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Stable Restoration Pattern and Sustainable Management Technology of Main Dominant Vegetation in Typical Desert Areas of China

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Stable Restoration Pattern and Sustainable Management Technology of Main Dominant Vegetation in Typical Desert Areas of China

Abstract

In this study, we systematically researched and comprehensively analyzed dominant plants in typical deserts in China, including Tarim Basin, Junggar Basin, Horqin Sandy land, and Hunshandak Sandy land, and revealed the characteristics of stress adaptation and stable restoration of dominant vegetation, and proposed the sustainable management technology of vegetation. The results are shown as the followings. (1) Desert plant roots remain connected to underground diving or soil capillary water. It is of great significance to maintain reasonable ecological water use and stable groundwater table for the restoration and conservation of dominant woody plants in these regions. (2) The shallow soil water formed by groundwater, snowmelt, and rainfall is the main water source of *Haloxylon ammodendron* (C. A. Mey.). It is of great significance for the restoration and conservation of *H. ammodendron* to make full use of the natural law of seasonal change of precipitation and the renewal of *H. ammodendron* to form scientific and reasonable planting technical measures. (3) Closure protection plays an important role in the stable restoration of dominant vegetation in desert (sandy land). The results can provide scientific basis and technical supports for the restoration and optimal management of dominant vegetation in the oasis-desert transition zone in arid region.

Keywords

typical desert; sandy land; groundwater table; dominant vegetation; bio-ecological characteristics; stable restoration; sustainable management

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中国典型沙漠区主要优势植被的稳定修复途径与可持续经营技术

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摘要 通过对中国典型沙漠区（塔里木盆地、准噶尔盆地、科尔沁沙地、浑善达克沙地）主要优势植被的系统研究和综合分析，揭示了优势植被的逆境适应特征和稳定修复途径，提出了植被可持续管理技术。研究结果表明：（1）植物根系与地下潜水或土壤毛管水保持连通。保持合理的生态用水和维持稳定的地下水位对于区域优势木本植物的修复和保育具有重要意义。（2）地下水、融雪、降雨形成的浅层土壤水是梭梭的主要水源。充分利用好降水季节变化和梭梭更新的自然规律，形成科学合理的种植技术措施，对梭梭的修复和保育具有重要意义。（3）封育保护对于沙漠（地）优势植被的稳定恢复具有十分重要的作用。该研究将为干旱区荒漠-绿洲过渡带优势植被修复和优化管理提供科学依据和技术支撑。

关键词 典型沙漠，沙地，地下水位，优势植被，生物生态学特性，稳定修复，可持续经营

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1 我国典型沙漠区主要优势植被亟待修护

位于新疆南疆的塔里木盆地是我国沙漠化最严重的地区之一。该区气候干旱，降水稀少，蒸发强烈，植被稀疏。这里的植物区系组成贫乏——各类草甸、灌丛和荒漠河岸林生长在低洼地和河流两岸。它们是

一类典型的荒漠河岸植被，其生存主要依赖于地下水，构成了隐域性植被^[1]。这些多年生植被不仅是保护绿洲的生态屏障，而且是当地重要的放牧场所，对当地畜牧业发展有着重要的贡献^[2]。20世纪下半叶，由于人口的快速增加和过度开垦，荒漠-绿洲过渡带的多年生植物遭到了大面积的破坏，继而导致了风

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沙灾害,使得大面积耕地被流沙吞没,并产生了饲料短缺等严重问题^[3]。因此,研究区域优势植物的生理生态学特性,揭示植物与水分的关系及稳定修复机制^[4,5],对退化荒漠生态系统的可持续经营具有重要意义。

