

1 **ARABLE WEED DECLINE IN NORTHEAST SPAIN: DOES ORGANIC FARMING**
2 **RECOVER FUNCTIONAL BIODIVERSITY?**

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9

10 **Abstract**

11 The comparison of the frequency, richness and weed cover of total species and functional
12 groups of weeds, including those of interest for birds, pollinators and other invertebrates, and
13 the subset of segetal and rare species from the 1950s to the present, has allowed to detect the
14 consequences of the agricultural intensification in Catalonia (NE Spain) at regional and field
15 scales. We analysed field plots of conventionally managed cereal fields of the periods 1953-
16 88 and 1996-99 while cereal fields assessed in the period 2005-07 were organic and
17 conventionally managed. Our results indicate a remarkable reduction in weed frequency
18 (58%), species richness (47%) and total weed cover (69%) from the 1953-1988 to 2005-2007
19 periods. The diminishing species richness was observed in species that are important for
20 birds, pollinators and other invertebrates, but the most drastic decline was observed in the
21 segetal and rare species subsets (75% and 87%, respectively). In current organic crops, the
22 frequency, richness and total weed cover per relevé are significantly higher than in
23 conventional crops, especially for those groups of species that are interesting for fauna and for
24 segetal (more than twice) and rare species (4-fold). Nevertheless, the increase in arable weeds
25 by current organic management is still insufficient to recover the highest plant biodiversity
26 values that were observed before the widespread agricultural intensification in Catalonia.

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28 **Keywords:** weed biodiversity, organic farming, functional diversity, segetals, agricultural
29 intensification

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1 **1. Introduction**

2 A decline of species richness and abundance of arable weeds in the last decades in
3 relation to agricultural intensification has occurred at regional and field scales (Andreasen et
4 al., 1996; Hyvönen et al., 2003; Baessler and Klotz, 2006; Meyer et al., 2013; Storkey et al.,
5 2012; Richner et al., 2015). The high application rates of chemical herbicides and fertilisers,
6 use of commercial seeds and the monoculture of species or varieties, or the transformation of
7 marginal arable land into grasslands or forests are the main factors that have reduced weed
8 diversity in arable fields (Robinson and Sutherland, 2002; Roschewith et al., 2005; Hyvönen,
9 2007; José-María and Sans, 2011). Moreover, the accumulative effects of these high-intensive
10 farming practices are the main drivers that have led to the decrease or disappearance of the
11 segetal flora (a subset of the arable weeds that thrive almost exclusively in cereal fields and
12 that are characteristic species of arable crops) in different European countries (Andreasen et
13 al., 1996, Sutcliffe and Kay, 2000; Baessler and Klotz, 2006; Fuchs and Saacke, 2006; Fried et
14 al., 2009; José-María, et al., 2010; Meyer et al., 2013). A meta-study on arable species in
15 Central Europe showed a reduction of species per field of 20% to 50% for the period between
16 1950 and 1990 (Albrecht and Bachthaler, 1990), and recently Richner et al. (2015) remarked
17 that changes in agricultural practices have dramatically altered the arable flora of Europe since
18 the Second World War.

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20 The role of weeds is manifold. From an agronomic point of view, they represent a
21 major problem for farmers because of the yield losses that are associated with their presence.
22 Moreover, the decrease in weed diversity has dramatically affected the associated food web
23 and, in turn, the provision of agronomic ecosystem services such as biological pest control and
24 pollination (Robinson and Sutherland, 2002; Marshall et al., 2003). In addition, arable flora
25 provide food and shelter for a wide variety of farmland fauna. Thus, agricultural intensification
26 may reduce functional weeds such as interesting flora for several groups of fauna, including
27 birds (Campbell and Cooke, 1997; Wilson et al., 1999; Marshall et al., 2001, 2003), pollinators

1 (Biesmeijer et al., 2006; Kremen et al., 2002; Potts et al., 2010; Henriksen and Langer, 2013)
2 and other invertebrates such as phytophagous insects and plant pests (Marshall et al., 2001,
3 2003).

4 Organic farming has been addressed as an environmental-friendly set of practices that
5 can counter the negative effects of agricultural intensification and the decline of biodiversity in
6 agricultural landscapes (Rahmann, 2011). Some comparative studies among organic and
7 conventionally managed systems have shown that weed biodiversity is enhanced in the former
8 (Hole et al., 2005; Roschewitz et al., 2005; Armengot et al., 2012; Gibson et al., 2007; Kleijn
9 et al., 2009). It is also widely acknowledged that less intensive farming practices such as those
10 used in organic farming systems tend to benefit the richness and diversity of segetal flora (van
11 Elsen, 2000; Fuchs and Saacke, 2006; Romero et al., 2008; José-María et al., 2010) as well as
12 the occurrence of rare arable weeds (Romero et al., 2008). Furthermore, the biodiversity of
13 birds and invertebrates (Hyvönen, 2007), particularly insect pollinators (Holzschuh et al., 2007
14 and 2008), have also benefited from organic farming systems.

15 The present paper analyses the weed diversity in dry cereal winter crops in Catalonia
16 (Spain) from 458 floristic phytosociological relevés (field plots) surveyed between 1953 and
17 2007. We have also compared data from organic and conventional cereal field plots that were
18 surveyed during the period 2005-2007 to ascertain to what extent organic farming may recover
19 the current biodiversity decline that is related to agricultural intensification. Changes in the
20 assemblages of weed communities considering segetal and rare species and the functional role
21 of weed species, assessed as the proportion of important weeds for birds, pollinators and
22 phytophagous insects, were also evaluated.

23 We addressed the following questions: 1) Has weed diversity been reduced in cereal
24 crops of Catalonia throughout the last five decades by agricultural intensification, including
25 the segetal and rare flora and the interesting weeds for birds, insect pollinators and other
26 invertebrates? 2) If this weed diversity depletion has occurred, to what extent has organic

1 farming influenced the recovery of plant biodiversity in current cereal crops and especially in
2 segetal and rare species and in the aforementioned weed functional biodiversity groups?

3

4 **2. Material and Methods**

5 *2.1. Data sources and plant surveys*

6 We analysed 458 floristic field plots (Braun-Blanquet method) of non-irrigated cereal crops in
7 central Catalonia (NE Iberian Peninsula) from 1953 to 2007. Most of the field plots (439) were
8 carried out by the authors in different survey periods: 51, 84 and 294 sampled plots in 1983-
9 1988, 1996-1999 and 2005-2007, respectively. In the latest survey 218 and 76 field plots were
10 performed in conventional and in organically managed cereal crops, respectively; differences
11 in the number of samples were related to the lower availability of organic farms in the studied
12 area.

13 As we did not resampled the same field in the following periods to first period (1953-1988) in
14 any case, we understand that this sampling design is resampling of localities or parts of the
15 territory. Some locations were resampled in the posterior periods to 1953-1988 within an area
16 comprising approximately 5 x 5 km, in some cases a 10 x 10 km area depending on the
17 presence of arable land.

18 All of the field plots were carried out from May to June (before crop harvest) primarily in
19 commercial crops of winter barley (*Hordeum vulgare* and *H. distichon*) and winter wheat
20 (*Triticum aestivum*) and in a lower proportion in oats (*Avena sativa*) and rye (*Secale cereale*).

21 In each field we surveyed an area of 20 × 5 m a few meters distant from the field margin to
22 avoid edge effects (Wilson and Aebischer, 1995; Romero et al., 2008). The nomenclature of
23 the plant species follows that of de Bolòs et al. (2005). The lower number of field plots before
24 the 1990s was supplied by gathering published relevés from the Vegetation Data Base in the
25 Biodiversity Data Base of Catalonia (Font, 2011). We selected 29 relevés from a wider subset
26 of cereal fields data that were included in the alliance *Roemerion hybridae* Br.-Bl. ex Rivas
27 Martínez et al., 1999, and whose localities were coincident or near our own field plots (up to

1 10 km) in the later periods. We rejected database field plots for which the surveyed areas were
2 lower than 80-100 m², those different from cereal crops, those dated other than May or June,
3 and those with a percentage of total weed cover that was greater than 40%. We checked
4 samples from the database for details of methods to avoid artifacts (including taxonomical
5 concepts).

