# Classification and Ordination Analyses of the Vegetation of Mt. Seondal, Korea

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ABSTRACT: The forest vegetation of Mt. seondal was classified into eight communities and one afforestation by the phytosocialogical method (Z-M method). In general, Quercus mongolica trees occupied most of the area, while afforestation forest was distributed on the lower slope, cultivated land, and at the vicinity of village. The vegetation on the top part of Mt. Seondal was comparatively well preserved, but that in the lower areas has been disturbed heavily by human activity and some had mixed forests composed of pine trees, oaks, ashes, and Rhododendron micrantum shrub. By cluster analysis method, nine groups were identified as follows: Quercus mongolica group, Q. mongolica - Pinus densiflora group, Q. mongolica - Rhododendron schlipen bachii group, Q. mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa group, P. densiflora group, Juglans mandshurica group, Fraxinus mandshurica group, Betula costata group and Larix leptolepis group. These groups showed differences in species composition, but Quercus mongolica, Q. mongolica - P. densiflora, Q. mongolica - R. schlippenbachii and Q. mongolica - S. chinensis for. pilosa groups among them showed very similar floristic composition to each other. In the relationship between polar ordination axes and environmental variables, altitude was the environmental factor determining variation in species composition along axis X and soil moisture was the environmental along axis Y. They were the main factors in determining forest vegetation. The result of cluster analysis and polar ordination for the forest vegetation were corresponded to those of phytosocialogical classification in classifying vegetation.

Key Words: Altitude, Cluster analysis, Polar ordination, Soil moisture

#### INTRODUCTION

The earliest systematic description of vegetation was by Humboldt (1805) who classified areas dominated by plants of similar growth forms into vegetation types. More detailed and better defined descriptions and classification were developed by Schouw (1823), Kerner (1863), and Grisebach (1872). Grisebach has applied the term formation to a community of plants and Flähaült (1893) had established the term association as a unit of vegetation.

Community ecologists often analyze data by two methods consisting of classification, and ordination. These two methods have the common goal of organizing data for purposes of description, discussion, understanding, and management of communities. Classification and ordination techniques organize community data on species abundances exclusively, apart from environmental data, leaving environmental interpretation to a subsequent, independent step.

The result of classification is the assignment of species and sample to classes: the classes may or may not be arranged in a hierarchy. The result

of ordination is the arrangement of species and samples in a low-dimensional space such that similar entities are close by and dissimilar entities far apart. These two approaches are complementary.

Classification basically involves grouping similar entities together in clusters. Among the three kinds of classification (table arrangement, non-hierarchical classification, and hierarchical classification), hierarchical classification puts similar units into groups and, additionally, arranges the groups into a hierarchical, treelike structure called a dendrogram, which indicates relationships among the groups (Sneath and Sokal 1973, Gauch and Whittaker 1981). In hierarchical classification, variation in cluster analysis is related to the number of values in the similarity matrix (Tausch *et al.* 1995).

While classifying a square symmetric matrix of distances with TWINSPAN (Two-Way Indicator Species Analysis), we observed that the community classification produced different group memberships.

Ordination is divided into direct ordination by environmental gradient analysis of Whittaker

(1951) and indirect ordination by continuum index of Curtis and McIntosh (1951). A conception of differential species distribution along environmental gradient has been central to development of generalized models in community ecology (Clements 1916, Diamond 1978, Whittaker 1967).

These classification and ordination methods have been advanced greatly since 1950 and have been used continuously up to the present by many ecologists, such as Dooley and Collins (1984), Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg (1974), Kim and Yim (1986a, 1986b), Kim and Kil (1991), and so on.

In this point of view this study aims at (1) describing the forest communities of Mt. Seondal by classification, and (2) understanding the ecological relationships between the forest vegetation and the environment using polar ordination method.

### **METHODS**

Quantitative floristic data were obtained from June 1998 to October 1998 from 24 stands. The size of sample plots, with minimal area of 15 m  $\times$  15 m, was set randomly at every relevé (Osting 1956). Representative plots were selected on the basis of homogeneity and visually checked for uniformity in floristic composition.

The vegetation description was based on the complete floristic composition of the plant communities following Braun-Blanquet (1964). All trees and shurbs of DBH (diameter at breast height)  $\geq 3$  cm in every relevé were measured for height. Plant names were recorded in order according to Lee (1979).

