MIDFIELD PEAT BOGS IN WESTERN POMERANIAN PROVINCE

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Summary

Peat bogs in the agricultural landscape are usually situated in deep synclines and subjected to eutrophication due to the surface washout from adjacent ploughed lands. Unfavourable changes taking place there may lead to the impoverishment of flora and peat bog communities. The aim of this work was to study the vegetation and flora of some peatlands in Western Pomeranian Province. The study was carried out in 8 selected objects in 1999-2002.

The flora of the peatlands under discussion was clearly differentiated in respect to their sociology. Most frequently represented were the classes *Phragmitetea* R. Tx. et Prsg 1942. and *Scheuchzerio-Caricetea* (Nordh. 1937) R. Tx. 1937. On the other hand, meadow species from the class *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* R. Tx. 1937 occurred less frequently. Dense ozier thickets of *Salicetum pentandro-cinereae* (Almq. 1929) Pass. 1961 and seldom *Vaccinio uliginosi-Betuletum pubescentis* Libbert 1933 patches developed in peatland margins.

Among recorded plant communities the most interesting in the floristic sense were, i.a.: *Caricetum limosae* Br.-Bl. 1921 and *Ericetum tetralicis* R.Tx. 1937. These phytocoenoses are rarely found in peatlands, and the vascular plant species composing them, e.g. *Carex limosa*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Erica tetralix* and *Andromeda polifolia*, are considered natural peculiarities in Poland.

Substantial contribution of rush-swampy and meadow species on peatlands increase their biodiversity. This phenomenon, however, is not favourable for peat bog ecosystems as it proves the advancement of eutrophication processes. This may result in disappearance of particular plant species and in degeneration of natural peat bog communities.

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