

A photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, there is a pond with dark water, reflecting the sky and surrounding vegetation. Several clumps of tall, green reeds or grasses are growing out of the water. To the right of the pond, there is a dense area of green ferns and other wetland plants. In the background, a line of trees is visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed wetland environment.

Mulching *Molinia*

Yeva Sands

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).

Astley



Rindle



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*.



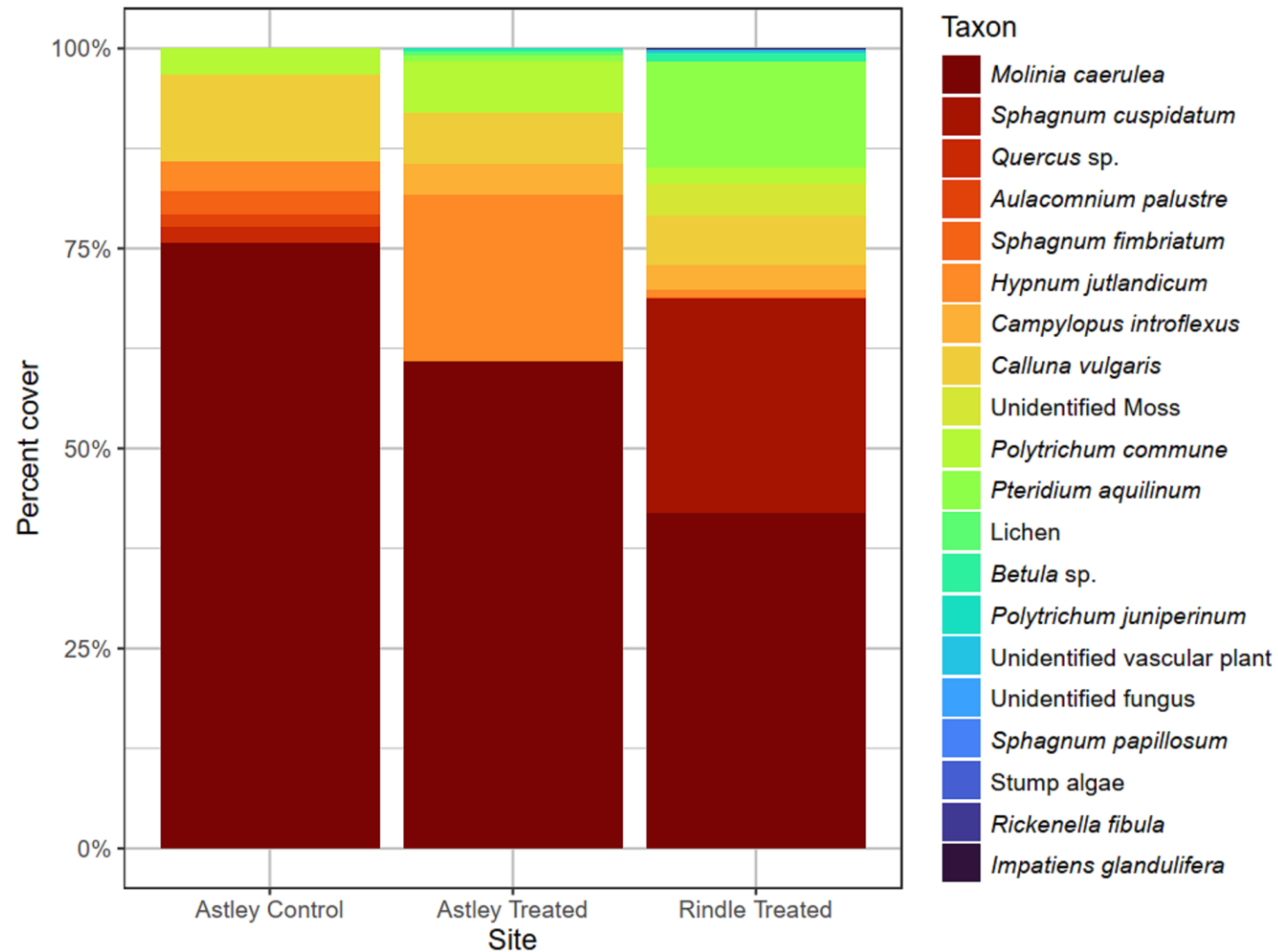


Astley

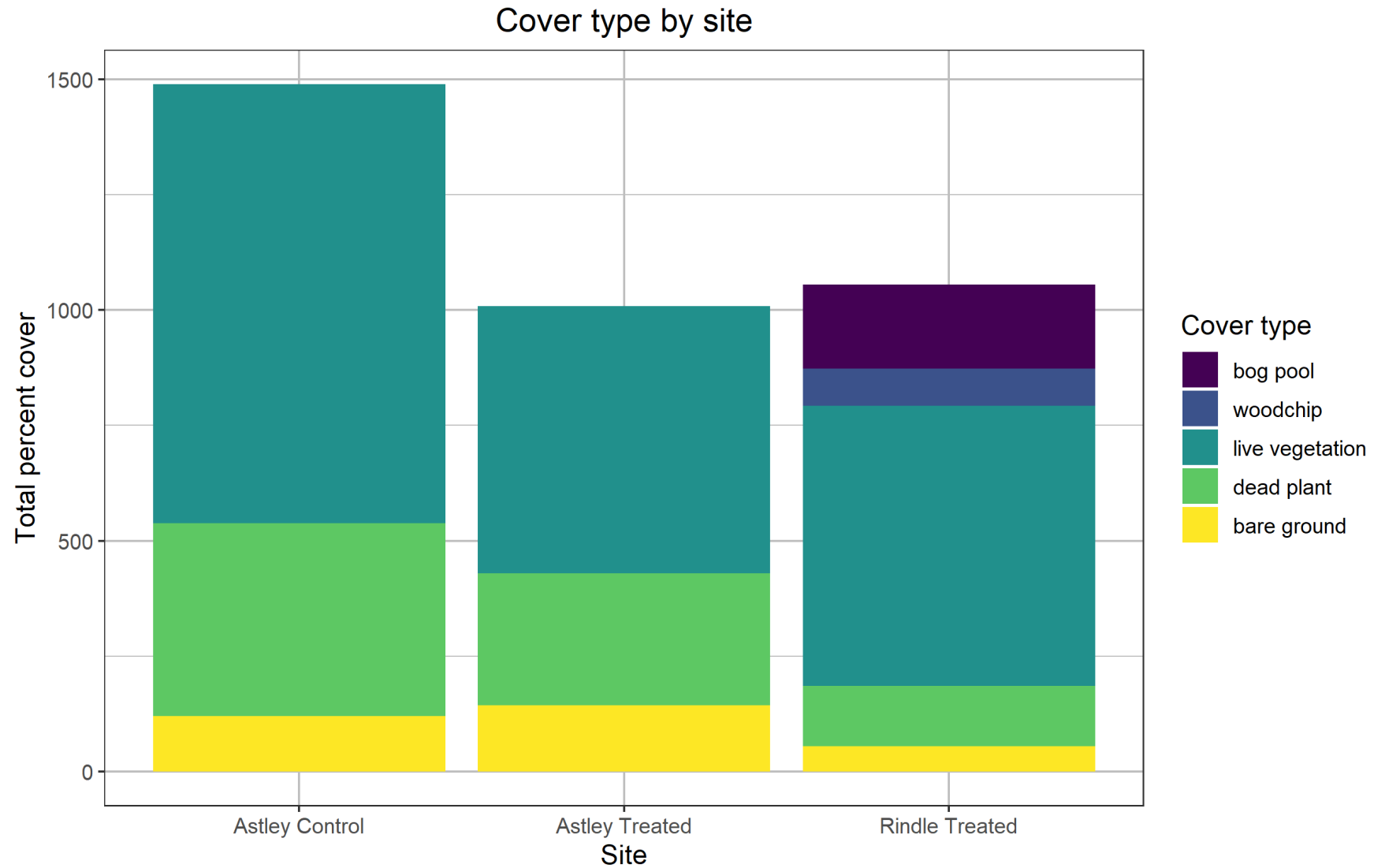


Rindle

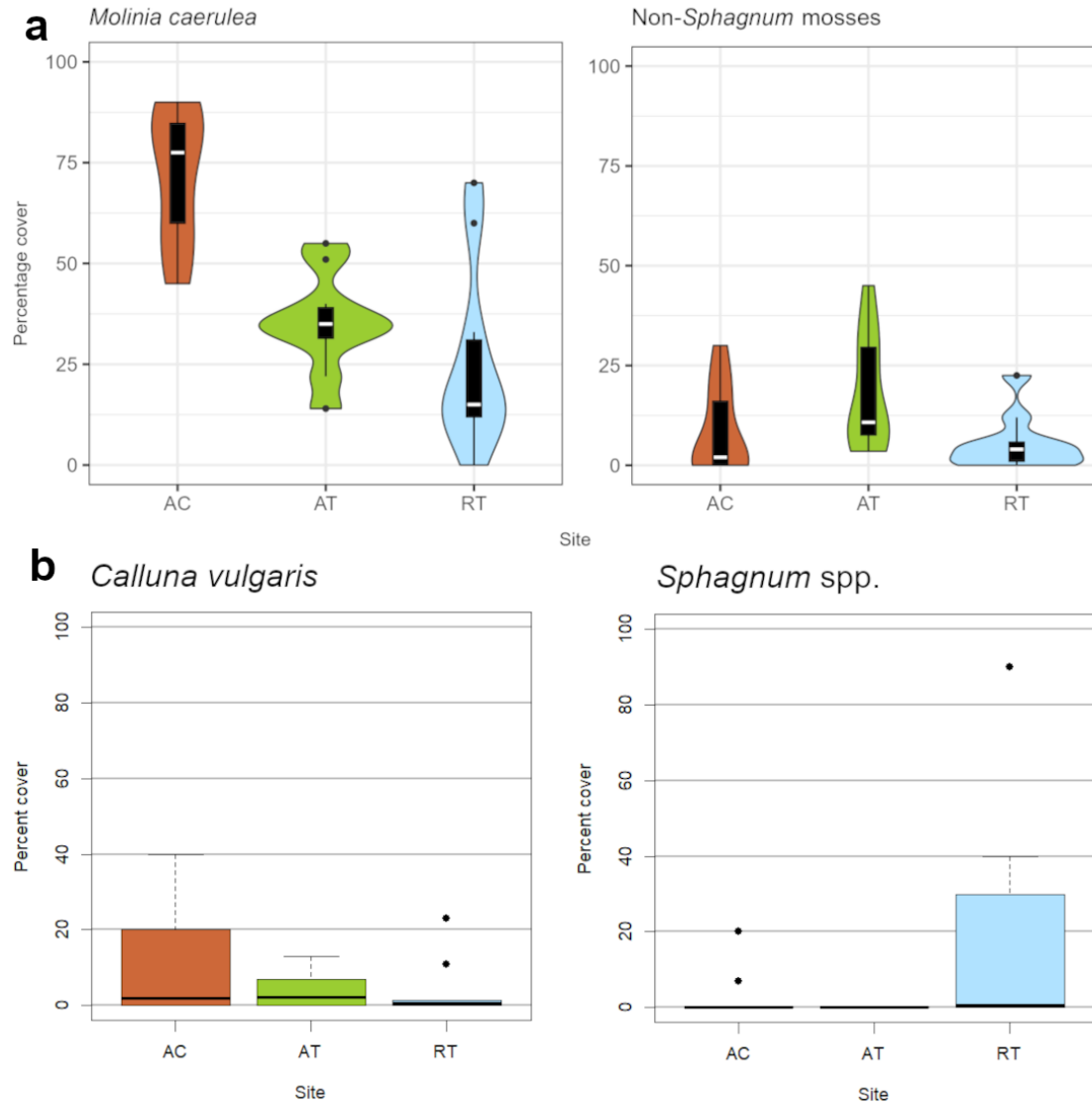
Results: vegetation



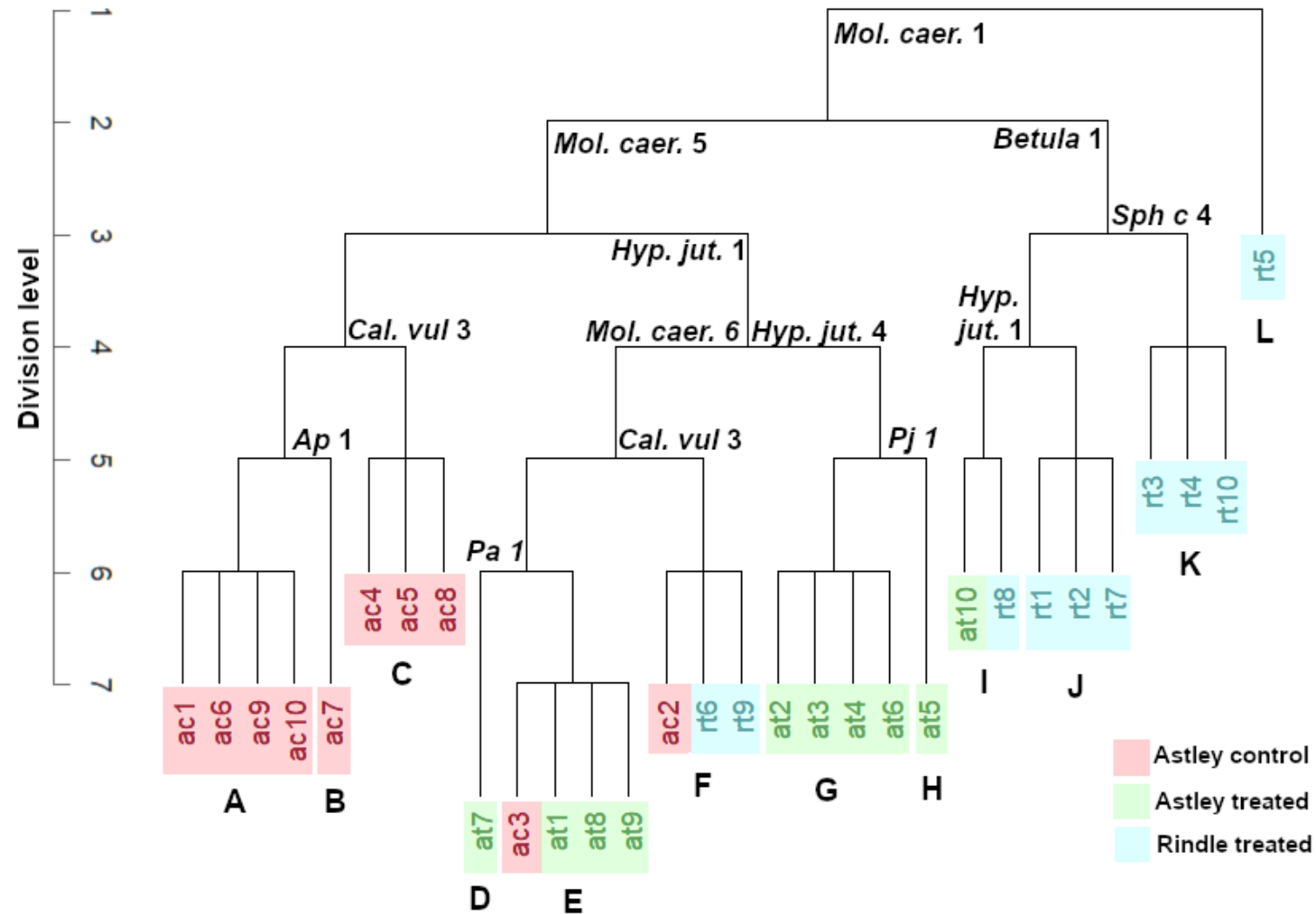
Results: cover type



