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Tree Chemistry Database (Version 1.0)

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Abstract

The Tree Chemistry Database is a relational database of C, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, and Al concentrations in bole bark, bole wood, branches, twigs, and foliage. Compiled from data in 218 articles and publications, the database contains reported nutrient and biomass values for tree species in the Northeastern United States. Nutrient data can be sorted on parameters such as stand age, sample year, region, and glaciation. This report documents database development and provides instructions for use of the database, which is included on an accompanying CD-ROM.

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Cover Photo

Fall foliage in Massachusetts is a brilliant example of tree chemistry at work.

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Introduction

The Tree Chemistry Database is designed to be a comprehensive and searchable relational database of C, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, and Al concentrations in above-ground tree-biomass compartments. The complete database contains all published nutrient values that could be located for tree species in the Northeastern United States. The database supports regional calculations of critical loads for N and S deposition to forest ecosystems. A key component of such calculations is estimating potential nutrient removal due to biomass removal. To estimate these values when direct measurements were unavailable, regional means of nutrient concentration and biomass (by compartment and species) were used. This compilation of nutrient concentrations for tree species in the Northeastern United States and eastern Canada can be used for estimates of nutrient content or nutrients removed during harvesting. The data also can be used to compare measured site data with regional means, or for modeling activities.

The data are entered into linked Microsoft Access¹ tables. This format increases efficiency and allows users to specify and extract tree chemistry values according to individual needs. An overview of the database design is shown in Figure 1.

Development of a complete database entails well-planned design, a thorough search for data sources, and intelligent data selection. The following sections describe the Tree Chemistry Database. The process of data extraction from and utilization of the database also is described, and extracted nutrient values for selected tree species are presented. The results are shown in Figures 2-9. Mean nutrient concentrations for 17 tree species are summarized in Table 1.

Tree Chemistry Database Design

As mentioned, all information included in the Tree Chemistry Database is entered into Microsoft Access tables. There are 10 tables in the database: Study Description, Nutrients, Site, Species, Land Use, Analytical Method, Plant Digest Method, Foliar Sample Location, State, and Publication (Fig. 1). The complete tables for Species, Land Use, Analytical Method, and Plant Digest Method are in the Appendix.

Entries in each table are identified by a unique ID number that allows the database tables to be linked in what Microsoft Access terms “one to many” relationships. For example, the ID number for sugar maple, 7, appears once in the “Species_#” column of the Species table. The same number appears several times in the “Species_#” column of the Nutrients table, thus linking multiple entries in the Nutrients table to one entry in the Species table.

Descriptions of the Tree Chemistry tables follow.

Study Description Table

The Study Description table contains reference information for each citation in the database. Each article, thesis, or book chapter has an individual entry. If the data from a

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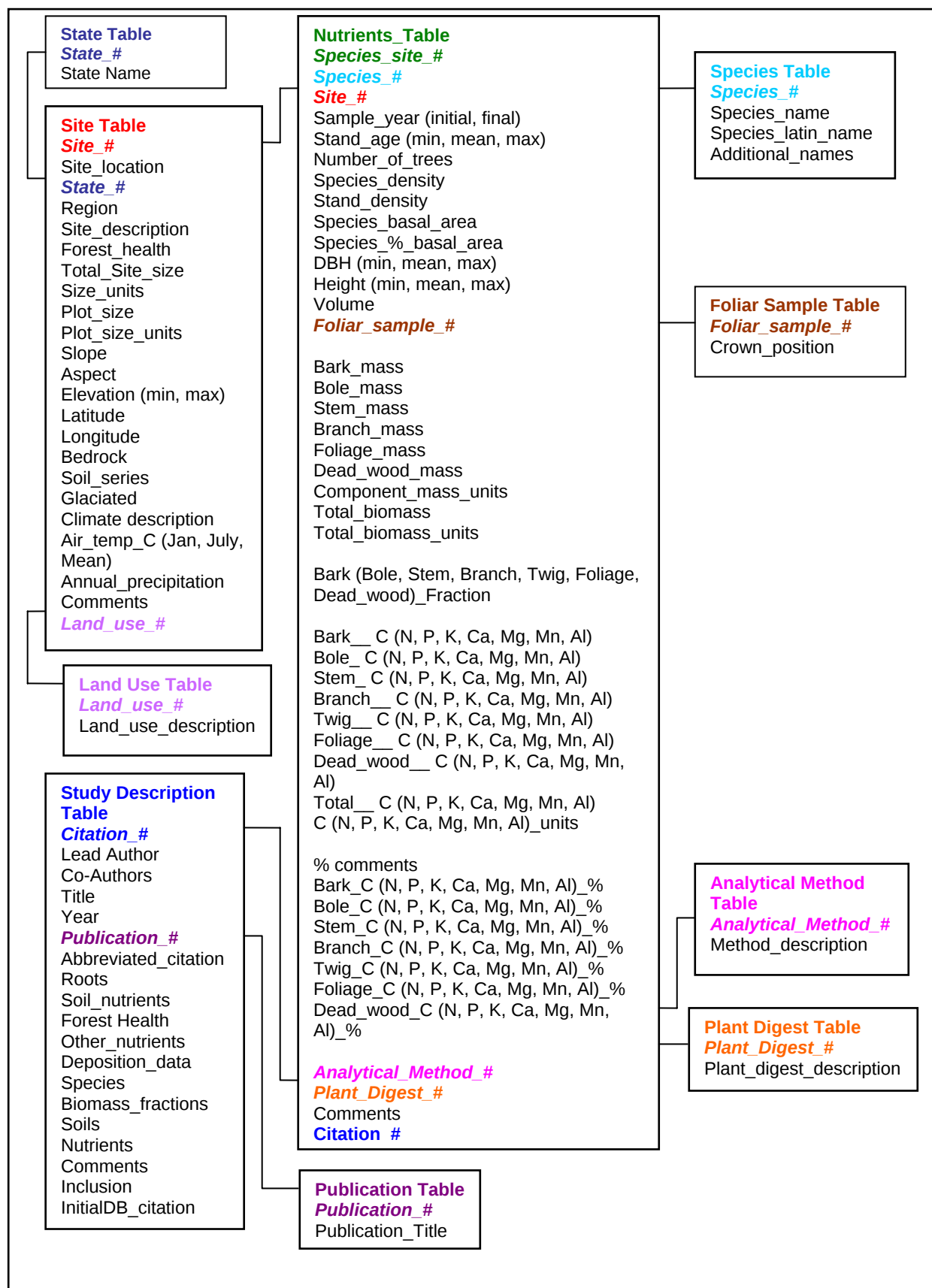


Figure 1.—Design of Tree Chemistry Database.

given citation were incompatible with database parameters, for example, they were for current needles only instead of for all age classes, the citation was entered into the Study Description table but not into the other tables.

The Study Description table includes Citation ID number, lead author, coauthors, year of publication, article title, abbreviated citation (e.g., publication name, volume, and page numbers); Publication ID number, lists of tree species, biomass compartments, and nutrients studied; comments on irregularities in the citation; Initial DB citation code (Y=in initial Excel¹ database, N=not in initial Excel database); and inclusion code (0=included, 1=excluded from the rest of the database). The table also includes sections coded to indicate whether root, soil, forest health, additional nutrient, and deposition data are reported in the citation (0=data not reported in the citation, 1=data reported in the citation). These sections are provided for informational purposes; specific data are not included in the database.

A citation may provide information for multiple Site and Nutrients table entries. The Study Description table has a “one to many” relationship with the Nutrients table and a “many to one” relationship with the Publication table (Fig. 1).

Nutrients Table

The Nutrients table provides information on stand growth characteristics, reported nutrient concentrations, and methods used for sampling. Each entry in the table is a unique combination of data on species, site, and stand age from one citation. As a result, multiple Nutrients table entries can be based on information in a single citation.

Entries in this table include Species and Site ID numbers; study year; stand age; number of trees sampled; foliar sample ID; DBH, height, species and stand density, basal area, and volume; total and compartment biomass; biomass fractions (percent distribution of above-ground biomass in biomass compartments); C, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, and Al nutrient concentrations in dead wood, stem (bole bark and wood combined), bark (bole bark), bole (bole wood), branches, twigs, and live foliage; nutrient-concentration units; C, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, and Al percent in dead wood, stem (bole bark and wood combined), bark (bole bark), bole (bole wood), branches, twigs, and live foliage; comments on percent calculations; comments on data entry irregularities; and Analytical Method, Plant Digest Method, and Citation ID numbers. Nutrient values for leaf litter are not included in the database.

There are separate categories for maximum, minimum, and average stand age, height, and DBH values. Entries were made into these categories if values were reported. The Nutrients table is linked to the Species, Site, Analytical Method, Plant Digest Method, Foliar Sample, and Study Description tables in “many to one” relationships (Fig. 1).

Site Table

The Site table contains information on site location and specific site characteristics. Each entry in the table is from a unique site or study area as described in a citation. Information from multiple sites can be reported in one citation. Site scale varies with the

study protocol and can be as small as a plot of several hundred square meters or as large as a watershed. When authors combined data from multiple locations, the sites may span adjacent states.

The Site table provides the following information: description; location; State ID (state, province, or country); region; forest health code (0=healthy, 1=declining, 9999=data missing); site size and size units; plot size and units; slope, aspect, and elevation; latitude and longitude; bedrock type; soil series or soil description; glaciation code (0=not glaciated, 1=glaciated, 9999=data missing); climate description; average temperature and precipitation; comments on site data or data entry irregularities; and Land Use ID number. The Site table has a “one to many” relationship with the Nutrients table and a “many to one” relationship with the Land Use and State tables (Fig. 1).

Species Table

The Species table (Appendix Table 2) consists of a Species ID number (Species_#) for each species and its scientific, common, and alternate names. The Species table is linked to the Nutrients table through the Species ID number in a “one to many” relationship (Fig. 1).

Land Use Table

The Land Use table (Appendix Table 3) consists of a Land Use ID number and a description of land-use patterns. This table is linked to the Site table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig.1).

Analytical Method Table

Each entry in the Analytical Method table (Appendix Table 4) includes a unique set of procedures for determining the concentration of nutrient elements in prepared plant tissue. Similar analytical techniques were combined under a common name to simplify the database. Categorization was aided by information provided by Jane Hislop (USDA Forest Service) and Bickelhaupt (1979), among other sources. Micro, semi-micro, and Kjeldahl nitrogen determinations are *Kjeldahl N*. Technicon Autoanalyzer analysis is *colorimetric*, as are various phosphorus colorimetric assays. Flame Emission Spectroscopy, Flame Photometry, Spark Emission Spectroscopy, and Atomic Emission Spectroscopy are *AES* (Atomic Emission Spectroscopy). *AAS* is atomic absorption spectroscopy. *ICP-AES* is inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy; *DCP-AES* is direct current plasma atomic emission spectroscopy. Spectroscopy, spectrometry, and spectrophotometry are considered interchangeable in this section. The Analytical Method table is related to the Nutrients table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig. 1).

Plant Digest Method Table

Each entry in the Plant Digest Method table (Appendix Table 5) includes chemical digestion procedures for extracting plant nutrients. This information is separate from the Analytical Method table to simplify the database. Many citations used the same plant digest technique or the same element analysis technique, but few used both the same plant digest and element analysis method. The Plant Digest Method table is linked to the Nutrients table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig.1).

