

1 Short communication: Concentrated impacts by tree 2 canopy drips: hotspots of soil erosion in forests

3
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15 Abstract.

16 The degradation of ground vegetation cover caused by large grazing herbivores frequently results in
17 enhanced erosion rates in forest ecosystems. Splash erosion can be caused by drop impacts with a high
18 throughfall kinetic energy (TKE) from the tree canopy-of-the-trees. Notably bigger canopy drips from
19 structurally-mediated woody surface points appear to induce an even higher TKE and generate concentrated
20 impact locations causing severe focus points of soil erosion. However, TKE at these locations has rarely
21 been reported. This study investigated the intensity of TKE at a concentrated impact location and compared
22 it with the general TKE locations under the canopy and freefall kinetic energy (FKE) outside the forest. We
23 measured precipitation, TKE and FKE using splash cups at seven locations under Japanese beech trees and
24 five locations outside the forest during the leafless and leafed seasons in a deciduous broadleaved forest
25 in of Japan, respectively. The TKE at the concentrated impact location was 15.2 and 49.7 times higher than
26 that at the general locations under the beech and FKE, respectively. This study confirmed that canopy drip
27 from woody surfaces could be a hotspot of soil erosion in temperate forest ecosystems. Throughfall
28 precipitation at the concentrated impact location was 11.4 and 8.1 times higher than that at general locations
29 and freefall, respectively. TKE per 1 mm precipitation (unit TKE) at the concentrated impact location (39.2
30 $\pm 23.7 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ mm}^{-1}$) was much higher than that at general locations ($22.0 \pm 12.7 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ mm}^{-1}$) and unit FKE
31 ($4.5 \pm 3.5 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ mm}^{-1}$). Unit TKE in the leafless season was significantly lower than in the leafed season
32 because of fewer redistribution of canopy drips induced only by woody tissue. Nevertheless, unit TKE at
33 the concentrated impact location in the leafless season ($36.4 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ mm}^{-1}$) was still higher than at general
34 locations in the leafed season. These results show that potentially high rates of sediment detachment can be
35 induced by not only by throughfall precipitation, but also by larger throughfall drop size distributions at the
36 concentrated impact locations, even in the leafless season.

37 **1. Introduction**

38 Soil conservation is an important environmental challenge of the 21st century as soils are the foundation
39 of life and a reservoir for water, carbon, and nutrients (Lal, 2014). ~~The threat to soil composition is~~
40 ~~evident worldwide, especially in areas with regularly recurring extreme climatic events such as heavy~~
41 ~~rainfall~~Worldwide, they are still endangered in their substance, especially in areas with regularly
42 ~~recurring climatic extreme events such as heavy rainfalls~~ (Borrelli et al., 2020). Soil erosion rates induced
43 by water are mainly determined by rainfall patterns such as raindrop kinetic energy and ground cover by
44 vegetation (Seitz et al, 2017). ~~In forest ecosystems, S~~evere soil erosion events are rare ~~in forest~~
45 ~~ecosystems because the general as~~ abundant ground cover ~~owing to is generally occurring through~~
46 understory vegetation or plant litter (Miura et al. 2003; Holz et al, 2015). Therefore, forest can be seen as
47 one of the most effective land use types to mitigate soil losses (Pimentel and Burgess, 2013). However,
48 disturbance of forest vegetation may lead to significant punctual (Gall et al, 2022; Geibler et al, 2010)
49 and areal (Safari et al, 2016; Seitz et al, 2016; Zemke et al, 2016) erosion events that can by far exceed
50 sustainable erosion rates (Deng et al. 2023). Important examples have been described globally such as in
51 Hungary (Misik and Kárász, 2022) and China (Yao et al., 2019). Especially in Japan, understory
52 vegetation in forests is regularly damaged by grading sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) (Murata et al., 2009,
53 Takatsuki 2009). The degradation of protective vegetation layers frequently results in enhanced splash
54 erosion through direct raindrop impacts and increased surface runoff with significant erosion potential
55 (Shinohara et al, 2018; Song et al, 2019).

