Tuexenia 42: 275–296. Göttingen 2022. doi: 10.14471/2022.42.009, available online at www.tuexenia.de

Habitat preference of the endangered species Crambe tataria (Brassicaceae) from Romania

Habitatpräferenzen der gefährdeten Art Crambe tataria (Brassicaceae) aus Rumänien

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Abstract

Crambe tataria is a protected species, thermophilic relict in Europe and steppe postglacial relict in Romania. In the past three decades, the size of C. tataria populations has been significantly reduced, and the geographical distribution of these populations is fragmented. Despite its status, there is insufficient data on the environmental conditions of this priority species. This study aimed to identify the main plant communities with C. tataria and the relationships between their floristic composition and environmental variables. The floristic composition based on 211 phytocoenological relevés from the Romanian Grasslands Database (164 relevés; EU-RO-008) and personal data (47 relevés). The vegetation groups were identified using hierarchical agglomerative clustering methods. Detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) and canonical correlation analysis (CCA) evaluated the relationship between floristic composition and environmental variables. Climatic variables were represented by the environmental variables. The analysis of the floristic composition was performed based on the presence/absence matrix. The vegetation analysis indicated that C. tataria grows and persists in a limited number of plant communities, with a preference for the Arrhenatherion elatioris, Festucion valesiacae, Stipion lessingianae, Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati, Danthonio-Brachypodion and Prunion fruticosae. The most important variable that influences the floristic composition is the elevation. The analyzed populations prefer alkaline soils rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Arsenic and lead were also present in high concentrations. Investigations have shown that in addition to the Festuco-Brometea the phytocoenoses of C. tataria identified belong to the Molinio-Arrhenatheretea, and Rhamno-Prunetea classes. The areas occupied by xerophilic meadows of the Festuco-Brometea are in different stages of degradation due to overgrazing, particularly in north-eastern Romania.

Keywords: Crambe tataria populations, elevation, environmental conditions, floristic composition, habitat preference

Erweitere deutsche Zusammenfassung am Ende des Artikels

Manuscript received 15 October 2021, accepted 30 September 2022 Published online 12 December 2022 Co-ordinating Editor: Christian Berg

1. Introduction

Europe is home to a unique diversity of ecologically and economically important plants. Thus, the flora of Europe is one of the best known and studied in the world but is strongly influenced over time due to direct and indirect extinctions caused by human interventions (SILVA et al. 2008). The European flora (excluding Turkey) includes over 12,500 species of vascular plants (RADFORD & ODÉ 2009). According to the criteria in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List (IUCN), of the 4700 vascular endemic plants in Europe, about 1917 taxa (species and subspecies) are considered endangered (BACHMAN et al. 2016). As a result of the accelerated pace of industrialization and development in the last 250–300 years, along with the destruction of habitat, pollution, and invasive species (OOSTERMEIJER 2003), Europe's flora has been classified as one of the most endangered (SILVA et al. 2008).

Study object of this research is *Crambe tataria* (*Brassicaceae*). This species is distributed in Central and Eastern Europe and Western Siberia (MÂNZU et al. 2020). At the global level, *C. tataria* is not threatened (SÂRBU et al. 2007). In Europe, according to the criteria set out in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, the species' status is of least concern (LC) due to its wide distribution in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe (KELL 2011). In Romania, this species is considered vulnerable and rare (OLTEAN et al. 1994). The western limit of its geographical distribution crosses Central Europe (Hungary) and southeastern Central Europe (Romania), where most localities with C. tataria have been identified.

Crambe tataria occurs in various of habitats, including dry grasslands, roadsides, farmland, and abandoned orchards (HORVÁTH 2005, CHIRILĂ 2022). It was also observed at the edge and inside pine forests (*Pynus sylvestris* L.). In Romania, the species is widespread in the North-East, South and Central regions, on sunny hills and slopes with moderately accentuated, southwestern and northeastern slopes. *Crambe tataria* has been reported at elevations between 77 m (ANIŢEI 2000) and 644 m (CHIRILĂ 2022). In the analyzed habitats, the amount of precipitation varied from 478 mm to 731 mm. The soils of *C. tatarica* habitats are rich in nutrients and have an alkaline pH. High concentrations of lead and silicon have also been identified (CHIRILĂ 2022). *Crambe tataria* is currently in decline due to habitat degradation and fragmentation. Of the 168 populations of *C. tataria* reported in Romania, approximately 60–70% have not been identified in the last three decades (CHIRILĂ 2021). Population decline is caused both indirectly (pollution, invasive species, and climate change) and directly (overgrazing, land-use change, mechanized mowing, flower picking during vegetation, etc.) by human activities (HORVÁTH 2005, CHIRILĂ 2021, 2022).

Crambe tataria is mainly threatened by overgrazing (HORVÁTH 2005). This factor destroys the species' leaves, inflorescences, and fruits (CHIRILĂ 2022). The species was one of the most important basic vegetables during famines, consumed by many peoples. Bread was made from the roots (RAPAICS 1938), the leaves were eaten as a salad or vegetable, or in various sauces (KALISTA 2017). The shoots were eaten as a substitute for *Asparagus officinalis* L., and the leaves as a substitute for *Spinacia oleracea* L. (PÂRVU 2005).

Research on the habitat preference of *C. tataria* is essential to explain the probabilities of its survival in current habitat conditions and its ability to occupy new favourable habitats. Also, this research is necessary for developing endangered species conservation strategies. Research on plant species, rare or declining, is insufficient, with most of the existing ones focusing on genetic structure. In contrast, only a few studies focus on population characteristics and reproduction ability. Moreover, land-use change can have

significant consequences for small populations, prone to population declines and extinction due to demographic variation. Therefore, rare plant species limited to small and isolated populations may be more likely to become extinct (FISCHER & MATTHIES 1998). This study was designed to investigate the habitat preferences of *C. tataria* species in Romania because scientific data on the appropriate habitat for this species are insufficient.

2. Study area

The study area is represented by three historical regions in Romania: Muntenia, Moldova, and Transylvania (Fig. 1). The climate is temperate continental, with mean annual precipitation from 478 mm to 731 mm and mean annual temperature from 7 °C to 11 °C. The dominant soil types are chernozem and phaeozem (Digital Soil Map Of The World, http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/metadata.show%3Fid=14116, accessed 2021-09-12).



Fig. 1. Area of the study. Abb. 1. Das Untersuchungsgebiet.

3. Material and methods

3.1 Study species

Crambe tataria (Fig. 2) is a grassland species with a discontinuous distribution, from the Pannonian Plain to the steppes north of the Black Sea (MÂNZU et al. 2020). It is a pontic hemicryptophyte, greenbluish, with a height ranging from 25 to 150 cm (SÂRBU et al. 2013). The root is fleshy and sweet, blackish-brown on the outside and white on the inside, and up to 120 cm long (NYÁRÁDY 1955).



Fig. 2. *Crambe tataria* Sebeók. a) In the flowering stage, b) the fruiting stage and c) the maturity stage (Photos: S. D. Chirilă, a) and b) May 2020, c) September 2020).

Abb. 2. *Crambe tataria* Sebeók. a) In der Blütephase, b) der Fruchtphase und c) der Reifephase (Fotos: S. D. Chirilă, a) and b) Mai 2020, c) September 2020).

3.2 Vegetation sampling and classification

For syntaxonomic assignment of the vegetation, 213 relevés (including 604 taxa) were used. Most relevés (164) were obtained from the Romanian Grassland Database (RGD; VASSILEV et al. 2018), and 47 relevés were made between May and July 2020 in some localities in Romania. The size of the own 47 relevés in the field was 100 m², and the relevé sizes (164 relevés) obtained from the Romanian Grassland Database varied from 10 m² to 200 m². For the analysis of the species composition, the presence-absence matrix was created from the transformation of the database records. The taxonomy and nomenclature of vascular plants were checked following the EURO+MED (2022). For further data preparation and analysis, all relevés were imported into JUICE 7.0 (TICHÝ 2002). Then, before the numerical classification, we standardized our relevé dataset (DENGLER et al. 2012, JANSSEN et al. 2016, MUCINA et al. 2016, WILLNER et al. 2019): (i) taxonomy and nomenclature were unified; (ii) taxa identified only at the genus level were eliminated; (iii) lichens and bryophytes were excluded from the analysis as they were only recorded in some relevés. The final dataset included 211 relevés and 572 species.

Vegetation classification was performed by hierarchical agglomerative clustering, using the flexible β algorithm (β = -0.25) and the Bray-Curtis distance. Subsequently, the dendrogram was created using the GINKGO program of the VegAna package (BOUXIN 2005). The optimal number of clusters was identified using the corrected Rand index (RAND 1971) and the mean silhouette index (ROUSSEEUW 1987). For each cluster, diagnostic species were identified based on the IndVal (DUFRÉNE & LEGENDRE 1997) and validated by a permutation test (DE CÁCERES & LEGENDRE 2009) using GINKGO software (BOUXIN 2005). Habitat type was classified using the classification expert system for EUNIS habitats (CHYTRÝ et al. 2020). Moreover, the habitat codes in the expert system correspond to those used in the European Red List of Habitats (JANSSEN et al. 2016). The nomenclature of plant associations follows COLDEA et al. (2012) and CHIFU et al. (2014). The mean values for each analysis are presented.

3.3 Analysis of soil samples

In this study, 47 soil samples were analyzed. Determination of total concentrations of chemical elements: arsenic (As), and lead (Pb), was realized according to the standard SR EN 15309:2007 "Characterization of waste and soil; Determination of elemental composition by X-ray fluorescence". The determination of the chemical composition of these chemical elements was performed by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF). The spectrometric determination of mobile phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) in the ammonium acetate solution was performed according to the Egner-Riehm-Domingo method. The total nitrogen (N) in the soil was performed by the Kjeldahl method (LĂCĂTUŞU 2016, LUNGU & RIZEA 2017). The soil pH was determined according to SR ISO10390:2015 "Soil

quality – Determination of pH" For the 164 relevés from the RGD database, the values regarding As, Pb (PANAGOS et al. 2012), N, P, K, and soil pH (BALLABIO et al. 2019) were extracted from the European Soil Database & soil properties (ESDAC; https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resource-type/european-soil-database-soil-properties, accessed 2022-03-12).

