

Milan Chytrý (ed.) 2007.
Vegetation of the Czech Republic. 1
Grassland and Heathland Vegetation.

Academia, Praha, 528 pp. ISBN 978-80-200-1462-7. Hardback
 (in Czech with English summaries).

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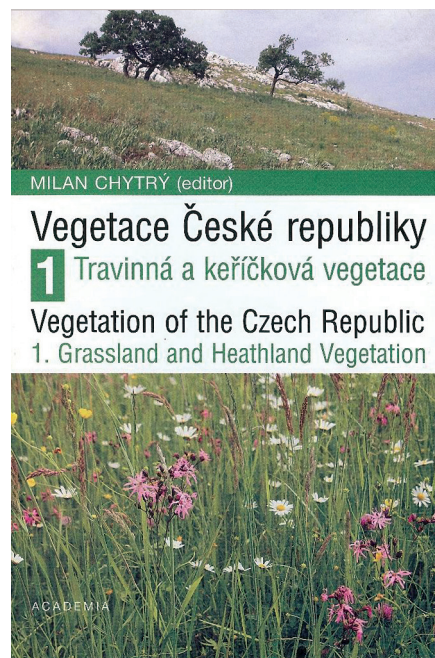
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The Project *Vegetation of the Czech Republic* has started in 1995. As a result of about 10 years of study, the present book includes data about the grassland and heathland vegetation. The data analyses are based on the modern classification approach, including the Cocktail method and statistical methods determining the species fidelity on vegetation units. Evaluation of the quality of delimitation of vegetation units is made. Classification and analysis of vegetation are made with the JUICE computer program as one of the most widespread tools for phytosociological analysis.

The information presented in the book is based on over 20 000 relevés. Supervised classification is used at the association level. Formal definitions have been created to determine the sociological groups assigned to the particular vegetation unit, considering at the same time the dominance of some species.

Syntaxonomy based on the floristic-ecological criteria applied in the Braun-Blanquet's method has an old tradition in the Czech Republic. The first studies have started in the 1920s. The recent study appears as a modern revision of the data collected for many years. The new approaches provide background for new evaluation and re-identification of the units. Some traditional classification units have been accepted in the text and some have been eliminated or modified. The analysis has evaluated not only the quality of diagnostic species groups, but also the uniqueness of units.

The following classes are included in the book: *Loiseleurio-Vaccinietea*, *Juncetea trifidi*, *Elyno-Seslerietea*, *Mulgedio-Aconitetea*, *Crypsietea aculeatae*, *Thero-Salicornietea strictae*, *Festuco-Puccinellietea*, *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*, *Calluno-Ulctea*, *Koelerio-Corynephoretea*, *Festucetea vaginatae* and *Festuco-*



Brometea. They are represented by alliances and associations. Some variants of the associations are also included. The text provides frequent synonyms of the units. Very useful are the synoptic tables attached to each class.

For the higher syntaxa, diagnostic and constant species have been provided. For the associations, dominant species have been also added, as well as formal definitions of the species diagnostic groups. All associations are illustrated by photographs and maps with grid cells of 5 min longitude and 3 min latitude.

This perfect book is a result of the efforts of many experienced phytosociologists and botanists. Most of them work close with Dr Milan Chytrý and share his enthusiasm and high working capacity. The contribution of each author is mentioned with precision.

Although the information included in the book is closely related to the territory of the Czech Republic, it contains valuable data on the European vegetation in a broader sense. This data will be very useful for comparisons with other European regions. The methods applied could be implemented in other similar regional studies or surveys of large data sets.

The English preface and summary of methods, as well as the short English summary provided for all syntaxa are a bonus to the book-minded people. This book is valuable not only to phytosociologists but also to all experts interested in nature conservation and botany.