Soil samples were collected with a gouge auger (diameter 5.08 cm) from A horizon. Three cores were homogenized into one sample and in each station three such samples were taken. Samples were air-dried and weighed (fresh weight and dry weight) prior to analysis.

Soil moisture content was calculated as a percentage of water lost against dry weight at 105°C

The clustering technique of classification method applied to the species on site data used the CA (cluster analysis) method of Lance and Williams (1967). To determine the correlation of vegetation to environmental factors, polar ordination method was used (Bray and Curtis 1957, Beals 1960).

#### STUDY AREA

This study was carried out at Mt. Seondal

located in Gangwon Province and Geyngsangbuk Province, Korea  $(37^{\circ}02' \sim 37^{\circ}04' \text{ N}, 128^{\circ}39' \sim 128^{\circ}43' \text{ E})$ . The main peak of Mt. Seondal is 1,236 m above sea level and the Eorae near Mt. Seondal is 1,063.6 m high.

The forest vegetation was largely characterized by *Quercus, Pinus, Juglans* and *Frixanus*. Most study area of forest vegetation has been influnced by man, so that secondary forest is now in various stages of regrowth. The area is meteorologically characterized as the cold-temperate decideous broadleaf forest zone (Yim and Kira 1975).

According to Yeongwol Meteorological Observatory (1990) the study area has an average rainfall of 1,712 mm/yr and a mean annual temperature is 11.7° with minimum and maximum temperature of -10.4°C and 32.8°C, respectively. In particular, the average monthly rainfall is over 100 mm from May to September and the average daily minimum temperature from December to March is below 5°C.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Community types

The forest vegetation of Mt. Seondal area was divided into nine community types by Z-M method.

### Quercus mongolica community (Table 1-A)

Quercus mongolica having a wide range of thermal distribution WI 18-111 (Yim 1977), characteristic species of cool-temperate deciduous broadleaf forest zone, is distributed at the upper area of mountains.

The distribution of this community in Mt. Seondal was mainly between 800 m and 1200 m in altitude, but it could descend to lower altitudes along valley slopes. The plant community was dominated mostly by *Quercus mongolica, Tilia amurensis, Lespedeza maximowiczii, Carex siderosticta, Ainsliaea acerifolia* in the tree-layer, subtree-layer, and herb-layer, respectively.

The stems were  $10\sim25$  cm in diameter at breast height (dbh) and generally attained a height of  $10\sim13$  m.

# Q. mongolica - R. schlippenbachii community (Table 1-B)

The *Q. mongolica - R. schlippenbachii* community generally corresponded to the *Q. mongolica* community in species compositon. The structural characteristics of this community was distinguished by *Q. mongolica* in the tree stratum and *R. schlippenbachii* in the shrub layer.

The habitat of this community was found at the top parts of the slopes between 900 and 1,200 m in altitude.

# Q. mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community (Table 1-C)

In the study area, there was a *Q. mongolica* - *S. chinensis* for. *pilosa* community on the middle parts of the slopes between 900 and 1,100 m in altitude. This community had wide distribution in Mt. Seondal. The structural characteristics were distinguished by *Q. mongolica* in the tree stratum and *S. chinensis* for. *pilosa* in the subtree layer and shrub layer. Also, this community generally corresponded to the *Q. mongolica* community in species compositional characteristics.

# Q. mongolica - Pinus densiflora community (Table 1-D)

Q. mongolica - P. densiflora community was grouped in the xeric area at the top parts of the slopes.

In the tree and subtree layer of this community, *Q. mongolica, Fraxinus sieboldiana, P. densiflora,* and *Lindera obtusiloba* were found as companion species with higher coverage.

### Juglans mandshurica community (Table 1-H)

The habitats of this community in the Mt. Seondal were located mainly on valley, mesic and nutrient rich slopes below 900 m altitude.

Associated plant species in this community included *Acer mono, Philadelphus schrenckii, Magnolia sieboldii, Schisandra chinensis, Staphylea bumalda,* and *Rubia akane.* The height of the tree layer was 14~16 m.

# Pinus densiflora community (Table 1-E)

The distribution of *P. densiflora* in the Korean peninsula spreads from Cheju (33°20′ N) to Chungsan (43°20′ N).

In Mt. Seondal, this community occurred more abundantly at the lower parts (> 900 m altitude) of the mountain which has been destroyed by human activity. The habitats of *Pinus densiflora* community at this area were located mainly in valley.

