

Logging and burning impacts on cockroaches, crickets & grasshoppers, and spiders in Jarrah forest, Western Australia

Ian **Abbott**⁺, Tom **Burbidge**⁺, Karin
Strehlow^{*}, Amanda **Mellican**⁺, Allan **Wills**⁺

⁺Department of Conservation and Land Management

^{*}Murdoch University

Invertebrates and fungi = 99% of global biodiversity

Their taxonomy & ecology poorly studied

In Australian forests, most studies have been of pest insects or responses of orders/families to anthropogenic disturbance

1990s: species-level studies initiated

Bradshaw method of more intensive logging in jarrah forest initiated in 1985

Necessitated a new round of longitudinal impact studies

Integrated at a common subset of sites, centred on Kingston forest block, 25 km NE of Manjimup

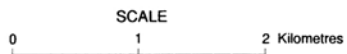
AIMS:

- To examine the impact of logging and the subsequent fire on species richness and abundance of cockroaches, crickets & grasshoppers, and spiders
- To document ongoing recovery of these faunal components
- To examine change in community composition following these imposed disturbances

Field methods

- Before/After Control/Impact design
- Plots established 12/94
- Logged 1995/6
- 2 logging intensities -
 - Gap release residual BA 6
 - Shelterwood 13
 - Coupe buffer 35 (TEAs)
 - External controls 35
- In K1 & 5, 78% of forest harvested by Gap release method
- Burnt

KINGSTON INVERTEBRATE SAMPLE SITES



Sample Sites

- External Control
- Coupe Buffer
- ◆ Shelterwood
- ▲ Gap Release

Harvest Treatment

- ▨ Gap Release
- ▩ Shelterwood

Land Tenure

- State Forest
- ▧ Private Property
- Forest Block Boundary

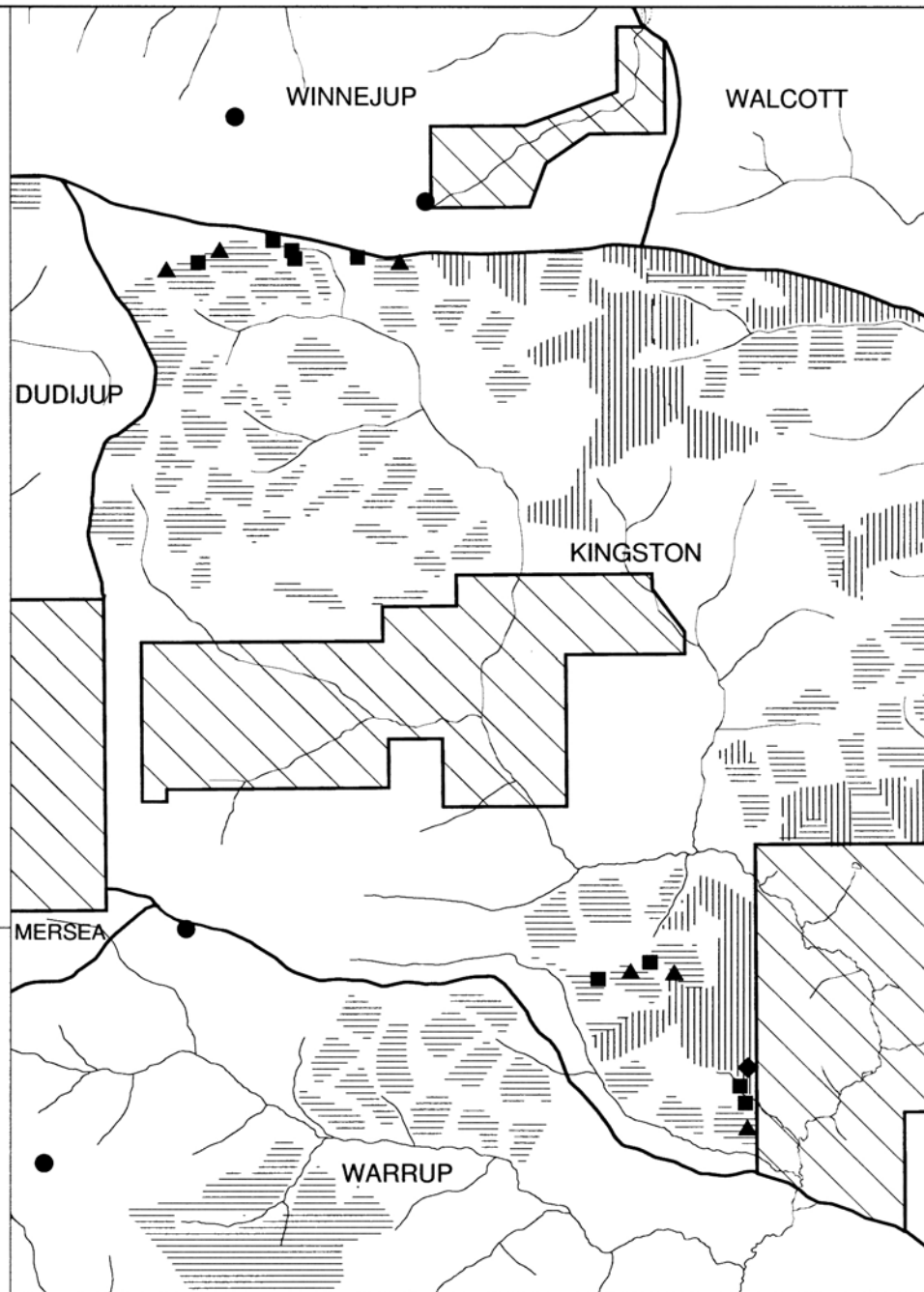
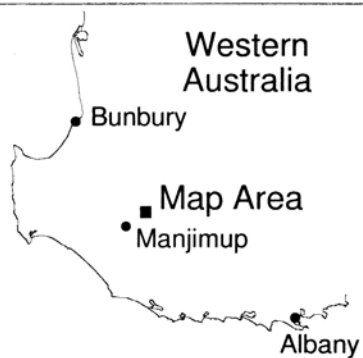


