

CLASSIFICATION OF SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLANDS IN NORTH-EASTERN BULGARIA

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ABSTRACT - This study presents the syntaxonomic diversity of the semi-natural grasslands in North-Eastern Bulgaria following the principles of the Zürich-Montpellier School. A total number of 172 relevés, collected during 2002-2004, is used. TWINSPLAN clustering is applied for determination vegetation types. The diagnostic species groups for the associations and subassociations are created by Cocktail method using the phi-coefficient with values above 0.3 within the JUICE software. As a result class *Festuco-Brometea* is established with the alliances *Festucion valesiaca*, *Pimpinello-Thymion* and *Chrysopogoni-Danthonion*. The originally described *Botriochloetum ischaemi* Pop 1977 association is considered as typical on the subassociation level and a part of our relevés are referred to it. Following the nomenclature rules we determined the subassociation typicum. One new subassociation named *Thymetosum pannonicum* of more xerophytic character, as compared to typical one, and well represented by differential species is established. The geographical distribution of *Agropyro-Thymetum zygoidi* and *Agrostideto-Chrysopogonetum grylli* associations is extended to the territory of Bulgaria. Class *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* is represented by *Cynosurion* alliance and *Festuco-Agrostidetum* association is established by its probably most eastern area of distribution.

KEY WORDS - grasslands, syntaxonomy, Bulgaria.

INTRODUCTION

The potential natural vegetation in the largest part of North-Eastern Bulgaria belongs to the mixed deciduous broad-leaved forests and only narrow belt at the Romanian border belongs to the forest-steppes and grass-steppes (Bohn *et al.*, 2004). The historical relations with the Romanian and Moldavian steppes and forest-steppes have exerted a strong influence on the contemporary vegetation (Dihoru & Donita, 1970; Paşcovischi & Donita, 1967). Having been inhabited for millennia, nowadays this territory is occupied mostly by arable fields, forests, semi-natural grasslands and synanthropic vegetation mainly on abandoned arable lands.

The vegetation in this part of the country has so far not been studied according to the Braun-Blanquet approach. A thorough overview on the steppe-like vegetation

in Bulgaria was made by Jordanoff (1936). Some information on the plant communities, following dominance principles, is represented by Stoyanov *et al.* (1955) and Ganchev *et al.* (1964).

Palinological data is available on the historical changes concerning the characteristics of steppe vegetation and its distribution in the north-eastern part of the region under review: From the beginning of the Holocene, grass communities were represented in "open steppes" with a poorer floristic composition and a more limited presence of the *Poaceae*. Their development in time led to the formation of typical steppes with a rich composition of species and a higher presence of grasses. The development of forest-steppe began about 8000 BP. Further on, the proportion of typical steppes and the forest-steppe zone fluctuated in direct relation to the intensity of anthropogenic influence: lumbering, ploughing up, etc. (Atanassova, 2005).

In the zone around the Danube, from the beginning of the Holocene, oak forests dominated and grasses developed further, while the presence of steppe elements was regarded as secondary (Lazarova, 1998; Lazarova & Bozilova, 2001).

We can conclude that the majority of grass communities in North-Eastern Bulgaria are of secondary origin, the presence of steppe elements in them is secondary, and only in the north-easternmost part primary steppe communities can be found, and these are marked by a strong anthropogenic influence.

This study aims to present the syntaxonomic diversity of the semi-natural grasslands in North-Eastern Bulgaria following the principles of the Zürich-Montpellier School.

Our work was conducted within the frame of the National Grassland Inventory Project. Due to limited space we present here the results related to the classes *Festuco-Brometea* and *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*. The vegetation within the class *Artemisietea vulgaris* (*Daucu-Meliloton*, *Convolvulo-Agropyrion* and *Onopordion*) will be the subject of another article.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The studied area is outlined on the Figure 1. The relief is predominantly plain or hilly with mean altitude 250 - 350 m (Stefanov, 2002). The study area includes also some parts of the northern Balkan Range foothills where the maximum altitude is about 1000 m. According to the national climate data (Nikolova, 2002) the mean annual temperatures are 10 - 13°C, which is equal to the values for the country. The mean annual precipitation is 537 mm (Mateeva, 2002) which is less than the average for the plain and hilly regions of the country.

The zonal soil types are related to 3 main groups: Chernozems and Faeozems to the north, and Luvisols at the Balkan Range foothills (Ninov, 2002). These soil types are developed on different basic rocks, such as limestone, loess, mergels and clays.

The relevés were collected during 2002-2004 following the floristic criteria (Braun-Blanquet, 1964, Westhoff & van der Maarel, 1973). For the purposes of the project, a simplified old Braun-Blanquet scale for abundance was used ("1"-up to 1%; "2"- 2-50%; "3" - above 50% of the total). The sample plot area for all relevés is 100 m².



FIGURE 1 - Map of the studied area.

