

Thesis submitted for the degree of
Philosophiae Doctor (PhD)

The hidden biodiversity of pollen

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Replace us with the things

That do the job better

Hot Chip – Huarache Lights

Een mens lijdt 't meest

Door 't lijden dat hij vreest

Dutch saying

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List of manuscripts

This thesis is based on the following five manuscripts, which are referred to in the main text using Roman numerals (I-V).

- I. **Polling, M.**, Li, C., Cao, L., Verbeek, F., de Weger, L.A., Belmonte, J., De Linares, C., Willemse, J., de Boer, H., Gravendeel, B. 2021. Neural networks for increased accuracy of allergenic pollen monitoring. *Scientific Reports* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-90433-x>
- II. **Polling, M.** DNA from pollen. In: *Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequence to Species (Pensoft)*. Peer-reviewed book chapter.
- III. **Polling, M.** and Chua, P., Lynggaard, C., Ariza, M., Bohmann, K. Amplicon Metabarcoding. In: *Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequence to Species (Pensoft)*. Peer-reviewed book chapter.
- IV. **Polling, M.**, Sin, M., de Weger, L.A., Speksnijder, A., Koenders, M., Gravendeel, B., de Boer, H. In review. DNA metabarcoding using nrITS2 provides highly qualitative and quantitative results for airborne pollen monitoring. *Submitted to Science of The Total Environment*
- V. **Polling, M.**, ter Schure, A.T.M., van Geel, B., van Bokhoven, T., Boessenkool, S., MacKay, G., Langeveld, B.W., Ariza, M., van der Plicht, H., Protopopov, A.V., Tikhonov, A., de Boer, H.J., Gravendeel B. In press. Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna. *Accepted with minor revisions at Quaternary Science Reviews*

Summary

In an age of rapid digitization, the study of pollen grains (palynology) has not seen much change. Pollen is traditionally studied using a microscope and different pollen types can be distinguished based on their unique morphology. Information from pollen is used in a multitude of fields including allergology, taxonomy, forensics, biostratigraphy, apiology, paleoecology and aerobiology. However, the expertise needed to perform the laborious and specialized task of pollen analysis is rapidly disappearing. Moreover, many plant taxa produce highly similar pollen that cannot be distinguished beyond genus, family or even order level. This prevents detailed information to be gained from pollen analysis, as different species may have diverse ecological preferences or allergenic profiles. Therefore, there is a high need for new techniques to help transform palynology. In this thesis, innovative microscopic and molecular techniques are used to improve pollen analysis. The aim is to unravel hidden pollen biodiversity.

In Manuscript I of the thesis, using a case study, it is shown that sufficiently trained deep learning algorithms can differentiate visually similar pollen that cannot be distinguished by palynologists. This distinction is of medical importance as pollen from one of the studied genera is allergenically unimportant while the other is highly allergenic. For species that produce pollen grains that are too similar to each other to be morphologically distinguished, other techniques are required. Therefore, Manuscript II presents a literature review on the extraction and amplification of DNA from pollen, while Manuscript III reviews the molecular method DNA amplicon metabarcoding. Insights gained from these chapters are applied in Manuscript IV, where DNA metabarcoding is used on airborne pollen collected for allergenic pollen monitoring. It is shown that this technique not only highly increases the taxonomic resolution, but can also provide reliable semi-quantitative results of pollen grains. In Manuscript V, DNA metabarcoding is used as a complementary tool to pollen and macrofossil analyses in a case study on faeces from extinct megafauna. By integrating results from all proxies, an accurate reconstruction of the last meals and habitats of these megafauna could be made. The techniques applied in this thesis show high potential in uncovering hidden biodiversity of pollen grains, and the results and implications for future research are discussed in the light of other innovative methods to study pollen.

List of abbreviations and terms used in this thesis

| | |
|----------------|---|
| ASV | Amplicon Sequence Variant |
| bp | Base pair |
| CNN | Convolutional Neural Network |
| DNA | Deoxyribonucleic Acid |
| ICTA-UAB | Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain) |
| LM | Light Microscopy |
| LUMC | Leiden University Medical Center (Leiden, the Netherlands) |
| MS | Manuscript |
| NGS | Next Generation Sequencing |
| NMDS | Nonmetric Multi-Dimensional Scaling |
| nrITS | nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer |
| OTU | Operational Taxonomic Unit |
| perMANOVA | Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance |
| PCR | Polymerase Chain Reaction |
| <i>rbcl</i> | Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase |
| rRNA | Ribosomal Ribonucleic Acid |
| RRA | Relative Read Abundance |
| SEM | Scanning Electron Microscopy |
| <i>trnL</i> | transfer RNA gene for Leucine |
| UNINETT Sigma2 | the National Infrastructure for High Performance Computing and Data Storage in Norway |
| Yr BP | Years before present |

1. Introduction

1.1 Pollen

Pollen grains represent the male gametes or sperm cells in the plant kingdom. Within a single grain of pollen, all genetic information required to specify an entire plant is contained (Knox, 1984). To protect this genetic material from environmental factors and ensure safe transfer to the female ovule, pollen grains have an extremely strong outer layer. This layer consists of an inner layer of polysaccharides (intine) and a chemically inert outer layer (exine) made of sporopollenin that is highly resistant to biodegradation (Li et al., 2019). The exine is characterized by a taxon-specific shape, sculpture and structure that allows palynologists to distinguish pollen from different plant taxa (Figure 1; Beug, 2004; Erdtman, 1943; Wodehouse, 1935). Knowledge obtained by studying pollen is used in various fields, including taxonomy, archaeology, apiology, allergology, forensics, biostratigraphy, paleoecology and aerobiology.

While some plant taxa can be distinguished by their unique pollen or spores (i.e., eurypalynous taxa), many plant taxa produce highly similar pollen that cannot be morphologically distinguished beyond genus, family or even order level (stenopalynous taxa, e.g., Pteridophyte, Poaceae, Asteroideae, *Quercus*). Studying pollen grains of eurypalynous taxa allows investigation at high 'taxonomic resolution', while this resolution is low for stenopalynous taxa (Mander and Punyasena, 2014). Since pollen grains are generally in the size range of ~10 – 100 μm (Hesse et al., 2009), palynologists rely on visual inspection of pollen using a microscope. This laborious task relies on highly trained specialists that manually count hundreds of pollen grains to get a reliable estimate of pollen diversity in a sample. Furthermore, as many stenopalynous plant taxa exist, often no information can be obtained

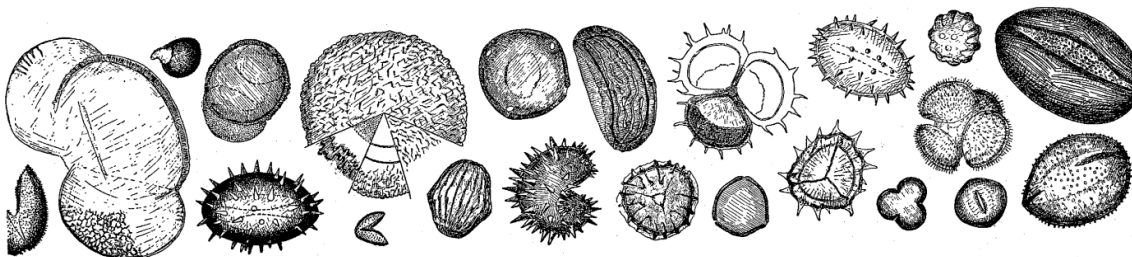


Figure 1. Variations in pollen shapes and exine sculpture. Adapted from Erdtman, 1943.

of the specific species of pollen present in a sample. Therefore, pollen of highly allergenic plants may not be distinguishable from those produced by non-allergenic plants, and pollen of invasive species may not be differentiated from pollen of native plants. Similarly, pollen of species from wetlands may not be differentiated from pollen of species typical for more arid conditions, preventing detailed (paleo)ecological reconstructions. Therefore, much research effort has been put into finding methods of revealing the hidden biodiversity of pollen grains.

1.2 Automating palynology

Developments in computing power and imaging software have paved the way to what is by some considered the “holy grail” of palynology: automatic counting and classification of pollen (Holt and Bennett, 2014). Automatic machines have the potential to speed up the process, while also being more consistent and accurate than human analysts (Mander et al., 2014). Early works on automating the pollen identification process can be traced back to the

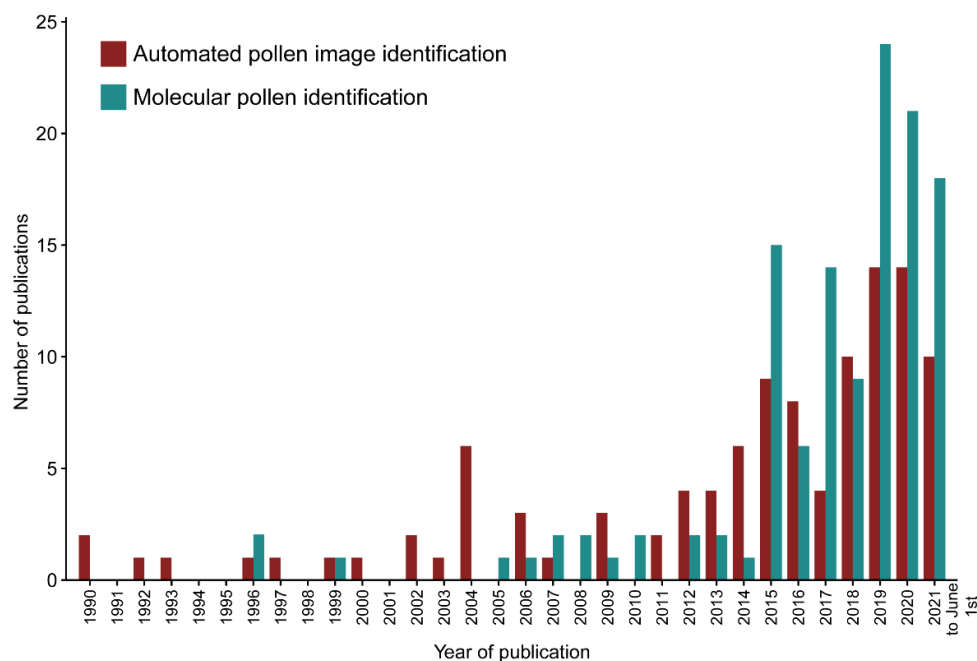


Figure 2. The number of papers published from 1990 until June 1st 2021 on the two main methods used in this thesis to study pollen. Data was retrieved from Web of Science (<https://www.webofknowledge.com>), based for automated pollen image identification on the search string ‘TS=(pollen AND ("neural netw*" OR "deep learn*" OR *CNN OR "machine learn*" OR "automatic image recognition" OR "automatic image analysis" OR automated) NOT forecast)’ and supplemented with references cited in Holt and Bennett (2014) and (Sevillano and Aznarte, 2018). For molecular pollen identification the string ‘TS=(pollen AND (metabar* OR *barcod* OR metagen* OR qPCR OR shotgun))’ was used, supplemented with references cited in Bell et al. (2016) and Manuscript II of this thesis.

early nineties, when Vezey and Skvarla (1990) presented a method of automatically detecting features on SEM images using statistical classifiers (Figure 2). The field progressed as new technologies became available, including machine learning and early neural networks (e.g., France et al., 2000; Holt et al., 2011). However, it was not until recent incorporation of deep learning that studies have shown successful automatic segmentation and identification of pollen from large numbers of pollen taxa (Olsson et al., 2021; Sevillano et al., 2020).

While these studies have the potential to automate pollen analysis, they do not generally increase taxonomic resolution of pollen identifications. Automatic image recognition can, however, also be used to differentiate highly similar pollen by combining it with high resolution imaging. This is because subtle taxon-specific variations that are not readily apparent through manual investigation may be consistently detected by sufficiently trained classifiers. Machine learning has, for example, been successfully applied to distinguish similar pollen of species of *Picea* L. (93% accuracy; Punyasena et al., 2012) and deep learning was used to differentiate fossilised pollen taxa in the Fabaceae family (~85% accuracy; Romero et al., 2020). Spatiotemporal knowledge of the species distribution gained in these studies have highly improved (paleo)ecological reconstructions. The methods used, however, do require relatively extensive sample preparation for microscopes that are not readily available. Many routine palynological studies rely on light microscopy (LM) images instead, where visualizing the distinguishing features is much harder. Nevertheless, several studies have shown that increasing the taxonomic resolution of LM pollen images for, e.g., hay fever monitoring is possible, notably in the family Urticaceae (De Sá-otero et al., 2004; Rodriguez-Damian et al., 2006). This family forms an excellent case study because of the subtle difference in morphology between common genera that have highly different allergenic profiles.

1.2.1 Case study: Urticaceae

The nettle family (Urticaceae) contains two genera that are common in Europe, *Urtica* L. (stinging nettles) and *Parietaria* L. (pellitory), of which pollen is very hard to distinguish using light microscopy (Figure 3). It is important to separate these genera because pollen grains from species of *Urtica* are allergenically unimportant while those from several species of *Parietaria* are one of the main causes of hay fever in the Mediterranean (D'Amato et al., 1991). These *Parietaria* species are currently undergoing a range expansion as a result of

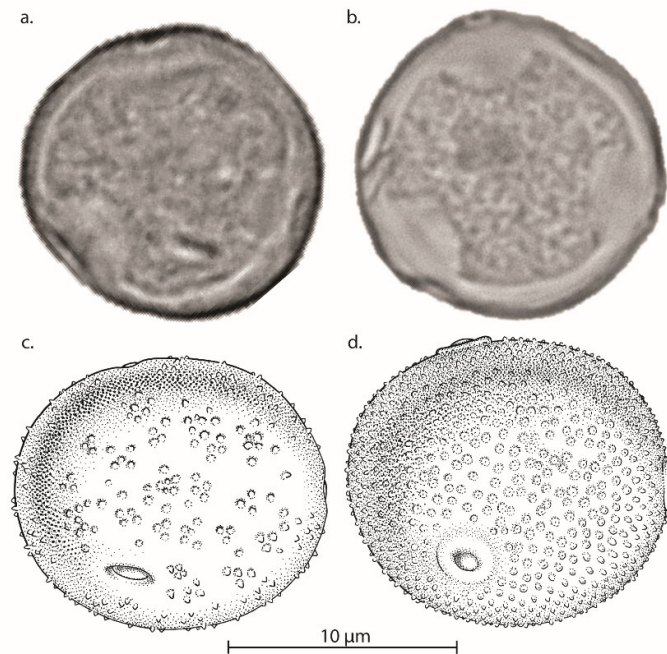


Figure 3. Pollen grains of Urticaceae species at high magnification (100X) a) LM image of *Parietaria judaica*, b) LM image of *Urtica dioica* c) drawing of *Parietaria judaica* pollen grain emphasizing distinctive features including lack of annulus around pores and irregular (micro)echinate surface ornament d) drawing of *Urtica dioica* pollen grain highlighting annulus around pore and regular scabrate surface ornament. Images a and b were obtained from PalDat (Halbritter et al., 2020). Images c and d were drawn by Esmée Winkel.

increased urbanization and climate change, but their impact on the total pollen load is currently not monitored in either native or expanded range. While previous studies cited above have shown relatively high accuracy scores in distinguishing these genera using machine learning, the models have not been applied to all species of Urticaceae and have not been tested on for the model unseen images. It is expected that higher accuracies may be achieved by incorporating the latest deep learning models trained with variable input images. However, this technique does not work for all stenopalynous taxa and other techniques may be required to distinguish pollen from species that are too similar to each other to be morphologically distinguished.

1.3 Molecular palynology

DNA barcoding has made it feasible to identify species by extracting and amplifying DNA from barcoding regions that have specificity within a species and variability between species (Hebert et al., 2003). Early attempts at identifying pollen using DNA were based on PCR

approaches on single pollen grains (Figure 2; Longhi et al., 2009; Petersen et al., 1996; Suyama et al., 1996; West et al., 2008). However, with the development of Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), all species within mixed bulk samples could be identified using DNA metabarcoding (Taberlet et al., 2012). With cost-reductions and further improvements, the application of DNA metabarcoding in pollen analysis has shown a sharp increase, most notably since 2015 (Figure 2). During this time, DNA metabarcoding was successfully applied to identify pollen collected by pollinators (e.g., Hawkins et al., 2015; Richardson et al., 2015), but also of aerobiological samples (Kraaijeveld et al., 2015).

While in the animal kingdom the mitochondrial marker COI can be used as a universal barcode for identifying species (Hebert et al., 2003), no such universal barcode has been identified for plants. This may be the result of plants having greater levels of paralogy and hybridization (Fazekas et al., 2009). Plants contain nuclear, as well as mitochondrial and chloroplast genomes. A combination of markers has been advised for plants, including a biparentally inherited nuclear marker and a uniparentally inherited plastid marker (CBOL Plant Working group, 2011). Pollen contains several nuclei (large vegetative and several generative cells) and cytoplasm containing plastids and mitochondria (Bennett and Parducci, 2006). Some nuclear and chloroplast genes in pollen DNA are present in multiple copies, allowing amplification of both types of DNA, although much is unknown about, e.g., copy number variability between species (Bell et al., 2016). In molecular palynology, plastid *rbcl* has been used extensively (e.g., Bell et al., 2017; Brennan et al., 2019; Campbell et al., 2020; Uetake et al., 2021) but, unfortunately the taxonomic resolution of this marker is mostly restricted to genus level, unless tailored local reference databases are used.

1.3.1 *trnL* and *nrITS2*

The P6 loop of the chloroplast *trnL* intron represents a short and highly variable region that has been shown to work well even on samples with highly degraded DNA (Taberlet et al., 2006). For this reason the marker is popular with ancient DNA studies, but it has also been successfully used on airborne pollen (Kraaijeveld et al., 2015) as well as honey samples (Milla et al., 2021), although its short length may prevent detailed taxonomic inferences in some families (e.g. in Poaceae, Asteraceae, Cyperaceae; De Barba et al., 2014).

The nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer (nrITS) region has been proposed as a potential barcode for plants (Kress et al., 2005), but it was not commonly used until promising high species-resolution results were obtained from large datasets of plants (Chase and Fay, 2009). This nuclear marker is shared between eukaryotes, and is often used for taxonomic studies on plants and fungi, both of which can be explicitly targeted using primers designed for fungi (Ihrmark et al., 2012) or plants (Table 1; Cheng et al., 2016; Moorhouse-Gann et al., 2018). In plants and fungi, the nrITS region consists of two highly variable regions: nrITS1 located between 18S and 5.8S, and nrITS2 located between 5.8S and 26S rRNA genes. The easier amplifiable nrITS2 was identified as having high discriminatory power (Chen et al., 2010) and it has been used successfully in molecular palynological studies (e.g., Brennan et al., 2019; Núñez et al., 2017; Richardson et al., 2015). However, nrITS2 has been shown to perform less well for gymnosperms (CBOL Plant Working Group et al., 2011) and due to the relatively long expected amplicon length of nrITS2 (350 - 500 bp), successful amplification relies on DNA to be well preserved. Applying these two markers in combination can thus account for degraded DNA using *trnL*, while providing extended taxonomic resolution in well preserved DNA with nrITS2 (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of *trnL* P6 loop versus nrITS2. *depending on primers used **specific groups like fungi or plants can be targeted using specific primers

| | <i>trnL</i> P6 loop | nrITS2 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Marker | Chloroplast | Nuclear ribosomal |
| Length (bp) | 8 - 152 | ~350 – 500* |
| Works well on degraded DNA | yes | no |
| Taxonomic resolution | Relatively low | Relatively high |
| Targets | Only plants | Eukaryotes** |

1.3.2 Pollen quantification

Apart from identifying which pollen species are present in a particular sample, pollen grain quantification is of equal, if not higher, importance. For example, in airborne pollen monitoring it will not suffice to know whether certain allergenic pollen is present in the air, but more so how much there is of it at a given point in time. While DNA-based methods for pollen quantification are less developed than methods for identification, recent studies have shown promising results. Some studies have shown correlations between absolute DNA read

counts and pollen counts (Baksay et al., 2020; Pornon et al., 2016), but most studies have shown the best correlations between relative abundance of DNA reads and microscopic pollen counts (Bänsch et al., 2020; Keller et al., 2015; Richardson et al., 2021). The aforementioned studies have focussed on pollen from honey samples or from bee-collected pollen. This correlation has not been sufficiently tested for aerobiological samples.

1.3.3 (Paleo)-ecological information of pollen

Beside obtaining DNA directly from pollen, DNA metabarcoding has the potential of providing additional information on plant species in bulk samples that may remain hidden if only pollen is studied. One example is the reconstruction of the non-analogous Pleistocene paleo-environment. Analyses of vegetation changes and megafaunal diets during this time interval have been based mainly on fossil pollen and plant remains (Anderson et al., 2003). These suggest that the landscape was dominated by grasses and sedges, a landscape often referred to as the 'Mammoth Steppe' (Guthrie, 1990). There are several problems with these techniques though, since pollen analyses from these samples are biased towards plants that produce high amounts of pollen (e.g., grasses), while plant fossils often preserve poorly. Moreover, as the taxonomic resolution of visual pollen analysis is limited, no information of the specific composition of plant species can be obtained. Studies have shown that incorporating DNA metabarcoding in the study of megafaunal faecal samples can provide a significantly more refined reconstruction of last meals and habitats (e.g., Hofreiter et al., 2000; Van Geel et al., 2014; Willerslev et al., 2014). Most studies have, however, relied on short chloroplast markers, including *rbcL* minibarcodes and the *trnL* P6 loop, while the nrITS marker has never been applied. Since megafaunal faecal samples are often conserved in permafrost, their DNA can be excellently preserved. Therefore, inclusion of the relatively long nrITS has the potential to provide an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of megafauna.

2. Aims and objectives of the thesis

The main aim of this thesis is to unravel the hidden biodiversity of pollen by utilizing innovative microscopic and molecular techniques.

The aim of **Manuscript I** is to investigate the limits of morphological pollen identification by incorporating deep learning algorithms. The main questions to answer are (1) can a CNN distinguish morphologically similar pollen of taxa in the Urticaceae family that cannot be distinguished by palynologists, even though they have highly differing allergenic profiles? and (2) can models trained using reference pollen grains be successfully applied on pollen from aerobiological samples?

Molecular pollen analysis is a promising tool to increase taxonomic resolution of pollen identifications. **Manuscripts II** and **III** present literature reviews in the form of educational book chapters, aimed at obtaining the most up to date knowledge in current methodology and trends in molecular pollen identification. **Manuscript II** aims to give an overview of how DNA can be extracted from pollen grains and what knowledge can be obtained by doing so, while **Manuscript III** aims at giving an overview of the molecular method amplicon metabarcoding.

The aim of **Manuscript IV** is to incorporate the knowledge obtained from the literature reviews and apply this to airborne pollen monitoring. The questions to be answered are whether DNA metabarcoding using chloroplast *trnL* P6 loop and nrITS2 can (1) increase the taxonomic resolution of pollen identifications, (2) be used as a semi-quantitative tool for pollen monitoring and (3) reveal fine scale spatiotemporal patterns between pollen monitoring locations.

Information from pollen lies at the foundation of many ecological reconstructions. **Manuscript V** aims at comparing plant identifications from pollen and macrofossils to multiproxy DNA results. This includes the nrITS marker, which has never been used before in the study of extinct megafauna, alongside the *trnL* P6 loop. The aim is to test whether DNA metabarcoding can increase taxonomic resolution of plant identifications in order to reconstruct the last diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna.

3. Material and methods

An overview of all materials and methods used in this thesis will be outlined in this section. For more detailed information on the material and methods for each individual project, please refer to the manuscripts.

3.1 Material and sample collection

3.1.1 Pollen samples

For Manuscript I, pollen was collected from all five species of the nettle family (Urticaceae) present in the Netherlands (*Parietaria judaica* L., *P. officinalis* L., *Urtica dioica* L., *U. membranacea* Poir. ex Savigny, *U. urens* L.). Pollen collected from plants in the Netherlands was supplemented with pollen from herbarium plant specimens of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, including material from Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands (Fig 4a-c). Thecae of flowers were opened using tweezers and mounted on microscopic slides using a glycerin:water:gelatin (7:6:1) solution with 2% phenol and stained with Safranin (0.002% w/v). Pollen was not acetolyzed (i.e. method to remove organic material) since pollen on aerobiological slides is unacetolyzed as well. The pollen images were used to train the CNNs, which were subsequently tested on Urticaceae pollen grains collected by pollen monitoring stations in Leiden, the Netherlands and Vielha and Lleida (Barcelona, Spain; Figure 4a) for validation.

A total of 58 samples with airborne pollen was collected for Manuscript IV using Burkard pollen samplers located in Leiden and Helmond, the Netherlands (Figure 4a). Airborne pollen was captured on Melinex adhesive tapes and mounted on microscopic slides using the same protocol as described for Manuscript I. In this study both unmounted tapes from 2020 as well as tapes from microscopic slides from 2019 were used. Samples with high pollen counts in three target taxa that flower abundantly in the Netherlands during either spring (*Alnus* sp., Cupressaceae/Taxaceae) or fall (Urticaceae) were selected for DNA extraction.

3.1.2 Faecal samples

For Manuscript V, eleven permafrost and ice-preserved faecal samples from four mammal species (woolly mammoth, steppe bison, horse and caribou) were included. Samples were derived from Sakha Republic (Russia), Alaska (USA), Yukon and Northwest Territories (Canada; Figure 4d) and ranged in age from 28,000 yr BP to modern.

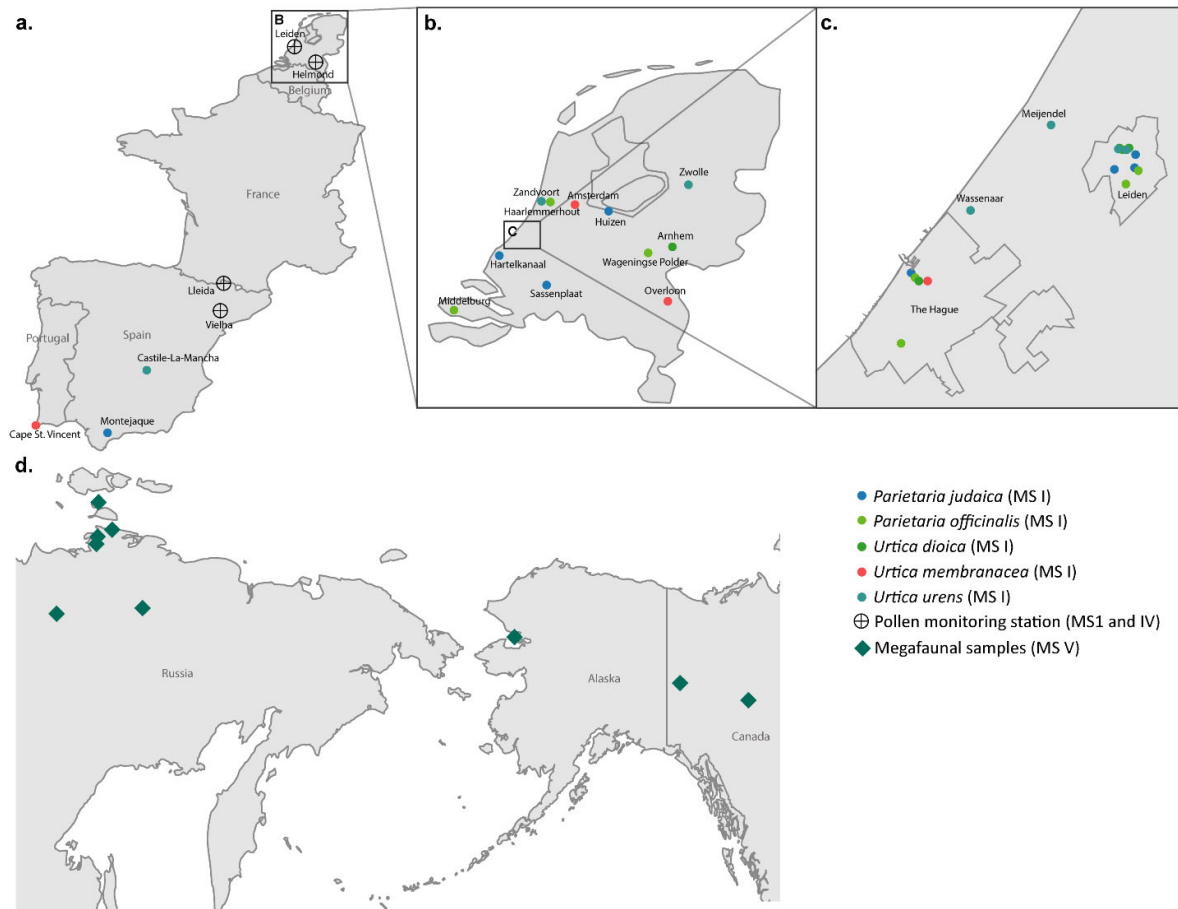


Figure 4. Sampling locations, a) locations of pollen monitoring stations and Urticaceae pollen reference material from Spain and Portugal (herbarium Naturalis Biodiversity Center) for Manuscript I, b) Urticaceae samples from the Netherlands, c) Urticaceae samples from around and within Leiden and The Hague (the Netherlands), d) locations of permafrost and ice-preserved megafaunal faecal samples in Sakha Republic (Russia), Alaska (USA), Yukon and Northwest Territories (Canada). MS = Manuscript

3.2 Analytical methods

3.2.1 High resolution pollen imaging and CNN

To sufficiently train CNNs to distinguish the highly similar pollen of Urticaceae in Manuscript I, a total of 6,472 individual pollen grains were imaged at high resolution (100X magnification)

and using 20 focus levels (z-stacks). For each of the five species, a minimum of 1,000 images was captured from at least four different plant specimens. Pollen grains were imaged using a microscope with an automatic stage and post-processed in ImageJ (Rasband, 1997) using a custom script (“Pollen_Projector”). Briefly, the script identified free lying pollen grains and cropped them out of the stack of images. CNNs need three-channel input images (commonly RGB in colour images) but as grayscale images were used in this study, three different Z-stack projections were chosen to represent the three different channels.

The pollen reference images were used to train three CNNs using different settings for splitting the dataset into training and testing sets (80/20 and 90/10). A transfer learning approach using data augmentation was adopted as it is important to increase the variability of images in this relatively small dataset. Pre-trained models on large open-source image databases were compared to models trained from scratch. Finally, the best performing model was tested using unknown Urticaceae pollen collected at pollen monitoring stations from the Netherlands and Spain.

3.2.2 Morphological identification

In Manuscripts IV and V, pollen was manually counted under the microscope using 40X magnification. For Manuscript IV, pollen from microscopic slides collected by Burkard samplers was counted in three longitudinal bands, an area corresponding to 1m³ of filtered ambient air over 24 hours (Galán et al., 2017).

For Manuscript V, microscopic pollen slides as well as plant macrofossil samples were made by taking subsamples from the core of the faecal samples. Pollen identifications were made using a reference pollen collection and following Moore et al. (1991) and Beug (2004). For the preparation of macrofossils, the procedure of Mauquoy and Van Geel (2007) was followed.

3.2.3 Molecular identification

3.2.3.1 DNA extraction and amplification

An overview of DNA extraction protocols and molecular techniques to study pollen grains is given in Manuscript II. Following insights gained from this book chapter, pollen DNA was extracted from airborne pollen in Manuscript IV using the commercially available QIAamp

DNA Mini kit (Qiagen). This extraction protocol is based on spin-columns and silica-membrane purification. Prior to extraction, pollen cell walls were disrupted using a bead beating protocol to break the exines and release the DNA from inside the pollen. For Manuscript V, the DNA of plants in the faecal samples was extracted using the silica-based protocol of Rohland and Hofreiter (2007) adjusted to smaller volumes of material described in Stech et al. (2011).

Considering results from Manuscript II and III, DNA metabarcoding was applied for the airborne pollen samples in Manuscripts IV and on megafaunal faeces in Manuscript V. In both studies, DNA was amplified using primers *g* and *h* to amplify the chloroplast *trnL* P6 loop (Taberlet et al., 2006) and plant-specific primer ITS-p3 (Cheng et al., 2016) and ITS4 (White et al., 1990) to amplify nrITS2. Furthermore, in Manuscript V, nrITS1 was amplified using plant-specific primers ITS-p5 / ITS-u2 (Cheng et al., 2016), while fungal DNA was amplified using fungal-specific primers fITS7 / ITS4 for the nrITS2 region (Ihrmark et al., 2012; White et al., 1990). In Manuscript IV a two-step PCR approach was adopted to create indexed amplicon libraries, while in Manuscript V this was performed using a dual-indexing approach, with tagged primers. For both studies, extraction and negative blanks as well as positive controls were incorporated, and three PCR replicates were used per sample. Sequencing was performed on an Illumina MiSeq.

3.2.3.2 Bioinformatics and filtering

To get from DNA sequences to species information for Manuscripts IV and V, bioinformatic pipelines were used on a Galaxy instance (Afgan et al., 2018) or using OBITools (Boyer et al., 2016) on the Oslo computing server (UNINETT Sigma2). In short, the steps included quality checking of raw sequences, assembling forward and reverse reads, removal of adapters and primers, demultiplexing, dereplication, clustering and taxonomic assignment. Clustering was performed using strictly identical sequences (often referred to as ASVs) or assigning sequences directly to taxa. Taxonomic assignment was performed using local reference databases where available, and also compared to global reference libraries.

Sequence filtering was performed in R, using strict protocols aimed at removing as many false positives as possible. For both manuscripts, steps included removal of sequences with (a) low identity scores, (b) below a threshold of reads per PCR replicate, (c) higher abundance in PCR controls than in samples and, only for Manuscript IV, (d) taxonomic assignments other than green plants. Potential leakage of sequences was accounted for using

a custom R script to detect which filtering threshold resulted in removal of all reads from negative controls. Since the aim of Manuscript IV was to get reliable quantification results, only OTUs present in at least two PCR replicates per sample were kept. This strategy was different in Manuscript V (keeping all taxonomic identifications, regardless of the amount of PCR replicates in which they were present) because here the aim was to discover as much diversity as possible. For both studies, a final manual filtering step was performed to remove common lab contaminants (e.g., *Solanum lycopersicum*, *Musa* spp., *Glycine max*) and other suspected food contaminants.

3.2.4 Ecological inferences

For Manuscripts IV and V, all sequencing reads were converted to relative read abundances for semi-quantitative comparison with pollen counts and, for Manuscript V, macrofossil abundance. In order to reconstruct the last diets of the megafauna studied in Manuscript V, the average relative abundance values of macrofossils and all available DNA results were taken, since pollen represents a regional signal. Megafaunal habitats were reconstructed by taking all species level as well as some genus level taxonomic assignments from the three proxies (pollen, macrofossils and DNA). Taxa were divided into habitat types ranging from very dry (steppe) to very wet (wetlands).

In Manuscript IV, least squares regression was used to compare molecular quantification results with those made by morphological identification of pollen. Furthermore, to test whether DNA metabarcoding results could be used to distinguish samples from the different pollen monitoring stations and seasons, Bray-Curtis dissimilarities were calculated in *vegan* (Jari Oksanen et al., 2018) between all sample pairs. Results for both *trnL* and *nrITS2* were ordinated using NMDS, and grouped per pollen monitoring site and per season. The statistical significance of these groupings was calculated using a perMANOVA.

4. Main results of manuscripts I-V

The results of this thesis are presented in one published manuscript (Manuscript I), two peer-reviewed book chapters (Manuscript II and III) and two submitted manuscripts currently under review (Manuscript IV and V) and will be briefly outlined here.

4.1 Manuscript I

Neural networks for increased accuracy of allergenic pollen monitoring

This manuscript demonstrates incorporating neural networks to increase the taxonomic resolution of pollen grain identifications in aerobiological samples. Using a case study from the nettle family (Urticaceae), it is shown that sufficiently trained CNNs can successfully distinguish pollen genera that cannot currently be separated under the microscope by specialists. Two genera and one species of Urticaceae were distinguished by trained CNNs with >98% accuracy. Not all species could be recognized because the distinguishing features of pollen from these species (exine ornamentation) could not be resolved in the unacetolyzed pollen grains. Various settings were tested for the CNNs and the best result was obtained using 80% for training images and 20% for validation, using either the very deep VGG16 (98.61%) or the faster MobileNetV2 (98.76%). The models consistently learned features such as pollen edges in the first convolutional layers, while finer features such as pores and annuli were learned in deeper layers. Models were trained on pollen collected from various plant samples in the field and from an herbarium, but it was also shown to work very well on for the model before unseen pollen collected directly from the air. In Leiden (the Netherlands), *Urtica* of low allergenicity was shown to be the dominant source of pollen, while for Lleida (Catalunya, Spain) severely allergenic pollen of *Parietaria* was most abundant. A low amount of *Parietaria* pollen was found in Leiden. Since *Parietaria* is recently showing a large range expansion, these numbers are expected to rise in the near future and this can now be studied using the presented method. Furthermore, this can be more broadly applied to distinguish pollen from similarly challenging allergenic plant families and can help in producing more accurate pollen monitoring for allergy sufferers.

4.2 Manuscript II

Book chapter - DNA from pollen

This educational book chapter highlights the latest trends in molecular research on pollen. An overview is provided of recent literature (since 2017) showing that DNA metabarcoding is the most commonly used method for plant-pollinator and airborne pollen identifications. While most earlier studies relied on plastid DNA markers (e.g., *rbcL* and *trnL* P6 loop), increasingly, the nuclear marker nrITS2 is being incorporated because of the high taxonomic accuracy it provides, as well as promising (semi-)quantitative results. Studies adopt varying strategies for pollen DNA extraction, including different pollen lysis and extraction protocols. Pollen lysis was identified as a crucial step to increase the yield of pollen DNA. Lastly, several recent studies show the potential of metagenomic approaches to quantify pollen samples, although this is currently hampered by the lack of reference genomes and the high costs compared to amplicon metabarcoding.

4.3 Manuscript III

Book chapter - Amplicon Metabarcoding

In this educational book chapter, the main advantages and disadvantages of plant DNA metabarcoding are discussed. Plant metabarcoding is currently hampered by the lack of a universal plant marker, PCR amplification / binding biases and dependency on (local) reference libraries. However, it is one of the most cost-efficient methods for molecular identification as the amplicon tagging system allows high throughput of samples, even if they have relatively low quality and quantity of DNA. Furthermore, with the right choice of marker, nucleotide tagging strategy, PCR replication, clean laboratory setting and inclusion of PCR controls, highly meaningful information on the taxonomic composition of plant bulk samples can be obtained. These samples can include water, soil, sediment, snow, faeces and air.

4.4 Manuscript IV

DNA metabarcoding using nrITS2 provides highly qualitative and quantitative results for airborne pollen monitoring

This study shows that DNA metabarcoding using plant markers *trnL* and nrITS2 is able to provide highly improved taxonomic resolution of airborne pollen. From the 58 samples collected over two consecutive years at two pollen monitoring stations in the West and Southeast of the Netherlands, manual pollen identification detected 23 plant genera and 22 families. In contrast, DNA metabarcoding using both markers resulted in 168 species from 143 genera and 56 plant families, most of which uniquely found by nrITS2. At the family level, all pollen identified by microscope was also found with metabarcoding. Both markers identified plant taxa that were not detected using manual pollen counts, including several taxa of potential allergenic importance (e.g., *Mercurialis* spp. and *Parietaria* spp.).

Regressing the relative read abundances from both DNA markers against the relative abundances of manual pollen counts, highly significant positive correlations were identified (R^2 for all taxa = 0.821 for nrITS2 and 0.620 for *trnL*). These correlations were found to be species-dependent, with *Alnus* showing nearly a one-to-one relation for both markers, while this relationship was slightly weaker, though still statistically significant, for Cupressaceae and Urticaceae. Plotting the relative abundance of species detected by nrITS2 through time, it is shown that pollen spectra from three common taxa in the Netherlands (*Alnus*, Cupressaceae, Urticaceae), are dominated by single species (*Alnus glutinosa/incana*, *Taxus baccata* and *Urtica dioica*). For *Alnus*, cultivated non-native species were identified that significantly prolong the hay fever season. Lastly, finer-scaled spatiotemporal patterns were distinguished between the two pollen monitoring stations using nrITS2 than using *trnL*. This was mainly the result of the higher taxonomic resolution of nrITS2, identifying species that were either typically found in the West or the Southeast of the Netherlands. All results indicate that nrITS2 should be the preferred marker of choice for molecular airborne pollen monitoring.

4.5 Manuscript V

Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

In this study, results of pollen and macrofossil analysis on eleven megafaunal faecal samples were compared to plant DNA metabarcoding results from the chloroplast *trnL* P6 loop and nrITS marker. The results show that it is important to incorporate a multiproxy approach in studying megafaunal faeces, since unique plants were identified using pollen, macrofossils and DNA. However, most unique plant identifications were found using DNA, likely because the studied faeces contained many vegetative remains that could not be identified using macrofossils or pollen. The *trnL* P6 loop showed the highest number of plant identifications, partly because the reference library was more complete and partly because DNA may have been degraded. Nevertheless, for the first time it is shown that the relatively long nrITS marker can be successfully amplified from samples as old as 28,610 yr BP. This allowed plants to be identified to the species level where other proxies only found family or genus level identifications in e.g. Asteraceae, Poaceae and bryophytes.

By integrating results from all proxies, an accurate reconstruction of the last meals and habitats of modern and extant caribou could be made. These showed, as expected, that that the caribou were mainly foraging on shrubs and low amounts of lichen in alpine/arctic tundra. Extending this approach, the Holocene mammals studied here (horse and steppe bison) could be reconstructed as mixed feeders living in a marshy environment. For the woolly mammoths, highly variable diets were identified from a range of habitats. Some of the mammoth fed exclusively on grasses, while others showed abundant shrubs or forbs. This result shows that mammoths may have been more flexible in their food choice than previously thought, and that they made full use of the various habitats present in the landscape mosaic often referred to as the 'mammoth steppe'.

5. Discussion and concluding remarks

This thesis shows the added value of incorporating novel techniques, including automatic image recognition and DNA metabarcoding into pollen analysis. Using a case study from the family Urticaceae, Manuscript I demonstrates that neural networks are able to differentiate highly similar pollen from genera that cannot be distinguished by palynologists. Without prior knowledge of the morphological differences between pollen of these genera, the neural networks correctly focused on the distinguishing features of each genus. To improve robustness of the CNNs, increasing variability of the pollen training images was found to be of high importance. This is because pollen from different plant samples of the same species were found to show subtle, but distinct variability. This naturally occurring intra-specific variability was also recognized in a recent study on automatic image recognition of bee-collected pollen (Olsson et al., 2021). Here, the authors collect pollen from at least two, but for most species over four samples. Deep and sensitive CNNs may recognize sample-specific, instead of species-specific patterns if not trained correctly. While Olsson et al. (2021) deal with a much larger number of species, including some that are quite similar, the magnification used in that study (40X) would not allow visualization of distinguishing features in very small pollen such as those from Urticaceae. Furthermore, several species from genera were distinguished at 40X magnification that are very hard to discriminate even using SEM images (e.g., *Acer campestre*, *A. platanoides*, *A. pseudoplatanus*; Biesboer, 1975, Beug, 2004). This raises the question whether the CNN used by Olsson et al. (2021) really identified the different species, or that potentially due to the different uptake of the fuchsin staining used, artificial differences may have been introduced that were picked up by the CNN. Nevertheless, at the genus level, very high accuracies were found and this approach can be extended to airborne pollen identification. However, for high-resolution species differentiation, the method of Manuscript I of this thesis may be more suitable.

For distinction of pollen and plants that cannot be morphologically distinguished, DNA metabarcoding has been successfully applied in this thesis. DNA was obtained directly from pollen to refine allergenic pollen monitoring in Manuscript IV, and used as a complementary method to pollen-based paleoecological reconstructions in Manuscript V. Taxonomic resolution using *trnL* and *nrITS2* was found to be much higher than using microscopic pollen analysis (Figure 5). A multilocus approach was crucial for identifying plant diversity, as unique

families, genera and species were found using both *trnL* as nrITS2 in both studies. However, the nrITS marker was found to be harder to amplify, with less samples successfully amplified, likely resulting from the relatively long amplicon size (~350 – 500 bp). In the Pleistocene and Holocene samples in Manuscript V, where DNA was expected to be more degraded, the very short and stable *trnL* P6 loop was found to perform better than nrITS2 in terms of taxa recovery (Figure 5). On the other hand, this thesis shows for the first time that nrITS can be successfully amplified from samples preserved over 28,000 years in permafrost, providing highly valuable insights into hitherto hidden diversity in megafaunal diets and habitats. nrITS results showed much higher percentages of taxa recovered to the species level for both studies (~80% of OTUs, versus ~25-40% for *trnL*). For Manuscript IV, where recent

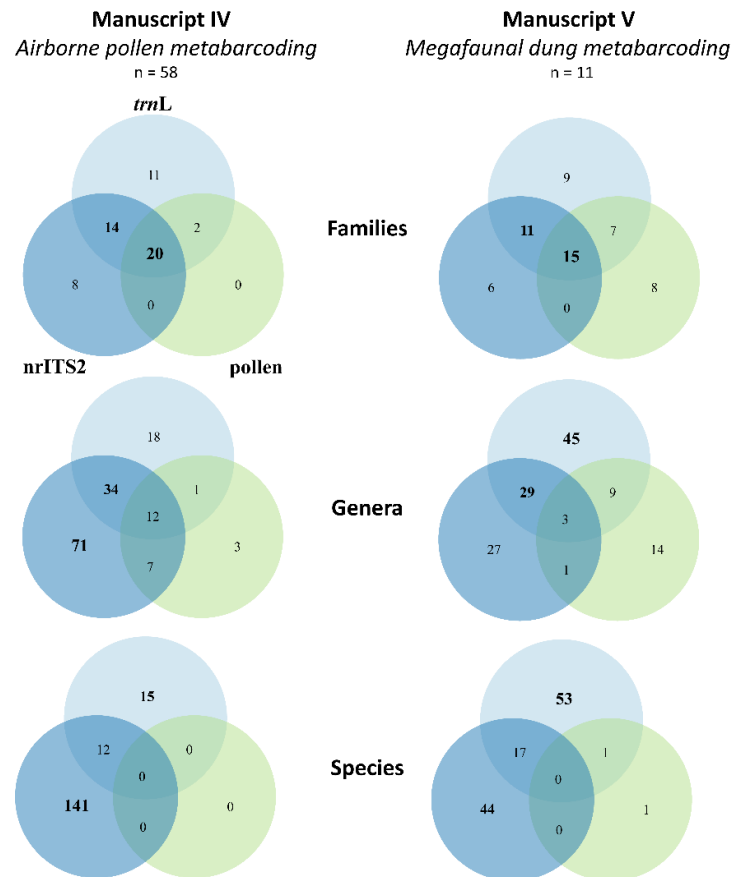


Figure 5. Venn diagrams for manuscripts IV and V. The number of taxa detected using *trnL*, nrITS2 and microscopic pollen analysis is shown at family, genus and species level. n = number of samples studied

samples were used, DNA was of high quality, allowing nrITS2 to show its full potential in identifying hidden diversity of pollen grains (Figure 5).

Since quantifying relative abundance is essential for answering many ecological questions, the main arguments against DNA metabarcoding have often been that the results cannot be reliably used in a quantitative way (Bell et al., 2019; Deagle et al., 2019; Pawluczyk et al., 2015; Piñol et al., 2019). However, in Manuscript IV it is shown that for allergenic pollen monitoring, nrITS2 results can be used to infer statistically significant species-level semi-quantitative results. This result is corroborated in pollen quantification studies using nrITS2 for bee-collected pollen, also finding similar correlation values ($R^2 \sim 0.8$; Bänisch et al., 2020; Keller et al., 2015; Richardson et al., 2021). Despite initial good results of quantifying pollen using chloroplast *trnL* (Kraaijeveld et al., 2015), the results of Manuscript IV indicate that it performs less well than nrITS2, similar to results in Richardson et al. (2021). DNA from pollen may be easier amplifiable using nuclear markers because of the high number of nuclear ribosomal ITS tandem copies inside the multiple nuclei in pollen grains (Long and Dawid, 1980). Furthermore, in most angiosperm species chloroplast DNA is inherited maternally, which is why it is either increased or reduced in pollen from different taxa (Nagata et al., 1999; Sakamoto et al., 2008). In Manuscript V, the relative abundance of nrITS2 reads showed high overlap with plant macrofossil abundance for some samples, while this correlation was higher for *trnL* in others. This is most likely related to differences in DNA preservation for the different samples. Quantifying pollen using absolute DNA metabarcoding reads has been shown to be possible by some studies, but because of biases originating from PCR as well as library preparation steps (e.g., equimolar pooling), this needs further research and standardization (Baksay et al., 2020; Bell et al., 2019; Pornon et al., 2016). PCR-free approaches including genome skimming have recently shown promising results in quantifying pollen quantification (Lang et al., 2019; Peel et al., 2019), but are currently hindered by the high costs associated with the analysis, as well as a lack of reference genomes. Therefore, amplicon metabarcoding using nrITS2 is currently the most feasible method for semi-quantitative molecular pollen analysis.

Several alternative methods for identifying pollen have been introduced in recent years that will be briefly discussed here. Among these, the most promising results have been obtained using multispectral imaging flow cytometry, in combination with deep learning (Dunker et al., 2021), digital holography with supervised learning techniques (Sauvageat et

al., 2020) and qPCR barcoding (Rowney et al., 2021). The first two morphological methods have high potential for automated and accelerated pollen counting, but have as yet not been tested on fresh pollen mixtures of unknown pollen types. Furthermore, the main aim of these methods is not to increase the taxonomic resolution (although this may partly be achieved with sufficient training), but rather to automate and accelerate palynological investigations. The method of Rowney et al. (2021) links particular Poaceae species prevalence, measured using qPCR, with respiratory disease incidence. A subset of species was particularly targeted in this study, while DNA metabarcoding has the potential to capture all species from bulk samples. Other techniques have been developed that do focus on increasing taxonomic resolution in pollen, including Raman spectroscopy (Pereira et al., 2021) and FTIR chemotaxonomy of pollen (Jardine et al., 2019). However, these techniques currently require further developments to overcome specific technical issues and have not yet been tested on real samples. Therefore, the techniques applied in this study, including automatic image recognition and DNA metabarcoding currently have the highest potential to increase both taxonomic resolution and quantify pollen.

In future research, the automatic image recognition method of Manuscript I has the potential to uncover currently hidden species distribution patterns back in time by utilizing historical microscopic pollen slides. This is harder to achieve using DNA metabarcoding, since historical samples may have highly degraded DNA. The method can also be applied to other case studies where distinction is desirable due to differences in allergenicity (e.g., family Oleaceae, allergenic *Olea* versus non-allergenic *Fraxinus* and *Ligustrum* pollen) or to detect invasive taxa (e.g., family Polygonaceae, invasive *Reynoutria* versus native *Polygonum* pollen). For pollen DNA metabarcoding, identifying and correcting for species-specific amplification biases will help in creating robust species-level allergenic pollen monitoring. This method has the potential in showing spatiotemporal patterns in more species and over prolonged periods of times, and could also be used as an early detection system for pollen from invasive plants.

Further contributions to manuscripts not included in this thesis

Li, C., **Polling, M.**, Cao, L. and Verbeek, F.J. Analysis of Automatic Image Classification Methods for Urticaceae Pollen Classification. *Manuscript to be submitted to BMC Bioinformatics*

Mota de Oliveira, S., Duijm, E., Ruijgrok, J., Stech, M., **Polling, M.**, Barbosa, C.G.G, Cerqueira, G.R., Nascimento, A.H.M., Godoi, R.H.M., Wolf, S., Pöhlker, C., Weber, B., Kesselmeier, J. Life is in the Air: A Botanical Expedition into the Amazonian Atmosphere. *Manuscript in preparation*

Veltman, M. and Garrett, S., Anthoos, B., Ariza, M., Chua, P. **Polling, M.**, de Boer, H. and Hollingsworth, P. Trends and Developments in Molecular Plant Identification for Science and Society. *Manuscript in preparation*

Ariza, M., Alsos, I.G., **Polling, M.**, Lammers, Y., Garcés Pastor, S., de Boer, H., Halvorsen, R., Plant detectability with soil eDNA. *Manuscript in preparation*

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And then I suddenly found myself on a huge 250 m long drilling ship, way out offshore in the US Gulf of Mexico... sweltering heat, dressed up in orange coveralls and wearing a hard hat.. Thinking: what happened? How did I end up here? I was really interested in the sharks, tuna, dolphins and migrating hummingbirds on and around the ship, but what I was there for was actually helping to find oil, over 10 km below the deck of the ship. True, I was there as a palynologist looking down a microscope at fascinating micro-organisms, but it was not quite the right place for a biologist to be... for many different reasons. It was time for a change, but how do you find a job as a biologist if you are actually trained as a geologist? Dilemma. Luckily, I did not stand alone in this problem. After many doubts and some very random job applications, me and my girlfriend Yvonne drew out a roadmap: what do I want? A job outside oil and gas. What should the job be about? Biology, biodiversity. What requirements should the job have? Applied, analytical. I still have the piece of paper with the whole diagram. Amazingly, one of the routes we laid out in 2018 is exactly the one I ended up following: do biology PhD in the Netherlands, finish PhD, get job with new skills.

Sounds easy-peasy, but I think many of you reading this can attest to it definitely not having been easy-peasy over the course of the three years. I don't think I would have been able to finish it without the support of all of you, so here goes: first I want to thank the people who gave me this opportunity in the first place. To Barbara for her unbridled support and can-do attitude, and Hugo for keeping me in check. To all the people in the labs introducing me to the world of DNA, Marcel E., Arjen, Elza, Roland, Frank.. I will never be king of the pipette, but thanks to you I got it done. Rob and Bertie-Joan for always being there for an informal chat over coffee. My fellow group members, Dewi and Richa, your positivity is an inspiration. Thanks to all the fellow Naturalis PhDs and postdocs for the mental support, Lisette, Andres, Kasper, Hector, Kevin, Eka, Esther, Anita, Le Qin, Deyi and all the others. To Ozan, because suffering together is so much better than doing it alone. Thanks to the amazing students for their help during their internships; Tom, Marit, Charissa, Melati – you made my life so much easier. To the many co-authors helping me out in my projects, in particular Lu, Chen, Bas, Anneke, Sanne, Letty, Physilia, Fons, Joost – I highly value your input and support throughout. To the Plant.ID team, Brecht and Marcella for managing the whole project and organizing great trips to Barcelona, Scotland and Oslo for the wicked bunch of ESRs - thanks to Bastien,

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Publications and Manuscripts

Manuscript 1

Neural networks for increased
accuracy of allergenic pollen
monitoring



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Neural networks for increased accuracy of allergenic pollen monitoring

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Monitoring of airborne pollen concentrations provides an important source of information for the globally increasing number of hay fever patients. Airborne pollen is traditionally counted under the microscope, but with the latest developments in image recognition methods, automating this process has become feasible. A challenge that persists, however, is that many pollen grains cannot be distinguished beyond the genus or family level using a microscope. Here, we assess the use of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to increase taxonomic accuracy for airborne pollen. As a study we use the nettle family (Urticaceae), which contains two main genera (*Urtica* and *Parietaria*) common in European landscapes which pollen cannot be separated by trained specialists. While pollen from *Urtica* species has very low allergenic relevance, pollen from several species of *Parietaria* is severely allergenic. We collect pollen from both fresh as well as from herbarium specimens and use these without the often used acetolysis step to train the CNN model. The models show that unacetolyzed Urticaceae pollen grains can be distinguished with >98% accuracy. We then apply our model on before unseen Urticaceae pollen collected from aerobiological samples and show that the genera can be confidently distinguished, despite the more challenging input images that are often overlain by debris. Our method can also be applied to other pollen families in the future and will thus help to make allergenic pollen monitoring more specific.

Pollen allergies are on the rise globally, with worldwide approximately 10–30% of adults and 40% of children affected^{1,2}. For patients the symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes, mouth or skin. Control measures and medication are readily available, but to alleviate the symptoms most efficiently, exposure to allergens should be kept to a minimum³. Therefore, for more and more people, fast and accurate monitoring of airborne pollen provides an essential early warning system^{4,5}. Pollen concentrations in the air are monitored using samplers that collect airborne pollen on sticky tape, e.g. Hirst type samplers⁶. These tapes are microscopically inspected for their pollen content, a process that requires highly trained specialists. Moreover, although the allergenic pollen from some plants can be monitored at the species level (e.g. species of plantain, *Plantago* L.⁷), many other pollen grains cannot be accurately identified to this level. In many taxa, only a genus- or family-level identification is possible using current microscopic methods⁸. This is problematic since different species and even genera within the same family can possess very different allergenic profiles. An extra challenging factor in airborne pollen identification from Hirst samples is that they are collected directly from the air. In contrast to pollen grains that have been acetolyzed⁹, these pollen grains still contain all organic material, and defining features are less apparent¹⁰.

This identification challenge is exemplified in the case of the nettle family (Urticaceae). Pollen grains produced by all species from the genus *Urtica* L. (stinging nettles) have a low allergenic profile¹¹, while pollen from several species of *Parietaria* L. (pellitory) is a major cause of hay fever and asthma, in particular *P. judaica* L. and *P. officinalis* L.^{12,13}. These pellitory species are native to the Mediterranean, but throughout the second half of the twentieth century, a range expansion occurred through north-eastern Europe, the Americas and Australia

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as a result of anthropogenic distribution and climate change^{14,15}. *Parietaria* sensitization is highly different per geographic area, but has been reported to reach 80% in southern Italy while a value of 13% was found in the United Kingdom¹⁶. Species of *Parietaria* flower throughout the year but their main flowering peaks occur in May–June and August–October, which overlaps with the flowering season of *Urtica* species (June–October)¹⁷. Cross-reactivity is present between species of *Parietaria*, but is absent between the genera *Urtica* and *Parietaria*^{11,18,19}. *Parietaria* pollen is microscopically indistinguishable from that of *Urtica* and their contribution to the total airborne pollen load is currently not assessed in either native or expanded range²⁰.

Pollen grains from *Urtica* and *Parietaria* species have a simple morphology: they are small (~ 11–20 µm), rounded to slightly ellipsoidal tri-, tetra- or zonoporate with a psilate to scabrate surface ornament and small pores. Most species have an annulus around the pore, i.e. a thickening of the otherwise very thin exine and a germination area called the oncus (lens-shaped body located in the apertural region)⁷. The only species of Urticaceae that can be distinguished in aerobiological samples is *Urtica membranacea* due to its small size (~ 10–12 µm) and a high number of pores (usually more than six²¹). The main difference between the pollen of *Urtica* and *Parietaria* are the slightly smaller size and coarser surface ornamentation of *Parietaria*, and a more angular outline and more pronounced annulus of *Urtica*²².

Despite recent advances in innovative technologies, palynology is still largely an image-based discipline²³. Therefore, automating this process currently receives a lot of attention. Automatic classification using manually selected pollen-specific features has typically resulted in relatively low classification success (see e.g.^{24,25}). However, recent studies applying advances using deep learning have been very promising^{26–29}. Neural networks have been used successfully to manage both the tasks of differentiating pollen from non-pollen debris as well as correctly identifying different taxa (for an overview please refer to²³). Automatic image recognition can, however, also be used to improve identification of pollen taxa that are difficult to distinguish using traditional methods. Subtle variations in morphology that are not readily apparent through microscopic investigation may be consistently detected by neural networks. This has for example been shown for the highly similar pollen of black spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.) and white spruce (*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss) using machine learning³⁰ and for pollen of ten species of the thistle genus *Onopordum* L. using an artificial neural network³¹. Recent advances have also been made in the field of aerobiological samples with for example the distinction of anomalous from normal pollen grains of common hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.)³². However, neural networks have so far not been tested for improvement of taxonomic resolution in unacetolyzed pollen in aerobiological samples.

Here we use Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to distinguish morphologically similar, unacetolyzed pollen from the nettle family. We collect pollen from all species of Urticaceae present in the Netherlands (*Urtica dioica*, *U. membranacea*, *U. urens*, *Parietaria judaica* and *P. officinalis*). The pollen was collected from several sources for each species, freshly collected as well as from herbaria, and used to create a pollen image reference dataset. We compare the results of CNNs trained from scratch with those from pre-trained CNNs using transfer learning. Because of the limited size of the pollen image dataset, pre-training the CNN on a publicly available image database can help to recognize the distinguishing features of pollen grains such as pores, texture and shape.

We test both the deep CNN VGG16 and the faster CNNs MobileNetV1 and V2, and optimize the performance using data augmentation. The model is then applied to unknown Urticaceae pollen from three aerobiological samples with high Urticaceae pollen counts. We use one sample from the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), Leiden, the Netherlands as well as one sample each from Lleida and Vielha, Catalonia, Spain (ICTA-UAB). In the Netherlands, stinging nettles (*Urtica*) are highly abundant and therefore it is expected that most Urticaceae pollen will be from this genus. *Urtica* is also expected to be dominant in Vielha, while in the direct surroundings of Lleida, *Parietaria* is very abundant.

The main objectives of this study are (1) to see whether a CNN model can distinguish morphologically similar unacetolyzed pollen of two common genera and a species in the Urticaceae family that have highly differing allergenic profiles; (2) to test whether the trained model can be successfully applied on aerobiological samples containing more complex and for the model before unseen input images.

Results

Model performance. In this study three different CNNs were tested on unacetolyzed pollen of Urticaceae which cannot currently be separated by specialists. The highest accuracy of the models using the three classes *Urtica*, *Parietaria* and the species *Urtica membranacea* was obtained using fivefold cross-validation (i.e. 80% training, 20% validation) with either VGG16 (98.61%) or MobileNetV2 (98.76%) (Table 1). Since VGG16 and MobileNetV2 had very similar performance, we trained these two models two more times to see which model performed more consistently. The mean accuracy after three repetitions was 98.50% for VGG16 with 0.145% standard deviation and 98.45% for MobileNetV2 with relatively higher standard deviation (0.289%). The models trained from scratch showed significant lower accuracy for MobileNetV1 and V2 (both < 89%) while this value was 96.29% for VGG16.

As the CNNs showed equally high accuracies with the pre-trained method (> 98%), we applied the more consistent VGG16 model using fivefold cross-validation and show the results here. The model accurately identified pollen to the genus level for 97.8% of the test images for *Urtica* and 99.0% for *Parietaria* (Fig. 1). For *Parietaria* three images were misclassified, while five were misclassified for *Urtica* (all to *Parietaria*). The species *Urtica membranacea* was confidently distinguished from all other Urticaceae species (99.2%), but distinction at the species-level was not possible for any of the other *Urtica* and *Parietaria* species. This is because the distinguishing features of pollen from these species (e.g. exine ornamentation) could not be resolved in the used image projections.

For all species, pollen grains were collected from a minimum of four different plants. Looking at the raw pollen images from the different plants, we identified intra-specific differences that result from natural variability

| CNN | Method | Cross-validation | Accuracy (%) | Precision | Recall | F1-score |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|
| VGG16 | From scratch | Fivefold | 96.29 | 0.9632 | 0.9629 | 0.9629 |
| | | Tenfold | 96.14 | 0.9616 | 0.9614 | 0.9614 |
| | Pre-trained | Fivefold | 98.61 | 0.9861 | 0.9861 | 0.9861 |
| | | Tenfold | 98.30 | 0.9831 | 0.9830 | 0.9830 |
| MobileNetV1 | From scratch | Fivefold | 84.54 | 0.8454 | 0.8454 | 0.8454 |
| | | Tenfold | 86.40 | 0.8640 | 0.8640 | 0.8641 |
| | Pre-trained | Fivefold | 98.15 | 0.9815 | 0.9815 | 0.9816 |
| | | Tenfold | 98.15 | 0.9815 | 0.9815 | 0.9815 |
| MobileNetV2 | From scratch | Fivefold | 87.64 | 0.8769 | 0.8764 | 0.8763 |
| | | Tenfold | 88.56 | 0.8857 | 0.8856 | 0.8856 |
| | Pre-trained | Fivefold | 98.76 | 0.9877 | 0.9876 | 0.9876 |
| | | Tenfold | 98.45 | 0.9849 | 0.9845 | 0.9846 |

Table 1. Performance comparisons of VGG16, MobileNetV1 and MobileNetV2, comparing models trained from scratch with pre-trained models as well as fivefold versus tenfold cross-validation. Values in bold represent the highest accuracy scores obtained for each of the three models.

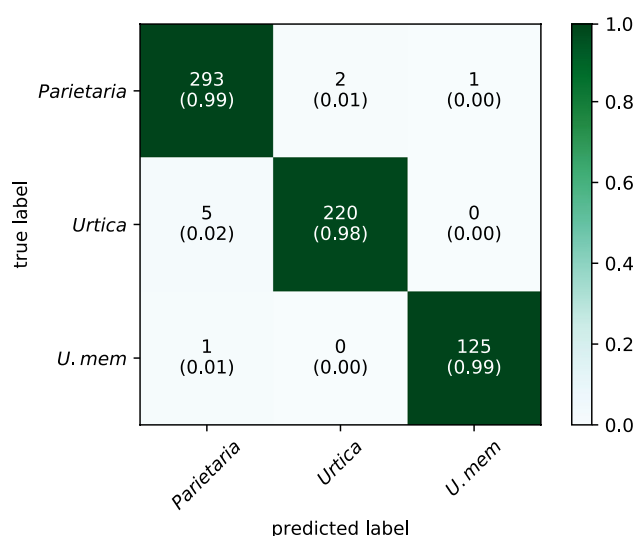


Figure 1. Confusion matrix of results of pre-trained VGG16 using 80% of the images for training and 20% for testing. Numbers represent the actual number of correctly recognized images while those between brackets represent the ratio of correctly classified images. *U.mem* = *Urtica membranacea*.

within each species. To test whether the CNNs learned the pollen-specific distinguishing features rather than sample-specific details, we produced feature maps for the VGG16 model (Fig. 2b–d). Despite the highly variable input images of unacetolyzed pollen from different plants, the model consistently learned features such as edges in the first convolutional layers, while finer features such as pores and annuli were learned in deeper layers.