56 Throughfall kinetic energy (TKE, in J m⁻²) ~~can be is~~ determined ~~from by~~ drop size and velocity in
57 addition to ~~the~~ precipitation amount. TKE has partly shown to be higher than freefall kinetic energy
58 (FKE) outside vegetation layers. ~~This phenomenon is attributed to the capacity of the as~~ forest canopy
59 ~~to can~~ generate large new canopy drips after the first interception, ~~which depends~~ing on the species
60 (Chapman, 1948; Nanko et al., 2015). Canopy drip can contribute to more than half of ~~the~~ total
61 throughfall ~~in~~ volume from leafed canopies (Levia et al, 2019). In canopy water flow, the lateral
62 redistribution plays an important role in creating local concentration of throughfall (Keim and Link,
63 2018). Subsequently, lateral canopy water flow paths ending at structurally-mediated woody surface drip
64 points, such as irregular rough points and branch concavities, accumulate~~s~~ more water volume transported
65 down the branch with a longer residence time and then generate larger diameter drops in greater volumes
66 (Nanko et al.,2022) than foliar surfaces (Levia et al., 2019; Nanko et al., 2016; Nanko et al., 2022).
67 Notably bigger canopy drips can have higher TKE and therefore, generate concentrated impact locations
68 potentially causing severe soil erosion. However, the TKE at these concentrated impact locations and ~~the~~
69 subsequent splash erosion potential ha~~ves only~~ rarely been described in ~~the~~ literature and not ~~yet~~ been
70 quantified ~~yet~~.

71 TKE is linearly correlated with throughfall precipitation in monolayer coniferous forests
72 (Shinohara et al., 2018). The slope of the relationship between throughfall precipitation and TKE is
73 known as unit TKE, that is, TKE per 1 mm precipitation. ~~Previous studies showed that t~~The unit TKE

コメントの追加 [A1]: The original text was slightly vague and had a non-native tone. I have extensively edited the sentence to improve its readability. Please review the change carefully to ensure that your intended meaning has been retained.

AI translation:

原文はやや曖昧で、ネイティブではない口調だった。読みやすさを向上させるため、文章を大幅に編集しました。あなたの意図した意味が保たれているかどうか、変更箇所をよくご確認ください。

74 differsed with canopy species and architecture, and rainfall intensity (Nanko 2013, Nanko et al., 2015,
75 Liu et al., 2022). Throughfall from woody surface drip points consist of larger canopy drips, suggesting
76 ~~that~~ the unit TKE at such concentrated impact locations ~~is being~~ different from that at other general
77 locations. Furthermore, this relationship might also differ between ~~the~~ leafed and leafless seasons, ~~owing~~
78 ~~to the difference in the distribution of drops of different sizes where drop size distributions have proven to~~
79 ~~be varying~~ (Levia et al., 2017). Thus, TKE can considerably affect soil erosion rates also in the leafless
80 season when the contribution of drip points to ~~the~~ total throughfall precipitation becomes dominant (Levia
81 et al., 2019). Therefore, knowledge ~~about of the~~ significance of TKE at concentrated impact locations and
82 seasonal changes in TKE in response to leaf status is vital for understanding soil erosion risk in forests
83 with degraded ground cover.

84 This study ~~investigated reports~~ TKE under broadleaved trees in Shiiba ~~R~~research ~~F~~forest,
85 Kyushu, Japan, ~~which is a substantially strongly~~ disturbed and eroded forest ecosystem ~~caused by due to~~
86 deer grazing. A special focus of this study is given on unusual high energy levels induced by structurally-
87 mediated woody surface drip points which partly occurred during the measurement campaign ~~with splash~~
88 ~~cups~~ to estimate throughfall erosivity. ~~We quantified In this study,~~ the TKE intensity ~~of TKE at theis~~
89 concentrated impact location ~~was quantified.~~ ~~We hypothesized that:~~

90 ~~It is hypothesized that~~ (1) unit TKE at the concentrated impact location is higher than that at
91 general locations inducing elevated splash erosion, and (2) the relationship between throughfall
92 precipitation and TKE differs with the leaf status of trees.

