

INNOVATIONS IN DRYLAND RESTORATION

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Alacant (Spain)

Alfa grass (*Stipa tenacissima*) steppes as model ecosystems for dryland restoration

1.1 Introduction to alpha grass and alfa grass steppes in SE Spain.

1.2 Ecological interactions in alfa grass steppes, from microscopic to landscape scales.

1.3 A framework for alfa grass steppes restoration.

Ecological interactions provide clues for restoration

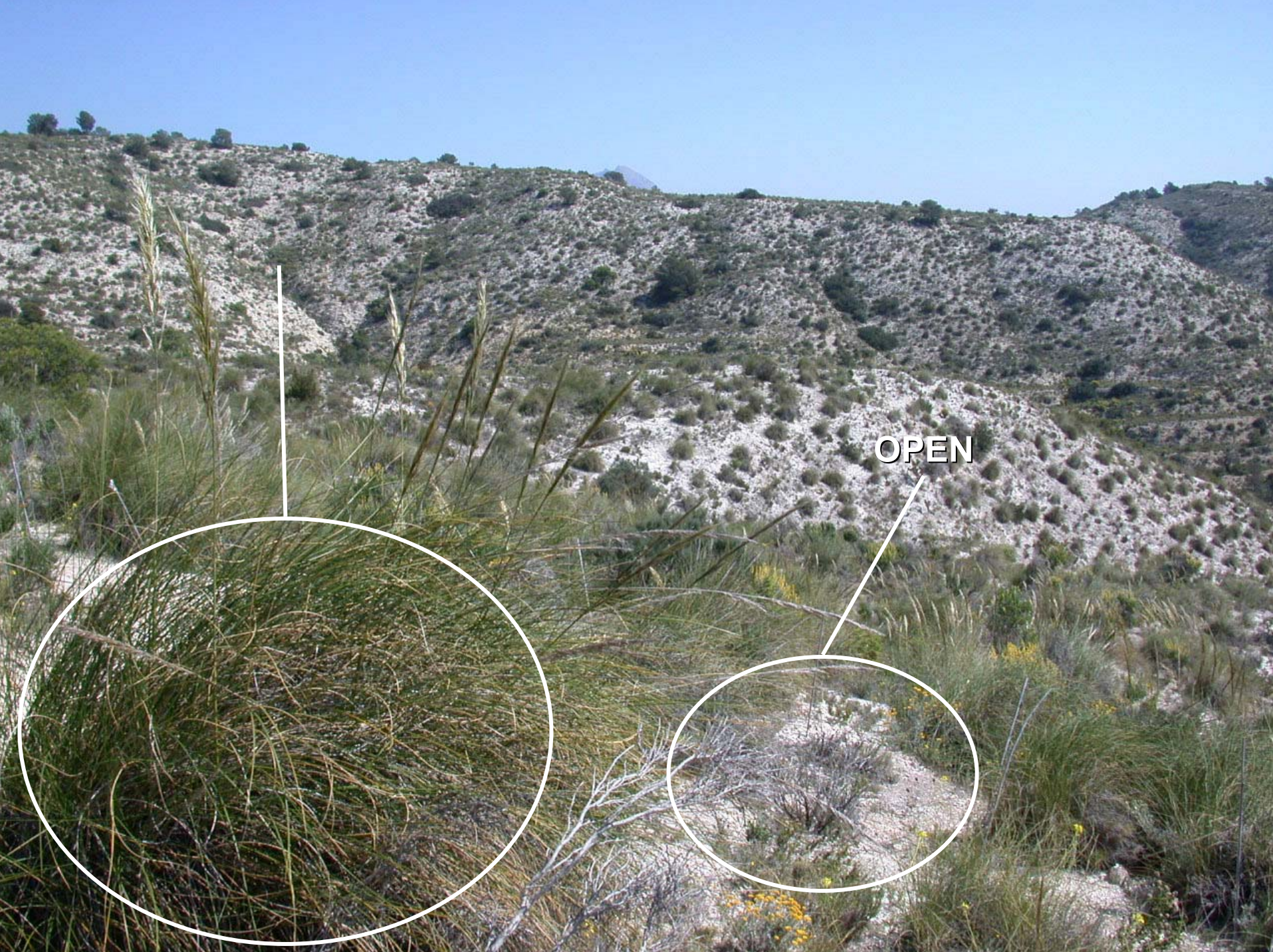
2.1 Landscape structure, functional state and ecosystem restorability.

2.2 The use of biological soil crusts.

2.2 Facilitation by alfa grass.

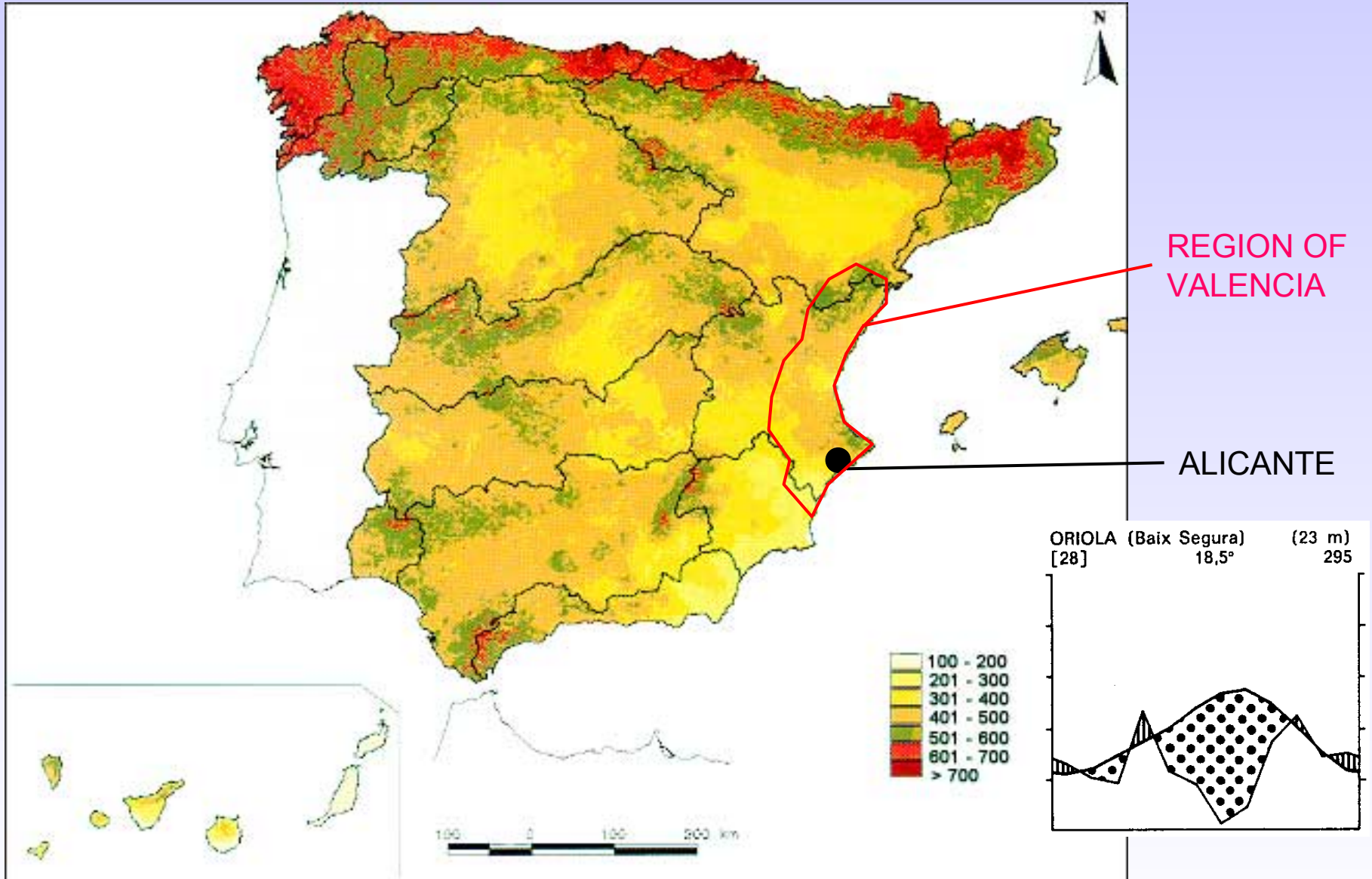
2.3 The role of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in alfa grass restoration.

2.3 Ecotechnology as a replacement for ecological interactions.

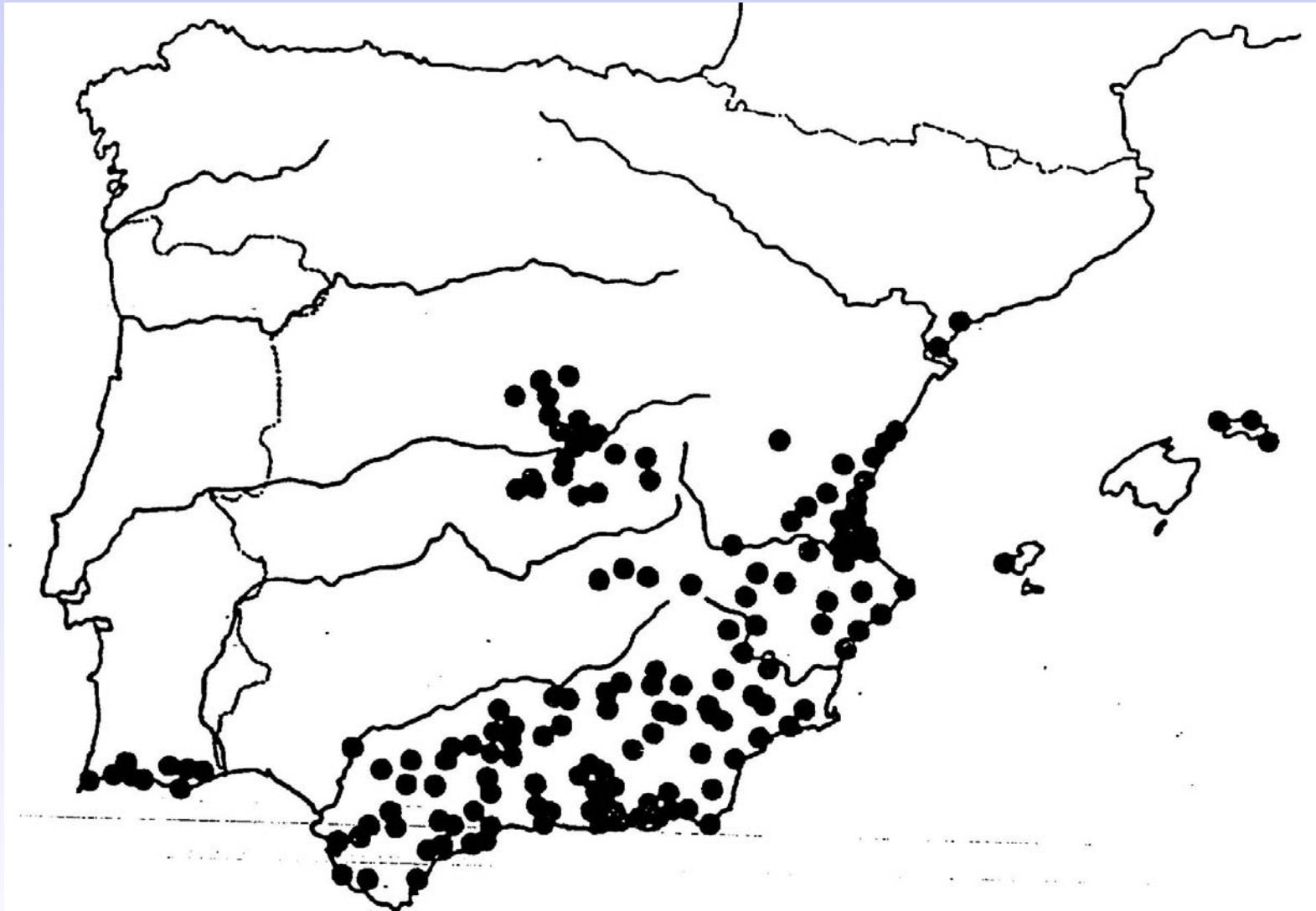


OPEN

Alpha grass steppes in Spain - Distribution

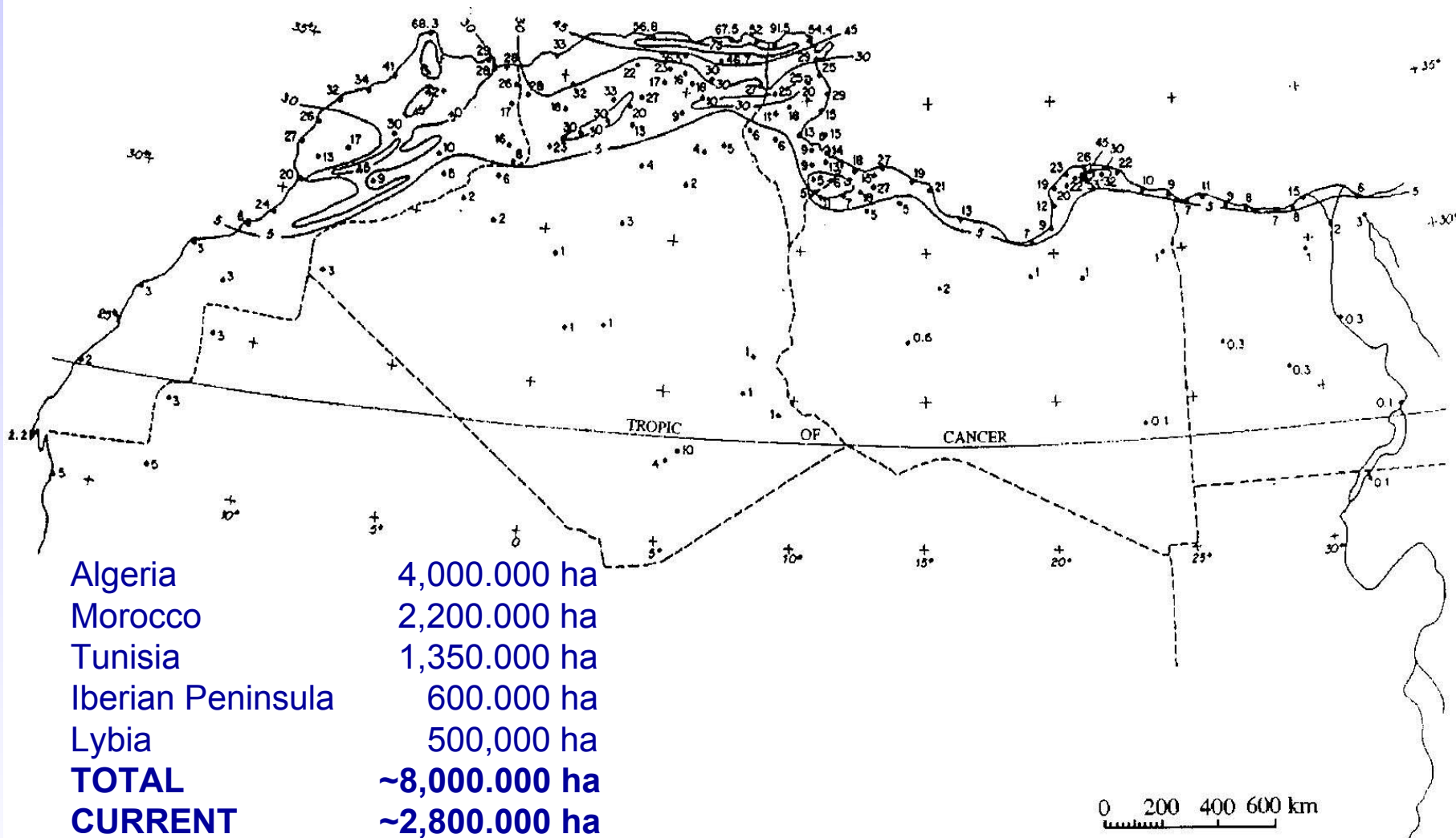


Alpha grass steppes in Spain - Distribution



In Europe: 600.000 ha (Spain and Portugal): ca. 6% of stepic areas

Alpha grass steppes in the world



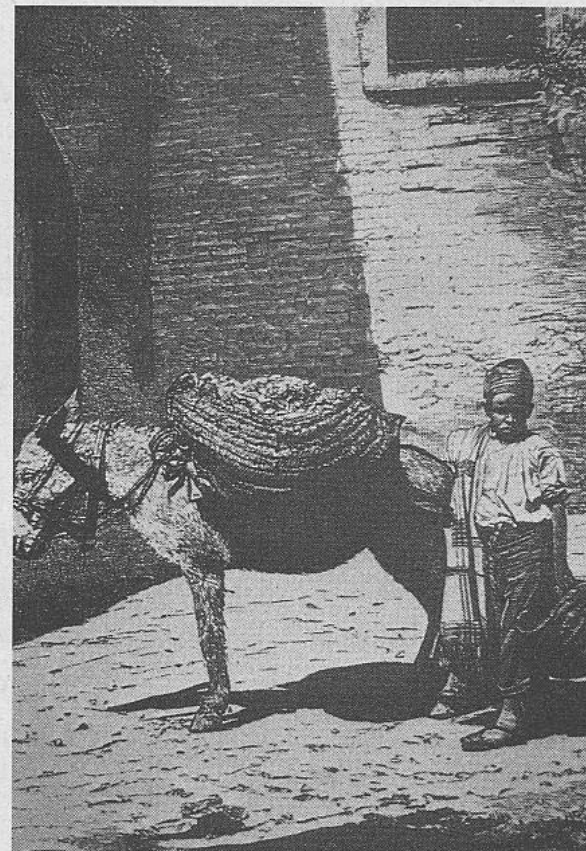
Djebaili, 1988 et Le Hou rou, 2001

Prehistoric evidences of alpha grass use

- Remainings from Copper Age - Deforestation in certain parts of the Iberian Peninsula (ca. 4000 BP)
- More frequent Bronze Age - Strings, baskets and shoes. Alpha grass steppes suggest shrubland clearing (ca. 3000 BP)



Flora Atlantica, sive Historia plantarum quae in Atlante, Agro Tunetano et Algeriensi Crescunt. Tomus Primus.. Desfontaines, Renato L. Parisiis: L.G. Desgranges, [1798-1799?]



Femater del segle XIX. Es pot observar la sària damunt el lloç de l'ase i el cabàs a la mà esquerra del xiquet. Font: Ruiz Torres, P. (1981). *Historia del País Valencià*. Vol. VI. Època Contemporànea. Cupsa Editorial, Editorial Planeta.

Buxó, 1999; Barber, 1997

20th Century rise and fall

- 1920 *Comité Especial* (regulations on local commerce and export)
- 1940 *Instituto de Fomento de la Producción de Fibras Textiles*
- 1947 Reglamento Nacional de Trabajo para el Sector Manual del Esparto de la Industria Textil
- 1948 *Servicio Nacional del Esparto* (M. Industria y Comercio and M. Agricultura)
- Harvesting gradually abandoned since 1950-60
- Grazing gradually reduced (500.000 sheep 100.000 goats en 1999)

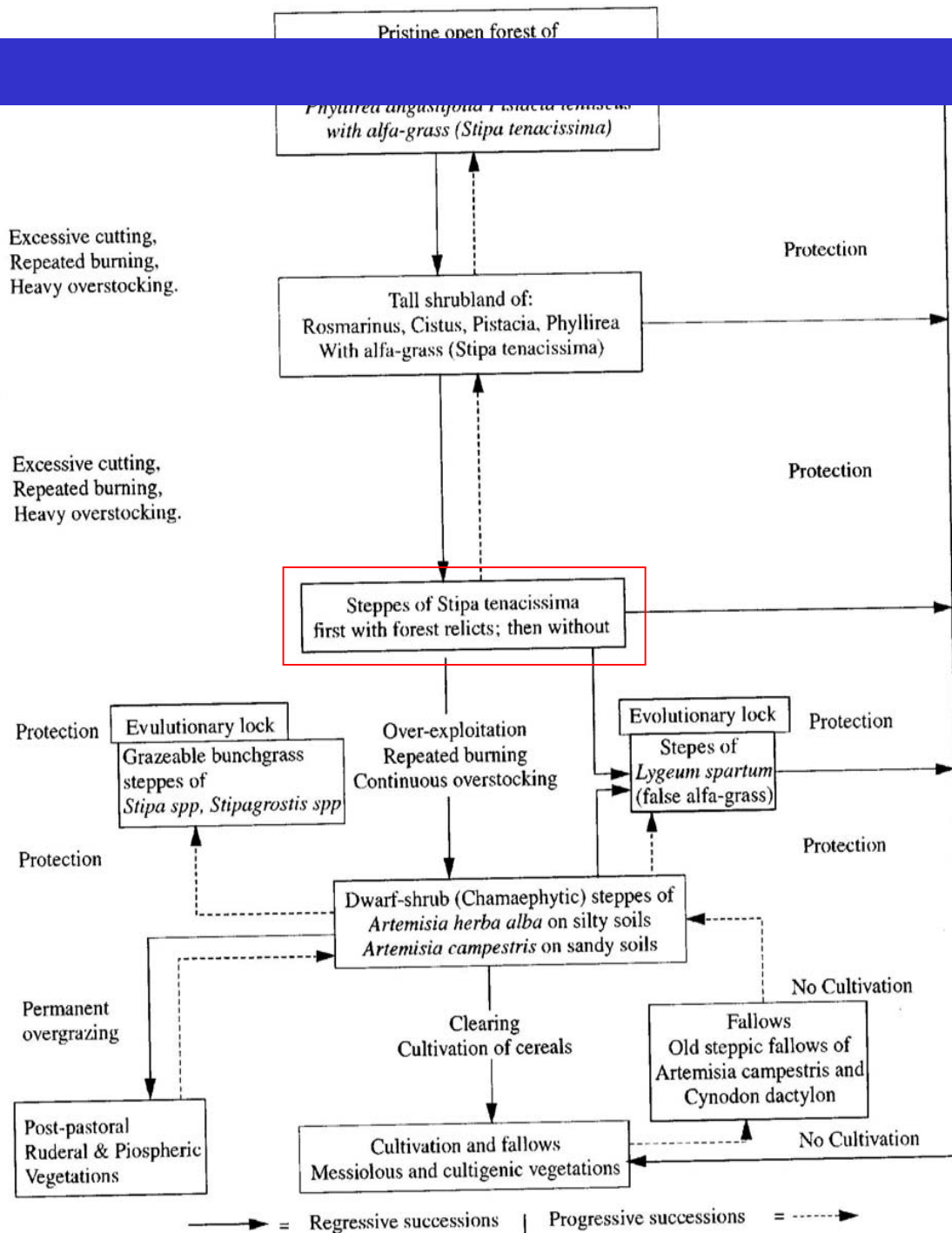


Barber, 1997

Community dynamics

Al. *Stipion tenacissimae*

- *Helictrotichon filifolii-Stipetum tenacissimae*
- *Lapiedro martinezii-Stipetum tenacissimae*
- *Lapiedro martinezii-Stipetum tenacissimae* subas. *sedetosum dianii*
- *Heteropogo contortii-Stipetum tenacissimae*

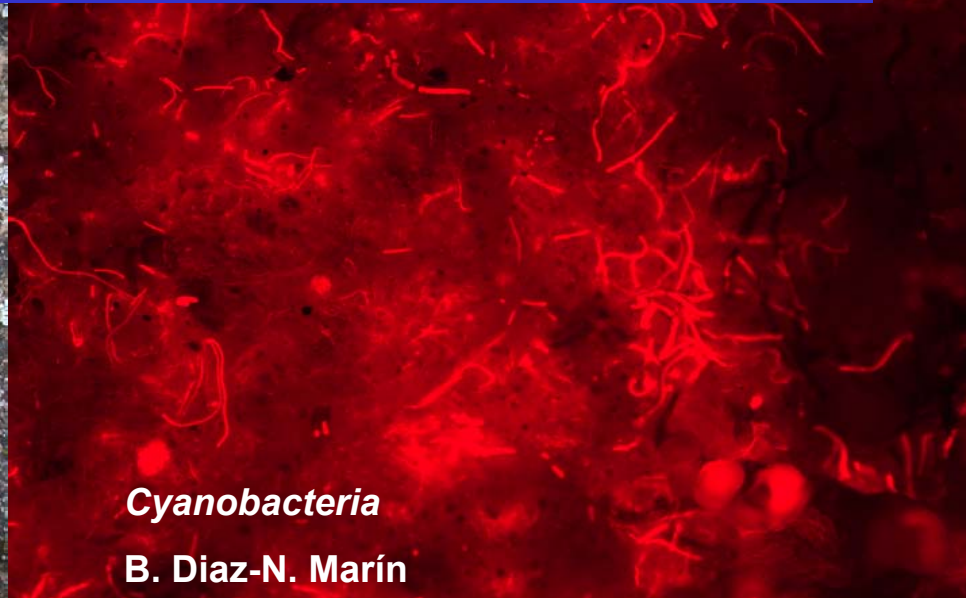


Le Houérou, 2001

Biodiversity

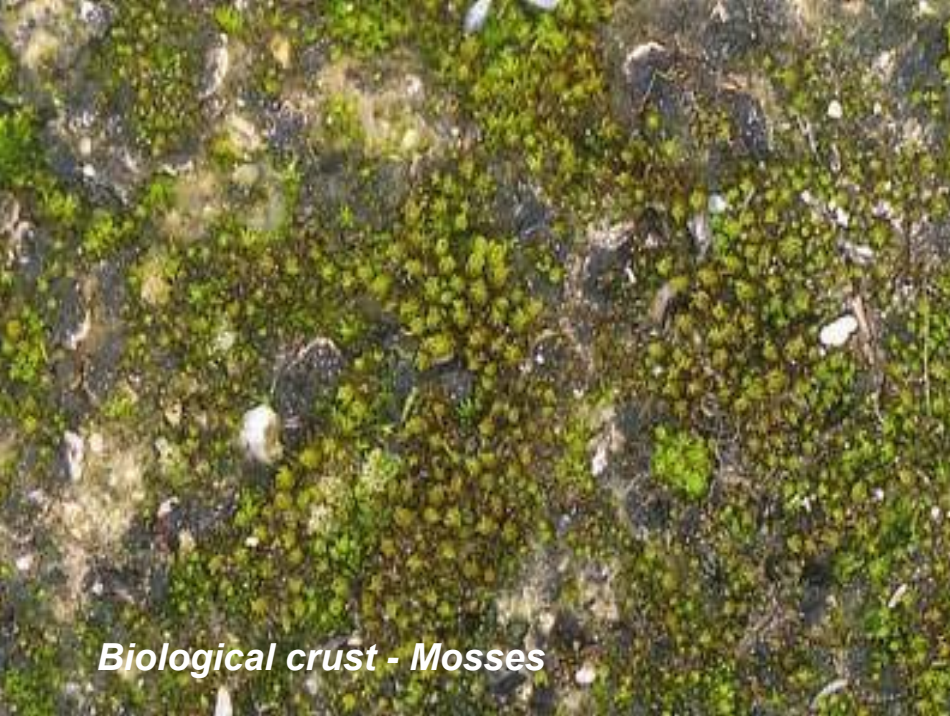


Biological crust – Lichens and cyanobacteria



Cyanobacteria

B. Diaz-N. Marín



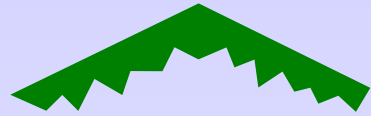
Biological crust - Mosses



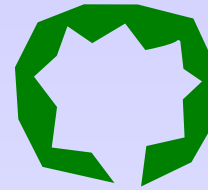
Galerida theklae

José J. Matamala (www.almeriware.net)

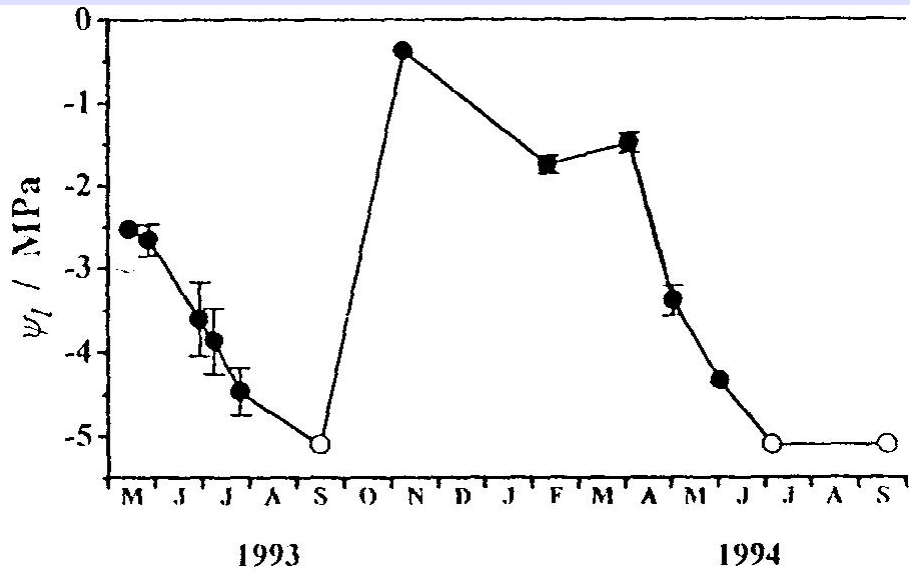
Morpho-functional traits



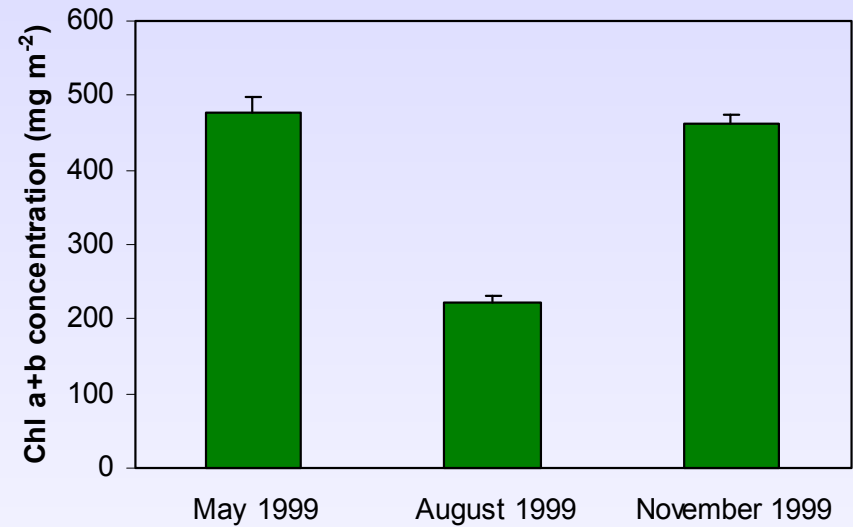
100° - 100% RWC



0° - 70% RWC



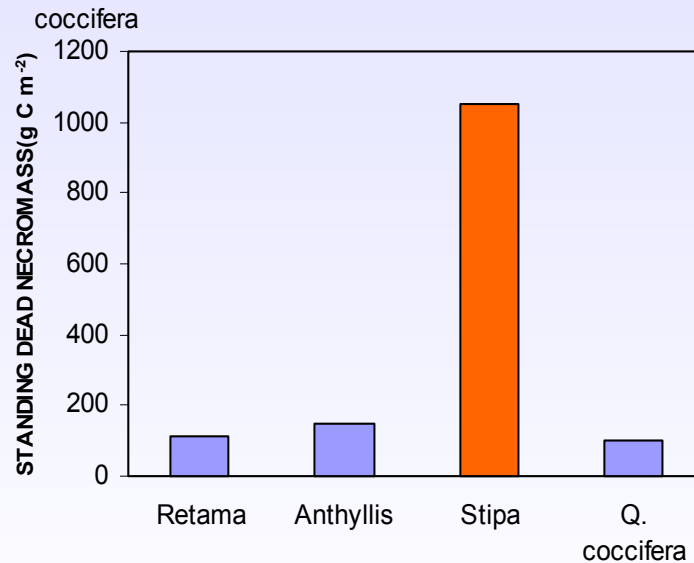
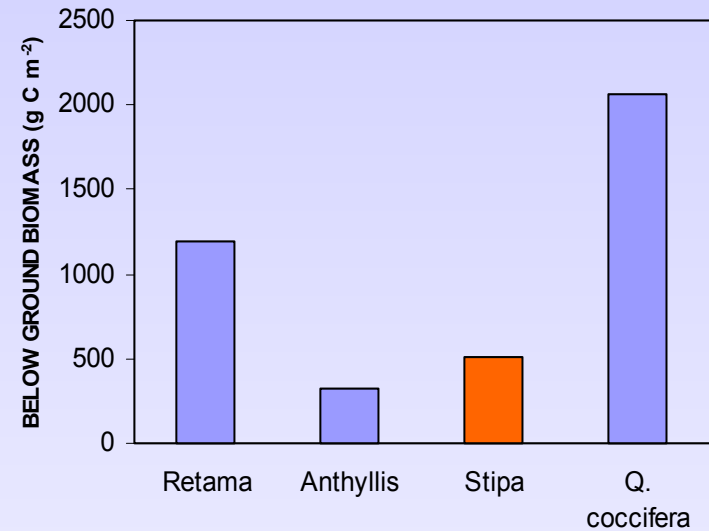
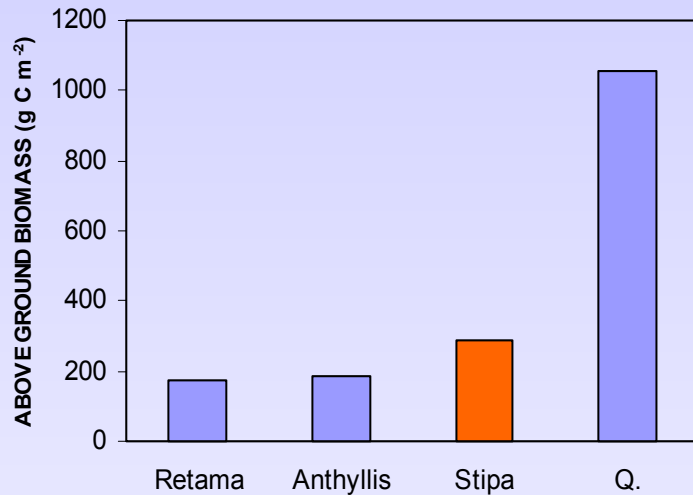
Haase et al., 1999



Balaguer et al., 2002

Morpho-functional traits

Biomass accumulation and productivity



Puigdefábregas, 1998

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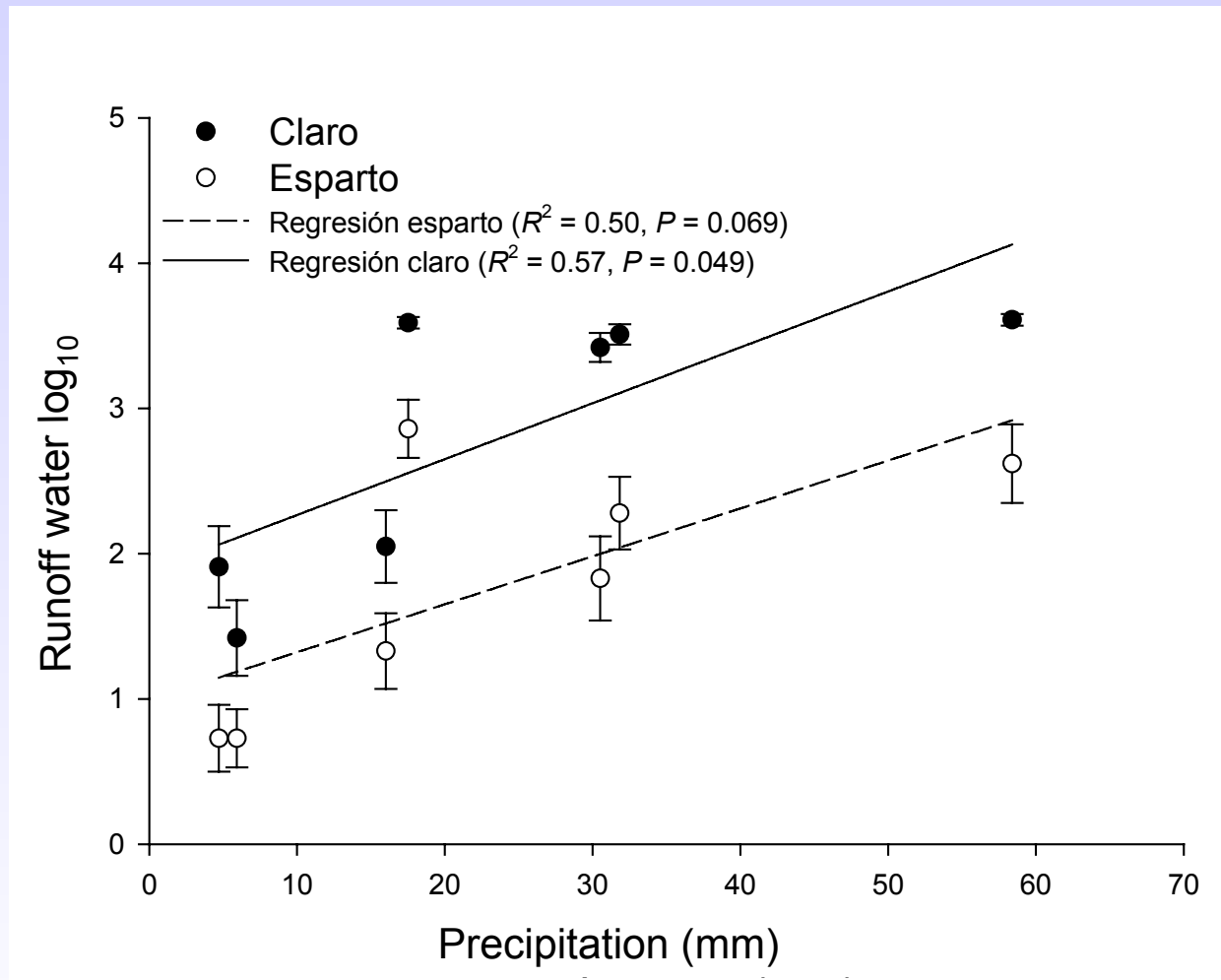
Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

