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Plant communities with *Pinus sylvestris* L. and *P. nigra* Arnold subsp. *salzmannii* (Dunal) Franco of the Spanish Sistema Central: a phytosociological approximation

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Abstract

Galán de Mera A., Hagen M. A. and Vicente Orellana J. A. 1999. Plant communities with *Pinus sylvestris* L. and *P. nigra* Arnold subsp. *salzmannii* (Dunal) Franco of the Spanish Sistema Central: a phytosociological approximation. Bot. Helv. 109: 21–54.

A phytosociological study of forests with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* of the Spanish Sistema Central has been made, establishing a comparison with 683 coniferous communities. As a result of the application of the concepts of Kopecký & Hejný (1974), Foucault (1981), Dierschke (1993) and Kopecký et al. (1995), on the relevés made following Braun-Blanquet (1964), the Vaccinio-Piceetea class and the Pinetalia sylvestris order are recognized inside the Iberian Peninsula. Moreover, the plant communities with *Echinospartum barnadesii* and *Senecio carpetanus* are interpreted as geographical races. Other aspects of the juniper communities of Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei (subassociations, variants and relic forms) are also races. The presence of *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* inside the forests of *Quercus pyrenaica* is considered as a thermic relic form, and the communities with *P. sylvestris* as altitudinal forms.

Key words: Phytosociology, multivariate analysis, Sistema Central, Iberian Peninsula, pine forests.

Introduction

In Europe the natural communities with *Pinus subsectio sylvestris* (Little & Critchfield 1969) have a boreal origin (Jan du Chene 1976, Bauerochse & Katenhusen 1997, Millar 1993). Their expansion was favoured by the glacial periods (Costa Tenorio et al. 1988, Cristina Peñalba 1994, Wilmanns 1997). Presently, *Pinus sylvestris* L. is a widely distributed species in eurosiberian Europe, with some radiations in the Mediterranean region (Hultén & Fries 1986). On the other hand, *P. nigra* Arnold, is distributed in the mountains near the Mediterranean sea (Wendelberger 1963, Blanco Castro et al. 1996), diversifying in several subspecies taxa.

Some contributions to the ecology and phytosociology of *P. sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* (Dunal) Franco in the Iberian Peninsula have been noted: Rivas Goday 1955, Rivas Goday & Borja Carbonell 1961, Rivas-Martínez 1963, 1964, Esteve Chueca 1973–74, Vigo 1979, Losa Quintana et al. 1986, Rivas-Martínez & Cantó 1987, Rivas-Martínez et al. 1987, 1991, Gamisans & Gruber 1988, Valle et al. 1988, Regato & Escudero 1989, Elena Rosselló & Sánchez Palomares 1991, Fernández-González 1991, Gamisans et al. 1991, Ninot 1996, Rojo y Alboreca & Montero González 1996. They have been considered for the construction of the current syntaxonomic scheme in this article.

P. sylvestris is one of the most important forest species in Spain and is widely distributed in the Sistema Central, while *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* is only a relic form in this territory. As Costa Tenorio et al. (1990) comment, the interpretations of the vegetation where the former is included are much too strict if the classic aspect of the phytosociological method is considered (Rivas-Martínez 1987). Some authors point out the absence of *P. sylvestris* (Sánchez Mata 1989) in areas visited by other authors (Mancebo et al. 1993) who allege its existence, as in the case of the Gredos Mountains. The communities with *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* have been known in the Sistema Central for a long time, including in the Guadarrama Mountains (Gómez Manzaneque 1988, Regato et al. 1992). However, there has been no phytosociological interpretation (Rivas-Martínez 1975, Regato et al. 1995).

The aim of the present study is precisely to show a new phytosociological approximation which explains the ecology of these communities with *P. sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* in the Sistema Central, in the context of the coniferous European forests.

Phytogeography of the area studied

The Sistema Central are the siliceous Paleozoic mountains which go through the Iberian Peninsula (Fig. 1), from W-SW to E-NE from the Estrela Mountains (Portugal) to the Ayllón and Las Cabras mountains (Guadalajara-Segovia-Soria, Spain). The highest peaks are: Estrela (1891 m), La Ceja (2425 m), Peña de Francia (1723 m), Calvitero (2401 m), Pico de Almanzor (2592 m), Cabeza de Hierro (2383 m), Pico de Peñalara (2489 m), Ocejón (2058 m) and Pico del Lobo (2273 m).

The Sistema Central belongs to the Iberomarroqui-Atlantica superprovince (Pérez Latorre et al. 1996, Deil & Galán de Mera 1998). This encompasses the areas of the Iberian Peninsula and northern Africa with Atlantic-Mediterranean climatic regime (Gaussen et al. 1958), according to the distribution of Atlantic elements in northern Africa (Dahlgren & Lassen 1972). This superprovince is a migratory space of Atlantic eurosiberian species to the southern Iberian Peninsula and northern Africa. From the 8 provinces in which this wide Iberic-Northafrican territory is divided (Carpetano-Iberico-Leonesa, Luso-Extremadurense, Tingitano-Onubo-Algarviense, Betica, Rifeña, Atlasica, Atlantica and Sud-Occidental), our area studied is encompassed in the Carpetano-Iberico-Leonesa province (Sistema Central, León, Orense and Soria mountains). This province is divided into various sectors (Rivas-Martínez et al. 1990): A – Guadarramico sector (Guadarrama Mountains), B – Bejarano-Gredense sector (Bejar and Gredos mountains), C – Salmantino sector (Peña de Francia and plains of Salamanca) and D – Estrellense sector (Estrela Mountain). The localities where relevés have been made are included in the Guadarramico and Bejarano-Gredense sectors (Fig. 1).

Following the bioclimatic classification of Rivas-Martínez et al. (1991), the data obtained from Müller (1982), and the National Institute of Meteorology (Spain), and the discriminatory indexes, Summer and Winter Humidity of Galán de Mera et al. (1995), the Sistema Cen-

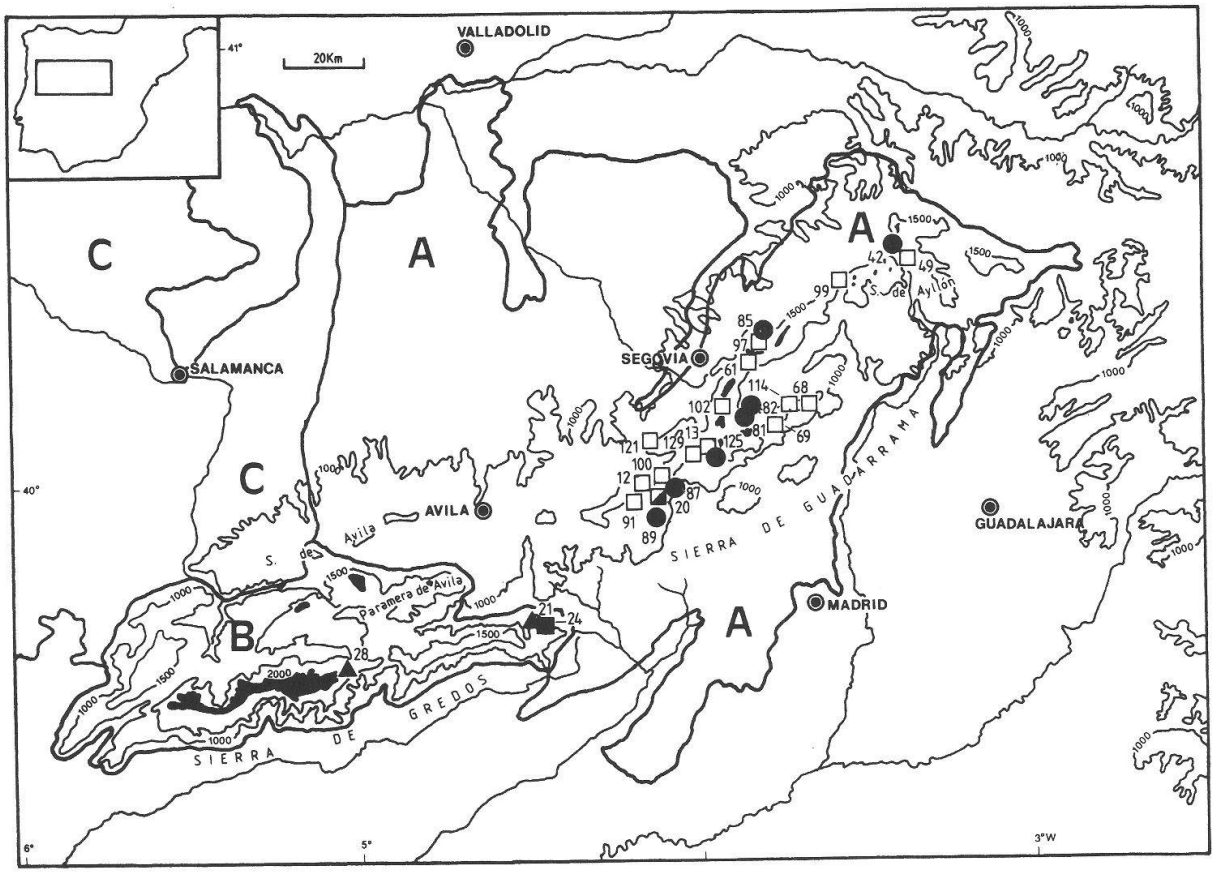


Fig. 1. Map of the Spanish Sistema Central , phytogeography and localities studied (following several references and relevés made by the authors). Symbols: □ Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei geographical race with *Senecio carpetanus* pinetosum sylvestris, ▲ Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei geographic race with *Echinospartum barnadesii* pinetosum sylvestris altitudinal form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*, ● *Pinus sylvestris* DC, ◪ *Luzulo forsteri-Quercetum pyrenaicae* relic form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*, ■ *Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae* relic form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*. The numbers indicate the relevés of Table 3. A – Guadarramico sector, B – Bejarano-Gredense sector, C – Salmantino sector.

tral is included in the Mediterranean Region (Table 1), which ranges from subhumid to hyperhumid (Table 2).

The diagonal position which the Sistema Central presents in the Iberian Peninsula implies different perception of temperature and rainfall in the mountains, depending on the localities. The Gredos Mountains and the northern slopes are more influenced by the Atlantic disturbances. Moreover, the Ayllón Mountains receive the rainfall of the Mediterranean summer-autumm low pressures as a consequence of their distance from the Azores anticyclone (Capel Molina 1981). This causes the southern slopes of the Guadarrama Mountains to be the driest and also the most continental, because of the higher contrast between temperatures. Therefore, this is the area of wide distribution of *P. sylvestris*. However, *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* is only found in the Gredos Mountains and some western sites of the Guadarrama Mountains because of its high thermic exigences. The bioclimatic belts are displaced in the Sistema Central because of the thermic differences between the slopes. Thus, for example, on the southern slope of the Guadarrama Mountains, the Oromediterranean belt extends from 1500 to 2300 m, while on the northern slope it descends to 1300 m.

Table 1. Values of the summer (HE) and winter (HI) humidity indexes in European meteorological stations and of the Sistema Central. Eurosiberian Region PI > PE/HE > 1; Mediterranean region PI > PE/HE < 1; $HI = \sum_{D-M} (P + HR/ETP)$; $HE = \sum_{J-S} (P + HR/ETP)$; P: rainfall in mm, HR: relative humidity of the air in %, ETP: potential evaporation in mm.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION	ALTITUDE (m)	P(D,Jan,F,M)	P(J,J,A,S)	HR(D,Jan,F,M)	HR(J,J,A,S)	ETP(D,Jan,F,M)	ETP(J,J,A,S)	HI	HE	CLIMATE TYPE AND PLANT FORMATIONS
Madrid (Spain), 40°25'N/3°41'W	667	165	85	298	208	66	479	7,0	0,6	Mediterranean, Sclerophyllous vegetation
Lyon (France), 45°43'N/4°57'E	200	208	323	324	279	57	453	9,3	1,3	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Genéve (Switzerland), 46°12'N/6°09'E	405	233	346	319	282	37	417	14,9	1,5	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Zürich (Switzerland), 47°23'N/8°34'E	569	275	518	312	276	25	399	23,5	1,9	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Stuttgart (Germany), 48°42'N/9°12'E	401	161	311	324	301	39	422	12,4	1,4	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Nürnberg (Germany), 49°30'N/11°06'E	310	159	282	328	292	23	412	21,2	1,4	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Praha (Czech Republic), 50°05'N/14°25'E	197	96	251	335	288	19	430	22,7	1,3	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests
Dresden (Germany), 51°07'N/13°41'E	246	148	297	318	292	22	407	21,2	1,4	Temperate climate, Deciduous forests

Table 2. Climatic values of some meteorological stations near the localities studied with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*. Symbols: A = altitude of the meteorological station (m), It = thermicity index (T + M + m) 10, T = annual mean temperature (°C), M = maximal mean temperatures of the coldest month (°C), m = minimal mean temperature of the coldest month (°C), P = annual mean rainfall (mm), H = number of days with sure frost, N = number of days with snow covering, * Only pluviometric stations.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION	A	It	T	M	m	P	H	N	BIOCLIMATIC DIAGNOSIS
Cerezo de Arriba "Gran Plato" (Segovia)	1880	83,1	7,0	3,5	-2,2	1218,4	36	30–31	Oromediterranean humid
Puerto de Navacerrada (Madrid)	1890	48,7	6,2	1,9	-3,3	1335,4	45	115–116	Oromediterranean humid
Cercedilla "Fuenfria" (Madrid) *	1350	—	—	—	—	1121,3	—	6–7	Humid
Guadarrama (Madrid)	981	107,8	6,7	5,7	-1,7	655,3	15	4–5	Supramediterranean subhumid
Valle de los Caidos (Madrid) *	1300	—	—	—	—	980,5	—	16–17	Subhumid
Navalperal de Pinares (Ávila) *	1287	—	—	—	—	704,7	—	7–8	Subhumid
San Bartolomé de Pinares (Ávila) *	1150	—	—	—	—	416,9	—	39	Dry
Serranillos (Ávila) *	1235	—	—	—	—	1366,6	—	8	Humid
Puerto del Pico (Ávila) *	1395	—	—	—	—	946,8	—	11–12	Subhumid
Embalse La Jarosa (Madrid)	1060	165	10,7	7,1	-1,3	938,6	9–10	3–4	Supramediterranean subhumid
Navarredonda de Gredos (Ávila)	1525	119	8,5	5,9	-2,5	828,4	37	22–23	Supramediterranean subhumid

Materials and methods

Treatment of the data.

