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Shifts in the elemental composition of plants during a very severe drought

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Highlights

- -Each species had a particular elemental composition in all circumstances
- -Species had more plastic stoichiometry when growing in more diverse communities
- -The stoichiometric shifts due to drought were more community- than species-dependent
- -Drought in all cases decreased K, N, P, Mg and S, and increased C and Fe concentrations

ABSTRACT

Diverse plant functions (e.g. growth, storage, defense and anti-stress mechanisms) use elements disproportionally. We hypothesized that plants growing under different