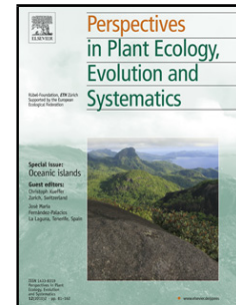


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## Gatekeepers to the effects of climate warming? Niche construction restricts plant community changes along a temperature gradient

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### Highlights

- Crowberry abundance increases with temperature
- Herbaceous plant abundance increases with temperature, but not in communities where crowberry is present
- Reindeer promote abundance of the crowberry plant, but not of its berries
- Niche construction by crowberry is likely to modify effects of climate change in tundra ecosystems

### Abstract

Organisms that modify the environment (niche constructors) are likely candidates to mediate the effects of climate warming. Here we assess tundra plant community changes along a temperature gradient and how these are modified in the presence of the common allelopathic dwarf shrub *Empetrum nigrum* and the large herbivore *Rangifer tarandus*.

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