



## A PALAEOTEMPERATURE RECORD FOR THE FINNISH LAKELAND BASED ON MICRODENSITOMETRIC VARIATIONS IN TREE RINGS

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**Abstract:** X-ray based tree-ring data of maximum latewood densities (MXD) was combined for south-eastern Finland. This data originated from subfossil and modern pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) materials comprising a continuous dendroclimatic record over the past millennium. Calibrating and verifying the MXD chronologies against the instrumental temperature data showed a promising opportunity to reconstruct warm-season (May through September) temperature variability. A new palaeotemperature record correlated statistically significantly with the long instrumental temperature records in the region and adjacent areas since the 1740s. Comparisons with tree-ring based (MXD and tree-ring width) reconstructions from northern Fennoscandia and northern Finland exhibited consistent summer temperature variations through the Medieval Climate Anomaly, Little Ice Age, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century warmth. A culmination of the LIA cooling during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century appeared consistently with the Maunder Minimum, when the solar activity was drastically reduced. A number of coolest reconstructed events between AD 1407 and 1902 were coeval to years of crop failure and famine as documented in the agro-historical chronicles. Results indicate an encouraging possibility of warm-season temperature reconstructions using middle/south boreal tree-ring archives to detail and enhance the understanding of past interactions between humans, ecosystems and the earth.

**Keywords:** dendroclimatology, geochronology, Maunder Minimum, Medieval Climate Anomaly, Little Ice Age, crop failure.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Tree rings provide incremental records of late Quaternary climate variability (Fritts, 1976; Bradley, 1999; Walker, 2005). In comparison to many other types of proxies, the benefits of tree rings as palaeoclimate records

involve their dating to exact calendar years and temporal calibration with meteorological series (Helama *et al.*, 2010b). Yet, a temporal extension of the modern chronology can be achieved by the additional use of historical, archaeological or paleontological wood using dendrochronological dating methods. In Fennoscandia, longest chronologies have been constructed from subfossil pine trunks preserved in sedimentary archives of small

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lakes or bogs (Eronen *et al.*, 1999, 2002; Helama *et al.*, 2008a; Grudd *et al.*, 2000, 2002 and Linderholm and Gunnarson 2005). These chronologies originate from regions near the timberline where tree growth is predominantly governed by summer temperature. In consequence of their cold habitat, the tree-ring width chronologies provide excellent proxy records of past temperature variability (Grudd *et al.*, 2002; Helama *et al.*, 2002, 2009a, 2009b, 2010a, 2010b, 2012b; Linderholm and Gunnarson, 2005). In many regions, however, an improved dendroclimatic signal of summer temperature can be attained using X-ray based microdensitometric series of maximum latewood densities (MXD), rather than using annual widths of the rings (Briffa *et al.*, 1988, 2002a, 2002b). This dendroclimatic connection has been exploited also in the mountainous and timberline areas of Fennoscandia where the MXD chronologies have been exploited for summer temperature reconstructions to detail the past climate variability through the Common Era (Schweingruber *et al.*, 1988; Briffa *et al.*, 1988, 1992; Grudd 2008; Büntgen *et al.*, 2011; Gunnarson *et al.*, 2011; Esper *et al.*, 2012).

Construction of long chronologies is also possible for more southern regions, either similarly using naturally preserved wood or by utilizing samples from historical buildings (Bartholin, 1987; Läänelaid and Eckstein, 2003; Koprowski *et al.*, 2012). In south-eastern Finland, sub-fossil wood materials have been recovered from a number of lakes. These materials comprise a tree-ring chronology spanning over the past fifteen centuries (Lindholm *et al.* 1998–1999; Helama *et al.*, 2005a). Moreover, tree rings of this chronology have recently been exposed for X-ray based microdensitometric analyses (Helama *et al.*, 2008b, 2010c). Recent dendroclimatic analyses of these MXD data evidenced a distinct summer temperature signal (Helama *et al.*, 2012a). It appears that this dendrodensitometric data provide a promising palaeoclimate opportunity to reconstruct summer temperature variations in south-eastern Finland. It fills the hitherto existing void in millennium-long temperature reconstructions in low-land areas and south of the Fennoscandian timberline zone. The aim of the paper is the temperature reconstruction in middle/south boreal zone in Finland. All available MXD data was combined for a summer temperature reconstruction for southern Finland, particularly the Finnish Lakeland, over the last centuries and the past millennium. The recently produced MXD data at the University of Eastern Finland (Helama *et al.*, 2008b, 2010c, 2012a) is complemented by dendrodensitometric data available from digital tree-ring database (Grissino-Mayer and Fritts, 1997) as already collected in the area in the 1970s (Schweingruber *et al.*, 1987, 1991). Standardizing the MXD data and calibrating the obtained MXD chronologies against the instrumental summer temperature records yield a new palaeotemperature curve that helps us to throw light on late Holocene climate evolution in the district where no such reconstruction yet exist. Con-

trasting the new palaeoclimate information with existing tree-ring based summer temperature reconstructions from northern Finland and Fennoscandia (Helama *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b, 2010a; Esper *et al.*, 2012) enables the north-south comparison of temperature variations on annual resolution. It outlines the spatial palaeoclimate variations in the region where previous palaeoclimate research have highlighted notable climatic shifts through the Medieval Climate Anomaly to Little Ice Age (Grudd *et al.*, 2002; Helama *et al.*, 2005b, 2009a, 2009b, 2010a; Gunnarson *et al.*, 2011; Esper *et al.*, 2012) during the past thirteen centuries.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study region

Our study material comprise three separate tree-ring chronologies of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) denoted hereafter using their abbreviated site names: Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ). The forests of this area belong to the south/middle boreal zones (Ahti *et al.*, 1968) roughly between 75 and 185 metres above sea level (Fig. 1). The coniferous timberline in northern Finland is located approx. 800 km north of the studied sites.

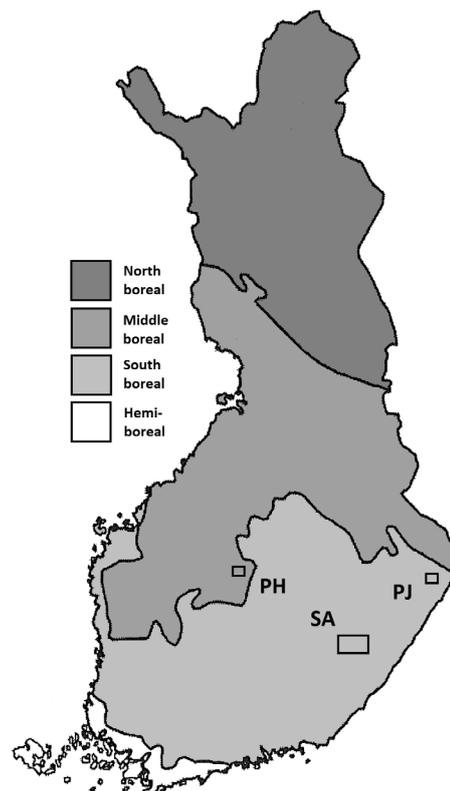


Fig. 1. A map of Finland and the locations of the studied tree-ring chronologies in the region of Savonlinna (SA) and in the national parks of Pyhä-Häkki (PH), and Petkeljärvi (PJ), in relation to the vegetation zones (redrawn after Virkkala *et al.*, 2000).

