



Environmental drivers of plant diversity of chalk grasslands in north-western France

Antoine Tardif, Pauline Boubert, Méghan Boulembert, Loan Madej, Maxime Burst, Manuella Catterou, Françoise Dubois, Frédéric Dubois, Jérôme Lacoux, Romain Ulmer, et al.

► To cite this version:

Antoine Tardif, Pauline Boubert, Méghan Boulembert, Loan Madej, Maxime Burst, et al.. Environmental drivers of plant diversity of chalk grasslands in north-western France. 1. International Electronic Conference on Biological Diversity, Ecology and Evolution, Mar 2021, Sciforum.net, France. pp.9528, 10.3390/BDEE2021-09528 . hal-03321972

HAL Id: hal-03321972

<https://hal.univ-lorraine.fr/hal-03321972>

Submitted on 24 Jan 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Proceedings

Environmental Drivers of Plant Diversity of Chalk Grasslands in North-Western France [†]

Antoine Tardif^{1*}, Pauline Boubert¹, Méghan Boulembert¹, Loan Madej¹, Maxime Burst^{2*}, Manuella Catterou¹, Françoise Dubois¹, Frédéric Dubois¹, Jérôme Lacoux¹, Romain Ulmer¹, Thierry Dutoit^{3*}, François Mesleard^{4*}, Hugo Fontès^{4*}, Grégory Loucoguaray^{5*}, Alice Michelot-Antalik^{6*}, Sylvain Plantureux^{6*}, Didier Alard^{7*}, Servane Lemauviel-Lavenant^{8*}, Sylvain Diquelou^{8*}, Guillaume Meire⁹, Anne Bonis^{2*} and Olivier Chabrerrie^{1*}

¹ EDYSAN (Écologie et Dynamique des Systèmes Anthropisés), UMR CNRS 7058, Université de Picardie Jules Verne, 33 Rue St Leu, 80039 Amiens Cedex, France

² GEOLAB UMR CNRS-Université Clermont Auvergne, 4 rue Ledru, 63057, Clermont-Ferrand Cedex 1, France

³ Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d'Ecologie Marine et Continentale (IMBE) UMR CNRS 7263, IRD 237, IUT Avignon, Site Agroparc BP 61207, 337 chemin des Meinajaries, 84911 Avignon cedex 09, France

⁴ Institut de Recherche de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles, France.

⁵ Univ. Grenoble Alpes, INRAE, LESSEM, 38402 St-Martin-d'Hères, France

⁶ UMR Université de Lorraine, ENSAIA, INRAE, 2 avenue de la forêt de Haye, 54500 Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy

⁷ UMR 1202 INRAE - BIOGECO, Allée Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, Bâtiment B2 - CS 50023, 33615 Pessac Cedex

⁸ UMR INRAE Ecophysiologie Végétale Agronomie & nutrition NCS, UFR des Sciences - département Biologie Sciences de la Terre, Université de Caen Normandie, Esplanade de la Paix, CS 14032 Caen Cedex, France

⁹ Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels Hauts-de-France, France

* Members of SURPAS Consortium <https://geolab.uca.fr/geolab/actualites/projet-de-recherche-surpas-155637.kjsp?RH=1542017095519>

E-mail: antoine.tardif@usherbrooke.ca

Abstract: In Europe, chalk grasslands are considered as biodiversity hotspots, hosting rare species (e.g. orchid and endemic species). However, since the mid 20th century, this habitat is threatened by changes in agricultural practices, especially the decline of pastoralism and recent anthropogenic nitrogen inputs. In this national research project ('SURPAS' project, French Ministry for the Ecological Transition, UMS PatriNat, OFB), we aimed to identify the main factors driving plant composition and richness of these chalk grassland communities to update our knowledge and recommendations in terms of conservation measures. The study was carried out in Natura 2000 chalk grassland sites in the valley of Somme river, in north-western France. We performed botanical and habitat surveys (topography and soil measures, vegetation structure, composition and biomass, fodder quality) at two spatial scales, in 1x1 m and 4x4 m plots. Data were analyzed using multivariate analyses (CCA) and mixed models. Our main results showed that plant height, South exposure, litter thickness and woody species abundance drive composition and richness species, and that nitrogen inputs in the ecosystem, *Brachypodium pinnatum* dominance and tree colonization were currently the major threats to the conservation of the diversity of chalk grasslands.

Keywords: plant community; sheep grazing; *Brachypodium pinnatum*; species composition; species richness; soil composition; fodder quality; biomass; ecosystem services; Natura 2000; conservation