

The Bumble bees and Cuckoo bees (*Bombini*, *Apoidea*) of the Western Bieszczady Mts. and the Beskid Niski Mts.

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Abstract

The paper presents the results of a multi-year study on species composition and numbers of bumble bees and cuckoo bees *Bombini*, conducted in the period 1968-2002 in the Beskid Niski Mts., Western Bieszczady Mts., and a “Transition Zone” between them. In all, 24 bumble-bee species and 9 cuckoo bees representing 77.5 % and 90.0 %, respectively, of the total number of these species recorded in Poland. In terms of the *Bombini* species, the greatest number were found in the the Western Bieszczady Mts. (31), with a lower number found in the Beskid Niski (25), whereas the “Transition Zone” had the smallest number (16). Six species were deemed new for the Beskid Niski Mts. and 5 for the Western Bieszczady Mts. Four rare species of bumble bees have probably become extinct, including *B. muscorum* in the Beskid Niski Mts. as well as *B. confusus*, *B. cryptarum*, and *B. humilis* in the Western Bieszczady Mts., while 15 other species are threatened with extinction.

Key words

Bombini, species composition and numbers, threats, feeding plants, Beskid Niski Mts., Western Bieszczady Mts., Polish Carpathians