

Research Article

Effects of Climate Change and Various Grassland Management Practices on Grasshopper (Orthoptera) Assemblages

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Influence of different grassland management practices on Orthoptera assemblages inhabiting humid grassland areas was studied since 2003 to 2011. The examined sites were within the protected area of Balaton Uplands National Park. The physiognomy and climatic conditions of the studied habitats were similar but their land use types were significantly different. After the preliminary analyses of Nonmetric multidimensional scaling, neighbour joining clustering, and Spearman rank correlation, we examined the possible effects of such independent variables as land use (nonmanagement, mowing, grazing), microclimate (humidity and temperature), regional macroclimate (annual and monthly mean temperatures and rainfall), using General Linear Mixed Models, and canonical correlation analysis. Our results showed that the effect of grassland management practices on the organization of Orthoptera assemblages was at least as important as that of macro- and microclimate. Furthermore, grassland management could intensify the influence of several local and regional parameters. These results can help finding the most suitable type of grassland management to conserve the grasshopper assemblages.

1. Introduction

Revision of grassland management practices, based on aspects of invertebrate zoology, has become a hot issue due to global warming. Global [1] and local stress factors [2] combined may significantly intensify the effect of each other on assemblages of diverse [3], sensitive, and fast responding [4] insects. This cumulative negative pressure not only could reduce the biodiversity of local fauna but also change the distribution area of several species as well [5, 6].

The landscape structure in the Balaton Uplands Region (Hungary), being rich in natural habitats, is especially suitable to examine the interaction of grassland management and climate based parameters. The relatively large size, natural state [7], and rich structural connectivity [8] of habitats in the study area produced diverse and complex insect assemblages. This richness was also facilitated by a variety of long-used traditional habitat management practices [9].

Under the pressure of climate change, the most successful type of grassland management [10–12] can be determined best through selecting the orthopterans [13] as indicator

group, like butterflies [14] and ground-dwelling spiders [15]. Additionally, orthopterans include a relatively limited number of species that can be easily handled [16], allow for objective sampling methods, and are quick and clear habitat indicators [17–22].

The good applicability of orthopterans for monitoring grassland management is based on their strict dependency on horizontal and vertical vegetation structure [23] and on grassland microclimate [24] at species and assemblage levels. These features manifest themselves not only in the local abundance of species but in the range of species groups with similar ecological requirements [25]. The strong vegetation and microclimate dependency come from several factors, including energetic connections with the habitats [26, 27], specific thermal requirements [28], differences in postdiapause egg development (PDD) of thermophilic, mesophilic and hygrophilic species [29], and soil preferences of species that lay their egg in the soil [30]. Xerophilic species are characterized by long PDD, whereas hygrophilic and mesophilic ones have a short PDD [31], therefore composition and density of species that lay their eggs in the soil are controlled

by climate change and grassland management factors, as key influences on PDD [29, 32, 33]. Based on these ecological facts, orthopterans are good, but as yet rarely researched focal taxon of grassland management [24, 34, 35] and climate change [36–38].

Our study objective was to test the influence of different grassland management types on Orthoptera assemblages of humid grasslands and to examine the effects and interactions of local (grass height, temperature, and humidity) and regional (annual and monthly rainfall and annual and monthly mean temperatures) habitat parameters on them. Based on the above, we also aimed at finding the best type of grassland management to conserve the valuable grasshopper assemblages in the area.

2. Study Areas

The studied sites belong to the protected grounds of the Balaton Uplands National Park (Western Hungary): NySCf = Nyírád/Sár-álló/Calcareous fen, KSCf = Köveskál/Sásdi-rétek/Calcareous fen, LLCf = Lesencetomaj/Lesencei-láprét/Calcareous fen, NySM = Nyírád/Sár-álló/Molinietum and LKM = Lesencetomaj/Körtvélyes/Molinietum (Figure 1).

The wider biogeographical microregions of the study area (Balaton Region, Balaton Uplands, Western Bakonyalja) have a moderately warm/moderately dry climate with an annual mean temperature of 9.5–10.0 Celsius; average maximum and minimum temperatures of ~plus 32.0–33.0 Celsius and ~minus 13.0–14.0 Celsius; an annual rainfall of approximately 700 mm (380–440 mm in the vegetation period); an average snow-cover of 35–44 days; and an aridity index ranging from 1.00 to 1.08 [39].

