Post - fire succession of *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* (renosterbos) in Namaqualand Granite Renosterveld

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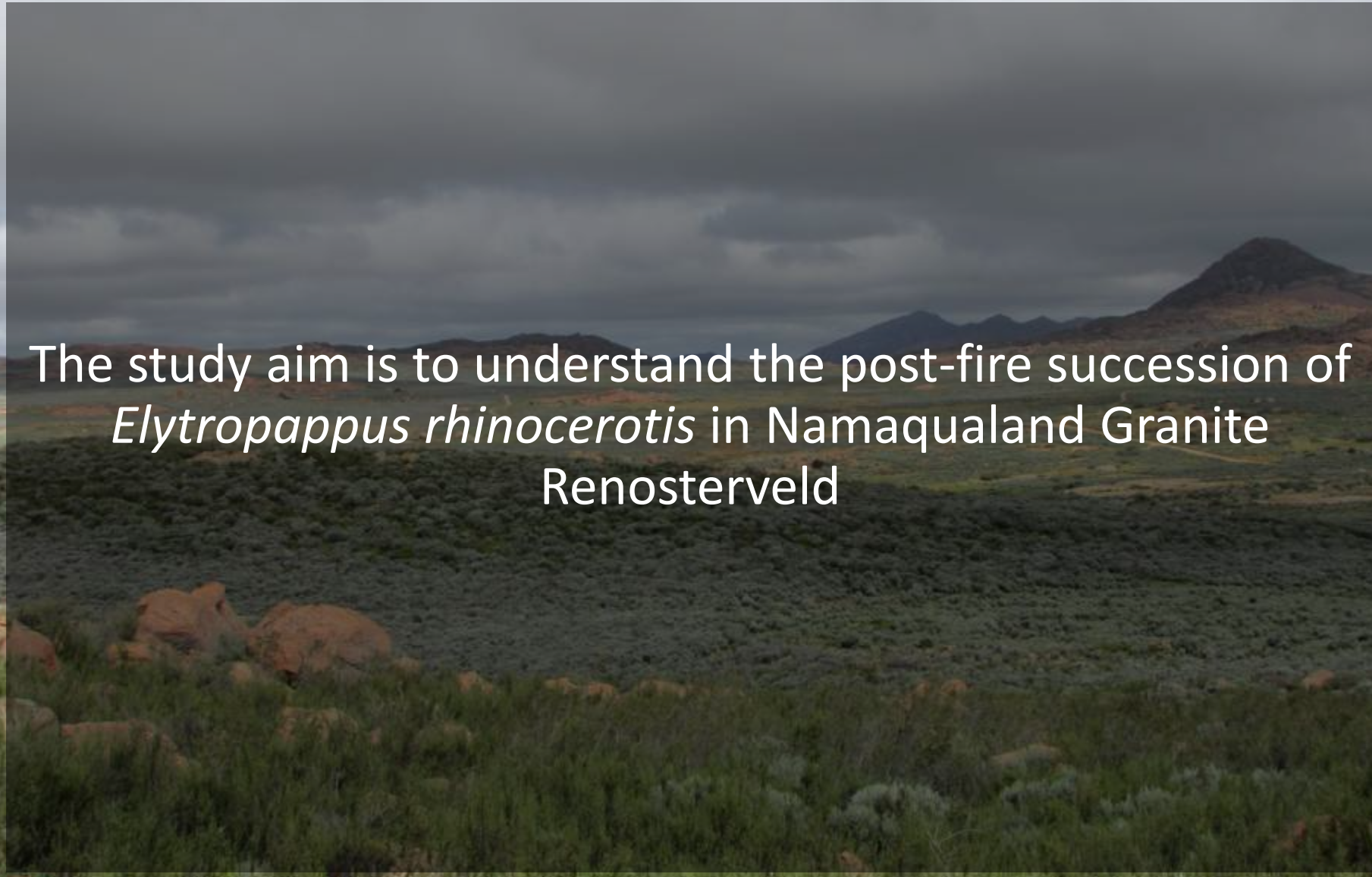
Background on *Elytropappus rhinocerotis*

- Dominant shrub in Renosterveld vegetation
- Deep tap root it can withstand a variety of temperatures and moisture fluctuations
- Impacts of land use on renosterbos poorly understood

Research aim



The study aim is to understand the post-fire succession of *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* in Namaqualand Granite Renosterveld