位于新疆北疆的准噶尔盆地被公认为是对全球变化最敏感的地区之一^[6]。该地区降雨量和蒸发量反差巨大,年均降水量仅为 60—250 mm,年蒸发量则在 2 000 mm 以上;由于冬季有稳定的积雪覆盖,最大积雪厚度多在 20 cm 以上,早春融雪为荒漠植物的生长发育提供了有利的条件^[7]。降水格局的变化会导致土壤水分时空分布的动态变化^[8],影响到土壤种子库的萌发,进而补充和更新幼苗^[9]。这些变化也必将影响植物的生长和生理生态特性^[10],进而有可能影响到旱地生态系统的结构和功能属性^[11]。因此,水分影响着荒漠生态系统的各个环节,以及荒漠区的植被恢复与重建^[12,13]。梭梭(*Haloxylon ammodendron* C. A. Mey.)是我国西北荒漠半荒漠地区的珍贵植物资源。梭梭集中分布区在准噶尔盆地,约占我国梭梭总面积的 68.2%^[14]。梭梭植被是农耕绿洲的天然屏障,具有不可估量的生态、经济和社会效益^[15]。在气候变化和人类活动的影响下,准噶尔盆地天然梭梭林分布面积减小,盖度下降。保护干旱区生态环境,防止沙漠扩展,拯救、保护梭梭已迫在眉睫。

分布于内蒙古科尔沁沙地和浑善达克沙地的疏林草原植被,不仅是防风固沙、保护沙区生态环境和周边土地资源的一种重要的植被,也是耐旱沙生植物的重要物种基因库和草原野生动物的重要避难所和栖息地。天然疏林草原中榆树(*Ulmus pumila* L.)具有强抗旱性特征及较大遗传多样性变异潜力^[16]。然而,近年来榆树群落

正处于严重的退化状态,主要表现为天然更新严重不足^[17]。这与过度放牧下牲畜啃食幼苗幼树、人类经济活动的过度干扰等造成榆树种子失去了萌发所需要的位置稳定性有关^[18],当然也与气候变化导致生境恶化存在一定的联系。

2 我国不同典型区主要优势植被的稳定修复途径

2.1 新疆塔里木盆地

塔里木盆地南缘区域降水极少,荒漠优势植物通过根系直接或间接与地下水相连通或从地下水毛细上升区获得持续稳定的水分来源,基于水势差调节、渗透调节、形态调整等多种调节方式来应对干旱胁迫,从而实现植物的稳定维持和有效修复。因此,维持区域地下水稳定是保障优势植物可持续经营的重要前提。

在塔里木盆地南缘荒漠-绿洲过渡带分布有 5 种优势植被类型(图 1):疏叶骆驼刺(*Alhagi sparsifolia* Shap.)、胡杨(*Populus euphratica* Oliv.)、多枝怪柳(*Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.)、头状沙拐枣(*Calligonum caput-medusae* Schrenk)和芦苇

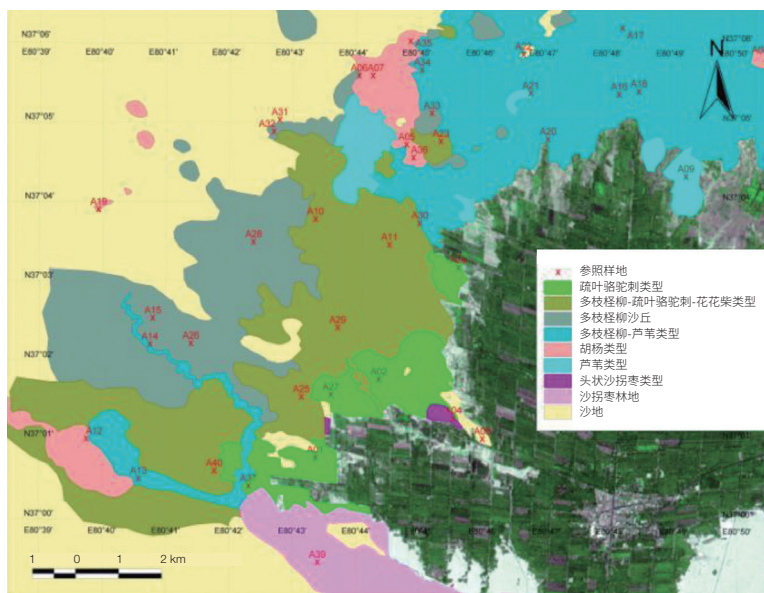


图 1 我国新疆塔里木盆地南缘荒漠-绿洲过渡带植被分布图^[2]

