

## Response to Reviewers

We are very grateful for the constructive comments and valuable suggestions offered by the two reviewers. The reviewers' comments appear in *blue italics*, followed by our responses to each comment in plain black text. Line numbers refer to the original, unedited manuscript document version.

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### Reviewer #1:

*C1) The main problem I have with this paper is the focus by the authors on making comparisons of the LIF instrument that they use to measure NO<sub>2</sub> to other techniques. This paper is not about comparison of measurement techniques, nor do they present anything new in that regard. A fair amount of text is devoted to pointing out interferences, especially with the photolytic/chemiluminescence (CL) NO<sub>2</sub> technique. Not only are these comparisons unnecessary and distracting, but these points already have been made in prior literature. Two examples will suffice here. The first is the authors' argument about detection limits in techniques other than LIF being insufficient to measure the low mixing ratios observed in laboratory and field measurements of fluxes. This is a specious argument since the mixing ratios used in this study (0.5 - 10 ppb of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> - see abstract) are well above detection limits of the other techniques the authors question. And, again, those other techniques were not tested in the present study. The second point is the argument about ozone-alkene reactions causing interference in the CL method due to possible high levels of biogenic alkenes being emitted by vegetation and causing measurement interference when reacted with ozone reagent gas in the CL technique. This is well-documented in the literature and has been shown to be negligible with modern CL instruments. I would point out that if this is a significant effect, it may be an interference in this work for NO since excess ozone was added to the flux chamber to convert NO to NO<sub>2</sub> for measurement by LIF, which uses similar red-sensitive photomultiplier tubes to the CL method. The point here is not to place doubt on the LIF method, but to remove unnecessary and distracting text from the paper. Plus, shorter is better for most papers.*

We removed lines 17-30 on page 3, and moved lines 5-7 on page 5, beginning: "Our measurements..." to the discussion section on line 6 of pg. 11. We also moved the phrase at the end of the same paragraph on page 5: "...at low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios relevant to forested environments" to the end of the sentence, which begins line 34 pg. 3, so it reads: "With the LIF technique we are able measure NO<sub>x</sub> exchange fluxes with high specificity and sensitivity at low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios relevant to forested environments." Discussion of chemiluminescence measurements is limited to section 4.1 on pg 11, where differences between NO<sub>2</sub> deposition results of our study and previous measurements are discussed.

*C2) I have one question on the presentation of the results. It seems to me that when mean deposition velocities or resistances are shown, the uncertainty is understated. For example, in Table 1 for all NO<sub>2</sub> deposition velocities under lighted conditions, the mean is 0.12 +/- 0.012. I can see how this was calculated, but I wonder if the listed uncertainty is the most appropriate value or the one most useful to the community. It seems to me that each V<sub>dep</sub> should be calculated as an independent value and those averaged together to give a more meaningful estimate of actual variability. Can the authors comment on this?*

The method suggested by the reviewer results in a similar value (mean of 0.128 +/- 0.015), when the V<sub>dep</sub> from each light NO<sub>2</sub> experiment is averaged and the error calculated. However, the value of 0.123 +/- 0.0099 is obtained if a weighted mean (weighted by error in the individual V<sub>deps</sub>) and standard deviation is calculated from the individual V<sub>deps</sub> (which is quite similar to the 0.123 ± 0.0092 cm/s reported in Table 1). We argue that the weighted mean is a more accurate representation of the V<sub>dep</sub> mean and error. The mean and confidence interval reported was determined from a regression of all data from all light or dark experiments, which essentially calculates a weighted mean of all V<sub>deps</sub> of each individual data point. The range of all measured V<sub>dep</sub> is included to the text to reflect the range of V<sub>dep</sub> measured, and may be used as a more conservative estimate of the uncertainty.

We also corrected line 6 of page 9 to read "...deposition of 0.123 ± 0.009 cm/s...", in agreement with the value reported in Table 1.

*C3) I found some typographical errors that should be corrected. Fig. 3: C<sub>0</sub> should be nmol m<sup>-3</sup> Fig. 4: C<sub>0</sub> in both plots should be nmol m<sup>-3</sup> and bottom plot y-axis should be NO Fig. 5: verticle in x-axis label.*

The errors pointed out in Fig. 3, Fig. 4, And Fig. 6 were corrected. I believe the reviewer comment referencing Fig. 5 was discussing Fig. 6.

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## Reviewer #2

*C1) Pp2, line 16: in this statement about the use the CRF referring to Ganzeveld et al. It is suggested that in this study the CRF was applied to correct the soil NO emissions. This is actually not the case; that study used a multi-layer exchange model to explicitly calculate the effective exchange between the canopy and the atmosphere and which yielded a canopy-top to soil NO emission flux quite comparable to the CRF proposed by Yienger and Levy of 50% for tropical forests. By the way, the study by Ganzeveld et al. (2002a) also presented a sensitivity analysis regarding the significance of this NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point for global scale atmosphere-biosphere NO<sub>x</sub> exchange.*

We revise the manuscript introduction so that citation of Ganzeveld et al. (2002a) is removed as a citation for the statement ending on line 16 of pg 2.

*C2) Pp 3, line 7: ...uptake rates necessary to describe the observed 20–50% reduction of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub>...”. This statement suggests that the 20-50% of reduction of soil NO emissions can be completely explained by the NO<sub>2</sub> removal rate. It is indeed true that existing models of in-canopy NO<sub>x</sub> cycling suggest that these canopy reduction factors are dominated by VdNO<sub>2</sub> but we can also not rule out the important role of gradients in photolysis affecting the gradients and, consequently, atmosphere-biosphere fluxes and other in-canopy chemical transformations/interactions.*

We revise the manuscript introduction (page 3, line 6 ) to better reflect the complexity of canopy reduction and the state of the current uncertainties: “Many laboratory experiments have failed to measure uptake rates necessary to describe the observed 20–50% reduction of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub> (Hanson and Lindberg, 1991; Breuninger et al., 2013), while many modeling studies have suggested dry deposition makes up most of this reduction (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Yienger and Levy, 1995; Ganzeveld et al., 2002a; Geddes and Murphy, 2014). Photolysis gradients and reaction of NO<sub>x</sub> to form higher nitrogen oxides may also account for a large fraction of this reduction in soil NO<sub>x</sub>, as has been suggested by Min et al. (2014, 2012), but the relative importance of dry deposition processes versus in-canopy chemical transformations is still a matter of considerable uncertainty (Lerdau et al., 2000; Ganzeveld et al., 2002a).”

*C3) Pp3, line 17: “Observations of NO<sub>x</sub> canopy fluxes and atmospheric models...”; here you suggest that model studies show that trees take up NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios over 0.1 ppbv. What atmospheric models are those?? I think that models generally produce a whole range of results on NO<sub>x</sub> fluxes dependent on how the biogenic emissions, dry deposition (and canopy interactions) have been implemented and on the assumptions being made but which up to now lack actually lots of experimental information on issues such as the existence of the compensation point. Here we really need to connect leaf-to canopy-scale and in-canopy NO<sub>x</sub> gradient and flux measurements together with multilayer exchange models to further demonstrate the potential existence and relevance of leaf- to canopy-scale NO<sub>x</sub> compensation points for difference ecosystems.*

What was meant in stating, “...trees are substantial sinks...” is that there is still dry deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> at even low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios, not that the overall canopy flux is negative. The biogenic emissions, dry deposition, and canopy interactions could still, of course, make the forest system a net source of NO<sub>x</sub>. The line was edited to reflect this. A few sentences were also added to address modelling studies (eg Seok et al., 2013) that have suggested the existence of a compensation point: “Emission of NO at these low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios has also been detected in laboratory chamber studies (Wildt et al., 1997; Hereid and Monson, 2001). More recent laboratory studies of leaf level deposition have, however, questioned the existence of a compensation point (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013). Most observations of NO<sub>x</sub> canopy fluxes and atmospheric models predict or assume substantial NO<sub>x</sub> deposition at concentrations as low as 0.1 ppb, typical of NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios in remote areas (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Wang and Leuning, 1998; Lerdau et al., 2000; Sparks et al., 2001; Wolfe and Thornton, 2011; Min et al., 2012; Geddes and Murphy, 2014). However, some modelling studies have suggested that a NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point is necessary to describe (Seok et al., 2013), or has only a small effect on canopy fluxes in most regions (Ganzeveld et al., 2002a). More research is thus needed on leaf and canopy-level processes to understand the full complexity of the soil-canopy-atmosphere system.”

*C4) Page 5, line 19: “This corresponded to a maximum loss of 0.4 ppb at 8 ppb NO<sub>2</sub>”. Can you assume that the wall loss scales linearly with the concentration? What are the wall losses for the minimum concentrations you used for the experiments?*

The wall loss had been directly measured and has been found to scale linearly and has already been subtracted from reported fluxes. The minimum concentration used was 1ppb, corresponding to a wall loss of 0.05 ppb. We revised the manuscript to also state this minimum loss.

