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Should I stay or should I go? Indirect effects of livestock on bird nest-site selection in arid environments

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Supplementary Table

Table S1. Paddocks' grazing history (history) showing the years that each paddock was subjected to grazing by livestock

Stocking rate of each paddock weighted by the history (stocking rate x year, cattle Ha⁻¹ x year) and livestock composition in each paddock

Paddock	history	stocking rate	livestock composition
1	30	0.060	cattle, horses
2	30	0.075	cattle, horses
3	30	0.110	cattle, horses, goats, sheep
4	10	0.132	cattle, horses
5	10	0.212	cattle, goats, sheep
6	10	0.631	cattle, horses, goats
7	10	0.696	cattle, horses
8	30	0.924	cattle, horses, goats
9	30	1.632	cattle, horses, sheep

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1. Paddocks location (white dots) in Patagonian Monte Desert, Neuquén province, Patagonia, Argentina. The number of the paddocks depicts the order of increasing livestock density (see Table S1) Paddocks were separated at least 5 km from one another and with a maximum distance of 42 km between them.



Figure S2. (a) Photograph of *Pseudoseisura gutturalis* in nest entrance. The nest was placed on *Monttea aphylla*. (b) Photograph of *Leptasthenura aegithaloides* in nest entrance. The nest was placed on *Chuquiraga erinaceae*.



Figure S3. PCA analysis of vegetation composition based on plant cover, density and richness of each paddock. (a) projection of supplementary variables. (b) Projection of the cases, the numbers near the dots are the corresponding weighted stocking rates (cattle Ha⁻¹ x years). The first two axes of the PCA explained 85.8 % of the variance.