Application to test cases. Table 2 shows the results of the CNN on unknown and before unseen Urticaceae pollen from an aerobiological sample from Leiden, the Netherlands, as well as from Lleida and Vielha, Catalonia, Spain. We set the identification threshold at a value of 60% as derived from the model test images, and therefore the CNN also returned unknown images (see Supplementary Table S1 for the full results). For the sample from Leiden, 85.7% of the Urticaceae pollen was identified as *Urtica*, with only a minor presence of *Parietaria* (4.5%). The sample from Lleida shows dominance of *Parietaria* pollen grains (81.0%) while 14.3% of the Urticaceae pollen grains were classified as *Urtica*. Finally, for Vielha we find a mixture of ~70% *Urtica* and ~20% *Parietaria*. No *Urtica membranacea* pollen grains were identified in any of the samples. On average, unknown images account for 8.7% of the total images when using 60% identity threshold. When using a stricter identity threshold (e.g. 70%, see Table 2), the unknown image category increases to an average value of 13.5%.

Discussion

This study demonstrates incorporating neural networks to increase the taxonomic resolution of pollen grain identifications in aerobiological samples. The feature maps in Fig. 2 show that the trained deep learning model VGG16 looks at the traditionally used morphological features to distinguish *Urtica* from *Parietaria* pollen grains.

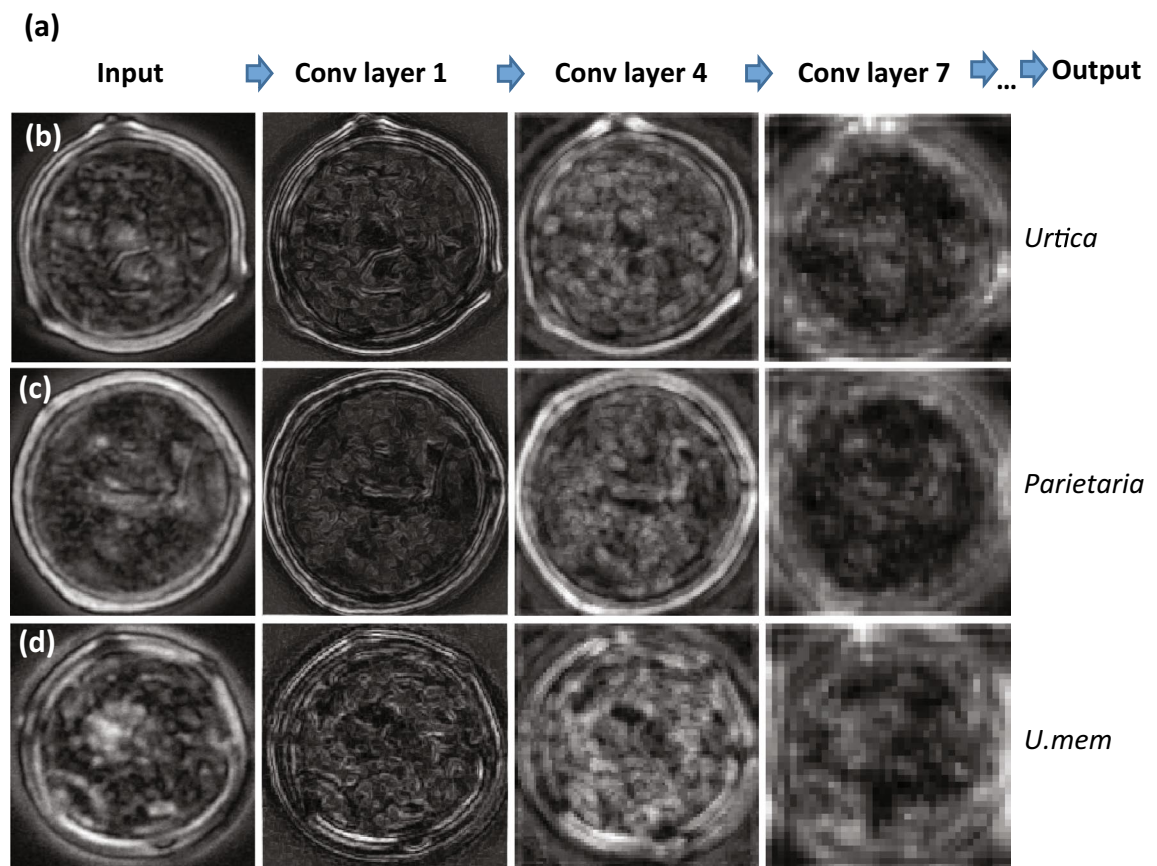


Figure 2. Feature maps. (a) simplified view of the VGG16 model showing three convolutional layers. (b–d) Feature maps of Urticaceae pollen grains from the standard deviation projection created using ImageJ, that were confidently distinguished by the CNNs. (b) *Urtica urens*, (c) *Parietaria judaica* and (d) *Urtica membranacea*. Activation levels are indicated with white indicating high activation and black very low/no activation.

| Sample location | Date collected | No. Pollen | % <i>Urtica</i> | % <i>Parietaria</i> | % <i>U. mem</i> | % Unknown | Identity threshold |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Leiden, NL | 23/08/2019 | 112 | 85.7 | 4.5 | 0 | 9.8 | 60% |
| Lleida, SP | 16/06/2019 | 63 | 14.3 | 81.0 | 0 | 4.8 | 60% |
| Vielha, SP | 09/08/2019 | 26 | 69.2 | 19.2 | 0 | 11.5 | 60% |
| Leiden, NL | 23/08/2019 | 112 | 83.0 | 3.6 | 0 | 13.4 | 70% |
| Lleida, SP | 16/06/2019 | 63 | 12.7 | 79.4 | 0 | 7.9 | 70% |
| Vielha, SP | 09/08/2019 | 26 | 69.2 | 11.5 | 0 | 19.2 | 70% |

Table 2. Results of the deep learning model VGG16 on Urticaceae pollen from an area representing 10% of the total deposition area of Hirst-type aerobiological samples from Leiden (the Netherlands), Lleida and Vielha (both Catalonia, Spain). Values in bold represent the highest accuracy scores obtained for each of the three classes. The threshold for identification was tested at 60% and 70%. Images that were classified below this level were classified as unknown. *U.mem* = *Urtica membranacea*.

The characteristic thickening of the exine around the pores of *Urtica* shows the highest activation in the deeper convolutional layers. The distinct thickening is missing in *Parietaria* pollen, and the model instead focuses on the pollen outline. As expected, the only species to be distinguished by our model is *Urtica membranacea* which shows a slightly angular outline due to the larger numbers of pores (Fig. 2d). For the other species used in this study, no distinction was possible even though it has been shown that pollen from species of *Urtica* (*U. dioica* and *U. urens*) (Fig. 2b) and *Parietaria* (*P. judaica* and *P. officinalis*) (Fig. 2c) can be separated based on differences in their exine ornamentation²². These differences can, however, only be imaged using specialized microscopy methods such as SEM or phase-contrast imaging, and are very hard to visualize using brightfield microscopy. Furthermore, these features are obscured when pollen grains are not acetolyzed. For our purposes, this species level distinction is not relevant as no known differences in allergenicity are known between either the species of *Urtica*¹¹ or *Parietaria*¹⁸.

Similar to a recent study comparing pollen image classification methods, we found that using a pre-trained CNN consistently outperforms the models trained from scratch³³. This transfer learning approach is also used by many other recent studies on deep learning of pollen images, mainly because of the limited amount of training images^{26–29,34,35}. Still, we find that the VGG16 model trained from scratch achieves a high accuracy of 96.29%. This is because compared to the MobileNets, VGG16 architecture has more and deeper parameters. The MobileNets have less training parameters making them much lighter and faster, and the high accuracies found here indicate that they can be used as a light-weight alternative. In our models the amount of False Positives (FP) is nearly equal to the amount of False Negatives (FN) which is why recall, precision and F1-score were very similar.

This is the first time deep learning has been used to increase the taxonomic accuracy of unacetolyzed pollen identifications. The models represent a significant improvement of earlier attempts in distinguishing Urticaceae pollen using automatic image classification. In a previous study using hand-designed shape and texture features, pollen from three Urticaceae species could be distinguished from another with an 89% accuracy³⁶, though only a small image dataset was used to train the model (i.e. 100 images per species). Similar results were obtained by²⁴ where shape features were used with a minimum distance classifier to obtain a 86% accuracy between three species of Urticaceae. Because not all species of Urticaceae were included and a low amount of training images was used, these studies have limited applicability to the highly diverse pollen encountered in aerobiological slides. Furthermore, for both studies the trained model was tested on real case examples and only *Urtica membranacea* was successfully identified (>98%). The other two classes (*Urtica*) and (*Parietaria*) showed very high error rates (up to 44.4%)²⁴. This could be because the model was not trained with sufficient variability. Because we trained the models with pollen from various sources and used data augmentation, they had a better generalizing capability.

Deep learning models have shown similar accuracy rates to ours on larger and more varied pollen datasets as well, but these either focussed on the family level^{37–39} or on insect-collected pollen for honey analysis^{26–28}. Increasing the taxonomic resolution of pollen grains has been achieved by incorporating an extensively trained deep learning model with super-resolution microscopy on a case study of fossil pollen³⁵. Similarly, incorporating SEM images has been found to allow for highly accurate distinction of pollen types²⁹. These microscopy methods, however, are often much more expensive than using light microscopy and require extensive sample preparation. Moreover, nearly all of these studies work with acetolyzed pollen that allow easier recognition of distinguishing features, and used pollen collected from a single location.

To validate our model, we tested it on Urticaceae pollen from aerobiological samples collected from different locations in Spain and the Netherlands. Most of the pollen grains from the sample from Leiden, the Netherlands were identified by the deep learning model as *Urtica*, with only a low number of images identified as *Parietaria*. While *Parietaria* plants are relatively abundant around the sampling location in Leiden and were flowering on the chosen date, its pollen is most likely simply outnumbered by the much larger number of nettles in the area. For Lleida (Catalonia), where pellitory plants are abundantly present, *Parietaria* pollen grains dominated the assemblage, while the sample from Vielha showed a mixed assemblage. The number of unknown images was the highest for the sample from Vielha (11.5%), which is most likely the result of the presence of more debris on the pollen grains making a certain identification impossible. In all aerobiological slides, debris on top of or below the pollen grains was observed in different focal planes. Nevertheless, the model still successfully classified most of the pollen grains, and in most cases with high confidence (Supplementary Table S1). This shows the potential broad application of this method and opens up opportunities to study both seasonal as well as long-term yearly dynamics of *Parietaria* versus *Urtica* abundance of airborne pollen, as well as using this method to distinguish other morphologically similar species of allergenic importance from different families (e.g. Betulaceae, Amaranthaceae, Oleaceae). To further improve the generalization of this classification system, future work will focus on increasing the amount of training images from variable sources. Furthermore, more elaborate techniques like regularization will be considered to improve the variability in the image dataset⁴⁰. Since for allergenic pollen monitoring reducing the amount of false negatives (i.e. increasing recall) is particularly important, more models will be tested to identify the best recall values.

A limitation of our method is that currently pollen from aerobiological slides have to be located manually. It has already been shown that automating this process is feasible, e.g. using a deep learning approach⁴¹. In other systems like the commercially available Classifynder system, pollen are automatically located and imaged using darkfield imaging after which a simple neural network classifies the pollen⁴². This is also the case for the BAA500 system used by, e.g. Oteros et al.⁴³, that was particularly developed for recognizing and classifying unacetolyzed airborne pollen for hay fever predictions. Lastly, using a CNN and digital holography on pollen grains directly from the air (i.e. unacetolyzed) showed great promise in quantifying pollen automatically to the family level⁴⁴. While these systems achieve automated and accelerated pollen counting, our method instead particularly increases the accuracy of information useful for allergy prevention by making it more specific.

Conclusions

In conclusion, using a combination of an image-processing workflow and a sufficiently trained deep learning model, we were able to differentiate unacetolyzed pollen grains from two genera and one species in the nettle family. These are genera that are indistinguishable with current microscopic methods but possess different allergenic profiles, and thus the ability to differentiate them is of medical significance. Our method can be more broadly applied to distinguish pollen from similarly challenging allergenic plant families and can help in producing more accurate pollen spectra to improve the forecasts for allergy sufferers.

Material and methods

A flowchart has been constructed to visualize all the steps in the Urticaceae pollen image classification process (Fig. 3). Details on the individual steps are described in this section.

Collection of pollen. Pollen grains were collected from all five species of Urticaceae found in the Netherlands. In the genus *Urtica*, the native species *U. dioica* L. (common nettle) and *U. urens* L. (small nettle) are ubiquitous in nitrogen rich moist areas, ditches, woodlands, disturbed sites and roadsides. The exotic Mediterranean species *U. membranacea* is rarely encountered, though is included in this study since its range is expected to increase due to the effects of global warming. The genus *Parietaria* is represented in the Netherlands by the species *P. judaica* L. (pellitory of the wall) and *P. officinalis* L. (upright pellitory) that both occupy rocky substrates, mainly in the urban environment¹⁵. Moreover, *P. judaica* has shown a big increase in abundance over the past decades, e.g. in the Netherlands (Supplementary Fig. S1), but also in many other parts of the world.

Pollen from all Urticaceae species was either freshly obtained or collected from herbarium specimens (Naturalis Biodiversity Center). Fresh material was collected with the help of an experienced botanist (Barbara Graven-deel) in the direct surroundings of Leiden and The Hague during the nettle flowering seasons of 2018 and 2019. All newly collected plant specimens have been vouchered and were deposited in the herbarium of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (L.3993376–L.3993387) (Supplementary Table S2). Original taxonomic assignments for the herbarium specimens were verified using identification keys and descriptions⁴⁵. A minimum of four different plants were sampled per species, from different geographical locations to cover as much of the phenotypic plasticity in the pollen grains as possible and reflect the diversity found on aerobiological slides.

To produce palynological reference slides, thecae of open flowers were carefully opened on a microscopic slide using tweezers. A stereo microscope was mounted in a fume hood to avoid inhalation of the severely allergenic pollen of *Parietaria* species. Non-pollen material was manually removed to obtain a clean slide. The pollen grains were mounted using a glycerin:water:gelatin (7:6:1) solution with 2% phenol and stained with Safranin (0.002% w/v). These represent the same conditions as used in airborne pollen analysis on pollen collected with a Hirst type sampler. Cover slips were secured with paraffin.

Pollen image capture. A total of 6472 individual pollen grains were scanned from the five different species of Urticaceae. The number of images for each species varied between 1055 and 1670 (Supplementary Table S2). The images were divided into three classes, namely *Urtica* (*U. dioica* + *U. urens*), *Parietaria* (*P. judaica* + *P. officinalis*) and *U. membranacea*. The system used for imaging was a Zeiss Observer Z1 (inverted microscope) linked to a Hamamatsu EM-CCD Digital Camera (C9100), located at the Institute of Biology Leiden (IBL). Grayscale images were used, since the pollen was stained to increase contrast and not for species recognition.

The imaging procedure was as follows: on each microscope reference slide containing only pollen of one species of Urticaceae, an area rich in pollen was identified by eye and this area was automatically scanned using multidimensional acquisition with the Zeiss software Zen BLUE. For areas that were very rich in pollen, a user-defined mosaic was created consisting of all the tiles to be scanned (e.g. 20 × 20 tiles), while a list of XY positions was used for microscopic slides less rich in pollen. Because pollen grains are 3-D shapes, catching all important features can only be achieved using different focal levels, so-called ‘Z-stacks’. A total of 20 Z-stacks were used in this study with a step size of 1.8 µm. The settings used for scanning were a Plan Apochromat 100× (oil) objective and numerical aperture 0.55 with a brightfield contrast manager. To maintain similar conditions in the image collection process, the condenser was always set to 3.3 V with an exposure time of 28 ms.

Reference pollen image library. All images were post-processed in ImageJ v1.52a (Fiji)⁴⁶ using the script Pollen_Projector (https://github.com/pollingmarcel/Pollen_Projector). The input for this script is a folder containing all raw pollen images (including all Z-stacks), and the output is a set of projections for each individual pollen grain that are subsequently used as input for the deep learning model.

Pollen_Projector identifies all complete, non-overlapping pollen grains and extracts them as stacks from the raw Z-stack. This is achieved using binarization on the raw images to detect only those rounded objects with a circularity > 0.3 and a size larger than 5 µm. Out-of-focus images within each group of 20 Z-stack slices were removed using a threshold for minimum and maximum pixel values. The conventional input of a convolutional neural network is a three-channel image. In colour images RGB channels are commonly used, but since we use grayscale images, three different Z-stack projections were chosen to represent the three different channels. The projections used are Standard Deviation, Minimum Intensity and Extended Focus. Standard Deviation creates an image containing the standard deviation of the pixel intensities through the stack, where positions with large differences appear brighter in the final projection. Minimum intensity takes the minimum pixel value through the stack and uses that for the projection. Finally, the Extended Focus projection was created using the ‘Extended_Depth_of_Field’ ImageJ macro of Richard Wheeler (www.richardwheeler.net)⁴⁷. This macro takes a stack of images with a range of focal depths and builds a 2D image from it using only in focus regions of the images. A schematic overview of the processes behind the Pollen_Projector script is shown in Supplementary Fig. S2. Finally, to keep the original size information of the pollen grains they were inserted into a 276 × 276 frame.

Convolutional neural networks. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are widely used in the field of computer vision for image classification, object detection, facial recognition, autonomous driving, etc. For this study we used the VGG16 network⁴⁸, MobileNetV1⁴⁹ and MobileNetV2⁵⁰ in Keras⁵¹. Compared with traditional neural networks and shallow convolutional neural networks, VGG16 has deeper layers that extract more representative features from images (Fig. 2a). In contrast, MobileNets are small low-power models that offer a time-efficient alternative. A feature extractor and classifier are two key structural parts of the CNN that perform the classification task. The VGG16 network contains 13 convolutional layers that form five blocks, which generate features from images in the feature extraction phase. Subsequently, three fully connected (FC) layers were built and added to the convolutional layers to classify the different classes (Supplementary Fig. S3). The MobileNetV1 uses depth-wise separable convolutions to build light weight deep neural networks. It has 28 lay-

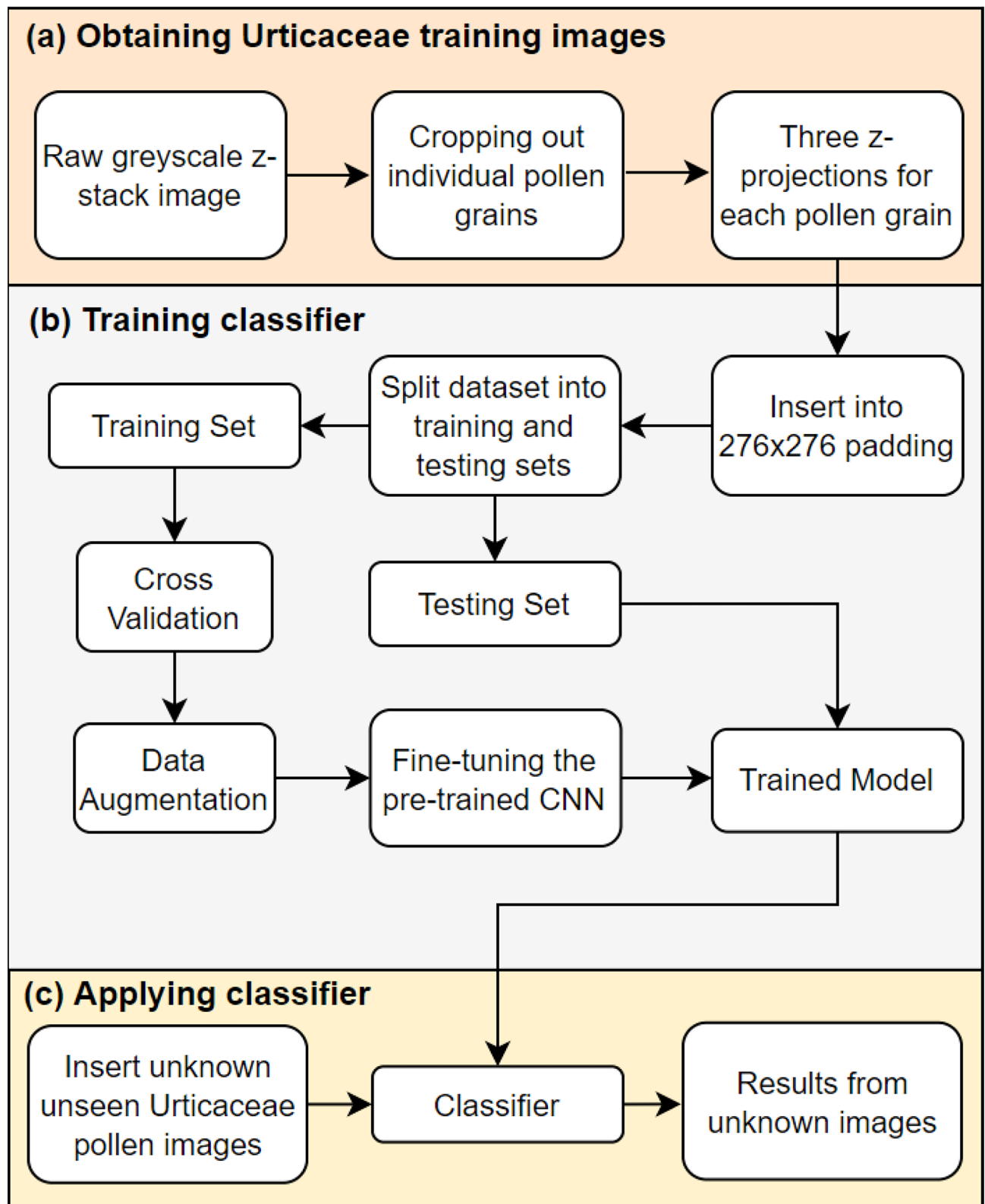


Figure 3. Flowchart showing the pollen image classification process. **(a)** Reference pollen image capture using the custom Fiji macro Pollen_Projector. **(b)** Images were inserted into a fixed frame and split into training and testing sets. The training set was used for cross-validation and data augmentation (flip, brightness) so as to train the CNNs VGG16, MobileNetv1 and MobileNetv2. Results from the models trained from scratch are compared to results from transfer learning on pre-trained models. **(c)** Images from before unseen unknown Urticaceae pollen grains are fed to the resulting classifier. Created using <https://app.diagrams.net/>.

ers in total. A final average pooling reduces the spatial resolution to 1 and connected with FC and Softmax layer for classification⁴⁹. MobileNetV2, which has 53 layers, is an improved version of MobileNetV1 by introducing inverted residual structure and linear bottleneck layers⁵⁰. MobileNetV2 is more accurate than MobileNetV1 and can be much faster. We trained classification models based on aforementioned CNNs using our pollen image dataset.

During the training process, the initial parameters of convolutional layers were derived from the pre-trained network on the ImageNet dataset. Subsequently, the convolutional layers and the following fully connected layers were further fine-tuned based on our own image dataset so as to classify the different classes. The pre-trained models were compared to models trained from scratch. In order to avoid overfitting, we compared the results of five- and tenfold cross-validation in the training process. For fivefold cross-validation the pollen image dataset is split into a training and validation data set in the ratio 80/20 while this is 90/10 for tenfold cross-validation. For each fold, the number of epochs was set to 30. The accuracy of the model converged at this point and the model is therefore found not to be overfitting (Supplementary Fig. S4).

In order to quantify model accuracy, several commonly used performance measures were used:

$$\text{precision} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$\text{recall} = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

$$F1\text{score} = 2 * \frac{\text{precision} * \text{recall}}{\text{precision} + \text{recall}}$$

$$CCR = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

where *TP* refers to True Positives, *TN* to True Negatives, *FP* to False Positives and *FN* to False Negatives. Recall is the number of True Positives divided by the total number of elements that belong to the correct class, which is the sum of the True Positives and False Negatives. The F1-score is the weighted average of the precision and recall. The correct classification rate (CCR) reflects the accuracy of the model. The values represent the average weighted by the number of images in each class.

Data augmentation. A large number of images for each class is required to train a deep learning model, as the performance will increase when more variation is fed to the model. Due to the nature of the images investigated in this study, the model was sensitive to small changes, since the differences between the pollen grains are very subtle. Therefore, data augmentation was used to increase the variety of pollen images used as input. We selected the augmentation options brightness and flip. These options were used since size and shape of pollen are key features for their identification, and using other augmentation options would artificially change the original morphology of the pollen grains. Brightness range was set from 0.1 to 2, with < 1 corresponding to a darker image and > 1 to a brighter image. Horizontal- and vertical flip were also applied randomly (Supplementary Fig. S5). In addition, we applied L2 regularization and dropout in our neural network structures to prevent overfitting.

Test cases. For each aerobiological sample an area representing 10% of the total deposition area was scanned manually for Urticaceae pollen grains (i.e. eight full transects at 100× magnification) resulting in 112 pollen grains from the sample from Leiden (LUMC, the Netherlands), 63 from Lleida and 26 from Vielha (both ICTA-UAB, Catalonia, Spain). One aspect of the Catalanian aerobiological samples was the presence of pollen from families that produce pollen similar to Urticaceae, that are rarely encountered in the Netherlands. These included *Humulus lupulus* L. (Cannabaceae) and *Morus* sp. (Moraceae) which were not included in our training dataset. These can be distinguished from Urticaceae, however, in the case of *H. lupulus* by their much larger size (up to 35 µm) and the very large onci and, in the case of *Morus* by the more ellipsoidal shape. These pollen grains were removed from the dataset before they were fed to the CNN for classification.

Data availability

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its “Supplementary Information” files). Raw pollen images can be made available upon request.

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Author contributions

M.P.: conceptualization, methodology, visualization, formal analysis, writing—original draft. C.L.: methodology, software, formal analysis, data curation, investigation. L.C.: resources, formal analysis, software, supervision. F.V.: validation, supervision, software. L.W., J.B.: resources, validation, writing—review and editing. C.D.L.: resources, validation. J.W.: software, methodology. H.B.: funding acquisition, writing—review and editing. B.G.: conceptualization, supervision, project administration, funding acquisition.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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Supplementary Information

Neural networks for increased accuracy of allergenic pollen monitoring

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Supplementary Table S1

Probability scores for Urticaceae pollen grains scanned from aerobiological samples using the pre-trained VGG16 model with 5-fold cross-validation. *U. mem* = *Urtica membranacea*

Lleida (16-06-2019), n = 63

| Image No. | Probability <i>Parietaria</i> | Probability <i>Urtica</i> | Probability <i>U. mem</i> | Final ID (threshold 0.6) | Final ID (threshold 0.7) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 2 | 0.98 | 0.02 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 3 | 0.29 | 0.70 | 0.01 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 4 | 0.98 | 0.02 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 5 | 0.24 | 0.76 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 6 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 7 | 0.94 | 0.06 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 8 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 9 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 10 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 11 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 12 | 0.96 | 0.04 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 13 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 14 | 0.96 | 0.04 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 15 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 16 | 0.90 | 0.09 | 0.01 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 17 | 0.90 | 0.01 | 0.09 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 18 | 0.73 | 0.16 | 0.10 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 19 | 0.95 | 0.04 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 20 | 0.98 | 0.00 | 0.02 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 21 | 0.16 | 0.83 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 22 | 0.67 | 0.31 | 0.02 | <i>Parietaria</i> | unknown |
| 23 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 24 | 0.95 | 0.04 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 25 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 26 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 27 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 28 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 29 | 0.34 | 0.66 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | unknown |
| 30 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 31 | 0.98 | 0.02 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 32 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 33 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 34 | 0.92 | 0.02 | 0.06 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 35 | 0.57 | 0.41 | 0.02 | unknown | unknown |
| 36 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 37 | 0.87 | 0.13 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 38 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 39 | 0.97 | 0.03 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 40 | 0.58 | 0.41 | 0.01 | unknown | unknown |
| 41 | 0.98 | 0.02 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 42 | 0.70 | 0.29 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 43 | 0.84 | 0.16 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 44 | 0.97 | 0.02 | 0.01 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 45 | 0.83 | 0.17 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 46 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 47 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 48 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 49 | 0.96 | 0.04 | 0.01 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 50 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 51 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 52 | 0.99 | 0.00 | 0.01 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 53 | 0.91 | 0.04 | 0.05 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 54 | 0.95 | 0.04 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 55 | 0.90 | 0.10 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 56 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 57 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 58 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 59 | 0.99 | 0.01 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 60 | 0.17 | 0.82 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 61 | 0.41 | 0.56 | 0.02 | unknown | unknown |
| 62 | 0.98 | 0.02 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 63 | 0.76 | 0.21 | 0.03 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |

Vielha, 09-08-2019, n = 26

| Image No. | Probability <i>Parietaria</i> | Probability <i>Urtica</i> | Probability <i>U. mem</i> | Final ID (threshold 0.6) | Final ID (threshold 0.7) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 0.03 | 0.97 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 2 | 0.07 | 0.86 | 0.07 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 3 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 4 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 5 | 0.09 | 0.91 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 6 | 0.26 | 0.74 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 7 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 8 | 0.41 | 0.04 | 0.55 | unknown | unknown |
| 9 | 0.61 | 0.39 | 0.01 | <i>Parietaria</i> | unknown |
| 10 | 0.81 | 0.10 | 0.09 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 11 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 12 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 13 | 0.49 | 0.13 | 0.38 | unknown | unknown |
| 14 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 15 | 0.14 | 0.84 | 0.02 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 16 | 0.63 | 0.10 | 0.27 | <i>Parietaria</i> | unknown |
| 17 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 18 | 0.09 | 0.90 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 19 | 0.24 | 0.76 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 20 | 0.04 | 0.96 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 21 | 0.85 | 0.12 | 0.03 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 22 | 0.80 | 0.14 | 0.07 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 23 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 24 | 0.17 | 0.83 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 25 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 26 | 0.57 | 0.43 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |

Leiden (23-08-2019), n = 112

| Image No. | Probability <i>Parietaria</i> | Probability <i>Urtica</i> | Probability <i>U. mem</i> | Final ID (threshold 0.6) | Final ID (threshold 0.7) |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 0.04 | 0.96 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 2 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 3 | 0.07 | 0.93 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 4 | 0.16 | 0.83 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 5 | 0.19 | 0.81 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 6 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 7 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 8 | 0.28 | 0.72 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 9 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 10 | 0.34 | 0.66 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | unknown |
| 11 | 0.04 | 0.96 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 12 | 0.18 | 0.81 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 13 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 14 | 0.47 | 0.53 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 15 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 16 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 17 | 0.20 | 0.80 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 18 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 19 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 20 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 21 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 22 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 23 | 0.03 | 0.97 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 24 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 25 | 0.69 | 0.31 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | unknown |
| 26 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 27 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 28 | 0.17 | 0.83 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 29 | 0.09 | 0.91 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 30 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 31 | 0.48 | 0.52 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 32 | 0.24 | 0.76 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 33 | 0.06 | 0.94 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 34 | 0.29 | 0.71 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 35 | 0.14 | 0.86 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 36 | 0.38 | 0.62 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | unknown |
| 37 | 0.06 | 0.94 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 38 | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 39 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 40 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 41 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 42 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 43 | 0.03 | 0.97 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 44 | 0.21 | 0.79 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 45 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 46 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 47 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 48 | 0.79 | 0.20 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 49 | 0.54 | 0.46 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 50 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 51 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 52 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 53 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 54 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 55 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 56 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 57 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 58 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 59 | 0.54 | 0.46 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 60 | 0.45 | 0.55 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 61 | 0.09 | 0.91 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 62 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 63 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 64 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 65 | 0.06 | 0.94 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 66 | 0.05 | 0.95 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 67 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 68 | 0.23 | 0.77 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 69 | 0.21 | 0.79 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 70 | 0.72 | 0.28 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 71 | 0.49 | 0.51 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 72 | 0.06 | 0.94 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 73 | 0.33 | 0.67 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | unknown |
| 74 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 75 | 0.28 | 0.72 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 76 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 77 | 0.03 | 0.97 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 78 | 0.05 | 0.95 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 79 | 0.21 | 0.79 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 80 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 81 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 82 | 0.03 | 0.97 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 83 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 84 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 85 | 0.17 | 0.83 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 86 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 87 | 0.90 | 0.10 | 0.00 | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria</i> |
| 88 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 89 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 90 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 91 | 0.29 | 0.71 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 92 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 93 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 94 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 95 | 0.01 | 0.99 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 96 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 97 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 98 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 99 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 100 | 0.21 | 0.79 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 101 | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 102 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 103 | 0.48 | 0.52 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 104 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 105 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 106 | 0.57 | 0.43 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 107 | 0.11 | 0.89 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 108 | 0.23 | 0.77 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 109 | 0.26 | 0.74 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 110 | 0.12 | 0.88 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |
| 111 | 0.58 | 0.42 | 0.00 | unknown | unknown |
| 112 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica</i> |

Supplementary Figure S1

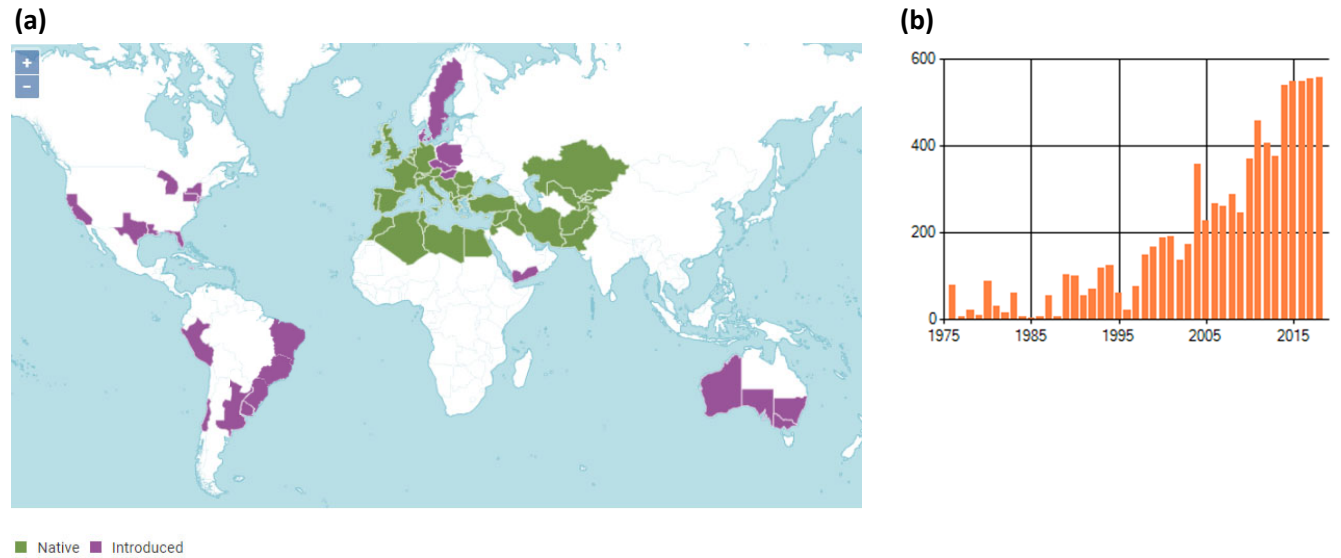


Figure S1. **(a)** Global native (green) and introduced (purple) distribution of *Parietaria judaica* and *P. officinalis* (POWO (2019). "Plants of the World Online. Map taken from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/> Retrieved 05 October 2020"). **(b)** Trend in Pellitory of the wall (*Parietaria judaica*) plant sightings per square kilometre in the Netherlands over the past 45 years. Index number = 100 for 1990 © NEM (CBS & FLORON) 2019.

Supplementary Table S2

Locations of all Urticaceae specimens and number of images. NL = the Netherlands, SP = Spain and PO = Portugal. *collected in 2018 and 2019, deposited in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center herbarium.

| Species (n = total images) | Geographical origin | Collection date | No. of images used | Deposition number |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Parietaria judaica</i> L. (n = 1670) | Montejaque (SP) | 17/10/2011 | 54 | WAG.1186948 |
| | Leiden, Stationsweg (NL) | 19/11/2019 | 168 | L.3993376* |
| | Huizen (NL) | 20/09/2014 | 174 | L.4303913 |
| | Leiden, Robijnstraat (NL) | 23/07/2012 | 139 | L.2071680 |
| | Den Haag (NL) | 05/10/2018 | 392 | L.3993377* |
| | Leiden, Paterstraatje | 09/10/2018 | 250 | L.3993378* |
| | Sassenplaat (NL) | 03/07/2013 | 233 | L.4304093 |
| | Rotterdam, Hartelkanaal (NL) | 27/09/2014 | 260 | L.4304136 |
| <i>Parietaria officinalis</i> L. (n = 1359) | Middelburg (NL) | 26/06/2014 | 234 | L.3974371 |
| | Haarlem (NL) | 13/07/2013 | 191 | L.2073373 |
| | Wageningse Polder (NL) | 19/07/2012 | 64 | WAG.1186992 |
| | Leiden (NL) | 07/2012 | 369 | L.3963901 |
| | Den Haag, Escamplaan (NL) | 12/10/2018 | 383 | L.3993379* |
| | Den Haag, Bosjes van Poot (NL) | 01/08/2012 | 248 | L.2071818 |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> L. (n = 1055) | Leiden, Hogeschool 1 (NL) | 06/11/2019 | 316 | L.3993380* |
| | Leiden, Hogeschool 2 (NL) | 07/11/2019 | 299 | L.3993381* |
| | Den Haag (NL) | 17/11/2019 | 182 | L.3993382* |
| | Leiden, Sandiforddreef (NL) | 15/11/2019 | 191 | L.3993383* |
| | Arnhem (NL) | 29/05/2001 | 67 | WAG.1188104 |
| <i>Urtica membranacea</i> Poir. ex Savigny (n = 1118) | Amsterdam (NL) | 11/2018 | 521 | L.3993384* |
| | Overloon (NL) | 17/06/2014 | 135 | L.3959964 |
| | Cape st. Vincent (PO) | 03/1995 | 87 | L.1629741 |
| | Den Haag (NL) | 06/03/2019 | 375 | L.3993385* |
| <i>Urtica urens</i> L. (n = 1270) | Leiden (NL) | 01/11/2019 | 128 | L.3993386* |
| | Castilla-la-Mancha (SP) | 27/05/2016 | 165 | WAG.1962413 |
| | Zandvoort (NL) | 05/08/2012 | 201 | L.2071917 |
| | Meijendel (NL) | 12/08/2011 | 140 | L.2074446 |
| | Zwolle (NL) | 29/04/2005 | 134 | L.4271105 |
| | Wassenaar (NL) | 15/09/2002 | 219 | L.4233917 |
| | Den Haag (NL) | 13/03/2020 | 283 | L.3993387* |

Supplementary Figure S2

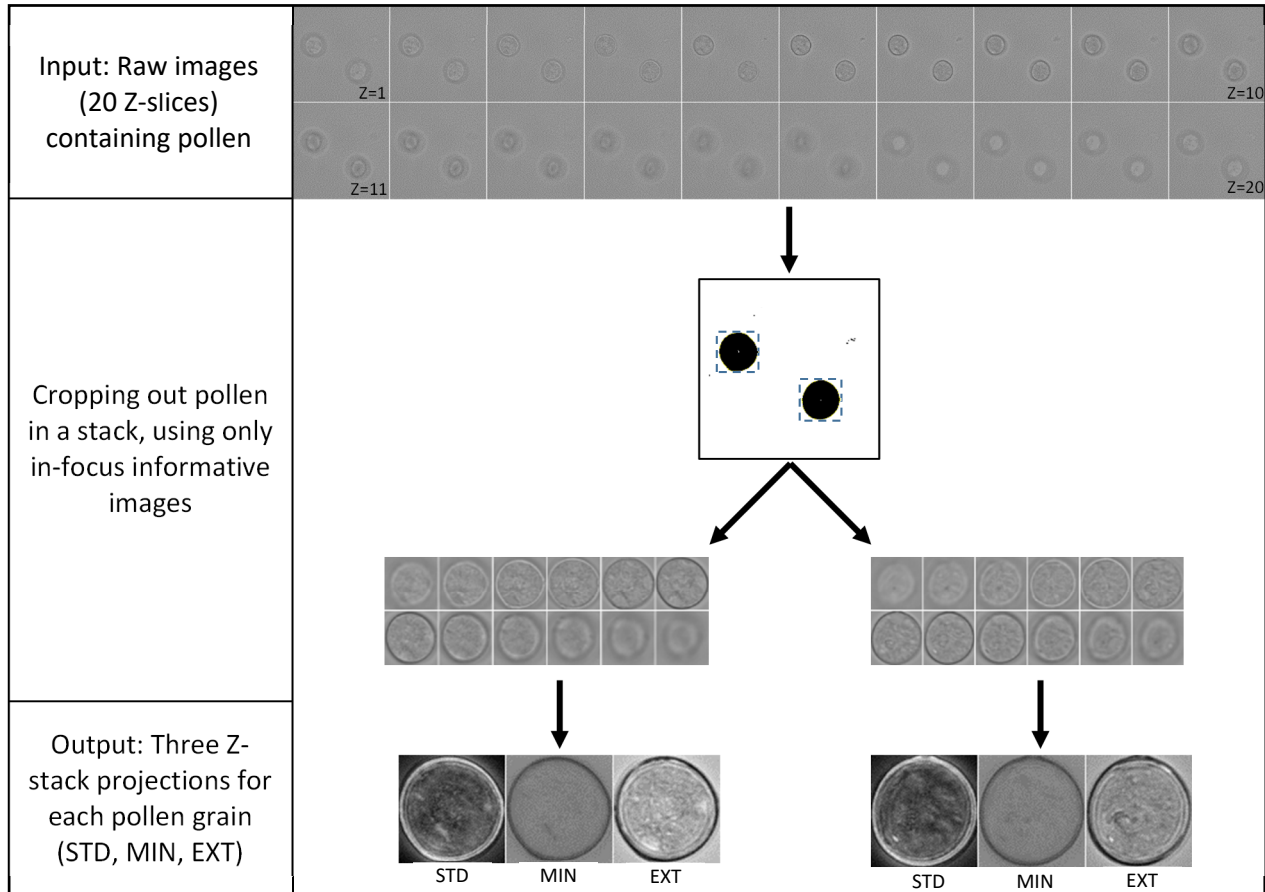


Figure S2. Pollen image acquisition and processing workflow carried out with in-house designed Pollen_Projector script. Once raw images are obtained at 20 different focal levels ('Z-slices'), subsequent steps involve cropping of whole individual pollen grains and producing three different projections from the Z-stacks. Abbreviations of projections: STD = Standard Deviation, MIN = Minimum Intensity and EXT = Extended Focus.

Supplementary Figure S3

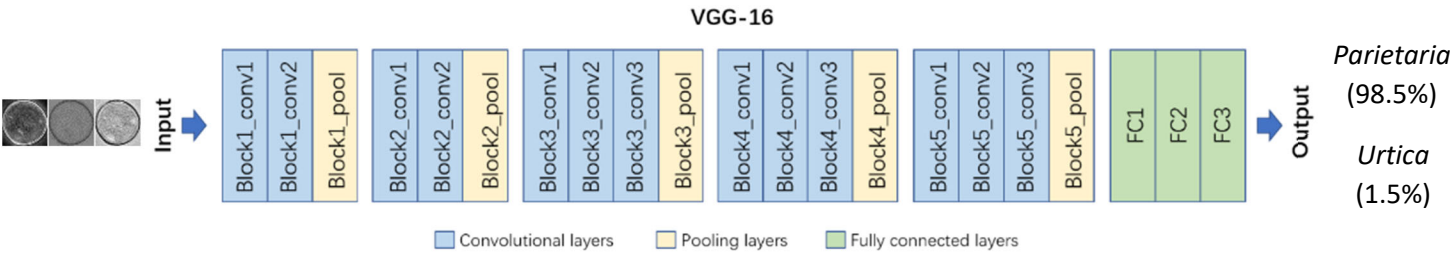


Figure S3. Schematic overview of the structure of VGG-16 with an example of three-channel input image of a *Parietaria judaica* pollen grain (known label) and the output generated, where it confidently identifies the images as *Parietaria* (98% probability). Adapted from Simonyan et al., (2014)¹

Supplementary Figure S4

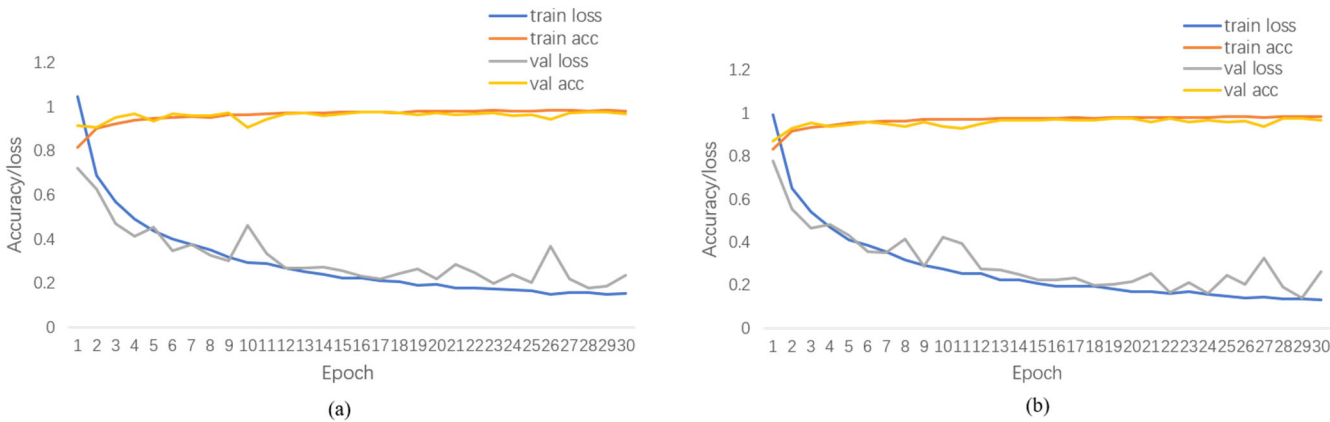


Figure S4. Figures showing the accuracy/loss plots for the VGG16 model with 5- and 10-fold cross-validation.

Supplementary Figure S5

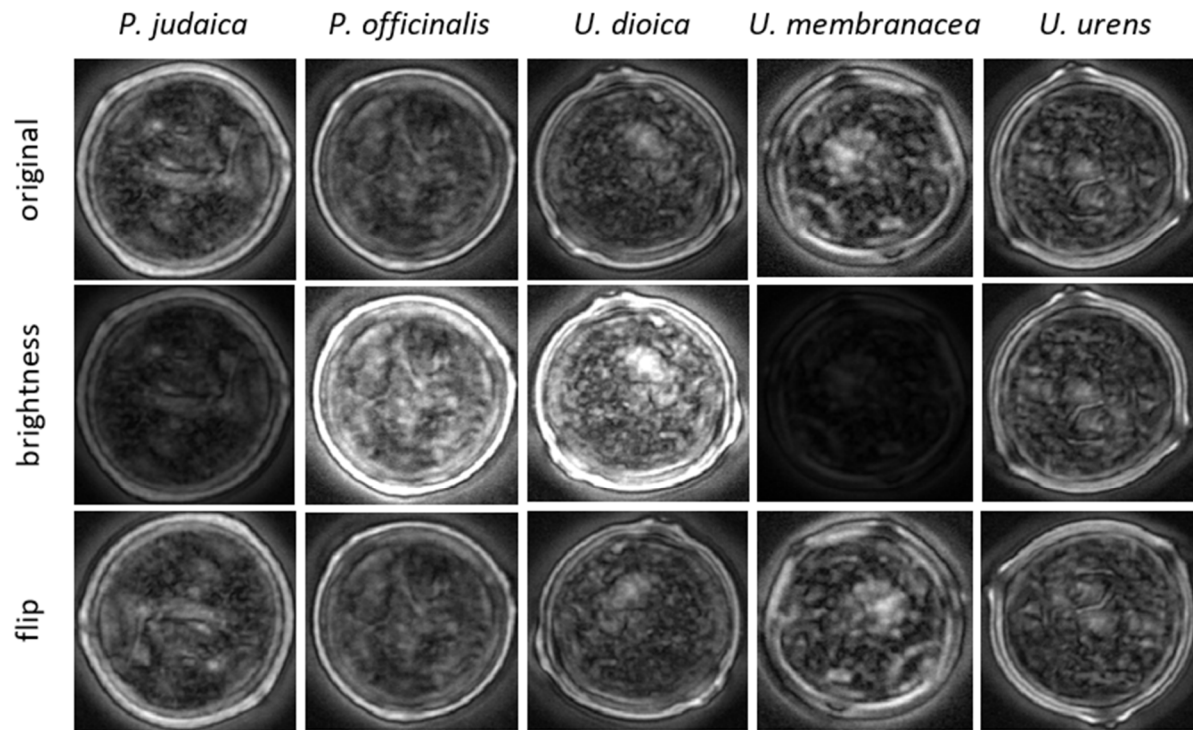


Figure S5. Examples of data augmentation on the Standard Deviation Projection (STD) of selected pollen grains of all Urticaceae pollen species used in this study.

Supplementary reference

- 1 Simonyan, K. & Zisserman, A. Very deep convolutional networks for large-scale image recognition. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1409.1556* (2014).

Manuscript 2

DNA from pollen

Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequences to Species



Book Chapter 5 DNA from pollen

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BACKGROUND

Why use DNA from pollen instead of morphology?

To identify pollen, spores, and other plant-related micro remains, the field of palynology has traditionally relied on microscope-based analyses. This is a time-consuming process that requires highly trained specialists. Additionally, pollen grains from many plant families are morphologically indistinguishable using light microscopy (Beug 2004). Therefore, pollen can often not be distinguished beyond the genus- or family-level. Using more advanced microscopy techniques, the finer and potentially species-specific details on the pollen surface (i.e., exine) can be visualized (e.g., scanning electron microscope (SEM) and super-resolution microscopy (see e.g. Sivaguru et al. (2018))). However, these techniques often require extensive sample preparation, highly trained palynologists, and require costly microscopes. Moreover, some pollen grain features are so fine (less than 500 nm) that not even these sophisticated imaging techniques can visualize them. A combination of high-resolution imaging and automatic image detection using sufficiently trained neural networks is another emerging method to increase taxonomic resolution with pollen morphology (Romero et al. 2020; Polling et al. 2021). This technique, however, requires an extensively trained network with a large and varied pollen image reference database.

These challenges highlight the necessity for innovative methods within the field of palynology, to increase both the speed and accuracy of pollen identifications. DNA-based methods for the molecular identification of pollen grains have the potential to be of complementary value. However, the extraction of DNA from pollen is non-trivial. This chapter therefore focuses on how DNA can be extracted from pollen, the common problems encountered, and the qualitative and quantitative molecular possibilities for analyses.

Applications of DNA-based methods for pollen identification

Using pollen grain DNA for identification has shown promising results in a number of applications, including the study of provenance and authentication of honey (Hawkins et al. 2015; Prosser and Hebert 2017; Utzeri et al. 2018), plant-pollinator networks (Pornon et al. 2017; Richardson et al. 2019), hay fever predictions (Kraaijeveld et al. 2015; Leontidou et al. 2017; Campbell et al. 2020), forensic science (Bell et al. 2016a, and references therein), and environmental reconstructions from pollen in soil (Parducci et al. 2017) (see Section 3 for full information on applications). Ancient DNA can be extracted from pollen grains as old as 150 kyr (Suyama et al. 1996), and has also been used for reconstructing ancient plant-pollinator networks (Gous et al. 2019) (see Chapter 21 Palaeobotany).

Collecting pollen for DNA analysis

Collecting pollen for DNA analysis is mostly similar to collecting pollen for microscopic analysis, though more care should be taken to avoid contamination from other potential sources of DNA. This is because pollen generally contains low quantities of DNA and is therefore prone to contamination. Pollen grains can either be collected directly from the environment (air, water, soil, etc.) or from pollinators (pollen baskets, honey). Pollen collected from the environment will most often (though not always) be derived from anemophilous (wind pollinated) plants, while pollinators collect the majority of pollen from so-called entomophilous (insect pollinated) plants. Pollinators may, however, also have anemophilous pollen sticking to their bodies. For studies looking at pollen from pollinators, either all pollen grains on the animal's body are collected by washing off the pollen or, when present, only the corbicular pollen baskets are collected (Bell et al. 2017; Richardson et al. 2015). Pollinators can either be collected from the field using aerial netting or collected from natural history collections (Gous et al. 2019). Insect-collected pollen baskets contain many hundreds of thousands of pollen grains, and collecting even a small subset of this basket is sufficient for molecular analysis. Honey also contains huge numbers of pollen grains, but it can be more challenging to work with for DNA analyses. This is because there are many compounds in honey such as polyphenols and flavonoids that can chemically inhibit methods used for DNA sequencing (Prosser and Hebert 2017). In contrast, while airborne pollen grains lack these inhibitors, it is present in only relatively low concentrations in the ambient air. Therefore, to collect sufficient amounts of pollen for molecular analyses, most of the sampling methods focus on air filtration methods. These include both volumetric (e.g., Hirst type; Hirst 1952) and gravimetric methods (Levetin 2004; for an overview please see Banchi et al. 2019).

POLLEN DNA EXTRACTION

Pollen lysis

Pollen grains can be referred to as “natural plastic”: they have a very hard outer cell wall called an exine, which is made of sporopollenin (Brooks and Shaw 1968). Pollen exine is very resistant to non-oxidative physical, biological, and chemical degradation. This is evidenced by their ubiquitous presence in the fossil record and some fossil pollen exines have been found preserved for over 243 million years

(Hochuli and Feist-Burkhardt 2013). Extracting DNA from pollen grains is thus not trivial, since the exine must be broken to release the inner DNA. Entomophilous pollen grains also contain DNA-rich pollenkit outside the exine, but this DNA is usually heavily degraded, and it is the DNA inside the pollen grains that remains intact (Pornon et al. 2017; Pacini and Hesse 2005). A lysis step using mechanical bead-beating and a lysis buffer is often used before DNA extraction of pollen grains, and has been shown to improve DNA quantity (Swenson and Gemeinholzer 2021). However, if lysis time is too long, or bead beating too vigorous, DNA yield may actually decrease. (Swenson and Gemeinholzer 2021) found that best results can be obtained at 33 to 67% exine rupture, instead of 100% exine rupture and using 2 hours of lysis incubation instead of 24 hours. Various different bead-beating strategies have been adopted (Table 1), including using a single relatively large bead (5 mm) or different mixtures of large and small beads. Many different types of material have also been used, including stainless steel, tungsten carbide, glass and zirconium beads, but the choice of material does not seem to influence the extraction. It is always recommended to test the lysis efficiency, which can be done by checking the fraction of broken (i.e., lysed) pollen grains under the microscope after the bead beating process (e.g., Kraaijeveld et al. 2015).

It should be noted that other methods for DNA extraction from pollen exist in which the pollen grains are not destroyed, and in some specific cases, excluding the bead-beating step has even given better results (Ghitarrini et al. 2018; Gous et al. 2019).

DNA extraction

Several commercially available DNA extraction protocols have been used for DNA extraction from pollen grains after the lysis step. Table 1 gives an overview of protocols used in recent literature (for a full overview see Bell et al. 2016b). DNA is most commonly extracted from pollen using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) due to its ease of use and high success rate. However, while this is the most commonly used method, recent papers comparing different methods suggest that the best DNA extraction protocol should be empirically found. In one recent paper, several extraction protocols were compared for airborne pollen collected using air samplers (Leontidou et al. 2017). The highest DNA yield was obtained by using a DNA lysis step with steel beads and the Nucleomag Kit. For bee-collected pollen grains, however, the DNeasy Mini Kit gave the best results amongst several different protocols (Gous et al. 2019). Thus, it is always recommended to test several different DNA extraction methods for optimal DNA yield within the chosen study system.

The quality of DNA that can be extracted from pollen samples is critical for any molecularly-based identification method, and particularly when working with very small amounts of DNA. Therefore, avoiding contamination is critical and it is essential to work in a clean lab, keeping windows closed and using sterilized tools in a laminar flow cabinet, and to keep the DNA extraction lab separated from the post-PCR environment.

MOLECULAR METHODS FOR POLLEN IDENTIFICATION

Molecular methods can contribute to the analysis of pollen both by identifying which species are present (qualitative) as well as by giving a measure of the abundance of different pollen species

(quantification). While DNA metabarcoding methods are currently most often used (Table 1), DNA barcoding techniques have also been applied to target specific species from a mixture, while metagenomics now allows for pollen quantification. For a review of these different sequencing methods, please see Chapter 10 DNA barcoding, Chapter 11 Amplicon metabarcoding, and Chapter 12 Metagenomics.

Qualitative pollen analysis

DNA barcoding

Species-resolution in pollen grain identifications is critical for studies that try to answer specific research questions including: what particular species of flower does a common carder bee prefer? What grass species is responsible for most of the pollen in the ambient air in early May? Species-specific markers and qPCR techniques can be used for the identification of specific species within a mixture of different pollen types (see Chapter 10 DNA barcoding). One study used custom-made primers for the nuclear Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) to differentiate between mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), two notoriously allergenic species from the Asteraceae family (Müller-Germann et al. 2017). These newly constructed primers were then applied on aerobiological samples to show that ragweed pollen can travel long distances, since it was detected outside of the local pollination period. Barcoding was also used to show that allergenic *Juniperus ashei* pollen grains could be found in Canada, even if the closest plants that they could have originated from were located in Texas and Oklahoma, USA (Mohanty et al. 2017). These are two studies that illustrate the potential to identify pollen grains at the species level using DNA-based methods, though this level of resolution is not always necessary. In the grass family (Poaceae) for example, all species from certain subfamilies are known to have much higher allergenic prevalence than other subfamilies, and therefore subfamily resolution is sufficient for hay fever predictions (Frenguelli et al. 2010). Ghitarrini et al. (2018), for example, used species- but also subfamily-specific primers with real-time PCR to target the most allergenic types of grasses. Pooideae (a subfamily of grasses with many allergenic species) and individual species within this subfamily were detected in aerobiological samples on a presence/absence basis.

DNA metabarcoding

DNA barcoding can be used to target specific species, yet it is rare that a pollen sample contains only a single pollen species. DNA metabarcoding is therefore the most-often used method for the molecular identification of the different species of pollen grains from mixed samples (see Chapter 11 Amplicon metabarcoding). Both nuclear and chloroplast DNA can be amplified in pollen DNA (Bell et al. 2016b), and amongst the many different markers that have been tested, *rbcl*, *trnL*, *matK*, and *trnH-psbA* from the chloroplast, as well as nuclear ribosomal ITS2 (nrITS2), have so far shown the most promise for the molecular identification of pollen grains. Since no universal barcode exists that would allow detection of all plant lineages, a combination of a nuclear and chloroplast marker has been advised (Hollingsworth 2011). nrITS2 (~450 bp) is particularly relevant for the identification of pollen grains when relatively fresh (and non-degraded) DNA is available. In one example, pollen was collected from the bodies of the migratory butterfly species *Vanessa cardui* and identified based on nrITS2, providing geographical information on where the butterflies were migrating from (Suchan et al. 2019). Because several Saharan

endemic plants were identified to the species level, this provided excellent evidence for the butterflies originating from the Sahara region.

While research into targeting different barcoding regions and primers is ongoing (*trnT-F*, Alan et al. 2019; and *nrITS1*, Baksay et al. 2020), another development is the use of more specific reference databases. The commonly used NCBI GenBank returns many untrustworthy hits since it is not curated (see e.g. Meiklejohn et al. 2019). Brennan et al. (2019) designed a metabarcoding study with two common markers (*rbcL* and *nrITS2*), but using a strictly curated reference library containing sequences only from those grass species that occurred locally. They further customized this database to include all other invasive as well as cultivated species in the UK. Using their customized database, the authors showed signals in temporally restricted grass genera throughout the grass pollen season, with minimal background from unexpected species that often results from mismatches when using a more generic reference database. Furthermore, they identified that while some genera of grass may flower early in summer in one location, it could be months later for flowering to occur in other locations. This information can be used by hay fever patients to figure out what specific grass genus they are allergic to, and additionally illustrates the relationship between flowering phenology and airborne pollen incidence.

It is important to use positive controls with known concentrations of different pollen species in any DNA metabarcoding study. This is because the amount of DNA that can be extracted from different pollen types has been shown to vary. For example, it can be easier to extract DNA from pollen with a thinner exine and from plant species that are richer in chloroplast DNA than from those having a more 'sturdy' exine (Leontidou et al. 2017). Furthermore, in-silico testing of the chosen primers on target plant species, and making sure reference sequences are available can help to improve the efficiency of the study.

Quantitative pollen analysis

Beyond identifying which pollen species are present in a particular sample, pollen grain quantification is equally important. For example, for hay fever forecasts, it is not just important to know *if* there are certain allergenic pollen in the air, but also how many pollen grains there are at a given point in time. The golden standard for palynology has been to count a certain number of pollen grains under the microscope (e.g. 200 to 500) to obtain a semi-quantitative measure of the pollen types in a sample. While DNA-based methods for pollen quantification are less developed than DNA-based methods for identification, DNA-based pollen quantification using metagenomics (reviewed in Chapter 12) seems feasible, while there is still strong debate about using DNA metabarcoding reads for this purpose.

DNA metabarcoding reads

In a recent study on the use of DNA to quantify pollen grains, Bell and colleagues found a very weak correlation between pollen counts recorded by palynologists and the proportion of metabarcoding reads (Bell et al. 2019). They constructed different mixtures of known pollen species, and then amplified the marker regions *rbcL* and *nrITS2*. The authors showed that it depends not only on the species studied, but also on the presence of other species in the mock mixture whether or not this correlation was higher or lower. They identified four metabarcoding related factors that influenced this quantitative bias: copy number, preservation, DNA isolation technique, and amplification bias. Indeed, in many other

studies that explore quantification using metabarcoding reads, these factors are often identified as major problems, and DNA metabarcoding reads are therefore mostly used only for relative read abundances in other fields of science (Pawluczyk et al. 2015; Deagle et al. 2019; Lamb et al. 2019).

Another group of scholars, however, are finding more promising results in using DNA metabarcoding to quantify pollen grains. Baksay et al. (2020) for example studied the influence of several factors on quantifying species abundance using mock pollen mixtures, with two commonly found bee-collected pollen species (Baksay et al. 2020). First, the marker regions nrITS1 and *trnL* were chosen and the amplification results were compared to the number of pollen grains counted using flow cytometry. They found the best results using *trnL* and 30 PCR cycles, or with a high-fidelity PCR polymerase and nrITS1 to circumvent the high GC content in the nuclear ribosomal ITS region. It is important to note that while *trnL* overall gave the best results for quantification, species-level resolution was only possible with the nrITS1 marker region. Similarly promising results were obtained by Richardson et al. (2019) where a multi-locus approach was used to quantify bee-collected pollen. The amplification results for *trnL* and *rbcL* matched well with the microscopy results, while nrITS2 showed a weak correlation. The authors therefore recommended using the median or mean abundance from several loci to improve the quantification accuracy. Bänisch et al. (2020) in contrast found a high correlation between read count and microscopy count using the nrITS2 region on pollen collected by honey bees and bumblebees. The authors suggested that the correlation depends on the specific type pollen species studied.

Metagenomic approaches

Since using DNA metabarcoding approaches for pollen abundance may not give quantitative results with complex, multi-species samples, other molecular methods such as genome skimming and shotgun sequencing are being used to circumvent some of the drawbacks. The major advantage of these two methods is that they do not include a PCR-step and therefore do not introduce amplification bias (see Chapter 12 Metagenomics). Genome skimming has already been used to show that quantification is feasible, even for pollen from species that are very rare in mock mixtures (Lang et al. 2019). Because full genomes are only available for less than 1% of all plant species, Peel et al. (2019) developed a method where only partial genome skims are used (0.5x coverage). They found a high correlation between their partial genome skimming results and the expected relative abundance for each pollen type in the mixture. Moreover, the authors indicate that while genome skimming a single pollen sample is still relatively expensive (€70), the advancements made in sequencers technology will help to reduce this price significantly in the near future.

