
*

(// : // :)

()

× × / × / × / × ×

* m * cm ()

(

(

(

(

:

(Bromer *et al.*, 1994)

Wiegert, 1962 Lindsey *et al.*, 1958)
Batcheler & Craib, Laycock & Batcheler, 1975
(Kenkel & Podani, 1991 1985

)

Cottam & Curtis Lyon, Bormman, 1953
Grafen & Hails, 2002 Parker, 1979 1968
(Cheryl *et al.*, 2010 Bryant *et al.*, 2004

()

()

Bromus

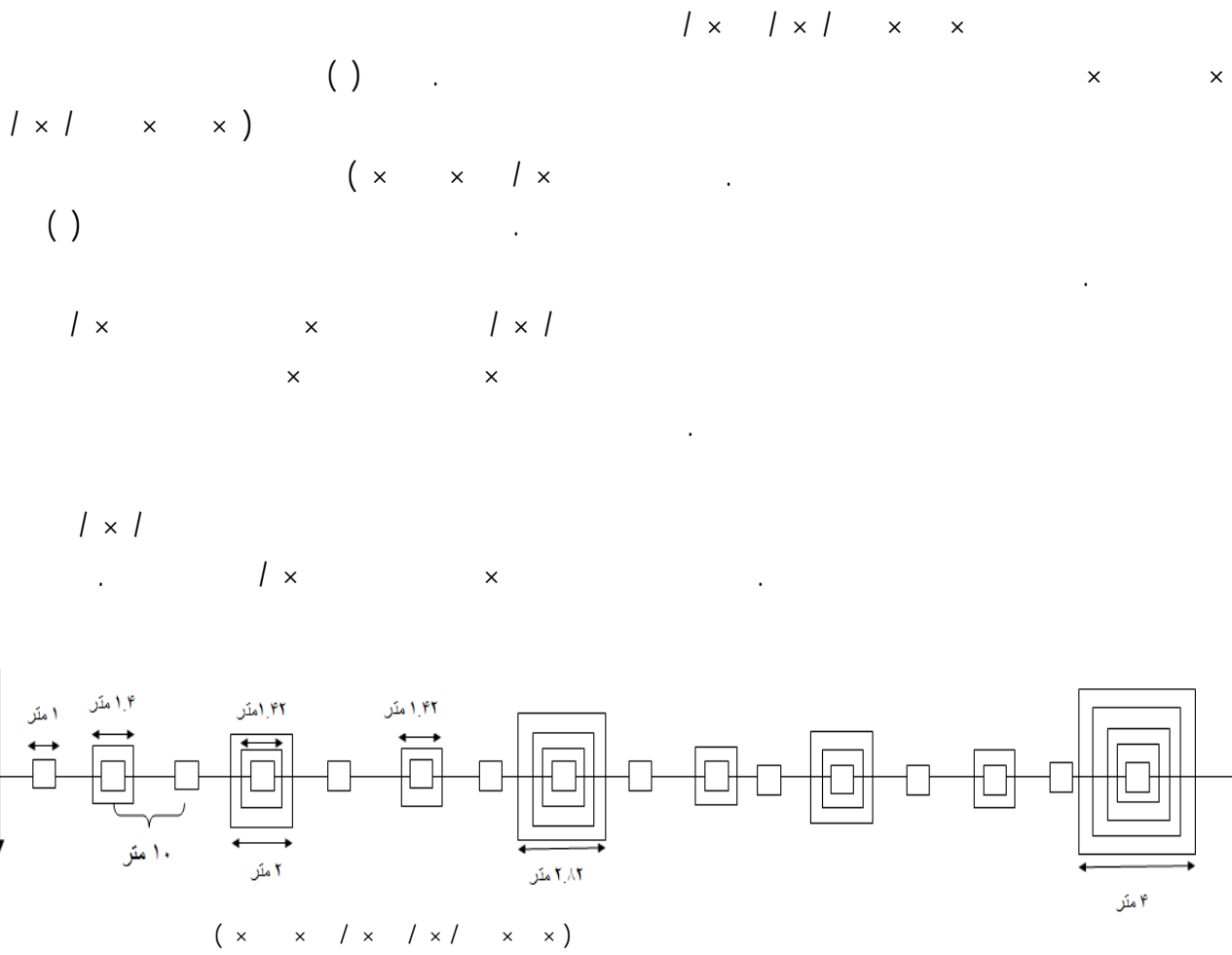
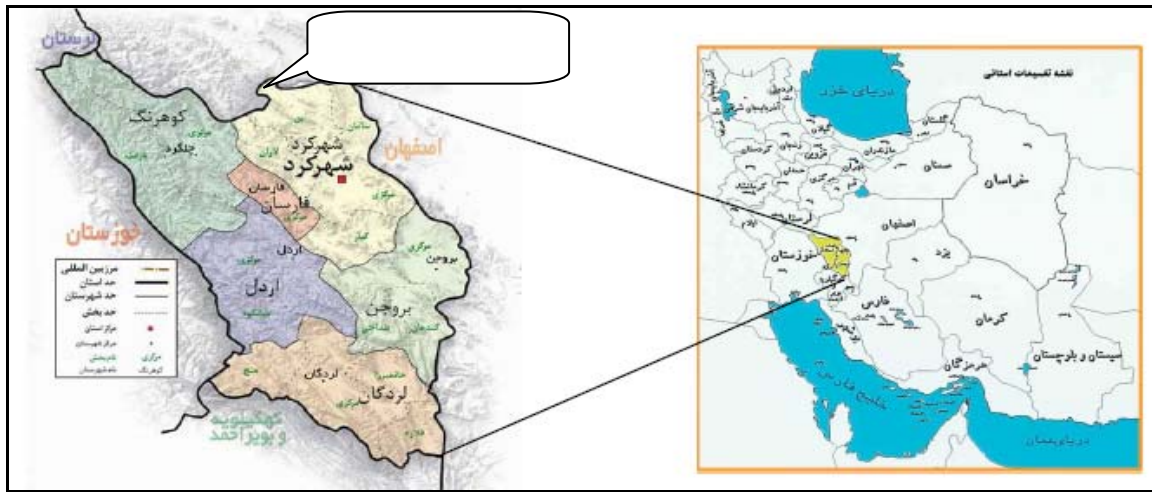
Boissiere Bromus dantoniea tectorum
asquerosos

