

Effects of a funnel-shaped canopy on rainfall redistribution and plant water acquisition in a banana (*Musa* spp.) plantation

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ABSTRACT

Most of the world's tropical landscapes are experiencing changes in land-use and land-cover. In Yunnan Province in southwestern China, land-use changes are widespread throughout the tropics, with large areas of tropical forests being converted to banana (*Musa* spp.) plantations. In this study, we explored the effects of banana trees' funnel-shaped leaves on rainfall redistribution and plant water acquisition during the 2017/2018 rainy season. Both the conventional and isotopic (δD and $\delta^{18}O$) methods were used to conduct rainfall partitioning, assess throughfall distribution, and predict plant water sources. We found that the mean contribution of throughfall, stemflow, and interception loss to gross rainfall (rainfall amount: 0.3–33.3 mm) were $71.8 \pm 6.8\%$, $17.6 \pm 3.6\%$, and $10.6 \pm 3.8\%$, respectively. The percentage of stemflow under the banana canopy was noticeably higher than previously reported for other species. The maximum amount of throughfall below the banana canopy was 1.4–4.4 times greater than the gross rainfall (rainfall amount: 14.7–70.5 mm). Soil water content and soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ showed both horizontal and vertical heterogeneities within the banana plantation. Analysis of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ indicated that banana trees absorbed 72.3 % of their water from the shallow soil stratum at 0–30 cm depth. In addition, the acquisition proportion of 0–80 cm soil water ranged from 10.2%–16.3% in the horizontal directions (0–360°). These findings indicated that banana trees' wide and long leaves considerably altered rainfall redistribution, which in turn affected their water acquisition characteristics. As banana plantations expand in this area, there is an urgent need to further examine environmental consequences such as soil erosion and surface runoff resulting from banana cultivation.

1. Introduction

Plant canopies have important effects on rainfall redistribution via canopy interception, stemflow, and throughfall (Marin et al., 2000; Limin et al., 2015). Throughfall variability is a potential key driver of soil erosion, nutrient cycling, and plant productivity (Nepstad et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2008; Orsag et al., 2018). Over the last four or five decades, a large area of the world's tropical rainforest has been converted to farmland (Borrelli et al., 2015; Drescher et al., 2016), and anthropogenic forcing has triggered the intensification of extreme precipitation worldwide (IPCC., 2013). These changes have resulted in huge impacts on rainfall redistribution (Keim et al., 2005; Cattani et al.,

2009; Liu et al., 2018), which may further affect water acquisition in plants with various canopy structures. Numerous studies have been conducted to better understand the process of rainfall redistribution (Loescher et al., 2002; Germer et al., 2006; Ramirez et al., 2018), but the influence of rainfall redistribution on plant water acquisition has received little attention.

Canopy structures in tropical landscapes are experiencing dramatic changes around the world (Islam and Weil, 2000; Mayes et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2018). Banana trees (*Musa* spp.) are widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical areas, which carry considerable value for small holders in Central America and South-East Asia (FAO., 2012). However, banana' funnel-shaped canopy with long-wide leaves at large angles of

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inclination can have deleterious impacts on local agricultural development. Some studies have reported that throughfall under the margin of banana leaves is approximately six times higher than natural rainfall (Cattan et al., 2006, 2007, 2009). The architecture of the banana canopy also sharply increases the rainfall splash intensity (Bassette and Bussiere, 2008). In this case, water acquisition by banana trees might be limited by the rainfall redistribution.

Bananas are a globally popular fruit crop ranking alongside the three major grain crops (Singh et al., 2016), but their water sources have not yet been reported. Previous studies have successfully detected the water uptake zone for plants using hydrogen and oxygen stable isotopes (Zegada-Lizarazu et al., 2007; Brooks et al., 2010; West et al., 2012). An underlying assumption of this methodology is that there is no isotopic fractionation during the root water-absorbing process (Ehleringer and Dawson, 1992). In many cases, studies of water source partitioning have led to an enhancement of field water managements (Goebel and Lascano, 2014; Wu et al., 2019). For example, quantifying the water uptake depth for crops is useful for optimizing the irrigation schedules (Sekiya and Yano, 2002; Araki and Iijima, 2005; Yang et al., 2018). In addition, investigations of maize (*Zea mays*) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) indicate that shallow-rooted crops will prevalently absorb surface soil water across the growing season (Asbjornsen et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2011; Ma and Song, 2016). However, these isotope studies do not account for the horizontal heterogeneity of soil water status (Barnard et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2017; Muñoz-Villiers et al., 2018).

Banana plantations in Yunnan Province account for over 1/5 of the total planted area of China, serving as a pillar industry for local farmers (Feng et al., 2019). In recent years, banana cultivation has become more widespread due to the falling price of natural latex (Fox et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2019), after rubber trees' (*Hevea brasiliensis*) expansion caused severe land degradation in the region (Smajgl et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2018). However, hydrological threats caused by the rapid expansion of banana agriculture have received little attention from the local government. Meanwhile, there is a dry season of approximately six months in this region (Liu et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2019), and sustainable agricultural development requires knowledge of drought stress on bananas' water acquisition. We therefore aimed to explore the characteristics of rainfall redistribution and plant water utilization in a banana plantation. We hypothesized that rainfall redistribution would be altered by the shape of banana leaves, and that the spatial variability of rainfall redistribution would affect the water acquisition by banana trees.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Study site

The study was conducted at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) in Yunnan, southwestern China (21° 55' 39" N, 101° 15' 55" E, at 750 m elevation). Mean annual temperature and rainfall from 1965–2004 were 21.7 °C and 1487 mm (Liu et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2019). A rainy season occurs from May to October and a dry season occurs from November to April, which were distinguished in this study according to Budyko's aridity index (AI) (Budyko, 1974; for details see the supporting information). A 4.3 ha experimental field was located on a flat terrace (Fig. 1), with 2.0 m soil thickness and 1.25 g cm⁻³ bulk density. The soil had a clayey texture with 23 % coarse sand (2.0–0.05 mm), 30 % silt (0.05–0.002 mm), and 47 % clay (< 0.002 mm).

