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Bahar, NHA, Ishida, FY, Weerasinghe, LK et al. (25 more authors) (2017) Leaf-level photosynthetic capacity in lowland Amazonian and high elevation, Andean tropical moist forests of Peru. New Phytologist, 214 (3). pp. 1002-1018. ISSN 0028-646X

https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.14079

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#### Leaf-level photosynthetic capacity in lowland Amazonian and high-1 elevation, Andean tropical moist forests of Peru 2

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- 41 Number of Figures: 9 (plus 6 in Supporting Information and 5 in SM3)
- 42 Number of Tables: 3 (plus 7 in Supporting Information)
- 43 Number of References: 90
- 44 Number of Pages (text plus references): 30
- 45
- 46 Total Word count: 7658 (excluding Abstract, References, Figures and Tables)
- 47 Abstract: 200 words
- 48 Introduction: 1279 words
- 49 Materials and Methods: 1826 words
- 50 Results: 2319 words
- 51 Discussion: 2228 words
- 52
- 53

- 55 Summary
- 56
- We examined whether variations in photosynthetic capacity are linked to variations in the environment and/or associated leaf traits for tropical moist forest (TMFs) in the Andes/western-Amazon regions of Peru.
- We compared photosynthetic capacity (V<sub>cmax</sub> and J<sub>max</sub>), leaf mass, nitrogen and phosphorus per unit leaf area (M<sub>a</sub>, N<sub>a</sub> and P<sub>a</sub> respectively), and chlorophyll from 210 species at 18 field sites along a 3,300-m elevation gradient. Western-blots were used to quantify abundance of the CO<sub>2</sub>fixing enzyme, Rubisco.
- Area- and N-based rates of photosynthetic capacity at 25°C were higher in 65 ٠ upland- than lowland-TMFs, underpinned by greater investment of N in 66 photosynthesis in high-elevation trees. Soil [P] and leaf Pa were key 67 explanatory factors for models of area-based  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  but did not 68 account for variations in photosynthetic N-use efficiency. At any given N<sub>a</sub> 69 70 and P<sub>a</sub>, the fraction of N allocated to photosynthesis was higher in upland than lowland species. For a small subset of lowland TMF trees examined, a 71 72 substantial fraction of Rubisco was inactive.
- These results highlight the importance of soil- and leaf-phosphorus in
   defining photosynthetic capacity of TMFs, with variations in N allocation
   and Rubisco activation state further influencing photosynthetic rates and
   N-use efficiency of these critically important forests.
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- 78
- **Keywords:** Elevation, carboxylation capacity, leaf traits, nitrogen, phosphorus,
  ribulose bisphosphate regeneration, temperature, tropical forests
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#### 84 Introduction

85

Tropical moist forests (TMFs) play a significant role in the terrestrial carbon cycle, contributing one-third to global gross primary productivity (Beer *et al.*, 2010; Malhi, 2010). Understanding the factors that regulate leaf photosynthesis (*A*) in TMFs is a prerequisite for modelling carbon storage in tropical ecosystems, with *A* being influenced *inter alia* by nutrient supply [particularly nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P)], elevation and growth temperature.

Early studies in lowland TMFs implicated low foliar P concentrations as a 92 major influence on light-saturated net photosynthesis (Asat) (Reich & Walters, 93 1994; Raaimakers et al., 1995), with soil P being a major factor limiting Amazon 94 productivity (Quesada et al., 2012). Foliar P is crucial to the fine-tuning Asat 95 (Fredeen et al., 1989; Jacob & Lawlor, 1993) via regulation of key intermediates in 96 carbon metabolism (e.g. ATP, NADPH and sugar phosphates including ribulose 97 1,5-bisphosphate - RuBP). While the direct effect of P-limitation is primarily on 98 99 RuBP regeneration, reductions in Rubisco activity also occur (Brooks, 1986; Jacobs & Lawlor, 1992; Loustau et al., 1999). Although Meir et al. (2002; 2007) and Reich 100 101 et al. (2009) showed that A<sub>sat</sub> at a given leaf N concentration ([N]) was less in lowland tropical trees than their temperate counterparts, the extent to which P 102 103 limitations per se alter  $A_{sat} \leftrightarrow [N]$  relations within TMFs is uncertain (Bloomfield et al., 2014a; Domingues et al., 2015). A further unknown is the extent to which large 104 elevation gradients affect  $A_{sat} \leftrightarrow [N]$  relations in the tropics. Upland TMFs are more 105 likely to be limited by N than their lowland counterparts (Tanner et al., 1998). 106 Upland TMFs also experience lower temperatures and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> partial 107 pressures, more frequent cloud cover and experience greater leaf wetness 108 (Grubb, 1977; Vitousek, 1984; Girardin et al., 2010; Bruijnzeel et al., 2011). Such 109 factors can limit A<sub>sat</sub> (Terashima et al., 1995; Bruijnzeel & Veneklaas, 1998; Letts & 110 Mulligan, 2005), leading to declines in productivity (Girardin et al., 2010). Asat in 111 upland TMFs have been documented (e.g. Quilici & Medina, 1998; Cordell et al., 112 1999; Hikosaka et al., 2002; Letts & Mulligan, 2005; Rada et al., 2009), showing Asat 113

being constant with increasing elevation (Cordell *et al.*, 1999), or declining with
increasing elevation (Hikosaka *et al.*, 2002; Wittich *et al.*, 2012).

Rates of  $A_{sat}$  are subject to variations in stomatal conductance ( $q_s$ ) and the 116 partial pressure of internal leaf CO<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>i</sub>) (Santiago & Mulkey, 2003). Since 117 variations in C<sub>i</sub> alter both CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and photorespiratory CO<sub>2</sub> release, it could 118 potentially confound our understanding of how environmental gradients alter N 119 investment in A. By contrast, variations in  $q_s$  have less impact on the fundamental, 120 biochemical parameter of photosynthetic capacity – that being the maximum rate 121 of carboxylation by Rubisco (i.e.  $V_{cmax}$ ). Positive correlations between  $V_{cmax}$  and 122 leaf [N] have been reported for some tropical species (Carswell et al., 2000; Meir 123 et al., 2002; Domingues et al., 2005; Kumagai et al., 2006; Meir et al., 2007; 124 Vårhammar et al., 2015) – whereas in others no strong  $V_{cmax} \leftrightarrow [N]$  relationship was 125 observed (Coste et al., 2005; van de Weg et al., 2012; Dusenge et al., 2015). 126 Although reports on  $V_{cmax}$  are less widespread in the tropics than  $A_{sat}$ , the 127 available data suggest that  $V_{cmax}$  values, as well as  $V_{cmax}$  per unit N (herein termed 128  $V_{cmax,N}$ ), are lower in lowland TMFs than their non-tropical counterparts (Carswell 129 et al., 2000; Meir et al., 2002; Domingues et al., 2007; Meir et al., 2007; Domingues 130 131 et al., 2010; Walker et al., 2014; Vårhammar et al., 2015). Kattge et al. (2009) reanalysed data to show that  $V_{cmax}$  per unit N in TMFs growing on young, relatively 132 high nutrient status soils was higher compared to their older, Ferralsol and Acrisol 133 soil counterparts that are characterised by very low soil P availability (Quesada et 134 al., 2010). These observations are consistent with laboratory studies showing 135 reduced V<sub>cmax</sub> (Lauer et al., 1989; Loustau et al., 1999) and reduced N allocation 136 to Rubisco (Warren & Adams, 2002) under P-limited conditions. Increased 137 allocation of N to non-photosynthetic components may also play a role 138 (Domingues et al., 2010; Lloyd et al., 2013), as might inactivation of Rubisco (Stitt 139 & Schulze, 1994). Yet, doubt remains regarding the general  $V_{cmax} \leftrightarrow [N]$ 140 relationship in TMFs due to the scarcity of data, both in lowland and upland TMFs. 141 Comprehensive surveys of  $V_{cmax}$  (and  $J_{max}$  - maximum rate of electron transport) 142 across lowland and upland TMFs are required to establish whether there are 143

generalized patterns of photosynthetic capacity in relation to environmentalconditions and/or other leaf traits.

TMF species with higher leaf nutrient concentrations and lower leaf mass 146 per unit leaf area (M<sub>a</sub>) values are often found in more fertile soils (Fyllas et al., 147 2009), and  $M_a$  tends to increase with increasing elevation (Hikosaka et al., 2002; 148 van de Weg et al., 2009; Almeida et al., 2012; Asner et al., 2014b); leaf chemistry 149 also systematically shifts along elevation gradients in the tropics (Asner et al., 150 2014b). Large variations in leaf traits also observed among co-occurring species, 151 reflecting the importance of phylogenetic relationships in determining trait values 152 in TMFs (Townsend et al., 2007; Kraft et al., 2008; Fyllas et al., 2009). Whether 153 similar patterns hold for estimates of  $V_{cmax}$  in lowland and upland TMFs (and 154  $V_{\rm cmax.N}$ ), is, however, not known. 155

Variations in  $V_{\text{cmax},N}$  underlie variations in photosynthetic N use efficiency. 156 Further insights can be gained by quantifying the proportion of N allocated to 157 the pigment-protein complexes  $(n_{\rm P})$ , electron transport  $(n_{\rm E})$  and Rubisco  $(n_{\rm R})$ 158 (Evans & Seemann, 1989; Pons et al., 1994; Hikosaka, 2004). Quantification of 159  $V_{\rm cmax}$ ,  $J_{\rm max}$ , leaf chlorophyll and [N] can be used to estimate  $n_{\rm P}$ ,  $n_{\rm E}$  and  $n_{\rm R}$  (Evans & 160 161 Seemann, 1989; Niinemets & Tenhunen, 1997). In non-tropical plants, lower Asat at a given N  $(A_N)$  are associated with reduced allocation of N to photosynthesis 162 and increased allocation to non-photosynthetic components (Poorter & Evans, 163 1998; Westbeek et al., 1999; Warren & Adams, 2001; Takashima et al., 2004; 164 Hikosaka & Shigeno, 2009). Similarly, variations in  $A_N$  were associated with 165 differences in N allocation to and within the photosynthetic apparatus in 166 greenhouse-grown tropical tree seedlings (Coste et al., 2005) and in high 167 elevation TMFs of Rwanda (Dusenge et al., 2015). To our knowledge, no study has 168 quantified N allocation patterns in field-grown tropical trees, and not with respect 169 to field sites in upland and lowland TMFs. 170

We examined variations in photosynthetic capacity and leaf traits across TMF canopies located at 18 sites along a 3,300-m elevation gradient stretching from lowland western Amazonia to the Andean tree line in Peru. The study

included 11 lowland sites in northern and southern Peru (elevation 117-223 m 174 a.s.l.), and seven upland sites at elevations of 1527-3379 m a.s.l. in southern Peru. 175 Our site selection enabled an assessment of the potential role of P-availability on 176 photosynthetic performance across Amazonian-Andean TMF sites differing >40-177 fold in total soil P. The upland sites were characterised by a floristically distinct 178 assemblage of montane forest species, with the transition from lowland moist 179 forests to upland montane forests coinciding with an increase in cloud formation 180 (van de Weg et al., 2009; Bruijnzeel et al., 2011). In conjunction with the recent 181 findings of the key role of P in modulating carbon investment (Quesada et al., 182 2012) and photosynthesis (Bloomfield et al., 2014b) of tropical trees, and that leaf 183 P varies predictably along soil P and elevation gradients (Asner et al., 2014b), we 184 addressed the following questions: 185

- (1) Do tropical TMF species growing on low-P soils exhibit lower photosynthetic
   capacity and photosynthetic N use efficiency than TMF trees growing on
   sites with higher P availability?
- 189 (2) Are there marked differences in  $V_{cmax}$ ,  $J_{max}$  and  $V_{cmax,N}$  between lowland 190 Amazonian and upland Andean TMFs?
- 191 (3) Are differences in  $V_{cmax}$ ,  $J_{max}$  and  $V_{cmax,N}$  linked to concomitant variations in 192 other leaf traits and/or environmental variables?
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# 194 Materials and Methods

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# 196 Study sites

Field work was carried out in 18 one-hectare long-term monitoring plots in Peru which contribute to the ABERG and RAINFOR networks of permanent sample plots. The plots are arrayed along gradients of elevation (117 to 3379 m above sea level) and soil nutrient status (Table 1). For each site, climate data were obtained from Asner *et al.* (2014a) and Malhi *et al.* (in prep). Marked changes in species richness, canopy cover and tree height occur along the elevation gradient (Asner *et al.*, 2014a; Girardin *et al.*, 2014b; Silman, 2014), reflecting local geological

substrates, as well as changes in growth temperature, cloud cover and light 204 environment. In addition to marked inter-site differences in total soil [N] (0.6 -205 15.5 g N kg<sup>-1</sup>), substantial variation in total soil [P] occurs across both the lowland 206 (38 - 727 mg P kg<sup>-1</sup>) and upland sites (496 - 1631 mg P kg<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 1). Soils at 207 three of the lowland sites in northern Peru (JEN-12, ALP-30 and ALP-40) are 208 notable for being low nutrient status arenosols/podzols ('white sands'). Among 209 the lowland and upland sites, mean annual precipitation (MAP) values range from 210 1560 to 5300 mm a<sup>-1</sup>. Mean annual temperature ranged from 8.0 to 18.8 °C 211 across the upland sites, and 24.4 to 26.6 °C among the lowland sites. 212

At each site, tree climbers collected from dominant tree species upper canopy branches supporting leaves considered to typically be exposed to full sunlight for much of the day, but with little replication of individual species possible at any site. Each tree was initially identified to the genus-level and, whenever possible, to the species-level. A total of 353 individual trees drawn from 210 species were sampled across the 18 sites. See SM1 in Supporting Information for further details.

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#### 221 Leaf gas exchange measurements

Measurements of leaf gas exchange were made during July to September 2011, using portable photosynthesis systems (Licor 6400XT infrared gas analyser, Li-Cor BioSciences, Lincoln, NE, USA). Measurements were made on the most recently fully expanded leaves attached to the cut branches (which had been re-cut under water immediately after harvesting to ensure xylem water continuity).

 $CO_2$  response curves of light-saturated photosynthesis ( $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves) (at 227 1800  $\mu$ mol photons m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) were performed within 30–60 minutes after branch 228 detachment. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations inside the reference chamber ranged in a 229 stepped sequence from 35 to 2000  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup> (see SM2 in Supporting 230 Information for details). Block temperatures within the chamber were set to the 231 prevailing day-time air temperature at each site (from 25-28 °C). The resultant 232  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves (examples shown in Fig. 1) were fitted following the model described 233 by Farquhar et al. (1980) in order to calculate  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  on a leaf area basis – 234

see SM2 in Supporting Information for details. For every  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curve, recorded air pressure was used to correct for altitudinal changes in O<sub>2</sub> partial pressure, and to calculate intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> ( $C_i$ ) values on a partial pressure basis.

Rates of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange were corrected for diffusion through the gasket of 238 the LI-6400 leaf chamber (Bruhn *et al.*, 2002) prior to calculation of  $V_{\text{cmax}}$  and  $J_{\text{max}}$ . 239 240 Assuming infinite internal diffusion conductance  $(q_m)$ , Michaelis constants of Rubisco for CO<sub>2</sub> ( $K_c$ ) and O<sub>2</sub> ( $K_o$ ) at a reference temperature 25°C were assumed 241 to be 40.4 Pa and 24.8 kPa, respectively (von Caemmerer et al., 1994); these values 242 were adjusted to actual leaf temperatures assuming activation energies of 59.4 243 and 36 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for  $K_c$  and  $K_o$ , respectively (Farquhar *et al.*, 1980). Fitted parameters 244 were then scaled to a reference temperature of 25°C using activation energies of 245 64.8 and 37.0 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for V<sub>cmax</sub> and J<sub>max</sub>, respectively (Farguhar et al., 1980). Finally, 246 rates of A obtained at ambient CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 400 and 2000  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup> 247 ( $A_{400}$  and  $A_{2000}$ , respectively) were extracted from the  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves and reported 248 249 separately.

As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was not always saturating for measurements of 250 upland species (due to low atmospheric partial pressure, resulting in insufficient 251  $CO_2$ -saturated rates of A to enable calculate  $J_{max}$ ), it was likely that  $J_{max}$  may have 252 been underestimated in some cases; where this was likely the case (i.e. where 253 there was no clear plateauing of A at high  $C_i$  values), we excluded the resultant 254  $J_{\text{max}}$  values from the Andean data set. With the exception of a few cases (e.g. 255 Schefflera sp.; Fig. 1),  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves typically flattened out at high  $C_i$  values (> 90%) 256 of curves), with A increasing slightly as  $C_i$  values increased further (see Fig. 1), 257 suggesting that feedback inhibition of A through limitations in triose-phosphate 258 utilization (TPU) was unlikely. 259

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# 261 Leaf structure and chemistry determination

Leaves were collected immediately following the gas exchange measurements. Initially, the leaf mid rib was removed; thereafter, a digital photograph was taken using a high resolution scanner (CanoScan LiDE 210, Vietnam) and later analysed for leaf area (Image J, version 1.38x, NIH, USA). Leaves were then placed in an oven at 70 °C for at least two days, the dry mass measured and leaf mass per unit leaf area (*M*<sub>a</sub>) calculated for each sample. Total leaf N and P concentrations in
dried leaves were extracted using Kjeldahl acid digest method, as detailed in Ayub *et al.* (2011).

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## 271 Chlorophyll and Rubisco measurements

Leaf discs from the nearest mature leaves adjacent to the gas exchange leaf were
collected and transferred to -80 °C cryogenic field container for subsequent
chlorophyll and Rubisco assays in the laboratory.

275 Chlorophyll content of each set of leaf discs was determined using a dual-276 beam scanning UV-VIS spectrometer (Lambda 25, Perkin-Elmer) after extraction 277 of chlorophyll pigments from two frozen leaf discs (0.77 cm<sup>2</sup> each) with 100% 278 acetone and MgCO<sub>3</sub>, as outlined in Asner *et al.* (2014b). Chlorophyll a:b ratios 279 varied between 2.45 and 2.75, which is consistent with results of past studies on 280 tropical trees in the Peruvian Amazon (Asner & Martin, 2011).

Protein was extracted from frozen leaf discs following the method outlined 281 in Gaspar et al. (1997) with slight modifications (see SM3 in Supporting 282 Information for details on optimization of protein assays). Frozen samples of 0.50 283 cm<sup>2</sup> were ground in Eppendorf tubes and washed consecutively in 100% 284 methanol, hexane and acetone. Treated leaf powder was then resuspended in 285 protein extraction buffer (140 mM Tris base, 105 mM Tris-HCl, 0.5 mM 286 ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, 2% lithium dodecyl sulfate (LDS), 10% glycerol) 287 containing 5 mM DTT and protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich Co, Castle 288 Hill, NSW, Australia), heated for 10 min at 100 °C to completely dissolve extracted 289 protein, then clarified by centrifugation  $(14,000 \times q; 10 \text{ min}; \text{ room temperature})$ . 290 The supernatant was used as the source of leaf protein. 291

Equivalent volumes of supernatant were diluted in 4 × SDS-PAGE sample buffer (Invitrogen - Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) then loaded onto gels. Since we extracted protein from a known amount of leaf area, we were able to analyse our samples on an equivalent leaf area basis. Rubisco purified from tobacco with varying concentrations was also loaded onto gels, serving as a

calibration series. Proteins were run on 4-12% NuPAGE Bis-Tris gels (Invitrogen -297 Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's 298 instructions and transferred to Immobilon-P PVDF membranes (Merck Millipore, 299 Kilsyth, Vic., Australia) using an XCell II Blot module (Invitrogen). Membranes were 300 blocked with 5% skim milk powder in Tris-buffered saline containing 0.5% Tween-301 20 (TBS-T) and an antibody raised in rabbits against tobacco Rubisco (used at 302 1:5,000) prepared by Spencer Whitney (Research School of Biology, Australian 303 National University, Canberra). Secondary antibody (goat-anti-rabbit-alkaline 304 phosphatase conjugate, Agrisera) was diluted 1:5,000. Blots were visualized using 305 Attophos AP fluorescent substrate system (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) and 306 imaged using a Versa-Doc (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) imaging system. Blots 307 were analysed using Quantity One software (Bio-Rad) and relative band densities 308 of each protein determined from duplicate samples, and data averaged. Rubisco 309 concentration was calculated from the large subunit (molecular mass of 55 kD 310 and 16% N by weight). 311

312

# 313 Estimation of N allocation in photosynthetic metabolism

314 N allocation in three major components (pigment-protein complexes, electron transport and Rubisco) for all leaves was estimated from chlorophyll 315 concentration,  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  respectively. N allocation to pigment-protein 316 complexes  $(n_P)$  was calculated by assuming 44 mol N per mol of chlorophyll 317 (Evans, 1989). N allocation to Rubisco ( $n_R$ ) was estimated from values of  $V_{cmax}$ 318 319 according to Harrison et al. (2009), with slight modification [2.33 mol CO<sub>2</sub> (mol Rubisco sites)<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for the catalytic turnover number of Rubisco at 25 °C (Harrison 320 et al., 2009)]. We assumed all Rubisco was fully activated and mesophyll 321 conductance was infinite. The allocation of N to electron transport components 322  $(n_{\rm E})$  was calculated from  $J_{\rm max}$  assuming 160 mol electrons (mol cytochrome f)<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> 323 <sup>1</sup> and 8.85 mol N (mmol cytochrome *f*)<sup>-1</sup> (Evans & Seemann, 1989). The proportion 324 of total leaf N allocated to each photosynthetic component was calculated by 325 dividing the N investment in each component by the N content per unit leaf area. 326

327

#### 328 Data analysis

Log<sub>10</sub> transformations were carried out on leaf traits when necessary to ensure 329 normality and minimize heterogeneity of residuals. Student *T*-tests (two-tailed) 330 were used to compare overall means of lowland and upland species. Standardized 331 major axis (SMA) estimation was used to describe the best-fit relationship 332 between pairs of variables and to assess whether relationships differed between 333 lowland vs upland elevation classes, using SMATR Version 2.0 software (Falster et 334 al., 2006; Warton et al., 2006). The decision to compare upland and lowland trait 335 relationships reflects the strong elevation contrast in environments, phylogeny, 336 floristic composition and forest structure (Gentry, 1988; van de Weg et al., 2009; 337 Asner *et al.*, 2014b). Significance of SMA regression was tested at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . 338

In addition to the above bivariate analyses, we also used a mixed-effects 339 linear model combining fixed and random components (Pinheiro & Bates, 2000) 340 to account for variability in area- and N-based rates of V<sub>cmax</sub>, and area-based rates 341 of J<sub>max</sub>, where the linear mixed-effects model combined fixed and random 342 components. This approach enabled the structured nature of the data set to be 343 344 recognized, and for interactions between multiple terms to be considered. The fixed effect included continuous variables only: leaf traits ( $M_{a}$ , area-based leaf N 345 and P), and environment variables (soil P and N concentration, mean annual 346 temperature (MAT) and effective cation exchange capacity of soil (ECEC)). Model 347 specification and validation was based on the protocols outlined in Zuur et al. 348 (2009) and fitted using the *nlme* package (R package ver. 3.1–105, R Foundation 349 for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria, R Development Core Team 2011). 350 Details on the model selection process are provided in Table S6. Briefly, 351 phylogeny (family/genus/species) were treated as random effects, placing focus 352 on the variation contained within these terms, rather than mean values for each 353 level. For the mixed-effects linear model, site variation was captured by soil and 354 environmental factors considered in the fixed component; because of this, no site 355 term was included in the random component. Model comparisons and the 356

significance of fixed-effects terms were assessed using Akaike's information
 criterion (AIC). Unless otherwise stated, statistical analysis was performed using
 SPSS version 20 (IBM Corporation, NY, USA).

