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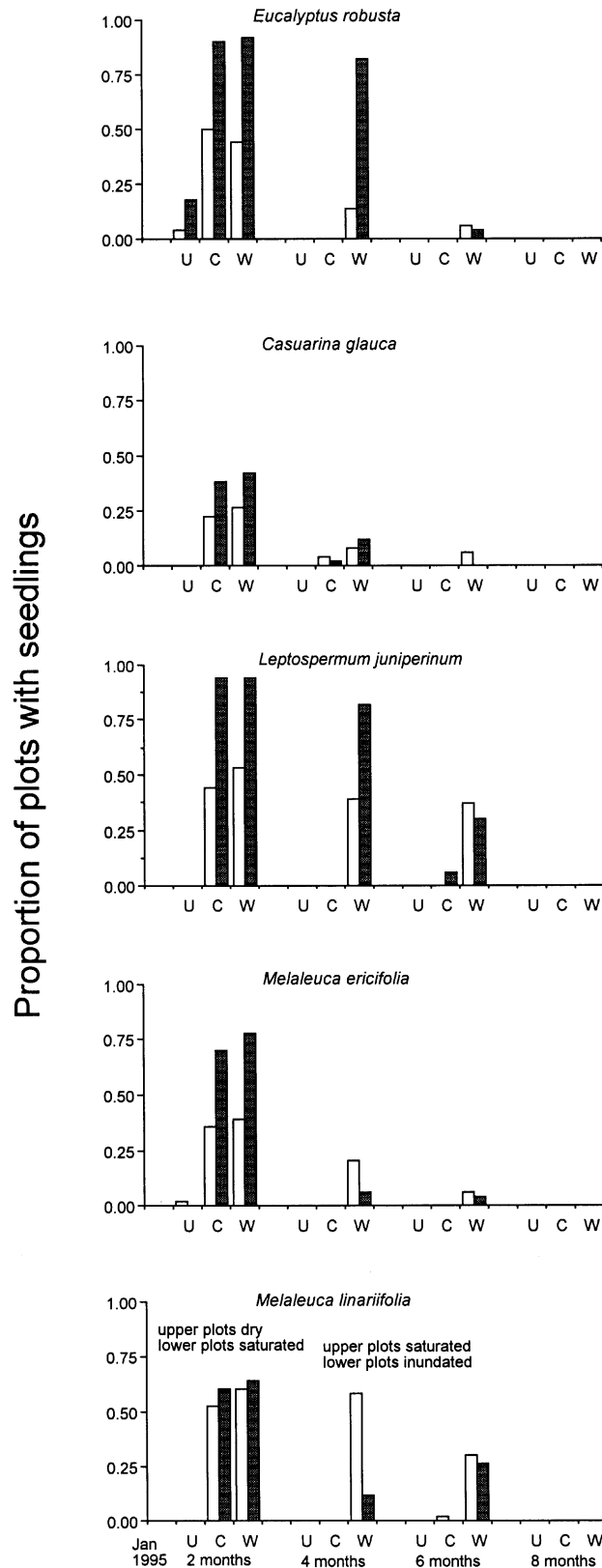


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Supplementary Figure 1.

Proportions of plots with seedlings at intervals over eight months at upper and lower elevations in wet meadow. 'U' - uncleared plots; 'C' - cleared plots; 'W' - cleared and weeded plots. 'C' and 'W' were equivalent treatments for the first two months. 'n' plots 50 ± 2. Upper elevation unshaded; lower elevation shaded.



Supplementary Table 1 Proportion of plots with seedlings two months after planting with the seeds of five woody species at two elevations in wet meadow at Coomonderry Swamp.

Species	Elevation	Cleared	Uncleared
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	0.47	0.04
	lower	0.91***	0.18*
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	0.24	0
	lower	0.40*	0
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	0.49	0
	lower	0.94***	0
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	0.38	0.02
	lower	0.74***	0
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	0.57	0
	lower	0.62	0

Proportions of seedlings significantly greater at lower elevation than at upper elevation are indicated (***) $P < 0.001$; * $P < 0.05$ - ChiSq). 'n' plots: cleared: 100 ± 1 , uncleared: 50 ± 2 .

Supplementary Table 2 Mean proportion of seeds of five woody species germinated after two months in each plot at two elevations in wet meadow.

Species	Elevation	Cleared Mean (SE)	Uncleared Mean (SE)
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	0.01 (0.00)	0
	lower	0.11 (0.01)*	0.01 (0.01)
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	0.02 (0.01)	0
	lower	0.02 (0.01)	0
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	0.04 (0.01)	0
	lower	0.18 (0.02)*	0
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	0.02 (0.01)	0
	lower	0.12 (0.02)*	0
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	0.06 (0.01)	0
	lower	0.12 (0.02)*	0

Proportions calculated on an estimated 50 seeds placed in each plot. Mean proportions greater at lower elevation than at upper elevation are indicated (* $P < 0.05$ - Tukey test following ANOVA). 'n' plots: 50 ± 2 .

Supplementary Table 3

Plot characteristics and their correlations with proportions of seeds of five woody species germinated in initially cleared plots after two months.