6 The study was conducted in a predominantly non-irrigated cereal area in central
7 Catalonia (provinces of Tarragona, Lleida and Barcelona), which covered approximately 120
8 × 100 km extending from 41° 15' to 42° 10' N and from 0° 51' to 2° 2' E (Figure 1). The
9 climate is Mediterranean with mean annual temperatures that range from 12 to 15.2°C and
10 mean annual precipitation that ranges from 400 to 738 mm (Ninyerola et al., 2005). The
11 altitude ranges from 120 to 855 m above sea level (mean \pm ES: 513.2 \pm 9.2 m), and the soils
12 are mainly basic, clayish and loamy.

13 While the data set before 2005 came from conventionally managed cereal fields, the farming
14 management of cereal fields for the 2005-2007 period was assessed by interviewing farmers
15 and by consulting the database of the Organism of the Organic Farming Control in Catalonia
16 (The Catalan Council of Organic Farming Production) (CCPAE, 2005, 2007). All of the
17 organic fields were organically managed since at least 1996 following the European
18 regulations on organic farming (European Union, 2007). The conventional management of the
19 sampled fields in 1996-1999 was recorded during the field samplings based on visual evidence
20 of herbicide use. Nevertheless, in our own field plots from the 1983-1988 period and those
21 from the database (1953-1988), this information was not available. However, the number of
22 organic cereal fields before the 1990s was negligible.

23

24 2.2. Data analysis

25 Before the data analyses, all of the 458 field plots were split into temporal groups
26 according to four scenarios: 1) the first period 1953-88 (80 field plots) prior to agricultural
27 intensification since Ticó (2004) and Faostat (2011) have indicated that in Spain, and

1 especially in Catalonia, the increasing in the use of herbicides and chemical fertilisers occurred
2 in the 1990s, at least 12 years later than other temperate countries; 2) the 1996-99 period (84
3 field plots) during the increase of agricultural intensification; 3) conventional crops in the
4 2005-07 period (218 field plots), representing the current situation and 4) current organic crops
5 in the 2005-07 period (76 field plots).

6 Braun-Blanquet indexes of species cover (r, +, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) were transformed to
7 percentage cover following a ground cover scale with the following intervals: 0-1, 1-5, 5-
8 10, 10-25, 25-50, 50-75 and 75-100%. The mean of each interval was used as the
9 absolute species cover (Baessler and Klotz, 2006). From each relevé we evaluated the
10 species richness as the species number per relevé and the total absolute weed cover as the sum
11 of the absolute cover values of all individual weed species. The mean of the specific cover in
12 each scenario was also calculated.

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14 Additionally, the frequencies of the individual species were calculated for each scenario as the
15 ratio of the number of field plots (fields) where the species was recorded and the total number
16 of field plots in each scenario. To evaluate the species diversity and dominance in the weed
17 community, Shannon-Wiener's and Simpson's diversity indexes (H' and D) and Pielou's
18 evenness index (J') were calculated from relative specific covers in each relevé for every
19 scenario. The H' and D diversity and J' evenness indexes were calculated as $H' = -\sum p_i \ln p_i$, D
20 $= -\sum p_i^2$ and $J' = H'/H'_{max}$, respectively. p_i is the cover of species i in the weed community
21 relative to the total cover of all species. H' is a maximum when all species (S) are represented
22 by the same cover, that is, when there is a perfectly even distribution of abundances ($H'_{max} = \ln$
23 S).

24
25 The analysis of changes of the subset of segetal and rare species was carried out
26 according to Bolòs et al. (2005). Segetal weeds correspond to species that are almost
27 exclusively thriving in dryland cereal fields in Catalonia and that are also characteristic of the

1 phytosociological order *Centaureetalia cyani* Tüxen ex von Rochow 1951 and alliance
2 *Roemerion hybridae* Br.-Bl. ex Rivas Martínez et al., 1999 (Romero et al., 2008), while rare
3 species corresponded to the rare (r), very rare (rr) or extremely rare (rrr) categories of rarity
4 established in Catalonia (Bolòs et al., 2005). In addition, to assess weeds that are interesting
5 to birds we followed the weeds important to farmland bird diet *sensu* Campbell et al. (1997),
6 Wilson et al. (1999) and Marshall et al. (2001, 2003). Likewise, to assess the weeds with a
7 potential ability to support phytophagous insects we followed the list of weeds important to
8 invertebrate diet *sensu* Marshall et al. (2001, 2003). Finally, information on weeds interesting
9 to insect pollinators was extracted from Romero et al. (2008).

10 The frequency of each species at a regional scale among the scenarios was compared
11 using the Pearson-Chi² statistic. Differences in the mean number of species, absolute specific
12 cover and the mean total weed cover per relevé among the four scenarios were carried out by
13 ANOVA-One factor analyses. Equally, the mean number and mean total cover of the segetal
14 and rare species and species interesting for invertebrates, birds and pollinators per relevé
15 among the four scenarios were determined by ANOVA-One factor analyses. Species richness
16 was square root transformed to achieve the homocedasticity of residuals. Data were analysed
17 by a Kruskal-Wallis (K-W) analysis when the variances were not homogeneous by the Levene
18 test. ANOVA, K-W and Chi² analyses were performed using the SPSS statistics package
19 (SPSS, 2009).

20 Because the set of conventional field plots in the 2005-07 period was larger (218) than
21 the other scenarios, we calculate the expected number of species (\pm S.D.) for 80 fields (i.e., a
22 common simple size to all scenarios) in the entire sampling and in each species subset at
23 regional scale by means of the function *speccacum* from R package *Vegan* (Oksanen et al.,
24 2012), using the exact method developed by Ugland et al. (2003). In addition, the average of
25 1000 permutations by Montecarlo analyses by randomly resampling in groups of 80 field plots
26 using *Pop-Tools* 3.2.3 (Hood, 2010) was used to calculate the species richness, total species
27 cover and the mean specific cover at field scale (Baessler and Klotz, 2006).

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3. Results

3.1. Overview

The total weed taxa recorded in all field plots was 346, belonging to 186 genera and 42 families. Seventy five percent of the weeds (260 species in 145 genera) were sampled in the 1953-88 period, while only 176 and 165 species were recorded in the 1996-99 and 2005-07 periods, respectively. In the latter period, 117 species were identified in organic fields and 102 in conventional fields after the data rarefaction (Table 1). The average of weed species richness per relevé decreased significantly from 1953-1988 (22.4 species) to 2005-2007. However, the species richness was significantly greater in the organic cereal fields (14.6 species) compared to the conventional fields (9.1 species) from 2005-2007 (Table 2). The average of the total weed cover per relevé was also significantly higher in 1953-88 than in the last two periods. From 2005-07, the total weed cover in the organic fields was higher than in the conventional fields (Table 2). Thus, the mean of the weed species number per relevé was reduced by 28% and 47% from the 1953-88 period to the 1996-99 and 2005-07 periods, respectively, and the mean total cover diminished by 52% and 69% from the 1953-88 period to the 1996-99 and 2005-07 periods, respectively.

The mean values of Shannon's diversity index (H) and Pielou's evenness (J) per relevé were significantly higher in the 1953-88 period and decreased over time. The Shannon's diversity index was higher in the organic crops than in the conventional crops in 2005-07 (all ANOVA and K-W analyses with a significance of $p < 0.001$), but the evenness was not. The mean of the Simpson's dominance index (D) values were generally low in all of the periods, and it was higher in 1953-88 and 1996-99 than in 2005-07 (Table 2).

3.2. Segetal and rare species

1 The proportion of segetal and rare species (hereafter abbreviated as S and R
2 respectively) decreased over time at the regional scale. A total of 81 segetal and 114 rare
3 species were recorded in all of the surveys, and most of those species (90% of S and 79% of R
4 species) were observed in the 1953-88 period, in contrast to only 21.6% and 10.3% of the S
5 and R species, respectively, in the conventional crops in 2005-07 (Table 1).

