Mulching *Molinia*

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The issue

- Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea)* grows on drying peat bogs, creating a monospecific vegetation assemblage.
- It further dries out the peat, which makes it harder for a biodiverse, wet loving bog community to flourish.
- Ombrotrophic peat bogs are very important for carbon storage, biodiversity, water management etc.

The sites

- There used to be a large peat-covered part of the Mersey Valley (near Manchester, UK), called Chat Moss.
- Now there are small relict bogs remaining.
- These were drained and used for peat cutting.
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust is now restoring them.
- Three sites: Astley Moss (Control); Astley Moss (Treated); Rindle Moss (Treated).

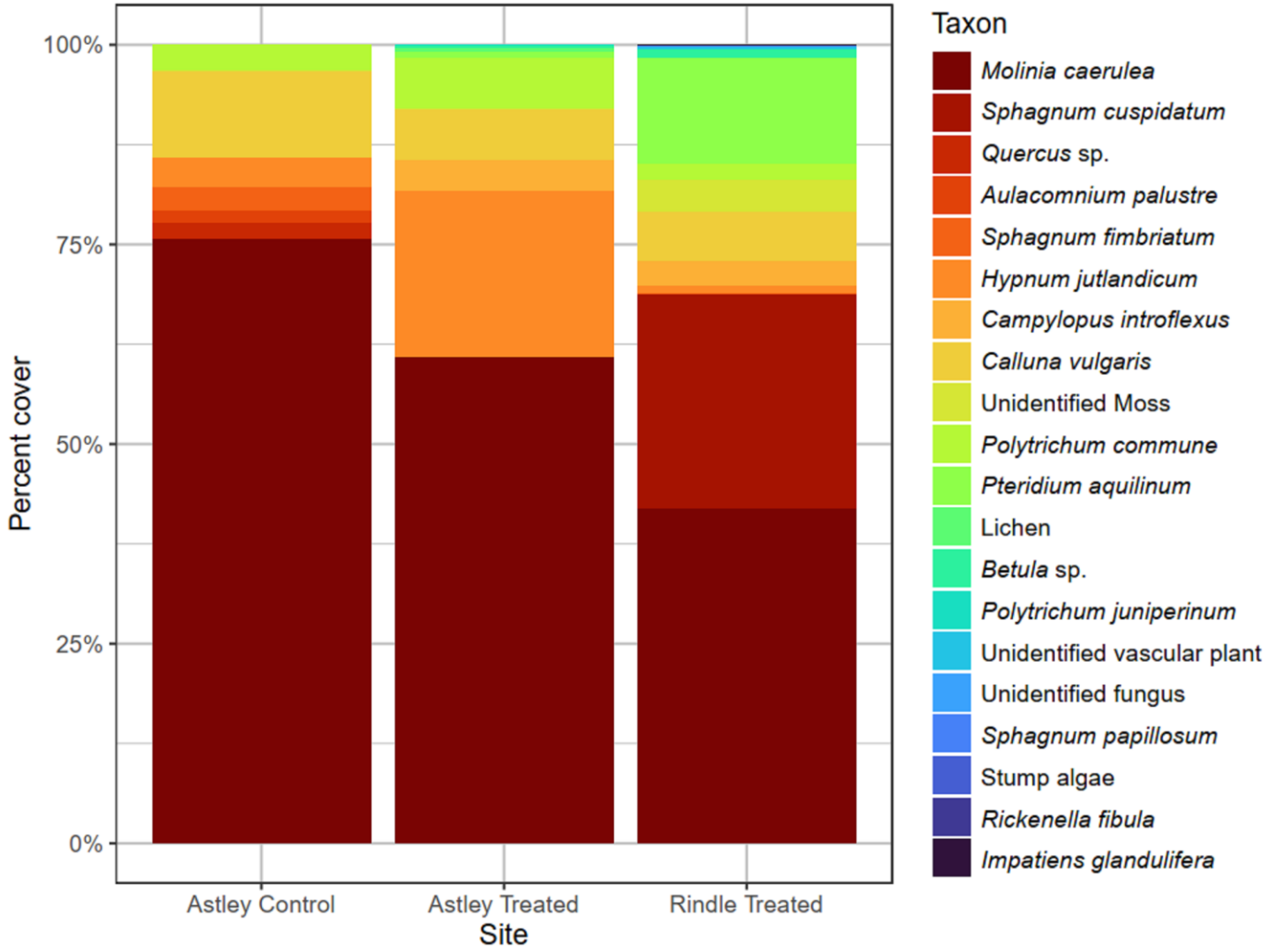
Battling *Molinia*

- A small amount of *Molinia* is normal for a mire, however there was too much on these sites.
- Water tables were raised by blocking drains & constructing bunds.
- The plants were mulched, to hopefully weaken *Molinia.*