3.4 Environmental variables

The environmental variables used in multivariate analyses were represented by abiotic variables (elevation, slope, aspect, and precipitation of driest quarter). Precipitation of the driest quarter was extracted from the WorldClim database (FICK & HIJMANS 2017).

3.5 Other statistical analyses

The relationships between the floristic composition and the environmental variables were analyzed using CANOCO version 5 (TER BRAAK & ŠMILAUER 2012). Detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) was applied to detect floristic gradients. To quantify the "strength" of the effect of each environmental variable studied on the floristic composition, we applied canonical correspondence analysis (CCA). The significance of the variables was assessed using the Monte Carlo permutation test (999 permutations). To determine the collinearity between our variability (floristic composition and environmental variables), the variable inflation factor (VIF) was used in CANOCO. Variables with VIF value > 5 are considered multicolinary and have been excluded from the model (Table 1). The map with the relevés distribution was made in the QGIS version 3.18.3 (https://qgis.org).

 Table 1. VIF (variation inflation factor) analysis between environmental variables.

Tabelle 1. VIF-Analyse zwischen Umgebungsvariablen.

Variables	VIF
Precipitation of driest quarter (Bio 17)	3.635
Elevation	4.045
Aspect	1.045
Slope	1.314

4. Results

4.1 Habitat types

Crambe tataria has been identified in three main habitat types: mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves, dry grasslands, meadows and mesic pastures. Mean vegetation cover was 80%, and mean moss cover was 5%. Vegetation was classified into three vegetation classes, five orders, six alliances, and 19 associations.

Class: Molinio-Arrhenatheretea R. Tx. 1937

Order: Arrhenatheretalia R. Tx. 1931 All.: Arrhenatherion elatioris Koch 1926 Ass.: Arrhenatheretum elatioris Br.-Bl. ex Scherrer 1926

Class: Festuco-Brometea Br.-Bl. et Tx. ex Klika et Hadač 1944

Order: Festucetalia valesiacae Br.-Bl. et R. Tx. ex Br.-Bl. 1949

All.: Festucion valesiacae Klika 1931

Ass.: Elytrigietum hispidi (Dihoru 1970) Popescu et Sanda 1988

Ass.: Medicagini minimae-Festucetum valesiacae Wagner 1941

Ass.: Botriochloetum (Andropogonetum) ischaemi (Kristiansen 1937) Pop 1977

- Ass.: Salvio nutanti-nemorosae-Festucetum rupicolae (Salvio nutantis-Paeonietum tenuifoliae) Zólyomi 1958
- Ass.: Festuco rupicolae-Caricetum humilis Soó. (1930) 1947
- Ass.: Koelerietum macranthae (Răvăruț et al. 1956) Popescu et Sanda 1988
- Ass.: Stipetum capillatae (Hueck 1931) Krausch 1961
- Ass.: Agropyro pectinati-Stipetum capillatae (Burduja et al 1956) Chifu et al. 1998
- Ass.: *Taraxaco serotinae-Festucetum valesiacae* (Burduja et al. 1956) Sârbu et al. 1999

Ass: Thymo pannonici-Chrysopogonetum grylli (Bârcă 1973) Doniță et al. 1992 All.: Stipion lessingianae Soó 1947

Ass.: Galio octonarii-Stipetum tirsae (Ciocârlan 1969). Popescu et Sanda 1992

- Ass.: Stipetum pulcherrimae Soó 1942
- Ass.: Artemisietum pontico-sericeae Soó (1927) 1942
- Ass.: Jurineo arachnoideae-Stipetum lessingianae (Dobrescu 1974) Chifu, Mânzu et Zamfirescu 2006

Order: Brachypodietalia pinnati Korneck 1974

All.: Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati Hadac & Klika in Klika & Hadac 1944 Ass.: Carici humilis-Brachypodietum pinnati Soó ex Pop et al. 2001 Ass.: Festuco rupicolae-Brachypodietum pinnati (Soó 1927)

Order: *Brachypodio-Chrysopogonetalia* (Horvatič 1958) Boșcaiu 1972 All.: *Danthonio-Brachypodion* Boșcaiu 1972

Ass.: Danthonio alpinae-Stipetum stenophyllae Ghişa 1941

Class: *Rhamno-Prunetea* Rivas Goday et Borja Carbonell ex Tüxen 1962

Order: Prunetalia spinosae R. Tüxen 1952

All.: Prunion fruticosae Dziubałtowski 1926

Ass.: Prunetum tenellae Soó 1951

Crambe tataria is a meso-xerophilous-mesophilic species with specific characteristics of steppe and forest-steppe grasslands, which grows on deep soils such as phaeozem and luvic chernozem. *Crambe tataria* sites are characterized by open vegetation located on the southern (180°), south-southwestern (203°), and southwestern (225°) slopes. The species was also observed on eastern (90°) and northern (360°) slopes. *Crambe tataria* was observed on slopes between 4° and 20°, followed by slopes with slopes of 21° to 60°. The mean annual precipitation was 585 mm, and the mean annual temperature was 9 °C. The type of grassland management is represented by the following categories: non-grazed grasslands, mowed grasslands, and grazed grasslands. The mean richness of plant species per 10 m² varies between 7 to 117 species, with a mean of 48 species per m². The vegetation cover was from 42% to 90%. The cover of bryophytes was mostly low, between 1% and 50%. Shrubs and semi-shrubs were rare. Perennials predominate in the plant communities. In terms of humidity, the meso-xerophyte group dominates.

The *Festuco-Brometea* class corresponds to the dry grassland habitat type. These grasslands are xerophilous and xero-mesophilic and occur on weakly alkaline soils rich in phosphorus, arsenic, and lead. Most grasslands are grazed, with higher mean annual temperatures but lower mean annual precipitation than mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves habitat and meadows and mesic pastures habitat. The *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* class corresponds to the type of habitat meadows and mesic pastures. These meadows are

mesophilic, and poor in species. Unlike other habitat types, these meadows are non-grazed and characterized by the highest nitrogen, potassium, and calcium concentrations. The mean annual precipitation was higher than in the dry grassland's habitat. The *Rhamno-Prunetea* class corresponded to mesic habitat type, xeric scrub, and *Robinia* groves. These communities were characterized by mean annual precipitation, higher elevation, and slopes but with a lower vegetation cover than the other two habitats. Among the three habitat types in which the species *C. tataria* was identified, we found that dry grasslands are the optimum habitat of the species. This is indicated by the occurrence of the species in most plots in dry grasslands (n = 197, 97.5%). In the mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves habitat (n = 4, 1.9%) and the meadows and mesic pastures (n = 1, 0.4%), *C. tataria* was recorded in a small number of plots.

4.2 Cluster analysis

The results of the cluster analysis are presented in the dendrogram and the synoptic table (Supplement E1). The dendrogram resulting from the application of the agglomerative hierarchical clustering algorithm was cut into nine partitions with ten clusters. Based on the corrected rand index (0.994) and silhouette index (0.136), vegetation was classified into five groups (Fig. 3). These five groups reflect the syntaxonomic classification described in the literature (CHIFU et al. 2014), depending on their diagnostic species. Group A includes the communities of the grass steppes of the *Stipion lessingianae*. Group B represents narrow-leaved dry grasslands and short-grass steppes (the alliance *Festucion valesiacae*). Group C includes the subcontinental broad-leaved semi-dry grasslands and tall-grass steppes of the *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* and *Danthonio-Brachypodion*. Group D includes the lowland to submontane mesic meadows communities of the *Arrhenatherion elatioris* and group E communities of the *Prunion fruticosae*.

The *Stipion lessingianae* alliance (Cluster A, 42% of the total plots) includes plots of the communities distributed in the south and centre of Romania, at elevations from 300 m to 610 m. In the analyzed communities, the steppe and Mediterranean species are dominant. In general, *Stipa lessingiana, S. pulcherrima* and *S. tirsa* predominate. Steppe species are also present, such as *Adonis vernalis, Knautia arvensis, Festuca valesiaca, Salvia nemorosa, S. nutans* and *Stachys recta*. These communities are used for grazing. Soils are



Fig. 3. Dendrogram of relevés with *Crambe tataria* in Romania. Cluster A - Stipion lessingianae; Cluster B - Festucion valesiacae; Cluster C - Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati and Danthonio-Brachypodion; Cluster D - Arrhenatherion elatioris; Cluster E - Prunion fruticosae.

Abb. 3. Dendrogramm von Vegetationsaufnahmen mit *Crambe tataria* in Rumänien. In der englischen Abbildungsunterschrift werden die Cluster den Syntaxa zugeordnet.

characterized by neutral pH, with a very high potassium and nitrogen concentration and a medium concentration of phosphorus. The arsenic concentration was within normal limits, and the lead concentration exceeded the alert threshold values (Table 2). The alliance includes three associations:

The *Stipetum pulcherrimae* was identified in Mureş, Cluj, and Braşov counties, on steep slopes of 42° (10° – 60°), with a north-southern aspect and at elevations from 300 m to 610 m (mean 415 m). The mean annual temperature was 8.3 °C (6.9–8.9 °C), and the mean annual precipitation was 598 mm (300–610 mm). On plots of 10 m², the vegetation coverage was 90% with 52 species per 10 m²; on plots of 20 m², the vegetation coverage was 80% with 45 species per 20 m². Cover of moss layer was 14%. The soils are neutral, with a very high concentration of potassium and nitrogen, a medium concentration and phosphorus, and values within normal limits of lead and arsenic (Table 2).

