



**Salmon carcasses influence genetic linkages between forests and streams**

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1 **Salmon carcasses influence genetic linkages between forests and streams**

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

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### Abstract

Biodiversity at many scales (functional group, species, genetic) can result in emergent ecological patterns. Here we explore the influence of tree genotypic variation and diversity on in-stream ecosystem processes and aquatic communities. We test whether genetically diverse inputs of leaf litter interact with a keystone organism, anadromous salmon, to influence in-stream ecosystem function. We used reach-level manipulation of salmon carcasses and leaf litter bags to examine how nutrient inputs interact with genetic variation in leaf litter decomposition. Genotypic variation in black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *trichocarpa*) significantly influenced leaf litter chemistry, litter mass loss, and fungal biomass, but these variables were only weakly influenced by salmon carcass presence or a genotype\*salmon (G x E) interaction. Mixtures of genotypes tended to demonstrate antagonistic effects (slower than expected decomposition) in the absence of salmon, but synergistic effects (faster than expected decomposition) when salmon were present. Our findings suggest that the influence of plant genotypic variation in linking aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems may be altered, and in some cases intensified in the presence of a keystone vertebrate species.

**Keywords:** biodiversity-ecosystem function, genes-to-ecosystems, aquatic-terrestrial interaction, litter mixtures

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

51 **Introduction**

52 Over the last decade, a body of research has shown that genetic variation in several foundation  
53 species can influence associated communities and ecosystem function, and these influences  
54 can be as important as the influences of species-level diversity (Whitham *et al.* 2006; Hughes *et al.*  
55 *et al.* 2008; Bailey *et al.* 2009). A subset of this research shows significant intraspecific (within  
56 species) variation in litter chemistry across a suite of plant species (including *Populus*  
57 [cottonwood, aspen], *Quercus* [oak], and *Betula* [birch]) and subsequent litter decomposition  
58 and nutrient cycling in both terrestrial and aquatic systems (Schweitzer *et al.* 2004; Madritch *et al.*  
59 *et al.* 2006; LeRoy *et al.* 2007; Silfver *et al.* 2007). The majority of previous genes-to-ecosystems  
60 research has been conducted in common garden environments, but several recent studies have  
61 taken a broader scope to examine genetic variation across environmental gradients. It is crucial  
62 to move genes-to-ecosystems research outside the realm of common gardens because this will  
63 help to place genetic variation within the context of broader environmental variation.

64 Understanding genetic by environment (G x E) interactions is important because they  
65 may elucidate situations in which the influence of genetic variation is either attenuated or  
66 amplified by environmental factors. For example, in previous studies, G x E interactions were  
67 rare for sea grass communities (Tomas *et al.* 2011), but relatively more common for terrestrial  
68 insect communities (Johnson and Agrawal 2005; Tack *et al.* 2010; Rowntree *et al.* 2010;  
69 Genung *et al.* 2012; Tétard-Jones *et al.* 2013). In the case of influences on ecosystem  
70 functions, clear G x E interactions have been shown in both terrestrial (Madritch *et al.* 2006; He  
71 *et al.* 2012) and aquatic (LeRoy *et al.* 2012) leaf litter decomposition studies and a soil nitrogen  
72 transformation study (Pregitzer *et al.* 2013). In most cases, the environmental factor examined  
73 is abiotic (such as nutrient enrichment), but occasionally the factor is biotic, such as herbivory  
74 (Schweitzer *et al.* 2005b) or the presence of another genotype (Genung *et al.* 2012).

75 Emergent biodiversity patterns have been shown for both species mixtures and  
76 genotype mixtures of litter. Diversity in detritus research represents a subset of the broader

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

77 biodiversity-ecosystem function literature (as reviewed by Gessner *et al.* 2010; Swan and  
78 Kominoski 2012) and shows that litter mixtures have three possible effects on the  
79 decomposition process: 1) additive effects where litter mixtures decompose at rates expected  
80 based on each litter type in isolation 2) non-additive, synergistic effects where mixtures  
81 decompose faster than expected, and 3) non-additive, antagonistic effects where mixtures  
82 decompose slower than expected (Lecerf *et al.* 2011). Several recent papers have also shown  
83 that mixtures of genotypes within species can influence decomposition and carbon cycling. As  
84 with species diversity studies, these few results show that litter genotype mixtures can exhibit  
85 significantly faster litter decomposition than expected (Schweitzer *et al.* 2005a), significantly  
86 slower decomposition than expected (Madritch *et al.* 2006), or no difference between observed  
87 and expected mass loss (Madritch *et al.* 2006; LeRoy *et al.* 2007).

88 Variation in environmental contexts may help explain the unpredictable additive and non-  
89 additive results observed in past diversity studies; however, very few studies have manipulated  
90 litter diversity and environmental variables together to test the consistency of emergent effects.  
91 Rosemond *et al.* (2010) manipulated litter species diversity in the presence and absence of  
92 elevated in-stream nutrients and showed that litter mixtures decomposed even faster in mixture  
93 when also exposed to high in-stream nutrient concentrations. In a similar study, Bretherton *et al.*  
94 (2011) examined litter species mixtures in the presence and absence of salmon carcasses (a  
95 natural source of in-stream nutrients and organic matter) and also showed more synergistic  
96 responses to litter mixing when salmon carcasses were present. This study further explores  
97 these relationships, but goes to a finer level to ask how genotypic diversity effects may be  
98 altered by nutrient enrichment via salmon carcass inputs.

99 Because anadromous salmon represent a major ecosystem-level influence on streams  
100 and forests throughout the northern hemisphere (Gende *et al.* 2002), salmon presence is an  
101 ideal biotic environmental factor to examine in this context. The presence of salmon carcasses  
102 tends to increase in-stream algal and microbial productivity (Fisher-Wold and Hershey 1999)

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

103 and alters the structure of macroinvertebrate communities (Wipfli *et al.* 1998). Although much is  
104 known about inputs of both leaf litter and salmon carcasses to streams separately, only a few  
105 studies have examined their interactions and the results have been mixed. For example, salmon  
106 presence accelerated litter decomposition for relatively labile species like *Acer* (maple; Yanai  
107 and Kochi 2005), *Salix* (willow; Kohler *et al.* 2008), mixed *Alnus* (alder) + *Acer* litters (Claeson *et al.*  
108 *al.* 2006), and mixed *Alnus* + *Populus* (cottonwood) and *Alnus* + *Acer* litters (Bretherton *et al.*  
109 2011), but slowed decomposition for both *Alnus* and *Acer* litters in isolation (Zhang *et al.* 2003),  
110 and mixtures of *Populus* + *Acer* and *Populus* + *Alnus* litters (Bretherton *et al.* 2011).

111 Here we expand on previous research demonstrating genes-to-ecosystems linkages  
112 across aquatic-terrestrial boundaries by examining genotypic variation in litter chemistry for  
113 *Populus balsamifera* L. ssp. *trichocarpa* Torr. and A. Gray ex Hook (black cottonwood, hereafter  
114 *Populus trichocarpa*; this study includes Nisqually-1, the first tree to be genomically sequenced;  
115 Tuskan *et al.* 2006). We first examine how genetic variation influences leaf litter chemistry, then  
116 we examine the influence of genetic variation and genotype mixing effects on leaf litter  
117 decomposition as it interacts with an important biotic environmental factor, the presence of  
118 anadromous salmon carcasses. We hypothesised that: 1) genetic variation in *P. trichocarpa*  
119 would lead to differences in litter chemistry, 2) this genetic variation, as well as the presence of  
120 salmon carcasses, and their interaction (genotype \* salmon) would influence leaf litter mass loss  
121 at all harvest dates, fungal biomass accumulation, and aquatic macroinvertebrate community  
122 metrics; 3) leaf litter mass loss would be related to the suite of litter chemicals measured; 4)  
123 genotypic mixing would accelerate mass loss and fungal biomass accumulation; and 5) salmon  
124 carcasses, by providing nutrients and organic matter, would interact with genotype mixtures to  
125 increase synergisms in mass loss, increase synergistic responses of fungal biomass accrual,  
126 and alter macroinvertebrate communities.

