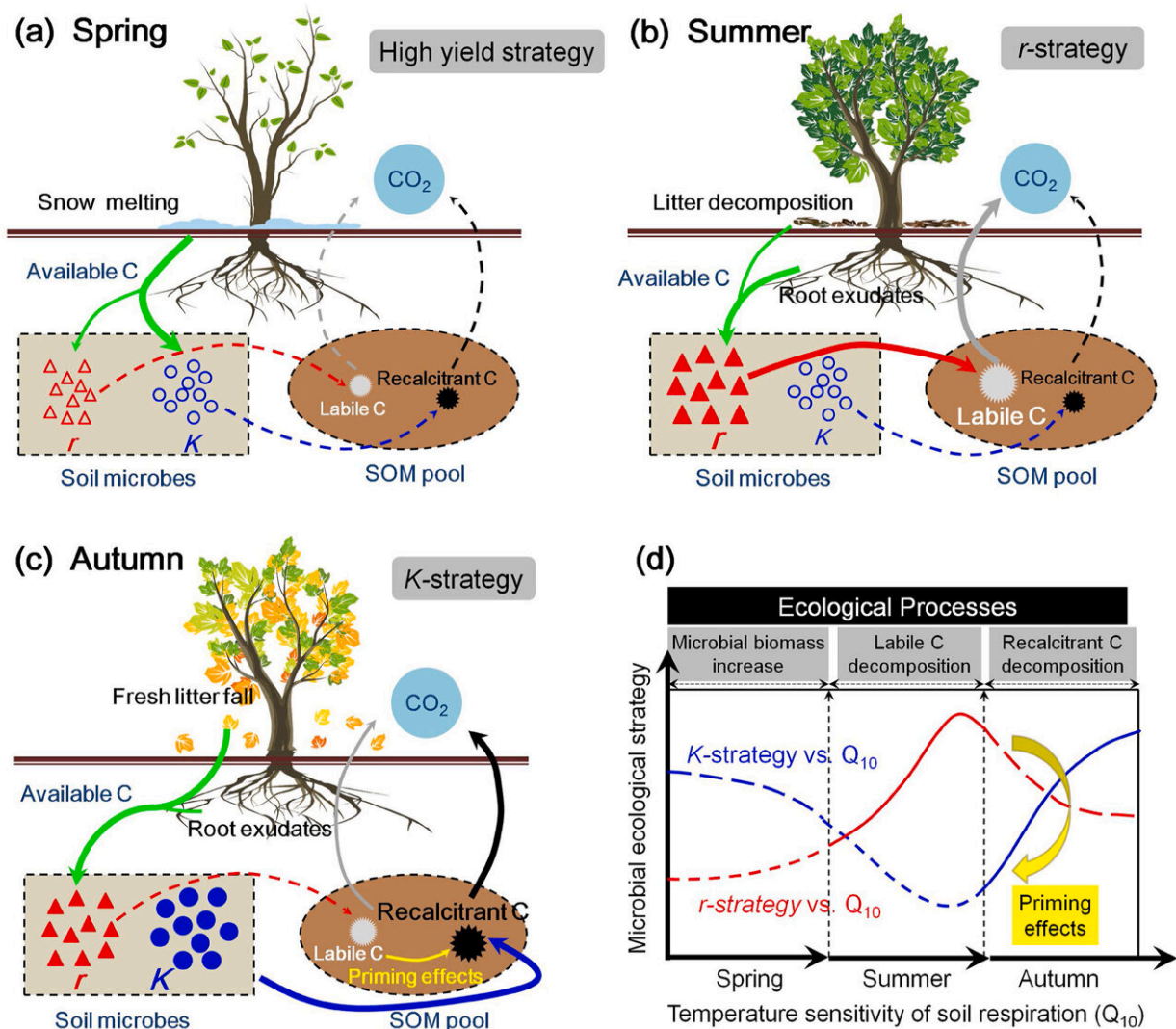


Underlying microbial mechanisms driving temperature sensitivity of soil respiration vary by season

