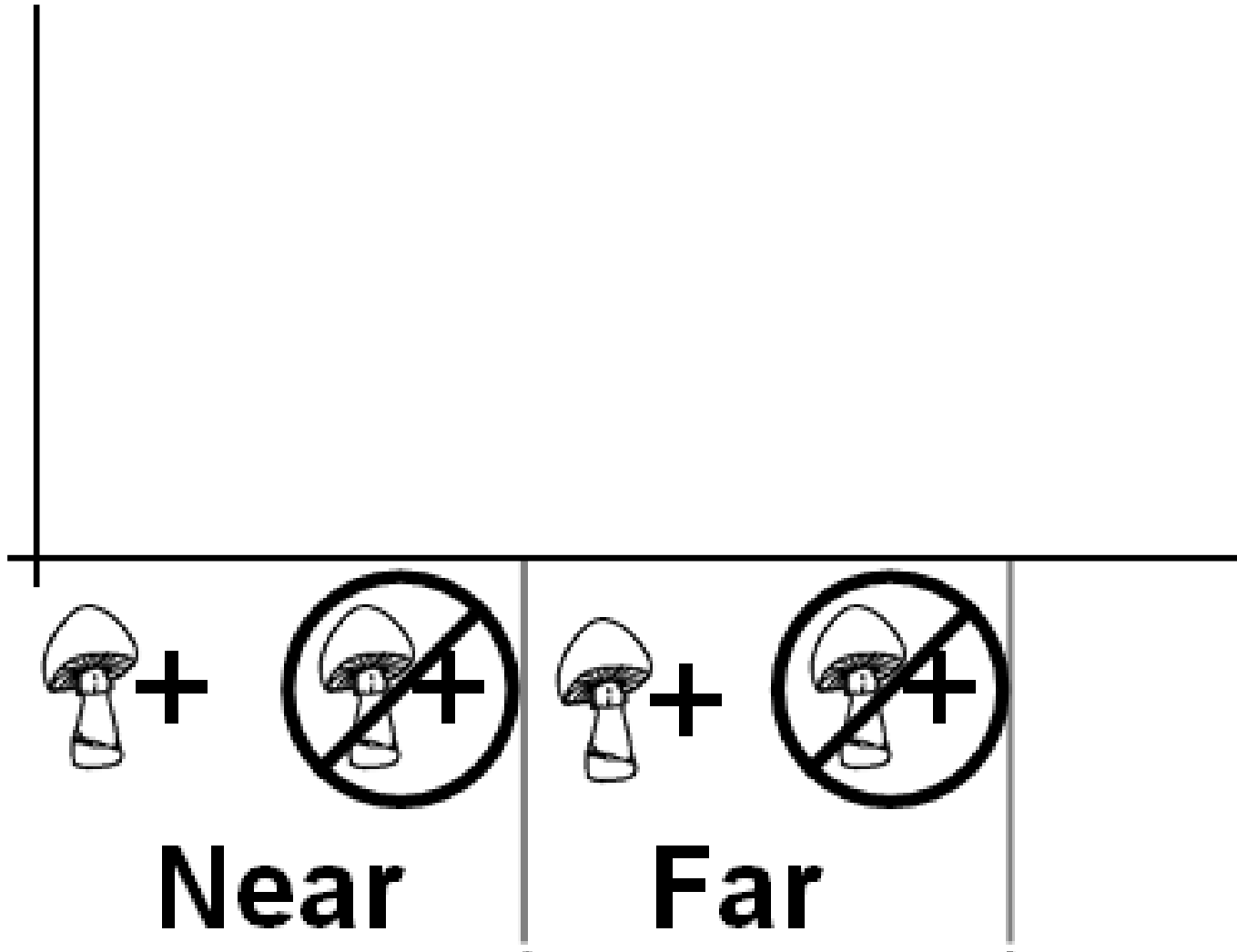
# Greenhouse



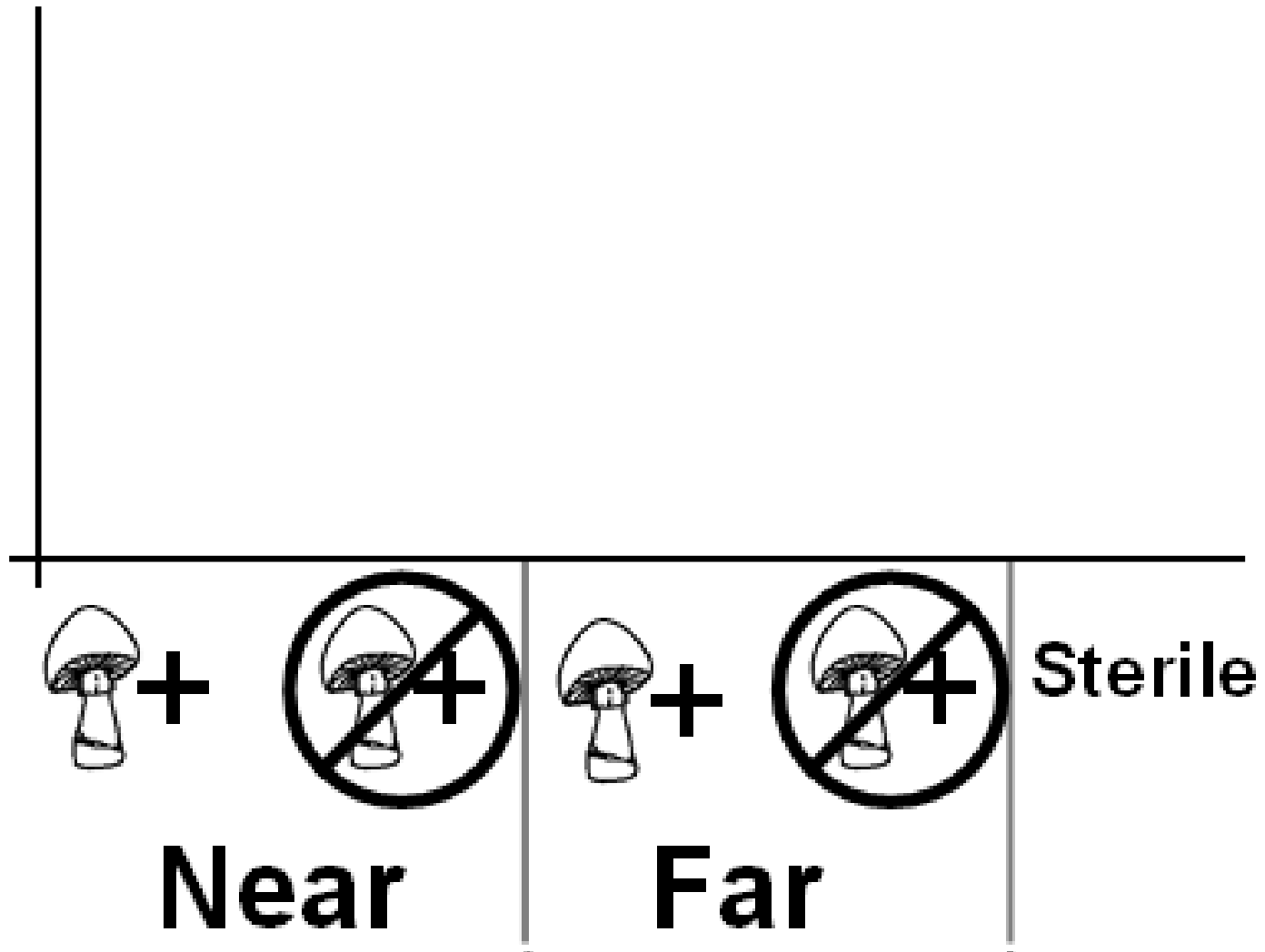
# Greenhouse



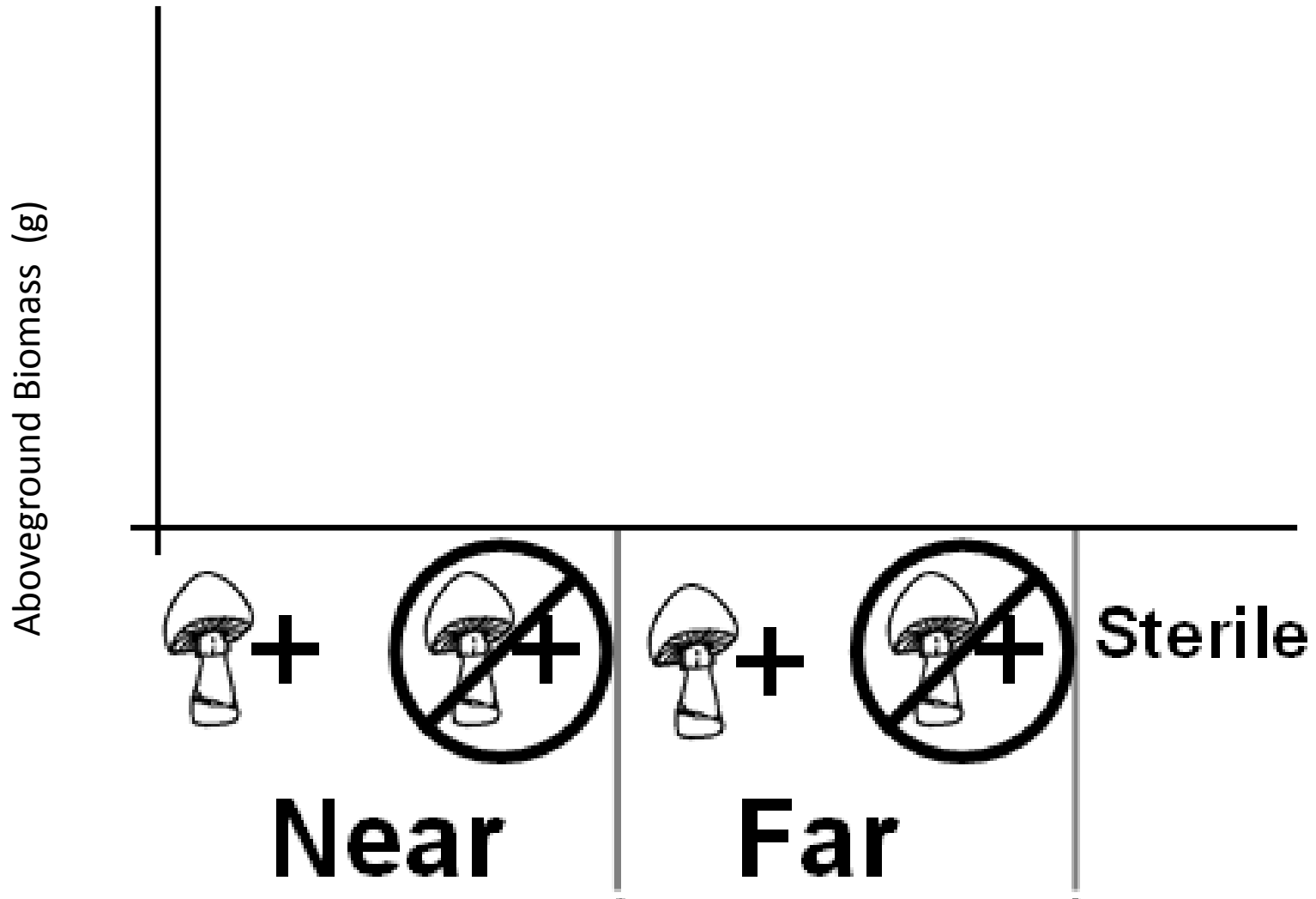