## 127 **Materials and Methods**

### 128 *Study site*

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

129 This study was conducted between 15 January and 4 April 2009 in McKenna Creek (46.93498  
130 N 122.56394 W, elevation 107 m), a tributary of the Nisqually River, WA, USA. The stream  
131 reaches were relatively low gradient channels with sandy substrate and ranged in width from 1  
132 to 3 m. Although salmon spawning was not occurring in this location during our study period  
133 (peak spawning is from September to November), salmon carcasses are seasonally present at  
134 this location as detrital inputs earlier in the fall and the carcasses left by late-November  
135 spawners are not likely to be fully degraded until mid-February. Access to this site was granted  
136 by the Nisqually Land Trust and no further permits were required for this study location.  
137 Throughout the study period, average stream temperatures ranged from 5.3 - 5.7°C, average  
138 pH ranged from 6.3 - 7.2, and average dissolved oxygen ranged from 8.9 - 10.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The  
139 riparian zone was dominated by *P. trichocarpa*, *Alnus rubra* Bong (red alder), *Acer*  
140 *macrophyllum* Pursh (bigleaf maple), *Thuja plicata* Donn ex D. Don (western redcedar), and  
141 *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco (Douglas-fir). Average annual precipitation at the site was  
142 approximately 129 cm and average max and min temperatures were 25 and 0° C, respectively.

#### 143 *Litter collection*

144 Leaf litter was collected at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center of Washington State  
145 University's (WSU) R.L. Goss Research Farm in a 38-year old common garden of *P.*  
146 *trichocarpa*. To establish the common garden, branches were collected randomly from naturally  
147 existing stands across OR, WA and BC in 1976 and planted at this one location to isolate  
148 genetic differences among genotypes (**Fig. 1**). Branches of full-grown, individual genotypes  
149 were wrapped in mesh to collect genotype-specific litter. Naturally abscised litter was collected  
150 weekly from 20 October to 21 November 2008 for two replicate clones of each of six *P.*  
151 *trichocarpa* genotypes (**Fig. 1**; Chilliwack 61-154 [C], Arlington 88-596 [A], Snoqualmie 5-52 [S],  
152 Nisqually-1 [N], Longview 9-91 [L], and Hoh 95-876 [H]). Genotypes dropped their leaves  
153 throughout this period, but their leaf fall timing differed. We needed to wait until we had collected

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

154 enough leaf litter from all genotypes before we could implement the study. Access to this site  
155 was granted by WSU and no further permits were required for litter collection.

156 *Study Design*

157 Air-dried leaf litter was weighed into 2 g ( $\pm$  0.05 g) quantities and experimentally placed into 1  
158 cm-mesh litterbags (23 x 28 cm) for each of the 6 genotypes in isolation. Sixteen replicate  
159 litterbags were created per genotype and for each of 3 harvest dates, yielding a total of N = 288  
160 litterbags. Additionally, a suite of litter mixtures was created to address both the influence of  
161 genotype richness and mixture compositional influences on litter mass loss. Five different  
162 genotype mixtures included: one equal-weight mixture of all six genotypes (6-genotype), and  
163 four equal-weight mixtures of 2 genotypes each (C+L, N+L, N+C, N+S). Genotype pairs were  
164 chosen to represent a gradient in geographic distances among genotypes (see **Table S1**).  
165 Sixteen replicate litterbags were created per mixture treatment for each of 3 harvest dates,  
166 yielding an additional N = 240 litterbags.

167 The sixteen replicate litterbags for each single genotype and mixture treatment were  
168 placed at 16 different locations in McKenna Creek using another common garden design. The  
169 study was designed so that one replicate litterbag of each treatment and each intended harvest  
170 date were placed along 2.5 m pieces of rebar similar to a blocked design with all 33 litterbags  
171 randomly placed along each rebar. In an ideal situation, 8 blocks would have been randomly  
172 treated with salmon carcasses and 8 would have been control blocks, but the inherent lack of  
173 independence between up- and downstream locations in a riverine environment made a fully  
174 randomized block design impossible. Instead, eight replicate “blocks” were placed perpendicular  
175 to streamflow in downstream salmon manipulation reaches and eight more were placed directly  
176 upstream in no-salmon control reaches. Blocks were separated by roughly 10 - 20 m to maintain  
177 independence among experimental units and to place rebar lengths in similar environmental  
178 conditions. We placed rebar lengths in depositional pools at similar depths (average depths  
179 were 31 and 33 cm for salmon and no salmon rebars, respectively). On each rebar length,



LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

180 litterbags were randomly attached with colored cable ties to facilitate removal from the stream  
181 on the appropriate harvest date (14, 28 or 78 d). We based collection dates on past studies that  
182 showed only 25% mass remaining after 78 d (Bretherton *et al.* 2011).

183 Frozen whole carcasses (1 - 2 carcasses, approx 1 - 2 kg) of Chinook salmon  
184 (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; average length: 70 cm; average width: 17 cm) were wrapped in  
185 wire mesh and attached along the top edge of the rebar lengths in downstream salmon reaches  
186 to retain the carcasses directly upstream of litterbags, *sensu* Bretherton *et al.* (2011). Whole  
187 carcasses were used instead of exact masses of salmon tissue to better simulate natural  
188 spawning influences, but this may have resulted in unmeasured variation in salmon nutrient  
189 loadings among blocks. Control blocks were identical and included the litterbags attached to the  
190 rebar and the mesh envelope, except these envelopes did not enclose salmon carcasses. A  
191 previous study used sand bags as no-salmon controls, but found significant microbial  
192 colonization of the sand and bag (Bretherton *et al.* 2011) and so in this study, nothing was used  
193 in place of the carcasses, which may have resulted in slightly altered flow environments in  
194 control blocks. By 78 d the salmon carcasses were reduced to bones and small pieces of  
195 amorphous tissue, and leaf litter bags contained between 0.0 and 0.97 g of AFDM (ash-free dry  
196 mass) leaf material (representing 100% and 50% mass loss, respectively).

197 *Litter chemistry*

198 Subsamples of air-dried litter were prepared for litter chemical analysis by grinding to pass a  
199 0.42 mm-mesh screen using a Wiley mill (Thomas Scientific, Swedesboro, NJ). Initial litter % N  
200 and % C were determined using elemental analysis (Carlo Erba NC2100 Elemental Analyzer).

201 A modified version of EPA Method 365.3 was used for litter % P analysis. Approximately  
202 500 mg of dry leaf litter powder was combusted in a muffle furnace at 550°C for 3 h, to which a  
203 10 mL solution of dilute *aqua regia* was added. Diluted extracts were analysed using the  
204 spectrophotometric ascorbic acid – phosphomolybdate method using a diode-array  
205 spectrophotometer (Hewlett-Packard 8453, Germany). Proximate cellulose and lignin

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

206 percentages were determined using a gravimetric method modified by Gessner (2005). Values  
207 for acid detergent cellulose (ADC) and acid detergent lignin (ADL) were converted to  
208 percentages based on the initial dry weight of each sample. We analysed condensed tannins  
209 using a modified butanol-HCl method (Porter *et al.* 1986; LeRoy *et al.* 2007). Tannin standard  
210 for *P. trichocarpa* was prepared by exhaustive extraction using the methods of Hagerman and  
211 Butler (1989). All standards and samples were analysed for absorbance at a wavelength of 550  
212 nm using a diode-array spectrophotometer.

### 213 *Leaf litter mass loss*

214 Leaf litter bags collected from the stream were placed in polyethylene zipper bags and  
215 transported to the lab for processing. Leaves were gently rinsed of sediment and  
216 macroinvertebrates and 10 leaf punches (11 mm dia) were taken from leaf laminae in each litter  
217 bag for ergosterol analysis (see below). The remaining leaf material was dried at 70°C for 72 h,  
218 weighed, ground using a Wiley mill to pass a 0.42-mm mesh screen and subsampled (0.250 g)  
219 for combustion in a muffle furnace at 550° C for 3 h to determine ash-free dry mass (AFDM)  
220 remaining fraction.

