

122599

[student competition #]

@AdrianCGallo



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# *Roots to Regolith*

## Sources of OM across the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Soil Plots

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Katherine Heckman<sup>2</sup>, Lucas Nave<sup>3</sup>, Angela  
Possinger<sup>6</sup>, Michael SanClements<sup>4,5</sup>, Brian  
Strahm<sup>6</sup>, Tyler Weiglein<sup>6</sup>

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Oregon Coast Range – Jory Soil Profile

# Acknowledgement

S



National Ecological Observatory Network, Inc.



NFS Macrosystems Biology 1340504  
NSF Macrosystems Biology RAPID 1733885

Yvan Alleau – Lab Wizard



Co-authors: Jeff Hatten, Katherine Heckman, Lucas Nave, Angela Possinger, Michael SanClements, Brian Strahm

Fellow graduate students: Lauren Matosziuk, Maggie Bowman, Dave Frey, Tyler Weiglein.

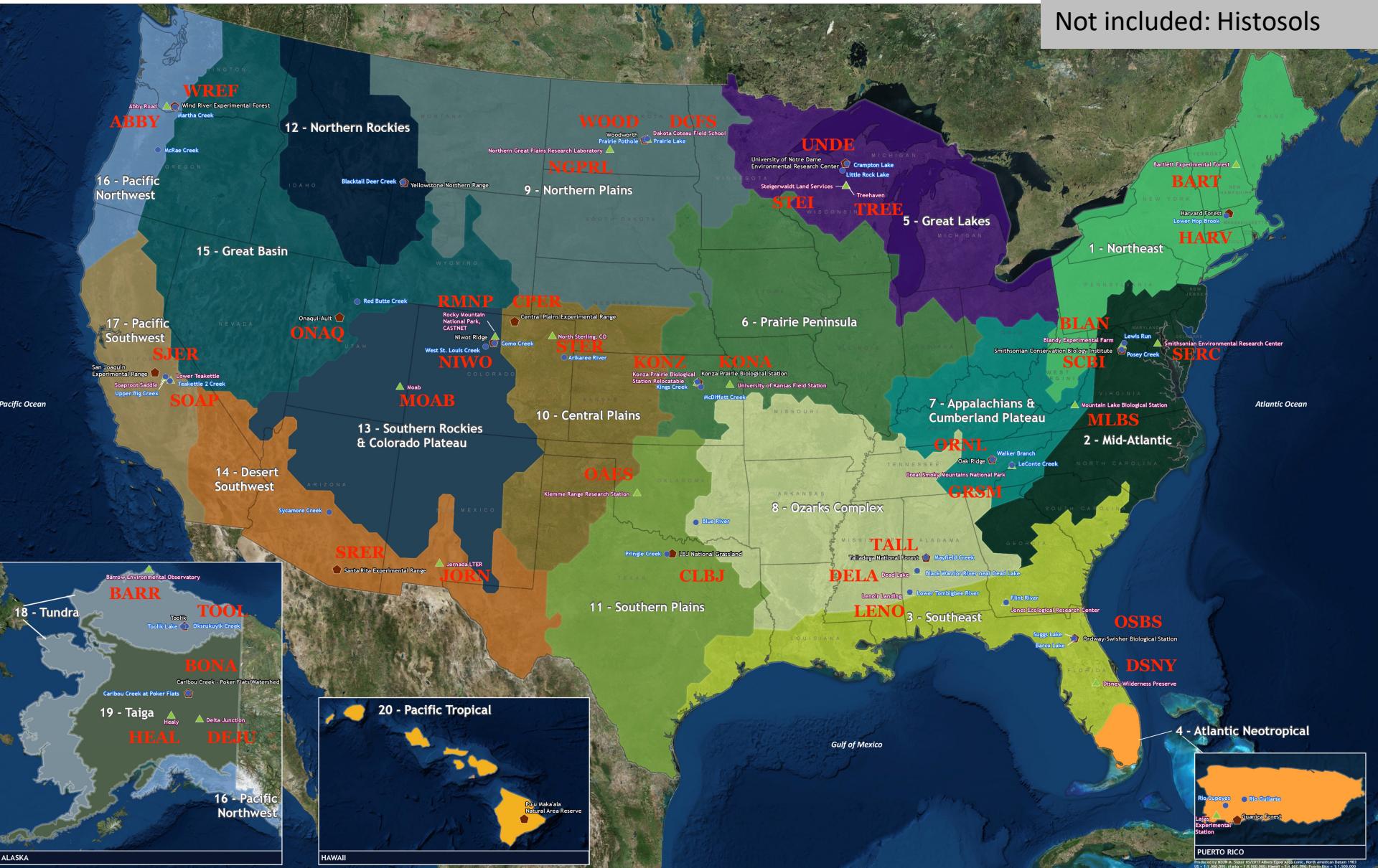
Undergraduate helpers: Maylita Brougher, Ethan Donahue, Chantal Jorgensen, Hayden England.

# Conclusions [Take-home Messages]

- Lignin = Plant tracer
  - Lignin is abundant *ACROSS* ecosystems
  - Lignin is abundant *DOWN* soil profiles
  - Majority of lignin (i.e. plant OM) is stabilized by mineral associations
- Angiosperm vs Gymnosperm SOM signal is **robust**
- [Future Work] Roots vs Shoots

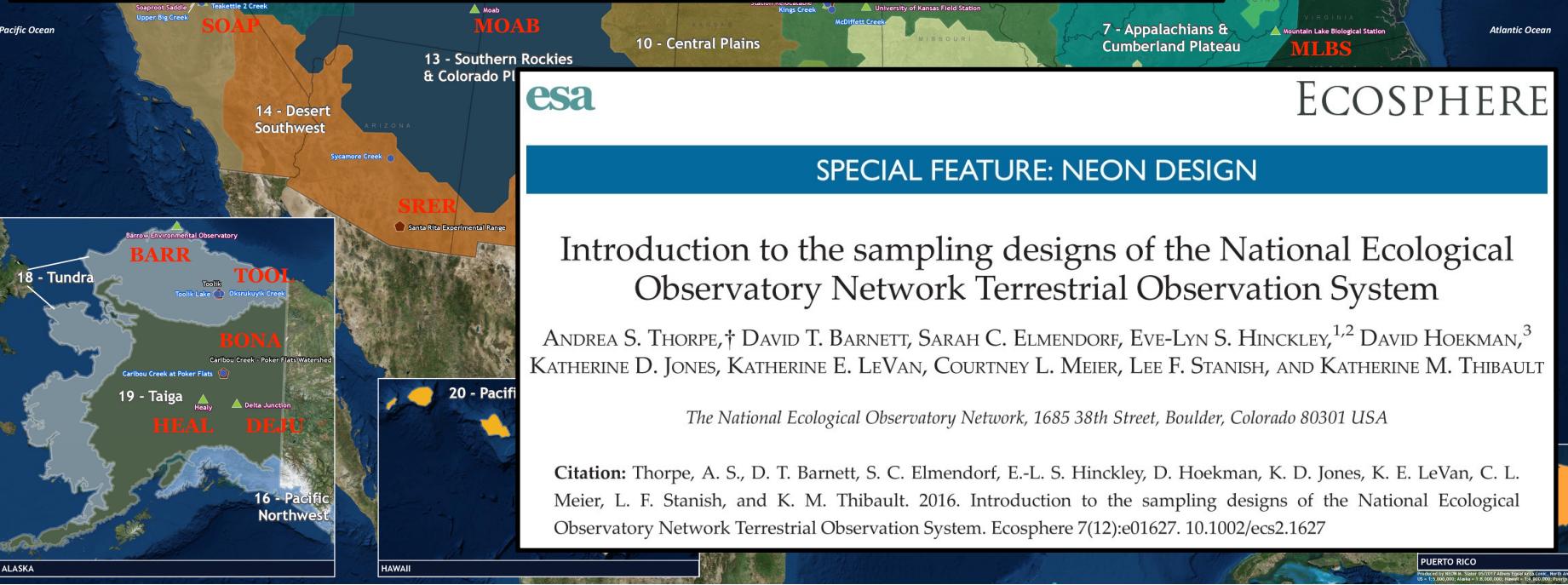
# NEON Project

Observation time: 30-yrs  
Eco-climatic domains: 20  
Terrestrial sites: ~40  
Soil Orders: 11 out of 12  
Not included: Histosols

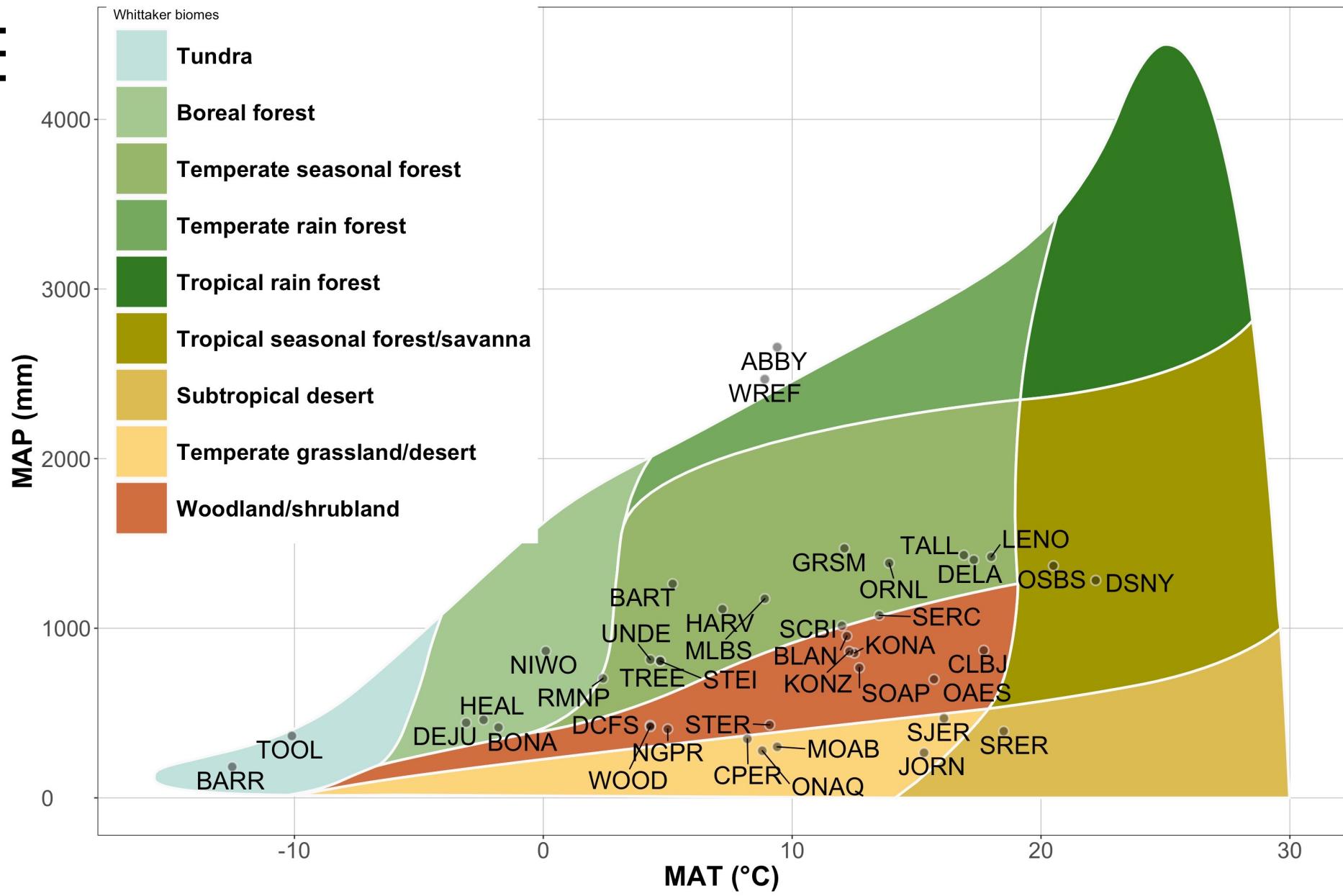


# NEON Project

Observation time: 30-  
Eco-climatic domains: 20  
Terrestrial sites: ~40  
Soil Orders: 9 out of 12  
Not included: Histosols

