



Additions to the syntaxonomy of the tundra classes *Matricario–Poetea arcticae* and *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a classification of communities in valley and hillslope habitats, distinct from previously described snowbed and meadow vegetation types on slopes. In the East European tundra, we describe the ass. *Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii* O. Lavrinenko **ass. nov.** on eroding slopes (crumbling and sliding), with subassociations and variants reflecting different successional series. Wet habitats on such slopes are dominated by the ass. *Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri* Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996. In the southern tundra of the Taymyr Peninsula, erosion-tolerant herb communities are provisionally classified as the *Tripleurospermum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii* community. All syntaxa are assigned to the class *Matricario–Poetea arcticae*. Two additional associations – *Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* **ass. nov.** and *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis* Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018 – occupy transitional landscape positions. These show floristic similarities to zonal moss-dominated communities of the class *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*, though their classification within higher syntaxonomic ranks needs further discussion.

Keywords: vegetation, *Matricario–Poetea arcticae*, *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*, Braun-Blanquet classification, East European tundra, Taymyr, Arctic

РЕЗЮМЕ

Лавриненко О.В., Лавриненко И.А., Нешатаев В.В. Дополнения к синтаксономии тундровых классов *Matricario–Poetea arcticae* и *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*. В статье представлены результаты классификации сообществ на коренных склонах речных долин и склонах холмов, отличных от описанной ранее нивальной и луговой растительности. В восточноевропейских тундрах на осыпающихся и оползающих склонах описаны разнотравные сообщества асс. *Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii* O. Lavrinenko **ass. nov.**; субассоциации и варианты соответствуют разным стадиям сукцессии растительности. Сырые местообитания на эродированных склонах заняты сообществами асс. *Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri* Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996. В южных тундрах п-ова Таймыр ценозы с доминированием эризофильных трав описаны как сом. *Tripleurospermum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii*. Все синтаксоны соответствуют классу *Matricario–Poetea arcticae*. Две ассоциации (*Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* **ass. nov.** and *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis* Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018) на транзитных местоположениях ландшафта по флористическому составу близки к зональной растительности мохового типа класса *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*, обсуждается их синтаксономическая принадлежность высшим единицам.

Ключевые слова: растительность, *Matricario–Poetea arcticae*, *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*, классификация по Браун-Бланке, восточноевропейские тундры, Таймыр, Арктика

In previous studies (Lavrinenko et al. 2024, 2025), two key vegetation types of valley and hill slopes in the East Europe and Siberian tundra were characterized – syntaxa of the snowbed communities of the class *Salicetea herbaceae* Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl. et Jenny 1926 and meadow and meadow-like communities of the class *Mulgedio–Aconitetea* Hadač et Klika in Klika et Hadač 1944. Slope vegetation in the study area exhibits greater diversity than these both classes alone. This paper describes syntaxa of sparse herb communities colonizing naturally disturbed slopes (crumbling and landslide-affected), which we classify within *Matricario–Poetea arcticae* Ishbirdin

in Sumina 2012, as well as closed dwarf shrub-moss communities with herbs, predominantly legumes, which cannot be attributed to meadows and whose syntaxonomic position is problematic and is discussed herein.

The class *Matricario–Poetea arcticae*, originally established for vegetation of human-disturbed Arctic and Subarctic habitats, also includes communities developing in naturally disturbed biotopes where slope erosion processes (crumbling/sliding) create similar ecological conditions. This syntaxonomic unification is justified by the shared dominance of erosion-tolerant apophytes and anthropophytes in both habitat types. Character species of the class,

the order Chamerio–Betuletalia nanae Khusainov, Ishbirdin et Nazirova in Sumina 2012 and the alliance Chamerio angustifolii–Matricarion hookeri Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996 in the East European tundra include *Artemisia tilesii*, *Betula nana* s. l., *Bistorta vivipara*, *Calamagrostis holmii*, *C. lapponica*, *C. purpurea* s. l., *Carex aquatilis* s. l., *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, *Deschampsia caespitosa* s. l., *Equisetum arvense* s. l., *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *E. scheuchzeri*, *E. vaginatum*, *Erysimum cheiranthoides*, *Festuca ovina*, *Luzula multiflora* s. l., *Poa alpigena*, *P. arctica*, *Puccinellia hauptiana*, *Rorippa palustris*, *Tanacetum bipinnatum*, *Tephrosieris palustris*, *Tripleurospermum hookeri*, and in the Siberian area also *Alopecurus alpinus*, *Arctagrostis latifolia*, *Descurainia sophia*, *D. sophioides* (Mirkin & Naumova 1998, Ishbirdin 2001, Cherosov et al. 2005, Ermakov 2012, Sumina 2012, Mucina et al. 2016). The current syntaxonomic diversity in the Russian Arctic includes 19 associations within the alliance Chamerio angustifolii–Matricarion hookeri, which integrates vegetation of both anthropogenic and naturally disturbed (solifluction, cryoturbation, scree) habitats in the Northern Eurasia (Khusainov et al. 1989, Ishbirdin et al. 1996, Ishbirdin 2001, Sumina & Koptseva 2004, Cherosov 2005, Cherosov et al. 2005, Sumina 2011, 2012, Likhanova et al. 2019).

Dwarf shrub-moss communities with leguminous herbs (*Oxytropis sordida*, *Astragalus alpinus* subsp. *arcticus*) on well-drained parts of valley and hill slopes in the typical tundra subzone we have previously described (Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko 2018) in the rank of association – *Oxytropido sordidae*–*Hylocomietum splendentis* Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018. We classified these communities within *Carici arctisibiricae*–*Hylocomietea alaskani* Matveyeva et Lavrinenko 2023, the class representing zonal moss-dominated tundra vegetation. This assignment is sup-

ported by bryophytes (*Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Ptilidium ciliare*, *Rhytidium rugosum*) predominance in ground cover, *Dryas octopetala* s. l. dominance in the dwarf shrub layer and presence of *Carex bigelowii* subsp. *arctisibirica* and other character species of class. At the same time, these communities exhibit differentiation from zonal plakor (i.e., ‘flat watershed interfluvial plains’) vegetation through enhanced floristic diversity and abundance of arcto-alpine herbs and absence of character shrub willows. While originally described from a single locality (Pakhancheskaya Bay), the association's floristic similarity to syntaxa documented by Andreev (1932) in comparable habitats of the Vangureimusyur Upland was suggested a broader distribution across continental typical tundra. Our current studies confirm this extended range. The syntaxonomic assignment of these communities presents challenges due to their distinctive trans-eluvial landscape position (contrasting with plakor habitats) and the co-occurrence of diagnostic species from a number vegetation classes, as we discuss below.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study area

The sites where the authors collected material are located in the East European sector of the Arctic within the typical and southern tundra subzones (Fig. 1, sites 1–3) and one – in the Central Siberian sectors of the Arctic within the southern tundra subzone (Fig. 1, site 4) (according to Aleksandrova et al. 1989). Under the administrative division of Russia, the study areas are located within the Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Taymyr Dolgano-Nenets Municipal District (formerly Taymyr Autonomous Okrug) of Krasnoyarsk Krai.



Figure 1 Study sites: 1 – Malozemelskaya tundra, Nenets Ridge; 2–4 – Bolshezemelskaya tundra (2 – Bolvanskii Nose Cape vicinity; 3 – Vangureimusyur Upland, Bolshaya Khekheganyakha River middlestream; 4 – Pakhancheskaya Bay, Lutsato Lake vicinity); 5 – Taymyr Peninsula, Kystyktakh River mouse (Dudypta River Basin)

In the east of the Malozemelskaya tundra relevés were made on the slopes of the Nenets Ridge (Fig. 1, site 1). It's the terminal moraine (80–140 m a.s.l.) composed mainly of loam with inclusions of boulders and pebbles. In the Bolshezemelskaya tundra, investigations were carried out in the Bolvanskii Nose Cape (Fig. 1, site 2) and Vangureimusyur Upland (100–160 m a.s.l.) (Fig. 1, site 3). For comparison, relevés from a previously described association (Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko 2018) in the Pakhancheskaya Bay vicinity (Fig. 1, site 4) were used. These landscapes are characterized by moraine-derived hill and ridge systems (relative elevation 10–50 m) composed predominantly of loamy deposits. Steep river valley and hill slopes, and cliff of freshwater Pechora Bay on Bolvanskii Nose Cape, are subject to water erosion, solifluction and soil blocks sliding in loam-dominated substrates, and crumbling processes on sandy loam soils. Gentle valley slopes exhibit well-developed terracing, while slightly inclined terrace surfaces are stabilized by continuous dwarf shrub-moss vegetation. Two relevés were made on the steep valley slope of the Kystyktakh River (Dudypta River basin) in the Taymyr Peninsula (Fig. 1, site 5).

Sampling and data analysis

The syntaxonomic analysis is based on 77 relevés, of which 55 new ones were made in the East European tundra in 2017–2021 by the authors (in the Bolvanskii Nose Cape with the participation of T.V. Dyachkova), and two were made in 2021 on the Taymyr Peninsula by O.V. Lavrinenko. For comparison, we used previously published relevés (Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko 2018) – 14 relevés of zonal communities by Andreev (1932) in the Vangureimusyur Upland and 6 relevés we performed in the Pakhancheskaya Bay vicinity.

We identified all species (vascular plants, mosses, and lichens) on 25 m² plots and estimated the percentage cover (%) in total and for the major plant growth forms, as well as cover abundance scores using the Braun-Blanquet scale (Becking 1957, Barkman et al. 1964): r – solitary plants; + – less than 1 %; 1 – 1–5 %; 2a – 6–12 %; 2b – 13–25 %; 3 – 26–50 %; 4 – 51–75 %; 5 – 76–100 %. The abundance scores of V.N. Andreev (1932) were converted to the corresponding Braun-Blanquet scale scores: 1 – r, 2 – +, 3 – 1, 4 – 2a, 5 – 2b, 6 – 3. Coordinates were taken with the Garmin GPS device (see notes to Tables 1–3).

The vegetation was classified according to the Braun-Blanquet sorted-table method (Westhoff & van der Maarel 1978). Clustering analysis (Ward's method and neighbour joining) and Detrended correspondence analysis (DCA) in the PAST 4.03 package (Hammer et al. 2001) were also applied to classify syntaxa. The constancy of the species in the tables is given on a percentage scale (%): I – > 0–20, II – 21–40, III – 41–60, IV – 61–80, V – 81–100. Species with constancy V and IV are considered to be highly constant. The median abundance values (if not given, they are "+" or "r") for each species were used to characterize the syntaxa. To calculate these, the Braun-Blanquet scale values were converted to an 8-point numerical scale.

