

# The diversity of steppe communities of South Ural (Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia)

Steppe communities of the South Ural (Fig.1), as well as other areas of Europe, have been kept only in conditions of the relief, inconvenient for arable. The basic areas of them are located in the steppe and forest-steppe zones of the Bashkirian Trans-Ural and connected to gentle slopes of the Ural peneplain. In the region of the Bashkirian Cis-Urals steppes are distributed by small sites in a forest-steppe zone only on slopes of the southern expositions.

The Republic of Bashkortostan (RB) is located between 52-56° latitude and 53-60° longitude, its extent from the north to the south - 550 km, from the west to the east is 450 km, occupying the area of 143 sq.km. The continental climate with sharply expressed difference of monthly average

temperatures with the coldest month of January and the warmest one of July is characteristic for the territory of republic. In the region of the Cis-Urals the climate is warmer and less droughty. The mid-annual temperature varies from 2° up to 2,4°C, the mid-annual quantity of precipitations is reduced from the north (500-600 mm) to the south (410-460 mm).

The study based on 720 relevés of steppes communities from forest-steppes of the Bashkirian Pre-Ural, steppe areas of the Bashkirian Trans-Ural and the forest-mountain zones. The classification of the steppes was carried out using the Braun-Blanquet approach (Westhoff, Maarel, 1978) with use of programs TURBO(VEG) and MEGATAB (Hennekens, 1995).

All steppe communities of the Republic of Bashkortostan, are belonging to the class Festuco-Brometea, with 2 orders, 4 alliances, and 18 associations, listed in the table 1.

Eighth of them represent the zonal meadow steppes (Tab.1, column 9, 10, 15) and zonal true steppes (Tab.1, column 1, 2, 7, 8, 11), the others – petrophyte (Tab.1, column 12, 14-17) calciphyte (Tab.1, column 13) and shrubs variants (Tab.1, column 5, 6) of these steppes.

Steppes of a mountain-forest zone which differ by the presence of a group of meadows and saum species (Tab.1, column 3, 4, 16, 17) are specific extrazonal type of steppe vegetation in the Southern Ural (Fig. 5).

Meadow steppes are referred to order Festucetalia valesiacae, true - to order Helictotricho-Stipetalia. Orders correspond to zonal habitats of the steppe area. So the first order is connected with the forest-steppe zone of Eurasia, the second – with the only

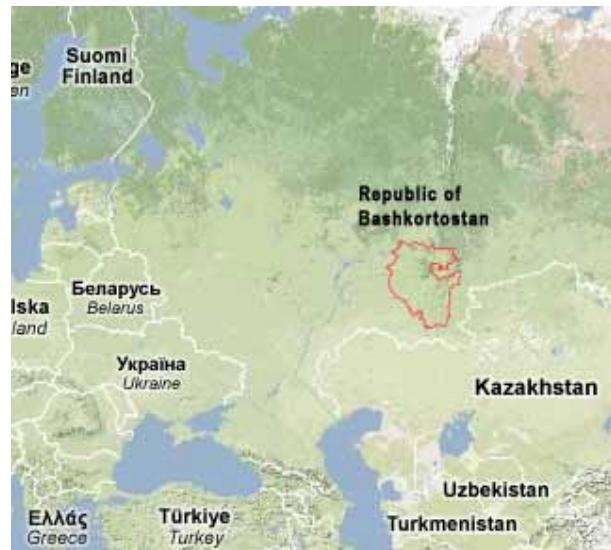


Fig.1 Geographic location of the study area

steppe zone of Western Siberia and Kazakhstan.