Species	Elevation	Exposure index		Surrounding vegetation height	
		Mean	<i>r</i>	Mean (cm)	<i>r</i>
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	1.9 (0.1)	0.32**	29 (1)	0.09
	lower	3.4 (0.1)***	0.15	39 (3)*	0.12
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	2.2 (0.1)	0.19	37 (3)	0.08
	lower	4.0 (0)***	-	44 (3)	-0.05
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	2.7 (0.1)	0.33**	44 (3)	0.15
	lower	3.8 (0.1)*	0.23*	58 (5)	0.09
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	1.9 (0.1)	0.53***	37 (3)	0.09
	lower	3.0 (0.1)***	0.21*	39 (1)	0.05
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	2.2 (0.1)	0.36***	27 (2)	0.09
	lower	3.5 (0.1)***	-0.06	75 (5)***	0.21*

Exposure index - plots were ranked as: 1 - dry and open, 2 - dry and overgrown by invading weeds, 3 - moist and overgrown by invading weeds, 4 - moist and open. Standard errors in parentheses. 'n' plots: 100 ± 2. *Significant at $P < 0.05$; **significant at $P < 0.01$; ***significant at $P < 0.001$ (t-test - two tailed).

Supplementary Table 4 Mean stem diameters (cm) of saplings after nine months

Species	Elevation	Cleared Weeded	Cleared	Uncleared
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	1.65(0.07) ^a	1.39(0.07) ^{ab}	1.29(0.06) ^b
	lower	1.40(0.06) ^{ab}	1.24(0.08) ^b	1.62(0.06) ^a
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	1.32(0.05) ^{ab}	1.19(0.04) ^{ab}	1.23(0.04) ^{ab}
	lower	1.39(0.04) ^a	1.22(0.05) ^b	1.33(0.04) ^{ab}
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	1.07(0.05) ^c	1.05(0.05) ^c	1.04(0.04) ^c
	lower	1.37(0.06) ^{ab}	1.20(0.06) ^{bc}	1.49(0.06) ^a
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	0.95(0.03) ^{bc}	0.89(0.03) ^c	0.84(0.03) ^c
	lower	1.30(0.06) ^{ab}	1.12(0.04) ^a	1.28(0.06) ^a
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	0.82(0.03) ^{bc}	0.74(0.03) ^c	0.70(0.03) ^c
	lower	1.03(0.03) ^a	0.95(0.04) ^{ab}	1.06(0.04) ^a

Standard errors in parentheses. For each species, means with the same superscripts are not significantly different at $P = 0.05$ (Tukey Test following ANOVA). Some significant differences indicated by ANOVA, the more powerful test (Zar 1984), were not detected by the Tukey comparison. 'n' plots: 50 ± 4 .

Supplementary Table 5 Mean heights (cm) of saplings after nine months

Species	Elevation	Cleared Weeded	Cleared	Uncleared
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	106(3) ^a	100(3) ^a	98(3) ^a
	lower	99(2) ^a	96(3) ^a	107(3) ^a
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	99(4) ^c	107(4) ^{bc}	98(4) ^c
	lower	127(3) ^a	119(4) ^{ab}	121(4) ^{ab}
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	110(3) ^a	109(4) ^a	106(3) ^a
	lower	113(3) ^a	110(3) ^a	117(3) ^a
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	82(2) ^b	83(2) ^b	81(2) ^b
	lower	88(3) ^{ab}	87(2) ^{ab}	94(2) ^a
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	73(2) ^b	69(2) ^b	68(2) ^b
	lower	87(2) ^a	85(2) ^a	87(2) ^a

Standard errors in parentheses. For each species, means with the same superscripts are not significantly different at $P = 0.05$ (Tukey Test following ANOVA). Some significant differences indicated by ANOVA, the more powerful test (Zar 1984), were not detected by the Tukey comparison. 'n' plots: 50 ± 4 .

Supplementary Table 6

Surrounding vegetation height and correlations with sapling height and stem diameter after nine months.

Species	Elevation	Surrounding vegetation height (cm)	Correlations with:	
			Stem diameter	Plant height
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	upper	41 (2) (149)	0.23**	0.42***
	lower	39 (2) (141)	0.30***	0.33***
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	upper	43 (2) (147)	0.10	0.41***
	lower	43 (2) (148)	0.07	0.14
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	upper	47 (3) (147)	0.09	0.18
	lower	53 (4) (149)	-0.01	0.10
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	upper	46 (3) (148)	-0.11	0.12
	lower	39 (1) (148)*	-0.05	0.08
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	upper	27 (2) (148)	0.09	0.15
	lower	66 (3) (150)***	-0.03	-0.02

Standard errors followed by 'n' plots in parentheses. *Significant at $P < 0.05$; **significant at $P < 0.01$; ***significant at $P < 0.001$ (t-test - two tailed).

Supplementary Table 7 Mean heights of saplings after four years.

Species	Upper elevation	Lower elevation
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	3.27 (0.31) 7	2.68 1
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	3.74 (0.16)* 8	2.80 (0.24) 6
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	0.98 1	nil
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	2.38 (0.18) 9	2.17 (0.15) 9
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	1.93 (0.16) 8	2.18 (0.12) 8

Mean stem diameters in metres with standard errors in parentheses and 'n' shown below.

*Significant difference between upper and lower elevations $P < 0.01$ (t-test - two tailed).