

# Journal of Vegetation Science

## Additive influences of soil and climate gradients drive tree community composition of Central African rainforests

Journal:	<i>Journal of Vegetation Science</i>
Manuscript ID	JVS-RA-05213
Manuscript Type:	Research article
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Keywords:	Cameroon, Climate gradient, Soil gradient, Species abundance, Species occurrence, Tropical rainforests

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Manuscripts

1 **Title:**

2 **Additive influences of soil and climate gradients drive tree community**  
3 **composition of Central African rainforests**

4 **Running title:**

5 **Soil and climate shape tree composition**

6

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#### 42 **Funding information:**

43 International Foundation for Science, IFS, Grant Number: D/5621-1. The European Union  
44 Climate KIC grant FOREST: Specific Grant Agreement; EIT/CLIMATE KIC/SGA2016/1.

45

#### 46 **Abstract:**

47 **Aim:** Examining tree species-environment association can offer insight into the drivers of  
48 vegetation patterns and key information of practical relevance to forest management. Here,  
49 we aim to quantify the contribution of climate and soil gradients to variation in tropical tree  
50 species abundance and occurrence across the region in southern and eastern Cameroon.

51 **Location:** Rainforests of southern and eastern Cameroon.

52 **Methods:** We established 82 1-ha permanent plots across seven localities and censused all  
53 trees  $\geq 10$  cm in diameter, representing a total of 37,733 trees and 455 species. In 60 of  
54 those plots, we measured ten soil variables describing texture and nutrients levels and  
55 extracted ten bioclimatic variables from global-gridded climate databases. We synthesized  
56 the main environmental gradients by conducting principal component analyses on climate  
57 and soil data respectively. We performed unconstrained and constrained non-symmetric

58 correspondence analyses to account for the individual and joint contributions of climate and  
59 soil on species abundance and occurrence.

60 **Results:** Climate and soil contributed similarly to variances of species abundance and  
61 occurrence (11–15 % variance for climate vs. 11–12 % variance for soil). Climate influence  
62 mostly concerns some abundant species, while less abundant species were mainly driven by  
63 soil. Fractions of species variances accounted for by climate and soil show strong correlation  
64 when assessed from species occurrence and abundance data.

65 **Conclusion:** Variation in occurrence and abundance of tropical forest trees can be partly  
66 shaped by both climate and soil gradients in Cameroon, which emphasizes the importance  
67 to jointly considering soil and climate in species distribution modeling. Less abundant  
68 species may express environmental influence differently than abundant species and convey  
69 complementary information about community composition. Though showing congruent  
70 patterns here, species abundance and occurrence reflect different interacting community  
71 processes and both should be examined to better understand vegetation patterns.

72 **Keywords:** Cameroon, Climate gradient, Soil gradient, Species abundance, Species  
73 occurrence, Tropical rainforests

#### 74 **Nomenclature**

75 African Plant Database (version 3.4.0)

76

#### 77 **Main text:**

#### 78 **INTRODUCTION**

79 A central paradigm in plant ecology is that species distribution along environmental  
80 gradients has the potential to inform on the dimensions of their realized niches (John et al.  
81 2007; Toledo et al. 2012). For long-lived species such as trees, the presence and abundance  
82 of mature individuals can reflect their tolerance and adaptation to local abiotic conditions  
83 (Kraft et al. 2015). Tree distribution data thus represents an invaluable source of  
84 information on species environmental requirements. For most tropical tree species a better  
85 understanding of the drivers of their distribution has strong fundamental implications in

86 vegetation science and practical relevance in forest management and conservation (Swaine  
87 1996; Potts et al. 2002; Toledo et al. 2011; Toledo et al. 2012; Amissah et al. 2014).

88 From a fundamental perspective, species turnover along broad-scale gradients can  
89 provide insights on the strength of environmental filtering (Hardy & Sonké 2004; Soininen et  
90 al. 2007; Kraft et al. 2011). These studies are still too scarce to allow grasping the variety of  
91 species-environment patterns especially in diverse parts of the paleotropics. From an  
92 applied perspective, determining the relative role of environmental factors such as climate  
93 or soil in species distribution can help to classify and map vegetation types, habitats and  
94 identify indicator species of a given environmental conditions (Hall & Swaine 1976;  
95 Diekmann 2003). These outputs are important for conservation initiatives such as the sixth  
96 category of the High Conservation Value (HCV) program dedicated to rare and threatened  
97 habitats, developed and used by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to support  
98 sustainable forest management. Yet, there has been too few studies on species-  
99 environment relationships at regional scale in tropical forests, most of them located in the  
100 neotropics (Pyke et al. 2001; Duivenvoorden et al. 2002; Engelbrecht et al. 2007; Slik et al.  
101 2009; Toledo et al. 2012; Condit et al. 2013) and even scarcer in Africa (but see Réjou-  
102 Méchain et al. 2008; Amissah et al. 2014; Fayolle et al. 2014; Vleminckx et al. 2015) where  
103 most studies were at a local scale.

104 Most studies analyzing plot taxonomic data along broad gradients concluded that  
105 tropical tree species turnover is partly shaped by climate through rainfall, temperature and  
106 seasonality gradients (e.g. Swaine 1996; Bongers et al. 1999; Pyke et al. 2001; Poorter et al.  
107 2004; ter Steege et al. 2006; Engelbrecht et al. 2007; Parmentier et al. 2007; Toledo et al.  
108 2011; Toledo et al. 2012; Amissah et al. 2014). A limited number of studies also integrated  
109 information on soil, using either coarse geological proxies such as bedrock classes, bedrock-  
110 derived dominant texture (Van Rompaey 1993; Réjou-Méchain et al. 2008; Fayolle et al.  
111 2012; Guitet et al. 2015) or more accurate, continuous soil variables assessed from local soil  
112 cores (Swaine 1996; Toledo et al. 2011; Toledo et al. 2012; Condit et al. 2013; Vleminckx et  
113 al. 2015; Vleminckx et al. 2017). The former group of studies concluded on substantial  
114 explanatory power of their substrate proxies, while the latter concluded on either strong  
115 (e.g. Condit et al. 2013) or moderate (e.g. Toledo et al. 2012) influences of soil variables.  
116 Another study described a confounding effect from correlated rainfall and soil fertility

117 gradients (e.g. Swaine 1996). Therefore, it remains unclear ~~what is the relative contribution~~  
118 ~~of climate and soil gradients to~~ species turnover at regional scales in tropical rainforests.

119 To evaluate the contributions of climate and soil on species composition, datasets of  
120 high botanical accuracy covering large spatial and ecological breadths are valuable. Such  
121 sampling remains nevertheless challenging in tropical forests. Most regional-scale studies in  
122 tropical forests were limited to a subset of tree species (but see Condit et al. 2013), often  
123 focusing on the most reliably identified and abundant species in the field (e.g. Réjou-  
124 Méchain et al. 2008; Toledo et al. 2012) or those which are frequent enough for statistical  
125 analyses (e.g. Swaine 1996; Poorter 1999; Amissah et al. 2014). Thus, studying a subset of  
126 the regional species pool may bias inferences drawn about climate and soil influences on  
127 tropical forest tree species. Expanding sampling to the whole species pool is worthwhile  
128 because it provides valuable information on rare and potentially threatened species but also  
129 additional insights on processes shaping regional-scale floristic patterns. For instance, less  
130 abundant species may respond differently to environmental gradients than more abundant  
131 species (Keddy 1992). Taking into account less abundant and less frequent species is also  
132 interesting because species occurrence (i.e. presence-absence in plots) and abundance data  
133 may inform on different community assembly processes acting simultaneously (Toledo et al.  
134 2012; Wilson 2012). Species presence in a local community can be viewed as the results of  
135 filtering processes determining which species of the regional pool is able to establish and  
136 persist (Kraft et al. 2015). Species abundance in a local community, on the other hand, may  
137 be more influenced by other processes such as demographic stochasticity, historical  
138 contingency and biotic interactions (Keddy 1992; Cingolani et al. 2009; Raevel et al. 2012;  
139 Wilson 2012). If abundant species also tend to be frequent, this would thus suggest  
140 pervasiveness of environmental filtering against other processes for explaining species  
141 distribution. Hence, comparing patterns of species occurrence (presence-absence) and  
142 abundance across communities can provide insights about the influence of environmental  
143 gradients on community assembly (Toledo et al. 2012).

144 Here, we analyze an unpublished dataset of tropical trees sampled from 82 1-ha  
145 plots within a large tropical region that simultaneously features broad climatic gradients and  
146 soil variables along with thorough botanical identification at species level (91 % of the  
147 trees). To our knowledge, this represents one of the most important data collection efforts  
148 carried out to study variation in tree taxonomic composition with climate and soil along

149 non-orographic gradients in the paleotropics. More specifically, our sampling was carried  
150 out along the southern and eastern Cameroonian plateau that is part of the continuous  
151 forest block referred to as 'Congo Basin forests'. Although this region forms part of the  
152 second most extended continuous forest area in the tropics, there is scarce evaluation of  
153 species distributions along climate and soil gradients within this region. We aim to quantify  
154 the effects of climate and soil in the variation of floristic composition in a region known to  
155 display both evergreen and semi-deciduous forests (Letouzey 1985) and belonging to the  
156 broad pantropical class of "moist forests" (Fayolle et al. 2014). More specifically, we address  
157 the following questions: (i) what are the main clines of floristic variation and what is the  
158 contribution of climate and soil? (ii) To what extent is the distribution of abundant vs. less  
159 abundant species informative on climate and soil effects on the entire floristic composition?  
160 (iii) Are species occurrence and abundance displaying congruent response to climate and  
161 soil that would suggest strong environmental filtering?

162

## 163 **METHODS**

### 164 **Study area**

165 The study area spans *ca.* 110, 000 km<sup>2</sup> in southern and eastern parts of Cameroon and  
166 encompasses dense lowland forests of different types along a gradient of climatic and  
167 edaphic conditions (Figure 1; Appendix S1). The vegetation has been referred to as the  
168 Cameroon-Congolese forest sector or dense moist Guineo-Congolese forest (Letouzey  
169 1985), which is interspersed with savannas, evergreen and semi-deciduous forests. This  
170 study area has been assigned to the Moist Central African floristic cluster by Fayolle et al.  
171 (2014), but likely encompasses other vegetation types that still require finer  
172 characterization. According to Letouzey (1985), for instance, the Mbam Djerem locality,  
173 located towards the north of the study area, is occupied by a forest-savanna mosaic  
174 (Appendix S1), composed of tall trees (average canopy height of 10–20 m) such as *Sterculia*  
175 *rhinopetala* K.Schum., *Celtis zenkeri* Engl. and *Croton sylvaticus* Hochst. (Malvaceae ex  
176 Sterculiaceae – Canabaceae ex Ulmaceae forest type). The localities of Deng-Deng and  
177 Mindourou II are occupied by semi-deciduous forests and characterized by tall and large  
178 buttressed.

179 The climate is equatorial, with two dry seasons (a long dry season from November to  
180 March and a short dry season from June to July), and two wet seasons (a long wet season



181 August to October and a short wet season from April to May). The average number of wet  
182 months receiving precipitation > 100 mm/month ranges from 6.6 – 8.2 months per year and  
183 annual mean precipitation ranges from 1300 to 1900 mm (Hijmans et al. 2005; Fick &  
184 Hijmans 2017). Annual mean temperature ranges between 20 and 25°C (Hijmans et al. 2005;  
185 Fick & Hijmans 2017), these low values compared to other lowlands of Central Africa (Figure  
186 1) are due to the moderately high elevation of the study area (between 500 and 800 m  
187 above sea level).

188 The soils in the study area are generally 'ferralitic soils' (Ségalen 1967) , i.e. Ferralsols  
189 (FAO-UNESCO 1977) showing medium to high levels of weathering and desaturation. This  
190 area is also typical of Orthic, Xanthic, Rhodic and Plinthic Ferralsols with Dystric Gleysols  
191 predominate in low-lying areas (FAO-UNESCO 1977). Though derived from different parent  
192 materials such as granites and schists, they share common characteristics, among which a  
193 strong dominance of clay content. The rocks which constitute the subsurface soil profile are  
194 essentially acidic crystalline rocks (various granites, embrechites, etc.), considered to  
195 originate from the lower Precambrian, though rocks of metamorphic origins have been  
196 attributed to the middle and upper Precambrian (Curis et al. 1955; Martin & Ségalen 1966).

197

### 198 **Plot floristic inventory**

199 Permanent sampling plots (PSP) were established following a stratified design to represent  
200 the main climatic regions within the study area. We established a total of 82 non-contiguous  
201 1-ha PSP distributed in seven localities of the study area (Figure 1; Appendix S1): 4 in the  
202 Mbam Djerem National Park; 15 in the Deng-Deng National Park; 21 in Mindourou II; 17 in  
203 Mindourou I; 14 in Lomie; 3 in Ngoila and 8 in Somalomo. In each locality, we chose plot  
204 locations to sample mesic soil conditions, avoiding seasonally waterlogged areas as well as  
205 rocky or petroferric outcrops. We also avoided monodominant stands (e.g. *Gilbertiodendron*  
206 *dewevrei*), young secondary forests and all vegetation dominated by short-lived pioneer  
207 species (notably *Musanga cecropioides*). To establish a 1-ha PSP, we subdivided a 100 m<sup>2</sup>  
208 area into 20 × 20 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats (Appendix S2). We set poles at each quadrat corner and at the  
209 plot corners (Appendix S2). A total of 25 GPS points were recorded along the plot contour  
210 using a high precision Trimble® Geo 7X. Within each 1-ha PSP, we measured all trees with  
211 diameter at breast height (DBH) ≥ 10 cm. Large trees with buttresses or deformations were  
212 measured at 30 cm below or above the deformations. Taxonomic identifications were first

213 conducted in the field at the time of tree measurement by observing leaves, flowers, trunk  
214 slash, habit and other diagnostic characters. A second taxonomic identification was realized  
215 at our mini herbarium of the Plant Systematics and Ecology laboratory and the Herbarium of  
216 the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Herbarium acronym follow Thiers (2019) where voucher  
217 specimens for each species are deposited. In total, we collected 2045 voucher specimens to  
218 ensure correct, verifiable and homogenous identification. Nomenclature for families and  
219 genera follows the APG IV (2016) classification while species names were corrected using  
220 the African Plant Database (version 3.4.0) ([https://www.ville-](https://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/recherche.php)  
221 [ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/recherche.php](https://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/recherche.php)).

222

### 223 **Plot soil variables**

224 Soil samples were analysed for a subset of 60 1-ha plots following standard  
225 protocols. Samples from seven 1-ha plots in Somalomo and Mbam Djerem were analysed as  
226 in Quesada et al. (2010) while for the other 53 1-ha plots are described below.