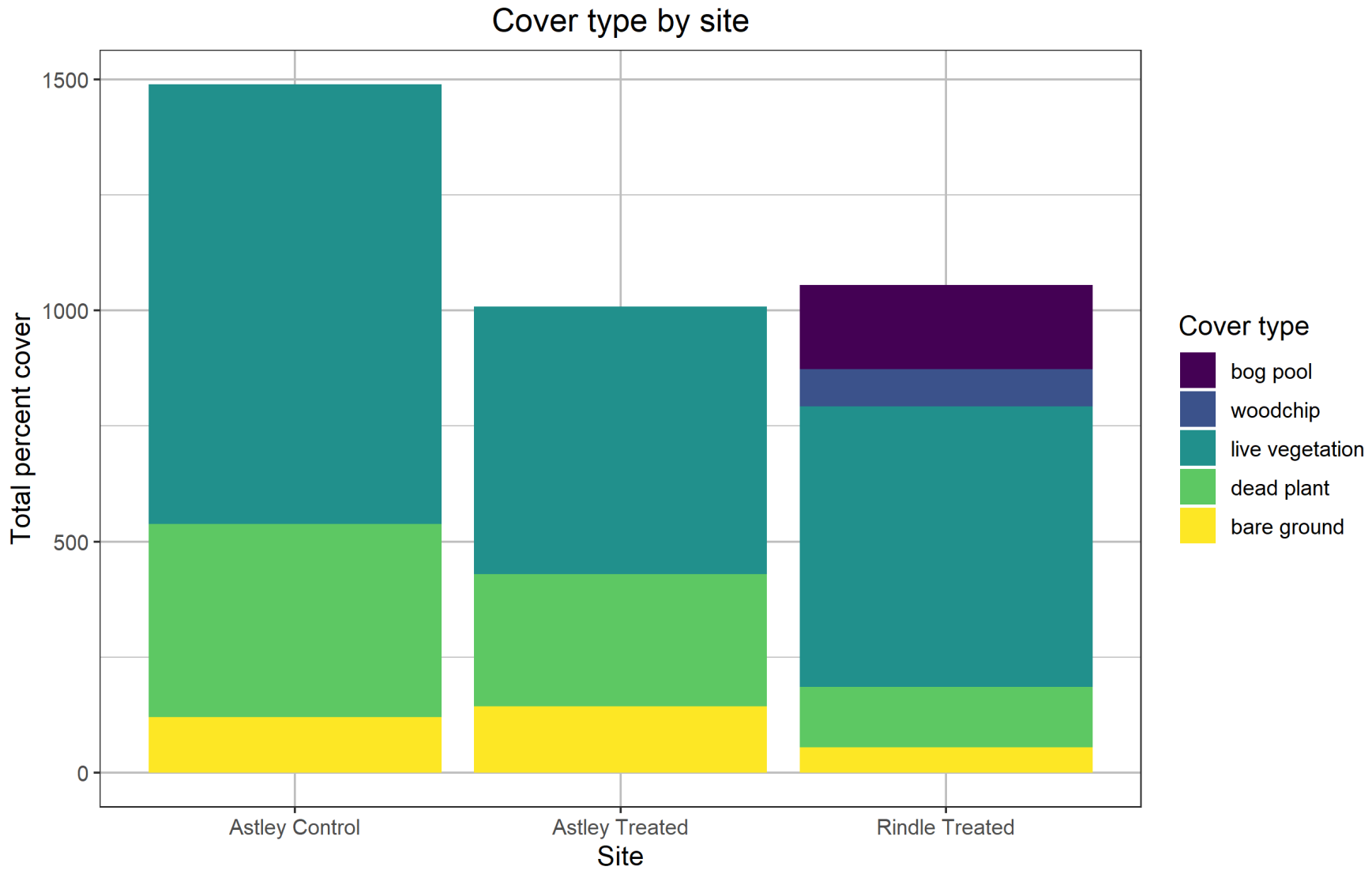
Astley

Rindle

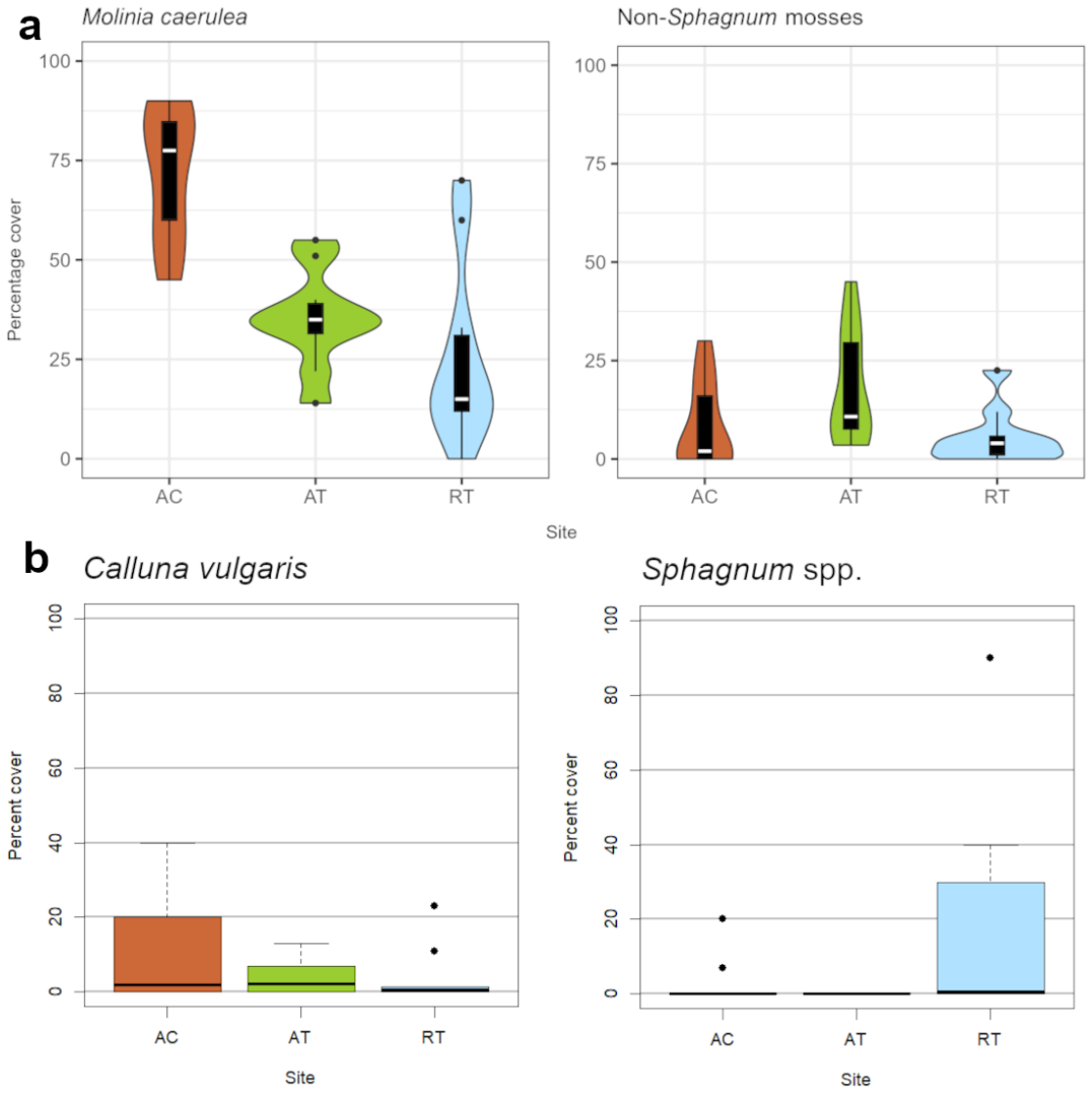
Results: vegetation