360

## 361 **Results**

362

# 363 Variations in leaf chemistry and structure

Among lowland sites, there was a six-fold variation in leaf N:P ratios (7.6 - 45.9) 364 (Table S1, Supporting Information), but for upland sites, when ranked according 365 to increasing elevation, mean values of leaf N:P were largely consistent across 366 sites of similar elevation (Table 1). Across all sites (lowland and upland combined), 367 variations in leaf N:P ratios were predominantly driven by variations in leaf [P] 368 (r<sup>2</sup>=0.59, p<0.01; Table S2) rather than leaf [N]. Variations in area-based leaf [P] 369 (P<sub>a</sub>) were positively correlated with soil [P] ( $r^2$ =0.37, p<0.01) and elevation 370  $(r^2=0.48, p<0.01)$ . Weaker positive associations were observed for area-based leaf 371 [N] (N<sub>a</sub>) with total soil [N] ( $r^2$ =0.10, p<0.01) and elevation ( $r^2$ =0.14, p<0.01). 372

Leaf mass per unit leaf area ( $M_a$ ) varied widely, both among and within lowland (54-230 g m<sup>-2</sup>) and upland (60-249 g m<sup>-2</sup>) sites (Table 1 and Table S1). Although variations in  $M_a$  were not correlated with variations in soil [P], there were significant (but weak) correlations between  $M_a$  and total soil [N] ( $r^2$ =0.04, p<0.01) and elevation ( $r^2$ =0.03, p<0.01) (Table S2). Overall means of  $M_a$  for the sampled upland species (143±39 g m<sup>-2</sup>) were significantly higher than that of the lowland species (132±35 g m<sup>-2</sup>; Table 2, p<0.05).

Across all 18 sites, leaf  $N_a$  was positively correlated with  $M_a$  (p < 0.01,  $r^2=0.12$ ; Table S2), with the  $N_a \leftrightarrow M_a$  relationship being stronger among upland than lowland sites ( $r^2=0.07$  for lowland sites and  $r^2=0.20$  for upland; see Table S3 for p-values, slopes and intercepts of each SMA relationship). The slope and intercept of the relationship differed between the two elevation classes (Fig. 2A) - upland species exhibited higher  $N_a$  for a given  $M_a$  than lowland species, particularly in low  $M_a$  species. Across all sites, leaf  $P_a$  exhibited a weak, positive correlation with  $M_a$  (p < 0.01,  $r^2 = 0.04$ ; Table S2). Similarly, a weak positive  $P_a \leftrightarrow M_a$ relationship (p = 0.003,  $r^2 = 0.04$ ; Table S3) was found among upland species (Fig 2B). Although no significant  $P_a \leftrightarrow M_a$  relationship was found among lowland species (with leaf  $P_a$  varying 20-fold; Table S1), mean values of  $P_a$  at a given  $M_a$ were lower than their upland counterparts.

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# 393 Variations in photosynthetic metabolism

Light-saturated rates of photosynthesis per unit leaf area, measured at the 394 prevailing day-time air temperature (T) at each site and at an atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> 395 concentration of 400  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup> (A<sub>400,a</sub>), differed among co-occurring species 396 (Table S1). However, there was no significant difference between mean values of 397 A<sub>400,a</sub> from lowland and upland classes (Table 2). This uniformity of A<sub>400,a</sub> occurred 398 despite significantly lower measuring Ts at the high elevation sites [overall means: 399 lowland 29.4  $\pm$  0.9°C; upland 25.7  $\pm$  2.1°C, p<0.05] and lower intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> 400 partial pressure (C<sub>i</sub>) (overall means: lowland 28.4  $\pm$  3.7 Pa; upland 18.8  $\pm$  3.0 Pa, 401 p < 0.05) (Table S4). Assessed on a per unit leaf N basis (A<sub>400,N</sub>), average rates were 402 lower at the upland sites compared to their lowland counterparts (Tables 2 and 403 S4), reflecting higher leaf N<sub>a</sub> for trees at high elevation (Table 1). Across sites, 404 mean  $A_{400,N}$  decreased with decreasing mean annual temperature (MAT) (Figure 405 S1D). Area-based rates of photosynthesis at elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (A<sub>2000,a</sub>) were higher in 406 upland (17.1-26.5  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Table S4) than lowland (16.1-22.6  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) 407 species (p < 0.05). The higher values of  $A_{2000,a}$  at the upland sites were achieved 408 despite the colder temperatures. On a per unit leaf N basis (A<sub>2000,N</sub>), average rates 409 were similar for both elevation classifications (Table S4; Fig. S1E). 410

To explore differences in rates of the underlying components of net photosynthesis, we compared maximal area-based rates of CO<sub>2</sub> fixation by Rubisco ( $V_{cmax,a}$ ) and photosynthetic electron transport ( $J_{max,a}$ ), using values normalized to a measuring temperature of 25 °C (i.e.  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ ). Site mean values of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  were significantly higher in the upland class ( $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  were 36 and 45% higher, respectively, in the upland class;

Table 2; p < 0.05), reflecting the parameters' negative relationships with MAT (Fig. 417 S1A, B). Similarly, the mean  $V_{\text{cmax},N}$  at 25 °C ( $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$ ) of the upland group was 418 greater than that of lowland counterparts (Table 2; p < 0.05). Thus, when assessed 419 at a common T and when controlling for elevation differences in  $C_i$  (by adopting 420  $V_{\rm cmax}$ ), photosynthetic N use efficiency was, on average, greater at high elevations. 421 Importantly, considerable within-site variability was observed for all three 422 parameters ( $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ ,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ , and  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$ ) (Fig. 3; Table S1), highlighting the 423 heterogeneity of these key photosynthetic traits among trees within each site. 424 Within-site variability was particularly pronounced at the upland sites (Fig. 3; 425 Table S1). 426

Variations in  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  were strongly correlated with  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ , both for lowland 427  $(r^2=0.59)$  and upland classifications  $(r^2=0.75)$  (Fig. 4). Overall, the 428  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25} \leftrightarrow V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  relationship was similar in the two elevation groups, with mean 429  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25}$ :  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  ratios being statistically equivalent in lowland and upland classes 430 (Table 2). Importantly, marked differences in  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ :  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  ratios were observed 431 among individuals (Figs 3 and 4), underpinned by fundamental differences in the 432 CO<sub>2</sub> response of net photosynthesis (e.g. Fig. 1B). In most leaves, J<sub>maxa<sup>25</sup></sub> and 433  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  co-varied, resulting in relatively constant  $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$ :  $V_{\text{cmax},25}$  ratios, as 434 illustrated by data from individual plants of Cecropia angustifolia and 435 *Glycydendron amazonicum* where the  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ :  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  ratio was 1.8 (Fig. 1A and 436 Fig. 4). However, some leaves exhibited high  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  but low  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  (Fig. 1B; 437 individual of *Schefflera* sp., where  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ :  $V_{cmax,a}^{25} = 1.1$ ) while other leaves with a 438 similar  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  had markedly higher  $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$  (e.g. the *Citronella incarum* individual 439 in Fig. 1B) leading to a higher  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ :  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  value (2.4). Such variations in  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ 440 and V<sub>cmax,a</sub><sup>25</sup> likely reflect intra- and/or inter-specific variations in relative 441 allocation of N allocation to Rubisco versus electron transport/bioenergetics. 442

443

## 444 Bivariate relationships

445 Across all 18 sites,  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  exhibited positive correlations with soil P, 446 soil N and elevation, and negative correlations with MAT (Table S2); the strength

of these relationships was greater for  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  than  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ . Relationships with 447 MAP were either weak  $(J_{max,a}^{25})$  and not significant  $(V_{cmax,a}^{25})$  (Table S2). Across all 448 sites, variations in  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  and  $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$  were also correlated with leaf chemical 449 composition traits (Table S2), with bivariate relationships being stronger against 450  $P_a (p < 0.01, r^2 = 0.11 \text{ for } V_{cmax,a^{25}}, r^2 = 0.13 \text{ for } J_{max,a^{25}})$  than  $N_a (p < 0.01, r^2 = 0.05 \text{ for } J_{max,a^{25}})$ 451 both  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  and  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25}$ ). Leaf N:P ratios exhibited weak, negative correlations 452 with  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  and  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25}$  (p < 0.01,  $r^2 = 0.08$  for  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$ ,  $r^2 = 0.06$  for  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25}$ ; Table 453 S2). No significant relationship was found between  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $M_{a}$ , whereas the 454  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25} \leftrightarrow M_{\text{a}}$  relationship was significant (p < 0.05,  $r^2 = 0.04$ ; Table S2). 455

When assessed among upland sites, no significant relationships were 456 found between V<sub>cmax,a</sub><sup>25</sup>, M<sub>a</sub>, N<sub>a</sub>, P<sub>a</sub> or N:P ratio (Fig. 5A-D). For lowland sites, 457  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  was positively related with P<sub>a</sub> (*p*=0.013, r<sup>2</sup>= 0.04; Table S3) and N<sub>a</sub> 458  $(p=0.050, r^2=0.02; Table S3)$ , but not leaf N:P ratio or  $M_a$  (Fig 5A-D). The absence 459 of a N:P effect for upland or lowland classes was consistent with SMA analyses 460 comparing the slopes of  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25} \leftrightarrow \text{N}_a$ ,  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25} \leftrightarrow \text{P}_a$  and  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25} \leftrightarrow M_a$  for the 461 lowland class, split according to leaf N:P ratios below and above 20 - this ratio 462 generally being thought to be roughly indicative of the N:P above which 463 physiological processes are more likely to be limited by P as opposed to N (and 464 vice versa) (Güsewell, 2004). No significant difference in slopes of the relationships 465 were found (p>0.05, data not shown). Similar patterns were observed for  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ 466 (Fig. 5E-H), which was positively related with N<sub>a</sub> (p=0.012,  $r^2$ =0.05; Table S3) and 467  $P_a$  (p=0.002, r<sup>2</sup> = 0.08; Table S3) for the lowland class only. 468

Investigating whether variations in photosynthetic N use efficiency were 469 related to  $M_{a_i}$  both across all sites (Table S2) and within each elevation class (Fig. 470 6A), there was no significant  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25} \leftrightarrow M_a$  relationship across all 18 sites (Table 471 S2) or within the upland elevation class (Table S3). Nevertheless, for the lowland 472 class, a weak negative  $V_{\text{cmax,N}}^{25} \leftrightarrow M_a$  relationship was observed (p=0.01; Table S3). 473 On average,  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$  at a given  $M_a$  was higher in upland species than their lowland 474 counterparts. With respect to foliar phosphorus, there was no significant 475 relationship between  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  and leaf P<sub>a</sub> or with leaf N:P when considering the 476

elevation classes separately. This conclusion was held for  $V_{cmax,N}^{25} \leftrightarrow P_a$  when combining upland and lowland data (Table S2). For  $V_{cmax,N}^{25} \leftrightarrow N$ :P, combining upland and lowland data resulted in a weak significant relationship (p < 0.05,  $r^2 =$ 0.02; Table S2); similarly, relationships between  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  and soil P, soil N and elevation were relatively weak (Table S2). Collectively, these results show that the proportion of the variance in  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  accounted for by the above soil and leaf level parameters was negligible.

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## 485 Variation in N-allocation patterns

To further explore what factors might contribute to variations in  $V_{\text{cmax,N}}^{25}$ , we 486 calculated the fraction of leaf N allocated to photosynthesis  $(n_A)$ ;  $n_A$  is dependent 487 on the allocation of leaf N to Rubisco  $(n_R)$ , electron transport  $(n_E)$  and pigment-488 protein complexes ( $n_{\rm P}$ ). Figure 7 shows that mean values of  $n_{\rm A}$  and its underlying 489 components exhibited relatively little variation across sites. Nevertheless, inter-490 specific variations were evident at each site, with  $n_{\rm R}$  varying up to seven-fold at 491 some sites (e.g. CUZ-03; 0.03-0.20; Table S1). A large proportion of N was inferred 492 to be allocated in pigment-protein complexes, with  $n_{\rm P}$  being greater than  $n_{\rm R}$  and 493  $n_{\rm E}$  combined. The overall mean of  $n_{\rm R}$  for the upland class (0.105) was significantly 494 higher than that for the lowland class (0.090; Table 2, p < 0.05). Similarly,  $n_E$  was 495 higher for upland (0.034) than for lowland groups (0.028; Table 2, p < 0.05). There 496 was no difference between the elevation classes in  $n_{\rm P}$ . Overall,  $n_{\rm A}$  was similar in 497 the lowland and upland groupings (37-38%; Table 2). 498

There was considerable variability in  $n_A$  among lowland and upland species 499 (0.1 to 0.6), with significant negative correlations being found with  $M_{a}$ ,  $N_{a}$  and  $P_{a}$ 500 for the lowland group (Fig. 8, Table S5). Similar significant correlations existed for 501 the upland class but with the important caveat that upland species consistently 502 exhibited higher  $n_A$  at a given N<sub>a</sub> and P<sub>a</sub> (Figs. 8 and S2; Table S5). Thus, while 503 mean values of  $n_A$  were similar in upland and lowland species, the fraction of leaf 504 N allocated to photosynthesis was greater in upland plants when comparisons 505 were made at common leaf N<sub>a</sub> and P<sub>a</sub> values. 506

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#### 508 Validation of Rubisco estimates by in vitro assays

We used *in vitro* Rubisco assays on 16 lowland species (Fig. 9A) to quantify  $n_{R_r}$ 509 thus allowing direct comparison of  $n_{\rm R}$  obtained for these in vitro assays with that 510 of the *in vivo* estimates derived from  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$ . Figure 9B shows that there was 511 considerable discrepancy between in vitro and in vivo predicted  $n_{\rm R}$ . If one 512 assumes that the *in vitro* values provide an estimate of potential Rubisco capacity, 513 and that the in vivo values are indicative of the realized maximum rate in intact 514 tissues, then it is possible that the *in vivo* approach underestimates the proportion 515 of N allocated in Rubisco. Reliance on the in vitro values resulted in marked 516 increases in  $n_{\rm R}$  at a given  $M_{\rm a}$ , albeit with the overall pattern of increasing  $n_{\rm R}$  with 517 decreasing  $M_a$  still held (Fig. S3A). Considering the overall N investment pattern 518 in photosynthetic metabolism, adopting in vitro estimates of  $n_{\rm R}$  resulted in 519 marked increases in the total fraction of N allocated to photosynthesis compared 520 to in vivo (Fig. S4). Indeed, in some cases in vitro estimates of N allocation to 521 Rubisco was similar to, or even higher than, N allocation to pigment protein 522 complexes (Fig. S4). Collectively, these results suggest that the answer to the 523 question 'how much leaf N is allocated to photosynthesis' will depend on whether 524 in vivo or in vitro estimates of  $n_{\rm R}$  are used in the underlying calculations. 525

526

# 527 Modelling variations in $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$ , $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$ and $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$

We used linear mixed-effects to model variations in  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ ,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  and  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$ ; 528 the starting model included only continuous terms for leaf traits and 529 environmental variables. Additional details of the model selection procedure are 530 provided in Table S6. When presented with information on soil and leaf P and N 531 as key nutrients driving maximum carboxylation capacity of Rubisco, the final 532 preferred model for  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  (model 6, Table S6) retained P only, suggesting an 533 increase of V<sub>cmax,a</sub><sup>25</sup> as soil and foliar P increase (Table 3). A combination of site-534 level soil P and individual-level foliar P as fixed effects, and family as a random 535 effect, explained 39% of the variation in  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  (Fig. S5). Inclusion of MAT, soil 536

N, leaf  $N_a$ ,  $M_a$  and effective cation exchange capacity of soils as fixed effects did 537 not improve the criteria score (Table S6). The model's variance components, as 538 defined by the random term, indicated that family accounted for only 2.5% of the 539 unexplained variance (i.e. the response variance not accounted for by the fixed 540 terms) (Table 3). Finer phylogenetic detail (genera and species) did not improve 541 the model. A review of diagnostic plots from the final preferred model showed 542 that inclusion of elevation class did not improve model performance, when a 543 range of environmental variables that describe the elevation gradient (e.g. soil P, 544 soil N and MAT) were included. Hence, it was not necessary to include elevation 545 class in the fixed components of the mixed-effects model. 546

Similar to  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ , variations in  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  were largely accounted for by a combination of site-level soil P and individual-level foliar P, with  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  increasing with increasing soil and foliar P (Table 3); the final model explained 44% of the variation in  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  (Fig. S5). The preferred model (determined by assessing the effect of dropping sequentially explanatory variables; Table S6) did not retain soil N, leaf N<sub>a</sub>,  $M_a$  or MAT (Table S6). For the random effects, family contributed 2.8% to the unexplained variance (Table 3).

For  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$  (i.e. photosynthetic N use efficiency), we attempted to 554 construct a model using combinations of soil and leaf P, soil and leaf N, soil ECEC, 555 and climate (MAT). However, in contrast to  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  and  $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$ ,  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$  model 556 performance was not improved via sequential deletion of explanatory terms; thus, 557 the inputted soil, climate and leaf variables did not permit identification of the 558 key factors influencing variation in  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$ . This suggests that other factors, such 559 as how leaf N is allocated and/or whether Rubisco is fully active may have played 560 a role. 561

562

#### 563 **Discussion**

564

#### 565 *Regional and inter-biome context*

Past studies on tropical and non-tropical forests revealed variability in the slope

of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25} \leftrightarrow N_a$  relationships, with lower rates of  $V_{cmax}$  per unit N in nutrient-poor, 567 lowland tropical forests compared to lowland forests on more fertile soils, upland 568 tropical forests and temperate broadleaf forests (Carswell et al., 2000; Domingues 569 et al., 2007; Meir et al., 2007; Kattge et al., 2009; Domingues et al., 2010; Mercado 570 et al., 2011; van de Weg et al., 2012). Moreover, Reich et al. (2009) concluded that 571 the slope of mass-based  $A \leftrightarrow N$  relationships is lower in the tropics than in colder 572 arctic and temperate biomes. Our study supports such studies, with  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$ 573 values for our upland and lowland TMFs (22.5 and 18.9  $\mu$ mol CO<sub>2</sub> g N<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 574 respectively) being markedly lower than reported for temperate broadleaved 575 trees [34 µmol CO<sub>2</sub> g N<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (Kattge *et al.*, 2009)]. 576

How do our results compare with other analyses of photosynthetic 577 capacity in tropical ecosystems? The range of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  (6–96 µmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Table 578 S1) and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  (21–176 µmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Table S1) values from our study were wider 579 than those reported for drier tropical sites in West Africa (Domingues et al., 2010), 580 perhaps reflecting environmental differences, or differences in the number of 581 species sampled (210 here versus 39 in the West African study). For our lowland 582 TMFs (which included three low nutrient status white sand sites in Northern Peru), 583 the overall mean  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  (36±15 µmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) was lower than previously 584 reported tropical values: Carswell *et al.* (2000): 43  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Domingues *et al.* 585 (2007): 53  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Meir *et al.* (2007): 49-68  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; Kattge *et al.* (2009): 586 41  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (non-oxisol); Bloomfield *et al.* (2014a): 63  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; 587 Domingues *et al.* (2015): 39-46  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. By contrast, our mean  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  values 588 were higher than the values for lowland TMFs only growing on nutrient-poor, 589 oxisol [29  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (Kattge *et al.*, 2009)]. Since  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  was tightly correlated 590 with  $V_{\text{cmax},a}^{25}$  (Fig. 4), our estimates of  $J_{\text{max},a}^{25}$  for lowland TMFs were also lower 591 than those reported in above-mentioned studies. Rates of  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  at our upland 592 sites (49±20  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) were similar to those reported by van de Weg *et al.* 593 (2012): 56  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> for the same Andean region, and fell mid-range of values 594 reported in Dusenge et al. (2015) and Vårhammar et al. (2015) for high elevation 595 tropical trees of Rwanda. 596

Taken together, our results support the hypothesis that both  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and photosynthetic N efficiency are lower in lowland TMFs than in temperate broadleaved forests. In addition, each parameter is highly variable, both among co-existing tropical species growing at individual sites and between environmentally-contrasting sites.

602

## 603 Phosphorus – does it modulate photosynthetic capacity and/or N-use efficiency?

Our site selection aimed to assess the potential role of phosphorus-limitation on 604 photosynthetic performance across TMFs in western Amazonia and the Andes 605 where substantial variations in soil P occur (lowland sites: 38-727 mg P kg<sup>-1</sup>; 606 upland sites: 496-1631 mg P kg<sup>-1</sup>). Low P availability can limit rates of 607 photosynthesis via reduced maximal rates of RuBP regeneration (i.e. J<sub>max</sub>), with 608 maximal Rubisco activity (i.e. V<sub>cmax</sub>) also often being reduced (Brooks, 1986; 609 Jacobs & Lawlor, 1992; Loustau et al., 1999). While the mechanisms responsible 610 for reduced  $V_{cmax}$  remain uncertain, possible factors include the need to maintain 611 co-limitation by RuBP regeneration and carboxylation, as well as feedback 612 inhibition on Rubisco resulting from inability to export triose phosphates to the 613 614 cytosol (Wullschleger, 1993; Walker et al., 2014).

The hypothesis that photosynthetic capacity would be positively correlated 615 with soil [P] and leaf P<sub>a</sub> was supported by our results – a finding consistent with 616 earlier studies on tropical species in South America, West Africa and Australia 617 (Domingues et al., 2007; Meir et al., 2007; Kattge et al., 2009; Domingues et al., 618 2010; Bloomfield et al., 2014b). Among lowland sites alone, and the combination 619 of lowland and upland sites together, significant positive relationships were 620 observed between photosynthetic capacity (expressed either as  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  or  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ ) 621 and foliar P<sub>a</sub>, and against soil [P] (Tables S2, S3). Across all 18 TMF sites, V<sub>cmax,a</sub><sup>25</sup> 622 and J<sub>max,a</sub><sup>25</sup> also exhibited significant negative relationships with leaf N:P (Table 623 S2). Moreover, foliar P<sub>a</sub> and soil [P] emerged as significant explanatory variables 624 in linear mixed-effect models of variations in photosynthetic capacity (Table 3), 625 accounting for ~40% of the observed variations in  $V_{\text{cmax,a}}^{25}$  and  $J_{\text{max,a}}^{25}$ . The 626

absence of mean annual temperature (MAT) in the preferred models suggest that,
while growth temperature can affect photosynthetic capacity (Hikosaka *et al.*,
2006; Sage & Kubien, 2007) and patterns of N investment, knowledge of growth
temperature along the western Amazon-Andes elevation gradient is not required
when data on leaf and soil P is available.

