



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research
Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology



Seminar

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Seminar Room, Old Administration Building

Recruitment sites: metaphor or resource?

Evidence of competition for sites between annual plants

Recruitment sites are used to explain numerous phenomena in plant population and community ecology. However, we do not know if they are a real resource. In a field experiment in an annual plant community on biocrust in semi-arid shrubland, mowing reduced seed input and plant density and biomass of the dominant, and increased plant density, biomass and species number of the subordinate species. The results support the hypothesis that competition is for recruitment sites, which may have important implications for further theoretical and experimental research.