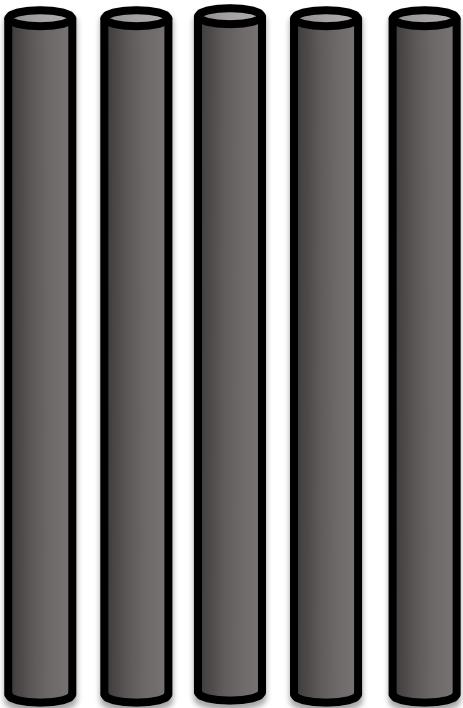


# NEON Project ~ Whittaker



# This Project (methods/materials)

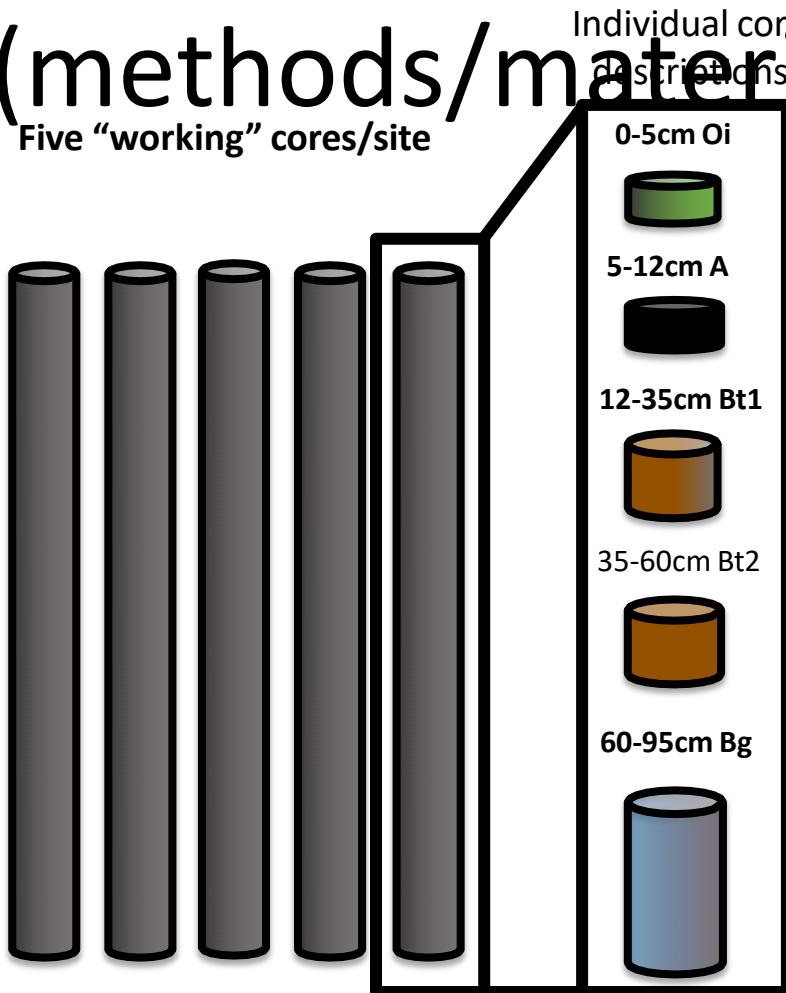
Five “working” cores/site



Five “archive” cores/site frozen upon arrival to OSU  
& stored at the Univ. Michigan Biological Station -  
Michigan (Nave)

# This Project (methods/materials)

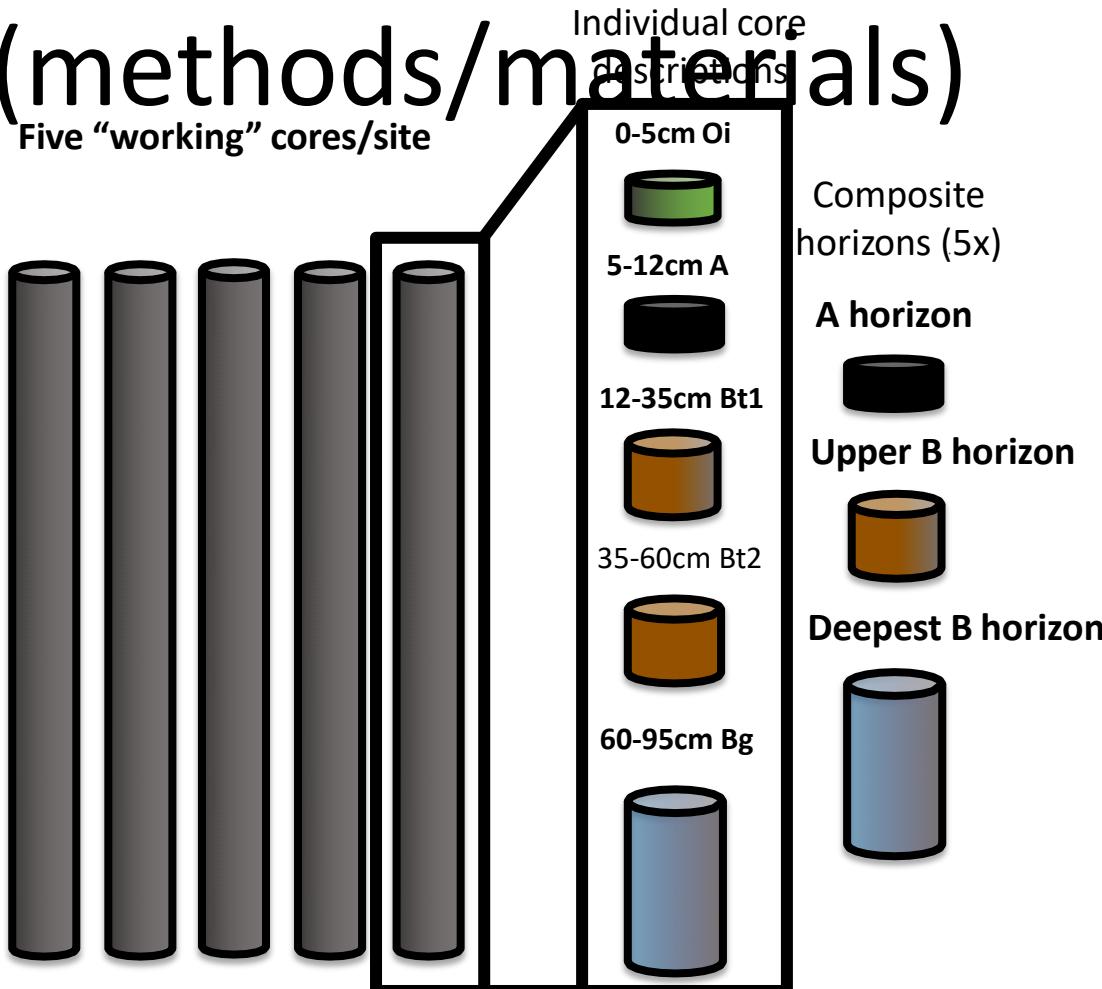
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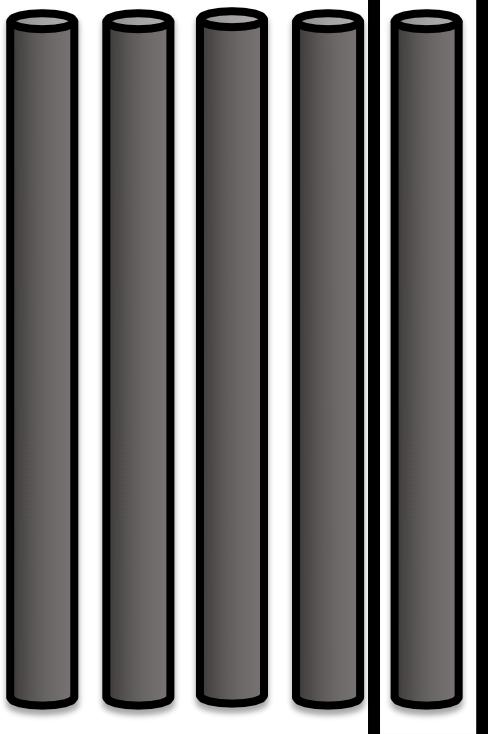
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# This Project (methods/materials)

Five “working” cores/site



Individual core descriptions

0-5cm Oi



5-12cm A



12-35cm Bt1



35-60cm Bt2



60-95cm Bg



Composite horizons (5x)

A horizon



Upper B horizon



Deepest B horizon



Oregon State (Hatten/Gallo)

Soil characterization, pH, organic solvent extractions, **biomarkers**, BPCA, elemental analysis-ICP.



Virginia Tech (Strahm +

Possinger + Weiglein)

**Incubations (1yr) 2x3**

tempXmoisture treatments, CO<sub>2</sub> respiration, stable isotopes, particle specific surface area.



USDA Forest Service (Heckman)

Density separation, clay mineralogy, <sup>14</sup>C



University Colorado

(SanClements/**Bowman**)

Cold/hot water extracts, UV-vis fluorescence, mass spectrometry

Five “archive” cores/site frozen upon arrival to OSU & stored at the Univ. Michigan Biological Station - Michigan (Nave)

