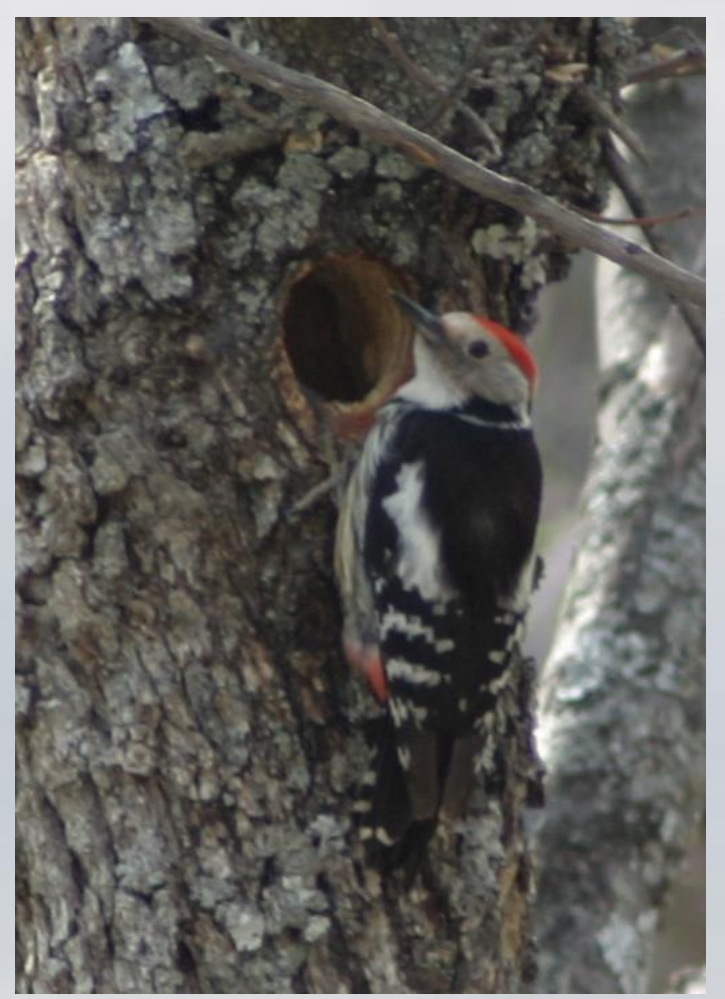




Which tree will the woodpecker pick?

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Background

The middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*) has declined in its distribution range. This is mainly because of habitat destruction. The woodpecker depends on arthropods as a food resource which it hunts upon rough barked trees.

Aim: Identify important characteristics of trees used for foraging by the middle spotted woodpecker



Methods

- High quality oak landscape in southern Turkey studied
- Every tree visited by foraging middle spotted woodpecker analysed
- Comparison between the observed trees and two sets of control groups, one small (1) and one large (2)
- Characteristics of tree size and density of trees were compared between the groups