Past studies reported that P-deficiencies also reduce photosynthetic N use 632 efficiency (Reich et al., 2009) and the fraction of leaf N allocated to photosynthesis 633 (Warren & Adams, 2002). While average values V<sub>cmax,N</sub> and foliar [P] were highest 634 in our upland trees, no significant  $V_{cmax,N} \leftrightarrow P_a$  relationships were observed, either 635 across all sites or within each elevation class. Furthermore, we could not identify 636 key factors explaining variation in  $V_{\text{cmax},N}$  using linear mixed-effects models; this 637 included models that contained data on soil and foliar [P]. While this does not 638 preclude a role for deficiencies in cytosolic [P] in regulating in vivo values of 639  $V_{\text{cmax},N}$ , it seems unlikely that either soil or total leaf [P] can be used a predictor of 640 variations in *in vivo* Rubisco capacity per unit leaf N. 641

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#### 643 Activation state of Rubisco

644 In vitro quantification in several lowland TMF species revealed that Rubisco content inferred from CO<sub>2</sub> response curves may have substantially 645 underestimated absolute levels of this key protein (Fig. 9). When estimating 646 Rubisco abundance from  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves, Rubisco is assumed to be fully activated – 647 however, there is growing evidence that Rubisco often operates at less than 648 maximum activity or is in excess of CO<sub>2</sub> fixation requirements (Stitt & Schulze, 649 1994; Warren et al., 2000). Partial activation could be linked to limitations in sink 650 demand for carbohydrates and/or co-limitation by other rock-derived nutrients 651 such as calcium [e.g. Asner et al. (2014b)]. Inactive Rubisco might serve as a 652 temporary N store - as such, Rubisco can act as both a metabolic and non-653 metabolic protein (Stitt & Schulze, 1994; Warren et al., 2000). Viewed from this 654 perspective, in vivo estimates of  $V_{\rm cmax}$  provide insights into N investment into the 655 metabolically active Rubisco, relevant when modelling gross primary productivity 656

of TMF ecosystems. However, if the objective is to assess how plants differ in N investment in both active and inactive forms of Rubisco, then  $n_{\rm R}$  estimated from other approaches, such as Western blots (or similar quantitative techniques) might be required.

As noted earlier, the observed values of  $V_{\text{cmax},N}^{25}$  were lower than that of 661 trees growing in temperate environments (Kattge et al., 2009). Similarly, when 662 compared at any given  $M_{a_i}$  in vivo estimates of  $n_R$  (i.e. fraction of leaf N allocated 663 to Rubisco estimated from gas exchange) were, on average, lower in our TMF 664 trees compared to the global average (Hikosaka, 2004; Wright et al., 2004) (Fig. 665 S3). By contrast, *in vitro* estimates of  $n_{\rm R}$  (i.e.  $n_{\rm R}$  estimated from Western blots) were 666 often higher than the global average (Fig. S3). This finding raises the possibility 667 that the efficiency of N investment in Rubisco may not necessarily be lower in 668 TMFs; rather, it may be that the activation state is lower in tropical forests 669 compared with their temperate counterparts. Further work is needed to explore 670 this question; additional work is also needed to determine what role, if any, 671 limitations in mesophyll conductance  $(q_m)$  have on estimates of  $V_{cmax}$  and the 672 associated values of  $n_{\rm R}$ . 673

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#### 675 Additional factors influencing V<sub>cmax</sub> estimates

In our study, we have so far estimated in vivo rates of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  assuming a 676 common, single set of kinetic constants ( $K_c$  and  $K_o$ ) for Rubisco (von Caemmerer 677 et al., 1994) and associated activation energies (E<sub>a</sub>) (Farguhar et al., 1980), as well 678 as infinite  $q_{\rm m}$ . Such assumptions were made necessary in the absence of  $K_{\rm c}$ ,  $K_{\rm o}$ ,  $E_{\rm a}$ 679 and  $g_m$  values for tropical species. Application of different  $K_c$  and  $K_o$  values, such 680 as those reported by Bernacchi et al. (2002), would alter estimates of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  for 681 all trees but would not alter relative differences among sites or elevational classes. 682 By contrast, application of Bernacchi et al. (2002) Ea values for Kc and Ko (80.99 683 and 23.72 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively), and  $V_{\rm cmax}$  (65.3 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) could potentially relative 684 differences in  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  between upland and lowland trees, depending on the 685 extent to which leaf temperatures differed among the sites. Similarly, replacement 686

of the Farquhar et al. (1980)  $E_a$  values of  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  (of 64.8 and 37.0 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, 687 respectively) with those of Bernacchi et al. (2002) (65.3 and 43.9 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, 688 respectively) could alter the relative differences in  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  between 689 upland and lowland sites. To check whether application of alternative  $E_a$  values 690 change our conclusions regarding site-to-site differences, we calculated  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ 691 and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  using the respective activation energies of Farquhar *et al.* (1980) and 692 Bernacchi et al. (2002). Use of the Bernacchi et al. (2002) E<sub>a</sub> values resulted in an 693 average 10.6% increase in estimates of V<sub>cmax25</sub> for lowland trees (Table S7), 694 reflecting the fact that lowland leaf temperatures were near 30°C (Table S4). 695 Upland estimates were less affected (3.5% increase; Table S7) as the average leaf 696 temperature of upland group was 25.7°C (Table S4). Despite the increased 697 estimates of  $V_{cmax25}$  for lowland trees when using  $E_a$  values from Bernacchi et al. 698 (2002), there remained a significant difference between lowland and upland mean 699  $V_{cmax25}$  values (Table S7); the same was true for  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  (Table S7). As a result, 700 relationships between photosynthetic properties and site MAT and soil P were 701 similar when using Farquhar et al. (1980) and Bernacchi et al. (2002) E<sub>a</sub> values (Fig. 702 S1). Thus, irrespective of which  $E_a$  values are used [see Medlyn *et al.* (2002) for 703 further discussion the temperature dependence of these constants], we are 704 confident that mean values of  $V_{cmax25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  are indeed higher in the 705 upland plants growing in the Peruvian Andes. 706

What impact might systematic differences in  $q_m$  between upland and 707 lowland TMFs have on our results? If  $q_m$  was finite, but similar in upland and 708 lowland TMF environments, then our conclusion that  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  is higher in upland 709 species would hold (albeit with modified values). However, if  $q_m$  was more limiting 710 in lowland TMF trees than their upland counterparts, then calculation of  $V_{\rm cmax}$ 711 using  $A-C_c$  curves might fail to differentiate between the upland and lowland 712 groups. A definitive assessment of this issue will require further work assessing 713  $q_{\rm m}$  in tropical trees (e.g. using concurrent measurements of leaf as exchange and 714 carbon isotope discrimination or chlorophyll fluorescence). Although  $q_m$  tends to 715 decrease with increasing  $M_a$  (Flexas *et al.*, 2008), the  $M_a$  difference between 716

717 lowland and upland groups was small (Table 1). Given the potential for large variations in  $g_m$  among species (at a given  $M_a$ ), it is unlikely that  $g_m$  would have 718 been higher in the selected lowland TMF trees. Irrespective of the effect of 719 elevation on  $q_{m}$ , rates of  $A_{40,a}$  and  $A_{200,a}$  (measured at prevailing leaf Ts) were 720 surprisingly high in plants at the cooler, high elevation sites (Table S4). Given this 721 and our extensive sample size, we feel confident that photosynthetic capacity at 722 a standardised T is likely larger in trees growing at high elevations in the Andes 723 compared to those in the lowland regions of Amazonia, as proposed by van de 724 Weg et al. (2012; 2014). Enhanced photosynthetic capacity at high altitude could 725 help negate the inhibitory effects of low T on leaf-level CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, with the result 726 that gross primary productivity (GPP) would not decline with increasing elevation 727 as much as expected. 728

Recent modelling of C-exchange processes at a high elevation TMF site 729 (3025 m a.s.l.) in Peru suggested that gross primary productivity (GPP) may be 20-730 40% lower compared to lowland TMFs (Girardin et al., 2014a; van de Weg et al., 731 2014); low T appeared to be most important factor limiting GPP at high elevations 732 (van de Weg et al., 2014). Our results suggest that the inhibitory effect of low T 733 734 on GPP of upland TMFs would be greater if photosynthetic capacity remained constant across the elevation gradient. Thus, the greater photosynthetic capacity 735 of upland TMFs might contribute to GPP being relatively homeostatic across the 736 Peruvian Amazon-Andes elevation gradient. Further work is needed to explore 737 how elevation-dependent variations in photosynthetic capacity impact on current 738 and future net primary productivity (NPP) of TMFs, when taking into account 739 other NPP components (e.g. leaf area index, biomass allocation, litter fall, 740 autotrophic respiration). 741

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# 743 Concluding statements

Our findings reveal greater photosynthetic capacity in Andean forest leaves compared to lowland western Amazonian leaves, underpinned by greater concentrations of leaf N and N-use efficiency per unit leaf area (Table 2, Fig. 8).

Our data also support the hypothesis that variations in leaf and soil P play key 747 role in modulating photosynthetic capacity of TMFs (Fig. 5, Table 3 and S2), with 748 the mixed-effects models (Table 3) providing the modelling community with 749 predictive equations that will enable model parameterization based arguably the 750 largest single tropical  $V_{cmax}$  datasets available. Finally, our analyses indicate that 751 a substantial fraction of Rubisco is inactive in trees growing in the Peruvian 752 Amazon and suggest that a greater fraction of leaf N may well be invested in 753 photosynthetic machinery than indicated by leaf gas exchange measurements. 754

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# 756 Acknowledgements

We thank R. Tupayachi, N. Jaramillo, F. Sinca, L. Carranza-Jimenez and the 757 Spectranomics team for field and laboratory assistance. Measurements were 758 made in plots inventoried and maintained by RAINFOR (www.rainfor.org) 759 investigators from Peru. Access to the field sites was also facilitated by Gordon 760 and Betty Moore Foundation grants (to O.P., Y.M., J.L., and G.A.). Foliar sampling, 761 taxonomic determinations, and chemical analyses were supported by a grant 762 from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to the Carnegie Institution for 763 Science. This work was also funded by grants/fellowships from the Australian 764 Research Council (DP0986823, DP130101252, CE140100008 and FT0991448 to 765 O.K.A.; and, FT110100457 to P.M.), and NERC grants (NE/C51621X/1 and 766 NE/F002149/1 to P.M.). R.G. was supported by a Newton International Fellowship 767 (funded by the Royal Society, the British Academy and the Royal Academy of 768 Engineering). NHAB is funded by Malaysian government postgraduate 769 770 scholarship.

# 772 Author Contributions

- O.K.A., J.L., P.M., Y.M., O.L.P., G.P.A., R.E.M., F.Y.I., L.K.W., R.G., O.S.O., N.H.A.B., J.R.E. and
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  I.C.T., R.B.L., Y.P.T., J.H.O. and O.K.A conducted fieldwork and/or analysed field-based
  data. N.H.A.B., F.Y.I., G.P.A., R.E.M., B.M.L. and J.R.E. performed laboratory experiments
  and analysed chemical/biochemical data. N.H.A.B., O.K.A., K.J.B., J.L., O.L.P., P.M., G.P.A.,
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- 780

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1032	Supporting Information
1033	Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article.
1034	
1035	SM1: Additional study site details
1036	SM2: Identification of outliers and $A \leftrightarrow C_i$ curve methodological details
1037	SM3: Optimization of protocols for protein extraction from the leaves of recalcitrant tree
1038	species
1039	
1040	Table S1. Summary of species sampled at each site and their parameters
1041	Table S2. Pearson correlations for bivariate relationships among leaf traits and
1042	environmental parameters
1043	Table S3. Standardized major axis regression slopes for relationships in Figs 2, 4, 5 & 6
1044	Table S4. Means $\pm$ standard deviation of leaf physiology and chemistry, expressed on
1045	area basis for each site
1046	Table S5. Standardized major axis regression slopes for relationships in Figs 8 & S2
1047	Table S6: Stepwise selection process for the fixed component of the linear mixed effect
1048	model to determine the best predictive model given in Table 3
1049	
1050	Figure S1. Plots of photosynthetic parameters against mean annual temperature and
1051	soil [P] for each site
1052	Figure S2. Plots of % $n_{\rm P}$ , % $n_{\rm R}$ , and % $n_{\rm E}$ , in relation to $M_{\rm a}$ , N <sub>a</sub> , and P <sub>a</sub>
1053	Figure S3. Plots of fraction of leaf N allocated in Rubisco, $n_R$ in relation to leaf mass per
1054	unit leaf area, <i>M</i> <sub>a</sub>
1055	Figure S4. Stacked graph show $n_{\rm E}$ , $n_{\rm P}$ and $n_{\rm R}$ ( <i>in vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> ) for individual leaves
1056	Figure S5. Plots for linear mixed-effects model goodness of fits, including fixed and
1057	random terms for $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ and $J_{max,a}^{25}$
1058	Figure S6: Comparison of $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ in upland and lowland plants calculated using

1059 different activation energies

#### Table 1: Description of the sampled Peruvian field sites.

Category	Site Code	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m a.s.l.)		MAT (°C)	MAP (m)	Atm. Pressure (kPa)	Soil classification	Total soil		Leaf chemistry				
										[N] (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	[P] (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	Leaf N <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf Pa (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf N:P	<i>M</i> a (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	
Lowland	SUC-05	-3.2558	-72.8942	132	20	26.2	2.75	100	Alisols	1.9	276	1.94 ± 0.61	0.06 ± 0.04	30.1 ± 7.03	129 ± 31	
LOWIATIU	TAM-05	-12.8309	-69.2705	223	20 8	20.2	1.90	99	Cambisols	1.9	256	$1.94 \pm 0.01$ 2.14 ± 0.27	$0.08 \pm 0.04$ $0.08 \pm 0.02$	28.6 ± 9.49	$129 \pm 31$ 119 ± 27	
	JEN-11	-4.8781	-73.6295	131	18	26.6	2.70	100	Acrisols	1.8	141	2.12 ± 0.52	0.06 ± 0.02	27.9 ± 10.4	144 ± 37	
	ALP-01	-3.9500	-73.4333	120	18	25.2	2.69	100	Gleysols	0.6	110	$1.90 \pm 0.40$	0.08 ± 0.03	26.2 ± 8.62	119 ± 24	
	SUC-01	-3.2519	-72.9078	117	17	26.2	2.75	100	Plinthosols	1.7	305	$1.81 \pm 0.63$	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	22.1 ± 4.99	123 ± 27	
	JEN-12	-4.8990	-73.6276	135	19	26.6	2.70	100	Podzols	6.9	133	1.97 ± 0.52	0.09 ± 0.05	21.9 ± 10.42	156 ± 31	
	ALP-30	-3.9543	-73.4267	150	21	25.2	2.69	100	Arenosols	0.8	38	$1.67 \pm 0.47$	0.09 ± 0.04	20.8 ± 6.85	145 ± 46	
	CUZ-03	-12.5344	-69.0539	205	12	24.4	1.90	99	Cambisols	2.4	727	$1.88 \pm 0.47$	$0.10 \pm 0.04$	17.2 ± 5.97	109 ± 18	
	ALP-40	-3.9410	-73.4400	142	12	26.3	2.76	100	Podzols	2.1	59	$1.84 \pm 0.36$	0.10 ± 0.02	16.8 ± 5.00	171 ± 50	
	TAM-09	-12.8309	-69.2843	219	13	24.4	1.90	99	Alisols	1.1	326	2.19 ± 0.45	0.14 ± 0.03	16.4 ± 3.77	105 ± 21	
	TAM-06	-12.8385	-69.2960	215	13	24.4	1.90	99	Alisols	1.7	529	$2.56 \pm 0.34$	$0.17 \pm 0.04$	15.3 ± 2.84	126 ± 26	
Upland	SPD-02	-13.0491	-71.5365	1527	19	18.8	5.30	83	Cambisols	8.8	1631	2.23 ± 0.45	0.16 ± 0.05	15.4 ± 4.05	126 ± 36	
	SPD-01	-13.0475	-71.5423	1776	21	17.4	5.30	85	Cambisols	11.9	1071	2.25 ± 0.35	$0.16 \pm 0.04$	14.3 ± 3.34	124 ± 29	
	TRU-08	-13.0702	-71.5559	1885	20	18.0	2.47	82	Cambisols	8.1	496	1.99 ± 0.36	0.12 ± 0.05	16.9 ± 3.54	165 ± 38	
	ESP-01	-13.1751	-71.5948	2863	17	13.1	1.56	72	Umbrisols	14.8	981	2.39 ± 0.50	0.19 ± 0.05	12.7 ± 1.78	140 ± 32	
	TRU-03	-13.1097	-71.5995	3044	13	11.8	1.78	71	Umbrisols	15.5	787	$2.24 \pm 0.44$	$0.21 \pm 0.04$	$10.5 \pm 2.35$	$164 \pm 40$	
	WAQ-01	-13.1908	-71.5874	3045	13	11.8	1.56	72	Umbrisols	8.8	1414	$2.68 \pm 0.42$	$0.24 \pm 0.05$	$11.5 \pm 2.16$	$149 \pm 46$	
	TRU-01	-13.1308	-71.6069	3379	16	8.0	1.98	67	Umbrisols	15.0	856	$2.53 \pm 0.31$	$0.24 \pm 0.03$ $0.21 \pm 0.04$	$11.3 \pm 2.10$ $11.2 \pm 3.10$	$149 \pm 40$ 151 ± 49	

Lowland sites are listed in order of decreasing leaf N:P ratios, while upland sites are listed in order of increasing elevation. Extremely low soil P did not necessarily produce low leaf P as in the case of ALP-03 and ALP-04, therefore lowland sites were ranked according to leaf N to P ratio which provides better indication of nutrient limitation (Aerts & Chapin, 2000). Atmospheric pressure was obtained from a Licor 6400 gas exchange system. For each site name, a site code is shown as designated by the JACARE (the Joint Amazon Carnegie RAINFOR Expedition); values of total soil nitrogen and phosphorus are shown (expressed per unit soil dry mass). Also shown are average leaf area-based concentrations of total nitrogen (N<sub>a</sub>) and phosphorus (P<sub>a</sub>), as well as the ratio of leaf N:P and leaf mass per unit area,  $M_{a}$ , all shown with SD. Soil classification follows World Reference Base (WRB). Abbreviations: MAP = mean annual precipitation, MAT = mean annual temperature. Source Asner *et al.* (2014a), Quesada (*et al.* 2010; pers. comm. 2014) and Malhi *et al.* (in preparation)

Table 2: Mean values and standard deviation of leaf traits for upland and lowland species.

Leaf Traits	Leaf N <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf P <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf N:P	M <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	A <sub>400,a</sub> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	A400,N (μmol gN <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> :V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup>	V <sub>cmax</sub> N <sup>25</sup> (μmol gN <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	n <sub>A</sub>	n <sub>P</sub>	n <sub>R</sub>	n <sub>E</sub>
Lowland species	1.96 ± 0.52 <sup>a</sup>	$0.09 \pm 0.05^{a}$	$22.2 \pm 8.6^{a}$	$132 \pm 35^{a}$	$8.2 \pm 3.9^{a}$	$4.3 \pm 2.2^{a}$	$35.9 \pm 14.6^{\mathrm{a}}$	66.7 ± 18.6 <sup>a</sup>	$1.86 \pm 0.40^{a}$	$18.9 \pm 8.1^{a}$	37 ± 1ª	24 ± 1ª	$9.0 \pm 4.0^{a}$	2.8 ± 1.0 <sup>a</sup>
Upland species	$2.31 \pm 0.44^{b}$	$0.18 \pm 0.06^{b}$	$13.5 \pm 3.6^{b}$	143 ± 39 <sup>b</sup>	$7.6 \pm 3.6^{a}$	$3.4 \pm 1.7^{b}$	$48.8 \pm 20.0^{b}$	$96.9 \pm 36.9^{b}$	$1.92 \pm 0.36^{a}$	$22.5 \pm 9.4^{b}$	38 ± 1 <sup>a</sup>	22 ±1 <sup>a</sup>	$10.5 \pm 4.3^{b}$	3.4± 1.4 <sup>b</sup>

Values expressed on area basis. Abbreviation: leaf N<sub>a</sub> = leaf nitrogen, leaf P<sub>a</sub> = leaf phosphorus, leaf N:P = leaf nitrogen to phosphorus ratio,  $M_a$  = leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $A_{400,a}$  = area-based light-saturated net photosynthesis measured at 400 µmol mol<sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>],  $A_{400,N}$  = area-based light-saturated net photosynthesis measured at 400 µmol mol<sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>] per unit leaf nitrogen,  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  = maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  = maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum Rubisco carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $P_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $P_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $P_{cmax,N}^{25}$  = ratio of leaf N allocated in photosynthetic metabolism,  $n_P$  = fraction of leaf N in pigment-protein complexes,  $n_R$  = fraction of leaf N in Rubisco, and  $n_E$  = fraction of leaf N in electron transport. Values are overall mean ± SD of leaf traits for lowland and upland sites. Significantly different means are indicated by different letters (p < 0.05).

Table 3: Output from linear mixed-effects models, with  $V_{cmax/a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max/a}^{25}$  as the response variables, each showing fixed and random effects.

	Final model (V <sub>c</sub>	max, a <sup>25</sup> )		Final model ( <b>J</b> <sub>maxra</sub> <sup>25</sup> )							
Fixed effect	Fixed effect Estimate		t value	Fixed effe	ect Estimate	S.E	t value				
Intercept	41.470	1.578	26.288	Intercept	77.217	2.712	28.477				
log10 (Soil P)	7.909	2.466	3.207	log10 (So	il P) 16.866	4.327	3.898				
Pa	68.148	22.558	3.021	Pa	94.483	40.245	2.348				
Random effect		Variance	% of total	Random	effect	Variance	% of tota				
Intercept varia	nce: family	45.568	2.49%	Intercept	variance: family	121.3	2.79%				
Residual error	(within family)	1783.626	97.51%	Residual	error (within family)	4232.9	97.21%				
			100.00%				100.00%				
AIC 16	45.6			AIC	1342.4						
BIC 16	62.0			BIC	1357.3						
-2LL -8	17.8			-2LL	-666.2						

 $V_{\text{cmax}a}^{25}$ = 41.47 + (7.91\*log10[SoilP]) + (68.15\*P<sub>a</sub>)

J<sub>max,a</sub><sup>25</sup> = 77.22 + (16.87\*log10[SoilP]) + (94.48\*P<sub>a</sub>)

Predictive equations for  $V_{cmaxa}^{25}$  and  $J_{maxa}^{25}$  based on final preferred models are shown at the bottom. For the  $V_{cmaxa}^{25}$  and  $J_{maxa}^{25}$  model, the fixed component explanatory variables were soil P and leaf P. Parameter estimate, standard error (S.E.) and t-values are given for the explanatory variables. The best predictive models were selected based on a stepwise selection process outlined in Table S6. Prior to inclusion in the models, continuous explanatory variables were centred on the population mean.

