

SUMMARY

Slender cottongrass *Eriophorum gracile* W.D.J. Koch in the Kotlina Orawsko-Nowotarska basin (S Poland)

Eriophorum gracile is regarded as a critically endangered species in Poland. It belongs to the rarest elements of our flora. In the Polish Carpathians it was formerly known from 3 localities: the Bieszczady Mts., the Beskid Wyspowy Mts. and the Kotlina Orawsko-Nowotarska basin. Nowadays, it grows on only 2 localities in the Kotlina Orawsko-Nowotarska basin: on margin of the Baligówka peat bog and in transitional bog near the Puścizna Wielka peat bog. Decline of *E. gracile* is caused mostly by drainage of marginal parts of bogs connected with peat cutting practice as well as by following encroachment of trees and shrubs. Owing to the loss of habitats suitable for this species it is considered extremely rare and its persistence in the Kotlina Orawsko-Nowotarska basin is uncertain.