Table 1. Overview of selected studies since 2017 that have used molecular techniques to identify pollen, including the research aim, strategy for pollen lysis, extraction protocol, amount of PCR cycles, marker choice, and sequencing method used.

| Study | Aim | Pollen Lysis Step | Extraction Method | PCR cycles | Molecular Method | Markers |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| (Leontidou et al. 2017) | Airborne pollen identification | Bead beating (one 5 mm stainless steel bead), two 1-min cycles at 30 Hz | DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) and Nucleomag kit (Macherey–Nagel) | 30 | Sanger sequencing | <i>trnL</i> |
| (Lang et al. 2019) | Pollen quantification | Bead beating (mix of 0.5 and 1 mm silica beads), 2 min | Wizard (Promega) | N/A | Genome skimming | N/A |
| (Bell et al. 2019) | Pollen quantification | Bead beating (mini-bead beater), 3 min | FastDNA SPIN Kit for Soil (MP Biomedicals) | 30 | Metabarcoding | <i>nrITS2</i> , <i>rbcl</i> |
| (Peel et al. 2019) | Pollen quantification | Bead beating (five 1 mm stainless steel beads), 2 min at 22.5 Hz | Adapted CTAB | N/A | Genome skimming | N/A |
| (Gous et al. 2019) | Plant pollinator interactions over time | Bead beating (one 3 mm stainless steel bead + lysis buffer), 2 min at 25 Hz | QIAamp DNA Micro Kit and DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen), Nucleospin DNA Trace Kit (Macherey–Nagel) | 30 | Metabarcoding | <i>nrITS1</i> , <i>nrITS2</i> , <i>rbcl</i> |
| (Brennan et al. 2019) | Airborne pollen identification | Bead beating (3 mm tungsten beads), 4 min at 30 Hz | DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 35 | Metabarcoding | <i>nrITS2</i> , <i>rbcl</i> |
| (Richardson et al. 2019) | Bee pollen diet | Bead beating (3.355 mg 0.7 mm zirconia beads), 5 min | DNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen) | Three steps (55 cycles in total) | Metabarcoding | <i>nrITS2</i> , <i>rbcl</i> , <i>trnL</i> , <i>trnH</i> |
| (Suchan et al. 2019) | Insect migration analysis | Bead beating (five zirconium beads), 1 min at 30 Hz | No extraction, using Phire Plant Direct Polymerase | Two steps (32 cycles in total) | Metabarcoding | <i>nrITS2</i> |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| (Baksay et al. 2020) | Pollen quantification | CF lysis buffer (Nucleospin Food Kit) | DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 25, 30, 35 | Metabarcoding | nrITS1, <i>trnL</i> |
| (Campbell et al. 2020) | Airborne pollen identification | Bead beating (0.2 g 425-600 µm glass beads + lysis buffer), two 1-min cycles (3450 oscillations/min) | Adapted CTAB | 40 | Metabarcoding | <i>rbcl</i> |
| (Leidenfrost et al. 2020; Bänisch et al. 2020) | Bee pollen diet | Bead beating (150 g mix of 1.4 mm ceramic and 3 mm tungsten beads + lysis buffer), two 45 second cycles at 6.5 m/s | DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) | 37 | Metabarcoding | nrITS2 |

GLOSSARY

- **Anemophilous** - Wind-pollinated.
- **Bead beating** - The application of beads to break open the outer cell wall of pollen grains.
- **Hirst-type pollen trap** - Volumetric air sampler that is one of the standard devices for monitoring airborne pollen and spores.
- **cpDNA** - Chloroplast DNA.
- **Entomophilous** - Insect-pollinated.
- **Exine** - Outer wall of pollen grains. Composed mainly of sporopollenin that is extremely resistant to degradation. The exine of pollen grains has to be broken to release the DNA from the organic material within the grains.
- **Palynology** - The science that studies both living and fossil spores, pollen grains and other microscopic structures (including, e.g., chironomids, dinocysts, acritarchs, chitinozoans, scolecodonts) .
- **Pollen grains** - The male gametophyte of seed plants; source and carrier for the male gametes (spermatozoids or sperm cells)
- **Pollenkitt** - The outermost hydrophobic lipid layer mostly present on entomophilous pollen grains
- **Sporopollenin** - A chemically inert biological polymer that is a component of the outer wall (see Exine) of a pollen grain.

- **Super-resolution microscopy** - Technique in optical microscopy that allows visualization of images with resolutions up to 140 nm, much higher than those imposed by the diffraction limit. This technique allows visualization of internal structures.
-

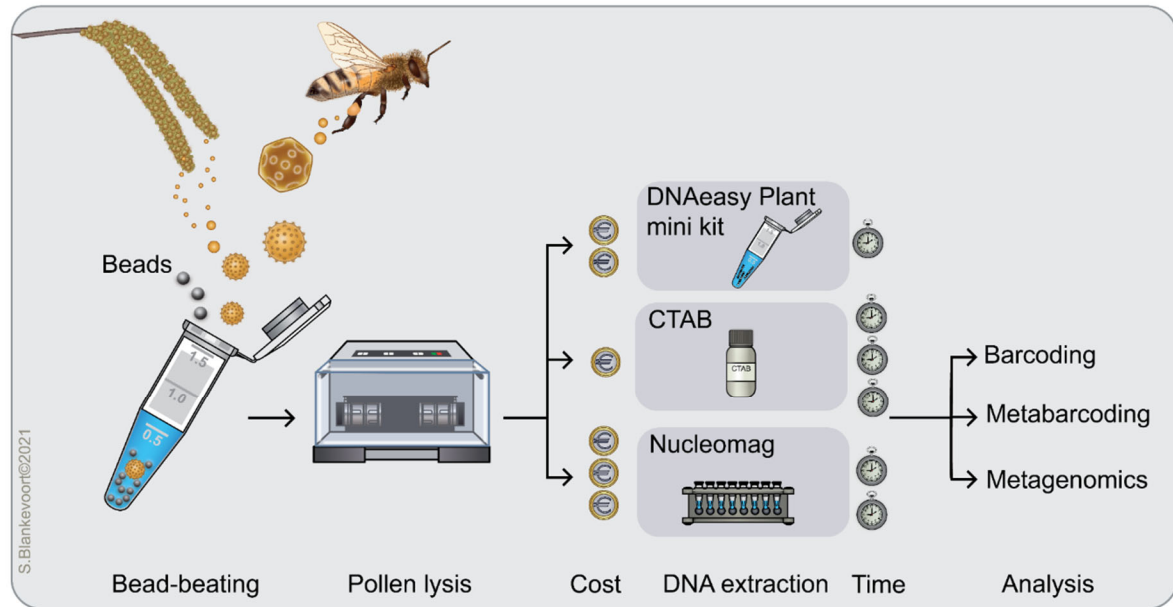
QUESTIONS

1. What are the main advantages of molecular pollen identification over traditional (microscopic) methods? Justify your answer.
 2. Pollen is dispersed by various vectors. There are two main types of pollination strategies in land plants, please name them and also explain the importance of the difference between the two in terms of DNA yield.
 3. Which four factors make the quantification of pollen grains using metabarcoding problematic?
-

ANSWERS

1. A higher taxonomic resolution can be achieved using molecular methods such as metabarcoding. Furthermore, pollen analysis requires highly trained experts that have to spend considerable time to analyze a single sample and therefore molecular techniques are faster, especially with a large number of samples.
 2. Entomophilous (insect collected) and anemophilous (wind dispersed) pollen. The presence of pollenkit on entomophilous pollen grains influences the amount of DNA that can be obtained per pollen grain.
 3. Copy number, DNA preservation, DNA isolation technique, and amplification bias.
-

Figures



Infographic 1. Overview of pollen sources, DNA extraction and downstream analytical methods for the molecular identification of plants from pollen DNA.

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Manuscript 3

Amplicon metabarcoding

Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequences to Species



Book Chapter 11 Amplicon metabarcoding

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BACKGROUND

What is metabarcoding?

DNA metabarcoding is a targeted approach where taxonomically informative regions in the DNA are amplified from mixed-template samples containing DNA from different taxa for identification (Pompanon et al., 2012; Riaz et al., 2011). These taxonomically informative regions, also referred to as DNA barcodes or markers, ideally have low intraspecific variability and high interspecific variability to be able to discriminate between species, and conservative regions for universal amplification of the targeted community (Coissac et al., 2016). To target these DNA barcode regions, some prior knowledge is required for the design of primers that are complementary to flanking conservative regions of barcodes. Additionally, dependent on the metabarcoding approach used, primers can contain unique nucleotide tags to discern between samples during downstream bioinformatics processes (Binladen et al., 2007; Valentini et al., 2009b). After PCR amplification, amplicons are built into libraries where library indexes are added to allow for multiple amplicon libraries to be sequenced in one flow cell (Elbrecht et al., 2017; Elbrecht and Leese, 2015). Adapters specific to the sequencing platforms are added to the PCR products (amplicons) and sequenced on a high-throughput sequencing (HTS) platform. The resulting sequences can be taxonomically identified by matching them to a reference database (De Barba et al., 2014; Kress and Erickson, 2008; Taberlet et al., 2018, 2012). This method is useful for identifying different taxa from bulk samples of organismal DNA (Yu et al., 2012), and specifically to detect plants from environmental DNA (eDNA) samples including water, soil, sediment, air, and organic remains such as faeces (Deiner et al., 2017; Taberlet et al., 2012).

Plant metabarcoding

Metabarcoding is based on the DNA barcoding concept (see Chapter 10 DNA barcoding). However, for metabarcoding, samples containing DNA from a mix of different taxa are typically used. One of the first studies that used metabarcoding on a parallel sequencing system (herein referred to as DNA barcoding) to identify plants was by Valentini and colleagues (Valentini et al., 2009a) who analyzed the diet of a variety of animals using their faeces. Earlier attempts at diet analyses were also made using chloroplast (Poinar et al., 2001) and nuclear regions (Bradley et al., 2007), though these are not strictly speaking metabarcoding studies since they did not use high-throughput sequencing. Identification of plants through barcoding has had a turbulent history due to the lack of consensus on which plant barcodes should be used as standard (Pennisi, 2007). In the landmark paper by Hebert and colleagues (Hebert et al., 2003), it was shown that animal species can be confidently identified through a short and highly variable piece of mitochondrial DNA called cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (*CO1*). This has led many research groups to search for a similar barcode for the identification of plants (Chase et al., 2007; Kress et al., 2005). For plant species identification, the metabarcoding community has heavily relied on short fragments of plastid barcodes *rbcl*, *trnH-psbA*, *matK*, the P6 loop of the *trnL* intron and the nuclear ribosomal internal transcribed spacers nrITS1 and nrITS2 (China Plant BOL Group et al., 2011; Hollingsworth et al., 2016). There is, however, still no consensus on which plant DNA barcode(s) perform best. Studies that test various DNA barcodes for specific groups of plants find big differences between them (e.g., Braukmann et al., 2017), while others find that none of the available DNA barcodes provides species discrimination in certain plant groups (Zarrei et al., 2015). The search for the universal plant barcode is thus still ongoing.

Sample types and application

Plant metabarcoding is widely used to study the taxonomic composition of mixed template samples such as water (Zimmermann et al., 2015) (see Chapter 3 DNA from water), soil and sediments (Yoccoz et al., 2012) (see Chapter 4 DNA from soil and sediments), bryophyte spores (Stech et al. 2011) bee-collected pollen or pollen from ambient air (Sickel et al. 2015; Kraaijeveld et al. 2015) (see Chapter 5 DNA from pollen), honey, food and medicine (Hawkins et al., 2015; Raclariu et al., 2018) (see Chapter 6 DNA from food and medicine), faeces (Valentini et al., 2009a) (see Chapter 7: DNA from faeces), ancient sediments (Alsos et al., 2016) (see Chapter 8 DNA from ancient sediments), ice and snow (Thomsen and Willerslev, 2015; Varotto et al., 2021) plant macrofossils (Murray et al., 2012), whole insects (Kajtoch, 2014), gut contents (McClenaghan et al., 2015), and epilithic samples (Apothéloz-Perret-Gentil et al., 2017). DNA extraction methods are highly dependent on the type of material used and this is covered separately in the chapters of Section 1 of the book.

Plant metabarcoding has been used in various types of applications including species delimitation (see Chapter 17 Species delimitation), archaeo- and palaeo-botany (Parducci et al., 2017) (see Chapter 21 Palaeobotany), healthcare (Reese et al., 2019) (see Chapter 23 Healthcare), food safety (Raclariu et al., 2017) (see Chapter 24 Food safety), environmental and biodiversity assessments (Fahner et al., 2016) (see Chapter 25 Environment and biodiversity assessments), wildlife trade (de Boer et al., 2017) (see Chapter 26 Wildlife trade), hay fever forecasts (Kraaijeveld et al., 2015) (see Chapter 5 DNA

from pollen), water quality assessments (Smucker et al., 2020; Zimmermann et al., 2015) (see Chapter 3 DNA from water), and documenting environmental change (Jørgensen et al., 2012). These are some examples of plant-specific applications where metabarcoding has proven its value, though further detailed information can be found in the chapters referred to here as well as in Veltman et al. (2021).

Advantages and limitations of metabarcoding

DNA metabarcoding is a cost-effective method as compared to metagenomics (see Chapter 12: Metagenomics) or target capture (see Chapter 14: Target capture) as only DNA from targeted taxa is amplified and sequenced (Taberlet et al., 2012; Chua et al., 2021). The tagging system makes it possible to process large numbers of samples simultaneously, further decreasing the sequencing costs and increasing the total sample throughput. DNA present in low quantities (e.g. from rare species) can be targeted and amplified using specific primers and PCR-amplified. It is also a useful method for samples with low-quality DNA (i.e., degraded DNA) since it targets small barcodes that are relatively stable through time (Goldberg et al., 2016; Deiner et al., 2017). For example, plant DNA can be sequenced from ice core samples as old as 500 000 years old (Willerslev et al., 2007).

However, DNA metabarcoding also has its limitations, and the PCR amplification step has previously proven to be particularly problematic (Taberlet et al., 2012). This step can cause stochasticity (Murray et al., 2015) and create false positives (Ficetola et al., 2015), which stresses the need for both PCR and extraction replicates. However, depending on the specific research question, it may also be advisable to limit the number of PCR replicates and instead focus on sequencing depth (Smith and Peay, 2014), although this would decrease species richness estimates (Dopheide et al., 2018).

Another drawback of DNA metabarcoding is primer binding bias due to mismatches between the primer and the template DNA. This can result in discrepancies between the proportion of the original taxa in the DNA extract and the amplified DNA sequences (Bista et al., 2018; Elbrecht and Leese, 2015). Although quantitative results can be obtained from some primers using certain laboratory and bioinformatic controls (Ji et al., 2020; Piñol et al., 2019), this is still taxa-dependent and therefore not commonly used. Depending on the metabarcoding strategy, tag jumps during library building should also be taken into consideration as they can cause false sequence-to-sample assignments (Carøe and Bohmann, 2020; Schnell et al., 2015).

Finally, the taxonomic assignment of sequences to species is heavily dependent on the DNA reference database used for sequence matching. When the reference database to which the resulting sequences are compared to is incomplete and/or consists of inaccurately identified species, this results in erroneously identified species and/or false negatives (Banchi et al., 2020; Meiklejohn et al., 2019). This also affects the species resolution of the results. For example, a reference database based on the *trnL* barcode region may give a resolution of 33% species identification on a large circum-arctic scale, but within a localised area, this resolution may increase to 77-93% (Alsos et al., 2018; Sønstebo et al., 2010). Thus, both the plant marker of choice as well as the reference database used are important and often limiting factors in metabarcoding studies for species identification. Lastly, taxonomic assignments between different species can have the same highest identity scores, but this can be handled by using a Last Common Ancestor approach (e.g. using MEGAN Huson et al, 2006 or OBITools Boyer et al, 2016).

SETTING UP A METABARCODING STUDY

At the start of any (plant) metabarcoding study lies a clearly defined research question. A study design should furthermore encompass a clear sampling strategy, and identification of suitable DNA extraction techniques for the sample type used before carrying out downstream analysis (Zinger et al., 2019). As the chapters in Section 1 already details DNA extraction methods based on specific starting materials, this section will cover the subsequent steps, starting with selecting the plant barcodes to best answer the research question, choosing a nucleotide tagging strategy, sequencing and finally analyzing the sequence output using bioinformatics pipelines.

Barcode choice

Barcode choice is one of the most important aspects of metabarcoding studies as it will determine which taxa are identified and to what resolution. Considerable efforts have gone into constructing libraries for these plant barcodes and in assessing their limitations (CBOL Plant Working Group, 2009; Cowan et al., 2006; Fazekas et al., 2012; Hollingsworth et al., 2011; Kress, 2017). Metabarcoding studies are often heavily dependent on reducing the potentially identifiable species, e.g., using *trnL* P6 loop one can make species-specific identifications of the Greenland flora, but family level identification in a tropical rainforest. The objective of the study determines the level of taxonomic resolution needed, and thus the approach (marker, replicates, etc.), if only relative abundances at the family level are desired or if specific species in a vegetation plot need to be identified from soil. Different research groups use different 'preferred' barcodes that they consider best suited for their specific target plants. Despite this lack of consensus, the efficacy of metabarcoding for identifying the majority of plant species from plant mixtures still makes this a very useful tool. When choosing barcodes for metabarcoding studies, three factors must be considered: 1) sequence availability and presence in a reference library, 2) discriminatory power / taxonomic resolution, and 3) degree of DNA degradation in the sample (Hollingsworth et al., 2011). These three steps will be briefly explained below.

1) The first step is to check whether or not reference libraries exist for the sequences of the targeted organism(s). This is because barcodes are only useful if the sequences for the targeted organism(s) are available in sequence repositories or reference libraries (Weigand et al., 2019). For some barcodes and specific geographic regions, optimized plant reference libraries exist that minimize inaccurate identification of sequences. One such example is the arctic boreal vascular plant and bryophyte database that is based on the P6 loop of *trnL* (Sønstebo et al., 2010). A curated global plant database is also available for nrITS2 (Banchi et al., 2020). Premade reference databases are not complete and it is therefore recommended to compare several databases to obtain the best resolution. Another option is to construct a tailored reference database, for example using the BOLD data portal or in GenBank using the e-utilities tool kit. The use of the publicly available GenBank database is generally discouraged as it contains many erroneous sequences (e.g., Steinegger and Salzberg, 2020). If the target organisms are not present in any public sources, then one would opt for constructing de novo reference libraries. The idea behind it is to sequence barcodes from specimens collected in the study site, which are then assigned taxonomical annotations/identification (see Chapter 10 DNA barcoding). The construction of regional reference libraries usually employs a combination of both strategies described

above. Last, one would opt for blasting the obtained sequences to a public source. This strategy would incur multiple taxonomic assignments to one single sequence and thus a threshold of blasting similarity would have to be arbitrarily designed.

2) Discriminatory power refers to how effectively the barcodes can discriminate between closely related species and is linked to the variability of the locus. Typically, barcodes can only identify plants up to a certain taxonomic level (resolution) depending on the barcode used and the group of plants targeted. Moreover, because reference libraries are incomplete for all DNA barcodes, some species may only be detected using one DNA barcode while others may only be detected by another. Therefore, using a single primer set will most often not result in the recovery of all species present in a sample. We recommend adopting a multilocus approach to gain highly resolved taxonomic coverage for complex samples (e.g., Arulandhu et al., 2017).

3) DNA is relatively unstable in the environment and can degrade quickly depending on certain factors such as age, transport, and abiotic factors (Deiner et al., 2017). In highly degraded and/or old materials, the use of very short, highly distinctive barcodes is recommended (e.g. P6 loop of *trnL* intron). Although this can provide a good indication of the plant community from mixed samples, some taxa cannot be identified beyond the family level (e.g., Asteraceae and Poaceae). Therefore, when possible, it is recommended to use the longer and in some cases more distinctive nuclear ribosomal barcodes ITS1 (De Barba et al., 2014; Omelchenko et al., 2019) and/or ITS2 (Yao et al., 2010). However, the nuclear ITS region is also present in fungi and in order to avoid amplification of fungal DNA, plant-specific primers should be used (Cheng et al., 2016; Chen et al., 2010; Moorhouse-Gann et al., 2018; Omelchenko et al., 2019; Timpano et al., 2020).

Metabarcoding nucleotide tagging strategies

In the metabarcoding laboratory workflow, unique nucleotide tags are added to amplicons, and these tags are used to assign sequences to the sample they originate from (Binladen et al., 2007). This allows for the pooling of many labelled PCR replicates for sequencing, and dramatically increases the throughput. Labelling amplicons with unique nucleotide tags can be done at two stages during a metabarcoding workflow: prior to library building as 5' nucleotide tags added to the amplicons, and/or after library completion as library indexes. The strategies to achieve this labelling can be condensed into three main approaches: the 'one-step PCR' approach, the 'two-step PCR' approach, and the 'tagged PCR approach'.

In the 'one-step PCR' approach, the metabarcoding barcode is amplified and built into libraries during one PCR. This is achieved through the use of metabarcoding primers that carry both adapters and library indexes (Elbrecht et al., 2017; Elbrecht and Leese, 2015), though unique nucleotide tags instead of library indexes can also be added in the one-step PCR approach (Elbrecht and Steinke, 2018). In this approach, each PCR replicate is a library.

In the 'two-step PCR' approach, sample extracts are PCR-amplified with metabarcoding primers that only carry 5' tails. These are added to act as templates for the following second PCR and do not include any labelling. The second PCR is carried out on each PCR product with primers that carry adapters and indexes (Galan et al., 2018; Miya et al., 2015; Swift et al., 2018), although unique

nucleotide tags can also be added in the first PCR (Kitson et al., 2019). In the two-step PCR approach, each PCR replicate is also a library.

In the 'tagged PCR' approach, DNA extracts are PCR amplified with metabarcoding primers that carry 5' unique nucleotide tags. Next, the individually 5' tagged PCR products are pooled and library preparation is carried out on the pools (first demonstrated by Binladen et al. (2007) on the 454 FLX platform). Library preparation can be with (Drinkwater et al., 2019; Hibert et al., 2013) or without (e.g., Carøe and Bohmann, 2020; Sigsgaard et al., 2017) an indexing PCR step. Care should be taken with using this approach, as several studies have shown it to be prone to so-called tag-jumping where amplicon sequences carry false combinations of nucleotide tags after amplification (Schnell et al, 2015). This can be avoided using specific library preparation protocols (e.g. Carøe and Bohmann, 2020). Finally, indexes can also be ligated to the amplicons with the primers, a technique used for example in Nanopore sequencing.

With the cost of sequencing decreasing exponentially, more effort can be put into applying technical PCR replicates to circumvent sequencing errors and other PCR related issues. When using PCR replicates they should be sequenced in separate locations on the same 96-well plate or, ideally, with replicates in separate plates. Taxa identification lies at the core of any ecological research question. Thus, it is crucial to perform a reliable and reproducible identification workflow to ensure correct identification. In general, care should be taken to avoid cross-contamination between samples by working in clean laboratories with filter-tipped pipettes and separate pre- and post-PCR labs. Normalization of the amplicons prior to library construction is crucial to avoid overamplification of the most represented taxa in the sample. Since some often-used plant-specific marker regions are very short (e.g. *trnL* P6 loop, 8 to 152 bp), they are prone to picking up the slightest contaminants from the environment. It is therefore recommended to work in a clean environment, e.g. an ancient DNA laboratory with protective clothing.

Sequencing platforms

The preferred platforms for sequencing are currently IonTorrent and Illumina. Both platforms require an additional post-ligation PCR-step or PCR-free ligation of platform-specific adapters to the amplicons before sequencing. However, due to the different technologies behind both platforms, both the error rates and error types can differ. For Illumina (optical sequencing), a substitution error rate of 0.1% has been identified, while IonTorrent (based on detection of hydrogen ions) can show up to 1% indel errors (Quail et al., 2012; Shin et al., 2017). The IonTorrent platform has a slightly higher error rate when the material contains high amounts of homopolymers because no good correlation exists between the number of identical bases incorporated and the observed voltage change (Bragg et al., 2013). Illumina is the most often used platform in metabarcoding studies due to its lower error rates, and the generation of relatively long reads by paired-ending (Forin-Wiart et al., 2018). Since IonTorrent and Illumina are limited in the maximum length of amplicons that can be generated (up to 600 bp), more recent sequencing platforms like Nanopore and PacBio are increasingly being used. These long read technologies have the advantage of being able to retrieve for example the whole nuclear ITS or plastid *matK* regions. For more information on sequencing platforms, please refer to Chapter 9 Sequencing platforms and data types.

Bioinformatics tools

Several different bioinformatic tools can be used to analyze the sequence output. Some commonly used packages are OBITools (Boyer et al., 2016), BEGUM (Yang et al., 2020), MOTHUR (Schloss et al., 2009), QIIME (Caporaso et al., 2010) and DADA2 (Callahan et al., 2016). The bioinformatics workflow includes these common steps: quality check of raw reads, removal of adapter sequences, demultiplexing, filtering of erroneous sequences, sequence dereplication, removal of singletons and PCR/sequencing errors, clustering/denoising, and taxonomic annotations using reference databases (most commonly using BLASTn). Depending on the pipelines used, sequences are either clustered into OTUs based on sequence similarity level (often 97%) such as in QIIME, MOTHUR, VSEARCH, or denoised into strictly unique sequences called ASVs such as in DADA2 or USEARCH (unoise). The choice to cluster sequences into OTUs or denoise into ASVs is dependent on the research question. Clustering sequences into OTUs reduces sequencing errors, but increases false negatives as multiple similar species are clustered into a single OTU. In datasets where it is expected that closely related species are present, such as species with homopolymers (e.g. *Vaccinium* spp.), denoising sequences into ASVs would be preferred since these homopolymers can be sorted out into separate sequence variants. However, using this technique may also result in artificially inflating diversity as species may have more than one sequence variant, especially if the reference database used is incomplete. Alternatively, sequences can be assigned directly to taxa such as in OBITools, one of the most frequently used open-source programs for plant metabarcoding studies. OBITools was specifically designed for the analysis of metabarcoding data generated from HTS. It relies on filtering and sorting algorithms, which allows users to customize their pipelines tailored to their needs. A distinct feature of OBITools is its ability to account for taxonomic annotations, which allows the sorting of sequences based on taxonomy instead of OTUs/ASVs.

FUTURE OF METABARCODING

Currently, metabarcoding is the dominant technique used in the identification of plants from mixed samples. Developments and improvements in addressing methodological challenges such as PCR bias may one day allow for unbiased quantitative inferences from metabarcoding datasets. This would be a huge step forward for the metabarcoding community since it is still controversial to use read counts as an indication for biomass (Deagle et al., 2019). With the continued advances in HTS technologies coupled with the inherent limitations of metabarcoding, there is also a possibility that alternative HTS techniques can be used in the future. For example, the development of more regional DNA reference databases based on whole organelle genomes instead of single barcode regions (Coissac et al., 2016) (see Chapter 10 DNA barcoding) would encourage the use of HTS techniques that rely on whole genomes or multiple non-standard barcode regions for taxonomic identification. Particularly, if sequencing becomes cheaper and if the limitations of metagenomics (see Chapter 12 Metagenomics) or target capture (see Chapter 14 Target capture) are addressed, we may see an increase in other types of methods used to identify plants in mixed templates. However, metabarcoding has the advantage of being a cheaper option, where large numbers of samples can be processed for meaningful statistical analysis. Bioinformatics pipelines are also well-established and better reference databases are available for mini barcodes as compared to whole organelles. This makes metabarcoding the preferred technique

for many applications. In addition, ongoing efforts to build curated reference databases, design better primers, and detect potential plant-specific barcode regions might increase species resolution and circumvent many of the drawbacks associated with metabarcoding.

Metabarcoding could potentially be used to determine plant composition in a landscape from bulk arthropod samples. Bulk arthropod samples have been used for biodiversity monitoring of vertebrates (Lynggaard et al., 2019), but it has not been used for any plant-related studies. Another potential application of metabarcoding is in forensic genetics (see Chapter 28 Forensic genetics, botany and palynology), where plants are used as evidence in criminal investigations (Bryant, 2013). For example, morphological identification of pollen grains has been used to solve murders and determine marijuana distribution locations (Alotaibi et al., 2020; Bryant and Jones, 2006). However, metabarcoding is underutilized in these applications where morphological identification is still the main technique. One possible limiting factor for this lack of utilization could be that pollen DNA extraction destroys the samples and therefore cannot be stored as evidence (Bell et al., 2016). Metabarcoding could also potentially be used in meta-phylogeographic studies to simultaneously study the phylogeographic features and intraspecies patterns of many species (Turon et al., 2019).

GLOSSARY

- **Adapters** - Specific nucleotide sequences unique to different types of sequencing platforms that are added to amplicon libraries to allow for the attachment of library fragments to the flow cell for sequencing.
- **Amplicons** - Products of PCR amplification.
- **ASVs** - Amplicon sequence variants, also known as exact sequence variants or zero-radius OTUs. Although sometimes considered synonymous to OTUs, they correspond to all the unique reads in a dataset and do not require clustering used in creating OTUs.
- **Barcode** - Targeted gene region, see Locus.
- **Demultiplexing** - Bioinformatics step of assigning sequences to samples based on assigned nucleotide tags and/or library indexes.
- **Epilithic** - Plant growing on surfaces of rocks, e.g., seaweeds.
- **Homopolymers** - Nucleotide repetition, usually in tandem of more than 7 nucleotides.
- **Indel errors** - Insertions or deletions in sequences resulting from mutations.
- **ITS** - The internal transcribed spacer is a nuclear ribosomal region found between the small subunit ribosomal RNA (rRNA) and large-subunit rRNA genes.
- **Library indexes** - Nucleotide index added to amplicon libraries to allow for the parallel sequencing of multiple libraries, which can be used bioinformatically to assign reads to the correct amplicon libraries.
- **Locus** - Section and position in a chromosome where a particular DNA sequence is located. It can also be referred to as a barcode.
- **Macrofossils** - Preserved plant remains large enough to be seen without a microscope.
- **matK** - Maturase K is a gene found in the chloroplast genome.
- **Meta-phylogeography** - Study of phylogeographic features and intraspecies variation.

- **Multiplexing** - Parallel amplification of barcodes in one PCR reaction.
- **OTU** - Operational taxonomic unit. The term is used to categorize clusters of similar sequences.
- **Overhangs** - Stretch of unpaired nucleotides at the end of DNA fragments.
- **PCR** - Polymerase chain reaction.
- **PCR stochasticity** - Uneven amplification of molecules during PCR that can be a result of some sequences being present in lower copy numbers than others.
- **Phylogeography** - Investigate the origin of genetic variation within closely related species across a landscape.
- **Primers** - A short single-stranded nucleic acid sequence that serves as a starting point for the DNA replication in the PCR.
- **Primer set** - Nucleic acid sequences explained above complementary to the 5' end and 3' end of the flanking regions of a locus.
- **Primer bias** - Differences in DNA amplification due to a primer inefficiently binding to the target template. This can result from sequence divergence in the primer binding sites.
- **qPCR** - Polymerase chain reaction used for quantifying DNA.
- ***rbcl*** - The ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase large subunit gene is found in the chloroplast genome.
- **Singletons** - A sequence only present in one copy.
- **Nucleotide tags** - Short nucleotide sequences added at the 5' end of the primer in metabarcoding studies.
- **Tag jumps** - Generation of amplicons with different tags than originally used, resulting in false positives in the data. For more detail see Schnell et al. (2015).
- **Taxa** - Plural of taxon. A taxon is a group of organisms that form a taxonomic group.
- **Taxonomic assignment** - Matching the obtained sequences to taxa names.
- ***trnH-psbA*** - An intergenic spacer region found in the chloroplast genome.
- ***trnL*** - The *trnL* gene is part of the *trnL-F* region of the chloroplast genome.

QUESTIONS

1. How can overamplification of the most represented taxa in a single sequencing run of multiple complex mixtures be avoided?
 2. Which DNA barcode region is most suitable for dealing with plant DNA from samples where DNA is expected to be degraded?
 3. The nuclear ribosomal ITS region is shared between plants and fungi. How can undesirable fungal DNA amplification be avoided?
-

ANSWERS

1. By using equimolar pooling of individual samples.
2. The highly stable P6 loop can best be targeted in this case, using *trnL* primers.
3. By using plant-specific ITS primers that minimize the amplification of fungal DNA.

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Manuscript 4

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DNA metabarcoding using nrITS2 provides highly qualitative and quantitative results for airborne pollen monitoring

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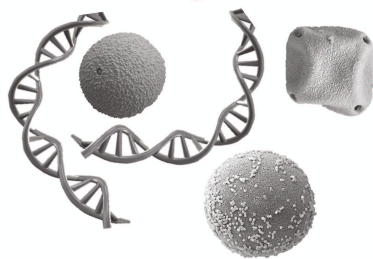
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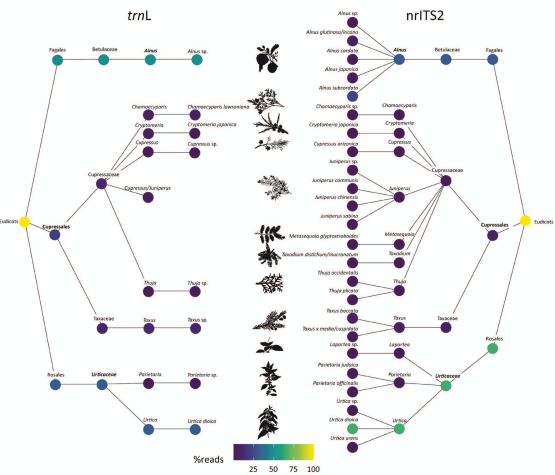
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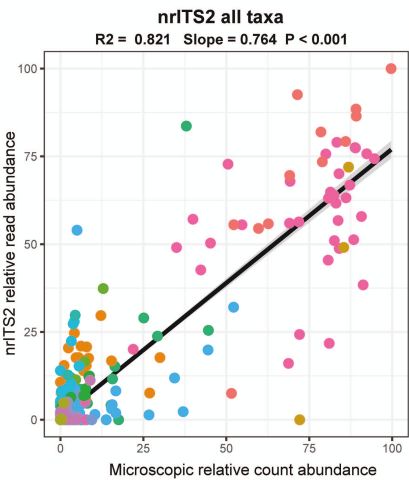
DNA metabarcoding of airborne pollen



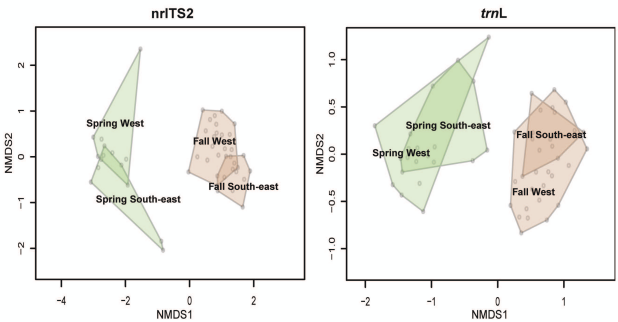
Increased taxonomic resolution



nrITS2 reads match pollen counts



Finer scale spatio-temporal pollen trends



DNA metabarcoding using nrITS2 provides highly qualitative and quantitative results for airborne pollen monitoring

Highlights:

- DNA successfully extracted from microscopic pollen slides and Burkard-collected tapes
- nrITS2 and *trnL* DNA metabarcoding improves taxonomic resolution of airborne pollen
- Relative read abundance nrITS2 shows higher correlation with pollen counts than *trnL*
- Finer scale spatiotemporal patterns in pollen trends detected using nrITS2
- Detection of artificial hybrid that significantly prolongs hay fever season

Abstract

Airborne pollen monitoring is of global socio-economic importance as it provides information on presence and prevalence of allergenic pollen in ambient air. Traditionally, this task has been performed by microscopic investigation, but novel techniques are being developed to automate this process. Among these, DNA metabarcoding has the highest potential of increasing the taxonomic resolution, but uncertainty exists about whether the results can be used to quantify pollen abundance. In this study, it is shown that DNA metabarcoding using *trnL* and nrITS2 provides highly improved taxonomic resolution in airborne pollen samples from the Netherlands. A total of 168 species from 143 genera and 56 plant families were detected, while microscopic pollen counts identified 23 genera and 22 plant families. NrITS2 produced almost double the number of OTUs and a much higher percentage of identifications to species level (80.1%) than *trnL* (27.6%). Furthermore, regressing relative read abundances against the relative abundances of microscopic pollen counts showed a better correlation for nrITS2 ($R^2 = 0.821$) than for *trnL* ($R^2 = 0.620$). Using three target taxa commonly encountered in early spring and fall in the Netherlands (*Alnus* sp., Cupressaceae/Taxaceae and Urticaceae) the nrITS2 results showed that all three taxa were dominated by single species (*Alnus glutinosa/incana*, *Taxus baccata* and *Urtica dioica*). Highly allergenic species were found using nrITS2 that could not be identified using *trnL* or microscopic investigation (*Alnus x spaethii*, *Cupressus arizonica*, *Parietaria* spp.). Furthermore, perMANOVA analysis indicated spatiotemporal patterns in airborne pollen trends that could be more clearly distinguished for all taxa using nrITS2 rather than *trnL*. All results indicate that nrITS2 should be the preferred marker of choice for molecular airborne pollen monitoring.

1. Introduction

With hay fever incidence on the rise in the 21st century, monitoring of pollen in ambient air is of high socio-economic relevance to both health care and research (Anderegg et al., 2021; Suanno et al., 2021). The diversity of pollen in ambient air is typically monitored using pollen traps and microscopic identification. This information is important for hay fever patients, but it is a time-consuming process that requires highly trained specialists. Automating pollen

counting and identification using new technologies (Dunker et al., 2021; Sauvageat et al., 2020) or by using deep learning algorithms on pollen images (Holt and Bennett, 2014; Olsson et al., 2021; Sevillano et al., 2020) has been shown to increase speed and accuracy. However, these methods do not generally improve the taxonomic resolution of pollen identifications. Neural networks have in some cases been shown to increase taxonomic resolution for pollen that cannot be separated by specialists by their morphology (Polling et al., 2021; Romero et al., 2020). This technique, however, requires an extensively trained network with varied pollen images and high-resolution microscopes, and does not work for all pollen types. Since many important allergenic plant families like Poaceae, Urticaceae and Cupressaceae / Taxaceae are stenopalynous (i.e. produce morphologically identical pollen), much information on the relative abundance and spatial patterns of individual species is lost (Erdtman, 1986; Kurmann, 1994). This information is important as different species may possess different allergenic profiles and ecological preferences. Moreover, it is currently impossible to obtain information on airborne pollen from many cultivated and exotic species versus native plant species.

As an alternative to morphological pollen identification, DNA metabarcoding has been shown to provide increased taxonomic resolution and it has been used successfully on bee-collected pollen (Bänsch et al., 2020; Elliott et al., 2021; Gous et al., 2021; Richardson et al., 2019) as well as airborne pollen (Banchi et al., 2020; Brennan et al., 2019; Campbell et al., 2020; Kraaijeveld et al., 2015; Uetake et al., 2021). For example for grasses (Poaceae), a recent study has shown that pollen of a small subset of all species present in the UK is likely to have a disproportionate influence on human health (Rowney et al., 2021). However, such highly detailed information is not yet available for other plant families.

Increasingly, studies are demonstrating that the relative abundance of metabarcoding read counts shows a good correlation with relative abundances of microscopically counted pollen grains (e.g., Bänsch et al., 2020; Kraaijeveld et al., 2015; Richardson et al., 2021; Richardson et al., 2019), although this correlation may depend on both the species studied as well as the other species present in the mixture (Bell et al., 2019). Furthermore, since pollen from different species possesses different copy numbers of plastid and nuclear DNA, this correlation may be highly dependent on the marker choice (Bell et al., 2016a; Rogers and Bendich, 1987). Commonly used DNA marker regions in pollen

metabarcoding include plastid *rbcL* and *trnL* as well as the nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer (nrITS) regions ITS1 and ITS2. For complex aerobiological samples containing pollen from various species as well as fungal spores, bacteria and viruses, the correlation between microscopically counted pollen and DNA reads has been found to be relatively low using the *rbcL* plastid marker (Campbell et al., 2020; Uetake et al., 2021). While *trnL* has shown promising results in quantifying pollen (Kraaijeveld et al., 2015), it has not yet been tested on a large dataset and nrITS2 has not been sufficiently tested for aerobiological samples.

In this study we first test whether DNA metabarcoding using plastid *trnL* and nuclear ribosomal ITS2 loci can be used to increase taxonomic resolution of airborne pollen identifications. Pollen samples were collected from two pollen monitoring in the Netherlands, with a focus on three commonly encountered pollen types in the Netherlands in early spring and fall (*Alnus* sp., Cupressaceae/Taxaceae and Urticaceae). The alders (*Alnus*) can be identified to the genus level under a microscope, while nettles (Urticaceae) can only be recognized to the family level. Cypress (Cupressaceae) pollen cannot be distinguished from pollen of the yew family (Taxaceae) and is therefore counted together. Using the three target taxa, the quantitative performances of the two DNA markers are compared to microscopic pollen counts. The quantitative results are used to visualize trends in species that could hitherto not be distinguished using traditional methods. We also investigate whether DNA metabarcoding shows significant differences between the two pollen monitoring sites in early spring and fall.

2. Material and methods

2.1 Material

Samples used in this study were collected in 2019 and 2020 at two airborne pollen monitoring stations in the Netherlands, including the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Leiden, West of the Netherlands and Elkerliek Hospital in Helmond, South-east of the Netherlands (Figure 1a). These stations routinely collect airborne pollen from ambient air for allergenic pollen monitoring using a Burkard spore trap (Burkard Manufacturing, Rickmansworth, UK) (Figure 1b). This device has been placed on top of the roof of LUMC since 1969 and the Elkerliek Hospital since 1975. The Burkard trap sucks in air continuously using a

vacuum pump and impacting any particles $>3.7\ \mu\text{m}$ on a Melinex adhesive tape mounted on a drum that rotates behind the inlet in 7 days. Since the drum rotates at a constant speed, a given section of tape corresponds to a known length of time. This tape is cut into seven pieces of 48 mm, each corresponding to 24 hours, from which a microscopic slide is prepared. Pollen slides are made by placing the Melinex tapes on a microscopic glass slide and mounted using a glycerin:water:gelatin (7:6:1) solution with 2% phenol and stained with Safranin (0.002% w/v). A cover glass is placed over the tape which is sealed with nail polish.

This study focuses on three taxonomic groups in particular (*Alnus* sp., Cupressaceae/Taxaceae and Urticaceae), and samples with high pollen counts in these taxa were selected from either late winter – early spring (February to May) for *Alnus* and Cupressaceae/Taxaceae or summer – early fall for the Urticaceae (Figure 1e-f, h-i). When referring to these time periods from now on in this manuscript the terms ‘spring’ and ‘fall’ will be used, and ‘Cupressaceae’ is used from now on when referring to Cupressaceae/Taxaceae. The 20-year pollen count averages from the two pollen monitoring sites show broadly similar patterns for *Alnus* sp., although a peak in late December – early January is only observed in the West of the Netherlands (Fig. 1d). Cupressaceae are notably more abundant in the South-east of the Netherlands, while Urticaceae show a similar ‘twin-peak’ abundance pattern (early July and late August; Fig. 1d,g). For metabarcoding analysis in this study, we had access to 20 tapes mounted on microscopic slides from the South-east of the Netherlands. From the West of the Netherlands we obtained 6 mounted tapes as well as 32 unmounted tapes (Fig. 1c). The unmounted tapes from the West of the Netherlands were obtained from a second (backup) Burkard device placed two meters away from the first. Mounted tapes were stained with safranin and preserved in glycerol, both of which are potential inhibitors for DNA amplification.

2.2. Pollen counts

To obtain daily pollen concentrations from the microscopic slides collected using the Burkard pollen samplers in the South-east and West of the Netherlands, pollen on microscopic slides were counted under the microscope in three longitudinal bands at 40X magnification. This is an area that corresponds to $1\ \text{m}^3$ of ambient air over a time period of 24 h (Galán et al., 2017).

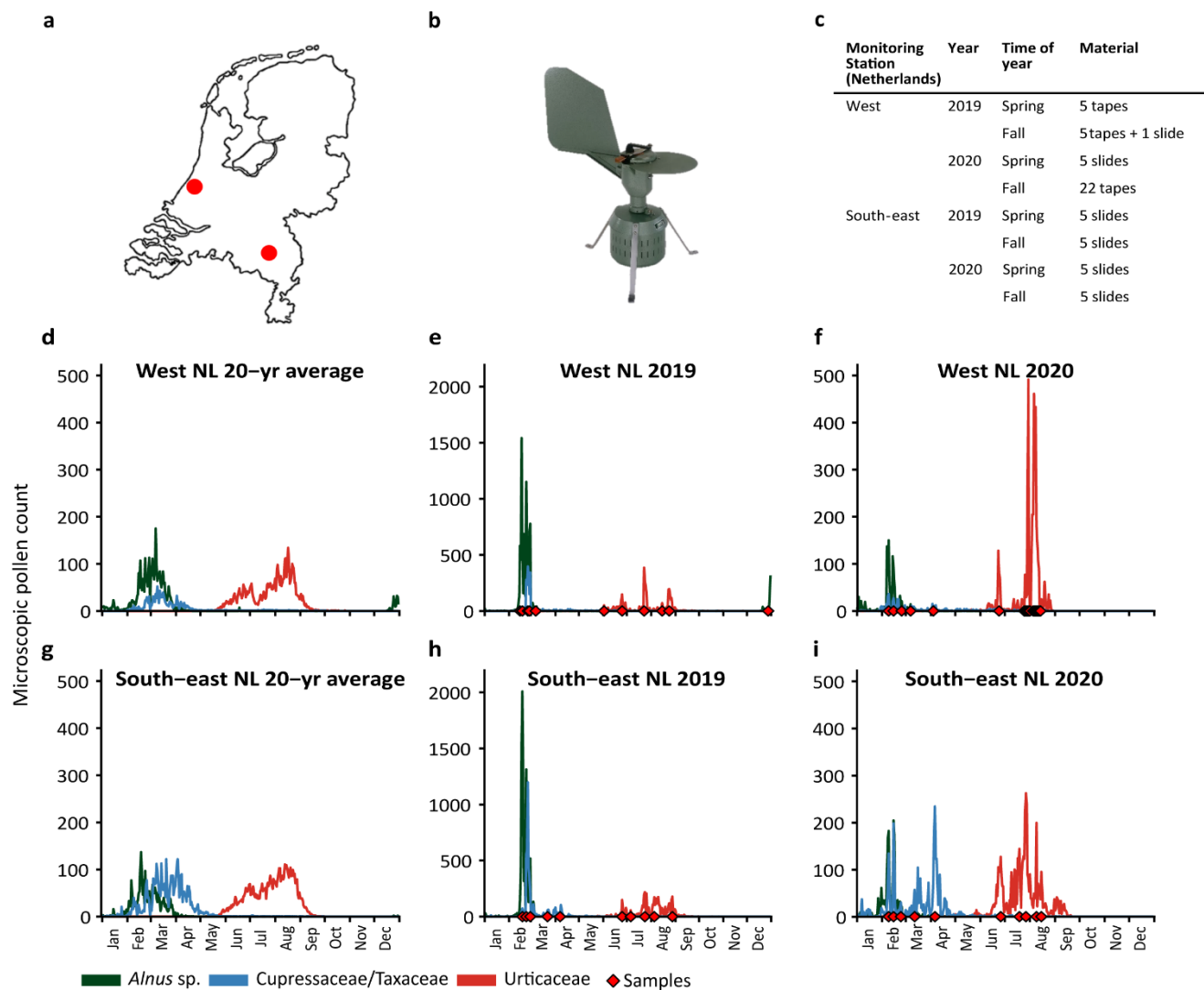


Figure 1. Pollen collection in the Netherlands a) locations of pollen monitoring sites, the West (Leiden) and South-east of the Netherlands (Helmond) b) Hirst-type Burkard pollen sampler c) sample selection of Melinex tapes and microscopic slides with mounted tapes d,g) 20-year average pollen counts of *Alnus*, Cupressaceae and Urticaceae at both pollen monitoring stations e,h) 2019 pollen counts of the three target taxa and f,i) 2020 pollen counts. Sampling dates are shown with red diamonds on the x-axis. Note scale change for figure e and h. NL = the Netherlands, yr = year.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 DNA extraction and amplification

All the next steps were performed in a flow cabinet in a dedicated DNA clean room laboratory of Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, the Netherlands). To extract the Melinex tape from the microscopic slide, the outside surface of the slide was cleaned sequentially with 70% EtOH and 1:100 Chlorine solution to remove potential contamination. Slides were

then placed on a heating plate for several seconds to dissolve the nail polish that was used to seal the cover glass, and the cover glass was carefully lifted with UV-cleaned tweezers to remove the tape. From here, the procedure was the same as that used for the tape directly obtained from the backup Burkard sampler. Half of the Melinex tape was cut for DNA analysis while the other half was preserved for future analysis. The tape for DNA extraction was cut in small pieces and placed in a 2 ml tube. Prior to DNA extraction, pollen cell walls were disrupted using the pollen lysis protocol described in Kraaijeveld et al. (2015), adjusted by using four 2.3 mm stainless steel and ten 0.5 mm glass beads, and disrupting the pollen in a Retsch Mixer Mill MM 400 for 3 x 2 min at 30 Hz. After bead beating, 100 µl of 5% SDS was added to the samples and these were incubated at 65°C for 30 min. DNA was extracted using the QIAamp DNA Mini kit according to the manufacturers' protocol (Qiagen). Extraction blanks (Melinex tape without pollen) were included in each round of extractions and these were pooled per three during the PCR step resulting in two sets of extraction blanks in the final dataset.

A two-step PCR protocol was used to create a dual index amplicon library, using the *trnL* primers *g* and *h* to amplify the chloroplast *trnL* intron P6 loop (Taberlet et al., 2006) and the plant-specific primers ITS-p3 (Cheng et al., 2016) and ITS4 (White et al., 1990) to amplify nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer region nrITS2. We used three PCR replicates per sample (giving each a unique tag combination). All extraction blanks, PCR negative blanks (seven) and positive controls (two; pollen from non-native *Citrus japonica*) were included in both rounds of PCRs and sequencing. First round PCRs were carried out in 25 µl reactions containing 14.75 µl nuclease-free ultrapure water, 1x Phire Green Reaction Buffer (Thermo Scientific), 1.0 µl of each 10 mM primer, 0.5 µl of 1.25 mM dNTP's, 0.5 µl Phire Hotstart II DNA Polymerase and 1.0 µl of sample DNA extract. This mixture was denatured at 98°C for 30 sec, followed by 35 cycles including 5 sec at 98°C, 5 sec annealing at 55°C for *trnL* or 58°C for nrITS2, extension at 72°C for 15 sec and a final extension at 72°C for 5 min. PCR success was checked on an agarose gel. All PCR products were cleaned using one-sided size selection with Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter), at a 1:0.9 (nrITS2) or 1:1 ratio (*trnL*).

To add individual P5 and P7 Illumina labels to all samples (Nextera XT Index Kit; Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA), a second round of PCRs was performed in a final volume of 20

µl using 3.0 µl of the cleaned PCR product from the first round, 5.0 µl ultrapure water, 10.0 µl KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix (KAPA Biosystems, Boston, Massachusetts, USA) and 0.5 µM of each Illumina label. The PCR program included an initial denaturation at 95°C for 3 min followed by eight cycles of 20 sec at 98°C, 30 sec at 55°C and 30 sec at 72°C, followed by a final extension at 72°C for 5 min. The resulting PCR products were pooled into two pools based on amplicon length: a pool containing the shorter *trnL* fragments and one containing the longer nrITS2 fragments. For each marker a library was constructed by equimolar pooling of the PCR products after measuring amplicon concentrations on a QIAxcel (Qiagen). The pools were purified using Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter), with a 1:0.9 ratio for nrITS2 and 1:1 for *trnL*, and quantified using an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer DNA High sensitivity chip (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). The pools were sequenced in separate runs on an Illumina MiSeq (v3 Kit, 2x300 paired-end) at Baseclear (Leiden, the Netherlands). Raw sequence data is available at ENA project nr PRJEB45538.

2.3.2 Bioinformatics and filtering

The sequences were analysed on a custom pipeline on the OpenStack environment of Naturalis Biodiversity Center through a Galaxy instance (Afgan et al., 2018). Raw sequences were merged using FLASH v1.2.11 (Magoč and Salzberg, 2011) with a minimum overlap of 10 bp and maximum mismatch ratio of 0.25, discarding all non-merged reads. Primers were trimmed from both ends of the merged reads using Cutadapt v2.8 (Martin, 2011). Any reads without both primers present (allowing a maximum mismatch of 0.2) or shorter than 8 bp (*trnL*) or 150 bp (nrITS2) were discarded. Sequences were dereplicated and sorted by size in VSEARCH v2.14.2 (Rognes et al., 2016) and clustered into “zero-noise” Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) using the *unoise3* algorithm from USEARCH v11.0.667 (Edgar, 2016) with default settings and a minimum abundance of 10 reads before clustering, removing singletons and potential chimeras. The resulting OTU sequences were compared to two taxonomic reference libraries for both markers. In order to avoid false BLAST hits, custom reference databases were constructed for both markers consisting of all native and introduced plants from the Netherlands (obtained from <https://www.verspreidingsatlas.nl/soortenlijst/vaatplanten> and including recent arrivals from Denters (2020)). This list was further supplemented with a list of all cultured plants in

the Netherlands, obtained from the 'Standard list of Dutch culture plants 2020' (Marco Hoffman, pers. comm.) resulting in a list of 19,561 green plant taxa. All available *trnL* and nrITS2 sequences belonging to species on this list were downloaded from NCBI GenBank on 21 April 2021, resulting in a reference library of taxa occurring in the Netherlands consisting of 8,391 sequences for *trnL* and 10,015 for nrITS2. To mitigate erroneous or missing taxonomic assignment due to references potentially missing in the Dutch custom databases, a second reference library was constructed for both markers, consisting of worldwide *trnL* and nrITS2 plant sequences, downloaded from NCBI GenBank on 21 April 2021. Priority was given to the local database and if multiple blast hits were found with the same maximum BIT-score, the lowest common ancestor of these hits was chosen. A minimum of 97% identity was used for species level identification, 90% for genus and 80% for family. For *trnL* only sequences with a 100% cover were accepted, while this value was 90% for nrITS2 to account for incomplete reference sequences in the database (partial ITS2 records). Finally, OTUs with the same taxonomic assignment were aggregated.

The resulting sequences were further filtered in R (version 3.5.2; R Core Team, 2020) to remove a) OTUs that were more abundant in negative or extraction blanks than in samples, b) sequences present with <10 reads per PCR repeat, c) potential leakage, using a custom R script to determine the filtering threshold that would result in removal of all reads from negative controls (0.0035% (nrITS2) and 0.05% (*trnL*) of each sequence read count per sample) d) PCR repeats with fewer than 3,000 reads, e) OTUs from fungi, bryophytes or green algae, f) any OTUs that were present in only one of the three PCR repeats (see Table S1 for all filtering steps and read counts). Several samples (12 for nrITS2 and one for *trnL*) had only one PCR replicate left after these filtering steps. Since these samples could not be cleaned using the minimum threshold of two PCR repeats, they were carefully checked for potential contaminations.

Several suspicious OTUs of potential food contaminants still remained in both datasets after these filtering steps. The microscopic slides that we analysed were not made with DNA metabarcoding in mind, and no particular precautions were taken to avoid contamination. This may explain the presence of, e.g., *Arachis hypogaea* (peanut), *Glycine max* (soy), *Ananas comosus* (pineapple) and *Persea americana* (avocado) in the *trnL* results (Figure S2). However, we also found DNA from *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato), *Secale*

cereale (rye), *Pisum sativum* (pea) and *Phaseolus vulgaris* (bean) (among others) that grow naturally and are commonly cultivated in the Netherlands. However, since DNA from many of these species was found in samples from both spring and fall, they were conservatively assumed to be derived from contamination. This approach was adopted across all OTUs, and OTUs from potential food contamination were removed (see Figure S1-2 for all removed taxa).

2.3.3 Data analysis

The reads from the remaining replicates were averaged and converted to relative read abundances (RRA) using the *decostand* function of the *vegan* package in R (Jari Oksanen et al., 2018) in order to compare them to the relative abundances of the microscopic pollen counts. The RRA represents the proportion of reads for each taxon present in a sample out of the total reads for a sample. To visualize the taxonomic diversity and RRA distribution of *trnL* and *nrITS2* in the three target taxa studied here, we used the *metabaR* package in R from Zinger et al. (2021).

To determine which marker performed best in quantifying pollen, the RRA values were regressed against relative abundance of pollen counts using least squares regression of the *lm* function in R base (R Core Team, 2020). Since this relationship has been shown to be taxon dependant (Bell et al., 2019), independent statistical analyses were performed for each of the three target taxa (*Alnus*, Cupressaceae and Urticaceae) and DNA marker combination (*trnL* or *nrITS2*). Another regression model was made using RRA values from any taxon in the entire dataset that had >5 % relative abundance in the microscopic pollen count. For these regressions all molecular taxonomic assignments were adjusted to the maximum taxonomic resolution obtained using microscopic pollen identification (e.g., RRA values from all OTUs of Cupressaceae and Taxaceae and for *Alnus* all species were summed up). For the *nrITS2* results, the RRA values were plotted for all species identified within the three target taxa.

Finally, to visualize the (dis)similarity of the pollen identifications in samples from the different pollen monitoring stations (South-east and West of the Netherlands) and the different seasons, the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity index was calculated using the RRA values of *nrITS2* and *trnL* between each pair of samples using the *vegdist* function of the *vegan*

package in R (Jari Oksanen et al., 2018). These values were ordinated using nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) and visualized with the *ordiplot* function in *vegan*, grouped per pollen monitoring site and per season. The statistical significance of the differences between these variables were tested using a permutational multivariate analysis of variance (perMANOVA) with 999 permutations, using the *adonis* function in *vegan*.

3. Results

3.1 Sequence run statistics

DNA was obtained from both the unmounted tapes and the microscopic slides that contained safranin and glycerin. For nrITS2, seven samples were discarded before sequencing because they did not yield any amplicons after two rounds of PCR. Illumina sequencing resulted in 7.5 M read pairs for nrITS2 and 8.6 M for *trnL*. After quality filtering and merging, 6.4 M reads remained for nrITS2 and 6.8 M for *trnL*. Respectively three and five samples were discarded because they had <3,000 reads in all PCR replicates for nrITS2 and *trnL*. Forty-eight out of the 58 analyzed samples were retained for nrITS2 and 53 for *trnL* (Table S1). Per sample read abundance was $52,775 \pm 4,671$ for nrITS2 and $48,784 \pm 4,241$ for *trnL*. Mean GC-content for nrITS2 amplicons was 58.4 ± 2.7 %.

3.2 Taxonomic resolution

Across all samples and markers, 56 plant families, 143 genera and 168 different plant species were identified (Figures S1, S2; Tables S2 – S5). At the family level, all pollen identified by microscope was also found with metabarcoding. The total number of OTUs identified using nrITS2 was almost twice as high (191) than for *trnL* (98), and was also higher per sample for nrITS2 (14.4 ± 1.7) than for *trnL* (12.0 ± 1.0) (Table S1). For nrITS2, 80.1% of all OTUs could be identified to the species level, while this was 27.6% for *trnL*. Most species were uniquely identified using nrITS2 (141), while 15 species were only found using *trnL* and 12 were shared between the two markers (Figure S3). Several families were identified using DNA that were not detected using microscopic counting. Families including Araliaceae, Equisetaceae, Myricaceae and Cornaceae were additionally identified by *trnL*, while Euphorbiaceae, Boraginaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Papaveraceae were additionally identified by nrITS2

292 (Figure S1, S2). The Euphorbiaceae were represented by *Mercurialis annua* and *M. perennis*,
 293 species of potential allergenic importance (Ariano et al., 1993). Within the three target taxa
 294 *Alnus*, Cupressaceae and Urticaceae, nrITS2 identified four families, nine genera and 16
 295 species while *trnL* identified four families, six genera and three species (Figure 2).
 296

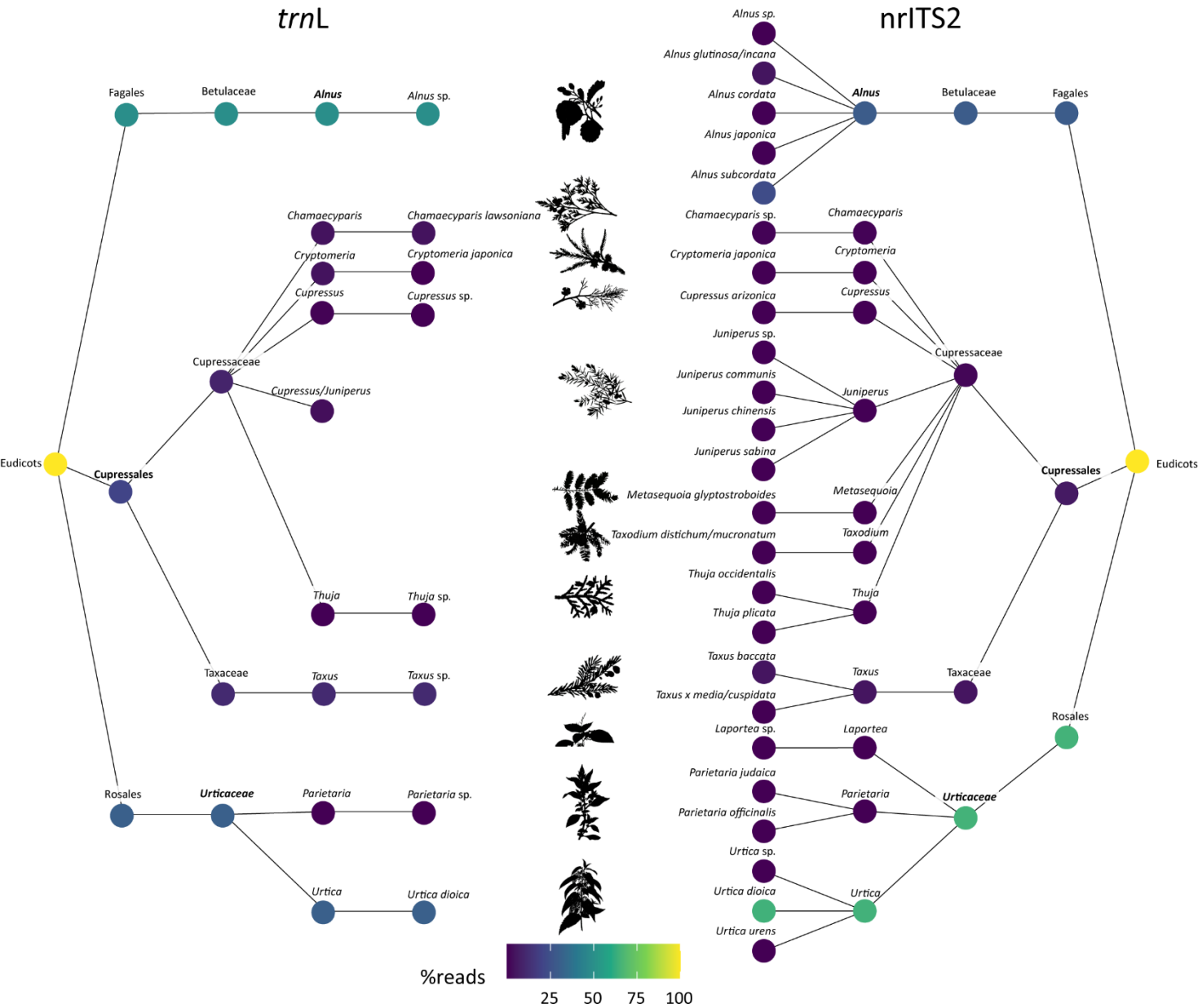


Figure 2. Taxonomic resolution for *Alnus*, Cupressaceae and Urticaceae achieved using *trnL* and nrITS2 metabarcoding of pollen grains collected with a Burkard sampler at two pollen monitoring sites in the Netherlands. Result from *trnL* are on the left side while nrITS2 is shown on the right. Colours of the circles represent percentage of identified reads. The maximum taxonomic resolution achieved using microscopic pollen identification for the three target taxa is noted in bold.

For *Alnus*, no taxa could be identified at species-level using *trnL*, while *Alnus cordata*, *A. japonica* and *A. subcordata* were identified by nrITS2. The latter two species are the parental species of the commonly planted artificial hybrid *Alnus x spaethii* (Spaeth Alder). The native species *Alnus glutinosa* and *A. incana* could not be distinguished from each other using nrITS2. For Cupressaceae, *trnL* identified five genera and two species, with some genera that could not be distinguished (*Cupressus/Juniperus*). nrITS2 could distinguish eight genera within the Cupressaceae, with most identifications at the species level (nine). Within the Urticaceae, two taxa were distinguished by *trnL* (*Urtica dioica* and *Parietaria* sp.) while three genera (*Urtica*, *Parietaria* and *Laportea*) were distinguished using nrITS2, with two species in both *Urtica* and *Parietaria*.

3.3 Pollen quantification using metabarcoding

Highly significant positive relationships between the relative abundance of sequencing reads (RRA) and relative abundance of microscopically counted pollen grains were found for all studied taxa using *trnL* and nrITS2 ($p < 0.001$ for all correlations; Figure 3). For *Alnus* the highest correlation was found using *trnL* ($R^2 = 0.969$) and nrITS2 ($R^2 = 0.952$). For the other two target taxa a lower correlation was found using *trnL* ($R^2 = 0.525$ and 0.664 for Cupressaceae and Urticaceae respectively) compared to nrITS2 ($R^2 = 0.637$ and 0.773). The regression line slopes also had lower values using *trnL* (0.589 and 0.416 for Cupressaceae and Urticaceae respectively) compared to nrITS2 (1.066 and 0.693), while a slope of ~ 0.97 was found for *Alnus* in both markers. The relationships were not affected by the material used (microscopic slide or unmounted tape). When combining the RRA values from all taxa in the dataset with $>5\%$ relative abundance in the microscopic pollen counts, corresponding results were found with an R^2 value of 0.620 and slope of 0.588 for all *trnL* data, while the R^2 value was 0.821 for nrITS2, with a slope of 0.764 (Figure S4).