6 At the field scale the mean (\pm SE) number of S species per relevé diminished significantly
7 from 6.5 ± 0.3 species in the 1953-88 period to 0.9 ± 0.1 species per relevé in the
8 conventional 2005-07 crops (Figure 2A). Additionally, the number of R species per relevé
9 diminished significantly from 4.3 ± 0.2 in 1953-88 to 0.2 ± 0.04 species in the conventional
10 crops from the 2005-07 period. In contrast, organic crops had significantly greater S ($2.3 \pm$
11 0.0) and R species richness (1.0 ± 0.1) than those for conventional crops (Figure 2A). The
12 abundance (mean total cover) of the S and R species declined in a similar pattern in all of the
13 scenarios (Figure 2A). All of the ANOVA and K-W analyses were significant with $p \leq 0.001$
14 in each comparison.

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16 3.3. Weed frequency

17 The weed frequency, which was assessed as the proportion of field plots (fields) where
18 each species was present in each scenario, ranged from 1% to 91%. Generally, the average of
19 the weed frequency was significantly higher in organic (12.5%) than in conventional crops
20 (6.1%) for the 2005-2007 period, while values in the earliest periods were intermediate (9%
21 and 8.5% in 1996-99 and 1953-1988, respectively, $F=7.05$; 3 d.f.; $p<0.001$). Only 5 species
22 were present in more than the 50% of the field plots in 1953-88, 1990-96 and conventional
23 crops in 2005-07, respectively, and 7 species in organic crops in the 2005-07 period (see
24 details in the Appendix). *Lolium rigidum*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Papaver rhoeas* and
25 *Polygonum aviculare* were the most frequent species from the 1950s to the 2005-07 period in
26 Catalonia. *Cirsium arvense* was very frequent in the 1953-88 period and in the current (2005-
27 07) organic crops. In this scenario *Chenopodium album* was also very frequent In contrast,

1 *Avena sterilis* began to be very frequent from the 1990s to currently (Appendix). Contrary to
2 these highly frequent species, the majority of the species had a very low frequent in each
3 scenario, with a presence of less than the 5% of the field plots (4 fields) that accounted for up
4 to 74% of the species in the 2005-07 conventional crops, 66% and 63% in the 1953-88 and
5 1996-99 periods, respectively, and up to 52% of the species in the 2005-07 organic crops (χ^2
6 =16.02; 3 d.f.; p=0.001).

7 On average, most of the species (78%) decreased in frequency from 1953-88 to 2005-
8 07; in contrast, 4.8% maintained their frequency, and 17% increased in frequency. From those
9 groups, up to 19 species significantly increased their frequency in the conventional 2005-07
10 crops, including *A. sterilis*, *B. diandrus*, *B. sterilis*, *Galium aparine*, *L. rigidum* and
11 *Polygonum convolvulus*. In contrast, up to 35 species significantly increased their frequency
12 in organic crops: *A. sterilis*, *L. rigidum*, and *P. convolvulus* but also *C. album*, *C. vulvaria*, *P.*
13 *aviculare*, *Medicago sativa*, segetals *Anchusa italica* and *Centaurea cyanus* and rare species
14 *Matricaria recutita*, *Kochia scoparia*, and *Asperugo procumbens*.

15 Overall, the segetal species were significantly more frequent in 1953-88 and in organic
16 crops in 2005-07 (9.4% and 9.1% of the surveyed fields; i.e. 7.5 and 7.3 fields, respectively)
17 than in the 1996-99 period and 2005-07 conventional crops (6.1% and 3.5%; i.e. 4.8 and 2.8
18 fields, respectively; F=3.28; 3 d.f.; p=0.022). The mean frequency of rare species fields was
19 significantly higher in 1953-88 (5.1%), organic crops in 2005-07 (4.8% of the fields) and
20 1996-99 (3.7%) than in current conventional fields (1.1% of the rare species; F=5.15; 3 d.f.;
21 p=0.002).

22 Some S species such as *Lithospermum arvense*, *Hypocoum procumbens*, *Coronilla*
23 *scorpioides* and *Lathyrus cicera* and some SR species such as *Papaver hybridum* and
24 *Roemeria hybrida* were relatively frequent in the 1953-88 period but diminished considerably
25 over time. As many as 113 species (42% of the total weeds in the 1953-88 period) were no
26 longer detected in the latest surveyed periods. Most of the species that had disappeared were
27 segetals (as many as 35 species) or rare species (as many as 52 species) are considered to be

1 very rare (such as *F. vallantii*, *Papaver dubium*, and *Vaccaria hispanica*) or extremely rare
2 (such as *Torilis leptophylla*) in Catalonia, following de Bolòs et al. (2005).

3 In contrast, 6 and 11 species exclusively appeared in organic crops and in organic and
4 field plots from the 1950-1980 period, respectively; most of those species were S or R weeds:
5 *Anchusa italica*, *Astragalus sesameus*, *Bifora testiculata*, *Neslia paniculata* subsp. *Thracica*
6 and *Ranunculus arvensis* (see the Appendix).

7

8 3.4. Specific cover

9 The specific cover, assessed as the absolute abundance of each species in the relevé,
10 from 1950s to the current crops by 80% and by 69% in the conventional and organic 2005-07
11 crops, respectively. The mean specific weed cover was significantly higher (almost twice) in
12 field plots from 1953-88 (0.25%), 1996-99 (0.21%) and organic 2005-07 crops (0.19%) than
13 in conventional 2005-07 crops (0.10%) ($F=8.2$; 3 d.f.; $p<0.001$). However, only as many as 27
14 several species, including S *Coronilla scorpioides*, *Erucastrum nasturtiifolium*, *Lathyrus*
15 *aphaca*, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Scandix pecten-veneris* and *Vicia peregrina*, R species
16 *Alyssum simplex* and *Vicia hybrida*, and SR *Papaver hybridum* and *Rapistrum rugosum* had
17 significantly higher specific covers in the 1950s-1980s than in the other periods. In contrast,
18 only *Calendula arvensis* and *Bromus diandrus* significantly increased in abundance in the
19 2005-07 organic and conventional crops, respectively (see the Appendix).

20

21 3.5. Functional diversity: species interesting to birds, pollinators and other invertebrates,

22 Analyses at the regional scale revealed a general reduction over time in grasses and all
23 families of dicotyledonous, including those families and species that are interesting to fauna
24 (Table 1). At the field scale, the mean number of important weeds for birds, pollinators and
25 other invertebrates significantly diminished by 60%, 69% and 52%, respectively, and in mean
26 total abundances (77%, 86% and 85%, respectively) from the 1953-88 period to the 2005-07
27 period in conventional crops (Figure 2B). The proportion of dicotyledonous was significantly

1 higher in the 1953-88 period (90.2%) and in the 2005-07 organic crops (83.6%) than in 1996-
2 99 (44.1%) and conventional 2005-07 field plots (66.1%). Most of the dicotyledonous
3 abundant families such as *Brassicaceae* and *Caryophyllaceae* (very important families for
4 birds), *Fabaceae* (important for birds) and also *Papaveraceae*, *Rubiaceae* and *Primulaceae*
5 were better represented in the number of species and total weed cover per relevé in the 1953-
6 88 period than in the other scenarios (Figure 3). In contrast, the richness and abundance per
7 relevé in *Chenopodiaceae* and *Polygonaceae* (very important families for birds), *Lamiaceae*
8 and *Asteraceae* (important for birds) and also *Ranunculaceae* were significantly higher in
9 organic crops than in the other scenarios, whereas *Euphorbiaceae*, *Boraginaceae*,
10 *Umbeliferae*, and *Convolvulaceae* had higher richnesses and abundances in both the current
11 organic and the 1953-88 field plots (Figure 3). Conversely, the proportion of the number of
12 grasses (very important for birds) per relevé was significantly higher in conventional crops
13 (31.3%) and in field plots from 1996-99 (27.7%) than in organic 2005-07 crops (16.3%) and
14 those higher in field plots from the 1953-88 period (4.1%).

15 Organic crops in 2005-07 had a higher mean richness and abundance per relevé of
16 interesting weeds for the mentioned taxa than those in conventional crops (Figure 2B). Thus,
17 the organic field plots of 2005-07 had the highest proportions of important species for these
18 groups; i.e. 90.1% and 68% of the species were important and very important species for
19 birds, respectively, and 34% and 21% of the species were important and very important
20 species for phytophagous insects, respectively. Nevertheless the highest proportion of
21 important species for pollinators (86%) was observed in the 1950-88 period. All of the
22 ANOVA analyses were significant with $p \leq 0.001$ in each comparison.

