

---

---

# P4

Python Palaeo Plotting Program

Version 0.1

Written by Dr Antony Blundell

School of Geography, University of Leeds

2022

---

# 1 Introduction

P4 is a Python program used to display palaeo style data such as pollen, testate amoebae, or macrofossils. The program permits the rapid production of high-quality figures. The program produces plots such as those in figure 1 and figure 2. Additional annotations are possible within P4 but 'complex annotations' are often best added to the output via a separate drawing package outside of P4 such as Inkscape or CorelDraw for example. Svg files exported to Inkscape allow easy manipulation and final production. However, complete figures can be produced within P4. The program has not been built to do any complex statistics or even produce percentage data it purely plots the data the user provides. All features of example plots evident in figures 1 and 2 are editable in P4. One of the example figures (figure 1) is based on Ardkill Bog (ARD) testate amoebae data from Blundell et al. (2008) and the other (figure 2) is based on macrofossil data from Keighley Moor from Blundell and Holden (2015). This program manual primarily uses the testate amoebae data from ARD (Blundell et al., 2008) as an example of how to use the program. However, files required for the KM macrofossil plot are also supplied. Template files are also supplied so these can be filled with entries from scratch or the ARD/KM files can be edited to suit the users requirements. For the program to work these are required to be comma delimited csv files. However, to give added illustration as to how to fill out these files with data the two examples here from KM and ARD are also supplied as excel (.xlsx) files so colour and annotations can be added to to allow the user to see more easily the details explained in this manual related to Parameter and Input files. All files supplied are listed below.

## PROGRAM FILE

**Program file** - P4\_v01.py

## ARD FILES

**Parameter file** - ARD\_Testate\_Parameter.csv

**Parameter file** - ARD\_Testate\_Parameter.xlsx (for demo only)

**Input file** - ARD\_Testate\_Input.csv

**Input file** - ARD\_Testate\_Input.xlsx (for demo only)

**Extra Input file** - ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv

**Extra Input file** - ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.xlsx (for demo only)

**Resultant figure (png) at 150 dpi** - ARD\_Testate\_Plot\_150\_DPI.png

**Resultant figure (png) at 600 dpi** - ARD\_Testate\_Plot\_600\_DPI.png

## KM FILES

**Parameter file** - KM\_Macro\_Parameter.csv

**Parameter file** - KM\_Macro\_Parameter.xlsx (for demo only)

**Input file** - KM\_Macro\_Input.csv

**Input file** - KM\_Macro\_Input.xlsx (for demo only)

**Resultant figure (png) at 150 dpi** - KM\_Macro\_Plot\_150\_DPI.png

**Resultant figure (png) at 600 dpi** - KM\_Macro\_Plot\_600\_DPI.png

**Parameter file** - KM\_Macro\_Parameter\_LOI.csv

**Input file** - KM\_Macro\_Input\_LOI.csv

**Extra Input file** - KM\_Macro\_Extra\_Input\_LOI.csv  
**Resultant figure (png) at 600 dpi** - KM\_Macro\_Plot\_600\_DPI\_LOI.png

## TEMPLATE FILES

**Parameter file** - Template\_Parameter.csv  
**Parameter file** - Template\_Parameter.xlsx (for demo only)

**Input file** - Template\_Input.csv  
**Input file** - Template\_Input.xlsx (for demo only)

**Extra Input file** - Template\_Extra\_Input.csv  
**Extra Input file** - Template\_Extra\_Input.xlsx (for demo only)

### 1.1 The basic building blocks of the program

The program is written in Python (version 3.7.6) and in a windows operating system is run from the ‘windows’ command terminal. The code can be viewed in any text viewer or ideally a Python Integrated Development Environment (IDE). The code has been tested successfully on computers running Windows 7 and 10. The code has also been tested using a computer running Mac and Linux systems and with a few changes works well. The code has been primarily tested in Windows 7 and 10 with the authors data and some from other palaeoecologists but inevitably there will be some bugs that have not been captured. If reported to the author, he will do his best to fix any found. However, these should be minimal. The code is set up to receive two elements of information from the command line statement used when running the program in the command or terminal window. If the user wants to run it from within an IDE the code would need to be altered slightly. However, this only concerns people with a degree of Python programming experience and a wish to tailor or improve the code. These people will know how to run the code independent of the command line after examining the code and removing the argparse section. Here it is assumed that the reader has no knowledge of Python or even windows/linux/mac command line environment. The reader does not need to have any prior knowledge to use the program other than reading this manual.

#### 1.1.1 Using Windows

Running the code from a ‘windows’ command terminal is how the program has been set up and is a simple operation once configured. This requires minimal time and is a one-off operation. To run via this route, either reinstall Python 3.7.6 (or more recent version) and make sure ‘add Python to PATH box’ is checked (figure 3). The PATH can be added manually later if need be and guides as to how to do that are available on-line. The simplest option is to reinstall Python and check the box. After installing the desired Python version, open a windows terminal by typing cmd into your search window (figure 4). Packages used by the program can be installed using pip by simply typing each of the following commands and waiting for the packages to install after each command. This only needs to be carried out upon first using the program. Thereafter, the packages will be available.

**pip install -U pip**

```
pip install numpy  
pip install pandas  
pip install matplotlib  
pip install argparse
```

To run the program via the command line after the above installs the user must change the directory to where the user has saved the program file (P4\_v01.py) file using the cd command. For example, to go from C:\Users\Desktop to a directory you may have created at C:\Users\Desktop\Palaeo\P4 you would simply type cd C:\Users\Desktop\Palaeo\P4. Running the program involves a single command once navigated to the correct directory and the input of two pieces of information supplying the **location and name of the Parameter file**. The **Parameter** file will be explained later but it is essential to supply information related to the plot aesthetics and directions to other files (**Input and Extra Input files**) containing the palaeo data to be plotted and taxon specific aesthetics.

#### **Command line statement to run the program**

```
python P4_v01.py --input C:\Users\ARD_Testate_Parameter.csv
```

**Here it can be seen that the command line statement is made up of the following.**

- a) The word python followed by a single space.
- b) The name of the program 'P4\_v01.py' and a further space.
- c) Two hyphens and the word 'input' followed by a single space.
- d) The route for the Parameter file location followed by a single space.
- e) The file name for the Parameter file with the .csv extension included.

\*\*Do not execute this command however until you have Input file/files and Parameter file configured, saved and correctly located.\*\*

#### **1.1.2 Using Anaconda in Windows and Linux**

Some users may well have Anaconda installed if you are a regular user of Python for data science. A separate environment can be made and the packages installed like this instead if so in Windows and Linux. Here the exact versions of the packages are specified but this may not be necessary.

```
conda create -n P4 python=3.7 matplotlib==3.2.2 pandas==1.3.0 numpy==1.18.1
```

Here P4 is the name of the environment to be created (can be any name). The environment can then be activated by the following.

```
conda activate P4
```

After navigating to the location of the P4\_v01.py file and the Parameter and Input files (see below for details) the command statement to run the program can then be as follows.

```
python P4_v01.py --input . ARD_Testate_Parameter.csv
```

### **1.1.3 Linux users**

Linux users can use Anaconda as above or can use pip to install required packages. Firstly the user could make a new virtual environment using.

```
python3-m venv P4
```

Then activate the environment with the following.

```
. ./P4/bin/activate
```

Then install dependency packages with the following.

```
pip install -U pip  
pip install numpy==1.18.1 pandas matplotlib==3.2.2 argparse==1.1
```

The use the command line below to run the program.

```
python P4_v01.py --input . ARD_Testate_Parameter.csv
```

### **1.1.4 Mac users**

- a) Install python3. For example, using a package manager like homebrew (<https://brew.sh>) or Macports (<https://www.macports.org/install.php>)
- b) Install pip3 using method as in a).
- c) Using pip3, install argparse, numpy, matplotlib, pandas similar to the windows version above but using pip3.
- d) The input for file location in the Parameter file see subsection 2.2 should be set to /Users/username/path\_to\_files.
- e) Use the command in the terminal similar to that listed above for windows with a few exceptions to activate the program but with the exceptions evident below.

Then use the following command to run the program.

```
python3 P4_v01.py --input . ARD_Testate_Parameter.csv
```

For those wishing to alter the code or get involved in Python programming the code can also be altered within any text editor but is perhaps best carried out in a dedicated IDE such as Spyder or VSCode. Within an IDE the experienced Python programmer is free to alter the code if they want to tailor it further to their requirements. Before the program is run the user needs to understand that the program relies on two or potentially three csv files. A combination of one or two Input file/files and a Parameter file.

- 1) **Input file** (name must be supplied in the Parameter file).

To provide the ‘palaeo data’ and the coding required for aesthetic attributes particular to each individual taxon to be displayed be it testate amoebae data, as in the ARD example file, or macrofossil data in the KM example file, or pollen, diatom or other palaeo data.

2) **Extra Input file** (name if used must be supplied in the Parameter file).