In describing associations and subordinate syntaxa, we have used the notion of a “differential species combination” (Beefink 1965, Molenaar 1976) – a group of taxa that

are characteristic of a syntaxon when they occur together, although each may not be character individually. Differential species combinations were determined by comparing new syntaxa with syntaxa previously described in the East European tundra and Siberia. The term “character species” (exclusive, selective, and preferential) was used for the higher syntaxonomic units (Braun-Blanquet 1932, Westhoff & van der Maarel 1978).

The nomenclature of the species, their geographical and ecological characteristics followed Sekretareva (2004) for vascular plants; Ignatov et al. (2006) for mosses, Potemkin & Sofronova (2009) for liverworts and Santesson et al. (2004) for lichens. The new syntaxonomic units were named according to the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature, 4th edition (ICPN) (Theurillat et al. 2021). The nomenclature of the higher vegetation units follows L. Mucina et al. (2016) and N.V. Matveyeva & O.V. Lavrinenko (2023). Authors of syntaxa are given in the text at first mention and in Prodrum.

RESULTS

Communities of the class Matricario–Poetea arcticae

Following analysis of the relevés (Table 1) and statistical processing of the data, we classified the vegetation on erosion slopes into two distinct associations – new one and one previously described in the West Siberian tundra. One syntaxon is left as unranked (com.).

Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii O. Lavrinenko **ass. nov.** (Table 1, rel. 1–14; Fig. 2A–E)

Definition: Successional communities (from pioneer herbaceous to willow-moss-grass series) on active erosional slopes of river valleys and bay cliffs, developing on mineral substrates (clay, loamy, sandy loam) in the typical and southern tundra subzones in the East European tundra.

Holotypus: Table 1, relevé 5 (author's number BH46_20), Bolshezemelskaya tundra, Bolvanskii Nose Cape, 68.27097°N 54.55094°E, northeastern slope (60°) of cliff of freshwater Pechora Bay, 31.07.2020, author O.V. Lavrinenko.

Composition. Differential species combination of the association: mesophytic and hygro-mesophytic herbs *Achillea millefolium*, *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris*, *Artemisia tilesii* (the median abundance is 1, character species of the class Matricario–Poetea), *Festuca rubra* s. l., *Parnassia palustris* s. l., *Poa alpina* and *Sagina saginoides*. Additionally, 6 grasses and shrubs species and 1 bryophyte are highly constant. There are the other character species of the class: erosion-tolerant herbaceous species *Equisetum arvense* s. str. (1), *Poa alpigena*, *Tripleurospermum bookeri*, widespread tundra species such as *Bistorta vivipara* and *Betula nana* (which some researchers also categorize as diagnostic species of the class Matricario–Poetea), willow *Salix phylicifolia* and moss *Bryum rutilans* (2a). Grasses *Calamagrostis purpurea*, *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and *Tanacetum bipinnatum* (also character species of this class) are found only in some communities. Total number of taxa registered in association is 118: 66 vascular plants (5 shrubs, 8 dwarf shrubs, 53 herbs), 35 bryophytes and 17 lichens.

Structure. The total cover in the communities exhibited a broad range (20–100 %) and subassociations varied in structure (see below).

Ecology and habitats. The subassociations show slight differences in moisture preference: hygromesophytes and meso-

Table 1. Syntaxa of the alliance *Chamerio angustifolii*–*Matricarion hookeri* of the class *Matricario*–*Poetea arcticae*

Association / community	Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii (1)														M. h.–E. s. (2)			T. h.–A. t. (3)		Constancy and abundance										
Subassociation	typicum (1a)							bartsietosum alpinae (1b)																						
Variant	inops		typica					typica		T.f.		E.a.																		
Cover, %: total	20	35	20	70	40	10	60	90	70	80	90	30	90	100	30	100	90	95	90											
shrubs	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	0	3	10	10	15	<1	<1	10	10	0	5	1	<1	<1											
dwarf-shrubs	<1	<1	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	10	0	0	0	<1	0	0	0	<1	0											
herbs	20	35	10	60	40	10	50	30	20	15	90	30	85	90	20	100	50	85	90											
bryophytes	2	<1	<1	20	<1	2	10	60	50	30	30	5	20	60	1	10	40	5	1											
lichens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<1	7	0	0	0	<1	0	0	0	<1	0												
Number of species: total	15	18	16	13	18	21	24	42	46	51	26	25	26	37	15	18	33	22	15											
shrubs	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	5	4	5	3	2	3	4	1	3	2	2	1											
dwarf-shrubs	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	3	6	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0											
herbs	8	10	14	11	14	15	12	19	17	20	15	15	16	22	9	9	22	14	10											
bryophytes	2	6	1	1	2	2	5	12	10	7	7	6	7	6	5	6	8	4	4											
lichens	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	9	13	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0											
Date	31.07.2020		31.07.2020		02.08.2020		02.08.2020		31.07.2020		02.08.2020		02.08.2020		31.07.2020		31.07.2020		02.08.2020		31.07.2020		08.07.2021		02.08.2020		09.08.2021		09.08.2021	
Locality	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	BN	NR	BN	Kys	Kys											
Slope aspect	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	N	NE	NE	N	E	N	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE											
inclination	5	10	50	45	60	15	30	15	45	60	5	30	45	30	50	20	10	50	60											
Relevé nr. by author	BI443_20	BI444_20	BI60_20	BI62_20	BI446_20	BI56_20	BI58_20	BI50_20	BI59_20	BI57_20	BI448_20	BI442_20	BI449_20	BI61_20	BI447_20	HI56	BI54_20	Ta100	Ta101											
Relevé nr. in the table	1	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	9*	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1a	1b	1	2	3	M	T				
Differential species combination of the Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii																														
<i>Artemisia tilesii</i> M-Pa	1	3	2a	3	2b	+	2b	r	1	r	2b	r	1	.	.	.	.	3	3	V ^{2b}	V ⁺	V ¹	.	2 ³	.	.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> M-A	+	+	+	+	+	1	+	+	+	2b	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	1 ⁺	.	.	.
<i>Poa alpina</i>	+	1	+	+	+	r	.	r	r	r	+	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV ⁺	IV ^r	IV ⁺				
<i>Sagina saginoides</i>	r	+	.	.	r	r	r	r	+	r	r	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	IV ^r	IV ^r	IV ^r				
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> subsp. <i>alpestris</i>	.	.	r	2b	2b	+	2a	2a	+	+	3	r	+	+	.	.	.	.	IV ^{2a}	V ⁺	V ⁺	2 ⁺	.	.	.	
<i>Parnassia palustris</i> s. l.	.	.	r	+	r	r	r	+	+	+	1	+	+	1	r	.	1	.	.	IV ^r	V ⁺	V ⁺	2 ⁺	.	.	.				
<i>Festuca rubra</i> s. l.	.	.	+	r	.	+	1	+	1	+	+	.	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	III ⁺	IV ⁺	IV ⁺	1 ^r	.	.	IV ^{r-2}				
Differential species combination of the Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii bartsietosum alpinae																														
<i>Luzula multiflora</i> subsp. <i>frigida</i> M-Pa	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	r	r	+	r	r	r	r	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	V ^r	IV ^r				
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	1	r	+	r	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	V ⁺	III ⁺				
<i>Salix lanata</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2a	1	2a	+	.	1	2a	.	+	+	r	.	I ¹	V ^{2a}	III ^{2a}	2 ⁺	1 ^r	.	.
<i>Sanionia uncinata</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	2b	+	+	r	+	.	2b	.	.	2a	.	.	I ^r	V ⁺	III ⁺	1 ^{2a}	.	.	.
<i>Dicranella grevilleana</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	+	.	1	.	.	.	V ⁺	II ⁺	2 ¹	.	.	.
<i>Timmia austriaca</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2a	.	.	+	.	.	2b	.	.	.	.	.	III ^{2a}	II ^{2a}	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Salix reticulata</i>	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	2a	+	.	.	r	.	+	.	.	r	.	.	I ^r	III ⁺	II ⁺	1 ^r	.	.	.
Differential species combination of the Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii bartsietosum alpinae var. Tussilago farfara																														
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	2b	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	I ⁺	II ³	II ^{2b}				
Differential species combination of the Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri typicum																														
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i> M-Pa	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2b	3	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3 ³	.	V ³⁻⁴
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	+	r	+	.	.	.	.	.	3 ⁺	1 ⁺	V ⁺¹
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> M-Pa	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	3 ⁺	.	I ⁺
<i>Poblia wahlenbergii</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	1	.	.	.	I ⁺	I ⁺	3 ⁺	.	.	I ⁺
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	2b	r	1	+	r	.	.	II ^{2a}	I ^{2b}	3 ⁺	1 ^r	.	.
Differential species combination of the community Tripleurosperum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii																														
<i>Arctagrostis arundinacea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	2 ¹
<i>Aloina brevirostris</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	2 ¹
<i>Gastrolychnis involucrata</i> s. l.	.	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	II ⁺	I ⁺	.	.	2 ⁺
Character species of the Chamerio angustifolii–Matricarion hookeri and Matricario–Poetea arcticae																														
<i>Tripleurosperum hookeri</i>	2b	1	+	r	r	2a	r	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	2b	3	V ⁺	II ^r	IV ^r	1 ^r	2 ³	V ^{r+}	II ^{r+}		
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> s. str.	1	+	1	+	+	+	+	2a	r	2a	2a	+	1	5	+	4	2b	.	.	2b	2a	V ⁺	V ^{2a}	V ¹	3 ^{2b}	2 ^{2b}	III ⁺²	V ⁺⁴		
<i>Poa alpigena</i>	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	.	1	+	r	2a	1	IV ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺	3 ¹	2 ⁺	Ir	IV ^{r-2}		
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	.	+	.	.	r	r	r	+	+	1	.	r	r	+	III ^r	V ^r	IV ⁺	.	1 ⁺	.	.	.		
<i>Betula nana</i>	r	r	r	r	+	r	r	r	r	r	r	III ^r	V ^r	IV ^r	.	2 ^r	.	.	
<i>Calamagrostis purpurea</i>	r	r	r	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	II ^r	III ⁺	II ^r	1 ^r	.	.	IV ⁺	V ^{r-2}		
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	+	.	.	2a	.	+	2b	.	III ⁺	II ⁺	.	1 ^{2b}	V ⁺¹	V ^{r-2}		
<i>Tanacetum bipinnatum</i>	.	.	+	.	r	.	.	1	II ⁺	II ⁺	II ⁺	V ^{r-1}		
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	.	+	1	+	.	.	+	2a	.	.	1	.	I ⁺	II ¹	II ⁺	2 ¹	1 ¹	.	.		
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	.	r	+	I ^r	I ^r	I ⁺	.	.	.	III ⁺	I ¹		
<i>Poa arctica</i> var. <i>vivipara</i>	+	+	2 ⁺	.	.	
<i>Descurainia sophioides</i>	2a	1 ^{2a}	.	.	
Highly constant species of syntaxa																														
<i>Salix phylicifolia</i>	r	r	r	+	r	.	r	r	1	+	r	.	1	+	r	1	r	.	.	.	V ^r	V ⁺	V ^r	3 ^r		
<i>Bryum rutilans</i>	1	+	.	2b	.	1	2a	.	3	2b	2b	+	2a	.	1	IV ¹	IV ^{2b}	IV ^{2a}	1 ¹		
Other species																														
<i>Crepis tectorum</i>	III ^{r-1}		
<i>Calamagrostis epigeios</i>	III ^{r-2}		
<i>Salix glauca</i>	r	r	1	r	.	.	.	+	.	+	I ^r	III ⁺	II ⁺	1 ⁺		
<i>Empetrum hermaphroditum</i>	r	r	+	+	I ^r	III ⁺	II ⁺		

Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri typicum (Isbardin et al. 1996)
Tanacetum bipinnati–Equisetum arvensis (Isbardin et al. 1996)

Table 1. Continued.

Relevé nr. in the table	1	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	9*	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1a	1b	1	2	3	M	T	
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> subsp. <i>microphyllum</i>	+	+	1	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺	
<i>Peltigera neckeri</i>	r	.	r	r	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	I ^r	III ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Salix bastata</i>	r	.	r	r	+	.	r	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	I ^r	III ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Peltigera didactyla</i>	+	r	r	r	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	I ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺	.	1 ^r	.	.	
<i>Adloxa moschatellina</i>	r	r	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	III ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	r	r	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	III ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Didymodon</i> sp.	+	.	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	II ⁺	
<i>Peltigera polydactylon</i>	r	r	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Cladonia chlorophaea</i>	r	r	1	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	III ⁺	II ⁺	
<i>Salix nummularia</i>	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ⁺	II ⁺	
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	+	r	r	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	I ⁺	II ⁺	II ⁺	.	1 ^r	.	.
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> subsp. <i>minus</i>	r	.	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I ^r	II ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Veratrum lobelianum</i> M-A	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	I ^r	II ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	r	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ⁺	I ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Poblia cruda</i>	.	+	.	.	+	+	II ⁺	I ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Poblia filum</i>	+	+	+	II ⁺	I ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Pogonatum dentatum</i>	.	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	I ^r	II ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	.	+	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	II ⁺	I ⁺	II ⁺	.	1 ⁺	.	.
<i>Juncus arcticus</i>	.	+	+	I ⁺	I ⁺	I ⁺	1 ⁺	.	.	.
<i>Pellia neesiana</i>	r	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I ^r	I ^r	I ^r	1 ⁺	.	.	.
<i>Myosotis palustris</i>	r	.	.	.	.	.	r	r	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	I ^r	2 ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Viola biflora</i> M-A	r	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	.	II ⁺	I ⁺	1 ⁺
<i>Ranunculus prorepens</i> M-A	+	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	II ⁺	I ⁺	1 ⁺
<i>Cortusa matthioli</i> s. str.	r	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	I ^r	1 ^r	.	.	.	.
<i>Stellaria peduncularis</i>	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	r	.	I ^r	I ^r	.	2 ⁺	.	.
<i>Potentilla stipularis</i>	r	.	.	.	1 ^r	.	.
<i>Bryum</i> sp.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 ¹	2 ¹	.	.	.

Note. Species found in 1–2 relevés with an abundance of r or + (others are indicated in brackets): *Anthoxanthum odoratum* subsp. *alpinum* 14; *Bistorta elliptica* 7; *Calamagrostis neglecta* 13, 14; *Cardamine pratensis* subsp. *angustifolia* 17; *Carex aquatilis* subsp. *stans* 17; *Cerastium jenisejense* 6, 18; *C. regelii* subsp. *caespitosum* 3; *Chamaepericlymenum suecicum* 5; *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* 17; *Coeloglossum viride* 14; *Comastoma tenellum* 3; *Corallorrhiza trifida* r; *Dryas octopetala* s. l. 10, 18; *Equisetum palustre* 17; *E. pratense* 10; *Eriophorum angustifolium* 10; *Euphrasia frigida* 4, 10; *Hieracium alpinum* aggr. 14; *Juncus castaneus* 15; *Ledum palustre* subsp. *decumbens* 9; *Luzula confusa* 1; *Omalotheca supina* 4; *Pedicularis oederi* 10; *P. sceptrum-carolinum* 14; *Petasites frigidus* 16; *Poa arctica* 3; *Polemonium acutiflorum* 14, 17; *Pyrola minor* 8, 17; *Rubus chamaemorus* 5; *Saxifraga cernua* 17; *Solidago lapponica* 14; *Stellaria calycantha* 16; *Tofieldia pusilla* 10 (1); *Trientalis europaea* 15; *Brachythecium mildeanum* 10, 13; *B. rivulare* 8 (1); *B. salebrosum* 8 (1); *B. sp.* 12; *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* 8 (2b); *Dicranella* sp. 16, 19; *Dicranum majus* 7, 9; *D. spadicum* 8; *Distichium capillaceum* 8; *Funaria hygrometrica* 19 (1); *Hylocomium splendens* 8; *Lepidobryum pyriforme* 11; *Plagiomnium ellipticum* 17 (1); *Plagiothecium denticulatum* 9; *Pleurozium schreberi* 9; *Pogonatum urnigerum* 9; *Poblia atropurpurea* 8; *P. prolifera* 2, 7; *P. sp.* 10, 12; *Polytrichastrum alpinum* 7; *Polytrichum commune* 13; *P. hyperboreum* 9, 10; *P. juniperinum* 16; *Pseudobryum cinctidioides* 17 (1); *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum* 14; *Sciuro-hypnum latifolium* 14; *S. reflexum* 14, 17 (1); *Timmia bavarica* 3; *Baeomyces carnes* 10; *Cetraria islandica* subsp. *crispiformis* 9, 10; *Cladonia cariosa* 10; *C. pleurota* 10; *C. subulata* 10; *Lobaria linita* 10; *Peltigera aphthosa* 9; *P. lepidophora* 10; *P. ponojensis* 8, 14; *P. venosa* 9, 10; *Protopannaria pezizoides* 10, 14; *Psoroma hypnorum* 9; *Stereocaulon glareosum* 9, 10 (1); liverworts 1, 10 (2a).

Species found also with constancy only I and II in the ass. **Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri** subass. **typicum** (Ishbirdin et al. 1996): *Agrostis clavata*, *Calamagrostis lapponica*, *Equisetum pretense*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Polygonum humifusum*, *Rorippa palustris*, *Tephrosia palustris*; in the ass. **Tanacetum bipinnati–Equisetum arvensis** (Ishbirdin et al. 1996): *Calamagrostis lapponica*, *Equisetum pretense*, *Polygonum humifusum*, *Luzula parviflora*, *Gnaphalium uliginosum*.

GPS coordinates (WGS 84) (N, E): 1 – 68.26906, 54.55347; 2 – 68.26981, 54.55272; 3 – 68.28989, 54.466583; 4 – 68.28861, 54.46444; 5 – 68.27097, 54.55094; 6 – 68.2925, 54.47711; 7 – 68.291056, 54.47094; 8 – 68.29317, 54.51922; 9 – 68.29075, 54.4695; 10 – 68.29122, 54.47231; 11 – 68.29467, 54.50567; 12 – 68.26719, 54.55592; 13 – 68.29408, 54.51256; 14 – 68.28925, 54.46542; 15 – 68.27217, 54.54969; 16 – 68.36597, 53.14528; 17 – 68.29386, 54.4840; 18 – 70.94797, 91.26497; 19 – 70.94803, 91.26672.

Author relevés – **O.V. Lavrinenko**.

Abbreviations.

Locality: BN – Bolvanskii Nose Cape, Bolshezemelskaya tundra; NR – Nenets Ridge, Malozemelskaya tundra; Kys – Kystyktakh River mouth, Taymyr Peninsula.

Syntaxa names in the table header: **E. a.** – var. **Equisetum arvense**, **T. f.** – var. **Tussilago farfara**, **M. h.–E. s.** – ass.

Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri, **T. h.–A. t.** – com. **Tripleurospermum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii**.

Character-species of the high syntaxa (next to the name of the taxon): M-Pa – class **Matricario–Poetea arcticae**, M-A – class **Mulgedio–Aconitetae**.

Here and in Tables 2–3 nomenclature types (holotypus) are indicated by a gray fill and an asterisk; bold type indicates high abundance.

phytes dominate (67–68 %); the pioneer communities of the subass. **typicum** consist of 16 % mesoxerophytes and xeromesophytes and 6 % mesohygrophytes, whereas the communities of the subass. **bartsietosum alpinae** – 7 and 21 %, respectively. Phytocoenoses occupy eroded valley slopes and cliffs inclination from 30 to 60°, sometimes their lower parts from 5 to 15° of predominantly northeastern and northern exposures. They develop on dynamic, unstable substrates – on mineral soils with different granulometry, crumbling or sliding blocks separated by grooves for rainwater runoff. Communities of the subass. **bartsietosum alpinae** are usually formed in more humid habitats on concave surfaces of eroded slopes, compared to subass. **typicum**.

Distribution. The studied phytocoenoses were documented on the Bolvanskii Nose Cape, extending into the freshwater Pechora Bay, bounded by the Bolshaya Pechora River on one side and the Bolvanskaya Bay on the other

(Fig. 1, site 2). The range of the association is certainly wider and covers typical and southern tundra subzones in the Bolshezemelskaya and Malozemelskaya tundras.

The association comprises two subassociations – **typicum** and **bartsietosum alpinae** differentiated by floristic composition and successional dynamics.

Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii typicum subass. nov. (Table 1, rel. 1–7; Fig. 2A–C)

Holotypus: holotypus of the association (autonym, Art. 5b, 13b).