The relevés were stored in Turboveg database (Hennekens & Schaminee, 2001). They were exported into JUICE software (Tichý, 2002) for analysis. A polythetic divisive clustering using TWINSpan (Hill, 1979) was applied for determining the major groups. Some outlier relevés were deleted from subsequent analyses. For the present study a total number of 172 relevés was used. The diagnostic species were defined using the available literature sources (Horvat *et al.*, 1974; Oberdorfer, 1993; Mucina, 1997; Sanda *et al.*, 1998; Kojić *et al.*, 1998; Chytrý & Tichý, 2003 and others mentioned below). The diagnostic species groups were created by the Cocktail method (Bruehlheide, 1995) using the phi-coefficient (Chytrý *et al.*, 2002). The diagnostic role was recognized by fidelity above 30 (phi-coefficient 0.3). The nomenclature of the syntaxa is in accordance with the Code of phytosociological nomenclature (Weber *et al.*, 2000). The vascular plant taxonomy follows Andreev *et al.* (1992), Delipavlov *et al.* (2003) and Petrov (1975) for the mosses. The phytogeographic affiliation of the species follows Dimitrov (2002).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Festuco-Brometea has the most widespread distribution. This class comprises communities that are closest to natural ones; their composition is dominated by natural species for the area, although, in a number of cases, human activity has led to the presence of synanthropic species. It is represented in the region by 3 alliances:

Festucion valesiaca is covered by the largest number of relevés and should be considered as the most broadly distributed alliance in the region. During the data processing we tried to distinguish both *Festucion valesiaca* and *Festucion rupicola*. However, the diagnostic species groups given by most mentioned literary sources show a high extent of coincidence. We also obtained coinciding groups of relevés, corresponding to the diagnostic species groups for each alliance. Royer (1991) points out *F. valesiaca* as synonym to *F. rupicola*. We accepted the presence of *F. valesiaca* in the studied area following also Sanda *et al.* (1999) and Rodwell *et al.* (2002).

The described communities in Table 1 refer to the association *Botriochloetum ischaemi* (Krist 1937) I. Pop 1977. According to Pop (1977), this association is widespread in Romania and the communities of *Botriochloa ischaemum* occupy the forest-steppe and steppe zones as secondary vegetation type, mostly as pastures. In the adjacent territories in Bulgaria it preserves the same characteristics as described by Pop. The pasture regime, which has been intense in the past, is nowadays diminished or missing. The association is developed mostly on base-rich terrains and only on few occasions can be found on silicate bedrock. The communities contain many nitrophilous species as a result of human influence. Everywhere it is managed as pasture, but in varying degrees of intensity. We support the comments by Pop that the variety of described syntaxa of *Botriochloa ischaemum* in the zones of forest-steppes actually belong to one association with different subassociations, formed locally within the area of occupancy. So far, the same association has been mentioned for Bulgaria by Tzonev (2002), who reports a new subassociation *Cichorietosum inthybi* from the central part of North Bulgaria with differential species *Cichorium inthybus*, *Taraxacum serotinum*, and *Crepis setosa*. However, this subassociation seems strange when comparing the categorial constancy columns (Tab. 1). *Cichorium inthybus* is with high constancy in the represented by Pop (1977) synthetic table and in ours relevés as well.

The association described by Pop is dominated by European and Euro-Asiatic phytogeographical elements (75.6%). In North-Eastern Bulgaria, the representatives of this group decline to 50.4%, while Ponto-Mediterranean elements' presence has increased (43.7%).

Using the data from many literary sources, and comparing with other published syntaxa of similar character, Pop (1977) describes this association as typical vegetation for large area. But neither he nor any other author has appointed the typical subassociation. Part of Bulgarian communities show considerable degree of similarity with the Romanian ones. In the North-Eastern Bulgaria they could be characterised as xeromesophytic pasturelands which environmental conditions provide sufficient forage resources. Being grazed for many years, they are much invaded by nitrophilous plants and species persisting the trampling. This is why species like *Trifolium repens*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Lolium perenne* play a differential role for the subassociation. The described communities in Bulgaria are characterised by mesophytic ecological conditions which is in accordance with the reported from Romania. They most often develop on moderately moist soils, upon different rock types. The communities are distributed all over the studied zone, between 40 and 450 m altitude. Most of them are used as pastures at present with relatively high intensity.

Following the nomenclature rules, we suggest subassociation *typicum* which includes published by Pop (1977) groups and our relevés (rel. 73 - 99, Tab. 1). As lectotype for the association and for the subassociation *typicum* we selected rel. 4, Tab. 35 (Pop, 1968).

As a result of the analyses, one new subassociation appears. It is characterised by well distinguished differential species group (Tab. 1) and also by the more pronounced xerophytic character of the environment.

Botriochloetum ischaemi (Krist 1937) I. Pop 1977 *thymetosum pannonicum* sub-ass. nova (Typus: r.35 Tab.1)

The differential for this subassociation are *Teucrium polium* L., *Chrysopogon gryllus* (L.) Trin., *Thymus pannonicus* All., *Thymus callieri* Borbas ex Velen. ssp. *urumovii* Velen., and *Centaurea rhenana* Boreau. This subassociation is widely distributed within the whole studied area. The communities are developed mostly on limestone and few of them occupy loess or silicate rocks. The soils are Chernosems and Faeozems of medium depth but considerably dry. The communities are spread between 30 and 430 m altitude. The pasture is on very low intensity as compared to the typical subassociation. Depending on the former grazing intensity *B. ischaemum* and *C. gryllus* share the dominance in the communities. *B. ischaemum* bears much more trampling and indicates heavy exploitation in the past. The mean species number is 39 per relevè.

