

Spectral determination of concentrations of functionally diverse pigments in increasingly complex arctic tundra canopies

Natalie T. Boelman^{1,*}, Troy S. Magney², Barry A. Logan³, Kevin L. Griffin¹, Jan U.H. Eitel^{2,4}, Heather Greaves², Case M. Prager⁵, and Lee A. Vierling^{2,4}

¹ Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA, 10964

² Geospatial Laboratory for Environmental Dynamics, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, USA 83844-1133;

³ Department of Biology, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, USA, 04011

⁴ McCall Outdoor Science School, University of Idaho, McCall, ID, USA, 83638

⁵ Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA, 10027

*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: nboelman@ldeo.columbia.edu; Tel.: +1-845-365-8480

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ABSTRACT. As the Arctic warms, tundra vegetation is becoming taller and more structurally complex as tall deciduous shrubs become increasingly dominant. Emerging studies reveal that shrubs exhibit photosynthetic resource partitioning, akin to forests, that may need accounting for in “big leaf” net ecosystem exchange models. We conducted a lab experiment on sun and shade leaves from *S. pulchra* shrubs to determine the influence of both constitutive (slowly changing bulk carotenoid and chlorophyll pools) and facultative (rapidly changing xanthophyll cycle) pigment pools on a suite of spectral vegetation indices, to devise a rapid means of estimating within canopy resource partitioning. We found that: (1) the PRI of dark-adapted shade leaves (PRI_o) was double that of sun leaves, and that PRI_o was sensitive to variation among sun and shade leaves in both xanthophyll cycle pool size ($V+A+Z$) ($r^2=0.59$) and $Chla/b$ ($r^2=0.64$); (2) A corrected PRI (difference between dark and illuminated leaves, ΔPRI) was more sensitive to variation among sun and shade leaves in changes to the epoxidation state of their xanthophyll cycle pigments (dEPS) ($r^2=0.78$, $RMSE=0.007$) compared to the uncorrected PRI of illuminated leaves (PRI) ($r^2=0.34$, $RMSE=0.02$) and; (3) the SR680 index was correlated with each of ($V+A+Z$), lutein, bulk carotenoids, $(V+A+Z)/(Chla+b)$, and $Chla/b$ (r^2 range=0.52-0.69). We suggest that ΔPRI be employed as a proxy for facultative pigment dynamics, and the SR680 for estimation of constitutive pigment pools. We contribute the first Arctic-specific information on disentangling PRI-pigment relationships, and offer insight into how spectral indices can assess resource partitioning within shrub tundra canopies.

Keywords. resource partitioning; PRI; ΔPRI ; remote sensing; shrubs; xanthophyll cycle

INTRODUCTION. It is projected that as the Arctic continues to warm, tundra vegetation cover will shift from being composed primarily of low-lying vegetation to dominance by tall deciduous shrubs and even tree cover mosaics (Hallinger et al. 2010, Fraser et al. 2011, Macias-Fauria et al. 2012, Pearson et al. 2013). This compositional shift has already begun in many regions (Stow et al. 2004, Tape et al. 2006, Myers-Smith et al. 2011 and 2015, Lorantý and Goetz 2012, Elmendorf et al. 2012), and will result in tundra ecosystems having not only greater vegetation biomass and higher leaf area index values (LAI) (Street et al. 2007, McManus et al. 2012), but also taller and more structurally complex vegetation (Walker et al. 2006, Boelman et al. 2011). Evidence is accumulating that shows that these concurrent shifts in tundra structure are accompanied by changes in tundra function, including in the exchange of carbon between its vegetation and the atmosphere (Shaver et al. 2007, Street et al. 2007, Sweet et al. 2015). Because tundra regions are vast, remote, and play a critical role in the global carbon cycle (McGuire et al. 2009), it is important to develop and use the appropriate tools and models that enable accurate monitoring of its carbon dynamics.

Shaver et al. (2007) showed that tundra net ecosystem productivity (NEE) can be estimated by combining information on only three variables: LAI, incoming photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), and ambient air temperature. This arctic tundra specific “big leaf model” (Field et al. 1991) has been widely successful for predicting NEE (Williams and Rastetter 1999, Sweet et al. 2015) because the vast majority of present day tundra is short and structurally simple, so that light attenuation, and thus resource partitioning *within* tundra canopies is negligible (Williams et al. 2001, 2008). To boot, because present day tundra typically has LAI values less than 1, the widely employed normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI, Rouse et al. 1974) can be used to remotely estimate spatial and temporal dynamics in LAI for inclusion in

the model (Street et al. 2007). However, emerging studies by Magney et al. (*in press*) reveal that within canopy resource partitioning according to within canopy variation in light environment (self-shading) - akin to that of forested ecosystems (Niinemets 2003, 2007, 2010) - is already occurring in tall deciduous shrubs. Specifically, these studies show that present day shrub-dominated tundra canopies include a wide range of light environments, from deeply shaded regions with lower investment in nitrogen as well as photosynthetic and photoprotective capacities, relative to highly sun exposed regions with higher nitrogen and chlorophyll pigment investments (Magney et al. *in review*). Such gradients will be enhanced as the tundra continues to grow taller and more structurally complex, resulting in two major consequences for future estimation of tundra NEE. First, tundra models will need to be modified to include photosynthetic resource partitioning within vegetation canopies. Second, traditional spectral vegetation indices alone, such as NDVI, are insensitive to rapidly changing (facultative) pigment pools (i.e. those that govern the xanthophyll cycle conversion state) that control diurnal and seasonal dynamics in photosynthesis. Thus, complementary approaches may prove necessary for scaling canopy level photosynthesis (Gamon et al. 1995,2001,2015, Asner et al. 2004, Gitelson et al. 2006, Hall et al. 2008, Peñuelas et al. 2011) in NEE models to the greater tundra ecosystem.

Over the past two decades, there has been increasing interest in the use of the photochemical reflectance index (PRI, Gamon et al. 1990,1992) - a narrowband spectral reflectance index - for quantifying leaf to stand-level dynamics in photosynthetic activity and canopy light-use efficiency (LUE) (Gamon et al. 1992,2001). Together, a suite of leaf pigments enable plants to absorb light essential to photosynthesis, but also dissipate excess light energy in the form of heat (Butler 1978, Demmig-Adams and Adams 1996). These photoprotective

