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Phytosociological framework and conservation value of supratemperate riparian birch forest of the Northwestern Iberian Peninsula

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Abstract. We studied the downy birch forests that grow in the headwaters of rivers in the mountains in NW Iberian Peninsula and their differences from other previously described birch forests. To do this, an ordination analysis was done on a database of 342 relevés (144 unpublished). As a result, four riparian forest associations were recognized in the territory, all of them belonging to the suballiance *Saxifrago spathularis-Fraxinetalia excelsioris* (*Hyperico androsaemi-Alnion glutinosae*, *Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris*, *Salici-Populetea*). Two associations (*Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae* and *Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis*) have been previously described, but the other two (*Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis* and *Valeriano officinalis-Betuletum pubescentis*) are described here for the first time. We characterized their floristic composition, ecological features and distribution, and evaluated their conservation value under the criteria of the 92/43/CEE Community Directive, and with regard to national and regional lists of protected species.

Keywords: *Betula pubescens*; riparian forests; conservation value; Habitat Directive; NW Spain; N Portugal.

[es] Encuadre fitosociológico y valor de conservación de los abedulares riparios supratemplados del noroeste de la Península Ibérica

Resumen. En este trabajo se aborda el estudio de las comunidades de abedulares riparios presentes en los tramos de cabecera de diversos macizos montañosos del extremo NW Ibérico y su diferenciación frente a otros tipos de abedulares previamente descritos. Para ello se ha aplicado un análisis de ordenación a una base de datos conformada por 342 inventarios (144 inéditos). Como resultado, se reconocen cuatro asociaciones vegetales integradas en la subalianza *Saxifrago spathularis-Fraxinetalia excelsioris* (*Hyperico androsaemi-Alnion glutinosae*, *Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris*, *Salici-Populetea*). Dos de ellas (*Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae* y *Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis*) eran previamente conocidas mientras que las otras dos (*Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis* and *Valeriano officinalis-Betuletum pubescentis*) se dan a conocer aquí por primera vez. Para cada una de ellas se precisa su composición florística, ecología y distribución biogeográfica y se discute su valor de conservación en relación a los criterios establecidos en la Directiva Comunitaria 92/43/CEE así como a los catálogos nacionales y regionales de especies protegidas.

Palabras clave: *Betula pubescens*; bosques riparios; valor de conservación; Directiva Hábitats; NW España; N Portugal.

Introduction

Betula pubescens Erhr. (downy birch), the birch growing in the northwestern extreme of the Iberian Peninsula, has a very wide ecological amplitude with regard to climatic constraints (López González, 2001; Ruíz de la Torre, 2006), which allows it to be

part of many plant communities. It also tolerates waterlogging and successfully colonizes river banks, particularly in higher terrains where other species common in such environments, like alder (*Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn.) and common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.), cannot grow due to low winter temperatures.

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Gonçalves Aguiar (2000) explicitly recognized the existence of riparian birch forests in the NW Iberian mountains for the first time. He described a community dominated by *Salix atrocinerea* and *Betula celtiberica* from the mountains of Montesinho Natural Park (NE Portugal). Afterwards, Honrado *et al.* (2003) described the association *Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae* from the Peneda-Gerês Mountains (NW Portugal), and Rodríguez Gutiérrez (2010) described the association *Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis* from the Northern Galician Mountains and the neighboring ranges of NW Asturias (Figure 1).

Recently, other authors (Silva-Pando, 2009; Rodríguez Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2013, 2014; González de Paz, 2012) interpreted that the riparian birch forests of the W Cantabrian Range and the Galician-Duriensian ranges belong to the sub-association *salicetosum atrocinereae* of the climatophilous orocantabrian birch forests (ass. *Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum celtibericae*). However, when Izco *et al.* (1986) described this subassociation, they did not explicitly mention any particular relation with streams or water courses.

Other studies suggested that riparian birch forests could be present in other mountainous areas of NW Iberia, such as the Central Massif of Ourense (central-south Galicia), the Sanabria mountains and the Teleno Range (NW Castilla & León region), but neither their floristic composition nor their syntaxonomic status were explicitly discussed (cf. Castroviejo, 1977; Morla Juaristi, 1985; Navarro Andrés *et al.*, 1986; García López *et al.*, 1992; Romero Rodríguez & Romero Cuenca, 1996; Gómez Manzanque, 1997; Lara *et al.*, 2004; Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Bariego Hernández, 2009).

In a recent review, Biurrun *et al.* (2016) proposed the inclusion of the riparian birch forests from the mountains among Galicia, Castilla & León and N Portugal, from the western Cantabrian Range, and from the Moncayo Massif (Iberian Range) in a single association: *Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae*. This proposal, which is strongly homogenizing from both biogeographic and phytosociological points of view, is not coherent with the observed multiplicity of riparian forests in the Cantabrian-Atlantic and Orocantabric territories of the Iberian Peninsula (16 associations, Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 2002; Rivas-Martínez, 2011; Biurrun *et al.*, 2016).

In view of this state of affairs, we decided to collect more data in order to clarify the floristic composition, the phytosociological status, the distribution in the study area, and their connections with other climatophilous, edaphic-higrophilous and serial birch forests. This information will be used to discuss the conservation value of these forests.

Material and methods

Study area

The study area comprises the main mountain ranges shared by Galicia, Asturias, Castilla & León (NW Spain) and N Portugal, as well as the ranges of middle altitude (700-1200 m asl) constituting the Central and Northern Galician Mountains and NW Asturian Mountains (Figure 1). These territories are mainly siliceous and, following the bioclimatic classification of Rivas-Martínez (2007), most of them belong to the supratemperate bioclimatic horizon (cf. Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Ramil Rego, 2007). With regard to the biogeographical distribution of the relevés (following the proposal of Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Ramil-Rego, 2008), they belong to the Galician-Asturian, Inner Galician and Galician-Portuguese sectors of the Cantabro-Atlantic subprovince and to the Western Orocantabrian and Galician-Duriensian sectors of the Orocantabrian subprovince, all of them in the Eurosiberian Region (Figure 1).

Data collection

New floristic relevés were collected at 144 locations following the Zürich-Montpellier phytosociological method (Braun-Blanquet, 1979). Information about altitude, slope, exposition and lithology of each plot was also collected. A number of relevés previously published as climatophilous (65), serial (44) or riparian (89) birch forests were incorporated to the data set which finally contained 342 relevés.

Taxonomical considerations

In order to homogenize the nomenclature we followed the proposals of Flora Iberica (Castroviejo, 1986-2013) and Flora Europaea (Tutin *et al.*, 1964-1980), except for the genera *Adenostyles* Cass. and *Festuca* L., for which we followed the criteria of Dillenberger &

Kadereit (2012) and Devesa *et al.* (2013) respectively. We keep the name *Betula pubescens* Ehrh. used in Flora Iberica (http://www.floraiberica.es/miscelania/cambios_nomen.php) because: a) in our field work, we repeatedly observed a large variability (both between and within individuals) in the morphological features that several authors proposed as distinctive between *Betula pubescens* Ehrh. and *Betula celtiberica* Roth. & Vasc. (Peinado & Moreno, 1989; Ashburner & McAllister, 2013); this is in agreement with the observations of other authors (Moreno & Peinado, 1990; Gómez Manzanque, 1997; López González, 2001; Ruíz de la Torre, 2006); b) the maps and comments in Ashburner & McAllister (2013) about the distribution of birches in the NW Iberian Peninsula restrict their presence to the Cantabrian Range but,

actually, native birch populations do exist in all mountainous areas of this territory, as many previous studies showed; c) these authors also hypothesized that isolation of the populations of birches in the Cantabrian Range caused their genetic differentiation and that this justifies the existence of only one birch taxa (*Betula celtiberica* Roth. & Vasc.) in this area, but this isolation cannot be observed at present. Moreover, paleoenvironmental data about the main tree species of this area during the Pleistocene and Holocene (Ramil-Rego *et al.*, 2011) do not support this hypothesis; and d) recent genetic studies of european birches (Tsuda *et al.*, 2017) including samples from the NW Iberian Peninsula (Devesa da Rogueira in the Courel Range), the Central Range and the Iberian Range, concluded that all these samples belonged to *B. pubescens*.

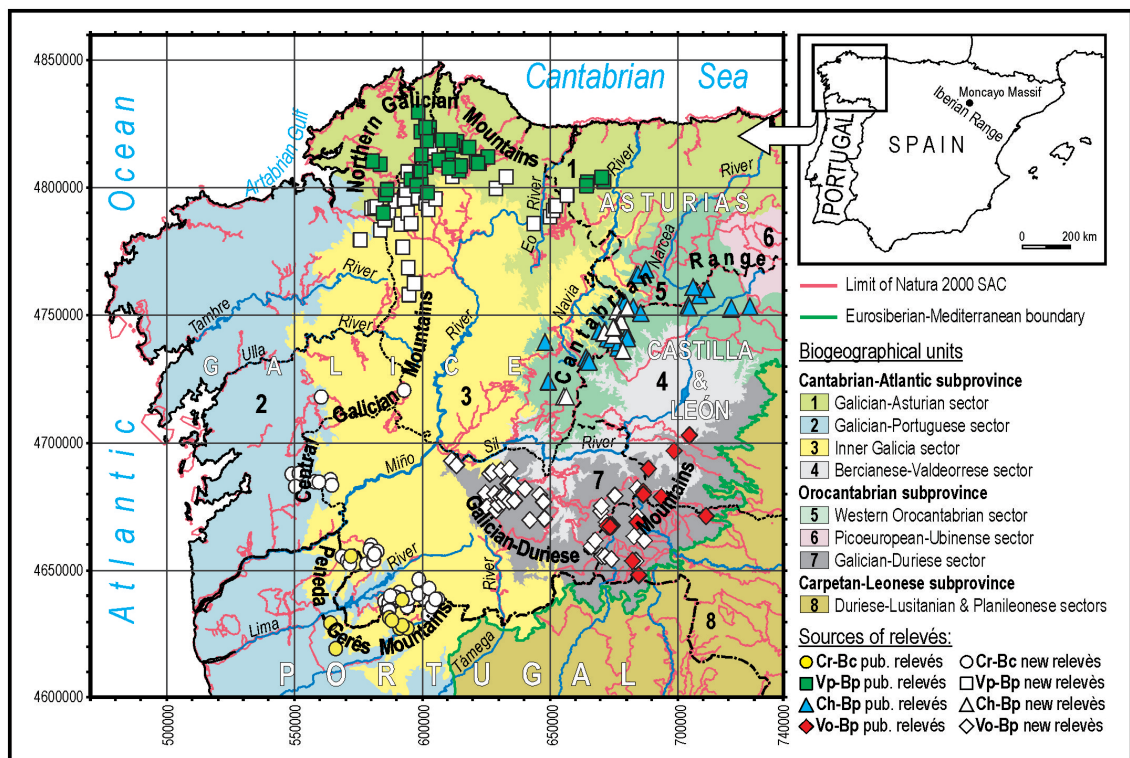


Figure 1. Map of the study area showing the locations of the relevés. Limits of biogeographical units adapted from Rodríguez Gutián & Ramil Rego (2008) and Rivas-Martínez *et al.* (2014). Limits of Natura 2000 SAC were taken from Natura 2000 Network Viewer (<http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu>). Acronyms of associations: Cr-Bc: *Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae*; Vp-Bp: *Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis*; Ch-Bp: *Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis*; Vo-Bp: *Valeriano officinalis-Betuletum pubescentis*.

In the case of *Viola palustris* L., we maintained the nomenclature used in our previous studies (Rodríguez Gutiérrez, 2010; Rodríguez Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2014), without using the infraspecific taxa recognized by several authors (Valentine *et al.*, 1968; Fernández Casado & Nava Fernández, 2015) because we observed a large variability in the characters differentiating subspecies *juresii* (Link ex K. Wein) Becker ex Coutinho from the typical subspecies. We followed Guerra & Cros (2006-2015) for the bryophyte nomenclature. For the taxonomical discussion we used the hierarchical scheme and groups of differential species for upper units proposed by Mucina *et al.* (2016) and Biurrun *et al.* (2016), respectively.

Multivariate analysis

In order to establish the floristic relationships between the studied birch forests, the data base was submitted to multivariate analysis. The plants determined at genus level were not included in the analysis. Neither were the bryophytes, which were not recorded in the majority of the previous studies.

The first step of the analysis was to transform the original Braun-Blanquet cover-abundance scale into a numerical scale ranging from 1 to 9 (van der Maarel, 1979). These transformed data were employed to calculate a distance matrix between relevés using the binomial distance (Willis & Anderson, 2003; Oksanen *et al.*, 2015). A non-metric multidimensional scaling of the distance matrix was done using the procedure metaMDS in the R package vegan (Oksanen *et al.*, 2015; R Core Team, 2015). The procedure was run 50 times using random initial configurations to arrive to a solution with the least stress.

Prior to the NMDS analysis we studied the influence of the species on the ordination results by deleting each species in turn and calculating a new distance matrix. The correlations (Mantel test) between the original and the pruned matrices allowed us to estimate the influence of each species on the distance structure, sort them from least to most influencing, and finally delete them successively to observe their joint influence on the distance matrix as before. We observed that deleting the species present in four or less relevés (342 in total) did not produce relevant changes in the distance matrix ($r^2 = 0,986$). Therefore, 238 out of 448 species were retained, which greatly facilitated

the posterior analysis of the relationships between the species and the ordination results. We verified that the elimination of species in the small groups of relevés from the Xurés/Gerês Mountains and the Moncayo Range (5 and 6 relevés respectively) did not modify their placement in the ordination results.

Conservation value

Natural habitat types list of the Annex I and plant species listed in annexes II and IV of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC as well as the Spanish and Portuguese national list and Galician, Asturian and Castilian-Leonese regional lists of protected species were used to establish the conservation value of the studied forests.

Results and Discussion

Ordination results

Figure 2 shows the position of the relevés in the planes defined by the NMDS axis 1 and 2, and 1 and 3. The scatter plots at the sides show the relationships between axis 1 and altitude, axis 2 and latitude (UTM-Y coordinates) and axis 3 and the number of taxa in the relevés. Longitude (UTM-X coordinates) was correlated with altitude (and axis 1) because the highest mountains lie in the westernmost part of the study area. The relationships, albeit clear, are not linear. These relationships indicate that there is a biogeographic component in the floristic structure of the data set.

The influence of species richness on the ordination results is interesting. It shows that most bibliographic relevés have relatively low species richness. In fact, these relevés contain between 7 and 59 taxa while the new ones contain between 22 and 73.