In the tree and subtree layer of this community, *Q. mongolica*, *Lindera obtusiloba*, *Rhus trichocarpa* and *F. sieboldiana* were found as companion species with lower coverage.

The shrub layer was composed mainly of *L. obtusiloba, Zanthoxylum schinifolium, R. tricho-carpa, Stephanandra incisa, Staphylea bumalda* and *Lespedeza maximowiczii*.

The stems were 10~30 cm in DBH and gener-

ally attained a height of 15~18 m.

#### Fraxinus mandshurica community (Table 1-F)

The distribution of *Fraxinus mandshurica* mainly spreads over the Korean peninsula, Manchuria and Japan.

The habitats of this community at the Mt. Seondal were located mainly on valley, mesic, and nutrient rich slopes above 900 m altitude.

In the tree layer of *Fraxinus mandshurica* community, *A. mono, A. pseudo-sieboldianum* and *S. bumalda* were found as companion species with lower coverage.

Shrub layer was composed mainly of *Deutzia* glabrata, *Hydrangea serrata* for. accuminata and *S. incisa.* 

The tree stems were  $10\sim25$  cm in DBH and  $12\sim15$  m high.

# Betula costata community (Table 1-G)

The habitats of this community in the study area were mainly located on valley, mesic and nutrient rich slopes between 900 and 1,100 m in altitude.

The associated trees and shrubs include A. mono, M. sieboldii, H. serrata for. acuminata, A. pseudo-sibolianum, D. glabrata and Ribes fasciculatum var. chinense. The herb layer was composed mainly of Adenophora triphylla var. japonica, Carex siderosticta, A. pseudo-sieboldianum, Impatiens textori and Meehania urticifolia.

The height of this community was 16-19 m.

#### Larix leptolepis afforestation (Table 1-I)

In the study area, this afforestation was mainly located on the middle/ low slopes below 1,000 m altitude.

The associated plant species include *L. obtu-siloba*, *Carex okamotoi*, *A. pseudo-sieboldian-um*, *Sedum sarmentosum*, *Carpinus cordata*, *F. rhynchophylla*, *Viola acuminata*, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* and *Corydalis speciosa*.

#### Cluster analysis

The pattern of clustering for the 24 stands was summarized in the dendrogram (Fig. 1). The arbitrary dashed lines, at chord distances of 18.0, were used as reference points for identifying clusters. At a distance of 18.0, three clusters emerged: I (stands  $1\sim15$ ), II (stands  $16\sim22$ ), III (stands 23, 24).

Inspection of the dendrogram produced by a distance of 18.0 revealed that sites tended to cluster into nine groups: A (Quercus mongolica community), B (Q. mongolica - Pinus densiflora community), C (Q. mongolica - Rhododendron

Table 1. Vegetation table of forest communities in Mt. Seondal

I. Quercus mongolica community group, A. Quercus mongolica typical community, B. Quercus mongolica - Rhododendron schlippenbachii community,
C. Quercus mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community, D. Quercus mongolica - Pinus densiflora community,
F. Fraxinus mandshurica community, G. Betula costata community, H. Juglans mandshurica community, I. Larix leptolepis community