The Jurineo arachnoideae-Stipetum lessingianae is distributed in the Cluj, Mureş, Iaşi, Alba, and Botoşani counties, with at elevations from 82–500 m (mean 296 m). The mean annual precipitation was 579 mm (545–641 mm), and the mean annual temperature was 9 °C (7.7–10.2 °C). The slopes were steep ($4.4^{\circ}-55^{\circ}$, mean 20°), with southwestern and eastern aspects. Vegetation coverage was 85% with 47 species per 10 m², and on plots of 20 m², there was a vegetation coverage of 70% with 45 species per 20 m². The genetic type of soil is calcium chernozem. The soils are neutral, with a very high potassium and nitrogen concentration and a medium concentration of phosphorus. Exceedances of normal arsenic values and the lead alert threshold exceedances have been identified (Table 2).

The *Galio octonarii-Stipetum tirsae* was reported in Buzău county, at elevations of 350 m, on small, north-eastern exposed slopes of 5°. Vegetation coverage was 90%, and the richness of vascular plant species was 42 species per 10 m^2 . The mean annual temperature was 9.5 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was 563 mm. This association was characterized by neutral soils, with a very high concentration of potassium and nitrogen, a low concentration, it was characterized by the lowest values for phosphorus, arsenic, and lead (Table 2).

The *Festucion valesiacae* alliance (Cluster B) is distributed in the North-East, Central and South-East regions of Romania, on flat to moderately sloping terrain, with north-eastern and south-western aspects. The dominant species are *Jurinea arachnoidea*, *Phlomis herba-venti*, *Astragalus onobrychis*, *Agropyron cristatum*, *Festuca valesiaca*, *Centaurea orientalis*, *Taraxacum serotinum*, *Artemisia austriaca* etc. These grasslands are generally used as pastures. The alliance is characterized by neutral soils, with normal values of arsenic and lead, rich in potassium, nitrogen, and phosphorus (Table 2).

Within the alliance, the *Medicagini minimae-Festucetum valesiacae* is distributed in Iaşi, Vaslui, and Braşov counties, where the soils are characterized by alkaline pH. The association is distributed at elevations from 82 m to 410 m (mean 137 m), where the mean annual precipitation is 568 mm (545–610 mm), and the mean annual temperature is 9.4 °C (8.5–9.6 °C). *Festuca valesiaca* phytocoenoses grow on sunny coasts, with south-eastern aspects and mostly steep slopes (2° – 30° , mean 15.6°). The vegetation coverage was 93% with 51 species per 10 m², and on plots of 20 m², the vegetation coverage was 99% with 97 species per 20 m². The genetic type of soil characteristic of the analyzed area is gleic luvisol. Soils are rich in potassium, with a medium concentration of phosphorus and nitrogen, and have normal arsenic and lead values (Table 2).

The *Botriochloetum* (*Andropogonetum*) ischaemi was identified in Iași and Vaslui counties, at elevations from 120 m to 439 m (mean 290 m), on steep, north-eastern exosed slopes of 30° – 40° (mean 33°). The mean annual temperature was 8.9 °C (8.2–9.4 °C), and the mean annual precipitation was 536 mm. The vegetation cover was 70%, and the richness of the plant species was 66 species per 10 m². Soils are moderately acidic, with a medium phosphorus concentration and a high concentration of potassium and nitrogen. Arsenic and lead had normal concentrations (Table 2).

The Salvio nutanti-nemorosae-Festucetum rupicolae is distributed in Mureș County, on moderately steep slopes (from 5.3° to 27.8°) and with north-western aspects. The mean elevation was 450 m, the mean annual precipitation was 629 mm (601–731 mm), and the mean annual temperature was 8.1 °C. The vegetation cover was 94%, and the richness of the vascular plant species was 80 species per 25 m². The soils are neutral, with a very high concentration of potassium, a medium concentration of phosphorus, and a high concentration of nitrogen. Lead and arsenic are in normal concentrations (Table 2).

The *Festuco rupicolae-Caricetum humilis* has been identified in some grasslands in Alba, Cluj, and Mureş counties, at elevations from 300 m to 535 m (mean: 397 m), on mostly steep slopes of (from 4° to 45°, mean 26°), with north-eastern and south-western aspects. The mean annual temperature was $8.5 \,^{\circ}$ C, and the mean annual precipitation was 617 mm. The plots had the following characteristics: The vegetation cover was 90% with 45 species per 25 m²; on plots of 16 m², the vegetation cover was 80% with 32 species per 16 m²; and on plots of 10 m², the vegetation cover was 80% with 32 species per 10 m². Cover of moss layer was 2.8% on 25 m² and 2.5% on 16 m². Soils are moderately acidic, with very high potassium and nitrogen concentrations and low phosphorus concentrations. Lead and arsenic were in normal concentrations (Table 2).

The *Koelerietum macranthae* was reported in Iași County, at elevations of 180 m, on 5° slopes, with north-eastern aspects. The vegetation cover was 100%, and the richness of the vascular plant species was 62 species per 10 m². The mean annual temperature was 9.6 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was 567 mm. Cover of the lichen layer was 62%, and the soils are neutral, rich in potassium and nitrogen concentrations, and poor phosphorus concentrations. Normal values for arsenic and lead were recorded (Table 2). The lowest potassium concentration was recorded in this association compared to the other associations.

The *Stipetum capillatae* was identified in some grasslands in Iaşi and Vaslui counties, where the mean annual precipitation was 564 mm, and the mean annual temperature was 9.5 °C. This association was characterized by elevations of 130 m, with 17° slopes. The richness of vascular plant species was 49 species per 10 m². The soils are neutral, with high phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium concentrations and normal values of arsenic and lead (Table 2).

The *Taraxaco serotinae-Festucetum valesiacae* has been identified in Bistrița-Năsăud, Iași, and Vaslui counties, at elevations from 77 m to 483 m (mean 174 m). The annual precipitation was from 516 mm to 623 mm (mean: 558 mm), and the annual temperature was from 7.6 °C to 10.2 °C (mean: 9.3 °C). The genetic type of soil characteristic of the analyzed area is calcium chernozem. These plant communities occur on partly steep slopes from 3.6° to 35° (mean 12.6°), with south-western and north-eastern aspects. Cover of the moss layer was 6%, and total vegetation cover was 90%, with 64 species on 10 m². The soils are weakly alkaline, with a high potassium, nitrogen, and phosphorusconcentration. Lead values were recorded above the alert threshold allowed by law in Romania (Order no. 756 of November 3, 1997; http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/13572, accessed 2021-08-12). Concentrations of arsenic recorded values above the normal limit (Table 2).

The *Thymo pannonici-Chrysopogonetum grylli* was identified in Buzău county, at elevations from 141 m to 337 m (mean: 271 m). The area's relief is represented by hills with sunny slopes (west-southwest) with moderate slopes (10.2°) . The mean annual temperature in the area was 9.55 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was 561 mm. The characteristic soil genetic type is luvic phaeozem. Three plots were included in this association, with a mean of 51 species per 10 m². The overall vegetation cover was 95%. The pH of the soil was weakly alkaline and rich in nitrogen and phosphorus. Lead recorded values above the alert threshold, and arsenic recorded values above the normal limit allowed by Romanian law (Order no. 756 of November 3, 1997). This association was characterized by the highest values of arsenic, lead, phosphorus, and potassium (Table 2).

The Agropyro pectinati-Stipetum capillatae was identified in the counties of Iaşi and Vaslui, on steep slopes (mean: 32.5°) with an eastern aspect. Phytocoenoses dominated by *Stipa capillata* occur at low elevations, from 140 to 200 m, with a mean annual temperature of 9.8 °C (9.4–10.2 °C) and mean annual precipitation of 566 mm (560–572 mm). The mean vegetation cover was 95%, and the richness of vascular plant species was 41.5 per 10 m². Soils are weakly alkaline, rich in potassium and nitrogen, and poor in phosphorus. Lead and arsenic were in normal concentrations (Table 2).

The *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* and *Danthonio-Brachypodion* alliances (Cluster C) were distributed in Romania's North-West, Central and South-East regions, on moderately to steeply sloping terrain. *Danthonio-Brachypodion* includes xeric grasslands. Most species are Balkanian and sub-Mediterranean. Coenoses developed in slightly humid conditions (500–600 mm per year). Dominant are *Stipa tirsa*, *Danthonia alpina* and *Agrostis capillaris*. The *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* alliance includes Central European species. *Carex humilis*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*, *Trifolium alpestre*, and *Polygala major* are dominant species. Soils are moderately acidic, rich in potassium and nitrogen, and poor in phosphorus. Lead exhibited values above the alert threshold. This alliance showed the lowest value for soil pH compared to the other alliances (Table 2).

The *Carici humilis-Brachypodietum pinnati* is poor in species and was identified in the Alba, Cluj, Sibiu, and Buzău counties, on moderate to steep slopes $(5^{\circ}-30^{\circ})$ with sunny and shady aspects. On the 10 m² plots, the vegetation coverage was 94%, and the richness of vascular plant species was 32 species, and on the 20 m² plots, the vegetation coverage was 90%, with only nine species. The elevation ranged from 245 m to 430 m (mean: 343 m). The mean annual precipitation was 594 mm, and the mean annual temperature was 9 °C. Soils are neutral, rich in potassium and nitrogen, and low in phosphorus. Lead exceeded the normal value allowed by law. Arsenic was in normal concentrations (Table 2).

The *Festuco rupicolae-Brachypodietum pinnati* was identified in Mureş County, at high elevation (395 m). The mean annual precipitation was 612 mm, and the mean annual temperature was 8.5. The analyzed association was observed on the slopes with northeast aspects, on steep slopes from 5.3° to 27.8° (mean: 16°). The genetic type of soil characteristic of the area is the luvic phaeozem. The vegetation cover was 100%, and the richness of the vascular plant species was 97 species per 10 m². Soils are moderately acidic and rich in potassium, phosphorus, and nitrogen. Arsenic has exceeded the normal value allowed by Order no. 756 of November 3, 1997, in Romania. Lead was high above the alert threshold (Table 2).