Differences between riparian and other birch forests

The NMDS scatter plots (Figure 2) show that the climatophilous and seral birch forests (grey symbols) occupy a small area of the ordination space, forming two compact and close groups, while the riparian forests (new and published, white symbols) cover the entire ordination space with a more disperse distribution. This indicates that there are clear floristic differences between the riparian and non-riparian forests,

and that the former are more floristically diverse. Appendix 1 shows the relative and absolute frequencies of apparition of each species in these two groups of forests. In short, 70 taxa (30,2%) were present only in the riparian forests and another 33 (14,2%) were found in more than 90% of the cases. The most common were (* denotes exclusive taxa): *Adenostyles pyrenaica*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Angelica major*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Arrhenatherum bulbosum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Brachypodium rupestre*, *Caltha palustris*, *Cardamine pratensis**, *Carex laevigata*, *Carex reuteriana**, *Centaurea nigra*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium**, *Cirsium palustre*, *Crocus serotinus**, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Deschampsia subtriflora*, *Epilobium obscurum**, *Euphorbia dulcis*, *Galium broterianum**, *Galium palustre**, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Juncus effusus**, *Lastrea limbosperma*, *Lathyrus linifolius**, *Lonicera hispanica**, *Narcissus asturiensis**, *Oenanthe crocata**, *Osmunda regalis**, *Peucedanum lancifolium**, *Primula acaulis*, *Prunella vulgaris**, *Ranunculus ficaria**, *Ranunculus repens**, *Rumex acetosa*, *Salix atrocinerea*, *Saxifraga lepismigena**, *Scrophularia auriculata**, *Valeriana officinalis**, *Viola palustris* and *Wahlenbergia hederacea**.

On the other hand, only *Agrostis castellana* and *Myosotis sylvatica* were exclusively associated to non-riparian forests and *Lonicera periclymenum* showed a strong preference for them.

The riparian forests of the Moncayo Massif (black circles) are close to (and in between) the climatophilous and serial forests in the ordination results. Therefore, they are not similar to the new relevés collected for this study. This might be caused by the small number of taxa in these relevés (between 17 and 24), the lack of many hygrophilous taxa usually associated with the riparian forests of the NW of the Iberian Peninsula, and the presence of many species common in the non-riparian forests.

Neither the hygrophilous variant of the association *Holco mollis-Betuletum celtibericae* (light grey squares) nor the subass. *salicetosum atrocineriae* of the association *Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum celtibericae* (dark grey diamonds) were very similar to the studied forests (see Table 1). Only the latter group should show some affinity with the riparian birch forests of the western Cantabrian Mountains investigated in this paper, but they lack many of the aforementioned riparian species made them floristically closer to the non-riparian forests.

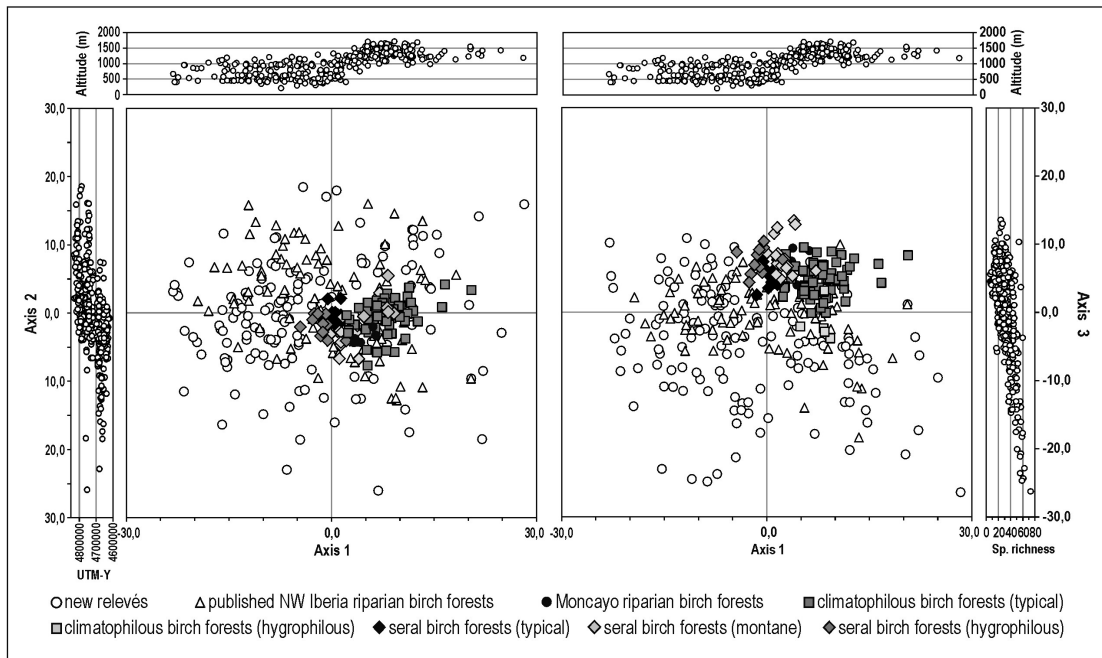


Figure 2. Ordination diagrams for the first three axis of the NMDS results. The side graphs show the relationship between the axes and the variables altitude (axis 1), latitude (as UTM-Y coordinate, axis 2) and species richness (axis 3).

The floristic variability of the riparian birch forests

The relationship among the geographic variables and the ordination axis and the existence of two previously described associations of riparian birch forests, suggested grouping the relevés by their biogeographic origin. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the relevés in four groups: N Galicia and NW Asturias forests (squares, labeled as Vp-Bp), W Cantabrian Range forests (triangles, Ch-Bp), Galician-Duriensian forests (diamonds, Vo-Bp) and Central Galician Range and N Portugal forests (circles, Cr-Bc). These groups were also represented in Figure 3, which contains the NMDS results for axis 1 and 2. The first three groups can be easily recognized in the

graph, where there are no or limited overlapping between them. The fourth group (Cr-Bc) is completely intermixed with the Vp-Bp and Vo-Bp groups. We consider that this distribution appears because the relevés in the left side of the graph come from the westernmost ranges (N and Central Galician and N Portugal ranges), of generally lower altitude, which make the relevés to share an elevated number of species. These overweighted the influence of the biogeographically restricted species on the ordination results, especially in the case of the Cr-Bc group. In this regard, this group plays the role of floristic bridge between the north and south of the study area. Note that the relevés of the Vo-Bp group from higher altitudes (at the right side) do not mix with the Vp-Bp or Cr-Bc groups.

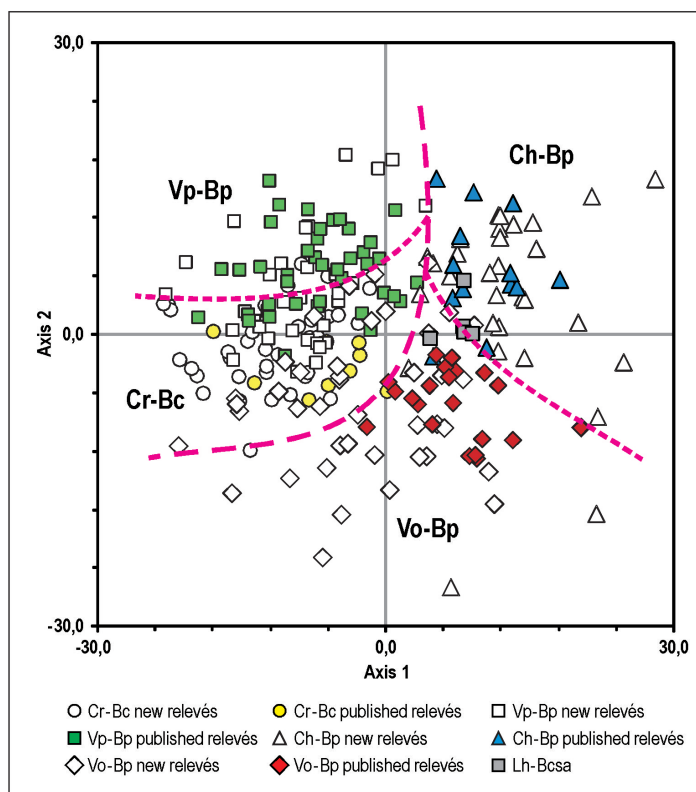


Figure 3. Representation of the four groups of riparian birch forests on the results of the ordination (axes 1 and 2). The relevés of the subass. *salictosum atrocineriae* of the ass. *Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum celtibericae* (labeled Lh-Bcsa) were also included.

Table 1. Synthetic table showing the floristic differences between the Norhtwestern riparian birch forests and the other birch forests types considered in this study. Taxa with frequencies greater than 50% are highlighted in grey. Except for differential taxa, only those present in more than three or four groups were selected.

Altitude (m asl)	Maximum	1205	1050	770	980	1460	1405	1370	1625	1640	1250	1270	1710	790	1140	490
Average		897	852	530	532	1205	1235	1284	1068	1372	1200	1198	1446	564	996	421
Minimum		400	470	400	205	950	1020	1200	650	1190	1090	1110	1200	400	850	360
Number of taxa	Maximum	66	47	58	49	75	61	25	68	44	24	29	36	17	29	23
Average		43.7	31.1	37.3	35.3	47.0	40.2	24.4	43.8	29.6	20.5	22.6	20.8	12.5	19.6	17.4
Minimum		27	20	24	16	25	18	23	23	18	17	12	9	8	13	13
Community type		Cr-	Cr-	Vp-	Vp-	Ch-	Ch-	Lh-	Vo-	Vo-	Rc-	Ej-	Lh-	Hm-	Hm-	Hm-
Group		Bc	Bc	Bp	Bp	Bp	Bp	Bcsa	Bp	Bp	Savm	Bc	Bct	Bct	Bem	Bch
Number of relevés		1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b	4	5a	5b	6	7	8	9a	9b	9c
N. relevé		37	9	35	40	30	13	5	42	21	6	5	55	16	17	11
N. relevé		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$E_1(>4,0\text{ m})+E_2(1,5-4,0\text{ m}):$																
<i>Betula pubescens</i>		94.6	100	97.1	97.5	100	100	100	97.6	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Erica arborea</i>		89.2	88.9	80.0	80.0	73.3	76.9	100	78.6	95.2	66.7	100	83.6	43.8	64.7	-
<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>		97.3	100	94.3	97.5	80.0	84.6	80.0	92.9	61.9	100	60.0	3.6	12.5	5.9	45.5
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		5.4	-	8.6	10.0	86.7	84.6	100	64.3	95.2	33.3	100	98.2	-	82.4	-
<i>Frangula alnus</i>		56.8	33.3	77.1	50.0	26.7	15.4	-	64.3	33.3	100	40.0	1.8	12.5	5.9	72.7
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>		10.8	-	31.4	25.0	73.3	76.9	40.0	28.6	42.9	66.7	60.0	50.9	18.8	47.1	9.1
<i>Corylus avellana</i>		13.5	22.2	20.0	32.5	80.0	84.6	60.0	54.8	19.0	50.0	-	30.9	-	29.4	9.1
<i>Genista florida</i>		37.8	33.3	5.7	2.5	26.7	30.8	20.0	40.5	38.1	-	60.0	32.7	-	41.2	-
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>		45.9	22.2	5.7	-	6.7	-	-	57.1	28.6	-	-	1.8	-	17.6	18.2
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		2.7	11.1	14.3	7.5	43.3	30.8	-	26.2	4.8	-	-	16.4	-	47.1	-
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>		13.5	22.2	22.9	17.5	3.3	7.7	-	11.9	14.3	-	-	3.6	12.5	17.6	18.2
<i>Castanea sativa</i>		10.8	11.1	14.3	20.0	3.3	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-	62.5	29.4	36.4
<i>Rosa gr. canina</i>		32.4	-	2.9	2.5	6.7	23.1	-	35.7	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		27.0	22.2	-	7.5	3.3	-	-	14.3	9.5	-	-	3.6	-	5.9	36.4
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		-	-	11.4	12.5	26.7	-	-	4.8	-	16.7	-	1.8	6.3	11.8	9.1
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>		5.4	-	25.7	7.5	3.3	-	-	2.4	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	54.5
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>		8.1	-	20.0	12.5	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	6.3	11.8	9.1
<i>Taxus baccata</i>		-	-	-	-	6.7	-	20.0	2.4	-	-	40.0	20.0	-	-	-
<i>Prunus avium</i>		-	22.2	2.9	-	10.0	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	11.8	-
$E_3(<1,5\text{ m})$																
Differential group species																
Cr-Bc																
<i>Anemone albida</i>		37.8	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.0	-	-	-	-
<i>Laserpitium thalictrifolium</i>		5.4	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.0	-	-	-	-
<i>Echium lusitanicum</i>		2.7	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hyacinthoides paivae</i>		32.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	-
<i>Agrostis x fouilladei</i>		-	44.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vp-Bp																
<i>Senecio nemorensis</i>		-	-	60.0	60.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63.6
<i>Anthoxanthum amarum</i>		-	-	20.0	12.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.3	6.3	11.8	-
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>		-	-	17.1	32.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>		-	-	8.6	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>		-	-	11.4	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45.5
<i>Myosotis martini</i>		-	-	17.1	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>		-	-	14.3	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>		-	-	11.4	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Erica mackaiana</i>		-	-	5.7	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.3	-	-
<i>Cytisus commutatus</i>		-	-	5.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ch-Bc																
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		-	-	-	-	13.3	15.4	20.0	-	-	83.3	20.0	9.1	-	11.8	-
<i>Quercus petraea</i>		-	-	-	-	26.7	46.2	-	-	-	-	-	7.3	-	5.9	-
<i>Daphne laureola</i>		-	-	-	-	13.3	7.7	80.0	-	-	-	-	5.5	-	11.8	-
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>		-	-	-	-	20.0	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	5.5	-	5.9	-
<i>Milium effusum</i>		-	-	-	-	16.7	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Cicerbita plumieri</i>		-	-	-	-	23.3	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Galium rotundifolium</i>		-	-	-	-	6.7	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Stellaria montana</i>		-	-	-	-	6.7	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Festuca altissima</i>		-	-	-	-	6.7	7.7	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Quercus robur</i> x <i>Q. petraea</i>		-	-	-	-	3.3	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	12.7	-	5.9	-