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Pyrola japonica	Н	•	•	٠	+	•	٠	+	+	•		+	•	+	٠	+	+	+	+		•	•	•	•	+	노루발
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Magnolia sieboldii	Т2							•										•	+		+	2.2	•			고등다구 함박꽃나무
Tabigandra ahiri-	S	٠	•	•	٠	•	٠	+	•	٠	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	+	٠		•	
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denophora triphylla var.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	+		w) w)
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tephanandra incisa arex humilis	S H	:	+	+	:	:	:	:	+	:	:		•	1.2	:		:	+	3.3 +	:	:	:	3.3	:	:	국수나무 산거울
	S			:					•				•						•	3.3		2.2				
ilia amurensis	T2 S	2.3		+	:	:	:	:	•	+	:		٠	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	•	:	:	피나무
ripterygium regelii	S	+	+		+				+	+	+	+	+	•	2.3							+				미역줄나무
yneilesis palmata	H H	•	+	1.2	1.2 1.1	•	•	•	•	+	+	•	:	1.2	1.1	1.2	2.3	+	:		:	, +		+2	:	우산나물
ster scaber	Н	+	+	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+.2	+	+	+	+	2.2			+				참취
odon inflexus	Н	+	+	+		•	1.2	•	+	+.2	+	2.2	+	+.2	+	+	•	•	+	+		+	•			산박하 맑은대쑥
larrhena japonica	H H	:		:	2.2	:	:				:			:	:	:	÷	·	2.2 2.2			•	÷	+.2		하는데속 용수염
elampyrum roseum	H				•		+	•	+	+			2.2				+	•	•	٠		٠	•	٠	•	꿎며느리밥
accinium koreanum	S H	•		•	:		:	•	2.2		:				:	:		:		:	•				:	산앵도나무
ysimachia clethroides	Н								+			2.2														큰까치수영
Voodsia polystichoides	Н																							1.2	•	우드풀
seudostellaria palibiniana	Н										2.2	•			•	•	•	•					•	•		큰개벌꽃
hloranthus japonicus	н		2.1	2.1																		1.2				흩아비꽃대
espedeza bicolor	S			•			1.2							+	+			•	•							싸리
tyrax obassia	H S	•		•	+	:	:		•	:		•			+	+		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	쪽동백
ijiax obassia	Н													+												
acalia auriculata var.	Н									+		+	1.2													나래박쥐나
kamtschatica 'milax china	s																	+								청미래덩굴
max cima	Н				•				•								+	+	+	٠			+		1.2	
edum sarmentosum teridium aquilinum var.	Н	,	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•		1.2	
latiusculum	Н	•	+		+	•	1.1	•	+	+	•	•	•	+	•	+	+	•	+	+	•	•	+	•	•	고사리
licia unijuga Porylus sieboldiana var.	Н	+	•	•	•	•	1.1	•	•	•	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	나바나물
mandshurica	T2	• •	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1.1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	물개암나무
	S H		:	:	+	:	:	+	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	+	+		:	:		•	:	:		
libes fasciculatum var.	S																				1.1					까마귀밥나
chinense Actinidia polygama	T2																				4					개다래
ошнин рогудана	S			+																	1.1			•		
eranium dahuricum	H H	•	:		:	•	1.1	:			+	1.1		:		:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	산취손이
thyrium brevifrons	H					·			+				1.1			+.2										참새발고사
Ziola albida Dioscorea batatas	H H				:	:		•	1.1		1.1			:				:							:	태백제비꽃 마
fatteuccia orientalis	Н		1.1		+				•		. 1.1	•		•									•			개면마
Polygonatum odoratum	Н	1.1	+				+				1.1	+	+	+		+			+	+	٠			+		둥굴레
var. pluriflorum Rhododendron	S					+.2		1								_										진달래
mucronulatum	Ы					T.4								·												드린데
Hemerocallis minor	H	+.2						•							·											애기원추리
anguisorba officinalis	H T2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		+.2		•			٠	•	+.	,	오이풀 까치박달
'arpinus cordata 'iola diamantica	H	·	+	:	·	:	:	:	:	+.2		:									•	٠		٠.		금강제비꽃
Rubia akane	H	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	+	•	+	+			+	+	+			•	•		꼭두서니 단풍마
Dioscorea quinqueloba Rubus crataegifolius	H S	:			:	:	:	:	•	:		+				:	,	•				,				산당다 산딸기
_	H	+	+	+	•	•	+	٠	•	•	+	+	•	+	•	+	+	+	•	+		+	+	•	+	
A <i>risaema amurense</i> var. <i>serratum</i>	Н	+	+							+										+				+		천남성

