



Development of cambioxylophagous insect fauna on blue spruce after chemical thinning

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Chemical thinning performed in stands of blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) in air-polluted areas of the Ore Mountains does not pose a significant threat of sub-bark pest outbreaks. Application of the herbicide Roundup in autumn and in spring caused dieback of the treated trees where mainly *Hylurgops palliatus* became active and completed its development. Pests *Ips amitinus* and *Pityogenes chalcographus* died mostly at larval stage, despite their high abundance. *Cryphalus abietis* completed its development only on thicker branches and was not able to occupy tops of trees due to fast dieback of phloem. Quality of phloem was strongly affected by the speed of defoliation.

Keywords: herbicide Roundup, chemical thinning, *Picea pungens*, *Hylurgops palliatus*, *Ips amitinus*, *Pityogenes chalcographus*, Ore Mountains

Introduction

Stands of substitute tree species with a high share of blue spruce (*Picea pungens* Engelm.) were planted at the beginning of the 1980s during regeneration of forests on clearcuts induced by air pollution, mainly in the area of the Ore Mountains (Kubelka et al. 1992, Šika 1976, Tesař 1981, Balcar 1986, Jirgle et al. 1983). Thirty years later when air-pollution decreased and site conditions improved, forest regeneration with target species began (*Picea abies* /L./ Karst., *Fagus sylvatica* L., *Abies alba* Mill., *Acer pseudoplatanus* L.), benefiting from the existing substitute tree stands (shading, microclimate) (Šrámek et al. 2008). One of the possibilities of site preparation for regeneration is elimination of blue spruce by chemical thinning (Pop et al. 2010). The objective is fast killing of the standing trees, accompanied by intensive defoliation, opening up of the stand and gradual disintegration of the treated trees. In such conditions, the newly established stand is protected from temperature fluctuations, especially from late frosts.

After such sudden loss of assimilatory apparatus while the root system is still vital, quality of blue spruce phloem changes differently than in case of natural dieback when needles are shed very gradually, even after the root system had died (Kula et al. 2009). This is connected with the presumption that the synusia of cambioxylophagous insects will be limited by phloem quality, both in its species composition and attack intensity. On naturally dying blue spruces with *Dendroctonus micans* (Kug.) as the inciting mortality factor, the dominant species is *Ips amitinus* (Eichh.); however, on suddenly killed spruces we expect to see characteristic changes not only in phloem quality, but also in the sub-bark fauna composition. In Norway spruce, similar change has been observed on stems of trees struck by lightning (Kula, Ząbecki 1997), trees killed by air-pollution (Kudela, Wolf 1963) or on standing stems of trees with broken-off whole crown (Kula et al. 2006) with dominant occurrence of *Xyloterus lineatus* (Oliv.), *Polygraphus polygraphus* (L.), *Hylurgops palliatus* (Gyll.) and *Isarthron fuscum* (Fabr.), or on windfalls (Kula, Ząbecki 2006a, 2006b).

Hypothesis: The course of blue spruce (*P. pungens*) dieback will be differentiated according to the method of application and concentration of the herbicide (Roundup). Speed of dieback and the induced change of phloem quality will affect the synusia of sub-bark and wood-destroying fauna in the treated blue spruces as well as the level of development completion.

Objective: To determine cambioxylophagous insect fauna and to assess the danger of bark beetle outbreaks in blue spruce stands after chemical thinning.

