

1 **Influence of clear-cutting, strip-cutting, and logging to construct strip roads on necrophagous**
2 **silphid and dung beetle assemblages in a conifer plantation**

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4 **AKIRA UEDA^{1,2*}, HIROKI ITÔ², SEIICHI KANETANI¹**

5 ¹Kyushu Research Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), Kurokami 4-11-
6 16, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-0862, Japan

7 ²Hokkaido Research Center, FFPRI, Hitsujigaoka 7, Toyohira-ku, Sapporo 062-8516, Japan

8 **Author for correspondence (e-mail: akira@ffpri.affrc.go.jp; fax: +81-96-344-5054)*

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10

11 **Abstract**

12 To mitigate the impact of clear-cutting, strip-cutting has been prescribed in Japan. When harvesting
13 trees, logging to construct strip roads is often conducted in adjacent forests. To evaluate the impacts of
14 these logging practices, we collected necrophagous silphid and dung beetles in conifer plantation stands
15 that were connected and partly harvested by strip-cuttings and clear-cuttings, with the construction of
16 strip roads a few months before trapping. The abundances of two of the five species abundant in the
17 uncut forests and the total beetle biomass (dry weight) were higher at the centers of 40-m-wide strip-
18 cuts than near edges and/or at the centers of clear-cuts (≥ 60 -m-wide). The beetle assemblages differed
19 between the uncut forests and the uncut strips (unharvested areas of strip-cuttings). However, the
20 abundances of four species abundant in the uncut forests and the biomass were higher in the uncut strips
21 than the strip-cuts. Therefore, we concluded that strip-cutting is a better harvesting method than clear-
22 cutting because strip-cutting mitigated the impact on the beetle assemblages in forests and the ecosystem
23 service estimated from biomass, and the uncut strips retained the beetle assemblages and ecosystem
24 services observed in the uncut forests. The abundances of four species abundant in the uncut forests and
25 the biomass were lower beside the ~ 2.5 -m-wide strip roads than in the uncut forests but were higher
26 than in the strip-cuts, indicating that logging to construct strip roads negatively affected to the forest
27 species and the services, but the negative effect was lower than that of 40-m-wide logging.

28

29 Keywords: biomass, carrion-baited pitfall trap, coprophagous group of Scarabaeoidea, harvesting
30 method, Silphidae, uncut strip

31

32 **Introduction**

33 In Japan, conifer plantations that were primarily established from the 1960s to the 1980s have
34 matured and become ready for harvesting. As such, the amount of domestic wood production has
35 increased since 2002 (Forestry Agency of Japan 2018). In areas with tree felling, standard large-scale
36 clear-cuttings may have substantial negative impacts on forest ecosystems by causing excess
37 sedimentation, deterioration of water quality and quantity, and degradation of biodiversity (e.g., Nakano

38 1971; Aiura et al. 1996; Pawson et al. 2006). To mitigate the impacts of logging and to maintain multi-
39 aged forest stands, strip-cutting (i.e., a series of narrow clear-cuttings between 20 and 40 m in width)
40 has been introduced in many conifer plantations, especially those that are nationally owned (Kinki-
41 Chugoku Forest Management Bureau 2017). In these forests, the area of strip-cutting increased twofold
42 during the past ten years (2005–2015) and reached one-third of the total logging area harvested (Forestry
43 Agency of Japan 2019).

44 In associated studies of biodiversity, Ito et al. (2006) compared understory vegetation in the harvested
45 area between strip-cuttings and clear-cuttings and suggested that strip-cutting may be more effective
46 than clear-cutting in conserving plant species associated with natural forests. Some studies have been
47 conducted to clarify the assemblages of carabid beetles, ants, collembolans, ground surface-wandering
48 spiders, phalangiid harvestmen, and snails in strip-cutting areas (Jennings et al. 1984, 1986a, b, 1988;
49 Moore et al. 2002, 2004). However, since these studies did not compare the assemblages directly using
50 data collected in areas harvested with strip-cutting and clear-cutting, we cannot evaluate the effects of
51 strip-cutting compared with those of clear-cutting on the mitigation of logging impacts.

52 Strip-cutting leaves narrow unharvested areas (uncut strips). If the biodiversity in uncut strips largely
53 deteriorates compared to that in uncut forests, the advantages of strip-cutting must be de-emphasized.
54 The species richness and abundances of carabid beetles in uncut strips were found to be higher than
55 those in uncut forests, and carabid beetle species that were abundant in uncut forests were also abundant
56 in uncut strips (Jennings et al. 1986a). Conversely, the species richness and abundances of ants in uncut
57 strips were lower than those in uncut forests, and some ant species that were abundant in uncut forests
58 were rare in uncut strips (Jennings et al. 1986b). The species richness and abundances of phalangiid
59 harvestmen and ground surface-wandering spiders in uncut strips did not differ from those in uncut
60 forests (Jennings et al. 1984, 1988).

61 When harvesting trees, logging is often carried out to construct strip roads ~2.5 m wide when stands
62 are prepared for clear-cutting. This process allows entry of the forestry machinery used for harvesting
63 and transportation. Such road construction will create long and narrow continuous canopy gaps (Sakai
64 et al. 2002) and may affect forest biodiversity. It is known that the construction of strip roads enhances

65 planted tree growth rates on roadsides because of improved access to light (Bembenek et al. 2013).
66 Another study showed that enhanced damage by weevils on stumps on strip roads may also be associated
67 with microclimatic factors, such as stump insolation, temperature, and humidity (Korczynski et al. 2007).
68 Kotani and Ogura (2014) showed that the diversity of understory vegetation along strip roads peaked
69 three years after construction. Some studies have clearly shown the influence of relatively wide roads
70 (~3 m) on the diversity of insects. Hosaka et al. (2014a, b) showed that 4–5-m-wide temporary skid
71 trails allowing entry of forestry machinery reduced the abundance, species richness, and biomass of
72 dung beetles in selectively cut tropical rainforests. In contrast, Koivula (2005) found that the species
73 richness of carabid beetles was higher on forest roadsides (3–7 m wide) than in adjacent forests. It is
74 also known that some insects use roads as corridors connecting habitats (Munguira and Thomas 1992;
75 Vermaulen 1994).

76 Necrophagous silphid beetles (Silphidae) are highly sensitive to variations in forest habitat quality
77 factors such as the species, age, size, and density of the trees as well as the area and location of the forest
78 (e.g., Katakura et al. 1986; Trumbo and Bloch 2000). Ito (1994) and Suzuki (2005) showed that silphid
79 beetles are a useful indicator of forest habitat quality. Dung beetles (a coprophagous group of
80 Scarabaeoidea; e.g., Troidae, Geotrupidae, Scarabaeinae, and Aphodiinae) are known to be important
81 indicators of forest habitat quality and environmental changes due to logging, fire, windthrow, and
82 drought (e.g., Davis et al. 2001; McGeoch et al. 2002). Some studies have indicated that dung beetles
83 that have a habit of being attracted to carrion (necrophagous dung beetles) respond strongly to forest
84 habitat quality in Japan (Ito and Aoki 1983; Shimada 1985; Shimada et al. 1991; Ueda 2016).