94 2. Materials and methods

95 2.1 Study site

96 This study was conducted in Shiiba ~~R~~research ~~F~~forest, Kyushu, South Japan [32°40'N, 131°17'E, 1030 m
97 a.s.l.]. ~~Here,~~The study site includes a mixed forest with evergreen coniferous trees and deciduous
98 broadleaved trees ~~can be found~~. The mean annual temperature and precipitation ~~were are~~ 10.8°C and ~~3278~~
99 ~~mm~~, respectively, ~~as which were~~ measured at a meteorological station located 3 km from the study site at
100 1180 m a.s.l. ~~Monthly precipitation amount in March, April, August, September and August of 2021 were~~
101 ~~162, 133.5, 958.5, 170 and 41.5 mm at the University Forest office, situated 4k m away from the study~~
102 ~~site [600 m a.s.l.] Formerly, this~~The area was ~~formerly~~ characterized by a dense understory vegetation
103 ~~comprised primarily of~~ bamboo (*Sasa borealis* [Hack.] Makino & Shibata) ~~vegetation at the understory~~.
104 However, this understory vegetation has mostly disappeared since around the year 2000, ~~coinciding with~~
105 ~~a documented rise in the Sika deer population as an increase in Sika deer population was registered~~.
106 ~~Currently Today,~~ there is no intact understory vegetation in most ~~of the areas~~ of the research forest
107 (Kawakami et al, 2020). Therefore, distinct erosion forms and root exposure can be ~~widely~~ observed
108 ~~(Katayama et al. 2023) widely~~ and soil degradation has been ~~identified pointed out~~ a major challenge for
109 ~~the forest services~~ (Abe et al. 2022).

111 2.2 Throughfall kinetic energy

コメントの追加 [KA2]: Line 85: No need to start a new paragraph to state the hypotheses.

コメントの追加 [KA3]: The authors discussed the effects of leaf status (i.e., leafed and leafless) on TKE and consequent splash erosion risks. They conducted these measurements in spring and summer from March 3rd to April 5th, and in autumn and winter from August 19th to October 11th, respectively. However, in addition to the influence of different leaf statuses, the distinct meteorological conditions also significantly affected throughfall precipitation and TKE. Therefore, the authors might need more evidence to support their claim that leaf status, not the meteorological conditions, dominated the influence on splash erosion risks.

112 TKE was determined ~~as a proxy for splash erosion~~ using splash cups (Shinohara et al., 2018; Scholten et
113 al., 2011). ~~The~~ splash cups are filled with a standardized sand and weighed ~~in~~ dry before deployment in
114 the field. ~~Subsequently, R~~aindrops ~~subsequently~~ hit the sand surface and detached sand is partly splashed
115 away from the cup. The loss of sand (LoS, g m^{-2}) ~~was~~ measured by back weighing remaining dried sand
116 volumes and subtracting the amount from the initial amount. TKE can be estimated from the relationship
117 between KE and LoS using a linear function ($\text{TKE} = 14.55 \times \text{LoS}$, Scholten et al., 2011). This method has
118 proven to be reliable and cost efficient with a high number of replications (Geißler et al., 2010) and is
119 suitable to evaluate spatial variation in TKE (Shinohara et al., 2018). We used the splash cups with the
120 diameter of 5.0 cm, height of 5.1 cm and the volume of 100cc. These are slightly larger than those
121 reported by Scholten et al., 2011 (4.6 of diameter and 3.6 cm of height, respectively), but accurately
122 estimated TKE by using a linear equation (Shinohara et al. 2018).

123 The LoS was measured during each ~~of the~~ five rainfall events in the leafless (March to April)
124 and ~~the~~ leafed (August to September) seasons ~~of in~~ 2021. Seven splash cups were installed under the
125 canopy of two *Fagus crenata* trees for TKE (Fig. 2). One position was chosen at a possible concentrated
126 drip location formed by structurally-mediated wood surface, and where more throughfall precipitation
127 was visually observed ~~by eye~~ during rainfall events. Six more splash cup ~~positions at different positions~~
128 under the canopy were installed to measure TKE at general locations. Five splash cups ~~positions~~ were
129 further ~~installed~~ selected outside the forest to measure ~~FKE~~ where were 40 m apart from the locations
130 under the canopy. A storage-type bottle with a funnel (diameter: 9.0 cm) was installed next to each splash
131 cups to measure precipitation. Precipitation was measured at the same time with TKE measurement. The
132 distance between the splash cup and precipitation collector was about 5 cm. A rainfall collector was
133 installed next to each splash cup to quantify precipitation at the measuring location.