Table 1. Continued

				A				В			(	3			D	_		Е		F	G	]	I	1		
serial number Relevé number Mititude (m) Slope aspect Slope degree (°) Quadrat size (m²)		1 5 1040 NE 25 225	2 12	3 14 880 NE 20 225	4 25 900 W 25 225	5 16 840 NW 22 225	6 7 1140 WS 24 225	7 27 900 NE 35 225	8 20 1100 SSW 35 225	9 6 1077 NE 24 225	10 8 1050 NE 22 225	11 18 1200 SSE 35 225	12 26 1140 ES 40 225	13 3 800 NE 25 225	14 9 970 NW 24 225	15 10 660 S 15 225	16 2 670 WS 23 225	17 17 600 N30E 35 225	18 23 812 N30W 35 225	19 15 900 NW 20 225	20 19 1100 NNE 10 225	23 21 800 ES 5 225	24 22 900 ES 5 225	21 4 860 NE 25 100	22 1 610 WS 10 100	
losta longipes	Н	+				+							+	+										•		비비추
Disporum viridescens	Η	+	+	٠	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	٠	•	•	•		:	+	+	:	큰애기나
npatiens textori	H	:	+	٠	•	•	•	•	•		•	· +	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	:	+	+	+	+	:	물봉선 바디나물
ngelica decursiva	H	+	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	Τ.	•	+	•	•		•			•	-						
ephalanthera ongibracteata	Η	+	•	•	+	•	٠	•	•	•	٠	•	•	+	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	온대난초
axinus rhynchophylla	T2						٠								+			+	•			•		+	+	물푸레나
	S	+	+	٠		•	•	•	+		+		•	+	+	•	+	•	•	•	•	٠	•	٠	•	
	Η	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	٠	٠	+	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	20 20 - 1 11
ionymus oxyphyllus	S	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	+	:	참회나무
	H	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	:	•	:	:	+		:	:	Ť		갈퀴덩굴
alium spurium ubus coreanus	H H		:	:	:			·	·	·	- T	÷			Ċ			+							+	복분자딸
mpinella brachycarpa	Н											+									+					참나물
aackia amurensis	T2												+										+		•	다릅나무
	S	٠.											+							•	•	•			•	
	Η		•		•		٠	•	•	٠	•	•	•		٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	+	+	•	
eucedanum	Н												+													기름나물
erebinthaceum																										충충나무
ornus controversa	T1 T2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	·	:	•	:	:	ż	· +	+	Ċ	·	+	8847
	S	· ·	· ·	Ċ		·	· ·	į.	Ċ		·	÷	Ċ		+					÷						
ola rossii	Н		+	+						+					+		+					+		+		고깔제비
ola acuminata	H		+																					+	+	졸방제비
tinidia arguta	T2														٠	•			+					•	٠	다래
	S				•		•		•	٠	•	•	+	٠	•	•	•	٠	٠	•	•	+	•	•	٠	
	Н		•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	+	+	•	•	+	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	+	m.ah. 1 m
orbus alnifolia	T2		•	•	•		+	+	•	+	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	•	٠	+	•	•	•	+	•	팔배나무
	S H	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	+	•	•	•	•	•		Ċ	:		Ċ	Ċ			· .	
npatiens noli-tangere	Н	:	:	·			+		·		Ċ		·	Ċ	·	·								+		노랑물봉
denophora triphylla							•																			
ar. japonica	H	•	•	•	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	잔대
eehania urticifolia	H		+		•			•		•	•		•	٠	•		•	٠	•	+	+	٠	•	+	•	벌깨덩굴
iola mandshurica	Η	٠	•	٠	•	٠	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•		제비꽃
orylus heterophylla ar. thunbergii	Н	•		+			•							+			+	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	개암나무
smunda cinnamomea	Н		+																							꿩고비
ar. fokiensis	Н															_										얼레지
rythronium japonicum alopanax pictus	T2		Ċ	Ċ																				+		음나무
поранах ріссав	S														+	+		+					+			
	H													٠			+							•	٠	
ematis apiifolia	H	٠					•		•		•		•	٠		٠	+	•		+	٠	٠	•		+	사위질병
allicarpa japonica	T2	•	•		•	•	•	٠	•	•	٠	•	•	•	٠		•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	•	작살나무
langium platanifolium ar. macrophylum	S		•					٠	•					٠	•	٠	•		٠	+		•			٠	박귀나두
orus bombycis	<b>T2</b>												•			٠		•	+	+		٠	+	•	•	산뽕나두
	S			•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	+	•	٠	+	•	•	
	H	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠	•	:	+	•	•	•	•	+	•	붉나무
hus chinensis	T2 S	•	•	•	•	•	:	:		•	•	•		:	•	:		+	:	:	:	:	+			सन्द
	H	. :	Ċ	:	:	:	· ·	:		:						+										
apium japonicum	T2															·		+	+							사람주니
apram japomeum	S																						+			
cer palmatum	S								•									•	+		•	•				단풍나두
	Η		٠		•			•	•	٠	•	•	٠		٠	•	•	+	+	•	•	•	٠	•	•	
vsimachia barystachys	H	+	+	+	•	•	+	•	٠	+	+	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	+	+	•	까치수영
emerocallis fulva	H	•	•	:	•	•	+	•	•	•	•	+	+	+	:	+	•	•	•	+	•	+	•	+	•	원추리 가리더국
allum spurium	Η	•	+	+	+	•	+	•	•	•	•		•	•	+	+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	+	•	갈퀴덩굴
eucedanum 'erebinthaceum	Η	•	+	•	•	•	+			•	+		1.1	•	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	٠	•	•	٠	기름나물

