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Graptolite-bearing sites in Poland – concept of protection. In memory of professor Roman Kozłowski
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Abstract: More than half a century ago, Roman Kozłowski, a Polish paleontologist, demonstrated similarities between the extinct group of organisms called Graptolithina and contemporary representatives of hemichordates called pterobranchiates. This important finding had an impact on the opinions pertaining to the evolutionary roots of the most complex organisms of the contemporary biosphere; namely the vertebrates. In Poland, graptolite-bearing sites are very rare. They occur in Ordovician and Silurian deposits. This paper pertains to one of the regions where these fossils occur, i.e. the Kielce zone of the Świętokrzyskie Mts., an area directly connected with R. Kozłowski's research. The characteristics are provided for 10 sites listed in classic papers on the geology of the Świętokrzyskie Mts., together with the proposals to secure and rationally utilize these sites. The present state of these excavations, so important to science, justifies the need for their protection, because of the threat of excessive exploration. A suggestion has been made to declare a natural monument at Wysoczki, named after R. Kozłowski, two nature reserves ("Prągowiec" and "Chojnów Dół") covering non-animate natural landmarks, and documentation sites in the Widelki and Międzygórz localities.

Key words: Graptolithina, fossil-site protection, Świętokrzyskie Mts., Poland.