The present study is based on 683 phytosociological relevés made following the method of Braun-Blanquet (1964). These relevés are located in the mountains of western Europe and northern Africa, to establish a comparison with those of the Sistema Central. From these relevés, 131 correspond to the area studied, and are represented in Table 3. Table 5 is a synthetic table of the communities of the *Vaccinio-Piceetea* class in western Europe and northern Africa, with the different species of *Pinus* of the mountain pine groves of the Iberian Peninsula (*P. sylvestris*, *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* and *P. uncinata*). The references of Table 3 are in Table 4, and those of Table 5 in Table 6.

We have made statistical analyses of Tables 3 and 5, with the SYN-TAX program (Podani 1994). Dendrograms to observe the degree of similarity between relevés were obtained applying the Jaccard index (1929) (Figs. 2 and 3). After this, the tables were put in order considering the relationship between relevés, to study the ecological and phytosociological behaviour.

Phytosociological treatment

The conceptual treatment of the phytosociological association and its subdivision made by the Iberian phytosociologists have limited ecological facts to a rigid syntaxonomic scheme and forced the placing of some plant communities in specific associations. The same occurs with the subassociation, which, since its definition by Braun-Blanquet (1964), has been interpreted in several ways. It has been used to design altitudinal, geological, ecological and edaphic variations. These induce us to consider the studies of Kopecký & Hejný (1974), Foucault (1981), Dierschke (1993) and Kopecký et al. (1995), which explain the basal community (BC) and derived community (DC) concepts. A basal community is a plant community sited in anthropogenic places and colonized by plants of the highest syntaxonomic unities. The derived community means the invasion of one association by plants different from the characteristic ones, and whose number decreases considerably because of a derived change in human activity. The concept of relic form (as opposed to normal historic form), given by Schuhwerk (1990), is used to distinguish small regions with critical plants which lend a historic and ancestral aspect to the association, for example, the result of a low exposure to past glacial periods (Ojeda et al. 1995). This concept was used in Spain to explain some aspects of the Aragonese relic vegetation (Montserrat 1975), without, however, a phytosociological viewpoint.

The interpretation of the variability of the association by Matuszkiewicz (1981) leads us to define the meaning of subassociation more accurately. This author considers vegetation as a relative continuum and concludes that the association has 3 variants (Fig. 5): 1 – horizontal-referring to the geographical races, 2 – vertical-referring to the altitudinal forms, and 3 – local-referring to the edaphic differences, considering this as the concept of subassociation.

Results and discussion

Vaccinio-Piceetea and Pino-Juniperetea

The Vaccinio-Piceetea class encompasses the coniferous forests and the heaths with boreal origin, characteristic of continental areas (Julve 1993, Ellenberg 1996). According to Rivas-Martínez et al. (1991), they were developed in northeastern Europe and the southern Alps after the Tardiglacial, as a wooded tundra. Braun-Blanquet et al. (1952) and Rivas Goday & Borja Carbonell (1961) consider that this phytosociological class exists inside the Iberian Peninsula. Rivas-Martínez (1963) maintains that the pine groves of the Sistema Central do not belong to the Vaccinio-Piceetea, and have to be included in the Cytision oromediterranei alliance because of the importance of the Genisteae in our mountains and the impoverishment in some characteristic plants of the class. Later Rivas-Martínez (1964) created the Pino-Juniperetea class to isolate the Mediterranean pine groves from the centereuropean ones.

Table 3. Relevés of the Sistema Central with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*. Symbols: AS = association, VA = variant of association, SA = subassociation, AL = alliance, O = order, CL = class, DC = derived community.

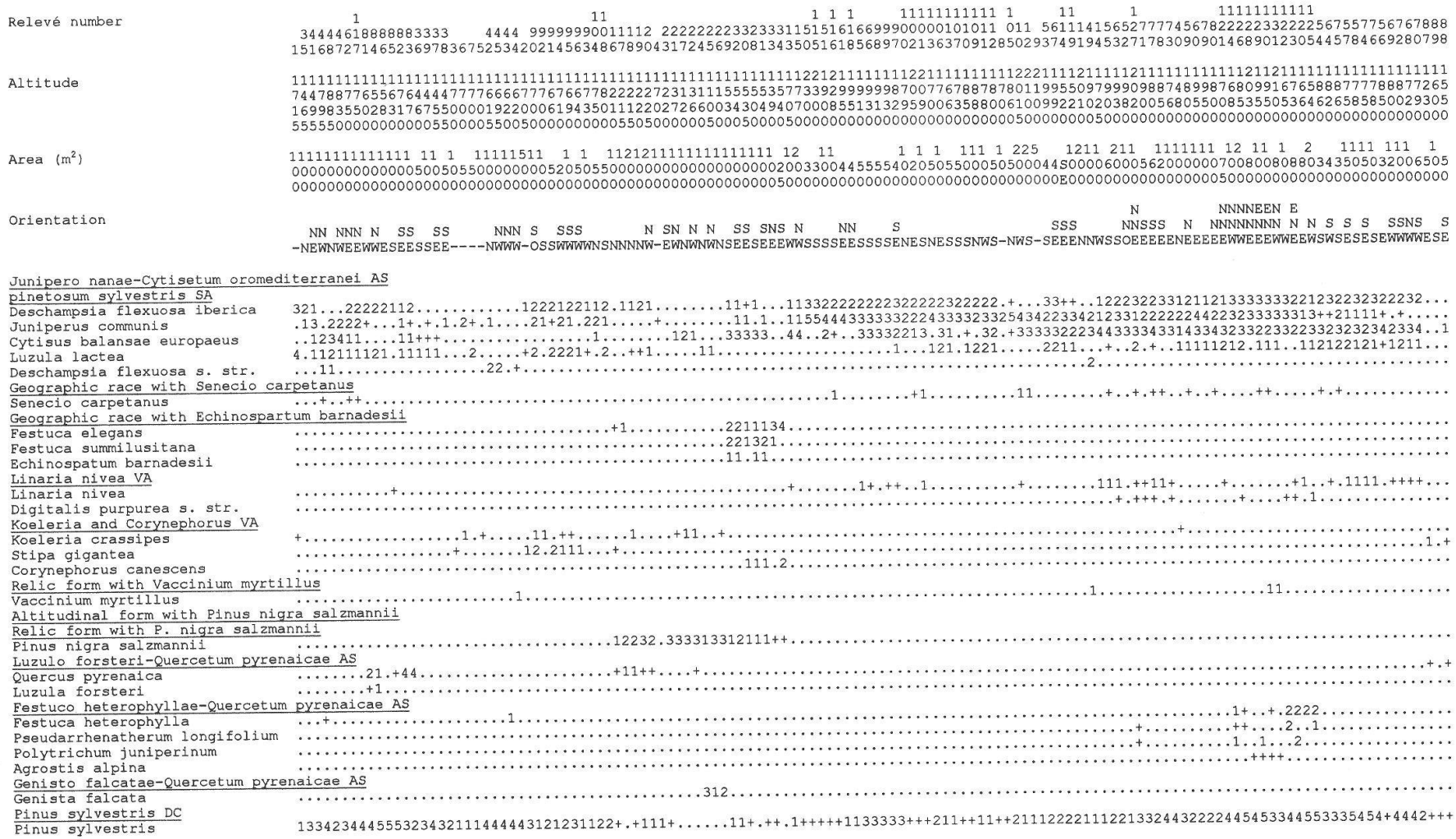


Table 3. (continued)

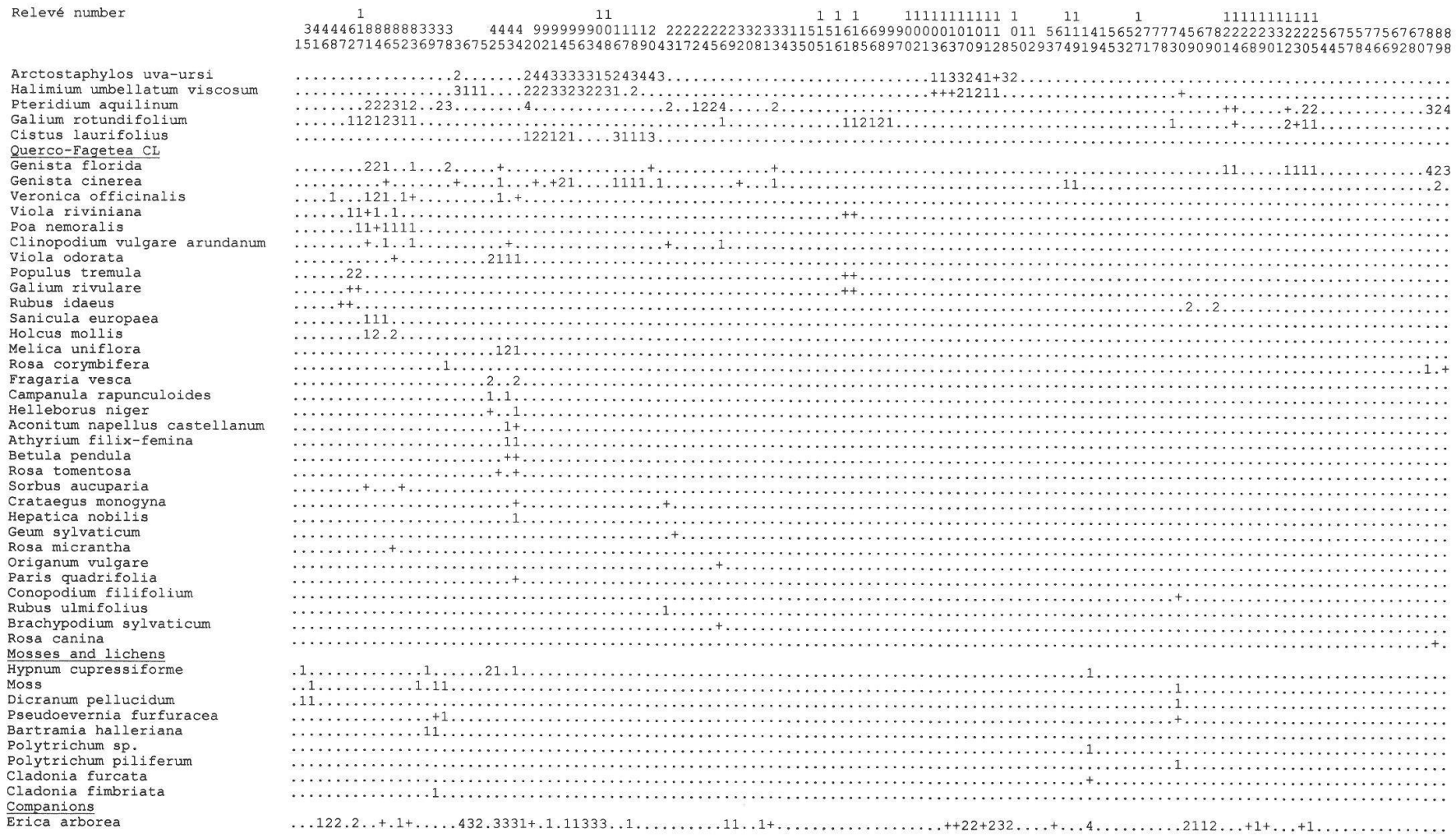
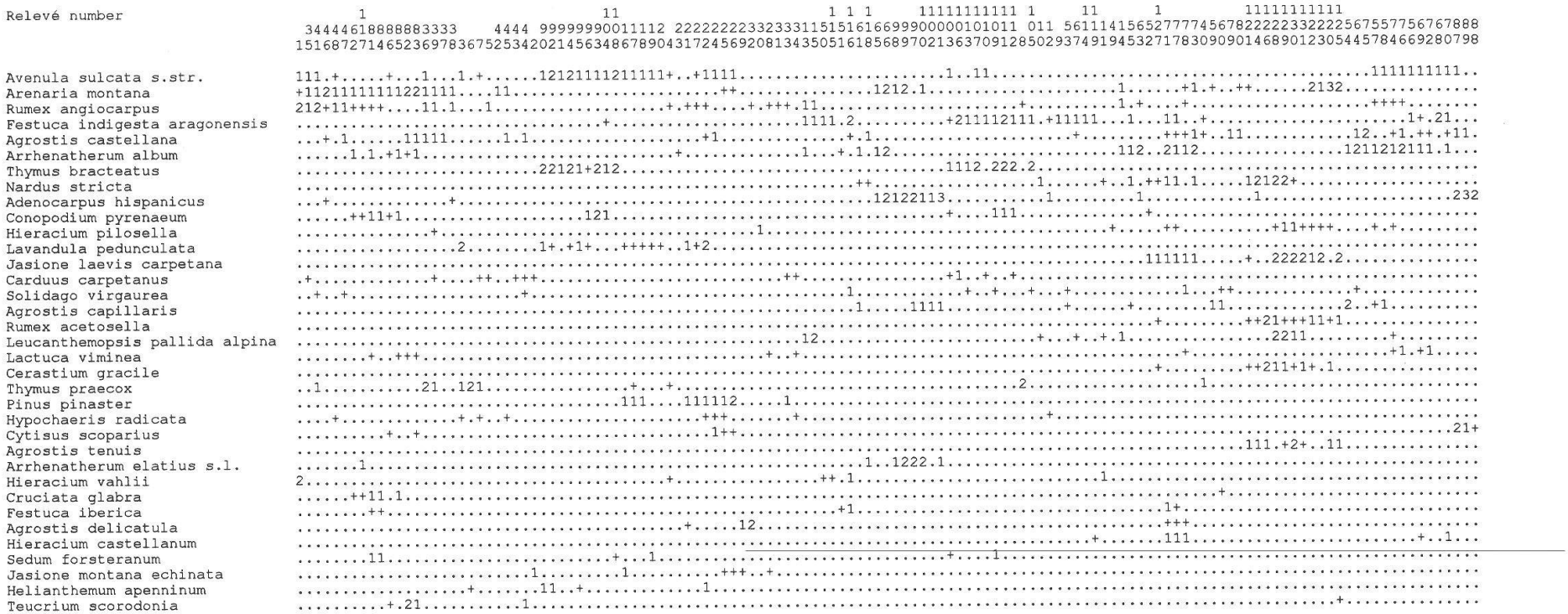


