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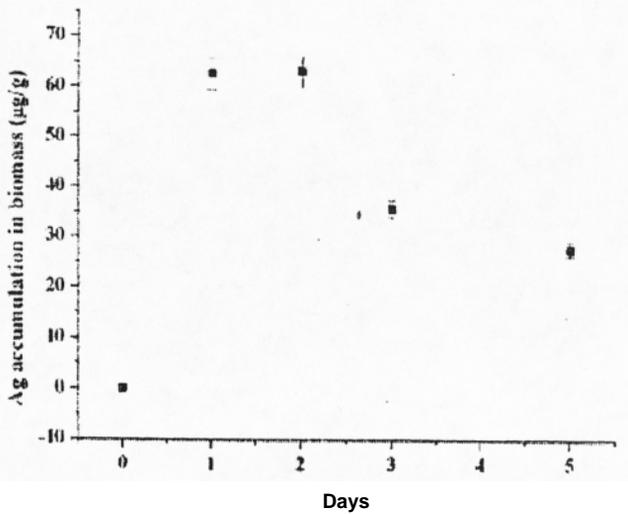


Fig.2. The silver concentrations in biomass of *S. platensis* versus the time of exposure to silver nitrate determined by NAA

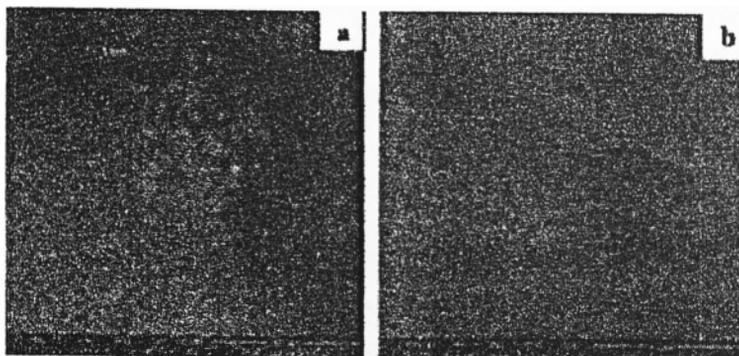


Fig. 1. SEM of *S. platensis* cells at different magnifications at 1 mM AgNO_3 for 1 day (a) and for 5 days (b)

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE DIFFERENT GRAZING PASTURE IN
DRY STEPPE ZONE

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Introduction

During the field survey have been observed that such communities as *Forbs-Neddlegrass*, *Neddlegrass-forbs-sagebrush* have been dominated in foot hills of mountain, and such communities as *Grass-Caragana*, *Neddlegrass-Forbs*, *Sedge-Grass*, *Sage-Sedge* have been dominated in south face slope of mountain, and such communities as *forbs-Caragana*, *Cleistogenes-Stipa-Caragana*, *Stipa-Elymus-Sedge*, *Sedge-Sage*, *Elymus-Sage* in the dry steppe.

Altanbulag soum Tuv province area has 566866 hectare while its livestock population is 182670 sheep unit. Total pasture area of Altanbulag soum 15% is slightly grazed, 29% is moderately grazed, 56% is overgrazed used.

Study site: The study included the areas of Altanbulag soum Tuv province of Mongolia. The pastureland utilization was determined during the field research in summer 2009.

Methods: We did detailed using the method by A. P. Shennikov (1964). I. A. Larin (1956), O.Chognii (2001) is method used to define vegetation cover and comminities, plant biomass and pasture degradation.

Result:

1. Composition and structure Slightly grazed pasture. This is level forbs-neddlegrass pasture widespread on the tap and back side in mountain. Canopy cover of vegetation was 65-70%, bare ground was 30-35%. Eight plant species on average was recorded per square meter. Height of vegetative tissue was 7.0-8.5 cm on average and generative tissue was 13.0-15.5 cm. Dominant species was *Stipa krylovii* from grass, subdominant was *Cleistogenes squarrosa*, *Agropyron cristatum*, from forb *Potentilla acaulis*, from sage were *Artemisia frigida*, *Artemiisa adamsii*, from sedge was *Carex duriuscula*. Total plant average biomass was 58.3g/m² of which 37.8% was a grass; 34.2% was a forb; 19.1 % was a sage; 8.2% was a sedge; 0.7% was a legume. The overall biomass was changed according to utilization

degree of pasture (Table 1; Figure 1)

Table 1. Composition of total plant biomass (by percent,%) of different grazing pasture of Altanbulag soum

Pasture use	Slightly grazed	Moderately used	Overgrazed	
Total plant biomass	58.3 g/m ²	40.1 g/m ²	46.0 g/m ²	
From which by per cent				
By functional groups	Grass	37.8	33.0	8.6
	Forb	34.2	14.0	12.0
	Sage	19.1	33.3	63.3
	Sedge	8.2	5.2	10.8
	Legume	0.7	11.6	4.6
	Horsetell	0.0	2.6	0.7
Species number per square meter	8.1	9.2	8.2	
Canopy cover (%)	85-95%	60-75%	45-50%	

2. **Composition and structure Moderately used pasture.** This is level sedge-grass pasture widespread on the mountain steppe, plateau steppe. Canopy cover of vegetation was 65-85%, bare ground was 20-35%. Nine plant species on average was recorded per square meter. Height of vegetative tissue was 4.2 cm on average and generative tissue was 8.0 cm. Dominant species is *Cleistogenes squarrosa*, from grass, subdominant was *Agropyron cristatum*, *Stipa krylovii* from forb *Potentilla bifurca*, *Potentilla acaulis*, from sage were *Artemisia frigida*, *Artemiisa adamsii*, from sedge was *Carex duriuscula*, *wa.sEphedra sinica* of draftshrub and *Lappula intermedia* of annual plant. Total plant average biomass was 40.1 g/m² of which 33.0% was a grass; 33.3% was a sage; 14.0% was a forb; 11.6% was a legume; 5.2% was a sedge; 2.9% was a *Ephedra* (horsetell) (Table 1; Figure 1). On the moderately used pasture the biomass of sage and horsetellis increased such as capacity of the grass.

3. **Composition and structure Overgrazed pasture.** This is level sedge-sage pasture widespread on the river valley such as summer pasturelands which have many herders and mountain steppe such as autumn and winter pasturelands. Canopy cover of vegetation was 50-60%, bare ground was 45-55%. Eight plant species on average was recorded per square meter. Height of vegetative tissue was 7-9 cm on average and generative tissue was 5-6 cm. Dominant species is *Artemisia Adamsii* from sage, subdominant was from sedge *Carex duriuscula*, from grass *Cleistogenes squarrosa*. Grass such as *Stipa krylovii* and *Agropyron cristatum* is abundance

straightly decreased. In recent years, global change also effected on pasture plant composition, growth rate and plants bioproductivity. Total plant average biomass was 46.0 g/m² of which 63.3% was a sage; 12.0% was a forb; 10.8% was a sedge; 8.6% was a grass; 4.6% was a legume; 0.7% was a *Ephedra* (horsetell)

On the overgrazed pasture the biomass of sage is increased until 63.3% such as amount of the Grass. However, the total biomass of moderately used and overgrazing pastures are same (40.6-40.7 g/m²), Grass's biomass by percent of the slightly used and moderately used pasture is occupied (37.8-33.0%). The amount of sage percents has increased by 2-3 times which can be (33.3-63.3 g/m²) (Table 1; Figure 1).

Conclusion About 80 percent's total areas of Altanbulag soum belong to moderately used and strongly degraded category. Also have been observed that sage average biomass increased to 63.3 g/m² and amount of grass average biomass decreased to 8.6 g/m².

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