

1 Is stump removal for bioenergy production effective in reducing pine weevil (*Hyllobius abietis*) and  
2 *Hylastes* spp. breeding and feeding activities at regeneration sites?

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26 **Abstract**

27

28 Stump harvesting can help in managing forest pests, improve site preparation, and provide a source  
29 of bioenergy. However, stump removal does not remove all the roots from clear-cut areas. To  
30 investigate whether stump removal helps to manage forest pests, the effect of stump removal and its  
31 timing on the breeding and larval feeding activities of pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) and *Hylastes*  
32 spp. was studied. In eastern Finland, 16 commercial regeneration sites dominated by Norway spruce  
33 (*Picea abies*) (eight control areas, eight stump removal areas) were selected. Stumps were harvested  
34 in 2011, within the year following logging in three of the stump removal sites (short delay  
35 extraction), and in the second year after logging at five of the stump removal sites (long delay  
36 extraction). Root samples were excavated from sites three years after logging to examine the  
37 amount of roots, gnawing intensity, and density of larvae. In the control plots, gnawed root surface  
38 areas were 24% and 50% greater than those in long delay and short delay stump removal sites,  
39 respectively. After timing treatment, the estimated larval densities of both species were lower than  
40 the estimated larval densities in the control sites. In conclusion, the timing of stump extraction may  
41 partially regulate the breeding material and abundance of *Hylobius* and *Hylastes*. However, it is  
42 probable that this effect is not strong enough to substantially limit the future damage on planted  
43 seedlings.

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45 **Key words:** Logging; Stump removal; Roots; Forest pests; Larvae.

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## 51 **1. Introduction**

52 Tree stumps from forest regeneration areas are potentially an important source of raw material for  
53 bioenergy production because stumps offer more biomass than logging residues (Egnell et al.,  
54 2007). As well, stump harvesting may open new opportunities for managing forest pests and  
55 diseases and improve quality in site preparation (Saarinen 2006). However, stump harvesting can  
56 also adversely affect soil carbon stores, increase soil erosion and compaction, reduce soil nutrient  
57 stocks, and cause valuable habitat loss for mosses, fungi, insects, etc. (Walmsley and Godbold,  
58 2010).

59  
60 Previous studies focused on the effects of stump harvesting on species dependent on dead wood  
61 (Work et al., 2016; Victorsson and Jonsell, 2016; Shevlin et al., 2017). However, few studies have  
62 focused on the effects of stump harvesting on pest populations, especially on the *Hylobius* genus  
63 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), one of the most common and abundant economic pests in conifer  
64 seedling stands in Europe (Långström and Day, 2004). *Hylobius* breeds in conifer stumps and roots,  
65 and hampers the restocking of regeneration sites. In addition, larvae of *Hylastes cunicularius* Er.,  
66 and *Hylastes brunneus* Er., another potential but poorly studied pest group in conifer seedlings, and  
67 longhorn beetles (Cerambycidae), often exist both in pine and spruce stumps and roots (Victorsson  
68 and Jonsell, 2016).

69  
70 In a fresh clear-cut area, stumps and logging residues emit volatile compounds (e.g. several  
71 monoterpenes and ethanol) that attract potentially harmful insects to the site, including pine weevil  
72 (*Hylobius abietis*), (Nordlander, 1987; Brattli et al., 1998) and *Hylastes* spp. (Joseph et al., 2001)  
73 which reproduce in the stumps and roots of logged trees. Pine weevils lay their eggs in the soil and  
74 bark of the roots (Nordlander et al., 1997) and *Hylastes* spp. also lay their eggs in recently clear-cut  
75 stumps (Lindelöw et al., 1993). *Hylastes cunicularius* Er. breeds mainly in Norway spruce and

76 *Hylastes brunneus* Er. breeds mainly in Scots pine. After hatching, pine weevil larvae overwinter in  
77 stumps, feeding under the bark of stumps and roots, and pupate in the following summer  
78 (Nordenhem, 1989). New adult weevils emerge in autumn of the year following clear-cutting. In  
79 this way, pine weevil breeding continues actively for a few successive years after clear-cutting has  
80 occurred.

81

82 Pine weevils and *Hylastes* spp. preferentially feed on the thin bark of coniferous tree species  
83 (Manlove et al., 1997; Leather et al., 1999; Löf et al., 2005; Wallertz et al., 2014). Pine weevils feed  
84 on the roots and branches of mature trees and on the stems of seedlings. Both *Hylastes* species feed  
85 on the roots of mature trees, and on the roots and at the stem base of seedlings, but just on the basis  
86 of feeding marks it is impossible to separate the species. In boreal forest regeneration sites, pine  
87 weevil feeding can cause the death of 60–80% of planted coniferous seedlings (Örlander and  
88 Nilsson, 1999). Sustained pine weevil feeding on seedlings can last at least three consecutive years  
89 (Långström, 1982). Most serious economic damage due to pine weevil feeding occurs at newly  
90 planted coniferous regeneration sites where previous stands have been clear-cut coniferous forests  
91 (Långström and Day, 2004).

92

93 In theory, the rapid harvesting of stumps and coarse logging residue after clear-cutting might  
94 effectively reduce the amount of volatile compounds, which lure new adults to the clear-cut area. In  
95 addition, it could also reduce the amount of suitable breeding material available and decrease the  
96 subsequent larval population. Consequently, stump removal might reduce the feeding damage  
97 caused by pine weevil and *Hylastes* spp. on planted seedlings. Thus, stump removal might function  
98 as a silvicultural method in the integrated management of root-feeding pests. However, immediate  
99 and total stump removal may not be possible in practical forestry management terms. In practice, in  
100 stump harvesting, an excavator uproots the main tree root system, but many side roots and rotten

101 roots remain in the soil. Silvicultural instructions recommend to leave at least 25 stumps ha<sup>-1</sup> for  
102 biodiversity and to prevent erosion (Koistinen, 2016). Moreover, stumps less than 20 cm in  
103 diameter are often left due to the high cost of excavation (Kärhä, 2012).