85 Necrophagous silphid and dung beetles serve important ecological functions, such as facilitating
86 carcass decomposition and nutrient release, bioturbation, and plant growth enhancement (Barton et al.
87 2013). In addition, these beetles can control necrophagous flies (e.g., Springett 1968; Satou et al. 2000).
88 Gibbs and Stanton (2001) showed that the low abundance of necrophagous silphid beetles increased the
89 abundance of muscoid flies. Moreover, Amézqutta and Favila (2011) showed that a low biomass of
90 necrophagous dung beetles led to a reduced carrion removal rate. Thus, a higher abundance and biomass
91 of these beetles may indicate more robust ecological functions.

92 The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of logging practices, including logging for clear-
93 cutting, strip-cutting, and to construct strip roads, on necrophagous silphid and dung beetle assemblages
94 in a conifer plantation forest. 1) We evaluated the beetle assemblages in the harvested area of strip-
95 cuttings (strip-cut) and compared beetle assemblages between strip-cuts and clear-cuts. 2) We evaluated
96 the beetle assemblages in the unharvested area of strip-cuttings (uncut strip) and compared the beetle
97 assemblages between uncut strips and uncut forests or strip-cuts. From the results of 1) and 2), we
98 evaluated the impact of logging on the beetle assemblages in strip-cuttings. To evaluate the impacts of
99 logging to construct strip roads, we compared the beetle assemblages between strip roads and uncut
100 forests or 40-m-wide strip-cuts. From the results, we evaluated the influences of logging to construct
101 strip roads on the beetle assemblages.

102

103 **Materials and Methods**

104 **Study site:** This study was conducted in a 60- to 70-year-old mixed Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria*
105 *japonica*) and Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) plantation forest in the national forest at Kigo,
106 Kikuchi city, Kumamoto Prefecture (33°02'07"N, 130°56'01"E, 625 m asl–33°02'23"N, 130°56'24"E,
107 692 m asl). This forest consisted of 15 small stands connected to each other and mainly included planted
108 conifers but contained naturally growing broad-leaved trees. This forest also contained five old-growth
109 Japanese cedars with diameters at breast height (DBHs) of more than 99 cm. This forest faces southeast
110 and is nearly rectangular (ca. 100 x 760 m) (Fig. 1). Its short sides are from valley to ridge. We set an
111 800-m-long trapping transect starting from 20 m inside of an adjacent 18-year-old Japanese cypress
112 forest stand and extending 20 m into an adjacent broad-leaved secondary natural forest stand in 2012,
113 before logging operations took place. The transect ran through the center of the short sides of the conifer
114 plantation forest. In January and February 2013, logging operations occurred in the forest. Before
115 logging for harvest, several ~2.5-m-wide strip roads were constructed by logging (Fig. 1). After that,
116 logging for harvest took place in 6 areas with 40-120-m-widths. The width of the strip-cuts is double
117 the mean tree height and must be less than 40 m (Kinki-Chugoku Forest Management Bureau 2017).
118 Therefore, we treated four 40-m-wide areas of logging for harvest as strip-cutting and the 60- and 120-

119 m-wide logging areas as clear-cutting (Fig. 1). Just after the logging operations, young Japanese cypress
120 trees were planted in the 40- and 60-m-wide cut areas, and young Japanese cedar trees were planted in
121 the 120-m-wide cut area. Weeding was not performed during the study period. The mean DBH and
122 mean height of the Japanese cedars in the 120-m-wide clear-cut area (1.2 ha) that were measured in
123 August 2012 before cutting were 23.8 cm (range: 6.9–124.8 cm) and 16.9 m (9.0–33.3 m) (n = 1038),
124 and those of the Japanese cypress were 23.4 cm (5.1–63.6 cm) and 17.5 m (9.9–26.5 m) (n = 408),
125 respectively (Dr. Makoto Araki, FFPRI, unpubl. data). All five of the old-growth Japanese cedars were
126 distributed in the 120-m-wide clear-cut area and harvested.

127 **Trap:** Pitfall traps baited with fish meat were used to collect beetles (Ueda 2015). At each trap site, a
128 20-cm-long grey vinyl chloride pipe (inner diameter: 94 mm; outer diameter: 114 mm) was driven into
129 the ground until the opening was level with the ground surface. A plastic cup (95 mm in open diameter
130 and 170 mm high) with four 2-mm-diameter holes for drainage on the sides (50 mm from the top) was
131 used as the trap and inserted into the pipe. The trap contained 100 ml propylene glycol mixed with red
132 pepper powder to kill and preserve the beetles collected and to repel animals. The cup also contained a
133 small plastic cup fixed with steel wire on its upper lip (Ueda 2015). Another small plastic cup contained
134 15 g mackerel meat (*Scomber* spp.) and had a perforated lid (having 25 holes, each 1 mm in diameter);
135 this cup was inserted into the suspended cup to attract beetles after 4 days of storage at 25°C to allow
136 the fish meat to rot. To prevent rain water and animals from disturbing the traps, a concrete block (390
137 x 190 mm, 120 mm high, 11.3 kg) was laid over the trap and a steel rack (405 x 250 mm, 30 mm high)
138 was inserted between the trap and the block so that the beetles were able to enter the trap through the
139 spaces in the steel rack (Ueda et al. 2016; Ueda 2020).

140 **Field trapping:** We set up 41 trapping sites at 20-m intervals along the trapping transect in April 2012
141 (before logging operations) and buried the pipe in the ground at each site. Baited pitfall traps need to be
142 set more than 50 m from one another to limit trap interference because baited pitfall traps can attract
143 some dung beetles from as far as 50 m away (Larsen and Forsyth 2005). However, we had to set traps
144 with a distance of 20 m between them to compare the effect of distances from forest edges on the beetle
145 assemblages between 40-m-wide strip-cuttings and wider clear-cuttings. To solve this problem, we

146 elongated the trapping transect into adjacent stands and set 2 “adjustment” traps on both ends of the
147 trapping transect (Fig. 1). The “adjustment” traps were set to make their conditions (i.e., trap
148 interference) equal to the conditions for the traps from which data were analyzed; that is, there were four
149 traps equally spaced within a range of 50 m (Fig. 1). Logging operations were mostly performed as
150 planned, although the second uncut strip area on the left in Fig. 1 was irregularly over-logged. Thus,
151 data from trap nos. 7 and 8 in the over-logged area were not used in the analyses (Fig. 1).

152 Trapping sites were categorized along with logging operations (Fig. 1). Four uncut forest (UF) sites
153 were in a large uncut area (> 180 m width) and were located at least 20 m inside the edge of the cut area
154 and 20 m away from the strip road (trap nos. 27 and 28) or without strip roads nearby (trap nos. 36 and
155 37). Four uncut strip (US) sites were located in the 20- or 40-m-wide strips of uncut areas and 20 m
156 inside the strip-cut areas. Trap no. 27 was 20 m from the strip road, while the other US traps were 30 m
157 from the strip road. Six strip road (SR) sites were on the side of the strip road in the uncut forest. Ten
158 forest edge (FE) sites were located on the borders of the uncut and cut areas. Four strip-cut (SC) sites
159 were located in the centers of 40-m-wide strip-cuts. Four sites were located near the forest in clear-cuts
160 (CCNF) and were 20 m into the clear-cuts from the forest edge. Three sites were located in the center
161 of the clear-cut (CCCT) and were more than 40 m away from the forest edges on both the right and left
162 sides of the 120-m-wide clear-cut.

