

Table S2. The mean coverage (SE) of plant species in the *Betula*- and *Salix*- dominated heath, on the low arctic Disko island, mid-June 2013.

Vegetation coverage was analyzed using the point-intercept method (n=4).

Vegetation type	Plant species	Percentage cover	
		<i>Betula</i> -dominated	<i>Salix</i> -dominated
Deciduous shrubs	<i>Betula nana</i>	52.6 (4.2)	0
	<i>Salix glauca</i>	4.1 (-) ^a	41.8 (4.3)
	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	21.8 (3.6)	23.0 (5.0)
Evergreen shrubs	<i>Rhododendron lapponica</i>	6.1 (-) ^a	0
Graminoids	<i>Carex bigelowii</i>	3.1 (1.0)	0
	<i>Carex</i> spp.	30.6 (5.4)	15.8 (5.7)
Forbs	<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	6.6 (3.4)	8.2 (2.5)
	<i>Pedicularis flammea</i>	6.1 (1.2)	4.1 (2.0)
Mosses	Mosses	30.6 (8.0)	37.2 (10.4)
Lichens	<i>Cetraria islandica</i>	5.1 (1.0)	2.0 (-) ^a
	<i>Cladonia rangiferina</i>	4.1 (-) ^a	0
Litter	Litter	46.4 (7.0)	56.1 (8.9)
	Standing litter	5.1 (1.0)	16.3 (-) ^a

^a (-) the species was found in only one plot.