

of the European Dry Grassland Group



Welcome to the eighth Bulletin of the EDGG. In this autumn issue we bring the first circular of the 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting, which will take place in Uman (Ukraine) in June 2011. At the same time, information on other forthcoming events focussing on grassland ecosystems is included. The role of bats in grassland ecosystems is highlighted in the contribution from Mount Varnous (Greece). The detailed introduction to the co-operating organisations, Floristisch-Soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft e. V. (FlorSoz), International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) and Sand Dune and Shingle Network is an invitation to join these organisations and their activities. Last but not least, a short report from the EDGG expedition is available as a memory of nice summer days or as inspiration for the next growing season. We wish you pleasant reading.

Monika Janišová & members of EDGG Executive Committee

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September 2010

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

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 seven 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.
- ♠ **EDGG research expeditions** to sample baseline data of underrepresented regions of Europe
- ♠ **EDGG vegetation databases**
- ♠ **Special Features** on dry grassland-related topics in various peer-reviewed journals

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 Executive Committee members:

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.

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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.

Photo on the front page: Xeranthemum annuum in dry grassland dominated by Chrysopogon gryllus nearby Nikopol, North Bulgaria. Photo: M. Janišová.

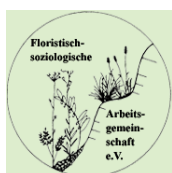


The first EDGG expedition to Central Podilia (Ukraine), phytosociological sampling in Raigorod. Photo: Olena Yavorska.
Bull. Eur. Dry Grassl. Group 8 (September 2010)

The 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting

13-17 June 2011

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



First circular

Main topic of the meeting:

Dry Grassland of Europe: biodiversity, classification, conservation and management

Subtopics:

- A) Large-scale investigations of dry grasslands: biodiversity and classification
- B) Dry grasslands in agricultural landscapes: their functions, changes and management

Organizers: European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) and National Dendrological Park 'Sofiyiv-ka' of the NAS of Ukraine, M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the NAS of Ukraine

Supporting organisations and institutions: International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), Floristisch-Soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft (FlorSoz), O.V. Fomin Botanical Garden of the Taras Shevchenko Kiev National University, Kherson State University, Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova', National Nature Park 'Buz'ky Gard'

Preliminary time schedule:

- 12.06 (Sunday):** arrival in Uman', accommodation, excursion in 'Sofiyivka';
- 13.06 (Monday):** arrival in Uman', accommodation, excursion in 'Sofiyivka', registration, opening ceremony, lectures, Grassland party;
- 14.06 (Tuesday):** lectures, poster session, business meeting;
- 15.06 (Wednesday):** excursion in National Nature Park 'Buz'ky Gard', accommodation in Kherson;
- 16.06 (Thursday):** excursion in National Nature Park 'Oleshkivsky Pisky' (Oleshky Sands);
- 17.06 (Friday):** excursion in Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova', departure.

Location: The National Dendrological Park “Sofiyivka” is an outstanding masterpiece of landscape art created in the late 18th / early 19th century. In 2007 ‘Sofiyivka’ won the National Competition ‘Seven Wonders of Ukraine’. “Sofiyivka” is a scientific research institution of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and a recognized scientific centre. It is located in the old city of Uman’, a famous tourist centre with a population of about 90 thousand people and developed infrastructure. The city is located at the intersection of the St. Petersburg – Odessa and Lviv – Dnipropetrovsk highways, 202 km from the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, and is easily reached by car or bus.



Accommodation

In **Uman**’ two hotels are available in the park: **Hotel ‘Sofiyivskyy’** with Conference Hall: single room – 15 €, double room – 25 €; apartments – 35 and 45 € and **Scientists’ House**: 1 place in 5- and 6-bed room – 5 €, double room (without conveniences) – 10 €; double room (with conveniences) – 20 €, apartments – 28, 35 and 45 €.

In **Kherson** student' hostels (6-8 €) and two hotels are available: “Chaika” – 3 and 4-bed rooms without conveniences 5 €, double room with conveniences 10 €, apartments 24 € and “Fregat” – 3-bed room 8 €, apartments 35-110 €.

Language: English

Conference publications: All participants will receive a book of abstracts, which will also be published online on the EDGG homepage.

As in previous years, there will be Special Features (SFs) with selected contributions from the conference in international, peer-reviewed journals, guest-edited by EDGG members. From the conference in Uman’ there will be one SF in **Tuexenia**, mainly focused on subtopic A (Large-scale investigations of dry grasslands). A second SF for subtopic B (Dry grasslands in agricultural landscapes) is planned in a journal listed in the Web of Science, possibly **Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment**.

Fees: The conference fee of 50 € covers refreshments during the conference breaks and the Grassland party as well as the workshop package with program. Conference fee, accommodation and board will be paid at the registration desk. Preliminary price of full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) is 15 €.

Registration will be open from 1st November 2010 on the Conference homepage <http://www.edgg.org/meeting2011.html>.

Deadline for registration and abstract submission: **28th February 2011**

Information about excursion costs, travel and other relevant information will be provided in the second circular.

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Excursion 1. Rocky vegetation in National Nature Park 'Buz'ky Gard'



Southern Bug valley. Photo: V. Kostushyn.

The National Nature Park 'Buz'ky Gard' was established in 2009 on the base of the Regional Landscape Park 'Granite-Steppe Pobuzzhia' in the valley of the Southern Bug (also Boog or Buh) and its tributaries, the Mertvod and Arbuzinka rivers, which form canyons up to 50 m deep. In this area the oldest rocks of the Precambrian Ukrainian Crystalline Shield (granite, slates, gneisses, quartzites, magmatite etc.) appear on the surface. Within the national park there are about 900 species of vascular plants, at the least 9000 species of insects, and more than

300 species of vertebrates. 26 species of plants, 56 species of insects and 46 species of vertebrates are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine. Many of them are endemics (*Iris pontica*, *Stipa asperella*, *Gymnospermium odessanum*, *Dianthus hypanicus*, *Moehringia hypanica*, *Silene hypanica*). There are 98 archeological sites in the Park, representing the continuous chronological series from the Paleolithic (30 000 years b.p.) and Slavonic formations, relics of the Cimmerian, Scythian, Sarmatian, ancient Slavic, Romans cultures, the places connected with last refuge of the Zaporozhye Cossacks after their defeat at the Dnieper rapids in the 18th century. The Bug's rapids is a favorite place for extreme boating and rock climbing.



Southern Bug valley. Photo: V. Kostushyn.

Excursion 2. Sandy dunes in the National Nature Park 'Oleshkivsky Sands'



Oleshkivsky Sands. Photo: A. Kfiodosovtsev.