Foliar Sample Table

The Foliar Sample table provides the foliar sample ID and the corresponding crown position description. It is linked to the Nutrients table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig. 1).

State Table

The State table contains an ID code and full name for each state, Canadian province, or non-North American country. It is linked to the Site table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig. 1).

Publication

The Publication table lists all publications from which various citations originated. This table is linked to the Study Description table in a “one to many” relationship (Fig. 1), and facilitates searches by publication title.

Data Sources

The Tree Chemistry Database contains all published nutrient values that could be located for above-ground biomass compartments of tree species in the Northeastern United States. Data are included both for trees sampled in the Northeast, and for Northeastern species sampled in other parts of the world. The database is as comprehensive as possible for the bole, bark, and branch chemistry of trees sampled in the Northeast. It does not include all published values for trees sampled in other regions, or for foliar data. Users interested in foliar data can access the NERC (Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative) foliar chemistry database (<http://www.folchem.sr.unh.edu/>).

Sources for nutrient values were journal articles, books chapters and proceedings, USDA and Canadian Forest Service reports, and theses and dissertations. Reported sampling dates for included data ranged from 1931 to 1999; most samples are from after 1960.

Multiple search engines, including Scirus, Google, Altavista, and Agricola, and Web of Science¹, as well as a citation list from Rich Hallett (USDA Forest Service) were used to compile the database. In addition, the USDA and Canadian Forest Services' online literature databases were searched, as were publication lists at the Coweeta, Hubbard Brook, and Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research sites. Online library catalogues at universities in the North and Northeast were searched for relevant theses and dissertations. Search terms included *tree(s)*, *nutrient(s)*, *element(s)*, *biomass*, *content(s)*, *concentration*, *allocation*, and specific tree species, biomass compartments, and nutrient elements.

Data Selection Criteria

When possible, data were entered as the values and units reported in each citation; 9999 was entered when data for a database parameter were not included in a citation. To simplify data extraction, percentages for all reported nutrient concentrations were calculated and entered into the Tree Chemistry Database.

Much of the tree chemistry data could not be entered directly into the database. Data that did not conform to database parameters were transformed when possible; data that could not be transformed were excluded from database entry.

Examples of transformed data are the stand parameters height and DBH, which were converted from English to metric units when necessary. Nutrient values in non-database biomass compartments were transformed to biomass compartment values when possible. For example, branch nutrient data occasionally were presented separately for branch wood and branch bark. If the wood and bark values were reported as amounts (kg/ha), they were added to obtain a total branch value. If the branch nutrient data were reported as wood and bark concentrations and the mass for each compartment also was reported, a mass-weighted average concentration for the branch was calculated.

Data also were extracted from charts; data presented in bar graphs were measured and numerical values were calculated. All calculations are noted in the comments section of the Nutrients table.

If nutrient values were presented in an unusable form and could not be transformed, they were not entered into the database. Unusable values include current-year needle nutrient concentrations, which do not accurately represent total foliar nutrient values; nutrient values reported for several species combined; and data in line graphs that could not be measured accurately. At times, all data from a citation were excluded from the database. In such cases, the citation was entered into the Study Description table and marked as excluded.

Using the Database

The complete Tree Chemistry Database is included on the CD-ROM that accompanies this report. The three database versions provided, Microsoft Access 97, 2000, and 2002¹, contain identical information. Users should select the version appropriate to their software packages. The database and documentation also are available online (<http://www.hubbardbrook.org/treechem/index.htm>).

A basic understanding of Microsoft Access is required to use the database. For answers to specific questions, access the Microsoft Access help file or <http://support.microsoft.com/>.

In the Tree Chemistry Database, data for each record are stored in multiple tables. Dividing data between tables minimizes the repetition of common information. For example, one citation may provide information on multiple sites. Rather than repeat all of the citation information for every site, that citation is linked to each site with an ID number. To view a table in the open database, select *Tables* from the Objects menu at the left of the screen, then select the desired table.

Microsoft Access *Queries* recombine data from separate tables by “joins” on parameter fields shared between tables. In the Tree Chemistry Database, fields like *Citation ID* and *Site ID* are used to join tables. Queries can be used to retrieve specific information from

the database without retrieving the entire record. This process is described in more detail elsewhere in this report. To modify an existing query, open the query, and then select *design* from the View menu.

The easiest way to extract data from the Tree Chemistry Database is through queries. Query results can be exported in multiple formats, including dBASE, Lotus, and Microsoft Excel¹, and analyzed or used directly. To export a query, highlight (but do not open) the desired query. From the File menu, select export. Be sure to choose the desired file type when exporting the file. The same procedure can be followed to export tables if users prefer to work with the data in a format other than Access.

Many parameters have been included in the database to help identify the appropriate subset of the data that is relevant to the user. For example, a user might choose only data from trees sampled in the Northeastern United States, or trees that are over a certain age. Factors that can be selected to limit the dataset include region (e.g., the Northeast or eastern Canada), forest health, land use (e.g., past cultivation or plantations), stand age, species, and DBH.

The Tree Chemistry Database contains several sample queries that can be used as references or modified according to user needs. The following are several sample queries of the Tree Chemistry Database: **Query 1:** Aspen bark and bole Ca, Mg (query of a single species); **Query 2:** Sugar maple, elevation>200 (single species, limited elevation); **Query 3:** Sugar maple, longitude>75 (single species, limited longitude); **Query 4:** Declining (all species with declining forest health); **Query 5:** Glaciated (all species on glaciated sites); **Query 6:** Land use (all species with similar land use); **Query 7:** Other nutrients reported in study citations (Study Description table query); **Query 8:** Nutrient values from the initial database (Study Description table and Nutrients table query); **Query 9:** Multiple species limited by age, forest health, and region.

Users may wish to review the queries in the order that they appear as the instructions are most detailed for the first queries.

Query 1: Aspen bark and bole Ca, Mg (query of a single species)

In this query, bark and bole biomass, Ca, and Mg data were extracted for a single species, quaking aspen. To replicate this query, follow these instructions: select *Queries* from the Object menu and then select *Create Query in Design View*, which appears at the top of the list. From the *Show table* box that appears, select the **Species** and **Nutrients** tables. From those tables, select the following parameter fields in the order you would like them to appear. From the **Nutrients** table, select *Species_#*, *Bark mass*, *Bole mass*, *Component mass units*, *Bark_Ca*, *Bark_Mg*, *Bole_Ca*, *Bole_Mg*, *Ca_unit*, *Mg_unit*, *Bark_Ca_%*, *Bark_Mg_%*, *Bole_Ca_%*, *Bole_Mg_%*, *%_comments*, and *Comments*. From the **Species** table, select *Species_name*.

In the criteria row of the field **Nutrients** *Species_#*, enter 25, the species number for quaking aspen. This selects all quaking aspen entries in the **Nutrients** table.

After selecting the fields and setting the criteria, select *run* from the Query menu. Microsoft Access should return a spreadsheet similar to the following with the selected biomass and nutrient values for all quaking aspen in the database:

Species_name	Species_#	Bark_mass	Bole_mass	component_mass_units	Bark_Ca	Bark_Mg	Bole_Ca	Bole_Mg	Ca_unit	Mg_unit	Bark_Ca_%	Bark_Mg_%	Bole_Ca_%	Bole_Mg_%
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	9999	16190	1386	1114	288	ug/g	ug/g	1.619	0.1386	0.111	0.0288
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	9999	17347	861	1035	262	ug/g	ug/g	1.7347	0.0861	0.104	0.0262
quaking aspen	25	7.1	33.13	ton/ha	95.8	29.2	230.3	29.2	kg/ha	kg/ha	1.3493	0.4113	0.695	0.0881
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	Mg/ha	9999	9999	9999	9999	kg/ha	kg/ha	1.52	0.076	0.12	0.02
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	mg/cm2	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999
quaking aspen	25	13.6	70.5	Mg/ha	134.8	11	64.3	10	kg/ha	kg/ha	0.9912	0.0809	0.091	0.0142
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	1.169	0.11	0.132	0.028
quaking aspen	25	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999

The comment columns have not been included in this sample spreadsheet.

This is the datasheet view of the query. To modify the query, select *design* from the View menu.

As seen in this subset of the spreadsheet, some of the entries have no Ca and Mg values for bole and bark. This is signified by 9999. The criteria entered indicated that all quaking aspen entries were desired regardless of their nutrient status. In the next query, entries that do not have any of the desired values will be eliminated.

Query 2: Sugar maple, elevation >200 (single species, limited elevation)

In this query, percent foliar N, P, K, Ca, Mg, and Al values for all sugar maple at reported elevations above 200 meters are extracted. To do this, select the **Nutrients**, **Species**, and **Site** tables. From the **Nutrients** table, select *Species_#*, *Foliage_N_%*, *Foliage_P_%*, *Foliage_K_%*, *Foliage_Ca_%*, *Foliage_Mg_%*, *Foliage_Mn_%*, *Foliage_Al_%*, *%_comments*, and *Comments*. From the **Species** table, select *Species_name*. From the **Site** table, select *Elevation_m_min*.

To return only **Nutrients** table entries with at least one of the specified nutrient values for sugar maples above 200 m, entries with missing values (9999) for all foliar nutrients must be eliminated. To do this, enter <>9999 (this selects for all numbers greater or less than 9999) in successive nutrient rows, as indicated:

Field:	Species_#	Species_name	Elevation_m_min	Foliage_N_%	Foliage_P_%	Foliage_K_%
Table:	Nutrients	Species	Site	Nutrients	Nutrients	Nutrients
Sort:						
Show:						
Criteria:	7		>200 And <>9999	<>9999		
Or:	7		>200 And <>9999		<>9999	
	7		>200 And <>9999			<>9999

The resulting spreadsheet from this query looks something like this:

Species_#	Species_name	Elevation_m_min	Foliage_N_%	Foliage_P_%	Foliage_K_%	Foliage_Ca_%	Foliage_Mg_%	Foliage_Mn_%	Foliage_Al_%
7	sugar maple	550	2.19	0.18	1.01	0.6	0.12	0.174	9999
7	sugar maple	630	2.19	0.18	1.01	0.6	0.12	0.174	9999
7	sugar maple	710	2.19	0.18	1.01	0.6	0.12	0.174	9999
7	sugar maple	260	1.7	0.22	0.68	0.58	0.06	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	410	1.67	0.11	0.75	0.44	0.06	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	400	2.02	0.18	0.59	0.68	0.1	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	220	1.75	0.18	0.74	0.58	0.09	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	240	1.55	0.21	0.48	0.51	0.13	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	335	1.55	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	259	1.38	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	270	9999	9999	9999	0.84	0.13	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	700	1.9	0.13	0.79	0.52	0.09	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	488	1.55	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	330	9999	9999	9999	0.53	0.09	9999	9999
7	sugar maple	500	1.965	0.135	0.65	0.97	0.29	0.08855	0.0026

The comment columns have not been included in this sample spreadsheet.

Although not all entries have percent values for every nutrient, they do have values for at least one of the seven nutrients. In the next query, only entries that contain values for all of the selected nutrients will be returned.