91 mechanisms provide means by which plants can avoid sustained reductions in rates and
92 efficiency of photosynthesis (photoinhibition) (Powles 1984), as well as damage to
93 photosynthetic apparatus (Niyogi 2000, Erickson et al. 2015). PRI takes advantage of the fact
94 that reflectance at 531 nm is functionally related to rapid conversions between epoxidation states
95 of the xanthophyll cycle carotenoids (Gamon et al. 1990,1992) which are linked to foliar heat
96 dissipation (Demmig-Adams and Adams 1996) and thus photosynthetic LUE. However, PRI has
97 proven sensitive not only to dynamics in photoprotective pigment conversion states, but also to
98 longer-term investment in various pigment pools which are also important determinants of
99 photosynthetic LUE (Gamon et al. 1990,1992, Penuleas et al. 1995, Filella et al. 1996, Garbulsky
100 et al. 2011, Gamon and Berry 2012). Gamon and Berry (2012) have termed these pigment pools
101 *facultative* and *constitutive* pigment pools, respectively, because while the inter-conversion
102 between epoxidation states of the xanthophyll cycle carotenoids enables rapid, facultative
103 adjustments in leaves under varying light stress conditions (i.e. seconds to minutes) (Demmig-
104 Adams and Adams 1992, Hartel et al. 1999, Peguero-Pina et al. 2013), investment in bulk
105 carotenoid pools govern the longer-term constitutive capacity of foliage to dissipate excess
106 energy (i.e. weeks to months) (Demmig-Adams 1998). Due to the sensitivity of PRI to dynamics
107 in both constitutive and facultative pigment pools, disentanglement of their dual influence has
108 been a challenge only recently overcome by a suite of PRI studies conducted both at the leaf and
109 stand-levels in a variety of tropical, temperate and boreal ecosystems (Garritty et al. 2011, Gamon
110 and Berry 2012, Porcar-Castell et al. 2012, Rahimzadeh-Bajgirani et al. 2012, Hmimina et al.
111 2014,2015, Najaki et al. 2006, Gamon et al. 2015, Wong and Gamon 2015a,b). As such, unlike
112 other vegetation indices, PRI offers the unique potential to quantify dynamics in both

constitutive and facultative pigment pools, thereby providing insight into photosynthetic efficiency at a wide range of temporal scales.

To our knowledge, neither PRI nor any other spectral index has been explored as a means of studying *within* canopy pigment dynamics in arctic tundra, or elsewhere. Further, while countless other spectral vegetation indices have been developed and successfully employed at the leaf level to characterize relatively large, slow changes in constitutive pigment pools (as reviewed by Blackburn et al. 2007 and Ustin et al. 2009), there has been far less focus on exploring their sensitivity to the much smaller range in more facultative pigment pool dynamics that Magney et al. (*in review*) have recently discovered within arctic shrub canopies during the period of maximum canopy greenness. While examination of differences in xanthophyll cycle activity within shrub canopies is the primary focus of Magney et al. (*in review*), the main goal of the current study is to explore the potential use of spectroscopy to study within canopy dynamics in both constitutive and facultative pigment pools. As such, our three objectives are to expand on previous work by determining the following for one of the most ubiquitous and rapidly expanding deciduous shrub species in arctic Alaska – *Salix pulchra*: (1) if and how the PRI is responsive to differences in constitutive pigment pools among leaves from naturally varying canopy positions and light histories; (2) if and how the PRI is responsive to dynamics in facultative pigment pools (xanthophyll cycle conversion state) in response to a dark to light transition, and; (3) if and how a suite of other vegetation indices are responsive to differences between sun and shade leaves in their constitutive pigment pools in order to determine how they may potentially complement PRI as a means of rapidly estimating resource partitioning within shrub canopies. Based on findings of previous work in other ecosystems we hypothesized that: (1) PRI of dark adapted leaves would be sensitive to differences in both constitutive bulk and

individual carotenoid pool sizes and carotenoid to chlorophyll ratios, with lower PRI values (indicating higher xanthophyll pigment pools) in sun compared to shade leaves; (2) PRI of leaves would be sensitive to changes in xanthophyll cycle epoxidation state that occur during a dark to light transition, with sun leaves exhibiting lower PRI values than shade leaves under illuminated measurement conditions, and; (3) A suite of spectral vegetation indices that have been previously shown to vary with foliar pigment pools would be sensitive to differences in constitutive pigment pools between sun and shade leaves.

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

Arctic study site. This study took place in the Northern Alaska tundra at the Arctic Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site at Toolik Lake (68.63°N, -149.60°W) during peak growing season (July 6-16) of 2014, during which time daily average temperatures ranged from 8 - 17 °C. Leaves from *Salix pulchra* were examined, as this is one of the primary shrub species attributed to climate-induced shrub expansion in the Arctic (Myers-Smith et al. 2011). The mean height of studied shrubs was ~ 1 m, and samples were taken from four shrubs located in a shrub tundra community in the vicinity of Toolik Field Station. This ecosystem is dominated by deciduous shrubs (*S. pulchra*, *S. alaxensis*, *Betula nana*) and graminoids (primarily *Eriophorum vaginatum*-*Sphagnum* and *Carex bigelowii*-*Sphagnum*), and average soil pH < 5.5. The mean annual air temperature for this region is -8.7° C and mean annual precipitation is 164.5 mm.

Experimental approach. We collected branches that included sun and shade leaves from four *Salix pulchra* individuals (see ‘Leaf sample collection’). All leaves were dark-acclimated for > 2 hrs to allow for the relaxation of thermal energy dissipation consequent with the epoxidation of the xanthophyll cycle carotenoids. Following dark-acclimation, branches were placed in a very

dim ($< 10 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) light environment while spectral reflectance measurements (using a light source internal to the spectroradiometer) and leaf samples were collected for pigment extractions. Similar to Gamon and Berry (2012), we used dark-acclimated leaves in an initial set of pigment and PRI measurements to experimentally separate the influence of foliar *investment* in pigments (i.e. a function of the constitutive pigment pools) from the influence of *activity* of xanthophyll cycle pigments (i.e. a function of the facultative pigment pools) on PRI (Gamon and Berry 2012) because in measuring dark-acclimated leaves, the experimentally induced dark state (epoxidation to violaxanthin in the dark) minimized the influence of light controlled xanthophyll cycle activity on the measured PRI. Thus, under these conditions, PRI variation among leaves was primarily due to differences in the investment of bulk pigment pool composition, and secondarily due to small differences in the amount of ambient (but dim) light each leaf sample was exposed to and may have influenced xanthophyll cycle activity. Hereafter we refer to this dark-state PRI measurement as PRI_0 .

Following the dark-acclimated leaf measurements for determining pigment spectral reflectance, each branch was placed under a bank of lights (high-intensity discharge metal halide lamps) facing directly towards the leaves to induce xanthophyll pigment interconversion. Leaf level irradiance ranged from $200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ to $1200 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The range in light exposure was the result of varying leaf angles on the stem, and was quantified as photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) measured by a quantum sensor. After exposure to light for more than three minutes, it was assumed that xanthophyll de-epoxidation had occurred (Bilger et al. 1989). At this time, a second set of pigment samples were taken and spectral reflectance measurements were made, both from the same leaves sampled under dark state conditions. Hereafter we refer to the PRI measurements made under high light intensities as PRI.

Leaf sample collection. A total of eight *Salix pulchra* branches (4 sun exposed, 4 shaded) from four different shrubs were collected in the field from which a total of 40 leaf samples encompassing 20 sun-exposed leaves and 20 shade leaves were analyzed. All branches sampled had leaves that were fully expanded and were chosen subjectively to ensure that representative sun and shade leaves were chosen. Sun/shade conditions were quantified using a plant canopy analyzer (LAI-2000, LiCor, Lincoln, NE, USA), and data was collected during diffuse sky conditions to reduce sun/sensor geometry effects (Bréda et al. 2003). LAI values ≤ 0.3 were considered sun leaves, while LAI values > 0.3 were considered shade leaves. All branches were taken back to the laboratory. The leaves remained attached to branches, and the branch was placed in ample water and re-cut.