Meadow steppes and true steppes differ not only by groups of steppe and meadow-steppe species, but also by dominants species of genus Stipa. Floristic distinctions of the basic edaphic variants of the true and meadow steppes, except for calciphyte, by percipient of the forbs species (Tab.2)



Fig. 2. Association *Hedysaro grandiflori-Centauretum marschalliana*. Photo: S. Yamalov



### References

- Hennekens S.M. (1995). TURBO(VEG). Software package for input processing and presentation of phytosociological data USER'S guide. IBN-DLO Wageningen et University of Lancaster. 70 p.
- Westhoff V., Maarel E. van der. (1978). The Braun-Blanquet approach. In: Whittaker, R. H. (ed.): Classification of plant communities. The Hague, pp. 287-399.

*Fig. 3 (left). Association Amorio montani-Stipetum zalesskijii. Photo: S. Yamalov*



*Fig. 4 Association Galio veri-Stipetum tirsae Photo: S. Yamalov*

*Table 2. Differentiating species edaphic variants of zonal steppes*

True steppes		Meadow steppes	
Variants			
Calciphyte	Hyperpetrophyte	Petrophyte	Petrophyte
<i>Salvia nutans</i> (Fig. 6) <i>Stipa korshinskyi</i>	<i>Orostachys spinosa</i> (Fig.7) <i>Cotoneaster melanocarpus</i> <i>Tanacetum millefolium</i> <i>Dianthus acicularis</i>	<i>Hedysarum grandiflorum</i> (Fig. 8) <i>Thymus bashkiriensis</i> <i>Artemisia frigida</i>	<i>Centaurea marschalliana</i> <i>Centaurea sibirica</i> (Fig. 9)
			<i>Onosma simplicissima</i> , <i>Echinops ritro</i> , <i>Clausia aprica</i> , <i>Carex pediformis</i> , <i>Aster alpinus</i> , <i>Alyssum tortuosum</i> , <i>Silene baschkirorum</i> , <i>Artemisia campestris</i>



Fig. 5. Mountain steppe in the South Ural. Photo: S. Yamalov



Fig. 6. *Salvia nutans*. Photo: S. Yamalov



Fig. 7. *Orostachys spinosa*. Photo: A. Bayanov

## Synopsis of steppe vegetation of South Ural

Class **Festuco-Brometea** Br.-Bl. & Tx. ex Klika & Hadac 1944

Order **Festucetalia valesiacae** Br.-Bl. & Tx. ex Br.-Bl. 1950.

All. **Festucion valesiacae** Klika 1931

Ass. **Poo angustifoliae-Stipetum pennatae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Stipo pennate-Centauretum sibiricae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Leucanthemo vulgaris-Stipetum pennatae** ass. nov. prov.

Order **Helictotricho-Stipetalia** Toman 1969

All. **Amygdalion nanae** V.Golub in Iljina et al. 1991

Ass. **Spiraeo crenati-Caraganetum frutex** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Spiraeo hypericifolia-Amygdaletum nanae** Solomesch et al. 1994

All. **Helictotricho-Stipion** Toman 1969

Suball. **Helictotricho desertori-Stipenion rubentis** Toman 1969

Ass. **Diantho acicularis-Orostachietum spinosae** Schubert et al. 1981

Ass. **Hedysaro grandiflori -Centauretum marschalliana** ass. nov. prov. (Fig.2)

Suball. **Artemisio austriacae-Stipenion zalesskii** Korolyuk 2007

Ass. **Stipetum rubentis** Isacenko et Rackovskaja ex Korolyuk ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Artemisio austriacae-Stipetum lessingiana** ass. nov. prov.

Suball. ?

Ass. **Astragalo austriacae-Stipetum pulcherrimae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Amorio montani-Stipetum zalesskii** ass. nov. prov. (Fig. 3)

Ass. **Galio veri-Stipetum tirsae** ass. nov. prov. (Fig. 4)

Ass. **Salvio nutanti-Stipetum korshinskyi** ass. nov. prov.

All. **Aconogonion alpini** al. nov. prov.

Ass. **Myosotido popovii-Festucetum rupicolae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Caragano fruticis-Stipetum pennatae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Koelerio sclerophyllae-Festucetum valesiacae** ass. nov. prov.