Oleshkivsky Sands' is a very young national nature park established in 2010. It is a big sandy area (arena) about 15 km in diameter. Oleshkivsky Sands is the largest open sandy area in Europe, with dunes up to 5 m in height (local people call them 'kuchuhury') and typical

psammophytic vegetation which is characterized by predomination of *Carex ligerica*, *Festuca beckeri*, *Stipa borysthena*, *Cynodon dactylon* and *Poa bulbosa*. It is a former military area where pilots of the Warsaw Treaty countries received training in bombing. Oleshkivsky Sands often are called a desert, but given the temperature regime and precipitation, the area is more correctly defined as semi-desert. Nevertheless, the climatic conditions are such that in summer the sand is heated up to 75° C. In the vegetation cover, many endemics from the Dnieper complex occur, such as *Gonolimon graminifolium*, *Centaurea breviceps*, *Astragalus borysthenticus* and *Cymbochasma borysthena*. Small forest stands called 'kolki' are formed by the endemic *Betula borysthena*.



Centaurea breviceps (I. Moysiienko).

Excursion 3. Steppe Vegetation in Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova'



Herds of wild bison in the reserved steppe community.
Photo: V. Musienko.

Baron F. Falz-Fein was the first person in the world who, by his own initiative, at the end of the 19th century dedicated part of his estate exclusively to nature conservation, making this area the biggest preserved fescue-feathergrass steppe in Europe (11 054 ha). In 1993 it received the status of biosphere reserve, with dendrological and zoological parks. The flora of the reserve includes 478 species of vascular plants, 19 of which are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine: *Damasonium alisma*, *Allium regelianum*, *A. scythicum*, *Juncus sphaerocarpus*, *Fritillaria meleagroides*, *Tulipa schrenkii*, *T. scythica*, *Stipa capillata*, *S. lessingiana*, *S. maeotica*, *S. ucrainica*, *Centaurea taliewii*, *Elatine hungarica*, *Astragalus henningii*, *A. reduncus*, *Caragana scythica*, *Phlomis scythica*, *Pulsatilla pratensis*, *Anacamptis laxiflora*. Six species of cryptogams are also included in the national Red Data Book: *Cetraria steppae*, *Xanthoparmelia convoluta*, *Morchella steppicola*, *Agaricus romagnesii*, *A. tabularis*, *Galeropsis desertorum*. The animal world of the reserve is typical for steppe

landscapes. Here you can find small gopher, steppe marmot, big jerboa, various murine rodents, steppe polecat, weasel, etc. Steppe communities are inhabited by at least 1155 species of arthropods, 7 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 207 species of birds (including 107 nesting ones). Herds of wild hoofed animals from different continents are held at the territory of the Big Chapelsky Depression under near-natural conditions. Bison, saiga, European fallow-deer, Przhevsky horses, Turkmenian wild ass, red deer, and Kafir buffaloes live here all year round. In summer eland, gnu, vatussi, bluebucks, zebras and Indian gayals join them. At the end of summer, many migrant birds (different species of ducks, thousands of



Stipa ucrainica. Photo: B. Sudnik-Voizikovska.

cranes, grey geese, and sandpipers) gather here. Biosphere Reserve 'Askania-Nova' won the national competition "Seven Natural Wonders of Ukraine".



Centaurea taliewii. Photo: N. Gavrilenko.



Tulipa scythica. Photo: V. Shapoval.

Grass-lands as bat-lands: evidence from Mount Varnous, Greece

The following text is an effort to highlight the potentially important relationship between grasslands and bats. The writers aim to stimulate interdisciplinary synergetic activities in this interesting topic area. The majority of the material is a combination of Galand *et al.* (2010), where the preliminary results of a study on bat use of subalpine grasslands are presented, and Vrahnakis and Fotiadis (2010), which describes the flora of Mount Varnous.

New UN effort seeks to conserve bats and their critical role in seed dispersal: On 22 September 2010, the United Nations and partners launched the Year of the Bat to conserve the world's only flying mammal and its critical role in seed dispersal and pollination for the benefit of humankind. See: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36063&Cr=unep&Cr1=>.

It is well documented that grasslands are among the most species-rich habitats in Europe. For example, calcareous grasslands are Europe's most species-rich plant communities, supporting up to 80 plant species/m² (WallisDeVries *et al.* 2002). In turn, this extremely high plant diversity may support high arthropod diversity (e.g. butterflies and orthoptera) and grassland-adapted birds (e.g. bustards and falcons), as well as mammalian species such as rodents (e.g. souslik and voles) (Silva *et al.* 2002). Numerous animal species, from invertebrates to superior predators like vultures, may depend on resources provided by grasslands (e.g. Vrahnakis *et al.* 2009). Although bats (Chiroptera) comprise almost 20% of mammalian species, their connection to these resources has in general been poorly documented.

Bats may form summer colonies in various types of roosts including buildings in the areas of human settlement and underground sites, whereas many other bat species demonstrate a clear affiliation with forests (Dietz *et al.* 2009). Many species may travel long distances between their roosts and foraging sites, such as *Tadarida teniotis* that may cover up to 100 km to the most favorable foraging areas, in spring the coasts of

Mediterranean and in autumn the pastures of high mountains. Temperate bats feed almost exclusively on insects such as moths (Lepidoptera), mosquitoes and flies (Diptera) and beetles (Coleoptera), as well as other arthropods, including spiders (Araneae), harvestmen (Opiliones) and centipedes (Chilopoda). Most of these are commonly found in grasslands, especially in grazed ones. Bats play a key role in ecosystem functioning by regulating insect populations.

To orientate in their environment, bats use ultrasound (echolocation). Echolocation calls vary between species and therefore may be used to identify species through acoustic surveys. In July 2009, a preliminary acoustic field survey was conducted over two mountain ridges in Bella Voda area (1900-2000 m a.s.l.) of Mount Varnous (2334 m) in the NE border of Prespa National Park, Greece (Fig. 1). The aims were to collect data on species presence and activity at these altitudes for the first time in the park, and to identify species that could be impacted by a wind-farm (34 turbines) planned to be established in the study area, because bats had been neglected during the compilation of the necessary pre-establishment environmental impact assessment study.



Fig. 1 The acoustic field survey team in a subalpine grassland of Mount Varnous, July 2009. Photo: Philippos Katsiyiannis.

The area of Prespa in Greece includes the Natura 2000 sites “Prespa National Forest” (code GR 1340001) and “Mt Varnous” (GR 1340003), which since 2009 comprise the “Prespa National Park”. In 1995, eight bat species were known in the area, but their number increased to 25 after recent summer field surveys conducted by the Groupe Mammalogique Breton (GMB, France), the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP, Greece) and individual researchers, making the bat fauna of the area one of the richest in Greece with at least 17 reproducing species (Grémillet *et al.* 2010, unpublished data).