<i>Galium odoratum</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Primula columnae</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Veronica montana</i>	-	-	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	9.1
<i>Helleborus occidentalis</i>	-	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.3	-	-	-
<i>Astrantia major</i>	-	-	-	-	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Lasepitium merinoi</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	-	-	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	-	-	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vo-Bp															
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.9	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	9.1
<i>Rosa corymbifera</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.8	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	9.1
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.4	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pimpinella major</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rc-Sa															
<i>Rubus plicatus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	-	-	2.9	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	83.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	83.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Erica vagans</i>	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	27.3
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-
Vp-Bp+Cr-Bc															
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	16.2	44.4	31.4	35.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	16.2	11.1	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.3	-	-
<i>Crocus serotinus</i>	54.1	-	28.6	47.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	5.4	-	2.9	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Senecio doria</i>	2.7	11.1	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vp-Bp+Ch-Bc															
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	-	-	2.9	-	56.7	46.2	60.0	-	-	-	-	25.5	-	-	-
<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	-	-	2.9	5.0	36.7	23.1	20.0	-	-	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Scrophularia alpestris</i>	-	-	2.9	-	43.3	15.4	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Festuca gigantea</i>	-	-	-	2.5	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cr-Bc+Ch-Bp															
<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	5.4	11.1	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.9	-
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	5.4	-	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cr-Bc+Vo-Bp															
<i>Aquilegia dichroa</i>	51.4	44.4	-	-	-	-	-	42.9	47.6	-	20.0	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium broterianum</i>	48.6	22.2	-	-	-	-	-	33.3	19.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Paradisea lusitanica</i>	27.0	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	11.9	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	13.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	45.2	47.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Allium scorzonerifolium</i>	5.4	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Thalictrum speciosissimum</i>	10.8	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i>	10.8	44.4	-	-	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Myosotis cespitosa</i>	13.5	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	2.7	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.1
<i>Knautia nevadensis</i>	-	11.1	-	-	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ch-Bc+Vo-Bp															
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	-	-	-	-	50.0	38.5	60.0	54.8	71.4	83.3	-	30.9	-	5.9	-
<i>Doronicum pubescens</i>	-	-	-	-	10.0	23.1	-	4.8	14.3	-	-	23.6	-	-	-
<i>Aconitum neapolitanum</i>	-	-	-	-	26.7	15.4	-	7.1	28.6	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Narcissus pseudonarc. s.l.</i>	-	-	-	-	6.7	15.4	-	14.3	9.5	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	23.1	-	4.8	-	-	-	7.3	-	5.9	-
<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	7.7	-	2.4	-	-	-	1.8	-	5.9	-
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	7.1	9.5	16.7	-	7.3	-	-	-
<i>Poa chaixii</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	30.8	-	4.8	-	-	-	21.8	-	-	-
<i>Cardamine gallaecica</i>	-	-	-	-	26.7	15.4	-	9.5	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prunus padus</i>	-	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	7.1	28.6	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	7.1	23.8	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Veratrum album</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	7.1	9.5	-	-	9.1	-	-	-
<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	4.8	14.3	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Rosa villosa</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	26.2	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	7.1	23.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	-	-	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	5.5	-	-	-

<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	11.8	-
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	2.4	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	7.1	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	4.8	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	-	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	-	-	-	-	6.7	-	-	-	23.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vp-Bp+Cr-Bc+Vo-Bp															
<i>Quercus robur</i>	67.6	22.2	88.6	87.5	-	-	20.0	28.6	-	-	20.0	5.5	100	41.2	100
<i>Cirsium filipendulum</i>	24.3	11.1	8.6	2.5	-	-	-	7.1	-	-	20.0	-	6.3	-	18.2
<i>Pyrus cordata</i>	37.8	11.1	37.1	37.5	-	-	-	7.1	-	-	20.0	-	6.3	5.9	-
<i>Galium palustre</i>	18.9	-	28.6	7.5	-	-	-	7.1	9.5	16.7	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	13.5	-	17.1	20.0	-	-	-	9.5	-	50.0	20.0	-	-	-	-
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	51.4	55.6	54.3	55.0	-	-	-	26.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	13.5	22.2	31.4	12.5	-	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	32.4	-	5.7	5.0	-	-	-	19.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.2
<i>Scrophularia herminii</i>	8.1	11.1	5.7	-	-	-	-	7.1	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	8.1	-	11.4	12.5	-	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vp-Bp+Ch-Bc+Vo-Bp															
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	2.7	-	11.4	-	13.3	15.4	-	23.8	23.8	66.7	-	52.7	6.3	52.9	9.1
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	-	-	5.7	-	46.7	53.8	60.0	16.7	28.6	-	-	18.2	-	-	-
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	-	-	8.6	2.5	80.0	69.2	100	4.8	4.8	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Adenostyles pyrenaica</i>	-	-	2.9	25.0	70.0	76.9	80.0	9.5	28.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Salix caprea</i>	-	-	2.9	-	43.3	23.1	20.0	11.9	14.3	-	-	5.5	-	5.9	-
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	-	-	-	5.0	43.3	7.7	-	16.7	4.8	-	-	9.1	-	-	-
<i>Silene dioica</i>	-	-	8.6	15.0	50.0	30.8	-	33.3	14.3	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	-	-	-	2.5	10.0	7.7	-	7.1	19.0	-	-	10.9	-	-	-
<i>Carex remota</i>	-	-	5.7	5.0	10.0	7.7	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.2
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	-	-	2.9	-	20.0	15.4	-	7.1	4.8	-	-	-	-	11.8	-
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	-	-	42.9	20.0	3.3	7.7	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Narcissus asturiensis</i>	-	-	8.6	30.0	23.3	30.8	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	-	-	5.7	5.0	26.7	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	-	-	5.7	15.0	3.3	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cr-Bc+Ch-Bc+Vo-Bp															
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	2.7	11.1	-	-	13.3	7.7	-	9.5	28.6	-	60.0	20.0	-	-	-
<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i>	13.5	11.1	-	-	56.7	53.8	20.0	19.0	19.0	-	-	23.6	-	-	-
<i>Ranunculus platanifolius</i>	8.1	-	-	-	50.0	53.8	-	31.0	38.1	-	20.0	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Festuca merinoi</i>	2.7	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	7.1	19.0	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	-	11.1	-	-	16.7	-	-	19.0	14.3	-	-	-	-	11.8	-
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	5.4	-	-	-	26.7	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Characteristics															
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	94.6	100	94.3	90.0	96.7	84.6	80.0	97.6	71.4	100	-	7.3	6.3	-	9.1
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	89.2	77.8	91.4	95.0	80.0	84.6	100	64.3	42.9	-	100	30.9	43.8	-	36.4
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	73.0	55.6	20.0	17.5	63.3	76.9	80.0	59.5	42.9	-	-	1.8	0.0	-	-
<i>Viola palustris</i>	83.8	44.4	97.1	70.0	26.7	46.2	-	50.0	9.5	-	40.0	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Carex reuteriana</i>	54.1	100	37.1	57.5	10.0	-	-	52.4	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	32.4	-	22.9	5.0	3.3	15.4	-	64.3	19.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	2.7	22.2	-	5.0	3.3	-	-	7.1	-	-	40.0	-	-	-	-
Characteristics of <i>Fagetalia sylvaticae</i>															
<i>Primula acaulis</i>	54.1	33.3	5.7	15.0	36.7	7.7	20.0	69.0	28.6	-	40.0	1.8	-	5.9	-
<i>Ranunculus tuberosus</i>	2.7	-	5.7	12.5	16.7	23.1	60.0	9.5	-	-	-	5.5	-	11.8	-
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	2.7	-	-	5.0	26.7	7.7	-	2.4	-	-	-	3.6	-	11.8	-
Characteristics of <i>Quercetalia roboris</i>															
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	75.7	66.7	85.7	85.0	30.0	30.8	20.0	52.4	38.1	-	60.0	23.6	37.5	94.1	81.8
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	89.2	33.3	71.4	92.5	86.7	46.2	-	50.0	28.6	-	-	12.7	100	94.1	81.8
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	70.3	66.7	14.3	35.0	96.7	76.9	100	64.3	66.7	50.0	20.0	83.6	-	-	-
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	18.9	-	22.9	50.0	70.0	100	100	47.6	66.7	100	100	98.2	25.0	23.5	-
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	35.1	33.3	20.0	62.5	70.0	69.2	80.0	33.3	28.6	-	60.0	70.9	-	5.9	-
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	16.2	-	40.0	52.5	63.3	76.9	40.0	16.7	9.5	16.7	20.0	54.5	25.0	5.9	-
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	16.2	-	22.9	45.0	43.3	53.8	-	16.7	14.3	-	-	58.2	6.3	11.8	-
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	18.9	-	2.9	-	10.0	30.8	-	19.0	33.3	16.7	40.0	7.3	-	-	-
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	18.9	77.8	8.6	2.5	13.3	7.7	-	33.3	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Physospermum cornubiense</i>	8.1	-	2.9	5.0	10.0	23.1	-	16.7	-	-	60.0	3.6	-	-	-

Characteristics of <i>Quercetea robori-petraeae</i> and <i>Carpino-Fageteta</i>															
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	54.1	22.2	51.4	25.0	50.0	38.5	-	78.6	57.1	-	60.0	10.9	12.5	70.6	45.5
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	67.6	77.8	82.9	80.0	56.7	38.5	-	45.2	47.6	-	60.0	12.7	25.0	5.9	27.3
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	48.6	44.4	68.6	85.0	40.0	38.5	-	50.0	-	-	40.0	10.9	43.8	35.3	90.9
<i>Crepis lamsanoides</i>	70.3	66.7	28.6	17.5	80.0	76.9	20.0	73.8	71.4	-	40.0	52.7	-	17.6	-
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	21.6	-	2.9	-	43.3	30.8	100	50.0	33.3	33.3	-	30.9	12.5	11.8	9.1
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	40.5	22.2	48.6	37.5	50.0	76.9	-	52.4	42.9	-	-	76.4	18.8	70.6	9.1
<i>Euphorbia dulcis</i>	97.3	88.9	82.9	60.0	63.3	76.9	100	66.7	-	-	20.0	10.9	-	17.6	-
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	18.9	33.3	40.0	52.5	26.7	23.1	-	38.1	28.6	-	-	14.5	-	5.9	-
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	10.8	-	14.3	15.0	26.7	7.7	-	16.7	4.8	-	20.0	14.5	-	5.9	-
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	10.8	-	22.9	37.5	86.7	84.6	100	33.3	33.3	-	-	45.5	-	5.9	-
<i>Lonicera hispanica</i>	75.7	77.8	77.1	75.0	43.3	38.5	-	66.7	28.6	100	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	24.3	11.1	11.4	7.5	70.0	76.9	-	40.5	-	-	-	60.0	-	11.8	-
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	21.6	-	11.4	5.0	13.3	30.8	20.0	23.8	-	-	-	7.3	-	35.3	-
<i>Hieracium gr. murorum</i>	24.3	-	2.9	-	23.3	15.4	-	31.0	4.8	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	7.7	20.0	-	-	-	60.0	14.5	56.3	70.6	81.8
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	32.4	-	28.6	50.0	13.3	-	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	5.9	-
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	8.1	-	-	5.0	3.3	7.7	-	-	-	-	-	9.1	-	-	-
Other species															
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	56.8	11.1	62.9	57.5	40.0	46.2	40.0	21.4	23.8	66.7	40.0	40.0	100	100	54.5
<i>Omphalodes nitida</i>	78.4	88.9	51.4	35.0	53.3	69.2	80.0	50.0	28.6	-	60.0	10.9	12.5	17.6	9.1
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	37.8	22.2	20.0	5.0	13.3	23.1	-	31.0	23.8	16.7	40.0	3.6	12.5	-	18.2
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	73.0	44.4	48.6	40.0	3.3	15.4	-	14.3	4.8	-	-	23.6	18.8	47.1	-
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	62.2	22.2	57.1	45.0	20.0	23.1	-	16.7	-	-	-	7.3	50.0	35.3	81.8
<i>Rubus sp.</i>	97.3	-	97.1	97.5	66.7	61.5	-	76.2	33.3	-	80.0	-	100	100	90.9
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	13.5	-	17.1	2.5	43.3	30.8	-	16.7	14.3	-	-	21.8	6.3	11.8	-
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	32.4	44.4	20.0	17.5	26.7	15.4	-	38.1	14.3	-	-	9.1	-	5.9	-
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	37.8	22.2	28.6	17.5	53.3	46.2	40.0	52.4	23.8	-	-	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	32.4	22.2	17.1	2.5	10.0	7.7	20.0	28.6	4.8	16.7	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Allium victorialis</i>	16.2	-	5.7	22.5	26.7	53.8	-	35.7	47.6	-	60.0	12.7	-	-	-
<i>Angelica major</i>	37.8	11.1	45.7	42.5	36.7	23.1	-	45.2	47.6	-	-	7.3	-	-	-
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	5.4	-	17.1	22.5	10.0	15.4	-	26.2	19.0	-	-	7.3	-	5.9	-
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	21.6	33.3	51.4	45.0	10.0	23.1	-	26.2	-	-	40.0	1.8	-	-	-
<i>Brachypodium rupestre</i>	78.4	33.3	71.4	55.0	16.7	7.7	-	64.3	-	-	-	-	-	17.6	18.2
<i>Deschampsia subtriflora</i>	73.0	33.3	71.4	87.5	6.7	46.2	-	23.8	-	-	-	-	6.3	-	27.3
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	51.4	33.3	8.6	12.5	26.7	7.7	20.0	47.6	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	13.5	22.2	25.7	22.5	6.7	15.4	-	14.3	9.5	33.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex laevigata</i>	59.5	33.3	45.7	50.0	20.0	23.1	20.0	21.4	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	64.9	44.4	60.0	47.5	26.7	-	-	42.9	-	-	-	1.8	6.3	29.4	-
<i>Festuca gr. rubra</i>	51.4	-	11.4	-	33.3	23.1	-	35.7	-	-	-	10.9	6.3	23.5	-
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	8.1	-	14.3	2.5	6.7	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	5.5	12.5	-	18.2
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	16.2	-	5.7	15.0	13.3	-	-	33.3	19.0	-	-	3.6	-	17.6	-
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	45.9	11.1	48.6	30.0	53.3	46.2	-	45.2	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex echinata</i>	2.7	-	2.9	5.0	3.3	7.7	-	2.4	4.8	100	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	2.7	-	2.9	-	6.7	15.4	20.0	-	-	-	-	25.5	-	11.8	-
<i>Lastrea limbosperma</i>	2.7	-	14.3	17.5	76.7	76.9	-	2.4	-	-	-	5.5	-	-	-
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	24.3	-	11.4	-	33.3	23.1	-	31.0	19.0	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Arrhenatherum bulbosum</i>	37.8	66.7	28.6	52.5	6.7	-	-	19.0	-	-	-	3.6	-	-	-
<i>Pseudarrhenatherum longif.</i>	8.1	11.1	2.9	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	6.3	-	18.2
<i>Peucedanum lancifolium</i>	21.6	11.1	20.0	15.0	6.7	7.7	-	21.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Saxifraga lepismigena</i>	8.1	22.2	5.7	12.5	43.3	53.8	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sphagnum auriculatum</i>	35.1	22.2	8.6	7.5	16.7	-	-	9.5	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ulex galli</i>	-	-	5.7	7.5	3.3	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	6.3	5.9	27.3
<i>Avenula sulcata</i>	-	-	5.7	10.0	3.3	7.7	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	6.3	5.9	-
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositif.</i>	13.5	-	8.6	2.5	33.3	38.5	-	21.4	23.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>	32.4	-	8.6	-	6.7	7.7	-	9.5	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	21.6	22.2	11.4	5.0	13.3	-	-	11.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	5.4	-	5.7	2.5	13.3	-	-	19.0	19.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	10.8	-	25.7	-	6.7	-	-	9.5	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	18.2
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	8.1	-	2.9	7.5	-	7.7	-	2.4	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	5.4	22.2	2.9	5.0	6.7	-	-	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium aparine</i>	5.4	-	5.7	-	3.3	-	-	26.2	-	-	-	1.8	-	5.9	-
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	13.5	22.2	-	2.5	20.0	-	-	9.5	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	29.7	-	25.7	22.5	13.3	-	-	11.9	9.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	8.1	11.1	-	-	-	7.7	-	9.5	4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Taraxacum</i> gr. <i>officinale</i>	2.7	-	2.9	5.0	10.0	-	-	23.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	10.8	-	14.3	15.0	3.3	-	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	2.7	-	14.3	2.5	6.7	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	2.7	-	8.6	-	-	7.7	20.0	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	5.4	-	-	2.5	10.0	-	-	11.9	4.8	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium papillosum</i>	10.8	-	-	-	3.3	7.7	-	7.1	9.5	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	-	-	-	2.5	3.3	7.7	-	11.9	4.8	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-	28.6	16.7	-	1.8	-	11.8
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	-	11.1	-	2.5	-	7.7	-	21.4	-	-	-	1.8	-	-