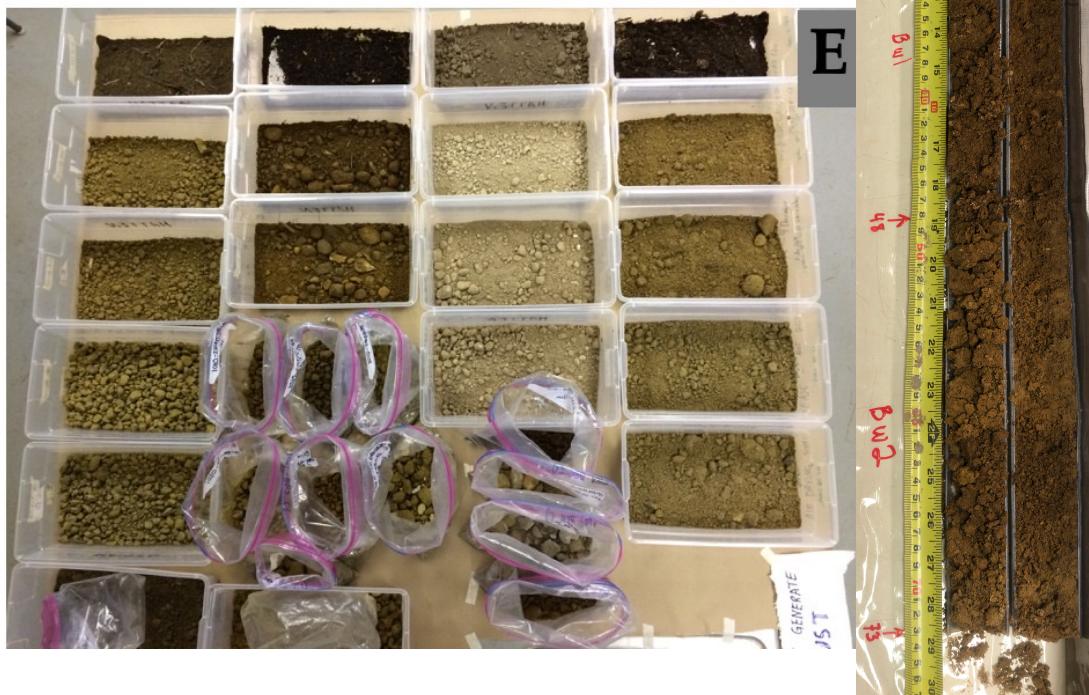


A & B) Soil coring apparatus in Alaska and Florida respectively

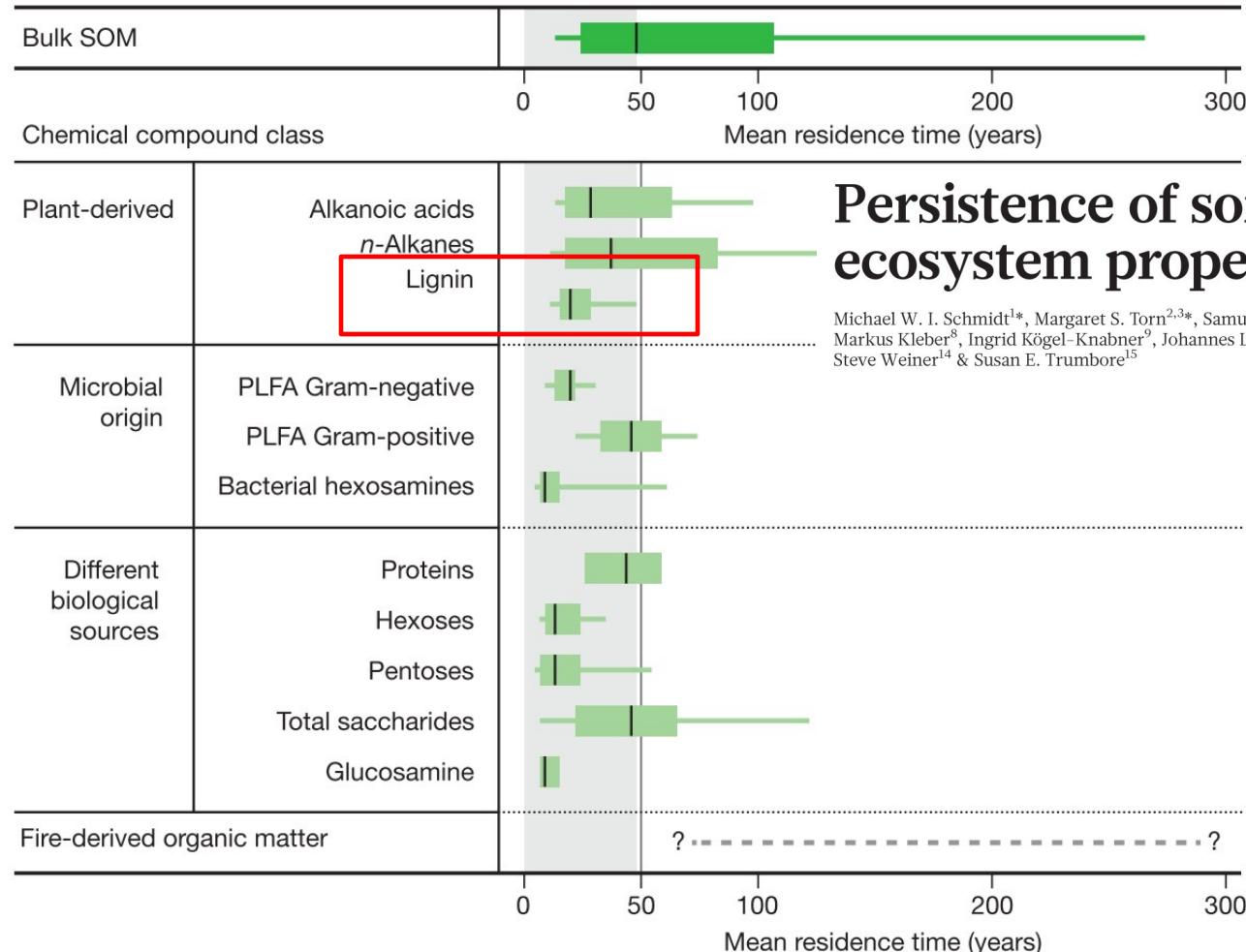
C) 10 Soil cores collected per site, collection down to 200cm

D) Example of an open core from Wind River Experimental Forest (WREF)

E) Compositing & drying soils horizons of similar characteristics for analysis



# Methods: Lignin = Plant Sources



## Persistence of soil organic matter as an ecosystem property

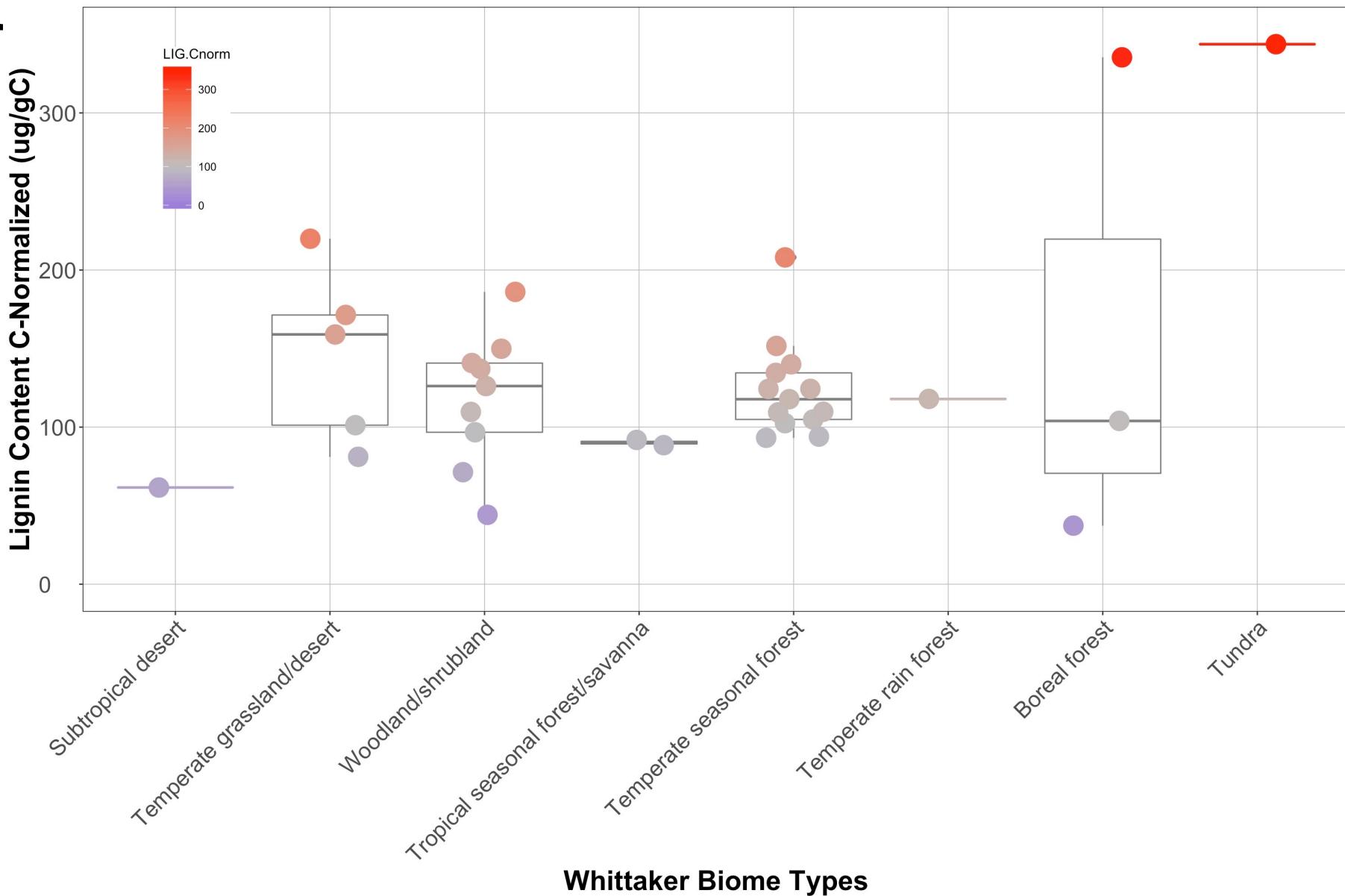
Michael W. I. Schmidt<sup>1\*</sup>, Margaret S. Torn<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Samuel Abiven<sup>1</sup>, Thorsten Dittmar<sup>4,5</sup>, Georg Guggenberger<sup>6</sup>, Ivan A. Janssens<sup>7</sup>, Markus Kleber<sup>8</sup>, Ingrid Kögel-Knabner<sup>9</sup>, Johannes Lehmann<sup>10</sup>, David A. C. Manning<sup>11</sup>, Paolo Nannipieri<sup>12</sup>, Daniel P. Rasse<sup>13</sup>, Steve Weiner<sup>14</sup> & Susan E. Trumbore<sup>15</sup>

Cellulose ~ 300 g/kg  
 Lignin ~ 200 g/kg  
 Lipids ~ 125 g/kg  
 Proteins ~ 60 g/kg  
 Solubles 50-100 g/kg  
 Inorganics 40 g/kg

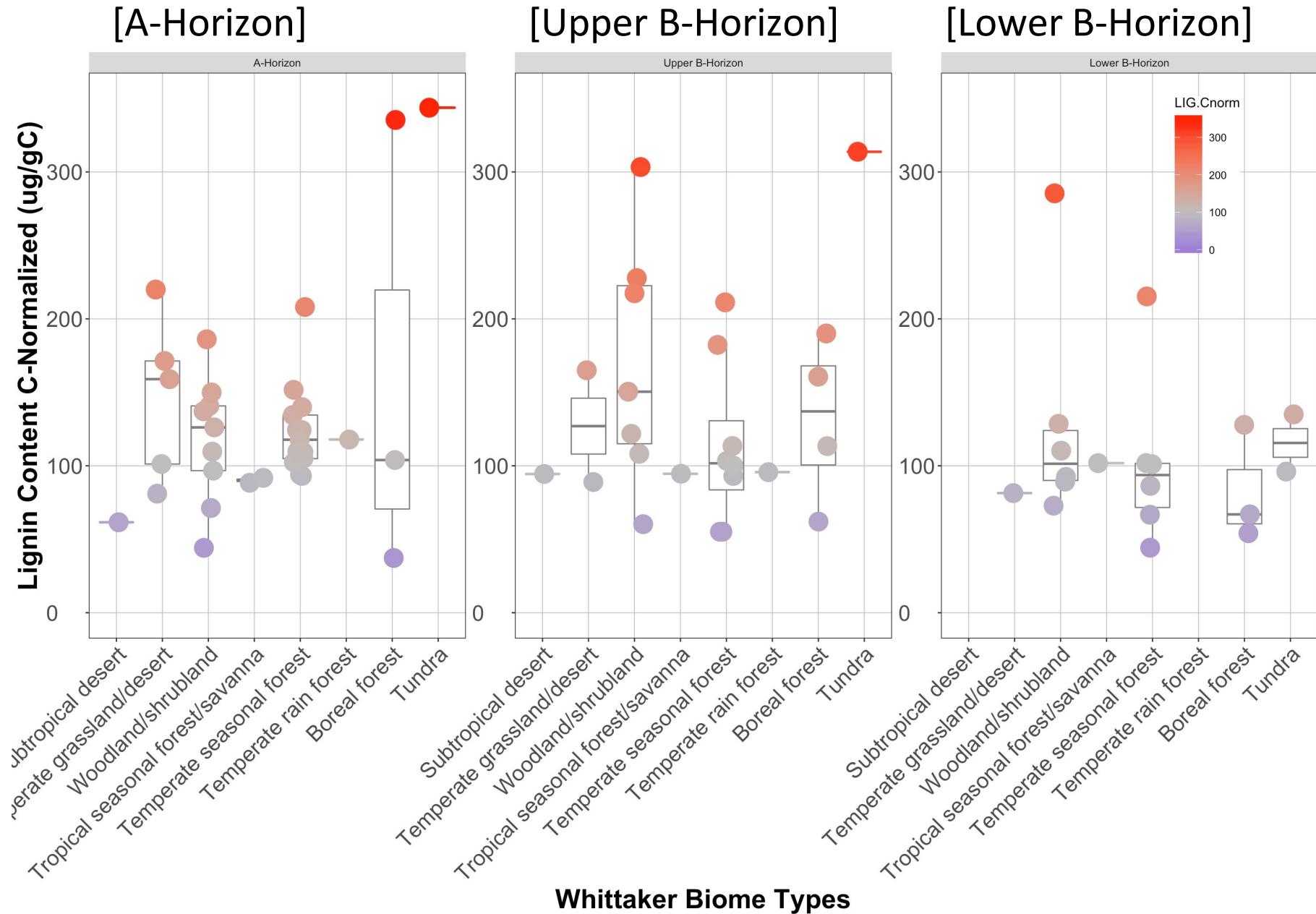
Figure 1. “[T]he importance of initial quality fades and the initially fast-cycling compounds are just as likely to persist as the slow.”

