

# Vegetative responses to defoliation of two Chilean matorral shrubs

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## Abstract

This paper reports the results of experimental defoliation of two common matorral species: *Lithraea caustica* and *Colliguaya odorifera*. *L. caustica* and *C. odorifera* are the matorral species previously shown to exhibit the highest and lowest levels of natural defoliation by browsing. Experimental defoliation was performed at four levels: 0% (controls), 25%, 66%, and 100%. *C. odorifera* exhibited vegetative responses stronger than controls only in the two highest levels of defoliation (66% and 100%), whereas *L. caustica* responded vigorously at the 25% and 100% levels. The results are related to the observed position of both species in the matorral community and their relative defoliation risks by natural and introduced herbivores.

**Keywords** Vegetative Response, Experimental Defoliation, Natural Defoliation, Matorral Species