

Photosynthesis of three evergreen broad-leaved tree species, *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca*, and *Q. myrsinaefolia*, under elevated ozone

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The main goal of this study was to obtain detailed information on photosynthetic responses of evergreen broad-leaved tree species to ozone (O_3). For this, two-year-old seedlings of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca*, and *Q. myrsinaefolia* were grown for one growing season, from 15 May to 27 October 2014 under three levels of gas treatments, charcoal-filtered air and 1.0 time and 1.5 times ambient O_3 concentrations. We analysed the intercellular CO_2 concentration-response curve of the net photosynthetic rate, i.e., the A/Ci curve, in July and October, and growth measurement was carried out at the end of the experiment in October. We observed a difference in O_3 susceptibility among the species. Negative effects of O_3 were observed on the growth and photosynthetic traits of *C. sieboldii*, while no significant effects on these traits were noted in the two *Quercus* species. The decrease in light-saturated net photosynthetic rate (A_{sat}) of *C. sieboldii* under elevated O_3 was accompanied with a significant decrease in the maximum rate of carboxylation (V_{cmax}). Decreases of leaf nitrogen content and nitrogen use efficiency to Rubisco are considered as factors contributing to lower V_{cmax} in *C. sieboldii* seedlings under elevated O_3 . In addition to the decrease in V_{cmax} , O_3 exposure induced marginal increase of stomatal limitation of photosynthesis. These results indicate that both biochemical and diffusion processes in photosynthesis are responsible for the decrease in A_{sat} of *C. sieboldii* under elevated O_3 .

Keywords: Ozone, Photosynthesis, Biochemical Limitation of Photosynthesis, Stomatal Closure, Evergreen Broad-leaved Tree Species

Introduction

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is recognised as a phytotoxic gaseous air pollutant. Many experimental studies have shown the negative effects of O_3 on growth and physiological functions such as photosynthesis of tree species (Wittig et al. 2007, 2009, Yamaguchi et al. 2011). O_3 concentration in East Asia has remarkably increased because of rapid increases in the emissions of main O_3 precursors, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds (Ohara et al. 2007). This trend is likely to continue in the near future according to several estimations of gaseous emissions (Naja & Akimoto 2004, Yamaji et al. 2008).

Evergreen broad-leaved trees are the

main component species of the laurel forest, which is typical in warm temperate climate zone in East Asia with high amount of precipitation in summer. Japan is located in the northern limits of laurel forest distribution. *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca*, and *Q. myrsinaefolia* are representative evergreen broad-leaved tree species in the laurel forests of Japan (Nakanishi et al. 1983). These species are also found in urban areas as roadside and park trees in Japan. Ozone sensitivity of evergreen trees is generally considered to be lower than that of deciduous trees (Zhang et al. 2012, Bükér et al. 2015, Li et al. 2016). However, there is a great variation in O_3 susceptibility within a functional type. Actually, *C. siebol-*

dii is considered as sensitive tree species to O_3 and the sensitivity is similar to *Fagus crenata*, one of the most sensitive tree species to O_3 in Japan (Kohno et al. 2005, Watanabe et al. 2008).

Photosynthetic carbon assimilation is one of the vital processes essential for the growth and survival of forest trees. The understanding of photosynthetic responses of trees to O_3 is crucial to evaluate carbon absorption capacity of a forest under elevated O_3 . Photosynthetic rate in leaves is regulated by CO_2 diffusion from the ambient air to chloroplasts and the biochemical assimilation capacity in chloroplasts (Farquhar & Sharkey 1982, Lambers et al. 2008). A distinction between the process of diffusion and the biochemical assimilation by tree species with respect to the response to O_3 is useful for a deeper understanding of the effects of O_3 on forest production and for the future prediction of carbon sequestration and water balance of forest ecosystems under elevated O_3 . Kitao et al. (2009) reported that stomatal limitation of photosynthesis was the main factor behind the decrease in net photosynthetic rate while there was no effect of O_3 on the maximum rate of carboxylation (V_{cmax}), which is *in situ* activity of Rubisco, in the leaves of mature *Fagus sylvatica* trees. On the other hand, the opposite results were

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found in *F. crenata* saplings (Watanabe et al. 2013). To our knowledge, there are no current studies that separately evaluate the diffusion and biochemical processes in photosynthesis of East Asian evergreen tree species exposed to O₃. Thus, there is a large uncertainty in the risk assessment of the effect of O₃ on East Asian laurel forest ecosystems. In the present study, we conducted O₃ fumigation study by using three representative evergreen broad-leaved tree species native to Japan, *C. sieboldii*, *Q. glauca*, and *Q. myrsinaefolia*, to evaluate in detail the photosynthetic responses to elevated O₃.