# Results: Lignin Across

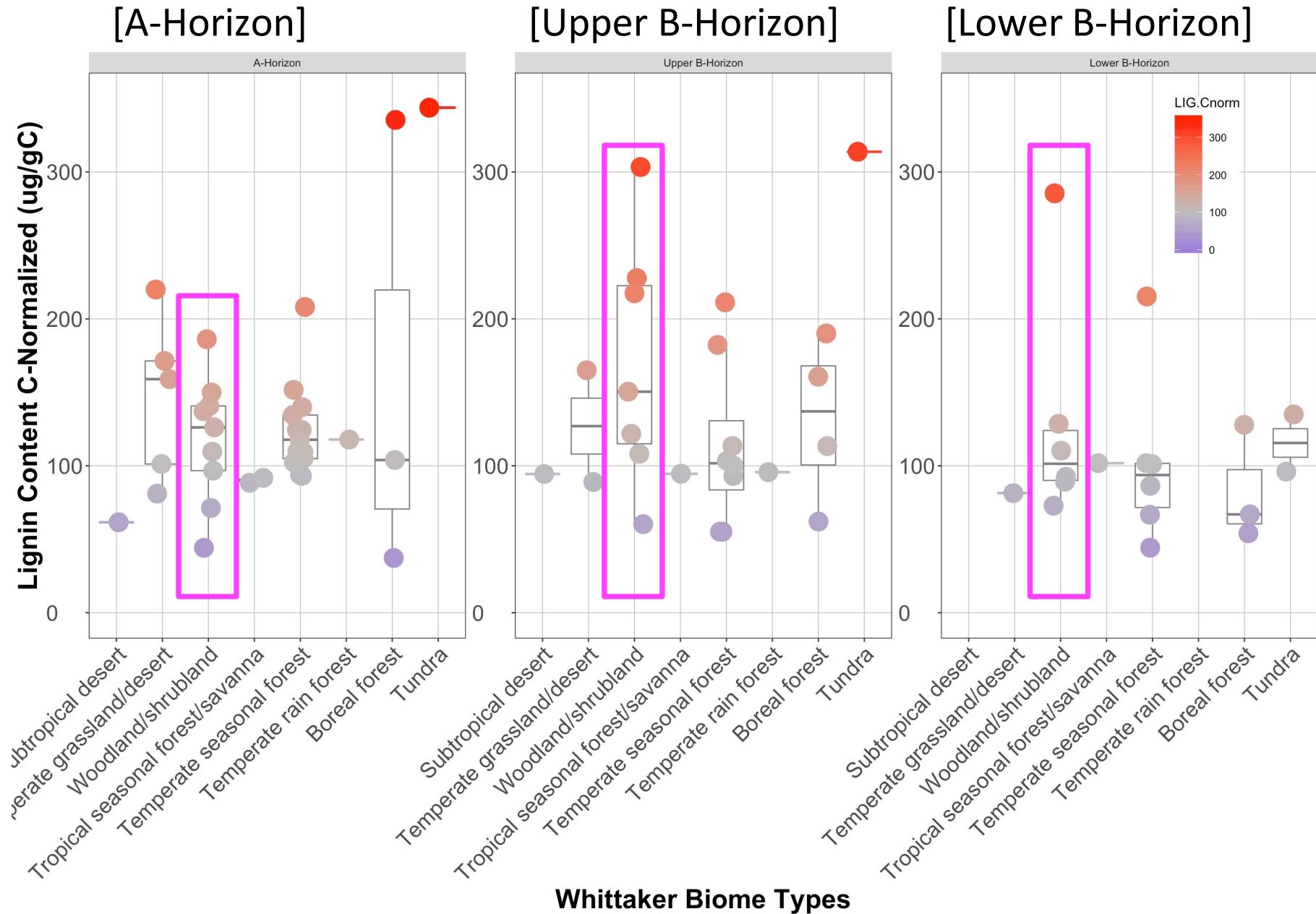
## Ecosystems



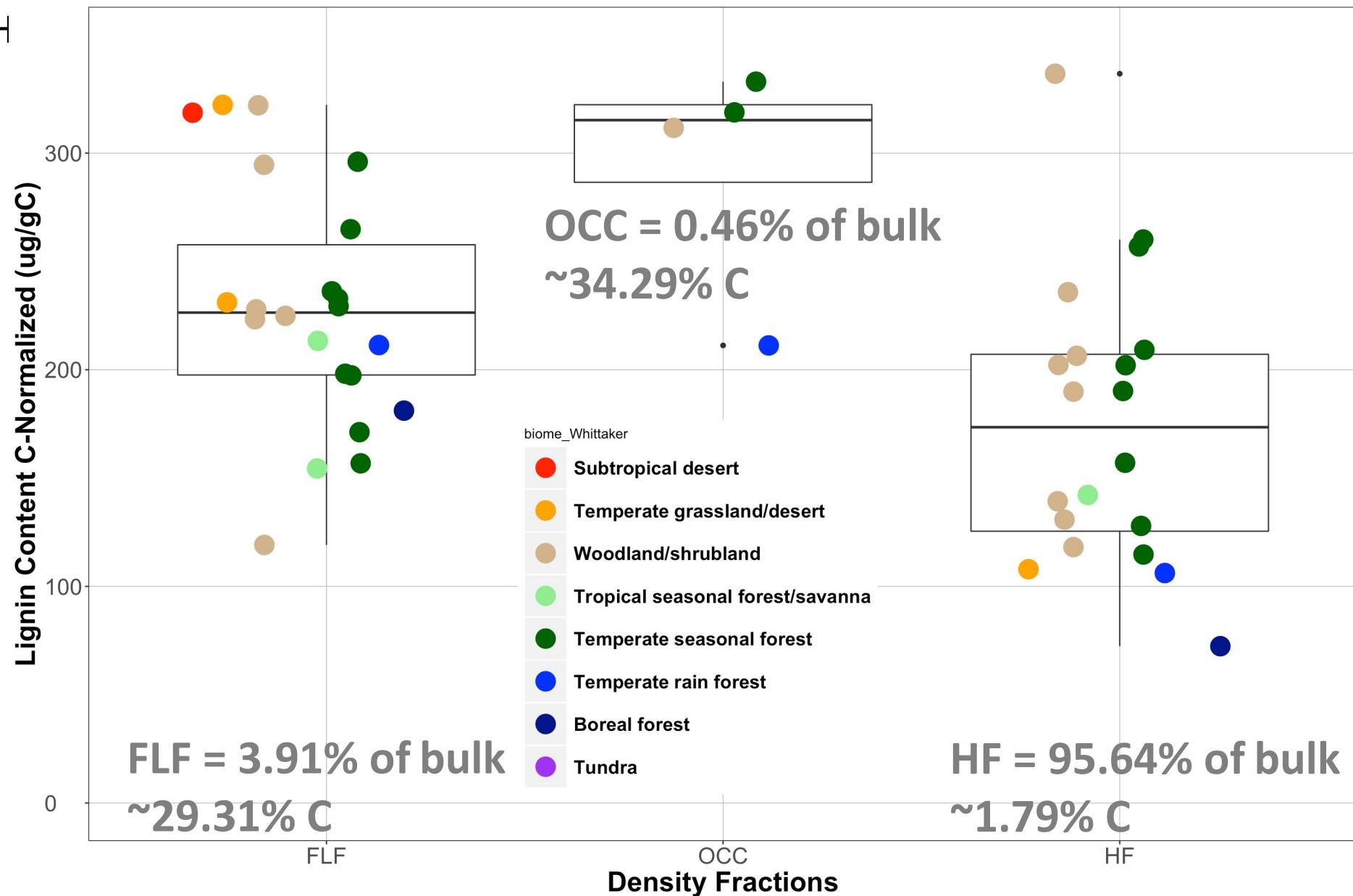
# Results: Lignin Across Ecosystems



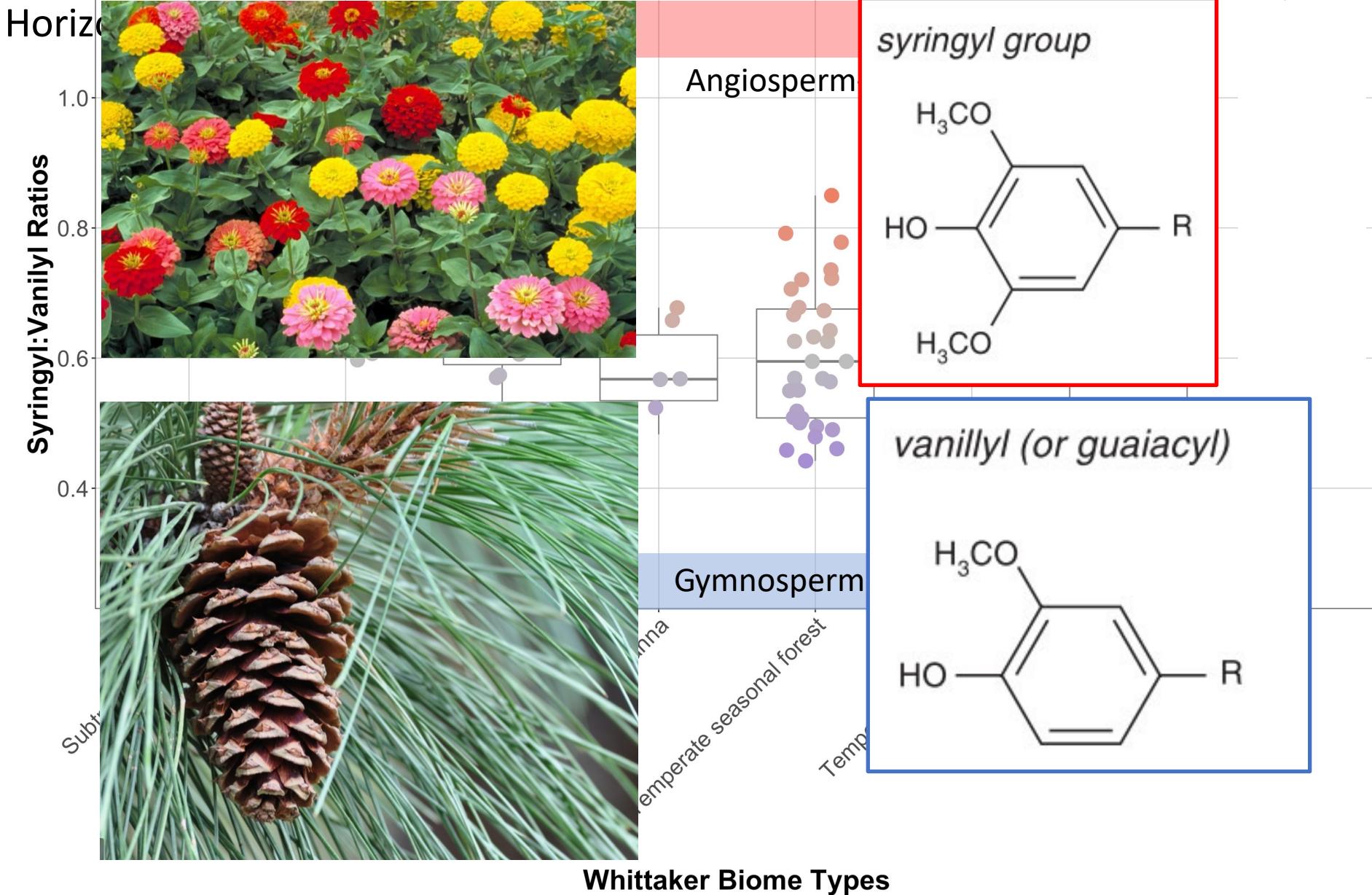
# Results: Lignin Across Ecosystems



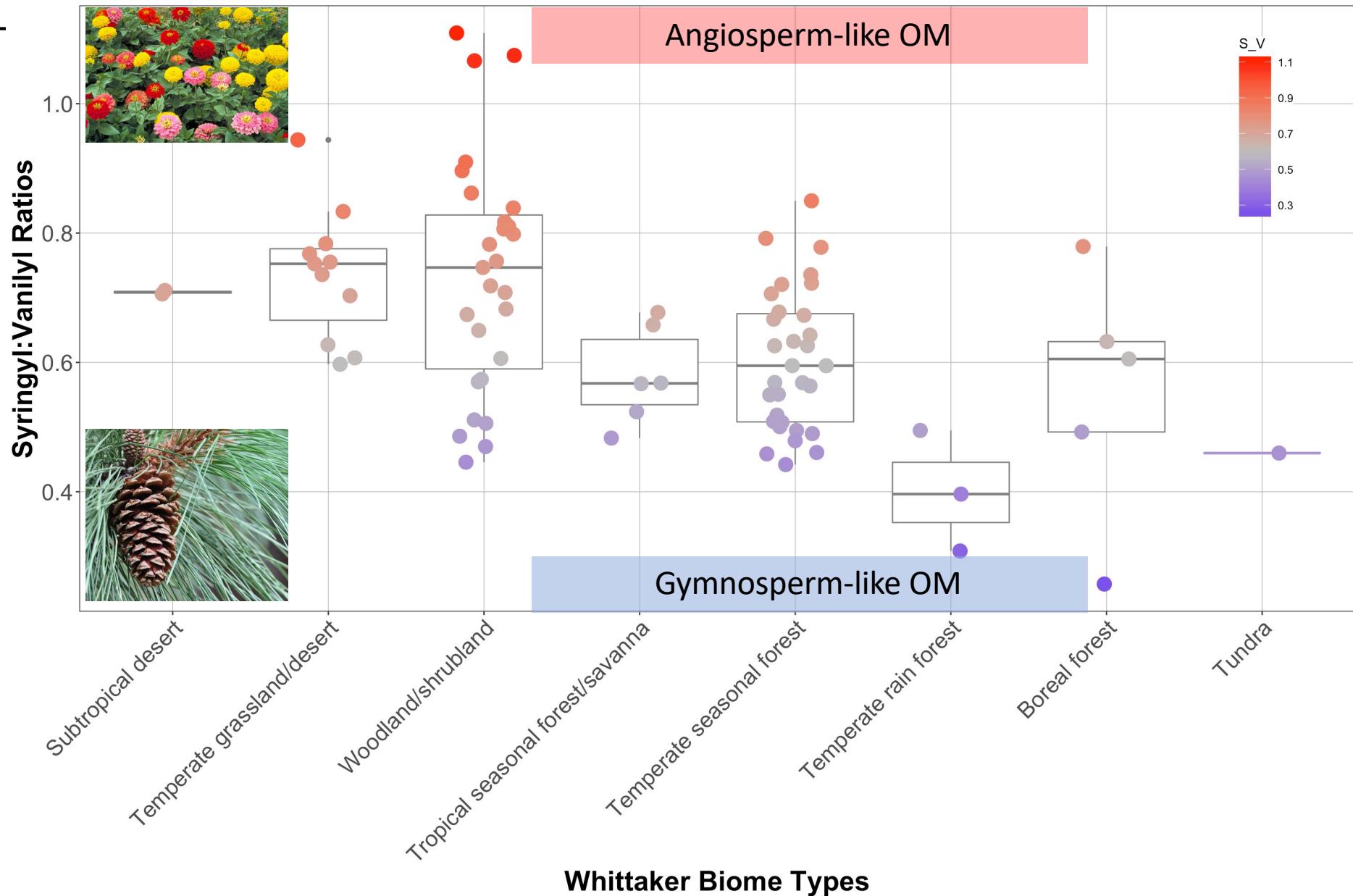
# Results: Lignin Stabilized by HF [A-]



