

*The following supplement accompanies the article*

## **Dissimilarity in plant species diversity between salt marsh and neighboring environments decreases as environmental harshness increases**

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**Supplement.** Supporting data of specific plant cover from 3 habitats (inland, and low and high marsh) in 6 sites along the SW Atlantic coast of Argentina (Table S1) and photographs showing these 3 habitats in the northern and southern sites (Fig. S1)

Table S1. Mean values ( $\pm$ SE in brackets) for plant cover (%), plant height (cm) and species richness (n) found in the sampling units in the low marsh (LM), high marsh (HM) and inland (IN) along the SW Atlantic coast. SC: San Clemente (36°22'S); MCH: Mar Chiquita (37°32'S); BB: Bahía Blanca (38°41'S); BA: Bahía Anegada (39°48'S); RN: the outlet of Río Negro (41°00'S); BSA: Bahía San Antonio (40°42'S). SC and MCH are in the Pampas grassland province, BB and BA in the Espinal province, and RN and BSA are in the Monte province

	Pampas grassland province						Espinal province						Monte province					
	SC			MCH			BB			BA			RN			BSA		
	LM	HM	IN	LM	HM	IN	LM	HM	IN	LM	HM	IN	LM	HM	IN	LM	HM	IN
<b>Herbaceous layer</b>																		
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	7.43 (0.85)						9.02 (0.67)			7.57 (1.37)			18.48 (4.58)			18.56 (1.62)		
<i>Spartina densiflora</i>		39.36 (10.56)			42.36 (5.86)	4.40 (6.19)		22.42 (10.02)			29.12 (7.94)	1.02 (1.42)		20.54 (14.33)	0.20 (0.45)		1.53 (1.79)	
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>			0.40 (0.89)		3 (6.71)			8.53 (6.71)	11.34 (2.91)		23.30 (11.55)	9.68 (5.77)		63.52 (31.14)	0.70 (1.57)		7.21 (4.69)	3.05 (2.04)
<i>Limonium brasiliense</i>		0.80 (0.76)			1.40 (3.13)				0.03 (0.07)			11.76 (7.03)					5.56 (3.40)	4.59 (3.31)
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>			45.60 (10.24)			58.36 (29.10)												
<i>Apium commersonii</i>		2.54 (2.38)																
<i>Conyza floribunda</i>						1.80 (2.05)												
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>						0.90 (2.01)												
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>						1.26 (2.21)												
<i>Stipa</i> spp.						10.20 (3.09)												
<i>Paspalum quadrifarium</i>						17.70 (15.18)												
<i>Frankenia juniperoides</i>								19.48 (10.10)				10.47 (9.76)						20.93 (16.56)
<i>Spergularia ramosa</i>															0.75 (1.43)			
<i>Poa ligularis</i>															0.59 (0.58)			
<i>Nardophyllum chilitrichioides</i>															2.18 (3.09)			
<i>Distichlis scoparia</i>															1.38 (1.37)			
<i>Stipa bertrandii</i>															0.24 (0.54)			
Poaceae															0.54 (0.76)			
<i>Portulaca gilliesii</i>															0.05 (0.09)			
<i>Cressa truxillensis</i>								0.11 (0.19)										1.92 (0.97)
Plant height	76.0 (13.87)	116.8 (25.24)			67.3 (10.54)		34.1 (4.80)	57.2 (7.46)		60.2 (16.87)	34.2 (6.38)		81.2 (4.43)	42.8 (5.63)		51.2 (4.76)	32.7 (1.20)	
Species number	1	3	2		3	7	1	2	4	1	2	4	1	2	9	1	3	4
<b>Shrub layer</b>																		
<i>Cyclolepis genistoides</i>									40.76 (16.43)			25.72 (15.80)			43.90 (25.88)			33.00 (19.20)
<i>Chuquiraga erinacea</i>												20.80 (12.94)						
<i>Atriplex lampa</i>									10.91 (5.47)			7.44 (3.93)			10.04 (11.37)			27.85 (9.35)
<i>Lycium chilense</i>									3.16 (4.63)			0.39 (0.88)			7.39 (11.41)			
<i>Suaeda divaricata</i>															1.57 (1.92)			
Species number									3			4			4			2