Alpha grass tussocks capture resources (water, sediments, nutrients, seeds)



Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

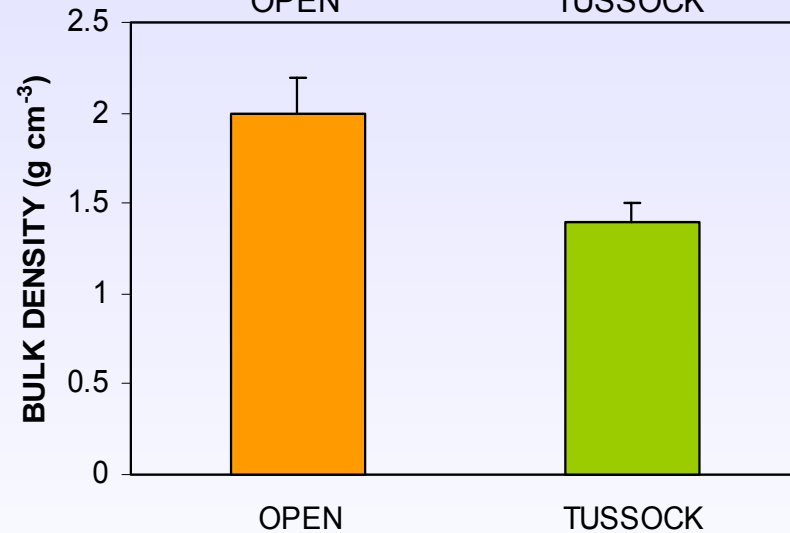
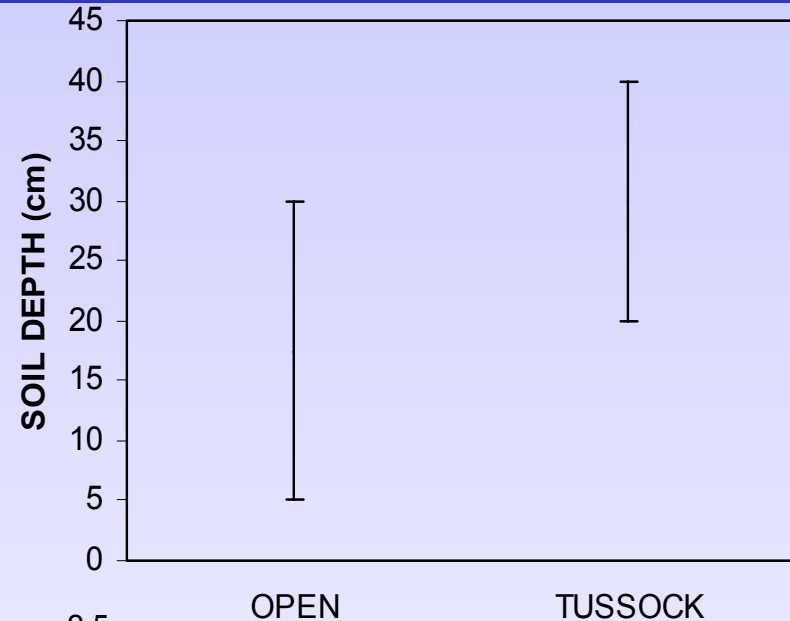
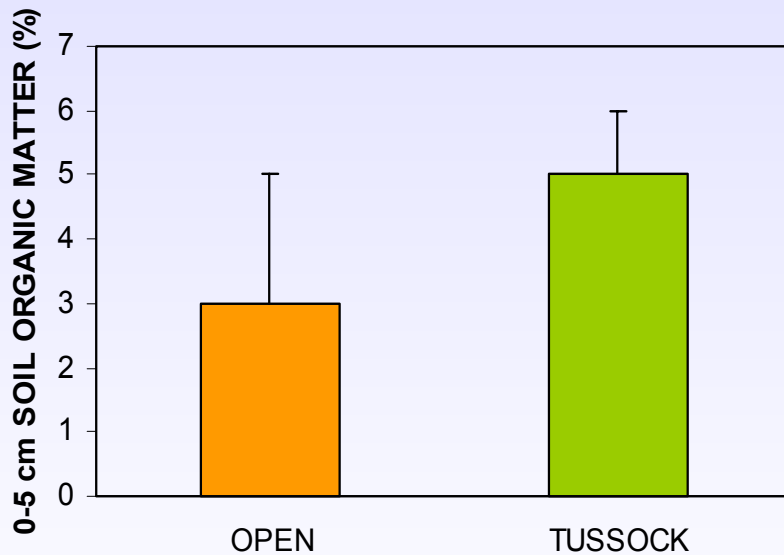
As a result alpha grass tussocks act as sinks for resources generated upslope



Martín et al., unpubl.

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

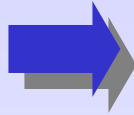
Soil properties underneath the tussocks gradually differ, in a positive feedback creating islands of fertility



Puiqdefábregas & Sánchez, 1996

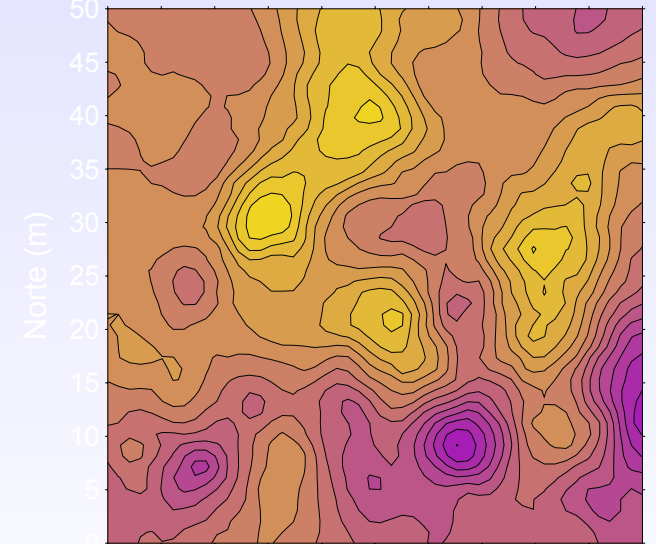
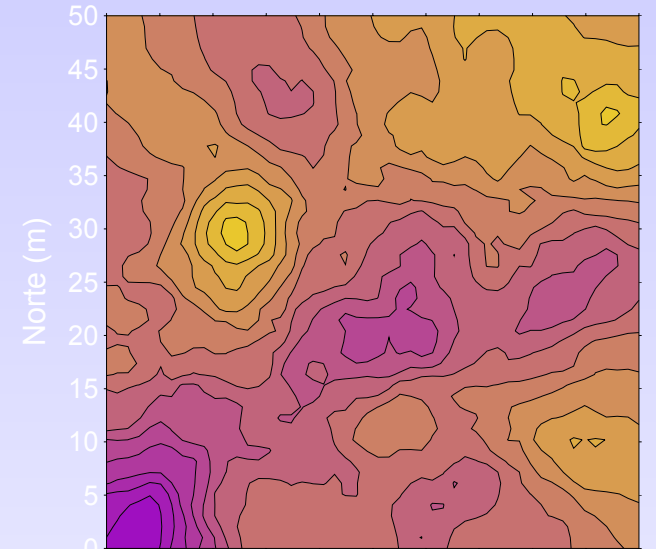
Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

Stipa tenacissima



- + Biological crust
- + Roots
- + Rock fragments surface
- Physical crust

	<i>S. tenacissima</i>	
Roots	0.366	←
Mosses	0.101	
Earthworm casts	-0.151	
Bio crust	0.196	←
Surface stone	-0.102	
Rock outcrops	0.201	←
Physical crust	-0.175	←



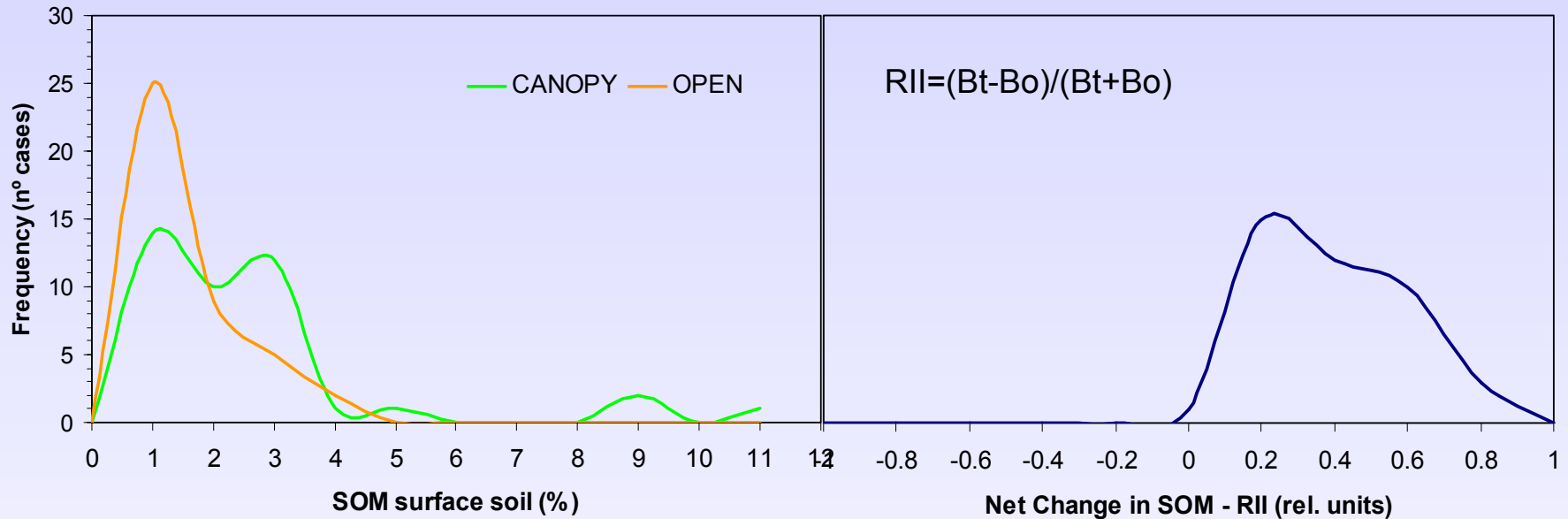
Este (m)

Maestre & Cortina, 2002



Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

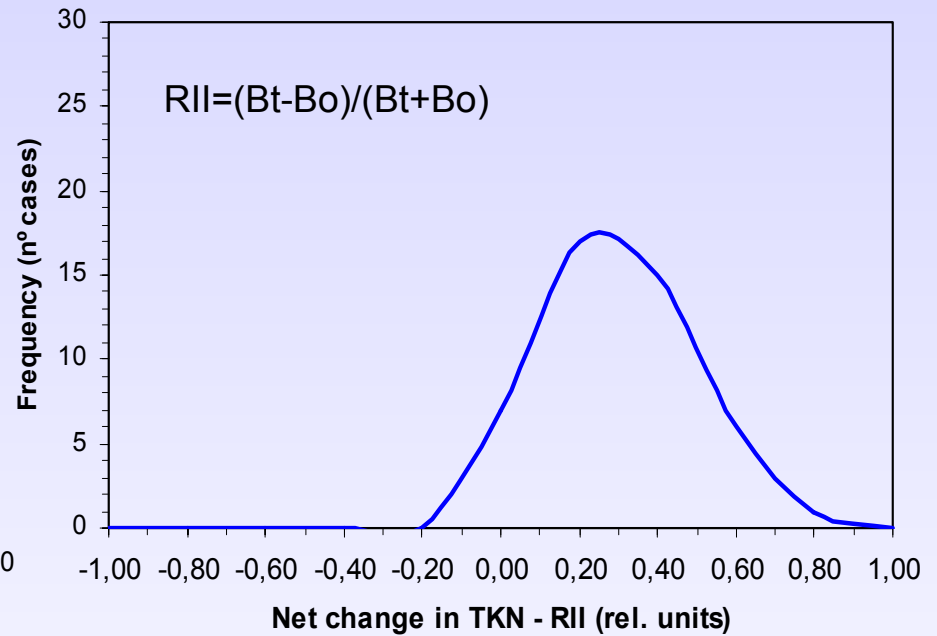
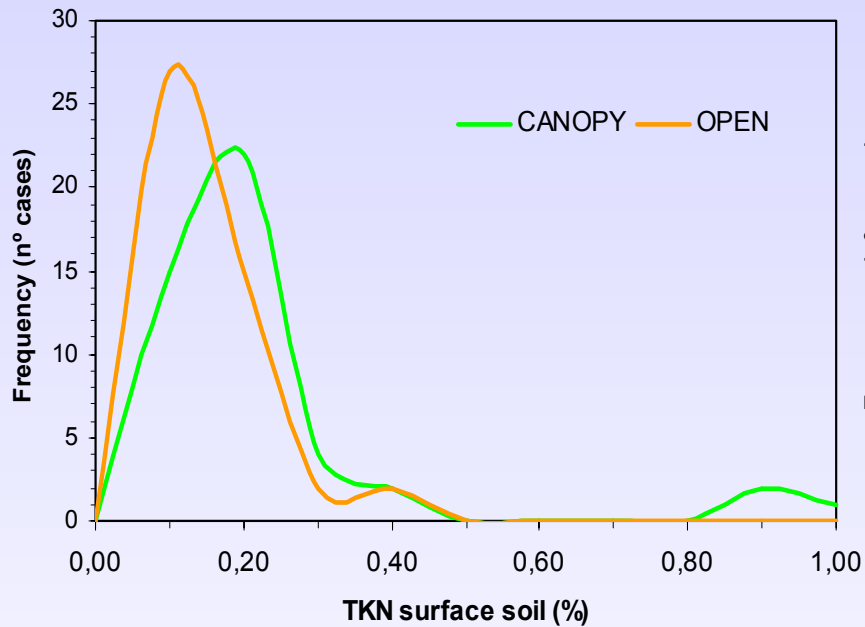
Organic matter in islands of fertility



Cortina & Maestre, 2005

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

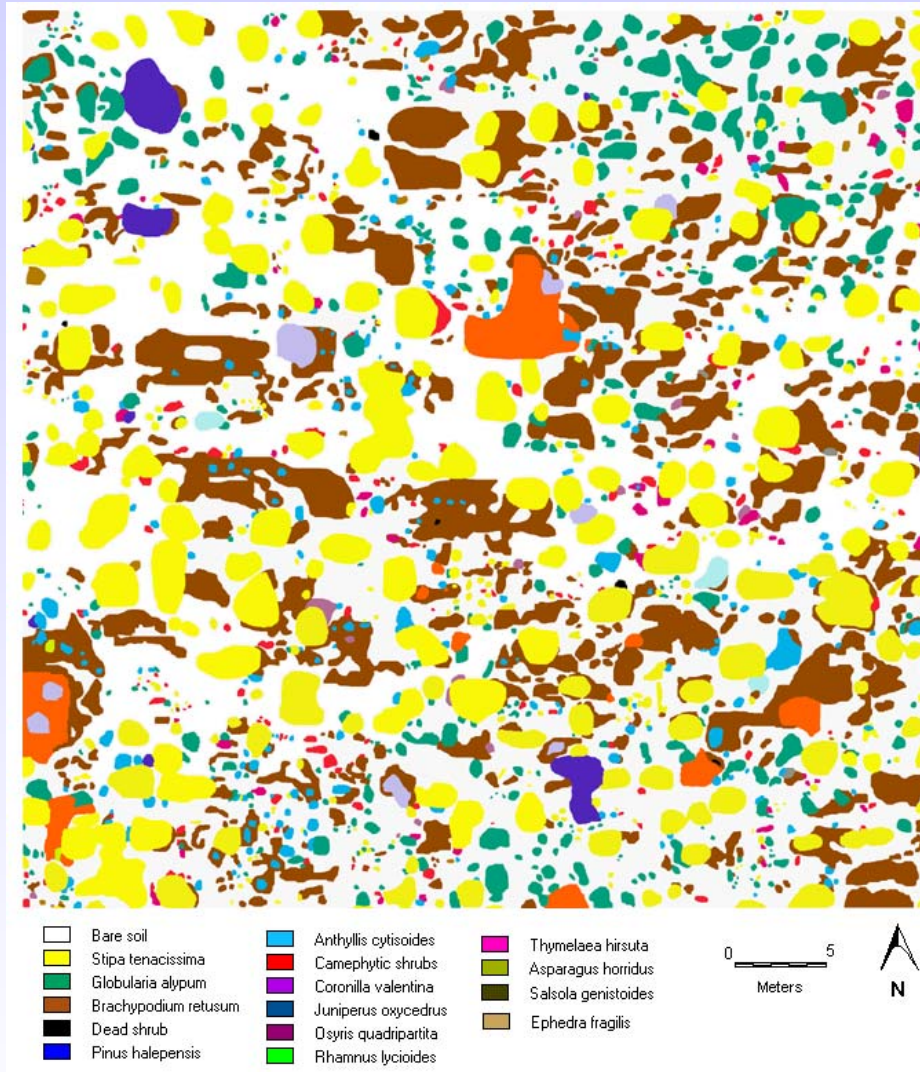
Nitrogen in islands of fertility



Cortina & Maestre, 2005

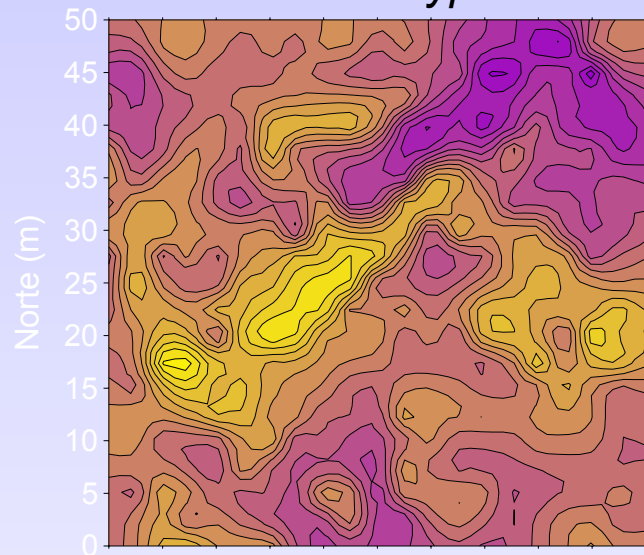
Interspecific interactions and community structure

Plant community structure reflect these and other interactions

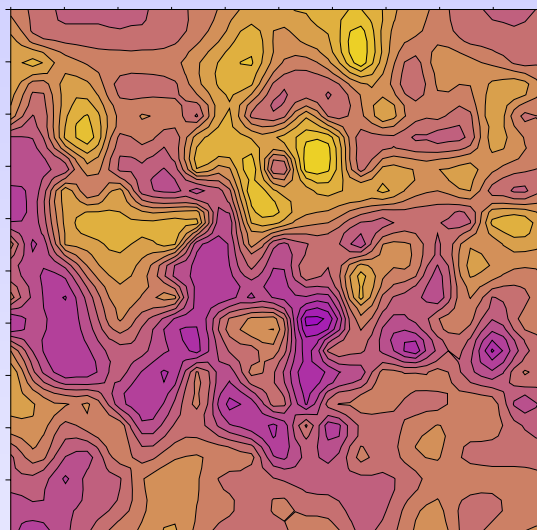


Interspecific interactions and community structure

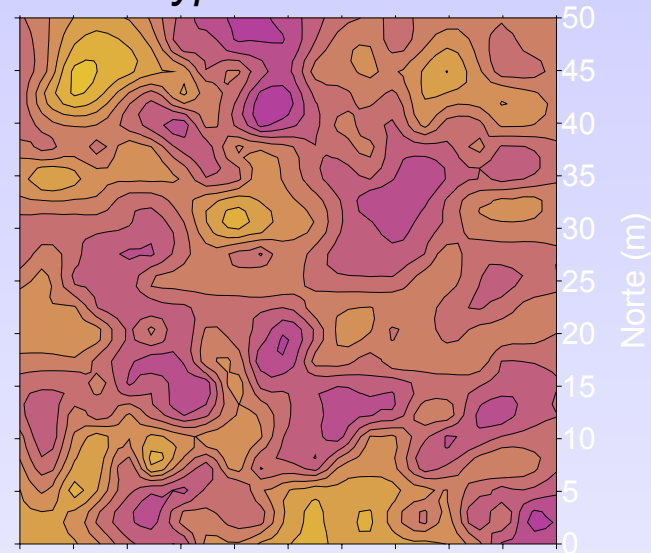
Globularia alypum



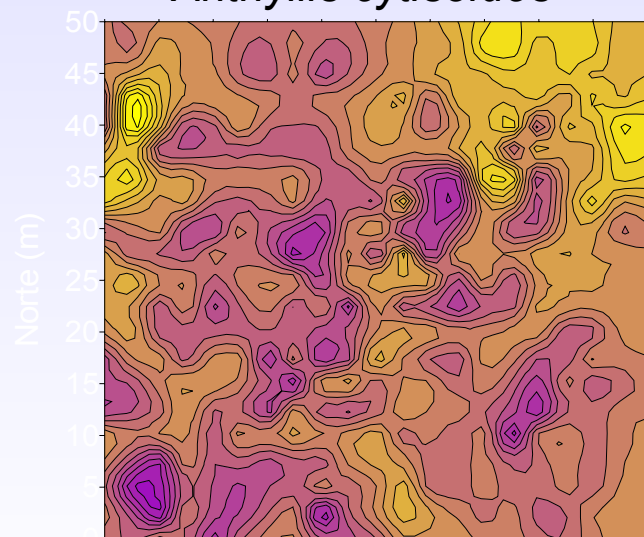
Stipa tenacissima



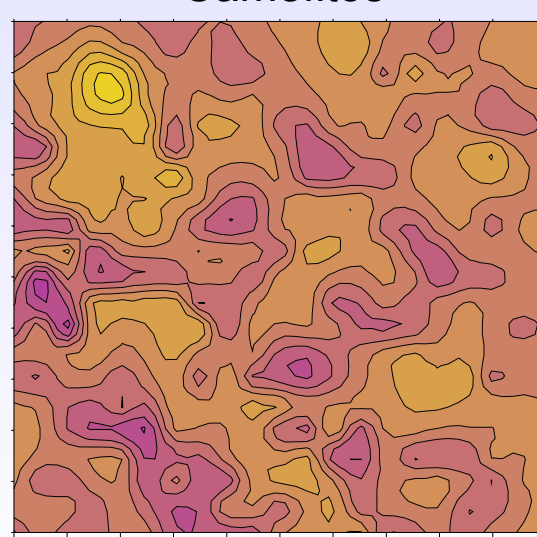
Brachypodium retusum



Anthyllis cytisoides



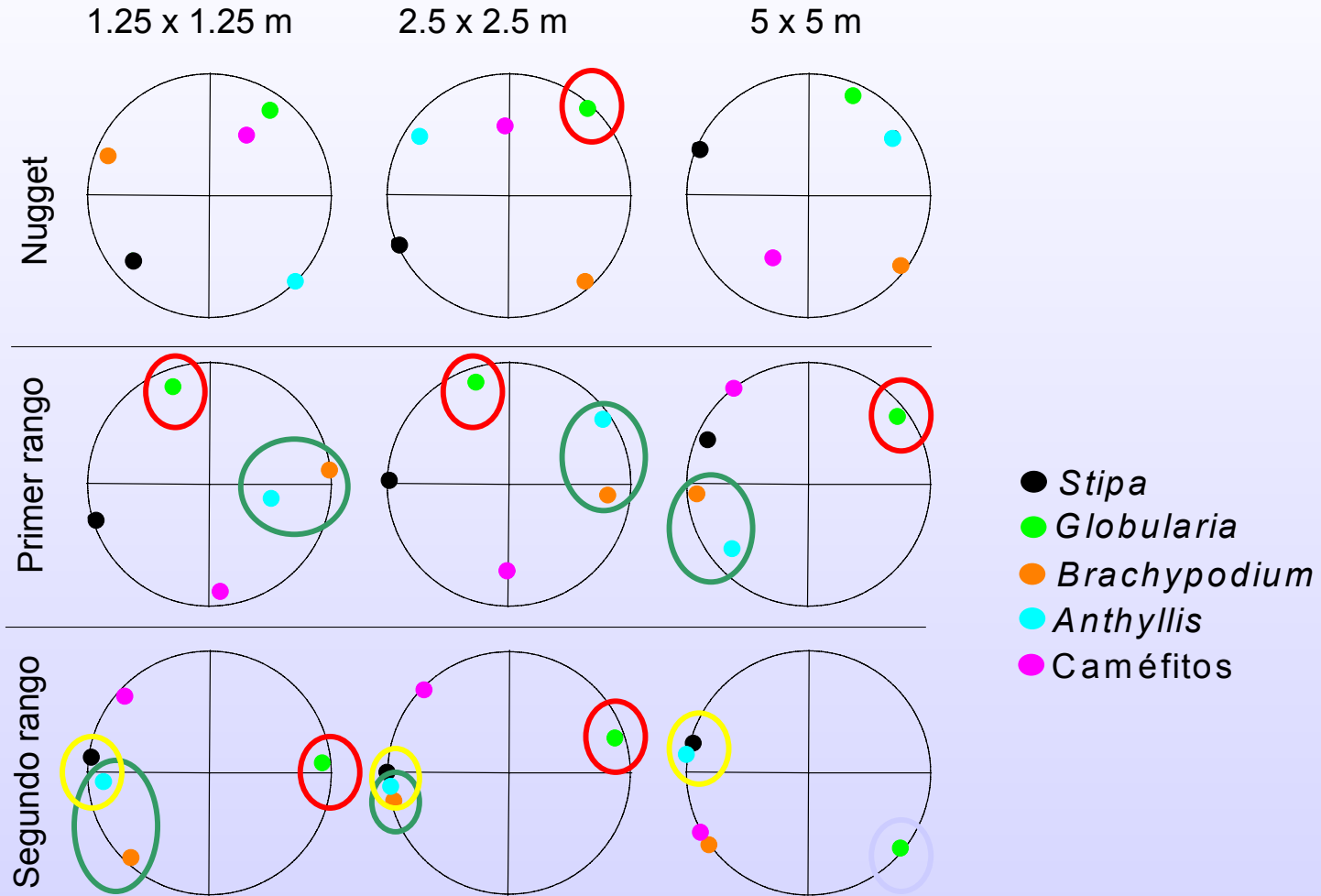
Caméfitos



Maps of SADIE index of clustering at a 2.5 x 2.5 m scale

Maestre & Cortina, 2002

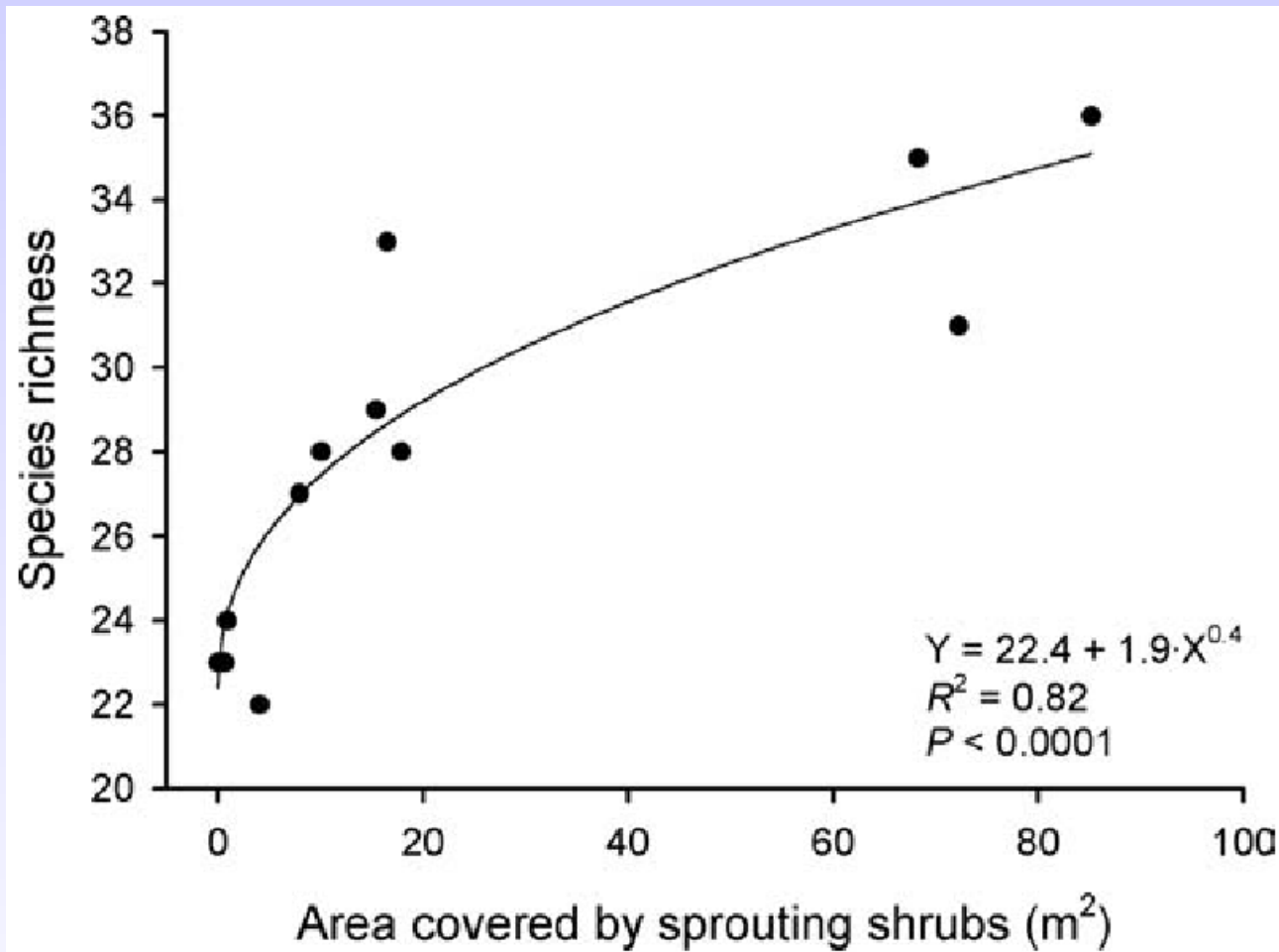
Interspecific interactions and community structure



islands of fertility aggregate some plants but not others

Maestre, 2002

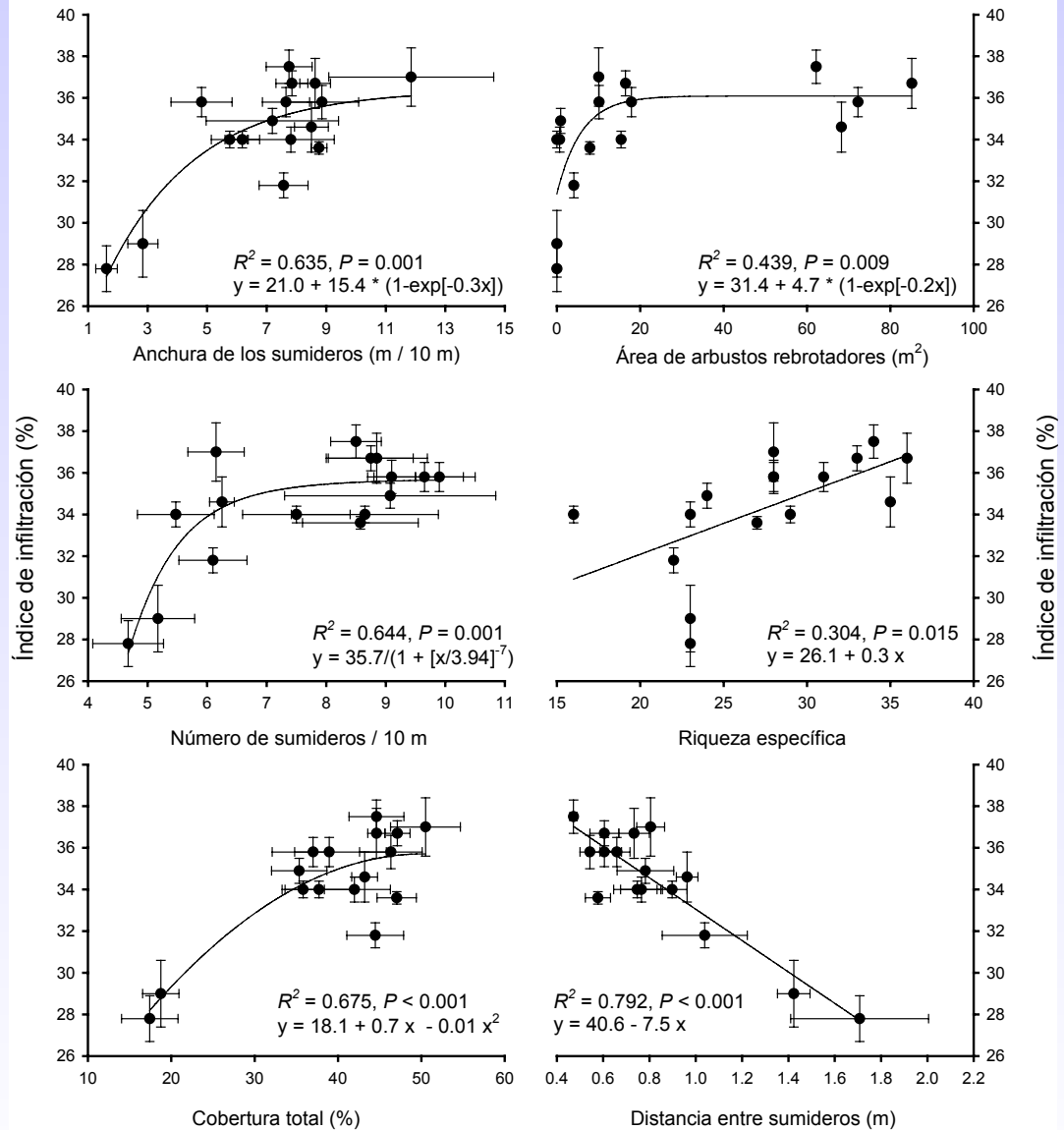
Interspecific interactions and community structure



Ephedra fragilis
Juniperus oxycedrus
Quercus coccifera
Erica multiflora
Rhamnus lycioides

Maestre & Cortina (2005) *Acta Oecol.* 17: 161-9.

Interspecific interactions and community structure



Maestre & Cortina
(2004). *Restoration Ecology* 12(4): 493-501.

Interspecific interactions and community structure

How important are biological crusts for alpha grass performance?