Agropyron repens Bromus tomentellus

Astragalus susianus Astragalus verus

Astragalus

susianus



: $l \times \quad \times \quad l \times l$

$$= S_i^2$$
$$= c_2$$

)

(

(C₁)

(C₂)

(S²)

Cochran,)

(1977

()

()

:(Kenkel & Podani, 1991)

Greigh-)

.(Kenkel & Podani, 1991 Smith, 1983

$$c_1 = \sum_{i=1}^p S_i^2$$

(

)

()

:

$$= p$$

$$= S_i^2$$

$$= c_1$$

(

(Eckblad, 1991)

$\times \quad \times \quad)$
 $(\quad \times \quad \times \quad l \times \quad l \times l$
 $)$

()

:

$$c_2 = Var(S_i^2)$$

(

(

...

(PCA)

(× × / × / × / × ×)
C₁, C₂, C₃)

$$c_3 = Var(\lambda_i)$$

()

:

(

(

()

$$= \lambda_i$$

()

$$= c_3$$

Analytical Hierarchical)

(Process=AHP

/ × / × ×)

C₁, C₂,)

(× × / ×
(C₃

C₃ C₂ C₁)

() (

(Krebs, 1989)

/ × / × / × ×)

(Ataei, 2010)

(× ×

(Elzinga *et al.*, 2003)

()

)

()

(

cm

()