Table 1.
Post-treatment allocation of sites to treatments within blocks. Blocks are defined by pre-treatment disturbance histories.

	Block					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sites						
External control	C1, C2	C3	C4			
Coupe buffer				K1.2, K1.3 ^a , K1.4, K1.5, K1.7	K5.2, K5.3	K5.6, K5.8 ^b
Shelterwood					K5.4	
Gap release				K1.1, K1.6, K1.8	K5.1	K5.5, K5.7 ^c
Treatment silviculture	None	None	None	Coupes cut to Gap release in 1995	Coupes cut to Gap release or Shelterwood in 1995	Coupes cut to Gap release in 1995
Last fire	>12 years unburnt from records	Autumn 1986	Autumn 1986	1996	1996	1996
Prior logging	1940s and 1960s selective cuts	1940s and 1960s selective cuts	Virgin stand of c. 1 ha within forest selectively cut in 1940s and 1960s	1940s and 1960s selective cuts	1940s and 1960s selective cuts	1940s and 1960s selective cuts
Nearby disturbance			Within 100 m of cleared farmland		Within 100 m of cleared farmland	

^a Within 13 m of an access track.

^b Immediately adjoining a Gap release coupe.

^c Immediately adjoining a compacted log landing.

- Each sampling site = grid of 16 pitfall traps (90 mm diameter, 110 mm depth)
- Set out in a 4 x 4 array at 5 m spacing, thus covering an area of 20 x 20 m
- Pitfalls left open for 10 days
- Each set of 4 traps combined

- Pre-treatment sampling every 2 months from 5/94 to 9/94, then every month until 2/95
- Post-treatment sampling every month from 5/95 to 3/96 [Strehlow], then March & September 1998, 1999