*C5) Page 8-9: “For all light and dark experiments the average compensation point for NO was calculated as  $0.84 \pm 0.32$  ppb NO and  $2.4 \pm 1.1$  ppb NO, respectively (Table 2). Page 9: “making *Quercus agrifolia* a large net sink of NOx”; I see here your point that this tree species seems to be a sink of NOx given that the NO emission flux is only half the NO<sub>2</sub> deposition flux but this doesn't confirm so much that this tree species is overall providing a large sink of NOx (which would depend on the overall functioning of the canopy–soil system). Reading over then also later on Section 4.2, this is indeed confirmed having an overall loss by deposition to these trees on the order of 3-7% of total NOx loss in the boundary layer.”*

We revised the manuscript page 9 so that the sentence the reviewer referred to specifies that the deposition process, specifically, acts as a sink, not necessarily the canopy-soil system as a whole: “At typical NO<sub>2</sub>/NO ratios and gradients measured in forest canopies, the leaf-level NO<sub>2</sub> and NO exchange fluxes measured make dry stomatal deposition to *Quercus agrifolia* a net sink of NO<sub>x</sub> within the canopy”.

*C6) Regarding the presented study on the implications of the leaf-level measurements of NO<sub>2</sub>/NO compensation points for canopy-scale NOx exchange, there is a study by Seok et al. (Dynamics of nitrogen oxides and ozone above and within a mixed hardwood forest in norther Michigan ACP, 2013) that addressed the potentially important role of the compensation point based on analysis of in and above-canopy NOx concentration dynamics also using a multi-layer model on this dataset. The observed early morning peak of NOx was best explained actually considering the role of a NOx compensation point in the exchange simulations.*

We agree with the reviewer that the study by Seok et al. is quite relevant to the implications for the compensation point discussed in this paper. Seok et al. 2013 was added as a reference in edits made while addressing C3.

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We also made the following additional edits to the manuscript:

- 1) Errors were found in the calculation of the NO<sub>2</sub> cuticular resistance, which was corrected in the text and Table 3. The cuticular resistance is corrected to  $65 \pm 8$  s cm<sup>-1</sup>.
- 2) Statements were added to address possible errors in the determination of the boundary resistance.

The statement added to line 29 on page 7 (section 3.1) reads: “However, with a branch enclosed inside the chamber, the effective boundary resistance to deposition will likely be reduced, as the surface roughness and surface area for deposition is increased (Galbally and Roy, 1980; Pape et al., 2009). The boundary resistances presented above thus serve as an upper limit for  $R_b$  with vegetation inside the chamber.”

The statement added to line 22 on page 9 (section 3.3) reads: “ It should be noted that since the reported  $R_b$  is the maximum possible boundary resistance, the reported  $R_{cut}$  and  $R_s^*$  are lower limits. If we were to assume the chamber boundary resistance with the branch enclosed is insignificant ( $\sim 0$  s cm<sup>-1</sup>), this would introduce maximum systematic 30% and 3% errors to the calculated NO<sub>2</sub>  $R_s^*$  and  $R_{cut}$ , respectively (giving an  $R_s^*$  of  $9.2 \pm 0.9$  s cm<sup>-1</sup> and an  $R_{cut}$  of  $67 \pm 8$  s cm<sup>-1</sup>). The errors in the calculated NO resistances would be negligible.”

- 3) We corrected minor typographical and grammatical errors.

# Measurements of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> exchange between the atmosphere and *Quercus agrifolia*

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**Abstract.** NO<sub>2</sub> foliar deposition through the stomata of leaves has been identified as a significant sink of NO<sub>x</sub> within a forest canopy. In this study, we investigated NO<sub>2</sub> and NO exchange between the atmosphere and the leaves of the native California oak tree *Quercus agrifolia* using a branch enclosure system. NO<sub>2</sub> detection was performed with laser-induced fluorescence (LIF), which excludes biases from other reactive nitrogen compounds and has a low detection limit of 5–50 ppt. We performed both light and dark experiments with concentrations between 0.5–10 ppb NO<sub>2</sub> and NO under constant ambient conditions. Deposition velocities for NO<sub>2</sub> during light and dark experiments were  $0.123 \pm 0.007\text{--}0.009$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.015 \pm 0.001$  cm s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Much slower deposition was seen for NO, with deposition velocities of  $0.012 \pm 0.002$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.005 \pm 0.002$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> measured during light and dark experiments, respectively. This corresponded to a summed resistance of the stomata and mesophyll of  $6\text{--}96.9 \pm 0.9$  s cm<sup>-1</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub> and  $140 \pm 40$  s cm<sup>-1</sup> for NO. No significant compensation point was detected for NO<sub>2</sub> uptake, but compensation points ranging from 0.74–3.8 ppb were observed for NO. NO<sub>2</sub> and NO deposition velocities reported here are comparable both with previous leaf-level chamber studies and inferences from canopy-level field measurements. In parallel with these laboratory experiments, we have constructed a detailed 1-D atmospheric model to assess the contribution of leaf-level NO<sub>x</sub> deposition to the total NO<sub>x</sub> loss and NO<sub>x</sub> canopy fluxes. Using the leaf uptake rates measured in the laboratory, these modeling studies suggest loss of NO<sub>x</sub> to deposition in a California oak woodland competes with the pathways of HNO<sub>3</sub> and RONO<sub>2</sub> formation, with deposition making up 3–22% of the total NO<sub>x</sub> loss. Additionally, foliar uptake of NO<sub>x</sub> at these rates could account for ~15–30% canopy reduction of soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

## 25 1 Introduction

Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub> ≡ NO + NO<sub>2</sub>) are a group of highly reactive trace gases that control the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere by regulating the amounts of ozone, hydroxyl radicals, volatile organic compounds, and other key atmospheric species (Crutzen, 1979). NO<sub>x</sub> is also directly toxic in high concentrations, plays a significant-major role in tropospheric ozone production, and serves as a source of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, a key nutrient for ecosystems and significant component of acid rain. NO<sub>x</sub> is primarily emitted as nitric oxide (NO) through fossil fuel combustion, biomass burning, lightning and microbial activity in

soils (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006). NO is rapidly oxidized to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) through reactions with ozone and peroxy radicals, and in the daytime NO<sub>2</sub> subsequently photolyzes to reform NO. The interconversion of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> reaches steady-state within a few minutes during the daytime (Crutzen, 1979). The effects of NO<sub>x</sub> on urban chemistry, where anthropogenic emissions dominate the NO<sub>x</sub> source, have been extensively studied. However, the processes affecting NO<sub>x</sub> in  
5 forested and agricultural regions are less well-understood.

In forests and agricultural lands, the major source of NO<sub>x</sub> is NO emitted as a by-product of microbial denitrification and nitrification (Mckenney et al., 1982; Caranto and Lancaster, 2017). Deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> to plant canopies is thought to be an significant important sink of NO<sub>x</sub> in forests, substantially reducing the contribution of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub> to the atmospheric NO<sub>x</sub> budget. Jacob and Wofsy (1990) observed low NO<sub>x</sub> above the canopy over the Amazon forest during the wet season.  
10 Using a 1-D chemical and transport model constrained by observed NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone, they concluded that a substantial fraction of soil-NO<sub>x</sub> must be absorbed by the canopy. Extrapolation of these ideas to forests with different leaf area indices suggest that 20–50% of the global fraction of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub> is lost to vegetation (Yienger and Levy, 1995; Lerdau et al., 2000). Using the framework of Jacob and Wofsy (1990), and Yienger and Levy (1995), global atmospheric models have been tuned to describe observed atmospheric NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations and tropospheric ozone production using a canopy  
15 reduction factor (CRF). The CRF is, an adjustable parameter which accounts for the difference between soil NO emissions and the amount of NO<sub>x</sub> ventilated through the canopy (Yienger and Levy, 1995; Vinken et al., 2014). However, CRFs are implemented in an unphysical manner where they act only on soil NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and not on other NO<sub>x</sub> present in the plant canopy. An improved understanding is needed of the physical and biochemical processes governing the foliar uptake of NO<sub>x</sub> at the ecosystem and leaf scales.

Many studies have also directly observed the leaf-level uptake of NO<sub>2</sub> (Neubert et al., 1993; Rondon and Granat, 1994; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006; Pape et al., 2009; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013). Isotope labeling eExperiments investigating the mechanism of NO<sub>2</sub> uptake using the <sup>15</sup>N isotope as a tracer have demonstrated that atmospheric NO<sub>2</sub> can be absorbed through the stomata of plant leaves, converted to nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) and nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>), and eventually assimilated into amino acids (Rogers et al., 1979; Okano and Totsuka,  
25 1986; Nussbaum et al., 1993; Weber et al., 1995; Yoneyame et al., 2003). The mechanism of NO<sub>2</sub> assimilation is diffusion into the stomata followed by dissolution into the aqueous phase and disproportionation to NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> in the apoplast (Lee and Schwartz, 1981a, b). NO<sub>2</sub> can also be transformed to nitrate and nitrite through scavenging by antioxidants, most notably ascorbate (Ramge et al., 1993). The influence of ascorbate on foliar uptake was theoretically calculated by Ramge et al. (1993), and experimentally demonstrated by Teklemariam and Sparks. (2006). The enzyme nitrate reductase converts  
30 NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> in the cytosol, and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> is then transported into the plastids where it is further reduced by the enzyme nitrite reductase to ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>), the product required for amino acid synthesis (Ammann et al., 1995; Tischner, 2000; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006). Alternatively, NO<sub>2</sub> can deposit directly onto the leaf cuticles or a leaf-surface water film (Burkhardt and Eiden, 1994). However, foliar uptake of NO<sub>2</sub> has been demonstrated to be controlled primarily by the stomata, with deposition to the leaf surface representing only a small fraction of the total NO<sub>2</sub> flux (Thoene et al., 1991;

Gessler et al., 2000; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011). Strong correlations have been observed between NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, stomatal conductances, and the NO<sub>2</sub> deposition flux, suggesting foliar uptake is mainly controlled by stomatal aperture and internal leaf resistances (Johansson, 1987; Thoene et al., 1991; Rondon et al., 1993; Meixner et al., 1997; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013).

