

# Pressure of herbivores on palatable young trees can be limited by coarse woody debris and hiking trails

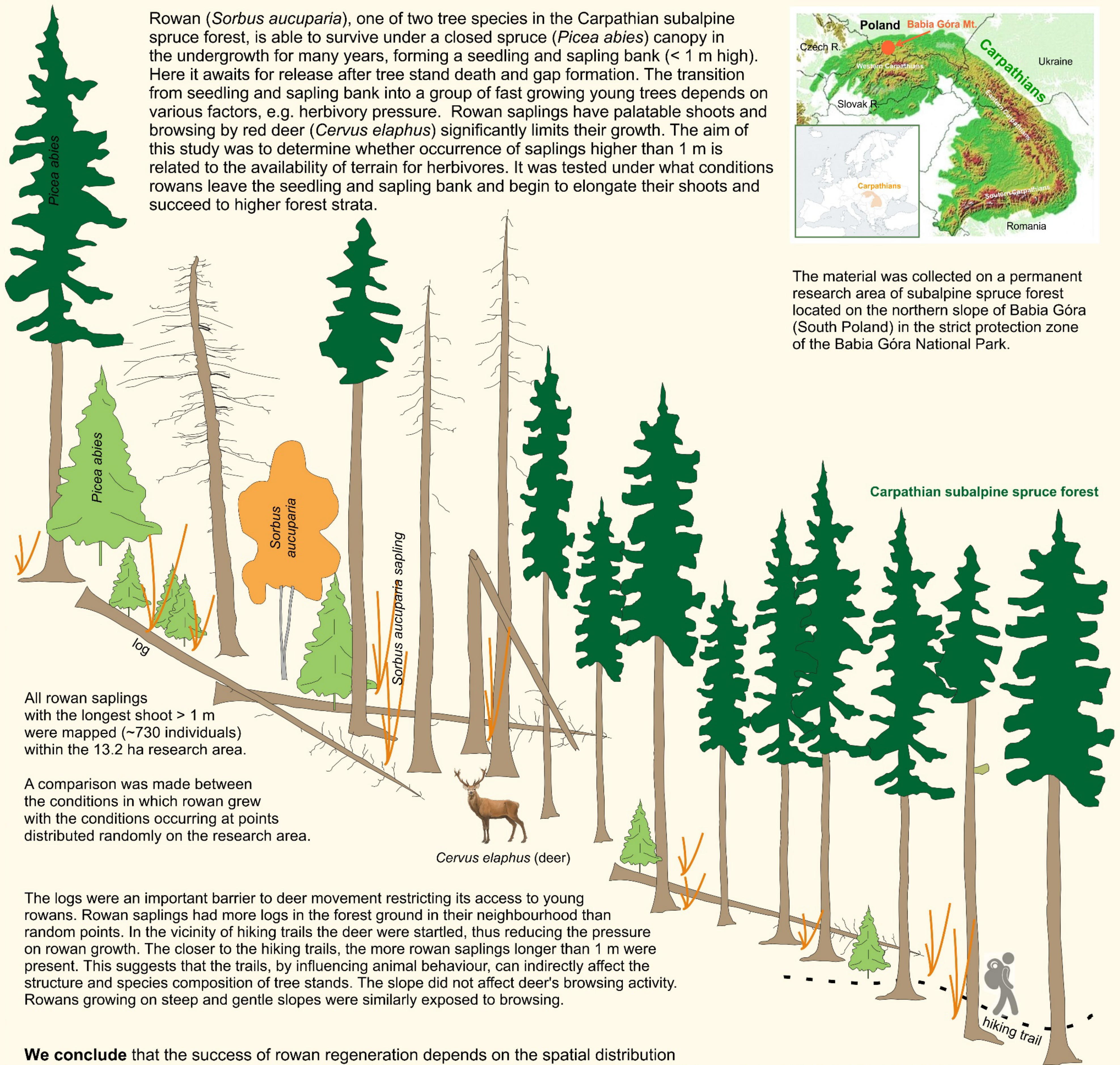
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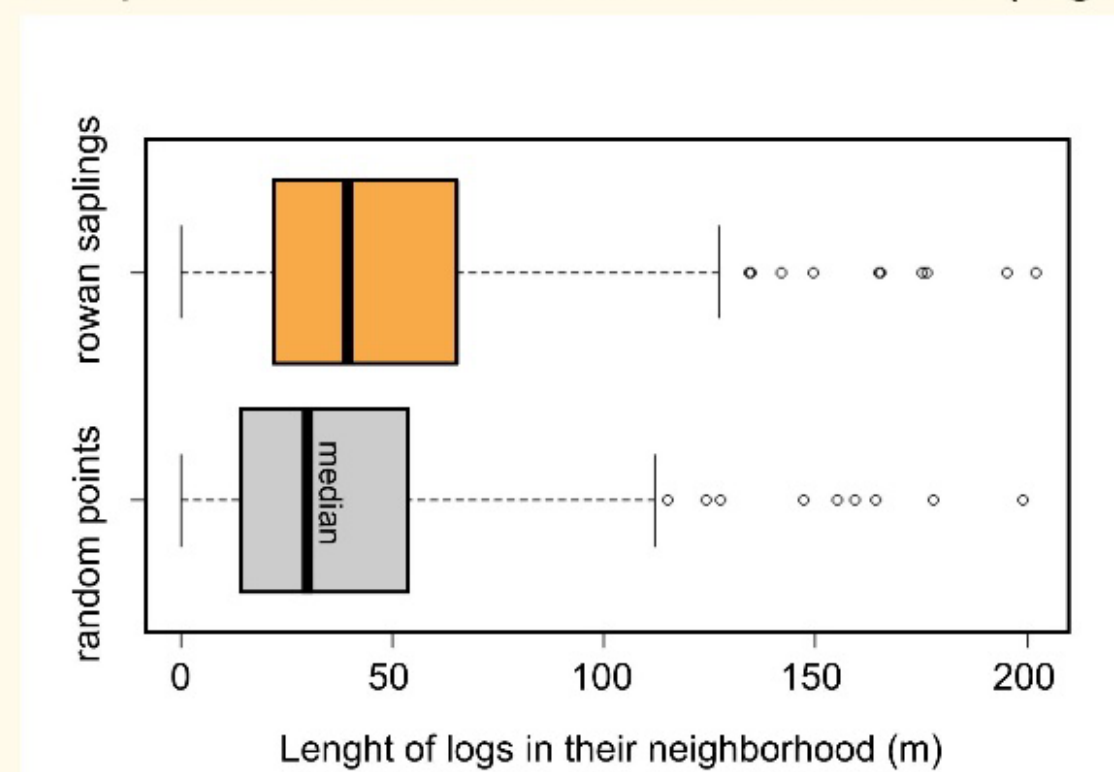
3: Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Biology, Poznan, Poland

