

2 Abstract

The aim of this degree work is to map out the chateau gardens in the Pilsen-South District. The work brings a list of woody species occurring in the areas under survey and evaluates the current status of the gardens in connection with their history.

The research work was carried out at 8 localities: Dolní Lukavice, Hradiště u Blovic, Merklín, Ptenín, Spálené Poříčí, Šťáhlavy, Zelená Hora, and Žinkovy, the total area being approximately 38.6 ha. The field work was performed in the period from 2006 to 2008. The text is complemented with the garden maps drawn based on the field measurements and showing the most valuable woody species.

The general part of the work specifies the natural conditions of the areas under survey and lists all the woody species found, classifying them into gymnosperms (*Pinophyta*) and angiosperms (*Magnoliophyta*). The second part describes the individual studied objects, their history, current situation and an inventory list of the taxa found. Currently measured dimensions are provided for the most important of them.

176 woody species in total, including cultivars, of which 46 were gymnosperms (*Pinophyta*) and 130 were angiosperms (*Magnoliophyta*), were found at the localities under survey. The gardens of the Žinkovy Chateau are the richest in the dendrological point of view, while the most valuable woody species found are Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) and Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) from the gardens in Dolní Lukavice.

As follows from the research results, most of the chateau gardens in the Pilsen-South District are in a worse condition due to the improper management in the 2nd half of the 20th century in comparison with the previous period. The composition of woody species is much poorer, being dominated by more competitive domestic species, with no new plantation being carried out. In spite of this, these localities are richer in terms of biodiversity than the adjacent landscape, and are therefore very valuable.