



Introduction

We invite you to read our winter news included into this Bulletin issue. We are all pleased to see the rapid development of our organization, in particular its inclusion into the IAVS as a Working Group, the establishment of a new subgroup focussing on Mediterranean dry grasslands and a rapid increase of membership now exceeding 400 members. We invite you to participate in our meetings taking place in 2010 in Slovakia and 2011 in Ukraine. Regular Bulletin sections including a book review, references to selected publications and Forum are also featured. We hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Monika Janišová, Jürgen Dengler, Solvita Rūsiņa

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EDGG homepage: <http://www.edgg.org>

Photo left: Koelerio-Corynephoretea communities in Psel river floodplain, E Ukraine, A. Kuzemko.

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European Dry Grassland Group

The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) is a network of dry grassland researchers and conservationists in Europe. EDGG is a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS). EDGG is supported by the Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft.

The basic aims of the EDGG are:

- ♣ To compile and to distribute information on research and conservation in dry grasslands beyond national borders;
- ♣ to stimulate active cooperation among dry grassland scientists (exchanging data, common data standards, joint projects).

To achieve its aims, EDGG provides four facilities for the information exchange among dry grassland researchers and conservationists:

- ♣ **the Bulletin of the EDGG** (published quarterly);
- ♣ **the EDGG homepage** (www.edgg.org);
- ♣ e-mails via our **mailing list** on urgent issues;
- ♣ **the European Dry Grassland Meetings**, organized annually in different places throughout Europe.

The EDGG covers all aspects related to dry grasslands, in particular: plants - animals - fungi - microbia - soils - taxonomy - phylogeography - ecophysiology - population biology - species' interactions - vegetation ecology - syntaxonomy - landscape ecology - biodiversity - land use history - agriculture - nature conservation - restoration - environmental legislation - environmental education.

Responsibilities of the chairs:

Jürgen Dengler dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de: membership administration, book review editor, contacts to other organisations.

Monika Janišová monika.janisova@savba.sk: editorship of the EDGG Bulletin.

Solvita Rūsiņa rusina@lu.lv: editorship of the EDGG homepage.

Everybody can join EDGG without any fee or other obligation. To become a member of the European dry grassland Group or its subordinate units write an e-mail to Jürgen Dengler including your complete address and specifying which of the groups you want to join. The detailed information you can find at: http://www.edgg.org/about_us.htm.

EDGG is now an IAVS Working Group



Upon our application, the Executive Committee of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) decided in early October 2009 to accept the European Dry Grassland Group as an official Working Group of the IAVS. We are now the sixth Working Group besides European

Vegetation Survey (EVS), Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM), Disturbance Dynamics in Boreal Forests, EcoInformatics, and Nomenclature Commission.

The cooperation with IAVS will bring mutual benefits, including the effective announcement of activities in the media of the respective other organisation. In the future, there also might be the possibility to receive some financial support from IAVS for EDGG activities. Our only obligation is to deliver an annual report of our activities to the Advisory Council of IAVS. According to the IAVS

Bylaws, our contact person (Jürgen Dengler) becomes a nonvoting (associate) member of IAVS Advisory Council. While we expect that our cooperation with IAVS will contribute to the flourishing of EDGG, this does by no way mean that EDGG will restrict its activities to vegetation ecology. On the contrary, we remain open to mycologists, zoologists, soil scientists, agricultural scientists, conservation practitioners, and all persons from other scientific or applied fields who deal with dry grasslands.

Our cooperation with IAVS also does not mean that EDGG members need to be IAVS members. However, we would like to invite you to visit the homepage of IAVS (www.iavs.org) to see the many benefits you might get from joining IAVS. We would particularly like to highlight that there is a Global Fund within IAVS to which people from low-income countries can apply to get free membership and reduced subscription rates to the journals of IAVS, *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*.

Mediterranean Dry Grassland subgroup

Initiation of the Mediterranean Dry Grassland subgroup (Med-DG subgroup)

Announcement and open call for participation

Dear reader,

we are in the happiest position to officially announce the establishment of a new subgroup under the umbrella of the European Dry Grasslands Group (EDGG). This subgroup coming from the southern part of Europe aims to place one more piece in the puzzle of the European Dry Grassland Group. The Mediterranean Dry Grassland subgroup (Med-DG) was put into action on the 2nd of October this year.

Dry grassland (not-irrigated, natural) is a special type of natural Mediterranean ecosystem; a type that, in terms of management and natural resource use, together with natural shrublands, phryganic-like systems and sparsely forested areas comprise *rangelands*, i.e. natural extended areas where livestock husbandry is traditionally the dominant economic activity. In most of the Mediterranean countries, dry grasslands cover large geographical areas from the lowlands up to the sub-alpine and alpine zones. For example, in Greece, grasslands cover 1,700,000 ha - almost 33% of the total rangeland area, the latter accounting for 39% of the country area (=13,200,000 ha

approx.) (Papanastasis and Noitsakis 1992). Other figures point out the relative importance of Mediterranean dry grasslands at the European level: according to the 2008 Technical Report for the management of the Natura priority habitat 6210 (Semi-natural dry grasslands (Festuco-Brometalia)), this habitat contributes almost half (44%) of the Natura sites of the Mediterranean Biogeographical region, with Italy hosting the largest surface area (256,115 ha), followed by France (104,641 ha), and Spain (97,897 ha) (Calaciura and Spinelli 2008).

They represent valuable resources for our local and national economies by sustaining livestock husbandry, ecotourism or even mass tourism (large skiing centres), hunting, bee-keeping, while potentially they are able to provide large quantities of organic fuels. To a large extent, they also contribute to the high aesthetic value of Mediterranean natural landscapes, and shape the cultural rural identity of our countries, and indirectly “adjust” habits and behaviours of large societal groups (e.g. nomadic tribes like “Sarakatsani” in Greece).