Material and Methods

Blue spruces (173 ind.) killed by Roundup Klastic (Glyphosate-IPA 480 g·l⁻¹) were felled (for details see Pop et al. 2010) (average diameter at breast height (DBH) 13.3 ± 2.85 cm, average height 8.02 ± 1.21 m and average crown base height 2.49 ± 0.75 m). Bark was removed from stems and branches and occurrence of cambioxylophagous species was determined from the presence of typical galleries (eventually imagos and larvae) along the whole profile of the stem and crown branches in one-meter connecting sections. In each of the bark beetle species found on a section, the following parameters were determined: stage of development (larva, pupa, imago and larval mortality according to gallery development), gallery development stage (entrance hole, nuptial chamber, mother and larval galleries, exit holes), intensity of the attack (scattered attack – sporadic occurrence of feeding marks on the examined section; increased attack – feeding marks occupy 1/3–2/3 of the section surface; heavy attack – feeding marks occur on more than 2/3 of the section surface) (Kula, Ząbecki 1996) and the stage of phloem dieback (up to 20%: phloem is vital, peelable in long stripes, water loss is little, phloem fibres may get caught on knife during cutting; 30–50%: phloem and stripes of bark are not so easy to peel, only in short segments, moderately dry; 60–80%: phloem of darkening colour cannot be peeled, only cut off; 90–100%: phloem is dark, dying or dead, content of water is insufficient for survival of cambioxylophagous insects. Diameter of each section was measured in its mid-length and its volume was calculated. For objective evaluation, sections were grouped according to their volume class [< 0.99 dm³ (VC_1); 1–2.49 (VC_2); 2.5–4.99 (VC_3); 5–7.49 (VC_4); 7.5–9.99 (VC_5); 10–14.99 (VC_6); 15–24.99 (VC_7); > 25 dm³ (VC_8)].

The effect of chemical thinning and nature conditions on the cambioxylophagous fauna of

blue spruce was tested using the Canoco for Windows 4.5 (TerBraak, Šmilauer 2002) program. To depict diagrams we used the CanoDraw for Windows program. The statistical significance of particular variables was tested by a Monte-Carlo permutation test (999 permutations).

Results

Nine cambioxylophagous species were found on blue spruces after chemical thinning performed by different methods of herbicide (Roundup) application. On the 173 analyzed trees, three insect species showed eudominant position: *H. palliatus* (68.4%), *Pityogenes chalcographus* (L.) (51.2%) and *I. amitinus* (37.9%). Simultaneously, larvae of the Cerambycidae family developed on stems and trees were also attacked by *X. lineatus*, *Cryphalus abietis* (Ratz.), *Dryocoetes autographus* (Ratz.), *Hylecoetes dermestoides* (L.) and *Pissodes* sp.

With gradual phloem drying and dieback, faunistic richness increased. Presence of some species was confirmed even in relatively fresh phloem; on stems with phloem dieback above 30%, *I. amitinus* and *P. chalcographus* showed balanced dominance while development of *H. palliatus* culminated at phloem dieback exceeding 50% (Tab. 1).

Tree size characterized by diameter at breast height (DBH) indicated logical regularity in distribution of dominant species. Competitive environment leads to decrease of *H. palliatus* and increase of *I. amitinus* with increasing DBH. *P. chalcographus* preferred thinner stems, in contrast to *Isarthron* genus (Cerambycidae) (Tab. 2).

Butt parts of trees were most attractive for the species *H. palliatus* (43.6%), which decreased along the stem profile. The highest share was found in 4th–8th volume class (5–25 + dm³) when DBH was not a significant factor. *P. chalcographus* developed on medium to thin sections with volume up to 10 dm³. Along the stem profile, it occurred mainly from the 3rd height meter up to the tree top (14.8–24.7% of the attacked sections); the most attractive were trees with DHB < 100 mm. *I. amitinus* occupied all volume and height sections along the tree profile with the 2nd–6th volume class being the most attractive. Cerambycidae dominated the butt section (30.7%) and their abundance decreased with height (Tab. 2, 3, Fig. 1).

The highest mortality of blue spruce was achieved when herbicide was applied with a hypo-hatchet both in X/2009 and VI/2010 or by drilling in VI/2007; application with a brush onto chain-saw cuts was less effective. Low

Tab. 1: Cambioxylophagous fauna on stems of dying blue spruces at the current stage of phloem dieback.

