

DIVERSITY OF FLOODPLAIN FORESTS IN THE IGNEADA REGION (NW THRACE – TURKEY)

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Abstract

The work deals with the floodplain forests of the Igneada region (NW Trace, Turkey). 69 relevés were sampled from wet to mesic sites according to the Braun-Blanquet approach and analyzed using different multivariate methods. The dataset was divided into five groups (associations), which demonstrate the diversity of forests in the region. In the wettest sites, forests dominated by *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus angustifolia* appear; on wet and nutrient rich sites along rivers there are forests dominated by *Ulmus laevis* and *Fraxinus angustifolia*; on wet and less nutrient rich sites *Ulmus minor* and *Fraxinus angustifolia* appear; on humid sites *Fraxinus angustifolia* and *Carpinus betulus* forests thrive and on mesic sites *Carpinus betulus* forests appear. The ecological conditions are estimated by bioindicator values and the gradient from wet and nutrient rich forests to mesic and nutrient poor forests is presented by numerical analysis. The species richness and geo-elemental structure for each community is evaluated. Finally, a syntaxonomical scheme is proposed and the following associations were determined *Leucojo aestivi-Fraxinetum angustifoliae*, *Fraxino angustifoliae-Ulmetum laevis*, *Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae* (*Alno-Quercion roboris*, *Populetalia albae*) and *Geranio robertiani-Carpinetum betuli*, *Trachystemo orientalis-Carpinetum betuli* (*Castaneo-Carpinion betuli*, *Rhododendro pontici-Fagetalia orientalis*) all within *Quercio-Fagetalia*.

Key Words: azonal, flora, geoelement, gradient, nutrient, species richness, vegetation, water supply, zonal.

Izvleček

V delu obravnavamo vegetacijo poplavnih gozdov v Igneadi (SZ Trakija – Turčija). Opravili smo 69 popisov gozdov, ki se pojavljajo na mokrih, vlažnih in mezofilnih rastiščih. Gozdna vegetacija je razdeljena na pet skupin (asociacij), ki predstavljajo raznolikost teh gozdov v regiji. Na dobro namočenih rastiščih se pojavljajo gozdovi, kjer dominirata vrsti *Alnus glutinosa* in *Fraxinus angustifolia*; na mokrih in bogatih rastiščih najdemo gozdove vrst *Ulmus laevis* in *Fraxinus angustifolia*, na namočenih, vendar manj bogatih se pojavljajo gozdovi vrst *Ulmus minor* in *Fraxinus angustifolia*; na vlažnih rastiščih uspevajo gozdovi vrst *Fraxinus angustifolia* in *Carpinus betulus*, gozdovi vrste *Carpinus betulus* pa uspevajo na mezofilnih rastiščih. Ekološke razmere so bile opredeljene z bioindikatorskimi vrednostmi, gradient vlažnosti pa je predstavljen na podlagi numeričnih analiz. Primerjava obsega tudi bogastvo vrst različnih združb in njihovo geoelementno sestavo. Predlagana je tudi sintaskonomsko uvrstitev obravnavanih združb: *Leucojo aestivi-Fraxinetum angustifoliae*, *Fraxino angustifoliae-Ulmetum laevis*, *Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae* (*Alno-Quercion roboris*, *Populetalia albae*) in *Geranio robertiani-Carpinetum betuli*, *Trachystemo orientalis-Carpinetum betuli* (*Castaneo-Carpinion betuli*, *Rhododendro pontici-Fagetalia orientalis*) vse v okviru razreda *Quercio-Fagetalia*.

Ključne besede: azonalen, bogastvo vrst, flora, geoelement, gradient, hranila, vegetacija, oskrba z voda, zonalen

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1. INTRODUCTION

Floodplain forests are forests in which the water table is usually at or near the surface, and the land is covered periodically or at least occasionally with shallow water (Čermák et al. 2001, Pivec 2002, Tepley et al. 2004, Paal et al. 2007). Floodplain forests have a multiple role in the landscape, since they are important from ecological, biological, environmental and economic points of view (Vukelić & Baričević 2005, Horner et al. 2010).

The coverage of floodplain forests in Europe has decreased (Wenger et al. 1990, Glaeser & Volk 2009) because of heavy anthropogenic pressures over centuries, including intensive cutting, construction of hydroelectric power stations and regulation of rivers (Čermák & Prax 2001). Not only in Europe but also in other parts of the world, floodplain forests are under negative human pressure (Müller 1995, Müller 1998, Moffatt & McLachlan 2004). This process has made floodplain forests more important in terms of ecosystem conservation than in terms of wood stock production (Jackson 1990, Tockner & Stanford 2002). There is consequently a need to investigate these ecosystems and define their function, and it was thus highlighted that the number of studies should increase (Wenger et al. 1990). As a result of this awareness, many studies of floodplain forests have been prepared, elaborating biodiversity, function and their importance (Wildi 1989, Döring-Mederake 1990, Čermák 1998, Brullo & Spampinato 1999, Tatarinov & Čermák 1999, Pavlov & Dimitrov 2002, Šilc 2002, 2003, Pietsch et al. 2003, Turner et al. 2004, Vukelić & Baričević 2004, Drescher 2007, Franz & Willner 2007, Willner 2007, Wallnöfer 2009, Baričević et al. 2009). Floodplain forests show rich biological and ecological diversity (Schnitzler et al. 2005) and, if they are protected, they build an important part of biological richness on a regional scale (Schuck et al. 1994). However, the floodplain forests in Europe are less biodiverse than those of America and Asia, due to the effects of the last glaciation (Schnitzler et al. 2005). From this point of view, Thrace and Anatolia perform important tasks since they hosted many species that disappeared from Europe at the time of the glaciations and found refuge here or species that settled here during the subsequent re-colonization of the Balkan Peninsula. Floodplain forests in Turkey played an important role

in these processes and knowledge of them is crucial to understanding the migration of flora from the end of the Tertiary onwards (Magyari et al. 2008, Medail & Diadema, 2009).

In the northern Turkey, there are several riverine and floodplain forests, some of which have already been studied in terms of ecology and biology (Pamay 1967, Kutbay et al. 1998, Çiçek 2002, Çakır et al. 2007, Başkent et al. 2008).

Our research took place in floodplain forest in NW Turkey, in the well-known Igneada Region, one of the important plant areas in Turkey (Özhatay et al. 2003). Its biological richness has already been elaborated (Kavgacı 2007, Kavgacı et al. 2007, Tecimen & Kavgacı 2010, Kavgacı et al. 2010) and two EU supported projects have taken place there: GEF II and Yıldız Dağları (Istranca) Mountains Biogenetic Reserve project.