### 221 *Fungal biomass*

222 Ergosterol concentrations were used to estimate fungal biomass from leaf discs via gas  
223 chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS). Leaf discs were extracted in 5 mL of methanol  
224 then spiked with 50 µL of 7-Dehydrocholesterol and 10 mL of 15% KOH/methanol. Vials were  
225 incubated in a drying oven at 80° C for 90 min, cooled and then ergosterol was partitioned into a  
226 pentane solution (1:3, DI water:pentane). After the extracts were evaporated to dryness under  
227 nitrogen gas and slight warming, a derivatization reagent (15 µL of neat pyridine and 50 µL of  
228 (N)- Bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide) was added to each sample vial. Vials were vortexed for  
229 5 s, dried in an oven at 60°C for 30 min, then cooled and 500 µL of toluene was added prior to  
230 analysis by GC-MS (Agilent 7890A/5975C). Ergosterol concentrations were converted to fungal

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

231 biomass ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$  leaf) assuming an ergosterol concentration of  $5.5 \mu\text{g mg}^{-1}$  of mycelial dry mass  
232 (Gessner and Chauvet 1993).

### 233 *Macroinvertebrate analyses*

234 Aquatic macroinvertebrates were separated from leaf matter and preserved in 70% ethanol for  
235 identification. All macroinvertebrates from the 28 d harvest were identified to the lowest  
236 taxonomic level possible using Merritt *et al.* (2008) and dissecting microscopy. Aquatic  
237 macroinvertebrates were collected under a Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
238 Scientific Collection Permit granted to the Evergreen State College. This study complied with all  
239 relevant regulations, and no protected species were sampled.

### 240 *Statistical Analyses*

241 In order to examine genotypic differences in initial leaf litter chemistry (%), we transformed  
242 percent data using the arcsine-square root transformation (this transformation normalizes the  
243 distributions of percent data) and used analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare differences  
244 among the six *P. trichocarpa* genotypes. Significant ANOVAs were followed by Tukey's Honest  
245 Significant Difference (HSD) posthoc tests. All data analyzed using parametric ANOVA met the  
246 assumptions of normality and homogeneity of variances and tests were run in JMP Pro (11.0,  
247 SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, 1989-2015) with an alpha = 0.05. All figures show back-  
248 transformed means  $\pm 1$  standard error (SE).

249 Decomposition rates were compared using a general linear model (PROC GLM in SAS  
250 8.01, SAS Institute, Inc. 1999-2000) with fixed effects and Type I Sums of Squares to determine  
251 significant treatment effects, *sensu* Kominoski *et al.* (2007). Time was treated as a continuous  
252 variable in the model, and each term (time, litter genotype presence or absence, salmon  
253 carcass presence or absence, and diversity terms – genotype richness and composition) was  
254 added sequentially to the model. The two diversity terms were composed of genotype richness  
255 (one-, two-, or six-genotype litter mixtures) and genotype composition (C+L, N+C, N+L, N+S, 6-  
256 geno) and allowed for separation of these two diversity effects.

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

257 Linear relationships between decomposition rates and litter chemicals were determined  
258 using multiple linear regression in JMP. Decomposition rate constants ( $k$ ) were determined for  
259 each leaf litter treatment with and without salmon by regressing the natural log of AFDM against  
260 day (Jenny *et al.* 1949).

261 Two-way ANOVAs with tree genotype, salmon treatment, and genotype\*salmon (G x E)  
262 interaction as main factors were used to explore patterns in mass loss at individual harvest  
263 dates, fungal biomass and simple invertebrate metrics (taxa richness, evenness, diversity, and  
264 total abundance). Tukey's HSD post hoc tests were used to determine differences among all  
265 pairwise treatments. In addition, mass loss and fungal biomass at individual harvest dates were  
266 compared across genotype richness levels (1, 2 and 6 genotypes) using ANOVA.

267 To test for non-additivity of leaf litter mass loss in these same mixtures, Chi-square tests  
268 were used to compare observed mass loss values in mixtures to expected values based on the  
269 mass loss of each genotype in isolation at each harvest date. Additive responses were those  
270 that did not vary from expectation while synergistic responses showed significantly higher mass  
271 loss than expected and antagonistic responses showed significantly lower mass loss than  
272 expected. Multiple comparisons required a Bonferroni-adjusted alpha to be set at  $\alpha = 0.0016$ .

273 Macroinvertebrate data from litter bags were analysed using multivariate community  
274 analysis methods. Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMS) ordination and multi-response  
275 permutation procedures (MRPP) were performed in PC-ORD (4.34, MJM software 1995-2005).  
276 Relativization to taxa maximum was used to reduce the effects of hyper-abundant taxa. Two-  
277 dimensional ordinations were chosen as the least-stressful representation of this complex  
278 multidimensional dataset based on scree-plot evaluations. MRPP was used to determine  
279 significant differences in macroinvertebrate assemblages among different leaf litter and salmon  
280 treatments. Indicator Species Analysis was used to determine species-specific associations with  
281 litter or salmon treatments (Dufrene and Legendre 1997).

282

## Results

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

283 *Litter chemistry*

284 Leaf litter chemistry differed among *P. trichocarpa* genotypes for all litter chemicals measured:  
285 % N, % P, C:N, cellulose, lignin and condensed tannins (**Fig. 2**). Genotype accounted for large  
286 percentages of the variation in litter chemistry variables, ranging from explaining 30% of the  
287 variation in cellulose to 96.7% of the variation in N (see  $R^2$  values in **Fig. 2**).

288 *Leaf litter decomposition*

289 Because leaf litter decomposition can be analysed with respect to both the overall rate of  
290 decomposition through time, as well as the actual mass loss at individual harvest dates, we  
291 present data on both the rate of decomposition ( $k \text{ day}^{-1}$ ) and mass loss (%). Multiple factors  
292 significantly explained leaf litter decomposition rates overall, including mixed-genotype litter  
293 richness ( $p = 0.0318$ ) and individual litter genotype presence/absence for the genotypes Hoh ( $p$   
294  $= 0.0038$ ) and Nisqually ( $p = 0.0200$ , **Table 1**; Overall model:  $F_{(65,327)} = 19.6$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). We  
295 originally hypothesised that salmon carcasses, by providing a pulse of nutrients, would increase  
296 litter decomposition for all genotypes; however, this was not the case (**Table 1**;  $p = 0.6947$ ).  
297 Consistently for both salmon and control treatments through time, the genotype from the Hoh  
298 River (H; Olympic Peninsula, WA) showed slower decomposition, and Nisqually (N; Nisqually  
299 River, WA) showed accelerated decomposition. Both of these genotypes showed a significant  
300 presence/absence effect on mixed litter decomposition rates (**Table 1**). Contrary to our  
301 predictions, however, salmon carcasses did not significantly affect overall decomposition rates,  
302 and instead interacted with genotypes and genotype mixtures differentially (see below).

303 Multiple linear regression models revealed that when salmon were absent, % P and %  
304 cellulose significantly negatively influenced decomposition rates ( $F_{(2,36)} = 10.31$ ,  $p = 0.0003$ ), but  
305 in the presence of salmon carcasses, % condensed tannins and % lignin negatively influenced  
306 decomposition ( $F_{(2,18)} = 17.36$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Decomposition rates for single genotypes of *P.*  
307 *trichocarpa* litter ranged from 0.0084 ( $\pm 0.00124$ ) for Longview litter in the presence of salmon to  
308 0.0120 ( $\pm 0.00075$ ) for Arlington litter in the absence of salmon. Decomposition rates for

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

309 genotype mixtures were slightly more variable and ranged from 0.0076 ( $\pm$  0.0009) for the  
310 Nisqually x Longview mixture in the absence of salmon to 0.0125 ( $\pm$  0.0004) for the Nisqually x  
311 Snoqualmie mixture in the presence of salmon (**Table S2**). All exponential regressions used to  
312 determine decomposition rates were significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

313 *Leaf litter mass loss*

314 Two-way ANOVAs for mass loss at individual harvest dates showed a significant  
315 genotype effect, but no salmon effect, or genotype\*salmon (G x E) interaction (**Table 2**). *Post*  
316 *hoc* tests revealed that when salmon carcasses were present, genotypic effects on  
317 decomposition were weaker (**Fig. 3a vs 3b**). Litter from different genotypes lost mass at  
318 significantly different rates in the absence of salmon on both days 14 and 28 (**Fig. 3a and 3e**,  
319 respectively); however, in the presence of salmon carcasses, no significant differences in mass  
320 loss among genotypes were detected until day 28 (**Fig. 3f**), and all genotype effects were  
321 weaker in the presence of salmon. By day 78, genotype effects disappeared in both treatments  
322 as remaining litter and salmon biomass were both low (**Fig. 3i and 3j**).