134 At the concentrated impact location, the collection of LoS and throughfall precipitation ~~failed~~
135 ~~missed~~ for some very strong rainfall events during the leafed period. ~~Deployed splash cups were either~~
136 ~~emptied completely (three events) or the throughfall collectors overflowed (four events), indicating the~~
137 ~~extraordinarily high TKE. We obtained data of 10 events at the general locations (Table 1), but TKE and~~
138 ~~throughfall precipitation at the impact location were obtained only in seven and six events. Thus, the~~
139 ~~relationship between TKE and freefall precipitation ($\text{TKE} = 237.1 \times \text{freefall precipitation}$, $R^2 = 0.92$) was~~
140 ~~established using the data obtained in seven events whereas the relationship between throughfall~~
141 ~~precipitation and freefall precipitation (throughfall precipitation = $8.23 \times \text{freefall precipitation}$, $R^2 = 0.97$)~~
142 ~~was established using the data obtained the six events. For these rainfall events, TKE and throughfall~~
143 ~~precipitation were estimated from the relationship between TKE and freefall precipitation ($\text{TKE} = 237.1$~~
144 ~~$\times \text{freefall precipitation}$, $R^2 = 0.92$) and throughfall and freefall precipitation (throughfall precipitation =~~
145 ~~$8.23 \times \text{freefall precipitation}$, $R^2 = 0.97$) obtained in other events.~~

2.3 Tree traits

148 Diameter at breast height of the two selected beech trees ~~was~~ ere 46.0 cm and 46.1 cm, and tree height
149 was 21.1 m and 18.0 m, respectively. LAI ~~was~~ determined using ~~with~~ a single reflex camera system with

コメントの追加 [KA4]: 1. Detailed descriptions of the splash cups, such as their diameter, height, etc., are needed, because these cup characteristics affect the quantitative measurements of loss of soil (LOS) and consequent TKE via linear regression.

コメントの追加 [KA5]: 1. The authors installed seven splash cups to measure TKE, with six cups at general locations and one cup at possible concentrated location. However, throughfall measurements were not clearly described in this study. Is it that throughfall precipitation and TKE were measured at the same location? If so, how to precisely measure TKE by using the splash cup and avoid the disturbance of throughfall precipitation measurements at the same time and locations via installing rain gauges?

コメントの追加 [KA6]: 1. Lines 121–124: There were no introductions on how to get these quantitative relations of freefall precipitation with TKE and throughfall precipitation. If doing regressions based on the measurements in this study, please add the data and analysis. If citing other research, add the references, please.

コメントの追加 [KA7]: 1. The authors measured tree traits, such as diameter at breast height, tree height, LAI, leaf area, leaf mass per area, etc. They particularly addressed the effects of structurally designed high energy points on TKE in Section 3.1. However, there were no quantitative descriptions to introduce what is the structurally designed high energy points like, and no quantitative analysis to defend the claim of its effects on TKE.

150 fish eye lens (THETA SC; Ricoh Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and software (a Gap Light Analyzer ver. 2.0,
151 Frazer et al., 2022) was 4.5 and 0.9 at the concentrated impact location in the leafed and leafless season,
152 respectively. LAI at general locations ranged from 1.7 to 4.9 with a mean of 3.3 ~~om the leafed season~~ and
153 from 0.1 to 0.6 with a mean of 0.3 in the ~~leafed and~~ leafless season, ~~respectively~~. Branch height at the
154 concentrated impact location was 9.1 m and ranged from 6.5 m to 13.5 m ~~with an average of 9.1 m~~ at the
155 six splash cup positions ~~with an average of 9.1 m~~. Average leaf area and leaf mass per area obtained from
156 beech leaves in our study forest were 10.5 cm² and 84.7 g m⁻², respectively. The bark of the beech was
157 smooth; ~~however, but~~ there was moss cover in some places along the stem and epiphytic moss at the base
158 of the branch, from which considerable amounts of water dropped to the ground.

159

160 2.4 Statistical analysis

161 The significant difference in ~~the~~ slopes ~~of~~ the relationships of throughfall precipitation with TKE
162 between concentrated impact location and general locations was examined using ANCOVA ($P < 0.05$).
163 The significant difference in slopes in the relationships between ~~the~~ leafed and leafless seasons was
164 examined ~~separately~~ for impact and general locations ~~separately~~ (ANCOVA, $P < 0.05$). In these analyses,
165 TKE data which was not measured in the three rainfall events ~~were~~ excluded. ~~The~~ intercepts were set
166 ~~to~~ zero ~~for~~ the models. All statistical ~~analyses~~ were performed ~~using~~ R ver. 3.6.2 (R Core Team,
167 2019).