Species	Degree of phloem dieback (%)				N-sections
	0–20	30–50	60–80	90–100	
<i>Cerambycidae</i>	2.06	6.52	10.05	9.14	119
<i>Cryphalus abietis</i>	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.43	6
<i>Dryocoetes autographus</i>	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.11	4
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.00	1
<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	2
<i>Hylurgops palliatus</i>	2.06	15.94	38.81	31.46	405
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	6.19	17.39	16.44	19.45	249
<i>Pityophthorus pityographus</i>	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	1
<i>Pissodes</i> sp.	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.11	2
<i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>	2.06	14.49	17.35	17.75	227
<i>Xyloterus lineatus</i>	0.00	1.45	4.57	3.08	41
No attack	87.63	53.62	28.31	37.62	575
N-sections	97	138	219	941	

Tab. 2: Cambioxylophagous fauna on stems of blue spruces after herbicide application (Roundup) according to diameter at breast-height (DBH) (%).

Species/ DBH (mm)	67–99	100–124	125–149	150–174	175–202	Sum
<i>Cerambycidae</i>	5.60	6.25	7.16	10.07	17.09	8.49
<i>Cryphalus abietis</i>	0.80	0.00	0.67	0.00	1.27	0.43
<i>Dryocoetes autographus</i>	0.80	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.29
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i>	0.80	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.14
<i>Hylurgops palliatus</i>	37.60	34.64	24.61	28.47	20.89	28.89
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	7.20	13.54	21.70	22.57	16.46	17.76
<i>Pityophthorus pityographus</i>	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
<i>Pissodes</i> sp.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.14
<i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>	35.20	17.45	17.45	11.11	3.80	16.19
<i>Xyloterus lineatus</i>	2.40	3.65	2.24	2.08	5.06	2.92
No attack	28.80	38.80	35.12	55.56	46.20	41.01
N-sections	125	384	447	288	158	1402

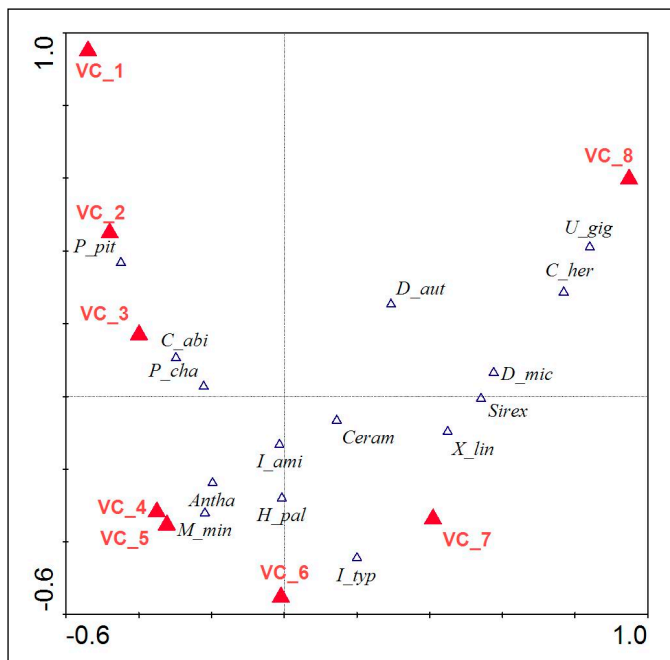


Fig. 1: Cambioxylophagous fauna of blue spruce stems after herbicide application (Roundup) according to volume classes (VC_1-VC_8) (see chapter Material and Methods and Tab. 3).

Tab. 3: Cambioxylophagous fauna of blue spruces after herbicide application (Roundup) according to volume class (%).

Species/Volume classes	Canoco	0-0.99	1-2.49	2.50-4.99	5-7.49	7.50-9.99	10-14.99	15-24.99	25+	Sum
Cerambycidae	Ceram	0.00	0.00	2.65	6.18	9.87	10.96	24.04	38.46	8.49
<i>Cryphalus abietis</i>	C_abi	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.43
<i>Dryocoetes autographus</i>	D_aut	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.46	1.09	0.00	0.29
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	D_mic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.07
<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i>	H_der	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.14
<i>Hylurgops palliatus</i>	H_pal	6.59	12.87	22.22	37.64	40.79	45.66	42.62	32.69	28.89
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	I_ami	8.91	25.73	28.57	25.84	19.74	14.61	9.29	5.77	17.76
<i>Pityophthorus pityographus</i>	P_pit	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
<i>Pissodes</i> sp.	Pisso	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.14
<i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>	P_chal	18.99	37.43	27.51	18.54	12.50	4.11	0.55	0.00	16.19
<i>Xyloterus lineatus</i>	X_lin	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.56	3.29	5.48	10.38	5.77	2.92
No attack		67.44	38.60	33.86	30.90	30.92	35.62	38.25	40.38	41.01
N-sections		258	171	189	178	152	219	183	52	1402

