Technical Report Series on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS)

Forrest G. Hall and Shelaine Curd, Editors

Volume 158

BOREAS TE-9 PAR and Leaf Nitrogen Data for NSA Species

Qinglai Dang, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada
Hank Margolis and Marie Coyea, Université Laval, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada

October 2000
BOREAS TE-9 PAR and Leaf Nitrogen Data for NSA Species
Qinglai Dang, Hank Margolis, Marie Coyea

Summary

The BOREAS TE-9 team collected several data sets related to chemical and photosynthetic properties of leaves in boreal forest tree species. This data set describes the relationship between PAR levels and foliage nitrogen in samples from six sites in the BOREAS NSA collected during the three 1994 IFCs. This information is useful for modeling the vertical distribution of carbon fixation for these different forest types in the boreal forest. The data were collected to quantify the relationship between PAR and leaf nitrogen of black spruce, jack pine, and aspen. The data are available in tabular ASCII files.

Table of Contents

1) Data Set Overview
2) Investigator(s)
3) Theory of Measurements
4) Equipment
5) Data Acquisition Methods
6) Observations
7) Data Description
8) Data Organization
9) Data Manipulations
10) Errors
11) Notes
12) Application of the Data Set
13) Future Modifications and Plans
14) Software
15) Data Access
16) Output Products and Availability
17) References
18) Glossary of Terms
19) List of Acronyms
20) Document Information

1. Data Set Overview

1.1 Data Set Identification
BOREAS TE-09 PAR and Leaf Nitrogen Data for NSA Species

1.2 Data Set Introduction
The canopy profiles of nitrogen concentration and photosynthetic capacity were examined as part of an effort to characterize the spatial and temporal variations in photosynthetic capacity and nitrogen allocation in the boreal forest. This information will be useful for modeling the vertical distribution of carbon fixation for different forest types in the boreal forest. Samples were taken from six forest types in the BOREal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS) Northern Study Area (NSA): NSA-Old Black Spruce (OBS), NSA-Upland Black Spruce (UBS), NSA-Old Jack Pine (OJP), NSA-Young Jack Pine (YJP), NSA-Young Aspen (YA), and NSA-Old Aspen (OA) during each of the three Intensive Field Campaigns (IFCs) in 1994.
1.3 Objective/Purpose
The purpose of this project was to quantify the relationship between percent Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) levels and leaf nitrogen of three boreal forest tree species, black spruce, jack pine, and aspen, at the BOREAS NSA.

1.4 Summary of Parameters
Downwelling PAR, transmitted PAR, leaf nitrogen (N) concentration, specific leaf nitrogen (N) (i.e., N per unit leaf area).

1.5 Discussion
Functional convergence predicts that the investment into leaf nitrogen is limited by the amount of available light (PAR), which in turn determines photosynthetic capacity. This study tests this hypothesis through measurements of the relationship between fraction of absorbed PAR (FPAR), PAR, and N.

The downwelling radiation data from the BOREAS NSA were collected to characterize the FPAR levels at different canopy levels of six boreal canopy cover types: YJP (Pinus banksiana), OJP, YA (Populus tremuloides), OA, OBS (Picea mariana), and UBS. Leaf samples were harvested at each light level in order to quantify specific leaf nitrogen content by leaf/needle age class. Radiation data were collected between 27-May-1994 and 17-Sep-1994.

1.6 Related Data Sets
BOREAS TE-09 NSA Photosynthetic Response Data
BOREAS TE-09 NSA Photosynthetic Capacity and Foliage Nitrogen Data

2. Investigator(s)

2.1 Investigator(s) Name and Title
Hank Margolis, Ph.D.
Universite Laval
Faculte de foresterie et geomatique

Marie R. Coyea, Ph.D.
Universite Laval
Faculte de foresterie et geomatique

2.2 Title of Investigation
Relationship Between Measures of Absorbed and Reflected Radiation and the Photosynthetic Capacity of Boreal Forest Canopies and Understories

2.3 Contact Information
Contact 1:
Marie R. Coyea, Ph.D.
Universite Laval
Faculte de foresterie et geomatique
Pavillon Abitibi-Price Sainte-Foy
Quebec G1K 7P4
Canada
(418)656-2131, poste 6546
Marie.Coyea@sbf.ulaval.ca
3. Theory of Measurements

The PAR measurements were obtained by point quantum sensors. Data were relayed to a data acquisition system (CR10) for storage and data manipulation prior to downloading. The methodology for measuring leaf area is described in Appendix K of the BOREAS Experiment Plan, Version 3.0. Aspen foliage is expressed as hemisurface area leaf area, while conifer foliage is expressed as total surface area leaf area. Kjeldahl procedures were used to measure leaf nitrogen. See Section 5, Data Acquisition Methods, for further explanation.