The *Danthonio alpinae-Stipetum stenophyllae* was identified in Cluj County, at high elevation (545 m), on flat slopes (5°) with southwest and east aspect. The vegetation cover was 100%, and the richness of the vascular plant species was 58 species per 10 m². The lowest values for the mean annual temperature were recorded. The annual precipitation is 597 mm. The soils are moderately acidic, the lowest value compared to the other associations. Arsenic was in normal concentrations, and lead has exceeded its normal value. Soils were also rich in potassium and nitrogen and poor in phosphorus (Table 2).

The Arrhenatherion elatioris alliance (Cluster D) is characteristic for mesophilic grasslands. The mesic meadows are used as hayfields. The characteristic species are Arrhenatherum elatius, Taraxacum officinale, Lotus corniculatus, Falcaria vulgaris, Leucanthemum vulgare, Inula helenium, Lathyrus tuberosus, and Digitalis grandiflora. This alliance was characterized by the highest soil pH values, lead, arsenic, phosphorus, and potassium. Thus, the soils are weakly alkaline, rich in phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium, and have a normal arsenic concentration in the soil. Lead recorded values above the alert threshold (Table 2).

The Arrhenatheretum elatioris is poor in number of species (29 species) and was identified in Sibiu County, at moderate elevation (328 m), on low slopes (12°) with a northern aspect. The mean annual temperature was 8.53 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was 616 mm. The genetic type of soil is gleic luvisol. The overall vegetation cover was 100%.

The *Elytrigietum hispidi* was identified in Sibiu on slightly steep slopes from 12.8° to 20.8° (mean: 15°) with north-eastern aspects and at elevations from 485 m to 644 m (mean 587 m). The mean annual precipitation was 616 mm, and the mean annual temperature was 8.6 °C. The characteristic genetic type of soil is the gleic luvisol. The soils are weakly alkaline, with a high concentration of phosphorus and potassium, low nitrogen concentration and values above the normal limit allowed by Romanian law, and exceeding the value of the alert threshold for lead (Table 2). The highest pH and lead values were recorded in this association.

The *Prunion fruticosae* alliance (Cluster E) is distributed in the North-West and Central regions of Romania, in steppe areas. Phytocoenoses of *Prunus tenella* are xerophilous. The characteristic species are *Prunus tenella*, *Phragmites australis*, *Rosa gallica*, and *Vinca herbacea*. Soils are moderately acidic, rich in potassium and nitrogen, and low in phosphorus. Lead and arsenic were in normal concentrations. This alliance recorded the lowest values for arsenic, lead, potassium, and phosphorus (Table 2).

The *Prunetum tenellae* is poor in species and includes woody and grassy species, xerophilous-xeromesophilic, and located in the steppe areas of Cluj and Mureş. These communities occur at elevations of 473 m, on steep slopes (43°), with a south-western aspect. The general vegetation cover was 70%, and the mean richness was 32 per 10 m². The coverage of the moss layer was 1%. The mean annual temperature was 8.6 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was the highest of all communities analyzed (628 mm). The characteristic species of the association is *Prunus tenella*.

The Artemisietum pontico-sericeae occurs in Cluj County, at elevations from 310 m to 540 m (mean: 508 m). With a mean of 17 species per 10 m² the community is species-poor. The mean annual temperature was 8.7 °C, and the mean annual precipitation was 590 mm. The relief is represented by hills with north-south aspects, with steep slopes from 15° - 60° (mean: 29°). Soils are moderately acidic, rich in potassium and nitrogen, and have a normal concentration of lead and arsenic and a medium concentration of phosphorus (Table 2).

ne mean annuar precipitation, northeast, NE- northeast.		ELV Aspect Slope
st, NNE- north-		BIO17
t, SW- southwe		BIO12
he precipitat SE- southeas		BIOI
). BIUI / = t -southwest, S	hungen (SD).	z
t, WSW- west	ındardabweicl	К
$s \pm standard (uth-southwes)$	elwerte \pm Sta	Р
outh, SSW- so	/erte sind Mitt	As
ameters. va. spect: S - so	arameter. W	Рb
1 able 2. Measured values for the analyzed chemical pair BIOI = the mean annual temperature, ELV - elevation. A	Tabelle 2. Messwerte für die analysierten chemischen P	Hq

	I.		- v	-	4	V	1010	01010	21010	ETV	A	Clans
	III	ΓŪ	SF.	4	4	N.	DIGI	71010		111	Aspect	adore
Cluster A - alliance <i>Stipion lessingianae</i>	6.9±0.4	27±25	4±2.6	26±16.2	313±25.3	2 ±0.7	8.9±0.5	580±17.7	79.5±2.5	354±116.8	MS	22±13.5
Ass. Stipetum pulcherrimae Ass. Jurineo arachnoideae-Stipetum lessingianae	6.9±0.3 7.06±0.5	18.8±1.6 51.9±38.4	3.2±0.5 7.02±4.8	26.3±6.6 34.9±22.2	337.4±45.7 294.2±5	2.6 ± 0.3 1.7 ± 1.1	8.3 ± 0.5 9.08 ±0.6	598±10.2 579.8±25.3	80.8 ± 1.9 80.7 ± 3.1	414.8±82.9 299.5±150.7	s S	41.8 ± 13.5 20.06 ± 13.6
Ass. Galio octonarii-Stipetum tirsae	6,8	10,4	1,2	17,1	308,1	1,7	9,5	563	LL	350	WSW	S
Cluster B - alliance Festucion valesiacae	6.9±0.4	29.09±9.7	3.9 ± 1. 3	33±16.9	302.5±62.6	1.6 ± 0.5	9.1 ±0.2	573.3±28.5	82.8±7.5	225.5±75.1	SE	18.8 ± 9.7
Ass. Medicagini minimae-Festucetum valesiacae	7.02±0.4	22.8±22.3	3.2±3	32.9±20.6	288±33.4	1.6 ± 0.6	9.4±0.3	567.6±17.1	$81.4{\pm}1.9$	137.4±109.3	SE	15.6±10.1
Ass. Botriochloetum (Andropogonetum) ischaemi	6.5±0.8	13.5±2.9	2.1±0.4	26.8±6.6	260.3±70.1	$1.7{\pm}0.3$	8.8±0.5	527.7±36	80.4±7.8	289.5±128.8	S	32.8±4.8
Ass. Salvio nutanti-nemorosae- Festucetum	6.8±0.5	19±2.5	2.6±0.7	28.6±8	319.6±62.7	2.8±0.1	8.1 ± 0.1	628.8±57.1	88.4±14.3	450±23.2	SW	17.2±11.3
Ass. Festuco rupicolae-Caricetum humilis	6.7±0.6	20±2.4	3.2±0.6	25.7±6.8	306.9±59.2	2.5±0.3	8.5±0.5	616.9±50.4	85.5±12.4	397.4±93	s	26.07±14.3
Ass. Koelerietum macranthae	6,9	12,4	2,7	22,5	215,7	1,3	9,6	567	87	180	NNE	5,2
Ass. Stipetum capillatae	7.4±0.5	13.05 ± 1.1	2.6±0.6	33.1 ± 8.3	354.6±187.2	1.3 ± 0.04	9.5 ± 0.1	563.5±6.3	83±7.07	130 ± 70.7	NNE	17.3±17.9
Ass. Taraxaco serotinae-Festucetum valesiacae	7.09±0.5	57.3±43.1	7.01±4.8	48.2±35.5	313.4±44.6	1.2±1	9.2±0.5	561.8±24.8	80.5±5.2	184.2±105	SE	12.9±8.6
Ass. Thymo pannonici-Chrysopogonetum grylli	7.1±0.2	90.3±10.5	10.6±0.5	50.9±48.1	312.3±39.5	$0.4{\pm}0.1$	9,5	561	LL	271.3±112.8	NNE	10.2 ± 0.4
Ass. Agropyro pectinati-Stipetum capillatae	7.2±0.1	13.5±2.9	1.8 ± 0.2	30±2.08	351.7±67.4	2.4±1.7	9.8±0.5	566±8.4	82±4.2	170±42.4	SE	32.5±10.6

	Hq	Pb	\mathbf{As}	Р	К	z	BI01	BI012	BI017	ELV	Aspect	Slope
Cluster C - alliances Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati and Danthonio-Brachypodion	6.3±0.2	42.7 ±27.4	4.8±2.5	31.7±18.9	285±27.8	2.4±0.6	8.3±0.2	599±8.4	83.6±3.1	427.4±59.08	SE	14.4±9.4
Ass. Carici humilis-Brachypodietum	$6.4{\pm}0.3$	28.4±11.7	2.7±1.2	26.4±6.1	302.8±51.1	2.7±0.8	9.0 2 0.6	587.8±14.03	81.4±5.6	342.8±81.7	SE	22.1±9.1
Ass. Festuco rupicolae-Brachypodietum pinnati	6.6±0.4	78±69.8	7.2±6.1	43±41.4	323.3±26.6	1.5±1	8.5±0.03	612.2±2.8	82	394.5±46.05	SE	16.2±9.7
Ass. Danthonio alpinae-Stipetum stenophyllae	6±0.05	21.9±0.7	4.6±0.3	25.9±9.3	229±5.8	$3.1 {\pm} 0.09$	7.6±0.04	597	87.5±0.7	545±49.5	SE	5
Cluster D - alliance Arrhenatherion elatioris	7.7 ±0.05	95±4.3	6.6±3.2	59.7 ±42.7	295,6±22.4	0.43 ± 0.1	8.7±0.07	616	80	457.6±88.7	NE	13.6±4.6
Communities of Arrhenatheretum elatioris	7,7	94	9	50,4	320	0,46	8,5	616	80	328	NE	11,8
Communities of Elytrigietum hispidi	7.8±0.05	95±4.3	7.3±3.2	69.09±42.7	271.3±22.4	$0.4{\pm}0.1$	8.6±0.07	616	80	587.3±88.7	SE	15.4±4.6
Cluster E - alliance <i>Prunion fruticosae</i> Communities of <i>Artemisietum pontico-</i> <i>sericeae</i>	6.5 ±0.1 6.6±0.1	19.05±4.5 19.7±0.6	3.6±1.1 4.5±0.1	25 ±2.1 30.1±2.1	258 ±7.1 266.2±7.1	2.3±0.24 2,1	8.6±0.3 8.7±0.2	609±11.55 590.3±9.3	79±2 78	498 ±48 508.1±66.7	s s	36±6.9 29.3±11.4
Communities of Prunetum tenellae	6,4	18.4 ± 8.5	2.8±2.1	19,9	250,7	2.6±0.24	8.6 ± 0.4	627.5±13.8	80±2	487.5±29	S	43±2.4

4.3 The relationship between floristic composition and environmental variables

In the detrended correspondence analysis (DCA), the position of the 211 relevés can be observed according to the gradients of the similar floristic composition along the axes of the ordinogram (Fig. 3, Table 3). The first axis is the most important and explained the most significant variation in plant species data and the relationship between floristic composition and environmental variables. Along the first axis, the length of the floristic similarity gradients was 0.4305. This indicates a unimodal pattern of variation in floristic composition. In this context, the canonical analysis of the correspondences was applied to observe the effect of the variables on the floristic composition.