# Greenhouse



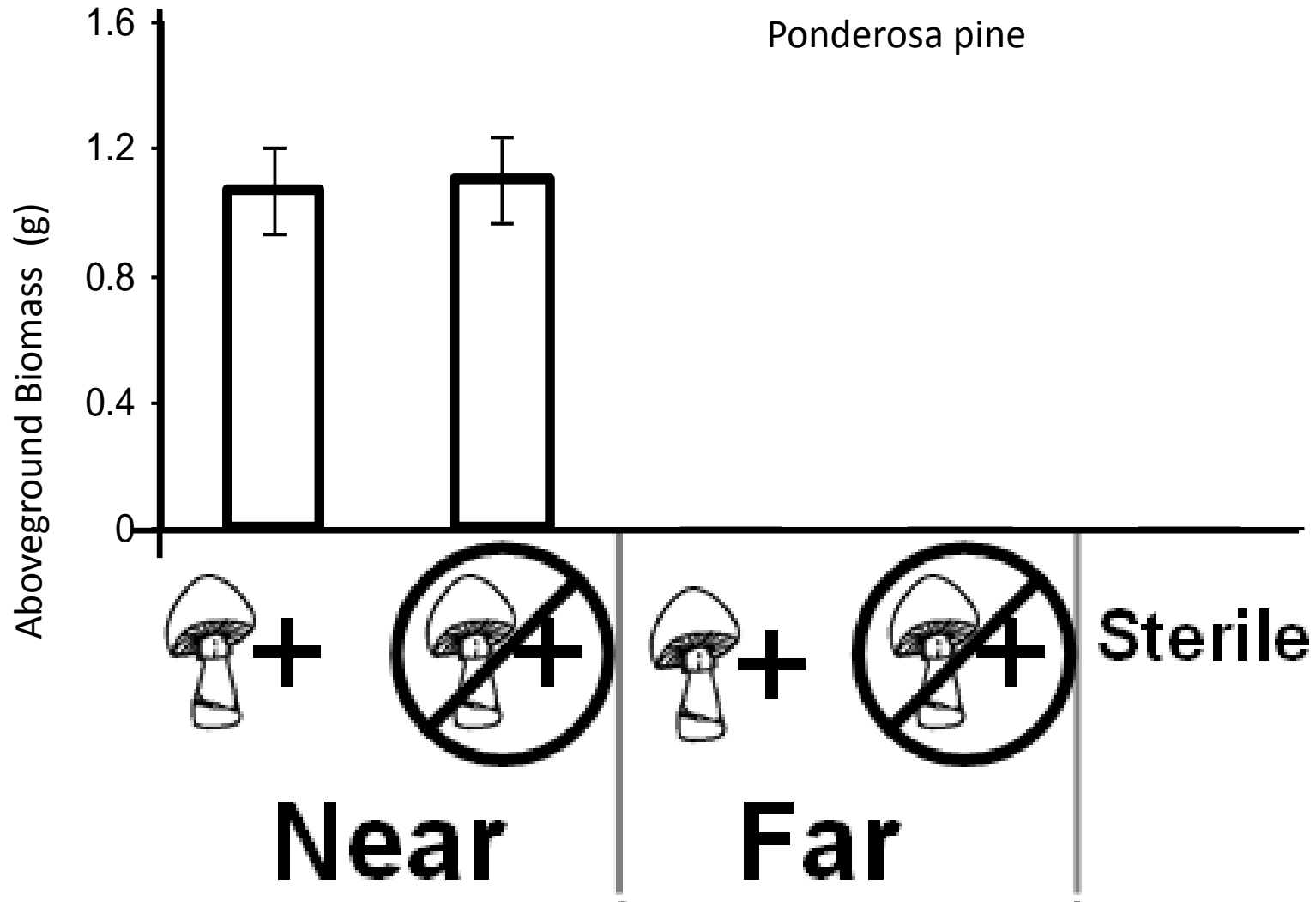
# Greenhouse



# Greenhouse

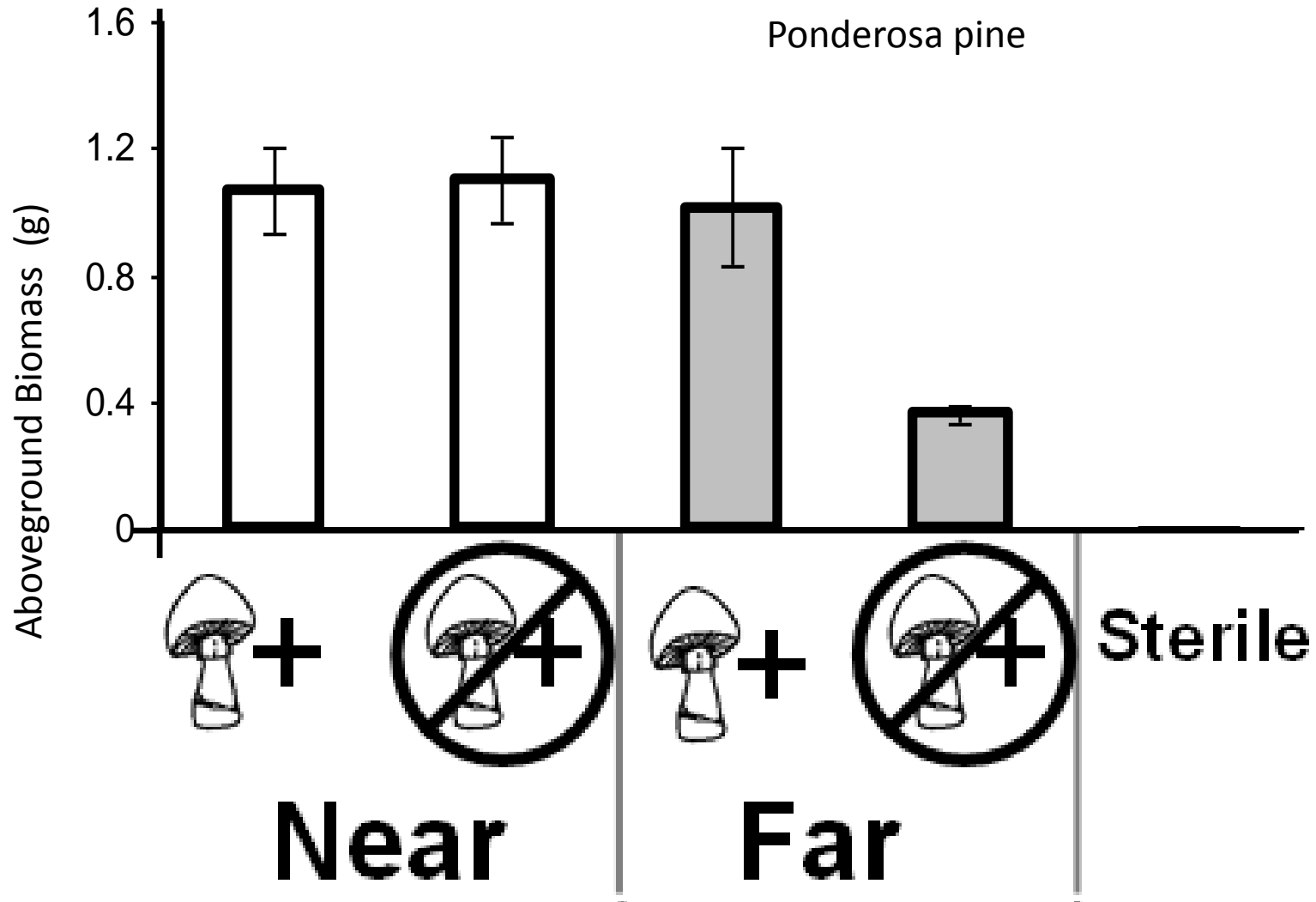