163 We inserted the baited trap into the pipe on 17 April 2013 and collected beetles for 14 days. After
164 the 14-day interval, we set the traps again, and collections were made at approximately 14-day intervals
165 (every 13–15 days) up to 14 November 2013. All the captured beetles were dried on absorbent cotton
166 and identified using a binocular microscope (Nikon SMZ 1500). We referred to Kurosawa (1985) and
167 Kawai et al. (2005) for identification. All the beetles were stored at Kyushu Research Center, Forestry
168 and Forest Products Research Institute.

169 **Biomass of the collected beetles:** As it is known that the biomass of dung beetles can be a good indicator
170 of their ecological functions, such as carrion or dung removal and seed burial (Davis 1996; Larsen et al.
171 2005; Horgan 2005; Amézquita and Favila 2011; Slade et al. 2011), we evaluated the total biomass of
172 the collected beetles. To obtain the total biomass at each site, beetles of each species were dried for six

173 days at 70°C and for four additional days at 80°C. Almost all the specimens (i.e., the unbroken
174 specimens) were weighed for species with < 50 individuals. We randomly selected and weighed 40 to
175 140 specimens for species with > 50 individuals. Total biomass was estimated as the product of the total
176 number of individuals collected and the mean individual weight for each species.

177 **Environmental conditions:** To identify the environmental conditions at the trapping sites, we measured
178 several environmental variables. To investigate the sizes, densities, and basal areas of the trees at the
179 trapping sites, we made 10-m square plots, each of which was centered on a trap. We measured the DBH
180 of all the trunks with DBHs above 30 mm and identified the tree species on 18 and 19 July and 3 and 9
181 August 2012 before logging operations. We calculated the basal areas of the trees at breast height (BA)
182 from the measured DBH values. If a tree had several trunks, we calculated the BA of the tree by
183 accumulating the BA of all measured trunks of the tree. On 10 and 11 October 2013, we checked logged,
184 dead, or naturally fallen trunks and measured trunks that had reached the 30-mm DBH class. Data for
185 these trunks were deleted from or added to the data for 2012. We also determined the degree of ground
186 vegetation cover for each trapping site on 26 August 2013. The degrees of ground vegetation cover were
187 categorized as follows: 0, no vegetation; 0.5, vegetation coverage less than 1%; 1, from 1 to 10%; 2,
188 from 10 to 25%; 3, from 25 to 50%; 4, from 50 to 75%; and 5, more than 75% (Braun-Blanquet 1964).
189 To obtain canopy openness at the trapping sites, we took hemispherical photographs at a height of 120
190 cm right over the traps using a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 4500) with a fisheye lens (Nikon FC-E8)
191 on 26 August 2013. We calculated the canopy openness from the hemispherical photographs using
192 LIA32 software ver. 0.378 (Yamamoto 2008).

193 **Data analysis:** Nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMS) was used to ordinate species composition
194 at each site and analyze the similarities among the site categories. Sorensen distance was used for the
195 analysis. Multivariate response permutation procedures (MRPPs) were applied to evaluate the effects of
196 the categories on species composition. In this analysis, when the chance-corrected within-group
197 agreement (A) was unity, all the assemblages in the respective groups were identical; if A was larger
198 than 0.3, the identical level was fairly high, and the grouping was sufficiently reliable (McCune and
199 Grace 2002).

200 To evaluate the beetle assemblages in the harvested areas of strip-cuttings, the beetle assemblages
201 (i.e., species richness, total abundance, Simpson's diversity index ($1/D$), total biomass, and abundances
202 of dominant species (species with > 100 individuals collected throughout this study)) in the strip-cuts
203 were compared to those near the forest in the clear-cuts and those in the centers of the clear-cuts. A
204 linear mixed model (LMM) was used to analyze Simpson's diversity index and total biomass. A
205 generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) was used for the other variables with negative binomial error
206 structures linked with logarithmic functions. The cut site numbers (Fig. 1) were used as a random effect
207 in both models. To evaluate the beetle assemblages in the unharvested areas of the strip-cuttings, the
208 beetle assemblages in the uncut strips were compared to those in the uncut forests and strip-cuts. To
209 evaluate the impacts of logging to construct strip roads, the beetle assemblages beside the strip roads
210 were compared to those in the uncut forests and the strip-cuts produced by 40-m-wide cuttings. A linear
211 model (LM) was used to analyze Simpson's diversity index and total biomass. A generalized linear
212 model (GLM) with negative binomial error structures linked with logarithmic functions was used to
213 analyze the other variables.

214 PC-ORD ver. 6.07 (MJM Software Design 2011) was used for the NMS and MRPP analyses. For the
215 LMM, the lmer function in the lme4 package (Bates et al. 2015) and the lmerTest package (Kuznetsova
216 et al. 2017) for R 4.1.1 (R Core Team 2021) were used. For the GLMM and GLM, the glmer.nb function
217 in the lme4 package and the glm.nb function in the MASS package (Venables and Ripley 2002) for R
218 4.1.1 (R Core Team 2021) were used, respectively. For the LM, the built-in lm function in R 4.1.1 (R
219 Core Team 2021) was used.

220

221 **Results**

222 **Environmental conditions:** The density, total BA, mean BA, and maximum BA of the trees and the
223 mean BA of the planted conifers were not largely different among the uncut forest, uncut strip, strip
224 road, and forest edge sites, except for the high tree density at the uncut forest sites (Table 1). The degrees
225 of ground vegetation cover did not differ greatly, including at the harvested sites (i.e., the strip-cut sites,
226 sites located near the forest in clear-cuts, and sites in the center of the clear-cut), except for the low

227 degree at the uncut forest sites (Table 1). Canopy openness increased with an increasing area of logging
228 around a trap (Fig. 2).

229

230 **Necrophagous silphid and dung beetle assemblages:** A total of 11,232 individuals belonging to 17
231 species were collected in this study (Table 2). The NMS of necrophagous silphid and dung beetle
232 assemblages resulted in a two-dimensional solution from the analysis using 6 axes and 10 runs, and the
233 value of final stress (= 7.3%) from the analysis using 2 axes and 1 run indicated that the result was
234 sufficiently reliable (generally a final stress value of 5–10% represents a good ordination with no risk
235 of drawing false inferences (Clarke 1993)). The coordinates in each site category were grouped, and the
236 groups were well separated from each other (Fig. 3). The MRPP results ($A = 0.334$, $P = 0.000$) indicated
237 that categorization was sufficiently reliable; the compositions of beetle species from different site
238 categories were different from one another. The coordinates of the uncut forest and uncut strip sites (i.e.,
239 the uncut sites) were distributed on the lower right and right sides of the graph, respectively, and those
240 of the strip road, forest edge, and strip-cut sites and the sites located near the forest in clear-cuts and in
241 the centers of the clear-cuts (i.e., the logged sites) were clustered in this order towards the upper left of
242 the graph along with increasing area of logging around the trap (Fig. 3).