168

169 3. Results and Discussion

170 3.1 Effect of structurally designed high energy points on TKE

171 Considerably ~~ve~~ high TKE was observed at the concentrated impact location under the beech (Fig. 1). ~~This~~
172 location received a focused number of canopy drips from an overlying structurally-mediated woody
173 surface drop point (~~S~~upplemental ~~video~~ Video). Average \pm S.D. of TKE at the concentrated impact
174 location (9142 ± 5522 J m⁻²) for all seasons was 15.2 times higher than at general locations under the
175 beech (601 ± 495 J m⁻²) and 49.7 times higher than FKE (184 ± 195 J m⁻², Table 1) ~~underlining the~~
176 ~~important TKE-increasing potential of tree traits such as branch height and leaf size (e.g., Geißler et al.,~~
177 ~~2012; Goebes et al., 2015)~~. The average of throughfall precipitation at the concentrated impact location
178 (324 ± 227 mm) was 11.4 times higher than that at general locations under beech (29 ± 16 mm) and 8.1
179 times higher than that from freefall precipitation (40 ± 26 mm).

180 Across all rainfall events, TKE significantly increased with throughfall precipitation at both the
181 concentrated impact location and general locations regardless of canopy leaf conditions (Fig. 32). ~~The~~ ~~It~~
182 could be shown that TKE at the concentrated impact location was ~~strongly~~ higher than at general
183 locations with a significant difference in the relationships between TKE and throughfall precipitation
184 (Fig. 23). Thus, the first hypothesis can be confirmed. Furthermore, the branch height at the concentrated
185 impact location was comparable to average of branch height at other general drip points, indicating that
186 higher unit TKE was mostly induced by bigger drop sizes. ~~Note that the unit TKE is determined from~~
187 ~~raindrop size distributions and canopy height when the canopy height is less than the height for the rain-~~

コメントの追加 [KA8]: R1 L153-154 but the branch height for the concentrated drip point was the same as the others and leaves were not measured by location, so the experiment did not address these questions.

コメントの追加 [KA9]: Line 159: Delete "The" before "It".

188 drop terminal velocity (Shinohara et al., 2018). Previous study showed that most canopy drips did not
189 reach to the terminal velocity where the mean first living branch height was 7.9 m (Nanko et al., 2008).
190 Raindrops with diameters >3 mm need at least 12 m fall distance to gain terminal velocity (Wang and
191 Pruppacher, 1977). ~~Although the branch height could be one of factors determining TKE in the present~~
192 ~~study, considerable higher TKE at the impact location was not caused by the height because of the~~
193 ~~comparable branch height.~~ Thus, the TKE at the concentrated impact locations originating from woody
194 surface was induced by both high throughfall precipitation and big drop size, which is an important cause
195 of splash erosion and might be considered as an underestimated hot spot of sediment translocation.

コメントの追加 [KA10]: R1 L164-171 the points about terminal velocity do not lead to the conclusion L169.

197 3.2 Effects of leaf status

198 In the leafed season, ~~the~~ event-scale average TKE at the concentrated impact location was 12.5 times
199 higher than ~~that~~ ~~at~~ general locations under the beech tree and 61.5 times higher than FKE (Table1).
200 ~~The~~ ~~Event-scale~~ mean throughfall precipitation at the concentrated impact location was 12.2 times
201 higher than at general locations and 8.1 times higher than freefall precipitation. In the leafless season, the
202 average TKE at the concentrated impact location was 23.6 times higher than ~~that~~ ~~at~~ general
203 locations and 37.6 times higher than FKE, whereas mean throughfall was 10.3 times higher at general
204 locations and 8.2 times higher than freefall precipitation. These results suggest that ~~the~~ splash erosion risk
205 at the impact location ~~remained~~ ~~was~~ ~~still~~ high in the leafless season although ~~the~~ risk ~~was~~ ~~lower~~ ~~than~~ ~~that~~
206 ~~in~~ ~~reduced~~ ~~compared~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~leafed~~ ~~season~~ ~~general~~ ~~locations~~. The ratios of throughfall precipitation at the
207 concentrated impact location and ~~at~~ general locations compared to freefall precipitation were 8.1 and
208 0.71, respectively, suggesting that throughfall precipitation ~~widely~~ decreased with canopy interception
209 whereas the identified hotspot of throughfall selectively increased it. ~~The~~ ~~Each~~ slopes of the relationships
210 between TKE and throughfall precipitation at the concentrated impact location and general locations
211 ~~were~~ ~~was~~ higher in the leafed season than in the leafless season (ANCOVA, $P < 0.01$). Therefore, we can
212 conclude that unit TKE strongly increases with the presence of leaves and potential splash erosion is
213 higher during the leafed period. However, unit TKE at the concentrated impact location in the leafless
214 season ($36.4 \text{ J m}^{-2} \text{ mm}^{-1}$) was still higher than at general locations in the leafed season ($32.1 \pm 10.3 \text{ J m}^{-2}$
215 mm^{-1}). This suggests high splash erosion risk at the concentrated impact location even in the leafless
216 season. In summary, leaf status has ~~been~~ shown to generate a distinct impact and differential ~~tion~~ ~~of~~
217 effects; ~~therefore,~~ ~~and~~ the second hypothesis can ~~therefore~~ be accepted.