The alliance *Pimpinello-Thymion* was described by Dichoru (Dichoru & Donita, 1970) and is known so far from Ukraine, Crimea and Romania. In classical localities in northern Dobruška it occupies limestone areas with shallow soils in dry, rocky habitats. Bulgarian localities retain the ecological characteristics and floristic composition as described by the author. Our analyses reveal the presence of the association *Agropyro-Thymetum zygoidei* Dichoru 1970 (Tab. 2). The studied communities are localised in the Dobrich district and only two are in the Razgrad district (Fig. 1). Everywhere the association develops on limestone with very shallow soils, where rock outcrops occupy up to 25% of the sample plot. The territories are plain or slightly declined (1-5°), with diverse exposure. The biodiversity is considerably high - an average of 58 species per relevè. Comparing the floristic-geographical peculiarities of the species composition within the original described association (Dichoru & Donita, 1970) and our relevès, it is evident that the communities are formed by similar historical development and the more southern territories bear more Mediterranean elements (Tab. 3). The communities traditionally have been used as pastures, but nowadays they are abandoned or grazed at very low intensity. These communities are among the most representative for the semi-natural grasslands on the northern boundary of the forest-steppe zone in Bulgaria. The rich species diversity differentiates them from other, much broadly distributed grasslands within the *Festuco-Brometea*. In this respect, *Agropyro-Thymetum zygoidei* association could be related to the syntaxa of high conservation value. The common floristic composition among the communities described in Northern Dobruška (Romania) and those in Bulgaria is a good reason to make a suggestion for the probable primary origin of the Bulgarian communities. But having in mind some differences, being a result of anthropogenic impact, such point of view we can not take a firm stand.

Chrysopogoni-Danthonion is described by Kojić (1957, 1959) for Western Serbia and it is characterized as a specific for the Balkans, being a transition between mesophytic and xerophytic vegetation types. Its communities occupy silicate terrains. The species composition includes high number of Balkan floristic elements and, at the same time, hosts many steppe plants. For Bulgaria, the alliance has so far been reported by Meshinev *et al.* (2005) for the North-Western parts of the country. During our study we found localities on the northern Balkan Range foothills. The environmental peculiarities are similar to those pointed out by Kojić (1959). Being on the eastern boundary of its distribution, here the alliance is represented less typically in terms of diagnostic species group.

The association *Agrostideto-Chrysopogonetum grylli* Kojić 1959 occupies altitude between 220 and 600 m on the northern Balkan Range foothills. Its pronounced mesophytic character is related with the Luvisols of medium depth and moderate moisture, which are developed almost on silicate. The communities are abandoned pastures or at some places under moderate grazing. In individual cases mowing can be observed. The association takes the place of clear-cut *Quercus frainetto* and *Q. cerris* forests. Ecologically the described communities manifest a high degree of identity with those described by Kojić (1959). The floristic similarity is also impressive and this is the reason to refer our relevés to the same association. Considering the subassociations described by Kojić (l.c.) our descriptions are much related to subass. *brizetosum medii* (Tab. 6).

Cynosurion cristati Tx 1947 is represented in Bulgaria, like in Central Europe, with a small number of character species, and bears signs of other alliances within *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*. In the studied region *Cynosurion* is localized on the northern Balkan Range foothills. Following the statement of Zuidhoff *et al.* (1995) for the high constancy of *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lolium perenne* and *Trifolium repens* as a mark for the affiliation to *Cynosurion*, we refer our relevés connectively to the same alliance (Tab. 7). Horvat *et al.* (1974) point out that on the Balkans *Cynosurion* communities are not managed in a similar way as in Central Europe. This results in some difference in their species composition, for example with less presence of *Lolium perenne*. In the studied region the communities are not fertilized and are under much reduced grazing. The major type of maintenance is mowing.

Festuco-Agrostidetum Horv. 1951 association is represented in Targovishte and Veliko Tarnovo districts (Fig.1; Tab.8). It occupies different exposures but a low declination (5-10°), always on silicate. Soils are deep and moderately moist. Like in other parts of the country, these communities are predominantly mowed and at some places grazing takes part usually after the haymaking period. Five of the localities have been arable lands in the past, but were abandoned about a decade ago. Some authors (Horvat *et al.*, 1974; Kojić *et al.*, 1998) refer the association to *Arrhenatherion*, while others (Boşcau, 1970; Zuidhoff *et al.*, 1995; Sanda *et al.*, 1998) include this syntaxon into *Cynosurion*. We accept the latter decision as more appropriate for the studied communities in Bulgaria.