Definition: Communities of predominantly erosion-tolerant herb species at the initial stages of succession on sandy loam eroded valley slopes and cliffs of freshwater bays.

Composition. Differential species combination is the same as in the association. Variants **typica** (rel. 3–7, Fig. 2A, B)

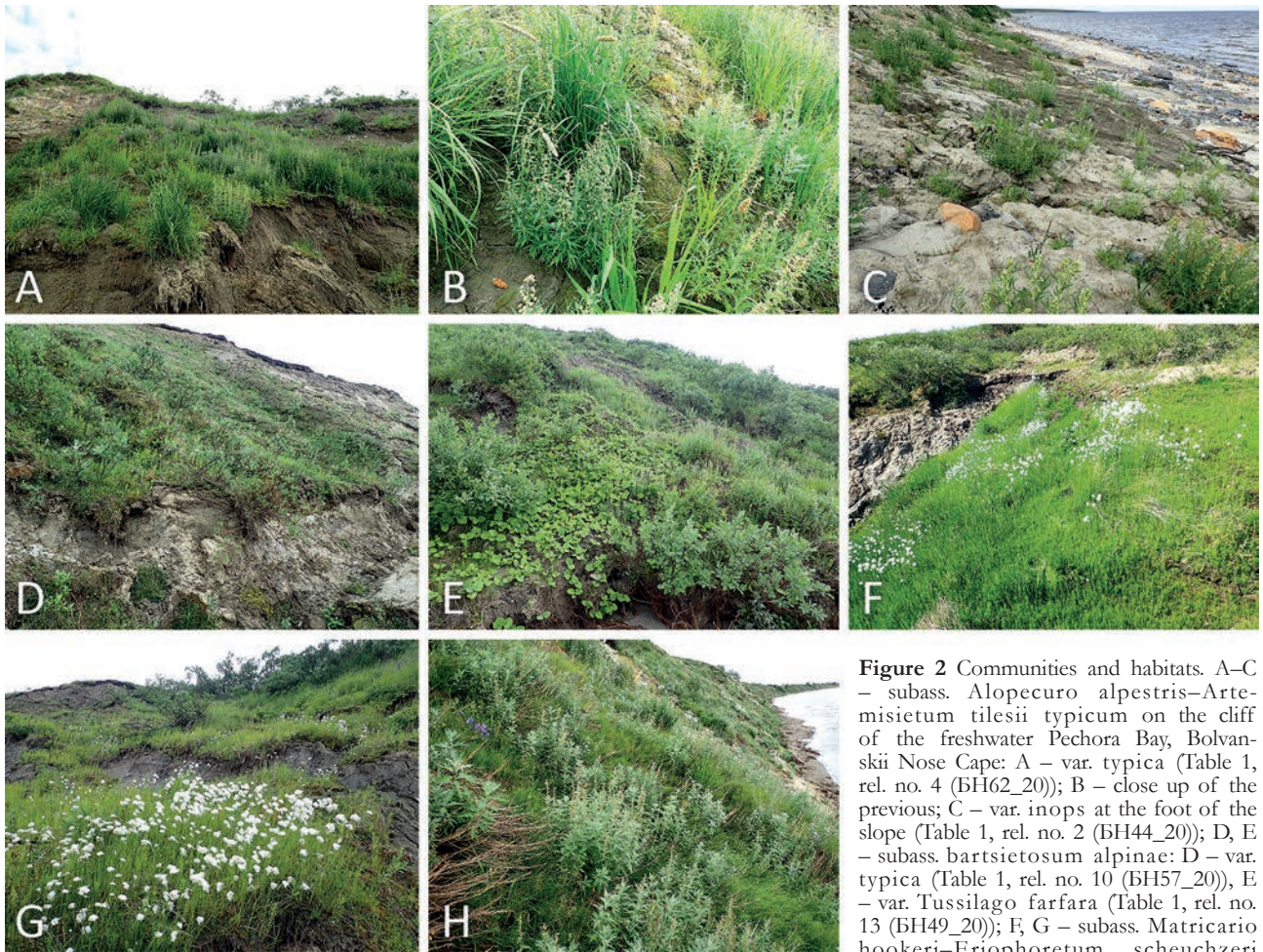


Figure 2 Communities and habitats. A–C – subass. *Alopecuro alpestris*–*Artemisietum tilesii* typical on the cliff of the freshwater Pechora Bay, Bolvanskii Nose Cape: A – var. *typica* (Table 1, rel. no. 4 (BH62_20)); B – close up of the previous; C – var. *inops* at the foot of the slope (Table 1, rel. no. 2 (BH44_20)); D, E – subass. *bartsietosum alpinae*: D – var. *typica* (Table 1, rel. no. 10 (BH57_20)), E – var. *Tussilago farfara* (Table 1, rel. no. 13 (BH49_20)); F, G – subass. *Matricario hookeri*–*Eriophoretum scheuchzeri* typical on the steep wet slope: F – of the

ravine, Nenets Ridge ((Table 1, rel. no. 16 (HF56)); G – on the cliff of the freshwater Pechora Bay, Bolvanskii Nose Cape (Table 1, rel. no. 17 (BH54_20)); H – com. *Tripleurospermum bookeri*–*Artemisia tilesii* on the steep elevated primary riverbank of the Kystyktakh River, Taymyr Peninsula (Table 1, rel. no. 18 (Ta100))

and inops (rel. 1, 2, Fig. 2C) are distinguished. The var. *inops* is characterized by a poorer composition and the absence of a naming taxon – *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris*. Total number of taxa registered in subassociation is 55: 42 vascular plants (5 shrubs, 6 dwarf shrubs, 31 grasses), 11 bryophytes and 2 lichens.

Structure. The total cover in the communities varies from 20 to 70 %. The moss cover ranges from less than 1 to 20 %. Shrubs, dwarf shrubs and lichens are absent or occur sporadically. Juvenile shrub willow specimens are sometimes found in this stands. The mean species richness per community stands at 18, comprising 12 grasses, 3 bryophytes, 2 shrubs, and 1 dwarf shrubs. The herbaceous layer (15–30 cm height) exhibits low to moderate cover (10–60 %), with no single species achieving dominance. The abundance of 2b or 3 is sometimes found in three taxa: *Artemisia tilesii*, *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris* and *Tripleurospermum bookeri*. Ground cover, if present, is thin and loose, consisting of the mosses *Bryum rutilans*, *Poblia* spp. and some other.

***Alopecuro alpestris*–*Artemisietum tilesii* *bartsietosum alpinae* O. Lavrinenko subass. nov.**
(Table 1, rel. 10–14; Fig. 2D, E)

Holotypus: Table 1, relevé 9 (author's number BH59_20), Bolshezemelskaya tundra, Bolvanskii Nose Cape, 68.29075°N 54.46950°E, northeastern slope (45°) of cliff of freshwater Pechora Bay, 02.08.2020, author O.V. Lavrinenko.

Definition: Late-successional willow-moss-grass communities on stabilized sandy loam and loamy substrates of formerly eroded areas of valley slopes and freshwater bay cliffs.

Composition. Differential species combination: mesophytic grasses *Bartsia alpina*, *Luzula multiflora* subsp. *frigida* (character species of the class *Matricario*–*Poetea*), shrub willow *Salix lanata* (the median abundance score 2a), dwarf shrub willow *Salix reticulata* and mosses *Dicranella grevilleana*, *Sanionia uncinata* and *Timmia austriaca* (2a). Variants *typica* (rel. 8–11, Fig. 2D), *Tussilago farfara* (rel. 12, 13, Fig. 2E) and *Equisetum arvense* (rel. 14) are distinguished. Total number of taxa registered in subassociation is 105: 56 vascular plants (5 shrubs, 8 dwarf shrubs, 43 herbs), 32 bryophytes and 17 lichens.

Structure. The total cover in the communities is 70–100 % (once 30 %), with average cover of grasses 50 %, mosses 35 %, and shrubs up to 15 %. Dwarf shrubs and lichens are absent or less than 1 %, sometimes their maximum cover reaches 10 %. The mean species richness per community stands at 32, comprising 16 grasses, 7 bryophytes and 2–3 each of shrubs, dwarf shrubs and lichens. The willows *Salix glauca*, *S. lanata* (2a), *S. phyllicifolia* grow in separate bushes up to 50 cm high. Loose-turfy grass *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris* and long-rhizome herbs *Achillea millefolium*, *Artemisia tilesii*, *Equisetum arvense* s. str. (15–30 cm high) is sometime abundant (2a–2b) in the unclosed herbaceous layer. The ground cover (up to 60 %) is very short,

dominated by mosses *Bryum rutilans*, *B. pseudotriquetrum*, *Dicranella grevilleana*, *Santonia uncinata*, *Timmia austriaca*. Some lichens grow on the soil, including *Peltigera lepidophora*, *P. ponojensis*, *P. venosa*, *Protopannaria pezizoides*, *Psoroma hypnorum*, *Stereocaulon glareosum* and other. Communities of the var. *Tussilago farfara* are characterized by the growth of this long-rooted weed-ruderal herb on landslides in the lower parts of slopes (Fig. 2E). Community of the var. *Equisetum arvense* is characterized by the dominance of this horsetail and the impoverished of the differential species combination in the association.

Note. The ass. *Alopecuro alpestris*–*Artemisietum tilesii* shares several diagnostic species (*Artemisia tilesii*, *Equisetum arvense* (dom.), *Festuca rubra*, *Poa alpigena*, *Tanacetum bipinnatum*) with early-successional ass. *Tanacetum bipinnati*–*Equisetum arvensis* Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996 (see Table 1) and grass communities of the subass. *Tripleurospermo hookeri*–*Poetum alpigenae* typicum Czerosov in Czerosov et al. 2005 nom. inval. (Art. 3o, 5a), described in naturally and anthropogenically disturbed habitats in Western Siberia and Yakutia (Ishbirdin et al. 1996, Ishbirdin 2001, Czerosov 2005, Czerosov et al. 2005), as well as with grass communities of the ass. *Tanacetum bipinnati* Sumina 2012 on anthropogenic sandy habitats in the southern tundra of Western Siberia (Sumina 2012). However, the differences in species composition between the compared syntaxa are substantial and are limited by the commonality of character species of high syntaxonomic units.

Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996 (Table 1, rel. 15–17; Fig. 2F, G)

The cotton-grass communities of the association (*Eriophorum scheuchzeri* dominant) were first documented as initial successional stages in moist habitats on disturbed tundra surfaces in Western Siberia and Yakutia (Ishbirdin et al. 1996, Czerosov et al. 2005). Two subassociations (*deschampsietosum cespitosae* Likhanova, Shushpannikova et Turubanova 2019 and *equisetetosum fluviatilis* Likhanova, Shushpannikova et Turubanova 2019) have been described later in the southern forest-tundra and northern taiga in the northeastern European part of Russia (oil fields in the Usa and Kolva river basins, Komi Republic) (Likhanova et al. 2019).

We described communities dominated by *Eriophorum scheuchzeri* in naturally disturbed habitats in the Bolshezemelskaya and Malozemelskaya tundras and classify them as subass. typicum (see Table 1), which is automatically established as containing the nomenclatural type of the association (autonym) when the latter is subdivided into subordinate rank units (Art. 13b).

Holotypus of the subass. typicum = holotypus of the association (autonym, Art. 5b, 13b) (see Ishbirdin et al. 1996: 85, 94–97).

Composition. Differential species combination: mesohygrophytic grasses *Epilobium palustre* and *Eriophorum scheuchzeri* (the median abundance score 3). Additionally, 6 other constant species were found in the three described communities. These are character species of the class *Matricario–Poetea*: *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Equisetum arvense* s. str. (2b) and *Poa alpigena* (1), as well as bryophytes *Poblia wahlenbergii* and *Marchantia polymorpha* and willow *Salix phyllifolia*.

Total number of taxa registered in the subass. typicum is 44: 31 vascular plants (3 shrubs, 1 dwarf shrubs, 27 herbs) and 13 bryophytes.

Structure of association. The total cover in the communities varies from 30 to 100 % and it is mainly grasses. Ground cover is absent or mossy (cover up to

40 %). The mean species richness per community stands at 22, comprising 13 grasses, 6 bryophytes and 2 shrubs. Cotton grass *Eriophorum scheuchzeri* is a pioneer species of humid disturbed habitats of the tundra zone, forming a dense herbaceous layer (25–30 cm high), under which there is often a lower sub-layer (20 cm high) of horsetail *Equisetum arvense* s. str. The ground vegetation layer exhibits a short (1–2 cm height) mix of disturbance-adapted bryophytes, including *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Bryum* spp., *Dicranella grevilleana*, *Marchantia polymorpha* and mosses of wet ecotopes (*Plagiomnium ellipticum*, *Pseudobryum cinclidioides*, *Sciuro-hypnum reflexum*).

Ecology and habitats of association. The association's vascular flora is dominated by hygromesophytes and mesophytes (61 %), with mesohygrophytes / hygrophytes (26 %) and eurytopic species (13 %). Vegetation was surveyed on eroded slopes (10–50°) of valleys, ravines, and cliffs, primarily with northeastern exposure. These communities develop on moist loamy soils in areas receiving surface runoff from terraces or along streams at the base of ravines. Large turf fragments frequently detach and slide downslope, creating bare cracks between them.

Distribution. Communities are described in two sites – Nenets Ridge in the Malozemelskaya tundra and Bolvanskii Nose Cape in the Bolshezemelskaya tundra (Fig. 1, sites 1 and 2). The range of the association extends over the entire territory of the East European tundra.

One more syntaxon, described in the southern tundra subzone in the Taymyr Peninsula, we left in the rank of community because of the small number (two) of relevés.

Com. Tripleurospernum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii (Table 1, rel. 18, 19; Fig. 2H)

Definition: Pioneer communities dominated by erosion-tolerant herbs (*Artemisia tilesii*, *Equisetum arvense* s. str., and *Tripleurospernum hookeri*) colonizing steep erosional slopes of valleys in the southern tundra subzone of the Taymyr Peninsula.

Composition. Communities have a group of constant species that distinguish them from other syntaxa of the alliance *Chamerio angustifolii*–*Matricario hookeri*: grasses *Arctagrostis arundinacea* (the median abundance score 1), *Gastrolychnis angustiflora* subsp. *tenella*, moss *Aloina brevirostris* (1) and character species of the class *Matricario–Poetea* – *Artemisia tilesii* (3), *Descurainia sophioides* and *Poa arctica* var. *vivipara*. In addition, other character species of the class are among the dominants: *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (2b), *Equisetum arvense* s. str. (2a), *Tripleurospernum hookeri* (3) and also less abundant *Poa alpigena*. Total number of taxa registered in 2 communities is 26: 19 vascular plants (2 shrubs, 1 dwarf shrubs, 16 herbs), 6 bryophytes and 1 lichen.

Structure. The total cover in the communities is 90–95 % and it is mainly grasses; moss cover is 1–5 %. The number of species in the communities is 11 and 22. The herb layer is 30–40 cm high, dominated by rhizomatous and long-rhizome plants – *Artemisia tilesii* (3), *Equisetum arvense* s. str. (2b), *Tripleurospernum hookeri* (3), *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (2b); herbaceous plants with different root systems are present in low abundance. The moss cover is very short and loose of *Aloina brevirostris*, *Bryum* sp., *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Dicranella* sp., *Funaria hygrometrica*.

Ecology and habitats. The association's vascular flora is dominated by mesophytes (69 %), with xeromesophytes (19 %) and eurytopes (12 %). The communities are established on steep (50–60°), northeast-exposed slopes of river valleys, on loamy and sandy loam deposits that detach from erosional banks and slide downslope as discrete blocks under water erosion processes.

Distribution. Communities are described on the Kystytakh River basin in the Taymyr Peninsula. Based on latitudinal-geographic element analysis in the coenoflora, half of the species have an arctic distribution and the other half have a hypoarctomontane distribution. Analysis of longitudinal distribution species shows that 50 % of them have a circumpolar range, and the remaining 50 % have a Eurasian (including Siberian) distributions. These data indicate that the distribution of syntaxon covers the tundra zone throughout Central Siberia.

Dendrogram results confirm the syntaxonomic distinction of the new *Matricario–Poetea arcticae* class units and integrity of the ass. *Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri* across different sectors of the Russian Arctic (Fig. 3).

Syntaxonomic position of transitional dwarf shrub–moss communities with leguminous herbs dominance

Closed dwarf shrub (*Dryas octopetala* s. l., *Salix reticulata*)–moss communities with abundant leguminous herbs (*Astragalus alpinus* subsp. *arcticus*, *A. frigidus*, *Hedysarum hedysaroides* subsp. *arcticum*, *Oxytropis sordida*) occupy well-drained valley and hill slopes. These communities show transitional traits between: (1) zonal tundra vegetation of the alliance *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomion alaskani* Matveyeva et Lavrinenko 2023 (*Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani*), and (2) the meadow-like dwarf shrub-

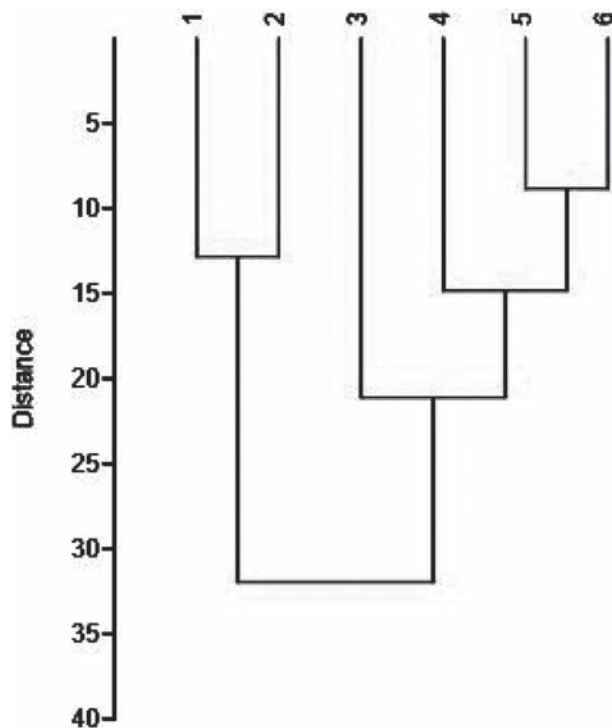


Figure 3 The similarity of syntaxa of the class *Matricario–Poetea arcticae* from different sectors of the Arctic, established by the cluster analysis (Ward's method): 1–2 – ass. *Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii* in the East European tundra: 1 – subass. *typicum*, 2 – subass. *bartsietosum alpinae*; 3 – com. *Tripleurospermum hookeri–Artemisia tilesii* in the Taymyr Peninsula; 4–6 – ass. *Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri*: 4 – in the East European tundra by our own relevés, 5 – in the Western Siberia tundra by Ishbirdin et al. 1996, 6 – in the Arctic Yakutia by Cherosov et al. 2005

moss-herb communities of the alliance *Tephroserido integrifoliae–Pachypleurion alpini* Lavrinenko, Lavrinenko et Neshataev 2025 (*Mulgedio–Aconitetea*), described the recently by Lavrinenko et al. (2025).

We classify these as distinct associations: the new *Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* ass. nov., and the previously described *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomieteum splendidis* Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018 (Table 2).

Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis Lavrinenko, Lavrinenko et Neshataev ass. nov. (Table 2, rel. 1–16; Fig. 4A–D)

Definition: Dwarf shrub (*Dryas octopetala* s. l., *Salix hastata*, *S. reticulata*, *Vaccinium uliginosum* subsp. *microphyllum*)–moss (*Aulacomnium palustre*, *A. turgidum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*, *Tomentypnum nitens*) communities feature moderately closed herb cover (20 (up to 40) cm height) dominated by *Hedysarum hedysaroides* subsp. *arcticum*, *Astragalus frigidus*, and *Bistorta elliptica* on gently sloping terraces of river valleys within the typical tundra subzone of the Bolshezemelskaya tundra.

Holotypus: Table 2, relevé 14 (author's number Van60), Bolshezemelskaya tundra, Vangureimusyur Upland, Bolshaya Khekheganyakha River basin, 68.35122°N 56.48800°E, southwestern gently sloping valley terrace (15°), 21.07.2017, authors O.V. Lavrinenko and I.A. Lavrinenko.

Synonyms: This association corresponds to the subass. *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* typicum var. *Hedysarum arcticum*, described by Neshataev & Lavrinenko (2020) as dwarf shrub-moss communities developing from zonal vegetation.