227 We collected soil samples at four locations along the right angle diagonal within each  
228 1-ha PSP (Appendix S2). For each of these locations, we dug four soil cores (excluding litter)  
229 at 10 cm intervals (0–10, 10–20, 20–30 and 30–40 cm) and air-dried separately. Equal  
230 proportions from each core were taken and pooled to form one sample for analysis. In total,  
231 four samples were analysed per 1-ha plots. Each pooled soil sample was ground to pass  
232 through a 2 mm sieve. For Nitrogen and Carbon analyses, samples were further ground to  
233 pass through a 0.5 mm sieve using a motorized – Retch RM200® grinder. Soil pH in water  
234 was determined in a 1:2.5 (w/v) soil: water suspension. Total nitrogen ( $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ) was  
235 determined from a wet acid digest and analyzed by colorimetry (Buondonno et al. 1995;  
236 Anderson, J. M. & Ingram 1998). Total phosphorus ( $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ) was determined from wet acid  
237 digest and also analyzed by colorimetry using the molybdate blue procedure described by  
238 Murphy & Riley (1962). Available phosphorus ( $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ) was extracted using Bray extractant  
239 and the resulting extract analyzed using the molybdate blue procedure. Moisture content  
240 (%) was determined by gravimetry using:  $100 - (100 \times \text{weight of oven dried sample at } 105^\circ\text{C})$   
241  $\text{divided by weight of air dried sample}$ . Organic carbon (%) was determined by chromic acid  
242 digestion and spectrophotometric analysis using a Genesys 10S UV/Vis spectrophotometer.  
243 Particle sizes (% Sand, % Silt, and % Clay) were determined by the Bouyoucos hydrometry

244 (Bouyoucos 1951; Day 1953). Soil analyses were conducted at the soil & plant laboratory of  
245 the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)-Yaoundé.

246 In total, we measured ten soil variables, which varied between localities (Appendix  
247 S3). These soil variables confirm the main common characteristics of the reddish ferralitic  
248 soils (Segalen 1967) with the exception of Mbam-Djerem that is largely dominated by clay  
249 (40-60%), acidic pH (4 – 5), and low rates of organic carbon (1 – 2%) in spite of enduring  
250 forest cover (Appendix S3). A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to determine  
251 the main dimensions of soil variables. We used the *Broken-stick* model (Jackson 1993) to  
252 select the number of interpretable PCA axes and kept the plot scores to reflect soil  
253 gradients.

254

### 255 **Plot climatic variables**

256 A set of eight climatic variables were selected after a preliminary screening (based on their  
257 spatial patterns) from an initial 21 variables. We discarded variables that were spatially  
258 overlapping and **strongly correlated**. Climatic variables were obtained at 30 arc-second (*ca.*  
259 900 m) ground resolution from Climatologies at High Resolution for the Earth's Land Surface  
260 Areas (CHELSA v1.2; <http://chelsa-climate.org/>), based on a quasi-mechanistical statistical  
261 downscaling of the climatic reanalysis interim global circulation model (Karger et al. 2017).  
262 To account for variation in the radiative budget, we retrieved two variables related to cloud  
263 frequency (i.e. mean and yearly standard deviation) from Wilson and Jetz' EarthEnv dataset  
264 (Wilson & Jetz 2016). The latter are derived from Moderate Resolution Imaging  
265 Spectroradiometer (MODIS) satellite optical data over a 12-year period (2001-2013). In  
266 total, we assembled ten climatic variables: Annual Mean Temperature, Temperature Annual  
267 Range, Annual Precipitation, Precipitation Seasonality (coefficient of variation over months),  
268 Mean Temperature of Warmest and Coldest Quarters, Precipitation of Wettest and Driest  
269 Quarters, Mean cloud frequency and yearly standard deviation of cloud frequency.

270 A regional-level PCA was performed for the broader zone covered by broadleaved  
271 evergreen and semi-deciduous forest for tropical Africa (zone determined in the Global Land  
272 Cover Map for 2009; (Arino et al. 2012)). We extracted PCA scores using the GPS  
273 coordinates (i.e. plot centroids) for each 1-ha PSP to reflect predictor variables for climate.

274

### 275 **Statistical analyses**

276 *Species abundance and occurrence*

277 For each species, we defined (i) regional abundance as the total number of individuals over  
278 the plots, (ii) local abundance as the average number of individuals over the plots where the  
279 species was present and (iii) occurrence as the number of plots in which the species was  
280 present.

281

282 *Variance partitioning*

283 We partitioned variance in species abundance and occurrence across plots with soil and  
284 climate variables (Couteron & Pélissier 2004). Variance partitioning relates to both  
285 constrained ordination and diversity measurement involving classical indices. Hence, for a  
286 given species  $j$ , the individual species variance corresponds to  $f_{+j}(1 - f_{+j})$ , where  $f_{+j}$   
287 denotes relative abundance (i.e. number of individuals belonging to species  $j$  relative to all  
288 the individuals sampled). Individual variance translates from species abundance to species  
289 occurrence by considering  $f_{+j}$  as the relative number of plots in which the species  $j$  is  
290 present. In line with diversity indices, direct summing of individual variances of abundance  
291 over species is the Simpson-Gini index (Hill 1973). Weighting species variances by the  
292 inverse of individual species relative abundances brings increased sensitivity to scarce  
293 species because the total weighted sum equates species richness minus one (Pélissier et al.  
294 2003; Couteron & Pélissier 2004). In line with ordination methods, these two options  
295 correspond to Non-Symmetric Correspondence Analysis (NSCA) and to classical  
296 Correspondence Analysis (CA), respectively (Pélissier et al. 2003; Couteron & Ollier 2005).  
297 The relationship also applies to their constrained versions, that is, Non-Symmetric  
298 Correspondence Analysis with Instrumental Variables (NSCAIV; *sensu* Couteron et al. 2003),  
299 which is a particular case of Redundancy Analysis and CCA (Ter Braak 1986). These  
300 constrained analyses rely on the same multivariate linear models of apportioning inter-plot  
301 variances (inertia) of individual species abundance with-respect-to environmental  
302 descriptors (Couteron et al. 2003; Pélissier & Couteron 2007).

303 Here, we used unconstrained NSCA on our floristic table (82 1-ha plots, 455 tropical  
304 tree species) to analyze variations of species abundance and occurrence across forest  
305 communities (plots). We presented the results of NSCA but not CA because the latter  
306 presented similar results for species abundance. We repeated the unconstrained analysis on  
307 a reduced floristic table (60 1-ha plots, 416 species) corresponding to plots with both soil

308 and climate data. Preliminary analyses revealed no substantial changes in the main clines of  
309 floristic variation when switching the floristic tables (see Appendix S4 and Figure 2 for  
310 results with 82 and 60 plots, respectively). We further conducted the deriving constrained  
311 analyses (NSCAIV) on the reduced floristic table via variance partitioning.

312 To assess the individual and joint influence of soil and climate on species abundance  
313 and occurrence, we apportioned inter-plots variation with respect to soil gradients ( $S_{IV}$ ),  
314 climate gradients ( $C_{IV}$ ) and their joint contributions ( $S_{IV} + C_{IV}$ ). The variance apportioning  
315 calculates the shares of individual species variances explained by climate, soil and both.  
316 Further, we performed a partial ordination with respect to soil after factoring out the effects  
317 of climate, and vice versa. The partial ordination allowed synthesizing multi-species floristic  
318 gradients from the species abundance and occurrence tables. We calculated the proportion  
319 of variance accounted for by climate when the effects of soil were factored out ( $C_{IV} - S_{IV}$ )  
320 and the proportion of variance accounted for by soil when the effects of climate were  
321 factored out ( $S_{IV} - C_{IV}$ ). Finally, we tested the statistical significance of the variance  
322 portions obtained at both individual and multi-species scales using Monte-Carlo  
323 permutation tests (i.e. by randomizing the rows of the floristic table irrespective of the  
324 values of the environmental gradients). This randomization aimed to break the relationship  
325 between floristic composition and environmental variables. Each test was considered  
326 statistically significant at a  $P$  value less than 0.05 after 1000 randomizations.

327 All statistical analyses were performed with the *R* statistical software version 3.5.2 (R  
328 Core Team. 2019), using routine *R* functions and the *diversity.R* package (Pélissier 2013).

329

## 330 RESULTS

### 331 Floristic diversity

332 The 82 1-ha plots comprised 37,733 trees belonging to 455 species and 257 genera, grouped  
333 in 61 families. The subset of 60 1-ha plots for which both soil and climate were available  
334 contained 26,726 trees belonging to 416 species and 234 genera, grouped in 60 families.  
335 The 60 1-ha plot data excluded 798 (2.7%) unidentified individuals and 1741 (5.9 %)  
336 individuals identified at genus level only. The genus-level identified individuals represented  
337 species that can be distinguished in the field while names cannot be attributed.

338

### 339 **Correlations between species regional abundance and occurrence**

340 We found a strong correlation between species regional abundance and occurrence across  
341 the 60 1-ha plots ( $r = 0.71$ ;  $df = 414$ ;  $t = 20.46$ ), but a weak correlation between species local  
342 abundance and occurrence ( $r = 0.23$ ;  $df = 414$ ;  $t = 4.91$ ). The results were similar for the 82  
343 1-ha plots, that is, strong correlation for regional abundance and occurrence ( $r = 0.72$ ;  $df =$   
344  $453$ ;  $t = 22.38$ ) and weak correlation for local abundance and occurrence ( $r = 0.21$ ;  $df = 453$ ;  
345  $t = 4.46$ ). Frequent species (i.e. present in more than 80 % of plots) such as  
346 *Tabernaemontana crassa*, *Anonidium mannii* and *Greenwayodendron suaveolens* were also  
347 highly abundant at regional scale (i.e. recorded from more than 1000 individuals each;  
348 Appendices S5A, S6). Other species (e.g. *Plagiostyles africana*, *Baphia leptobotrys*, *Parkia*  
349 *biglobosa*) were less frequent and, when present, showed high local abundance (Appendix  
350 S5B).

351

### 352 **Patterns of floristic composition**

353 Both occurrence and abundance datasets reveal congruent patterns of localities according  
354 to axes defined by species that were either regionally frequent or abundant, respectively  
355 (Figure 2). NSCA on the species occurrence matrix for 60 1-ha plots revealed a first axis (8.65  
356 % variance) mostly determined by regionally abundant species such as *Albizia adianthifolia*,  
357 *Celtis adolfi-friderici* and *Mansonia altissima* with positive values and *Panda oleaosa*, *Carapa*  
358 *procera* and *Cylicodiscus gabunensis* with negative values (Figure 2A). This first axis opposed  
359 plots from the drier localities (Mbam-Djerem, Deng-Deng and Mindourou II) to plots from  
360 wetter localities (Lomié, Mindourou I and Somalomo) (Figure 2B). The second axis (7.14 %  
361 variances) was characterised by species such as *Celtis zenkeri* with negative score and  
362 species such as *Drypetes leonensis* and *Phyllocosmus africanus* with positive scores (Figure  
363 2A). This axis opposed plots from the Mbam Djerem (positive scores) against those of Lomie  
364 (negative scores) localities.

365 NSCA on species abundance matrix for 60 1-ha plots revealed a first axis (12.17 % of  
366 total variance) driven by regionally abundant species (Figure 2C) such as *Anonidium mannii*  
367 (1253 individuals), *Greenwayodendron suaveolens* (1098 individuals), *Funtumia africana*  
368 (495 individuals), *Plagiostyles africana* (459 individuals), *Uapaca guineensis* (452  
369 individuals), *Heisteria parviflora* (346 individuals), *Strombosia grandifolia* (651 individuals).  
370 This first axis represented a dry to wet gradient of localities including Lomie, Somalomo and

371 Deng-Deng. The second axis (9.95 % of total variance) featured species of young dry forests  
372 (e.g. *Markhamia lutea* and *Parkia biglobosa*) in the Mbam Djerem locality and a blurring  
373 effect of the pioneer *Musanga cecropioides* (417 individuals) in one plot of the Mindourou I  
374 locality (Figure 2D).

375

### 376 **Gradients of soil and climate**

377 The main gradients in soil variables were summarized by the first three axes of the PCA that  
378 together explained 64.5 % of variance. The first axis (27.6 % variance) corresponds to a  
379 texture gradient, the second axis (22.3 % variance) to a fertility gradient and the third axis  
380 (14.7 % variance) to an organic content gradient (Figure 3A & 3B).

381 PCA on climate variables was less interpretable in terms of single climatic factors  
382 because of the patterns of covariation between climate variables. The climate variables  
383 from the first three axes were reduced to a 3-dimensional space and this together explained  
384 84.9 % of total variance (Figure 3C & 3D) while entailing: (1) seasonality (in temperature,  
385 precipitation and cloud frequency); (2) mean annual temperature (with a weak link to  
386 seasonality) and (3) precipitation (with a loose correlation between total, wet and dry  
387 season precipitations).

388

### 389 **Variance partitioning of species local abundance and occurrence with respect to climate 390 and soil**

391 Partitioning variance in species abundance and occurrence with soil and climate, we  
392 found comparable levels of explained variances (Table 1). Climate alone explained 15.2 %  
393 species variance for abundance and 12.4 % for occurrence. Soil alone explained almost  
394 equal fraction of variance of abundance and occurrence (11.6 % and 11.2%, respectively).  
395 The joint effect of soil and climate accounted for 25.8 % of variance of the abundance  
396 matrix and 23.0 % variance of the occurrence matrix (Table 1).

397 The proportion of unexplained variance once either soil or climate effects were  
398 factored-out revealed that soil and climate gradients appeared fairly additive (i.e. small  
399 fractions of shared explained variances) for species abundance and occurrence (Table 1).  
400 Factoring out the effects of soil, climate explained 10.2–11.3 % variance and factoring out  
401 the effects of climate, soil explained 8.2–9.1 % variance of species distribution.

402 Interaction between soil and climate based on pairwise multiplicative effects of  
403 explanatory variables ( $C_{IV} * S_{IV}$ ) was very low (i.e. < 2 % variance).

404 Monte Carlo permutation tests at  $P$ -value < 0.05 revealed that 26 % (108 out of  
405 416) species associated with climate alone, 14.9 % (62 out of 416) species associated with  
406 soil alone, and only 6.3 % (26 out of 416) species associated with both climate and soil  
407 (Appendix S6) for species abundance. Larger proportions of sensitive species were  
408 observed for species occurrence (i.e. 131, 110 and 96 out of 416, for climate alone, soil  
409 alone and both climate and soil, respectively) (Appendix S6).

410 We found species-specific affinity to climate or soil gradients (Figure 4). For some  
411 species, the variance in their abundance was well explained by climate but not soil (e.g.  
412 *Stombosiopsis tetrandra*, *Desbordesia insignis*). For other species, the variance in  
413 abundance was well explained by soil but not climate (e.g. *Dialium angolense*,  
414 *Pentaclethra eetveldeana*, *Monodora myristica*). The former group of species tends to be  
415 regionally abundant (fairly large circles in figure 4), while the latter encompasses less  
416 abundant species (Figure 4). Few species (located along plot diagonal in Figure 4)  
417 simultaneously displayed high levels of explained variances for both factors and were  
418 mostly not abundant (e.g. *Khaya ivoriensis*, *Markhamia lutea*, and *Vitex doniana*).

419 We found positive relationships between explained variance in species abundance  
420 and occurrence:  $R^2 = 0.58$  for soil gradient (Figure 5B) and  $R^2 = 0.53$  for climate gradient  
421 (Figure 5A). Despite these strong relationships, several species deviated from the  
422 regression trends. For example, for *Greenwayodendron suaveolens*, one of the most  
423 abundant and frequent species of our dataset (Appendix S5), soil well explained variance  
424 in its occurrence, but not its abundance. *Parkia biglobosa*, an infrequent species that  
425 tends to be locally abundant within dry forests (Appendix S5B), exhibits the same pattern.  
426 *Funtumia africana*, one of the regionally abundant and frequent species (Appendix S5A),  
427 climate well explained its abundance but not its occurrence. Conversely, for *Panda oleosa*,  
428 also regionally abundant (Appendix S6), climate well explained its occurrence but not its  
429 abundance.

