

Structure and dynamics of vegetation in a Chilean arid thornscrub community

J. Gutierrez, P. L. Meserve, F. M. Jaksic, L. C. Contreras, S. Herrera, H. Vasquez

Abstract

Rainfall had a noticeable effect on the cover of annual herbs, especially species that are restricted to areas under bushes, but it had little effect on the cover of perennial shrubs and herbs, except for the summer drought-deciduous species. Shrub cover in the study site within Parque Nacional Fray Jorge has remained about the same (60%) for almost 50 yr.