

The open canopy thermophilous oak forests are a phenomenon whose origin has not been completely clarified yet. However, they are a valuable source of a biodiversity caused by diversity of microstands which has an irreplaceable role in a landscape of the central Europe. Due to the appropriate protection it is desirable to understand the factors which caused this phenomenon.

This review summarizes the current knowledge regarding the factors that support creation and preservation of open canopy oak forests in central Europe. In addition to abiotic factors such as small depth in the soil horizon, there is a large section primarily dedicated to human influence and now, mainly abandoned farming methods. Such methods include coppicing and wood-pasture.

The question of the origin of open canopy oak forest is also discussed in the context of the history of farming in the Podborany region where we can still find a few open canopy oak forests.