

RARE PSAMMOPHYTIC GRASS COMMUNITIES WITH PARTICIPATION OF *FESTUCA POLESICA* IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND SOUTH-WESTERN NECHERNOZEMYE OF RUSSIA

Yu. A. Semenishchenkov^{a,*}, E. Ya. Kulikova^{b,##}, V. E. Kupreev^{a,###}, and K. V. Dobysh^{b,####}

^a Bryansk State Academician I.G. Petrovski University
Bezhitskaya Str., 14, Bryansk, 241050, Russia

^b V.F. Kuprevich Institute of Experimental Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Academicheskaya Str., 27, Minsk, 220072, Republic of Belarus

[#]e-mail: yuricek@yandex.ru
^{##}e-mail: kulikova22@mail.ru

^{###}e-mail: mimiparcs@gmail.ru

^{####}e-mail: 8kost@mail.ru

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The article describes rare in the Republic of Belarus and in the South-Western Nechernozemye of Russia communities with participation of the European boreal psammophilic species *Festuca polesica* Zapał. On the basis of 53 relevés made on the research area, the communities with participation and dominance of *F. polesica* were assigned to 3 associations. All the syntaxa are included in the alliance **Koelerion glaucae** Volk 1931 (order **Corynephoralia canescentis** Klika 1934, class **Koelerio-Corynephoretea canescentis** Klika in Klika et Novák 1941), which in the studied region unites grass communities of stabilized sands. Based on the floristic-ecological comparison, estimation of ecological regimes of the communities habitats, and the DCA-ordination of the coenofloras of the compared syntaxa using the H. Ellenberg indicator values (Ellenberg et al., 1992), differentiation of the syntaxa of Belarus and South-Western Nechernozemye from similar units in Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden is demonstrated.

The research confirms the opinion of I.M. Stepanovich (2000a, b) on the rarity and need to protect the phytocoenoses with participation of *F. polesica* in Belarus. Despite the fact that the coenose-forming agent of the studied communities, represented in the studied area at the northern border of its range, has no zoological significance, some rare and protected psammophilic plant species for Belarus and Europe are recorded in the communities: *Artemisia marschalliana*, *Centaurea pseudomaculosa*, *Chamaecytisus ruthenicus*, *Chondrilla juncea*, *Dianthus arenarius*, *D. borbasii*, *Filago minima*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Gypsophila paniculata*, *Hieracium echinoides*, *Jurinea cyanoides*, *Linaria genistifolia*, *Sedum sexangulare*. In addition, the habitats of the communities with participation of *F. polesica* are included in the catalog “Rare Biotopes of Belarus”: “2330 Herb and herb-lichen communities on dunes and unstable sands” (Redkie..., 2013). Despite the fact that most of the known localities of *F. polesica* communities in the South-Western Russia are associated with anthropogenic or human-transformed habitats, the origin of such phytocoenoses remains unknown. Further search for rare communities with participation of *F. polesica* is necessary to expand information on the ecology and phytocoenotic relationships of this rare species.

Key words: *Festuca polesica*, psammophytic grass vegetation, floristic classification, Republic of Belarus, South-Western Nechernozemye of Russia

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