

# Starter phosphorus reduces the critical external phosphorus requirements of two tropical pasture legumes

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# Background & Methods

Starter P encourages early root development yet little is applied to tropical pastures

***How do two tropical pasture legumes respond to an application of starter P across a range of 'native' soil P supplies?***

±6 kg P/ha equivalent applied to soils that had been amended with 0–80 mg P/kg

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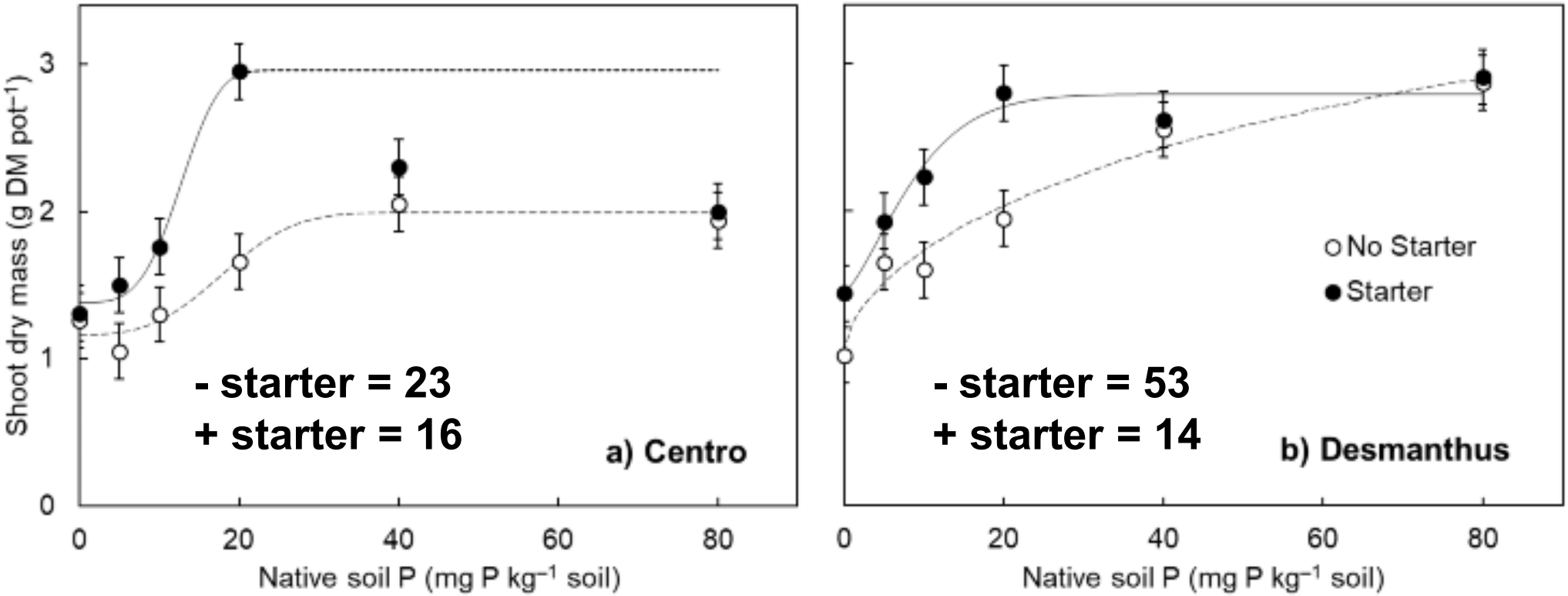

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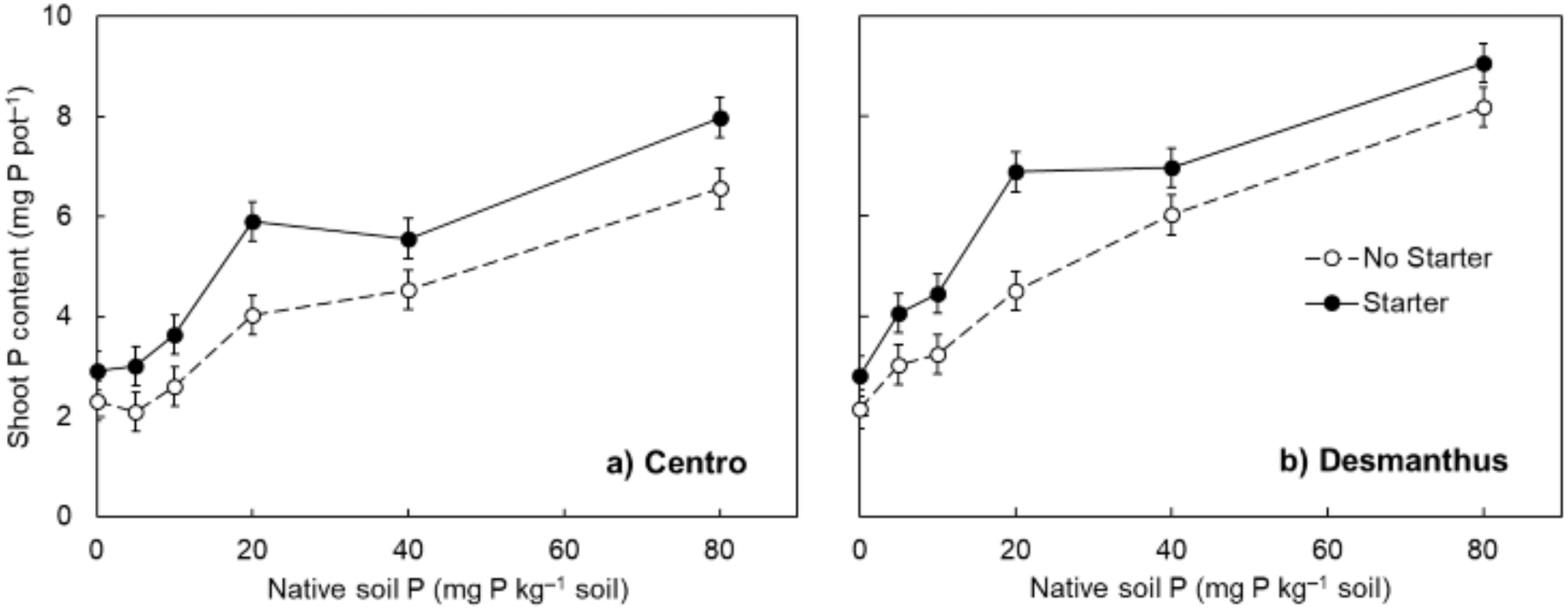

# Conclusions

Both legumes responded to starter P – persistent under low P, more productive with applied P

Starter P → more root development → faster soil exploration

Starter P was only beneficial when soil P supply was below critical requirements

Acknowledgements

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