23

24 **4. Discussion**

25

26 The comparison of the weed communities in Catalonia (NE Iberian Peninsula) from
27 the 1950s to the present reflects the reduction of the weed flora, especially for segetal and rare
28 arable weeds that thrive almost exclusively in arable habitats, and the decline in the

1 abundance of functional groups including those that are important for birds, pollinators and
2 other invertebrates.

3 At the regional scale, 160 species belonging to 58 genera and 11 families contributed
4 to the decline of weed species richness in the past five decades. This depletion in weed
5 biodiversity has notably affected the subset of segetal and rare species, which have
6 contributed 76% and 87% of the losses, respectively. Moreover, the reduction in
7 dicotyledonous is associated with the severe decline of species that are important for birds,
8 pollinators and other invertebrates (56%, 75% and 50%, respectively).

9 At the field scale, the reduction in weed richness and abundance (59% and 76%, respectively)
10 from the 1950s-1980s to current conventional crops was higher than the tendencies observed in
11 Germany by Baessler and Kotz (2006) and those observed in France by Fried et al. (2009), but
12 not as the severe reduction reported by Meyer et al., (2013) in Central Germany (a mean
13 richness loss of 65%). The dramatic decline of weed biodiversity in Catalonia has been probably
14 related with the sharp rise in the use of herbicides and chemical fertilisers occurred in the 1990s
15 in Spain, that was at least 12 years later than other temperate countries as a result of the joining
16 the European Union (Ticó, 2004).

17 The significant differences in diversity indexes also reflect changes in the weed
18 community structure among the periods (contrary to results of Cirujeda et al., 2011). The
19 decrease of Shannon-Wiener's diversity index (H') over time is related to the strong decline
20 of species richness and, to a lesser extent, to the increase of the inequality in the relative
21 abundances of species. The increase in the dominance of a few species in contemporary cereal
22 crops compared to the oldest ones is also supported by the increasing pattern of Simpson's
23 index values. *L. rigidum*, *P. rhoeas*, *C. arvensis* and *P. aviculare* have been the most frequent
24 and abundant weeds from the 1950s-1980s to the current time in conventional crops. They
25 have also been recorded as some of the most noxious species in other survey studies in
26 Catalonia (Recasens et al., 1996; Romero et al., 2008) and the first two weeds are considered
27 to be the two worst weeds in the nearby Spanish region of Aragón (Cirujeda et al., 2011). In

1 contrast, *B. diandrus* and *A. sterilis* have become noxious weeds from the 1990s to the current
2 conventional crops. We have observed that the practice of monoculture is widely used in in
3 conventional fields in Catalonia. The higher abundance of grasses in conventional fields in
4 relation to organic fields could be explained both by the herbicide resistance of grasses due to
5 the repetitive herbicide applications and the shorter (or lack of) rotation system (Meyer et al.
6 2013).

7

8 *4.1. Segetal and rare species*

9 As was hypothesized, the decline in weeds significantly affected the subset of segetal
10 and rare species. The number, frequency and abundance of the segetal species of cereal crops
11 in Catalonia has diminished over time. The S and R groups have experienced a very drastic
12 reduction in biodiversity for the number of species at the regional scale (76% and 87%,
13 respectively, from the 1953-88 period to the conventional field plots of 2005-07); therefore,
14 their rarity has increased over time. For example, *A. githago* or *V. hispanica* were considered
15 to be noxious weeds in Spain in the 1980s (Kuc et al., 2003) and have been considerably
16 reduced or have even disappeared from recent cereal crops in central Catalonia. In central and
17 northwest Europe, a large number of segetal species have become extinct, are threatened or
18 have become rare due to the impact of crop management and land use (Storkey et al., 2012).
19 The effects of herbicides and monoculture and the competitiveness of crop species soils
20 highly fertilised by synthetic nitrogen inputs may have led to poor growth conditions for those
21 species. The lack of vigour in some segetal species compare to more nitrophilous and
22 competitive weeds in fertilised environments consequently may reduce the taxa survival and
23 fecundities, which could decrease their preservation in soil seed banks (Baessler and Klotz,
24 2006). Fortunately, the situation in organic fields is less dramatic for segetals (Fuchs and
25 Saacke, 2006). Generally, current organic farming practices may allow a relatively large
26 number of segetal or rare weeds, which was the case prior to agricultural intensification
27 (Hyvönen, 2007).

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4.2. Functional diversity: species interesting to birds and pollinators and other invertebrates

Our data confirm the reduction in the richness and abundance of important weeds for birds, pollinators and other invertebrates at the field and the regional scales (for instance, a reduction in weed species richness of 56%, 75% and 50%, respectively) from the 1950s to recent conventional crops. The four most abundant families, *Poaceae*, *Papaveraceae*, *Asteraceae* and *Polygonaceae*, which account for 62% of the total weeds on average per scenario, constitute a pool of very important species for birds. Even the 12 most abundant families in each scenario, which account for an average of 87% of the total weed cover, belong to very important families for birds (with the exception of *Convolvulaceae* and *Fumariaceae*). The dramatic loss of weed biodiversity in recent decades has altered the provision of important ecosystem services (e.g., provision of food and shelter for birds, pollinators and other invertebrates such as phytophagous insects) that adversely affect negatively the persistence of the populations of these taxa (Wilson et al., 1999; Marshall et al. 2001, 2003; Fried et al., 2009).

4.3. Organic farming

Organic farming in the Mediterranean study area generally displays lower levels of land use intensity than conventional farming and has been characterized by rotation practices and a lack of herbicide use for a considerable number of years. Our results support findings that organic management allowed a recovery in the number, abundance and frequency of species. The significant increase in the mean species frequency in organic crops can be explained primarily by the rotation practices in organic farming (Rotchés-Ribalta et al., 2014) but also by the utilisation of own seeds or seeds from other organic farmers to set sown (José-María et al., 2010). The translocation of weeds among fields and territories yearly from seeds

1 from the previous year has the potential to increase the frequency, number and abundance of
2 weeds in organic arable fields (Kuc et al., 2003; Chamorro et al., 2012).

3 Several dicot families have increased richness and abundance in organic crops in
4 contrast to conventional crops, including important weeds for birds such as *Fabaceae*,
5 *Asteraceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Polygonaceae* and *Ranunculaceae* (Campbell and Cooke, 1997;
6 Wilson et al., 1999; Marshall et al., 2001, 2003; Holland et al., 2006). Despite conventional
7 crops displayed a greater abundance of grasses (52%) than that for organic crops, it was
8 insufficient to elevate richness or abundance of the important species for birds. Organic
9 management in current arable crops has enhanced weed richness for species interesting for
10 birds, pollinators and other invertebrates by a factor of 1.7, 1.6 and 1.8, respectively, and in
11 the weed abundance by a factor of 1.6, 2.4 and 3.6, respectively, over conventional crops.
12 Nevertheless, organic farming in Catalonia has not entirely recovered the decline in weeds
13 caused by agriculture intensification from the 1950s-1980s, although their friendly
14 environmental practices have aided a restoration of the flora that have disappeared in most of
15 the current arable fields, which is also the case in some temperate regions of Europe
16 (Hyvönen, 2007).

17 We suggest adopting adequate field managements with well-friendly practices which
18 enhance the conservation of segetal and rare species as are referred in Rotchés-Ribalta et al.,
19 (2014) since the transition to organic farming is not accepted by the most of the farmers
20 nowadays. We can also propose other strategies of species conservation such as the field bands
21 next to margins avoiding the use of chemical fertilization and herbicides at the first few meters
22 (edges) next to the field boundaries (José-María, et al., 2012), although farmers should be
23 funded for this proposals. Finally, different implied actors (farmers, governmental
24 organisations, scientists and land managers) should discuss about the establishment of special
25 protected fields or territories of high biodiversity of arable weeds and fauna in extensive cereal
26 landscapes in Catalonia, as was presented by Meyer et al. (2010) in Germany.