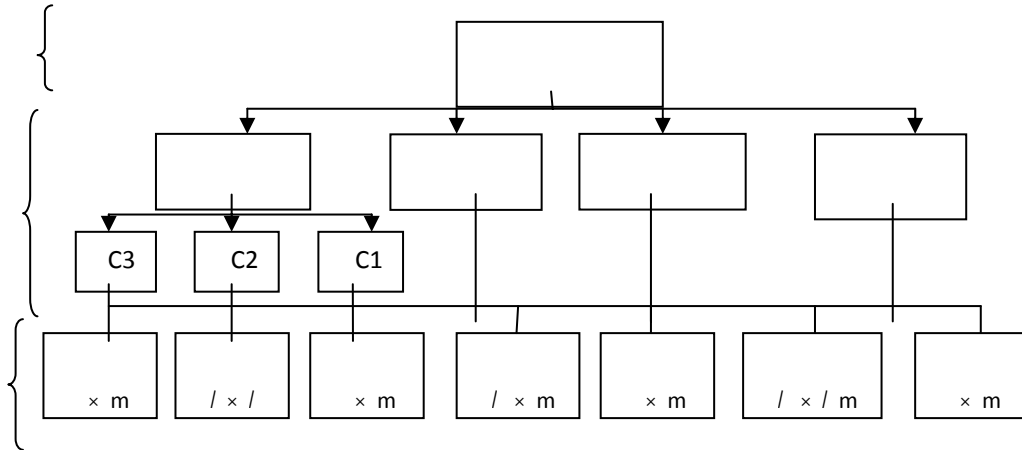
* m *

$$I.I = \frac{\lambda_{\max} - n}{n}$$

/

λ_{max}
 n

I.I



C3 C2 C1

()

()

()

()

()

$p = /$ $r_{c2} = /$ $p = /$ $r_{c1} = /$ $p = /$)
 $(r_{c3} = /$

()

$(r_{spearman} = / \quad p = /)$

()
AHP

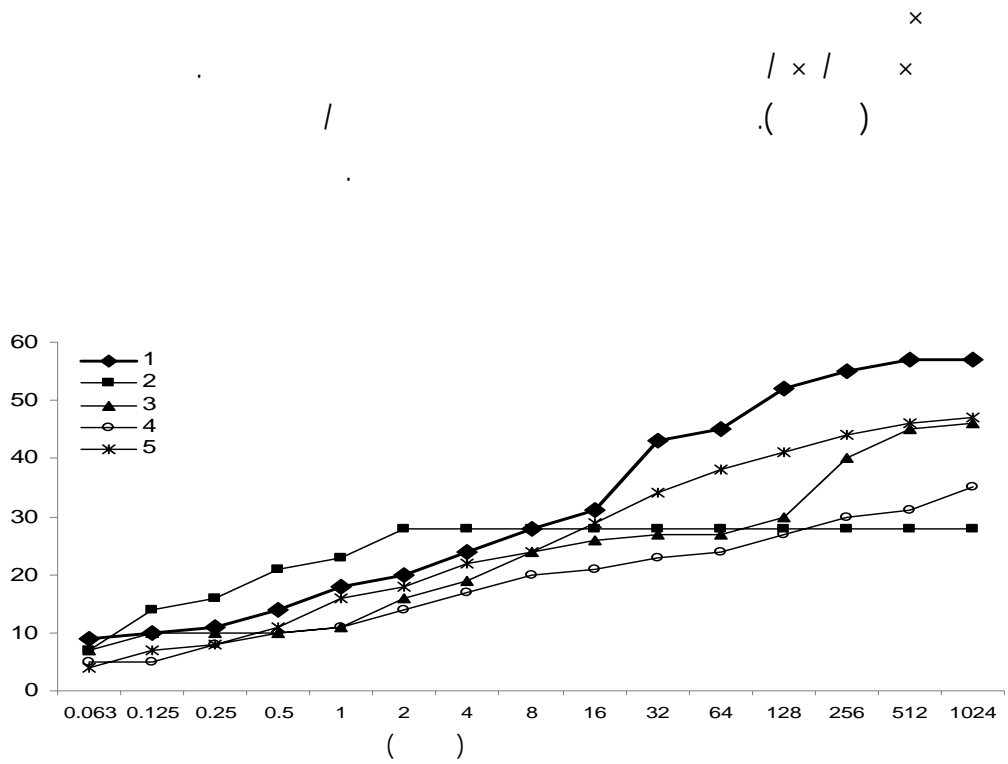
C1

()

