

The flora of lowland acid grasslands over sandstone

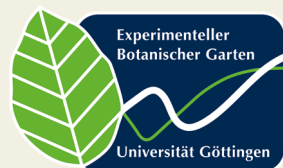


Geo bed sandstone

Bunter sandstone (Buntsandstein) from the Lower Triassic mainly comprises silicon dioxide, aluminium oxide, potassium oxide and iron oxide. Weathering of this rock produces acidic and comparatively nutrient-poor soils (Rankers and Cambisols). Together with Muschelkalk (limestone), Buntsandstein is the most widespread geological substrate in the surroundings of Göttingen.

Photos:

- 1** Buntsandstein forms distinctive landscape features in many areas around Göttingen (e.g. in the village of Reinshausen). Most areas of Buntsandstein here are now either covered by forest or intensive agricultural land, and habitats with low-intensity use like the one reproduced in this bed have become rare. Photo: D. Hertel
- 2** Sheep's bit scabious (*Jasione montana*) can be found on nutrient-poor, acid sandy soils. The flowers are pollinated by insects such as hoverflies or bees. Photo: L. Köhler
- 3** Haresfoot clover (*Trifolium arvense*) is another plant found mainly on acid soils. Prof. Ellenberg identified this species as an indicator of extremely low soil nitrogen levels, and it is found only in very nutrient-poor habitats. Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