The area of Bella Voda is dominated by two Natura 2000 habitat types, the 6230 *Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) and the 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths, while the 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation is occasionally found mostly in

micro-summits of rocky formations (Fig. 2, left, Vrahnakis and Fotiadis 2010). It is believed that heaths resulted after the long-term degradation of *Nardus* habitat due to heavy grazing and fire. Dominant species are *Nardus stricta*, *Thymus longicaulis*, *Hieracium hoppeanum*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Juniperus communis* ssp. *nana*, *Genista carinalis*, *Primula veris*, *Botrychium lunaria*, etc. The area has experienced the long term impact of sheep grazing, and the in last three decades cattle, together with sheep and a few horses, also use the above ground biomass as foraging material (Fig. 2, right). The type of husbandry was nomadic in the past, occupying the area from June up to October, while nowadays there are 4-5 settlements for local shepherds. Animal droppings attract insects and other arthropods, while the surrounding vegetation is also rich in arthropod fauna. Several species of Diptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Aranea, and Orthoptera have been regularly observed, but they have not been studied quantitatively. The rich insect fauna observed in these

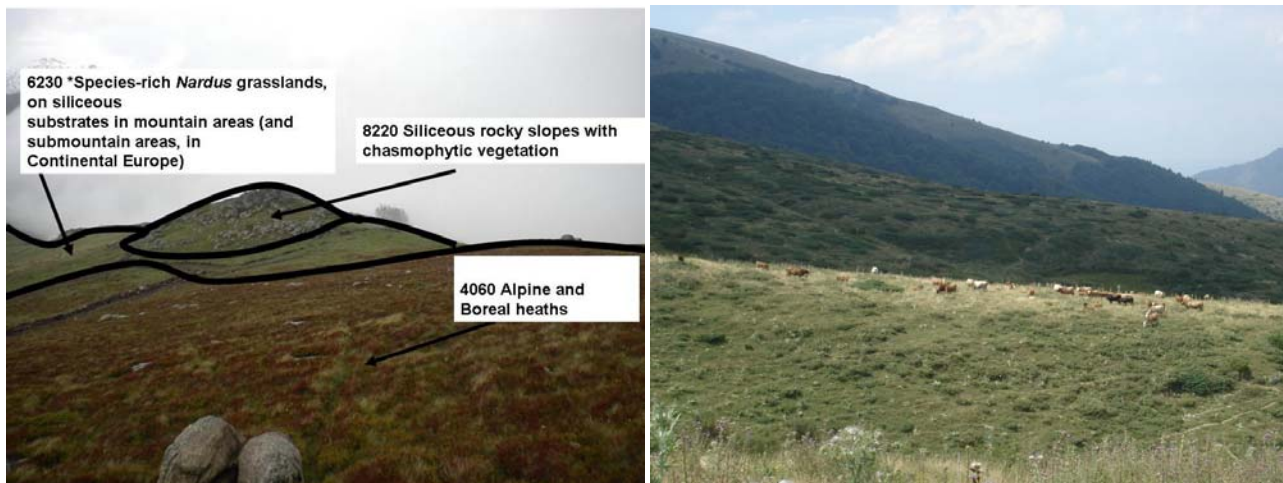


Fig. 2 Subalpine grasslands of Bella Voda, Mount Varnous, Greece. Natura 2000 habitat types (left); cattle grazing (right). Photo: Michael Vrahnakis.

In the 2009 acoustic survey (Galand *et al.* 2010), echolocation call recordings from two mountain ridges were used to distinguish a preliminary list of bat species commuting or foraging on Bella Voda, Mt Varnous. The following species from three different families were identified:

- ◆ The European long-tailed bat *Tadarida teniotis* (Molossidae). The species uses QCF (Figure 1) low frequency narrowband calls with peak frequency 10-12 kHz, with generally < 20 ms duration.
- ◆ The bent-winged bat *Miniopterus schreibersii* (Miniopteridae). The species uses FM/QCF calls (Figure 1) with end frequency 50-55 kHz. Although its call parameters partially overlap with other species, it may be separated by certain characteristics.
- ◆ One of the smallest bats in Europe, the pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Vespertilionidae) (Photograph 3). Its calls most often have end fre-

quencies around 45 kHz that are typical of this species.

- ◆ A few recordings allowed the identification of Savi’s pipistrelle *Hypsugo savii* (Vespertilionidae). The species uses FM/QCF calls (Figure 1) with end frequencies between 30-36 kHz and peak frequency around 34 kHz, allowing its discrimination from Kuhl’s pipistrelle *Pipistrellus kuhli* and Nathusius’ pipistrelle *P. nathusii*.
- ◆ One recording finally allowed the identification of *P. nathusii* (Vespertilionidae). The species uses FM/QCF (Fig. 3) calls whose frequency bandwidth overlap with that of *P. kuhli*. It can be clearly distinguished from the latter by its different social calls.

Additional species were recorded but not identified with certainty and were placed in groups of species. These potentially include the noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, the lesser noctule *N. leisleri*, the parti-coloured bat *Vespertilio murinus*, the serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, and

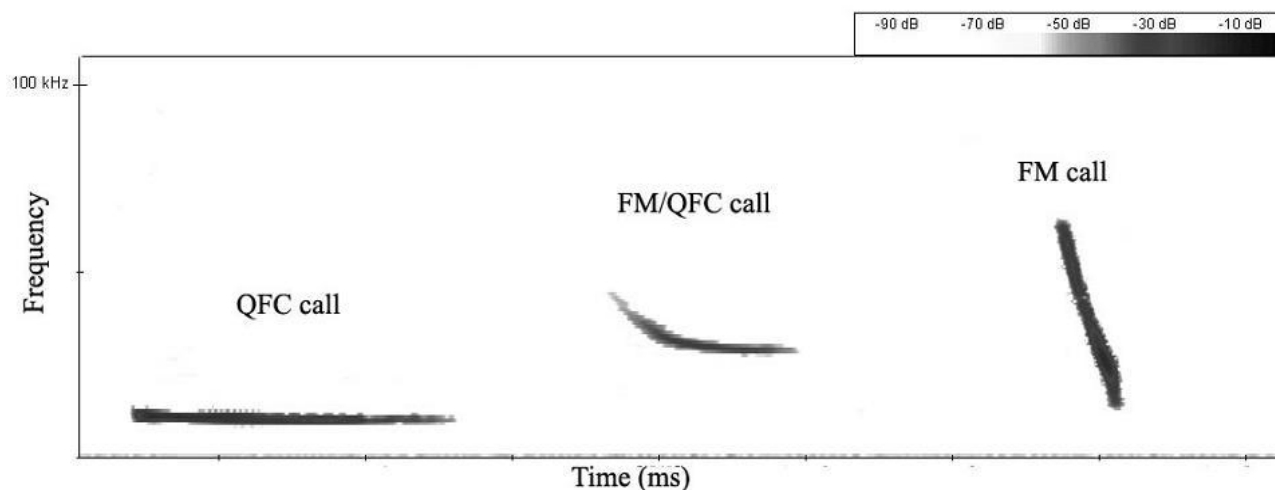


Fig 3. Different types of ultrasonic calls used by European bats; QFC: quasi constant frequency; FM/QFC: frequency modulated followed by QFC; FM: frequency modulated.

The results of the preliminary survey suggest that these grasslands are used by a relatively rich bat fauna, either for commuting or for foraging. Bat activity was also important at these high altitudes. The establishment of a wind-farm may therefore negatively influence bat populations, as it has been confirmed in other areas with wind turbines (e.g. Alcade and Saenz 2004). The risk may be particularly important for species that intensively use them for commuting and hunting, such as *T. teniotis*, *M. schreibersii*, *P. pipistrellus* and *Hypsugo savii* (three of them listed in Annex II of the Bern Convention). A more detailed impact assessment study in this area targeting on both bats and birds is therefore necessary in order to prevent negative impacts. Further detailed studies of bat habitat use combined with studies of the arthropod fauna at different times of year would assess the importance of Mt Varnous subalpine grasslands by bats for foraging.