The examined fields are either basin areas, situated at low altitudes of 120–130 meters and surrounded by small (300–400 m) hills (KSCf, LLCf, LKM) or they are situated at the edge of hilly areas at an altitude of 190 metres (NySCf, NySM). All areas had formerly been covered by dense humid marshland vegetation until the 20th century when several parts of them were drained or cultivated. Still, the share of natural grassland and within that humid grassland in a 1,000 meter radius of the sampling sites remained relatively high (KSCf: 72% grasslands, 24% humid grasslands; LLCf: 57% grasslands, 11% humid grasslands; LKM: 47% grasslands, 6% humid grasslands, NySCf and NySM: 47% grasslands, 6% humid grasslands).

Although the physiognomy and climatic conditions of the sampled habitats were similar, their land use types were significantly different: two areas, the calcareous fen of NySCf and the Molinietum of LKM were not managed at all during the study period (2003–2011); the calcareous fen of KSCf consisted of unmanaged areas and areas managed in different ways (yearly mowing and moderate grazing); LLCf was not managed either; however, a two-yearly mowing of *Cladum mariscus* was applied to help the growth of other grass species; and NySM was mowed once a year.

The land use history of the areas was also different. The calcareous fen and Molinietum of Nyírád (NySCf and NySM) were covered originally too by grasslands but their

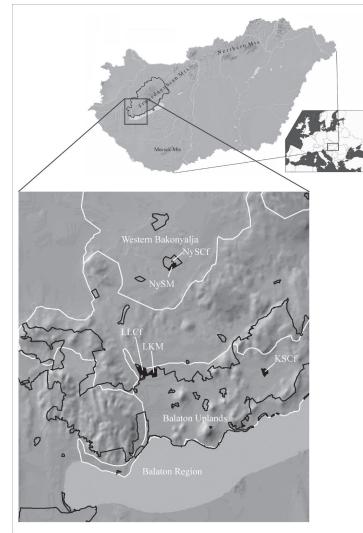


FIGURE 1: Map of the study area [black lines: borders of the protected grounds, white lines: borders of the biogeographical microregions, black patches: studied areas (NySCf = Nyírád/Sár-álló/Calcareous fen, KSCf = Köveskál/Sásdi-rétek/Calcareous fen, LLCf = Lesencetomaj/Lesencei-láprét/Calcareous fen, NySM = Nyírád/Sár-álló/Molinietum and LKM = Lesencetomaj/Körtvélyes/Molinietum)].

ground water level was artificially changed twice in the past: (1) bauxite-mining from the 1960s drained ground water by pumping and a large channel; (2) ten years ago, original water levels were restored by habitat reconstruction. The original grasslands of NySCf and NySM were not managed or mowed unsystematically. The Calcareous fen of Köveskál/Sásdi-rétek (KSCf) is also an original grassland that had been traditionally mowed and grazed extensively. During the last decades, the area was still mowed until the recent years when there was a switch to a practice of late summer grazing once a year. The calcareous fen of Lesencetomaj/Lesencei-láprét (LLCf) is also an original grassland. Its ground water level was also affected by the mining operations and draining but in the last decades the water supply has mainly been determined by the actual rainfall. Formerly, this grassland too was cattle grazed but in the last decades it was not managed or mowed only rarely within the nature management schemes of the National Park. The Molinietum of Lesencetomaj/Körtvélyes (LKM) is mainly covered by original grassland too. Its ground water level was again influenced by smaller drain channels; however, its water supply remained almost natural. Traditionally, the area was grazed moderately or mowed extensively but recently it has been left unmanaged as part of a larger overgrazed field.

For a detailed description of the sample areas and their environmental parameters see Tables 1(a) and 1(b).

3. Sampling Methods

Detailed samplings were carried out within the HABIT-CHANGE project (European Regional Development Fund: 2CE168P3 in 2010 and 2011) (Figure 1). Two areas (KSCf

TABLE 1: (a) The most important environmental parameters of the sampled areas; (b) main macroclimate parameters of the sampled areas.

(a)										
Sampl. area	Height above sea-level (m)	Bedrock	Exposure	Soil	Local cover of humid grasslands	Hab. size (hect.)	Veg. cover	Veg. av. height ¹	Water level (m)	Landuse
NySCf*	190	Gravel	—	fenny	6%	10	60–90%	90–100 cm	−0.8–0.0	Nonmanaged
KSCf*	135	Turf	—	fenny	24%	64	80–100%	70–80 cm	−1.5–0.1	Mowing ² grazing ³
LLCf*	120	Turf	—	fenny	11%	84	70–90%	80–90 cm	−0.7–0.0	Mowing ⁴
NySM**	195	Gravel	—	sand	6%	50	80–90%	40–60 cm	−2.0–0.5	Mowing ²
LKM**	120	Turf	—	turf	6%	30	70–90%	60–80 cm	−1.5–0.7	Nonmanaged

¹before mowing and grazing; ²once a year (July, August); ³moderately (0.1 beef/hectare) in late summer/autumn; ⁴mowing of *Cladium mariscus* had happened for two years in order to control its serious pressure on other grass species; * Cf = Calcareous fen, ** M = Molinietum.