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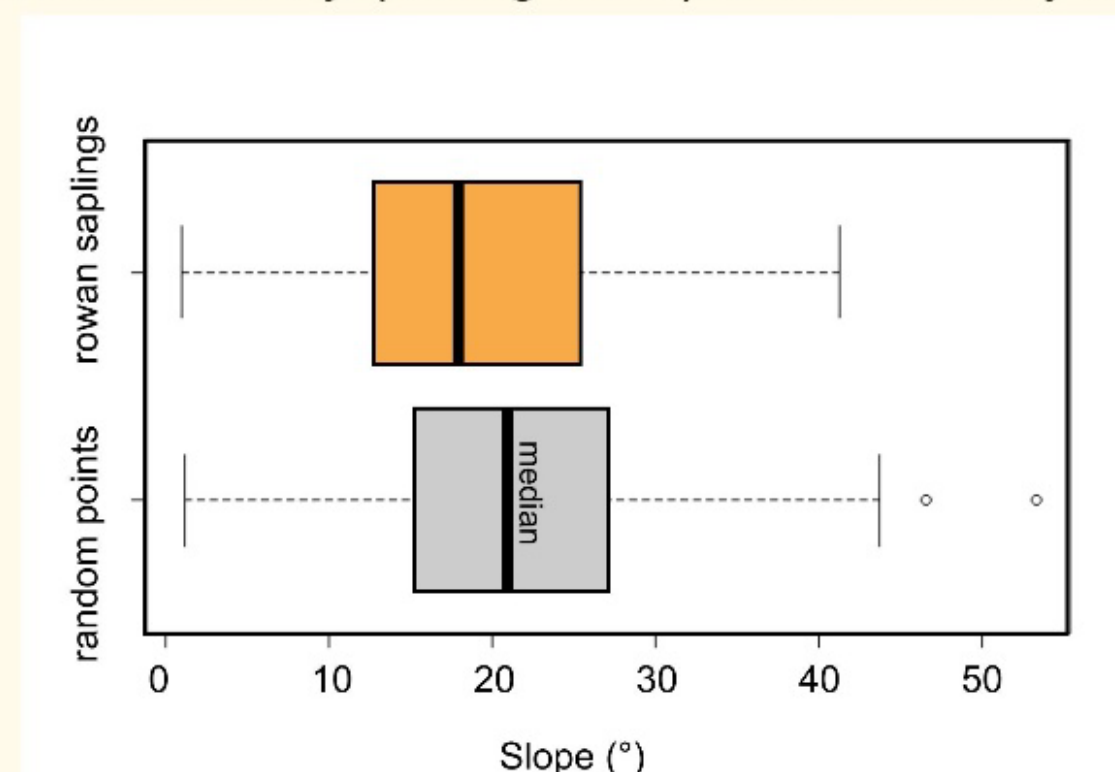