Experimental plots:

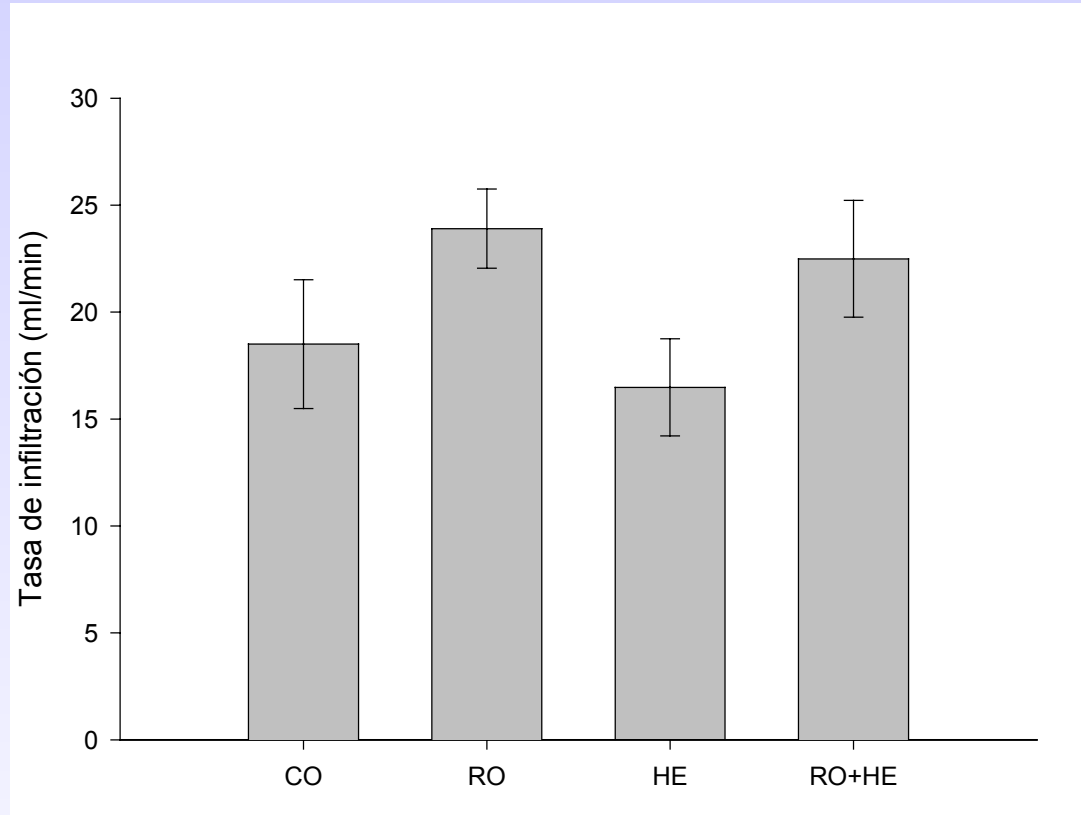
- ALPHA +/-
- BIOCRUST FRAGMENTED +/-
- BIOCRUST HERBICIDED +/-

5 replicates: 40 plots

PROJECT **FANCB** - *Water and nitrogen fluxes in biological crusts in semiarid environments*
(REN2001-0424-C02-02 / GLO)

Interspecific interactions and community structure

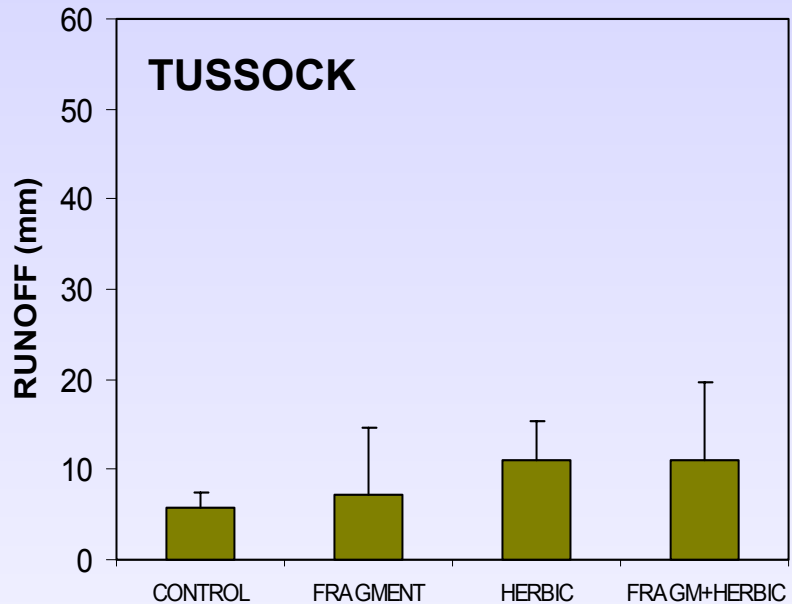
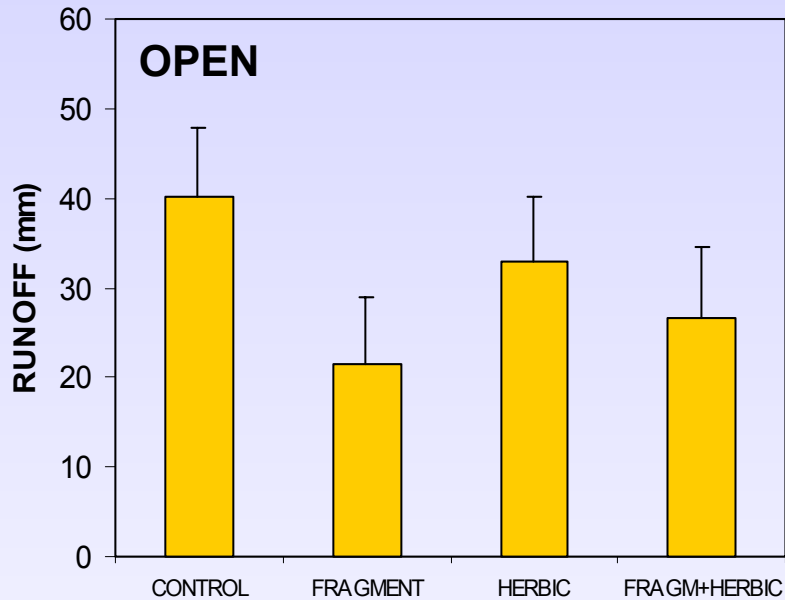
The effect of biological crusts on water infiltration is reduced when the physical structure is altered, but not when crusts are killed



Martín et al., unpubl.

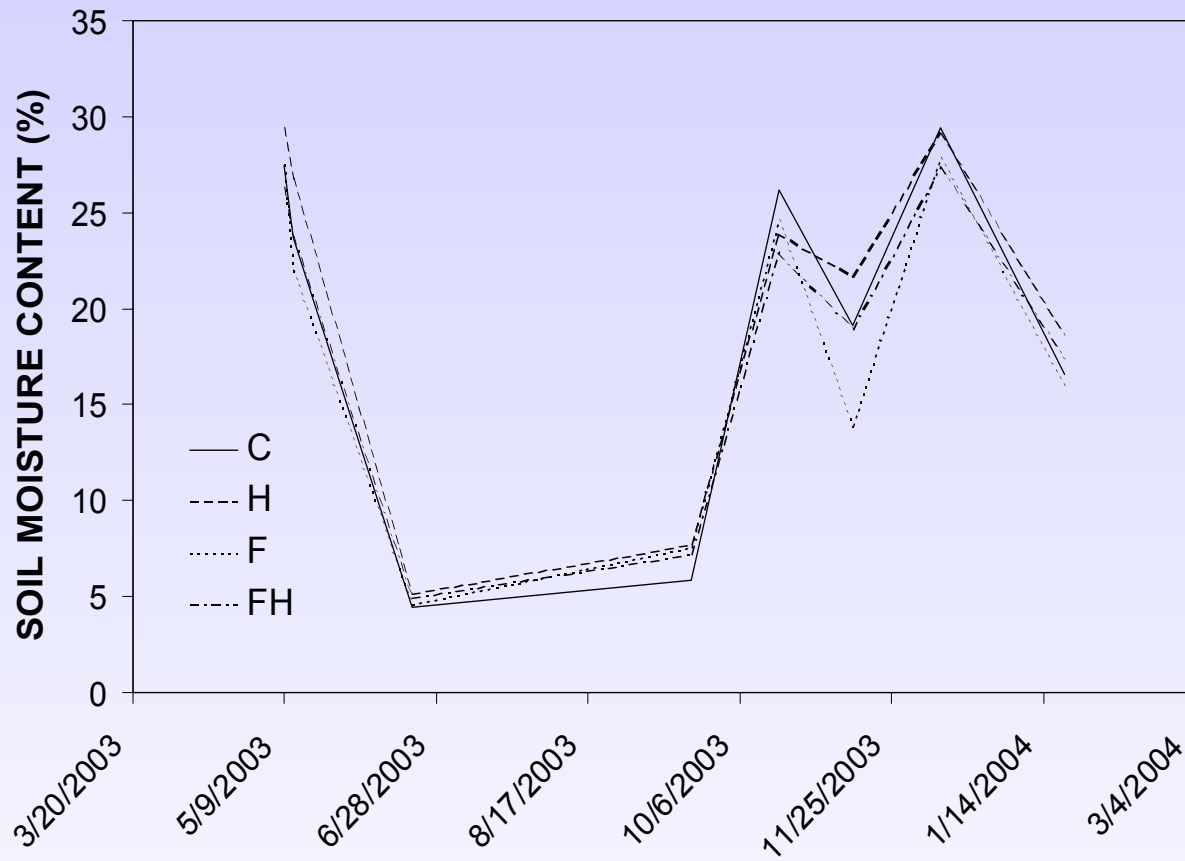
Interspecific interactions and community structure

The effect of biological crusts on runoff is buffered by alpha grass tussocks



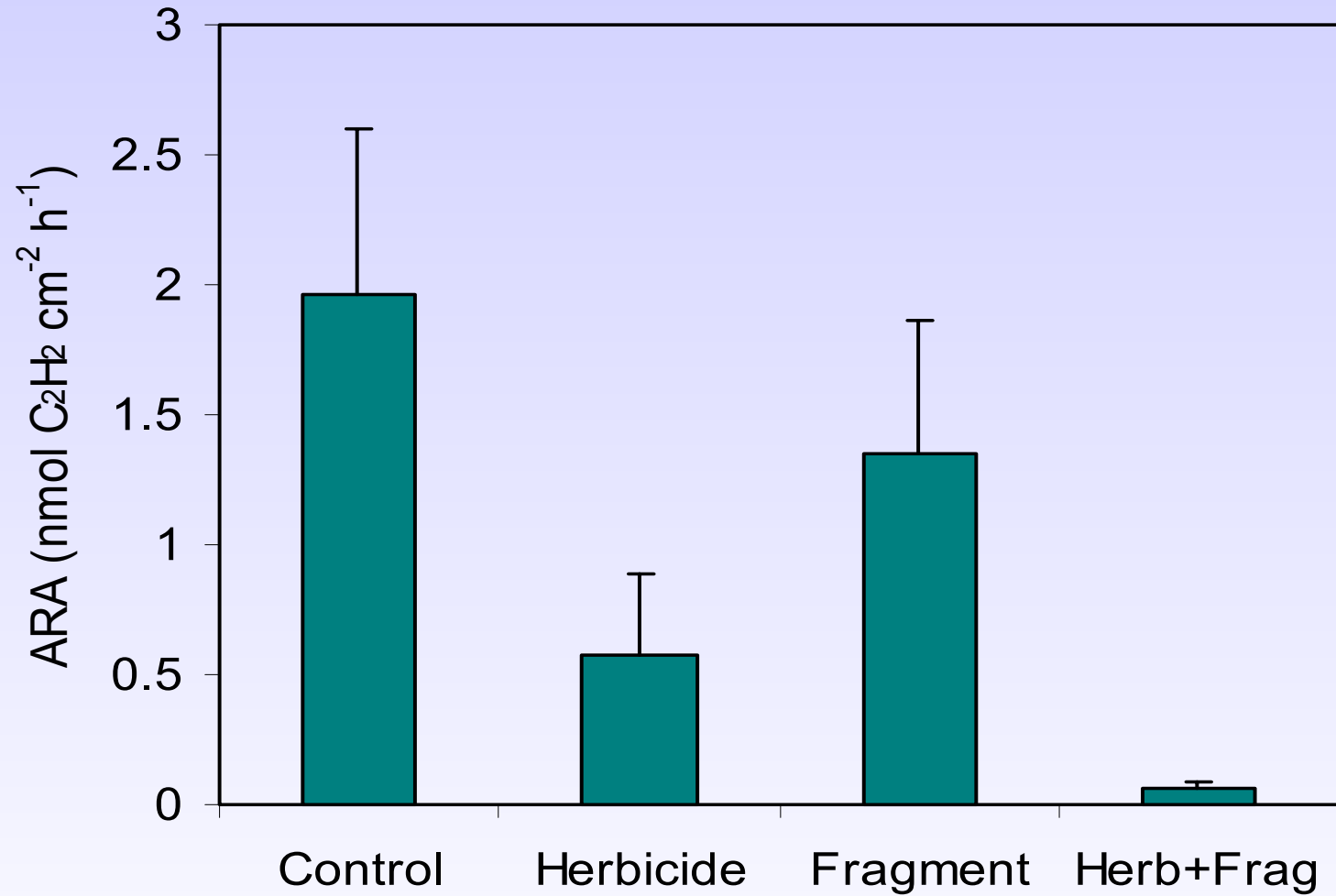
Martín et al., unpubl.

Interspecific interactions and community structure



Martín et al., unpubl.

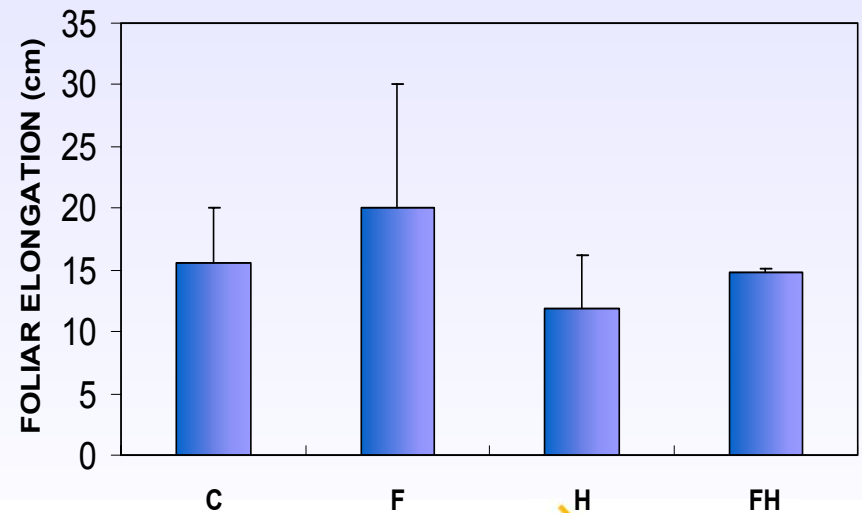
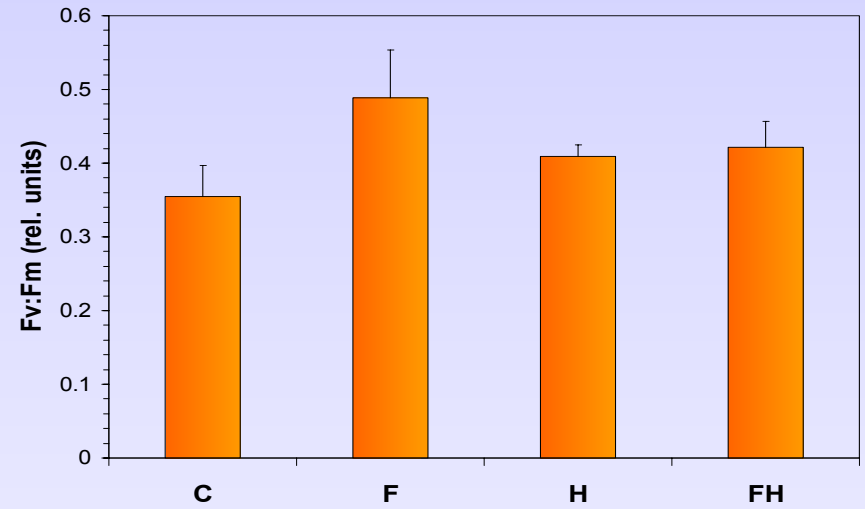
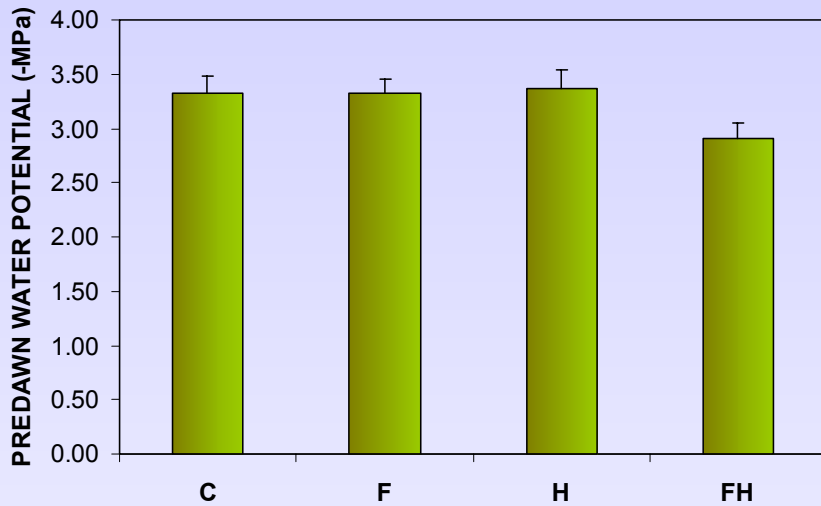
Interspecific interactions and community structure



Martín et al., unpubl.

Interspecific interactions and community structure

Crust manipulation did not affect alpha grass performance



Martín et al., unpubl.

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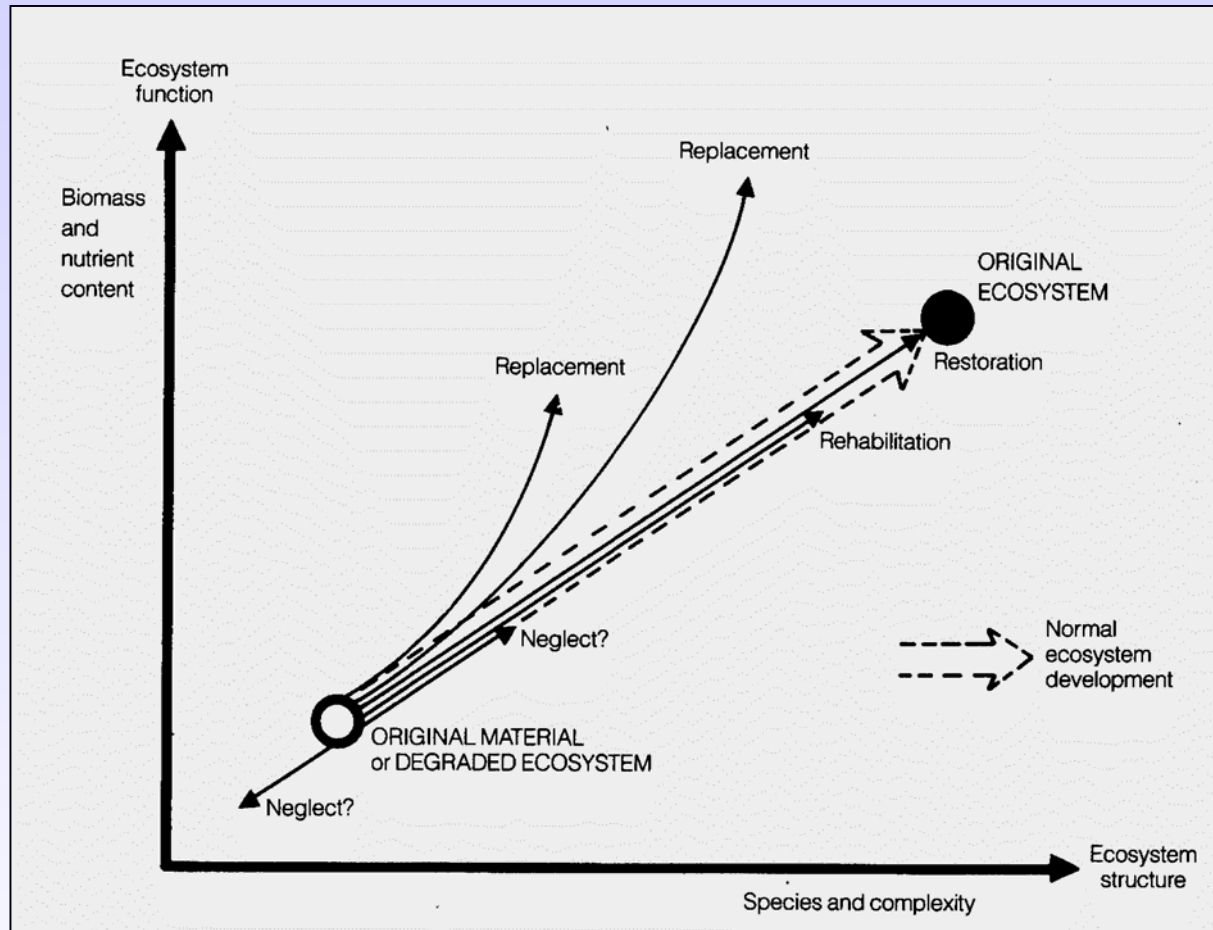
2.3 The role of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in alfa grass restoration.

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ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION is the process of assisting
the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded,
damaged or destroyed

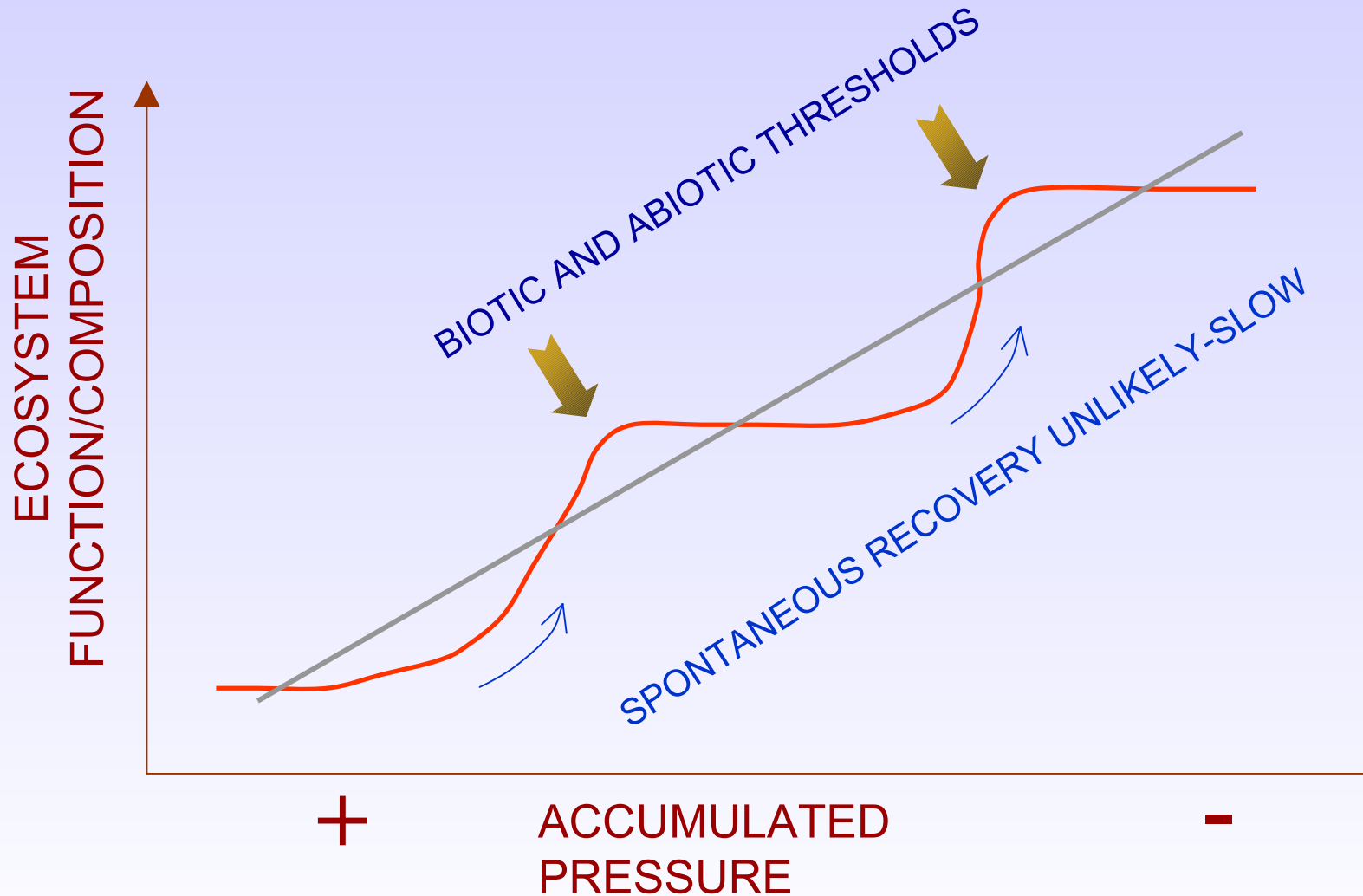
Society for Ecological Restoration International, 2002

A framework for alpha grass steppe restoration



Bradshaw & Chadwick, 1988

A framework for alpha grass steppe restoration



A framework for alpha grass steppe restoration

FACTOR

- PERSISTENT STRESS
- PROPAGULES NOT AVAILABLE
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
ADVERSE

ACTION

- RELEASE STRESS
- ARTIFICIAL INTRODUCTION
- PROMOTE DISPERSION
- SPECIES SELECTION & SEEDLING
PRODUCTION
- SELECT SUITABLE MICROSITES
- AMELIORATE SOIL PROPERTIES
- IMPROVE MICROCLIMATE

TECHNIQUE

- SPECIES CONTROL...
- SEEDING & PLANTING
- DISPERSERS ABUNDANCE &
ACTIVITY
- SPECIES TEST & SEEDLING
'QUALITY'
- AMENDMENTS
- SHELTERS

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LANDSCAPE FUNCTION ANALYSIS (CSIRO, D.Tongway y col·aboradores)



<http://www.cse.csiro.au/research/Program3/efa/>

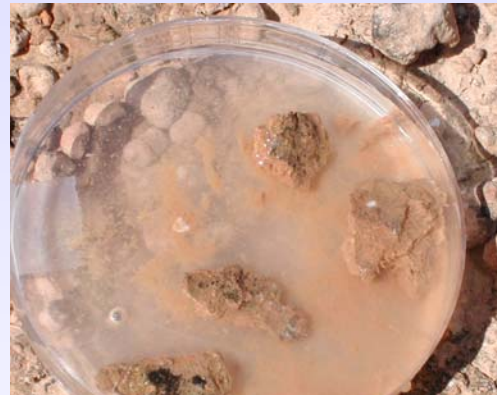
Croûte biologique



Détachement de la croûte



Formes d'érosion: terracette



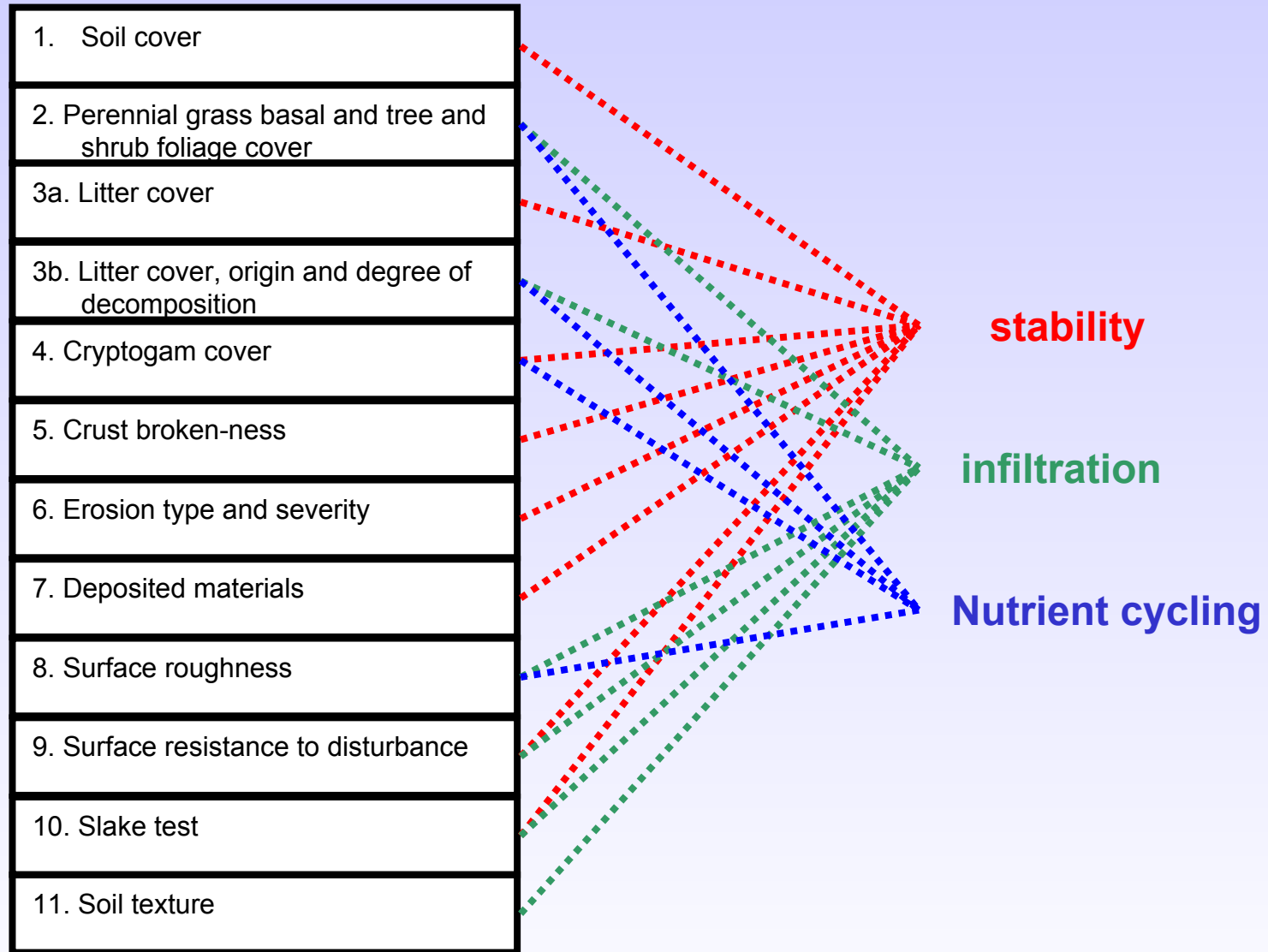
Test resistance agregats



Formes d'érosion: scalding

SOIL SURFACE ASSESSMENT

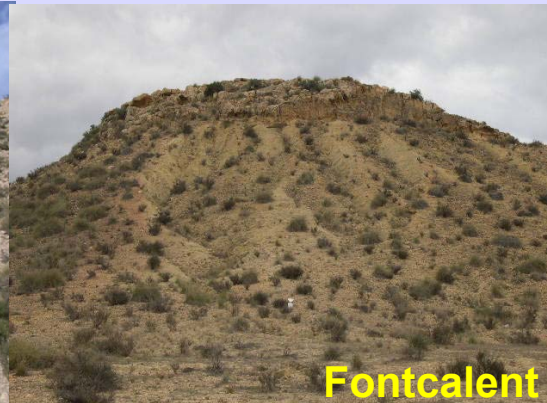
Landscape structure, functional state and restorability



Landscape structure, functional state and restorability

APPLICATION LFA STEPPES D'ALFA

Stability 50.7%
Infiltration 27.5%
Nutrient cycling 15.5%



Stability 50.7%
Infiltration 26.7%
Nutrient cycling 13.2%

Stability 60.4%
Infiltration 32.2%
Nutrient cycling 24.3%



Stability 63.7%
Infiltration 33.5%
Nutrient cycling 25.4%

*Pistacia
lentiscus*



© Glendale library

Landscape structure, functional state and restorability

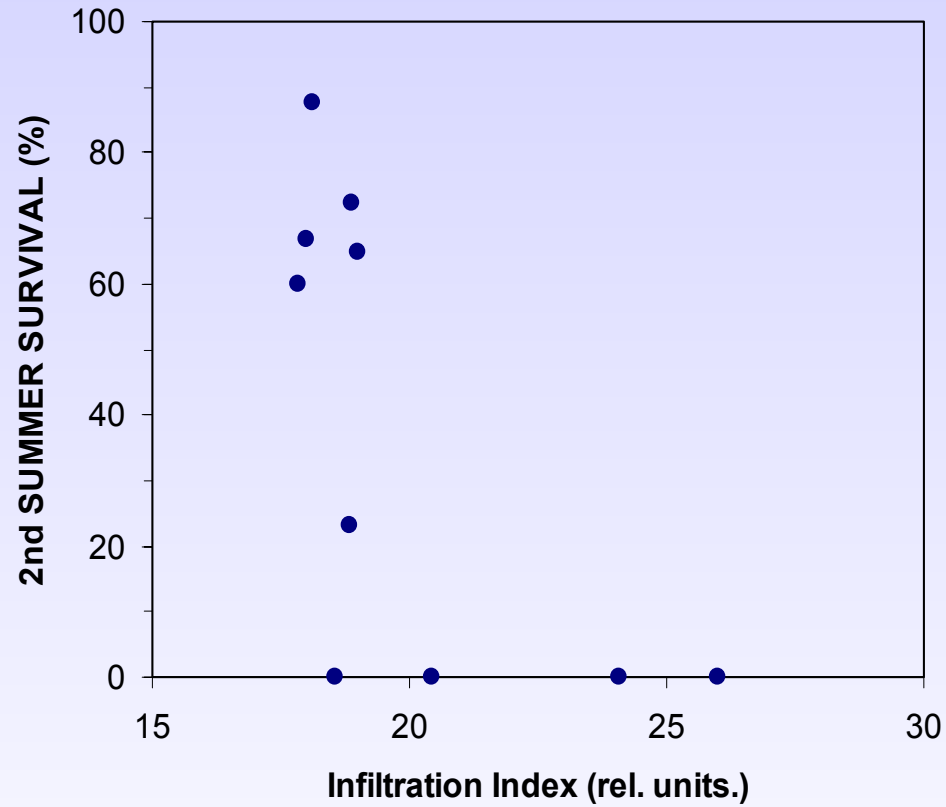


Landscape structure, functional state and restorability



Lanuza 2024

Landscape structure, functional state and restorability



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THE USE OF CYANOBACTERIAL CRUSTS IN RESTORATION

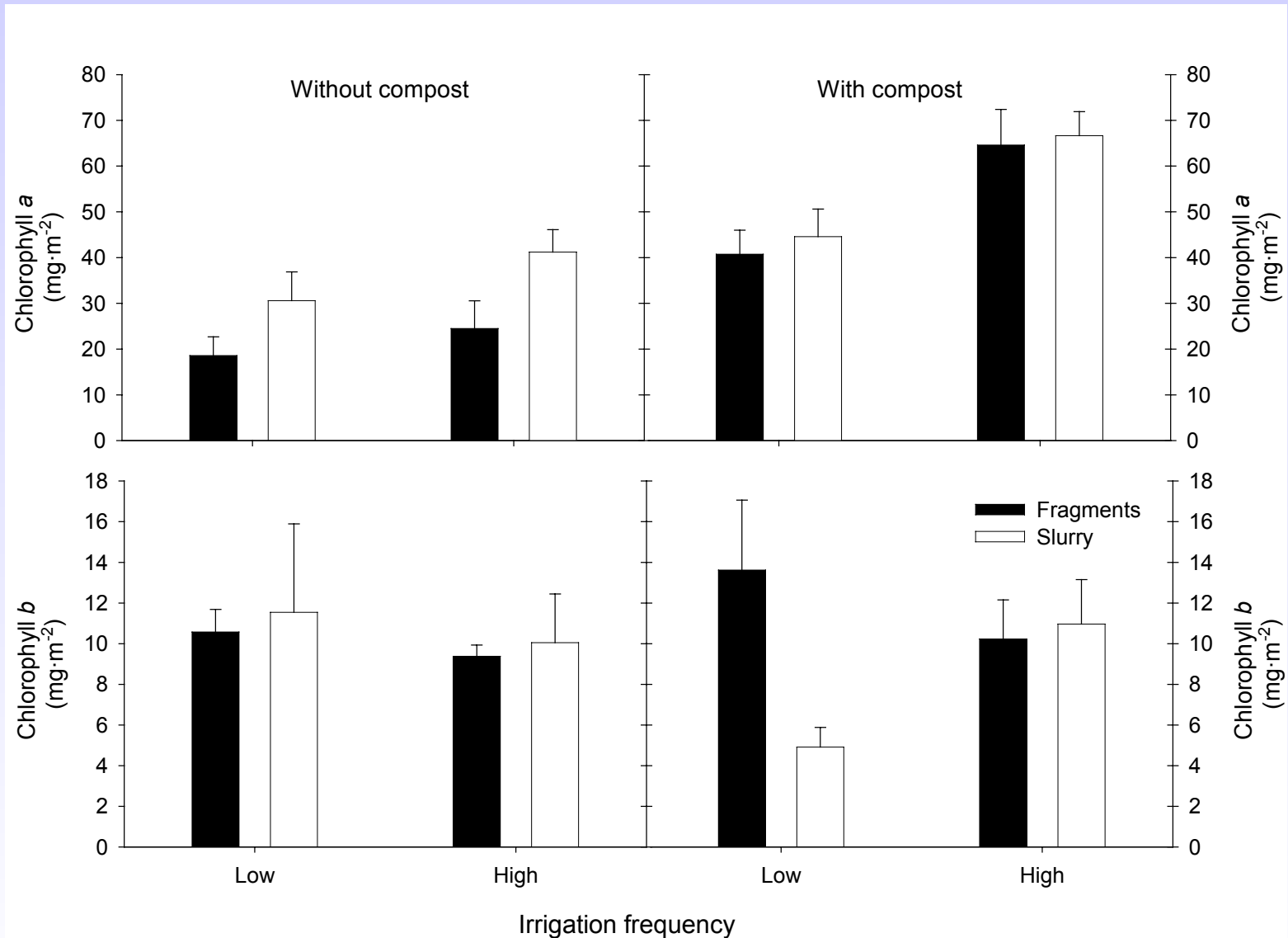
Experimental design:

- Laboratory incubation
- Crust transplanted or applied as slurry
- 2 watering regimes (1-3 watering per week)
- +/- compost added

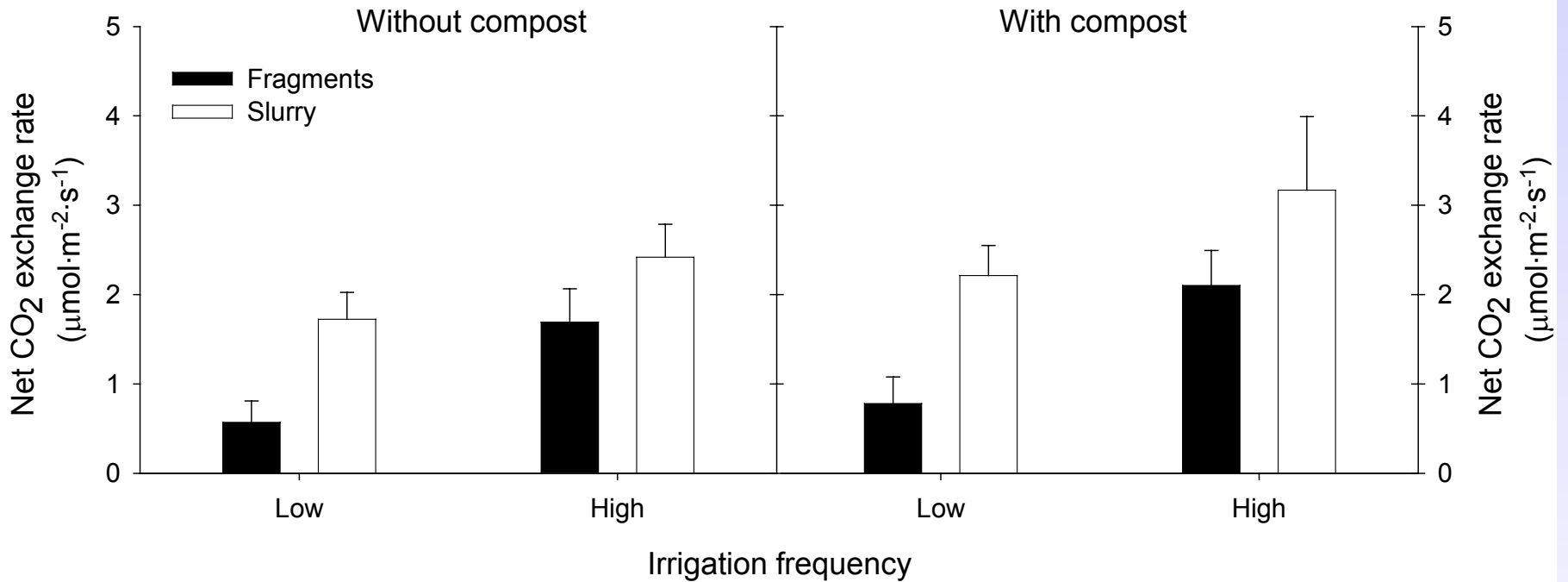




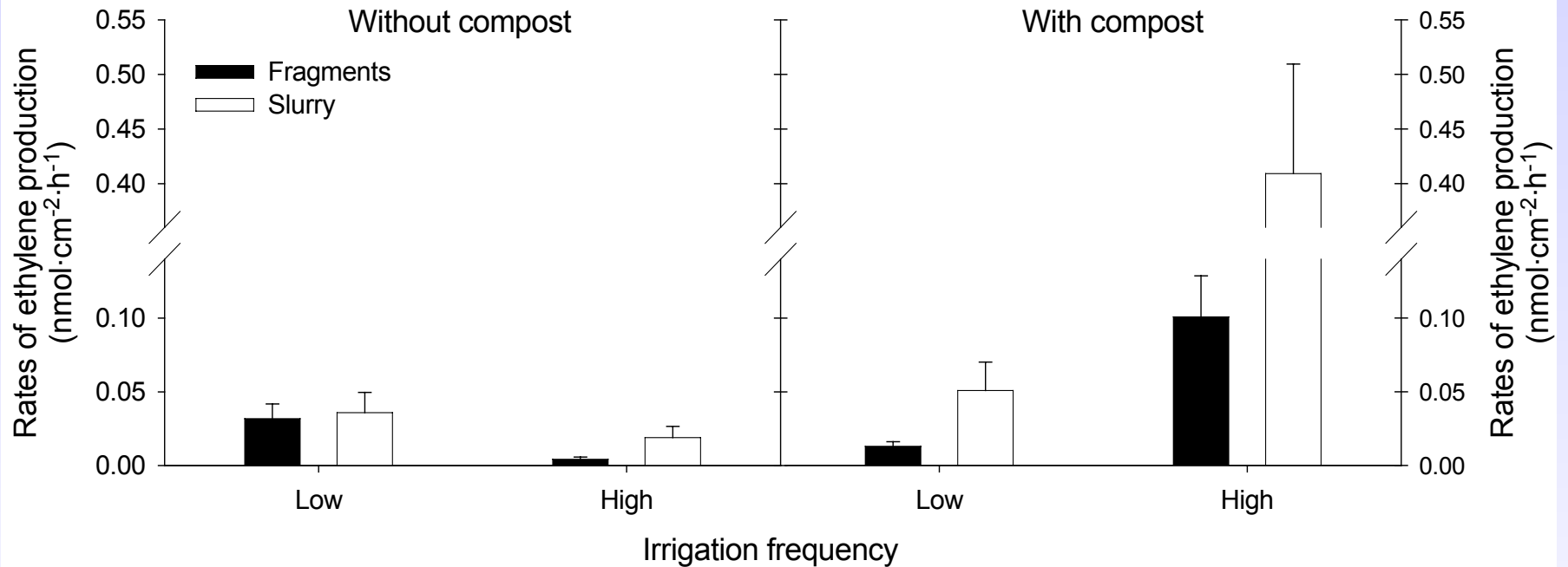
The use of biological crusts



The use of biological crusts



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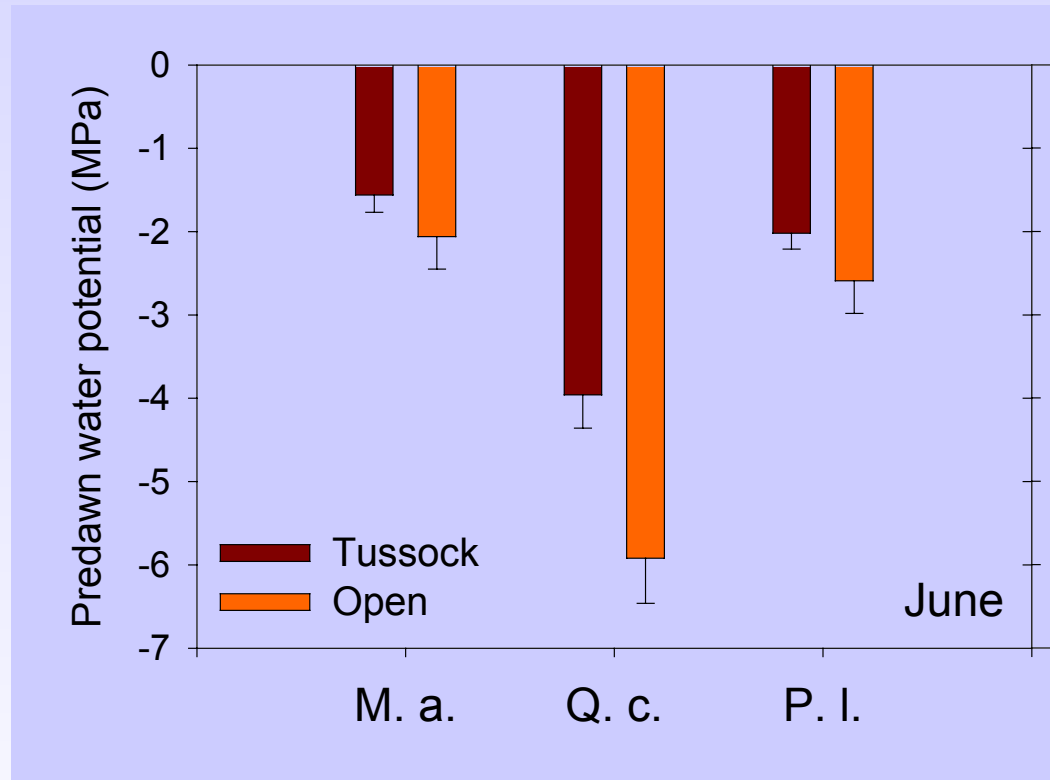
Facilitation by alpha grass



Facilitation by alpha grass

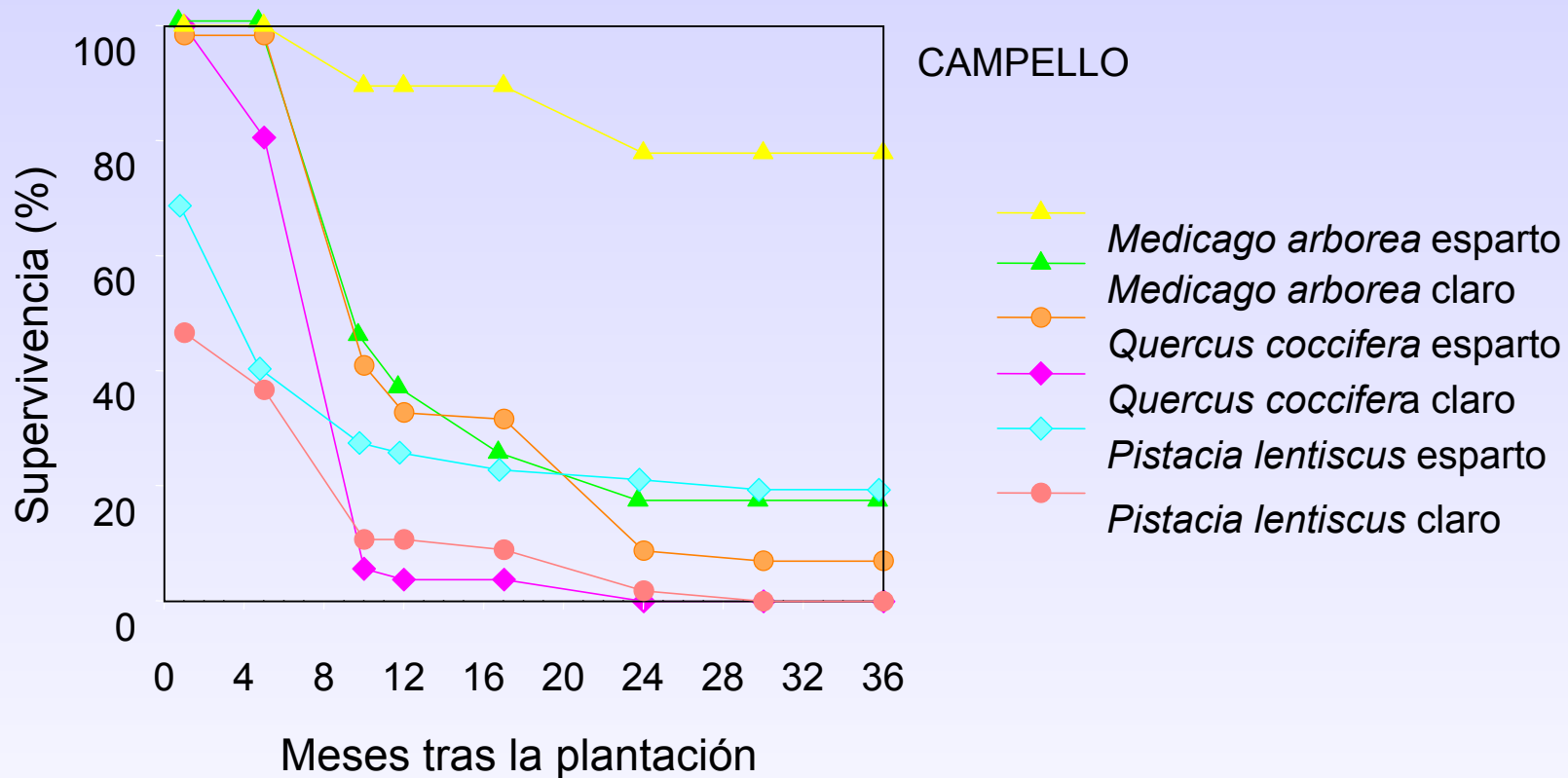


Alpha grass has a consistent positive effect on the establishment of woody seedlings



Maestre et al., 2001

Facilitation by alpha grass



Maestre et al., 2001

Facilitation by alpha grass

Tussock control (ECO)



Tussock bended (ESO)



Tussock no runoff (ECH)



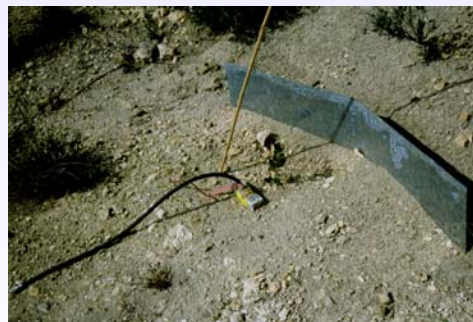
Open control (BCO)



Tussock herbicided (ECM)



Open no runoff (BCH)



Maestre et al., 2003

Facilitation by alpha grass

Tussock control (ECO)



Tussock bended (ESO)



Tussock no runoff (ECH)



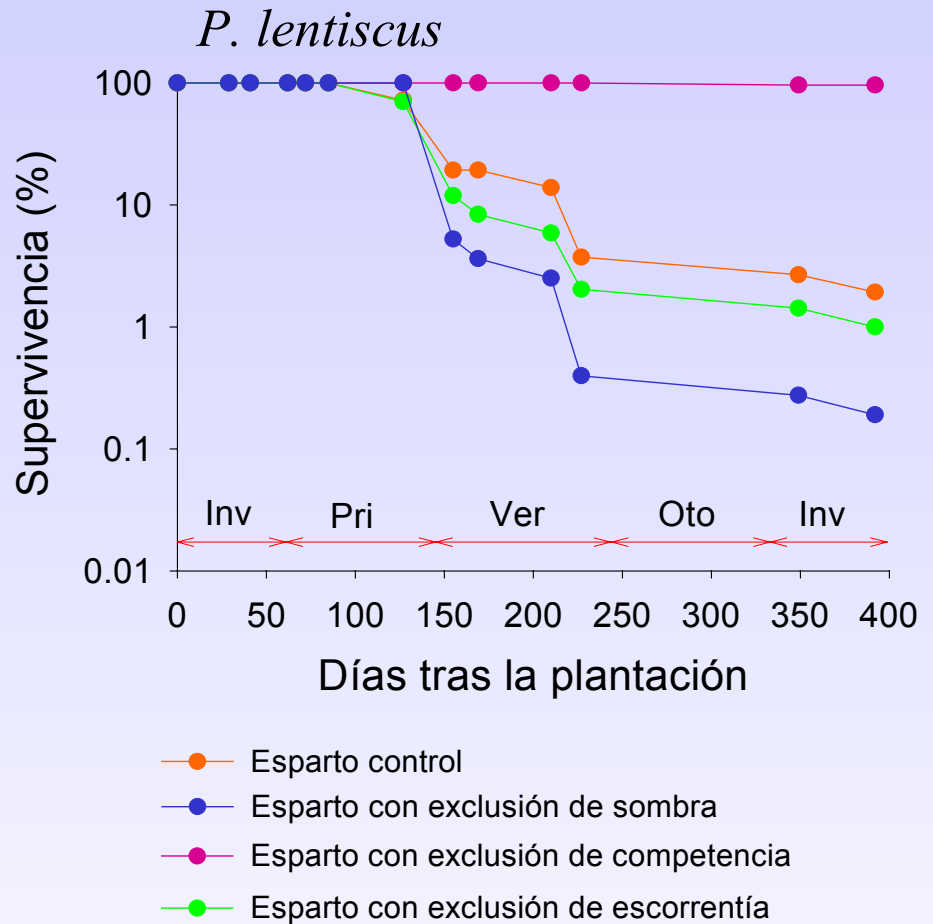
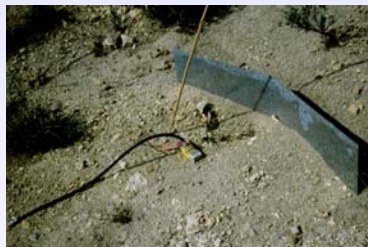
Open control (BCO)



Tussock herbicided (ECM)



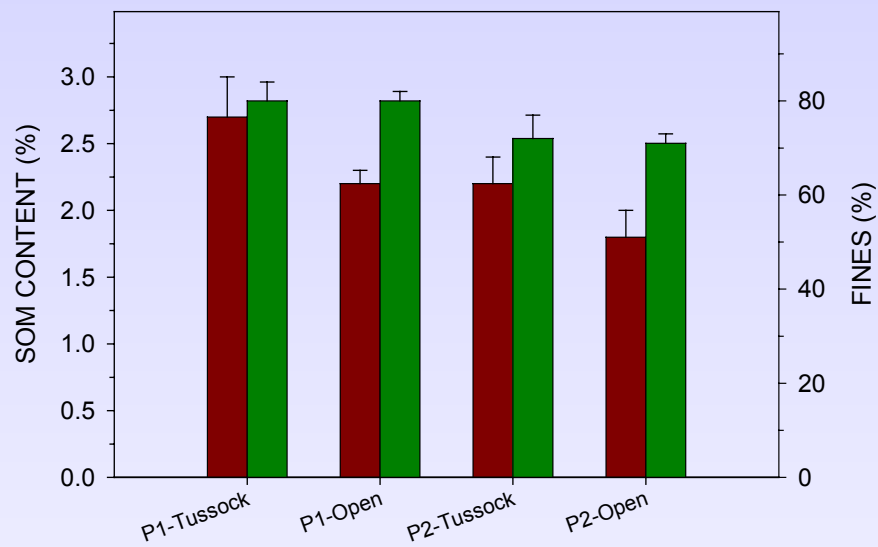
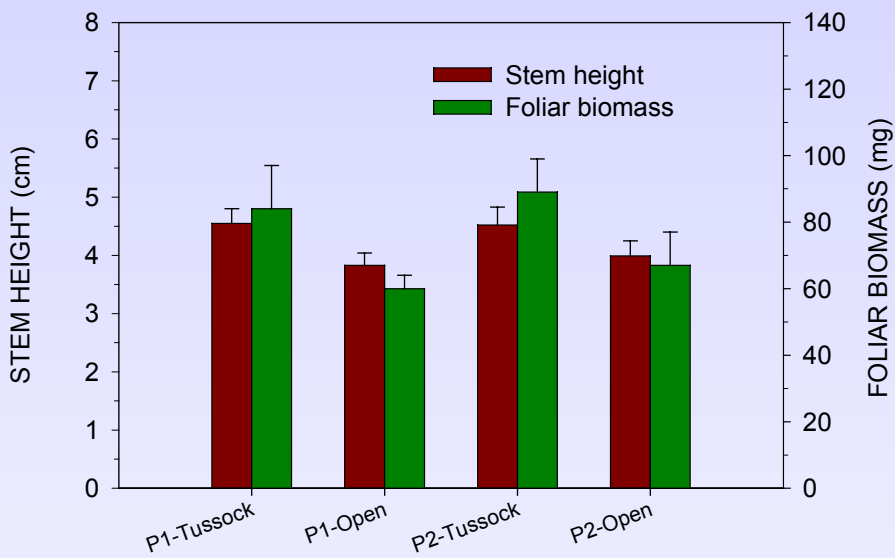
Open no runoff (BCH)



Maestre et al., 2003

Shadow is the main driver of facilitation between alpha grass and woody seedlings

Facilitation by alpha grass

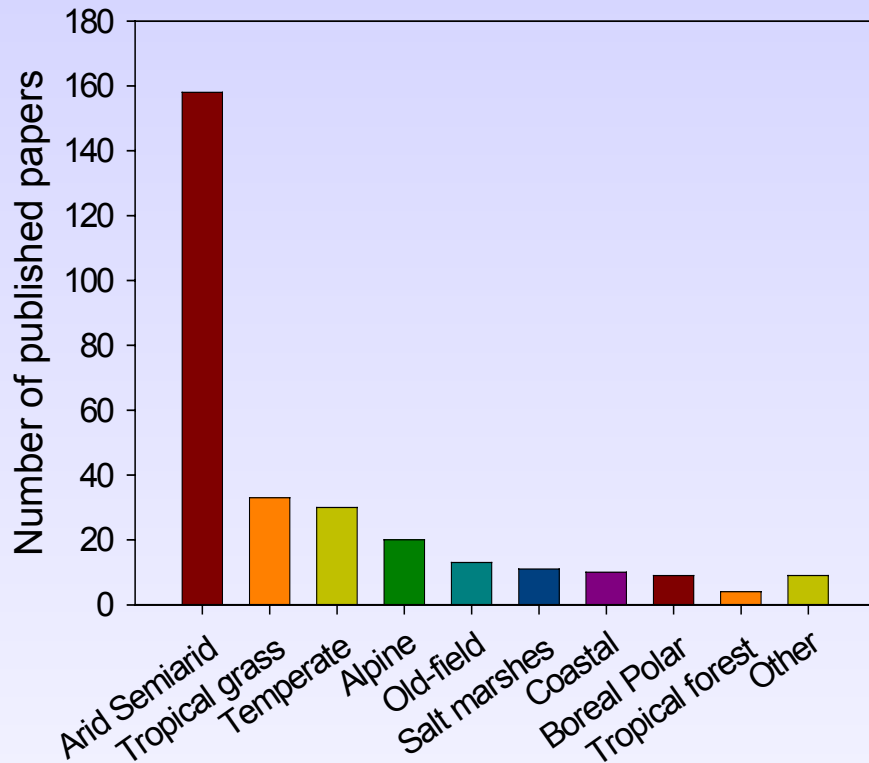


Maestre et al., 2003

Improved soil fertility may also be relevant, but we failed to find a significant effect

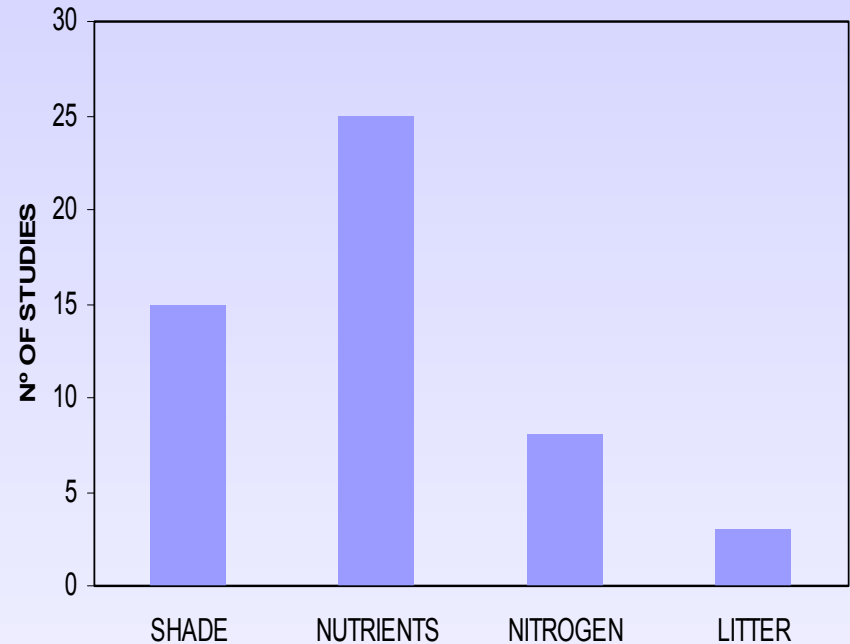
Facilitation by alpha grass

FACILITATION IN ARID AND SEMIARID COMMUNITIES



Flores & Jurado, 2003

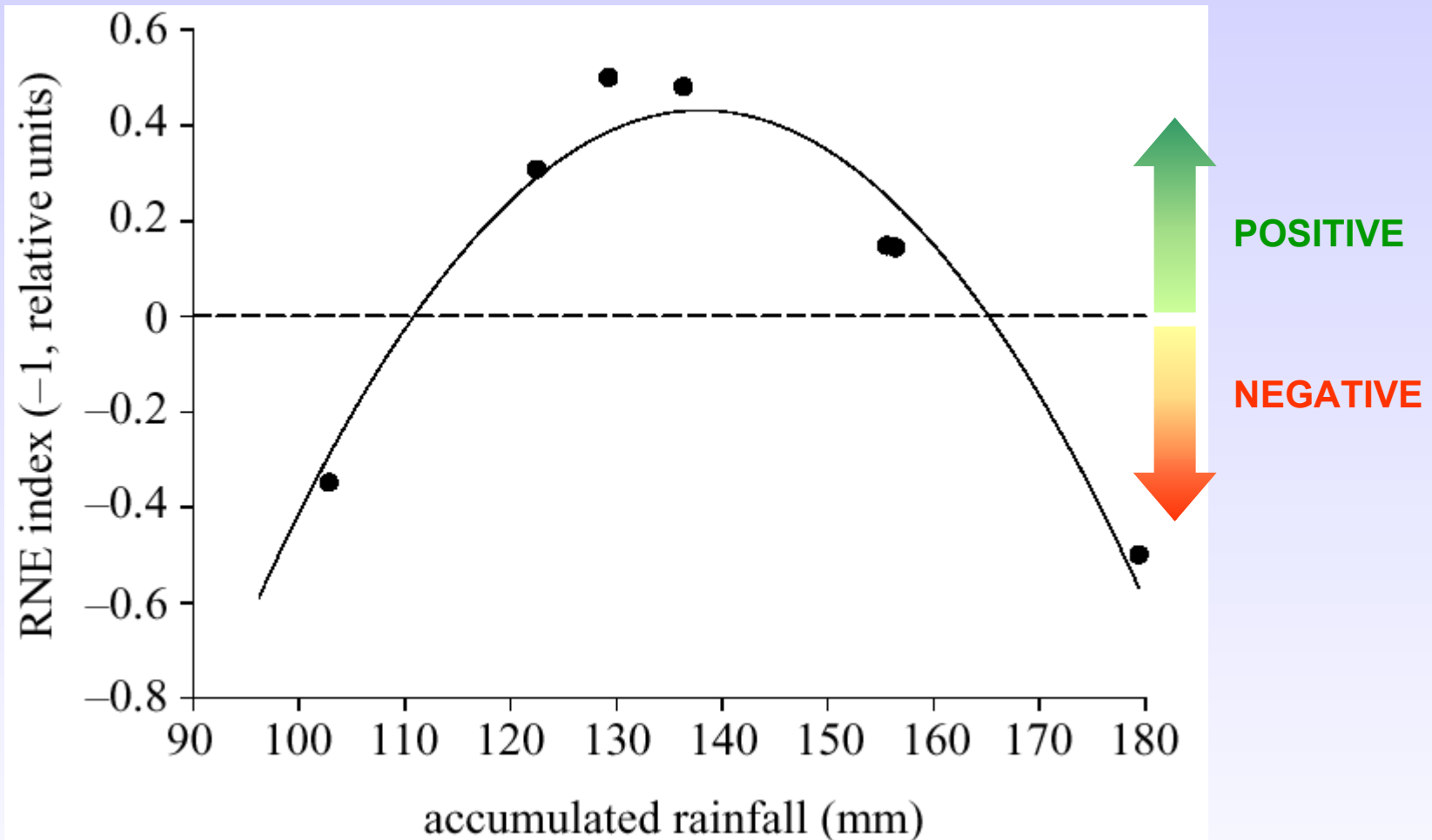
DRIVERS OF POSITIVE INTERACTIONS



VV.AA.

Facilitation may be more common in arid and semiarid communities
Studies on facilitation refer to soil fertility, but manipulative experiments are scarce

Facilitation by alpha grass



Alfa grass (*Stipa tenacissima*) steppes as model ecosystems for dryland restoration

- 1.1 Introduction to alpha grass and alfa grass steppes in SE Spain.
- 1.2 Ecological interactions in alfa grass steppes, from microscopic to landscape scales.
- 1.3 A framework for alfa grass steppes restoration.

Ecological interactions provide clues for restoration

- 2.1 Landscape structure, functional state and ecosystem restorability.
- 2.2 The use of biological soil crusts.
- 2.2 Facilitation by alfa grass.
- 2.3 The role of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in alfa grass restoration.
- 2.3 Ecotechnology as a replacement for ecological interactions.

Bia r



1946



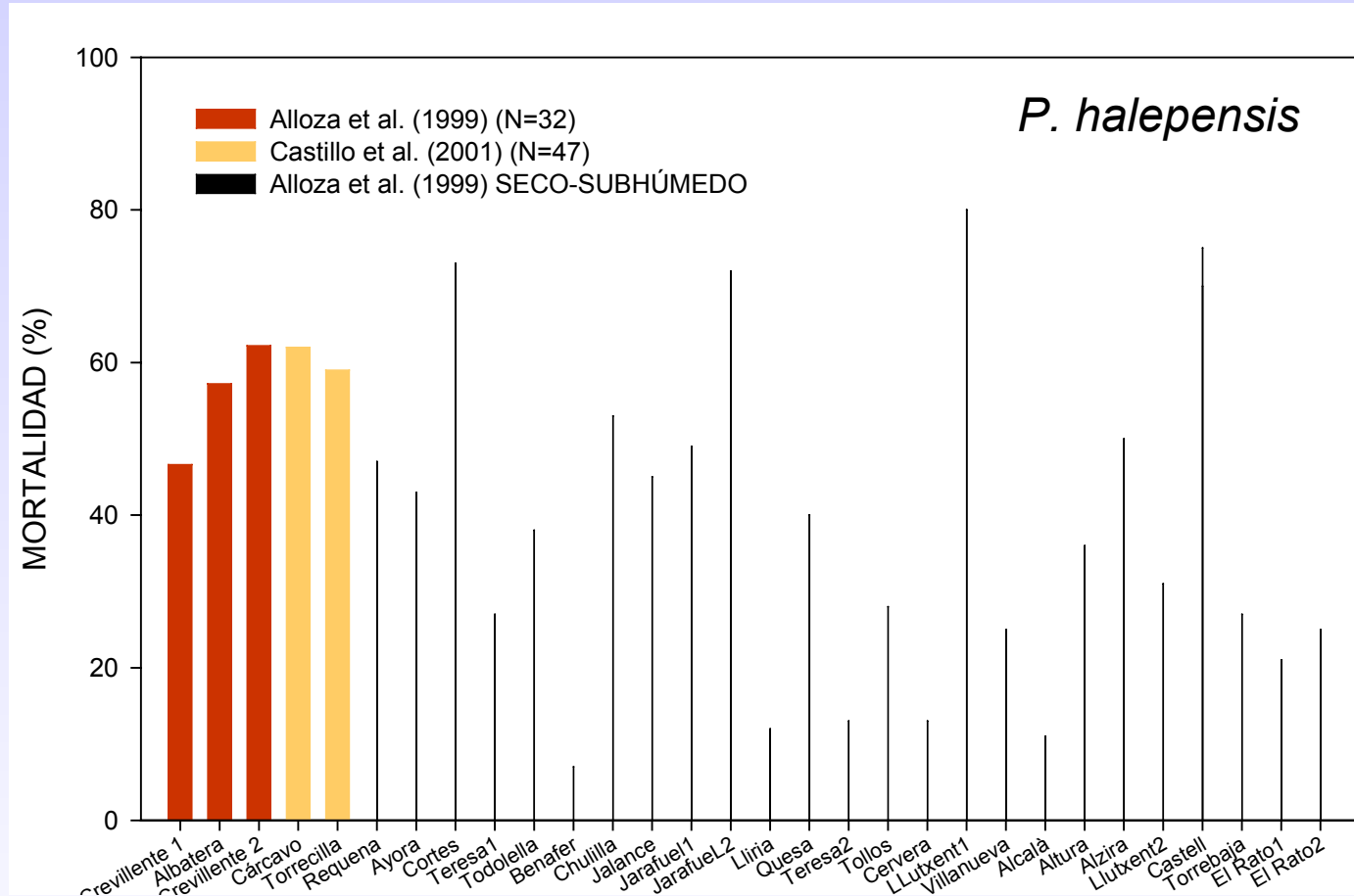
1993





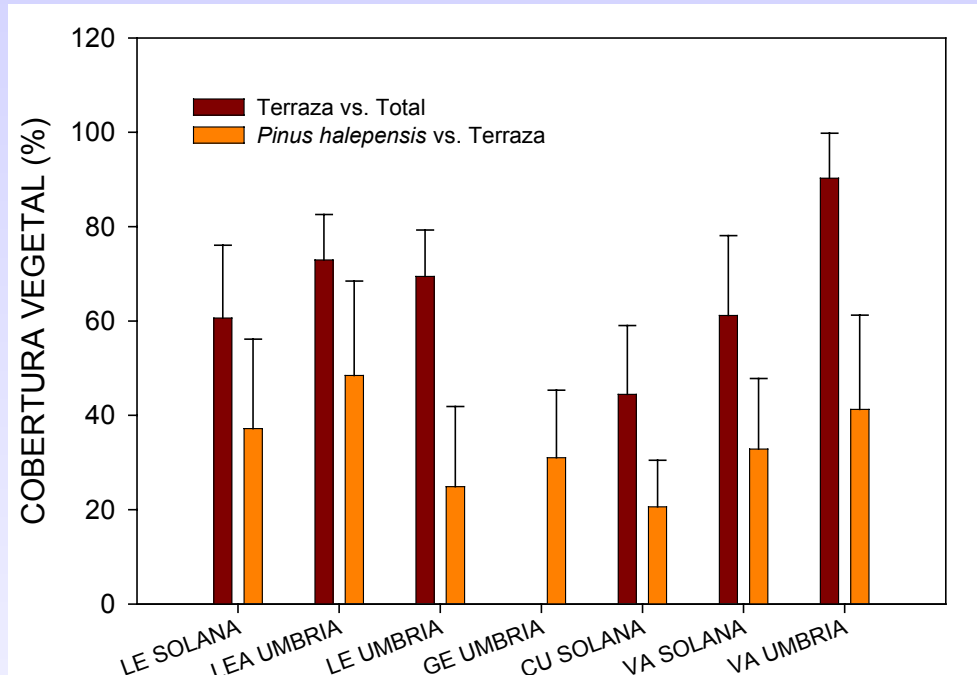
The role of Aleppo pine plantations

Mortality of introduced *Pinus halepensis* seedlings under semiarid conditions is high