Sources of relevés: Cr-Bc: atlantic-orolusitanian and galician-portuguese riparian birch forests: 1 (1a): Table 2; 2 (1b): Honrado et al. (2003), Table 1: 9 rel. Vp-Bp: N galician-asturian riparian birch-forests: 3 (2a): Table 3; 4 (2b): Rodríguez Gutiérrez, M.A. (2010): Table 6: 40 rel. Ch-Bp: western orocantabrian riparian birch-forests: 5 (3a): Table 4; 6 (3b): Silva-Pando (2009), Table 3: rel. 3, 4, 12; Rodríguez-Gutián et al. (2013), Table 10: rel. 1, 2; Rodríguez Gutiérrez et al. (2014), Table 10: rel. 9-16. Lh-Bcsa: supratemperate western orocantabrian birch forests (hygrophilous): 7 (4): Izco et al. (1986), Table 4: rel. 8-12. Vo-Bp: galician-duriensian riparian birch-forests: 8 (5a): Table 5; 9 (5b): Gonçalves Aguiar (2000), Table 125: 2 rel.; Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Bariego Hernández (2009), Table 1: rel. 1-5, 7-9, 12, 13, 15; González de Paz (2012), Table 6.117: 8 rel. Rc-Savm: Moncayo riparian birch forests: 10 (6): Navarro (1989): Table 10: 6 rel. Ej-Bc: supratemperate atlantic-orolusitanian birch forests: 11 (7): Costa et al. (2012), rel. page 86; Pulgar (1990), Table 4: 4 rel. Lh-Bct: supratemperate western orocantabrian birch forests (typical); 12 (8): Izco et al. (1986), Table 3: rel. 1-7; Ortiz (1986), Table 91: 6 rel.; Fernández Prieto & Vázquez (1987), Table 4: 9 rel.; Puente García (1988), Table 72: 10 rel.; Costa et al. (1990), Table 1: 4 rel.; Romero Rodríguez & Romero Cuenca (1996), Table 10: rel. 1, 3; Rodríguez Gutiérrez et al. (2000), Table 1: rel. 1; Romero Rodríguez & Romero Cuenca (2004), Table 4: 4 rel.; Silva-Pando (2009), Table 1: 10 rel. Hm-Bct: seral galician-asturian and galician-portuguese birch forests (typical): 13 (9a): Amigo & Romero (1998): Table 1: 16 rel. Hm-Bcm: seral western orocantabrian birch forests ("montane"): 14 (9b): Amigo (1984), Table 12: 9 rel.; Amigo & Romero (1998), Table 3: rel. 1-5; Rodríguez Gutiérrez et al. (2000), Table 1: rel. 8; Rodríguez-Gutián et al. (2013), Table 3: rel. 5, 6. Hm-Bch: seral galician-asturian and galician-portuguese birch forests (hygrophilous): 15 (9c): Amigo & Romero (1998): Table 2: 11 rel.

The existence of a pair of Ch-Bp relevés at the bottom of Figure 3, collected in the eastern extreme of the River Sil headwaters, near to several Vo-Bp relevés collected in the Sanabria Mountains, suggests a floristic relationship between these two areas, but a more detailed sampling would be needed to confirm it.

These four groups can be related to previously described forests: northern Galician-Asturian birch forests (akin to those in association *Viola palustris*-*Betuletum pubescentis*), birch forests of the SW Galician and NW Portuguese ranges (akin to those in association *Carici reuterianae*-*Betuletum celtibericae*), birch forests of the SE Galician, NE Portuguese and NW Castile-Leon mountains (akin to those described in Sanabria by Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Bariego Hernández (2008) and birch forests of the W extreme of the Cantabrian Range (Courel, Ancares, Muniellos and Lacianna mountains), in part identified with the sub-ass. *salicetosum atrocineriae* of the association *Luzulo henriquesii*-*Betuletum celtibericae* by several authors. Table 1 sketches the differences in floristic composition among these four groups and between these and the other non riparian forests discussed in this study. Figure 4 contains a dichotomic key for the floristic discrimination of these forests.

The distinctive floristic feature shared by all these communities was the almost complete absence of thermophilous species, such as *Arbutus unedo*, *Asplenium onopteris*, *Laurus nobilis*, *Ruscus aculeatus* and *Tamus communis*, considered as bioclimatic indicators of the temperate and, to a lesser extent, the mesotemperate horizon in the territory (cf. Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Ramil Rego 2007). These species were only found in eight of the 227 relevés. This is consistent with the fact that almost 74% of the sampled forests were located above an altitude of 700 m, considered as an average value for the lower limit of the supratemperate bioclimatic horizon at a regional level (Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Ramil Rego, 2007).

The following is a detailed description of the floristic, ecologic and biogeographic characteristics of these communities.

Atlantic-orolusitanian and Galician-portuguese (meso-)supratemperate riparian birch forests (*Carici reuterianae*-*Betuletum celtibericae* Honrado, P. Alves, Aguiar, Ortiz & FB Caldas ex Honrado 2004)

Forest community described by Honrado *et al.* (2003) and typified later by Honrado (2004), from data collected in higher mesotemperate and supratemperate territories in the W and S slopes of the Peneda-Gerês Mountains (N Portugal).

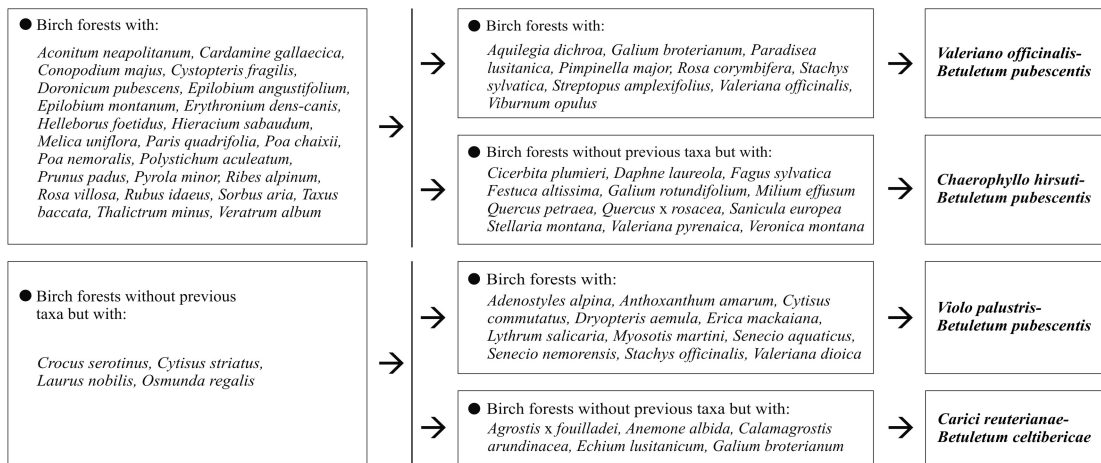


Figure 4. Floristic key to differentiate the riparian birch forests of the NW Iberian Peninsula.

Our data showed that this association is also common in the Spanish slopes of those mountains, between 900 and 1200 m asl (lower supratemperate horizon), from the vicinity of the Miño River to the Támeiga River valley (Figures 1 and 5, Table 2). Nevertheless, it was not detected by Pulgar (1999) in his study of natural vegetation of the Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés Natural Park, a protected area that includes the main part of these mountains, although its presence was implicitly admitted by this author in later studies (Pulgar, 2005; Pulgar & Manso, 2010).

We have also recognized this community in the headwaters of several rivers in the Central Galician Mountains, between the Ulla and the Miño river valleys. In these cases, the sampling sites were located in lower altitudes, between 500 and 800 m. We attribute this fact to two causes. Firstly, the proximity of these mountains to the coast produces a more oceanic climate and a local descent of the supratemperate horizon to 600 m (cf. Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Ramil Rego, 2007). Secondly, the torrential character of many of these rivers prevents the growth of alders (*Alnus glutinosa*) and ashes (*Fraxinus excelsior*, *F. angustifolia*; Figure 3), which dominate the riparian communities at the same altitudes in neighboring, but more inner, areas. The mechanical effect of the running waters on the stability of the riverbanks was also mentioned by Honrado *et al.* (2003) as a relevant ecological factor in the western and southern slopes of the Peneda-Gerês Mountains, NW Portugal, which receive a considerable amount of annual rainfall, as well. The substrates on which these forests grow are mainly granitic, although in the Cen-

tral Galician Mountains they also appear on acid metamorphic rocks (schists, greywackes and quartzites) (IGME, 2017).

In its commonest form (typical variant), these forests are clearly dominated by birches but other tree species are also present, such as *Salix atrocinerea*, *Quercus robur*, *Frangula alnus*, *Pyrus cordata* and, seldom, *Quercus pyrenaica* (Figure 5, photos 1a and 1b). In the lower stratum grow *Erica arborea* and many herbaceous species such as *Arrhenatherum bulbosum*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Brachypodium rupestre*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Crepis lampanoides*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Euphorbia dulcis*, *Galium broterianum*, *Hedera hibernica*, *Holcus mollis*, *Lonicera hispanica*, *Luzula sylvatica*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Omphalodes nitida*, *Polypodium vulgare*, *Teucrium scorodonia* and *Viola palustris*. A facies dominated by *Salix atrocinerea* grows where this community has been disturbed (by felling, for example, to enhance the productivity of hay meadows or arable lands in the riverside) or in stretches of more torrential character with rocky or very unstable substrates (Figure 5, photos 1a and 1b). In places where these forests contact with riparian black alder forests we observed a variant with *Alnus glutinosa*. A supratemperate variant with *Sorbus aucuparia* can be found in higher sites.

Distribution: Inner Galician (Ulloa-Deza, Ourense-Luguese, Penedese and Geresian subsectors) and Galician-Portuguese (Rías Baixas subsector) sectors.

Differential taxa with respect to other riparian birch forests: *Anemone trifolia* subsp. *albida*, *Echium lusitanicum*, *Senecio doria*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Violo-Betuletum*: *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Allium scorzonerifolium*, *Calamagrostis arundinacea*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Galium broterianum*, *Lilium martagon*, *Paradisea lusitanica*, *Polygonum bistorta*, *Ranunculus platanifolius*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Chaerophyllo-Betuletum*: *Allium scorzonerifolium*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Calamagrostis arundinacea*, *Fraxinus angustifolia*, *Galium broterianum*, *Paradisea lusitanica*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Valeriano-Betuletum*: *Osmunda regalis*.

Note: deeper studies are needed to clarify the relationships between this association and both the Atlantic-Oroportuguese climatophilous birch forests (*Eryngio juresiani-Betuletum celtibericae*, Costa *et al.* 2012) and those with higrophilous features described by Pulgar (1999) in the Spanish Serra do Xurés.

Western Cantabrian and Northern Galician-Portuguese meso-supratemperate riparian birch forests (*Viola palustris-Betuletum pubescentis* Rodríguez Gutiérrez 2010)

Riparian birch forests described by Rodríguez Gutiérrez (2010) from a set of relevés collected in the headwaters of the rivers flowing into the W extreme of the Cantabric Sea and into the Artabrian Gulf, as well as in the most northern headwaters in the Miño River basin, in lower supratemperate and higher mesotemperate territories. We also observed them in more western and southern areas (Figures 1 and 5, Table 3): in the sources of several tributaries of the rivers Tambre and Miño in the northern half of the Central Galician Mountains to the north of the Ulla River catchment, and in the mountains placed near the boundary of Galicia and NE Asturias and in the middle basin of the Eo River (Figure 5, photos 2a and 2b). These forests grow on a variety of highly humiferous and acid soils formed from metamorphic rocks (slates, schists, quartzites), granites and detritic cenozoic sediments (IGME, 2017).

These birch forests are characterized by the frequent presence of *Salix atrocinerea*, *Quercus robur*, *Pyrus cordata* and *Frangula alnus* as companion trees, *Lonicera hispanica* and *Hedera hibernica* as the most common vines and *Angelica major*, *Arrhenatherum bulbosum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Brachypodium rupestre*, *Carex laevigata*, *Centaurea rivularis*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *D. dilatata*, *Euphorbia dulcis*,

Holcus mollis, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rubus* sp., *Senecio nemorensis*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Teucrium scorodonia* and *Viola palustris*, as the most constant herbaceous plants in the understory. As in the previous community, a variant with *Alnus glutinosa* can be found in stretches were birch and alder forests contact, as well as a *Salix atrocinerea* facies in anthropized zones close to crop fields or haymeadows (Table 3).

Distribution: Galician-Asturian (Western Cantabrian subsector) and Galician-Portuguese (Chairego subsector) sectors.

Differential taxa with respect to other riparian birch forests: *Cytisus commutatus*, *Dryopteris aemula*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Myosotis martinii*, *Senecio nemorensis*, *Stachys officinalis*, *Valeriana dioica*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Carici-Betuletum*: *Adenostyles alpina*, *Narcissus asturiensis*, *Ranunculus tuberosus*, *Senecio nemorensis*, *Silene dioica*, *Valeriana pyrenaica*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Chaerophyllo-Betuletum*: *Cirsium filipendulum*, *Crocus serotinus*, *Cytisus striatus*, *Galium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Pyrus cordata*, *Quercus robur*, *Scrophularia auriculata*, *Scutellaria minor*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Valeriano-Betuletum*: *Crocus serotinus*, *Narcissus asturiensis*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Valeriana montana*, *Valeriana pyrenaica*.

Western orocantabrian supratemperate riparian birch forests (*Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis* ass. nova hoc loco)

Riparian birch forests growing in supratemperate areas of the headwaters of rivers in the western Cantabrian Range (Navia, Narcea and Sil river basins), on acid metamorphic substrates (slates, schists, quartzites, sandstones) or, occasionally, on granites (Table 4). Birch is usually accompanied by *Salix atrocinerea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Quercus petraea* or *Corylus avellana*, and the most constant species at ground level are *Adenostyles alpina*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Chaerophyllum hirsutum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Crepis lampsanoides*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Erica arborea*, *Euphorbia hyberna*, *Holcus mollis*, *Lastrea limbosperma*, *Luzula sylvatica*, *Omphalodes nitida*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Ranunculus platanifolius*, *Rubus* sp., *Saxifragalepismigena*, *S. spathularis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Valeriana montana*.