4. Equipment

4.1 Sensor/Instrument Description
- Point quantum sensors, millivolt adaptors, extension cables, BNC connectors (LI-COR).
- Data acquisition system (CR10 measurement and control module with wiring panel and 12-volt power supply, CR10 keyboard and display, sc12 cable, datalogger support software, CR10 manual, screwdrivers, sc532 data transfer interface, data storage module (SM192), Campbell Scientific).
- Ladder, extendible pruning shears, two extendible support poles, polyethylene storage bags, freezer space, drying oven, optical image analysis system (AgVision, Decagon Inc.), top-loading weighing balance.
- Laboratory equipped for Kjeldahl N analysis.

4.1.1 Collection Environment
A quantum sensor was supported at the top of a pole that was extended to different levels in the canopy, following a vertical profile from the top of the canopy to the groundcover and understory shrubs. The particular weather conditions on each sampling day should be contained in the various BOREAS meteorological data.
4.1.2 Source/Platform
A quantum sensor was supported at the top of a pole that was extended to different levels in the canopy, following a vertical profile from the top of the canopy to the groundcover and understory shrubs. These levels were variable depending on the type of understory vegetation and the canopy profile. One point quantum sensor was used to obtain simultaneous incident light readings. This sensor was placed on a pole extended from a canopy access tower or a pole that was extended sufficiently above the tree canopy level to avoid any shading during the sampling period. The data acquisition system was kept at the sampling level while using canopy access towers, or on the ground.

4.1.3 Source/Platform Mission Objectives
The objective of the hand-held or tower-supported pole was to hold the quantum sensor in place in order to make proper measurements.

4.1.4 Key Variables
Incoming PAR, FPAR, and foliar N concentration.

4.1.5 Principles of Operation
A quantum sensor under full sky exposure was set out under cloudy (diffuse) sky conditions in each stand type. A second quantum sensor was moved vertically throughout the canopy profile starting at ground level. Vegetation at each light harvesting level was removed in order to determine specific N content.

LI-COR quantum sensors measure PAR in the 400-700 nm wave band. The unit of measurement is micromoles per second per square meter (μmol/sec/m²). The quantum sensor is designed to measure PAR received on a plane surface. The indicated sensor response corresponds to the expected photosynthetic response of plants for which data are available. A silicon photodiode with an enhanced response in the visible wavelengths is used as the sensor. A visible bandpass interference filter in combination with colored glass filters is mounted in a cosine-corrected head.

Quantum sensors were connected to a data acquisition system. This system (CR10) was programmed to convert a differential voltage measurement (rather than a single-ended measurement because of noise reduction) to a radiation value. Each quantum sensor has a different calibration constant provided by the manufacturing company that must be incorporated into the programming of the CR10.

The CR10 is a fully programmable datalogger/controller that permits a user to convert electronic responses of a sensor to comprehensible information about the physical environment (e.g., temperature, radiation). It allows the user to store data and program the retrieved data.

The AgVision System is an image analysis system that works by first looking at an object through a video camera, then processing the image into discrete numerical information with a digitizer and microcomputer, and finally displaying the image or other information on a monitor for examination. This system was used for leaf area measurements.

The Kjeldahl method, the most common method for nutrient analysis, was used for measuring total N.

4.1.6 Sensor/Instrument Measurement Geometry
Quantum sensors were pointed face up to the canopy (zenith angle) to obtain downwelling radiation.

4.1.7 Manufacturer of Sensor/Instrument
Point quantum sensors LI-190SA, millivolt adaptors, extension cables, BNC connectors:

LI-COR, Inc.
4421 Superior Street
P.O. Box 4425
Lincoln, NE 68504
1 (800) 447-3576
CR10 data acquisition system, CR10 measurement and control module with wiring panel and 12-volt power supply, CR10 keyboard and display, sc12 cable, datalogger support software, CR10 manual, screwdrivers, sc532 data transfer gadget, data storage module (SM192):

Campbell Scientific Canada Corp.
11564 149 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5M 1W7
(403) 454-2505

Leaf area measurement system/optical image analysis system (AgVision, Monochrome system, root and leaf analysis):

Decagon Devices, Inc.
P.O. Box 835
Pullman, WA 99163
1 (800) 755-2751

4.2 Calibration

4.2.1 Specifications
The quantum sensors had a resolution capability of 1 μmol/sec/m². The absolute calibration is +/-5%, traceable to the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The weighing balance was accurate to within 0.0001 g. The leaf area system was accurate to within 1%.