This file is used if more than one element is required on the same individual plot. For example if reconstructed testate water table depths were to be plotted, instead of a single entry of Mean Water Table depths alone the user may wish to plot error lines with for example a minimum and maximum error, and therefore have three lines (if a line plot was chosen) on the same individual plot as in the example in (figure 1). It can also be used to plot auxiliary data that has a different sampling resolution (subsection 2.3).

3) **Parameter file** (Name can be altered). This name must be used as part of the command line statement to make the program run. (See text above). This file provides the instructions used to customise the more general aesthetics of the plot.

Information on how to configure the two possible Input files is detailed in subsection 2.1 and the Parameter file in subsection 2.2. Once the Input file/s and the Parameter file have been configured and placed in the correct directories running the code via command line or within an IDE will momentarily (takes about 25 seconds for the example plot data provided for KM and ARD) lead to your plot being saved in both the directory and in the format (png, svg or pdf) specified by the user in the Parameter file.

The output is plotted in portrait and needs to be rotated for inspection. On windows systems simply double click on the file in explorer and the image can be rotated in ‘Photos’ or whatever is the default viewing program. It is best to initially create a png of low dpi, perhaps 150, to reduce production time, that can easily be rotated for inspection until the user is satisfied with the plot. Once satisfied with the output it can be re-plotted as a higher dpi png (perhaps 600 dpi), or an svg or in pdf format ready for publication use. Adjustments to the data and/or parameters in any of the two or three csv files are needed until the plot is as the user requires. This involves altering any of the two or three possible Input/Parameter files, then re-saving and re-running the program to see if the changes have produced the desired plot. The program has many checks inbuilt to detect the most obvious user errors and will provide ‘helpful’ messages to help resolve the issue. This of course is an iterative process but after practice with the program the number of these steps and any encountered issues will reduce dramatically. Although the number of possible attributes that can be adjusted in the Input and Parameter files may appear daunting they are easily altered without the need of numerous windows, clicks or hunting for buttons etc. Many of the inputs required in the Input files to control an individual plots’ appearance can simply be copy and pasted across different taxa. Completion of Input and Parameter files can be remarkably rapid especially if those provided for the example figures at KM or ARD are used as a starting point and then simply modified. Once the user successfully completes a plot it is likely that many of the parameters and attributes will be similar for subsequent plots so the Parameter/Input files from the first plot can simply be edited.

## Ardkill Bog - Kildare - Ireland, testate amoebae record

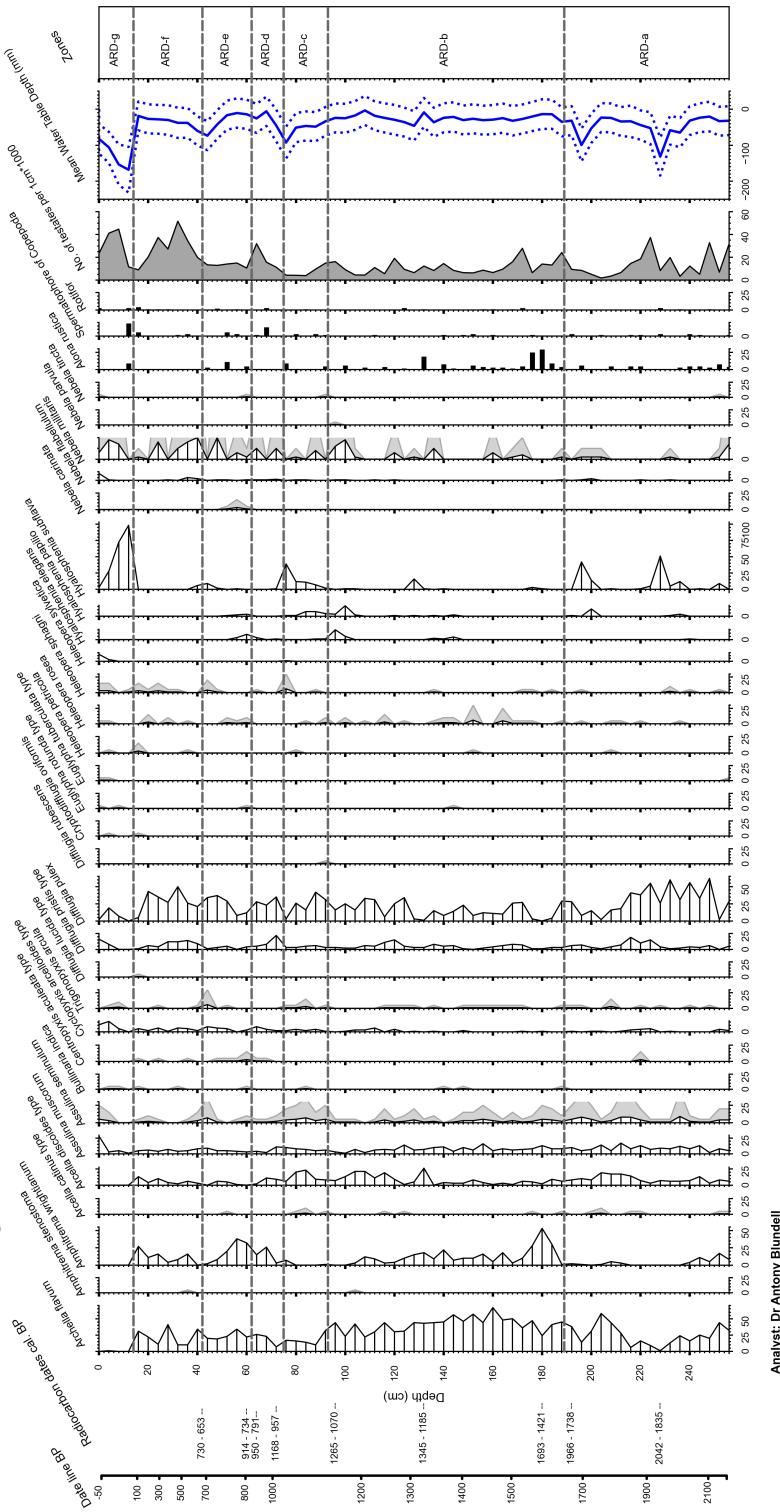
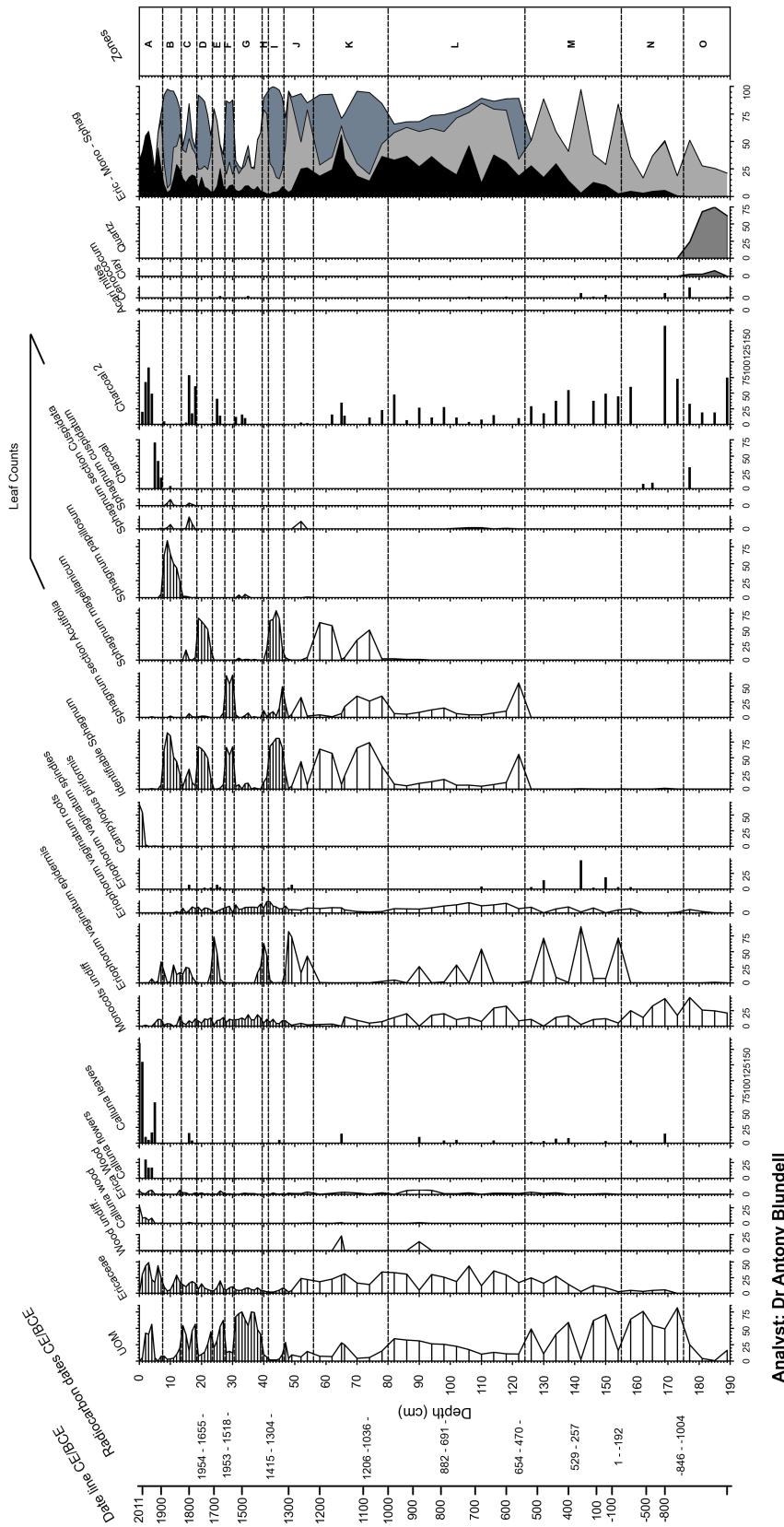


Figure 1: Example of P4 output for testate amoebae data from Ardkill Moss (ARD), Kildare, Ireland (modified from Blundell et al 2008).