Research method

Fire data collection

- NASA archive fire history in Leliefontein
- Ten burnt sites

Vegetation collection

- plant density was studied using 100 m^2 quadrats
- Dominant perennial species were analysed in relation to *E. rhinocerotis* density

Figure 2: 100 m^2 quadrat used to sample species density

Results and discussion

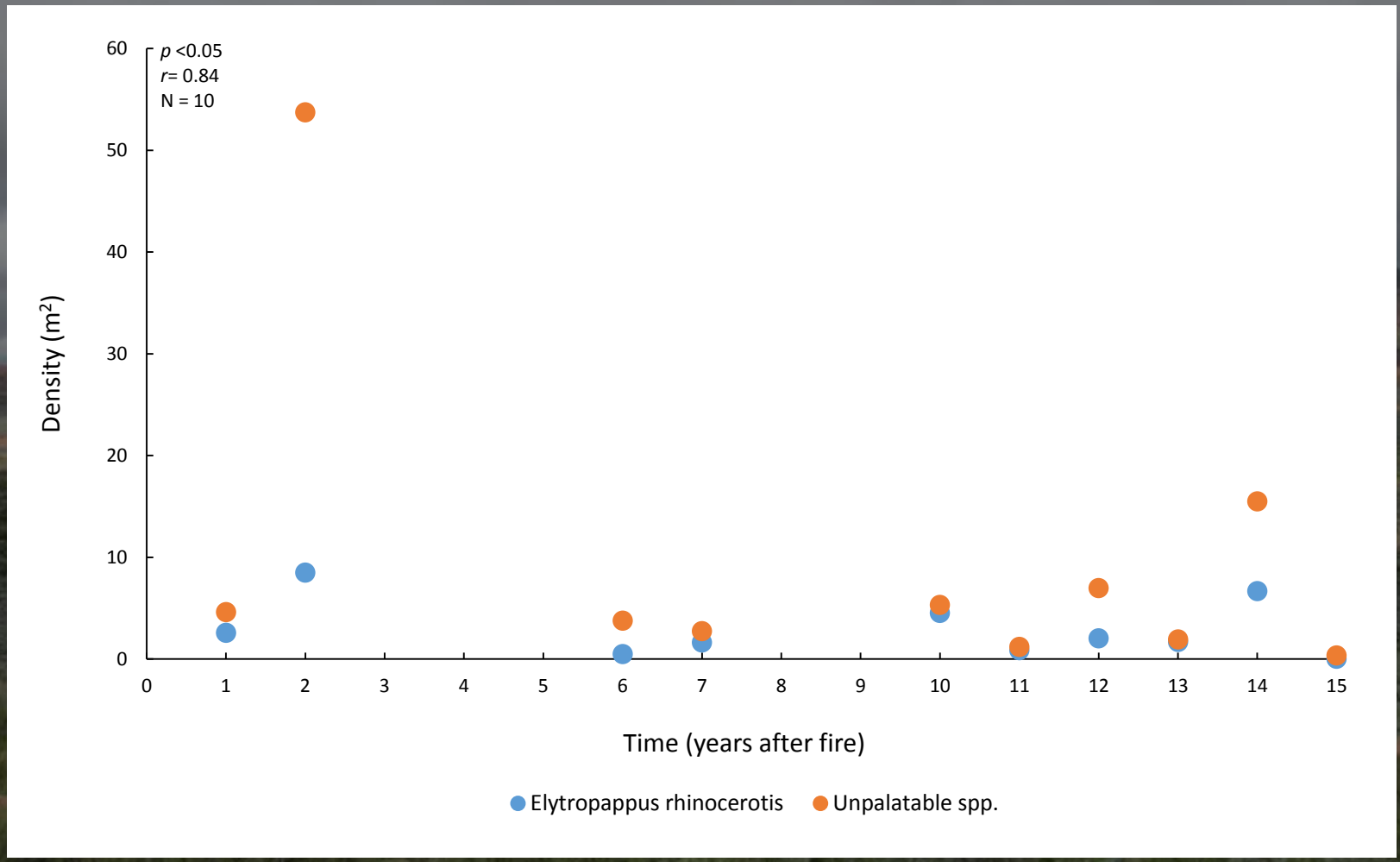


Figure 3: Correlation between *Elytropappus rhinocerotis* and the palatability of perennial species