The role of Aleppo pine plantations

And pine cover in *Pinus halepensis* afforestations is frequently low

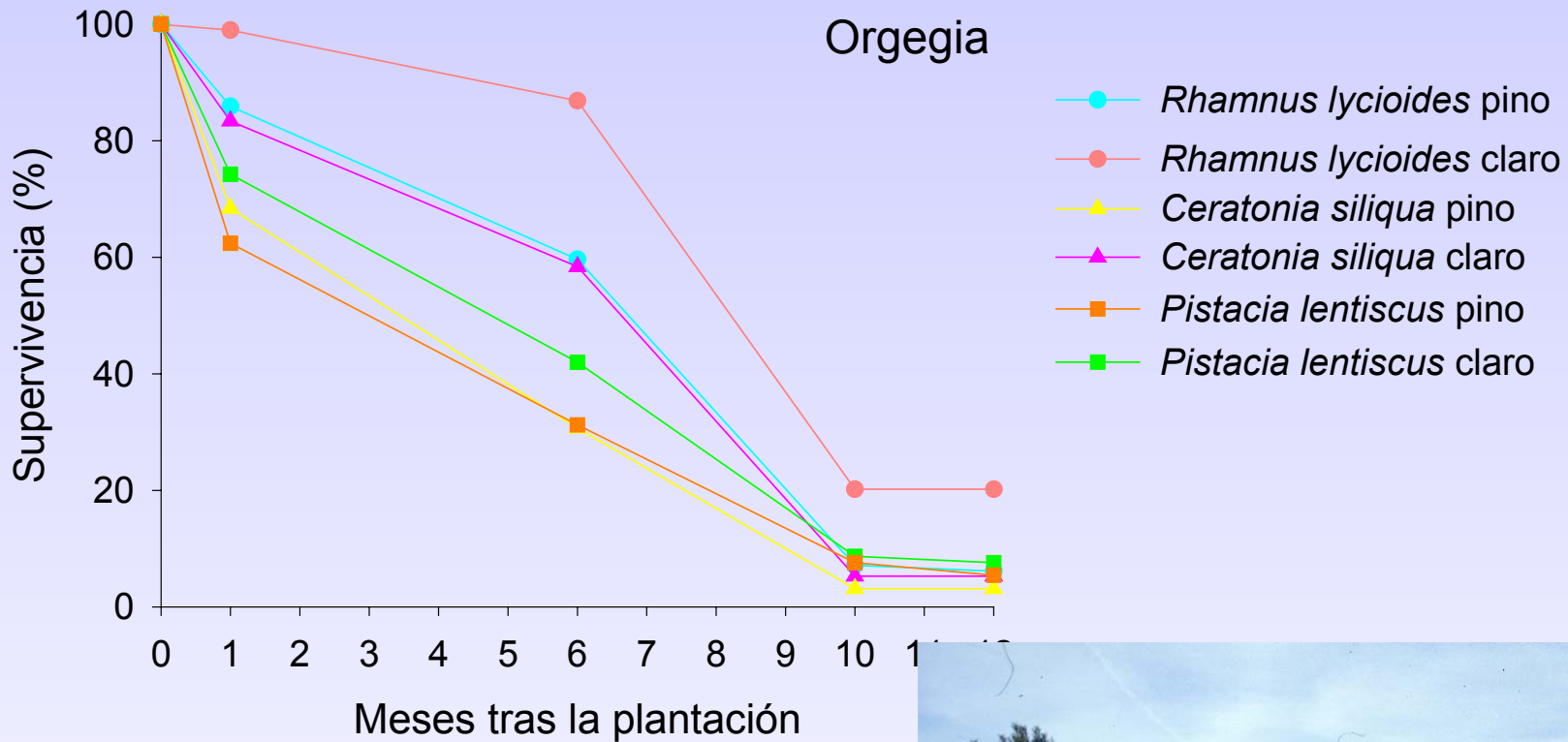


Chaparro, 1994

ca. 50% terraces vs. slope

17% cover *P. halepensis* 23 years

The role of Aleppo pine plantations

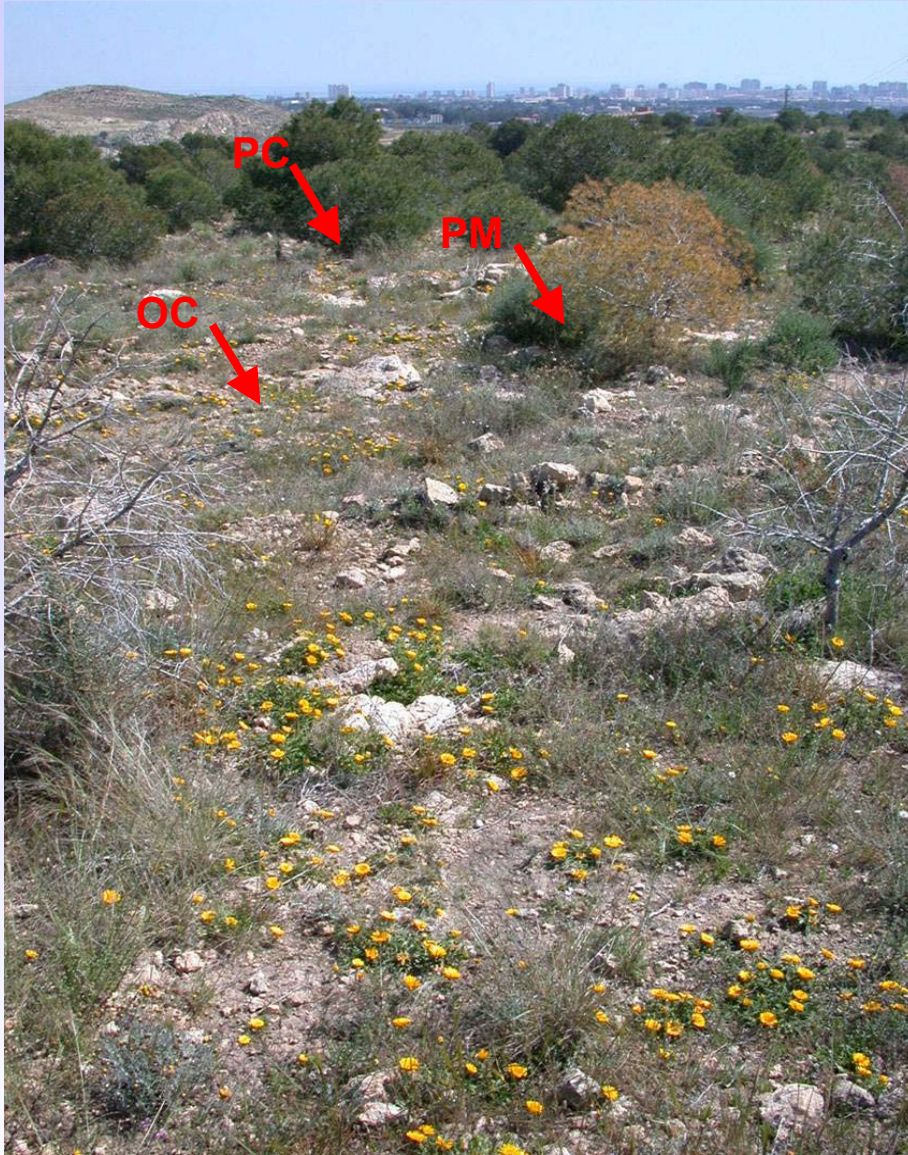


Pinus halepensis often show a negative effect on the establishment of other woody species

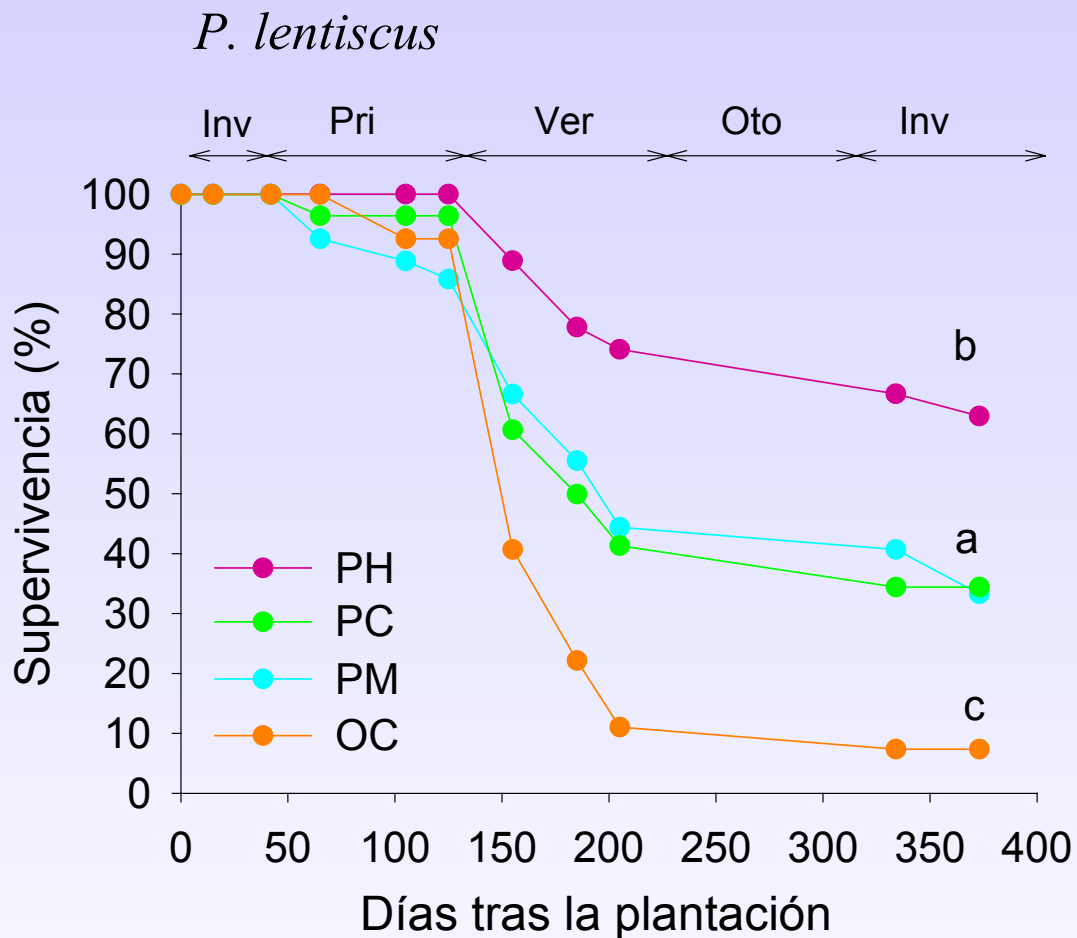
Maestre et al., 2002



The role of Aleppo pine plantations



The role of Aleppo pine plantations



Pinus halepensis



Brachypodium retusum



Pistacia lentiscus

Alfa grass (*Stipa tenacissima*) steppes as model ecosystems for dryland restoration

- 1.1 Introduction to alpha grass and alfa grass steppes in SE Spain.
- 1.2 Ecological interactions in alfa grass steppes, from microscopic to landscape scales.
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Ecological interactions provide clues for restoration

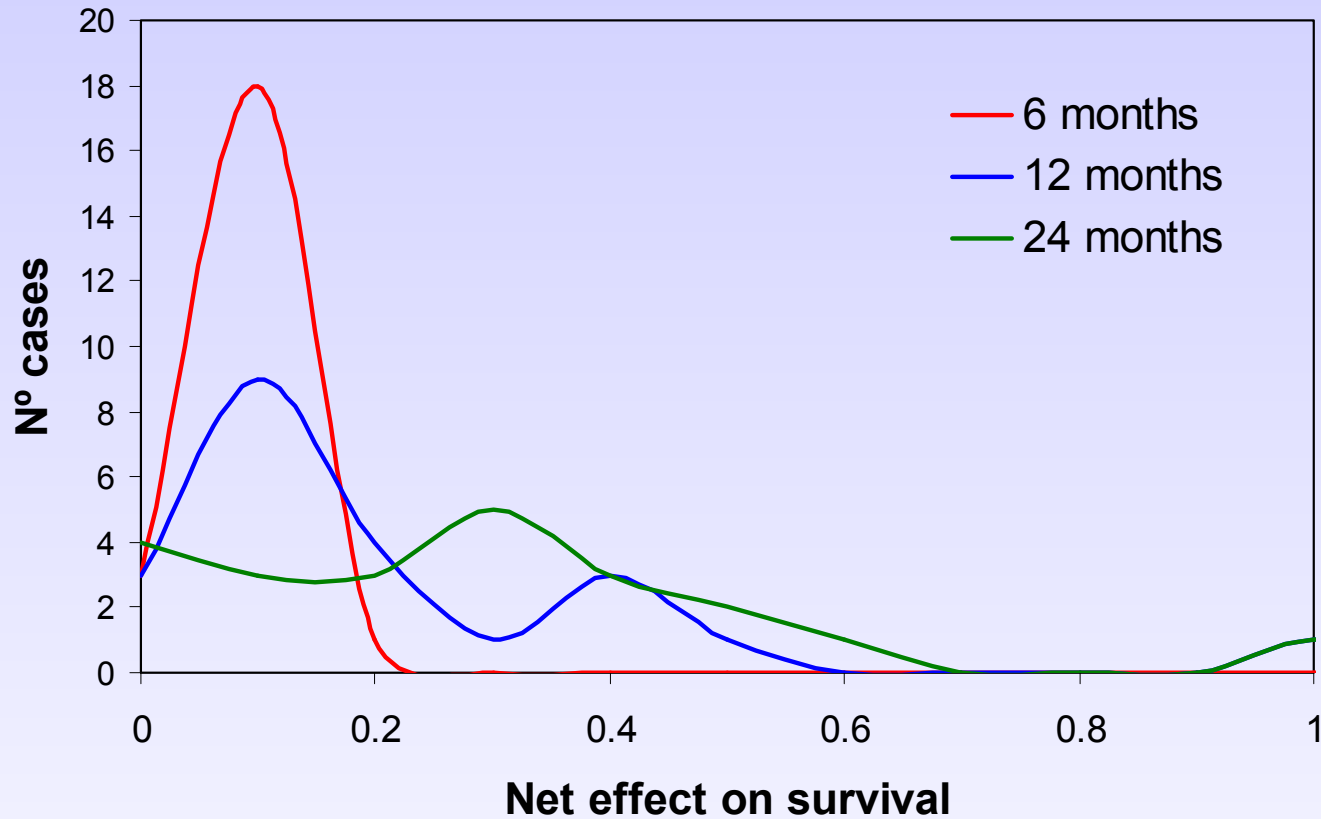
- 2.1 Landscape structure, functional state and ecosystem restorability.
- 2.2 The use of biological soil crusts.
- 2.2 Facilitation by alfa grass.
- 2.3 The role of Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in alfa grass restoration.
- 2.3 Ecotechnology as a replacement for ecological interactions.

Technique	Ecosystem component	Process
Branches, mulch, etc.	Sinks	Sediment, runoff and seed capture
Perches	Birds rest	Propagule concentration, eventually water and nutrients
Organic amendments and fertilisation	Islands of fertility	Local soil improvement
Stones around introduced plants	Sinks	Resource retention including soil moisture
Stone pavements	Patches with low infiltration	Runoff
Treeshelters	Nurse plants	Protection against incoming radiation and herbivory
Field and nursery mycorrhizae and rhizoflora inoculation	Exo and endosymbiotic microflora	Increase in resource availability, protection against pathogens and stress
Site preparation (microcatchments, terracing, etc.)	Sinks	Resource capture, mainly water. Increase in available soil
Cyanobacteria inoculation	Biological crusts	Soil protection, runoff generation
Nurse species plantation	Nurse plants	Processes associated with facilitation

Tongway et al., 2004

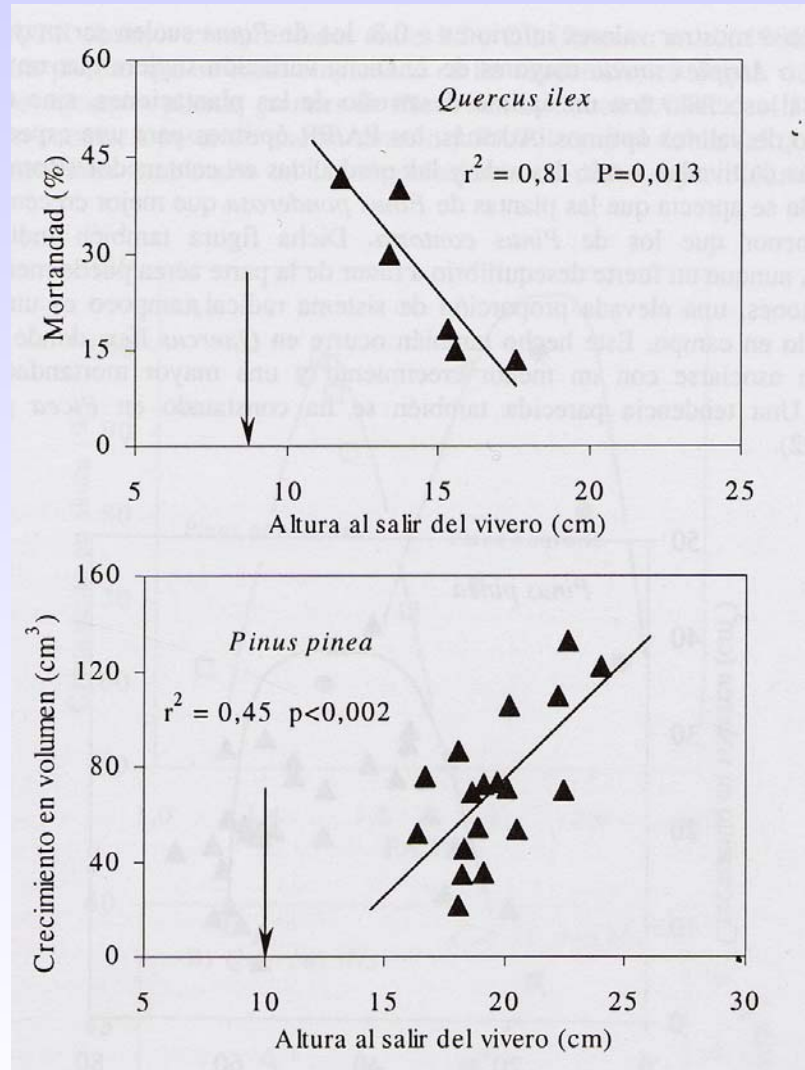
Seedling quality as a function of restoration objectives

- Increase genetic diversity, phenotypic plasticity
- Resistance against adverse conditions (current or future)
- Soil protection
- Carbon storage
- Food for herbivores– Palatability and tolerance
- Flower or fruit production
- Resistance and resilience against disturbances
- Improvement of soil fertility
- Ecological engineering
- Production of market products (wood, resin,...)
- Water use efficiency
- ...



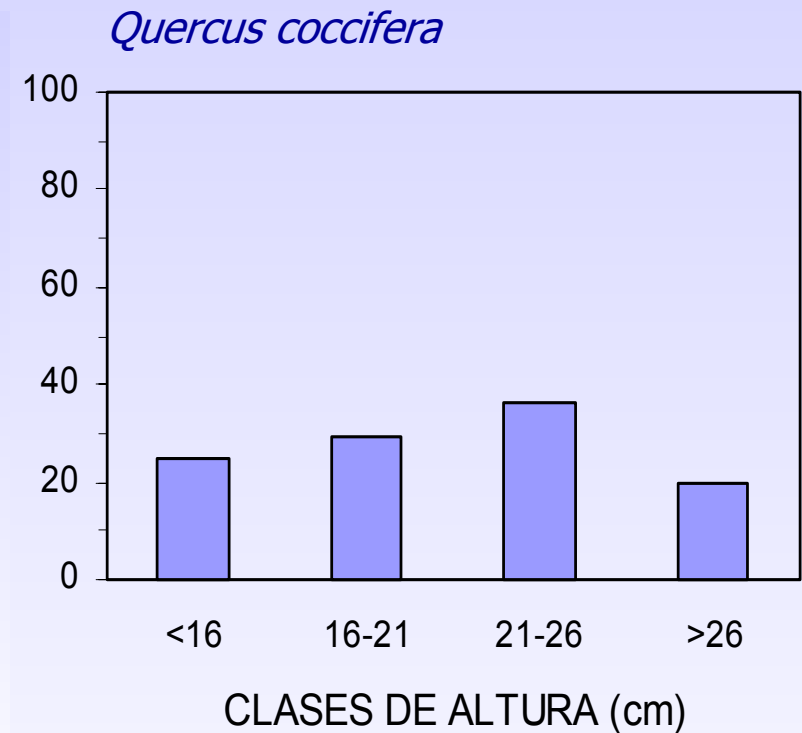
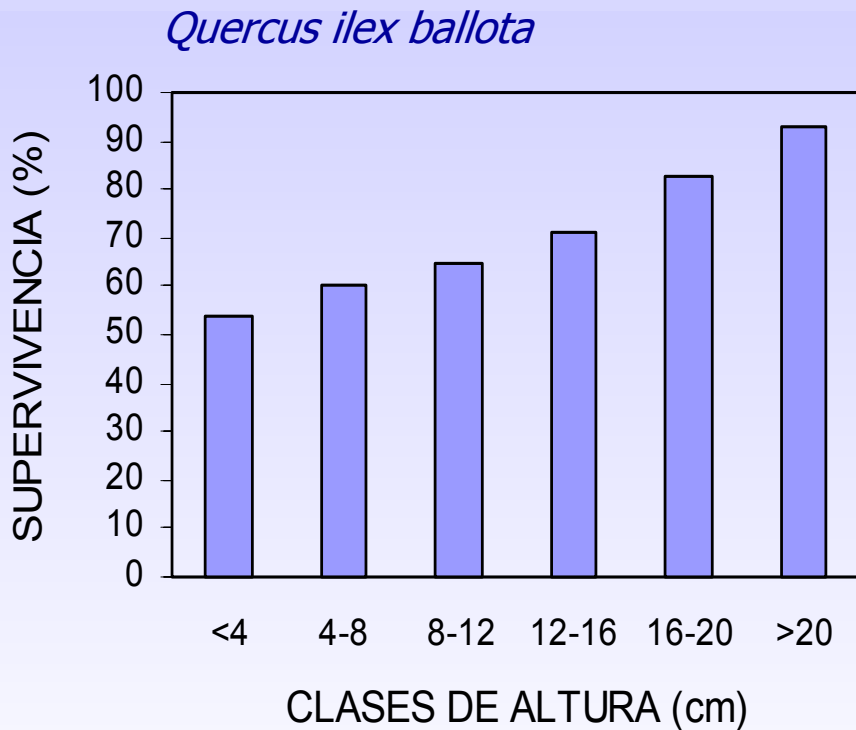
$$NET_EFFECT = \frac{SURVIVAL_{max} - SURVIVAL_{min}}{SURVIVAL_{max} + SURVIVAL_{min}}$$

A positive relationship between seedling size and field performance is frequently found



Villar (2003)

But not always...



Seva et al., 1997

Seedling size and field performance under semiarid conditions - Garden of deficiencies

Seedling manipulation by altering the nutritional regime. Experimental design:

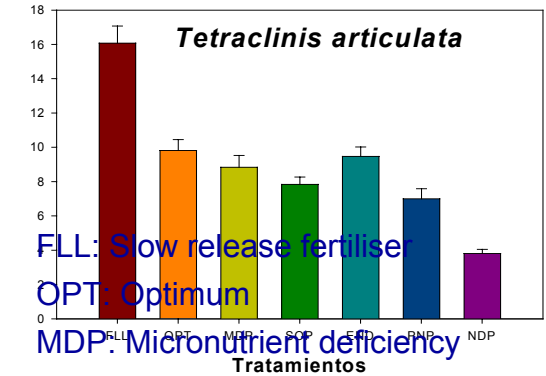
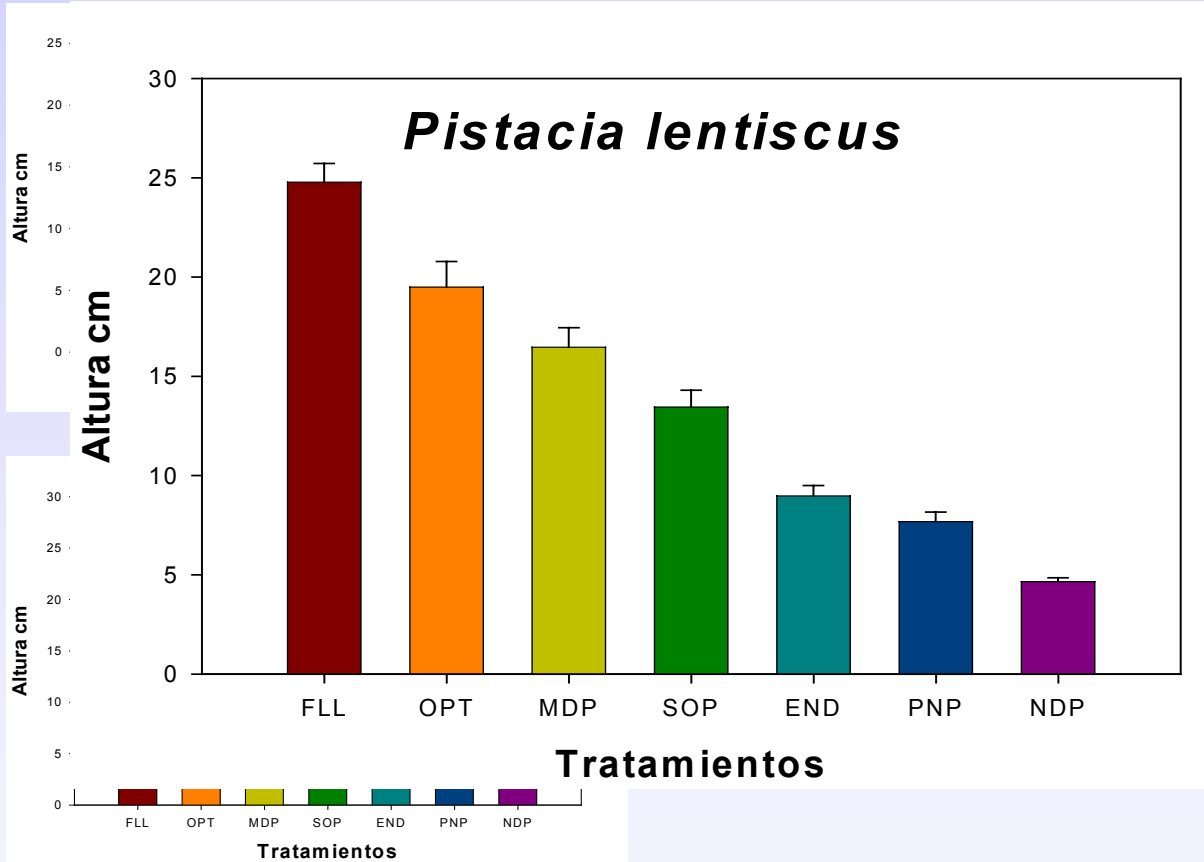
- Nutritional optimum (160 ppm N; 16:8:12 N:P:K) **OPT**
- Nutritional suboptimum (80 ppm N) **SOP**
- Slow release fertiliser (Plantacote 0'8 g L⁻¹) **FLL**
- Phosphorus deficiency **PDP**
- Nitrogen deficiency **NDP**
- Micronutrient deficiency **MDP**
- Nutritional hardening (40 ppm N last month) **END**

P. lentiscus
N deficiency



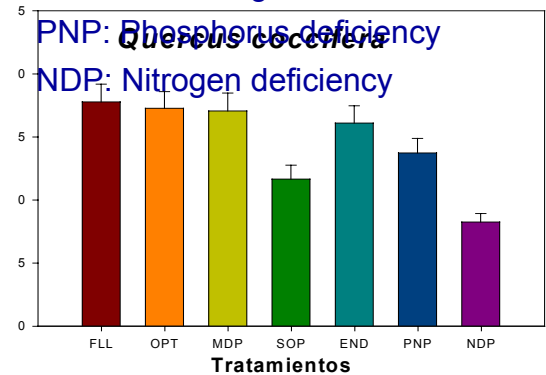
P. lentiscus
P deficiency





FLL: Slow release fertiliser
 OPT: Optimum
 MDP: Micronutrient deficiency
 SOP: Suboptimum

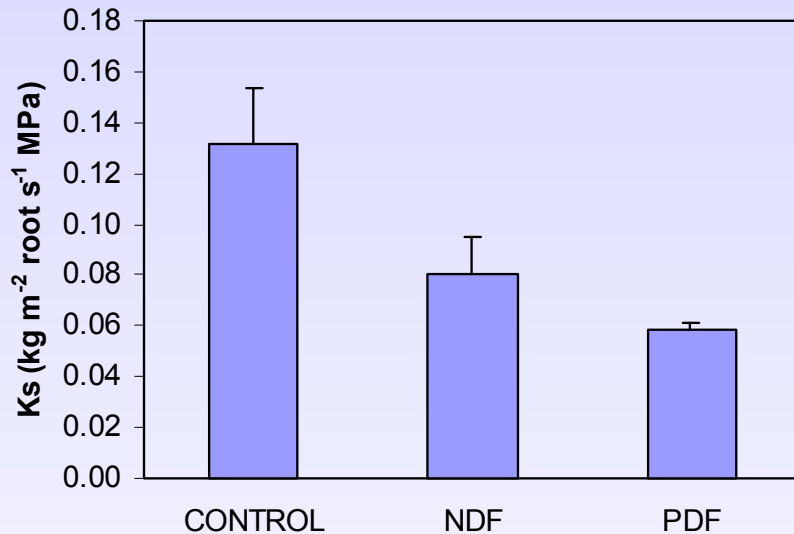
END: Hardening
 PNP: Phosphorus deficiency
 NDP: Nitrogen deficiency



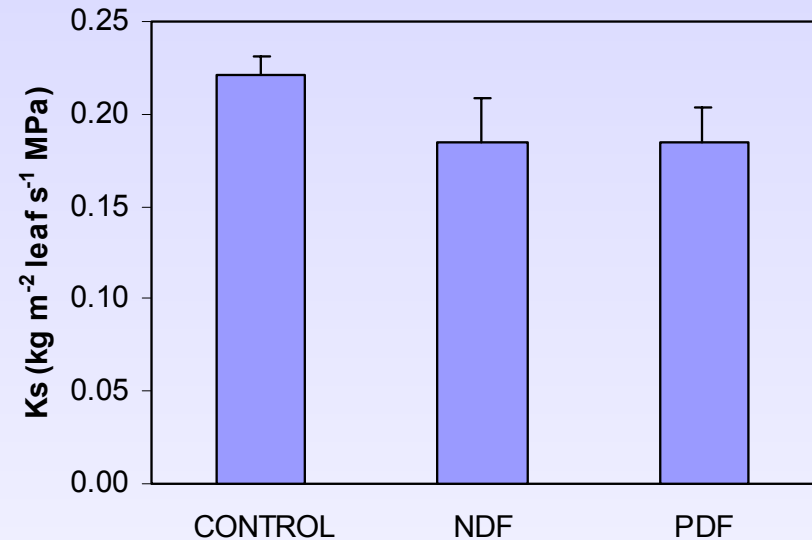
Trubat et al., 2004

Hydraulic conductivity *Pistacia lentiscus* - 3 months

Ks SUPERFICIE RADICAL



Ks SUPERFICIE FOLIAR



Trubat et al., submitted

Ecotechnology - Seedling quality



Albaterra (Alicante). Semiarid

Plantation density: 1000 trees ha⁻¹

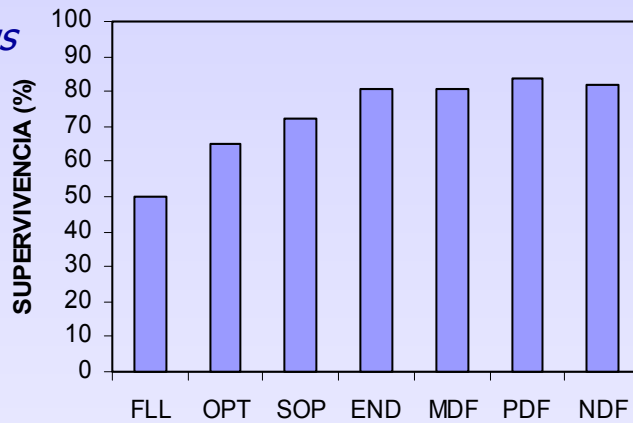
N° seedlings per treatment: 25 to 35

40x40x40 cm planting holes with back-hoe spider

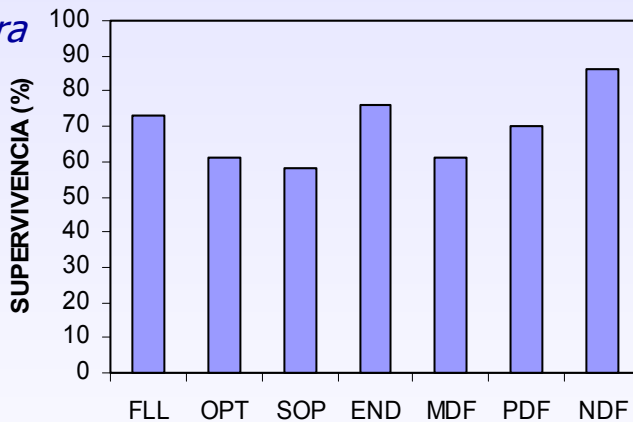
Ecotechnology - Seedling quality

Post-plantation survival (3 months)

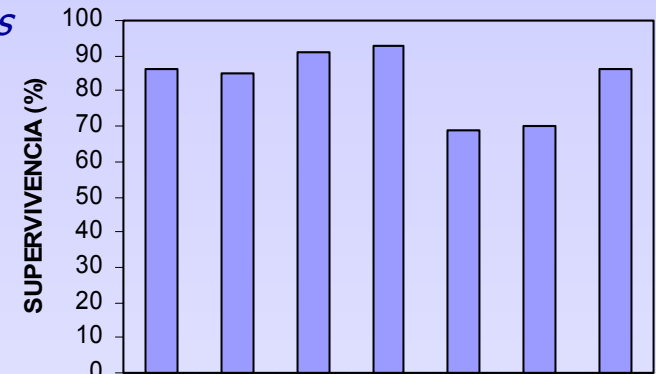
P. lentiscus



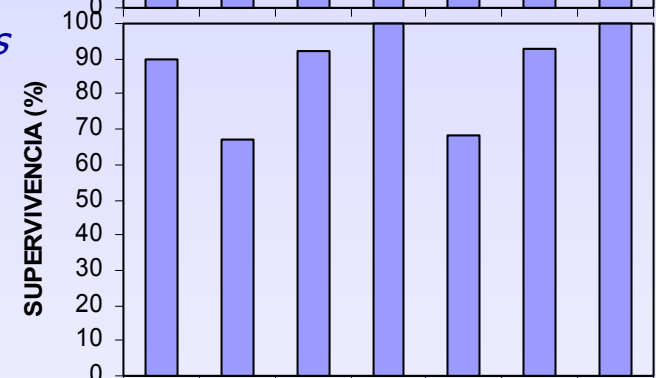
Q: coccifera



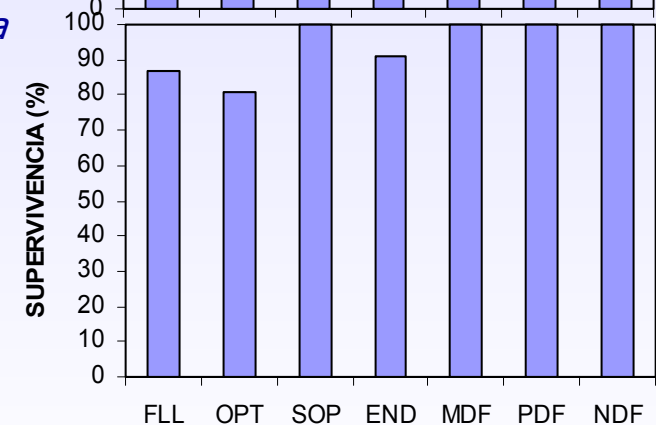
R. lycioides



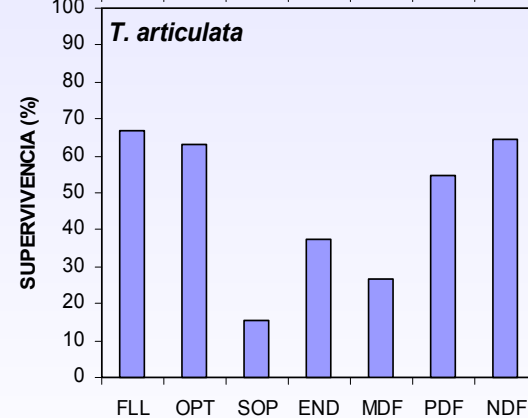
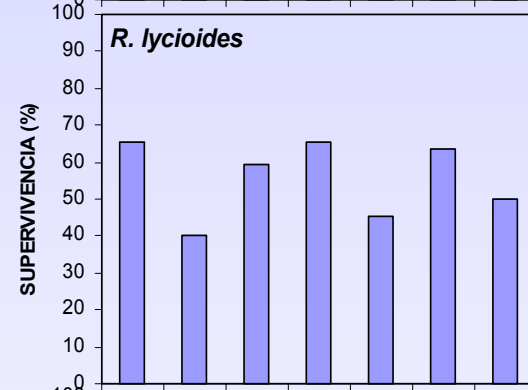
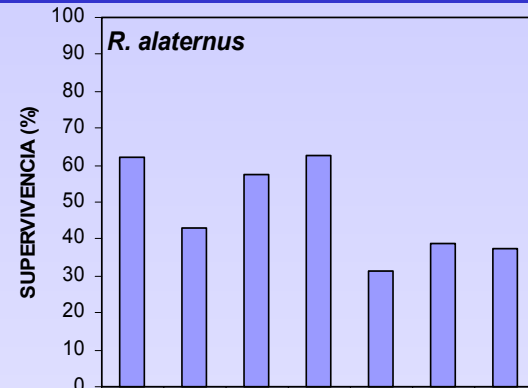
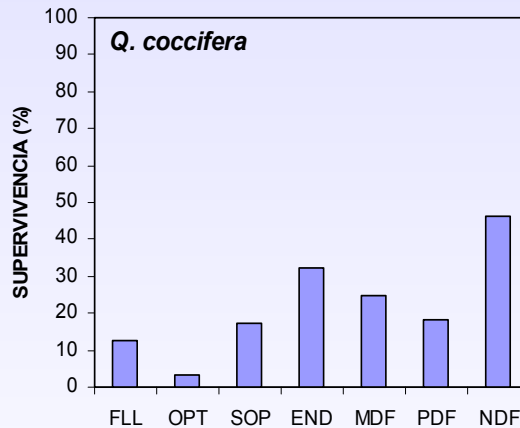
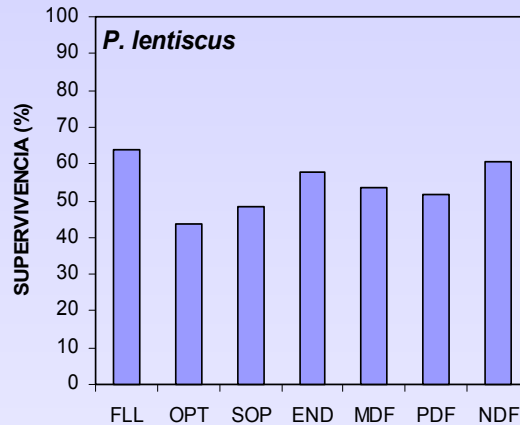
R. alaternus



