

Supplementary material

Increased aridity in southwestern Africa during the last-interglacial warmest periods

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Supplementary Table 1. Description of surface samples collected in southwestern Africa and used to characterize the pollen spectra of four southwestern African biomes. Sample number and codes correspond to those of Fig. 1 and 2, and Supplementary Figures 2 and 3. Samples with low pollen concentration were not assigned a sample code and were not included in the analyses.

| Sample number | Sample code | Latitude | Longitude | Biome | Sample type | Location |
|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | D1 | -26.66 | 15.17 | Desert | Sediment | Luderitz |
| 2 | D2 | -26.61 | 16.08 | Desert | Water | Namibia semi-desert |
| 3 | D3 | -26.66 | 16.28 | Desert | Water | Aus savanna |
| 4 | Nk4 | -26.69 | 17.15 | Nama-Karoo | Water | Buchholzbrunn |
| 5 | Nk5 | -26.75 | 17.22 | Nama-Karoo | Water | Konkiep |
| 6 | Nk6 | -26.76 | 17.71 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Bethanie |
| 7 | Nk7 | -26.81 | 17.81 | Nama-Karoo | Water | Seehein |
| 8 | Nk8 | -26.59 | 18.14 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Grunau 2 |
| 9 | Nk9 | -26.73 | 18.45 | Nama-Karoo | Water | Grunau 3 |
| 10 | Nk10 | -26.88 | 18.57 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Grunau 4 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|------|--------|-------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|
| 11 | Nk11 | -27.92 | 17.49 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Fish river canyon |
| 12 | Nk12 | -28.48 | 17.90 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Noodower |
| 13 | Nk13 | -28.50 | 17.87 | Nama-Karoo | Water | Namibian border |
| 14 | Nk14 | -28.74 | 17.61 | Nama-Karoo | Sediment | Orange |
| 15 | Sk15 | -29.21 | 17.78 | Succulent-Karoo | Water | Namaqualand 23 |
| 16 | - | -29.20 | 17.78 | Succulent-Karoo | Sediment | Swart Doring |
| 17 | Sk17 | -29.66 | 18.00 | Succulent-Karoo | Moss | Goegab |
| 18 | Sk18 | -30.82 | 18.12 | Succulent-Karoo | Sediment | Olifant mouth |
| 19 | Sk19 | -31.25 | 18.54 | Succulent-Karoo | Moss | Namaqualand |
| 20 | - | -31.50 | 18.31 | Succulent-Karoo | Water | Olifant river |
| 21 | Fy21 | -32.19 | 18.96 | Fynbos | Moss | Cederberg |
| 22 | Fy22 | -32.23 | 18.85 | Fynbos | Sediment | Typha swamp |
| 23 | Fy23 | -32.39 | 18.95 | Fynbos | Moss | Citrusdal |
| 24 | Fy24 | -32.91 | 18.75 | Fynbos | Moss | Piketberg 2 |
| 25 | Fy25 | -32.91 | 18.75 | Fynbos | Moss | Piketberg 1 |
| 26 | Fy26 | -34.41 | 20.57 | Fynbos | Sediment | De Hoop East |
| 27 | - | -34.49 | 20.39 | Fynbos | Water | De Hoop reserve |
| 28 | Fy28 | -34.45 | 20.40 | Fynbos | Moss | De Hoop reserve |
| 29 | - | -34.30 | 20.31 | Fynbos | Water | Bree river |
| 30 | Fy30 | -34.45 | 20.73 | Fynbos | Sediment | Klipdrift river |
| 31 | CF31 | -34.02 | 23.90 | Coastal forest | Moss | Tsitsikamma-Stormriver |

