

**Table 2.** N concentration, C/N ratio and C isotopic composition in plant organs of the main forest and shrubland taxa. Mean (s.e.),  $n=3-5$  plots.

Plant organ	N conc. (%)			C/N ratio			$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)		
	Forest <i>P. halepensis</i>	Shrubland <i>S. spinosum</i>	Intershrub community	Forest <i>P. halepensis</i>	Shrubland <i>S. spinosum</i>	Intershrub community	Forest <i>P. halepensis</i>	Shrubland <i>S. spinosum</i>	Intershrub community
Leaves	0.96 (0.05)	1.81 (0.13)	1.52 (0.04) <sup>z</sup>	53 (3)	22.2 (1.6)	33.8 (0.8) <sup>z</sup>	-22.9 (0.2)	-26.8 (0.5)	-28.6 (0.1) <sup>z</sup>
Branches	0.29 (0.02)	0.73 (0.03)		169 (12)	64.8 (2.6)		-23.3 (0.1)	-25.5 (0.3)	
Stem	0.07 (0.003)			682 (30)			-22.3 (0.1)		
Fine roots	1.09 (0.06)	n.a.	1.34 <sup>y</sup>	34.3 (1.6)	n.a.	29.5 <sup>y</sup>	-24.3 (0.1)	n.a.	-28.1 <sup>y</sup>
Fresh leaf litter	0.49 (0.03)	0.63 (0.02)	1.59 (0.27)	102 (6)	63.5 (1.5)	26.8 (4.8)	-23.0 (0.2)	-26.3 (0.1)	-28.3 (0.4)

<sup>z</sup> Data from (Grünzweig and Körner, 2001)

<sup>y</sup> Data from herbaceous roots in one forest plot