# Greenhouse



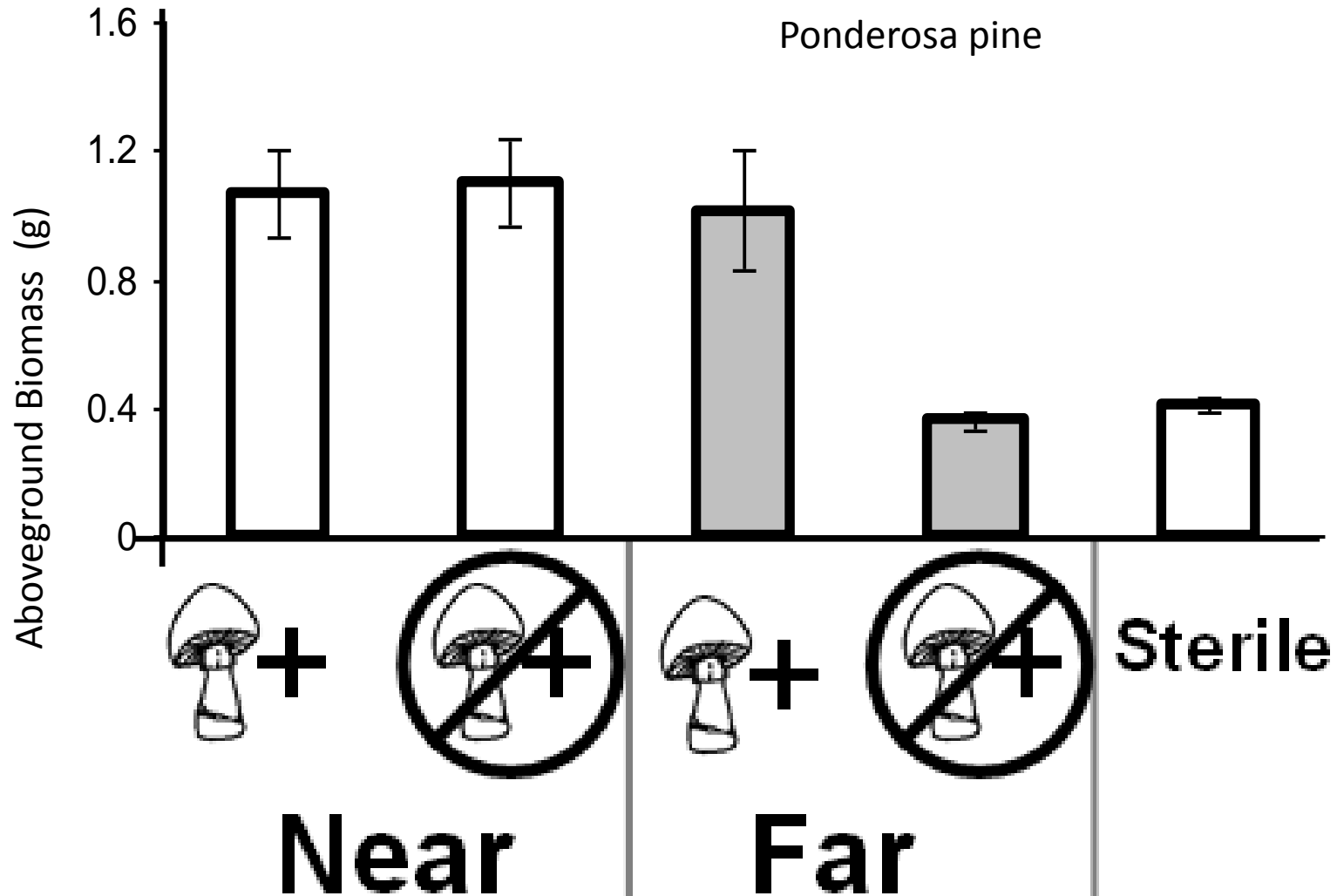
# Greenhouse

Inoculum increased the biomass 3x

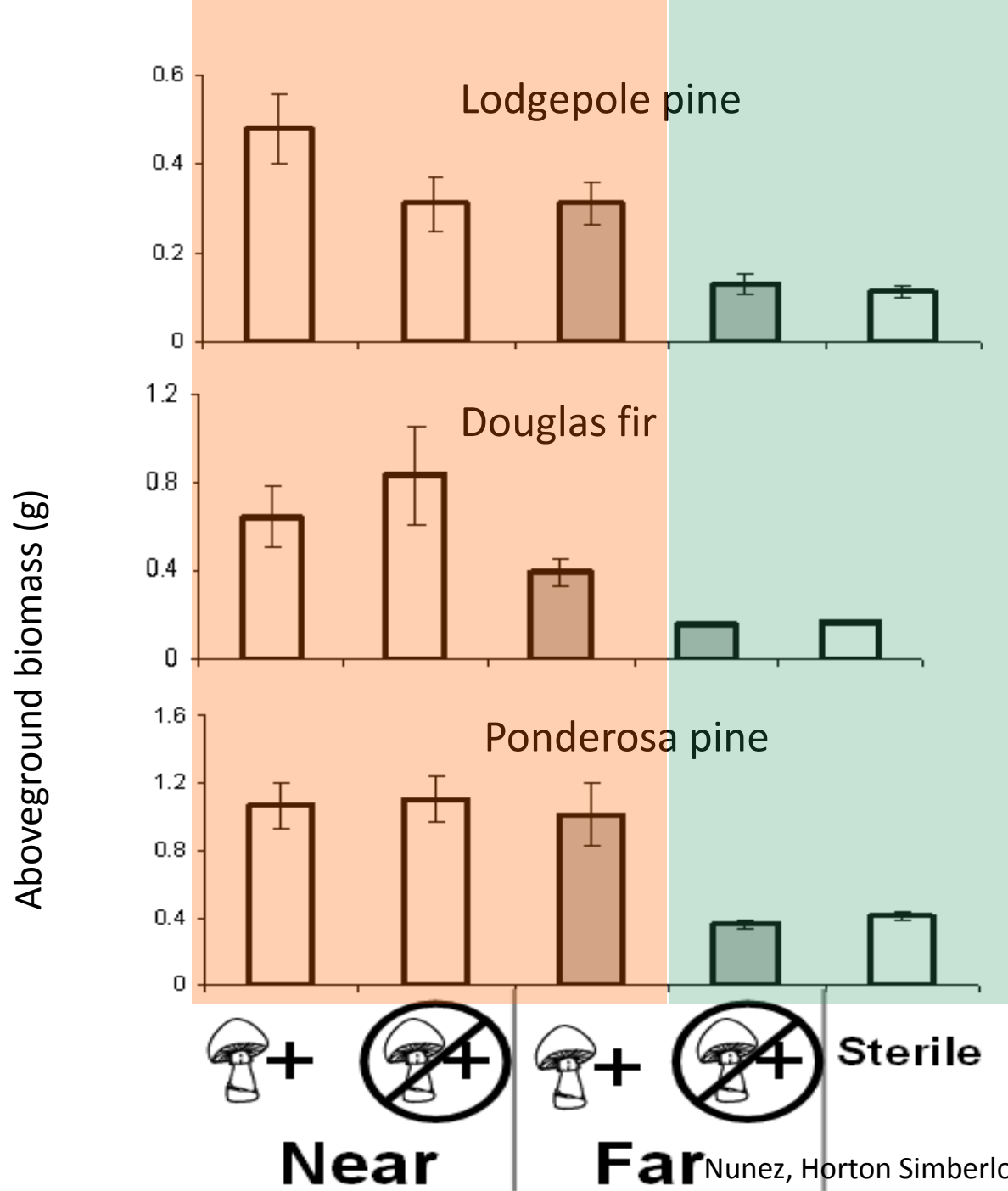


