

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
National Dendrological Park "Sofiyivka"

8th European Dry Grassland Meeting

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

13-17 June 2011, Uman', Ukraine

Abstracts & Excursion Guides

Edited by Anna Kuzemko

Uman' 2011

PERSPECTIVES OF PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK EXPANSION ON THE KERCH PENINSULA, UKRAINE

Ivan Parnikoza

Kyiv ecological & cultural center, 31-48 Rajduzna Str., 02218, Kyiv, Ukraine
parnikoza@gmail.com

According to recent estimates, less than 4% of the natural steppe zone remains in its intact state in Ukraine. However, this may well be an underestimation, as steppe vegetation has either survived or revived over considerable areas in a number of regions. One of these is the Kerch Peninsula in the Crimea, which is among the most valuable steppe regions of our country. The depression of agricultural activity in the 1990s launched steppe herbage recovery on tilled areas, which has resulted in its increased importance for the zonal biota. Besides steppe, valuable wetlands persist in the region. To date, there are natural herds here, as well as regions that can serve as natural passageways (coastal strips, steppe river valleys, as well as old fortifications). The total area of these lands exceeds 50% of the area of the peninsula. Most of these areas are not protected neither formally nor in fact. Today, natural complexes of the peninsula are only protected in two small reserves, Opukski (1592.3 ha) and Kazantipski (450.1 ha), and the recently created regional landscape park (RLP) Karalarski (6806 ha) the prospects of which raise many questions. Ten natural memorials and two reserves of regional and national significance have also been created in the region with the inland area totalling 9516.4 ha. Clearly, these entities do not embrace all the diversity of local ecosystems, accounting just for 3% of the area of the peninsula (total area is 325,500 ha). Nonetheless, they could serve as benchmarks for further development of the network of protected areas in Crimea via incorporation of valuable verging regions and creation of new protected areas (even without staff) subordinate to the existing reserves and RLPs of the region. Conservation of valuable natural territories on the peninsula should go in complex with conservation of historical and archeological areas, with designing the latter as historical and archeological reserves or as entities of historical and cultural heritage.

We divided the valuable areas we inspected in two groups: 1) those located in the northern part of the peninsula (north of the Prymorske-Kerch highway) and 2) those from the southern part (south of the highway). Such a division is not devoid of some practical sense, because in this way, the northern areas fall under the purview of the Kazantipski reserve and the Karalarski RLP, and the southern group is maintained by the Opukski reserve.

VEGETATION OF ABANDONED FIELDS IN UKRAINE

Natalia Pashkevych

Institute of Agroecology and Environmental Economy, Metrologichna St., 12, 03143, Kyiv, Ukraine
pashkew@mail.ru

The over-growth of abandoned fields and their further usage is of current interest now in Ukraine. It concerns those fields, which had not been tilled from autumn for more than one year and not prepared for fallows. According to gradual change of vegetation of abandoned field, the several types of abandoned field successions are distinguished. For the first years a weed fallow is appear, which is formed mainly by annual explerents (*Stenactis annua*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *E. acris*, *Filago minima*). Next succession stage (up to 10 years) is characterized by addition of gramineus and elimination of annual weeds (*Elytrigia repens*, *Calamagrostis epigeios*, *Poa pretense*, *Festuca sp.*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Helichrysum arenarium*, *Matricaria perforata*, *Chamomilla recutita*). Unregulated over-growth of abandoned fields and close disposition to forests in Forest and Forest-Steppe zones can be the reason of appearance of bushes and shrubs and ligneous species (*Genista tinctoria*, *Chamaecytisus sp.*, *Solidago canadensis*, *Acer negundo*). Also, the absence of seed bank of phanerophytes in the soils together with favorable edaphic and climatic conditions may cause the development of abandoned field of meadow and steppic types. The classification of abandoned field vegetation is complicated because these vegetation communities form unstable succession stages, therefore these issues needs more elaboration.