

FLORIAN ŚWIĘS

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Forest communities in the vicinity of Chruślina and Wandalin
(Lublin Upland, Urzędowskie Heights)

Zbiorowiska leśne w okolicach Chruśliny i Wandalina
(Wyżyna Lubelska, Wzniesienia Urzędowskie)

SUMMARY

Natural and anthropogenically changed forest communities in the physically and geographically determinate vicinity of Chruślina and Wandalin (Fig. 1–5, Tables 1–8) were phytosociologically and ecologically described. This is an area with highly varied ecological conditions, chiefly on account of exceptionally numerous erosional forms encountered on loess (Fig. 1–5). Altogether, two associations were characterized (*Tilio-Carpinetum*, in two subassociations, sixteen variants and two facies; *Peucedano-Pinetum*, in two variants) and one phytosociologically indeterminate forest community of the degraded association *Tilio-Carpinetum* (*Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*) in two forms. It was pointed out that the investigated forest phytocenoses possess several essential, local specific features: phytosociological, floristic and ecological. Especially worth noting is the occurrence of many rare plant species in these forests, particularly of the mountain element.

STRESZCZENIE

Przedstawiono charakterystykę fitosocjologiczną i ekologiczną zbiorowisk leśnych występujących na pograniczu miejscowości Chruśliny i Wandalin w województwie lubelskim, w rejonie Wzniesień Urzędowskich na Wyżynie Lubelskiej (ryc. 1–5, tab. 1–8). Badany teren cechuje się charakterystycznie wykształconą czwartorzędową pokrywą lessową lub lessopodobną, silnie pociętą plejstoceniśko-holoceniśkimi formami erozyjnymi do postaci tzw. suchych dolin i wąwozów. Lasy zachowały się tam tylko w miejscach najbardziej niedogodnych pod użytki zielone, pola i sady. Występują one głównie w rejonie rozciętych form erozyjnych. W tych specyficznych miejscowych

warunkach geomorfologicznych, a także klimatycznych, hydrologicznych i glebowych uformowały się zbiorowiska leśne o kilku istotnych interesujących cechach swoistych. Przede wszystkim dominują tam lasy łąkowe z zespołu *Tilio-Carpinetum*, uformowane w dwu podzespółach — *T.-C. stachyetosum* i *T.-C. typicum*. W pierwszym podzespole wyodrębniono 7, a w drugim 9 wariantów, które są w większości zróżnicowane na mniej lub bardziej złożone układy facji. W lasach tych zwraca uwagę obecność kilku gatunków roślin charakterystycznych dla chłodniejszych i wilgotniejszych siedlisk górskich. Odnosi się to do: *Aruncus sylvestris*, *Petasites albus*, *Polystichum acuelatum*, *Veratrum lobelianum* i *Huperzia selago*.

W fitocenozach łąki na szczególne podkreślenie zasługuje fakt, że wyjątkowo jest w nich zredukowany udział gatunków roślin uznawanych za elementy charakterystyczne dla związku *Carpinion betuli*. Najczęściej są to rośliny z grupy drzew i krzewów. Rośliny wskaźnikowe zielne dla związku *Carpinion betuli* reprezentuje tylko *Galium schultesii*. Inne z tej grupy gatunki roślin notowano sporadycznie, poza stanowiskami zdjęć fitosocjologicznych, w różnych postaciach zbiorowisk leśnych. Odnosi się to tylko do *Carex pilosa*, *Stellaria holostea* i *Neotia nidus-avis*. Dlatego też miejscowy zespół łąki, biorąc pod uwagę ogólny jego skład syntaksonomiczny tylko spośród roślin zielnych, należałoby zaliczyć raczej do związku *Fagion sylvaticae* niż do związku *Carpinion betuli*. Ponadto miejscowe lasy łąkowe, ze względu na ich ogólną strukturę fitosocjologiczną i warunki siedliskowe, reprezentują fitocenozy o charakterze pośrednim między zespołami *Tilio-Carpinetum* i *Aceri-Tilietum*. Porównywane dwa zespoły — *Aceri-Tilietum* i *Tilio-Carpinetum* — wyodrębniono głównie na podstawie 8 gatunków roślin uznawanych za charakterystyczne lub wyróżniające. Są to takie rośliny, jak: dla pierwszego zespołu — *Acer platanoides*, *A. pseudoplatanus*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Ulmus glabra* i *Viola mirabilis*, a drugiego — *Galium schultesii*, *Carex pilosa* i *Ranunculus cassubicus*. Wśród obecnie charakteryzowanych płatów zespołu *Tilio-Carpinetum* występuje tylko niewielka część wymienionych gatunków wskaźnikowych: np. dla zespołu *Aceri-Tilietum* dość często rosną *Ulmus glabra* i *Viola mirabilis*, a dla zespołu *Tilio-Carpinetum* sporadycznie występuje tylko — *Galium schultesii*. Ponadto na uwagę zasługuje fakt, że spośród trzech wymienionych gatunków roślin wskaźnikowych prawie jednakowo często w obydwu obecnie charakteryzowanych podzespółach łąki rośnie tylko *Ulmus glabra*. Inne z tych gatunków występują albo częściej w podzespole łąki niskiego niż w podzespole łąki typowego wysokiego (*Viola mirabilis*), albo niemal wyłącznie, ale sporadycznie, w podzespole łąki wysokiego typowego (*Galium schultesii*). Ogólnie biorąc, podzespół łąki niskiego (*T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae*) najbardziej nawiązuje do zespołu *Aceri-Tilietum*. Podzespół łąki wysokiego typowego (*T.-C. typicum*) reprezentuje jakby zubożałą florystycznie typową nazboczową postać *T.-C. typicum*. Stąd też obydwa obecnie charakteryzowane podzespoły łąki *Tilio-Carpinetum* prowizorycznie zaliczono do regionalnej ich odmiany „wąwozowej”. Jak dotąd podobnie uformowane „wąwozowe” postacie podzespołu łąki niskiego i wysokiego typowego zostały wcześniej opisane z kilku innych stanowisk, m.in. na Wyżynie Lubelskiej.

Wśród obecnie scharakteryzowanych podrzędnych postaci podzespółów *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae* i *T.-C. typicum* na szczególną uwagę zasługują warianty z: *Aruncus sylvestris*, *Petasites albus*, *Equisetum silvaticum*, *Impatiens parviflora*, *Polypodium vulgare* oraz *Dryopteris filix-mas* i *Athyrium filix-femina*. Większa część wymienionych wariantów prawdopodobnie nie była dotąd opisana z „wąwozowych” stanowisk zespołu łąki.

Na badanym terenie zidentyfikowano także występowanie zbiorowiska zdegradowanego zespołu *Tilio-Carpinetum* (*Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*) oraz dwa zespoły boru: mieszanego (*Quercus roboris-Pinetum*) i świeżego (*Peucedano-Pinetum*). Fitocenozy te są dość charakterystycznie, wewnątrz zróżnicowane, w sumie na 8 podrzędnych ich postaci zbiorowisk i wariantów. Występują one na grzbietach wierzchołków, sporadycznie na zboczach suchych dolin o łagodnym ich spadku. Są to najczęściej opisywane fitocenozy borów w makroregionie lubelskim i innych częściach kraju.

Spośród trzech wymienionych fitocenoz zbiorowisko *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*, a w pewnym stopniu i zespół *Quercus robur*-*Pinetum* reprezentują, w różnym stopniu sztucznie, przeobrażoną postać zespołu *Tilio-Carpinetum*. Zespół *Peucedano-Pinetum* wykształcał się na tym terenie naturalnie i w najbardziej dogodnym dla niego siedlisku. Lokalnie zespół ten negatywnie wyróżnia się m.in. brakiem uznawanego dla niego gatunku charakterystycznego *Chimaphila umbellata*, a także nieobecnością w nim kilku gatunków wyróżniających, jak np. *Peucedanum oreoselinum*, *Scorzonera humilis* i *Pulsatilla patens*.

Na badanym terenie zbiorowiska zdegradowanego grądu oraz zespoły boru mieszanego i boru świeżego, w porównaniu z *Tilio-Carpinetum*, odznaczają się m.in. zupełnym w nich brakiem stanowisk roślin górskich.

Key words: Natural and anthropogenic forest phytocenoses, phytosociological records and ecological profile, rare plant species, Lublin Upland, Poland.

INVESTIGATION AREA

Location and Spatial Structure

The investigations in the forests were conducted in the area located in the south-western part of the Lublin Province, on the borderland of two villages: Wandalin (with hamlets of Widły, Zadole and Kolonia Wandalin) and Chruślina (with hamlets of Biała Woda and Boby Księżę). The former belongs to the commune of Opole Lubelskie, the latter to the commune of Józefów nad Wisłą (Fig. 1). The total area of the investigated region is ca. 11 sq. km. These are private-owned estates, highly diversified in respect of spatial development (Table 1).