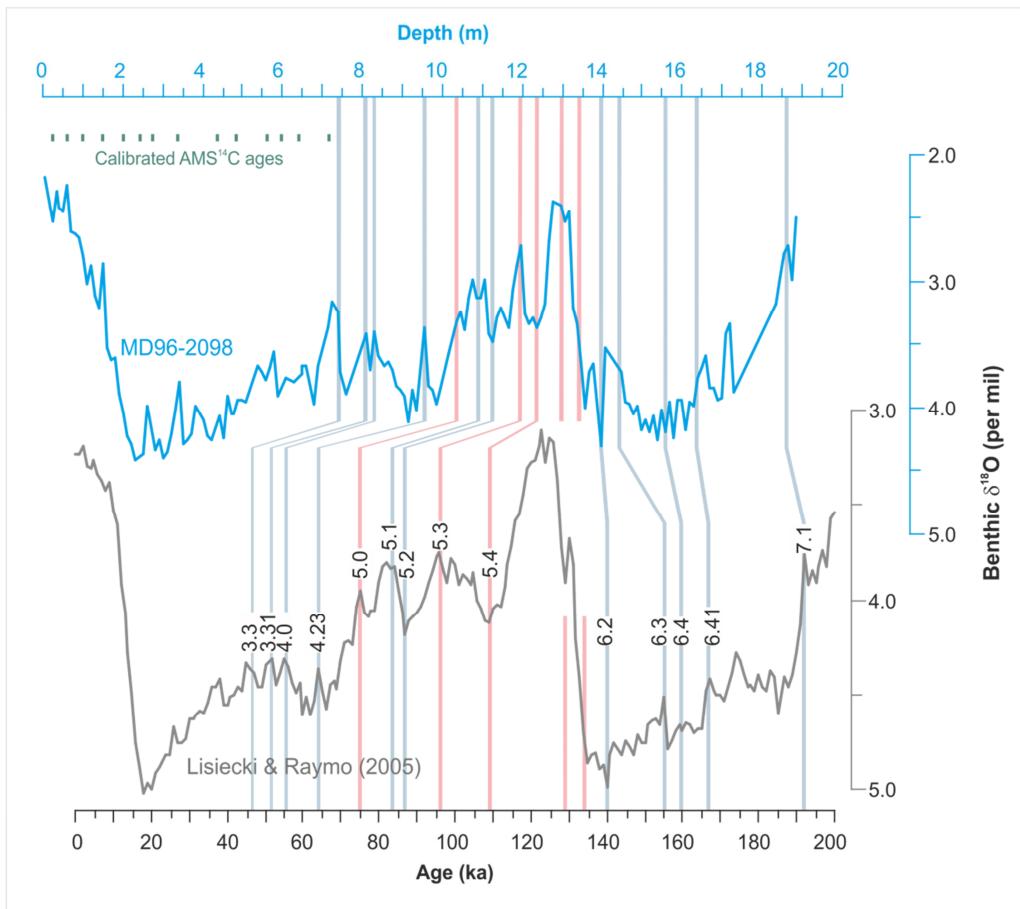
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30 **Supplementary Table 2.** Chronological control for marine core MD96-2098 based on Accelerator
 31 Mass Spectrometer radiocarbon dates (AMS¹⁴C) and marine isotope events (MIE) identified in
 32 the δ¹⁸O record from benthic foraminifera *Cibicidoides wuellerstorfi* (Pichevin et al.,
 33 2005a; Pichevin et al., 2005b). Calibration details and sources for MIE ages are also shown.