The shape factor used for black spruce leaf area measurements was 4, in accordance with the BOREAS Experiment Plan, Appendix K, Version 3.0. Based on observations of two cross-sections of two needles per fascicle for six jack pine trees from Thompson, Manitoba, an average shape factor of 4.59 (+/- 0.07) was calculated.

Specifications of Kjeldahl instrumentation are unknown at this time.

4.2.1.1 Tolerance
The acceptable range for the radiation measurements is between 0 and 2 μmol/sec/m². According to the company, the quantum sensors are typically sensitive to 8 μA per 1,000 μmol/sec/m² with a maximum deviation of 1% up to 10,000 μmol/sec/m².

4.2.2 Frequency of Calibration
The quantum sensors used in the field were brand new. Calibration was completed by the manufacturing company, and recalibration of radiation sensors is normally recommended every 2 years. The calibration data are unique to each sensor and were incorporated into the programming when connected to a data acquisition system. Field checks of quantum sensor readings were made upon installation of the sensors and every time data were transferred.

Prior to the season's field sampling, all quantum sensors were compared to confirm that no differences in measurements existed. This involved comparing radiation readings from the same light source. Following a comparison of electrical environmental conditions (outside a building versus inside the photosynthetic lab), a differential mode configuration rather than a single-ended voltage configuration was found to reduce response fluctuations (caused primarily by electrical noise). Therefore, the differential mode programming and wiring setup were used. In the field, a quick comparison among quantum sensors under similar light conditions was made.

The optical image analysis system was calibrated according to instrument specifications each time the system was opened or after it was left for a period of time. A fine ruler and flat disks of known area were used in the calibration.

Calibration of Kjeldahl instrumentation is unknown at this time.
5. Data Acquisition Methods

Downwelling radiation data for the BOREAS NSA were collected to characterize the vertical profile of FPAR of six boreal forest canopy cover types: YJP, OJP, YA, OA, OBS, and UBS. These data were collected during diffuse light conditions (overcast/cloudy days) during the three field campaigns between 27-May-1994 and 17-Sep-1994. For each stand, the following activities took place:

Vertical light profiles were established in each forest cover type based on five randomly chosen branches at five height levels (top, middle, and lower third of the crown; top of understory shrubs; and top of groundcover.) Where there were two levels of understory shrubs, another level was taken into account. Sampling took place from the bottom up. That is, samples were harvested starting from the groundcover level before moving up vertically in order to avoid any effect on subsequent light measurements.

Light readings on cloudy days (diffuse light conditions) were obtained for each stand using a quantum sensor connected to a CR10 data acquisition system. A BNC connector and a millivolt adaptor (604 ohms) were connected to each sensor that was connected to the CR10 data measurement system. Quantum sensors were suspended for a minimum period of 2 minutes at each level just above a branch level that was subsequently harvested (input readings = 5 seconds, output readings = 1 minute). One quantum sensor was extended to obtain simultaneous readings of incident PAR. This sensor was placed on a pole extended either from a canopy access tower or sufficiently above the tree canopy level to avoid any shading during the measurement period. This made it possible to calculate where 100% FPAR is complete interception, or darkness, and 0% is completely exposed and equal to the incident PAR.

For the radiation measurements in the canopy, one person leaned over the canopy access tower holding a pole with the quantum sensor attached at the end, while another person manipulated the CR10 at the same level. Following each measurement level, the light readings were transferred directly to a storage module.

FPAR was calculated for each measurement point.

The radiation measurements were based on a total of two point-quantum sensors (one taking the canopy profile and one at full light) that were relayed to the CR10. All quantum sensors were connected to the same CR10 for simultaneous measurements. Consequently, it was possible to calculate FPAR. Sensor readings were taken every 10 seconds, while output measurements were based on 5-minute intervals.

A branch at each light level was cut using a set of extendible pruning shears. These samples were used for N measurements. On conifer trees, these samples included the most recent year’s needle growth and at least 2 years of previous needle growth. Branches for N analysis were stored in identified polyethylene bags for transport. These samples were stored in a freezer until time for further manipulation was available. A subsample of these branches was cut in order to determine specific leaf area (SLA). The remaining branches were oven-dried for 48 hours at 68 °C, after which the lignified material was separated from the foliage tissue. The foliage tissue was then ground to 1 mm and stored in sealed plastic containers until %N was quantified.

