

Contents

Abstract	iii
Zusammenfassung	vii
1 General Introduction	1
2 Linkages between grazing history and herbivore exclusion on decomposition rates in mineral soils of subalpine grasslands	7
3 Excluding functionally different herbivore guilds triggers variable responses in vegetation properties	29
4 Changes in the plant community due to the progressive exclusion of herbivores in relation to Grime's CSR theory	47
5 Impact of wild ungulate grazing on Orthoptera abundance and diversity in subalpine grasslands	63
6 Synthesis	79
References	85
A Appendix: The response of soil CO₂ fluxes to progressively excluding vertebrate and invertebrate herbivores depends on ecosystem type	105
Acknowledgements	123
Curriculum Vitae	125