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Fig. 4. *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Vespertilionidae). A common bat found foraging in subalpine grasslands of Mount Varnous, Greece. Photo: Philippos Katsiyiannis.

Invitation to join the Floristisch-Soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft e. V. (FlorSoz)



Excursion to an acidophilous semi-dry grassland in the Lahn-Dill Hills during the annual meeting of the FlorSoz 2010 in Gießen. Photo: J. Dengler, JD102725.

The **FlorSoz** is a traditional organisation of phytosociologists, vegetation scientists, and geobotanists in central Europe. Originally it was focused on the German-speaking countries, but recently it has widened its scope to the adjacent regions. From its beginnings (then still Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen), the EDGG has received significant organisational and financial support from the FlorSoz, for which we are very grateful. The two most outstanding aspects of collaboration are:

- ◆ Publication of *Dry Grassland Special Features* in the journal *Tuexenia* under the guest-editorship of EDGG members since 2005 (from the conference 2004 in Lüneburg) [full pdf's of all contributions published in these *Special Features* are available at http://www.edgg.org/edgg_publications.htm].
- ◆ Financial support for our conferences since 2007 (Freising).

With this in mind, we would like to invite those among you who are botanists or vegetation scientists to join FlorSoz. This involves many benefits:

- ◆ You receive the journal *Tuexenia* (1 volume per year, approx. 500 pages in full colour + tables and other oversize supplements). *Tuexenia* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes both in German and English, with abstracts and captions provided in both

languages. *Tuexenia* has applied to become included in the ISI *Web of Science*.

- ◆ You receive the serial *Synopsis der Pflanzengesellschaften Deutschlands*, where state-of-the-art treatments of the syntaxa occurring in Germany are published in irregular intervals (1 issue per year on average).
- ◆ You receive the *Tuexenia Beiheft* with a full-colour excursion guide to annual meeting of approximately 200 pages.
- ◆ Only FlorSoz members can participate in the attractive **annual meetings**, which are held in varying places throughout central Europe and typically consist of three days of excursions.
- ◆ You are invited to the **workshop series “Floristik und Geobotanik – Beiträge zu angewandten Fragestellungen”**.
- ◆ FlorSoz provides an annual prize for the best Diploma, Master, or PhD thesis to be published in *Tuexenia*.
- ◆ FlorSoz supports EDGG and other similar initiatives.

Providing so many valuable services to the scientific community crucially depends on membership. We are convinced that **joining FlorSoz** pays off also for colleagues outside the traditional “home range” (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), in particular as the membership fees are very low (40 € regular membership, 15 € student membership, 10 € reduced fee for spouses of members if they do not wish to receive the publications). You can find the membership application form at <http://www.tuexenia.de/fileadmin/website/downloads/mitantr.pdf>.

There are also attractive book prizes, if a new **member is won by a present member** (there are many FlorSoz members among the EDGG actives whom you can contact if interested, e.g. the authors of this announcement). If you have found someone to serve as your “recruiter”, you can use the same membership application form as above and just add a notice on name and address of this person.

Finally, FlorSoz is in active **publication exchange** with many other botanical institutions throughout the world. Thus, if you are from an institute or society that publishes a journal or series in botany, ecology, conservation or general natural history, you are invited to arrange a publication exchange with FlorSoz. This serves mutual benefits, as the FlorSoz publications (Tuexenia, Tuexenia Beiheft, Synopsis) are available in your institution to the audience in your town and country, and your publications are available in the FlorSoz library in Göttingen (within

the Albrecht-von-Haller Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Göttingen). If you consider such a book exchange, please contact Prof. Dr. Erwin Bergmeier (erwin.bergmeier@bio.uni-goettingen.de, also a EDGG member) to arrange details.

Further information (in German) on FlorSoz, its publications, and other activities is available at: <http://www.tuexenia.de/>.

Jürgen Dengler, dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de



*Excursionists in stands of the alliance *Koelerion glaucae* in the nature reserve “Rotböhl” near Darmstadt during the annual meeting of the FlorSoz 2010 in Gießen. Photo: J. Dengler, JD102908.*

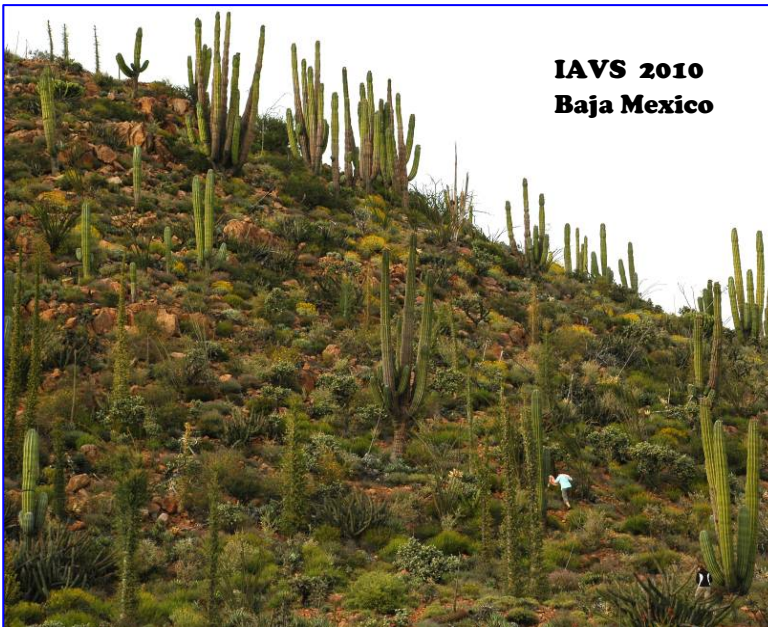
International Association for Vegetation Science



The International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) is pleased to welcome the European Dry Grasslands Group as an official Working Group of the Association and to invite its members to formally join IAVS.

The **IAVS** is a worldwide union of scientists and others interested in theoretical and practical studies of vegetation: its composition and structure, history, classification, distribution, ecology, dynamics, conservation, management and uses in the landscape.

The main goals of the IAVS are to facilitate scientific communication and personal contacts among vegetation scientists cross the world and to promote research and education in all aspects of vegetation science and its applications. Toward these ends we hold meetings and excursions, sponsor publications, and provide mechanisms for vegetation scientists to communicate with each other and the world at large. We are one of the most international groups you will encounter with broad participation from around the world. To learn more about us, keep reading, and then visit our website at <https://www.iavs.org/>.



We host an annual meeting for our members, each year in a different location. The last few meetings were held in New Zealand (2006), Wales (2007), South Africa (2008), Crete (2009) and Baja Mexico (2010). Our next few meetings are scheduled to be held in Lyon France (2011), Mokpo City, South Korea (2012), Tartu, Estonia (2013), and Perth, Australia (2014). Each of the meetings has associated excursions to examine and discuss

with fellow vegetation scientists the vegetation of the region.

IAVS has several Regional Sections (North America, South Africa, Pacific islands (PABITRA), Japan) and working groups (Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) Disturbance dynamics in Boreal Forests, EcoInformatics, European Vegetation Survey (EVS), the Nomenclature Commission, and now the EDGG).