The material was oven-dried again and weighed 2 hours prior to N analysis. At least 200 mg of dried material was necessary for each N analysis. The Kjeldah method was used to estimate nitrogen concentration. Nitrogen is expressed both on an SLA and a weight basis.

SLA was measured for each conifer leaf sample, by age class, using the volume displacement method to measure half the area of the surface of the leaf (HASL). An optical image analysis system (Decagon) was also used to measure shoot silhouette area and projected leaf area. For flat surfaces, such as aspen leaves, the hemisurface area is the same as both the projected area and the silhouette area. The silhouette area of conifer samples was measured by age class. (In the first IFC, however, there was only one age class.) A conifer shoot was first snipped and clipped into two age classes: (1)
1994 needles, and (2) anything produced in 1993 or before. Each shoot section was then randomly thrown under the camera lens and a silhouette measurement was taken. These samples were then processed under the normal procedures for measuring leaf area (volume displacement).

In order to conduct the volume displacement method for measuring conifer leaf area, a container large enough for an intact shoot to be submerged was filled with a solution of water and about 3-5% detergent. The detergent is necessary because it prevents small air bubbles and films from accumulating on the surface of the shoot. The container has to be large enough for the shoot to be submerged without touching the walls of the container. The container and liquid are placed on a top-loading electronic balance and tared to provide a zero reading. An intact shoot is submerged in the liquid without touching the walls of the container, and the weight is recorded. To push the shoot into the water, a force equal to the buoyant force must be applied. The buoyant force is related to the mass of the volume of water displaced by the shoot. Thus, the volume of the intact shoot in cubic centimeters is numerically equal to the weight increase in grams indicated on the balance. The length of these needles is determined. If measuring all the needles is too time-consuming, the number of needles on the shoot is counted, and a subsample of 10 to 20 needles spaced over the length of the shoot is used. The needles are then removed from the shoot, and the volume of the woody portion of the shoot is measured by submerging it in the liquid-filled container on the balance. The needle volume is the difference between the total volume and the woody volume.

The shape of the cross-sectional area is determined from observations under a microscope. This shape is usually fixed for all needles of a given species and so has to be determined only once for a given species. This shape determines the coefficients in an equation that relates the previous measurements to the surface area. The shape factor for black spruce is 4.00 (BOREAS Experiment Plan, Version 3.0, Appendix K). Based on observations of two cross-sections of two needles per fascicle for five fascicles for six jack pine trees from Thompson, Manitoba, an average shape factor of 1993 needles was calculated as 4.59 (+/- 0.07):

\[ LA = SF \times \sqrt{V L} \]  

where:  
LA = leaf area  
SF = shape factor  
V = volume of needles  
L = total length of needles

In the case where only a subsample of needles is used, the equation becomes:

\[ LA = SF \times \sqrt{V_{nl}} \]

where:  
LA = leaf area  
SF = shape factor  
V = volume of needles  
l = average length of needles (20 needles)  
n = total number of needles

6. Observations

6.1 Data Notes
None.

6.2 Field Notes
None.
7. Data Description

7.1 Spatial Characteristics

7.1.1 Spatial Coverage
The data were collected from six principal sites in the NSA located in Manitoba. The NSA is approximately 100 km by 80 km, and is located 735 km north of Winnipeg. The North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) coordinates for each of the principal sites in this study are:

- NSA-YA auxiliary site along Gillam Road (auxiliary site number W0Y5A, BOREAS Experiment Plan, Version 3.0): Lat/Long: 56.00339°N, 97.3355°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6207706.6, E: 603796.6
- NSA-YJP flux tower site: Lat/Long: 55.89575°N, 98.28706°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6194706.9 E: 544583.9;
- NSA-OJP flux tower site Lat/Long: 55.842°N, 98.62396°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6198176.3, E: 523496.2
- NSA-OA canopy access tower site (auxiliary site number T2Q6A, BOREAS Experiment Plan, Version 3.0): Lat/Long: 55.88691°N, 98.67479°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6193140.7, E: 520342;
- NSA-OBS Flux tower site: Lat/Long: 55.88007°N, 98.48139°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6192853.4, E: 532444.5
- NSA-UBS canopy access tower site (auxiliary site number T6R5S, BOREAS Experiment Plan, Version 3.0): Lat/Long: 55.90802°N, 98.51865°W; UTM Zone 14, N: 6195947, E: 530092

Quantum sensors (on poles) were used on the canopy access towers in the bottom, middle, and top canopy. In the case of the YJP site, where a canopy access tower did not exist, sensors were located within 1 km of the flux tower.