Query 3: Sugar maple, longitude >75 (single species, limited longitude)

This query selects N, P, and K percent values for sugar maple at longitudes greater than 75, as well as the state ID for each entry. Select the tables **Nutrients**, **Species**, and **Site**. From the **Nutrients** table select the parameter fields *Species_#*, *Foliage_N_%*, *Foliage_P_%*, and *Foliage_K_%*. From the **Species** table select *Species_name*. From the **Site** table, select *State_#* and *Longitude*.

Set the criteria so that only sugar maple entries with all desired nutrients will be returned:

Field:	Species_#	Species_name	State_#	Longitude	Foliage_N_%	Foliage_P_%	Foliage_K_%
Table:	Nutrients	Species	Site	Site	Nutrients	Nutrients	Nutrients
Sort:							
Show:							
Criteria:	7			>"75" And <>"9999"	<>9999	<>9999	<>9999

When the query is run, a table like this is returned:

Species_name	Species_#	State_#	Longitude	Foliage_N_%	Foliage_P_%	Foliage_K_%
sugar maple	7	WI	89.667 W	1.88	0.32	1.04
sugar maple	7	ON	76.317 W	1.8	0.22	0.47
sugar maple	7	MI	87.883 W	1.847	0.25	0.99
sugar maple	7	ON	77.533 W	1.009	0.195	0.767

The examples in the first three queries should give users an idea of how to perform a query to obtain desired information. The remaining query descriptions provide general information on selection and format.

Query 4: Declining (all species with declining forest health)

Query 4 selects all stands in the **Nutrients** table with declining forest health, and links the entries to their source citations. To do this, select the **Species**, **Site**, **Nutrients**, and **Study Description** tables. Select the following parameter fields from the tables: **Species** *Species_name*, **Site** *Forest_Health*, **Nutrients** *Citation_#*, and **Study Description** *Author*, *Title*, *Year*, and *Abbreviated_Citation*. To select declining stands, enter *1* in the criteria row of **Site** *Forest Health*. The forest health codes are given in the **Site** table description.

Query 5: Glaciated (all species on glaciated sites)

This query selects parameter fields from four tables: **Species**, **Site**, **Nutrients**, and **Study Description**. Select the fields **Species** *Species_name*, **Site** *Glaciated*, **Nutrients** *Citation_#*, and **Study Description** *Author*, *Title*, *Year*, and *Abbreviated_Citation*. To select for glaciated stands, enter *1* in the criteria row of **Site** *Glaciated*. Glaciation codes are given in the **Site** table description.

Query 6: Land use (all species with similar land use)

Select parameter fields from these tables: **Species** *Species_name*, **Site** *Land_Use_#*, **Land Use** *Land Use Description*, **Nutrients** *Citation_#*, and **Study Description** *Author*, *Title*, *Year*, and *Abbreviated_Citation*. To specify land use, enter *1 or 3 or 5 or 6 or 18 or 9* in the criteria row of **Site** *Land_use_#*, which selects for second-growth/regrowth, regrowth after burn, regrowth after past cultivation, regrowth after past pasture, plantation second growth, and regrowth after logging.

Query 7: Other nutrients reported in study citations

This query searches the **Study Description** table for citations with nutrients other than those found in the database. From the **Study Description** table, select the parameter fields *Citation_#*, *Author*, *Title*, *Year*, *Abbreviated_Citation*, *Other_Nutrients*, and *Nutrients*. Enter *1* into the criteria row of **Study Description** *Other_Nutrients* to select for citations with data for nutrients other than those entered into the database. This coding is explained in the **Study Description** table section. All nutrients reported in a citation are listed in the *Nutrients* field.

Query 8: Nutrient values from the initial database

Search for nutrient values from citations that were found in the initial Microsoft Excel version of the database. From the **Study Description**, **Species**, and **Nutrients** tables, select the parameter fields **Study Description** *Citation_#*, and *InitialDB_citation*, **Species** *Species_name*, and **Nutrients** *Species_#*, *Bark_N_%*, *Bark_K_%*, *Bark_Ca_%*, *Bark_Mg_%*, *Bole_N_%*, *Bole_K_%*, *Bole_Ca_%*, *Bole_Mg_%*, *Branch_N_%*, *Branch_K_%*, *Branch_Ca_%*, *Branch_Mg_%*, *Foliage_N_%*, *Foliage_K_%*, *Foliage_Ca_%*, *Foliage_Mg_%*, *%_comments*, and *Comments*. To select only citations that were found in the initial Excel version of the database, enter *Y* in the criteria row of **Study Description**

InitialDB_citation. To select specific tree species, enter their species IDs: 25 or 66 or 8 or 61 or 60 or 18 or 2 or 3 or 41 or 6 or 14 or 22 or 1 or 7 or 9 or 4 or 55 or 5 or 21 or 10 into the criteria row of the **Nutrients** *Species_#* field.

In the final query, data is selected, extracted, and analyzed in Microsoft Excel.

Query 9: Multiple species limited by forest health, age, and region

This query was used to create Table 1. In this query, N, P, K, Ca, and Mg concentrations in the foliage, branch, bark and bole for multiple tree species are obtained. The results are limited so that only values from healthy trees more than 10 years old that were sampled in or near the Northeast are returned.

First select tables with parameter fields necessary for the calculations. These include **Nutrients**, **Site**, and **Species**. Next, select fields from the tables. From **Species**, select *Species_Name*. From the **Site** table, select *Forest_Health* and *Region*. From **Nutrients**, select *Species_#*, *Stand_age_average*, *Stand_age_min*, *Number_of_trees*, *%_comments*, *Bark_N_%*, *Bark_P_%*, *Bark_K_%*, *Bark_Ca_%*, *Bark_Mg_%*, *Bole_N_%*, *Bole_P_%*, *Bole_K_%*, *Bole_Ca_%*, *Bole_Mg_%*, *Branch_N_%*, *Branch_P_%*, *Branch_K_%*, *Branch_Ca_%*, *Branch_Mg_%*, *Foliage_N_%*, *Foliage_P_%*, *Foliage_K_%*, *Foliage_Ca_%*, *Foliage_Mg_%*, *Comments*, and *citation_#*.

In the criteria row of **Nutrients** *Species_#*, enter 25 or 66 or 8 or 61 or 60 or 18 or 2 or 3 or 41 or 6 or 14 or 22 or 1 or 7 or 9 or 4 or 55 or 5 or 21 or 10, thus selecting all **Nutrients** table entries with those species numbers. In the criteria row of **Site** *Forest_Health*, enter <>1, which selects for all stands other than 1 (declining forest health) in the *Forest_Health* field. In the criteria row of **Site** *Region*, enter *eastern Canada or central Canada or northeast or mid Atlantic or north central* to limit the region accordingly. In **Nutrients** *Stand_age_average* and *Stand_age_min*, enter the criteria >9.

When all of the criteria have been entered, choose *run* to obtain results. The resulting query table should contain age and regionally limited nutrient values for the selected tree species.

At this point the data can be analyzed with a spreadsheet program. One option is to export the data to Microsoft Excel¹ to perform calculations. To create Table 1, the query results were exported to Excel such that all 9999 values were replaced with “..” so that calculations were not affected. Repeated nutrient values from citations 15 and 28 were eliminated from the calculations. The cause of these repeated nutrient values is discussed in the QA/QC section. A pivot table was then used to average values by tree species.

QA/QC

The Tree Chemistry Database is as uniform as possible; values for stand parameters, biomass, and nutrient concentrations were entered into fields that most accurately reflected the sampled compartments. However, the disparate nature of the source data meant that data were at times altered to conform to database parameters. These changes were documented in the comments column of the database. However, some inconsistencies

may remain. This section contains information on potential sources of inaccuracy in the Tree Chemistry Database. These sources include sampling imprecision, nutrient value calculations and conversions, stand unit conversions, and assumptions about units.

Sampling

Samples were not taken uniformly, as definitions of biomass compartments—stem, bark, bole, branch, twig, and deadwood—differed between studies. Some authors provided clear descriptions of compartments studied while others did not. Most authors provided neither location of bole and bark samples on the stem, nor the volume included in bole measurements. Similarly, authors rarely distinguished between branches and twigs, and distinctions made were not consistent between studies. When reported data deviated from database categories, they were transformed when possible to match the most appropriate category. For example, wood values reported separately as light wood and dark wood were combined to obtain total bole nutrient values. Any transformations were noted in the comments column of the Nutrients table. If compartment samples deviated insignificantly from the database categories, the data were entered along with a comment in the comments column. Data that could not be placed in a database category (e.g., nutrient values for large branches and small branches reported separately and with insufficient data to combine them) were not entered into the database. This also was noted in the comments column.

Other sources of variability were foliar sample location and age. Foliar sample location varied between studies. Because it may be an important factor in foliar nutrient concentration variability, the sample location was indicated by a code number entered in the foliar sample location column of the Nutrients table. Conifer foliar samples were entered only if they were representative of all needle ages. Samples that included only current-year needles were not included in the database. Data on current-year only needles could have been entered into the database erroneously if sample age was not indicated by the authors.

Nutrient Value Calculations and Conversions

Other potential sources of inaccuracy in the database arise from the measurement and calculation of numeric nutrient values from line graphs, or from the calculation of nutrient percentages from biomass values. These calculations are noted in the comments and percent comments columns in the Nutrients table, respectively.

At times, multiple results were reported for the same species and location. These multiple values were reported across consecutive years, within one season, or for micro-sites (sites that did not differ at the resolution of the Tree Chemistry Database). In most cases, these multiple results were averaged to obtain one set of nutrient values for the species-site combinations. These calculations were noted in the comments column. Users of the database who would like a full set of values for these studies should refer to the original citation.

In two other citations, 15 and 28, the same nutrient concentration values were reported for stands with different biomass values. Each biomass-nutrient combination was entered into the database separately. Users should be aware that a query that includes data from the two citations may result in duplicate nutrient concentration values.

Stand Unit Conversions

As described earlier, stand parameters were occasionally converted to agree with predetermined database units. These conversions were documented in the comments column of the Nutrients table. It is possible that unconverted, and thus incorrect, stand values could have been entered into the database.

Unit Assumptions

Another potential source of unit error occurs with biomass. Some authors used the word “ton” without indicating the type, for example, metric, long, or short. The assumption was made that if all other units in the article were metric, the ton also was a metric ton. This assumption was not noted in the Nutrients table. Errors in this assumption could result in value errors if nutrient percent concentrations were calculated using biomass values.

Other sources of inaccuracy might be found in the database, including data entry or coding errors. However, the aforementioned are the most common sources of inaccuracy that should be considered when using the database.

Data Summary: Figures

The structure of the database allows the user to sort the data to restrict the subset extracted to the one that is most meaningful for the particular research question. It is important to consider how the dataset should be limited to best address the question. For example, the user might evaluate data collected only after a certain date, or above a certain elevation, or for a particular region. Caution must be used in interpreting data when the sample sizes are small. Also note that the number of stems measured may be much higher than the number of sites measured.

Figures 2-9 demonstrate a potential use of the database. In this case, nutrient values for selected species were extracted from the database with the following restrictions: trees were from non-declining stands, were at least 10 years old, and were sampled in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, central or eastern Canada, or North Central regions. The resulting values were graphed in box plots to show the range of nutrient values in the selected tree species.

Figure 10 illustrates another way to use the database. Bole nutrient values were plotted against bark nutrient values for paper birch, aspen, balsam fir, and red pine to determine whether any patterns emerged.

