

SUMMARY

Values of the plant cover of the “Kobyła Góra” proposed site of ecological interest in the Bagno Całowanie peatland in the Mazowiecki Landscape Park

Bagno Całowanie peatland is a large (over 1200 ha) fen ecosystem situated at the edge of the Vistula River valley, near Warsaw, in the Mazowiecki Landscape Park (Fig. 1). The localities of many rare and relic plant species were reported from there in the past. However, due to strong anthropoppression (mainly drainage), some of the species have vanished. Nevertheless, many interesting species have survived in several places, especially in the area of Kobyła Góra, a dune situated in the center of the fen. The dune with the adjacent wetland area is planned to be protected as a site of ecological interest.

Field surveys of the plant cover of the above area were conducted in the years 1997-2003. Species-rich xerothermic sand grasslands of the *Koelerion glaucae* alliance (*Sileno otitis-Festucetum* association) are the dominating and most valuable type of vegetation of the dune. Among the other plant communities, litter meadows of the *Molinion* alliance are noteworthy. Altogether 220 vascular plant species have been identified in an area of merely 1,5 ha. The flora includes many rare plants; *Iris sibirica*, *Dianthus superbus*, *Polemonium caeruleum*, *Pulsatilla pratensis*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Hypochoeris maculata* and *Phleum phleoides* are the most endangered and valuable species.

The plant cover of Kobyła Góra is threatened because of giving up the management of grasslands (lack of mowing and grazing enables succession toward the brush and forest communities), by the expansion of aggressive species such as *Calamagrostis epigeios* and *Solidago gigantea*, and sand extracting. Therefore some active protection measures, especially the reestablishment of the proper management, are needed.