Syntaxonomical synopsis

Festuco - Brometea Br.-Bl. et R. Tx. in Br.-Bl. 1949

Festucetalia valesiaca Br.-Bl. et R. Tx. 1943

Festucion valesiaca Klika 1931

Botriochloetum ischaemi (Krist 1937) I. Pop 1977

typicum subass. nova

thymetosum pannonicum subass. nova

Pimpinello - Thymion zygoidi Dichoru 1970

Agropyro - Thymetum zygoidi Dichoru 1970

Chrysopogono - Danthonion calycinae Kojić 1957

Agrostideto - Chrysopogonetum grylli Kojić 1959

brizetosum medii Kojić 1959

Molinio - Arrhenatheretea R. Tx. 1937

Arrhenatheretalia R. Tx. 1931

Cynosurion cristati R. Tx. 1947

Festuco - Agrostidetum Horvat 1951

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TABLE 2 - *Agropyro-Thymetum zygoidi* Dichoru 1970.

Relevé No	111111111122222222	Constancy	
		Dichoru (1970)	
As. diagnostic species			
<i>Thymus zygoides</i>	1112122.2221...12222131.112.1	V	V
<i>Agropyron bromoides</i>	22.2212...1221.112222...22...1	IV	IV
<i>Koeleria brevis</i>	1.2.1...1...1...11.....	II	III
<i>Satureja jaceurola</i>	...3.1...1.1...1...1...3...3.....	II	II
Plin pinello - Thymion			
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	...1.12.21.12111121221.111211.	IV	.
<i>Sideritis montana</i>	...1.21221.1...212.121.1211121	IV	.
<i>Scotyeus hispanicus</i>	11...1.11...1...121212.112.222	IV	.
<i>Pterohagia velutina</i>	3...11...11...111111121111.111	IV	.
<i>Seseli tortuosum</i>	...11.2.1...1221...12.1.1...11	III	.
<i>Tragopogon orientalis</i>	1...1.111.1.11...1.11.....	III	.
<i>Salvia argentea</i>	3...1...11.1...111...211...1111	III	.
<i>Silene densiflora</i>	3...11...1.1111.1121...1	III	.
<i>Achillea leptophylla</i>	...1.11...2.2...1...1.....	II	.
<i>Paeonia tenuifolia</i>	...21211.2...111.....	II	.
<i>Bupleurum apiculatum</i>	3...1...1.1.11.1.1...1	II	.
<i>Iris pumila</i>	...1...1.112...2...2.....	II	.
<i>Haplophyllum theriacides</i>	...1.1.1.1.....	I	.
<i>Echinosyris banaticus</i>	...1.1...1.....	I	.
<i>Jurinea ledebourii</i>	...1.1...1.....	I	.
<i>Koeleria penzancei</i>	...11...1...1...21.....	I	.
Festuco - Brometea			
<i>Artemisa austriaca</i>	2.1.1221.11111122222.21222.1	V	II
<i>Eryngium campustre</i>	21111222.1112212222221222.211	V	II
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	12.11.21.2111112111111.1.111	V	E
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	111221221121121122.2212...222	V	E
<i>Bromus squarrosus</i>	1...1.11...1...1122.11.212.111	IV	III
<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>	...212122.2212...111...2...21...12	IV	II
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	...112221.212.21...11211.11...1	IV	I
<i>Achillea crithmifolia</i>	21...1112.11...21.1222111.2212	IV	.
<i>Galium verum</i>	11...11111.11.11122.1.12...12	IV	.
<i>Poa angustifolia</i>	2...2.211.2...21211...211...1111	IV	.
<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	...12121.1111.11.....	III	E
<i>Scabiosa argentea</i>	11...1...1.21.1111...1121...12	III	.
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	11...1...11.11.11111.1.1...1	III	.
<i>Batrachium ischaemum</i>	1...1.1.1.12...2...1...1.....	II	II
<i>Stipa capillata</i>	...21...212...1.12...1.....	II	II
<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>	...1.1.1...111.1.....	II	E
<i>Medicago falcata</i>	1.1.1...1.1.1...1...1.....	II	I
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	...1.1.1...1.1.1...1...1.....	II	.
<i>Stipa lessingiana</i>	1...1211...2111.....	II	.
<i>Achillea clypeolata</i>	...1...1.1...2...1.....	I	E
<i>Allium sphaerocephalum</i>	...11.1...1...11111111.....	I	.
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	...1.21...1.1.....	I	.
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	...1...1.....	I	.
<i>Chrysogonon gryllus</i>	...11.2...1...1.....	I	.
Other species			
<i>Teucrium palme</i>	...2.2212212221212.22221211222	V	IV
<i>Marrubium peregrinum</i>	121111121121122122.2.1221212	V	II
<i>Eryngium ripandum</i>	2111...21112111221122112121212	V	.
<i>Euphorbia seguoriana</i>	211222212211122122212221222	V	.
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	11.12.21...11.2121111121.1121	IV	III
<i>Xeranthemum annuum</i>	11.11121.121112.12221...112	IV	II
<i>Nigella arvensis</i>	11...11...11.1.1.1111.111.111	IV	II
<i>Cymodon dactyloides</i>	21...2...2.12.2212.122222.22.	IV	E
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	3...11...1112...111.12211111111	IV	E
<i>Carduus arvensis</i>	11.111.1111.21.2.22.121...112	IV	.
<i>Elymus repens</i>	12...11.2.11.2221212.1222.122	IV	.
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	...1...1111...1.11...1.12111.111	IV	.
<i>Potentilla incanata</i>	3.11111.11...111111.1.1.1.11	IV	.
<i>Achillea coarctata</i>	...1111...111...1122.1.21....	III	E
<i>Medicago minima</i>	12...1...12...112...12.1111...	III	F
<i>Melica transsilvanica</i>	...1.112.1.112111.11...1...1	III	.
<i>Linaria geniculata</i>	...11.1.2.11111...112...11	III	.

