

Preliminary results of dry and semi-dry grassland succession research

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Decrease of semi-natural grasslands and spontaneous vegetation process of abandoned agricultural lands cause the necessary to study dry and semi-dry grassland habitats which are in different step of succession. Sample areas are located in Tétényi-fennsík, Tolnai-dombság, Pannonhalmi-dombság and Cserhát. In this study we reviewed the preliminary results of Cserhát sample areas. The different phases of succession were studied in habitat patches with the aid of coenological surveys. The estate of grazed, shrub cleared habitats and areas which infected by invasive plant species were also investigated. We analysed our quadrates and habitat categories in reference to social behaviour types, ecological demands, Raunkier life form categories, and floristic element categories. The data were analysed with multivariate statistical analysis. According to these results despite of the closure of woody vegetation, the diversity of understory vegetation is high until the total closure of canopy. At the same time herbaceous layer indicate the fine steps of succession which depend on changing ecological conditions. Spontaneous regeneration is faster and more successful in warm, dry, eroded hillsides than in places which are in better condition. According to cluster analysis only the species combination analysis is suitable for separation of grazed, degraded and semi-natural grasslands. Processing of seed bank data is still in progress. These results are going to help in more accurate analysis of grasslands succession and regeneration.

Acknowledgements

This study has been supported by TÁMOP-4.2.1.B-09/1/KONV project.