In the DCA analysis, dry grasslands, meadows, and mesic pastures were separated so that these three types of meadows are mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves (Fig. 4). Mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves were positively correlated with slope. Meadows and mesic pastures were positively correlated with elevation, and dry grasslands were positively correlated with aspect and the precipitation of driest quarter (BIO17).

	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3	Axis 4
Eigenvalues	0.4305	0.2519	0.2244	0.1928
Explained variation (cumulative)	4.12	6.54	8.69	10.53
Gradient length	3.4	2.57	3.91	3.76
Pseudo-canonical correlation (suppl.)	0.8574	0.4917	0.3377	0.3407





Fig. 4. DCA ordination diagrams of the 211 vegetation plots. Red = cluster A, yellow = cluster B, blue = cluster C, purple = cluster D, green = cluster E.

Abb. 4. DCA-Ordnungsdiagramme der 211 Aufnahmeflächen. Rot = cluster A, gelb = cluster B, blau = cluster C, violett = cluster D, grün = cluster E.

Table 4. Results of the CCA ordination of the effect of abiotic variables on the floristic composition of communities with *Crambe tataria*, BIO17 = the precipitation of driest quarter.

Tabelle 4. Ergebnisse einer CCA-Ordination mit den Effektstärken abiotischer Variablen auf die floristische Zusammensetzung von Lebensgemeinschaften mit *Crambe tataria*. In der englischen Abbildungsunterschrift werden die Variablen zugeordnet.

Variables	Explains (%)	Contribution (%)	pseudo-F	<i>p</i> -value	<i>p</i> -value (adj.)
Elevation	2.9	31.5	6.3	0.0001	0.0007
Slope (°)	1.5	16.4	3.3	0.0001	0.0007
BIO17	1.2	12.5	2.5	0.0001	0.0007
Aspect	0.8	8.3	1.7	0.0001	0.0007

From the four axes of the detrended correspondence analysis axis DCA1 was the most important, representing the largest variation in data on floristic composition. Following the application of the canonical correspondence analysis (CCA), the quantification of the "strength" of the effect of each environmental variable studied on the floristic composition of *C. tataria* communities can be observed (Table 4). In this sense, the CCA analysis showed the most important variable that explains the variation of the floristic composition was the elevation. This variable explained 2.9% (31.5% contribution) of the variation of the floristic composition modelling. The second significant variable was the slope which explained 1.5% of the variation of the floristic composition. The precipitation of driest quarter explained 1.2%, and the aspect explained 0.8% of the variation of the floristic composition.

5. Discussion

5.1 General aspects

Crambe tataria is listed in Annex I to the BERN CONVENTION (1998), Annexes IIb and IVb to Council Directive 92/43 EEC (EUROPEAN COMMISSION 1992), and Annex IIIb to Government Emergency Ordinance no. 57 of June 20, 2007. The species is also included in Annex I of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO 2001). In the IUCN European Red List, the species is listed as "Least Concern" (BILZ et al. 2011). The main threats to the species are as follows (KELL 2011): overgrazing, land-use change, mechanized mowing, flower picking during vegetation, pollution, fires, use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, invasive species, and climate change. The geographical units that provide the most favourable environmental conditions for the development of *C. tataria* are the Moldavian Plateau and the Transylvanian Depression. Favourable environmental conditions can also ensure the Romanian Plain and the Curvature Subcarpathians (CHIRILĂ 2022).

According to the European Red List of Habitats (JANSSEN et al. 2016, CHYTRÝ et al. 2020), *C. tataria* occurrences correspond to the following habitat types: R Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses, or lichens: R1 Dry grasslands: R1A Semi-dry perennial calcareous grassland (E1.2a); and R1B Continental dry steppe (E1.2b); R2 Mesic grasslands: R22 Low and medium altitude hay meadow (E2.2).

In this study, habitat requirements for *C. tataria* in Romania were investigated. Dry grasslands, meadows and mesic pastures and mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves turned out to be the habitats of the species in Romania. Of these habitats, the results obtained

confirmed that dry grasslands are a favourable habitat for *C. tataria*. This is supported both by the very large number of *C. tataria* sampling areas and by the high values of the number of individuals per plot, population density, plant height, number of leaves per plant, inflorescence circumference, the proportion of flowering individuals, compared to mesophilic meadows (CHIRILĂ 2022). Associations of the Festuco-Brometea class, in which *C. tataria* was identified, have been reported in other studies (Soó 1942, BĂDĂRĂU 2001, KERESZTY & GALÁNTAI 2001, OROIANET et al. 2007, ZAMFIRESCU et al. 2008, KELL 2011, OROIANET et al. 2017, MÂNZU et al. 2020). In the *Festuco-Brometea* communities, species richness was highest. Most of the analyzed associations presented a good ecological status.

The floristic composition is varied and rich, consisting of numerous species characteristic of the Festucion valesiacae and Stipion lessingiana alliances. In the floristic composition, the species that belong to the Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati and Danthonio-Brachypodion alliances are present. The plant species that frequently occur in the plots with C. tataria are Stipa lessingiana, Festuca valesiaca, Rapistrum perenne, Adonis vernalis, Salvia nutans, S. nemorosa, and Filipendula vulgaris. The areas occupied by these formations are in various states of degradation, especially in north-eastern Romania, due to overgrazing. In grasslands dominated by Stipa lessingiana and Festuca valesiaca, Crambe tataria is common. The species' survival in such grasslands is due to the decrease of the anthropogenic impact, the sufficiently extensive habitat, and a large number of flowering individuals (CHIRILĂ 2022). Also, species' survival is due to the increase in the distance between the nearest locality and the plot, the main nutrients (N, P, K), and the decrease in the vegetation height (CHIRILĂ 2021, 2022). In contrast, in grasslands with Chrysopogon gryllus, Brachypodium pinnatum, and Calamagrostis epigejos, Crambe tataria occurs in low density (CHIRILĂ 2021) due to competition (HORVÁTH 2005). To germinate, C. tataria needs poor micro-habitats on loess without vegetation that completely covers the soil (HORVÁTH 2005).

In the mesic and xeric scrub and *Robinia* groves, *C. tataria* was present in 1.9% of the total number of plots. In these grasslands, many individuals of *C. tataria* occur around the bushes of *Prunus tenella*, *P. spinosa*, and *Crataegus monogyna*. This habitat limits the spread of the species in grasslands (HORVÁTH 2005). The grasslands are non-grazed and the floristic composition is poor in species. Common species are *Prunus tenella*, *Crambe tataria*, *Teucrium chamaedrys*, *Securigera varia*, and *Crataegus monogyna*. Meadows and mesic pastures were rare, so *Crambe tataria* was rarely found in these habitats. The floristic composition is very poor in species. *C. tataria* was only present in 0.4% of the total number of sample areas. The mean annual precipitation and elevation in mesophilic meadows were higher than in other habitat types.

5.2 The relationship between floristic composition and environmental variables

The *Festucion valesiacae* communities that appear on the southern aspect (S, SW) are closely correlated with the precipitation of the driest quarter. The community is also rich in vascular plant species but poor in bryophyte species. This may be due to drought and light competition from tall, dense plants (DENGLER et al. 2012). The communities of *Prunion fruticosae*, *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati*, and *Arrhenatherion elatioris* are correlated with the elevation and the precipitation of the driest quarter. In this context, the *Prunion fruticosae* community distributed over high elevation areas (from 473 m to 531 m) has a high mean annual precipitation (628 mm). Moreover, the precipitation of the driest quarter is higher than the other two communities. Thus, the communities of *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* and

Arrhenatherion elatioris are found at lower elevations and mean annual precipitation. The precipitation of the driest quarter showed values similar to or lower than the *Prunion fruticosae* community. The communities of *Stipion lessingianae* and *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* are correlated with aspect. While *Stipion lessingianae* communities occur on shady (NE) and sunny (SSW, SW) slopes, *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* communities appear on sunny (SSW) slopes.

The first DCA axis was positively correlated with slope, the precipitation of driest quarter (BIO17) and aspect, and negatively with elevation. In this context, we can suggest that the main cause of the floristic differences in the grasslands is the mean annual precipitation. This has led to the separation between xerophilous communities, rich in species, with slightly sloping slopes (12°), and mesophilic communities, poor in species, with steep slopes (23°). An increase in calcium concentration, vegetation cover, and decreased vascular plant richness along the first axis separated the mesophilic communities of *Arrhenatherion elatioris* from the xerophilous communities of *Stipion lessingianae* and *Festucion valesiacae*.