104

105 The pine weevil has a strong ability to dig in the soil and lay eggs in small roots (Nordlander et al.,  
106 1997). *Hylastes* spp. also can dig up to 100 cm in the soil to enter buried roots (Lindelöw, 1992).  
107 Furthermore, if stump removal is delayed for a long time and done after arrival of pine weevils and  
108 *Hylastes* spp. in clear-cut areas, then they have already succeeded in colonising the stump and root  
109 system. This may compromise the potential pest control effect of stump removal. Therefore, it is  
110 necessary to know how many roots are left for breeding substrate and how the timing of stump  
111 removal in clear-cut areas contributes to the reproduction potential of *Hylobius abietis* and *Hylastes*  
112 spp.

113

114 The concerns about the relationship of pine weevil and *Hylastes* spp. with stumps in clear-cut areas  
115 are as follows: 1) both species feel attraction to stumps, and immigrate to clear-cut areas in early  
116 summer; 2) weevils and *Hylastes* both breed in stumps and roots, and after completion of the larval  
117 stage, emergence can take more than two years after immigration for young adult pine weevils, and  
118 more than one year for *Hylastes* spp. in eastern Finland; 3) normally, stump removal will be carried  
119 out in clear-cut areas after pest insect immigration. With this knowledge, theoretically, it can be  
120 assumed that early stump removal might decrease the amount of breeding material and the  
121 abundance of pine weevil and *Hylastes* spp. in the regeneration site. To determine how stump  
122 removal and its timing affect the breeding and abundance of pine weevils and *Hylastes* species, we  
123 studied the effects of stump removal on the amount of coniferous root material remaining in clear-  
124 cut areas available for *Hylobius* and *Hylastes*. We also tested short delay (within a year of clear-cut)  
125 versus long delay (the year following clear-cut) stump removal on the populations of *H. abietis* and

126 *Hylastes* spp. by measuring their larval feeding intensities on roots. *Hylastes* spp. and pine weevil  
127 feeding intensities in the remaining roots were compared between control sites (with no stump  
128 removal) and sites with stump removal.

129

## 130 **2. Material and methods**

### 131 *2.1. Study sites and experimental design*

132 In this study, 10 and 6 regeneration sites, logged in 2009 and 2010, respectively were selected in  
133 eastern Finland (Table 1). The sites were dominated by Norway spruce (*Picea abies* L.). Typically,  
134 in January and July, the mean temperature is -16°C and +17°C, respectively, in North Karelia (data  
135 from Finnish Meteorological Institute). In this experiment, sites were clear-cut in the previous  
136 winter season and fresh stumps were available for insect colonisation in the following spring. The  
137 experiment had a paired-site design: the 16 sites were paired, so that each pair consisted of a control  
138 site (stumps left intact) and a stump removal site. Control and stump removal sites were paired  
139 based on approximately equal volumes of standing stock before final logging. Because of the time  
140 lag between logging and stump extraction, stump extraction sites were classified in either the short  
141 delay or long delay category. The five pairs logged in 2009 (stump extracted 2010) were those with  
142 a long delay and the three pairs logged in 2010 (stump extracted 2010) were those with a short  
143 delay between the logging and stump harvest.

144

145 Stump removals were performed on all experimental sites in 2010 according to the normal  
146 commercial practices and instructions approved by good silvicultural practise for energy wood  
147 harvest (Koistinen et al., 2016). According to the instructions, more than 25 stumps of various tree  
148 species ha<sup>-1</sup> (over 15 cm in diameter), all rotten stumps, and stumps less than 20 cm in diameter,  
149 should be left. Each site had been mounded by an excavator and planted with Norway spruce  
150 seedlings according to normal local forestry practices. All study sites were located on mineral soil.

151 The dominant late-successional forest floor species was *Vaccinium myrtillus* L. (mesic, *Myrtillus*  
152 forest-type) for all sites except the Kermansalo and Jalaslampi sites, which had an herb-rich forest  
153 type (*Oxalis-Myrtillus* type) (Cajander, 1949).

154

155 In the middle of each regeneration site, 20 sample plots were established. Sample plots were 1 m<sup>2</sup>  
156 each and arranged along two lines, each line containing 10 sample plots. Sample plots had a  
157 minimum distance of five meters between them. If the central point of the root extraction plot and  
158 control site contained a big stone or stump, the sample plot was moved forward.

159

## 160 2.2. Root sampling

161 All roots of each sample plot were excavated manually in the autumn of 2012 (logged in 2009) and  
162 2013 (logged in 2010). Litter, branches, and visible deciduous roots were removed from the sample  
163 plot before excavation. Roots clearly identified in the field as belonging to a deciduous tree species  
164 were ignored. All excavated conifer roots were put in plastic bags in the field, frozen in the  
165 laboratory, and later identified in the laboratory. If pieces of bark from the roots fell off during  
166 digging, the bark samples were put in the same bag as the root sample and was also examined later  
167 for traces of insects, but generally, root decomposition had not progressed to the point that it would  
168 have been disturbed by root sampling. Pits in the sampling plots were dug to the depth at which no  
169 roots could be found. Roots that extended outside of the sample plot were cut exactly from the  
170 border line of the plot with secateurs or a saw. In this study, sampled roots diameter was short delay  
171  $6.5 \pm 4$  cm (mean  $\pm$  SD), long delay  $6.6 \pm 4.6$  cm, and control  $9.8 \pm 12.8$  cm and the length short  
172 delay  $22 \pm 11$  cm, long delay  $29 \pm 15$  cm, and control  $32 \pm 14$  cm. However, in control plots there  
173 were a few roots with root neck and part of the stump attached. The number of very large roots in  
174 control plots were so small that it has no effect on results.

175

176 In the laboratory, the length and diameter of the root samples were measured from both ends of  
177 each root. The root surface area was calculated using the formula  $2[\pi r^2] + [2 \pi r] \times h \text{ cm}^2$ , where  $r$   
178 is the mean radius of the sample root and  $h$  is the length of the sample root. The amount of feeding  
179 by both *Hylobius* and *Hylastes* species was estimated for each root. Both species mine larval tunnels  
180 in the phloem of the roots. *Hylobius* larval tunnels are about 5 mm wide. *H. cunicularius* and *H.*  
181 *brunneus* tunnels cannot be separated from each other, they are too narrow, and occur mostly in  
182 wood; thus the two species were grouped in this study. All discovered adult insects, larvae, and  
183 pupal chambers were counted and identified. Gnawed root surface areas were calculated by [surface  
184 area of each root  $\times$  100]/gnawed (%) for each root. The total root surface area and gnawed root  
185 surface areas were calculated for each plot. The fungal coverage of root samples was estimated.