Analyst: Dr Antony Blundell

## Keighley Moor - West Yorkshire - England, macrofossil record



**Analyst: Dr Antony Blundell**

Figure 2: Example of P4 output for macrofossil data from Keighley Moor (KM) in West Yorkshire, England (modified from Blundell and Holden 2015).

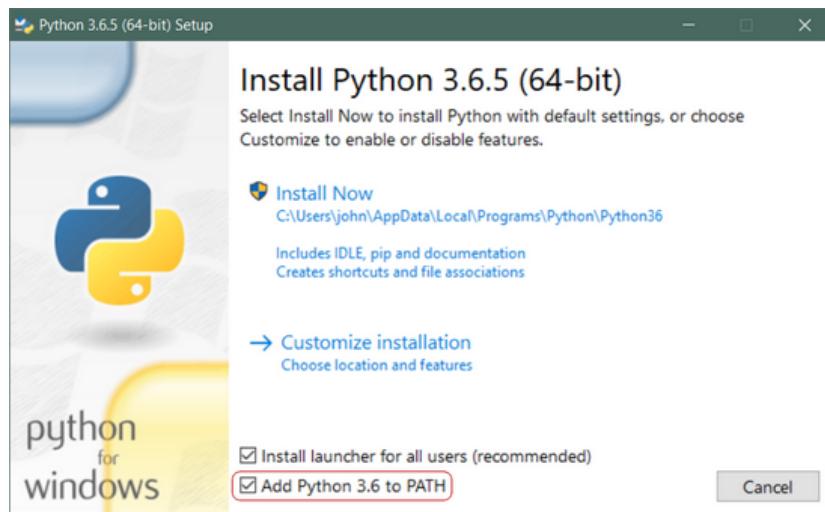


Figure 3: Adding Python to PATH when downloading Python. This figure is just for purposes of illustrating the need to check the Python to PATH box. The program was written in Python version 3.7.6 so it is recommended to use 3.7.6 or above.

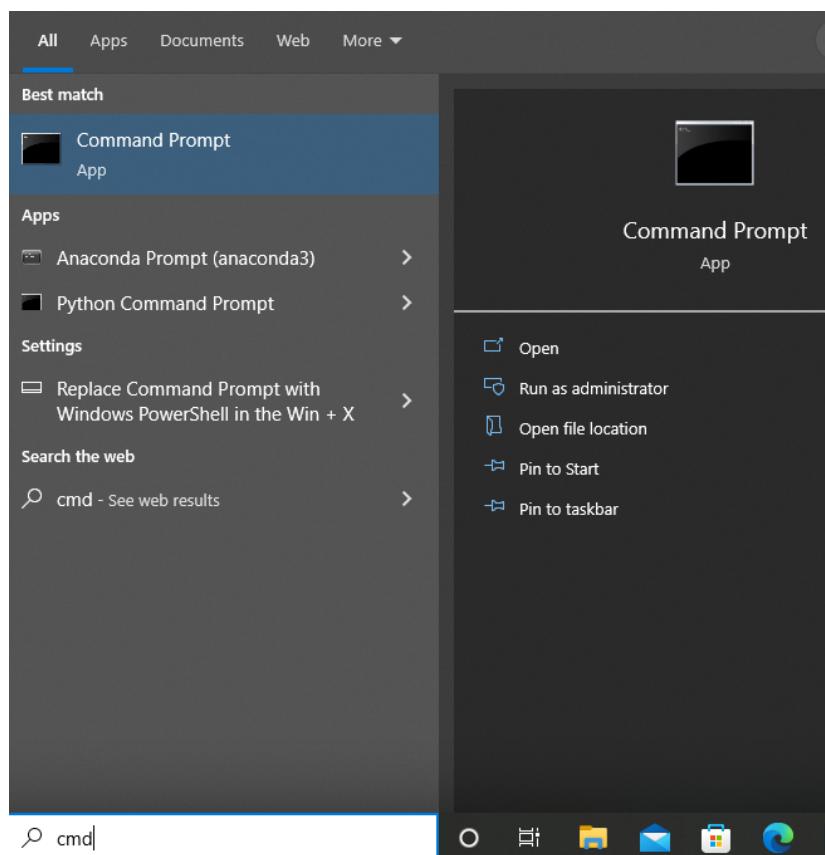


Figure 4: Obtaining command line from search in windows using cmd.

## 2 Input and Parameter files

### 2.1 The Input file\s

A blank template is provided for both the main Input file (and the Extra Input file if required). This can be filled out with the users data and specifications, or the user can modify one of the supplied Input files from the KM or ARD examples. The template is called Template\_Input.csv and the Input file from the examples are ARD\_Testate\_Input.csv and KM\_Macro\_Input.csv demonstrating how the csv is configured for these two sites' testate and macrofossil data. Editing of these files is best carried out in either Excel or an Open Office equivalent such as Calc. These files can be edited in a text editor but it is much less convenient. Always save edited files as the same format supplied, as a comma delimited csv file with the csv extension.

ARD testate Input file (ARD\_Testate\_Input.csv) is used here to show how to configure the Input file. A screen shot of the layout is evident in figure 5. The figure has reduced number of taxa from the actual csv file and figure displayed in (figure 1) so as to enable display in this manual. The file not only contains the palaeo data (usually abundance of taxa) but also the depths, space for the codes the program employs for defining each graph style and colour and so forth, and some limited information related to configuring zones (if required). Close attention is required as to how the file is laid out and how users should modify it for their own data input. It is easiest to start with the ARD or KM example and modify it.

The first column is Depth. This heading 'Depth' needs to be retained and not altered. The name can be changed for display purposes for the plot in the Parameter file if required. The final column is always 'Zones' and must be retained whether zones are required or not. Columns in-between are for the taxa abundances or whatever it is the user is plotting. These are names that will be displayed in the figure for different taxa (the order they come in is the order in which they are plotted). The names supplied here are the names that will appear on the plot so editing them is carried out here in the Input file. **If extra space is required for more taxa simply insert a new column/columns between the Depth and Zones columns and add a new name in the initial cell in row 1.** The program does have a limit of 60 taxa/plots per figure. After 60 the figure is getting hard to read anyway and is better split in to two figures for clarity.

The program does not carry out statistical analyses or create percentages, however up to two 'stack' plots can be produced and if specified percentage of the groups nominated calculated (see subsection 2.2.1). Numbers in the Input file are the numbers that will be displayed. Testate amoebae data for example is often given as percentages so these would be worked out and then added to the Input file as percentages. The example file for ARD has a mix (figure 5) of percentage and absolute count data.

In figure 5 there is also 'No of testates per cm<sup>3</sup>' and 'Mean Water Table Depth' displayed, the latter from a transfer function. These can be seen in the final figure from the full Input file in figure 1. The former is an example of when the

large numbers involved would have led to a graph much larger than those of the taxa data (if all scaled proportionately) hence the data is expressed as number of testates \*1000 to bring about a similar scale to the taxa. A percentage range is normally 0 - 100 but if count data is likely to far exceed this, for example over 300 it is recommended to create a number x\*10 or x\*100. This is so the individual graphs can scale proportionately to each other without one graph occupying the entire plotting space. However, both 'No of testates per cm<sup>3</sup>', and 'Mean Water Table Depth' have been displayed using the Non Standard Scaling (NSC) capability of the program. This is designed for unusual non taxa like data that is to be plotted on very different scales to those of the taxa plots. There are options to display up to five of these type of plots with the taxa plots and may include things like for example, pH or conductivity or anything operating on an unusual scale compared to the majority of the other plots. How to nominate these and set accompanying scales is explained in subsection 2.2.