コメントの追加 [KA11]: L181 what is risk exactly, and how can it be lower at the drip point than elsewhere?

218 Additionally, ~~the~~ differences between TKE and FKE as well as throughfall and freefall
219 precipitation appeared to be less pronounced in the leafless season. Levia et al., (2019) showed ~~that~~
220 canopy drips under broadleaved trees accounted for 69% of ~~the~~ total throughfall precipitation in the leafed
221 phenophase, compared to 8% in the leafless phenophase. Most of the throughfall at general locations
222 under leafless trees were ~~composed~~ ~~of~~ freefall. ~~The~~ ~~Soil~~ erosion risk is ~~lower~~ ~~less~~ during ~~the~~ leafless
223 season than ~~during~~ ~~the~~ leafed season except for the concentrated drop impact locations.

224

225 3.3 Implication and uncertainty

226 This study remarked notably high TKE under investigated beech trees. Mean unit FKE ~~washas been~~
227 reported by van Dijk et al., (2002) ~~asealling~~ 14.2, 18.6, 26.5, and 28.1 J m⁻² mm⁻¹ with rainfall rates of 1,
228 10, 50, ~~and~~ 100 mm h⁻¹, respectively. The ~~maximum~~ measured ~~maximum~~ unit FKE was 28.3 J m⁻² mm⁻¹.
229 As for throughfall, unit TKE reported in previous studies ranged from 16.4 to 28.1 J m⁻² mm⁻¹ in Japan
230 (Nanko, 2013), Hawaii (Nanko et al., 2015) and Thailand (Nanko et al., 2020). The unit TKE at the
231 concentrated impact location in the present study was much higher than these previously reported values,
232 ~~suggesting that The high TKE induced by not only higher~~ throughfall precipitation ~~and, but also~~ larger
233 throughfall ~~drop size distributions~~ ~~can resulte~~d in an increased risk of soil erosion. Furthermore, unit
234 TKE for general locations in the present study was also higher than in previously measured Japanese
235 cypress plantations with 16.4 - 21.0 J m⁻² mm⁻¹ (Nanko, 2013). The median volume drop size of canopy
236 drip from leaves was 4.7 mm in Japanese cypress but 5.2 mm in beech (Nanko et al., 2013). This
237 difference was caused by ~~variousng~~ leaf traits such as leaf area, leaf shape, and leaf surface water
238 repellency (Levia et al., 2017). Thus, TKE generation is strongly species specific and TKE under beech
239 trees may be higher than ~~that~~ under other tree species.

240 Finally, although considerable higher TKE at the concentrated impact location was measured
241 using splash cups, ~~itwe~~ should ~~be noted~~ that TKE at the concentrated impact location in the present study
242 may ~~have been~~ underestimated due to the rim effect related to the splash cup measuring system. There is
243 some uncertainty in the estimated TKE if sand particles are starting to hit the cup wall instead of flying
244 out. This phenomenon occurred ~~particularlyespecially~~ at the concentrated impact location. Thus, TKE at
245 the concentrated impact location may be even higher than ~~that~~ reported ~~TKE~~ in the present study.