Sarakatsani: characteristic nomadic tribe of Greece



Dry grasslands consist of particularly species-rich communities, in terms of flora and fauna. Additionally, it is well-recognized that they support numerous rare and/or threatened species, while their level of endemism is one of the highest in the world. Despite

their high natural, societal, aesthetical, cultural and economic values, Mediterranean dry grasslands are rather neglected systems in terms of their **systematic, supra national study**.



Sharing "grassland commonness" in the past / in the present

With this in mind, the Mediterranean Dry Grasslands (Med-DG) was established as a sub-group within the European Dry Grasslands Group. Our aim is to establish a forum for coordinating and communicating efforts for:

- (i) the establishment and evaluation of a Mediterranean vegetation database for dry grasslands relevés, and
- (ii) the construction of a platform for research and conservation of the Mediterranean dry grasslands.

To achieve these aims, we are planning to promote activities like exchanging research experiences, establishing research groups within and outside the Mediterranean, planning and sharing common protocols for vegetation recording, enhancing mobility and training ourselves and our students, informing each other about events relevant to Mediterranean (and not only) dry grassland events (conferences, meeting, etc.), and establishing consensus for policy feeding, and many other activities that time will show up.

The geographic scope of our Med-DG subgroup includes the following fourteen European Mediterranean countries: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bul-

garia, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey. This is in accordance with the map of Biogeographical Regions 2001 of Europe published by the EEA (European Environment Agency). For the time being, since last October the Med-DG Subgroup is shared between 70 members and 13 countries (12 Mediterranean plus Germany). All the registered EDGG members of Mediterranean origin were automatically assigned to the subgroup. Of course, our subgroup welcomes members from non-Mediterranean countries who have scientific interests for Mediterranean dry grasslands. Country members from North Africa and Middle-East Asia, Australia, North and South America, South Africa and other Mediterranean-climate countries are welcome and will soon be included in our subgroup. We kindly invite you to support our effort and participate in our activities. Please, have in mind that any additional proposals made by all of you on how to make our subgroup more efficient are more than welcome.

Looking forward to your input,

Michael Vrahnakis, acting Chairman of the Med-DG subgroup, mvrahnak@teilar.gr



Mediterranean dry grassland values: combining diversity and aesthetic scenes. Photos: M. Vrahnakis.

References

- Calaciura B. and O. Spinelli. 2008. Management of Natura 2000 habitats. 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (*important orchid sites). European Commission, 38 pp., http://www.life-heliantHEME.eu/fileadmin/Life/HeliantHEME/Management_Festuco_Brometalia.pdf
- Papanastasis V.P. and B. Noitsakis. 1992. Rangeland Ecology. Giahoudis & Giapoulis publishers. Thessaloniki, 244 pp. (in Greek).



Mediterranean dry grasslands: reasons for research. Photos: M. Vrahinakīs.

Special Feature in Tuexenia 30.2010

The *Special Feature* in *Tuexenia* 30.2010 with contributions from the 6th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Halle (Saale) (eds. U. Jandt, T. Becker, M. Janišová, K. Kiehl & J. Dengler) will be published soon. Thirteen contributions have been announced, ten of which have already been submitted and are in the review process now. While certainly not all of them will finally be accepted in the peer-reviewed *Tuexenia*, we still anticipate having the most comprehensive and most diverse *Dry Grassland Special Feature* ever in *Tuexenia*. After publication, the pdfs of the included articles will be made available with open access on the EDGG homepage.

While the annual *Dry Grassland Special Features* in *Tuexenia* are a very attractive opportunity for EDGG resulting from our cooperation with the *Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft e. V.*, *Tuexenia* also benefits from the internationality and the high quality of our contributions. A recent survey with the bibliometric software *Publish or Perish* (freely available from <http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm>) has shown that the contributions in our *Dry Grassland Special Features* are much more frequently quoted

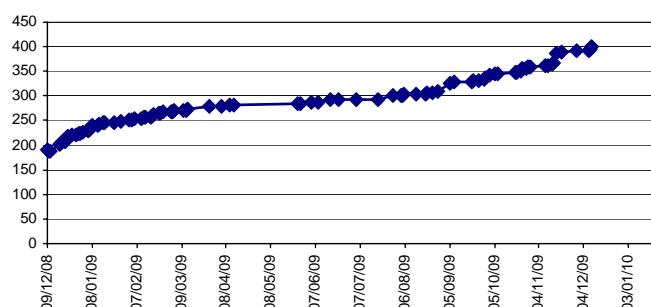
than average *Tuexenia* articles. Among the twenty articles with the highest citation rates (citations per year since publication, accessed in November 2009), seven were from *Dry Grassland Special Features*, with Dengler (2005: Zwischen Estland und Portugal – Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede der Phytodiversitätsmuster europäischer Trockenrasen. – *Tuexenia* 25: 387–405) having the highest rate of all *Tuexenia* articles (2.6 citations per year).

Thus, the authors, reviewers, and editors from EDGG make a valuable contribution to the scientific profile of *Tuexenia*, and this in turn, hopefully will help the journal to be finally included in the *Web of Science* (they have applied three years ago and the evaluation process is still continuing). If you wish to have *Tuexenia* (or other journals) be covered by the *Web of Science*, please, use the recommendation page of Thomson-Reuters at:

<http://science.thomsonreuters.com/info/journalrec/>

Jürgen Dengler

EDGG welcomes its 400th member



Temporal development of EDGG membership during its first year of existence (the upper figure) and frequency of countries among the 400 EDGG members on 9 December 2009 (table down).