<i>Echinoz rairo</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Gniffan volhyticum</i>	.....111.....	I	-
<i>Hieracium pascuallum</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>hau chini</i>	.....	
<i>Inula ensifolia</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>Jurinea contanguinea</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>Linum castricum</i>	.....2.....	I	-
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Masticaria trichophylla</i>	.....7.....	I	-
<i>Medicago rigidula</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	.....1.2.....	I	-
<i>Odonites serotina</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Ornithogalum narbonne</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Phleum phleoides</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Plantago argentea</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Rota canina</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Scabio succisiflora</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Sideralis arvensis</i>	.....1.2.....	I	-
<i>Stachys angustifolia</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Stachys crinita</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Stachys germanica</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Staphyleum orientale</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Taraxacum arvense</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Toucan montanum</i>	.....1.2.....	I	-
<i>Thalictrum lucidum</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Thesium simplex</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Tragus racemosus</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	.....2.....	I	-
<i>Verbascum thibetis</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Verbascum</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>zanthi oplovesum</i>	.....	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Xeranthemum cyandraceum</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Crepis foetida</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	.....1.1.....	I	-
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	.....1.2.....	I	-
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Astragalus harrackii</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Phleum graecum</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	.....2.....	I	-
<i>Lepidium compestre</i>	.....1.....	I	-
<i>Galium aparine</i>	.....1.....	I	-

Species in less than 2 relevés :

Chrysogen serotina 4; 1; *Gypsophila glomerata* 10; 1; *Sedum caespitosum* 9; 1; *Achillea clytiana* 9; 2; *Alcea pallida* 13; 1; *Amygdalus nana* 10; 1; *Anacamptis pyramidalis* 3; 1; *Androsace maxima* 12; 1; *Artemisia campestris* 13; 1; *Asterisma concisus* 4; 1; *Brachypodium pinnatum* 6; 1; *Carex caryophylla* 4; 1; *Centaura orientalis* 7; 1; *Centaura stoebe* 9; 2; *Conium maculatum* 13; 1; *Echium plantagineum* 10; 1; *Eragrostis minor* 2; 1; *Erigeron annuus* 16; 1; *Erophila verna* 9; 1; *Euphorbia barbellata* 9; 1; *Filago vulgaris* 2; 1; *Fragaria vesca* 9; 1; *Gemiza jamaensis* 3; 1; *Gem urbarum* 13; 1; *Haplophyllum siveolens* 16; 1; *Hieracium koppenanum* 3; 1; *Hordeum hystris* 11; 1; *Hyacinthella leucophaea* 6; 1; *Koeleria eriostachya* 3; 1; *Lactuca perennis* 10; 1; *Lathyrus pratensis* 13; 1; *Linum vulgare* 15; 1; *Medicago polymorpha* 12; 1; *Melica ciliata* 3; 1; *Ononis virginica* 3; 1; *Plantago media* 9; 1; *Ranunculus volutuus* 3; 1; *Rumex crispus* 13; 1; *Salvia nemorosa* 2; 1; *Sanguisorba officinalis* 10; 1; *Sedum pallidum* 9; 1; *Stachys recta* 6; 1; *Stipa pennata* 4; 1; *Tanacetum vulgare* 3; 1; *Taraxacum species* 9; 1; *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* 10; 1; *Thlaspi perfoliatum* 9; 1; *Thymus passerina* 10; 1; *Trifolium arvense* 15; 1; *Verbascum ovalifolium* 9; 1; *Veronica archifolia* 3; 1; *Vinca herbacea* 3; 1; *Viola arvensis* 9; 1; *Viola odorata* 9; 1; *Oenothera alba* x; 1; *Artemisia alba* 25; 1; *Cirsium ligulare* 28; 2; *Carolina vulgaris* 25; 1; *Tragopogon pratensis* 25; 1; *Caulis platycarpus* 21; 1; *Medicago sativa* 21; 2; *Lagfia minima* 18; 1; *Sagina saginoides* 25; 1; *Poa annua* 25; 1; *Lactuca scariola* 20; 1; *Mentha arvensis* 21; 1; *Euphorbia nictitans* 23; 1; *Salvia aegyptiaca* 25; 1; *Tordylium maximum* 20; 2; *Silene conica* 18; 1; *Hordeum bulbosum* 20; 1; *Silene noctiflora* 25; 1; *Palfurus incurvus* 24; 1; *Erigeron acer* 20; 1; *Verbascum glanduligerum* 17; 1; *Echinops microcephalus* 23; 1; *Chenopodium album* 20; 1; *Lathyrus tuberosus* 20; 1; *Allium ampeloprasum* 28; 1; *Medicago orbicularis* 20; 1; *Cynaturus cristatus* 22; 2; *Cardaria draba* 20; 1; *Sedum acre* 20; 1; *Papaver rhoeas* 20; 1;