323 Although genotypic variation influenced leaf litter mass loss, genotype richness in  
324 mixtures was a weak predictor of mass loss. In most cases, leaf litter bags with 2 or 6  
325 genotypes did not lose mass faster or slower on average than single genotype litter bags (**Fig.**  
326 **3c,d,g,k,l**), regardless of the presence of salmon. In only one case, mass loss on day 28 for leaf  
327 litter mixtures in the presence of salmon carcasses, was there a significant increase in mass  
328 loss for the 6-genotype mixture compared to single genotypes (**Fig. 3h**); however, looking more  
329 closely at different mixtures of genotypes reveals further non-additive patterns. The direction  
330 (both synergistic and antagonistic) and magnitude of mass loss effects depended on  
331 compositional effects (which genotypes were present), as well as the presence of salmon (**Fig.**  
332 **4, Table S3**). In the absence of salmon, antagonistic responses (significantly less mass lost  
333 than expected; symbols fall below the 1:1 line) were more common and were found for the 6-  
334 genotype mixture on day 14, and most mixtures on day 78 (**Fig. 4a**). In contrast, significant

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

335 synergistic responses (significantly more mass lost than expected; symbols fall above the 1:1  
336 line) occurred for the C+L mixture on day 28 and the N+C mixture on day 78 (**Fig. 4a**). In the  
337 presence of salmon, synergistic responses were more common and were seen for the N+C  
338 mixture on day 14, the 6-genotype mixture on day 28 and most mixtures on day 78 (**Fig. 4b**). In  
339 contrast, only one antagonistic response was shown in the presence of salmon for the N+C  
340 mixture on day 28 (**Fig. 4b**). The mean deviation in mass loss from expectation (observed –  
341 expected) in the absence of salmon shows a significant antagonistic response, while the mean  
342 deviation for mixtures in the presence of salmon shows a significant synergistic response (**Fig.**  
343 **4c**).

#### 344 *Fungal Biomass*

345 Aquatic fungal biomass at day 28 was most strongly influenced by litter genotype (**Table 2**).  
346 Qualitatively, the difference appears stronger in the absence of salmon carcasses (**Fig. 5**), but  
347 there was no significant salmon effect or G x E effect. Litter genotype mixing led to an  
348 overwhelmingly synergistic response in fungal biomass with significantly more fungal biomass  
349 on leaf litter mixtures than expected based on single genotype litterbags. This result was  
350 observed for all treatments except for the 6-genotype mixture in the absence of salmon and  
351 N+C mixture in the presence of salmon (**Fig. 5c**). Additionally, fungal biomass in the salmon-  
352 treated reach showed even stronger synergistic responses to litter mixing than control reaches,  
353 though both mixture effects were significantly synergistic (**Fig. 5d**). Finally, fungal biomass was  
354 significantly influenced by genotype richness in both the absence and the presence of salmon  
355 carcasses ( $F_{(2,38)} = 3.4230$ ,  $p = 0.0430$ ;  $F_{(2,37)} = 4.5609$ ,  $p = 0.0170$ , respectively). Tukey's HSD  
356 post hoc tests reveal that fungal biomass on single genotypes is significantly lower than that  
357 found on 2-genotype mixtures in both experimental treatments, but the 6-genotype mixture did  
358 not differ from either single or 2-genotype mixtures.

#### 359 *Macroinvertebrates*

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

360 Macroinvertebrate communities were not significantly different among litter genotypes when  
361 compared using multi-response permutation procedure (MRPP) analysis; however, communities  
362 differed between the salmon and no-salmon treatments (MRPP A = 0.035,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Salmon  
363 carcass presence significantly reduced macroinvertebrate taxa diversity as shown using  
364 Shannon's and Simpson's Diversity Index values (**Table 2**). Overall macroinvertebrate taxa  
365 abundance, richness and evenness did not significantly differ between salmon carcass and no-  
366 salmon reaches. Invertebrate taxa abundance was significantly correlated with fungal biomass  
367 in the no-salmon control reach ( $R^2 = 0.1216$ ,  $F_{(1,39)} = 5.4$ ,  $p = 0.0254$ ) but not in the salmon  
368 reach ( $R^2 = 0.0056$ ,  $F_{(1,37)} = 0.21$ ,  $p = 0.6510$ ).

369 Several macroinvertebrate taxa were significant Indicator Species for either the no-  
370 salmon control or the salmon carcass treatments. Members of the Trichopteran genus  
371 *Lepidostoma* ( $p = 0.0010$ ), and the Dipteran families Tipulidae ( $p = 0.0050$ ) and Simuliidae ( $p =$   
372  $0.0100$ ) indicated for the no-salmon control treatments, while members of the Plecopteran  
373 genus *Malenka* ( $p = 0.0480$ ), the Trichopteran genus *Onocosmoecus* ( $p = 0.0010$ ), the Dipteran  
374 family Psychodidae ( $p = 0.0130$ ) and the Mollusc family Physidae ( $p = 0.0020$ ) indicated for the  
375 salmon carcass treatment.

## 376 Discussion

377 As predicted, genetically distinct clones of *P. trichocarpa* differed in leaf litter chemistry, mass  
378 loss at mid-stages of decay, and fungal biomass accrual. Contrary to our predictions, salmon  
379 carcasses did not stimulate decomposition overall, which was somewhat unexpected because  
380 water chemistry downstream of salmon carcasses can be elevated in ammonium (Claeson *et al.*  
381 2006), and nutrient enrichment has been shown to stimulate leaf litter decomposition by 50% in  
382 a large, recent meta-analysis (Ferreira *et al.* 2014). Instead, in this study, salmon carcass  
383 presence altered the non-additive responses of genotype mixtures, stimulated fungal biomass,  
384 and altered macroinvertebrate community structure. Although salmon influenced several in-  
385 stream variables, we cannot clearly show any genotype by environment interactions with



LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

386 salmon carcasses using this experimental approach. Previous research in an aspen (*Populus*  
387 *tremuloides*) system found evidence for G x E interactions between leaf litter and nutrient  
388 additions (LeRoy *et al.* 2012), but there are some key methodological differences between these  
389 two studies. First, the nutrient addition in LeRoy *et al.* (2012) took place while the aspen were  
390 growing, and leaf litter decomposition for nutrient-enriched trees was compared to  
391 decomposition for control trees. It is possible that the form of nutrient addition or the location of  
392 the addition (in the forest versus in the stream) may alter G x E responses. Second, because of  
393 key experimental design issues, this previous study also involved better randomization of  
394 nutrient-enriched and control litterbags. The results we provide here suffer the same issues as  
395 in-stream nutrient addition studies in terms of the complications of upstream versus downstream  
396 treatments which may have confounded treatment effects with environmental effects.

397 In addition, this current study may underestimate the influence of both litter genetic  
398 variation and salmon carcasses on the detrital food web based on the timing of the study. The  
399 need to wait to collect litter from all genotypes and then prepare hundreds of litter bags meant  
400 the study was placed in the stream 1-2 months later than peak litter fall and fewer shredding  
401 and salmon-adapted invertebrates may have been present at this later time. Future research  
402 should work to prepare and deploy both litter bags and salmon carcasses earlier to better match  
403 the experimental inputs with natural allochthonous inputs.