Table 3. (continued)



Further do occur:
Erica australis 45:2, 46:+, 48:+, 62:1; Festuca ampla 35:2, 59:1, 58:1, 61:2; Leontodon crispus bourgeanus 50:+, 76:+, 101:+, 115:+; Sedum brevifolium 13:1, 123:+, 127:+, 130:+; Gagea guadarramica 11:+, 124:+, 125:1, 129:+; Crocus carpetanus 3:+, 71:+, 77:+, 78:+; Leontodon carpetanus 128:+, 129:1, 130:1, 131:+; Armeria caespitosa 128:+, 129:+, 130:+; Omalotheca sylvatica 82:1, 83:1, 123:1; Cladonia pyxidata 122:1, 123:1, 131:1; Lactuca chondrillifolia 57:+, 58:1, 120:+; Dianthus laricifolius 103:1, 105:1, 109:+; Leucanthemopsis pallida s. str. 94:+, 95:+, 96:1; Gentiana lutea 10:2, 78:+, 102:+; Carex muricata 82:+, 83:1, 86:+; Centaurea alba 18:+, 19:+, 55:+; Thymus zygis 21:+, 22:1, 27:+; Urtica dioica 23:+, 43:1, 44:1; Rosa sp. 23:+, 24:+, 53:+; Jurinea humilis 61:1, 103:1, 106:1; Ranunculus olissiponensis s. str. 120:+, 123:+; Senecio sp. 43:+, 47:1; Oxalis corniculata 43:1, 44:1; Senecio jacobea 58:+, 59:1; Thymus mastichina 51:1, 55:2; Picris hieracioides 45:+, 46:+; Dactylis glomerata 26:1, 85:+; Festuca rothmaleri 81:2, 84:1; Festuca aggr. rubra 82:+, 83:1; Acinos alpinus meridionalis 82:+, 83:+; Orobanche rapum-genistae 14:+, 128:+; Rubus sect. Histrices 82:2, 83:1; Geranium robertianum 85:+, 86:+; Narcissus rupicola 9:+, 12+; Sedum album micranthum 109:+, 110:+; Ranunculus olissiponensis alpinus 4:+, 5:2; Cytisus striatus 55:3; Paeonia broteroi 26:+; Potentilla micrantha 85:+; Quercus rotundifolia 2:1; Galeopsis ladanum 82:+; Mucizonia sedoides 49:1; Blechnum spicant 44:1; Lapsana communis 62:1; Epilobium lanceolatum 81:+; Conopodium majus burgaei 122:1; Cytisus multiflorus 55:2; Juncus inflexus 3:+; Arenaria querioides 52:+; Silene saxifraga 49:+; Taraxacum sroeteranum 12:+; Saxifraga willkommia 116:+; Holcus setiglumis 44:+; Viola sp.? 47:+; Sedum hirsutum 51:+; Avenula sulcata albinervis 58:1; Pentaglottis sempervirens 85:1; Andryala integrifolia 25:+; Geranium purpureum 23:1; Thlaspi stenopterum 5:+; Juncus conglomeratus 44:+; Artemisia glutinosa 45:+; Spergula morisonii 51:+; Pinus pinaster (joung) 25:4; Jasione crispa centralis 10:+; Festuca costei 5:3; Scutellaria minor 44:1; Calluna vulgaris 45:1.

Table 4. References of the relevés of Table 3.

1, 2. Relevés of the authors. Valle de Enmedio, Malagón Mountain, Ávila

3-8. Relevés of the authors. Cueva Valiente, Malagón Mountain, Ávila

9-12. Relevés of the authors. Peñalara, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

13, 14. Relevés of the authors. Puerto de Navacerrada, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

15. Relevés of the authors. Bola del Mundo, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

16-20. Relevés of the authors. Calle de los Álamos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

21-27. Relevés of the authors. Cabeza de la Parra, Gredos Mountains, Ávila

28-34. Relevés of the authors. El Arenal, Gredos Mountains, Ávila

35-41. Relevés of the authors. Los Leones, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid-Segovia

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69, 70, 72. Fernández-González (1991). Puerto de la Morcuera, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

71, 77. Fernández-González (1991). Lomo del Noruego, from Cotos to Valdesquí, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

78. Fernández-González (1991). From Cotos to Valdesquí, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

79, 80, 117. Fernández-González (1991). Circo de Hoyo Cerrado, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

81, 84. Fernández-González (1991). Cabeza Mediana, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

82, 83. Fernández-González (1991). Southern slopes of Los Pájaros, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

85. Fernández-González (1991). From Lozoya to Navafría, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

86. Fernández-González (1991). Arroyo de las Guarramillas, Cotos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

87. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Tablada, Malagón Mountain, Madrid

88, 90. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Cabeza de Líjar, Malagón Mountain, Madrid

89. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Abantos, Malagón Mountain, Madrid

91. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Pinares Llanos, Malagón Mountain, Madrid

Table 4. (continued)

92, 94. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Collado de la Mina, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

93. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). La Salamanca, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

95. Rivas-Martínez and Cantó (1987). Collado del Hornillo, Malagón Mountain, Ávila

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99. Rivas-Martínez et al. (1987). Somosierra, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

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124. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Puerto de Navafría, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

125. Rivas-Martínez (1963). El Ventorrillo, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

126. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Puerto de Cotos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

127. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Dos Hermanas, Peñalara, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

128. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Western slope of Siete Picos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

129. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Eastern slope of Siete Picos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

130. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Northern slope of Cerro del Telégrafo, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

131. Rivas-Martínez (1963). Northern slope of Siete Picos, Guadarrama Mountains, Madrid

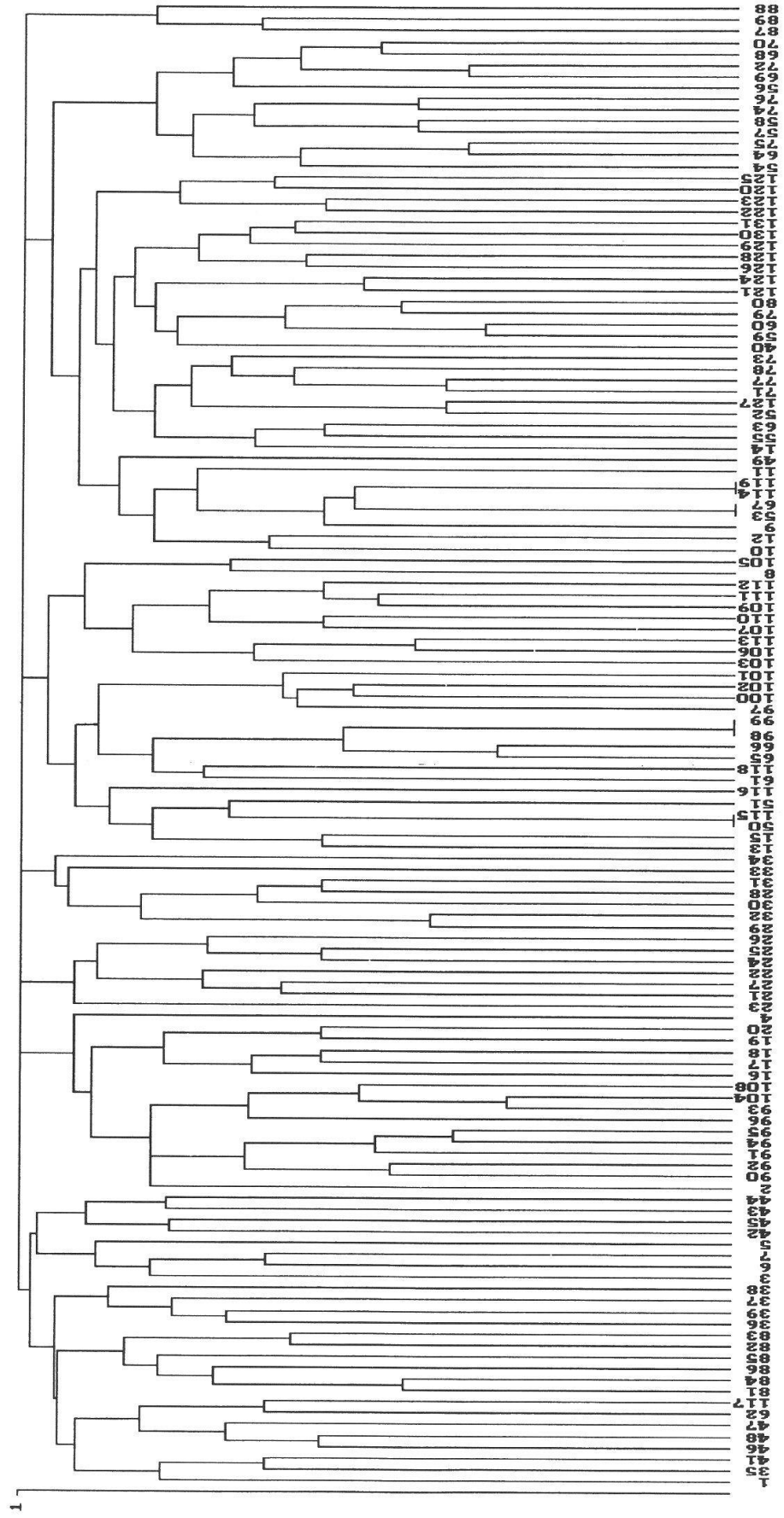


Fig. 2. Similarity dendrogram of the communities of *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* of the Sistema Central.

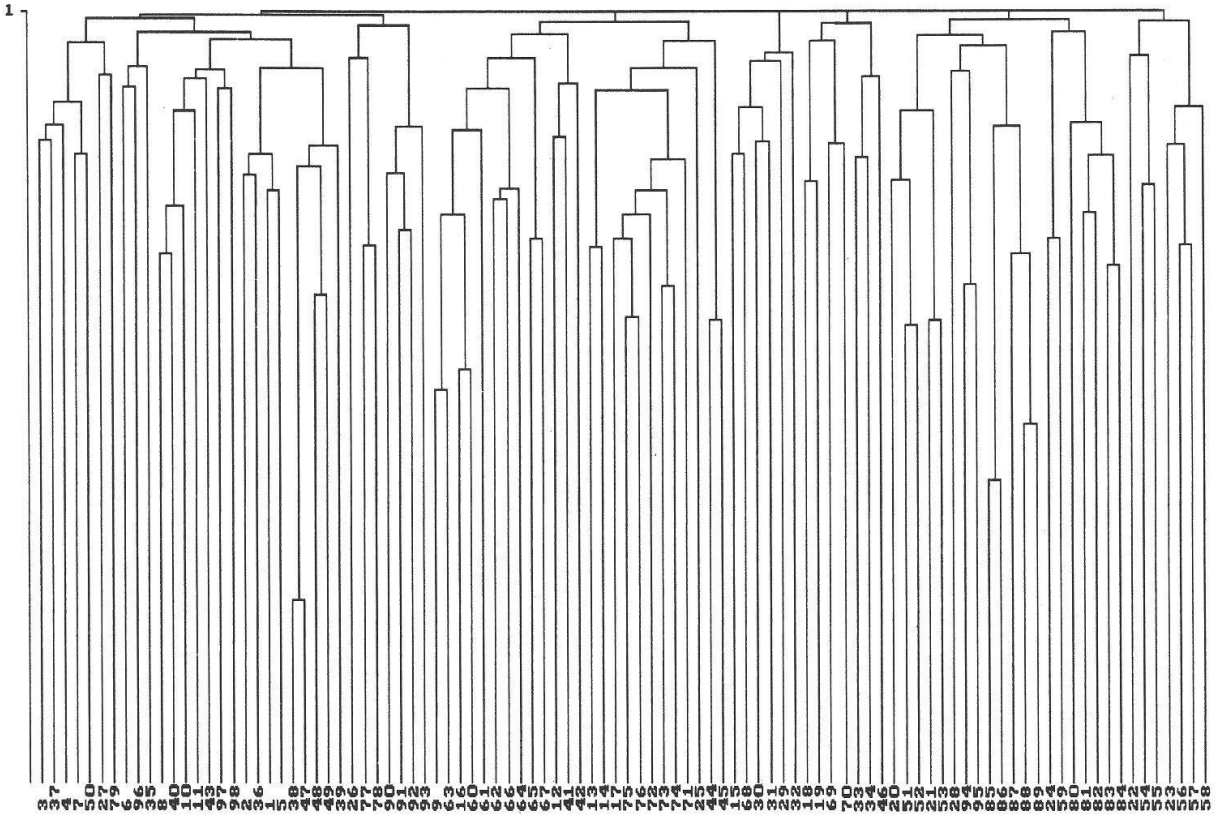


Fig. 3. Similarity dendrogram of the communities of Vaccinio-Piceetea in western Europe and of Quercо-Fagetea with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*.

In Table 4 we can observe that there are several eurosiberian plants, frequent in the Vaccinio-Piceetea, which extend to the Iberian Peninsula (Font Quer 1954, Ceballos 1966): *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Juniperus communis*, *J. sabina*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *P. uncinata*, *Pyrola chlorantha*, *P. minor*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Though the Genisteae are highly diversified in the Mediterranean Region (Cristofolini 1997), and show a very different aspect from the Mediterranean communities, the distribution of *J. communis* and *P. sylvestris* is so evident in the boreal world (Hultén & Fries 1986) that it is not necessary to create another phytosociological class in the Iberian Peninsula. In the mountains of the Anatolian Peninsula (Turkey), there is a similar occurence with the Abietion bornmuellerianae alliance (Rehder et al. 1994).