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2 **5. Conclusions**

3 Weed biodiversity in dry cereal lands in Catalonia (NE Iberian Peninsula) has
4 decreased in the past five decades. The frequency and abundance of groups of weeds that are
5 functionally important for birds, pollinators and other invertebrates and the subsets of segetal
6 flora, rare arable species and dicots in general have also decreased, whereas the frequency and
7 abundance of grasses have increased. This work also confirms the benefits of organic farming
8 on biodiversity, in terms of the maintenance and restoration of the local floristic richness and
9 abundance in cereal fields, including segetal and rare species, in relation to conventional
10 crops. Organic management also changed the weed community structure and, in consequence,
11 the function of the agroecosystem because organic crops can sustain a higher biodiversity of
12 species and families that are interesting for birds, pollinators and other invertebrates, which
13 may boost the recovery of such fauna in arable Mediterranean landscapes.

14

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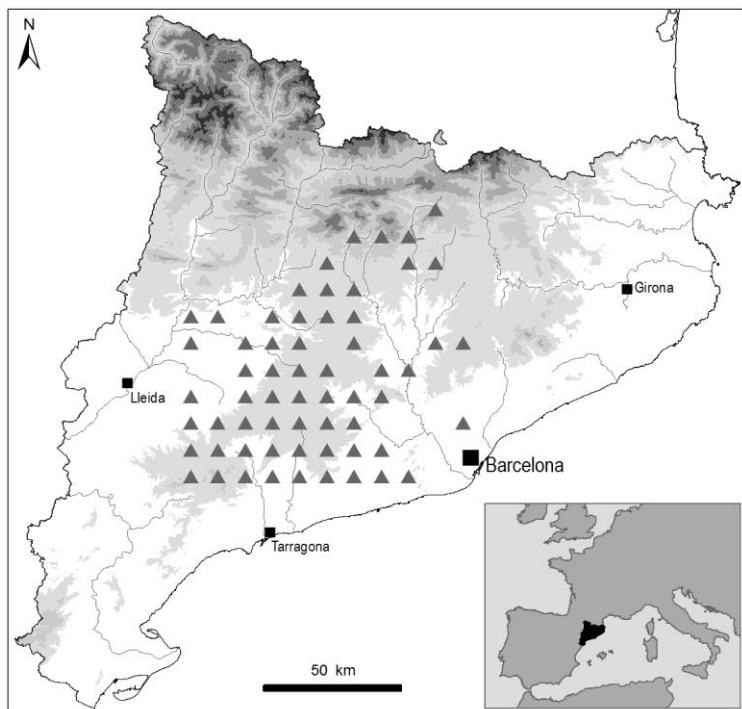
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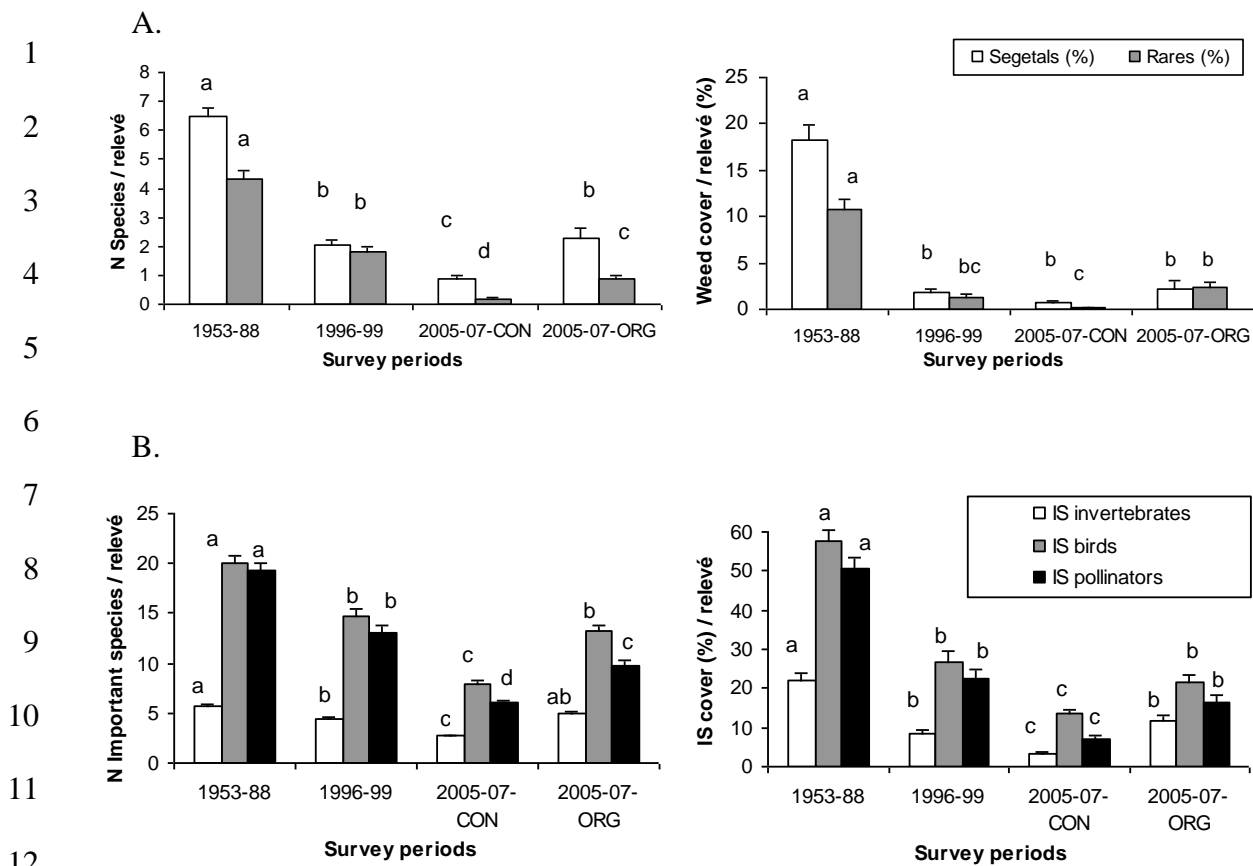
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2 Figure 1. The surveyed area in central Catalonia (NE Iberian Peninsula) in the 1953-88, 1996-
3 99 and 2005-07 periods. Symbols indicate the 10×10 km UTM grid areas in which field
4 plots were performed.

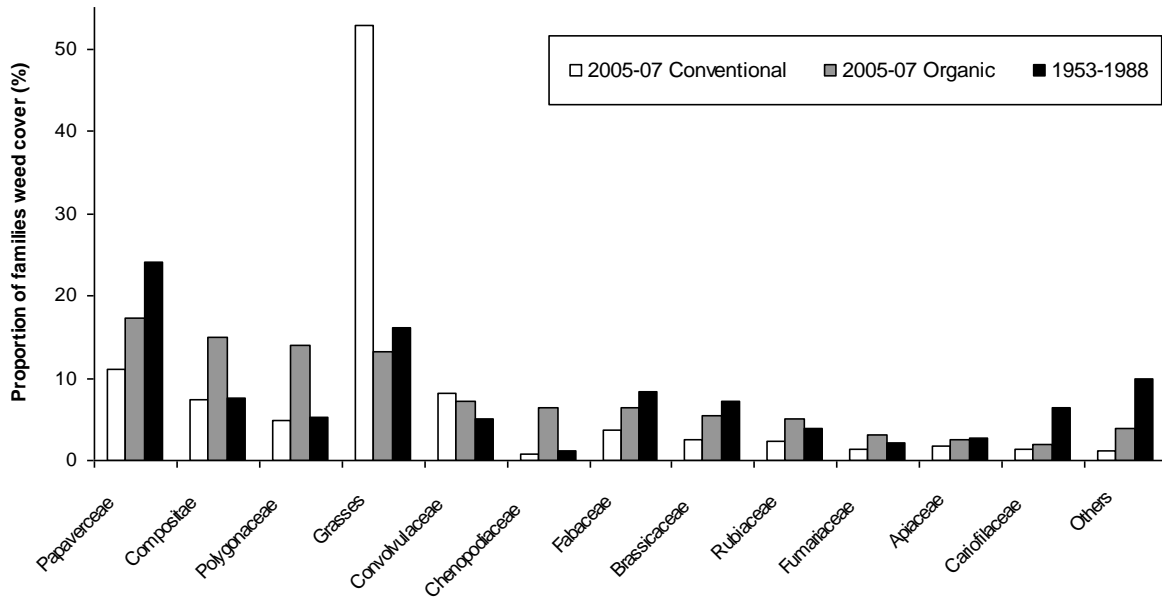
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13 Figure 2. Mean (\pm SE) number of species per field plot (relevé) (left) and mean of total weed
 14 cover (%) per field plot (right) of segetal and rare species (A) and important species (IS) for
 15 birds, pollinators and other invertebrates (B) in cereal crops from different surveyed periods
 16 in Catalonia, Spain. CON and ORG indicate conventional and organic management,
 17 respectively. For each item, bars with different letters indicate significant differences among
 18 survey periods by a Tukey test ($p < 0.001$).