186

187 In total, 8 891 coniferous root samples were examined. In this experiment, it was estimated by  
188 assuming that one gnawed root indicated the presence of one larva. Total gnawed roots were  
189 counted for each sample plot. To obtain the larval density  $\text{ha}^{-1}$ , we calculated the average number of  
190 larvae present in the control, short delay stump removal, and long delay stump removal plots. Each  
191 treatment averages were multiplied by 10 000 to obtain the per-hectare value of larval density.

192

### 193 2.3. Statistical analysis

194 Before statistical analyses, dependent variables were transformed by  $\log 10+1$  to reduce non-  
195 normality. We developed a mixed linear model in the following form:

$$196 \text{Log } Y_{ij} = \log \beta_1 + \log \beta_2 T_{ij} + \log \beta_3 \delta_{ij} + \log \beta_4 \theta_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij}.$$

197 In the model,  $\beta_1$  is constant, and  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$ , and  $\beta_4$  are the coefficients of the corresponding variables.  $T_{ij}$   
198 is the treatment as  $T \in (\text{control [no stump removal]}, \text{SR [stump removal]})$ ,  $\delta_{ij}$  is the treatment  $\times$   
199 time (short, long),  $\theta_{ij}$  is the stand volume,  $i$  is the site,  $j$  is the paired sites (control, stump removal),  
200 and  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  is the error in the model.



201

202 In the model, the total root surface area, gnawed root surface area, and larvae density were  
203 dependent variables, the treatment and stump removal time difference were set as factors, and the  
204 previous stand volume was considered as a covariate. Further, the treatment, time, treatment  $\times$  time  
205 interaction, and stand volume were set as fixed effects. Sites and paired sites were set as random  
206 effects. Significance levels were set at  $p < 0.05$ . In SPSS 17 statistical software, analyses of  
207 variance were performed using a general linear mixed model.

208

### 209 **3. Results**

#### 210 *3.1. Stump removal and availability of feeding resources*

211

212 In control sites, the mean root diameter was 34% larger than that of the stump removal sites (Table  
213 2). There were significant variations in the root surface area between the control and stump removal  
214 sites, and between the timing of the stump harvest (Table 3). Control sites had, respectively, 44%  
215 and 64% greater mean root surface areas than the long delay (following year of clear-cut) and short  
216 delay (within year of clear-cut) stump removal sites. Short delay stump removal sites had less root  
217 surface area remaining than long delay removal sites, and control sites also showed the same pattern  
218 (Fig. 1). The logging volume of the previous stand had no significant influence on the remaining  
219 root surface area (Table 3), because sites were paired with corresponding volumes of the previous  
220 stand as part of the experimental design.

221

#### 222 *3.2. Effect of stump removal on number of larvae*

223 The total number of pine weevil pupal chambers found in the roots was 226, which is 2.5 % of the  
224 total roots collected from all study sites (Fig 2.). Pupal chambers were more frequent in the control  
225 sites (Fig. 2). Most pine weevil larvae (187) were also found in control sites, and only one pine

226 weevil larvae was found from a stump removal site (Fig. 2). In the stump removal sites, we  
227 estimated the pine weevil larval density to be 78 780 and 35 700 larvae ha<sup>-1</sup> on the basis of the root  
228 feedings, which were 6% and 48% lower than the estimated larval densities in the control sites in  
229 long delay and short delay stump removal respectively (Fig 3). Stump extraction had a significant  
230 effect on the larval density (Table 4). There was also a significant difference in pine weevil larval  
231 density between treatment and time interaction (Table 4). Stump removal sites also had 21% fewer  
232 *Hylastes* spp. feeding than control sites, and stump removal significantly reduced *Hylastes* spp.  
233 feeding (Fig. 4) (Table 4).

234

### 235 3.3. Effect of stump removal on feeding

236 In stump removal sites, the gnawed root surface areas by *H. abietis* and *Hylastes* were 24% and  
237 50% lower in the long delay and short delay plots than those in the control plots, respectively, and  
238 the differences were significant (Fig. 5) (Table 5). Gnawed root surface areas were greater in the  
239 long delay than short delay stump removal sites. In general, the gnawed root surface area in the  
240 control areas was 34% larger than that in the stump removal sites.

241

242 In control sites, pine weevils gnawed 17% of roots; in stump harvesting sites, pine weevils gnawed  
243 11% of roots. Pine weevils gnawed 38% more root surface area in control sites compared to stump  
244 removal sites (Fig. 6). In addition, the area gnawed by *Hylastes* species was 26% larger in the  
245 control sites than in the stump removal sites. Pine weevil gnawed more root surface area compared  
246 to *Hylastes* spp. in both the control and stump removal sites (Fig. 6). In the mixed model, both  
247 species each showed significant differences based on stump extraction treatments, but did not  
248 exhibit significant differences based on time, treatment × time interaction, and logging volume  
249 (Table 6). Traces of fungal growth were found in 3% of roots.

250

#### 251 **4. Discussion and conclusion**

252 Our study showed that removal of stumps from clear-cut areas reduced the amount of suitable  
253 breeding material with significant effect on the size of both pest populations in regeneration sites.  
254 However, in the current stump harvesting practice it is not possible to eradicate root dwelling pests  
255 completely from a clear-cut area. It was established in our study for the first time, that  
256 approximately 35 700–78 780 pine weevil and 33 250–67 660 *Hylastes* spp. larvae ha<sup>-1</sup>, or more,  
257 were present in the remaining roots after stump removal. Because we used very strict criteria, that a  
258 root with signs of feeding indicates the presence of only one larva, these values more likely are  
259 closer to the minimum population densities than the maximum population densities.

