

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 phytosociological 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 micranthum* shrub. By cluster analysis method, nine groups were identified as follows: *Quercus mongolica* group, *Q. mongolica* - *Pinus densiflora* group, *Q. mongolica* - *Rhododendron schlipenbachii* 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. schlipenbachii* 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 phytosociological 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 Flåhåult (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 × 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 shrubs of DBH (diameter at breast height) ≥ 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° 02' ~ 37° 04' N, 128° 39' ~ 128° 43' 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 influenced by man, so that secondary forest is now in various stages of regrowth. The area is meteorologically characterized as the cold-temperate deciduous 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 10~25 cm in diameter at breast height (dbh) and generally attained a height of 10~13 m.

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

The *Q. mongolica* - *R. schlippenbachii* community generally corresponded to the *Q. mongolica* community in species composition. 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. trichocarpa*, *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. *acuminata* and *S. incisa*.

The tree stems were 10~25 cm in DBH and 12~15 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-sibolium*, *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. obtusiloba*, *Carex okamotoi*, *A. pseudo-sieboldianum*, *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 1~15), II (stands 16~22), 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. Continued

Serial number	I																						Serial number			
	A			B			C			D			E			F			G			H			I	
Relevé number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	21	22		
Altitude (m)	1040	1020	880	900	840	1140	900	1100	1077	1050	1200	1140	800	970	660	670	600	812	900	1100	800	900	860	610		
Slope aspect	NE	NE	NE	W	NW	WS	NE	SSW	NE	NE	SSE	ES	NE	NW	S	WS	N30E	N30W	NW	NNE	ES	ES	NE	WS		
Slope degree (°)	25	35	20	25	22	24	35	35	24	22	35	40	25	24	15	23	35	35	20	10	5	5	25	10		
Quadrat size (m ²)	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	100	100		
<i>Hosta longipes</i>	H	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	비비추
<i>Disporum viridescens</i>	H	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	큰애기나리
<i>Impatiens textori</i>	H	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	활불선
<i>Angelica decursiva</i>	H	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	바디나물
<i>Cephalanthera longibracteata</i>	H	+	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	은대난초
<i>Fraxinus rhynchophylla</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	물푸레나무
	S	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Euonymus oxyphyllus</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	참회나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Galium spurium</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	갈퀴덩굴
<i>Rubus coreanus</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	북분자말기
<i>Pimpinella brachycarpa</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	참나물
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	다릅나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Peucedanum terebinthaceum</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	기름나물
<i>Cornus controversa</i>	T1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	충추나무
	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Viola rossii</i>	H	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	고갈제비꽃
<i>Viola acuminata</i>	H	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	줄방제비꽃
<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	다래
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sorbus alnifolia</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	팔배나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	노랑물불선
<i>Adenophora triphylla</i> var. japonica	H	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	잔대
<i>Meehania urticifolia</i>	H	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	벌깨덩굴
<i>Viola mandshurica</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	제비꽃
<i>Corylus heterophylla</i> var. thunbergii	H	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	개암나무
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> var. fokiensis	H	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	평고비
<i>Erythronium japonicum</i>	H	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	얼레지
<i>Kalopanax pictus</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	읍나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Clematis apiifolia</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	사위질량
<i>Callicarpa japonica</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	작살나무
<i>Alangium platanifolium</i> var. macrophyllum	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	박퀴나무
<i>Morus bombycis</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	산뽕나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rhus chinensis</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	뽕나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Sapium japonicum</i>	T2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	사람주나무
	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	S	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	단풍나무
	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lysimachia barystachys</i>	H	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	까치수염
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	원추리
<i>Gallium spurium</i>	H	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	갈퀴덩굴
<i>Peucedanum terebinthaceum</i>	H	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	기름나물
<i>Codonopsis lanceolata</i>	H	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	더덕

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, II and III.

These clusters, in fact, were strongly corre

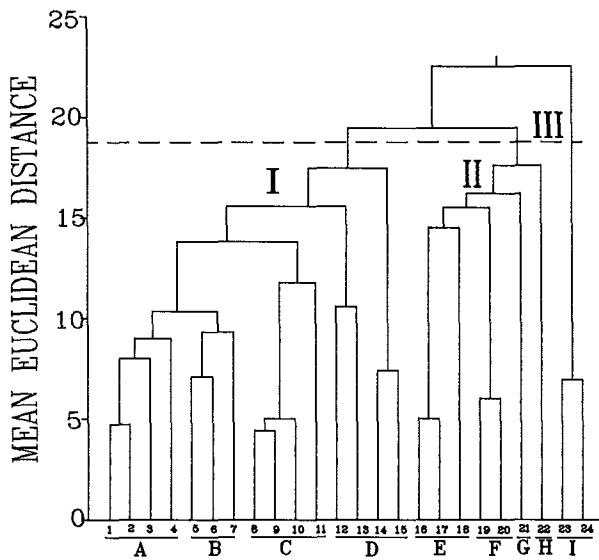


Fig. 1. Dendrogram of the clustering of nine groups using mean euclidean distance.

- A : *Quercus mongolica* typical community
- B : *Quercus mongolica* - *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* community
- C : *Quercus mongolica* - *Symplocos chinensis* for. *pilosa* community
- D : *Quercus mongolica* - *Pinus densiflora* 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 ordination 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 analysis.

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

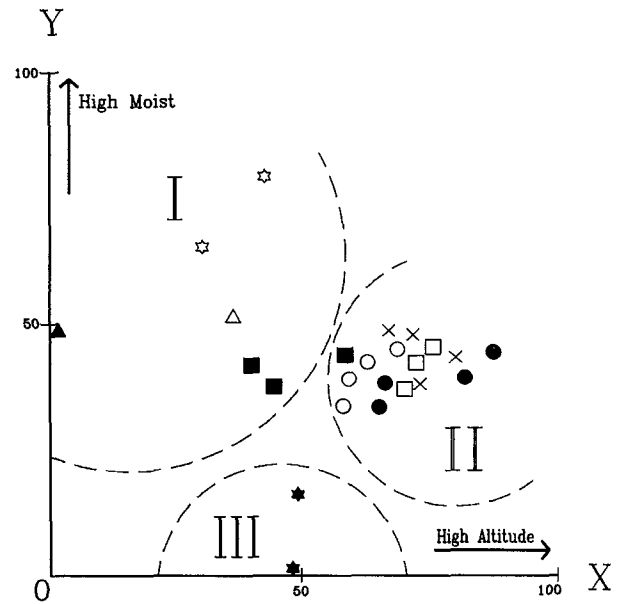


Fig. 2. Polar ordination of Y/X values of the 24 stands shown on Table 1.

- × : *Quercus mongolica* typical community
- : *Quercus mongolica* - *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* community
- : *Quercus mongolica* - *Symplocos chinensis* for. *pilosa* community
- : *Quercus mongolica* - *Pinus densiflora* 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 schlippenbachii* 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 phytosociological classification in classifying vegetation. Consequently, vegetation ecology is concerned not only with identifying 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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