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2 Figure 3. Relative importance of the 12 most abundant families, assessed as the total
 3 percentage cover of species belonging to each, in cereal fields of central Catalonia (NE
 4 Iberian Peninsula) during the different study periods.

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1 Table 1. Total species and species number in each subset of weeds in three different periods
 2 or managements (conventional and organic) from 458 field plots in dry cereal crops in Central
 3 Catalonia.

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Period	1953-1988	1996-1999	2005-2007		2005-2007
Management				Conventional	Organic
N field plots	80	84	80	218	76
				rarefacted data*	sampled data
Total species	260	176	102.1 ± 6.2	(144)	117
N Families/Genera	34/145	33/113	23/87	(31/96)	25/99
Segetals †	75 (28%)	36 (14%)	17.5 ± 1.9 (17.1%)	(27) (16%)	26 (23%)
Rare species †	90 (34%)	45 (13%)	11.7 ± 2.4 (1.1%)	(26) (11%)	26 (20%)
Birds (i)	206	165	91.2 ± 5.6	(125)	106
Birds (ii)	169	116	63.8 ± 4.0	(89)	77
Pollinators (i)	202	140	79.1 ± 4.9	(107)	91
Other invertebrates (i)	35	22	17.4 ± 1.1	(20)	15
Other invertebrates (ii)	11	8	7.3 ± 0.5	(8)	7
Dicots	220	154	89.9 ± 1.4	(126)	102
Grasses	35	17	12.2 ± 1.5	(17)	14

5 *Rarefacted data: mean ± SD. † Segetals correspond to characteristic species of *Centaureetalia cyani* order and
 6 *Roemerion hybridae* alliance; rare species follow the classification of rare, very rare and extremely rare species in
 7 the Catalan Countries (de Bolòs et al., 2005); (i) and (ii) indicate important and very important species for
 8 pollinators (Romero et al., 2008) and other invertebrates and birds, respectively (following Marshall et al., 2001,
 9 2003 and Wilson et al., 1999).

10

Table 2. Mean (\pm SE.) species richness and total species cover and Shannon-Wiener's diversity index (H), Pielou's evenness index (J) and Simpson's dominance index (D) for three different periods and managements (conventional and organic) from 458 field plots in dry cereal crops in central Catalonia.

Period	1953-1988	1996-1999	2005-2007	
Management			Conventional	Organic
Species richness	22.38 \pm 0.81 (8-40) a	16.2 \pm 0.70 (1-34) b	9.1 \pm 0.33 (0-25) c	14.6 \pm 0.61 (5-30) b
Total species cover	62.1 \pm 3.18 (16.6-138.7) a	29.7 \pm 2.89 (0.3-133.1) b	14.8 \pm 2.22 (0.1-110.3) b	23.4 \pm 1.33 (0.7-89.7) bc
Shannon-Wiener (H')	3.05 \pm 0.06 a	2.47 \pm 0.08 b	1.70 \pm 0.05 d	1.97 \pm 0.07 c
Evenness (J)	0.69 \pm 0.01 a	0.65 \pm 0.01 ab	0.60 \pm 0.01 bc	0.52 \pm 0.02 c
Simpson (D)	0.19 \pm 0.01 b	0.26 \pm 0.014 b	0.39 \pm 0.001 a	0.39 \pm 0.02 a

Different letters among the periods and managements indicate significant differences by a Tukey test (all ANOVA analyses with a significance of $p < 0.001$). The minimum and maximum values are indicated in the parentheses.

Appendix

Weed frequency (number of fields) and mean weed cover (%) from field plots in central Catalonia in different survey periods (1953-88, 1996-99 and 2005-07) and managements (organic (Org) and conventional (Con)). Species are ordered in four blocks: 1) species appearing in the 1953-88 to 2005-07 surveys, 2) species that were only present in the 1953-88 period, 3) species that were not present in the 2005-07 surveys and 4) species that were not present in the 1953-88 period.

SR indicate if species are segetal (S), segetal-rare (SR), rare (R) or nor segetal nor rare (O). IBP= species important for invertebrates (I), birds (B) and pollinators (P) or not interesting for these fauna (0). D indicates that the frequency or weed cover decreased, increased (I) or maintain equal (E), respectively, in conventional (C) and organic (O) 2005-07 crops with respect to 1953-88 crops (or with respect to 1996-99 crops if there were no data in the 1953-88 period) and in organic (Or) with respect to conventional crops in the 2005-07 survey. The χ^2 values from the frequency analyses and the Anova p-values from the cover (%) analyses are also indicated with their significance (Sig) denoted as ns (not significant) and *, ** and *** if it is < 0.1, < 0.01, and < 0.001, respectively). The nomenclature follows Boldòs et al. (2005).

SR	IBP	Species	Frequency (N fields)					χ^2	Sig	C	O	Or	Cover (%)				p	Sig	C	O	Or
			1953-88	1996-99	2005-07 C	2005-07 O							1953-88	1996-99	2005-07 C	2005-07 O					
SR	0	<i>Adonis flammea</i>	2	1	1	3	0.159	ns	D	I	I	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.23	0.36	ns	D	D	I	
		<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	7	0	1	0	0.000	***	D	D	D	13.4		18		0.585	ns	I	D	D	
0	BP	<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	9	2	3	3	0.001	**	D	D	I	2.94	0.1	0.1	0.23	0.672	ns	D	D	I	
R	BP	<i>Alyssum simplex</i>	5	2	2	0	0.015	*	D	D	D	0.42	0.1	0.1		0.047	*	D	D	D	
0	BP	<i>Anacyclus clavatus</i>	25	40	40	21	0.000	***	D	D	I	2.1	1.61	2.24	3.38	0.491	ns	I	I	I	
0	IBP	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	34	31	17	2	0.000	***	D	D	D	1.13	0.93	0.19	0.1	0.154	ns	D	D	D	
S	BP	<i>Anchusa italica</i>	1	0	0	3	0.004	**	D	I	I	0.5			0.1	_	_	D	D	I	
0	BP	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	17	1	0	2	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.15	0.5		0.1	0.624	ns	D	D	I	
SR	P	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	3	0	0	1	0.015	*	D	D	I	1.87			0.1	0.631	ns	D	D	I	
R	BP	<i>Astragalus sesameus</i>	2	0	0	1	0.083	ns	D	D	I	0.5			0.1	_	_	D	D	I	
0	B	<i>Atriplex patula</i>	15	20	21	26	0.000	***	D	I	I	1.37	0.61	0.18	0.32	0.01	*	D	D	I	
S	B	<i>Avena sativa</i>	4	0	2	1	0.041	*	D	D	I	0.5		0.1	0.1	_	_	D	D	E	