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Table 1.—Nutrient values in multiple species limited by age, forest health, and region

Species	N		P		K		Ca		Mg	
	Avg.	Stdev	Avg.	Stdev	Avg.	Stdev	Avg.	Stdev	Avg.	Stdev
	No. of stands a	No. of stems b	No. of stands a	No. of stems b	No. of stands a	No. of stems b	No. of stands a	No. of stems b	No. of stands a	No. of stems b
American beech	1	18	0.040	0.040	1	18	3.086	0.786	0.050	0.050
Balsam fir	17	73	0.053	0.015	11	67	0.739	0.180	0.064	0.014
Eastern hemlock	3	6	0.051	0.017	3	6	0.756	0.182	0.036	0.014
Norway spruce	3	60	0.071	0.018	3	60	1.232	0.175	0.091	0.031
Paper birch	15	123	0.030	0.007	15	123	0.807	0.250	0.043	0.006
Quaking aspen	16	62	0.055	0.022	16	62	1.213	0.274	0.089	0.017
Red maple	5	12	0.049	0.011	5	12	1.299	0.234	0.046	0.005
Red oak	3	20	0.023	0.006	3	20	2.841	0.717	0.037	0.010
Red pine	26	173	0.044	0.008	26	173	0.765	0.391	0.046	0.013
Red spruce	4	18	0.037	0.005	4	18	0.663	0.282	0.047	0.008
Sugar maple	6	62	0.038	0.007	7	118	2.433	0.754	0.060	0.017
White ash							2.206			
Atl. white-cedar	1	1	0.020	0.020	1	1	2.450		0.070	
White oak	1	5	0.047		1	5	4.112	2.266	0.054	
White pine	5	37	0.046	0.010	5	37	0.147	0.025	0.061	0.003
White spruce	8	46	0.054	0.012	8	46	1.295	0.276	0.067	0.010
Yellow birch	4	23	0.030	0.000	4	23	1.090	0.130	0.048	0.007
BARK										
American beech	1	18	0.010	0.010	1	18	0.083	0.033	0.020	0.020
Balsam fir	16	72	0.007	0.006	16	72	0.082	0.024	0.020	0.003
Eastern hemlock	2	5	0.016	0.006	3	6	0.077	0.022	0.014	0.005
Norway spruce	3	60	0.006	0.002	3	60	0.136	0.040	0.011	0.002
Paper birch	14	122	0.009	0.004	14	122	0.074	0.020	0.018	0.004
Quaking aspen	15	61	0.009	0.003	15	61	0.117	0.027	0.021	0.007
Red maple	4	11	0.008	0.004	4	11	0.118	0.036	0.021	0.009
Red oak	3	20	0.005	0.005	3	20	0.054	0.019	0.004	0.005
Red pine	26	173	0.008	0.002	26	173	0.109	0.035	0.019	0.012
Red spruce	3	17	0.005	0.004	3	17	0.075	0.013	0.009	0.002
Sugar maple	6	62	0.009	0.001	9	167	0.123	0.056	0.019	0.006
White ash							0.123			
Atl. white-cedar	1	5	0.014		1	5	0.109	0.026	0.015	
White oak	4	36	0.006	0.003	6	51	0.052	0.043	0.010	0.004
White pine	8	46	0.006	0.003	8	46	0.094	0.019	0.010	0.003
White spruce	4	23	0.010	0.000	4	23	0.076	0.029	0.016	0.007
Yellow birch										
BOLE										
American beech	1	18	0.010	0.010	1	18	0.070	0.036	0.020	0.020
Balsam fir	16	72	0.007	0.006	16	72	0.092	0.036	0.020	0.003
Eastern hemlock	2	5	0.016	0.006	3	6	0.069	0.036	0.014	0.005
Norway spruce	3	60	0.006	0.002	3	60	0.023	0.001	0.011	0.002
Paper birch	14	122	0.009	0.004	14	122	0.050	0.016	0.018	0.004
Quaking aspen	15	61	0.009	0.003	15	61	0.093	0.029	0.021	0.007
Red maple	4	11	0.008	0.004	4	11	0.080	0.033	0.021	0.009
Red oak	3	20	0.005	0.005	3	20	0.104	0.034	0.004	0.005
Red pine	26	173	0.008	0.002	26	173	0.024	0.009	0.019	0.012
Red spruce	3	17	0.005	0.004	3	17	0.023	0.006	0.009	0.002
Sugar maple	6	62	0.009	0.001	9	167	0.068	0.029	0.019	0.006
White ash										
Atl. white-cedar	1	5	0.014		1	5	0.100	0.026	0.015	
White oak	4	36	0.006	0.003	6	51	0.032	0.043	0.010	0.004
White pine	8	46	0.006	0.003	8	46	0.034	0.019	0.010	0.003
White spruce	4	23	0.010	0.000	4	23	0.048	0.022	0.016	0.007
Yellow birch										

	BRANCH																
American beech	0.300	1	18	0.030	1	18	0.120	0.087	14	18	0.470	0.082	14	18	0.030	1	18
Balsam fir	0.410	14	57	0.077	7	50	0.261	0.087	14	57	0.380	0.082	14	57	0.051	14	57
Eastern hemlock	0.278	3	9	0.048	2	8	0.109	0.057	3	9	0.454	0.115	3	9	0.036	3	9
Norway spruce	0.471	3	60	0.065	3	60	0.187	0.055	2	45	0.473	0.040	2	45	0.050	2	45
Paper birch	0.363	14	119	0.045	14	119	0.148	0.055	14	119	0.389	0.137	14	119	0.045	14	119
Quaking aspen	0.509	15	57	0.081	15	57	0.340	0.100	15	57	0.943	0.349	15	57	0.099	15	57
Red maple	0.304	5	14	0.045	5	14	0.189	0.055	5	14	0.432	0.157	5	14	0.037	5	14
Red oak	0.375	4	28	0.063	4	28	0.252	0.037	3	13	0.902	0.261	3	13	0.066	3	13
Red pine	0.327	26	228	0.039	26	228	0.096	0.035	25	213	0.551	0.248	25	213	0.050	25	213
Red spruce	0.258	3	6	0.056	4	21	0.158	0.128	4	21	0.347	0.106	4	21	0.042	4	21
Sugar maple	0.325	6	62	0.043	6	62	0.224	0.075	6	62	0.698	0.276	6	62	0.042	6	62
White ash																	
Atl. white-cedar	0.240	2	40	0.025	2	40	0.047	0.000	2	40	1.140	0.000	2	40	0.045	2	40
White oak	0.280	1	5	0.070	1	5	0.243		1	5	0.570		1	5	0.066	1	5
White pine	0.396	5	55	0.056	5	55	0.192	0.130	4	40	0.302	0.077	4	40	0.055	4	40
White spruce	0.375	7	38	0.054	7	38	0.250	0.112	7	38	0.585	0.157	7	38	0.051	7	38
Yellow birch	0.480	3	19	0.055	3	19	0.126	0.037	3	19	0.406	0.020	3	19	0.043	3	19
FOLIAGE																	
American beech	2.138	11	116	0.149	9	88	0.935	0.279	9	88	0.737	0.365	9	88	0.167	6	73
Balsam fir	1.332	17	71	0.140	10	57	0.414	0.106	17	71	0.762	0.402	17	71	0.079	17	71
Eastern hemlock	1.263	5	19	0.197	6	20	0.749	0.272	6	20	0.669	0.107	6	20	0.125	4	10
Norway spruce	1.322	3	60	0.197	3	60	0.354	0.130	2	45	0.877	0.313	2	45	0.064	2	45
Paper birch	1.992	19	153	0.189	18	145	0.887	0.252	19	153	0.718	0.233	19	153	0.225	19	153
Quaking aspen	2.219	21	106	0.213	18	79	0.916	0.417	19	87	1.060	0.455	19	87	0.209	19	87
Red maple	1.618	19	129	0.195	15	96	0.731	0.164	16	89	0.730	0.322	16	104	0.162	13	93
Red oak	2.073	23	163	0.179	14	88	0.982	0.271	18	98	0.709	0.249	18	98	0.163	14	82
Red pine	1.149	38	587	0.128	37	579	0.367	0.100	37	572	0.417	0.160	37	572	0.086	37	572
Red spruce	1.010	10	58	0.186	10	58	0.583	0.261	10	58	0.434	0.163	10	58	0.113	10	58
Sugar maple	1.970	60	861	0.148	54	789	0.822	0.174	55	809	1.040	0.402	63	1005	0.163	59	989
White ash	1.955	11	122	0.216	6	72	1.288	0.358	6	72	1.407	0.530	6	72	0.307	3	57
Atl. White-cedar	0.830	2	40	0.089	2	40	0.210	0.000	2	40	1.470	0.000	2	40	0.107	2	40
White oak	2.098	12	54	0.205	9	30	1.015	0.362	9	30	0.796	0.434	9	30	0.128	6	19
White pine	1.317	13	90	0.164	7	57	0.455	0.166	13	76	0.286	0.149	12	75	0.118	12	75
White spruce	1.053	9	47	0.142	8	39	0.525	0.110	9	47	1.053	0.511	9	47	0.092	9	47
Yellow birch	2.331	11	73	0.179	11	73	1.014	0.277	11	73	0.986	0.397	11	73	0.248	9	63

a – Number of stems used to calculate the mean. b – Number of trees in each mean; unreported tree numbers credited as 1.

Data are from healthy trees at least ten years old that were sampled in the Northeastern United States.

Appendix

Table 2.—Species table

Species	Species name	Species latin name	Additional names
2	balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i> (L.) Mill.	
49	subalpine fir	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	
50	boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i> L.	
23	striped maple	<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> L.	
112	Norway maple	<i>Acer plantanoides</i>	
6	red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> L.	
111	silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	soft maple
7	sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> Marsh.	
104	maple	<i>Acer sp.</i>	
28	mountain maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i> Lam.	moose maple
93	buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	
52	speckled alder	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	tag alder
87	downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	
10	yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> Britt.	<i>Betula lutea</i>
13	sweet birch	<i>Betula lenta</i> L.	black birch
9	paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> Marsh.	White birch
114	European white birch	<i>Betula pendula</i> Roth.	<i>Betula verrucosa</i>
11	silver birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i> Marsh.	gray birch
103	birch	<i>Betula sp.</i>	
34	European hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> L.	
53	American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue beech
57	bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i> (Wang.) K. Koch	
82	pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i> (Mill.) Sweet	
105	sweet pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	
58	shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i> (Mill.) K. Koch	
73	hickory	<i>Carya spp.</i>	
83	chestnut	<i>Castanea dentata</i> (Marsh.) Borkh.	American chestnut
94	catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	
95	hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	
90	Atlantic white-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	
102	Kentucky yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>
54	alternatleaf dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> L. f	
76	flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	
121	Japanese dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	
123	Cornelian cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	
122	roundleaf dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	
120	red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	
86	dogwood	<i>Cornus sp.</i>	
116	beaked hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	
99	persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	

