

**M COLLEN RABOTHATA**

**GSSA 48<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

**VANUE: MODIMOLLE**



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**LONG TERM CHANGES IN THE HERBACIOUS  
LAYER (SPECIES COMPOSITION)  
BETWEEN THE RESEARCH STATIONS (ATHOLE  
RESEARCH FARM AND NOOITGEDACHT AGRIC  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE)  
IN THE HIGHVELD OF MPUMALANGA PROVINCE**



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# OBJECTIVES

- Determine if there is evidence for a long-term directional change in the structure, productivity and composition of grassland in response to global change. Specifically, determine if there has been a transformation of medium-height to tall grassland irrespective of grazing history or current grazing regime. An ancillary exercise would be to identify the factors responsible for directional change.



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# Method

- The method of line-point survey was used to assess the veld condition of the study area based on the descending – point method of plant survey (Roux 1963) using 300 points per paddock.

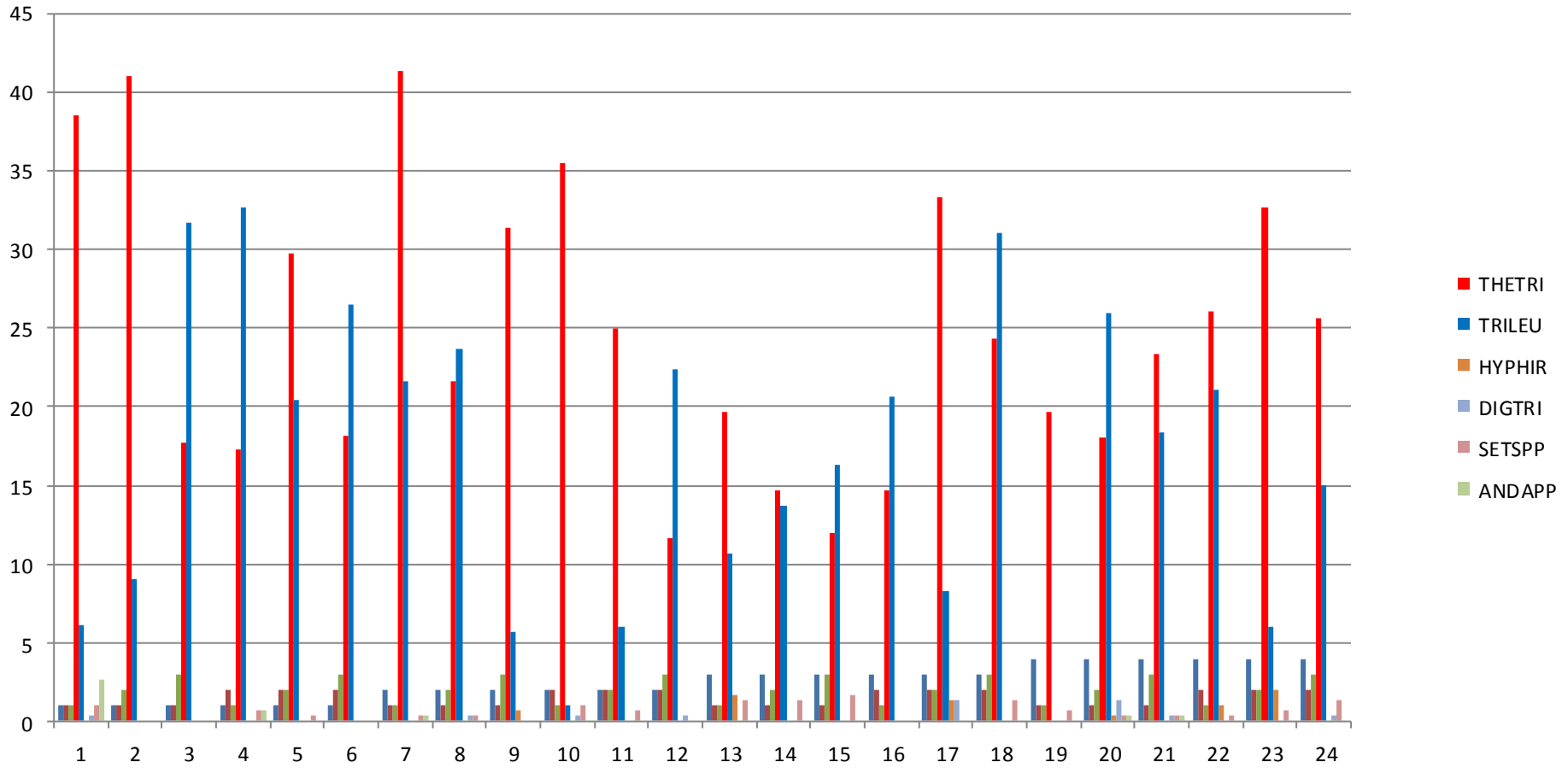


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# PRELIMINARY RESULTS



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	<b>Species</b>	<b>Average=24 plots</b>
1	HETCON	26.4
2	THETRI	24.7
3	TRILEU	16.4
4	ARISPP	6.4
5	ERACUR	6.1
6	PANNAT	3.9
7	OTHER	3.8
8	CYMPHU	2.6
9	ERARAC	2.2
10	ERASPP	2.1
11	ERAPLA	1.7
12	ERAGUM	1.2
13	ERACAP	0.6
14	SETSPP	0.6
15	HYPHIR	0.3
16	DIGTRI	0.2
17	KOECAP	0.2
18	ANDAPP	0.2
19	ALLSEM	0.2
20	ELIMUT	0.1

# CONCLUSION

- **The *Themeda triandra* and *Tristachya leucothrix* are dominating in most of the paddocks compared to other species.**



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- **I would like to thank my colleagues from DARDLA and Prof. Kevin Kirkman from UKZN for the encouragement in doing this type of study.**



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# Thanks for listening!



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