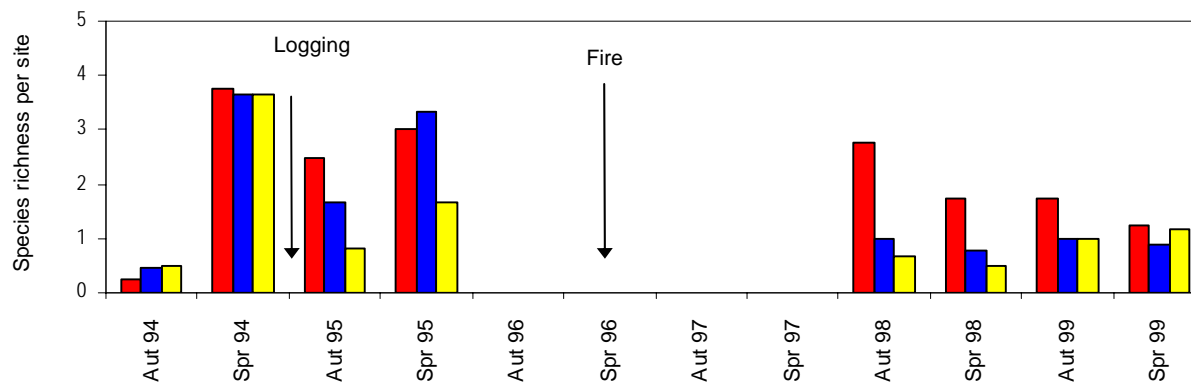
Statistical methods

- ANOVA
- Power analysis
- NMDS

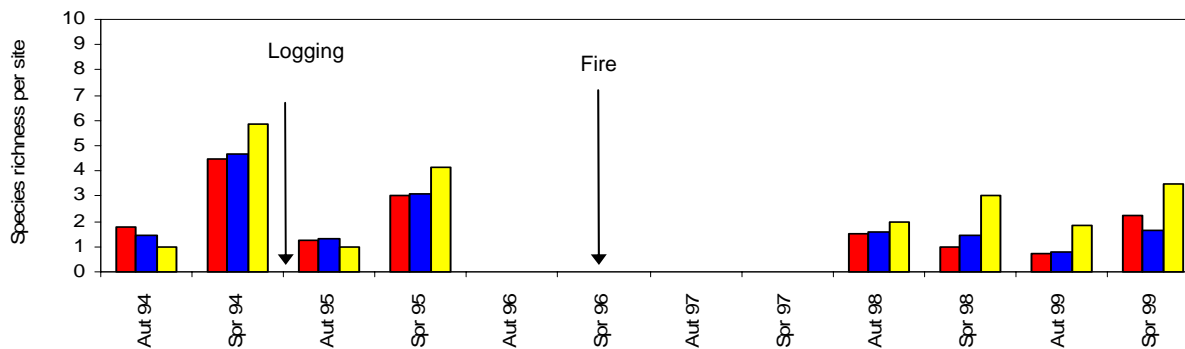
RESULTS

- No. individuals sorted = 600 cockroaches, 1500 crickets & grasshoppers, and 8000 spiders
- No. species discriminated = 27 cockroaches, 68 crickets & grasshoppers, and 330 spiders

