

## Supplementary Material

**Tab. S1** - Characteristics of the eight study sites at north- and south-facing slopes (N1-4 and S6-9, respectively) in Val di Rabbi (Egli et al., 2006; Petrillo et al., 2015). (MAP): mean annual precipitation; (MAAT): mean annual air temperature (Sboarina & Cescatti 2004); (MAST): mean annual soil temperature. The soil classification is according to WRB (1998).

Sites	Altitude (m a.s.l.)	Aspect (°N)	Slope (°)	MAP (mm y <sup>-1</sup> )	MAAT (° C)	MAST (° C)	Parent material	Dominating tree species	Land use	Soil classification
N1	1180	340	31	950	5.6	7.3	Paragneiss debris	<i>Picea abies</i>	Natural forest (ecological forestry)	Chromi- Episkeletic Cambisol (Dystric)
S6	1185	160	31	950	7.6	8.1	Paragneiss debris	<i>Picea abies</i>	Ex-coppice, natural forest (ecological forestry)	Episkeleti- Endoleptic Cambisol (Chromi- Dystric)
N2	1390	0	28	1000	4.6	6.3	Paragneiss debris	<i>Picea abies</i>	Natural forest (ecological forestry)	Chromi- Episkeletic Cambisol (Dystric)
S7	1400	145	33	1000	6.6	8.7	Paragneiss debris	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Natural forest (ecological forestry)	Dystri- Endoskeletal Cambisol
N3	1620	0	29	1060	3.5	5.8	Paragneiss debris	<i>Picea abies</i>	Natural forest (ecological forestry)	Chromi- Endoskeletal Cambisol (Dystric)
S8	1660	210	33	1060	5.5	6.0	Paragneiss debris	<i>Picea abies</i>	Natural forest (ecological forestry)	Skeletal Umbrisol
N4	1930	20	12	1180	1.4	5.0	Paragneiss debris, Moraine material	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Originally used as pasture	Episkeletic Podzol
S9	1995	160	25	1180	3.4	6.4	Paragneiss debris	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Ex-pasture, natural forest (ecological forestry)	Skeletal Umbrisol

**Tab. S2** - Physico-chemical properties of soil and wood samples collected in July 2014 in the *in-field* mesocosm experiment. The results are shown pairwise, i.e., the couple of north (N)- and south (S)-facing sites at the same elevation (N1-S6; 1200 m a.s.l.; N2-S7; 1400 m a.s.l.; N3-S8; 1600 m a.s.l.; N4-S9; 2000 m a.s.l.). Values are means (n=3) with the standard deviation in brackets. Data are expressed on a dry weight basis.

Sites	SOIL										WOOD					
	Moisture (%)	Volatile Solids (%)	pH	Electrical Conductivity ( $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ )	Total C (%)	Total N (%)	$\text{NH}_4^+$ (mg $\text{kg}^{-1}$ dw)	$\text{NO}_3^-$ (mg $\text{kg}^{-1}$ dw)	Total P (mg $\text{kg}^{-1}$ dw)	Available P (mg $\text{kg}^{-1}$ dw)	Moisture (%)	pH	Electrical Conductivity ( $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ )	Total C (%)	Cellulose (%)	Total Lignin (%)
<b>N1</b>	42.8 (7.8)	22.4 (7.7)	5.3 (0.3)	29.1 (4.6)	11.1 (4.3)	0.3 (0.1)	22.4 (8.1)	59.9 (32.3)	689.4 (542.5)	19.7 (5.3)	58.4 (7.99)	5.6 (0.05)	15.8 (1.7)	49.4 (0.3)	40.5 (7.3)	31.3 (0.9)
<b>S6</b>	35.2 (7.9)	17.7 (8.5)	5.8 (0.1)	49.2 (20.1)	8.8 (4.8)	0.5 (0.2)	26.1 (8.0)	25.7 (12.7)	359.7 (192.6)	18.8 (9.1)	54.5 (3.4)	4.5 (0.7)	80.7 (47.0)	51.6 (0.5)	37.9 (3.1)	31.6 (2.6)
<b>N2</b>	72.9 (1.7)	77.2 (12.5)	4.4 (0.2)	40.8 (10.3)	43.4 (4.4)	1.3 (0.1)	152.4 (32)	30.6 (5.3)	449.6 (68.0)	96.5 (11.8)	58.2 (6.8)	5.0 (0.1)	10.3 (0.8)	50.5 (1.3)	42.2 (5.3)	31.1 (1.9)
<b>S7</b>	44.2 (6.8)	77.2 (12.5)	5.6 (0.1)	94.6 (17.2)	26.9 (8.3)	1.1 (0.3)	49.3 (15.7)	57.9 (13.0)	742.1 (149.3)	90.3 (11.3)	39.1 (9.8)	5.5 (0.2)	32.9 (1.6)	49.7 (0.5)	37.4 (3.0)	31.8 (1.3)
<b>N3</b>	72.3 (3.2)	84.5 (6.7)	4.8 (0.05)	55.2 (10.8)	44.8 (2.7)	1.4 (0.04)	188.9 (69.8)	56.7 (6.4)	716.8 (80.4)	66.2 (16.4)	48.6 (13.2)	5.2 (0.2)	19.9 (8.5)	49.9 (0.3)	44.5 (3.7)	31.6 (2.1)
<b>S8</b>	55.0 (10.8)	47.6 (15.9)	5.2 (0.1)	150.4 (34.0)	25.2 (8.9)	1.2 (0.2)	7.3 (1.1)	204.5 (81.3)	747.7 (98.9)	26.8 (12.9)	61.9 (2.5)	5.9 (0.1)	18.2 (2.6)	51.4 (0.5)	41.1 (4.3)	32.0 (1.1)
<b>N4</b>	53.2 (4.2)	30.6 (7.3)	5.2 (0.2)	36.8 (18.7)	15.0 (4.0)	1.1 (0.2)	79.3 (20.8)	58.4 (18.3)	1277.3 (279.2)	48.0 (2.2)	61.0 (2.1)	5.7 (0.3)	22.2 (16.2)	49.1 (0.1)	45.9 (2.2)	33.3 (1.4)
<b>S9</b>	45.8 (3.5)	29.4 (5.2)	5.2 (0.1)	80.1 (15.6)	15.3 (2.7)	1.0 (0.2)	52.2 (13.7)	167.9 (86.0)	839.2 (114.7)	29.6 (15.1)	53.7 (6.5)	5.4 (0.1)	22.3 (7.2)	48.9 (0.9)	45.5 (2.9)	32.2 (1.2)