### Acquiring the MXD data

The wood material for the SA chronology has been collected near the city of Savonlinna. Living trees were harvested in Varparanta (61°59'N; 28°45'E, 80 m a.s.l.) and Punkaharju (61°48'N; 29°19'E, 80–90 m a.s.l.). Subfossil samples of Scots pine were retrieved from lacustrine sediment of Lake Heräjärvi (61°58'N; 28°50'E), Kaivanto (61°56'N; 28°59'E), Liippilampi (61°55'N; 29°02'E), Isokortteikko (61°58'N; 28°52'E) and Valkeajärvi (61°58'N; 28°52'E). The samples used for X-ray microdensitometry represent a subset of a much larger subfossil sample assemblage (Lindholm *et al.*, 1998–1999; Meriläinen and Timonen, 2004; Helama *et al.*, 2005a). The sample cross-dating, following the dendrochronological procedures of Aniol (1983) and Holmes (1983), along with visual comparison of the produced time series, was implemented using the ring-width data of existing tree-ring chronology of the region (Lindholm *et al.*, 1998–1999; Helama *et al.*, 2005a). The subsequent microdensitometric analyses and the determination of the MXD data were carried out using the published routines (Helama *et al.*, 2008b, 2010c, 2012a). The samples were acclimatized to ambient temperature of 20.1–20.9°C and relative humidity of 61.0–62.0%, corresponding to wood moisture content of roughly 12%. Extractives were not removed. The X-ray microdensitometry (ITRAX) scanning (Bergsten *et al.*, 2001) was done using a step size of 25 µm intervals with the following settings for tube: voltage of 30 kV, current value of 25 mA and an exposure time of 20 ms (Peltola *et al.*, 2007). The first year of the SA chronology occurs in AD 673. The sample size varies through time and there is actually no data available between the subfossil and living-tree MXD chronologies, AD 1810–1850 (Fig. 2). This chronology terminates in AD 2000.

The MXD data of the PH (62°51'N; 25°29'E) and PJ (62°35'N; 31°10'E) chronologies originate from the sites that locate in national parks in southern Finland (Lappalainen, 2001; Virkkala *et al.*, 2000). The material of PH and PJ chronologies was originally collected in the 1970s (Schweingruber *et al.*, 1987, 1991) and has been used as a part of several previously published large-scale/hemispheric tree-ring based climate assessments (e.g. Schweingruber *et al.*, 1991; Briffa *et al.*, 2002a, 2002b). These data was downloaded via online database (Grissino-Mayer and Fritts, 1997) under the site (file) names of “Pyhan Hakin National Park” (finl010) and “Haaparava National Park” (finl014), respectively.

### Building the palaeotemperature record

While the SA and PH/PJ datasets were produced analogously, the actual methods differed in detail. The way of taking control of wood moisture and extractive contents varied. Also, the measurement step size of density scanning was not equal. All these fine details may reduce comparability between the MXD series (Grudd,

2008; Helama *et al.*, 2010c, 2012a; Gunnarson *et al.*, 2011) and we thus followed the previously proposed implementation of conceivably heterogeneous microdensitometric data by separately modelling the cambial (i.e., non-climatic) growth trends within the two datasets (Helama *et al.*, 2012a). In a similar study updating historical database acquired MXD data by recently collected series, Gunnarson *et al.* (2011) determined two cambial growth curves individually for both MXD datasets to remove their non-climatic growth trends. Moreover, the SA, PH and PJ chronologies were exploited as separate regressors in building the palaeoclimatic transfer functions through multiple regression. Following these guidelines (see Helama *et al.*, 2012a), the non-climatic growth trends in MXD series due to tree ageing were removed using the regional curve standardization (Briffa *et al.*, 1992) applied separately to SA and PH/PJ datasets (Fig. 3). Each series were aligned according to their ring numbers. An average curve was calculated as an arithmetic mean of all available density values. This trend was further modelled using the function that has been used in dendrochronology, for example, by Warren (1980). That is:

$$y = ax^b e^{-cx} + d \quad (2.1)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and  $d$  are coefficients of the nonlinear trend as a function of tree age  $x$ . Once the expected growth trend was estimated, the initial measurement series were detrended by extracting the dimensionless tree-ring indices from the expected growth curve by subtraction (Helama *et al.*, 2008b). The tree-ring chronology was produced by averaging the cross-dated series into the mean chronologies by bi-weight robust mean procedure (Cook *et al.*, 1990). The variance of the tree-ring chronology was stabilized using the method of Osborn *et al.* (1997).

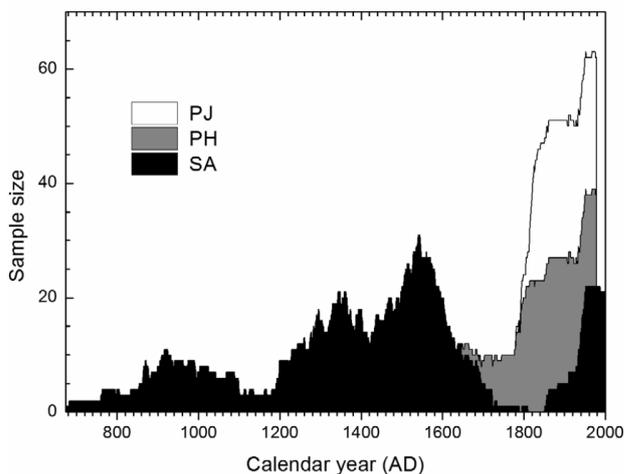
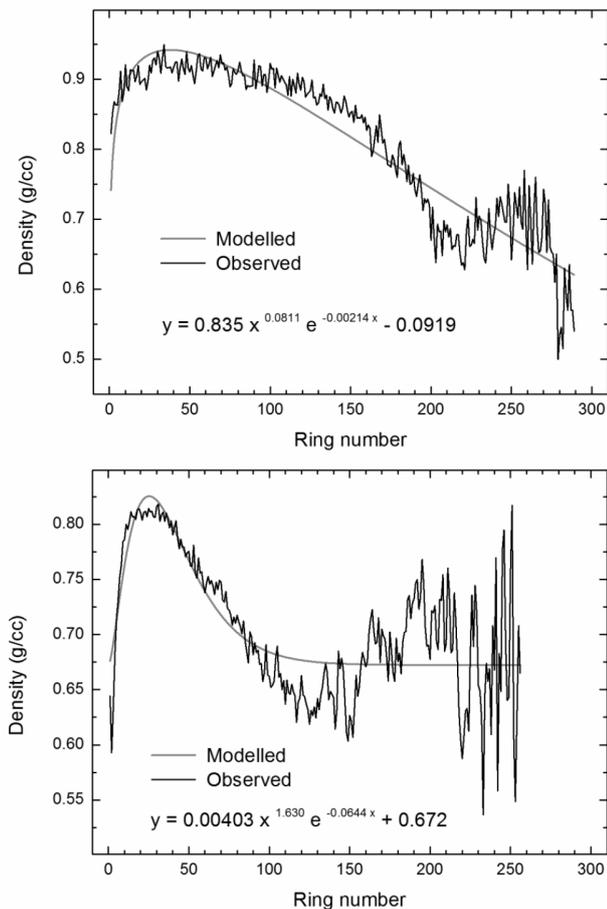