### 2.1.1 The Input file setup

The Input file is set out in a specific way and **rules must be adhered to** for the program to work successfully. The first row contains the 'Depth' label and then the names of taxa the user wants to plot. The final column has the label 'Zones' (figure 5). Often palaeo plots are split into zones of differing assemblages. This column is there to allow a 'Zone' column to be plotted at the end of the entire figure. The zone depths and names are provided in the Parameter file (see subsection 2.2). The final column must always be named 'Zones' so adding extra taxa columns is carried out by inserting columns between the Depth and Zones columns in the template files or by modifying space between these columns in the ARD or KM example files. The 'Zones' heading text can be altered in the Parameter file to whatever name the user requires. Whether zones are displayed as part of the figure can also be specified in the Parameter file. The 2nd to 39th row of the Input file contains number codes to inform the program of the various taxon specific aesthetic attributes the user requires such as graph type and various colours. The number codes and their possible entries are listed below. Not all entries are required depending on the graph type selected for the individual taxon. It is easiest to make all entries 0 (zero) to start with and then alter them from there. If many taxa require the same aesthetics then entries can of course be copied across very quickly (often most colours will be black for example or code 1). The graph types (line or scatter etc) that require an entry for the particular attributes listed below are listed next to the attribute title. For example 'Depth Bar Colour' is needed for Graph types 1, 2, 5.

Please see areas of the Input file that should not be altered in red (figure 5). Areas in green are there to be edited. If no entry is required leave as 0. The xlsx versions of the various Input files supplied show colour coding of grey, areas to not be altered and green where entries can be altered.

### **\*\*Important note about Zones column in Input file\*\***

The user will notice a data entry for Zones of 100 in the example Input csv files. A single entry of 100 with the rest being zeros. This gives the zone part of the plot a 'width' value as the program code uses the maximum and range of values for each taxa to define and scale the plots width. So although Zones has no value data as such, to gain a column display as in the example figure 1) it requires a value to provide a column. So Zones column values beyond row 39 should contain all zeros apart from a single value to govern its width. This width is based on the data units of the main palaeo proxy data. In the Ardkill Input file example 100 is used as this gives a column that would be the maximum of the percentage data supplied. However, a single entry of 200 would make it twice as wide and one of 50 half as wide.

Entries for rows 1-39 for Zones will all be zero except potentially those on rows 27-30 (X Tick Major Colour to Y Tick Minor Colour). If X ticks depth axis only\*\* entry in the Parameter file (see subsection 2.2) is 'off' and therefore ticks are requested on all plot X axes then these colour entries can be added for the Zones column. These are the only entries that can be used for the Zones column in the plot aesthetic rows (1-39) in the Input and Extra Input files.

## **Attributes**

### **Graph Type - Required for all taxa/data to be plotted**

- 1 = Bar plot
- 2 = Line plot with depth bars and fill colour
- 3 = Line plot
- 4 = Shadow plot (line plot with area below filled in)
- 5 = Line and marker plot
- 6 = Scatter plot (markers only)
- 7 = Option for creating a stack plots (see stack plot 1 and 2 below)

### **Depth Bar Colour - Graphs 1 and 2**

Colour of the bars in graph types 1 and 2. Colour codes are listed once here but the same colour codes are used throughout all attributes. For those interested in Python programming these can easily be added to by the user within the program code in the **colour function**. If altered the col\_max variable will need to be altered to the new number. So if one more colour is added col\_max will change from 23 to 24. col\_max is a variable used in user input error checking. Please note American spelling is used here for many instructions within the program such as 'gray' for grey. Colour codes are as follows.

- 1 = black

2 = gray  
3 = dim gray (darker than dark gray)  
4 = dark grey  
5 = slate gray  
6 = light gray  
7 = red  
8 = dark red  
9 = orange red  
10 = coral  
11 = green  
12 = dark green  
13 = olive  
14 = light green  
15 = blue  
16 = dark blue  
17 = light blue  
18 = cyan  
19 = yellow  
20 = brown  
21 = magenta  
22 = orange  
23 = white

#### **Depth Bar width - Graph 1**

Bar width values of 0.5 to 2 are generally appropriate.

#### **Depth Bar width - Graphs 2**

Bar width values of 0.5 to 2 are generally appropriate.

#### **Line Style - Graphs 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Defines line style for plots with lines (not bars). Line style codes are listed here once and are the same for all line styles throughout the program.

1 = solid  
2 = dotted  
3 = dashed  
4 = dashdot

#### **Line Colour - Graphs 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Define line colour. See colour codes above.

#### **Fill Colour - Graphs 2 and 4**

Define fill colour. See colour codes above.

#### **Fill Colour Transparency - Graphs 2 and 4**

Define fill transparency from 0 - 1. 0 is totally transparent and 1 no transparency.

#### **Line width - Graphs 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Define line width. Between 0.5 and 2 is typical.

#### **Marker Type - Graphs 5 and 6**

Define marker type. Codes are as follows.

1 = circle

2 = cross

3 = upward facing triangle

4 = downward facing triangle

5 = diamond

6 = asterisk

#### **Marker Size - Graphs 5 and 6**

Marker size. Typically between 1 - 5 is big enough.

#### **Marker Face Colour - Graphs 5 and 6**

Central colour of marker. See codes above.

#### **Marker Edge Colour - Graphs 5 and 6**

Outside colour of marker. See colour codes above.

#### **Marker Edge Width - Graphs 5 and 6**

Width of edge line round marker. Typically 0.5 to 1 is sufficient.

#### **Taxon Title Text Colour**

Colour for individual taxon title text. See colour codes.

#### **Taxon Title Text Bold**

Taxon title text bold or not bold 1 or 0.

#### **Plot Vertical Spine Width**

Width of main spine on individual plot. Typically 0.5 to 2 is sufficient

#### **Plot Vertical Spine Style**

Style of line used for spine for individual plot. See line style codes above.

#### **Plot Vertical Spine Colour**

Colour of line used for spine for individual plot. See colour codes above.

**Plot Left Spine Width, Plot Left Spine Style, Plot Left Spine Colour, Plot Right Spine Width, Plot Right Spine Style, Plot Right Spine Colour**

These are all as for vertical spine above.

**X Tick Major Colour**

Colour of major ticks on what is typically the depth axis. See colour codes above. Unlike all other attributes, this and X Tick Minor Colour, Y Tick Major Colour and Y Tick Minor Colour are available for the zones plot column if it has been specified in the Parameter file. As seen in Figure 5 these entries have been altered to values of 1, indicating black, for the input example for ARD\_Testate\_Input.csv .

**X Tick Minor Colour**

Colour of minor ticks on what is typically the depth axis. See colour codes above.

**Y Tick Major Colour**

Colour of major ticks on what is typically the taxon abundance axis. See colour codes above.

**Y Tick Minor Colour**

Colour of minor ticks on what is typically the taxon abundance axis. See colour codes above.

**Exaggeration multiplier**

If exaggeration is required on the taxon plot add the multipier required. To exaggerate the plot by 5 times add a 5 etc. Leave as 0 if no exaggeration required. See exaggeration applied on the ARD plot in figure 1.

**Exaggeration graph type**

Exaggeration is only allowed on graph types 2, 3 and 4 and the graph type used for the exaggeration can be either graph type 3 (line) or graph type 4 (line with fill below or just fill). If not required leave as 0.

**Exaggeration fill colour**

Colour used for the fill of the exaggeration if graph type 4 has been specified as the exaggeration graph type. See colour codes above or leave as 0.

**Exaggeration fill transparency**

Define fill transparency from 0 - 1. 0 is totally transparent and 1 is no transparency. If not required leave as 0.

**Exaggeration line colour**

Define line colour for exaggeration. See colour codes above. If not required leave as 0.

**Exaggeration line width**

Define exaggeration line width. Between 0.5 and 2 is typical. If not required leave as 0.

#### **Exaggeration line style**

Define exaggeration line style. See line style codes above. Leave as 0 if not required.

#### **Stack plot 1**

Here groups are nominated to be included in a stack plot. The user should code the taxa to be grouped together using numbers. For an example see entries for KM in the KM\_Macro\_Input.csv file. Taxa within the Ericaceae, Monocots and *Sphagnum* groups have been entered as 1, 2 and 3. These are plotted as a stack graph (See figure 2). These groups can also be made in to percentages based on the total of all the groups provided if required. This needs to be specified in the Parameter file which is explained in subsection 2.2. In the Input file a new column must be inserted and called whatever you like for the stack plot and the attributes in rows 2 to 27 filled in correctly. The spaces where data would normally be should be filled in as for the Zones column noted above with all zeros except for a single entry to govern the width of that plot. See the KM Parameter file provided for an example of this. The number of groups is presently limited to five. The numbers 1-5 for groupings need to be employed. So if there are 3 groupings use numbers 1-3 to group them as in the example KM file.

#### **Stack plot 2**

Here there is the option to have a second stack summary stack graph. See instructions for stack plot 1 above.

Once your data and codings have been added the Input file should be saved with a name and in a folder of the users choice as a **comma delimited csv file**. Please note this program does try to give the user warnings if the data you have added has an obvious error but not every eventuality will be accounted for in the error checking procedures. If a problem occurs without a useful error message re-trace preparation steps. If there is an error that has not been picked up by the program always keep an original template (the one provided with the program) so inputs can be restarted from a robust base. Data entry for the Input and Parameter files is quite simplistic so no great problem should be encountered once the user has read this manual.

