SUMMARY

The changes in rodent community in the alder forests of the Kampinoski National Park (Central Poland) caused by lowering of groundwater level

Present decline of underground and surface waters in the Kampinoski National Park causes successional changes in ecosystems and populations which depend on high water table, e.g. alder forest in the "Krzywa Góra" protected area. Earlier studies (1992-1996) showed that bank vole *Clethrionomus glareolus* was the most numerous species (90-99%) in this area. In 1999-2004 rodents were caught in live-traps placed on the ground and on tree trunks 1,5 m above the ground. Occurrence of 6 species of rodents (C. glareolus, Apodemus flavicollis, A. agrarius, Micromys minutus, Mus musculus, Muscardinus avellanarius), 2 species of shrews (Sorex araneus, S. minutus), and of weasel (Mustela nivalis) were recorded. It was found that the number of captures of bank voles decreased, and the number of the other rodent species increased, especially A. flavicollis, a species characteristic of more dry woodland. It may compete with bank vole affecting mainly not the population density but temporal activity pattern of the latter (activity of bank vole becomes more diurnal), and with *M. avellanarius* both for food and space, and therefore, it may cause the decrease of population of this very rare species.