Materials and methods

Growth condition, ozone exposure, and plant materials

Greenhouse-type O₃-fumigation chambers with natural light source located at the Field Museum (FM) Tamakyuryo of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (35° 04' N, 139° 02' E and 144 m a.s.l., Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan) were used in the present study. We set three levels of O₃ treatment: charcoal-filtered air (CF, mean O₃ removal efficiency: ca. 60%), 1.0 time ambient O₃ concentration, and 1.5 times ambient O₃ concentration. The ambient O₃ concentration outside the chambers was used as the standard for regulating the O₃ concentration in the chambers. Three chambers were used for each O₃ treatment, with nine chambers in total. Further details of the fumigation and monitoring systems are described in Kinose et al. (2014).

Two-year-old seedlings of *C. sieboldii*, *Q. glauca*, and *Q. myrsinaefolia* were individually planted in 1/2000 a Wagner's pots (bulk: 12 L, width: 228-240 mm, depth: 259 mm) filled with brown forest soil (Cambisol according to international classification system – IUSS Working Group 2015) on 8-9 May 2014. The soil was collected from the A-horizon of the floor of a deciduous forest in the FM Mt. Kusaki of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (36° 03' N, 139° 02' E Midori, Gunma, Japan). Before planting the seedlings, the soil was passed through a 5-mm sieve. Emergence of new leaves was observed about one week after planting. Therefore, we considered little plantation shock in the present experiment. On 15 May 2014, the seedlings were transferred into nine chambers and were grown for 166 days until 27 October 2014. In each species, 12 seedlings were assigned to each gas treatment (four seedlings per chamber), with 36 seedlings in total. Mean height and stem base diameter of the seedlings were 39 cm and 3.9 mm for *C. sieboldii*, 31 cm and 4.8 mm for *Q. glauca*, and 33 cm and 4.3 mm for *Q. myrsinaefolia*, respectively. Air temperature and relative air humidity in three of the nine chambers were continuously monitored at 10 min intervals using a TR-72U[®] Thermo Recorder (T&D Corporation, Nagano, Japan). Light intensity in three of the nine chambers

were monitored at 5 min intervals using a HOBO Pendant temperature/light data logger (model UA-002-64[®], Onset Computer Co., MA, USA), calibrated against a quantum sensor (model LI-190SA[®], Li-Cor Inc., NE, USA).

Daily mean air temperature, relative air humidity, and accumulated photosynthetic proton flux density (PPFD) inside the chambers during the experimental period (15 May to 27 October 2014) were 21.7 °C, 87.0%, and 2881 mol m⁻², respectively. The mean light transmissibility of the chambers was approximately 80%. All seedlings were regularly irrigated to maintain soil moisture.

Growth measurement

We measured the height and stem diameter at 2 cm height from the soil surface and leaf number of all seedlings at the end of the experiment (27 October 2014). Leaves that emerged in 2013 and 2014 were separately counted. Stem volume index (square of diameter × height, D²H) was also calculated. We dug out the root of the several seedlings after the experiment to check the root condition in the pot. Although the roots reached the bottom of the pot and circled a little, we did not find intertwining roots. Therefore, we consider the restriction of root growth due to the limited soil volume was little.

Measurement of leaf gas exchange

The gas exchange rates of matured leaves in the upper canopy of the seedlings were determined during 22-30 July and 20-24 October 2014, using an open gas exchange system (LI-6400[®], Li-Cor Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA). Two (July) or three (October) seedlings were selected randomly in each chamber (i.e., six or nine seedlings in each gas treatment).