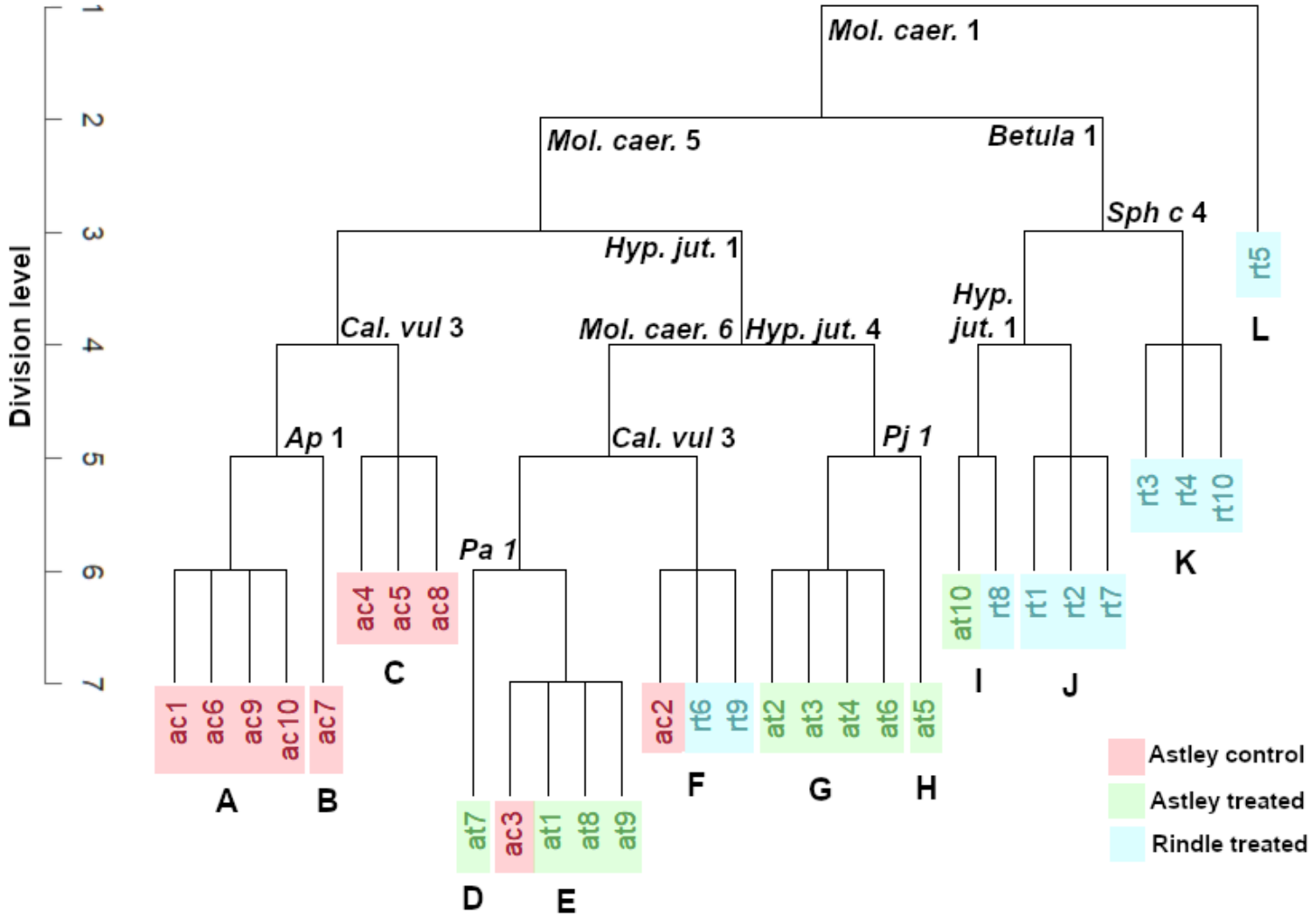
Results: cover type

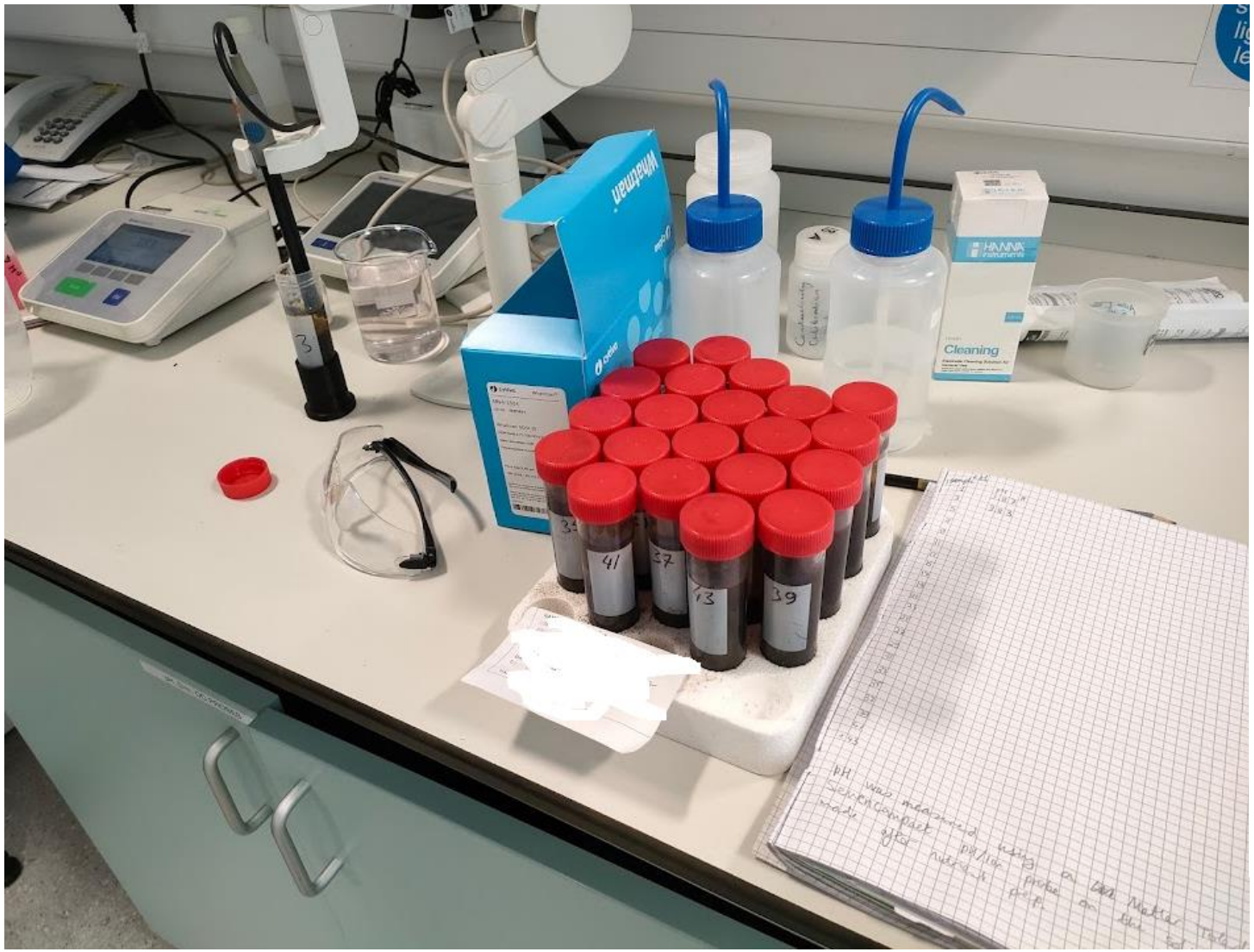


