

Distribution of root carbon storage of *Salix gordejvii* at different forest age

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Abstract: Comparative distribution characteristic of root system and the root system carbon stocks from three forest age of *S. gordejvii* in Aohan sanditificational. And three plots were set by using stratified segmentation mining method to test the root biomass and the carbon ratio in different soil assays and segment, and calculate root carbon reserves, analyzing distribution characteristics of forest root carbon stocks on different *S. gordejvii* in different forest ages. With the increase of soil depth, *S. gordejvii* root biomass presents the trend of increase first then decrease, mainly in soil of 0-100cm, which accounted for more than 80% of the total; with the increase of forest age, *S. gordejvii* root biomass presenting a growing trend. Root distribution of carbon stocks was in a fusiform, it increase with the increase of forest age. Results provide reference data for Sandy ecosystem carbon storage estimation.

Introduction

S. gordejvii is a perennial shrub, it is cold-resistant, heat-resistant, anti-sandstorm, easy propagation, growing fast, resistant to sand burial, light-preferring; it was likely to be born in the fixed dune grassland, semi-fixed dunes with high water table ^[1]; this species is one of the most ideal afforestation species for desertification control in Aohanqi Chifeng City, and it plays an important role governance and restore the ecological environment quicksand project in the area. *S. gordejvii*-related researches mainly focus on physiological parameters, morphological characteristics, habits and cultivation methods, root distribution and canopy structure, *S. gordejvii* sand barrier and shrubs soil moisture dynamics and other aspects ^[2-6].

Root distribution refers to roots space gradient distribution, and its characteristics determine the size of the effect of surface between vegetation and soil environment ^[7]. The study of roots mainly involves root biomass, length or surface area change with soil depth, distance from the stems of plants, the location between the neighborhood ^[8]. Research on *S. gordejvii* roots concentrated on root distribution, biomass and physiological characteristics. While there was no report on the distribution of root carbon storage features of *S. gordejvii*. This paper set *S. gordejvii* at age of 15a, 25a and 35a in Aohanqi sanditificational zone as object, and studied distribution of carbon reserves and *S. gordejvii* roots in different forest age, providing reference for accurate estimates sandy ecosystem carbon stocks.

Materials and methods

General situation of the studied area

This study sited for the Aohanqi Sanditificational Chifeng City. This area is located in north-central Aohanqi geographical coordinates of latitude $41^{\circ}50'-43^{\circ}01'$, longitude $119^{\circ}32'-120^{\circ}25'$, covering an area of about 2056.60 km^2 . Located in the temperate semi-arid continental monsoon climate zone, this area has been endowed with an average annual rainfall of 350mm, and the average annual evaporation of 2450mm, the average annual temperature of 7 centigrade. Artificial forest vegetation are mainly water conservation forest, soil and water conservation forest and sand-fixing forest, the main tree species are *Populus simonii*, *Prunus sibirica*, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, *Caragana microphylla* Lam., *Salix gordejvii* Chang et Skv. and *Hedysarum fruticosum* and the like. The main herb for the lespedeza are *lespedeza davurica*, *artemisia*, *Setaria viridis*, *Corispermum hyssopifolium*, *Agriophyllum squarrosum*, etc. It has an altitude of between 400-500m. Sandificational area mainly are flow, semi-flow, fixed sand and cover sandy earth, and the soil quality is poor.

Sampling and testing

Sample selection and plots laid

From July to August 2014, Chifeng City Aohanqi sandificational area were set three different forest age of *gordejvii* plots (Table 1). Shrub sample area set: according to the study on distribution maps of forest resources and forest distribution in different afforestation period provided by Aohanqi Forestry bureau to determine the investigation plot. Using random method to lay plots, each plot area is set to $30\text{m}\times 30\text{m}$, while setting three $10\text{m}\times 10\text{m}$ shrub plots within plots. In the actual sampling, according to the actual situation of forest land, the number and size of some samples has been appropriate adjusted, as detailed in Table 1.