260

261 Roots infected by certain fungi can be totally devoid of insect larvae (Skrzecz, 2017). Here,  
262 however, only a very small proportion of roots were infected by fungi, and it seemed that fungal  
263 decomposition had not yet destroyed the traces of larval tunnels or pupal chambers. Thus, the  
264 timing of the root sampling fitted well to the local development phase of the pine weevils. The  
265 number of pine weevil larvae found supported this, and gave justification to the estimation method  
266 for determining pine weevil larval density.

267

268 Previously, Moore et al. (2004) have estimated that in Scotland, in areas where stumps were left  
269 intact, the larval population of *H. abietis* was between 46 000–170 000 larvae ha<sup>-1</sup>. Our estimate of  
270 the larval population size on the control sites fits well within these limits. To our knowledge, there  
271 are no other estimates of the larval population size of *H. abietis*, and no studies on the effect of  
272 stump removal on it, excluding one older study performed in Sweden and published in Swedish (see  
273 Långström and Day, 2004). Further, our results support the earlier speculation that the role of  
274 *Hylastes* as a pest in conifer regeneration sites might be underestimated (Lindelöw, 1992 ).  
275 Recently, Nordlander et al. (2017) provided that clear-cut sites on seedling mortality caused by

276 *Hylastes* spp. (mean 4 %) and *Hylobius* (mean 29 %) after two seasons. It is also important to  
277 mention that less research has been carried out on *Hylastes* spp. compared to that on *Hylobius*  
278 *abietis*. After all, it seems that the population density of *Hylastes* spp. is not much smaller than that  
279 of *H. abietis*.

280

281 We found that the reducing effect of stump removal was more effective when stump extraction was  
282 carried out with only a short delay after logging than if it was delayed for a longer time (extraction  
283 in following year after clear-cut). A long delay between logging and stump extraction leads to only  
284 a minor decrease in the number of roots with signs of feeding by larvae. In stands with a long delay  
285 extraction treatment, higher amounts of stumps and roots were available for a longer time, which  
286 allows a longer window of opportunity for colonisation and the spread of larvae into the root  
287 systems of logged trees than in stands with a short delay stump extraction treatment. A short delay  
288 between logging and the removal of fresh stumps may reduce the amount of attractive volatiles  
289 emitted from the stand, and shorten the period when root dwelling pests are attracted to a clear-cut  
290 area for breeding.

291

292 In addition to the timing of stump extraction, differences in the weather conditions between years  
293 and sites might have some unknown effects on these results. The summer 2010 was extremely hot,  
294 with an all-time summer temperature record of + 37°C in eastern Finland. Moreover, the sites  
295 logged in winter 2010 (short delay sites) had a slightly more southern location than the sites logged  
296 in 2009 (long delay sites). However, the weather-related factors probably have no major effect on  
297 the results. The hot summer in 2010 affected all sites, and the cumulative temperature sums of the  
298 three subsequent summers was almost the same between the periods 2009–2012 and 2010–2013; it  
299 was only 72 degree days higher in the first period than in the second (data from Joensuu Airport  
300 weather station, in the middle of the study areas; Finnish Meteorological Institute).

301

302 Although the reduction in size of estimated larval populations was significant in the short delay  
303 stump extraction treatment, the size of estimated larval population still remained at a very high  
304 level. These remaining larvae will mature and likely cause seedling damage during their emerging  
305 period from the roots. Accordingly, parent pine weevils and new-born weevils may remain in high  
306 numbers for some consecutive years following clear-cutting of a particular site (von Sydow 1997;  
307 Örlander et al., 1997). Pine weevils have the ability to emerge from even four-year-old roots  
308 (Nordenhem, 1989). Additionally, *Hylastes* species can remain for four to six years in clear-cut  
309 areas and cause seedling damage (Lindelöw, 1992). However, if the stump harvesting operation can  
310 be carried out before migration of adult pests into the clear-cut area, then pine weevil and *Hylastes*  
311 spp. abundance might be minimised. To do this, forest managers must make proper decisions about  
312 stump harvesting time.

313

314 Our study showed that there are a substantial number of *Hylastes* spp. present both in stump  
315 extracted and control sites, but it seems that the stump removal had a more pronounced effect on the  
316 pine weevil larvae populations than on populations of *Hylastes*. In control sites, *Hylastes* spp.  
317 exhibited less root-feeding activity than pine weevils. However, after stump removal treatment, pine  
318 weevil root feeding was reduced more than feeding by *Hylastes* species. This may be because  
319 *Hylastes* utilizes recently died and dying roots for breeding (Ehnström and Axelsson, 2002) and can  
320 be more abundant in mature forests than pine weevil (Heikkala, 2016). Moreover, pine weevil may  
321 exhibit life cycle and behaviour that is strongly related to fresh clear cuts, and, therefore, stump  
322 extraction reduced significantly pine weevil's attraction to harvested sites of this study. Whereas  
323 *Hylastes* species were less affected because it was already present in logged stands.

324 Although it could be assumed that after clear-cut, *Hylastes* spp. and pine weevil larvae compete  
325 food resources, we found that there were plenty of roots available for larval feeding for both

326 species. Large amounts of roots without signs of gnawing indicated that the competition pressure on  
327 root dwelling larval populations was generally at a low level.

328

329 According to our results, stump removal reduces the amount of resources available for root feeding  
330 pests and the size of the larval population. However, the critical question is that is this reduction  
331 enough to diminish the size of the adult population, which causes the seedling damage, so that the  
332 risk of future damage to seedlings would be considerably lower. In our study, it was estimated that  
333 approximately 89 090 to 100 840 pine weevil larvae and 77 280 to 81 850 *Hylastes* spp. larvae were  
334 still present in the clear-cut area. When long delay and short delay treatments were applied, then 78  
335 780 and 35 700 pine weevil larvae, and 67 660 and 33 250 *Hylastes* spp. larvae survived,  
336 respectively. According to Moore et al. (2004), 40–80% of pine weevil larvae survived to become  
337 adults in traditional regeneration sites. If we follow their lowest survival rate estimation (40%), then  
338 in our stump extracted site the number of emerging pine weevil adults ha<sup>-1</sup> will be 31 512 in long  
339 delay and 14 280 in short delay sites. In addition, the number of emerging adults of *Hylastes* spp.  
340 will be 27 064 (long delay sites) and 13 300 (short delay sites) ha<sup>-1</sup>.

