

## Supplementary material

**Table S1. Mean values of leaf mass per area (LMA), mass-based Chl content ( $\text{Chl}_m$ ), and area-based polyphenols content in adaxial (EPhen<sub>ad</sub>) and abaxial (EPhen<sub>ab</sub>) epidermis throughout the chronosequence in Exp 2**

SE ( $n = 10$  trees per stand) are indicated in brackets

Stand	Stand age (years)	LMA ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	$\text{Chl}_m$ ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ )	EPhen <sub>ad</sub> ( $\mu\text{mol cm}^{-2}$ )	EPhen <sub>ab</sub> ( $\mu\text{mol cm}^{-2}$ )
1	12	88.8 (2.2)	3.9 (0.55)	0.15 (0.001)	0.11 (0.009)
2	15	84.5 (4.3)	5.7 (0.41)	0.15 (0.002)	0.09 (0.011)
3	16	88.0 (3.0)	5.0 (0.53)	0.15 (0.001)	0.10 (0.010)
4	27	97.8 (3.9)	4.1 (0.38)	0.15 (0.002)	0.12 (0.011)
5	28	92.8 (4.4)	4.5 (0.36)	0.15 (0.002)	0.12 (0.010)
6	55	88.7 (4.8)	5.2 (0.33)	0.15 (0.004)	0.08 (0.010)
7	58	95.2 (2.7)	4.0 (0.19)	0.15 (0.001)	0.13 (0.007)
8	64	93.4 (2.9)	4.0 (0.22)	0.15 (0.001)	0.11 (0.005)
9	95	87.5 (1.4)	4.0 (0.19)	0.15 (0.001)	0.10 (0.007)
10	95	91.5 (1.7)	4.7 (0.25)	0.15 (0.001)	0.08 (0.004)
11	99	89.0 (3.0)	4.3 (0.19)	0.15 (0.001)	0.10 (0.007)
12	98	84.3 (3.9)	5.3 (0.31)	0.15 (0.002)	0.08 (0.008)
13	128	85.8 (4.4)	4.6 (0.33)	0.15 (0.002)	0.09 (0.008)
14	143	90.6 (4.7)	4.2 (0.29)	0.15 (0.002)	0.10 (0.010)
15	123	87.8 (3.6)	4.2 (0.15)	0.15 (0.001)	0.09 (0.005)
16	164	85.9 (2.4)	4.3 (0.26)	0.15 (0.002)	0.11 (0.009)
17	173	82.4 (2.1)	4.6 (0.29)	0.16 (0.002)	0.10 (0.007)