5           Despite the large body of research that exists on the leaf-level deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> to vegetation, discrepancies still exist of NO<sub>2</sub> exchange rates and the role of mesophilic processes. Many laboratory experiments have failed to measure uptake rates necessary to describe the observed 20–50% reduction of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub> (Hanson and Lindberg, 1991; Breuninger et al., 2013). despite the many modeling studies that have suggested dry deposition makes up most of this reduction (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Yienger and Levy, 1995; Ganzeveld et al., 2002a; Geddes and Murphy, 2014). Photolysis gradients and reaction of NO<sub>x</sub> to form higher nitrogen oxides could account for a large fraction of this reduction in soil NO<sub>x</sub>, as has been suggested by Min et al. (2014, 2012), but the relative importance of dry deposition processes versus in-canopy chemical transformations is still a matter of considerable uncertainty (Lerdau et al., 2000; Ganzeveld et al., 2002a). Another ~~considerable~~ controversy is the existence of a compensation point—a concentration below which leaves would instead act as a source of NO<sub>x</sub>. Compensation points of 0.1–3.2 ppb NO<sub>2x</sub> have been observed in a number of  
10 laboratory chamber studies, suggesting trees instead may serve as a large source of NO<sub>x</sub> in forests (Johansson, 1987; Rondon et al., 1993; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006). Emission of NO at these low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios has also been detected in laboratory chamber studies (Wildt et al., 1997; Hereid and Monson, 2001). More recent laboratory studies of leaf level deposition have, however, questioned the existence of a compensation point (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013). Most observations of NO<sub>x</sub> canopy fluxes and atmospheric models conversely  
15 predict or assume that trees are substantial sinks of NO<sub>x</sub> substantial NO<sub>x</sub> deposition at concentrations as low as 0.1 ppb, typical of NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios in remote areas (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Wang and Leuning, 1998; Lerdau et al., 2000; Sparks et al., 2001; Wolfe and Thornton, 2011; Min et al., 2012; Geddes and Murphy, 2014). However, some modeling studies have suggested that an NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point is necessary to describe (Seok et al., 2013), or has only a small effect on canopy fluxes in most regions (Ganzeveld et al., 2002a). More recent laboratory studies of leaf level deposition have also questioned the existence of a compensation point (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013). More research is thus needed on leaf and canopy-level processes to understand the full complexity of the soil-canopy-atmosphere system.

~~Many laboratory investigations of NO<sub>x</sub> foliar exchange have not been performed with instruments sufficiently sensitive or specific to measure uptake of NO<sub>2</sub> at the low NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations relevant to forested environments. A commonly used technique for chamber observations of leaf level NO<sub>2</sub> uptake is the indirect NO<sub>2</sub> measurement technique of chemiluminescence detection of NO (Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006; Pape et al., 2009; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al., 2013). This technique requires photolytic or catalytic conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> to NO, which is either limited by large detection limits greater than 100 ppt (Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006; Pape et al., 2009; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al., 2013), or may be subject to interferences from higher oxides of nitrogen (Sparks et al., 2001). Further, interferences from the chemiluminescence of alkene + ozone~~

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reaction products have also been identified (Reed et al., 2016). These are of particular importance since alkenes make up a substantial fraction of biogenic VOC emissions (e.g. isoprene) (Kesselmeier et al., 2002; Lappalainen et al., 2009; Park et al., 2014; Romer et al., 2016). Even in laboratory settings, where interferences from higher oxides are not of concern, emissions of alkenes from the enclosed leaves may cause substantial interferences. New methods for studying the exchange at the leaf level, are required to resolve existing discrepancies regarding the foliar uptake rate of NO<sub>2</sub> and the existence of a compensation point.

To understand the leaf-level processes affecting ecosystem scale atmosphere-biosphere NO<sub>x</sub> exchange, we have conducted laboratory experiments measuring NO and NO<sub>2</sub> fluxes to the native California tree species *Quercus agrifolia* (Fig. 1) using a branch enclosure system and direct laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) detection of NO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 2). With the LIF technique, we are able measure NO<sub>x</sub> exchange fluxes with high specificity and sensitivity— at trace NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios relevant to forested environments. We investigated the existence of an NO<sub>2</sub> and NO compensation point and the rate of NO<sub>x</sub> foliar uptake under controlled conditions. To our knowledge this is the first leaf-level uptake experiment that has been performed on a North American tree species.

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 *Quercus agrifolia* samples

NO<sub>x</sub> uptake by *Quercus agrifolia* (Coastal Live Oak) was investigated in the laboratory. Three *Quercus agrifolia* individuals were purchased from a local native California plant nursery (Native Here Now Nursery), where the plants were grown from seeds and cuttings collected in Contra Costa County. The tree specimens were grown in a nutrient rich commercial soil mixture (a mixture of Orchard Potting Soil and EB Stone Cactus Mix) at the Jane Grey Research Greenhouse at the University of California, Berkeley. The trees were 2–3 years old when measurements were taken.

### 2.2 Laser-induced fluorescence detection

NO<sub>2</sub> was measured using Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF). A blue diode laser (Z-Laser ZM18H3,) centered at a wavelength of 405 nm was focused into each detection cell and made 20 passes in White multipass optical configuration (Fig. 2b)(Thornton et al., 2000; Fuchs et al., 2009). Upon absorption of a visible photon, NO<sub>2</sub> undergoes a transition from the <sup>2</sup>A<sub>1</sub> ground to the <sup>2</sup>B<sub>2</sub> excited electronic state. The excited NO<sub>2</sub> molecule, is either quenched by collision or emits a red-shifted photon as it relaxes back to ground state (e.g. Thornton et al., 2000). These emitted photons were detected using a red-sensitive photomultiplier tube (PMT) (Hamamatsu H7421-50). To minimize collisional quenching, each detection cell was maintained at a pressure of around 3 torr. Excitation at 405 nm was chosen because it is near the region of maximum absorption in the NO<sub>2</sub> spectrum, and is not subject to interferences from absorption by water vapor or O<sub>3</sub> (Matsumoto and Kajii, 2003).

Calibrations were performed every hour by diluting NO (4.97 ppm  $\pm$  5%, Praxair) and NO<sub>2</sub> standard gases (5.08 ppm  $\pm$  5%, Praxair) to 1–10 ppb in humidified (RH ~60%) zero air. The limit of detection (LOD) for the detection cells is described as:

$$LOD = \frac{S/N}{m} \sqrt{\frac{2b}{t}} \quad (1)$$

5 where  $m$  is the slope of the calibration curve constructed from standard dilutions,  $b$  is the PMT signal at 0 ppb NO or NO<sub>2</sub>,  $S/N$  is the desired signal to noise ratio, and  $t$  is the time of signal averaging. At a  $S/N$  of 2 and signal averaging over 5 min, the LOD for detection cells 1–4 was 15 ppt, 4 ppt, 10 ppt, and 30 ppt, respectively. NO<sub>2</sub> in the incoming and outgoing airstreams was measured simultaneously in the first two detection cells. In the second two detection cells, NO was quantitatively converted to NO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of excess ozone, allowing for detection of total NO<sub>x</sub> (Fig. 2a). Ozone was  
10 produced using an ozone generator (Jelight 600) and flow rates of ozone delivered were adjusted to achieve unity conversion of NO to NO<sub>2</sub>.

~~Much of the previous work on leaf-level NO<sub>2</sub> uptake has been performed using indirect detection of NO<sub>2</sub>, in which photolytic or catalytic conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> is followed by chemiluminescence measurement of NO (Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006; Pape et al., 2009; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al.,  
15 2013). However, these techniques are either limited by much larger detection limits in the 100–500 ppt range, or are non-specific in their conversion of NO<sub>2</sub> to NO. Our measurements demonstrate a much higher degree of certainty, due largely to a lower detection limit than comparable experiments with specific photolytic conversion and chemiluminescence measurement of NO<sub>2</sub> (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al., 2013). With the LIF detection of NO<sub>2</sub>, we are able to sensitively measure exchange fluxes at low NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios relevant to forested environments.~~

### 20 2.3 Dynamic chamber system

The NO<sub>x</sub> flux measurements were performed with a dynamic branch enclosure system, consisting of a thin transparent double-walled Teflon film (FEP) bag (American Duraflim), which transmits 90% of photosynthetically activ~~ated~~ radiation. The chamber was illuminated by an LED diode array of 430–475 nm and 620–670 nm lights (Apollo Horticulture). This light source was selected because it does not emit wavelengths below 420 nm, where NO<sub>2</sub> dissociates, preventing loss of  
25 NO<sub>2</sub> to photodissociation and resultant photochemistry. In order to ensure turbulent mixing and minimal aerodynamic and boundary layer resistances, a Teflon-coated fan was installed inside the inner chamber (Meixner et al., 1997; Pape et al., 2009; Breuninger et al., 2013).