(b)											
	Mean temperature (°C)					Mean rainfall (mm)					
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011	2003	2005	2007	2009	2010
April	10.2	11	13.1	14	11.3	13.5	25	62	2	11	67
May	18.1	16	17.4	16.3	16.2	16.2	22	60	93	70	132
June	22.8	18.3	21.6	17.8	18.6	21	15	71	53	47	142
July	22.1	20	21.9	21	21.8	21.2	72	120	53	84	37
August	23.2	18	20	21.2	21	21.8	66	204	172	63	155
September	15.8	16.1	14	17.6	14.5	17.5	32	59	122	31	132
Annual	10.9	9.7	11	10.9	9.8	11.1	490	765	840	700	950
											350

and LLCf) were studied in the framework of the Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System too in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009 (Figure 1), providing current data that can be used for midterm analyses of grasshopper assemblages and habitat-variables. Three–five sampling sites per sampling areas (KSCf, LLCf, LKM, NySCf, NySM; see Figure 1) were studied annually in June, July, August, and September (a total of 17 sampling sites, 312 samplings). The average distance between the sampling areas was 10 kilometers and between the sample sites it was 50 metres. Selection of the sampling areas was based on habitat-structure, land use, macro- and microclimatic conditions, and landscape history. Thus, areas with high natural value, well representing the landscape structure of the microregion, and affected by different land use types were selected for the study. The samplings were carried out under very different weather conditions during the years, which was important due to the strong water-dependency of the studied habitats.

Grasshoppers were collected by sweep netting in 10 × 10 m quadrates. Each sampling consisted of 300 sweeps (using sweep nets with a diameter of 30 cm, samplings were carried out in each site in the same intervals of the days, from 10 to 12 and from 14 to 16; sweep net was examined after each 100 sweep). These sweep net samplings were complemented by direct collection, whose data was also incorporated into the results through simple addition. The observed larvae were also recorded but they were excluded from the analysis.

Local habitat parameters were recorded at 5 pseudorandom plots within the sampling quadrates. We measured the following variables: grass height (cm), land use type, and temperature (Celsius) and humidity (%) at surface level and at

heights of 10, 20, 30, and 120 cm (the latter two were measured with TESTO 615).

Regional climate data of the study period were obtained from the nearest measuring points of the Hungarian Weather Service (Keszthely and Sümeg at ~20/~16 km from the sampling areas). We used the following macroclimatic parameters in our models: annual mean temperatures and rainfall and monthly mean temperatures and rainfall in April, May, June, July, August, and September.

Landscape structure and share of land use types in percentages in a radius of 1 km around the sampling areas were determined on the basis of aerial photographs and CORINE LC maps.

4. Statistical Analysis

Orthoptera samples collected at the same place at the same time were merged into combined samples (a total of 64 combined samples). Analyses were carried out using the relative frequency of these merged samples. Microclimatic and grass height data were determined the same way (averaging the measurements taken on different plots at the same time). In case of the microclimatic data, we calculated relative values (measurements at 120 cm were considered 0) for our analysis and models. Further examined parameters of the Orthoptera assemblages were species richness, number of thermophilic species, number of hygrophilic species, abundance of thermophilic species, abundance of hygrophilic species, number of pratinicole species, abundance of pratinicole species, number of graminicole species, abundance of graminicole species, and abundance and relative frequency of species with

TABLE 2: Synthetic table of the collected material [life-forms: pra: pratinicole, arbu: arbusticole, psp: pseudopsammophilic, sil: silvicolle, gra: graminicole, geo: geophilic; hab req: habitat requirements, hygr: hygrophilic, m-hygr: moderate-hygrophilic, ther: thermophilic, mes: mesophilic, m-ther: moderate-thermophilic].