7.1.2 Spatial Coverage Map
None.

7.1.3 Spatial Resolution
These data are point source measurements at the indicated sites.

7.1.4 Projection
Not applicable.

7.1.5 Grid Description
Not applicable.

7.2 Temporal Characteristics

7.2.1 Temporal Coverage
Data acquisition at all six sites was repeated for each of the IFCs in 1994. The overall period extended from 24-May-1994 to 17-Sep-1994.

7.2.2 Temporal Coverage Map
During the first IFC, the following sites were measured:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSA-YJP</td>
<td>29-May-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA-OJP</td>
<td>31-May-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA-YASP</td>
<td>14-Jun-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA-OASP</td>
<td>12-Jun-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA-OBS</td>
<td>12-Jun-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA-TE-BS</td>
<td>03-Jun-94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the second IFC, the following sites were measured:

- NSA-YJP 24-Jul-94
- NSA-OJP 19,20-Jul-94
- NSA-YASP 26,30-Jul-94
- NSA-OASP 21,24-Jul-94
- NSA-OBS 25-Jul-94
- NSA-TE-BS 22,23-Jul-94

During the third IFC, the following sites were measured:

- NSA-YJP 08,11,12-Sep-94
- NSA-OJP 05,06-Sep-94
- NSA-YASP 08,11-Sep-94
- NSA-OASP 02,05,06-Sep-94
- NSA-OBS 13-Sep-94
- NSA-TE-BS 12-Sep-94

### 7.2.3 Temporal Resolution
These data were collected during diffuse light conditions (overcast/cloudy days) during the three field campaigns between 27-May-1994 and 17-Sep-1994. Quantum sensors were suspended for a minimum period of 2 minutes at each level just above a branch level that was subsequently harvested (input readings = 5 seconds, output readings = 1 minute). All quantum sensors were connected to the same CR10 for simultaneous measurements.

### 7.3 Data Characteristics

#### 7.3.1 Parameter/Variable
The parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE_NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB_SITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END_DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANOPY_SAMPLE_LVL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_GROWTH_YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS_PAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG_TRANS_PAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_CONC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_DENSITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTECN_CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISION_DATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 7.3.2 Variable Description/Definition

The descriptions of the parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE_NAME</td>
<td>The identifier assigned to the site by BOREAS, in the format SSS-TTT-CCCCC, where SSS identifies the portion of the study area: NSA, SSA, REG, TRN, and TTT identifies the cover type for the site, 999 if unknown, and CCCCC is the identifier for site, exactly what it means will vary with site type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB_SITE</td>
<td>The identifier assigned to the sub-site by BOREAS, in the format GGGGG-IIIII, where GGGGG is the group associated with the sub-site instrument, e.g. HYD06 or STAFF, and IIIII is the identifier for sub-site, often this will refer to an instrument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_DATE</td>
<td>The date on which the collection of the reference data commenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END_DATE</td>
<td>The date on which the collection of the referenced data was terminated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES</td>
<td>Botanical (Latin) name of the species (Genus species).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANOPY_SAMPLE_LVL</td>
<td>Identifies the canopy sampling level: 1=the top of overstory crown, 2=the middle of overstory crown, 3=the bottom of overstory crown, 4=the top of understory, 5=ground cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_ID</td>
<td>The sample identifier used by data collectors (see documentation for a detailed description).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_GROWTH_YEAR</td>
<td>The year in which the collected sample first grew.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>Photosynthetically active radiation in the canopy expressed as a percentage of a simultaneous measurement over the canopy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG_TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>The natural log of PAR transmittance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_CONC</td>
<td>The nitrogen concentration of the foliage dry mass sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN DENSITY</td>
<td>Nitrogen per unit hemisurface area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTFCN_CODE</td>
<td>The BOREAS certification level of the data. Examples are CPI (Checked by PI), CGR (Certified by Group), FRE (Preliminary), and CPI-??? (CPI but questionable).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISION_DATE</td>
<td>The most recent date when the information in the referenced data base table record was revised.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.3.3 Unit of Measurement

