FLORA OF MEADOWS OF THE INSTITUTE’S EXPERIMENTAL STATION IN ODRZECHOWA INVOLVED IN AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

Key words: agri-environmental programme, flora, meadow, phytosociological relevé

Summary

The study objects were meadows that belong to the Institute's Experimental Station in Odrzechowa involved in agri-environmental programme. The meadows are located on Patria Mountain in the commune of Zarszyn in Podkarpackie Province. At the end of June and in the beginning of July 2008, 46 phytosociological records were taken. On this basis, vascular flora of the studied locations was identified in terms of botanical taxonomy, occurrence of protected species, frequency, economic division, duration of the development cycle, life form, affiliation to phytosociological class, origin, culinary usefulness, melliferous and health properties.

The studied meadows were characterised by the richness of their plant species (118 plant taxa from 28 botanical families). The families Poaceae, Fabaceae and Asteraceae occurred there in greatest numbers. Four taxa were under protection (Platanthera bifolia (L.) Rich, Centaurium erythraea Rafn, Primula veris L. and Ononis arvensis L.). In respect of economic division, herbs and weeds constituted nearly 62% of the recorded taxa. In terms of phytosociological classification, the species from Molinio-Arrhenatheretea class made up 50% of the total flora. Most numerous represented species were those of native origin, perennial plants and hemicryptophytes. Approximately 58% of the species were edible plants or the plants of culinary values, followed by melliferous species – 31% and the species of healthful properties for people and animals alike – almost 29%.

Meadows of the study area represent high aesthetic value due to the richness of plant species in a variety of colours and shapes of flowers, inflorescences and leaves.