Species	Abbr.	Life-form	Hab. req.	Total specimens per habitat types				
				KSCf	LLCf	NyScf	LKM	NySM
<i>Conocephalus discolor</i> (Thunberg, 1815)	Condis	pra	hygr	136	174	143	46	44
<i>Conocephalus dorsalis</i> (Latreille, 1804)	Condor	pra	hygr	7	7	0	0	0
<i>Ruspolia nitidula</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	Rusnit	pra	m-hygr	9	0	0	0	0
<i>Phaneroptera falcata</i> (Poda, 1761)	Phafal	arbu	ther	0	5	5	31	19
<i>Leptophyes albovittata</i> (Kollar, 1833)	Lepalb	arbu	ther	0	1	0	1	3
<i>Isophya costata</i> (Brunner v. W., 1878)	Isocos	pra	mes	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Gampsocleis glabra</i> (Herbst, 1786)	Gambla	psps	ther	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Polysarcus denticauda</i> (Charpentier, 1825)	Polden	pra	mes	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Tetvir	arbu	mes	10	2	0	0	3
<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i> (Linnaeus, 1785)	Decver	pra	mes	9	0	0	2	18
<i>Pholidoptera fallax</i> (Fischer, 1853)	Phofal	sil	ther	7	0	0	0	0
<i>Platycleis albopunctata</i> (Goeze, 1778)	Plaalb	pra	ther	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Bicolorana bicolor</i> (Philippi, 1830)	Bicbic	pra	m-ther	12	0	0	15	69
<i>Roeseliana roeselii</i> (Hagenbach, 1822)	Roeroe	pra	m-hygr	99	14	4	20	36
<i>Calliptamus italicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Calita	gra	ther	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Pezotettix giornae</i> (Rossi, 1794)	Pezgio	gra	ther	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Stethophyma grossum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Stegro	pra	hygr	2	1	0	0	0
<i>Mecostethus parapleurus</i> (Hagenbach, 1822)	Mecpar	pra	hygr	5	0	0	0	0
<i>Chrysocraon dispar</i> (Germar, 1834)	Chrdis	pra	m-hygr	59	52	0	137	14
<i>Euthystira brachyptera</i> (Ocskay, 1826)	Eutbra	pra	mes	117	81	7	249	93
<i>Chorthippus biguttulus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Chobig	pra	m-ther	6	0	0	2	10
<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i> (Thuinberg, 1815)	Chobru	pra	m-ther	14	9	0	15	15
<i>Chorthippus mollis</i> (Charpentier, 1825)	Chomol	pra	mes	15	6	0	30	7
<i>Chorthippus dorsatus</i> (Zetterstedt, 1821)	Chodor	pra	mes	8	0	0	3	4
<i>Pseudochorthippus parallelus</i> (Zetterstedt, 1821)	Psepar	pra	mes	164	34	15	95	63
<i>Pseudochorthippus montanus</i> (Charpentier, 1825)	Psemont	pra	mes	102	14	18	9	7
<i>Omocestus rufipes</i> (Zetterstedt, 1821)	Omoruf	pra	mes	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Omocestus petraeus</i> (Brisout, 1855)	Omopet	gra	ther	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Stenobothrus lineatus</i> (Panzer, 1796)	Stelin	pra	m-ther	14	10	0	1	6
<i>Tetrix subulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Tetsub	geo	hygr	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Tetrix tenuicornis</i> (Sahlberg, 1891)	Tetten	pra	ther	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Euchorthippus declivus</i> (Brisout de Barnevile, 1848)	Eucdec	gra	ther	0	0	0	7	0
<i>Aiolopus thalassinus</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	Aiotha	gra	m-ther	12	1	0	0	0

a relative share larger than 2 percent. Ecotype needs and life-form classification of the grasshopper species were based on definitions by Ingrisch and Köhler [40].

The preliminary analysis of the collected data, using nonmetric multidimensional scaling (MDS) and neighbour joining clustering (PAST 1.95 software, [41]) showed significant differences between samples taken on different habitat types at different times. These differences cannot be explained

purely by phenological factors. The Spearman rank correlation of background variables suggested that the effects of land use and related micro- and macroclimatic factors could often be imperative on the organization and actual abundance of Orthoptera species.

Based on the above preliminary examination, we analysed the possible effects of independent variables, that is, land management (mowing, grazing, and nonmanagement),

TABLE 3: Results of testing effects of microclimate and management and their interactions on the species richness and abundance of the orthopteran species groups (general linear mixed model, one-way ANOVA, $n = 64$).

	Microclimate and management			Macroclimate and management			
	M	Mic	Mic × M	Ann	Ann × M	Seas	Ses × M
Species richness							
Thermophilic spp.	3.24**	0.56	17.81**	1.44	4.51**	1.01	1.62
Hygrophilic spp.	1.51	0.78	2.56	2.52**	2.67**	2.02*	6.59
Pratinicole spp.	0.87	2.20	2.67	0.42	0.51	0.43	0.51
Graminicole spp.	2.53*	2.76	69.24***	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48
Abundance							
Thermophilic spp.	3.21**	2.37	5.04*	0.71	1.59	0.49	0.15
Hygrophilic spp.	2.25*	4.35*	0.81	1.69	2.37*	1.35	2.39
Pratinicole spp.	2.28*	44.97***	0.79	6.41***	10.11***	6.41***	10.10***
Graminicole spp.	10.72***	0.53	3.04	1.25	0.72	1.25	0.72

