Table S1: Biophysical information for the four study sites.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strandveld | Limestone Fynbos | Sand Fynbos  | Renosterveld |
| Nature reserve | Gouritz Mouth Local Authority Nature Reserve | Pauline Bohnen Local Authority Nature Reserve | Rein’s Private Nature Reserve | Werner Frehze Local Authority Nature Reserve |
| Plot coordinates | S34̊ 21′17.38″E21̊ 52′28.65″ | S34̊ 21′55.62″E21̊ 25′26.00″ | S34̊ 20′40.87″S E21̊ 45′59.80″E | S34̊ 06′58.25″21̊ 14′59.70″E |
| MAP (mm) | 352 | 510 | 352 | 378 |
| Soil description | Deep alkaline sand; moderately fertile | Shallow, alkaline sand overlying limestone; infertile | Deep, leached, acid sand: infertile | Shallow, slightly acid loam overlying clayey sub-soil; moderately fertile |
| Dominant species | *Cassine peragua*(Celastraceae)*Eriocephalus africanus*(Asteraceae)*Osteospermum moniliferum*(Asteraceae)*Rhoicissus digitata*(Vitaceae)*Sideroxylon inerme*(Sapotaceae)*Zygophyllum morgsana*(Zygophyllaceae) | *Erica spectabilis*(Ericaceae)*Ischyrolepis* *leptocladus* (Restionaceae)*Leucadendron* *meridianum*(Proteaceae)*Metalasia muricata* (Asteraceae)*Stoebe muirrii*(Asteraceae)*Thamnochortus* *muirrii*(Restionaceae) | *Cliffortia illicifolia*(Rosaceae)*Erica dispar*(Ericaceae)*Leucadendron eucalyptifolium*(Proteaceae)*Leucospermum praecox*(Proteaceae) *Protea susannae*(Proteaceae)*Thamnochortus insignis*(Restionaceae)*Watsonia fourcadei*(Iridaceae) | *Aloe ferox*(Asphodelaceae) *Elytropappus rhinocerotis*(Asteraceae)*Ehrharta calycina* (Poaceae)*Eriocephalus africanus*(Asteraceae) *Metalasia pungens*(Asteraceae) *Themeda triandra*(Poaceae) |