We publish two journals, both available at a discount to our members. The *Journal of Vegetation Science* publishes papers on all aspects of vegetation science, with particular emphasis on papers that develop new concepts or methods, test theory, identify general patterns, or otherwise are likely to interest a broad readership. *Applied Vegetation Science* publishes contributions on topics relevant to human impact on vegetation, including global change, nature conservation, biodiversity inventory, vegetation management, restoration of plant communities and of the habitats of threatened plant species, and the planning of natural, semi-natural and urban landscapes.

There are three types of **membership** in IAVS:

- ◆ *Full member*. Full members are accorded all rights and privileges of membership, and discounts to attend IAVS meetings, and to subscribe to Association publications. The annual membership fee is 20€ (or \$28).
- ◆ *Student member*. Student members are technically full members, but with an annual membership fee of 10€ (or \$14).
- ◆ *Associate member*. This class of membership is reserved for individuals who are otherwise financially unable to participate in IAVS. Initial requests for Associate status will be reviewed by a member of the Global Fund Committee.

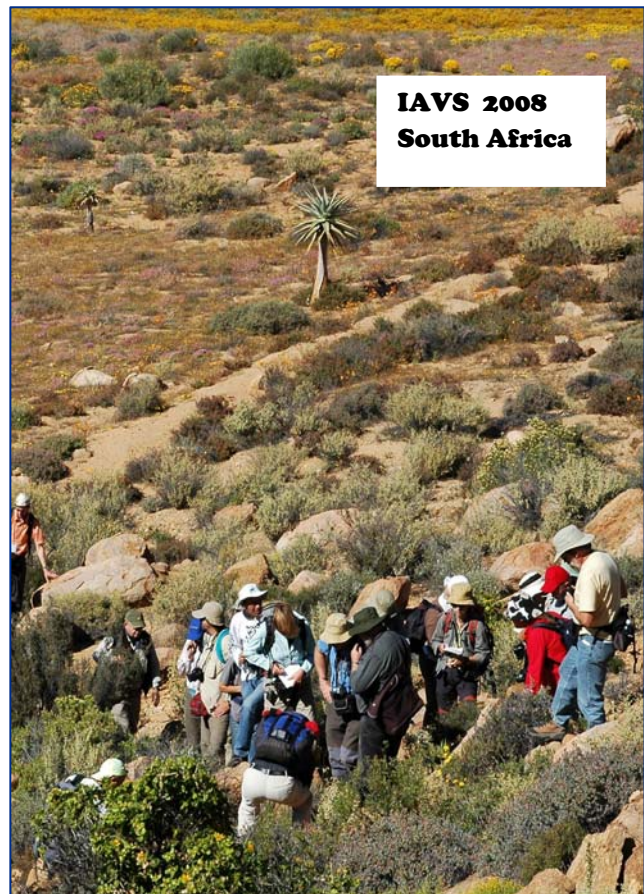
To become a Full member or a Student member, you need only fill in a form and pay your dues through our website <http://www.iavs.org/MembershipRenew.aspx>.

To apply for associate membership visit <https://www.iavs.org/AwardsFinancial.aspx>.

Here are some of the **benefits** of IAVS membership:

- ◆ The opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself and to participate in setting the agenda for vegetation science.
- ◆ The professional development, recognition and credibility that comes from belonging to and participating actively in the primary world-wide organization for professional vegetation scientists.
- ◆ Opportunities to meet interact and network with other vegetation science professionals in numerous ways ranging from finding jobs and developing scientific collaborations to obtaining critical advice and insight.
- ◆ Low member rates for subscriptions to the IAVS journals - *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*.
- ◆ Seamless web access to all IAVS journals to which you or your institution subscribe.
- ◆ Access to the *IAVS Bulletin*.
- ◆ 20% discount on all Wiley-Blackwell books.
- ◆ Ability to use the email listserv, website, and Facebook group for announcing and discovering employment and scholarship announcements, conference information, and other opportunities of interest to vegetation scientists.
- ◆ Significantly reduced prices for attendance at the annual IAVS Symposium and the associated field excursions.
- ◆ Eligibility for the various IAVS awards ranging from the young scientist awards and travel grants to honorary membership.
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in topical Working Groups, Regional Sections and special committees.
- ◆ Access to the member-only portion of the website, including resources and data for vegetation scientists, job announcements, and the Member Directory.
- ◆ Access to regional events, representation on international scientific committees, and media profile.

Photo on the right: Mid-symposium excursion to the Imbriotiko Gorge on Crete during the 52nd IAVS Symposium 2009. From right to left: Prof. Robert K. Peet (President of the IAVS), Prof. Martin Diekmann (Publication Officer of the IAVS), Dr. Cecilia Dupré and Prof. Norbert Hölzel, all also members of the EDGG. Photo: J. Dengler, JD092084.



IAVS members led by Prof. Erwin Bergmeier, an EDGG member, exploring the small island of Chrissi of the south coast of Crete during the presymposium excursion to Eastern Crete of the 52nd IAVS Symposium in Crete 2009. Photo: J. Dengler, JD091437.



Sand Dune and Shingle Network



Dune grassland with forestry in the background at Newborough Warren, Wales, UK, reflects over-stabilisation of dunes due to relic forestry plantations. Photo: Ch. Durkin.

The Sand Dune and Shingle Network was launched in December 2006 at the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) seminar in Liverpool. It is based in the Geography Department at Liverpool Hope University and consists of Director, Paul Rooney, Network Officer John Houston and Network Assistant Charlotte Durkin. Since its establishment, membership of the network has grown with around 200 full members and a newsletter circulated to more than 400 people worldwide.

Coastal sand dune and vegetated coastal shingle are priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) requiring action to prevent further losses of habitat or associated species. The purpose of the network is to support the sustainable management of these two habitats by encouraging an exchange of information and experience and to develop links between people involved with dune or shingle habitat.

The primary geographical focus of the Network since 2006 has been the UK. However the Network has secured agreement in 2010 from the Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) and key European partners to develop a European Dune Network. The Sand Dune and Shingle Network is working closely with the Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) to provide a structure, focus and purpose to the existing loose association of national contact points for dunes which grew up in response to previous European events. The European Dune Network will concentrate on the conservation of the EU dune habitats and species which underpin the Natura 2000 network.

The network publishes a newsletter which includes case studies, reports on events and literature reviews. There is usually a topical theme reflecting the issues our members

face in working with these habitats – for instance the latest newsletter features articles on dune grasslands in the Amsterdam Waterworks and research on scrub. Our events involve people from a variety of backgrounds and encourage knowledge exchange through discussion and site based case studies. Last year saw a workshop on management of sea buckthorn in the UK as well as a study tour to the Netherlands. This year we are visiting Northern Ireland to learn from dune management there and hope to organise a national conference on scrub.

The first Network ‘thematic group’ was created in 2010 on the theme of hydrology. The aim of the group is to provide a focus to the members’ research interests and combine the skills and experience of various professionals to greater effect. Following a ‘Sand Dune Hydrology Workshop’ in March 2010, the Network has been working closely with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) to develop this group and plan to use it as a model for future thematic groups.