341

342 We have previously found that traditional regeneration sites, there was more seedling damage  
343 caused by pine weevil than in sites with the stumps extracted (Rahman et al., 2015). In fresh clear-  
344 cut areas, it has been estimated that 14 000 adult immigrant weevils ha<sup>-1</sup> can cause damage to 82%  
345 of seedlings (Nordlander et al., 2003). Based on this finding and our calculations above, it is not  
346 justified to conclude that the reduction in population size of weevils resulting from stump removal  
347 is sufficient significantly to reduce the damage level to coniferous seedling stocks. Therefore, it  
348 appears that stump extraction is not a very effective method to control damage caused by *Hylobius*  
349 and *Hylastes*. Only if the stump extraction is performed without delay will there be a good

350 possibility of reducing the population size, and enhancing the impact of other first-line control  
351 methods.

352

353 After all, in addition to pest damage control, stump removal has a multitude of other silvicultural  
354 and ecological effects, which must be considered. Stump harvesting reduces the amount of ground  
355 vegetation such as cowberry and bilberry (Andersson et al., 2016), and partially reduces moss cover  
356 (Hyvönen et al., 2016). Several studies have suggested that intensive stump harvesting is a threat to  
357 forest biodiversity, especially for species dependent on wood (Jonsell and Schroeder, 2014;  
358 Victorsson and Jonsell, 2016; Shevlin et al., 2016). Potentially, stump wood for bioenergy is  
359 beneficial to mitigating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Ortiz et al., 2016) but there are also reports claiming that  
360 the opposite is the case (Mäkipää et al., 2015). In addition, in the field of forest protection, stump  
361 harvesting has the potential to reduce infections of the root rot fungus *Heterobasidion* by 20–72%  
362 in the next generation trees (Cleary et al., 2013). Theoretically, stump harvesting can reduce pine  
363 weevil damage and lower the rate of root rot fungus infection. However, for practical applications  
364 and to balance the expense of stump harvesting, forest managers have to make proper decisions and  
365 identify suitable sites for stump harvesting for better forest management.

366

367 In the existing forest management system, it is not possible to reduce the breeding material and size  
368 of weevil populations sufficiently with stump harvesting. It seems that by adjusting the time lag  
369 between logging and stump extraction, it is possible to some extent to regulate the amount and  
370 quality of remaining roots and thus reduce breeding material for pine weevil. The total elimination  
371 of root material suitable for the breeding of root dwelling pests is technically difficult and not  
372 possible with current stump extraction methods. Total removal of the roots would be highly  
373 expensive and ecologically problematic. Instead of this unrealistic method, the rapid removal of cut  
374 stumps might be applied to support other control methods for root-feeding pests. It is already well

375 established, and it has also been recently suggested that seedlings planted on mineral soil are  
376 relatively safe from weevil damage (Luoranen et al., 2017). Additionally, as the seedlings grow,  
377 having large stem diameters reduces pine weevil feeding damage (Nordlander et al., 2011).  
378 Recently, Viiri and Luoranen (2017) suggested that deep planted seedlings can reduce pine weevil  
379 feeding damage. If stump removal remains the forest manager's methodology in the future, it  
380 should be studied whether it is possible to reduce weevil damage more effectively by combining  
381 fast stump removal and choosing the planting spots with optimal conditions for seedling survival  
382 and growth.

383

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392

#### 393 **Figure captions**

394

395 **Fig 1.** Estimated marginal means ( $\pm$ S.E.) of the available surface area of roots in stump removal and  
396 control sites with long delay and short delay time lag difference between logging and stump  
397 extraction.

398



399 **Fig. 2.** Total identified and counted ( $\pm$ S.E.) pupal chambers, larvae of *H. abietis* during laboratory  
400 assessment of the roots collected from stump removal and control sites.

401

402 **Fig 3.** Estimated marginal means ( $\pm$ S.E.) of pine weevil larval density in stump removal and control  
403 sites with long delay and short delay time lag difference between logging and stump extraction.

404

405 **Fig 4.** Estimated marginal means ( $\pm$ S.E.) of *Hylastes* spp. larval density in stump removal and  
406 control sites with long and short delay time lag difference between logging and stump extraction.

407

408 **Fig 5.** Estimated marginal means ( $\pm$ S.E.) of the gnawed area of roots (Long delay and short delay  
409 time lag difference between logging and stump extraction x Treatment interaction) by *Hylastes* spp.  
410 and *Hylobius abietis*.

411

412 **Fig 6.** Estimated marginal means ( $\pm$ S.E.) of the gnawed area of roots in stump removal and control  
413 sites independently by *Hylastes* spp. and *Hylobius abietis*.