#### **Figure Legends**

Figure 1: Fitted curves of the response of CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rate, *A* (area-based) to intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> (*C<sub>i</sub>*) at saturating light for (A) a lowland species *Glycydendron amazonicum* (TAM-09) and an upland species *Cecropia angustifolia* (SPD-01) and (B) two upland species *Citronella incarum* (TRU-03) and *Schefflera* sp. (WAQ-01). Closed circles are the measured rates of assimilation, *A*. Solid lines correspond to fitted response and dashed lines correspond to estimated response at high *C<sub>i</sub>*. *V<sub>cmax</sub>* (maximum Rubisco carboxylation capacity) was calculated from the curvature of dashed line and *J<sub>max</sub>* (maximum electron transport rate) were calculated from the points where *A* saturated. Individual leaf was measured at varying temperature close to growth temperature, therefore *V<sub>cmax</sub>* and *J<sub>max</sub>* were then normalised to 25°C. CO<sub>2</sub> was not always saturating for most upland measurement due to low partial pressure and/or phosphate limitation.

Figure 2: Log-log plots of (A) leaf N-area, N<sub>a</sub> and (B) leaf P-area, P<sub>a</sub> in relation to leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $M_{a}$ . Data points represent individual leaf values (149 lowland species and 97 upland species). Standardized major axis (SMA) tests for common slopes revealed significant differences when comparing N<sub>a</sub> $\leftrightarrow$  $M_a$  and P<sub>a</sub> $\leftrightarrow$  $M_a$ relationship between lowland and upland species. Symbols: closed symbols, lowland species; open symbols, upland species. SMA regressions: solid line, lowland species; dashed line, upland species. SMA regressions are given only when the relationships are significant (p<0.05), refer to Table S3.

Figure 3: Box and whisker plots of (A) maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax/a}^{25}$ , (B) maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max/a}^{25}$ , (C)  $J_{max,25}$ :  $V_{cmax,25}$  ratio, and (D) ratio of  $V_{cmax/a}^{25}$  over leaf N,  $V_{cmax/N}^{25}$  for each site. Values expressed on area basis. Sites are arranged according to decreasing leaf N:P for lowland and increasing elevation for upland sites. The upper and the lower edges of each box indicate the 75th and 25th percentiles, respectively. The horizontal line within each box is the median and the vertical bars indicate the 10th to the 90th percentile ranges.

Figure 4: Plot of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C ( $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ ) against maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C ( $J_{max,a}^{25}$ ). Data points represent individual leaf values (138 lowland species and 69 upland species). Arrows correspond to the four species depicted in the  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves. Symbols: closed symbols, lowland species; open symbols, upland species.

Figure 5: Top panel shows log-log plots of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C ( $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ ) in relation to (A) leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $M_{a}$ , (B) leaf N-area,  $N_{a}$ , (C) leaf P-area,  $P_{a}$  and (D) leaf N:P. Data points represent individual leaf values (150 lowland species and 95 upland species). SMA tests for common slopes revealed significant difference when comparing  $V_{cmax,a}^{25} \leftrightarrow N_{a}$ ,

 $V_{cmax,a}^{25} \leftrightarrow P_a$  and  $V_{cmax,a}^{25} \leftrightarrow leaf$  N:P relationships between lowland and upland species, but no significant difference when comparing slopes of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25} \leftrightarrow M_a$  relationships between lowland and upland species. Bottom panel shows log-log plots of maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C ( $J_{max,a}^{25}$ ) in relation to (E) leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $M_a$ , (F) leaf N-area, N<sub>a</sub>, (G) leaf P-area, P<sub>a</sub> and (H) leaf N:P. Data points represent individual leaf values (127 lowland species and 58 upland species). SMA tests for common slopes revealed significant difference when comparing  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  and leaf traits relationships between lowland and upland species. Symbols: closed symbols, lowland species; open symbols, upland species. SMA regressions are given only when the relationships are significant (p < 0.05), refer to Table S3.

Figure 6: Log-log plots of ratio of  $V_{cmax,ra}^{25}$  to leaf N ( $V_{cmax,rN}^{25}$ ) in relation to (A) leaf mass per unit leaf area, M<sub>a</sub>, (B) leaf P-area, P<sub>a</sub> and (C) leaf N:P. Data points represent individual leaf values (150 lowland species and 95 upland species). SMA tests for common slopes revealed significant difference only when comparing  $V_{cmax,N}^{25} \leftrightarrow P_a$  between lowland and upland species. Symbols: closed symbols, lowland species; open symbols, upland species. SMA regressions are given only when the relationships are significant (p < 0.05), refer to Table S3.

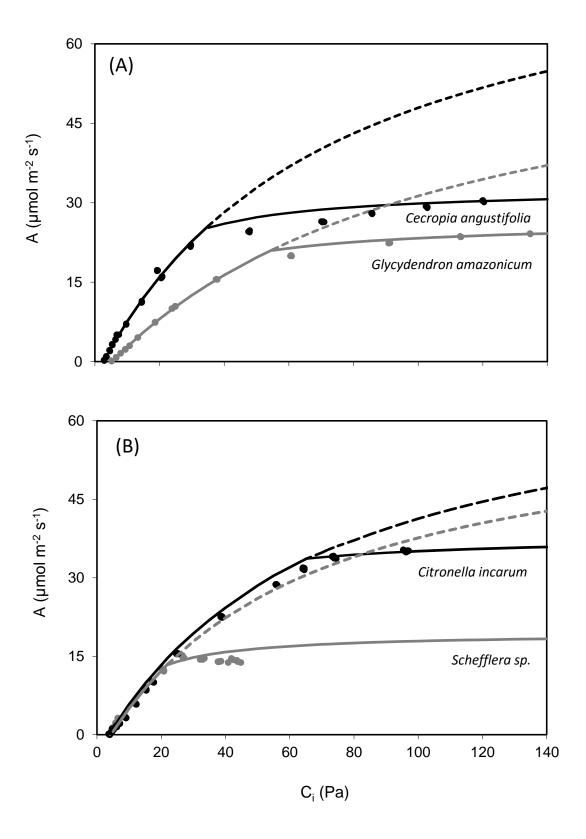
Figure 7: Stacked graph show fraction of leaf N in pigment-protein complexes,  $n_{\rm P}$ ; fraction of leaf N in electron transport,  $n_{\rm E}$ ; fraction of leaf N in Rubisco;  $n_{\rm R}$ , for each sites.  $n_{\rm R}$  was estimated from maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco (normalised to 25°C),  $V_{\rm cmax,a}^{25}$ ,  $n_{\rm E}$  estimated from maximum electron transport rate (normalised to 25°C),  $J_{\rm max,a}^{25}$ , and  $n_{\rm P}$  estimated from chlorophyll concentration.  $n_{\rm P}$  were unavailable for five sites due to thawing of leaf samples. Sites are arranged according to decreasing leaf N:P for lowland and increasing elevation for upland sites. Error bar represent standard error of mean.

Figure 8: Log-log plots of the total fraction of leaf N allocated in photosynthetic metabolism,  $n_A$  in relation to (A) leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $M_a$ , (B) leaf N-area,  $N_a$ , and (C) leaf P-area,  $P_a$ . Data points represent individual leaf values (126 lowland species and 40 upland species). SMA tests for common slopes revealed no significant difference when comparing relationships between lowland and upland species, but with the elevation (i.e. y-axis intercept) of the bivariate relationship being higher in upland species than in lowland species. Symbols: closed symbols, lowland species; open symbols, upland species. SMA regressions: solid line, lowland species; dashed line, upland species. SMA regressions are given only when the relationships are significant (p<0.05), refer to Table S5.

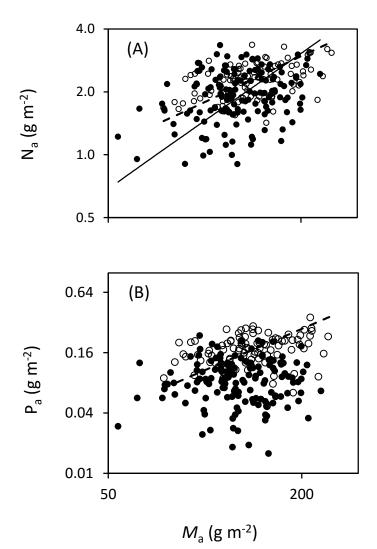
Figure 9 (A): SDS-PAGE profile of native Rubisco extracted from frozen fresh leaf discs. Individual bands show large subunits of Rubisco. The last five bands on the right side (A-E) correspond to 0.47, 0.54, 0.57, 0.78 and 1.21 g m<sup>-2</sup> of Rubisco of lowland species (*Licania unguiculata* from *Chrysobalanaceae* family), which then translate to  $n_{\rm R}$ 

of 0.03, 0.04, 0.04, 0.06, 0.09. In this case, the final value of *in vitro*  $n_{\rm R}$  for *L. unguiculata* was 0.04, as calculated from A - C, since these values fall within the tobacco standard curve. Standard curve was made of a dilution series of tobacco Rubisco. Figure 8 (B): *in vitro*  $n_{\rm R}$  estimated from Rubisco western blot assay plotted against *in vivo*  $n_{\rm R}$  derived from maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco (normalised to 25°C),  $V_{\rm cmax,a}^{25}$ . n=16

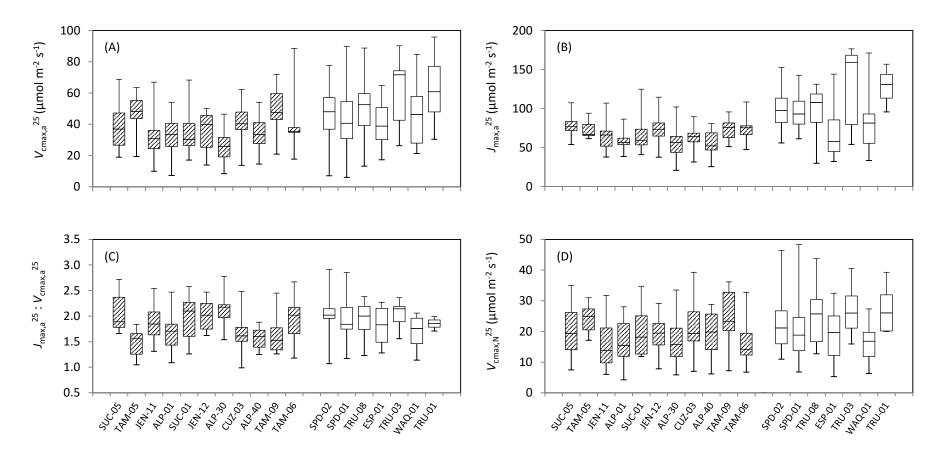




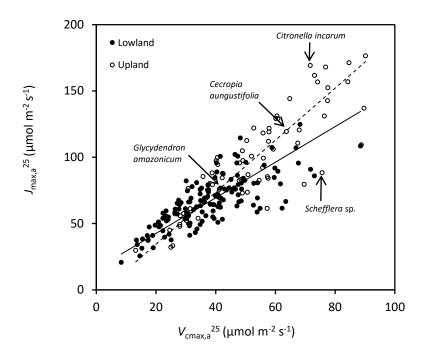




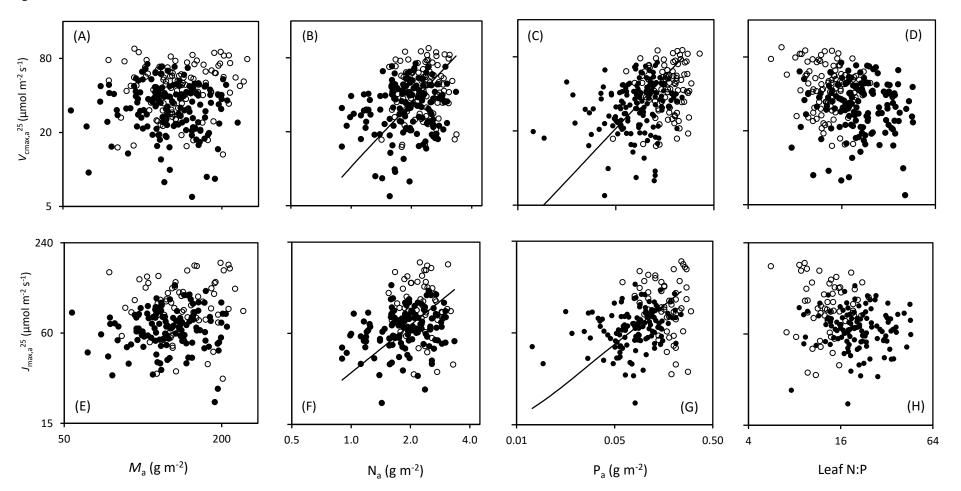




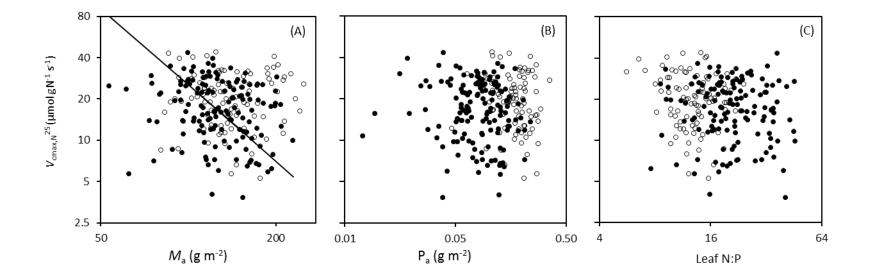




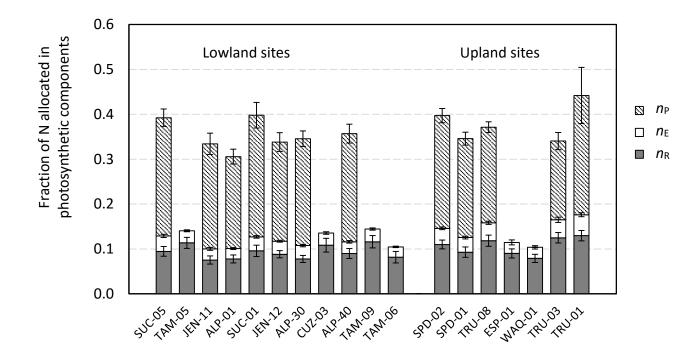




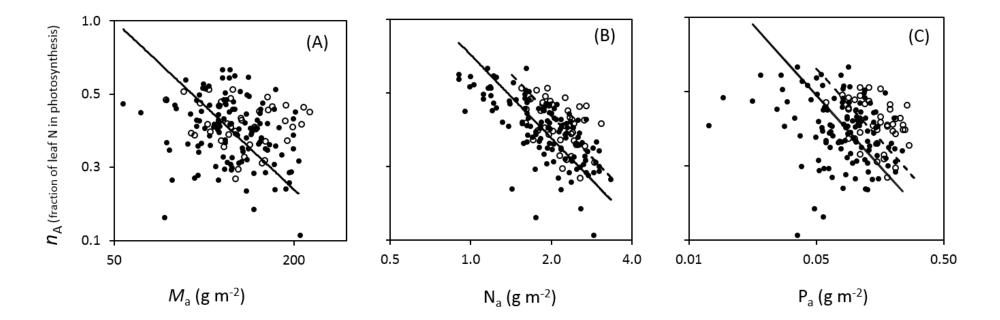




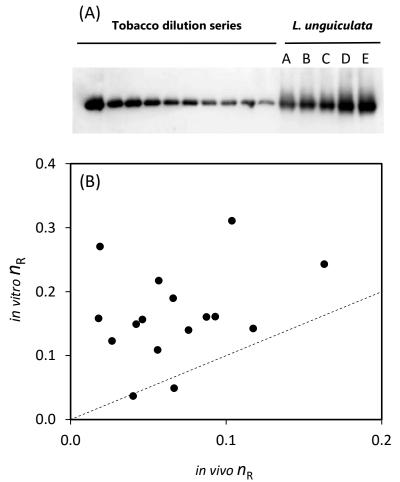








### Figure 9:



#### **Supporting Information**

Authors: Bahar, Ishida, Weerasinghe *et al.* Title: Leaf-level photosynthetic capacity in lowland Amazonian and high-elevation, Andean tropical moist forests of Peru

#### SM1: Additional study site details

Four of the lowland sites (TAM-09, TAM-06, TAM-05 and CUZ-03) were located in the Tambopata watersheds of SE Peru, while seven additional lowland sites (ALP-01, ALP-30, ALP-40, JEN-11, JEN-12, SUC-01, and SUC-05) were located in the Ucayali watershed in NE Peru. Seven upland sites (SPD-01, SPD-02, ESP-01, WAQ-01, TRU-01, TRU-03, and TRU-08) were distributed along SE slopes of the Andes in the Kosñipata valley. The 18 plots used in this study are part of the ABERG Kosñipata study transect (www.andesconservation.org/), Amazon Forest Inventory Network (RAINFOR; http://www.rainfor.org/) and the Carnegie Spectranomics Project (http://spectranomics.ciw.edu/). The lowland sites lie on a mosaic of young to old soil substrates, whereas upland forests exist primarily on young geologic substrates (van de Weg et al., 2009; Quesada et al., 2010; Fisher et al., 2013). Data on soil type, as well as total N and P concentrations in soils, were obtained from Dr Carlos Alberto Quesada (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia), using a combination of unpublished and published (Quesada et al., 2010) data. For each tree, voucher specimens were collected and matched to herbarium collections at the National Agrarian University La Molina Herbarium in Peru and the Missouri Botanical Garden for full taxonomic verification by Carnegie Institution taxonomists.

#### <u>SM2: Identification of outliers and $A \leftrightarrow C_i$ curve methodological details</u>

 $CO_2$  response curves of light-saturated photosynthesis (i.e.  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves) were quantified within 30-60 minutes after branch detachment, with CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations inside the reference chamber ranging from 3.5 to 2000  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup>; initial measurements were made at 400  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, followed by decreases in CO<sub>2</sub> to 300, 200, 150, 125, 100, 75, 50 and 35  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup>; thereafter, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were increased back to 400  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup>, and then to 600, 900, 1250, 1500, 1750 and finally 2000  $\mu$ mol mol<sup>-1</sup>. Block temperatures within the chamber were set to that of the prevailing daytime air temperature at each site (ranging from 25-28 °C depending on the site). A photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) flux density of 1800  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, generated from an artificial light source (6400-02B Red/Blue LED Light Source, Li-Cor, Inc.), was used for all measurements. The resultant  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves (examples shown in Figure 1 – main text) were fitted following the model described by the Farquhar, von Caemmerer and Berry (1980) in order to calculate  $V_{cmax}$  and maximum rate of electron transport ( $J_{max}$ ) on a leaf area basis.  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  values at the prevailing leaf temperature were determined via minimizing the sum of squares of modelled vs observed estimates of net CO<sub>2</sub> exchange at given C<sub>i</sub> values. This was done for both the CO<sub>2</sub>-limited and CO<sub>2</sub>saturated regions of  $A \leftrightarrow C_i$  curves (using  $C_i$  values expressed on a partial pressure basis, corrected for altitudinal changes in air pressure), with these regions being defined individually for each replicate.  $V_{cmax}$  at the prevailing leaf temperature was calculated under the assumption that at  $C_i$  values below 15-20 Pa (depending on site altitude) photosynthesis was limited by Rubisco only. Rates of A at these low CO<sub>2</sub> values were fitted to the Rubisco-limited equation of photosynthesis:

$$A = \left[\frac{V_{cmax}(C_i - \Gamma_*)}{\left(C_i + K_c\left(1 + O_{/K_o}\right)\right)}\right] - R_{light}$$
 (Eqn 1)

where  $R_{\text{light}}$  is respiration in the light,  $\Gamma *$  is the CO<sub>2</sub> compensation point in the absence of photorespiration (3.69 Pa at 25°C; von Caemmerer *et al.* (1994)),  $K_c$  and  $K_o$  are the effective Michaelis-Menten constants for CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> at 25°C [40.4 Pa and 24.8 kPa, respectively, von Caemmerer *et al.* (1994)] and O is partial pressure of O<sub>2</sub>, <u>corrected for</u> <u>atmospheric pressure at each altitude</u>, according to:

 $O_2$  partial pressure at site =  $O_2$  partial pressure at sea level ×  $\frac{\text{air pressure at sea level}}{\text{air pressure at sea level}}$ The resultant  $O_2$  partial pressures at each site were then used to modify estimates of  $\Gamma^*$ and K'.  $C_1$  values were corrected for air pressure in the same manner. We assumed that  $K_c$  and  $K_0$  at the measurement temperature could be calculated assuming activation energies ( $E_a$ ) of  $K_c$  and  $K_0$  of 59.4 and 36 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Farquhar *et al.*, 1980). These enzymatic kinetic constants were taken from von Caemmerer *et al.* (1994), assuming an infinite internal conductance.  $\Gamma^*$  at each leaf temperature was assumed to follow the temperature dependency reported by Brooks and Farquhar (1985). Rates of  $J_{max}$  were calculated using the electron-transport-limited equation of  $CO_2$  assimilation:

$$A = \left[\frac{J_{max}(C_i - \Gamma_*)}{(4C_i + 8\Gamma_*)}\right] - R_{light}$$
 (Eqn 2)

assuming that *A* is limited by RuBP regeneration at higher concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 1). As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was not always saturating for measurements of upland species (due to low atmospheric partial pressure),  $J_{max}$  may have been underestimated in some cases and we excluded these  $J_{max}$  values from the Andean data set. Rates of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange were corrected for diffusion through the gasket of the LI-6400 leaf chamber (Bruhn *et al.*, 2002) prior to calculation of  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$ . Fitted parameters were scaled to a reference temperature of 25°C using activation energies of 64.8 and 37.0 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$ , respectively (Farquhar *et al.*, 1980).

Alterations in stomatal conductance ( $g_s$ ) resulting from branch cutting were assumed to not affect the maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco ( $V_{cmax}$ ) (Miyazawa *et al.*, 2011), except where  $g_s$  declined to very low levels (Santiago & Mulkey, 2003); in instances where  $g_s$  values fell below 0.04 mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, data were discarded from the analyses. We also applied a further check on data quality as used elsewhere (Kattge *et al.*, 2009; Domingues *et al.*, 2010; van de Weg *et al.*, 2012) where rates of  $A_N$  less than 2 µmol CO<sub>2</sub> g N<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> were excluded from analysis (52 out of a total of 353 measurements).

## SM3: Optimization of protocols for protein extraction from the leaves of recalcitrant tree species

#### Trouble-shooting using temperate and tropical evergreen species

The analysis of protein recalcitrant to extraction from some tree species is complicated by the abundance of lipids, tannins, phenols, waxes, oils and other secondary compounds (Ekramoddoullah, 1993; Gaspar *et al.*, 1997). The leaves of many of the species analysed in this study are characteristically aromatic and tough in nature and initial attempts to extract protein resulted in smeared bands on SDS-PAGE gels and highly oxidized extracts in most cases. Invariably, the extraction of proteins in their native confirmation (for example for the analysis of Rubisco active site concentration) was impossible. Moreover, previous attempts to isolate protein and Rubisco from hardleaved species had been unsuccessful (Harrison *et al.*, 2009, Bloomfield, Long, Evans, unpublished). Using a combination of protein extraction from recalcitrant species (Gaspar *et al.*, 1997) and detergent based-extraction buffer (Brown *et al.*, 2008), we successfully extracted protein from Peruvian tropical leaves and Australian tropical and temperate leaves (Long, Atkin, Xiang, Bahar, unpublished).