Joining the network allows members to specify their interests and the focus of their work so that we can pass on relevant information. It is free, does not involve excessive communication and puts you in touch with a world of information and professionals that could improve your knowledge or practise. We hope to organise our members’ database by subject groups (e.g. hydrology) each with a thematic leader, so that people working on or studying similar issues can network with each other.

For more information on the Sand Dune and Shingle Network please visit www.hope.ac.uk/coast or e-mail dunes@hope.ac.uk

Charlotte Durkin, dunes@hope.ac.uk

Impressions from the EDGG Research Expedition 2010 to Central Podilia (Ukraine)

The second EDGG Research Expedition after the precursor 2009 in Transylvania (Romania; see Bulletin No. 4, pp. 13–19) took place in Central Podilia (Vinnitsa Region, Ukraine) from 10 to 25 July 2010. Organised by the three authors, 18 scientists from eight countries and from students to professors participated in this event. We analysed flora, vegetation and biodiversity of the various dry grassland types in this little studied region of the country. Starting from Uman, which also will be the venue of the 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting 2011 (see pp. 3–6), our tour led to a variety of dry grassland sites south of the province capital Vinnitsa, mainly in the valleys of the Southern Bug and the Dniester. There we found wonderful dry grasslands, rich in species, including some endemics, and conducted numerous standardised vegetation relevés for classification purposes as well as nested-plot series for analyses of the scale dependency of biodiversity.



Veronica spicata subsp. incana.
Photo: J. Dengler, JD103435.

For the participants this was a great event which all of us enjoyed much. Apart from gathering valuable scientific data, which now will be subject to joint analyses and publications, we experienced a very hospitable country. We are extremely grateful to the Ukrainian individuals and institutions who supported our expedition via free accommodation and meals in many places and without whom this expedition would not have been possible. We received further significant financial support from the EDGG and the German foundation FAN(B). We plan to present a more extensive report with first results in Bulletin No. 9.

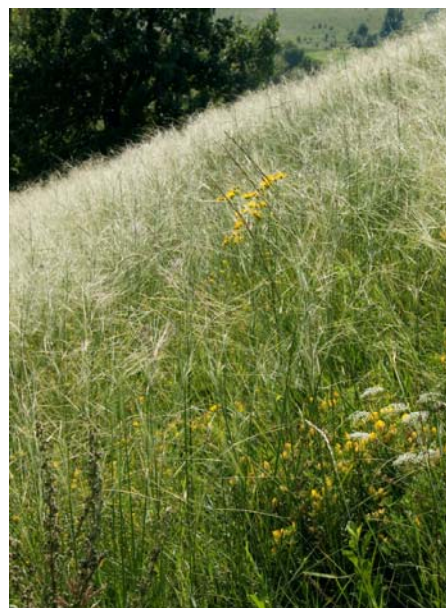
Jürgen Dengler, dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de
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Italian-style picnic in the field. Photo: J. Dengler, JD103494.



Pre-expedition meeting in Sofievka, the expedition bus, church at the Pechera Village and expedition participants during the sampling in the Southern Bug valley. Photos: J. Dengler, K. Vassiliev, and O. Yavorska.



Proposals for future venues of European Dry Grassland Meetings

This section was established to introduce the possible future venues of European Dry Grassland Meetings. We have already received several proposals for EDGG meetings in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 from Poland, Greece, Germany, Romania and Russia. We would like to provide this information to all members so that they can comment on, support or reject certain venues or details of the proposals and perhaps be encouraged to make their own proposals. In this transparent way we would like to share the decision about the next venues with the members.

10th EDGG Meeting in Poland 2013



Janowiec castle view from Męćmierz grasslands. Photo: P. Chmielewski.

At this point we are unable to provide you full details on the 10th EDGG meeting in Poland. However, there are some things we can share with you now. The preferred date would be 2013 (May or June). The institutions responsible would be: Naturalists' Club and Institute of Biology (Department of Geobotany) of Maria Skłodowska University in Lublin. Organizing an EDGG meeting would be a part of the "Dry grassland conservation in Poland - theory & practice" LIFE+ project (2010-2013) managed by the Naturalists' Club from Świebodzin. The conference facility would be located in Lublin (Lublin province, SE Poland):

For the excursions, we would like to show you the following sites (note that these are just some of the sites we plan to show you):

- ◆ Stawska Góra nature reserve (you can find it with Google Maps, just type in the coordinates: N 51.20691°, E 23.402853°)
- ◆ Podzamcze nature reserve (N 51.023473°, E 22.533388°)
- ◆ Dry grasslands of Męćmierz or the Skarpa Dobrska nature reserve in the Vistula river valley (N

51.303789°, E 21.896911° or N 51.282776°, E 21.888328°)

- ◆ Żurawce Natura 2000 site PLH 060029 (N 50.395141°, E 23.553958°)

In these places one can find dry grasslands of *Festuco-Brometea* and orchid-rich juniper shrub on dry grasslands (code 5130). Some of the more interesting plant species include: *Carlina onopordifolia*, *Adonis vernalis*, *Gentiana cruciata*, *Linum flavum*, *Cirsium pannonicum*, *Anemone sylvestris*, *Prunus fruticosa*, *Senecio macrophyllus* and many species of orchids and



broomrapes.

You can find some information on the dry grassland conservation project at our site (English version is currently under construction): <http://www.murawy-life.kp.org.pl/>

Piotr Chmielewski, Świebodzin, Poland

Forthcoming events

8th European Dry Grassland Meeting

13–17 June 2011, Uman, Ukraine

Contact: Anna Kuzemko (anya_meadow@mail.ru)

Details: see this Bulletin, pp. 3–6

5th International Conference of the IBS International Biogeography Society

7–11 January 2011, Crete, Greece

www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2011.html

Regional workshop SALVERE project and Field days of the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration

18–20 May 2011, Bernburg, Germany

www.offenlandinfo.de

54th IAVS Symposium International Association for Vegetation Science

20–26 June 2011, Lyon, France

8th IALE World Congress International Association for Landscape Ecology

18–23 August 2011, Beijing, China

www.iale2011.org/index.asp

4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration Society for Ecological Restoration