schlipenbachii community), D (Q. mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community), E (Pinus densiflora community), F (Juglans mandshurica community), G (Fraxinus mandshurica community), H (Betula costata community), I (Larix leptolepis afforestation). These communities showed differences in species composition.

In these results, 15 stands dominated by Quer-

cus mongolica tended to cluster into 4 groups, which were characterized by Q. mongolica, R. schlipenbachii, S. chinensis for. pilosa and P. densiflora.

From a comparison of each cluster analysis the major differences were in the clustering of clusters I,  $\Pi$  and  $\Pi$ .

These clusters, in fact, were strongly corre

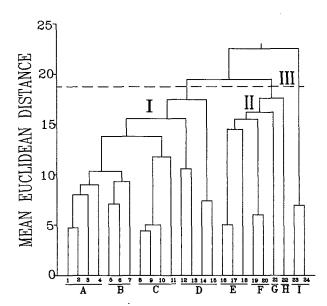


Fig. 1. Dendrogram of the clustering of nine groups using mean euclidean distance.

A: Quercus mongolica typical community

B: Quercus mongolica - Rhododendron schlippenbachii co-

C: Quercus mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community

D: Quercus mongolica - Pinus densflora community

E: Pinus densiflora community

F: Juglans mandshurica community

G: Fraxinus mandshurica community

H: Betula costata community

I: Larix leptolepis community

lated with the topography, species composition, and influence by man.

# Polar ordination

Bray and Curtis (1957) devised an ordinaton technique that has been used widely in plant ecology (Cottam et al. 1978). Two samples serve in a special role as poles of an ordination axis, so the technique is commonly called polar ordination.

In Y/X ordination (Fig. 2) of the 24 stands three separate groups of I. II and III were similar to the results of classification and cluster

The relationship between polar ordination axes and environmental variables can be observed from Fig. 2. Altitude was the environmental factor determining variation in species composition along axis X. Soil moisture was the environmental factor along axis Y.

Along axis X, Quercus mongolica community group on the high altitude was differentiated from the other communities. In the stands of

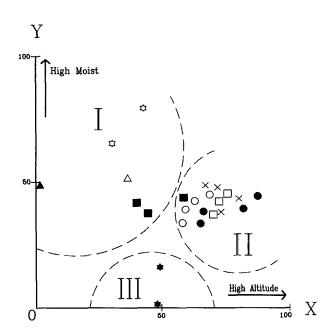


Fig. 2. Polar ordination of Y/X values of the 24 stands shown on Table 1.

×: Quercus mongolica typical community

O: Quercus mongolica - Rhododendron schlippenbachii community

: Quercus mongolica - Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community

□ : Quercus mongolica - Pinus densflora community

: Pinus densiflora community

△ : Juglans mandshurica community

▲: Fraxinus mandshurica community

☆: Betula costata community

★ : Larix leptolepis community

Quercus mongolica community group (separate group (II)), Quercus mongolica - Pinus densiflora community, Quercus mongolica - Rhododendron schlipenbachii community and Quercus mongolica Symplocos chinensis for. pilosa community were clumped together. These communities were distributed at places with similar levels of soil moisture and altitude.

Along axis Y, the Juglans mandshurica community, Fraxinus mandshurica community, Betula costata community and Pinus densiflora community on soils of high moisture content were differentiated from the other communities. Larix leptolepis community of separate group III was distributed on soils with adequate levels of soil moisture and altitude. Altitude and moisture were strongly correlated with the dominant compositional gradient at localities. They were the main factors determining forest vegetation. This study demonstrated that both methods were complementary in their treatment of sample data. The results of cluster analysis and polar ordination for the forest vegetation were corresponded to those of phytosocialogical classification in classifying vegetation. Consequently, vegetation ecology is concerned not only with idenfifying the plant communities (the vegetation) on an area, but also with determining how they are related to one another and to the environmental factors. Thus, the combination of classification (Z-M method) and polar ordination has been effective.

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