430

431

432 **DISCUSSION**



433 This study contributes to a better understanding of floristics turnover according to both soil  
434 and climate which has ~~insofar~~ not been sufficiently addressed in the tropics (but see Swaine  
435 1996; Toledo et al. 2012; Condit et al. 2013) and African rainforests in particular. Our  
436 dataset encompasses high botanical accuracy and sampling of soil composition alongside  
437 the main rainfall gradients (e.g. climate PCA axis 1; Figure 1), stretching over *ca.* 110, 000  
438 km<sup>2</sup> of rainforests in the Congo Basin (Figure 1).

439

#### 440 **Relative importance of climate and soil gradients**

441 Climate and soil explained similar proportions of variances of species abundance and  
442 occurrence, with low shared explained variances (1 – 3 %), **suggesting that climate and soil**  
443 **were non-redundant in explaining species distribution.** This result is in line with findings  
444 from Condit et al. (2013) who reported that both rainfall and soil phosphorus shape the tree  
445 community of Panamanian forest. The relative importance of soil and climate on biomass  
446 and forest structure has also been highlighted for other African (Lewis et al. 2013) and  
447 Amazonian (Quesada et al. 2012) forests.

448 Studies that emphasized stronger importance of climate over soil occur in drought-  
449 sensitive regions, where water availability is a limiting factor (Toledo et al. 2011; Toledo et  
450 al. 2012). Conversely, soil (or geology) can trump climate in areas of extreme soil conditions  
451 (e.g. sandstone, alluvium) (Réjou-Méchain et al. 2008; Fayolle et al. 2012). Extreme soil  
452 conditions may develop distinct textural (e.g. very sandy or clayey), chemical and structural  
453 properties (e.g. ferruginous nodules and duricrust as in some forests: Gourlet-Fleury et al.  
454 (2011)), and consequently have different levels of nutrients and water availability. Soil  
455 conditions can also be a stronger driver of species distribution in regions of weak climatic  
456 heterogeneity (Clark et al. 1999; Harms et al. 2001). However, in the present study,  
457 precipitation and temperature gradients show substantial amplitude (Figure 1; Appendix  
458 S3). We did not sample extreme soil conditions and drought-prone forests are not common  
459 in the study area (apart from the Mbam-Djerem locality). These might indirectly contribute  
460 to balanced effects of climate and soil on community composition.

461 Climate and soil left an apparently considerable unexplained fraction (74 – 77 %)  
462 of variance of species abundance and occurrence in this study. But large shares of  
463 unexplained variance is common in studies applying variance decomposition to species-  
464 rich tropical forests (e.g. Réjou-Méchain et al. (2008); Guitet et al. (2016)). In addition to

465 community diversity itself, unexplained variances can result from unmeasured factors  
466 (e.g. human and natural disturbances and biotic interactions) and stochastic processes  
467 (e.g. dispersal limitation and demographic stochasticity). Bearing this in mind, we  
468 concluded on rather high fractions of explained variances for a tropical forest dataset  
469 that did not sample extreme conditions, and this pleads for considerable climate and soil  
470 influences on forest composition in our region.

471 Forest gaps are legacies of past natural or human disturbances and are rapidly  
472 colonized by light-demanding and short-lived pioneer species (Gourlet-Fleury et al. 2013).  
473 Even though our sampling avoided recently disturbed forests, pioneers such as *Musanga*  
474 *cecropiodes* (Figure 2C) and light-demanders like *Sterculia rhinopetala* and *Desbordesia*  
475 *insignis* (Figure 2C) were noticeable. Hence, different degrees of disturbances across the  
476 sampled forest are likely to be an influential factor we did not take into account.  
477 Accounting for such effect may not be possible without historical records or long-term  
478 observation of the forest dynamics. It is also likely that variation in forest composition  
479 reflects to some extent historical events on long time-scale such as anthropogenic  
480 disturbances during the last centuries. For instance, the upper strata of a large part of  
481 forests in Cameroon are indeed dominated by long-lived, light-demanding species  
482 without apparent regeneration, suggesting past large-scale disturbances (Vleminckx et al.  
483 2014; Morin-Rivat et al. 2017).

484 Inter-site variation is a sound basis for assessing neutral-like migration limitation  
485 (*sensu* Munoz et al. (2007); Munoz, Coutron & Ramesh (2008)), but it also explained  
486 climate variation and both are thus difficult to disentangle. However, Hardy & Sonké  
487 (2004) noted that though habitats explain species distribution in the Dja Biosphere Forest  
488 Reserve (a section of Somalomo locality, Figure 1, Appendix S1), data strongly agree with  
489 a model of limited dispersal. Studies detailing population genetics and dispersal ability of  
490 species could also help reveal the role of neutral-like processes in these tropical forests.

491

#### 492 **Insights from abundant and less abundant species**

493 It has been frequently observed that diverse tropical forests are dominated by a small suite  
494 of species showing very high abundance, while the majority of other species are less  
495 abundant or rare (Gaston et al. 2000; Pitman et al. 2001; ter Steege et al. 2013). Drivers of

496 this abundance pattern include habitat (ter Steege et al. 2013), demographic stochasticity  
497 (Hubbell 2011), intra-specific competition, herbivory and other density-dependent mortality  
498 (Janzen 1970; Comita et al. 2010). We show in this study that climate explained the variance  
499 of mainly abundant species while soil explained the variance of mainly less abundant species  
500 (Figure 4). In fact, climate well explained 108 species of which 38 % were abundant (> 100  
501 individuals), representing 39 % of all stems. Also, soil explained 62 species of which 66 %  
502 were less abundant (< 100 individuals) corresponding to only 4 % of all stems (Appendix S6)  
503 and both climate and soil only explained 6 % (i.e. 26 species). These proportions in climate-  
504 and soil-sensitive species follow the habitat- species associations that has been reported for  
505 other tropical forest sites in Korup, Cameroon (Chuyong et al. 2011), Ecuador (Valencia et al.  
506 2004) and Bolivia (Toledo et al. 2012). Our results therefore suggest climate fitness for the  
507 abundant and soil fitness for the less abundant species.

508

#### 509 **Informativeness of species occurrence versus local abundance across environments**

510 We found strong positive relationship between explained variance fractions of species  
511 occurrence and abundance for climate and soil gradients. Species presence reflect primarily  
512 the result of species environmental requirements and tolerance (Brown 1984; Kraft et al.  
513 2015). In this study, species presence means its ability to overcome environmental filtering.  
514 Species abundance, on its part, contains more quantitative component and incorporates  
515 species presence. Species abundance can reflect diverse processes operating simultaneously  
516 at the community level. However, the regression strength in our case means that species  
517 abundance and occurrence provide overall congruent insight on species environment  
518 relationship in our study area. This result has not been previously reported for rainforest  
519 tree communities. But studies on desert annuals also found positive correlations between  
520 occurrence and abundance (Boeken & Shachak 1998; Guo et al. 2000). Despite strong  
521 agreements between occurrence and abundance, individual species deviated from the  
522 average regression slopes, suggesting species with distinct phylogenetic relatedness  
523 responding to climate and soil. For instance, species that respond to soil like *Anonidium*  
524 *manni*, *Anickia affinis* and *Greenwayodendron suaveolens* (Figure 5B) are Annonaceae that  
525 are widely distributed in wet old-growth forests in central Africa. In addition, *Celtis* spp, *Cola*  
526 *lateritia* and *Sterculia rhinopetala* belong to former Ulmaceae (now Canabaceae) and former  
527 Sterculiaceae (now Malvaceae) are sensitive to climate and widely distributed in dry forests

528 (Figure 5A). The deviating species maybe indicators of environmental response to forest  
529 deciduousness (Ouédraogo et al. 2016). For instance, species that respond to climate such  
530 as *Funtumia africana*, *Celtis* spp, *Cola lateritia* and *Sterculia rhinopetala* (Figure 5A) are  
531 prominent long-lived pioneers of old-growth forests in Central and West Africa. These long-  
532 lived pioneers regularly shade their leaves with the severity of the dry season (Ouédraogo et  
533 al. 2016).

534 Practical information for positive species occurrence-abundance relationships  
535 have been reviewed (Gaston et al. 2000; Wilson 2012) with major emphasis on cost  
536 effectiveness of sampling effort in favor of presence/absence (Joseph et al. 2006). But,  
537 practically, this is not so true in tropical forests since plots are to be large and it is not  
538 possible to rapidly grasp the list of present species. Support for abundance sampling is  
539 highlighted for analyzing conservation status for species with increasing extinction risk from  
540 reductions in abundance (Lawton 1996). Sampling species abundance may also be  
541 particularly important for multi-purpose collections and high quality data (e.g. biomass and  
542 carbon stock assessment) for forest dynamics. However species presence/absence and  
543 species abundance should be analyzed separately as they result from different but closely  
544 related filtering processes (Cingolani et al. 2009).

545

## 546 **Conclusion**

547 Based on an exceptional dataset collected at regional scale in tropical rainforests in the  
548 Congo Basin, we found that climate and soil strongly explain the variance in tree species  
549 composition (abundance and occurrence). We showed that climate explains only slightly  
550 higher fraction ( $\approx 2.5\%$ ) of variance on species composition compared to soil, which  
551 challenges the notion of strong climate hierarchy over soil for tropical rainforests in  
552 Cameroon. Climate and soil jointly explain very small proportion of variance in species  
553 composition, indicating that they have complementary and additive effects on species  
554 composition. We equally noticed that climate-explained variance mainly concern species of  
555 high abundance while soil-explained variance mainly concern species of less abundance.  
556 Finally, we found that species abundance and occurrence show congruent patterns across  
557 the soil and climate gradients although some species depart from the overall trend. Beyond  
558 the fundamental implication of unraveling environmental processes that underlie tree  
559 species abundance and occurrence, our results highlight that considering both climate and

560 soil in modeling species distribution can improve mapping species range and distribution for  
561 tropical rainforests.

562

### 563 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

564 MBL benefited PhD grants administered by the French Research Institute for Development  
565 (IRD); “Allocations de recherche pour une thèse au Sud” (ARTS) and by the French embassy  
566 in Yaoundé; “Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle” (SCAC). IFS grant number  
567 D/5621-1 and European Union Climate KIC grant Agreement EIT/CLIMATE KIC/SGA2016/1  
568 both supported field work and laboratory soil analysis. Plot establishment partly benefited  
569 from grant N° TF010038 from the Global Environment Facility administered by the World  
570 Bank and implemented by the COMIFAC, within the context of subcomponent 2b of  
571 PREREDD+ project “Establishment of allometric equations for forest types in the Congo  
572 Basin” which was executed by the ONFi/TEREA/Nature+ consortium. Jon Lloyd, Martin  
573 Gilpin and other participants of the TROBIT project must be thanked for plots inventory in  
574 the Mbam Djerem locality. IDEA WILD donated field equipments. We are also grateful to the  
575 members of the Herbarium and African botanical Library in Brussels (BRLU) for mounting  
576 and hosting our herbarium specimens, Diosdado Nguema and Olivier Lachenaud for  
577 botanical identification at BRLU, to Olivier Ngana for field identifications and to Maxime  
578 Réjou-Méchain for commenting an earlier version of the manuscript.

579

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864 **Table with legend:**

865 **TABLE 1** Variance proportions of species abundance (i.e. relating to Simpson beta-diversity)  
866 and occurrence apportioned with-respect-to soil and/or climate gradients.

	Total	Constrained ordination			Partial ordination		Residual ordination
		$S_{IV}$	$C_{IV}$	$S_{IV} + C_{IV}$	$C_{IV} - S_{IV}$	$S_{IV} - C_{IV}$	$total - (S_{IV} + C_{IV})$
Variance for species abundance (Simpson beta-diversity)	0.987	0.003**	0.001**	0.005**	0.0005**	0.003**	0.982*
Variance for species occurrence (Simpson beta-diversity)	0.995	0.0006**	0.0002**	0.0008**	0.0001**	0.0005**	0.994
Fractions for species abundance (%)	100	11.6	15.2	25.8	11.3	8.2	74.2
Fractions for species occurrence	100	11.2	12.4	23.0	10.2	9.1	77.0

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(%)

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867 Environmental descriptors (Instrumental variables ( $IV$ )) i.e. first three PCA axes for soil ( $S_{IV}$ )  
868 and climate ( $C_{IV}$ ) are used to explain multi-species diversity (from species abundance and  
869 occurrence) determined via Non-symmetric correspondence analysis (NSCA). Entries denote  
870 values or fractions of Simpson-Gini diversity and species variance explained by soil ( $S_{IV}$ ),  
871 climate ( $C_{IV}$ ), soil and climate ( $C_{IV} + S_{IV}$ ), climate without soil ( $C_{IV} - S_{IV}$ ), soil without climate  
872 ( $S_{IV} - C_{IV}$ ) and the residuals [ $total - (S_{IV} + C_{IV})$ ]. Monte-Carlo permutation test of  
873 significance (1000 repetitions) for each operation is denoted by \* (\* =  $P < 0.05$ , \*\* =  $P <$   
874 0.01).