21–25 August 2011, Merida, Mexico

www.ser2011.org/en/

Annual Meeting of the BES British Ecological Society

12–14 September 2011, Sheffield, UK

12th EEF Congress European Ecological Federation

25–29 September 2011, Ávila, Spain

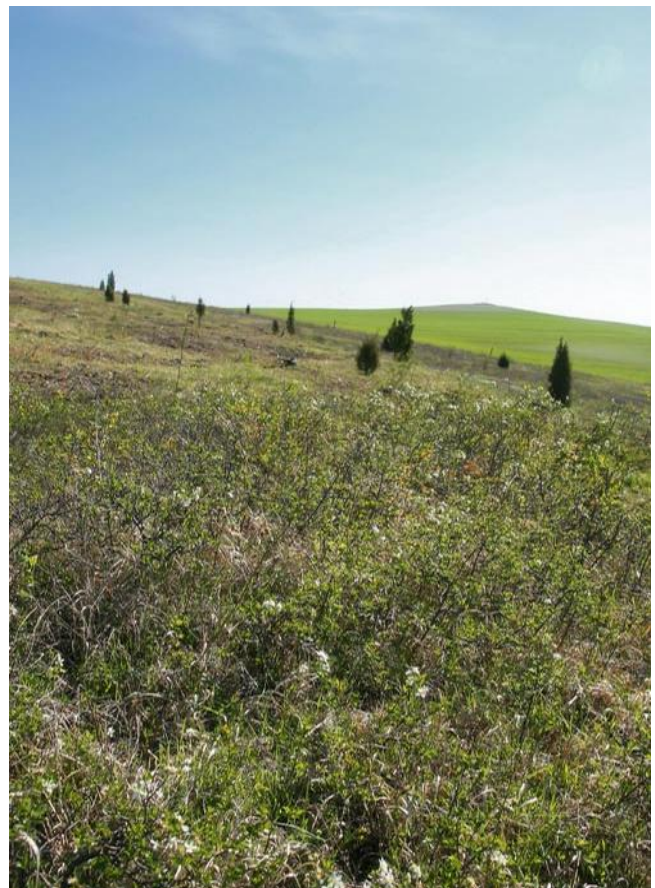
www.eefcongress2011.eu/

International Congress for Conservation Biology, Society for Conservation Biology

29 November - 2 December 2011, Christchurch, New Zealand



Podzamcze nature reserve and xerothermic grass-lands near Mławierz. Photos: P. Chmielewski.



Stawska Góra nature reserve. Photo: P. Chmielewski.

Activities and subgroups of the European Dry Grassland Group

Special Features from the 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Smolenice

Presently, two *Special Features* in international journals under the guest editorship of EDGG members are in preparation.

Our meanwhile traditional Dry Grassland Special Feature (with a wide range of topics, but geographic focus on central Europe s.l.) in *Tuexenia* is this year guest-edited by Monika Janišová, Dobromil Galvánek, Thomas Becker, Camilla Wellstein, Wolfgang Willner and Jürgen Dengler. A total of 15 articles had been proposed, of which the guest editors together with the editor-in-chief, Hartmut Dierschke, invited 10. Four papers are meanwhile submitted and the Special Feature of approx. 150–200 pages shall be published in volume 31, which will be available in May 2011.

For the first time, we are now also producing a Special Feature in a journal listed in the Web of Science. It is the Italian journal *Plant Biosystems* with an impact factor of 0.744. This Special Feature is entitled “Succession, management, and restoration of dry grasslands” and is guest-edited by our members Monika Janišová, Sandor Bartha, Kathrin Kiehl and Jürgen Dengler. On our call to both the participants of the Smolenice meeting and the wider EDGG membership, we received 17 abstracts of proposed contributions, of which 13 could be invited after evaluation by guest editors and the editor-in-chief, Carlo Blasi. The production of the Special Feature has now started; it shall be published in issue 2011/2 and comprise approx. 100 pages.

Membership development

As of 30 September 2010, EDGG had 580 members from 47 countries.



Žurawce Natura 2000 site. Photo: P. Chmielewski.



Primula veris in Stawska Góra. Photo: P. Chmielewski.



Dry grasslands of Žurawce site. Photo: P. Chmielewski.

Smolenice Grassland Declaration

The declaration adopted at the 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Smolenice has been signed by 213 scientists, representatives of NGOs, ministries, politicians, farmers and other persons interested in nature conservation from 31 countries. If you wish to join our initiative, you are invited to sign the declaration electronically at:

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

Invitation to SALVERE workshop



**CENTRAL
EUROPE**
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



Hochschule Anhalt (FH)
Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

Regional workshop SALVERE project: Semi-natural Grassland as a Source of Biodiversity Improvement

and

Field days of the European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration: Restoration of Habitat Quality and Re-introduction of Target Plant Species in Grasslands and Heaths

Focus

Various studies documented the high ecological potential of species-rich semi-natural grasslands all over Central Europe. An appropriate management is one tool in protecting this biodiversity. An other possibility lies in harvesting of valuable seed mixtures for use in restoration of former arable land and degraded grasslands as well as in re-vegetation of raw soils (e.g. mined sites, road embankments, ski slopes). Within the SALVERE project, eight working groups from Italy, Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany are working on guidelines for harvesting species-rich donor sites developing best practice methods to restore or establish grasslands of high nature conservation value. In addition, several talks and field trips will present interesting results of different grassland and heathland restoration projects at the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, thus ensuring a comprehensive exchange of experiences between applied research and practice. Our projects focus on new approaches in sustainable restoration, management and use of grasslands and heathlands that are mandatory in protecting the biological diversity in Central Europe.



Agenda

Time frame: 18th – 20th May 2011

Organiser: Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (FH), Fachbereich 1, Prof. Dr. Sabine Tischew

Venue: Campus Strenzfeld, 06406 Bernburg, Germany

Language: German/English with simultaneous translation

Registration will start on **7th of October 2010** online via the website www.offenlandinfo.de

In case of questions please contact Sandra Mann or Dr. Anita Kirmer (workshop2011@loel.hs-anhalt.de).

No registration fee for participation at workshop and field days.

Wednesday, 18/5/2011, 9:00-12:15

Regional workshop SALVERE Project - presentation of project results

(English language with simultaneous translation to German)

9:00 – 10:20 Opening ceremony and talks part I

Michele Scotton: SALVERE - a Central Europe project (short project introduction)

Michele Scotton: Guidelines for harvesting donor sites - seed content in green hay, dry hay and seed-stripping material

Anita Kirmer: Best-practice methods for the development of species-rich grasslands - experiences from the SALVERE project

Wilhelm Graiss, Bernhard Krautzer & Christian Tamegger: Use of wild seed mixtures in re-vegetation of road embankments in Austria

10:20 – 11:00 coffee break & poster session I

11:00 – 12:15 talks part II

Piotr Golinski: Restoration of semi-natural grasslands in Poland

Miriam Kizeková, Norbert Britaňák, Jozef Čunderlík, Ľubomír Hanzes, Jana Martincová & Štefan Pollák: Restoration of semi-natural grasslands in Slovakia

Ivana Jongepierova: Using regional seed mixtures in the Bile Karpaty Mts., Czech Republic

Birgit Feucht: Seeds of regional origin in Central Europe - status quo 2011 and recommendations for an European quality standard

12:15 – 13:30 lunch

Wednesday, 18/5/2011, 13:30-17:00

Presentation of different restoration projects at the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences and introduction to excursion areas (German language with simultaneous translation to English)

13:30 – 14:50 talks part III

M. Köhler, G. Hiller, F. Kommraus, C. Hein: Improvement of calcareous grasslands by site-specific grazing concepts (transhumance with sheep, all-year grazing with megaherbivores or goats) in the nature conservation area "Tote Täler" near Freyburg.

A. Lorenz, S. Osterloh, B. Felinks, S. Tischew: Extensive all-year grazing with Heck cattle and Konic horses to improve heaths, basophile sandy grasslands and *Corynephorus canescens* communities in the former military training area "Oranienbaumer Heide".