247 4. Conclusions

248 In this paper, we report ~~the~~ results ~~of from~~ a splash cup experiment ~~conducted~~ to investigate potential
249 erosion from high energy water release points under the canopy in a disturbed Japanese forest
250 environment. Extremely high TKE was observed from structurally-mediated woody surface points under
251 beech (*Fagus crenata*), ~~which was showing values~~ approximately 15 times higher than ~~that~~ at general
252 locations and approximately 50 times higher than FKE. The higher kinetic energy was caused by both
253 higher throughfall precipitation and higher unit kinetic energy. These results underline the evidence of
254 high soil erosion risk in forested areas ~~owingdue~~ to particular tree traits and show that this risk can
255 significantly exceed the previously known dimensions at specific points under the tree canopy. Moreover,
256 unit TKE at high-energy and general locations was reduced in the leafless season, but unit TKE in the
257 leafless season was still higher at the concentrated impact location than at general locations in the leafed
258 season. This result points to a potentially enhanced soil erosion risk even outside the growing season if
259 concentrated impact locations with high kinetic energies occur in larger numbers on trees. ~~Furthermore, it~~
260 ~~is usually higher precipitation in the summertime in Japan because of rainy and typhoon season.~~
261 ~~Precipitation amount is the most important factor determining soil erosion risk and higher precipitation~~
262 ~~will also result in severe erosion risk in the leafed season.~~ Further research is necessary to verify the
263 results, expand them to include other tree species and forest ecosystems and to shed more light ~~on theinte~~

コメントの追加 [KA12]: L207 there are no drop-size distribution data presented. I think the inference is correct but the wording must careful not to imply this research supports the statement directly.

264 mechanistic effects of distinct plant characteristics. In this context, it should also be investigated how
265 many of these concentrated impact locations may occur on average on different tree species to better
266 assess the extent of the erosion risk. This becomes particularly important when the protective soil cover
267 layer with [the](#) understory or leaf litter is disturbed or removed. Therefore, future studies examining soil
268 erosion rates under forests need to considerate both changes in TKE through plant traits and variations in
269 ground cover.

270

271 **Data availability**

272 All raw data is provided in the supplement material.

273 **Video supplement**

274 <https://doi.org/10.5446/61199>

275 **Author contribution**

276 AK, KN and SS designed the experiment, AK, YS, TK and SJ carried it out. AK, KN and SS prepared the
277 manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

278 **Competing interests**

279 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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282 of measurements. We also thank Kyushu University Fund which allowed us to meet in Shiiba.

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286

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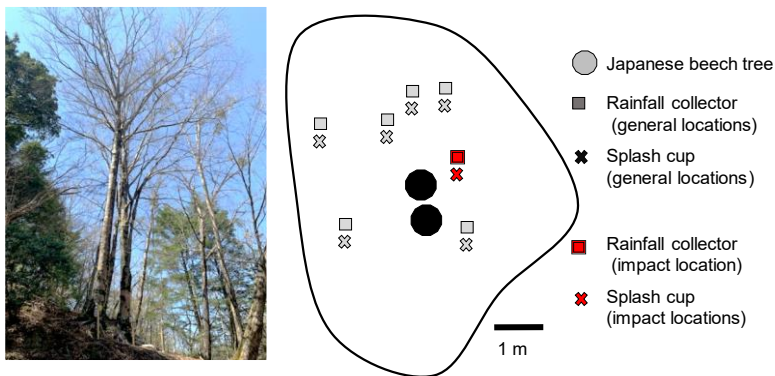
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396 **Fig. 1** Splash cups at the concentrated impact location (left) and at an exemplary general location (right)

397 after the first rainfall event in the leafless season. Freefall precipitation of this event was 35.4 mm.

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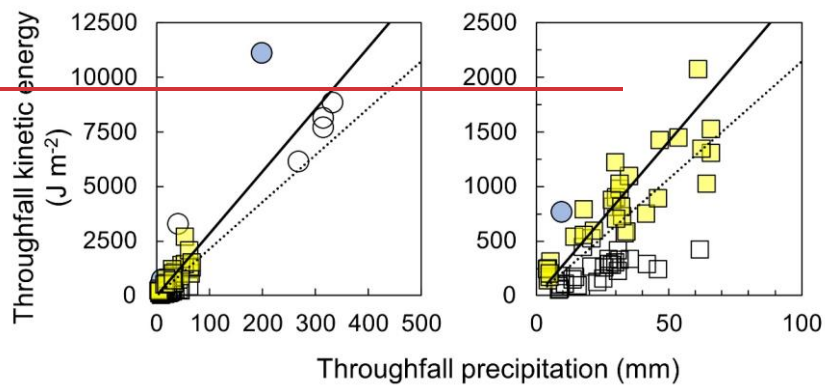
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400 **Fig. 2** Japanese beech trees studied in this study (left). The splash cups and rainfall collectors were installed