The PPFD during the gas exchange measurement was maintained at 1500 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹. Leaf temperature and leaf-to-air vapour pressure deficit were maintained at 28.0 ± 0.5 °C and 1.5 ± 0.2 kPa in July, and 25.0 ± 0.5 °C and 1.5 ± 0.2 kPa in October, respectively. To obtain the intercellular CO₂ concentration (C_i)-response curve of A, i.e., A/C_i curve, A was determined at ten CO₂ concentration levels in the chamber (C_a – Long & Bernacchi 2003). Firstly, we measured the gas exchange rate under a stable condition of 400 μmol mol⁻¹ of C_a. Then, the C_a was decreased to 60 μmol mol⁻¹ in the following order: 300, 220, 140, and 60 μmol mol⁻¹. After the C_a was increased again to 400 μmol mol⁻¹ and the original A values were confirmed, we increased C_a in the following order: 600, 800, 1100, 1400, and 1700 μmol mol⁻¹. The A, stomatal conductance to water vapour, and ratio of C_i to C_a at C_a = 400 μmol mol⁻¹ CO₂ (A_{sat}, G_s, and C_i/C_a, respectively) were calculated from the gas exchange measurement under stable condition (i.e., the first measurement log of A/C_i curve). From the A/C_i curve, we calculated the stomatal limitation of photosyn-

thesis at C_a = 400 μmol mol⁻¹ CO₂, the maximum rate of carboxylation (V_{cmax}), and the maximum rate of electron transport (J_{max} – Farquhar et al. 1980, Long & Bernacchi 2003). Values of the Rubisco Michaelis constants for CO₂ (K_c) and O₂ (K_o), and the CO₂ compensation point in the absence of dark respiration (Γ*) for analysis of the A/C_i curve were used according to Bernacchi et al. (2001). Day respiration was considered as 2% of V_{cmax} (Von Caemmerer 2000). The values of V_{cmax} and J_{max} at leaf temperature of 25 °C were calculated using their temperature dependency (Von Caemmerer 2000, Bernacchi et al. 2001). Stomatal limitation (L_s) of photosynthesis was calculated as follows (eqn. 1):

$$L_s = \frac{(A_{C_i400} - A_{C_a400})}{A_{C_i400}} \quad (1)$$

where A_{C_i400} is A at C_i = 400 μmol mol⁻¹ CO₂, and A_{C_a400} is A at C_a = 400 μmol mol⁻¹ CO₂ (= A_{sat} – Long & Bernacchi 2003).

Measurement of leaf nitrogen content and estimation of leaf nitrogen fraction in photosynthetic functions

After measurement of the gas exchange rate, we collected six leaf discs (diameter, 12 mm each) in order to determine the leaf mass per area (LMA) and nitrogen content. These leaf samples were dried in an oven for 5 days at 80 °C and weighed. The LMA was calculated as leaf dry mass divided by leaf area. The nitrogen content of the leaves per unit mass (N_{mass}) was determined using a C/N analyser (model MT-700[®], Yanaco, Tokyo, Japan). Four of six leaf discs were used for the determination. A calibration curve was generated using hippuric acid (N = 7.82% – Kishida Chemical Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan). We calculated N_{area} as the product of LMA and N_{mass}.

We estimated fraction of leaf nitrogen in Rubisco (F_{nr}) and bioenergetics (electron carriers except for photosystems, coupling factor, and Calvin cycle enzymes except Rubisco, F_{nb}). The F_{nr} was calculated using the following equation (Niinemets et al. 1999, Tissue & Lewis 2010 – eqn. 2):

$$F_{nr} = \frac{V_{cmax}}{(6.25 \cdot V_{cr} \cdot N_{area})} \quad (2)$$

where V_{cr} is the specific activity of Rubisco (the maximum rate of RuBP carboxylation per unit Rubisco protein), and the factor of 6.25 [g Rubisco (g N in Rubisco)⁻¹] converts nitrogen content to protein content. Here, V_{cr} is equal to 20.5 μmol CO₂ (g Rubisco)⁻¹ s⁻¹ at 25 °C for purified Rubisco enzyme from *Spinacia oleracea* (Jordan & Ogren 1984). Because this method cannot involve inactivated Rubisco, the calculated value of F_{nr} is an underestimate (Warren & Adams 2004). The F_{nb} was estimated from gas exchange characteristics according to the following equation (Kitaoka & Koike 2004, Takashima et al. 2004 – eqn. 3):

$$F_{nb} = \frac{J_{max}}{(156 \cdot 9.53 \cdot N_{area})} \quad (3)$$

We assumed that the nitrogen in bioenergetics is proportional to J_{max} , where the ratio of J_{max} to the cytochrome f content is $156 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Niinemets & Tenhunen 1997), and the nitrogen in bioenergetics per unit cytochrome f is $9.53 \text{ mol mmol}^{-1}$ (Hikosaka & Terashima 1995).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were undertaken using R software, version 3.4.0 (R Development Core Team 2017). To test the effects of O_3 on leaf and growth parameters, we applied a generalized linear mixed model with average ozone concentration as a fixed-effect and difference of chamber as a random-effect. Log-transformation was applied to growth parameter before the analysis. Because we confirmed the normality for all parameters by Shapiro-Wilk test, response variables were assumed to follow Gaussian distribution in the model.