Albania	1	0.3%
Armenia	1	0.3%
Australia	1	0.3%
Austria	10	2.5%
Belgium	3	0.8%
Bosnia and Hercegovina	1	0.3%
Brazil	1	0.3%
Bulgaria	7	1.8%
Canada	1	0.3%
Croatia	1	0.3%
Cyprus	1	0.3%
Czech Republic	7	1.8%
Denmark	5	1.3%
Estonia	9	2.3%
Finland	5	1.3%
France	1	0.3%
Germany	163	40.8%
Greece	25	6.3%
Hungary	10	2.5%
Iran	1	0.3%
Ireland	4	1.0%
Italy	12	3.0%
Latvia	4	1.0%
Lithuania	2	0.5%
Luxembourg	1	0.3%
Morocco	4	1.0%
Netherlands	7	1.8%
Norway	1	0.3%
Poland	12	3.0%
Romania	20	5.0%
Russia	10	2.5%
Slovak Republic	16	4.0%
Slovenia	9	2.3%
Spain	2	0.5%
Sweden	10	2.5%
Switzerland	8	2.0%
Turkey	4	1.0%
Ukraine	5	1.3%
United Kingdom	15	3.8%

On 9 December 2008, EDGG started with the combined members of the German *Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen* and the *Working Group on Dry Grasslands* in the *Nordic and Baltic Region*, amounting to 191 people from 24 countries. Exactly one year later, on 9 December 2009, we were happy to welcome our 400th member. Now 39 countries, not only from Europe but also beyond (e.g. Iran, Morocco, Canada, Brazil, Australia), are represented. This rapid development (see Figure) supports the view that there is a real need for our network and its services.

The largest number of members is from Germany (163), followed by Greece (25), Romania (20), the Slovak Republic (16), and the United Kingdom (15, see Table). However, if the density of EDGG members per 1,000,000 inhabitants is calculated, it becomes clear that the “true” centres of dry grassland research are Estonia (6.5 members per 1,000,000 inhabitants), Slovenia (4.5), the Slovak Republic (3.0), and Greece (3.3).

On the other hand, some European countries are still poorly represented in EDGG despite their strong tradition in dry grassland research. The largest European countries (according to human population) that are completely unrepresented in EDGG are Kazakhstan, Portugal, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Serbia. Further, Southwest Europe in general (France, Spain, Portugal) is still insufficiently represented. However, we hope that with the establishment of our regional subgroup *Mediterranean Dry Grasslands* (Med-DG) EDGG membership becomes more attractive also for colleagues from the named countries. If you as present EDGG members have contact to colleagues from these countries, please, feel particularly encouraged to invite them to join our network.

Jürgen Dengler

The 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting

28-31 May 2010

Smolenice, Congress Centre of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic



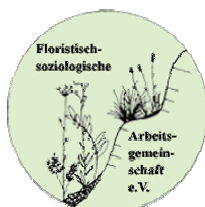
Main topic:

Succession, restoration and management of dry grasslands

Subtopics:

- a) Succession and restoration in dry grassland communities.
- b) Detection of „favourable conditions“ of dry grassland habitats.
- c) Management models for grassland habitats.
- d) Species invasions and expansions in dry grasslands.
- e) Classification of successional stages and degraded communities.

All other topics related to dry grassland ecosystems are welcome.



Preliminary topics of the conference sections:

- A. Methodological issues (evaluation of habitat quality, detection of favourable habitat conditions, classification of successional stages and degraded communities)
- B. Processes in succession and management effects (biodiversity of grassland habitats in relation to their management, results of long-term experiments)
- C. Conservation of grassland species, communities and habitats (strategies and experiences)

Organizers:

European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG), a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Financial support: Floristisch-soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft e. V.

Supported by a grant through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and from the state budget of the Slovak Republic. Within this grant a project called [Management models for grassland habitats](#) is performed (the project is introduced on page 10).



The meeting will be held in **Smolenice** near Trnava (Western Slovakia) located about 60 km from the capital city Bratislava in north-eastern direction on the eastern foothills of the Malé Karpaty Mts. The Smolenice castle towers above the village of Smolenice on the eastern foothills of Malé Karpaty Mts. Now the castle is owned by Slovak Academy of Sciences as The House of Scientists.

Venue: Kongress Centre of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Zámocká 18, 919 04 Smolenice, Slovak Republic

Date: Friday, 28 May 2010 - Monday, 31 May 2010

Language: English

Contributions: Both oral and poster presentations are invited

Date: Friday, 28 May 2010 - Monday, 31 May 2010

Conference publications: Conference proceedings will be prepared. As in previous years, we plan to publish conference contributions in a Dry Grassland Special Feature of the peer-reviewed journal *Tuexenia*.

Catering: Refreshments will be provided during the conference breaks. The participants can order board individually at their own expense (preliminary price of full board is 12.95 Euro).

Fees: The conference fee of 60 Euro covers refreshments during the conference breaks and the garden party, contribution to the rent of conference centre and the workshop pack with program. Additional fee will be paid for excursions (20 Euro each) which will be used for transport and refreshment.

A limited number of participants will be supported (reduction of registration fee).

Payment: The conference fee should be paid before 1 March 2010 to:

Account No: 157539012/0200

Account owner: Spolok botanikov J. Futáka,
Dúbravská cesta 9, 845 23 Bratislava

Details of payment: The 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting + name of participant(s)

Bank: VÚB Bratislava

SWIFT code: SUBASKBX

IBAN: SK0502000000000157539012

Please, let us know about your payment by e-mail to grasslands@savba.sk.

Excursion fee, accommodation and board will be paid at the registration desk.

Registration and abstract upload: Online at http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting.html

Deadline for registration and abstract submission is 31 January 2010

Deadline for payment is 1 March 2010

Number of participants is restricted to 90!