243 Species richness tended to decrease with increasing logging area around the trap except for the high
244 species richness at one of the three sites in the centers of the clear-cuts (Fig. 4). Total abundance and
245 total biomass tended to be much higher at the uncut strip sites and relatively higher at the uncut forest
246 sites than at the other sites. These values decreased at the logged sites along with an increasing area of
247 logging around the trap. Simpson's diversity index tended to be higher at the uncut forest sites than at
248 the other sites.

249 Among the 8 dominant species, 5 species, *Pheletrupes laevistriatus*, *Nicrophorus quadripunctatus*,
250 *Onthophagus atripennis*, *Panelus parvulus*, and *O. ater* tended to be more abundant at the uncut forest
251 sites than at the harvested sites (i.e., the strip-cut sites, sites located near the forest in clear-cuts and sites
252 in the centers of clear-cuts) (Fig. 5). *Pheletrupes laevistriatus* also tended to be more abundant at the
253 uncut strip sites. *Onthophagus fodiens* tended to be extremely more abundant at the uncut strip sites than

254 the other sites. *Onthophagus nitidus* tended to be more abundant at the strip road sites than at the other
255 sites. *Onthophagus lenzii* was absent at the uncut forest sites and tended to be extremely more abundant
256 at the strip-cut sites than at the other sites.

257 A comparison between the sites in the strip-cuts and the clear-cuts (sites located near the forest in
258 clear-cuts and in the centers of clear-cuts) showed that total abundance, total biomass, and the
259 abundances of *O. nitidus* and *O. lenzii* were significantly higher at the sites in the strip-cuts than at the
260 sites in the clear-cuts (Table 3). Two of the five species that were abundant in the uncut forests, *N.*
261 *quadripunctatus* and *O. atripennis*, were significantly more abundant at the strip-cut sites than in the
262 centers of the clear-cut sites and sites near forest in clear-cuts, respectively.

263 In the comparison between the uncut strips and the uncut forests or the strip-cuts, the Simpson's
264 index and the abundances of two species abundant in the uncut forests, *N. quadripunctatus* and *P.*
265 *parvulus*, were significantly higher at the sites in the uncut forests than in the uncut strips (Table 4). The
266 total abundance and the abundance of *O. fodiens* were significantly higher at the sites in the uncut strips
267 than at the sites in the uncut forests or the strip-cuts. The total biomass and the abundances of four
268 species abundant in the uncut forests were significantly higher at the sites in the uncut strips than in the
269 strip-cuts. Conversely, the abundances of *O. nitidus* and *O. lenzii* were significantly higher at the sites
270 in the strip-cuts than in the uncut strips.

271 Regarding the logging to construct strip roads, Simpson's index, total biomass, and the abundances
272 of three species abundant in the uncut forests were significantly lower at the strip road sites than at the
273 uncut forest sites but higher than those at the strip-cut sites (Table 5). The abundance of *O. nitidus* was
274 significantly higher at the strip road sites than at the uncut forest sites or the strip-cut sites.

275

276 Discussion

277 **Mitigation of logging impacts by strip-cutting:** The comparison among three logging operation
278 categories in areas cut for harvest (strip-cuts, sites located near the forest in clear-cuts, and sites in the
279 centers of clear-cuts) in our study allowed us to evaluate whether the width of cuttings affects
280 necrophagous silphid and dung beetle assemblages. The similarity of the beetle species compositions in

281 the cut areas to those in the uncut forest sites followed the order of the categories shown above,
282 indicating that the strip-cuts slightly maintained a beetle species composition similar to that in the uncut
283 forests to a greater extent than the clear-cuts, and the species composition of sites at the centers of the
284 clear-cut areas was more degraded than that of sites in clear-cuts near the forest edges. Strip-cut areas
285 were used by two species abundant in the uncut forests more frequently than areas near forest edges or
286 the centers of clear-cut areas, suggesting that strip-cutting was effective in conserving the forest species.
287 The higher biomass in the strip-cuts than in the clear-cuts suggested that the ecosystem service of beetles
288 estimated from the total biomass of beetles was higher in the strip-cuts than in the clear-cuts; this resulted
289 in strip-cutting mitigating the impact of logging on the beetle assemblages in forests and their functions
290 to a greater extent than clear-cutting. This conclusion is consistent with a past study on understory
291 vegetation that suggested that strip-cutting offers advantages over clear-cutting to conserving plant
292 species associated with natural forests (Ito et al. 2006).

293 *Onthophagus lenzii* more frequently used strip-cuts than clear-cuts. This species is known to be
294 most commonly found in open land (Kawai et al. 2005). *Onthophagus lenzii* may prefer open land near
295 forests as its habitat to those far from forests, and strip-cuts might provide more suitable habitats than
296 clear-cuts for nonforest species.

297

298 **Beetle assemblages in uncut strips:** In the comparison between the uncut forest sites and uncut strip
299 sites, the significantly higher abundances of *N. quadripunctatus* and *P. parvulus* in the uncut forest sites
300 than in the uncut strip sites and the extremely high abundance of *O. fodiens* in the uncut strip sites
301 affected the different species composition, total abundance, and diversity index. These results indicated
302 that the neighboring strip-cutting operations degraded the beetle assemblages in the uncut strips. This
303 result was consistent with the findings of Jennings et al. (1986b) but not with those of Jennings et al.
304 (1984, 1986a, 1988), who showed that the total abundance and the abundances of forest species were
305 low in the uncut strips for ants and did not differ for phalangiid harvestmen or surface-wandering spiders,
306 while they were higher in the uncut strips than in the uncut forests for carabid beetles. *Nicrophorus*
307 *quadripunctatus* and *P. parvulus* may prefer closed forests as their habitats, whereas *O. fodiens* may

308 prefer relatively disturbed forests. Indeed, *N. quadripunctatus* and *P. parvulus* are known to be more
309 abundant in closed forests than in young forests and/or open lands (Katakura and Ueno 1985; Katakura
310 et al. 1986; Suzuki 2001; Nagano and Suzuki 2003; Ueda 2020; Ueda and Sato 2020). However, Ueda
311 (2016) showed that *P. parvulus* was an indicator species of young forest. Further study is needed to
312 clarify the habitat preference of *P. parvulus*. Despite the differences mentioned above between the uncut
313 forest sites and uncut strip sites, the abundances of the other species abundant in the uncut forests and
314 total biomass did not significantly differ between these sites (Table 4).

315 The comparison between the uncut strip sites and the strip-cut sites indicated that there were
316 significantly higher abundances of four species that were abundant in the uncut forests and of *O. fodiens*
317 in the uncut strip sites than in the strip-cut sites and high abundance of *O. lenzii* in the strip-cut sites,
318 affecting the species composition, total abundance, and total biomass in those sites. The higher
319 abundances of the species abundant in the uncut forests and the higher biomass in the uncut strips than
320 in the strip-cuts indicated that the uncut strips provided habitats suitable for forest species and
321 maintained the estimated ecosystem services provided by beetles to a greater extent than the strip-cuts.
322 This result was consistent with that of Jennings et al. (1984, 1986a), who showed that for phalangiid
323 harvestmen and carabid beetles, total abundance and the abundances of species abundant in uncut forests
324 were higher in uncut strips than in strip-cuts. However, Jennings et al. (1988) also showed higher
325 abundance and species richness of surface-wandering spiders in strip-cuts than in uncut strips.