(*Phragmites australis* Trin.)^[2]。这些植物的分布特征和群落构成与地下水埋深密切相关。研究表明^[19]，在地下潜水埋深 15.7 m 地段，疏叶骆驼刺在群落中占有绝对优势，并且呈均匀分布状态；在地下水埋深 8.8 m 地段，植被由多枝怪柳形成的单一植物群落组成，但多枝怪柳的频度、相对多度和盖度值都非常低，群落中有大片空白地；在地下水埋深 6.3 m 地段，同样是以多枝怪柳为主的群落，但群落盖度有较大程度的增加、生物多样性升高。从群落的质量指标分析，多枝怪柳在群落中占有绝对优势的地位，但分布上并不均匀。在地下水埋深 6.0—4.7 m 地段，是胡杨优势群落。在地下水埋深 4.5 m 地段，群落的盖度和组成成分增加，多枝怪柳的密度甚至超过胡杨，但胡杨仍占绝对优势（图 2）。在地下水埋深 3.3 m 地段，多枝怪柳虽然在群落中占据明显优势，但密度下降，而芦苇的重要性明显上升。当地下水埋深升高到 2.1 m，芦苇成为群落的主要成份。尽管群落中仍有多枝怪柳和疏叶骆驼刺出现，但重要性明显下降。

2.2 新疆准噶尔盆地

新疆准噶尔盆地优势植物梭梭的维持水源具有多途径特点，地下水、融雪、降雨形成的浅层土壤水是其水源^[20,21]。处于不同林龄和不同生长时段的

梭梭对不同水源利用形式的转换是维持其正常生存和生长的重要途径。研究表明，幼龄梭梭在每年 4 月主要利用浅层土壤水，利用比例为 62%—95%；幼龄梭梭在每年 5 月主要利用 0—50 cm 土层的土壤水，利用比例达 67.5%；成株梭梭在每年 7 月主要利用 250—400 cm 土层的土壤水，利用比例达 94.2%^[22]。在每年 5—9 月梭梭主要利用地下水，利用比例为 68%—100%（图 3）。由冬季融雪和春季降水补给的浅层土壤水和地下水是梭梭种群可利用的 2 类重要水源，而梭梭对不同时期发生的 2 场相似量级的降水具有不同程度的响应。梭梭的水分利用动态反映了其对于干旱环境的适应^[23]。

2.3 内蒙古科尔沁沙地和浑善达克沙地

实行季节性倒场放牧和草原承包制背景下的保护性利用，可有效恢复草地植被，实现草地的可持续经营利用^[24,25]。研究表明，近年来内蒙古西辽河流域科尔沁沙地和浑善达克沙地东部的榆树群落正处于严重的退化状态，主要表现为天然更新严重不足（图 4a）。封育保护对榆树自然落种更新十分有利，其存活曲线趋向于 Deevey I 型（图 4b）。林下草地植被既是疏林草原的重要组成部分，也直接影响着榆树疏林的自然恢复。