trunk coverage with cambioxylophagous fauna was found on trees with herbicide applied onto chain-saw cuts (44–82% of the unoccupied sections) while on trees where herbicide was applied with a hypo-hatchet, the share of unoccupied sections reached 14–57%. Intensity of tree dieback affected the attack of *H. palliatus* species. On control trees with chain-saw cuts left without herbicide application it occupied only 4.3% of the sections, on trees with chain-saw cuts treated with herbicide it attacked 2.1–25.9% of the sections, trees after hypo-hatchet application were strongly attacked (14–47.7%) and on trees where herbicide had been applied into a drilled hole it occupied 64.9% of sections. Attack of *I. amitinus* was also differentiated according to the application method used. Trees with chain-saw cuts showed lower attractiveness (both control and with herbicide application) and higher occurrence was typical for hypo-hatchet Roundup application. More even distribution was observed in *P. chalcographus*, albeit with partial preference for trees treated with the hypo-hatchet; occurrence of Cerambycidae was also the highest there (Tab. 4).

Development success of the most abundant species on blue spruces killed with herbicide

varied. Altered quality of phloem created conditions suitable for lesser spruce shoot beetle *H. palliatus* that completed its development on 61.1% of the sections, however, with differences between the individual methods of herbicide application (chainsaw cuts 21.4%, hypo-hatchet 60.1% and drill 98%). *I. amitinus* showed high larval mortality (50.6%) and finished its development only on 18.8% of the sections (chain-saw cuts 0%, hypo-hatchet 20%). Very low development success (7%) was typical for *P. chalcographus* where high mortality at larval stage was observed (64.3% of sections), especially after herbicide application with hypo-hatchet (76%) and onto chain-saw cuts (29%) (Tab. 5).

Branches of chemically thinned blue spruces attracted *P. chalcographus* (22.4%) and *C. abietis* (9.3%) species. According to the method by Kula, Ząbecki (1996), the attack was only scattered in most cases. Rare occurrence of *I. amitinus*, *H. palliatus* and Cerambycidae was noticed on several sections. Larvae of *P. chalcographus* died on a large scale (70.1%), while *C. abietis* completed its development on 58.3% of the sections and flew out.

Tab. 4: Cambioxylophagous fauna on stems of blue spruces according to the time and method of herbicide (Roundup) application (%).

Time of application	Method of application	Concentration of herbicide (%)	Volume of herbicide (cm ³)	No attack	<i>H. palliatus</i>	<i>P. chalcographus</i>	<i>I. amitinus</i>	<i>X. lineatus</i>	Cerambycidae	<i>C. abietis</i>	N-section
20.6.2007	Drill	100	5	14.47	64.94	3.95	23.68	13.16	28.95	0	77
10.10.2009	Chain-saw cuts	0	0	66.67	4.30	20.43	9.68	3.23	2.15	0	93
10.10.2009	Chain-saw cuts	100	10	82.35	11.76	2.94	0	0	5.88	0	34
10.10.2009	Chain-saw cuts	100	5	57.86	2.14	2.86	9.29	0.71	5.00	0	140
10.10.2009	Chain-saw cuts	15	10	66.67	16.67	16.67	0	0	0	0	6
10.10.2009	Chain-saw cuts	15	5	44.44	25.93	14.81	14.81	3.70	3.70	0	27
10.10.2009	Hypo-hatchet	100	10	47.69	30.09	15.28	10.19	0	5.56	0.46	216
10.10.2009	Hypo-hatchet	100	5	16.28	36.28	27.44	33.95	1.40	13.49	1.39	215
10.10.2009	Hypo-hatchet	15	10	14.04	42.13	29.78	26.97	5.62	21.35	0.56	178
10.10.2009	Hypo-hatchet	15	5	57.45	11.70	18.09	7.45	1.06	3.19	0	94
30.6.2010	Chain-saw cuts	100	5	59.26	12.96	8.64	17.28	1.23	0.62	0.62	162
30.6.2010	Hypo-hatchet	100	5	39.75	32.10	11.80	16.77	6.21	1.24	0.62	162

