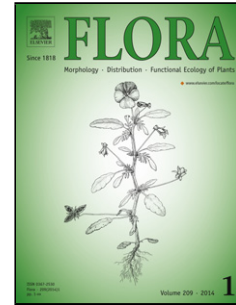


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So close, yet so different: divergences in resource use may help stabilize coexistence of phylogenetically-related species in a megadiverse grassland

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Highlights

Functional divergence (niche partitioning) stabilizes species coexistence

We assessed trait divergence in species from two microhabitats in *campo rupestre*

Species in xeric sites had lower water potential compared to species in mesic sites

These results support the idea of hydrological niche segregation in *campo rupestre*

Differences in water usage strategies help explain segregated species distribution

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