Fig. 2. Temporal variations in the chronology sample size (a number of cross-dated tree-ring series per year) in the chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH), and Petkeljärvi (PJ).



**Fig. 3.** Determination of observed and modelled (Eq. 2.1) mean growth curves using maximum density (MXD) data calculated from values of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH), and Petkeljärvi (PJ) data. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) shows the observed (black line) variance explained by the models (grey line).

The Punkaharju weather station (61°48'N; 29°20'E) provided the instrumental series of monthly mean temperatures for the dendroclimatic analyses. Obtaining the transfer functions, the MXD chronologies were regressed against the instrumental climate to depict temperature variations in Celsius scale. A multiple linear regression was applied. Tree-ring chronologies and temperature time-series provided the independent and dependent data, respectively. Tree-ring chronologies often contain high autocorrelation (Fritts, 1976) exceeding the autocorrelation observed in climatic time-series and, consequently, the transfer function may benefit from using tree-ring values of several years ( $t-n$ ,  $t$ ,  $t+n$ ) as independent variables in regression, in order to estimate the climate in year ( $t$ ) (Helama *et al.*, 2009a). Here we used multiple linear regression with tree-ring values in years  $t-1$ ,  $t$ , and  $t+1$ . All three chronologies contained at least five pines (Läänelaid, 2000) for the period AD 1883–1978 (see Fig. 2), whereas both the PH and PJ chronologies covered also the period AD 1805–1882. Only the PH

chronology spanned over the AD 1705–1884 interval, whereas the SA and PH chronologies contained at least five trees also in AD 1703 and 1704. Prior to that date, only the SA chronology showed the required sample size. Thus, the calibration/verification statistics were performed for five combinations of proxy sets including SA, PH, SA/PH, PH/PJ and SA/PH/PJ chronologies. Acceptable models were chosen with a stepwise selection procedure with the criteria for predictor entry and removal at an F-statistic probability of <0.05 and <0.10, respectively. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) was computed over the calibration (first, 1905–1941) period. Statistics calculated over the verification period (first, 1942–1978) were the squared correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ), reduction of error (RE) and coefficient of efficiency (CE) (Fritts, 1976; Briffa *et al.*, 1988).

Evaluation of the temporal stability of the relationship between the MXD data and climate was carried out using a cross-calibration/verification procedure (Gordon *et al.*, 1982; Briffa *et al.*, 1988) over the periods 1942–1978 and 1905–1941 for calibration and verification purposes, respectively. Significance of the dendroclimatic statistics was calculated using a combination of frequency-domain modelling (Ebisuzaki, 1997) and Monte Carlo (Efron and Tibshirani, 1986) methods. One thousand (1000) pairs of surrogate time series with the same power spectrum as the original time series but with a random phase were generated and their corresponding statistics calculated. The empirical probability distribution of each statistic value was calculated and, hence, its significance for the single-tailed ( $R^2$ ,  $r^2$ , RE and CE). This method is robust as it accounts for autocorrelation structure in the time series (Ebisuzaki, 1997; Macias Fauria *et al.*, 2010; Macias-Fauria *et al.*, 2012). The palaeoclimate model showing a combination of robust calibration and verification statistics was chosen as a final model of warm-season temperatures that was calibrated over the common period (1905–1978). Finally, the past temperature variability was reconstructed using the dendrochronological information over the full length of the chronologies. For each reconstruction, confidence intervals were calculated at 99% thresholds from the autoregressive structure of the residuals of each transfer function. The confidence intervals were based on generating 1000 surrogate series of residuals with the same autoregressive structure as the residuals from each regression using a Matlab-based program (Macias-Fauria *et al.*, 2012). The differing reconstructed temperature variances (indicated by their standard deviations over the calibration period) were adjusted by scaling them to a standard deviation of temperature record over the calibration period. Instead of merely averaging the reconstructions, we excerpted each annual temperature estimate from the (combination of) reconstruction(s) showing strongest correspondence to climate with at least five trees in each chronology comprising the particular reconstruction (see above). That is, the palaeotemperature record was obtained as a combina-

tion of individual re-scaled warm-season temperature reconstructions.

### Proxy comparisons

In order to obtain the longest possible temperature time series for the study area, the Finnish monthly mean temperature grid data (Tietäväinen *et al.*, 2010) was used to estimate the mean monthly temperatures for a grid point representing the site of the Punkaharju meteorological station. The grid data provides temperature values for the site since the year AD 1883. Prior to this date, the monthly grid-point mean temperatures were judged unbiased following the elevated number of station records in the region (Tietäväinen *et al.*, 2010). Long instrumental summer temperature records were also available in adjacent areas from St. Petersburg (Jones and Lister, 2002) in north-western Russia (since AD 1743), Turku (Holopainen, 2004) in south-western Finland (AD 1749–1822 and since AD 1873), and Uppsala (since AD 1748) and Stockholm (since AD 1756) in Sweden (Moberg and Bergström, 1997). The record from St. Petersburg had missing values in 1801–1804, 1992–1994 and 2001. Summer temperature reconstructions from northern Finland and northern Fennoscandia were available over the study period, based on tree-ring width (Helama *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b, 2010a) and MXD data (Esper *et al.*, 2012), respectively. These records were filtered using a spline function (Cook and Peters, 1981) with the rigidity of 50-years (50% frequency cut-off) and compared with the new palaeoclimate evidence by visual inspection and Pearson correlations ( $r$ ). Significance of the correlations was obtained using Monte Carlo methods (Burg, 1978; Macias Fauria *et al.*, 2010, Macias-Fauria *et al.*, 2012).