Model includes management (M), microclimate (Mic), annual and periodical (June, July, August, and September) macroclimate (Ann and Seas) and their interactions (Mic × M, Ann × M, Seas × M). Temperature (°C) and humidity (%) on the ground surface and at heights of 10, 20, and 30 cm in the grassland were involved in Mic. Mean temperature and rainfall of the period were involved in Ann and Seas. F values are given. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.005$; *** $P < 0.001$.

microclimatic factors (humidity and temperature), regional macroclimatic factors (annual and monthly mean temperatures and rainfall), and their interactions on Orthoptera assemblages and species, using General Linear Mixed Models. The provisional model, incorporating all possible effects of land management, microclimate, and macroclimate, was rejected because of the inevitable multicollinearity and indefinability of explanatory variables. Therefore, we tested the effects of land management and microclimate on macroclimate in separate models. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed using Statistica 6.0 (the random factor was not marked) [42].

To analyse the effects of local and regional climate on the structure of orthopterans, we conducted a canonical correlation analysis with logarithmically transformed data of annual, seasonal, and monthly (June, July, August, and September) rainfall; grass height determined by the actual land use type; and the relative frequencies of Orthoptera species occurring in minimum 5 samples.

5. Results

During the study we collected 2,506 Orthoptera specimens of 33 species. The most abundant species (*Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826), *Conocephalus discolor* Thunberg, 1815, *Pseudochorthippus parallelus* (Zetterstedt, 1821), *Chrysochraon dispar* (Germar, 1834), *Roeseliana roeselii* (Hagenbach, 1822), *Bicolorana bicolor* (Philippi, 1830), *Phaneroptera falcata* (Poda, 1761), *Chorthippus mollis* (Charpentier, 1825), and *Chorthippus brunneus* (Thunberg, 1815)) show great diversity in habitat requirements concerning vegetation structure and microclimate. Furthermore, the observed species greatly differ in tolerance to land use intensity and disturbances.

The linear mixed model of species richness and abundance of Orthoptera groups with different life-forms and habitat requirements showed a significant correlation between the abundance of graminicole/thermophilic species preferring short grass vegetation and the interaction of

grassland management type and microclimate (Table 3). For the pratinicole species preferring tall grass vegetation, abundance was most significantly correlated with grassland microclimate but further correlations with interactions of macroclimate and grassland management type were also revealed. The abundance of graminicole species was strongly correlated with the interaction of microclimate and grassland management type.

In case of hygrophilic species, species richness was affected by not only microclimatic but macroclimatic parameters as well (Table 3). Furthermore, the ecotype-structure of the assemblages showed weaker correlations with local and regional factors than their life-form structure did.

For the dominant Orthoptera species, our linear mixed model showed strong significant correlation between abundance and interactions of grassland management type and microclimate (Table 4). These correlations could be observed in case of mesophilic species too (*Euthystira brachyptera*, *Chrysochraon dispar*, and *Roeseliana roeselii*) but they were more prominent for species with strict preference for tall-grass (*Bicolorana bicolor*) or short-grass vegetation (*Chorthippus mollis*, *C. brunneus*).

We found fewer and less significant correlations between macroclimate and species abundance. It seems that yearly macroclimate and grassland management type are more relevant than periodical microclimate (from June to September).

Examining the effects of macroclimate and grassland management type on humidity and temperature figures, it seemed that microclimate was mostly related to periodical macroclimate from June to September (Table 5). Average and specific (measured at surface level and at different heights) microclimatic values clearly correlated to periodical (June, July, August, and September) main temperatures and the average rainfall. Based on the significant correlations, the annual rainfall also affects the humidity of the grasslands. Our model indicated that the specific type of grassland management used, a determining factor of grass height, plays only a reduced role in determining grassland microclimate.

TABLE 4: Results of testing effects of microclimate and management and their interactions on the dominant species of the studied orthopteran assemblages (general linear mixed model, one-way ANOVA, $n = 64$, for abbreviations of the species see Table 2).

