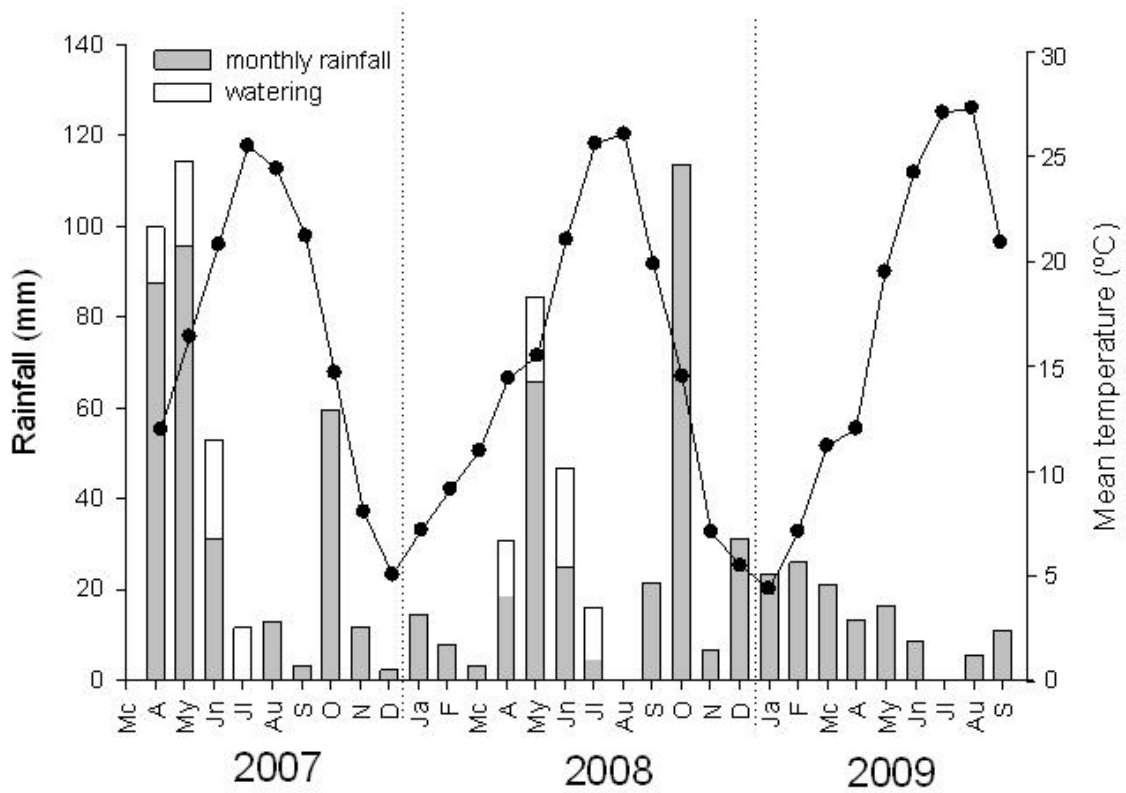


### Appendix 1

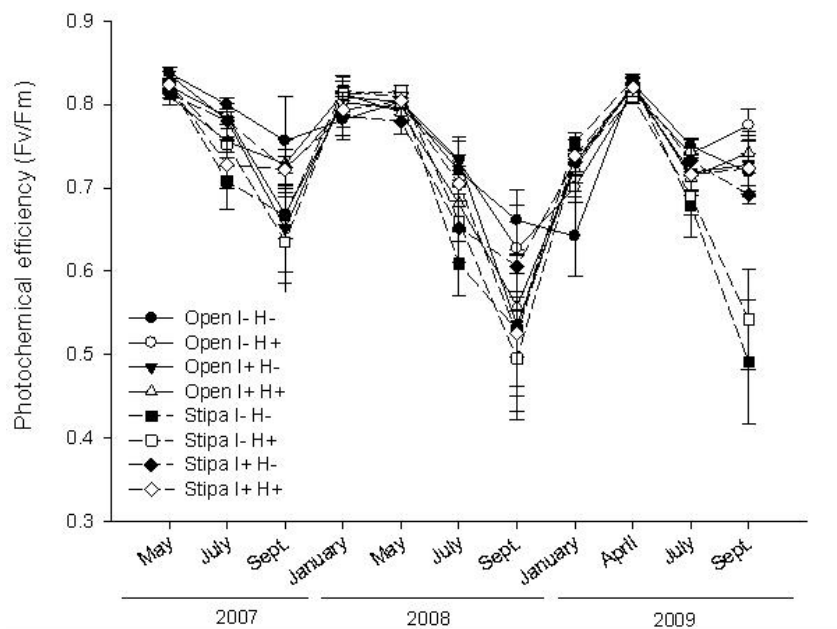
Climatic data (mean monthly temperature, black circles; and monthly rainfall, grey bars) obtained from a meteorological station (Onset, Pocasset, MA, USA) located at the study site. White bars represent the increment in monthly rainfall by the irrigation treatments applied during 2007 and 2008.



## Appendix 2

Photochemical efficiency of *Retama sphaerocarpa* seedlings (A) and gravimetric soil moisture (B) in the different sampling dates for the eight possible combinations of treatments. Open = bare ground areas, Stipa = *Stipa tenacissima* canopies, I- = no irrigation, I+ = irrigation of 50% of the median of April–July period rainfall in four pulses, H- = no herbivore damage, and H+ = seedlings partially eaten by rabbits. Data represent means  $\pm$  SE (n = 8).

A



B