T. articulata



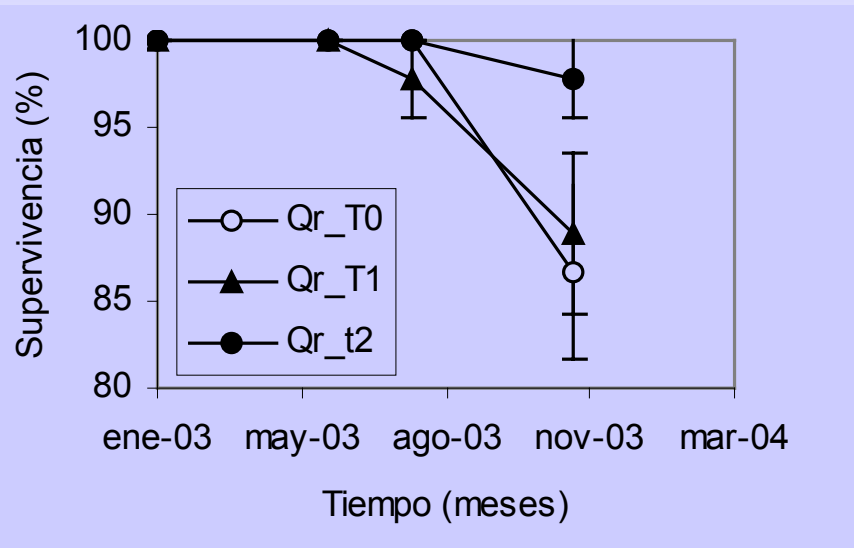
Post-summer survival (11 months)



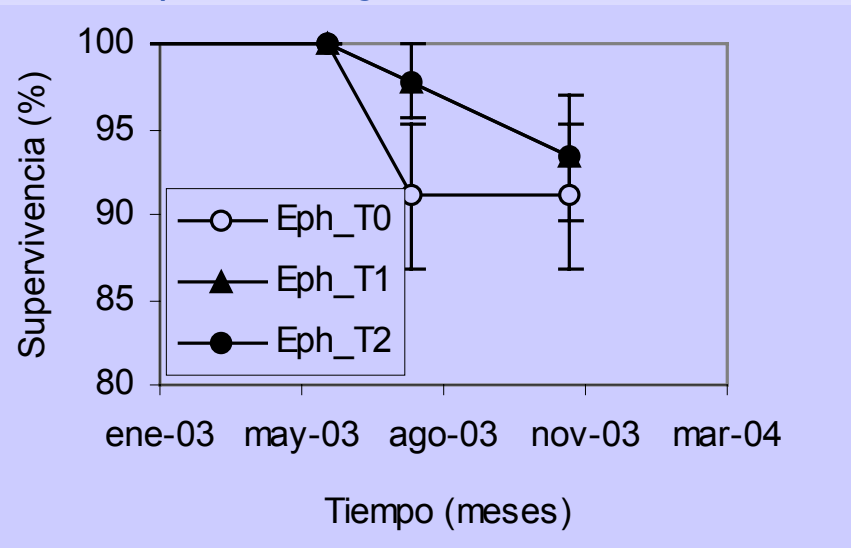
Ecotechnology - Seedling quality

An easy way to get smaller seedlings: top pruning

Quercus ilex ballota – S. Crevillente

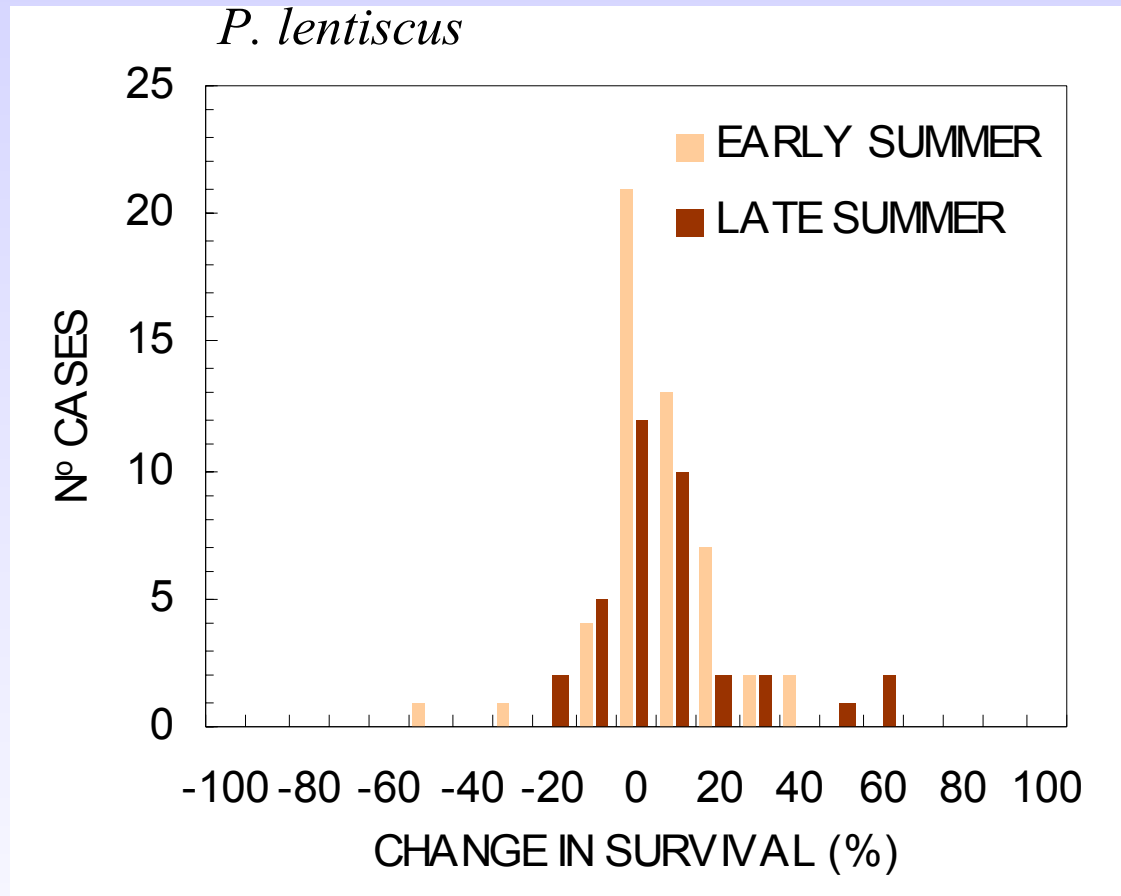


Ephedra fragilis - Albatera



Chirino et al. (no publ.)

Drought preconditioning



REDMED project (unpubl.)

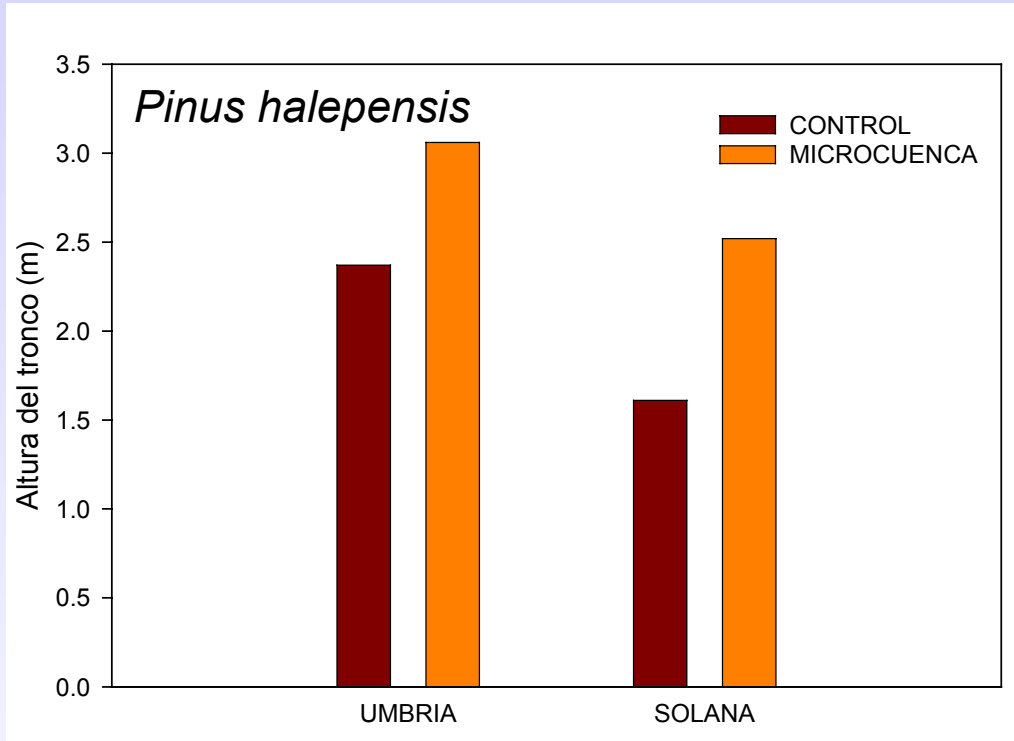
Ecotechnology – Site preparation



Soil preparation



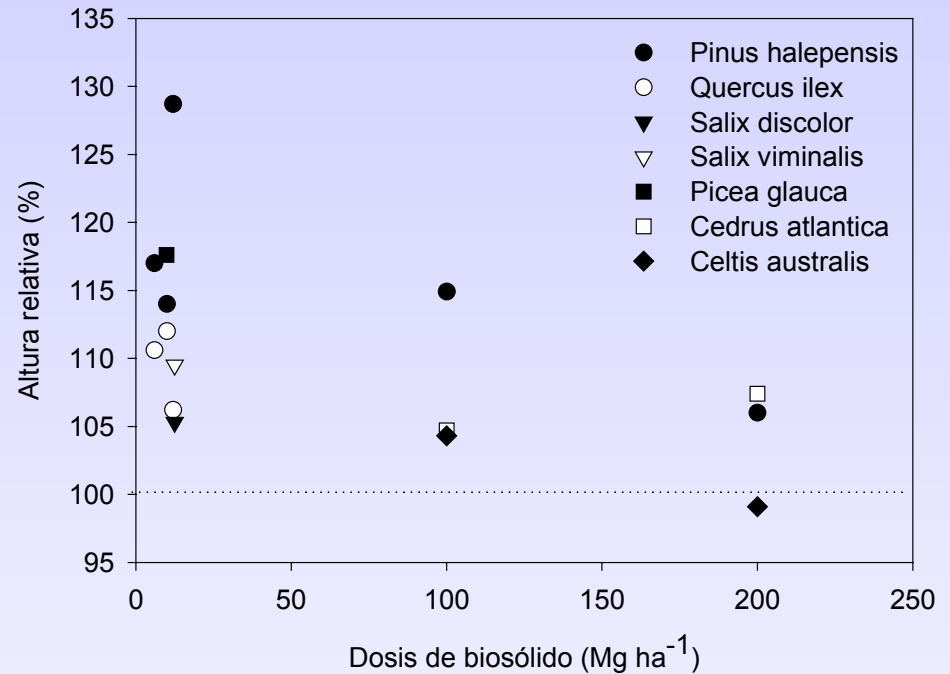
Microcatchments to concentrate runoff water



A. Saquete (unpubl.)

Ecotechnology – Site preparation

Reuse of sewage sludge to ameliorate soil fertility

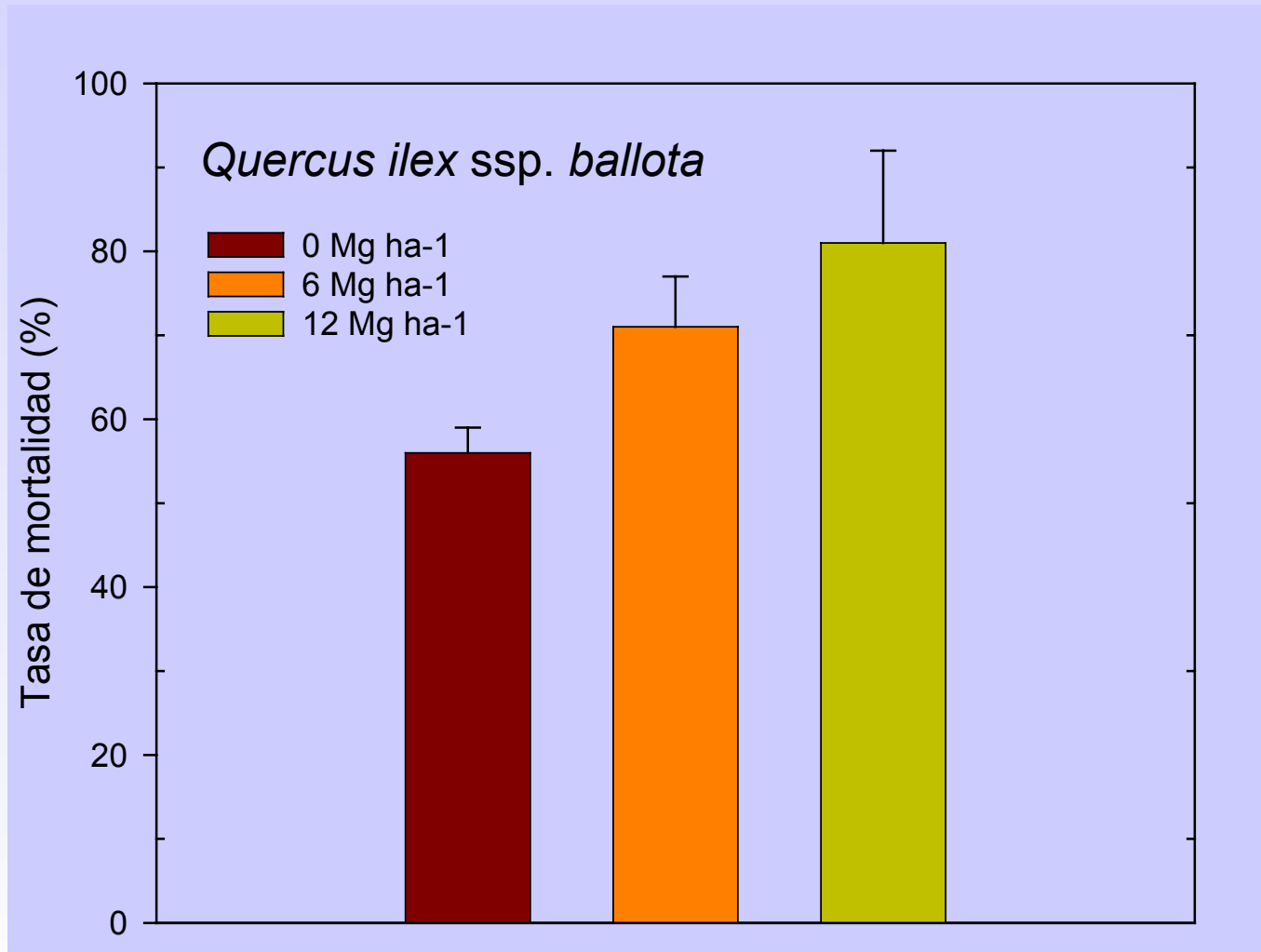


Valdecantos et al., in press

PROJECT BIOMON - *Scientific basis for biosolid application in Mediterranean woodlands* (REN2000-0181P4-03)

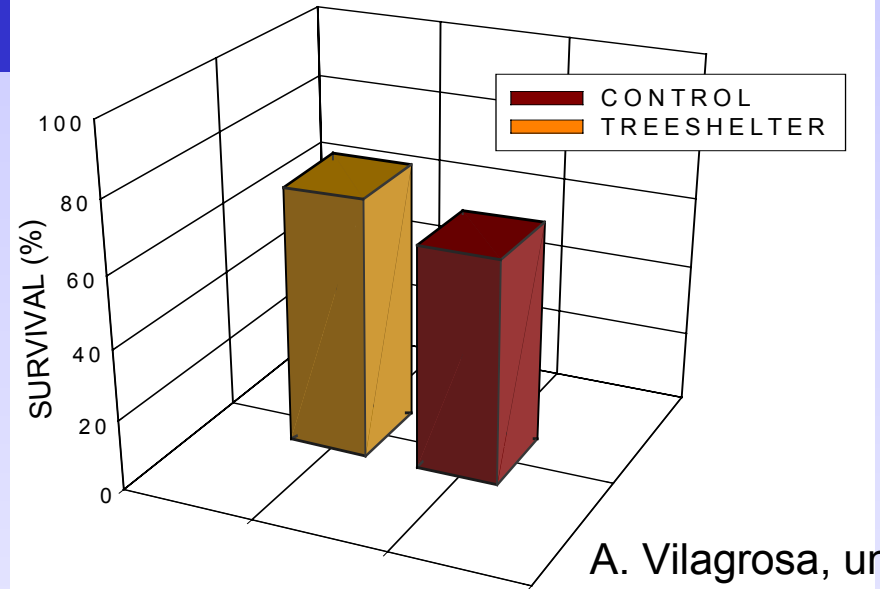
Ecotechnology – Site preparation

Reuse of sewage sludge to ameliorate soil fertility

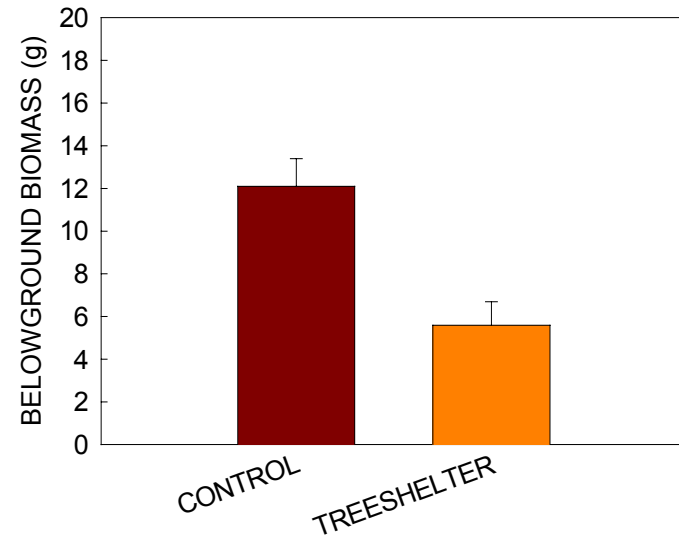


Ecotechnology – Treeshelters

**40 MONTHS
QUERCUS COCCIFERA-
XIXONA, E SPAIN**



A. Vilagrosa, unpubl.



Treeshelters provide shadow, and protection against herbivores

**THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION !!**



COMMERCIALS

Don't forget to visit ECOSISTEMAS at WWW.REVISTAECOSISTEMAS.NET

Free electronic journal of the Spanish Association for Terrestrial Ecology

The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window displaying the website for 'Revista Ecosistemas'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.revistaecosistemas.net/'. The website header features the title 'ecosistemas' in large yellow letters, with the subtitle 'REVISTA CIENTÍFICA Y TÉCNICA DE ECOLOGÍA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE' below it. To the right of the title are three small images: a blue sky, a green field, and a pink flower. Further right is the logo for 'ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ECOLOGÍA TERRESTRE' (A.E.E.T.). A navigation menu below the header includes links for 'PORTADA', 'PRESENTACION', 'REDACCION', 'NOTICIAS Y ANUNCIOS', 'ENLACES DE INTERES', 'AGENDA', 'PARTICIPA', and 'CONTACTO'. A search bar labeled 'BUSCADOR' is also present. The main content area is for 'Año XIV N° 2 / 2005 Mayo - Agosto' and is titled 'monográfico Ecología microbiana'. It lists several articles with authors and 'RESUMEN' links. On the right side, there is a section titled 'otros contenidos' with a list of related articles and small thumbnail images. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the 'Inicio' button and several open applications: Microsoft Word, 2 Mozilla instances, and El GIMP. The system clock shows 20:01.

Revista Ecosistemas - Mozilla

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Inici Adreces d'interès

ecosistemas
REVISTA CIENTÍFICA Y TÉCNICA DE ECOLOGÍA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ECOLOGÍA TERRESTRE

PORTADA *PRESENTACION *REDACCION *NOTICIAS Y ANUNCIOS *ENLACES DE INTERES *AGENDA *PARTICIPA *CONTACTO BUSCADOR

Año XIV N° 2 / 2005 Mayo - Agosto

monográfico
Ecología microbiana

Editorial Invitada:

Ecología microbiana
por M. Guerrero Sánchez, A. I. López Archilla, J. Antón Botella
RESUMEN

Revisiones e Informes:

Microbios en la niebla: descubriendo el papel de los microbios en la biosfera
por R. Guerrero, M. Berlanga
RESUMEN

El concepto de especie en Procariotas
por R. Rosselló-Mora
RESUMEN

La descomposición de materia orgánica en humedales: la importancia del componente microbiano.
por S. Álvarez
RESUMEN

Diversidad y actividad procarionótica en ecosistemas marinos
por A. López López, M. Zaballos
RESUMEN

La microbiología del suelo en la era de la biología molecular: descubriendo la punta del iceberg

otros contenidos

eco Aquí y ahora: una llamada al compromiso y la acción
por R. Zamora

Metodologías paramétricas para la evaluación ambiental estratégica
por J. Marull

Análisis de factores demográficos y genéticos para la conservación de poblaciones de plantas en un hábitat fragmentado
por F. X. Picó, P. F. Quintana-Ascencio

Restauración ecológica de olivares marginales: potencialidades y limitaciones
por J. R. Guzmán Álvarez, R. M. Navarro Carrillo

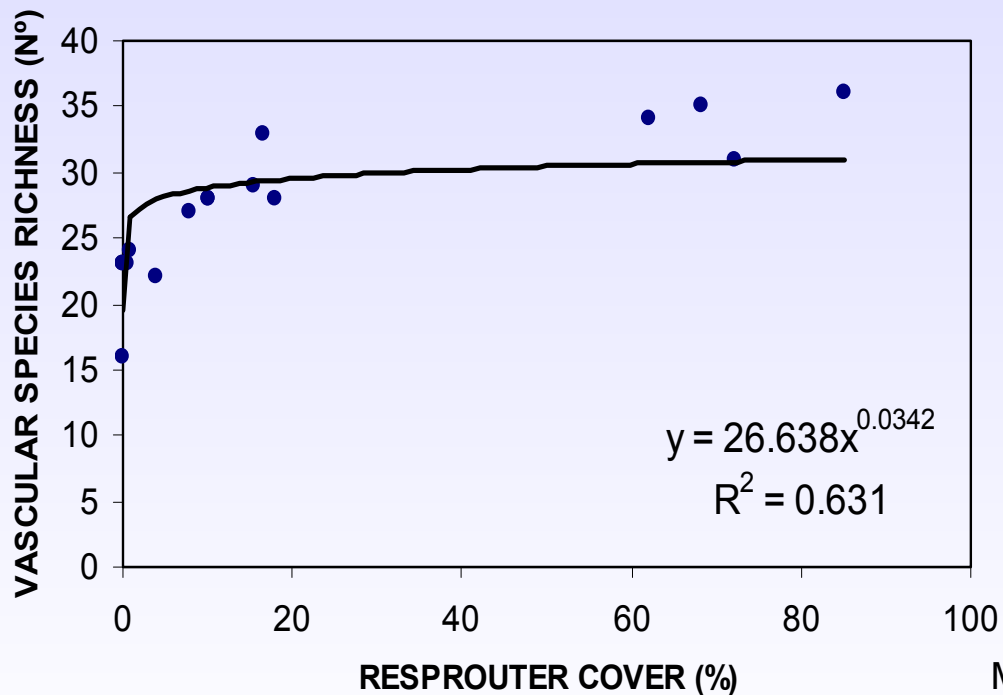
Relaciones entre biodiversidad y producción en sistemas silvopastoriles de América Central
por A. M. Pérez, G. Bornemann, L. Campo, M. Sotelo, F. Ramírez, I. Arana

Consideraciones etnobotánicas sobre el género

Inicio Microsoft Word 2 Mozilla El GIMP 20:01

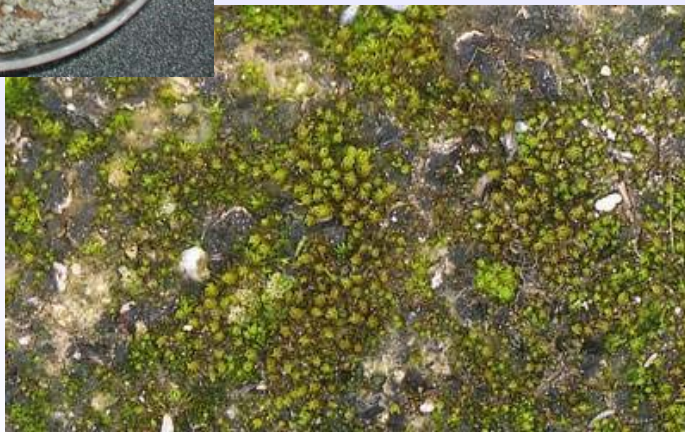
Biodiversity - Vascular plants

- 1821 vascular plant species in Iberian steppes, 76% of them found in N Africa (Maghrib) steppes
- Alpha grass steppes are not very diverse:
 - 10 endemics in the Ibero-Maghrib region (0.3% of the flore; 0.6% of the stepic flora in N Africa)
 - Perennial vascular plants 16 plots Alicante (E Spain) → $H'=1.2$ $S=28$
- Annual species



Maestre & Cortina, unpubl.

Biodiversity - Cryptogams



ALGAE

Scytonema sp.
Trentepohlia sp.
Nostoc sp.

LICHENS

Squamarina conrescens
S. lentigera et *S. cartilaginea*
Toninia sedifolia et *T. tristis*
Psora decipiens et *P. crenata*
Fulgensia fulgida
Catapyrenium sp.
Synalissa symphorea
Collema

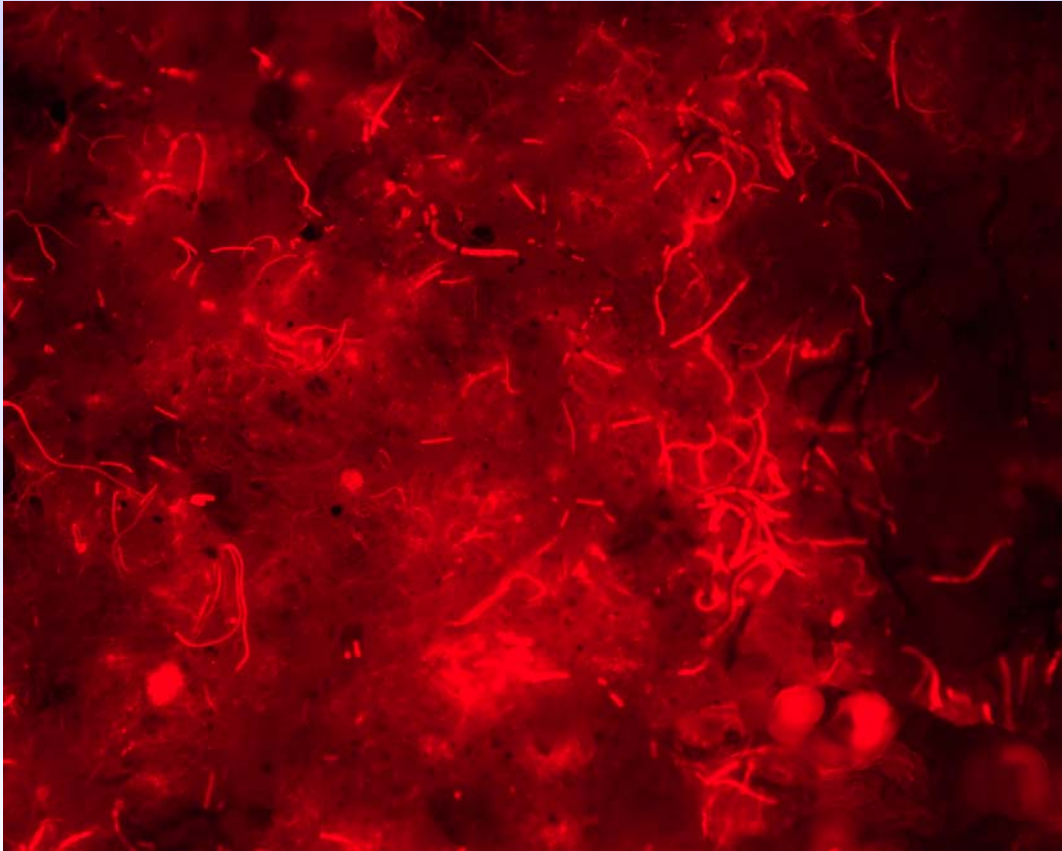
MOSSES

Didymodon acutus
Weissia sp.
Gymnostomum lusieri
Aloina rigida
Crossidium sp.
Fossombronina sp.
Southbya sp.

V. Calatayud (unpubl.)

Phylogenetic affiliation

(GenBank accession N°)



Aphanizomenon issatschenkoii (AY493984)

Chlorella mirabilis plastid (X65100)

Oscillatoria spongelliae 513bg (AF534693)

Anabaena cylindrica (AF091150)

Chlorella sorokiniana plastid (X65689)

Microcoleus steenstrupii (AJ871987)

Oscillatoria spongelliae 504bg (AF534688)

Lyngbya majuscula (AF368300)

Lyngbya majuscula (AF368300)

Plectonema cf. battersii (AJ621837)

Oscillatoria sp. J-24-Osc (AF263344)

Phormidium sp. ETS-05 (AJ548503)

Lyngbya hieronymusii (AF337650)

Symploca sp. PCC8002 (AB039021)

Phormidium autumnale (AF218371)

Nostoc sp. 8916 (AY742447)

Oscillatoria sp. MPI 990BR03 (AF284810)

Symploca sp. PCC8002 (AB039021)

Oscillatoria spongelliae 513bg (AF534693)

Biodiversity - Fauna

- Low bird richness, probably as a result of low plant diversity and poor community structure
- Common species: Cogujada montesina (*Galerida theklae*) and Camachuelo trompetero (*Rhodopechys githaginea*)



Galerida theklae

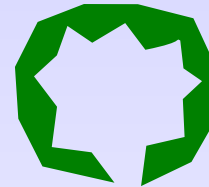
José J. Matamala
(www.almeriware.net)

Morpho-functional traits

- 200 - 400 mm (semiarid to dry sub-humid)
- -19°C to 40°C
- Limited by flooding, salinity and clay



100° - 100% RWC



0° - 70% RWC

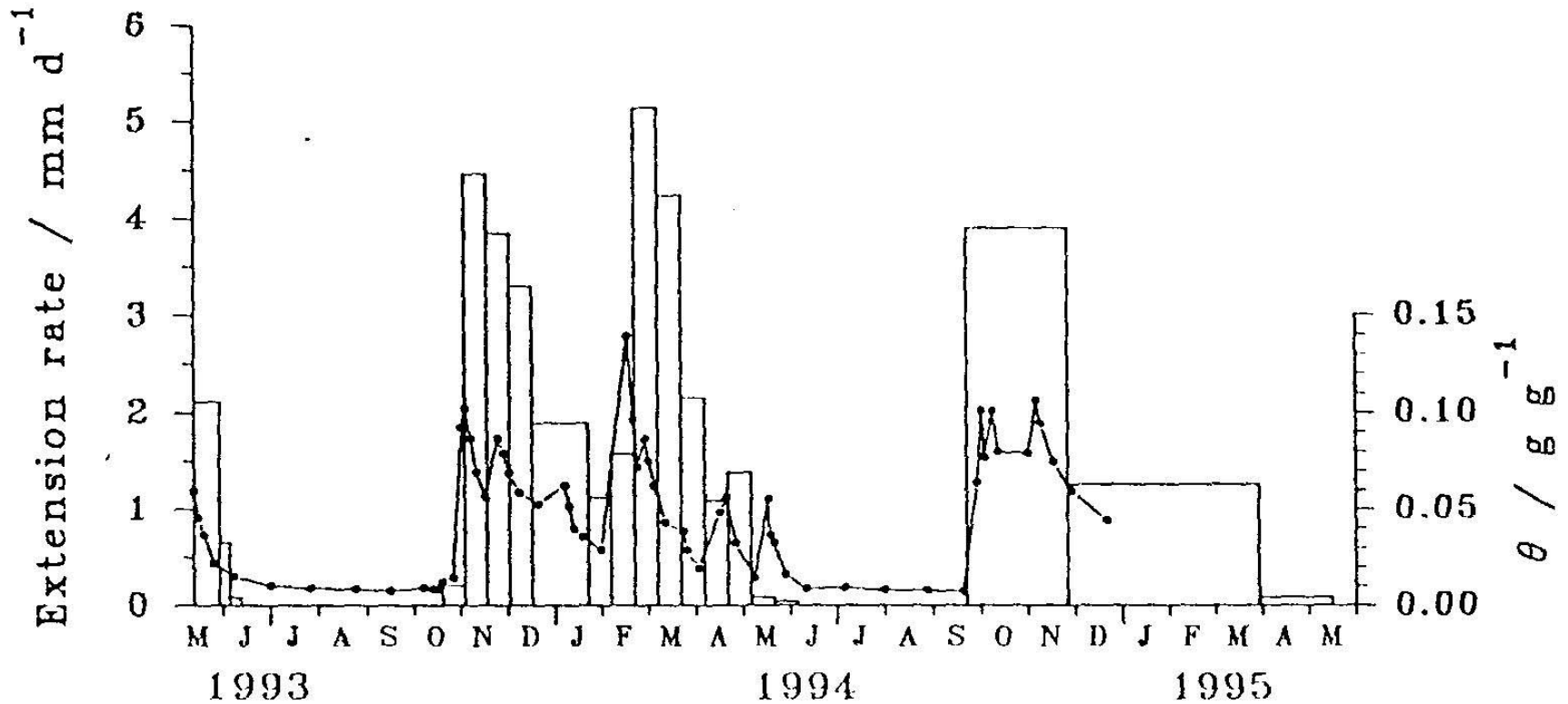
Pression-volume curves in alpha grass and other Mediterranean species

		<i>Stipa tenacissima</i>	<i>Lygeum spartum</i>	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>
Ψ_{π}	(MPa)	-1.85	-4.18	-2.63	-2.66
Ψ_{tlp}	(MPa)	-2.67	-7.2	-3.3	-3.46
RWC _{tlp}	(%)	85	83	86	87
ϵ	(MPa)	16.2	17.8	29.2	25.4

Pugnaire et Haase, 1996 et Vilagrosa, 2002

Morpho-functional traits

Poikilohydric. Seasonal variation in leaf extension



Haase et al., 1999

Poikilohydric. Predawn water potential

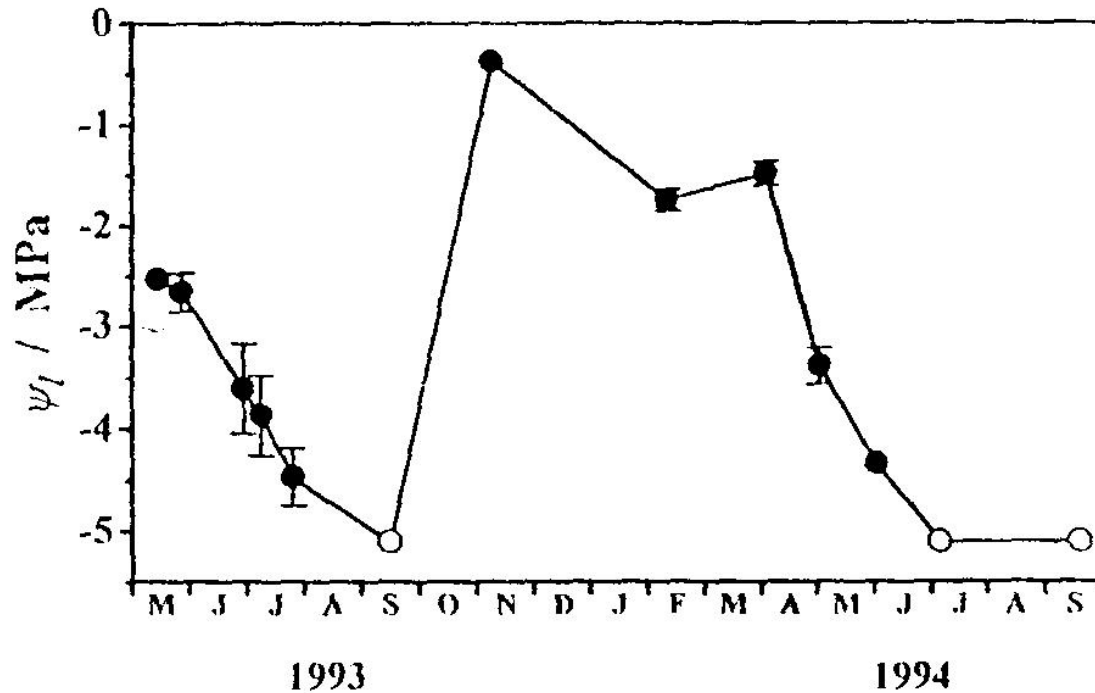
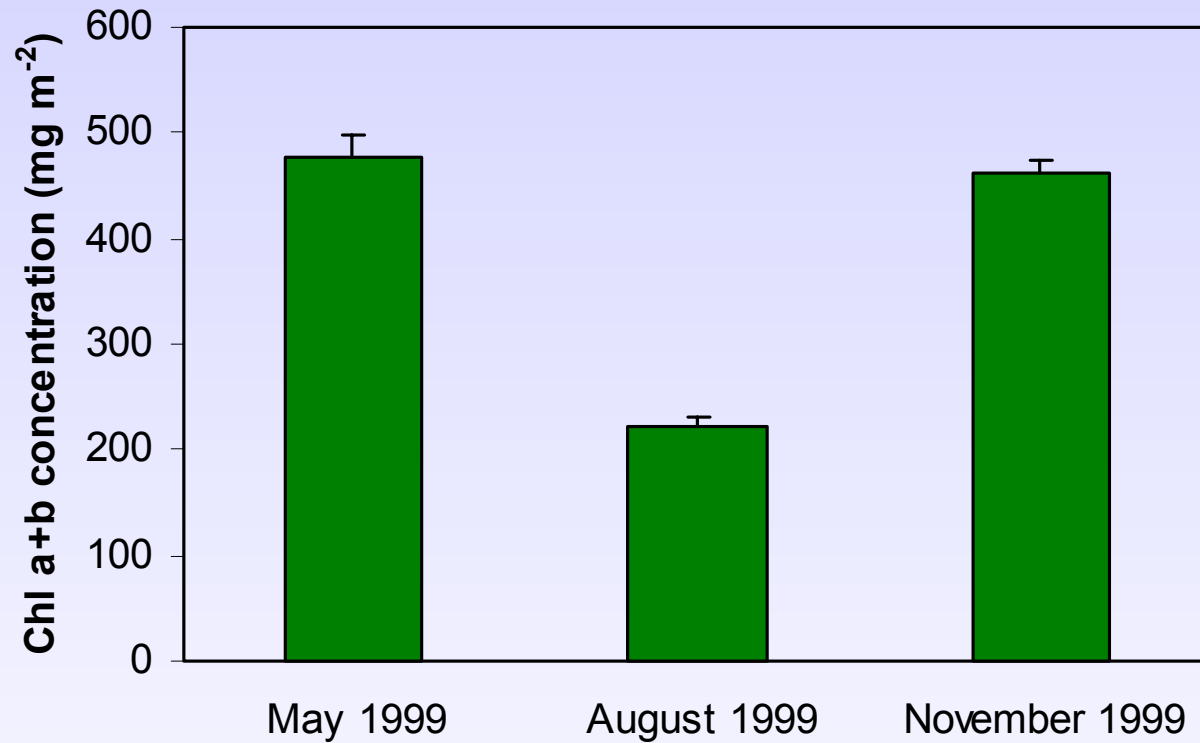


Figure 5. Pre-dawn water potential (ψ_l) of leaves of *Stipa tenacissima* from May 1993 to September 1994 (mean \pm SE, $n = 3-6$; open symbols indicate values < -5.0 MPa).

