Hyperspectral data based monitoring of Norway spruce forest conditions in a historically heavily polluted mountainous region of Czech Republic affected by long-term acidic deposition.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Climate change interacts with anthropogenic pollution</th>
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<th>Monitoring forest health in heavily polluted North Czech Republic</th>
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| Gradient in air pollution based on direction of prevailing winds |
Two different localities in the Krušné Hory Mts. about 50 km apart

- **Přebuz** - the western part - healthy or slightly damaged
- **Kovářská** - the central part - heavy acidic load, high visible damage

Even-aged forest stands older than 60 years (15 sites at Kovářská and 22 sites at Přebuz in 1998) and older than 80 years (5 sites at Kovářská and 6 sites at Přebuz in 2013) were selected.
2 hyperspectral projects in the Krušné hory Mts

• 1. NASA (1997-2000)
• 2. INMON (2012-2014)
Data and methods:

- Field measurements and sampling
  - Foliar chemicals (chlorophyll, carotenoids, lignin, cellulose, water etc.)
  - Soil samples (pH, heavy metals, bazic cations, trace elements, DOC, DON)
  - LAI measurements (hemispherical photography)
  - Crown Defoliation and status assessment

- Spectral properties of needles (ASD Fieldspec-4 + integration sphere)

- Airborne hyperspectral imagery
  - Apex: (2013)
NASA project „Forest recovery in the Czech Republic“ NAG5-5192 (CFDA #43.002), (1997-2000), UNH, Complex Research Systems Centre, USA,

PI: Barrett N. Rock, UNH
Petya Campbell
Co-I: Jana Albrechtová

ASAS: Airborne Solid-state Array Spectroradiometer (ASAS) NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, USA.

ASAS’98 images and spectra of healthy (DC0) and damaged (DC 1-4) canopies (Entcheva et al. 2004)


The main goal: assessment of the temporal changes in the physiological status of Norway spruce forests in the Krušné Hory Mts. using two hyperspectral data sets acquired in 1998 and 2013.

Project team:

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- Czech Geological Survey
  - Mgr. Veronika Kopačková, Mgr. Jan Mišurec

- University of Maryland BC, NASA GSFC
  - Dr. Petya Entcheva-Campbell

Image hyperspectral data

**1998 ASAS sensor**
Advanced Solid-state Array Spectrometer
Spectral coverage: 410 – 1032 nm
Number of bands: 62
FWHM: 9.5 – 11.5 nm
Radiometric resolution: 16-bit
Spatial resolution: 1.5 m x 2.0 m
Flight elevation: 2500 m
Flight line width: (m): 820 m
Flight line width: (pix): 512 pix

**2013 APEX sensor**
Airborne Prism EXperiment
Spectral coverage: 380 – 2500 nm
Number of bands: 313
FWHM: 6 nm (VNIR), 10 nm (SWIR)
Radiometric resolution: 14-bit (VNIR), 13-bit (SWIR)
Spatial resolution: 1.5 m
Flight elevation: 4300 m
Flight line width: 1500 m
Flight line width: (pix): 1000 pix
INDICES, predictive models

• Total chlorophyll:
  - NDVI\textsubscript{705}, mNDVI\textsubscript{705}, MCARI, TCARI, TCARI/OSAVI, TVI, ANMB\textsubscript{650-725}

• Total carotenoids
  - CRI\textsubscript{550}, CRI\textsubscript{700}, RNIR*CRI\textsubscript{550}, RNIR*CRI\textsubscript{700}

• Relative Water Content
  - WI, NDWI

• Statistical models
  - Simple Linear Regressions (indices)
  - Partial Least Square Regression (PLSR)
    • 450 – 2,500 nm, region 350 – 450 nm excluded from the analyses due to the noise in the measured spectra
    • Reflectance spectra, continuum removed reflectance spectra
  - Coefficient of Determination ($R^2$), p-values, Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)
The best results were achieved by TCARI/OSAVI index (for photosynthetic pigments), WI (for water content) and PLSR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Total chlorophyll (mg/g d.m.)</th>
<th>Carotenoids (mg/g d.m.)</th>
<th>RWC (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( R^2 * )</td>
<td>RMSE</td>
<td>( R^2 * )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCARI</td>
<td>0.5221</td>
<td>0.4620</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCARI/OSAVI</td>
<td>0.6476</td>
<td>0.3745</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVI</td>
<td>0.4941</td>
<td>0.4889</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSR</td>
<td>0.7763 (6 comp.)</td>
<td>0.3317</td>
<td>PLSR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – comparison of ASAS and APEX data

