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Jim Geelen and **Stefan H.M. van Zwam*** (Stefan.van.Zwam@cwi.nl), P.O. Box 94079,
NL-1090GB Amsterdam, Netherlands. *When the branch width is high...*

Like tree width in graphs, branch width is a central concept in matroid structure theory. When the branch width of the matroids in a class is low, questions surrounding well-quasi-ordering and efficiency of algorithms become more tractable. When the branch width of a matroid is high, different good things happen. For instance, the matroid will have the cycle matroid of a big grid as minor. We will look at another consequence of high branch width: an extension of the Splitter Theorem. (Received August 26, 2010)