Since the vegetation of the area has not yet been investigated, the main goal of this work was to present the floristic composition of the communities and the ecological conditions. We attempted to detect the main gradients and characteristics within these forests. At the same time, we tried to place these forests in a broader context as transitional types between the Balkans and Anatolia.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. STUDY AREA

The study area is situated in NW Thrace, which is composed of a mountainous part and lowland (Figure 1). The Yıldız (Istranca) mountain range is parallel to the coastline and, at its foot is situated Igneada region, which is covered by floodplain forests (Kantarıcı 1976). In addition to the floodplain forests called Saka, Mert and Erikli, there are also lakes, swamps, scrub communities and sand dunes (Özhatay et al. 2003, Kavgacı 2007).

The average annual rainfall is about 800 mm and the average temperature is 13°C. The hottest month is August and the coldest month is February (Anon. 2006). According to the Thornthwaite (1948) climate system, the research area has a humid and mesothermal sea climate. The bedrock is mainly formed by sedimentary rocks, including alluvial, calcareous rocks, non-calcareous and pliocene sedimentary rocks, dunes and siltstone flysch-schists (Kantarıcı 1979, Sevgi 2005).



Figure 1: Geographical position of the study area.
Slika 1: Geografski položaj raziskovanega območja.

2.2. ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION DATA

The field work was carried out between 2003 and 2006. We sampled floodplain forests dominated by *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Ulmus minor*, *U. leavis*, *Acer campestre*, *A. trautwetteri*, *Juglans regia* and *Quercus robur*. In addition to all types of floodplain forests, we included in our analysis seasonally dry riverine forest with *Carpinus betulus*, *Fagus orientalis*, *Populus tremula* and *Tilia argentea*. We chose homogenous sampling plots with an area of 400 m². The protocol for each plot includes general, topographic and other data of individual plots, such as altitude, inclination, aspect, vegetation cover (total and of individual layers) and a list of all vascular plants, in which a cover value was assigned to each species according to the nine degree Braun-Blanquet scale (Braun-Blanquet 1964, Westhoff & van der Maarel 1973).

The samples (hereinafter relevés) were stored in the TURBOVEG database management program (Hennekens & Schaminée 2001). Hierarchical classification of the data set was carried out

in the computer program PC-ORD (Mc Cune & Meffords 2003). The Jaccard coefficient was used as a resemblance measure for analysis and the beta-flexible algorithm with β : -0.25 for the construction of the dendrogram construction. Various levels of division were accepted in the dendrogram, resulting in six clusters interpretable in terms of ecology. Additionally, the diagnostic species of the accepted clusters were identified by a fidelity measure in the JUICE program (Tichý 2002). The threshold of the phi value was subjectively selected at 0.50 for a species to be considered as diagnostic (Chytrý et al. 2002).

The results of the classification were visualized by ordination techniques in the CANOCO 4.5 package (ter Braak & Šmilauer 2002). Detrended Canonical Analysis (DCA), which is an indirect ordination method assuming a unimodal response of species to the environment, was run due to the high heterogeneity in the matrix of species (Lepš & Šmilauer 2003).

Unweighted average indicator values (Pignatti 2005) were used for further interpretation of ecological conditions (Zelnik & Čarni, 2008). Although the bio-indicator values were selected for Italy, they are useful and often used also for Balkan and Thracian vegetation (Kavgacı 2007, Tsiropidis et al. 2007, Košir et al. 2008, Kavgacı et al. 2010). They were passively projected on an ordination plane. Moreover, the comparison of ecological conditions in the six clusters was visualized by a Box-Wisherker's diagram prepared in STATISTICA 8.0 (Anon. 2007). We also calculated the spectra of geo-elements according to Davis (1965–1985) and Davis et al. (1988) and also projected the most abundant groups of geo-elements (widely-distributed, euro-siberian and mediterranean species) passively on the ordination plane.

The nomenclature of plant species follows Flora of Turkey (Davis 1965–1985, Davis et al. 1988) and new syntaxa were described in accordance with the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (Weber et al. 2000).

3. RESULTS

3.1. CLASSIFICATION

The classification of relevés from Table 1 shows five main clusters (Figure 2). The comparison of bioindicator values for each cluster is shown in Figure 3.

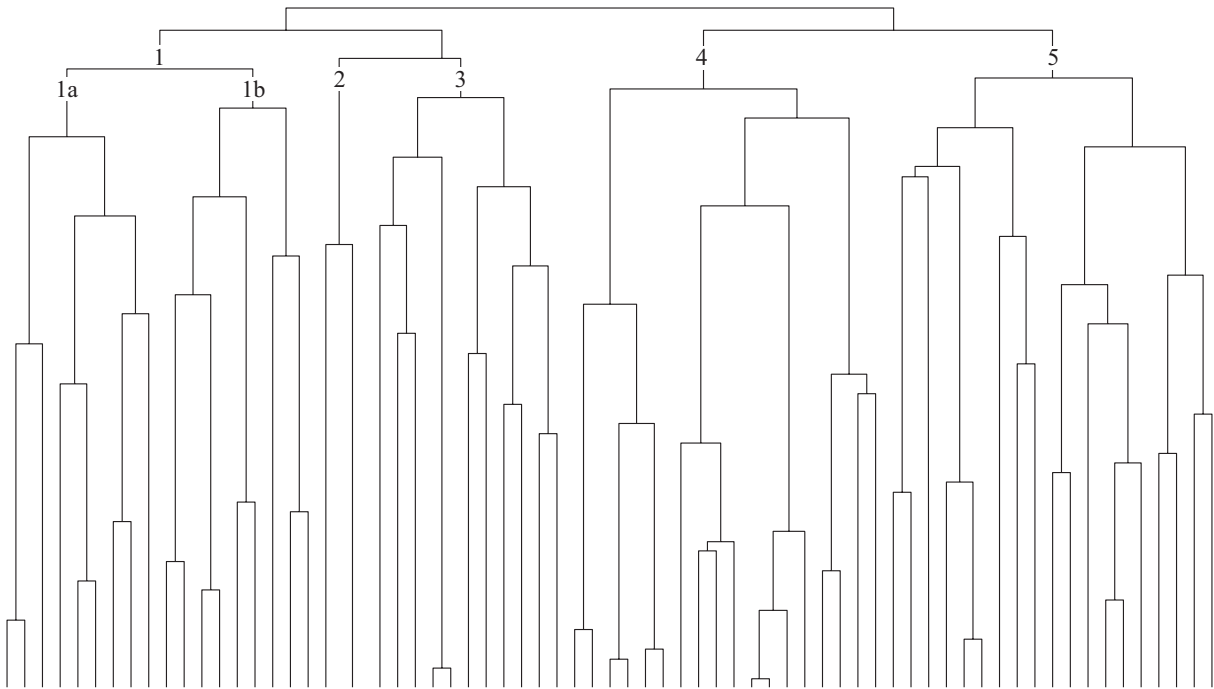


Figure 2: Hierarchical classification diagram of relevés of floodplain forests. Numbers correspond to the communities: 1. *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, 1a. typical sub-community, 1b. *Juglans regia* sub-community, 2. *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, 3. *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, 4. *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, 5. *Carpinus betulus* dominated forest.