Results: key vegetation



Results: clustering




Whatman
Cleaning
HANNA instruments
41
37
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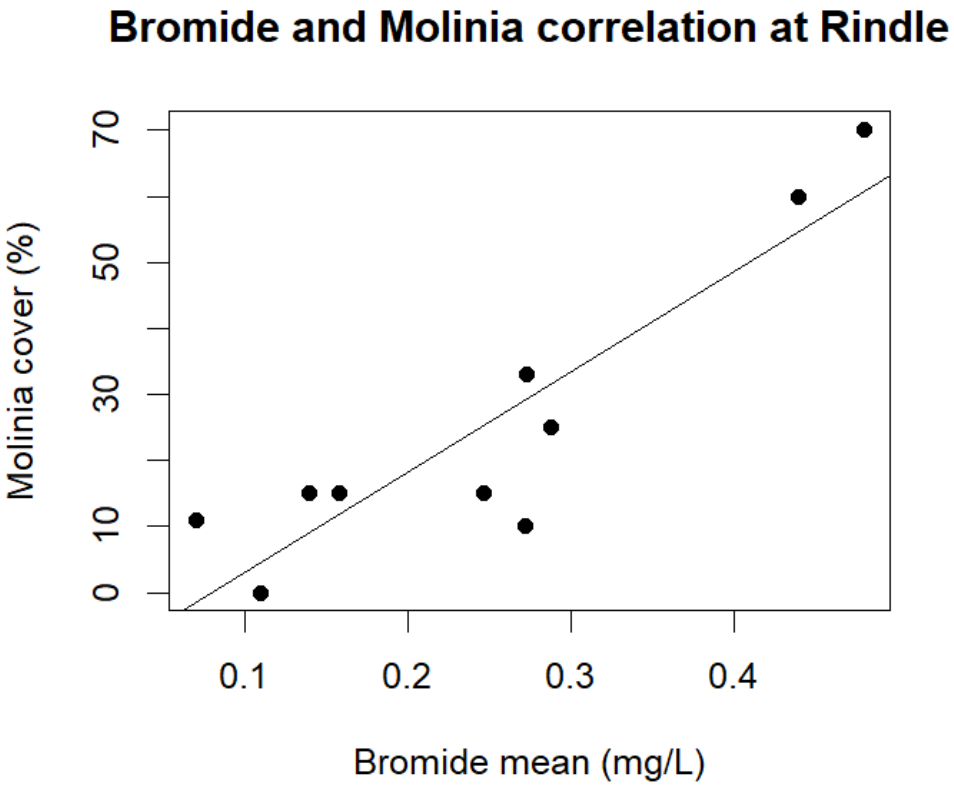
Bromide and Molinia correlation at Rindle
Molinia cover (%)
0
10
30
50
70
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
Bromide mean (mg/L)

Thanks for watching!