

Supplementary Table S1. Ratio of green leaf nutrients in two species as a function of grazing intensity. Data correspond to mean values  $\pm$  standard errors (n=6). Different bold lowercase letters represent significant differences among grazing intensities ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Year	Grazing	Sb		Cs	
		C:P	N:P	C:P	N:P
2018	CK	469.3 $\pm$ 66.8 <b>b</b>	23.5 $\pm$ 2.6 <b>b</b>	321.1 $\pm$ 19.3 <b>ab</b>	17.5 $\pm$ 1.8 <b>b</b>
	MG	458.8 $\pm$ 43.0 <b>b</b>	25.4 $\pm$ 1.5 <b>b</b>	275.6 $\pm$ 25.4 <b>b</b>	17.2 $\pm$ 1.6 <b>b</b>
	HG	653.9 $\pm$ 28.4 <b>a</b>	32.8 $\pm$ 1.7 <b>a</b>	361.7 $\pm$ 56.4 <b>a</b>	22.5 $\pm$ 4.0 <b>a</b>
2019	CK	479.7 $\pm$ 32.2	20.2 $\pm$ 2.0	368.0 $\pm$ 12.4 <b>a</b>	15.6 $\pm$ 0.9 <b>b</b>
	MG	483.6 $\pm$ 10.6	18.1 $\pm$ 0.6	269.0 $\pm$ 13.6 <b>b</b>	14.6 $\pm$ 0.5 <b>b</b>
	HG	488.2 $\pm$ 81.4	18.4 $\pm$ 2.8	362.0 $\pm$ 35.2 <b>a</b>	16.9 $\pm$ 1.5 <b>a</b>

CK: control (no grazing); MG: moderate grazing (1.82 sheep ha<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to 4 sheep per plot); HG: heavy grazing (2.71 sheep ha<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to 6 sheep per plot).

Sb: *Stipa breviflora*; Cs: *Cleistogenes songorica*.