## 3. RESULTS

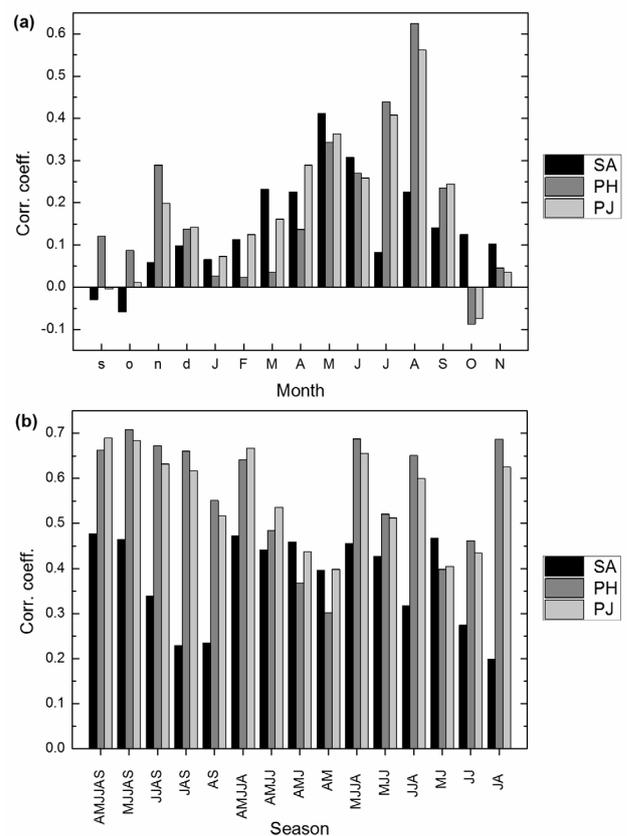
### Effect of temperature

Dendroclimatic correlations over the calibration period evidenced that the MXD chronologies exhibit a common signal of warm-season temperatures (Fig. 4a). The season with highest correlations occurred for months from May to August, more broadly from April to September. This pattern was confirmed by correlations with mean multi-monthly temperature parameters. It was observed that highest correlations, indicative of the skill for a palaeotemperature reconstruction, was obtained for multi-monthly temperature data of April through September, May through September, April through August, and May through August seasons (Fig. 4b). These four seasons were selected as the target seasons for examinations of calibration and verification statistics.

### Temperature reconstruction and long-term instrumental records

Calibration and verification statistics showed that the MXD data provided temperature reconstructions that

correlated statistically significantly ( $R^2$ ,  $r^2$ ) with the instrumentally observed temperature variations over both sub-periods (Table 1). The results from RE and CE tests showed, however, that some of the reconstructions did not verify satisfactory for April through September, April through August and May through August seasons. Particularly, the reduced skill of reconstructions was observed over the late period (AD 1942–1978) in comparison to the early period (AD 1905–1941). Also the correlations between the reconstructions and the instrumentally observed temperatures were generally weaker over this period. Yet, the temperature reconstructions of May through September season exhibited statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) calibration and verification results over both the early and late periods (Table 1). This season was therefore selected as the season of reconstruction for further palaeoclimate analyses of warm-season temperature variability.



**Fig. 4.** Pearson correlations over the calibration period (1905–1978) between the monthly (a) and multi-monthly (b) mean temperatures of previous (lower case letters) and concurrent (upper case letter) to year of growth in the maximum density (MXD) chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ).

**Table 1.** Calibration and verification statistics. Early (AD 1905–1941) calibration/late (AD 1942–1978) verification (a) and late calibration/early verification (b) procedures carried out using the MXD chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ) as proxies for warm-season temperatures of different monthly composites: April (A), May (M), June–July (JJ), August (A) and September (S). Calibration is quantified using the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and verification using the squared correlation coefficient ( $r^2$ ), the reduction of error (RE) and the coefficient of efficiency (CE) — statistics with their obtained Monte Carlo based statistical significance ( $p$ ).