404 Genotype mixture effects on mass loss were often non-additive, but highly idiosyncratic  
405 and dependent on the composition of the genotype mixture and the environmental context in  
406 which the litter decomposed (in the presence or absence of salmon). Similar patterns have been  
407 shown in previous studies exploring mixtures of litter species (Lecerf *et al.* 2011), and so this  
408 was not unexpected. In litter mixtures, the presence of salmon did not completely overwhelm  
409 diversity effects, which was seen in a recent example using a long-term nutrient enrichment  
410 experiment (Rosemond *et al.* 2010), but had the interesting effect of altering non-additive  
411 outcomes. Several mixtures switched from additive mass loss in the absence of salmon to

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

412 synergistic (faster than expected) mass loss in the presence of salmon. Additionally, several  
413 litter mixtures that showed antagonistic (slower than expected) mass loss in the absence of  
414 salmon switched to additive or synergistic mass loss in the presence of salmon carcasses.  
415 These switches are not isolated to this study, but two other recent papers show a similar switch  
416 when litter mixtures were exposed to a nutrient source in the stream environment (Rosemond *et*  
417 *al.* 2010; Bretherton *et al.* 2011; **Fig. 6**). The pattern of slightly to very antagonistic mixture  
418 effects for control treatments compared to synergistic effects for elevated nutrient treatments  
419 (through fertilizer or salmon additions) is largely consistent across habitats, leaf species, and  
420 nutrient environments, and should be explored in future studies. Further research could provide  
421 evidence for a more broadly applicable Nutrient-Diversity Synergism Hypothesis (**Fig. 6**), but  
422 this pattern would need to be further tested under other conditions and in other systems,  
423 especially in light of a very recent study which showed synergistic litter effects in streams with  
424 low nutrients compared to eutrophic systems (Lima-Fernandes *et al.* 2015). In this case, since  
425 an environmental gradient in eutrophication was used instead of a nutrient manipulation, it is  
426 possible that the eutrophic streams were otherwise degraded or had different shredder of  
427 microbial communities that may have influenced mass loss in the opposite direction.

428         It is possible that idiosyncratic litter mixing responses may be due to environmental  
429 variation across our study reaches. Since microhabitats were chosen to be as similar as  
430 possible among both salmon and no-salmon control blocks, environmental differences were not  
431 explicitly measured as covariates. In this study, any environmental variation would have resulted  
432 in error in the leaf litter mass loss data, making it more difficult to see differences among  
433 genotypes or mixtures. The fact that there are evident differences in mass loss among  
434 intraspecific leaf litter treatments at mid-stages of decay shows that environmental variation was  
435 not large enough to swamp these patterns. This does not suggest that environmental variation  
436 was not present or important, just that genotypic variation was more important at mid-stages of  
437 decay. At early and late stages of decay, it is possible that unmeasured environmental variables

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

438 were relatively more important because neither genotype nor salmon carcass presence explain  
439 much variation in mass loss at these time periods.

440 In contrast to the idiosyncratic mass loss effects in mixtures discussed above, genotype  
441 mixture effects on fungal biomass accrual were consistently synergistic across treatments, and  
442 more so in the presence of salmon carcasses. These results are relatively novel. One previous  
443 study examined aquatic fungal biomass across many different genotypes of two *Populus*  
444 species and their hybrids and found significant differences in fungal biomass accumulation on  
445 genotypes within species (LeRoy *et al.* 2007), but work with mixtures of genotypes and  
446 environmental interactions is new in this study, and should be further explored.

447 While litter genotype was a driver of patterns in litter mass loss and aquatic fungal  
448 biomass, stream invertebrates were more sensitive to salmon carcass presence. Specifically,  
449 the presence of salmon carcasses had a negative influence on the richness, evenness, and  
450 diversity of the macroinvertebrates that colonized leaf surfaces. It is likely that the carcasses  
451 provided more appealing substrate for a variety of macroinvertebrates and had the influence of  
452 drawing certain components of the community away from litter bags, similar to the findings of  
453 Zhang *et al.* (2003). Although there were no differences in overall macroinvertebrate  
454 abundances on litter bags in no-salmon control and salmon carcass treatments, there was an  
455 overall shift in the community structure found in litter bags from these two treatments. We found  
456 no evidence of macroinvertebrate discrimination among *P. trichocarpa* genotypes or litter  
457 mixtures, which is supported by previous studies comparing genotypes within species of  
458 *Populus fremontii* and *Populus angustifolia* (LeRoy *et al.* 2007) and species mixtures in the  
459 presence and absence of salmon (Bretherton *et al.* 2011). The timing of leaf fall in the Pacific  
460 Northwest is generally October through November and the timing of fall salmon runs in these  
461 rivers is generally August through November. The need to collect and prepare leaf litter and  
462 salmon carcasses prior to the study required us to wait until just after these major natural inputs  
463 and may have influenced in-stream invertebrate responses to both of these detrital inputs.

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

464 We demonstrate that genotypically distinct leaf litters and salmon carcasses interact in  
465 streams to influence leaf litter mass loss and fungal biomass growing on leaf surfaces, but only  
466 carcass presence influenced aquatic macroinvertebrates. Thus while ecosystem function may  
467 be sensitive to the interaction of G x E effects, stream invertebrates (often considered  
468 bioindicators of stream health) are more sensitive to major biotic environmental factors like  
469 salmon carcass presence than to the complex interactions between salmon, tree genetics, and  
470 carbon-cycling through decomposition.

471 The study of salmon and leaf litter interactions is not simply a pairing of major energy  
472 players in stream ecosystems. Salmon-derived nitrogen provides a limiting nutrient for trees and  
473 vascular plants growing in riparian zones in the northern hemisphere and significantly fertilizes  
474 riparian forests and increases above-ground net primary productivity (Helfield and Naiman  
475 2001; Reimchen *et al.* 2003). The interaction between salmon carcasses and riparian trees  
476 could result in a feedback to litter quality and potentially further influence litter dynamics  
477 (Madritch *et al.* 2009; LeRoy *et al.* 2012), especially in systems with healthy salmon runs. For  
478 example, Morris and Stanford (2011) found that salmon carcasses significantly enriched riparian  
479 plants and lowered C:N ratios across the entire 2.5 km floodplain of the Kol River on the  
480 Kamchatka Peninsula, Russian Far East. Further research into the plasticity of litter phenotypes  
481 when exposed to salmon carcass additions could provide more insight into these interactions.

482 Our results highlight the importance of asking questions across the boundaries of  
483 emerging fields of research, such as genes-to-ecosystems (Whitham *et al.* 2008), biodiversity-  
484 ecosystem function (Lecerf and Richardson 2010; Cook-Patton *et al.* 2011; Lecerf *et al.* 2011),  
485 and terrestrial-aquatic interactions (Richardson *et al.* 2010). More specifically, effects of  
486 genotypic variation on ecosystem function can be dependent on biotic and abiotic environmental  
487 contexts (Madritch *et al.* 2009; LeRoy *et al.* 2012; Pregitzer *et al.* 2013). Using leaf litter and  
488 salmon carcass interactions highlights two major allochthonous energy inputs to streams and  
489 riparian forests of the northern hemisphere and widens our understanding of terrestrial-aquatic

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

490 interactions. The presence of salmon carcasses resulted in more frequent synergistic responses  
491 in mixtures both for litter mass loss and fungal biomass. Understanding the circumstances  
492 under which genetic variation may influence ecosystem function is a crucial area of research  
493 since a variety of factors influence genetic diversity in both foundation and keystone species.  
494 For example, range shifts under future climate conditions are likely to influence genetic variation  
495 in foundation tree species (Excoffier *et al.* 2009). Both genetic variation in keystone species and  
496 the overall influence of these organisms on ecosystem functions are likely reduced in situations  
497 where the species (like anadromous salmon) have been extirpated or greatly reduced in most  
498 natural riparian systems (only 6 to 7% of historic Pacific Northwest populations persist; Gresh *et al.*  
499 *al.* 2000).

500 In this paper, salmon carcass presence altered the way in which leaves from genetically  
501 diverse trees interacted with one another in mixtures, both through litter mass loss and fungal  
502 decomposers, as well as altered the litter-dwelling aquatic macroinvertebrate community. It is in  
503 these ways, and not in clear overall or interactive ways, that a major detrital input of nutrients  
504 and organic matter influences the brown food web in this stream system. Thus, a genetic  
505 perspective on ecosystem function becomes more important as riparian systems witness the  
506 loss of key ecological players like anadromous salmon. The highly complex nature of these  
507 systems warrants further investigation into the extended community and ecosystem effects of  
508 plant genotypic variation across gradients of both abiotic and biotic environmental variation and  
509 predictions for these systems as they experience large scale changes (Kominoski *et al.* 2013).