Slika 2: Graf hierarhične klasifikacije popisov poplavnih gozdov. Številke prikazuje združbe: 1. gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, 1a. tipična podzdržba, 1b. *Juglans regia* podzdržba, 2. gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, 3. gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, 4. gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, 5. gozd, kjer prevladuje *Carpinus betulus*.

Cluster 1 includes *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests. The diagnostic species are: *Acer trautvetteri*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Chaerophyllum temulum*, *Juglans regia*, *Parietaria officinalis*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Ulmus laevis* and *Urtica dioica*. It is formed by two different sub-communities, one of which is typical, specified by the absence of any diagnostic species and the other is a *Juglans regia* subcommunity, characterized by *Acer trautvetteri*, *Chaerophyllum temulum*, *Juglans regia*, *Parietaria officinalis*, *Phytolacca americana* and *Sambucus nigra*. *Alnus glutinosa* and *Acer campestre* can sporadically appear in this community. Tree layer of this forest is composed by more than two strata (multi-cohort stand structure). The upper tree layer reaches more than 30 m and the stands are located in the Saka Floodplain Forest.

Cluster 2 represents *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests. The diagnostic species of the community are *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Galium debile*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Leucopodium aestivum*, *Lysimachia vulgaris* and *Polygonum*

laphatifolium. This community, characterised by a single cohort coppice stand structure, is also located in Saka Floodplain Forest in a very limited distribution zone within the lake.

Cluster 3 represents *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests. The diagnostic species of the community are *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Ulmus minor* and *Veronica serpyllifolia*. The tree species mixture of the community is locally enriched by *Acer campestre*, *Carpinus betulus* and *Quercus robur*. This forest also reflects a multi-cohort stand structure, with a stand height of more than 30m. In contrast to the former communities, this community is fully distributed in the Mert and Erikli Floodplain Forests, which may indicate ecological and floristical differences among the floodplain forests in the region.

Cluster 4 includes *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests. The diagnostic species of the community are *Acer campestre*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Geranium robertianum*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Polygonatum laphatifolium*. This community, which is

mostly located in Mert and Erikli Floodplain Forests, also displays a multi-cohort stand structure, with a stand height of more than 30 m. The lower tree layer of the community is mainly formed by *Carpinus betulus* coppice. Other tree species found locally in the stand mixture are *Quercus robur* and *Ulmus minor*, which appears in the lower tree layer.

Cluster 5 represents forests mainly formed by *Carpinus betulus*. This forest is the most distant from the river and the moisture and nutrient values are the lowest (Figure 3). This community consists of more diagnostic species than the former communities: *Carpinus betulus*, *Epimedium pubigerum*, *Fagus orientalis*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Galium paschale*, *Lathyrus laxiflorus*, *Populus tremula*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Quercus petraea*, *Tilia argentea*, *Trachystemon orientalis* and *Veronica chamaedrys*. *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests taking place on the seasonally dry river beds covered by thermophilous mixed oak forests. These forests therefore locally contain some thermophilous oak species, such as *Quercus frainetto*, *Q. petraea* and *Q. cerris*. Additionally, *Carpinus betulus* densely appears on gently inclined slopes surrounding the floodplains. *Fagus orientalis*, which is densely distributed in the lower montane altitudinal belt in the region, join the floristic composition. *Populus tremula*, a pioneer species locally forms pure groups in this community. Due to the high proportion of shade tolerant species in the tree composition, this community has a multi-cohort coppice forest structure, with an upper tree height of about 25 m. As the floristic and ecological structure of this forest is observed, we can easily recognize its mesophilous characters.

3.2. ORDINATION AND COMPARISON OF BIOINDICATOR VALUES AND GEO-ELEMENTAL STRUCTURE

The ordination of the relevés using DCA presents a clear gradient along the axes 1 (Figure 3) showing ecological differences among the floodplain forest communities. As can be seen, moisture and nutrient are strictly correlated with axis 1. Other variables have less importance on this axis. Moisture and nutrient appear as the main determinant environmental factors for the communities in the floodplain forests. The clear gradient of these environmental factors can also be seen in Figure 4, corresponding to the geo-elemental structure (Figure 3).

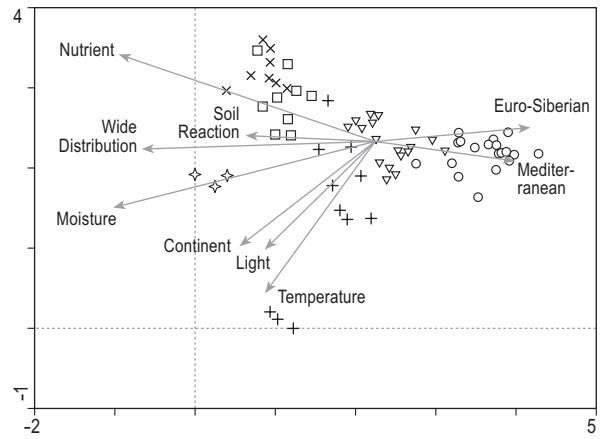


Figure 3: DCA ordination of relevés with the passive projection of bioindicator value and geo-elemental structure, □: *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest (typical sub-community), ×: *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest (*Juglans regia* sub-community), ◊: *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, +: *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, ▽: *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest, ○: *Carpinus betulus* dominated forest.

Slika 3: DCA ordinacija popisov s pasivno projeciranimi bioindikatorskimi vrednostmi in deležem pripadnosti fitogeografskim regijam, □: gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* (tipična podzdržba), ×: gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* (*Juglans regia* podzdržba), ◊: gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, +: gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, ▽: gozd, kjer prevladujeta *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia*, ○: gozd, kjer prevladuje *Carpinus betulus*.