Other species: Characteristics E₁(-4,0 m)+E₂(1,5-4,0 m): *Laurus nobilis* + in 16 and 1 in 17; *Sambucus nigra* 1 in 24 and 25; *Acer pseudoplatanus* 1 in 4; *Fraxinus angustifolia* r in 26. Characteristics of association and upper units: *Allium scorzonerifolium* 1 in 20 and 2 in 29; *Solanum dulcamara* r in 12; *Brachypodium sylvaticum* + in 20. Characteristics of *Quercetea robori-petraeae* and *Carpino-Fagetea: Physospermum cornubiense* + in 7, 28 and 1 in 17; *Pulmonaria longifolia* + in 15, 26 and 32; *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* 1 in 1 and 4; *Potentilla sterilis* 1 in 1 and + in 4; *Solidago virgaurea* 1 in 16 and + in 34; *Mercurialis perennis* 2 in 2; *Ranunculus tuberosus* + in 16; *Lilium martagon* and *Melampyrum pratense* + in 23. Other species: *Polygonatum odoratum* + in 1 and 23, 1 in 4; *Plantago lanceolata* + in 4, 23 and 28; *Hieracium dumosum* + in 6, 7 and 29; *Carex ptililifera* + in 6, 19 and 28; *Orobanchae* sp. + in 10 and 23, r in 17; *Sibborthia europaea* + in 16, 17 and 30; *Ulex minor* + in 16 and 34, r in 17; *Scrophularia herminii* + in 17, 24 and 37; *Saxifraga lepisomigena* + in 17, 29 and 30; *Pseudarrhenatherum longifolium* + in 19, 32 and 35; *Glandora prostrata* + in 21 and 33, r in 32; *Asphodelus ovoideus* + in 22, 23 and 33; *Succisa pratensis* + in 25, 26 and 1 in 36; *Carex carophyllae* and *Carex carophyllae* + in 5 and 25; *Platytypidium riparioides* 1 in 5 and 37; *Ranunculus bulbosus* 1 in 9 and + in 22; *Campamula lusitanica* + in 10 and 14; *Prunella grandiflora* 1 in 10 and + in 22; *Polygonum bistorta* + in 11 and 1 in 24; *Galium aparine* + in 14 and 15; *Calluna vulgaris* + in 16 and 22; *Climopodium vulgare* + in 16 and 23; *Danthonia decumbens* + in 16 and 25; *Jasione montana* + in 16 and 34; *Lamium maculatum* + in 25 and r in 30; *Mentha suaveolens* + in 24 and 26; *Mniium* sp. + in 26 and 1 in 36; *Narcissus bulbocodium* + in 16 and 34; *Oxyrrhynchium hians* 1 in 5 and 37; *Pentaglottis sempervirens* + in 24 and 26; *Serratula tinctoria* + in 9 and 22; *Urtica dioica* + in 12 and 24; *Cardamine hirsuta* and *Hieracium vulgatum* + in 3; *Senecio doria* + in 8; *Ajuga pyramidalis* 1, *Hieracium pilosella* + in 9; *Festuca merinoi* 1 in 10; *Juglans regia* (pl.) r, *Geranium molle* + in 12; *Trifolium pratense* + in 13; *Epilobium* sp. + in 14; *Agrostis duriei*, *Andryala integrifolia*, *Linaria triornithophora* and *Trifolium repens* + in 16; *Carex verticillatum* + in 17; *Galium saxatile* and *Hieracium* sp. + in 23; *Rumex obtusifolius* + in 24; *Achillea millefolium*, *Apium nodiflorum* and *Limnitis pseudacorus* + in 25; *Polygonum* sp. R, *Glyceria declinata* and *Juncus articulatus* + in 26; *Ruscus aculeatus* and *Asplenium onopteris* + in 30; *Carex echinata* and *Picris longifolia*+ in 32; *Carex binervis* r, *Lastrea limbosperma*, *Nardus stricta*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Silene vulgaris* and *Ulex europaeus* + in 34; *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Sphagnum palustre* 1 in 36; *Taraxacum* gr. *officinale* r in 37.

Localities: all relevés from Spain (ES) or Portugal (P); geographical coordinates: UTM, datum ETRS 89, 29T, in brackets. 1: (ES) Pontevedra: Fornelos de Montes, As Estacas, road Maceira-Verducido, left side of Parada river (548, 4688); 2: (ES) Pontevedra: Fornelos de Montes, Bustelos, Regueiro de Porta Marcos, downstream Ponte da Careixa (549, 4683); 3: (ES) Pontevedra: Fornelos de Montes, A Laxe, A Airoa, Rego de Valdohome (551, 4688); 4: (ES) Pontevedra: O Covelo, A Graña, meeting of Regueiro da Lavandeira and Tea river, upstream Ponte Abuña (557, 4685); 5: (ES) Orense: Avión, Nieva, A Fraga, Rio Tea (559, 4685); 6: (ES) Pontevedra: Forcarei, Serra do Candán, Rego do Castiñeiro (559, 4718); 7: (ES) Orense: Avión, Cortegazas, upstream of Rego dos Fontás (563, 4686); 8: (ES) Orense: Ribadavia, Vilar de Condes, Covelo, Regato da Freixa (563, 4684); 9: (ES) Lugo: Chantada, Argozón, Gordón, Monte Costa do Faro (592, 4721); 10: (P) Viana do Castelo, Castro Leboeiro, between Alcobaca and Portelinha, Corga da Portelinha (568, 4656); 11: (P) Viana do Castelo, Castro Leboeiro, road to Coriscada, Rio Castro Leboeiro (569, 4654); 12: (P) viana do Castelo, Castro Leboeiro, between Portela and Varziela, Corga dos Portos (570, 4653); 13: (ES) Orense: Lobeira, A Fraga, Corga da Ramallosa (577, 4653); 14: (ES) Orense: Vereá, Bangueses de Arriba, Rio do Porto do Campo (578, 4659); 15: (ES) Orense: Vereá, Bangueses de Arriba, Regueiro da Cortiña (579, 4660); 16: (ES) Orense: Lobios, Corvelle, Corga de Corvelle (580, 4654); 17: (ES) Orense: Bande, Rego dos Cochos (580, 4657); 18: (ES) Orense: Bande, Outeiro de Augas, Rego dos Pitos (581, 4658); 19: (ES) Orense: Muíños, Prado de Limia, O Salgueiro, Rego Salgueiro, upstream do pobo (584, 4638); 20: (P) Vila Real, Montalegre, Pitões das Júnias, cabeceira da Ribeira do Forno (585, 4636); 21: (P) Viana do Castelo, Montalegre, Pitões das Júnias, Ribeira das Avelas, northwestern of Outeiro do Grosal (586, 4635); 24: (ES) Orense: Muíños, Xermeada, road Salas to Salgueiros, da Ponte, a altura de O Couso (586, 4638); 23: (P) Vila Real, Montalegre, Pitões das Júnias, Rego do Curral, downstream of Ponte do Rei (593, 4636); 29: (ES) Orense: Calvos, Randín, between San Xoán and Rubiás, Rego Barxa, downstream of Ponte do Escairo (590, 4642); 28: (ES) Orense: Calvos, Randín, O Vilar, Corga do Curral, downstream of Ponte do Rei (593, 4636); 29: (ES) Orense: Calvos, Randín, between San Xoán and Rubiás, Rego Barxa, downstream of Ponte do Pozoco (594, 4640); 30: (ES) Orense: Baltar, Meaus, Vêiga de Farei, Río Salas (597, 4641); 31: (ES) Orense: Calvos de Randín, Lobás, Seróis, Rego da Pereira (597, 4647); 32: (ES) Orense: Baltar, Abades, San Paio, road to Sabucedo, Corga das Lamas de Porto Cancelo (600, 4640); 33: (P) Vila Real, Montalegre, road to Padroso (601, 4633); 34: Orense: (ES) Baltar, Vilamator das Boullosa, stream of Chao da Lama (601, 4643); 35: (P) Vila Real, Montalegre, Sendim, Lamas de Sendim (603, 4636); 36: (ES) Orense: Baltar, Vilamator da Boullosa, road to Portugal, stream of Rousia (604, 4639); 37: (ES) Orense: Baltar, Vilamator da Boullosa, northwestern exposure of Serra do Larouco, stream of Carballo (605, 4639).

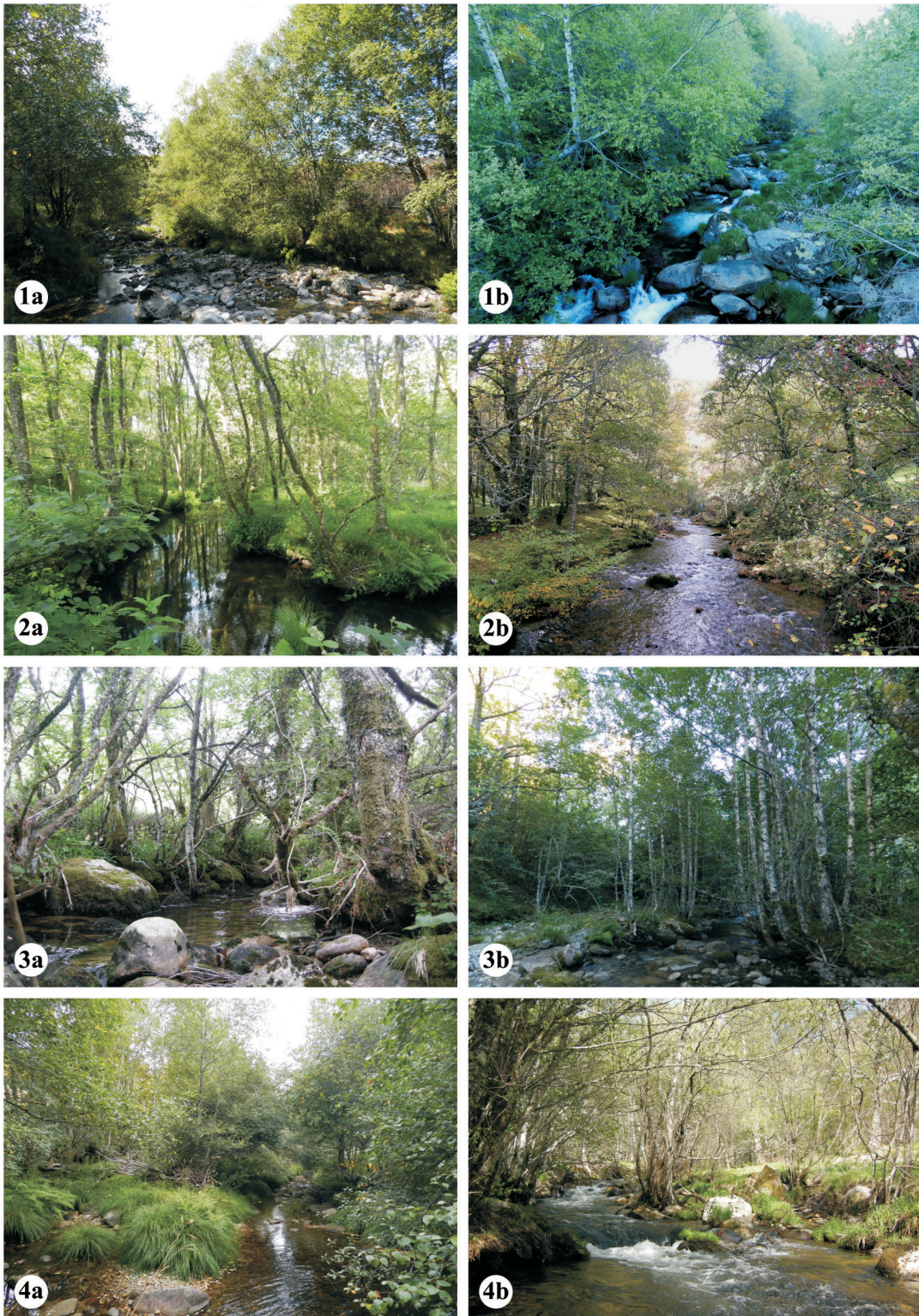


Figure 5. Summer views of some of the riparian birch forests studied. *Carici reuteriana*-*Betuletum celtibericae*: 1a: Spain: Pontevedra province, Covelo, A Graña, Regueiro da Lavandeira; 1b: Portugal: Terras de Bouro, Castro Laboreiro, Corga dos Portos. *Violo palustris*-*Betuletum pubescentis*: 2a: Spain: Lugo province: Friol, River Parga; 2b: Spain: Lugo province, Muras, River Eume. *Chaerophyllo hirsuti*-*Betuletum pubescentis*: 3a: Spain, León province, Candín, Suárbol, Río da Veiga; 3b: Spain: León province, Villafranca del Bierzo, River Porcarizas. *Valeriano officinalis*-*Betuletum pubescentis*: 4a: Spain: Ourense province, Chandrea de Queixa, River Grande; 4b: Spain, Zamora province, Porto, Pías, Río de Barjacova.

Several authors included this type of forests in the subassociation *salicetosum atrocinereae* of the association *Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum pubescentis* described by Izco *et al.* (1986), but either extending the original ecological description (Rodríguez Gutián *et al.* 2013, 2014), or considering them as “hazel-willow forests of the middle and upper supratemperate horizon in humid to hiperhumid ombroclimates on acidic substrates (*Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum celtibericae* subass. *salicetosum atrocinereae* Izco, Amigo & Gutián 1986 corr. et ampl.)” (Silva-Pando, 2009). We consider both as distorted interpretations of the original subassociation, which was not described explicitly as including riparian forests.

In our opinion, these birch forests constitute a new association because they are always associated to water courses (Figure 5, photos 3a and 3b), i.e. they are azonal forests, not exclusive of the upper supratemperate horizon, on the contrary of those of the association *Luzulo-Betuletum* (cf. Rivas-Martínez *et al.*, 1984; Izco *et al.*, 1986). They are able to reach lower territories, in some cases down to the limit of the lower supratemperate and high mesotemperate horizons, coming into contact with many other forest types such as *Quercus petraea* and *Q. pyrenaica* forests, holly-tree forests, mixed broadleaved forests and, of course, with the chionophilous birch forests of supratemperate areas. In accordance with their azonality, many hygrophilous vascular plant that can be found in them are missing from the supratemperate birch forests of the ass. *Luzulo-Betuletum* (see groups 3a, 3b and 4, Table 1). We therefore propose the inclusion of these riparian birch forests in a new association, named *Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis* ass. *nova hoc loco*, for which we choose as *holotypus* rel. 22, Table 4

The floristic variability of this association allows differentiating a widespread (typical) variant, an *Alnus glutinosa* variant at the lowest sites as a transition to grey alder-forests, and an upper supratemperate variant with abundant (even dominant) *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Distribution: Western Orocantabric sector. The presence of this syntaxon in other siliaceous areas of the Cantabrian Range must be further investigated.

Differential taxa with respect to other riparian birch forests: *Cicerbita plumieri*, *Daphne laureola*, *Fagussylvatica*, *Milium effusum*, *Galium rotundifolium*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus x rosacea*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Scrophularia alpestris*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Carici-Betuletum*: *Aconitum neapolitanum*, *Cardamine gallaecica*, *Doronicum pubescens*, *Epilobium montanum*, *Hieracium murorum*, *Lastrea limbosperma*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Narcissus asturiensis*, *N. nobilis*, *Poa chaixii*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Salix caprea*, *Valeriana montana*, *Valeriana pyrenaica*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Violo-Betuletum* and *Valeriano-Betuletum*: *Astrantia major*, *Cicerbita plumieri*, *Daphne laureola*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Galium odoratum*, *G. rotundifolium*, *Laserpitium merinoi*, *Milium effusum*, *Ornithogalumpyrenaicum*, *Polygonumbistorta*, *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus x rosacea*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Scrophularia alpestris*.