Results

The average concentrations of O_3 for 24 h

Tab. 1 - Average concentration and accumulated exposure over a threshold of 40 nmol mol^{-1} (AOT40) of ozone in each gas treatment during the experimental period for 166 days from 15 May to 27 October 2014. Each value is the mean of three chamber replicates, and the standard error is shown in parenthesis. (Daylight hours): solar radiation $> 50 \text{ W m}^{-2}$.

Treatment	Concentration (nmol mol^{-1})		AOT40 ($\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1} \text{ h}$)
	24 hour	Daylight hours	Daylight hours
CF	10.7 ± 0.6	13.0 ± 0.8	0.1 ± 0.0
$1.0 \times O_3$	19.2 ± 0.4	24.3 ± 0.2	4.1 ± 0.0
$1.5 \times O_3$	27.6 ± 0.2	35.8 ± 0.2	14.1 ± 0.3

and daylight hours during the experimental period were 10.7 and $13.0 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ in CF treatment, 19.2 and $24.3 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ in 1.0 time ambient O_3 treatment, and 27.6 and $35.8 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ in 1.5 times ambient O_3 treatment, respectively (Tab. 1). Daylight AOT40 (accumulated O_3 exposure over a threshold of 40 nmol mol^{-1} with solar radiation $> 50 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) in CF, 1.0 time, and 1.5 times ambient O_3 treatments during the ex-

perimental period were 0.1 , 4.1 , and $14.1 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1} \text{ h}$, respectively.

Height and D^2H of *C. sieboldii* seedlings was significantly decreased by exposure to O_3 , while stem diameter remained unaltered (Tab. 2). There was a tendency of O_3 -induced decrease in the number of 2013 leaves. We did not observe significant effects of O_3 on any growth parameters examined in *Q. glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia*

Tab. 2 - Height, stem diameter, stem volume index (square of diameter \times height, D^2H) and leaf number emerged in 2013 and 2014 of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings grown under three levels of ozone fumigation at the end of the experiment. Values are means \pm standard error ($n = 12$). (CF): charcoal-filtered air; ($1.0 \times O_3$): 1.0 time ambient ozone concentration; ($1.5 \times O_3$): 1.5 times ambient ozone concentration. (*): $P < 0.05$; (ns): not significant. The actual P -values are shown when $0.05 < P < 0.10$.

Species	Treatment	Height (cm)	Stem diameter (mm)	D^2H (cm^3)	Leaf number	
					2013 leaves	2014 leaves
<i>C. sieboldii</i>	CF	124.7 ± 3.3	12.7 ± 0.2	205.3 ± 9.8	9.1 ± 1.0	200.8 ± 10.8
	$1.0 \times O_3$	115.5 ± 3.9	12.7 ± 0.4	191.2 ± 13.8	7.4 ± 1.2	195.4 ± 11.8
	$1.5 \times O_3$	108.1 ± 2.7	12.2 ± 0.2	165.3 ± 8.6	6.4 ± 0.9	179.3 ± 10.5
	Sig.	*	ns	*	0.064	ns
<i>Q. glauca</i>	CF	86.6 ± 3.9	11.3 ± 0.3	115.3 ± 10.7	24.9 ± 1.8	82.9 ± 9.8
	$1.0 \times O_3$	94.6 ± 3.0	11.0 ± 0.2	115.8 ± 6.6	22.4 ± 2.3	94.8 ± 7.0
	$1.5 \times O_3$	93.3 ± 2.6	11.2 ± 0.2	117.0 ± 5.1	22.8 ± 1.5	90.4 ± 7.4
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. myrsinaefolia</i>	CF	95.1 ± 4.0	11.8 ± 0.4	136.9 ± 14.8	21.3 ± 2.2	83.6 ± 7.3
	$1.0 \times O_3$	95.0 ± 2.9	11.9 ± 0.3	135.7 ± 6.7	21.1 ± 2.1	104.0 ± 10.0
	$1.5 \times O_3$	97.2 ± 2.9	11.7 ± 0.3	133.5 ± 9.0	22.3 ± 2.2	104.3 ± 12.5
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

