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ROŚLINNOŚĆ ŁĄK I MURAW NA KRAWĘDZI DOLINY ODRY W OW CZARACH (GM. GÓRZYCA)

Meadow and grassland vegetation at the edge of the Odra River valley in Owczary (commune Górzycyca)

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to provide a characteristics of the meadow and grassland vegetation in Owczary Protection Area and a characteristics of selected factors determining distribution thereof against the background of earlier geobotanic data. The research was effected in the complex of thermophilous vegetation at the edge of the Odra river valley in Owczary (commune Górzycyca) covering an area of approximately 50 hectares. The location was exploited as grazing land until 1980's. Since 1998 it has been under active protection of the Naturalist Club – sheep, goats and horses graze there, certain fragments are mowed, and deshrubbing campaigns are organized. Seven plant assemblies were recognized in the classes of *Festuco-Brometea*, *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* and *Koelerio-Corynephoretea*, including two assemblies dying out in the region (E), three endangered assemblies (V) and two assemblies of unidentified endangerment (I). The largest area was occupied by the assemblies of *Arrhenatheretum elatioris* and *Adonido-Brachypodietum*, which at the same time were characterized by the highest changeability. Distribution of the plant assemblies depends, among others, on the gradient and exposition of the hills. A comparison with research of the 1950s and 1970s indicates that at that time the hills were exploited much more extensively while in the plant composition there was a much higher share of pioneer assemblies. The differences in presentation of individual assemblies and in phytosociological terminology as well as lack of precise location of phytosociological photographs prevent a precise comparison of the grassland vegetation a few decades ago and now.

KEY WORDS: xerothermic grasslands, "Owczary" Protection Area, meadows, active protection

Wstęp

Murawy kserotermiczne, ze względu na ograniczony zasięg przestrzenny, znaczne rozproszenie oraz zanik kształtujących je czynników antropogenicznych, należą obecnie do ekosystemów poważnie zagrożonych (Perzanowska i Kujawa-Pawlaczyk 2004). Ekstensywne użytkowanie pasterskie, które przyczyniło się do ich obecnego