Ass. **Centaureo sibiricae-Poetum transbaicalicae** Filinov et al. 2002



Fig. 8. *Hedysarum grandiflorum*. Photo: S. Yamalov



Fig. 9. *Centaurea sibirica*. Photo: S. Yamalov

Table 1. Synoptic table of steppe communities of South Ural

Number of column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Number of reeves	12	27	70	41	29	14	63	25	57	18	123	12	15	54	37	43	11
D.t. <i>Stipetum lessingianae</i>																	
<i>Stipa lessingiana</i>	V	r	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+	.	II	.	.	.	.	.
D.t. <i>Stipetum rubentis</i>																	
<i>Stipa zalesskii</i>	II	V	II	V	+	.	V	III	.	.	III	II	.	IV	+	IV	.
<i>Tanacetum uralense</i>	.	II	.	.	+	.	+	.	r	.	r	.	.	r	.	.	II
D.t. <i>Spiraeo hypericifolia-Amygdaleum nanae</i>																	
<i>Amygdalus nana</i>	.	I	.	.	V	+	+	I	I	.	+	I	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cerasus fruticosa</i>	.	r	I	r	IV	II	I	I	+	I	+	.	.	r	+	r	II
<i>Spiraea hypericifolia</i>	.	r	I	III	+	r	r	.	.	r	.	.	I	.	I	.	.
D.t. <i>Stipo pennatae-Stipetum zalesskii</i>																	
<i>Stipa pennata</i>	.	.	IV	V	II	II	V	III	V	V	III	.	+	I	IV	I	.
D.t. <i>Galio veri-Stipetum tirsae</i>																	
<i>Stipa tirsia</i>	.	.	.	.	r	+	II	V	I	.	r	+	.	.	.	.	.
D.t. <i>Poo angustifoliae-Stipetum pennatae</i>																	
<i>Onobrychis arenaria</i>	.	r	.	.	.	.	III	II	III	IV	II	II	+	.	III	.	.
D.t. <i>Leucanthemo vulgaris-Stipetum pennatae</i>																	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	IV	+	.	.	.	+	.	.
<i>Filipendula stepposa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	I	I	II	IV	r	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	III	r	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	r	+	III	r	.	.	.	.	.	.
D.t. <i>Astragalo austriacae - Stipetum pulcherrimae</i>																	
<i>Stipa pulcherrima</i>	+	.	.	.	r	.	r	I	I	I	V	V	.	I	.	.	.
<i>Astragalus austriacus</i>	+	+	.	.	.	.	r	r	+	.	IV	IV	III	.	IV	.	.
D.t. <i>Hedysaro grandiflori-Stipetum pulcherrimae</i>																	
<i>Hedysarum grandiflorum</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	II	V	II	.	.	.	.
<i>Ephedra distachya</i>	+	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	III	II	r	r	.	.
D.t. <i>Salvio nutans-Stipetum korshinskyi</i>																	
