Abstract

Species traits determining plant response to sheep and goat grazing on dry grasslands in Czech Karst PLA

Grassland communities, which originated not only due to natural conditions, but also due to strong human impact, are an indispensable part of our landscape. However, their existence depends on the right choice of management. One of the traditional ways of managing grasslands is grazing. It is important to understand how exactly vegetation responds to grazing in order to avoid any unwanted effects. Predicting the grazing response of the whole community on the basis of functional traits of present species would be a major advance. My diploma thesis deals with plant functional traits of species growing on grazed steppes in the Czech Karst Protected Landscape Area and the ways these traits could predict the observed response to grazing. One of the observed traits is also the ability of plants to resprout within one season. I am monitoring this ability by vegetation surveys carried out each summer after the end of grazing. Results of this work will help in predicting grazing response of species on other similar sites.

Keywords: grasslands, grazing, plant functional traits, grazing response, Czech Karst