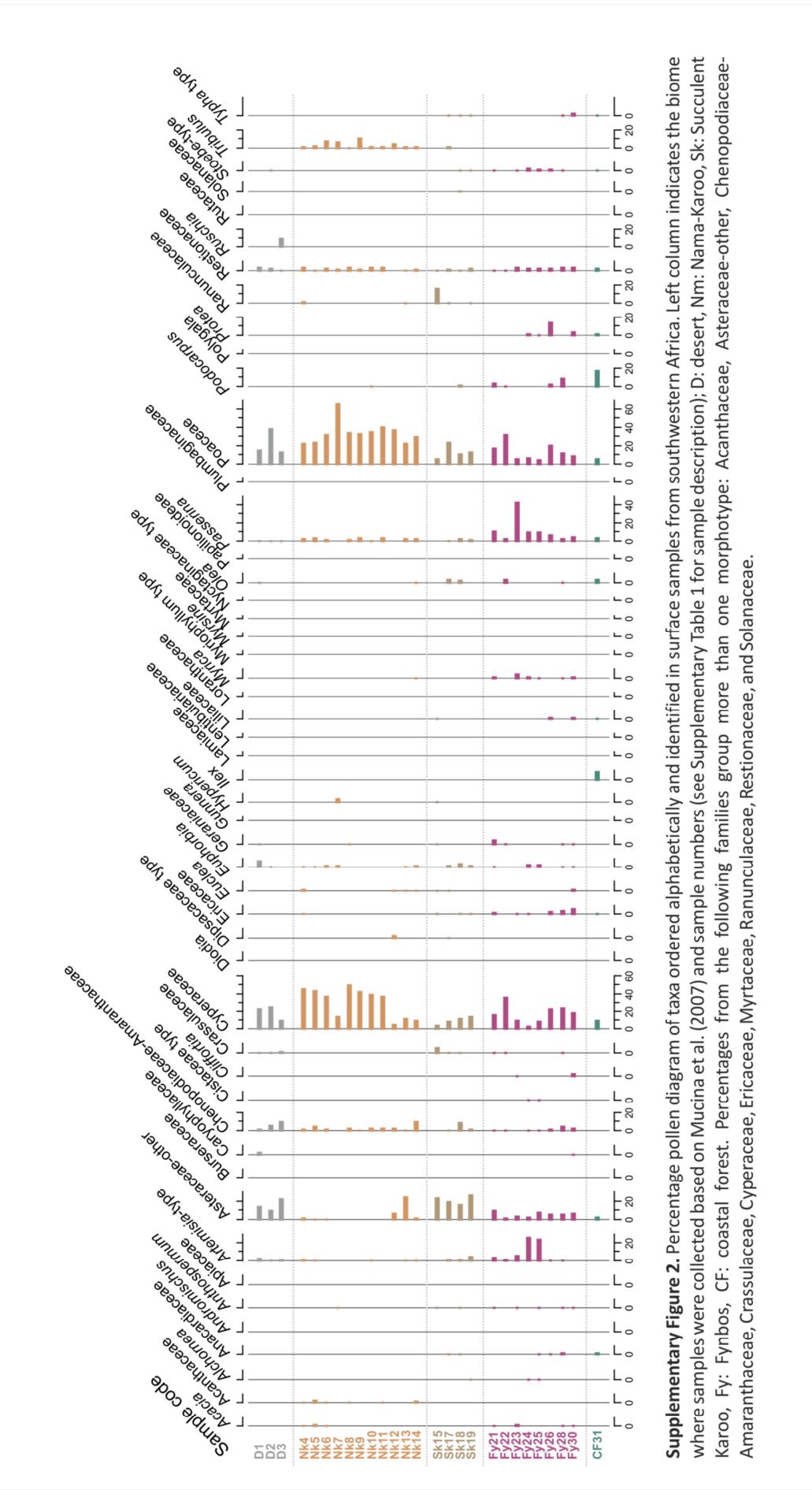
| Uncorrected depth (cm) | Corrected depth ¹ (cm) | Sample code | AMS ¹⁴ C age/MIE | 95.4% (2s) cal age ranges ² /calendar age (yr BP) | Calibration data ³ /Source for MIE age |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 22.5 | 22.5 | SacA 24476 | 2850±30 | 2310-2490 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 65 | 65 | SacA 23251 | 6105±30 | 6280-6430 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 100 | 100 | SacA 26970 | 8495±40 | 8750-9020 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 150 | 150 | SacA 24477 | 10775±40 | 11,730-12,080 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 200 | 200 | SacA 26971 | 13970±60 | 16,050-16,860 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 241 | 241 | SacA 23252 | 15300±50 | 17,650-18,070 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 275 | 275 | SacA 26972 | 15880±50 | 18,230-18,290 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 331 | 331 | SacA 23253 | 18010±60 | 20,420-21,220 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 430.5 | 430.5 | SacA 26973 | 19150±70 | 21,850-21,930 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 481 | 481 | SacA 24478 | 24200±120 | 27,990-28,710 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 561 | 561 | SacA 24479 | 28890±180 | 31,910-33,230 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 601 | 601 | SacA 26974 | 31870±240 | 35,130-36,450 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 647 | 647 | SacA 24480 | 30430±210* | 33,960-34,990 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 719 | 704 | SacA 23254 | 40010±520 | 42,740-44,410 | Hughen et al. (2004) |
| 740 | 725 | | 3.3 | 46,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 970 | 807 | | 3.31 | 51,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1000 | 837 | | 4 | 57,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1120 | 957 | | 4.23 | 64,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1195 | 1032 | | MIS 5/4 | 73,500 | Sanchez Goñi and Harrison (2010) |
| 1250 | 1087 | | 5.1 | 82,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1280 | 1117 | | 5.2 | 87,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1360 | 1197 | | 5.3 | 103,800 | Drysdale et al. (2007) |
| 1400 | 1237 | | 5.4 | 110,400 | Drysdale et al. (2007) |
| 1460 | 1297 | | Onset of MIS 5 | 129,000 | Masson-Delmotte et al. (2010), Waelbroeck et al. (2008) |
| 1500 | 1337 | | MIS 6/5 | 135,000 | Henderson and Sloley (2000) |
| 1560 | 1397 | | 6.2 | 140,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1600 | 1437 | | 6.3 | 155,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1730 | 1567 | | 6.4 | 160,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 1800 | 1637 | | 6.41 | 166,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |
| 2020 | 1857 | | 7.1 | 192,000 | Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) |