Reference locality and date:

1. Dobrich Distr., N43°41'44" E28°52'03", 7.07.20 03; 2. Dobrich Distr., N43°35'20" E28°32'37", 12.08.2 004; 3. Razgrad Distr., N43°28'13" E28°39'05", 16.06.2 002; 4. Dobrich Distr., N43°36'00" E28°23'41", 5.07.20 03; 5. Dobrich Distr., N43°39'31" E28°29'18", 8.07.20 03; 6. Dobrich Distr., Bojanovo village, 7.07.2 003; 7. Dobrich Distr., N43°32'13" E28°22'17", 6.07.2 003; 8. Dobrich Distr., Vokline village, 7.07.20 03; 9. Razgrad Distr., Kamenar village, 16.06.2 002; 10. Dobrich Distr., Bojanovo village, 16.08.2 004; 11. Dobrich Distr., N43°38'38" E28°30'41", 8.07.20 03; 12. Dobrich Distr., Talenovo village, 14.08.20 04; 13. Dobrich Distr., N43°41'35" E28°24'02", 7.07.20 03; 14. Dobrich Distr., W of Dura nekouk village, 7.07.20 04; 15. Dobrich Distr., N43°29'07" E28°31'14", 9.07.20 03; 16. Dobrich Distr., N43°32'10" E28°19'23", 6.07.20 03; 17. Dobrich District, Talenovo village, 22.07.2003; 18. Dobrich Distr., N43°39'39" E28°17'43", 7.07.20 03; 19. Dobrich Distr., Skablatowa, 8.07.20 03; 20. Dobrich Distr., N43°36'59" E28°29'07", 4.07.2 003; 21. Dobrich Distr., Bojanovo village, 16.08.2 004; 22. Dobrich Distr., Gonun village, 8.07.2003; 23. Dobrich Distr., N43°25'26" E28°18'28", 22.07.2 003; 24. Dobrich Distr., Sveti Nikola - Russalka, 22.07.20 03; 25. Dobrich Distr., N43°35'02" E28°06'55", 2.07.2 003; 26. Dobrich Distr., N43°33'49" E28°18'18", 6.07.20 03; 27. Dobrich Distr., N43°25'03" E28°13'58", 21.07. 2003; 28. Dobrich Distr., N43°36'17" E28°36'01", 5.07.20 03

TABLE 3 - Floristic elements in *Agropyro-Thymetum zygoidi* Dichoru 1970.

Floristic-geographical element	Bulgaria	Dichoru (1970)
Euro – Asiatic	26%	38%
Pontic, Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean	47%	38%
Balkanic and Ponto-Balkanic	13%	19%

TABLE 4 - Agrostideto-Chrysopogoneta grylli Kojić 1959.

Releve No	1111111	Constancy	
	1234567890123456		Kojić (1959)
Ass. diagnostic species			
<i>Chrysopogon gryllus</i>	2.13.122.12.2.21	IV	V
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	.1.11...2.122222	IV	V
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	1..11111.1.112.	IV	V
<i>Galium verum</i>	1..11..1.2.1111.	III	IV
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	.1.11.....1.1.11.	II	I
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	...1.1.1.1.1.	II	II
<i>Brius media</i>	...1.....	I	I
Chrysopogoni - Danthoniae			
<i>Trifolium ochroleucum</i>	1.111.....	II	.
<i>Leontodon hypoleus</i>	..1.....1.111.	II	II
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	.....112....	I	.
<i>Monachis mutica</i>	..2.....	I	IV
<i>Euphrasia rosulifera</i>	1.1.....	I	.
Betulae - Brometum			
<i>Festuca valisida</i>	2.2.222.2.2.222	V	V
<i>Eryngium campetris</i>	121.2111.2122212	V	IV
<i>Bauhinia litchamum</i>	...2...35.32323.	III	.
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	1..111.1.1.1.	III	.
<i>Hieracium hypnorum</i>	2121111	III	I
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	.....132111	II	II
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	..1...2...2.2.1.	II	II
<i>Koeleria nitida</i>	2..111...1.....	II	.
<i>Carex coryophylla</i>	1.1.121...2.21.	III	III
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	.....13.11...1	II	.
<i>Cleistogonon serotina</i>	21..1.1.....	II	.
<i>Fragaria viridis</i>	.....11...1...	I	.
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	2.11112121.111.	V	I
<i>Dorycnium herbaceum</i>	1.11...2.2..212.	III	I
Other species			
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	121211.11.1.112.	V	V
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1.1111.1.21.21.1	V	V
<i>Cratogeomys monogyna</i>	2211111.1.121111.	V	.
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	1.11112.21.1411	V	II
<i>Anthoxanthum humidorum</i>	2232132.1..1.11	IV	V
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	1.11111.1.1.1.	IV	I
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	1..1.1131.1.2121	IV	II
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	1212111...21.1.	IV	III
<i>Oenothera arvensis</i>	1.1111.1.211.1.	IV	I
<i>Hypochaeris perforatum</i>	1.11.111.1.111.	IV	I
<i>Rosa canina</i>	..1..11111.1412	IV	.
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	11.111...1.121	III	I
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	..1...21212.211	III	V
<i>Leontodon cickoracens</i>	1111111...2.....	III	.
<i>Potentilla neglecta</i>	2.11.111...1.11.	III	.
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	1...1.11.1111.	III	I
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	1.1.1111.1.11.	III	.
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	1.1..11.1...111	III	.
<i>Achillea crinkled</i>	1211211...2...	III	.
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	1...111211...2	III	.
<i>Trifolium aureum</i>	1...1111...1...	III	.
<i>Agrostis eupatorioides</i>	...112.1111.	III	.
<i>Bromus mollis</i>	...2.11.2.2.2	III	I
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	...22.2...1...	II	.
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	..2..2..11.2.1	II	.
<i>Saxifraga officinalis</i>	1.111.....1...	II	.
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	...2.11..111.	II	I
<i>Odontites serotina</i>	...21.2.32.1	II	.
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	...11..1111.	II	.
<i>Thymus glabrescens</i>	...1221...2....	II	.
<i>Thymus zosterifolius</i>	...2...1.....	II	.
<i>Carduus echantoides</i>	...1..11.1.1...	II	.
<i>Poa compressa</i>	...111...1...	II	.
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	...11..1.....	II	.
<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	...11...1.1...	II	.
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	...1.1...1.1	II	I
<i>Centauria thiantha</i>	...1..1.1.....	II	.