The measurement units for the parameters contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE_NAME</td>
<td>[none]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB_SITE</td>
<td>[none]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_DATE</td>
<td>[DD-MON-YY]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.3.4 Data Source
The sources of the parameter values contained in the data files on the CD-ROM are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column Name</th>
<th>Data Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE_NAME</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB_SITE</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_DATE</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END_DATE</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES</td>
<td>Human Observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANOPY_SAMPLE_LVL</td>
<td>Human Observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_ID</td>
<td>Human Observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_GROWTH_YEAR</td>
<td>Human Observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>Point Quantum Sensors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG_TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>Point Quantum Sensors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_CONC</td>
<td>Laboratory Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_DENSITY</td>
<td>Laboratory Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTFCN_CODE</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISION_DATE</td>
<td>BORIS Designation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3.5 Data Range
The following table gives information about the parameter values found in the data files on the CD-ROM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column Name</th>
<th>Minimum Data Value</th>
<th>Maximum Data Value</th>
<th>Missng Data Value</th>
<th>Unrel Data Value</th>
<th>Below Data Value</th>
<th>Detect Not Collectd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SITE_NAME</td>
<td>NSA-9BS-9TETR</td>
<td>NSA-YJP-FLXTR</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB_SITE</td>
<td>9TE09-PRN01</td>
<td>9TE09-PRN01</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_DATE</td>
<td>24-MAY-94</td>
<td>30-AUG-94</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END_DATE</td>
<td>16-JUN-94</td>
<td>19-SEP-94</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANOPY_SAMPLE_LVL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_ID</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMPLE_GROWTH_YEAR</td>
<td>&lt;=1993</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>1.489</td>
<td>4.605</td>
<td>-999</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOG_TRANS_PAR</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>40.97</td>
<td>-999</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_CONC</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-999</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NITROGEN_DENSITY</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>-999</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTFCN_CODE</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVISION_DATE</td>
<td>19-SEP-96</td>
<td>19-SEP-96</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum Data Value -- The minimum value found in the column.
Maximum Data Value -- The maximum value found in the column.
Missing Data Value -- The value that indicates missing data. This is used to indicate that an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the attempt was unsuccessful.
Unrel Data Value -- The value that indicates unreliable data. This is used to indicate an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the value was deemed to be unreliable by the analysis personnel.
Below Detect Limit -- The value that indicates parameter values below the instruments detection limits. This is used to indicate that an attempt was made to determine the parameter value, but the analysis personnel determined that the parameter value was below the detection limit of the instrumentation.
Data Not Collected -- This value indicates that no attempt was made to determine the parameter value. This usually indicates that BORIS combined several similar but not identical data sets into the same data base table but this particular science team did not measure that parameter.

Blank -- Indicates that blank spaces are used to denote that type of value.
N/A -- Indicates that the value is not applicable to the respective column.
None -- Indicates that no values of that sort were found in the column.

7.4 Sample Data Record
The following is a sample of the first few records from the data table on the CD-ROM:

SITE_NAME,SUB_SITE,START_DATE,END_DATE,SPECIES,CANOPY_SAMPLE_LVL,SAMPLE_ID,SAMPLE_GROWTH_YEAR,TRANS_PAR,LOG_TRANS_PAR,NITROGEN_CONC,NITROGEN_DENSITY,CRTFCN_CODE,REVISION_DATE


8. Data Organization

8.1 Data Granularity
The smallest unit of orderable data is the data on a given day at a given site.

8.2 Data Format(s)
The Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM) files contain American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) numerical and character fields of varying length separated by commas. The character fields are enclosed with single apostrophe marks. There are no spaces between the fields.

Each data file on the CD-ROM has four header lines of Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) code at the top. When viewed with a Web browser, this code displays header information (data set title, location, date, acknowledgments, etc.) and a series of HTML links to associated data files and related data sets. Line 5 of each data file is a list of the column names, and line 6 and following lines contain the actual data.
9. Data Manipulations

9.1 Formulae

\[
\text{FPAR (\%)} = \frac{(\text{PAR at 100\% exposure} - \text{PAR reading below canopy})}{\text{PAR at 100\% exposure}} \times 100
\]

For example, if the maximum PAR (no shading) was 890 and the PAR value underneath the canopy was 230, then FPAR under the canopy = 74.16\% = \frac{(890-230)}{890} \times 100

9.1.1 Derivation Techniques and Algorithms

None.

9.2 Data Processing Sequence

9.2.1 Processing Steps

Data from quantum sensors were first converted from electrical (voltage) data to a radiation value in a program (given by the user) for the CR10. This program is specific to this data acquisition system; see the Campbell Scientific manual for programming information. The CR10 was programmed to take the data each minute, which were being retrieved every second, and do the following:

- Identify the site location.
- Output the Julian day, hour, and minute.
- Output the minimum battery voltage. This was done to check for data errors caused by a low battery source (if the battery charge is below 9.6, errors can be expected in the data set).
- Output the maximum internal temperature of the module panel. This was done to be able to check for data errors if the temperature of the CR10 system was too high. Errors can be expected in the data set when the temperature is greater than 50 °C.
- Output the average, standard deviation, and maximum and minimum radiation values for each of the two quantum sensors.