	Microclimate and management			Macroclimate and management			
	M	Mic	Mic × M	Ann	Ann × M	Seas	Ses × M
Abundance							
<i>Eutbra</i>	3.75**	6.24*	6.46*	0.82	2.14	2.21*	1.46
<i>Condis</i>	1.58	1.14	1.23	0.60	1.28	0.89	1.84
<i>Chrdis</i>	2.15*	0.99	0.26	0.78	2.28*	0.61	0.79
<i>Roeroe</i>	0.51	7.34*	1.37	2.27*	0.65	2.41*	0.49
<i>Psepar</i>	0.69	2.14	0.99	2.15*	1.19	1.20	0.21
<i>Bicbic</i>	0.91	5.33*	17.81**	0.75	0.54	0.73	0.10
<i>Chomol</i>	10.12***	0.36	1.26	1.50	4.50**	2.05*	1.62
<i>Chobru</i>	6.56***	0.53	2.56	2.02*	1.59	1.85	0.15

Model includes management (M), microclimate (Mic), annual and periodical (June, July, August, and September) macroclimate (Ann and Seas) and their interactions (Mic × M, Ann × M, Seas × M). Temperature (°C) and humidity (%) on the ground surface and at heights of 10, 20, and 30 cm in the grassland were involved in Mic. Mean temperature and rainfall of the period were involved in Ann and Seas. F values are given. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.005$; *** $P < 0.001$.

TABLE 5: Results of testing effects of macroclimate and management and their interactions on the microclimate of the studied grasslands (respective values of microclimate data were included = the value measured at 120 cm was considered 0) (general linear mixed model, one-way ANOVA, $n = 64$).

Microclimate	Macroclimate and management			
	Ann	Seas	M	M × Seas
Grassland humidity				
Ground surface	5.41***	5.22***	2.30*	1.62
10 cm	5.49***	7.42***	1.99*	1.33
20 cm	3.45**	9.96***	1.47	1.52
30 cm	2.58*	11.12***	1.65	1.17
Average	6.71***	8.46***	2.24*	1.29
Grassland temperature				
Ground surface	3.07*	8.62***	2.56*	1.29
10 cm	2.07	8.29***	1.37	2.15*
20 cm	3.59**	8.00***	1.88	2.77**
30 cm	2.93*	9.16***	1.69	5.15***
Average	3.17*	9.23***	2.09*	2.43*

Model includes annual macroclimate (Ann), periodical (June, July, August, and September) macroclimate (Seas, from June to July), management (M), and interactions of management and periodical (June, July, August, and September) macroclimate (M × Seas). Mean temperature and rainfall of the period were involved in Ann and Seas. F values are given. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.005$; *** $P < 0.001$.

The canonical correlation analysis based on annual, seasonal (spring), and monthly (June, July, August, and September) rainfall data and grassland management type as habitat variables showed (Figure 2) that the occurrence and abundance of mesophilic and especially hygrophilic species strongly correlated to annual and spring rainfall figures and taller vegetation (grass height). On Figure 2 it can be seen that species groups with different habitat requirements (hygrophilic and mesophilic versus thermophilic) are separated along the above habitat variables. The analysis also indicated that the relative frequencies of thermophilic species were most strongly related to spring rainfall.

6. Discussion

The drastic modifying effect of grassland management on the organization of Orthoptera assemblages clearly comes from the taxon's sensitivity to vegetation-structure [23], macroclimate [43, 44], microclimate [31], and thermoregulatory ability [45, 46]. Former studies showed that changes in vegetation structure modified quantitative and qualitative parameters of Orthoptera assemblages and extreme disturbances could lead to the local extinction of certain species [35].

Our studies showed that grassland management had the same important effects on the organization of orthopterans

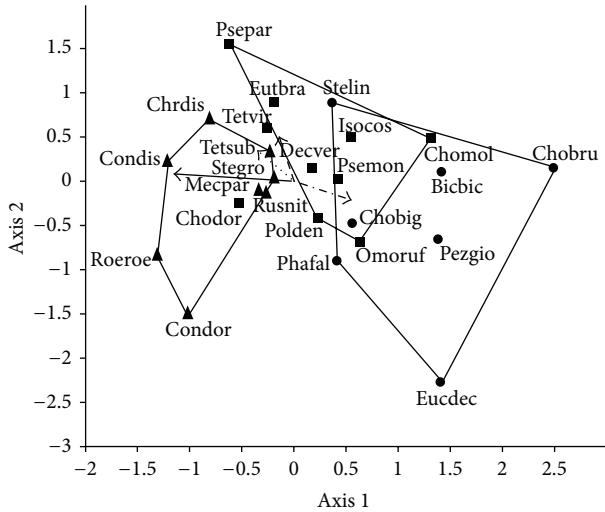


FIGURE 2: Canonical correlation analysis, which included the most significant habitat variables and relative frequency data of orthopteran species occurring in minimum 5 samples, shows that grassland management, rainfall in the period of June to September, rainfall in spring, and annual rainfall affect the organization of orthopteran assemblages. [black circle: thermophilic species (including moderately thermophilic species), black square: mesophilic species, black triangle: hygrophilic species (including moderately hygrophilic species); continuous line: effect of grassland management, dotted line: annual rainfall; broken line: rainfall of the interval from June to September; dots and dashes line: April rainfall; for abbreviations of the species see Table 2].

as macro- and microclimate had. Furthermore, grassland management could intensify the influence of several local and regional parameters.