510

511

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

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526

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

682 **Table 1. ANOVA results for mass loss analysis.** ANOVA results for a general linear model  
 683 describing the effects of incubation time (Time), leaf genotype presence (Snoqualmie,  
 684 Longview, Chilliwack, Arlington, Hoh, and Nisqually genotypes), salmon carcass presence  
 685 (Salmon), genotype richness (Richness), and genotype composition (Composition) within leaf  
 686 litter bags as well as interactions among these factors on leaf litter decomposition. This model  
 687 uses fixed effects and Type I sums of squares. Significant effects are denoted in bold and with  
 688 asterisks (\*).

Source	DF	Type I SS	Mean Square	F Value	p-value
<b>Time</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64.8993</b>	<b>32.4496</b>	<b>600.68</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001*</b>
Snoqualmie	1	0.0184	0.0184	0.34	0.5600
Longview	1	0.0180	0.0180	0.33	0.5646
Chilliwack	1	0.0697	0.0697	1.29	0.2569
Arlington	1	0.0004	0.0004	0.01	0.9295
<b>Hoh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.4578</b>	<b>0.4578</b>	<b>8.47</b>	<b>0.0038*</b>
<b>Nisqually</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2951</b>	<b>0.2951</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>0.0200*</b>
Salmon	1	0.0083	0.0083	0.15	0.6947
<b>Richness</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2511</b>	<b>0.2511</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>0.0318*</b>
Composition	3	0.0792	0.0264	0.49	0.6903
Snoqualmie*Salmon	1	0.0090	0.0090	0.17	0.6828
Longview*Salmon	1	0.0169	0.0169	0.31	0.5767
Chilliwack*Salmon	1	0.0327	0.0327	0.61	0.4371
Arlington*Salmon	1	0.1240	0.124	2.30	0.1307
Hoh*Salmon	1	0.0421	0.0421	0.78	0.3781
Nisqually*Salmon	1	0.0900	0.0900	1.67	0.1977
Salmon*Richness	1	0.0059	0.0059	0.11	0.7418
Salmon*Composition	3	0.0647	0.0216	0.40	0.7537
Time*Snoqualmie	2	0.0072	0.0036	0.07	0.9354
Time*Longview	2	0.1133	0.0567	1.05	0.3515
<b>Time*Chilliwack</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.3880</b>	<b>0.1940</b>	<b>3.59</b>	<b>0.0287*</b>
Time*Arlington	2	0.0861	0.0431	0.80	0.4514
Time*Hoh	2	0.0397	0.0199	0.37	0.6926
Time*Nisqually	2	0.2800	0.1400	2.59	0.0764
Time*Salmon	2	0.1362	0.0681	1.26	0.2848
Time*Richness	2	0.0432	0.0216	0.40	0.6705
Time*Composition	6	0.4610	0.0768	1.42	0.2053
Time*Snoqualmie*Salmon	2	0.1252	0.0626	1.16	0.3152
Time*Longview*Salmon	2	0.0372	0.0186	0.34	0.7090
Time*Chilliwack*Salmon	2	0.0861	0.0431	0.80	0.4514
Time*Arlington*Salmon	2	0.0081	0.0040	0.07	0.9279
Time*Hoh*Salmon	2	0.1970	0.0985	1.82	0.1632
Time*Nisqually*Salmon	2	0.0579	0.0289	0.54	0.5858

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

692 **Table 2: Genotype, environment and G x E interactions.** Two-way ANOVA results showing  
 693 effects (p-values) of genotype, environment and G x E interactions on leaf litter decay and  
 694 consumers. Specific responses are shown for mass loss at days 14, 28 and 78, fungal biomass  
 695 at day 28, and the abundance, richness, evenness, Shannon's diversity index and Simpson's  
 696 diversity index values of aquatic macroinvertebrates at day 28. Significant effects are denoted in  
 697 bold and with asterisks (\*).

Response Variable	Genotype	Salmon	G x E	R <sup>2</sup>	F	df	P
<i>Leaf litter decay</i>							
Mass loss (14 d)	0.2466	0.1764	0.2065	0.2132	1.55	11, 74	0.1357
Mass loss (28 d)	<b>&lt;0.0001*</b>	0.3540	0.9264	0.3427	3.32	11, 81	<b>0.0010*</b>
Mass loss (78 d)	0.3248	0.7391	0.9725	0.0982	0.61	11, 73	0.8103
<i>Consumers</i>							
Fungal biomass	<b>0.0095*</b>	0.1926	0.2114	0.4115	2.35	11, 48	<b>0.0256*</b>
Invert Abundance	0.2907	0.1108	0.2577	0.3159	1.55	11, 48	0.1543
Invert Richness	0.5466	0.6298	0.9640	0.1261	0.49	11, 48	0.9003
Invert Evenness	0.6897	0.1003	0.4398	0.1368	1.01	11, 48	0.4477
Shannon's Index	0.9486	<b>0.0002*</b>	0.4490	0.2385	1.99	11, 48	<b>0.0420*</b>
Simpson's Index	0.8129	<b>0.0012*</b>	0.4894	0.2098	1.69	11, 48	0.0936

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LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

700 **Figure Legends**

701 **Figure 1: Map of study locations.** Map showing the collection locations for each *Populus*  
702 *trichocarpa* genotype (●), the location of the common garden site at the Puyallup Research and  
703 Extension Center (WSU, Puyallup, WA) used for litter collection (▲) and the location of the  
704 stream (McKenna Creek; ▲) used for decomposition experiments. Map created in Arc-GIS 10.0  
705 by Dylan G. Fischer.

706 **Figure 2. Intra-specific variation in black cottonwood litter chemistry.** Initial litter chemistry  
707 differed significantly among genotypes of *Populus trichocarpa* leaf litter: a) % nitrogen, b) %  
708 phosphorus, c) C:N ratio, d) % acid-detergent cellulose, e) % acid-detergent lignin, and f) %  
709 condensed tannins. Bars represent means  $\pm$  1 SE, and lower case letters denote significant  
710 differences among genotypes.

711 **Figure 3. Mass loss through time for individual genotypes and genotype mixtures.**  
712 Percent mass loss for 6 genotypes of *Populus trichocarpa* leaf litter in isolation and compared to  
713 mixtures of 2 and 6 genotypes after 14 d (a, b, c, d) 28 d (e, f, g, h), and 78 d (i, j, k, l) in the  
714 stream. Gray bars and gray open circles represent control litter bags and black bars and black  
715 open circles represent litter bags exposed to salmon carcasses. Bars represent means  $\pm$  1 SE,  
716 and lower case letters denote significant differences among genotypes. Open circles represent  
717 mass loss observations for genotype mixtures at different levels of genotype richness, and  
718 horizontal dashed lines represent treatment means.

719 **Figure 4. Observed versus expected mass loss for genotype mixtures in the presence**  
720 **and absence of salmon carcasses.** Observed % mass loss for all genotype mixture  
721 treatments plotted as a function of the expected % mass loss based on average values for each  
722 genotype in isolation: a) no-salmon controls, b) salmon carcass treatments, and c) overall non-  
723 additive treatment effects ( $\pm$  1 SE). Leaf litter treatments included the following mixtures: 6-  
724 genotype mixture (6-geno), Chilliwack + Longview (C+L), Nisqually + Chilliwack (N+C),  
725 Nisqually + Longview (N+L), and Nisqually + Snoqualmie (N+S). Diagonal lines represent 1:1