Banana (*Musa* spp.) seedlings were planted in 2.0 × 2.0 m grids at the end of February 2016. After each 11–13-month growth cycle, one banana sucker was allowed to grow for the next harvest. In the rainy season, a few drainage ditches (0.5 m wide × 1.5 m depth) were arranged perpendicular to the Buyuan river (Fig. S1). In the dry season, a centrifugal water pump (IS-100–80-160A, KM Pump Factory Limited Inc., Kunming, CHN) was used for field irrigation. Maximum canopy

height, mean diameter at breast height, and number of healthy foliage of the banana trees were 555.8 ± 16.8 cm, 55.4 ± 1.4 cm, and 8.8 ± 1.0 (n = 15). Maximum leaf length and leaf width of the banana trees were 195.7 ± 26.1 cm and 75.9 ± 10.4 cm, with a mean tilt angle (MTA) of 26.7 ± 6.2° (n = 49). The maximum leaf area index (LAI) in the banana plantation was 3.9 ± 0.1 m² m⁻² (LAI-2200, Li-Cor Inc., Lincoln, USA) during the study periods.

2.2. Measurements of rainfall components

An open site and two throughfall observation sites (each 5.0 × 5.0 m) were established at the experimental field. In the early rainy season, throughfall amount was measured during June 18–July 12, 2017. In total, five V-shaped troughs (0.1 m wide × 2.0 m length) were installed in the field. As described by Liu et al. (2017), one V-shaped trough was placed in the open site to record gross rainfall. The remaining four V-shaped troughs were placed in the observation sites. All troughs were connected to 25-L sealed plastic containers mounted 0.3 m above ground level with an inclination angle of 0.5°. Litterfall was discarded from the trough to avoid measurement errors.

Together with the throughfall measurements, stemflow amount was monitored using the P-shaped seal strips (0.9 cm wide × 1.2 cm length × 2.2 cm height; YC-895, YC Vehicle & Ship Parts Limited Inc., Xingtai, CHN). A total of eight P-shaped seal strips were embedded into the trees' pseudo stems. The ends of strips were also connected to 25-L containers. Interception loss (*I*) was estimated according to the following equation (Limin et al., 2015):

$$I = P - TF - SF \quad (1)$$

where *P* is the gross rainfall amount (mm), *TF* is the throughfall amount (mm), and *SF* is the stemflow amount (mm).

2.3. Throughfall distribution measurements

In an independent site (3.0 × 3.0 m), throughfall amount was measured using handmade funnel-type rain gauges. These measurements were made to evaluate the effects of funnel-shaped canopy structure on throughfall distribution in the peak rainy season during August 3–September 5, 2017. The duration of these observations were about 48–72 h. A total of 49 rainfall gauges were arranged evenly (25 × 25 cm) below the banana canopy. The rainfall gauges were made from 6.0 cm diameter short-stemmed funnels and valve bags (7.0 cm wide × 35 cm length). The funnel and valve bag were connected using a binder clip. In case of the interference of splashing raindrops, some banana leaves were placed below the gauges. Throughfall (*TF*) amount in each valve bag was calculated as:

$$TF = (m_g - m_b) / \rho \pi r^2 \times 1000 \quad (2)$$

where *m_g* is the gross weight of valve bag (g), *m_b* is the net weight of valve bag (g), *ρ* is the density of water (1.0 g/cm³), and *r* is the semi-diameter of the funnel (mm).

2.4. Root excavation

Sampling of banana roots was performed in the late rainy season (September 15, 2017). A banana tree was randomly selected to represent the average growth state of banana plantation. It was supported by the fact that the banana trees received uniform management in term of fertilization, weeding, and irrigation (Fig. S1). Nine grids (25 × 25 cm) were horizontally arranged around the tree's pseudo stem. Then, the pseudo stem was removed from the experimental field. In an area of 625 cm², soil profiles of 0–30 cm, 30–50 cm, and 50–80 cm were excavated using spades and hand cutters. We sampled 27 soil cuboids in total for root investigation. After excavation, all living fine roots were manually collected, separated in 2 mm sieves, and oven dried at 105 °C for 24 h.