#### **2.1.2 The Extra Input file**

Graph types 3, 5 and 6 (line, line and marker, and scatter) can have more than one plot as demonstrated in figure 1 for the Mean Water Table Depth (mm) plot. To do this a further file is required that is essentially a repeat of the Input file. For the ARD data ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv is used (figure 6). For extra plots to be drawn the same taxon name (contained in main Input file) must be contained within the Extra files taxa name. For example the ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv file for the ARD data the additional two lines to be plotted on the Mean Water Table Depth (mm) plot are called Mean Water Table Depth (mm) 1 and Mean Water Table Depth (mm) 2. The

ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv file contains the same first two columns as the main Input file followed by the additional data for the extra plots. The attributes can be altered as for the main Input file. This additional csv Input file can be called anything (here it is called ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv) but the name needs to be nominated in the Parameter file. If this functionality is not required the entry in the Parameter file 'Extra Input file name' (see below) should be 'none'. Otherwise add the name such as ARD\_Testate\_Extra\_Input.csv. This additional file should be saved in the same location as the main Input file that is nominated in the Parameter file (see below). The Extra Input file can have a further use. It can be used to plot data that is not sampled at the same resolution as the main proxy being displayed. For details see subsection ( 2.3).

## 2.2 The Parameter file

This file contains all the more general non taxon specific user defined parameters that can be altered to change the appearance of the plot. Part of the Parameter file for the ARD example data used here (ARD\_Testate\_Parameter.csv) is shown in figure 7. Column A (first column) is used by the program to locate the different parameters and Column C (third column) provides description and instruction to the user for each parameter. Only Column B should be edited by the user. **Do not change column A or C** or the program may not function correctly. The xlsx version of Parameter files supplied show areas of grey that are not to be altered and areas of green where entries can be changed. These files are for illustration only all as all Input and Parameter files must be saved as csv files. Columns can be more easily read when opened in Excel or Open Office Calc if the column widths are expanded, and column text is centred for Column B. The file can of course be edited in notepad, wordpad, or any text editor but it is easier to follow in either Excel or the Open Office equivalent. Parameters are arranged in 15 logical groups separated by empty rows. Parameters followed by double \*\* are essential and must have entries or the program will ask for them and close. The notes in column C are relatively self-explanatory but further explanation is provided below. The Parameter file can be saved with any name as long as it is a comma delimited csv file with the .csv extension and can be placed in any location. The Parameter file name and the route to it are required in the command statement in the windows command window to run the program (subsection 1.1).

### 2.2.1 PARAMETER GROUPINGS

#### Group 1 Files/Directories

##### Directory\*\*

Provide the location route of the Input file containing the main palaeo data. See the example in the example Parameter files for ARD/KM here.**Make sure the levels of the route are separated with backslashes.**

C:\Users

**\*\*This is where the main and extra (if required) Input files with palaeo data are to be located and where your completed plot will be sent.\*\***

Figure 5: A simplified version of ARD-Testate-Input.csv from Ardkill Bog (Blundell et al., 2008). Vastly reduced number of taxa are shown here to aid display but the full extent can be seen in the ARD-Testate-Input.csv file. Areas encased in green boxes are editable whereas those within red boxes should not be edited.

A	B	C	D	E	
	Depth	Mean Water Table Depth (mm)	1	Mean Water Table Depth (mm) 2	Zones
1					
2	Graph Type	0	3	3	0
3	Depth Bar Colour - Graphs 1, 2	0	0	0	0
4	Depth Bar width - Graphs 1	0	0	0	0
5	Depth Bar width - Graphs 2	0	0	0	0
6	Line Style - Graphs 2, 3, 4, 5	0	2	2	0
7	Line Colour - Graphs 2, 3, 4, 5	0	15	15	0
8	Fill Colour - Graphs 2, 4	0	0	0	0
9	Fill Colour Transparency - Graphs 2, 4	0	0	0	0
10	Line width - Graphs 2, 3, 4, 5	0	1	1	0
11	Marker Type - Graphs 5, 6	0	0	0	0
12	Marker Size - Graphs 5, 6	0	0	0	0
13	Marker Face Colour - Graphs 5, 6	0	0	0	0
14	Marker Edge Colour - Graphs 5, 6	0	0	0	0
15	Marker Edge Width - Graphs 5, 6	0	0	0	0
16	Taxon Title Text Colour	0	1	1	0
17	Taxon Title Text Bold	0	0	0	0
18	Plot Vertical Spine Width	0	0.5	0.5	0
19	Plot Vertical Spine Style	0	1	1	0
20	Plot Vertical Spine Colour	0	1	1	0
21	Plot Left Spine Width	0	0.5	0.5	0
22	Plot Left Spine Style	0	1	1	0
23	Plot Left Spine Colour	0	1	1	0
24	Plot Right Spine Width	0	0.5	0.5	0
25	Plot Right Spine Style	0	1	1	0
26	Plot Right Spine Colour	0	1	1	0
27	X Tick Major Colour	0	1	1	1
28	X Tick Minor Colour	0	1	1	1
29	Y Tick Major Colour	0	1	1	1
30	Y Tick Minor Colour	0	1	1	1
31	Exaggeration multiplier	0	0	0	0
32	Exaggeration graph type - Graph 3 or 4	0	0	0	0
33	Exaggeration fill colour - Ex style Graph 4	0	0	0	0
34	Exaggeration fill transparency - Ex style Graphs 4	0	0	0	0
35	Exaggeration line colour - Ex style Graphs 3,4	0	0	0	0
36	Exaggeration line width - Ex style Graphs 3,4	0	0	0	0
37	Exaggeration line style - Ex style Graphs 3,4	0	0	0	0
38	Stack plot 1	0	0	0	0
39	Stack plot 2	0	0	0	0
40	DATA	0	-123.2	-41.76	100
41	DATA	4	-143.4	-62.84	0
42	DATA	8	-209.48	-97.7	0
43	DATA	12	-231.78	-104.7	0
44	DATA	16	-58.79	2153	0
45	DATA	20	-67.4	13.52	0
46	DATA	24	-68.05	11.97	0
47	DATA	28	-70.99	11.45	0
48	DATA	32	79.77	4.33	0
49	DATA	36	-79.3	3.36	0
		..	..	..	..

Figure 6: View of EXTRA.csv file allowing extra lines to be plotted on Mean water table depth (mm) plot

Only edit this area of the parameter file. Explanations as to the meaning of each parameter are given in column C. Do not alter anything in column A or C only Column B is to be altered with user preferences. There are many more parameters, this is just the upper screen shot of the ARD Parameter file.

Figure 7: Screen shot of the Parameter file showing some of the parameter names used by the program in column A, the parts the user should change in column B and explanations/directions for the individual parameters in column C. Parameters are grouped in to 15 logical groupings. Only alter entries in **column B**.

**Input file name\*\***

Add the Input file name with .csv extension.

**Extra Input file name\*\***

Add the additional file name with .csv extension used for supplying data for multiple lines on plots. If no additional extra Input file is required 'none' should be entered.

**Output file name\*\***

Add file name for the output image. Do not supply extension as that is dictated by the **Save\_as** choice detailed below. The output is saved in the location specified in the **Directory** location supplied above.

**Save as\*\***

Select the required file type for output figure. Can be png, pdf or svg. Once the user is happy with the plot all available formats can be requested at once by simply separating each entry with a comma as such png,svg,pdf and all will be saved with the same output name. It is not recommended to do this when simply building the plot as the extra saving procedures make the iteration much longer in duration.

**Png dpi**

State the dpi resolution if png is selected above. For example, 150 for low, 300 for medium, or possibly 600 or higher for high resolution. This number can remain whether using png or not.

**Group 2 Overall size****Overall figure size X\*\***

Overall X size of figure in centimetres. The plot is formed in portrait, so X here refers to the depth axis side of the figure dimension (figure 8).

**Overall figure size Y\*\***

Overall Y size of figure in centimetres. The plot is formed in portrait, so the Y here refers to the length of the figure from the initial depth axis to the zone part of the figure if specified (figure 8).

**Group 3 Overall font****Font style\*\***

Choose the font style for the entire figure. Possible options include those below. These must be entered in lower case as below. Do not leave spaces after the entry.

arial, calibri, dejavu sans, times new roman

**Group 4 Overall title****Overall title text**

Supply the text required for the overall title.

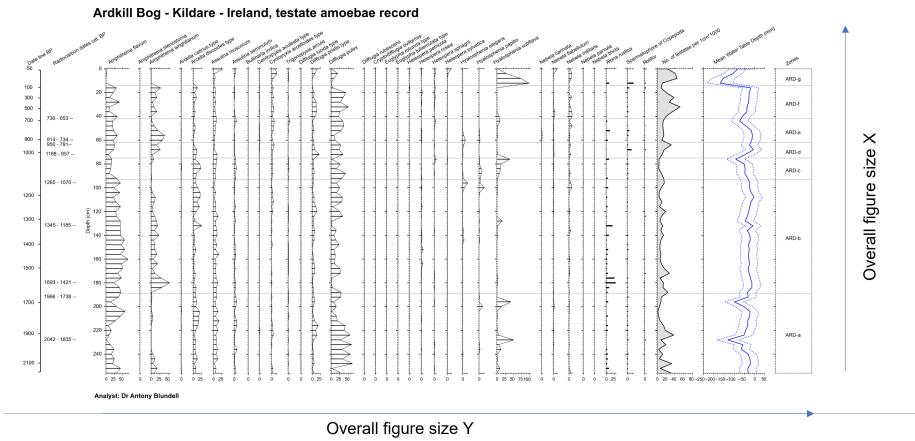


Figure 8: Arrows showing overall size in X and Y.