# Greenhouse

Inoculum increased the biomass 3x





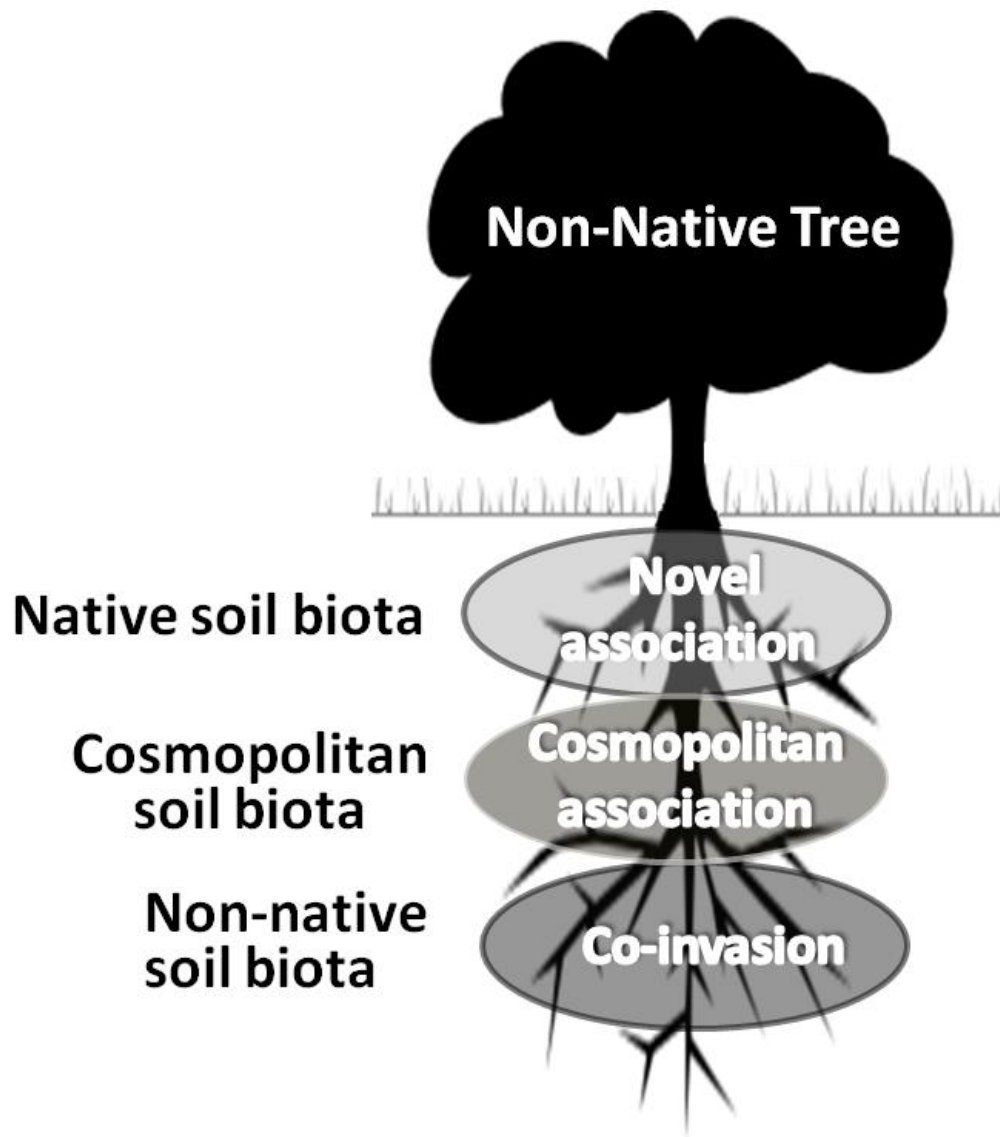


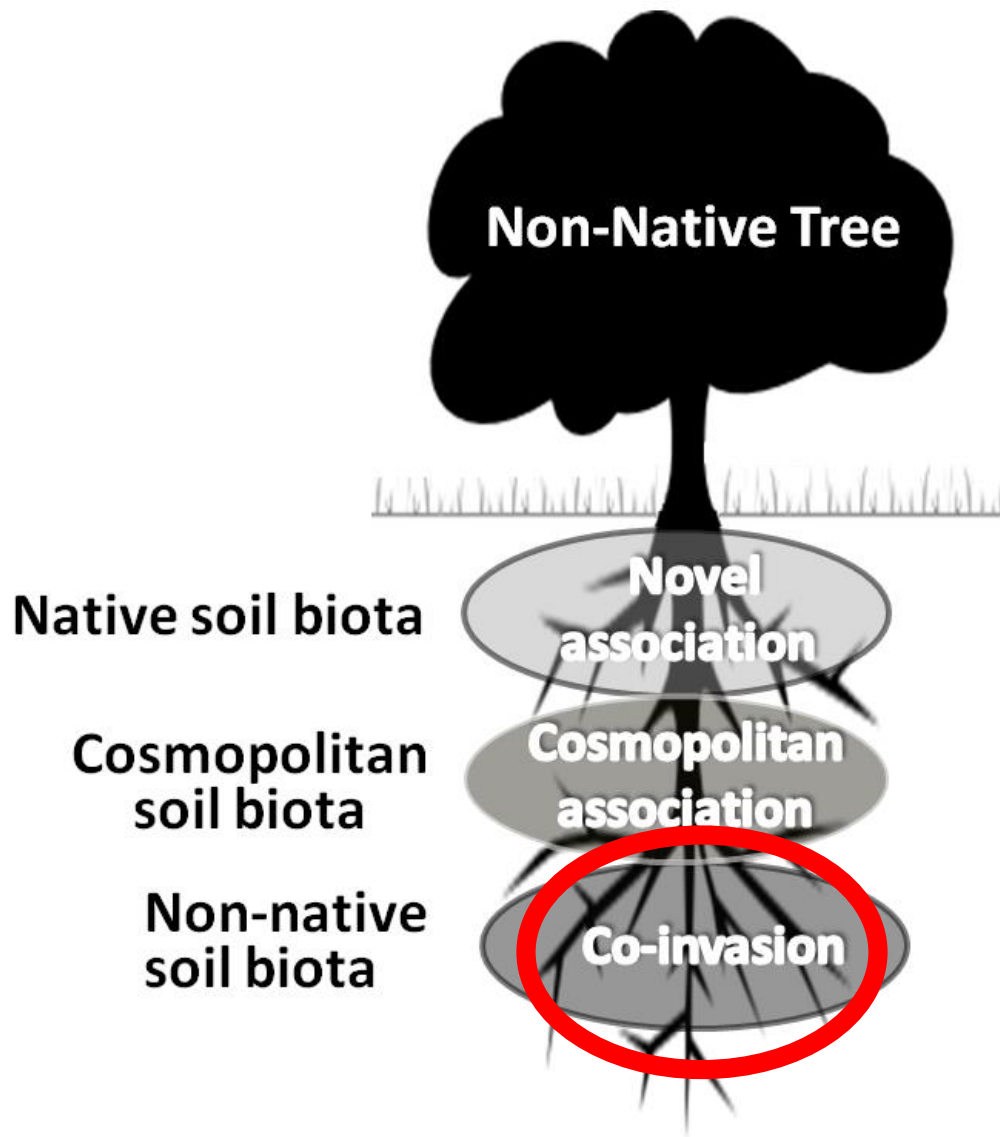
# Morphological & Molecular Analyses

We analyzed fungal colonization using morphological and molecular (RFLPs and sequencing) techniques