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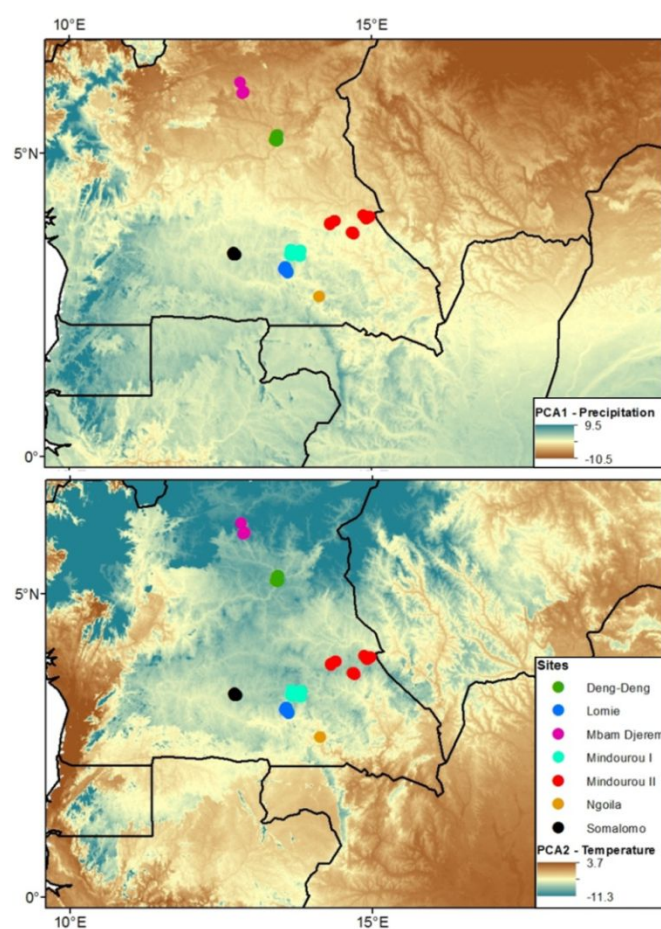
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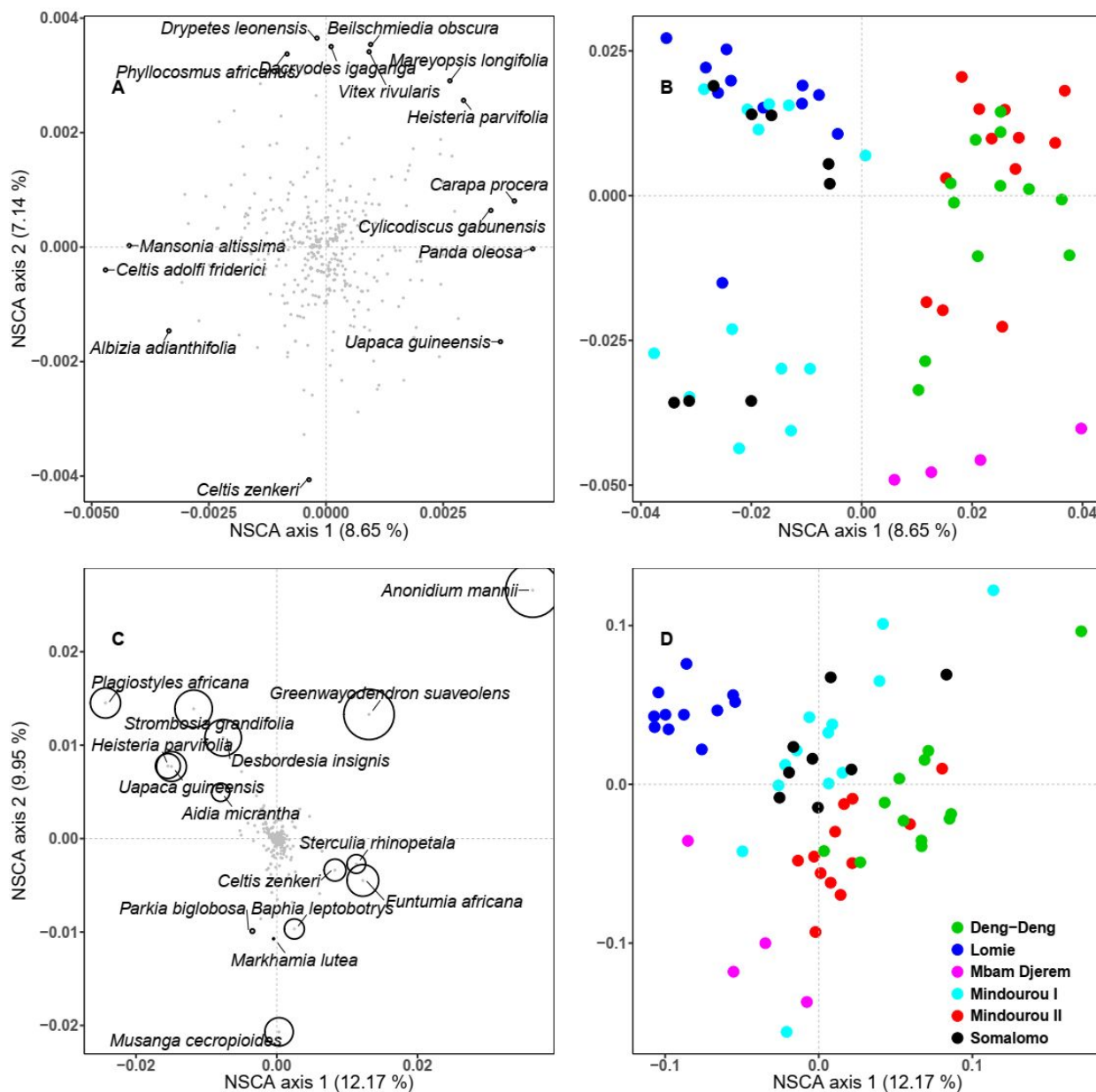
### Figures with legends:



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905 **Fig. 1.** Spatial distribution of 1-ha permanent sampling plots in the study area in Cameroon,  
906 projected over regional climatic gradients. Dots of the same color denote plots within a  
907 locality. Background rasters are precipitation (upper panel) and temperature (lower panel)  
908 from Climatologies at High Resolution for the Earth's Land Surface Areas (CHELSA v1.2;  
909 <http://chelsa-climate.org/>), gradients depicted by the first two axes of a Principal  
910 Component Analysis on ten climatic variables across the study area.

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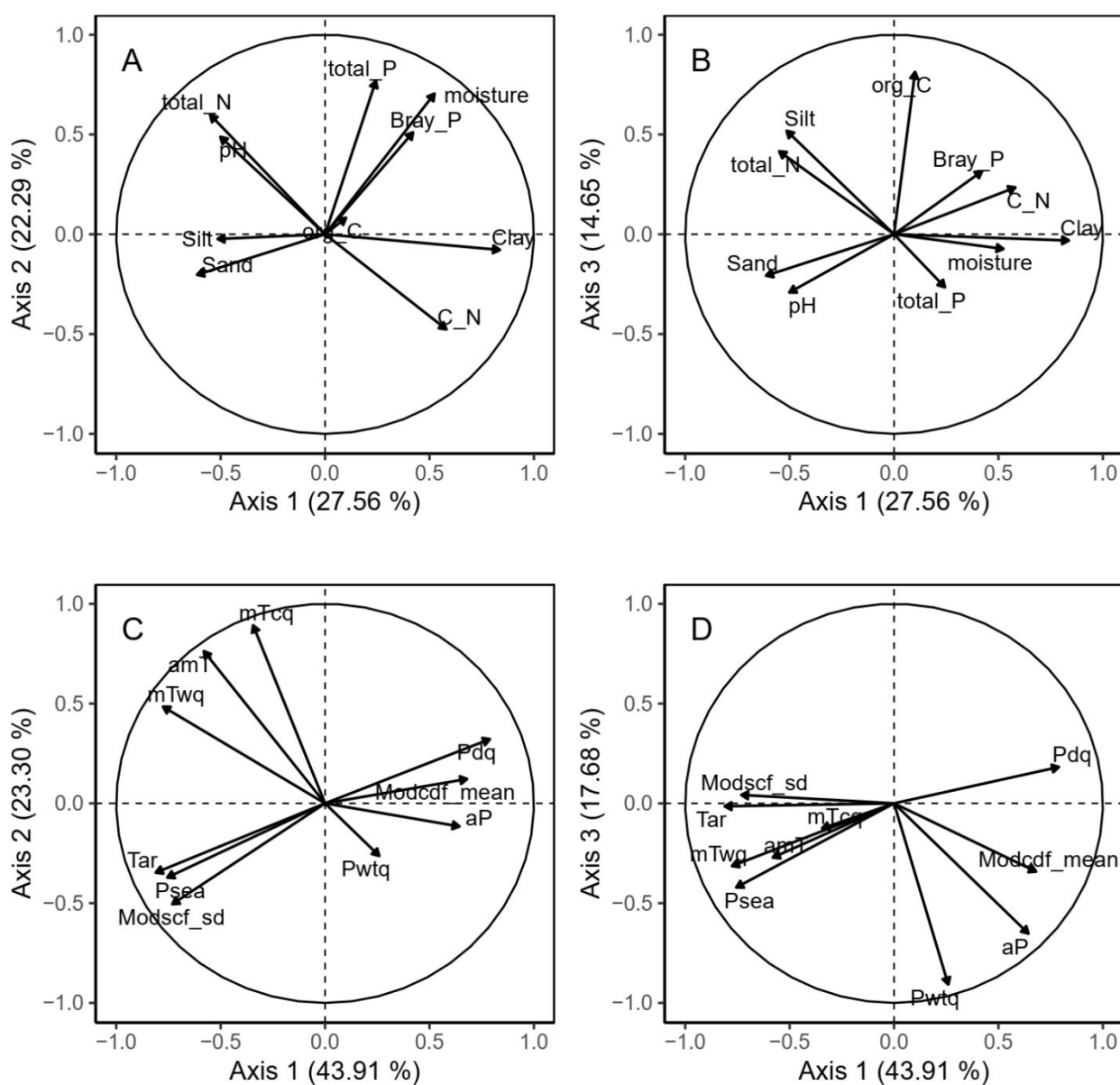




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913 **Fig. 2.** Variation in tree species composition in sixty 1-ha plots from southern and eastern  
 914 Cameroon depicted by Non-symmetric Correspondence Analysis (NSCA). First two  
 915 ordination axes based on species occurrence (A & B) and on species abundance data (C & D).  
 916 Dots of the same color denote 1-ha plots within the same locality (B & D) and sizes of circles  
 917 are proportional to species abundance for C. Only the 15 most discriminating species out of  
 918 416 are labeled for B & D to improve legibility.

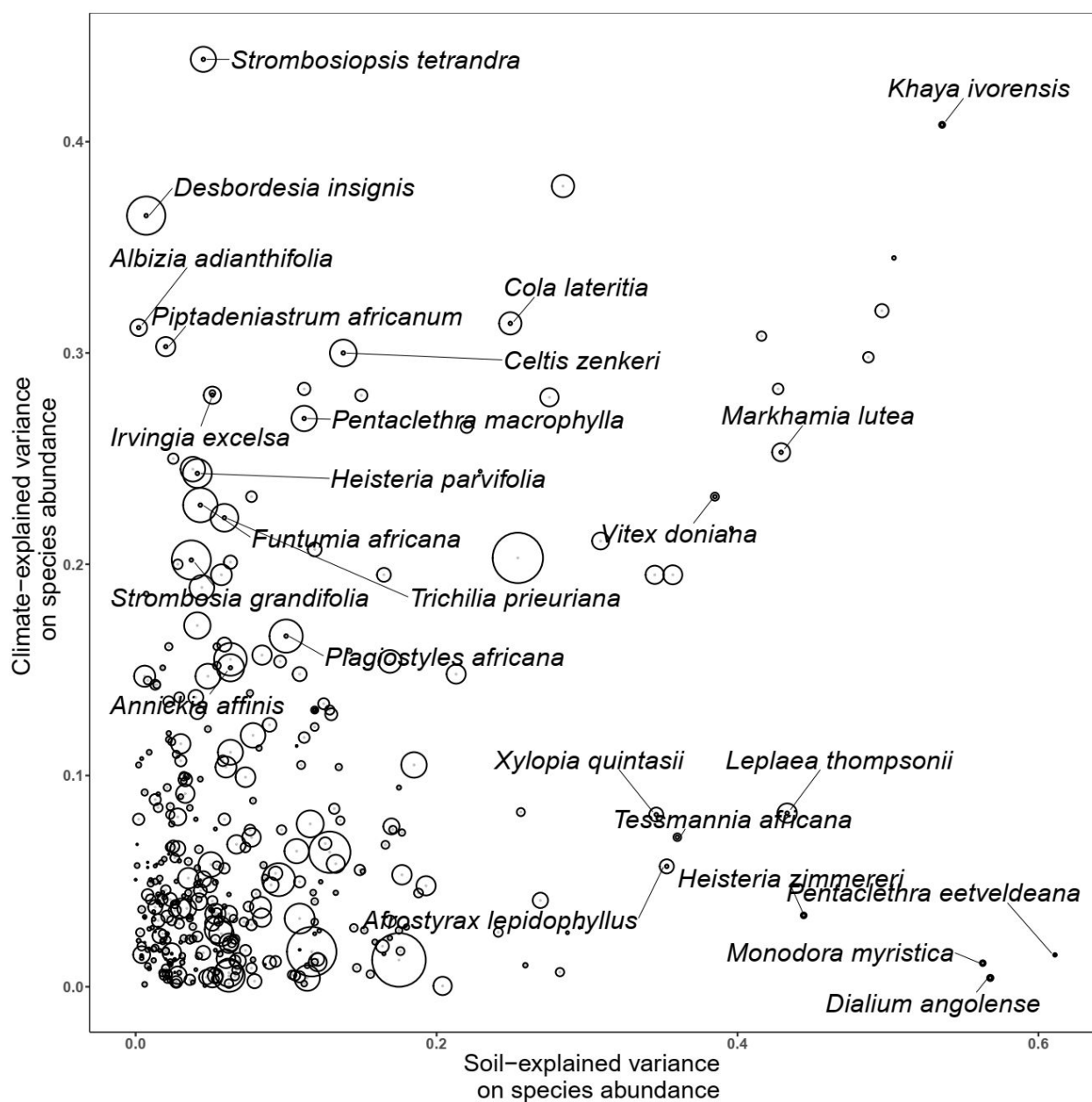
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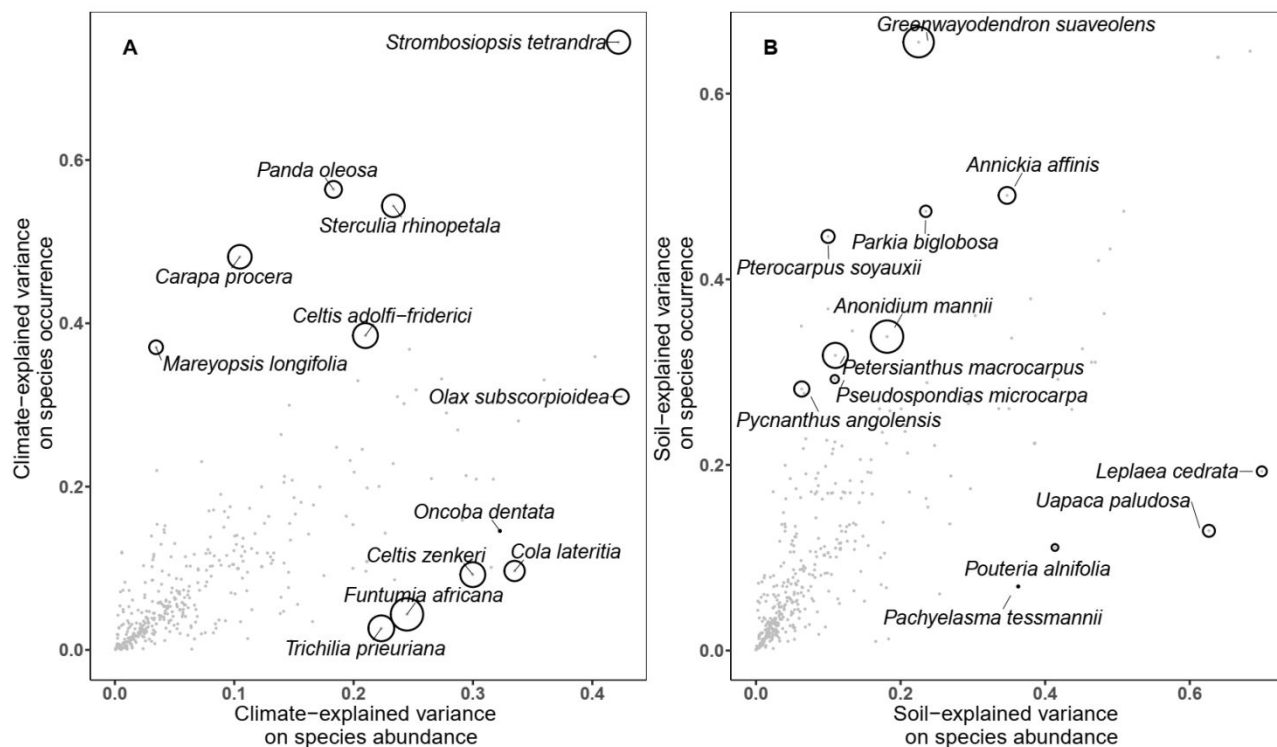


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921 **Fig. 3.** Correlation circles of Principal Component Analysis on soil composition and  
 922 bioclimatic variables. Variables of first three axes for soil (A & B): *moisture* = Soil moisture  
 923 content; *Org\_C* = Organic carbon; *total\_N* = Total nitrogen; *total\_P* = Total phosphorus;  
 924 *Bray\_P* = Assimilable phosphorus; *C\_N* = Carbon/nitrogen ratio; pH; Clay, Sand and Silt  
 925 contents and for climate (C & D): *amT* = Annual Mean Temperature; *Tar* = Temperature  
 926 Annual Range; *aP* = Annual Precipitation; *Psea* = Precipitation Seasonality; *mTwq* & *mTcq* =  
 927 Mean Temperature of Warmest and Coldest Quarters; *Pwtq* & *Pdq* = Precipitation of  
 928 Wettest and Driest Quarters. *Modscf\_mean* = mean of cloud frequency; *Modscf\_sd* =  
 929 standard deviation of cloud frequency. A quarter is a period of three successive months, i.e.  
 930 1/4 of the year.