Pigment analysis. A 0.25 cm² disk of leaf tissue was removed from each dark-acclimated and illuminated leaf using a cork borer and immediately were stored at -80°C until extraction in acetone according to Adams and Demmig-Adams (1992). Pigment separation and quantification were achieved by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), as described in Gilmore and Yamamoto (1991), using an Agilent 1100 series HPLC (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) equipped with a YMC Carotenoid C-30 reverse phase column (YMC Co., Ltd, Kyoto, Japan) at 35°C with the following modification to the solvent gradient: 0–4 min (72 : 8 : 3, acetonitrile : methanol : 0.1MTris-HCl (pH 8.0)) followed by a linear gradient to 80% (4 : 1, methanol : hexanes) from 4 to 40 min, and the completion of the quantification with the latter mobile phase. Pigment pool sizes quantified were: chlorophyll a (Chla) and b (Chlb) (in mmol/m²), and individual carotenoid pool sizes (in $\mu\text{mol/m}^2$): violaxanthin (V), antheraxanthin (A), zeaxanthin (Z), neaxanthin, lutein, and beta-carotene. Several of these individual pigment values were combined to calculate the total chlorophyll pool size ($\text{Chla} + \text{Chlb}$) (in

205 mmol/m²), total xanthophyll cycle pool size (V+A+Z) (in μmol/m²), bulk carotenoid pool size
 206 (bulk car = V+A+Z+neaxanthin+lutein+beta-carotene) (in μmol/m²). In addition, several
 207 pigment ratios were calculated: Chl*a*/b, (bulk car)/(Chl*a*+b) (in mmol mol⁻¹), (V+A+Z)/(Chl*a*+b)
 208 (in mmol mol⁻¹), and lutein/(Chl*a*+b) (in mmol mol⁻¹). The xanthophyll cycle pigment
 209 epoxidation state (EPS) is the ratio of the epoxidised to the de-epoxidised components of the
 210 xanthophyll cycle (EPS=(V+0.5A)/(V+A+Z)) because of the involvement of zeaxanthin and
 211 antheraxanthin in the energy dissipation process (Gilmore and Yamamoto 1993). A weighting
 212 factor of 0.5 is applied to antheraxanthin since it is only a partially de-epoxidized relative to
 213 violaxanthin (Thayer and Björkman 1990). The change in EPS from the dark to light transition
 214 (dEPS) was calculated as the difference between the EPS of light and dark acclimated leaves. Of
 215 the pigment pools listed above, the following are reported in related study by Magney et al. (*in*
 216 *press, in review*), and also included in the current study in order to relate pigment pools to a suite
 217 of narrowband spectral vegetation indices: Magney et al., *in press*: Chl*a*/b; Magney et al., *in*
 218 *review*: (V+A+Z)/(Chl*a*+b); (Z+A)/(V+A+Z).

219 **Spectral reflectance: PRI and other vegetation indices.** Leaf spectral radiance measurements
 220 were made on dark-acclimated and illuminated leaves (immediately following and on the same
 221 leaves from which pigment samples were removed) using a spectroradiometer (UniSpec SC, PP
 222 Systems, Haverhill MA, USA) by attaching a fiber optic probe (UNI400, PP Systems, Haverhill
 223 MA, USA) onto a leaf with a leaf clip (UNI500, PP Systems, Haverhill MA, USA). The fiber
 224 optic probe includes both a white measuring and actinic light (PPFD equal to full sun), and a
 225 path for reflected light to reach the detector (see Gamon and Surfus 1999, for further details and
 226 instrument description). The leaf clip provided a fixed optical geometry during spectral
 227 sampling. The spectral sampling range was 310 - 1100 nm, with a sampling interval of 3.3 nm,

and full-width half maximum bandwidth of 10 nm for a total of 256 data points per spectrum. Leaf radiance measurements were preceded by: (1) a 'dark spectrum' in which the spectroradiometer light source is blocked (by a shutter) from reaching the leaf clip. The spectrum from the dark spectrum is used by the spectroradiometer to correct for instrument noise, and (2) a measurement of a 99% reflectance white standard (Spectralon, LabSphere, North Sutton, NY, USA). The integration time was set to 15 ms. Three spectral measurements were made per leaf sample to ensure that the spatial heterogeneity of each leaf region was captured. All spectral measurements were converted to reflectance values by dividing each leaf measurement by the white standard measurement. All reflectance spectra were interpolated using a linear interpolation to a 1 nm interval so that narrowband vegetation indices that require single wavelength reflectance values could be calculated. Several narrowband vegetation indices that have proven effective at estimating foliar pigment contents across a range of species, growth forms, spatial and temporal scales, were then calculated according the equations in Table 1. In addition, three different PRI values were calculated: (1) PRI_o indicates values calculated from reflectance measurements made on dark-acclimated leaves, (2) PRI indicates values calculated from reflectance measurements made on leaves exposed to high light intensities; and; (3) ΔPRI indicates a 'corrected PRI' values calculated as the difference between PRI and PRI_o ($\Delta PRI = PRI - PRI_o$), which has been shown by others as a means of accounting for differences in constitutive pigment pools among leaves, thereby isolating the influence of facultative pigment pools on PRI (Gamon and Berry 2012; Magney et al., 2016).

Statistics. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test for overall differences between sun and shade leaves for pigment pools, pigment ratios, PRI and SR680 values. Differences were considered significant at $P \leq 0.01$. If the ANOVA showed an overall significant

effect, individual pairs of means were compared using Tukey's honestly significant difference (Tukey's HSD) criterion (Zar 1999). Linear regressions were used to determine relationships between spectral indices and bulk pigment pool sizes and ratios. Goodness of fit was evaluated based on the coefficient of simple determination (r^2) and root mean square error (RMSE) values.

RESULTS.

Photo-protective investment: Spectral determination of constitutive pigment pools. Sun leaves had xanthophyll cycle pigment pools ($V+A+Z$) more than double that of shade leaves ($p=0$), 30% higher bulk car ($p=0$), 15% higher $Chl a+b$ ($P<0.001$), and 37% greater lutein ($p=0$). There were no statistical differences between sun and shade leaves in either zeaxanthin or beta-carotene (Fig. 1a). Similarly, the following bulk pigment ratios were significantly greater in sun compared to shade leaves: $(V+A+Z)/(Chl a+b)$ (57% higher, $p<0.001$), $Chl a/b$ (17% higher, $p=0$), and $(bulk\ car)/(Chl a + b)$ (19% higher, $p<0.01$) (Fig. 1b). There was no statistically significant difference in sun compared to shade leaves in lutein/ $(Chl a+b)$ (Fig. 1b). PRI_o was more than twice as low for sun compared to shade leaves ($p<0.01$) (Fig. 1c), while SR680 was 30% higher in sun compared to shade leaves ($p=0$) (Fig. 1d).