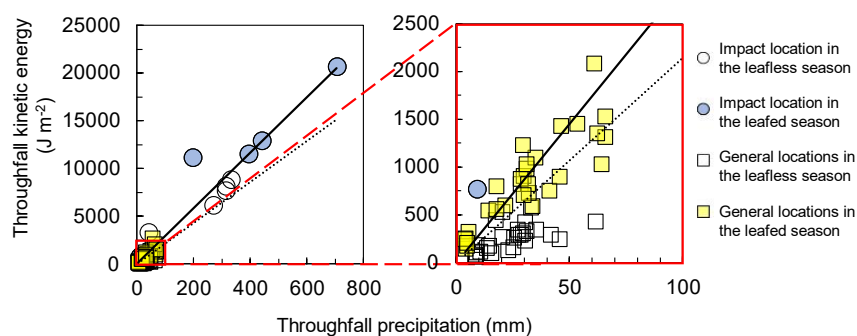
401 under the beech trees (right). The black line shows canopy projected area. The splash cups and rainfall

402 collectors outside the forest were installed 40 m apart from the trees.

書式を変更: フォント: 太字
 書式変更: 標準



403



404

405 **Fig. 23** Relationship between event-based throughfall precipitation and event-based throughfall kinetic
 406 energy (TKE). Circles and squares show TKE measured at each concentrated impact location and each
 407 TKE at general locations, respectively. Closed and open symbols show leafless and leafed seasons. Solid
 408 and dotted lines show the regression lines at the concentrated impact location and general locations,
 409 respectively. The relationships were significantly different between the locations (ANCOVA, $P < 0.01$).

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411

コメントの追加 [KA13]: Fig 2 I think the right-hand panel is a blowup of the left but there are no labels to support this guess. It would be much easier to read this figure if there were labels instead of text to describe the symbols.

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Table 1 Event-scale precipitation, kinetic energy, and unit kinetic energy at the impact location and general locations under Japanese beech trees and outside the forest in the leafless and leafed seasons, respectively.

Duration	Precipitation (mm)			Kinetic energy (J m ⁻²)			Unit kinetic energy (J m ⁻² mm ⁻¹)		
	Impact locations	General locations	Freefall	Impact locations	General locations	Freefall	Impact locations	General locations	Freefall
Leafless									
3/3-7	331.7	26.1 ± 8.9	36.0 ± 0.4	8869	274 ± 157	161 ± 20	26.7	11.5 ± 8.5	4.5 ± 0.5
3/11-13	40.4	9.1 ± 0.8	11.9 ± 0.2	3307	102 ± 43	48 ± 2.9	81.9	11.2 ± 4.7	4.0 ± 0.3
3/19-22	314.4	37.1 ± 14.0	43.4 ± 0.7	7737	396 ± 166	385 ± 77	24.6	9.5 ± 2.3	8.9 ± 1.9
3/27-29	314.4	31.0 ± 7.3	38.8 ± 0.7	8166	387 ± 222	294 ± 19	26.0	13.1 ± 8.1	7.6 ± 0.4
4/3-5	268.2	20.5 ± 8.5	24.8 ± 0.2	6182	291 ± 188	25 ± 11	23.1	13.8 ± 6.9	1.0 ± 0.5
Leafed									
8/19-21	445.3 ^a	39.1 ± 12.9	54.1 ± 1.3	11571 ^a	893 ± 189	561 ± 47	26.0	24.2 ± 7.6	10.4 ± 0.9
9/2-3	9.4	4.5 ± 0.5	5.1 ± 0.3	769	223 ± 63	27 ± 8	81.6	49.7 ± 13.7	5.2 ± 1.3
9/10-16	797.5 ^a	56.9 ± 7.3	97.0 ± 1.4	20723 ^a	1723 ± 560	322 ± 50	26.0	30.9 ± 11.4	3.3 ± 0.5
9/27-10/1	498.6 ^a	38.8 ± 14.6	60.6 ± 1.9	12955 ^a	1014 ± 303	7 ± 1.4	26.0	27.4 ± 7.9	0.1 ± 0.0
10/8-11	223.7 ^a	22.0 ± 7.9	27.2 ± 1.5	11137	706 ± 186	12 ± 5.7	49.8	33.3 ± 7.7	0.5 ± 0.2

コメントの追加 [KA14]: Table 1 column headers say "Impact locations" but there was only one.

417 Data are given as mean ± standard deviation.
418 ^a The data was estimated from freefall precipitation.
419