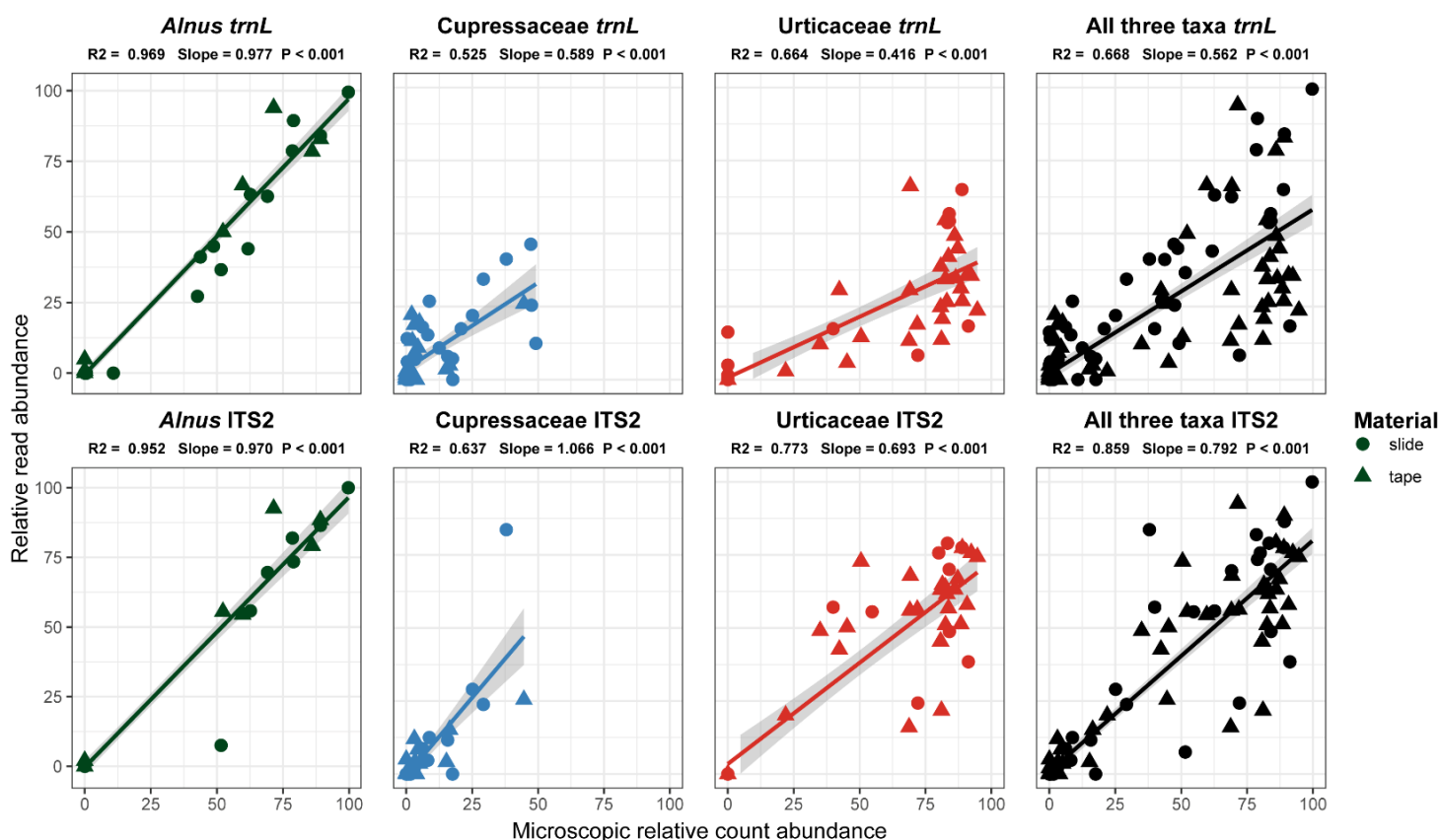


Figure 3. Correlations of microscopic pollen counts and sequencing read abundances. Regressions for *Alnus* sp., *Cupressaceae*, *Urticaceae* as well as all three combined are shown. The top panels show the results of trnL and the bottom panels nrITS2. Comparisons are at the maximum taxonomic levels these taxa can be identified with a microscope. Pollen counts were converted to relative abundances for comparison to DNA relative read abundances.

322

323 3.4 Trends in plant species abundance

324 Since nrITS2 results showed the highest taxonomic resolution and correlation between RRA
 325 and microscopically counted abundances, prevalence and presence of different plant species
 326 through time was only plotted for nrITS2 (Figure 4). In spring, the genus *Alnus* was
 327 dominated by native *Alnus glutinosa* and *A. incana* for both studied pollen monitoring sites.
 328 DNA from pollen of non-native *Alnus cordata* was most abundantly identified in samples
 329 from late February 2019 in the West of the Netherlands (up to 26.6%), while only very low
 330 abundances of this species were found in the South-east of the Netherlands. Non-native
 331 *Alnus japonica* and *A. subcordata* were found in high abundance in the sample from late
 332 December 2019 in the West of the Netherlands. Cupressaceae show highly diverse species
 333 recovery in spring, but the pollen spectra are almost entirely dominated by *Taxus baccata* at
 334 both pollen monitoring stations. In April, for the South-east of the Netherlands non-native
 335 *Chamaecyparis* sp. was found, while this taxon was absent in the West of the Netherlands.

Here, *Cupressus arizonica* was identified in the sample from April 2020. Native *Juniperus communis* was only found in very low abundance in April 2020 in the South-east of the Netherlands. In fall, Urticaceae pollen spectra are almost entirely dominated by *Urtica dioica* for both monitoring stations. *Urtica urens* was only found in low abundances in the fall of 2020 at both monitoring sites. Highly allergenic *Parietaria* species were detected in low abundances only in the West of the Netherlands in 2020. Finally, non-native *Laportea* was identified in the samples from the West of the Netherlands in 2020.

3.5 Comparison of monitoring sites and seasons

A perMANOVA of Bray-Curtis dissimilarities using RRA data of *trnL* and nrITS2 results showed significant discrimination between samples from spring and fall collected at the two Dutch pollen monitoring stations ($p < 0.001$ for both markers; Figure 5). For nrITS2 a slightly higher R^2 was found of 0.532 versus 0.440 for *trnL*. Spring and fall samples clearly fell within two

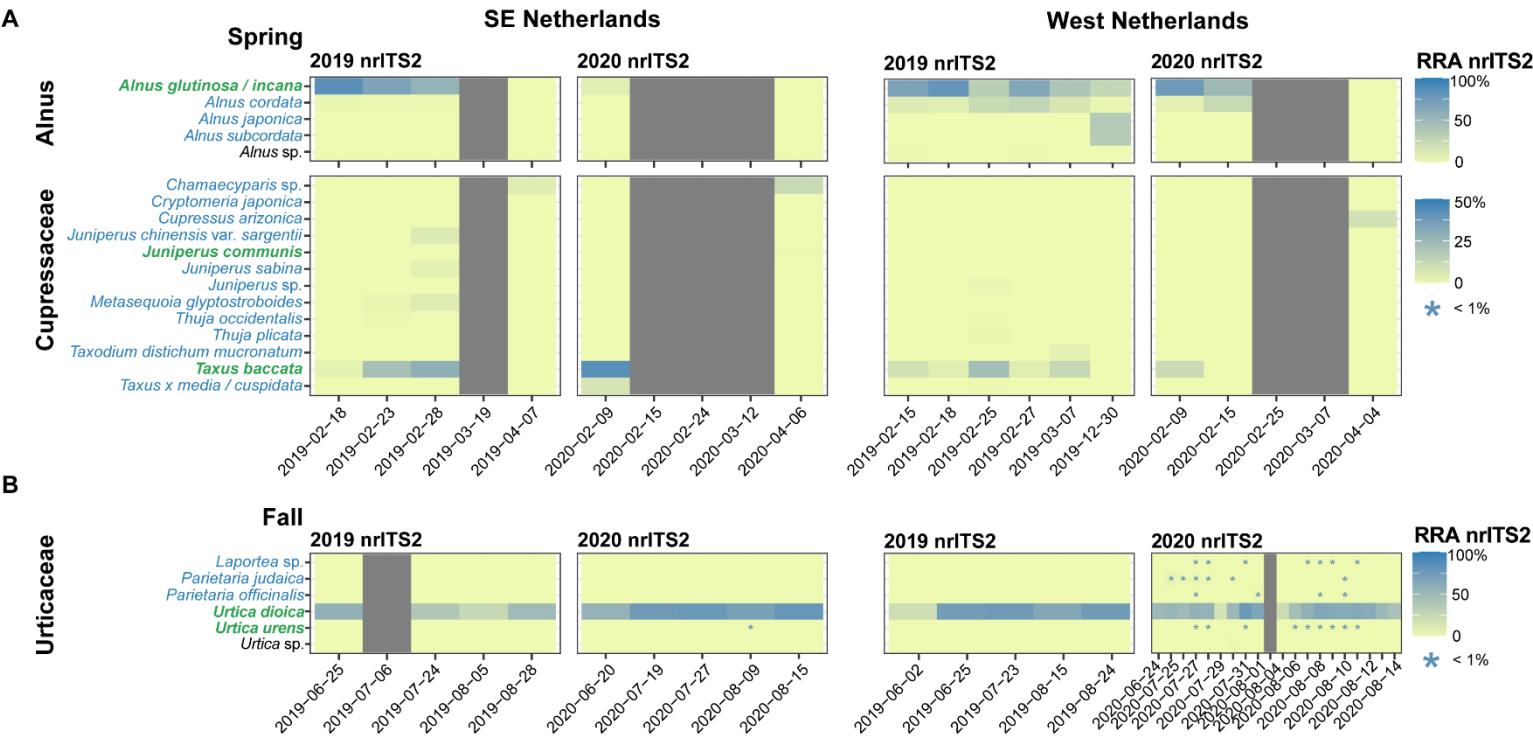


Figure 4. Relative nrITS2 molecular read abundance of species of *Alnus*, *Cupressaceae* in spring and *Urticaceae* in fall of the 2019 and 2020 seasons of two pollen monitoring sites in the Netherlands (West and South-east of the Netherlands). The x-axis represents the material collection dates (see Figure 1). * presence at low relative abundance (< 1%). Taxa in green are native to the Netherlands, taxa in blue are either cultivated or introduced, and for taxa in black this is unknown. Grey bars indicate samples for which amplification failed.

351 separated groups for both markers, and within these groupings the samples from both
 352 stations also clustered together. For *trnL* a higher overlap was identified, especially between
 353 the samples from the fall for the two stations, while these were more separated in *nrITS2*.

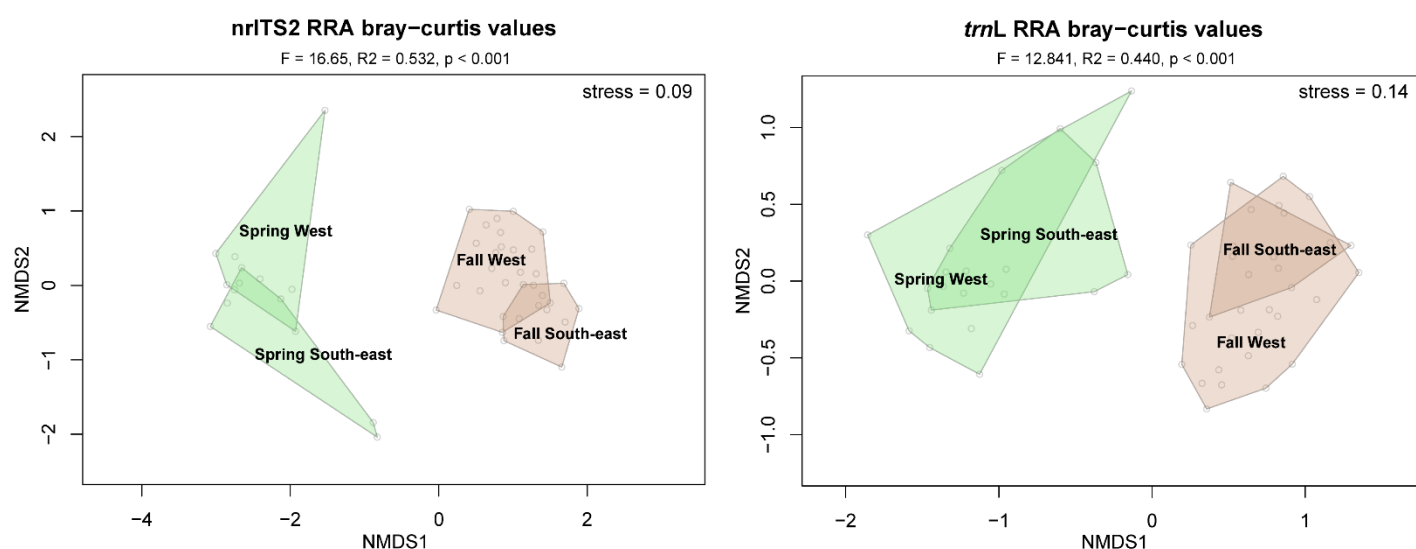


Figure 5. Two-dimensional NMDS plots on RRA-based Bray-Curtis dissimilarities of *trnL* and *nrITS2* results from spring and fall at the West and South-east of the Netherlands. Polygons in green represent samples from spring while those in brown represent fall.

354

355 4. Discussion

356 While previous studies have shown that DNA can be amplified from pollen collected by Hirst-
 357 type samplers (Banchi et al., 2020; Campbell et al., 2020; Kraaijeveld et al., 2015; Leontidou
 358 et al., 2018), our study presents the first successful amplification of DNA from pollen that
 359 have been stained and mounted on microscopic slides. This opens up opportunities of
 360 utilizing the vast historic resources of daily microscopic slides that have been collected for
 361 decades at pollen monitoring stations all over the world (see Buters et al., 2018 for an
 362 overview of pollen monitoring stations). DNA studies on historical pollen species dynamics in
 363 ambient air can potentially be reconstructed back in time using our methodology.

364

365 4.1 Molecular airborne pollen monitoring

366 Previous studies on aerobiological samples have mostly relied on plastid *rbcL* which has
 367 limitations in taxonomic resolution (mostly to the genus level) and relatively poor

quantitative performances (Bell et al., 2017; Uetake et al., 2021). Although less samples were successfully amplified with nrITS2 than using *trnL* in our study (48 versus 53), the qualitative performance of nrITS2 was significantly better than plastid *trnL* with double the amount of OTUs and >80% identified to the species level. Using *trnL*, several plant families were exclusively found that were also identified by microscopic pollen identification (Juncaceae and Pinaceae). However, these taxa were only present in <5% maximum relative abundance in the selected samples and do not represent important hay fever plants. In a recent study, Milla et al. (2021) found instead that *trnL* performed better than nrITS2 in Australian honey samples. However, as the authors indicate, DNA in these honey samples was degraded by long storage, causing the more stable and much shorter *trnL* P6 loop to be better preserved than nrITS2.

Our study adds to the growing body of evidence that nuclear markers are well suited for quantitative molecular pollen research (Banchi et al., 2020; Bäsch et al., 2020; Núñez et al., 2017; Richardson et al., 2021; Rowney et al., 2021). The correlation values for all taxa using *trnL* and nrITS2 in this study are very similar to those found in a recent study on bee-collected pollen quantification (Richardson et al., 2021). Here, at the genus level a relatively low correlation was found between *trnL* read proportions and microscopic proportions ($R^2 = 0.456$, $P < 0.001$) while these values were much higher for nrITS2 ($R^2 = 0.846$, $P < 0.001$). Furthermore, and similar to previous studies, the relationships in our study were taxon dependent and showed differences in the correlation slope (e.g., Baksay et al., 2020; Bell et al., 2019). The slope for the genus *Alnus* was very close to 1 in *trnL* and nrITS2, indicating that for this taxon the relative abundance of reads is almost exactly equal to the relative abundance of pollen in microscopic counts. For the family Urticaceae, however, a low slope value was found in the *trnL* results (0.416) and this underrepresentation of *trnL* RRA was also found for Urticaceae by Kraaijeveld et al. (2015). For plants, plastid and nuclear ribosomal ITS copy numbers per cell vary widely (Prokopowich et al., 2003). From our and previous quantification results it seems that plastid numbers per cell may be more variable than nuclear ribosomal copies, which may explain the better performance of nrITS2 versus *trnL*. Furthermore, plastid DNA is somewhat reduced in the paternal germ line, a feature that has led previous researchers to believe pollen did not contain any plastid DNA, although this has been disproven since (Bell et al., 2016b; Kraaijeveld et al., 2015). On the other hand, nrITS

markers may be harder to amplify in plants as this marker has a relatively high GC content (Bell et al., 2016b; Mamedov et al., 2008; Richardson et al., 2019). This has led other researchers to find better quantification results using *trnL* compared to nrITS based on absolute read abundances (e.g., Baksay et al., 2020). However, in our study we find that very few taxa counted using a microscope were missed by nrITS2, and the ones that were missed (Juncaceae, Pinaceae) did not have a very high GC content but were more likely missed due to primer mismatches. When expected species contain high GC contents (>70%), amplification can be improved by adding DMSO additive to the PCR mix and/or lowering annealing temperatures (Varadharajan and Parani, 2021). Because of the highly increased taxonomic resolution and better semi-quantitative performance, we argue that nrITS2 should be the preferred marker of choice in molecular airborne pollen monitoring.

4.2 Pollen species dynamics

Using three case studies, we identified fine scale dynamics in species distribution patterns that could hitherto not be revealed. Within the allergenic genus *Alnus*, we find evidence that in late February a relatively large portion of the *Alnus* pollen is derived from non-native cultivated *Alnus cordata* (Italian alder), while in December the peak is mainly caused by *Alnus x spaethii* (Figure 4). The flowering periods of these alders prolong the alder hay fever season in the Netherlands. Traditionally, this was considered to last from February – early March (native *Alnus glutinosa* and *A. incana* flowering seasons), but *A. cordata* flowers from late February into early June (peak in April) and *A. x spaethii* from late December into early February (Duistermaat, 2020). These flowering periods correspond well with the dates in which we identified these species using nrITS2. *Alnus x spaethii* is of increasing interest to epidemiologists as it starts flowering significantly earlier than the native alders (Gehrig et al., 2015).

TrnL and nrITS2 could identify several genera within the Cupressaceae including many that are not native to the Netherlands (e.g. *Cryptomeria*, *Chamaecyparis*, *Cupressus*, *Taxodium*, *Thuja*). Plants from these genera are popular ornamentals in gardens and city parks in the Netherlands. Some species are well-known causal agents of pollinosis in their native range (including *Cryptomeria japonica* in Japan and *Cupressus arizonica* in the Mediterranean; D'Amato et al., 2007; Yasueda et al., 1983). However, our results show that

pollen from these species is relatively insignificant as compared to highly abundant *Taxus baccata* pollen (common yew; Figure 4). Common yew is native to the Netherlands but is also often used as ornamental in hedges and gardens, which could explain its abundance in aerobiological samples. Even though yews are known to produce high amounts of pollen, their pollen is considered of low allergenic importance in Europe, as sensitization levels are very low (Puc et al., 2019). High cross-reactivity has been found, however, between Cupressaceae and Taxaceae (D'Amato et al., 2007).

For the Urticaceae pollen in fall, *Urtica dioica* plants are ubiquitous and highly abundant in the direct surroundings of both pollen monitoring stations, which explains the dominance of this species in the DNA results. Species of *Urtica* are of low allergenic relevance, but highly allergenic *Parietaria* spp. was additionally identified using both DNA markers. Species of *Parietaria* are one of the main causes of allergic rhinitis in the Mediterranean and they are currently undergoing a range expansion as a result of anthropogenic distribution and climate change (D'Amato et al., 2007; Fotiou et al., 2011). Although these genera can be distinguished using high resolution imaging and neural networks (Polling et al., 2021), they are not distinguishable using manual microscopic analysis. One unexpected element in the nrITS2 results for Urticaceae was the presence of the genus *Laportea* in samples from the fall of 2020 in the West of the Netherlands, as species of this genus are native to the Americas, Africa and Australasia (Jiarui et al., 2003). *Laportea* is not native or in cultivation in the Netherlands, so either pollen arrived from long-distance transport or the sequences are the result of a sequencing error. The last option seems unlikely since the differences in the sequence to those of native *Urtica* and *Parietaria* were large (maximum identification of 80% to *Urtica dioica* while this was 95% for *Laportea*). Therefore, the first option seems more likely. Pollen has been found before to be able to travel long distances (de Weger et al., 2016), and even to the Arctic (Campbell et al., 1999). Unfortunately, the species of *Laportea* could not be distinguished due to <97% identity, but the closest match was *L. canadensis* (native to North America) with 95% identity.

4.3 Pollen monitoring sites and seasons

The two pollen monitoring sites could be distinguished based on the taxonomic compositions of fall and spring samples (Figure 5). This was more clearly seen in the nrITS2

results than in *trnL*, likely because of the increased taxonomic resolution of nrITS2. The site-specific variation could be explained by native species that grow more or less exclusively in either the West of the Netherlands (e.g., *Spergularia media*, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, *Parietaria* spp.) versus the South-east of the Netherlands (e.g., *Juniperus communis*, *Quercus rubra* and *Mercurialis perennis*). Furthermore, several cultivated species were either only identified in the West of the Netherlands (e.g., *Phedimus* spp., *Panicum virgatum*, *Alnus x spaethii*) or the South-east of the Netherlands (e.g., *Chamaecyparis* sp., *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Acer negundo*) indicating differences in the local environment surrounding the pollen monitoring sites. Lastly, some of the variance may be explained by a sampling effect, as more samples were used from the West of the Netherlands from the fall of 2020 (20) than from the South-east of the Netherlands (5). Nevertheless, both *trnL* and nrITS2 results could be used to infer statistically significant differences between the seasons and two pollen monitoring sites.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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DNA metabarcoding using nrITS2 provides highly qualitative and quantitative results for airborne pollen monitoring

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Supplementary Information (1/2)

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Figure S1. All nrITS2 results

Taxa in red have been filtered out, either because it wasn't an eudicot, or because it was interpreted as contamination. Taxa in bold was uniquely found in the DNA results of nrITS2.

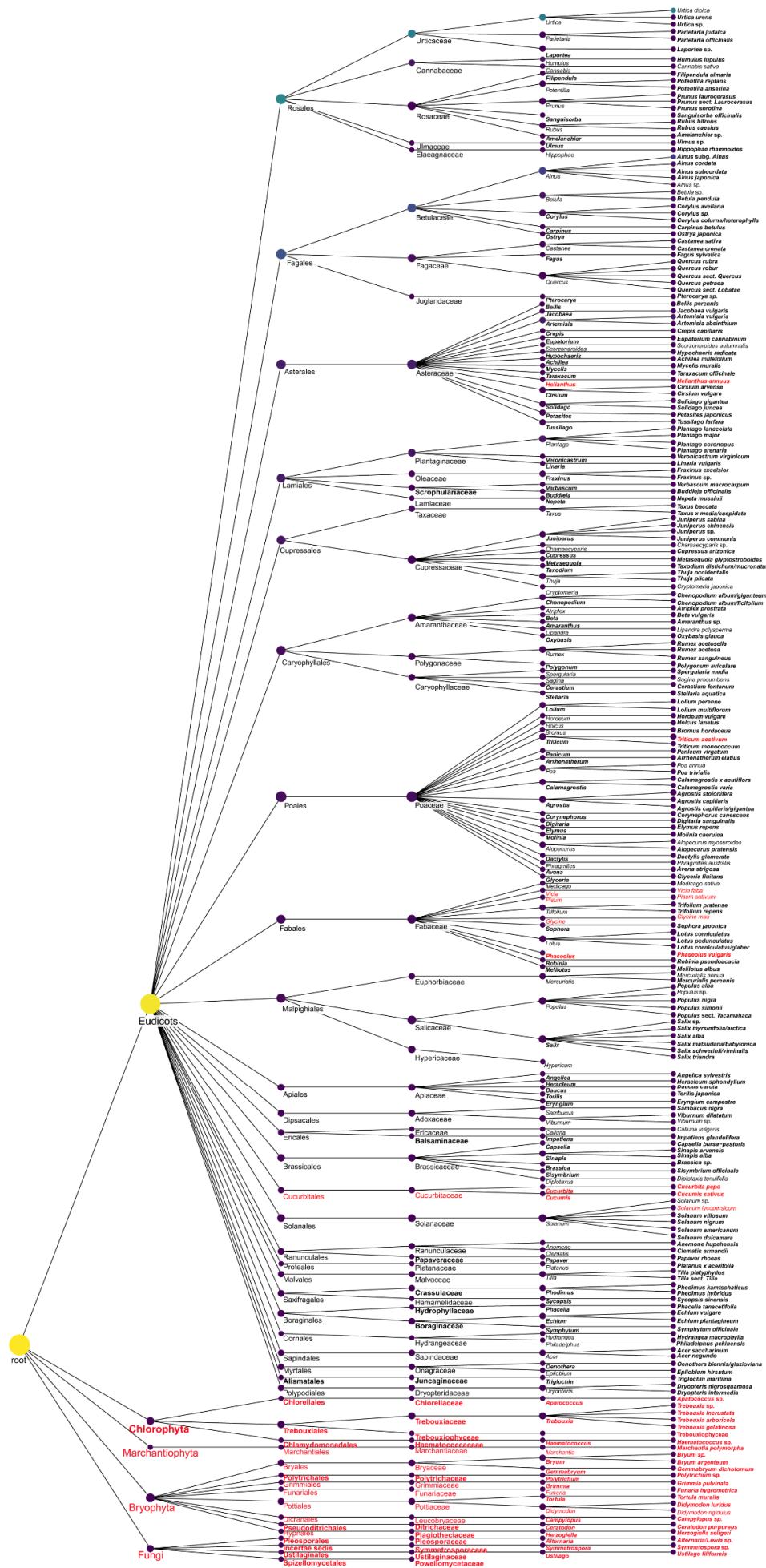


Figure S2. All *trnL* results

Taxa in red has been filtered out, either because it wasn't an eudicot, or because it was interpreted as contamination. Taxa in bold was uniquely found in the DNA results of *trnL*.

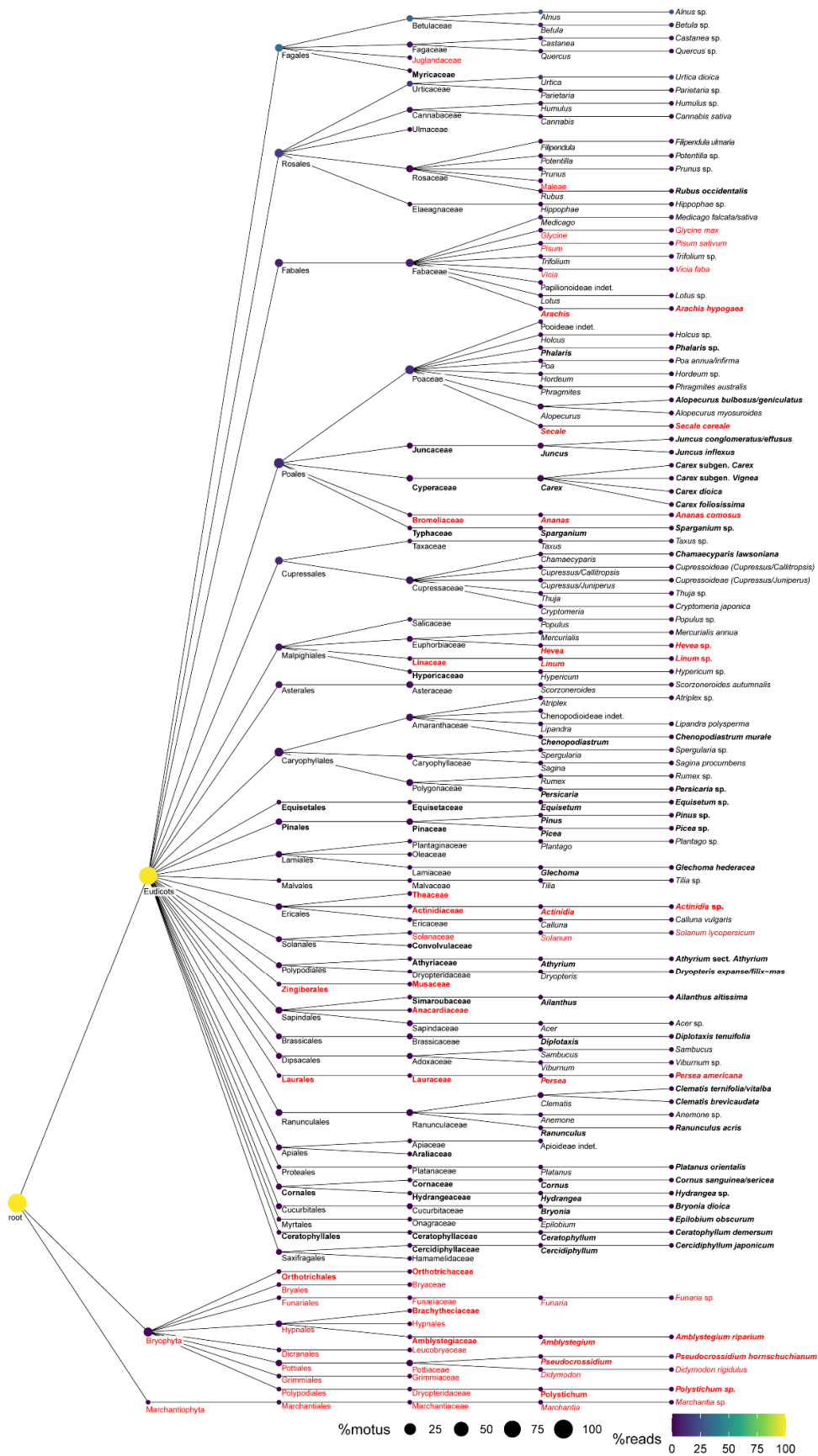


Figure S3. Venn diagrams all data

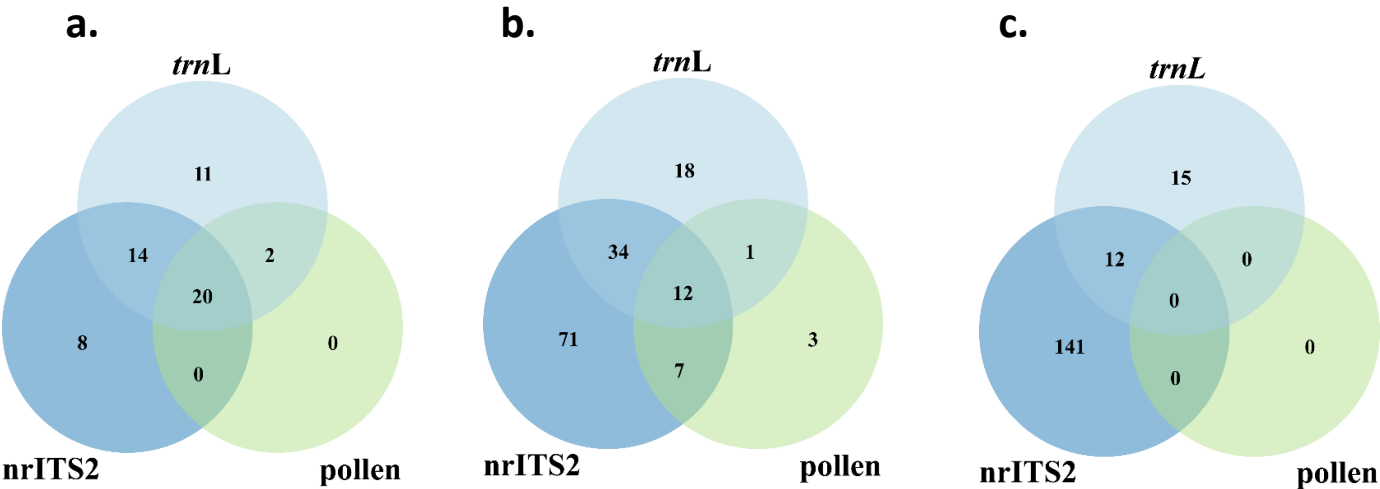


Figure S3. Venn diagrams of all recovered taxa at different taxonomic levels a) family, b) genus and c) species level

Figure S4. RRA Correlations

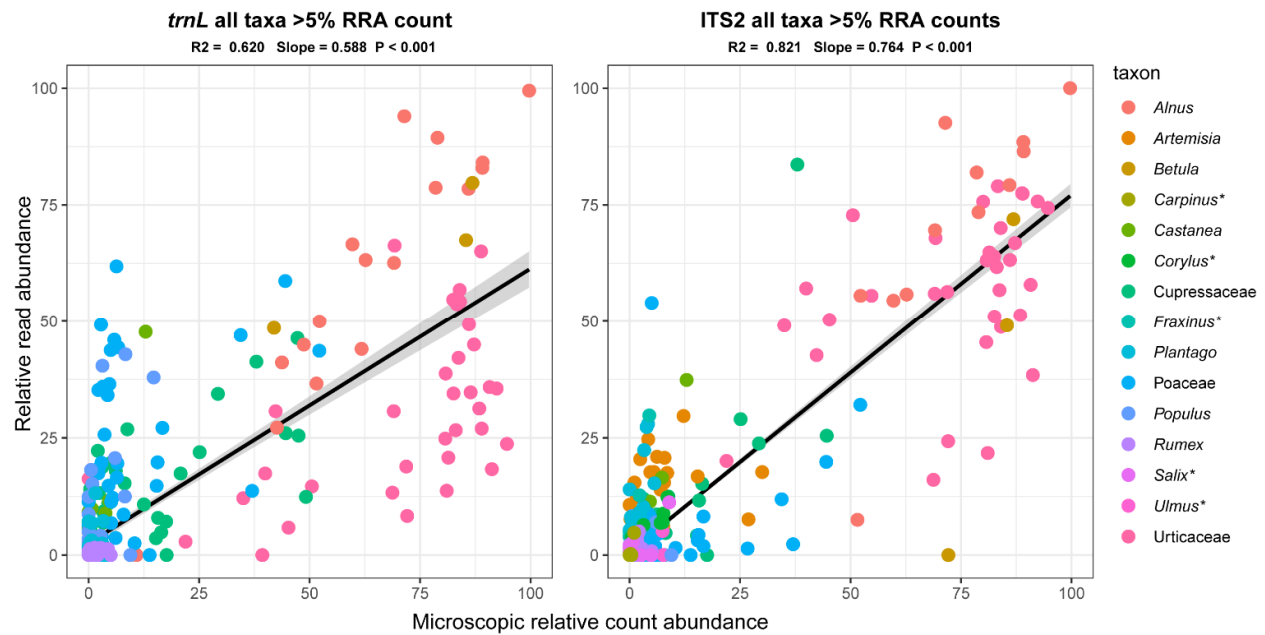


Figure S4. Molecular relative read abundance regressed against relative abundance of microscopic pollen counts for all taxa recovered using *trnL* and *nrITS2* in the 58 studied aerobiological samples. Taxa are indicated using unique colors, showing only those that were present in >5% relative abundance in the microscopic pollen counts. Comparisons are performed at the maximum taxonomic level that can be achieved using microscopic pollen identification. Taxa denoted with a * were only identified using *nrITS2*.

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Supporting Information (2/2)

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- Table S4** Identity and abundance of OTU's nrITS2
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Table S1. Read, OTU and sample counts after filtering

| Filtering step | nrITS2 | | | trnL | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | reads | OTUs | Samples | reads | OTUs | Samples |
| Raw data | 7,533,375 | | 51* | 8,584,785 | | 58 |
| Merged and demultiplexed | 7,409,641 | | | 7,855,880 | | |
| Clustering | | 1329 | | | 626 | |
| Removal of OTUs with ID <90% | | 1106 | | | 271 | |
| Leakage removal* | 7,392,223 | | | 7,717,079 | | |
| Removal OTUs with <10 reads, aggregating OTUs with same taxonomic assignment | 7,391,979 | 393 | | 7,715,474 | 214 | |
| Removal of PCR replicates with <3,000 reads | 7,389,579 | 390 | 36 + 12 single PCR rep | 7,704,427 | | 52 + 1 single PCR rep |
| Removal of OTUs only present in one PCR replicate per sample and samples with <2 PCR reps | 6,576,188 | 231 | | 7,044,944 | 146 | |
| Removal of suspected food contaminants | 6,422,503 | 219 | | 6,810,278 | 129 | |
| Removal of OTUs from algae, mosses, fungi | 6,395,889 | 191 | | 6,809,072 | 98 | |
| FINAL | 6,395,889 | 191 | 36 + 12 [†] | 6,787,445 | 98 | 52 + 1 [†] |
| Per sample | 52,775 ± 4,671 | 14.4 ± 1.7 | | 46,784 ± 4,241 | 11.8 ± 1.0 | |

* for nrITS2, 7 samples did not produce any DNA after the two PCR steps and these were not used for sequencing

† For nrITS2, 12 samples only had one PCR replicate left after the filtering steps, while this was one sample in the trnL dataset

Table S2. Identity and abundance of OTU's *trn L*

| | Total read | best_id | best_cov | d_cover | family | subfamily | tribe | genus/subg. | species | maxid | scientific rank | OTU sequence | length of sequences |
|-------|------------|---------|----------|---------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 0x085 | 2207 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Apliales | Apliales | | Apliales | Apliales | Apliales | subfamily | atcttattccaacaaacaagaagcccgagagtgaaaaag | 45 |
| 0x125 | 264 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Apliales | Araliaceae | | Araliaceae | Araliaceae | Araliaceae | family | atcgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaaaaaag | 46 |
| 0x011 | 144351 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroidae | Anthemideae | | Anthemideae | tribe | atacgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaaaaaaaa | 51 |
| 0x011 | 2873 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Cichorioideae | Cichorieae | | Cichorieae | tribe | atacgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaaaaaaaa | 50 |
| 0x100 | 2521 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Cichorioideae | Scarzonneroides | Scarzonneroides autumnalis | Scarzonneroides autumnalis | species | atacgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaaaaaaaa | 50 |
| 0x032 | 31082 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | | Asteraceae | | Asteraceae | family | atacgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaaaaaaaa | 50 |
| 0x123 | 1170 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | Diplaxites | Diplaxites tenuifolia | Diplaxites tenuifolia | species | atccgggttacgcaaacacaagcatgttagaaccg | 39 |
| 0x053 | 9974 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | Brassicaceae | | Brassicaceae | family | atccgggttacgcaaacacaagcatgttagaaccg | 39 |
| 0x100 | 331 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Alsiineae | Alsiineae | | Alsiineae | tribe | cctcttaattgtcttccccaaaagaaggttguttaacagcataaaaaag | 49 |
| 0x074 | 4428 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Saginae | Sagina | Sagina procumbens | Sagina procumbens | species | cctcttttgtcttcttttttaaaagaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaacag | 62 |
| 0x046 | 15387 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Spergularie | Spergularia | | Spergularia | genus | ctcctttgtctcttttttaaaagaagaataaaaaag | 63 |
| 0x026 | 31442 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Chenopodiaceae | Atripliceae | Atriplex | | Atriplex | tribe | ctcgttttcaaagcaaaaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 53 |
| 0x135 | 1655 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Chenopodiaceae | Chenopodiaceae | Chenopodiaceae | Chenopodiaceae murale | Chenopodiaceae murale | species | ctctttttgcraaagcaaaaactaatcaagaanaatatataaaaaagcagaaaaaanaag | 65 |
| 0x124 | 1855 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Chenopodiaceae | Atripliceae | Lipandra | Lipandra polysperma | Lipandra polysperma | species | ctctttttgcraaagcaaaaactaatgttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 53 |
| 0x013 | 137845 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Chenopodiaceae | Atripliceae | Lipandra | Lipandra polysperma | Lipandra polysperma | tribe | ctctttttgcraaagcaaaaactaatgttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 53 |
| 0x071 | 6529 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Chenopodiaceae | Chenopodiaceae | Chenopodiaceae | | Chenopodiaceae | subfamily | ctctttttgcraaagcaaaaactaatgttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 53 |
| 0x153 | 441 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonoidaeae | Persicariae | Persicaria | Persicaria | genus | ctcctgttccaaaaggaagaaaaaag | 30 |
| 0x115 | 1705 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonoidaeae | Polygoneae | | Polygoneae | tribe | ctctttttccaaaaggaagaagaag | 28 |
| 0x050 | 10692 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonoidaeae | Rumex | | Rumex | genus | ctctctctccaaaagggagatataaaag | 38 |
| 0x096 | 1830 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonoidaeae | Rumiceae | | Rumex | family | ctctttttccaaaaggaagaagaag | 27 |
| 0x200 | 614 | 0.00 | 0.96 | 100 | Ceratoxyllales | Ceratophylaceae | Ceratophyllum | Ceratophyllum demersum | Ceratophyllum demersum | Ceratophyllum demersum | species | atccgatgttgagaacacagaggttcgaaggcagatacaaaaatag | 50 |
| 0x177 | 418 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cornales | Hydrangeaceae | Hydrangeae | | Hydrangeae | Hydrangeae | genus | atccgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 51 |
| 0x120 | 1061 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cornales | Cornaceae | Cornus | Cornus sanguinea/sericea | Cornus sanguinea/sericea | Cornus sanguinea/sericea | genus | atccgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 51 |
| 0x294 | 89 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cucurbitales | Cucurbitaceae | Bryonia | Bryonia dioica | Bryonia dioica | Bryonia dioica | species | atctttttttgcgaaaaataaaaaag | 26 |
| 0x012 | 134546 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Chamaecypariss | Chamaecyparis lawsoniana | Chamaecyparis lawsoniana | Chamaecyparis lawsoniana | tribe | atcgttttttcgagacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 40 |
| 0x015 | 106303 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cupressus/Callitropsis | Cupressus(Callitropsis) | Cupressus(Callitropsis) | Cupressus(Callitropsis) | subfamily | atccgatgttgagaacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 40 |
| 0x041 | 17384 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cupressus/Juniperus | Cupressus(Juniperus) | Cupressoidaeae (Cupressus/Juniperus) | Cupressoidaeae (Cupressus/Juniperus) | subfamily | atccgatgttgagaacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 40 |
| 0x061 | 8152 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cupressaceae | Thuja | | Thuja | genus | atctcatttttcgagaagaag | 21 |
| 0x107 | 6069 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Taxodioidaeae | Cryptomeria japonica | Cryptomeria japonica | Cryptomeria japonica | species | atcgtttttatgagaacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 40 |
| 0x039 | 32494 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cupressaceae | Cupressaceae (Chamaecyparis/Sequoioidaeae) | | Cupressaceae (Chamaecyparis/Sequoioidaeae) | family | atcgttttttcgagacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 40 |
| 0x006 | 368567 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Taxus | Taxus | | Taxus | genus | atccgatgttgagaacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaag | 41 |
| 0x066 | 4755 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Dipsacales | Adoxaceae | | Sambucus | | Sambucus | genus | atccgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 50 |
| 0x270 | 679 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 100 | Dipsacales | Adoxaceae | | Viburnum | | Viburnum | genus | atccgttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcaataaaaaaag | 44 |
| 0x020 | 55202 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Equisetales | Equisetaceae | | Equisetum | | Equisetum | genus | atcttatattag | 11 |
| 0x018 | 12889 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ericales | Callunaceae | | Calluna vulgaris | | Calluna vulgaris | genus | atcttttttttcggaacaaacaaggttcgaaaggttcgaaggcaagaagaagaag | 47 |
| 0x072 | 5085 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | Lotus | | Lotus | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacagggaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaatg | 55 |
| 0x003 | 468808 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | Medicago | Medicago falcata/sativa | Medicago falcata/sativa | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcaataataaaaaaag | 52 |
| 0x038 | 14031 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | Trifolium | | Trifolium | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcaataataaaaaaag | 55 |
| 0x064 | 242 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Papilionoideae | Papilionoideae | | Papilionoideae | subfamily | atcttttttcggaacaaacagaggttcgaaggcagpatataaaaaag | 61 |
| 0x001 | 176884 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Alnus | | Alnus | | Alnus | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 61 |
| 0x004 | 446137 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaeae | | Betula | | Betula | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 61 |
| 0x014 | 136014 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaeae | | Betulaeae | | Betulaeae | family | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 61 |
| 0x008 | 189420 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Fagaceae | | Castanea | | Castanea | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 65 |
| 0x019 | 66077 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Fagaceae | | Quercus | | Quercus | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 54 |
| 0x018 | 1782 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Fagales | Fagaceae | | Myrica | | Myrica | family | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaataaaaaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 50 |
| 0x227 | 313 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Lamiaceae | | Glechoma | Glechoma hederacea | Glechoma hederacea | species | atcttttttcggaacaaacaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 44 |
| 0x031 | 23446 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Oleaceae | | Oleaceae | | Oleaceae | family | atcttttttcggaacaaacaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 39 |
| 0x023 | 48063 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | | Plantago | | Plantago | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaag | 43 |
| 0x055 | 925 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malpighiales | Euphorbiaceae | | Mercurialis | Mercurialis annua | Mercurialis annua | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 55 |
| 0x016 | 177 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malpighiales | Hypericaceae | | Hypericum | | Hypericum | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 68 |
| 0x007 | 272264 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | | Populus | | Populus | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacaagaagaacacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 58 |
| 0x028 | 27575 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malvales | Malvaceae | | Tilia | | Tilia | genus | atcttttttttcggaacaaacaagaaggttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x131 | 1811 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | | Epilobium | Epilobium obscurum | Epilobium obscurum | genus | atcttttttcggaacaaacacgcgcgggttttcgaaggcagcagcagaagaagaagaag | 59 |
| 0x154 | 1357 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Pinales | Pinaceae | | Picea | | Picea | genus | atccgttttcgagacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaagaag | 54 |
| 0x021 | 47338 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Pinales | Pinaceae | | Pinus | | Pinus | genus | atccgttttcgagacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaagaag | 54 |
| 0x035 | 45 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Pinales | Pinaceae | | Pinaceae | | Pinaceae | family | atccgttttcgagacacacattgttctcttcgagaagaagaag | 54 |
| 0x134 | 2639 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | | Carex | Carex dioica | Carex dioica | species | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 83 |
| 0x168 | 983 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | | Carex | Carex foliolissima | Carex foliolissima | species | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 82 |
| 0x165 | 969 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | | Carex | Carex subgen. Carex | Carex subgen. Carex | subgenus | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 82 |
| 0x076 | 5233 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | | Carex subgen. Carex | Carex subgen. Carex | Carex subgen. Carex | subgenus | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 82 |
| 0x138 | 1498 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Juncus | Juncus inflexus | Juncus inflexus | species | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 83 |
| 0x058 | 9285 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Juncus | Juncus conglomeratus/effusus | Juncus conglomeratus/effusus | species | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 83 |
| 0x054 | 1715 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Arundoideae | Phragmites | Phragmites australis | Phragmites australis | species | atcttttttcggaagaagaagaatatagaagaatattcttttcagataagaagaagaatattcttttcataataaaa | 82 |
| 0x025 | 51506 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Aveneae | Poa | Poa Chlorostachys Group 1 (Aveneae type) | Poa Chlorostachys Group 1 (Aveneae type) | tribe | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 58 |
| 0x042 | 11340 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Hordeae | Hordeum | | Hordeum | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x007 | 1429 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Allopecurus myosuroides | Allopecurus myosuroides | | Allopecurus myosuroides | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x059 | 9391 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poaceae | Allopecurus | Allopecurus bulbosus/geniculatus | Allopecurus bulbosus/geniculatus | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x016 | 100118 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poaceae | Holcus | | Holcus | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x022 | 42618 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poideae | Phalaris | | Phalaris | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x017 | 16546 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poideae | Poa annua/infirma | Poa annua/infirma | Poa annua/infirma | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x011 | 152021 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poideae | Poa | Poa annua/infirma | Poa annua/infirma | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x005 | 390741 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poideae | Poaceae | | Poaceae | tribe | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x027 | 47221 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Poaceae | Poaceae | | Poaceae | family | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgacatgcagactaatatacagaagaagaag | 53 |
| 0x276 | 233 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Typhaceae | | Sporangium | | Sporangium | genus | atcttgatttttcgataaaaaagcaggtttataaaactgatacaaaaagaag | 39 |
| 0x044 | 14173 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Polydiales | Athyriaceae | | Athyrium | Athyrium sect. Athyrium | Athyrium sect. Athyrium | genus | atcttgatttttcgataaaaaagcaggtttataaaactgatacaaaaagaag | 39 |
| 0x012 | 7561 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Polydiales | Dryopteridaceae | | Dryopteris | Dryopteris expansa/filix-mas | Dryopteris expansa/filix-mas | genus | atcttgatttttcgataaaaaagcaggtttataaaactgatacaaaaagaag | 39 |
| 0x108 | 2337 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Proteales | Platanaceae | | Platanus | Platanus orientalis | Platanus orientalis | species | atcttgatttttcgataaaaaagcaggtttataaaactgatacaaaaagaag | 35 |
| 0x221 | 3169 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | | Anemone | | Anemone | genus | atcttgatttttcgataaaaaagcaggtttataaaactgatacaaaaagaag | 35 |
| 0x162 | 5941 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | | Clematis | Clematis brevicaudata | Clematis brevicaudata | species | atcttttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 51 |
| 0x083 | 108 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | | Clematis | Clematis terifolia/vitalba | Clematis terifolia/vitalba | genus | atcttttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 52 |
| 0x010 | 111 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | | Ranunculus | Ranunculus acris | Ranunculus acris | genus | atcttttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 53 |
| 0x040 | 485 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Cannabaceae | | Cannabis | Cannabis sativa | Cannabis sativa | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 27 |
| 0x010 | 168920 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Cannabaceae | | Humululus | | Humululus | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 49 |
| 0x109 | 1483 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Elaeagnaceae | | Hippophae | | Hippophae | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 51 |
| 0x090 | 1403 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Amygdaloideae | Prunus | | Prunus | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 52 |
| 0x013 | 4973 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosoidaeae | Rosaceae | | Potentilla | | Potentilla | genus | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 51 |
| 0x178 | 880 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Rubus | Rubus occidentalis | Rubus occidentalis | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 52 |
| 0x170 | 939 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | | Filipendula | Filipendula ulmaria | Filipendula ulmaria | species | atcgttttttcggaacaaacaggggttcgagaacagcagataaaaaaag | 57 |
| 0x069 | 3279 | 1.00 | 1.00 | | | | | | | | | | |

% represents the Relative Read Abundance

red text Sample failed amplification

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Table S4. Identity and abundance of OTU's nrITS2

| OTU | Total read | best_id | Ni cover | order | family | genus/subgenus | species | maxid | scientific r: OTU sequence (truncated) | length |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------|
| Otu0479 | 417 | 100 | 95 | Alismatales | Juncaginaceae | Triglochin | Triglochin maritima | Triglochin maritima | species TCTTGGCCCTTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 425 |
| Otu0039 | 10703 | 99.504 | 100 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Angelica | Angelica sylvestris | Angelica sylvestris | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0088 | 6588 | 100 | 100 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Daucus | Daucus carota | Daucus carota | species TCCTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0620 | 275 | 100 | 99 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Eryngium | Eryngium campestre | Eryngium campestre | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0085 | 7066 | 100 | 90 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Heracleum | Heracleum sphondylium | Heracleum sphondylium | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0329 | 701 | 100 | 93 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Torilis | Torilis japonica | Torilis japonica | species TCCCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 400 |
| Otu0211 | 1534 | 99.475 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Achillea | Achillea millefolium | Achillea millefolium | species TCTCGGCTCTGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 381 |
| Otu1282 | 60 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Artemisia | Artemisia absinthium | Artemisia absinthium | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0005 | 236873 | 99.75 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Artemisia | Artemisia vulgaris | Artemisia vulgaris | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 400 |
| Otu0848 | 92 | 99.44 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Bellis | Bellis perennis | Bellis perennis | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0407 | 579 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Cirsium | Cirsium arvense | Cirsium arvense | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0855 | 119 | 99.752 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Cirsium | Cirsium vulgare | Cirsium vulgare | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0038 | 11150 | 99.751 | 98 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Crepis | Crepis capillaris | Crepis capillaris | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 409 |
| Otu0095 | 4867 | 96.947 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Eupatorium | Eupatorium cannabinum | Eupatorium | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0122 | 3145 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Hypochaeris | Hypochaeris radicata | Hypochaeris radicata | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 387 |
| Otu0241 | 2743 | 99.501 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Jacobaea | Jacobaea vulgaris | Jacobaea vulgaris | species TCTTGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 401 |
| Otu0331 | 716 | 100 | 90 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Mycelis | Mycelis muralis | Mycelis muralis | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0110 | 3604 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Scorzoneroideis | Scorzoneroideis autumnalis | Scorzoneroideis autumnalis | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0425 | 376 | 99.746 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Solidago | Solidago gigantea | Solidago gigantea | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0537 | 297 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Solidago | Solidago juncea | Solidago juncea | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0383 | 461 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Taraxacum | Taraxacum officinale | Taraxacum officinale | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0502 | 310 | 99.748 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Tussilago | Petasites japonicus | Petasites japonicus | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0506 | 275 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Tussilago | Tussilago farfara | Tussilago farfara | species TCTCGGCTCAGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0303 | 771 | 100 | 96 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Echium | Echium plantagineum | Echium plantagineum | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 401 |
| Otu0201 | 1826 | 99.751 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Echium | Echium vulgare | Echium vulgare | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 401 |
| Otu0225 | 1293 | 99.749 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Symphytum | Symphytum officinale | Symphytum officinale | species TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0183 | 2474 | 99.497 | 100 | Boraginales | Hydrophyllaceae | Phacelia | Phacelia tanacetifolia | Phacelia tanacetifolia | species TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0118 | 3000 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Brassica | Brassica | Brassica | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 366 |
| Otu0061 | 7196 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Capsella | Capsella bursa-pastoris | Capsella bursa-pastoris | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 369 |
| Otu0319 | 1155 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Diplotaxis | Diplotaxis tenuifolia | Diplotaxis tenuifolia | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 366 |
| Otu0142 | 2646 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Sinapis | Sinapis alba | Sinapis alba | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 367 |
| Otu0112 | 3513 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Sinapis | Sinapis arvensis | Sinapis arvensis | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 368 |
| Otu0352 | 882 | 100 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | Sisymbrium | Sisymbrium officinale | Sisymbrium officinale | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 369 |
| Otu0205 | 1684 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Amaranthus | Amaranthus | Amaranthus | genus TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0059 | 9218 | 100 | 93 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Atriplex | Atriplex prostrata | Atriplex prostrata | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0086 | 4938 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Beta | Beta vulgaris | Beta vulgaris | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0012 | 67841 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Chenopodium | Chenopodium album/giganteum | Chenopodium album/giganteum | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0068 | 7660 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Chenopodium | Chenopodium album/ficifolium | Chenopodium album/ficifolium | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0430 | 430 | 100 | 91 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Lipandra | Lipandra polysperma | Lipandra polysperma | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu1021 | 83 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Amaranthaceae | Oxybasis | Oxybasis glauca | Oxybasis glauca | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu1013 | 58 | 99.496 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Cerastium | Cerastium fontanum | Cerastium fontanum | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0708 | 146 | 99.747 | 99 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Sagina | Sagina procumbens | Sagina procumbens | species TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0493 | 358 | 99.756 | 99 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Spergularia | Spergularia media | Spergularia media | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 413 |
| Otu0297 | 879 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | Stellaria | Stellaria aquatica | Stellaria aquatica | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0159 | 1799 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonum | Polygonum aviculare | Polygonum aviculare | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 377 |
| Otu0195 | 2082 | 98.526 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Rumex | Rumex acetosa | Rumex acetosa | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 407 |
| Otu0066 | 7605 | 98.966 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Rumex | Rumex acetosella | Rumex acetosella | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 387 |
| Otu0357 | 542 | 100 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Rumex | Rumex sanguineus | Rumex sanguineus | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 376 |
| Otu0600 | 463 | 98.481 | 100 | Cornales | Hydrangeaceae | Philadelphus | Philadelphus pekinensis | Philadelphus pekinensis | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0187 | 2096 | 99.506 | 100 | Cornales | Hydrangeaceae | Hydrangea | Hydrangea macrophylla | Hydrangea macrophylla | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0047 | 11415 | 99.795 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Chamaecyparis | Chamaecyparis formosensis | Chamaecyparis formosensis | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 393 |
| Otu0400 | 404 | 100 | 96 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cryptomeria | Cryptomeria japonica | Cryptomeria japonica | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 400 |
| Otu0076 | 5440 | 99.495 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Cupressus | Cupressus arizonica | Cupressus arizonica | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 396 |
| Otu0534 | 222 | 99.745 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Juniperus | Juniperus chinensis var. sargentii | Juniperus chinensis var. sargentii | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 392 |
| Otu0389 | 529 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Juniperus | Juniperus communis | Juniperus communis | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 392 |
| Otu0612 | 129 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Juniperus | Juniperus sabina | Juniperus sabina | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 392 |
| Otu0041 | 12958 | 97.97 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Juniperus | Juniperus | Juniperus | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 392 |
| Otu0109 | 3975 | 100 | 92 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Metasequoia | Metasequoia glyptostroboides | Metasequoia glyptostroboides | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 394 |
| Otu0144 | 3592 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Taxodium | Taxodium distichum/mucronatum | Taxodium distichum/mucronatum | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 394 |
| Otu0185 | 1691 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Thuja | Thuja occidentalis | Thuja occidentalis | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 393 |
| Otu0208 | 1582 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Cupressaceae | Thuja | Thuja plicata | Thuja plicata | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 393 |
| Otu0009 | 206188 | 100 | 100 | Cupressales | Taxaceae | Taxus | Taxus canadensis/cuspidata | Taxus canadensis/cuspidata | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 403 |
| Otu0423 | 557 | 99.504 | 100 | Cupressales | Taxaceae | Taxus | Taxus x media/cuspidata | Taxus x media/cuspidata | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCCACGATGAAGAAATGTA | 403 |
| Otu0044 | 8787 | 99.261 | 100 | Dipsacales | Adoxaceae | Sambucus | Sambucus nigra | Sambucus nigra | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 406 |
| Otu0426 | 461 | 97.037 | 100 | Dipsacales | Adoxaceae | Viburnum | Viburnum dilatatum | Viburnum dilatatum | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0992 | 116 | 96.296 | 100 | Dipsacales | Adoxaceae | Viburnum | Viburnum | Viburnum | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0174 | 2130 | 100 | 100 | Ericales | Balsaminaceae | Impatiens | Impatiens glandulifera | Impatiens glandulifera | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0050 | 13600 | 100 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Calluna | Calluna vulgaris | Calluna vulgaris | species TCTCGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0165 | 1739 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Lotus | Lotus corniculatus | Lotus corniculatus | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0242 | 1122 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Lotus | Lotus pedunculatus | Lotus pedunculatus | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0530 | 313 | 99.746 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Lotus | Lotus corniculatus/glaber | Lotus corniculatus/glaber | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0016 | 37068 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Medicago | Medicago sativa | Medicago sativa | species TCTAGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu0298 | 714 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Melilotus | Melilotus albus | Melilotus albus | species TCTAGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 400 |
| Otu0155 | 4081 | 99.75 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Melilotus | Melilotus | Melilotus | genus TCTAGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 400 |
| Otu0441 | 370 | 99.75 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Robinia | Robinia pseudoacacia | Robinia pseudoacacia | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 400 |
| Otu0119 | 2614 | 100 | 99 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Styphnolobium | Sophora japonica | Sophora japonica | species TCTCGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 397 |
| Otu0070 | 5122 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Trifolium | Trifolium pratense | Trifolium pratense | species TCTAGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu0443 | 513 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Trifolium | Trifolium repens | Trifolium repens | species TCTAGGCTCTTGATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0008 | 196913 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Alnus | Alnus cordata | Alnus cordata | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0036 | 13782 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Alnus | Alnus japonica | Alnus japonica | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 405 |
| Otu0026 | 19319 | 99.752 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Alnus | Alnus subcordata | Alnus subcordata | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0002 | 967544 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Alnus | Alnus glutinosa/incana | Alnus glutinosa/incana | subgenus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0231 | 1366 | 93.473 | 95 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Alnus | Alnus | Alnus | genus TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0010 | 135581 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Betula | Betula pendula | Betula pendula | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0007 | 141000 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Betula | Betula | Betula | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0034 | 12844 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Carpinus | Carpinus betulus | Carpinus betulus | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0013 | 60841 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Corylus | Corylus avellana | Corylus avellana | species TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0202 | 1890 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Corylus | Corylus columna/heterophylla | Corylus columna/heterophylla | genus TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|-----|--------------|------------------|----------------------|---|---|---------|-------------------------------|-----|
| Otu1075 | 1314 | 98.241 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | <i>Corylus</i> | | <i>Corylus</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 404 |
| Otu0111 | 2493 | 99.246 | 99 | Fagales | Betulaceae | <i>Ostrya</i> | <i>Ostrya japonica</i> | <i>Ostrya japonica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0021 | 29433 | 99.223 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Castanea</i> | <i>Castanea crenata</i> | <i>Castanea crenata</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 387 |
| Otu0018 | 42526 | 99.229 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Castanea</i> | <i>Castanea sativa</i> | <i>Castanea sativa</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 389 |
| Otu0025 | 19841 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Fagus</i> | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 407 |
| Otu0250 | 1078 | 99.217 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus petraea</i> | <i>Quercus petraea</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu0087 | 4142 | 99.739 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus robur</i> | <i>Quercus robur</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 386 |
| Otu0055 | 6485 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus rubra</i> | <i>Quercus rubra</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 388 |
| Otu0168 | 2388 | 100 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus</i> sect. <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus</i> sect. <i>Quercus</i> | sectio | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu1152 | 40 | 98.969 | 99 | Fagales | Fagaceae | <i>Quercus</i> | <i>Quercus</i> sect. <i>Lobatae</i> | <i>Quercus</i> sect. <i>Lobatae</i> | sectio | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 388 |
| Otu0130 | 2560 | 99.746 | 100 | Fagales | Juglandaceae | <i>Pterocarya</i> | | <i>Pterocarya</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 398 |
| Otu0614 | 274 | 99.25 | 100 | Lamiales | Lamiaceae | <i>Nepeta</i> | <i>Nepeta mussinii</i> | <i>Nepeta mussinii</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 399 |
| Otu0011 | 85509 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Oleaceae | <i>Fraxinus</i> | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 390 |
| Otu1214 | 388 | 96.923 | 100 | Lamiales | Oleaceae | <i>Fraxinus</i> | | <i>Fraxinus</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 390 |
| Otu0569 | 199 | 98.737 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Linaria</i> | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0116 | 3113 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> | <i>Plantago arenaria</i> | <i>Plantago arenaria</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 383 |
| Otu0028 | 15366 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 382 |
| Otu0006 | 200431 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 384 |
| Otu0015 | 38764 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> | <i>Plantago major</i> | <i>Plantago major</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 374 |
| Otu0374 | 485 | 99.745 | 99 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | <i>Veronicastrum</i> | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0782 | 173 | 100 | 100 | Lamiales | Scrophulariaceae | <i>Buddleja</i> | <i>Buddleja officinalis</i> | <i>Buddleja officinalis</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 401 |
| Otu0594 | 250 | 99.749 | 100 | Lamiales | Scrophulariaceae | <i>Verbascum</i> | <i>Verbascum macrocarpum</i> | <i>Verbascum macrocarpum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 403 |
| Otu0024 | 27646 | 99.747 | 100 | Malpighiales | Euphorbiaceae | <i>Mercurialis</i> | <i>Mercurialis annua</i> | <i>Mercurialis annua</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu0198 | 1366 | 99.747 | 100 | Malpighiales | Euphorbiaceae | <i>Mercurialis</i> | <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> | <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0335 | 670 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Hypericaceae | <i>Hypericum</i> | | <i>Hypericum</i> | genus | TCTAGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 407 |
| Otu0032 | 16197 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Populus</i> | <i>Populus alba</i> | <i>Populus alba</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0131 | 2939 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Populus</i> | <i>Populus nigra</i> | <i>Populus nigra</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0221 | 1406 | 99.745 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Populus</i> | <i>Populus simonii</i> | <i>Populus simonii</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0103 | 7604 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Populus</i> | | <i>Populus</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0548 | 213 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Populus</i> | <i>Populus balsamifera/trichocarpa</i> | <i>Populus</i> | sectio | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0148 | 2285 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix alba</i> | <i>Salix alba</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 390 |
| Otu0540 | 444 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix triandra</i> | <i>Salix triandra</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0035 | 15656 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | | <i>Salix</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0082 | 6406 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix myrsinifolia/arctica</i> | <i>Salix myrsinifolia/arctica</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0204 | 1990 | 99.744 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix matsudana/babylonica</i> | <i>Salix matsudana/babylonica</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0309 | 1169 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix schwerinii/viminalis</i> | <i>Salix schwerinii/viminalis</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0113 | 2755 | 100 | 100 | Malvales | Malvaceae | <i>Tilia</i> | <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> | <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 417 |
| Otu0230 | 1146 | 99.76 | 100 | Malvales | Malvaceae | <i>Tilia</i> | <i>Tilia</i> sect. <i>Tilia</i> | <i>Tilia</i> sect. <i>Tilia</i> | sectio | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 417 |
| Otu0660 | 174 | 99.744 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | <i>Epilobium</i> | <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0251 | 917 | 99.744 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | <i>Oenothera</i> | <i>Oenothera biennis/glazioviana</i> | <i>Oenothera biennis/glazioviana</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 390 |
| Otu0179 | 2424 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Agrostis</i> | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0347 | 725 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Agrostis</i> | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0655 | 174 | 99.746 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Agrostis</i> | <i>Agrostis capillaris/gigantea</i> | <i>Agrostis capillaris/gigantea</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0349 | 702 | 99.157 | 90 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Alopecurus</i> | <i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i> | <i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0381 | 538 | 100 | 93 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Alopecurus</i> | <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> | <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu0124 | 4609 | 100 | 99 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Arrhenatherum</i> | <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> | <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0853 | 135 | 99.745 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Avena</i> | <i>Avena strigosa</i> | <i>Avena strigosa</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0731 | 242 | 99.235 | 99 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Bromus</i> | <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> | <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu0810 | 103 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | <i>Calamagrostis varia</i> | <i>Calamagrostis varia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0167 | 1561 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> | <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0233 | 1127 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Corynephorus</i> | <i>Corynephorus canescens</i> | <i>Corynephorus canescens</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0487 | 470 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Dactylis</i> | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0263 | 986 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Digitaria</i> | <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> | <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0273 | 1513 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Elymus</i> | <i>Elymus repens</i> | <i>Elymus repens</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu1239 | 63 | 99.227 | 99 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Glyceria</i> | <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> | <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0071 | 8475 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Holcus</i> | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0019 | 27872 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Hordeum</i> | <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> | <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0049 | 13530 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Lolium</i> | <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> | <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0014 | 70381 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Lolium</i> | <i>Lolium perenne</i> | <i>Lolium perenne</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0280 | 1268 | 100 | 90 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Molinia</i> | <i>Molinia caerulea</i> | <i>Molinia caerulea</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 399 |
| Otu0105 | 2856 | 99.747 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Panicum</i> | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0525 | 287 | 99.725 | 93 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Phragmites</i> | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0132 | 3373 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa annua</i> | <i>Poa annua</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0244 | 1226 | 99.488 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa trivialis</i> | <i>Poa trivialis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |
| Otu0860 | 122 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | <i>Triticum</i> | <i>Triticum monococcum</i> | <i>Triticum monococcum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 395 |
| Otu1042 | 196 | 98.246 | 100 | Polypodiales | Dryopteridaceae | <i>Dryopteris</i> | <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> | <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTA | 513 |
| Otu1014 | 118 | 99.803 | 99 | Polypodiales | Dryopteridaceae | <i>Dryopteris</i> | <i>Dryopteris nigrosquamosa</i> | <i>Dryopteris nigrosquamosa</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTA | 509 |
| Otu0089 | 4737 | 100 | 100 | Proteales | Platanaceae | <i>Platanus</i> | <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> | <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 415 |
| Otu0339 | 794 | 99.769 | 100 | Ranunculales | Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> | <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> | <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 432 |
| Otu0080 | 7479 | 100 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | <i>Anemone</i> | <i>Anemone hepheensis</i> | <i>Anemone hepheensis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 388 |
| Otu0146 | 3787 | 99.746 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | <i>Clematis</i> | <i>Clematis armandii</i> | <i>Clematis armandii</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0037 | 14270 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Cannabaceae | <i>Cannabis</i> | <i>Cannabis sativa</i> | <i>Cannabis sativa</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu0004 | 300014 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Cannabaceae | <i>Humulus</i> | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 410 |
| Otu0261 | 1133 | 99.747 | 100 | Rosales | Elaeagnaceae | <i>Hippophae</i> | <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> | <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 396 |
| Otu1169 | 65 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Amelanchier</i> | | <i>Amelanchier</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0072 | 6401 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Filipendula</i> | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 392 |
| Otu0934 | 173 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Potentilla</i> | <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | <i>Potentilla anserina</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 384 |
| Otu0209 | 2184 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Potentilla</i> | <i>Potentilla reptans</i> | <i>Potentilla reptans</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 384 |
| Otu0240 | 897 | 99.739 | 99 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Prunus</i> | <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> | <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu1166 | 50 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Prunus</i> | <i>Prunus serotina</i> | <i>Prunus serotina</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 384 |
| Otu1086 | 44 | 99.739 | 99 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Prunus</i> | <i>Prunus</i> sect. <i>Laurocerasus</i> | <i>Prunus</i> sect. <i>Laurocerasus</i> | sectio | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu0784 | 199 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Rubus</i> | <i>Rubus bifrons</i> | <i>Rubus bifrons</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 387 |
| Otu0150 | 1902 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Rubus</i> | <i>Rubus caesius</i> | <i>Rubus caesius</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu0820 | 325 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Rubus</i> | <i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Rubus</i> | <i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Rubus</i> | sectio | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 386 |
| Otu0558 | 348 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | <i>Sanguisorba</i> | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 382 |
| Otu0115 | 5764 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Ulmaceae | <i>Ulmus</i> | | <i>Ulmus</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 389 |
| Otu0284 | 1151 | 97.158 | 96 | Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Laportea</i> | | <i>Laportea</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0566 | 221 | 95.866 | 96 | Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Laportea</i> | | <i>Laportea</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0097 | 5608 | 99.748 | 95 | Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria judaica</i> | <i>Parietaria judaica</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 418 |
| Otu0200 | 2123 | 99.746 | 95 | Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Parietaria</i> | <i>Parietaria officinalis</i> | <i>Parietaria officinalis</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 414 |
| Otu0001 | 2750732 | 100 | 100 | Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica dioica</i> | <i>Urtica dioica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 421 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|--------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-----|
| Otu0090 | 4807 | 100 | 92 Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Urtica</i> | <i>Urtica urens</i> | <i>Urtica urens</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 402 |
| Otu0378 | 522 | 96.919 | 100 Rosales | Urticaceae | <i>Urtica</i> | | <i>Urtica</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 422 |
| Otu0572 | 217 | 100 | 100 Sapindales | Sapindaceae | <i>Acer</i> | <i>Acer negundo</i> | <i>Acer negundo</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 408 |
| Otu0216 | 1315 | 100 | 100 Sapindales | Sapindaceae | <i>Acer</i> | <i>Acer saccharinum</i> | <i>Acer saccharinum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 413 |
| Otu0313 | 673 | 97.975 | 100 Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | <i>Phedimus</i> | <i>Phedimus hybridus</i> | <i>Phedimus hybridus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 394 |
| Otu0140 | 2520 | 98.718 | 99 Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | <i>Phedimus</i> | <i>Phedimus kamtschaticus</i> | <i>Phedimus kamtschaticus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0310 | 722 | 99.522 | 100 Saxifragales | Hamamelidaceae | <i>Sycopsis</i> | <i>Sycopsis sinensis</i> | <i>Sycopsis sinensis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 418 |
| Otu0852 | 84 | 100 | 100 Solanales | Solanaceae | <i>Solanum</i> | <i>Solanum americanum</i> | <i>Solanum americanum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu1175 | 48 | 98.88 | 90 Solanales | Solanaceae | <i>Solanum</i> | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 393 |
| Otu0776 | 117 | 100 | 100 Solanales | Solanaceae | <i>Solanum</i> | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu0466 | 317 | 100 | 100 Solanales | Solanaceae | <i>Solanum</i> | <i>Solanum villosum</i> | <i>Solanum villosum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 385 |
| Otu0064 | 5714 | 99.487 | 100 Solanales | Solanaceae | <i>Solanum</i> | | <i>Solanum</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTA | 391 |

Table S5. nrITS2 sequence Avg. rdss and relative read abundance per sample
Any OTU with <0.1% relative read abundance is shown as a +
% represents the Relative Read Abundance

[illegible]

[illegible]

Manuscript V

Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

Quaternary Science Reviews

Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna --Manuscript Draft--

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Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

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Abstract

The study of faecal samples to reconstruct the diets and habitats of extinct megafauna has traditionally relied on pollen and macrofossil analysis. DNA metabarcoding has emerged as a valuable tool to complement and refine these proxies. While published studies have compared the results of these three proxies for sediments, this comparison is currently lacking for permafrost preserved mammal faeces. Moreover, most metabarcoding studies have focused on a single plant-specific DNA marker region. In this study, we target both the commonly used chloroplast *trnL* P6 loop as well as nuclear ribosomal ITS (nrITS). The latter can increase taxonomic resolution of plant identifications but requires DNA to be relatively well preserved because of the target length (~300 - 500 bp). We compare DNA results to pollen and macrofossil analyses from permafrost and ice-preserved faeces of Pleistocene and Holocene megafauna. Samples include woolly mammoth, horse, steppe bison as well as Holocene and extant caribou. Most plant identifications were found using DNA, likely because the studied faeces contained many

vegetative remains that could not be identified using macrofossils or pollen. Several taxa were, however, identified to lower taxonomic levels uniquely with macrofossil and pollen analysis. The nrITS marker provides species level taxonomic resolution for commonly encountered plant families that are hard to distinguish using the other proxies (e.g. Asteraceae, Cyperaceae and Poaceae). Integrating the results from all proxies, we are able to accurately reconstruct known diets and habitats of the extant caribou. Applying this approach to the extinct mammals, we find that the Holocene horse and steppe bison were not strict grazers but mixed feeders living in a marshy wetland environment. The mammoths showed highly varying diets from different non-analogous habitats. This confirms the presence of a mosaic of habitats in the Pleistocene 'mammoth steppe' that mammoths could fully exploit due to their flexibility in food choice.