Tab. 3 - Photosynthetic traits of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings grown under three levels of ozone fumigation in July 2014. Values are means \pm standard error ($n = 6$). Abbreviations of experimental treatments are shown in Tab. 2. (A_{sat}): light-saturated net photosynthetic rate ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$); (G_s): stomatal conductance to water vapor ($\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$); (C_i/C_a): ratio of intercellular CO_2 concentration to ambient CO_2 concentration; (L_s): stomatal limitation of photosynthesis; (V_{cmax}): maximum rate of carboxylation ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$); (J_{max}): maximum rate of electron transport ($\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$); (ns): not significant. The actual P -values are shown when $0.05 < P < 0.10$.

Species	Treatment	A_{sat}	G_s	C_i/C_a	L_s	V_{cmax}	J_{max}
<i>C. sieboldii</i>	CF	16.0 ± 0.6	0.23 ± 0.02	0.63 ± 0.03	0.23 ± 0.02	73.4 ± 6.1	98.8 ± 3.7
	$1.0 \times O_3$	14.2 ± 0.4	0.19 ± 0.02	0.62 ± 0.02	0.27 ± 0.02	62.3 ± 3.0	93.8 ± 5.6
	$1.5 \times O_3$	14.8 ± 1.3	0.20 ± 0.02	0.62 ± 0.02	0.26 ± 0.02	65.7 ± 7.4	97.0 ± 7.7
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. glauca</i>	CF	12.7 ± 1.4	0.13 ± 0.02	0.56 ± 0.03	0.36 ± 0.04	81.1 ± 11.1	112.8 ± 8.9
	$1.0 \times O_3$	11.4 ± 0.8	0.13 ± 0.02	0.57 ± 0.03	0.30 ± 0.04	68.5 ± 1.6	96.7 ± 4.3
	$1.5 \times O_3$	12.6 ± 0.5	0.15 ± 0.02	0.61 ± 0.02	0.30 ± 0.03	73.1 ± 3.0	104.6 ± 6.1
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. myrsinaefolia</i>	CF	12.2 ± 0.4	0.18 ± 0.01	0.63 ± 0.01	0.25 ± 0.01	62.4 ± 1.7	93.7 ± 3.4
	$1.0 \times O_3$	12.7 ± 0.3	0.16 ± 0.01	0.63 ± 0.01	0.26 ± 0.01	67.2 ± 2.2	100.0 ± 2.5
	$1.5 \times O_3$	13.1 ± 0.4	0.18 ± 0.02	0.65 ± 0.02	0.24 ± 0.03	67.7 ± 3.3	101.1 ± 5.9
	Sig.	0.083	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

Tab. 4 - Photosynthetic traits of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings grown under three levels of ozone fumigation in October 2014. Values are means \pm standard error ($n = 9$). Abbreviations of experimental treatments and photosynthetic parameters are shown in Tab. 2 and Tab. 3 respectively. (*): $P < 0.05$; (ns): not significant. The actual P -values are shown when $0.05 < P < 0.10$.