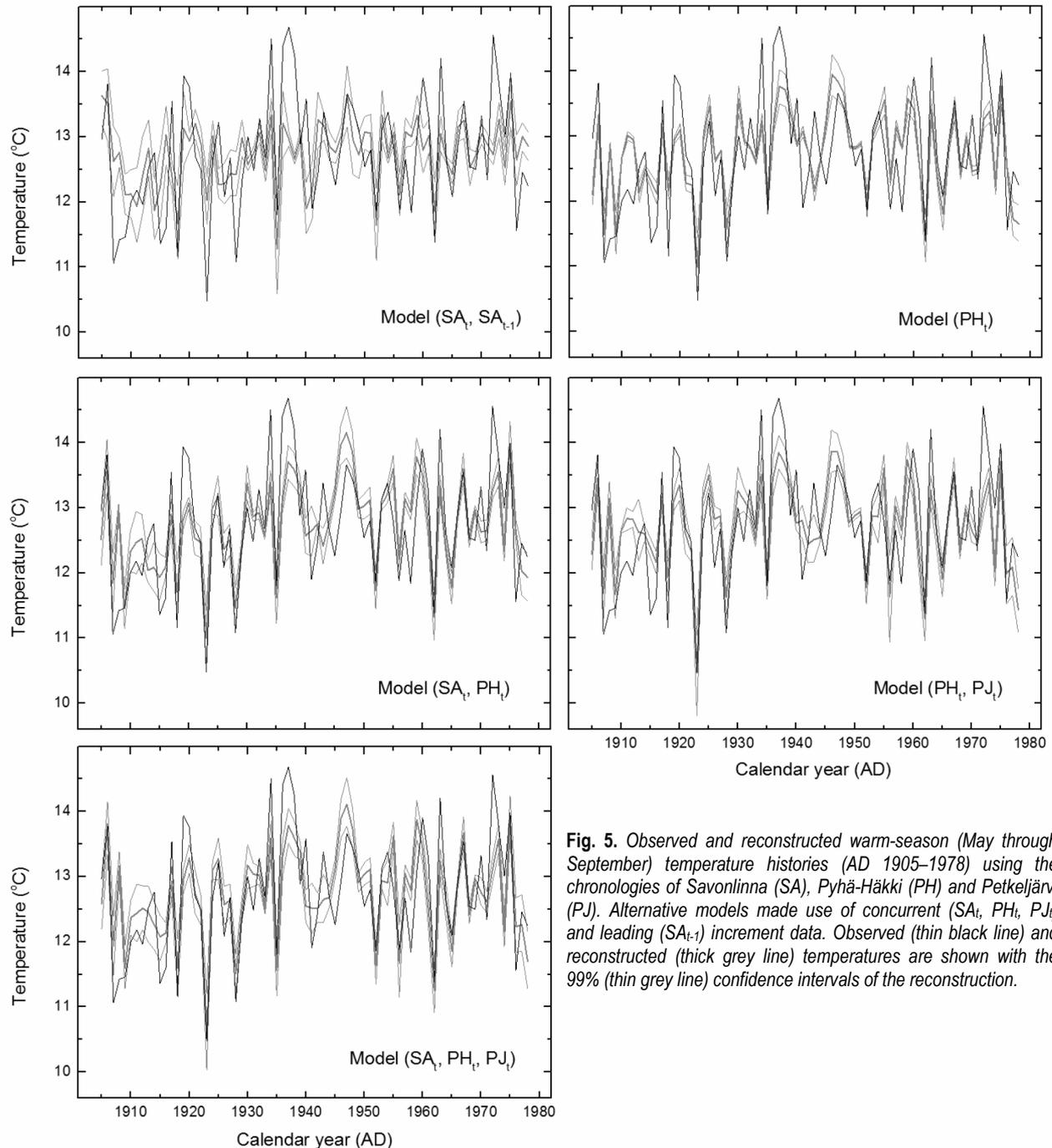
	Season	Model	$R^2$ (p)	$r^2$ (p)	RE (p)	CE (p)
			1905-1941	1942-1978	1942-1978	1942-1978
<b>(a)</b>	AMJJAS	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.202(0.0114)	0.259(0.0015)	0.307(0.0008)	0.208(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.526(<0.001)	0.345(<0.001)	0.204(0.0012)	0.091(0.0042)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.638(<0.001)	0.380(<0.001)	0.063(0.1067)	-0.070(0.2671)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.646(<0.001)	0.440(<0.001)	0.124(0.0211)	-0.001(0.1097)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.680(<0.001)	0.441(<0.001)	0.251(0.0001)	0.144(0.0029)
	AMJJA	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.212(0.0072)	0.226(0.0064)	0.257(0.0013)	0.168(0.0015)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.562(<0.001)	0.249(<0.001)	0.022(0.1394)	-0.095(0.5192)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.680(<0.001)	0.286(<0.001)	-0.147(0.7914)	-0.284(0.8271)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.679(<0.001)	0.327(<0.001)	-0.040(0.5494)	-0.165(0.6514)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.717(<0.001)	0.331(<0.001)	0.053(0.0951)	-0.061(0.261)
	MJJAS	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.286(0.0081)	0.227(0.0045)	0.295(<0.001)	0.210(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.587(<0.001)	0.412(<0.001)	0.276(<0.001)	0.189(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.679(<0.001)	0.443(<0.001)	0.152(0.0149)	0.049(0.0239)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.667(<0.001)	0.465(<0.001)	0.227(0.0026)	0.133(0.0013)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.701(<0.001)	0.473(<0.001)	0.292(<0.001)	0.207(0.0006)
	MJJA	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.282(0.0078)	0.258(0.0012)	0.318(<0.001)	0.254(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.649(<0.001)	0.286(0.003)	0.065(0.0641)	-0.023(0.2537)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.745(<0.001)	0.318(0.0005)	-0.081(0.571)	-0.182(0.596)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.722(<0.001)	0.324(<0.001)	0.034(0.1332)	-0.056(0.2976)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.762(<0.001)	0.336(<0.001)	0.054(0.1116)	-0.035(0.1849)
<b>(b)</b>	AMJJAS	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.259(0.0015)	0.202(0.0114)	0.196(0.0042)	0.114(0.0034)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.345(<0.001)	0.526(<0.001)	0.429(<0.001)	0.391(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.385(0.0007)	0.607(<0.001)	0.513(<0.001)	0.481(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.44(<0.001)	0.646(<0.001)	0.482(<0.001)	0.448(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.446(<0.001)	0.674(<0.001)	0.544(<0.001)	0.514(<0.001)
	AMJJA	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.226(0.0064)	0.212(0.0072)	0.208(0.0013)	0.161(0.0017)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.249(<0.001)	0.562(<0.001)	0.41(<0.001)	0.375(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.299(0.0019)	0.583(<0.001)	0.483(<0.001)	0.453(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.327(0.0022)	0.677(<0.001)	0.464(<0.001)	0.432(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.341(0.0044)	0.678(<0.001)	0.538(<0.001)	0.511(<0.001)
	MJJAS	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.246(0.0175)	0.263(0.0045)	0.287(<0.001)	0.245(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.412(<0.001)	0.587(<0.001)	0.495(<0.001)	0.465(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.447(<0.001)	0.653(<0.001)	0.556(<0.001)	0.53(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.466(<0.001)	0.667(<0.001)	0.531(<0.001)	0.504(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.476(<0.001)	0.695(<0.001)	0.59(<0.001)	0.565(<0.001)
	MJJA	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	0.274(0.006)	0.262(0.0036)	0.277(<0.001)	0.24(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub>	0.286(0.003)	0.649(<0.001)	0.49(<0.001)	0.464(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.33(0.0013)	0.648(<0.001)	0.532(<0.001)	0.508(<0.001)
		PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.324(0.0017)	0.722(<0.001)	0.525(<0.001)	0.5(<0.001)
		SA <sub>t</sub> ,PH <sub>t</sub> ,PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.344(0.002)	0.704(<0.001)	0.577(<0.001)	0.555(<0.001)

Over the full calibration period (AD 1905–1978), the transfer function models explained around 30 to 60 percent of the instrumentally observed warm-season temperature variance (Table 2; Fig. 5). All obtained coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) appeared statistically highly significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). The five reconstructions, based on different combinations of tree-ring chronologies, showed a strong common palaeoclimate signal with mean correlation between the reconstructions averaging 0.798 over the calibration period (Table 3). The transfer functions were applied over the earlier periods to obtain new tree-ring

based palaeoclimate information of warm-season temperature variability (Fig. 6). These records were further combined into a solitary palaeotemperature record (Fig. 7a). The new reconstruction evidenced variable temperatures over the full reconstruction period. Long-term temperature evolution implied a prevalence of warm temperatures during the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with several indications of warmest years during those centuries (Table 4). The warmest 50- and 250-year periods occurred in AD 1042–1091 and AD 862–1111, respectively. The coolest spells were obvious especially