Table.1 The basic situation of the study area plots

| Forest type | Forest age (a) | Coordinates | Altitude (m) | Aspect | Slope | Slope position | Density (strains/ m^2) | | Height (m) | Crown (m) | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| | | | | | | | Plant density | Real density | | EW | SN |
| S. gordejvii | 15 | E120°08'56" N42°56'03" | 402 | Shady slope | 12° | Lower portion | 0.4 | 0.15 | 1.70 | 1.90 | 1.95 |
| | 25 | E120°09'18" N42°55'51" | 400 | Shady slope | 17° | Lower portion | 0.4 | 0.09 | 2.60 | 2.25 | 2.70 |
| | 35 | E120°04'02" N42°56'25" | 397 | Shady slope | 15° | Lower portion | 0.4 | 0.08 | 2.25 | 2.10 | 2.50 |

Collect and measure samples

Model tree selection and forest age determination

In each *S. gordejvii* forest sample, selected three model tree from each quadrat the trees that grown well and whose forest average measurement factors are similar model. The forest age was provided by Aohanqi Forestry Bureau.

Methods to determine *S. gordejvii* roots

Layered segmentation mining method has been applied. Taking model tree as center point, along the line of trees extends to two adjacent lines at a spacing of $1/2$ in the horizontal direction, a segment would be the period of each $25\text{cm}\times 25\text{cm}$; in vertical direction, each 10cm was a layer, the layers of soil sampling volume was $25\text{cm}\times 25\text{cm}\times 10\text{cm}$, then conducting layering excavation into the under

border of the root system. The maximum vertical depth distribution of *S. gordejvii* standard strain root was between 150-250cm. For each layer segment soil, crushed and sieved, carefully picked live roots, after cleaning the root surface, measuring the classification one by one with a caliper measurement. For root at all levels, taking appropriate samples back indoor for drying, then the measured moisture conversion factor which can be used for calculating dry weight of each interval root.

Test and determination of sample carbonaceous

Organic carbon content of *S. gordejvii* root can be tested by using potassium dichromate-sulfuric acid oxidation method.

2.3 Statistical analysis

Root carbon reserves: Root carbon reserves = root biomass carbon reserves × carbon ratio.

Plan of determination area and profile were drawn by using Auto CAD Software; using Excel for statistical analysis of measurement data ; using Sufer software to draw distribution maps of root carbon reserves.

Results and analysis

Vertical distribution of underground root biomass

As can be seen from Figure 1, with the increase of soil depth, *S. gordejvii* root biomass presents the first increase then decrease trend, mainly in 0-100cm soil, all account for more than 80% of the total. 15a *S. gordejvii* root biomass distributed in all the depth of the soil 0-190cm and peaked at 30-40cm soil. 25a *S. gordejvii* gained deepest roots of 240cm, root biomass peaked at 40-60cm soil. 35a *S. gordejvii* deepest roots reached 250cm, root biomass peaked at 40-50cm soil. total root biomass of 15a *S. gordejvii* Liu was 516.50g; 25a, 4448.60g, 8.61 times of 15a; 35a, 7257.77g, 14.05 times of 15a, indicating that as the forest age increase, *S. gordejvii* root biomass grows.

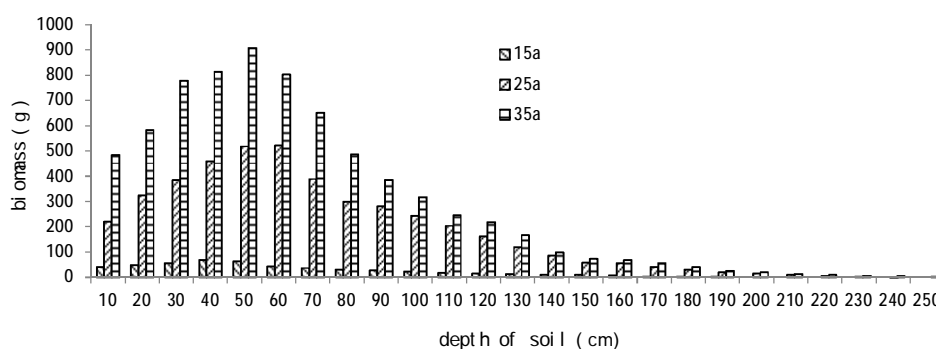


Fig.1 Vertical distribution of root biomass figure of *S. gordejvii* at different forest sge

Root carbon reserves distribution figures

From Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4, people can see that *S. gordejvii* root distribution characteristics of carbon reserves presented a form of fusiform. In the vertical direction, with the increase depth in soil, carbon storage first increase and then decrease, 15a peaked at 30-40cm soil, a maximum of 0.93g/m², peak of 25a and 35a appears in 40-50cm soil; in the horizontal direction, the farther away from the center of the model tree, the less the root carbon storage is, mainly in a range of 75cm from model tree center.