Haase et al., 1999

Poikilohydric. Chlorophyll concentration



Balaguer et al., 2002

Morpho-functional traits

Branched rooting system under the tussocks

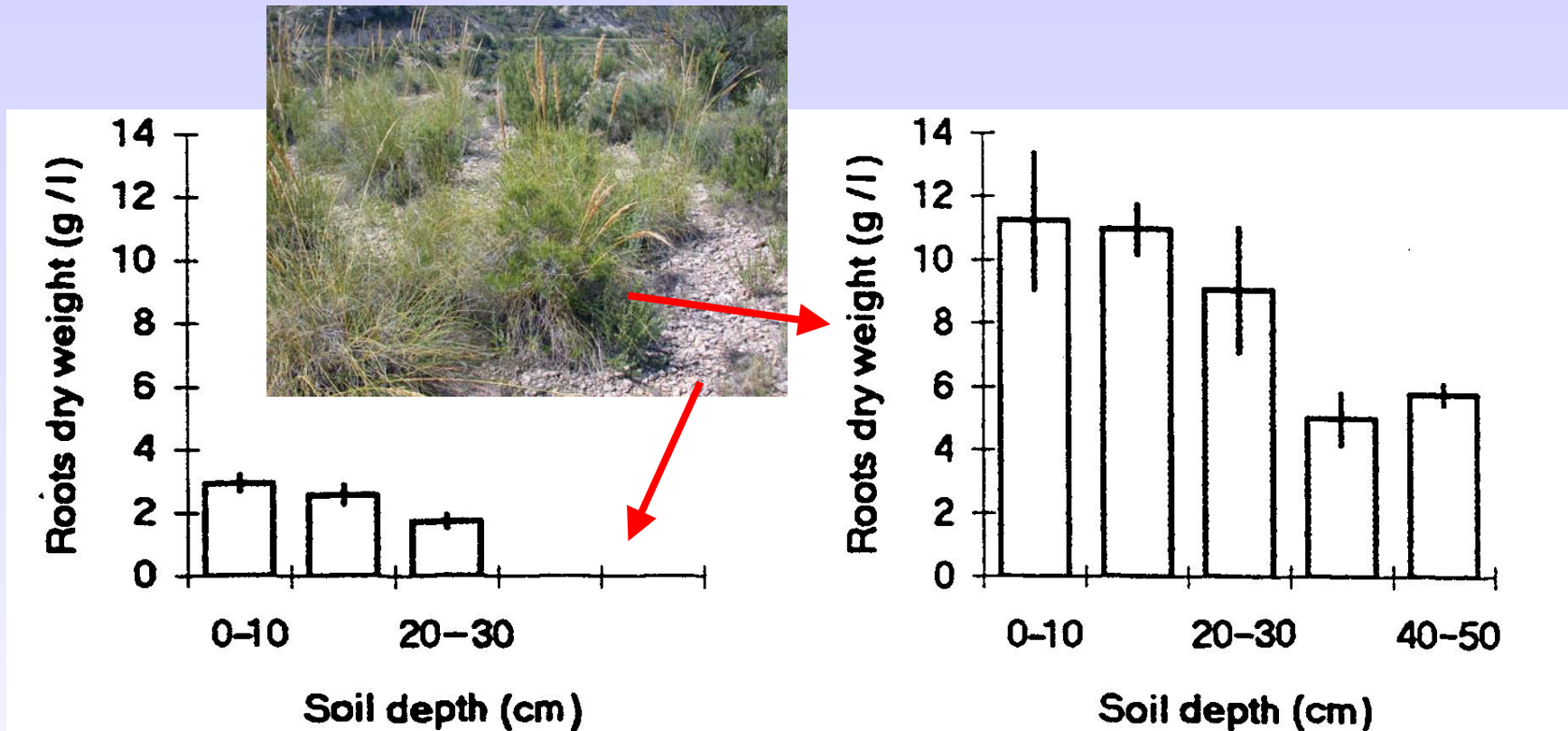
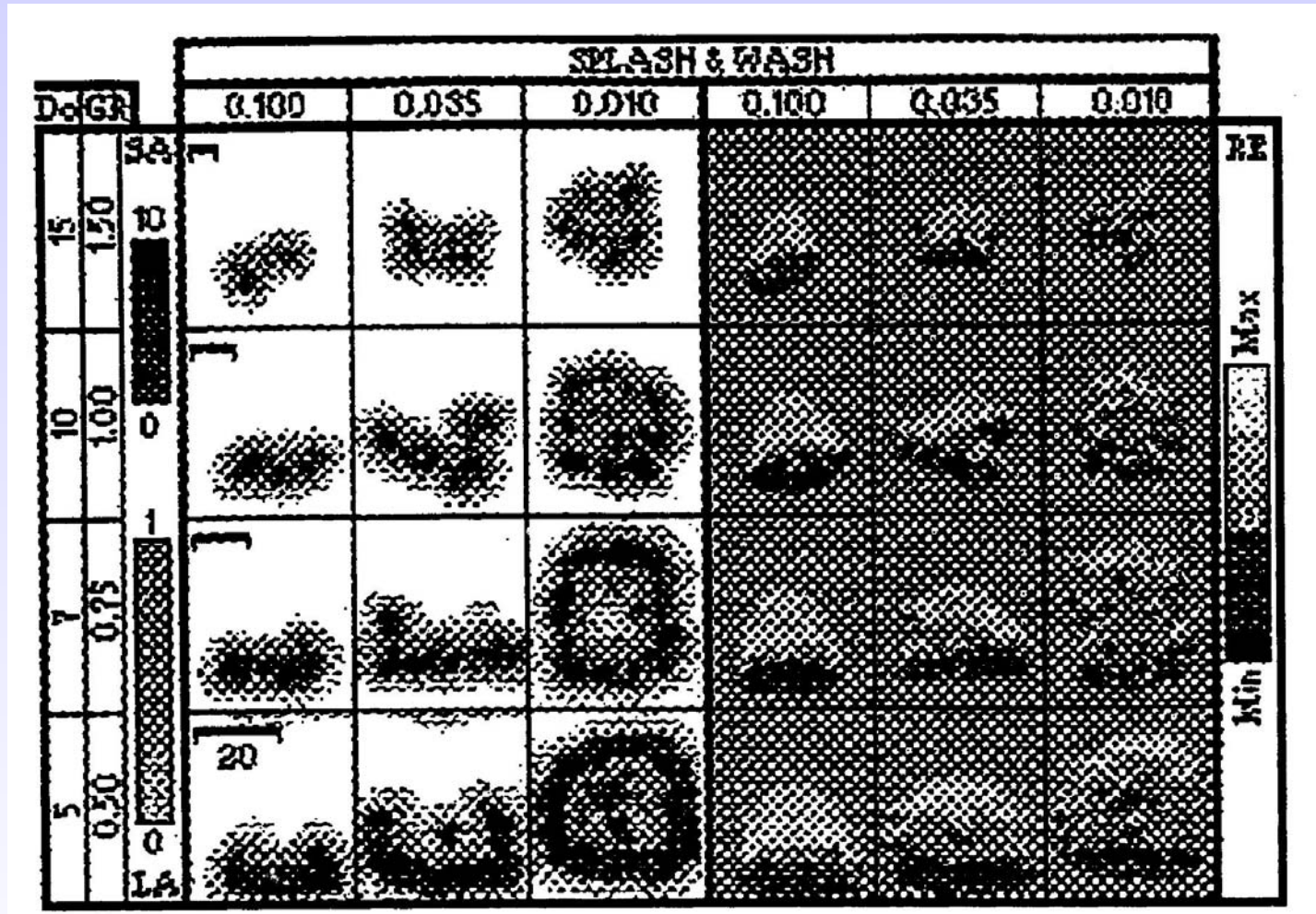


Figure 47.8 Root dry weight content at different soil depths (a) in bare-ground patches and (b) under tussocks, in the Rambla Honda field site. Error bars indicate 1 SE

Puigdefábregas & Sánchez, 1996

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

Interaction between alpha grass growth and slope



Puigdefábregas & Sánchez, 1996

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

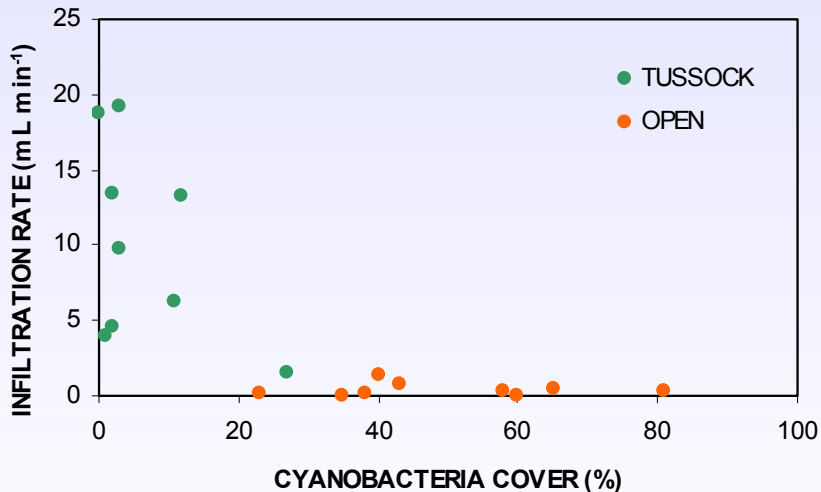
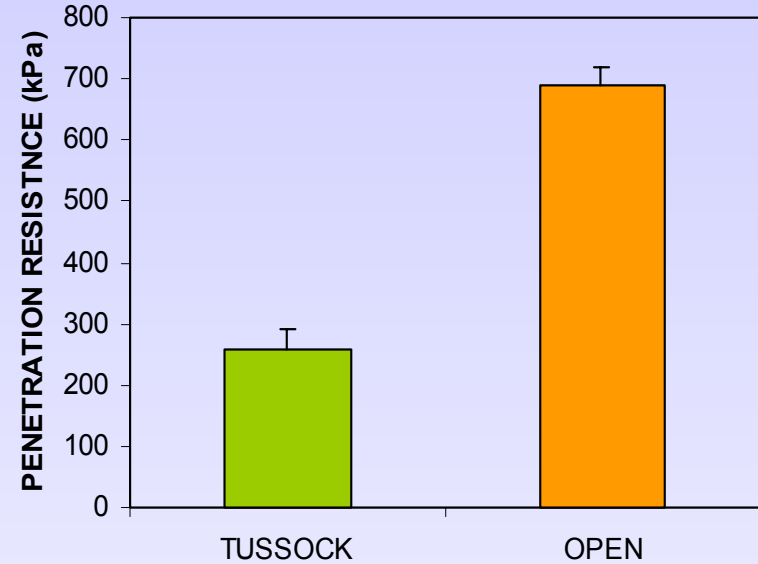
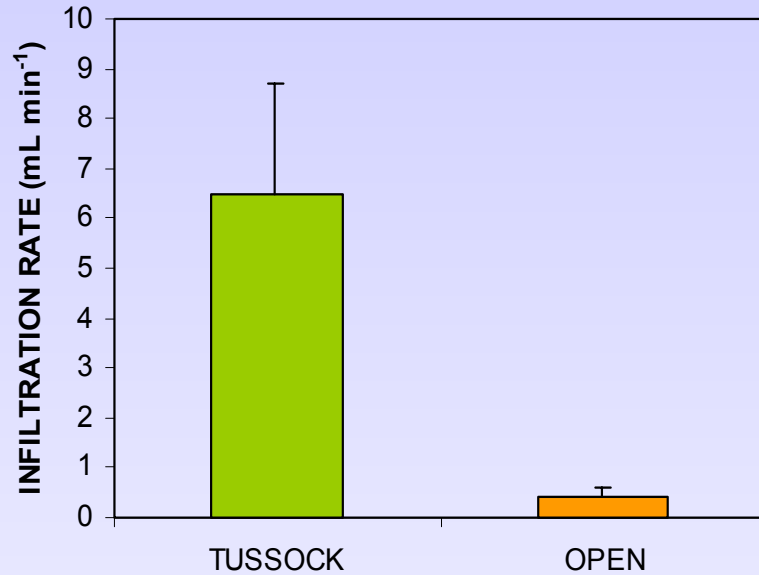
Tussocks affect surface soil properties



	Cover (%)	
	Tussock	Open
Cyanobacteria	6.8 ± 2.9	49.2 ± 6.0
Mosses	71.4 ± 5.5	12.0 ± 4.8
Lichens	0	15.56 ± 5.8
Bare soil	5.6 ± 1.1	16.8 ± 1.8

Maestre et al., 2002

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms



Changes in surface soil conditions favoured by alpha grass tussocks affect hydrological properties

partial correlation

$r^2 = -0.537$ $p = 0.039$

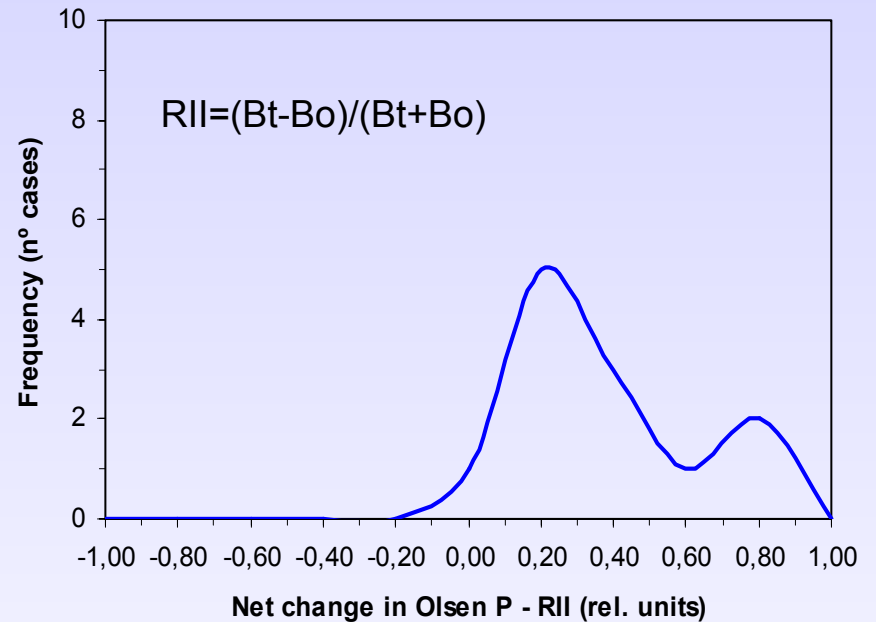
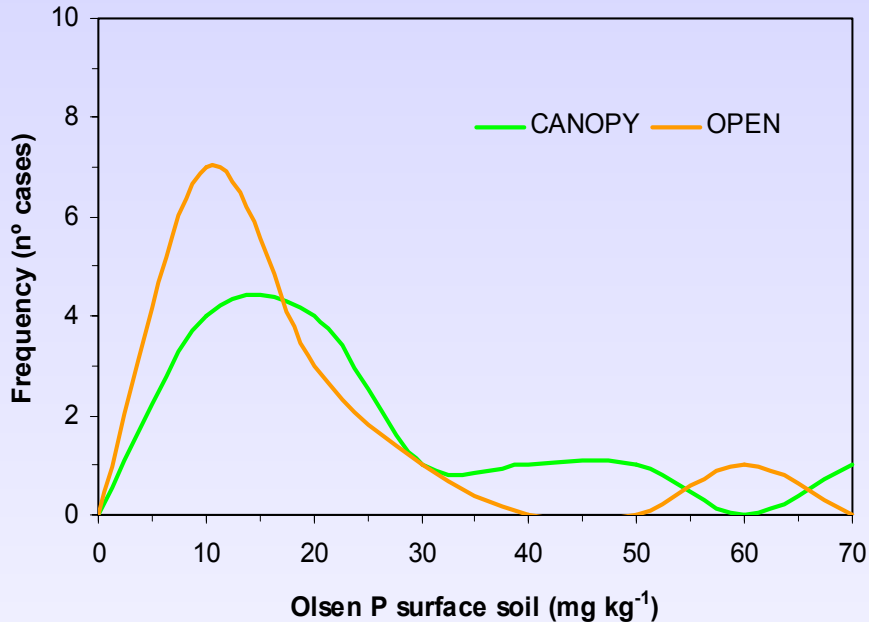
Maestre et al., 2002

Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms



Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

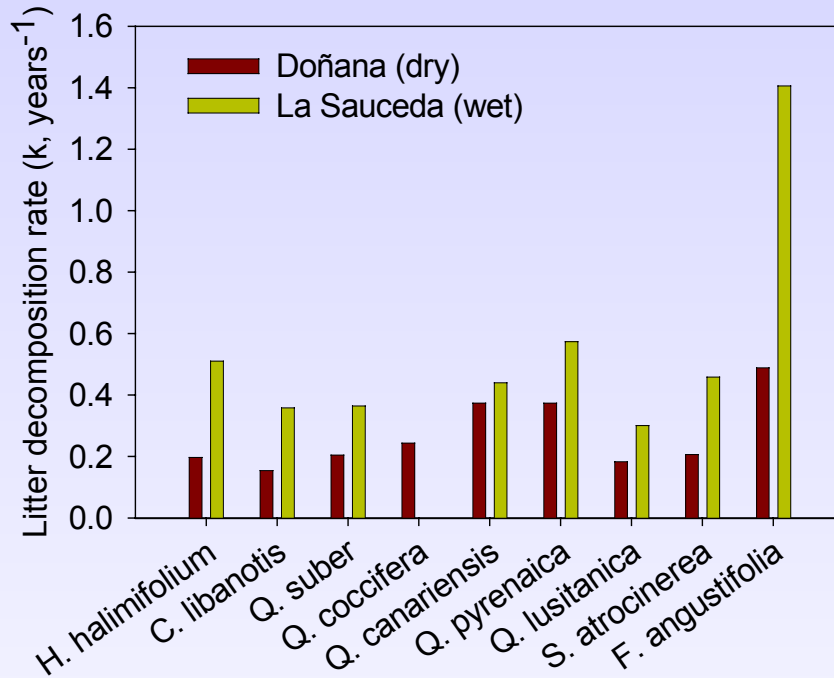
Phosphorus in islands of fertility



Cortina & Maestre, 2005

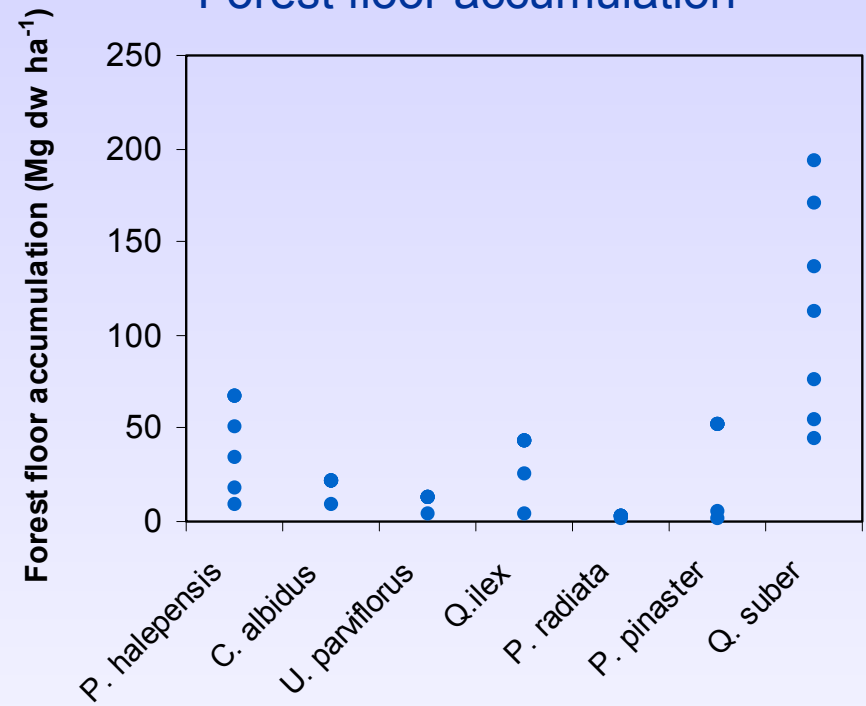
Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

Litter decay rate



Gallardo & Merino, 1993

Forest floor accumulation

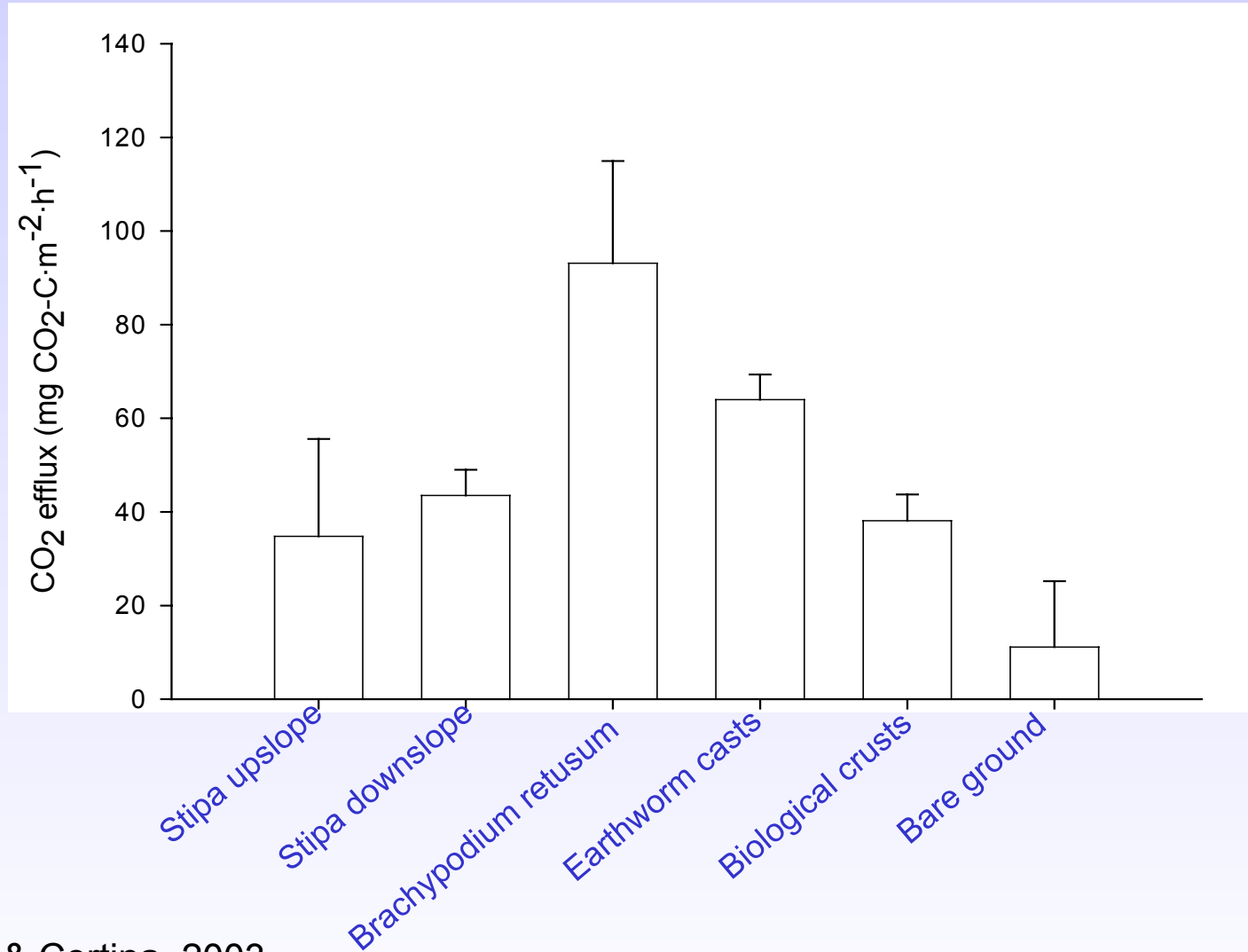


VV.AA.

Species and site effects on decay rates and forest floor accumulation are strong

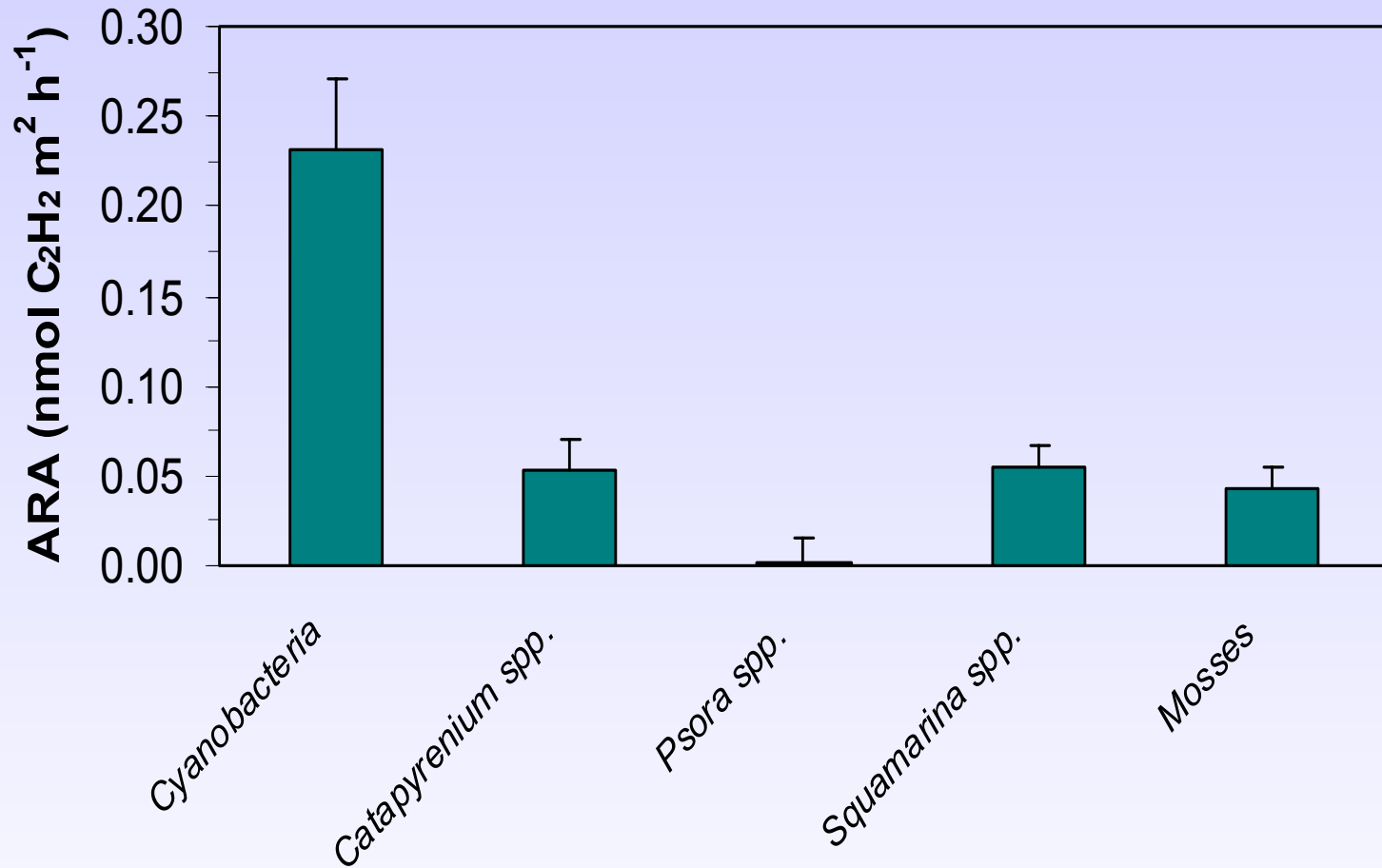
Spatial heterogeneity of resources and organisms

Biological properties also differ



Maestre & Cortina, 2003

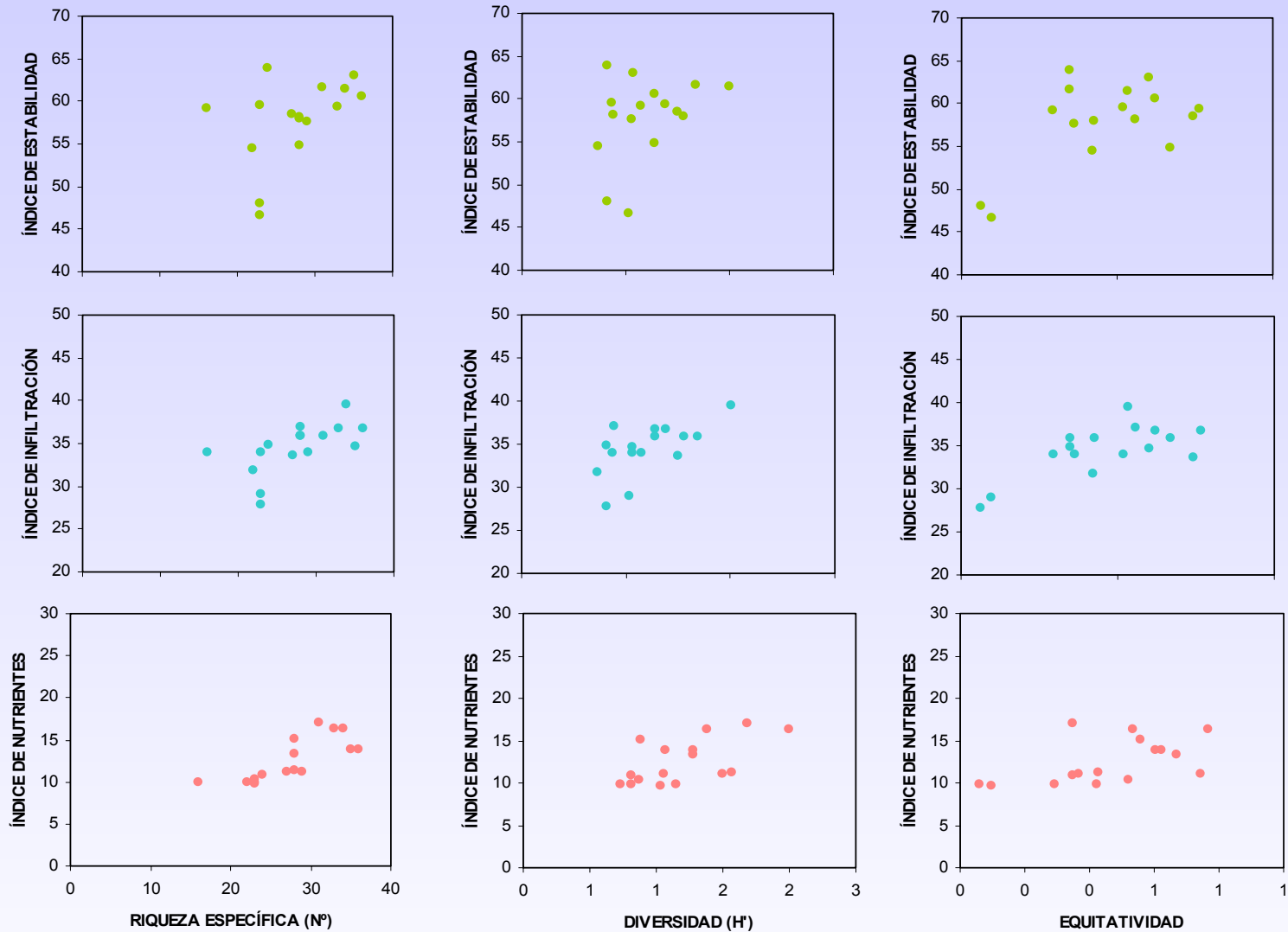
Interspecific interactions and community structure



Biological crusts can be a significant source of Nitrogen in drylands

Martín et al., unpubl.