#### **Overall title text on/off\*\***

Whether a title is displayed or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

#### **Overall title X position**

Position of start of title in 'page units' not 'data units'. 0 is far left on visible page, 1 far right. See example Parameter files. Remember figures are plotted in portrait.

#### **Overall title Y position**

Position of start of title in page units, not data units. 0 is lowest position on visible page , 1 highest. Remember figures are plotted in portrait.

#### **Overall title font size**

Font size for overall title text.

#### **Overall title rotation**

Rotation in degrees for overall title text. Usually would be 90 degrees.

#### **Overall title gap**

Adjusts gap between main title (if specified) and the taxa plots. Adjust between 0 and 0.5.

#### **Overall title text colour**

Supply the text colour required for the overall title. See colour codes.

#### **Overall title text bold on/off**

Title text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **Group 5 Footer title**

#### **Footer text**

Supply the text required for the footer title.

**Footer text on/off\*\***

Whether a footer title is displayed or not an entry of 'off' will stop the footer title being plotted, 'on' will permit display.

**Footer X position**

Position of start of footer in 'page units' not data units. 0 is far left on visible page, 1 far right. Remember figures are plotted in portrait.

**Footer Y position**

Position of the start of the footer. Number is in page not data units. 0 is lowest position on visible page and 1 is the highest on the visible page. Remember figures are plotted in portrait.

**Footer font size**

Font size for footer title text.

**Footer rotation**

Rotation in degrees for footer title text. Usually 90 degrees.

**Footer text colour**

Supply the text colour required for the footer title. See colour codes.

**Footer text bold on/off**

Footer text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Group 6 X title parameters****X title text\*\***

Enter text for the X title. This, as the plot is produced in portrait, is the 'depth' axis in the example plot.

**X title font size\*\***

Font size for X title text.

**X title rotation\*\***

Rotation in degrees for X title text.

**X title text colour\*\***

Colour of X title text.

**X title text bold on/off\*\***

X title text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Group 7 X axis parameters****X limit top\*\***

Upper limit of X axis (depth) often 0 cm indicating the surface.

**X limit base\*\***

Lower limit of X axis (depth), deepest depth.

**X major interval\*\***

Major X tick interval unit (the depth axis, plots are plotted in portrait).

**X minor interval**

Minor X tick interval unit (the depth axis, plots are plotted in portrait).

**X minor ticks on/off\*\***

If 'on' minor ticks for X (depth) axis are visible. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**X ticks depth axis only\*\***

If this option is 'off' depth major and/or minor marks (depending on whether minor have been selected above) are displayed on all axes not just the first plot. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**X major tick length\*\***

Length of major tick marks.

**X minor tick length**

Length of minor tick marks.

**X major tick width**

Width of major tick marks.

**X minor tick width**

Width of minor tick marks.

**X label font size**

Font size of X axis tick labels.

**X label rotation\*\***

Rotation of X label (normally 90 degrees as plot made in portrait). The X labels will typically be numbers relating to for example cm depth.

**X label colour\*\***

Colour of X labels. See colour codes.

**Group 8 Y axis titles**

**Y title font size\*\***

Font size for Y title text.

**Y title rotation\*\***

Rotation of Y titles in degrees. The Y titles are the names of each taxon.

## **Group 9 Y axis ticks and labels**

### **Y major tick interval\*\***

Y axis major tick interval (interval applied to all taxon graphs, unless is Non Standard Scaling).

### **Y minor tick interval**

Y axis minor tick interval (interval applied to all taxon graphs, unless is Non Standard Scaling).

### **Y minor ticks on/off\*\***

If 'on' minor ticks on Y axis are visible. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **Y ticks both ends of plot on/off\*\***

If this is 'on' the program plots taxon abundance axis ticks at both ends of the plot. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **Y major tick length\*\***

Length of Y axis major tick marks.

### **Y minor tick length**

Length of Y axis minor tick marks.

### **Y major tick width\*\***

Width of Y axis major tick marks.

### **Y minor tick width**

Width of Y axis minor tick marks.

### **Y label font size\*\***

Font size of Y axis tick labels.

### **Y label rotation\*\***

Rotation of Y labels (normally 90 degrees).

### **Y label gap\*\***

Gap between Y axis titles and plots. Between 0.1 and 0.5 is usually sufficient.

### **Space between plots\*\***

Space between each plot. Between 0.05 and 0.4 is normally sufficient.

## **Group 10 Zone depths, labels, title, appearance**

Although used primarily for zones this section can be used to draw lines across the figure at the same depths for any purpose such presence of tephra layers for example.

### **Zones on/off\*\***

Zones included in plot or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone depths**

Enter zone depth boundaries separated by commas only. See example in examples Parameter files.

**Zone labels**

Zone labels separated by commas only. See example in example Parameter files. If the number of zone depths is not one less than the number of names a warning will be issued and the program stopped.

**Zone title**

Enter the zone title required.

**Zone title font size**

Zone title font size.

**Zone title rotation**

Zone title rotation. 120 degrees in one of the example Parameter files.

**Zone title colour**

Colour of zone title text. See colour codes.

**Zone title bold on/off**

Zone title in bold or not. An entry of on or off is required.

**Zone labels on/off**

Zone labels visible or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone label font size**

Zone label font size.

**Zone label rotation**

Zone label rotation in degrees. 90 degrees in example Parameter files.

**Zone label position**

Distance from edge of zone boundary of plot in 'data units'.

**Zone label colour**

Colour of zone labels. See colour codes.

**Zone label bold on/off**

Zone labels in bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone line style**

Zone line styles. Add linestyle code for each zone line separated by comma only. See line style coding above and example Parameter file.

**Zone line width**

Width of zone lines. Add line width for each zone line separated by comma only. See example Parameter file.

**Zone line col list**

Colour of zone lines. Add line colour for each zone line separated by comma only. See example Parameter file and colour codes.

**Zone boundary line left on/off**

Zone boundary line left. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone boundary line right on/off**

Zone boundary line right. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone boundary line top on/off**

Zone boundary line top.

**Zone boundary line bottom on/off**

Zone boundary line bottom. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Zone boundary line style**

Zone boundary box line style. See line style coding.

**Zone boundary line colour**

Colour of boundary box zone lines. See colour codes.

**Zone boundary line width**

Width of zone boundary box zone lines.

**Zone X major tick colour**

Colour of depth major tick marks for zones if X ticks depth axis only parameter is 'off'.

**Zone X minor tick colour**

Colour of depth minor tick marks for zones if X ticks depth axis only parameter is 'off' and minor ticks are specified.

**Group 11 Radiocarbon titles, depths, labels and appearance****RC ages on/off\*\***

If listed makes RC dates visible or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**RC age title on/off**

RC title visible or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**RC age title**

Provide title text for RC dates.

**RC age title depth position**

Provide depth at which title is to be displayed. Use minus number if is required above the 0 cm position. Units are data units.

**RC age title offset position**

Specify offset (figure 9) from first plot in data units (RC dates are plotted to

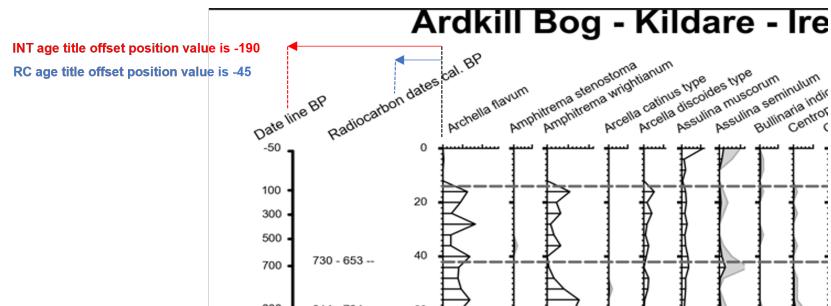


Figure 9: Arrows show minus offset from first plot for both RC (blue) and INT (red) age titles. Units are data units of the first plot. Offsets are required for the titles, labels and for the INT date line if required.

side of first taxon plotted next to depth axis). Therefore, likely to be minus number as to side of first taxon plot. See examples in example Parameter files.

#### **RC age title font size**

Font size of RC title text.

#### **RC age title colour**

Colour of RC title text. See colour codes.

#### **RC age title bold on/off**

RC title text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

#### **RC age title rotation**

RC title text rotation in degrees.

#### **RC age labels**

Provide RC age labels separating each with comma only.