July 26 2022, by ZHANG Nannan



Concept of microbial mechanisms driving the latitudinal changes of Q_{10} across

the growing season. Credit: Li Hui

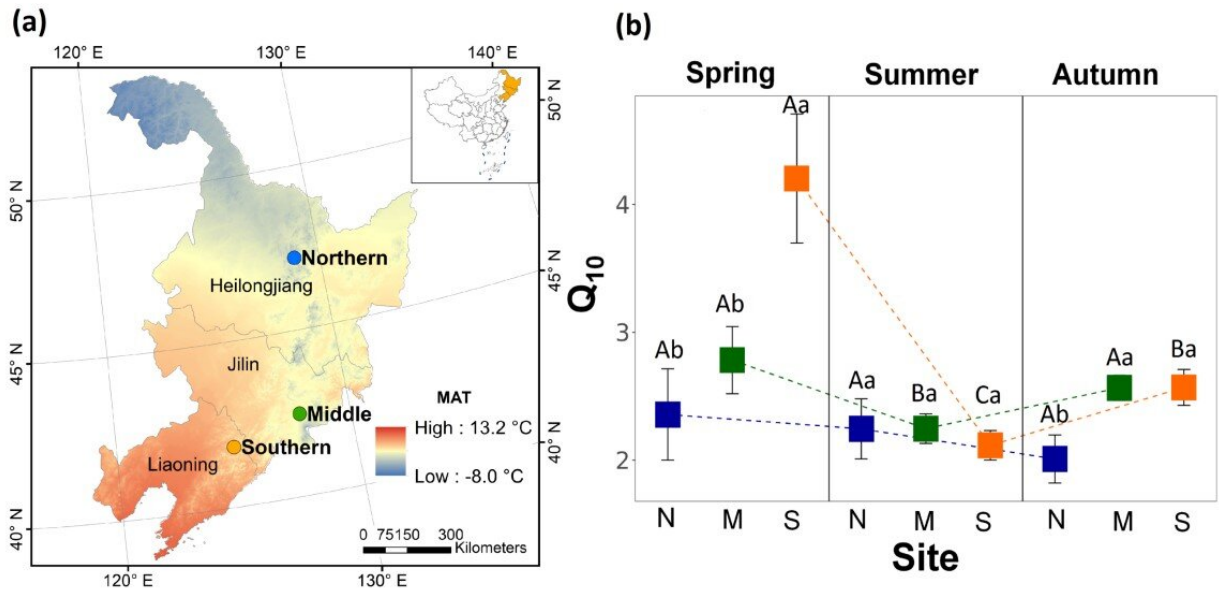
The intensity of soil respiration increases with temperature on a global scale. Temperature sensitivity of soil respiration, usually termed as Q_{10} , is defined as the increase in CO_2 efflux for a 10°C increase in temperature. In many traditional ecosystem models, Q_{10} was regarded as a constant. But more and more studies have shown that the observed Q_{10} values varied greatly in time and space, and that it is of great value to quantify the temporal-spatial pattern of Q_{10} , which involves in the accurate prediction of ecosystem carbon emissions.

Prof. Li Hui and her colleagues from the Institute of Applied Ecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently revealed latitudinal and [seasonal variations](#) in [temperature](#) sensitivity of soil respiration (Q_{10}) by cultivating the [soil samples](#) collected from northern, central and southern regions of the broad-leaved Korean pine mixed forest (BKPF) in China.

The researchers found that the latitudinal pattern of Q_{10} was season-dependent. In spring, the Q_{10} values got higher along the north-to-south gradient, driven by the increasing temperature and the decreasing carbon availability. In summer, Q_{10} remained relatively stable across the latitudinal gradient. In autumn, Q_{10} values were still higher in the warmer regions of BKPF, as is the case in spring. And there was a positive linkage between Q_{10} and the activity of microbial K-strategists in the late growing season.

They discovered a uniform seasonality pattern of Q_{10} in both southern and central regions of BKPF, with higher Q_{10} values observed in spring and autumn and lower values recorded in summer. However, the seasonality pattern of Q_{10} was not found in the northern regions of BKPF and this could be attributed to "the dominance of conifers" there,

according to the researchers.



Locations of the sampling sites (a) and the latitudinal and seasonal changes in temperature sensitivity of soil respiration (Q₁₀) across temperate mixed forests (b). To determine the seasonal effects or the site effects on Q₁₀, one-way ANOVA and Duncan's multiple-range test were performed. Capital letters indicate significant differences among season within sites, and lower letters indicate significant differences among sites within season. N, northern site; M, middle site; S, southern site. Credit: Li Hui

This study expands our understanding of the temporal-spatial variation of Q₁₀ and of its driving mechanisms (e.g., carbon quality, carbon availability and microbial ecological functions), providing new theories and data for subsequent research about climate warming and ecosystem [carbon](#) balance.

This study was published in *Soil Biology & Biochemistry*, titled "Linkages

between the temperature sensitivity of [soil](#) respiration and microbial life strategy are dependent on sampling season."

More information: Shan Yang et al, Linkages between the temperature sensitivity of soil respiration and microbial life strategy are dependent on sampling season, *Soil Biology and Biochemistry* (2022).
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