Contact to the team of organizers:

grasslands@savba.sk

Organizers:

Monika Janišová, Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Banská Bystrica

Katarína Hegedúšová, Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Iveta Škodová, Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Dobromil Galváněk, DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Zvolen

Related Web Links:

Cave Driny:

<http://www.ssj.sk/jaskyne/spristupnene/driny>

Molpir Museum Smolenice:

www.muzeum.sk/defaulte.php

Červený Kameň Castle:

<http://www.castles.sk/cerveny-kamen.php>

Congress Centre:

<http://kcsmolence.sav.sk>



Conference homepage:

http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting.html

Preliminary time schedule

Friday 28.05.2010

registration (10.00-13.00), lunch (12.00-13.00), opening (13.00), lectures (13.30-17.30), dinner (17.30-18.30), business meetings (18.30-19.30)

Saturday 29.05.2010

lectures and poster session (9.00-12.00, 14.00-17.30), garden party (18.30-21.30)

Sunday 30.05.2010

excursion I (Dry grasslands of Považský Inovec, Tematínske vrchy Mts.), departure 8.30

Monday 31.05.2010

excursion II (Species rich semi-dry grasslands of Biele Karpaty Mts., Vrbovce), departure 8.30

Tuesday 01.06.2010

excursion III (Devínska Kobyla, Devín), departure 8.30 for Bratislava and Devín

Accommodation is available directly in the castle in single, double, three- or four-bed rooms, or in apartments. Altogether, there are 70 beds in single, double, three- and four-bed rooms. Additionally, 5 apartments are available. Please, indicate the type of room you prefer in the on-line registration form. The number of rooms and approximate price per night are as follows:

- single room - 9, price 10 Euro
- double room - 16, price 19 Euro
- 3-bed room - 7, price 23 Euro
- 4-bed room - 2, price 28 Euro
- Apartment - 5, price 29 Euro

You can also book the accommodation individually outside the castle, e.g. in Garni Hotel in Smolenice (www.hotelsolmus.sk).

The conference will be devoted to the memory of Pavel Deván, Slovak zoologist, botanist and nature conservationist.

His name is well known in Slovakia and abroad. After graduating from the Faculty of Natural Scientists in Bratislava he worked in the State Nature Conservancy, and during the last 22 years as a zoologist at the Administration of Protected Landscape Area Biele Karpaty. He studied mainly various groups of invertebrates such as *Ephemeroptera*, *Lumbricina*, numerous groups of *Hymenoptera* and *Lepidoptera*.

He was very eager to know any information about natural history. Sitting at his microscope, he spent long months examining and learning about the species. He placed the knowledge of species above statistical analyses, which he omitted during his last years. The results of his investigations were published in numerous scientific papers.

Through his enthusiasm he attracted many young people to study natural sciences and guided them during their scientific life in botany or zoology. He offered valuable advice to those who decided to work in nature conservation. His activities in grassland conservation were especially important. Through the mobilization of numerous young people he established the tradition of summer camps and weekend voluntary working parties devoted to the maintenance of valuable species-rich grasslands in the Biele Karpaty Mts. He taught the beginners to look after a scythe, how to smith it, how to mow in a right manner so that the stubble is low and the scythe remains unbroken. He loved to work in the field and inspired all with his enthusiasm to do their best for a good cause.



As a farmer's child in the Myjava region he would have followed the tradition and become a farmer if the collectivization had not taken place during communism. Still, his farming roots were expressed in his speech and activities as well as in his factual help to inhabitants of settlements in the Biele Karpaty Mts. He was one of them. Together with his colleagues, he helped the private grassland owners to keep and mow the valuable grassland habitats. He devoted much time to maintaining the species-rich meadows and to fight against succession as he was convinced that the phenomenon of grasslands in the Biele Karpaty Mts must inevitably be preserved in the period of abandonment of traditional grassland utilization.

He lived vigorously, without wasting time. He did not divide his time between work and leisure - study of nature and conservation activities were his lifestyle. In May 2009 he mowed the plots he took care of for years, where he used to graze his flock on aftergrass. But in June 2009, aged 54, he left for better ranges, as

Project „Management models for grassland habitats“

This project (code SK 0115) is supported by a grant through the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and from the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The aim of this project implemented by DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology, in close cooperation with an expert team from the Institute of Botany at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, is the protection of valuable grasslands habitats. The project will propose the most appropriate management for various types of habitats as fens, salt marches or dry grasslands. Long-term field experiments on the impact of mulching on grassland biodiversity compared to conventional uses of grassland (grazing, mowing) have been established and will be evaluated. The data from existing ecological experiments on grasslands will be analysed and evaluated. Relationships between diversity and grassland management will be analysed using extensive

vegetation data sets from Poľana and Biele Karpaty Mts. The findings will be used to elaborate management models which will serve as a basis for conservation management planning and can be used to set conditions for agro-environmental schemes. The models will be published on the project website, which will be accessible to the general public. The project will be accompanied by a number of activities focussing on publicity and popularization. Results will be discussed with the staff of the State Nature Conservancy and information brochures will be prepared for farmers. Project results will be presented at both national and international scientific conferences and a final project presentation will be prepared for the European Commission in Brussels.



*Establishment of the mulching experiment in the Poľana Mts. Photo: I. Turisová (left). Species-rich grasslands of the *Violion caninae* alliance belong to dominant grassland habitats in the Poľana Mts. Photo: K. Ujházy (right).*



Locality of mulching experiment in the Biele Karpaty Mts. Photo: K. Hegedúšová (left). Management of semi-dry grasslands in locality Dúbravy, Biele Karpaty Mts. Photo: I. Škodová (right).

The 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting

13-17 June 2011

National Dendrological Park 'Sofiyivka' of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Uman', Ukraine



Pink pavilion at the "Love island" in winter (picture left). Central part of 'Sofiyivka', Gatherings square and Lower pond (picture in the middle) and Belvedere with Orpheus statue and Pototsky profile (picture left).

Organizers: European Dry Grassland Group, National Dendrological Park 'Sofiyivka' NAS of Ukraine, M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany NAS of Ukraine.

The National Dendrological Park "Sofiyivka" of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Uman, Cherkasy region, Ukraine) suggests holding the 2011 EDGG Meeting on its base.