Tab. 5: The proportion of sections of blue spruce killed with Roundup with developmental stages of selected species of cambioxylophagous fauna (DWCH-dried nuptial chambers, G-galleries, DG-dried galleries, L-larvae, DL-dried larvae, P-pupae, YB-young beetles, I-imagoes, FH-exit holes) (%).

Species/Developmental stages	DWCH	G	DG	L	DL	P	YB	I	FH	N-sections
Cerambycidae	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.16	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	119
<i>Hylurgops palliatus</i>	0.00	1.23	0.25	26.91	10.62	1.23	0.25	1.98	57.53	405
<i>Ips amitinus</i>	0.00	11.24	5.22	13.65	50.60	0.80	0.40	1.61	16.47	249
<i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>	0.44	4.41	1.32	22.03	64.32	0.44	0.88	1.76	4.41	227
<i>Xyloterus lineatus</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.20	51.22	41

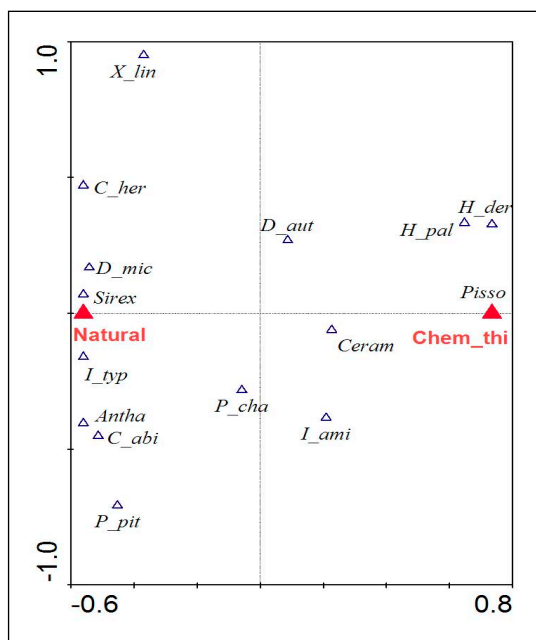


Fig. 2: Cambioxylophagous fauna on dying trees in stands with natural conditions (Natural) and after chemical thinning (Chem_thi) (see Tab. 3).

Discussion

Differences in phloem quality and rate of its dieback in blue spruces treated with herbicide and in naturally dying trees resulted in different synusia of cambioxylophagous species. According to the frequency of attacked sections, trees dying mainly from *D. micans* attack attracted *X. lineatus* and *C. abietis* (Kula et al. 2012), while after chemical thinning, *H. palliatus* and larvae of the Cerambycidae family were dominant. In commonly occurring species *I. amitinus* and *P. chalcographus*, no significant preference was found (Fig. 2). Phloem quality played a key role in development success: on herbicide-treated trees, *H. palliatus* completed its development,

but *I. amitinus* and *P. chalcographus* died at larval stage and *C. abietis* did not find suitable phloem in its natural niche (tree top) as this part died back very fast, but was able to finish its development on lower branches. According to Kula, Kajfosz (2007), *P. chalcographus* did not complete its development on whole Norway spruces that were felled for thinning, pulled out of the stand and exposed to sunlight. On the other hand, it intensively attacked spring felling debris left in stands where slower phloem drying allowed the larvae to pupate even on the upper sides of trunks. Insignificant occurrence of *H. palliatus*, *X. lineatus* and *I. amitinus* was observed on Norway spruce felling debris from spring thinning. Chararas (1959) determined that low osmotic

pressure (3–5 atm.) in bark, wood and needles of branches of *Pinus sylvestris* (L.) and *Picea abies* /L./ Karst. increases their attractiveness for *H. palliatus* that concentrates on basal parts of trunks of dying trees, stumps and trees from previous autumn felling (Schroeder 1991, Schroeder, Eidmann 1993, Schroeder et al. 1999). These sources release a relatively high amount of ethanol from tissues of dying trees while the amount of released monoterpenes is low compared to the freshly felled trees (Kimmerer, Kozłowski 1982). *H. palliatus* inhabits parts of bark lying directly on the ground or partially impressed into soil. It prefers very moist phloem and often occurs together with *X. lineatus* (Ozols 1975, Lekander et al. 1977, Koch 1992, Jakuš 1998).

