

Table S1. Topographic units obtained by overlapping digital layers of aspect, slope and elevation. Note that only 20 of the 24 combinations of categorical factors were suitable for further field sampling (see also Figure 1).

| Topographic unit | Aspect ¹ | Slope (%) | Elevation (m) |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | E | 30-60 | 1700-2000 |
| 2 | N | 0-30 | |
| 3 | S | 0-30 | |
| 4 | | 30-60 | |
| 5 | | > 60 | |
| 6 | W | 0-30 | |
| 7 | | 30-60 | |
| 8 | | > 60 | |
| 9 | E | 0-30 | 1500-1700 |
| 10 | | 30-60 | |
| 11 | | > 60 | |
| 12 | N | 0-30 | |
| 13 | | 30-60 | |
| 14 | | > 60 | |
| 15 | S | 0-30 | |
| 16 | | 30-60 | |
| 17 | | > 60 | |
| 18 | W | 0-30 | |
| 19 | | 30-60 | |
| 20 | | > 60 | |

¹N, north; S, south; W, west; and E, east

1 **Table S2.** Mean density and basal area of alive and dead trees (total and oaks)

| | Mean density (individuals/ha) | Mean basal area (m²/ha) | Mean DBH (cm) | Mean canopy cover (%) |
|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total stand alive trees | 189.67 | 11.51 | 24.86 | 28.33 |
| Oak alive trees | 179.83 | 10.75 | 24.89 | 27.4 |
| Total stand dead trees | 35.33 | 1.91 | 24.58 | 4.19 |
| Oak dead trees | 34.50 | 1.82 | 24.57 | 4.07 |

2

3

4

5

6 **Table S3.** Mean total density and mortality of trees shrubs species

| Species | Mean total density (trees/ha) | Mean mortality (trees/ha) | Mortality (%) |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Quercus persica</i> | 214.33 | 34.50 | 16.10 |
| <i>Pistacia atlantica</i> | 4.00 | 0.33 | 8.25 |
| <i>Acer cineracens</i> | 0.33 | 0.16 | 48.48 |
| <i>Crataegus pontica</i> | 5.33 | 0.16 | 3.00 |
| <i>Amigdalus orientalis</i> | 0.83 | 0.16 | 19.28 |
| <i>Cerasus microcarpa</i> | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

7

Table S4. Analysis of variance for tree mortality among topographic units. The degrees of freedom (df), mean sum of squares (MS), *F* statistic and *p* values are also showed.

| Mortality variables | | df | MS | <i>F</i> | <i>p</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dead trees density (trees/ha) | Between groups | 19 | 2587.368 | 6.336 | 0.000 |
| | Within group | 40 | 408.333 | | |
| | total | 59 | | | |
| Dead trees (%) | Between groups | 19 | 288.891 | 4.123 | 0.000 |
| | Within group | 40 | 70.069 | | |
| | total | 59 | | | |

Table S5. Analysis of variance for tree competition index (CI) among topographic units. The mean sum of squares (MS), degrees of freedom (df), *F* statistic and *p* values are also showed.

| CI | MS | df | MS | <i>F</i> | <i>p</i> |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Between groups | 47.876 | 19 | 2.520 | 6.598 | 0.000 |
| Within groups | 334.936 | 877 | 0.382 | | |
| Total | 382.812 | 896 | | | |

Table S6. Paired comparison of tree competition index (CI) for alive and dead focal trees. The *F* statistic, t-test for equality of means (*t*), degrees of freedom (df), and *p* values are also showed.

| | Levene's test for equality of variances | | t-test for equality of means | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | <i>F</i> | <i>p</i> | <i>t</i> | df | <i>p</i> (2-tailed) |
| Equal variances assumed | 70.992 | 0.000 | -9.452 | 895 | 0.000 |
| Equal variances not assumed | | | -9.219 | 632.104 | 0.000 |