D. Elias, S. Mann: 5 years of goats grazing in the lower Saale valley: results of success control and management methods.

F. Kommraus: Improvement of habitat quality, strengthening of populations and re-introduction of *Jurinea cyanoides* in Saxony-Anhalt/Germany.

14:50 – 15:30 coffee break & poster session II

15:30 – 17:00 talks part IV

A. Kirmer, A. Baasch: Hay transfer, sowing of regional seed mixtures and spontaneous succession – ten years after slope restoration in the mined area Roßbach.

A. Baasch, K. May & M. von der Mehden: Establishment of target species after hay transfer, sowing of regional seed mixtures and threshing material - results from trials to enrich species-poor meadows in the Natura2000 sites "Untere Schwarze Elster" and "Küchenholzgraben".

K. Runge, A. Baasch: Bioenergy and biodiversity - potentials and problems in the energetic use of (woody) biomass as a tool in restoration of open grasslands.

G. Jünger, I. Hefter: Donor site database of Saxony-Anhalt and information system of near-natural restoration methods

16:50 – 17:00 closing session

Thursday, 19/5/2011

SER Field Days – excursions 1 + 2

Excursion route 1 (8:30 – c. 18:30)

- station 1** Wulfener Bruch: Large-scale trials to establish species-rich grasslands on former arable land by different restoration methods (application of green hay, seeding of on-site threshing material, all-year megaherbivore grazing)
- station 2** Oranienbaumer Heide: All-year grazing with Heck cattle and Konic horses to preserve and develop heathlands, basophile sandy grasslands and *Corynephorus canescens* communities in a former military training area



OR

Excursion route 2 (7:30 – ca. 18:30)

- station 1** Nature protection area Untere Schwarze Elster: Transfer of green hay, sowing of regional seed mixtures and material from on-site threshing - a 2-year-old trial to enrich species-poor alluvial grassland
- station 2** Natura 2000 site Elbaue zwischen Saalemündung und Magdeburg: Different experiments to strengthen *Jurinea cyanooides* populations



Friday 20/5/2011

SER Field Days – excursions 3 + 4

Excursion route 3 (8:00 – ca. 18:30)

- station 1** Mined site Roßbach in the Geiseltal region: application of green hay, sowing of regional seed mixtures and spontaneous succession - a 10-year-old trial of near-natural slope re-vegetation in mined sites
- station 2** Nature conservation area Tote Täler near Freyburg: Grazing concepts to preserve orchid-rich calcareous grasslands



OR

Excursion route 4 (8:30 – 18:00)

- station 1** Campus Strenzfeld / Bernburg: Establishment of a species-rich Arrhenatherion grassland via application of green hay, on-site threshing material and additional sowing of regional seed mixtures (SALVERE experimental trial)
- station 2** Lower Saale valley: Grazing with goats – visit of different pastures



Forum

Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD)

In August 2010, the *Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD)*, formerly known as World Index of Plot-Based Vegetation Databases, has been launched. It is endorsed by the Ecoinformatics and EVS working groups of IAVS, and the section Vegetation Databases of NetPhyD, hosted by the University of Greifswald, and governed by an international 15-head Steering Committee, including several EDGG members. GIVD is available at <http://www.givd.info>.

Shortly after launch already 110 databases from all continents had registered their metadata. Together they comprise more than 2.3 million vegetation relevés, illustrating that GIVD will be a very mighty tool for ecoinformatics, vegetation science and applied questions. Presently, the majority of databases and relevés are from Europe, but still very unequally distributed within the continent (see Fig. 1), what does not necessarily reflect the different amount of existing relevés but rather the different degree of their integration in databases whose owners are willing to share them.

If you have a vegetation database yourself that is not yet registered in GIVD, be it big or small, private or institutional, emerging or finished, please, register it in GIVD. The upload of the complete metadata will take approx. 30 min, but if you fill in only the obligatory fields, you can do this in approx. 10 min. While you can enter and update your data at any point of time, it would be particularly beneficial for you and for GIVD if you do it until **31 October 2010**. The Steering Committee then would include your database in its analyses of globally available data that will be published in an article for the Special Feature of *Applied Vegetation Science* on "Ecoinformatics and global change". And you would be offered to publish either a *Long* or a *Short Database Report* in a Special Volume of the international, peer-

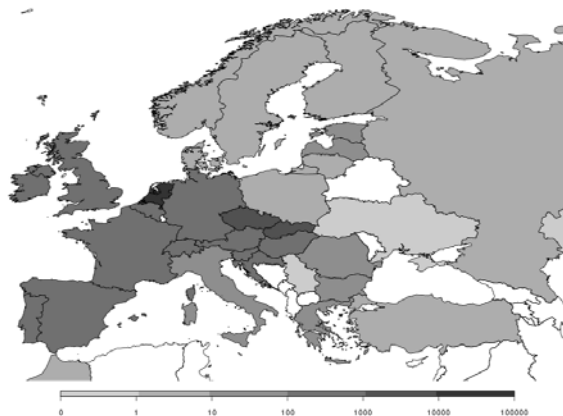


Fig. 1: Density of independent vegetation-plot records (per 1000 km²) available for countries and equivalent geographical units in Europe (based on GIVD as of 22 September 2010). For the white countries, none of the registered databases contained data. Note that the density scaling is logarithmic, meaning that the density in the best-covered country (Netherlands) is several orders of magnitude better than in the least-well covered European countries.

reviewed, full-colour, open-access and print journal *Biodiversity & Ecology*, free of charge.

If you search specific vegetation data for your analyses, you are invited to use GIVD to retrieve such data throughout Europe.

In both cases, your suggestions how the content and functionality of GIVD could be further improved is highly welcome.

Jürgen Dengler, dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de

Recent publications of our members

Baranska K., Chmielewski P., Cwener A. & Pluciński P. (2010): Conservation and restoration of xerothermic grasslands in Poland - theory and practice" LIFE, ISBN 978-83-87846-73-2.

Mucina L., Dengler J., Bergmeier E., Čarni A., Dimopolous P., Jahn R. & Matevski V. (2009): New and validated high-rank syntaxa from Europe. *Lazaroa* 30: 267–276, Madrid.



Muscari comosum. Photo: P. Chmielewski.

Bulletin of the EDGG, official organ of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG),
ISSN 1868-2456

The Bulletin is published quarterly at the Biocentre Klein Flottbek, University of Hamburg, c/o Jürgen Dengler, Ohnhorststr. 18, 22609 Hamburg, Germany. It is sent to all members of the organisation (580 members from 47 countries as of 30 September 2010) and alongside with all previous issues it is also freely available at <http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm>. Bulletin 8 (2010) of the EDGG was published on 30 September 2010.

Editors: Monika Janišová (managing editor, monika.janisova@savba.sk, Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Ďumbierska 1, 974 11 Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic), Michael Vrahnakis (Karditsa, Greece), Jürgen Dengler (Hamburg, Germany), Solvita Rūsiņa (Riga, Latvia). Linguistic proof-reading: Laura Sutcliffe.

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Important dates: The deadline for Bulletin 9 is 20 November 2010.

Bulletin 9 to appear: December 2010

Bulletin 10 to appear: March 2011