

Nowe stanowiska długosza królewskiego *Osmunda regalis* na Ziemi Łódzkiej

New locations of *Osmunda regalis* in the Łódź District (central Poland)

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SUMMARY

Osmunda regalis L. is a rare, protected fern species, which occurs in Poland at only 130 sites located mainly in the Wielkopolska region, part of the Silesian Lowland, and within a strip of uplands in the south of Poland. In the Łódź District, by 2008, the Royal fern was known from 13 sites (Woziwoda 2008). In 2009, two new sites were found in this region.

The first population of the Royal fern consists of 604 individuals and is located within the Natura 2000 site “Torfowiska Żytno-Ewina” near the village of Ewina (Żytno community, Radomsko district). This is one of the most abundant and best preserved populations in Poland. The whole population is relatively safe from the human impact, because it is hardly accessible. Furthermore, the sufficient amount of water in the soil guarantees the proper living conditions for *Osmunda regalis*.

The second population is located in a large forest complex near the village of Górki (Gidle community, Radomsko district). It is small, strongly endangered and consists of 66 individuals. The main threatening factors result from the drainage system: groundwater level lowering in dry and hot seasons, changes in the plant cover, encroachment of tall vegetation, which limit the proper growth of *Osmunda regalis*, and anthropogenic impact – mainly timber exploitation.