Structure of cambioxylophagous fauna can also be influenced by the period in which the tree was weakened and damaged (Kula, Ząbecki 2006a, 2006b, 2007). If tending felling is performed in summer period, development of cambioxylophagous fauna is reduced and the method of application may also affect the fauna colonizing the treated trees (Kula, Kajfosz 2006, 2007). Herbicide application in autumn and spring did not induce significant changes in the structure of blue spruce cambioxylophages with the exception of *P. chalcographus* that occurred with higher frequency on trees treated in spring. It is present in all areas where *P. abies* and other spruce species grow (Ratzeburg 1839, Schwerdtfeger 1970, Novák 1976, Zúmr, Soldán 1981, Wood, Bright 1992). It is reported as a forest pest (Escherich 1923, Byers et al. 1988), inhabiting breakages, felling debris, branches and occasionally also young spruce stands. It is able to detect trees weakened by drought.

H. palliatus is a monogamous species that overwinters and swarms from early April till early May (Subansenee 1971, Lekander et al. 1977). Its flight activity decreases in June and so it does not settle on summer debris, only maturation feeding of a new generation may be seen there during autumn (Nuorteva 1956, Subansenee 1971, Ozols 1975, Lekander et al. 1977).

Temporal secondary species (Pfeffer 1995) of blue spruce fauna do not pose a threat to healthy trees (*H. palliatus*). They indicate changes in phloem quality and may act as food competitors, for example for *Ips typographus* (L.) (Norway spruce windfalls), or for *P. poligraphus* (standing stems of Norway spruce with broken-off whole crown) (Kula, Ząbecki 2006a, 2006b). After rapid loss of assimilatory apparatus, content of water in blue spruce phloem changes, making the conditions acceptable for *H. palliatus*.

I. amitinus frequently appeared together with *I. typographus* in all areas and both species reproduce at the same time (Jurc, Bojović 2004, Økland, Skarpaas 2008). From economical aspect, it is the most important pest of blue spruce. *I. typographus*, despite the existing strong phloem, practically did not occur on blue spruce, either dying naturally, treated with herbicides or felled. On uprooted Norway spruces, food competition between *H. palliatus* (bottom part of trunk) and *I. amitinus* (crown part of trunk) does not occur; however, on blue spruce it was observed as both species inhabited the trunks in their whole profile, *I. amitinus* preferring the upper and middle parts and *H. palliatus* the middle and butt parts of the trunks.

In spite of the fact that *I. amitinus* and *P. chalcographus* belong to significant pests, blue spruces killed with herbicide do not offer suitable substrate for their reproduction, in contrast to trees felled and cut-up in stands where outbreaks of *I. amitinus* are possible (Kula et al. 2011).

Conclusions

- 1) Chemical thinning with Roundup herbicide performed in blue spruce stands lead to development of the same cambioxylophagous fauna on the trees treated at the end and at the beginning of vegetation season, with the exception of higher share of *P. chalcographus* after spring application.
- 2) Phloem quality created conditions suitable for successful development of *H. palliatus*, while species *P. chalcographus* and *I. amitinus* showed high mortality at larval stage.
- 3) *C. abietis* completed its development only on thicker branches; tree tops were not colonized due to fast phloem dieback.
- 4) Bark beetle fauna on chemically thinned blue spruces showed a high share of *H. palliatus*, in contrast to fauna of naturally-dying trees with prevalence of *D. micans* and *X. lineatus*.
- 5) Blue spruces treated with Roundup do not offer conditions suitable for outbreaks of economically significant bark beetles.

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