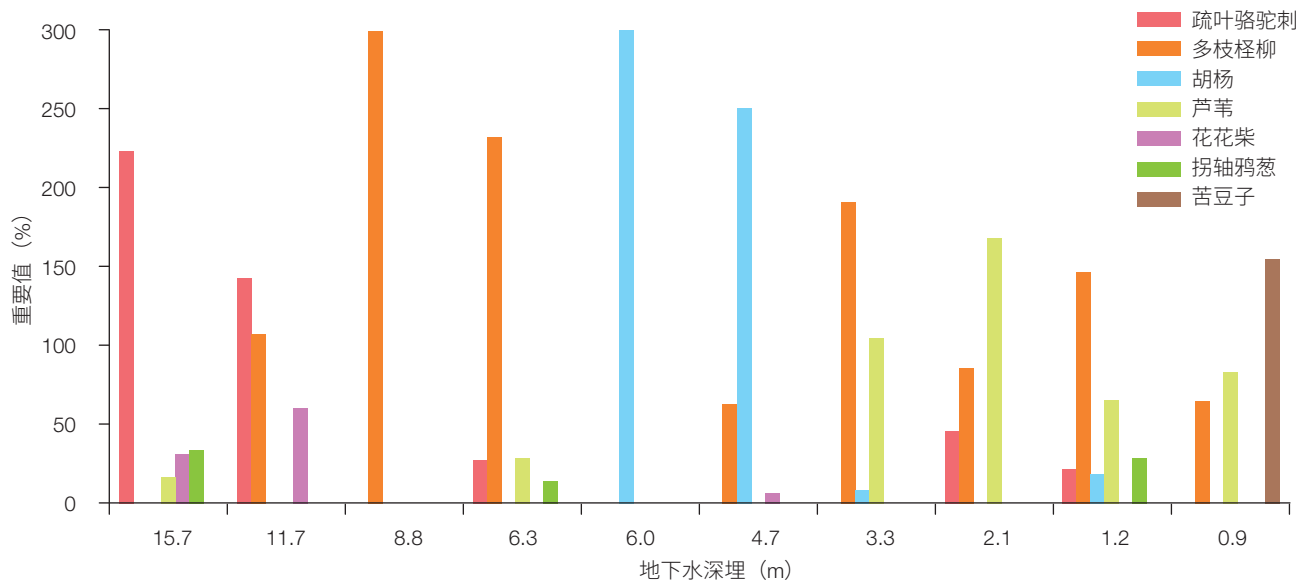


图 2 我国新疆塔里木盆地南缘绿洲外围不同地下水埋深环境下植物群落物种重要值^[19]

此外, 沙地半灌木蒿类植被是沙地植被中最有代表性的主体组成部分, 它与生物气候条件的变化相适应并表现出明显的区域性特征, 从半干旱到干旱区依次分布有科尔沁沙地的差巴嘎蒿 (*Artemisia halodendron* Turcz.et Bess.)、浑善达克沙地的褐沙蒿 (*Artemisia intramongolica* H.C.Fu) 和毛乌素沙地向西深入到腾格里沙漠西缘的油蒿 (*Artemisia ordosica* Krasch) 等植被, 在区域生态环境保护和农牧业生产方面发挥着极其重要的作用, 维持其稳定具有十分重要的意义^[26]。半灌木蒿类植被具有基本相同的生态习性和繁殖特点, 种子表面的沙蒿胶, 遇到水形成粘液可防止种子发生位移; 半灌木蒿类幼苗和成年个体在沙埋和干旱胁迫下形成多种抗旱适应机制^[27-29]; 这些植被也都是有性繁殖和无性繁殖的兼性克隆植物。这些适应性使得蒿类植被具有在干旱、多风沙环境下快速自我修复的能力。只要通过封育为退化半灌木蒿类植被提供稳定的环境条件, 就可以有效地促进其恢

复; 适度放牧利用也是保持其群落稳定的关键; 而对于退化严重的群落, 还可采取平茬方式进行复壮更新^[30]。

3 不同典型区主要优势植被的可持续管理技术

3.1 合理处理沙漠前沿植被与洪水和地下水的关系

(1) 合理处理洪水和沙漠前沿植被的关系。塔里木盆地南缘是降水极端稀少的区域, 而且程度已经达到1000年以来的最低点。植物繁殖需要良好的土壤水分条件, 这不仅是种子萌发的需要, 而且是保证幼苗根系达到地下水的需要。由于水分缓慢地渗过土壤淤积层, 短时间(几天内)的洪水不会引起深层土壤水分的充分饱和。所研究的植物都没有出现远离现代河床、形成大面积分布范围的现象^[3], 甚至在土壤表面到毛细管水边缘距离超过20m的立地也没有出现^[31]。