As can be seen, stands of *Alnus glutinosa*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests appear on the wettest parts of the floodplains (Figure 3). These communities are also the species poorest (Figure 5) and are dominated by widely distributed wetland species showing the extreme ecological conditions (Figure 4).

The *Ulmus laevis*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest type is also found on nutrient rich sites of the floodplains with high water saturation (Figure 3, 4). Within this forest, the *Juglans regia* sub-community is more characteristic of nutrient rich sites than the typical sub-community.

According to the nutrient and moisture content of the soils the *Ulmus minor*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest type reflects the intermediate level of floodplain forests in the region (Figure 4).

Although *Carpinus betulus*–*Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest reflects the poorer nutrient and

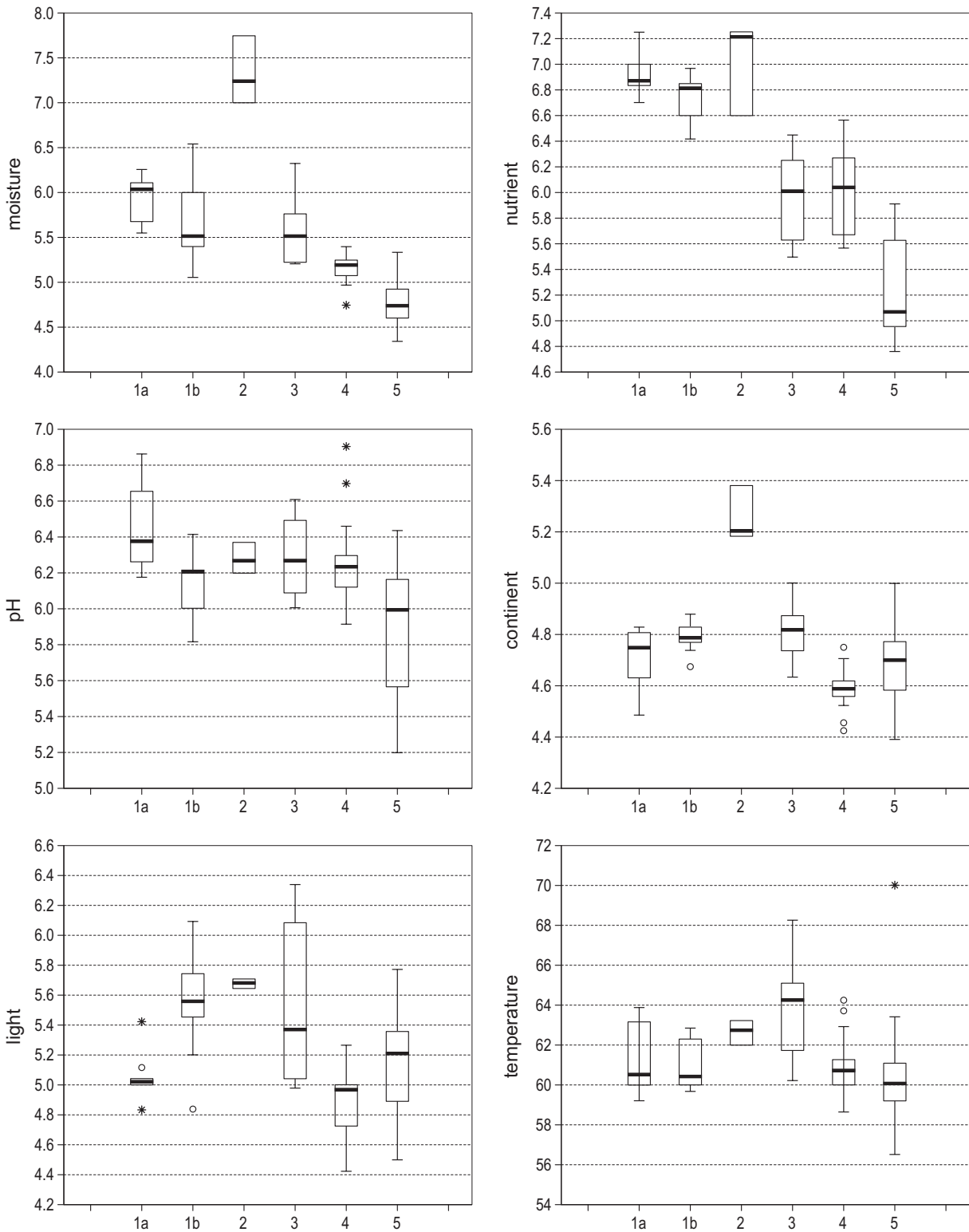


Figure 4: Diagrams of bioindicator values for each community. Numbers correspond to the community number in Figure 2. **■** : Median, **□** : 25%–75%, **I** : Non-outlier range, **o** : outliers, ***** : extremes.

Slika 4: Graf bioindikatorskih vrednosti za posamezne združbe. Številke prikazujejo združbe kot v Sliki 2. **■** : Mediana, **□** : 25%–75%, **I** : razpon brez osamelcev, **o** : osamelci, ***** : ekstremi.

moisture parts of the woodland compared with the formers, the sites of this community show a higher nutrient contents and a better water supply than *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests (Figure 4).

The nutrient and moisture poorest parts of floodplain forest are characterized by *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests, which appear on seasonally dry rivers that are covered with water only in winter. The latter two forests have closed canopy and light availability is the lowest. The same also applies for temperature, which indicates that a special, more mesophilous microclimate appears in these forests (Figure 3). At the same time, it is noticeable that the proportion of euro-siberian and mediterranean species is here the highest. (Figure 3)

The DCA ordination also shows a gradient along the Axis 2. However, as seen, it is mostly related to some relevés of *Ulmus minor-Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests. These are comparably as wet as *Ulmus laevis-Fraxinus angustifolia* forests, but possess a lower nutrient status. Higher temperature and light bioindicator values show that the canopy is not closed and species indicate trampling and grazing in these forests, such as *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Ranunculus repens* and *Veronica serpyllifolia*, which are also diagnostic for the community (Figure 3, 4).

According to the phytogeographical structures of the communities (Figure 3), it can be seen that the communities on more humid sites are mainly formed by widely distributed species. In contrast, in communities appearing on drier sites the floristic composition is dominated by euro-siberian and mediterranean species.

Floodplain forests in the region reflect various species richness (Figure 5). Species richness is low in *Alnus glutinosa-Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forests, and is high in the *Carpinus betulus* dominated forest. There is a clear gradient of species richness from humid to drier sites.