Group *a* from Table 4 consists of characteristic elements of the *Querco-Fagetea*, whose presence is higher in the Iberian and Pyrenean pine groves, and so we include these in the Pinetalia sylvestris order (Folch i Guillén 1986, Oberdorfer 1990, Bolòs et al. 1993). This order encompasses the mountain pine groves which extend from the center of Europe to the Mediterranean Basin. On the other hand, in group *b*, the frequency of boreal elements is higher, defining the *Piceetalia* order (*Clematis alpina*, *Erica herbacea*, *Homogyne alpina*, *Larix decidua*, *Linnaea borealis*, *Listera cordata*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus cembra*, *Trientalis europaea*...). The Vaccinio-Piceetea class in divided into 2 orders: Pinetalia sylvestris-pine groves which go from Central Europe to the Iberian Peninsula, contacting with elements of Querco-Fagetea class, and Piceetalia-subalpine and alpine coniferous forests which go from boreal Europe to the Pyrenees.

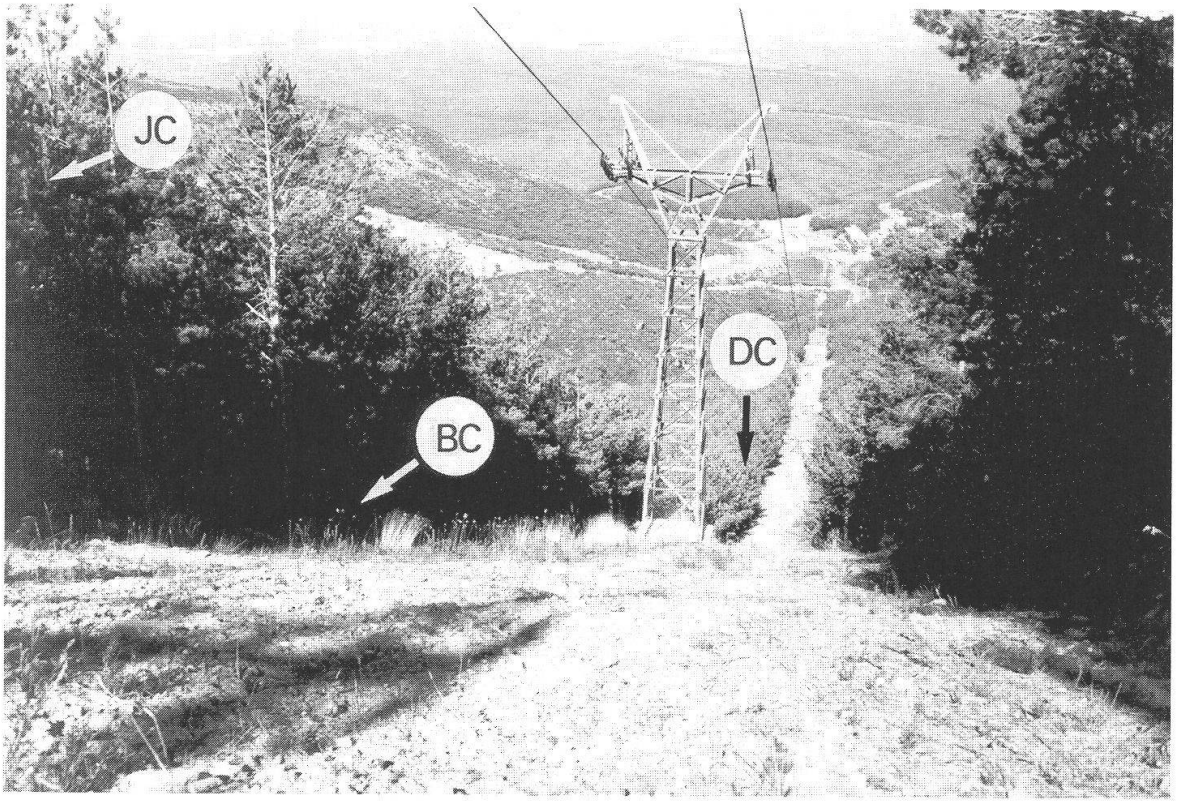


Fig. 4. Photo of a basal community (BC) developed in a track of a chair lift, a derived community (DC), because pine groves are favoured by crops, and natural pine groves of Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris (JC) [La Pinilla, Segovia].

The communities with Pinus sylvestris and Pinus nigra subsp. salzmannii of the Sistema Central – Luzula lactea-Pinus sylvestris Basal Community (BC)

In Figure 4 there is a photo of a *Pinus sylvestris* climax pine grove in the center of Spain. A great part of the forest was destroyed to install a chair lift of a ski resort. Sometime later, this strip was invaded by *Luzula lactea*, while in nearby unaltered zones, there are the elements of Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris. Thus, the community with *Pinus sylvestris* and *Luzula lactea* is a basal community (BC).

Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei

It is a siliceous community dominated by *Cytisus balansae* subsp. *europaeus*, whose origin is the adaptation of some Genisteae to the high mountain during the Alpine orogeny. The characteristic floristic composition includes *Cytisus balansae* subsp. *europaeus*, *Deschampsia flexuosa* subsp. *iberica*, *Juniperus communis* and *Luzula lactea*. From a phytotopographical point of view, it is sited on central and lateral moraines and ice fields of the Sistema Central, between 1500 and 2500 m, on the southern slope, and 1300 to 2500 m on the northern slope. Pine groves appear in the deepest and most humid soils.

From a chorological point of view, it is a Carpetano-Iberico-Leonesa association with different geographical races (Schuhwerk 1990) based on microendemisms such as: *Senecio carpetanus* (=Senecioni carpetani-Cytisetum oromediterranei, Guadarrama Mountains), *Echinospartum barnadesii* (=Cytiso oromediterranei-Echinospartetum barnadesii, Gredos Moun-

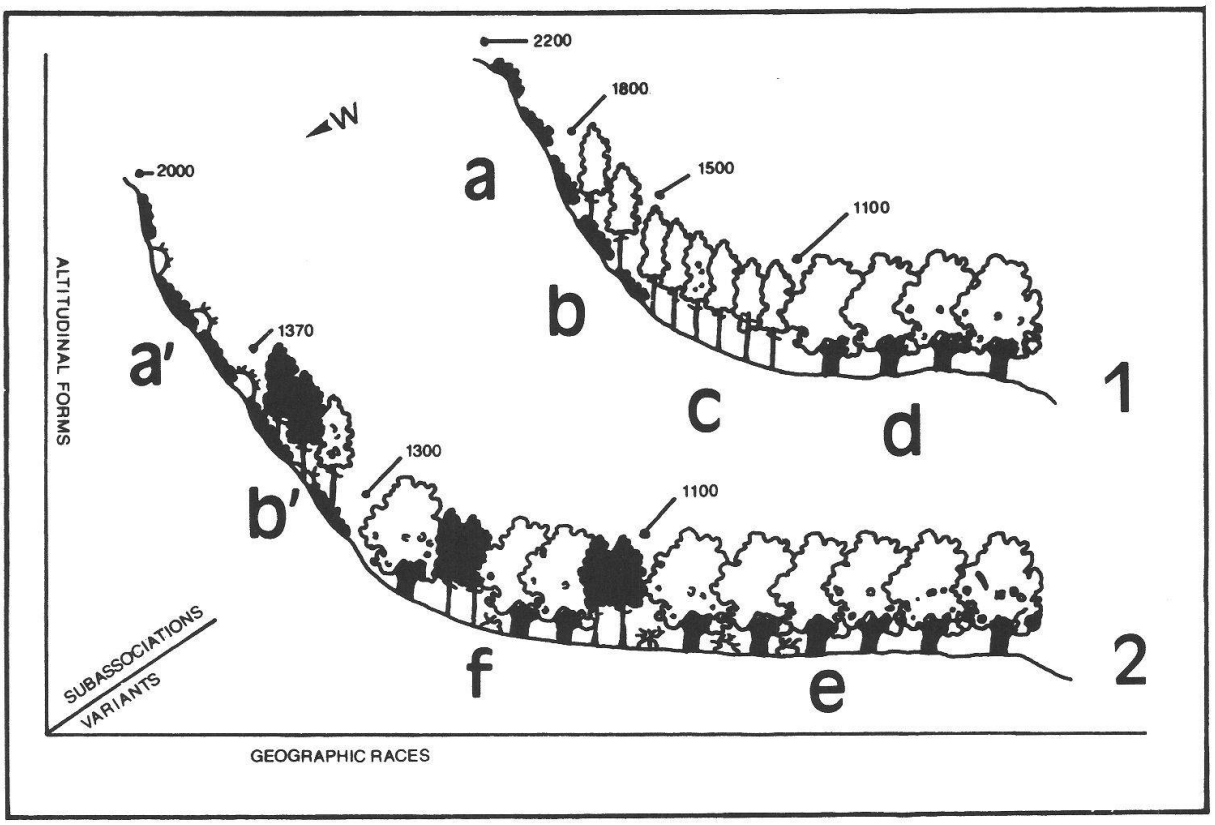


Fig. 5. Variability of the associations with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* in Navacerrada-Madrid (1) and Pico pass-Ávila (2) following the association concept of Kopecký and Hejný (1974), Matuszkiewicz (1981) and Schuhwerk (1990): a) Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei, b) Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris, c) Pinus sylvestris DC, d) Luzulo forsteri-Quercetum pyrenaicae; a′) Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei geographic race with Echinospartum barnadesii, b′) Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris altitudinal form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*, e) Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae, f) Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae relic form with *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*.

tains), *Echinospartum barnadesii* subsp. *dorsisericeum* (=Echinosparto pulviniformis-Cytisetum oromediterranei, Gredos Mountains and Peña de Francia), *Teucrium salviastrum* (=Lycopodio clavati-Juniperetum nanae, Estrela Mountains).

Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris

This encompasses the pine groves of the Guadarrama and the Gredos mountains, sited on more developed soil than the typical association, with a similar floristic court, though there are some important plants such as *Adenocarpus hispanicus*, *Linaria nivea*, *Luzula lactea* or *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

We can deduce from Table 3 that the altitudinal limit of *Pinus sylvestris* is quite variable, depending on the relief. For example, we can find it below 1900 m in the Ayllón Mountains (Segovia), while near Peñalara (Madrid), it can be found below 2200–2300 m, depending on the highest continentality of the locality. (Fig. 5).

The typical association, Junipero-Cytisetum oromediterranei, is a substitution stage of the natural pine groves, and it is a perennial community where *P. sylvestris* cannot grow.

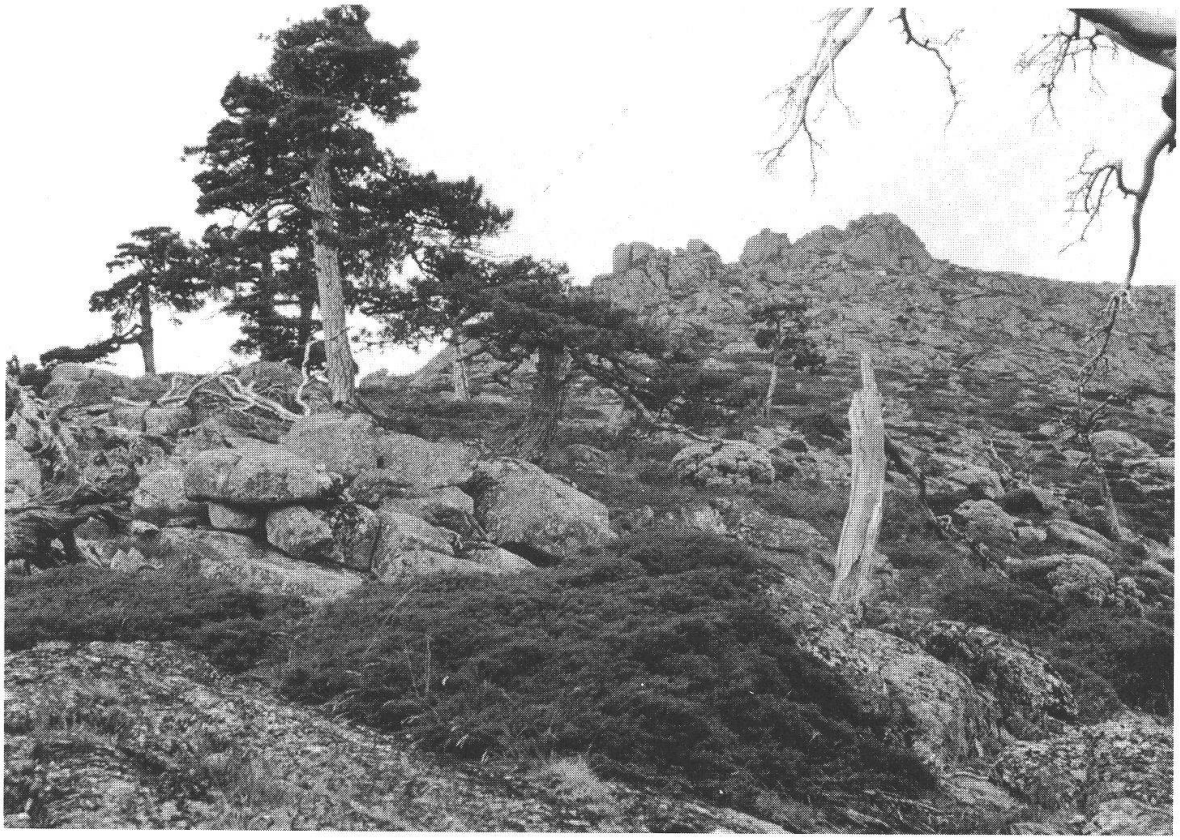
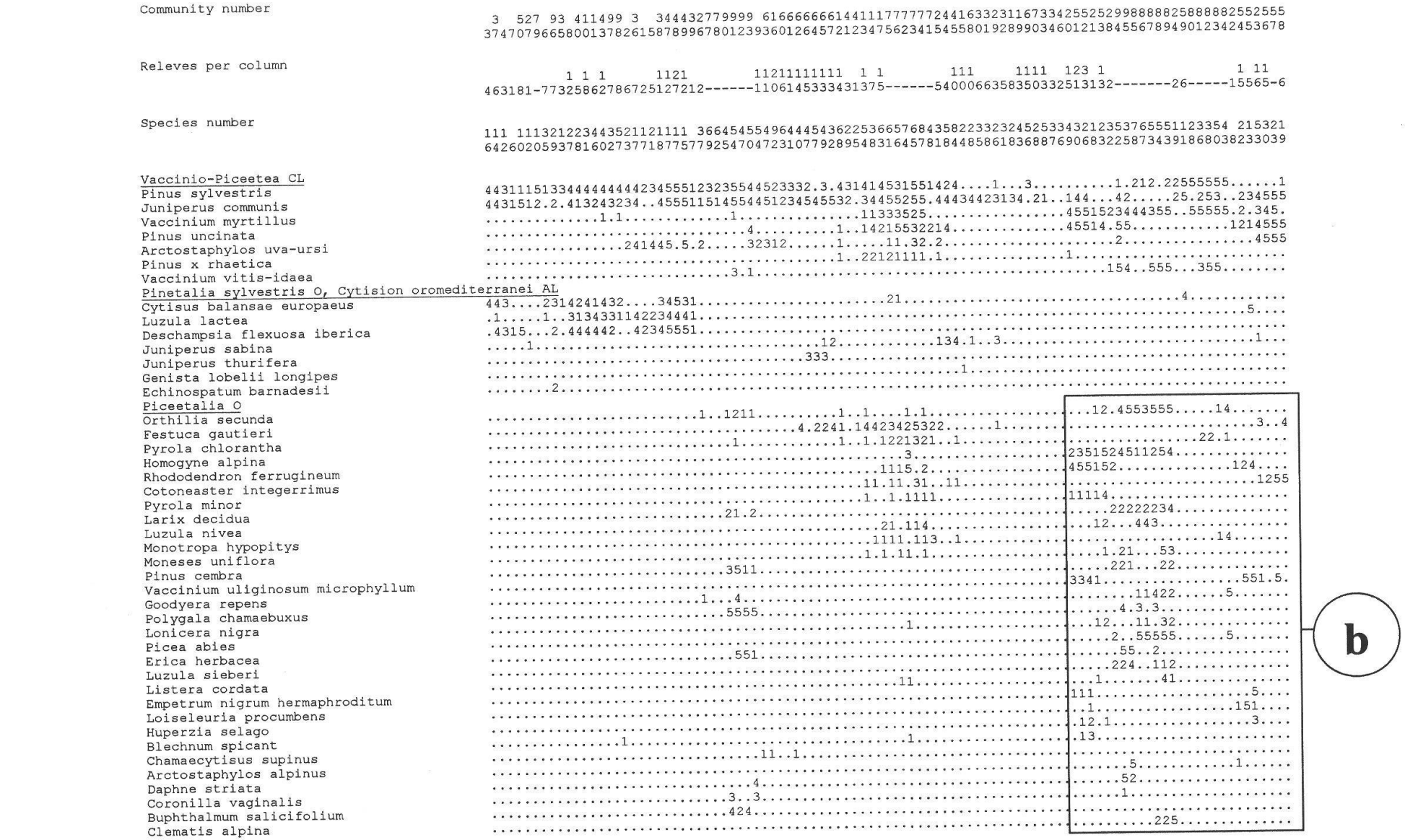