Results and discussion

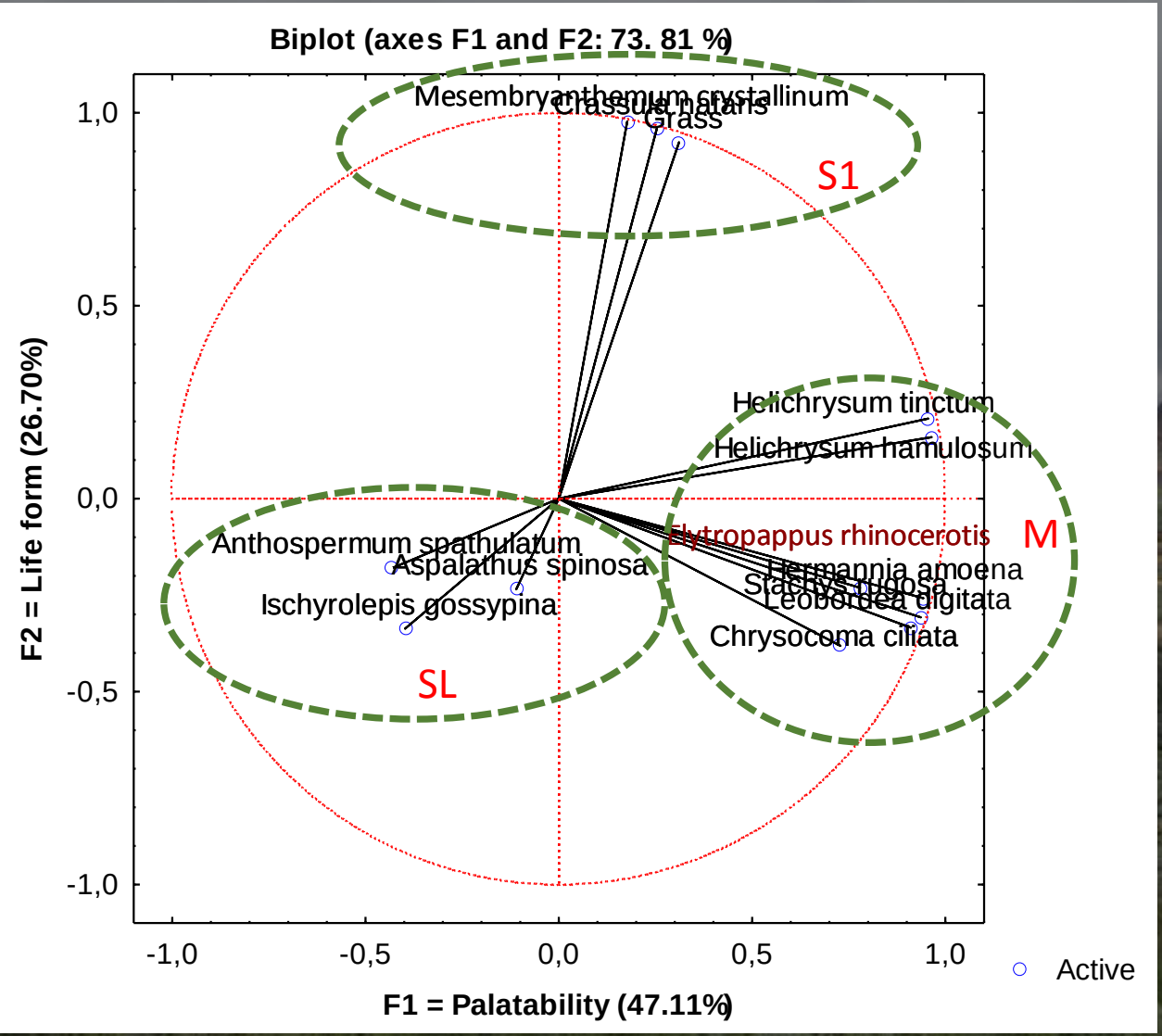


Figure 4: PCA biplot showing the palatability and life forms for species in burnt Namaqualand Granite Renosterveld sites

Conclusion

- Fire is not the only factor affecting *E. rhinocerotis*
- Grazing aid in the dominance of *E. rhinocerotis*
- Palatable perennials are remove from the system
- Vigorous competitor by using fire as an advantage

Acknowledgements