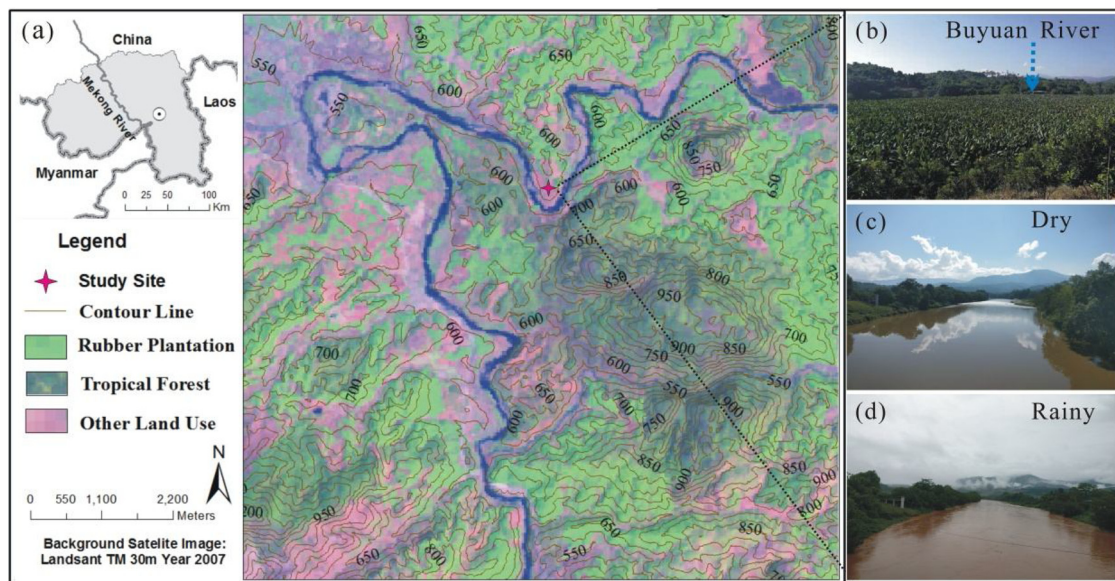


Fig. 1. The study site (a) of a banana plantation (b) was located in southwestern China near the Buyuan River (indicated with a blue arrow) in the peak dry season on February 23, 2017 (c) and the peak rainy season on July 9, 2017 (d).

2.5. Isotopic sampling and measurements

To determine the water sources for banana trees, water samples for isotopic analysis were collected from plant xylem and soil water on September 16, 2017. As suggested by Barnard et al. (2006), root crowns of the banana trees were sampled ($n = 6$) to reflect the isotopic composition of xylem water. The phloem tissues were removed from root crowns to avoid contamination by isotopically enriched water (Querejeta et al., 2007). Using a 4 cm diameter hand auger, soil profiles of 0–80 cm were sampled around the pseudo stem of banana tree. On a horizontal plane, five concentric circles at 10 cm, 20 cm, 30 cm, 50 cm, and 80 cm from the pseudo stem were drawn below the banana canopy. Seven radiating directions were evenly arranged on these concentric circles. At the intersection points, soil samples were collected from depths of 0–5, 5–30, 30–50, and 50–80 cm, yielding a total of 240 soil samples. Half the samples were used to determine the gravimetric soil water content (SWC) by drying at 105 °C for 24 h (~ 50 g each). The remaining samples were sealed (~ 12 g each) in 10-mL screw-cap glass vials.

Liquid water in the samples was cryogenically extracted (LI-2100, Lica United Technology Limited Inc., Beijing, CHN) in the XTBG central laboratory. Extraction parameters were 240 min for the extraction time, 105 °C for the heating temperature, and 400 Pa for the vacuum degree. Isotopic composition of the liquid water was analyzed using a high-temperature conversion elemental analyzer (TC/EA) coupled with a DELTA V Advantage isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen, GER). The deuterium and oxygen ratios in water samples are expressed in delta notation (δ) as:

$$\delta D = \left(\frac{R_{\text{sample}}}{R_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right) \times 1000 \quad (3)$$

$$\delta^{18}\text{O} = \left(\frac{R_{\text{sample}}}{R_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right) \times 1000 \quad (4)$$

where δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ refer to the stable isotope composition of sample water, R_{sample} and R_{standard} are the D/H and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio of sample water and standard water (VSMOW, Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water).

2.6. Calculations and statistical analyses

Because there is no isotopic fraction during the transportation of soil water from plant root to xylem sap (Ehleringer and Dawson, 1992), analysis of the δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in xylem water reflects the water source in use by plants. MixSIAR is a Bayesian model that explicitly takes into account the uncertainties of isotope signatures and multiple sources (Stock and Semmens, 2013; Muñoz-Villiers et al., 2018). This mixing model is based on the isotope mass conservation principles:

$$\delta D_{\text{xylem}} = \delta D_{s1}f_1 + \delta D_{s2}f_2 + \dots + \delta D_{si}f_i \quad (5)$$

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{xylem}} = \delta^{18}\text{O}_{s1}f_1 + \delta^{18}\text{O}_{s2}f_2 + \dots + \delta^{18}\text{O}_{si}f_i \quad (6)$$

$$f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_i = 1 \quad (7)$$

where δD_{xylem} ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{xylem}}$) are isotope values of plant xylem water; δD_{s1} ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{s1}$), δD_{s2} ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{s2}$), and δD_{si} ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{si}$) are isotope values of soil water; and f_1 , f_2 , and f_i are contributions proportion of the i^{th} water source.

To facilitate water source partitioning, the soil profiles of 0–5, 5–30, 30–50, and 50–80 cm were first subdivided into two depth intervals (shallow: 0–30 cm, deep: 30–80 cm). We assumed that banana trees acquired water independently from each of the two soil layers. Meanwhile, the contribution of a potential water source (i.e., shallow or deep soil water) to banana trees would proportionally follow the fine root distribution in vertical soil stratum. Therefore, soil water δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of these two depths were analyzed separately using the MixSIAR model. As an input item, standard deviations (SD) of soil water δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ were acquired from measuring repeatabilities ($n = 6$ with the first two injections being discarded to avoid possible “memory effects”). The fixed effect, SIAR (process + residual), No discrimination (0), and Markov-Chain-Monte-Carlo (normal) were specified (Wu et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2018). Finally, model outputs of the two soil strata were weighted by the coefficients of root amounts in the 0–30 cm and 30–80 cm layers.

