

Interactive comment on “Rainfall patterns after fire differentially affect the recruitment of three Mediterranean shrubs” by J. M. Moreno et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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General comments The manuscript represents a substantial contribution to scientific progress within the scope of Biogeosciences. The topic is well introduced and the experimental design is appropriate. However the experimental design is also complex and an effort should be made to guide the reader through the experiment. For example year and precipitation often coincide but the arbitrary use of the two terms intricate the reading. Given the complex design of the experiment and the way it is presented, results are hard to follow, also because there is a mismatch between the figure number in the text and the number in the captions. Graphs are not easy to read and some of the information that the text presents as results cannot be deduced from the graphs. For example figure 3 “seedling emergence of three seeder species. . .” is too dense and the feeling is that an extra graph would help the reader. The authors recall the average precipitation of the past 40 years to give an idea of the inter-annual variability, however

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the graph shows the mean values and not the variability. Some of the comments in the result section should be in the discussion, while the discussion does not meet the readers expectations as it is often a repletion of the results with little explanation. The discussion is also hard to follow as the results are not presented clearly.

Specific comments To evaluate emergence it would be usefull to know the seed bank size of the species in the plots, how can we know if a greater emergence is not due to a higher number of seeds? Similar comment for recruitment, would it not be useful to present recruitment as a percentage of emergence?

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 8, 5761, 2011.

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