

Supplementary material

The contribution of pathogenic soil microbes to ring formation in an iconic Australian arid grass, *Triodia basedowii* (Poaceae)

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Table S1. Physical characteristics of study site

Characteristic	Description
Location	−24.07185°, 133.97608°
Aspect	Flat
Slope, topography	Flat planes with small, low sand dunes
Time since fire	Not recently, dead leaves accumulating within spinifex rings
Other disturbances	Main road 50 m off site. Campsite clearing and other 4WD tracks
Soil	Compacted red sand, with crust on plane. Loose red sand on dunes. The sand dunes had a maximum height of ~5 m

Table S2. Plant species and estimated coverage at study site

Plotless sample used (Kent 2011)

Stratum	Species	Height (m)	Estimated cover (%)
Tree	<i>Allocasuarina decaisneana</i>	~15	<1
Shrub	<i>Acacia dictyophleba</i>	2	<5
	<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>	~3	<5
	<i>Allocasuarina decaisneana</i> in small dense stands	~3–7	<5
	<i>Acacia</i> sp. 1 (possibly <i>A. mulga</i>)	2	<5
	<i>Acacia</i> sp. 2	1.8	<5
	<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>	1.5	<5
	<i>Senna artemisioides</i> var. <i>filifolia</i>	2	<5
	Ground	<i>Triodia basedowii</i> , floral spikes 0.7–1.0 m	0.3–0.35
Other forbs and grasses		0.2–0.5	10

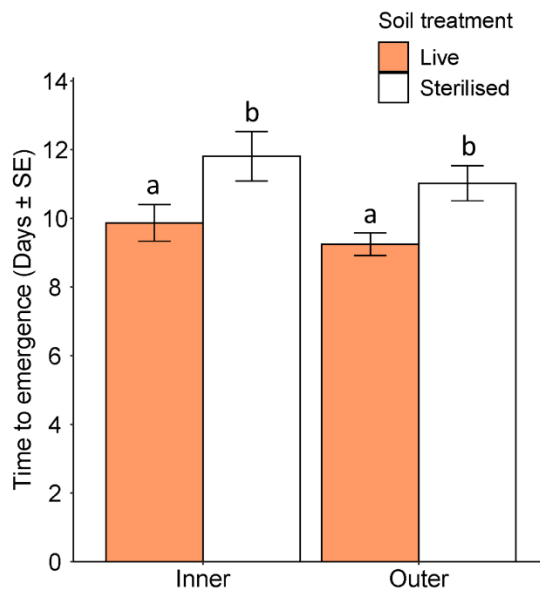


Fig. S1. Effects of soil inoculation treatments on *Triodia basedowii* seedlings measured as time to emergence from planting. Seedlings emerged 1.9 days earlier on average in live soil compared to sterilised soil ($P = 0.007$). There were no significant differences in emergence times detected among soil positions ($P > 0.3$).

Reference

Kent M (2011) 'Vegetation Description and Data Analysis: A Practical Approach', 2nd edn. (Wiley: Hoboken, NJ, USA)