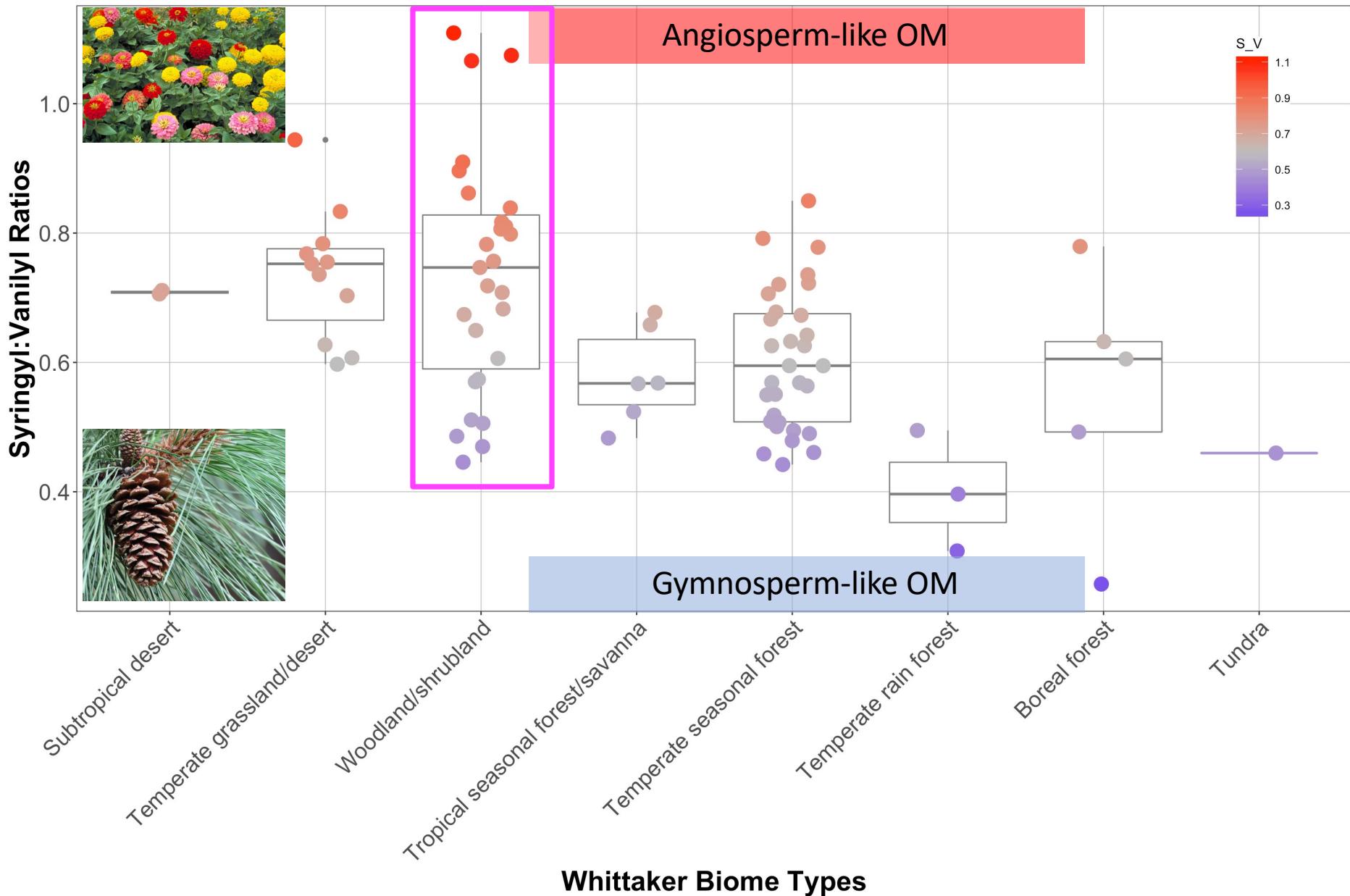
# Results: Source of OM [A-



# Results: Source of OM [A-



# Results: Source of OM [A-Horizon]



# Results: Source of OM

[A-Horizon]



Syringyl:Vanillyl Ratios

A-Horizon

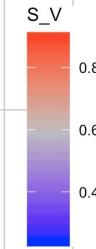
[Upper B-Horizon]

Upper B-Horizon

Lower B-Horizon

Lower B-Horizon

Angiosperm-like OM



Whittaker Biome Types



Gymnosperm-like OM

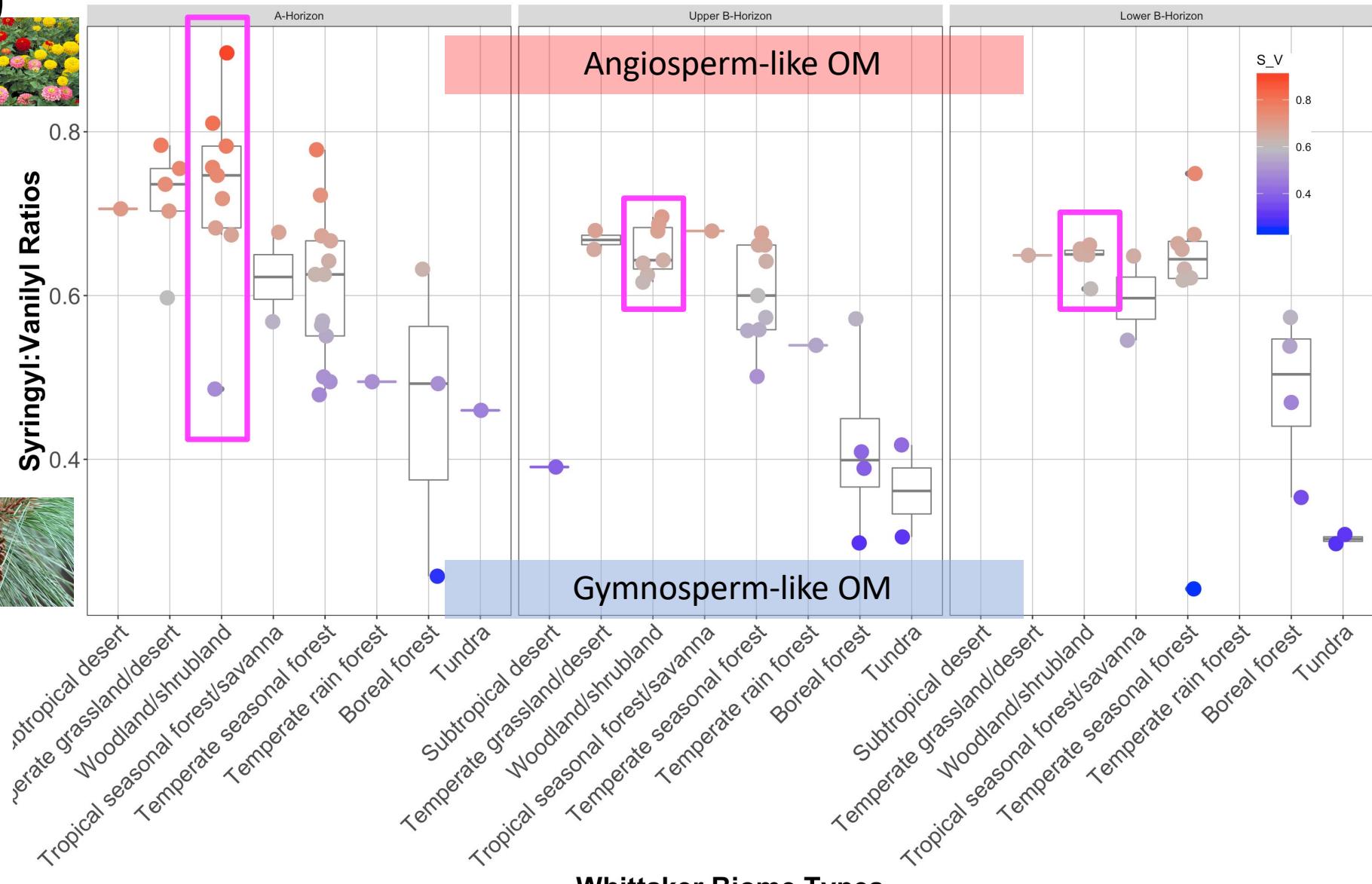


# Results: Source of OM

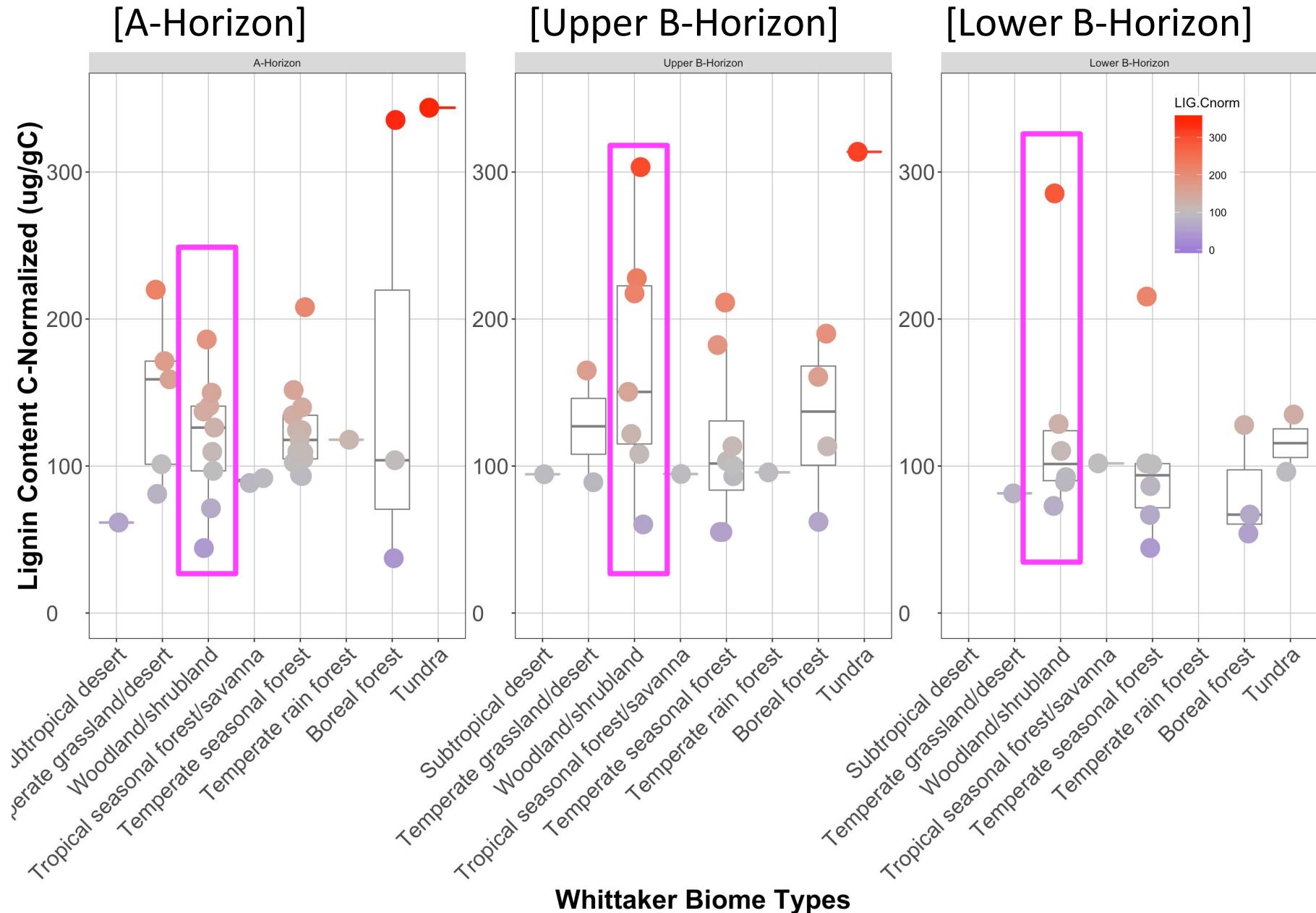
[A-Horizon]