Key words: diet – DNA metabarcoding – faecal samples – nrITS – paleoecology – plant macrofossils – Pleistocene – pollen – proxy comparison – *trnL*

Highlights

- The first integrated analysis of DNA, pollen and macrofossils from permafrost faeces
- Successful amplification of up to 28,6 kyr old DNA using long, plant-specific nrITS
- High taxonomic resolutions allow detailed insights in extinct megafaunal habitat
- Macrofossils and DNA show diverse woolly mammoth diet and use of 'mammoth steppe'

1. Introduction

During much of the Late Pleistocene epoch, Siberia, Alaska and northern Canada were connected, forming a dry and largely treeless landmass known as Beringia (Hopkins et al. 1982, Hopkins 1959). The landscape was dominated by emblematic megafauna such as woolly mammoths and steppe bison, and in terms of biomass some authors have compared this period to the current African savannah (Zimov et al. 2012). Mammals had a major role in shaping vegetation community and structure by reducing vegetation density, enhancing nutrient turnover, dispersing seeds and reducing fire potential (Johnson 2009, Hester et al. 2006, Guthrie 2001). Reconstructing the species composition of this former plant community without a modern analogue, as well as the corresponding diets of the mammals that roamed it has been challenging.

According to Guthrie (1990) there were mainly open landscapes with highly productive graminoids and *Artemisia* sp. in a steppe-tundra biome that is often designated the 'mammoth steppe'. Recent studies have changed the view of the mammoth steppe vegetation into a more heterogeneous mosaic of different habitats. This mosaic consisted of areas rich in shrubs combined with permanent moist areas and productive grasslands (Chytrý et al. 2019, Lozhkin et al. 2019, Zazula et al. 2006). Willerslev et al. (2014) further showed that forbs (non-graminoid herbaceous vascular plants) were more abundant in the environment than previously thought, and featured in megafaunal diets to provide important proteins. Relatively little is known, however, about the specific plant species in megafaunal diets.

The shift in appreciation of the Beringian megafaunal habitats has been catalysed by a growing body of research that uses a multidisciplinary approach, combining pollen and plant macrofossils with DNA metabarcoding (Hofreiter et al. 2000, van Geel et al. 2008, Sønstebo et al. 2010, van Geel et al. 2011b, van Geel et al. 2011a, Van Geel et al. 2014, Gravendeel et al. 2014, Willerslev et al. 2014, Haarsma, Siepel and Gravendeel 2016, Boast et al. 2018). By improving taxonomic resolution and finding complementary taxa, DNA metabarcoding can help to resolve vegetation classifications where species resolution is required (e.g. steppe and tundra, partly defined on distinct species of grass; Swanson 2006). Several studies on lake sediments have shown that instead of replacing traditional methods, DNA metabarcoding acts as a

complementary proxy by revealing both additional taxa and providing increased taxonomic resolution (Pedersen et al. 2013, see e.g. Boessenkool et al. 2014, Rawlence et al. 2014, Parducci et al. 2019). While pollen grains mostly show a regional signal due to dominant wind-dispersed pollen (grasses and *Artemisia* sp.), DNA may represent a more local signal that is more similar to the spectrum of macrofossil taxa (Boessenkool et al. 2014, Alsos et al. 2018, Jorgensen et al. 2012).

While the studies cited above provide a good overview of the advantages and drawbacks of the different proxies used, all of these studies focussed on lake sediments. So far, there are few studies comparing these proxies in megafaunal faecal samples (e.g. van Geel et al. 2008, Hofreiter et al. 2003, Gravendeel et al. 2014). Strictly speaking, the faecal samples of extinct megafauna are not coprolites since they are not fossilized but perfectly preserved in permafrost. However, the plant macrofossils in these samples are drastically affected by masticatory and digestive processes, which may result in differential preservation of taxa and fragments becoming unidentifiable (van Geel et al. 2008). For pollen recovered from faeces an additional complicating factor is that the faecal samples are often dominated by wind-transported pollen or pollen deriving from ingestion of inflorescences from plants that were flowering at the time of consumption (Van Geel et al. 2014). The advantage of DNA as a proxy for dietary reconstruction is that it does not depend on flowering time or time of fruit setting, as vegetative plant remains are included in the DNA record (Willerslev et al. 2014). However, as in ancient sediments, not all taxa are recorded using DNA metabarcoding due to incomplete reference libraries, PCR bias, primer mismatches and DNA degradation (Jorgensen et al. 2012).

Most studies of ancient DNA from sediments have relied either on the P6 loop of the chloroplast *trnL* (UAA) intron or the *rbcl* gene, and both give good taxonomic resolution for some plant taxa but limited for others (Sørensen et al. 2010, Taberlet et al. 2006). While in the animal kingdom the mitochondrial marker COI can be used as a universal barcode for identifying species (Hebert et al. 2003) no such universal barcode has been identified for plants. For this reason a combination of markers has been advised for plants, including both a nuclear marker and a plastid marker (CBOL Plant Working Group et al. 2011). Since permafrost acts as an excellent natural freezer, even long DNA fragments (up to 510 bp) have been recovered from sediments

as old as 400 kyr (Lydolph et al. 2005, Willerslev et al. 2014). Yet in the study of ancient megafaunal faeces, the relatively long nuclear ribosomal ITS (nrITS) has rarely been used, and only to amplify relatively short amplicons (e.g. 240 bp in the Cape Blossom mammoth; van Geel et al. 2011b). Due to its length, nrITS has the advantage of being able to provide a higher taxonomic resolution, which in turn can give better insight into the paleoenvironmental conditions represented by the taxa in a sample.

In this study, we aim to 1) investigate the potential of using the nrITS marker on megafaunal faeces, 2) compare the nrITS results to *trnL*, pollen and macrofossil records and 3) integrate results of all proxies to obtain a detailed reconstruction of ancient megafaunal diets and habitats. To this end, we applied DNA metabarcoding, pollen and macrofossil analysis on a variety of permafrost and ice-preserved faecal samples from extinct and extant megafauna, specifically woolly mammoth, steppe bison, horse and caribou. In addition to the *trnL* P6 loop, we target the nrITS regions nrITS1 and nrITS2. The wide temporal range of the samples (28,000 to modern) further allows us to capture potential taphonomic effects on the recovery of the different marker regions and read counts, while inclusion of faecal samples from extant caribou with known diets and habitats enables validation of the diet and habitat reconstructions of the extinct megafauna.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Material

Eleven faecal samples from four mammal species were included (Table 1; for detailed information about location and dating see Table S1). Several of the samples we used here have been studied previously and DNA from the original material - which was stored at -80°C - was re-extracted and analysed here, except for the Oyogas Yar horse and Yakutian bison of which DNA extracts from previous studies were used (CTAB DNA extraction; Doyle and Doyle 1987). All samples are derived from Russia, Canada and USA (Figure 1) and are briefly discussed below.

139 *2.1.1 Holocene and modern mountain caribou*

140 Three northern mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou* (Gmelin, 1788)) faecal samples
141 were collected from cores in ice patch deposits in the Selwyn Mountains, Northwest Territories,
142 Canada. Caribou visit these ice patches during the summer months to escape summer heat and
143 insect harassment and their faeces are subsequently buried by snow creating stratigraphically
144 discrete faecal bands that are very well preserved. The samples include faeces from modern
145 caribou collected from the surface near the ice patch (Selwyn A), and two samples of late
146 Holocene age collected from the ice core, Selwyn B and Selwyn C. From Selwyn A, DNA was
147 retrieved by Galloway et al. (2012) confirming that caribou was indeed the producer of the
148 faeces. For the other samples, the faecal material was identified as being deposited by caribou
149 based on the general shape, size and texture of the pellets, without additional DNA confirmation.

150 *Table 1. Overview of the samples used in this study including the existing and newly generated data, source*
151 *of material and their age and collection locality. References from where the existing data was taken are*
152 *[1] Galloway et al. (2012) [2] Boeskorov et al. (2014) [3] Gravendeel et al. (2014) [4] Van Geel et al. (2014)*
153 *[5] van Geel et al. (2011b) [6] van Geel et al. (2008) [7] Harington and Eggleston-Stott (1996). * D = DNA,*
154 *M = plant macrofossils, P = pollen. †DNA extract from previous study used.*

| Species | Name | Reference | Existing data* | Newly generated data* | Material | measured ¹⁴ C age BP | Locality |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Caribou | Selwyn A (KfTe-1 surface) | [1] | P | D M | Faeces from ice patch | modern | Selwyn Mountains, NT, Canada |
| Caribou | Selwyn B (KfTe-1-C2-1) | [1] | M P | D | Faeces from ice patch | 1,630 ± 40 | Selwyn Mountains, NT, Canada |
| Caribou | Selwyn C (KfTe-1-C1-3) | [1] | M P | D | Faeces from ice patch | 2,840 ± 40 | Selwyn Mountains, NT, Canada |
| Horse | Oyogas Yar | [2,3] | D M P | D† | Faeces from colon | 4,630 ± 35 | N Sakha, Ust-Yana region, Russia |
| Bison | Yakutian | [2,4] | D M P | D† | Rumen | 9,310 ± 45 9,295 ± 45 | N Sakha, Chukchalakh Lake, Yana Mammoth reserve |
| Woolly mammoth | Cape Blossom | [5] | D M P | D | Faeces | 12,300 ± 70 | Kotzebue Sound, NW Alaska, USA |
| Woolly mammoth | Yukagir | [6] | D M P | D | Faeces from colon | 18,680 ± 100 | N Sakha, oxbow lake near Maxunuokha River, Russia |
| Woolly mammoth | Adycha | This study | - | D M P | Faeces | 21,250 ± 100 | N Sakha, Adycha River floodplain, Russia |
| Horse | Yukon | [7] | D M | D P | Faeces from intestine | 26,280 ± 210 | Last Chance Creek near Dawson City, Yukon, Canada |
| Woolly mammoth | Abyland | This study | - | D M P | Faeces | 28,460 ± 160 | N Sakha, Oguruoha River, Abyysky District, Russia |
| Woolly mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | This study | - | D M P | Faeces from stomach | 28,610 ± 110 | N Sakha, Maly Lyakhovsky Island, Russia |

2.1.2 Holocene bison and horse

A colon sample of a horse (Oyogas Yar or Yukagir horse; *Equus* cf. *lenensis* Russanov, 1968) of middle Holocene age and a rumen sample of a Yakutian steppe bison (*Bison priscus* (Bojanus, 1825)) of early Holocene age were taken directly from permafrost preserved animals from the Sakha Republic, Russia (Boeskorov et al. 2014, Gravendeel et al. 2014, Van Geel et al. 2014) (Table 1). The Oyogas Yar horse was identified as being most closely related to the extinct Lena horse, *Equus lenensis*, based on body size measurements (Boeskorov et al. 2018).

2.1.3 Pleistocene mammoth and horse

Six Pleistocene faecal samples were analysed, including five woolly mammoths (*Mammuthus primigenius* (Blumenbach, 1799)) and one Yukon horse (*Equus lambei* (Hay, 1917)). Four specimens were obtained from the republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia, including the Maly Lyakhovsky, Abyland, Adycha and Yukagir mammoths. The Cape Blossom mammoth sample (or Alaskan Late Glacial mammoth) was obtained from Cape Blossom, Alaska, USA, and the Yukon horse was obtained from Dawson City, Yukon, Canada. Faecal samples were taken directly from, or in close vicinity to the permafrost preserved animals, except for the Abyland, Adycha and Cape Blossom samples which were loose faeces. Validation of the faeces as being derived from woolly mammoth for the Yukagir, Maly Lyakhovsky, Cape Blossom and Yukon samples is based on previous studies (Harington and Eggleston-Stott 1996, van Geel et al. 2008, van Geel et al. 2011b, Grigoriev et al. 2017). The identities of the Adycha and Abyland samples were confirmed using Sanger DNA analyses (Supplementary Text S2).

2.2 Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dates of the caribou, horse, bison and Cape Blossom and Yukagir mammoth faeces were reported in previous publications (van Geel et al. 2011b, Galloway et al. 2012, Boeskorov et al. 2014, van Geel et al. 2008, Gravendeel et al. 2014, Harington and Eggleston-Stott 1996). The faecal samples of the Adycha, Abyland and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoths were dated at the AMS facility of the Centre for Isotope Research of the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). The ^{14}C ages are reported in BP, the conventional unit, and includes a correction for isotope

fractionation and a defined half-life (Van der Plicht and Hogg 2006). The ^{14}C dates are calibrated into calendar ages using the presently recommended calibration curve IntCal20 (Reimer et al. 2020). The calibrated dates are reported in cal. BP, defined as calendar years relative to AD 1950 (Table S1).

2.3 Pollen and macrofossils

If available, pollen and macrofossil results were taken directly from published records (Table 1). Data was available for the Yukagir and Cape Blossom mammoths, the Yakutian bison, Oyogas Yar horse and two of the Selwyn caribou samples (van Geel et al. 2008, van Geel et al. 2011b, Galloway et al. 2012, Van Geel et al. 2014, Gravendeel et al. 2014). For Selwyn caribou A, only a pollen analysis was available (Galloway et al. 2012). If multiple counts were present from different subsamples, these were averaged to obtain one pollen count per sample. Macrofossil results for the Yukon horse were generated by Paleotec Services, Canada. This sample was previously studied for its plant DNA using *trnL* by Willerslev et al. (2014).

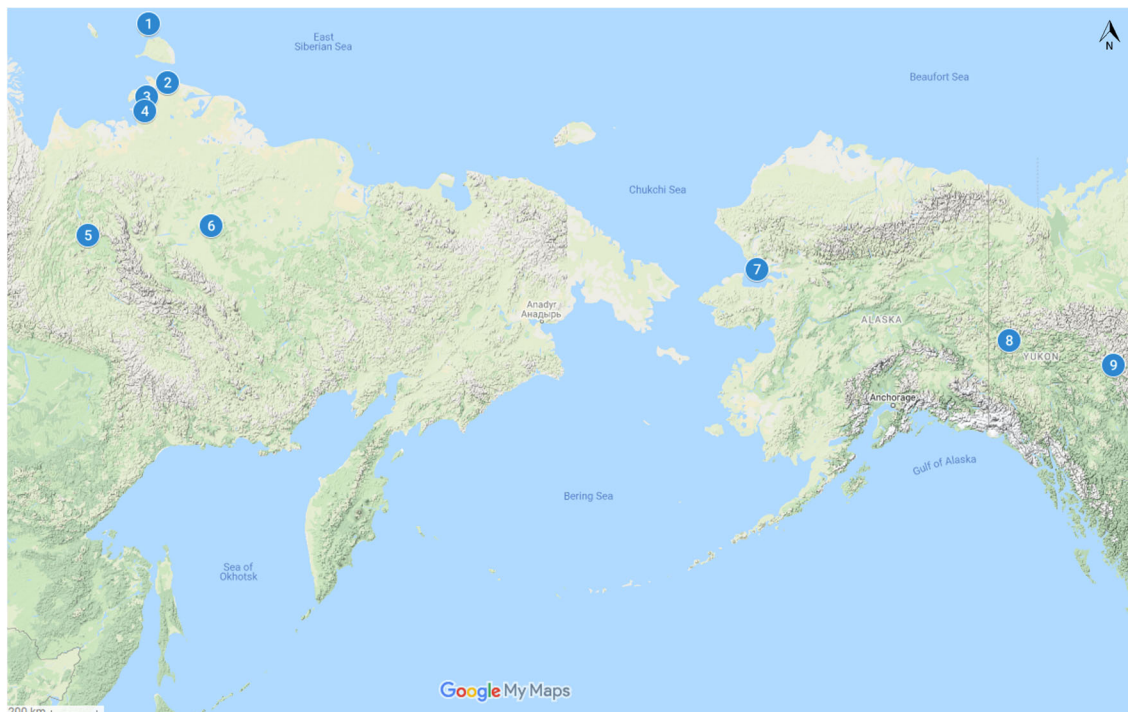


Fig. 1. Sample localities. (1) Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth, (2) Oyogas Yar horse, (3) Yakutian bison, (4) Yukagir mammoth, (5) Adycha mammoth, (6) Abyland mammoth, (7) Cape Blossom mammoth (8) Yukon horse and (9) Selwyn caribou A, B and C.

Pollen and spores (hereafter 'pollen') counts and macrofossil analysis were performed for the faeces of the Abyland, Adycha and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoths, Yukon horse (only pollen) and Selwyn caribou A (only macrofossil). The method for pollen preparation followed Faegri and Iversen (1989). Samples for pollen and macrofossil analyses were taken from the core of the faeces. Microscopic analysis of pollen was done at 400X and 1000X magnification. Pollen identifications were based on Moore, Webb and Collison (1991) and Beug (2004) and a pollen reference collection. For the preparation of macrofossils, Mauquoy and Van Geel (2007) was followed. Bryophyte specimens were identified using Lawton (1971), Crum, Anderson and Anderson (1981) and Vitt and Buck (1992).

In pollen analysis, the use of 'types' is common to denote a group of taxa that produce pollen that cannot be identified to a lower taxonomic level using microscopic analysis. *Potentilla*-type pollen for example includes pollen from species of the genera *Potentilla*, *Comarum*, *Fragaria* and *Sibbaldia* (Reitsma 1966), which are all part of the subtribe Fragariinae of the Rosaceae family. All 'type' identifications were therefore converted to their corresponding maximum taxonomic level so as to better compare them to the DNA and macrofossil data. Similarly, the commonly used Asteraceae pollen subdivision Tubuliflorae and Liguliflorae were converted to Asteraceae subfamilies Asteroideae and Cichorioideae, respectively.

2.4 Molecular analysis: DNA extractions and primer selection

2.4.1 Molecular analysis: DNA extractions

All pre-PCR DNA work (including subsampling) took place in the dedicated ancient DNA laboratory of Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, The Netherlands). We subsampled the faecal samples following recommendations of Cooper and Poinar (2000) and Wood and Wilmshurst (2016). Samples were UVC-irradiated for 5 min and the outer layer (± 2 mm) removed with a clean scalpel. This process was repeated before taking three subsamples (± 100 mg each) from the middle of the bisected samples.

The subsamples were ground in a Retsch CryoMill at -196°C , before DNA was extracted separately for each subsample following the silica-based extraction protocol of Rohland and Hofreiter (2007), adjusted to the smaller volume of material used as described in Stech et al.

(2011). DNA extracts from the three subsamples were then pooled together. To control cross-contamination, DNA extractions were carried out in batches of two to three samples with one extraction blank (excluding faecal material) included in each batch (in total five extraction blanks).

2.4.2 Molecular analysis: Primer selection and DNA amplification

Amplification of chloroplast DNA was done using *trnL* intron P6 loop *g* and *h* primers (Taberlet et al. 2006) (Table S3). Nuclear ribosomal Internal Transcribed Spacer regions were amplified using plant-specific primer pairs for nrITS1 (ITS-p5 / ITS-u2; Cheng et al. 2016) and nrITS2 (ITS-p3 / ITS4; Cheng et al. 2016, White et al. 1990) as well as fungi-specific primer pair for nrITS2 (fITS7 / ITS4; White et al. 1990, Ihrmark et al. 2012) to control for amplification of non-target DNA (Table S3).

A dual-indexing approach was applied using a set of unique primer-adaptor combinations as described in Fadrosch et al. (2014). All DNA extracts were diluted 1:10, except for the Abyland and Cape Blossom mammoths, for which a 1:50 dilution was used. PCRs were carried out on a Bio-Rad C1000 Touch or Bio-Rad S1000 thermal cycler in 25 µl final volumes consisting of 15.4 µl nuclease-free ultrapure water, 1x Phire Green reaction buffer, 0.52 µM of each primer, 1.25 mM of dNTPs, 1 U Phire Hot Start II DNA Polymerase and 1 µl of the 1:10 or 1:50 diluted DNA sample template. Gradient PCR results were used to determine the optimum annealing temperature for each primer set. The following amplification protocol was used: a 30 sec activation step at 98°C, 40 cycles including 5 sec at 98°C, 5 sec annealing at 55-60°C (depending on primers used; Table S3) and 15 sec elongation at 72°C, plus a final extension step at 72°C for 5 min.

In order to mitigate stochasticity of DNA results, three PCR replicates were used for all samples using a unique tag combination for each replicate. *Coelogyne fimbriata* (Orchidaceae), native to tropical SE Asia, was used as a positive control for each primer set. The resulting PCR products were pooled into two pools based on amplicon length: a pool containing the shorter *trnL* fragments and a pool containing the longer nrITS fragments. Equimolar pools were made after measuring DNA concentrations on a QIAxcel (Qiagen). The pools were purified using Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter), with a 1:0.9 (nrITS) or 1:1 (*trnL*) ratio and quantified using an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer DNA High sensitivity chip. Illumina adapters were

ligated onto the amplicons using TruSeq DNA Nano Library Preparation kit (Illumina, USA) and subsequently sequenced at the Norwegian Sequencing Centre on an Illumina MiSeq v2 300 cycles (150 bp x 2) for the *trnL* fragments and an Illumina MiSeq v3 600 cycles (300 bp x 2) for the nrITS fragments.

2.5 Molecular analysis: DNA sequence analysis and filtering

2.5.1 Mammal DNA identification

The mitochondrial Sanger sequencing reads obtained from the Abyland and Adycha faeces were aligned and trimmed using BioEdit version 7.2.5 (Supplementary Text S2; Hall 1999). A MegaBLAST search was performed to check the resulting consensus sequences against the NCBI nucleotide database, and only sequences resulting in percentage ID >98% were kept.

2.5.2 NrITS sequences

The three pools of nrITS sequences (plant nrITS1 and nrITS2, fungal nrITS2) were analysed separately with a custom pipeline on the OpenStack environment of Naturalis Biodiversity Center through a Galaxy instance (Afgan et al. 2018). Paired-end reads were first merged with PEAR (Zhang et al. 2014) using the standard settings and discarding non-merged reads. Amplicons were subsequently demultiplexed using the linked adapters option in Cutadapt version 2.8 (Martin 2011). Only sequences containing both unique sample tags and forward and reverse primers were kept. Primer sequences were subsequently removed from the sequences with Cutadapt, allowing a maximum error rate of 0.15 (i.e. 3 to 4 bases).

The sequences were quality filtered and trimmed using the PRINSEQ sequence filter / converter tool (Schmieder and Edwards 2011), using a minimum mean quality score of 20 and removing any sequences shorter than 150 bp. Sequences were dereplicated and sorted by size in VSEARCH v2.14.2 (Rognes et al. 2016) and clustered into Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) using the unoise3 algorithm from USEARCH v11.0.667 (Edgar 2016) with default settings, removing singletons and potential chimeras. OTUs were subsequently identified using a MegaBLAST search against the NCBI Genbank nucleotide database for plant nrITS1 and nrITS2, (Benson et al. 2012) and the UNITE fungal nucleotide database for fungal nrITS2 (Nilsson et al.

2019). OTUs that matched at least 80% in coverage as well as identity to NCBI Genbank were kept. For final taxon identifications, a minimum of 80% identity recognition for family, 90% identity for genus and 97% for the species level was used. Sequences were further filtered in R (version 3.5.2) (R Core Team, 2020) to remove sequences with a lower number of reads from any of the samples than in negative controls (either extraction or PCR). This resulted in removal of suspected food contaminants including *Pisum sativum*, *Brassica rapa/napus* for nrITS1 and *Citrus* sp., *Cucumis sativus* and *Musa* sp. for plant nrITS2. For plant nrITS1 and nrITS2, the positive control was successfully amplified and the presence of *Coelogyne fimbriata* reads in the non-control samples was used to determine an OTU filtering threshold to correct for potential leakage. For nrITS2, this resulted in reduction of each sequence read count per replicate with 0.3%, while this value was 0.35% for nrITS1 and fungal nrITS2 (see Table S5.1 for full steps and read counts). Remaining replicates were merged while averaging the read counts per OTU. Finally, OTUs at species or genus level with the same taxonomic assignment were aggregated.

A curated arctic and boreal vascular plant and bryophyte database exists for *trnL* (see below), but not yet for nrITS. The plant nrITS results have therefore been carefully checked for their presence in the geographical areas where the faeces were collected. To this end, the Panarctic Flora (Elven et al. 2011), database of vascular plants of Canada (VASCAN) (Brouillet et al. 2010), GBIF (www.gbif.org) and the Plants of the World Online (POWO 2019) were used (Cody 2000, Boufford et al. 2016, Brouillet et al. 2010). This resulted in some aberrant records, such as non-boreal/tropical plants (e.g. *Celtis* sp. and *Pteroceltis* sp.) as well as some likely food contaminants (e.g. *Allium cepa*, *Lagenaria siceraria*) and these were manually removed (Supplementary Information S4). When many blast hits from different species with an equal BIT-score were found, the top 20 blast hits were manually checked for likely boreal species. When several species met this criterion, the last common ancestor of these hits was chosen. Fungal OTUs were assigned to functional groups (guilds) using FUNGuild (Nguyen et al. 2016).

2.5.3 TrnL sequences

The *trnL* sequences were analysed with the OBITools package (Boyer et al. 2016). OBITools is commonly used in ancient plant DNA studies with *trnL* as it allows direct assignment of sequences

to taxa. The forward and reverse reads were assembled using *illumina pairedend* (min quality score of 40) and subsequently assigned to the corresponding samples using *ngsfilter* (only keeping sequences with a 100% tag match and allowing for a maximum of three mismatches with the primers). Using *obiuniq*, strictly identical sequences were merged, after which *obigrep* was used to remove singletons, sequences with ambiguous nucleotides and sequences shorter than 10 bp. Following Bellemain et al. (2013), *obiclean* was used to identify sequencing and amplification errors with a threshold ratio of 5% for reclassification of sequences identified as 'internal' to their corresponding 'head' sequence. The resulting sequences were compared to two taxonomic databases using *ecotag*. The first priority was given to a local taxonomic reference library containing arctic and boreal vascular plant taxa and bryophytes (arctborbryo database; Sønstebo et al. 2010, Willerslev et al. 2014, Soininen et al. 2015). A second reference library based on the global EMBL database (release 137) was used for mitigation of missing taxonomic assignment due to species potentially lacking in the first database (see Table S5.2 for full steps and read counts). The computations were performed on resources provided by UNINETT Sigma2 - the National Infrastructure for High Performance Computing and Data Storage in Norway.

The resulting sequences were further filtered in R to remove sequences that had (a) <100% identity match to the reference libraries, (b) <10 reads per PCR repeat and (c) sequences with higher number of reads in negative controls compared to the samples. This process resulted in the removal of suspected contaminant sequences derived from modern food plants such as *Solanum* subgenus *Lycopersicon* and *Oryza* sp. as well as some potential true positives including the genera *Solidago*, *Trifolium* and *Helictochloa*. No *Coelogyne fimbriata* reads were recorded in the positive control for *trnL*, despite the presence of *C. fimbriata* sequences in the NCBI Genbank database (e.g. MK356212.1). The presence of *C. fimbriata* reads in the non-control samples to determine the MOTU filtering threshold (as was used for nrITS filtering) could therefore not be used. Instead, the maximum number of reads from the most abundant OTU (*Salix* sp.) in control samples was used, and accordingly each sequence read count per replicate was reduced with 1.0%. Remaining replicates were merged while averaging the read counts per OTU. Finally, OTUs at species or genus level with the same taxonomic assignment were aggregated.

Although this filtering resulted in losing potential true positives, these were only present in a low number of reads (<0.1% of the total number of reads). Furthermore, this relatively rigorous filtering allowed for removal of nearly all suspected false positives in the samples, and this was given preference over retaining as many true positives as possible (cf. Alsos et al. 2018). Remaining identifications were manually checked for suspected contaminants or taxa that were known not to occur in the arctic and boreal region. This process resulted in the removal of a few remaining suspected contaminants (Supplementary Information S4). This is a common problem in metabarcoding studies, and the taxa we identify are similar to those found in other studies (Chua et al. 2021, Van Geel et al. 2014, Willerslev et al. 2014).

2.6 Diet analysis and habitat types

The DNA reads were converted to relative read abundances to facilitate comparison with macrofossil and pollen data. When referring to 'diet' in this study from now on, we refer to the composition of the last meal consumed by the animals studied here, as inferred through the multiproxy approach on the faecal samples. The taxon identifications were grouped into the major groups of graminoids (grasses, sedges, rushes), forbs, shrubs/deciduous trees, coniferous trees, mosses and lichens. Since pollen records are biased towards high pollen producers and show primarily a regional signal (Jorgensen et al. 2012), they cannot be used to reliably reconstruct the diet. The record of macrofossils is strongly influenced by the food choice of the animal during its last meal (Mol et al. 2006) and has been shown to largely overlap with DNA results (Parducci et al. 2015). Therefore, to provide a visual representation of the last diets, the average values of the relative abundance of the macrofossil results and all available DNA results were taken.

Plant identifications from DNA, macrofossils and pollen that could be assigned to the species level were used to reconstruct the habitat types of the megafaunal last diets. Some genera that are typically found in specific habitats have also been included (e.g. *Eriophorum*, *Juncus* in wetlands and *Puccinellia* in saline meadows). Habitat types were identified using a combination of sources: efloras (Brach and Song 2006), Kienast et al. (2005), Troeva et al. (2010), Janská et al. (2017), Axmanová et al. (2020) and references therein. Only the presence of taxa

and not their abundance was used to reconstruct the habitats, since abundance of certain taxa is highly affected by the selective food choice of the animals and may not reflect the palaeovegetation (Ashastina et al. 2018). The taxa were divided into 13 habitat types, ranging from relatively dry (steppe) to very wet (wetland: marsh, bog, fen, swamp). The modern known habitat preferences for the plant species were used, and the resulting habitat types are compared to modern analogues. For the modern caribou (Selwyn caribou A), the habitat consists of boreal forest in low-elevation areas, found together with arctic-alpine tundra at high altitudes (Galloway et al. 2012).

3. Results

3.1 Mammal sample identity

Genetic analyses confirmed the identity of both the Abyland and Adycha samples as *Mammuthus primigenius* (woolly mammoth), with a 100% match in both cover and identity (Table S2). This was further supported by the shape and size of the faecal pellets.

3.2 Pollen and macrofossil recovery

3.2.1 Pollen

For seven mammals, the pollen records were taken from the published records while four were newly generated in this study (Tables S6.1 – S6.11). The Selwyn caribou samples studied by Galloway et al. (2012) showed a mixed pollen signal with trees (ranging from 25-30%, *Picea* sp., *Pinus* sp., *Alnus* sp. etc.) and forbs (34-40%, mostly *Artemisia* sp.) being the most abundant. Selwyn caribou A further showed 33% shrubs (*Salix* sp. and *Betula* sp.) which were missing in Selwyn B, and rare (6%) in Selwyn C. Low amounts (<10%) of undifferentiated Poaceae as well as insect-dispersed pollen (e.g. Asteraceae, Ericaceae, *Polemonium* sp. and Rosaceae) were identified in all three caribou samples.

The Holocene Yakutian bison and Oyogas Yar horse had high amounts of undifferentiated Poaceae pollen (71% and 92%, respectively; Van Geel et al. 2014, Gravendeel et al. 2014). Cyperaceae was the second most abundant pollen type (4%) in the horse and also accounted for 6% in the bison sample. The bison further had a relatively high amount (9%) of Apiaceae pollen.

Other pollen in both samples was derived from various shrubs (*Betula* sp. and *Salix* sp.) and forbs (e.g. Asteraceae, Plantaginaceae, Rosaceae). Tree-derived pollen (*Abies* sp., *Pinus* sp. and *Alnus* sp.) was present in both samples and made up 3-4% of the total.

The previously studied Yukagir and Cape Blossom mammoths showed abundant wind-dispersed pollen types consisting of Poaceae (both ~70%) and *Artemisia* sp. (16% and 7%, respectively; van Geel et al. 2008, van Geel et al. 2011b). The newly obtained pollen results from the three Pleistocene mammoths (Abyland, Adycha, Maly Lyakhovsky) as well as the Yukon horse were also dominated by Poaceae and *Artemisia* sp. (>85%). The only sample with a low *Artemisia* count (1%) was the Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth, which was for 97% dominated by Poaceae. Insect-dispersed pollen types were rare to very rare in all Pleistocene samples and were derived from many different families, e.g. Apiaceae, Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae and Papaveraceae. The only sample with coniferous tree derived pollen was the Adycha mammoth with 1% *Pinus* sp. pollen.

3.2.2 Macrofossils

Macrofossil analyses were taken from published records for eight samples and newly generated for three mammoths (Maly Lyakhovsky, Abyland and Adycha) as well as for Selwyn caribou A (Table S6.1 - S6.11). The macrofossils of the three Selwyn caribou samples showed a mixture of shrubs (genera *Betula* and *Salix*), lichen and mosses as the most dominant taxa, with grasses and forbs (e.g. Asteraceae, Caryophyllaceae) making up the remainder (Galloway et al. 2012). Selwyn C showed 44% lichen fragments.

The Yakutian bison faecal sample was dominated by vegetative remains of Poaceae and Cyperaceae (50%), wetland forbs (e.g. *Comarum palustre* and *Menyanthes trifoliata*) as well as *Salix* sp. and minor moss fragments (Van Geel et al. 2014). The Oyogar Yar horse sample was dominated by unidentified Cyperaceae remains and minor remains of Poaceae and several moss fragments (Gravendeel et al. 2014).

The previously studied macrofossils of the Yukagir mammoth faecal sample showed abundant poaceous remains together with *Salix* sp. and *Carex* sp. (van Geel et al. 2008). The herbaceous component was made up of plant remains from varying families, e.g. Asteraceae,

429 Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Papaveraceae. Remains from several mosses were also identified,
 430 including *Drepanocladus aduncus*, *Bryum* sp., *Entodon concinnus*. The Cape Blossom mammoth
 431 macrofossils consisted of over 90% *Carex* sp., followed by Poaceae and a herbaceous component
 432 consisting of e.g. *Minuartia rubella*, *Potentilla* sp. and *Cerastium/Silene* sp. (van Geel et al.
 433 2011b). Graminoids dominated the newly obtained data of the three mammoths Abyland,
 434 Adycha and Maly Lyakhovsky. This included poaceous vegetative remains, in the case of Abyland
 435 combined with one *Carex* sp. fruit and for Maly Lyakhovsky with the remains of a variety of
 436 mosses (e.g. *Campylium stellatum*, *Cinclidium stygium*, *Drepanocladus* sp., *Warnstorfia*
 437 *sarmentosa*).

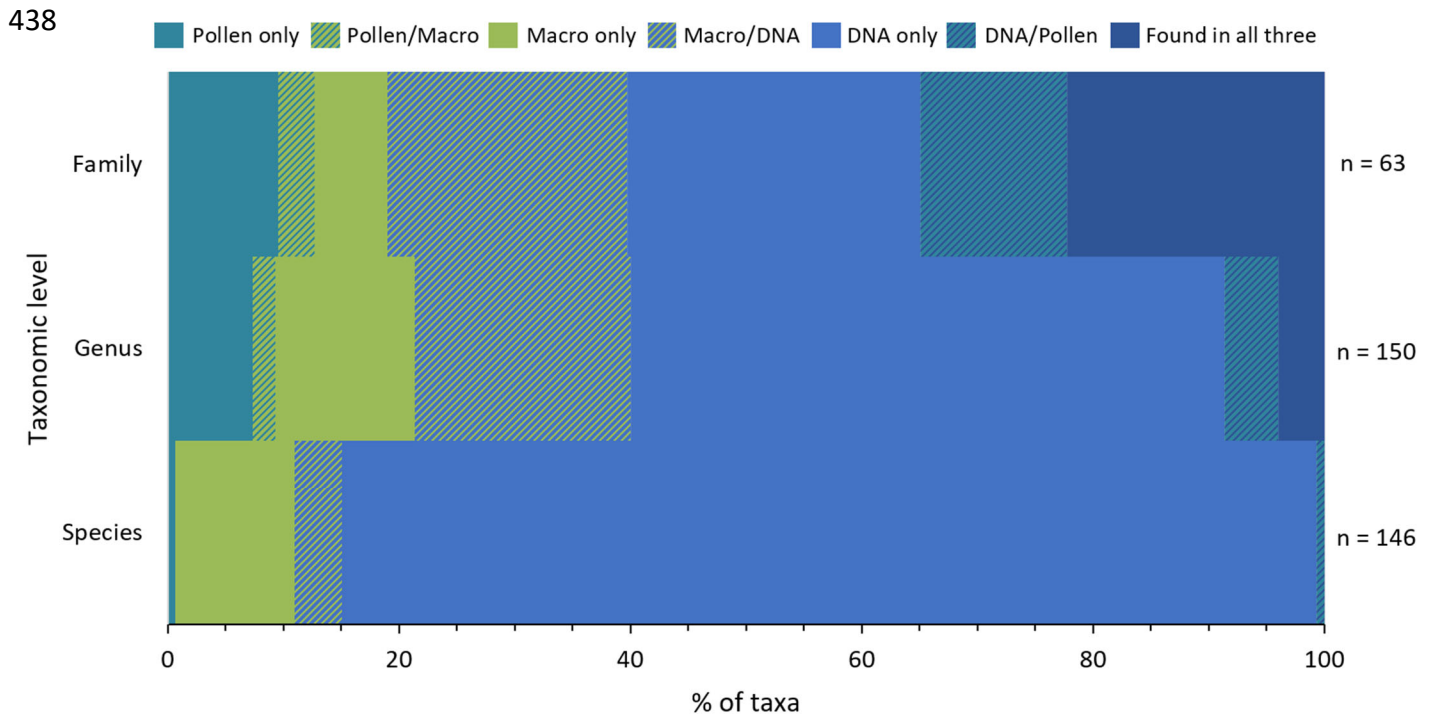


Fig. 2. Percentage of identified plant taxa per proxy (pollen, macrofossil, DNA) at different taxonomic levels across all faecal samples studied here. Hatched areas represent overlap between two proxies. n = total number of taxa that was found in each specific taxonomic level.

3.3 DNA

Illumina sequencing resulted in 20.4 M read pairs for *trnL* and 16.4 M read pairs for nrITS. After quality filtering and clustering, 11.7 M reads were retained for *trnL*, 2.1 M reads for plant nrITS1, 2.2 M reads for plant nrITS2 and 5.0 M reads for fungal nrITS2. *TrnL* and fungal nrITS2 was successfully amplified in all samples while plant nrITS1 and nrITS2 was obtained for all but the Yukon horse, Cape Blossom mammoth and Selwyn caribou C.

The plant specific primers for the nrITS marker effectively amplified plant taxa, where 63.4% (nrITS1) and 70.4% (nrITS2) of the total OTUs were assigned to green plants (Figure S15). Of the total OTUs, 3.8% and 7.3% were assigned to fungi, respectively. The remainder of the OTUs comprised green algae (Chlorophyta) and made up 6.6% of the total OTUs for nrITS1 and 19.4% for nrITS2. Across all samples, *trnL* produced 167 green plant OTUs, while 73 and 71 green plant OTUs were identified using plant nrITS1 and nrITS2, respectively (Tables S7 - S12). Per sample, *trnL* showed the highest number of green plant OTUs with on average 35.2 (range 12 – 74), while nrITS1 recovered on average 10.8 green plant OTUs (0 – 28) and nrITS2 12.5 (0 – 40) (Table S16). For the fungal nrITS2, 88.2% of the total OTUs were assigned to Fungi, 11.6% to Viridiplantae and 0.2% was unidentified, while showing on average 20.2 fungal OTUs per sample (range 7 – 38; Tables S16). Read or OTUs counts were not correlated to the age of the samples for any of the markers.

3.4 Comparison of pollen, macrofossils and DNA data

Across DNA, pollen and macrofossil datasets, 311 plant taxa including 146 species, 150 genera and 63 families were identified (Figure 2; see Table S6.1-S6.11 for full recovered plant taxa information across all samples). With pollen analysis, 65 plant taxa were identified, while 84 plant and 5 lichen macrofossil taxa were found. DNA analysis resulted in 146 (*trnL*), 73 (nrITS1) and 71 (nrITS2) plant taxa. At all taxonomic levels, DNA analysis recovered the most unique plant taxa, with 16 families, 77 genera and 123 species (Figure 2). However, unique taxa were also identified using both macrofossil (four families, 18 genera and 15 species) and pollen analysis (six families, 11 genera and one species). No species were recorded across all three proxies, while six genera (*Androsace*, *Artemisia*, *Betula*, *Papaver*, *Rumex* and *Salix*) and 14 families were shared in the DNA,

macrofossil and pollen data. The biggest overlap of proxies was found between DNA and macrofossil results at the genus level (29 genera), while there was little overlap between the pollen and macrofossil results (three genera and two families).

Pollen and macrofossils could be identified to species level in 3.1% and 24.7% of the recovered taxa, respectively. For the DNA markers, 44.8% of the OTUs were identified to species level for *trnL*, while this was 70.9% and 78.2% for nrITS1 and nrITS2, respectively (Table S7, S9, S11). To illustrate the differences in taxonomic resolution between the three proxies as well as between the DNA markers, results of three plant families (Poaceae, Asteraceae and Cyperaceae) that were common to abundant in all 11 faecal samples are shown in Table 2. Taxa from these three families were found using all three proxies. For plant families where pollen could only be identified to the family level, macrofossils could in several cases be identified to genera within those families, and in rare cases to species level (e.g., *Carex nardina* and *Carex dioica* in the Cyperaceae family). The nrITS marker could identify species for taxa where *trnL* results were only identifiable to genus or family level. An example of this is the identification of the species *Arctagrostis latifolia* (100% identity) and *Calamagrostis stricta* (99.7%; Poaceae) using nrITS1, while *trnL* identification was only possible to the subtribe level (Agrostidinae). Similarly, where *trnL* identified Asteraceae subfamily Anthemideae, the nrITS marker found the species *Artemisia scoparia* and *A. norvegica* (both 100% identity). Unique Poaceae species (*Koeleria asiatica*, *Festuca kolymensis*) and Asteraceae species and genera (*Artemisia gmelinii*, *Arnica*, *Saussurea*) were, however, also found using *trnL* and this pattern was found throughout the whole dataset (Table 2 and Table S7).

3.5 Diet analysis

High congruence between the quantitative results of the different DNA markers was found for the Selwyn A and B caribou samples, with a dominance of shrubs (87-98%; *Salix*, *Betula* and various ericaceous taxa) and low abundance of forbs, graminoids and mosses (Figure 3a). In contrast, the macrofossil results indicated high abundance of mosses, graminoids and lichen with only low amounts of shrubs. The combined diet reconstruction - based on DNA and macrofossils only - showed ~75% shrubs with 10-15% mosses (Figure 3b). Fungal nrITS2 results further

identified low amounts of lichen, including *Cladonia* spp., *Bryocaulon divergens* and *Stereocaulon saxatile* (Table S13 – S14) that may have formed part of the caribou diet (0.3% of total fungal reads for Selwyn B and 0.1% for Selwyn A). For Selwyn caribou C, *trnL* showed a much higher amount of forbs (72%; mainly Asteraceae tribe Anthemideae and *Sibbaldia procumbens*) than the macrofossils (8%) or pollen (34%). The reconstructed diet differed from the other two caribou samples, consisting of 40% forbs and equal parts (15-20%) of shrubs (*Salix*), lichen and mosses.

Macrofossils of the Oyogas Yar horse were for >95% dominated by graminoids and this was also reflected in the *trnL* (85%) and nrITS1 (69%) data (mainly *Eriophorum* sp. and *Dupontia fisheri* respectively). The plant nrITS2 results, however, were dominated by mosses (73%). The diet reconstruction showed a dominance of graminoids (65%) with 20% mosses and equal amounts of shrubs and forbs (8%). The diet of the other, much older, Yukon horse contained a lower fraction of graminoids (28%) and, instead, was dominated by forbs (on average 60%; consisting of *Braya rosea* and Asteraceae tribe Anthemideae). Tree and shrub taxa were only identified in the macrofossil results for this sample. The Yakutian bison sample consisted on average of 48% forbs (mainly *Cicuta virosa*) and 25% each of graminoids (*Eriophorum*, *Carex*) and shrubs (*Salix*). The Adycha and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth samples showed highly similar results from both proxies and the reconstructed diets consisted almost exclusively of graminoids (Figure 3b). Graminoids in the Adycha sample consisted for >75% of *Puccinellia* sp. based on DNA analysis, while many species of Poaceae (including abundant *Deschampsia cespitosa* and *Alopecurus magellanicus*), as well as *Carex* sp. and *Eriophorum* sp. were found in the Maly Lyakhovsky sample. Mosses were found to be relatively abundant in this sample according to nrITS2 results (33%; mainly *Polytrichastrum alpinum*), while much lower percentages of mosses were found in nrITS1, *trnL* or macrofossil results.

Table 2. All taxa recorded of three plant families (Poaceae, Asteraceae and Cyperaceae) that were common to abundant in all 11 faecal samples in DNA (trnL, nrITS1 and nrITS2), macrofossils and pollen analyses. The numbers represent the number of samples in which that specific taxon was found.

| Family (subfamily) | Tribe | Subtribe | Genus (subgenus) Quaternary Science Reviews | Species | trnL | nrITS1 | nrITS2 | Macro | Pollen |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Poaceae | | | | | | | | 11 | 11 |
| Pooideae | Bromeae | | <i>Bromus</i> | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>B. pumpellianus</i> | 5 | | | | |
| | Hordeae | Hordeinae | <i>Elymus</i> | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | <i>Hordeum</i> | | 3 | | | 1 | |
| | Meliceae | | <i>Glyceria</i> | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | <i>Pleuropogon</i> | <i>P. sabinei</i> | 2 | | | | |
| | Poeae | | | | 6 | | | | |
| | | <i>incertae sedis</i> | | <i>A. fulva/D. fisheri</i> | 2 | | | | |
| | | | <i>Arctophila</i> | <i>A. fulva</i> | | | 4 | | |
| | | | <i>Dupontia</i> | <i>D. fisheri</i> | | 4 | 1 | | |
| | | Agrostidinae | | | 5 | | | | |
| | | | <i>Arctagrostis</i> | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | <i>A. latifolia</i> | | 1 | 3 | | |
| | | | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| | | | | <i>C. stricta</i> | | 1 | | | |
| | | Alopecurinae | <i>Alopecurus</i> | | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | <i>A. magellanicus</i> | | 3 | 2 | | |
| | | Aristaveninae | <i>Deschampsia</i> | <i>D. cespitosa</i> | | 3 | 3 | | |
| | | Aveninae | <i>Koeleria</i> | <i>K. asiatica</i> | 2 | | | | |
| | | Coleanthinae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | |
| | | | | <i>P. tenuiflora/vahlana</i> | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | <i>P. vahlana</i> | | 2 | | | |
| | | Loliinae | <i>Festuca</i> | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | <i>F. altaica</i> | 3 | 1 | | | |
| | | | | <i>F. kolymensis</i> | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>F. ovina</i> | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | | Phalaridinae | <i>Hierochloe</i> | | | | | 2 | |
| | | Poinae | <i>Poa</i> | | | 1 | | 3 | |
| | | | | <i>P. arctica</i> | | | 4 | | |
| | | | | <i>P. glauca</i> | | 2 | | | |
| | Triticeae | | | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| Asteraceae | | | | | | | | | |
| Asteroideae | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 |
| | Anthemideae | | | | 6 | | | | |
| | | Anthemidinae | <i>Tripleurospermum</i> | <i>T. maritimum</i> | 1 | | | | |
| | | Artemisiinae | | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | <i>Artemisia</i> | | | | | 2 | 11 |
| | | | | <i>A. gmelinii</i> | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>A. norvegica</i> | | 2 | 1 | | |
| | | | | <i>A. scoparia</i> | | 2 | 3 | | |
| | Astereae | | | | 3 | | | | |
| | Gnaphalieae | | | | 2 | | | | |
| | | | <i>Antennaria</i> | | | | | 1 | |
| | Madieae | Arnicae | <i>Arnica</i> | | 2 | | | | |
| | Senecioneae | Tussilagininae | <i>Endocellion</i> | <i>E. sibiricum</i> | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | | | <i>Tephroseris</i> | | 1 | | | | |
| Carduoideae | Cardueae | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | Carduinae | <i>Saussurea</i> | | 3 | | | | |
| Cichorioideae | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Cyperaceae | | | | | | | | 4 | 10 |
| Cyperoideae | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| | | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. aquatilis</i> | 3 | 2 | 2 | | |
| | | | | <i>C. microchaeta</i> | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> | | 5 | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. podocarpa</i> | | 1 | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. rostrata</i> | | 2 | 1 | | |
| | | | | <i>C. vesicaria</i> | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Euthyceras</i> | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| | | | | <i>C. nardina</i> | | | | 1 | |
| | | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Viginea</i> | | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. chordorrhiza</i> | | 1 | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. dioica</i> | | | | 1 | |
| | | | | <i>C. duriuscula</i> | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | | | | <i>C. lachenalii</i> | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | <i>C. maritima</i> | 2 | | | | |
| | Scirpeae | | <i>Eriophorum</i> | | 3 | 1 | | 3 | |
| | | | | <i>E. angustifolium</i> | | 3 | 3 | | |

525 The three other mammoth samples showed a higher contribution of forbs to their diet, often
 526 with the DNA results of the different markers showing one species dominating the assemblage.
 527 For the Abyland mammoth this dominant species was *Anemone patens*, while in the Yukagir
 528 mammoth sample *Myosotis alpestris* was abundant. The Yukagir mammoth was the only one of
 529 the mammoth samples showing relatively abundant (on average 34%) shrubs (*Salix*) in its diet. In
 530 the Cape Blossom mammoth, graminoids made up >75% of macrofossils, while the *trnL* results
 531 showed 28% graminoids, consisting mainly of *Carex*. In the *trnL* results forbs were abundant
 532 (71%) and consisted for the largest part of *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and Asteraceae tribe
 533 Anthemideae.
 534

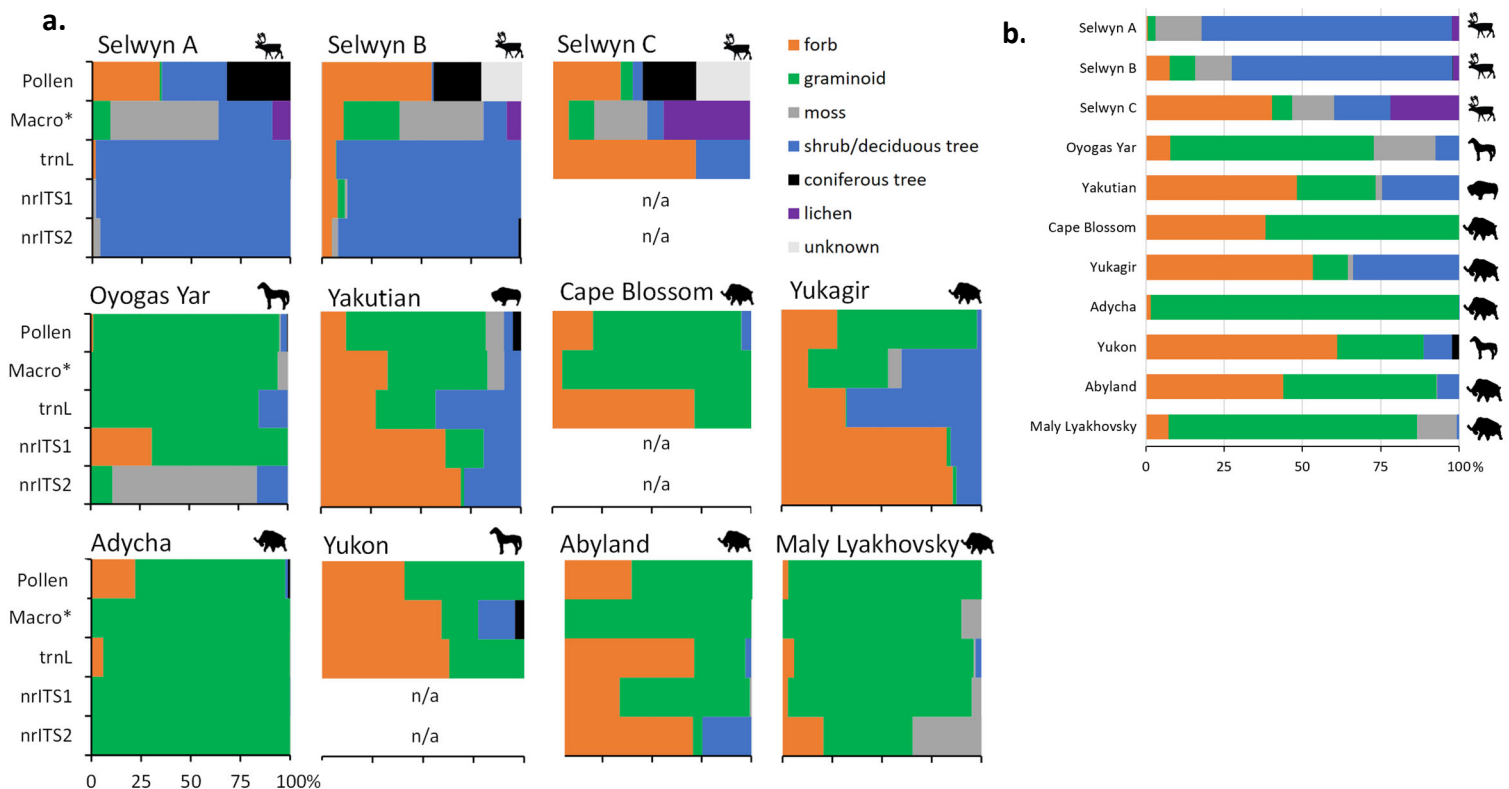


Fig. 3. Diet reconstructions based on quantitative abundance of plant groups (forbs, graminoids, mosses, shrubs/deciduous trees, coniferous trees and lichens). **a)** Quantitative comparison of results from the different plant proxies used for all samples in this study. * exact quantitative data from macrofossils was only present for the Selwyn caribou B and C. For all other samples, the semi-quantitative macrofossil results have been converted to quantitative measures for illustrative purposes. **b)** Reconstruction of the composition of the last diet by taking the average value of the relative abundance of macrofossil and all available DNA results.

535

536

3.6 Habitat types

537 We combined species and genus-level plant identifications from all proxy results to reconstruct
 538 the habitats in which the last meals of the studied megafauna were consumed (Figure 4; Table
 539 S17 for all plant species information).

540 Identified plant species in the Selwyn caribou A and B samples provided a range of habitats
 541 including wetland, woods and a large component of arctic-alpine tundra (e.g. *Arctous alpina*,
 542 *Anemone richardsonii*, *Carex podocarpa* and *Pyrola grandiflora*) along with taxa typical for
 543 mountainous/rocky habitats (e.g. *Rhodiola integrifolia*). The Selwyn caribou C sample similarly
 544

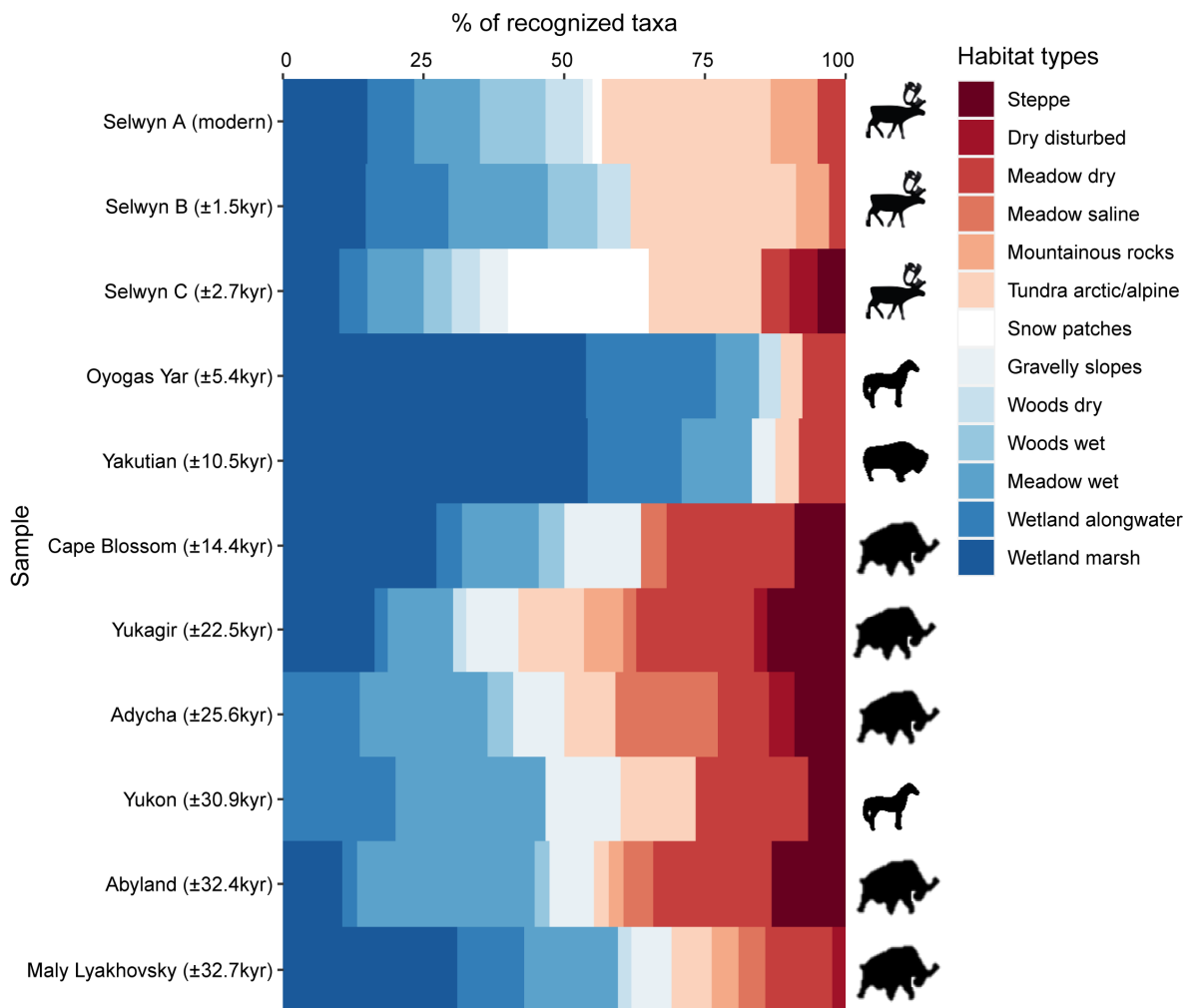


Fig. 4. Habitat reconstruction of megafaunal species based on integrated (pollen, macrofossils, DNA) species and genus resolution data. The samples were sorted according to their age and the average calibrated age of each sample is indicated between brackets.