The National dendrological park "Sofiyivka" is an outstanding masterpiece of landscape art from the late 18-th/early 19-th century. The monument to Ukrainian landscape architecture is included into the National Register of the National Culture Achievement, the museum of nature and landscape art. The National dendrological park "Sofiyivka" NAS of Ukraine is a scientific research institution of NAS of Ukraine and has been recognized as a scientific centre. The main directions of work are plant introduction, acclimatization, biodiversity conservation and landscape park building. At the same time, "Sofiyivka" – is a unique, romantic landscape park, a hand-made monument of human genius. Not only one generation of owners has changed, though today it yields to no one in this respect owing to the efforts of the workers of all historical periods of the park. The park's tourist services consist of 3 hotels (for 125 persons), the Scientists' House with the Winter Garden and the Museum of Marmoreal Sculpture, a restaurant, a cafe, bars, sau-

nas, car parks, and the "Flora" shop with exhibition-shop "Aquanarium", containing nearly 50 kinds of fish. The national dendrological park "Sofiyivka" is located in the ancient city of Uman, Cherkasy region, which is a district centre with a population of nearly 90 thousand and developed infrastructure. The city is placed in the intersection of the highways "St. Petersburg – Odessa" and "Lviv – Dnipropetrovsk", 202 km from the capital of Ukraine – Kiev, so convenient to reach by car. During the Meeting there is the opportunity to organize the excursions to valley of Hirsky Tikich river and valley of Southern Bug river with granite outcrops and steppe vegetation. The detailed information on the conference will be provided in one of the forthcoming Bulletins.

Contact:

Anna Kuzemko, National dendrological park "Sofiyivka" NAS of Ukraine, 12a Kyivska str., Uman', Ukraine, 20300

E-mail: anya_meadow@mail.ru



The Southern Bug valley.



The Hырskyy Tikych canyon.



Steppe vegetation in the Southern Bug River valley.

The Southern Bug in its middle course is cut out of the hard crystalline rocks of the Archean and Proterozoic time. It has developed a picturesque stream with the islands and rifts in the riverbed and the outcrops in the valley. The vegetation is represented by petriphyte and steppe communities with many rare plants (*Chamaecytisus albus*, *Ch. blockianus*, *Poa versicolor*, *Pulsatilla pratensis*, *Amygdalus nana*, *Aster amellus*, *Cerasus fruticosa*, *Cotoneaster melanocarpus*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Iris hungarica*, *I. pumila*, *Primula elatior*, *Sempervivum ruthenicum*, etc.) and animals (*Barbus barbus borysthemicus*, *Iphiclides podalirius*, *Lucanus cervus*, *Lutra lutra*, *Meles meles*, *Pandion haliaetus*). The area was proposed for establishment of the regional and landscape park "Serednie Pobuzzhia".



Iris hungarica in the Southern Bug valley. Photo: A. Kuzemko.



Chamaecytisus blockianus - the species from Ukrainian Red Data Book in the dry grassland of the Southern Bug valley. Photo: A. Kuzemko.

Hyrskyy Tikych River has cut its bed through the strata of the Ukrainian crystalline shield aged over 2 million years. The landscape of the valley is picturesque and one can observe a stony cliffs in some parts and the waterfall "Vyr" 2 m in height. The dry grassland communities from *Festuco-Brometea* and *Koelerion Corynephoretea* classes are widely dispersed in the valley. The steppe vegetation has been changed substantially. Nevertheless, numerous rare species occur in the communities of the granite outcrops (*Crocus reticulatus*, *Stipa lessingiana*, *Gagea hypanica*, *Asplenium septentrionale*, *A. trichomanes*, *Aurinia saxatilis*, etc.). The area was proposed for establishment of the regional and landscape park "Hyrskyy Tikych".



Crocus reticulatus - the species of Ukrainian Red Data Book in the steppe communities of the Hyrskyy Tikych valley. Photo: A. Kuzemko.



Gagea hypanica - the endemic species of Southern Bug (ancient Hypanis) basin. Photo: A. Kuzemko.

Other forthcoming events

9th Meeting on Vegetation Databases

"Vegetation Databases and Climate Change"

24–26 (–27) February 2010, Hamburg, Germany

Keynote Lectures: Dr. Ingolf Kühn (UFZ, Halle, Germany), Dr. Nikolaus E. Zimmermann (WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland), Dr. Michael Rutherford (SANBI, South Africa)

Software Workshops: (1) Dealing with spatial autocorrelation; (2) BIOTABase; (3) R for vegetation scientists

Already 87 participants from 22 countries are registered.

Deadline for registration and abstract upload: extended to 17 January 2010

Conference homepage: <http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/workshop2010.html>

53th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS)

18-23 April 2010, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico

Motto: Changing Gradients in Vegetation and the Environment

Optional excursions:

- 12-17 April 2010: Southern California
- 24 April - 1 May 2010: 4 alternative excursions in Baja California

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 January 2010

19th Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey (EVS)

Conference homepage: <http://iavs2010.ens.uabc.mx/>

27 April - 2 May 2010, Pécs, Hungary

Motto "Flora, vegetation, environment and landuse at large scale". The programme includes various trips to dry grassland sites. The conference homepage is now available at <http://www.obki.hu/evs/>.

Deadline for registration and abstracts is 30 January 2010.

23th Conference-Expedition of the Baltic Botanists

19-22 July 2010, Haapsalu, Estonia

Topic: Seminatural communities

The motto of the Conference:

Proper Management of Seminatural Communities Benefits Biodiversity

Deadline of Registration and submission of abstracts: March 31, 2010

Deadline of Payment: April 30, 2010

Contacts: malle.leht@emu.ee, tiiu.kull@emu.ee, maria.abakumove@ut.ee (abstracts), kadri.tali@emu.ee (registration)

The Conference website will be soon available, see <http://www.elus.ee/balticbotany>

7th SER (Society for Ecological Restoration) European Conference on Ecological Restoration

23-27 August, Avignon, France

Topic: Ecological restoration and sustainable development. Establishing links across frontiers.