326

327 **Influence of logging to construct strip roads:** In the comparison between the uncut forest sites and
328 strip road sites, there were significantly higher abundances of *P. laevistriatus*, *N. quadripunctatus*, *P.*
329 *parvulus* and *O. ater* in the uncut forest sites than in the strip road sites, and the high abundance of *O.*
330 *nitidus* in the strip road sites influenced the species composition, total abundance, diversity index, and
331 total biomass in those sites. However, four species that were abundant in the uncut forest sites were
332 more abundant in the strip road sites than in the strip-cut sites, with logging widths of 40 m. The high
333 abundances of these four species and *O. nitidus* in the strip road sites affected the species composition,
334 total abundance, diversity index, and total biomass in those sites. These results indicated that logging to

335 construct strip roads negatively affected the forest species and the estimated ecosystem service of beetles,
336 but the negative effect was lower for the strip roads than for the 40-m-wide logging areas.

337 Hosaka et al. (2014a, b) showed that the construction of temporary skid trails negatively affected
338 dung beetle diversity in tropical forests in Malaysia. Koivula (2005) found that a dominant forest carabid
339 beetle species was less abundant in the 3–7-m-wide roadside forest than in adjacent forests. These
340 findings are consistent with those of this study. When not limited to forest species, Kotani and Ogura
341 (2014) found that strip road openings increased the diversity of understory vegetation. Koivula (2005)
342 found that the dominant generalists of carabid beetles that prefer open forests were more abundant on
343 roadsides than in adjacent forests, which caused higher species richness on roadsides than in adjacent
344 forests. The finding in this study that the abundance of *O. nitidus* was highest in the strip road sites
345 might have occurred through the same mechanism that allowed generalist carabids to be dominant in
346 Kouivula (2005) because *O. nitidus* is generally collected in all sorts of forest environments but prefers
347 forests with low tree densities or young forests (Shimada et al. 1991; Ueda 2016).

348

349 **Conclusion**

350 We conclude that strip-cutting is a better harvesting method than clear-cutting because of the two
351 following results: 1) strip-cutting mitigates the impact of logging on beetle assemblages in forests and
352 the ecosystem services provided by beetles estimated from biomass to a greater extent than clear-cutting,
353 and 2) the residual uncut strips generally retain beetle assemblages found in forests and maintain the
354 estimated ecosystem services more than logged areas. We also conclude that logging to construct strip
355 roads negatively affected the forest species and their estimated ecosystem services, but the negative
356 effect was lower than that observed in 40-m-wide logging areas. However, since this study was
357 conducted for only one insect group in one forest, more studies are needed to determine the advantages
358 of strip-cutting and the influences of logging to construct strip roads on other insect groups and/or in
359 other forest types.

360

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367

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504

505 Figure legend

506

507 Fig. 1. Aerial photograph of the study site (upper) and the condition of the study site as well as the
508 logging operation categories of the traps along the trapping transect (lower)

509 The photograph was taken on 12 March 2013. The dotted parts of the trapping transect in the photograph
510 indicate where “adjustment traps” were placed. The “adjustment” traps were set to make the trap
511 interferences within a 50-m range identical to those of the traps for which data were analyzed (see ‘data
512 analysis’ in materials and methods). Data from the “adjustment” traps and the traps in the over-logged
513 area were omitted. UF: uncut forest, US: uncut strip, SR: strip road, FE: forest edge, SC: strip-cut,
514 CCNF: near forest in the clear-cut, and CCCT: center of the clear-cut.

515

516 Fig. 2 Canopy openness in each site category obtained from hemispherical photographs (left) and
517 hemispherical photographs at a site in each site category (right)

518 Boxes and thick horizontal lines illustrate the interquartile range (lower limit: 25th percentile; upper
519 limit: 75th percentile) and the median value (50th percentile), respectively. The bottom and top whiskers
520 depict the lowest and highest values. The numbers and percentages above the photographs indicate trap
521 No. in Fig. 1 and canopy openness, respectively. The abbreviations of the site categories are the same
522 as in Fig. 1.

523

524 Fig. 3 NMS ordination of necrophagous silphid and dung beetle assemblages (final stress = 7.3%).

525 Abbreviations of the site categories are the same as in Fig. 1. Parenthesized percentages on the titles of
526 the axes indicate the proportion of the variance represented by each axis, based on the r^2 between the
527 distance in the ordination space and the distance in the original space. The solid line indicates the range
528 of coordinates of each site category.

529

530 Fig. 4 Species richness, total abundance, diversity index, and total biomass in each site category

531 a: species richness (the number of species collected per trap), b: total abundance (the total number of
532 beetles collected per trap), c: diversity index (the value of Simpson's diversity index ($1/D$) for each trap),
533 and d: total biomass (the total dry weight of beetles per trap). The boxes, horizontal lines, and whiskers
534 represent the same information as in Fig. 2. The abbreviations of the site categories are the same as in
535 Fig. 1.

536

537 Fig. 5 Number of beetles collected in each trap in each site category

538 Data are shown for only the beetle species for which we collected >100 individuals throughout this study
539 (i.e., the dominant species). The beetles are categorized as species abundant in the uncut forest sites,
540 species abundant in the uncut strip or strip road sites other sites, and species absent in the uncut forest
541 sites. Next, the beetles are arranged by their total abundances from left to right. The boxes, horizontal
542 lines, and whiskers represent the same information as in Fig. 2. The abbreviations of the site categories
543 are the same as in Fig. 1.

Table 1 Mean \pm SE of tree data and degree of ground vegetation cover for each trap site category

	Uncut forest (UF)	Uncut strip (US)	Strip road (SR)	Forest edge (FE)	Strip-cut (SC)	Near forest in clear-cut (CCNF)	Center of clear-cut (CCCT)
Number of sites	4	4	6	10	4	4	3
Tree density (ha ⁻¹)	1,925 \pm 386	750 \pm 222	767 \pm 263	620 \pm 77	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0
Total of trunk basal area (BA) (m ² ha ⁻¹)	61.7 \pm 4.1	56.3 \pm 17.3	40.6 \pm 6.7	42.8 \pm 7.9	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0
Mean BA of trees (cm ²)	331 \pm 81	812 \pm 126	501 \pm 165	663 \pm 86	-	-	-
Maximum BA of trees (cm ²)	1219 \pm 343	1353 \pm 285	803 \pm 230	1281 \pm 242	-	-	-
Mean BA of planted conifers (cm ²)	521 \pm 118	1140 \pm 354	568 \pm 156	644 \pm 94	-	-	-
Degree of ground vegetation cover	0.8 \pm 0.1	3.0 \pm 0.9	1.7 \pm 0.5	2.9 \pm 0.5	3.3 \pm 0.5	3.7 \pm 1.1	1.7 \pm 1.2