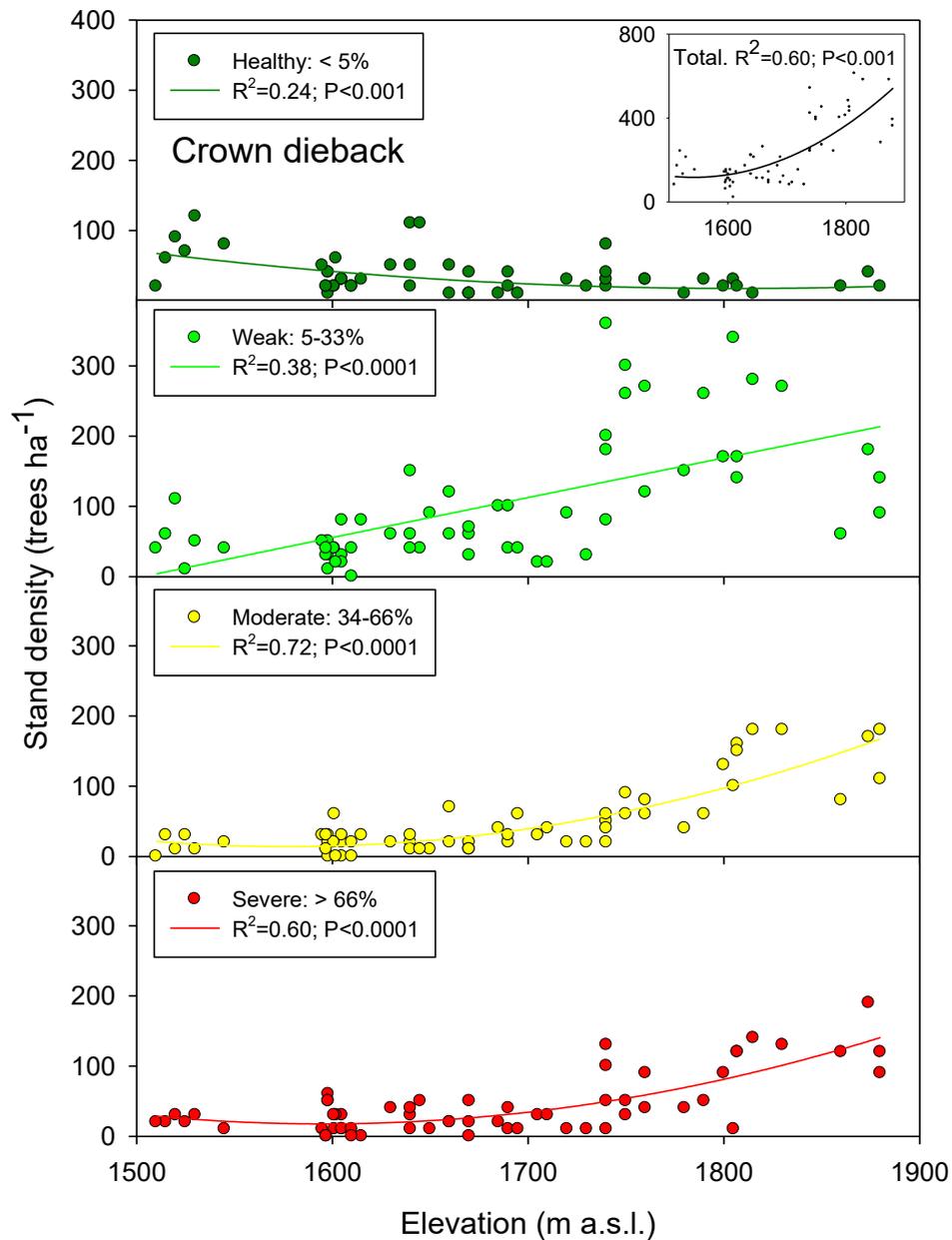


Figure S2. Relationships obtained among different classes of crown dieback and elevation. Inset shows the total stand density. The lines and the insets show the results of polynomial regressions; n=60 plots.