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937

938 **Fig. 5.** Relationships of explained variances between species abundance and species  
 939 occurrence. Climate-explained variance (A: regression slope = 0.53) and Soil-explained  
 940 variance (B: regression slope = 0.58). To improve legibility, only species (12 out of 416)  
 941 departing from main regression trend are labeled on both graphs and their circles are  
 942 proportionate to abundance.

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953 **List of appendices with shortened captions**

954 **Appendix S1.** Location of eighty-two 1-ha permanent sampling plots projected over  
955 different forest types of southern and eastern Cameroon. Dots of the same colors are plots  
956 within the same locality. Forest types according to Letouzey (1985).

957 **Appendix S2.** Design of a 1-hectare (100-m x 100-m) permanent sampling plot for tree  
958 census and soil sampling.

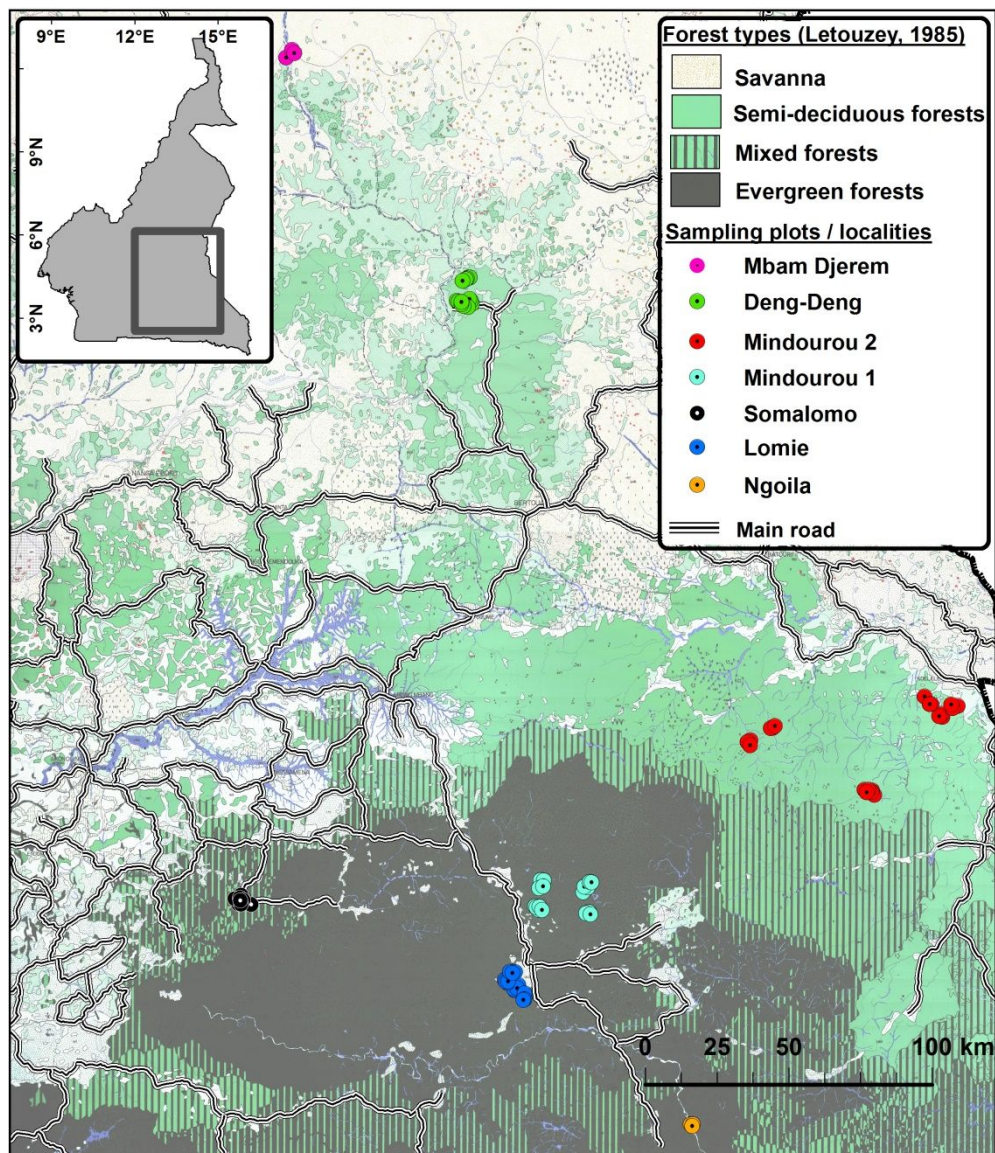
959 **Appendix S3.** Variation of individual soil and bioclimate variables between six localities in  
960 southern and eastern Cameroon.

961 **Appendix S4.** Regional distribution in species abundance and occurrence depicted by Non-  
962 symmetric Correspondence Analysis (NSCA; *sensu* Pélissier et al. (2003)) applied to 82 plots.  
963 NSCA based on species abundance data (A & B) and on species occurrence data (C & D).

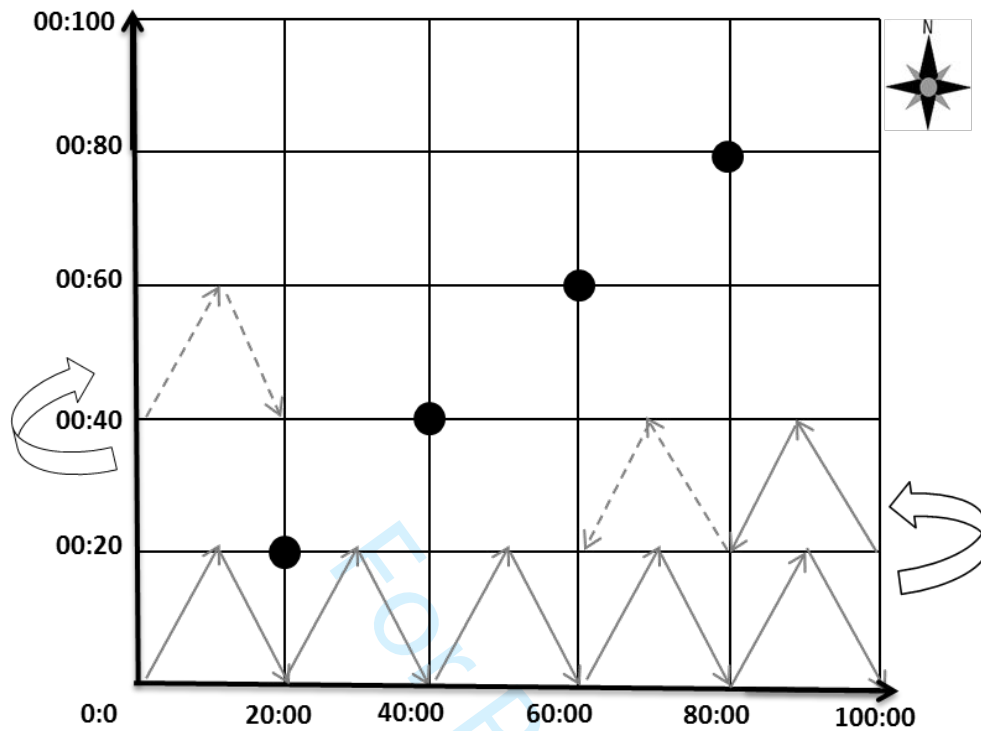
964 **Appendix S5.** Relationship between species abundance and frequency at regional (A) and  
965 local (B) scales.

## 1 Appendices with legends:

- 2 Supporting information to the paper Libalah, M.B. et al. Additive influences of soil and  
 3 climate gradients drive tree community composition of Central African moist rainforests.  
 4 *Journal of Vegetation Science*



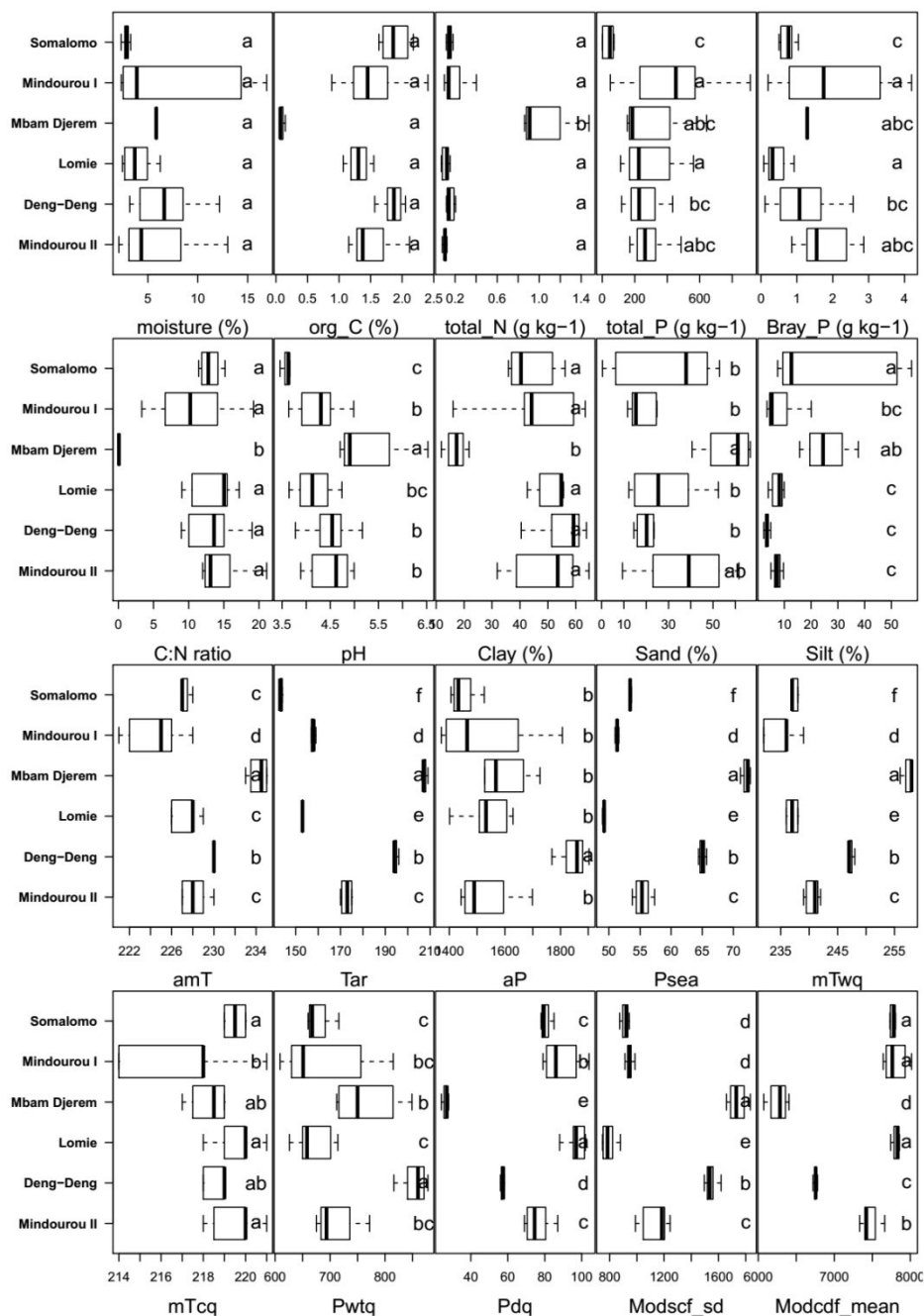
- 5  
 6 **Appendix S1.** Location of eighty-two 1-ha permanent sampling plots projected over  
 7 different forest types of southern and eastern Cameroon. Dots of the same colors are plots  
 8 within the same locality. Forest types according to Letouzey (1985).



9

10 **Appendix S2.** Design of a 1-hectare (100-m x 100-m) permanent sampling plot for tree  
 11 census and soil sampling. Trees are systematically sampled within quadrats (20-m x 20-m)  
 12 and intra-quadrats displacement for tree sampling follows the grey full arrows and grey  
 13 broken arrows are further continuation within the 1-ha plot; inter-quadrat transition follows  
 14 the white arrows. Black dots are points of four soils sampling.

15

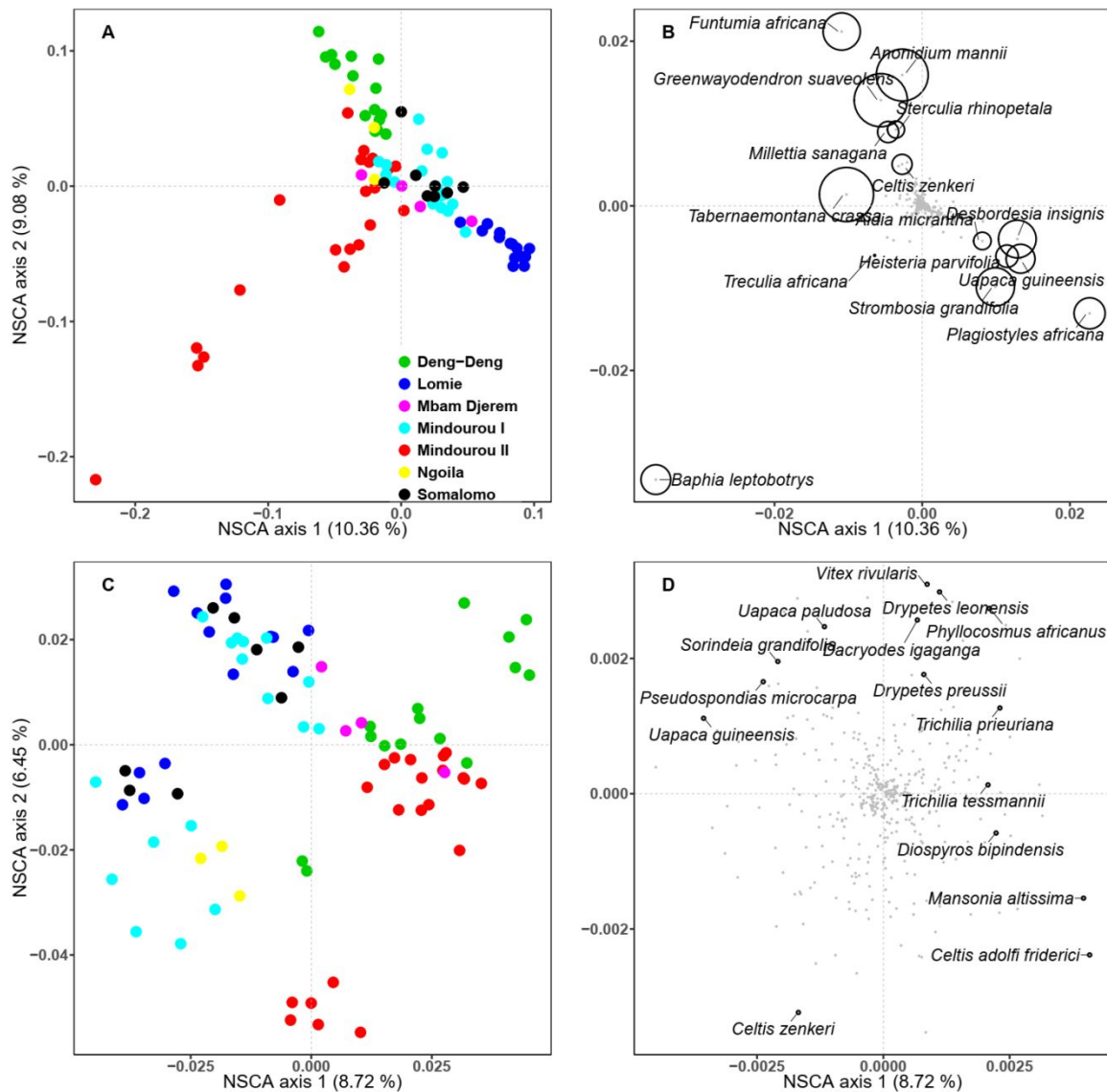


16

17 **Appendix S3.** Variation of individual soil and bioclimate variables between six localities in  
 18 southern and eastern Cameroon. Least Significant Difference test with a Bonferroni-  
 19 adjustment was applied on soil composition (upper two columns) and bioclimatic variables  
 20 (lower two columns) collected from six localities for which both soil and climate data were  
 21 available. Meaning of soil variables: moisture = Soil moisture content; Org\_C = Organic  
 22 carbon; total\_N = Total nitrogen; total\_P = Total phosphorus; Bray\_P = Assimilable  
 23 phosphorus; C\_N = Carbon/nitrogen ratio; pH; Clay, Sand and Silt contents. Meaning of  
 24 bioclimatic variables: amT = Annual Mean Temperature; Tar = Temperature Annual Range;



