

# Journal of Plant Ecology

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**On the cover:** The picture was taken at the margin of our study site C (40,000 years of soil age; see Walter *et al.* 596–607). It shows an old *Nothofagus dombeyi* tree (at the margin of an *N. dombeyi* stand) with an estimated age of more than 200 years (samples from similar specimens have been taken on our study plots). *Nothofagus dombeyi*, the tallest of the South-American *Nothofagus* species, belongs to the predominant tree species of the temperate broad-leaved forests of Argentina and Chile. The stem of the tree is covered with mosses and lichens in a typical manner. Photo taken by Frank M. Thomas.