Deadline for abstract: 1 March 2010

Deadline for registration: 15. July 2010

Conference homepage: www.seravignon2010.org

Contact: ser2010@univ-avignon.fr

23th Annual Conference of the working group Plant Population Biology of the Ecological Society of Germany, Switzerland and Austria

13-15. May 2010, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Deadline for abstracts submission and early registration: 31 March 2010

Conference website: www.ru.nl/popbio/2010/

Contact: [E. Jongeijans@science.ru.nl](mailto:E.Jongeijans@science.ru.nl)

Book review

In this section, we will publish reviews of recent books relevant for dry grassland research and conservation. Apart from titles particularly dealing with dry grasslands, also more general titles can be included, as for example phytosociological overviews, floras/faunas and field guides of relevant taxa, or text books on methodology, ecology, and conservation/restoration. Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de) serves as coordinator for this section (book review editor). Thus, if you are an author, editor or publisher of a book and want to have it reviewed in the Bulletin of the EDGG, please, contact Jürgen. The same applies to EDGG members who want to review a specific new title.

Jongepierová, I. (2008) [Ed.]: Grasslands of the White Carpathian Mountains [in Czech; English summary]. – 461 pp., ZO ČSOP Bílé Karpaty, Veselí nad Moravou. ISBN 978-80-903444-6-4. Price: 545 Kč or 21 € (plus postage which is about 20 €), further information you can receive at ivana.jongepierova@nature.cz.

The White Carpathians (Bílé Karpaty) are a low mountain range of up to 970 m a.s.l., situated at the border of present-day Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Since 1979 and 1980, respectively, this very specific landscape has been protected in two Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs), 435 and 715 km² in size. The White Carpathians are particularly famous for the extremely high small-scale plant species richness that can be found in the semi-dry basiphilous grasslands of the region, with a recorded maximum of 99 vascular plant species on 4 m².

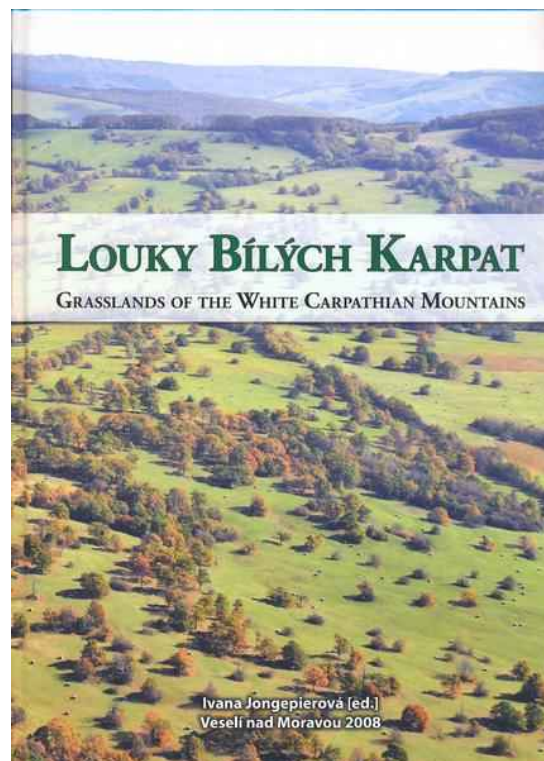
This attractive book (30 cm × 21 cm, full colour, hard bound) presents the present knowledge on the grasslands in the White Carpathians in 27 chapters, written by a large group of experts from Czechia and Slovakia. The main text is written in Czech, but the lower third of each page contains a green box with an abridged English version. Also all the captions of the many photographs, other figures, and tables are bilingual – what makes the content of the book easily accessible to grassland researchers without knowledge of the Czech language.

The chapters are organised into five thematic groups: Description and history of the area, Botany, Zoology, Research projects, and Management and conservation. The botanical chapters include comprehensive treatments of the various taxonomic groups (algae, bryophytes, fungi and lichens as well as vascular plants), with photographs of many of the characteristic species. This group of chapters also includes the two most interesting papers from my point-of-view: “Species diversity of grasslands” by L. Klimeš and “Vegetation” by I. Škodová et al. The latter contains a classification and detailed description (including a synoptic table, lists of diagnostic, constant, and dominant species, as well as distribution maps) of all the 18 grassland communities of the region. The zoological chapters characterise the soil fauna, the molluscs,

arachnids, insects and vertebrates of the White Carpathians on nearly 150 pages. The final chapters deal with functional and conservational aspects, such as impact of grazing on species diversity or grassland management

In conclusion, the book provides an interesting and comprehensive view of some of the most peculiar and best studied grassland ecosystems of Europe. With the excellent layout, moderate price, and bilingual presentation, the monograph is a very useful source of information also for dry grassland researchers outside Czechia and Slovakia.

Jürgen Dengler



Recent publications of our members

With this section, we want to facilitate an overview of dry grassland-related publications throughout Europe and to improve their accessibility because many publications on dry grasslands appear in national or regional journals hardly known to researchers in other countries.

We ask our members therefore to send lists of their recent relevant publications to Monika Janišová: monika.janisova@savba.sk. Please follow the style of a recent issue of the Bulletin and provide an English translation of the title for publications in other languages. Publications of the recent and the three preceeding years will be considered and each publication will be listed only in one Bulletin.

If you would like to have your publications linked from our homepage (<http://www.edgg.org>), you may send a quotation to Solvita Rūsiņa: rusina@lu.lv. In this case, you should provide access to a pdf of your publication by one of the following three ways: (i) send a pdf to Solvita to be posted directly on the EDGG homepage; (ii) send a link to a URL at which the pdf is being made available permanently; (iii) provide your e-mail contact to allow colleagues to ask you for a pdf (in case you are not allowed to post a pdf openly).



Jeschke, M., Kiehl, K. (2006): Auswirkung von Renaturierungs- und Pflegemaßnahmen auf die Artenzusammensetzung und Artendiversität von Gefäßpflanzen und Kryptogamen in neu angelegten Kalkmagerrasen. – Tuexenia 26: 223–242, Göttingen

Jeschke, M., Kiehl, K. (2006): Vergleich der Kryptogamenvegetation alter und junger Kalkmagerrasen im Naturschutzgebiet „Garching Heide“. – Ber. Bayer. Bot. Ges. 76: 221–234, München.