The process of extracting protein from the leaves was modified from that described by Gaspar *et al.* (1997) in order to allow the extraction and measurement of chlorophyll prior to protein analysis. Leaves were initially pulverised using a Tissue-Lyser (Qiagen) and were treated with one of the following extraction solvents:

- 1) Acetic acid, methanol and water (1:10:9) (as per Gaspar et al. (1997))
- 2) 80% (v/v) acetone
- 3) 100% (v/v) methanol

After initial extraction in these solvents, precipitated protein was further washed in hexane and acetone as described by Gaspar *et al.* (1997) to remove lipids and remaining pigments, leaving a protein pellet. Proteins were dissolved in protein extraction buffer [PEB, (Brown *et al.*, 2008)] containing 140 mM Tris base, 105 mM Tris–HCl, 0.5 mM

ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 2% lithium dodecyl sulfate (LDS), 10% glycerol, 0.1 mg/mL PefaBloc SC (AEBSF) protease inhibitor (Roche) and 5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) for analysis by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting for Rubisco proteins.

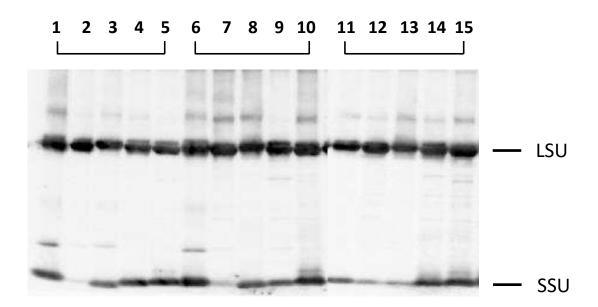
Analysis by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting was performed according to protocols described in *Materials and Methods: Chlorophyll and Rubisco measurements* in the main text. Based on this analysis, extraction with 100% methanol consistently provided the cleanest protein extracts as assessed by SDS-PAGE (lanes 11-15; Fig. SM3.1). The smearing of protein on SDS-PAGE gels may reflect either interference by unwanted compounds in the extract (e.g. lipids) or the degradation of Rubisco. Thus, the clean-up and extraction of protein in a way which prevents this interference/degradation is vital for accurate Rubisco estimation. When applied to protein extraction from the leaves of different tree species, each solvent provided similar estimations of leaf Rubisco content (Fig. SM3.2).

We estimated Rubisco content using an antibody raised against tobacco Rubisco. An alternative approach using Coomassie staining is a common practice, where the relatively high concentration of Rubisco large and small subunits in the total protein extract makes estimation of their concentration possible. Rubisco concentrations determined from Western blotting were compared with those estimated from Coomassie staining (Fig. SM3.3); the Rubisco estimates suggest that estimation of Rubisco from the Western blot were in a similar range to the estimates made by Coomassie staining of gels. Despite the samples being treated differently, both approaches yielded similar estimations of leaf Rubisco content, consistent with the result obtained in Fig SM3.2. Additional tests to check that the primary antibody recognized Rubisco of the study species were performed by spiking temperate evergreen species with Rubisco from tobacco prior to SDS-PAGE analysis. Figure SM3.4 shows a comparison of Rubisco concentration of tree species alone versus that spiked with known concentration of tobacco Rubisco (0.5  $\mu$ g  $\mu$ L<sup>-1</sup>). The western blot assay estimated 0.31  $\mu$ g  $\mu$ L-1 Rubisco in the sample and 0.78  $\mu$ g  $\mu$ L-1 in the spiked

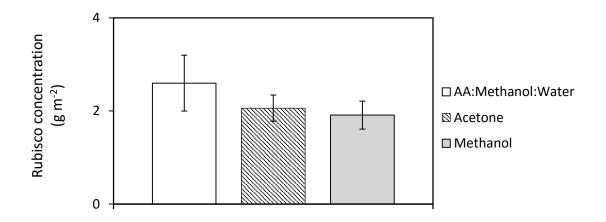
sample; a difference closely equivalent to the spike. This suggests that the Western blot antibody assay, typically designed for crop species, is compatible with temperate and tropical evergreen species and that the antibody used can successfully be applied to a variety of land plants (Kellogg & Juliano, 1997). Moreover, this result suggests that possible interference by compounds found in tropical leaves did not affect Rubisco quantification after sample clean-up.

#### Trouble-shooting using Peruvian tropical species

Leaf protein of lowland Peruvian tree species was extracted using a modified protocol as described above. After initial extraction of chlorophyll using 100% methanol, precipitated protein was further washed in hexane and acetone as described by Gaspar *et al.* (1997) and dissolved in PEB containing 5 mM DTT (Brown *et al.*, 2008). This method was compatible with Peruvian tropical species, as protein bands were observed on Western blot (Fig. SM3.5). However, some of the leaf discs were degraded due to thawing during shipment from Peru, which resulted in no visible bands on the gel. Approximately less than 1.6 µg sample was required per lane to yield clear, unsaturated band with low background intensity (Fig. SM3.5).



**Figure SM3.1**: The effect of leaf extraction solvents on Rubisco western blot quality. Typical western blot profile of Rubisco extracted from five temperate evergreen species after acetic acid, methanol and water (1:10:9) (1-5), 80% (v/v) acetone (6-10) and 100% methanol (11-15) clean-up, prior to washing with hexane and acetone (Gaspar *et al.*, 1997) and dissolution in PEB containing 5 mM DTT (Brown *et al.*, 2008). Individual bands represent Rubisco large subunits (LSU, ~55 kDa) and small subunits (SSU, 15 kDa). Greatest quality blots were consistently observed from 100% methanol-treated leaf samples.



**Figure SM3.2**: The effect of leaf extraction solvents on estimated Rubisco in protein extracts. The graph shows estimated Rubisco concentration in leaves of five temperate evergreen species (± S.E.) after acetic acid (AA), methanol and water (1:10:9), 80% acetone and 100% methanol clean-up, prior to washing with hexane and acetone (Gaspar *et al.*, 1997) and dissolution in PEB containing 5 mM DTT (Brown *et al.*, 2008).

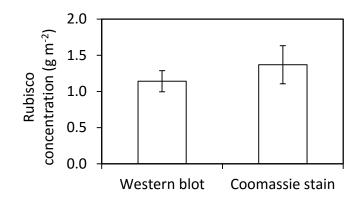


Figure SM3.3: Comparison of western blotting and Coomassie staining for estimation of Rubisco quantities in leaf extracts. Shown are estimated Rubisco concentrations ( $\pm$  S.E.) of *Atherosperma moschatum* leaves (n=3), determined from Western blot antibody and Coomassie staining. Rubisco estimated from Western blotting was washed with 100% methanol, hexane and acetone, while Rubisco estimated from Coomassie staining was washed with acetic acid, methanol and water (1:10:9), prior to washing with hexane and acetone according to Gaspar *et. al* (1997). Protein was dissolved in PEB containing 5 mM DTT (Brown *et al.*, 2008).

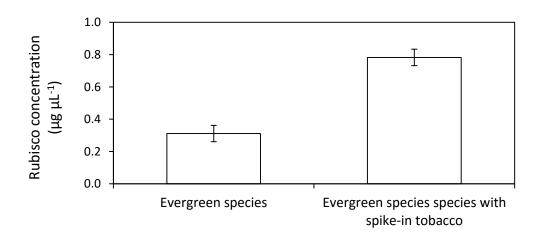
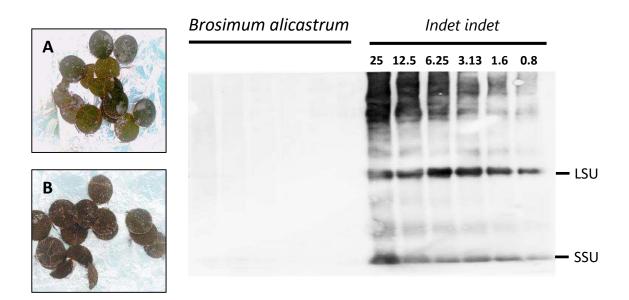


Figure SM3.4: Measurement of Rubisco by western blotting with and without additional Rubisco spike. Estimated Rubisco concentration of Atherosperma moschatum (temperate evergreen) and Micrandra spruceana (tropical evergreen) determined from protein extract alone and extract with Rubisco from tobacco spiked into the samples (0.5  $\mu$ g  $\mu$ L<sup>-1</sup>). Rubisco from evergreen species was prepared from 100% methanol clean-up, prior to washing with hexane and acetone (Gaspar et al., 1997) and dissolution in PEB containing 5 mM DTT (Brown et al., 2008). Rubisco from tobacco was extracted using extraction buffer (50mM EPPS [4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1piperazinepropanesulfonic acid]-NaOH, 1mM EDTA, 1% Polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP), 10mM DTT, 0.01% Triton, pH 7.8).



**Figure SM3.5**: **Isolation of Rubisco from tropical leaf samples.** Western blot profile of Rubisco extracted from two lowland species (A) *Indet indet* and (B) *Brosimum alicastrum*. Samples were loaded in a dilution series (25 to 0.8 μg) to estimate the amount of protein to load per lane that yields clear and unsaturated band. No visible bands were seen for *B. alicastrum*, which were consistent with brownish appearance of the leaf discs (A) resulting from thawing during transport. Individual bands represent Rubisco large subunits (LSU, ~55 kDa) and small subunits (SSU, 15 kDa).

#### Table S1: Summary of species sampled at each site and their parameters. Sites are sorted according to decreasing leaf N:P for lowland sites

and increasing elevation for upland sites. \* marked species site average where n=2.

Abbreviations:  $M_a$  = leaf mass per unit leaf area, leaf  $N_a$  = leaf nitrogen, leaf  $P_a$  = leaf phosphorus,  $A_{400,a}$  = light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 400 µmol mol<sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>],  $A_{2000,a}$  = light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 2000 µmol mol<sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>],  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  = maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  = maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C,  $R_{light}$  = leaf respiration measured in the light at 400 µmol mol<sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>], Leaf *T* = leaf temperature inside gas exchange cuvette, Chl = chlorophyll a and b content,  $n_E$  = fraction of leaf N in Performance for the light of l

Site	Family	Genus	Species	<b>M</b> a (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf N <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	Leaf P <sub>a</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	A400,a (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	A2000,a (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Vcmax,a <sup>25</sup> (µmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	<b>R</b> light (µmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Leaf T (°C)	Chl (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	n <sub>E</sub>	<b>n</b> <sub>R</sub>	<b>п</b> Р
SUC-05	Urticaceae	Pourouma	bicolor	144	2.54	0.09	15.8	30.8	58.9	107.3	1.3	28.8	0.74	0.03	0.11	0.20
SUC-05	Chrysobalanaceae	Couepia	bracteosa	172	1.88	0.06	13.7	26.2	47.1	95.7	0.9	28.0	0.76	0.04	0.12	0.28
SUC-05	Burseraceae	Protium	paniculatum	123	1.56	0.03	2.7	15.3	23.4	55.5	1.3	29.2	0.63	0.03	0.07	0.28
SUC-05	Sapotaceae	Micropholis	guyanensis	163	2.29	0.13	3.5	14.8	19.8		1.2	29.2	0.40		0.04	0.12
SUC-05	Myristicaceae	Osteophloeum	platyspermum	122	1.87	0.06	13.8	24.6	41.7	76.7	-0.4	29.5	0.78	0.03	0.11	0.29
SUC-05	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	caimito	158	1.62	0.02	13.9	23.8	49.8	82.5	0.7	28.5	0.65	0.04	0.15	0.27
SUC-05	Apocynaceae	Rhigospira	quadrangularis	54	1.22	0.03	6.2	22.5	30.2	82.1	1.4	28.5	0.51	0.05	0.12	0.29
SUC-05	Rubiaceae	Chimarrhis	gentryana	96	2.52	0.09	5.4	18.4	27.9	64.2	1.5	29.4	1.17	0.02	0.05	0.32
SUC-05	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	filipes	95	2.75	0.09	5.8	15.6	22.3	53.9	1.2	29.4	0.71	0.02	0.04	0.18
SUC-05	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	latifolia	104	1.03	0.03	6.8	22.4	33.6	80.8	1.3	28.1	0.49	0.06	0.15	0.32
SUC-05	Moraceae	Naucleopsis	mello-barretoi	115	2.53	0.07	4.1	14.5	19.0		1.2	29.6	1.09		0.04	0.30
SUC-05	Rubiaceae	Ladenbergia	magnifolia	127	1.59	0.06	10.0	29.1	47.4	100.7	2.3	29.4	0.57	0.05	0.14	0.24
SUC-05	Myristicaceae	Virola	calophylla				7.2	12.0	27.7		1.4	28.5				0.11
SUC-05	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	119		•	14.3	35.7	68.8		0.7	28.8				
SUC-05	Anacardiaceae	Tapirira	obtusa			•	10.9	20.7	40.4	71.5	1.4	29.2				0.22
SUC-05	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	rigida	122	1.16	0.04	7.8	18.6	40.4	71.7	1.9	28.5	0.70	0.05	0.17	0.42
SUC-05	Apocynaceae	Parahancornia	peruviana	137	1.47	0.02	5.4	16.7	23.2		1.2	28.4	0.87		0.07	0.41
SUC-05	Humiriaceae	Humiriastrum	excelsum	154	1.97	0.03	2.3	20.0	30.6	74.6	1.9	28.7	0.90	0.03	0.07	0.31
SUC-05	Moraceae	Helicostylis	scabra	135	3.01	0.13	15.1	16.7	49.3	84.0	1.0	28.0	0.84	0.02	0.08	0.19
SUC-05	Lauraceae	Licaria	cannella	181	•	0.06	11.7	20.6	44.5	76.8	1.2	28.0	•	0.02		•
TAM-05	Ulmaceae	Ampelocera	edentula				6.0	17.2	19.4		0.5	30.0				
TAM-05	Bixaceae	Bixa	arborea	75	1.65	0.07	13.0	22.6	48.7	76.0	0.1	28.8		0.04	0.14	
TAM-05	Lauraceae	Ocotea	bofo	127	2.28	0.06	9.5	20.6	39.0	64.3	0.3	29.8		0.02	0.08	
TAM-05	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	138	2.52	0.07	6.6	21.2	47.8	66.4	0.5	30.3		0.02	0.09	
TAM-05	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	torta subsp. tuberculata	117	2.05	0.10	6.8	25.9	45.2	83.3	1.3	30.4		0.03	0.10	•

TAM-05	Malvaceae	Huberodendron	switenioides	95	2.17	0.12	10.6	20.5	54.9	61.4	0.4	30.4		0.02	0.12	•
TAM-05	Melastomataceae	Miconia	pyrifolia	155	2.27	0.05	11.9	28.7	56.3	94.0	1.6	30.6		0.03	0.12	•
TAM-05	Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea	brevipes	125	2.05	0.08	11.5	20.7	63.5	66.6	1.3	31.0	•	0.03	0.15	•
JEN-11	Sapotaceae	Micropholis	guyanensis	156		0.05	2.5	22.1	32.1	77.8	2.2	29.5		0.02		
JEN-11	Olacaceae	Aptandra	liriosmoides	165	2.35	0.11	5.3	15.7	18.2	•	1.0	29.5	0.98		0.04	0.29
JEN-11	Lauraceae	Mezilaurus	synandra	230	2.43	0.07	3.9	21.0	29.2	•	1.6	29.5			0.06	0.43
JEN-11	Lecythidaceae	Eschweilera	coriacea	124	1.74	0.06	5.3	18.8	27.7	67.6	1.3	28.8	0.35	0.03	0.08	0.14
JEN-11	Vochysiaceae	Qualea	paraensis	154	1.79		11.2	14.6	35.5	51.7	0.4	28.4	0.83	0.02	0.09	0.32
JEN-11	Melastomataceae	Mouriri	nigra	124	2.57	0.04	4.5	10.3	22.9	39.6	1.1	28.7	0.73	0.01	0.04	0.19
JEN-11	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	guianensis	163	1.78	0.05	4.9	16.1	24.2	•	1.1	28.9	0.71		0.06	0.27
JEN-11	Goupiaceae	Goupia	glabra	103	2.07	0.08	15.5	37.4	65.8		1.6	28.9	0.52	0.05	0.15	0.17
JEN-11	Myristicaceae	Osteophloeum	platyspermum	141	2.86	0.11	11.6	17.5	39.9	70.9	1.0	28.5	0.88	0.02	0.07	0.21
JEN-11	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	platyphylla	149	1.98	0.06	9.5	10.8	31.4	41.1	0.2	28.6	0.77	0.02	0.08	0.27
JEN-11	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	•	•	•	7.7	20.2	37.6	73.5	2.3	29.2				•
JEN-11	Myrtaceae	Myrciaria	floribunda	127	1.65	0.04	3.2	5.5	9.9		0.5	28.4	0.62		0.03	0.26
JEN-11	Urticaceae	Pourouma	bicolor	149	2.42	0.10		31.1	66.9	107.0	0.6	28.7	0.69	0.03	0.13	0.20
JEN-11	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	indet	147	2.57	0.05	9.0	10.5	25.1	37.7	0.6	28.4	0.41	0.01	0.05	0.11
JEN-11	Lecythidaceae	Eschweilera	tessmannii	134	2.39	0.05	7.5	16.0	23.4	59.4	1.3	28.5	0.69	0.02	0.05	0.20
JEN-11	Apocynaceae	Couma	macrocarpa	81	1.25	0.06	2.8	12.7	31.4	66.3	1.5	29.0	0.51	0.04	0.12	0.28
JEN-11	Sapotaceae	Micropholis	guyanensis	210	2.88	0.04	10.3	18.2	36.3	66.2	1.0	29.0	0.23	0.02	0.06	0.05
JEN-11	Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea	brevipes	101	1.19	0.08	9.4	15.1	30.3	56.8	1.2	28.2	0.64	0.04	0.12	0.37
ALP-01	Fabaceae	Dipteryx	micrantha	143	1.96	0.09	11.4	16.6	39.5	53.7	0.0	29.1	0.70	0.02	0.10	0.24
ALP-01	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	subrotata				11.6	26.7	47.3	86.3	0.9	29.4				
ALP-01	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	arachnoidea	98	1.20	0.02	6.9	7.5	29.9	61.2	0.8	30.1	0.47	0.04	0.12	0.27
ALP-01	Annonaceae	Guatteria	schomburgkiana	125	2.20	0.07	2.9	22.1	32.4		2.0	29.7	0.47		0.07	0.15
ALP-01	Olacaceae	Minquartia	guianensis	126	1.40	0.05	9.7	19.3	39.1	55.0	0.4	30.6	0.61	0.03	0.13	0.30
ALP-01	Myristicaceae	Iryanthera	lancifolia	154	1.81	0.08	12.7	21.9	43.7	75.2	0.3	28.8	0.45	0.03	0.11	0.17
ALP-01	Euphorbiaceae	Hevea	pauciflora	121	1.96	0.12	0.9	4.5	8.3		1.2	30.5	0.52		0.02	0.18
ALP-01	Olacaceae	Chaunochiton	kappleri	124	2.43	0.15	7.5	17.7	30.8	57.0	1.3	30.2	0.70	0.02	0.06	0.20
ALP-01	Ochnaceae	Cespedesia	spathulata	119	1.86	0.10	4.2	22.5	30.0		1.2	30.0	0.58		0.08	0.21
ALP-01	Fabaceae	Taralea	oppositifolia	154	1.56	0.04	1.9	7.0	7.2		0.5	30.6	0.78		0.02	0.34
ALP-01	Moraceae	Brosimum	rubescens	114	1.61	0.07	2.9	12.0	15.5	38.3	0.9	30.2		0.02	0.05	
ALP-01	Fabaceae	Swartzia	polyphylla	117	2.49	0.06	7.4	17.9	34.8	49.2	0.9	30.4	0.60	0.02	0.07	0.16
ALP-01	Lepidobotryaceae	Ruptiliocarpon	caracolito	74	1.75	0.06	5.5	15.6	24.4	41.8	0.6	30.3	0.18	0.02	0.07	0.07