LeRoy *et al.* – Tree genotypes interact with salmon carcasses

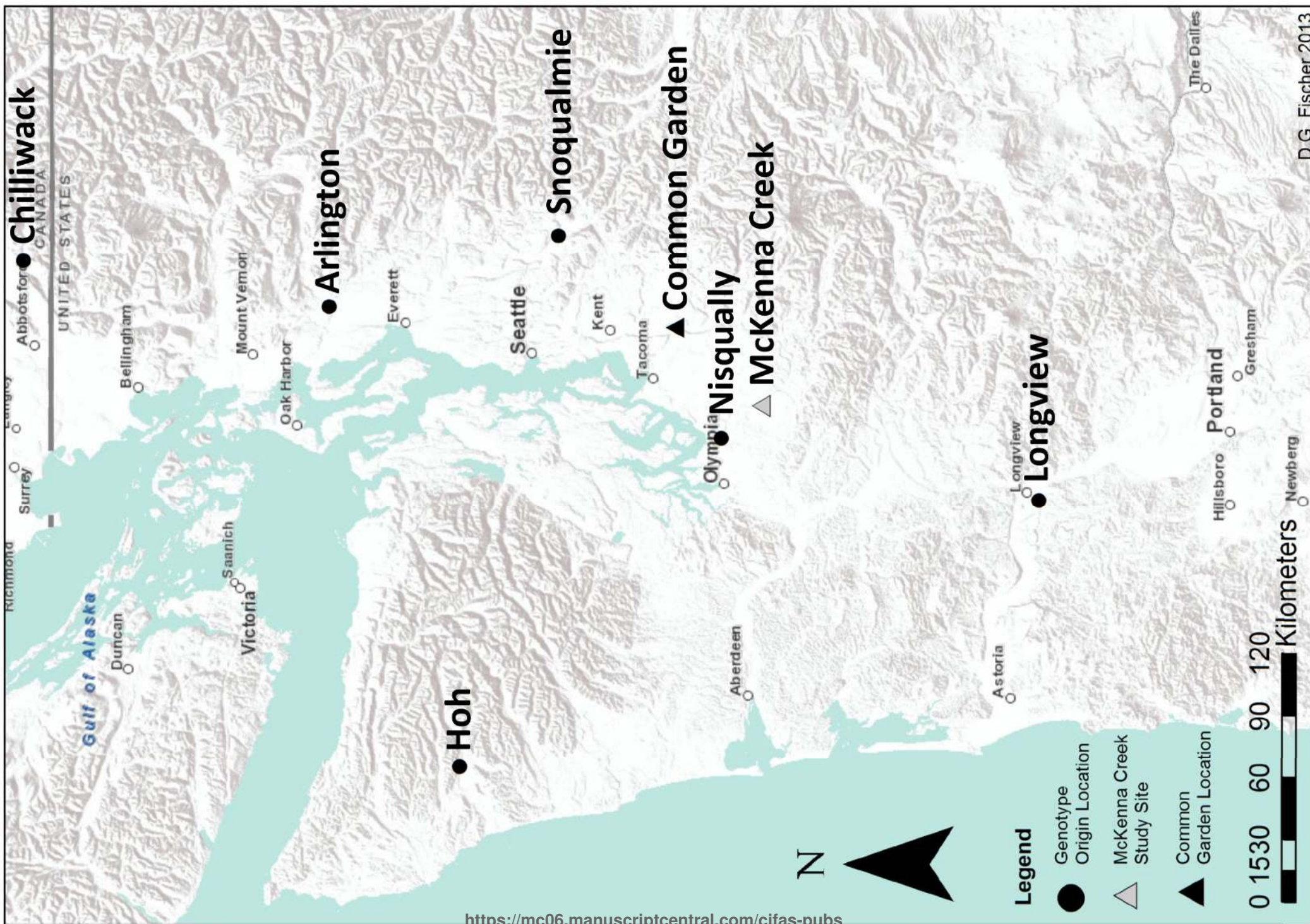
726 equilibrium, and ellipses contain all means from each harvest date. Asterisks denote significant  
727 non-additive responses in mixture (at Bonferroni-corrected  $\alpha = 0.0016$ ); asterisks above the  
728 1:1 line show synergistic mass loss, asterisks below the line show antagonistic mass loss.

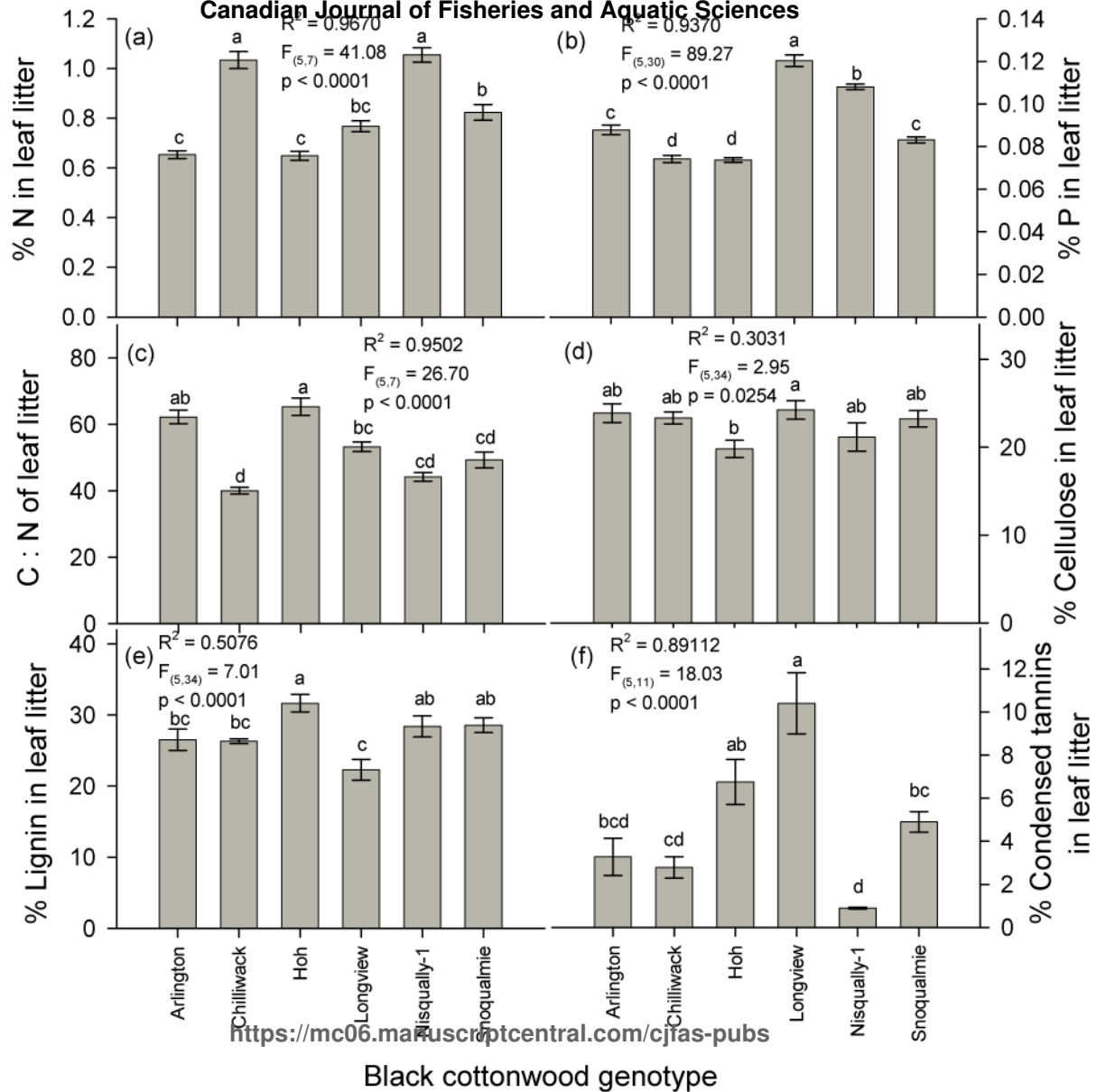
729 **Figure 5. Aquatic fungal biomass on individual genotypes and genotype mixtures**

