

Purple-moor grass meadows (alliance *Molinion caeruleae* Koch 1926) in the eastern part of Silesia Upland: phytosociological diversity and aspects of protection

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Abstract

13 syntaxonomical units representing 2 associations (*Galio borealis-Molinietum*, *Selino-Molinietum*), 2 subassociations, 6 variants and 3 facies of purple moor-grass meadows were identified on the basis of the field study conducted on the area of Silesia Upland and numerical classification results. The biggest patches of purple-moor grass meadows were recorded in eastern part of the investigated area. Man's impact and secondary succession shaped the characteristic species composition of these plant communities. The main cause of their threat is cessation of mowing and fragmentation of their habitats. Some remarks for the maintenance of these semi-natural communities in the eastern part of Silesia Upland were given in this paper.

Key words

Purple-moor grass meadows, endangered communities, grassland management, agri-environment schemes