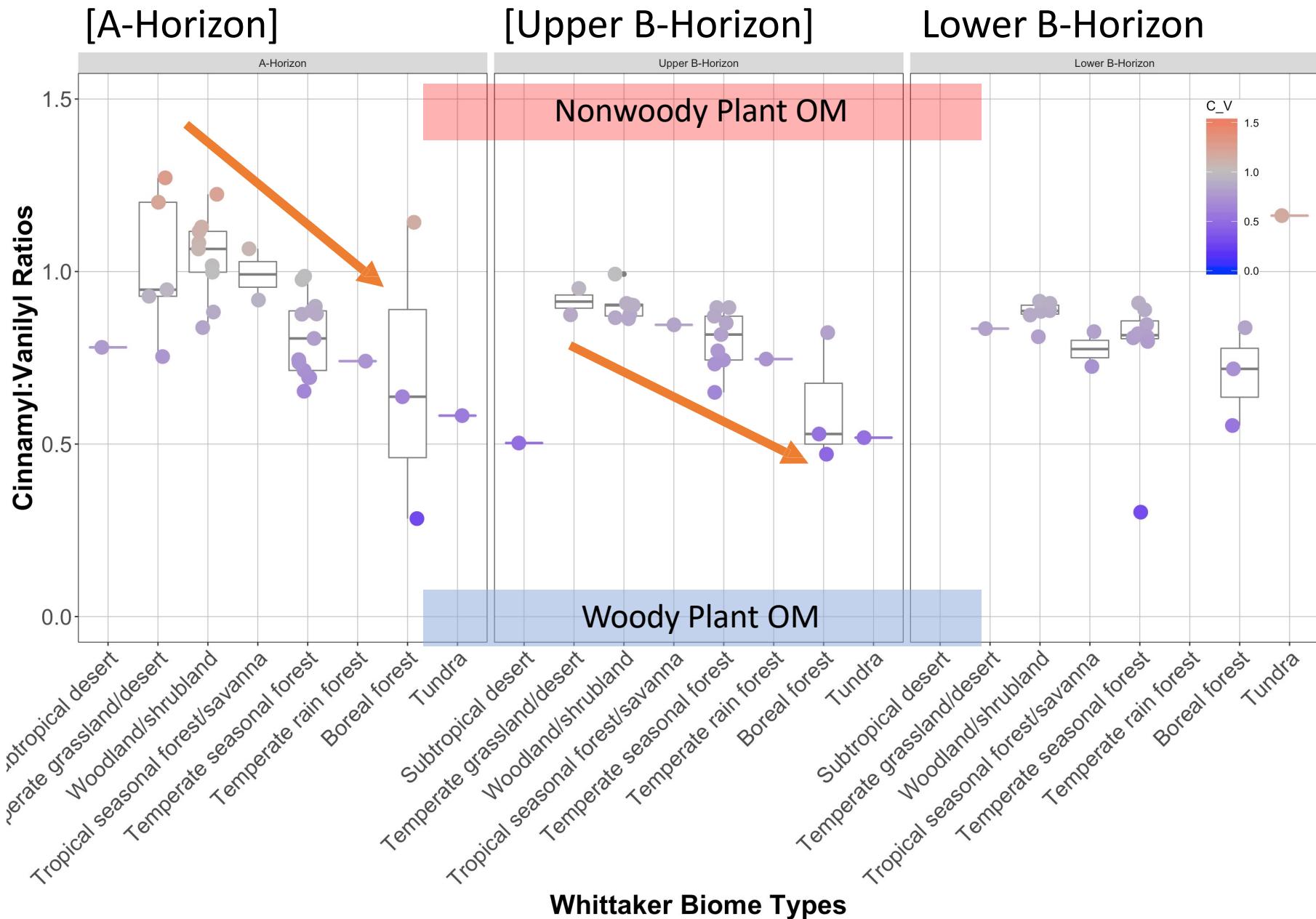
Syringyl:Vanillyl Ratios



# Results: Lignin Across Ecosystems



# Results: Source of OM



# Conclusions

[Take-home  
Messages]

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  - Majority of lignin (i.e. plant OM) is stabilized by mineral associations
- Angiosperm vs Gymnosperm SOM signal is **robust**
- [Future Work]
  - Suberin~Roots & Cutin~Shoots *ACROSS* sites

# Thank You!



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**neon**  
National Ecological Observatory Network, Inc.



NFS Macrosystems Biology 1340504  
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Yvan Alleau – Lab Wizard



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# Extra Slides

[Spodosol in Quebec  
Canada]



Beth Avera – PhD Candidate at Colorado State University

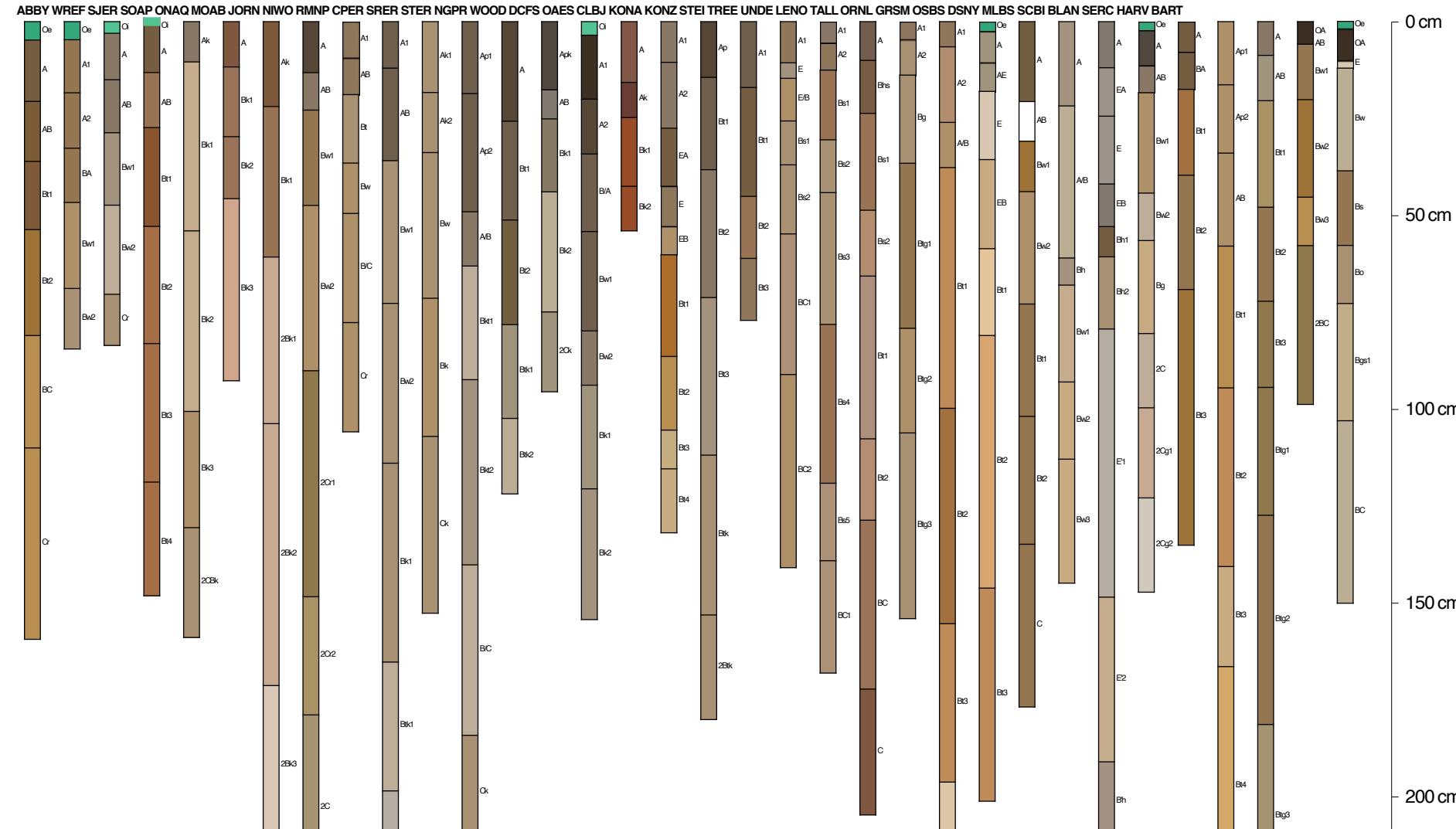
# Results: Soil Color [Air Dry Munsell Color -> sRGB]

space]

