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**Supplementary Data S6.** Sociological species groups and formal definitions of cores of spring alliances.

Sociological species groups:

### Anthelia julacea

Anthelia julacea  
Racomitrium lanuginosum  
Sphagnum auriculatum agg.

### Arabis soyeri

Arabis soyeri  
Bellidiastrum michelii  
Palustriella commutata agg.  
Pinguicula alpina  
Saxifraga aizoides

### Cardamine opizii

Aconitum napellus agg.  
Alchemilla vulgaris agg.  
Caltha palustris  
Cardamine amara  
Chaerophyllum hirsutum

### Chrysosplenium alternifolium

Carex remota  
Carex sylvatica  
Chrysosplenium alternifolium  
Circaeа alpina

### Chrysosplenium oppositifolium

Chrysosplenium oppositifolium  
Kindbergia praelonga  
Mnium hornum

### Dichodontium palustre

Blindia acuta  
Carex frigida

*Dichodontium palustre*

### *Epilobium hornemannii*

*Carex lachenalii*

*Epilobium hornemannii*

*Poa alpigena*

*Rumex lapponicus*

*Scapania paludosa*

### *Koenigia islandica*

*Juncus biglumis*

*Juncus triglumis*

*Koenigia islandica*

*Sedum villosum*

*Triglochin palustris*

### *Myosotis stolonifera*

*Festuca rivularis*

*Myosotis stolonifera*

### *Pellia endiviifolia*

*Eucladium verticillatum*

*Palustriella commutata* agg.

*Pellia endiviifolia*

### *Philonotis fontana*

*Epilobium obscurum*

*Montia fontana*

*Philonotis fontana* agg.

*Stellaria alsine*

### *Philonotis seriata*

*Epilobium nutans*

*Philonotis seriata*

*Saxifraga stellaris*

*Warnstorffia exannulata*

### *Silene pusilla*

*Aconitum napellus* agg.

*Silene pusilla*

*Viola biflora*

### *Swertia perennis*

*Allium schoenoprasum*

*Pedicularis sudetica*

*Scapania uliginosa*

*Sphagnum subsecundum*

*Swertia perennis*

### calcareous-spring-bryophytes  
Cratoneuron filicinum  
Palustriella commutata agg.  
Philonotis calcarea

### Formal definitions of cores of the alliances:

#### Types of species groups:

###: sociological group with a given number of its member species used in the formula (#01: at least one species of the group must be present to fulfil the criterion, #02 at least two species of the group must be present etc.)  
#TC = functional species group (according to Landucci et al. 2015), the percentage cover of all member species of the species group is summed following the protocol of the JUICE software, formally described by Fischer (2015)

#### Operators:

GR: greater than, i.e. the cover of particular functional species group is greater than the cover of given values expressed in percentages  
AND: both elements must be present  
OR: at least one of two elements must be present  
NOT (= AND NOT): element(s) must not be present

#### Explanatory notes:

<#02 *Epilobium hornemannii*> : minimum of two species of the “*Epilobium hornemannii*” sociological species group must be present in the plot  
<#03 *Philonotis fontana*> : minimum of three species of the “*Philonotis fontana*” sociological species group must be present in the plot  
(<#02 *Dichodontium palustre*>OR<#01 *Silene pusilla*>) : either minimum of two species of the “*Dichodontium palustre*” group OR minimum of one species of “*Silene pusilla*” group must be present in the plot  
<#TC *Chrysosplenium alternifolium GR05*> : total cover of the “*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*” group in the plot must be higher than 5% (sociological species group is used here as functional species group)  
<#TC *Chrysosplenium alternifolium GR25*> : total cover of the “*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*” group must be higher than 25%  
NOT<#02 *Arabis soyeri*> : “*Arabis soyeri*” soc. species group must not be represented by two or more species  
NOT<#03 *Arabis soyeri*> : “*Arabis soyeri*” soc. species group must not be represented by three or more species  
NOT<#TC *Chrysosplenium alternifolium GR05*> : total cover of “*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*” group must not exceed 5%

### Definitions of cores of spring alliances:

*Anthelion julacea*  
<#02 *Anthelia julacea*>

*Caricion remotae*  
((<#02 *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*>AND<#TC *Chrysosplenium alternifolium GR05*>)OR(<#02 *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*>AND<#TC *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium GR25*>)) NOT (<#TC *Pellia endiviifolia GR05*>OR<#01 *Silene pusilla*>)

*Cratoneurion commutati*  
(<#03 *Arabis soyeri*>AND <#TC calcareous-spring-bryophytes GR15>)NOT<#TC *Cardamine opizii GR05*>

*Cratoneuro filicini-Calthion laetae*

((<#TC Cardamine opizii GR25>AND<#02 Cardamine opizii>)AND<#01 Silene pusilla>)NOT((<#01 Epilobium hornemannii>OR<#01 Chrysosplenium alternifolium>)OR(<#TC Arabis soyeri GR50>OR<#02 Swertia perennis>))

*Epilobio-Montion fontanae*

<#03 Philonotis fontana>NOT((<#02 Philonotis seriata>OR<#02 Epilobium hornemannii>)OR(<#TC Chrysosplenium oppositifolium GR25>OR<#01 Myosotis stolonifera>))

*Koenigio-Microjuncion*

<#03 Koenigia islandica>NOT(<#02 Arabis soyeri>OR<#03 Philonotis fontana>)

*Lycopodo-Cratoneurion commutati*

(<#02 Pellia endiviifolia>AND<#TC Pellia endiviifolia GR05>)NOT(<#01 Silene pusilla>OR(<#02 Arabis soyeri>OR<#TC Cardamine opizii GR25>))

*Mniobryo-Epilobion hornemannii*

<#02 Epilobium hornemannii>

*Philonotidion seriatae*

(<#02 Philonotis seriata>AND<#TC Philonotis seriata GR25>) NOT (<#01 Epilobium hornemannii> OR (<#01 Swertia perennis>OR(<#TC Chrysosplenium alternifolium GR05>OR<#02 Philonotis fontana>)OR(<#TC Cardamine opizii GR15>OR<#02 Arabis soyeri>))))

*Swertio perennis-Anisothecion squarroso*

(<#02 Swertia perennis> AND (<#01 Dichodontium palustre>OR<#01 Silene pusilla>)) NOT (<#TC Cardamine opizii GR05>OR<#TC Arabis soyeri GR05>)

## References

- Fischer H.S. (2015): On the combination of species cover values from different vegetation layers. – Applied Vegetation Science 18: 169–170.
- Landucci F., Tichý L., Šumberová K. & Chytrý M. (2015): Formalized classification of species-poor vegetation: a proposal of a consistent protocol for aquatic vegetation. – Journal of Vegetation Science 26: 791–803.