0	B	<i>Avena sterilis</i>	22	56	156	47	0.000	***	I	I	D	2.87	3.5	2.57	0.94	0.177	ns	D	D	D
SR	BP	<i>Bifora testiculata</i>	1	0	0	1	0.273	ns	D	I	I	0.5			0.5	_	_	D	E	I
0	B	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	7	16	83	20	0.000	***	I	I	D	1.09	8.11	2.3	0.2	0.002	**	I	D	D
0	B	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	3	1	5	0	0.357	ns	D	D	D	0.37	0.5	0.1		0.037	*	D	D	D
0	B	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	7	17	15	7	0.006	***	D	I	I	1.09	1.82	0.15	0.1	0.322	ns	D	D	D
0	B	<i>Bromus rubens</i>	4	0	1	1	0.013	*	D	D	I	0.3		0.1	0.1	0.65	ns	D	D	E
0	B	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	2	1	41	12	0.000	***	I	I	D	0.3	0.5	0.71	0.2	0.937	ns	I	D	D
0	BP	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	21	15	7	4	0.000	***	D	D	I	0.44	0.26	0.16	1.33	0.036	*	D	I	I
0	IBP	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	6	4	16	29	0.000	***	D	I	I	0.37	0.3	0.23	0.52	0.779	ns	D	I	I
0	BP	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	2	4	2	0	0.074	ns	D	D	D	0.1	0.2	0.1		0.68	ns	E	D	D
S	BP	<i>Caucalis platycarpos</i>	21	6	12	11	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.09	0.43	0.13	3.5	0.465	ns	D	I	I
0	BP	<i>Centaurea aspera</i>	5	5	5	6	0.146	ns	D	I	I	0.42	0.1	0.1	0.17	0.002	**	D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Centaurea collina</i>	4	3	1	0	0.018	*	D	D	D	2.75	1.87	0.5		0.744	ns	D	D	D
SR	BP	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	3	0	1	3	0.036	*	D	I	I	2		0.5	0.23	0.534	ns	D	D	D
0	BP	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	20	18	10	12	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.59	1.29	0.18	1.99	0.633	ns	D	I	I
R	BP	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	1	2	5	1	0.902	ns	I	I	D	0.5	0.3	0.26	0.5	0.691	ns	D	E	I
0	BP	<i>Cerastium pumilum</i>	4	0	1	0	0.003	**	D	D	D	1.63		0.1		0.587	ns	D	D	D
0	IB	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	10	29	25	54	0.000	***	D	I	I	1.85	2.16	0.36	0.71	0.036	*	D	D	I
0	IB	<i>Chenopodium vulvaria</i>	9	22	28	27	0.000	***	I	I	I	1.46	4.09	0.36	0.96	0.045	*	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	10	19	21	17	0.006	**	D	I	I	1.36	0.39	1.22	0.46	0.572	ns	D	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	40	34	53	38	0.000	***	D	E	I	3.88	1.53	1.06	2.68	0.011	**	D	D	I
0	P	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	63	76	141	60	0.000	***	D	I	I	3.93	3.02	1.87	2.13	0.018	**	D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	35	12	11	11	0.000	***	D	D	I	3.89	3.17	1.1	0.1	0.064	qs	D	D	D
R	BP	<i>Crepis pulchra</i>	1	0	2	2	0.444	ns	D	I	I	0.1		0.1	0.1	_	_	E	E	E
0	B	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	3	6	4	1	0.081	ns	D	D	D	0.5	0.3	1.43	0.1	0.588	ns	I	D	D
0	BP	<i>Daucus carota</i>	5	3	1	0	0.005	**	D	D	D	1.24	0.1	0.1		0.637	ns	D	D	D
SR	P	<i>Delphinium pubescens</i>	2	1	0	1	0.201	ns	D	D	I	0.5	0.5		0.1	_	_	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Diplotaxis eruroides</i>	34	14	37	17	0.000	***	D	D	I	0.98	0.54	0.79	2.08	0.357	ns	D	I	I
0	BP	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	1	0	2	2	0.444	ns	D	I	I	0.5		0.1	0.1	_	_	D	D	E
0	BP	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	3	0	0	1	0.001	**	D	D	I	0.37			0.1	0.423	ns	D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Erucastrum nasturtiifolium</i>	20	16	13	10	0.000	***	D	D	I	4.03	1.41	0.57	0.63	0.043	*	D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Euphorbia falcata</i>	12	10	5	3	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.59	0.26	0.1	0.1	0.071	ns	D	D	E
0	BP	<i>Euphorbia serrata</i>	29	40	47	19	0.000	***	D	D	I	0.76	0.38	0.48	0.44	0.539	ns	D	D	D
0	BP	<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	25	29	30	8	0.000	***	D	D	D	0.8	1	1.02	0.1	0.762	ns	I	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	37	36	66	35	0.013	*	D	D	I	2.31	0.97	0.66	1.52	0.011	*	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	17	13	0	5	0.000	***	D	D	I	0.5	0.72		0.18	0.428	ns	D	D	I
0	IBP	<i>Galium aparine</i>	7	2	38	17	0.000	***	I	I	I	1.14	9	1.37	3.29	0.138	ns	I	I	I
0	IBP	<i>Galium parisiense</i>	1	1	22	1	0.001	**	I	I	D	0.5	0.5	0.36	0.5	0.997	ns	D	E	I
S	IBP	<i>Galium tricornerutum</i>	32	9	13	17	0.000	***	D	D	I	2.14	0.32	1.26	2.04	0.473	ns	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	1	0	2	1	0.79	ns	D	I	I	0.1		0.1	0.1	_	_	E	E	E
S	P	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	3	7	3	0	0.004	**	D	D	D	2	0.33	0.1		0.125	ns	D	D	D
R	BP	<i>Herniaria hirsuta</i>	32	14	20	3	0.000	***	D	D	D	2.72	0.74	2.08	0.23	0.367	ns	D	D	D
0	B	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	2	2	16	7	0.119	ns	I	I	I	0.5	0.3	0.15	1.5	0.143	ns	D	I	I
0	B	<i>subsp. leporinum</i>																		
0	B	<i>Hypecoum procumbens</i>																		
S	BP	<i>subsp. grandiflorum</i>	30	10	14	8	0.000	***	D	D	I	6.75	2.04	3.06	0.71	0.108	ns	D	D	D
0	P	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	1	0	3	0	0.536	ns	I	D	D	0.1		0.1		_	_	E	D	D
S	BP	<i>Kicksia spuria</i>	3	6	3	0	0.015	*	D	D	D	1.73	0.98	0.1		0.317	ns	D	D	D
0	BP	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	5	4	35	22	0.000	***	I	I	I	0.34	0.3	0.27	0.12	0.778	ns	D	D	D

