

# Supplementary Materials

## Seeding or Overseeding native hay seed increase vegetation cover, functional diversity and soil quality in an agriculture area invaded by weeds

Cardarelli E. <sup>1,\*</sup>, Gentili R. <sup>2,\*</sup>, Della Rocca F. <sup>1</sup>, Zanella M. <sup>1</sup>, Caronni S. <sup>2</sup>, Bogliani G. <sup>1</sup> and Citterio S. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Pavia, Via Ferrata 9, 27100 Pavia, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Milan-Bicocca, , Piazza della Scienza 1, 20126 Milano, Italy

\* Correspondence: Gentili Rodolfo

# These authors contributed equally to this research

**Table S1.** Soil characteristic in the three investigated sites. Abbreviations = Texture: Sc: coarse sand, Sf: fine sand, Stot: total sand; Texture class: FS: sandy loam; Elements: C: carbon, Ntot: total nitrogen, C/N, S.O.M.: soil organic matter, CEC: cations exchange capacity, Cations: Ca<sup>++</sup>, Mg<sup>++</sup> K<sup>+</sup>, BSR: base-cation saturation ratio, AvP: available phosphorus.

| Analysis<br>Sites | Apparent texture |        |          |              |              | Texture class<br>USDA | pH<br>(H <sub>2</sub> O) | pH<br>(KCl) |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                   | Sc(μm)           | Sf(μm) | Stot(μm) | Silt<br>(μm) | Clay<br>(μm) |                       |                          |             |
|                   | 2000-100         | 100-50 | 2000-50  | 50-0,2       | <0,2         |                       |                          |             |
|                   | g/Kg             |        |          |              |              |                       |                          |             |
| X                 | 551              | 97     | 648      | 279          | 73           | FS                    | 6,2                      | 5,2         |
| Y                 | 495              | 100    | 595      | 321          | 84           | FS                    | 5,0                      | 4,7         |
| Z                 | 522              | 120    | 642      | 263          | 95           | FS                    | 5,7                      | 4,8         |

| Analysis<br>Sites | Elements<br>Elements Ca <sup>++</sup><br>Mg <sup>++</sup><br>K <sup>+</sup> |        |        |      |            |                  |                  |                |       |     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|------|------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|-----|
|                   | C org.                                                                      | S.O.M. | N tot. | C/N  | CEC        | Ca <sup>++</sup> | Mg <sup>++</sup> | K <sup>+</sup> | BSR   | AvP |
|                   | g/Kg                                                                        |        |        |      | cmol(+)/Kg |                  |                  |                | mg/Kg |     |
| X                 | 23                                                                          | 39     | 2      | 11,3 | 13,94      | 4,28             | 0,48             | 0,2            | 35,6  | 24  |
| Y                 | 30                                                                          | 51     | 2,95   | 10,1 | 11,38      | 1,45             | 0,33             | 0,03           | 15,9  | 51  |
| Z                 | 28                                                                          | 48     | 2,79   | 10,0 | 10,63      | 2,74             | 0,48             | 0,12           | 31,4  | 52  |

**Table S2.** Plant composition of the donor grassland.

Type of vegetation: *Arrhenatheretum elatioris* Br.-Bl. 1915

Site of collection: Olgate Molgora (LC)

**Diagnostic species:**

*Achillea millefolium* subsp. *millefolium*,

*Agropyron repens*,

*Anthoxanthum odoratum*,

*Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *hordeaceus*,

*Cerastium glomeratum*,

*Centaurea nigrescens*,

*Dactylis glomerata*,

*Daucus carota*,

*Erigeron annuus*,

*Galium mollugo*,

*Medicago lupulina*,

*Pimpinella saxifraga*,

*Plantago lanceolata*,

*Poa pratensis*,

*Taraxacum officinale*,

*Trifolium* sp pl.,

*Veronica chamaedrys*.

*Reference*

Gusmeroli F., Della Marianna G., Parolo G. I prati della media Valtellina. Quaderni della Ricerca (Regione Lombardia), **2005**, 81, 5-25.

The complete list of the “Donor grasslands” (unedited data) is available at the following reference:

UNIMIB, CFA. *Il contrasto ad Ambrosia con la semina di specie autoctone. Technical Report, Fondazione Cariplo, Bando Biodiversità, Milano, 2016.*

CENTRO FLORA AUTOCTONA DELLA REGIONE LOMBARDIA - [centroflora@parcobarro.it](mailto:centroflora@parcobarro.it)

**Table S3.** Linear Mixed Effects models (LME) specification. Fixed factors, log-trasformation (yes/no) and R packages used to analyze plant and microarthropod communities' differences among treatments (control, hayseeded and overseeded). The site (X, Y, Z) was always fitted as random effect. All LME models were performed with the package "nlme" [1], while post-hoc tests by means of the packages "lsmeans" [2] or "multcomp" [3]. Vegetation cover refers to cumulative percent, while abundance of microarthropod taxa to the mean of individuals collected in the three samples of each plot.