**Table 2.** Calibration of the tree-ring proxies over the common period (AD 1905–1978). Reconstructions of the warm season temperature variability were quantified using the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), mean ( $M$ ), and standard deviation ( $SD$ ) of the reconstructed and instrumental temperatures. Transfer functions were determined through the regression coefficients for the MXD chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ) in their growth year concurrent ( $t_0$ ) and previous ( $t_{-1}$ ) to climate, and with a regression constant. All coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) were statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

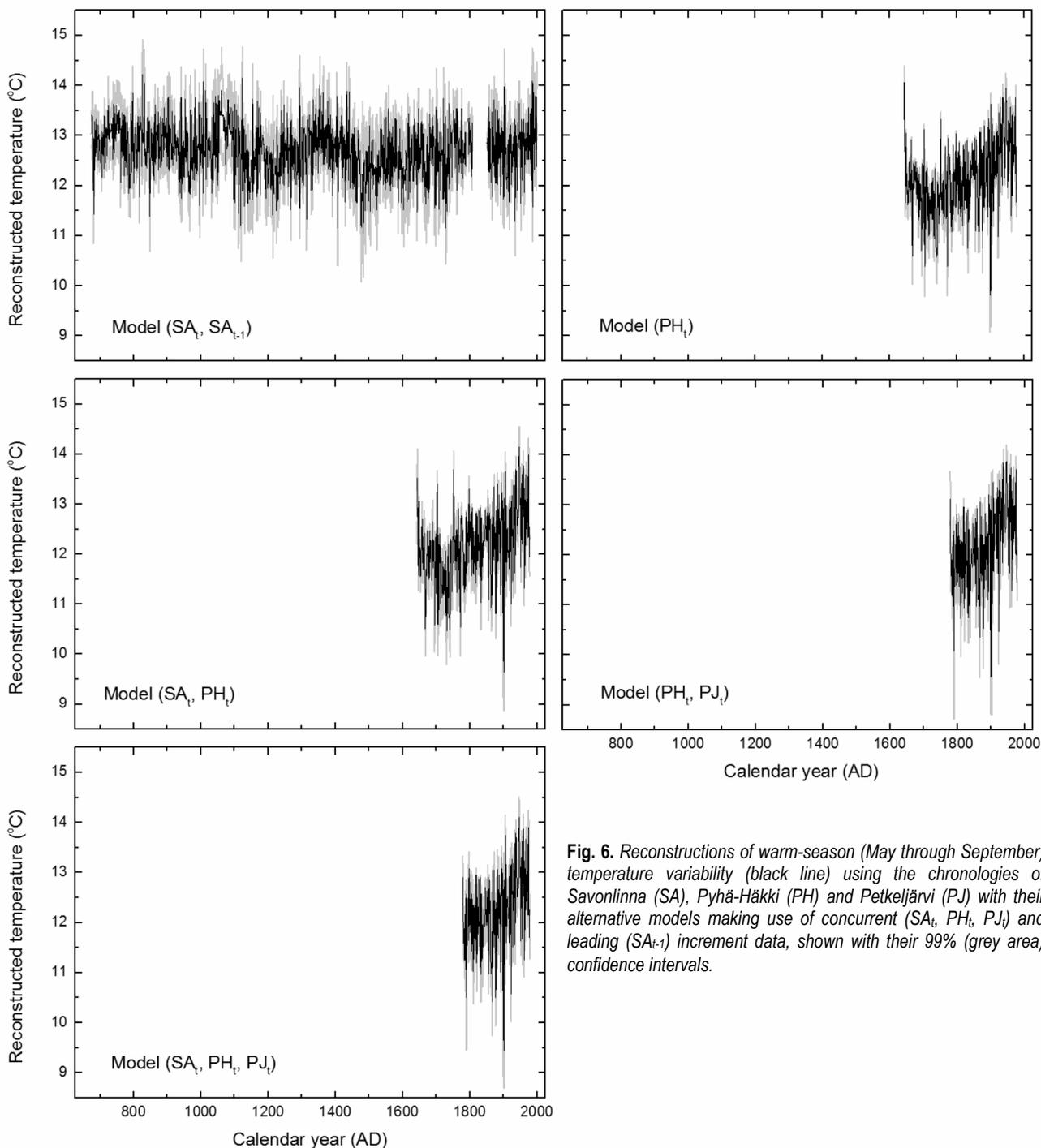
Model	$R^2$	$M$	$SD$	Transfer function
$SA_t, SA_{t-1}$	0.279	12.739	0.497	$5.216 SA_t - 2.734 SA_{t-1} + 10.944$
$PH_t$	0.501	12.739	0.650	$9.702 PH_t + 3.434$
$SA_t, PH_t$	0.558	12.739	0.686	$2.122 SA_t + 8.496 PH_t + 2.545$
$PH_t, PJ_t$	0.557	12.739	0.685	$6.282 PH_t + 5.685 PJ_t + 0.894$
$SA_t, PH_t, PJ_t$	0.591	12.739	0.706	$1.745 SA_t + 6.040 PH_t + 4.434 PJ_t + 0.720$
Instrumental	n/a	12.739	0.918	n/a



**Fig. 5.** Observed and reconstructed warm-season (May through September) temperature histories (AD 1905–1978) using the chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ). Alternative models made use of concurrent ( $SA_t, PH_t, PJ_t$ ) and leading ( $SA_{t-1}$ ) increment data. Observed (thin black line) and reconstructed (thick grey line) temperatures are shown with the 99% (thin grey line) confidence intervals of the reconstruction.

**Table 3.** Pearson correlations between the reconstructions based on the transfer functions (Table 2; Fig. 5) obtained using the MXD chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ) and their combinations. Correlations were calculated over the calibration period (AD 1905–1978). All correlations were statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Model	SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	PH <sub>t</sub>	SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	PH <sub>t</sub> , PJ <sub>t</sub>	SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub> , PJ <sub>t</sub>
SA <sub>t</sub> , SA <sub>t-1</sub>	1				
PH <sub>t</sub>	0.432	1			
SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub>	0.650	0.948	1		
PH <sub>t</sub> , PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.531	0.949	0.924	1	
SA <sub>t</sub> , PH <sub>t</sub> , PJ <sub>t</sub>	0.680	0.921	0.972	0.970	1



**Fig. 6.** Reconstructions of warm-season (May through September) temperature variability (black line) using the chronologies of Savonlinna (SA), Pyhä-Häkki (PH) and Petkeljärvi (PJ) with their alternative models making use of concurrent (SA<sub>t</sub>, PH<sub>t</sub>, PJ<sub>t</sub>) and leading (SA<sub>t-1</sub>) increment data, shown with their 99% (grey area) confidence intervals.

