**Read me**

Title:Nitrogen deposition magnifies the sensitivity of desert steppe plant communities to large changes in precipitation

Ma et al. Journal of Ecology

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| **Sheet1: Plant community & soil metrics** |
| **Columns** | **Explanations** |
| Years | Experimental years |
| Blocks | The number of repeated blocks |
| Precipitation  | Precipitation treatments: -50%, -25%, 0, +25%, +50% precipitation relative to the ambient precipitation amount |
| Nitrogen  | Nitrogen treatments: N0 indicates without nitrogen addition, N10 indicates with nitrogen addition at a rate of 10 g N m-2 yr-1 |
| GSP | Mean growing season precipitation amount |
| SWC | Soil volumetric water content |
| NH4-N | Soil ammonium nitrogen (NH4+-N) |
| NO3-N | Soil nitrate nitrogen (NO3--N) |
| ANPP | Aboveground net primary production |
| CWM height | Plant community-weighted mean (CWM) height |
| B\_*A. capillaris* | Absolute aboveground biomass of *Artemisia capillaris* |
| Bgrass | Absolute aboveground biomass of grass |
| Bforbs | Absolute aboveground biomass of forbs |
| RB\_*A. capillaris* | Relative aboveground biomass of *Artemisia capillaris* |
| RB\_grass | Relative aboveground biomass of grass |
| RB\_forbs | Relative aboveground biomass of forbs |
| **Sheet2: 4th-root species cover for NMDS** |
| **Columns** | **Explanations** |
| Years | Experimental years |
| Blocks | The number of repeated blocks |
| Precipitation treatments | Precipitation treatments: -50%, -25%, 0, +25%, +50% precipitation relative to the ambient precipitation amount |
| Nitrogen treatments | Nitrogen treatments: N0 indicates without nitrogen addition, N10 indicates with nitrogen addition at a rate of 10 g N m-2 yr-1 |
| *At* | *Allium tenuissimum* L. |
| *Ac* | *Artemisia capillaris* Thunb. |
| *Ag* | *Astragalus galactites* Pall. |
| *Cg* | *Chenopodium glaucum* L. |
| *Cs* | *Cleistogenes squarrosa* (Trin.) Keng |
| *Es* | *Erodium stephanianum* Willd. |
| *Gs* | *Gueldenstaedtia stenophylla* Bunge |
| *Ha* | *Heteropappus altaicus* (Willd.) Novopokr. |
| *It* | *Iris tenuifolia* Pall. |
| *Kp* | *Kochia prostrata* (L.) Schrad. |
| *Li* | *Lagochilus ilicifolius* Bunge |
| *La* | *Lepidium apetalum* Willd. |
| *Np* | *Neopallasia pectinate* (Pall.) Polijk. |
| *Sc* | *Salsola collina* Pall. |
| *Sd* | *Scorzonera divaricate* Turcz. |
| *St* | *Stipa tianschanica* Roshev. |
| *Tt* | *Tribulus terrester* L. |