There were moderately strong linear relationships ($r^2 \geq 0.5$, $p \leq 0.05$) between several of the spectral indices and differences in bulk pigment pools and ratios (Table 2). Only the relationships between $(V+A+Z)$ and each of PRI_o (Fig. 2a), SR680 (Fig. 2b) and ND705 (Table 2) had regression coefficients > 0.5 ($p \leq 0.05$) (Table 2). Each of SR680, SR705, mSR705, ND680, ND705, mND705, $(chl)RI_{green}$, and $(chl)RI_{red\ edge}$ were related to both bulk car and lutein (Table 2, Fig. 2b,d). The $(chl)RI_{red}$ and ND705 were the only indices that had statistically significant relationships with $Chl a+b$, while only MCARI was related to beta-carotene (Table 2).

Both the PRI_o and SR680 were related to Chl_a/b (Table 2, Fig. 2a,c). PRI_o was more strongly related to Chl_a/b than to (V+A+Z), bulk car, or bulk car/Chl_a+b (Table 2). Only SR680 (Fig. 2d) and ND680 were related to (V+A+Z)/(Chl_a+b) (Table 2). SR680 was the spectral vegetation index with the greatest number of moderately strong relationships with pigment pools and ratios (Table 2, Fig. 2b-d).

Photo-protective activity: Spectral determination of adjustments in facultative pigment pools. There was no statistically significant difference in dEPS between sun and shade leaves. While PRI was statistically significantly lower for sun (PRI= -0.027) compared to shade (PRI= 0.01) leaves (p=0.003), there were no statistically significant differences in ΔPRI. When sun and shade leaves were combined, ΔPRI was more strongly related to variation in dEPS ($r^2=0.78$, RMSE=0.01, $p<0.05$) than was PRI ($r^2=0.34$, RMSE=0.02, $p<0.05$) (Fig. 3).

DISCUSSION.

PRI as a rapid measure of both constitutive and facultative photoprotection. In agreement with our first two hypotheses, we found that PRI_o was significantly lower in sun compared to shade leaves of *Salix pulchra*. These differences appear to be at least partially driven by the differences in total xanthophyll cycle pool size reported in Magney et al. (*in review*) – since sun leaves exhibited greater investment in photoprotective mechanisms (i.e. xanthophyll cycle pool size) relative to shade leaves - but are likely also explained by co-variation among pigment variables. Our findings differ from those of a similar leaf level study conducted on two temperate coniferous species by Gamon and Berry (2012) in which dark-acclimated PRI was strongly related to differences between sun and shade leaves due to differences in their bulk chlorophyll to carotenoid pool ratios, but not to variation in xanthophyll cycle pool size (i.e. ratio of total

chlorophyll to (V+A+Z)). Actinic light sources were used to determine PRI on dark-acclimated leaves (PRI_o) in all of these studies because while non-actinic sources at 532 nm are available, those at 570 nm are not - this may be limiting our ability to determine the primary bio-chemical and physical drivers of variation in PRI_o. We also found that PRI_o was correlated with Chl*a/b*, which is a good indicator of a leaf's light history (Thayer and Bjorkman 1990, Dale and Causton 1992, Logan et al. 1996). However, there is no easily explained physical basis for PRI_o to be sensitive to Chl*a/b* since the difference in absorption of photosynthetically active radiation at 531 nm and 570 nm (the two PRI wavelengths) is very small for both Chl*a* and Chl*b* (Lichtenthaler 1987). Rather, Chl*a/b* may distinguish between sun and shade leaves similarly to xanthophyll pool size and is therefore correlated with variation in PRI_o.

Similar to a handful of recent temperate and boreal studies (Gamon and Berry 2012, Liu et al. 2013, Hmimina et al. 2014,2015, Wong et al. 2015b, Magney et al. 2016), we were able to quantitatively account for constitutive pigment pools by subtracting the dark-acclimated PRI (PRI_o) from the PRI of illuminated leaves (PRI) to isolate the influence of xanthophyll cycle epoxidation state on PRI. Relative to the uncorrected PRI, the corrected PRI (Δ PRI) was much more strongly related to the change in xanthophyll cycle de-epoxidation that occurred during the dark to light transition. As such, our Arctic-specific findings support a growing suite of studies conducted at both the leaf and stand-levels in a wide variety of ecosystems and settings, showing that *both* variation in chlorophyll and carotenoid pigment pools, and xanthophyll cycle activity, greatly influence PRI dynamics (as reviewed in Garbulsky et al. 2011). Most recently, Wong and Gamon (2015b) found that canopy level PRI was more strongly related to seasonally changing carotenoid to chlorophyll ratios than to xanthophyll cycle activity in two boreal conifer species (*Pinus contorta* and *Pinus ponderosa*). In a related study on the same species, Wong and

Gamon (2015a) found that the PRI and seasonal dynamics in pigment pools were closely timed with variation in several physiologic variables, including xanthophyll cycle conversion state, showing that PRI was a clear optical indicator of the onset of spring photosynthetic activation. In a study where different time scales in PRI variation were considered in both conifers and broad leaf tree species, both Porcar-Castell et al. (2012) and Gamon et al. (2015) found that while carotenoid to chlorophyll ratios did indeed have the strongest influence on canopy level PRI over the course of the spring season, diurnal variation in PRI was most affected by xanthophyll cycle activity. Similarly, other recent studies conducted at a range of spatial and temporal scales have found that PRI varies with both bulk pigment contents and xanthophyll cycle activity depending on the temporal scale being examined, and include a range of growth-forms including eggplant (Rahimzadeh-Bajgiran et al. 2012), temperate deciduous tree species (Garrity et al. 2011, Hmimina et al. 2014,2015), and wheat fields (Magney et al., 2016). Differences in PRI-pigment pool relationships among studies, including the current study, are likely due to differences in study species, spatial and temporal scales being examined, instrument specifications (Harris et al. 2014), and processing of spectral reflectance data done prior to calculation of PRI.

SR680 and other indices as rapid measures of constitutive pigment investment. We found moderately strong linear relationships between several of the indices and differences in bulk pigment pools between sun and shade leaves. These findings agree with our third hypothesis and suggest additional spectral information to that offered by the dark-acclimated PRI (PRI_o) may help estimate parameters related to resource partitioning in the form of relative pigment investments. Of the twelve vegetation indices we examined (including PRI_o) the SR680 was most suited to estimating dynamics in photoprotective investment among leaves within *Salix*

pulchra canopies. Our finding that the SR680 is correlated not only with variation in total xanthophyll cycle pool size, but also with lutein pool size is particularly interesting given recent evidence that the lutein epoxide cycle (Bungard et al. 1999) may also be involved in energy dissipation (Garcia-Plazaola et al. 2002, 2007, Matsubara et al. 2007, Jahns and Holzwarth 2012). It should also be noted that several other indices we investigated were equally related to both bulk carotenoids and lutein, suggesting that relative to other carotenoids, lutein may contribute more significantly to spectral reflectance and/or be most strongly correlated with variation in bulk carotenoid pools. However, the effect of lutein on reflectance spectra and vegetation indices has only begun to be explored (Gamon and Berry 2012). In the only study we know of examining these relationships, Wong et al. (2015a) found that seasonal shifts in both bulk xanthophyll cycle and lutein concentrations mirrored those of PRI in two boreal pine species. Further studies focused on gaining mechanistic understanding of the relationships found between vegetation indices and lutein are required.