Table 2 Total number of individuals of silphid and dung beetles collected throughout this study

Family and species name	No. captured
Silphidae	
<i>Nicrophorus concolor</i>	79
<i>Nicrophorus maculifrons</i>	14
<i>Nicrophorus quadripunctatus</i>	897
<i>Ptmascopus morio</i>	20
<i>Oiceoptoma nigropunctatum</i>	3
<i>Eusilpha japonica</i>	3
<i>Calosilpha brunneicollis</i>	8
Geotrupidae	
<i>Phelotrupes laevistriatus</i>	1,250
Scrabaeidae	
<i>Panelus parvulus</i>	281
<i>Copris acutidens</i>	1
<i>Liatogus minutus</i>	1
<i>Onthophagus lenzii</i>	110
<i>Onthophagus nitidus</i>	566
<i>Onthophagus atripennis</i>	457
<i>Onthophagus ater</i>	110
<i>Onthophagus fodiens</i>	7,431
<i>Aphodius rectus</i>	1
Total	11,232
Species richness	17

Table 3 Results of the comparison between strip-cutting and clear-cutting

	App- lied distri- bution	Model	Strip-cut (SC) vs.			
			Near forest in clear-cut (CCNF)		Center of clear-cut (CCCT)	
			z (t)	<i>P</i>	z (t)	<i>P</i>
Species richness	nb	GLMM	-0.395	0.693	-0.040	0.968
Total abundance	nb	GLMM	-2.164	0.030	-4.411	< 0.0001
Simpson's diversity index (1/D)	normal	LMM	0.896	0.389	0.660	0.523
Total biomass	normal	LMM	-2.549	0.027	-4.767	0.0006
<i>Phelotrupes laevistriatus</i> (F)	nb	GLMM	0.011	0.991	-0.882	0.378
<i>Nicrophorus quadripunctatus</i> (F)	nb	GLMM	0.216	0.829	-2.513	0.012
<i>Onthophagus atripennis</i> (F)	nb	GLMM	-2.448	0.014	-1.738	0.082
<i>Panelus parvulus</i> (F)	nb	GLMM	-0.215	0.830	-0.778	0.437
<i>Onthophagus ater</i> (F)	nb	GLMM	0.571	0.568	0.201	0.841
<i>Onthophagus fodiens</i> (G)	nb	GLMM	-2.031	0.042	-3.885	0.0001
<i>Onthophagus nitidus</i> (G)	nb	GLMM	1.098	0.272	-0.298	0.766
<i>Onthophagus lenzii</i> (O)	nb	GLMM	-4.486	< 0.0001	-3.245	0.001

nb means negative binomial distribution. The t value was used for normal distribution.

F: species abundant in the uncut forest sites, G: species abundant in the uncut strip or the strip road sites, O: species absent in the uncut forest sites

Table 4 Results of the comparison for the beetle assemblages of the uncut strip sites

	Applied distri- bution	Model	Uncut strip (US) vs.			
			Uncut forest (UF)		Strip-cut (SC)	
			z (t)	P	z (t)	P
Species richness	nb	GLM	-0.11	0.913	-1.283	0.200
Total abundance	nb	GLM	-5.454	<0.0001	-9.131	<0.0001
Simpson's diversity index (1/D)	normal	LM	5.298	0.0005	-0.342	0.740
Total biomass	normal	LM	-2.101	0.065	-6.495	0.0001
<i>Phelotrupes laevistriatus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	-0.507	0.612	-8.878	<0.0001
<i>Nicrophorus quadripunctatus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	2.904	0.004	-2.982	0.003
<i>Onthophagus atripennis</i> (F)	nb	GLM	1.418	0.156	-2.966	0.003
<i>Panelus parvulus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	3.396	0.0007	0.327	0.743
<i>Onthophagus ater</i> (F)	nb	GLM	1.007	0.314	-3.405	0.0007
<i>Onthophagus fodiens</i> (G)	nb	GLM	-4.539	<0.0001	-3.435	0.0006
<i>Onthophagus nitidus</i> (G)	nb	GLM	0.61	0.542	3.396	0.0007
<i>Onthophagus lenzii</i> (O)	nb	GLM	-0.004	0.997	4.912	<0.0001

nb means negative binomial distribution. The t value was used for normal distribution.

F: species abundant in the uncut forest sites, G: species abundant in the uncut strip or the strip road sites, O: species absent in the uncut forest

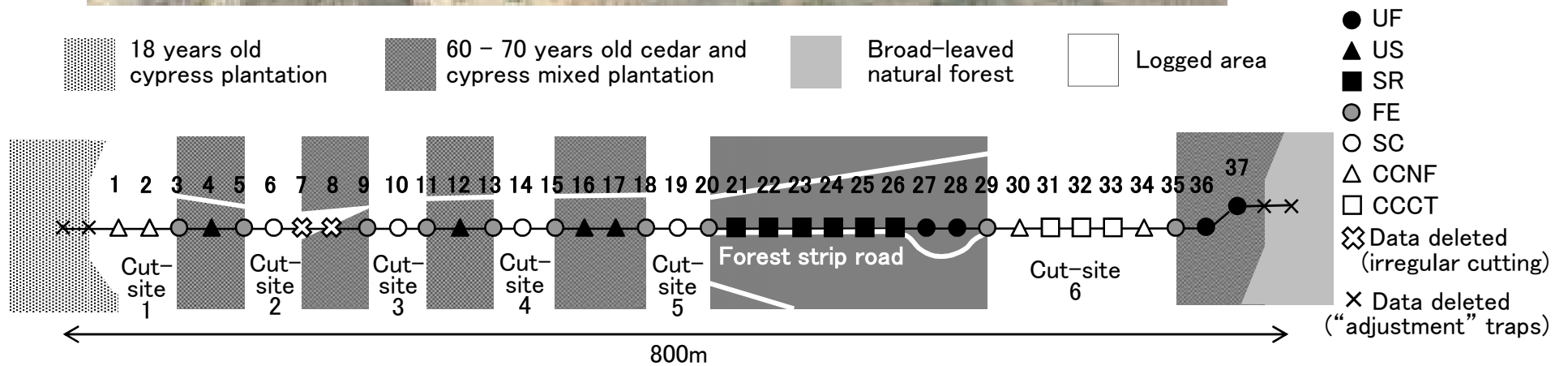
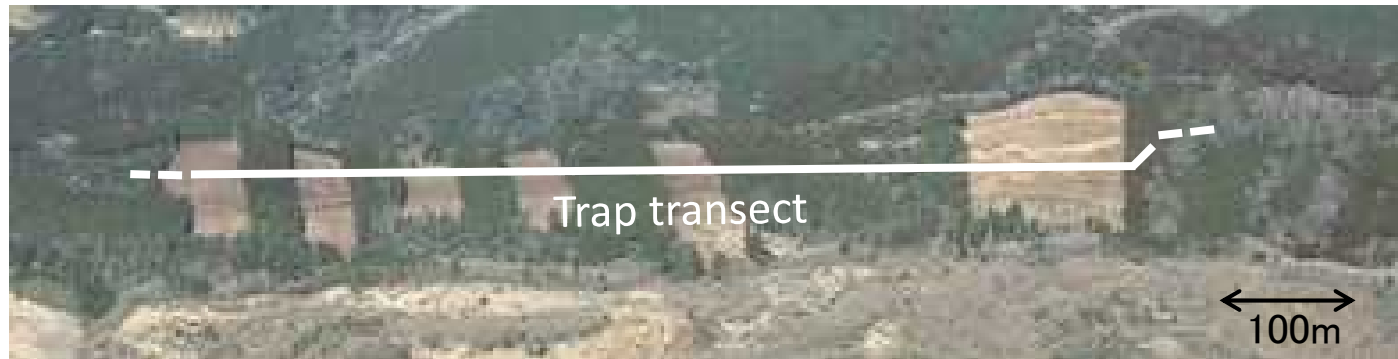
Table 5 Results of the comparison for the beetle assemblages of the strip road sites