Before experiments with *Quercus agrifolia* individuals, the deposition to an empty chamber was measured and background subtracted from subsequent branch measurements. The measured loss of NO<sub>2</sub> to chamber walls was 5% of the  
30 NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio flowing into chamber. This corresponded to a maximum loss of 0.4 ppb at 8 ppb NO<sub>2</sub> and minimum loss of 0.05 ppb at 1ppb NO<sub>2</sub>. Emission of less than 0.05 ppb NO<sub>2</sub> from the Teflon walls was also observed when chamber lights



were turned on with 0 ppb NO<sub>2</sub> flowing through the system. It is likely that the chamber walls buffer uptake of NO<sub>2</sub>, but this is a minor effect, as the wall emission observed was a tiny fraction of the measured fluxes.

During measurements, the enclosed branch was exposed to known amounts of either NO<sub>2</sub> or NO mixed with zero air. The inner chamber had an inner diameter of 20 cm, a length of 40 cm, and a total volume of 13 L (American Durafilm 200A Teflon FEP). Flow rates into the inner chamber (Q) during experiments were typically 5 L min<sup>-1</sup>, creating a residence time in the chamber of 3 min. The outer chamber had an inner diameter of 30 cm and a length of 55 cm (American Durafilm 500C20 Teflon FEP). Zero air at a flow rate of 3 L min<sup>-1</sup> constantly fumigated the outer bag, serving as a buffer region to ensure the laboratory air, with high mixing ratios of NO<sub>x</sub>, did not diffuse into the bag enclosing the branch.

The photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) was monitored outside the chamber with a LiCor quantum sensor (LiCor LI-190SA). The flux density measured above the chamber was 1190 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, approximately the PPFD for Berkeley, California at noon during the month of October. This is well above the photon flux required to achieve maximal stomatal aperture for broadleaf evergreen trees (von Caemmerer and Farquhar, 1981; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2013). We confirmed this assumption by covering the lights with a filter to reduce the intensity by 40% and monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O exchange. No reduction in the exchange rates of these gases were observed. The relative humidity of air entering the chamber was maintained at 50–65% in all experiments by flowing zero air through a bubbler before mixing with NO<sub>x</sub>. Measurements of NO<sub>x</sub> exchange fluxes occurred under a light/dark cycle with a photoperiod of 12 hours and a temperature of 26/22 ± 2 °C. No change in NO<sub>x</sub> uptake was observed when heating the chamber with the lights off or cooling the chamber with the lights on. We therefore expect no significant temperature effects caused by the 4°C difference in temperature between light and dark periods. We also observed a relative humidity increase in the delivered air of about 2% with the lights off, but do not expect this increase to produce any significant changes in NO<sub>x</sub> deposition or plant physiology (von Caemmerer and Farquhar, 1981; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011).

Exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O with the leaves were monitored with a LiCor-6262 H<sub>2</sub>O/CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer operating in differential mode. Flows of 0.1 L min<sup>-1</sup> of air entering and exiting the chamber were diverted to the LiCor analyzer to measure the CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation and transpiration rates. To measure the CO<sub>2</sub> content and relative humidity of air delivered to the chamber, 0.5 L min<sup>-1</sup> of the humidified zero air/NO<sub>x</sub> mixture was diverted to a second external 1.5 L cuvette. The temperature and relative humidity of air entering the chamber were measured with a temperature and relative humidity module in the external cuvette (TE Connectivity HTM2500LF). The CO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios in the external chamber were monitored with a Vaisala CarboCap GMP343 sensor.

## 2.4 NO<sub>x</sub> flux densities

The leaf-level exchange flux of NO or NO<sub>2</sub> ( $F_{NO_x}$ ) was calculated according to Eq. 22:

$$F_{NO_x} = \frac{Q \cdot (C_0 - C_i)}{A} \quad (2)$$

where  $Q$  is the flow rate ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $A$  is the enclosed leaf area ( $\text{m}^2$ ),  $C_o$  is the concentration leaving the chamber, and  $C_i$  is the concentration entering the chamber ( $\text{nmol m}^{-3}$ ). The calculated flux is related to a deposition velocity ( $Vd_{NO_x}$ ) by Eq. 33:

$$F_{NO_x} = -Vd_{NO_x} \cdot (C_o + C_{comp}) \quad (3)$$

where  $C_{comp}$  is the compensation point, the concentration of  $\text{NO}_2$  below which the tree would instead act as a source of  $\text{NO}_x$ .

5 The deposition velocities were calculated through weighted least squares regression of calculated fluxes and outlet  $\text{NO}_x$  concentrations ( $C_o$ ). The absolute value of the slope of the regression line was equal to the deposition velocity, with the x-intercept representing the compensation point concentration. The precision error in the  $\text{NO}_x$  exchange flux ( $\sigma_F$ ) was calculated through propagation of the error in the inlet ( $\sigma_{C_i}$ ) and outlet ( $\sigma_{C_o}$ ) concentrations (Eq. 44).

$$\sigma_F = \frac{Q}{A} \sqrt{\sigma_{C_i}^2 + \sigma_{C_o}^2} \quad (4)$$

10  $\sigma_{C_i}$  and  $\sigma_{C_o}$  were estimated as the larger of the error in the calibration slopes and the standard deviation of the 5 min signal average. From observations in daily deviations of the flow rate and error in measured leaf area using the ImageJ software (Schneider et al., 2012), we estimate the error in  $\frac{Q}{A}$  to be a maximum of  $0.005 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ . This usually was only a minor contribution to the total error in the  $\text{NO}_x$  exchange flux.

The calculated deposition velocity was used to find the total resistance to deposition,  $R$ , via Eq. 5.

$$15 \quad Vd_{NO_x} = \frac{1}{R} \quad (5)$$

The total resistance is described by the canopy stomatal resistance model (Baldocchi et al., 1987) and defined in Eq. 6–7.

$$R = R_a + R_b + R_{leaf} \quad (6)$$

$$R_{leaf} = \left( \frac{1}{R_{cut}} + \frac{1}{R_{st} + R_m} \right)^{-1} \quad (7)$$

20 where  $R_{leaf}$  is the total leaf resistance and  $R_a$ ,  $R_b$ ,  $R_{cut}$ ,  $R_{st}$ , and  $R_m$  are the aerodynamic, boundary layer, cuticular, stomatal, and mesophilic resistances, respectively. The aerodynamic resistance is characterized by the micrometeorology above a surface and is dependent upon the wind speed and turbulence of air flow. The boundary layer resistance describes the diffusion of a molecule through a shallow boundary of air above a surface and is dependent on microscopic surface properties, diffusivity of the gas species, wind speed, and turbulence of air flow (Baldocchi et al., 1987).  $R_{cut}$ ,  $R_{st}$ , and  $R_m$  are the resistances associated with deposition to the leaf cuticles or through the stomata, and are dependent upon plant  
25 physiology.

The chamber fan, installed to create turbulent mixing, allowed for the assumption that  $R_a$  was negligible (Pape et al., 2009; Breuninger et al., 2012).  $R_b$  is chamber-specific, and has typically not been measured in previous chamber experiments of  $\text{NO}_2$  leaf-level deposition (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al., 2013).  $R_b$  was experimentally measured in this study by placing a tray of activated carbon into the chamber (assumed to have zero  
30 surface resistance to deposition of  $\text{NO}_2$ ), and calculating the deposition flux of  $\text{NO}_2$ . The leaf components to the total deposition resistance were determined through dark and light experiments. During dark experiments, the stomata were

closed (confirmed with measurements of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O exchange), and the deposition observed was assumed to be entirely driven by deposition to the cuticles.

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Determination of the boundary resistance R<sub>b</sub>

5 To estimate the chamber boundary layer resistance and test the assumption that  $R_b \ll R_{leaf}$ , a dish of activated carbon, which theoretically has zero chemical resistance to deposition of NO<sub>2</sub>, was placed inside the chamber. The boundary layer resistance was considered to be the only component of the total resistance to deposition. The deposition velocity of NO<sub>2</sub> to activated carbon was measured as  $0.52 \pm 0.06 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ , corresponding to a boundary layer resistance to NO<sub>2</sub> deposition of  $1.94 \pm 0.02 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 3). This boundary resistance is approximately double what was measured by Pape et al. (2009)—a  
 10 reasonable difference given differences in chamber design (Fig. 2). The  $R_b$  for NO<sub>2</sub> was scaled with the ratio of diffusivities of NO<sub>2</sub> and NO in air to obtain the resistance to deposition of NO of  $2.59 \pm 0.03 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$ . However, with a branch enclosed inside the chamber, the effective boundary resistance to deposition will likely be reduced, as the surface roughness and surface area for deposition is increased (Galbally and Roy, 1980; Pape et al., 2009). The boundary resistances presented above thus serve as an upper limit for R<sub>b</sub> with vegetation inside the chamber.

15 The boundary resistance was also estimated in an additional experiment (not shown) in which a de-ionized water-soaked Whatman No. 1 filter paper was placed inside the chamber and the evaporation of water vapor into the chamber filled with dry zero air was measured. The emission flux of water vapor from the filter paper was calculated in a similar manner to that of NO<sub>x</sub> deposition flux (Eq. 2). The conductance to water vapor was then calculated via:

$$\frac{Q \cdot (P_{H_2O})}{A} = g_w (P_{sat} - P_{H_2O}) \quad (8)$$

20 where  $P_{H_2O}$  is the partial pressure of water vapor inside the chamber,  $P_{sat}$  is the saturation vapor pressure at the temperature in the chamber, and  $g_w$  is the conductance to water vapor. The measured conductance to water vapor was scaled with the ratio of diffusivities of NO<sub>2</sub> to water vapor ( $D_{NO_2}/D_{H_2O}$ ) and inverted to find the NO<sub>2</sub> boundary layer resistance:

$$R_b = \frac{D_{H_2O}}{D_{NO_2}} \frac{1}{g_w} \quad (9)$$

25 The boundary resistance to NO<sub>2</sub> deposition by this method was found to be  $2 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$ , essentially identical to the measurement on the activated-carbon.