Fig. 6. Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei geographic race with *Echinospartum barnadesii* pinetosum sylvestris and altitudinal form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* (El Arenal, Sierra de Gredos, Avila).

The variability of these communities is high if we also consider the development of pines in the belt of the oak grove. In Table 3 we point out the variant with *Linaria nivea*. This plant, together with *Digitalis purpurea*, indicates soils mainly altered by fire. The pine groves were cleared a long time ago to obtain pasturages for cattle (Gil García et al. 1996). These pine groves belong to the Koelerio-Corynephoretea class and define a subserial variant with *Koeleria crassipes* and *Corynephorus canescens*. In some relevés of Table 3, the presence of *Vaccinium myrtillus*, which is not very frequent in the Guadarrama Mountains, is important. This plant is more abundant in the Ayllón Mountains, in the pine groves above 1620 m (Pinilla ski resort, Segovia); on the other hand, in Madrid it appears above 2000 m (Telégrafo hill). This Ericaceae can always be found exposed to the cold northern winds or protected in the glacial cirques, defining a relic form of cooler times.

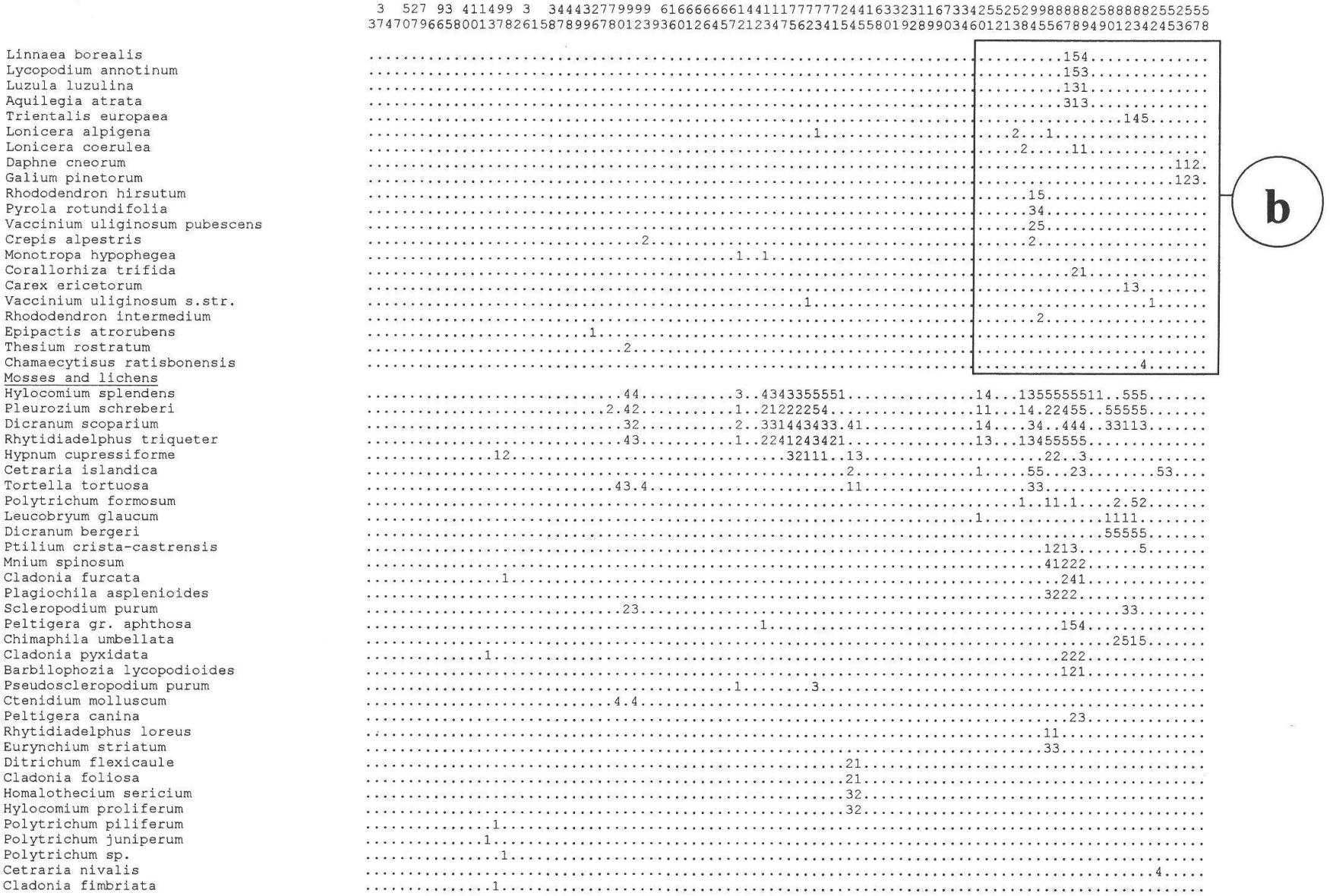
Though Font Quer (1954) cited *Pinus sylvestris* in the Gredos Mountains, it seems that some authors do not find it in the Sistema Central (Rivas-Martínez et al. 1987, Sánchez Mata 1989). Our relevés have been made near the Pico peak (Gredos, Avila), over 1300 m. Most of these localities are on the southern slope. Here *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* is found frequently, giving rise to an altitudinal form of more thermic exposures. (Fig. 6). The ecology and phytogeography of these localities have already been defined by Regato Pajares et al. (1992), Mancebo et al. (1993), Regato et al. (1995).

Table 5. Synthetic Table of the communities of Vaccinio-Piceetea in western Europe and of Querco-Fagetea with *Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* (the Arabic numbers indicate the presence: r=<6%, + =6-10%, 1=11–20%, 2=21–40%, 3=41–60%, 4=61–80%, 5=>81%). Abbreviations: AL=alliance, O=order, CL=class.

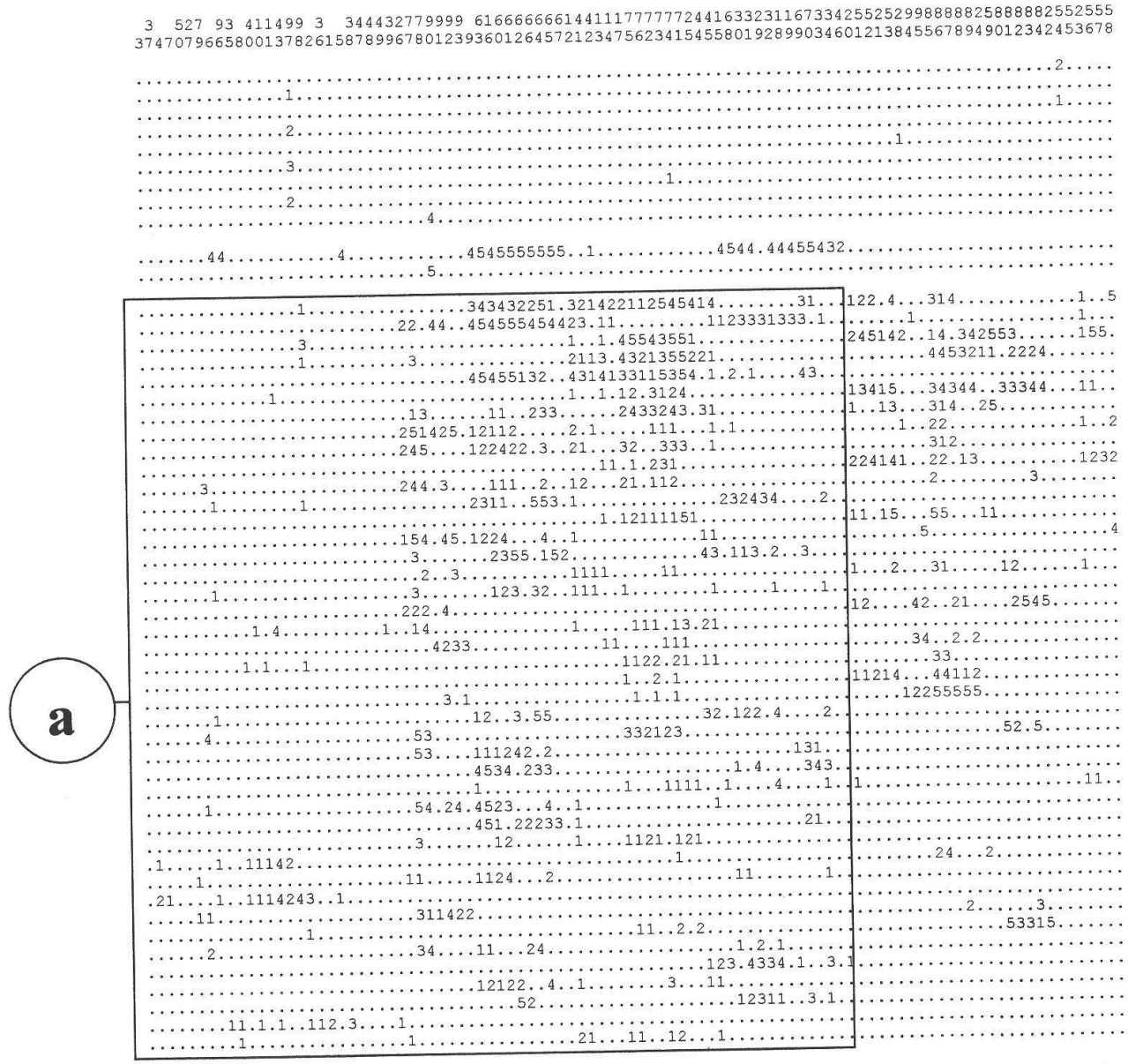


Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number



Tab. 5. (continued)



Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number

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                                3747079665800137826158789967801239360126457212347562341545580192899034601213845567894901234245367 8
Acer opalus                     .........................1.....1211...1..211.....................................................
Viola riviniana                 ..........11.2.....................31121.....................................................
Cytisus sessilifolius           ............................2323.....11.........1..........2.....................................
Sorbus domestica                ........................1.....23232..2.....................2.....................................
Cornus sanguinea                .....................53....2334...3..1.....................................................
Viola willkommii                ............................12253.................24.........2.....................................
Quercus pubescens               ......................24.......12...........1.111.....................................................
Dryopteris filix-mas            ..................................................11.1.11.....................33.1.................
Rubus saxatilis                 .....................................................11.....................335..2..44.......
Quercus robur                   .....4.................22.....................................................51535.......
Carex digitata                  ..........................................1..1....13.....................5.2.....5.........
Sorbus chamaemespilus           ........................1.1.....................................121...14.....................
Mycelis muralis                 ..................................................1...14.....................334..2.............
Paeonia officinalis microcarpa  ..............................113223.....................2.....................................
Carex alba                      ........................1...3.2.....................................534.5.....................
Aquilegia vulgaris              ..................................2..2...1......12...12.....................................
Genista florida                 ........13...3211...1.....................................................................
Adenocarpus hispanicus          14.......3..1.111.....................................................................
Lonicera etrusca                ..............................1123...1.................3.....................................
Populus tremula                 ..........11.................3.....................................................1.12.......
Sanicula europaea               ............2.....................2..2.....................................11...2.............
Euphorbia amygdaloides          ..............................124.............11.....................................2.............
Laserpitium latifolium          ..................................................1.......11.....................................12.1
Melampyrum pratense ssp. alpestre ..............................1.............11.111.....................................
Helleborus viridis occidentalis  ..................................................1.1.124.....................2.....................
Dryopteris dilatata             ..................................................2.....................33..2..12.....................
Polygonatum odoratum            ........................43.........3.....................................................422.......
Veronica urticifolia            ..................................................1.....................55213.....................
Athyrium filix-femina           ............1.....................................1.1.....................31.....................
Paris quadrifolia               ............1.....................................11.....................22.....................
Luzula sylvatica                ..................................................11.....................4...44.....................
Rhamnus alpinus                 ..................................................321.....................................1..5
Daphne mezereum                 ..................................................1.11.15.....................................
Stellaria holostea              ..................................................1111.1.....................................
Vicia sepium                    ..................................................11..122.....................................
Lathyrus montanus               ..................................................3..1241.....................................
Festuca heterophylla            ............2.1.........3......1.........1.....................................................
Campanula persicifolia          ........................53......12...........1.....................................................
Rosa sp.                        .......11.....................1.1.......1.....................................................
Rubus ulmifolius                .......1.....................................1.....................1....1.....................
Dryopteris carthusiana          ..................................................................................3...41.1.......
Frangula alnus                  ..................................................................................2.153.......
Epilobium montanum              ..................................................11.....................11.....................
Cephalanthera rubra             ....................................2..2.............21.....................................
Geranium sanguineum             ........................55.....................................11.....................................
Sorbus torminalis               ......1.....................54.....................1.....................................
Betula pubescens                ..................................................1.....................111.....................
Acer monspessulanum             ..................................12..15.....................................................
Hypericum montanum              ........................52.....11.....................................................
Potentilla micrantha            ............1.....................................3.....................11.....................
Origanum vulgare                ........1.....................32.....1.....................................................
Quercus pyrenaica               ........1.2...4.....4.....................................................................
Viola alba dehnhardtii          ..................................4522.....................................................
Rosa pouzinii                   ..................................................1.....................14....1.....................
Ilex aquifolium                 ..................................................1.........11...........2.....................
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Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number

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Acer campestre                  ..........3.....1.1.....................................................................
Acer platanoides                ..........1.....................................................14.....
Melica uniflora                 .1........1.....1.1.....................................................................
Prunus avium                    ..........13....1.......................................................................
Teucrium scorodonia             .21.1.....................................................................................
Viola odorata                   .1..2.....................3.............................................................
Lilium martagon                 ..........1....22.....................................................................
Poa chaixii                     ..................................1.................11.
Convallaria majalis             ..........23....1.....................................................................
Clinopodium vulgare s.str.      ..........3.....11....................................................................
Berberis vulgaris seroi         ..........24....4.....................................................................
Rosa pimpinellifolia            ..........333...................................................................
Polygonatum verticillatum       ..........1.....11....5.....
Carpinus betulus                ..........24....................................................................
Acer pseudoplatanus             ..........3.5.....2.....
Campanula rapunculoides         .1........3..3.....................................................................
Taxus baccata                   ..........1.....1.....
Sorbus mougeotii                ..................1...
Geranium sylvaticum             ..................1.....4.....
Rosa sicula                     ..........11....
Daphne laureola latifolia       ..........11....
Crataegus laciniata             ..................1.....2.....
Rosa corymbifera                .2.....1..........
Rosa spinosissima ssp. myriacantha ..........21....
Viola canina                    ..........3.....3.....
Rhamnus catharticus             .2........3.....
Pyrus communis                  ..........41....
Primula veris s.str.            ..........32....
Lathyrus niger                  ..........25....
Trifolium medium                ..........52....
Buglossoides purpurocaerulea    ..........22....
Bupleurum falcatum              ..........11....
Galium sylvaticum               ..........21....
Viola hirta                     ..........34....
Potentilla alba                 ..........13....
Rubus sp.                       ..........1.....1.....
Tilia cordata                   ..................24....
Sambucus racemosa               ..................22....
Galium odoratum                 ..................12....
Petasites albus                 ..................32....
Lamiastrum galeobdolon          ..................11....
Neottia nidus-avis              ..................41....
Luzula luzuloides               ..................34....
Quercus x cerrioides            ..........12....
Tilia platyphyllos              ..........4.....1.....
Clematis recta                  ..........12....
Clematis vitalba                ..........3.....1.....
Dictamnus albus                 ..........12....
Euphorbia dulcis                ..........3.....1.....
Thesium bavarum                 ..........3.....
Abies maroccana                 ..................1.....
Aquilegia pyrenaica             ..................1...
Cedrus atlantica                ..................1.....
Viola mirabilis                 ..........3.....
Genista cephalantha demnatensis ..................1.....
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Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number

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                                3  527 93 411499 3  344432779999 6166666661441117777772441633231167334255252998888825888882552555
                                374707966580013782615878996780123936012645721234756234154558019289903460121384556789490123424536 78
Peucedanum cervaria             ........................5.......................................................................
Melittis melissophylum          .........................................1.....................................................
Fragaria viridis                ........................1..............................................................
Rosa tomentosa                  ..............1.....................................................................
Crataegus sp.                   ........................5..............................................................
Campanula trachelium            ..................................................1.....................................
Pulmonaria angustifolia         ........................5..............................................................
Rosa arvensis                   .........................................1.....................................................
Salix angustifolia              ..................................................2.....................................
Helleborus niger                ..............1.....................................................................
Rubus chamaemorus               ...................................................................1.....................
Primula vulgaris                ..................................................3.....................................
Anemone nemorosa                ................................................1.....................................
Genista falcata                 .......2..............................................................................
Euonymus verrucosus             ...................................................................3.....................
Paeonia officinalis s.str.       ..................................................2.....................................
Scilla lilio-hyacinthus          ................................................1.....................................
Cytisus striatus                .......1..............................................................................
Carex sylvatica                 ...................................................................1.....................
Cotoneaster granatensis          ................................................1.....................................
Cotinus coggygria               .....1................................................................................
Luzula forsteri s.str.          ............1.........................................................................
Cotoneaster nebrodensis         ........................4.....................................................................
Lonicera periclymenum           .....................................2.....................................................
Rosa stylosa                    ..................................................2.....................................
Rubus sect. Histrices           ............1.........................................................................
Cyclamen purpurascens           ........................4.....................................................................
Geum heterocarpum               ................................................1.....................................
Cephalanthera damasonium        ...................................2.....................................................
Rosa micrantha                  ............1.........................................................................
Coriaria myrtifolia              ..................................1.....................................................
Cephalanthera longifolia        ...................................2.....................................................
Calluno-Ulicetea CL             
Veronica officinalis            ............4..1.........2............1....1551235.....................3421124..132.......
Calluna vulgaris                ..............1.....................1.234213.................1.5..1.........55555.2.144.
Genista pilosa                  ........................5.............123..2.....................................41.........
Erica australis                 ..............2.......................................................................
Erica multiflora                ..................................................5...................................
Erica vagans                    ...................................................................1...
Quercetea ilicis CL             
Erica arborea                   ........2.11122.433114525.....................................................................
Quercus rotundifolia            ................1............121243...2.............1.4....34321.....................
Juniperus oxycedrus             ..................11.3.................23.4....45221.....................
Juniperus phoenicea             ...................3....3............45.3..1143..1.....................
Rubia peregrina                 .................45353..4...1.................551.....................
Cytisus scoparius               .......2.3...1.....................1.............4....32.............2.........
Bupleurum rigidum               .................1212...2.....................32.....................
Rhamnus alaternus               .................12121.....................33.....................
Quercus coccifera               .................1212.....................54.....................
Daphne gnidium                  ..................................................221.....................
Paeonia broteroi                .......1..............................................2....1.....................
Rhamnus myrtifolius             ..................................................34.....................
Lonicera splendida              ...................................1...1.....................
Aristolochia pistolochia        ..................24.....................
Pistacia terebinthus            .................1.....................2.....................
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Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number

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                                3  527 93 411499 3  344432779999 6166666661441117777772441633231167334255252998888825888882552555
                                3747079665800137826158789967801239360126457212347562341545580192899034601213845567894901234245367 8
Pistacia lentiscus              ..........................................................42.....................................
Smilax aspera                   ..........................................................41.....................................
Phillyrea latifolia             ..........................................................31.....................................
Arbutus unedo                   ..........................................................21.....................................
Lonicera implexa                ..........................................................22.....................................
Moehringia trinervia            ..................................................1....1.....................................
Cytisus multiflorus             .......1..................................................................................
Ruscus aculeatus                ..........................................................3.....................................
Jasminum fruticans              ..........................................................1.....................................
Viburnum tinus                  ..........................................................2.....................................
Carex distachya                 ..........................................................1.....................................
Osyris alba                     ..........................................................2.....................................
Clematis flammula               ..........................................................2.....................................
Companions
Solidago virgaurea              ....1.....111..11....1212.143......24.........1..122212.........................44325....535.......
Hieracium gr. murorum           ...............................2323444.231.1122541344211.....................................
Teucrium chamaedrys s.str.      .....1.....................14.333.1223..355312.....................3.....................11.1
Oxalis acetosella               ..........................................112..3.35..............135142..44555...1.14.......
Cruciata glabra                 .........11.2.....................1333.12231.43.....................................1211
Carex humilis                   ........................232141.1212....2223...........22.....................................
Pteridium aquilinum             .......313...421...1.........14.....................3.3..2.....................1..53.......
Valeriana montana               ..............................2.............131.11311.................1.....33..............1...
Avenula sulcata s.str           .......3..1.11.212.142313.....................................................................
Genista scorpius                ...............................3423.34222.2.....................3.11.........................
Aphyllanthes monspeliensis      ...............................1224.22332.............1.........212.........................
Lotus corniculatus              ..............................4454.....123.......124.42.....................5.....................
Epipactis atrorubens            ..............................2555..11.3.................21.....................2.31.................
Ranunculus tuberosus            ..................................................1..1.1111212.....................332.................
Sesleria albicans               ..............................5235.........1..22.....................1.....55..............1...
Campanula rotundifolia          ........................1..443.............12.33.....11.....................4.....................
Rumex angiocarpus               ..3....22.1111.312.1.....................................................................
Lavandula latifolia             ....................................35355.....................2133.43.........................
Koeleria vallesiana             ....................................34245.............1....2.13..22.........................
Gymnocarpium dryopteris         ..................................................2.1.................11314...22.52.............
Polygala calcarea               ....................................3.1.2.1..11..1.51..31.....................................
Avenula pratensis ssp. iberica  ................................5.544244.1..1.........2.....................................
Polypodium vulgare              ..................................................13211.32.....................14.....1...........
Erinacea anthyllis              ....................................23.............23433.....121.....................................
Nardus stricta                  2...2.....111.2.......2.....................................................132.....................
Knautia arvensis                ..............................1235.3.33.........121.....................................
Tanacetum corymbosum            ........................52....111223.33.....................................................
Potentilla erecta               ..............................4.............1.11.1.............1.............1214.......
Hieracium pilosella             .......1.1.1.111.....................................1.....................................422.....
Arrhenatherum elatius s.l.      .4.....................31.............35452.....................3.....................................
Rhamnus saxatilis               ....................................12..23..1.............21......13.....................................
Thymus vulgaris                 ....................................1.1....44.....................333.43.....................................
Anthoxanthum odoratum           ..........................5.....................1211.....................................2.555.........
Galium glabra                   ..................................................4553555.44.....................................
Bromus erectus                  ....................................12.22242.1.............2.....................................
Senecio pyrenaicus carpetanus   21..3.....111.1.1......2.....................................................................
Galium pumilum s.l.             ..................................................1..22.343522.....................................
Coronilla emerus                ........................3.....23132.....111.....................................................
Carex hallerana                 ..................................................211.34...22...2.....................................
Halimium umbellatum viscosum    ..............1.341145.5.....................................................................
Ononis aragonensis              ....................................2.232.............1.1..1.3.....................................
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Tab. 5. (continued)

Community number

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                                3  527 93 411499 3  344432779999 6166666661441117777772441633231167334255252998888825888882552555
                               374707966580013782615878996780123936012645721234756234154558019289903460121384556789490123424536 78
Luzula pilosa                  ..........................3.....................................................323..4.555.......
Maianthenum bifolium           ..........................................................................42533..2..44.......
Knautia dipsacifolia           ...............................51.........2.................................2.335.2.............
Hieracium sylvaticum           ........................24..................................................55555.............
Melica nutans                  ........................31.......................1.....................315.......3........
Carex flacca                   ..........................1.5.3.1.................21.....................1.................
Phyteuma spicatum              ..........................................1...1.1.11.....................34.................
Festuca indigesta s.str.       ....4.........1.....45251.....................................................................
Calamagrostis villosa          ..........................................................................12211.55.............
Euphorbia cyparissias          ........................343244.....................2.....................................
Prunella grandiflora pyrenaica ..........................................2321325.....................................................
Leucanthemum vulgare           ..............................12..242.....................................................1.1.
Catananche caerulea            ..............................12.....42.....................4....32.........................
Brachypodium pinnatum s.str.   ........................135.4111.....................................................
Conopodium pyrenaeum           .........11.3....1..2.13.....................................................
Leontodon crispus bourgaeanus  .1.12......11.........11.....................................................
Agrostis castellana            .......1.2.131.22.....................................................
Linaria nivea                  122.......1.311.....................................................
Festuca indigesta aragonensis  2.21......121....1.....................................................
Carduus carpetanus             ........1......111.1.12.....................................................
Koeleria crassipes             .......2.......1.1211.....................................1.....................
Leucanthemopsis pallida alpina 2.3.1.......1.1........2.....................................................2.....
Coronilla minima               ........................1......1211..3.....................................
Teucrium montanum              .....1.....................43.3.....................24.....................
Genista hispanica              ...............................23132.....................3.....................
Galium ludicum                 ..........................3412..1.....................1.....................
Avenula bromoides              .....................................24.....................3232.....................
Euphorbia nicaeensis           ....................................4444.....................1..2.....................
Helianthemum cinereum          ....................................4.....................12.122.....................
Festuca eskia                  ..........................................................142.....................143.
Calamagrostis arundinacea      ..........................1.....................................11.....315.....
Lathyrus filiformis            ...................................31322.....................1.....................
Leuzea conifera                ....................................2..32.....................322.....................
Biscutella valentina           ....................................32.23.....................33.....................
Thymus bracteatus              ................4..45.............3.33.....................
Thymus serpyllum               ..........................4234.....................................................11.
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Further do occur:

Gymnadenia odoratissima 91:2, 92:3, 93:4, 94:3, 95:1; Hieracium bifidum 91:5, 92:2, 93:3, 94:5, 95:3; Carduus defloratus 90:4, 91:2, 92:2, 93:5, 94:3; Campanula cochlearifolia 92:1, 93:5, 94:2, 95:3, 85:3; Calamagrostis varia 90:5, 91:4, 92:5, 85:3, 86:1; Festuca ovina 78:4, 81:5, 82:5, 83:5, 84:5; Dactylis glomerata 6:1, 11:1, 78:4, 33:3, 34:3; Carex montana 77:2, 78:4, 76:1, 73:1, 71:2; Brachypodium phoenicoides 62:3, 66:2, 64:3, 65:4, 69:3; Hippocrepis comosa 90:4, 91:3, 92:4, 93:4, 45:1; Acinos alpinus s.str. 44:2, 45:1, 32:2, 33:2, 34:2; Prunus prostrata 44:2, 45:1, 68:1, 30:2, 29:2; Helianthemum nummularium s.str. 27:1, 23:1, 56:1, 57:3, 58:2; Dryas octopetala 93:2, 94:2, 95:4, 22:1, 23:1; Potentilla tabernaemontani 62:2, 66:4, 64:2, 65:4, 19:1; Geranium robertianum 11:1, 74:1, 71:1, 85:1, 86:1; Agrostis capillaris 37:3, 8:3, 48:3, 24:1, 59:3; Arrhenatherum album 4:2, 6:1, 8:3, 10:3, 11:4; Hypochoeris radicata 3:1, 6:2, 96:1, 98:1, 2:1; Stipa gigantea 35:2, 2:1, 36:3, 1:1, 5:1; Hieracium vahlii myriadenum 3:1, 7:1, 40:1, 2:1, 1:1; Helianthemum croceum 15:3, 68:4, 30:3, 31:3, 46:1; Antennaria dioica 26:1, 13:1, 14:2, 23:1, 57:2; Pinus pinaster 6:4, 96:1, 5:2, 33:1, 46:2; Carlina acaulis 90:3, 91:2, 93:4, 94:3; Phyteuma orbiculare 90:4, 92:2, 93:1, 94:2; Leontodon incanus 90:4, 91:2, 93:3, 94:2; Peucedanum oreoselinum 26:1, 82:5, 83:1, 84:4; Scorzonera humilis 80:2, 81:1, 82:2, 84:4; Hieracium argillaceum 87:1, 89:2, 80:1, 83:3; Anthericum ramosum 77:3, 78:4, 91:3, 82:4; Brachypodium retusum 61:3, 65:2, 67:3, 69:5; Lithodora fruticosa 31:1, 33:1, 34:1, 46:1; Silene nutans 77:2, 78:3, 44:2, 45:1; Agrostis tenuis 43:3, 81:3, 82:2, 83:3; Rumex acetosella 43:4, 80:2, 81:2, 83:2; Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum 44:1, 45:1, 33:3, 34:2; Rosmarinus officinalis 31:2, 69:5, 33:1, 46:1; Arenaria armerina 30:3, 33:1, 34:1, 46:2; Vicia cracca s.str. 73:3, 74:1, 25:1, 32:3; Festuca paniculata 23:1, 56:2, 57:2, 58:1; Festuca hystrix 65:3, 67:3, 68:1, 19:2; Globularia vulgaris 16:1, 60:2, 67:3, 19:1; Festuca iberica 8:1, 40:1, 10:1, 11:1; Sedum forsteranum 11:1, 5:1, 38:1, 47:2; Helianthemum apenninum 6:1, 2:1, 36:2, 19:1; Lavandula pedunculata 6:2, 2:1, 36:3, 5:4; Jasione montana echinata 6:1, 96:1, 1:1, 5:1; Vincetoxicum hirundinaria s.str. 77:4, 78:1, 16:1, 19:1; Ptilostemon hispanicum 15:1, 31:1, 33:1, 34:2; Echinospartum boissieri 15:2, 68:3, 30:3, 31:3; Scabiosa turolensis 65:4, 15:1, 68:2, 33:2; Cerastium boissierianum 15:1, 30:3, 33:1, 34:2; Thymus orospedanus 15:3, 68:4, 30:4, 31:2; Vicia pyrenaica 13:1, 14:2, 44:1, 45:1; Lathyrus linifolius 41:1, 42:1, 13:1, 14:1; Brachypodium pinnatum rupestre 12:1, 41:2, 13:1, 14:1; Avenula mirandana 9:4, 16:3,

Tab. 5. (continued)

70:5; Lavandula angustifolia pyrenaica 9:2, 16:3, 32:1; Lactuca viminea 96:1, 10:1, 11:3; Thesium alpinum 90:3, 93:2, 94:1; Valeriana tripteris 90:4, 85:4, 86:3; Luzula multiflora 81:3, 82:5, 83:3; Stachys officinalis 78:3, 16:1, 41:1; Hieracium gr. peleteranum 75:2, 76:3, 74:1; Avenula pratensis s.l. 76:1, 73:1, 74:1; Pulsatilla alpina s.str. 13:1, 14:2, 73:2; Conopodium majus s.str. 75:2, 76:1, 72:1; Erysimum grandiflorum 66:3, 65:2, 67:2; Medicago suffruticosa 62:1, 66:3, 65:2; Vicia tenuifolia 61:3, 64:1, 65:2; Lavandula angustifolia s.str. 63:3, 60:4, 62:2; Armeria caespitosa 50:2, 43:1, 48:1; Jasione laevis carpetana 8:1, 10:1, 43:3; Jurinea humilis 97:1, 38:1, 47:2; Sanguisorba minor s.str. 32:3, 69:3, 33:2; Phlomis lynchnitis 31:1, 33:2, 34:2; Teucrium webbianum 31:3, 33:1, 34:2; Polygala boissieri 30:3, 29:2, 32:2; Astragalus granatensis 66:4, 68:2, 29:2; Saxifraga cuneifolia 28:2, 85:2, 86:4; Globularia cordifolia 26:1, 90:4, 93:1; Centaurea scabiosa 26:1, 93:4, 94:2; Saponaria ocymoides 26:1, 93:5, 45:1; Phyteuma hemisphaericum 54:2, 23:1, 57:1; Ononis pusilla 26:1, 19:1, 33:1; Silene saxifraga 98:1, 18:1, 19:1; Poa ligulata 45:1, 18:1, 19:4; Helianthemum canum s.str. 67:3, 18:1, 19:4; Fumana ericoides 18:4, 19:3, 69:2; Acinos alpinus meridionalis 11:1, 30:2, 31:1; Teucrium pyrenaicum s.str. 9:1, 23:1, 58:2; Clinopodium vulgare arundanum 6:1, 11:2, 98:1; Agrostis delicatula 6:1, 96:1, 10:1; Gentiana lutea 3:1, 37:1, 10:1; Thymus praecox 97:2, 2:4, 5:1; Cistus laurifolius 36:3, 1:1, 5:4; Helictotrichon filifolium 15:3, 68:5, 30:3; Lonicera pyrenaica 14:1, 23:1, 56:1; Leontodon pyrenaicus 14:1, 54:3, 55:5; Echinospartum horridum 12:1, 41:1, 25:3; Vicia incana 12:1, 13:1; Hieracium sp. 26:1, 13:1; Lathyrus pratensis 91:3, 13:1; Carduus carlinifolius 13:1, 14:2; Fumana paradoxa 15:1, 31:1; Crocus carpetanus 10:1, 2:1; Gagea guadarramica 3:1, 43:1; Sedum brevifolium 4:1, 43:1; Orobanche rapum-genistae 4:1, 43:1; Festuca elegans 96:4, 5:1; Centaurea alba 96:1, 5:1; Urtica dioica 6:1, 98:1; Galium rivulare 8:1, 40:1; Digitalis purpurea s.str. 10:1, 43:2; Hieracium castellanum 40:1, 10:1; Holcus mollis 11:2, 81:2; Lathyrus vernus 77:4, 16:1; Epipactis helleborine 17:1, 25:1; Globularia repens 18:4, 19:4; Jasonia glutinosa 18:4, 19:2; Rhamnus pumilus 18:3, 23:1; Draba dedeana 18:4, 19:3; Sanguisorba rupicola 18:3, 19:2; Sedum dasyphyllum 18:1, 19:1; Anthyllis vulneraria 18:1, 19:4; Chaenorhinum origanifolium crassifolium 18:1, 19:2; Anthyllis montana 25:1, 18:1; Viola sp. 19:1, 28:1; Polystichum aculeatum 72:1, 20:1; Hypericum richeri burseri 20:1, 52:1; Salix pyrenaica 20:1, 22:1; Polystichum lonchitis 72:1, 20:1; Geum montanum 20:1, 28:1; Silene rupestris 23:1, 56:1; Thymelaea nivalis 25:1, 23:1; Senecio adonidifolius 23:1, 56:1; Sideritis hyssopifolia 23:1, 58:2; Helictotrichon sedenense 23:1, 56:1; Hieracium cerinthoides 23:1, 56:1; Saxifraga paniculata 23:1, 56:1; Galium verum 26:1, 92:5; Asperula aristata 27:1, 26:1; Festuca rubra 28:1, 57:2; Teucrium leonis 30:3, 31:1; Viola suavis 30:1, 32:2; Scabiosa andryalifolia 30:3, 31:1; Alyssum serpyllifolium 30:2, 34:1; Genista pseudopilosa 30:1, 34:1; Piptatherum paradoxum 69:2, 33:1; Teucrium polium 33:2, 46:1; Cistus albidus 69:3, 33:1; Silene mellifera 45:1, 33:1; Crepis albida 45:1, 33:1; Galium fruticescens 33:1, 34:1; Carlina corymbosa 34:3, 46:1; Santolina chamaecyparissus 65:3, 34:1; Bupleurum fruticescens 69:5, 34:1; Avenula lodunensis 35:1, 36:4; Dianthus laricifolius 38:1, 47:2; Sedum album micranthum 38:1, 47:2; Lactuca chondrillifolia 8:1, 43:1; Gnaphalium sylvaticum 11:1, 43:1; Saponaria glutinosa 44:3, 45:2; Thymus zapateri 44:3, 45:3; Myosotis sylvatica 44:3, 45:2; Galium idubedae 44:2, 45:1; Arabis turrita 44:3, 45:1; Veronica jabalambrensis 44:4, 45:1; Siler nestleri 44:1, 45:1; Chrysanthemum corymbosum 44:2, 45:2; Ononis cenisia 44:2, 45:1; Allium sphaerocephalum 44:1, 45:1; Geum urbanum 44:1, 45:1; Epipactis microphylla 44:1, 45:1; Bupleurum ranunculoides 44:1, 45:1; Elymus caninus 16:1, 45:1; Gentiana bursei 72:1, 52:2; Primula integrifolia 54:2, 55:2; Carex curvula 54:3, 55:3; Juncus trifidus 54:5, 55:2; Carex sp. 56:1, 57:1; Sempervivum montanum 23:1, 56:1; Meum athamanticum 56:1, 57:1; Globularia nudicaulis 56:1, 58:4; Genista heterochrous 61:4, 69:3; Hippocrepis glauca 64:3, 65:2; Asperula cynanchica 65:3, 67:3; Hieracium gr. cordifolium 73:2, 71:2; Sesleria caerulea 72:1, 73:4; Arabis pauciflora 75:3, 76:1; Carex pilulifera 80:3, 82:3; Danthonia decumbens 80:2, 82:5; Lycopodium clavatum 81:3, 84:2; Aster bellidiastrum 85:3, 86:1; Euphrasia salisburgensis 93:3, 94:2; Biscutella laevigata 93:4, 94:3; Leucanthemum maximum 93:4, 94:3; Mucizonia sedoides 98:1; Teucrium pyrenaicum ssp. guarense 12:2; Viola cornuta 98:1; Potentilla neumanniana 12:1; Picris hieracioides 98:1; Pulmonaria longifolia 12:1; Artemisia glutinosa 98:1; Hipochoeris radicata 98:1; Hieracium gr. praecox 13:1; Viscum album ssp. austriacum 13:1; Holcus setiglumis 98:1; Dianthus hyssopifolius 14:2; Juncus conglomeratus 98:1; Hieracium lactucella 14:1; Scutellaria minor 98:1; Viola rupestris 14:1; Aconitum napellus castellanum 98:1; Helianthemum canum pourretii 15:1; Oxalis corniculata 98:1; Centaurea jaennensis 15:1; Senecio sp. 98:1; Lapsana communis 98:1; Pimpinella saxifraga 16:1; Juncus inflexus 2:1; Conopodium filifolium 97:1; Ranunculus ollissiponensis alpinus 2:1; Thlaspi stenopterum 2:1; Senecio jacobea 97:1; Festuca costei 2:1; Avenula sulcata albinervis 97:1; Narcissus rupicola 3:2; Jasione crispa centralis 3:1; Taraxacum sroeteranum 3:1; Thymus zygis 6:2; Geranium purpureum 6:1; Festuca ampla 97:2; Andryala integrifolia 6:1; Dorycnium pentaphyllum 9:1; Arenaria querioides 96:1; Cirsium cf. tuberosum 9:1; Sedum hirsutum 96:1; Thymelaea pubescens 9:1; Spergula morisonii 96:1; Carlina vulgaris 9:1; Thymus mastichina 96:1; Festuca summilusitana 96:4; Epilobium lanceolatum 11:1; Corynephorus canescens 96:2; Festuca rothmaleri 11:1; Festuca aggr. rubra 11:1; Carex muricata lamprocarpa 11:2; Laserpitium krapfii gaudinii 93:5; Hieracium bupleuroides 93:3; Galeopsis ladanum 11:1; Leontodon hispidus 93:4; Pentaglottis sempervirens 11:1; Trifolium montanum 92:4; Scabiosa columbaria 92:5; Mercurialis perennis 16:1; Gymnadenia conopsea 92:5; Dianthus monspessulanus 17:1; Salix caprea 92:3; Carex caryophyllea 17:1; Molinia caerulea arundinacea 91:1; Vincetoxicum hirundinaria intermedium 17:1; Prunella grandiflora s.str. 91:3; Cardamine pratensis 17:1; Potentilla caulescens 18:4; Vicia cracca gerardi 91:2; Erinus alpinus 18:2; Antirrhinum pulverulentum 18:2; Campanula cespitosa 90:4; Asplenium fontanum 18:2; Asplenium ruta-muraria 18:2; Galium austriacum 90:4; Armeria trachyphylla 19:2; Scabiosa lucida 90:4; Sedum album s.str. 19:2; Carduus crassifolius ssp.glaucus 90:5; Asphodelus albus 19:1; Ajuga reptans 85:2; Arenaria obtusiflora 19:1; Dactylorhiza maculata 85:2; Salvia lavandulifolia 19:1; Chaerophyllum hirsutum 85:1; Dipcadi serotinum 19:2; Adenostyles glabra 86:1; Arenaria aggregata erinacea 19:1; Satureja obovata 19:1; Molinia caerulea s.str. 84:4; Dianthus brachyanthus 19:1; Luzula nutans 20:1; Soldanella alpina 20:1; Genista tinctorea 82:4; Viscum album s.str. 81:3; Trifolium alpinum 20:1; Veronica chamaedrys 78:1; Jasione laevis s.str. 20:1; Serratula tinctoria 78:4; Festuca violacea 20:1; Ranunculus polyanthemophyllus 78:2; Carex sempervirens 20:1; Salix reticulata 22:1; Trifolium alpestre 78:4; Thymelaea dioica 23:1; Gentiana occidentalis 23:1; Inula conyza 77:2; Potentilla alchimilloides 23:1; Arabis brassica 77:1; Helianthemum oleandicum italicum 23:1; Coronilla coronata 77:3; Valeriana globularifolia 23:1; Trifolium rubens 77:4; Potentilla montana 24:1; Galium saxatile 24:1; Eryngium bourgatii 25:1; Euphorbia angulata 73:1; Seseli nanum 25:1; Athyrium distentifolium 72:1; Viscum album ssp. microphyllum 26:2; Pulmonaria affinis 72:1; Odontites cf. viscosa 26:2; Platanthera bifolia 26:1; Astragalus monspessulanus 26:1; Viola alpestris 26:1; Sedum sediforme 69:3; Stipa calamagrostis 27:1; Stipa parviflora 69:3; Silene otites 27:1; Cistus salvifolius 69:3; Pinus halepensis 69:3; Phleum alpinum 28:1; Ulex parviflorus 69:3; Agrostis schraderiana 28:1; Alchemilla vulgaris 28:1; Veratrum album 28:1; Thymelaea tinctorea 69:3; Helianthemum nummularium pyrenaicum 25:1; Satureja innota 69:5; Odontites granadensis 29:1; Melica ciliata 67:3; Prunus ramburii 29:2; Limodorum abortivum 66:2; Vella spinosa 29:3; Satureja intricata 29:1; Astragalus danicus 66:3; Daphne oleoides 29:2; Filipendula vulgaris 66:3; Galium maritimum 62:2; Daphne hispanica 30:1; Euphorbia characias 61:2; Thymus clandestinus 30:4; Thymus gadorensis 30:1; Festuca