In our study, the grasslands showed a compositional difference caused by the increase in elevation. The elevation is one of the main factors of changes in floristic composition (Guo et al. 2013, MARDARI et al. 2019). Due to the decrease in temperature, the floristic composition and the performance of the plants respond very much to the increase in elevation (KÖRNER 2007). Thus, it is expected that in the next century, temperature changes that occur at high elevations (hundreds of meters) are equal to global temperature increases of about 3 °C (DE LONG et al. 2015). Moreover, the use of altitudinal gradients has become a valuable tool for studying how factors such as nutrient availability, floristic composition, soil characteristics, and species interactions of upper and underground ecosystem components change with climate factors (DE LONG et al. 2015). The slope aspect significantly affects the influence of the floristic composition in the semi-arid grasslands. This influences temperature, evapotranspiration, and wind speed (YANG et al. 2020). Previous studies (NADAL-ROMERO et al. 2014, XUE et al. 2018) showed that plants on the south-western slopes are more likely to resist drought and radiation. Due to stronger solar radiation and higher evaporation, these slopes retain less moisture (XUE et al. 2018). The slope is one of the most important variables influencing the floristic composition. Our finding that elevation and slope influence the floristic composition is consistent with the results of previous studies in grassland (BENNIE et al. 2006).

6. Conservation implications

Grasslands, which represent a significant part of the ecosystem, are mainly in poor condition due to overgrazing (SUTTIE et al. 2005). These grasslands must be preserved as they are essential for the global food supply. Moreover, grasslands are significant carbon deposits (O'MARA 2012). Practices that could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions are (O'MARA 2012): reducing grazing intensity; improving grassland productivity through practices such as fertilization and irrigation; nutrient and fire management; and introducing new grasses with deep roots, which increase carbon in the soil (TILMAN et al. 2006). Diversified grassland management could increase species diversity (VALKÓ et al. 2012). Some management actions could improve species conservation and naturalness in dry grasslands (SENGL et al. 2016): restoration of buffer zones at the edge of grasslands and introduction of management adapted to the growth of competitive grasses. This study indicated that dry grasslands rich in species are the optimal habitat of *Crambe tataria* species in Romania compared to mesophilic grasslands (CHIRILĂ 2022), where the species recorded lower values on population characteristics (plant height, leaf size, proportion of flowering individuals, inflorescence circumference, number of leaves/plants). One of the causes of the decline of the population of *C. tataria* is overgrazing (KERESZTY & GALÁNTAI 2001, HORVÁTH 2005, CHIRILĂ 2022).

According to BĂDĂRĂU et al. (1999), *C. tataria* was much more widespread in Transylvania, so current populations have regressed due to anthropogenic impact. In this context, species conservation strategies should be based on proper habitat management: rotational grazing, control or elimination of shrub species, and elimination of invasive species. Conservation measures for the species in question should include restoring habitats and maintaining the actual population size.

Erweiterte deutsche Zusammenfassung

Einleitung – *Crambe tataria* gilt aufgrund von Überweidung der Standorte und der Umwandlung von Grasland in Ackerland als gefährdete Art. In Rumänien besiedelt *C. tataria* Trockenwiesen, Obstplantagen und verlassene Gärten sowie landwirtschaftliche Flächen. Ziel der Studie war es, die Lebensraumpräferenzen von *C. tataria* in Rumänien zu identifizieren.

Untersuchungsgebiet – Das Untersuchungsgebiet wird durch drei historische Regionen in Rumänien repräsentiert: Muntenien, Moldawien und Siebenbürgen. Das Klima ist gemäßigt kontinental, mit einem mittleren Jahresniederschlag von 478 bis 731 mm und einer mittleren Jahrestemperatur mit Werten von 7 bis 10 °C. Die dominierenden Bodentypen sind Chernozem, Phaeozem und Luvisol (Digital Soil Map Of The World, http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/metadata.show %3Fid=14116, accessed 2021-09-12).

Methoden - Die floristische Zusammensetzung der Habitate wurde auf Basis von 211 phytozönologischen Aufnahmen aus der Rumänischen Grasland-Datenbank (EU-RO-008; 164 Probeflächen) und eigenen Daten (47 Probeflächen) analysiert. Die Größe der eigenen Aufnahmen (47 Probeflächen) betrug 100 m², die Größe der Aufnahmen aus der rumänischen Grünlanddatenbank (164 Probeflächen) 10 bis 200 m². Für die 47 gesammelten Bodenproben (eigene Daten) wurden der Boden-pH-Wert sowie Stickstoff-, Phosphor-, Kalium-, Blei- und Arsenkonzentrationen gemessen. Für die 164 Aufnahmen aus der RGD-Datenbank wurden die Werte zu As, Pb (PANAGOS et al. 2012), N, P, K und Boden-pH (BALLABIO et al. 2019) aus der European Soil Database (ESDAC) extrahiert. Zur Analyse des Klimaeinflusses auf die Populationen wurde der Niederschlag des trockensten Quartals aus der WorldClim-Datenbank entnommen (FICK & HIJMANS 2017). Die Vegetationsklassifizierung erfolgte durch hierarchisches agglomeratives Clustering unter Verwendung des flexiblen β-Algorithmus $(\beta = -0.25)$ und der Bray-Curtis-Distanz. Zusammenhänge zwischen Artenzusammensetzung und Umweltvariablen wurden mit DCA und CCA analysiert. Die Analyse der floristischen Zusammensetzung erfolgte anhand einer Präsenz/AbsenzMatrix. Um die Kollinearität zwischen unserer Variabilität (floristische Zusammensetzung und Umgebungsvariablen) zu bestimmen, wurde in CANOCO der variable Inflationsfaktor (VIF) verwendet. Die Karte mit der Verteilung der Plots wurde in der QGIS version 3.18.3 (https://qgis.org) erstellt.

Ergebnisse – Die Vegetation mit *Crambe tatarica* wurde in fünf Gruppen eingeteilt. Diese spiegeln die in der Literatur beschriebene Syntaxonomie wider (COLDEA et al. 2012, CHIFU et al. 2014): Gruppe A – *Stipion lessingianae*; Gruppe B – *Festucion valesiacae*; Gruppe C – *Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati* und *Danthonio-Brachypodion*; Gruppe D – *Arrhenatherion elatioris*; Gruppe E – *Prunion fruticosae*. Die erste Achse der Vegetation nach einer DCA war am stärksten mit der Höhenstufe korreliert.

Diskussion – *Crambe tataria* wächst in einer relativ begrenzten Anzahl von Pflanzengesellschaften. Unsere Ergebnisse bestätigen das gehäufte Vorkommen von *C. tataria*-Populationen in xerophilen Graslandgesellschaften. Gemäß der Europäischen Roten Liste der Lebensräume – EUNIS (JANSSEN et al. 2016, CHYTRÝ et al. 2020) entspricht *C. tataria* den folgenden Lebensraumtypen: R Grünland und Stauden-, Moos- oder Flechten-dominierte Flächen: R1 Trockenrasen: R1A Semi - mehrjähriges Trockengrünland (E1.2a); und R1B Kontinentale Trockensteppe (E1.2b); R2 Mesophiles Grasland: R22 Mähwiesen in niedriger und mittlerer Höhe (E2.2). Einer der häufigsten Lebensräume der untersuchten Arten sind die xerophilen Wiesen der *Festuco-Brometea*. Die von dieser Formation-besetzten Flächen befinden sich aufgrund von Überweidung in unterschiedlichen Stadien der Degradation, insbesondere im Nordosten Rumäniens. Den stärksten Einfluss auf die floristische Zusammensetzung der Pflanzengesellschaften mit *C. tataria* hat die Höhenlage.

Schlussfolgerung – Diese Studie zeigte, dass die Höhenlage der wichtigste Faktor ist, welcher der die floristische Zusammensetzung von *Crambe tataria*-Phytozönosen beeinflusst. Ihre analysierten Populationen bevorzugen alkalische Böden, die reich an Stickstoff, Phosphor und Kalium sind. Auch Arsen und Blei waren in hohen Konzentrationen vorhanden. Der bevorzugte Lebensraum der Art ist xerophiles Grasland.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank RGD members Kiril Vassilev, Eszter Ruprecht and Constantin Mardari for their contributions.

Authors contributions

S.D. Chirilă contributed to manuscript conceptualization, methodology (vegetation sampling and classification, environmental variables and other statistical analyses), data collection (took soil samples and identified plant species in the field) software use during data analysis, data curation, writing (original draft preparation; visualization, investigation, supervision, validation, writing), reviewing and editing of the manuscript. I.G. Cara contributed to methodology (soil analysis), software (soil analysis), data curation (soil analysis), editing of the manuscript (soil analysis), visualization, supervision and validation. I. Motrescu contributed to methodology (soil analysis), visualization, supervision and validation.

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Supplements

Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article. Zusätzliche unterstützende Information ist in der Online-Version dieses Artikels zu finden.

Supplement E1. Synoptic table with the percentage frequencies of plant species in the communities with *Crambe tataria* from Romania.

Anhang E1. Übersichtstabelle mit den prozentualen Häufigkeiten von Pflanzenarten in den Gesellschaften mit *Crambe tataria* aus Rumänien.

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Supplement E1. Synoptic table with the percentage frequencies of plant species in the communities with *Crambe tataria* from Romania. Alliances (groups) are: A – Stipion lessingianae, B – Festucion valesiacae, C – Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati and Danthonio-Brachypodion, D – Arrhenatherion elatioris, E – Prunion fruticosae.

Anhang E1. Übersichtstabelle der prozentualen Häufigkeiten von Pflanzenarten in den Gesellschaften mit Crambe tataria aus Rumänien. Verbände (Gruppen) sind: A – Stipion lessingianae, B – Festucion valesiacae, C – Cirsio-Brachypodion pinnati und Danthonio-Brachypodion, D – Arrhenatherion elatioris, E – Prunion fruticosae.