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464 [content/uploads/2017/05/Metsanhoidon\\_suosituksset\\_energiapuun\\_korjuuseen\\_Tapio\\_2016\\_C.pdf](http://www.metsanhoitosuosituksset.fi/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Metsanhoidon_suosituksset_energiapuun_korjuuseen_Tapio_2016_C.pdf)  
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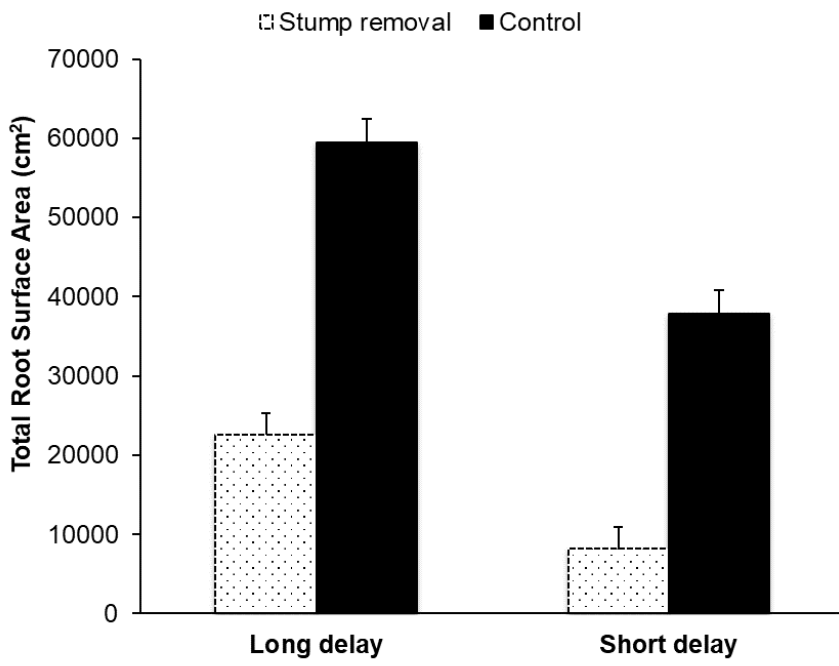
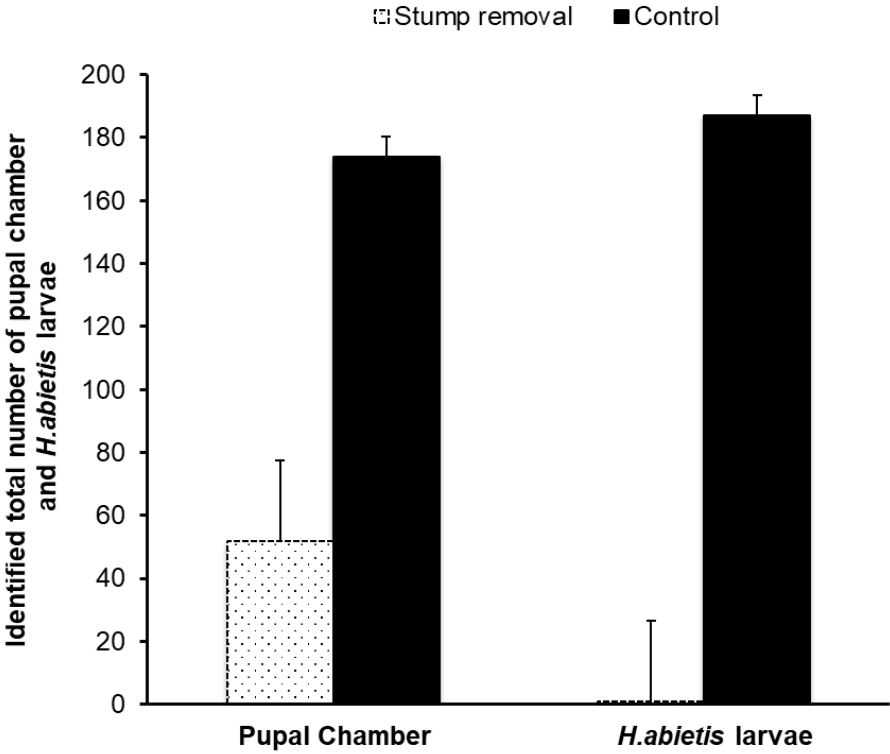
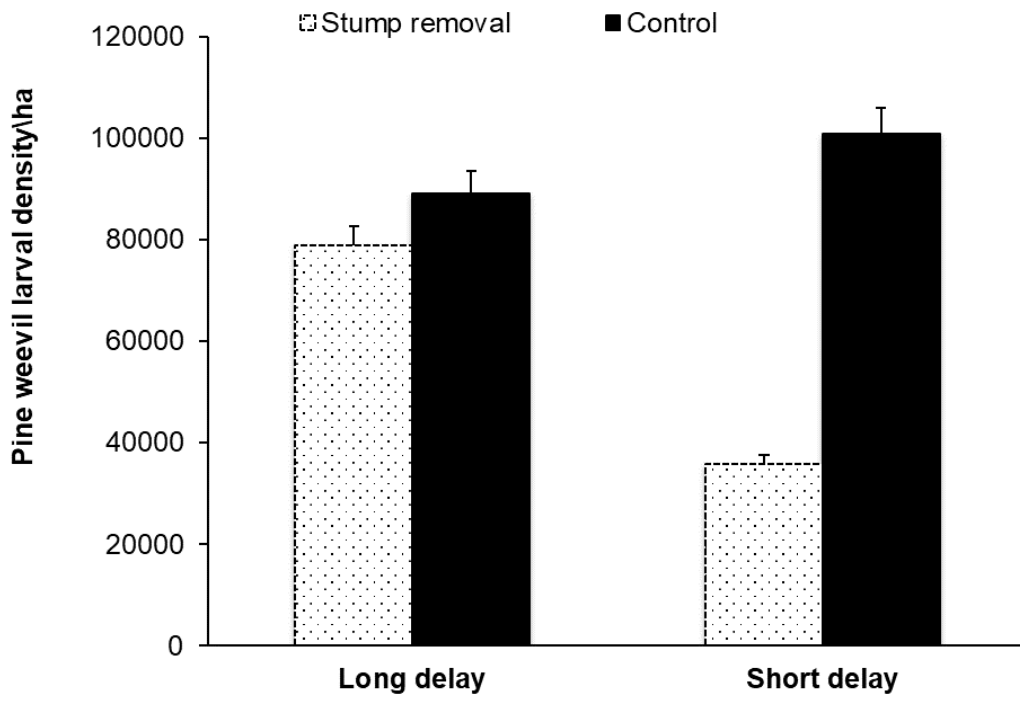