<i>Stipa korshinskyi</i>	III	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	r	.	II	II	V	.	.	.	.
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	r	.	II	II	III	.	.	.	.	.
D.t. <i>Diantho acicularis-Orostachietum spinosae</i>																	
<i>Orostachys spinosa</i>	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Dianthus acicularis</i>	.	.	+	I	.	.	I	.	r	.	+	I	II	V	I	V	.
D.t. <i>Stipo pennate-Centauretum sibiricae</i>																	
<i>Centaurea sibirica</i>	.	.	V	V	.	.	r	I	+	+	II	.	.	+	V	V	V
D.t. <i>Centaureo sibiricae-Poetum transbaicalicae</i>																	
<i>Sedum hybridum</i>	.	+	II	III	III	.	r	.	I	.	.	.	.	II	.	I	V
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	.	.	IV	r	I	+	r	.	II	II	+	.	.	r	II	r	V
<i>Artemisia armeniaca</i>	.	I	I	.	III	II	IV	IV	III	II	+	.	.	II	.	.	V
D.t. <i>Helictotricho desertori-Stipenion rubentis</i>																	
<i>Onosma simplicissima</i>	I	II	+	IV	r	+	IV	II	II	I	IV	V	II	II	V	III	.
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	I	III	II	V	.	.	II	II	II	I	IV	III	III	IV	IV	V	III
<i>Silene baschkirorum</i>	.	r	I	III	r	.	II	+	I	+	II	+	+	II	II	III	I
<i>Potentilla arenaria</i>	I	II	.	.	.	.	r	.	r	.	III	III	IV	+	I	.	.
<i>Centaurea marschalliana</i>	I	II	.	.	.	+	II	.	r	+	III	II	III	III	.	.	.
<i>Allium rubens</i>	.	I	I	II	.	.	I	.	+	I	II	II	I	IV	IV	V	.
<i>Koeleria sclerophylla</i>	.	I	+	.	.	.	I	I	r	.	II	II	II	IV	II	V	+
<i>Euphorbia seguierana</i>	+	+	.	+	r	.	.	.	.	II	III	II	II	III	III	.	.
D.t. <i>Helictotricho-Stipeon</i> and <i>Helictotricho-Stipetalia</i>																	
<i>Helictotrichon desertorum</i>	I	IV	IV	IV	+	.	IV	III	II	III	V	IV	III	III	V	III	.
<i>Festuca pseudovina</i>	III	IV	V	II	IV	III	IV	III	IV	V	IV	III	V	IV	III	+	.
<i>Potentilla humifusa</i>	I	IV	V	V	.	+	V	IV	III	III	III	.	+	III	III	V	.
<i>Poa transbaicalica</i>	II	IV	V	V	III	II	IV	II	II	.	+	.	.	III	.	V	V
<i>Salvia stepposa</i>	II	II	.	.	I	III	IV	V	III	IV	IV	III	III	r	IV	.	III
<i>Caragana frutex</i>	IV	III	III	V	V	V	IV	III	III	I	IV	IV	IV	III	V	II	V
<i>Spiraea crenata</i>	+	II	.	.	IV	IV	III	II	II	.	+	.	+	II	r	.	V
<i>Medicago romanica</i>	II	III	.	.	.	18	IV	IV	IV	I	III	III	III	I	r	.	.
<i>Artemisia austriaca</i>	IV	II	.	.	I	.	II	II	I	.	II	III	IV	I	II	.	.
<i>Artemisia sericea</i>	.	II	IV	III	III	II	V	IV	IV	IV	II	.	+	+	I	I	IV