Jeschke, M., Kiehl, K. (2008): Effect of a dense moss layer on germination and establishment of vascular plants in newly created calcareous grasslands. – Flora 203: 557–566, Jena.

Jeschke, M., Kiehl, K., Pfadenhauer, J., Gigon, A. (2008): Langfristige Auswirkungen ehemaliger Bewirtschaftungsvarianten auf die Diversität von Blütenpflanzen, Moosen und Flechten eines Kalkmagerrasens. – Bot. Helv. 118: 95–109, Basel.

Ketner-Oostra, R. (2007): Changes in the moss and lichen vegetation in the dry dunes of the Dutch island Terschelling after 1970, II: microclimate. Buxbaumiella 79: 14–22.

Ketner-Oostra, R. & Sýkora, K.V. (2008): Vegetation change in alichen-rich inland drift sand area in the Netherlands. Phytocoenologia, 38 (4) 267–286.

Ketner-Oostra, R. (2009): Restoration management of degraded driftsand on the Deelensche Zand. Buxbaumiella 82: 14–21.

Landi, M., Frgnani, F., Lazzeri, C., Angiolini, C. (2009): Abundance of orchids on calcareous grasslands in relation to community species, environmental, and vegetational conditions. – Russ. J. Ecol. 40: 486–494.

Mårtensson, L-M. and P. A. Olsson (2009): Soil chemistry of local vegetation gradients in sandy calcareous grasslands, Plant Ecology, in press.

Olsson, P. A., L-M. Mårtensson and H. H. Bruun (2009): Acidification of sandy grasslands – consequences for plant diversity, Applied Vegetation Science, 12: 350–361.

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Forum

World Metadatabase on Vegetation Databases

In conjunction with the 9th international Meeting on Vegetation Databases (see section Other forthcoming events), the launch of a comprehensive World Metadatabase on Vegetation Databases is planned. It will be hosted by the Section "Vegetation Databases" of NetPhyD and the Working Group "EcoInformatics" of the IAVS and be continuously updated in the future. Additionally, a Special Volume (eds. J. Dengler, J. Ewald, M. Finckh, F. Jansen & J. Oldeland) of the international, peer-reviewed journal *Biodiversity & Ecology* will be published that presents information on vegetation databases worldwide in form of reports. These either can be "Short reports" of one page, consisting of a standardised "Fact sheet" and an abstract or regular "Reports" of 5–20 pages length. We aim at having the Special Volume be covered by the *Conference Proceedings Citation Index™* of the Web of Science.

With the World Metadatabase and the Special Volume, we try to be as comprehensive as possible. Nearly fifty vegetation databases from all over the world have already registered for inclusion. If you – institutionally or privately – host a vegetation database and you are basically willing to share the data with other researchers, please register at <http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/373.html>

Note that a participation in the conference is not required in order to contribute to the Metadatabase/Special Volume. All registered hosts of vegetation databases will automatically be informed when the online upload facility (for Metadatabase and Fact sheet) and the Instructions-to-authors are available. Submission of Full or short reports to the Special Volume will then be possible until 31 March 2010.

Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de)



Rhinanthus rumelicus in Transylvania. Photo J. Dengler.

FUNDATIA ADEPT

Part of the programme of Fundatia ADEPT, a Romania-UK charity based in southern Transylvania, focuses on the conservation of semi-natural dry grassland. The project area is located within a potential Natura 2000 area, Târnave Mare, named after a large local river and just over 85,000 ha in extent. This year sees the culmination of eight years of research on the grassland, some of the richest in Europe in terms of both habitats and species. We need to identify the management requirements, working in collaboration with the local community, especially the farmers, and also mapping areas of particular rarity in terms of habitats and species. Fundatia Adept is concerned that many of these unique grasslands may be under threat from agricultural intensification following the EU accession of Romania, despite opportunities available under agri-environment schemes to conserve so-called High Nature Value grasslands. A converse threat is abandonment of grasslands, espe-

cially some of our dry grasslands, which are managed by a traditional regime of grazing, hay cutting and burning to control scrub.

We have good and extensive examples of wet grassland with *Molinia caerulea*, montane slopes and mesotrophic grassland but our dry grasslands are confined to steep, south-facing slopes. The dry grassland plant communities, as usual in the forest-steppe zone of Central/Eastern Europe, are restricted to these dry slopes and banks that are kept free from scrub by farming activities and are hence dependent on them. Dry grasslands are composed of a range of grass dominants or areas of open ground on clays and silts where subshrubs and forbs dominate. Grasslands dominated by *Stipa* species other than *Stipa capillata* are rare (including *Stipa joannis*), but grasslands have typically a high cover of xerophytic grass species such as *Agropyron intermedium* and *Botriochloa is-*

chaemum, also *Carex humilis*, along with some relatively large areas of scrub, which include the subshrubs *Prunus tenella* and *P. fruticosus* (40A0*Subcontinental per-Pannonic scrub communities). The grasslands listed under the EU Habitats Directive include 6190 Rupicolous Pannonic grasslands, 6250 Pannonic loess steppes (at least botanically, though loess is not present), 6240 sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands and others, but we are still analyzing the exact relationships in terms of their phytosociology. Rare dry grassland plant species include *Iris aphylla*, *Crambe tartarica*, the Transylvanian endemic *Cephalaria radiata* and, a species of special concern in the EU, *Echium russicum*. The driest grasslands are relatively species-poor in terms of species packing, but slightly more mesophytic grassland which includes the dominants *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Sesleria heuflerana* (a sub-Carpathian endemic) is much richer in wildflower species.