# Molecular analyses







OTU	Inside plantations	0–50 m	50–750 m	750 m+
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 3	3	11	10	5
<i>Amphinema</i> 1	10	6	2	2
<i>Lactarius quieticolor</i>	1	9	5	2
<i>Suillus luteus</i>	0	2	3	6
<i>Cortinarius</i> 1	3	4	2	0
<i>Suillus lakei</i>	1	4	3	2
<i>Tomentella</i> 1	1	2	2	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 4	4	0	0	0
<i>Pseudotomentella tristis</i>	0	2	2	0
Leotiomyces 1	0	1	0	2
<i>Hebeloma</i> 1	2	1	0	0
<i>Hebeloma</i> 2	0	2	0	1
Pyronemataceae 1	3	0	0	0
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 1	0	0	2	0
<i>Melanogaster</i> 1	0	1	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 2	0	1	0	1
<i>Inocybe</i> 3	2	0	0	0
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	0	0	1	0
Sebacinaceae 1	0	1	0	0
<i>Tricholoma</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Thelephora terrestris</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 3	1	0	0	0
<i>Helotiales</i> 7	1	0	0	0
<i>Tomentella</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Russula</i> 1	1	0	0	0

Hayward, Horton, Nuñez,  
2015 New Phytologist

OTU	Inside plantations	0–50 m	50–750 m	750 m+
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 3	3	11	10	5
<i>Amphinema</i> 1	10	6	2	2
<i>Lactarius quieticolor</i>	1	9	5	2
<i>Suillus luteus</i>	0	2	3	6
<i>Cortinarius</i> 1	3	4	2	0
<i>Suillus lakei</i>	1	4	3	2
<i>Tomentella</i> 1	1	2	2	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 4	4	0	0	0
<i>Pseudotomentella tristis</i>	0	2	2	0
<i>Leotiomyces</i> 1	0	1	0	2
<i>Hebeloma</i> 1	2	1	0	0
<i>Hebeloma</i> 2	0	2	0	1
Pyronemataceae 1	3	0	0	0
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 1	0	0	2	0
<i>Melanogaster</i> 1	0	1	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 2	0	1	0	1
<i>Inocybe</i> 3	2	0	0	0
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	0	0	1	0
Sebacinaceae 1	0	1	0	0
<i>Tricholoma</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Thelephora terrestris</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 3	1	0	0	0
<i>Helotiales</i> 7	1	0	0	0
<i>Tomentella</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Russula</i> 1	1	0	0	0

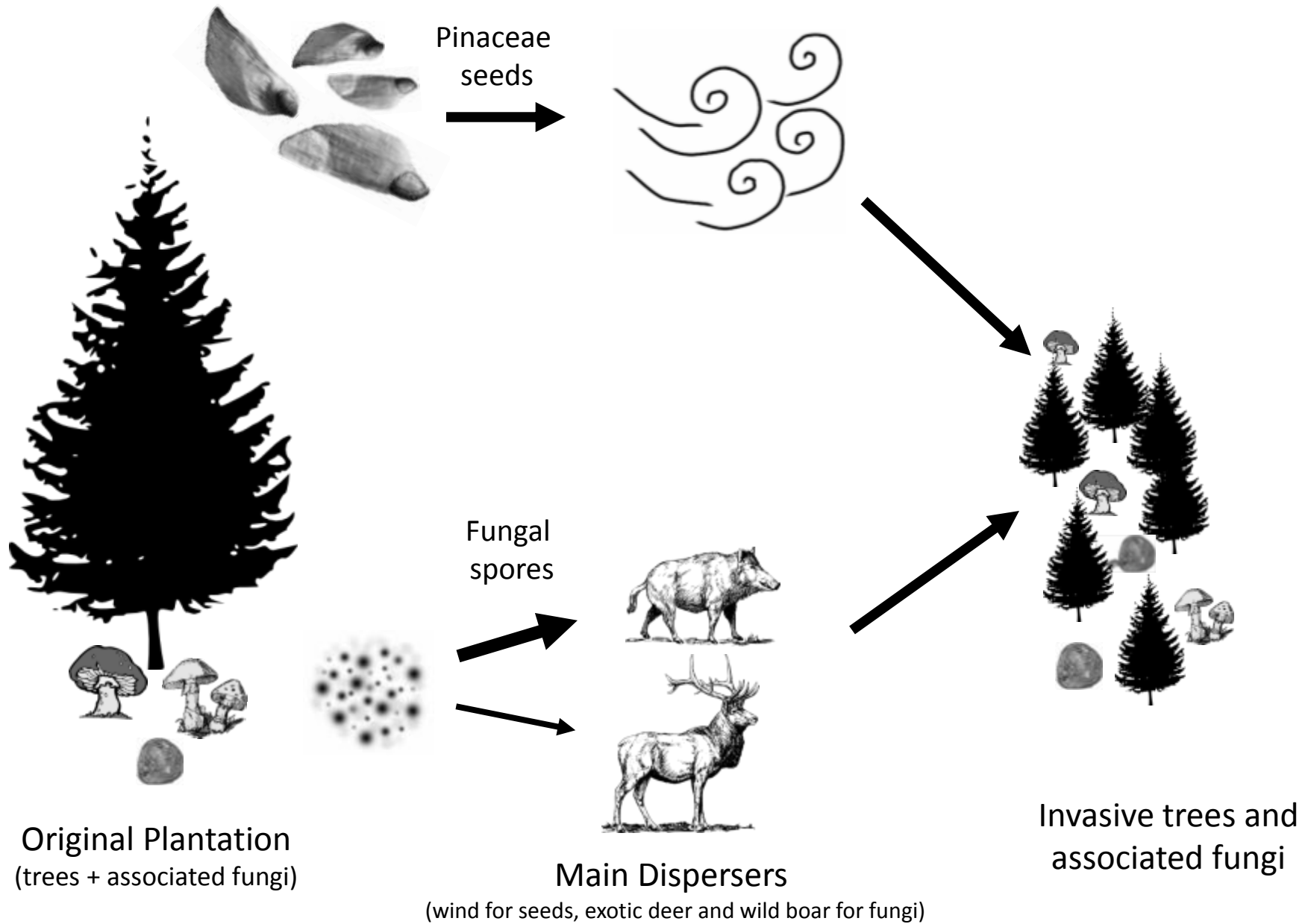
Hayward, Horton, Nunez,  
2015 New Phytologist