Note: the forests included in this association are somewhat similar to the hygrophilous birch forests of the subass. *salicetosum atrocinereae* of the *Luzulo-Betuletum* described by Izco *et al.* (1986), but several taxa such as *Allium victorialis*, *Angelica major*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Cardamine gallaecica*, *Carex remota*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Deschampsia subtriflora*, *Lastrea limbosperma*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Saxifraga lepismigena*, *Silene dioica* or *Viola palustris* were not present in their relevés and can be employed to differentiate between these two sintaxa. On the other hand, some of the published relevés of the typical subass. of the orocantabrian riparian birch forests (*Luzulo henriquesii-Betuletum celtibericae*) could belong to subass. *salicetosum atrocinereae* or even to the riparian birch forests of ass. *Chaerophyllo-Betuletum*, but the lack of detailed environmental and geographical information in many of the studies reviewed prevents the assessment of their status.

Table 3. *Violo palustris*-*Betuletum pubescents* Rodríguez Gutián 2010
 typical variant, typical facies

(*Alno glutinosae*-*Populetea albae*, *Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris*, *Hyperico androsaemi*-*Alnion glutinosae*)

Altitude (m asl)	725	625	515	570	475	540	440	435	510	445	470	475	520	500	595	740	455	515	495	450	420	460	605	675	
Slope (°)	10	<2	4	2	<2	2	<2	<2	4	4	<2	2	<2	2	2	18	6	4	4	8	<2	2	2	18	
Exposition	SSE	NW	E	N	SE	S	E	ENE	SW	NW	NNE	SSE	SSE	N	ENE	N	SSW	SSW	E	ENE	SSE	E	NNE	NW	
Height (m)	14	12-18	6-14	16	17	13	20	20	8-12	16	20	18	16	14	16	8-16	14	16	14	10-14	20	18	16	14	
Cover E ₁ (%)	100	100	100	95	100	95	100	100	100	100	100	90	95	100	100	90	90	95	90	100	100	90	100	100	
Cover E ₂ (%)	<5	25	30	25	20	30	15	30	20	25	30	20	20	35	40	20	20	25	40	15	20	35	50	15	
Cover E ₃ (%)	90	90	95	90	100	85	100	95	85	95	90	90	100	100	100	95	95	75	90	75	100	90	100	85	
Area (m²)	300	280	300	400	300	200	300	200	320	400	200	200	200	200	300	300	400	300	200	100	200	120	200	300	
N. species	30	25	30	53	24	29	37	43	34	45	39	42	35	28	47	39	33	43	25	27	33	36	29	51	
N. relevé	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
E ₁ (>4,0 m)+E ₂ (1,5-4,0 m)																									
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	+	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
<i>Quercus robur</i>	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	+	+	2	1	3	2	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	.	1	.	1	1	.	1	1	2	2	1	+	2	.	1	.	1	1	2	1	+	1	3	+	
<i>Erica arborea</i>	.	2	+	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	+	1	.	1	.	1	1	.	2	+	1	+	+	
<i>Pyrus cordata</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	.	+	.	1	+	.	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	.	.	+	r	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	.	2	1	.	.	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	1	1	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	.	.	.	r	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	3	.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Genista florida</i>	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Prunus avium</i>	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rosa gr. canina</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Characteristics of association and upper units E ₃ (<1,5 m)																									
<i>Viola palustris</i>	+	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	+	1	.	1	1	1	3	1	2	+	1	
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	1	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	3	1	1	1	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	2	3	.	2	.	3	2	1	3	4	2	1	2	
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	+	1	1	2	.	3	.	.	+	1	1	+	2	1	+	+	
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	2	+	1	+	1	.	+	1	+	1	2	1	.	1	1	2	2	1	+	1	1	.	+	1	
<i>Euphorbia dulcis</i>	1	1	1	1	.	1	+	1	2	2	2	2	.	.	+	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
<i>Lonicera hispanica</i>	1	1	1	+	.	.	.	1	+	1	.	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	1	1	1	1	
<i>Deschampsia substriflora</i>	.	.	1	2	1	1	+	+	+	.	1	1	2	r	1	.	1	1	1	+	.	1	+	.	
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	+	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	+	2	1	+
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	1	.	1	2	1	+	1	1	1	1	2	.	.	1	.	1	1	
<i>Senecio nemorensis</i>	1	.	.	1	.	1	2	2	.	.	2	2	.	+	2	1	.	1	2	.	1	1	.	1	
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	.	.	2	+	1	.	+	1	.	1	3	3	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	1	1	.	
<i>Carex reuteriana</i>	.	.	+	1	.	1	1	+	1	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	+	1	.	.
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	+	.	.	2
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Carex remota</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Myosotis martinii</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Characteristics of <i>Quercetea robori-petraeae</i> and <i>Carpino-Fagetia</i>																									
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	+	.	1	1	.	1	1	.	.	+	1	.	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	+
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	2	.	1	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	+	+	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	1	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	+	.	+
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	2	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Crepis lampsanoides</i>	.	.	.	+	.	+	1	1	.	.	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i> s.l.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	2
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	+
Other species																									
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	3	2	2	.	1	1	2	1	+	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	+	+	2	1	1	2

<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	.	.	3	1	3	2	3	3	.	3	3	4	3	1	1	.	.	+	4	2	4	2	.	+
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	.	+	.	1	1	.	.	+	.	1	+	+	1	+	1	+	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	+
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	.	.	.	r	.	.	+	.	1	1	.	1	+	2	.	.	+	+	+	1	2	+	.	.
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	.	2	1	1	.	.	.	1	2	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	2	.
<i>Omphalodes nitida</i>	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	1	.	1	1	1	.	+	.	.	+	2	+	.	2	.	.	+
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	.	1	+	r	+	.	+	+	.	r	+	+	+	.	.	+	.	+	+	.	+	.	.	+
<i>Centaurea rivularis</i>	.	.	.	1	+	+	r	+	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	+	.	.	1	+	.	+	.	.
<i>Angelica major</i>	.	1	.	.	1	+	.	+	.	.	+	r	+	+	1	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	1	.	.	+	1	.	.	1	.	.	+	.	+	.	1	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	+
<i>Crocus serotinus</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+
<i>Carex laevigata</i>	+	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	+
<i>Arrhenatherum bulbosum</i>	.	.	.	.	2	.	+	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	1	.	.
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Peucedanum lancifolium</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Galium palustre</i>	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Anthoxanthum amarum</i>	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	+	.	.
<i>Cirsium filipendulum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	+	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	+	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lastrea limbosperma</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Other species: Characteristics of *Quercetea robori-petraeae* and *Carpino-Fagetea*: *Pulmonaria longifolia* + in 16 and 18; *Primula acaulis* + in 1; *Stachys officinalis* 1 in 4; *Ranunculus tuberosus* 1 in 5; *Dryopteris filix-mas* 1 in 6; *Hieracium murorum* + in 20; *Hypericum androsaemum* + in 24. Other species: *Silene dioica* + in 1 and 16; *Ulex gallii* + in 2 and 23; *Wahlenbergia hederacea* + in 2 and 15; *Valeriana dioica* 1 in 5 and 1 in 10; *Scrophularia herminii* + in 7 and 8; *Geranium robertianum* + in 8 and 24; *Narcissus asturiensis* + and *Festuca gr. rubra* 1 in 9 and 10; *Sphagnum* sp. 2 in 9 and 1 in 24; *Urtica dioica* + in 11 and 12; *Sibthorpia europaea* + in 13 and 15; *Cirsium palustre* r in 16 and 18; *Polytrichum commune* + in 16 and 24; *Avenula sulcata* 1 in 17 and 2 in 23; *Silene latifolia* + in 3; *Adenostyles alpina* 1, *Allium victorialis* and *Prunella grandiflora* + in 4; *Saxifraga lepismigena* 1 in 6; *Holcus lanatus* and *Solanum nigrum* + in 8; *Carex cariophyllea* and *Carex echinata* 1, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Erica mackayana* and *Nartheceum ossifragum* + in 9; *Cytisus commutatus*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Physospermum cornubiense*, *Pseudarrhenatherum longifolium* and *Ulex minor* + in 10; *Plantago major* r in 12; *Scutellaria minor* 1, *Lapsana communis*, *Stellaria* sp. and *Succisa pratensis* + in 13; *Agrostis stolonifera* + in 14; *Galium pilosulum* and *Trifolium repens* + in 15; *Chaerophyllum hirsutum* 2, *Mnium undulatum* 1 and *Epilobium* sp. + in 16; *Veronica chamaedrys* + in 18; *Valeriana montana* + in 19; *Calluna vulgaris* + in 20; *Carex* sp., *Lythrum salicaria* and *Quercus rubra* (sdl.) + in 21; *Juncus bulbosus* + in 22; *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and *Pellia* sp. + in 24.

Localities (geographical coordinates: UTM, datum ETRS 89, 29T, in brackets): 1: A Coruña: Sobrado dos Monxes, Grixalba, Río Lombao, downstream from Ponte Tuela (582, 4771); 2: Lugo: A Fonsagrada, Carballido, between Vilar de Calvos and A Burela, Rego de Chaves (649, 4788); 3: A Coruña: Aranga, Cambás, between Boade and A Lousa, Regato da Lousa (586, 4790); 4: A Coruña: Aranga, A Vide, Rego da Loba, downstream from Ponte Chanca (584, 4790); 5: Lugo: Muras, between A Ínsua and Arealba, Río Eume (609, 4811); 6: Lugo: Guitiriz, Rego de Requeixo, downstream from Buriz (593, 4789); 7: Lugo: Vilalba, San Simón da Costa, A Fontarraña, Rego de Laxoso (610, 4804); 8: Lugo: Xermade, Río Labrada, between Mollafariña and Lugar Vello, upstream from Ponte Corval (597, 4795); 9: Lugo: Vilalba, between Cazás and Buriz, Río Labrada (597, 4796); 10: A Coruña: Irixoa, Verís, O Requeixo, lower limit of Fraga do Monte do Raño, Río Zarzo (581, 4792); 11: A Coruña: Aranga, A Reborica, Rego da Costa (582, 4783); 12: Lugo: Xermade, Rego de Porto do Souto, downstream from O Souto (593, 4806); 13: Lugo: Xermade, Río de Porto Liñares, downstream from A Poupariña (593, 4798); 14: Lugo: Guitiriz, Arxá, Río Escádebas (590, 4785); 15: Lugo: Xermade, Río de Tordegos, in front of Os Miraces (594, 4803); 16: Lugo: Friol, A Roxica, Rego da Cabana (589, 4768); 17: Lugo: A Pontenova, Bogo, rivulet between O Barreiro and Río de Campos (651, 4792); 18: A Coruña: Irixoa, Verís, Río Zarzo, upstream from O Requeixo (580, 4792); 19: Lugo: Muras, Bustelo, Rego das Ferreiras (602, 4815); 20: Lugo: Guitiriz, Río Labrada, downstream from O Pumariño (588, 4794); 21: Lugo: Guitiriz, Santo Estevo de Parga, Rego da Roxida, downstream from Muíño de Fraguas (591, 4776); 22: Lugo: Vilalba, Belesar, Río Labrada, between A Penadanta and O Foro (600, 4793); 23: Lugo: Xermade, Río Labrada, downstream from the bridge between Parga and Momán (592, 4795); 24: Lugo: Palas de Rei, A Cernada, Rego da Corda (594, 4758); 25: Lugo: Meira, Seixosmil, Carballal das Carreiras, Rego da Pena Vella (642, 4785).

Table 3 (cont.). *Viola palustris*-*Betuletum pubescentis* Rodríguez Gutiérrez 20101-5: typical variant, *Salix atrocinerea* facies; 6-13: *Alnus glutinosa* variant, typical facies;14: *Alnus glutinosa* variant, *Salix atrocinerea* facies.*(Alno glutinosae*-*Populetea albae*, *Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris*, *Hyperico-Alnion glutinosae*)

Altitude (m asl)	770	450	770	620	605	445	425	580	530	420	400	455	485	490
Slope (°)	6	<2	4	4	8	<2	2	6	4	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
Exposition	E	NE	N	SSW	ESE	SE	NW	SW	NE	SE	SSE	SE	NE	SE
Height (m)	8-10	16	6-10	8-12	8	15	14	16	22	20	20	16	14	10
Cover E ₁ (%)	100	100	100	100	90	90	100	95	100	100	85	90	100	100
Cover E ₂ (%)	20	35	15	15	35	15	25	25	<5	25	20	10	25	10
Cover E ₃ (%)	95	100	95	90	70	100	90	85	95	100	95	100	100	90
Area (m ²)	300	300	300	300	200	400	450	300	500	100	500	300	160	300
N. species	45	44	50	36	42	42	44	35	54	25	58	28	33	33
N. relevé	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
E ₁ (>4,0 m)+E ₂ (1,5-4,0 m)														
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	2	2	1	2	.	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	2
<i>Quercus robur</i>	1	2	.	1	.	+	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	.
<i>Erica arborea</i>	+	1	1	.	.	1	+	1	+	1	.	.	1	.
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	+	.	.	.	.	+	+	1	+	1	.	1	1	+
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	.	.	.	+	.	+	1	+	+	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pyrus cordata</i>	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	1	.
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Genista florida</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Salix caprea</i>	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Differentials of variant														
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Differentials of facies														
<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>	4	4	4	5	5	2	2	3	.	1	2	2	2	5
Characteristics of association and upper units E ₃ (<1,5 m)														
<i>Viola palustris</i>	1	+	+	+	1	+	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	3
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	2	.	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	.	2	3
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	1	2	1	1	1	+	1	2	1	1	.	.	1	1
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	1	1	.	3	1	.	1	1	1	+	+	.	1	+
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	1	2	1	.	.	1	1	1	+	1	2	.	2	2
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	1	1	.	+	1	2	1	+	1	1	.	2	1	.
<i>Brachypodium rupestre</i>	.	4	.	.	.	5	1	+	3	4	4	5	4	1
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	2	1	.	2	2	1	2	.	1	.	2	1	.	.
<i>Euphorbia dulcis</i>	1	.	1	2	.	+	2	1	2	.	1	.	1	+
<i>Lonicera hispanica</i>	1	.	+	.	+	+	2	1	+	.	1	.	2	2
<i>Deschampsia subtriflora</i>	.	1	+	1	.	+	1	1	1	+	2	.	.	.
<i>Senecio nemorensis</i>	1	+	1	2	+	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	1	2
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	1	2	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	.	1	.	.	.	+	.	.	2	+	1	.	1	1
<i>Carex reuteriana</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	.	.	1	.	.
<i>Myosotis martinii</i>	.	.	+	1	+	+	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.
Characteristics of <i>Quercetea robori-petraeae</i> and <i>Carpino-Fagetea</i>														
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	1	1	+	2	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	2	+	1	1	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	.	+	.	.	1	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	+	+
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	1	.	.	.
<i>Crepis lampanoides</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Avenella flexuosa</i> s.l.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	1	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	2	.	.	.	.	.
Other species														
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	2	2	+	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	+	1	2	1
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	r	1	+	.	.	3	1	+	r	3	3	3	1	.
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	.	1	1	1	.	2	1	.	1	.	1	2	1	1
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	.	1	1	1	1	1	+	.	+	.	1	1	.	.
<i>Carex laevigata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	+	+
<i>Angelica major</i>	+	+	.	.	.	1	1	.	+	+	+	+	.	.

