ABSTRACT

Grassland communities, which originated not only due to natural conditions, but also due to human impact, are an indispensable part of our landscape. After years of missing management grazing is recommended as a suitable management. There is a lot of expectation about grazing but systematic observations of its effects are missing.

This study was motivated by the necessity of monitoring the effect of grazing as a conservation management on species-rich communities *Festucion valesiacae* and *Cirsio--Brachypodion pinnati* in Protected Landscape Area Bohemian Karst.

The aim of the present study is to: I) evaluate the effect of grazing regime on vegetation and II) identify, which species are grazed selectively and how presence of neighboring plants effects the selectivity.

After three years, no effect of grazing on species composition and richness was found. However, we can observe decrease of shrubs, which degraded grasslands. The intensity of grazing differs between species supporting the idea that some species are grazed preferentially. Each plant has a higher probability to be grazed if it is surrounded by other plants that are grazed.

The results show that grazing has some effect on vegetation of the studied communities but that 3 years are still too short to detect changes in species composition and richness of the sites.