Due to chlorophyll's absorption spectrum, SR680 is typically employed as a 'chlorophyll index', yet we found that individual and bulk carotenoid concentrations explained more of the variance in SR680 ($r^2 = 0.62 - 0.71$) than did bulk chlorophyll concentration ($r^2 = 0.39$). Since carotenoids do not absorb light at 680 nm (nor at the 800 nm reference wavelength), it is likely this correlation is secondary in nature since sun leaves had both higher chlorophyll and carotenoid pools relative to shade leaves (see Fig. 1a). The SR680 was also correlated with $Chl a/b$, which may be due to the fact that chlorophyll *a* absorbs more strongly than chlorophyll *b* at 680 nm (Lichtenthaler 1987). We therefore suggest that the SR680 - which has an advantage over PRI in that it can be employed equally well on dark-acclimated and illuminated leaves -

could be used as a rapid means of assessing resource (pigment) partitioning within arctic shrub canopies.

Of the other indices explored, ND680 performed similarly to SR680. The SR680 (R_{800}/R_{680}) is a simple ratio designed to enhance the absorption feature of the denominator wavelength relative to the numerator wavelength, while the ND680 ($(R_{680}-R_{800})/(R_{680}+R_{800})$) is a normalized difference index designed to enhance the contrast of lower ratio values (Schowengerdt 2007) - both were designed to maximize pigment differences at whole canopy scales. Regardless of their different designs, the two indices performed very similarly in our leaf level study likely due the fact that they rely on the same wavelength sensitivities - 680 nm and 800 nm. The remaining vegetation indices either did not correlate with as many, or any, pigment variables. Similar to SR680 and ND680, the majority of the remaining ‘chlorophyll indices’ (SR705, mSR705, ND705, (chl)RI_{green}), were moderately correlated with bulk carotenoid contents ($r^2 = 0.53 - 0.62$) but not with bulk chlorophyll content nor Chl a/b . We suggest that the SR705, mSR705 and ND705 were not as strongly related to Chl a/b relative to the 680 nm indices because chlorophyll a and b both absorb equally weakly at 705 nm, whereas at 680 nm chlorophyll a is a much stronger absorber than chlorophyll b (Lichtenthaler 1987). Further, the fact that none of the 705 nm indices were correlated with either bulk xanthophyll pools or Chl a/b , while the 680 nm indices were correlated with both, highlights the secondary nature of the relationship between SR680 (and ND680) and bulk xanthophyll pools – in other words, SR680 and ND680 are influenced directly by variation in Chl a/b which likely co-varies with xanthophyll pool size among shade and sun leaves. The MCARI was the only index correlated with the carotenoid beta-carotene which has an absorption range at wavelengths shorter than any of those used in the MCARI (Vetter et al. 1971), suggesting that this relationship is likely

secondary in nature. We suggest that several of the vegetation indices we explored did not correlate well with pigment pools for two main reasons: (1) our study leaves had relatively small inter-leaf variation in chlorophyll and carotenoid contents, and therefore little difference among spectral absorption features in the visible wavelengths and; (2) several of the indices explored were designed as canopy level indices and may not be well-suited for leaf level studies such as ours. Nevertheless, our findings are unique because while many previous studies have shown that several of the same vegetation indices explored often vary closely with relatively large changes in leaf pigment pools associated with seasonality or along environmental gradients (Rahman et al. 2001, Sims and Gamon 2002, Whitehead et al. 2005, Martin and Asner 2009, Gamon et al. 2012,2015, Soudani et al. 2014), we show that select indices were sensitive to a much smaller range in pigment pool dynamics that occur within arctic shrub canopies during the period of maximum canopy greenness. This is particularly useful as it allows rapid spectral assessment of the resource partitioning recently discovered in arctic shrub canopies (Magney et al., *in press*).

Finally, an important caveat to our study is that because it was conducted during the period of maximum leaf out, the findings and relationships presented here may not hold through an entire Arctic growing season since leaf internal structure and biochemical composition, as well as leaf surface properties, change in ways that likely have differential effects on spectral reflectance characteristics (Jacquemoud and Baret 1990, Carter and Knapp 1991, Penuelas et al. 1995, Sims and Gamon 2002, Merzlyak et al. 2003, Levizou et al. 2005). We therefore suggest that future work build on the pigment-spectral relationships presented herein by exploring relationships between the various vegetation indices and pigment pools over the course of an entire Arctic growing season, and expand upon the current study by including additional

deciduous shrub species that are becoming increasingly dominant in our study region (ie. other willow species, dwarf birch, and alder species). Given the seasonal (climatic) and structural (vegetative) changes that are occurring in the Arctic, this topic is prime for further study.

Implications. Our findings contribute insight and practical techniques for using leaf level spectral vegetation indices as rapid, non-destructive and repeatable estimates of rapid facultative dynamics in leaf-level xanthophyll activity (using Δ PRI) and more sustained differences in constitutive pigment pools (using SR680) - and potentially light use efficiency - within tall deciduous shrub canopies in the Arctic. To our knowledge, this is the only Arctic-specific information related to the use of PRI (Garbulsky et al. 2011) or any other spectral index to study within canopy resource partitioning in Arctic tundra. This is timely given: (1) tall deciduous shrubs are rapidly increasing in height, density, and range in many Arctic regions at the expense of low-lying graminoid communities (Myers-Smith et al. 2011) and this trend is projected to continue into the future (Pearson et al. 2013), (2) the recent findings that deciduous shrubs are already exhibiting within canopy resource partitioning as function of within canopy gradients in light availability (Magney et al. *in press*) suggesting that light use efficiency will become an increasingly important variable to include in modeling tundra NEE in the future, and, (3) the widely used canopy level NDVI - used in calculating GPP and ER used in modeling tundra NEE (Shaver et al. 2007) - when employed alone, is insensitive to dynamics in light use efficiency (Gamon et al. 1995, Asner et al. 2004). Our findings do not directly advance the employment of space-based PRI measurements to quantify spatial variation in tundra photosynthesis because disentangling the relative influence of constitutive and facultative pigment pools on PRI requires dark acclimation of foliage. However, similar to Magney et al. (2016), it may be worth exploring if a PRI measurement taken during low irradiance (ie. when the sun is very near the horizon

during arctic summer nights) could be subtracted from a PRI measurement collected during light saturation from satellite instruments with overpass times separated by more than a few hours – though such data is not readily available. Instead, we suggest future work explore relationships between canopy level spectra and within canopy variation in leaf level PRI and SR680 so that both long- and short-term dynamics in the efficiency with which incident light is absorbed and converted to fixed carbon can be better incorporated into tundra NEE models.