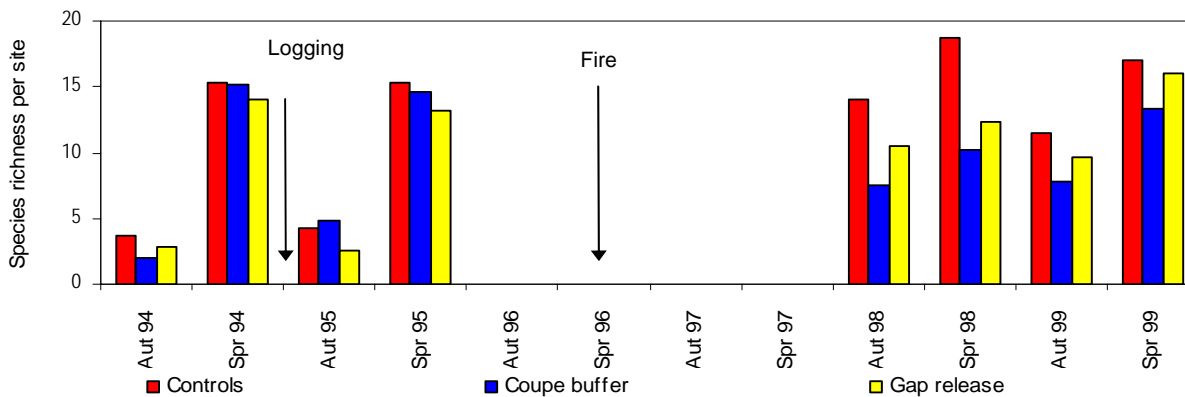
COCKROACHES



CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS



SPIDERS

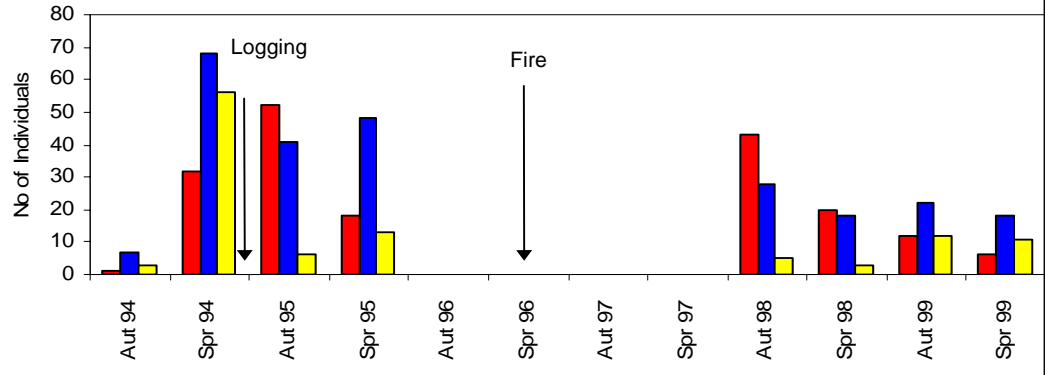


Controls

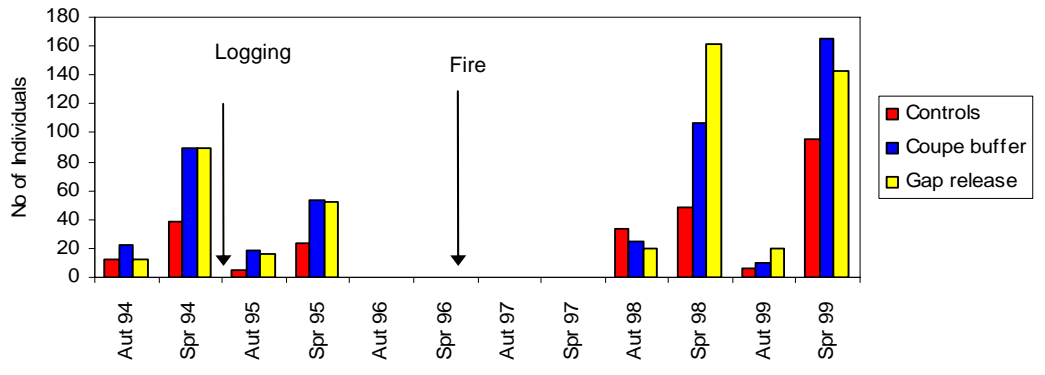
