

Kruszczyk błotny *Epipactis palustris* w województwie dolnośląskim – występowanie, zagrożenia i zalecenia dla ochrony**Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris* in Lower Silesia Province – occurrence, threats and recommendations for protection**

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Epipactis palustris (L.) Crantz kruszczyk błotny to jeden z najbardziej zagrożonych gatunków storczyków w województwie dolnośląskim. Spośród 70 stanowisk podawanych z tego terenu przed 1945 rokiem obecnie istnieje jedynie 14. W artykule podano wykaz stanowisk historycznych i aktualnie istniejących oraz zagrożenia dla istniejących populacji.

SUMMARY

Detailed studies on populations of *Epipactis palustris* (L.) Crantz have been carried out in selected regions of Lower Silesia Province since 2003. Original data from studies of German researchers, who had examined the issue in Lower Silesia Province until 1945, were used in the study. Marsh helleborine in this area was relatively abundant until 1945. As many as 70 sites had been reported from this region before 1945, which were situated mainly in forests (Schube 1903, 1903a, 1916; Herr 1928; Schalow 1933), along riversides (Wimmer, Grabowski 1829; Schube 1901; Schalow 1936) and on marshlands (Schube 1904).

After 1945, Marsh helleborine was seldom studied in Lower Silesia Province and there are no detailed studies on this species from that time. *Epipactis palustris* is present on the list of the most endangered species in the region (Kącki *et al.* 2003), yet without a detailed description or confirmed occurrence sites. Only 14 sites of *E. palustris* have been known in Lower Silesia Province until the present day (Radomice, between Krzeczyn Wielki and Krzeczyn Mały, Miłoradzice, Dębno, Krzydłina Mała, Łozina, between Muchów and Jurczyce, Muchów, Pomocne, Duszniki Zdrój, Stary Waliszów), three new sites of the species were found in Niedamirów, Prawików and Słoszów (Fig. 1). At present, the species completely withdrew from riparian forests. Water seepage areas (Narkiewicz 1999) and wet meadows (Kwiatkowski 2006), e.g. *Cirsietum rivularis* (Pokorny 2001) and *Selino-Molinietum* with variable moisture content (Kącki 2007) are the habitats where the species still occurs.

The most serious threat for the existence of the species are deterioration of natural habitats, ploughing, drainage, re-cultivation of an area, as well as secondary succession (Piękoś-Mirkowa, Mirek 2003). Inappropriate exploitation of meadows can also pose a threat to marsh helleborine as it does not tolerate intensive grazing or regular cutting, particularly during the flowering season. The species is described as highly endangered because of major human interference in its natural habitats, which changes the number of habitats potentially available for this species (Kowalewska 1995).