#### 3.2 NO<sub>x</sub> deposition velocity and compensation point concentration

The deposition velocities and compensation points were respectively calculated as the slope and x-axis intercept of the regression line between NO<sub>x</sub> exchange flux and chamber NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations (Fig. 4). The detection limit was a—the dominant source of error in the estimation of the NO exchange flux and compensation point. The large relative uncertainties

in NO flux measurements were caused by the much slower deposition of NO compared with that of NO<sub>2</sub>, inhibiting our ability to observe the very small changes between the NO concentration in the chamber and the incoming airstream (Fig. 4). Additional uncertainty in NO<sub>2</sub> flux measurements because of enhanced quenching of NO<sub>2</sub> by water vapor should be minimal, as calibrations and measurements were performed at equivalent relative humidities. However, transpiration of the enclosed leaves caused the absolute humidity within chamber to be enhanced by 0.3–0.5% relative to the incoming airstream. We expect this to result in a maximum error in calculated NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios of 1–1.75% (Thornton et al., 2000), resulting in maximum errors in the calculated fluxes and deposition velocities of 2% and 4%, respectively. This 4% error in the calculated deposition velocity during lights-on experiments is ~~considerably-somewhat~~ less than the uncertainty of the linear fit (Fig. 4).

Correlation coefficients, deposition velocities, compensation points, and statistical testing of the compensation point for NO<sub>2</sub> and NO deposition are shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively, and were calculated according to Breuninger et al. (2013). For NO<sub>2</sub> experiments, only one dark and one light experiment with *Quercus agrifolia* 1, was found to have a statistically significant ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) non-zero intersection with the x-axis (Table 1). The range of  $C_{comp}$  measured ~~were-was~~ 0.02–0.300 ppb NO<sub>2</sub>, with probabilities of  $C_{comp} = 0$  ranging from 10.3–91.6% (excluding the two *Quercus agrifolia* 1 experiments) (Table 1). Conversely, all three *Quercus agrifolia* individuals during all dark and light NO deposition experiments demonstrated compensation points significantly above zero, ranging from 0.74–3.8 ppb NO. ~~For all light and dark experiments-~~ The average compensation point ~~for~~ was calculated as  $0.84 \pm 0.32$  ppb NO during light experiments - and  $2.4 \pm 1.1$  ppb NO during dark experiments; ~~respectively~~ (Table 2).

Student's t tests, (not shown), demonstrated that deposition velocities and compensation points measured during NO and NO<sub>2</sub> lights on and off experiments were not significantly different (to the  $\alpha=0.05$  confidence level) between different *Quercus agrifolia* individuals. Deposition velocities for NO<sub>2</sub> light experiments were between 0.08 and 0.18 cm s<sup>-1</sup>, with a deposition of  $0.123 \pm 0.007-009$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> calculated from the regression of all light experiments. Dark experiments resulted in deposition velocities between 0.013 and 0.022 cm s<sup>-1</sup>, with a deposition velocity of  $0.015 \pm 0.001$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> calculated from the regression of all dark experiments (Table 1). NO demonstrated much slower deposition, with deposition velocities from all light and dark experiments calculated as  $0.012 \pm 0.002$  cm s<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.005 \pm 0.002$  cm s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Table 2). Despite the large compensation point measured for NO, the leaf emission fluxes of NO were a maximum of only 0.8 pmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at 0.1 ppb NO, approximately half of the deposition flux measured for NO<sub>2</sub> at 0.1 ppb (Fig. 4). At typical NO<sub>2</sub>/NO ratios and gradients measured in forest canopies, the leaf-level NO<sub>2</sub> and NO exchange fluxes measured make dry stomatal deposition to ~~ing~~ *Quercus agrifolia* a ~~large~~-net sink of NO<sub>x</sub> within the canopy.

### 3.3 Resistances to Leaf-level NO<sub>x</sub> deposition.

The deposition velocity measured from linear regression of NO<sub>x</sub> exchange fluxes and NO<sub>x</sub> chamber concentrations is the inverse of the total resistance to deposition (Eq. 66), with  $R_a$  assumed to be zero. The total resistance in the chamber is thus:

$$R = R_b + \left( \frac{1}{R_{cut}} + \frac{1}{R_{st} + R_m R_s^*} \right)^{-1} \quad (10)$$

Where  $R_s^*$  is the sum of  $R_m$  and  $R_{st}$ . The leaf resistance to deposition can then be found by subtracting the boundary layer resistance from the total resistance. Total leaf resistances,  $R_{leaf}$ , were calculated using the boundary layer resistances for  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}$  of  $1.94 \pm 0.02 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$  and  $2.59 \pm 0.03 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. During the dark experiments,  $R_{leaf}$  is equal to  $R_{cut}$ , and the deposition velocity measured was estimated as the inverse of the sum of the boundary and cuticular resistance. After calculation of  $R_{cut}$  from dark experiments, the sum of the stomatal and mesophilic contributions ( $R_s^*$ ) to the total leaf resistance was determined. The boundary, cuticular, and summed stomatal and mesophilic resistances  $R_s^*$  are shown in Table 3. It should be noted that since the reported  $R_b$  is the maximum possible boundary resistance, the reported  $R_{cut}$  and  $R_s^*$  are lower limits. If we were to assume the chamber boundary resistance with the branch enclosed is insignificant ( $\sim 0 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$ ), this would introduce maximum systematic 30% and 3% errors to the calculated  $\text{NO}_2$   $R_s^*$  and  $R_{cut}$ , respectively (giving an  $R_s^*$  of  $9.2 \pm 0.9 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$  and an  $R_{cut}$  of  $67 \pm 8 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$ ). The errors in the calculated  $\text{NO}$  resistances would be negligible.

It must be noted that it is possible that the stomata were not entirely closed during dark experiments. Evidence exists that nocturnal stomatal conductance can be large enough to allow for significant transpiration (Dawson et al., 2007), and small (within the range of uncertainty observed for the LICOR-6262) emission of water vapor during dark experiments was measured. However, even if all the deposition during dark experiments was stomatal, this would cause only a  $0.5 \text{ s cm}^{-1}$  reduction in the calculated  $R_s^*$  for  $\text{NO}_2$ , less than the uncertainty from the error in the measured deposition velocity ( $\sim 10\%$  error). The cuticular resistances reported here during dark experiment are nonetheless atmospherically relevant to nighttime  $\text{NO}_x$  deposition.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 $\text{NO}_x$ deposition velocities and compensation points

The strong linear dependence between  $\text{NO}_2$  fluxes and  $\text{NO}_2$  chamber concentrations that we observe is consistent with previous observations that  $\text{NO}_2$  exchange is largely driven by  $\text{NO}_2$  concentration differences between the atmosphere and gaseous phase of the leaf (Rondon and Granat, 1994; Gessler et al., 2000; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006; Pape et al., 2009; Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012). Our measurements of  $\text{NO}_2$  stomatal resistance parameters for *Quercus agrifolia* represents a stomatal deposition velocity (inverse of  $R_{st} + R_m / R_s^*$ ) of  $0.14 \pm 0.02 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ . This value is similar to the range of  $0.1\text{--}0.15 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  that Chaparro-Suarez et al. (2011) found for two European oak tree species, *Quercus robur* and *Quercus ilex*. The deposition velocity measured here for *Quercus agrifolia* is also much larger than  $0.007\text{--}0.042 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  range found for Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) by Breuninger et al. (2012), but surprisingly comparable, given the differences in plant species, to the  $0.12 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  deposition velocity found for

maize (*Zea mays*) by Hereid and Monson (2001). We also find here a NO<sub>2</sub> flux at 5 ppb of 0.2 nmol m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, similar in magnitude to the 0.1 nmol m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, 0.15–1.5 nmol m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, and 0.18 nmol m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> fluxes measured for *Fagus sylvatica* (Gessler et al., 2000), tropical Panamanian native trees (Sparks et al., 2001), and periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) (Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006), respectively.

5 Resistance parameters reported above for NO deposition to *Quercus agrifolia* represent a stomatal deposition velocity of 0.007 ± 0.002 cm s<sup>-1</sup> and cuticular deposition velocity of 0.005 ± 0.001 cm s<sup>-1</sup>. This observation of very minor NO uptake—at least an order of magnitude less than that of NO<sub>2</sub> uptake—is also consistent with previous observations (Hanson and Lindberg, 1991; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006). We also detected a statistically significant NO compensation point, with low emissions up to 8 pmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> observed below 1 ppb. These observations are  
10 similar to the 8–14 pmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> emission fluxes of NO reported by Hereid and Monson (2001) and Teklemariam and Sparks (2006) at low NO<sub>x</sub> concentrations.