All statistical analyses were performed using the SPSS Statistics (17.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, USA). Comparisons of SWC between depths ($n = 30$) were made using a paired t -test at $\alpha = 0.05$. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) including Tukey’s HSD test was used to compare the δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in different soil stratum ($n = 30$). Because both variables were random and subjected to measurement errors, geometric mean regression (GMR) was used to calculate regression parameters between throughfall and gross rainfall.

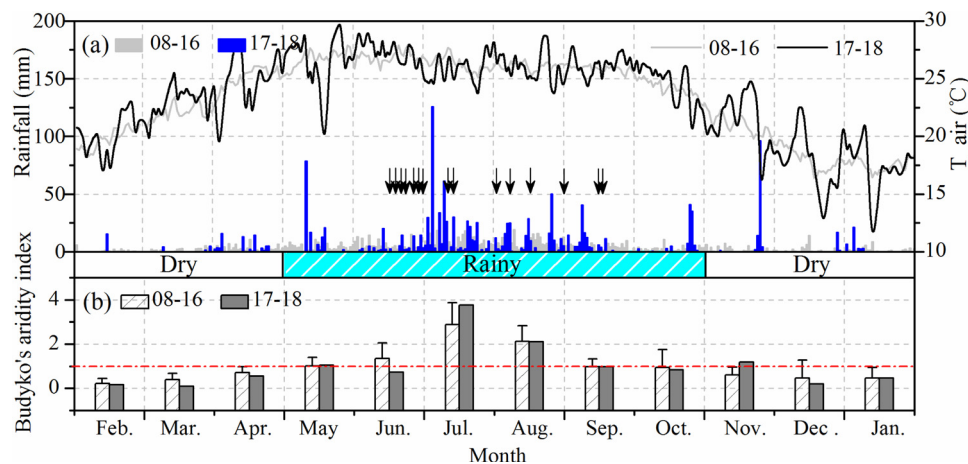


Fig. 2. Pattern of rainfall amount, air temperature (a), and Budyko's aridity index (AI) (b) at the experiment site. AI < 1 indicates a period of drought stress. Error bars represent 1 SD. The colored area indicates the rainy season (May–October). Arrows indicate sampling dates.

3. Results

3.1. Rainfall partitioning

There was relatively plentiful rainfall ($AI = 1.6 \pm 0.9$) during the study period compared to the previous eight years (Fig. 2). Rainfall amount was 1208.5 mm in the rainy season of 2017/2018, accounting for 81.4 % of the total annual precipitation (1485.4 mm). Mean annual precipitation and air temperature of 2008–2016 in this area were 1403.3 ± 191.2 mm and 22.3 ± 0.2 °C. Correspondingly, mean AI for multiple years was 0.5 ± 0.2 in the dry season, and 1.5 ± 0.3 in the rainy season.

Throughfall and stemflow were measured during nine rain events in the early rainy season (Table 1). Throughfall amount gradually increased from 0.1 mm to 27.9 mm as gross rainfall increased from 0.3–33.0 mm. There was a positive correlation between throughfall and gross rainfall ($TF = 0.86P - 1.03$, $R^2 = 0.99$, $P < 0.001$). Contribution of throughfall to gross rainfall (TF/P) generally exceeded 50 %, with the exception of two small rain events. Mean value of TF/P was 66.5 ± 11.0 % for all rain events. In contrast, the amount of stemflow and interception loss changed slightly during different rain events, where stemflow increased irregularly from 0.6 mm to 3.5 mm. Meanwhile, interception loss also showed an irregular rise from 0.3 to 1.6 mm. This amount of stemflow was too small to be successfully monitored for the first rain event on June 22–24, 2017; and the contribution of interception loss to rainfall ($I/P = 24.3$ %) seemed to be overestimated during the second rain event on June 21–22, 2017. When the first two rain events were excluded from analysis, mean contribution of each component to gross rainfall was 71.8 ± 6.8 % for throughfall, 17.6 ± 3.6 % for stemflow, and 10.6 ± 3.8 % for interception loss.

Table 1
Rainfall characteristic and its component in the early rainy season at the experimental site.

Events	Rainfall (mm)		Partitioning of rainfall (mm)			Proportion to rainfall (%)		
	Periods	Precipitation (P)	Throughfall (TF)	Stemflow (SF)	Interception (I)	TF/P	SF/P	I/P
Event 1	22–24 Jun	0.3	0.1 ± 0.0	-	-	46.4	-	-
Event 2	21–22 Jun	3.5	1.7 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.1	0.8	49.1	26.6	24.3
Event 3	28–29 Jun	4.2	3.2 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.2	0.4	75.0	14.4	10.6
Event 4	11–13 Jul	4.3	3.1 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1	0.4	70.8	20.2	9.0
Event 5	20–21 Jun	6.1	4.7 ± 2.1	1.1 ± 0.3	0.3	76.5	17.2	5.7
Event 6	29 June–01 Jun	6.6	4.1 ± 1.1	1.2 ± 0.2	1.3	61.4	18.9	19.7
Event 7	01–03 Jul	10.3	6.1 ± 0.3	2.7 ± 0.3	1.5	59.2	26.2	14.5
Event 8	18–20 Jun	10.5	7.9 ± 0.9	1.6 ± 0.5	1.0	75.2	15.2	9.5
Event 9	12–15 Jul	33.0	27.9 ± 7.1	3.5 ± 0.6	1.6	84.4	10.7	4.9

Measurement of stemflow (SF) was failed in rain event 1 because of its small amount of rainfall (0.3 mm).