25 aP = Annual Precipitation; Psea = Precipitation Seasonality; mTwq & mTcq = Mean  
 26 Temperature of Warmest and Coldest Quarters; Pwtq & Pdq = Precipitation of Wettest and  
 27 Driest Quarters. Modscf\_mean = mean of cloud frequency; Modscf\_sd = standard deviation  
 28 of cloud frequency. A quarter is a period of three successive months, i.e. 1/4 of the year.  
 29



30

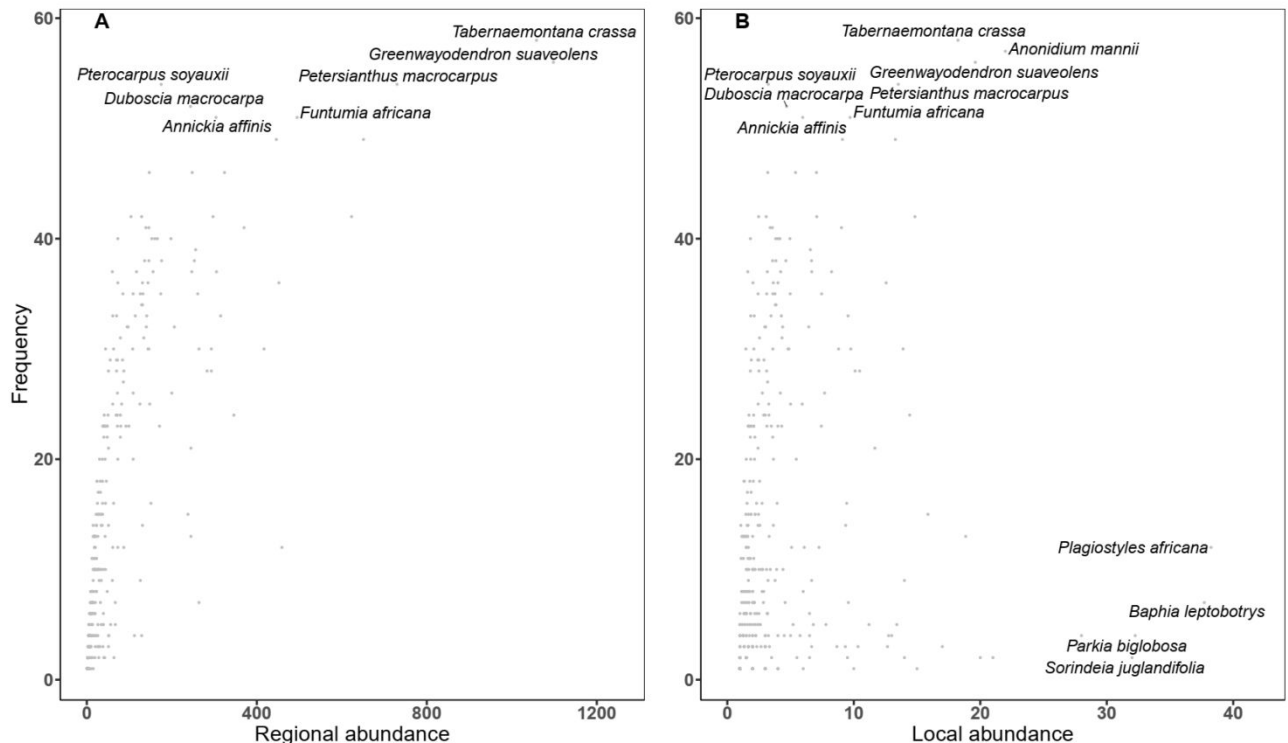
31 **Appendix S4.** Regional distribution in species abundance and occurrence depicted by Non-  
 32 symmetric Correspondence Analysis (NSCA; *sensu* Pélissier et al. (2003)) applied to 82 plots.  
 33 NSCA based on species abundance data (A & B) and on species occurrence data (C & D).  
 34 Dots of the same color denote 1-ha plots within the same locality (A & C) and sizes of circles  
 35 are proportionate to species abundance for B. Only the 15 most discriminating species out  
 36 of 455 are labeled for B & D to improve legibility.

37

38

39 **Floristic composition of 82 1-ha plots**

40 In total, 82 1-ha PSP were established within seven localities in center and eastern  
 41 Cameroon (Figure 1 main text) hosting 39,942 trees with dbh  $\geq$  10 cm. After excluding 1024  
 42 (2.5 %) unidentified individuals and 2209 (5.5 %) individuals identified at genus level only,  
 43 the final dataset comprised 37,733 trees belonging to 455 species and 257 genera, grouped  
 44 in 61 families. The five most important species in terms of number of individuals were  
 45 *Tabernaemontana crassa* Benth. (Apocynaceae; 1561 trees), *Greenwayodendron suaveolens*  
 46 (*senso lato*) (Engl. & Diels) Verdc. (Annonaceae; 1508 trees), *Anonidium mannii* (Oliv.) Engl.  
 47 & Diels (Annonaceae; 1442 trees), *Petersianthus macrocarpus* (P.Beauv.) Liben  
 48 (Lecythidaceae; 870 trees) and *Strombosia grandifolia* Hook.f. ex Benth. (Olacaceae; 826  
 49 trees); together representing 16.4 % of all individuals sampled. The three most diverse  
 50 families were Fabaceae (77 species), Rubiaceae (40 species) and Malvaceae (38 species).  
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53 **Appendix S5.** Relationship between species abundance and frequency at regional (A) and

54 local (B) scales. X-axes denote regional abundance (i.e. number of individuals of a species

55 across all plots (A)) and local abundance (i.e. average number of individuals of a species  
56 across all plots (B)), and Y-axis denote species frequency defined as number of plots in  
57 which the species is present (A and B). Only species with frequency more than 50 and  
58 abundance more than 1000 (30 for local abundance) individuals are labeled to improve  
59 legibility.  
60

For Review Only

Supporting information to the paper

Libalah, M.B. et al. Additive influences of soil and climate gradients drives tree community composition of Central African rainforests. *Journal of Vegetation Science*

**Appendix S6** Species variance partitioning test with-respect-to climate and soil gradients. Monte Carlo permutation test of significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) are provided for each species. Species are arranged in alphabetical order and species nomenclature follows the African Plant Database (version 3.4.0) (<https://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/cjb/africa/recherche.php>).

Species	Occurrence		Abundance		N°. individuals	Families
	Sig. test with Climate	Sig. test with Soil	Sig. test with Climate	Sig. test with Soil		
<i>Afrostryax lepidophyllus</i>	0.03	0.01	0.18	0	73	Huaceae
<i>Afzelia africana</i>	0.08	0.57	0.08	0.66	3	Fabaceae
<i>Afzelia bipindensis</i>	0.84	0.34	0.96	0.3	24	Fabaceae
<i>Afzelia pachyloba</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	3	Fabaceae
<i>Aidia micrantha</i>	0.99	0.66	0.16	0.19	238	Rubiaceae
<i>Albizia adianthifolia</i>	0	0.31	0	0.84	108	Fabaceae
<i>Albizia ferruginea</i>	0.02	0.68	0.05	0.52	23	Fabaceae
<i>Albizia glaberrima</i>	0.04	0.24	0.02	0.31	82	Fabaceae
<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	0.01	0.79	0.01	0.66	6	Fabaceae
<i>Albizia zygia</i>	0.02	0.2	0.08	0.2	10	Fabaceae
<i>Alchornea cordifolia</i>	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.13	1	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Allanblackia floribunda</i>	0.37	0	0.41	0.02	51	Clusiaceae
<i>Allanblackia gabonensis</i>	0.84	0.34	0.83	0.32	1	Clusiaceae
<i>Allanblackia kisonghi</i>	0.34	0.11	0.33	0.18	32	Clusiaceae
<i>Allophylus africanus</i>	0.51	0.3	0.3	0.42	8	Sapindaceae
<i>Alstonia boonei</i>	0	0.23	0.37	0.44	104	Apocynaceae
<i>Amphimas ferrugineus</i>	0.89	0.99	0.96	0.97	6	Fabaceae

<i>Amphimas pterocarpoides</i>	0.17	0.74	0.31	0.8	60	Fabaceae
<i>Angylocalyx oligophyllus</i>	0.2	0.86	0.22	0.87	1	Fabaceae
<i>Angylocalyx pynaertii</i>	0.04	0.03	0.43	0.46	160	Fabaceae
<i>Angylocalyx talbotii</i>	0.36	0.02	0.35	0.02	1	Fabaceae
<i>Annickia affinis</i>	0.01	0	0.01	0.23	178	Annonaceae
<i>Annickia chlorantha</i>	0.47	0	0.09	0	126	Annonaceae
<i>Anonidium mannii</i>	0.16	0	0.7	0.04	1253	Annonaceae
<i>Anopyxis klaineana</i>	0.3	0.21	0.14	0.16	32	Rhizophoraceae
<i>Anthocleista schweinfurthii</i>	0.44	0	0.43	0	1	Gentianaceae
<i>Anthonotha cladantha</i>	0.02	0.22	0.11	0.06	19	Fabaceae
<i>Anthonotha ferruginea</i>	0.25	0.05	0.33	0.09	13	Fabaceae
<i>Anthonotha fragrans</i>	0.19	0.72	0.04	0.15	20	Fabaceae
<i>Anthonotha macrophylla</i>	0.33	0.7	0.3	0.39	166	Fabaceae
<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i>	0.66	0.48	0.64	0.87	5	Moraceae
<i>Antidesma laciniatum</i>	0.08	0.29	0.79	0.09	125	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Antidesma membranaceum</i>	0.02	0.77	0.87	0.34	79	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Antidesma vogelianum</i>	0.36	0.02	0.35	0.02	1	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Antrocaryon klaineanum</i>	0.97	0.16	0.59	0.27	28	Anacardiaceae
<i>Antrocaryon micraster</i>	0.11	0.77	0.12	0.8	1	Anacardiaceae
<i>Aoranthe cladantha</i>	0.48	0.61	0.54	0.48	23	Rubiaceae
<i>Aulacocalyx jasminiflora</i>	0.26	0.58	0.29	0.64	4	Rubiaceae
<i>Baikiaea insignis</i>	0.61	0.71	0.97	0.53	6	Fabaceae
<i>Baillonella toxisperma</i>	0.03	0.84	0.04	0.71	15	Sapotaceae
<i>Balanites wilsoniana</i>	0.08	0.36	0.05	0.23	4	Zygophyllaceae
<i>Baphia leptobotrys</i>	0.81	0.31	0.9	0.07	264	Fabaceae
<i>Baphia nitida</i>	0.66	0.24	0.66	0.24	1	Fabaceae
<i>Baphia pubescens</i>	0.15	0.16	0.08	0.37	131	Fabaceae
<i>Barteria fistulosa</i>	0.81	0.12	0.74	0.17	136	Passifloraceae
<i>Beilschmiedia anacardioides</i>	0.15	0.58	0.19	0.51	3	Lauraceae
<i>Beilschmiedia obscura</i>	0.01	0	0	0.06	55	Lauraceae
<i>Berlinia grandiflora</i>	0	0	0	0	38	Fabaceae

<i>Blighia sapida</i>	0.21	0.06	0.83	0.04	22	Sapindaceae
<i>Blighia welwitschii</i>	0.01	0.75	0.87	0.33	117	Sapindaceae
<i>Bobgunnia fistuloides</i>	0.48	0.29	0.45	0.3	22	Fabaceae
<i>Bombax brevicuspe</i>	0.03	0.27	0.37	0.98	20	Malvaceae
<i>Bombax buonopozense</i>	0.05	0.48	0.03	0.4	10	Malvaceae
<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	0	0.03	0	0.04	2	Arecaceae
<i>Brenania brieyi</i>	0.63	0.19	0.6	0.27	20	Rubiaceae
<i>Bridelia grandis</i>	0.36	0.44	0.36	0.56	4	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	0.02	0.87	0	0.52	14	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Buchholzia coriacea</i>	0.17	0.96	0.19	0.99	1	Capparaceae
<i>Calpocalyx dinklagei</i>	0.2	0.45	0.27	0.14	25	Fabaceae
<i>Canarium schweinfurtii</i>	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.59	22	Burseraceae
<i>Canthium rheedei</i>	0.75	0.34	0.94	0.31	3	Rubiaceae
<i>Carapa grandiflora</i>	0.46	0.59	0.42	0.59	2	Meliaceae
<i>Carapa procera</i>	0	0.89	0.05	0.04	264	Meliaceae
<i>Casearia aculeata</i>	0.47	0.7	0.78	0.65	9	Salicaceae
<i>Cassia javanica</i>	0.01	0.49	0.02	0.54	5	Fabaceae
<i>Cavacoa quintasii</i>	0.27	0.46	0.32	0.49	3	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	0	0.98	0.01	0.92	19	Malvaceae
<i>Celtis adolfi-friderici</i>	0	0.18	0	0.71	293	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis africana</i>	0.02	0.76	0.42	0.63	28	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis conferta</i>	0.14	0.46	0.15	0.51	1	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis gomphophylla</i>	0.66	0.64	0.65	0.63	2	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis mildbraedii</i>	0.5	0.05	0.14	0.28	245	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis philippensis</i>	0.07	0	0.21	0.13	67	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis tessmannii</i>	0.31	0.12	0.07	0.02	153	Cannabaceae
<i>Celtis zenkeri</i>	0.06	0	0	0.08	293	Cannabaceae
<i>Centroplocus glaucinus</i>	0.01	0	0.01	0.12	146	Centroplocaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum africanum</i>	0.87	0.04	0.78	0.06	12	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum beguei</i>	0.47	0.64	0.56	0.8	8	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum boukokoense</i>	0	0	0	0.49	247	Sapotaceae