Forests are preserved there only in the least suitable places for land cultivation. They are found in greatest strength near the so-called dry valleys and ravines. Moreover, forests occur fairly frequently on flat or slightly inclined slopes of flat-topped hills, but located only at the intersections of highly bifurcated hilltop sections of these erosional forms. The remaining area is almost entirely covered by gardens, fields, orchards, meadows etc. The preserved private forest complexes are exceptionally highly anthropogenically transformed. Older tree specimens are being constantly harvested in them. In these forests, due to stand thinning, there is a successively growing expansion of light-loving, nitrophilous plant species belonging to different forest layers.

Natural Environment

The studied area is physico-geographically and geobotanically located in the zone of Central Polish Uplands, on the western border of the Lublin Upland and the district of Urzędowskie Heights (1, 12, 21). Locally, it is situated on the

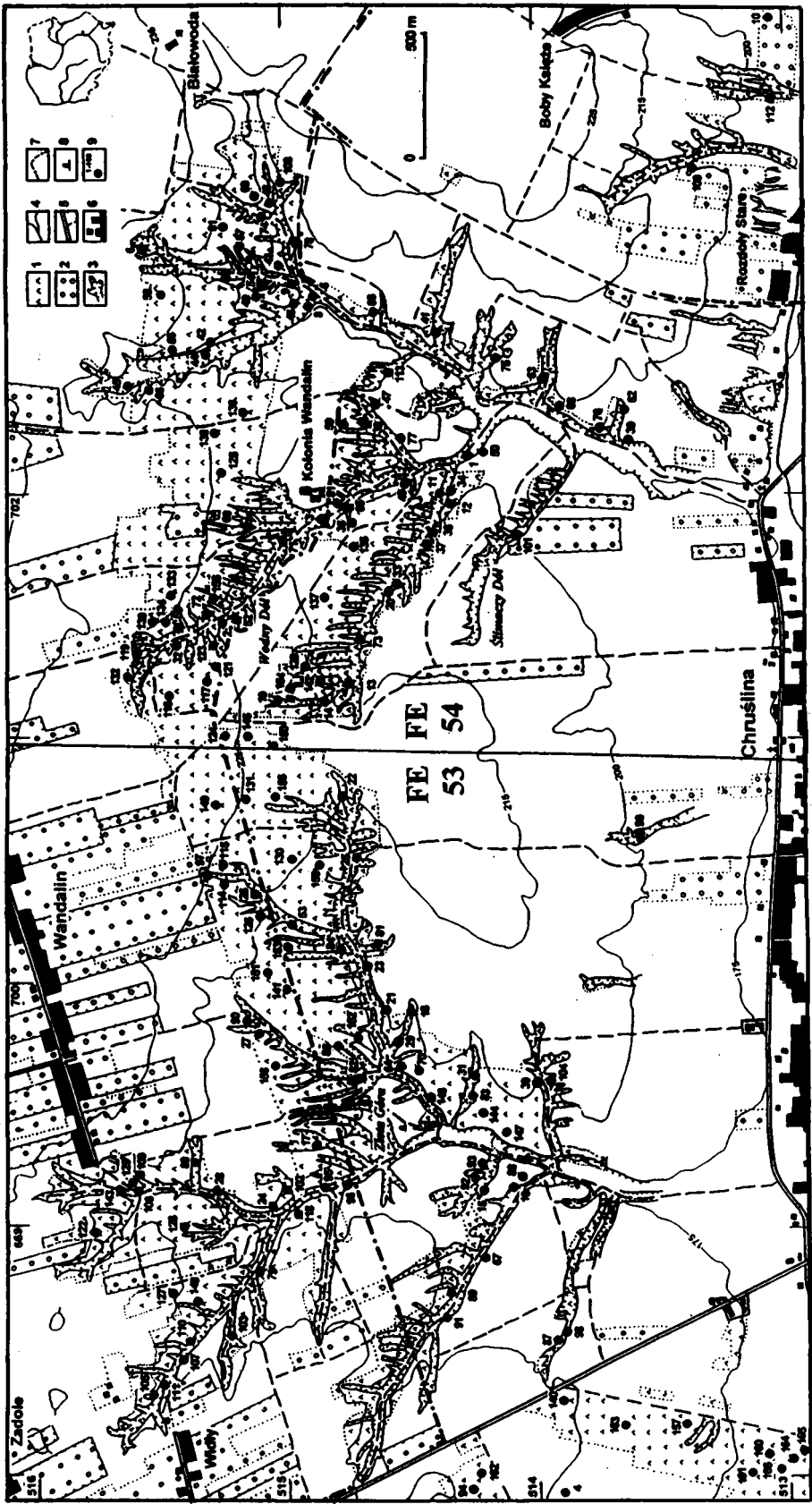


Fig. 1. Location map of the area investigated with the stations of 166 phytosociological records listed in Tables 2-8; 1 — forests, 2 — orchards and gardens, 3 — on-loess erosional forms: dry valleys and ravines, 4 — river network, 5 — highways and major local roads, 6 — rural built-up areas, 7 — boundary of gminas (rural communes): of Opole Lubelskie and Józefów upon the Vistula, 8 — memorial to the January 1863 Insurgents, 9 — stations of 166 phytosociological records (Table 9)

edge of a vast flat-topped hill passing into a gently inclined, southward slope of the wide-open valley of the Podlipie river. The studied area is located at 150–235 meters above sea level. It is distinguished by exceptionally numerous, deeply incised erosional forms represented by the bifurcated so-called dry valleys and accompanying ravines. These are geomorphological forms eroded in loess or loess-like covers, several dozen meter thick, lying on cretaceous rocks of the Upper Maestrichtian (10, 160). Those erosional forms, like in the other loess regions of the Lublin Upland, developed on the turn of Pleistocene and Holocene (16, 24). They were eroded by the accumulated flow of surface waters originating first from the melting glacier and subsequently from streams flowing out from the historical, abundant water-heads. These dry valleys are currently up to 30 m deep. They are accompanied by numerous erosional side forms such as ravines, highly diversified in respect of size and general shape. In the ravine slopes and at the hilltop edges there are numerous, currently developing, secondary erosional forms: cuttings, channels and landslide headwalls. Sometimes, at the foot of ravine and dry valley slopes, highly weathered limestone rock debris crops up from under the eroded loess cover. The beds of these erosional forms are successively silted up. There are also sporadic instances of single, small or large, erratic boulders. Between the dry valleys and ravines and outside them, there are the so-called levelled flattop hills with ridges of varying width, slightly inclined or convex.

The Quaternary cover in this area is of Eolian or water-glacial origin. Most frequently these are typical loess or loess-like sediments, highly decalcified. They are composed of loamy or dusty formations, sometimes with a high admixture of sand. Skeleton fraction is almost entirely absent in them. On the slopes of erosional forms (valley and ravines), as a result of the current processes of denudation and erosion, the physical structure of the Quaternary and soil covers is highly complex. Under such conditions, diverse soil forms developed on the loess or loess-like covers (3, 28, 29).

In general, the area under investigation, like other regions in the Lublin Upland, is successively undergoing surface over-desiccation (18). According to older informants among the local population, during the interwar period in the ravines and dry valleys there were still many and relatively strong springs with streams. At present in the local erosional forms there are no forms whatsoever of surface waters. Those historical water-heads have retained only their characteristic names, e.g. Wodny Dół (Water Ditch) (Fig. 1). The water economy there is of the ombrophilous type (18). The permanent groundwater level lies in the studied area at 50–60 m deep. All seasonal surplus precipitation water is drained along erosional forms from the higher hilltop levels towards the valley bottom of the Podlipie river.

The climatic conditions of the area are similar to those in the surrounding regions of the Lublin Upland (11, 32, 33). Average annual precipitation is relatively low, ranging between 520–560 mm. However, the mean annual air temperatures there are fairly high, ranging between 7.6–7.8°C. Larger and deeper erosional forms are characterized by specific microclimatic and hydrological conditions. First of all, erosional forms are on average cooler and wetter, and they remain snow-covered longer than the ridges of the surrounding flat hilltops. Owing to that, the dry valleys and ravines have preserved characteristic forms of forest communities characterized for example by the occurrence of plant species of typical mountain and upland habitats.

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

The description of the natural environment of the investigated area presented in the introduction has been given on the basis of reference literature and the author's own unpublished observations. The main part of the present study contains the phytosociological and biotopic profiles of the forest communities in the studied area that have hitherto not been prepared.

Phytosociological investigations of the forests were conducted according to the generally accepted methodological assumptions (20). The nomenclature of the studied bryophytes, pteridophytes and flower plants is the same as used for those species in the earlier studies (13, 19). The basic data concerning the naming, taxonomy and the syntaxonomic composition of the investigated forest communities were essentially based on the study by Matuszkiewicz (17 and references quoted).

In the phytosociological investigations of the forests all the most characteristic and widespread forms of their communities were taken into account, regardless of the degree of their anthropogenic deformation. The phytosociological description of the forests was prepared on the basis of one hundred and sixty-six phytosociological records listed in Tables 1–7 and located in Figure 1. Floristic lists were made in expanses with a balanced phytosociological and biotopic structure, and an area of 90–100 sq. m. The coverage of plant species in phytosociological records was given on a five-degree scale with an additional marking of plant species with coverage less than 1–5% (+) and occurring sporadically in one to three species (r). Plant species occurring just outside the limits of the main surface of a phytosociological record were marked as (x).