This year we have been cataloguing one of the enigmatic features of the landscape, small slumping hills of silts, clays and gravels, around 30m in diameter and 10m high (*movile* in Romanian) on which we have found unique concentrations of rare and relict species. Typical species include Romanian Red-list species as varied as *Daphne cneorum* and *Seseli peucedanoides*, along with a host of montane and moisture-loving species on north faces, including *Adenophora liliflora*, another Habitats Directive-listed species. These *movile* are the ‘crown jewels’ of our conservation programme and so it is of crucial importance to know as much as possible about their ecology if we are to make the case to the Government of Romania and agencies for their legal conservation protection. For part of our descriptive vegetational work, we have been carrying out line transects looking at spatial changes in species composition from north to south face across these *movile*. These transects must describe some of the greatest plant community and species composition changes per distance (30m) of any grasslands present in Europe and where associated changes in underlying soil chemistry and composition are not a factor. In some cases the *movile* have hygrophilous, mesophytic and xerophytic vegetation in close association, and occasionally aquatic communities within wet grassland below. On this work programme we have collaborated with the University of Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, and would especially like to thank Romanian research students Monica Beldean and Dan Turtureana, and another Romanian student, Inga Paulini of the University of Bonn, for their botanical investigation in high temperatures. We have had a long working relationship with their supervisors, botanists at Babes-Bolyai, including Professor Vasile Christea, and also

with Professor Silvia Oroian from Targu-Mures University, who have themselves uncovered some of our rarest plants and habitats. We have also received encouragement from Dr Erika Schneider-Binder, who first drew the attention of the scientific community to the *movile* flora, some 30 years ago.

Our future work will concern the launch of a conservation strategy for the area, including raising awareness of financial opportunities under Natura 2000 and agri-environment grants for farmers to continue farming in a low input regime necessary for the conservation of these sensitive grasslands habitats. A select few areas of grassland may be outlined for potential purchase and special management programmes because of the great rarity and vulnerability of their habitats and species. In the first instance, we are eager to draw the attention of the scientific world, and a wider public, to a remarkable and unique grassland flora that is one of Romania’s treasures.

Andrew Jones (llanllawddog@gmail.com), John Akeroyd (jrakeroyd@dsl.pipex.com), Nat Page (nat@fundatia-adept.org), Fundatia Adept, Saschiz, Mures County, Romania



Students carrying out line transect on botanically rich *movile*-slumping hill. Photo: A. Jones.

The Forum section offers, among others, the possibility to our members for posing small requests or initiating discussions that might be interesting to other members as well. We present one first such request in search for adequate terminology below, which originally was addressed to one of the chairs. As we consider this aspect as relevant to many EDGG members, we would like to have the discussion in the Bulletin (and perhaps on our homepage). Thus, if you - and particularly the native speakers among you - have recommendations for the appropriate use of English terms in the field of grassland ecology, please send your responses both to Britta Küper (who placed the original request) and to Monika Janišová (for publishing in one of the next Bulletins).

Denglish language confusion!

Hello grassland-friends,
being outside in the grassland is a good experience, writing about grassland management is a totally different experience - especially when not totally familiar with the technically correct words and terms.

Can anybody help us with the correct use of terms and names:

- ♣ How to translate the “**Magerrasen**” somehow i.e. the low nutrition grasslands?
- ♣ When to use the term “**rough pastures / meadows**”?
- ♣ What is the technical term for “**extensive Beweidung**” meaning low number of grazers (cows) on a grassland section especially regarding biodiversity aims?
- ♣ We use the term “**extensive grazing**”, which has also a double meaning regarding space wide and extensive coverage.
- ♣ When to use the term “**moderate grazing**”? Is there some alternative expression available?

What other expressions and terms do you use when talking about grasslands and management? I guess others have similar problems and confusions, which is your funniest mix-up? Let's share and learn from each other. We are looking forward to your contributions. Best greetings from the salty marsh meadows of the Baltic Sea (LIFE BaltCoast).

Britta Küper, Molfsee, Germany
kueper@sn-sh.de; www.life-baltcoast.eu

Dear Britta Küper,

I would translate the German "Magerrasen" with "nutrient-poor grasslands". "Semi-natural grasslands" would have a similar meaning because highly fertilized grassland at the same time is no longer semi-natural. "Rough pastures" also has a similar meaning, but is restricted to pastures (grazed grasslands), and thus excludes meadows (mown grasslands). Perhaps "rough grassland" could be a solution, but I have not seen this term in English texts so far.

Jürgen Dengler

Miscellaneous

SE European Dry Grassland Vegetation Database

The kick-off workshop will be held in Hamburg, Germany, 26 February – 1 March 2010, in conjunction with the 9th international Meeting on Vegetation Databases (<http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/workshop2010.html>). Aim of this workshop is to lay the fundamentals for a supranational TURBOVEG vegetation database of dry grasslands (and related communities) in Southeast Europe. As SE Europe we consider the countries **Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine**, but we are open to extent the coverage westwards if colleagues from countries such as **Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, or Slovakia** wish to join.

During the workshop, we will: a) settle criteria for the inclusion relevés; b) compile an overview of existing relevés (digital or not) and databases; c) decide about the organization (structure, people, institutions, responsibilities, copyright) of the database; d) decide about a joint set of header data and a uniform species

list; e) plan the future capturing of data; f) discuss possible first publication projects based on analyses of the data. Most likely, the workshop will result in the establishment of a SE European EDGG subgroup.

All colleagues from the named countries who are interested in establishing and maintaining such a database are welcome. In addition, we appreciate the participation from colleagues from outside SE Europe who have relevant relevé data or particular research interests in SE Europe. Upon application, some financial support will be available to participating colleagues from SE Europe. Deadline for registration is 17 January 2010. For more details, visit the conference homepage (see above) or contact the organizing EDGG chair. *Those who cannot participate in the kick-off workshop but wish to contribute to the supranational database should also send an e-mail to me.*

Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de)



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Important dates: The deadline for Bulletin 6 is 28.02.2009.

Bulletin 6 to appear: March 2010

Bulletin 7 to appear: June 2010