| Variable (x)                               | log (x+1) | Fixed factors       | Post-hoc test (package) |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Vegetation</i>                          |           |                     |                         |
| total vegetation percent cover             | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| percent cover of typical grassland species | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| percent cover of segetal weed species      | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| percent cover of invasive alien species    | yes       | treatment           | multcomp                |
| percent cover of main plant families       | yes       | treatment*family    | lsmeans                 |
| percent cover of life form                 | yes       | treatment*life_form | lsmeans                 |
| $\alpha$ -diversity                        | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| $\beta$ -diversity                         | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| richness of typical grassland species      | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| richness of segetal weed species           | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| richness of invasive alien species         | no        | treatment           | multcomp                |
| <i>Microarthropod communities</i>          |           |                     |                         |
| QBS-ar                                     | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| richness of taxa                           | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| richness of euedaphic taxa                 | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| total abundance of microarthropods         | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Acari                         | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Collembola                    | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Coleoptera adults             | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Coleoptera larvae             | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Diptera larvae                | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Araneidae                     | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Hemiptera                     | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |
| abundance of Tysanoptera                   | yes       | treatment*month     | lsmeans                 |

#### References:

- [1] Pinheiro, J., Bates, D.; DebRoy, S.; Sarkar, D. R Core Team. Nlme: Linear and Nonlinear Mixed Effects Models. R package version 3.1-141, URL:<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=nlme>, 2019.
- [2] Lenth, R.V. Least-Squares Means: The R Package lsmeans. *J. Stat. Soft.*, **2016**, 69(1): 1–33.
- [3] Hothorn, T.; Bretz, F.; Westfall, P. Simultaneous Inference in General Parametric Models. *Biom. J.*, **2008**, 50(3): 346–363.

**Table S4.** Pairwise comparison by means of Tukey post-hoc test (t or z test) among treatments and months, and significance of the differences. Only significant differences were reported. Abbreviations = Treatments: C = control, Ov = overseeded, Hs = hayseeded; Months: Apr = April, Sep = September, Oct = October.

| Variable                                   | pairwise comparison | t / z | p       |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|
| <i>Vegetation</i>                          |                     |       |         |
| Total vegetation percent cover             | Ov vs C             | 3.92  | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Hs vs Ov            | -5.86 | < 0.001 |
| Percent cover of typical grassland species | Hs vs Ov            | -8.32 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Ov vs C             | 15.47 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Hs vs C             | 7.16  | < 0.001 |
| Percent cover of segetal weed species      | Hs vs C             | -4.22 | < 0.001 |
| Percent cover of invasive alien species    | Hs vs C             | -3.56 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Hs vs Ov            | -2.60 | 0.025   |
| Percent cover of main plant families       |                     |       |         |
| <i>Asteraceae</i>                          | C vs Hs             | 2.75  | 0.03    |
|                                            | Ov vs Hs            | 2.81  | 0.027   |
| <i>Fabaceae</i>                            | C vs Ov             | -6.18 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Ov vs Hs            | 3.82  | < 0.01  |
| <i>Poaceae</i>                             | C vs Ov             | -4.36 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | C vs Hs             | -3.30 | < 0.01  |
| <i>other families</i>                      | C vs Ov             | 3.74  | < 0.01  |
|                                            | C vs Hs             | 2.98  | 0.018   |
| Percent cover of life form                 |                     |       |         |
| <i>therophytes</i>                         | C vs Ov             | 3.62  | < 0.01  |
|                                            | C vs Hs             | 2.93  | 0.02    |
| <i>hemicryptophytes</i>                    | C vs Ov             | -3.76 | < 0.01  |
|                                            | C vs Hs             | -2.58 | 0.043   |
| <i>chamephytes</i>                         | C vs Ov             | -4.86 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Ov vs Hs            | 3.05  | 0.016   |
| Whittaker index                            | Ov vs C             | -4.83 | < 0.001 |
|                                            | Hs vs C             | -3.15 | < 0.01  |
| Richness of typical grassland species      | Hs vs C             | 3.37  | < 0.01  |
| Richness of invasive alien species         | Ov vs Hs            | -3.70 | < 0.001 |

Table S5. Continued.

| Variable                           | pairwise comparison | t / z | p       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|
| <i>Microarthropod communities</i>  |                     |       |         |
| QBS-ar                             |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -4.81 | < 0.001 |
|                                    | Ov vs Hs            | 2.63  | 0.038   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -4.89 | < 0.001 |
|                                    | Apr vs Oct          | -4.76 | < 0.001 |
| Richness of taxa                   |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -4.74 | < 0.001 |
|                                    | C vs Hs             | -2.83 | 0.025   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -3.86 | < 0.01  |
|                                    | Apr vs Oct          | -3.86 | < 0.01  |
| Total abundance of microarthropods |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -2.60 | 0.063   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -3.04 | 0.013   |
| Abundance of Acari                 |                     |       |         |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -2.22 | 0.053   |
| Abundance of Collembola            |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -4.53 | 0.003   |
|                                    | Ov vs Hs            | 3.47  | 0.015   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -5.25 | < 0.001 |
| <i>Hayseeded</i>                   | Apr vs Sep          | -2.77 | 0.02    |
| Abundance of Coleoptera adults     |                     |       |         |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -3.00 | 0.013   |
| <i>Hayseeded</i>                   | Apr vs Sep          | -3.86 | 0.003   |
| Abundance of Coleoptera larvae     |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -4.02 | < 0.01  |
|                                    | C vs Hs             | -2.55 | 0.069   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -4.03 | < 0.01  |
| Abundance of Diptera larvae        |                     |       |         |
| <i>April</i>                       | C vs Ov             | -2.71 | 0.053   |
|                                    | Ov vs Hs            | 2.71  | 0.053   |
| <i>Control</i>                     | Apr vs Sep          | -2.25 | 0.049   |