## <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>15</sup>N allocations of two alpine species from early and late snowmelt locations reflect their different growth strategies

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## **Supplementary materials**

**Table S1** Labelling-derived <sup>13</sup>C mass ( $\gamma^{13}C_M$ ) at each chase time (mg <sup>13</sup>C) for *K. myosuroides* and *C. foetida*. See equation 6 for calculations and text for statistical details. Values are the mean  $\pm$  se (n=3). Different letters indicate significant differences between chase times (*P*<0.05).

Chase time	K. myosuroides	C. foetida
T <sub>0</sub>	1.28 (0.12) <sup>a</sup>	1.36 (0.22) <sup>a</sup>
T <sub>1</sub>	$0.95 (0.02)^{b}$	0.97 (0.09) <sup>a</sup>
<b>T</b> <sub>3</sub>	$0.80 (0.09)^{b}$	$1.13 (0.14)^{a}$
T <sub>11</sub>	$0.63 (0.05)^{b}$	0.94 (0.13) <sup>a</sup>

## Figure S1

Net leaf CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation per g DW of *Kobresia myosuroides* (black circle) and *Carex foetida* (white circle) in relation to PAR (Photosynthetic Active Radiation). Net leaf CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation at saturating light reached 1755.5 $\pm$ 1097.7 ng C g<sup>-1</sup> leaf DW s<sup>-1</sup> and 2660.2 $\pm$ 93.3 ngC g<sup>-1</sup> leaf DW s<sup>-1</sup> for *Kobresia myosuroides* and *Carex foetida* respectively. Values are the mean  $\pm$  se (n = 3).

An open-flow photosynthesis system (model 6400, LI-COR, Nebraska, USA) equipped with a  $CO_2$  controller ( $CO_2$  concentration equalled 400 ppm) was used to measure the light–response curves of *Carex foetida* and *Kobresia myosuroides* under constant temperature and humidity in July 2004. The system was maintained in a closed thermostated chamber, and the leaf temperature averaged  $\pm 20^{\circ}C$ .



**Figure S2** Labelling-derived <sup>13</sup>C content ( $\gamma^{13}$ C,  $\mu$ g <sup>13</sup>C g<sup>-1</sup> DW) (a-b), labelling-derived <sup>13</sup>C flux ( $\gamma^{13}$ C<sub>R</sub>,  $\mu$ g <sup>13</sup>C g<sup>-1</sup> DW h<sup>-1</sup>) (c-d) and labelling-derived <sup>13</sup>C mass ( $\gamma^{13}$ C<sub>M</sub>,  $\mu$ g <sup>13</sup>C) (e-f) in leaves and new and old roots of *K. myosuroides* and *C. foetida* following pulse labelling. Inlet graphs: cumulative labelling-derived <sup>13</sup>C mass ( $\mu$ g <sup>13</sup>C) respired by the leaves and new and old roots of *K. myosuroides* (e) and *C. foetida* (f) following pulse labelling. Leaves: white circle, new roots: white square, old roots: black square. All *X* –axes show the time elapsed since pulse labelling (in days). Values are the mean ± se (n=3).