<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	1	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	+
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	.	.	+	.	+	+	+	.	+	.	+	+	.	+
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	.	.	.	+	2	2	.	.	.	.	1	2	+	1
<i>Centaurea rivularis</i>	.	+	.	+	.	1	+	+	.	.	1	1	.	.
<i>Omphalodes nitida</i>	.	.	.	.	+	1	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Galium palustre</i>	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	+	+	1	1	.	.
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	.	1	+	+	.	.	+	.	+	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	.	+	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	+
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	.	+	.	.	.	+	+	.	1	.	1	.	+	.
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	+	.	+	.	+	+
<i>Arrhenatherum bulbosum</i>	.	1	.	.	.	3	.	.	1	.	.	2	1	.
<i>Crocus serotinus</i>	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	+	.
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	+	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	r	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	+	+	1	.	.
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	r	+	+	.	.
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	.	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	1	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Anthoxanthum amarum</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	.	1	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.
<i>Peucedanum lancifolium</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	1	.	.	+
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	+	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sparganium neglectum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.

Other species: Characteristics of *Quercetea robori-petraeae* and *Carpino-Fagetea*: *Polygonatum verticillatum* 1 in 1 and + in 3; *Pulmonaria longifolia* 1 in 1 and r in 3; *Lysimachia nemorum* + in 1 and 3; *Saxifraga spathularis* 1 in 1 and 8; *Stachys officinalis* 1 in 9 and + in 12; *Ranunculus tuberosus* + in 1; *Scrophularia alpestris* + in 3; *Primula acaulis* 1 in 4; *Hypericum androsaemum* + in 5; *Luzula sylvatica* 2 in 8; *Melampyrum pratense*, *Anemone nemorosa* and *Euphorbia amygdaloides* 1 in 9; *Lycopus europaeus*, *Poa pratensis*, *Senecio doria* and *Veronica chamaedrys* +, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Mentha aquatica* and *Scutellaria minor* 1 in 11; *Luzula forsteri* and *Veronica officinalis* + in 13; *Lathyrus linifolius* + in 14. Other species: *Lastrea limbosperma* + in 1 and 1 in 3; *Wahlenbergia hederacea* + in 1 and 5; *Carex pilulifera* + in 1 and 8; *Taraxacum* gr. *officinale* r in 2 and + in 4; *Limniris pseudacorus* + in 2 and 11; *Chaerophyllum hirsutum* 2 in 3 and 1 in 4; *Narcissus asturiensis* + in 2 and 9; *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* 1 in 3 and 4; *Geranium robertianum* + in 3 and 4; *Pellia* sp. + in 3 and 1 in 5; *Apium nodiflorum* r in 3 and 11; *Potentilla erecta* + in 5 and 7; *Sibthorpia europea* and *Epilobium* sp. + in 5 and 9; *Festuca* gr. *rubra* 1 in 5 and 14; *Galium aparine* + in 6 and 9; *Valeriana dioica* + in 11 and 1 in 14; *Silene dioica* 1 in 1; *Pentaglottis sempervirens* and *Urtica dioica* +, *Rumex obtusifolius* 1 in 2; *Cerastium* sp. r in 3; *Galium saxatile* and *Mnium hornum* +, *Mnium undulatum* 1, *Valeriana pyrenaica* 2 in 3; *Calluna vulgaris* + in 5; *Erica mackayana* and *Stellaria* sp. +, *Sphagnum* sp. 1 in 5; *Ranunculus flammula* r, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* + in 6; *Silene latifolia* + in 7; *Saxifraga lepmigiana*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Narthecium ossifragum* and *Cytisus commutatus* + in 8; *Allium victorialis* 3, *Doronicum plantagineum* 1, *Lapsana communis* and *Polygonum persicaria* r in 9; *Galium mollugo*, *Juncus articulatus* and *Heracleum sphondylium* +, *Hypericum undulatum* 1 in 11; *Epilobium obscurum* + in 12; *Carex caryophyllea* +, *Cruciata hirticaulis* 1 in 14.

Localities (geographical coordinates: UTM, datum ETRS 89, 29T, in brackets): 1: Lugo: A Fonsagrada, Carballido, upper limit of Fraga de Reigadas, Rego do Mazo, (650, 4790); 2: Lugo: Xermade, between A Ribeira and Xermade, Rego de Vilariño (597, 4800); 3: Asturias: Taramundi, Turía, Rego das Pasadas (655, 4796); 4: Lugo: A Pastoriza, A Lagoa, Rego de Marful (628, 4799); 5: Lugo: A Pastoriza, Cadavedo, between Cadavedo and Alto do Fiouco, Rego do Batán (631, 4804); 6: Lugo: Gutiriz, Parga, between A Ponte and Rego de Revixoso, Río de Requeixo (594, 4786); 7: Coruña: Irixoa, Verís, Balcones, Río Zarzo (579, 4791); 8: Coruña: Aranga, Cambás, A Fraga do Castro, Rego de Portosalmaallos (584, 4787); 9: Lugo: Friol, Roimil, between Nodar and Campo da Feira, River Parga. (593, 4768); 10: Lugo: Vilalba, Belesar, between A Chousa and O Larizo, Río de Silvela (601, 4791); 11: Lugo: Vilalba, Ponte Trimaz, River Trimaz (604, 4795); 12: Lugo: Guitiriz, Sal Salvador de Parga, Rego de Requeixo, downstream from Ponte de Básucas (594, 4786); 13: Lugo: Friol, San Paio de Narla, River Narla (596, 4762); 14: Coruña: Oza-Cesuras, Rodeiro, Martín, Rego Martín, upstream from Braña da Zanca (575, 4779).

Galician-Duriensian supratemperate riparian birch forests (*Valeriano dioicae-Betuletum pubescentis* ass. *nova hoc loco*)

Riparian forests growing in the supratemperate horizon of the mountains in the Galician-Duriensian sector (Figure 1), on granitic and acidic metamorphic rocks (gneiss, slates and quartzites). *Sorbus aucuparia* and *Salix atrocinerea* are usually present, and *Quercus pyrenaica* and *Frangula alnus* are frequent.

In the understory *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Angelica major*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Crepis lampanoides*, *Erica arborea*, *Luzula sylvatica*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Rubus* sp., *Stellaria holostea*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Viola riviniana* and *Valeriana officinalis* are abundant. This community constitutes a new phytosociological association, named *Valeriano dioicae-Betuletum pubescentis* ass. *nova hoc loco* for which we select the relevé 18 in Table 5 as *holotypus* (Figure 5, photos 4a and

4b). In view of their floristic composition, we consider that relevés of riparian birch forests taken by Gonçalves Aguiar (2000) in NE Portugal, Rodríguez Gutiérrez & Bariego Hernández (2009) in Sanabria Mountains and González de Paz (2013) in the Cabrera Range (Table 1, group 5b) match with this new phytosociological unit (Table 1, group 5a).

The floristic variations of this association (Table 5) are quite similar to those of association *Chaerophyllo-Betuletum*: there are typical, *Alnus glutinosa* and *Sorbus aucuparia* variants also with typical facies and, in the first and third variants, *Salix atrocinerea* facies, usually caused by human intervention.

Distribution: Galician-Duriensian sector.

Differential taxa with respect to other riparian birch forests: *Pimpinella major*, *Rosa corymbifera*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Streptopus amplexifolius*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Carici-Betuletum*: *Aconitum neapolitanum*, *Adenostyles alpina*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Cardamine gallaecica*, *Ceratocarpus claviculata*, *Chaerophyllum hirsutum*, *Doronicum pubescens*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *E. montanum*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Hypericum androsaemum*, *Lysimachianemorum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Melica uniflora*, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Poa chaixii*, *P. nemoralis*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Polystichum aculeatum*, *P. setiferum*, *Prunus padus*, *Pyrola minor*, *Rosa villosa*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Salix caprea*, *Sorbus aria*, *Thalictrum minus*, *Veratrum album*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Violo-Betuletum*: *Aconitum neapolitanum*, *Allium scorzonnerifolium*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Calamagrostis arundinacea*, *Cardamine gallaecica*, *Doronicum pubescens*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *E. montanum*, *Euphorbia hyberna*, *Festuca merinoi*, *Galium broterianum*, *Helleborus foetidus*, *Knautia nevadensis*, *Lilium martagon*, *Melica uniflora*, *Melittis melissophyllum*, *Myosotis cespitosa*, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, *Paradisea lusitanica*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Poa chaixii*, *P. nemoralis*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Polystichum aculeatum*, *P. setiferum*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Prunus padus*, *Pyrola minor*, *Ranunculus platanifolius*, *Rosa villosa*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Salix caprea*, *Sorbus aria*, *Thalictrum minus*, *Th. speciosissimum*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Veratrum album*.

Differential taxa with respect to *Chaerophyllo-Betuletum*: *Allium scorzonnerifolium*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Calamagrostis arundinacea*, *Cirsium filipendulum*, *Galium broterianum*, *G. palustre*, *Knautianeivadensis*, *Myosotis cespitosa*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Paradisea lusitanica*, *Pyrus cordata*,

Quercus robur, *Scutellaria minor*, *Thalictrum speciosissimum*, *Valeriana officinalis*.

Syntaxonomic setting

Biurrun *et al.* (2016) recently published a review of the syntaxonomy of the Iberian riparian forests and proposed a new hierarchical system of units for the Eurosiberian zone of Spain and N Portugal. In this work, information about NW Iberian birch forests published by Izco *et al.* (1986, *Luzulo-Betuletum* subass. *salicetosum atrocineriae*), Gonçalves Aguiar (2000, “*Betula celtiberica-Salix atrocinerea* community”), Honrado *et al.* (2003; *Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae*) and Rodríguez Gutiérrez (2010) (*Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis*) as well as relevés of another riparian birch community (*Rubo corylifolii-Salicetum atrocineriae* subass. *vaccinietosum myrtilli*) described by Navarro (1989) from the Moncayo Massif (Iberian Range) were included in the data base. As a conclusion of the multivariate classification methods employed, these authors maintain the independence of *Violo-Betuletum* but considered the relevés of Izco *et al.* (1986), Gonçalves Aguiar (2002) and Navarro (1989) as belonging to *Carici-Betuletum*.

The new phytosociological information provided in this study contributes to clarify the floristic and syntaxonomic relations between these communities. We summarized it in a synthetic table (Table 1) from which the following conclusions stem:

- The NW Iberian relevés are clearly different from those collected by Navarro (1989) in the Iberian System. Many plants common in the former (some of them northwestern iberian endemisms) were absent in the latter: *Anemone trifolia* subsp. *albida*, *Aquilegia dichroa*, *Echium lusitanicum*, *Omphalodes nitida*, *Saxifraga spathularis*, etc. and, conversely, several species present in the Moncayo forests are absent (*Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Sambucus racemosa*, *Sorbus torminalis*) or with a very scarce presence (*Carex divulsa*, *Erica vagans*) in the studied NW Iberian riparian forests. To a great part, this could be a consequence of the distance between these two areas (almost 440 km in a straight line, see Figure 1). Consequently, we consider that the inclusion of both NW Iberian and Iberian Range forests in a single association, as proposed by Biurrun *et al.* (2016), is unjustified from both floristic and biogeographic points of view.

- In relation with the two relevés of the “*Betula celtiberica* and *Salix atrocinerea* community” described by Gonçalves Aguiar (2000) in the extreme NE Portugal, we believe that they must be included in the association *Valeriano officinalis-Betuletum pubescentis* because this is the only NW Iberian association with the simultaneous presence of *Festuca merinoi*, *Poa nemoralis* and *Galium broterianum*. Therefore, we consider the proposal of Biurrun *et al.* (2016, Appendix S3) of including them in *Carici reuteriana-Betuletum celtibericae* inappropriate.
 - The same reasoning can be applied to the relevés collected in riparian birch forests of the Cabrera Range (León) and included into the *Luzulo-Betuletum* subass. *salicetosum atrocinerea* by González de Paz (2012, Table 6.117). These relevés contain species that only appear in the association *Valeriano officinalis-Betuletum* (*Rosa corymbifera*, *Streptopus amplexifolius* or *Stachys sylvatica*) as well as others that this association shares with the *Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum* (*Poa nemoralis*, *Epilobium montanum*, *Pyrola minor* and *Helleborus foetidus*) but are always absent in the *Carici reuteriana-Betuletum*.
- In relation to the syntaxonomic framework, Biurrun *et al.* (2016) proposed to gather the Iberian forests dominated by birches or common

ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the suballiance *Saxifraga spathularis-Fraxinienion excelsioris*, with *Adenostyles alpina* (sub *A. alliariae* subsp. *hybrida*), *Betula pubescens* (sub *B. celtiberica*), *Blechnum spicant*, *Carex laevigata*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Holcus mollis*, *Luzula sylvatica* (sub *L. sylvatica* subsp. *henriquesii*), *Saxifraga spathularis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Viola palustris* as differential taxa. As these taxa are more or less common in the four associations discussed above (Table 5), we agree with their proposal.

Following Biurrun *et al.* (2016), this suballiance should be included in the alliance *Hyperico androsaemi-Alnion glutinosae*, which has *Culcita macrocarpa*, *Dryopteris aemula**, *D. borrieri*, *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*, *Hypericum androsaemum**, *Myosotis martini**, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Polystichum setiferum**, *Saxifraga hirsuta*, *Scrophularia auriculata**, *Senecio nemorensis** (sub. *S. bayonnensis*), *Stegnogramma pozoi* and *Woodwardia radicans* as differential taxa (* identifies the taxa present in the studied forests).

Finally, these authors also proposed to include this alliance in the order *Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris* Passarge 1968, belonging to the class *Salici purpureae-Populetea nigrae* (Rivas-Martínez & Cantó ex Rivas-Martínez *et al.* 1991) Rivas-Martínez & Cantó 2002.

Table 6. Presence of protected taxa in the riparian birch forests of the Northwestern Iberian Peninsula. Abbreviations are: +: taxón included in the legal provision. ○: taxon scarce; ●: taxon frequent. HD-Annexes: annexes of the CD 92/43/EEC ('Habitats Directive'); SLTS: Spanish list of threatened species. RLTS: Regional lists of threatened species: G: Galicia region; A: Principality of Asturias; CL: Castilla & León region. Acronyms of associations are the same of Figure 1.

