

Additional file - 5

Table S5 Loading of the first axes from three principal component analyses (PCA): soil texture, soil chemistry and vegetation characteristics. Significance levels are based on a Pearson's correlation between soil and vegetation properties and the scores of the first axes of the PCAs for 12 plots from three successional stages (early, intermediate and old-growth) in a tropical dry forest. Bolded correlations are significant at $P < 0.05$.

Soil variables	Pearson Coefficient
Soil texture characteristics	
Coarse sand ($\text{dag}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	-0.715
Fine sand ($\text{dag}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	0.193
Silt ($\text{dag}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	-0.432
Clay ($\text{dag}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	0.979
Soil chemical characteristics	
pH in H_2O	0.307
P - Mehlich ($\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	0.276
K^+ ($\text{mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	0.956
Ca^{++} ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	0.723
Mg^{++} ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	0.479
Al ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	-0.485
H + Al ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	-0.578
Sum of bases ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	0.78
t - cation exchange ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	0.787
m - aluminum saturation (%)	-0.477
T - cation exchange ($\text{cmol}_c\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$)	0.793
V - base saturation (%)	0.59
Organic matter ($\text{dag}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$)	0.832
Vegetation structure characteristics	
N° species	0.352
N° density ($\text{ind}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$)	0.22
Basal area ($\text{m}^2\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$)	0.799
Mean tree height (m)	0.821
N° pioneers (ind.)	-0.521
N° light demanding species (ind.)	-0.677
N° shade tolerant species (ind.)	0.899