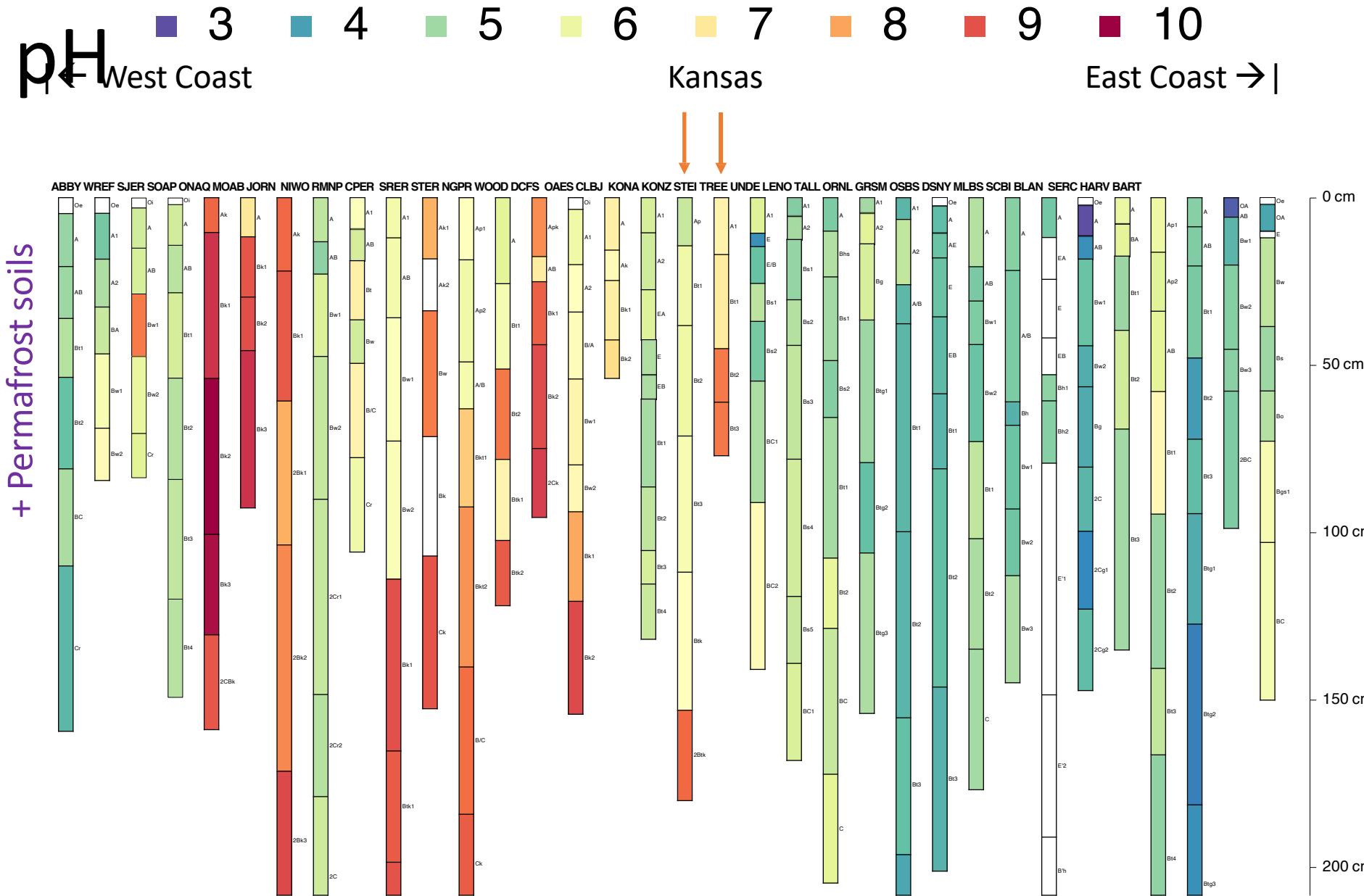
| ← West Coast

Kansas

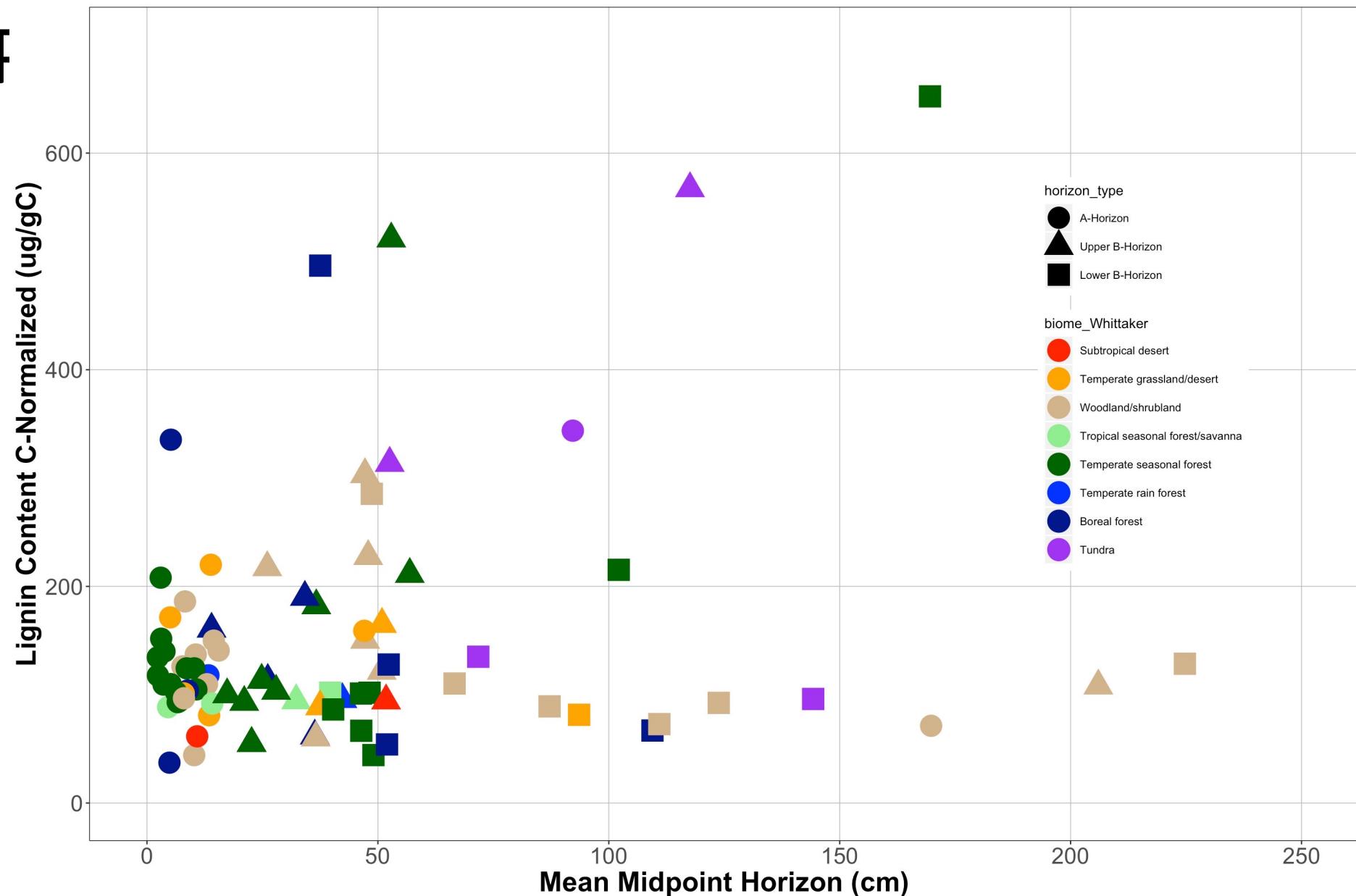
East Coast → |



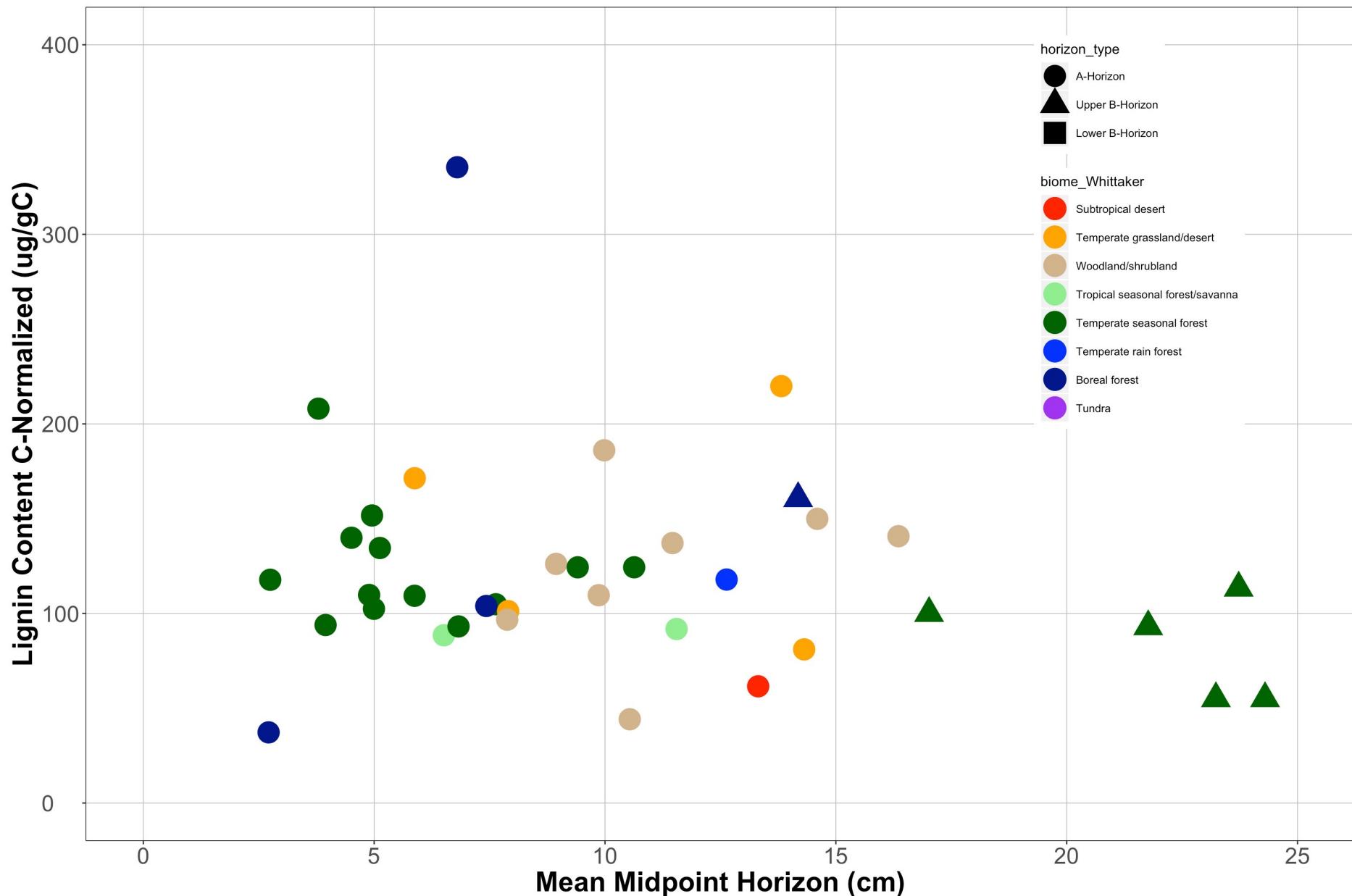
# Range of Characteristics: Soil



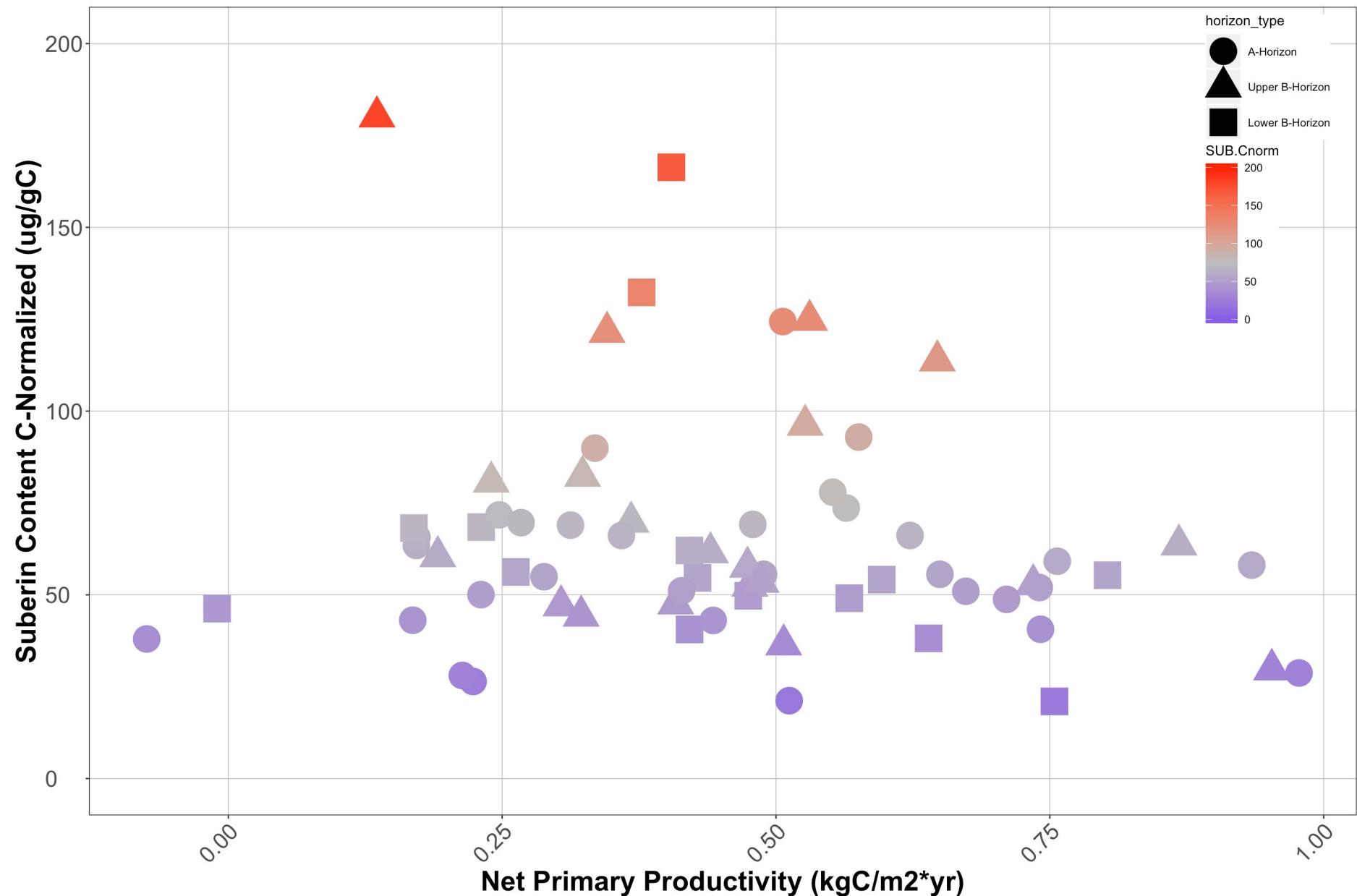
# Results: Lignin Down Soil



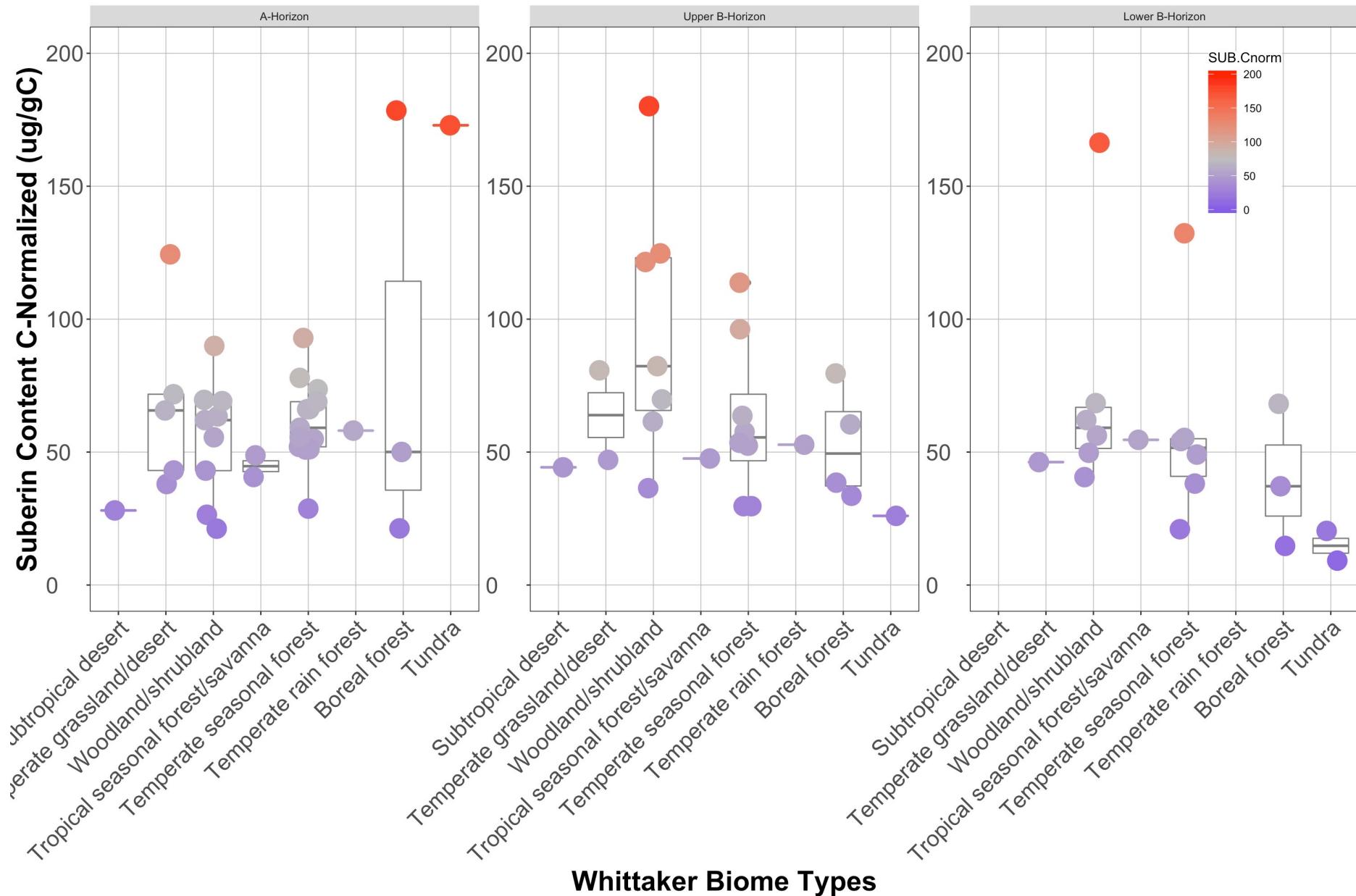
# Results: Lignin in Shallow Soils



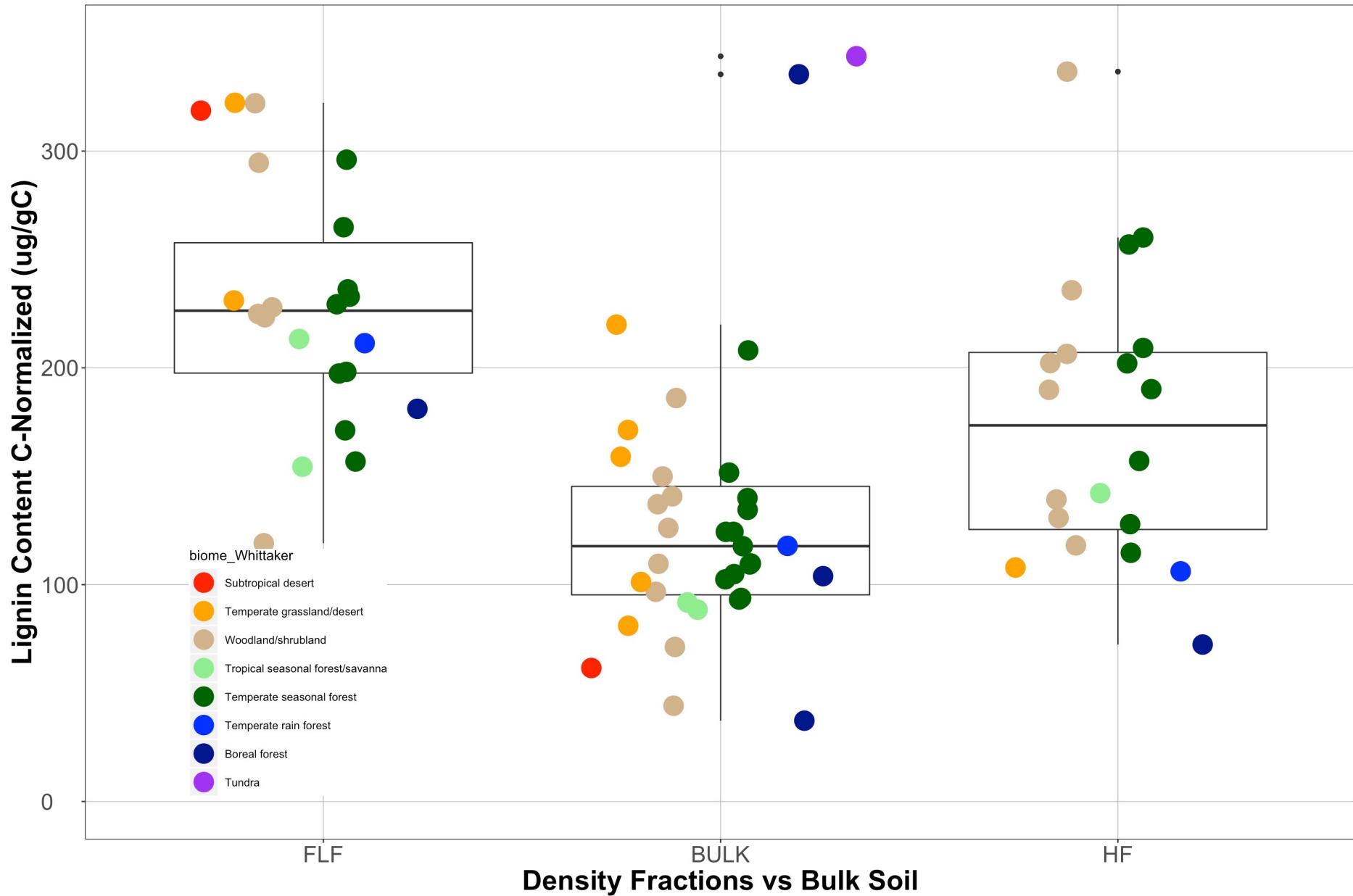
# Results: Suberin ≠ Roots [across ecosystems vs NPP]



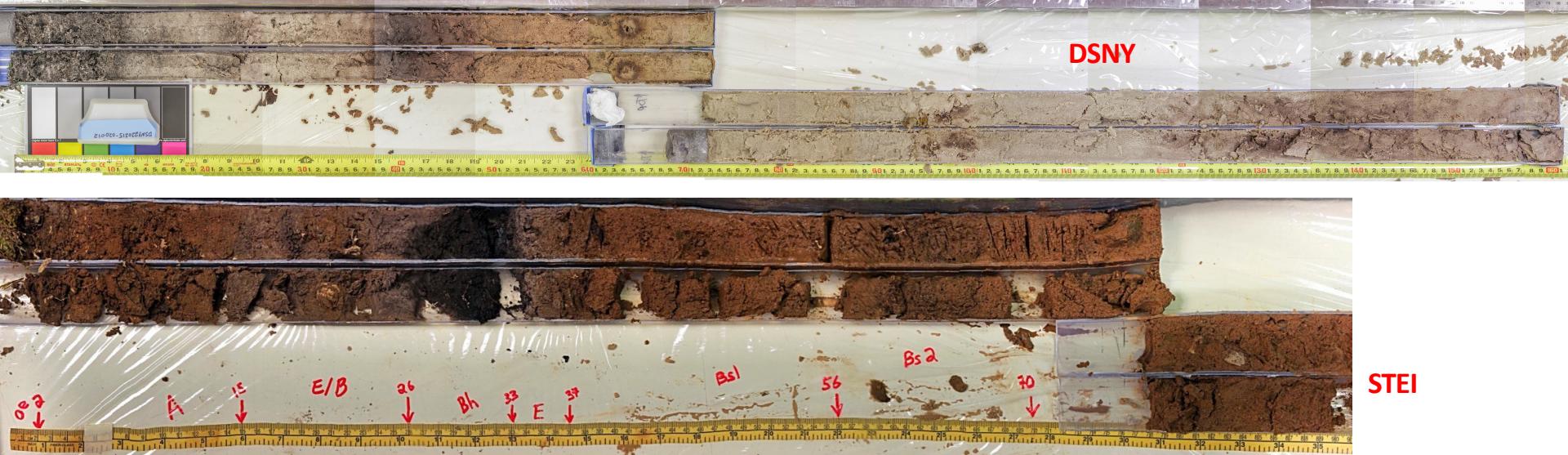
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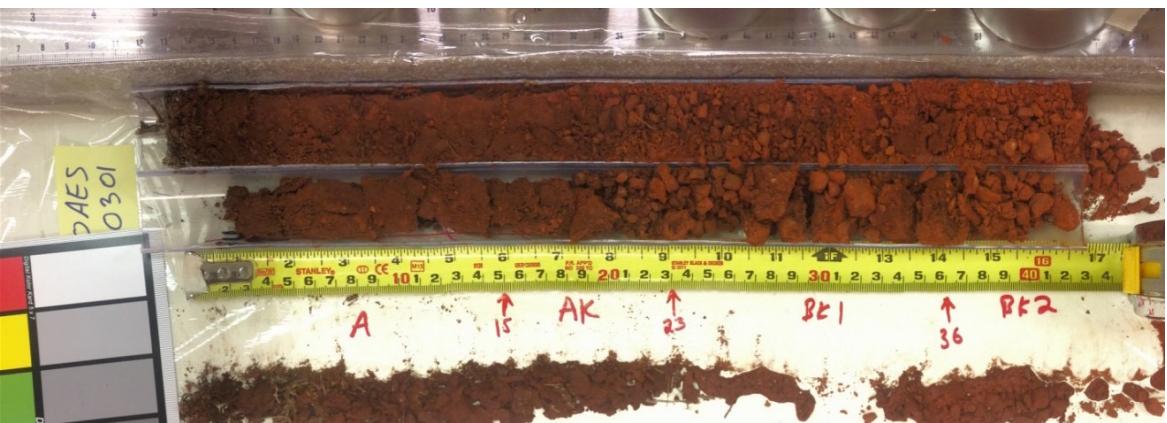