Species	Treatment	A_{sat}	G_s	C_i/C_a	L_s	V_{cmax}	J_{max}
<i>C. sieboldii</i>	CF	13.8 \pm 0.8	0.17 \pm 0.01	0.63 \pm 0.01	0.24 \pm 0.02	74.3 \pm 4.5	126.7 \pm 9.9
	1.0 \times O ₃	14.1 \pm 0.5	0.17 \pm 0.01	0.63 \pm 0.01	0.25 \pm 0.02	72.7 \pm 2.5	126.2 \pm 5.2
	1.5 \times O ₃	11.9 \pm 0.4	0.14 \pm 0.01	0.62 \pm 0.02	0.30 \pm 0.03	61.7 \pm 2.5	113.7 \pm 5.1
	Sig.	*	ns	ns	0.094	**	ns
<i>Q. glauca</i>	CF	15.1 \pm 0.5	0.18 \pm 0.01	0.62 \pm 0.01	0.36 \pm 0.01	79.9 \pm 2.2	163.2 \pm 4.9
	1.0 \times O ₃	15.4 \pm 0.7	0.19 \pm 0.01	0.64 \pm 0.01	0.33 \pm 0.02	79.4 \pm 3.4	155.7 \pm 4.5
	1.5 \times O ₃	15.4 \pm 0.6	0.20 \pm 0.01	0.65 \pm 0.02	0.34 \pm 0.01	78.6 \pm 2.4	160.2 \pm 5.8
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. myrsinaefolia</i>	CF	14.1 \pm 0.6	0.16 \pm 0.01	0.62 \pm 0.02	0.35 \pm 0.02	76.6 \pm 5.4	156.6 \pm 10.2
	1.0 \times O ₃	13.2 \pm 0.8	0.15 \pm 0.01	0.60 \pm 0.02	0.35 \pm 0.02	71.4 \pm 3.6	140.7 \pm 7.7
	1.5 \times O ₃	13.3 \pm 0.4	0.15 \pm 0.01	0.61 \pm 0.02	0.36 \pm 0.02	70.9 \pm 3.4	140.9 \pm 6.3
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

Tab. 5 - Leaf mass per area (LMA, g m⁻²), mass- and area-based nitrogen content (N_{mass} and N_{area} , % and g m⁻², respectively) and fraction of leaf nitrogen in Rubisco (F_{nr}) and bioenergetics (electron carriers except for photosystems, coupling factor and Calvin cycle enzymes except Rubisco, F_{nb}) of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings grown under three levels of ozone fumigation in July 2014. Values are means \pm standard error ($n = 6$). Abbreviations of experimental treatments are shown in Tab. 2. (ns): not significant. The actual P -values are shown when $0.05 < P < 0.10$.

Species	Treatment	LMA	N_{mass}	N_{area}	F_{nr}	F_{nb}
<i>C. sieboldii</i>	CF	80.2 \pm 1.7	2.34 \pm 0.07	1.88 \pm 0.08	0.301 \pm 0.022	0.036 \pm 0.001
	1.0 \times O ₃	75.7 \pm 1.8	2.42 \pm 0.07	1.83 \pm 0.04	0.264 \pm 0.013	0.034 \pm 0.002
	1.5 \times O ₃	76.5 \pm 2.9	2.34 \pm 0.04	1.79 \pm 0.09	0.281 \pm 0.019	0.036 \pm 0.002
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. glauca</i>	CF	95.5 \pm 3.7	2.21 \pm 0.10	2.10 \pm 0.05	0.298 \pm 0.038	0.036 \pm 0.003
	1.0 \times O ₃	90.5 \pm 2.3	2.20 \pm 0.05	1.99 \pm 0.07	0.268 \pm 0.010	0.033 \pm 0.002
	1.5 \times O ₃	97.4 \pm 2.2	2.26 \pm 0.04	2.19 \pm 0.04	0.258 \pm 0.011	0.032 \pm 0.002
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. myrsinaefolia</i>	CF	88.7 \pm 2.2	2.02 \pm 0.03	1.79 \pm 0.07	0.271 \pm 0.007	0.035 \pm 0.001
	1.0 \times O ₃	87.0 \pm 2.5	2.07 \pm 0.05	1.80 \pm 0.03	0.290 \pm 0.011	0.037 \pm 0.001
	1.5 \times O ₃	85.1 \pm 1.5	2.12 \pm 0.04	1.80 \pm 0.02	0.290 \pm 0.012	0.038 \pm 0.002
	Sig.	ns	0.081	ns	ns	ns

seedlings.

There were no significant effects of O₃ on gas exchange parameters of all tree species in July, although the A_{sat} of *Q. myrsinaefolia* showed a tendency to increase after exposure to O₃ (Tab. 3). In October, we

observed significant O₃-induced decreases in A_{sat} and V_{cmax} of *C. sieboldii* seedlings (Tab. 4). In addition, there was a tendency of increase in L_s of photosynthesis with increasing exposure to O₃. The exposure to O₃ did not affect any gas exchange param-

eters of *Q. glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings in October. We found no significant effects of O₃ on LMA, leaf nitrogen content and leaf nitrogen fraction in photosynthetic functions in any of the tree species studied in July and October, except

Tab. 6 - Leaf mass per area (LMA, g m⁻²), mass- and area-based nitrogen content (N_{mass} and N_{area} , % and g m⁻², respectively) and fraction of leaf nitrogen in Rubisco (F_{nr}) and bioenergetics (electron carriers except for photosystems, coupling factor and Calvin cycle enzymes except Rubisco, F_{nb}) of *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia* seedlings grown under three levels of ozone fumigation in October 2014. Values are means \pm standard error ($n = 9$). Abbreviations of experimental treatments are shown in Tab. 2. (ns): not significant. The actual P -values are shown when $0.05 < P < 0.10$.