Coupe buffer

Gap release

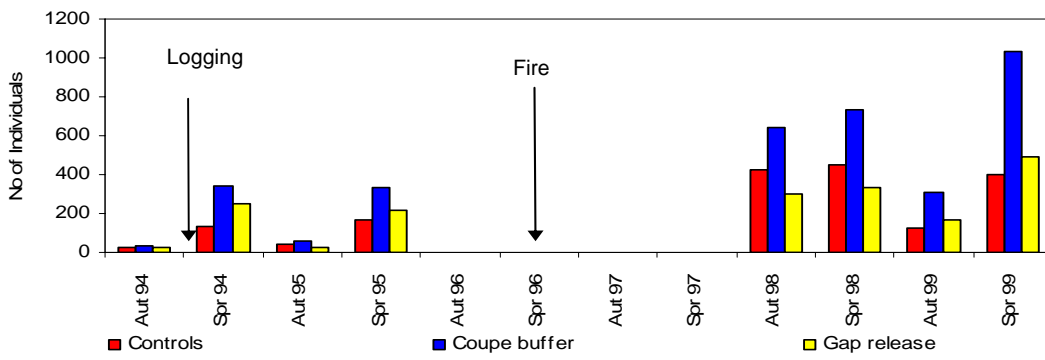
COCKROACHES

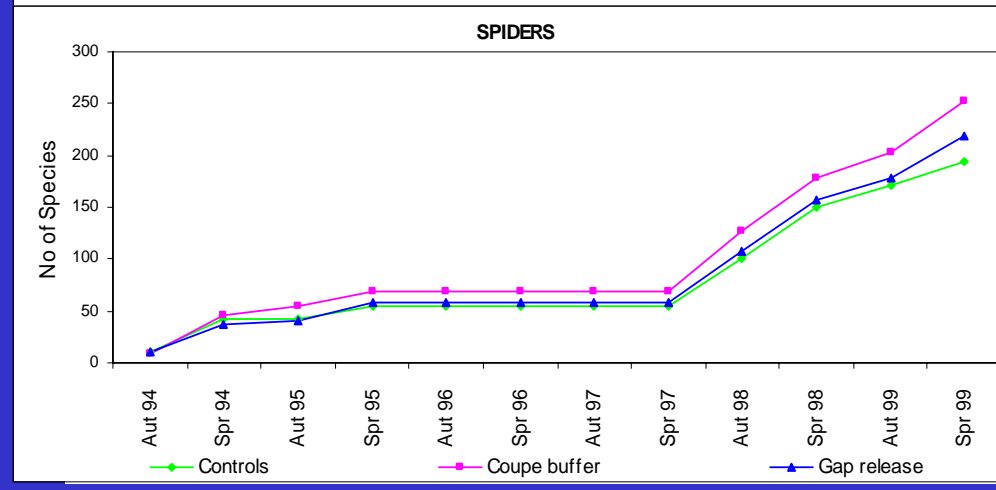
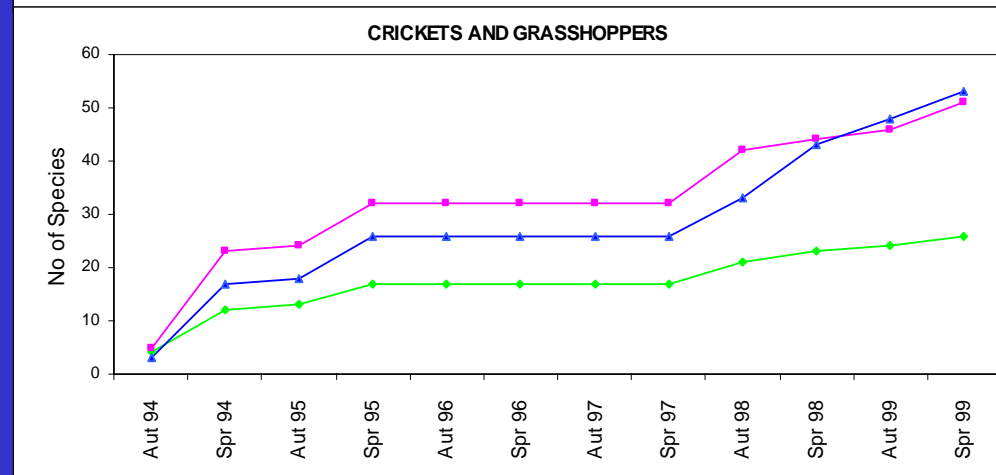
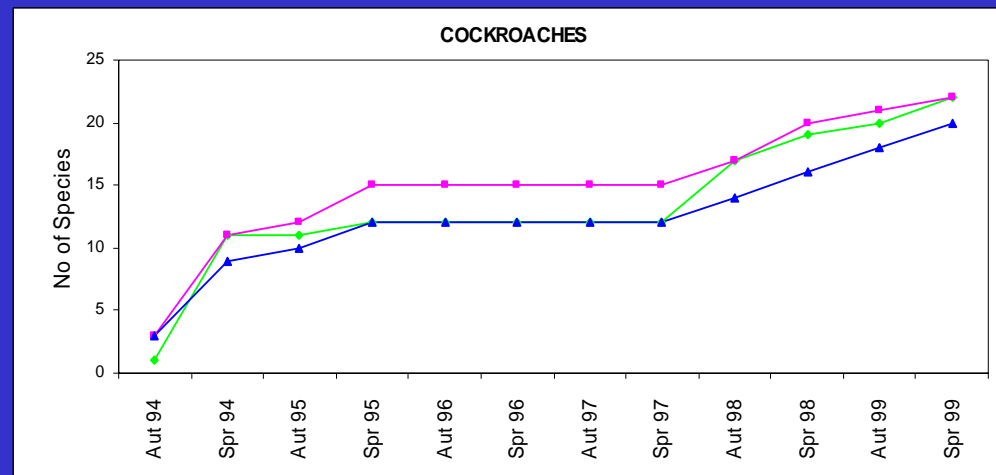


CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS



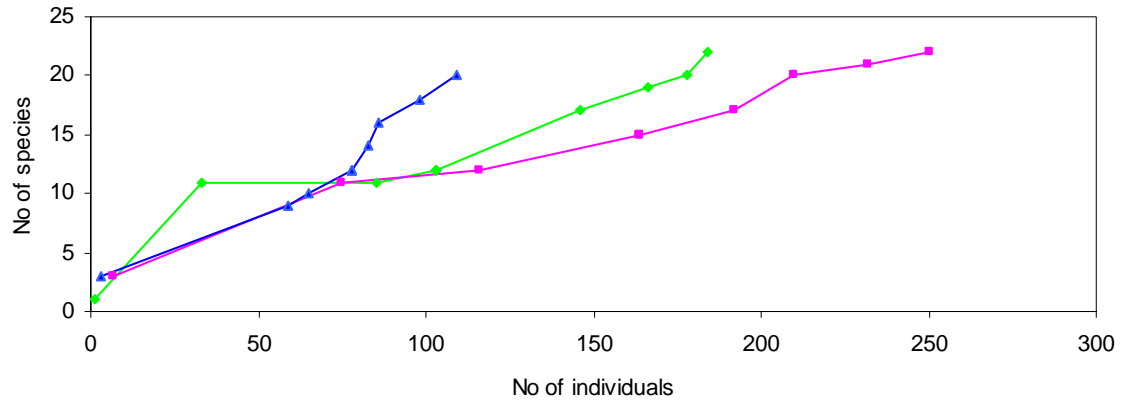
SPIDERS



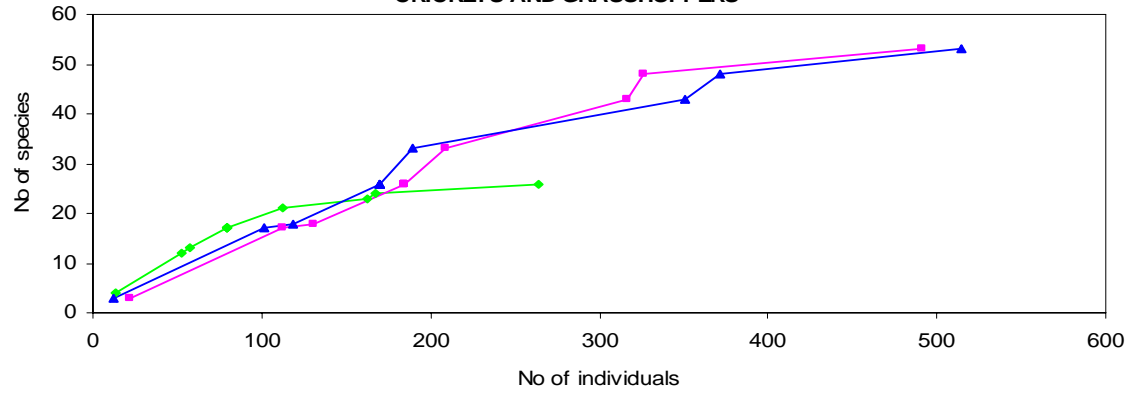


◆ Controls
 ■ Coupe buffer
 ▲ Gap release

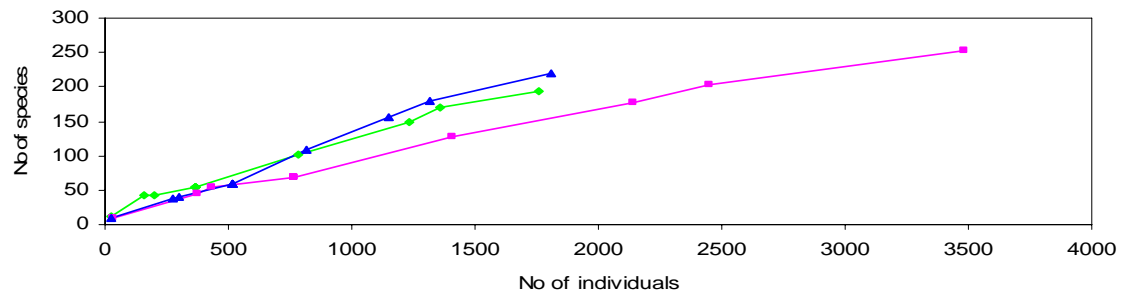
COCKROACHES



CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS



SPIDERS



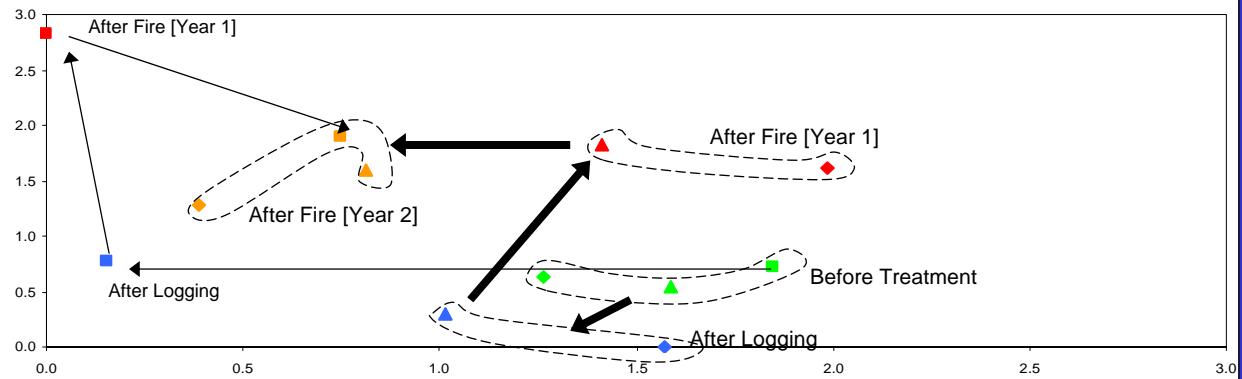
—◆— Controls —■— Coupe buffer —▲— Gap release

Table 2.

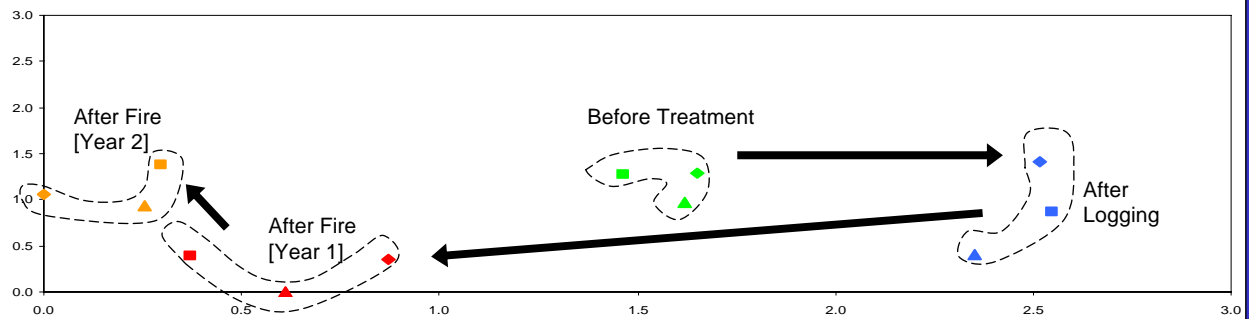
Synopsis of presence/absence of all species in relation to silvicultural treatments (listed as before logging, after logging, after fire). + = present; - = absent.

Group	Treatment	+++	++-	+ - +	+ - -	- + +	- + -	- - +
Cockroaches	External control	6	2	3	0	0	1	10
	Coupe buffer	6	1	4	0	2	2	7
	Gap release	4	1	1	3	0	3	8
Crickets & grasshoppers	External control	1	3	4	4	2	3	9
	Coupe buffer	4	5	9	5	4	5	19
	Gap release	1	4	7	5	5	4	27
Spiders	External control	18	8	12	4	6	5	140
	Coupe buffer	22	9	9	6	11	11	184
	Gap release	18	2	11	6	12	9	161