4. DISCUSSION

Floodplain forests in the Igneada region (NW Thrace – Turkey) show clear differences in terms of ecological conditions. Nutrient and moisture are the most important ecological factors determining the distribution of floodplain forest communities in the region. On the basis of moisture and soil nutrient content, these forests indicate significant differences, although all of them contain

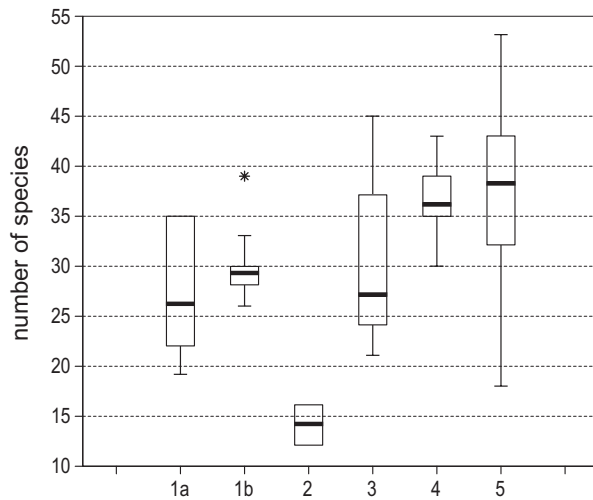


Figure 5: Species richness of the communities. Numbers correspond to the community numbers in Figure 2. ■: Median, □: 25%–75%, ⊥: Non-outlier range, o: outliers, *: extremes.

Slike 5: Vrstna pestrost združb. Številke prikazujejo združbe kot v Sliki 2. ■: Mediana, □: 25%–75%, ⊥: razpon brez osamelcev, o: osamelci, *: ekstremi.

more nutrient and moisture in their sites than the thermophilous oak forests (Kavgacı et al. 2010) surrounding the floodplains. It is assumed that these differences are a result of the physiography and the flooding regime, which has an identifiable impact on the floristic composition of the communities and abundance of trees (Monica et al. 2004).

Alnus glutinosa-Fraxinus angustifolia dominated forest is located in the most humid part of the region. These stands are dominated by *Fraxinus angustifolia*, but sites that are in depressions and flooded or even submerged throughout the year are dominated by *Alnus glutinosa*, which best supports such conditions. (Kramer et al. 2008, Douđa et al. 2009). The community is similar to the community found in Middle and Eastern Europe and these forests can therefore be classified as *Leucojo-Fraxinetum angustifoliae* Glavač 1959 *alnetosum* Glavač 1959. Similar stands appear also in the Greek part of Thrace. These forests are mediating with the marshy forest of the class *Alnetea glutinosae* and some author classify them within this class (Glavač 1959, Zoller et al. 1977, Raus 1980, Baričević 1998, Brullo & Spampinato 1999, Vukelić & Baričević 2005).

Ulmus laevis-Fraxinus angustifolia forests can be found in sites with high soil moisture, distrib-

uted near the largest river in the region (Bulanik River). During the summer they have the typical appearance of floodplain forests, containing numerous nitrophilous tall herbs, above all *Urtica dioica*, which builds with its rhizomes dense, impassable stands, but also *Chaerophyllum temulum*, *Parietaria officinalis* and other plants that show that nutrients are brought regularly into the stands. These communities can be classified into *Fraxino angustifoliae-Ulmetum laevis* Slavnić 1952, which are reported from the northern part of the Balkans, along the Danube River (Slavnić 1952, Vukelić & Baričević 2005, Čarni et al. 2008). The association can be divided into two sub-associations, one *typicum*, representing the average site conditions and sub-association *juglandetosum* subass. nova, thriving on nutrient richer sites and characterized by *Acer trautvetteri*, *Chaerophyllum temulum*, *Juglans regia*, *Parietaria officinalis*, *Phytolacca americana* and *Sambucus nigra*. The holotype of the subassociation is relevé number 10 in Table 1 (holotypus: Tab.1/10 *holotypus hoc loco*).

Although the habitat preference of *Ulmus laevis* is riparian woodlands, *Ulmus minor* can also be found in woodlands and it is also widely planted (Eriksson 2001). *Ulmus minor-Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest can be found in humid habitats that are distant from the river and therefore nutrient poorer. These habitats with small brooks and soaked with trickling water that is partially also stagnant are still humid.

The floristic and ecological structure of *Ulmus minor-Fraxinus angustifolia* dominated forest corresponds to floodplain forests in the Dolna Topchiya and Balabana reserves in Bulgaria. Similar forests have been found northern Greece and the name *Periploco-Ulmetum* was proposed for them. (Zoller et al. 1977) Zoller et al. (1977) even mentioned that similar stands can be found in eastern and northeastern Bulgaria. Later on such forests have been classified as *Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae* Pavlov and Dimitrov 2002 (Pavlov & Dimitrov 2002). Even the subassociation, *prunelletesum vulgaris* Pavlov and Dimitrov 2002 was described, which can accommodate our community. It is characterized by *Ranunculus repens*, *Lysimachia nummularia* and *Veronica sepyllifolia*. These are species of trampled habitats, often found on forest roads (Čarni 2005), which indicates degraded forest. Forest grazing is also widely practiced in these woodlands.

Floodplain forests are an azonal type of deciduous forests in the temperate zone (Klimo &

Herbert 2001) and they are mainly formed by species with a wide distribution. Because of that, the floodplain forests in the region appearing on more humid sites are characterised by a higher presence of widely distributed species, whereas euro-siberian and mediterranean species appear higher in drier soils. They can be treated as azonal since they are strongly influenced by soil features and climate has only a minor influence (Breckle 2002). Additionally, there is a negative correlation between soil nutrient content and species richness (Huston 1980). There is therefore higher species richness in drier and nutrient poorer *Fraxinus angustifolia-Carpinus betulus* dominated and *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests, which can be treated as zonal vegetation of the region.

Fraxinus angustifolia-Carpinus betulus dominated forests and *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests in the study area can be found in the drier parts of the region. *Carpinus betulus* is less competitive on very moist to wet sites. (Baričević 1998, Kramer et al. 2008). Drier sites are covered by *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests. Communities indicate similar differences in terms of the nutrient content of the sites as with moisture content. Turner et al. (2004) obtained similar results in floodplain forests, finding that flood-tolerant and flood-intolerant species were grouped separately in floodplain forests. In the study area, these communities have a floristic composition formed mainly by the flora of broadleaved forests appearing on drier conditions. These are zonal forests, characterized by mesophilous species that reflect the local climatical and the geomorphological position. This is the area of distribution of the order *Rhododendro pontici-Fagetalia orientalis* (Horvat et al. 1974, Akman 1995, Tzonev et al. 2006, Aydin et al. 2008), which is reflected in the floristic composition of the communities.