3.2. Throughfall distribution

The spatial distribution of throughfall was extremely heterogeneous beneath the banana canopy (Fig. 3). During the small rainfall events, the drip points of throughfall mostly occurred in the margins and tips of the banana leaves. With increasing rainfall amount, drip points gradually spread from leaf margins to the whole banana canopy. Maximum values of throughfall were 64.5 mm for rain event 1 (14.7 mm, Fig. 3a), 34.0 mm for rain event 2 (24.8 mm, Fig. 3b), 120.5 mm for rain event 3 (52.5 mm, Fig. 3c), and 118.5 mm for rain event 4 (70.5 mm, Fig. 3d). These amounts of throughfall were 4.4, 1.4, 2.3, and 1.7 times larger than the gross rainfall, respectively. Meanwhile, some rain gauges did not collect any throughfall even during the highest rain event (70.5 mm), indicating the essence of non-drip points. Minimum throughfall collected using the rain gauges were 2.1 mm for rain event 1, 0.1 mm for rain event 2, 0.1 mm for rain event 3, and 0.9 mm for rain event 4, which were only equivalent to 14.0 %, 0.6 %, 0.1 %, and 1.3 % of the gross rainfall, respectively.

3.3. Soil water characteristics beneath the canopy

Soil water content (SWC) varied both in vertical (0–80 cm) and horizontal (160 cm × 160 cm) spaces (Fig. 4). There was no significant difference in SWC between 0–5 cm and 5–30 cm ($P = 0.494$). In the 0–5 cm soil layer, SWC increased sharply from 8.4%–26%, with a mean value of 15.7 ± 3.8 %. Meanwhile, SWC of 5–30 cm ranged from 11.0%–18.9%, with a mean of 15.2 ± 1.6 %. In both layers, SWC increased from the pseudo stem to the leaf tips. The shallow SWC (0–30 cm) differed markedly from SWC in 30–50 cm ($P \leq 0.004$) and 50–80 cm ($P < 0.001$). Moreover, SWC of 30–50 cm was lower than in

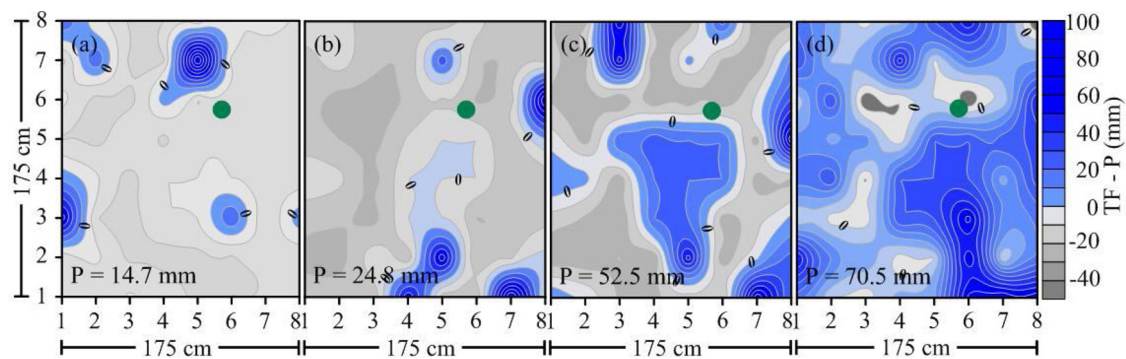


Fig. 3. Spatial distribution of throughfall (TF) below the banana canopy in the peak rainy season. Positive values (TF-P) indicate that the amounts of throughfall exceed the gross rainfall. Green solid circles indicate position of the banana pseudo stem.

50–80 cm ($P < 0.001$). Mean values of SWC were $17.6 \pm 0.9\%$ (13.8%–19.8%) in 30–50 cm, and $21.1 \pm 0.5\%$ (19.4%–21.6%) in 50–80 cm.

Similarly, soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ underwent noticeable variation with depth and location (Fig. 4). Vertically, values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ in 0–5 cm were significantly higher than in 5–30 cm ($P < 0.001$). Values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ were $-69.8 \pm 3.2\text{‰}$ and $-8.38 \pm 0.63\text{‰}$ in 0–5 cm, $-78.4 \pm 4.4\text{‰}$ and $-10.04 \pm 0.75\text{‰}$ in 5–30 cm, respectively. In addition, values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ in 5–30 cm were more negative than in 30–50 cm and 50–80 cm ($P < 0.001$). There was no significant difference in δD and $\delta^{18}O$ between 30–50 cm and 50–80 cm ($P \geq 0.033$). Values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ were $-68.3 \pm 8.3\text{‰}$ and $-8.99 \pm 1.16\text{‰}$ in 0–50 cm, $-62.0 \pm 9.1\text{‰}$ and $-8.34 \pm 1.21\text{‰}$ in 50–80 cm, respectively. On the horizontal planes, there was no homogeneous trend for soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$. Higher values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ normally appeared away from the pseudo stem of banana trees. Overall, values of δD and $\delta^{18}O$ were $-74.1 \pm 3.6\text{‰}$ and $-9.21 \pm 0.66\text{‰}$ in the 0–30 cm stratum, $-65.2 \pm 8.4\text{‰}$ and $-8.66 \pm 1.14\text{‰}$ in the 30–80 cm stratum, respectively.

