

Gnus, gerbils and N cycle feedbacks

Dr. D.C. Drake

Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences
University of the Witwatersrand

Motivation:

A comparison of how plants “manage” their N
resources under conditions of
intense herbivory
protected





^{15}N tracers

- Leaky system? Not leaky? How much N lost from a certain area to herbivory? How much replaced (turnover).
- How much do grasses vs. trees take up? Where do they allocate it and how do they move it around between seasons?
- Role of small herbivores?



Riparian Forest

Recovery of Tracer N



