

## New Phytologist Supporting Information

**Title:** Strong scale-dependent relationships between fine-root function and soil properties uncovered with spatially-coupled sampling

**Authors:** Caroline Dallstream, Lola Milder, Jennifer S Powers, Fiona M Soper

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**Table S1.** Soil texture and phosphorus fraction means  $\pm$  SD for each study site (n = 5) in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Here, Pi represents inorganic phosphorus fraction and Po represent organic fractions. See Fig. **S1** for stacked bar chart of Hedley phosphorus fractions.

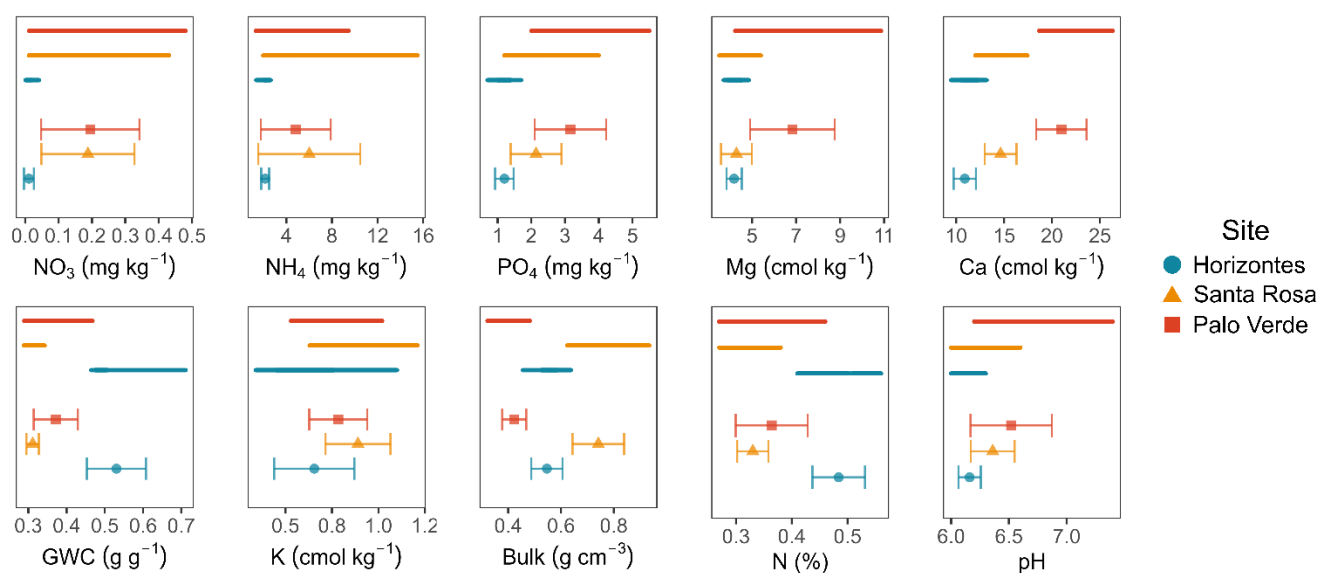
Soil Variable	Horizontes	Santa Rosa	Palo Verde
Sand (%)	52.8 $\pm$ 1.1	36.5 $\pm$ 4.0	36.4 $\pm$ 7.9
Silt (%)	32.8 $\pm$ 1.8	31.7 $\pm$ 1.4	28.6 $\pm$ 1.8
Clay (%)	14.4 $\pm$ 0.9	31.8 $\pm$ 3.7	35.0 $\pm$ 6.6
Pi NaHCO <sub>3</sub> (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	14.0 $\pm$ 2.3	10.5 $\pm$ 2.1	14.4 $\pm$ 2.8
Po NaHCO <sub>3</sub> (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	28.2 $\pm$ 3.2	12.4 $\pm$ 3.0	10.7 $\pm$ 1.9
Pi NaOH (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	61.6 $\pm$ 7.5	15.6 $\pm$ 1.4	12.2 $\pm$ 2.4
Po NaOH (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	272.2 $\pm$ 22.3	123.6 $\pm$ 15.5	119.2 $\pm$ 13.3
Pi HCl (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	7.5 $\pm$ 2.2	12.1 $\pm$ 2.5	5.2 $\pm$ 1.4
P residual (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	108.0 $\pm$ 8.9	73.2 $\pm$ 12.5	71.8 $\pm$ 6.3
P fractions sum (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	489.8 $\pm$ 41.3	247.4 $\pm$ 34.0	231.6 $\pm$ 16.7

**Table S2.** Significant root-root linear models for *Handroanthus ochraceus*. Each response trait was tested against all other root traits and tree DBH, and significance level was determined with ANOVA and Bonferroni-corrected p-values for multiple comparisons (significance p-value < 0.00625). Response variables were Box-Cox transformed (using lambda) to normalize residuals. For each model, the lambda,  $R^2$  value, p-value and degrees of freedom (DF) are listed, and the estimate and standard error of explanatory variables are listed.