In thirteen major and more representative expanses of determinate forms of forest phytocenoses, soil pits were tested for their physical, granulometric and chemical properties. In the soil samples collected in October 1995 there were determined: granulometric composition (with the aerometric method), and the content of humus (with the Tiurin method), CaCO_3 (with the Schleibler volume method), P_2O_5 (with the Egner method), and pH (with the potentiometric method). Soil analyses were carried out at the laboratory of Department of Geobotany, Institute of Earth Sciences, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, basing on the methods described by Dobrzański and Uziak (2). The results of the analyses are shown in Table 1.



Fig. 2. Chruślina, NW part, in the vicinity of Złota Góra. A loess ravine

Photo by F. Świąś



Fig. 3. Chruślina, NW part, the slopes of a loess ravine. *Tilio-Carpinetum stachyetosum* in a variant with *Petasites albus* (phytosoc. rec. 37)

Photo by F. Świąś



Fig. 4. Chruślina, NW part. Contemporary erosional forms on the edge of a slope of a dry valley. *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum* in a variant with *Oxalis acetosella*

Photo by F. Świąż



Fig. 5. Chruślina, NW part, above Złota Góra. The foot of a dry valley. *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum* in a variant with *Equisetum hyemale*

Photo by F. Świąż

RESULTS

Phytosociological Taxonomy of Forest Communities

The classification of the forest communities distinguished in the studied area into higher phytosociological units is as follows:

Class: *Querc-Fagetea* Br.-Bl. et Vlieg. 1937,

Order: *Fagetalia sylvaticae* Pawl. 1928,

Alliance: *Carpinion betuli* Oberd. 1953,

1. Association: *Tilio-Carpinetum* Traczyk 1962

1.1. Subassociation: *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae*

1.1.1. variant: with *Urtica dioica*

1.1.2. variant: with *Aegopodium podagraria*

1.1.3. variant: with *Impatiens parviflora*

1.1.4. variant: with *Viola mirabilis*

1.1.5. variant: with *Aruncus silvestris*

1.1.6. variant: with *Equisetum sylvaticum*.

1.1.7. variant: with *Petasites albus*

1.2. Subassociation: *T.-C. typicum*

1.2.1. variant: with *Asarum europaeum*

1.2.2. variant: with *Galium odoratum*

1.2.3. variant: with *Anemone nemorosa*

1.2.4. variant: with *Oxalis acetosella*

1.2.5. variant: with *Maianthemum bifolium*

1.2.6. variant: with *Polypodium vulgare*

1.2.7. variant: with *Poa nemoralis*

1.2.8. variant: with *Equisetum hyemale*

1.2.9. variant: with *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Athyrium filix-femina*

1.2.9.1. facies: with *Dryopteris filix-mas*

1.2.9.2. facies: with *Athyrium filix-femina*

2. Community: *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*

2.1. form: typical with *Rubus hirtus*

2.2. form: with *Rubus hirtus* and *Vaccinium myrtillus*

Class: *Vaccinio-Piceetea* Br.-Bl. 1939,

Order: *Vaccinio-Piceetalia* Br.-Bl. 1939,

Alliance: *Dicrano-Pinion* Libb. 1933

3. Association: *Quercu roboris-Pinetum* I. Mat (mscr),

3.1. variant: typical with *Vaccinium myrtillus*

3.2. variant: with *Pteridium aquilinum*

3.3. variant: with *Lycopodium annotinum* and *Polytrichum formosum*

Table 1. Some granulometric and chemical soil properties in forest communities specified in Tables 2-8

Number of profile, community, record	Depth of horizon in cm	Horizon	Content of fractions in % particles < 1 mm						Content in mg/l of soil				
			particles > 1 mm	1 - 0,1	0,1 - 0,05	0,05 - 0,02	0,02 - 0,008	0,008 - 0,002	> 0,002	humus	CaCO ₃	P ₂ O ₅	pH in 1 n KCl
1 1.1.2. B	5-15	A ₁	0,2	12	15	48	15	4	8	1,88	0,0	8,7	4,4
	70-80	C	0,2	17	17	48	9	4	7	0,31	0,0	2,9	5,1
2 1.1.5. 23	0-4	A ₁	0,0	1	17	53	19	3	7	3,21	0,0	1,8	3,8
	10-20	(B)	0,0	2	15	48	19	5	11	1,55	0,0	2,0	3,9
	60-70	(B)	0,0	1	14	50	18	4	15	0,82	0,0	2,1	4,8
	110-120	C	3,0	31	15	14	13	6	21	0,52	0,0	1,1	5,4
	130-140	C	2,0	80	4	2	1	1	2	0,10	0,0	4,0	5,7
3 1.1.6. 34	1-5	A ₁	0,0	13	12	49	14	5	7	3,11	0,0	10,5	3,7
	20-30	(B)	0,1	13	11	45	15	4	12	0,93	0,0	4,0	5,5
	80-110	C	11,0	85	5	2	1	3	4	0,10	0,0	2,3	6,0
4 1.1.7. 37	5-15	A ₁	0,0	3	18	49	17	6	9	2,07	2,1	5,1	6,2
	50-80	A ₁	0,0	7	12	48	17	7	9	1,88	3,4	4,3	6,2
	90-100	C	2,3	80	4	1	2	4	9	0,82	0,2	2,2	6,3
5 1.2.2. 50	2-4	A ₁	0,0	7	13	49	20	5	6	5,80	0,0	7,1	4,0
	5-15	A ₂	0,0	2	13	48	23	6	8	1,86	0,0	4,7	3,8
	30-40	B	0,0	4	12	45	16	5	18	0,82	0,0	11,3	3,9
	100-110	B	0,0	5	13	53	14	4	11	0,10	0,0	4,3	5,1
6 1.2.3. 70	5-15	A ₁	0,0	10	13	47	22	4	4	2,59	0,0	1,8	3,8
	25-35	A ₂	0,9	10	13	48	21	3	5	0,42	0,0	1,0	3,7
	40-50	B	4,0	15	7	24	14	18	24	0,52	0,0	0,8	3,5
	70-80	C	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,2	-	-

7	2-10	A ₁	0,0	28	12	41	12	4	5	3,42	0,0	3,5	3,8
1.2.3.	20-30	(B)	0,0	17	13	42	18	5	7	0,82	0,0	1,4	3,8
71	70-80	(B)	0,1	45	20	13	10	5	7	0,21	0,0	2,1	4,8
	120-130	C	0,0	81	10	5	1	1	2	0,10	0,0	2,3	5,7
8	0-2	A ₁	0,0	7	13	50	19	4	7	5,80	0,0	7,3	3,8
1.2.4.	20-30	(B)	0,0	4	16	43	15	4	18	0,83	0,0	9,2	4,0
89	90-110	C	0,0	10	17	47	13	4	9	0,41	0,0	5,1	4,3
9	0-3	A ₁	0,0	11	15	45	17	4	8	5,59	0,0	4,7	3,7
1.2.8.	5-20	(B)	0,0	8	18	43	18	5	10	1,04	0,0	3,5	3,9
95	50-60	C	0,0	5	19	46	16	4	10	0,31	0,0	6,4	4,1
10	0-5	A ₁	0,0	9	17	45	15	6	8	2,80	0,0	20,5	3,5
1.2.9.1.	5-20	(B)	0,3	8	20	44	15	3	10	0,31	0,0	8,9	3,9
105	40-50	C	0,0	12	16	46	15	3	8	0,10	0,0	4,7	4,6
	80-90	C	30,0	28	9	27	12	5	19	0,10	0,0	5,8	4,8
11	3-6	A ₁	0,0	7	14	50	19	5	5	8,53	0,0	4,5	4,4
2.1.	15-25	A ₂	0,0	2	12	48	23	7	8	0,42	0,0	9,2	4,1
117	40-50	B	0,0	4	11	42	18	8	17	0,73	0,0	17,7	3,9
	90-100	B	0,0	1	14	49	19	3	14	0,41	0,0	11,6	4,9
	170-180	C	0,0	5	13	56	14	3	9	0,10	0,0	8,2	5,8
12	3-4	A ₁	0,0	5	16	44	22	5	6	4,35	0,0	11,0	3,6
3.1.	15-25	A ₂	0,0	2	13	46	24	6	7	1,04	0,0	11,9	4,0
138	60-70	B	0,0	2	14	44	16	4	20	0,83	0,0	14,9	4,0
	120-130	B	0,0	5	14	49	17	4	11	0,10	0,0	8,7	4,2
13	5-7	A ₁	0,0	83	5	4	2	3	3	2,11	0,0	3,5	3,4
4.1.	10-20	A ₂	0,0	85	4	2	3	3	3	0,51	0,0	1,9	3,7
165	40-50	(B)	0,0	85	5	4	1	2	3	0,16	0,0	2,7	4,2
	90-110	C	0,1	90	3	2	1	2	2	0,02	0,0	2,2	5,2

- 4. Association: *Peucedano-Pinetum* Mat. (1062) 1973,
 - 4.1. variant: impoverished with *Vaccinium myrtillus*
 - 4.2. variant: with *Calluna vulgaris* and *Vaccium vitis-idaea*