34 ¹Corrected depth for gaps reported in stratigraphic log; ²rounded up to nearest 10 yr; ³Marine09.14c curve,
 35 reservoir age correction = 157 (local delta R) + 400 (Global); *rejected age.
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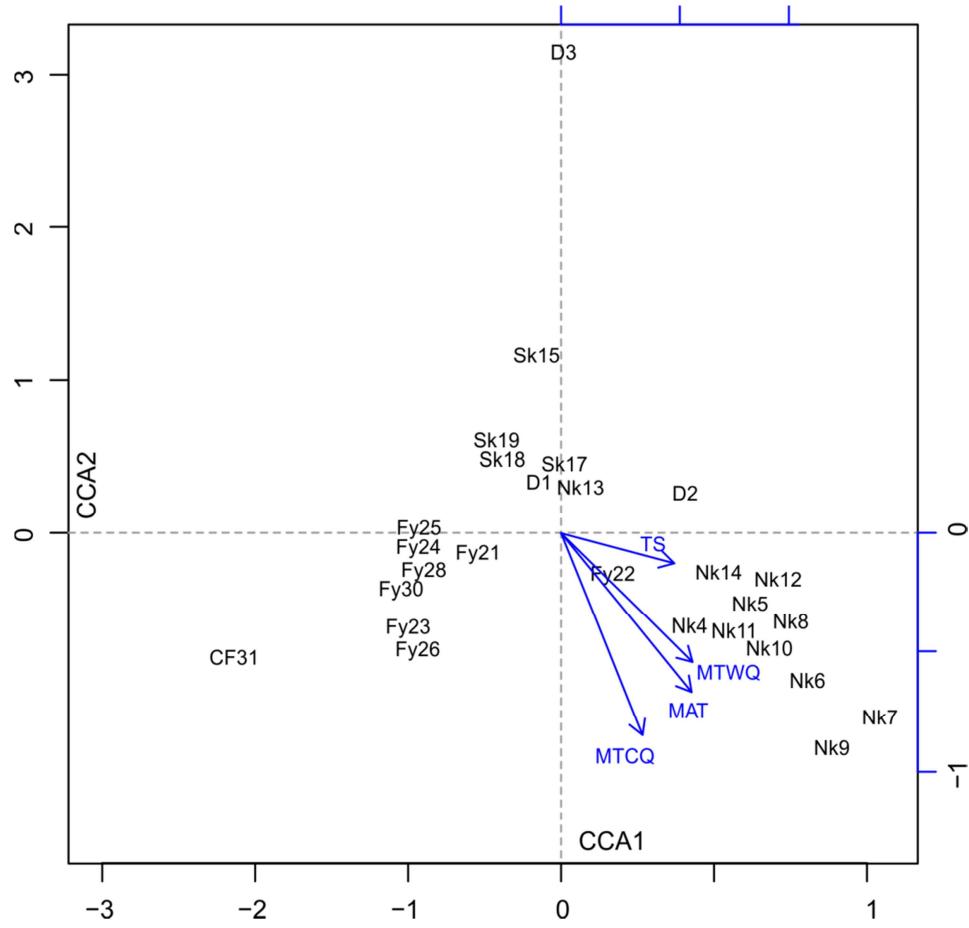