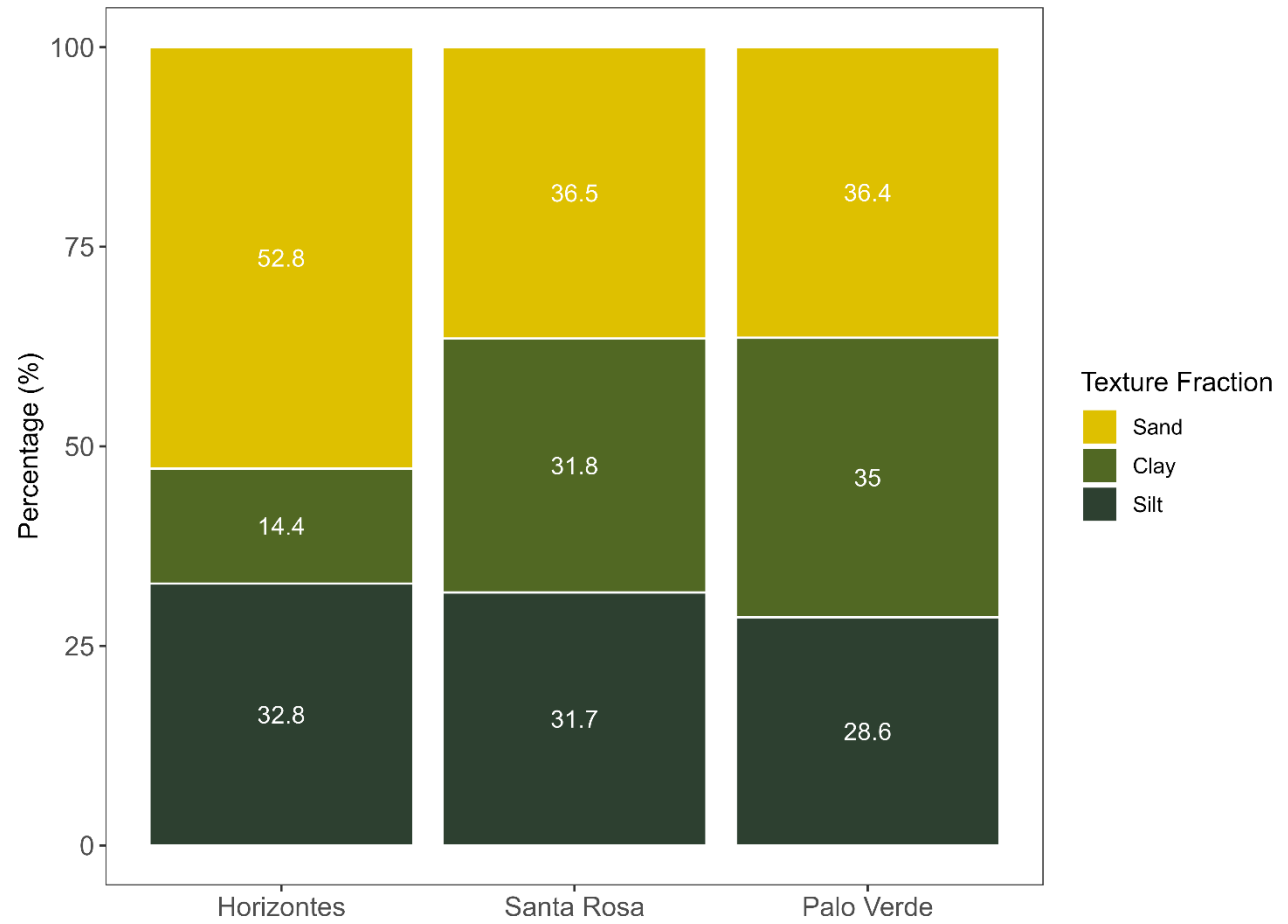
Response Trait (Box-Cox)	Explanatory Root Variables	Box-Cox Lambda	$R^2$	p-value	DF	Estimate	SE
Diameter	Specific Root Length	-1.31	0.95	<0.001	2	-0.07	0.002
	+ Root Tissue Density					-3.94	0.21
Respiration Rate	Specific Root Length	0.14	0.59	<0.001	1	0.05	0.004
Root Branching Intensity	Root Tissue Density	-0.34	0.18	<0.001	1	2.30	0.52
Phosphomonoesterase Activity	Mycorrhizal Colonization	0.02	0.17	<0.001	1	0.02	0.005
Mycorrhizal Colonization	Root N Concentration	0.59	0.16	<0.001	1	4.46	1.1
Root N Concentration	Mycorrhizal Colonization	-0.06	0.16	< 0.001	1	0.003	0.0008

**Table S3.** Significant root-soil linear models for *H. ochraceus*. Each response trait was tested against all other soil variables and tree DBH, and significance level was determined with ANOVA and Bonferroni-corrected p-values for multiple comparisons (significance p-value < 0.005). Response variables were Box-Cox transformed (using lambda) to normalize residuals. For each model, the lambda,  $R^2$  value, p-value and degrees of freedom (DF) are listed, and estimate and standard error of explanatory variables are listed.