545 contained many species typical for arctic-alpine tundra but also included a large component of
546 species typical for snow patches (e.g. *Ranunculus nivalis*, *Ranunculus pygmaeus*, *Oxyria digyna*).
547 The reconstructed habitats of the Holocene Oyogas Yar horse and Yakutian bison consisted
548 mainly of wetlands, including marshes and river/lake sides. For the Oyogas Yar horse this included
549 *Eriophorum* sp., *Caltha palustris* and *Comarum palustre* typical for marshes and e.g. *Arctagrostis*
550 *latifolia* and *Arctophila fulva*/*Dupontia fisheri* from water sides. The Yakutian bison showed
551 numerous *Carex* species, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Epilobium palustre* and *Hippuris* sp., all indicative
552 of marshy wetland conditions as well as e.g. *Endocellion sibiricum* and *Epilobium palustre* typically
553 found along rivers or ponds.

554 The Cape Blossom and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth samples also included wetland
555 components, with in the case of Cape Blossom e.g. *Caltha palustris* and species of *Carex* and for
556 Maly Lyakhovsky *Eriophorum* sp., *Caltha palustris* as well as several grass species (*Pleuropogon*
557 *sabinei*, *Arctophila fulva*). Moss species in the Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth further provided
558 evidence of a wet, marshy environment (e.g. *Drepanocladus sordidus*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*,
559 *Warnstorfia sarmentosa* and *Dicranum bonjeanii*). However, in contrast to the Holocene horse
560 and bison, both these mammoth samples also included species indicative for dry meadows and,
561 in the case of Cape Blossom, steppe (*Festuca kolymensis* and *Artemisia gmelinii*). Several true
562 steppe species were also found in the Abyland mammoth (*Silene samojedorum*, *Carex duriuscula*,
563 *Artemisia scoparia*) and Yukagir mammoth samples (e.g. *Eritrichium sericeum*, *Festuca*
564 *kolymensis*, *Phlox hoodii*). Other taxa in both samples were indicative for dry meadows (e.g.
565 *Anemone patens* and *Cerastium maximum* for Abyland and *Myosotis alpestris* and *Eremogone*
566 *capillaris* for Yukagir). Furthermore for the Abyland mammoth, several species typical for wet
567 meadow were identified (e.g. *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Stellaria borealis*), while for the Yukagir
568 mammoth a component of gravelly slopes and mountainous/rocky habitat was found (e.g.
569 *Smelowskia alba*, *Oxytropis deflexa*, *Rhodiola rosea*). The Pleistocene Yukon horse also showed a
570 last meal consisting of a mix of taxa from different habitats with species typically found in wet
571 meadows and wetlands (*Alnus incana*, *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*) as well as dry meadow and
572 steppe (*Bromus pumpellianus*, *Artemisia gmelinii*). The habitat for the Adycha mammoth

consisted of meadows (e.g. *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Bromus pumellianus*) as well as a large component of saline meadow (*Puccinellia* sp.).

4. Discussion

4.1 Comparison of proxies

Out of the three proxies used in the present study (DNA, pollen and macrofossils), DNA recovered the highest number of unique taxa at all taxonomic levels (Figure 2). This is likely caused by the large amount of vegetative remains in the faecal samples that could not be identified beyond the family or genus level using macrofossil or pollen analysis. DNA analysis does not depend on the season when plants carry seed, fruit or pollen and allows identification of many taxa to the species level irrespective of their developmental stage. We also used primers for multiple marker regions (*trnL*, *nrITS1*, *nrITS2*), each identifying unique taxa and increasing overall taxonomic resolution (Tables S7 - S12).

In comparison to pollen from sediments, pollen spectra from our faecal samples were not very diverse (Jorgensen et al. 2012, Pedersen et al. 2013, Parducci et al. 2015). This could be because lake sediments accumulate pollen over a much larger spatial and temporal scale than faeces do. We took all the samples for our analyses from the middle of the faeces and thus caught only a snapshot of airborne pollen (i.e., sticking on ingested vegetation), mixed with pollen coming from ingestion of inflorescences. The taxonomic overlap between pollen and DNA, as well as between pollen and macrofossils was surprisingly low, and we instead found the highest overlap between DNA and macrofossil results. This is likely because both of these proxies are providing a local signal (showing the food choice of the animal) while the pollen analysis is influenced by accidental intake of pollen sticking to ingested vegetation as well as pollen from species producing high amounts of pollen (e.g. Jorgensen et al. 2012).

4.1.1 Metabarcoding detection gap

We use the term 'metabarcoding detection gap' here for taxa that were not retrieved in the DNA results (*trnL* or *nrITS*) but were present in the macrofossil and/or pollen records. In total, the metabarcoding detection gap consists of 12 families, 32 genera and 16 species (Figure 2). Many

of these taxa are very rare in the pollen or macrofossil counts, with most of them found in only one sample and in low abundance. For pollen this includes single identified spores and pollen of *Botrychium* sp. and *Populus* sp. in the Selwyn caribou samples, and *Epipactis* sp., *Persicaria* sp. and *Thalictrum* sp. in the mammoth samples. For such rare pollen grains it seems likely they were only present as pollen while being (very) rare in the consumed vegetation. A lysis step with mechanical bead beating is necessary to break the exine of pollen grains and release the inner DNA (Polling, 2021). Since these steps have not been used here, this could explain the absence of these taxa from the DNA results. On top of this, pollen contains very little DNA that is hard to amplify even if present in high numbers (Parducci et al. 2005). Similar to proxy comparison studies on lake sediments (e.g. Parducci et al. 2019), we find that DNA from pollen contributes very little to the total DNA signal in faeces.

There are also taxa that were found as pollen with high relative abundance, while being very rare or absent in the other proxies. This includes, for example, pollen of the family Pinaceae which account for up to 30% in the caribou samples. Pinaceae pollen is often overrepresented in pollen records from the (sub)Arctic because they are high pollen producers and their pollen is spread over large distances (Aario 1940). The genus *Artemisia* reached up to 40% in some pollen records (Selwyn caribou B; Table S6.2), yet it is very rare in both DNA and macrofossil results. Unfortunately, using *trnL*, the genus *Artemisia* cannot be distinguished from other genera from the subfamily Anthemideae (*Anthemis*, *Achillea*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Tanacetum* etc.). This subfamily was relatively abundant in Selwyn caribou C, Cape Blossom mammoth and the Yukon horse, and it cannot be resolved whether these reads actually belong to *Artemisia*. Rare fragments of *Artemisia* in the macrofossil records were only recorded in the Yukon horse and Selwyn caribou C samples. Part of this discrepancy can be explained by differential preservation, since macrofossils of *Artemisia* such as seeds or fruits (achenes) deteriorate rapidly and are therefore rarely recovered (Birks 2007, Anderson and Van Devender 1991). Other studies on DNA metabarcoding of Pleistocene megafaunal faeces also found high amounts of *Artemisia* pollen but very low abundance with DNA or macrofossils from the same samples (e.g. Kolyma rhinoceros and Finish Creek mammoth; Willerslev et al. 2014). For caribou, where in all three samples Pinaceae and *Artemisia* pollen is common to abundant, it is furthermore known that they do not

actively select *Artemisia* and avoid Pinaceae (Denryter et al. 2017, Jung, Stotyn and Czetwertynski 2015). These records are therefore interpreted as the results of accidental uptake of pollen sticking to selected plant taxa.

In the macrofossil data, we detected many taxa that were represented by one seed or plant fragment (e.g. *Antennaria* sp., *Draba* sp., *Sagina* sp., *Hedysarum* sp., *Lysimachia* sp.) and many of these are part of the metabarcoding detection gap. Furthermore, fragments of various mosses were exclusively found as macrofossils (e.g. *Calliergon* sp., *Plagiomnium* sp., *Rhizomnium* sp., *Thuidium* sp. and the spikemoss *Selaginella* sp.). It should be noted that DNA reference libraries are still far from complete, and this may be especially true for Arctic Russian moss species. Therefore, some of the species found as macrofossils may not be recoverable using DNA at this moment. One such example is the moss *Cinclidium stygium* for which no nrITS sequence is currently available in the NCBI Genbank. Apart from this, the expected amplicon size for bryophytes using the plant-specific nrITS primers in our study is >500 bp (Cheng et al. 2016), which may cause some species to be missed due to the 600 bp restriction using Illumina sequencing. Furthermore, even though we applied a multi-locus approach, DNA primer mismatch in both *trnL* and nrITS could have occurred. Many *Selaginella* species for example show 5 mismatches in their DNA barcodes with the *trnL*-h as well as the ITS4 reverse primers used in this study. Lastly, DNA of plant fragments may have been simply too degraded to be amplified by any of the DNA markers.

4.1.2 Morphology detection gap

A 'morphology detection gap' is designated here as all taxa that are missing in either the pollen or macrofossil record but were found in the DNA results. In total, the morphology detection gap for the studied faecal samples consists of 16 families, 77 genera and 123 species (Figure 2). The biggest factor contributing to many of the taxa only found as DNA is the higher taxonomic resolution that is achieved using DNA (although it depends on the percentage of identity used whether taxa identified by DNA are assignable to either, e.g., genus or species level). There are, however, a number of other factors that may determine the taxa in the morphology detection gap.

First, many taxa only found with DNA were very rare (<0.1% of the relative amount of reads) and only recorded in one sample. These taxa could have either been very minor diet items or taxa that were not targeted (i.e. accidental intake), which were present in such low quantities that they may have been missed with the macrofossil or pollen analyses. Accidental intake could also explain the presence of several species in the DNA results of the caribou samples of which the ingestion of high amounts may be toxic (e.g. *Pedicularis capitata*, *Oxytropis deflexa*; Denryter et al. 2017). Secondly, some plant taxa may be more affected by the digestive processes than other plant taxa, causing them to be unrecognizable as macrofossils while still being recoverable using DNA. Lastly, despite extensive reference collections for pollen and macrofossils, identification may still be somewhat subjective with regards to morphologically very similar taxa. This is less the case for DNA using reference libraries that allow more objective identifications.

Taken together, this explains the abundance of some taxa in DNA results even though they were missing in the other proxies. One example is the willowherb family Onagraceae for which *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and *Epilobium palustre* were found in DNA of seven of the samples studied here. Rare Onagraceae pollen were only found in the Cape Blossom mammoth (van Geel et al. 2011b). Although pollen from insect-pollinated plants are always underrepresented in faecal samples, we identified abundant *Chamaenerion angustifolium* in the DNA results of the Cape Blossom sample. No macrofossil remains of Onagraceae were recorded in any of the samples, and this is likely because vegetative Onagraceae remains are very hard to recognize due to their ambiguous morphology (Anderson and Van Devender 1991, Grímsson, Zetter and Leng 2012). Similarly, the forget-me-not family Boraginaceae is only recovered using DNA. It was especially abundant in the last meal of the Yukagir mammoth (*Myosotis alpestris* and *Eritrichium sericeum*). An additional species (*Mertensia paniculata*) was identified in the faecal samples of the caribou and the Cape Blossom mammoth, yet no remains of Boraginaceae were found in either pollen or macrofossil analyses of any sample. Pollen grains of members from this family are particularly small (5-7 μm) and could potentially be overlooked during analysis while vegetative macrofossil remains are hard to identify. Macrofossils of Boraginaceae and Onagraceae have not been recorded in any other mammoth faeces, even though they were recorded in high abundance in DNA data (e.g. Finish and Drevniy Creek mammoths as well as

Yukagir bison; Willerslev et al. 2014). These examples show the added value of DNA analysis and indicate that vegetative plants of these families may likely have formed part of the diets of the studied megafauna.

4.1.3 Comparison of plant DNA markers

Our application of multiple DNA markers on megafaunal faecal samples reveals the added value of a multilocus approach. The three samples for which no plant nrITS results were obtained were of very different ages (± 2.7 , ± 14.4 and ± 30.9 kyr BP), while older samples did produce plant nrITS amplicons (Abyland and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoths). While nrITS amplicons were found in all samples, for the three samples where no plant OTUs were found, these were all either derived from contamination, algae or fungi. Fragments of DNA up to 500 bp have been recovered from permafrost preserved sediments as old as 400 kyr (Lydolph et al. 2005). Therefore, it most likely depends on the conditions in which the specimens were preserved over time that determined whether or not these long fragments can be recovered. Some samples may have inadvertently been (partially) thawed at some stage, causing longer DNA fragments to be degraded, while the shorter and more stable *trnL* was not affected.

Most unique taxon identifications of the nrITS marker come from increased taxonomic resolution of several families and genera that show relatively low taxonomic resolution in the other proxies. This includes, for example, the genus *Carex* for which six unique species were found and the family Poaceae for which 11 unique species were identified with nrITS (Table 2). Furthermore, nrITS identified a larger variety of mosses than *trnL*, which is likely the result of the very short sequence length of the bryophyte P6 loop (± 22 bp) obtained using the *trnL* *g* and *h* primers. These primers were not designed for bryophytes, and the recovered length often prevents sufficient taxonomic detail (Soininen et al. 2015, Epp et al. 2012). Nevertheless, many unique plant species were found using *trnL*, which could be the result of the more complete reference libraries available for *trnL* compared to nrITS. Many nrITS reference sequences in the NCBI Genbank database do not represent the complete marker region (e.g. *Pleuropogon sabinei* and *Ranunculus nivalis* with partial nrITS2 sequences) or are simply missing altogether because no reference sequences have been deposited yet. This is, for example, seen for species in the

genus *Puccinellia* where not all Russian endemics have been sequenced (missing e.g. *Puccinellia manchuriensis*, *P. byrrangensis*, *P. jensenseiensis*), and this might also explain why we find *P. vahliana* (nowadays a western Arctic species) in nrITS results. Apart from that, the shorter and more stable *trnL* P6 loop produced results for the samples that did not produce any results from nrITS, which further explains the number of unique *trnL* identifications.

4.2 Diet analysis

The diet analysis of Selwyn A and B showed that shrubs are highly dominant in the summer diets of caribou, which is in agreement with known diets of summer foraging caribou that consists of deciduous shrubs along with reindeer lichen and fungi (Bergerud 1972, Boertje 1984). Lichen were observed using macrofossil and fungal nrITS2 analysis, and were also indirectly detected with plant DNA by the presence of lichen phycobionts in the plant nrITS2 results (e.g. *Asterochloris*, *Symbiochloris* and *Trebouxia* spp.), only found in the Selwyn caribou samples (Table S18). *Trebouxia* is the most common phycobiont in extant lichen, while *Asterochloris* is mainly associated with lichen of the families Cladoniaceae and Sterocaulaceae (Pino-Bodas and Stenroos 2020). Both families were also identified using fungal nrITS2 (Table S13 – S14), providing further support that the caribou ate lichen. The diet of modern caribou is well studied and for many Arctic plant species it is known whether they are either “selected”, “neutral” or “avoided” based on observations of foraging caribou (Denryter et al. 2017, Bergerud 1972). An average diet of modern caribou was found to consist of 78% selected, 15% neutral and 7% avoided species (Denryter et al. 2017). For Selwyn A and B, “selected” plant taxa made up >85% of relative abundance of all DNA markers, while “avoided” taxa made up <5% (Table S19). This is in contrast to macrofossil results that showed up to 21% avoided taxa, mainly from mosses. Selwyn caribou C showed a large component of diet items that were of unknown (43%) and neutral diet preference (44%), with only minor (11%) selected plant taxa (Table S19). This points to a somewhat atypical summer diet for this caribou when compared to modern caribou preferences and may suggest a different vegetation composition in its habitat.

The diets of nearest living relatives for Holocene bison and horse are well studied. While horses are typical grazers nowadays with diets consisting >75% of graminoids (Mendoza and

Palmqvist 2008), this has not always been the case. Several studies have shown that prehistoric horses had mixed grass-browse diets, especially in winter when grasses were harder to access (Kaczensky et al. 2017, MacFadden, Solounias and Cerling 1999). The diet of the Holocene Oyogas Yar horse (*Equus cf. lenensis*) is typical for a grazer, with the main component being identified as graminoids. The Pleistocene Yukon horse (*Equus lambei*), however, consumed mostly forbs. The season of death could not be determined for the Oyogas Yar horse (although it could be spring to summer due to relatively high amount of Cyperaceae pollen), while for the Yukon horse it was determined as winter (Harington 2002, Harington and Eggleston-Stott 1996). This could explain why grasses made up only 28% of the total diet for the Yukon horse (Figure 3b). It is likely that snow covered much of the grass cover, forcing the horse to focus on other available dietary items or that grasses were simply less abundant or of lower nutritional value (Savage and Heller 1947).

The now extinct steppe bison (*Bison priscus*) was closely related to modern bison (*Bison bison* (Linnaeus, 1758); Marsolier-Kergoat et al. 2015). While modern bison are often thought of as grazers feeding for the majority on graminoids, their summer diets are more variable, consisting on average of 44% grass, 38% forb, 16% shrubs and <2% sedge (Leonard et al. 2017). This is similar to the DNA results of the Yakutian bison studied here, where forbs and shrubs are important components. Pollen of undifferentiated Apiaceae (identified by nrITS as *Cicuta virosa*) were also relatively abundant in this sample (9%) indicating ingestion of inflorescences. This may indicate that the Yakutian bison had its last meal in summer and was a mixed feeder that did not rely solely on grasses. The 'warm season' (spring/summer) was also identified as the most likely season of death for the Yakutian bison by Van Geel et al. (2014) and Boeskorov et al. (2016). The >52 kyr old bison (*Bison* sp.) studied by Willerslev et al. (2014), similarly showed a high abundance of forbs and shrubs (80%), although no season of death was identified for this sample. Lastly, the abundance of poisonous *Cicuta virosa* (water hemlock) in nrITS, and also recognized to lower taxonomic resolution in *trnL*, pollen and macrofossils, possibly indicates that the Yakutian bison died of hemlock poisoning (Jacobson 1915).

The last meals of the Maly Lyakhovsky and Adycha mammoths consisted almost exclusively of graminoids. Some of these grasses can grow to considerable size (75-100 cm) and may have provided sufficient nutritional value for mammoths (e.g. *Bromus pumpellianus*, *Deschampsia*

776 *cespitosa*, *Dupontia fisheri*). Furthermore, the genus *Puccinellia* which was identified as the main
777 component in the Adycha mammoth last diet, includes several species that are commonly grown
778 for hay making for cattle in modern day Yakutia, Russia (Gavril'eva 2011). The other mammoths
779 studied here had much lower relative amounts of graminoid DNA, or barely any in the case of the
780 Yukagir mammoth. The last diet of the previously studied Mongochen mammoth as
781 reconstructed using macrofossils consisted mainly of mosses, forbs and only minor grasses and
782 shrubs while DNA results showed dominance of 98% graminoids (Willerslev et al. 2014, Kosintsev
783 et al. 2012a). The authors suggested that the underrepresentation of graminoids in the
784 mammoth faeces could be the result of the digestive processes breaking down the poaceous
785 tissues, although this is not supported by our finding of graminoids being dominant in the other
786 mammoth faeces. It does, however, hold for forbs which are underrepresented in macrofossil
787 and pollen results as compared to our DNA data, which has also been found in previous studies
788 (e.g., Willerslev et al. 2014, Kosintsev et al. 2012b). The last meals of the Abyland and Cape
789 Blossom mammoths may not have consisted solely of graminoids as suggested by the macrofossil
790 analysis, but supplemented with *Anemone patens* (Abyland) and various other forbs, while
791 shrubs and *Chamaenerion angustifolium* were consumed by the Cape Blossom mammoth. The
792 abundance of *Salix* sp. and Boraginaceae (Yukagir) provides further evidence for the diversity in
793 mammoth diets.

794 Another potential explanation for the differing diets may be sought in the different seasons
795 of death, which could be determined for three of the mammoth samples studied here. The
796 season of death of Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth was determined as late summer to early autumn
797 (Grigoriev et al. 2017), while for both Yukagir and Cape Blossom mammoths autumn to early
798 spring was suggested (Mol et al. 2006, van Geel et al. 2011b). A recent study on molar enamel
799 profiles found that mammoths may have had seasonally different diets, shifting between browse
800 and grasses (Uno et al. 2020). Also in the previously published Mongochen mammoth that died
801 mid-summer and for which DNA, pollen and macrofossil results were analysed, the last diet was
802 interpreted to be dominated by graminoids (Kosintsev et al. 2012a, Willerslev et al. 2014). This
803 limited amount of data suggests that warm season diets of mammoth may have been dominated
804 by graminoids (Maly Lyakhovsky, Mongochen), while they relied on various other food sources

in the cold season (Cape Blossom, Yukagir). However, more multiproxy data is needed to support this hypothesis.

In some of the faecal samples studied here, mosses were identified in abundance either in the macrofossils (Selwyn caribou A and B) or in DNA results (nrITS2; Oyogas Yar horse and Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth) while being nearly absent in the other proxies. The relative abundance of mosses in the macrofossils of the caribou faeces is probably the result of accidental ingestion when the caribou were foraging low on the ground for dwarf shrubs and lichens. The moss species that was abundantly found with nrITS2 in the Oyogas Yar and Maly Lyakhovsky sample was *Polytrichastrum alpinum* which was detected only as rare fragments in the macrofossil remains of these samples. Potentially the primers used to amplify the nrITS2 region caused preferential amplification of this type of moss. Although abundant moss fragments have been identified in macrofossils from several mammoths (Kosintsev et al. 2012a, Kosintsev et al. 2012b), and are sometimes found in caribou faeces (Denryter et al. 2017), they are unlikely to have formed a major part of the diet for any of the extinct and extant mammals studied here because of their low nutritional value.

4.3 Habitat types

The reconstructed habitat for Selwyn caribou A and B corresponds well with the known current habitat of these animals in the Selwyn Mountains in Northwest Territories, Canada. The habitat for these two samples consists of elements from both downslope boreal forest and its wetlands, along with upslope alpine tundra. It is important to note that the two most dominant diet items as identified by DNA (*Salix* and *Betula*), are not included in the habitat analysis because neither of them could be identified beyond the genus level. Species from these genera have varying habitat preferences and therefore the genus level identifications did not provide enough information to infer the habitat, the only exception being rare *Salix alaxensis* in Selwyn Caribou B which typically grows in forested habitat along streams and lakes (Boufford et al. 2016). The only *Betula* species found in the Selwyn Mountains are *B. glandulosa* (dwarf birch, shrub) and *B. papyrifera* (canoe birch, tree), with the dwarf birch being far more common (Galloway et al.

2012). The habitat reconstructed for Selwyn caribou C may indicate that the faeces in this sample was deposited by caribou that consumed a meal nearer to the ice patch.

When many megafauna species disappeared at the end of the Pleistocene, the Holocene vegetation shifted significantly to become a more waterlogged environment with mossy and shrub-dominated tundra and deciduous forests (Edwards et al. 2005, Guthrie 2001). The habitats reconstructed for the Holocene horse and bison reflect this mesic environment. Previous studies on these samples, however, indicated dry steppe-like conditions based on pollen and macrofossils due to the abundance of Poaceae remains (Gravendeel et al. 2014, Van Geel et al. 2014, Boeskorov et al. 2016). However, here we find that the species composition of Poaceae for both samples included *Dupontia fisheri*, *Arctophila fulva* and *Arctagrostis latifolia*, all species typical for wetland habitats. Similar to the results for the Holocene Yakutian bison, modern bison (*Bison bison*) are known to prefer sedge marshes over other habitat types (Belanger et al. 2020 and references therein). Our results show that both horse and bison are not strictly graminoid grazers, but utilize wetlands in their habitat as well. This is also confirmed by the habitat reconstructed for the Pleistocene Yukon horse studied here, that showed a mixed environment of wetland and dryer meadows and steppe. Furthermore, a recent study on dental micro- and mesowear of horse and steppe bison also found that both were likely mixed feeders, instead of obligate grazers (Kelly et al. 2021).

Mixed environments were also identified for the mammoth samples, although with varying degrees of wetland components. The oldest mammoth studied here, Maly Lyakhovsky, showed many species typical for a marshy environment. This is in contrast to the Abyland mammoth that was collected from the same geographic area (North Sakha republic, Russia) and of similar age, that showed a much larger steppe and dry meadow habitat. This relatively large steppe component was also found for the Yukagir mammoth, although for this mammoth it was mixed with many plants typically found on gravelly slopes and mountainous areas. This may indicate that mammoths may have been versatile in their diets, adapting to the various habitats that were available. This is further supported by the habitat reconstructed for the Adycha mammoth, which shows that saline meadows were present and utilized by mammoths as well. For the Cape Blossom mammoth, no nRITS results were obtained which hampers the habitat reconstruction.

However, with the other proxies a habitat similar to the Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth was reconstructed, with marshy wetland and surrounding wet meadows, intermixed with steppe and dry meadow. The variety of diets obtained from different habitats supports the idea that the 'mammoth steppe' was a mosaic of habitats instead of a homogeneous vegetation type (e.g. Zazula et al. 2007). Furthermore, the specific plant species mixture identified for these mammoths is not found in any modern habitat type, pointing to non-analogue plant communities (Williams and Jackson 2007). Our results also indicate that mammoths were not exclusively grazers, but rather opportunistic mixed-feeders.

5. Conclusions

We integrated multilocus plant DNA, macrofossil and pollen analysis to obtain detailed reconstructions of megafaunal diets and habitats. We found most plant species in faecal samples uniquely using DNA, some of which abundantly so. This could be because of the large number of vegetative plant remains in the faeces which have become unidentifiable for macrofossil analysis due to masticatory and digestive processes. Unique plant taxa were, however, also found using both macrofossil and pollen analysis. We further show that relatively long nrITS fragments can be amplified from faecal samples as old as 28,610 ^{14}C BP and that these help to increase species resolution for many plant families (e.g. Asteraceae, Cyperaceae and Poaceae) as well as mosses that could not be retrieved using *trnL*.

We could accurately reconstruct the known diet and habitat of modern and late Holocene caribou (i.e. abundant shrubs from an arctic alpine tundra) and extended this approach to Holocene and Pleistocene megafauna including horse, steppe bison and woolly mammoth. These reconstructions showed that the Holocene steppe bison and horse were not strict grazers but rather mixed feeders that were foraging in a marshy wetland environment. This result is in sharp contrast with previous reconstructions that suggested dry steppe-like conditions for these samples. We further find that the five Pleistocene mammoths studied here had very different last meals obtained from a variety of habitats including wetland, wet meadow, gravelly slopes, saline meadow and steppe. This confirms the presence of a mosaic of habitats in the Pleistocene

landscape often referred to as the ‘mammoth steppe’ that mammoths could fully exploit due to a high flexibility in their diet choice.

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Data availability

All raw read data are available at the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) with the study accession number PRJEB44352 (sample metadata, including sample names and primer-adapter sequences, is available in Table S20). Processed read data is available in the supporting information (Tables S7 - S14).

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Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

Marcel Polling, Anneke T.M. ter Schure, Bas van Geel, Tom van Bokhoven, Sanne Boessenkool, Glen MacKay, Bram W. Langeveld, María Ariza, Hans van der Plicht, Albert V. Protopopov, Alexei Tikhonov, Hugo de Boer, Barbara Gravendeel

Supporting Information (1/3)

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S1. Sample information

Table S1. Detailed information on age and location of the five woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), steppe bison (*Bison priscus*), horse (Yukon: *Equus lambei* and Oyogas Yar: *Equus cf. lenensis*) and northern mountain caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*). Modern and extant caribou samples were collected from cores in ice patches (Galloway et al., 2012).

| Species | Name | Reference | Calibrated ¹⁴ C age calBP | Lab. No. for radiocarbon dating | Coordinates |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Caribou | Selwyn A (KfTe-1 surface) | Galloway et al. (2012) | 0 | modern | 62°58'12.4"N 129°27'42.2"W |
| Caribou | Selwyn B (KfTe-1-C2-1) | Galloway et al. (2012) | 1,545 - 1,415 | Beta-240104 faeces | 62°58'12.4"N 129°27'42.2"W |
| Caribou | Selwyn C (KfTe-1-C1-3) | Galloway et al. (2012) | 2,995 - 2,880 | Beta-240102 faeces | 62°58'12.4"N 129°27'42.2"W |
| Horse | Oyogas Yar | Boeskorov et al. (2014); Gravendeel et al. (2014) | 5,445 - 5,310 | GrA-54020 bone | 72°40'49.42"N 142°50'38.33"E |
| Bison | Yakutian bison | Boeskorov et al. (2014); van Geel et al. (2014) | 10,580 - 10,425 10,570 - 10,415 | GrA-53290 bone GrA-53292 hair | 72°17'30"N 140°54'05"E |
| Woolly mammoth | Cape Blossom | van Geel et al. (2011) | 14,790 - 14,085 | AA-77015 faeces | 66°44'0"N 162°29'0"W |
| Woolly mammoth | Yukagir | van Geel et al. (2008) | 22,765 - 22,445 | GrA-24288 hair | 71°52'9.88"N 140°34'8.73"E |
| Woolly mammoth | Adycha | This study | 25,765 - 25,360 | GrA-67394 faeces | 67°57'3.44"N 135°25'52.39"E |
| Horse | Yukon Horse | Harington and Eggleston-Stott (1996) | 31,225 - 30,560 | Beta-67407 bone | 64°00'N 139°10'W |
| Woolly mammoth | Abyland | This study | 32,995 - 32,215 | GrA-67393 faeces | 68°13'1.92"N 146°51'1.88"E |
| Woolly mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | This study | 33,165 - 32,260 33,640 - 33,110 | GrA-60021 hair GrA-60044 bone | 74°39'36"N 141°59'14"E |

S2. Abyland and Adycha sample identity confirmation

The identity of the Adycha faecal sample was confirmed using specifically designed primers, while for Abyland a previously published primer pair was used (Table S2; Barnes et al., 2007). Subsamples (volume ca. 1 ml) were ground in a Retsch CryoMill at -196°C in a dedicated ancient DNA lab. DNA was extracted using silica-based extraction protocol of Rohland and Hofreiter (2007). DNA amplifications were carried out on a Bio-Rad C1000 Touch in 30 µl final volumes. They consisted of 17.8 µl nuclease-free ultrapure water, 6 µl 5X Phire Green reaction buffer, 1.5 µl of each primer, 0.6 µl of dNTPs, 0.6 µl Phire Hot Start II DNA Polymerase and 2 µl DNA sample template. During the PCR a 30 s activation step at 98°C was followed by 40 cycles of 5 sec at 98°C, 5 sec annealing at 55°C and 10 sec at 72°C. The PCR ended with a final extension step at 72°C for 1 min. The products were checked using gel electrophoresis using EtBr staining. The obtained amplicons were Sanger sequenced by BaseClear B.V. (Leiden, The Netherlands) on an ABI3730XL sequencer (Life Technologies). Resulting sequences were matched against reference data in NCBI GenBank using BLAST.

Table S2. Overview of the PCR primers used in this study to identify the identity of the producer of the Abyland and Adycha faeces.

| Target taxon | DNA Marker | Primer Name | Primer sequence 5'-3' | Amplicon length (bp) | Reference |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>M. primigenius</i> (Adycha) | COI | - mam_COI_5771_F - mam_COI_5892_R | TTTTTCACTTCACCTTGCAGGAGTATC TGGACCATACAAATAAGGGTATGTGATA | 67 | This publication |
| <i>M. primigenius</i> (Abyland) | mitochondrial control region | - mam_15528F - mam_15656R | TAGACCATACCATGTATAATCG GAGCTTTAATGTGCTATGTAAG | 127 | Barnes et al. (2007) |

Resulting sequences

- Adycha: 5'-
CTCTATTTTAAGTGCAATTAATTTTATCACTACCATCATTAACATAAAACCTCCAGCTATGTCT
CAA-3' (too short to submit to ENA)
- Abyland: 5'-
TGCATCACATTATTTACCCCATGCTTATAAGCAAGTACTGTTTAATCAATGTGTCAAGTCATAT
TCGTGTAGATTCACAAGTCATGTTTCAGCTCATGGATATTATTCACCTACGATAAACCATAGT-
3' (ERA3966948)

S3. Primer selection

Overview of primers used in this study to amplify plants (*trnL*, nrITS1, nrITS2) and fungi (nrITS2 region).

Table S3. Overview of primers used in current study

| Target Taxon | DNA Marker | Primer Name | Primer sequence 5'-3' | Annealing T (°) | Amplicon length (bp) | Reference |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Plants | ITS1 | ITS-p5 (F) | CCTTATCAYTTAGAGGAAGGAG | 58 | ~300-400 | Cheng et al. (2016) |
| | | ITS-u2 (R) | GCGTTCAAAGAYTCGATGR TTC | | | Cheng et al. (2016) |
| | ITS2 | ITS-p3 (F) | YGACTCTCGGCAACGGATA | 55 | ~350-400 | Cheng et al. (2016) |
| | | ITS4 (R) | TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC | | | White et al. (1990) |
| Fungi | <i>trnL</i> | <i>trnL</i> -g (F) | GGGCAATCCTGAGCCAA | 60 | ~8 – 143 | Taberlet et al. (2006) |
| | | <i>trnL</i> -h (R) | CCATTGAGTCTCTGCACCTATC | | | Taberlet et al. (2006) |
| | ITS2 | flTS7 (F) | GTGARTCATCGAATCTTTG | 56 | ~200-300 | Ihrmark et al. (2012) |
| | | ITS4 (R) | TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC | | | White et al. (1990) |

S4. Manually removed taxa

Taxon identifications that still remained in the dataset after all filtering steps. These were manually removed from the dataset before further analysis.

trnL manually removed

- likely food contaminants: Musaceae including *Musa* (banana), *Oryza sativa* (rice), *Capsicum* (pepper), *Glycine max* (L.) Merr. (soy), *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe (ginger), *Humulus lupulus* (hops), Laurales, Juglandaceae
- contaminants of unknown origin: Convolvulaceae incl. *Convolvulus*, *Ipomoea* (not in Arctic)

nrITS1 manually removed

- likely food contaminants: *Allium cepa* L. (onion), *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. (calabash)
- non-native species *Celtis tetrandra* Roxb. and *Pteroceltis tatarinowii* Maxim. (native Chinese and South-East Asian tree species)

nrITS2 manually removed:

- likely food contaminants: *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. (calabash), *Spinacia turkestanica* Iljin (spinach)
- contaminants of unknown origin: *Urtica dioica* L. (Selwyn caribou C)
- non-native species: *Celtis biondii* Pamp. (native South-East Asian tree species), *Chamaecyparis obtusa* (Siebold & Zucc.) Endl. and *Cryptomeria japonica* (Thunb. ex L.f.) D.Don (native to Japan and Taiwan)

S5. *trnL* and nrITS filtering steps

Table S5.1 Number of total reads and unique sequences for plant nrITS remaining after each filtering step. Raw reads for nrITS run = 16,734,333. All paired-end reads were merged using PEAR, resulting in 16,421,333 assembled reads.

| Filtering steps | Program/ command | nrITS1 | | nrITS2 | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | | Total reads | Unique sequences | Total reads | Unique sequences |
| Assignment to samples | Cutadapt | 4,888,459 | | 4,307,952 | |
| Removal of sequences with quality <20 and length <150 bp | PRINSEQ | 4,854,574 | | 4,305,913 | |
| Dereplication, sorting by size and clustering into OTUs (removing singletons and chimeras) | VSEARCH, unoise3 (USEARCH) | | 657 | | 1805 |
| Removal of sequences with $\leq 80\%$ match & $< 80\%$ cover | R | 4,086,417 | 484 | 3,790,860 | 1531 |
| Removal of sequences with maximum abundance in negative controls | R | 3,872,930 | 464 | 3,710,741 | 1511 |
| Setting abundance of reads below filtering threshold of 0.3% (nrITS2) or 0.35% (nrITS1 and fungal nrITS2) to 0 for each replicate to account for leaking | R | 3,810,820 | | 3,762,751 | |
| Removal of algae, fungi and merging identical identifications | R | 2,170,250 | 79 | 2,201,842 | 83 |
| Manual removal of contaminations | R | 2,138,759 | 73 | 2,177,482 | 71 |

Table S5.2 Number of total reads and unique sequences for *trnL* remaining after each filtering step in OBITools and R.

| Filtering steps | Program/ command | Total reads | Unique sequences |
|--|---|----------------|---------------------|
| Raw reads | | 24,767,590 | |
| Pairwise alignment | <i>illumina pairedend</i> , score-min = 40 | 20,385,514 | |
| Assignment to samples | <i>ngsfilter</i> | 20,283,841 | |
| Merged identical reads | <i>obiuniq</i> & <i>obiannotate</i> | | 497,296 |
| Removal of reads with count <10 & < 10 bp length | <i>obigrep</i> | 19,655,209 | 15,780 |
| Identification & removal of PCR/sequencing errors | <i>obiclean</i> & R | 17,985,094 | 3,736 |
| Removal of sequences with $\leq 99\%$ match & <100% cover | R | 13,473,872 | 264 |
| Removal of sequences with maximum abundance in negative controls | R | 12,255,382 | 225 |
| Reduction of reads below filtering threshold of 1.0% of total reads for each replicate to account for leaking | R | 11,985,611 | |
| Manual removal of contaminations | R | 11,715,436 | 212 |

S6. Pollen, DNA and macrofossil results of all samples

Pollen spectra, plant macrofossil data and DNA metabarcoding results of the eleven studied faecal samples. Observations in pollen spectra denoted with a + were made after finishing the counting procedure. Fungal spores are expressed as percentages calculated on the total pollen sum. Abundance categories in macrofossil data are as follows: + = rare/present, ++ = frequent/common and +++ = abundant to dominant. For DNA metabarcoding, any reads below a relative read abundance of 0.1% are shown as + (present).

Table S6.1 Selwyn caribou A (modern) – surface material KfTe-1 Ice Patch

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro* | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) | Caribou Diet (Denryter et al., 2017) |
|--------------------|---|------------|--------|----------|------------|------------|---|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | | A = Avoided N = Neutral S = Selected U = Unknown |
| Apiaceae | tribe Oenantheae | | | 0.1 | | | U |
| | tribe Selineae | | | + | | | U |
| Asteraceae | indet. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 10.0 | | | | | N |
| | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> H.M.Hall & Clem. | | | | + | + | N |
| | subfamily Asteroideae | 5.0 | | + | | | U |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus</i> sp. | + | | | | | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sp. | 16.0 | ++ | 89.1 | 80.9 | 78.5 | S |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> (Aiton) G.Don | | | + | | + | N |
| Campanulaceae | <i>Campanula</i> sp. | | | + | | | |
| Caprifoliaceae | <i>Valeriana</i> sp. | | | + | | | A |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> Raf. | | | 0.2 | + | + | U |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 1.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Carex microchaeta</i> Holm | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Carex podocarpa</i> R.Br. | | | | + | | A |
| Ericaceae | indet. | 5.0 | | | | | U |
| | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (L.) Spreng. | | | + | | | N |
| | <i>Arctous alpina</i> (L.) Nied. | | | + | | + | N |
| | <i>Arctous alpina/rubra</i> | | | 0.4 | | | N |
| | <i>Arctous rubra</i> (Rehder & E.H.Wilson) Nakai | | | | + | | N |
| | <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> (L.) D.Don | | | + | + | | U |
| | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> L. | | | + | 0.1 | 0.4 | S |
| | <i>Erica</i> sp. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Pyrola</i> sp. | | | + | | | N |
| | <i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> Radius | | | 0.2 | | | A |
| | <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> Michx. | | | | + | + | A |
| | <i>Vaccinium</i> sp. | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> L. | | | 0.4 | 0.5 | 1.2 | S |
| | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> L. | | | + | + | 0.1 | A |
| Fabaceae | <i>Astragalus</i> sp. | | | + | + | | N |
| Family indet. | | 2.0 | | | | | |
| Liliaceae | <i>Gagea serotina</i> (L.) Ker Gawl. | | | + | | | U |
| Lycopodiaceae | <i>Lycopodium</i> sp. | 8.0 | | | | | A |
| | subfamily Lycopodioideae | | | + | | | A |

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| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------|---|-----|------|------|---|
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | + | | + | U |
| Onagraceae | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (L.) Scop. | | | + | + | + | N |
| | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> L. | | | | | + | N |
| Ophioglossaceae | <i>Botrychium</i> sp. | 2.0 | | | | | A |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> Adams | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | + | | | A |
| Pinaceae | indet. | 2.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Abies</i> sp. | 5.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Picea</i> sp. | 15.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Pinus</i> sp. | 10.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subsect. <i>Contortae</i> | | | + | | | A |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Veronica</i> sp. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Veronica wormskjoldii</i> Roem. & Schult. | | | + | | | U |
| Poaceae | indet. | + | + | | | | U |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> (Trin.) Andersson | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> Lam. | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Calamagrostis</i> sp. | | | | | + | A |
| | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (L.) | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Festuca altaica</i> Trin. | | | 0.1 | + | | N |
| | <i>Poa glauca</i> Vahl | | | | + | | N |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | 1.0 | | | | | N |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> (L.) Delarbre | | | + | + | | N |
| | <i>Oxyria digyna</i> (L.) Hill | | | + | | | N |
| Primulaceae | <i>Primula frigida</i> (Cham. & Schltdl.) A.R.Mast & Reveal | | | + | | | U |
| Pteridophyta | indet. | 4.0 | | | | | A |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | + | | | | | |
| | <i>Anemone</i> sp. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | 0.1 | | + | U |
| | <i>Anemone patens</i> L. | | | | | 0.1 | U |
| | <i>Anemone richardsonii</i> Hook. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | | | + | A |
| Rosaceae | indet. | 2.0 | | | | | U |
| | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | 0.1 | | | U |
| | <i>Dryas</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | | N |
| | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> L. | | | | 0.2 | 0.3 | N |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 0.6 | | + | N |
| | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> Jacq. | | | | + | | N |
| | subfamily Rosoidea | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Rubus arcticus</i> L. | | | | | + | A |
| | <i>Spiraea stevenii</i> (C.K.Schneid.) Rydb. | | | + | | | U |
| Salicaceae | indet. | | | 8.2 | | | S |
| | <i>Populus</i> sp. | + | | | | | S |
| | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 12.0 | + | | 16.4 | 15.7 | S |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes</i> sp. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Saxifraga</i> (sect. <i>Mesogyne</i>) | | | + | | | A |
| Violaceae | <i>Viola epipsila</i> var. <i>repens</i> (W.Becker) R.J.Little | | | + | | | A |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Drepanocladus/Sanionia</i> sp. | | + | | | | A |
| | <i>Sanionia uncinata</i> Loeske | | | + | + | | A |
| Anastrophyllaceae | <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> (Schmidel ex Schreb.) Loeske | | | | | + | A |

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| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|----|---|-----|-----|---|
| Aulacomniaceae | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> (Hedw.) Schwägr. | | | | + | + | A |
| Brachytheciaceae | <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> Loeske | | | | | + | A |
| Bryaceae | <i>Bryum</i> sp. | | + | + | | | A |
| | <i>Ptychostomum pallescens</i> (Schleich. ex Schwägr.) | | | | | + | A |
| Dicranaceae | indet. | | | + | + | | A |
| | <i>Dicranum</i> sp. | | + | | + | | A |
| | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> Sm. | | | | 1.2 | 0.2 | A |
| Grimmiaceae | <i>Bucklandiella</i> sp. | | | | + | | A |
| | <i>Niphotrichum</i> sp. | | | | | + | A |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum</i> Fleisch. | | | | | + | A |
| | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> (Hedw.) Schimp. | | | | + | + | A |
| | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> Mitten | | + | + | 0.3 | 0.1 | A |
| Hypnales | indet. | | | + | | | A |
| Mniaceae | indet. | | | | | + | A |
| Polytrichaceae | indet. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> (Hedw.) G.L. Sm. | | | | | 0.3 | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> Hedw. | | | | | 0.1 | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> Hedw. | | | | + | 1.4 | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum</i> cf. <i>strictum</i> Menzies ex Bridel | | ++ | | | + | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum commune</i> var. <i>commune</i> Hedw. | | ++ | | | 1.2 | A |
| Pottiaceae | indet. | | | | + | | A |
| Scapaniaceae | <i>Douinia ovata</i> (Dicks.) H.Buch | | | | | + | A |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> cf. <i>magellanicum</i> Brid. | | + | | | | A |
| Takakiaceae | indet. | | | | + | | A |
| Lichen | | | | | | | |
| Cladoniaceae | <i>Cladonia</i> cf. <i>rangiferina</i> (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg. | | + | | | | S |

* insufficient material was present for detailed macro analysis

Table S6.2 Selwyn caribou B (± 1.5 kyr) – core 2, 189-191cm, KfTe-1 Ice Patch

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) | Caribou Diet (Denryter et al., 2017) |
|--------------------|---|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|---|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | | A = Avoided N = Neutral S = Selected U = Unknown |
| Asteraceae | indet. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Antennaria</i> sp. | | 0.5 | | | | A |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 40.0 | 0.2 | | | | N |
| | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> H.M.Hall & Clem. | | | | 0.3 | | N |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 10.0 | | | | | U |
| Betulaceae | <i>Betula</i> sp. | | 2.3 | 8.5 | 18.9 | 10.9 | S |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | 0.3 | | | + | A |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | 7.7 | 0.1 | | | A |
| | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Wahlenb. | | | | 0.3 | | A |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Euthyceras</i> | | 0.3 | | | | U |
| | <i>Carex lachenalii</i> Schkuhr | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> (Fries) Soó | | | | 0.4 | | A |
| | <i>Eriophorum</i> sp. | | 2.3 | | | | N |
| Elaeagnaceae | <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> Nutt. | 1.0 | | | | | N |
| Equisetaceae | <i>Equisetum</i> sp. | | 1.8 | | | | N |
| Ericaceae | <i>Arctous alpina/rubra</i> | | | 0.1 | | | N |
| | <i>Pyrola</i> sp. | | | + | | | N |
| | <i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> Radius | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Vaccinium</i> sp. | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> L. | | | + | | | S |
| | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> L. | | | | 1.1 | 1.1 | A |
| Fabaceae | <i>Astragalus</i> sp. | | | + | | | N |
| | <i>Hedysarum</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | | | N |
| Family indet | indet. | 20.0 | | | | | U |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | 2.5 | 0.2 | | | N |
| | <i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i> Chaix | | | 0.1 | | | N |
| | <i>Juncus effusus</i> L. | | | | 2.9 | | N |
| | <i>Juncus oxymetris</i> Engelm. | | | | 0.4 | | N |
| | <i>Luzula</i> sp. | | | + | | | A |
| Juncaginaceae | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> L. | | | | 1.3 | | U |
| Liliaceae | <i>Gagea serotina</i> (L.) Ker Gawl. | | | + | | | U |
| Lycopodiaceae | <i>Lycopodium</i> sp. | | 1.1 | | | | A |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis</i> sp. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | 0.1 | | 1.0 | A |
| Pinaceae | indet. | 5.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Abies</i> sp. | 5.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Picea</i> sp. | 6.0 | | | | | A |
| | <i>Pinus</i> sp. | 8.0 | | | | | A |
| Poaceae | indet. | | 0.9 | | | | U |
| | <i>Arctagrostis</i> sp. | | 1.9 | | | | U |
| | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> Griseb. | | | | | + | U |
| | <i>Calamagrostis</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | | | A |
| | <i>Festuca</i> sp. | | 1.8 | | | | N |
| | <i>Hierochloe</i> sp. | | 1.4 | | | | N |
| | <i>Poa</i> sp. | | 9.1 | | | | N |
| | <i>Poa arctica</i> R.Br. | | | | | + | N |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|------|------|------|------|---|
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Veronica</i> sp. | | | + | | | U |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> (L.) Delarbre | | | + | | | N |
| | <i>Rumex</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | | | N |
| Pteridophyta | indet. | 5.0 | | | | | A |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | + | | | | | U |
| | <i>Anemone</i> sp. | | | + | | | U |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | 0.4 | 5.1 | 2.4 | U |
| | <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> Chaix | | | | 0.2 | | A |
| Rosaceae | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | | + | | U |
| | <i>Dryas</i> sp. | | 2.5 | | | | N |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 6.3 | | 1.7 | N |
| | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> Jacq. | | | | 1.0 | | N |
| | subfamily Rosoideae | | | + | | | U |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | | 9.1 | 84.1 | 67.1 | 78.5 | S |
| | <i>Salix alaxensis</i> (Andersson ex DC.) Coville | | | | | 0.2 | S |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Saxifraga</i> sp. | | 0.2 | | | | A |
| Selaginellaceae | <i>Selaginella</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | | | U |
| Taxaceae | <i>Taxus canadensis</i> Marshall | | | | | 1.2 | U |
| Unknown forb | | | 1.4 | | | | U |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | A |
| Anastrophyllaceae | <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> (Schmidel ex Schreb.) Loeske | | | | | 0.4 | A |
| Aulacomniaceae | <i>Aulacomnium</i> sp. | | 5.6 | | | | A |
| Dicranaceae | indet. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Dicranum</i> -type | | 15.3 | | | | A |
| | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> Sm. | | | | 0.5 | | A |
| | <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> Hedw. | | | | 0.8 | | A |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> (Hedw.) Schimp. | | | | + | 1.2 | A |
| | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> Mitten | | | + | + | 0.1 | A |
| Hypnales | indet. | | | + | | | A |
| Mniaceae | <i>Pohlia</i> sp. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Pohlia nutans</i> (Hedw.) H. Lindb. | | | | | 0.5 | A |
| Polytrichaceae | indet. | | | + | | | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum</i> sp. | | 2.6 | | | | A |
| | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> Hedw. | | | | | 0.8 | A |
| Pottiaceae | indet. | | | | + | | A |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. | | 2.5 | | | | U |
| Lichen | | | | | | | |
| Cladoniaceae | <i>Cladonia</i> sp. | | 7.2 | | | | S |
| Parmeliaceae | <i>Alectoria</i> sp. | | 4.6 | | | | S |
| | subfamily Parmelioideae (<i>Cetraria/Dactylina</i> sp.) | | 7.6 | | | | N |
| Peltigeraceae | <i>Peltigera</i> sp. | | 1.4 | | | | A |
| Stereocaulaceae | <i>Stereocaulon</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | | | A |
| Unknown lichen | | | 0.2 | | | | U |

Table S6.3 Selwyn caribou C (± 2.7 kyr) – core 1, 254-256cm, KfTe-1 Ice Patch

N.B. nrITS1 and nrITS2 did not produce any results.

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | Caribou Diet (Denryter et al., 2017) |
|-----------------|---|------------|-------|----------|---|
| | | | | | A = Avoided N = Neutral S = Selected U = Unknown |
| Amaranthaceae | <i>Blitum nuttallianum</i> Schult. | | | + | U |
| Apiaceae | subfamily Apioideae | | | 2.4 | U |
| | <i>Cymopterus sessiliflorus</i> (W.L.Theob. & C.C.Tseng) R.L.Hartm. | | | + | U |
| Asteraceae | tribe Anthemideae | | | 31.9 | U |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 10.0 | | | U |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 15.0 | | | N |
| | <i>Artemisia gmelinii</i> Web. ex Stechm. | | | 0.1 | N |
| Betulaceae | <i>Betula</i> sp. | 3.0 | 1.1 | 7.0 | S |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> (Aiton) G.Don | | | 1.7 | N |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | 0.7 | | A |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 1.0 | | | A |
| | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | 4 | | A |
| | <i>Eriophorum</i> sp. | | 0.4 | | N |
| Elaeagnaceae | <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> Nutt. | 3.0 | | | N |
| Ericaceae | indet. | 2.0 | | | U |
| | <i>Cassiope</i> sp. | | 0.4 | | A |
| | <i>Empetrum</i> sp. | | 1.1 | | S |
| Indet. | | 27.0 | | | U |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | 0.5 | | N |
| Lycopodiaceae | <i>Lycopodium</i> sp. | 1.0 | 0.2 | | A |
| | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (L.) Scop. | | | 2.5 | N |
| Onagraceae | indet. | 5.0 | | | A |
| Pinaceae | <i>Picea</i> sp. | 20.0 | | | A |
| | <i>Abies</i> sp. | 2.0 | | | A |
| Poaceae | indet. | 5.0 | 1.1 | | U |
| | <i>Arctagrostis</i> sp. | | 2.2 | | U |
| | <i>Calamagrostis</i> sp. | | 0.4 | | A |
| | <i>Festuca</i> sp. | | 1.1 | | N |
| | <i>Hierochloa</i> sp. | | 0.4 | | N |
| | <i>Poa</i> sp. | | 2.7 | | N |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | + | | | N |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> (L.) Delarbre | | | 0.6 | N |
| | <i>Oxyria digyna</i> (L.) Hill | | | + | N |
| Pteridophyta | indet. | 5.0 | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | 0.4 | U |
| | <i>Ranunculus nivalis</i> L. | | | 3.6 | U |
| | <i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i> Wahlenb. | | | 2.5 | U |
| Rosaceae | <i>Dryas</i> sp. | | 4.6 | | N |
| | subfamily Rosoideae | | | 0.5 | U |
| | <i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i> L. | | | 25.5 | N |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | + | 6 | 20.4 | S |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes</i> sp. | | | 0.7 | A |
| | <i>Micranthes nelsoniana</i> (D.Don) Small | | | 0.2 | A |
| | <i>Saxifraga</i> sp. | | 0.9 | | A |
| Selaginellaceae | <i>Selaginella</i> sp. | | 1.1 | | U |

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| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|------|---|---|
| Cryptogams | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | |
| Aulacomniaceae | <i>Aulacomnium</i> sp. | | 6.7 | | A |
| Dicranaceae | <i>Dicranum</i> -type | | 13.3 | | A |
| Mniaceae | <i>Pohlia</i> sp. | | | + | A |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichum</i> sp. | | 2.7 | | A |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. | | 4 | | A |
| Lichen | | | | | |
| Cladoniaceae | <i>Cladonia</i> sp. | | 24.6 | | S |
| Parmeliaceae | <i>Alectoria</i> sp. | | 10.2 | | S |
| | Subfamily Parmelioideae | | 5.3 | | S |
| Peltigeraceae | <i>Peltigera</i> sp. | | 2.9 | | A |
| Stereocaulaceae | <i>Stereocaulon</i> sp. | | 0.5 | | A |

Table S6.4 Oyogos Yar horse (± 5.4 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> L. | | | | 25.5 | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit. | | | | | + |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 0.6 | | | | |
| | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> (J.F. Gmel.) J. Toman | | | | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus</i> sp. | 0.9 | | | | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sp. | 1.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sect. <i>Apterocaryon</i> | 0.3 | | | | |
| Cyperaceae | Indet. | 3.6 | +++ | | | |
| | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Wahlenb. | | | 6.1 | | 0.1 |
| | <i>Carex rostrata</i> Stokes | | | | 1.7 | |
| | <i>Eriophorum</i> sp. | | | 66.7 | | |
| | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> Honck. | | | | 14.4 | 0.8 |
| Ericaceae | <i>Pyrola</i> sp. | 0.3 | | | | |
| | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> L. | | | | | + |
| Indet | | 0.2 | | | | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | | 0.6 | + |
| Onagraceae | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> L. | | | | 0.7 | |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | | | + |
| Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> sp. (<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| Pinaceae | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Abies</i> sp. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subgenus <i>Pinus</i> | 0.2 | | | | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> sp. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Hippuris</i> sp. | | | | | + |
| Poaceae | indet. | 91.6 | + | | | |
| | subtribe Agrostidinae | | | 5.6 | | |
| | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> Griseb. | | | | 2.3 | 4.2 |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> (Trin.) Andersson | | | | | 3.4 |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> / <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | | | 2.4 | | |
| | <i>Calamagrostis</i> sp. | | | | | 0.7 |
| | <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> Koeler | | | | 5.6 | |
| | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> R.Br. | | | | 44.2 | |
| | <i>Poa arctica</i> R.Br. | | | | | 1.7 |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 4.5 | | |
| Pteridophyta | indet. | 0.3 | | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | | 3.1 | |
| Rosaceae | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | | 1.4 | |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | | | + |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 0.4 | | 14.7 | | 15.7 |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Campylium</i> cf. <i>stellatum</i> (Hedw.) C.E.O.Jensen | | + | | | |
| Ditrichaceae | <i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> (Hedw.) Brid. | | | | | 5.3 |
| Family indet. | | 0.7 | | + | | |
| Mniaceae | <i>Plagiomnium</i> cf. <i>ellipticum</i> (Brid.) T.J. Kop. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Rhizomnium</i> cf. <i>pseudopunctatum</i> (Bruch & Schimp.) T.J. Kop. | | + | | | |
| Polytrichaceae | indet. | | | + | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|--|--|------|
| | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> (Hedw.) G.L. Sm. | | + | | | 68.1 |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. | + | + | | | |

Table S6.5 Yakutian bison (± 10.5 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Adoxaceae | <i>Sambucus williamsii</i> Hance | | | + | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 8.9 | + | | | |
| | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> L. | | | | 54.9 | 44.4 |
| | tribe Oenanthae | | | 14.4 | | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> (J.F. Gmel.) J. Toman | | | | 0.8 | 5.5 |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus</i> sp. | 3.0 | | | | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sp. | 1.4 | | | | 2.1 |
| | <i>Betula</i> sect. <i>Aptercaryon</i> | 2.3 | | | | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sect. <i>Betula</i> | 0.8 | | | | |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | + | | | | |
| | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | | | | + |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 6.1 | ++ | | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Wahlenb. | | | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Carex</i> | | | 13.3 | | |
| | <i>Carex chordorrhiza</i> L.f. | | | | 0.7 | |
| | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> (Fries) Soó | | | | + | |
| | <i>Carex rostrata</i> Stokes | | | | 1.7 | + |
| | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> L. | | | | 0.2 | + |
| | <i>Eriophorum</i> sp. | | + | 14.2 | | |
| | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> Honck. | | | | 16.2 | 1.2 |
| Dennstaedtiaceae | <i>Pteridium</i> sp. | 0.2 | | | | |
| Equisetaceae | <i>Equisetum</i> sp. | 3.0 | + | + | | |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 1.4 | | | | |
| Liliaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | + | 2.8 | 0.5 | 3.4 |
| Onagraceae | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> L. | | | | 0.7 | 1.0 |
| Pinaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subgenus <i>Strobus</i> | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subgenus <i>Pinus</i> | 0.2 | | | | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Hippuris</i> sp. | | | | | 0.6 |
| Poaceae | indet. | 71.1 | ++ | | | |
| | subtribe Agrostidinae | | | 1.0 | | |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> (Trin.) Andersson | | | | | 0.2 |
| | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> R.Br. | | | | 0.3 | |
| | <i>Calamagrostis</i> sp. | | | | | 0.1 |
| | <i>Poa arctica</i> R.Br. | | | | | + |
| Pteridophyta | indet. | 2.2 | | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | | | + |
| | <i>Anemone patens</i> L. | | | | | 0.1 |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | 2.9 | 2.5 | 5.7 |
| Rosaceae | <i>Alchemilla</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | + | 7.3 | 2.9 | 9.3 |
| | subtribe Fragariinae (<i>Potentilla</i> -type) | 0.6 | | | | |
| | subfamily Rosoideae | | | + | | |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 0.5 | + | 42.6 | 18.6 | 26.3 |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----|---|--|--|--|
| Algae | | | | | | |
| Zygnemataceae | <i>Spirogyra</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Calliergon</i> cf. <i>giganteum</i> (Schimp.) Kindb. | | + | | | |
| indet. | Type HdV-817 (bryophyte spores) | 7.4 | | | | |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. | 0.4 | | | | |

Table S6.6 Cape Blossom mammoth (± 14.4 kyr)

N.B. nrITS1 and nrITS2 did not produce any results.