OTU	Inside plantations	0–50 m	50–750 m	750 m+
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 3	3	11	10	5
<i>Amphinema</i> 1	10	6	2	2
<i>Lactarius quieticolor</i>	1	9	5	2
<i>Suillus luteus</i>	0	2	3	6
<i>Cortinarius</i> 1	3	4	2	0
<i>Suillus lakei</i>	1	4	3	2
<i>Tomentella</i> 1	1	2	2	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 4	4	0	0	0
<i>Pseudotomentella tristis</i>	0	2	2	0
<i>Leotiomyces</i> 1	0	1	0	2
<i>Hebeloma</i> 1	2	1	0	0
<i>Hebeloma</i> 2	0	2	0	1
Pyronemataceae 1	3	0	0	0
<i>Rhizopogon</i> 1	0	0	2	0
<i>Melanogaster</i> 1	0	1	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 2	0	1	0	1
<i>Inocybe</i> 3	2	0	0	0
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	0	0	1	0
Sebacinaceae 1	0	1	0	0
<i>Tricholoma</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Thelephora terrestris</i>	0	0	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i> 1	0	0	1	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Cortinarius</i> 3	1	0	0	0
<i>Helotiales</i> 7	1	0	0	0
<i>Tomentella</i> 2	1	0	0	0
<i>Russula</i> 1	1	0	0	0



*Rhizopogon* sp.:







INVASIONAL MELTDOWN

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi is a complex phenomena, often ignored and can have very important consequences.

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi is a complex phenomena, often ignored and can have very important consequences.

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi can be a problem: help invasion of trees, are toxic to humans, decrease local native fungal diversity, and many other not known effects...



# WARNING!

**POISONOUS MUSHROOMS !  
DON'T MAKE A DEADLY MISTAKE!**



Death Cap  
*Amanita phalloides*



Destroying Angel  
*Amanita bisporigera*

## KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS

hongos venenosos    nấm độc    毒キノコ    毒蘑菇  
ядовитые грибы    유독 버섯    เห็ดพิษ

North American Mycological Association  
[www.namyco.org](http://www.namyco.org)

Poison Control: 800-222-1222 (US)  
<http://www.aapcc.org/> (US)    [www.capcc.ca/](http://www.capcc.ca/) (Canada)

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi is a complex phenomena, often ignored and can have very important consequences.

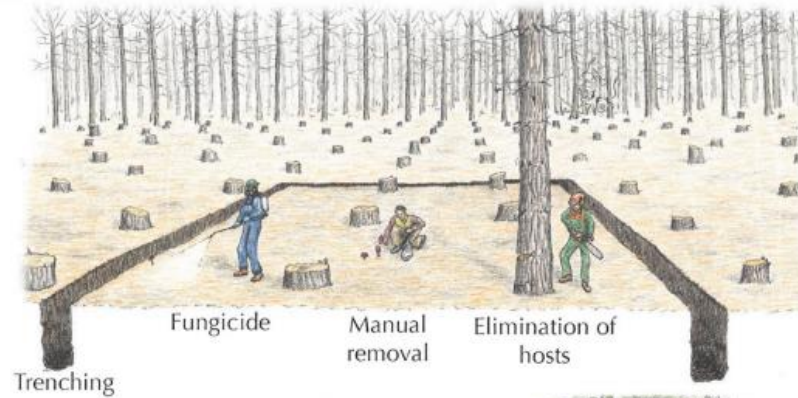
Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi can be a problem: help invasion of trees, are toxic to humans, decrease local native fungal diversity, and many other not known effects...

Their control is very difficult once established, there are many alternatives. E.g. native inoculum should be the logical choice for Europe for pinaceae.

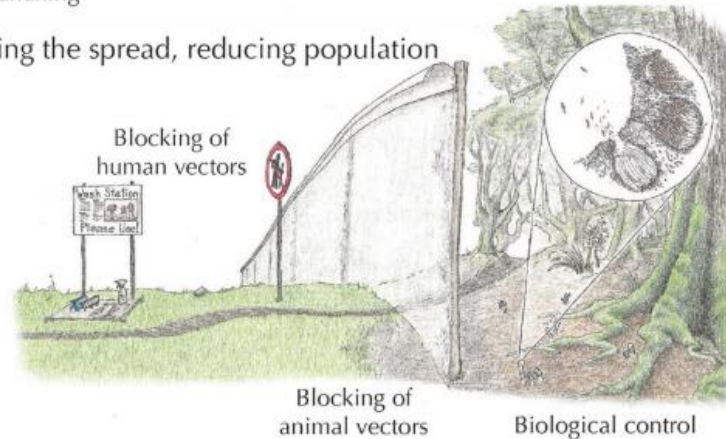
Prevention



Control and eradication



Slowing the spread, reducing population



Increasing extent / stage of invasion



Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi is a complex phenomena, often ignored and can have very important consequences.

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi can be a problem: help invasion of trees, are toxic to humans, decrease local native fungal diversity, and many other not known effects...

Their control is very difficult once established, there are many alternatives. E.g. native inoculum should be the logical choice for Europe for pinaceae.

Thank you!



Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi is a complex phenomena often ignored and can have very important consequences.

Invasion of non-pathogenic fungi can be a problem: help invasion of trees, are toxic to humans, decrease local native fungal diversity

Their control is very difficult once established, there are many alternatives. E.g. native inoculum should be the logical choice for Europe for pinaceae.

- There are ways to minimise the potential impacts of co-invasive mutualists; for example, the introduction of highly invasive non-native soil biota into new areas should be avoided. Also there are some mutualists that mostly spread asexually and seldom produce spores and they could be considered ideal for introduction. As mentioned before, absence of a co-invader may result in limited growth or complete failure of an introduced species, and so in some cases deliberate introduction of a mutualist might be considered desirable. For some introduced tree species that rely mostly on co-invasive mutualists, it could be possible to use native soil symbionts (Moeller et al. 2015), or to minimise introductions of new, non-native symbionts without biosecurity measures (e.g. by restricting movement of soil or trees in pots) Where deliberate introduction of a mutualist is considered, the potential for invasion by the mutualist, and the possible negative effects of that invasion, must be considered. Management of invasive soil biota or the restoration of areas invaded by soil symbionts is a daunting task given their belowground habit, their microscopic size and their ability to persist for long periods (Dickie et al. 2016). Therefore, it is of fundamental importance to control the spread of soil symbionts to avoid the numerous detrimental effects co-invasion can have. Efforts to control the spread of invasive species might be wasted if managers are unaware of co-invasion as a determining factor in whether a plant species becomes invasive or not.