15a *S. gordejvii* root carbon reserves of 30.81g/m², in horizontal direction, carbon storage range of each segmentation is 0.77-7.00g/m², the vertical range of 0.15-4.11g/m²; 25a root carbon

reserves of 158.56g/m^2 , range of $3.96\text{-}36.16\text{g/m}^2$ in the horizontal direction, and $0.04\text{-}18.52\text{g/m}^2$ in the vertical; 35a raw root carbon reserves is 229.99g/m^2 , the level of carbon stocks in each direction range is $5.74\text{-}52.44\text{g/m}^2$, each vertical carbon storage range is $0.07\text{-}28.87\text{g/m}^2$. 25a root carbon reserves is 5.14 times of 15a, 35a is 7.46 times of 15a, indicating gordejvii root tended to increase with the increase forest carbon reserves age .

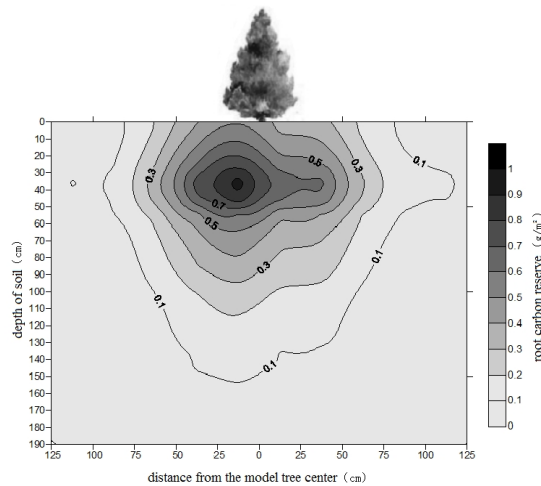


Fig.2 Vertical distribution of carbon stocks figure of 15a *S. gordejvii* root

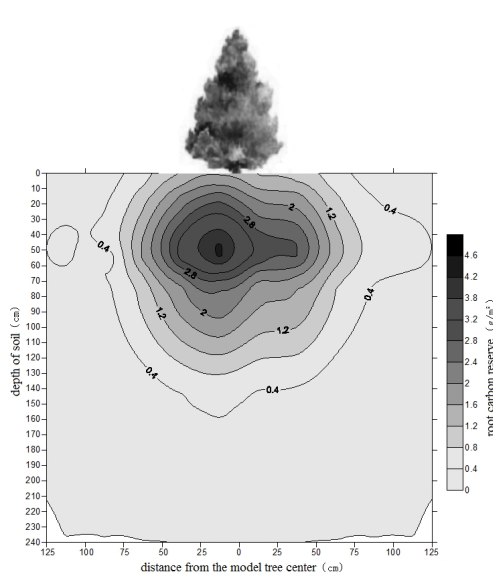


Fig.3 Vertical distribution of carbon stocks figure of 25a *S. gordejvii* root

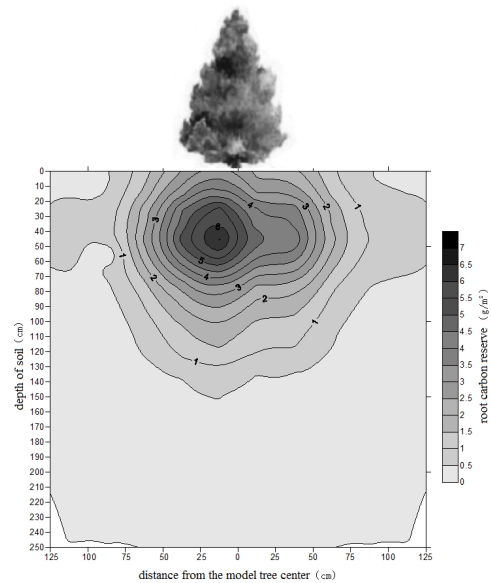


Fig.4 Vertical distribution of carbon stocks figure of 35a *S. gordejvii* root

Conclusion

With the increase of soil depth, *S. gordejvii* root biomass shows a trend of first increasing the decreasing, mainly in soil of 0-100cm, accounted for more than 80% of the total roots; with an increase in forest age, *S. gordejvii* root biomass shows growing trend. Distribution of root carbon reserves presents in a form of fusiform, and is in an increasing trend with the increase of forest age; in the vertical direction, with the increase in soil carbon storage root depth shows a trend of first reduce and then increase; in the horizontal direction , the farther away from the center of the model tree, the less root carbon storage is, mainly in a range of 75cm from model tree center.

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