Number of column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1 4	15	16	17
<b>D.t. Festucetalia valesiacae and Festuco-Brometea</b>																	
<i>Galium verum</i>	II	V	V	V	III	V	V	V	V	III	.	I	III	I	IV	V	
<i>Stipa capillata</i>	IV	II	r	II	I	II	IV	II	II	I	IV	IV	IV	III	IV	II	.
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	.	II	V	V	II	I	IV	IV	IV	IV	IV	III	II	IV	IV	V	V
<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>	III	II	r	I	r	.	I	I	+	II	I	.	I	III	II	V	.
<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	V	III	.	.	.	.	IV	II	II	.	III	III	IV	II	III	.	.
<i>Campanula sibirica</i>	.	I	.	r	.	.	II	r	II	III	IV	III	II	II	V	II	III
<i>Phleum phleoides</i>	.	II	IV	II	+	+	V	IV	V	V	II	.	+	II	+	I	.
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	.	II	V	IV	III	III	V	V	V	V	III	.	I	r	II	I	II
<i>Seseli libanotis</i>	+	II	V	III	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV	II	+	.	II	II	II	I
<i>Plantago urvillei</i>	+	II	.	.	.	.	IV	V	IV	III	III	II	+	.	.	.	.
<i>Fragaria viridis</i>	.	+	III	r	IV	V	V	IV	V	V	III	+	I	r	II	.	III
<i>Amoria montana</i>	.	r	.	.	.	.	IV	III	IV	V	II	.	.	I	.	.	.
<i>Potentilla impolita</i>	.	I	.	.	r	.	III	III	IV	V	I	.	+	I	I	.	I
<i>Phlomoides tuberosa</i>	II	II	II	r	V	V	IV	IV	IV	IV	II	.	.	r	I	.	+
<i>Trommsdorffia maculata</i>	.	II	r	.	.	.	IV	IV	III	IV	II	.	+	r	+	.	.
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	+	+	.	.	r	I	III	III	IV	V	I	.	.	r	+	.	.
<i>Poa angustifolia</i>	.	r	I	r	I	II	II	III	III	IV	II	.	.	.	II	.	.
<b>D.t. Molinio-Arrhenatheretea</b>																	
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	I	.	II	II	II	IV	IV	III	III	IV	III	II	II	r	II	.	.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	.	r	IV	I	III	II	III	III	II	IV	II	.	.	r	I	r	.
<i>Ranunculus polyanthemos</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	II	III	II	V	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Bromopsis inermis</i>	+	+	.	.	II	II	II	I	II	I	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
<b>D.t. Trifolio-Geranietea</b>																	
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	.	+	.	.	r	I	IV	III	III	III	I	.	.	r	II	.	.
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	.	.	II	+	II	I	II	III	III	I	.	.	.	II	.	IV	
<i>Veronica teucrium</i>	.	r	.	.	+	+	II	II	IV	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other species																	
<i>Gypsophila altissima</i>	+	II	r	.	.	.	IV	III	IV	I	IV	III	II	II	V	II	V
<i>Vincetoxicum albowanum</i>	.	I	I	III	II	I	II	II	II	II	II	II	+	IV	IV	I	V
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	.	I	.	.	III	IV	IV	III	IV	V	IV	III	II	r	IV	.	.
<i>Chamaecytisus ruthenicus</i>	+	III	IV	IV	I	II	III	IV	III	IV	II	.	.	II	I	IV	V
<i>Aconogonon alpinum</i>	.	I	V	V	IV	III	II	II	III	II	r	.	.	+	.	II	.
<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	.	III	III	+	I	.	III	III	III	II	I	.	.	II	II	.	II
<i>Galium tinctorium</i>	+	+	r	.	I	II	IV	III	III	IV	III	I	+	r	III	.	II
<i>Achillea nobilis</i>	III	III	.	.	I	.	IV	II	II	I	I	+	I	I	.	.	.
<i>Silene chlorantha</i>	.	II	.	.	.	.	III	II	I	.	I	.	I	+	.	.	.
<i>Scorzonera purpurea</i>	.	II	.	.	.	.	IV	III	III	III	II	.	I	r	+	.	.
<i>Galium boreale</i>	.	+	r	.	+	III	III	III	III	V	II	.	.	I	III	.	.

1. *Artemisio austriacae-Stipetum lessingianae*
2. *Stipetum rubentis*
3. *Myosotido popovii-Festucetum rupicolae*
4. *Caragano fruticis-Stipetum pennatae*
5. *Spiraeo hypericifolia-Amygdalietum nanae*
6. *Spiraeo crenati-Caraganetum frutex*
7. *Amorio montani-Stipetum zalesskii*
8. *Galio veri-Stipetum tirsae*
9. *Poo angustifoliae-Stipetum pennatae*

10. *Leucanthemo vulgaris-Stipetum pennatae*
11. *Astragalo austriacae-Stipetum pulcherrimae*
12. *Hedysaro grandiflori-Stipetum pulcherrimae*
13. *Salvio nutans-Stipetum korshinskyi*
14. *Diantho acicularis-Orostachietum spinosae*
15. *Stipo pennate-Centauretum sibiricae*
16. *Koelerio sclerophyllae-Festucetum valesiacae*
17. *Centaureo ibiricae-Poetum transbaicalicae*

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