(2) 稳定维持地下水和前沿植被的关系。在塔里木盆地沙漠周缘的沙丘中, 从沙丘顶端到地下水之间

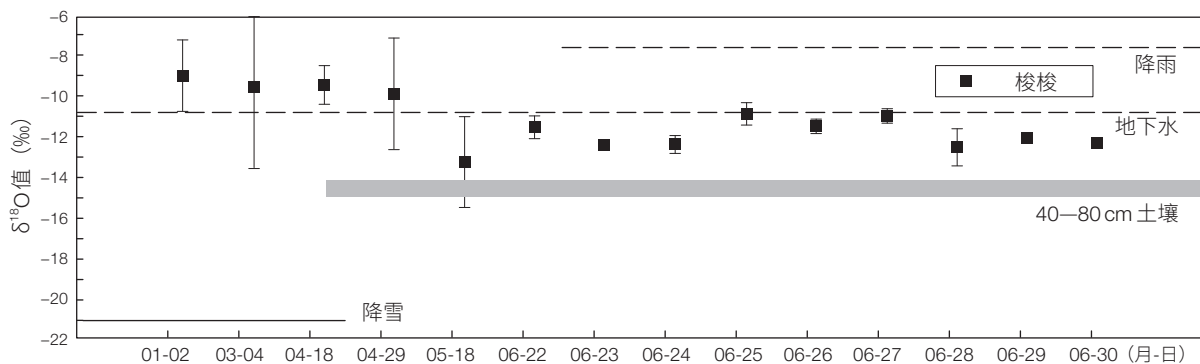


图3 梭梭在不同生长季的水源利用形式(不同水源同位素 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ 值分布)^[12]

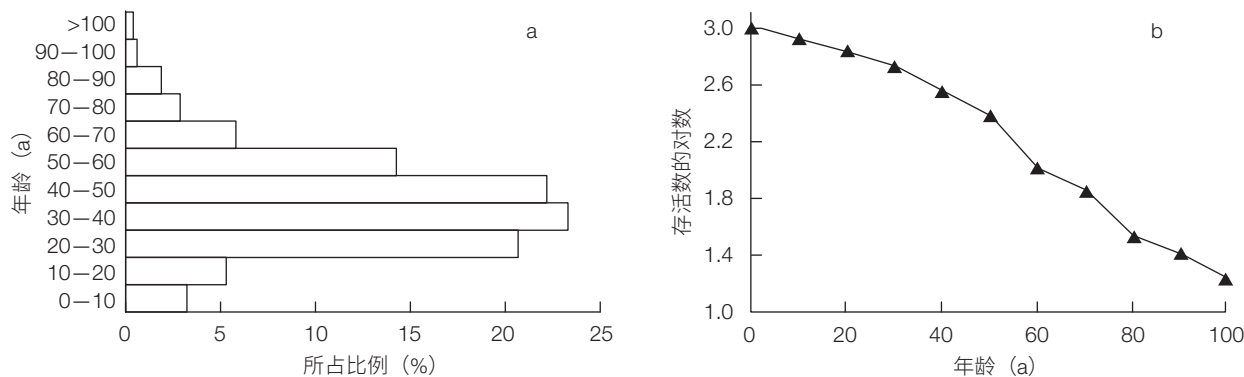


图4 内蒙古西辽河流域科尔沁沙地和浑善达克沙地的东部的榆树种群年龄结构(a)和种群存活曲线(b)

的距离主要是通过植物的根系来连接的,还可以通过(植物)的主干和粗枝来连接的。植物的生产力、木质部水势和 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 值随着植物离地下水距离的增加而降低,这表明(植物体内)水分传输的阻力和水分在木质部中的传输距离有关^[31,32]。沙漠前沿的多年生植物不仅能够而且需要和地下水相联系,因此前沿植被的存在依赖于持久的地下水供给^[33]。