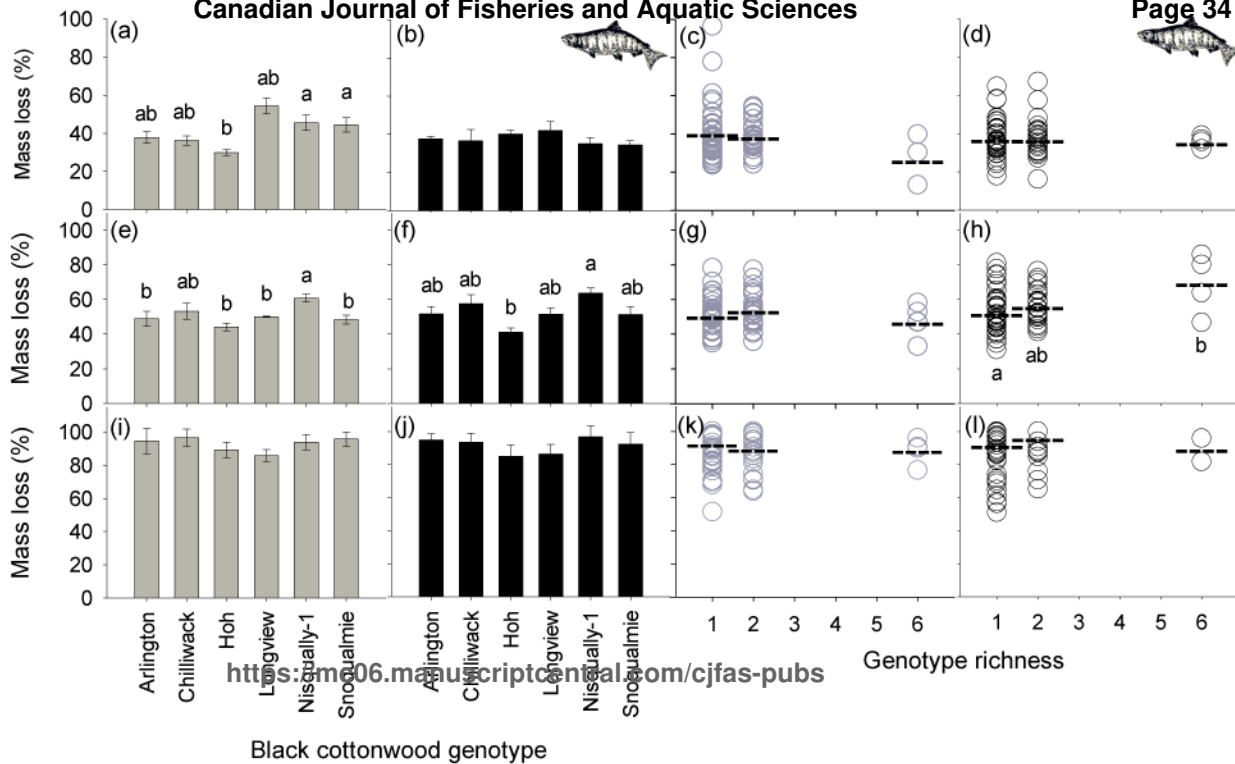
730 **comparing mixtures in the presence and absence of salmon carcasses.** Mean aquatic  
731 fungal biomass ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$  leaf) on leaves of each *Populus trichocarpa* genotype in: a) no-salmon  
732 control litter bags, and b) salmon carcass treatment litter bags. Gray bars represent means for  
733 control litter bags and black bars represent means for litter bags exposed to salmon carcasses  
734 ( $\pm 1$  SE); c) Observed fungal biomass for each genotype mixture (y-axis) compared to expected  
735 values of fungal biomass based on average values for each genotype in isolation (x-axis). Leaf  
736 litter treatments included the following mixtures: 6-genotype mixture (6-geno), Chilliwack +  
737 Longview (C+L), Nisqually + Chilliwack (N+C), Nisqually + Longview (N+L), and Nisqually +  
738 Snoqualmie (N+S). Gray symbols represent control litter bags and black symbols represent litter  
739 bags exposed to salmon carcasses. Non-significant additive responses denoted with “ns,” all  
740 other treatments were significantly non-additive (synergistic) at Bonferroni-corrected  $\alpha =$   
741 0.005. Diagonal line represents 1:1 equilibrium; and d) overall non-additive treatment effects ( $\pm$   
742 1 SE) on fungal biomass.

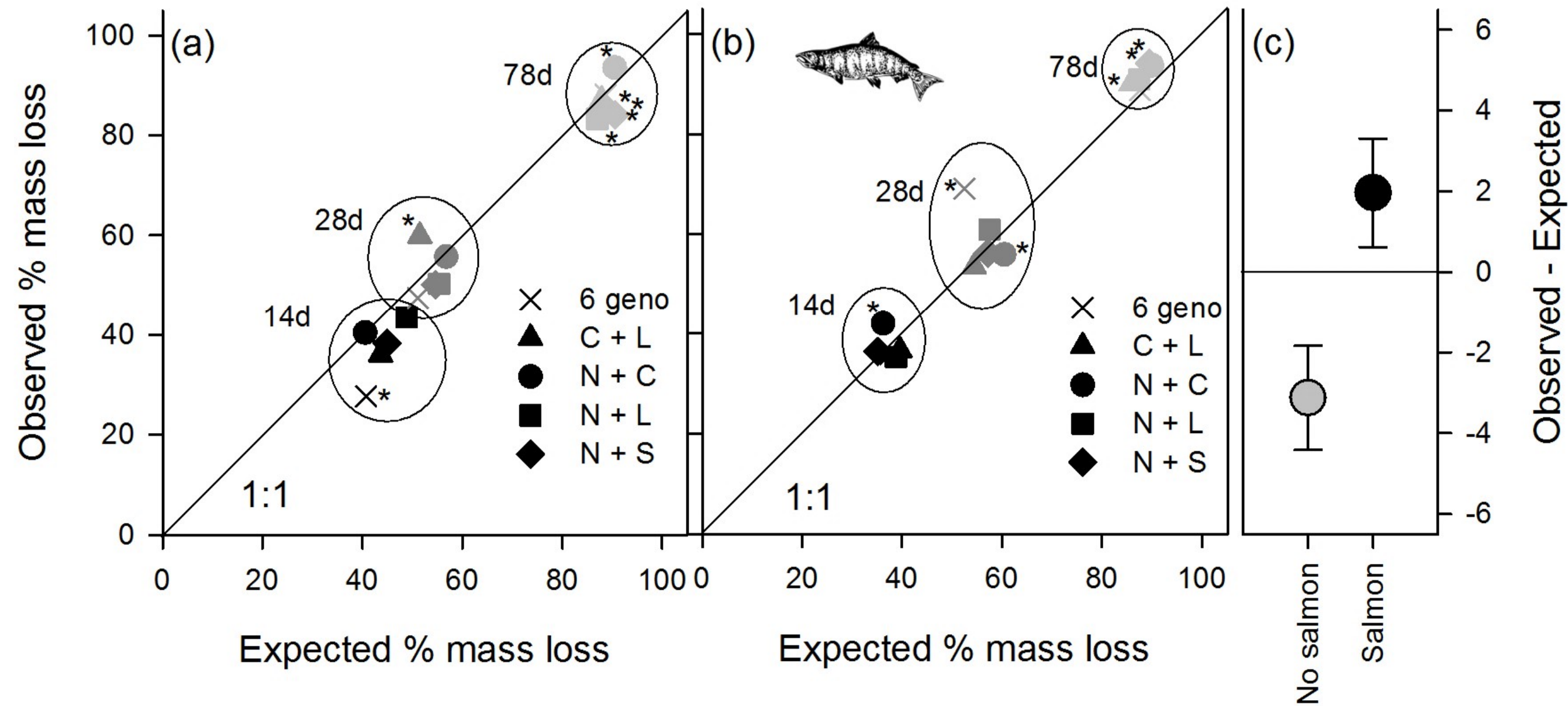
743 **Figure 6. Patterns in synergistic and antagonistic mass loss across studies.** Additive  
744 mass loss, synergistic mass loss (more mass lost than expected) and antagonistic mass loss  
745 (less mass lost than expected) patterns from three studies comparing mixed leaf litter mass loss  
746 in control and nutrient-enriched environments. Rosemond *et al.* (2010) used dripped fertilizer as  
747 the nutrient enrichment and examined effects on species mixtures and two studies used salmon  
748 carcasses as nutrient enrichment, Bretherton *et al.* (2011) examined effects on species mixtures  
749 and the this study examines effects on genotype mixtures. Values represent mean non-additive  
750 responses  $\pm 1$  SE, and may represent patterns that support a Nutrient-Diversity Synergism  
751 Hypothesis.











Observed fungal biomass (FB)