3.4. Water uptake pattern in the banana plantation

The MixSIAR model predicted that banana trees acquired unevenly water from the shallow (0–30 cm) and deep (30–80 cm) soil strata (Fig. 5). Vertically, dry weights of fine roots were 0.64 kg m^{-3} in 0–30 cm and 0.15 kg m^{-3} in 30–80 cm. We therefore obtained a coefficient of 2.6:1, which was used to evaluate relative water contributions of the 0–30 cm and 30–80 cm strata. Based on this assumption, the overall soil water contributions were 72.3% from the 0–30 cm layer and 27.7% from the 30–80 cm layer. In the late rainy season, mean isotopic values of xylem water were $-72.0 \pm 0.3\text{‰}$ for δD , and $-9.59 \pm 0.01\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}O$. Combined with the root investigation, water contribution of the seven radiating directions increased from 8.5%–12.4% in the 0–30 cm stratum (Fig. 5b). Correspondingly, water contribution of the seven directions ranged from 1.7% to 6.5% in the 30–80 cm stratum. As summarized in Fig. 5c, water-absorbing proportion from horizontal directions (0–360°) fluctuated between 10.2% and 16.3% when the 0–30 cm and 30–80 cm soil strata were combined.

4. Discussion

4.1. Effects of banana canopy on rainfall redistribution

Our results indicated that rainfall redistribution was greatly affected by banana trees (Table 1). Partitioning of rainfall revealed that throughfall rate (TF/P) in our banana plantation ($71.8 \pm 6.8\%$) was close to those in a clove (*Syzygium aromaticum*) plantation (62.9%), a rubber monoculture (71–94%), and a forest stand (70–80%) (Dietz

et al., 2006; Limin et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016). However, contribution of stemflow to gross rainfall (SF/P) in our banana plantation ($17.6 \pm 3.6\%$) was noticeably higher than previously reported by Dietz et al. (2006) in forest stands ($\sim 1\%$), Liu et al. (2008) in a rubber plantation ($\sim 5\%$), and Limin et al. (2015) in a clove plantation ($\sim 0.98\%$). This can be ascribed to the funnel-shaped canopy structure in banana plantations (Sansoulet et al., 2008; Cattani et al., 2009). Similarly, Cattani et al. (2007) found that stemflow can represent 18–26% of the total rainfall during the different growing stages of banana trees. Cattani et al. (2009) further demonstrated that rainfall redistribution by the banana canopy will enhance runoff even on soil with a high infiltration rate. In the same region as this study, Zhu et al. (2018) showed that runoff from a rubber plantation is about 33.2 times higher than in a tropical rainforest. We therefore speculate that the considerable increase of stemflow in banana plantations might further aggravate runoff in southwestern China. It should be noted that the self-made stemflow collectors could not effectively capture rainwater in small rain events (see section 3.1), which would result in an underestimation of stemflow in the banana plantation. Furthermore, the limited measuring areas of the V-shaped troughs might also underestimate the amounts of throughfall during the partitioning of rainfall into its components.

Over the last few decades, the environmental impacts of rubber cultivation in southwestern China have received much attentions (Li et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2018), but the hydrological threats of banana cultivation expansion might be more serious. One reason for this could be the uneven distribution of throughfall in the banana plantation (Fig. 3). Throughfall amounts topped out at 140–440% of the gross rainfall. At the same time, throughfall amounts in some drip points were only equivalent to 0.1–14.0% of the gross rainfall. In addition, spatial heterogeneity of throughfall decreased with increasing rainfall amount. This trend is consistent with the findings from previous studies, which reported that the spatial variation of throughfall is highly dependent upon the volume of incident rainfall (Keim et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2017). They also suggested that the drip points of throughfall gradually extended from leaf edges in small rain events to plant stems during larger rain events. The coefficient of variation (CV) was used to identify the difference of throughfall between banana and rubber plantations. In our banana plantation, CV of throughfall increased from 52.7%–79.1% over 4 rain events (14.7–70.5 mm) in the peak rainy season. Accordingly, CV of throughfall was reported to range between 8.6% and 22.9% over 30 rain events (6.5–108.4 mm) in a rubber plantation (Liu et al., 2018). Although the observed maximum rainfall was lower in the present study, CV of throughfall in banana plantation was over three times larger than in the rubber plantation. We should note that the spatial variation of throughfall is also related to rainfall intensity (Keim et al., 2005; Kowalska et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2018), though we did not monitor this in this study. Further rainfall measurements with high temporal resolution can be expected to provide greater insight on this matter.