Taxa	Legal Provision						Forest association			
	HD-Annexes		SLTS	RLTS			Cr-Bc	Vp-Bp	Ch-Vp	Vo-Bp
	II	V		G	A	CL				
<i>Cardamine gallaecica</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	●	○
<i>Festuca elegans</i>	+	-	+	-	-	-	○	-	○	○
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	○
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	-	-	-	+	+	-	○	●	●	●
<i>Narcissus asturiensis</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	●	●	○
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	○	-	○
<i>Narcissus nobilis</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	○	-	○
<i>Paradisea lusitanica</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	●	-	-	○
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	-	+	-	-	-	+	○	-	-	-
<i>Scrophularia herminii</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	○	○	-	○
<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.	-	+	-	-	-	-	○	-	●	○
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	○	○

As a summary of the previous exposition, we present below the syntaxonomic scheme including the studied riparian downy birch forests:

Alno glutinosae-Populetea albae P. Fukarek et Fabijanić 1968

Alno-Fraxinetalia excelsioris Passarge 1968

Hyperico androsaemi-Alnion glutinosae (Amigo *et al.* 1987) Biurrun *et al.* 2016

Saxifrago spathularis-Fraxinenion excelsioris Biurrun *et al.* 2016

Carici reuterianae-Betuletum celtibericae Honrado, P. Alves, Aguiar, Ortiz & FB Caldas ex Honrado 2004

typical variant

typical facies

Salix atrocinerea facies

Alnus glutinosa variant

typical facies

Sorbus aucuparia variant

typical facies

Violo palustris-Betuletum pubescentis Rodríguez Gutiérrez 2010

typical variant

typical facies

Salix atrocinerea facies

Alnus glutinosa variant

typical facies

Salix atrocinerea facies

Chaerophyllo hirsuti-Betuletum pubescentis ass. nova

typical variant

typical facies

Alnus glutinosa variant

typical facies

Sorbus aucuparia variant

typical facies

Valeriano officinalis-*Betuletum pubescentis* ass. nova

typical variant

typical facies

Salix atrocinerea facies*Alnus glutinosa* variant

typical facies

Sorbus aucuparia variant

typical facies

Salix atrocinerea facies**Importance for conservation policies**

The studied forests are widespread in a great part of the extreme NW Iberia mountains (Figure 1) where they, as well as other riparian forest types, play important roles related to water regulation, erosion prevention and maintenance of the physicochemical characteristics of these waters (Klimo & Hager, 2001; Douđa *et al.*, 2015; Biurrún *et al.*, 2016).

Moreover, many of the studied forests grow inside areas belonging to the Natura 2000 Network (Figure 1). Following the ecological and floristic descriptions of the Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats-EUR 27” (EC 2007) the riparian birch forests of the association *Violo-Betuletum pubescentis* have been interpreted as belonging to the habitat type 91E0* del Annex I of the CD 92/43/ECC (Habitat Directive; Rodríguez Guitián, 2010), designed as “priority for conservation”. Considering that the last version of the Manual (EUR 28, EC 2013) did not modified the interpretation of this habitat type and that the other three associations discussed in this paper match the abiotic and biotic characteristics of this habitat, they must also be included in the 91E0* habitat type.

On the other hand, these four associations of birch forests include vascular and non-vascular plants listed in the Annex II or IV of the Habitat Directive (i.e. *Festuca elegans*, *Gentiana lutea*,

Narcissus asturiensis, *N. bulbocodium*, *N. nobilis*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Scrophularia herminii* or *Sphagnum* spp.) or in national or regional lists of protected species (*Cardamine gallaecica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Paradisea lusitanica* or *Taxus baccata*, Table 6). As a consequence, these forests must be considered as habitats of high conservation interest and their distribution must be taken into account when selecting sites to be part of the Natura 2000 Network or for the elaboration of their management plans.

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Appendix 1. List of taxa present in more than four relevés with indication of their total absolute frequencies (TF) and their absolute frequencies (n) and relative frequencies (%) in the studied riparian (R) and non-riparian (NR) birch forests. Numbers highlighted in grey correspond with exclusive taxa of one of the two groups; numbers in bold are taxa with preference for one of the groups (relative frequency >90%)

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	56	39	69.6	17	30.4
<i>Aconitum neapolitanum</i>	20	19	95.0	1	5.0
<i>Adenostyles pyrenaica</i>	56	52	92.9	4	7.1
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	106	79	74.5	27	25.5
<i>Agrostis castellana</i>	7	0	0.0	7	100
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	5	5	100	0	0.0
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	69	67	97.1	2	2.9
<i>Allium scorzonifolium</i>	11	11	100	0	0.0
<i>Allium victorialis</i>	67	57	85.1	10	14.9
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	24	18	75.0	6	25.0
<i>Anemone albida</i>	21	17	81.0	4	19.0
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	100	65	65.0	35	35.0
<i>Angelica major</i>	95	91	95.8	4	4.2
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	13	12	92.3	1	7.7
<i>Anthoxanthum amarum</i>	19	12	63.2	7	36.8
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	54	39	72.2	15	27.8
<i>Aquilegia dichroa</i>	52	51	98.1	1	1.9
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	29	24	82.8	5	17.2
<i>Arenaria montana</i>	5	1	20.0	4	80.0
<i>Arrhenatherum bulbosum</i>	63	61	96.8	2	3.2
<i>Astrantia major</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	225	215	95.6	10	4.4
<i>Avenula sulcata</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	337	228	67.7	109	32.3

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	31	17	54.8	14	45.2
<i>Lonicera hispanica</i>	150	150	100	0	0.0
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	43	1	2.3	42	97.7
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	40	39	97.5	1	2.5
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	10	10	100	0	0.0
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	186	134	72.0	52	28.0
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	13	13	100	0	0.0
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	7	7	100	0	0.0
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	7	7	100	0	0.0
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	70	30	42.9	40	57.1
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	15	11	73.3	4	26.7
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	19	17	89.5	2	10.5
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	17	13	76.5	4	23.5
<i>Milium effusum</i>	9	7	77.8	2	22.2
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	27	26	96.3	1	3.7
<i>Myosotis cespitosa</i>	9	9	100	0	0.0
<i>Myosotis martini</i>	8	8	100	0	0.0
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	5	0	0.0	5	100
<i>Narcissus asturiensis</i>	27	27	100	0	0.0
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	5	5	100	0	0.0
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> s.l.	13	12	92.3	1	7.7
<i>Narcissus triandrus</i>	9	4	44.4	5	55.6
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	76	76	100	0	0.0
<i>Omphalodes nitida</i>	140	121	86.4	19	13.6

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	219	181	82.6	38	17.4
<i>Brachypodium rupestre</i>	117	112	95.7	5	4.3
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i>	10	10	100	0	0.0
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	10	5	50.0	5	50.0
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	85	82	96.5	3	3.5
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	9	9	100	0	0.0
<i>Cardamine gallaeca</i>	15	15	100	0	0.0
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	15	15	100	0	0.0
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	27	27	100	0	0.0
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Carex echinata</i>	14	14	100	0	0.0
<i>Carex laevigata</i>	81	80	98.8	1	1.2
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	20	13	65.0	7	35.0
<i>Carex remota</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Carex reuteriana</i>	91	91	100	0	0.0
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	41	22	53.7	19	46.3
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	67	64	95.5	3	4.5
<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	18	12	66.7	6	33.3
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	47	40	85.1	7	14.9
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	38	38	100	0	0.0
<i>Cicerbita plumieri</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Cirsium filipendulum</i>	21	17	81.0	4	19.0
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	114	109	95.6	5	4.4
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	11	6	54.5	5	45.5
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	118	92	78.0	26	22.0
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	31	24	77.4	7	22.6
<i>Crepis lamsanoides</i>	164	129	78.7	35	21.3
<i>Crocus serotinus</i>	49	49	100	0	0.0
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	41	32	78.0	9	22.0
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	9	8	88.9	1	11.1
<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	10	5	50.0	5	50.0
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	101	94	93.1	7	6.9
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	7	3	42.9	4	57.1
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	14	5	35.7	9	64.3
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	97	62	63.9	35	36.1
<i>Deschampsia subtriflora</i>	112	108	96.4	4	3.6
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	98	74	75.5	24	24.5
<i>Doronicum pubescens</i>	24	11	45.8	13	54.2
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>	19	19	100	0	0.0
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	162	144	88.9	18	11.1
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	118	80	67.8	38	32.2
<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>	5	1	20.0	4	80.0
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	83	56	67.5	27	32.5
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	8	8	100	0	0.0
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	25	25	100	0	0.0
<i>Erica arborea</i>	264	190	72.0	74	28.0
<i>Erica vagans</i>	7	4	57.1	3	42.9
<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	9	6	66.7	3	33.3
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	42	32	76.2	10	23.8
<i>Euphorbia angulata</i>	8	6	75.0	2	25.0
<i>Euphorbia dulcis</i>	169	154	91.1	15	8.9
<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i>	56	42	75.0	14	25.0
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	20	11	55.0	9	45.0

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	7	6	85.7	1	14.3
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	35	35	100	0	0.0
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	116	85	73.3	31	26.7
<i>Paradisea lusitanica</i>	19	19	100	0	0.0
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	12	12	100	0	0.0
<i>Peucedanum lancifolium</i>	34	34	100	0	0.0
<i>Physospermum cornubiense</i>	24	19	79.2	5	20.8
<i>Poa chaixii</i>	23	11	47.8	12	52.2
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	84	63	75.0	21	25.0
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	6	4	66.7	2	33.3
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	49	36	73.5	13	26.5
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	5	5	100	0	0.0
<i>Polygonum vulgare</i>	87	78	89.7	9	10.3
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	10	7	70.0	3	30.0
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	15	13	86.7	2	13.3
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	17	17	100	0	0.0
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	59	51	86.4	8	13.6
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	17	17	100	0	0.0
<i>Primula acaulis</i>	83	78	94.0	5	6.0
<i>Primula columnae</i>	5	4	80.0	1	20.0
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	11	11	100	0	0.0
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	40	40	100	0	0.0
<i>Prunus avium</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Prunus padus</i>	14	11	78.6	3	21.4
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	6	1	16.7	5	83.3
<i>Pseudarrhenatherum longifolium</i>	10	6	60.0	4	40.0
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	168	103	61.3	65	38.7
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	13	13	100	0	0.0
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	12	12	100	0	0.0
<i>Pyrus cordata</i>	49	46	93.9	3	6.1
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	19	14	73.7	5	26.3
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	59	53	89.8	6	10.2
<i>Quercus robur</i>	144	105	72.9	39	27.1
<i>Quercus robur x Q. petraea</i>	10	2	20.0	8	80.0
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	56	56	100	0	0.0
<i>Ranunculus platanifolius</i>	49	46	93.9	3	6.1
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	95	95	100	0	0.0
<i>Ranunculus tuberosus</i>	28	20	71.4	8	28.6
<i>Rosa corymbifera</i>	5	4	80.0	1	20.0
<i>Rosa villosa</i>	18	18	100	0	0.0
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	13	12	92.3	1	7.7
<i>Rubus plicatus</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	65	59	90.8	6	9.2
<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>	227	210	92.5	17	7.5
<i>Salix caprea</i>	30	25	83.3	5	16.7
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	21	17	81.0	4	19.0
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	12	8	66.7	4	33.3
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	7	7	100	0	0.0
<i>Saxifraga lepismigena</i>	33	33	100	0	0.0
<i>Saxifraga spathularis</i>	145	98	67.6	47	32.4
<i>Scrophularia alpestris</i>	17	17	100	0	0.0
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	25	25	100	0	0.0

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Festuca merinoi</i>	11	9	81.8	2	18.2
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	14	11	78.6	3	21.4
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	135	121	89.6	14	10.4
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	6	5	83.3	1	16.7
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	25	20	80.0	5	20.0
<i>Galium aparine</i>	18	16	88.9	2	11.1
<i>Galium broterianum</i>	38	38	100	0	0.0
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	8	3	37.5	5	62.5
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	8	5	62.5	3	37.5
<i>Galium palustre</i>	26	26	100	0	0.0
<i>Galium papillosum</i>	11	11	100	0	0.0
<i>Galium rotundifolium</i>	6	3	50.0	3	50.0
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	23	6	26.1	17	73.9
<i>Genista florida</i>	86	57	66.3	29	33.7
<i>Geranium aurantiaca</i>	7	1	14.3	6	85.7
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	45	43	95.6	2	4.4
<i>Glandora prostrata</i>	5	4	80.0	1	20.0
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	149	118	79.2	31	20.8
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	9	7	77.8	2	22.2
<i>Helleborus occidentalis</i>	6	2	33.3	4	66.7
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	61	60	98.4	1	1.6
<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>	8	6	75.0	2	25.0
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	22	20	90.9	2	9.1
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	205	157	76.6	48	23.4
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	43	32	74.4	11	25.6
<i>Hyacinthoides paivae</i>	13	12	92.3	1	7.7
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	10	10	100	0	0.0
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	5	1	20.0	4	80.0
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	7	7	100	0	0.0
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	127	82	64.6	45	35.4
<i>Jasione montana</i>	7	2	28.6	5	71.4
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	39	39	100	0	0.0
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	42	37	88.1	5	11.9
<i>Lasepitium merinoi</i>	5	5	100	0	0.0
<i>Laserpitium thalictrifolium</i>	5	3	60.0	2	40.0
<i>Lastrea limbosperma</i>	50	47	94.0	3	6.0
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	40	40	100	0	0.0

Taxon	TF	R		NR	
		n	%	n	%
<i>Scrophularia herminii</i>	11	11	100	0	0.0
<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	26	24	92.3	2	7.7
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Senecio nemorensis</i>	52	45	86.5	7	13.5
<i>Sibthorpia europaea</i>	8	8	100	0	0.0
<i>Silene dioica</i>	47	45	95.7	2	4.3
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	5	4	80.0	1	20.0
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	12	7	58.3	5	41.7
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	173	95	54.9	78	45.1
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	13	13	100	0	0.0
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	5	5	100	0	0.0
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	163	105	64.4	58	35.6
<i>Stellaria montana</i>	5	3	60.0	2	40.0
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	12	12	100	0	0.0
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	17	3	17.6	14	82.4
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	189	141	74.6	48	25.4
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	7	7	100	0	0.0
<i>Thalictrum speciosissimum</i>	11	11	100	0	0.0
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	6	4	66.7	2	33.3
<i>Ulex galli</i>	12	7	58.3	5	41.7
<i>Ulex minor</i>	6	6	100	0	0.0
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	16	16	100	0	0.0
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	21	21	100	0	0.0
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	181	109	60.2	72	39.8
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	10	5	50.0	5	50.0
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	41	24	58.5	17	41.5
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	34	34	100	0	0.0
<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	19	17	89.5	2	10.5
<i>Veratrum album</i>	11	6	54.5	5	45.5
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	41	36	87.8	5	12.2
<i>Veronica montana</i>	6	3	50.0	3	50.0
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	37	31	83.8	6	16.2
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	7	6	85.7	1	14.3
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	21	21	100	0	0.0
<i>Viola palustris</i>	139	134	96.4	5	3.6
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	143	115	80.4	28	19.6
<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i>	25	25	100	0	0.0