# Field experiment

Seedlings grew more near plantation

Inoculation Increases Establishment and Survival

**Treatment**



**Controls**



# What can disperse these fungi?

- Wind?
- Rodents are not common around plantations
- Deer and wild boar could be dispersing the fungi...





# Exotic deer and pigs



Collected feces from deer and pigs in native forest near plantations

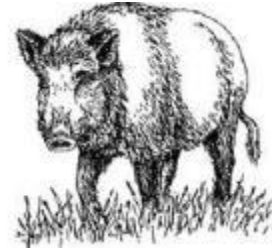
Add 5ml of feces into pots with sterile soil

Plant seeds of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and *Pinus ponderosa*

# Percent of mycorrhizal seedlings



Wild I



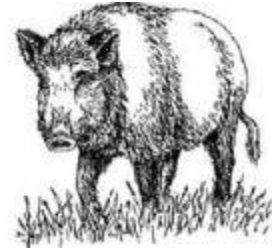
Ponderosa pine  
Pseudotsuga

17.5	32.5
15	37.5

# Percent of mycorrhizal seedlings



Wild I



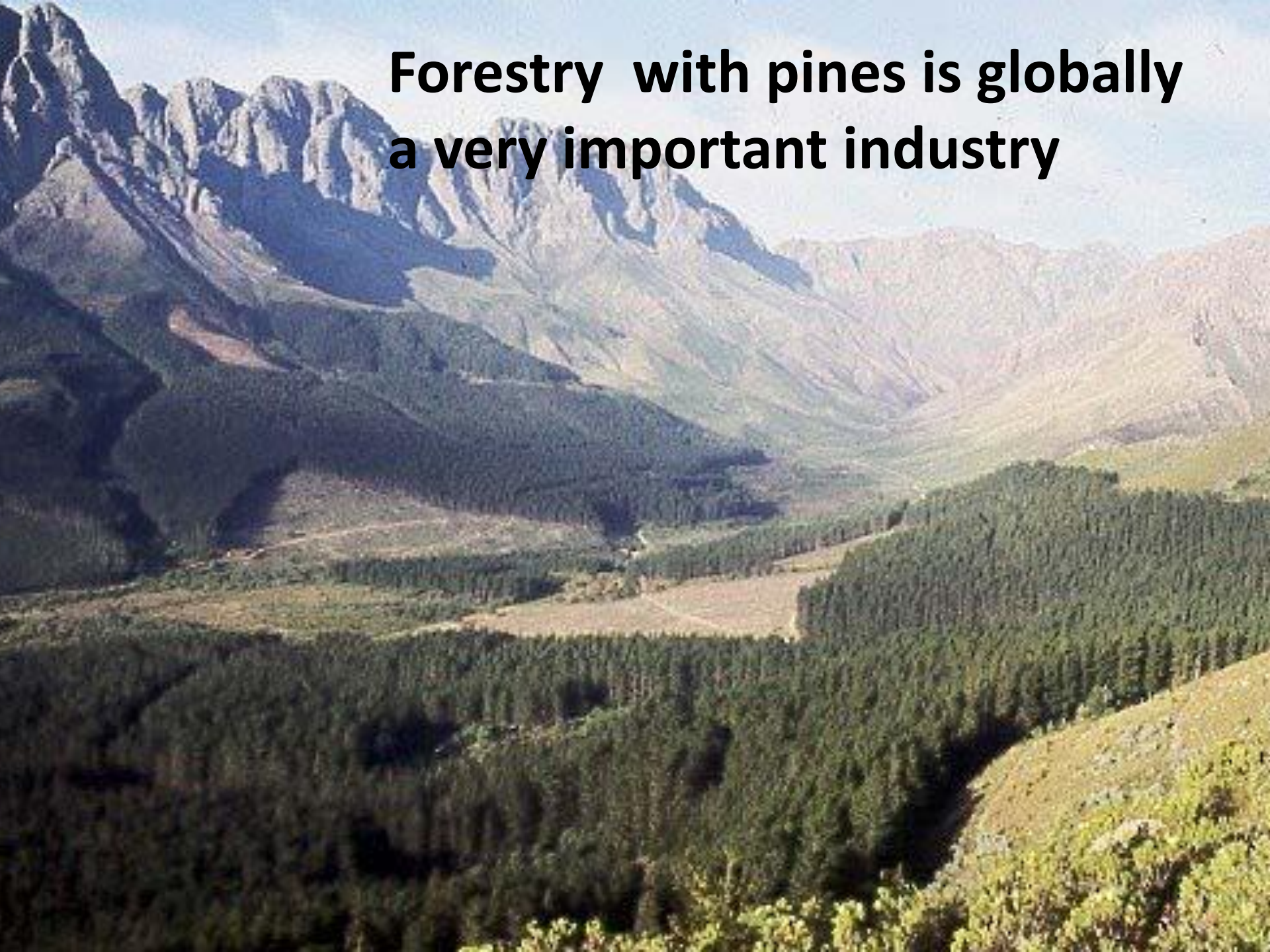
Ponderosa pine  
Pseudotsuga

17.5	32.5
15	37.5

molecular results: Rhizopogon and Suillus are the main species being dispersed

Nuñez et al in 2013

**Forestry with pines is globally  
a very important industry**





Diversity and Distributions, (*Diversity Distrib.*) (2011) 17, 788–809

**BIODIVERSITY REVIEW**

**Trees and shrubs as invasive alien species – a global review**

David M. Richardson<sup>1\*</sup> and Marcel Rejmánek<sup>2</sup>



434  
tree species



Biol Invasions (2014) 16:473–481  
DOI 10.1007/s10530-013-0606-9

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Tree invasions: patterns, processes, challenges and opportunities

David M. Richardson · Cang Hui ·  
Martín A. Nuñez · Aníbal Pauchard



- Main reasons for introduction of invasive tree species:

- 56% ornamental

- 22% forestry



- 8% agroforestry

- 5% sand stabilization

- 4% fuel wood

# Pine Invasions

- Early seed production
  - Small seed size
  - Massive seed production
  - High seedling growth rates
  - Wide climatic tolerance
    - Drought tolerance
    - Freeze tolerance
  - Enemy release
- ... especially in Southern hemisphere...



(Rejmánek & Richardson 1996, Grotkopp et al. 2001, Richardson 2006)