Species	Treatment	LMA	N_{mass}	N_{area}	F_{nr}	F_{nb}
<i>C. sieboldii</i>	CF	94.6 \pm 1.6	2.13 \pm 0.09	2.00 \pm 0.06	0.288 \pm 0.015	0.043 \pm 0.003
	1.0 \times O ₃	92.5 \pm 2.1	2.08 \pm 0.07	1.92 \pm 0.07	0.296 \pm 0.015	0.045 \pm 0.002
	1.5 \times O ₃	88.8 \pm 2.8	2.08 \pm 0.09	1.83 \pm 0.05	0.260 \pm 0.006	0.042 \pm 0.002
	Sig.	ns	ns	0.063	ns	ns
<i>Q. glauca</i>	CF	97.3 \pm 1.6	2.58 \pm 0.05	2.51 \pm 0.04	0.247 \pm 0.008	0.044 \pm 0.001
	1.0 \times O ₃	97.0 \pm 2.6	2.58 \pm 0.04	2.50 \pm 0.08	0.246 \pm 0.008	0.042 \pm 0.001
	1.5 \times O ₃	99.1 \pm 2.0	2.60 \pm 0.06	2.57 \pm 0.07	0.237 \pm 0.008	0.042 \pm 0.001
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
<i>Q. myrsinaefolia</i>	CF	92.8 \pm 1.8	2.54 \pm 0.14	2.36 \pm 0.14	0.251 \pm 0.008	0.045 \pm 0.002
	1.0 \times O ₃	89.6 \pm 2.3	2.62 \pm 0.08	2.34 \pm 0.08	0.236 \pm 0.009	0.040 \pm 0.001
	1.5 \times O ₃	88.8 \pm 2.6	2.49 \pm 0.05	2.22 \pm 0.09	0.248 \pm 0.010	0.043 \pm 0.002
	Sig.	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

for N_{mass} of *Q. myrsinaefolia* in July and N_{area} of *C. sieboldii* in October (Tab. 5 and Tab. 6). There were tendencies of O_3 -induced increase in N_{mass} of *Q. myrsinaefolia* in July and decrease in N_{area} of *C. sieboldii* in October.

Discussion

We observed a difference in O_3 susceptibility among the three tree species. According to the photosynthetic and growth responses to O_3 , *C. sieboldii* showed higher susceptibility than the other two *Quercus* species. The higher susceptibility of *C. sieboldii* to O_3 is in agreement with the results of our previous studies (Kohno et al. 2005, Watanabe et al. 2008).

The difference of O_3 uptake into the leaves through the stomata is considered an important factor in determining the different susceptibilities to O_3 among the tree species (Karlsson et al. 2007). Stomatal O_3 uptake rate can be explained by stomatal conductance to O_3 (G_{O_3}) when the meteorological condition and atmospheric O_3 concentration are the same. The G_{O_3} is proportional to G_s with a proportionality constant of 0.663 (i.e., $G_{\text{O}_3} = 0.663 G_s$ – Mills et al. 2017). Thus, the difference of G_s among tree species is considered a good indicator of the difference of stomatal O_3 uptake. However, there was no great difference between G_s of *C. sieboldii* and that of the other two *Quercus* species (Tab. 3 and Tab. 4), indicating that the amount of O_3 uptake would not be largely different among these trees and would not serve as the main parameter to evaluate the difference in O_3 susceptibility.

