

## Rare and threatened spider species (Araneae) in selected types of deciduous forests in the Białowieża Forest

**Marzena Stańska**

Department of Zoology, University of Podlasie  
Prusa 12, 08-110 Siedlce, Poland, e-mail: [stanska@ap.siedlce.pl](mailto:stanska@ap.siedlce.pl)

### Abstract

In the present work surveys for rare and threatened spider species were conducted in selected types of deciduous forests in the Białowieża Primeval Forest. The research was conducted from 1998 to 2001 in three types of deciduous forests: lime-hornbeam-oak forest, alder carr and ash-alder forest, all of which were located in the area of the Białowieża National Park as well as in the commercially managed area of the Forest. In the course of this research 54,358 specimens representing 245 species were captured. Twenty of these species are listed in the “Red list of threatened animals in Poland” and 11 species are rarely seen in this country. Rare and threatened species made up a notable 12.7% of the animals collected. Almost half of the recorded species (45%) were species with northern ranges.

The alder carrs and ash-alder forests, which are swamp forests, were richer in rare and threatened species compared to lime-hornbeam-oak forests.

From among the three developmental phases of lime-hornbeam-oak forest analysed, the regeneration phase proved to be richer in rare and threatened species compared to the optimum and terminal phases.

Transformations due to human activity in commercially managed forests limited the occurrence of rare and threatened species. The swamp managed areas, the alder carr and ash-alder forest, showed a scarcity of these species compared to similar forests in the Białowieża Primeval Forest National Park.

### Key words

The Białowieża Primeval Forest, spiders, rare and threatened species, human impact