(3) 对沙漠前沿植被的收获量不应超过植被的增产量^[34]。植被的死亡和更新要达到平衡。在确定植被年生长量的基础上,可以计算植被的允许利用强度。为了避免浪费灌溉水,在植被更新措施中,应运用能促进植物根系尽快生长而达到地下水的灌溉方法。当植物根系达到地下水以后,灌溉即可停止。为了在植被更新中确保灌溉水的节约利用,即使在土壤表面离地下水距离很远的立地,也需要调查选择合适的灌溉方法和研究植物根系对土壤水分的依赖程度,为实现植被的“近自然”恢复重建奠定技术基础。

3.2 充分利用积雪融水培育幼苗和免灌造林

(1) 利用雪墙播种幼苗培育关键技术。准噶尔盆地边缘冬季多年平均积雪厚度为20—30 mm,可以利用好的雪墙飞播或者人工辅助恢复梭梭。人工种植技术关键为:一次供水量为20 mm,沙埋厚度为1.0 cm。

(2) 梭梭免灌造林技术。在准噶尔盆地,种植幼苗要利用好早春的积雪融水,造林应在每年3月底前完成。由于干旱区降水量低,通过改造微地形,形成积雪沟和积水坑的方法,让降水再分配,形成梭梭集水造林免灌植被造林方法。梭梭林合理种植密度为 $2.5\text{ m}\times 3\text{ m}$,即1333株/ hm^2 作为初植密度和成林密度是较为合适的。其能够达到水分供需平衡,在不灌溉情况下,仅靠降水不会出现固沙林衰亡的结果^[22]。

3.3 封育保护是促进优势植被稳定修复的先决条件

封育保护对于防止人畜对沙漠(沙地)自然植被的破坏,以及提供稳定的环境条件具有十分重要的作

用,也是促进自然植被稳定修复的先决条件。沙漠(沙地)自然植被的生理生态、生长繁殖与演替规律是其稳定修复与可持续经营的理论基础。系统性地开展自然植被方面相关的基础理论研究,对于制定自然植被保护、修复、经营和利用的技术措施和相关政策等,都具有十分重要的意义,因此应给予足够的重视和长期的支持。

3.4 统筹兼顾生态用水、扶持区域经济发展,也将为沙漠前沿主要自然植被的有效保育和合理利用创造重要条件

在21世纪水资源需求总量不断增加的大背景下,应把生态用水摆在落实可持续发展的高度,与生产生活用水一视同仁,通盘考虑,合理分配上、中、下游用水,绿洲建设与荒漠治理用水。同时,通过节水满足农业规模扩大的需要,为保护和改造荒漠植被提供合理的生态灌溉水源。

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Stable Restoration Pattern and Sustainable Management Technology of Main Dominant Vegetation in Typical Desert Areas of China

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Abstract In this study, we systematically researched and comprehensively analyzed dominant plants in typical deserts in China, including Tarim Basin, Junggar Basin, Horqin Sandy land, and Hunshandak Sandy land, and revealed the characteristics of stress adaptation and stable restoration of dominant vegetation, and proposed the sustainable management technology of vegetation. The results are shown as the followings. (1) Desert plant roots remain connected to underground diving or soil capillary water. It is of great significance to maintain reasonable ecological water use and stable groundwater table for the restoration and conservation of dominant woody plants in these regions. (2) The shallow soil water formed by groundwater, snowmelt, and rainfall is the main water source of *Haloxylon ammodendron* (C. A. Mey.). It is of great significance for the restoration and conservation of *H. ammodendron* to make full use of the natural law of seasonal change of precipitation and the renewal of *H. ammodendron* to form scientific and reasonable planting technical measures. (3) Closure protection plays an important role in the stable restoration of dominant vegetation in desert (sandy land). The results can provide scientific basis and technical supports for the restoration and optimal management of dominant vegetation in the oasis-desert transition zone in arid region.

Keywords typical desert, sandy land, groundwater table, dominant vegetation, bio-ecological characteristics, stable restoration, sustainable management

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