**Tab. S3** - Fungal taxa isolated from soil (So) and wood (W) along an altitudinal gradient in sub-alpine forest in Val di Rabbi (Trentino, Italy). North-facing (N1-4) and south-facing (S5-9) sites ranging from 1200 up to 2000 m a.s.l. The characteristics of sites were described in Tab. S1 and their location was indicated in Fig. S1.

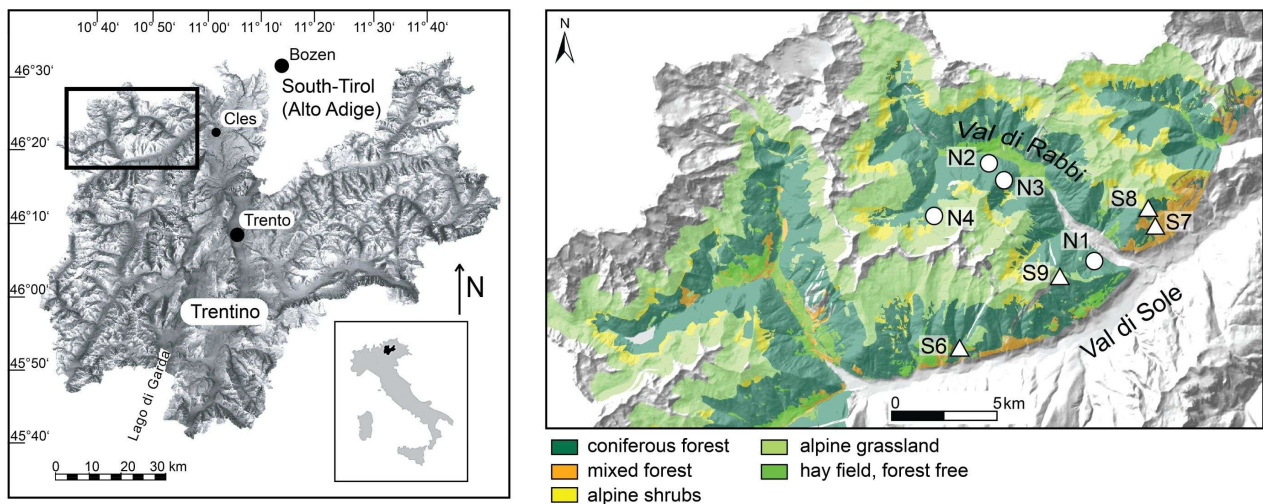
Species	Sites								Phylum	Ecology	Closest match with accession No.
	N1	N2	N3	N4	S6	S7	S8	S9			
<i>Absidia cylindrospora</i>	So					So			Zygomycota	Saprotroph	98% AY944889.1
<i>Absidia glauca</i>					So	W So			Zygomycota	Saprotroph	98 % NR_111658.1
<i>Absidia psychrophilia</i>							So	So	Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% JN942684.1
<i>Acephala</i> sp.								W	Ascomycota	Endophyte	98% KT184733.1
<i>Armillaria cepistipes</i>						W	W		Basidiomycota	Wood-decay fungus (white-rot)	98% KJ643346.1
<i>Arthrinium phaeospermum</i>								So	Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KF753946.1
<i>Aspergillus versicolor</i>						So			Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KU318417.1
<i>Athelia decipiens</i>			W						Basidiomycota	Wood-decay fungus (white-rot)	99% JQ358800.1
<i>Aureobasidium pullulans</i>	So		So		So	So	So	So	Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KL584974.1
<i>Beauveria brongniartii</i>		So		So	So				Ascomycota	Entomopathogen	99% JX110381.1
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>					W				Basidiomycota	Wood-decay fungus (white-rot)	99% AF455468.1
<i>Chalara holubovae</i>					So				Basidiomycota	Phytopathogen	99% FR667223.1
<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i>	So				W So	So	So		Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% AF538619.2
<i>Coprinellus radians</i>		So				W	W So		Basidiomycota	Mutualist	99% JN943117.1
<i>Cosmospora</i> sp.		So				So			Ascomycota	Mycoparasite	99% KM012000.1
<i>Cryptococcus terricola</i>								So	Basidiomycota	Saprotroph	99% KP714548.1
<i>Cryptococcus podzolicus</i>		So		So					Basidiomycota	Saprotroph	99% HG737347.1
<i>Epicoccum nigrum</i>	So	So		So			So	So	Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% EU529998.1
<i>Eurotiomycetes</i>					So				Ascomycota		99% KJ508325.1
<i>Exophiala</i> sp.					So				Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KF428675.1
<i>Geomyces</i> sp.		W So	W So			So			Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KU702239.1
<i>Geomyces pannorum</i>		So		So					Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KM396373.1
<i>Helotiales</i>		So	So	So	So				Ascomycota		97% KC333167.1
<i>Heterobasidion annosum</i>			W						Ascomycota	Wood-decay fungus (white-rot)	100% KU727785.1
<i>Humicola fuscoatra</i>					So				Ascomycota	Wood-decay fungus (soft-rot)	99% KF981440.1
<i>Lecytophora</i> sp.	W				So				Ascomycota	Wood-decay fungus (soft-rot)	99% KT264383.1
<i>Leohumicola</i> sp.				W		W			Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% JX912155.1
<i>Mortierella alpine</i>	So		So	So			So	So	Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% JX976132.1
<i>Mortierella pavispora</i>		So	So						Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% KU516633.1
<i>Mucor moelleri</i>				So				W So	Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% KM056328.1
<i>Mucor plumbeus</i>								W	Zygomycota	Saprotroph	100% KP881447.1
<i>Mucor racemosus</i>		W	So			W So	W So		Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% KP411577.1