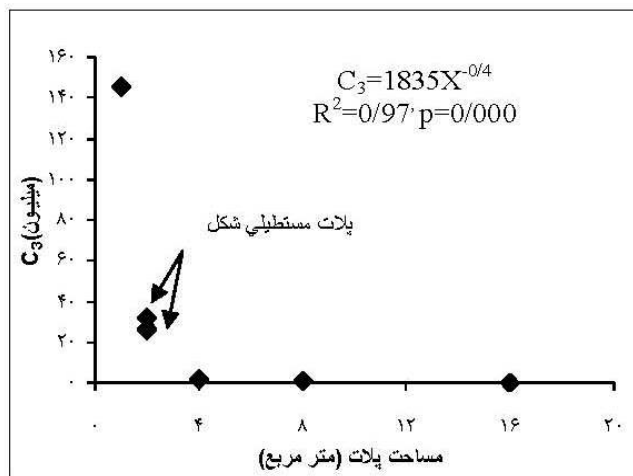
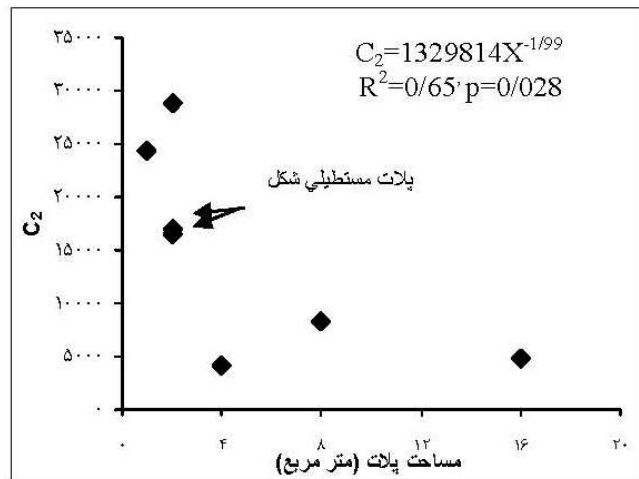
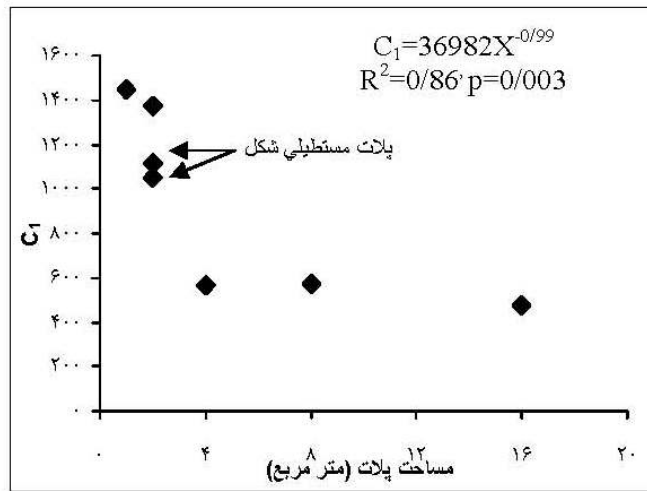
()
C3 C2

C3 C2 C1

...

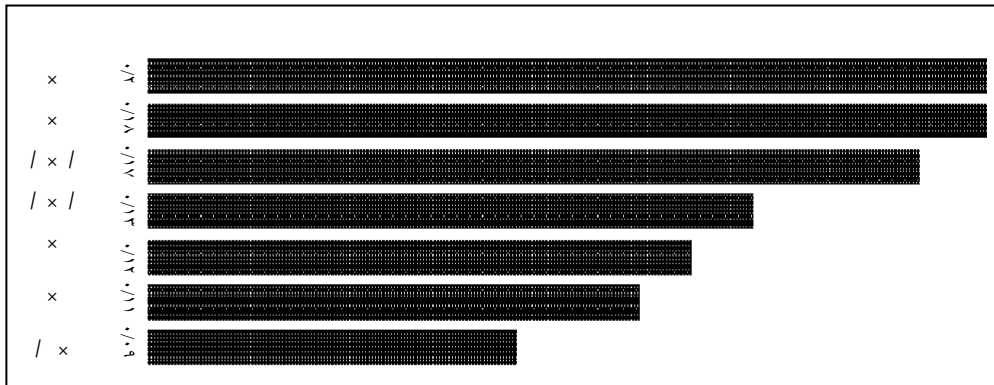


	C_3	C_2	C_1		()
/	/	/	/	/	x
/	/	/	/	/	/ x /
/	/	/	/	/	x
/	/	/	/	/	x /
/	/	/	/	/	x
/	/	/	/	/	/ x /
/	/	/	/	/	x



C3 C2 C1

...