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|------------|----------|
| Phanerogams | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | <i>cf. Chenopodium sp.</i> | | + | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 6.0 | | |
| | apioid superclade | | | + |
| | subfamily Apioideae | | | 0.8 |
| | tribe Oenantheae | | | 0.3 |
| | tribe Selineae | | | 1.1 |
| Asteraceae | indet. | | | + |
| | tribe Anthemideae | | | 32.6 |
| | <i>Arnica sp.</i> | | | 1.2 |
| | subtribe Artemisiinae | | | + |
| | <i>Artemisia sp.</i> | 7.2 | | |
| | <i>Artemisia qmelinii</i> Web. ex Stechm. | | | 0.1 |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 1.9 | | 0.2 |
| Betulaceae | <i>Betula sp.</i> | 4.5 | | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium sp.</i> | | | + |
| | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> (Aiton) G.Don | | | 2.1 |
| | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> F.W.Schmidt | | | 0.6 |
| Brassicaceae | <i>cf. Draba sp.</i> | | + | |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | 0.8 | | |
| | tribe Alsineae (<i>Cerastium/Silene sp.</i>) | | + | |
| | <i>Minuartia rubella</i> (Wahlenb.) Hiern | | + | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 4.8 | 90% (est.) | |
| | <i>Carex sp.</i> | | +++ | |
| | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Wahlenb. | | | 5.8 |
| | <i>Carex maritima</i> Gunnerus | | | 0.8 |
| | <i>Carex microchaeta</i> Holm | | | + |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Vignea</i> | | + | 5.0 |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Euthyceras</i> | | | 9.0 |
| Fabaceae | <i>Astragalus sp.</i> | | | + |
| Juncaceae | <i>Luzula sp.</i> | | + | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | 0.1 |
| Onagraceae | indet. | 1.3 | | |
| | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (L.) Scop. | | | 28.5 |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago sp.</i> | 0.7 | | |
| | <i>Plantago</i> sect. <i>Lamprosantha</i> | | | 0.3 |
| Poaceae | indet. | 69.8 | 5% (est.) | |
| | tribe Agrostidinae | | | 2.0 |
| | <i>Alopecurus sp.</i> | | + | |
| | <i>Bromus sp.</i> | | | + |
| | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> Scribn. | | | 1.8 |
| | <i>Elymus sp.</i> | | + | |
| | <i>Festuca kolymensis</i> Drobow | | | + |
| | <i>Koeleria asiatica</i> Domin | | | + |
| | <i>Poa sp.</i> | | + | |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 1.6 |
| | tribe Triticeae | | | 0.3 |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium sp.</i> | 0.8 | | |
| | <i>Polemonium boreale</i> Adams | | | 0.2 |
| Polygonaceae | subfamily Polygonoideae (<i>Rumex acetosella</i> -type) | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Rumex sp.</i> (<i>Rumex aquaticus</i> -type) | 0.2 | | |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | 1.7 |

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| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|---|-----|
| Rosaceae | indet. | | | |
| | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | 0.1 |
| | subtribe Fragariinae (<i>Potentilla</i> -type) | 1.0 | | |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> sp. | | + | 0.2 |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> cf. <i>hyperbatica</i> Malte | | + | |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> cf. <i>stipularis</i> L. | | + | |
| | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> L. | 0.5 | | 1.1 |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 0.3 | | |
| Cryptogams | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. | 0.2 | | |
| Thuidiaceae | <i>Thuidium abietinum</i> (Hedw.) Schimp. | | + | |

Table S6.7 Yukagir mammoth (± 22.5 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | indet. | 0.1 | + | | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 0.3 | | | | |
| | subfamily Apioideae | | | + | | |
| | tribe Oenantheae | | | 0.1 | | |
| Asteraceae | tribe Anthemideae | | | 9.8 | | |
| | subtribe Artemisiinae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 16.0 | | | | |
| | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit. | | | | 0.5 | 2.6 |
| | <i>Artemisia qmelinii</i> Web. ex Stechm. | | | + | | |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 0.2 | + | | | |
| | subfamily Cichorioideae (Liguliflorae) | 0.2 | | | | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium</i> sp. | | | 0.6 | | |
| | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> DC. | | | | 5.6 | 8.0 |
| | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> F.W.Schmidt | | | 16.7 | 69.0 | 60.0 |
| Brassicaceae | indet. | 0.7 | | | | |
| | <i>Draba</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Parrya nudicaulis</i> (L.) Regel | | | + | | |
| | <i>Smelowskia</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> (Pall.) Regel | | | | 6.0 | 11.8 |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | 4.7 | | | | |
| | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> L. | | | + | 0.1 | |
| | <i>Eremogone</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Eremogone capillaris</i> (Poir.) Fenzl | | | + | | |
| | <i>Sagina nivalis</i> Fr. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Silene</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola rosea</i> L. | | | + | | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | ++ | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Carex dioica</i> L. | | ++ | | | |
| | <i>Carex nardina</i> Fr. | | ++ | | | |
| | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> (Fries) Soó | | | | 0.3 | |
| Ericales | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 1.4 | | | | |
| | <i>Astragalus</i> sp. | | | 0.3 | | |
| | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> L. | | | | | 0.8 |
| | <i>Lotus</i> sp. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Oxytropis</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> DC. | | | + | + | 2.0 |
| | <i>Oxytropis splendens</i> Douglas | | | | 0.4 | |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| Liliaceae | Indet. | + | | | | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | + | | |
| Orchidaceae | <i>Epipactis</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | + | | |
| Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> sp. | 0.1 | | + | | |
| | <i>Papaver</i> sect. <i>Scapiflora</i> | | + | | | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Lagotis</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Plantago</i> sp. | 0.8 | | 0.1 | | |
| Plumbaginaceae | tribe Limonieae (<i>Armeria</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| Poaceae | indet. | 70.6 | +++ | | | |
| | indet. (cf. <i>Agrostis</i> sp.) | | + | | | |
| | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (L.) P.Beauv. | | | | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| | <i>Festuca kolymensis</i> Drobow | | | 0.3 | | |
| | <i>Festuca ovina</i> L. | | | | 0.2 | 1.0 |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| | <i>Glyceria</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Pleuropogon sabinei</i> R.Br. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Poa</i> cf. <i>arctica</i> R.Br. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Poa glauca</i> Vahl | | | | 1.1 | |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 0.1 | | |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Phlox hoodii</i> Richardson | | | + | | |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Persicaria</i> sp. (<i>P. maculosa</i> -type) | 0.3 | | | | |
| | subfamily Polygonoideae (<i>Rumex acetosella</i> -type) | 0.8 | | | | |
| | <i>Rumex</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Rumex acetosella</i> L. | | + | | | |
| Potamogetonaceae | <i>Stuckenia</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Primulaceae | cf. <i>Androsace</i> | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Androsace lehmanniana</i> Spreng. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Lysimachia</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | 0.7 | | | | |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | + | | + |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | + | 2.0 | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>nivalis</i> L. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus pedatifidus</i> var. <i>affinis</i> (R.Br.) L.D.Benson | | | + | | |
| | <i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>pygmaeus</i> Wahlenb. | | + | | | |
| Rosaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | subtribe Fragariinae (<i>Potentilla</i> -type) | 0.9 | | | | |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> sp. | | + | 1.7 | + | |
| | <i>Potentilla hookeriana</i> Lehm. | | | | | 0.4 |
| | <i>Potentilla hyparctica</i> Malte | | + | | | |
| | cf. <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> L. | 1.9 | | | | |
| | <i>Sanquisorba officinalis</i> L. | 0.1 | | | | |
| Salicaceae | indet. | | | 67.3 | | |
| | <i>Salix</i> cf. <i>arctica</i> Pall. | | + | | | |
| | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 0.2 | +++ | | 15.4 | 12.4 |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |
| Algae | | | | | | |
| Zygnemataceae | <i>Spirogyra</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| Hydrodictyaceae | <i>Pediastrum</i> sp. | 0.1 | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Drepanocladus</i> sp. | | | | | + |
| | <i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i> (Hedw.) Warnst. | | + | + | | |
| | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> (Müll. Hal.) Hedenäs | | | | + | |
| Bryaceae | <i>Bryum</i> sp. | | + | + | | |
| Entodontaceae | <i>Entodon concinnus</i> Paris | | + | | | |
| Hypnales | indet. | | | + | | |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> (Hedw.) G.L. Sm. | | + | | | |
| Pottiaceae | indet. | | + | | | |

Table S6.8 *Adycha mammoth* (± 25.6 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | indet. | 0.8 | | | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | tribe Apioideae (<i>Peucedanum</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| | <i>Peucedanum</i> sp. | | | 0.2 | | |
| | tribe Selineae | | | + | | |
| Asteraceae | tribe Anthemideae | | | 4.2 | | |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 18.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit. | | | | | + |
| | tribe Cardueae (<i>Arctium</i> -type; <i>Carlina</i> -type) | 0.5 | | | | |
| | subfamily Cichorioideae (Liguliflorae) | 0.5 | | | | |
| | tribe Gnaphalieae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Saussurea</i> sp. | | | 1.0 | | |
| Betulaceae | <i>Betula</i> sp. | 0.7 | | | | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Brassicaceae | indet. | 1.2 | | + | | |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | | | | | |
| | <i>Minuartia</i> sp. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | | | + | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 2.9 | | | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Vigneae</i> | | | 0.9 | | |
| | <i>Carex maritima</i> Gunnerus | | | + | | |
| Ericales | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> L. | | | | | + |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> L. | | | | | + |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus biglumis</i> L. | | | + | | |
| Onagraceae | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (L.) Scop. | | | 0.4 | | |
| Pinaceae | <i>Pinus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subgenus <i>Strobus</i> | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Pinus</i> subgenus <i>Pinus</i> | 1.0 | | | | |
| Poaceae | indet. | 72.4 | +++ | | | |
| | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> Lam. | | | | 0.2 | |
| | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> Griseb. | | | | | + |
| | <i>Bromus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> Scribn. | | | 16.2 | | |
| | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (L.) P.Beauv. | | | | 0.2 | |
| | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> R.Br. | | | | 0.1 | |
| | <i>Festuca ovina</i> L. | | | | | + |
| | <i>Poa arctica</i> R.Br. | | | | | + |
| | <i>Puccinellia</i> sp. | | | 76.8 | 38.5 | 1.0 |
| | <i>Puccinellia tenuiflora/vahlana</i> | | | | | 99.0 |
| | <i>Puccinellia vahlana</i> Scribn. & Merr. | | | | 61.0 | |
| Polypodiophyta | indet. | 0.8 | | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | 0.4 | | | | |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | 0.5 | | | + | |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Saxifraga sibirica</i> L. | | | | | + |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Dicranaceae | <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> Hedw. | | | | + | |
| Funariaceae | <i>Funaria</i> sp. | | | | + | |
| Glomeraceae | <i>Glomus</i> sp. | 5.9 | | | | |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> (Hedw.) Schimp. | | | | | + |
| hypnales | indet. | | | + | | |

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|---------------|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Algae | | | | | | |
| Zygnemataceae | <i>Zygnema</i> -type | 0.1 | | | | |

Table S6.9 Yukon horse (± 30.9)

N.B. nrITS1 and nrITS2 did not produce any results.

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|
| Phanerogams | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | indet. | 2.2 | | |
| Amaryllidaceae | <i>Allium</i> sp. | 0.2 | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | 0.9 | | |
| Asteraceae | tribe Anthemideae | | | 13.6 |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 27.4 | + | |
| | <i>Artemisia qmelinii</i> Web. ex Stechm. | | | + |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 1.9 | | |
| | subfamily Cichorioideae (Liguliflorae) | 0.6 | | |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus crispa</i> (Aiton) Pursh | | + | |
| | <i>Alnus incana</i> (L.) Moench | | + | |
| | <i>Betula</i> sp. | | + | |
| Brassicaceae | indet. | 0.2 | ++ | |
| | <i>Braya</i> sp. | | | 6.0 |
| | <i>Braya rosea</i> Bunge | | | 21.1 |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | | ++ | |
| | <i>Silene</i> sp. (<i>Silene vulgaris</i> -type) | 0.4 | | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 2.2 | ++ | |
| Ericaceae | <i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> Radius | | | + |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 0.4 | | |
| | <i>Oxytropis</i> sp. | | | 11.7 |
| Gentianaceae | <i>Gentianella</i> sp. | 0.2 | | |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | | 0.1 |
| | <i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i> Chaix | | | + |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | 0.1 |
| Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> sp. | 0.2 | ++ | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> sp. | 0.6 | | |
| Poaceae | indet. | 57.1 | ++ | |
| | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> Scribn. | | | 2.9 |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 29.2 |
| | tribe Triticeae | | | 4.9 |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | 0.2 | | |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Persicaria</i> sp. (<i>P. maculosa</i> -type) | 3.7 | | |
| | subfamily Polygonoideae (<i>Rumex acetosella</i> -type) | 0.4 | | |
| Primulaceae | <i>Androsace septentrionalis</i> L. | | ++ | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | 0.1 |
| Rosaceae | subtribe Fragariinae (<i>Potentilla</i> -type) | 0.9 | | |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 1.4 |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> sp. | | ++ | 8.9 |
| | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> L. | 0.2 | | |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | | + | |

Table S6.10 Abyland mammoth (± 32.4 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Amaranthaceae | indet. | + | | | | |
| Apiaceae | indet. | + | | | | |
| | tribe Oenantheae | | | 0.6 | | |
| | tribe Selineae | | | + | | |
| Asteraceae | indet. | | | + | | |
| | tribe Anthemideae | | | 10.7 | | |
| | subtribe Artemisiinae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 26.7 | | | | |
| | <i>Artemisia qmelinii</i> Web. ex Stechm. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit. | | | | 0.2 | |
| | <i>Arnica</i> sp. | | | 0.2 | | |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Aster-type; Senecio-type; Tubuliflorae) | 0.3 | | + | | |
| | tribe Cardueae (<i>Carduus</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| | subfamily Cichorioideae (Liguliflorae) | 0.3 | | | | |
| | <i>Saussurea</i> sp. | | | 0.9 | | |
| | <i>Tephrosia</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> (L.) W.D.J.Koch | | | + | | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> (Aiton) G.Don | | | + | | |
| | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> F.W.Schmidt | | | 0.7 | | |
| Brassicaceae | indet. | 3.8 | | 0.3 | | |
| | tribe Thelypodieae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> Nutt. | | | | 2.2 | + |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | 1.5 | | | | |
| | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> L. | | | 0.1 | + | |
| | <i>Cerastium maximum</i> L. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Dianthus</i> sp. | + | | + | | |
| | <i>Eremogone capillaris</i> (Poir.) Fenzl | | | + | | |
| | <i>Silene</i> sp. (<i>Silene vulgaris</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| | tribe Sileneae (<i>Lychnis</i> / <i>Viscaria</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| | <i>Silene samojedorum</i> (Sambuk) Oxelman | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | | + | | + |
| | <i>Stellaria borealis</i> Bigelow | | | + | | |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> Raf. | | | + | | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 0.5 | | | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | + | + | | |
| | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>juncea</i> (Fries) Soó | | | | 7.3 | |
| | <i>Carex duriuscula</i> C.A.Mey. | | | | 53.0 | 0.2 |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Euthyceras</i> | | | + | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> subgenus <i>Vignea</i> | | | 10.2 | | |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 1.0 | | | | |
| | <i>Astragalus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Oxytropis</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | tribe Trifolieae (<i>Trifolium repens</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i> Chaix | | | + | | |
| | <i>Luzula</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | 0.1 | | |
| Onagraceae | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> (L.) Scop. | | | 1.0 | | |
| Orobanchaceae | indet. (<i>Rhinanthus</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| | <i>Pedicularis</i> sp. | | | + | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|------|-----|------|------|------|
| | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Pedicularis verticillata</i> L. | | | + | | |
| Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> sp. | 0.8 | | 0.2 | | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago</i> sp. | 2.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Plantago</i> sect. <i>Lamprosantha</i> | | | 2.0 | | |
| Poaceae | indet. | 61.1 | +++ | | | |
| | subtribe Agrostidinae | | | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> Lam. | | | | 2.9 | |
| | <i>Bromus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> Scribn. | | | 11.3 | | |
| | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (L.) P.Beauv. | | | | | 0.3 |
| | <i>Festuca altaica</i> Trin. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Festuca kolymensis</i> Drobow | | | + | | |
| | <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | | | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Koeleria asiatica</i> Domin | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Poa</i> sp. | | | | 2.5 | |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 3.2 | | |
| | tribe Triticeae | | | 0.5 | | |
| | <i>Puccinellia tenuiflora/vahlana</i> | | | | | 4.3 |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | 0.3 | | + | | |
| Potamogetonaceae | <i>Stuckenia</i> sp. | | | 0.3 | | |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Persicaria</i> sp. (<i>P. maculosa</i> -type) | + | | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | + | | | | |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | + | | + |
| | <i>Anemone</i> sp. | + | | + | 0.3 | |
| | <i>Anemone patens</i> L. | | | 49.6 | 30.9 | 70.6 |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | 0.4 | | |
| | <i>Thalictrum</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| Rosaceae | indet. | 0.3 | | | | |
| | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | subtribe Fragariinae (<i>Potentilla</i> -type) | 2.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 0.5 | | |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> sp. | | | 2.4 | | |
| | subfamily Rosoideae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> L. | 0.3 | | 0.2 | | |
| Rubiaceae | tribe Rubieae (<i>Galium</i> -type) | + | | + | | |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix</i> sp. | | | 3.0 | | 24.6 |
| Saxifragaceae | section Mesogyne | | | + | | |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Pottiaceae | <i>Barbula unguiculata</i> Hedw. | | | | 0.7 | |
| | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> (Müll.Hal.) K.Saito | | | + | | |

Table S6.11 Maly Lyakhovsky mammoth (± 32.7 kyr)

| Family/order | Taxon | Pollen (%) | Macro | trnL (%) | nrITS1 (%) | nrITS2 (%) |
|--------------------|--|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| Phanerogams | | | | | | |
| Apiaceae | tribe Oenantheae | | | 0.6 | | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia</i> sp. | 1.0 | | | | |
| | subtribe Artemisiinae | | | + | | |
| | subfamily Asteroideae (Tubuliflorae) | 0.2 | | | | |
| | subfamily Cichorioideae (Liguliflorae) | + | | | | |
| | tribe Gnaphalieae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Saussurea</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Brassicaceae | indet. | 0.2 | | | | |
| | <i>Arabidopsis lyrata</i> (L.) O'Kane & Al-Shehbaz | | | 0.2 | | |
| | <i>Eutrema edwardsii</i> R.Br. | | | 0.1 | | |
| Caryophyllaceae | indet. | 0.4 | | | | |
| | <i>Stellaria</i> sp. | | | 0.3 | 2.6 | 4.9 |
| | <i>Stellaria borealis</i> Bigelow | | | + | | |
| | <i>Stellaria longifolia</i> Muhl. ex Willd. | | | + | | |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola rosea</i> L. | | | 0.1 | | |
| Cyperaceae | indet. | 0.4 | | | | |
| | <i>Carex</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> (Fries) Soó | | | | 4.2 | |
| | <i>Eriophorum</i> sp. | | | 22.9 | 0.7 | |
| | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> Honck. | | | | 3.3 | 0.8 |
| Fabaceae | indet. | 0.1 | | | | |
| | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> DC. | | | | | + |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus biglumis</i> L. | | | 1.0 | | |
| | <i>Juncus oxymeris</i> Engelm. | | | | + | |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> L. | | | 0.1 | + | + |
| Orobanchaceae | cf. <i>Pedicularis</i> sp. | 0.1 | | 0.3 | | |
| | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> Willd. | | | 0.1 | | |
| Poaceae | indet. | 96.9 | +++ | | | |
| | tribe Agrostidinae | | | 0.3 | | |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> (Trin.) Andersson | | | | | 7.5 |
| | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> / <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | | | 21.5 | | |
| | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> Lam. | | | | 28.7 | 9.8 |
| | <i>Bromus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> Scribn. | | | 1.3 | | |
| | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> R.Br. | | | | 9.5 | 5.0 |
| | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (L.) P.Beauv. | | | | 42.2 | 21.6 |
| | <i>Festuca altaica</i> Trin. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Hordeum</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Pleuropogon sabinei</i> R.Br. | | | 0.6 | | |
| | tribe Poeae | | | 40.6 | | |
| | tribe Triticeae | | | + | | |
| | <i>Puccinellia</i> sp. | | | 2.1 | 3.2 | |
| | <i>Puccinellia vahliana</i> Scribn. & Merr. | | | | 0.6 | |
| Papaveraceae | <i>Papaver</i> sp. | 0.5 | | | | |
| Pinaceae | <i>Pinus</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Hippuris</i> sp. | | | | | + |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium</i> sp. | + | | | | |
| Polygonaceae | subfamily Polygonoideae (<i>Rumex</i>) | 0.3 | | | | |
| | <i>Rumex</i> sp. | | | + | | |
| Ranunculaceae | indet. | + | | | | |
| | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> (L.) Holub | | | | | + |
| | <i>Anemone patens</i> L. | | | | | 0.4 |
| | <i>Caltha palustris</i> L. | | | 2.4 | | 7.0 |
| | <i>Comarum palustre</i> L. | | | 0.1 | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|
| | <i>Ranunculus pedatifidus</i> var. <i>affinis</i> (R.Br.) L.D.Benson | | | 0.1 | | |
| Rosaceae | <i>Geum</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Potentilla</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| Salicaceae | indet. | | | 3.0 | | |
| | <i>Salix</i> sp. | | | | + | |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes</i> sp. | | | 0.1 | | |
| | <i>Saxifraga sibirica</i> L. | | | | | 8.1 |
| | <i>Saxifraga</i> sect. <i>Mesogyne</i> | | | 1.0 | | |
| Cryptogams | | | | | | |
| Bryophyta | | | | | | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Campylium stellatum</i> (cf. var. <i>stellatum</i>) (Hedw.) C.E.O.Jensen | | + | | | |
| | <i>Cratoneuron filicinum</i> (Hedw.) Spruce | | | + | | |
| | <i>Drepanocladus</i> sp. | | + | + | | |
| | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> (Müll. Hal.) Hedenäs | | | | 0.2 | 1.2 |
| | <i>Warnstorfia sarmentosa</i> Hedenäs | | + | | | |
| Bartramiaceae | <i>Philonotis</i> cf. <i>arnellii</i> Husn. | | + | | | |
| Bryaceae | <i>Bryum</i> sp. | | + | + | | |
| | <i>Pohlia</i> cf. <i>nutans</i> (Hedw.) H. Lindb. | | + | | | |
| Dicranaceae | <i>Dicranum bonjeanii</i> De Not. | | | + | | |
| | <i>Dicranoweisia</i> cf. <i>cirrata</i> (Hedw.) Lindb. | | + | | | |
| Distichiaceae | <i>Distichium</i> sp. | | + | | | |
| Funariaceae | <i>Funaria</i> sp. | | | | 2.8 | |
| Hypnales | indet. | | | + | | |
| Mniaceae | <i>Cinclidium stygium</i> Sw. | | + | | | |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> (Hedw.) G.L. Sm. | | + | | | 33.4 |
| Pottiaceae | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> (Müll.Hal.) K.Saito | | | | 1.9 | |
| Liverwort | | | | | | |
| Ricciaceae | <i>Riccia</i> sp. | + | | | | |

Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

Marcel Polling, Anneke T.M. ter Schure, Bas van Geel, Tom van Bokhoven, Sanne Boessenkool, Glen MacKay, Bram W. Langeveld, María Ariza, Hans van der Plicht, Albert V. Protopopov, Alexei Tikhonov, Hugo de Boer, Barbara Gravendeel

Supporting Information (2/3)

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- Table S8** *Trn* L sequence average read counts and relative read abundance per sample
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------|------|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-----------|--|----|----------------------|
| M01334.3:OTU_0039 | 8598 | 1.00 | 0.87 | 100 | Hypnales | | | | Hypnales1 | order | atcttattcttttggaggataa | 27 | moss |
| M01334.3:OTU_0315 | 441 | 1.00 | 0.73 | 100 | Hypnales | | | | Hypnales2 | order | atctattcttggtagataa | 22 | moss |
| M01334.3:OTU_1375 | 80 | 1.00 | 0.73 | 100 | Hypnales | | | | Hypnales3 | order | atctattcttggtaaataa | 22 | moss |
| M01334.3:OTU_1381 | 78 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Orobanchaceae | Pediculariidae | Pedicularis | Pedicularis capitata | species | atctctcttttttcaaaaacaaaggttcagaaaacgaaaaag | 44 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0069 | 3890 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Orobanchaceae | Pediculariidae | Pedicularis | Pedicularis sudetica | species | atctctcttttttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaag | 45 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1872 | 30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Orobanchaceae | Pediculariidae | Pedicularis | Pedicularis verticillata | species | atctctcttttttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaag | 45 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0049 | 4332 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Orobanchaceae | Pediculariidae | Pedicularis | Pedicularis | genus | atctctcttttttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaag | 46 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0433 | 23505 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | | Plantago | Plantago (sect. Lamprosantha) | genus | atctctcttttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaag | 41 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1256 | 126 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | | Logotis | Logotis | genus | atccrcttctcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaag | 39 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1286 | 103 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | | Veronica | Veronica wormskjoldii | species | atctcttcttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaaag | 43 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_2359 | 31 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | | Veronica | Veronica | genus | atctcttcttcaaaaacaaaggttcgaaaacgaaaaaag | 44 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1161 | 256 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Liliales | Liliaceae | Lilioideae | Gagea | Gagea serotina | species | atcttttttttgaaaaaaggtttaatttaataaagtattgttttttaataataaaaactcaataaaaaaag | 77 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1569 | 48 | 1.00 | 0.65 | 100 | Lycopodiales | Lycopodiaceae | Lycopodiidae | | | subfamily | atctcgtttagcaaatggcgg | 21 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0004 | 2631745 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | | Saliceae | | tribe | atctatttttcgaaaaacaaaggttcataaagacagataagaatacaaaag | 56 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| M01334.3:OTU_1549 | 50 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Malpighiales | Violaceae | | Viola | Viola epipsila var. repens | species | atctatttttttaaatgaaaaaagtttatatagacagataaataaaaaag | 53 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0933 | 431012 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | Epilobieae | Chamaenerion angustifolium | species | atctattttacgaaaacacacccgggggttagaaaagcgataaaaaaaaag | 54 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1063 | 527 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | Epilobieae | Chamaenerion latifolium | species | atctattttacgaaaacacacccgggggttagaaaagcgataaaaaaaaag | 54 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0315 | 391 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 100 | Pinales | Pinaceae | | Pinus | Pinus | genus | atccgcttcgtagacaagttttcttctccaagtaggaaggg | 45 | coniferous tree |
| M01334.3:OTU_1456 | 62 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Pinales | Pinaceae | | Pinus | Pinus (subsect. Contortae) | genus | atccgcttcgtagacaagttttcttctccaagtaggaaggg | 45 | coniferous tree |
| M01334.3:OTU_0169 | 56200 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex | species | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0936 | 129019 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Carex) | species | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 83 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_1177 | 199 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex microchaeta | species | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0934 | 133666 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Carex) | genus | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 86 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0937 | 127804 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Euthyceras) | genus | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 81 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0316 | 419 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Vignea) | species | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0958 | 10781 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Vignea) | species | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 83 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0109 | 204701 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | Carex (subg. Vignea) | genus | atctcttttttgaaaaaagaatatataaaatattcttttcagataagaataataatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0026 | 646430 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Scirpeae | Eriophorum | genus | atctcttattttgaaaaatgagagatataaaatattcttttattataagaataaaatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0027 | 139081 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Scirpeae | Eriophorum sp. (scheuchzeri/russeolum) | genus | atctcttattttgaaaaatgagagatataaaatattcttttattataagaataaaatatttttctatctaattaaa | 82 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0259 | 725 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Juncus | Juncus alpinoarticulatus | species | atctttatttgagatattgtttttatataaaaaagaatacaaaaa | 50 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0035 | 12148 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Juncus | Juncus biglumis | species | atctttatttgagatattgtttttatataaaaaagaatacaaaaa | 50 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0103 | 1870 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Juncus | Juncus | genus | atctttatttgagatattgtttttatataaaaaagaatacaaaaa | 50 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0954 | 14748 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | Luzula | Luzula | genus | atcttaacttgagaagaatgttttttctcataaaaactagatacaaaaag | 56 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0015 | 396306 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Bromeae | Bromus pumpeilius | species | atccrcttttgaaaaaaaagggggttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 57 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_1623 | 108 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Bromeae | Bromus | genus | atccrcttttgaaaaaaaagggggttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 55 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0120 | 4530 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Hordeineae | Hordeum | genus | atccrcttttgagaagggttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 47 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0045 | 6917 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Meliceae | Pleurapogon | species | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 52 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0551 | 76203 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Agrostidinae | subtribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 58 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_1317 | 99 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Agrostidinae | subtribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 58 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_1005 | 1686 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Aveninae | species | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0007 | 936448 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Coleanthinae | genus | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0017 | 272796 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | incertae sedis | genus | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0998 | 1831 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Lolinae | species | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0038 | 4407 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Lolinae | species | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0014 | 409263 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Festuca | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0118 | 199959 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae1 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0033 | 14713 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae2 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0282 | 804 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae3 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0260 | 555 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae4 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0587 | 295 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae5 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0059 | 17831 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Poeae6 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 53 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0087 | 97 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Triticeae1 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 52 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_0320 | 97 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | Triticeae2 | tribe | atccrcttttgagaagaactgttctcgactagataatcaaggaaaag | 52 | graminoid |
| M01334.3:OTU_1220 | 153 | 1.00 | 0.57 | 100 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | | family | atcttattcaaaatga | 17 | moss |
| M01334.3:OTU_1189 | 184 | 1.00 | 0.67 | 100 | Pottiales | Pottiaceae | | Didymodon | Didymodon icmadophilus | species | attttattataaaaaaacaa | 21 | moss |
| M01334.3:OTU_0994 | 2644 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Papaveraceae | Papaveroideae | Papavereae | Papaver | genus | atcttttttcgaaaaacaaatagggtttcgaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 54 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0055 | 7704 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | Anemonastrum | species | atctcttttttcgaaaaaacaaacaaacaaagggttcgagaagcaaaaataaacataaag | 68 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0076 | 695878 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | Anemone patens | species | atctcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 51 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1812 | 30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | Anemone richardsonii | species | atctcttttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 55 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1006 | 1629 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | Anemone | genus | atctcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 51 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0025 | 114615 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Caltheae | Caltha palustris | species | atccrcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0956 | 13563 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Ranunculeae | Ranunculus | species | atccrcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 49 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0066 | 1536 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Ranunculeae | Ranunculus nivalis | species | atccrcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0969 | 9259 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Ranunculeae | Ranunculus pygmaeus | species | atccrcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 48 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0287 | 292 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Ranunculeae | Ranunculus | genus | atccrcttttcgaaaaaacaaaggggttcgagaagcagataaaaaag | 47 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1224 | 146 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Amygdaloideae | Spiraeae | Spiraea stevenii | species | atccrctttttgaaaacgaagcagggtttcataactcataaactcagagataaaaaag | 59 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| M01334.3:OTU_1016 | 1216 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Dryadeae | Dryas | Dryas | genus | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgataaaaaag | 51 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| M01334.3:OTU_0951 | 18362 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Agrimoniae | Sanguisorbinae | Sanguisorba | species | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcacaaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0021 | 91811 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Coriariae | Geum | genus | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1319 | 95 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Alchemilla | genus | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0431 | 79793 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Fragariaeae | species | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0193 | 95560 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Fragariaeae | species | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0037 | 72319 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Potentillae | genus | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0999 | 1929 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Potentillae | subfamily | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0185 | 535 | 1.00 | 0.96 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Potentillae | subfamily | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1349 | 83 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoidaeae | Potentillae | Potentillae | subfamily | atccrctttttgaaaacgaaggttttcgagaagcgcgagataaaaaag | 52 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0978 | 4753 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | Sempervivoideae | Umbellieae | Rhodiola integrifolia | species | atctcttttccgaaaacacccaataaagggaataaaaaag | 45 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0062 | 1773 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | Sempervivoideae | Umbellieae | Rhodiola rosea | species | atctcttttccgaaaacacccaatacagggtttcaaaaagcgcgataaaaaag | 58 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_1124 | 615 | 1.00 | 0.83 | 100 | Saxifragales | Saxifragaceae | | | Micranthes | species | atctcttttccgaaaacacccaataaagggaataaaaaag | 26 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0204 | 4644 | 1.00 | 0.76 | 100 | Saxifragales | Saxifragaceae | | | Micranthes | genus | atccrctttttgaaaaaaaag | 23 | forb |
| M01334.3:OTU_0032 | 13163 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 100 | Saxifragales | Saxifragaceae | | | Saxifraga (sect. Mesogyne) | genus | atccrctttttgaaaaaacgacacacaaaggttcgaaaaaaggaaaaaagaatg | 55 | forb |

Any OTU with <0.01% relative read abundance is shown as a +
% represents the Relative Read Abundance

| Wolly mammoth | | | Horse | | | | | | | | | | Bison | Caribou | Controls | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------|---------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Abyland | Adycha | Cape Blossom | Maly Lyakhovskiy | Yukagir | Yukon | Oyogas Yar | Yakutian | Selwyn C | Selwyn B | Selwyn A | Positive | Negative | | | | | | | | | | |
| id | OTU | Total read | maxid | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Reads | % | | | | | | | | | | |
| M01334.3:OTU_0004 | 2944014 Saliceae | 13647.00 | 2.92 | 0 | 0 | 11895.67 | 2.95 | 289952.33 | 67.35 | 0 | 0 | 26959.00 | 14.69 | 142549.00 | 42.62 | 25495.00 | 20.26 | 300691.67 | 84.09 | 52521.67 | 8.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0007 | 990799 Puccinellia | 0 | 0 | 303822.67 | 76.85 | 0 | 0 | 8326.67 | 2.07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0014 | 429801 Poaeae1 | 50572.00 | 2.26 | 0 | 0 | 7589.33 | 1.61 | 100642.33 | 24.99 | 0 | 0 | 9397.67 | 20.13 | 8219.67 | 4.48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0015 | 413839 Bromus pumPELLIANUS | 52898.00 | 11.32 | 64252.33 | 16.25 | 8507.00 | 1.80 | 5100.33 | 1.26 | 0 | 0 | 1332.33 | 2.85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0017 | 287769 Arctophila fulva/Dupontia fisheri | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86452.67 | 21.47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4479.33 | 2.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0018 | 213559 Poaeae2 | 4075.00 | 0.87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62578.00 | 15.54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0019 | 961592 Anthemideae1 | 46685.33 | 9.99 | 14510.00 | 3.67 | 150691.67 | 31.93 | 0 | 0 | 41067.00 | 9.54 | 6134.00 | 13.14 | 0 | 0 | 38892.00 | 30.91 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0020 | 250817 Myosotis alpestris | 3108.67 | 0.67 | 0 | 0 | 2837.00 | 0.60 | 0 | 0 | 71945.67 | 16.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0021 | 96354 Geum | 2459.67 | 0.53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 416.00 | 0.10 | 699.33 | 0.16 | 664.00 | 1.42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22494.67 | 6.29 | 3870.00 | 0.61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0023 | 1990846 Betula | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8757.33 | 6.96 | 30434.67 | 8.51 | 569348.33 | 89.13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0025 | 130531 Caltha palustris | 2083.33 | 0.45 | 0 | 0 | 8217.33 | 1.74 | 9562.00 | 2.37 | 8747.67 | 2.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9594.67 | 2.87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0026 | 659212 Eriophorum sp. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46976.00 | 11.67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 121121.67 | 66.01 | 47379.00 | 14.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0027 | 141514 Eriophorum sp.(scheuchzeri/russeoa) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45134.67 | 11.21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1225.67 | 0.67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0030 | 26033 Saussurea | 4156.67 | 0.89 | 3916.67 | 0.99 | 0 | 0 | 183.67 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0032 | 14392 Saxifraga (sect. Mesogyne) | 220.00 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4115.00 | 1.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0033 | 15822 Poaeae3 | 172.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0035 | 12641 Juncus biglumis | 0 | 0 | 71.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 3978.00 | 0.99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0037 | 75815 Potentilla | 11178.67 | 2.39 | 0 | 0 | 1087.33 | 0.23 | 298.67 | 0.07 | 7393.33 | 1.72 | 4134.00 | 8.85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0038 | 5136 Festuca kolymensis | 36.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 69.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1363.00 | 0.32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0039 | 9405 Hypnales1 | 0 | 0 | 48.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 2754.33 | 0.68 | 63.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0045 | 7228 Pleuropogon sabinei | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2239.00 | 0.56 | 32.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0049 | 4662 Pedicularis | 158.33 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1166.33 | 0.29 | 57.33 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0053 | 11288 Eritrichium | 468.00 | 0.10 | 144.33 | 0.04 | 138.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 2648.33 | 0.62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0055 | 7954 Anemonastrum narcissiflorum | 83.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47.33 | 0.01 | 43.33 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 500.67 | 0.40 | 1352.00 | 0.38 | 541.00 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0059 | 18828 Triticeae1 | 2197.00 | 0.47 | 0 | 0 | 1318.33 | 0.28 | 157.00 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 2271.33 | 4.87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0061 | 2235 Arabidopsis lyrata | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 675.67 | 0.17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0062 | 2015 Rhodiola rosea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 414.33 | 0.10 | 158.00 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0066 | 1681 Ranunculus pedatifidus var. affinis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 332.33 | 0.08 | 164.00 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0069 | 4105 Pedicularis sudetica | 57.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 305.67 | 0.08 | 94.67 | 0.02 | 43.00 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 478.33 | 0.13 | 310.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0076 | 724601 Anemone patens | 231959.33 | 49.63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0084 | 700 Gnaphalieae | 0 | 0 | 183.33 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 28.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0087 | 27609 Anthemideae2 | 3131.00 | 0.67 | 641.33 | 0.16 | 3038.33 | 0.64 | 0 | 0 | 863.33 | 0.20 | 210.00 | 0.45 | 0 | 0 | 842.67 | 0.67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0092 | 752 Eutrema edwardsii | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 224.67 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0101 | 1628 Drepanocladus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 485.67 | 0.12 | 10.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0103 | 1973 Juncus | 33.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42.67 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 547.67 | 0.15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0109 | 207829 Carex (subg. Vignea) | 41352.33 | 8.85 | 3512.00 | 0.89 | 23369.33 | 4.95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0120 | 4704 Hordeum | 1158.33 | 0.25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 351.67 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0121 | 4135 Stellaria | 32.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1268.67 | 0.32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0125 | 4403 Astragalus | 30.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 51.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1126.33 | 0.26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58.00 | 0.02 | 22.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0135 | 547 Pinus | 0 | 0 | 3.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 30.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0155 | 534 Cratoneuron filicinum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0169 | 59694 Carex | 6209.67 | 1.33 | 0 | 0 | 11410.67 | 2.41 | 448.67 | 0.11 | 385.67 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 275.67 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0178 | 5492 Stuckenia | 1615.00 | 0.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 166.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0179 | 5091 Anthemideae3 | 17.33 | + | 1409.00 | 0.36 | 104.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 60.33 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0185 | 574 Rosoideae1 | 14.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82.33 | 0.02 | 69.33 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0193 | 96865 Sibbaldia procumbens | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31853.33 | 25.31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0204 | 4973 Micranthes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 506.33 | 0.13 | 170.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 858.00 | 0.68 | 0 | 0 | 13.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0224 | 257 Smelowskia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0228 | 29862 Euclidiace | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9866.00 | 21.13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0231 | 2732 Artemisiinae | 202.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 386.00 | 0.08 | 11.33 | + | 43.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0232 | 1873 Cerastium arvense | 372.33 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 201.00 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0256 | 3131 Bistorta vivipara | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0259 | 747 Juncus alpinoarticulatus | 15.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 740.33 | 0.58 | 111.00 | 0.03 | 141.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0260 | 595 Poaeae4 | 12.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 149.00 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 8.00 | 0.02 | 6.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0278 | 18155 Oxytropis | 165.00 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 364.33 | 0.08 | 5438.33 | 11.65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0280 | 7908 Arctous alpina/rubra | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 228.67 | 0.06 | 2320.67 | 0.36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0282 | 843 Poaeae5 | 16.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 37.00 | + | 174.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 13.33 | 0.03 | 10.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0287 | 312 Ranunculus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M01334.3:OTU_0304 | 7933 Vaccinium uliginosum | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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[illegible]

Table S9. Idenity and abundance of OTU's nrITS1

| OTU | Total read | ci | best_id | %cover | order | family | subfamily | tribe | subtribe | genus/subgenus | species | maxid | scientific ra | OTU sequence (truncated) | length of type |
|--------|------------|-------|---------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Otu042 | 7678 | 100 | 89 | Alismatales | Juncaginaceae | | | | | <i>Triglochin</i> | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 387 forb |
| Otu008 | 142153 | 100 | 100 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Apioidaeae | | Oenantheae | | <i>Cicuta</i> | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 345 forb |
| Otu020 | 52109 | 100 | 100 | Asparagales | Orchidaceae | Coelogyne | | | | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 370 positive control |
| Otu085 | 1540 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroidaeae | | Anthemideae | Artemisiinae | <i>Artemisia</i> | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 391 forb |
| Otu114 | 929 | 100 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroidaeae | | Anthemideae | Artemisiinae | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 390 forb |
| Otu084 | 2127 | 98.98 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroidaeae | | Senecioneae | Tussilagininae | <i>Endocellion</i> | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 392 forb |
| Otu090 | 1243 | 99.19 | 93 | Asterales | Menyanthaceae | | | | | <i>Menyanthes</i> | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 396 forb |
| Otu049 | 9753 | 99.73 | 98 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Boraginoideae | | Eritrichieae | | <i>Eritrichium</i> | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 373 forb |
| Otu017 | 120776 | 99.18 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Boraginoideae | | Eritrichieae | | <i>Myosotis</i> | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 366 forb |
| Otu131 | 408 | 99.49 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | | | | <i>Sisymbrium</i> | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 387 forb |
| Otu053 | 10501 | 100 | 86 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | | | | <i>Smelowskia</i> | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 385 forb |
| Otu110 | 1122 | 95.58 | 88 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | | | | <i>Smelowskia</i> | <i>Smelowskia</i> | <i>Smelowskia</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 385 forb |
| Otu105 | 780 | 97.34 | 99 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | | | Alsineae | | <i>Cerastium</i> | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 381 forb |
| Otu044 | 5978 | 98.68 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | | | Alsineae | | <i>Stellaria</i> | <i>Stellaria</i> | <i>Stellaria</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 380 forb |
| Otu255 | 28 | 99.40 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Polygonaceae | Polygonoideae | | Persicarieae | Koenigiinae | <i>Bistorta</i> | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 331 forb |
| Otu045 | 7176 | 100 | 89 | Dicranales | Dicranaceae | | | | | <i>Dicranum</i> | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 419 moss |
| Otu058 | 4475 | 100 | 100 | Dicranales | Dicranaceae | | | | | <i>Dicranum</i> | <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> | <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 400 moss |
| Otu207 | 77 | 100 | 89 | Dicranales | Dicranaceae | | | | | <i>Dicranum</i> | <i>Dicranum</i> | <i>Dicranum</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 417 moss |
| Otu273 | 27 | 100 | 88 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Arbutoideae | | | | <i>Arctous</i> | <i>Arctous rubra</i> | <i>Arctous rubra</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 372 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu261 | 25 | 100 | 85 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Cassiopoideae | | | | <i>Cassiope</i> | <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> | <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 384 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu149 | 400 | 99.50 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Ericoideae | | Empetreeae | | <i>Empetrum</i> | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 396 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu219 | 80 | 99.74 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | | | Pyroloideae | | <i>Pyrola</i> | <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 380 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu098 | 1824 | 98.47 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Vaccinoideae | | Vaccinieae | | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 392 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu061 | 6695 | 99.74 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Vaccinoideae | | Vaccinieae | | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 388 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu125 | 709 | 99.73 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | | Galegeae | | <i>Oxytropis</i> | <i>Oxytropis splendens</i> | <i>Oxytropis splendens</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 363 forb |
| Otu282 | 15 | 98.63 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | | | | <i>Astragalus</i> | <i>Astragalus</i> | <i>Astragalus</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 364 forb |
| Otu005 | 383914 | 99.72 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Betuloideae | | | | <i>Betula</i> | <i>Betula</i> | <i>Betula</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 352 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu043 | 6469 | 95.19 | 100 | Funariales | Funariaceae | | | | | <i>Funaria</i> | <i>Funaria</i> | <i>Funaria</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 398 moss |
| Otu303 | 13 | 98.44 | 86 | Grimmiales | Grimmiaceae | | | | | <i>Bucklandiella</i> | <i>Bucklandiella</i> | <i>Bucklandiella</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 295 moss |
| Otu157 | 362 | 99.75 | 100 | Hypnales | Amblystegiaceae | | | | | <i>Drepanocladus</i> | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 398 moss |
| Otu246 | 20 | 99.73 | 96 | Hypnales | Amblystegiaceae | | | | | <i>Sanionia</i> | <i>Sanionia uncinata</i> | <i>Sanionia uncinata</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 389 moss |
| Otu215 | 47 | 98.19 | 97 | Hypnales | Hylocomiaceae | | | | | <i>Hylocomium</i> | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 399 moss |
| Otu106 | 992 | 100 | 94 | Hypnales | Hylocomiaceae | | | | | <i>Pleurozium</i> | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 386 moss |
| Otu002 | 518851 | 100 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | | | Saliceae | | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 357 shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu096 | 1764 | 98.67 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | | Epilobieae | | <i>Epilobium</i> | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 377 forb |
| Otu233 | 18 | 99.70 | 89 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | | Epilobieae | | <i>Chamaenerion</i> | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 379 forb |
| Otu161 | 150 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 357 graminoid |
| Otu038 | 13727 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> | <i>Carex nigra</i> subsp. <i>junceae</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 355 graminoid |
| Otu315 | 15 | 99.44 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex podocarpa</i> | <i>Carex podocarpa</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 356 graminoid |
| Otu123 | 4400 | 100 | 99 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 358 graminoid |
| Otu254 | 615 | 99.44 | 99 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 357 graminoid |
| Otu080 | 1702 | 99.16 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Vignea</i> | <i>Carex chardorrhiza</i> | <i>Carex chardorrhiza</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 357 graminoid |
| Otu077 | 9807 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Cariceae | | <i>Carex</i> subg. <i>Vignea</i> | <i>Carex duriuscula</i> | <i>Carex duriuscula</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 357 graminoid |
| Otu034 | 49655 | 98.93 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Scirpeae | | <i>Eriophorum</i> | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 375 graminoid |
| Otu087 | 1611 | 96.60 | 99 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyperoideae | | Scirpeae | | <i>Eriophorum</i> | <i>Eriophorum</i> | <i>Eriophorum</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 384 graminoid |
| Otu026 | 16788 | 99.12 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | | | | <i>Juncus</i> | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 338 graminoid |
| Otu072 | 2072 | 98.51 | 100 | Poales | Juncaceae | | | | | <i>Juncus</i> | <i>Juncus oxymeris</i> | <i>Juncus oxymeris</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 336 graminoid |
| Otu209 | 48 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Agrostidinae | <i>Arctagrostis</i> | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 354 graminoid |
| Otu183 | 116 | 99.72 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Agrostidinae | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> | <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu016 | 66916 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Alopecurinae | <i>Alopecurus</i> | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 354 graminoid |
| Otu015 | 98214 | 99.72 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Aristaveninae | <i>Deschampsia</i> | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu004 | 330714 | 98.87 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Coleanthinae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia vahlana</i> | <i>Puccinellia vahlana</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu056 | 215237 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Coleanthinae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 349 graminoid |
| Otu156 | 23623 | 99.43 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | incertae sedis | <i>Dupontia</i> | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu221 | 101 | 98.31 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Festuca | <i>Festuca altaica</i> | <i>Festuca altaica</i> | <i>Festuca altaica</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 355 graminoid |
| Otu144 | 414 | 99.72 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Loliinae | <i>Festuca</i> | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu097 | 1917 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Poinae | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa glauca</i> | <i>Poa glauca</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu122 | 471 | 96.05 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | | Poeae | Poinae | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 353 graminoid |
| Otu343 | 12 | 97.69 | 96 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | | | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | species | GGACTTCTCGCGGAGGATCCC | 136 moss |
| Otu165 | 132 | 98.79 | 91 | Pottiales | Pottiaceae | | | | | <i>Barbula</i> | <i>Barbula unguiculata</i> | <i>Barbula unguiculata</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 365 moss |
| Otu060 | 4367 | 96.19 | 92 | Pottiales | Pottiaceae | | | | | <i>Didymodon</i> | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 426 moss |
| Otu172 | 158 | 84.53 | 95 | Pottiales | Pottiaceae | | | | | | <i>Pottiaceae</i> | <i>Pottiaceae</i> | family | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 380 moss |
| Otu024 | 29336 | 99.66 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | Anemoneae | | <i>Anemonastrum</i> | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflora</i> | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflora</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 295 forb |
| Otu063 | 5717 | 98.79 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | Anemoneae | | <i>Anemone</i> | <i>Anemone patens</i> | <i>Anemone patens</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 331 forb |
| Otu286 | 57 | 98.68 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | Anemoneae | | <i>Anemone</i> | <i>Anemone</i> | <i>Anemone</i> | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 380 forb |
| Otu068 | 6587 | 99.71 | 92 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | Caltheae | | <i>Caltha</i> | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 378 forb |
| Otu100 | 949 | 99.73 | 99 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | | | <i>Ranunculus</i> | <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> | <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 375 forb |
| Otu247 | 28 | 99.42 | 100 | Rhizogoniales | Aulacomniaceae | | | | | <i>Aulacomnium</i> | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 343 moss |
| Otu147 | 776 | 99.69 | 87 | Rosales | Rosaceae | | | Dryadeae | | <i>Dryas</i> | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 364 forb |
| Otu047 | 5607 | 97.55 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | | | Colurieae | | <i>Geum</i> | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 365 forb |
| Otu066 | 7675 | 99.48 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | | | Potentilleae | Fragariinae | <i>Comarum</i> | <i>Comarum palustre</i> | <i>Comarum palustre</i> | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 384 forb |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|-------|-----|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|-----|------|
| Otu267 | 16 | 97.42 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoideae | Potentilleae | Potentillinae | Potentilla | Potentilla | genus | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 388 | forb |
| Otu272 | 12 | 100 | 100 | Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | Sempervivoideae | Umbiliceae | | Rhodiola | Rhodiola integrifolia | species | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 362 | forb |
| Otu206 | 48 | 98.47 | 100 | Takakiales | Takakiaceae | | | | | Takakiaceae | family | AAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTA | 392 | moss |

No nrITS results were obtained for Cape Blossom mammoth, Yukon horse and Selwyn caribou C

| | | Wolly mammoth | | | | | | | | Horse | | Bison | | Caribou | | Controls | | | | | |
|--------|------------|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|---|
| | | Abyland | | Adycha | | Maly Lyakhovsky | | Yukagir | | Oyogas Yar | | Yakutian | | Selwyn B | | Selwyn A | | Positive | | Negative | |
| OTU | Total read | maxid | Average re % | Average rear % | Average re % | Average re % | | | Average re % | Average re % | Average re % | Average read % | Average read c % | | Average read c % | | Reads | % | Reads | % | |
| Otu002 | 518851 | <i>Salix</i> | 0 | 0 | 7.00 | + | 3.00 | + 9002.00 | 15.44 | 0 | 0 | 15967.00 | 18.56 | 66.89 | 18650.67 | 16.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu004 | 330714 | <i>Puccinellia vahliana</i> | 0 | 0 | 109800.00 | 61.00 | 438.00 | 0.58 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu005 | 383914 | <i>Betula</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36572.67 | 18.92 | 91398.67 | 80.92 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu008 | 142153 | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 175.67 | 25.5 | 47208.67 | 54.87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu015 | 98214 | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | 0 | 0 | 443.00 | 0.25 | 32082.67 | 42.23 | 212.33 | 0.36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu016 | 66916 | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | 178.33 | 2.89 | 312.67 | 0.17 | 21814.33 | 28.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu017 | 120776 | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40258.67 | 69.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu020 | 52109 | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52109 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu024 | 29336 | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflora</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9778.67 | 5.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu026 | 16788 | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5596.00 | 2.89 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu034 | 49655 | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2514.00 | 3.31 | 0 | 0 | 99.00 | 14.35 | 13938.67 | 16.20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu038 | 13727 | <i>Carex nigra subsp. juncea</i> | 452.00 | 7.32 | 0 | 0 | 3220.67 | 4.24 | 154.67 | 0.27 | 0 | 0 | 62.33 | 0.07 | 686.00 | 0.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu042 | 7678 | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2545.33 | 1.32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu043 | 6469 | <i>Funaria</i> | 0 | 0 | 9.00 | 0.01 | 2147.33 | 2.83 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu044 | 5978 | <i>Stellaria</i> | 0 | 0 | 7.33 | + | 1985.33 | 2.61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu045 | 7176 | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1030.33 | 0.53 | 1361.67 | 1.21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu047 | 5607 | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1861.67 | 0.96 | 7.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu049 | 9753 | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3251.00 | 5.57 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu053 | 10501 | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3500.33 | 6.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu056 | 215237 | <i>Puccinellia</i> | 0 | 0 | 69299.00 | 38.50 | 2446.67 | 3.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu058 | 4475 | <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> | 0 | 0 | 6.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1485.33 | 0.77 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu060 | 4367 | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1455.67 | 1.92 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu061 | 6695 | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2204.00 | 1.14 | 27.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu063 | 5717 | <i>Anemone patens</i> | 1905.67 | 30.88 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu066 | 7675 | <i>Comarum palustre</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.67 | 1.4 | 2477.33 | 2.88 | 71.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu068 | 6587 | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21.33 | 3.1 | 2174.33 | 2.53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu072 | 2072 | <i>Juncus oxymers</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 687.00 | 0.36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu077 | 9807 | <i>Carex duriuscula</i> | 3269.00 | 52.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu080 | 1702 | <i>Carex chordorrhiza</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 565.00 | 0.66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu084 | 2127 | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.33 | 0.5 | 705.67 | 0.82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu085 | 1540 | <i>Artemisia norvegica subsp. saxatilis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 498.33 | 0.26 | 10.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu087 | 1611 | <i>Eriophorum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 537.00 | 0.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu090 | 1243 | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 4.33 | 0.6 | 408.00 | 0.47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu096 | 1764 | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | 0.7 | 583.00 | 0.68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu097 | 1917 | <i>Poa glauca</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 634.00 | 1.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu098 | 1824 | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 608.00 | 0.54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu100 | 949 | <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 316.33 | 0.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu105 | 780 | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | 2.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 258.67 | 0.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu106 | 992 | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24.00 | 0.01 | 305.33 | 0.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu110 | 1122 | <i>Smelowskia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 372.33 | 0.64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu114 | 929 | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | 13.33 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 296.33 | 0.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu122 | 471 | <i>Poa</i> | 154.67 | 2.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu123 | 4400 | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11.67 | 1.7 | 1455.00 | 1.69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu125 | 709 | <i>Oxytropis splendens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 233.00 | 0.40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|---------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|---|---|
| Otu131 | 408 <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | 135.33 | 2.19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu144 | 414 <i>Festuca ovina</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136.00 | 0.23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu147 | 776 <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 258.67 | 0.23 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu149 | 400 <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 133.33 | 0.12 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu156 | 23623 <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | 0 | 0 | 105.33 | 0.06 | 7218.00 | 9.50 | 0 | 0 | 305.00 | 44.2 | 246.00 | 0.29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu157 | 362 <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 116.00 | 0.15 | 4.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu161 | 150 <i>Carex aquatilis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50.00 | 0.06 | 600.00 | 0.31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu165 | 132 <i>Barbula unguiculata</i> | 43.00 | 0.70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu172 | 158 Pottiaceae | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48.67 | 0.03 | 4.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu183 | 116 <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38.67 | 5.6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu206 | 48 Takakiaceae | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu207 | 77 <i>Dicranum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu209 | 48 <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.00 | 2.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu215 | 47 <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13.33 | + | 2.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu219 | 80 <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu221 | 101 <i>Festuca altaica</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu233 | 18 <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu246 | 20 <i>Sanionia uncinata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6.67 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu247 | 28 <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.33 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu254 | 615 <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 202.00 | 0.23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu255 | 28 <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.33 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu261 | 25 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.33 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu267 | 16 <i>Potentilla</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu272 | 12 <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu273 | 27 <i>Arctous rubra</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu282 | 15 <i>Astragalus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu286 | 57 <i>Anemone</i> | 19.00 | 0.31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu303 | 13 <i>Bucklandiella</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.33 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu315 | 15 <i>Carex podocarpa</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.00 | + | 0 | 0 |
| Otu343 | 12 <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.00 | + | 0 | 0 |

Table S11. Identity and abundance of OTU's nrITS2

| OTU | Total read | best_id_NKcover | order | family | subfamily | tribe | subtribe | genus/subgenus | species | maxid | scientific ra | OTU sequence (truncated) | length | type |
|--------|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|---|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Otu005 | 166638 | 100 | 100 | Apiales | Apiaceae | Apiodeae | Oenantheae | <i>Cicuta</i> | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | species | TCCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 406 | forb |
| Otu020 | 109350 | 100 | 100 | Asparagales | Orchidaceae | | | <i>Coelogyne</i> | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 429 | positive control |
| Otu180 | 185 | 99.50 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroideae | Anthemideae | <i>Artemisia</i> | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> | <i>Artemisia norvegica subsp. saxatilis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCATGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 400 | forb |
| Otu070 | 7099 | 99.50 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroideae | Anthemideae | <i>Artemisia</i> | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 401 | forb |
| Otu026 | 20691 | 99.75 | 100 | Asterales | Asteraceae | Asteroideae | Senecioneae | <i>Endocellion</i> | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCAGCGATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 400 | forb |
| Otu051 | 13113 | 99.01 | 100 | Asterales | Menyanthaceae | | | <i>Menyanthes</i> | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 402 | forb |
| Otu030 | 21115 | 100 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Boraginoideae | Eritrichieae | <i>Eritrichium</i> | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 400 | forb |
| Otu008 | 157471 | 100 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Boraginoideae | Eritrichieae | <i>Myosotis</i> | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 403 | forb |
| Otu160 | 111 | 99.75 | 100 | Boraginales | Boraginaceae | Boraginoideae | | <i>Mertensia</i> | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 399 | forb |
| Otu251 | 5 | 97.27 | 100 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | Sisymbrieae | <i>Sisymbrium</i> | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 366 | forb |
| Otu017 | 30925 | 98.35 | 98 | Brassicales | Brassicaceae | | Smelowskieae | <i>Smelowskia</i> | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 369 | forb |
| Otu227 | 15 | 99.78 | 100 | Bryales | Aulacomniaceae | | | <i>Aulacomnium</i> | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTCGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 459 | mooss |
| Otu224 | 31 | 98.54 | 100 | Bryales | Bryaceae | | | <i>Ptychostomum</i> | <i>Ptychostomum pallescens</i> | <i>Ptychostomum pallescens</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 477 | moss |
| Otu100 | 1627 | 99.78 | 100 | Bryales | Mniaceae | | | <i>Pohlia</i> | <i>Pohlia nutans</i> | <i>Pohlia nutans</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 444 | moss |
| Otu210 | 78 | 88.64 | 100 | Bryales | Mniaceae | | | | | Mniaceae | family | TCTTGGCTCCCGTATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 384 | moss |
| Otu075 | 4854 | 98.25 | 100 | Caryophyllales | Caryophyllaceae | | Alsineae | <i>Stellaria</i> | <i>Stellaria</i> | <i>Stellaria</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 401 | forb |
| Otu143 | 1084 | 100 | 100 | Dicranales | Dicranaceae | | | <i>Dicranum</i> | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 506 | moss |
| Otu054 | 8506 | 100 | 99 | Dicranales | Ditrichaceae | | | <i>Ceratodon</i> | <i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> | <i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 477 | moss |
| Otu225 | 39 | 98.53 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Arbutoideae | | <i>Arctous</i> | <i>Arctous alpina</i> | <i>Arctous alpina</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 402 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu107 | 1960 | 100 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Ericoideae | Empetreeae | <i>Empetrum</i> | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 405 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu173 | 121 | 100 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Pyroloideae | | <i>Pyrola</i> | <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 412 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu071 | 5734 | 98.03 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Vaccinioideae | Vaccinieae | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu234 | 3953 | 99.75 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Vaccinioideae | Vaccinieae | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu242 | 48 | 98.77 | 100 | Ericales | Ericaceae | Vaccinioideae | Vaccinieae | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium</i> | <i>Vaccinium</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu090 | 1993 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | Galegeae | <i>Astragalus</i> | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 391 | forb |
| Otu052 | 5231 | 100 | 100 | Fabales | Fabaceae | Faboideae | Galegeae | <i>Oxytropis</i> | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> | species | TCTAGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 392 | forb |
| Otu001 | 412353 | 100 | 100 | Fagales | Betulaceae | Betuloideae | | <i>Betula</i> | <i>Betula</i> | <i>Betula</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 402 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu246 | 14 | 96.87 | 93 | Grimmiales | Grimmiaceae | | | <i>Niphotrichum</i> | <i>Niphotrichum</i> | <i>Niphotrichum</i> | genus | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 481 | moss |
| Otu121 | 1340 | 100 | 100 | Hypnales | Amblystegiaceae | | | <i>Drepanocladus</i> | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 442 | moss |
| Otu244 | 13 | 99.06 | 99 | Hypnales | Brachytheciaceae | | | <i>Tomentypnum</i> | <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> | <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 427 | moss |
| Otu228 | 13 | 100 | 99 | Hypnales | Hylocomiaceae | | | <i>Hylocomium</i> | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 439 | moss |
| Otu079 | 3809 | 100 | 98 | Hypnales | Hylocomiaceae | | | <i>Pleurozium</i> | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 426 | moss |
| Otu130 | 510 | 100 | 100 | Hypnales | Hylocomiaceae | | | <i>Barbilophozia</i> | <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> | <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 453 | moss |
| Otu125 | 1272 | 97.14 | 100 | Jungermanniales | Anastrophyllaceae | | | <i>Douinia</i> | <i>Douinia ovata</i> | <i>Douinia ovata</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 439 | moss |
| Otu262 | 16 | 100 | 99 | Jungermanniales | Scapaniaceae | | | <i>Pedicularis</i> | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 408 | forb |
| Otu069 | 3140 | 99.76 | 100 | Lamiales | Orobanchaceae | Pedicularideae | | <i>Hippuris</i> | <i>Hippuris</i> | <i>Hippuris</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 388 | forb |
| Otu088 | 2342 | 95.40 | 100 | Lamiales | Plantaginaceae | Callitricheae | | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix alexensis</i> | <i>Salix alexensis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 391 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu122 | 699 | 97.95 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | Saliceae | | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix</i> | <i>Salix</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 391 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu002 | 512554 | 99.744 | 100 | Malpighiales | Salicaceae | Saliceae | | <i>Chamaenerion</i> | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 393 | forb |
| Otu178 | 169 | 97.51 | 92 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | Epilobieae | <i>Epilobium</i> | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 391 | forb |
| Otu089 | 3682 | 99.74 | 100 | Myrtales | Onagraceae | Onagroideae | Epilobieae | <i>Taxus</i> | <i>Taxus canadensis</i> | <i>Taxus canadensis</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 403 | coniferous tree |
| Otu084 | 3684 | 99.50 | 100 | Pinales | Taxaceae | | | <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex subg. Carex</i> | <i>Carex subg. Carex</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | graminoid |
| Otu148 | 476 | 99.26 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | graminoid |
| Otu187 | 87 | 99.75 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 407 | graminoid |
| Otu261 | 10 | 99.26 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Cariceae | <i>Carex</i> | <i>Carex subg. Vignea</i> | <i>Carex subg. Vignea</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 402 | graminoid |
| Otu146 | 247 | 99.50 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Scirpeae | <i>Eriophorum</i> | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 434 | graminoid |
| Otu073 | 6714 | 99.31 | 100 | Poales | Cyperaceae | Cyeroideae | Scirpeae | <i>Arctagrostis</i> | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 390 | graminoid |
| Otu068 | 6830 | 98.97 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | <i>Calamagrostis</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 392 | graminoid |
| Otu140 | 1352 | 99.75 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Alopecurus</i> | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 393 | graminoid |
| Otu050 | 9804 | 98.98 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Deschampsia</i> | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 395 | graminoid |
| Otu042 | 24297 | 99.24 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia (tenuiflora/vahlana)</i> | <i>Puccinellia (tenuiflora/vahlana)</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 393 | graminoid |
| Otu003 | 348562 | 99.24 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia</i> | <i>Puccinellia</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 393 | graminoid |
| Otu062 | 3332 | 99.49 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Arctophila</i> | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 394 | graminoid |
| Otu040 | 13996 | 99.24 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Dupontia</i> | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 394 | graminoid |
| Otu055 | 4934 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Festuca</i> | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 394 | graminoid |
| Otu092 | 2582 | 100 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Poa</i> | <i>Poa arctica</i> | <i>Poa arctica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 391 | graminoid |
| Otu074 | 2755 | 99.49 | 100 | Poales | Poaceae | Pooideae | Poeae | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum alpinum</i> | <i>Polytrichum alpinum</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 418 | moss |
| Otu010 | 144687 | 100 | 100 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum commune</i> | <i>Polytrichum commune</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 493 | moss |
| Otu104 | 5535 | 99.78 | 94 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> | <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 442 | moss |
| Otu162 | 429 | 100 | 100 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 473 | moss |
| Otu064 | 8899 | 100 | 93 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | <i>Polytrichum</i> | <i>Polytrichum strictum</i> | <i>Polytrichum strictum</i> | species | TCTTGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 438 | moss |
| Otu263 | 88 | 100 | 100 | Polytrichales | Polytrichaceae | | | <i>Anemonastrum</i> | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflora</i> | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 385 | forb |
| Otu080 | 7613 | 99.48 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | <i>Anemone</i> | <i>Anemone patens</i> | <i>Anemone patens</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 395 | forb |
| Otu011 | 106430 | 98.73 | 100 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | Anemoneae | <i>Caltha</i> | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 396 | forb |
| Otu024 | 28383 | 98.62 | 92 | Ranunculales | Ranunculaceae | Ranunculoideae | | <i>Dryas</i> | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 396 | forb |
| Otu145 | 1325 | 98.63 | 92 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Dryadoideae | | <i>Geum</i> | <i>Geum</i> | <i>Geum</i> | genus | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 386 | forb |
| Otu057 | 5448 | 96.37 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoideae | | <i>Potentilla</i> | <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> | <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 386 | forb |
| Otu032 | 34930 | 99.48 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoideae | Potentillaeae | <i>Fraxinaria</i> | <i>Fraxinaria</i> | <i>Fraxinaria</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 386 | forb |
| Otu103 | 1183 | 98.71 | 100 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoideae | Potentillaeae | <i>Potentilla</i> | <i>Potentilla hookeriana</i> | <i>Potentilla hookeriana</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 386 | forb |
| Otu182 | 99 | 100 | 96 | Rosales | Rosaceae | Rosoideae | Rubaeae | <i>Rubus</i> | <i>Rubus arcticus</i> | <i>Rubus arcticus</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 386 | shrub/deciduous tree |
| Otu192 | 152 | 99.24 | 100 | Saxifragales | Crassulaceae | Sempervivoideae | Umbiliceae | <i>Rhodiola</i> | <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> | <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 392 | forb |
| Otu037 | 8066 | 99.27 | 100 | Saxifragales | Saxifragaceae | | | <i>Saxifraga</i> | <i>Saxifraga subg. Saxifraga</i> | <i>Saxifraga sibirica</i> | species | TCTCGGCTCTTGCAACGATGAAGAACGTAGCGAAAT | 413 | forb |

