

SUMMARY

Natural values of the proposed Górki Czechowskie nature reserve in the town of Lublin – present state and prospects of its conservation

A former military firing range in Lublin should be treated with particular care due to its landscape and floral values. This area, the surface of about 154 ha, is localised in Czechów District. Dry valleys, loess escarps ravines fully justify the need for preserving this area as a classic example of little changed loess sculpture of the Lublin Uplands. Another important argument is high biodiversity of this area. During research conducted in years 1992-2003 about 220 species of vascular plants, including a lot of rare and protected plant species were found here. Ecological research regarded for example interesting xerothermic plant associations from *Festuco-Brometea* and *Trifolio-Geranietea sanguinei* classes and thermophilous brushwood and meadows communities.

Inventarisation of some invertebrate groups regarded the presence of stenotopic xerophilous weevils populations as well as populations of protected beetles from genus *Carabus* and *Calosoma*. Protected tiger-spiders *Argyope bruennichi* have been also detected here. The “Górki Czechowskie” area is a place of presence of over 100 protected bird species and population of the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*.

The documentation of the reserve was prepared and presented in the Environment Protection Department in 1992 by a group of scientists led by prof. M. Harasimiuk. The idea was to create a landscape-floristic reserve of 21,4 ha with 40 ha of the clearing zone in the southern and middle part of the range and a park on the rest of this surface. In the last years some unlawfull attempts to build over the range took place. Supporters of intensive exploitation of this area suggested, that the land was subject to degradation due to long military presence. It is not true, which is indicated by the research conducted in final stage of range existence.

The area of the range has great scientific and didactic value, and biology, geography or environment protection lessons can be taught here.