THE SURVEY OF FOREST COMMUNITIES

1. *Tilio-Carpinetum*

This forest is formed on shady, more or less moist habitats, mainly on the slopes of dry valleys and ravines, less often in their bottoms. The tree stand is most frequently artificially transformed to a great extent, especially in respect

Table 2. Phytosociological structure: 1 — association *Tilio-Carpinetum*. 1.1. — subassociation *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae* in variants: 1.1.1. — with *Urtica dioica*, 1.1.2. — with *Aegopodium podagraria*, 1.1.3. — with *Impatiens parviflora*, 1.1.4. — with *Viola mirabilis*

Number of community	1.1.																																																								
	1.				2.				3.		4.																																														
Number of record	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																											
Date	94-06-20	93-07-22	94-06-20	96-06-26	93-07-31	93-07-24	93-07-24	93-07-31	96-06-26	96-07-02	93-05-23	94-05-31	94-05-31	93-07-23																																											
Occurrence of community ^x	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa	Aa	Bb	Bb	Bb	Ba	Bb	Bb	Bb	Bb	Bb																																											
Exposition	-	-	-	-	-	SE	SE	SE	SE	E	SE	NE	SW	NE																																											
Inclination of ground in	0																																																								
Maximal height of tress in	m																																																								
Maximal diameter of tress in	cm																																																								
Cover of the layer in %	>10 m A																																																								
	<10 m A ₁																																																								
	>5 m B																																																								
	<5 m B ₁																																																								
Number of species in record	C																																																								
	D																																																								
	34	60	100	30	27	80	100	5	29	40	100	10	30	20	100	20	25	10	100	20	23	20	100	30	23	10	100	30	23	40	100	20	26	30	100	20	28	20	90	20	26	70	90	30	32	20	90	40	40	20	100	70	39	40	90	30	40
	I. Ch: a - <i>Quercus-Fageteta</i> , b - <i>Fagetalia silvaticae</i> , c - <i>Alno-Padion</i> (x, x), d - <i>Carpinion betuli</i>																																																								
	a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B ₁																																																								
	a <i>Euonymus verrucosus</i> B																																																								
	b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> A																																																								
	b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> B ₁																																																								
	d <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A																																																								
	d <i>Carpinus betulus</i> B ₁																																																								
	d <i>Carpinus betulus</i> C																																																								
II. Ch: <i>Dicrano-Pinion</i> (x, x)																																																									
III. Others																																																									
	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i> B ₁																																																								

Table 2 continued

<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> B ₁	. . . . .	1	. . . . .	+ + . . .	+ . . . .
<i>Quercus petraea</i> B	. . . . .		1 . . . . .	. . . . .	4
<i>Quercus robur</i> A	. . . . .		4 . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Populus tremula</i> B ₁	. . . . .			. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> B ₁	. . . . .		1 . . . . .	. . . . .	2 +
C. Herbaceous and other plants					
IV. Ch: a - <i>Quercus-Fagetes</i> , b - <i>Fagetalia silvaticae</i> , c - <i>Alno-Padion</i>					
a <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	2 + . . . . .		+ . . . . .	. . . . .	+ + 2
a <i>Corydalis solida</i>	. + . . . . .		. . . . .	+ . . . . .	. . . . .
a <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	. . . . .		2 5 5 5 5 3	. . . . .	. . . . .
a <i>Carex digitata</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	+ + + + . . . . .
a <i>Melica nutans</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	+ . . . . .	+ + + . . . . .
a <i>Viola mirabilis</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	+ . . . . .	5 5 5 4
a <i>Poa nemoralis</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	1 + +
a <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Asarum europaeum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	+ + 2 2 3	. . . . .
b <i>Pulmonaria obscura</i>	+ 2 + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	+ . . . . .
b <i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	+ + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	+ . . . . .
b <i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	+ . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Millium effusum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Gallium odoratum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	1 1 + 1	+ 1 2 +
b <i>Sanicula europaea</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Epiobium montanum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Carex sylvatica</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
b <i>Actaea spicata</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
c <i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	3 2 +		1 + + . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
c <i>Festuca gigantea</i>	+ + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
c <i>Circaea alpina</i>	+ . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
c <i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
V. Others					
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	+ r . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	+ + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.	+ + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Anthriscus nitida</i>	+ + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	+ r r + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	+ + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Poa annua</i>	+ + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	+ . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	r + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Geum rivale</i>	+ + + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	+ + + + r + 1 + + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	5 5 5 5 5 + + + 2 + + + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	+ + + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Galeopsis pubescens</i>	1 2 1 + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	+ + + + 1 2 + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	+ + + . . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Aruncus sylvestris</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	. . . . .		. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .

Table 2 continued

D: Mosses

VI. Ch: a - *Fagetalia silvaticae*, b - others

a <i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	.	.	1	.	1	+	1	1	+	1	.	1	+	1
b <i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	2	3	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Plagiomnium affine</i>	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Brachytegium rutabulum</i>	.	2	1	1	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Eurhynchium schwartzii</i>	2	.	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	1 1
b <i>Plagiomnium cuspidatum</i>	2	.	.	.	.	+	.	1	.	+	.	.	.	+
b <i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	2	2	1	3	1	1	.
b <i>Mnium stellare</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	1

Species occurring in 1 record:

I a - *Fraxinus excelsior* A 4/3, B 4/+, *Acer campestre* B₁ 6/+, *Lonicera xylosteum* B₁ 13/2, *Corylus avellana* B 14/3. I c - *Padus avium* B₁ 1/1. I d - *Tilia cordata* B₁ 4/+, *Cerasus avium* B₁ 10/1. II - *Pinus sylvestris* A 4/3. III - *Ribes vulgare* B₁ 4/+, *Sorbus aucuparia* B₁ 4/+, *Betula pendula* A 8/2, *Frangula alnus* B₁ 10/+, *Quercus robur* C 11/+

IV b - *Paris quadrifolia* 12/r. V - *Deschampsia caespitosa* 1/+, *Plantago major* 1/+, *Polygonum hydropiper* 1/+, *Poa trivialis* 1/+, *Stellaria media* 1/+, *Chelidonium majus* 4/+, *Anthriscus sylvestris* 10/+, *Equisetum pretense* 10/+, *E. variegatum* 4/+, *Cruciata glabra* 10/+, *Hieracium murorum* 11/+, *Brachypodium pinnatum* 13/+, *Clinopodium vulgare* 13/+, *Angelica sylvestris* 14/+

VI b - *Plagiothecium nemorale* 2/2, *Mnium marginatum* 11/2, *Chiloscyphus pallens* 14/+, *Conocephalum conicum* 14/+

x — A. bottom of dry valley or ravine: a — fringe, b — middle part. B. slope of dry valley or ravine: a — foot, b — middle part, c — upper part. C. flattop hill: a — the part above dry valleys and ravines, b — slightly convex ridge, between erosional forms, c — ridge outside the range of erosional forms. D. area of old, washed-out sand-dunes: a — ridge, b — slope, c — sandy areas between dune forms.

xx — a syntaxonomic group with sporadic plant species listed at the base of the Table.

of density and the species composition of trees. The natural composition of this forest contained mainly such tree species as *Carpinus betulus*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Tilia cordata* and *Quercus robur*. In cleared tree stands there are often self-seeding and light-seed tree species, mainly *Populus tremula* and *Betula pendula*. Moreover, the forest in question there often grows the planted, all-age *Pinus sylvestris*.

The coverage and species composition of the plants found in the shrub, undergrowth and bryophyte layers in this forest is highly diversified. In the shrub layer there are most often: *Corylus avellana*, *Euonymus verrucosus*, *Sambucus nigra*, and of the trees in their early growth — chiefly *Carpinus betulus*, *Tilia cordata* and *Populus tremula*. The undergrowth layer is dominated by generally common shade-tolerant and mesotrophic species. These include for example: *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *D. spinuloasa*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Galium odoratum*, *Viola reichenbachiana*, *Carex digitata*, *Asarum europaeum*, *Moehringia trinervia*. In the bryophyte layer, in different densities, there are most often inter alia the following species: *Atrichum undulatum*, *Brachytegium rutabulum*, *B. velutinum*, *Eurhynchium schwartzii* and *Plagiomnium cuspidatum*.

In the present *Tilio-Carpinetum* association, in respect of biotopic conditions and the general floristic structure, two subassociations were distinguished, formed in 18 variants in different facies patterns.

1.1. *Tilio-Carpinetum stachyetosum silvaticae*

This subassociation develops in the locally most fertile habitats and comparatively best wetted. This takes place mainly in the beds and slopes of the deep-cut dry valleys and ravines. In respect of the floristic structure, it is primarily characterized by not very dense tree and shrub layers and by the constant, highly dense undergrowth layer, sometimes with a fairly large bryophyte cover. The main role is played by high herbaceous and gramineous plant species connected with the relatively most fertile habitats with the optimum wetting. There is a clear absence of tree, shrub and herbaceous plant species of poor and highly overdried habitats. There is also no planted *Pinus sylvestris*. Out of the light-seeded, self-seeding tree species there are only sporadic occurrences of growing saplings of *Populus tremula* only. In the present subassociation, mainly on the basis of specific, dominant undergrowth species and biotopic conditions, seven variants were distinguished.