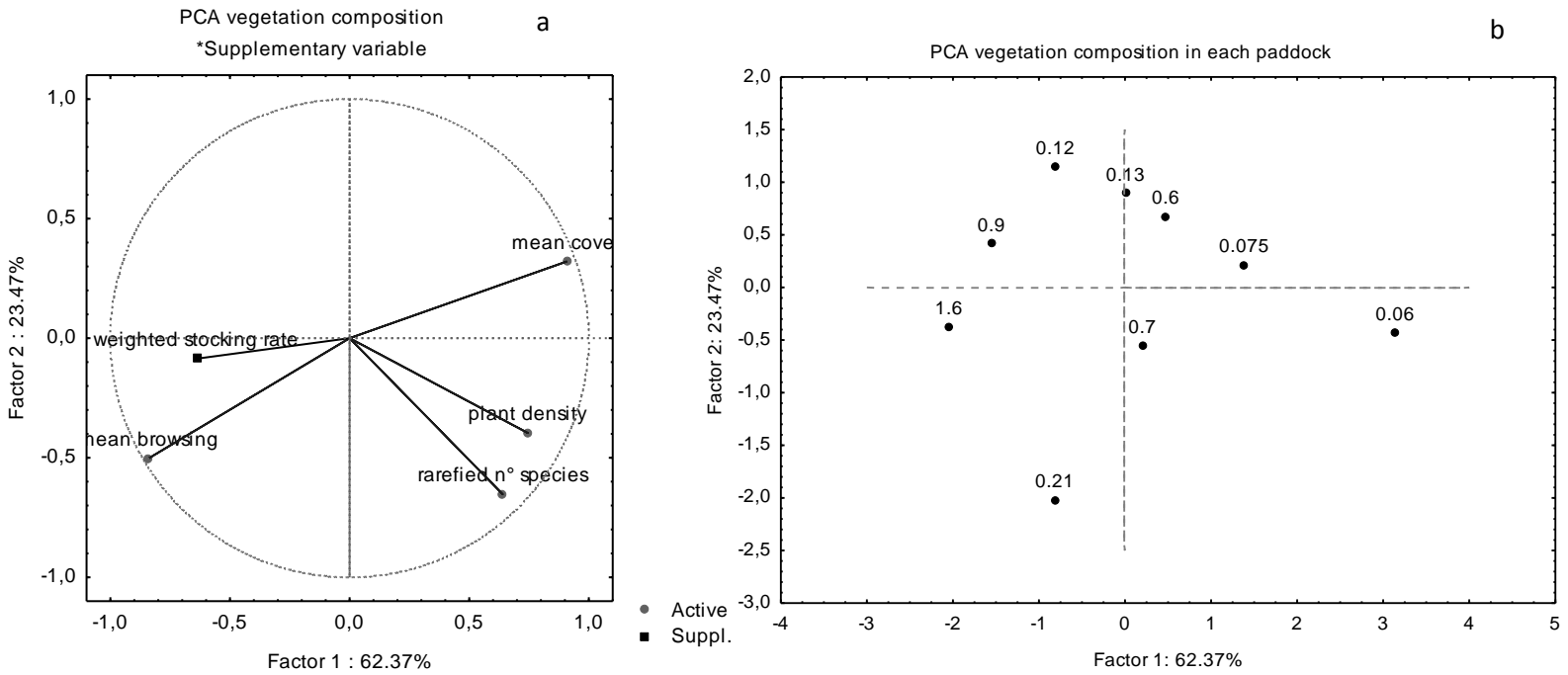
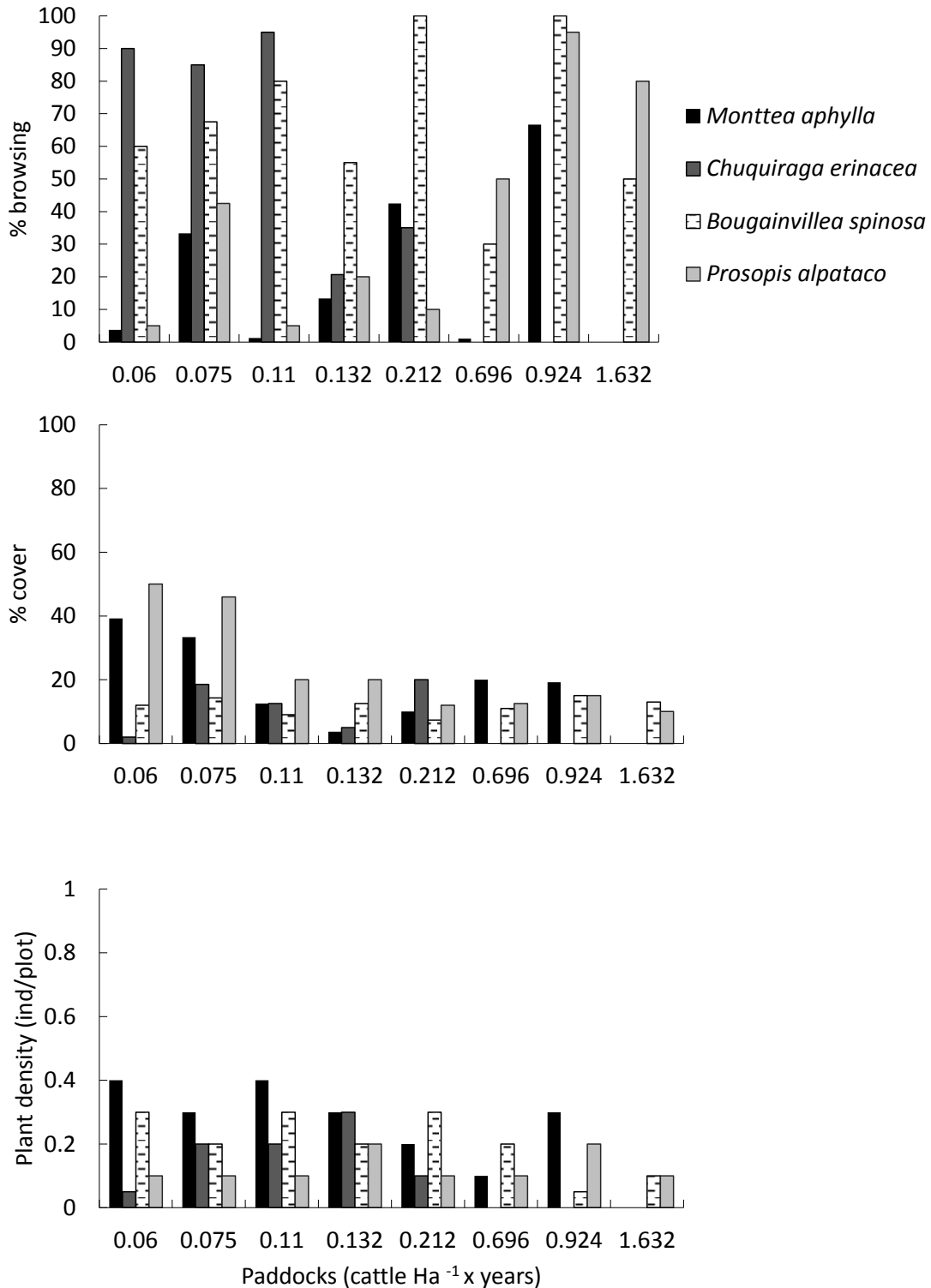


Figure S4. Mean percentage of browsing, cover and density per paddock, of the main plant species used by *P. gutturalis* and *L. aegithaloides* to build and place their nests. Paddocks diameter (28.3 m²) separated every 50 m along a transect randomly located in each paddock are expressed as weighted stocking rates (cattle Ha⁻¹ x years) and circular plots of 6 m were used for estimating plant density.



Relationship between nest abundance and nest-supporting plant size

Nest abundance of LA showed no association with nest-supporting plant height ($R = 0.26$, $R^2 = 0.07$, $F_{(2,6)} = 0.51$, $P = 0.50$) but it was negatively associated with plant diameter ($R = -0.78$, $R^2 = 0.61$, $F_{(2,6)} = 10.7$, $P = 0.01$) whereas nest abundance of PG showed no association with nest-supporting plant height or diameter (both $P > 0.35$).