TABLE 5 - Festuco-Agrostidetum Horv. 1951.

Relevé No	1111111111222222222	Coma.
	12345678901234567890123456789	
A.s. diagnostic species		
<i>Asphasathum odoratum</i>	1..2122221..121112...22211..2	IV
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	32321232223221..1.....	III
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	2.....	I
Cynosarion		
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	2...1222..1.1111112..11111..112	IV
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	2111..1111..11.121122122..212	IV
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	1...1121...22221.121.21222	III
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	1.1..111..1.11..1.....2.....	II
Mollisio-Arrhenatheretea		
<i>Lolium corniculatum</i>	2121122222..111.11..1.111111112	V
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	211.2.2.1112.211221.11.111122	V
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	21111112111111111111111111111	V
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	1..2222..1.122221222..1..12..111	IV
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	1..111223.111112.2...212..11	IV
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	2...12211..2.11.1.111..111..11	IV
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	11..1.1111...1..11111...1.11	III
<i>Menba arvensis</i>	1.1.1..2..11.111.111.1..1.111	III
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	111..1111.1..1.1.11.....11	III
<i>San guisorba officinalis</i>	.....11..1.1..1..11.....111111	III
<i>Triglopon orientale</i>	.....1.....111111.....11.1.1	II
<i>Scleria graminea</i>	1.....1.....1.111.....111...	II
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	.....11.....11.....1.1.....11	II
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	.....1.....11.122.....23...	II
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	1.21.2.22222.....	II
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	2.....1.111.11.....	II
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	.....1.....11.12.....12.....	II
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	.....1.11.....1.....1.....1...	II
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	.....111.....111.....11..1	II
Other species		
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	11121111111111111111111111111	V
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	11111111111111111111111111111	V
<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	.....1112211.1.211.11.112...111	IV
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	11111121111111111111111111111	IV
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	2112221122111.1.11.....1.111	IV
<i>Daucus carota</i>	2112221222112.....111.....11.....	IV
<i>Compositus arvensis</i>	11.2.2.21.1.11.1111112111.1.1	IV
<i>Elymus repens</i>	.....21..1.2.....21211.....1.1.1	III
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	.....1121222121.21.....1.121	III
<i>Galium verum</i>	11.1.1.....111.12.11.....11.1...	III
<i>Galium levcosse</i>	.....112.....11.2.....111.1.....11.111	III
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	2..1.1.1.111.11.....111.1.1.1.1	III
<i>Marricaria perforata</i>	.....1.....2111111111111111111	III
<i>Vicia vicia</i>	.....21..22.....21111111.....1.1.1...	III
<i>Rubus caucius</i>	.....21..11.....11112.....1.111	III
<i>Bromus commutatus</i>	.....3.....2..3..2111332.....222	III
<i>Rosa canina</i>	.....11.1.1111.2.....11.1.....11	III
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	.....1.....1.....12.1.111..11.....11	III
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	.....2.....2221..2.2.11122.....222	III
<i>Trifolium aureum</i>	.....1.....1.....11111.....1111.1	III
<i>Bromus mollis</i>	.....23221..3.12.....1.1111112.2	III
<i>Hieracium prostratum s. leucostictum</i>	.....11.11.1.....1.....2121.1.1	III
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	.....1.1.1.....1.1.11.....1.1111	III
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	.....1.21.....21.2.....1122.1.2	III
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	.....1.11.1111.21.....1121.....11.1	III
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	.....1.1.11.11.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	III
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	.....11.1.....1.....11.122	II
<i>Festuca vesicaria</i>	.....1.2.21..2.1.....1.1.1.1.1	II
<i>Tracium chamaedrys</i>	.....1.11.1.11.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	.....1.....1121.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Dorycnium herbaceum</i>	.....2.1121.....1.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	.....11.....11.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Salvia verticillata</i>	.....2.1.1.....1.1.....1.....111	II
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	.....1.....1.....1121.....11.1...	II
<i>Artemisia annua</i>	.....1211.1.11.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Xeranthemum cylindraceum</i>	.....1.....11.....11.....12	II
<i>Lathyrus hirsutus</i>	.....1.....1121.....1.....1.....	II
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	.....1.1.11.11.....1.....1.....	II