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38 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Age control of core MD96-2098 based on 14 calibrated Accelerator Mass
 39 Spectrometer radiocarbon (AMS ^{14}C) ages (green dots) and 16 Marine Isotopic Events (MIE, grey
 40 and pink bars) from stable Oxygen profile of benthic foraminifera (Bertrand et al., 2002).
 41 Radiocarbon ages were calibrated using the Marine09.14c calibration (Stuiver and Reimer,
 42 2005; Hughen et al., 2004), a delta R of 157 years, and global reservoir age of 400 years. Gray
 43 bands indicate MIE control points and ages derived from LR04 global stack (Lisiecki and Raymo,
 44 2005). Pink bars indicate MIE ages derived from other chronologies: (Sanchez Goñi and Harrison,
 45 2010), (Drysdale et al., 2007), (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2010; Waelbroeck et al., 2008),
 46 (Henderson and Slowey, 2000).

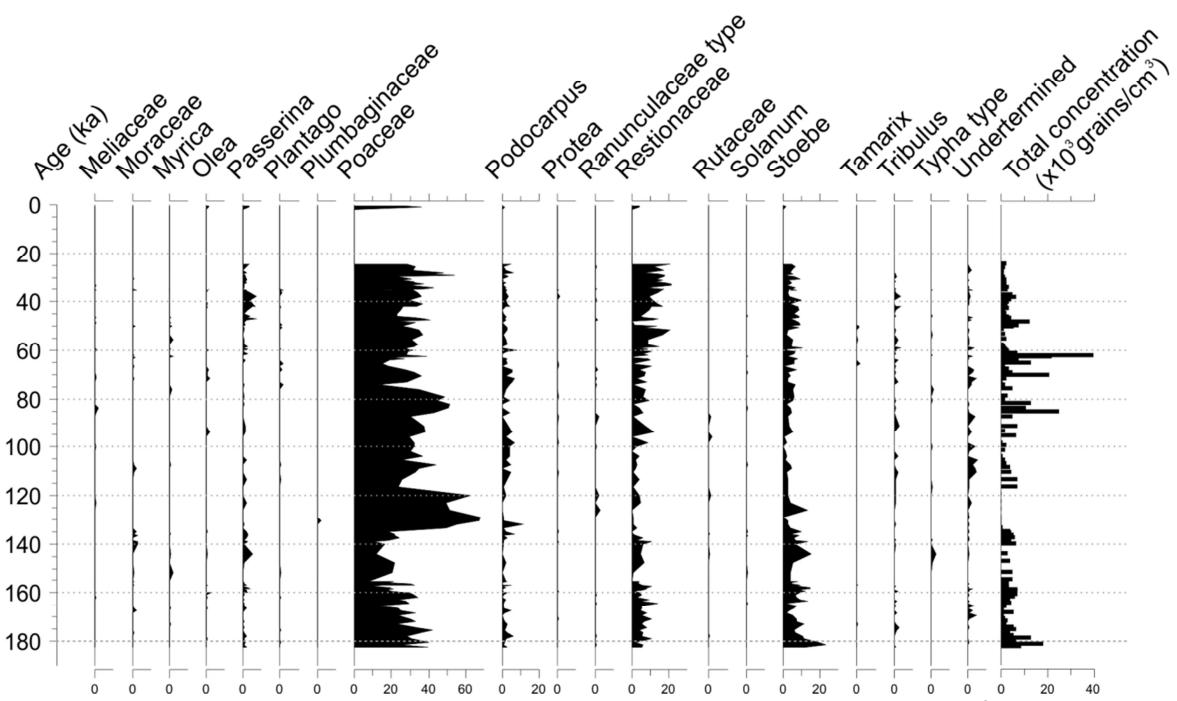
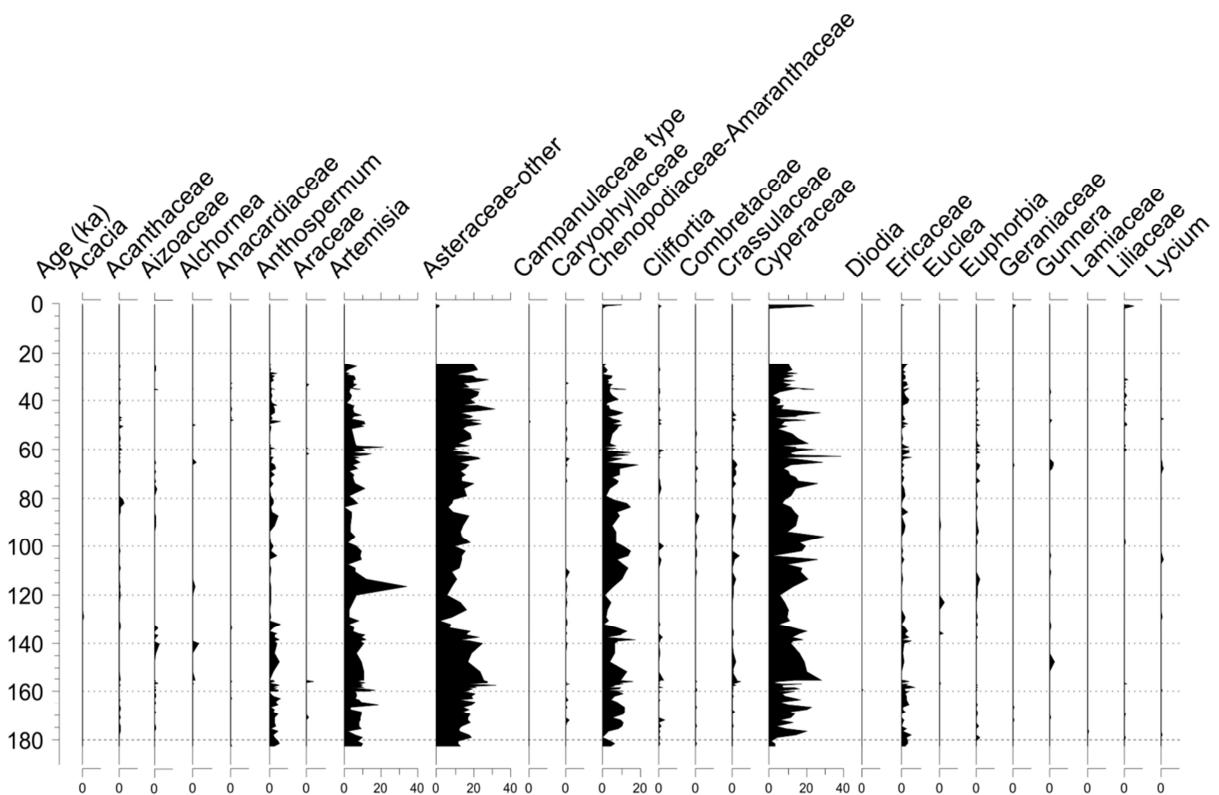