The material was collected on a permanent research area of subalpine spruce forest located on the northern slope of Babia Góra (South Poland) in the strict protection zone of the Babia Góra National Park.

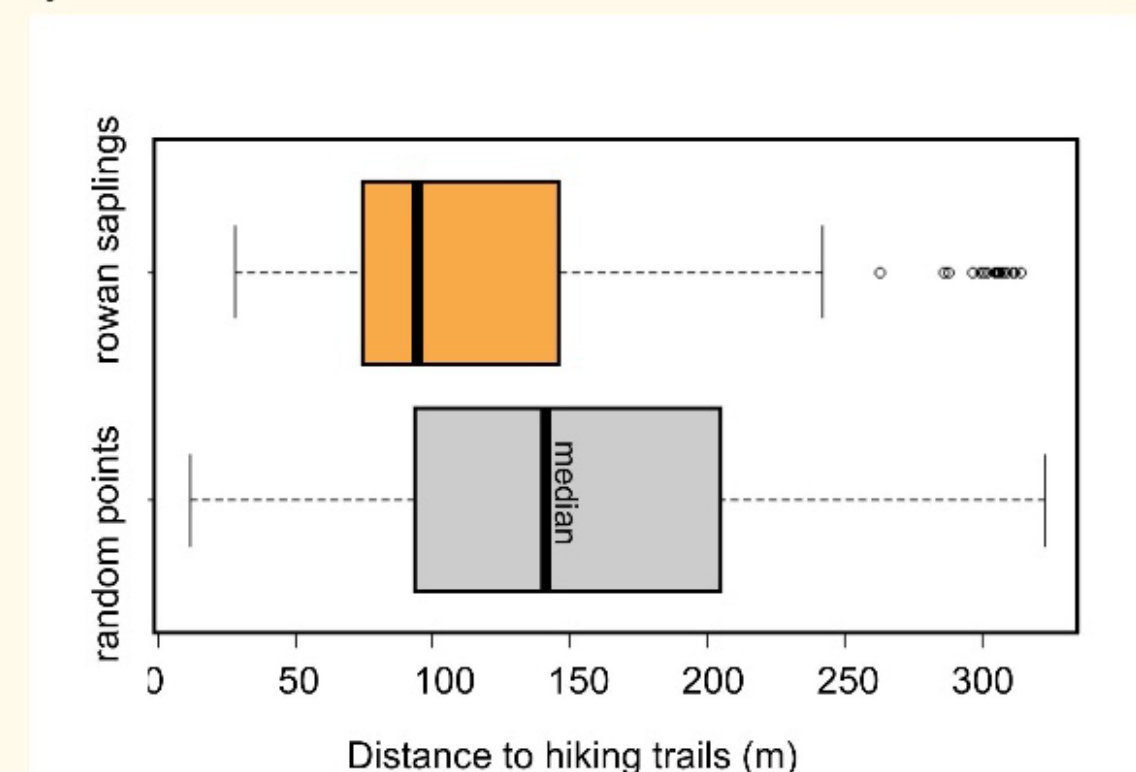
**We conclude** that the success of rowan regeneration depends on the spatial distribution of specific element of forest structure (logs) and human activity (hiking trails), which modify the activity of deer within the forest.



Total length of logs in a radius of 10 m around rowan saplings was significantly higher than around random points (U test,  $p=0,0006$ ).



Slope did not differ significantly between rowans and random points (t-Student test,  $p=0,39$ ).



Rowan saplings were distributed closer to hiking trails than random points (U test,  $p < 0,0001$ ).



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