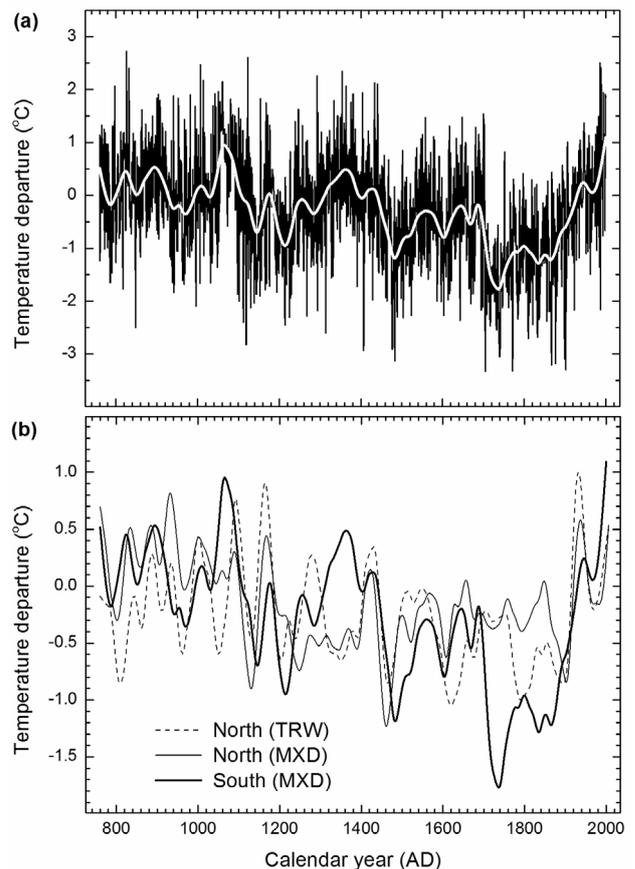
during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Fig. 7a), with an increased occurrence of coldest years between the 1705–1902 (Table 4). Similarly, the coolest periods of 50- and 250-year length were recorded in AD 1704–1753 and in AD 1663–1912, respectively. Since the start of the record (AD 760), the temperature evolution exhibits a long-term negative trend with a slope of  $-0.08^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-0.12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) per a century, until the year AD 2000 (AD 1900).

A new elongated palaeotemperature curve was correlated with the grid data (Tietäväinen *et al.*, 2010) representing the meteorological site since AD 1883. Correlating the grid- and tree-ring based temperatures over the period AD 1883–1904 yielded a coefficient of 0.753, exemplifying that the reconstruction explained 56.6 percent of the instrumental temperature variance. Thus, the correspondence between the instrumental and reconstructed temperature was even higher during the pre-calibration than over the actual calibration period (see Table 2). Second, the reconstruction was compared with the available long instrumental temperature records in the region and adjacent areas since the 1740s (Table 5). Correlating reconstruction with these instrumental records over the full period showed positive and markedly high coefficients with all localities, the highest correlations appearing with the record from St. Petersburg. Comparison between the modern and early periods showed correlations approximating 0.7 for the former period, whereas the correlations over the latter averaged 0.6 among the four localities, St. Petersburg, Turku, Uppsala and Stockholm. These correlations evidenced the positive skill of the new palaeotemperature curve to reconstruct warm-season temperatures over an extended area at least over the past two and half centuries.

### Tree-ring proxy comparisons

The new reconstruction was additionally compared with the tree-ring based evidence of summer temperatures as previously reconstructed in northern Finland and Fennoscandia using tree-ring width (TRW; Helama *et al.*, 2010a) and MXD chronologies (Esper *et al.*, 2012). The

three reconstructions showed generally similar temperature variability, although there appeared also dissimilarities (Fig. 7b). The smoothed reconstruction from southern Finland correlates positively with corresponding northern MXD and TRW reconstructions, with coefficients of 0.420 ( $p = 0.0138$ ) and 0.377 ( $p = 0.0143$ ), respectively. A slightly improved association between the northern and southern MXD reconstructions, in compari-



**Fig. 7.** Palaeotemperature curve for southern Finland from maximum density (MXD) chronologies shown with the annual (black line) and long-term (white line; smoothed using 50-year spline) (a). Comparison of reconstructed temperature variability based on the MXD chronologies from southern Finland (this study) and northern Fennoscandian (Esper *et al.*, 2012) and as reconstructed from tree-ring width (TRW) chronology (Helama *et al.*, 2010a) (b).

**Table 4.** The years with the warmest (a) and coldest (b) warm-season (May through September) temperatures in southern Finland shown with their reconstructed temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) estimates.

(a)		(b)	
Year	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	Year	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
826	15.46	1705	9.41
1123	15.34	1772	9.42
1986	15.24	1902	9.44
1007	15.21	1867	9.53
1988	15.15	1877	9.55
832	15.14	1483	9.61
1354	15.08	1899	9.65
1293	15.00	1740	9.69
1014	14.91	1741	9.73
1061	14.89	1407	9.81

**Table 5.** Pearson correlations between the new reconstruction and long instrumental temperature (April through September) records over their full (1748–2000), modern (1873–2000), and early (1748–1822) periods.

	Full period	Modern period	Early period
St. Petersburg	0.625	0.714	0.530
Turku	0.450	0.718	0.649
Uppsala	0.470	0.701	0.608
Stockholm	0.497	0.702	0.673

son to the correlation between the northern TRW and southern MXD reconstructions, likely indicates a more consistent proxy signal among the same tree-ring parameter. These figures could be compared with the correlation between the two northern reconstructions (TRW and MXD) exhibiting even a higher coefficient of 0.540 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Compared to their correlativity, the north-south association was conceivably reduced by the proxy deviations occurring as the warmth and coolness of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries, respectively (Fig. 7b), during which the northern reconstructions did not indicate similarly anomalous temperatures.

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Our tree-ring record provided the first millennial reconstruction of summer temperatures using MXD data in southern Finland. The reconstruction was enabled by the high correlation between the warm-season temperatures and MXD formation (Fig. 4; Table 1). These findings highlight the climate-growth relationships with a notable temperature control on the late growing-season wood cell thickening in this region (Briffa *et al.*, 2002a; Helama *et al.*, 2012a, 2013a). Radial growth, by contrast, and therefore the variation of wide and narrow annual rings (and especially width of their earlywood portion) is positively depending on precipitation in the early part of the growing season (Henttonen, 1984; Miina, 2000; Helama *et al.*, 2005a, 2009c). Nearly identical dendroclimatic circumstances were exemplified to prevail for Scots pine in Central Caucasus where the growth of TRW responded positively with summer (June through July) precipitation and the production of MXD reflected even more strongly the warm-season (April through October) temperatures (Brugnoli *et al.*, 2010). Despite the relatively strong dendroclimatic association shown here, it is noteworthy that the timberline MXD data exhibits even higher correlation to summer temperatures. In comparison to the  $R^2$  of this study (see Table 2), the timberline MXD chronologies have shown to explain around 55–70% of the temperature variance in northern Fennoscandia (Schweingruber *et al.*, 1988; Briffa *et al.*, 1992; Esper *et al.*, 2012).