<i>Chrysophyllum giganteum</i>	0.68	0.24	0.67	0.25	2	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum lacourtianum</i>	0.96	0	0.99	0.02	129	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum perpulchrum</i>	0.92	0.85	0.85	0.87	3	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum pruniforme</i>	0.21	0.36	0.23	0.25	12	Sapotaceae
<i>Chrysophyllum ubangiense</i>	0.47	0.94	0.55	0.93	1	Sapotaceae
<i>Citropsis articulata</i>	0.15	0.69	0.17	0.71	3	Rutaceae
<i>Cleistanthus itsoghensis</i>	0.02	0.45	0.06	0.53	67	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Cleistopholis glauca</i>	0.74	0	0.67	0	40	Annonaceae
<i>Cleistopholis patens</i>	0.8	0.98	0.96	0.86	48	Annonaceae
<i>Coelocaryon preussii</i>	0.04	0.69	0.43	0.39	370	Myristicaceae
<i>Cola acuminata</i>	0.35	0.01	0.43	0.12	40	Malvaceae
<i>Cola altissima</i>	0.21	0.03	0.21	0.12	10	Malvaceae
<i>Cola ballayi</i>	0.77	0.34	0.75	0.37	2	Malvaceae
<i>Cola chlamydantha</i>	0.41	0.87	0.82	0.64	14	Malvaceae
<i>Cola cordifolia</i>	0.01	0.2	0.05	0.28	9	Malvaceae
<i>Cola ficifolia</i>	0.05	0.96	0.07	0.97	2	Malvaceae
<i>Cola heterophylla</i>	0.53	0.05	0.51	0.06	1	Malvaceae
<i>Cola lateritia</i>	0.04	0.02	0	0.01	198	Malvaceae
<i>Cola nitida</i>	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.07	51	Malvaceae
<i>Cola reticulata</i>	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.13	1	Malvaceae
<i>Cola verticillata</i>	0.26	0.19	0.17	0.69	19	Malvaceae
<i>Cordia africana</i>	0	0.02	0	0.02	2	Boraginaceae
<i>Cordia aurantiaca</i>	0.77	0.34	0.73	0.37	1	Boraginaceae
<i>Cordia platythyrsa</i>	0.62	0.79	0.95	0.62	19	Boraginaceae
<i>Corynanthe pachyceras</i>	0.01	0	0.03	0.31	253	Rubiaceae
<i>Coula edulis</i>	0.96	0.31	0.95	0.31	1	Olacaceae
<i>Croton oligandrus</i>	0.01	0.93	0.04	0.86	6	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Croton sylvaticus</i>	0	0.77	0	0.92	5	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Cuviera longiflora</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	2	Rubiaceae
<i>Cylicodiscus gabunensis</i>	0	0.32	0	0.61	37	Fabaceae
<i>Cyrtogonone argentea</i>	0.38	0.07	0.4	0.08	2	Euphorbiaceae

<i>Dacryodes buettneri</i>	0.27	0.86	0.3	0.87	1	Burseraceae
<i>Dacryodes edulis</i>	0.75	0	0.4	0	13	Burseraceae
<i>Dacryodes igaganga</i>	0.06	0	0	0.01	70	Burseraceae
<i>Dacryodes klaineana</i>	0	0.29	0	0.32	9	Burseraceae
<i>Daniellia ogea</i>	0.07	0.24	0.1	0.32	1	Fabaceae
<i>Desbordesia insignis</i>	0	0.83	0	0.85	623	Irvingiaceae
<i>Desplatsia dewevrei</i>	0.26	0	0.55	0.27	146	Malvaceae
<i>Desplatsia chrysochlamys</i>	0.53	0.02	0.54	0.06	5	Malvaceae
<i>Detarium macrocarpum</i>	0.82	0.75	0.2	0.32	30	Fabaceae
<i>Dialium angolense</i>	0.45	0.02	0.92	0.1	11	Fabaceae
<i>Dialium bipindense</i>	0.02	0.1	0.01	0.12	72	Fabaceae
<i>Dialium dinklagei</i>	0.63	0.49	0.43	0.49	7	Fabaceae
<i>Dialium guineense</i>	0.87	0.38	0.87	0.27	34	Fabaceae
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	0.2	0.66	0.23	0.68	2	Fabaceae
<i>Dictyandra arborescens</i>	0.01	0.85	0.3	0.97	15	Rubiaceae
<i>Diospyros bipindensis</i>	0.01	0.2	0.31	0.84	73	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros canaliculata</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	15	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros cinnabarina</i>	0.19	0.58	0.22	0.82	9	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros conocarpa</i>	0.25	0.67	0.29	0.73	2	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>	0.42	0.01	0.44	0.03	18	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros dendo</i>	0.04	0.21	0.09	0.38	6	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros heudelotii</i>	0.59	0.8	0.63	0.83	1	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros hoyleana</i>	0.06	0.07	0.1	0.07	22	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros iturensis</i>	0.53	0.07	0.18	0.08	3	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros mannii</i>	0.25	0.17	0.27	0.18	3	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros monbuttensis</i>	0	0	0	0.01	3	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros preussii</i>	0.24	0.81	0.3	0.76	4	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros sanza-minika</i>	0	0.04	0	0.06	2	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros suaveolens</i>	0.06	0.58	0.14	0.6	52	Ebenaceae
<i>Diospyros zenkeri</i>	0.19	0.44	0.25	0.56	1	Ebenaceae
<i>Discoglyprena caloneura</i>	0.6	0.09	0.67	0.13	43	Euphorbiaceae



<i>Distemonanthus benthamianus</i>	0.1	0	0.39	0.06	48	Fabaceae
<i>Dovyalis zenkeri</i>	0.09	0.99	0.05	0.99	7	Salicaceae
<i>Dracaena arborea</i>	0.71	0.09	0.7	0.09	5	Asparagaceae
<i>Drypetes chevalieri</i>	0.94	0.66	0.81	0.96	3	Putranjivaceae
<i>Drypetes gossweileri</i>	0.95	0.71	0.9	0.77	28	Putranjivaceae
<i>Drypetes klainei</i>	0.11	0.2	0	0.15	39	Putranjivaceae
<i>Drypetes laciniata</i>	0.51	0.12	0.47	0.16	5	Putranjivaceae
<i>Drypetes leonensis</i>	0.37	0	0.13	0.23	131	Putranjivaceae
<i>Drypetes preussii</i>	0.15	0.01	0.5	0.53	79	Putranjivaceae
<i>Duboscia macrocarpa</i>	0.66	0	0.03	0.13	244	Malvaceae
<i>Duguetia staudtii</i>	0.36	0	0.01	0.34	73	Annonaceae
<i>Empogona crepiniana</i>	0.44	0	0.43	0	1	Rubiaceae
<i>Endodesmia calophylloides</i>	0.47	0.25	0.34	0.2	3	Calophyllaceae
<i>Entandrophragma angolense</i>	0.77	0.92	0.68	0.75	13	Meliaceae
<i>Entandrophragma candollei</i>	0.31	0.8	0.23	0.62	38	Meliaceae
<i>Entandrophragma congoense</i>	0.02	0.46	0.05	0.55	9	Meliaceae
<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>	0.26	0.07	0.8	0.28	85	Meliaceae
<i>Entandrophragma utile</i>	0.17	0.64	0.26	0.7	3	Meliaceae
<i>Eribroma oblongum</i>	0.13	0.37	0.15	0.08	37	Malvaceae
<i>Eriocoelum macrocarpum</i>	0.72	0.05	0.5	0.03	26	Sapindaceae
<i>Eriocoelum oblongum</i>	0.59	0.46	0.55	0.56	13	Sapindaceae
<i>Erismadelphus exsul</i>	0.39	0.81	0.08	0.97	11	Vochysiaceae
<i>Erythrina excelsa</i>	0.2	0.29	0.26	0.88	9	Fabaceae
<i>Erythrophleum ivorense</i>	0.97	0.09	0.92	0.26	15	Fabaceae
<i>Erythrophleum suaveolens</i>	0.29	0.01	0.95	0.17	73	Fabaceae
<i>Erythroxyllum mannii</i>	0.02	0.1	0.04	0.14	8	Erythroxylaceae
<i>Euphorbia drupifera</i>	0.55	1	0.55	1	4	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Fernandoa adolfi-friderici</i>	0.02	0.02	0.19	0.53	46	Bignoniaceae
<i>Fernandoa ferdinandi</i>	0.4	0.24	0.38	0.33	5	Bignoniaceae
<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	0	0.09	0.02	0.13	11	Moraceae
<i>Ficus mucoso</i>	0.32	0.3	0.24	0.3	11	Moraceae

<i>Ficus variifolia</i>	0	0.02	0	0.02	1	Moraceae
<i>Fillaeopsis discophora</i>	0.15	0.69	0.17	0.71	1	Fabaceae
<i>Fleroya ledermannii</i>	0.63	0.33	0.65	0.39	1	Rubiaceae
<i>Funtumia africana</i>	0.22	0.03	0	0.31	495	Apocynaceae
<i>Funtumia elastica</i>	0.03	0.02	0.09	0.04	12	Apocynaceae
<i>Garcinia epunctata</i>	0.59	0.73	0.44	0.44	11	Clusiaceae
<i>Garcinia kola</i>	0.8	0.37	0.84	0.59	4	Clusiaceae
<i>Garcinia mannii</i>	0.9	0.06	0.92	0.07	43	Clusiaceae
<i>Garcinia ovalifolia</i>	0	0.02	0	0.02	1	Clusiaceae
<i>Garcinia staudtii</i>	0.27	0.86	0.3	0.87	1	Clusiaceae
<i>Gilbertiodendron brachystegioides</i>	0.7	0.94	0.73	0.94	1	Fabaceae
<i>Gilletiodendron pierreanum</i>	0.35	0.04	0.36	0.06	13	Fabaceae
<i>Glyphaea brevis</i>	0.05	0.35	0.01	0.8	33	Malvaceae
<i>Greenwayodendron suaveolens</i>	0	0	0	0	1098	Annonaceae
<i>Grewia coriacea</i>	0.99	0.89	0.81	0.75	5	Malvaceae
<i>Grossera macrantha</i>	0.07	0.24	0.1	0.32	10	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i>	0.15	0.69	0.17	0.71	1	Hypericaceae
<i>Heisteria parvifolia</i>	0	0.06	0	0.4	346	Olacaceae
<i>Heisteria trillesiana</i>	0.29	0	0.27	0	26	Olacaceae
<i>Heisteria zimmereri</i>	0.32	0.14	0.31	0.2	9	Olacaceae
<i>Hexalobus crispiflorus</i>	0.04	0.76	0.19	0.86	84	Annonaceae
<i>Holoptelea grandis</i>	0.06	0.64	0.07	0.72	15	Ulmaceae
<i>Homalium laurentii</i>	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.28	1	Salicaceae
<i>Homalium le-testui</i>	0.03	0.02	0.38	0.17	72	Salicaceae
<i>Homalium longistylum</i>	0.17	0.61	0.19	0.6	6	Salicaceae
<i>Hylodendron gabunense</i>	0.41	0.24	0.89	0.5	324	Fabaceae
<i>Hymenocardia heudelotii</i>	0.09	0.35	0.11	0.45	3	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Hymenocardia lyrata</i>	0.93	0.22	0.81	0.91	9	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Irvingia excelsa</i>	0	0.85	0	0.84	114	Irvingiaceae
<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i>	0.57	0.02	0.42	0.04	8	Irvingiaceae
<i>Irvingia grandifolia</i>	0.02	0.82	0.05	0.96	44	Irvingiaceae

<i>Irvingia robur</i>	0.02	0.18	0.07	0.16	37	Irvingiaceae
<i>Irvingia smithii</i>	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.28	1	Irvingiaceae
<i>Isolona hexaloba</i>	0.26	0.98	0.17	0.99	6	Annonaceae
<i>Isolona thonneri</i>	0.2	0.65	0.23	0.68	2	Annonaceae
<i>Keayodendron bridelioides</i>	0.61	0.03	0.16	0.04	126	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Khaya anthotheca</i>	0.01	0.64	0.01	0.69	16	Meliaceae
<i>Khaya grandifoliola</i>	0.29	0.66	0.62	0.57	8	Meliaceae
<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	0	0	0	0	10	Meliaceae
<i>Kigelia africana</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	2	Bignoniaceae
<i>Klaineanthus gabonii</i>	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.03	20	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>	0.31	0.79	0.04	0.61	147	Irvingiaceae
<i>Laccodiscus pseudostipularis</i>	0.29	0.54	0.31	0.49	5	Sapindaceae
<i>Lannea welwitschii</i>	0.12	0.61	0.88	0.51	38	Anacardiaceae
<i>Lasiodiscus fasciculiflorus</i>	0.17	0.96	0.19	0.99	1	Rhamnaceae
<i>Lasiodiscus mannii</i>	0.06	0.16	0.17	0.08	44	Rhamnaceae
<i>Lasiodiscus marmoratus</i>	0.67	0.72	0.52	0.77	14	Rhamnaceae
<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i>	0.18	0.01	0.38	0.07	131	Sapindaceae
<i>Leonardoxa africana</i>	0.1	0.96	0.11	0.96	1	Fabaceae
<i>Lepidobotrys staudtii</i>	0	0	0.13	0.08	97	Lepidobotryaceae
<i>Leplaea cedrata</i>	0.41	0	0.21	0	95	Meliaceae
<i>Leplaea thompsonii</i>	0.53	0	0.09	0	146	Meliaceae
<i>Leptactina involucrata</i>	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.13	1	Rubiaceae
<i>Letestua durissima</i>	0.53	0.05	0.51	0.06	1	Sapotaceae
<i>Lovoa trichilioides</i>	0.29	0.36	0.03	0.31	72	Meliaceae
<i>Macaranga barteri</i>	0.18	0.33	0.67	0.69	134	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Macaranga hurifolia</i>	0.27	0.86	0.3	0.87	3	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Macaranga monandra</i>	0.7	0.04	0.23	0.08	9	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Macaranga spinosa</i>	0.7	0.18	0.02	0.94	176	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Maesobotrya griffoniana</i>	0.77	0.5	0.67	0.67	15	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Maesobotrya klaineana</i>	0	0.02	0	0.31	63	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Maesopsis eminii</i>	0.44	0.67	0.91	0.77	16	Rhamnaceae

<i>Majidea forsteri</i>	0	0.66	0	0.55	31	Sapindaceae
<i>Mallotus oppositifolius</i>	0.04	0.68	0.25	0.63	34	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Mammea africana</i>	0.04	1	0.2	0.61	25	Calophyllaceae
<i>Manilkara obovata</i>	0	0.04	0.04	0.11	40	Sapotaceae
<i>Mansonia altissima</i>	0	0.05	0	0.36	171	Malvaceae
<i>Maprounea membranacea</i>	0	0.04	0.03	0.06	42	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Maranthes chrysophylla</i>	0.12	0.55	0.16	0.55	5	Chrysobalanaceae
<i>Maranthes glabra</i>	0.01	0.18	0.03	0.13	69	Chrysobalanaceae
<i>Mareyopsis longifolia</i>	0	0.08	0.37	0.29	99	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Margaritaria discoidea</i>	0.08	0.43	0.23	0.97	48	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Markhamia lutea</i>	0	0	0	0.02	126	Bignoniaceae
<i>Markhamia tomentosa</i>	0.13	0.42	0.72	0.14	61	Bignoniaceae
<i>Massularia acuminata</i>	0.69	0.86	0.8	0.97	15	Rubiaceae
<i>Meiocarpidium lepidotum</i>	0.16	0.43	0.23	0.31	7	Annonaceae
<i>Memecylon aberrans</i>	0.32	0.84	0.39	0.81	3	Melastomataceae
<i>Memecylon amshoffae</i>	0.41	0.56	0.48	0.65	1	Melastomataceae
<i>Microdesmis puberula</i>	0.62	0.33	0.64	0.94	23	Pandaceae
<i>Mildbraediodendron excelsum</i>	0.26	0.58	0.29	0.64	1	Fabaceae
<i>Milicia excelsa</i>	0	0.01	0	0.04	51	Moraceae
<i>Millettia barteri</i>	0.7	0.15	0.66	0.16	12	Fabaceae
<i>Millettia laurentii</i>	0.85	0.38	0.84	0.37	2	Fabaceae
<i>Millettia mannii</i>	0.36	0.9	0.55	0.06	60	Fabaceae
<i>Millettia sanagana</i>	0.09	0.63	0.23	0.39	61	Fabaceae
<i>Monodora myristica</i>	0.57	0.51	0.76	0.55	9	Annonaceae
<i>Monodora tenuifolia</i>	0.04	0.24	0.54	0.47	36	Annonaceae
<i>Morinda lucida</i>	0.29	0.82	0.32	0.82	2	Rubiaceae
<i>Morus mesozygia</i>	0.13	0.33	0.24	0.42	3	Moraceae
<i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	0.19	0.11	0.9	0.18	417	Urticaceae
<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i>	0.18	0.43	0.29	0.53	139	Urticaceae
<i>Myrianthus preussii</i>	0.78	0.05	0.81	0.05	6	Urticaceae
<i>Nauclea diderrichii</i>	0.33	0.56	0.16	0.32	20	Rubiaceae