Continued

Table 2.—Continued

Species	Species name	Species latin name	Additional names
8	American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> Ehrh.	
75	European beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	
18	white ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i> L.	
60	black ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i> Marsh.	
61	red ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> Marsh.	green ash
84	Witch-hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> L.	
96	American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	
59	butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i> L.	
101	black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	
91	common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	
45	eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> L.	
79	European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i> Mill.	
109	tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i> (Du Roi) K. Koch	larch
89	sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	
15	yellow-poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> L.	tulip poplar, tuliptree
92	sweet crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	<i>Prunus coronaria</i>
63	apple	<i>Malus sp.</i>	
97	red mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	
80	blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	
19	eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (Mill.) K. Koch	ironwood
110	sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	
41	Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> (L.) Karst.	
21	white spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i> (Moench) Voss	
43	black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i> (Mill.) B.S.P.	
1	red spruce	<i>Picea rubens</i> Sarg.	
42	jack pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i> Lamb.	
119	shortleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	
22	red pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i> Ait.	
44	pitch pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i> Mill.	
5	Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i> L.	
47	Scotch pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.	Scots pine
113	Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	
100	sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	
64	balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i> L.	
65	eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i> Bartr.	
66	bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i> Michx.	Large-tooth aspen
25	quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> Michx.	trembling aspen, poplar
24	pin cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i> L.	fire cherry
16	black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh.	
62	chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> L.	
55	white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	

Continued

Table 2.—Continued

Species	Species name	Species latin name	Additional names
78	scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	
81	bear oak	<i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>	
118	laurel oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i> Michx.	
56	bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> Michx.	
108	swamp chestnut oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i> Nutt.	
106	water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i> (L.)	
107	cherrybark oak	<i>Quercus pagoda</i> Raf.	
98	pin oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	
71	chestnut oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	
33	English oak	<i>Quercus robur</i> L.	
14	northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i> L.	
72	oak	<i>Quercus sp.</i>	
74	post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i> Wang.	
26	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i> Lam.	
77	great laurel	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	
51	staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i> L.	
85	black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L.	
67	black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i> Marsh.	
88	sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	
12	mountain ash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	Pyrus americana
117	bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> (L.) Rich.	
4	white cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> L.	northern white cedar
20	basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> L.	
3	eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> (L.) Carr.	
68	white elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> L.	American elm
69	slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i> Muhl.	<i>Ulmus fulva</i> Michx
70	rock elm	<i>Ulmus thomasii</i>	
115	withe-rod	<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	
9999	missing		

Table 3.—Land use table

Land use #	Land use description
1	second growth/regrowth
2	old growth
3	previously burned
4	previously selectively cut
5	past cultivation
6	past pasture
7	national park
8	plantation
9	previously logged
10	research forest
11	national forest
18	plantation, second growth
20	maple syrup production
25	old growth, past cultivation
28	mixed old growth and plantation
30	arboretum
38	previously burned plantation
39	previously burned, logged
40	paper company land
56	past cultivation, pasture
58	past cultivation, plantation
98	previously logged plantation
369	previously burned, grazed, and logged
458	fertilized, past cultivation, plantation
9999	missing

Table 4.—Analytical method table

Method #	Method description^a
1	N Kjeldahl; (P), K, Ca, Mg, (Mn), (Al) ICP-AES
2	N, P colorimetric; K, Ca AES; Mg AAS; Al, Mn ICP-AES
3	N Kjeldahl; P, K, Ca, Mg, (Mn), (Al) “spectrographic” analysis
4	N Kjeldahl; P, Ca, Mg, K, (Mn), (Al) AES
5	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric; (K), Ca, Mg, (Mn), (Al) AAS
6	P colorimetric; K, Ca, Mg, (Mn) AAS
7	N, (P) colorimetric; K, Ca, Mg, (Al) AAS
8	C, N, Infrared Absorption Spectrophotometry; P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn ICP-AES
9	N Kjeldahl
10	C wet combustion; N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric; K, Ca, Mg, Mn AAS
11	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric; K AES; Ca, Mg, (Mn), (Al) AAS
12	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric; K AES; Mg titan yellow; Ca versenate (EDTA) technique
13	N, P colorimetric; K AES; Ca, Mg AAS
14	N, (P) colorimetric; K, Ca, Mg, (Mn), Al DCP
15	leaves and twigs - N Kjeldahl; P, K, Ca, Mg Spark AES; bark and wood - K, Ca, Mg AAS
16	N Kjeldahl; K, Ca, Mg AAS
17	(N), (P), K, Ca, Mg, Mn, (Al) ICP-AES
18	N, (P) colorimetric
19	leaves - N, P colorimetric; K, Ca, Mg AAS; wood - K, Ca, Mg, Al ICP-AES
20	N Kjeldahl; P AES, (K, Ca, Mg, Mn, Al “spectrographic”)
21	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric; (K, Ca AES, Mg, (Mn) AAS)
22	K, Ca, Mg, Mn, (Al) - Neutron activation analysis
23	N CHN analyzer; P, K, Ca, Mg ICP-AES
24	N colorimetric; P, K, Ca, Mg ICP-AES
25	N, P colorimetric; Ca precipitation and titration
26	N Kjeltic titration; P flow injection; K AES; Ca, Mg, Mn, Al AAS
27	N Kjeltic titration; P flow injection; K AES; Ca, Mg, Al AAS; P, Ca, Mg, Mn by ICP-AES
28	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric (vandate); K, Ca, Mg AES
29	N AOAC method; P colorimetric; K, Ca precipitated and titrated; Mg pyrophosphate method
30	K AES
31	N Kjeldahl; P colorimetric (vandate); K, CA, Mg “spectrophotometrically”
32	N colorimetric: Ca AAS
33	N Wescan 360 ammonia analyzer; Ca ICP-AES
34	N Kjeldahl, K AES
35	N Kjeldahl; P, K colorimetric; Ca precipitated as oxalate
36	N Combustion elemental analyzer
37	N CHN analyzer; P colorimetric, K, Ca, Mg AAS
38	N nitrogen analyzer; P colorimetric; K AES; Ca, Mg AAS
39	N, P colorimetric; K AAS; Ca, Mg ICP-AES
40	N microdiffusion, P colorimetric, K AES, Ca, Mg AAS
41	K, Ca, Mg ICP-MS
42	P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, Al PIXE spectroscopy
9999	not specified

^aElements in parenthesis were not necessarily analyzed in all studies using the specified method.

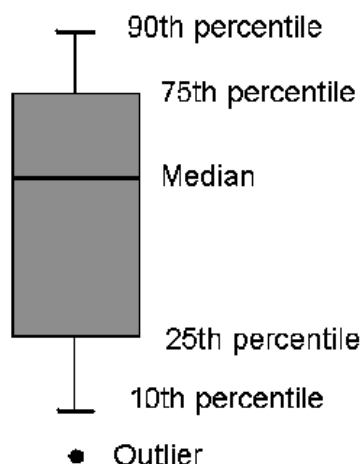
Table 5.—Plant digest method table

Plant digest #	Plant digest technique ^a
1	H ₂ SO ₄ for N
2	HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for all but N
3	H ₂ SO ₄ , HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for P; HCl for K, Ca, Mg
4	HCl for all but Kjeldahl N
5	HNO ₃ for all but N, (C)
6	HClO ₄ for P, K; NaCO ₃ fusion for Ca
7	HClO ₄ for P; HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for K, Ca, Mg, Mn
8	H ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ for N, (P); HCl for (K), Ca, (Mg)
9	H ₂ SO ₄ , HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for P, K, Ca, Mg
10	H ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂
11	H ₂ SO ₄ for N, P
12	wood - HCl; leaves - H ₂ SO ₄ , H ₂ O ₂ , and LiSO ₄
13	H ₂ SO ₄ , H ₂ O ₂ , and LiSO ₄
14	H ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ SeO ₃
15	H ₂ SO ₄
16	H ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ for N, P; HF, HCL and HNO ₃ for K, Ca, Mg
17	Mg(NO ₃) ₂ for P; H ₂ SO ₄ , HNO ₃ , and HClO ₄ for K, Ca, Mg
18	H ₂ SO ₄ for N and P; HNO ₃ -HClO ₄ for K, Ca, Mg, Mn, Al
19	H ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ for N, P
20	HNO ₃ and HClO ₄
21	wood and bark - HNO ₃ ; leaves and twigs not specified
22	HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for K, Ca, Mg, Mn
23	C ₂ H ₄ O ₂ for K; HNO ₃ and HClO ₄ for K, Ca, Mg, Mn
24	Li-HCl for all but N
25	Li-HCl
26	HNO ₃ and HCl for all but N
27	HNO ₃ and H ₂ O ₂ for all but N
28	HClO ₄ for P, K
29	HClO ₄ for all but N
9999	not specified

^aElements in parenthesis were not necessarily analyzed in all studies using the specified method

Figures 2-9—Box plots of Bark, Bole, Branches, Foliage

The box plots in Figures 2-9 indicate the range of values for each species. For small sample sizes, the entire range is not included:



In the legends, the numbers in parentheses indicate the number of stands and the number of stems included in each sample. The tree codes indicate the following tree species in the Northeastern United States:

Species code	Scientific name	Common name
FAGR	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech
ACSA	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple
ACRU	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple
BEAL	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow birch
BEPA	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper birch
POTR	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen
FRAM	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash
QURU	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak
QUAL	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
ABBA	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam fir
PIST	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine
PIRE	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red pine
PIAB	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce
PIGL	<i>Picea glauca</i>	White spruce
PIRU	<i>Picea rubens</i>	Red spruce
THOC	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	White cedar
TSCA	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock

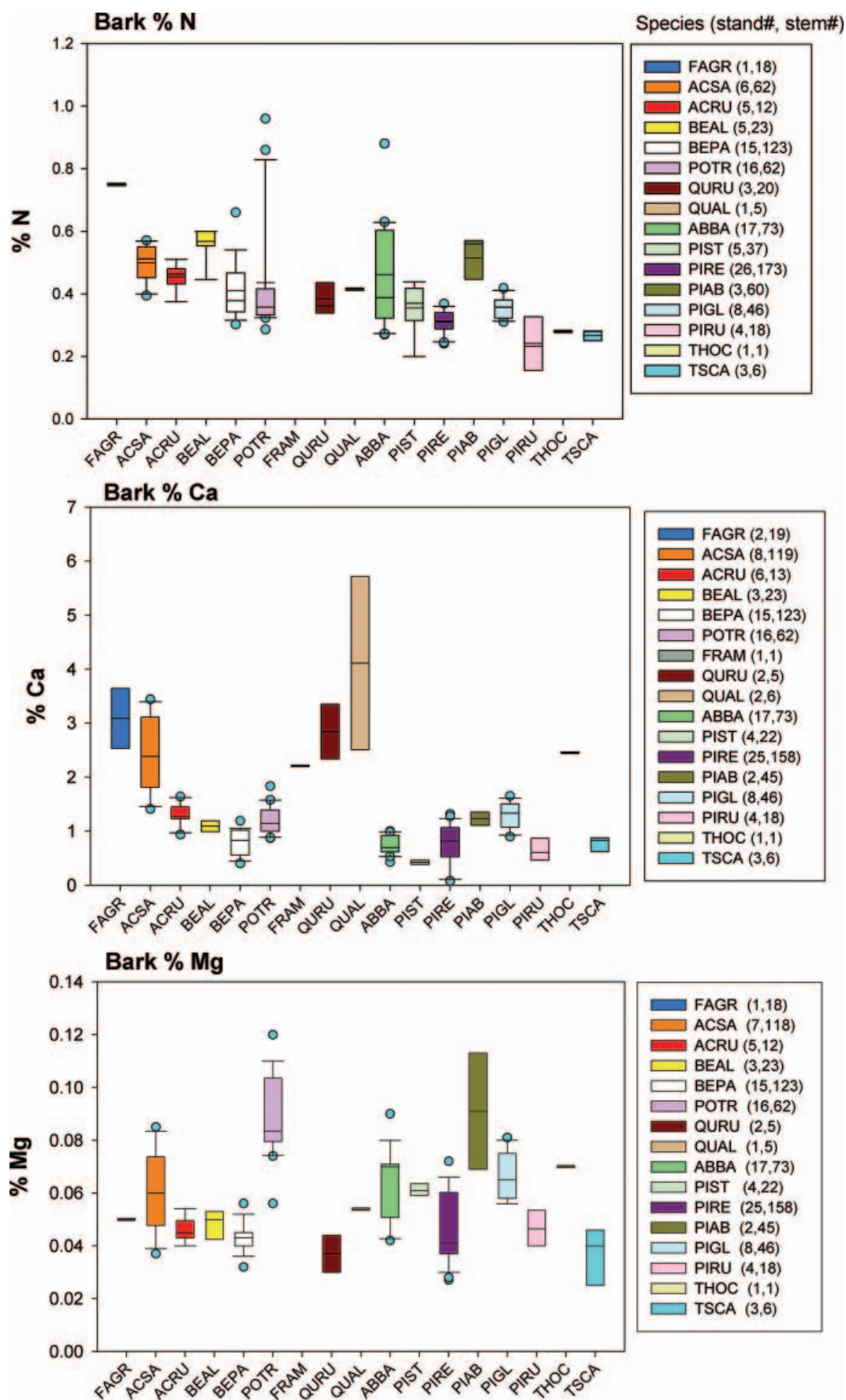


Figure 2.—Bark % N, % Ca, and % Mg

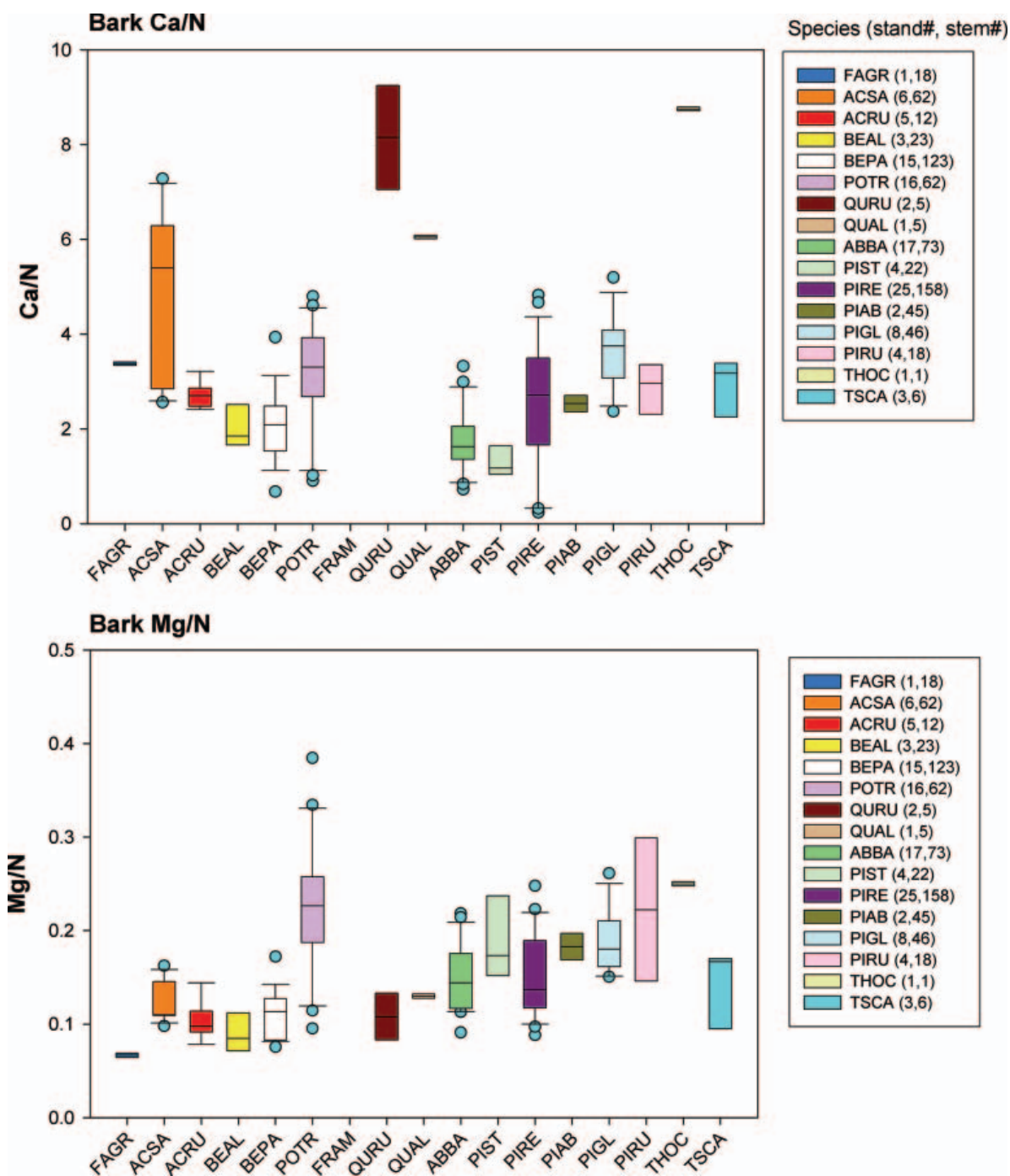


Figure 3.—Bark Ca/N and Mg/N

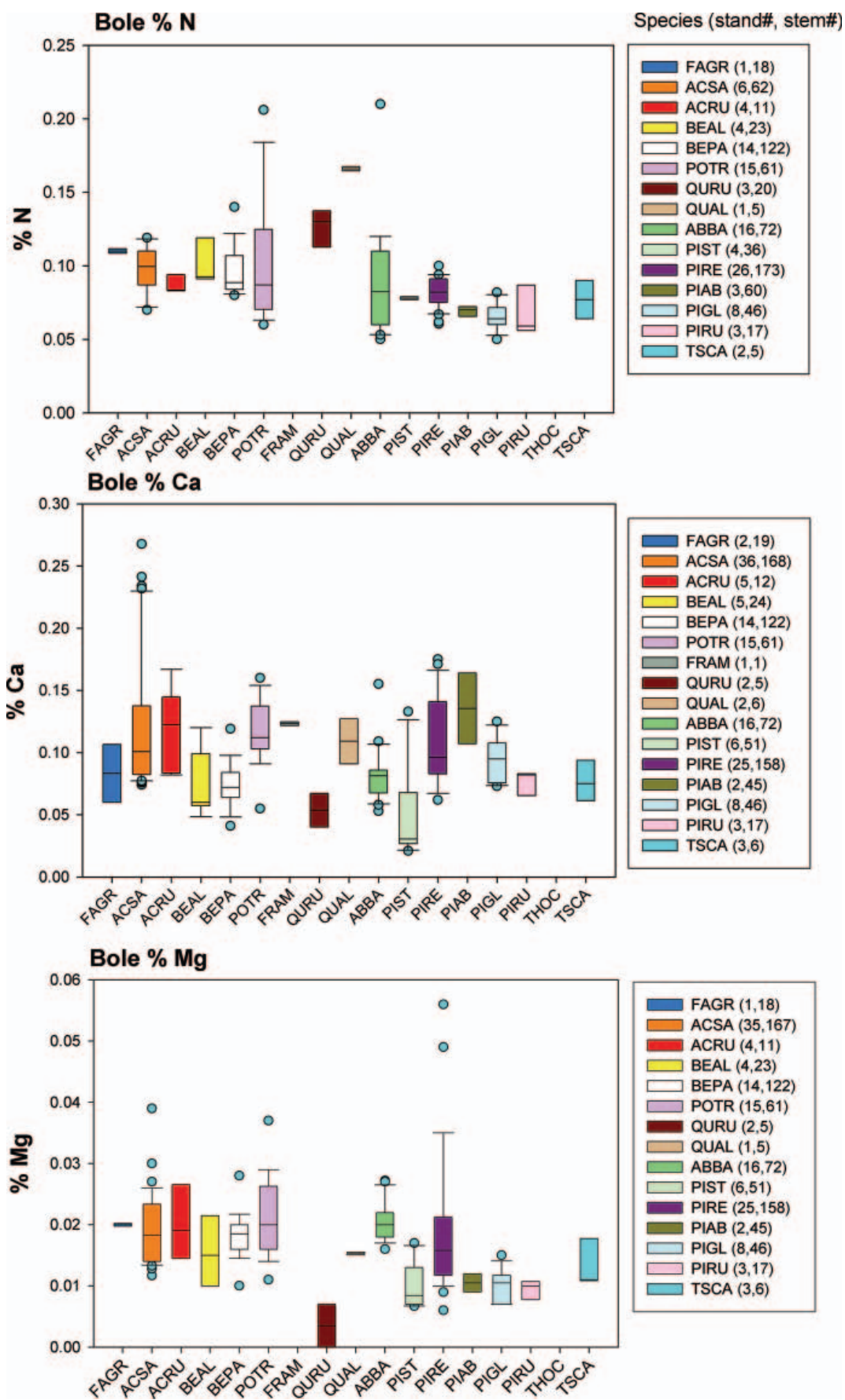


Figure 4.—Bole % N, % Ca, and % Mg

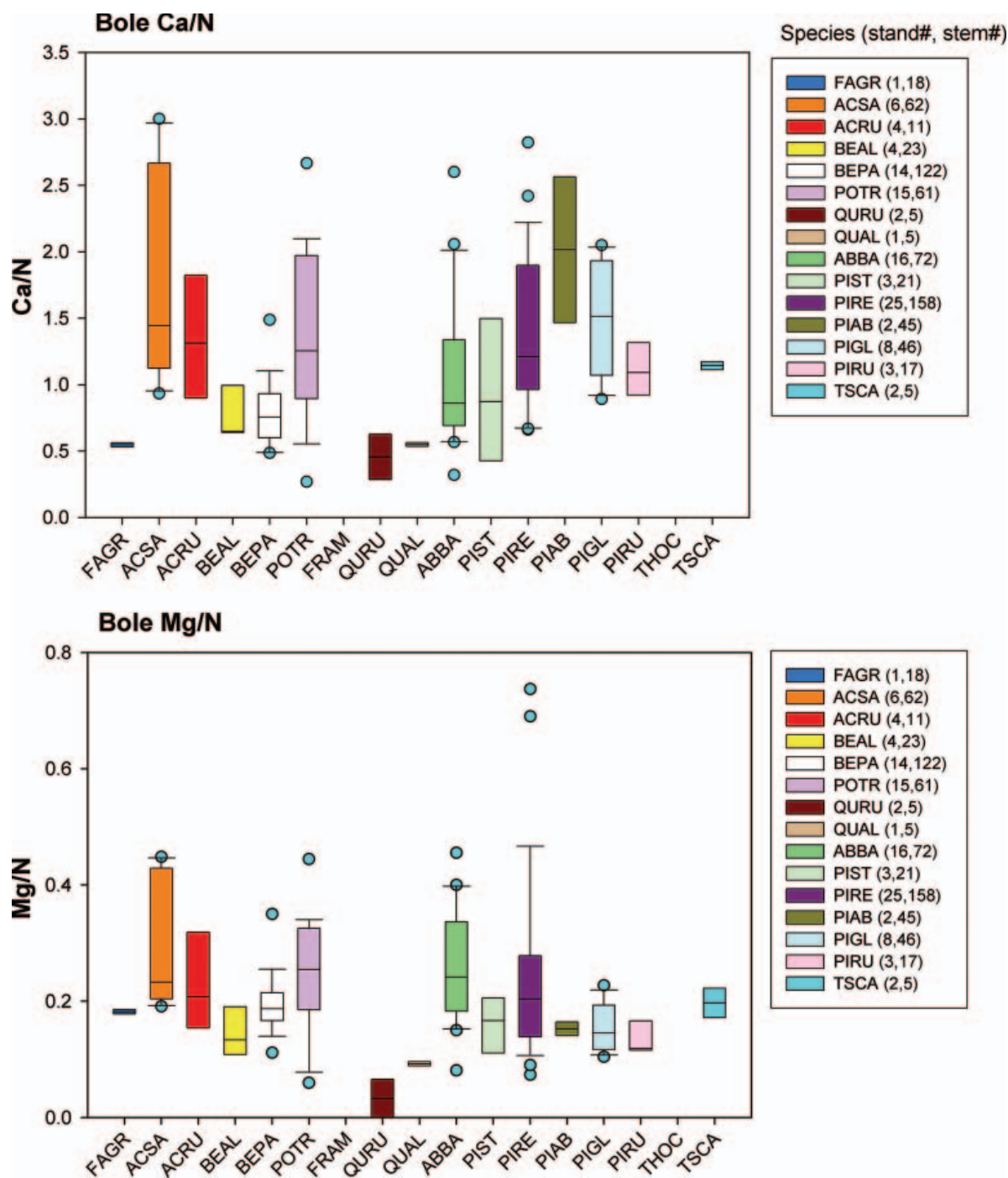


Figure 5.—Bole Ca/N and Mg/N

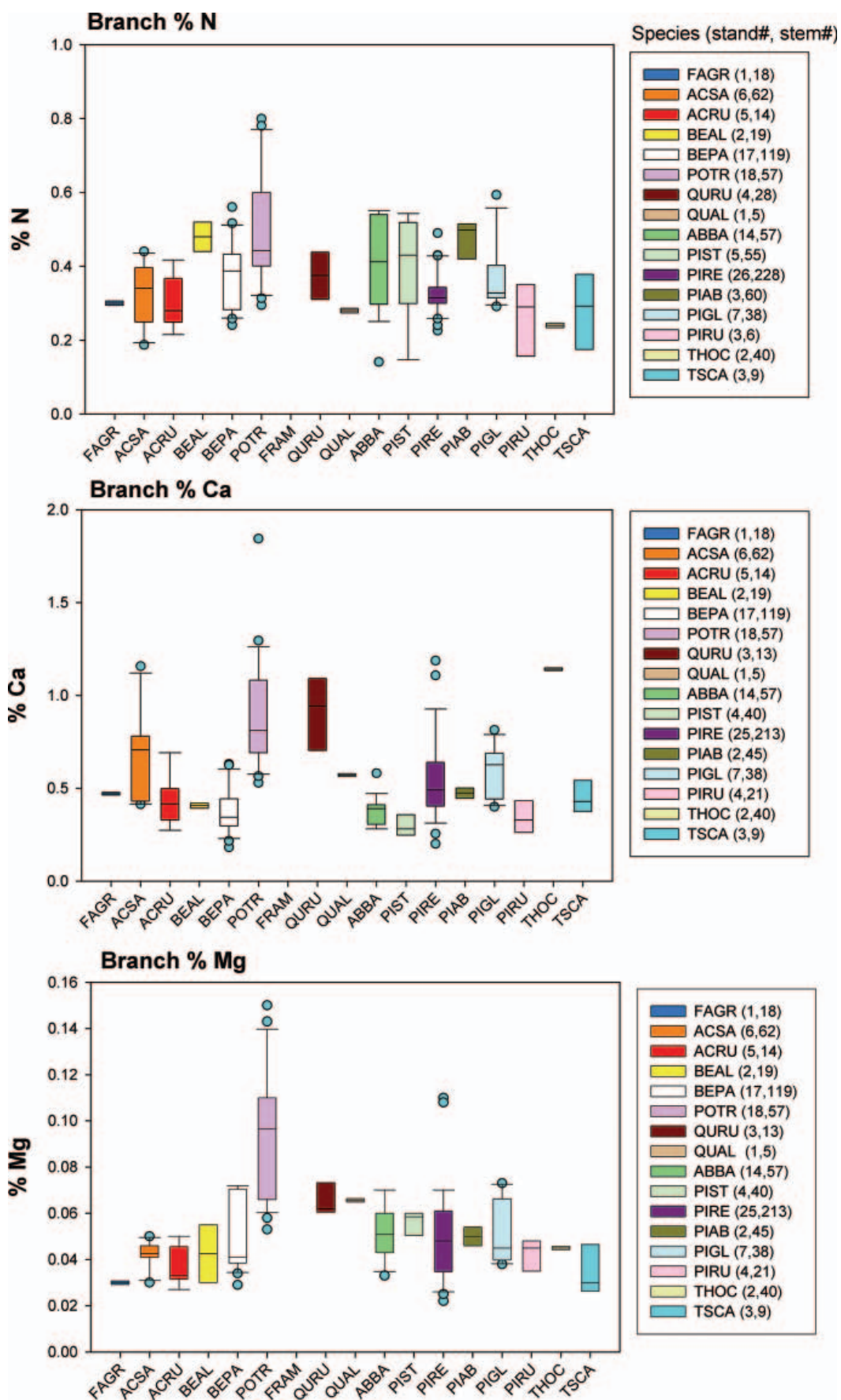


Figure 6.—Branch % N, % Ca, and % Mg

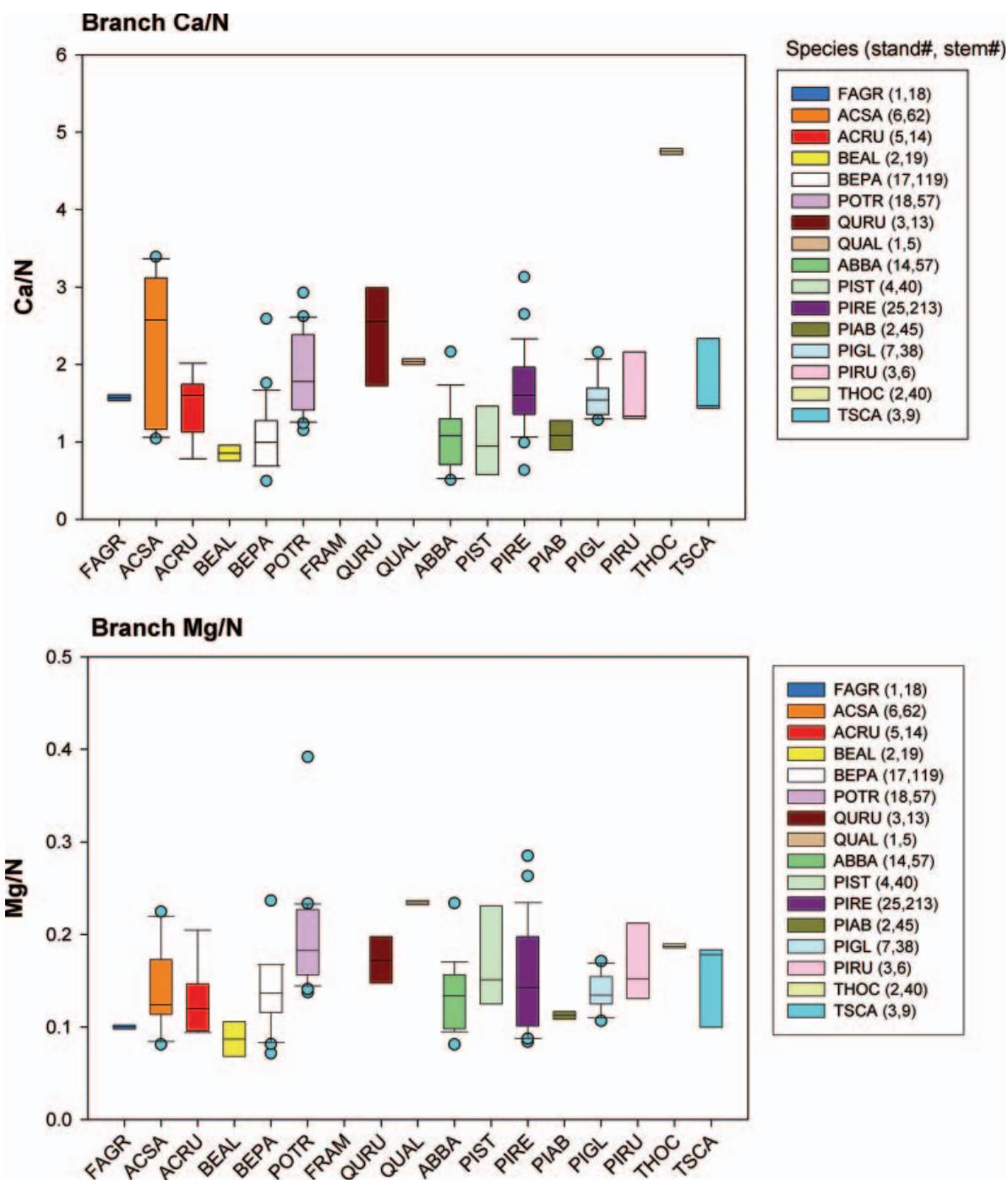


Figure 7.—Branch Ca/N and Mg/N

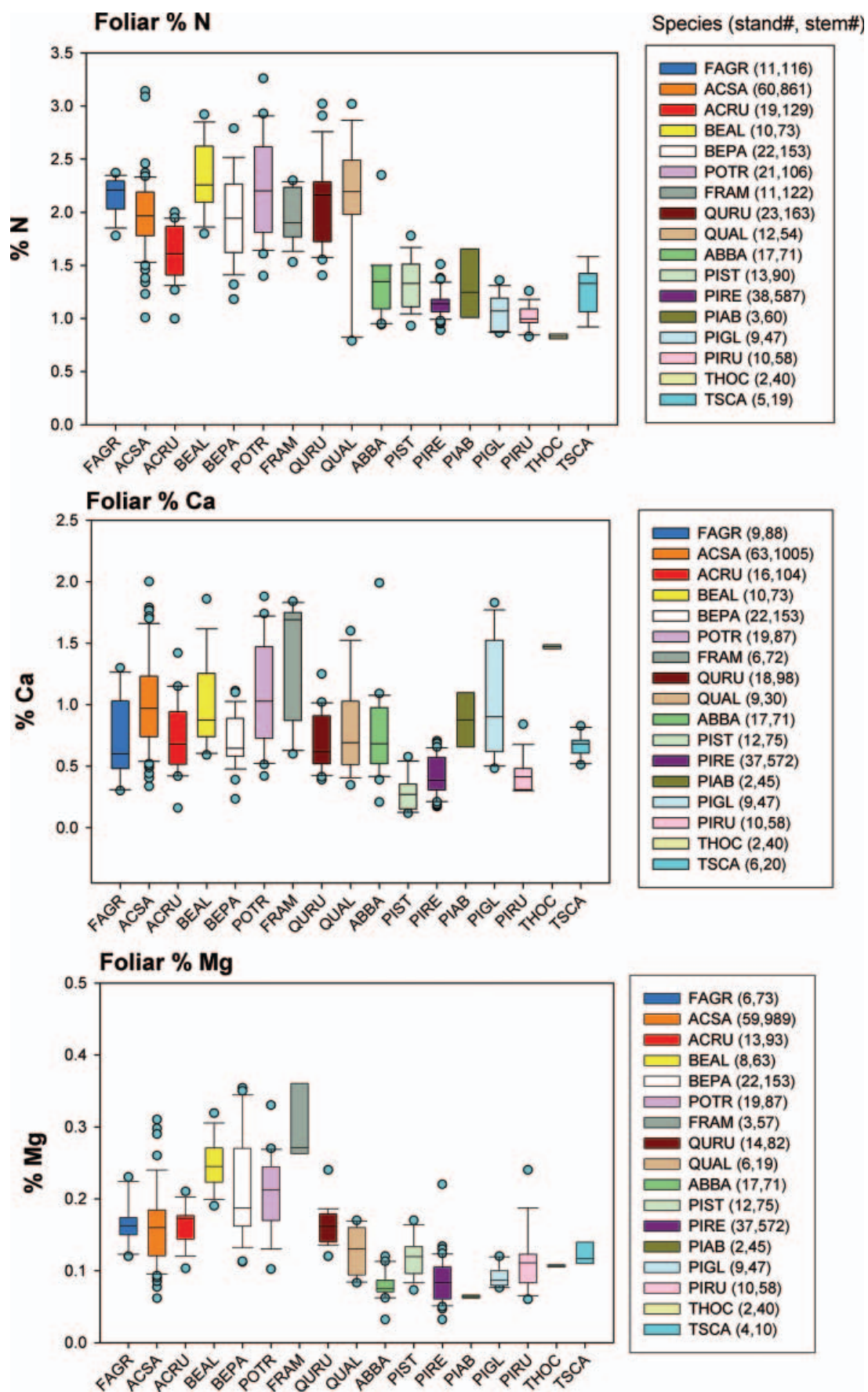


Figure 8.—Foliar % N, % Ca, and % Mg

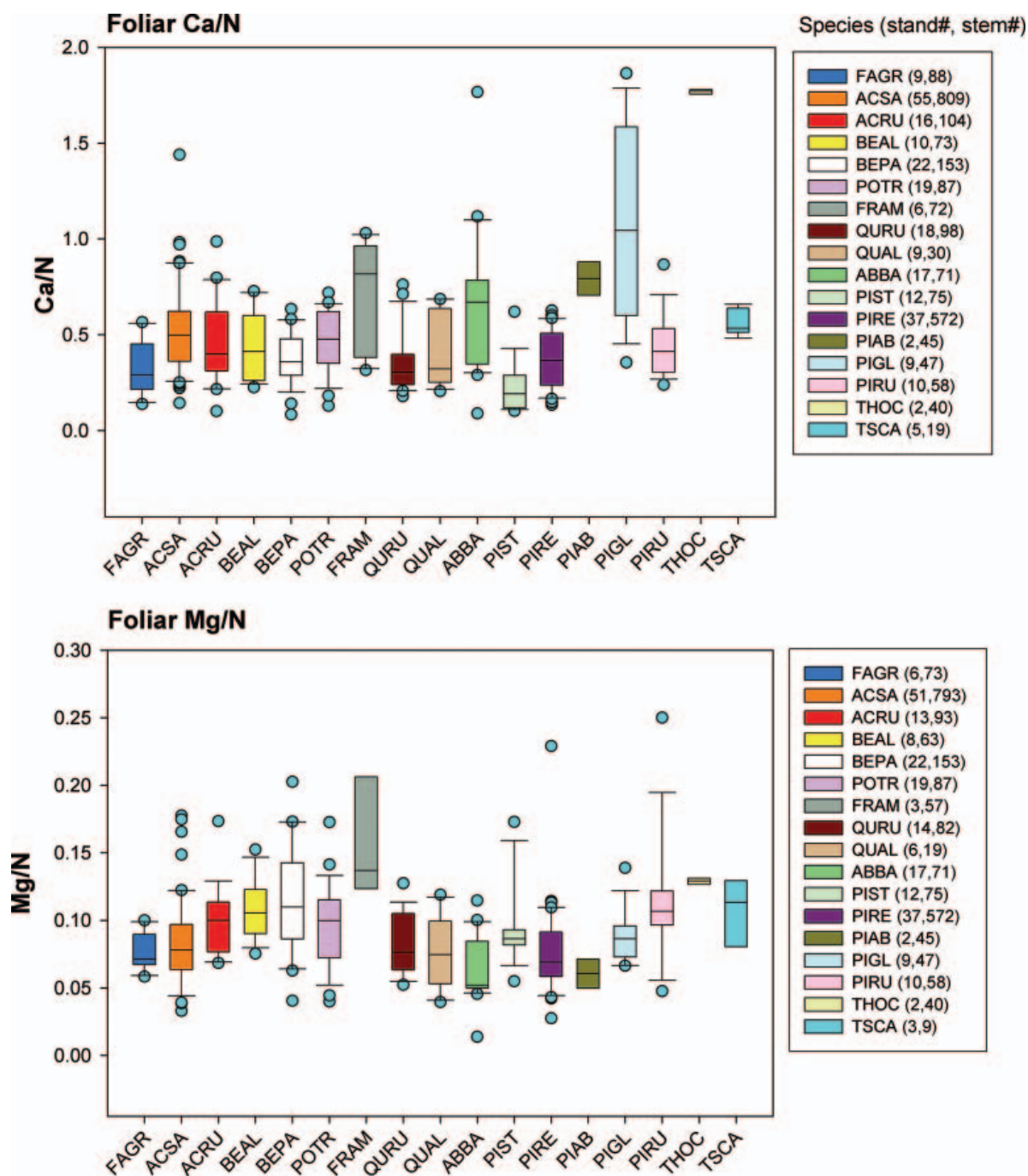


Figure 9.—Foliar Ca/N and Mg/N