1.1.1. Variant with *Urtica dioica*. This is generally a variant of the *T.-C. stachyetosum silvaticae* subassociation, exceptionally strongly relating to nitrophilous ruderal communities with high-growing herbaceous and gramineous plant species. This is primarily indicated by the absolute domination of *Urtica dioica* on the most fertile habitats on the rims of the beds of dry valleys and ravines. Worth noting are also weekly-formed, successively developing tree and shrub layers, or often their absence. This is a frequent and successively spreading form of the low dry-ground forest community.

1.1.2. Variant with *Aegopodium podagraria*. It occurs almost exclusively in the beds of dry valleys and ravines, and less frequently on their slopes with varying inclination. In the present variant as compared with the former, the tree and shrub layers are comparatively well formed. It is distinguished first of all for the absolute domination of *Aegopodium podagraria*. Moreover, worth noting is the fairly frequent and dense occurrence of, inter alia, *Ulmus scabra* and *Asarum europaeum*. It is fairly frequent, on scattered expanses of up to several ares.

1.1.3. Variant with *Impatiens parviflora*. This variant represents a strongly deformed form of *T.-C. stachyetosum* growing on the steep ravine slope. In the thinned tree layer arborescent *Corylus avellana* plays a major role. In the undergrowth layer, the most abundant are nitrophilous plant species, first of all *Impatiens parviflora* and *Aegopodium podagraria*. It was recorded only in one station of 0.5 are.

Table 3 continued

D. Mosses																						
VII. Ch: a - <i>Fagetalia silvatica</i> , b - others																						
a <i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	+	1	1	2	3	+	.	+	.	+		
b <i>Plagiochilla porrelloides</i>	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i>	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
b <i>Plagiomnium cuspidatum</i>	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	.	+	1	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	+	1
b <i>Brachythecium salebrosum</i>	+	.	.	1	2	.	1	2	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
b <i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
b <i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	2	.	+	1	2	3	1	1	.	+	.	1
b <i>Plagiothecium laetum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Cirryphyllum pilliferum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Mnium stellare</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
b <i>Eurhynchium schwartzii</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+
b <i>Eurhynchium angustirete</i>	+	+
b <i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	+	+

Species occurring in 1 record:

I b - *Ulmus glabra* A₁ 19/1, B₁ 34/1. I c - *Cerasus avium* A₁ 19/1, C 21/+. II - *Pinus sylvestris* B₁ 38/+. III - *Quercus robur* A₁ 35/2, *Betula pendula* A 15/2, *Crataegus* sp. B₁ 25/+

IV b - *Ranunculus lanuginosus* 24/+. IV c - *Circaea lutetiana* 38/+. IV d - *Galium schultesii* (Ch: ass. 1) 16/+. VI - *Cimicifuga europaea* 16/+, *Digitalis glandiflora* 16/+, *Taraxacum officinale* 16/r, *Coronilla varia* 17/+, *Heracleum sphondylium* 17/r, *Rubus saxatilis* 17/+, *Viola hirta* 17/+, *Pteridium aquilinum* 30/+, *Geum rivale* 31/+, *Brachypodium pinnatum* 33/r.

VII b - *Dicranella heteromalla* 22/+, *Plagiothecium silvaticum* 22/+, *Brachythecium velutinum* 23/+, *Mnium marginatum* 25/+, *Rhizomnium punctatum* 27/+.

x, xx — as in Table 2.

1.1.4. Variant with *Viola mirabilis*. It is formed on mesophilous, steep and shady slopes of deep-cut ravines. Floristically, it is primarily distinguished on account of the frequent and dense occurrence of *Viola mirabilis*. Out of other plant species worth noting is the comparatively frequent presence of, inter alia, *Corylus avellana*, *Equisetum sylvaticum* and *Aruncus silvestris*. Not very frequent, this variant is found on scattered expanses of up to 0.4 are.

1.1.5. Variant with *Aruncus silvestris*. It represents the most typical, local on-slope form of the subassociation *T.-C. stachyetosum*. It develops on fairly steep, wet and shady ravine slopes, mainly in their middle and upper sections. This community owes its characteristic appearance to the dense occurrence of *Aruncus silvestris*. Out of other plant species recorded in the variant, worth noting is the frequent and often at the same time dense occurrence of: *Quercus robur*, *Maianthemum bifolium*, *Mycelis muralis*, *Hieracium murorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*. A large percentage of bryophytes also merits attention: chiefly with *Atrichum undulatum*, *Plagiomnium cuspidatum* and *Brachythecium salebrosum*. It occurs frequently, in numerous scattered expanses of up to 0.6 are.

1.1.6. Variant with *Equisetum sylvaticum*. This variant is found in the similar habitats as the former, but which are most often constantly highly wetted. This takes place mainly in the middle and lower parts of slopes of deep-cut ravines. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for the frequent and dense occurrence of

Equisetum sylvaticum. Moreover, worth noting is a fairly large percentage of numerous plant species characteristic of the typical subassociation of this forest discussed below, for example: *Ribes uva-crispa*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Galium odoratum*, *Pulmonaria obscura*, *Brachytecium rutabulum* and *Eurhynchium schwartzii*. A number of widespread plants species found in the former four variants do not grow in this variant at all or far less frequently. These are, for example, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Maianthemum bifolium*, *Mycelis muralis* and *Brachytecium salebrosum*. The variant is recorded only in several stations of up to 0.4 are.

1.1.7. Variant with *Petasites albus*. It occurs in almost identical biotopic conditions as the former variant. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for the exclusive dense occurrence in it of *Petasites albus*, sometimes with a fairly high co-occurrence of some plant species most often found in two foregoing variants, chiefly: *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Galium odoratum*, *Pulmonaria obscura*, *Oxalis acetosella*. It is recorded only in several stations, on expanses of the size of 0.4 to 0.9 are.

1.2. *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum*

This subassociation of the typical dry-ground forest is found most often on steep, less frequently on gentle-inclined, slopes of ravines and dry valleys. Sporadically it develops on gentle-formed ridges of flattop hills situated between the above erosional forms. It occurs in mesophilous habitats. The natural tree stands of this forest were composed mainly of *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus robur* and *Tilia cordata*. Currently, these are forests that were artificially transformed to a great extent. This is evident first of all in that they were considerably thinned of more robust tree specimens. The planted *Pinus sylvestris* is frequently found in them. The light-seeded and self-seeding tree species that occur most often are: *Populus tremula* and *Betula pendula*.

Plant species in the layers of shrubs, herbaceous plants and bryophytes reach varying degrees of density. They are composed mainly of generally common forest and brushwood plants of mesophilous or somewhat impoverished habitats. Plants of highly wetted and fertile habitats and plants of very poor habitats practically play no role here. The most common plant species in the shrub, undergrowth and bryophyte layers include: *Carpinus betulus*, *Populus tremula*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Cerasus avium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Viburnus opulus*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Galium odoratum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Maianthemum bifolium*, *Asarum europaeum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Atrichium undulatum*, *Plagiomnium cuspidatum*, *Brachytecium velutinum*.

In the present *T.-C. typicum*, primarily on the basis of the specific dominant species of the undergrowth plants, sometimes also of characteristic habitats, the following nine variants were distinguished.

Table 4. Phytosociological structure. I — association *Tilio-Carpinetum*. 1.2. — subassociation *T.-C. rypicwm* in variants: 1.2.1. — with *Asarum europaeum*, 1.2.2. — *Gallium odoratum*, 1.2.3. — with *Anemone nemorosa*

Number of community	12.		
	1.	2.	3.
Number of record	39	48	64
Date	95-05-29	94-05-27	94-05-24
Occurrence of community *	NW B ₁	SE Ca	NW B ₁
Exposition	0	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
Inclination of ground in	m	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
Maximum height of tress in	m	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
Maximum diameter of tress in	cm	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
Cover of the layer in %	>10 m A ₁	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
	<10 m A ₁	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
	>5 m B ₁	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
	<5 m B ₁	SW B ₁	NW B ₁
Number of species in record	25	33	23
A, B. Trees and shrubs			
I. Ch: a - <i>Quercus-Fagetea</i> , b - <i>Fagetalia silvatica</i> , c - <i>Carpinion betuli</i> , d - <i>Alno-Padion</i>	+ 2 1	+ + +	+ + +
a <i>Euonymus verrucosus</i> B ₁	.	.	.
a <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> B ₁	.	.	.
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B	.	.	.
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B ₁	2	2 1	3 4 1
b <i>Cerasus avium</i> B ₁	.	.	.
b <i>Cerasus avium</i> C	.	.	.
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> A	.	.	.
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> B ₁	.	.	.
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A	4 5 2 5 5	2 5 4 2 5 3 5	4 5 2 5 3 5 5 2 1 5 5 5 4
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A ₁	.	.	.
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> B ₁	.	.	.
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> C	.	.	.
c <i>Tilia cordata</i> A	.	.	.
c <i>Tilia cordata</i> B ₁	.	.	.
d <i>Pedus avium</i> B	.	.	.
II. Ch: a - <i>Dicrano-Pinion</i>	.	.	.
a <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> A	.	.	.