Composition. Differential species combination: *Hedysarum hedysaroides* subsp. *arcticum* (the median abundance score 2a), *Dicodon cerastoides*, *Ranunculus propinquus* and moss *Aulacomnium palustre* (2a). Numerous species characteristic of zonal plakor communities exhibit high constancy – these are taxa of the differential species combination of the ass. *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomieteum splendidis* and the subass. *typicum* and character species of the class *Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani* (see Table 2). The most constant and abundant among such association's species are dwarf shrubs *Dryas octopetala* s. l. (1), *Salix hastata* (2a), *S. reticulata* (2b), herb *Bistorta elliptica* (1), and mosses *Hylocomium splendens* (3) and *Aulacomnium turgidum* (1).

The key difference in the composition between these communities and zonal tundra communities on plakors is in the significantly lower abundance of diagnostic sedge *Carex bigelowii* subsp. *arctisibirica* (IV+ vs. V3) and absent of *Deschampsia glauca*, *Eriophorum brachyantherum*, *E. vaginatum*, *Salix polaris*, many other species of herbs, mosses and lichens, include grow on the patch bare ground (see Table 2). Total number of taxa registered in association is 120: 70 vascular plants (5 shrubs, 7 dwarf shrubs, 58 herbs), 30 bryophytes and 20 lichens.

Structure. The association exhibits a continuous mosaic horizontal structure, contrasting with the regular cyclic pattern (3-component bare patch-rim-trough modules) characteristic of zonal plakor vegetation. The communities exhibit complete (100 %) vegetation cover, with mean values of dwarf shrubs 50 %, herbs 30 %, and mosses 70 %. Shrubs and lichens show minimal cover (0–5 %), occasionally slightly higher.

The mean species richness per community stands at 38, comprising 21 herbs, 6 bryophytes, by 4 dwarf shrubs and lichens and 3 shrubs.

Table 2. Continued.

Relevé nr. in the table	1	2	3*	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14*	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1a	1b	1	2
Character species of the Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani, Caricetalia arctisibirica–Hylocomion alaskani																														
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	2b	3	3	2b	3	4	3	3	2b	1	2b	3	4	2b	2b	1	V ³	V ³	V ^{2b}	
<i>Andacomium tardidum</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2b	2a	1	1	1	1	2a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2b	IV ¹	IV ^{2a}	V ^{2a}	
<i>Valeriana capitata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Pedicularis oederi</i> Cr-Kb	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Bistorta eliptica</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	III ⁺
<i>Stellaria peduncularis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	III ⁺
<i>Poa arctica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Carex bigelowii</i> subsp. <i>arctisibirica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Salix glauca</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Salix lanata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Tomentopnum nitens</i> Cr-Kb	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Petasis frigidus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Eutrema adwardsi</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Nephroma exalidum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Ptilidium ciliare</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Pooroma hypnorum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Arctogovitis latifolia</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Pedicularis lapponica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
Highly constant species of syntaxa																														
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	2a	1	2a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Tephrosia integrifolia</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Poa alpigena</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Leuzkia multiflora</i> subsp. <i>frigida</i>	2a	3	2a	2a	3	2a	2b	2b	2b	2b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> s.l.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> subsp. <i>microphyllum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> subsp. <i>minus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Empetrum hermaphroditum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Betula nana</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Flanocetraria acullata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Peltigera aphthosa</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Salix namnetaria</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Thamnia vermicularis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Cladonia arbuscula</i> s.l.	2a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Cetraria islandica</i> subsp. <i>crispiformis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Cladonia gracilis</i> subsp. <i>elongata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Sphaerophorus globosus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Bryocaulon divergens</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Ochrolechia frigida</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Ochrolechia androgyna</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Cladonia coccifera</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V ⁺	V ⁺	V ⁺	IV ⁺
Other species																														
<i>Myosotis asiatica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	III ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Thalictrum alpinum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	III ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Dianthus superbus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	III ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Pachyleurum alpinum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	III ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺
<i>Bryum pseudotriquetrum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III ⁺	III ⁺	III ⁺	II ⁺

Table 2. Continued.

Relevé nr. in the table	1	2	3*	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14*	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1a	1b	1	2
<i>Silene acaulis</i> Cr-Kb	r	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Tofoledia pusilla</i>	+	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Lasgala confusa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Polytrichum hyperboreum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Cladonia amaraocrocea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Alcortia nigricans</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Cladonia rangiferina</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Tanacetum bipinnatum</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Festuca rubra</i> s.l.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Cetraria islandica</i> subsp. <i>islandica</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Peltigera polydactylon</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Trisetum sibiricum</i> subsp. <i>litorale</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Chimacium dendroides</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Dicranum acutifolium</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Dicranum bonjeanii</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Euphrasia frigida</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Polytrichum strictum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Hieracium alpinum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Syntrichia ruralis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Dicranum elongatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Sphenobolus minutus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Peltigera scabra</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Physcia muscigena</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Parmelia omphalodes</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r
<i>Eurynchostroium pulchellum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r	II ^r

Note. Species found in 1–2 relevés with an abundance of r or + (others are indicated in brackets): *Calamagrostis lapponica* 24, 25; *Campanula rotundifolia* 21, 25; *Carex parallela* subsp. *redovskiana* 11 (1); *C. vaginata* subsp. *quasivaginata* 2; *Cerastium tenuifolium* 14; *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* 14; *Coelogyne tenellum* 14; *Deschampsia glauca* 13; *Equisetum pratense* 6; *Eriophorum brachyantherum* 22, 24; *Gastrolobis apetala* 3; *Juncus castaneus* 24; *Ledum palustre* subsp. *decumbens* 24; *Pedicularis verticillata* 19 (1); *Pinguicula alpina* 1; *Poa alpina* 10, 16; *Rubus arcticus* 21; *Salix phylicifolia* 13; *S. polaris* 24, 25; *Saxifraga cernua* 12; *Taraxacum ceratophorum* 14, 15; *Trollius europaeus* 5, 7; *Viola biflora* 6; *Brachyochaetrum retinatum* 22, 24; B, sp. 19; B, *turgidum* 11; *Bryum* sp. 10, 19; *Campylopus stellatum* 13; *Ceratodon purpureus* 22; *Cinctidium arcticum* 11; *Dicranum majus* 19 (1); *D. spadicum* 21 (1), 23; *Distichium flexicaule* 13, 21; *Gymnomitrium coralloides* 24; *Lophosia* sp. 12; *Mnium thomsonii* 14; *Nyurella julacea* 13, 19; *Philonotis fontana* 11, 13; *Pleurozium schreberi* 20 (2a); *Pogonatum dentatum* 22; *Pohlia cruda* 19; *Polytrichum alpinum* 4, 25; *Polytrichum juniperinum* 15, 21; *Rhacomitrium pseudopunctatum* 12; *Sanionia uncinata* 19, 22; *Scorpidium revolvens* 11 (2a); *Stereodon hambergeri* 13, 21; *S. placidulum* 21; *Timmia austriaca* 12, 19; *Bryoria nitida* 18, 23; *Cetraria aculeata* 23; *Cetraria contorta* 19; *C. ornata* 19; *C. furcata* 10; *C. poecilum* 19, 24; *Hypogymnia subobscura* 24; *Lecanora ephryum* 18, 19; *Nephroma arcticum* 1; *Peltigera canina* VI, 20; *P. didactyla* 10, 21; *P. leucophlebia* 12; *P. neckeri* 22; *P. rufescens* 10; *Pertusaria bryoniba* 18, 19; *Psoroma lycoporum* 18, 19; *Solorina saxatilis* 18; *Stereocaulon paschale* 20.

GPS coordinates (WGS 84) (N, E): 1 – 68.35036, 56.47831; 2 – 68.35031, 56.48211; 3 – 68.35525, 56.49192; 4 – 68.35508, 56.49208; 5 – 68.34794, 56.47975; 6 – 68.35447, 56.49106; 7 – 68.34794, 56.48008; 8 – 68.34803, 56.48039; 9 – 68.34956, 56.48844; 10 – 68.35119, 56.48794; 11 – 68.35133, 56.48792; 12 – 68.36642, 53.15578; 13 – 68.33956, 56.48225; 14 – 68.35117, 56.48792; 15 – 68.35122, 56.48800; 16 – 68.35000, 56.48772; 17 – 68.34958, 56.48853; 18 – 68.35197, 56.47703; 19 – 68.36594, 53.15622; 20 – 68.35578, 56.49619.

Author's rel. no. 1–9 – V.V. Neshataev; 10–26 – O.V. Lavrinenko, I.A. Lavrinenko.

Abbreviations.

Locality: NR – Nenetis Ridge; Van – Vangureimysur Upland, Bolshaya Khekhganyakha River basin; PB – Pakhancheskaya Bay.

Character-species of the high syntaxa (next to the name of the taxon): Ca-Ha – class **Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea** alaskani and alliance **Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomion alaskani**; Cr-Kb – **Carici rupestris–Kobresietea bellardii**; K-D – alliance **Kobresio–Dryadion**; M-A – class **Mulgedio–Aconitetea**.

