

Condition of *Carlina onopordifolia* Besser populations on Pińczów Hummock

Grzegorz Bzdón and Marek T. Ciosek

Department of Botany, Institute of Biology, University of Podlasie
ul. Prusa 12, 08-110 Siedlce, Poland, e-mail: botanika@ap.siedlce.pl

Abstract

Carlina onopordifolia Besser is a protected species and one of the rarest species in Poland. The distribution range of the species includes: the Małopolska Upland, Lubelska Upland, Volhynia, and Podolja. In Poland, six natural stations are known. Two of them are within the Lublin region, and the remaining four are on the Małopolska Upland, including three in the north-western part of the Pińczów Hummock. The objective of this study, was to evaluate the condition of the *Carlina onopordifolia* populations within three natural stations situated on the Pińczów Hummock (Pińczów, Pasturka, and Bogucice) and on one station created artificially in 1987, in the Skowron Dolny locality (near „Skowronno” reserve). In 2006, three natural populations of *Carlina onopordifolia* had a combined number of 3 345 specimens. The population on the artificially introduced station numbered 35 specimens. All populations being studied are in a good condition. This conclusion is supported by the population number increases over the last 10 years, as well as by the extension of the area occupied. Also, the continuing high proportion of juvenile specimens as well as plants at the immature vegetative stage, testify to the advantageous conditions for the development of these populations. Certain risks were noted only in the case of the Bogucice station – given the low fluctuating population number and physical barriers in the form of shrubs and agrocoenoses. The ability of *Carlina onopordifolia* to cover a full cycle of development on artificially established stations was also confirmed. Sowing seeds on natural stations may therefore be considered as one of the methods for protecting this species.

Key words

Carlina onopordifolia, endangered species, protecting plant species, population condition, introduction, Pińczów Hummock.