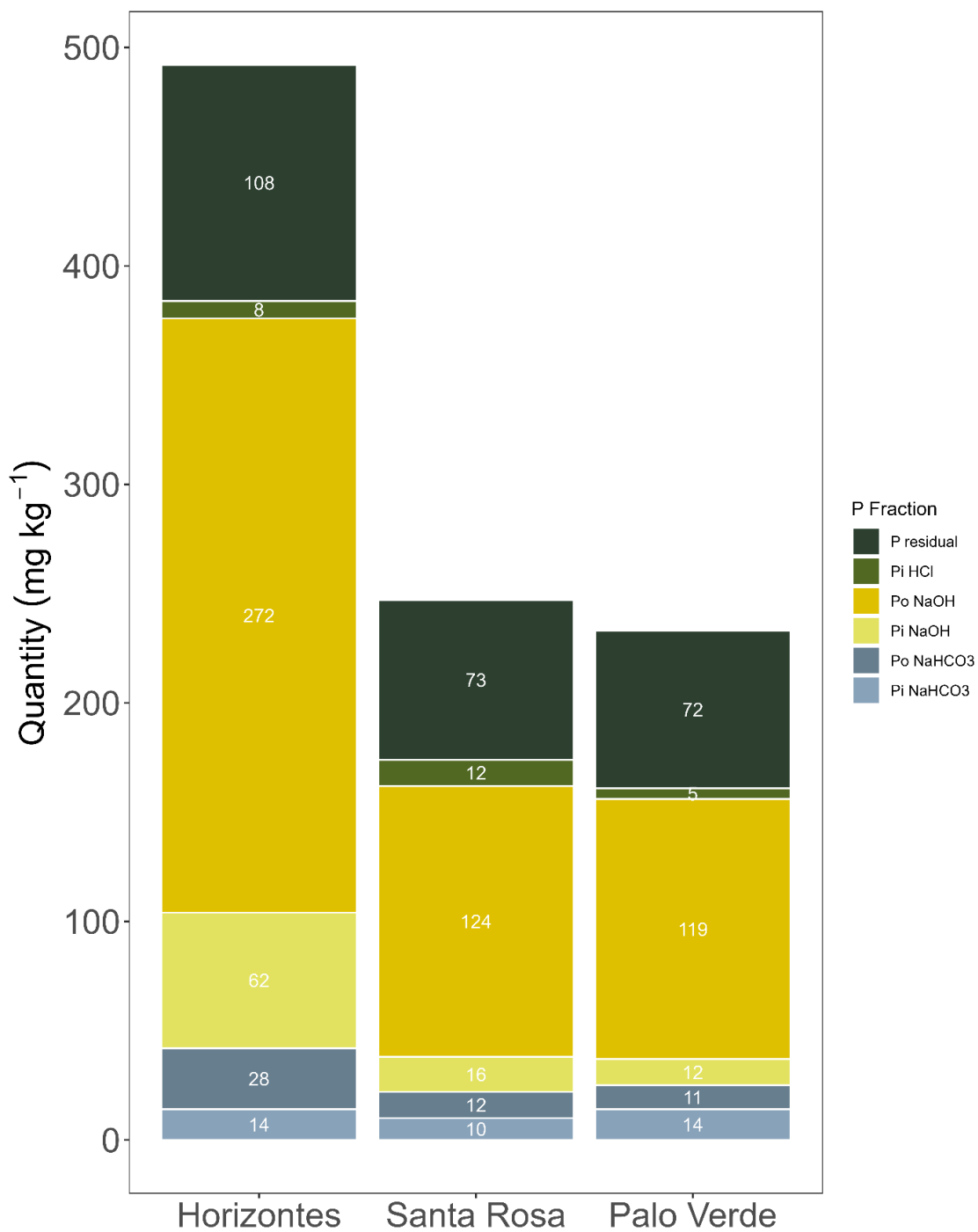
Response Trait (Box-Cox)	Explanatory Soil Variable	Lambda	$R^2$	p-value	DF	Estimate	SE
Phosphomonoesterase Activity	Bulk Density	-0.22	0.51	<0.001	1	-2.16	0.40
Mycorrhizal Colonization	Magnesium	0.79	0.48	<0.001	1	3.41	0.66
Root Nitrogen Concentration	Calcium	-0.14	0.29	<0.001	1	0.02	0.005



**Figure S1.** Raw soil data ranges for sites in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Each line represents the range of values observed within each site (n = 3) for soils collected around trees (n = 10). Colored shapes at the bottom represent mean values ( $\pm$  SD) for each site. Plots are arranged from left to right, top to bottom by descending order of coefficients of variation. Bulk – bulk density, Ca – soil calcium cations, GWC – soil gravimetric water content, K – soil potassium cations, Mg – soil magnesium cations, N% – soil total N, NH<sub>4</sub> – soil ammonium-N, NO<sub>3</sub> – soil nitrate-N, PO<sub>4</sub> – soil orthophosphate-P.



**Figure S2.** Mean soil texture fractions for each site in Guanacaste, Costa Rica (N = 15).



**Figure S3.** Mean Hedley phosphorus (P) fractions for soil samples pooled between the two nearest trees in each site (N = 15) in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Pi = inorganic P, Po = organic P