Data were then transferred from the field site to a storage module that was brought back to a computer for data transfer and verification. All raw data were printed. Column headings were inserted and all lines that were not part of the sampling scheme were erased. A code that had been entered into the CR10 program in place of the site location enabled staff to identify when the relevant light data were not being taken. This code was normally 1.2 and has no other meaning other than to signify that the light values at that time are not useful. For example, the sensor may at that time have been between two different light levels.

Lines that contained zero readings for the quantum sensors were erased (using the autofilter function in Excel, Version 5.0). Where only 1 minute or less of data existed per level, these lines were not removed (to avoid blank data cells). Data were then sorted in order of the light profile. Light readings by minute for a level were then averaged together (using the subtotals function in Excel, Version 5.0) so that at each change in SITEID the function AVERAGE was used to subtotal all the columns of data.

%PAR and FPAR values were calculated. Year and calendar date (cdate) were inserted as columns.

Manitoba time data were converted from a numeric format to a time format (because original data were in numeric format). The following command was used in Excel, Version 5.0, to do this step: \[\text{time(mid(a1;1);len(a1)-2);right(a1;2);0}\], where a1 refers to the data cell where the time data were found. Manitoba time was then converted to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) = Thompson, Manitoba time + 6 hours.

Shoot silhouette data, SLA, and leaf area data were then transferred into the data files. (At this point there is only one line of data for each desired light level.) Data were then compared with the original data sheets.

Note that the SLA samples corresponding to the YJP stand in IFC-1 (29-May-1994) were misplaced, ground, or lost. In order to compensate for these lost SLA data, the SLA data from the photosynthesis data (27-May, group TE-9B) were substituted. The SLA data represent the same
sampling levels, but only four repetitions were available for this set. Photosynthesis was measured on three branches at each canopy level for five YJP trees. An average SLA (based on three branches for each canopy level) was used.

Data were recorded automatically by a computer and also printed on a printer. Subsequent calculations of different parameters were performed using MS Excel for Windows 5.0.

BOREAS Information System (BORIS) staff processed the data by:
- Reviewing the initial data files and loading them online for BOREAS team access.
- Designing relational data base tables to inventory and store the data.
- Loading the data into the relational data base tables.
- Working with the Hydrology (HYD)-06 team to document the data set.
- Extracting the standardized data into logical files.

9.2.2 Processing Changes
See Section 9.2.1.

9.3 Calculations
See Section 9.1.

9.3.1 Special Corrections/Adjustments
None.

9.3.2 Calculated Variables
See Section 9.1.

9.4 Graphs and Plots
None.

10. Errors

10.1 Sources of Error
If the wiring to the CR10 is not fixed securely, loose wires can lead to dubious data results. Likewise, if wires have been chewed up by rodents or by hungry canopy tower people, results may be questionable. There was no evidence of these activities during the field season.

If the battery charge is below 9.6 volts, errors can be expected in the data set. Although this was checked for in the data set, it is unlikely that a low battery charge ever occurred because at every data transfer in the field this value was checked.

Errors also can be expected in the data set when the CR 10 module temperature exceeds 50 °C. This was checked for in the data set but, despite the warm and dry conditions during the summer of 1994, it is unlikely that the CR10 ever got too warm because it was placed in a shady understory location.

10.2 Quality Assessment

10.2.1 Data Validation by Source
All anticipated errors were checked and removed.

10.2.2 Confidence Level/Accuracy Judgment
The TE-09 team is confident that the values are correct.

10.2.3 Measurement Error for Parameters
Not available.
10.2.4 Additional Quality Assessments
None.

10.2.5 Data Verification by Data Center
Data were examined for general consistency and clarity.

11. Notes

11.1 Limitations of the Data
Note that the SLA samples corresponding to the YJP stand in IFC-1 (29-May-1994) were misplaced, ground, or lost. In order to compensate for these lost SLA data, the SLA data from the photosynthesis data (27-May, group TE-9B) were substituted. These SLA data represent the same sampling levels, but only four repetitions were available for this set. Photosynthesis was measured on three branches at each canopy level for five YJP trees. An average SLA (based on three branches for each canopy level) was used.