Supplementary Figure 2. Percentage pollen diagram of taxa ordered alphabetically and identified in surface samples from southwestern Africa. Left column indicates the biome where samples were collected based on Mucina et al. (2007) and sample numbers (see Supplementary Table 1 for sample description); D: desert, Nm: Nama-Karoo, Sk: Succulent Karoo, Fy: Fynbos, CF: coastal forest. Percentages from the following families group more than one morphotype: Acanthaceae, Asteraceae-other, Chenopodiaceae-Amaranthaceae, Crassulaceae, Ericaceae, Myrtaceae, Rosaceae, Rutaceae, Santalaceae, and Solanaceae.



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49 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) summarizing changes in pollen
 50 spectra from surface samples and their temperature bioclimatic variables extracted for
 51 individual collection points from the WorldClim dataset (Hijmans et al., 2005). MTWQ: mean
 52 temperature of warmest quarter, MTCQ: mean temperature of coldest quarter, TS: temperature
 53 seasonality, MAT: mean annual temperature. Labels indicate sample numbers and biome where
 54 samples were collected: D: desert, Nk: Nama-Karoo, Sk: Succulent-Karoo, Fy: Fynbos, CF: coastal
 55 forest.



Supplementary Figure 4. Complete pollen record and total pollen concentrations from MD96-2098.

Percentages from the following families group more than one morphotype: Acanthaceae, Aizoaceae, Anacardiaceae, Asteraceae-other, Chenopodiaceae-Amaranthaceae, Crassulaceae, Cyperaceae, Ericaceae, Liliaceae, and Restionaceae.

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