	Applied distrib- ution	Model	Strip road (SR) vs.			
			Uncut forest (UF)		Strip-cut (SC)	
			z (t)	P	z (t)	P
Species richness	nb	GLM	0.628	0.530	-0.664	0.507
Total abundance	nb	GLM	0.577	0.563	-2.521	0.012
Simpson's diversity index (1/D)	normal	LM	2.653	0.022	-3.249	0.008
Total biomass	normal	LM	3.512	0.005	-3.035	0.011
<i>Phelotrupes laevistriatus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	2.930	0.004	-5.117	<0.0001
<i>Nicrophorus quadripunctatus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	1.993	0.046	-4.582	<0.0001
<i>Onthophagus atripennis</i> (F)	nb	GLM	0.412	0.680	-3.567	0.0004
<i>Panelus parvulus</i> (F)	nb	GLM	4.367	<0.0001	1.511	0.131
<i>Onthophagus ater</i> (F)	nb	GLM	3.502	0.0005	-2.659	0.008
<i>Onthophagus fodiens</i> (G)	nb	GLM	-1.401	0.161	-0.229	0.819
<i>Onthophagus nitidus</i> (G)	nb	GLM	-7.657	<0.0001	-4.918	<0.0001
<i>Onthophagus lenzii</i> (O)	nb	GLM	-0.003	0.998	5.654	<0.0001

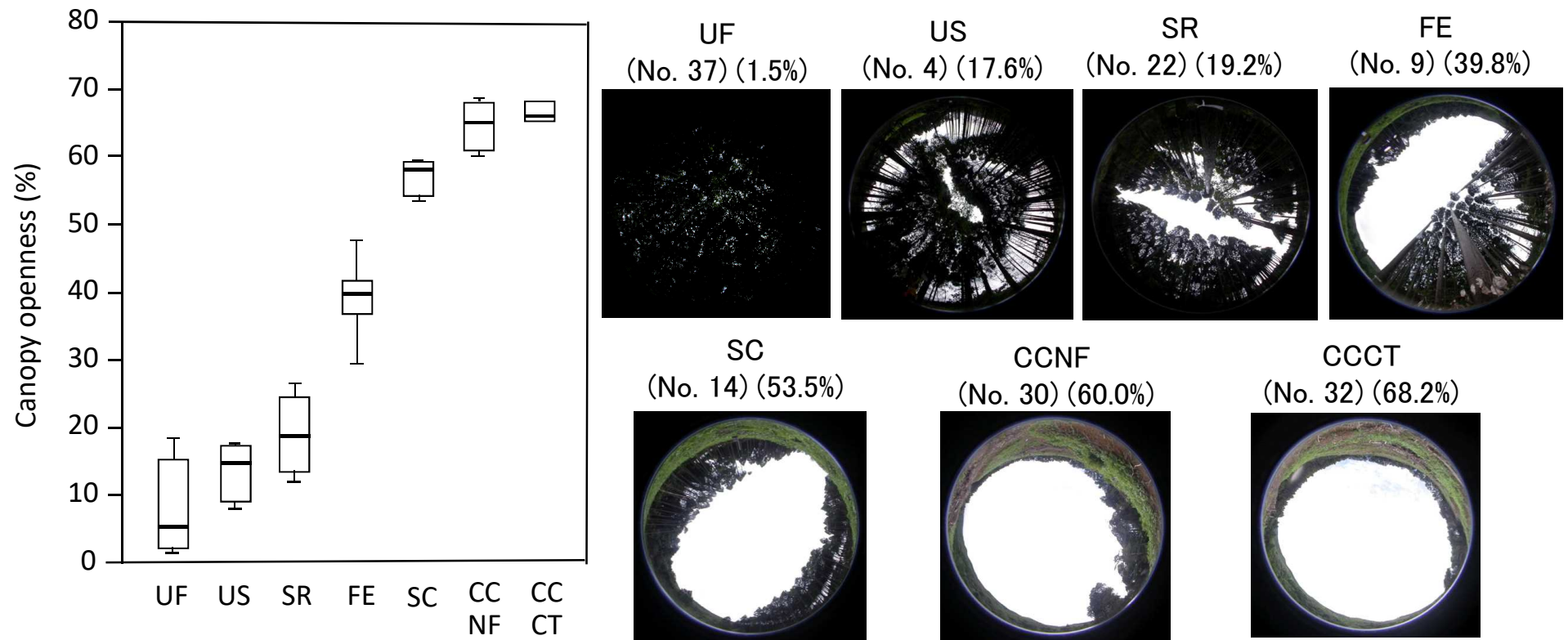
nb means negative binomial distribution. The t value was used for normal distribution.

F: species abundant in the uncut forest sites, G: species abundant in the uncut strip or the strip road sites, O: species absent in the uncut forest si

