

Supplementary material:

Table S1. The information of sampling sites in each desert riparian forests community.

Community	Sites number	Distance from river channel (m)	Coverage (%)	Important value of major species in tree/shrub/herb layer					
				S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6
I	1	100	9.00	1.00	1.00	—	—	1.00	—
	2	100	63.38	—	—	—	—	1.00	—
	3	100	29.00	1.00	1.00	—	—	—	—
	4	100	33.17	1.00	1.00	—	—	0.62	—
	6	500	80.42	1.00	1.00	—	—	1.00	—
	7	500	41.00	1.00	1.00	—	—	—	—
	15	1000	23.92	1.00	1.00	—	—	—	—
Average Value	21	2000	24.50	1.00	—	—	—	0.51	—
II	5	100	98.67	—	0.88	0.12	—	0.51	0.11
	10	500	69.00	—	1.00	—	—	0.26	0.10
	26	2500	76.63	—	0.84	0.16	—	0.50	0.07
Average Value		1033	81.43						
III	8	500	95.00	—	1.00	—	—	0.17	—
	9	500	70.00	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
	20	1500	78.33	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
	23	2000	55.00	—	0.55	0.45	—	—	—
	25	2000	81.33	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
Average Value		1300	75.93						
IV	12	1000	32.00	—	0.43	0.57	—	—	—
	13	1000	88.79	—	0.44	0.56	—	0.16	0.23
	14	1000	82.17	—	0.56	0.44	—	0.14	—
	17	1500	81.54	—	0.40	0.60	—	0.38	—
	18	1500	28.50	—	0.23	0.77	—	—	—
	22	2000	41.22	—	0.33	0.67	—	0.65	—
	24	2000	98.33	—	1.00	—	—	—	—
	27	2500	82.67	—	0.46	0.54	—	—	—
	32	3000	61.35	—	0.32	0.68	—	0.37	0.20
Average Value	34	3000	92.00	—	0.53	0.42	0.06	—	—
V	11	1000	85.42	—	0.93	0.07	—	0.49	0.51
	16	1500	52.25	—	0.91	0.09	—	0.19	0.70
	19	1500	86.23	—	0.87	0.13	—	—	—
	28	2500	31.70	—	0.88	0.12	—	—	0.84
	29	2500	64.83	—	0.61	0.39	—	—	—
	30	2500	23.33	—	0.89	—	0.11	—	—
	31	3000	80.50	—	0.64	0.36	—	—	0.97
	33	3000	15.54	—	0.38	0.52	0.10	—	0.87
Average Value	35	3000	49.83	—	0.82	0.11	0.08	—	—
Average Value		2278	54.40						

Note: S1, *Populus euphratica*; S2, *Tamarix ramosissima*; S3, *Lycium ruthenicum*; S4, *Reaumuria songarica*; S5, *Sophora*

alopecuroides; S6, *Karelinia caspia*. Average value: the average distance from river channel in average coverage in a community.