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 653

654 **TABLES.**

655 **Table 1.** Various spectral vegetation indices used in this study that have been previously shown to be related to foliar pigment
656 (chlorophylls and carotenoids) concentrations.

Name	Type ^a	Abbreviation	Equation ^b	References
Photochemical reflectance index	carotenoids	PRI	$(R_{531} - R_{570}) / (R_{531} + R_{570})$	Gamon, Penuleas and Field et al. 1993
Structure Intensive Pigment Index	carotenoids	SIPI	$(R_{800} - R_{445}) / (R_{800} + R_{680})$	Penuelas et al. 1995
Plant Senescence Reflectance Index	carotenoids	PSRI	$(R_{680} - R_{500}) / R_{750}$	Merzlyak et al. 1999
Simple ratio 680 nm	chlorophylls	SR680	R_{800} / R_{680}	Berth and McVey 1968, Sims and Gamon 2002
Simple ratio 705 nm	chlorophylls	SR705	R_{750} / R_{705}	Gitelson and Merzlyak 1994, Sims and Gamon 2002
Modified simple ratio 705 nm	chlorophylls	mSR705	$(R_{750} - R_{445}) / (R_{750} + R_{445})$	Sims and Gamon 2002
Normalized difference 680 nm	chlorophylls	ND680 (or NDVI ₆₈₀)	$(R_{800} - R_{680}) / (R_{800} + R_{680})$	Berth and McVey 1968, Sims and Gamon 2002
Normalized difference 705 nm	chlorophylls	ND705 (or NDVI ₇₀₅)	$(R_{750} - R_{705}) / (R_{750} + R_{705})$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 1994, Sims and Gamon 2002
Modified normalized difference 705 nm	chlorophylls	mND705	$(R_{750} - R_{705}) / (R_{750} + R_{705} - 2R_{445})$	Sims and Gamon 2002
Chlorophyll reflectance index green	chlorophylls (Chl)	RI _{green}	$(R_{750-800} - R_{520-585}) - 1$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 2004
Chlorophyll reflectance index red edge	chlorophylls (Chl)	RI _{red edge}	$(R_{750-800} - R_{695-740}) - 1$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 2004
Modified chlorophyll absorption index	chlorophylls	MCARI	$[(R_{700} - R_{670}) - 0.2 * (R_{700} - R_{550})] * (R_{700} / R_{670})$	Daughtry et al. 2000

^a Indices are grouped based on the pigment group (carotenoids or chlorophylls) they were each designed to be sensitive to.

^b R_{###} indicates the reflectance value at a specific wavelength or range of wavelengths (in nanometers, nm) used to calculate each index.

664 **Table 2.** Correlation coefficient (r^2 , top value) and root mean square error (RMSE, bottom italicized value) values for relationships
665 between various spectral vegetation indices and constitutive bulk pigment pool sizes and ratios. Bold text indicates r^2 values > 0.5 with
666 $p \leq 0.05$.

					Spectral Vegetation Indices							
Pigment pool size or ratio	PRI _o	SIPI	PSRI	SR680	SR705	mSR705	ND680	ND705	mND705	(chl)RI _{green}	(chl)RI _{red edge}	MCARI
Chla+b	0.30	0.01	0.05	0.39	0.47	0.43	0.32	0.49	0.44	0.33	0.51	0.06
	32.70	42.40	42.00	33.58	31.39	32.66	35.55	30.91	32.30	35.32	30.20	41.83
(V+A+Z)	0.59	0.08	0.14	0.69	0.38	0.26	0.67	0.39	0.26	0.43	0.38	0.01
	11.23	19.62	19.00	11.35	16.08	17.63	11.75	15.98	17.57	15.43	16.12	20.34
neaxanthin	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.00
	4.88	4.11	4.04	3.91	4.02	4.01	4.02	4.02	4.00	4.00	4.04	4.16
lutein	0.44	0.13	0.25	0.71	0.53	0.41	0.65	0.53	0.40	0.52	0.51	0.01
	8.44	10.58	10.23	6.42	8.12	9.07	6.98	8.10	9.15	8.18	8.29	11.78
beta-carotene	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.31	0.42	0.01	0.34	0.46	0.22	0.38	0.56
	7.03	6.81	7.26	7.22	6.02	5.51	7.25	5.88	5.33	6.42	5.74	4.84
bulk car	0.35	0.05	0.17	0.62	0.58	0.53	0.56	0.61	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.04
	30.75	34.71	36.48	24.74	25.81	27.42	26.47	25.14	26.66	26.10	25.17	39.20
Chla/b	0.64	0.13	0.11	0.52	0.10	0.03	0.47	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.09	0.24
	0.22	0.36	0.35	0.26	0.35	0.36	0.27	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.32
lutein/Chla +b	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.13	0.09	0.21	0.13	0.09	0.21	0.10	0.00
	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
(V+A+Z)/Chla+b	0.46	0.06	0.11	0.52	0.24	0.15	0.53	0.25	0.16	0.33	0.24	0.03
	39.33	61.01	59.07	43.41	54.44	57.66	42.77	54.06	57.39	51.22	54.77	61.72
bulk car/Chla +b	0.15	0.03	0.06	0.33	0.23	0.17	0.33	0.24	0.18	0.33	0.21	0.00
	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.10

669 **FIGURE CAPTIONS.**

670 **Figure 1 a** Mean constitutive leaf pigment concentrations for sun (*gray bars*) and shade (*black bars*) leaves of *Salix pulchra*. Bulk
671 carotenoids (*bulk car/10*) (in $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$), xanthophyll cycle carotenoids ($V+A+Z$) (in $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$), total chlorophyll pool size
672 ($(Chla+b)/10$) (in mmol/m^2), and individual carotenoid pool sizes (in umol/m^2): violaxanthin (V), antheraxanthin (A), zeaxanthin (Z),
673 neaxanthin, lutein, and beta-carotene. **b** Mean pigment ratios for sun and shade leaves: $(V+A+Z)/(Chla+b)$ (in mmol/mol),
674 $(Chla/b)/10$, $lutein/(Chla+b)$ (in mmol/mol), and $(bulk\ car)/(Chla+b)$ (in mmol/mol). Note that these $(V+A+Z)/(Chla+b)$ values were
675 previously reported by Magney et al. (in review). **c** Mean dark-acclimated (PRI_o) and **d** $SR680$, for sun and shade leaves. Error bars
676 represent ± 1 standard error of the mean (SEM). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between sun and shade leaves as
677 follows: * indicates $p < 0.01$,
678 ** indicates $p < 0.001$, and *** indicates $p = 0$.

679 **Figure 2a-d** Relationships between leaf pigment pools and vegetation indices. **a** Relationships between dark-acclimated PRI (PRI_o)
680 and each of total xanthophyll pigment pool size ($(V+A+Z)$, *filled squares, solid line*) (in umol/m^2) ($y = -928.19x + 50.91$, $r^2 = 0.59$,
681 $p \leq 0.05$) and $Chla/b$ (*open squares, dashed line*) ($y = -19.55x + 3.42$, $r^2 = 0.64$, $p \leq 0.05$). **b** Relationships between $SR680$ and each of
682 total xanthophyll cycle pool size ($(V+A+Z)$, *filled squares*) (in umol/m^2) ($y = 5.30x - 40.21$, $r^2 = 0.69$, $p \leq 0.05$).