(.)

C_3 و C_2

Kenkel &)

(Otypková & Chytry, 2006 Podani, 1991

Moghadam & Ghorbani,

(2001)

()

C_3 و C_2 ، C_1

Kenkel & Podani (1991)

C_1

()

(Chytrý & Otýpková, 2003)

C₂ ,C₁

C₃

()

)

(

Moghadam (Chytrý & Otýpková, 2003)
& Ghorbani (2001)

Bromus
Boissiere Bromus dantoniae tectorum
asquerosos
Agropyron repens Bromus tomentellus

(C₁)

Astragalus verus

Astragalus susianus

(C₂)

Karami et al.,

() / × /

2002

/

(Wiegert, 1962)

)

.(C₃ C₂ C₁C₂ C₁

)

(

.(Otypková & Chytrý, 2006)

References

- Ataei, M., 2010. Multi-criteria decision making. Shahrood University Press. Shahrood, 250p.
- Barkman, J. J., 1989. A critical evaluation of minimal area concepts. *Vegetatio* 85, 89-104.
- Batcheler, C.L., Craib, D.G., 1985. A variable area plot method of assessment of forest condition and trend. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 8, 83–95
- Bormann, F.H., 1953. The statistical efficiency of sample plot size and shape in forest ecology. *Ecology* 34, 474–487.
- Brummer, J.E., Nichols, J.T., Engel, R.K., Eskridge, K.M., 1994. Efficiency of different quadrat sizes and shapes for sampling standing crop. *Journal of Range Management* 47, 84-89.
- Bryant, D.M., Ducey, M.J., Innes, J.C., 2004. Forest community analysis and the point-centered quarter method. *Plant Ecology* 175, 203-239.
- Cheryl, D., Raphael, P. and Claude, G., 2010. Comparative efficiency and accuracy of variable area transects versus square plots for sampling tree diversity and density, *Agroforestry Systematic* 79, 223–236.
- Chytrý, M., Otypková, Z., 2003. Plot sizes used for phytosociological sampling of European vegetation. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 14, 563-570.
- Cochran, W.G., 1977. *Sampling techniques*, 3rd ed. J. Wiley, New York.
- Cottam, G., Curtis, J.T., 1956. The use of distance measures in phytosociological sampling. *Ecology* 37, 451–460.
- Eckblad, J. W., 1991. How many samples should be taken? *Bioscience* 41, 346-348.
- Elzinga, C.L., Salzer D. W., Willough J. W., 2003. *Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations*, Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado, BLM Technical Reference
- Grafen, A., Hails, R., 2002. *Modern statistics for the life sciences*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Greig-Smith, P. 1983. *Quantitative plant ecology*. 3rd ed. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA.
- Karami, P., Heshmati, G.A. Mesdagi, M., 2002. Determination of optimal plot shape and size for estimation of forage production at semi-steppic grasslands of northern of Golestan province. *Journal of Agricultural science and Natural resource* 9, 41-48.
- Kenkel, N.C., Juhasz-Nagy, P., Podani, J., 1989. On sampling procedures in population and community ecology. *Vegetatio* 83, 95-207.
- Kenkel, N.C., Podani, J., 1991. Plot size and estimation efficiency in plant community studies. *Journal of vegetation science* 2, 539-544.
- Krebs, C. J., 1989. *Ecological methodology*. New York, NY: Harper & Row.
- Laycock, W.A., Batcheler, C.L., 1975. Comparison of distance measurement techniques for sampling tussock grassland species. *New Zealand Journal of Range Management* 28, 235–241.