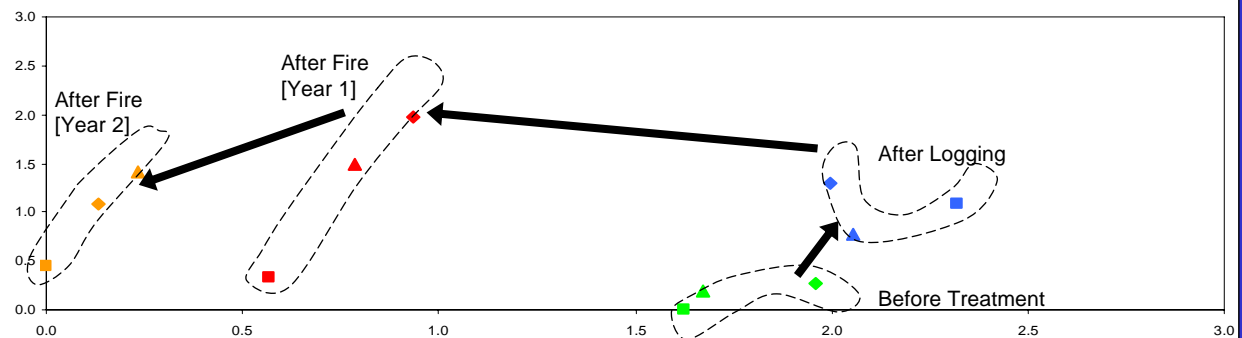
COCKROACHES



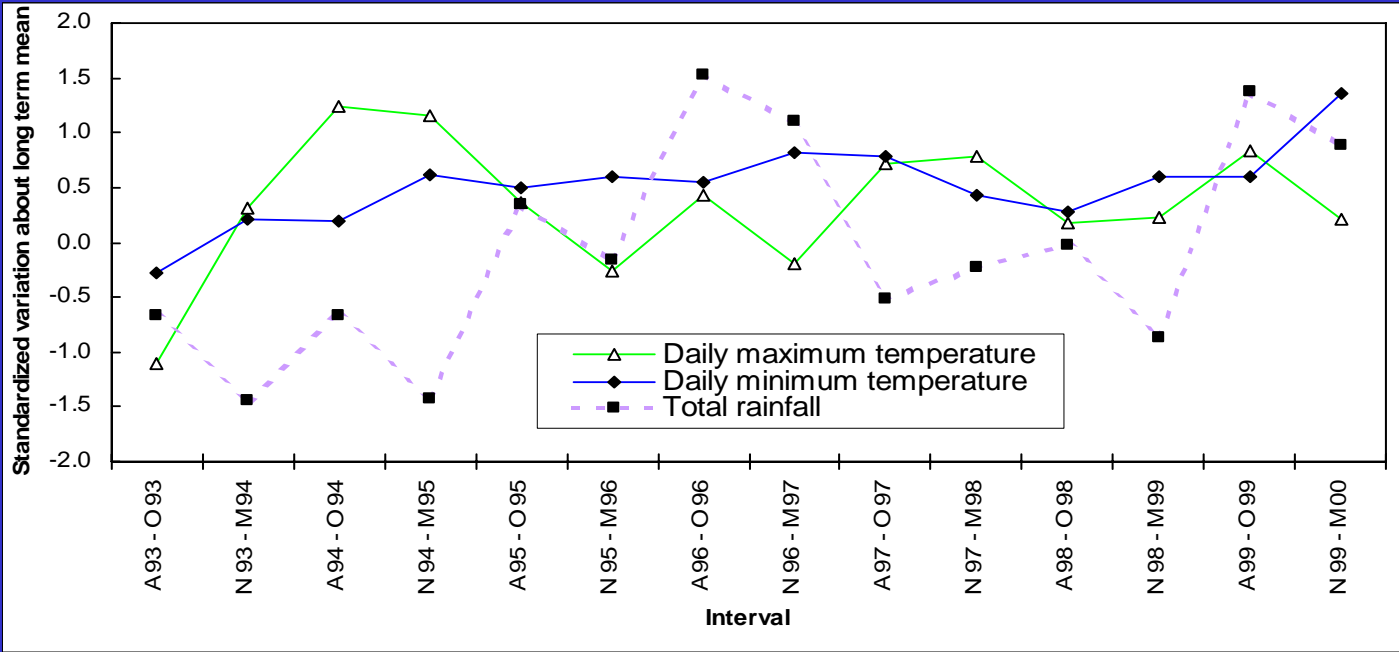
CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS

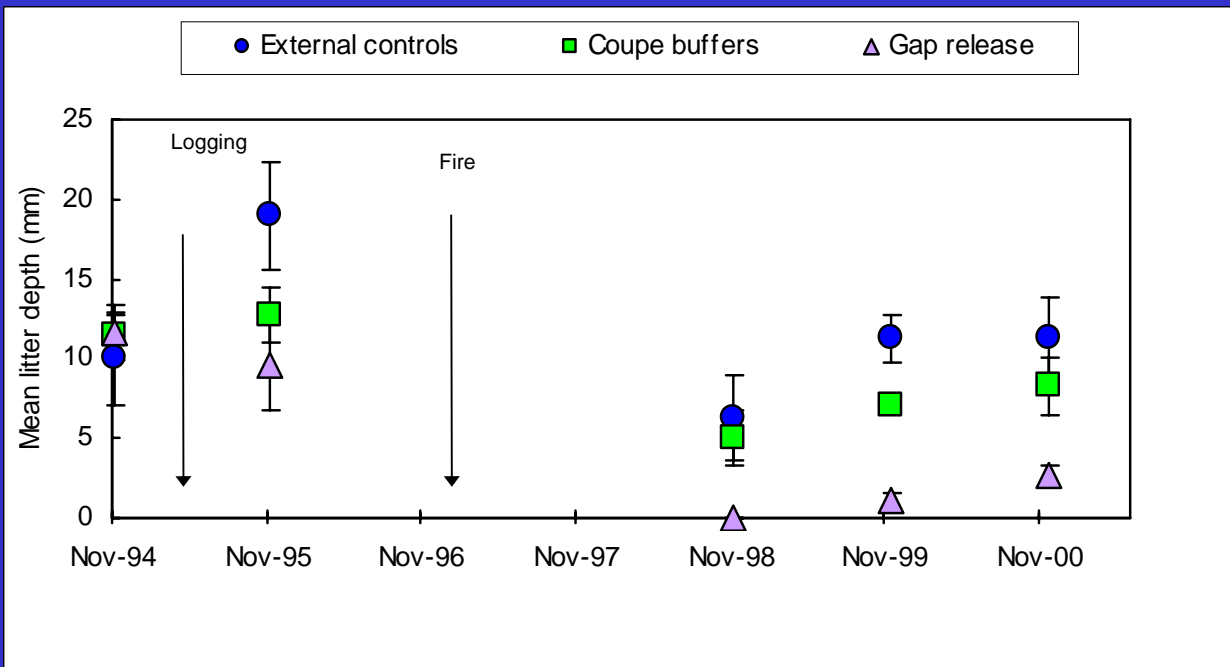
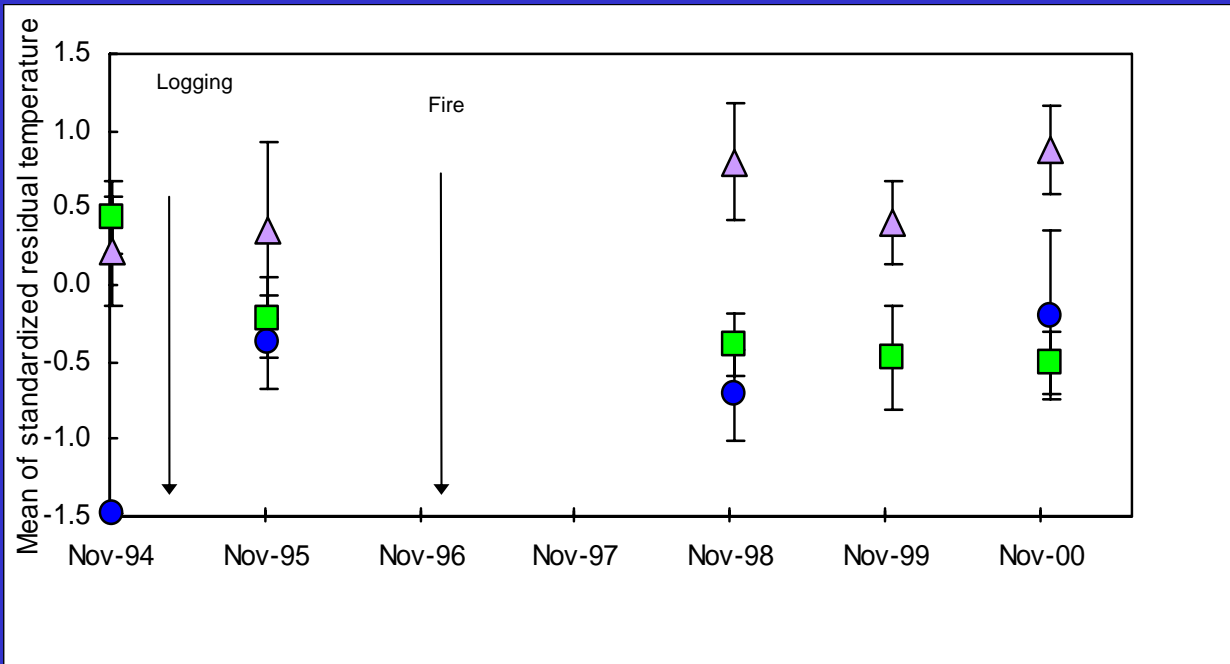


SPIDERS



- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ controls, year-1 | ◆ controls, year-2 | ◆ controls, year-5 | ◆ controls, year-6 |
| ▲ coupe buffer, year-1 | ▲ coupe buffer, year-2 | ▲ coupe buffer, year-5 | ▲ coupe buffer, year-6 |
| ■ gap release, year-1 | ■ gap release, year-2 | ■ gap release, year-5 | ■ gap release, year-6 |





INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA COLLECTED

- Impacts of logging and burning were of short duration
- Cockroaches were most heavily impacted, but short-term
- Results are consistent with Van Heurck's study in Jarrah forest at Batalling
- Long history of seasonal aridity and fires in SW Aust

FUTURE WORK

Monitor changes in species richness in the face of decreasing frequency of burning and enhanced global warming

Monitoring to indicate if and when the number of species present stabilizes