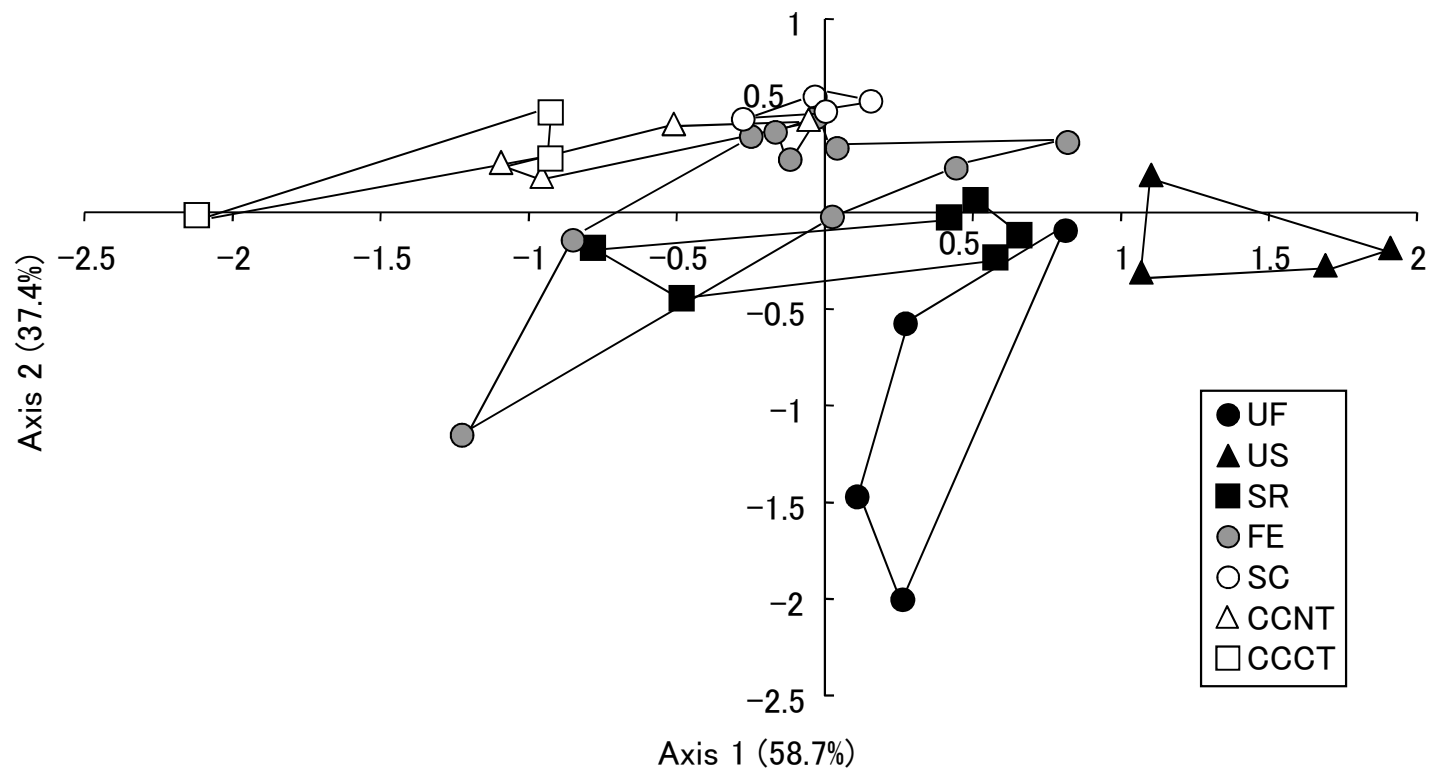
Ueda Fig. 1

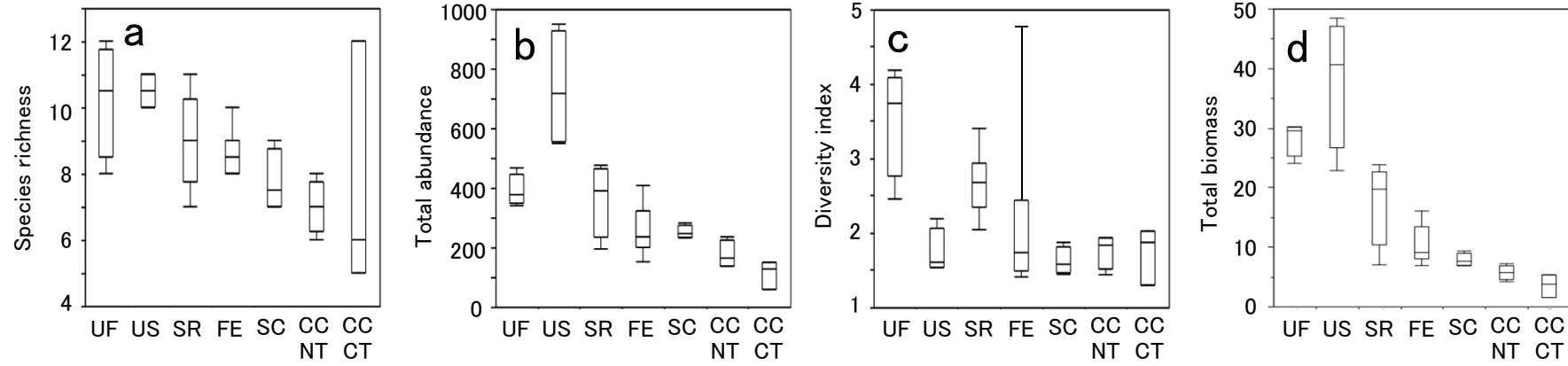


Ueda Fig. 2

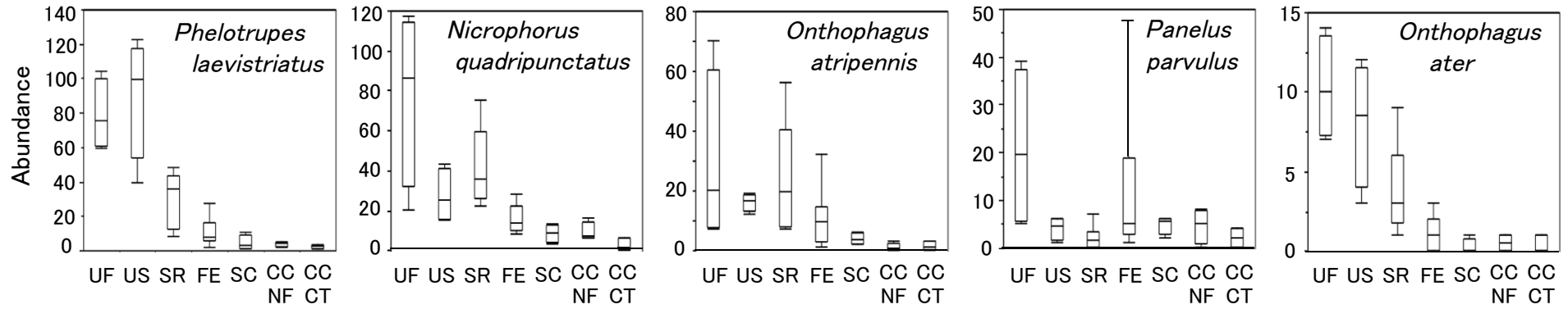


Ueda Fig. 3

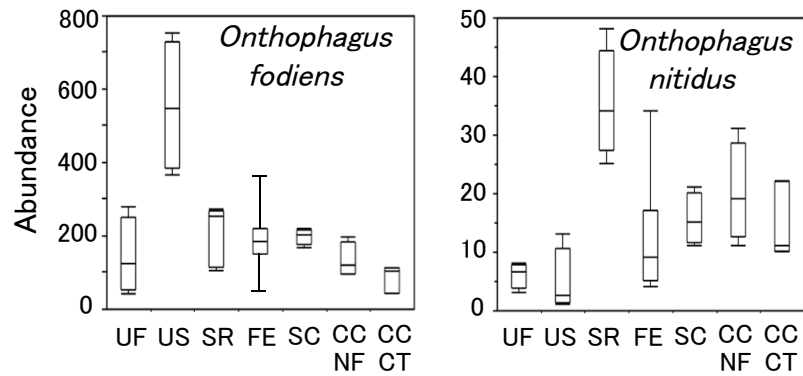




Species abundant in uncut forest (UF) sites



Species abundant in uncut strip (US) or strip road (SR) sites



Species absent in uncut forest (UF) sites

