Key words: Calthion All, topographic conditions, Tuchola Pinewood Forest, wet meadows

Summary

Appropriate water level in meadows allows for their agricultural use on the one hand and provides the development of plants and proper yield on the other. The land reclamation programme implemented in the second half of the twentieth century has contributed to the agricultural development in many previously inaccessible locations. Subsequent decline of the groundwater levels and the intensification of agricultural production has led, unfortunately, to significant transformations in meadow phytocoenoses.

Currently, in the central part of the Tuchola Pinewood Forest, only a small percentage of meadow areas can be described as valuable from the nature point of view. These are mainly the remnants of once larger wet meadow complexes: Angelico-Cirsietum oleracei R.Tx. 1937 em. Oberd. 1967, Scirpetum silvatici Ralski 1931 and Caricetum cespitosae (Steffen 1931) Klika et Smärde 1940.

Habitat conditions that promote their development are reflected in the topography. At the study sites, factors supporting the development of wet meadow communities include: the proximity to a watercourse, narrowness of the valley bottom and the substantial elevations with respect to the surrounding area.