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Leaves as bottlenecks: The contribution of tree leaves to hydraulic resistance within the soil?plant?atmosphere continuum

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摘要	<p>Within vascular plants, the partitioning of hydraulic resistance along the soil-to-leaf continuum affects transpiration and its response to environmental conditions. In trees, the fractional contribution of leaf hydraulic resistance (R_{leaf}) to total soil-to-leaf hydraulic resistance (R_{total}), or fR_{leaf} ($=R_{leaf}/R_{total}$), is thought to be large, but this has not been tested comprehensively. We compiled a multibiome data set of fR_{leaf} using new and previously published measurements of pressure differences within trees in situ. Across 80 samples, fR_{leaf} averaged 0.51 (95% confidence interval [CI]?=?0.46?0.57) and it declined with tree height. We also used the allometric relationship between field-based measurements of soil-to-leaf hydraulic conductance and laboratory-based measurements of leaf hydraulic conductance to compute the average fR_{leaf} for 19 tree samples, which was 0.40 (95% CI=?=?0.29?0.56). The in situ technique produces a more accurate descriptor of fR_{leaf} because it accounts for dynamic leaf hydraulic conductance. Both approaches demonstrate the outsized role of leaves in controlling tree hydrodynamics. A larger fR_{leaf} may help stems from loss of hydraulic conductance. Thus, the decline in fR_{leaf} with tree height would contribute to greater drought vulnerability in taller trees and potentially to their observed disproportionate drought mortality.</p>
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