

***Interactive comment on “Topo-edaphic controls
over woody plant biomass in South African
savannas” by M. S. Colgan et al.***

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The authors would like to thank the referee for the very helpful comments and suggestions. The comparisons to examples from Australian savannas are compelling and insightful. We concur that our understanding of edaphic controls of savanna woody structure is far from complete, and a review paper combining recent studies from around the world would help focus future research. In response to the specific comments, we agree the word “drivers” should be used specifically where causal relations are well understood. Additionally, we are unaware of studies that found linearly increasing woody biomass from crest to drainage line on basalt savanna landscapes. Please cite the “many studies” that have characterized the woody structure of basalt savanna catenas. Lastly, thank you for the extensive reference list; we will review the list and add cite

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these references where appropriate.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 9, 957, 2012.