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**Supplementary Figure 1: Examples of underground storage organs found in South African grasslands**

a. *Raphionacme lucens*



b. *Gnidia kraussiana*



c. *Crinum macowanii*



d. *Hypoxis* sp.



**Supplementary Table 1. The five dominant species as measured by cover for each study area and natural versus secondary grasslands.**

Dominant Species			
Natural treatment	Growth Form	Secondary Treatment	Growth Form
MNR			
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Grass
<i>Rendlia altera</i>	Grass	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Forb*
<i>Panicum natalense</i>	Grass	<i>Helichrysum</i> species 1	Forb
<i>Koeleria capensis</i>	Grass	<i>Helichrysum</i> species 2	Forb
<i>Eriosema kraussianum</i>	Forb	<i>Helichrysum splendidum</i>	Shrub
BKNR			
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Grass
<i>Rendlia altera</i>	Grass	<i>Cymbopogon</i> species	Grass
<i>Eragrostis racemosa</i>	Grass	<i>Trichopteryx</i> species	Grass
<i>Eriosema kraussianum</i>	Forb	<i>Conostomum natalense</i>	Forb
<i>Aeschynomene rehannii</i> var. <i>leptobortrya</i>	Forb	<i>Ophioglossum reticulatum</i>	Fern
ESI			
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Grass	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Grass
<i>Aristida junciformis</i>	Grass	<i>Eragrostis ciliaris</i>	Grass
<i>Vernonia oligocephala</i>	Forb	<i>Mariscus albomarginatus</i>	Sedge
<i>Pentanisia prunelloides</i>	Forb	<i>Asteraceae</i> species	Forb
<i>Parinari capensis</i>	Geoxylic suffrutex	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	Forb*

\*- Alien species.