<i>Neoboutonia mannii</i>	0	0.02	0	0.02	1	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Nesogordonia kabingaensis</i>	0.55	0.01	0.49	0.17	87	Malvaceae
<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	1	Malvaceae
<i>Newtonia duparquetiana</i>	0.7	0.94	0.73	0.94	1	Fabaceae
<i>Newtonia glandulifera</i>	0.41	0.56	0.48	0.65	1	Fabaceae
<i>Newtonia griffoniana</i>	0.37	0.97	0.54	0.91	3	Fabaceae
<i>Ochna afzelii</i>	0.28	0.88	0.2	0.15	14	Ochnaceae
<i>Ochna calodendron</i>	0.25	0.53	0.15	0.69	6	Ochnaceae
<i>Octolobus spectabilis</i>	0.59	0.8	0.58	0.79	4	Malvaceae
<i>Olax subscorpioides</i>	0	0	0	0	112	Olacaceae
<i>Omphalocarpum elatum</i>	0.95	0.17	0.9	0.27	21	Sapotaceae
<i>Omphalocarpum procerum</i>	0.01	0.63	0.12	0.63	8	Sapotaceae
<i>Oncoba dentata</i>	0	0	0	0	29	Salicaceae
<i>Oncoba gilgiana</i>	0.2	0.66	0.23	0.68	1	Salicaceae
<i>Oncoba glauca</i>	0.28	0	0.11	0.01	148	Salicaceae
<i>Oncoba mannii</i>	0.07	0.24	0.1	0.32	1	Salicaceae
<i>Oncoba welwitschii</i>	0.38	0.33	0.65	0.34	9	Salicaceae
<i>Ongokea gore</i>	0	0.01	0	0.05	51	Olacaceae
<i>Oubanguia africana</i>	0.79	0.24	0.89	0.29	1	Lecythidaceae
<i>Pachyelasma tessmannii</i>	0.08	0.26	0.18	0.02	8	Fabaceae
<i>Pancovia laurentii</i>	0.07	0.04	0.01	0.46	283	Sapindaceae
<i>Pancovia pedicellaris</i>	0.86	0.13	0.85	0.13	1	Sapindaceae
<i>Panda oleosa</i>	0	0.05	0	0.12	140	Pandaceae
<i>Parinari excelsa</i>	0.01	0.36	0.07	0.6	43	Chrysobalanaceae
<i>Parkia bicolor</i>	0.94	0.13	0.98	0.1	9	Fabaceae
<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	0	0	0	0.03	129	Fabaceae
<i>Parkia filicoidea</i>	0	0.82	0.02	0.8	15	Fabaceae
<i>Paropsia grewioides</i>	0.44	0	0.43	0	3	Passifloraceae
<i>Pauridiantha floribunda</i>	0.79	0.34	0.72	0.18	6	Rubiaceae
<i>Pausinystalia macroceras</i>	0	0.1	0.01	0.03	206	Rubiaceae
<i>Pentaclethra eetveldeana</i>	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.63	1	Fabaceae

<i>Pentaclethra macrophylla</i>	0	0.25	0	0.03	261	Fabaceae
<i>Persea americana</i>	0.36	0.68	0.4	0.71	3	Lauraceae
<i>Petersianthus macrocarpus</i>	0.06	0	0.17	0.1	730	Lecythidaceae
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	0	0	0.04	0.07	28	Arecaceae
<i>Phyllocosmus africanus</i>	0.12	0	0.05	0.23	174	Ixonanthaceae
<i>Phyllocosmus calothyrsus</i>	0.23	0.09	0.37	0.07	3	Ixonanthaceae
<i>Picalima nitida</i>	0.38	0.43	0.25	0.61	63	Apocynaceae
<i>Pierreodendron africanum</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	3	Simaroubaceae
<i>Pinacopodium congolense</i>	0.27	0.86	0.3	0.87	1	Erythroxylaceae
<i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>	0.04	0.96	0	0.84	144	Fabaceae
<i>Piptocarpha riedelii</i>	0.25	0.18	0.25	0.21	1	Compositae
<i>Pittosporum viridiflorum</i>	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.11	4	Pittosporaceae
<i>Plagiostyles africana</i>	0	0.8	0.01	0.66	459	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Poga oleosa</i>	0.34	0.05	0.39	0.04	13	Anisophylleaceae
<i>Pouteria alnifolia</i>	0	0.08	0	0.02	39	Sapotaceae
<i>Pouteria altissima</i>	0.01	0.64	0.06	0.7	44	Sapotaceae
<i>Pouteria pierrei</i>	0.63	0.33	0.65	0.39	1	Sapotaceae
<i>Premna angolensis</i>	0.15	0.69	0.17	0.71	1	Lamiaceae
<i>Pseudospondias microcarpa</i>	0.71	0	0.72	0.1	61	Anacardiaceae
<i>Psydrax arnoldiana</i>	0.26	0.58	0.29	0.64	1	Rubiaceae
<i>Psydrax subcordata</i>	0.14	0.51	0.18	0.54	16	Rubiaceae
<i>Pteleopsis hylodendron</i>	0.06	0.52	0.11	0.32	48	Combretaceae
<i>Pterocarpus mildbraedii</i>	0.71	0.15	0.47	0.37	14	Fabaceae
<i>Pterocarpus soyauxii</i>	0.04	0	0.39	0.15	175	Fabaceae
<i>Pterygota bequaertii</i>	0.01	0.07	0.01	0.07	5	Malvaceae
<i>Pterygota macrocarpa</i>	0.66	0.54	0.57	0.51	14	Malvaceae
<i>Pycnanthus angolensis</i>	0.04	0	0.51	0.25	243	Myristicaceae
<i>Quassia gabonensis</i>	0.93	0.03	0.75	0.06	37	Simaroubaceae
<i>Quassia undulata</i>	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.13	1	Simaroubaceae
<i>Radlkofera calodendron</i>	0.63	0.33	0.65	0.39	1	Sapindaceae
<i>Rauvolfia caffra</i>	0.02	0.58	0.03	0.63	9	Apocynaceae

<i>Rauvolfia vomitoria</i>	0.26	0.3	0.46	0.26	27	Apocynaceae
<i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.14	50	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Rinorea cuspa</i>	0.62	0.29	0.8	0.4	18	Violaceae
<i>Rinorea dentata</i>	0.94	0.26	0.84	0.15	23	Violaceae
<i>Rinorea grandifolia</i>	0.12	0.23	0.15	0.33	2	Violaceae
<i>Rinorea leiophylla</i>	0.24	0.03	0.33	0.14	26	Violaceae
<i>Rinorea oblongifolia</i>	0.96	0.38	0.75	0.99	109	Violaceae
<i>Rothmannia hispida</i>	0.94	0.32	0.82	0.3	5	Rubiaceae
<i>Rothmannia lujae</i>	0.43	0.07	0.15	0.02	132	Rubiaceae
<i>Rothmannia talbotii</i>	0.56	0.5	0.59	0.48	2	Rubiaceae
<i>Sacoglottis gabonensis</i>	0.18	0.08	0.24	0.06	5	Humiriaceae
<i>Santiria trimera</i>	0.01	0	0.01	0.28	446	Burseraceae
<i>Scottellia klaineana</i>	0.56	0.16	0.11	0.26	41	Achariaceae
<i>Shirakiopsis elliptica</i>	0.2	0.17	0.4	0.14	17	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Sloetiopsis usambarensis</i>	0.22	0.63	0.3	0.97	87	Moraceae
<i>Sorindeia africana</i>	0.36	0.02	0.35	0.02	1	Anacardiaceae
<i>Sorindeia grandifolia</i>	0.22	0.4	0.03	0.28	248	Anacardiaceae
<i>Sorindeia juglandifolia</i>	0	0	0	0.02	64	Anacardiaceae
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	1	0.22	0.99	0.26	2	Bignoniaceae
<i>Spondias cytherea</i>	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.11	1	Anacardiaceae
<i>Spondias mombin</i>	0	0.04	0.02	0.07	28	Anacardiaceae
<i>Staudtia kamerunensis</i>	0.03	0.03	0.13	0.6	297	Myristicaceae
<i>Sterculia micrantha</i>	0.34	0.92	0.19	0.76	11	Malvaceae
<i>Sterculia rhinopetala</i>	0	0.26	0.01	0.46	245	Malvaceae
<i>Sterculia tragacantha</i>	0.04	0	0	0.01	129	Malvaceae
<i>Strephonema pseudocola</i>	0.31	0.14	0.23	0.4	12	Combretaceae
<i>Strephonema sericeum</i>	0.49	0.6	0.5	0.68	1	Combretaceae
<i>Strombosia grandifolia</i>	0	0.04	0	0.42	651	Olacaceae
<i>Strombosia pustulata</i>	0.51	0.06	0.56	0.07	7	Olacaceae
<i>Strombosia scheffleri</i>	0.8	0.56	0.66	0.18	8	Olacaceae
<i>Strombosia zenkeri</i>	0.5	0.16	0.46	0.15	2	Olacaceae

<i>Strombosiopsis tetrandra</i>	0	0.54	0	0.38	256	Olacaceae
<i>Strychnos staudtii</i>	0.69	0.98	0.73	0.98	2	Loganiaceae
<i>Symphonia globulifera</i>	0.17	0.18	0.28	0.85	33	Clusiaceae
<i>Synsepalum dulcificum</i>	0.55	0.1	0.31	0.1	86	Sapotaceae
<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	0	0.04	0.04	0.09	19	Myrtaceae
<i>Syzygium rowlandii</i>	0.35	0.01	0.04	0.07	12	Myrtaceae
<i>Tabernaemontana crassa</i>	0.11	0	0.7	0.13	1058	Apocynaceae
<i>Terminalia superba</i>	0.1	0.44	0.83	0.28	156	Combretaceae
<i>Tessmannia africana</i>	0.14	0	0.1	0	18	Fabaceae
<i>Tessmannia anomala</i>	1	0.74	0.89	0.75	25	Fabaceae
<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i>	0.63	0.84	0.68	0.63	70	Fabaceae
<i>Tetrorchidium didymostemon</i>	0.91	0.33	0.79	0.06	19	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Tetrorchidium oppositifolium</i>	0.77	0.34	0.75	0.37	1	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Thomandersia hensii</i>	0.66	0.64	0.65	0.63	2	Thomandersiaceae
<i>Treculia africana</i>	0.36	0.73	0.77	0.14	92	Moraceae
<i>Treculia obovoidea</i>	0.08	0.55	0.3	0.55	51	Moraceae
<i>Trema orientalis</i>	0.16	0.64	0.21	0.54	3	Cannabaceae
<i>Tricalysia discolor</i>	0.72	0.05	0.7	0.06	2	Rubiaceae
<i>Tricalysia pangolina</i>	0.05	0.55	0.03	0.6	39	Rubiaceae
<i>Trichilia dregeana</i>	0.09	0.06	0.12	0.07	56	Meliaceae
<i>Trichilia prieuriana</i>	0.46	0.01	0	0.11	315	Meliaceae
<i>Trichilia rubescens</i>	0.01	0.24	0	0.03	109	Meliaceae
<i>Trichilia tessmannii</i>	0.58	0.01	0.1	0.43	109	Meliaceae
<i>Trichilia welwitschii</i>	0.01	0	0.49	0.11	305	Meliaceae
<i>Trichoscypha acuminata</i>	0	0.34	0.02	0.01	141	Anacardiaceae
<i>Trichoscypha arborea</i>	0.11	0	0.1	0.03	17	Anacardiaceae
<i>Trichoscypha oddonii</i>	0.01	0.61	0.1	0.88	26	Anacardiaceae
<i>Tridesmostemon omphalocarpoides</i>	0.69	0.64	0.17	0.66	27	Sapotaceae
<i>Trilepisium madagascariense</i>	0	0.01	0	0.01	200	Moraceae
<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>	0.22	0.22	0.36	0.51	151	Malvaceae



<i>Turraeanthus africana</i>	0	0.8	0.02	0.9	34	Meliaceae
<i>Uapaca acuminata</i>	0.53	0.02	0.64	0.04	20	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Uapaca guineensis</i>	0.01	0.7	0.16	0.1	452	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Uapaca heudelotii</i>	0.11	0.54	0.27	0.61	31	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Uapaca paludosa</i>	0.35	0.04	0.23	0	144	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Uapaca staudtii</i>	0.02	0.12	0.28	0.29	34	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Uapaca vanhouttei</i>	0.16	0.11	0.5	0.05	20	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Usteria guineensis</i>	0.41	0.56	0.48	0.65	1	Loganiaceae
<i>Uvariastrum pierreanum</i>	0.51	0.01	0.75	0.15	43	Annonaceae
<i>Uvariastrum zenkeri</i>	0.24	0.27	0.02	0.23	18	Annonaceae
<i>Uvariopsis bakeriana</i>	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	1	Annonaceae
<i>Vepris louisii</i>	0.61	0.28	0.48	0.64	21	Rutaceae
<i>Vitex dentata</i>	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.11	2	Lamiaceae
<i>Vitex doniana</i>	0	0	0	0	20	Lamiaceae
<i>Vitex grandifolia</i>	0.92	0	0.87	0	18	Lamiaceae
<i>Vitex rivularis</i>	0.01	0	0.01	0.03	70	Lamiaceae
<i>Voacanga africana</i>	0	0.51	0.06	0.5	16	Apocynaceae
<i>Xylopi aethiopica</i>	0.44	0.64	0.06	0.12	80	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi aurantiiodora</i>	0.06	0.1	0.03	0.17	39	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi hypolampra</i>	0.12	0.2	0.36	0.27	32	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi parviflora</i>	0	0.84	0.01	0.21	6	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi quintasii</i>	0.02	0.89	0.08	0.34	72	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi rubescens</i>	0.41	0.02	0.75	0.12	5	Annonaceae
<i>Xylopi staudtii</i>	0.87	0.04	0.89	0.07	24	Annonaceae
<i>Zanthoxylum gillettii</i>	0.25	0.38	0.43	0.28	79	Rutaceae
<i>Zanthoxylum heitzii</i>	0.73	0	0.75	0.01	5	Rutaceae
<i>Zanthoxylum leprieurii</i>	0.01	0.61	0.06	0.48	16	Rutaceae
<i>Zanthoxylum rubescens</i>	0.25	0.18	0.25	0.21	4	Rutaceae