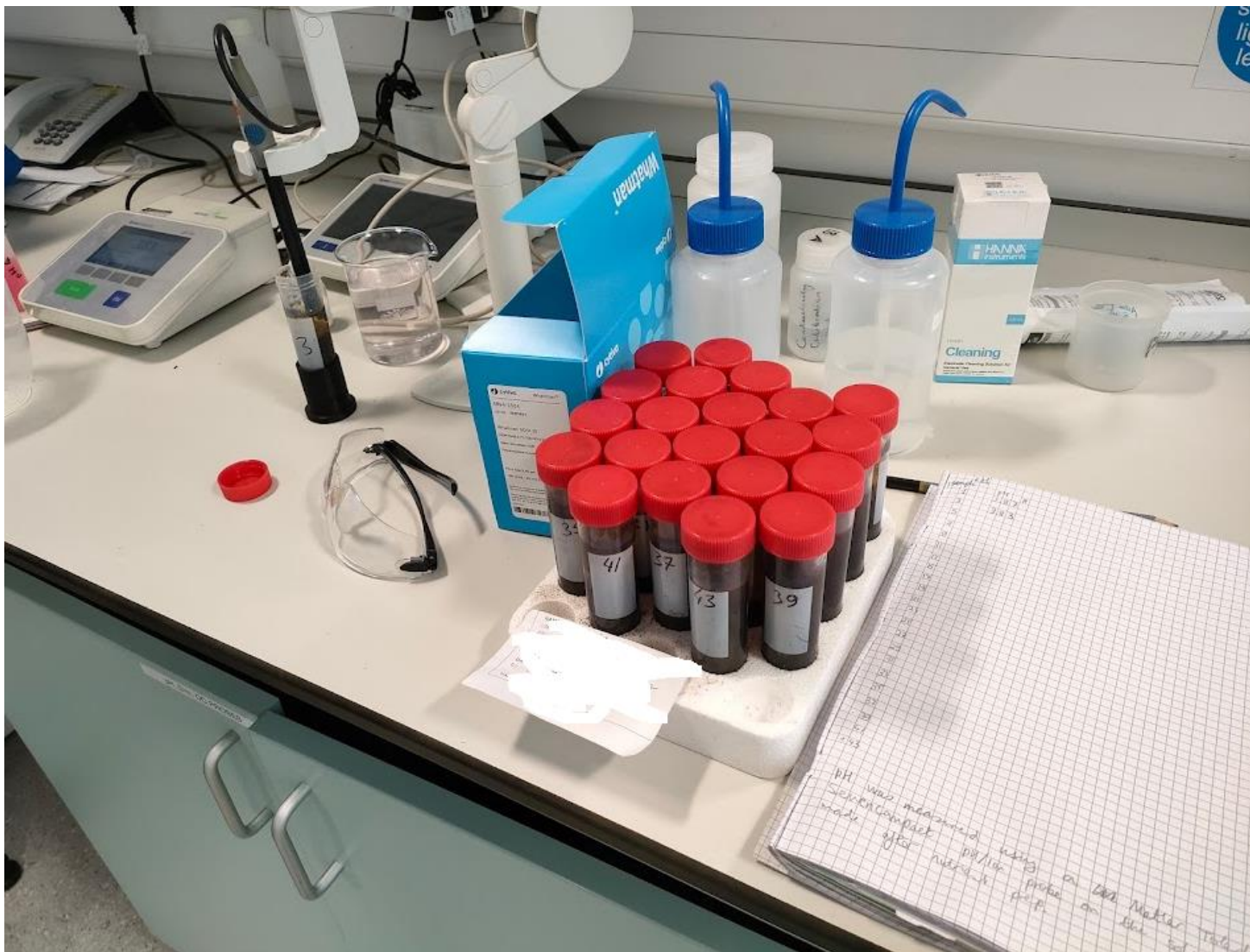
Results: key vegetation



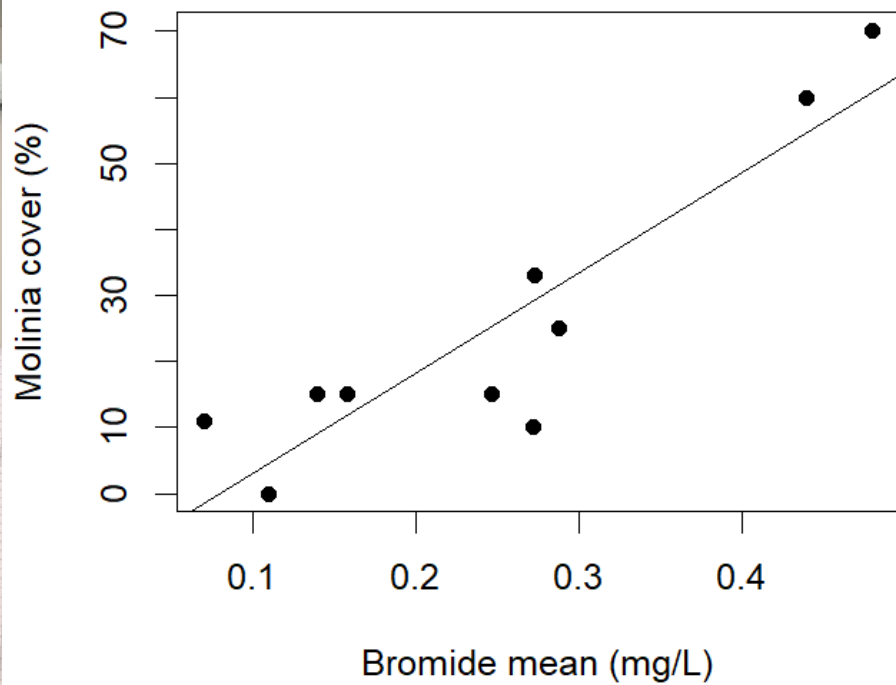
Results: clustering







Bromide and Molinia correlation at Rindle



Thanks for
watching!

