

SUMMARY

Rare and endangered elements of the flora in the Proszowice Plateau

The Proszowice Plateau is the southernmost subregion of the Nida Basin; 770 km² in area. Because of the favourable natural conditions this area has been used for agricultural purposes since the Neolithic age and is one of the earliest centres of settlement in Poland. At present the typically agricultural landscape is dominated by the arable fields covering the hilltops and the soft slopes (about 80% of the surface). In the river valleys a considerable area (13%) is occupied by meadows. In the places not exploited by agriculture (balks, steep escarpments or steep slopes of the ravines or elevations) xerothermic grasslands have developed. A small area in the hilltops or slopes of elevations is occupied by the small patches of forest communities.

This paper describes 118 rare and endangered species of the flora. Among them 51 species are protected by law: 39 strictly and 12 partly. For each of them their status is given relative to area of the Proszowice Plateau, of the former Cracow province and of Poland (Tab. 1). Places which are of floristic value are presented on the map (Fig. 1).