-
- Lindsey, A.A., Barton, J.D., Miles, S.R., 1958. Field efficiencies of forest sampling methods. *Ecology* 39, 428–444.
 - Lyon, L.J., 1968. An evaluation of density sampling methods in a shrub community. *Journal of Range Management* 21, 16–20.
 - Moghadam, M., Ghorbani, J., 2001. A comparison of different plot size and shapes efficiency to estimate of standing crop in Steppe, high-steppe and semi-steppe region of Iran. *Iranian Journal of natural resource* 54, 191-204.
 - Otypková, Z., Chytrý, M., 2006. Effects of plot size on the ordination of vegetation samples. *Journal of vegetation science* 17, 465-472.
 - Parker, K.R., 1979. Density estimation by variable area transects. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 43, 484–492.
 - Sheil D., Ducey, M.J., Sidiyasa, K., Samsedin, I., 2003. A new type of sample unit for the efficient assessment of diverse Agroforest Syst tree communities in complex forest landscapes. *Journal of Tropical Forest Science* 15, 117–135.
 - Walther, B.A., Moore, J.L., 2005. The concepts of bias, precision and accuracy, and their use in testing the performance of species richness estimators, with a literature review of estimator performance. *Ecography* 28, 815–829.
 - Wiegert, R.G., 1962. The selection of an optimum quadrat size for sampling the standing crop of grasses and forbs. *Ecology* 43, 125-129.

The Most Appropriate Quadrature Size and Shape for Determining Some Characteristics of a Semi-steppic Rangeland

P. Tahmasebi^{1*}, A. Ebrahimi¹ and N.A. Yarali²

¹Assistant Prof. in Department of Range and watershed management, Faculty of Natural Resource and Earth Science, Shahrekord university, I.R.Iran.

²Assistant Prof. in Department of Forest management, Faculty of Natural Resource and Earth Science, Shahrekord university, I.R.Iran.

(Received: 2010/June/20, Accepted: 2012/April/24))

Abstract

Proper judgement on rangeland state needs appropriate sampling plan and accurately estimation of plant characteristics. Sample shape and size are critical issues in vegetation measurement. Thus, decision on appropriate quadrature shape that enables us to determine several parameters accurately and timely would increase sampling efficiency. Several criterias including accuracy, perimeter/area ratio, spent time for measurement, usability and ease of use as well as three variance and or covariance dependent criterias were used to decide on proper plot size to determine multi-variables of rangelands, i.e. different life forms composition, sand and gravels, litter and bare soil coverage. Different quadrature sizes including 1×1, 1×2, 1.4×1.4, 0.4×4, 2×2, 2.8×2.8 and 4×4m were established along a 640 m long transect within a homogeneous vegetation type. Within each quadrature, species canopy cover, litter, sand and gravel coverage in addition to spent time for measurement were estimated and recorded. Life forms composition in each plot was calculated by summing each life form species. An Analytical Hierarchical Process (AHP) was performed to find out appropriate sampling quadrature from aforementioned quadrature sizes. Moreover, 5 repeats of nested quadrates from 25×25cm to 16×16m were established to determine sampling minimal area. Efficacy of minimal area method with this multi criteria method that synchronously incorporated a number of criteria was compared. Results showed that accuracy of multi-variable estimation raises with increasing sampling quadrature size (area) until reaches a 4 square meter quadrature (2×2m) but after that more or less stabilized. Also, on a constant sample size (area), efficiency of square plots is higher than rectangles for estimation of objective variables. AHP results showed that based on accuracy, time, perimeter/area ratio, and usability and ease of application criteria a 4 square meter (i.e., 2×2m) plot is the most appropriate alternative for synchronic measurement of multi-variables. Repeated nested plots showed at least a 32×32m plot for minimal area that is not applicable in practice. We can conclude that 1) minimal area that is estimated using nested plots are not necessarily the most appropriate minimal quadrature size in heterogeneous vegetations for multi-variable measurement, and 2) by considering multi criteria and choosing the best option (alternative) from different quadrates, researcher will increase sampling efficiency.

Keywords: Rangeland, Vegetation sampling, Minimal area, nested plots, Analytical hierarchical process, Sampling efficiency