

1. Abstract

How can people affect vegetation composition of a particular locality even long time after leaving the place? It can differ a lot, according to many factors, that take part in this process. Different cultures had different effects on the nature, unequal times have passed since their era. So what is the influence of a medieval European? What is the heritage, which our ancestors have left in the form of today's vegetation composition? These questions are worth to be answered. And talking about the Middle Ages, we aren't going to mention towns, farms, fields or pastures, but the most typical feature – medieval castles. To be accurate – those ones, that were left to their destiny and the nature – about castle ruins. They have always attracted attention of people, who are interested in history. But those localities shouldn't be omitted by biologists, especially botanists. Comparing vegetation as castle ruins' to the vegetation in the surrounding could reveal the influence of medieval people on plants. But it shouldn't be understood only as the impact of a long dead society to the country. Without looking back, connecting past with present and explaining the human influence on vegetation, it would be very difficult to predict present influence on the future nature. Experiments of the nature have been proceeding for more or less a half of millennium and we shouldn't miss the opportunity to assess their results.