

PLANT DIVERSITY

(植物多样性)

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Cover Story: Dryland biodiversity-productivity relationships remain difficult to predict because water limitation may alter the relative roles of species complementarity and dominant traits. *Guo et al.* (p. 766) investigated herbaceous communities along a 2100 km precipitation gradient across the drylands of Northwestern China. They found that community productivity shifted from being mainly supported by functional diversity and complementarity in arid regions to being increasingly governed by dominant species traits in semi-arid regions. A precipitation threshold of approximately 168 mm marked this mechanistic transition, accompanied by a shift from stress-tolerant to competitive plant strategies. The cover illustrates dryland landscapes dominated by *Zygophyllum pterocarpum* in Northwest China. (Image Credit: Yang Niu)