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**Culturable fungi associated with wood decay of *Picea abies* in subalpine forest soils: a field-mesocosm case study**  
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Species	Sites								Phylum	Ecology	Closest match with accession No.
	N1	N2	N3	N4	S6	S7	S8	S9			
<i>Oidiendron echinulatum</i>		So							Ascomycota	Saprotroph	100% DQ069040.1
<i>Oidiendron periconioides</i>		So							Ascomycota	Saprotroph	100% KP276549.1
<i>Paecilomyces carneus</i>				So					Ascomycota	Entomopathogen	99% JF311959.1
<i>Penicillium</i> sp.		W							Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% FJ379809.1
<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i>			So						Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% AY373899.1
<i>Penicillium canescens</i>	So				So				Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KU325381.1
<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	So	So		W	W So	W	W So	So	Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KM458810.1
<i>Penicillium swiecickii</i>			So		So				Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% AF033490.1
<i>Phaeoacremonium mortoniae</i>						W			Ascomycota	Phytopathogen	99% EU427312.1
<i>Sporobolomyces coprosmae</i>					So				Basidiomycota	Saprotroph	99% AM160645.1
<i>Sporobolomyces salmonicolor</i>				W					Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% AF444611.1
<i>Trichoderma asperellum</i>				So					Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% JF501661.1
<i>Trichoderma atroviride</i>	W		So						Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KT355018.1
<i>Trichoderma citrinoviride</i>	W					W So			Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% KP281703.1
<i>Trichoderma tomentosum</i>					So				Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% EU871024.1
<i>Trichoderma viridescens</i>	W So	W So			W So	W So	W So	W So	Ascomycota	Saprotroph	99% JF303879.1
<i>Umbelopsis isabellina</i>	W					So			Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% JN943789.1
<i>Umbelopsis vinacea</i>	W	So		W		W So	So	So	Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% KT354998.1
<i>Umbelopsis ramanniana</i>	So								Zygomycota	Saprotroph	99% LN714617.1
<i>Mycelia sterilia</i>	So	So	W	W So	So	W So		W So			

**Fig. S1** - Overview of the study area (Trentino, Italy) with major vegetation units. The site label (N) indicates north-facing and (S) south-facing sites (Petrillo et al. 2015). Data source: Museo delle Scienze (Trento), CORINE Landcover (Joint Research Center of the European Union) and scilands GmbH.



**Fig. S2** - Example of the destructive *in-field* mesocosm sampling (wood and soil). (a) Study site (N1); (b) weighing of the collected *Picea abies* wood block; (c) cross-section of the wood block after 52 weeks (July 2014) of decomposition; (d) sampling of the mesocosm soil (0-5 cm).



**Fig. S3** – Number of fungal taxa identified for each site for the wood (a) and soil (b) samples (n=3) along an altitudinal gradient in a subalpine forest in Val di Rabbi (Trentino, Italy).