ALP-01	Clusiaceae	Caraipa	punctulata	161	1.94	0.06	9.5	23.1	41.6	62.3	0.9	30.6	0.49	0.03	0.10	0.17
ALP-01	Euphorbiaceae	Senefeldera	inclinata	116	2.67	0.09	2.3	18.6	23.3	54.2	1.2	29.3	0.86	0.02	0.04	0.22
ALP-01	Urticaceae	Pourouma	guianensis subsp. guianensi	100	1.95	0.09	15.9	19.3	53.9	58.6	-0.3	29.6	0.59	0.02	0.13	0.21
ALP-01	Euphorbiaceae	Hevea	pauciflora	108	1.67	0.11	10.2	19.0	36.8	55.8	0.3	29.2	0.57	0.03	0.10	0.24
ALP-01	Fabaceae	Inga	striata	78	•	0.10	11.9	21.6	41.1	69.7	0.1	29.0	0.62	0.02	0.06	0.14
SUC-01	Myristicaceae	Virola	sebifera	124	2.57	0.11	1.4	25.2	32.2		3.2	30.6	0.63		0.06	0.17
SUC-01	Myristicaceae	Otoba	glycycarpa	132			6.0	16.2	27.1		1.3	29.8	0.34			
SUC-01	Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea	gladysiae	127	0.90	0.03	1.7	12.2	17.1	40.8	0.8	29.6	0.62	0.04	0.09	0.47
SUC-01	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	filipes	113	1.89	0.09	3.3	18.0	26.5		1.7	27.8	0.46		0.07	0.16
SUC-01	Urticaceae	Pourouma	bicolor	118	1.91	0.09	16.9	24.7	59.8	91.8	1.2	27.9	0.75	0.04	0.15	0.27
SUC-01	Lepidobotryaceae	Ruptiliocarpon	caracolito	101	1.18	0.06	5.9	13.9	21.5	48.5	0.8	28.6	0.71	0.03	0.09	0.41
SUC-01	Myristicaceae	Iryanthera	lancifolia	131	1.82	0.09	11.3	24.3	48.6	67.1	-0.5	31.0	0.54	0.03	0.13	0.20
SUC-01	Lecythidaceae	Gustavia	hexapetala	112	3.35	0.15	9.2	20.8	42.3	53.2	0.5	31.1	0.73	0.01	0.06	0.15
SUC-01	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	heteromorpha				3.6	17.7	27.8	60.9	1.6	29.7				0.42
SUC-01	Humiriaceae	Schistostemon	reticulatum subsp. reticula	187	2.20	0.09	4.9	14.0				31.3	0.80			0.25
SUC-01	Moraceae	Helicostylis	scabra	80	1.40	0.08	8.3	15.7	30.3	53.6	1.7	29.9	0.65	0.03	0.10	0.32
SUC-01	Sapindaceae	Talisia	sylvatica	173	2.18	0.12	7.0	17.7	26.4	60.8	0.8	29.1	0.39	0.02	0.06	0.12
SUC-01	Fabaceae	Inga	capitata	139		0.13	10.2	21.7	37.7	75.5	1.0	28.8	0.91	0.01	0.04	0.14
SUC-01	Lecythidaceae	Eschweilera	itayensis	87	0.90	0.05	10.2	14.2	31.2	48.3	0.5	29.0	0.48	0.04	0.16	0.37
SUC-01	Hypericaceae	Vismia	amazonica	132	1.61	0.08	18.8	37.5	68.3	124.8	0.6	29.2	0.59	0.06	0.20	0.25
SUC-01	Euphorbiaceae	Nealchornea	yapurensis	115	1.61	0.09	10.0	25.7	40.5	88.9	1.3	29.1	1.10	0.04	0.12	0.47
SUC-01	Olacaceae	Minquartia	guianensis	105	1.63	0.09	4.6	16.5	22.4	57.8	1.1	29.1	0.58	0.03	0.07	0.24
SUC-01	Combretaceae	Buchenavia	tomentosa	120	2.04	0.10	7.2	16.3	24.2	54.8	0.8	29.4	0.55	0.02	0.06	0.19
JEN-12	Apocynaceae	Macoubea	sprucei	116	1.24	0.08	9.4	18.7	36.3	69.1	0.8	28.0	0.73	0.04	0.14	0.40
JEN-12	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	lucumifolia	175	1.32	0.13	1.0	9.1	13.9		1.5	28.8	0.61		0.05	0.32
JEN-12	Clusiaceae	Caraipa	tereticaulis	181	1.60	0.05	9.5	16.3	40.3		1.5	28.8	0.44		0.12	0.19
JEN-12	Icacinaceae	Emmotum	floribundum				9.2	26.6	45.8	75.9	-1.7	29.0				
JEN-12	Linaceae	Roucheria	columbiana				5.2	13.2	17.1		0.7	28.8				0.36
JEN-12	Euphorbiaceae	Micrandra	spruceana	123	1.93	0.10	6.6	16.8	31.0	66.2	1.8	28.4	0.44	0.03	0.08	0.15
JEN-12	Melastomataceae	Mouriri	nigra	196	3.01	0.05	7.8	14.1	23.6	52.0	0.7	28.3	0.83	0.01	0.04	0.19
JEN-12	Moraceae	Brosimum	utile subsp. ovatifolium	134	1.80	0.13	12.3	20.4	40.7	72.2	0.9	28.5	0.43	0.03	0.11	0.16
JEN-12	Clusiaceae	Tovomita	calophyllophylla	179	1.83	0.01	4.6	13.5	19.7	48.7	0.8	28.5	0.78	0.02	0.05	0.29
JEN-12	Apocynaceae	Aspidosperma	desmanthum	163	2.02	0.21	5.0	23.6	39.8	84.5	1.8	29.1	0.50	0.03	0.09	0.17

JEN-12	Lauraceae	Licaria	cannella	166	2.04	0.06	7.3	18.1	33.6	62.6	1.3	29.1	0.62	0.02	0.08	0.21
JEN-12	Malvaceae	Lueheopsis	althaeiflora	208	2.69	0.00	15.4	23.6	48.6	80.6	0.6	28.9	0.61	0.02	0.00	0.21
JEN-12	Burseraceae	Protium	polybotryum	152	1.97	0.12	8.3	29.2	41.6	100.6	1.9	20.5	0.50	0.02	0.10	0.10
JEN-12	Moraceae	Brosimum	rubescens	152	1.70	0.04	13.6	21.6	45.4	73.7	1.0	29.0	0.42	0.03	0.13	0.17
JEN-12	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	rigida	160	2.71	0.14	1.5	17.8	27.1	65.2	1.7	29.1	0.68	0.02	0.05	0.17
JEN-12	Sapotaceae	Chrysophyllum	sanquinolentum	163	1.97	0.14	14.6	23.7	50.1	96.1	1.0	28.3	0.63	0.02	0.12	0.22
JEN-12	Euphorbiaceae	Alchornea	triplinervia	93	2.12	0.07	13.7	23.5	47.6	79.4	0.8	29.1	0.28	0.03	0.11	0.09
JEN-12	Apocynaceae	Parahancornia	peruviana	117	1.11	0.01	4.1	10.6	47.0 17.4	37.6	1.3	29.1	0.61	0.03	0.07	0.37
JEN-12	Sapotaceae	Micropholis	guyanensis subsp. guyanensi	174	2.48	0.15	13.4	37.2	48.3	114.4	1.3	28.9	0.65	0.04	0.09	0.18
ALP-30	Fabaceae	Tachigali	bracteosa	151	2.48	0.15	4.4	22.9	31.5	•	1.9	29.6	0.84		0.06	0.23
ALP-30	Moraceae	Brosimum	potabile	158	2.57	0.14	5.6	16.5	21.9		1.5	29.4	0.44		0.04	0.12
ALP-30	Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea	floribunda			0.06	5.6	13.6	21.0	47.5	1.1	29.2		0.02	0.05	0.24
ALP-30	Euphorbiaceae	Micrandra	spruceana	63	1.66	0.13	2.0	7.1	10.3		0.5	29.3	0.29		0.03	0.12
ALP-30	Simaroubaceae	Simarouba	amara	182	1.88	0.09	8.4	20.5	34.8	72.3	1.5	29.5	0.45	0.03	0.09	0.16
ALP-30	Humiriaceae	Humiria	balsamifera	140	1.12	0.12	7.6	15.7	27.2	57.2	0.8	28.5	0.56	0.04	0.12	0.34
ALP-30	Lauraceae	Ocotea	aciphylla	199	1.75	0.06	8.2	16.2	31.0	56.0	0.6	28.8	0.59	0.03	0.08	0.23
ALP-30	Apocynaceae	Aspidosperma	desmanthum	199	2.18	0.19	10.0	27.4	40.3	95.8	1.4	28.8	0.56	0.03	0.09	0.18
ALP-30	Fabaceae	Diplotropis	sp	113	1.63	0.08	13.6	31.0	46.5	102.1	0.6	29.2	0.44	0.05	0.14	0.18
ALP-30	Annonaceae	Guatteria	decurrens	142	1.19	0.05	5.7	14.7	24.1	53.1	1.0	28.5	0.62	0.04	0.10	0.36
ALP-30	Euphorbiaceae	Micrandra	elata	88	1.57	0.07	2.5	11.0	13.5	37.5	0.8	29.4	0.58	0.02	0.04	0.25
ALP-30	Lauraceae	Ocotea	myriantha	166	2.00	0.06	4.6	14.3	18.0	•	0.5	30.5	0.46		0.04	0.16
ALP-30	Apocynaceae	Aspidosperma	excelsum	159	1.88	0.12	3.9	21.4	25.9		1.4	29.5	0.69		0.07	0.25
ALP-30	Myrtaceae	Calyptranthes	bipennis	154	1.31	0.05	3.9	12.8	18.9	41.0	0.8	30.1	0.55	0.02	0.07	0.29
ALP-30	Lauraceae	Aniba	perutilis	144	1.75	0.06	8.2	15.3	30.3	58.1	1.2	28.1	0.61	0.03	0.08	0.24
ALP-30	Fabaceae	Macrolobium	microcalyx	109	1.39	0.06	7.7	8.5	19.1	31.7	0.6	28.7	0.58	0.02	0.07	0.28
ALP-30	Myristicaceae	Virola	pavonis	141	1.22	0.05	12.7	16.6	40.8	62.7	0.9	29.0	0.69	0.04	0.16	0.39
ALP-30	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	unguiculata	140	2.25	0.18	11.1	18.5	31.8	69.1	1.4	28.2	0.59	0.02	0.07	0.18
ALP-30	Anacardiaceae	Tapirira	guianensis	62	0.95	0.06	6.5	12.2	22.3	44.6	0.8	28.3	0.38	0.04	0.11	0.27
ALP-30	Linaceae	Roucheria	schomburgkii	99	0.99	0.04	6.1	15.6	26.3	58.1	1.3	28.8	0.52	0.05	0.13	0.36
ALP-30	Icacinaceae	Emmotum	floribundum	188	1.43	0.08	2.9	5.6	8.4	20.8	0.8	29.3	0.34	0.01	0.03	0.16
CUZ-03	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	laevis	95	1.48	0.08	10.0	19.9	39.4	64.2	0.6	29.9		0.03	0.13	
CUZ-03	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	torta subsp. glabra	138	2.01	0.11	10.0	19.8	52.7	63.8	1.2	30.4		0.03	0.12	
CUZ-03	Moraceae	Poulsenia	armata	119	1.59	0.12	6.8	23.5	46.3	76.8	1.4	29.9		0.04	0.14	
CUZ-03	Combretaceae	Terminalia	oblonga	130	2.26	0.14	5.5	20.0	41.3	65.5	1.4	30.0		0.02	0.09	

CUZ-03	Malvaceae	Guazuma	crinita	112	2.37	•	16.2	28.0	60.9	89.5	-0.1	29.2		0.03	0.12	•
CUZ-03	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	franciscana	111	2.16	0.15	8.2	19.5	38.2	64.5	1.0	30.0		0.02	0.08	
CUZ-03	Phytolaccaceae	Gallesia	integrifolia	98	2.62	0.10	8.2	27.0	42.3	87.8	1.0	29.8		0.03	0.08	•
CUZ-03	Dichapetalaceae	Tapura	sp.	122	1.00	0.02	8.3	17.8	39.2	59.5	1.2	29.9		0.05	0.19	•
CUZ-03	Meliaceae	Trichilia	sp.	90	1.63	0.15	7.7	14.5	31.5	50.3	0.8	30.0		0.02	0.09	
CUZ-03	Meliaceae	Trichilia	sp.	118	1.83	0.10	3.3	10.4	13.7	34.1	1.0	30.4		0.01	0.04	
CUZ-03	Malvaceae	Apeiba	aspera	100	1.44	0.04	11.0	20.7	62.3	61.5	1.1	30.8		0.03	0.20	
CUZ-03	Fabaceae	Swartzia	sp.	76	2.18	0.08	4.3	9.2	15.3	31.3	0.3	28.9	•	0.01	0.03	•
ALP-40	Fabaceae	Dicymbe	uaiparuensis	113	1.93	0.10	5.8	15.8	33.2	43.2	2.3	31.7	0.81	0.02	0.08	0.29
ALP-40	Sapotaceae	Chrysophyllum	sanguinolentum	202	1.88	0.10	15.9	25.1	54.0	80.7	-0.3	29.5	0.70	0.03	0.14	0.25
ALP-40	Myristicaceae	Virola	pavonis	193	2.33	0.13	8.3	18.7	40.8	51.0	1.8	31.4	0.47	0.02	0.08	0.14
ALP-40	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	195		0.08	8.4	15.7	33.8	45.8	1.1	30.6		0.02		
ALP-40	Icacinaceae	Emmotum	floribundum		1.97		4.8	18.4	21.4		2.0	31.3			0.05	0.25
ALP-40	Fabaceae	Jacqueshuberia	loretensis	75	1.63	0.08	10.5	21.8	41.8	69.0	0.8	29.5	0.38	0.03	0.12	0.16
ALP-40	Elaeocarpaceae	Sloanea	robusta	174	1.16	0.09	6.7	19.5	29.7	53.4	1.1	30.8	0.62	0.04	0.12	0.37
ALP-40	Myrsinaceae	Cybianthus	nestorii	200	1.64	0.09	9.4	21.7	37.3	70.3	0.3	30.4	0.61	0.03	0.11	0.25
ALP-40	Icacinaceae	Emmotum	floribundum	123	1.56	0.07	2.6	15.8	30.9	49.8	1.4	31.1	0.59	0.03	0.09	0.26
ALP-40	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	193	2.37		3.5	8.9	14.6	25.5	0.9	32.4	0.62	0.01	0.03	0.18
ALP-40	Apocynaceae	Indet	indet	147	1.61	0.12	6.5	23.8	42.6	67.7	2.6	31.2		0.03	0.13	
ALP-40	Araliaceae	Dendropanax	resinosus	177	2.13	0.10	3.6	14.3	19.2	•	1.0	31.1	0.82		0.04	0.26
TAM-09	Lauraceae	Ocotea	sp	112	2.09	0.11	11.3	25.2	46.7	75.9	0.8	30.7		0.03	0.11	
TAM-09	Urticaceae	Pourouma	minor	108	2.28	0.14	14.2	17.5	54.0	69.2	0.9	30.7		0.02	0.11	
TAM-09	Annonaceae			69			11.2	19.0	35.5	58.8	0.3	30.2				
TAM-09	Urticaceae	Pourouma	sp.				10.7	9.8	47.2	63.2	0.7	30.1				
TAM-09	Burseraceae	Trattinnickia	glaziovii	97	1.60	0.17	12.3	19.8	52.8	80.4	0.6	29.5		0.04	0.16	
TAM-09	Euphorbiaceae	Glycydendron	amazonicum	94	2.19	0.11	10.0	24.4	43.0	76.0	0.6	30.1		0.03	0.09	
TAM-09	Boraginaceae	Cordia		118	2.95	0.13	11.1	29.6	67.8	95.5	0.4	29.9		0.03	0.11	
TAM-09	Fabaceae	Hymenaea	longifolia	112	1.96	0.11	14.5	21.6	61.7	79.8	0.6	27.7		0.03	0.15	
TAM-09	Anacardiaceae	Thyrsodium	sp	118	1.65	0.12	11.2	22.7	59.6	84.6	0.8	28.0		0.04	0.17	
TAM-09	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	macrophylla	112	2.14	0.13	6.2	16.5	32.6	60.4	0.5	28.1		0.02	0.07	
TAM-09	Meliaceae	Cabralea	canjerana	70	•	•	9.3	26.2	47.5		1.2	28.5		0.03		
TAM-09	Lauraceae	Nectandra	purpurea	105	2.10	0.13	14.1	24.1	71.8	90.9	0.5	27.5		0.03	0.16	
TAM-09	Moraceae	Castilla	sp.	147	2.89	0.21	8.9	14.7	20.9	51.2	-0.5	27.8		0.01	0.03	•
TAM-06	Euphorbiaceae	Sapium	marmieri				7.6	28.0	37.9		1.3	30.6				

TAM-06	Fabaceae	Inga	alba				7.3	22.0	35.0	67.3	0.7	30.3				
TAM-06	Moraceae	Ficus	schultesii	151	2.30	0.15	13.2	23.0	47.6	71.6	0.9	30.8		0.02	0.10	
TAM-06	Fabaceae	Pterocarpus	rohrii				7.1	24.8	28.7	•	1.0	30.2				•
TAM-06	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	laevis	137	1.83	0.10	7.4	19.7	28.4	65.8	0.4	29.2		0.03	0.07	•
TAM-06	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	96	2.74	0.24	7.2	24.4	37.5	79.0	1.4	30.2		0.02	0.07	
TAM-06	Moraceae	Sorocea	pileata	109	3.02	0.18	9.1	22.7	35.3	76.7	0.6	29.3		0.02	0.06	
TAM-06	Fabaceae	Dipteryx	alata	112	2.34	0.14	16.4	26.4	73.1	86.0	1.2	29.9		0.03	0.15	
TAM-06	Moraceae	Sorocea	trophoides	96	2.52	0.15	9.9	20.4	35.0	63.5	0.2	29.9		0.02	0.07	
TAM-06	Lecythidaceae	Bertolletia	excelsa	151	2.70	0.20	14.8		88.6	108.4	-2.7	28.8		0.03	0.16	•
TAM-06	Moraceae	Brosimum	sp.	172	2.63	0.13	4.0	14.0	17.8	47.5	1.0	29.4		0.01	0.03	
TAM-06	Cannabaceae	Celtis	schippii	131	2.93	0.21	9.8	23.0	34.8	75.6	0.8	29.5		0.02	0.06	
TAM-06	Moraceae	Clarisia	racemosa	105	2.56	0.20	8.2	22.4	37.3	75.2	1.7	30.0	•	0.02	0.07	•
SPD-02	Burseraceae	Protium	sagotianum	170	2.70	0.19	8.7	25.6	40.2	97.3	0.4	27.3	1.36	0.03	0.07	0.35
SPD-02	Phyllanthaceae	Hieronyma	macrocarpa	105	2.02	0.15	7.7	31.2	60.2	129.2	1.5	26.7	0.48	0.05	0.14	0.16
SPD-02	Sapotaceae	Chrysophyllum	sp.	182	2.91	0.24	4.8	25.1	43.0		1.9	27.3	1.19		0.07	0.28
SPD-02	Sapindaceae	Matayba	guianensis	210	3.01	0.20			7.1		1.1	25.9	1.17			0.27
SPD-02	Fabaceae	Inga	killipiana	95	2.51	0.15	8.0	8.2	48.1		0.4	27.1	0.71		0.09	0.19
SPD-02	Melastomataceae	Miconia	coelestis	74	1.67	0.09	11.8	39.5	77.6	152.4	0.1	26.9	0.45	0.07	0.22	0.18
SPD-02	Ebenaceae	sp1(1046WFR)	sp.	108	1.69	0.13	5.8	19.9	34.9		0.6	27.8	0.86		0.10	0.35
SPD-02	Burseraceae	Protium	nodulosum	60			7.1	23.4	32.7		0.0	27.7	0.21			
SPD-02	Burseraceae	Protium	spruceanum cf	113	1.95	0.12	5.2	21.1	42.2	84.4	0.6	27.5	0.89	0.03	0.10	0.31
SPD-02	Lauraceae	Beilschmiedia	latifolia	123	2.25	0.11	12.7	27.7	52.0	100.7	-0.7	27.6	1.11	0.04	0.11	0.34
SPD-02	Caryocaraceae	Caryocar	sp.	120	1.85	0.14	5.3	16.0	22.6	•	0.2	26.9	0.56		0.06	0.21
SPD-02	Araliaceae	Dendropanax	cuneatus	128	2.57	0.18	6.4	11.8	28.2	55.8	1.0	27.4	0.58	0.02	0.05	0.16
SPD-02	Aquifoliaceae	Ilex	sp.	163	1.91	0.08	9.4	26.9	49.0	104.8	0.5	27.2	0.90	0.04	0.12	0.32
SPD-02	Moraceae	Pseudolmedia	laevigata	103	2.82	0.17	8.6	33.4	56.8		2.0	27.1	0.65		0.10	0.16
SPD-02	Moraceae	*Ficus	americana subsp. guianensis	140	2.04	0.22	11.7	17.5	56.5	76.7	1.7	27.4	0.69	0.03	0.13	0.23
SPD-02	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	torta	121	2.38	0.11	9.7	21.4	38.9	79.3	-0.2	27.3	0.83	0.03	0.08	0.24
SPD-02	Rubiaceae	Elaeagia	mariae				11.4	31.9	58.0	121.7	0.3	27.3				0.27
SPD-02	Cunoniaceae	Weinmannia	lechleriana	116	1.67	0.11	5.6	36.5	68.4		6.1	26.7	0.81		0.19	0.33
SPD-02	Lauraceae	Nectandra	sp.	134	2.10	0.20	7.9	45.2				27.0	0.64			0.21
SPD-01	Euphorbiaceae	Alchornea	anamariae	123	2.32	0.18	10.6	27.1	49.1	97.5	-0.3	27.8	0.79	0.03	0.10	0.23
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Ocotea	cernua	114	1.98	0.10	6.4	21.8	37.5	79.3	0.3	27.9	1.00	0.03	0.09	0.34
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Endlicheria	chalisea	156	2.90	0.15	11.5	24.3	54.6	82.5	-0.2	28.6	0.63	0.02	0.09	0.15

SPD-01	Brunelliaceae	Brunellia	stenoptera	97	1.86	0.13	19.0	38.8	89.7	137.0	-1.0	28.0	0.47	0.06		0.17
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Endlicheria	macrophylla	90	2.40	0.20	5.6	22.3	47.9	82.4	0.1	28.4	0.79	0.03	0.09	0.23
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Licaria	cannella	81	1.79	0.13	3.1	10.7	17.1		1.0	26.0	0.39		0.05	0.15
SPD-01	Urticaceae	Cecropia	angustifolia	103	2.44	0.16	15.9	30.3	68.0	120.6	-1.5	25.6	0.73	0.04	0.13	0.21
SPD-01	Euphorbiaceae	Hyeronima	moritziana	117	2.42	0.20	10.2	21.7	33.4		1.4	25.9	1.07		0.07	0.30
SPD-01	Meliaceae	Cabralea	canjerana	117	2.67	0.27	9.5	24.4	40.6	99.8	0.1	25.9	0.79	0.03	0.07	0.20
SPD-01	Urticaceae	Pourouma	bicolor subsp. scobina	93	1.96	0.21	10.4	25.5	56.0	99.3	-0.6	26.2	0.47	0.04	0.14	0.16
SPD-01	Flacourtiaceae	sp5(1101KGC)	sp.	93	1.80	0.10	4.5	10.1	15.6		0.1	27.5	0.34		0.04	0.13
SPD-01	Chrysobalanaceae	Licania	sp.	143	2.48	0.15	5.9	29.9	50.4	112.6	0.6	27.5	0.65	0.04	0.10	0.18
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Endlicheria	sp.	168		0.15	1.8		9.5		0.6	27.7		0.01		
SPD-01	Lauraceae	Nectandra	amazonum	147	2.34	0.14	3.4	8.5	15.9		0.7	27.9	1.07		0.03	0.31
SPD-01	Sapotaceae	Pouteria	sagotiana	137	2.38	0.17	5.3	15.9	31.5	61.2	-0.1	27.1	0.67	0.02	0.06	0.19
SPD-01	Phyllanthaceae	Hieronyma	asperifolia	166	2.66	0.22	3.5	26.1	36.3		2.2	28.2	0.70		0.06	0.18
SPD-01	Hypericaceae	*Vismia	glaziovii	95	1.85	0.14	15.6	29.7	76.6	115.5	-0.9	27.8	0.74	0.05	0.20	0.27
SPD-01	Anacardiaceae	*Tapirira	obtusa	154	2.09	0.17	7.4	20.1	36.0	76.1	0.4	27.5	0.61	0.03	0.08	0.21
SPD-01	Sapindaceae	Matayba	guianensis	154	2.64	0.13	•		6.1		0.3	27.2	1.18		•	0.31
TRU-08	Aquifoliaceae	llex	rimbachii	194			7.7	12.2	40.3	70.6	1.2	24.2	0.56			
TRU-08	Anacardiaceae	Tapirira	obtusa	140			11.9	22.3	59.3	106.1	1.0	24.0	0.48			•
TRU-08	Myrtaceae	Siphoneugena	densiflora	202			4.9	5.9	13.2	29.8	0.2	23.3	0.71			•
TRU-08	Rubiaceae	Elaeagia	mariae	138	•		10.6	24.1	57.7	112.0	0.7	24.3	0.44			
TRU-08	Lauraceae	Nectandra	laurel	183	•		12.7	26.0	63.7	119.3	0.3	24.0	0.75			
TRU-08	Proteaceae	Panopsis	rubescens var. sprucei	182	•		9.3	18.9	42.6	87.5	0.5	24.0	0.50			
TRU-08	Alzateaceae	Alzatea	verticillata subsp. vertici	120	•		6.8	22.0	55.9		2.8	24.4	0.33			
TRU-08	Clethraceae	Clethra	fagifolia	190	2.17	0.10	10.9	28.7	60.6	131.2	0.9	24.4	0.45	0.05	0.13	0.14
TRU-08	Myrtaceae	Myrcia	fallax	156	1.42	0.05	2.9	12.7	22.0		1.3	25.1	0.39		0.07	0.19
TRU-08	Araliaceae	Schefflera	patula	130	2.20	0.21	4.0	8.5	28.0	47.8	1.5	24.5	0.54	0.02	0.06	0.17
TRU-08	Proteaceae	Roupala	monosperma	225	1.83	0.09	10.4	25.9	55.9	118.3	1.2	24.7	0.61	0.05	0.14	0.23
TRU-08	Moraceae	Ficus	americana	187	2.66	0.21	13.8	21.7	88.8	109.4	1.9	24.9	0.77	0.03	0.16	0.20
TRU-08	Lauraceae	Nectandra	cuspidata	188	2.01	0.06	12.6	29.8	60.9	129.1	0.3	25.0	0.76	0.05	0.14	0.26
TRU-08	Annonaceae	Guatteria	terminalis	114	1.71	0.09	5.8	20.8	40.7	94.4	1.2	25.1	0.42	0.04	0.11	0.17
TRU-08	Melastomataceae	Miconia	sp.	136	2.03	0.11	7.6	25.1	52.4		1.6	24.9	0.80		0.12	0.27
TRU-08	Myrtaceae	Myrcia	mollis		2.15	0.11	7.4	18.3	35.8	85.4	1.2	24.6		0.03	0.08	0.17
TRU-08	Rosaceae	Prunus	pleiantha	164	1.61	0.09	9.8	15.2	49.0	73.0	0.4	25.3	0.59	0.04	0.14	0.25
TRU-08	Hypericaceae	Vismia	schultesii	125	1.55	0.11	16.5	25.5	67.5	110.6	-0.5	24.3	0.59	0.06	0.21	0.26

