# Photo Gallery

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## SERPENTINE SOILS SHAPE PLANT TRAITS AND HERBIVORY

Xoaquín Moreira, Luis Abdala-Roberts, Carla Vázquez-González, María Rúnarsdóttir, Kaori Shiojiri, Beatriz Lago-Núñez, Asier R. Larrinaga, Felisa Covelo, Irene Virseda, Paula Domínguez-Lapido, Madeleine Kark, Ayco J. M. Tack, and Richard Karban

### Study Description

We conducted a large-scale study across 78 plant species from California, Spain, and Sweden, comparing herbivory and leaf traits in serpentine and non-serpentine habitats. We also examined soil properties to assess their influence on plant-herbivore interactions. Plants in serpentine soils experienced lower herbivory, had higher phenolic concentrations, lower nutrient levels, and thicker leaves. Elevated pH and heavy metal levels were linked to reduced herbivory and altered leaf traits. However, no indirect effects via leaf traits were found, suggesting independent soil and herbivore influences. These findings clarify how soil specialization shapes aboveground ecological interactions.

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Photo 1. A sapling of *Quercus robur*, one of the species included in the study, showing damage caused by leaf-chewing insects. Photo credit: Xoaquín Moreira.

These photographs illustrate the article "Serpentine soils shape plant traits and herbivory" by Xoaquín Moreira*, Luis Abdala-Roberts, Carla Vázquez-González, María Rúnarsdóttir, Kaori Shiojiri, Beatriz Lago-Núñez, Asier R. Larrinaga, Felisa Covelo, Irene Virseda, Paula Domínguez-Lapido, Madeleine Kark, Ayco J. M. Tack, and Richard Karban published in *Ecology*. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.70171