

Supplementary Information

Effect of organic cultivation of rooibos tea plants (*Aspalathus linearis*) on soil nutrient status in Nieuwoudtville, South Africa

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Table S1: Soil pH and exchangeable cations in soils of rooibos plots at three farms in Nieuwoudtville. Means followed by different letters in a column are significantly different at *** $P < 0.001$, ** $P < 0.01$ and * $P < 0.05$ for the interaction of year of sample collection and age of rooibos plots for all parameters except Ca in Blomfontein where the F -statistic of $^{†}7.94$ was significant at *** $P < 0.001$ for the main effect of age of rooibos plots without interaction

Year	Plot age	Blomfontein				Dobbelaarskop				Landskloof			
		Exchangeable cations (cmol kg ⁻¹)				Exchangeable cations (cmol kg ⁻¹)				Exchangeable cations (cmol kg ⁻¹)			
		pH	K	Ca	Mg	pH	K	Ca	Mg	pH	K	Ca	Mg
2005	Uncultivated	4.0a	0.06a	0.30ab	0.14bc	4.0abc	0.07abc	0.36bcdef	0.14cdef	4.2abc	0.11ef	0.50bcd	0.09cd
	Year 1	4.2ab	0.07ab	0.47b	0.16bc	4.3bcd	0.09cd	0.17b	0.15cdef	3.9a	0.06ab	0.18a	0.06bc
	Year 2	4.8de	0.11bc	0.38b	0.13bc	4.5def	0.05a	0.08a	0.08abc	4.3bcde	0.09def	0.33bcd	0.12de
	Year 3	4.7cde	0.10bc	0.22a	0.13bc	4.6def	0.06ab	0.40defg	0.23f	4.9h	0.10ef	1.06e	0.15e
	Year 4	4.2ab	0.17e	0.73c	0.48d	4.0abc	0.11cdef	0.29bcdef	0.20ef	4.6defg	0.09ef	0.57de	0.17ef
2006	Uncultivated	4.5bcde	0.10bc	0.40ab	0.11bc	4.6ef	0.07abc	0.39defg	0.12bcde	4.7efgh	0.05ab	0.34bcd	0.13de
	Year 1	4.2abc	0.07ab	0.44b	0.12bc	4.4def	0.09cde	0.16bc	0.05a	4.7fh	0.08bcde	0.31bcd	0.13de
	Year 2	4.4abcd	0.08abc	0.46b	0.04a	4.7fg	0.11def	0.27bcdef	0.08bc	4.8gh	0.08cde	0.37cd	0.15e
	Year 3	4.9e	0.10bc	0.30a	0.04a	3.84a	0.08bcd	0.26bcde	0.06ab	4.5cdefg	0.06abc	0.21abc	0.06b
	Year 4	4.2ab	0.15de	0.53c	0.33d	4.3bcde	0.13ef	0.41defg	0.18def	4.2abcd	0.05ab	0.14ab	0.04a
2009	Uncultivated	4.8de	0.12cd	0.29ab	0.08b	4.5def	0.14f	0.64fg	0.28f	4.4cdef	0.13f	0.52de	0.25f
	Year 1	4.3abc	0.09bc	0.33b	0.09bc	4.4def	0.11cdef	0.36cdef	0.17def	4.4cdefg	0.07bcde	0.24abcd	0.08bcd
	Year 2	4.5abcde	0.07ab	0.49b	0.17c	4.3bcde	0.09cde	0.33cdef	0.14cdef	4.3bcde	0.06abcd	0.23abcd	0.09cd
	Year 3	4.5abcde	0.08abc	0.31a	0.10bc	5.0g	0.09cde	0.62g	0.21ef	4.0ab	0.05a	0.15abc	0.06b
	Year 4	4.2ab	0.17e	0.61c	0.38d	4.3cde	0.08bcd	0.19bcde	0.10bcd	4.6efg	0.09ef	0.65de	0.16e
F-statistic		3.2**	2.64*	$^{†}7.94***$	5.60***	15.8***	4.67***	4.77***	4.83***	8.43***	7.67***	6.17***	19.8***