Previously, the modern part of record as the living trees of the PH and PJ chronologies have constituted local dendroclimatic proxies in large-scale temperature reconstructions (Schweingruber *et al.*, 1991; Briffa *et al.*, 2002a, 2002b). Here we have complemented the use of living-tree MXD by extending the chronology backwards in time using the MXD measurements from subfossil pine remains (Helama *et al.*, 2008b, 2010c, 2012a) and the obtained warm-season temperature reconstruction spans continuously over the period of AD 674–2010. The present reconstruction depicted multi-centennial warmth spanning from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, the long-term cooling since the Medieval time until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was parallel as observed in the MXD and multi-proxy records of northern Fennoscandia (Esper

*et al.*, 2012; Helama *et al.*, 2010a) and Northern Hemisphere (Mann *et al.*, 1999). The periods of the past climate that constitute these changes have been termed the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA) and the Little Ice Age (LIA).

The warmth around the turn of the first millennium AD was seen closely synchronous with the MXD and TRW evidence from northern Fennoscandia (Grudd, 2008; Esper *et al.*, 2012) and northern Finland (Helama *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b, 2010a, 2010b, 2012b). The northern MXD (Esper *et al.*, 2012) and TRW (Helama *et al.*, 2010a) reconstructions showed their warmest 250-year periods in AD 816–1065 and AD 932–1181, respectively. That is, the earlier warmth in the northern MXD reconstruction overlapped substantially with the warm period in the southern reconstruction that took place between the years AD 862 and 1111. Similarly, the warmth appears coeval to proxy-based hemispheric climate records that show evidence concerning the relatively warm conditions during the same centuries (Ljungqvist *et al.*, 2012).

During the following centuries, the concentration of markedly cool periods was recorded from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this period agreeing notably with the wide-spread climatic cooling between AD 1570 and 1900 when Northern Hemisphere summer temperatures fell significantly below their recent (AD 1961–1990) mean level (Matthews and Briffa, 2005). The coolest 250-year periods were evident in the northern MXD (Esper *et al.*, 2012) and TRW (Helama *et al.*, 2010a) reconstructions in AD 1228–1477 and AD 1601–1850, respectively. That is, the later coolness as implied by the northern TRW reconstruction more closely followed the reconstructed coolness by the southern MXD reconstruction in AD 1663–1912. With regards to the 20<sup>th</sup> century conditions, all three reconstructions exhibited rising temperatures since the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 1930s warmth and towards the end of the century (Fig. 7b). Consistently with the obtained reconstructions, the cool LIA climate has been followed by warmer temperatures during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Tietäväinen *et al.*, 2010), these climatic fluctuations thus comprising the reconstructed warm-cool-warm cycle over the past millennium.

Our coolest temperatures during the LIA were reconstructed AD 1704 and 1753. This interval was synchronous, albeit slightly post-dating, the period of the Maunder Minimum (AD 1645 to 1715) (Eddy, 1976), and especially with the late Maunder Minimum (AD 1675–1715) that have been denoted the climax of the LIA in Europe (Luterbacher *et al.*, 2001). This was a period during which the overall activity of the Sun was drastically reduced and sunspots virtually disappeared (Hoyt and Schatten, 1998). According to Luterbacher *et al.* (2001), the springs were likely cold and summers cooler than they are today in western, central and northern Europe. Combined use of climate models and palaeoclimate data suggested that regional cooling could be expected over the study region approximately two decades after the

solar irradiance decreases, this mechanism involving inertia in the oceanic response and shift towards the negative phase in the atmospheric oscillations pattern over the North Atlantic and European land areas (Shindell *et al.*, 2001). Similar atmospheric patterns, possibly coupled with the solar irradiation variations, have generally been suggested forcing the cooler and wetter summer-time climates in the study region during the LIA (Helama *et al.*, 2009c; Luoto and Helama, 2010). The suggested lag in climatic response (Shindell *et al.*, 2001) would further validate our observation of the delayed regional cooling to the Maunder Minimum reduction of solar activity.

Previous studies have linked the annual-scale palaeotemperature coolings with the climatic effects of the known explosive volcanic eruptions (Helama *et al.*, 2013b; Jones *et al.*, 2013). Interestingly, all of the ten coolest years among the reconstruction occurred during the 500-year period between the years AD 1407 and 1902 (Table 4). As mentioned above, this period overlapped with the LIA during which the wide-spread climatic cooling prevailed over the northern Hemisphere (Matthews and Briffa, 2005). Also, the coolness of the climate during the LIA may have likewise resulted from a relative abundance of major explosive volcanic eruptions (Bradley and Jones, 1993). Comparison with the evidence of late Holocene eruptions since AD 1400 (Briffa *et al.*, 1998) indicates, however, that only the years 1740–1741 in our list (Table 4) could be traced to consistently follow any large explosive volcanic eruption. This would suggest a climatic cooling in the study region following the Shikotsu (Tarumai) eruption on Hokkaido, Japan, in AD 1739.

Moreover, among the recorded annual events (Table 4) the year AD 1867 appears a year with severe crop failures and famine in large areas in Finland (Jutikkala, 2003a, 2003b). Historical documents tell that the winter that seemed to continue until mid June was followed by cold spring conditions and May temperatures seven degrees cooler than the long-term average, while it was also snowing intensively and sleeting even in the southern parts of Finland until May 25<sup>th</sup> with fathom deep snow-pack in areas where oats should be already sown, these climatic phenomena resulting in severe crop failures (Melander and Melander, 1928). According to the multi-proxy reconstruction of late-winter and spring temperatures (February through June) in southern Finland, the year AD 1867 was third coldest since AD 1750 (Holopainen *et al.*, 2009). Also the years AD 1705, 1740, 1772, 1899 and 1902 (Table 4) have been mentioned with devastating impacts of crop failures and famine in Finnish history of agriculture (Melander and Melander, 1928), and the year AD 1877 as one of the coldest late-winter and spring seasons over the past 260 years (Holopainen *et al.*, 2009). These findings were in accordance with earlier considerations (Mikola, 1950) that Finnish tree-ring evidence may be comparable with historical dates of famine

when the crop failures had been caused by cool summer-time temperatures.

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