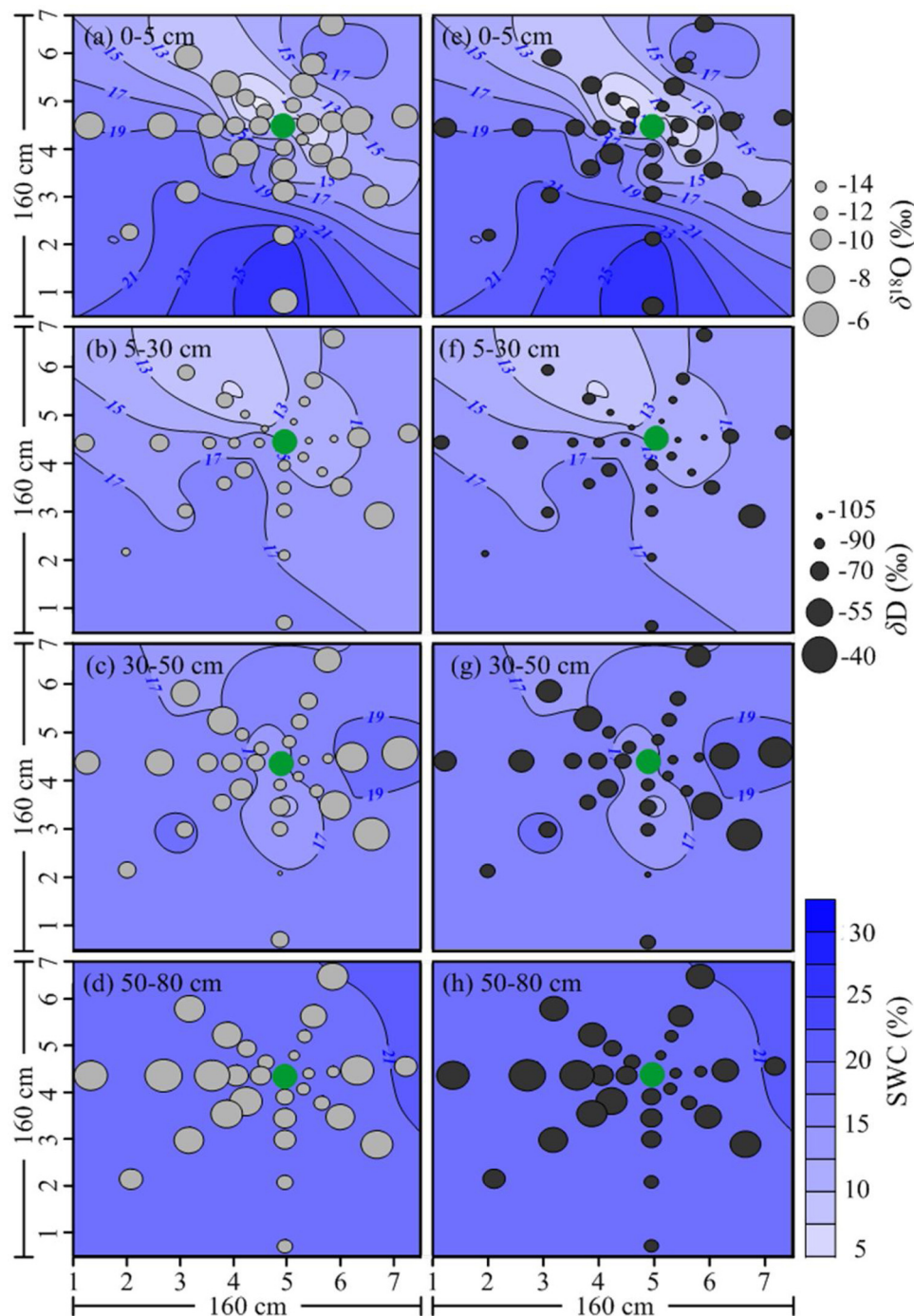


Fig. 4. Spatial pattern of the isotope composition (δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) and soil water content (SWC) in 0–5, 5–20, 30–50, and 50–80 cm soil strata. Green solid circles indicate position of the banana pseudo stem.

4.2. Water source partitioning and uncertainties

Soil moisture is one of the most essential factors affecting plant water acquisition (Sekiya et al., 2002; Querejeta et al., 2007; Muñoz-Villiers et al., 2018). Unsurprisingly, soil water content (SWC) exhibited vertical gradients in the 0–80 cm depth (Fig. 4). Horizontally, SWC fluctuated 17.6 % in 0–5 cm, 7.9 % in 5–30 cm, 6.0 % in 30–50 cm, and 2.2 % in 50–80 cm. Spatial variations in SWC also affected the isotopic composition of soil water. This could be due to the two independent processes of soil water evaporation and mixing with rainwater. Theoretically, the evaporation process will have an enriching effect on surface soil water δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Gat, 1996). This was

confirmed by the co-variation between δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in soil water (Fig. S2), which were plotted below the global meteoric water line (GMWL) due to Rayleigh distillation (Dawson and Simonin, 2011). Contrastingly, mixing with rainwater always leads to more negative δ -values in deeper soil strata (McCole and Stern, 2007; Dawson and Simonin, 2011). Therefore, soil water δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ were more depleted in the middle (5–30 and 30–50 cm) soil layers in this study (Fig. 4b and c). This is the fundamental premise for identifying plant water source using stable isotopes (Ehleringer and Dawson, 1992). Based on these vertical gradients of δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in soil layers, water source partitioning has been conducted in various ecosystems (Eggemeier et al., 2009; Dawson and Simonin, 2011; Grossiord et al., 2017). However, we found that soil

