

Wpływ luk na rekrutację siewek ginących gatunków w płatach łąk trzęślicowych *Molinietum caeruleae* W. Koch 1926

The effect of gaps on seedlings recruitment of threatened species in *Molinietum caeruleae* W. Koch 1926 patches

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SUMMARY

The paper reports results of the investigations carried out in two areas (A and B) in Kraków – Kostrze (S Poland). In each of them occurred rare species i.e. siberian iris *Iris sibirica*, globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, gentian marsh *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, meadow gladiolus *Gladiolus imbricatus*, superb pink *Dianthus superbus*, western marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza majalis*, marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*. Over the both areas three patches with different dominant species were distinguished: patch I – with species creating short stems and delicate underground organs (i.e. *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Ranunculus acer*), patch II – with willows *Salix repens* subsp. *rosmarinifolia* and *S. cinerea*, patch III – with large tussock grasses, i.e. *Molinia caerulea* and *Deschampsia cespitosa*. In each of them were marked 10 plots consisted of control subplot left untouched and experimental subplot, where plants were cut and litter were removed.

The seedling recruitment was observed only in experimental plots; in gaps established seedlings of siberian iris, globeflower, gentian marsh, superb pink and meadow gladiolus. The most abundantly represented were the seedlings of globeflower and superb pink. The greatest number of juvenile individuals was observed in patch I, much lower was noted in patches II and III. Presented observations showed that gaps in vegetation cover and litter are safe sites for recruitment of several endangered species and endure the persistence of their populations in occupied site.