Group (cluster) No. of relevés Acer tataricum	A 40	B 46	C 73	D 36 3	E 16	Group (cluster) No. of relevés <i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	A 40	B 46	C 73	D 36 6	E 16
Achillea collina Achillea millefolium Achillea nobilis Achillea ochroleuca	8	22 7	19 23	50 22 8	6	Lathyrus pallescens Lathyrus pannonicus Lathyrus pannonicus subsp. collinus Lathyrus pratensis	3	2 15	4 10	6 8 11	6
Achillea pannonica Achillea setacea Adonis vernalis Adonis volgensis	10 78 88	7 61 2	4 55	8 19 28	13 6	Lathyrus tuberosus Lembotropis nigricans Leontodon biscutellifolius Leontodon hispidus	3	15 4	1 32 3	3 11 6 14	25
Aegilops cylindrica Aegonychon purpurocaeruleum Agrimonia eupatoria Agropyron cristatum	5 20 15	20 65	1 10	17		Leonurus cardiaca subsp. villosus Leopoldia comosa Leopoldia tenuiflora Lepidium campestre	3 70	4 52 4	21 51 1	17 14 6	31
Agrostis capillaris Agrostis stolonifera Ajuga chamaepitys Ajuga genevensis	• • •	13 9	1 1	8 8 3 3		Lepidium draba Leucanthemum vulgare Ligustrum vulgare Linaria angustissima	3	11 7	1 14 5	31 11	38
Ajuga laxmannii Allium albidum subsp. albidum Allium denudatum Allium flavescens subsp. flavescens	20	43 2 · 2	47 26 5	19 6		Linaria genistifolia Linaria vulgaris Linum austriacum Linum catharticum	5 15	7 4 35	4 1	17 6 17 3	• • •
Allium flavum Allium flavum subsp. tauricum Allium rotundum Allium scorodoprasum	• • •	11 2 4	3 1	3 3	- - -	Linum flavum Linum hirsutum Linum nervosum Linum perenne	5	33 52 11	3 14 16	14 31	6 25
Alopecurus pratensis Althaea cannabina Alyssum alyssoides Alyssum turkestanicum	3	4 11 17	12	8	6	Linum tenuifolium Lithospermum officinale Lolium perenne Lotus corniculatus	18 3	9 2 28	11 1	19	6
Anchusa ochroleuca Anchusa officinalis Androsace elongata Anemone sylvestris		28 11 2 2		3	6	Malabaila graveolens Malva sylvestris Malva thuringiaca Marrubium peregrinum	10 15 3 68	33 - 26 65		3 8 3	
Anisantha tectorum Anthericum ramosum Anthoxanthum odoratum Anthyllis vulneraria	8	4 20 2	4 1	25 11 14		Marrubium pestalozzae Marrubium vulgare Medicago falcata Medicago lupulina	5 35	4 85 17	4 66	6 50 8	
Arabis hirsuta Arctium lappa Arenaria serpyllifolia Aristolochia clematitis	8	2 26	3 4	8 11		Medicago minima Medicago monspeliaca Melampyrum arvense Melampyrum bihariense	73	7 2 50	23	8 3	31
Arrhenatherum elatius Artemisia absinthium Artemisia austriaca Artemisia campestris	5 8	9 15 43	1 3 8	19 14	69	Melampyrum cristatum Melampyrum nemorosum Melica ciliata Melica picta		4 37	15 1	3 3	
Artemisia pontica Artemisia vulgaris Asparagus officinalis Asparagus tenuifolius	50	54 2	26 47	3 14	75 31	Melica transsilvanica Melilotus officinalis Mercurialis ovata Minuartia setacea	8	17 2 2	5 4	8 11	31
Asperula cynanchica Asperula tenella Asperula tinctoria Aster amellus	5	46 2 2 4	49 11 3	61 3 31		Muscari neglectum Muscari racemosum Myosotis arvensis Nepeta nuda	5	11 9	1 5	3 36	
Astragalus asper Astragalus austriacus Astragalus dasyanthus Astragalus exscapus	3	11 9	4 4 15 16	14 19 11	- - -	Nepeta ucranica Neslia paniculata Nigella arvensis Noccaea kovatsii	- - - -	4	19 3 3	11	25
Astragalus exscapus subsp. pubiflorus Astragalus glycyphyllos Astragalus monspessulanus Astragalus onobrychis		2 65		6 3	56	Noccaea perfoliata Nonea pulla Onobrychis arenaria Onobrychis viciifolia	35 53	4 54 2 70	1 36 12 34	36 17 42	
Astragalus ponticus Astragalus vesicarius Asyneuma canescens Atriplex patula	5 3	2 2	1	6 3		Ononis spinosa subsp. hircina Onosma arenarium Onosma pseudarenaria Origanum vulgare		9 2	1	3 11	
Avenula pubescens Ballota nigra Bassia prostrata Bellevalia speciosa		4 9 2		14		Orlaya daucoides Ornithogalum collinum Ornithogalum gussonei Ornithogalum pyramidale		4	1 3	3	
Berteroa incana Bothriochloa ischaemum Brachypodium pinnatum Brassica elongata	3 3 20	9 48 9	49 14 38	17 47 11	25 6 56	Ornithogalum umbellatum Orobanche alba Orobanche caryophyllacea Orobanche elatior	3 13	· 2	14	3 3 3	
Brassica nigra Briza media Bromopsis erecta Bromopsis inermis	3 3 3	7 28		17 3 8		Orobanche lutea Orobanche teucrii Oxytropis pilosa Paeonia tenuifolia		2 26	30	3 3 11 22	38
Bromus arvensis Bromus hordeaceus Bromus japonicus Bromus sauarrosus		11 2 2	1	6		Pedicularis comosa subsp. campestris Petrorhagia prolifera Peucedanum alsaticum Peucedanum cervaria		7 2	7	8 8	
Buglossoides arvensis Bupleurum affine Bupleurum falcatum Calamaerostis epigeios	8 5	9 2 7 9	3 12	39 11	13 25	Peucedanum officinale Peucedanum oreoselinum Peucedanum ruthenicum Peucedanum tauricum			42	6 6 11	
Campanula glomerata Campanula glomerata Campanula glomerata	5	9 4	1	6 3 25 6	- - -	Phelipanche purpurea Phleum montanum Phleum phleoides Phlomis herba-venti subsp. pungens	10 90 3	15 83	21 5	25 36	13 6
Campanula sibirica Capsella bursa-pastoris Carduus acanthoides Carduus crispus		59 13 2	49 1 5 1	33 6	19	Phlomis tuberosa Phragmites australis Picris hieracioides Pilosella bauhini	30 38 8	43 17 15	4 10 5 7	19 11 6 6	69
Carduus hamulosus Carduus nutans Carex caryophyllea Carex distans	5 20	39 4 4	47	28		Pilosella echioides Pilosella officinarum Pimpinella saxifraga Pinus nigra		17 7 4	3 4 1	8 25	
Carex alstans Carex filiformis Carex humilis Carex michalii	20	15 4 2	7 89	11 47	25	Plantago argentea Plantago cornuti Plantago lanceolata Plantago media	5 35 35	37	55	22 50	50
Carex micheni Carex montana Carex praecox Carex supina Carek supina	•	17 13 2	1	6	- - -	Poa angustifolia Poa bulbosa Poa compressa Poa compressa	20	7 2 2	8	19	- - -
Carmanus tanatus Carum carvi Caucalis platycarpos Centaurea atropurpurea		2	11	6 6	-	Podospermum canum Podospermum purpureum Polycnemum arvense		9 2	1	0	6
Centaurea aljusa Centaurea jacea Centaurea jacea subsp. angustifolia Centaurea neiceffii	5 79	2 2	•	6	- - - -	Polygala comosa Polygala major Polygala vulgaris Polygonatum hirtum Pontochium magulatum	23	9 4 7 2 57	15 1	31	6
Centaurea orientatis Centaurea phrygia subsp. indurata Centaurea phrygia subsp. phrygia Centaurea pugioniformis	/8	/ 8		6 3 3	-	Pontechium maculatum Potentilla alba Potentilla argentea Potentilla cinerea	55	35 11	19 49	23 3 14 19	13
Centaurea scabiosa Centaurea scabiosa subsp. spinulosa Centaurea scabiosa subsp. adpressa Centaurea solstitialis		15 9 4 17	10 15	33 25	- - -	Potentilia erecta Potentilla heptaphylla Potentilla incana Potentilla inclinata	3	39 4	10	19 3 6	25
Centaurea stoebe Centaurea stoebe subsp. australis Centaurium erythraea Cephalaria radiata	35	48 2 ·	25	19 19 3	- - - -	Potentilla pedata Potentilla recta Primula veris Prunella grandiflora	3	41 2 13	5	6 6 25 14	• • •
Cephalaria transsylvanica Cephalaria uralensis Cerastium fontanum subsp. vulgare Ceratocarpus arenarius		2	62	6	50	Prunella laciniata Prunella vulgaris Prunus fruticosa Prunus spinosa	25	9 7	11	3 6 6 31	
Ceratocephala falcata Ceratocephala orthoceras Cerinthe minor Chondrilla juncea	20	2 4 43 2	• • •	8		Prunus tenella Psephellus marschallianus Psephellus trinervius Pulmonaria mollis	3	7 7	42 21	22 - 25 6	50 - 44 -
Chrysopogon gryllus Cichorium intybus Cirsium arvense Cirsium pannonicum	8 3 3	7 11	• • •	11 8 11	• • •	Pulmonaria montana Pulsatilla montana Pulsatilla patens Pulsatilla pratensis	• • •	9 11 7	1 23	3 3	19
Cirsium serrulatum Cirsium vulgare Cleistogenes serotina Clematis integrifolia	8 23	2 17 30	· 14 1	11 6		Pulsatilla vulgaris subsp. grandis Pyrus communis subsp. pyraster Quercus robur Ranunculus acris		4 2 11	1	14 3	13
Clematis recta Clinopodium acinos Clinopodium vulgare Colchicum bulbocodium subsp. versicolor	5	2 26 7	3	11 3 14		Ranunculus illyricus Ranunculus polyanthemos subsp. polyanthemos Rapistrum perenne Reseda inodora	23 18	11 2 20 4	1 1	14 6	• • •