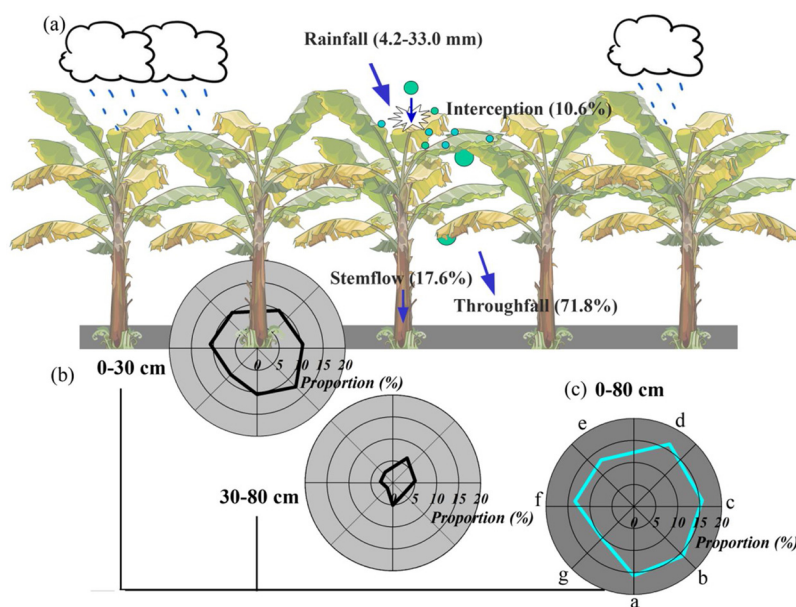


Fig. 5. Schematic representation of rainfall partitioning (a) and the absorbing proportion of soil water in different soil strata (b–c) during the study period.

water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ also changed markedly in horizontal directions, providing an opportunity to re-examine the spatial utilization of soil water in banana plantations.

There is a common assumption of minimal horizontal variation in soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ beneath plant canopies. Therefore, in most cases an increase in sampling replicates can effectively reduce uncertainties in water source partitioning (McCole and Stern, 2007; Querejeta et al., 2007; Muñoz-Villiers et al., 2018). For example, our earlier research suggested that soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ in 0–5 cm, 5–20 cm, and 20–45 cm were almost unchanged horizontally ($P < 0.05$, unpublished data) in a Masson pine (*Pinus massoniana* Lamb.) plantation (Yang et al., 2015). However, this assumption was disproved in this study due to the non-homogeneous distribution of rainfall in the banana plantation (Figs. 3 and 4). Outputs of the MixSIAR model showed that acquisition proportion of soil water from 0–80 cm to banana trees ranged from 10.2%–16.3% on the horizontal planes (Fig. 5c). These results were based on the assumption that source water contribution from the 0–30 cm and 30–80 cm depths to banana trees increased proportionally with their fine root distribution (see section 2.6 and 3.4). A few of the previous studies have mentioned that root distribution may not be a reliable indicator of plant water uptake (Ehleringer and Dawson, 1992; Sekiya et al., 2002; Zhang et al., 2011). However, shallow-rooted crops tend to utilize shallow soil water in accordance with their root distributions (Araki and Iijima, 2005; Zegada-Lizarazu et al., 2007; Asbjornsen et al., 2008). A sensitivity analysis implied that outputs of the MixSIAR model would be 78.8 ± 11.0 % for the 0–30 cm soil stratum if we ignored the horizontal variability of soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$. This proportion was quite close to the ratio of fine roots (72.3 %) in the 0–30 cm soil layer. One possible explanation was that the field was well-watered in this region (Fig. S1), thereby, ensuring a sufficient water supply to the shallow root network of banana trees. Therefore, it is reasonable to associate banana trees' water acquisition with fine root distribution in this study.

4.3. Implications

As one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, Xishuangbanna region is known as the “Treasure House” of biological diversity in southwestern China (Myers et al., 2000). Nevertheless, a few of the tropical species now are on the verge of extinction due to the rapid expansion of various cash crops (Xu, 2011). The most important driver of the land-

use change was believed to be the cultivation of rubber trees (Liu et al., 2008; Li et al., 2016), which resulted in excessive runoff, soil nutrient loss, and sediment yield (Chen et al., 2017; Jiang et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2018). However, the expansion of rubber plantations has ceased since 2011 (Zhang et al., 2019). According to the latest Xishuangbanna Prefecture Report (Government of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture (GXDP), 2018), the area of banana plantations reached 26, 733 ha in 2015, with a yield of 846, 200 t. There is an urgent requirement for new data to explore ecohydrological processes in banana plantations. Our study was one of the first to investigate the effects of bananas' funnel-shaped canopy on rainfall redistribution and plant water acquisition, with the finding that the spatial distribution of rainfall would be directly affected, and indirectly affect the water source prediction. We hope that these findings will contribute to sustainable development of the banana industry in southwestern China. Further research into the effects of banana plantations on soil erosion and surface runoff would also be of use.

5. Conclusions

Our findings highlighted that the throughfall and stemflow accounted for 71.8 % and 17.6 % of the gross rainfall in a banana plantation. In the peak rainy season, the maximum amount of throughfall below the banana canopy was 1.4–4.4 times greater than the gross rainfall, while its minimum values were only equivalent to 0.1 %–14.0 % of the gross rainfall. This uneven distribution of throughfall has direct and indirect effects on soil water content and soil water δD and $\delta^{18}O$ below the canopy. We also found that banana trees acquired 72.3 % of their water from the 0–30 cm soil stratum. Meanwhile, the horizontal water-absorbing proportion from 0–30 cm increased from 8.5%–12.4%. This water-absorbing proportion ranged from 1.7 % to 6.5 % in the 30–80 cm soil stratum. Further studies are needed to improve our understanding of the influences of banana cultivation on ecohydrological processes.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests that could influence the work reported in this paper.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.still.2020.104686>.

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