683

684 and lutein (*open circles*) (in $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$) ($y = 3.13x - 1.76$, $r^2 = 0.66$, $p \leq 0.05$). **c** Relationships between SR680 and *Chla/b* (*open*
685 *squares*) ($y = 0.08x + 1.89$, $r^2 = 0.52$, $p \leq 0.05$). **d** Relationships between SR680 and each of bulk carotenoid pool size (*bulk car*, *filled*
686 *diamonds*) (in $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$) ($y = 9.78x + 17.67$, $r^2 = 0.62$, $p \leq 0.05$) and $(V+A+Z)/(Chla+b)$ (*open diamonds*) (in mmol/mol) ($y = 14.04x -$
687 93.62 , $r^2 = 0.52$, $p \leq 0.05$). Error bars represent ± 1 standard error of the mean SEM.

688 **Figure 3** Relationships between dEPS and each of PRI (*filled circles, solid line*) ($y = -0.18x + 0.04$, $r^2 = 0.34$, $p \leq 0.05$) and ΔPRI
689 (*open circles, dashed line*) ($y = -0.16x + 0.02$, $r^2 = 0.78$, $p \leq 0.05$) for sun and shade leaves combined. Error bars represent ± 1 standard
690 error of the mean (SEM).

Table 1

Name	Type ^a	Abbreviation	Equation ^b	References
Photochemical reflectance index	carotenoids	PRI	$(R_{531} - R_{570}) / (R_{531} + R_{570})$	Gamon, Penuleas and Field et al. 1993
Structure Intensive Pigment Index	carotenoids	SIPI	$(R_{800} - R_{445}) / (R_{800} + R_{680})$	Penuelas et al. 1995
Plant Senescence Reflectance Index	carotenoids	PSRI	$(R_{680} - R_{500}) / R_{750}$	Merzlyak et al. 1999
Simple ratio 680 nm	chlorophylls	SR680	R_{800} / R_{680}	Berth and McVey 1968, Sims and Gamon 2002
Simple ratio 705 nm	chlorophylls	SR705	R_{750} / R_{705}	Gitelson and Merzlyak 1994, Sims and Gamon 2002
Modified simple ratio 705 nm	chlorophylls	mSR705	$(R_{750} - R_{445}) / (R_{750} + R_{445})$	Sims and Gamon 2002
Normalized difference 680 nm	chlorophylls	ND680 (or NDVI ₆₈₀)	$(R_{800} - R_{680}) / (R_{800} + R_{680})$	Berth and McVey 1968, Sims and Gamon 2002
Normalized difference 705 nm	chlorophylls	ND705 (or NDVI ₇₀₅)	$(R_{750} - R_{705}) / (R_{750} + R_{705})$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 1994, Sims and Gamon 2002
Modified normalized difference 705 nm	chlorophylls	mND705	$(R_{750} - R_{705}) / (R_{750} + R_{705} - 2R_{445})$	Sims and Gamon 2002
Chlorophyll reflectance index green	chlorophylls	(Chl)RI _{green}	$(R_{750-800} - R_{520-585}) - 1$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 2004
Chlorophyll reflectance index red edge	chlorophylls	(Chl)RI _{red edge}	$(R_{750-800} - R_{695-740}) - 1$	Gitelson and Merzlyak 2004
Modified chlorophyll absorption index	chlorophylls	MCARI	$[(R_{700} - R_{670}) - 0.2 * (R_{700} - R_{550})] * (R_{700} / R_{670})$	Daughtry et al. 2000

^a Indices are grouped based on the pigment group (carotenoids or chlorophylls) they were each designed to be sensitive to.

^b R_{###} indicates the reflectance value at a specific wavelength or range of wavelengths (in nanometers, nm) used to calculate each index.

Table 2

					Spectral Vegetation Indices							
Pigment pool size or ratio	PRI ₀	SIPI	PSRI	SR680	SR705	mSR705	ND680	ND705	mND705	(chl)RI _{green}	(chl)RI _{red edge}	MCARI
Chla+b	0.30	0.01	0.05	0.39	0.47	0.43	0.32	0.49	0.44	0.33	0.51	0.06
	32.70	42.40	42.00	33.58	31.39	32.66	35.55	30.91	32.30	35.32	30.20	41.83
(V+A+Z)	0.59	0.08	0.14	0.69	0.38	0.26	0.67	0.39	0.26	0.43	0.38	0.01
	11.23	19.62	19.00	11.35	16.08	17.63	11.75	15.98	17.57	15.43	16.12	20.34
neaxanthin	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.00
	4.88	4.11	4.04	3.91	4.02	4.01	4.02	4.02	4.00	4.00	4.04	4.16
lutein	0.44	0.13	0.25	0.71	0.53	0.41	0.65	0.53	0.40	0.52	0.51	0.01
	8.44	10.58	10.23	6.42	8.12	9.07	6.98	8.10	9.15	8.18	8.29	11.78
beta-carotene	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.31	0.42	0.01	0.34	0.46	0.22	0.38	0.56
	7.03	6.81	7.26	7.22	6.02	5.51	7.25	5.88	5.33	6.42	5.74	4.84
bulk car	0.35	0.05	0.17	0.62	0.58	0.53	0.56	0.61	0.56	0.57	0.60	0.04
	30.75	34.71	36.48	24.74	25.81	27.42	26.47	25.14	26.66	26.10	25.17	39.20
Chla/b	0.64	0.13	0.11	0.52	0.10	0.03	0.47	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.09	0.24
	0.22	0.36	0.35	0.26	0.35	0.36	0.27	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.32
lutein/Chla +b	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.13	0.09	0.21	0.13	0.09	0.21	0.10	0.00
	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
(V+A+Z)/Chla+b	0.46	0.06	0.11	0.52	0.24	0.15	0.53	0.25	0.16	0.33	0.24	0.03
	39.33	61.01	59.07	43.41	54.44	57.66	42.77	54.06	57.39	51.22	54.77	61.72
bulk car/Chla +b	0.15	0.03	0.06	0.33	0.23	0.17	0.33	0.24	0.18	0.33	0.21	0.00
	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.10