Convolvulus arvensis Cornus mas Cornus sanguinea Cota tinctoria	75 5	11 20	40	28 6 8 3	6	Reseda lutea Rhamnus catharticus Rhamnus saxatilis subsp. tinctorius Rhinanthus angustifolius	25 3	57	5 1 1	11 3	• • •
Crambe tataria Crataegus monogyna Crepis foetida Crepis setosa	100 13 5	100 7 11 11	100 11	100 42 3	100	Rhinanthus minor Rhinanthus rumelicus Rindera umbellata Robinia pseudacacia		2 11 2	3	8 3 11	
Crepis tectorum Crocus reticulatus Cruciata glabra Crupina vulgaris		2 2	1 1	14	- - -	Rosa canina Rosa gallica Rostraria cristata Rumex acetosa	10 3 3	9	19 1	11 14	
Cuscuta campestris Cuscuta epithymum Cyanus triumfettii subsp. axillaris Cyanus triumfettii subsp. strictus		2	4	6 8	- - - -	Rumex crispus Rumex tuberosus Salix alba Salvia aethiopis	3	11 9		3	
Cyanus triumfettii Cynoglossum officinale Cynoglottis barrelieri Cytisus albus	3 3	7	5 18 29	6 6 33	25	Salvia austriaca Salvia nemorosa Salvia nutans Salvia pratensis	43 95 13 38	54 85 2 22	34 37 63 16	25 22 47 42	31 38 6
Cytisus austriacus Cytisus ratisbonensis Dactylis glomerata Danthonia alpina	78 83	54 13	3 1	11 39 8		Salvia transsylvanica Salvia verticillata Salvia x betonicifolia Sanguisorba minor	8	39	40 11 1	22 25 6	
Daucus carota Dianthus capitatus Dianthus carthusianorum Dianthus membranaceus	68	22 28 2 41	3 14	8 47 11		Scabiosa ochroleuca Schedonorus pratensis Scleranthus annuus Scleranthus polycarpos	8 60	52 9 11 2	4	42 8	
Dictamnus albus Digitalis grandiflora Diplotaxis muralis Dorycnium pentaphyllum subsp. herbaceum	8	41	47 1 63	28 6 44	44	Scorzonera hispanica Scorzonera humilis Scorzonera parviflora Securigera varia	5 25	57	56 26	14 3 3 44	6
Draba nemorosa Draba verna Echinops sphaerocephalus Echium italicum		2 2 4	8	11		Sedum maximum Senecio leucanthemifolius subsp. vernalis Serratula tinctoria Seseli annuum		4		6 8 11	
Echium vulgare Elaeagnus angustifolia Elymus hispidus subsp. hispidus Elymus uralensis subsp. viridielumis		22	14 1 1	11 3 0	- - -	Seseli gracile Seseli osseum Seseli pallasii Seseli peucedanoides			7 25	8 3 17 6	6
Elytrigia intermedia Elytrigia repens Erigeron acris Erigeron annuus	13 13 3	57 20 11 2	52 7	44 8 3 8	19	Sesleria caerulea Sideritis montana Silene bupleuroides Silene chlorantha		15 4	1 1	8	6
Eryngium campestre Eryngium maritimum Eryngium planum Erysimum cuspidatum	30	33 2	63 10	31 6	25	Silene densiflora Silene donetzica Silene nemoralis Silene otites		15 4 43		8 3 3	
Erysimum diffusum Erysimum hieraciifolium Erysimum odoratum Funhorbia agraria	8	37 4 11 7	4	6 17	- - -	Silene vulgaris Silene is arvensis Sisymbrium loeselii Sisymbrium polymorphum		7 9 9		6 3	
Euphorbia angulata Euphorbia cyparissias Euphorbia esula Euphorbia esula subsp. tommasiniana		20 9 2	59 1 14	6 44 3 10	50 19	Solidago virgaurea Sonchus arvensis Stachys annua Stachys germanica		, , 9 2		3 3 3 3	6
Euphorbia falcata Euphorbia illirica Euphorbia nicaeensis Euphorbia nicaeensis	48	2 2 30	· 1 ·	3 8 ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Stachys germanica Stachys officinalis Stachys recta Stellaria graminea Stina capillata	5 95 5	22 65 4 28	78 14	8 72	31
Euphorbia nacacensis subsp. gareosa Euphorbia salicifolia Euphorbia seguieriana subsp. niciciana Falcaria vulgaris Eallopia convolvulus	45	54	36 47	3 3 50	6	Stipa Capitata Stipa lessingiana Stipa pennata Stipa tirsa	80 10 8	26 15 28 24	38 79 7	8 3 19 28	63 6
Ferulago campestris Ferulago sylvatica Festuca rupicola subsp. rupicola Eastuca striata subsp. sulacta		11 2	1 1 1 77	6 6 26		Tanacetum corymbosum Tanacetum vulgare Taraxacum erythrospermum Taraxacum officinala	8	2 7 2 2	1	28 17	•
Festuca stricta subsp. suicata Festuca valesiaca Festuca valesiaca subsp. parviflora Filipendula vulgaris	90 63	85 57	7 1 51	25 3 50		Taraxacum officinate Taraxacum serotinum Teucrium chamaedrys Teucrium montanum Teucrium nelium	18 95	35 72	4 88 44	5 75	25 25
Fragaria vesca Fragaria viridis Frangula alnus Fraxinus excelsior	55	24	5 41 1 5	28	-	Teucrium poitum Thalictrum aquilegiifolium Thalictrum flavum Thalictrum mius	8 78	57	47	6 3 28	
Gagea pratensis Gagea pusilla Galatella linosyris Galatella villosa	3	2 2 7 22	60	25	31	Thesium dollineri Thesium linophyllon Thesium linophyllon subsp. montanum Thesium ramosum		4	22 3 7	44	• • •
Galium album Galium boreale Galium glaucum Galium humifusum		20 15	1 4 79	3 6 36	38	Thymelaea passerina Thymus odoratissimus Thymus pulegioides Thymus pulegioides subsp. pannonicus	8 10	2 65	1 29	3 8 14 33	• • •
Galium moldavicum Galium mollugo Galium octonarium Galium rubioides	35	4 7 46	1	6		Thymus serpyllum L. subsp. serpyllum Tragopogon dubius Tragopogon dubius subsp. major Tragopogon pratensis	• • •	9 28 11	51 37	28 14 6	50 25
Galium verum Genista tinctoria Gentiana cruciata Geranium pratense		54 4	15 25	50 17 3 3	6	Tragopogon pratensis subsp. orientalis Tragus racemosus Trichophorum alpinum Trifolium alpestre	28	11 2 7 33	7 7	19 19	• • •
Geranium sanguineum Goniolimon tataricum Haplophyllum suaveolens Helianthemum canum		2	1	31	6	Trifolium arvense Trifolium medium Trifolium montanum Trifolium ochroleucon	55	15 4 48 7	16	3 50	• • •
Helianthemum nummularium subsp. obscurum Helichrysum arenarium Helictochloa pratensis Heracleum sphondylium		17	1 • 1	8	- - -	Trifolium pannonicum Trifolium pratense Trifolium repens Trifolium rubens	• • •	9 7	3	3 11 3 6	
Herniaria glabra Herniaria incana Hesperis tristis Hieracium umbellatum		2 26		8 3		Trinia glauca Trinia kitaibelii Trinia multicaulis Tripleurospermum inodorum	• • •	4 39 7 2	4 4		• • •
Hieracium villosum Hieracium virosum Hierochloe repens Holcus lanatus	3 3	2 15 9		3 3		Urtica dioica Valeriana officinalis Valerianella dentata Veratrum nigrum	• • •	2 4 2		3 3	• • •
Hordeum murinum Hyacinthella leucophaea Hyoscyamus niger Hypericum elegans	10 5	7 2 4	5	14		Verbascum blattaria Verbascum chaixii subsp. austriacum Verbascum lychnitis Verbascum nierum	3 5 3	- 9 9 2	3 1	8 3	
Hypericum perfoliatum Hypericum perforatum Hypochaeris maculata Hypochaeris radicata		28	10 1	11 6 11 3		Verbascum phlomoides Verbascum phoeniceum Verbascum speciosum Veronica arvensis	5	- 9 4 4	4 22	6 14 8	6
Inula britannica Inula ensifolia Inula germanica Inula helenium	35	2 24 46	62 11	14 31 14 11	31	Veronica austriaca Veronica austriaca subsp. teucrium Veronica chamaedrys Veronica incana	73	48 2	11 19	19 8 19	
Inula hirta Inula oculus-christi Inula salicina Iris aphylla	58 40	20 11 9 30	8 1 25	28	6 10	Veronica officinalis Veronica orchidea Veronica prostrata Veronica spicata		- 2 7 7	7 44 8 2	22 6	6
Iris graminea Iris pontica Iris pumila Iris sintenisii subsp. brandraa	18 10	50 11 12	23 4 36	30 3 6	17	Veronica spiria Vicia cracca Vicia hirsuta Vicia sativa subsp. piana	70	39	1 1	3 8	•
Iris variegata Jacobaea erucifolia Jacobaea vulgaris Jurinea arachnoidea	3 3	11 30 87	1 27	6 14		Vicia sepium Vicia villosa Vinca herbacea Vinca minor	8 30	28	12 55	6 3 14 6	
Jurinea ledebourii Jurinea mollis Jurinea transylvanica Klasea lvconifolia	20	<i>ی ا</i>	18 7 58	6 11 17 3	25 13	Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Viola ambigua Viola arvensis Viola collina	23	11 11	8 25	19 14 2	
Klasea radiata Knautia arvensis Koeleria glauca Koeleria maaraatha	73	17 54	34 4 5	3 28 47	25	Viola hirta Viola suavis Viola tricolor Xaranthamum annu	3	· 7 ·	29 3	5 28 3	• • •
Koeleria splendens Lactuca serriola Lappula squarrosa		/4 · 2 11	5 4 7	39 6		Xeranthemum cylindraceum Xeranthemum inapertum	- - -	1 / 4 2		•	

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Zeitschrift/Journal: <u>Tuexenia - Mitteilungen der Floristisch-soziologischen</u> <u>Arbeitsgemeinschaft</u>

Jahr/Year: 2022

Band/Volume: NS_42

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Artikel/Article: <u>Habitat preference of the endangered species Crambe tataria</u> (Brassicaceae) from Romania 275-296