- Vegetation indices used for the spatio-temporal analysis of Norway spruce physiological status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Vegetation indices</th>
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<tr>
<td>NDVI\textsubscript{705} [12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOG\textsubscript{1} and VOG\textsubscript{2} [13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REP [14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDVI [15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDVI [16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSR [17]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAVI [18]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Misurec et al., manuscript under preparation
Results – comparison of ASAS and APEX data

• **Separability index** was calculated between the healthy and damaged forest stands for the all VIs to check their sensitivity on forest damage.

\[
SI = \frac{|\mu_h - \mu_d|}{\sigma_h + \sigma_d}
\]

• Separability scores (SI) of the five most sensitive indices for the original (2 m) and generalized (6 m) spatial resolution ASAS data.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Data set</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>ASAS (1998)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 m</td>
<td>6 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. VOG₁:</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>N₇₁₄: 1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NDVI:</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>VOG₁: 1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. TCARI/OSAVI:</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>TCARI/OSAVI: 1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. MSR:</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>MSR: 1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. NDVI₇₀₅:</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>NDVI₇₀₅: 1.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Misurec et al., manuscript under preparation
Results – comparison of ASAS and APEX data

- The original values of the given VIs obtained from the ASAS dataset are not directly comparable to the ones extracted from the APEX dataset. This is mainly due to technological differences between ASAS and APEX sensors, differences in atmospheric correction applied on the ASAS and APEX datasets etc. The original VIs values were therefore normalized to allow their mutual comparability using the following formula:

\[
VI'_x = \frac{VI_x - VI_\mu}{VI_\sigma}
\]

- where: \(VI'_x\) is the normalized value of vegetation index VI for pixel \(x\); \(VI_x\) is the original value of vegetation index VI for pixel \(x\); \(VI_\mu\) and \(VI_\sigma\) are mean and standard deviation values of vegetation index VI calculated from the all pixels representing sunlit crowns within the all buffer areas representing the selected forest stands.

- Misurec et al., manuscript under preparation
Results – comparison of ASAS and APEX data

The relative distance of the particular stands (defined by local mean of the given VI) from the baselines (defined by the global mean of the given VI) in both time horizons.

- Visualization of Norway spruce health status temporal change between 1998 and 2013 at Přebuz (P) and Kovářská (K) sites using VOG$_1$ vegetation index

- Misurec et al., manuscript under preparation
Results – comparison of ASAS and APEX data

- Relativized values of the $\text{VOG}_1$ vegetation index calculated from the ASAS (1998) and APEX (2013) hyperspectral image data in original 2 m spatial resolution for $P_{11}$ and $K_{37}$ stands.

- Misurec et al., manuscript under preparation
Several of the tested VIs proved to be highly sensitive to vegetation health status and forest damage, particularly $\text{VOG}_1$, TCARI/OSAVI, MSR and $\text{NDVI}_{705}$.

The $\text{VOG}_1$ index was showing high and stable sensitivity to forest damage.

Selected sensitive VIs also demonstrated ability to detect not only high level of forest damage, but also slight differences in physiological status, which do not have any visible symptoms (such as high defoliation level etc.).
SOIL POLLUTION is ONE OF THE MAIN DRIVING FACTORS:

- It appears that after removal of main acidic deposition sources in 1990’s, the soil acidification is now the main driving factor of Norway spruce physiological status in Krušné Hory Mts.

- The improvement of forest soils damaged by previous acidic deposition is a long-term process and only slight recovery was observed after a decade in other mountainous regions of the Czech Republic.
Forest recovery appeared in Ore Mts. during the observed period 1998 – 2013.

Regarding spatio-temporal changes in forest status, in 1998 significant differences were observed between damaged (central Ore Mts. – Kovářská) and undamaged (western Ore Mts. – Přebuz) stands, while in 2013 sort of “averaging” of the health status of Norway spruce stands has been observed: surviving trees in the central part improved their health status remarkably while originally undamaged stands in the western part showed symptoms of chronic damage.

Since adverse soil conditions are longer persisting and improving only slowly comparing to air conditions and pollution, forests in the Ore Mts. are still exposed to acid soil conditions.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Experimental Plant Biology, Prague, Czech Republic:
Zuzana Lhotáková, Monika Kovarova, Tomas Polak, Drahomira Bartakova

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Applied Geoinfor-matics and Cartography, Prague, Czech Republic;
Lucie Kupková, Markéta Potuckova, Lucie Cervena

Czech Geological Survey, Prague, Czech Republic;
Jan Mišurec, Veronika Kopačková2,

Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology, University of Maryland Baltimore County and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA;
Petya K.E. Campbell3,

CzechGlobe, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, České Budějovice, Czech Republic
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The support of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic is acknowledged: LH12097. Thanks belong to Drahomíra Bartáková and Monika Kovářová for laboratory analyses and students who helped with needle sampling and spectral measurements
Thank you for your attention

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