The classification into alliances is not so evident, since *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests from the European part of Turkey have not been classified on an alliance level. The *Carpinus betulus* dominated forest in Belgrad Forests in Northern Istanbul, called "*Carpinus betulus-Acer campestre* association" was only classified under *Rhododendro-Fagetalia* (Yaltırık et al. 1983), without being assigned to any alliances of this order. Similarly, in another work carried out by Kılınç and Karaer (1995) in the lowland of Black Sea Region, the forests dominated by *Carpinus betulus*, and also by *Fagus orientalis*, were classified under *Rhodo-*

dendro-Fagetalia but were not defined on an alliance level. The reason could be the description of alliances of *Rhododendro-Fagetalia* proposed by Quézel et al. (1980). They described the alliance dominated by *Carpinus betulus* in the eastern part of the Turkish Black Sea coast and therefore the character species do not match with those from the western part. Nevertheless, it was decided to classify the communities under consideration into the alliance *Castaneo-Carpinion* Quézel et al. 1980, because ecologically and phytogeographically they match the alliance, which includes euxine mixed broad leaved forests with *Castanea*, *Carpinus*, *Tilia* and *Fagus* on humid slopes and in ravines (Aydin et al. 2008). In the future, more material should be collected and a synthetic overview of these forests is needed to (re)define the characteristic species and to show their relations with other *Carpinus betulus* dominated forest of the alliance *Erythronio-Carpinion* (*Fagetalia sylvaticae*) found in SE Europe (Marinček & Čarni 2000) and with other alliances of *Rhododendro-Fagetalia* occurring in the region. *Carpinus betulus* forests in Turkey can also be classified into the alliance *Aceri-Carpinion* Quézel et al. 1980, but these communities are more thermophilous and are included in *Quercetea pubescentis* (Quézel et al. 1980, Türe et al. 2005), which are not treated in this paper.

Since there is no association that would accommodate *Fraxinus angustifolia-Carpinus betulus* dominated and *C. betulus* dominated forest, it was necessary to describe a new associations.

It was decided to classify *Fraxino angustifoliae-Carpinus betulus* forest as *Geranio robertiani-Carpinetum betuli* ass. nova hoc loco. The nomenclatural type is relevé number 39 in Table 1 (holotypus hoc loco: Tab. 1/39). The association is found on more humid sites than *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests (i.e., *Trachystemo-Carpinetum*) and is close to *Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae*. These forests are distributed in the area of distribution of the order *Rhododendro-Fagetalia*. The diagnostic species combination is: *Acer campestris*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Hedera helix*, *Carex remota*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Geranium robertianum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Lamium maculatum*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Mycelis muralis*, *Polygonum lapatifolium*, *Rumex conglomeratus*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Smilax excelsa*, *Viola alba*, *Viola sieheana*. The *Quercus robur* dominated forests in the floodplain forests

of NW Thrace was classified within the broader syntaxon *Carici-Fraxinetum* (Kavgacı et al. 2010), but the present analysis on finer scale shows that the relevés formerly classified into *Carici-Fraxinetum* should be desintegrated and classified into *Geranio robertiani-Carpinetum betuli* and *Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae*. The distribution of *Carpinus betulus* in the forest of Igneada is relatively larger that it would be according to the site conditions. This could be a result of legal and illegal cuttings that were carried out in the past and especially focused on valuable stems of *Fraxinus angustifolia* and *Quercus robur*.

Carpinus betulus dominated forests are classified within the *Trachystemo orientalis-Carpinetum betuli* ass. nova hoc loco. The nomenclatural type is relevé 65 in Table 1. (holotypus hoc loco: Tab. 1/65). The association is represented by well developed, mesophilous *Carpinus betulus* dominated forests in seasonally dry riverbeds. The diagnostic species combination is: *Ajuga reptans*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Epimedium pubigerum*, *Fagus orientalis*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Galium paschale*, *Hedera helix*, *Lathyrus laxiflorus*, *Mycelis muralis*, *Populus tremula*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Quercus petraea*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Smilax excelsa*, *Tilia argentea*, *Trachystemon orientalis*, *Viola alba*, *Viola sieheana*.

According to these taxonomical assessments, a taxonomical overview of floodplain forests in NW Thrace is as follows:

- Quercus-Fagetalia* Br.-Bl. et Vlieger 1937
- Populetalia alba* Br.-Bl. ex Tchou 1948
- Alno-Quercion roboris* Horvat 1950
- Leucojo aestivi-Fraxinetum angustifoliae* Glavač 1959
- alnetosum glutinosae* Glavač 1959
- Fraxino angustifoliae-Ulmetum laevis* Sla-
vić 1952
- juglandetosum typicum regiae* Kavgacı
et al. subass. nova
- Smilaco excelsae-Fraxinetum angustifoliae*
Pavlov et Dimitrov 2002
- prunelletosum vulgaris* Pavlov et Dimi-
trov 2002
- Rhododendro pontici-Fagetalia orientalis* Quézel,
Barbéro et Akman 1980
- Castaneo-Carpinion* Quézel, Barbéro et Ak-
man 1980
- Geranio robertiani-Carpinetum betuli* Kav-
gacı et al. ass. nova
- Trachystemo orientalis-Carpinetum betuli*
Kavgacı et al. ass. nova

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8. APPENDIX

Field characteristics of the relevés and coverage of the layers in Table 1 and given in the following order: consecutive number, upper tree layer (%), lower tree layer (%), scrub layer (%), herb layer (%), altitude (m), aspect, inclination (%), latitude and longitude.