11.2 Known Problems with the Data
Not available.

11.3 Usage Guidance
Not available.

11.4 Other Relevant Information
None.

12. Application of the Data Set
These data are useful for modeling photosynthesis at different levels in the canopy.

13. Future Modifications and Plans
None given.

14. Software

14.1 Software Description
Microsoft Excel 5.0.

14.2 Software Access
Contact Microsoft.
15. Data Access

The NSA PAR and leaf nitrogen data are available from the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

15.1 Contact Information

For BOREAS data and documentation please contact:

ORNL DAAC User Services
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box 2008 MS-6407
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6407
Phone: (423) 241-3952
Fax: (423) 574-4665
E-mail: ornldaac@ornl.gov or ornl@eos.nasa.gov

15.2 Data Center Identification

Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) for Biogeochemical Dynamics

15.3 Procedures for Obtaining Data

Users may obtain data directly through the ORNL DAAC online search and order system [http://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/] and the anonymous FTP site [ftp://www-eosdis.ornl.gov/data/] or by contacting User Services by electronic mail, telephone, fax, letter, or personal visit using the contact information in Section 15.1.

15.4 Data Center Status/Plans

The ORNL DAAC is the primary source for BOREAS field measurement, image, GIS, and hardcopy data products. The BOREAS CD-ROM and data referenced or listed in inventories on the CD-ROM are available from the ORNL DAAC.

16. Output Products and Availability

16.1 Tape Products
None.

16.2 Film Products
None.

16.3 Other Products
These data are available on the BOREAS CD-ROM series.
17. References

17.1 Platform/Sensor/Instrument/Data Processing Documentation

Decagon Devices, Inc. 1995. AgVision monochrome system, root and leaf analysis, operator’s manual. Pullman, WA.


17.2 Journal Articles and Study Reports


17.3 Archive/DBMS Usage Documentation
None.
18. Glossary of Terms

None.

19. List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASCII</td>
<td>American Standard Code for Information Interchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOREAS</td>
<td>BOReal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORIS</td>
<td>BOREAS Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-ROM</td>
<td>Compact Disk-Read-Only Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGR</td>
<td>Certified by Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFI</td>
<td>Checked by Principal Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAAC</td>
<td>Distributed Active Archive Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOS</td>
<td>Earth Observing System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSDIS</td>
<td>EOS Data and Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPAR</td>
<td>Fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMT</td>
<td>Greenwich Mean Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSFC</td>
<td>Goddard Space Flight Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HASL</td>
<td>Half the Area of the Surface of the Leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>Hyper-Text Markup Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYD</td>
<td>Hydrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>Intensive Field Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>nitrogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAD83</td>
<td>North American Datum of 1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA</td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net PS</td>
<td>Net Photosynthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTIST</td>
<td>National Institute of Standards and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA</td>
<td>Northern Study Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OA</td>
<td>Old Aspen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBS</td>
<td>Old Black Spruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJP</td>
<td>Old Jack Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORNL</td>
<td>Oak Ridge National Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANP</td>
<td>Prince Albert National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>Photosynthetically Active Radiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRE</td>
<td>Preliminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ps</td>
<td>Photosynthesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLA</td>
<td>Specific Leaf Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA</td>
<td>Southern Study Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TE</td>
<td>Terrestrial Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBS</td>
<td>Upland Black Spruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td>Uniform Resource Locator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTM</td>
<td>Universal Transverse Mercator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YA</td>
<td>Young Aspen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YJP</td>
<td>Young Jack Pine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20. Document Information

20.1 Document Revision Dates
Written: 26-Aug-1996
Last Updated: 20-Apr-1999

20.2 Document Review Dates
BORIS Review: 21-Apr-1997
Science Review: 05-Nov-1997

20.3 Document ID

20.4 Citation
When using these data, please contact Hank Margolis or Marie Coyea (see Section 2.3) as well as citations of relevant papers in Section 17.2.

If using data from the BOREAS CD-ROM series, also reference the data as:


Also, cite the BOREAS CD-ROM set as:


20.5 Document Curator

20.6 Document URL
REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Technical Report Series on the Boreal Ecosystem-Atmosphere Study (BOREAS)
BOREAS TE-9 PAR and Leaf Nitrogen Data for NSA Species

Qinglai Dang, Hank Margolis, and Marie Coyea
Forrest G. Hall and Shelaine Curd, Editors

Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Technical Memorandum
October 2000

The BOREAS TE-9 team collected several data sets related to chemical and photosynthetic properties of leaves in boreal forest tree species. This data set describes the relationship between PAR levels and foliage nitrogen in samples from six sites in the BOREAS NSA collected during the three 1994 IFCs. This information is useful for modeling the vertical distribution of carbon fixation for these different forest types in the boreal forest. The data were collected to quantify the relationship between PAR and leaf nitrogen of black spruce, jack pine, and aspen. The data are available in tabular ASCII files.

BOREAS, terrestrial ecology, foliage nitrogen.