Fig 2





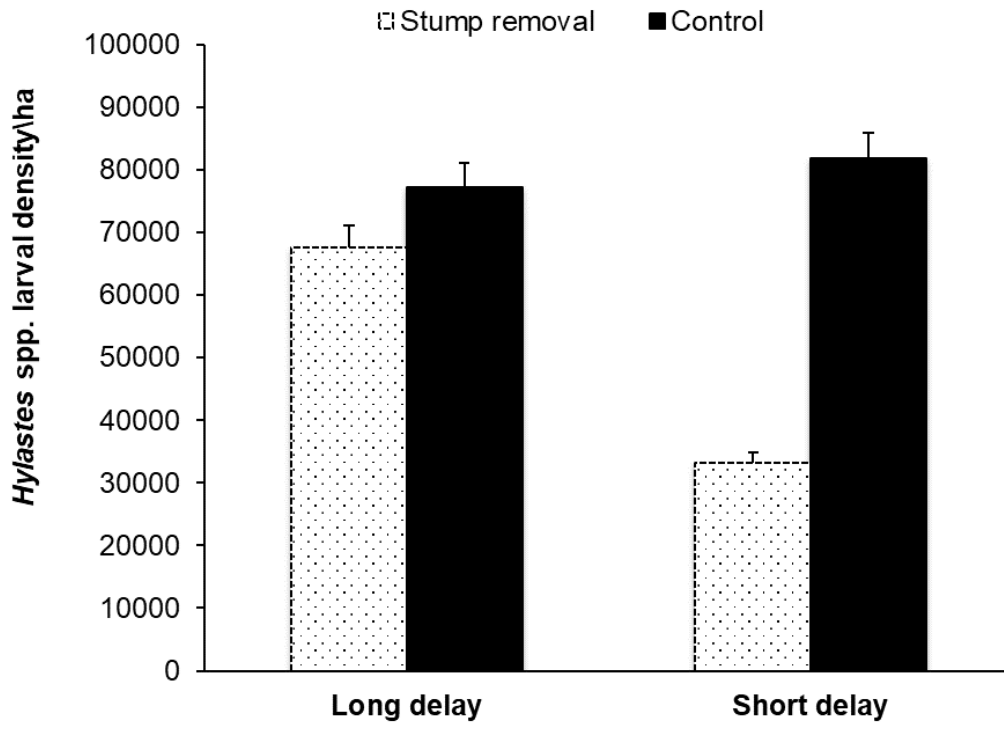
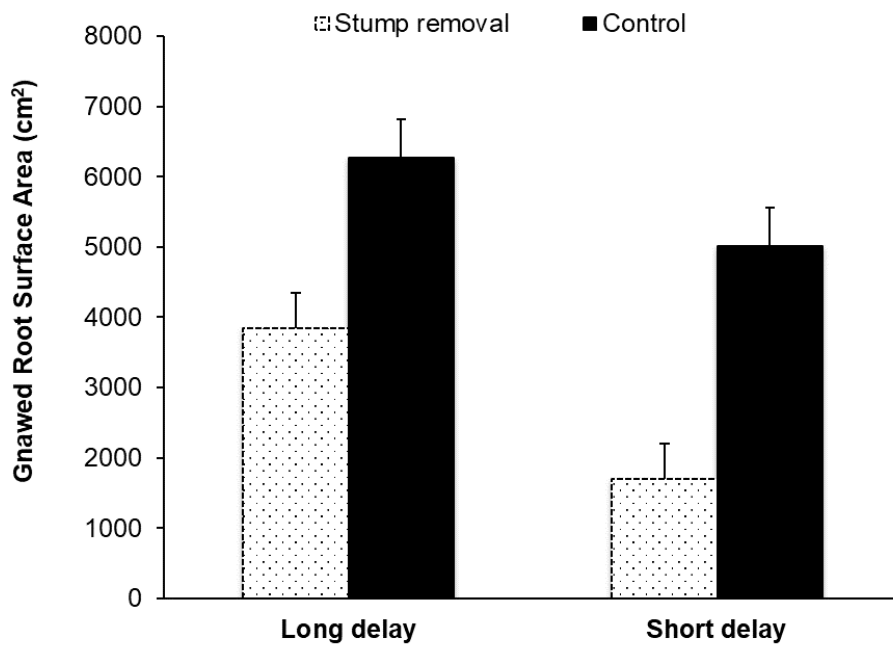
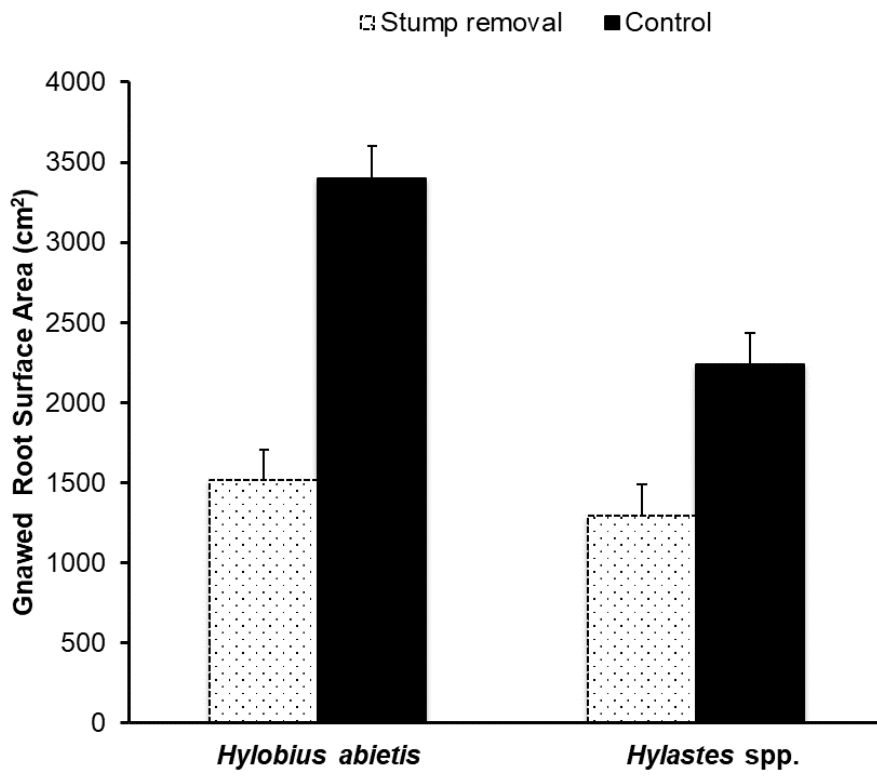


Fig 5





**Table 1**

Description of study sites and temperature sum, dd °C (threshold &gt; +5 °C).