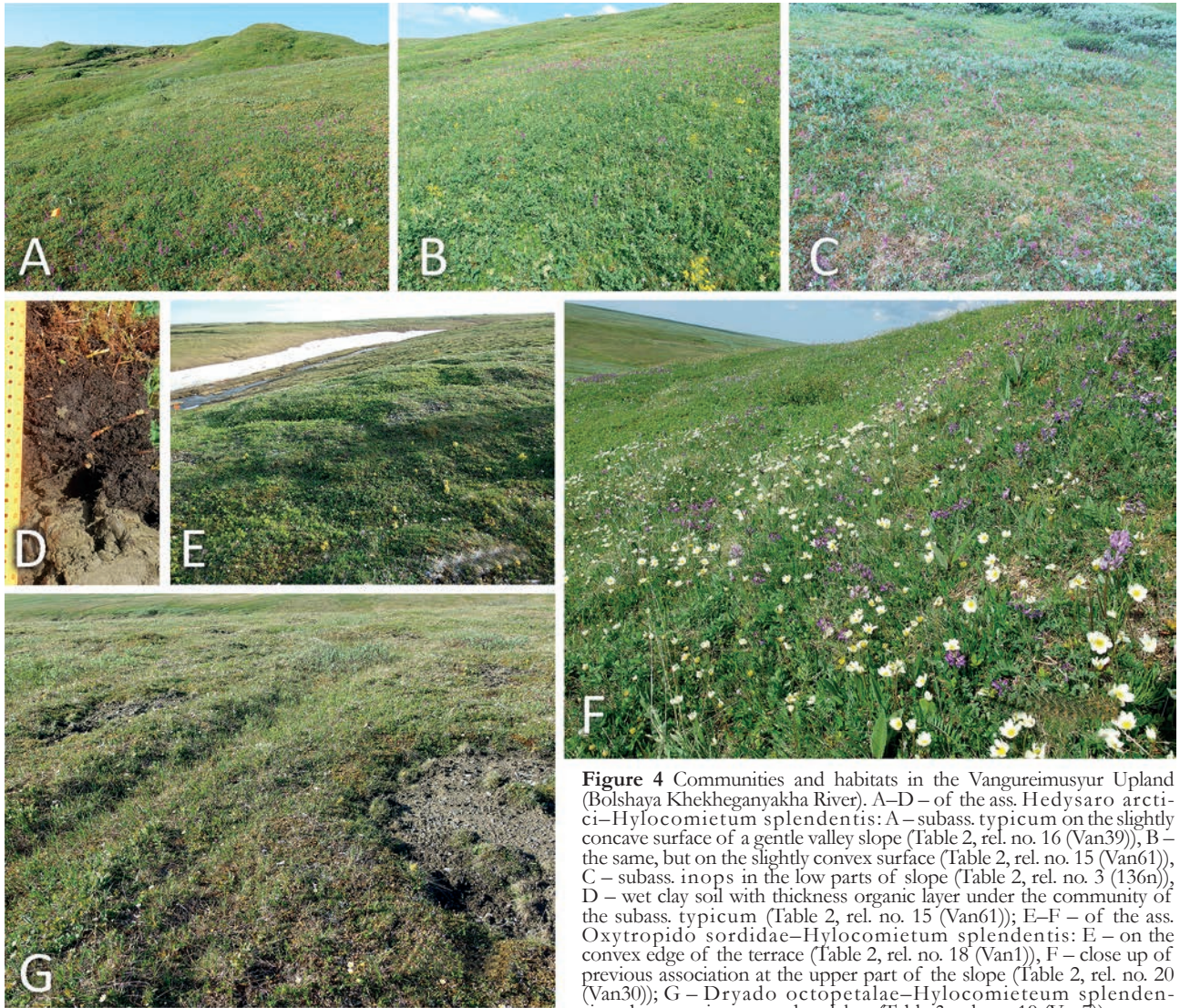


Figure 4 Communities and habitats in the Vangureimusyur Upland (Bolshaya Khekhganyakha River). A–D – of the ass. *Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis*: A – subass. typicum on the slightly concave surface of a gentle valley slope (Table 2, rel. no. 16 (Van39)), B – the same, but on the slightly convex surface (Table 2, rel. no. 15 (Van61)), C – subass. inops in the low parts of slope (Table 2, rel. no. 3 (136n)), D – wet clay soil with thickness organic layer under the community of the subass. typicum (Table 2, rel. no. 15 (Van61)); E–F – of the ass. *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis*: E – on the convex edge of the terrace (Table 2, rel. no. 18 (Van1)), F – close up of previous association at the upper part of the slope (Table 2, rel. no. 20 (Van30)); G – *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* subass. typicum on the plakor (Table 3, rel. no. 19 (Van7))

Based on variation in species composition, two subassociations were identified – typicum and inops, the communities of which differ in habitats and structure. Communities of the subass. typicum var. *typica* (Table 2, 14–16), occurring on moderately convex, well-drained midslope positions, exhibit herbaceous layer is well closed, higher cover of grasses (*Hedysarum hedysaroides* subsp. *arcticum*, *Astragalus frigidus*, *Bistorta elliptica* and *Trisetum sibiricum* subsp. *litorale*) than dwarf shrubs (*Salix reticulata*, *S. hastata*, *Dryas octopetala* s. l.) (60 vs. 20 %); moss cover (40 %) mainly of *Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Rhytidadelphus triquetrus*. Communities of the same subassociation var. *Tomentypnum nitens* (Table 2, 10–13) occupying slightly concave slopes with continuous surface runoff exhibit reduced herbaceous cover (10–15 %), dominance of dwarf shrubs (30–60 % with *Salix reticulata* and *S. hastata* predominating), continuous moss cover (80–100 %) from *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Tomentypnum nitens*. Communities of the subass. inops occupying the lower gentle parts of slopes exhibit high abundance (2b) of *Vaccinium uliginosum* subsp. *microphyllum* in addition to dwarf shrub willows and dryad, high constancy of low-growing willow shrubs *Salix glauca* and *S. lanata*, and dominance of *Hylocomium splendens* in the ground cover.

Ecology and habitats. The association's vascular flora comprises species with distinct moisture preferences: hygromesophytes and mesophytes (54 %), mesohygrophytes

(16 %), mesoxerophytes and xeromesophytes (11 %) and eurytopes (19 %). The presence of hemicalciphytic species including community dominants (*Dryas octopetala* s. l., *Hedysarum hedysaroides* subsp. *arcticum*, *Oxytropis sordida*, *Pedicularis oederi*, *Salix hastata*, *S. reticulata*, *Silene acaulis*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, mosses *Rhytidium rugosum* and *Tomentypnum nitens*) suggests carbonate-enriched soil conditions. The two subassociations exhibit distinct topographic preferences: subass. typicum – middle parts of terraced slopes with a slope of 5–15°, subass. inops – positions on lower parts of slopes (2–15°). These communities develop on soils featuring a distinct organic (peaty) horizon (7–10 cm thick) and mineral underlain layer of moist to hydric clay/loam/sandy loam with occasional stone inclusions (Fig. 4D).

Distribution. The studied communities were documented along the hillslopes of the Nenets Ridge (Fig. 1, site 1) within the Malozemelskaya tundra and Vangureimusyur Upland within the Bolshezemelskaya tundra (Fig. 1, site 3).

***Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* typicum subass. nov.** (Table 2, rel. 10–16; Fig. 4A, B)

Holotypus = holotypus of the association (autonym, Art. 5b, 13b).

Composition. The same as the association plus herbs *Astragalus frigidus*, *Cardamine pratensis* subsp. *angustifolia*, *Saxifraga*

hieracifolia and moss *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*. Herb *Saxifraga hirculus* and moss *Tomentypnum nitens* (2a) are also common.

Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis inops Neshataev subass. nov. (Table 2, rel. 1–9; Fig. 4C)

Holotypus: Table 2, relevé 3 (author's number 136n), Bolshazhemelskaya tundra, Vangureimusyur Upland, Bolshaya Khokhleganyakha River basin, 68.35525°N 56.49192°E, gentle (3°) lower part of northern slope of river valley, 17.07.2017, author V.V. Neshataev.

Composition. The subassociation differs from subass. typicum through species-poor composition (70 taxa vs. 110), higher activity of shrub willows *Salix glauca* (1), *S. lanata* and dwarf shrub *Vaccinium uliginosum* subsp. *microphyllum* (2b).

Communities of the second similar association – *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis* (Table 2, rel. 17–26; Fig. 4E, F) were described previously (Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko 2018) on hills 10–30 m high in the vicinity of Pakhancheskaya Bay in the subzone of typical tundra (Fig. 1, site 4). The association unites dwarf shrub (*Arctous alpina*, *Dryas octopetala* s. l., *Empetrum hermaphroditum*, *Salix nummularia*, *Vaccinium* spp.)–moss (*Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Ptilidium ciliare*, *Rhytidium rugosum*) communities with a non-dense layer of grasses 10–15 cm high, including legumes (*Oxytropis sordida*, *Astragalus alpinus* subsp. *arcticus*). The communities occur on convex terrace margins and the upper sections of gentle to moderately steep slopes (5–20°), predominantly with southern or eastern exposures. Slopes are usually divided into 4- or 5-cornered weakly convex polygons (5–10 m across). We later made relevés of the association in two more sites – on the hillsides of the Nenets Ridge and Vangureimusyur Upland (Fig. 1, sites 1, 3), which allowed us to clarify the overall species composition and differential species combination of the association: *Oxytropis sordida*, *Luzula arcuata*, mosses *Abietinella abietina*, *Rhytidium rugosum* and lichens *Lobaria linita* and *Peltigera ponojensis* (Table 2, rel. 17–26). The number of lichen species in the association is quite high – 44, but their cover is low – 1–5 %, rarely more. The communities occur on soils with an organic (humus) layer approximately 2–4 cm thick, underlain by loam or sandy loam containing stone inclusions.

The syntaxonomic placement of *Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* and *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis* requires comparison with both: zonal Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani communities on plakors, and meadow-like communities of the Mulgedio–Aconitetea on slopes.

The main zonal association (*Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* Andreev 1932) and its five subassociations were described for the East European tundra by Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko (2018). The nomenclatural type (lectotype) of the association (and subass. typicum) was selected from the communities described in 1932 by V.N. Andreev on the Vangureimusyur Upland in the western part of the Bolshazhemelskaya tundra. Within the dominant classification framework, Andreev categorized some communities (ass. *Dryas*

octopetala–Hylocomium proliferum) as belonging to the turf vegetation type, while others (ass. *Salix reticulata–Carex rigida–Hylocomium proliferum–Rhytidium rugosum*) to the moss vegetation type on clay substrates. However, sorting of the table data does not reveal a clear relationship between species composition and vegetation type (see Table 3, rel. 1–14). In 2017, our research team carried out an expedition to this inaccessible region (in the Bolshaya Khokhleganyakha River basin) and we made 18 relevés of zonal communities with regular-cyclic structure on the plakors (Table 3, rel. 15–32; Fig. 4G). Comparative analysis of the communities described by Andreev and our study revealed that most character species of higher syntaxa, differential species of the association and typical subassociation were identical (see Table 3). However, Andreev's relevés largely overlook miniature grasses and lichens (*Carex bicolor*, *Cladonia pocillum*, *Epilobium davuricum*, *Juncus biglumis*, *Luzula nivalis*, *Minuartia rubella*, *Pinguicula alpina*, *Solorina saccata*, *S. spongiosa* ect.) that colonize loamy patches – an integral component of this association's three-layered horizontal structure. However, the association's composition might have differed between past and present due to the communities being at different successional stages. In contrast, herbs (*Astragalus frigidus*, *Cerastium jenisejense*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, *Tephroses integrifolia*, *Veratrum lobelianum*) – atypical of zonal plakor vegetation but persisting on slopes – exhibited constancy III–IV in the communities described by Andreev. Other minor compositional differences are summarized in Table 3. These compositional differences may reflect both methodological variations in vegetation description and divergent objectives of the geobotanical studies. Following dominant classification traditions, Soviet geobotanists of the 1930–1940s prioritized reindeer pasture surveys in their studies of northern vegetation. Unlike our plot-based approach (using 10 × 10 m), these relevés were conducted within natural community boundaries. They typically lacked complete cryptogam identification and included occasional 'alien' species from adjacent slope communities among the vascular plants.