No significant NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point was found for our measurements of *Quercus agrifolia* NO<sub>x</sub> uptake. Many previous studies have reported NO<sub>2</sub> compensation points, ranging from 0.1–3.0 ppb, implicating trees as a constant source of NO<sub>x</sub> in forest ecosystems (Gessler et al., 2000; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks,  
15 2006). Our findings of a lack of NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point support field observations and modeling studies that have recognized NO<sub>2</sub> dry deposition to vegetation as an important NO<sub>x</sub> loss process in forests (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Ganzeveld et al., 2002b; Geddes and Murphy, 2014). Our results also support the works of Chaparro-Suarez et al. (2011) and Breuninger et al. (2013), who did not find evidence of an NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point.

The primary difference in our experimental setup, compared to previous dynamic chamber studies that have found a  
20 NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point, is the use of a direct NO<sub>2</sub> measurement technique. Measurements of a significant NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point have mostly been obtained using techniques requiring conversion of NO<sub>2</sub>, followed by chemiluminescence detection of NO (Gessler et al., 2000; Hereid and Monson, 2001; Sparks et al., 2001; Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006). Such methods have utilized either non-specific photolytic (Gessler et al., 2000; Hereid and Monson, 2001), luminol (Sparks et al., 2001), or catalytic conversion (Teklemariam and Sparks, 2006) techniques, which may have also  
25 resulted in the conversion of PAN, HONO, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and other organic nitrates, as well as interferences from alkene + ozone reactions (Carter et al., 2005; Reed et al., 2016). If any of these interfering compounds are not excluded from the chamber system, outgas from the chamber, or form from reactions of biogenic emissions, this would cause an enhancement in observed NO<sub>2</sub> compensation point, and a suppression of observed deposition velocity. Our measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratios also demonstrate a much higher degree of precision, due largely to a lower detection limit, than comparable  
30 experiments with specific photolytic conversion and chemiluminescence measurement of NO<sub>2</sub> (Chaparro-Suarez et al., 2011; Breuninger et al., 2012; Breuninger et al., 2013). Additionally, previous chamber measurements have sometimes employed chamber setups that would let in a substantial amount of UV light, yet did not exclude photochemical reactions between NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and O<sub>3</sub>. Such corrections are excluded here because of our use of chamber lights with only wavelengths above 420 nm. To avoid this issue, other experiments have instead involved a setup including a simultaneously measured blank

chamber, which would theoretically allow for correction for any reactions resulting from photolysis of NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, or O<sub>3</sub> (Gessler et al., 2000; Hereid and Monson, 2001). Such corrections might be complicated by secondary chemistry not present in our experiments.

#### 4.2 Implication for canopy NO<sub>x</sub> loss

5 Resistance parameters reported above (Table 3) were used in a 1-D seven-layer multibox model representing chemical reactions, vertical transport, and leaf-level processes scaled to the canopy level to assess the impacts of NO<sub>x</sub> deposition velocities on the NO<sub>x</sub> lifetime and fluxes. The model is constructed in a manner similar to Wolfe and Thornton (2011). Details will be presented elsewhere. The 1-D model was run for meteorological conditions representing the native habitat of *Quercus agrifolia* and two different leaf area indices (LAI), approximately representing the lower and upper limits of LAI found in California oak woodlands. As shown in Fig. 5a and 5b, the model predicts NO<sub>x</sub> deposition to *Quercus Q. agrifolia* accounts for 3%–7% of the total NO<sub>x</sub> loss within the boundary layer if the only source of NO<sub>x</sub> is emissions from the soil. This represents a total NO<sub>x</sub> lifetime of 7–7.5 hours in the boundary layer, and a lifetime to deposition of 4–11 days in the boundary layer and 0.5–1.2 hours below the canopy. Under these scenarios approximately 15–30% of soil-emitted NO<sub>x</sub> is removed in the canopy (Fig. 6)—on the lower end of the range of 25–80% reduction observed in field studies (Jacob and Wofsy, 1990; Lerdau et al., 2000; Ganzeveld et al., 2002a; Min et al., 2014).

The coastal regions of California where *Q. agrifolia* is found frequently experience much higher NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios of 10–50 ppb. This is particularly important for oak woodlands of the San Francisco Bay and near Los Angeles areas, where anthropogenic emissions from nearby urban centers are the majority of the NO<sub>x</sub> source. To account for this extra NO<sub>x</sub> source, additional model runs were done with an added term accounting for NO<sub>x</sub> advection from a more concentrated upwind source

20 ( $C_{NO_x(adv)}$ ), with advection treated as a simple mixing process:

$$\left(\frac{dC_{NO_x}}{dt}\right) = -k_{mix}(C_{NO_x} - C_{NO_x(adv)}) \quad (11)$$

where  $k_{mix} = 0.3 \text{ h}^{-1}$  and  $C_{NO_x(adv)}$  is 10 ppb.

In this case, deposition to *Q. agrifolia* could account for 10–22% of the total NO<sub>x</sub> loss in the boundary layer (Fig. 5c,d), representing a lifetime to deposition of 5–14 days in the boundary layer and a total NO<sub>x</sub> lifetime of 28–33 hours. Deposition in this higher NO<sub>x</sub> scenario decreased the total NO<sub>x</sub> lifetime by 3–8 hours, compared with a no-deposition case.

#### 5 Conclusions

This work constitutes the first measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> and NO foliar deposition resistance parameters for a North American tree species. We report observations of leaf-level resistances to NO<sub>2</sub> and NO deposition, corresponding to total deposition velocities of NO<sub>2</sub> and NO of  $0.123 \pm 0.007 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  and  $0.012 \pm 0.002 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  in the light and  $0.015 \pm 0.001 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  and  $0.005 \pm 0.002 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$  in the dark, respectively. No compensation point was observed for NO<sub>2</sub>, but compensation points of

0.74–3.8 ppb were recorded for NO. The magnitude of NO emission below the compensation point was significantly less than the magnitude of NO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the same concentration range, making *Q. agrifolia* an overall large net sink of NO<sub>x</sub>. The observed deposition is large enough to explain canopy reduction factors observed in canopy-level studies, but is at the lower end of estimated global CRFs. The results of the 1-D multibox model demonstrate that the deposition observed accounts for 5–20% of NO<sub>x</sub> removal with a NO<sub>x</sub> lifetime to deposition of 0.5–1.2 hours beneath the canopy of a California oak woodland. We show that foliar deposition of NO<sub>x</sub> represents a significant removal mechanism of NO<sub>x</sub> and can have a large impact on NO<sub>x</sub> mixing ratios and fluxes in such ecosystems. Further investigations of NO<sub>2</sub> deposition to a larger variety of plant species under a range of environmental conditions are needed to accurately understand the global impacts of NO<sub>2</sub> deposition across diverse ecosystems.

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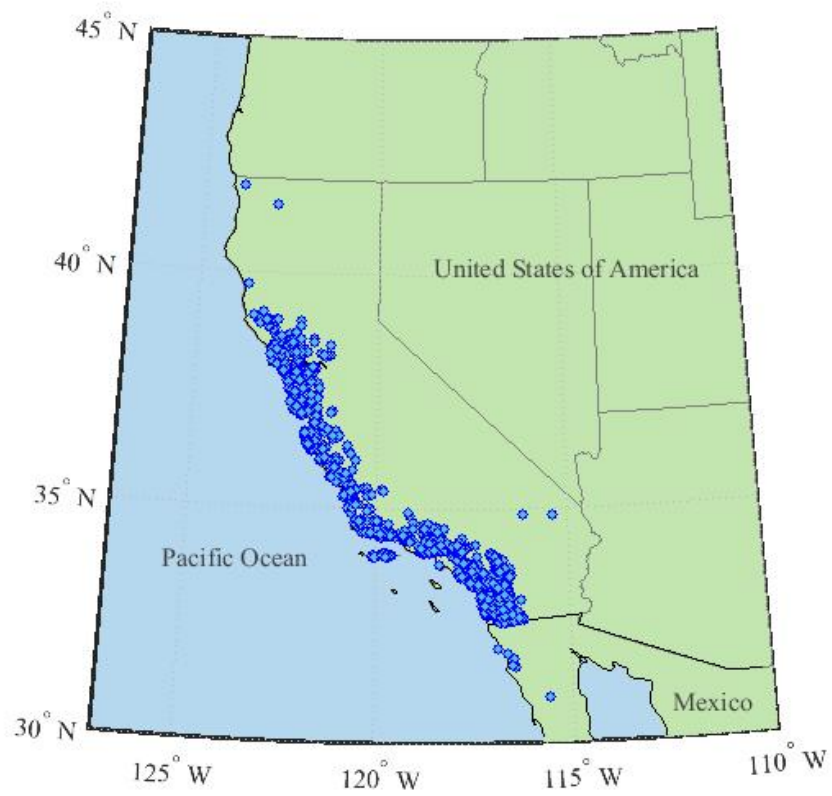
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**Figure 1: Species distribution map of *Quercus agrifolia*. Each dot represents an observation of *Q. agrifolia* occurrence. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria.**

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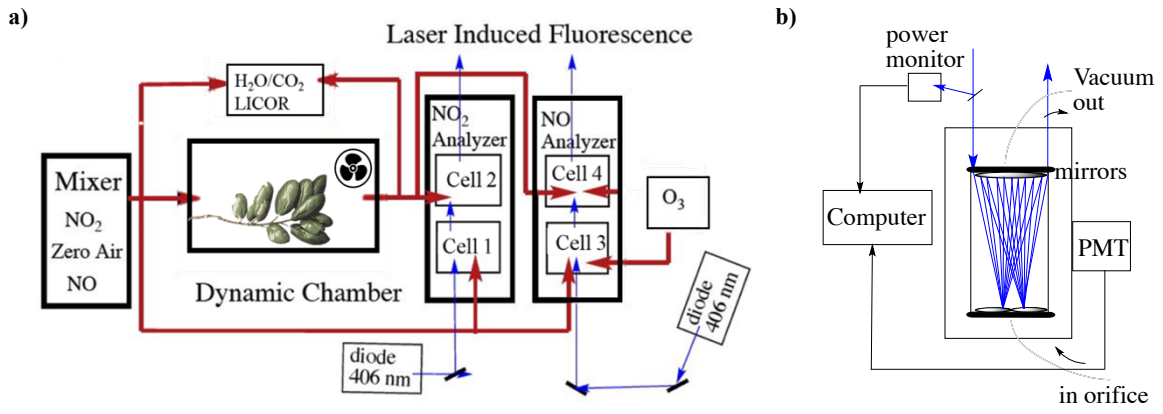


Figure 2: Schematic of the experimental dynamic chamber (a) and laser-induced fluorescence detection (b) setups.

