

Ecological gradients of forest vegetation in eastern Fennoscandia

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■ Aims:

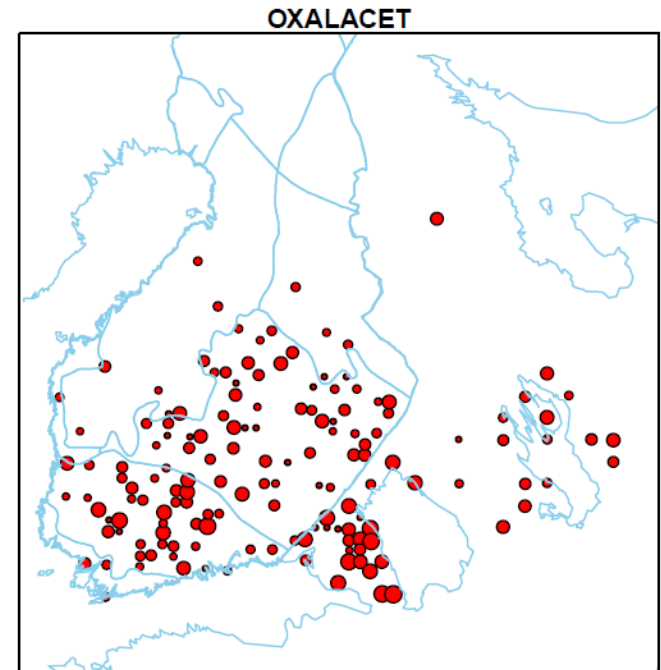
- To study the structure of understorey vegetation in relation to climatic factors, soil fertility and stand structure
 - Ordination analyses and GIS techniques
- To compare the zonal pattern of forest vegetation between Finland and Russian Karelia
- To explore for indicator species for climate change

■ Material (mineral soil plots)

- Finland 417 plots (BioSoil 2006-2007)
- Russian Karelia 132 plots (2008-2009)

Hypothesis

Oxalis acetosella



- Plant species showing a clear correlation in their distribution with climatic factors may serve as indicator species of climate change in boreal (and temperate) forests. Example: Wood sorrell (*Oxalis acetocella*)

The plant species richness and examples of soil variables

No. of Vascular Plant Species