TRU-08	Euphorbiaceae	Alchornea	anamariae	133	2.35	0.16	11.4	24.9	52.8	121.9	1.9	24.4	0.86	0.04	0.11	0.25
TRU-08	Sapindaceae	Cupania	rubiginosa	134	2.24	0.13	3.5	10.4	29.0	•	2.0	24.3	0.70		0.06	0.21
ESP-01	Clethraceae	Clethra	scabra	143	2.35	0.16	6.2	13.3	57.3	85.3	1.0	25.5		0.03	0.12	
ESP-01	Primulaceae	*Myrsine	coriacea	125	2.29	0.20	6.7	20.7	47.7		1.2	26.5			0.11	
ESP-01	Rosaceae	Prunus	integrifolia	141	2.86	0.25	6.9	12.7	34.4		0.8	26.7			0.06	
ESP-01	Myricaceae	Morella	pavonis	115	2.29	0.11	8.5	34.9	64.8	144.1	1.8	27.0		0.05	0.13	•
ESP-01	Brunelliaceae	Brunellia	cuzcoensis	129			5.7	13.2	30.6	57.8	1.3	26.4				•
ESP-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	livida	106			2.7	10.8	30.2	52.1	1.1	25.9				
ESP-01	Cunoniaceae	Weinmannia	pubescens	132	1.87	0.15	2.8	20.9	38.8	88.1	1.6	26.6		0.04	0.10	
ESP-01	Primulaceae	*Myrsine	youngii	120	2.27	0.18	6.4	15.4	43.6	32.1	1.5	26.8		0.01	0.09	
ESP-01	Lauraceae	Persea	buchtienii	174	2.74	0.21	6.6	10.5	50.6	73.6	2.3	29.9		0.02	0.09	
ESP-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	sp	114	1.80	0.17	6.0	26.7	43.4		1.2	27.8			0.11	
ESP-01	Lauraceae	Cinnamomum	floccosum	215	3.08	0.28	1.9	23.9	44.0		2.9	29.7			0.07	
ESP-01	Clethraceae	Clethra	sp.	186	2.43	0.17	2.2	11.3	24.6	45.0	1.2	29.0		0.01	0.05	
ESP-01	Icacinaceae	Citronella	sp.	177	3.29	0.21	2.8	8.4	17.3	37.2	0.9	26.6		0.01	0.03	
ESP-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	theizans				3.0	12.9	22.3		0.8	25.6				
ESP-01	Lauraceae	Ocotea	cernua	110	1.69	0.12	2.6	19.2	46.3		2.1	24.5			0.13	
WAQ-01	Lauraceae	Ocotea	sp6(1674KGC)	134	2.73	0.28	6.1	6.2	25.6	33.3	1.3	29.1		0.01	0.04	
WAQ-01	Araliaceae	Schefflera	sp.	194	2.70	0.22	11.3	14.2	69.7	79.5	1.1	25.6		0.02	0.12	
WAQ-01	Myrsinaceae	Myrsine	coriaceae	141	3.36	0.27	4.0	17.9	21.3		0.3	28.5			0.03	
WAQ-01	Chloranthaceae	Hedyosmum	maximum	130	2.37	0.20	5.4	12.1	28.0	49.3	1.2	28.3		0.02	0.06	
WAQ-01	Melastomataceae	Axinaea	sp.	77			5.4	24.1	62.0		2.6	25.4		0.03		
WAQ-01	Escalloniaceae	Escallonia	paniculata	130	2.58	0.27	10.4	25.9	57.9	119.1	1.4	24.7		0.04	0.11	
WAQ-01	Chletraceae	Chletra	cuneata	213	3.10		6.8	42.8	84.7	171.2	2.7	27.0		0.04	0.13	
WAQ-01	Lauraceae	Cinnamomum	floccosum	141	2.88	0.30	6.8	17.6	48.6	83.1	1.9	27.3		0.02	0.08	
WAQ-01	Podocarpaceae	Podocarpus	oleifolius	169	2.29	0.22	3.4	13.9	27.0		1.1	24.3			0.06	
WAQ-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	coelestis	139	1.90	0.14	3.1	15.1	29.3	57.5	0.4	27.4		0.02	0.07	
WAQ-01	Rubiaceae	Cinchona	officinalis	87	2.30	0.15	5.3	25.2	43.4		-0.1	26.9			0.09	
WAQ-01	Styracaceae	Styrax	foveolaria	242	3.20	0.23	5.3	17.1	57.6	84.1	1.1	24.8		0.02	0.09	
WAQ-01	Lauraceae	Persea	sp.	147	2.76	0.27	6.0	18.3	46.3		1.3	27.0			0.08	
TRU-03	Cunoniaceae	Weinmannia	auriculata	119	1.60	0.14	2.5	10.6	34.1	53.9	0.9	23.8	0.59	0.03	0.10	0.25
TRU-03	Cardiopteridacea	Citronella	incarum	157		0.25	8.7	35.2	71.7	169.2	1.8	24.0		0.03		
TRU-03	Lauraceae	Persea	corymbosa	213	3.07	0.24	6.2	17.8	50.9	86.9	2.6	25.2	1.24	0.02	0.08	0.28
TRU-03	Primulaceae	Myrsine	sp.	128	2.67	0.23	6.4	28.3	84.0		1.3	22.3	0.79		0.15	0.20

TRU-03	Araliaceae	Schefflera	allocotantha	162	1.87	0.22	13.1	17.8	42.6		-0.5	22.7	0.48		0.11	0.17
TRU-03	unidentified	unidentified	unidentified	83	1.65	0.20	4.0	10.1	26.3	57.3	1.6	22.5		0.03	0.08	
TRU-03	Aquifoliaceae	Ilex	biserrulata	203	2.51	0.18	4.3	23.9	58.4		1.7	23.0	0.35		0.11	0.10
TRU-03	Clethraceae	Clethra	cuneata	215	2.55	0.26	8.8	31.8	73.1	161.7	1.3	22.6	0.95	0.05	0.14	0.26
TRU-03	Aquifoliaceae	llex	sessiliflora	197	2.15	0.19	9.1	35.6	72.5		1.4	22.7	0.36		0.16	0.12
TRU-03	Primulaceae	Myrsine	coriacea	148	2.35	0.20	8.1	31.3	74.2	156.7	1.2	23.5	0.57	0.05	0.15	0.17
TRU-03	Clethraceae	Clethra	sp.	198	2.23	0.24	8.8	34.5	90.2	176.4	1.5	22.8	0.37	0.06	0.19	0.11
TRU-03	Pentaphylacaceae	Freziera	karsteniana	161	2.43		13.5	33.2	76.9	167.9	0.7	22.4	0.42	0.05	0.15	0.12
TRU-03	Lauraceae	Persea	buchtienii	146	1.82	0.16	9.1	17.4	37.4		0.0	22.4	0.43		0.10	0.16
TRU-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	cf. denticulata	135	2.18	0.18	7.2	23.6	43.8	•	0.7	24.8	1.25		0.10	0.39
TRU-01	Primulaceae	Myrsine	andina	120	2.27	0.21			59.1		1.4	24.2			0.12	
TRU-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	setulosa	133	2.39	0.23	9.2	24.0	76.4	131.0	1.2	25.4	0.69	0.04	0.15	0.20
TRU-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	media	145	2.75	0.20	5.9	26.7	55.4		1.8	22.8			0.10	
TRU-01	Asteraceae	Senecio	sp	93	2.44		10.1	40.6	95.8		1.9	22.8			0.19	
TRU-01	Symplocaceae	Symplocos	psiloclada	234	2.37	0.16	5.9	20.2	47.6		0.8	21.8	0.72		0.10	0.21
TRU-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	atrofusca	155	2.93	0.19	10.9	39.9	85.3		1.0	22.6			0.14	
TRU-01	Clethraceae	*Clethra	cuneata	227	2.74	0.27	10.9	31.0	81.6	156.9	1.1	22.4		0.05	0.14	
TRU-01	Cunoniaceae	Weinmannia	microphylla	75			4.3	32.0	64.8		3.3	23.4				
TRU-01	Aquifoliaceae	llex	sessiliflora	171			9.5	30.4	71.1		1.1	23.5	0.74			
TRU-01	Symplocaceae	Symplocos	quitensis	174			11.6	33.2	62.5		0.5	22.5	0.78			
TRU-01	Lauraceae	Persea	ferruginea				7.9	22.0	51.7		0.7	23.3				
TRU-01	Melastomataceae	Miconia	sp.	128			3.9	15.0	48.0	95.6	0.9	22.0				
TRU-01	Brunelliaceae	*Brunellia	inermis	122			4.3	14.1	26.8		1.1	21.8	0.68			

**Table S2. Pearson correlations for bivariate relationships among leaf traits and environmental parameters.** Number of replicates is given in bracket. Abbreviations:  $N_a = leaf$  nitrogen,  $P_a = leaf$  phosphorus, leaf N:P = leaf nitrogen to phosphorus ratio,  $M_a = leaf$  mass per unit leaf area, Chl = chlorophyll a and b content,  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  = maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  = maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C,  $V_{N,25}$  = ratio of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C over leaf nitrogen, Soil P=soil phosphorus, Soil N=soil nitrogen, MAT = mean annual temperature, MAP = mean annual precipitation. Environmental parameters at each site were obtained using site information from Quesada (*et al.* 2010; pers. comm. 2014) and Asner *et al.* (2014a). Note that the coefficient of determination,  $r^2$ , equals the square of the Pearson correlation coefficient.

	Na	Pa	Leaf N:P	Ma	Chl	$V_{\rm cmax,a}^{25}$	$J_{\rm max,a}^{25}$	$V_{\rm cmax,N}^{25}$	Soil P	Soil N	Elevation	MAT	MAP
Na (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	1 (248)	0.613 <sup>**</sup> (240)	-0.208** (232)	0.353 <sup>**</sup> (246)	0.370 <sup>**</sup> (171)	0.226 <sup>**</sup> (246)	0.227 <sup>**</sup> (184)	-0.297** (242)	0.356 <sup>**</sup> (248)	0.319 <sup>**</sup> (248)	0.368 <sup>**</sup> (248)	-0.375 <sup>**</sup> (248)	-0.041 (248)
Pa ′g m⁻²)		1 (248)	-0.769** (227)	0.188 <sup>**</sup> (246)	0.229 <sup>**</sup> (170)	0.331** (241)	0.366** (186)	-0.013 (234)	0.611** (248)	0.623** (248)	0.694 <sup>**</sup> (248)	-0.711** (248)	-0.004 (248)
_eaf N:P			1 (245)	-0.085 (232)	-0.047 (159)	-0.280** (243)	-0.244** (177)	-0.157* (227)	-0.476** (245)	-0.512** (245)	-0.539** (245)	0.551 <sup>**</sup> (245)	-0.020 (245)
Ma g m⁻²)				1 (274)	0.157 <sup>*</sup> (185)	0.077 (272)	0.196 <sup>**</sup> (199)	-0.095 (240)	-0.029 (274)	0.195 <sup>**</sup> (274)	0.194 <sup>**</sup> (274)	-0.162** (274)	-0.111 (274)
Chl g m <sup>-2</sup> )					<b>1</b> (185)	-0.001 (183)	0.085 (133)	-0.109 (166)	0.285 <sup>**</sup> (185)	0.153 <sup>*</sup> (185)	0.145 <sup>*</sup> (185)	-0.151 <sup>*</sup> (185)	0.239** (185)
/ <sub>cmax,a</sub> 25 μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )						1 (283)	0.840** (209)	0.810 <sup>**</sup> (242)	0.287 <sup>**</sup> (290)	0.354 <sup>**</sup> (290)	0.384 <sup>**</sup> (283)	-0.399** (283)	-0.070 (283)
25 max,a μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )							1 (209)	0.629 <sup>**</sup> (182)	0.373 <sup>**</sup> (209)	0.475 <sup>**</sup> (209)	0.461 <sup>**</sup> (209)	-0.462** (209)	0.152 <sup>*</sup> (209)
/ <sub>cmax,N</sub> <sup>25</sup> μmol gN <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )								1 (242)	0.143* (242)	0.201** (242)	0.186 <sup>**</sup> (242)	-0.198 <sup>**</sup> (242)	0.028 (242)
Soil P mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )									1 (292)	0.681** (292)	0.716 <sup>**</sup> (292)	-0.720** (292)	0.380** (292)
Soil N g kg <sup>-1</sup> )										1 (292)	0.921 <sup>**</sup> (292)	-0.902** (292)	0.104 (292)
Elevation m a.s.l.)											1 (292)	-0.992** (292)	-0.068 (292)
MAT °C)												1 (292)	0.070 (292)
MAP mm)													1 (292)

\*\* Correlation is significant at p<0.01

\* Correlation is significant at p<0.05

**Table S3: Standardized major axis regression slopes and their confidence intervals for log-log transformed relationships comparing leaf traits of lowland (~173 species) and upland (~120 species) species, depicted in Figures 2, 4 and 5 in the main text. Analysis undertaken using individual replicates.** Coefficients of determination ( $r^2$ ) and significance values (p) of each bivariate relationship are shown. Significantly different p values are shown in bold. 95% confidence intervals (CI) of SMA slopes and y-axis intercepts are shown in parentheses. Where SMA tests for common slopes revealed no significant differences between the two groups (i.e. p > 0.05), common slopes were used (with CI of the common slopes provided). Where there was a significant difference in the elevation (i.e. y-axis intercept) of the common-slope SMA regressions, values for the y-axis intercept are provided. Where appropriate, significant shifts along a common slope are indicated.

Bivariate relationship (y- vs. x-axis)	Group	r <sup>2</sup>	p	Slope	Slope Cl	Intercept	p	Common slope	Common slope Cl	p	Common slope y-axis intercept	Shift along a common slope?
Na vs. Ma	Lowland	0.069	0.001	1.027	(0.879, 1.199)	-1.889	0.003					
	Upland	0.198	<0.001	0.709	(0.593, 0.848)	-1.165						
P <sub>a</sub> vs. <i>M</i> <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	<0.001	0.985	-2.096	(-2.463, -1.784)	3.323	0.002					
	Upland	0.038	0.034	1.345	(1.104 , 1.639)	-3.661						
V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.003	0.468	-1.753	(-2.054, -1.495)	5.183	0.595	1.705	(1.511, 1.925)	0.010	-2.089	Yes, p < 0.001
	Upland	0.014	0.212	1.642	(1.362, 1.981)	-1.863					-1.999	
V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. N <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.024	0.050	1.707	(1.454, 2.005)	1.022	0.014					
	Upland	0.003	0.613	2.384	(1.950, 2.914)	0.801						
V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.041	0.013	0.841	(0.717, 0.986)	2.417	0.003					
	Upland	0.005	0.502	1.231	(1.003, 1.511)	2.602						
V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. leaf N:P	Lowland	0.002	0.563	-1.246	(-1.468, -1.057)	3.136	0.028					
	Upland	0.027	0.113	-1.657	(-2.030, -1.353)	3.494						
J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.004	0.473	1.136	(0.956, 1.349)	-0.577	0.022					
	Upland	0.005	0.552	1.620	(1.268, 2.069)	-1.533						
J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. N <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.050	0.012	1.046	(0.881, 1.242)	1.518	0.001					
	Upland	0.001	0.794	-2.224	(-2.897, -1.707)	2.736						
J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.077	0.002	0.5113	(0.432, 0.605)	2.368	0.001					
	Upland	0.029	0.205	-1.101	(-1.432, -0.846)	1.086						
J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. leaf N:P	Lowland	<0.001	0.888	-0.813	(-0.974, -0.679)	2.876	0.003					
	Upland	<0.001	0.930	-1.378	(-1.800, -1.055)	3.493						
V <sub>cmax,N</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.044	0.010	-1.841	(-2.157, -1.570)	5.092	0.789	-1.866	(-1.647, -2.114)	<0.001	5.146	No, <i>P</i> = 0.809
	Upland	0.010	0.327	-1.908	(-2.336, -1.559)	5.385					5.295	
V <sub>cmax,N</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.012	0.195	-0.890	(-1.048, -0.756)	0.239	0.004					
	Upland	0.030	0.101	-1.301	(-1.599, -1.059)	0.275						
V <sub>cmax,N</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. leaf N:P	Lowland	0.003	0.536	-1.307	(-1.548, -1.103)	2.945	0.057	-1.455	(-1.455, -1.274)	<0.001	3.141	Yes, p < 0.001
	Upland	0.020	0.185	-1.709	(-2.105, -1.388)	3.185					2.903	
J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> vs. V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup>	Lowland	0.590	<0.001	1.341	(1.204, 1.439)	15.81	0.001					
(not log-transformed)	Upland	0.748	<0.001	1.962	(1.736, 2.217)	-4.803						

Table S4: Means ± standard deviation of leaf physiology and chemistry, expressed on area basis for each site. Leaf traits are sorted according to decreasing leaf N:P for lowland sites and increasing elevation for upland sites.

Abbreviations:  $A_{400,a}$  light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $C_{i400}$ , intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure at 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $C_{a400}$ , atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure at 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $C_{i400}$ ; ratio of intercellular to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{400}$ :N, ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $C_{i400}$ , ratio of intercellular to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{400}$ :N, ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $C_{i2000}$ , intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> at 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{2000}$ ;  $A_{2000}$ , ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{2000}$ ;  $A_{2000}$ ;  $A_{2000}$ , ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{2000}$ :N, ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured under 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>];  $A_{2000}$ ;  $A_{200$ 

	Sites	A <sub>400,a</sub> (µmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	C <sub>i400</sub> (Pa)	C <sub>a400</sub> (Pa)	C <sub>i400</sub> : C <sub>a400</sub>	A <sub>400,N</sub> (µmol gN⁻¹ s⁻¹)	A <sub>2000,a</sub> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	C <sub>i2000</sub> (Pa)	A <sub>2000,N</sub> (µmol gN⁻¹ s⁻¹)	R <sub>light</sub> (µmol m⁻² s⁻¹)	Leaf T (°C)	Chl (g m⁻²)
	SUC-05	8.8 ± 4.5	28.9 ± 2.9	38.5 ± 0.7	0.75 ± 0.08	4.6 ± 2.5	20.9 ± 6.1	156.5 ± 21.8	11.9 ± 5.1	1.2 ± 0.5	28.8 ± 0.5	0.73 ± 0.21
Lowland	TAM-05	9.5 ± 2.7	25.3 ± 2.6	38.0 ± 0.5	0.67 ± 0.06	4.8 ± 1.7	22.2 ± 3.6	147.5 ± 21.1	10.9 ± 2.1	0.7 ± 0.6	30.2 ± 0.7	
	JEN-11	7.3 ± 3.7	31.4 ± 2.9	38.9 ± 0.6	0.81 ± 0.07	4.1 ± 2.3	17.4 ± 7.5	171.7 ± 14.2	8.3 ± 3.9	1.1 ± 0.6	28.8 ± 0.4	0.69 ± 0.30
	ALP-01	7.5 ± 4.4	27.2 ± 3.4	39.2 ± 0.4	0.69 ± 0.09	3.9 ± 2.4	17.4 ± 6.1	146.5 ± 20.4	8.7 ± 3.0	0.7 ± 0.6	29.9 ± 0.6	0.58 ± 0.15
	SUC-01	7.8 ± 4.7	29.2 ± 4.3	38.9 ± 0.6	0.77 ± 0.08	3.8 ± 2.3	19.6 ± 6.2	157.4 ± 21.2	10.5 ± 3.4	1.1 ± 0.8	29.5 ± 1.0	0.64 ± 0.19
	JEN-12	8.5 ± 4.4	30.5 ± 2.8	38.9 ± 0.5	0.78 ± 0.07	4.5 ± 2.3	19.9 ± 6.8	161.5 ± 24.8	10.3 ± 3.1	1.0 ± 0.8	28.8 ± 0.4	0.57 ± 0.15
	ALP-03	6.7 ± 3.2	30.2 ± 2.5	39.2 ± 0.4	0.77 ± 0.07	4.3 ± 2.4	16.1 ± 6.2	165.3 ± 14.0	10.0 ± 3.8	$1.0 \pm 0.4$	29.1 ± 0.6	0.54 ± 0.13
	CUZ-03	8.3 ± 3.4	25.5 ± 3.3	37.8 ± 0.5	0.67 ± 0.08	4.7 ± 2.2	19.2 ± 5.7	147.6 ± 24.0	10.8 ± 3.9	0.9 ± 0.4	29.9 ± 0.5	
	ALP-04	7.2 ± 3.7	25.4 ± 3.1	39.1 ± 0.3	0.65 ± 0.08	4.0 ± 2.3	18.3 ± 4.5	129.7 ± 27.8	10.7 ± 3.9	1.3 ± 0.8	30.9 ± 0.8	0.62 ± 0.14
	TAM-09	11.2 ± 2.3	26.5 ± 2.7	37.2 ± 0.5	0.71 ± 0.07	5.5 ± 1.8	20.9 ± 5.4	153.6 ± 18.6	10.2 ± 2.6	0.6 ± 0.4	29.1 ± 1.2	
	TAM-06	9.4 ± 3.5	26.7 ± 3.6	38.0 ± 0.6	0.70 ± 0.09	4.0 ± 1.7	22.6 ± 3.6	150.3 ± 21.5	9.1 ± 2.1	0.6 ± 1.0	29.9 ± 0.6	
Lowland		8.2 ± 3.9 °	28.4 ± 3.7 ª	38.6 ± 0.8 ª	0.74 ± 0.09 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 ± 2.2 ª	19.2 ± 6.1 <sup>a</sup>	155.2 ± 22.7 ª	10.1 ± 3.6 ª	1.0 ± 0.7 <sup>a</sup>	29.4 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>	0.62 ± 0.17 ª
mean												
	SPD-02	8.4 ± 2.7	21.0 ± 1.9	32.2 ± 0.3	0.65 ± 0.06	3.9 ± 1.4	25.3 ± 9.7	89.3 17.1	11.3 ± 5.2	1.0 ± 1.5	27.2 ± 0.5	0.78 ± 0.30
Upland	SPD-01	8.6 ± 5.0	20.4 ± 2.4	33.2 ± 0.6	0.61 ± 0.07	3.8 ± 2.2	23.0 ± 8.6	95.2 16.5	10.5 ± 4.4	0.1 ± 0.8	27.3 ± 1.0	0.72 ± 0.23
	TRU-08	9.0 ± 3.7	20.4 ± 3.0	32.0 ± 0.5	0.64 ± 0.10	4.1 ± 1.7	19.9 ± 7.0	90.4 20.4	10.6 ± 3.8	1.1 ± 0.8	24.5 ± 0.5	0.59 ± 0.16
	ESP-01	4.9 ± 2.9	16.7 ± 2.4	28.5 ± 0.3	0.58 ± 0.09	2.3 ± 1.4	17.1 ± 7.7	55.1 11.9	8.1 ± 4.4	1.4 ± 0.6	26.9 ± 1.7	
	WAQ-01	6.1 ± 2.4	16.5 ± 2.2	27.9 ± 0.4	0.59 ± 0.08	2.3 ± 0.9	19.3 ± 8.9	58.0 17.9	7.1 ± 3.1	1.2 ± 0.8	26.6 ± 1.6	
	TRU-03	7.9 ± 3.2	17.6 ± 2.3	27.7 ± 0.3	0.63 ± 0.08	3.6 ± 1.7	25.2 ± 9.4	65.3 12.6	10.8 ± 3.6	1.2 ± 0.8	23.1 ± 0.8	0.60 ± 0.29
	TRU-01	7.8 ± 3.1	17.1 ± 2.1	26.3 ± 0.3	0.65 ± 0.08	3.5 ± 1.2	26.5 ± 8.6	58.8 11.7	11.5 ± 2.6	1.3 ± 0.7	23.0 ± 1.1	0.81 ± 0.22
Upland		7.6 ± 3.6 ª	18.8 ± 3.0 <sup>b</sup>	30.1 ± 2.6 <sup>b</sup>	0.62 ± 0.08 <sup>b</sup>	3.4 ± 1.7 <sup>b</sup>	22.3 ± 8.9 <sup>b</sup>	75.8 ± 22.8 <sup>b</sup>	10.0 ± 4.3 ª	1.0 ± 1.0 ª	25.7 ± 2.1 <sup>b</sup>	0.69 ± 0.25 b
mean												