0	IBP	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	21	1	4	1	0.000	***	D	D	D	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.616	ns	D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	9	11	3	4	0.000	***	D	D	I	2	0.35	0.23	0.1	0.036	*	D	D	D
S	BP	<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	30	1	11	2	0.000	***	D	D	D	0.61	0.1	0.14	0.1	0.245	ns	D	D	D
SR	P	<i>Legousia hybrida</i>	3	0	1	0	0.023	*	D	D	D	2		0.1		0.591	ns	D	D	D
0	BP	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	3	3	8	9	0.031	*	D	I	I	2	0.1	0.3	3.8	0.248	ns	D	I	I
R	BP	<i>Linaria arvensis</i>	3	0	1	0	0.023	*	D	D	D	0.37		0.1		0.423	ns	D	D	D
0	BP	<i>Linaria supina</i>	2	5	1	2	0.033	*	D	I	I	0.3	0.34	0.1	0.1	0.527	ns	D	D	E
S	BP	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	34	10	14	17	0.000	***	D	D	I	2.92	1.24	0.21	0.15	0.028	*	D	D	D
0	B	<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	56	74	177	65	0.017	*	I	I	I	9.39	6.62	5.81	2.66	0.001	**	D	D	D
SR	BP	<i>Malcolmia africana</i>	16	2	0	1	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.83	0.1		0.1	0.82	ns	D	D	I
0	P	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	1	3	11	5	0.374	ns	I	I	I	0.5	0.23	0.14	0.18	0.179	ns	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Medicago minima</i>	3	3	1	1	0.128	ns	D	D	I	1.87	1.73	0.1	0.1	0.899	ns	D	D	E
0	BP	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	7	15	19	9	0.127	ns	D	I	I	1.14	0.61	4.48	0.19	0.201	ns	I	D	D
0	BP	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	6	3	8	11	0.005	**	D	I	I	0.43	0.1	0.15	9	0.17	ns	D	I	I
0	BP	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	5	0	2	4	0.008	**	D	D	I	0.42		0.1	1.33	0.577	ns	D	I	I
0	P	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	8	0	0	1	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.06			0.1	0.586	ns	D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Neslia paniculata subsp. thracica</i>	17	0	0	3	0.000	***	D	D	I	0.48			0.23	0.004	**	D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	2	0	6	2	0.51	ns	I	I	D	2.75		0.1	0.1	0.073	ns	D	D	E
SR	IBP	<i>Papaver argemone</i>	5	2	1	1	0.015	*	D	D	I	0.42	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.405	ns	D	D	E
SR	IBP	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	35	16	14	11	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.98	0.35	0.19	0.14	0.016	*	D	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	71	60	126	56	0.000	***	D	D	I	10.8	3.67	2.44	5.36	0.000	***	D	D	I
SR	B	<i>Phleum paniculatum</i>	1	0	0	1	0.273	ns	D	I	I	0.5			0.1	_	_	D	D	I
0	0	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	1	5	3	1	0.077	ns	I	I	D	0.5	0.26	0.1	0.1	0.872	ns	D	D	E
0	B	<i>Poa compressa</i>	1	0	3	1	0.766	ns	I	I	D	0.1		0.1	0.1	_	_	E	E	E
0	B	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	1	0	1	0	0.589	ns	D	D	D	0.5		0.5		_	_	E	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	49	56	110	56	0.001	**	D	I	I	2.59	1.99	1.15	3.05	0.081	ns	D	I	I
S	IBP	<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	12	12	51	29	0.001	**	I	I	I	10.1	1.78	0.53	2.52	0.003	**	D	D	I
0	P	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	9	2	0	2	0.000	***	D	D	I	3.68	0.3		0.3	0.566	ns	D	D	I
S	P	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	12	0	0	4	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.59			0.1	0.179	ns	D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	4	0	0	1	0.002	**	D	D	I	1.63			0.1	0.587	ns	D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	17	5	2	16	0.000	***	D	D	I	3.83	0.26	0.1	0.18	0.040	*	D	D	I
0	P	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	4	0	1	0	0.003	**	D	D	D	0.4		0.1		0.272	ns	D	D	D
0	P	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	20	18	25	22	0.002	**	D	I	I	0.67	0.89	0.83	0.38	0.872	ns	I	D	D
SR	BP	<i>Roemeria hybrida</i>	31	5	6	2	0.000	***	D	D	D	4.39	0.34	0.17	0.1	0.103	ns	D	D	D
0	P	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	1	0	1	1	0.658	ns	D	I	I	5		0.1	0.1	_	_	D	D	E
0	IB	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	5	10	1	3	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.4	2.53	0.5	0.37	0.863	ns	D	D	D
0	P	<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	1	13	1	7	0.000	***	D	I	I	0.5	0.19	0.1	0.1	0.091	ns	D	D	E
0	B	<i>Salsola kali</i>	3	1	1	3	0.099	ns	D	I	I	0.5	0.1	0.5	6.03	0.761	ns	E	I	I
S	BP	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	25	8	22	17	0.000	***	D	D	I	3.8	0.91	1.62	0.19	0.033	*	D	D	D
R	BP	<i>Scorzonera angustifolia</i>	1	1	5	1	0.866	ns	I	I	D	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.000	***	D	D	E
0	BP	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	25	12	3	13	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.69	2.23	0.1	2.66	0.781	ns	D	I	I
0	BP	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	1	0	1	2	0.26	ns	D	I	I	0.5		0.1	0.3	0.707	ns	D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Sisymbrium crassifolium</i>	1	0	1	0	0.589	ns	D	D	D	0.5		0.1		_	_	D	D	D
R	BP	<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i>	4	3	3	0	0.017	ns	D	D	D	1.63	1.87	12.4		0.451	ns	I	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	3	2	4	0	0.401	ns	D	D	D	0.5	0.3	0.1		0.011	*	D	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	10	17	7	0	0.000	***	D	D	D	0.38	0.48	1.5		0.198	ns	I	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>	11	10	6	0	0.000	***	D	D	D	0.43	0.14	0.3		0.002	**	D	D	D
0	IBP	<i>Stellaria media</i>	7	1	1	1	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.73	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.812	ns	D	D	I

0	BP	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	4	8	3	2	0.008	**	D	D	I	1.63	5.39	6.07	0.1	0.862	ns	I	D	D			
R	P	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	7	1	4	4	0.016	*	D	D	I	1.09	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.493	ns	D	D	E			
0	P	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	14	2	6	11	0.000	***	D	D	I	5.26	2.55	0.1	0.65	0.326	ns	D	D	I			
0	IP	<i>Veronica persica</i>	5	3	4	7	0.032	*	D	I	I	1.4	0.23	0.1	0.91	0.586	ns	D	D	I			
0	P	<i>Veronica polita</i>	7	1	2	2	0.002	**	D	D	I	0.39	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.11	ns	D	D	E			
SR	BP	<i>Vicia ervilia</i>	1	0	0	1	0.273	ns	D	I	I	0.5			0.1	_	_	D	D	I			
R	BP	<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	7	5	2	2	0.006	**	D	D	I	0.5	0.34	0.1	0.5	0.010	*	D	E	I			
S	BP	<i>Vicia peregrina</i>	30	16	13	10	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.82	0.61	0.54	0.22	0.012	*	D	D	D			
0	BP	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	19	6	9	11	0.000	***	D	D	I	1.92	0.43	0.78	0.1	0.021	*	D	D	D			
S	IBP	<i>Viola tricolor</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i>	6	0	4	5	0.010	*	D	D	I	2		0.1	0.1	0.095	ns	D	D	E			
0	B	<i>Vulpia unilateralis</i>	2	1	17	2	0.039	*	I	I		0.5	5	0.75	0.1	0.075	ns	I	D				
SR	0	<i>Adonis annua</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5								D	D	I	
SR	0	<i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	17	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	3.82									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Aira cupaniana</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Alyssum linifolium</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Alyssum maritimum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Androsace maxima</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	2.75									D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i> subsp. <i>leptoclados</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Avena sterilis</i> subsp. <i>ludoviciana</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	2									D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Biscutella auriculata</i>	5	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	3.2									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Brachypodium</i> <i>distachyon</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Brassica napus</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	B	<i>Briza minor</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Bromus catharticus</i> subsp. <i>hordeaceus</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	B	<i>Bromus diandrus</i> subsp. <i>rigidus</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	1.87									D	D	I
R	B	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Camelina sativa</i> subsp. <i>microcarpa</i>	9	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	1									D	D	I
R	P	<i>Campanula</i> <i>rapunculoides</i>	4	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	IBP	<i>Capsella bursa-</i> <i>pastoris</i> subsp. <i>rubella</i>	13	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	2.88									D	D	I
0	IBP	<i>Cerastium</i> <i>glomeratum</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	3.5									D	D	I
SR	IBP	<i>Cerastium</i> <i>perfoliatum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	2									D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Conringia orientalis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Crepis foetida</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5									D	D	I
0	P	<i>Delphinium</i> sp.	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.1									D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5									D	D	I
0	B	<i>Desmazeria rigida</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5									D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Echium italicum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.1									D	D	I
0	0	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	4	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	1.63									D	D	I

0	BP	<i>Erophila verna</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Eruca vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	IBP	<i>Euphorbia</i> <i>helioscopia</i>	5	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	1.4				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	9				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Filago arvensis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	17.5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Fumaria densiflora</i>	6	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	1.25				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Fumaria vaillantii</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5				D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Geranium</i> <i>columbinum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Geranium molle</i> <i>Geranium</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
R	BP	<i>pyrenaicum</i> <i>Hippocrepis</i> <i>multisiliquosa</i> subsp. <i>ciliata</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Holosteum</i> <i>umbellatum</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>umbellatum</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Hordeum distichon</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	3				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	17.5				D	D	I
S	BP	<i>Iberis amara</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Iberis pinnata</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
R	BP	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i> <i>Leontodon</i> <i>taraxacoides</i> subsp. <i>hispidus</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Linaria hirta</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	7.67				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	P	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	4	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Ononis natrix</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
SR	IBP	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	2				D	D	I
R	B	<i>Phalaris canariensis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	3	0	0	0	0.003	**	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	P	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	0	<i>Plantago afra</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.3				D	D	I
0	0	<i>Plantago major</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	IB	<i>Poa annua</i>	4	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	1.63				D	D	I
0	B	<i>Poa bulbosa</i> <i>Polycarpon</i> <i>tetraphylla</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	P	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> <i>Reseda luteola</i> subsp. <i>luteola</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
R	P	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> subsp. <i>angiocarpus</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	IB	<i>Salvia microphylla</i> <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> subsp. <i>spachiana</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Satureja acinos</i>	1	0	0	0	0.192	ns	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	0	<i>Satureja acinos</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
SR	BP	<i>Satureja acinos</i>	2	0	0	0	0.023	*	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	IBP	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	7	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	0.5				D	D	I
0	BP	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	4	0	0	0	0.000	***	D	D	E	4.78				D	D	I