We found that annual and periodical (from June to September) microclimatic parameters had low importance in the organization of orthopterans but their interactions with grassland management strongly correlated to the structure of these assemblages. The effects of macroclimate could be attributed to its influence on the phenology of species that lay their eggs into the soil. In the studied grasslands, due to their humidity, we found that spring macroclimate was the most important regional factor. It could be explained by the potential water supply from the heavy spring rains, decreasing the number and abundances of hygrophilic and mesophilic species with brief postdiapause egg development [29, 31].

Indirect effects of the macroclimate determinate of the grassland microclimate principally. Our results show that the macroclimate of the June-September period has stronger correlations with the microclimate than the grassland management (Table 5). Latter fact is particularly evident in trends of the grassland humidity: this parameter could be at high level caused by sufficient rainfall and underground water-level independently from the grassland management. This phenomenon indicates that correlations between management, macroclimate, and orthopteran assemblages should not be based on just climatic requirements of the studied taxon. It was confirmed by linear mixed model in which

we found that the effect of grassland management shows significant correlations with much more parameters of the orthopteran assemblages than the microclimate values of the different grass-levels. Strong correlations especially were detected between the abundance of thermophilic species and the grassland microclimate and management.

Summarizing our results, the structure of the studied grasshopper assemblages is mostly correlated to grassland management. Mowing and grazing in the humid grasslands cause higher abundances of thermophilic species than it is characteristic naturally. Although mowing and grazing make the microclimate of the grasslands drier than the direct effects of the macro- and microclimate shape, the above mentioned changes in the structure of the assemblages cannot be explained just with climatic sensitivity of orthopterans. Our results confirmed that abundances of the orthopteran species depend not only on the structure of the vegetation [47] but also on microclimate. There could be several phenomena in the background of the correlations between abundances of the orthopteran species and grass height. Drastic reduction of the grass height by management changes circumstances of the habitats in point of views of feeding [48], mobility [25], predation [49], and energetic connections [27]. Further, the extreme changes in the vegetation structure result in drastic changes in oviposition possibilities. Species that lay their eggs on the vegetation (e.g., *Euthystira brachyptera*) will decrease if the vertical structure of the grassland becomes more homogenous [50], but grassland management is indirectly also a selecting factor for the orthopterans that lay their eggs into the soil [24], whereas in extended natural habitats the grassland management can modify the contingency of the latter species just in the long term.

Figure 3 shows the periodical (early-summer, late-summer) values of indicator characteristics of the orthopteran assemblages and grassland microclimate in habitats mowed in midsummer and nonmanaged habitats. Caused by phenological phenomena in late summer aspects of the natural humid grasslands the relative frequency of the hygrophilic species increases and the relative frequency of the thermophilic species stagnates. Whereas in mowed habitats, the trend changes: the relative frequency of hygrophilic species decreases, but in case of thermophilic species it drastically increases. Differences between circumstances of mowed and nonmanaged sites are seen not only in the grass height, but also in the microclimate values (Figure 3).

Hundred-year data series of the Hungarian Meteorological Service shows effects of global warming in the studied area. Our results may help during the planning of grassland management. Namely, the effects of intensive grassland management can amplify the drying trends of macroclimate. This could change rapidly not only the temperature and humidity of the grassland, but also the structure of the insect assemblages related to vegetation structure. The changes of microclimate could be followed by immigration of thermophilic species from the surrounding habitats and finally by the homogenization of the landscape structure. Our results show that decreasing of species richness and diversity may be avoided if the annual macroclimate is taken into

