

Sukcesja na podmokłych terenach otwartych

Ecological succession on open waterlogged areas

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SUMMARY

Open wetlands, which have been extensively used as pastures or grasslands, are of high ecological value due to their rich flora, and also because of being a bird refuge. Unfortunately, nowadays these areas are abandoned and shrub encroachment is observed due to the unprofitability of extensive use. The aim of this work was to identify herbaceous plant species that occur together with shrub and tree species in not mowed areas. In 2011, relevés and floristic lists were made in Natura 2000 areas located near the Biebrza River. The research was conducted in regularly mowed wetlands and in the area where ecological succession occur. The next step consisted in a comparison of the data collected from these two types of areas, in order to identify herbaceous plant species that occur together with tree and shrub species in not mowed areas. Higher biodiversity and higher prevalence of species characteristic of the *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* class were observed in the overgrown area (due to the transitional nature of these ecosystems), whereas species characteristic of the *Scheuchzerio-Caricetea fuscae* class occur with higher cover values in the regularly mowed areas.