1.2.1. Variant with *Asarum europaeum*. This variant represents the shadiest form of the subassociation *T.-C. typicum*. It is formed on the weak-inclined slopes of deep-cut ravines. Worth noting in it are very dense occurrences of *Populus tremula* and *Carpinus betulus* among the trees, and in the undergrowth — *Asarum europaeum*, often with a high co-occurrence of *Oxalis acetosella*. In a typical form it was recorded only in one station of 0.4 are.

1.2.2. Variant with *Gallium odoratum*. It occurs most frequently in the upper sections of slopes of dry valleys and ravines, less often on the edges and ridges of flattop hills. It develops on the substratum with a highly varied inclination of the surface. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for its exceptionally high density of *Asperula odorata*. Moreover, in the tree layer, attention should be drawn to comparatively frequent and numerous presences of *Betula pendula*. Other plant species that occur comparatively most frequently in some expanses of this variant include: *Asarum europaeum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Pulmonaria obscura*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Plagiomnium affine* and *Eurhynchium schwartzii*. These plant species form complex facies patterns.

The variant with *Galium odoratum* represents one of the most common, secondary forms of communities in the association *T.-C. typicum*. It develops on scattered expanses of 1 to 1.5 are.

1.2.3. Variant with *Anemone nemorosa*. The present variant within the *T.-C. typicum* association represents, in respect of biotopic conditions and the floristic structure, an intermediate community between the more fertile (with *Asarum europaeum*, with *Galium odoratum*) and its poorer variants (inter alia with *Oxalis acetosella*, with *Maianthemum bifolium*). It develops in similar sites as the former variant. It is mainly distinguished for exceptionally numerous occurrences of *Anemone nemorosa* in it. This variant, after the die-back of its dominant spring plant, *Anemone nemorosa*, is difficult to differentiate from other variants, especially those with *Oxalis acetosella* or with *Gallium odoratum*. Other plant species that form complex facies patterns on some expanses of this variant include most often: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Gallium odoratum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, *Maianthemum bifolium* and *Atrichium undulatum*. It is a common variant, in scattered expanses of 0.5–2 are.

1.2.4. Variant with *Oxalis acetosella*. This variant develops mainly on the slopes of ravines and dry valleys with a high gradient, less often on the flat ridges of flattop hills. Most often these are mesophilous and highly shaded habitats. Floristically, it is chiefly characterized by an exceptionally high density of *Oxalis acetosella*. Other herbaceous plant species recorded in it that show the comparatively highest co-occurrence include: *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Asarum europaeum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Pulmonaria obscura*.

These species co-dominate with *Oxalis acetosella* and they form complex facies patterns at the same time. Worth noting is the frequent occurrence of many bryophyte species with a comparatively high density. For example: *Atrichum undulatum*, *Polytrichum formosum* and *Brachythecium velutinum*. It is often recorded, in scattered expanses of up to 1 are.

1.2.5. Variant with *Maianthemum bifolium*. This variant occurs in the similar sites as the preceding one: on the slopes of ravines and dry valleys, less often on the ridges of flattop hills. Floristically, it is distinguished for the exceptionally frequent and numerous occurrences in it of plant species of poorer habitats, especially with *Maianthemum bifolium*, *Heiracium murorum* and *Luzula pilosa*. Moreover, worth noting is the high percentage of bryophyte species that grow most often only in this and the preceding variant. These species include: *Plagiomnium cuspidatum*, *Cirriphyllum piliferum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*. The variant is fairly rare, occurring in scattered expanses of up to 0.5 are.

1.2.6. Variant with *Polypodium vulgare*. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for the exceptionally dense occurrence of *Polypodium vulgare* in it. It was recorded only in one station. It develops on a steep, mesophilous slope of the deep-cut ravine, covering the area of 0.4 are.

1.2.7. Variant with *Poa nemoralis*. It represents a self-seeding (self-regenerating) form of the typical thinned dry-ground forest growing on the substratum with a highly degraded surface layer of soil, chiefly forest litter. This takes place both on the steep ravine soils and on the almost flat ridges of flattop hills. In those conditions there has been a mass growth of *Poa nemoralis*, thereby reducing the stations of other typically forest herbaceous plant species. It was recorded only in two stands, on surfaces of 0.4 are.

1.2.8. Variant with *Equisetum hyemale*. The variant represents the most debatable form of the subassociation *T.-C. typicum*. It develops at the foot of slopes of dry valleys, in mesophilous sites with a slight gradient. It should be pointed out that under a highly dense layer of shrubs and growing saplings there grows *Equisetum hyemale* with an exceptionally high density. The species composition of the undergrowth layer is considerably simplified here on account of the high density of *Equisetum hyemale*. It occurs sporadically, usually in expanses formed as broken strips with a maximum size of 5×6 m.

1.2.9. Variant with *Dryopteris filix mas* and *Athyrium filix-femina*. The present variant occurs exclusively on the steep slopes of deep-cut erosional forms, most often ravines, less frequently dry valleys. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for the exceptionally numerous occurrences of two pteridophyte species, which form separate facies: *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Athyrium filix-femina*. Other recorded plant species that are found comparatively most frequently and in greatest

numbers in it include, inter alia: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Aruncus sylvestris* and several bryophyte species. It occurs fairly frequently, in scattered expanses of 0.4–1.5 are.

2. Community with *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*

This forest community occurs mainly on the flat ridges of vast flattop hills, less often on the gentle-inclined slopes of dry valleys. Genetically, this community represents a highly artificially deformed subassociation *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum*. This is evident first of all in a considerable percentage of the planted *Pinus sylvestris* in the tree layer. Moreover, in the tree layer there is a comparatively large percentage of self-seeding, light-seeded specimens of *Betula pendula* and *Populus tremula*. The recorded self-seeded tree species growing here, such as *Carpinus betulus*, *Cerasus avium* and *Quercus robur*, grow far more often and in greater numbers in their lower (A1) than in higher layer (A). It consists chiefly of *Corylus avellana* and the co-dominant tree species in their early growth stage, most often *Carpinus betulus* and *Cerasus avium*, and some others less often. In the undergrowth layer, usually very dense, the most common species of forest and brushwood plants of more fertile and poorer habitats play the main role. The undergrowth layer owes its characteristic appearance to the dense occurrence of *Rubus hirtus*. Moreover, this forest is clearly marked by the comparatively frequent and sometimes numerous occurrences of some plants characteristic of the class *Vaccinio-Piceetea*, especially *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Trientalis europaea*. The percentage of bryophytes, on account of the thick-lying and weakly decomposing forest litter, is practically very low. In this community of the degraded dry-ground forest, on the basis of the quantitatively varied participation of specified plant species of the poorer habitats, class *Vaccinio-Piceetea*, two secondary forms of communities were distinguished.

2.1. A typical form with *Rubus hirtus*. It represents a more fertile form of the community of the degraded dry-ground forest. It is characterized primarily by a constant and highly dense occurrence of a mesotrophic species, *Rubus hirtus*, and by sporadic occurrences of species characteristic of poorer forest habitats, such as *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Trientalis europaea*. Moreover, in this variant worth noting are the frequently growing plant species regarded as characteristic of both typically nitrophilous (e.g. *Urtica dioica*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Galeopsis pubescens*) and typically mesotrophic habitats (e.g. *Galium odoratum*, *Asarum europaeum*). It is found frequently, in expanses of varying size and area of up to several ares.

2.2. A form with *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Floristically and biotopically, this is a poorer form of the community of the degraded dry-ground forest with

Table 6. Phytosociological structure. 1 — association *Tilio-Carpinetum*. 1.2. — subassociation *T.-C. typicum* in variants: 1.2.9. — with *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Athyrium filix-femina*, (in facies: 1.2.9.1. — with *Dryopteris filix-mas*, 1.2.9.2. — with *Athyrium filix-femina*)

Number of community	1.2.	
	9.	2.
Number of record	97	108
Date	94-06-20	93-07-22
Occurrence of community ^x	Bc	Bc
Exposition	SE	SW
Inclination of ground in	35	35
Maximum height of tress in	18	18
Maximum diameter of tress in	30	30
Cover of the layer in %	50	50
Number of species in record	30	37
A, B. Trees and shrubs		
I. Ch: a - <i>Quercus-Fagetea</i> , b - <i>Fagetalia silvaticae</i> , c - <i>Carpinetum betuli</i> , d - <i>Alno-Padion</i>		
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B ₁	3	3
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B ₁	+	+
a <i>Euonymus verrucosus</i> B	+	+
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> A	2	5
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> B ₁	.	1
c <i>Cerasus avium</i> B ₁	.	.
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A	.	5
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A ₁	.	3
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> B ₁	.	+
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> C	.	+
d <i>Padus avium</i> B	.	.
II. Others		
<i>Quercus petraea</i> A	5	1
<i>Comus sanguinea</i> B ₁	2	4
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> B ₁	.	+
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> C	.	+
<i>Quercus robur</i> A	.	4
<i>Quercus robur</i> B	+	.
<i>Populus tremula</i> B	.	1
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> B ₁	2	1
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i> B ₁	.	+
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> B ₁	.	+

Table 6 continued

<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>								1	+	+							
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>										1	r						
D: Mosses																	
VI. Ch: a - <i>Fagetalia silvaticae</i> , b - others																	
a <i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	2	.	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	+	.	2	2	1	1
b <i>Eurhynchium schwartzii</i>	1	.	2	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Plagiomnium laetum</i>	1	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Plagiomnium cuspidatum</i>	2	2	1	1	1	.	+	1	1	1	.	.	2	.	1	.	1
b <i>Plagiothecium denticulatum</i>	.	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	2	1	1	.
b <i>Plagiochilla poreloides</i>	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Mnium stellare</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	2	.	1	+
b <i>Pohlia nutans</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
b <i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
b <i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	+
b <i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+

Species occurring in 1 record:

I a - *Acer campestre* B₁ 108/+, I c - *Cerasus avium* C 99/r. II - *Populus tremula* A 98/2, *Berberis vulgaris* B₁ 100/+, *Crataegus* sp. B₁ 100/r, *Rhamnus catharticus* B₁ 100/+, *Frangula alnus* B₁ 102/+.