Tab. 5. (continued)

nevadensis 30:1; Thalictrum foetidum valentinum 30:1; Festuca airoides 54:3; Satureja gracilis 30:3; Minuartia sedoides 54:3; Erysimum favargeri 30:1; Luzula lutea 54:4; Vincetoxicum nigrum 31:4; Jasione crispa s.str. 54:2; Cerastium gibraltaricum 31:3; Gentiana acaulis 54:2; Globularia spinosa 31:2; Saxifraga spathularis 53:2; Teucrium similatum 31:2; Senecio pyrenaicus s.str. 51:1; Santolina rosmarinifolia 46:1; Silene vulgaris 32:4; Crambe filiformis 46:1; Arenaria valentina 32:2; Teucrium chamaedrys gracile 46:1; Carlina acanthifolia 32:2; Origanum grosii 46:1; Anarrhinum laxiflorum 33:2; Psilostemon riphaeum 46:1; Centaurea antennata 33:1; Salvia phlomoides 33:1; Agropyron panormitanum 46:1; Linum suffruticosum s.str. 33:1; Erysimum medio-hispanicum 33:1; Nepeta tuberosa reticulata 46:1; Calamintha sylvatica s.str. 33:1; Sanguisorba minor muricata 46:2; Echium flavum 33:1; Scabiosa tomentosa 46:1; Thlaspi perfoliatum 33:2; Erica terminalis 46:1; Teucrium capitatum 34:2; Stipa tenacissima 46:2; Eryngium campestre 34:3; Asperula hirsuta 46:1; Argyrolobium zanonii 34:2; Thymelaea tartonraira 46:2; Hippocrepis bourgaei 34:2; Ulex baeticus 46:2; Thymelaea sanamunda 34:1; Scorzonera pygmaea 46:1; Helianthemum asperum 34:1; Linum suffruticosum salsoloides 45:1; Astragalus incanus 34:1; Rhamnus infectoria 45:1; Leucanthemopsis pallida s.str. 36:2; Carduncellus monspeliensis 45:1; Saxifraga willkommiana 40:1; Aconitum lycoctonum 45:1; Arrhenatherum elatius s.str. 40:1; Teucrium chamaedrys pinnatifidum 45:1; Thalictrum minus 45:1; Hieracium argyrocomum 43:2; Lithospermum officinale 45:1; Cerastium ramosissimum 43:4; Asperula laevigata 44:2; Pseudarrhenatherum longifolium 43:2; Conopodium majus burgaei 43:1; Leontodon carpetanus 43:1; Ranunculus ollissiponensis s.str. 43:1; Agrostis alpina 43:1.

Table 6. References of the relevés of Table 5.

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98. Relevés of the authors. 'Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei geographical race with *Senecio carpetanus* pinetosum sylvestris'. Ayllón Mountains, Sistema Central, Spain

Oak groves of Quercus pyrenaica. Pinus sylvestris Derived Community (DC)

The potential area of *Q. pyrenaica* in the Sistema Central extends below 1500 m and it has been used for a long time to favour *Pinus sylvestris* crops. There are several documents from the age of Philip the Second and even earlier (Bauer 1991, Mancebo et al. 1993), which speak about *P. sylvestris* used as construction wood, for heating, and to make glass; in the Gredos Mountains some *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*, stripped to obtain resin, can be found.

The oak groves of *Q. pyrenaica* of the Sistema Central (Carpetano-Iberico-Leonesa phytogeographical province), can be grouped in 3 associations:

1. Luzulo forsteri-Quercetum pyrenaicae Rivas-Martínez 1963. Guadarrama Mountains and La Alcarria, siliceous, Supramediterranean, subhumid-humid.
2. Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae Rivas-Martínez in Penas & T. E. Díaz 1984. Plains of Salamanca, Zamora and Orense, Gredos Mountains, siliceous, Meso-Supramediterranean, subhumid-humid.
3. Festuco heterophyllae-Quercetum pyrenaicae Br.-Bl. 1967. Sistema Ibérico in the province of Soria and the Ayllón Mountains, siliceous, Supramediterranean, humid-hyperhumid.

Luzulo-Quercetum pyrenaicae and Genisto-Quercetum pyrenaicae are enriched with *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* in the more thermic localities of the eastern Gredos Mountains and western Guadarrama Mountains. Thus, relic forms of oak groves between 1100 and 1300 m can be observed (Fig. 5). This is its most frequent altitudinal distribution in the Sistema Central. *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* is a western Mediterranean tree that in the Pyrenees can be included in the Quercetea ilicis, in the Sistema Ibérico in the Querco-Fagetea, in the Sistema Central in Querco-Fagetea and Cytision oromediterranei, and in the Sistema Bético in the Cytision oromediterranei (Regato et al. 1995).

In Table 3 we can observe that the natural regeneration of natural pine groves begins with *Galium rotundifolium* and *Pteridium aquilinum*, which are indicators of humidity and depth of soil. If the forest has burnt, the most humid areas are enriched with *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. In both cases the crops of *Pinus sylvestris* change the attributes of the soil and a distribution of the characteristic plants of Querco-Fagetea, which means that *P. sylvestris* is favoured and becomes potential as opposed to *Q. pyrenaica*. On the other hand, *A. uva-ursi* contributes to the acidity of the soil, and so *Q. pyrenaica* cannot grow, but *P. sylvestris* can. In some places of the Sistema Central altered by man, *P. sylvestris* has become potential in the dominian of Querco-Fagetea, establishing a derived community (DC), according to Kopecký et al. (1995).

Conclusions

There are two different types of *Pinus sylvestris* communities in the Sistema Central:

Natural Pine groves: with boreal and prealpine origin.

* Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei pinetosum sylvestris, sometimes with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*.

Crops of Pine groves: Since the Middle Ages.

* *Pinus sylvestris* DC, in previous potential places of *Quercus pyrenaica*.

Pinus nigra subsp. *salzmannii* is more frequent in the oak grove belt (Luzulo forsteri-Quercetum pyrenaicae and Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae), forming relic communities.

To sum up, we give the syntaxonomic scheme of the communities studied:

CL. VACCINIO-PICEETEA Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl., Sissingh & Vlieger 1939
O. Pinetalia sylvestris Oberdorfer 1956
AL. Cytision oromediterranei R. Tx. in R. Tx. & Oberdorfer 1958 corr. Rivas-Martínez 1987 [Cytision europaei pro nom. mut., incl. Pino-Juniperetalia Rivas-Martínez 1964]. Siliceous Iberian Oromediterranean associations.
SAL. Cytisenion oromediterranei
AS. Junipero nanae-Cytisetum oromediterranei (Rivas Goday 1955) Rivas-Martínez 1963 <Sistema Central>
* Geographical race with *Senecio carpetanus* <Guadarrama Mountains>
* Geographical race with *Echinospartum barnadesii* <Gredos Mountains>
* pinetosum sylvestris Rivas-Martínez 1963
* Variant with *Linaria nivea*
* Variant with *Koeleria crassipes* and *Corynephorus canescens*
* Relic form with *Vaccinium myrtillus*
* Altitudinal form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii*

CL. QUERCO-FAGETEA Br.-Bl. & Vlieger 1937
O. Quercetalia roboris R. Tx. 1931
AL. Quercion robori-pyrenaicae (Br.-Bl., P. Silva & Rozeira 1956) Rivas-Martínez 1975
SAL. Quercenion pyrenaicae Rivas-Martínez 1975. Iberian Mediterranean oak groves.
AS. Luzulo forsteri-Quercetum pyrenaicae Rivas-Martínez 1963 <Carpetano-Iberico-Leonesa province, Alcarria>
* Relic form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* <Western Guadarrama Mountain>
* *Pinus sylvestris* DC
AS. Genisto falcatae-Quercetum pyrenaicae Rivas-Martínez in Penas & T. E. Díaz 1984 <Salamanca, Orense, Zamora, Gredos Mountains>
* Relic form with *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* <Eastern Gredos Mountains, Avila>
* *Pinus sylvestris* DC
AS. Festuco heterophyllae-Quercetum pyrenaicae Br.-Bl. 1967 <Sistema Ibérico, Soria, Ayllón Mountains>
* *Pinus sylvestris* DC

Floristic appendix

The nomenclature and authorship of the taxa in the text and in the Tables follow the Catalogue des plantes de Maroc (Jahandiez and Maire 1931–1934), Flora Europaea (Tutin et al. 1964–1980), Med-Cheklist (Greuter et al. 1984–1989) and Flora iberica (Castroviejo et al. 1986–1997); for the bryophytes and lichens we have followed the Flore des bryophytes (Augier 1966) and Les lichens (Ozenda and Clauzade 1970).

There are some subspecies taxa which can be maintained with difficulty, though the greater part of the taxa of the communities with *Pinus sylvestris* in the Iberian Peninsula are well differentiated. This is the case of the subspecies of *Juniperus communis* [subsp. *alpina* (Suter) Celak, subsp. *hemisphaerica* (K. Presl) Nyman, subsp. *nana* Syme, subsp. *sibirica* Burgsd.], which have also been considered by other authors to describe new syntaxa. The same occurs with the varieties of *P. sylvestris* (var. *nevadensis* Christ, var. *olivicola* Vayr., var. *iberica* Svob., var. *pyrenaica* Svob., var. *catalaunica* Gaussen), which are not well differentiated (Amaral Franco 1986). The studies with enzymatic markers made with *Pinus nigra* must be considered. A large part of the Iberian associations is based on the Iberian-North-african distribution of *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* (Blanco et al. 1996), but Aguinagalde et al. (1997) clearly establish the presence of *P. nigra* subsp. *nigra* in Navarra (Spain).

Zusammenfassung

Die Zusammensetzung der Wälder des spanischen Zentralgebirges, in denen *Pinus sylvestris* und *P. nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* vorkommen, wird unter phytosoziologischen Gesichtspunkten analysiert und dabei mit 683 weiteren europäischen Koniferengemeinschaften verglichen. Durch Anwendung der Kriterien von Kopecký & Hejný (1974), Foucault (1981), Dierschke (1993) und Kopecký et al. (1995) auf die nach Braun-Blanquet (1964) aufgenommenen Inventare werden im Innern der Iberischen Halbinsel die Klasse Vaccinio-Piceetea sowie die Ordnung Pinetalia sylvestris identifiziert. Die Vergesellschaftungen mit *Echinospartum barnadesii* und *Senecio carpetanus* werden als geographische Rassen interpretiert, und weitere Aspekte von Junipero nanae – Cytisetum oromediterranei (Subassoziationen, Varianten, Reliktformen) werden kommentiert. Vorkommen von *Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* in *Quercus pyrenaica*-Wäldern sehen die Autoren als wärmeangepaßte Reliktformen, in Gemeinschaft mit *P. sylvestris* als höheliebende Formen an.

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