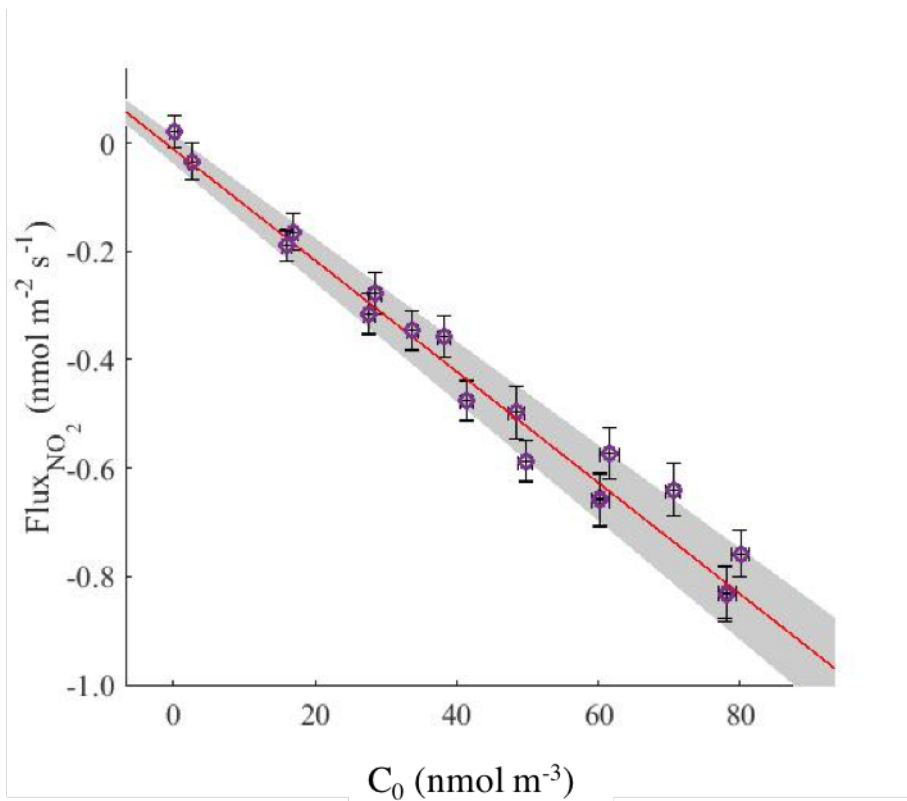


Figure 3: Flux to a 5.1 cm diameter dish filled with activated charcoal. The chemical surface resistance to deposition is approximately zero, so the deposition velocity for deposition of NO<sub>2</sub> to the surface of the charcoal dish is the reciprocal of the boundary layer resistance. The line of best fit is  $(0.51 \pm 0.032)C_0$ , where  $C_0$  is the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in the outgoing airstream.

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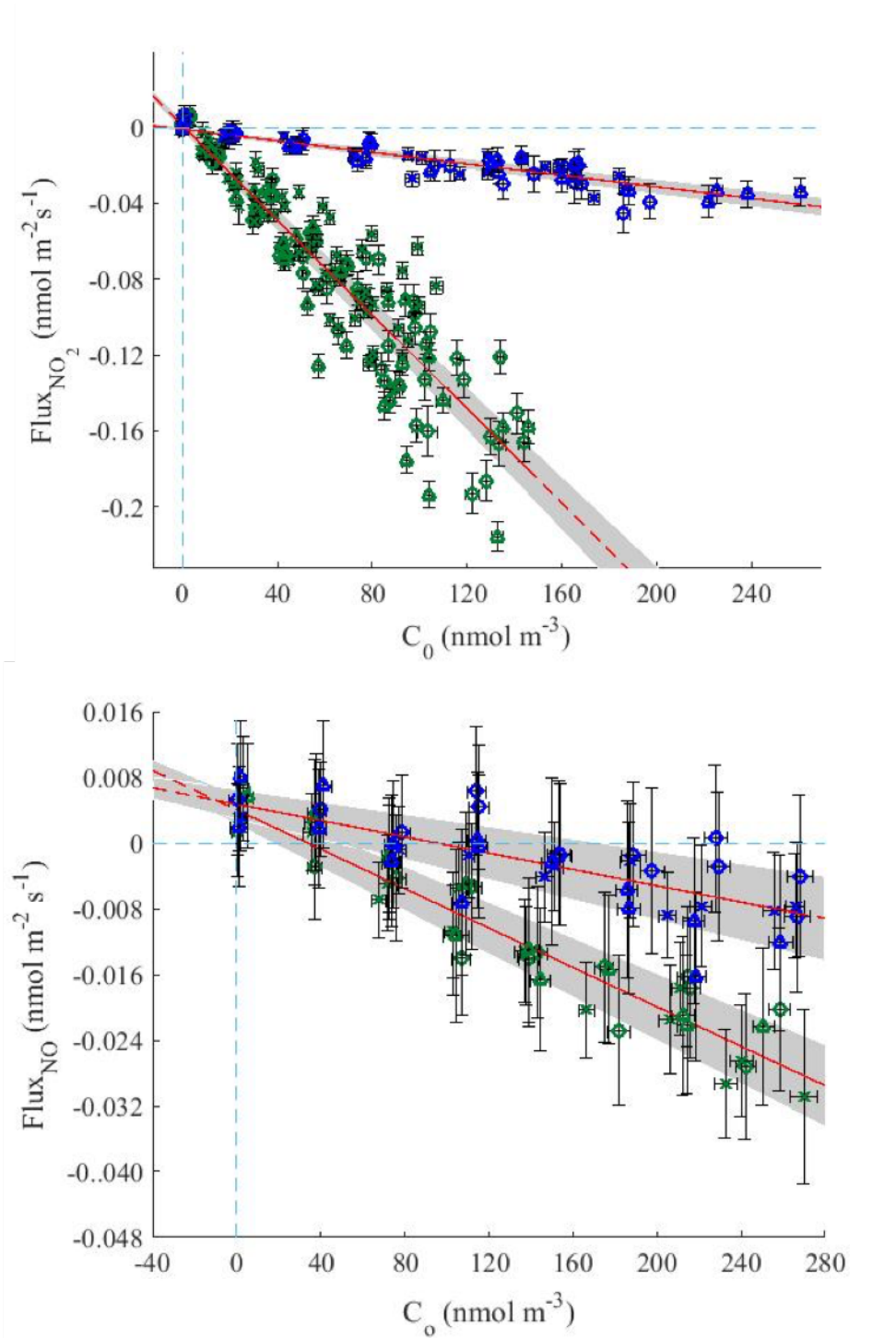
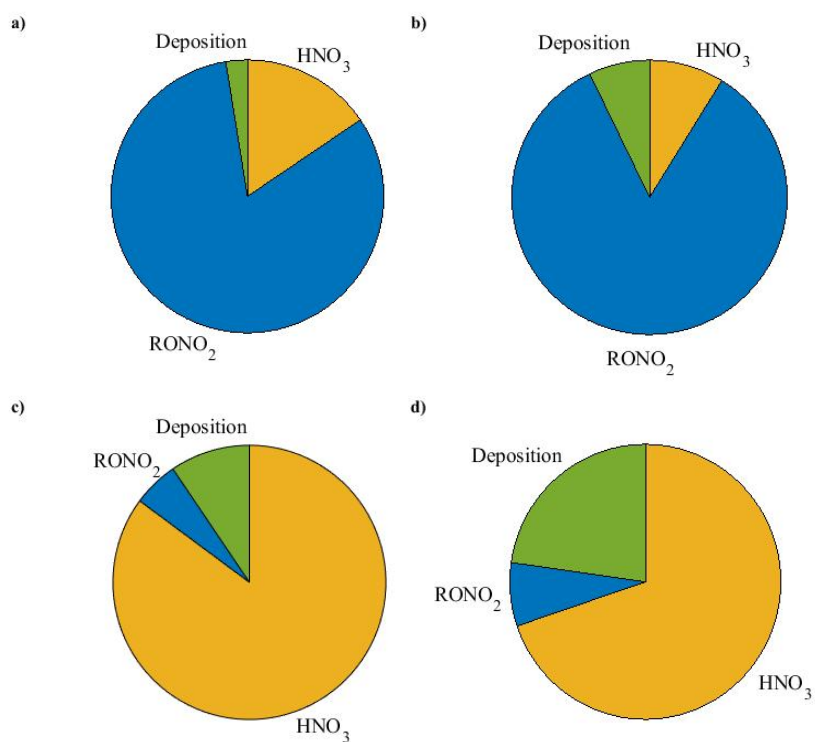
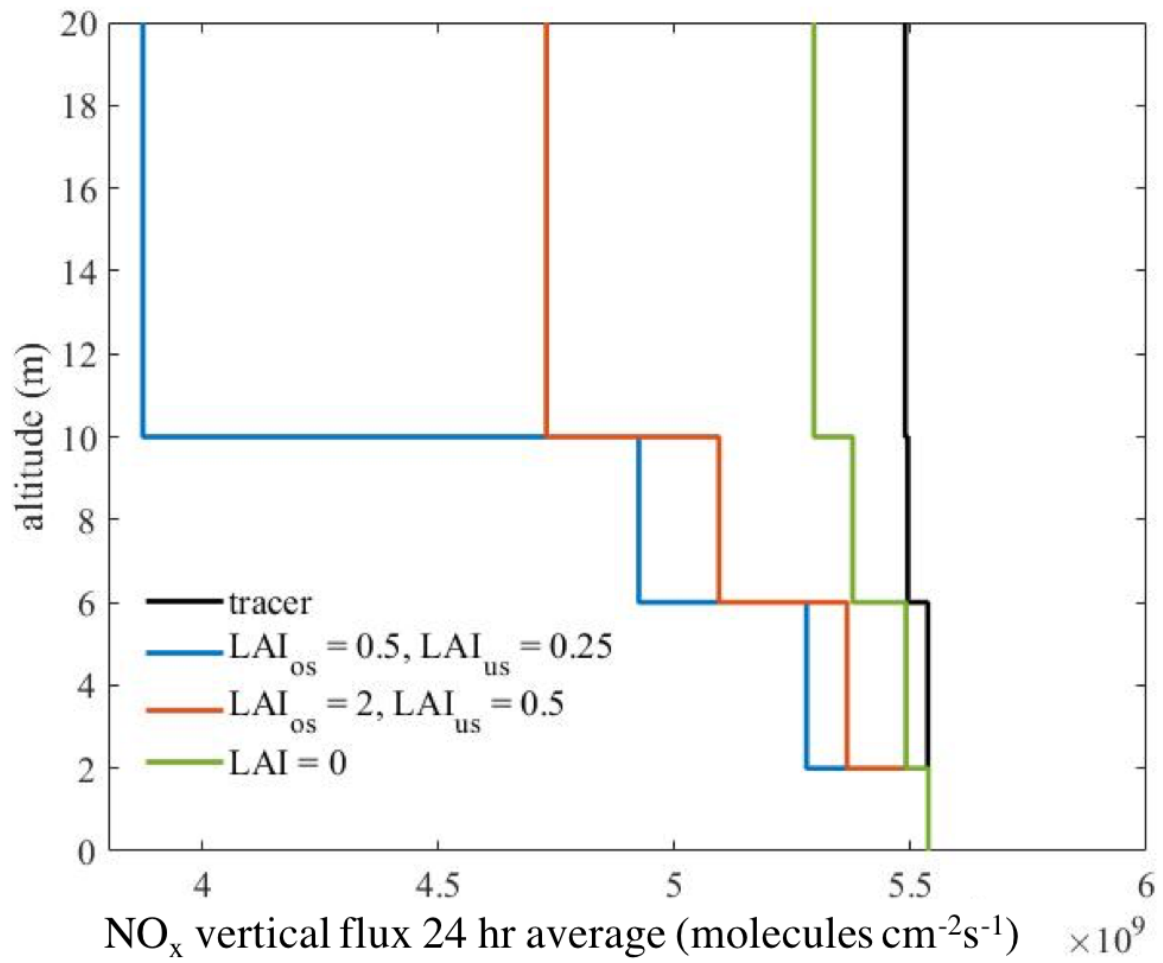