No nrITS results were obtained for Cape Blossom mammoth, Yukon horse and Selwyn caribou C

| | | Wolly mammoth | | | | | | Horse | | Bison | | Caribou | | Controls | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------------|--|------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|-----|----------|-------|
| OTU | Total read | maxid | | Abyland | | Adycha | | Maly Lyakhovsky | | Yukagir | | Oyogas Yar | | Yakutian | | Selwyn B | | Selwyn A | | Positive | | Negative | |
| | | Average | re % | Average | reac % | Average | reac % | Average | re % | Average | re % | Average | re % | Average | re % | Average | reac % | Average | reac % | Reads | % | Reads | % |
| Otu001 | 412353 | <i>Betula</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2589.33 | 2.06 | 11308.33 | 10.88 | 123552.33 | 78.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu002 | 512554 | <i>Salix</i> | | 12237.33 | 24.65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10854.00 | 12.41 | 8458.33 | 15.66 | 32951.33 | 26.31 | 81608.00 | 78.54 | 24741.33 | 15.71 | 0 | 0 | 40.00 | 19.70 |
| Otu003 | 348562 | <i>Puccinellia (tenuiflora/vahliana)</i> | | 2140.33 | 4.31 | 114047.00 | 98.95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 122.00 | 60.10 |
| Otu005 | 166638 | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55546.00 | 44.36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu008 | 157471 | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52490.33 | 60.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30.00 | 14.78 |
| Otu010 | 144687 | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10992.33 | 33.43 | 0 | 0 | 36765.67 | 68.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 471.00 | 0.30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu011 | 106430 | <i>Anemone patens</i> | | 35041.67 | 70.58 | 0 | 0 | 144.67 | 0.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138.33 | 0.11 | 0 | 0 | 152.00 | 0.10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu017 | 30925 | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10308.33 | 11.78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu020 | 109350 | <i>Coelogyne fimbriata</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 109350 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu024 | 28383 | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2293.33 | 6.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7124.00 | 5.69 | 0 | 0 | 43.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu026 | 20691 | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38.33 | 0.07 | 6858.67 | 5.48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu030 | 21115 | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7038.33 | 8.05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu032 | 34930 | <i>Comarum palustre</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11643.33 | 9.30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu037 | 8066 | <i>Saxifraga sibirica</i> | | 0 | 0 | 11.33 | + | 2677.33 | 8.14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu040 | 13996 | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2480.00 | 7.54 | 0 | 0 | 1839.33 | 3.41 | 305.33 | 0.24 | 0 | 0 | 40.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu042 | 24297 | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | | 127.33 | 0.26 | 0 | 0 | 7087.00 | 21.56 | 821.33 | 0.94 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu050 | 9804 | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3228.33 | 9.82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu051 | 13113 | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19.67 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 20.00 | 0.04 | 4309.33 | 3.44 | 0 | 0 | 22.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu052 | 5231 | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13.00 | 0.04 | 1730.67 | 1.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu054 | 8506 | <i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2835.33 | 5.25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu055 | 4934 | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1644.67 | 5.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu057 | 5448 | <i>Geum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1762.67 | 1.70 | 46.33 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu062 | 3332 | <i>Puccinellia</i> | | 0 | 0 | 1110.67 | 0.96 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu064 | 8899 | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 839.00 | 0.81 | 2127.33 | 1.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu068 | 6830 | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | | 0 | 0 | 16.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2252.00 | 4.17 | 0 | 0 | 8.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu069 | 3140 | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 1038.33 | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu070 | 7099 | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | | 0 | 0 | 42.33 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 2315.67 | 2.65 | 8.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu071 | 5734 | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1911.33 | 1.21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu073 | 6714 | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 268.67 | 0.82 | 0 | 0 | 441.00 | 0.82 | 1528.33 | 1.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu074 | 2755 | <i>Poa arctica</i> | | 0 | 0 | 9.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 900.00 | 1.67 | 4.00 | + | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu075 | 4854 | <i>Stellaria</i> | | 6.33 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1597.67 | 4.86 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.67 | + | 6.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu079 | 3809 | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | | 0 | 0 | 8.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1222.00 | 1.18 | 39.67 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu080 | 7613 | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflorum</i> | | 10.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 15.67 | 0.05 | 9.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 13.00 | + | 2441.00 | 2.35 | 48.33 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu084 | 3684 | <i>Taxus canadensis</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1222.67 | 1.18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu088 | 2342 | <i>Hippuris</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.67 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 7.00 | 0.01 | 764.33 | 0.61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu089 | 3682 | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1220.67 | 0.97 | 0 | 0 | 6.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu090 | 1993 | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> | | 0 | 0 | 4.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 656.33 | 0.75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu092 | 2582 | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | | 0 | 0 | 7.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 844.33 | 0.97 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu100 | 1627 | <i>Pohlia nutans</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 540.00 | 0.52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu103 | 1183 | <i>Potentilla hookeriana</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 384.67 | 0.44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu104 | 5535 | <i>Polytrichum commune</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1845.00 | 1.17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu107 | 1960 | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 653.33 | 0.42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu121 | 1340 | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 410.00 | 1.25 | 30.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|------|------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|------|--------|------|---------|------|--------|------|---|---|---|---|
| Otu122 | 699 <i>Salix alaxensis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 230.67 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu125 | 1272 <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 414.00 | 0.40 | 7.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu130 | 510 <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78.33 | 0.08 | 91.67 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu140 | 1352 <i>Calamagrostis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 358.67 | 0.66 | 85.00 | 0.07 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu143 | 1084 <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 361.33 | 0.23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu145 | 1325 <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 439.33 | 0.28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu146 | 247 <i>Carex duriuscula</i> | 81.33 | 0.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu148 | 476 <i>Carex aquatilis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51.67 | 0.10 | 106.00 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu160 | 111 <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu162 | 429 <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 142.33 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu173 | 121 <i>Pyrola asarifolia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40.33 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu178 | 169 <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55.00 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu180 | 185 <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> subsp. <i>saxatilis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu182 | 99 <i>Rubus arcticus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu187 | 87 <i>Carex rostrata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28.33 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu192 | 152 <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50.00 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu210 | 78 <i>Mniaceae</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu224 | 31 <i>Ptychostomum pallescens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu225 | 39 <i>Arctous alpina</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu227 | 15 <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu228 | 13 <i>Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu234 | 3953 <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | 0 | 0 | 4.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1179.67 | 1.14 | 125.33 | 0.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu242 | 48 <i>Vaccinium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.00 | + | 8.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu244 | 13 <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu246 | 14 <i>Niphotrichum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu251 | 5 <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | 1.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu261 | 10 <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu262 | 16 <i>Douinia ovata</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu263 | 88 <i>Polytrichum strictum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table S13. Identity and abundance of OTU's fungal nrITS2

| | | | | | | | | | | Nguyen et al, 2016 - FUNGuild: an open annotation tool for parsing fungal community datasets by ecological guild | | | |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|--|
| OTU | Total read c | best_id_UNcover | phylum | class | order | family | genus | species | maxid | rank | OTU sequence (truncated) | length | fungal_id_tr_fungalid_g_fungalid_g_potential_food? |
| Otu010 | 90857 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Capnodiales | Mycosphaerellaceae | Cladosporium | Cladosporium | Cladosporium | genus | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 243 | Mycosphae Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu037 | 21827 | 90.265 | 97 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Capnodiales | Mycosphaerellaceae | Mycosphaerella | Mycosphaerella | Mycosphaerella | genus | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 237 | Mycosphae Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu049 | 16571 | 94.397 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Capnodiales | Mycosphaerellaceae | Sphaerulina | Sphaerulina | Sphaerulina | genus | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 237 | Sphaerulin Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu154 | 9134 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Dothideales | Aureobasidiaceae | Aureobasidium | Aureobasidium pullulans | Aureobasidium pullulans | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 230 | Aureobasic Pathotropl Animal Pat Facultative Yeast |
| Otu096 | 3130 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Coniophariaceae | Coniathyrium | Coniathyrium | Coniathyrium | genus | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 248 | Coniathyri Pathotropl Plant Path - |
| Otu360 | 28 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Didymellaceae | Calophoma | Calophoma sandffordenica | Calophoma sandffordenica | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 230 | Calophom Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu035 | 22353 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Didymellaceae | Didymella | Didymella microclamydospora | Didymella microclamydospora | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 249 | Didymella Pathotropl Animal Pat Microfungus |
| Otu271 | 68 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Didymellaceae | Phoma | Phoma herbarum | Phoma herbarum | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 252 | Phoma Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu220 | 158 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Didymosphaeriaceae | Paraconiathyrium | Paraconiathyrium sporulosum | Paraconiathyrium sporulosum | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 247 | Paraconiot Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu377 | 11 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Leptosphaeriaceae | Plenodomus | Plenodomus biglobosus | Plenodomus biglobosus | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 249 | Plenodom Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu095 | 3062 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Massariaceae | Stagonospora | Stagonospora trichophoricola | Stagonospora trichophoricola | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 247 | Stagonospi Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu173 | 442 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Neosetophoma | Neosetophoma rosarum | Neosetophoma rosarum | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 249 | Neosetoph Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu126 | 1223 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Paraphoma | Paraphoma fimeti | Paraphoma fimeti | species | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 247 | Paraphom Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu253 | 92 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Phaeosphaeriopsis | Phaeosphaeriopsis | Phaeosphaeriopsis | genus | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 251 | Phaeospha Saprotropl Undefined Microfungus |
| Otu246 | 97 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Phaeosphaeriaceae | Phaeosphaeriaceae | family | AACGCACTTGGCCCCCTGGT | 245 | Phaeospha Pathotropl Fungal Pat Microfungus |
| Otu098 | 3933 | 96.537 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Preussia | Preussia flanaganii | Preussia flanaganii | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTATC | 248 | Preussia Saprotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu383 | 28 | 99.13 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Preussia | Preussia longisporopsis | Preussia longisporopsis | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 246 | Preussia Saprotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu392 | 17 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Preussia | Preussia minipascua | Preussia minipascua | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Preussia Pathotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu117 | 2997 | 99.13 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Preussia | Preussia tetramera | Preussia tetramera | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 244 | Preussia Saprotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu015 | 136505 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Preussia | Preussia | Preussia | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 249 | Preussia Saprotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu135 | 8913 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Sporormiella | Sporormiella intermedia | Sporormiella intermedia | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTC | 244 | Sporormiel Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu382 | 18 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Sporormiella leporina | Sporormiella leporina | Sporormiella leporina | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 244 | Sporormiel Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu269 | 111 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Sporormiella | Sporormiella vexans | Sporormiella vexans | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTC | 244 | Sporormiel Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu311 | 42 | 97.391 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Pleosporales | Sporormiaceae | Sporormiella | Sporormiella | Sporormiella | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 263 | Sporormiel Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu033 | 27109 | 96.522 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Dothideomycetes1 | | | Dothideomycetes1 | Dothideomycetes1 | class | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 247 | - - - |
| Otu065 | 8096 | 96.104 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Dothideomycetes2 | | | Dothideomycetes2 | Dothideomycetes2 | class | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 271 | - - - |
| Otu288 | 94 | 98.261 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Dothideomycetes3 | | | Dothideomycetes3 | Dothideomycetes3 | class | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 271 | - - - |
| Otu297 | 101 | 90 | 100 Ascomycota | Dothideomycetes | Dothideomycetes4 | | | Dothideomycetes4 | Dothideomycetes4 | class | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 270 | - - - |
| Otu287 | 98 | 98.696 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Chaetothyriales | Herpotrichiellaceae | Capronia | Capronia | Capronia | genus | AACGCATTGGCCCTTGGT | 252 | Capronia Symbiotroq Endophyte Facultative Yeast |
| Otu036 | 22519 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Chaetothyriales | Herpotrichiellaceae | Cladophialophora | Cladophialophora minutissima | Cladophialophora minutissima | species | AACGCATTGGCCCTTAGT | 255 | Cladophial Saprotropl Moss Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu359 | 23 | 99.13 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Chaetothyriales | Herpotrichiellaceae | Cladophialophora | Cladophialophora | Cladophialophora | genus | AACGCATTGGCCCTTGGT | 230 | Cladophial Saprotropl Undefined Microfungus |
| Otu069 | 6029 | 98.69 | 99 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Chaetothyriales | Herpotrichiellaceae | Herpotrichiellaceae | Herpotrichiellaceae | Herpotrichiellaceae | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 291 | Herpotrich Pathotropl Animal Pat Facultative Yeast-Microfungus |
| Otu007 | 250160 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Eurotiales | Aspergillaceae | Aspergillus | Aspergillus versicolor | Aspergillus versicolor | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTGGC | 259 | - - - |
| Otu022 | 106644 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Eurotiales | Aspergillaceae | Penicillium | Penicillium aethiopicum | Penicillium aethiopicum | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 258 | Penicillium Pathotropl Animal Pat - |
| Otu396 | 4068 | 97.009 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Eurotiales | Aspergillaceae | Penicillium | Penicillium melinii | Penicillium melinii | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 260 | Penicillium Pathotropl Animal Pat - |
| Otu222 | 3619 | 97.823 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Eurotiales | Aspergillaceae | Penicillium | Penicillium paradoxum | Penicillium paradoxum | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGC | 230 | Penicillium Pathotropl Animal Pat - |
| Otu001 | 890607 | 97.826 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Onygenales | Arachnomycetaceae | Arachnomycetes | Arachnomycetes | Arachnomycetes | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 255 | Arachnom Saprotropl Dung Saprt - |
| Otu005 | 279349 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Onygenales | incertae sedis | Chrysosporium | Chrysosporium merdarium | Chrysosporium merdarium | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 240 | Chrysospoi Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu009 | 120543 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Onygenales | Chrysosporium pseudomeridarium | Chrysosporium | Chrysosporium pseudomeridarium | Chrysosporium pseudomeridarium | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 240 | Chrysospor Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu145 | 846 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Onygenales | Chrysosporium | Chrysosporium | Chrysosporium synchronum | Chrysosporium synchronum | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTGAGT | 248 | Botryotric Saprotropl Wood Saprt - |
| Otu331 | 42 | 94.783 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Onygenales | | | Onygenales | Onygenales | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 259 | - - - |
| Otu312 | 44 | 96.522 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Verrucariales | | | Verrucariales1 | Verrucariales1 | order | AACGCATATTGGCCCTTGT | 247 | Verrucarial Pathotropl Lichen Pat Thallus |
| Otu320 | 53 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Verrucariales2 | | | Verrucariales2 | Verrucariales2 | order | AACGCATATTGGCCCTTGT | 248 | Verrucarial Pathotropl Lichen Pat Thallus |
| Otu347 | 54 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Verrucariales3 | | | Verrucariales3 | Verrucariales3 | order | AACGCATATTGGCCCTTGT | 246 | Verrucarial Pathotropl Lichen Pat Thallus |
| Otu355 | 17 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Eurotiomycetes | Verrucariales4 | | | Verrucariales4 | Verrucariales4 | order | AACGCATATTGGCCCTTGT | 246 | Verrucarial Pathotropl Lichen Pat Thallus |
| Otu386 | 23 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Cladoniaceae | Cladonia | Cladonia cornuta | Cladonia cornuta | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 255 | Cladonia Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu217 | 421 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Cladoniaceae | Cladonia | Cladonia mitis | Cladonia mitis | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 255 | Cladonia Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu243 | 380 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Cladoniaceae | Cladonia | Cladonia rangiferina | Cladonia rangiferina | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 256 | Cladonia Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu239 | 309 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Cladoniaceae | Cladonia | Cladonia stellaris | Cladonia stellaris | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 263 | Cladonia Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu299 | 124 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Cladoniaceae | Cladonia | Cladonia submissis | Cladonia submissis | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 256 | Cladonia Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu445 | 14 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Parmeliaceae | Bryocaulon | Bryocaulon divergens | Bryocaulon divergens | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 230 | Bryocaulon Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu335 | 39 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Lecanoromycetes | Lecanorales | Stereocaulaceae | Stereocaulon | Stereocaulon saxatile | Stereocaulon saxatile | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCGGA | 246 | Stereocaul Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu064 | 9123 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Dermateaceae | Patinella | Patinella hyalophaea | Patinella hyalophaea | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 240 | Patinella Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu254 | 99 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Helotiaceae | Collophora | Collophora | Collophora | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Collophora Pathotropl Plant Path Microfungus |
| Otu209 | 186 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Helotiaceae | Tetraccladium | Tetraccladium | Tetraccladium | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 238 | Tetraccladi Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu315 | 69 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Hyaloscyphaeace | Hyaloscyphaeace | Hyaloscyphaeace | Hyaloscyphaeace | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Hyaloscyph Saprotropl Plant Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu008 | 253365 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | incertae sedis | Cadophora | Cadophora luteo-olivacea | Cadophora luteo-olivacea | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Tricladium Symbiotroq Endophyte Microfungus |
| Otu047 | 19764 | 95.671 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Lachnaceae | Lachnella | Lachnella | Lachnella | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 239 | Lachnella Saprotropl Undefined Helotoid |
| Otu452 | 13 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Myxotrichaceae | Oidioidendron | Oidioidendron cereale | Oidioidendron cereale | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 234 | Oidioidend Pathotropl Eroid Myn Dark Septate Endophyte |
| Otu053 | 15522 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | Ploettnerulaceae | Cadophora | Cadophora | Cadophora | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTC | 243 | Cadophora Symbiotroq Endophyte Microfungus |
| Otu072 | 5338 | 92.241 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | | | Helotiales1 | Helotiales1 | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | - - - |
| Otu283 | 62 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | | | Helotiales2 | Helotiales2 | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Alatospora Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu352 | 17 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Helotiales | | | Helotiales3 | Helotiales3 | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Botrytis Pathotropl Plant Path Facultative Yeast-Microfungus |
| Otu002 | 520344 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Pseudeurotiaceae | Pseudeurotium | Pseudeurotium hygrophilum | Pseudeurotium hygrophilum | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Pseudeuro Saprotropl Soil saprot Microfungus |
| Otu192 | 383 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Pseudeurotiaceae | Pseudeurotium | Pseudeurotium | Pseudeurotium | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Pseudeuro Saprotropl Undefined Microfungus |
| Otu079 | 8935 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Pseudeurotiaceae | Pseudogymnaosus | Pseudogymnaosus roseus | Pseudogymnaosus roseus | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 239 | Pseudogym Saprotropl Soil Saprot - |
| Otu140 | 1432 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Thelebolaceae | Antarctomyces | Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus | Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 241 | Antarctom Saprotropl Undefined Yeast |
| Otu282 | 144 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Thelebolaceae | Cleistothelobolus | Cleistothelobolus nigiponensis | Cleistothelobolus nigiponensis | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Cleistothel Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu006 | 818163 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Thelebolaceae | Thelebolus | Thelebolus globosus | Thelebolus globosus | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Thelebolus Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu153 | 1115 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Leotiomycetes | Thelebolales | Thelebolaceae | Thelebolus | Thelebolus | Thelebolus | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 242 | Thelebolus Saprotropl Dung Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu393 | 10 | 97.826 | 100 Ascomycota | Lichinomycetes | Lichinales | Lichinaceae | Phylliscum | Phylliscum demangeonii | Phylliscum demangeonii | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 230 | Phylliscum Symbiotroq Lichenized Thallus yes |
| Otu026 | 41022 | 98.696 | 100 Ascomycota | Orbiliomycetes | Orbiliales | Orbiliaceae | Arthrobotrys | Arthrobotrys superba | Arthrobotrys superba | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCATAGT | 267 | Arthrobotr Saprotropl Wood Saprt Microfungus |
| Otu028 | 27752 | 99.565 | 100 Ascomycota | Orbiliomycetes | Orbiliales | Orbiliaceae | Dactylella | Dactylella | Dactylella | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCATAGT | 273 | Dactylella Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu180 | 455 | 100 | 100 Ascomycota | Orbiliomycetes | Orbiliales | Orbiliaceae | Dactylellina | Dactylellina cionopaga | Dactylellina cionopaga | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCATAGT | 260 | Dactylellin Saprotropl Undefined - |
| Otu144 | 792 | 99.087 | 100 Ascomycota | Orbiliomycetes | Orbiliales | Orbiliaceae | Orbilia | Orbilia rectispora | Orbilia rectispora | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTGGT | 266 | Orbilia Saprotropl Wood Saprt Helotoid |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|---------|-------------------------|-----|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Otu067 | 7372 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Orbiliomycetes | Orbiliales | Orbiliales | <i>Orbilia</i> | <i>Microcalicium ahlneri</i> | <i>Orbilia</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTATTGGT. | 266 | Orbilia | Saprotroph | Wood | Sapr | Helotioid | |
| Otu343 | 24 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pertusariales | Microcaliciaceae | <i>Microcalicium</i> | <i>Microcalicium ahlneri</i> | <i>Microcalicium ahlneri</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTGGT. | 248 | Microcalici | Pathotroph | Lichen | Par | Microfungus | |
| Otu091 | 4910 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Ascobolaceae | <i>Ascobolus</i> | <i>Ascobolus equinus</i> | <i>Ascobolus equinus</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTGGT. | 248 | Ascobolus | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | - | |
| Otu003 | 357130 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Ascobolaceae | <i>Ascobolus</i> | <i>Ascobolus</i> | <i>Ascobolus</i> | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCTAGTGT. | 247 | Ascobolace | Saprotroph | Undefined | - | - | |
| Otu242 | 163 | 99.13 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Pezizaceae | <i>Peziza</i> | <i>Peziza ampliata</i> | <i>Peziza ampliata</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTATTGGT. | 268 | Peziza | Saprotroph | Wood | Sapr | Pezizoid | |
| Otu373 | 23 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Pyrenomataceae | <i>Byssonectria</i> | <i>Byssonectria deformis</i> | <i>Byssonectria deformis</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTGGT. | 252 | Byssonectri | Saprotroph | Undefined | Gasteroid-1 | yes | |
| Otu341 | 27 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Pyrenomataceae | <i>Cheilymenia</i> | <i>Cheilymenia stercorea</i> | <i>Cheilymenia stercorea</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTGGT. | 254 | Cheilymenia | Saprotroph | Undefined | Peizoid | - | |
| Otu188 | 336 | 99.07 | 93 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Pyrenomataceae | <i>Cheilymenia</i> | <i>Cheilymenia</i> | <i>Cheilymenia</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTGGT. | 254 | Cheilymenia | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | Peizoid | |
| Otu221 | 216 | 99.13 | 100 | Ascomycota | Peizizomycetes | Pezizales | Pyrenomataceae | <i>Candida</i> | <i>Candida zeylanoides</i> | <i>Candida zeylanoides</i> | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTGGT. | 253 | Pyrenomat | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | Gasteroid-Pezizoid | |
| Otu004 | 343946 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Saccharomycetes | Saccharomycetales | <i>Microdochium</i> | <i>Microdochium</i> | <i>Microdochium</i> | <i>Microdochium</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTATGGT. | 281 | Candida ze | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu099 | 2638 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Amphisphaerales | Amphisphaeriaceae | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta hoffmannii</i> | <i>Coniochaeta hoffmannii</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCTATGAT. | 262 | Microdoch | Pathotroph | Endophyte | Dark | Septate | Endophyte |
| Otu012 | 78660 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Coniochaetales | Coniochaetaceae | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGGAG1 | 250 | Coniochaet | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Microfungus | |
| Otu354 | 32 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Coniochaetales | Coniochaetaceae | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCGGAG1 | 249 | Coniochaet | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Microfungus | |
| Otu286 | 67 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Coniochaetales | Coniochaetaceae | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | <i>Coniochaeta</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCTAGT | 248 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu071 | 6150 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Hypocreales | <i>Fusariella</i> | <i>Fusariella hughesii</i> | <i>Fusariella hughesii</i> | <i>Fusariella hughesii</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 268 | Hypocreale | Saprotroph | Undefined | Microfungus | - | |
| Otu011 | 80413 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Hypocreales | Nectriaceae | <i>Cosmospora</i> | <i>Cosmospora viridescens</i> | <i>Cosmospora viridescens</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 253 | Cosmospori | Pathotroph | Fungal | Par | - | |
| Otu101 | 2341 | 100 | 98 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Microascales | Microascales | <i>Pitheosaurus</i> | <i>Pitheosaurus ater</i> | <i>Pitheosaurus ater</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGC | 265 | Pitheosaur | Saprotroph | Undefined | - | - | |
| Otu040 | 32284 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Microascales | Microascales | <i>Pitheosaurus</i> | <i>Pitheosaurus</i> | <i>Pitheosaurus</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 297 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu237 | 391 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | <i>incertae sedis</i> | <i>Ramaphialophora</i> | <i>Ramaphialophora humicola</i> | <i>Ramaphialophora humicola</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 245 | Ramaphial | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Microfungus | |
| Otu166 | 1466 | 99.569 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Apodas</i> | <i>Apodas decedius</i> | <i>Apodas decedius</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 247 | Apodas | Saprotroph | Undefined | Saprotroph | - | |
| Otu110 | 3915 | 98.261 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Podaspora</i> | <i>Podaspora pleiospora</i> | <i>Podaspora pleiospora</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGC | 256 | Podaspora | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | Microfungus | |
| Otu107 | 17593 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Podaspora</i> | <i>Podaspora</i> | <i>Podaspora</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 247 | Podaspora | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | Microfungus | |
| Otu046 | 66149 | 99.567 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Schizothecium</i> | <i>Schizothecium carpinicola</i> | <i>Schizothecium carpinicola</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 245 | Schizothec | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | - | |
| Otu063 | 14676 | 98.696 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Schizothecium</i> | <i>Schizothecium</i> | <i>Schizothecium</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 244 | Schizothec | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | - | |
| Otu301 | 78 | 97.391 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Lasiosphaeriaceae | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria fimicola</i> | <i>Sordaria fimicola</i> | family | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 244 | Lasiosphae | Saprotroph | Undefined | Microfungus | - | |
| Otu319 | 48 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Sordariales | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCGCCAGT | 243 | Sordaria fir | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | - | |
| Otu085 | 8454 | 98.26 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Sordariales | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 245 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu285 | 63 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Sordariomycetes | Sordariales | Sordariales | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | <i>Sordaria</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCCCGCCAGT | 245 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu025 | 33058 | 100 | 100 | Ascomycota | Taphrinomycetes | Taphrinales | Protomycetaceae | <i>Protomyces</i> | <i>Protomyces inouyei</i> | <i>Protomyces inouyei</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTGGT. | 261 | Protomyce | Pathotroph | Plant | Pathogen | - | |
| Otu233 | 140 | 99.565 | 100 | Ascomycota | Taphrinomycetes | Taphrinales | Taphrinaceae | <i>Taphrina</i> | <i>Taphrina carpin</i> | <i>Taphrina carpin</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTCT | 293 | Taphrina | Pathotroph | Plant | Path | Microfungus | |
| Otu212 | 167 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Bolbitiaceae | <i>Conocybe</i> | <i>Conocybe lenticulospora</i> | <i>Conocybe lenticulospora</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 298 | Conocybe | Saprotroph | Dung | Sapr | Agaricoid | yes |
| Otu274 | 60 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Entolomataceae | <i>Entoloma</i> | <i>Entoloma</i> | <i>Entoloma</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 298 | Entoloma | Pathotroph | Ectomycor | Agaricoid | yes | |
| Otu172 | 748 | 98.701 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Inocybaceae | <i>Inocybe</i> | <i>Inocybe</i> | <i>Inocybe</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 300 | Inocybe | Symbiotro | Ectomycor | Agaricoid | yes | |
| Otu195 | 295 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Lycoperdaceae | <i>Bovista</i> | <i>Bovista plumbea</i> | <i>Bovista plumbea</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 305 | Bovista | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Gasteroid | yes |
| Otu103 | 2094 | 99.565 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Psathyrellaceae | <i>Coprinopsis</i> | <i>Coprinopsis kubickae</i> | <i>Coprinopsis kubickae</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 308 | Coprinopsi | Saprotroph | Leaf | Sapr | Agaricoid | yes |
| Otu197 | 293 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Agaricales | Psathyrellaceae | <i>Psathyrella</i> | <i>Psathyrella ammophila</i> | <i>Psathyrella ammophila</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 296 | Psathyrella | Saprotroph | Wood | Sapr | Agaricoid | yes |
| Otu013 | 139431 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Agaricomycetes | Sebacinales | Sebacinaeae | <i>Sebacina</i> | <i>Sebacina</i> | <i>Sebacina</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 295 | Sebacina | Symbiotro | Ectomycor | - | - | |
| Otu058 | 28457 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Cystobasidiomycetes | Cystobasidiales | Cystobasidiaceae | <i>Cystobasidium</i> | <i>Cystobasidium minuta</i> | <i>Cystobasidium minuta</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 297 | Cystobasid | Pathotroph | Fungal | Par | Facultative | Yeast |
| Otu177 | 843 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Cystobasidiomycetes | Cystobasidiales | Cystobasidiaceae | <i>Cystobasidium</i> | <i>Cystobasidium pinicola</i> | <i>Cystobasidium pinicola</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 296 | Cystobasid | Saprotroph | Fungal | Par | Facultative | Yeast |
| Otu357 | 25 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Cystobasidiomycetes | Cystobasidiales | Cystobasidiaceae | <i>Cystobasidium</i> | <i>Cystobasidium psychroaquitum</i> | <i>Cystobasidium psychroaquitum</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 294 | Cystobasid | Pathotroph | Fungal | Par | Facultative | Yeast |
| Otu029 | 28397 | 98.696 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Cystobasidiomycetes | Cystobasidiales | Symmetrosporaceae | <i>Symmetrospora</i> | <i>Symmetrospora gracilis</i> | <i>Symmetrospora gracilis</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 303 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu016 | 154914 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Malasseziomycetes | Malasseziiales | Malasseziaceae | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium creatinivorum</i> | <i>Leucosporidium creatinivorum</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCTCTATGGC | 369 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu061 | 8921 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Microbotryomycetes | Leucosporidiales | Leucosporidiaceae | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium creatinivorum</i> | <i>Leucosporidium creatinivorum</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTCTGGT. | 306 | Leucospori | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu181 | 1468 | 99.565 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Microbotryomycetes | Leucosporidiales | Leucosporidiaceae | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium fragarium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium fragarium</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCCGTGGT | 306 | Leucospori | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu054 | 12873 | 93.913 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Microbotryomycetes | Leucosporidiales | Leucosporidiaceae | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | order | AACGCACATTGGCTCCCTGGT. | 307 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu024 | 36256 | 89.565 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Microbotryomycetes | Leucosporidiales | Leucosporidiaceae | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | <i>Leucosporidium</i> | class | AACGCACATTGGCTCCCTGGT. | 315 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu062 | 10013 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Cystofilobasidiaceae | <i>Cystofilobasidium</i> | <i>Cystofilobasidium infirmominiatum</i> | <i>Cystofilobasidium infirmominiatum</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 328 | Cystofiloba | Saprotroph | Leaf | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu115 | 1775 | 99.565 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Cystofilobasidiaceae | <i>Cystofilobasidium</i> | <i>Cystofilobasidium macerans</i> | <i>Cystofilobasidium macerans</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 328 | Cystofiloba | Saprotroph | Leaf | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu048 | 36809 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Mrakiaceae | <i>Mrakia</i> | <i>Mrakia blallolis</i> | <i>Mrakia blallolis</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 327 | Mrakia | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu223 | 7823 | 97.391 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Mrakiaceae | <i>Mrakia</i> | <i>Mrakia frigida</i> | <i>Mrakia frigida</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 230 | Mrakia | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu023 | 92173 | 98.696 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Mrakiaceae | <i>Mrakia</i> | <i>Mrakia aquatica</i> | <i>Mrakia aquatica</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 327 | Mrakia | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu105 | 3024 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Mrakiaceae | <i>Mrakia</i> | <i>Mrakia</i> | <i>Mrakia</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 327 | Mrakia | Saprotroph | Soil | Saprot | Yeast | |
| Otu059 | 11886 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Cystofilobasidiales | Mrakiaceae | <i>Tausonia</i> | <i>Tausonia pullulans</i> | <i>Tausonia pullulans</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 314 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu147 | 1170 | 99.13 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Filobasidium</i> | <i>Filobasidium oerense</i> | <i>Filobasidium oerense</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 336 | Filobasidiu | Saprotroph | Undefined | Facultative | Yeast | |
| Otu043 | 22000 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Goffeauzyma</i> | <i>Goffeauzyma gilvescens</i> | <i>Goffeauzyma gilvescens</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 337 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu039 | 30434 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Naganishia</i> | <i>Naganishia adeliensis</i> | <i>Naganishia adeliensis</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 314 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu466 | 5245 | 99.13 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Naganishia</i> | <i>Naganishia friedmannii</i> | <i>Naganishia friedmannii</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 314 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu161 | 24004 | 98.659 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Naganishia</i> | <i>Naganishia liquefaciens</i> | <i>Naganishia liquefaciens</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 314 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu068 | 10945 | 99.13 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Naganishia</i> | <i>Naganishia randhawae</i> | <i>Naganishia randhawae</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 316 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu155 | 1289 | 99.565 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Filobasidiales | Filobasidiaceae | <i>Solicozozyma</i> | <i>Solicozozyma terricola</i> | <i>Solicozozyma terricola</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 329 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu127 | 1151 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Tremellales | Bulleribasidiaceae | <i>Vishniacozyma</i> | <i>Vishniacozyma dimennae</i> | <i>Vishniacozyma dimennae</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTGGT. | 247 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu118 | 1920 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Tremellales | Bulleribasidiaceae | <i>Vishniacozyma</i> | <i>Vishniacozyma tephrensis</i> | <i>Vishniacozyma tephrensis</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTTTGGT. | 235 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Otu374 | 954 | 98.261 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Tremellales | Tremellaceae | <i>Cryptococcus</i> | <i>Cryptococcus</i> | <i>Cryptococcus</i> | genus | AACGCACATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 230 | Cryptococc | Pathotroph | Animal | Pat | Yeast | |
| Otu252 | 111 | 100 | 99 | Basidiomycota | Tremellomycetes | Tremellales | Tremellaceae | <i>Tremella</i> | <i>Tremella diploschistina</i> | <i>Tremella diploschistina</i> | species | AACGCACATTGGCCCTCTCT | 235 | Tremella | Pathotroph | Fungal | Parasite-Lichen | Parasite | |
| Otu405 | 26 | 100 | 100 | Basidiomycota | Wallemiales | Wallemiales | Wallemiaceae | <i>Wallemia</i> | <i>Wallemia sebi</i> | <i>Wallemia sebi</i> | species | AACGCAATTGGCACTCTATGGT | 230 | Wallemia | Saprotroph | Undefined | Saprotroph | - | |
| Otu225 | 138 | 95.299 | 100 | Mortierellomycota | Mortierellomycetes | Mortierellales | Mortierellaceae | <i>Mortierella</i> | <i>Mortierella</i> | <i>Mortierella</i> | genus | AACGCATATTGGCTCTTTGGT. | 344 | Mortierella | Saprotroph | Endophyte | Microfungus | - | |
| Otu100 | 2840 | 100 | 100 | Mucoromycota | Mucoromycetes | Mucorales | Mucoraceae | | | | | | | | | | | | |

% represents the Relative Read Abundance

| | | Wolly mammoth | | | | Horse | | | | Bison | | Caribou | | | | Controls | |
|--------|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|------|----------|----------|--|
| | | Abyland | Adycha | Cape Blossom | Maly Lyakhovsky | Yukagir | Yukon | Oyogas Yar | Yakutian | Selwyn C | Selwyn B | Selwyn A | | | | | |
| OTU | Total read maxim | Average read c % | Average read % | Average read % | Average readc % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | Average read % | | | Reads | % | |
| Otu001 | 890607 <i>Arachnomycetes</i> | 0 | 0 | 284467.33 | 89.33 | 1069.67 | 0.59 | 11324.00 | 26.52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu002 | 520344 <i>Pseudoeutroium hygrophilum</i> | 8077.33 | 4.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu003 | 357130 <i>Ascobolaceae</i> | 113036.00 | 56.86 | 0 | 0 | 484.33 | 0.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu004 | 343946 <i>Candida zeylanoides</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1155.33 | 0.64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu005 | 279349 <i>Chrysosporium merdarium</i> | 443.33 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81177.00 | 60.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu006 | 818163 <i>Thelebolus globosus</i> | 0 | 0 | 15046.00 | 4.72 | 84164.33 | 46.60 | 9736.33 | 22.80 | 0 | 1039.00 | 1.15 | 0 | 0 | 159.67 | 0.20 | |
| Otu007 | 250160 <i>Aspergillus versicolor</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 83386.67 | 91.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu008 | 253365 <i>Cadophora luteo-olivacea</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 280.67 | 0.16 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1794.00 | 2.22 | |
| Otu009 | 120543 <i>Chrysosporium pseudomerdarium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 615.33 | 0.34 | 0 | 0 | 28429.00 | 21.19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu010 | 90857 <i>Cladosporium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12861.33 | 15.95 | |
| Otu011 | 80413 <i>Cosmospora viridescens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24504.00 | 18.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu012 | 78660 <i>Coniochaeta hoffmannii</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu013 | 139431 <i>Sebacina</i> | 46065.67 | 23.17 | 0 | 0 | 190.00 | 0.11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu015 | 136505 <i>Preussia</i> | 0 | 0 | 45.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 1330.00 | 3.11 | 0 | 465.00 | 0.51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu016 | 154914 <i>Malasseziales</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6046.33 | 14.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu022 | 106644 <i>Penicillium aethiopicum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2481.67 | 2.74 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu023 | 92173 <i>Mrokia aquatica</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30724.33 | 17.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4981.67 | 6.18 | |
| Otu024 | 36256 <i>Microbotryomycetes</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 153.00 | 0.19 | |
| Otu025 | 33058 <i>Protomyces inouyei</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu026 | 41022 <i>Arthrobratrys superba</i> | 0 | 0 | 13119.00 | 4.12 | 56.00 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu028 | 27752 <i>Dactylella</i> | 9157.33 | 4.61 | 0 | 0 | 49.00 | 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu029 | 28397 <i>Symmetrospora gracilis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9431.33 | 11.69 | |
| Otu033 | 27109 <i>Dothideomycetes1</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9036.33 | 11.20 | |
| Otu035 | 22353 <i>Didymella microchlamydospora</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7451.00 | 9.24 | |
| Otu036 | 22519 <i>Cladophialaphora minutissima</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu037 | 21827 <i>Mycosphaerella</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100.67 | 0.06 | |
| Otu039 | 30434 <i>Naganishia adeliensis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10144.67 | 5.62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu040 | 32284 <i>Microascales</i> | 534.00 | 0.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9682.33 | 22.68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu043 | 22000 <i>Gaffezoumya gilvescens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu046 | 66149 <i>Schizothecium carpnicola</i> | 17663.33 | 8.88 | 0 | 0 | 4244.33 | 2.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 140.00 | 0.19 | |
| Otu047 | 19764 <i>Lachnellula calyciformis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu048 | 36809 <i>Mrakia billopsis</i> | 121.00 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 400.67 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2436.67 | 1.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu049 | 16571 <i>Sphaerulina hyperici</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 5495.67 | 7.34 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu053 | 15522 <i>Cadophora</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu054 | 12873 <i>Leucosporidiales</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu058 | 28457 <i>Cystobasidium minuta</i> | 125.33 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4291.00 | 5.32 | |
| Otu059 | 11886 <i>Tausonia pullulans</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3962.00 | 2.19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3594.33 | 2.35 | |
| Otu061 | 8921 <i>Leucosporidium creatinivorum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2973.67 | 1.65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu062 | 10013 <i>Cystofilobasidium infirmominatum</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3337.67 | 1.85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu063 | 14676 <i>Schizothecium</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4892.00 | 2.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu064 | 9123 <i>Patinella hyalophaea</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12.00 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3005.67 | 1.96 | |
| Otu065 | 8096 <i>Dothideomycetes2</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36.67 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu067 | 7372 <i>Orbilia</i> | 0 | 0 | 2439.00 | 0.77 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu068 | 10945 <i>Naganishia randhawae</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3648.33 | 2.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu069 | 6029 <i>Herpotrichiellaceae</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu071 | 6150 <i>Fusariella hughesii</i> | 2028.67 | 1.02 | 0 | 0 | 12.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu072 | 5338 <i>Helotiales1</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu079 | 8935 <i>Pseudogymnoascus roseus</i> | 0 | 0 | 1703.67 | 0.54 | 0 | 0 | 1244.67 | 2.92 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu085 | 8454 <i>Sordariales1</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2818.00 | 1.56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu091 | 4910 <i>Ascobolus equinus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26.00 | 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu095 | 3062 <i>Stagonospora trichapharicola</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 1015.33 | 1.36 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu096 | 3130 <i>Coniathyrium</i> | 0 | 0 | 5.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 1034.00 | 2.42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu098 | 3933 <i>Preussia flanaganii</i> | 0 | 0 | 20.33 | + | 1290.00 | 0.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu099 | 2638 <i>Micradachium</i> | 0 | 0 | 869.00 | 0.27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu100 | 2840 <i>Mucor hiemalis</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 350.00 | 0.82 | 0 | 596.67 | 0.66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu101 | 2341 <i>Pithoascus ater</i> | 0 | 0 | 206.67 | 0.06 | 0 | 0 | 573.67 | 1.34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu103 | 2094 <i>Coprinopsis kubickae</i> | 690.33 | 0.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu105 | 3024 <i>Mrokia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 955.33 | 0.53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52.67 | 0.03 | |
| Otu107 | 13678 <i>Podospora</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4549.00 | 2.52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu110 | 3915 <i>Podospora pleiospora</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1299.67 | 0.72 | 0 | 0 | 5.33 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu115 | 1775 <i>Cystofilobasidium macerans</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 586.00 | 0.32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu117 | 2997 <i>Preussia tetramera</i> | 0 | 0 | 4.00 | + | 990.00 | 0.55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.00 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu118 | 1920 <i>Vishniacozyma tephrens</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 640.00 | 0.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu126 | 1223 <i>Paraphoma fimeti</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu127 | 1151 <i>Vishniacozyma dimennae</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 380.00 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu135 | 8913 <i>Sporormiella intermedia</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.33 | + | 0 | 16.67 | 0.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu140 | 1432 <i>Antarctomyces psychrotrophicus</i> | 5.33 | + | 18.67 | + | 0 | 0 | 303.67 | 0.71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 89.00 | 0.05 | |
| Otu144 | 792 <i>Orbilia rectispora</i> | 258.33 | 0.13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu145 | 846 <i>Chrysosporium synchronum</i> | 0 | 0 | 279.33 | 0.09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu147 | 1170 <i>Filobasidium oeirense</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 390.00 | 0.22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Otu153 | 1115 <i>Thelebolus</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 357.67 | 0.20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.33 | + | |
| Otu154 | 9134 <i>Aureobasidium pullulans</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

[illegible]

Multiproxy analysis of permafrost preserved faeces provides an unprecedented insight into the diets and habitats of extinct and extant megafauna

Marcel Polling, Anneke T.M. ter Schure, Bas van Geel, Tom van Bokhoven, Sanne Boessenkool, Glen MacKay, Bram W. Langeveld, María Ariza, Hans van der Plicht, Albert V. Protopopov, Alexei Tikhonov, Hugo de Boer, Barbara Gravendeel

Supporting Information (3/3)

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S15. Taxonomic resolution nrITS primers

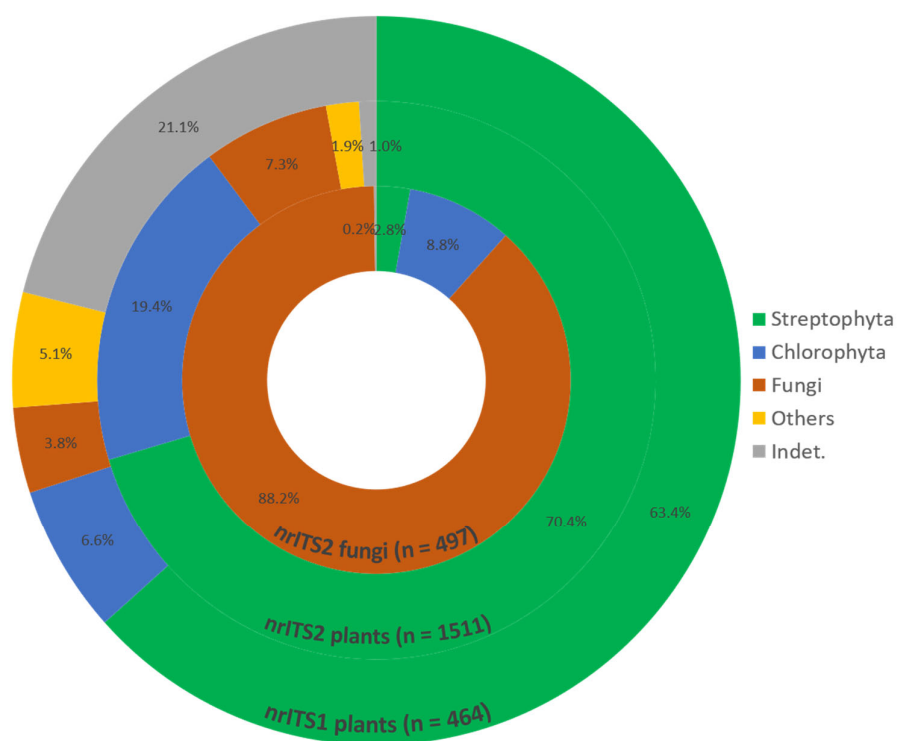


Figure S15. Taxonomic results of the three nrITS markers for all samples. Numbers represent the percentage of OTUs that were assigned to the different clades. The group Others contains Bacteria, Eukaryota and Alveolata. N = number of OTUs found.

S16. Sample read and OTU numbers

f_nrITS2 = fungal nrITS2

| Sample | Age (kyr) | Average read counts | | | | no. of OTUs | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|----------|
| | | <i>trnL</i> | nrITS1 | nrITS2 | f_nrITS2 | <i>trnL</i> | nrITS1 | nrITS2 | f_nrITS2 |
| Selwyn A | 0 | 6.4E+05 | 1.1E+05 | 1.6E+05 | 1.5E+05 | 56 | 28 | 40 | 26 |
| Selwyn B | ±1.5 | 3.6E+05 | 1.9E+05 | 1.0E+05 | 1.5E+05 | 30 | 18 | 17 | 37 |
| Selwyn C | ±2.7 | 1.3E+05 | 0 | 0 | 8.1E+04 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Oyogas Yar | ±5.4 | 1.8E+05 | 6.9E+02 | 5.4E+04 | 2.3E+05 | 12 | 11 | 16 | 11 |
| Yakutian bison | ±10.5 | 3.3E+05 | 8.6E+04 | 1.3E+05 | 7.5E+04 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 12 |
| Cape Blossom | ±14.4 | 4.7E+05 | 0 | 0 | 1.8E+05 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Yukagir | ±22.5 | 4.3E+05 | 5.8E+04 | 8.7E+04 | 1.3E+05 | 47 | 14 | 12 | 7 |
| Adycha | ±25.6 | 4.0E+05 | 1.8E+05 | 1.2E+05 | 3.2E+05 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 21 |
| Yukon horse | ±30.9 | 4.7E+04 | 0 | 0 | 9.1E+04 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Abyland | ±32.4 | 4.7E+05 | 6.2E+03 | 5.0E+04 | 2.0E+05 | 74 | 10 | 8 | 25 |
| Maly Lyakhovsky | ±32.7 | 4.0E+05 | 7.6E+04 | 3.3E+04 | 4.3E+04 | 47 | 15 | 15 | 19 |

S17. Species habitat types

Table S17. Habitat types of all species and some genera for which clear habitat preference were identified. The habitat types used are steppe, dry disturbed sites, meadow (dry), meadow (saline), mountainous/rocks, tundra (arctic/alpine), snow patches, gravelly slopes, woods (dry), woods (wet), meadow (wet), wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, rivers) and wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp).

| Family | Taxon | DNA | Macro | Pollen | Selwyn caribou A | Selwyn caribou B | Selwyn caribou C | Oyogas Yar horse | Yakutian Bison | Cape Blossom mammoth | Yukagir mammoth | Adycha mammoth | Yukon horse | Abyland mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | Habitat type | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Adoxaceae | <i>Sambucus williamsii</i> | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Amaranthaceae | <i>Blitum nuttallianum</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Dry disturbed site | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Calliergon cf. giganteum</i> | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Campylium stellatum</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Cratoneuron filicinum</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Drepanocladus aduncus</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Drepanocladus sordidus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Amblystegiaceae | <i>Sanionia uncinata</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) | |
| Anastrophyllaceae | <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Mountainous/rocks | |
| Apiaceae | <i>Cicuta virosa</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Apiaceae | <i>Cymopterus sessiliflorus</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Apiaceae | <i>Thalictrum</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Meadow (wet) | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | Meadow (dry) |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia gmelinii</i> | | | | | | X | | | X | X | | X | X | | Steppe | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia norvegica</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Artemisia scoparia</i> | | | | | | | X | | | X | X | | X | | Steppe | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Endocellion sibiricum</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, | |
| Asteraceae | <i>Tripleurospermum</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Meadow (saline) | |
| Aulacomniaceae | <i>Aulacomnium palustre</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Bartramiaceae | <i>Philonotis cf. arnellii</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Mountainous/rocks | |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus crispa</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, | |
| Betulaceae | <i>Alnus incana</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium</i> | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | | X | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Eritrichium sericeum</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Steppe | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Mertensia paniculata</i> | | | | X | | X | | | X | | | | X | | Woods (wet) | |
| Boraginaceae | <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | | Meadow (dry) | |
| Brachytheciaceae | <i>Tomentypnum nitens</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Arabidopsis lyrata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Tundra (arctic/alpine) | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Braya rosea</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Eutrema edwardsii</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Gravelly slopes | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Parrya nudicaulis</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Sisymbrium linifolium</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Brassicaceae | <i>Smelowskia alba</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Bryaceae | <i>Ptychostomum pallescens</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, | |
| Calliergonaceae | <i>Warnstorfia sarmentosa</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | Meadow (dry) | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Cerastium maximum</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Meadow (dry) | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Eremogone capillaris</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | Meadow (dry) | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Minuartia rubella</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Sagina nivalis</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Gravelly slopes | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Silene samojedorum</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Steppe | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Stellaria</i> | | | | | X | X | | | | | X | | X | X | Meadow (wet) | |
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Stellaria borealis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | Meadow (wet) | |

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| Family | Taxon | DNA | Macro | Pollen | Selwyn caribou A | Selwyn caribou B | Selwyn caribou C | Oyogas Yar horse | Yakutian Bison | Cape Blossom mammoth | Yukagir mammoth | Adycha mammoth | Yukon horse | Abyland mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | Habitat type |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Caryophyllaceae | <i>Stellaria longifolia</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Meadow (wet) |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola integrifolia</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Crassulaceae | <i>Rhodiola rosea</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | Mountainous/rocks |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> | | | | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex chordorrhiza</i> | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex dioica</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex duriuscula</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Steppe |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex lachenalii</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex maritima</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | Meadow (saline) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex microchaeta</i> | | | | X | | | | | X | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex nardina</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex nigra subsp. juncea</i> | | | | | X | | | X | X | | | | X | X | Meadow (wet) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex podocarpa</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex rostrata</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Carex vesicaria</i> | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Eriophorum</i> | | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Cyperaceae | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Dicranaceae | <i>Dicranum bonjeanii</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Dicranaceae | <i>Dicranum fuscescens</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Ditrichaceae | <i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | n/a (various) |
| Elaeagnaceae | <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | Woods (dry) |
| Entodontaceae | <i>Entodon concinnus</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Meadow (dry) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Woods (dry) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Arctous alpina</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Arctous alpina/rubra</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Arctous rubra</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Pyrola grandifolia</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | X | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ericaceae | <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> | | | | X | X | | X | | | | X | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Fabaceae | <i>Astragalus alpinus</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Fabaceae | <i>Oxytropis deflexa</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | Meadow (dry) |
| Fabaceae | <i>Oxytropis splendens</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Meadow (dry) |
| Funariaceae | <i>Funaria</i> sp. | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | Dry disturbed sites |
| Grimmiaceae | <i>Niphotrichum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Hylocomiastrum pyrenaicum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Hylocomiaceae | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Woods (dry) |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus</i> | | | | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | X | | Meadow (wet) |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus biglumis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Meadow (wet) |
| Juncaceae | <i>Juncus oxymeris</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Juncaginaceae | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Liliaceae | <i>Gagea serotina</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Menyanthaceae | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Mniaceae | <i>Cinclidium stygium</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Mniaceae | <i>Plagiomnium cf. ellipticum</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Mniaceae | <i>Rhizomnium cf.</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Onagraceae | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> | | | | X | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | Meadow (wet) |

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| Family | Taxon | DNA | Macro | Pollen | Selwyn caribou A | Selwyn caribou B | Selwyn caribou C | Oyogas Yar horse | Yakutian Bison | Cape Blossom mammoth | Yukagir mammoth | Adycha mammoth | Yukon horse | Abyland mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | Habitat type |
|------------------|--|-----|-------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Onagraceae | <i>Chamaenerion latifolium</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Onagraceae | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Meadow (wet) |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i> | | | | X | X | | X | | | X | | X | X | X | Meadow (wet) |
| Orobanchaceae | <i>Pedicularis verticillata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | Meadow (wet) |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Hippuris</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Plantago media/canescens</i> | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | | Meadow (wet) |
| Plantaginaceae | <i>Veronica worms kjoldii</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Plumbaginaceae | <i>Armeria-type</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Meadow (saline) |
| Poaceae | <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | X | X | Meadow (wet) |
| Poaceae | <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> | | | | | X | | X | | | X | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Poaceae | <i>Arctophila fulva</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | | | | | | X | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Poaceae | <i>Arctophila fulva/Dupontia</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Poaceae | <i>Bromus pumpellianus</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | X | X | X | X | Meadow (dry) |
| Poaceae | <i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Poaceae | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | | | | X | | | | | | X | X | | X | X | Meadow (wet) |
| Poaceae | <i>Dupontia fisheri</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | | | X | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Poaceae | <i>Festuca altaica</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | Gravelly slopes |
| Poaceae | <i>Festuca kolymensis</i> | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | X | | Steppe |
| Poaceae | <i>Festuca ovina</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Steppe |
| Poaceae | <i>Koeleria asiatica</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | | Meadow (dry) |
| Poaceae | <i>Pleuropogon sabinei</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Poaceae | <i>Poa arctica</i> | | | | | X | | X | | | | X | | | | Meadow (wet) |
| Poaceae | <i>Poa glauca</i> | | | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | Meadow (dry) |
| Poaceae | <i>Puccinellia</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | Meadow (saline) |
| Poaceae | <i>Puccinellia tenuiflora / vahliana</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | Meadow (saline) |
| Poaceae | <i>Puccinellia vahliana</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | Meadow (saline) |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Phlox hoodii</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Steppe |
| Polemoniaceae | <i>Polemonium boreale</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | Gravelly slopes |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Oxyria digyna</i> | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | | Snow patches |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Rumex acetosella</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Dry disturbed sites |
| Polygonaceae | <i>Rumex aquaticus-type</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichastrum alpinum</i> | | | | X | | | X | | | X | | | | X | Woods (dry) |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichum cf. strictum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichum commune</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Woods (dry) |
| Polytrichaceae | <i>Polytrichum piliferum</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Potamogetonaceae | <i>Stuckenia</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Pottiaceae | <i>Barbula unguiculata</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | n/a (various) |
| Pottiaceae | <i>Didymodon icmadophilus</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | n/a (various) |
| Primulaceae | <i>Androsace lehmanniana</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Primulaceae | <i>Androsace septentrionalis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | Meadow (dry) |
| Primulaceae | <i>Primula frigida</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Meadow (wet) |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Anemonastrum narcissiflora</i> | | | | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | X | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Anemone patens</i> | | | | X | | | | X | | | | | X | X | Meadow (dry) |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Anemone richardsonii</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Ranunculus nivalis</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Snow patches |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Ranunculus pedatifidus var.</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X | Meadow (dry) |

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| Family | Taxon | DNA | Macro | Pollen | Selwyn caribou A | Selwyn caribou B | Selwyn caribou C | Oyogas Yar horse | Yakutian Bison | Cape Blossom mammoth | Yukagir mammoth | Adycha mammoth | Yukon horse | Abyland mammoth | Maly Lyakhovsky | Habitat type |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Snow patches |
| Ranunculaceae | <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Rosaceae | <i>Comarum palustre</i> | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | | | | X | X | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Rosaceae | <i>Dryas</i> | | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Rosaceae | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Rosaceae | <i>Geum aleppicum</i> | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (along lakes, ponds, streams, |
| Rosaceae | <i>Potentilla hookeriana</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Rosaceae | <i>Potentilla hyparctica</i> | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | Gravelly slopes |
| Rosaceae | <i>Rubus arcticus</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Rosaceae | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> | | | | | | | | | X | X | | X | X | | Meadow (wet) |
| Rosaceae | <i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Snow patches |
| Rosaceae | <i>Spiraea stevenii</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Meadow (wet) |
| Salicaceae | <i>Salix alaxensis</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes</i> | | | | X | | X | | | | X | | | | X | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Micranthes nelsoniana</i> | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | Tundra (arctic/alpine) |
| Saxifragaceae | <i>Saxifraga sibirica</i> | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | Gravelly slopes |
| Scapaniaceae | <i>Douinia ovata</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Mountainous/rocks |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum</i> | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Sphagnaceae | <i>Sphagnum cf. magellanicum</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |
| Taxaceae | <i>Taxus canadensis</i> | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | Woods (wet) |
| Thuidiaceae | <i>Thuidium abietinum</i> | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | Meadow (dry) |
| Violaceae | <i>Viola epipsila var. repens</i> | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | Wetland (marsh, bog, fen, swamp) |

S18. Lichen phycobionts

Identified using plant nrITS2 (only showing Selwyn Caribou samples, as no phycobionts were identified in any of the other samples, or using nrITS1)

| OTU | #Identity percentage | #Coverage | maxid | Selwyn A | Selwyn B | Selwyn C |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Otu792 | 99,202 | 100 | <i>Asterochloris</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu227 | 100,000 | 100 | <i>Asterochloris (pseudo)irregularis</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu428 | 100,000 | 100 | <i>Asterochloris phycobiontica</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu089 | 99,505 | 100 | <i>Coccomyxa solarinae</i> | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Otu499 | 100,000 | 100 | <i>Coccomyxa</i> sp. gbA3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu896 | 96,552 | 99 | <i>Coccomyxa</i> sp. NEM-1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu907 | 98,473 | 100 | <i>Coccomyxa subellipsoidea</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu355 | 99,229 | 96 | <i>Elliptochloris bilobata</i> | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Otu203 | 92,647 | 100 | <i>Elliptochloris</i> sp. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Otu349 | 91,803 | 95 | <i>Symbiochloris</i> sp. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu493 | 99,496 | 100 | <i>Trebouxia impressa</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu362 | 100,000 | 100 | <i>Trebouxia</i> sp. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Otu599 | 99,501 | 100 | <i>Trebouxia vaga</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 |

S19. Caribou diet selection

Table S19. Comparison of known caribou dietary preferences (Denryter et al., 2017) as detected using the different proxies.

*for the modern caribou, insufficient material was available for a detailed analysis of plant macroremains.

| Sample | Caribou Diet preference | Pollen (%) | Macro (%) | <i>trnL</i> (%) | ITS1 (%) | ITS2 (%) |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Selwyn caribou A | - Selected | 28.0 | ++* | 97.7 | 98.1 | 95.9 |
| | - Neutral | 11.0 | + | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| | - Avoided | 47.0 | | 0.3 | 1.6 | 3.4 |
| | - Unknown | 14.0 | | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Selwyn caribou B | - Selected | 0.0 | 22.4 | 92.6 | 86.0 | 89.6 |
| | - Neutral | 41.0 | 46.0 | 6.6 | 4.5 | 1.7 |
| | - Avoided | 29.0 | 21.0 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 5.1 |
| | - Unknown | 30.0 | 10.6 | 0.4 | 6.4 | 3.5 |
| Selwyn caribou C | - Selected | 4.0 | 25.8 | 11.4 | n/a | n/a |
| | - Neutral | 5.0 | 30.5 | 44.4 | | |
| | - Avoided | 27.0 | 20.7 | 1.4 | | |
| | - Unknown | 64.0 | 23.0 | 42.7 | | |

S20 Sample metadata

trnL (run ERR5880341)

nrITS (run ERR5881895)

| Sample | Rep | trnL tag combination | nrITS tag combination | nrITS2 tag combination | Fungal nrITS2 tag combination |
|--------------|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Abyland | 1 | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCTATGTGATGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCTATGTGATGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCTATGTGATGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCTATGTGATGG |
| Abyland | 2 | TGCAGATCCAAC:CTCCCATACCAC | TGCAGATCCAAC:CTCCCATACCAC | TGCAGATCCAAC:CTCCCATACCAC | TGCAGATCCAAC:CTCCCATACCAC |
| Abyland | 3 | TGCAGATCCAAC:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGCAGATCCAAC:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGCAGATCCAAC:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGCAGATCCAAC:CACCCCTAAAGT |
| Adycha | 1 | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGAAACGCAACA | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGAAACGCAACA | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGAAACGCAACA | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGAAACGCAACA |
| Adycha | 2 | CCATCACATAGG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Adycha | 3 | CCATCACATAGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCATCACATAGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCATCACATAGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCATCACATAGG:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Bison | 1 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CTCCCATACCAC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CTCCCATACCAC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CTCCCATACCAC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CTCCCATACCAC |
| Bison | 2 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CACCCCTAAAGT | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CACCCCTAAAGT |
| Bison | 3 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGTTGCGTTTCT:AGGATGTTGCTC |
| Selwyn A | 1 | GTGGTATGGGAG:CACCCCTAAAGT | GTGGTATGGGAG:CACCCCTAAAGT | GTGGTATGGGAG:CACCCCTAAAGT | GTGGTATGGGAG:CACCCCTAAAGT |
| Selwyn A | 2 | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGGATGTTGCTC | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGGATGTTGCTC | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGGATGTTGCTC | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGGATGTTGCTC |
| Selwyn A | 3 | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGAAACGCAACA | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGAAACGCAACA | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGAAACGCAACA | GTGGTATGGGAG:AGAAACGCAACA |
| Selwyn B | 1 | ACTTTAAGGGTG:GTTGGATCTGCA | ACTTTAAGGGTG:GTTGGATCTGCA | ACTTTAAGGGTG:GTTGGATCTGCA | ACTTTAAGGGTG:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Selwyn B | 2 | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCTATGTGATGG | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCTATGTGATGG | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCTATGTGATGG | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCTATGTGATGG |
| Selwyn B | 3 | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CTCCCATACCAC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CTCCCATACCAC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CTCCCATACCAC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CTCCCATACCAC |
| Selwyn C | 1 | ACTTTAAGGGTG:AGGATGTTGCTC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:AGGATGTTGCTC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:AGGATGTTGCTC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:AGGATGTTGCTC |
| Selwyn C | 2 | GAGCAACATCCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GAGCAACATCCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GAGCAACATCCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GAGCAACATCCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Selwyn C | 3 | GAGCAACATCCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | GAGCAACATCCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | GAGCAACATCCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | GAGCAACATCCT:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Cape Blossom | 1 | CCTAAACTACGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCTAAACTACGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCTAAACTACGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCTAAACTACGG:AGGATGTTGCTC |
| Cape Blossom | 2 | CCTAAACTACGG:AGAAACGCAACA | CCTAAACTACGG:AGAAACGCAACA | CCTAAACTACGG:AGAAACGCAACA | CCTAAACTACGG:AGAAACGCAACA |
| Cape Blossom | 3 | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGCAGATCCAAC:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Yukon horse | 1 | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Yukon horse | 2 | GTGGTATGGGAG:GTTGGATCTGCA | GTGGTATGGGAG:GTTGGATCTGCA | GTGGTATGGGAG:GTTGGATCTGCA | GTGGTATGGGAG:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Yukon horse | 3 | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCTATGTGATGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCTATGTGATGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCTATGTGATGG | GTGGTATGGGAG:CCTATGTGATGG |
| Maly Lyakh. | 1 | CCATCACATAGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCATCACATAGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCATCACATAGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCATCACATAGG:CTCCCATACCAC |
| Maly Lyakh. | 2 | CCATCACATAGG:CACCCCTAAAGT | CCATCACATAGG:CACCCCTAAAGT | CCATCACATAGG:CACCCCTAAAGT | CCATCACATAGG:CACCCCTAAAGT |
| Maly Lyakh. | 3 | CCATCACATAGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCATCACATAGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCATCACATAGG:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCATCACATAGG:AGGATGTTGCTC |
| Oyogas Yar | 1 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Oyogas Yar | 2 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | TGTTGCGTTTCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | TGTTGCGTTTCT:GTTGGATCTGCA | TGTTGCGTTTCT:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Oyogas Yar | 3 | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCTATGTGATGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCTATGTGATGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCTATGTGATGG | TGTTGCGTTTCT:CCTATGTGATGG |
| Yukagir | 1 | CCTAAACTACGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCTAAACTACGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCTAAACTACGG:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCTAAACTACGG:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| Yukagir | 2 | CCTAAACTACGG:CCTATGTGATGG | CCTAAACTACGG:CCTATGTGATGG | CCTAAACTACGG:CCTATGTGATGG | CCTAAACTACGG:CCTATGTGATGG |
| Yukagir | 3 | CCTAAACTACGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCTAAACTACGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCTAAACTACGG:CTCCCATACCAC | CCTAAACTACGG:CTCCCATACCAC |
| Pos. Control | | ATGTCCGACCAA:CCGTAGTTTAGG | ATGTCCGACCAA:CCGTAGTTTAGG | ATGTCCGACCAA:CCGTAGTTTAGG | ATGTCCGACCAA:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| Neg. Control | | ATGTCCGACCAA:GTTGGATCTGCA | ATGTCCGACCAA:GTTGGATCTGCA | ATGTCCGACCAA:GTTGGATCTGCA | ATGTCCGACCAA:GTTGGATCTGCA |
| ExBl | 1 | TGCAGATCCAAC:GTTGGATCTGCA | TGCAGATCCAAC:GTTGGATCTGCA | TGCAGATCCAAC:GTTGGATCTGCA | CCATCACATAGG:AGAAACGCAACA |
| ExBl | 2 | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | CCTAAACTACGG:CACCCCTAAAGT |
| ExBl | 3 | GTGGTATGGGAG:CTCCCATACCAC | GTGGTATGGGAG:CTCCCATACCAC | GTGGTATGGGAG:CTCCCATACCAC | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCGTAGTTTAGG |
| ExBl | 4 | ACTTTAAGGGTG:CCGTAGTTTAGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCTATGTGATGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCTATGTGATGG | CCATCACATAGG:CCTATGTGATGG |
| ExBl | 5 | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC | TGCAGATCCAAC:AGGATGTTGCTC |

Supplementary Reference

Denryter, K.A., Cook, R.C., Cook, J.G., Parker, K.L., 2017. Straight from the caribou's (*Rangifer tarandus*) mouth: detailed observations of tame caribou reveal new insights into summer–autumn diets. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 95, 81-94.