Carex horridicincta 1; 4; *Urtica dioica* 17; 1; *Berberis incana* 23; 1; *Ficaria villosa* 29; 1; *Rhinanthus angustifolius* 14; 2; *Tanacetum vulgare* 5; 1; *Asopogon montanensis* 19; 1; *Deschampsia caespitosa* 3; 2; *Aegilops cylindrica* 16; 1; *Geranium sanguineum* 17; 1; *Perhorisum floccosum* 14; 1; *Filipendula ulmaria* 1; 2; *Viola arvensis* 24; 1; *Genista ovata* 29; 1; *Filago vulgaris* 20; 1; *Plantago media* 19; 1; *Juncus effusus* 2; 1; *Plagiorhynchium lactum* 6; 2; *Lathyrus aphaca* 19; 1; *Hieracium murorum* gr. 24; 2; *Papaver rhoeas* 28; 1; *Centauria diffusa* 29; 1; *Legidium compestre* 16; 1; *Hypericum elegans* 22; 1; *Carduus nutans* 22; 1; *Linum tenuifolium* 5; 2; *Leontodon crispus* 28; 1; *Linum catharticum* 27; 1; *Linum horridum* 27; 1; *Lysimachia vulgaris* 2; 1; *Arctium lappa* 19; 1; *Carex ovalis* 8; 1; *Bellis annua* 15; 1; *Britia media* 25; 1; *Rorippa pycnantha* 29; 1; *Centaurea pentagona* 5; 1; *Carex rostrata* 19; 1; *Rumex acetosa* 1; 1; *Centaurea indurata* 4; 1; *Capnella hirsuta-pastoris* 23; 1; *Malva sylvestris* 14; 1; *Oenothera lamarckiana* 2; 1; *Polygala major* 27; 1; *Oxalis grandiflora* 28; 1; *Arenaria alba* 19; 1; *Allium stamineum* 25; 1; *Melampyrum cristatum* 29; 1; *Ninewa pulia* 29; 1;

Locality and date of relevés

1. Veliko Tarnovo District, N42°55'49" E25°58'21", 18.08.2002; 2. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°55'18" E25°46'54", 6.08.2003; 3. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°55'49" E25°58'22", 18.08.2002; 4. Targovishte Distr., N40°04'09" E26°11'30", 18.08.2002; 5. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°55'37" E25°54'51", 6.08.2003; 6. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., Blaskovtzi village, 7.08.2003; 7. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°56'18" E25°48'36", 7.08.2003; 8. Targovishte Distr., N43°01'28" E26°11'16", 8.08.2003; 9. Targovishte Distr., N43°01'36" E26°13'10", 9.08.2003; 10. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., Shirkovtzi village, 6.08.2003; 11. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°55'07" E25°43'47", 6.08.2003; 12. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°57'13" E25°50'43", 7.08.2003; 13. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., Blaskovtzi village, 7.08.2003; 14. Veliko Tarnovo Distr., N42°57'06" E25°51'13", 7.08.2003; 15. Targovishte Distr., Gorsko selo Village, 15.06.2003; 16. Targovishte Distr., N43°06'05" E26°27'45", 17.06.2003; 17. Targovishte Distr., N43°08'25" E26°10'26", 13.06.2003; 18. Targovishte Distr., N43°05'59" E26°19'39", 14.06.2003; 19. Targovishte Distr., N43°08'14" E26°14'07", 13.06.2003; 20. Targovishte Distr., N43°08'02" E26°14'50", 13.06.2003; 21. Targovishte Distr., N43°06'03" E26°24'08", 15.06.2003; 22. Targovishte Distr., N43°04'16" E26°21'54", 15.06.2003; 23. Targovishte Distr., N43°03'07" E26°28'36", 16.06.2003; 24. Targovishte Distr., N43°04'27" E26°21'36", 14.06.2003; 25. Targovishte Distr., N43°06'34" E26°15'09", 14.06.2003; 26. Targovishte Distr., N43°07'50" E26°10'41", 13.06.2003; 27. Targovishte Distr., N43°06'19" E26°26'38", 17.06.2003; 28. Targovishte Distr., W of Omurag, 18.06.2003; 29. Targovishte Distr., N43°04'46" E26°21'12", 15.06.2003;