**Cassiope tetragona – Dryas integrifolia**
non-acidic snowbed communities along the Thomson River, Banks Island, Canada

**Introduction:** This student’s research is the result of the three weeks lasting Arctic Ecology Course 2003 that was taught along the Thomson River on Banks Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (N 73° 13’ W 119° 32’ – N 73° 50’ W 119° 53’). The Thomson River lays within Boreal subzone C with a mean July temperature of 5 – 7 °C (CAVM Team 2003). Using the Braun-Blanquet approach of vegetation description it was attempted to gain an overview of Cassiope tetragona-dominated snowbed communities of different exposures on non-acidic substrates. 23 relevés from five transects allowed to classify the distinct vegetation units and to suggest a northern vicarant of the Tetragonodryasum integrifoliae Barret 1972.

**Fig. 1:** a) typical snowbed situation, b) Cassiope tetragona, c) Dryas integrifolia

**Fig. 3:** Circumpolar basiphyllous Cassiope tetragona communities

**Tab. 1:** Relevés to the early melting snowbed toposequence (excl. environmental data)

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