1) 50; 50; 70; 30; 10; NE; 2; 580221; 4629825 – 2) 100; 10; 5; 80; 5; NE; 2; 581510; 4630355 – 3) 100; 70; 40; 70; 10; NE; 2; 580955; 4629764 – 4) 80; 80; 50; 70; 5; N; 1; 581455; 4629562 – 5) 50; 70; 50; 80; 10; NE; 4; 581161; 4629060 – 6) 100; 50; 5; 100; 10; E; 2; 580256; 4629265 – 7) 90; 70; 20; 80; 10; SE; 2; 580783; 4628719 – 8) 100; 70; 10; 80; 5; E; 2; 581815; 4628836 – 9) 90; 70; 70; 90; 4; NE; 1; 581958; 4628809 – 10) 50; 20; 80; 30; 10; E; 3; 580535; 4630051 – 11) 100; ; 50; 60; 3; S; 2; 581080; 4630370 – 12) 80; 50; 15; 80; 10; NE; 2; 580421; 4629788 – 13) 80; 20; 60; 70; 30; N; 4; 580399; 4630635 – 14) 70; 30; 50; 50; 25; N; 2; 578822; 4630711 – 15) 70; 20; 90; 50; 15; NE; 1; 580653; 4630610 – 16) 70; 80; 60; 90; 10; E; 1; 579667; 4629748 – 17) 70; 40; 60; 80; 10; E; 1; 580311; 4629786 – 18) 80; 70; 50; 50; 10; E; 1; 580744; 4629875 – 19) 100; 5; 1; 100; 3; NE; 2; 581839; 4630030 – 20) 100; 20; 10; 80; 3; E; 2; 582363; 4628747 – 21) 100; 20; 20; 90; 2; NE; 1; 582400; 4628648 – 22) 80; 60; 70; 50; 5; E; 1; 579224; 4634994 – 23) 70; 70; 80; 50; 5; E; 1; 579632; 4635272 – 24) 100; 30; 1; 90; 5; E; 1; 579961; 4635639 – 25) 100; 70; 20; 70; 10; E; 3; 577889; 4635763 – 26) 60; 70; 90; 10; 10; E; 1; 578436; 4636308 – 27) 90; 70; 5; 80; 15; E; 1; 578924; 4636399 – 28) 100; 80; 60; 20; 4; E; 1; 581059; 4633394 – 29) 100; 10; 1; 70; 5; E; 1; 580196; 4636255 – 30) 90; 20; 30; 90; 4; E; 1; 582017; 4638342 – 31) 80; 50; 70; 30; 5; SE; 2; 582275; 4638766 – 32) 90; 70; 3; 80; 4; NE; 1; 582013; 4629309 – 33) 100; 20; 50; 50; 5; E; 1; 579660; 4635732 – 34) 50; 60; 80; 80; 5; E; 1; 579196; 4635167 – 35) 60; 60; 60; 70; 5; E; 1; 579376; 4635763 – 36) 80; 70; 30; 70; 5; E; 1; 578941; 4636077 – 37) 80; 60; 50; 50; 5; E; 1; 578485; 4635963 – 38) 90; 30; 90; 40; 5; E; 1; 578619; 4635496 – 39) 90; 20; 100; 40; 5; E; 1; 578117; 4635487 – 40) 90; 70; 60; 70; 10; E; 1; 577347; 4635674 – 41) 50; 80; 90; 50; 5; SE; 1; 581751; 4638824 – 42) 80; 50; 40; 30; 5; SE; 1; 581420; 4639003 – 43) 80; 90; 70; 50; 5; E; 1; 581033; 4639071 – 44) 80; 80; 80; 20; 5; SE; 1; 580627; 4639433 – 45) 100; 10; 60; 30; 15; E; 1; 578467; 4640241 – 46) 100; 50; 40; 80; 10; E; 1; 578894; 4639979 – 47) 70; 50; 90; 20; 10; E; 1; 579382; 4639679 – 48) 70; 70; 80; 5; 10; SE; 1; 580059; 4640236 – 49) 100; 30; 70; 50; 10; E; 1; 580580; 4639875 – 50) 100; 30; 50; 40; 5; E; 1; 580034; 4639315 – 51) 95; 30; 60; 20; 20; NE; 8; 581218; 4627586 – 52) 100; 20; 90; 20; 20; SE; 8; 580600; 4628047 – 53) 90; 80; 10; 20; 25; NW; 15; 579889; 4631728 – 54) 100; 30; 70; 50; 30; W; 7; 579090; 4631694 – 55) 100; 40; 30; 70; 20; NE; 8; 580526; 4632533 – 56) 90; 30; 70; 20; 5; NE; 3; 581120; 4632498 – 57) 100; 40; 60; 20; 10; NE; 10; 581455; 4631169 – 58) 100; 40; 40; 30; 55; N; 8; 578944; 4632658 – 59) 80; 70; 2; 80; 25; E; 5; 577441; 4635203 – 60) 100; 70; 10; 50; 40; NW; 2; 579011; 4633191 – 61) 90; 100; 20; 60; 25; NE; 2; 579671; 4633062 – 62) 90; 40; 20; 30; 20; N; 2; 579092; 4633858 – 63) 90; 20; 70; 50; 5; NE; 1; 579927; 4634357 – 64) 100; 50; 90; 10; 15; N; 15; 578903; 4635007 – 65) 100; 40; 70; 20; 25; N; 17; 578310; 4635304 – 66) 100; 40; 70; 40; 25; N; 6; 582397; 4627369 – 67) 100; 30; 70; 60; 20; N; 1; 581289; 4628059 – 68) 100; 60; 50; 60; 15; NE; 25; 577496; 4631475 – 69) 80; 60; 60; 60; 60; E; 1; 578269; 4633832.

Table 1: Vegetation table of the relevés. The relevés are ordered according to the cluster analysis presented in Figure 2; group numbers correspond to the community numbers mentioned the same figure. Legend: upper tree layer (t1), lower tree layer (t2), scrub layer (s) and herb layer (h). Coverage of the layers and localities of the relevés are submitted in the appendix. * indicates holotypes.

