

Editor: 'Water-use Dynamics of an Alien Invaded Riparian Forest within the Mediterranean Climate Zone of the Western Cape, South Africa', 6 May 2017

HESS-2016-650

The editor is thanked for the comprehensive review. The comments and suggestions provided were appreciated by the authors and used to improve the paper.

- 1. The editor stated that the authors should be aware that rainfall and evaporation are fluxes, and therefore when values are given for each one of these, the time interval over which each one of these was measured or estimated must be included. Notes were made throughout the paper. A correction was applied to all units throughout the paper (where relevant). An example of this was:**
 - 636 mm was changed to $636 \text{ mm} \cdot \text{a}^{-1}$ (a^{-1} was used throughout instead of yr^{-1})

- 2. The editor stated that authors should be aware that words such as less, more, smaller, higher are comparative words. When writing the two items being compared must be stated.**
 - The authors apologize for these errors. These have since been corrected. If comparative differences were made, both variables were mentioned. Otherwise, the comparative word was changed.

- 3. The authors were told to check Figure 2 and make sure that rainfall axis is correctly written "mm/month". This was corrected in the figure and elsewhere.**

- 4. The author stated: "Figure 3 is very confusing. The left Y axis has negative temperature values of up to -40 degrees. The right Y axis has rainfall and radiation combined. Which values relate to the top graph, and the bottom graph?"**
 - The authors corrected this figure. Negative values were removed and legend labels were moved to avoid confusion.

- 5. In Figure 4 and 5, what does each one of the lines represent, i.e. the dashed line and black line with markers? Readers are not expected to guess what a line in a diagram represents. Include a legend.**
 - A legend has since been included in these figures.
 - Reference was made to 'indigenous' and 'alien invasive' trees in the captions.

- 6. In Figure 6 and 7, are you referring to soil water content on the Y axis and caption? What does "corresponding" in the caption mean?**
 - Reference was made to 'soil water content'. This was also applied in the text throughout the document.
 - The word corresponding was removed, stating only the variables displayed in the graph.

- 7. The author stated that Table 2 is confusing. In the column labelled "Species" you have in each row the same name of a species written 3 times. Are these different? Presumably this could be referring to "small", "medium" and "large" trees. If that is the case, state this clearly. A reader should be able to understand information in a table without guessing. If the flow rate is per day, then clearly write this in the column headings, e.g. L/day, L/year.**

- The tables were explained in text. This will make sense once the table is positioned in the document.
- The units for flow rate per day were corrected in the Table.

8. In Figure 8 the label for y axis, should be "mm/month". What does Et mean? Why is it that the Y axis has no continuous line? Avoid adopting Excel default formats which are not acceptable in publications.

- The y-axis label was corrected.
- Et was written out.
- The graph was changed to a continuous line graph.

In text comments were applied throughout the documents. All of these were addressed by the authors.