Table S5: Standardized major axis regression slopes and their confidence intervals for relationships comparing leaf traits of lowland (~126 species) and upland (~40 species) species, depicted in Figures 7 and S2 in the main text. Analysis undertaken using individual replicates. Coefficients of determination ( $r^2$ ) and significance values (p) of each bivariate relationship are shown. Significantly different p values are shown in bold. 95% confidence intervals (CI) of SMA slopes and y-axis intercepts are shown in parentheses. Where SMA tests for common slopes revealed no significant differences between the two groups (i.e. p>0.05), common slopes were used (with CI of the common slopes provided). Where there was a significant difference in the elevation (i.e. y-axis intercept) of the common-slope SMA regressions, values for the y-axis intercept are provided. Where appropriate, significant shifts along a common slope are indicated.

Bivariate relationship (y- vs. x-axis)	Group	r <sup>2</sup>	p	Slope	Slope Cl	Intercept	p	Common slope	Common slope Cl	p	Common slope y-axis intercept	Shift along a common slope?
np vs. Ma	Lowland	0.012	0.258	-0.2421	(-0.292, -0.201)	57.02	0.072	-0.2172	(-0.187, -0.253)	0.698	53.600	No, p = 0.185
	Upland	0.002	0.719	-0.1797	(-0.231, -0.134)	47.64					52.945	
n <sub>R</sub> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.042	0.011	-0.1217	(-0.143, -0.104)	24.841	0.482	-0.1176	(-0.104, -0.133)	<0.001	24.303	No, p = 0.794
	Upland	0.001	0.809	0.1110	(0.090, 0.137)	-5.861					27.171	
n <sub>E</sub> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.023	0.087	-0.0279	(-0.033, -0.023)	6.362	0.249	-0.0296	(-0.026, -0.034)	<0.001	6.579	No, p = 0.227
	Upland	0.001	0.870	-0.0339	(-0.045, -0.026)	8.240					7.605	
n <sub>P</sub> vs. N <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.358	<0.001	-16.52	(-19.23, -14.18)	55.21	0.711	-16.76	(-14.73, -19.08)	0.017	55.676	Yes, p <0.001
	Upland	0.001	0.773	-17.43	(-22.36, -13.59)	60.53					59.063	
n <sub>R</sub> vs. N <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.171	<0.001	-7.876	(-9.127, -6.797)	24.29	0.101	-8.499	(-7.544, -9.564)	<0.001	25.515	No, p = 0.065
	Upland	0.094	0.003	-9.725	(-11.842, -7.987)	32.64					29.802	
n <sub>E</sub> vs. Na	Lowland	0.382	<0.001	-1.732	(-1.992, -1.506)	6.156	0.001					
	Upland	0.165	0.002	-3.039	(-3.889, -2.374)	10.278						
n <sub>P</sub> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.154	<0.001	-225.4	(-268.6, -189.2)	42.22	0.002					
	Upland	0.028	0.186	-129.5	(-165.9, -101.1)	43.04						
<i>n</i> <sub>R</sub> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.013	0.175	-90.48	(-106. 4, -76.96)	17.23	0.167	-84.48	(-74.36, -96.08)	<0.001	16.677	Yes, p <0.001
	Upland	0.030	0.106	-75.48	(92.97, -61.28)	23.26					24.851	
n <sub>E</sub> vs. Pa	Lowland	0.050	0.013	-19.99	(-23.79, -16.80)	4.635	0.568	-20.60	-17.84 -23.75	<0.001	4.692	Yes, p = 0.001
	Upland	0.155	0.003	-21.89	(-28.19, -16.99)	7.047					6.824	
n <sub>A</sub> vs. M <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.070	0.003	-1.2405	(-1.471, -1.046)	2.143	0.085	-1.152	(-0.992, -1.345)	0.025	1.958	No, p = 0.742
(log-transformed)	Upland	0.002	0.794	-0.8934	(-1.233, -0.647)	1.475					2.026	
n <sub>A</sub> vs. Na	Lowland	0.445	<0.001	-1.078	(-1.231, -0.945)	-0.159	0.099	-1.129	(-0.999, -1.273)	<0.001	-0.145	No, p = 0.189
(log-transformed)	Upland	0.156	0.011	-1.403	(-1.881, -1.046)	0.037					-0.054	
n <sub>A</sub> vs. P <sub>a</sub>	Lowland	0.056	0.008	-0.556	(-0.661, -0.468)	-1.065	0.446	-0.576	(-0.495, -0.670)	<0.001	-1.086	Yes, p <0.001
(log-transformed)	Upland	0.100	0.047	-0.640	(-0.869, -0.471)	-0.957					-0.904	

Table S6: Stepwise selection process for the fixed component of linear mixed effect models: with  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  as the response variables. Continuous explanatory variables are N<sub>a</sub>, P<sub>a</sub>, M<sub>a</sub>, total soil P and N, MAT and effective cation exchange capacity of soil. Given the large number of species in our dataset, we treated phylogeny as a random component within the model construct and so focused on phylogenetic variation rather than individual species mean values. Because of low replication at the species level, a simple random term of Family was found to perform just as well as the fully nested Family/Genus/Species. In choosing explanatory terms for the model's fixed component, we began by adopting a beyond-optimal model including those continuous variables suggested by our starting hypotheses, initial data exploration, and with care to avoid problems of collinearity - a limited number of two-way interactions were included (specifically N:P). A backward, stepwise selection process adopted the Maximum Likelihood method; the model's random component was held constant through these iterations. The effect of dropping sequential terms was tested by comparing the nested model variants. The model's random component was identical in all variants. Test parameters and statistics are DF (degrees of freedom), AIC (Akaike Information Criterion), BIC (Bayesian Information Criterion) and -2LL (-2 restricted Log Likelihood). The effect of dropping sequential terms was tested by comparing the nested model variants. The best predictive model, underlined, was selected based on a combination of low criteria score and simplicity, considering twoway interactions only. Because our final preferred model, arrived at by backward selection, was so parsimonious, we then tested the effect of adding selected terms and interactions not previously included - in no case did those additional terms improve model performance.For the J<sub>max</sub> model, it was not thought necessary to include site average terms for leaf N and P, since those terms had proved so marginal in the equivalent  $V_{cmax}$  model selection steps.

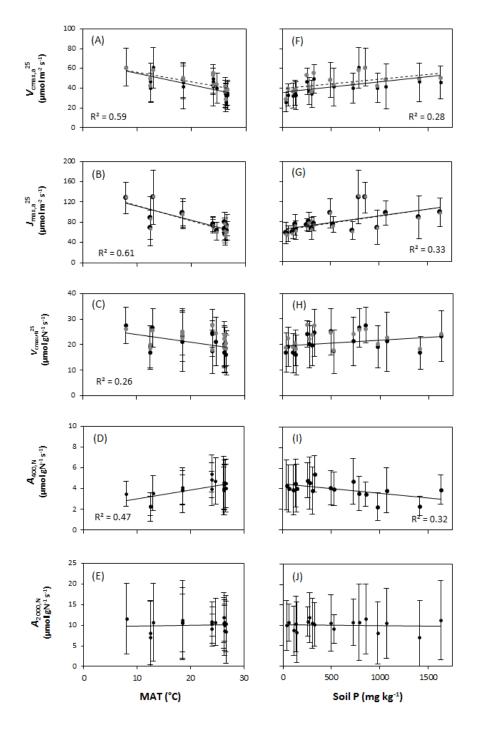
Model	Fixed component	DF	AIC	BIC	-2LL
$V_{\rm cmax,a}^{25}$					
1	log10(Soil P) + Na + Site.Na + Pa + Site.Pa + Na.Pa	9	1663.5	1693.1	-822.7
2	log10(Soil P) + Na + Site.Na + Pa + Site.Pa + log10(Soil P).Na	9	1664.0	1693.7	-823.0
3	log10(Soil P) + N <sub>a</sub> + Site.N <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>a</sub> + Site.P <sub>a</sub>	8	1663.2	1689.6	-823.6
4	log10(Soil P) + N <sub>a</sub> + Site.N <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>a</sub>	7	1661.4	1684.4	-823.7
5	log10(Soil P) + N <sub>a</sub> + P <sub>a</sub>	6	1661.5	1681.3	-824.7
6	log10(Soil P) + P <sub>a</sub>	<u>5</u>	<u>1659.7</u>	<u>1676.1</u>	<u>-824.8</u>
7	log10(Soil P) + P <sub>a</sub> + MAT + P <sub>a</sub> :MAT	7	1663.1	1686.1	-824.5
8	log10(Soil P) + Pa + MAT	6	1661.1	1680.9	-824.6
9	log10(Soil P) + P <sub>a</sub> + SoilN	6	1658.9	1678.6	-823.4
10	log10(Soil P) + P <sub>a</sub> + ECEC	6	1657.5	1677.2	-822.7
11	$\log 10(Soil P) + P_a + M_a$	6	1660.8	1680.5	-824.4
<b>J</b> <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup>					
1	log10(Soil P) + $P_a$ + $N_a$ + $M_a$ + MAT + $N_a$ . $P_a$	9	1361.1	1388.0	-671.5
2	$\log 10(Soil P) + P_a + N_a + M_a + MAT + \log 10(Soil P).N_a$	9	1358.7	1385.7	-670.4
3	log10(Soil P) + $P_a$ + $N_a$ + $M_a$ + MAT	8	1360.3	1384.3	-672.2
4	$\log 10(Soil P) + P_a + M_a + MAT$	7	1358.3	1379.3	-672.2
5	$\log 10(Soil P) + P_a + M_a$	6	1357.3	1375.3	-672.6
6	log10(Soil P) + P <sub>a</sub>	<u>5</u>	<u>1359.9</u>	<u>1374.9</u>	<u>-674.9</u>
7	log10(Soil P)	4	1363.4	1375.4	-677.7

Abbreviations:  $N_a$  = leaf nitrogen,  $P_a$  = leaf phosphorus,  $M_a$  = leaf mass per unit leaf area, Soil P = soil phosphorus, Soil N = soil nitrogen, MAT = mean annual temperature, ECEC = effective cation exchange capacity of soil. Environmental parameters at each site were obtained using site information from Quesada (*et al.* 2010; pers. comm. 2014), Asner *et al.* (2014a) and Malhi *et al.* (in prep.).

Table S7: Comparison of mean values of  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  at 25°C values ( $V_{cmax25}$  and  $J_{max25}$ , respectively) in upland and lowland plants calculated using different activation energies ( $E_a$ ) for each parameter (i.e.  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$ ), and  $K_c$  and  $K_o$ constants when calculating  $V_{cmax}$ . Here, we compare values calculated using  $E_a$  values reported by Farquhar *et al.* (1980) and Bernacchi *et al.* (2002). For Farquhar *et al.* (1980),  $E_a$  values of  $K_c$  and  $K_o$  used were 59.4 and 36.0 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. For Bernacchi *et al.* (2002), the  $E_a$  values of  $K_c$  and  $K_o$  were 80.99 and 23.72 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. For calculations made using Farquhar *et al.* (1980), we used  $E_a$  values for  $V_{cmax}$  and  $J_{max}$  of 64.8 and 37.0 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively; for Bernacchi *et al.* (2002), the  $E_a$  values for  $V_{cmax}$ and  $J_{max}$  were 65.3 and 43.9 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Values are overall mean  $\pm$  SD of leaf traits for lowland and upland sites. Significantly different means are indicated by different letters (p<0.05).

Source of constants		V <sub>cmax,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	J <sub>max,a</sub> <sup>25</sup> (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	
Farquhar et al.	Lowland species	35.9 ± 14.6ª	$66.7 \pm 18.6^{a}$	
(1980)	Upland species	48.8 ± 20.0 <sup>b</sup>	$96.9 \pm 36.9^{b}$	
Bernacchi et al.	Lowland species	39.7 ± 15.6ª	$64.7 \pm 18.6^{a}$	
(2002)	Upland species	$50.5 \pm 18.5^{b}$	$96.6 \pm 37.3^{b}$	

Figure S1: Plots of maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco normalised to 25°C,  $V_{cmax/a}^{25}$  against (A) mean annual temperature (MAT) and (F) soil P concentration; maximum rate of electron transport normalised to 25°C,  $J_{max/a}^{25}$  against (B) MAT and (G) soil P; ratio of  $V_{cmax/a}^{25}$  over leaf N,  $V_{cmax/N}^{25}$  against (C) MAT and (H) soil P; ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured at 400 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>] over leaf N,  $A_{400}$ :N against (D) MAT and (I) soil P; and ratio of light-saturated net photosynthesis measured at 2000 µmol mol <sup>-1</sup> atmospheric [CO<sub>2</sub>] over leaf N,  $A_{2000}$ :N against (E) MAT and (J) soil P for each site. In (A)-(H), black circles (and solid regression lines) represent photosynthetic parameters calculated using constants of Farquhar *et al.* (1980) and grey circles (and dashed regression lines) represent parameters calculated using Bernacchi *et al.* constants (2002). R<sup>2</sup> values shown are for Farquhar *et al.* (1980) only regressions. Environmental parameters at each site were obtained using site information from Quesada (*et al.* 2010; pers. comm. 2014) and Asner *et al.* (2014a).



# Figure S2: Plots of % of leaf N to pigment-protein complexes, *n*<sub>P</sub>, % of leaf N to Rubisco, *n*<sub>R</sub>, and % of leaf N to electron transport, *n*<sub>E</sub>, in relation to (A) leaf mass per unit leaf area, *M*<sub>a</sub>, (B) leaf N-area, N<sub>a</sub>, and (C) leaf P-area, P<sub>a</sub>. Data points represent individual leaf values (150 lowland species and 92 upland species).

SMA regressions: solid line, lowland species; dashed line, upland species. SMA regressions are given only when the relationships are significant (p<0.05) and when lowland and upland shared similar slopes, refer to Table S5. Analyses were performed on percentage instead of fraction of N to meet the requirement of SMA analyses.

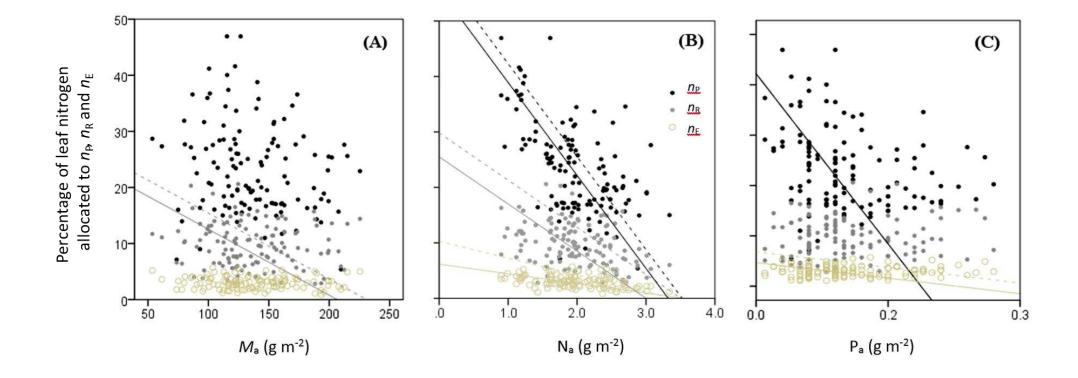
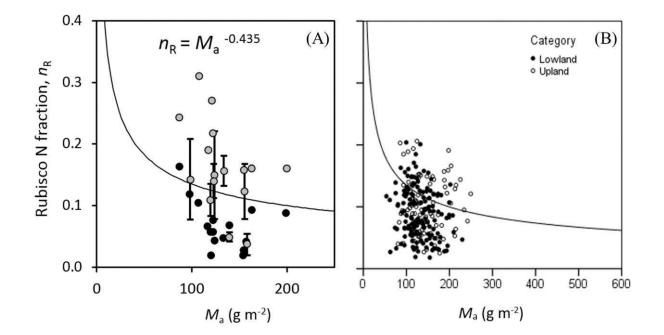


Figure S3: Plots of fraction of leaf N allocated in Rubisco,  $n_{\rm R}$  in relation to leaf mass per unit leaf area,  $M_{\rm a}$ , for (A) 16 lowland species for where both *in vivo* and *in vitro* estimates were available; and (B) 150 lowland and 92 upland species for where *in vivo* data was available. Black circles in Fig S3A are *in vivo*  $n_{\rm R}$  derived from maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco (normalised to 25°C) (i.e. a subset of those in Fig S3B). Grey circles in Fig S3A are *in vitro*  $n_{\rm R}$  derived from Rubisco western blot assay.  $n_{\rm R}$  in Fig 3B is derived from maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco from maximum carboxylation velocity of rubisco (normalised to 25°C),  $V_{\rm cmax,a}^{25}$ . In both figures, the line shown is inferred from the global relationship between photosynthetic rate per unit leaf N and  $M_{\rm a}$  (Hikosaka, 2004; Wright *et al.*, 2004), the equation  $n_{\rm R} = M_{\rm a}^{-0.435}$  given in Harrison *et al.* (2009)



**Figure S4: Stacked graph show**  $n_E$ ,  $n_P$  and  $n_R$  for individual leaves. Individual leaf is arranged first according to sites with increasing soil P (soil P value in mg kg<sup>-1</sup> depicted underneath site code), then according to decreasing leaf N:P within each site. Leaf N:P for individual leaf is provided on top of the bar.  $n_E$  was estimated from maximum electron transport rate (normalised to 25°C),  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  and  $n_P$  estimated from chlorophyll concentration. Grey panel depicts *in vitro*  $n_R$  estimated from Rubisco western blot assay, where black mark within grey panel indicates *in vivo*  $n_R$  derived from maximum carboxylation velocity of Rubisco (normalised to 25°C),  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ . Horizontal axis shows family of individual leaf.

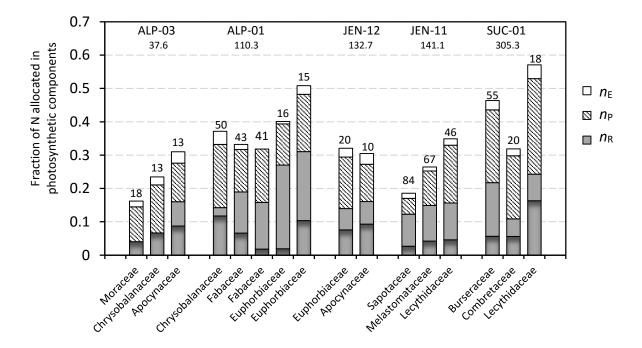
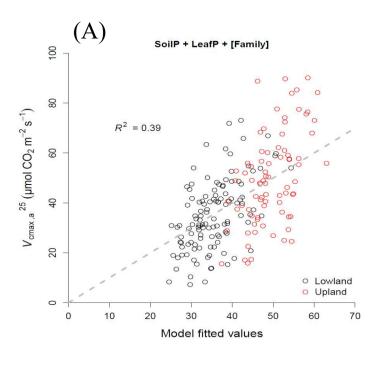
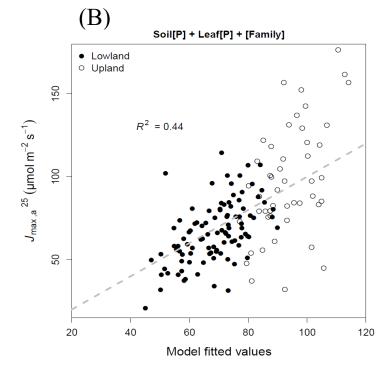


Figure S5: Plots for linear mixed-effects model goodness of fits, including fixed and random terms for (A)  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$ ; and, (B)  $J_{max,a}^{25}$ . Measured values of  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  are plotted against model predictions (using the 'best' predictive models detailed in Table 3). For  $V_{cmax,a}^{25}$  and  $J_{max,a}^{25}$  model, the fixed component explanatory variables were: soil P and leaf P (P<sub>a</sub>).





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