Group number	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Running number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
Diagnostic species																														
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	t2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	3	2	.	.	3	2	.	1	1	1
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	s	3	1	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	+	+	.	1	.	r
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	h	1	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Juglans regia</i>	t1	1	.	2	.	.	2	2
<i>Juglans regia</i>	t2	3	3	2	2	1	2	2
<i>Juglans regia</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	h	+	1	1	.	+	+	3	.	+	2
<i>Acer trautvetteri</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acer trautvetteri</i>	s	.	.	.	1	r	+	2	1	.	+	1	.	1	r
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	s	.	.	.	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	3
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	h	.	+	2	.	4	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	2	5	3	3
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	h	.	.	+	.	+	+	r	1	2	2	+	1	2	+	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	h	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	h	2	2
<i>Leucosium aestivum</i>	h	3	4
<i>Galium debile</i>	h	+	1
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	t1	.	.	.	3	3	3	2	4	2	5	5	4	4	5
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	t2	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	t1	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	.	.	.	.	4	3	2	5	5	5	4	4	4	3
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	t2	2	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	.	.	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	.	2	
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	s	.	.	.	1	.	r	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	h	.	1	3	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	3	2	.	.	1	+	1	.	.	1	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	4	4	3	1	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.	.
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	1	.	.
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	1	1	.	.
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	h	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	1	1	.	1
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Acer campestre</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acer campestre</i>	t2	4	3	.	.	.	2	4	3	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	1	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	s	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	h	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	+	.	2	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Polygonatum latifolium</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.
<i>Epimedium pubigerum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tilia argentea</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tilia argentea</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tilia argentea</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tilia argentea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Group number	la	la	la	la	la	la	la	la	la	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3			
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lathyrus laxiflorus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Galium paschale</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Populus tremula</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Populus tremula</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Populus tremula</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Populus tremula</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Trachystemon orientalis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	r	+	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
ALNO-QUERCION																													
<i>Quercus robur</i>	t1	2	3	3		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	t2		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	s		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	h	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
<i>Carex remota</i>	h	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	+	3	+	4	1	2	.	.	.	.	2	2
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	h	r	1	+	1	+	2	.	r	+	r	2	.	+	r	2	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	h	.	.	r	.	.	2	r	+	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	1	.
<i>Galium aparine</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
POPULETALIA ALBAE																													
<i>Populus alba</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Populus alba</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	s	2	.	.	2	+	.	.	3	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	1	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	h	1	+	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	+	2	2	r	r	2	1	.	3	+	1	r	r	2	1	1	2	1
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	h	+	+	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	+	1	2	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	s	.	.	.	r	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	h	.	.	.	r	2	1	1	.	1	.	1		
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	h	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	r	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
CASTANEO-CARPINION AND RHODODENDRO-FAGETALIA																													
<i>Smilax excelsa</i>	s	2	r	2	1	r	.	1	.	.	2	2	1	1	1	.	1	2	.	.	.	1	2		
<i>Daphne pontica</i>	s		
<i>Salvia forskahlei</i>	h		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	h	+		
<i>Ruscus hypoglossum</i>	s	+	+	.		
QUERCO-FAGETEA																													
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	s	3	2	2	.	.	.	2	.	.	r	.	1	1	.	2	+	.	1	1	1	1	

Group number	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
<i>Rosa canina</i>	s	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	h	4	3	2	3	1	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	2	+
<i>Viola alba</i>	h	+	.	1	.	+	1	1	1	1	2	.	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Viola sieheana</i>	h	.	+	1	.	+	+	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	3	.
<i>Rubus hirtus</i>	s	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	3	3	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	t2	.	.	.	2	1	1	3	3	3	.	2	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	s	.	.	+	2	.	.	1	.	.	2	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hedera helix</i>	s	.	.	.	1	1	1	2	1	+	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	s	.	.	.	+	.	1	2	.	r	.	1	r	+	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	3	+	.	5	4	1	4	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	s	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	s	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	h	.	.	.	1	1	+	.	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	h	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	+	2	+	r	r	+	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	r	1	.	r	.	
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	h	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Tamus communis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	h	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	1
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Rubus canescens</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Festuca drymeia</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus frainetto</i>	t1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus frainetto</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carex flacca</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> subsp. <i>ornus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> subsp. <i>ornus</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> subsp. <i>ornus</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	t2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hypericum bitynicum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Stachys thirkei</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Digitalis ferruginea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cyclamen coum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>tinctoria</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Group number	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1a	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	1b	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3									
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Centaurea stenolepis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Others																																			
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	h	.	+	.	1	2	3	1	1	+	2	2	1	1	+	1	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	r						
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	1	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	1	r	.	+	+	2				
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	h	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	+	.	+	.	2	1	1	1	1	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	3	.	.					
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	h	1	2	.	2	1	+	1	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	1	1	+	2			
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	h	.	.	1	+	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	.	1	2			
<i>Euphorbia stricta</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	r	.	.	.			
<i>Ranunculus constantinopolitanus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	r	2	r	.	.	+	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	h	.	.	.	.	r	r	.	+	.	.	.	1	2	r	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Veronica montana</i>	h	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>	h	.	+	1	+	2	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pulmonaria obscura</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Arum italicum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Arctium minus</i>	h	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	s	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> subsp. <i>hybridum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	+	.	.	.	1
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	h	+	1
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	h	.	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> subsp. <i>sylvestris</i>	s	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	h	3	1
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Ornithogalum sphaeracarpum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Listera ovata</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Milium effusum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r
<i>Lamium species</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Scutellaria albida</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	h	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Species with low frequencies

Salix alba [t2] 7: 1, 17: 1; *Mentha aquatica* [h] 11: 1, 17: +; *Clematis vitalba* [s] 13: 2, 14: 1; *Myrrhoides nodosa* [h] 14: +, 31: +; *Eupatorium cannabinum* [h] 14: r, 18: 1; *Myosotis laxa* [h] 17: 1, 29: +; *Equisetum arvense* [h] 18: r, 60: 1; *Lolium perenne* [h] 22: 4, 24: 1; *Poa annua* [h] 23: 5, 24: 2; *Cardamine uliginosa* [h] 29: +, 50: 1; *Galega officinalis* [s] 29: r, 58: r; *Scrophularia scopolii* [h] 30: r, 36: r; *Allium paniculatum* [h] 45: r, 65: r; *Lysimachia punctata* [h] 52: r, 67: r; *Lathyrus niger* [h] 54: r, 67: r; *Centaurium erythraea* [h] 59: r, 67: +; *Lathyrus venetus* [h] 62: 1, 65: r; *Festuca heterophylla* [h] 67: +, 68: +; *Tanacetum parthenium* [h] 3: r; *Physalis alkekengi* [h] 4: +; *Anchusa officinalis* [h] 15: r; *Scutellaria galericulata* [h] 17: 1; *Stellaria media* [h] 18: r; *Cynosurus cristatus* [h] 22: 3; *Agrostis stolonifera* [h] 22: 3; *Bellis perennis* [h] 22: 2; *Bromus hordeaceus* [h] 22: 1; *Hordeum geniculatum* [h] 22: +; *Polygonum aviculare* [h] 23: 2; *Trifolium repens* var. *macrorrhizum* [h] 23: +; *Trifolium micranthum* [h] 23: +; *Myosotis alpestris* [h] 24: 1; *Alisma lanceolatum* [h] 24: 1; *Juncus bufonius* [h] 24: 1; *Trifolium resupinatum* var. *resupinatum* [h] 24: +; *Anthemis cotula* [h] 24: +; *Plantago major* [h] 30: r; *Chaerophyllum byzantium* [h] 31: +; *Chelidonium majus* [h] 31: r; *Limodorum abortivum* [h] 43: r; *Nectorascordum siculum* [h] 50: r; *Asparagus acutifolius* [h] 58: r; *Linaria genistifolia* [h] 61: +; *Luzula multiflora* [h] 67: +; *Tanacetum corymbosum* [h] 67: r; *Dorycnium graecum* [h] 69: r.