Figure 1

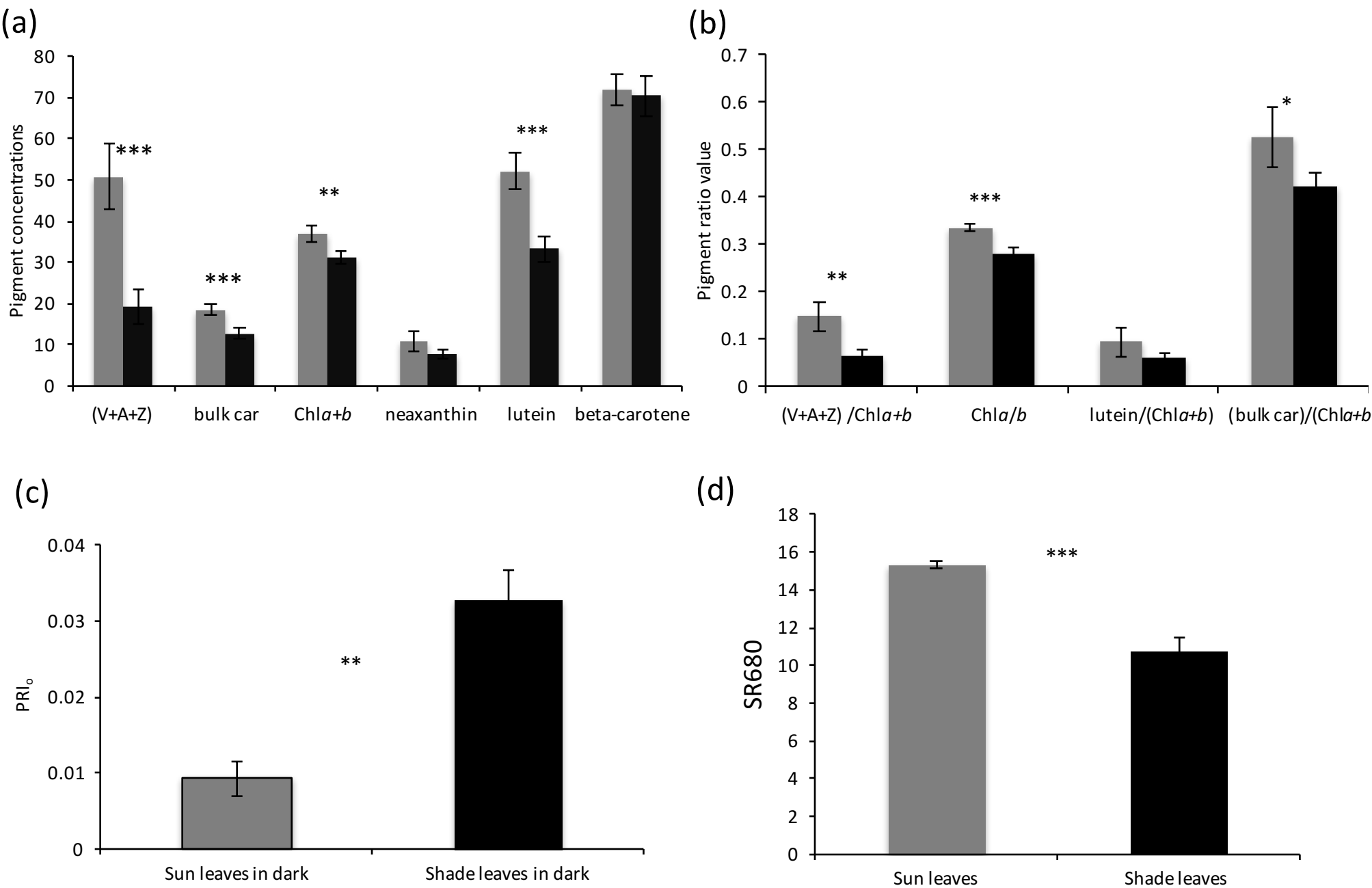


Figure 2

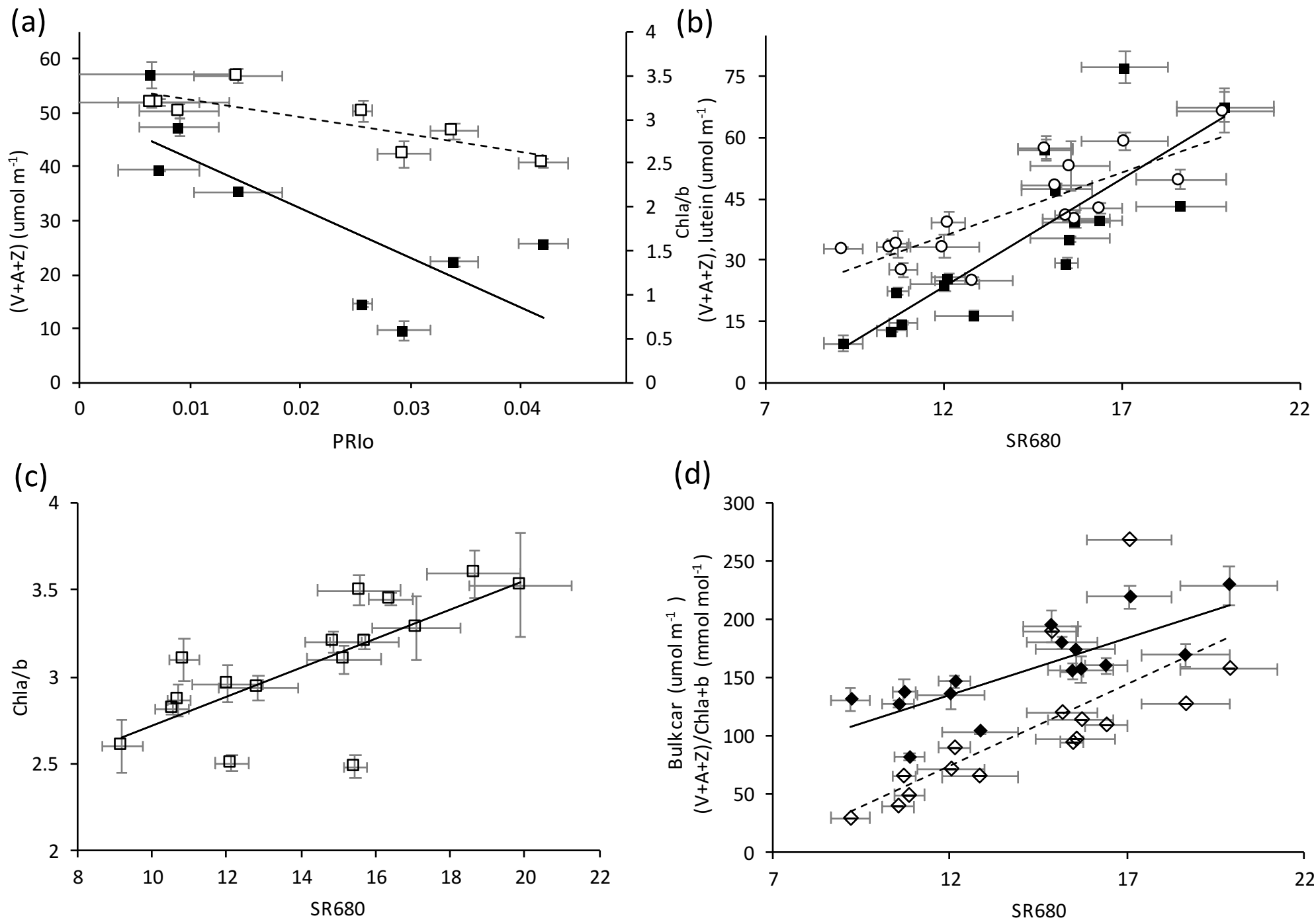


Figure 3