#### **RC age label font size**

Font size of RC label text.

#### **RC age labels colour**

Colour of RC title text. See colour codes.

#### **RC age labels bold on/off**

RC label text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

#### **RC age labels rotation**

RC label text rotation in degrees.

#### **RC age depth label positions**

RC depth locations separated by commas only.

#### **RC age label position offset**

Offset from first plot in data units (RC dates are plotted to side of first taxon

plotted next to depth axis, see figure 9). Will be minus number. See example in example Parameter files.

## **Group 12 Interpolated dates title, depths, labels, appearance**

### **INT ages on/off\*\***

If listed makes INT dates and line visible or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **INT age title on/off**

RC title visible or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required

### **INT age title**

Provide title text for INT dates.

### **INT age title depth position**

Provide depth at which title is to be displayed. Use minus number if is required above the 0 cm position. Units are data units.

### **INT age title offset position**

Specify offset from first plot in data units (INT ages are plotted to side of first taxon plotted next to depth axis). Therefore, likely to be minus number as to side of first taxon plot (figure 9). See example in example Parameter files.

### **INT age title font size**

Font size of INT title text.

### **INT age title colour**

Colour of INT title text. See colour codes.

### **INT age title bold on/off**

INT title text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **INT age title rotation**

INT title text rotation in degrees.

### **INT age labels**

Provide INT age labels separating each with commas only.

### **INT age label font size**

Font size of INT label text.

### **INT age labels colour**

Colour of INT label text. See colour codes.

### **INT age labels bold on/off**

INT label text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

### **INT age labels rotation**

INT label text rotation in degrees.

**INT age depth label positions**

INT depth locations seperated by commas only.

**INT age label position offset**

Offset from first plot in data units (INT dates are plotted to side of first taxon plotted next to depth axis). Will be minus number. See examples in example Parameter files.

**INT lines offset**

Offset of date line from first plot in data units (INT date line is plotted to side of first taxon plotted next to depth axis). Will be minus number (figure 9). See example in example Parameter files.

**INT upper most depth age**

Up-most depth of the first INT date to be used at the surface.

**INT lines width**

Date line line width.

**INT lines colour**

Date line colour. See colour codes.

**INT depth lines length**

Length of tick lines. This uses data units and is based on the data units in the first plot (abundance for Archella flavum or UOM in either example provided).

**INT lines width correction**

If tick lines do not meet main line exactly can use correction here to adjust. If no correction needed add 0. This uses data units so if the plot is based around depth as in the examples provided these will be the units.

**INT lines length correction**

If the main vertical line does not meet main line exactly can use correction here to adjust. If no correction needed add 0.

**Group 13 Grouping annotations****Grouping annotation 1 on/off\*\***

Display grouping annotation or not. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Grouping annotation 1 start**

Supply the taxon (y axis plot title) from where the annotation should start from, *Sphagnum* section *Acutifolia* in figure 10 (see examples in example Parameter files).

**Grouping annotation 1 title**

Supply text for the title of the group annotation.

**Grouping annotation 1 title font size**

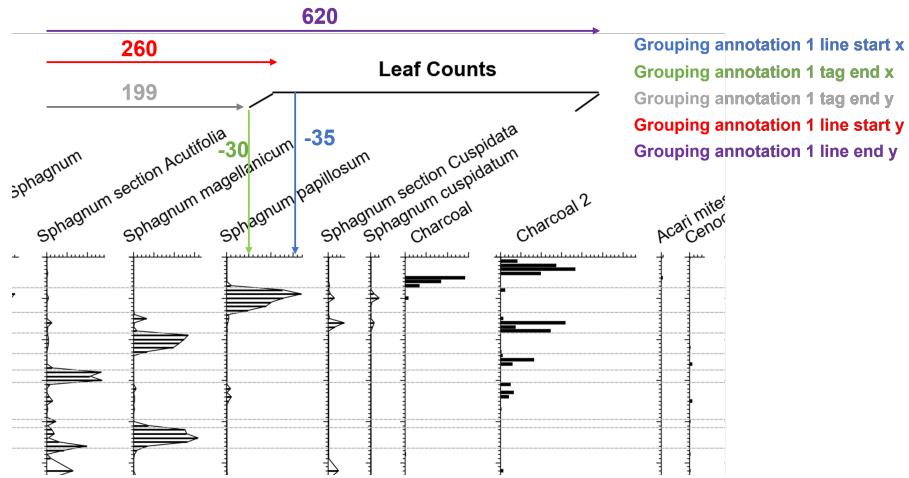


Figure 10: Arrows show dimensions required to draw the group annotation seen in figure 2. The numbers and arrows are colour coded to match the Parameter contained in the Parameter file for KM macrofossils and listed on the figure. All dimensions are based on the starting position from *Sphagnum* section *Acutifolia* as nominated in the Parameter file. Dimensions are in data units

Font size for the text title.

**Grouping annotation 1 title bold on/off**

Text bold or not bold. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**Grouping annotation 1 title colour**

Text colour. See colour codes.

**Grouping annotation 1 line colour**

Grouping annotation line colour. See colour codes.

**Grouping annotation 1 line width**

Grouping annotation line width.

**Grouping annotation 1 line start x**

Offset from nominated start taxon on x axis (depth axis, see figure 10). Data units from start taxon.

**Grouping annotation 1 line start y**

Offset from nominated start taxon on y axis (abundance axis, see figure 10, example value 260). In data units.

**Grouping annotation 1 line end x**

Offset for end of group annotation from nominated start taxon on x axis (depth axis, see figure 10, example value -40). In data units.

**Grouping annotation 1 line end y**

Offset for end of group annotation from nominated start taxon on y axis (abundance axis, see figure 10, example value 620). In data units.

**Grouping annotation 1 tag end x**

Offset of end of tag end if required on x axis (see figure 10, example value -30) . In data units.

**Grouping annotation 1 tag end y**

Offset of end of tag end if required on y axis (see figure 10, example value 175). In data units.

**Grouping annotation 1 tag correction**

Grouping annotation vertical correction in data units. If this grouping is being used this must be filled in. The tag part of the annotation occasionally does not meet the horizontal line. If this needs to be corrected it can be done so here using data units. If no correction needed add 0.

**Grouping annotation 1 line correction**

Grouping annotation horizontal correction in data units. If this grouping is being used this must be filled in. The horizontal part of the annotation occasionally does not meet the tag lines. If this needs to be corrected it can be done so here using data units. If no correction needed add 0.

**There are 10 options for including grouping annotations in the Parameter file. Groups 2 - 10 annotation attributes are a repeat of Grouping 1 above.**

**Group 14 Non Standard Scaling (NSC) 1 - 5, ticks, min and max limits**

If taxa data provided is percentage, it is likely to be within 0 - 100 range. However, if also plotting pH for example the range may be from 3.5 to 5. Non Std Scaling (NSC) elements are for this purpose. Here nominate the exact name of the measure used in the Input file and it will be selected to be treated differently to the other taxa data. This is necessary as the plots need to be scaled against each other which posses no problem if they are operating in similar ranges. There are 5 possible places for accommodating data with unusual scaling. These are NSC 1 - 5. Options listed below are available for all 5 but will be listed here just for NSC 1. Please see the example for the ARD\_Testate.Parameter.csv file. Elements here are the 'Mean Water Table Depth (mm)' and 'No. of testates per 1cm\*1000'). If, as in this example, NSC entries 3 - 5 are not being used then an entry of 'none' is required. If using only two NSC options use NSC entries for NSC 1 and NSC 2. Do not use for example NSC 3, 4 or 5. Clearly if using 4 NSC options use NSC 1 - 4.

**NSC 1\*\***

State data name from Input file that needs unusual scale. If not in use enter 'none'.

**NSC 1 Y major tick interval**

Major tick interval for Y axis for NSC 1.

**NSC 1 Y minor tick interval**

Minor tick interval for Y axis for NSC 1.

**NSC 1 Y min**

Minimum value on Y axis.

**NSC 1 Y max**

Maximum value on Y axis.

**NSC 1 spine on/off**

Is spine required on Y axis. An entry of 'on' or 'off' is required.

**NSC 1 size**

Width of plot compared to maximum width of other NSC data. Expressed as percentile so 1 is 100 percent and 1.5 is 150 percent.

**NSC spine start 1**

Spine to start at 0 or minimum value. An entry of 0 or 'mini' is required.

**Group 15 Stack Plots**

If stack plots are required information regarding codes for aesthetics are entered here. At present there is the option for two stack plots although this could be expanded at a later date if it was required. These stack plots are each able to have up to five groups. The example in figure 2 displays three groups Ericaeae, Monocots and *Sphagnum*, shortened to Eric - Mono - Sphag in the title. These groups were specified in the Input file KM\_Macro\_Input.csv and the aesthetic attributes listed below are in the KM\_Macro\_Parameter.csv file for this example. These can simply be grouped and plotted or they can be grouped and a new percentage of each individual group based on the sum of all groups calculated and that can be plotted instead. These plots by default are plotted at a set size. This can be altered with the stack plot size attribute (see below).