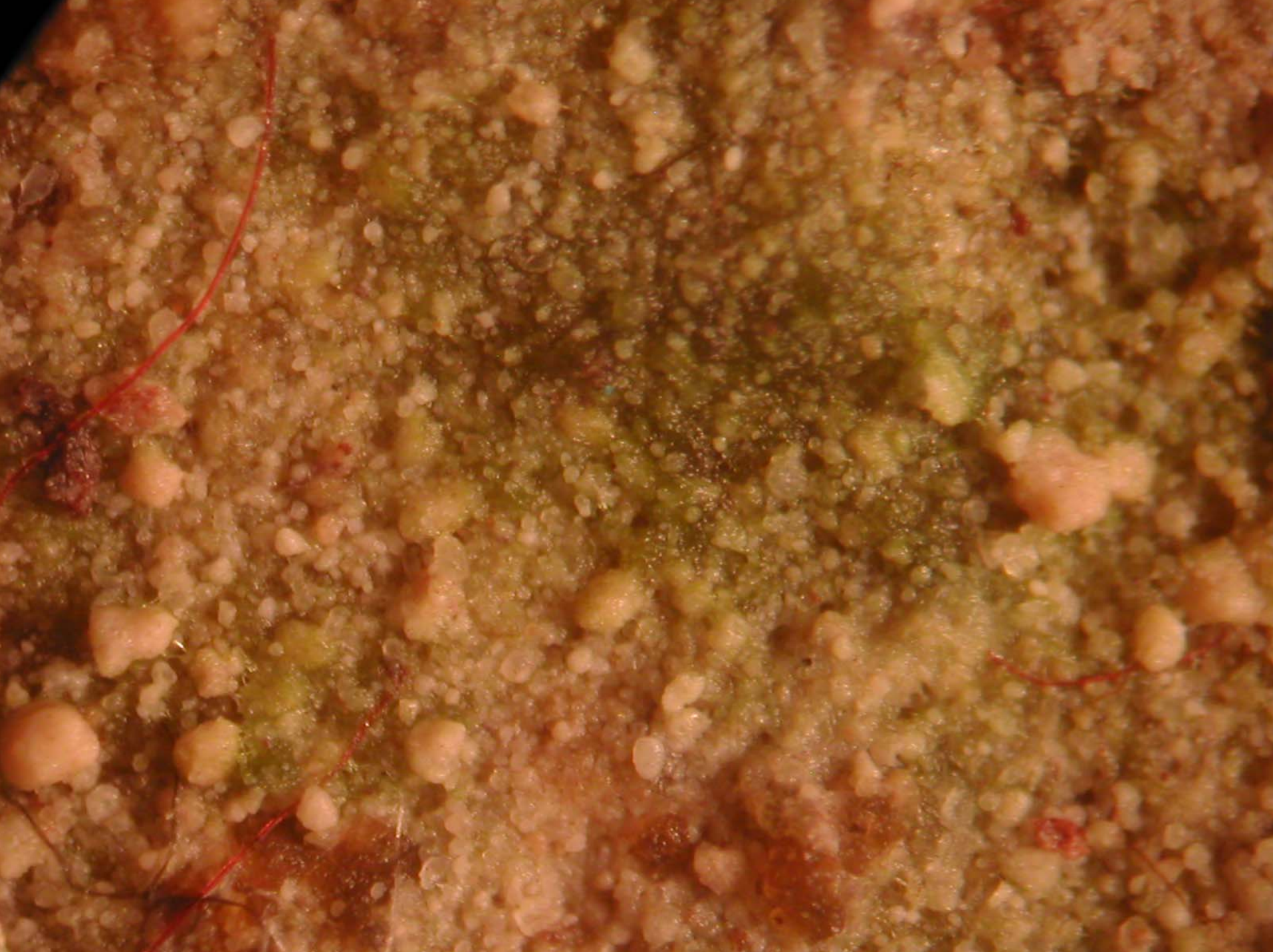
A framework for alpha grass steppe restoration



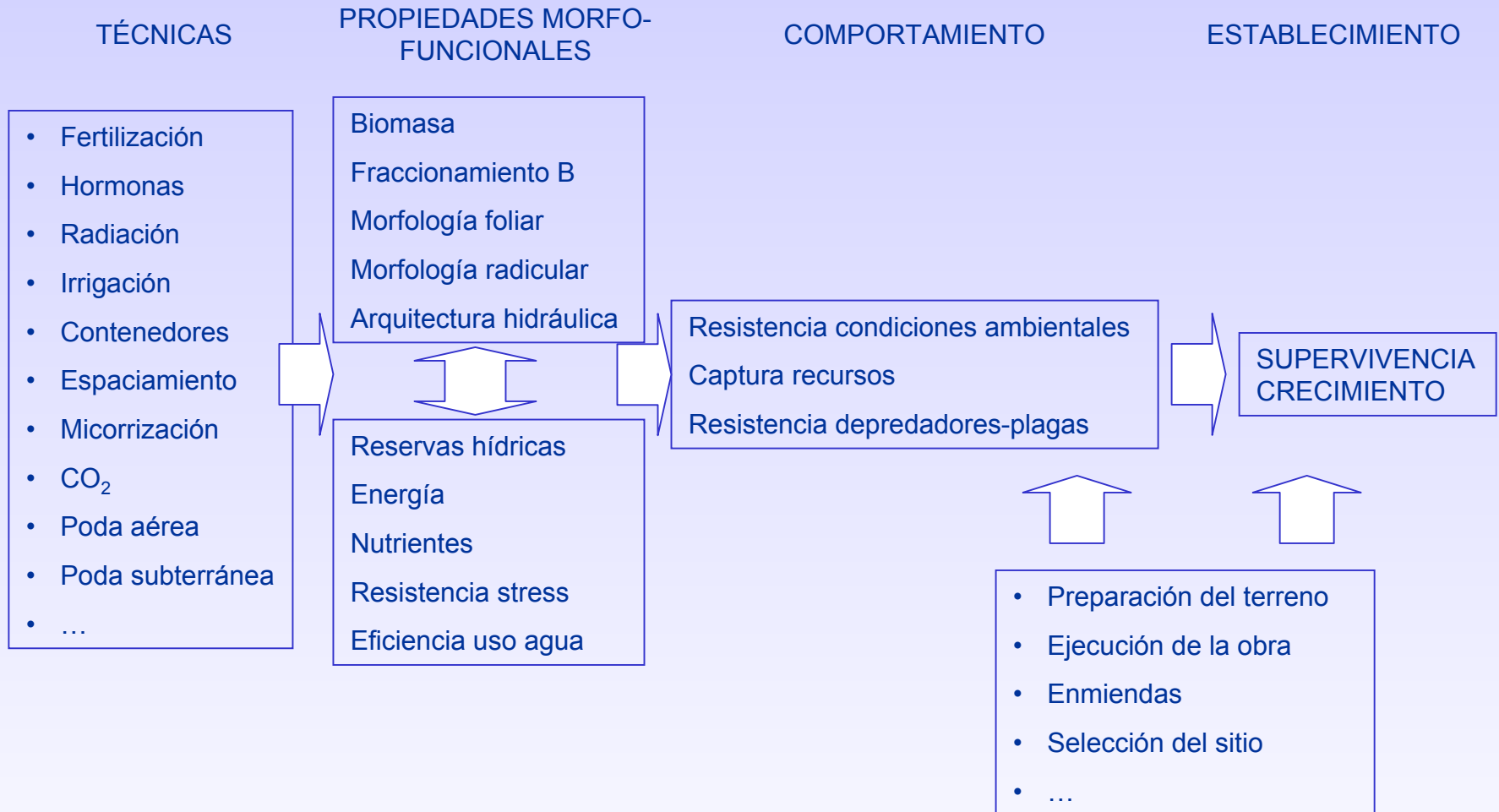
Maestre & Cortina, unpubl.

Landscape structure, functional state and restorability

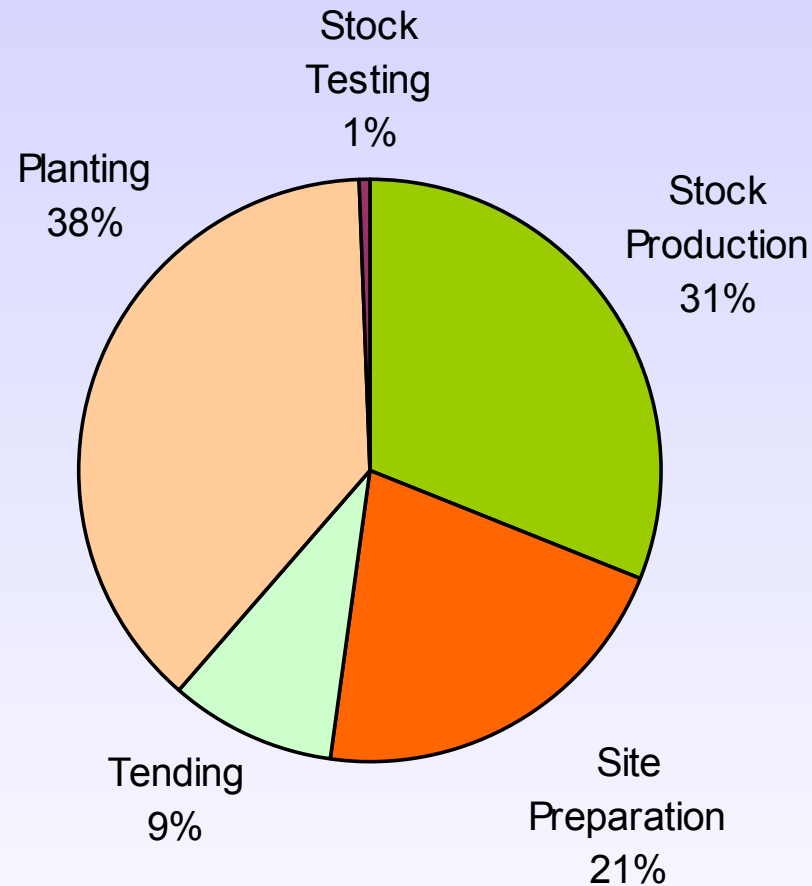




Ecotechnology - Seedling quality



Costes medios de una plantación comercial (Ontario)



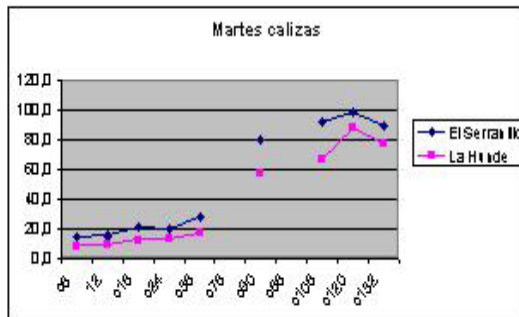
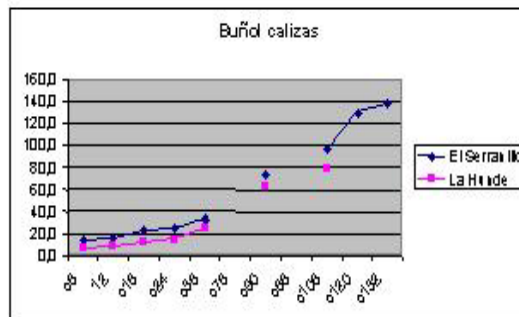
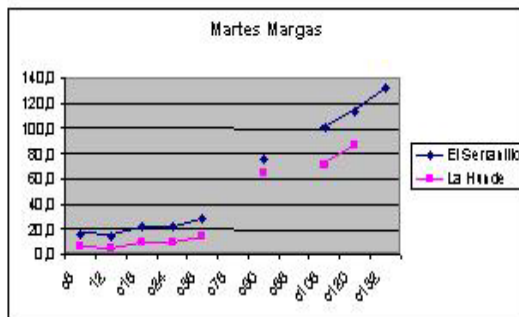
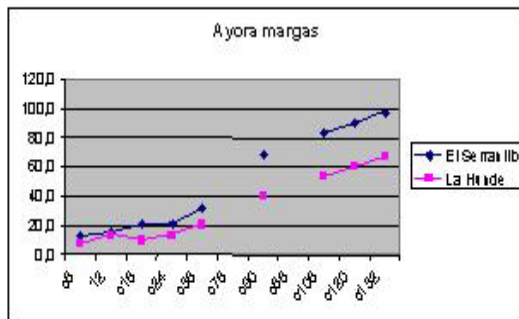
Sampson et al., 1997

Ecotechnology - Seedling

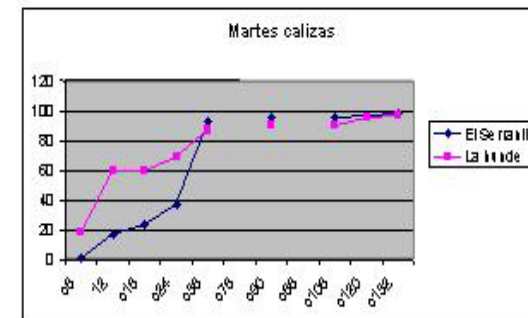
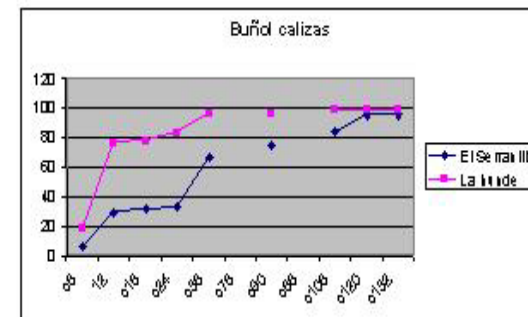
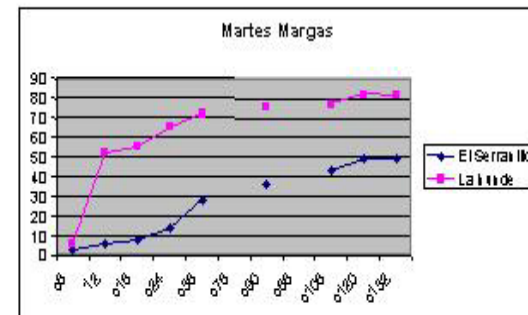
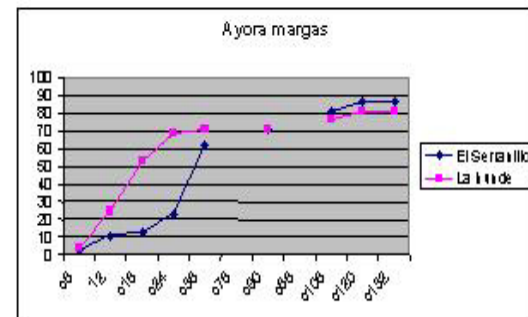
Seedling mortality
experimental plantations

CEAM 1992-1994

Crecimiento (altura cm)

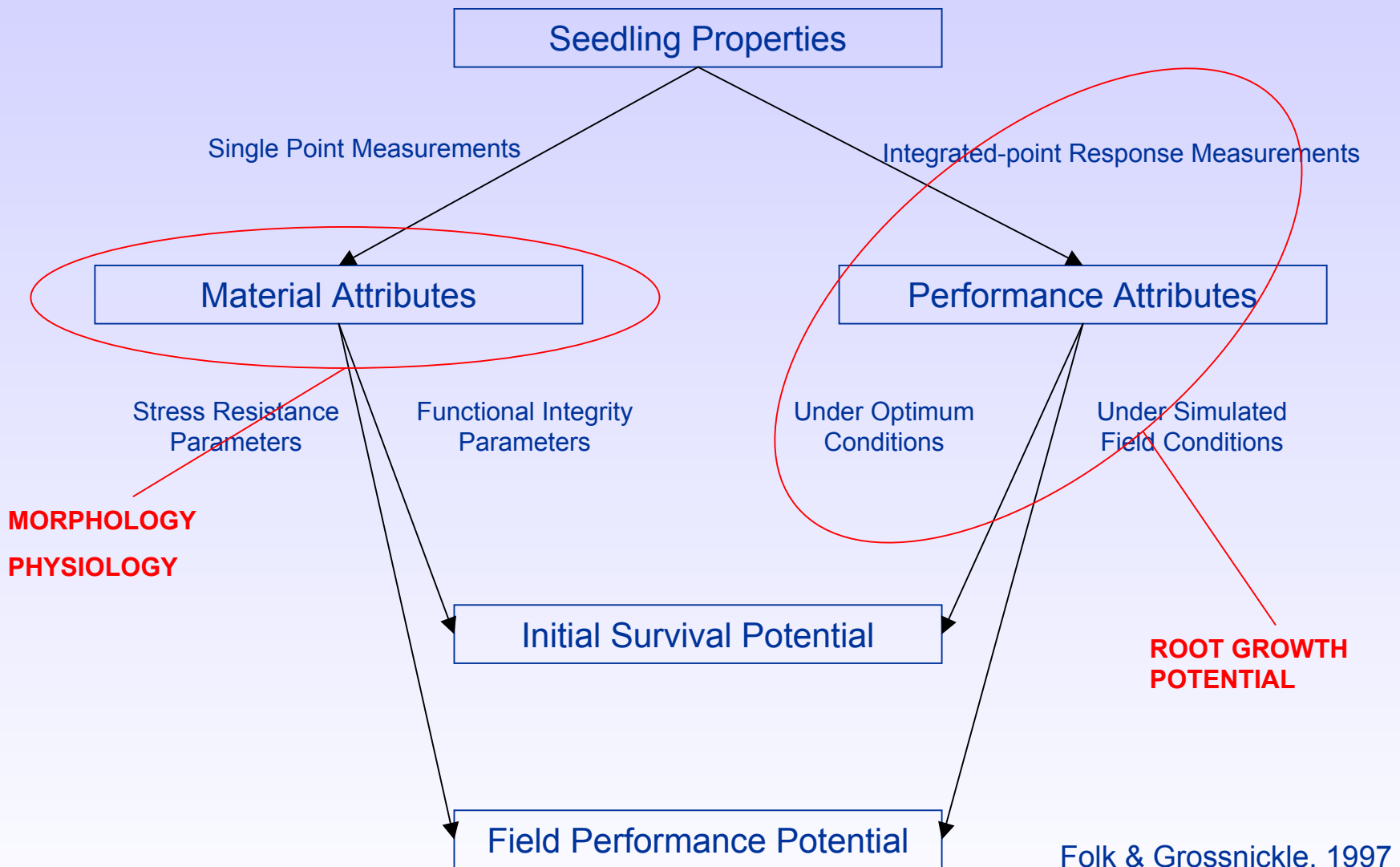


Mortalidades



J.A. Alloza (unpubl.)

Ecotechnology - Seedling quality



MORPHOLOGY
PHYSIOLOGY

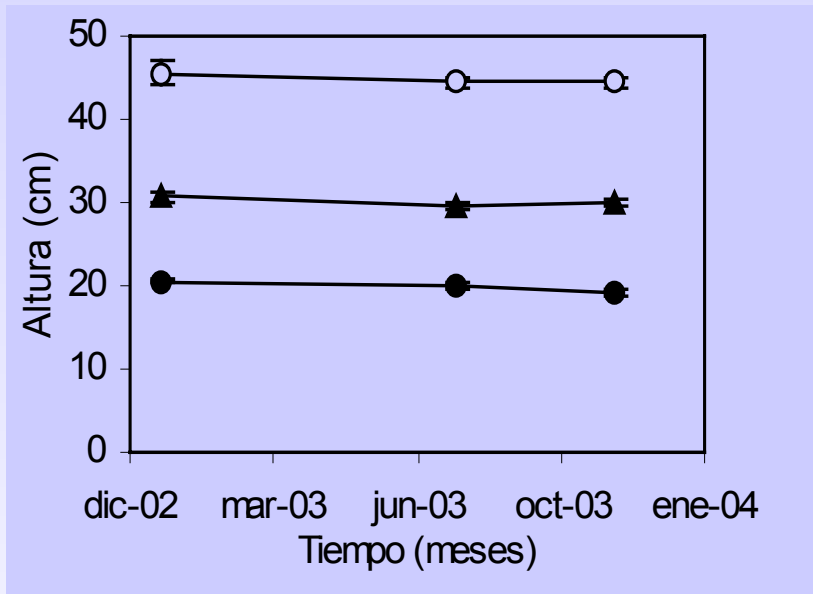
**ROOT GROWTH
POTENTIAL**

Folk & Grossnickle, 1997

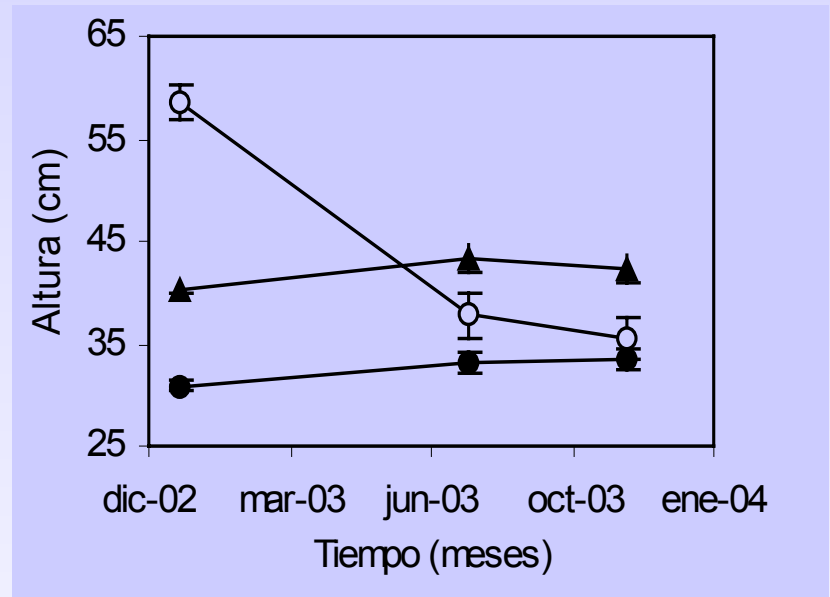
Ecotechnology - Seedling quality

Este ajuste se puede anticipar mediante poda

Quercus ilex ballota – S. Crevillente

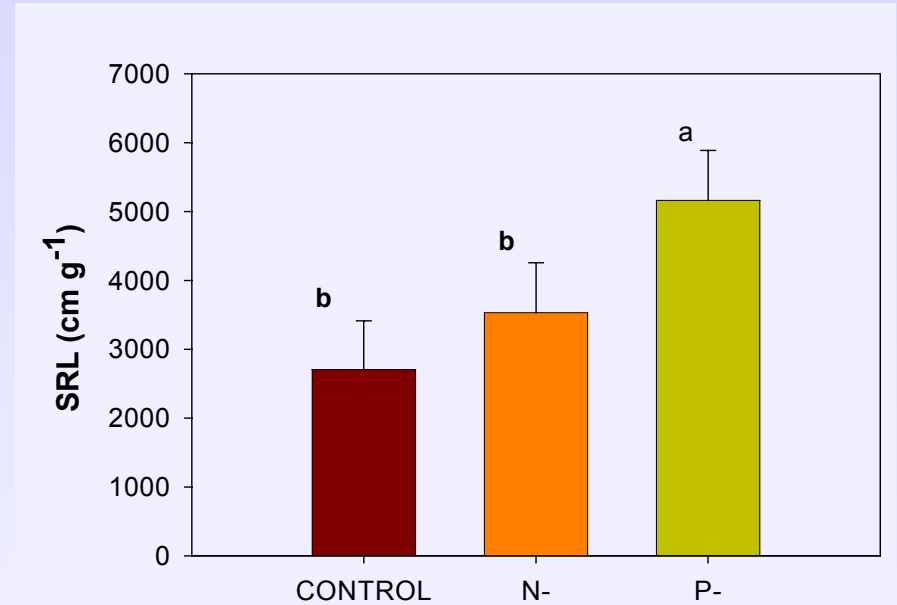
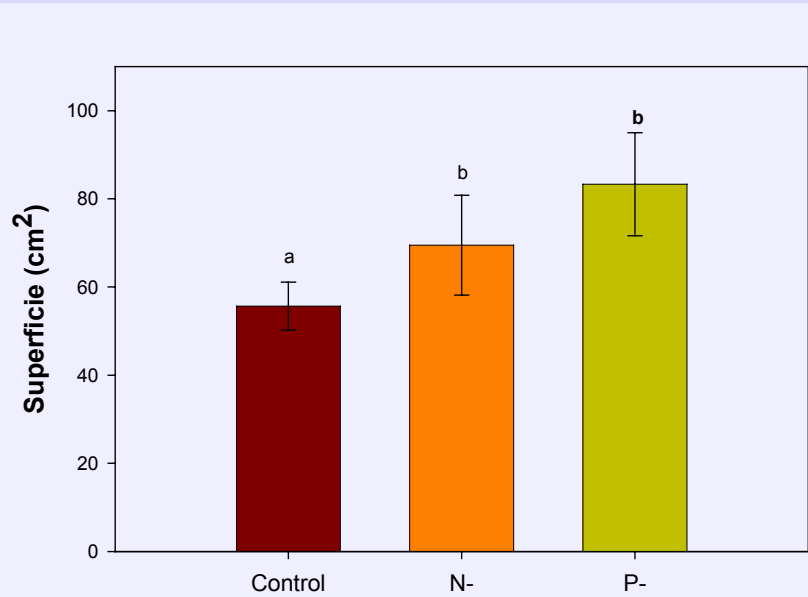


Ephedra fragilis - Albatera



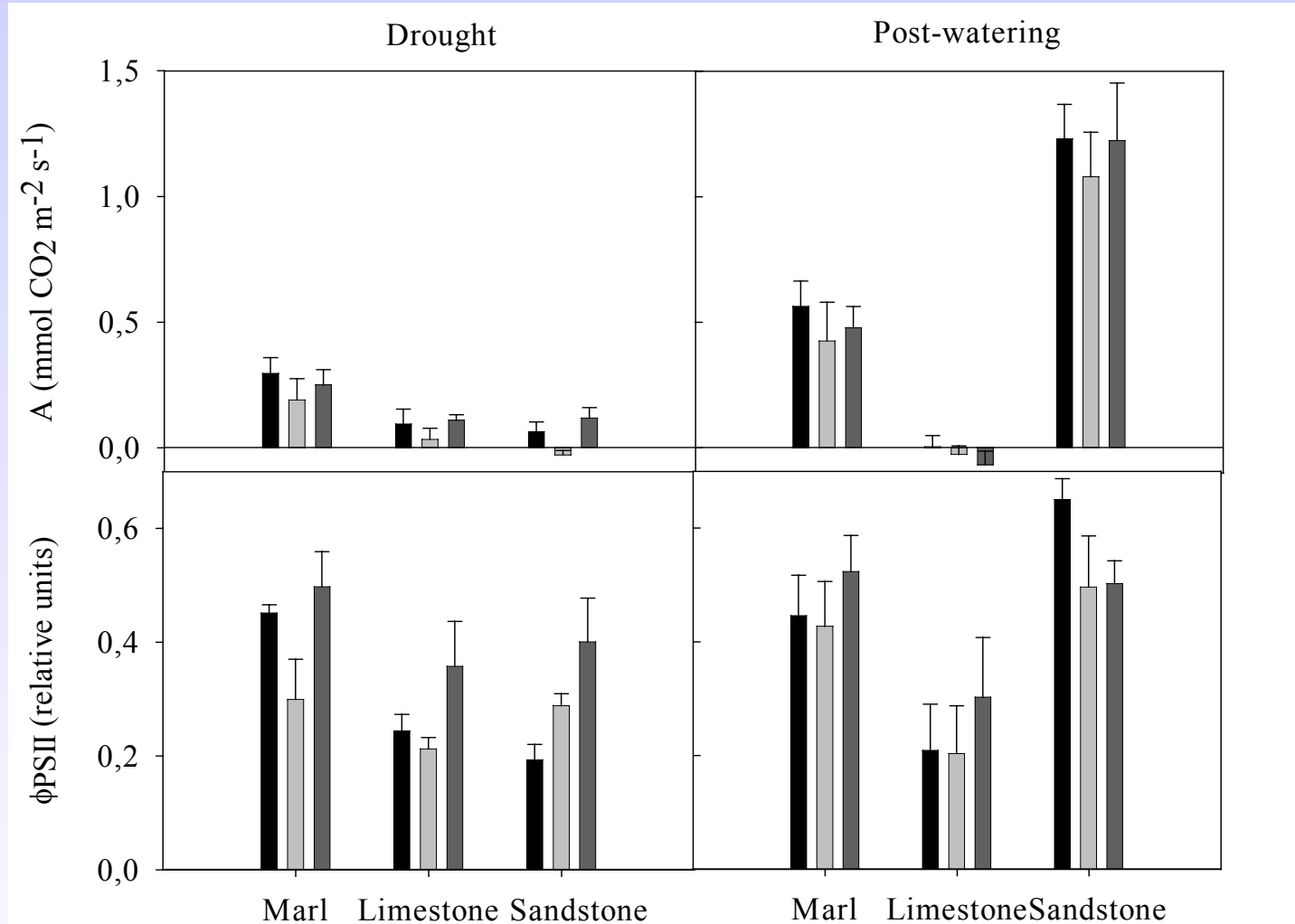
Chirino et al. (no publ.)

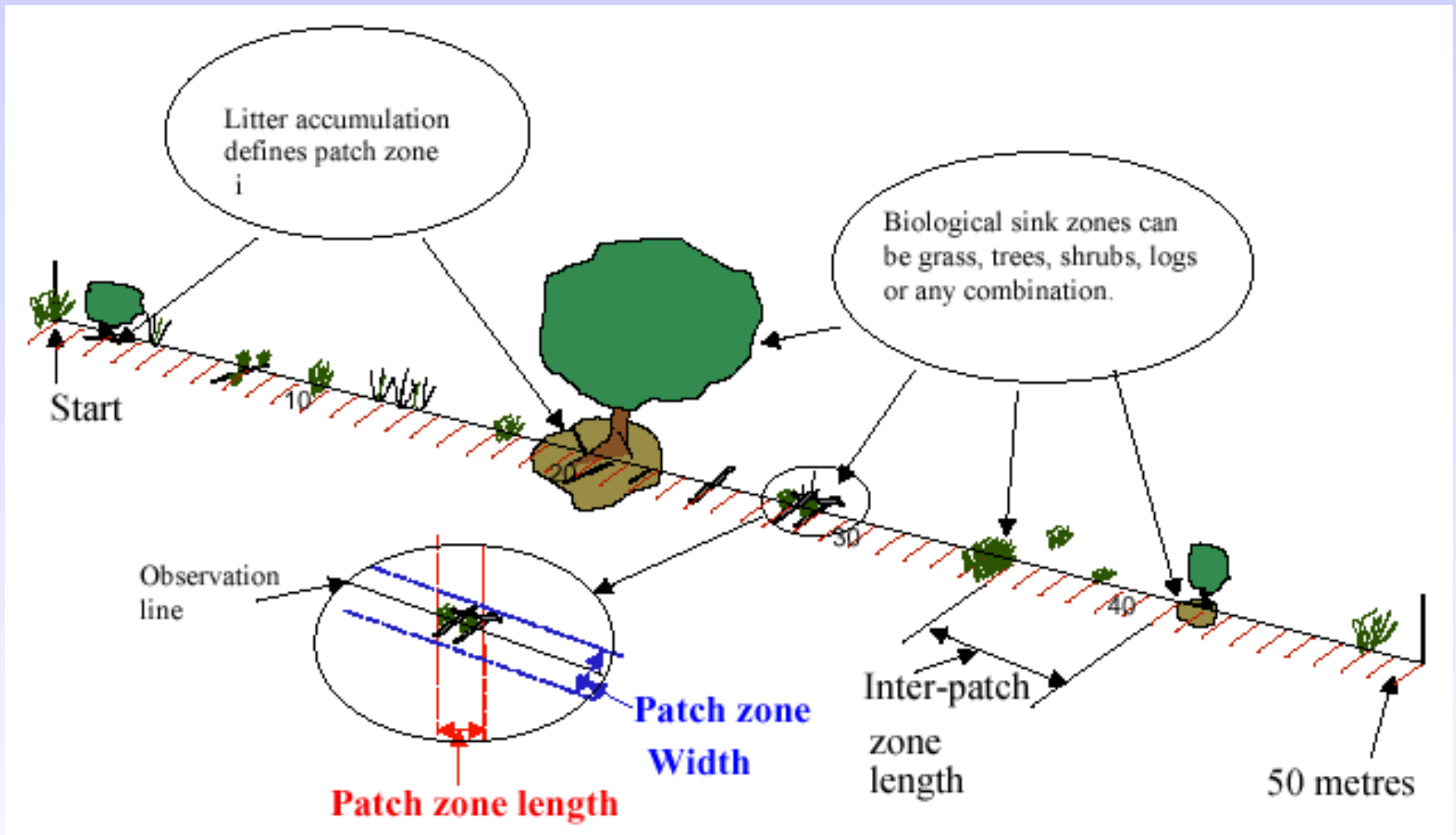
Morfología radicular *Pistacia lentiscus* – 3 meses



Trubat et al., en prensa

Ecotechnology – Site preparation



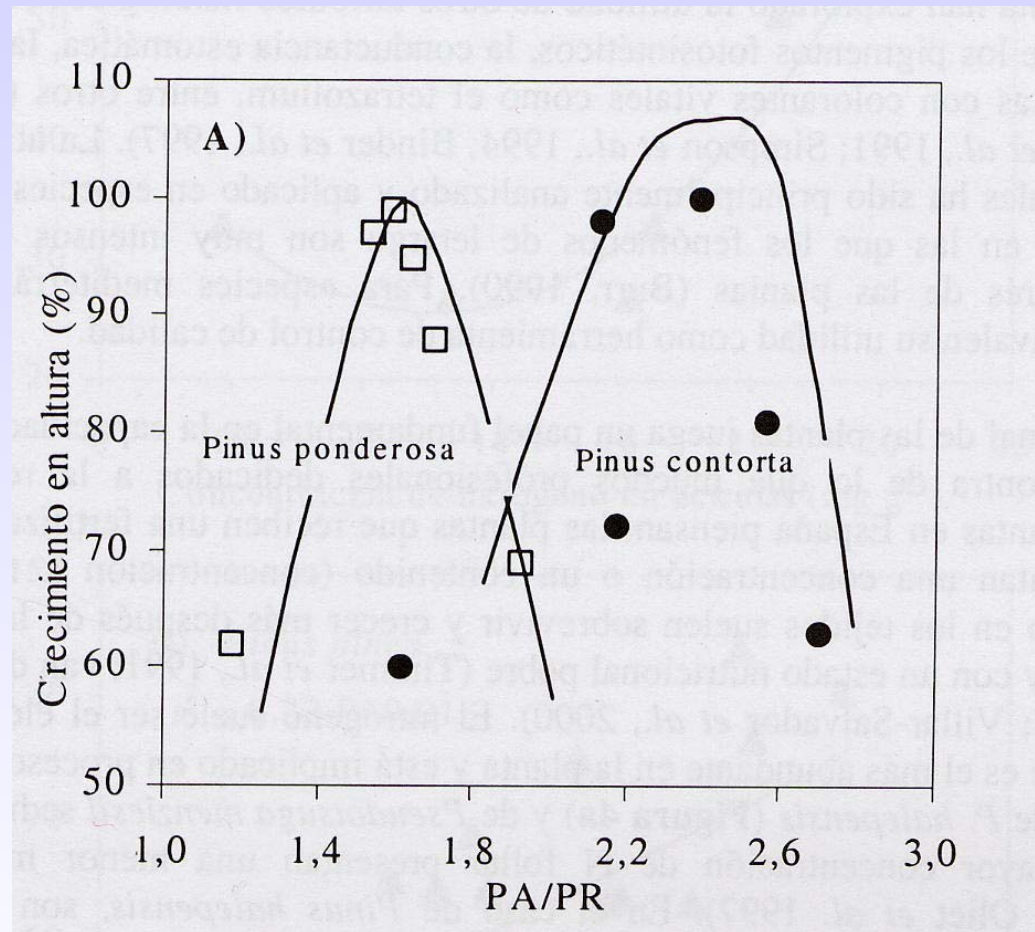


1. LANDSCAPE ORGANISATION

Tongway & Hindley, 2004



Las relaciones entre las variables morfológicas y el comportamiento en campo pueden ser de tipo unimodal



MacDonald et al. (1984) en Villar (2003)