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Ratnasingham Shivaji, Inbo Sim and Byungjae Son* (b_son@uncg.edu), 830 West Market Street, Apt 623, Greensboro, NC 27401. *Uniqueness results for classes of semipositone p -Laplacian problems.*

We consider steady state reaction diffusion equations on the exterior of a ball, namely, boundary value problems of the form:

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta_p u = \lambda K(|x|)f(u) & \text{in } \Omega_E, \\ Bu = 0 & \text{on } |x| = r_0, \\ u \rightarrow 0 & \text{when } |x| \rightarrow \infty, \end{cases}$$

where $\Delta_p z := \operatorname{div}(|\nabla z|^{p-2} \nabla z)$, $1 < p < n$, $\lambda > 0$, $\Omega_E := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| > r_0 > 0\}$ and the boundary operator B is either $Bu \equiv u$ or $Bu \equiv \frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta} + c(u)u$ where $c \in C((0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ and $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}$ is the outward normal derivative of u on $|x| = r_0$. Here the weight function $K \in C^1([r_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ satisfies $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} K(r) = 0$, and the reaction term $f \in C^1[0, \infty)$ is strictly increasing and satisfies $f(0) < 0$, $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} f(s) = \infty$, $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(s)}{s^{p-1}} = 0$ and $\frac{f(s)}{s^q}$ is nonincreasing on $[a, \infty)$ for some $a > 0$ and $q \in (0, p - 1)$. We establish uniqueness results for positive radial solutions for $\lambda \gg 1$. (Received January 26, 2017)