**Stack plot 1 on/off\*\***

Specify if stack plot required or not. Entry of 'on' or 'off'.

**Stack plot 1 title**

Add the title to be displayed above the stack plot.

**Stack plot calculation 1**

Is a recalculation of percentage based on the sum of the groups supplied required? A 'yes' or 'no' entry is required.

**Stack plot size 1**

Supply factor to size plot. Initially use 1. If plot is too small an entry of 1.2 will make it 20% larger or if too large an entry of 0.9 will make it 10% smaller.

**Stack plot colours 1**

Supply colours for your groups based on colour codes detailed in subsection 2.1. Separate each code with a comma (See example in KM Parameter file).

#### **Stack plot line width 1**

Provide line width for lines separating groups in stack plot. If no lines required leave blank.

#### **Stack plot line colour 1**

Supply a single colour code for the lines between the groups in the stack plot. See colour codes. If no lines required leave blank.

These are simply repeated for Stack Plot 2 if two are required.

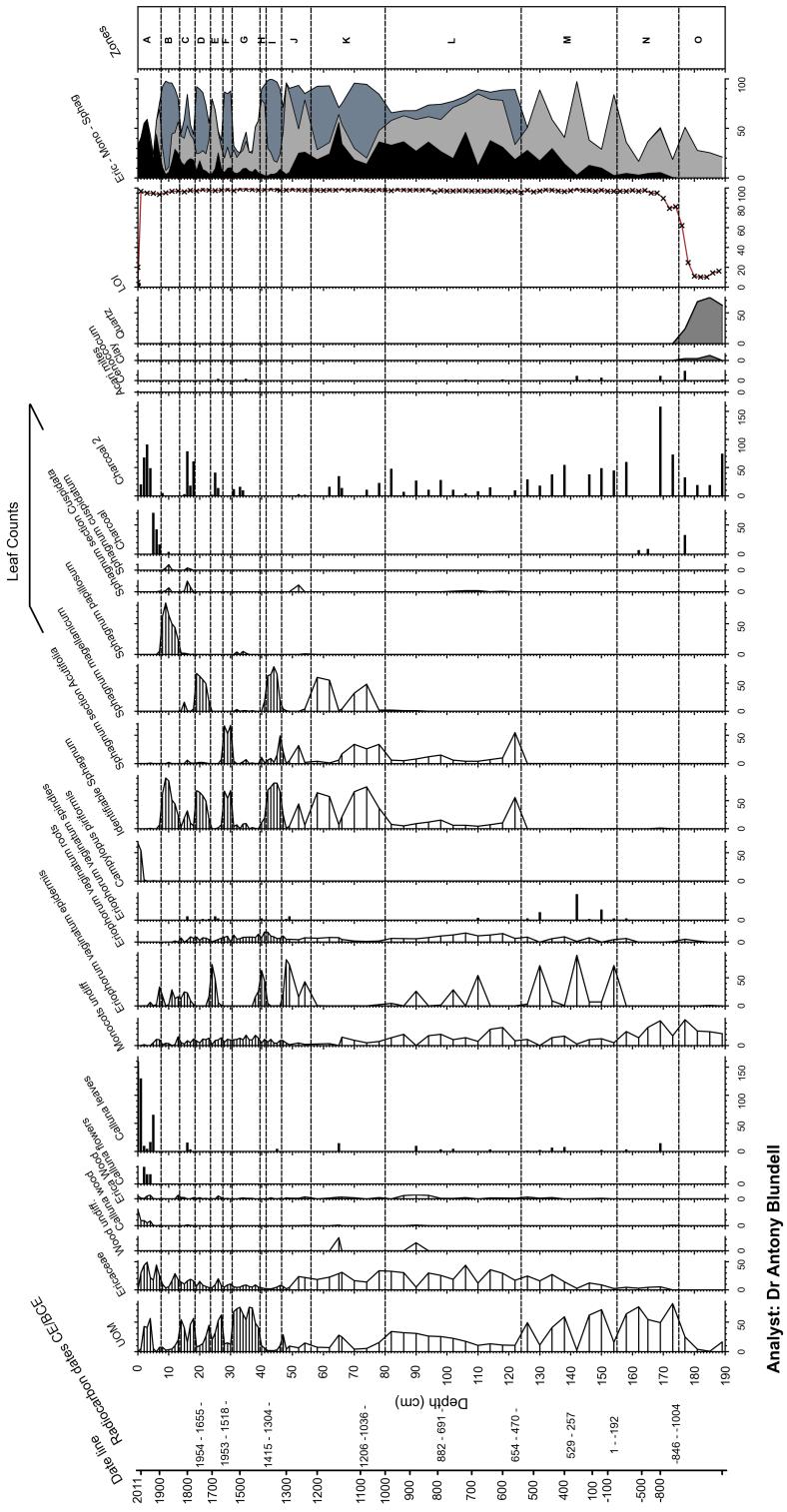
### **2.3 Plotting data with different sampling resolution from main proxy**

The program assumes that for the main proxy be it pollen, testates, macrofossils or anything else that all taxa will have been measured at the same depths which would be commonplace. However, secondary data data that a user may wish to be displayed such as charcoal, pH or loss on ignition (LOI) for example may not have been carried out at the same depth resolution. The program assumes everything has been measured at the same depths so the Extra Input file here can be used to get around this issue. This has been carried out on the second version of the KM macrofossil plot (figure 11). Separate Parameter, Input and Extra Input files have been supplied ending in LOI to demonstrate how (figure 11) was achieved. LOI at KM has largely been measured every 2 cm whereas the macrofossil data is recorded in places at 1 and in others 4 cm. Displaying the LOI uses both the Extra Input file and the Non Standard Scaling function. As this uses the Non Standard Scaling function these plots will be limited both to graph types 3, 5 or 6 and also 5 instances of Non Standard Scaling function uses at present. Listed below are the steps required to add LOI in this case to the KM plot. At present this is a work around and in the future if the need is demonstrated a more formal procedure will be developed with greater user options.

- Create a dummy column in the main Input file in column position desired.
- Name it, in this case LOI. Fill in the aesthetic options desired for graph type 3, 5 or 6. This is the dummy column where data will be meaningless so make the plot colour aesthetics white.
- Add a single value entry in the initial depth for this dummy column that is extremely low. In KM\_Macro\_Input\_LOI.csv a value of 0.001 was added at the 0 cm depth position with all remaining depth slots being filled with zeros. This simply creates an empty graphing space where the user can then add the data at frequencies at odds with the main proxy,
- Use the Extra Input file. See KM\_Extra\_Input\_LOI for layout. Insert a column with same name as that in the dummy column in the main Input file and fill in aesthetic values as for the same graph type as quoted in the dummy column but with values that the user would like the data displayed with.
- The actual data here in Extra Input file in the depth slots should be the real data that the user wishes to display.

- Save both Input files and make sure both are named in the Parameter file in the appropriate places in Group 1.
- The LOI data in this example needs to be quoted as one of the NSC options in the Parameter file. Always use the 5 possible slots in order. Do not use slot 2 if only using one set of data with a NSC requirement. Use the slots sequentially.
- Fill in options for the NSC in Group 14 of the Parameter file. See KM\_Macro\_Parameter\_LOI.csv file for the layout employed in figure (quote fig).
- Once all files are saved the program can be run and iterations of option changes continued until the user is satisfied with the plot.
- The example in figure 11 uses graph type 5 with a brown line and black crosses at sampling points.

## Keighley Moor - West Yorkshire - England, macrofossil record



**Analyst: Dr Antony Blundell**

Figure 11: Keighley Moor macrofossil dataset with LOI plotted. This plot and associated example files show how to plot data, in the case LOI, outside the main proxy that is of different sampling resolution.

### **3 General procedure checklist**

- Place program file in desired location.
- Fill out template Parameter file or modify one of the example Parameter files with desired preferences as directed in the manual and save as csv.
- Fill out template Input file or modify one of the example Input file/s with desired preferences (as directed by manual) and palaeo data.
- If required fill out template Extra Input file or modify example from ARD with desired preferences (as directed by manual) and palaeo data.
- Place Input file/files and Parameter file in desired locations (simplest if all in same location).
- Execute command line statement to run program.
- Fix any issues highlighted by the inbuilt user error checks that will provide messages pointing towards the problem.
- Examine plot and change Input/Parameter files to make desired changes and re-save.
- Execute command line statement to run program and repeat editing of the Input/Parameter files until desired plot is achieved.
- If requiring png once satisfied with the plot save as a high dpi plot (eg 600) or alternatively save as svg or pdf.
- Remember to cite the DOI if you use the program for creating plots for publications.

### **4 References**

- Blundell, A., Charman, D.J., Barber, K.B. 2008. Multi-proxy late Holocene records from Ireland: towards a regional palaeoclimate curve. *Journal of Quaternary Science* 23, 59-71.
- Blundell, A., Holden, J., A. 2015. Using palaeoecology to support blanket peatland management. *Ecological Indicators* 49, 110-120.