Figure 4: NO<sub>2</sub> (top) and NO (bottom) fluxes versus the outlet concentrations for all *Quercus agrifolia* individuals with the chamber lights on (green) and off (blue). The line of best fit is shown in red and was calculated to minimize the weighted residuals in both the x- and y- axis. The blue dotted line shows where flux is zero. A significantly positive ( $\alpha = 0.5$ ) x-intercept occurs for NO, but not NO<sub>2</sub> experiments.

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**Figure 5: Model predictions of the fraction of  $NO_x$  loss to alkyl nitrate formation, nitric acid formation, and deposition in a *Q. agrifolia* woodland. The model was run using scenarios with only soil emissions and LAI of 1 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup> (a), only soil emissions and LAI of 3 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup> (b),  $C_{NO_x(adv)} = 10$  ppb and LAI of 1 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup> (c), and  $C_{NO_x(adv)} = 10$  ppb and LAI of 3 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup> (d).**



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Figure 6: 24 hr average vertical fluxes of  $\text{NO}_x$  predicted by the 1-D multibox model for a California oak woodland using the leaf resistances measured in this study. Model runs were conducted for a low (red) and high (blue) LAI cases and for a no deposition scenario (green).

**Table 1: Parameters of NO<sub>2</sub> bi-variate linear least-square fitting regression analysis**

run	N	R <sup>2</sup>	[NO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>comp</sub> (ppb)	P([NO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>comp</sub> =0) %	V <sub>dep</sub> cm s <sup>-1</sup>
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 1, light					
1	13	0.979	0.056 ± 0.013	42.7	0.10 ± 0.013
2	13	0.950	0.046 ± 0.19	63.7	0.12 ± 0.023
3	16	0.978	0.099 ± 0.086	3.87	0.15 ± 0.016
4	16	0.958	0.077 ± 0.14	28.7	0.12 ± 0.021
All	58	0.927	0.080 ± 0.10	11.6	0.12 ± 0.012
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 2, light					
1	16	0.963	0.10 ± 0.12	10.3	0.08 ± 0.011
2	5	0.969	-0.01 ± 0.96	83.8	0.12 ± 0.014
3	9	0.997	0.023 ± 0.032	20.3	0.16 ± 0.011
4	16	0.97369	-0.019 ± 0.074	61.9	0.14 ± 0.017
5	15	0.979	0.015 ± 0.082	72.7	0.12 ± 0.014
All	671	0.845	-0.0077 ± 0.091	91.6	0.11 ± 0.014
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 3, light					
1	11	0.969	0.016 ± 0.18	87.4	0.12 ± 0.024
2	15	0.961	0.074 ± 0.16	39.1	0.18 ± 0.029
3	5	0.990	0.30 ± 0.20	5.9	0.12 ± 0.038
All	31	0.830	0.019 ± 0.064	77.6	0.14 ± 0.029
All <i>Q.agrifolia</i> , light	150	0.885	0.030 ± 0.072	41.3	0.123 ± 0.0092
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 1, dark					
1	16	0.964	0.056 ± 0.14	0.9*	0.022 ± 0.0034
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 2, dark					
1	16	0.858	-0.16 ± 0.47	50.8	0.016 ± 0.0050
2	12	0.932	-0.34 ± 0.40	11.8	0.013 ± 0.0038
All	28	0.853	-0.24 ± 0.32	15.6	0.015 ± 0.0030
<i>Q.agrifolia</i> 3, dark					
1	14	0.900	-0.30 ± 0.48	24.1	0.015 ± 0.0042
2	11	0.909	-0.001 ± 0.69	36.7	0.015 ± 0.0057
All	25	0.898	-0.22 ± 0.38	25.3	0.014 ± 0.0029
All <i>Q.agrifolia</i> , dark	69	0.881	-0.16 ± 0.24	12.2	0.015 ± 0.0018

\* Significant non-zero compensation point

**Table 2: Parameters of NO bi-variate linear least-square fitting regression analysis**

run	N	R <sup>2</sup>	[NO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>comp</sub> (ppb)	P([NO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>comp</sub> =0)	V <sub>dep</sub>
<i>Q. agrifolia</i> 1					
light	17	0.874	0.74 ± 0.65	3.5*	0.011 ± 0.0032
dark	13	0.699	3.8 ± 2.2	0.52*	0.0040 ± 0.0025
<i>Q. agrifolia</i> 1					
light	14	0.954	0.76 ± 0.49	0.92*	0.013 ± 0.0027
dark	10	0.866	1.7 ± 1.0	1.1*	0.0046 ± 0.0018
<i>Q. agrifolia</i> 1					
light	12	0.936	1.3 ± 0.60	0.17*	0.0123 ± 0.0029
dark	15	0.803	2.0 ± 1.0	2.5*	0.0074 ± 0.0033
All <i>Q. agrifolia</i>					
light	13	0.908	0.84 ± 0.32	<0.01*	0.012 ± 0.0015
dark	13	0.602	2.4 ± 1.1	<0.01*	0.0050 ± 0.0016

\*Significant non-zero compensation point

**Table 3: Summary of deposition resistance parameters of *Quercus agrifolia***

gas	$R_b$ s cm <sup>-1</sup>	$R_{cut}$ s cm <sup>-1</sup>	$R_s^* (R_{st} + R_{ra})$ s cm <sup>-1</sup>
NO <sub>2</sub>	1.94 ± 0.02	<del>63-65</del> ± 8	<del>6.97-36.9</del> ±
NO	2.59 ± 0.03	200 ± 60	140 ± 40