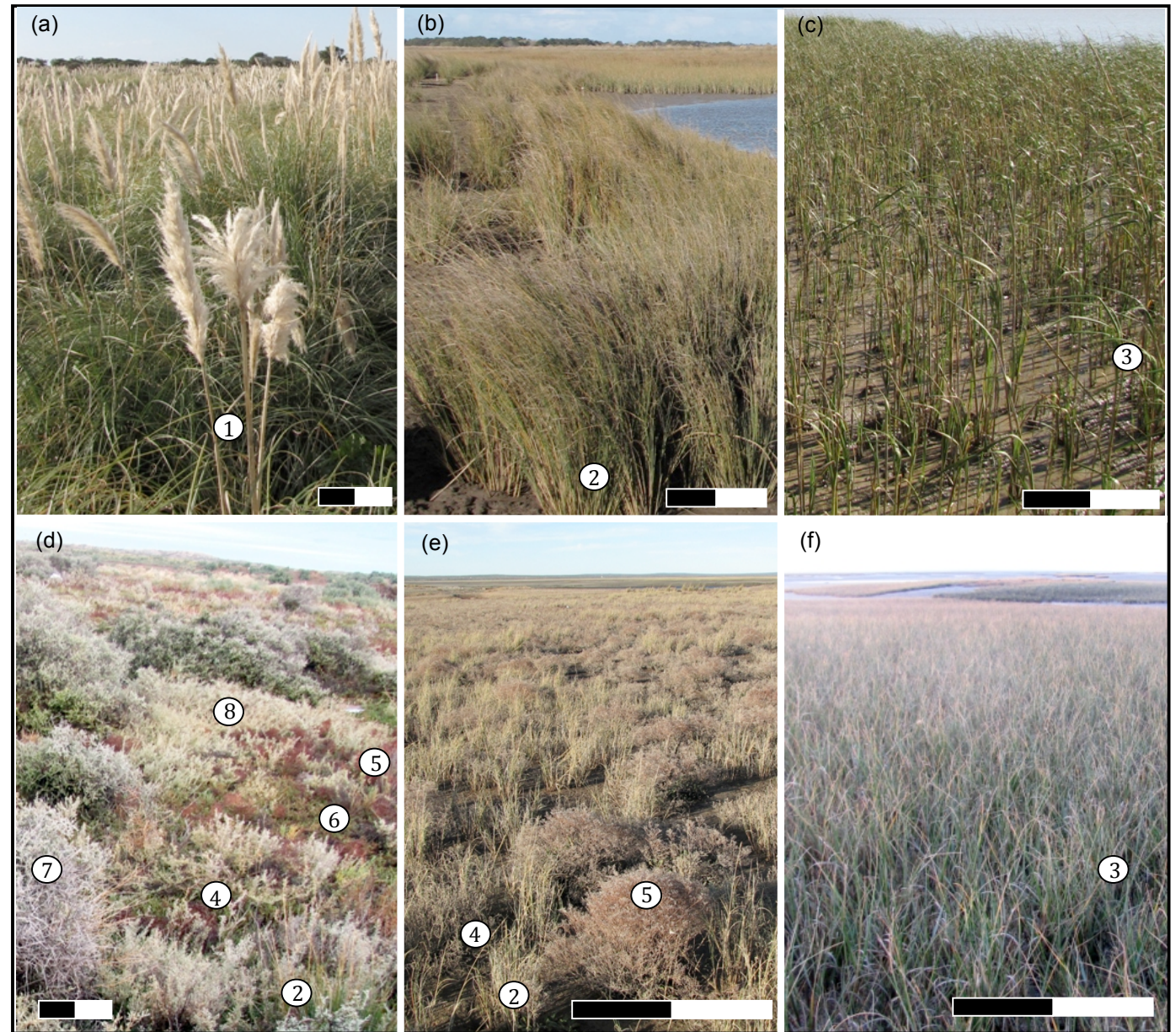


Fig. S1. Photographs showing the 3 sampled habitats at the northern site (San Clemente, 36°22'S; a: inland, b: high marsh, c: low marsh) and at the southern one (Bahía San Antonio, 40°42'S; d: inland, e: high marsh, f: low marsh). 1: *Cortaderia selloana*; 2: *Spartina densiflora*; 3: *S. alterniflora*; 4: *Sarcocornia perennis*; 5: *Limonium brasiliense*; 6: *Frankenia juniperoides*; 7: *Cyclolepis genistoides*; 8: *Atriplex lampa*. All scale bars = 0.5 m