Some *Quercus* species emit biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), mainly isoprene, and the BVOC may act as a detoxifying substance for O_3 and reactive oxygen species (Loreto & Fares 2013). However, the BVOC emission varied among the *Quercus* species. According to Tani & Kawawata (2008), *Q. glauca* and *Q. myrsinaefolia*, which are tolerant species to O_3 in the present study, do not emit BVOC. Li et al. (2016) suggested that LMA is a potentially useful indicator for evaluating O_3 susceptibility based on an analysis using 29 tree species, both deciduous and evergreen. In the present study, however, we observed quite similar values of LMA for the three species. Although the reasons for the different O_3 susceptibilities between *C. sieboldii* and the two *Quercus* species are not clear, it is clear that not all evergreen broad-leaved tree species are tolerant to O_3 (Zhang et al. 2012, B ker et al. 2015, Li et al. 2016). Further screening studies must be conducted to find other “ O_3 -sensitive” evergreen broad-leaved tree species, especially in the genus *Castanopsis*.

The decrease in A_{sat} of *C. sieboldii* was accompanied by a significant decrease in V_{cmax} , marginal decrease in G_s , and increase in L_s (Tab. 4). This indicates that both biochemical and diffusion processes in photosynthesis are responsible for the decrease

in A_{sat} under elevated O_3 , although the contribution of the former may be higher to some degree. O_3 -induced decrease in V_{cmax} was reported in several Japanese deciduous tree species (Hoshika et al. 2013a, 2013b, Watanabe et al. 2013, 2014). The V_{cmax} represents *in situ* activity of Rubisco (Farquhar et al. 1980, Lambers et al. 2008), and a decrease in Rubisco content under elevated O_3 was also reported in deciduous trees (Yamaguchi et al. 2007, Watanabe et al. 2007).

In contrast to V_{cmax} , O_3 -induced decrease of J_{max} in *C. sieboldii* seedlings was not observed (Tab. 4), although decreases in both V_{cmax} and J_{max} under elevated O_3 were reported in several studies of deciduous trees native to Japan (Hoshika et al. 2012, 2013b, Watanabe et al. 2013). Kinose et al. (2017) indicated that the timing of significant O_3 -induced decrease in V_{cmax} was earlier than that in J_{max} of *F. crenata* seedlings. There is a possibility that the first effect of O_3 on the biochemical process of photosynthesis occurs in carboxylation by Rubisco.

Nitrogen is a nutrient that is strongly related to the biochemical assimilation capacity of plants (Lambers et al. 2008). A large fraction of nitrogen in the leaves is incorporated into proteins associated with the photosynthetic process (Evans 1989), and the biggest destination of nitrogen investment is Rubisco (Niinemets et al. 1999, Takashima et al. 2004, Watanabe et al. 2012). In the present study, we observed marginally significant decrease in N_{area} and no significant decrease in F_{nr} of *C. sieboldii* seedlings under elevated O_3 . However, the reduction rates of N_{area} and F_{nr} are similar, 8.5% and 9.7%, respectively, in 1.5 times ambient O_3 treatment compared to CF treatment. Therefore, we consider both factors (i.e., nitrogen content and nitrogen use efficiency to Rubisco) contribute to the decrease in V_{cmax} under elevated O_3 .

We observed elevated O_3 -induced increase of L_s in *C. sieboldii* seedlings (Tab. 4). A similar result was observed in mature *F. sylvatica* (Kitao et al. 2009), but it is in contrast with the results of many other studies of deciduous tree species. Hoshika et al. (2013a) reported the avoidance of O_3 uptake by stomatal closure in *F. crenata* saplings in early summer, but not in late summer and autumn. Plant physiological studies have shown several mechanisms of O_3 -induced stomatal closure such as direct modulation of K^+ channels (Torsethaugen et al. 1999, Vahisalu et al. 2010), change of Ca^{2+} homeostasis in guard cells (McAinsh et al. 2002), and production of phytohormones (Overmyer et al. 2008).

Conclusions

To our knowledge, this is the first study to analyse photosynthesis with respect to diffusion and biochemical processes in the leaves of East Asian evergreen tree species under elevated O_3 . High O_3 susceptibilities on photosynthesis and growth in *C. sieboldii* were confirmed. On the other hand, the

two *Quercus* species showed high tolerance against O_3 . The negative effect of O_3 on net photosynthesis of *C. sieboldii* was due to decreases in both diffusion (increase in L_s) and biochemical processes (decrease in V_{cmax}). These results indicate that not only the decrease in carbon absorption capacity but also the change in water balance due to stomatal closure should be considered as risks for *C. sieboldii* forest under elevated O_3 .

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