III b - *Carex sylvatica* 102/+, *Phyteuma spicatum* 103/+, *Paris quadrifolia* 113/+. III c - *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* 113/+. III e - *Polystichum aculeatum* 101/r. IV - *Vaccinium myrtillus* 101/+, *Trientalis europaea* 109/r. V - *Cruciata glabra* 98/+, *Taraxacum officinale* 98/r, *Poa angustifolia* 100/+, *Silene nutans* 100/r, *Clinopodium vulgare* 103/+, *Solidago gigantea* 103/+, *Rubus idaeus* 108/+, *Veronica officinalis* 111/r, *Astragalus glycyphyllos* 112/+.

VI b - *Pohlia cruda* 98/1, *Atrichum cuspidatum* 98/+, *Dicranella heteromalla* 106/+, *Lepidozia reptans* 106/+, *Brachythecium velutinum* 107/1, *Polytrichum formosum* 110/2.

x, xx — as in Table 2.

Rubus hirtus. This is mainly evident in the co-domination of *Rubus hirtus* with *Vaccinium myrtillus*, sometimes with *Trientalis europaea* and *Pteridium aquilinum*. Plant species characteristic of typically nitrophilous or mesotrophic forest habitats play practically no role here. This form does not develop very frequently, mainly in small expanses of up to 1 are.

3. *Quercus roboris-Pinetum*

This association is found mainly on the flat or slightly inclined ridges of flattop hills. It develops less often in the upper sections of the slopes of dry valleys with a slight gradient. It also occurs sporadically at the foot of flattop hills in the area of old, washed-out sand-dunes. Genetically, the association represents a highly artificially transformed subassociation of the typical dry-ground forest that occurs on poor soils susceptible to podzolization processes. The layers of trees, brushwood and undergrowth are composed in this coniferous forest of species characteristic both of mesotrophic forests of the class *Quercus-Fagetea* and the acidophilous forests of the class *Vaccinio-Piceetea*. The tree species

Table 7. Phytosociological structure. 2. — community with *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*, in forms: 2.1. — typical with *Rubus hirtus*, 2.2. — with *Rubus hirtus* and *Vaccinium myrtillus*

Number of community	2.																		
	1.									2.									
Number of record																			
Date																			
Occurrence of community ^x																			
Exposition																			
Inclination of ground in																			
Maximal height of tress in																			
Maximal diameter of tress in																			
Cover of the layer in %																			
Number of species in record																			
A, B. Trees and shrubs																			
I. Ch: a - <i>Quercus-Fagetea</i> , b - <i>Fagetalia silvaticae</i> , c - <i>Carpinion betuli</i>																			
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B																			
a <i>Corylus avellana</i> B ₁																			
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> A ₁																			
b <i>Ulmus glabra</i> B ₁																			
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A																			
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> A ₁																			
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> B ₁																			
c <i>Carpinus betulus</i> C																			
c <i>Cerasus avium</i> A																			
c <i>Cerasus avium</i> A ₁																			
c <i>Cerasus avium</i> B ₁																			
c <i>Cerasus avium</i> C																			
II. Ch: a - <i>Vaccinio-Piceetea</i> (x, x), b - <i>Dicrano-Pinion</i>																			
b <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> a																			
III. Others																			
<i>Populus tremula</i> A																			
<i>Populus tremula</i> B ₁																			
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> B ₁																			
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> C																			
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> B ₁																			
<i>Betula pendula</i> A																			
<i>Quercus petraea</i> A																			
<i>Quercus petraea</i> A ₁																			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> B ₁																			
<i>Quercus robur</i> A																			
<i>Quercus robur</i> B ₁																			
<i>Franula alnus</i> B																			

Table 7 continued

C. Herbaceous and other plants

IV. Ch: a - *Quercus-Fagetea*, b - *Fagetalia silvaticae*, c - *Fagion silvaticae*, d - *Alno-Padion*

a <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	r	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
a <i>Melica nutans</i>	+	+	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	.	.	2	+	.	+	+	+	.	.	.
b <i>Asarum europaeum</i>	.	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Sanicula europaea</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Galium odoratum</i>	+	2	2	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
b <i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
c <i>Rubus hirtus</i>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5
d <i>Festuca gigantea</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
V. Ch: <i>Vaccinio-Piceeta</i>																				
<i>Triantalis europaea</i>	+	+	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	2	+	.	+
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	+	r	+	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	+	1	2	2	3	3	3	1
VI. Others																				
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	+	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	+	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Galeopsis pubescens</i>	.	r	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	r	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Fragaria viridis</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Rubus plicatus</i>	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	+	+	.	1	+	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	+	+	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	+	+	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cruciata glabra</i>	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Carex hirta</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

D: Mosses

VII. Ch: a - *Fagetalia silvaticae*, b - others

b <i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Brachythecium salebrosum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
b <i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Species occurring in 1 record:

I a - *Euonymus verrucosus* B₁ 125/+. II a - *Picea abies* A 117/1. III - *Ribes uva-crispa* B₁ 116/+, *Sambucus nigra* B₁ 117/2, *Ribes vulgare* B₁ 118/+, *Pyrus communis* B₁ 121/+, *Quercus robur* A₁ 124/2, *Prunus spinosa* B₁ 128/+.

IV a - *Brachypodium sylvaticum* 125/+, *Carex digitata* 126/+. IV b - *Actaea spicata* 122/+, *Milium effusum* 123/+. IV d - *Circaea lutetiana* 116/+. VI - *Galium aparine* 116/+, *Veronica officinalis* 117/+, *V. chamaedrys* 125/+, *Mycelis muralis* 122/+, *Aruncus sylvestris* 123/+, *Rubus* sp. 125/2, *R. caesius* 130/+, *Phegopteris connectilis* 126/+, *Hieracium lachenalii* 126/+, *H. sabaudum* 127/+, *Carex pallescens* 128/+, *Agrostis capillaris* 129/+.

VII a - *Atrichum undulatum* 116/+. VII b - *Pohlia nutans* 124/+, *Plagiomnium cuspidatum* 130/+, *P. affine* 131/+, *Brachythecium rutabulum* 131/+.

that grow here in different numbers — *Pinus sylvestris* and *Quercus robur* are there mainly as a result of planting. There is also a considerable percentage of self-seeding, light-seeded tree species, the main ones being *Betula pendula* and *Populus tremula*. The frequent, naturally growing tree species and with different density, such as *Carpinus betulus* and *Cerasius avium*, indicate the genetic origin of this mixed coniferous forest from the poorer expanses of *Tilio-Carpinetum*. The brushwood layer in this coniferous forest usually has an exceptionally high density and diverse species. It consists mainly of both typical fruticose species (*Corylus avellana*, *Frangula alnus*, *Cornus sanguinea*) and young, growing tree species (chiefly *Carpinus betulus*, *Cerasius avium*, *Quercus robur*, *Populus tremula* and *Sorbus aucuparia*). Worth noting in this coniferous forest is the sporadic presence of seedlings and young specimens of *Pinus sylvestris*. In the undergrowth layer, usually highly dense and not very rich in species, there are first of all very dense occurrences of *Vaccinium myrtillus*. This plant species dominates independently, less often with a fairly considerable co-occurrence of several other species, mainly *Anemone nemorosa*, *Gallium odoratum*, *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Calluna vulgaris*. The bryophyte layer in this forest is usually underdeveloped, less often highly dense. Its most common components include: *Atrichum undulatum*, *Brachythecium velutinum*, *B. rutabulum* and *Polytrichum formosum*. Many other bryophyte and lichen species were recorded only either in more fertile or poorer expanses of the association.

In this association of the mixed coniferous forest, on the basis of specific co-dominant species in the undergrowth layer, three variants were distinguished.

