

The occurrence of invasive alien plant species in selected forest nature reserves in southern Poland as a conservation problem

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Abstract

Forest reserves are the most common type of nature reserves in Poland. As a result of human impact they also underlie adverse changes from the viewpoint of nature conservation. In this paper, the results of phytosociological studies carried out in 14 selected nature reserves situated in the Silesian-Kraków Upland (southern Poland), with woodland communities as the prevailing vegetation type, were presented. Eleven neophytes were encountered in the forest interiors, of which three are very frequent and abundant: *Impatiens parviflora*, *Quercus rubra* and *Padus serotina* in the comparison with other alien species.

These three species differ significantly from each other in the phytosociological spectrum and habitat preferences but there are no differences between species richness of the forest patches invaded by them. In spite of the presence of alien species treated as a invasive, the forest communities are quite well preserved compared to invaded managed forests, but in the future some efforts should be made to protect native vegetation from the threat of invasive alien species.

Key words

Invasive plants, nature reserves, phytosociological study, forest vegetation, Poland.