Conclusions

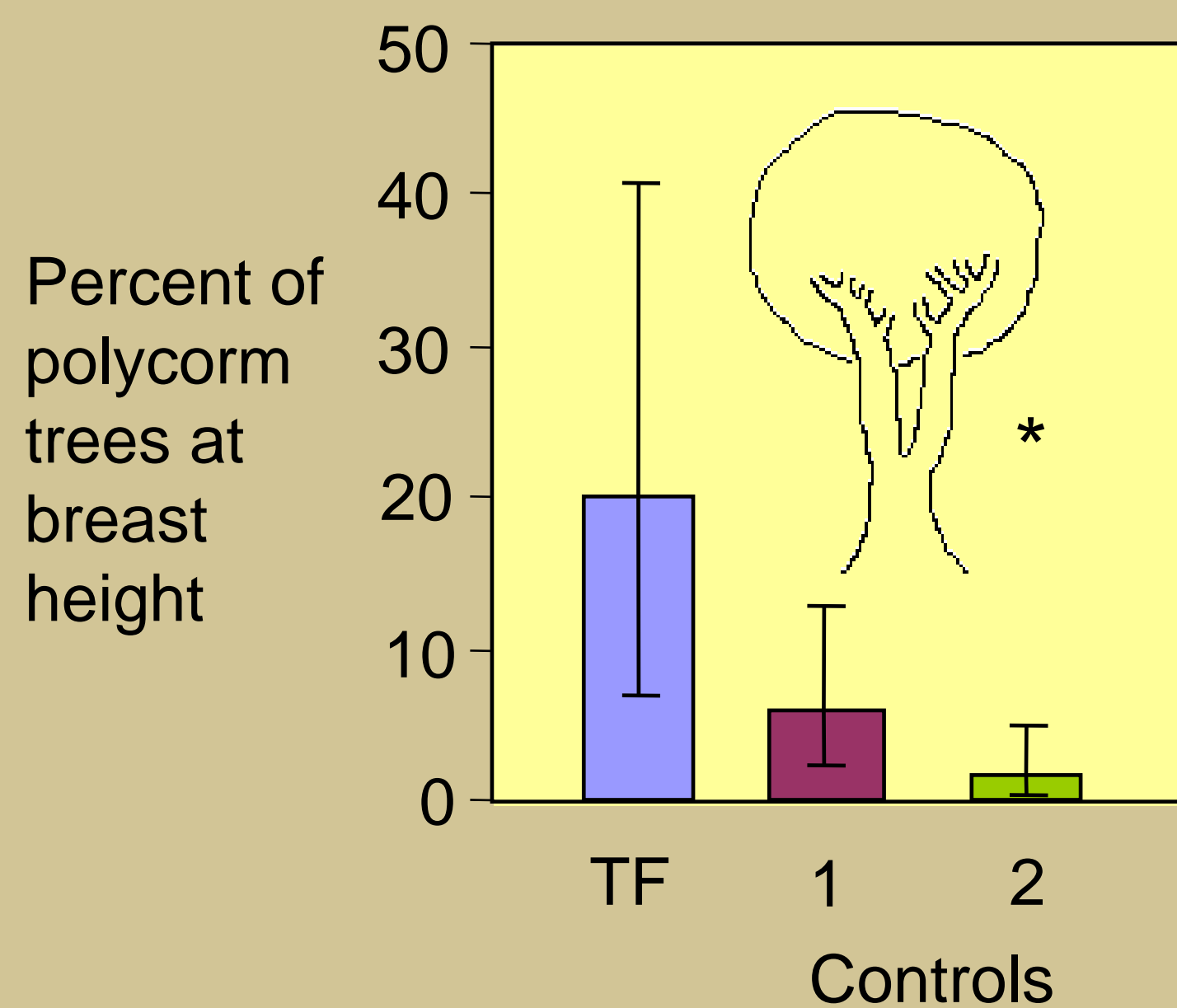
Trees might be selected for foraging due to:

- Larger amount of prey items
- Less competition from other species
- Less predation pressure

Results

Trees selected for foraging (TF) had:

- Larger circumference (table)
- Taller height
- Greater bark fissures
- Shorter distances to neighbouring trees
- A higher proportion of stems at breast height (figure)



	D negative	D positive	Mean MSW	Mean Control 1	p-value Control 1	Mean Control 2	p-value Control 2
Circumference (cm)	-0.0162	0.266	145	134	0.519	122	0.0465
Height (m)	-0.0225	0.286	7.28	6.27	0.16	6.27	0.0269
Trunk height (m)	-0.0297	0.234	2.71	2.11	0.154		
Crown area (m ²)	-0.0148	0.206	14.4	11.7	0.27		
Mean bark fissure depth (cm)	-0.0264	0.254	0.797	0.763	0.713	0.715	0.076
Total cavity entrance size (cm ²)	-0.0408	0.187	511	420	0.31		
Distance to closest trees (m)	-0.271	0.0306	5.7	6.64	0.0411		