WHERE WILL MONTANE SCRUB GROW?

A place for montane scrub and natural treelines in the British uplands

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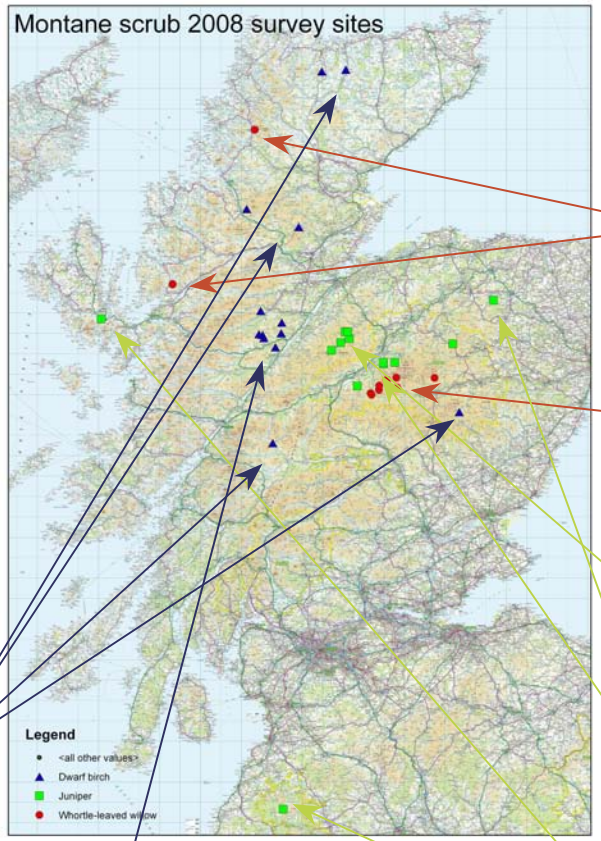
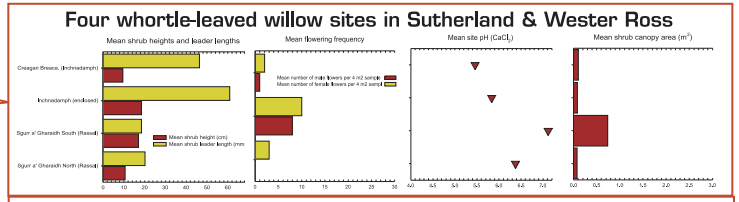
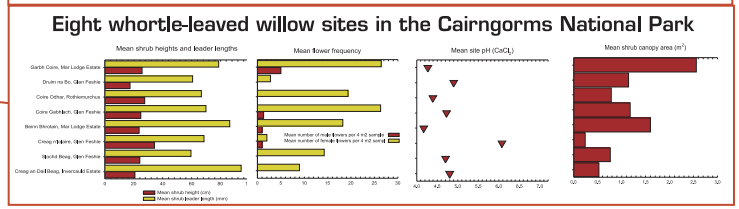


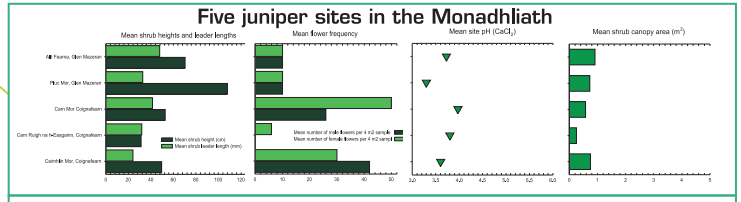
Betula nana, dwarf birch

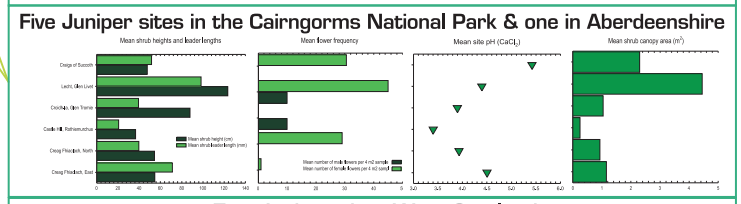
Salix myrsinites, whortle-leaved willow

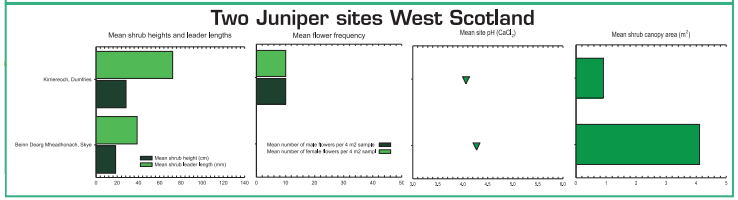
Juniperus communis, juniper

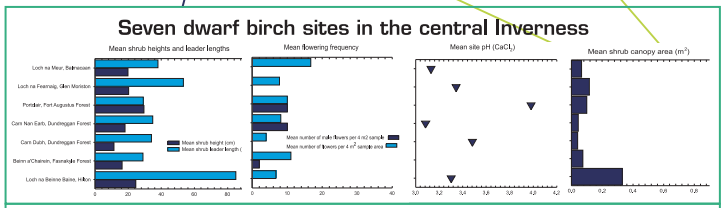


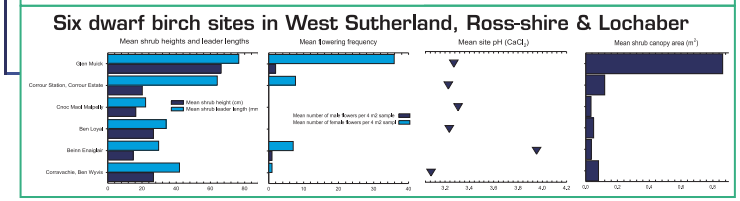












This PhD research will improve understanding of three rare high altitude shrubs, *Betula nana, Salix myrsinites* and *Juniperus communis,* as representative of declining treeline ecotone (or montane) scrub habitats.

This poster provides some initial outcomes from a field survey in 2008 of a sample of the existing populations of each species. The sites surveyed were selected as representative of the range of variation found across all sites for the following site factors:

Topography: altitude, aspect, exposure (DAMS), slope;

Soil and land cover data, geographic location

In addition manipulative field experiments are gathering data on the effects of winter snow cover, and the combined effects of wind and browsing, on the growth of young plants of each species.

The survey and experiments will provide guidance for future management of these shrub populations. Investigations into current land management policy will inform, and highlight deficiencies in, implementation strategies in respect of these particular species and habitats.