Comparison of the communities *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* subass. typicum from Vangureimusyur Upland with communities of other subassociations described across longitudinal and latitudinal gradients of the East European tundra revealed closest floristic affinity to *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* subass. caricetosum capillaris Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018, primarily due to shared species of miniature flowering plants (*Carex capillaris*, *Pinguicula alpina* and *Tofieldia pusilla*) growing on patches of loam (see Table 3).

Cluster and DCA ordination analyses revealed that the associations *Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis* and *Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis* occupy an intermediate position between zonal subassociations of the ass. *Dryado octopetalae–Hylocomietum splendidis* and the ass. *Astragalus arctici–Trollietum europaea* Lavrinenko, Lavrinenko et Neshataev 2025 of the alliance *Tephroserido integrifoliae–Pachypleurion alpini* (Mulgedio–Aconi-

herence of this association, with syntaxa from disparate Arctic regions grouping at low similarity levels (Fig. 3, clusters 4–6). All described syntaxa unequivocally belong to the alliance *Chamerio angustifolii*–*Matricarion hookeri* (class *Matricario*–*Poetea arcticae*), as evidenced by their characteristic habitats, and the consistent presence of multiple character species for these higher syntaxa.

However, there are more ambiguous cases of assigning associations to higher syntaxa, particularly when a syntaxon occupies a transitional position within the landscape and includes character species of multiple classes. This is exemplified by dwarf shrub-moss communities with herbaceous plants, which develop in transeluvial and transaccumulative landscapes (e.g., hillsides and elevated primary riverbanks). Variation in slope gradient, exposure, substrate type, or drainage conditions directly influence plant community assembly, altering species composition. In ambiguous cases of syntaxon classification between classes (particularly when habitats deviate from typical conditions), we propose evaluating the following key criteria: 1) abundance and dominance of character species diagnostic for a given class; 2) predominant life form defining the vegetation structure and type; 3) topographic position and substrate characteristics (e.g., slope type, soil composition). When applying these criteria to the associations *Hedysaro arctici*–*Hylocomietum splendidis* and *Oxytropido sordidae*–*Hylocomietum splendidis*, it becomes evident that they do not fully align with the diagnostic parameters of any currently recognized tundra vegetation class. The communities occupy gently to moderately steep (2–20°) slopes on river valley terraces, which deviate from the classical ‘plakor’ concept (flat or slightly inclined watershed areas with loamy soils under mesic environmental conditions). Within both associations, there are some species characteristic of the class *Carici rupestris*–*Kobresietea bellardii* Ohba 1974 and the alliance *Kobresio*–*Dryadion* Nordhagen 1943: *Dryas*

octopetala s. l. (also a character species of the class of zonal tundra vegetation), *Oxytropis sordida*, *Pedicularis oederi*, *Salix reticulata*, *Silene acaulis*, moss *Rhytidium rugosum*. However, the dominant life form in the communities of these associations are green mosses and the basis of the ground cover is bryophytes, characteristic of the class *Carici arctisibiricae*–*Hylocomieta alaskani* – *Aulacomnium turgidum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Ptilidium ciliare*, *Tomentypnum nitens*; *Dryas octopetala* s. l. is common in the herb-dwarf shrub layer; *Carex bigelowii* subsp. *arctisibirica* occurs frequent, though not abundantly, and there are quite a few other character species of higher units of zonal vegetation (see Table 2). In the East European tundra the hypoarctic dwarf shrubs *Empetrum hermaphroditum*, *Vaccinium uliginosum* subsp. *microphyllum* и *V. vitis-idaea* subsp. *minus*, consistently present in the communities of both associations, are not character species of the of any one class, but are quite constant and occur with equal abundance in almost all syntaxa of the classes *Oxycocco*–*Sphagnetea* Br.-Bl. et Tx. ex Westhoff et al. 1946, *Loiseleurio procumbentis*–*Vaccinieta* Egger ex Schubert 1960 and *Carici arctisibiricae*–*Hylocomieta alaskani* (Lavrinenko & Lavrinenko 2020). The communities develop on soils with well-formed organic (humus, peaty) layer from 3 to 10 cm thickness, underlain mainly by clay or loam.

The meadow-like communities of the association *Astragalo arctici*–*Trollietum europaeae* on the slopes, described in the previous study (Lavrinenko et al. 2025), differ from those of the associations *Oxytropido sordidae*–*Hylocomietum splendidis* and *Hedysaro arctici*–*Hylocomietum splendidis* by the presence of an almost closed herbaceous layer. This layer includes significant character species of the class *Mulgedio*–*Aconitetea* (e.g., *Achillea millefolium*, *Geranium albiflorum*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Veratrum lobelianum*, *Viola biflora*) and other differentiating grasses, such as *Alopecurus pratensis* subsp. *alpestris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum* subsp. *alpinum*, *Cortusa*

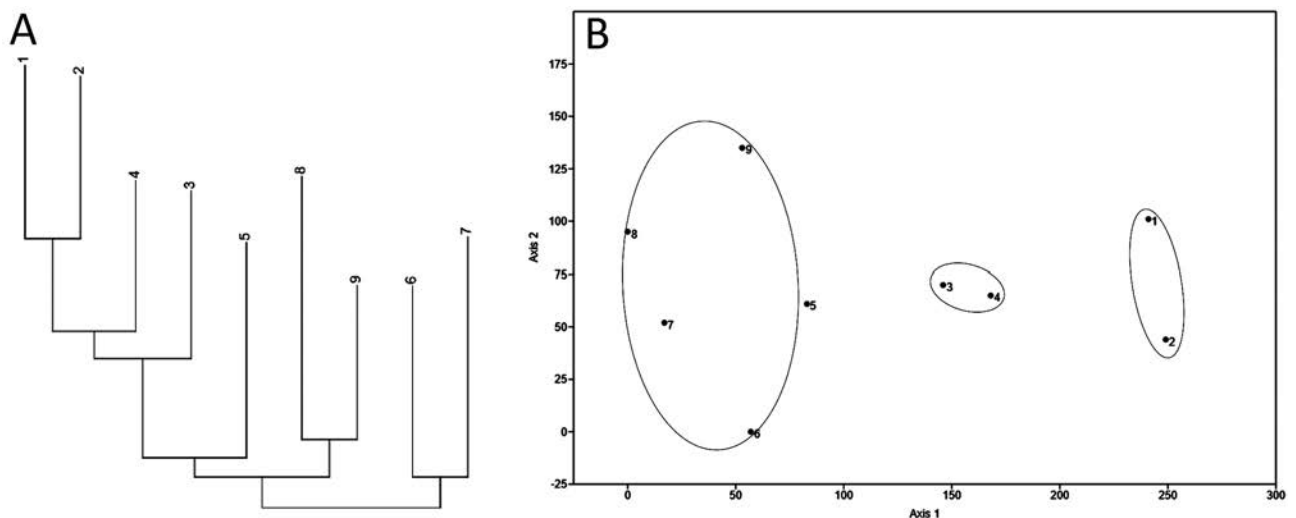


Figure 5 The similarity of syntaxa discussed in the paper, established by the cluster analysis (neighbour joining) (A) and the DCA-ordination (B). 1–2 – meadow-like communities of the ass. *Astragalo arctici*–*Trollietum europaeae*: 1 – subass. *typicum*, 2 – subass. *drabetosum sibiricae*; 3–4 – dwarf-shrub-moss communities with leguminous herbs of the ass. *Hedysaro arctici*–*Hylocomietum splendidis*: 3 – subass. *typicum*, 4 – subass. *inops*; 5 – ass. *Oxytropido sordidae*–*Hylocomietum splendidis*; 6–9 – zonal communities of the ass. *Dryado octopetalae*–*Hylocomieta splendens*: 6 – subass. *typicum*, 7 – subass. *caricetosum capillaris*, 8 – subass. *caricetosum redowskianae*, 9 – subass. *caricetosum arctisibiricae*

matthioli, *Dianthus superbus*, *Hierochloë odorata* subsp. *arctica*, *Pachypleurum alpinum*, *Potentilla crantzii*, *Tanacetum bipinnatum*, *Taraxacum ceratophorum*.

Thus, taking into account the above criteria, at this stage of tundra vegetation study the associations Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis and Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis should be attributed to the class Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani.

Conspectus of the syntaxa

Class

Order

Alliance

Association

Subassociation

Variant

Matricario–Poetea arcticae Ishbirdin in Sumina 2012

Chamerio–Betuletalia nanae Khusainov, Ishbirdin et Nazirova in Sumina 2012

Chamerio angustifolii–Matricarion hookeri Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996

Alopecuro alpestris–Artemisietum tilesii O. Lavrinenko **ass. nov.**

typicum

typica

inops

bartsietosum alpinae O. Lavrinenko **subass. nov.**

typica

Equisetum arvense

Tussilago farfara

Matricario hookeri–Eriophoretum scheuchzeri Ishbirdin, Ishbirdina et Khusainov 1996

typicum

Com. *Tripleurospermum bookeri–Artemisia tilesii*

Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani Matveyeva et Lavrinenko 2023

Caricetalia arctisibirico-lugentis Matveyeva et Lavrinenko 2023

Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomion alaskani Matveyeva et Lavrinenko 2023

Hedysaro arctici–Hylocomietum splendidis Lavrinenko, Lavrinenko et Neshataev **ass. nov.**

typicum

inops Neshataev **subass. nov.**

Oxytropido sordidae–Hylocomietum splendidis Lavrinenko et Lavrinenko 2018

CONCLUSIONS

The class Matricario–Poetea arcticae, previously described for the vegetation of anthropogenically disturbed habitats, is also extends to the communities of naturally disturbed ecotopes of the tundra zone, formed as a result of slope erosion (crumbling and sliding). Communities of syntaxa in the East European tundra consist mainly of herbaceous erosion-tolerant taxa and apophytes characteristic of the alliance Chamerio angustifolii–Matricarion hookeri. Dwarf shrub-moss communities with predominantly leguminous herbs in transitional positions in the landscape are included in the class Carici arctisibiricae–Hylocomietea alaskani. Although their habitats do not quite correspond to plakors, however, they are close to zonal tundra in composition and predominant life forms. Perhaps, as the material accumulates, the syntaxonomic

position of these associations will be revised at the level of alliance and even order.

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