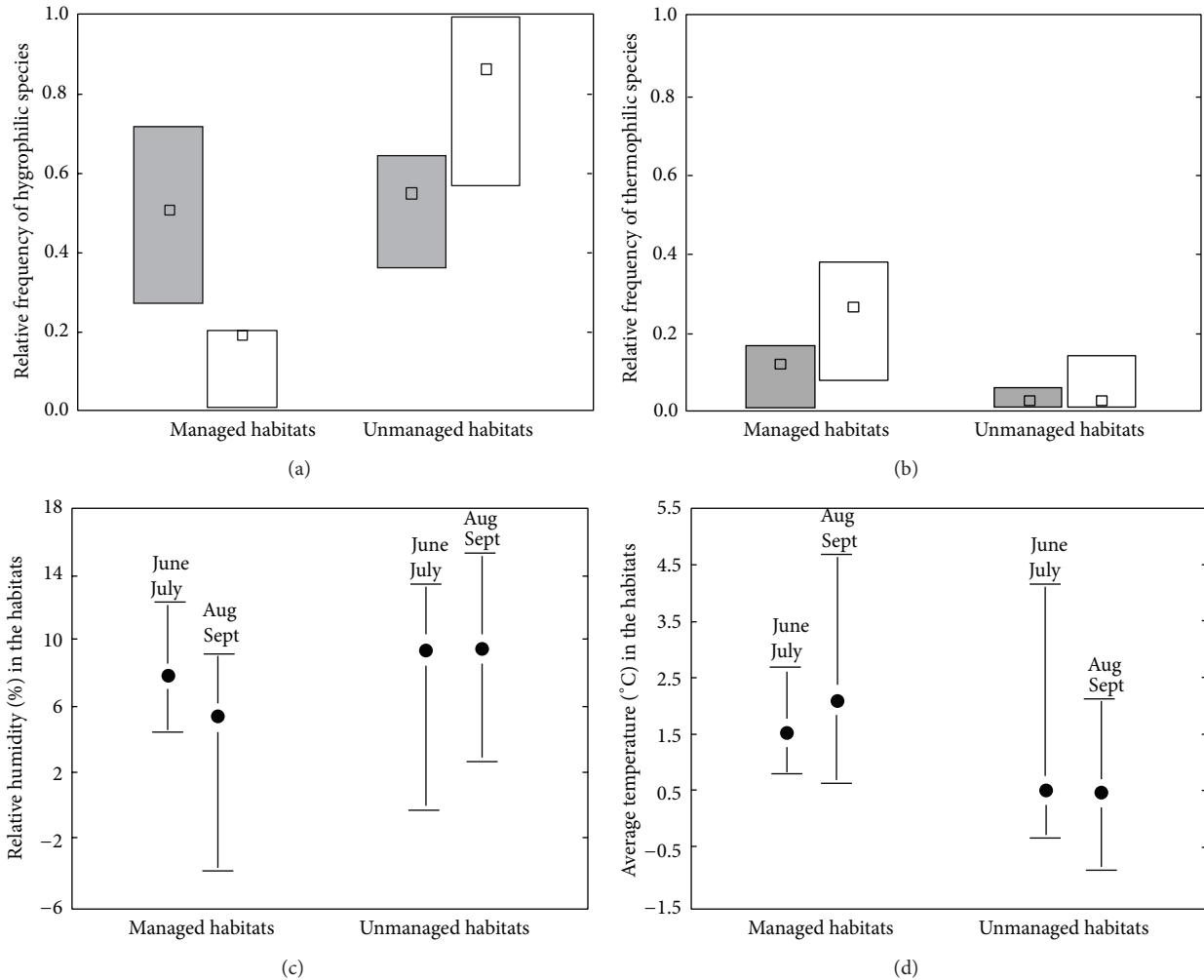


FIGURE 3: In mowed habitats, the structure of the grasshopper assemblages changes by late summer; relative frequency of the hygrophilic species decreases, relative frequency of the thermophilic species increases drastically [gray bars shaped to 75th and 25th% of the hygrophilic and thermophilic species-groups' frequencies in different sites in the period of June-July; white bars indicate the same data in the period of August-September (squares in the boxes show medians)]. Differences between circumstances of mowed and nonmanaged sites are seen not only in the grass height, but also in the values of the grassland humidity and temperature [lower figures draw minimum, maximum, and median of the microclimate data in early (June, July) and late (August, September) summer].

consideration during the planning of grassland management. In extremely dry years mowing should be skipped, if other important aims of natural protection (e.g., repression of invasive species) are not enforcing this.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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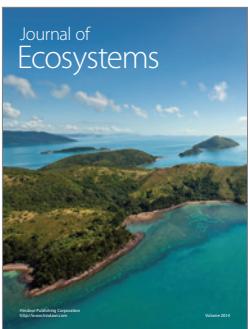
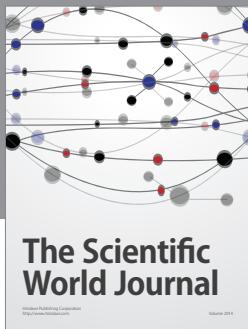
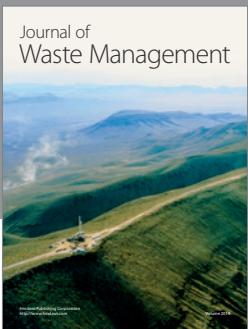
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