# Results: Lignin Stabilized by HF



DSNY

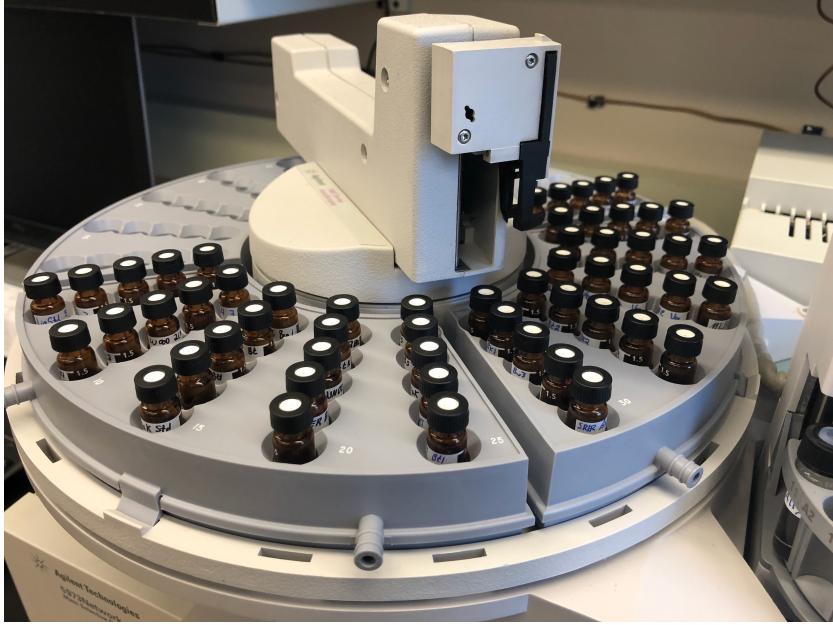


STEI



OAES





## Soil Relevant neon Data:

(Site scale)  
Meteorological measurements; soil moisture, temperature, CO<sub>2</sub> conc., respiration; atm. deposition; above and belowground biomass/fluxes and elemental composition; plant phenology

Soil microbes: Soil inorganic N pools and transformations; microbe biomass, community composition, group abundances, marker gene and metagenome sequences.

