

COOPERATION WITH COUNTRY

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WHAT MAKES A FOREST FLAMMABLE?

FIRE RESEARCH AND MODELLING ENVIRONMENT



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Biophysical Mechanistic Modelling Quantifies the Effects of Plant Traits on Fire Severity: Species, Not Surface Fuel Loads, Determine Flame Dimensions in Eucalypt Forests

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APPLICATION

Methods in Ecology and Evolution The logo for the British Ecological Society, featuring a stylized 'E' and the text "BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY".

Linking fire behaviour and its ecological effects to plant traits, using FRaME in R

Philip Zylstra The ORCID icon, a small green circle with the letters "ID" in white.



Overstorey shelter

Reduces wind speed acting on the flame,
reducing fire severity

More fuel = bigger flames





These plants now reduce fire severity

Increasing the gap between strata turns fuel into overstorey

Ecological controls



Self-
thinning

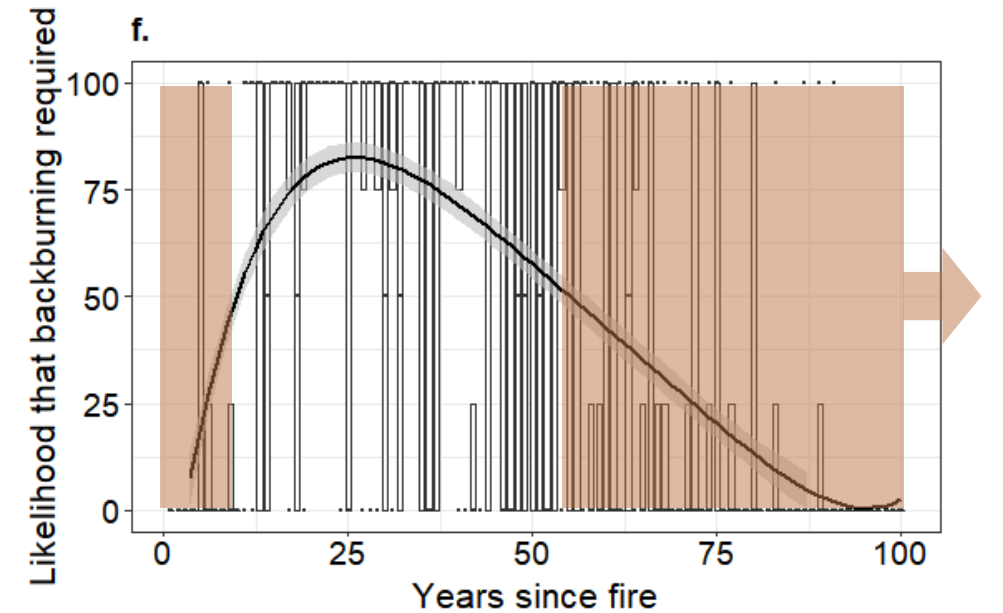


Self-pruning

Zylstra P. J., Bradshaw S. D. & Lindenmayer D. B. (2022) Self-thinning forest understoreys reduce wildfire risk, even in a warming climate. *Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** , 044022.

Zylstra P. J., Wardell-Johnson G. W., Falster D. S., Howe M., McQuoid N. & Neville S. (****) Mechanisms by which growth and succession limit the impact of fire in a south-western Australian forested ecosystem. In Review

Ecological cooperation

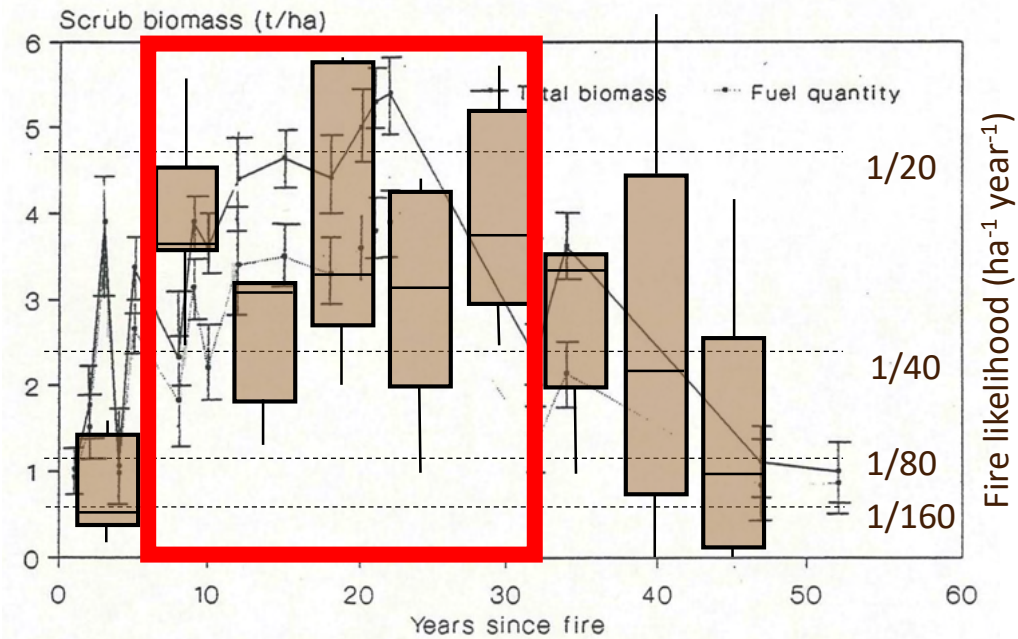


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The experiment

Figure 5-7: Mean total biomass of understorey vegetation (scrub) and mean quantity available as fuel.



Burrows N D 1994 *Experimental development of a fire management model for Jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata Donn ex Sm.) forest* (Australian National University)

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