Site name	Pair code	Distance between pair sites (km)	Logging volume(m <sup>3</sup> /ha)	Coordinates	Area, ha	Site type	dd	Logged	Stump extraction	Root sampling date
Uimaharju	P1	35	223	62°56' 30.24", 30° 19' 28.239"	0.73	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1066	2009	No	9.–20.8.2012
Katajavaara	P1		237	62°51' 33.396", 29° 50' 32.868"	0.89	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1043	2009	2010	8.–16.8.2012
Korpivaara,	P2	55	260	62°50' 22.696", 30° 42' 24.108"	0.91	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1026	2009	No	21.–24.8.2012
Havukkavaara 1	P2		287	62°36' 59.054", 30° 9' 35.772"	2.95	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1017	2009	2010	6.–14.8.2012
Kokonsalmi	P3	85	234	62°26' 2.793", 28° 52' 58.572"	0.70	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1172	2009	No	31.8.–5.9.2012
Havukkavaara 2	P3		244	62°36' 50.369", 30° 9' 39.412"	3.42	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1020	2009	2010	7.–13.8.2012
Rempsu	P4	20	256	62°26' 4.524", 28° 53' 54.41"	1.97	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1167	2009	No	11.–14.9.2012
Juurikka	P4		260	62°32' 3.482", 28° 50' 50.81"	1,12	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> type)	1141	2009	2010	31.8.–5.9.2012

Petrumansalo	P5	15	294	62°26' 34.754", 28° 53' 22.978"	2.93	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1154	2009	No	20.–25.9.2012
Juurikkajärvi	P5		298	62°32' 10.792", 28° 51' 0.221"	2.07	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1143	2009	2010	17.–19.9.2012
Polvijärvenniemi	P6	30	304	62°24' 44.94", 28° 19' 22.589"	0.92	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1215	2010	2010	4.–9.9.2013
Jalaslampi	P6		301	62°23' 10.059", 28° 47' 24.971"	1.19	Rich ( <i>Oxalis-Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1179	2010	No	27.9.–2.10.2013
Polvijärvensalmi	P7	30	262	62°24' 45.805", 28° 19' 9.735"	2.23	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1215	2010	2010	11.–13.9.2013
Kermansalo	P7		258	62°23' 39.13", 28° 47' 31.512"	0.95	Rich ( <i>Oxalis-Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1173	2010	No	19.–26.9.2013
Valkeinen	P8	40	267	62°23' 14.925", 28° 48' 46.041"	0.43	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1169	2010	No	9.–14.10.2013
Arhinmäki	P8		265	62°36' 34.767", 28° 39' 37.257"	3.43	Damp ( <i>Myrtillus</i> <i>type</i> )	1122	2010	2010	15.–18.10.2013



**Table 2**

Summary of the different root parameters in control, short delay and long delay stump extraction plots

	Control	Short delay stump extraction	Long delay stump extraction
Number of roots/ha ( $\pm$ S.E.)	322 900 $\pm$ 1.11	133 600 $\pm$ 0.88	292 700 $\pm$ 1.60
Diameter of roots cm/ ha, mean( $\pm$ S.E.)	10.4 $\pm$ 0.35	6.7 $\pm$ 0.25	6.8 $\pm$ 0.19
Surface area of roots cm <sup>2</sup> / ha, mean( $\pm$ S.E.)	51 546 $\pm$ 2615.9	8 001 $\pm$ 658.1	22 412 $\pm$ 1426.7

**Table 3**

Results of general linear mixed model analysis of the effect of stump removal on root surface area in soils of forest regeneration sites. Parameters of the model were Treatment (Control, Stump removal), Time lag of stump extraction (Long, short), their interaction term Treatment\*Time lag and Logging Volume of total root surface area as continuous covariate of the model

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	Df	F-value	P-value
Treatment	11	170.2	0.001
Time lag	11	53.4	0.001
Treatment*time lag	11	9.87	0.009
Logging volume	11	0.58	0.461

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**Table 4**

Results of general linear mixed model analysis of the effect of stump removal on larvae density of *Hylobius abietis* and *Hylastes* spp. Parameters of the model were Treatment (Control, Stump removal), Time lag of stump extraction (Long, short), their interaction term Treatment\*Time lag and Logging Volume of total root surface area as continuous covariate of the model

	Pine weevil larvae			<i>Hylastes</i> spp. larvae		
	Df	F-value	P-value	Df	F-value	P-value
Treatment (Control, Stump removal)	11	5,6	0.002	11	9,8	0.009
Time lag (Long, short)	11	17	0.108	11	2,2	0.164
Treatment*time	11	3.06	0.014	11	3,8	0.076
Logging volume	11	0.006	0.940	11	0.001	0.970

**Table 5**

Results of general linear mixed model analysis of the effect of stump removal on total root surface gnawed area by *Hylobius abietis* and *Hylastes* spp. Parameters of the model were Treatment (Control, Stump removal), Time lag of stump extraction (Long, short), their interaction term Treatment\*Time lag and Logging Volume of total root surface area as continuous covariate of the model

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Total Root Gnawed area			
	Df	F-value	P-value
Treatment (Control, Stump removal)	6.2	32.48	0.001
Time lag (Long, short)	6.6	3.8	0.096
Treatment*time	6	6.1	0.049
Logging volume	10.4	0.6	0.452

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**Table 6**

Results of general linear mixed model analysis of the effect of stump removal on root surface gnawed area separately by *Hylobius abietis* and *Hylastes* spp. Parameters of the model were Treatment (Control, Stump removal), Time lag of stump extraction (Long, short), their interaction term Treatment\*Time lag and Logging Volume of total root surface area as continuous covariate of the model

	Root surface area gnawed by Pine weevil			Root surface area gnawed by <i>Hylastes</i> spp.		
	Df	F-value	P-value	Df	F-value	P-value
Treatment (Control, Stump removal)	6.1	21	0.004	5.4	14.6	0.011
Time lag (Long, short)	6.6	3.1	0.125	5.9	4.3	0.084
Treatment*time	6.1	3.8	0.099	5.5	2.6	0.160
Logging volume	9.9	0.78	0.398	9.9	0.66	0.435