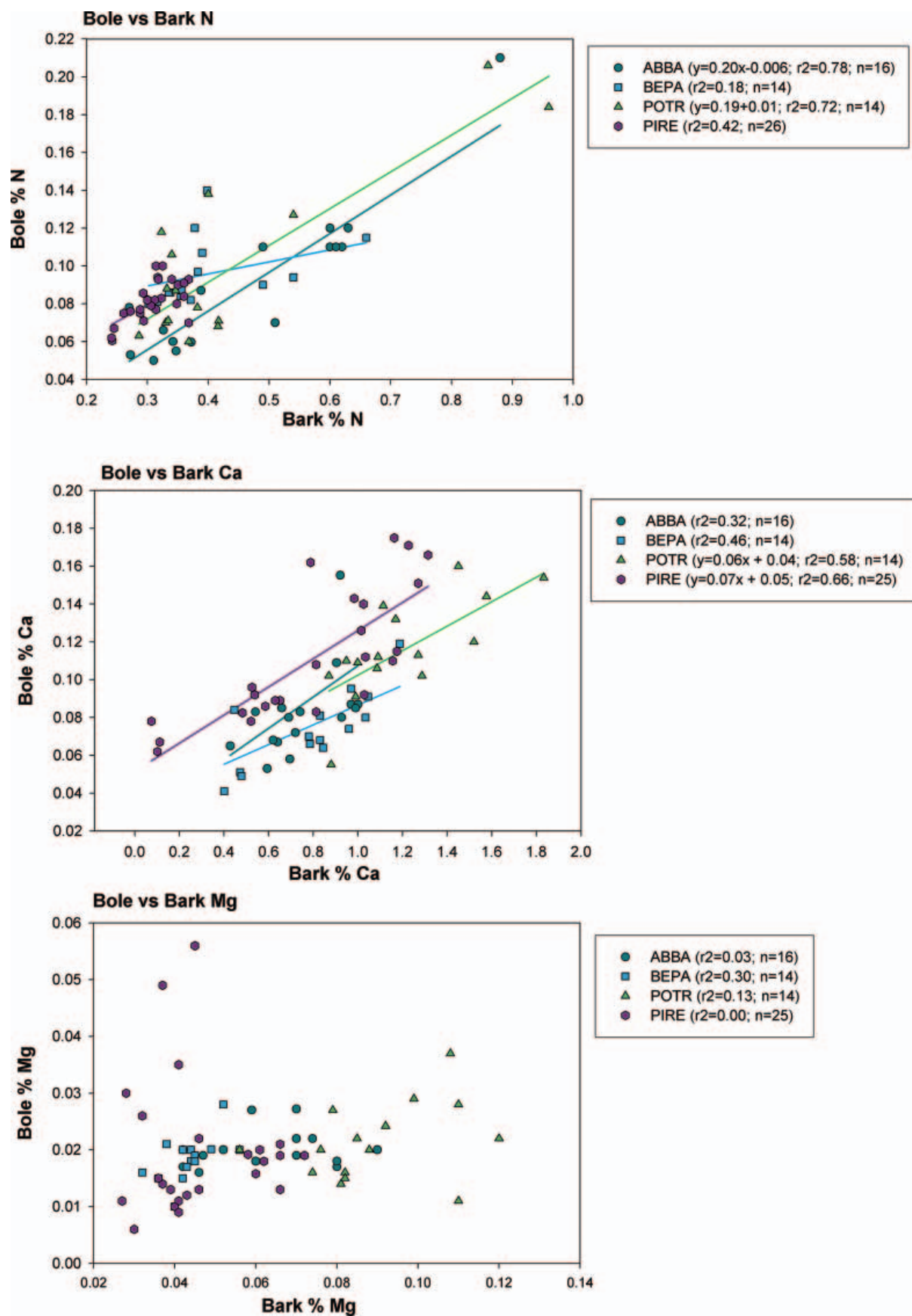


Figure 10.—Bole versus Bark N, Ca, and Mg

This CD-ROM includes an electronic version of the publication in Adobe pdf format. Also included is a folder containing the database files in Microsoft Access® 97, 2000 and 2002 formats.

Pardo, Linda H.; Robin-Abbott, Molly; Duarte, Natasha; Miller, Eric K. 2005. **Tree chemistry database (version 1.0)**. Gen. Tech. Rep. NE-324. Newtown Square PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 45 p.

The Tree Chemistry Database is a relational database of C, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, and Al concentrations in bole bark, bole wood, branches, twigs, and foliage. Compiled from data in 218 articles and publications, the database contains reported nutrient and biomass values for tree species in the Northeastern United States. Nutrient data can be sorted on parameters such as stand age, sample year, region, and glaciation. This report documents database development and provides instructions for use of the database, which is included on an accompanying CD-ROM.

Keywords: Tree species; nutrient elements; biomass; Northeastern United States





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