3.1. Variant with *Vaccinium myrtillus*. In respect of the general floristic structure and biotopic conditions, this variant seems to represent a more fertile and floristically richer form of the association. In the undergrowth layer *Vaccinium myrtillus* has the highest density. Moreover, in this variant there is a markedly frequent occurrence, sometimes with a high degree of coverage, of several plant species characteristic of more fertile leafy forests. These include: *Anemone nemorosa*, *Gallium odoratum*, *Carex digitata*, *Melica nutans*. Bryophytes occur here fairly often, yet usually with a low degree of coverage.

In the studied area this variant represents the most common form of the association of a mixed coniferous forest. It develops in expanses of varying size, the maximum being up to 1 hectare.

3.2. Variant with *Pteridium aquilinum*. It is found equally frequently both on the ridges and slopes of old, washed-out sand-dunes and on the sloping loess ridges of vast flattop hills. Floristically it is distinguished in the association primarily for the exclusive co-domination of *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Within the area investigated it occurs rarely, mostly in small expanses of up to 1.5 are.

3.3. An impoverished variant with *Lycopodium annotinum* and with *Polytrichum formosum*. In respect of the general floristic structure and biotopic conditions, this variant represents an intermediate community between associations *Quercus roboris-Pinetum* and *Peucedano-Pinetum*. It develops only at the foot of flattop hills, on highly depleted, sandy podzolic soils. In the undergrowth layer it is characterized primarily by the exceptionally and highly simplified species composition. It owes its characteristic appearance to the occurrence of *Vaccinium myrtillus*, often with *Lycopodium annotinum* and with *Polytrichum formosum*.

Locally, this is the rarest form of the mixed coniferous forest. It develops in the neighbourhood of other variants of this association, in scattered expanses of up to 0.5 are.

4. *Peucedano-Pinetum*

This association occurs exclusively on the ridges and slopes of old, washed-out sand-dunes that are found at the foot of vast flattop-hills. This takes place exclusively on the south-western edge of the area investigated. Floristically, this association is distinguished primarily for its highly simplified composition of the undergrowth layer species and for the exceptionally high occurrence of bryophytes in it. Its characteristic appearance is owed to the dense occurrence of two species: *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Pleurozium schreberi*.

In this association, two variants were distinguished that are chiefly characterized by specific co-dominant plant species in the undergrowth layer.

4.1. A typical variant. In the investigated area it represents the most typical, developed form of the fresh coniferous forest. It develops on poor, podzolic sandy soils. Floristically, it is distinguished primarily for very dense occurrences of *Vaccinium myrtillus* exclusively. It is recorded rarely, in scattered expanses of up to several are-size.

4.2. Variant with *Calluna vulgaris*. It is found on extremely depleted, podzolic sandy soils. Floristically, it is characterized primarily by an exceptionally highly simplified composition of the undergrowth species and by the exclusive occurrence of *Calluna vulgaris* in great numbers. Moreover, it is characterized by the frequent occurrence of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*. It develops rarely, in expanses of up to 0.5 are.

Forest soils (Table 1)

In the area investigated the condition of development of the soils and the forest communities that settled on them is highly complex. This follows first of all from diversified geomorphological properties (dry valleys and ravines) and from the complex structure of the substratum of Quaternary covers (loess, loam,

dusts, silts, sands). Altogether, in the studied forest communities, four basic soil forms were found.

Locally, the most spatially complex mosaic of soil forms occurs in the distinguished variants of the subassociation *Tilio-Carpinetum stachyetosum silvaticae*. Black-earth soils were identified in two variants: with *Aegopodium podagraria* (profile 1) and with *Petasites albus* (profile 4). Black-earth soils probably also occur in the variant with *Urtica dioica*. However, brown soils and related acid brown soils were found in variants with *Aruncus sylvestris* (profile 2) and with *Equisetum sylvaticum* (profile 3).

In the studied forests the most common are acid brown soils (profiles 2, 7–10) and podzolic soils (profiles 5, 6, 11, 12). The two soil forms dominate spatially in mosaics in different variants of the subassociation *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum* (profiles 5–10). In the *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus* forest community and in associations *Quercus roboris-Pinetum* and *Peucedano-Pinetum* there are almost exclusively podzolic soils (profiles 11, 12). In the investigated area, the extremely depleted, typical sandy podzolic soils are characteristic only of the association *Peucedano-Pinetum* (profile 13).

The recorded forest soils were essentially formed on four kinds of the Quaternary substratum. The most frequent substratum for those soils are loess covers, pure or with dust, loam or sand interbedding (profiles 2, 3, 5, 8–12). Less often they are homogeneous sediments of dust (profiles 1, 4) or sand (profile 13) or loess with a high sand content (profile 7). Only in one case was a soil type recorded that was formed on the dusty substratum lying on the limestone rock (profile 6). Generally these are soils with average humus content. The percentage of skeleton elements and CaCO_3 compounds in them is sporadic and negligible. They differ in abundance in P_2O_5 compounds. Their structure is usually prismatic and lump-like, and the fraction pattern is compact or medium compact. Their pH values range 3.5–6.3. Generally, they are mesophilous soils or constantly highly wetted, shallow or medium deep. They are characterized by the ombrophilous water economy.

Descriptions of Soil Pits

Profile 1

0–33 cm, humus level, dark grey; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 33 cm, matrix level; ordinary stratified dust, plate-like structure, medium-firm pattern.

Profile 2

0–4 cm, humus level, almost black; ordinary dust, granular structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinctly uneven transition.

4–30 cm, browning level of brown colour; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, weakly-firm pattern, gradual transition.

30–110 cm, browning level, stratified, of dark brown colour; silty dust, prismatic structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

110–120 cm, brown underlying rock; medium loam, dusty, with a negligible amount of northern grit.

< 120 cm, matrix level; loose sand, light grey.

Profile 3

0–1 cm, weak-decomposed forest litter level, of brown colour.

1–5 cm, humus level, almost black; ordinary dust, granular structure, weakly-firm system, distinct transition,

5–50 cm, browning level of light brown colour; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 50 cm, underlying layer; light-coloured sand with northern grit.

Profile 4

0–50 cm, humus level, dark with steel-like shade, traces of gleying; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, indistinct transition.

50–70 cm, mineral humus level, somewhat darker colour than in Level A; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 70 cm, underlying layer; light loamy sand, of grey colour.

Profile 5

0–2 cm, weak-decomposed forest litter level, of brown colour.

2–4 cm, humus level, dark-grey; ordinary dust, limp-like structure, light-form pattern, distinct transition with smudges.

4–20 cm, eluvial level, light grey; silty dust, lamellar structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

20–40 cm, illuvial level of dark brown colour; silty dust, prismatic structure, firm pattern, indistinct transition.

40–160 cm, illuvial level, alternately stratified, light and dark brown thin layers, several cm-thick; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, weakly-firm pattern.

Profile 6

0–25 cm, humus level, dark grey; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, indistinct transition.

25–35 cm, eluvial level, light grey; ordinary dust, lamellar structure, medium-firm pattern, indistinct transition.

35–60, illuvial level, rust-coloured; heavy loam, prismatic structure, firm pattern, gradual transition.

< 60 cm, matrix level, grey weathered limestone rock.

Profile 7

0–10 cm, humus level, dark-grey; ordinary dust with a high sand content, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct pattern.

10–50 cm, browning level, brown; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, firm pattern, distinct transition.

50–110 cm, alternately stratified browning level, light and dark brown thin layers, several cm thick; light dusty loam with northern grit, lump-like structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 110 cm, matrix level; loose light-grey sand.

Profile 8

0–2 cm, humus level, almost black; ordinary level, granular structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct transition yet uneven with pockets.

2–60 cm, browning level, dark brown; silty dust, prismatic structure, firm pattern, indistinct transition.

< 60 cm, matrix level, decalcified loess, of grey colour.

Profile 9

0–2 cm, humus level, of dark almost black colour; ordinary dust, granular structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct transition yet uneven with pockets.

3–20 cm, browning level, of light brown colour; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 20 cm, matrix level; straw-coloured, weak-stratified loess, decalcified.

Profile 10

0–5 cm, humus level, almost black; ordinary dust, granular structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct yet uneven transition.

5–20 cm, browning level, of dark brown colour; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

20–70 cm, matrix level, straw-coloured; ordinary dust, prismatic structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct transition.

< 70 cm, underlying rock level, of light-brown colour; medium loam with a large amount of northern grit.

Profile 11

0–2 cm, forest litter level, medium-decomposed, of brown colour.

3–6 cm, humus level, dark grey; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct yet uneven transition.

6–30 cm, eluvial level, light grey; silty dust, lamellar structure, l-medium-firm pattern, distinct transition.

30–60 cm, illuvial level, dark brown; silty dust, firm pattern, prismatic structure, indistinct transition.

60–160 cm, illuvial level, alternately stratified, thin layers several cm thick, of light and dark brown colour; silty dust, prismatic structure, weakly-firm pattern, indistinct transition.

< 160 cm, matrix level, decalcified, straw-coloured loess.

Profile 12

0–3 cm, weak-decomposed forest litter level, of brown colour.

3–4 cm, humus level, dark, discontinuous, not occurring in some places; ordinary dust, lump-like structure, weakly-firm pattern, distinct transition.

4–50 cm, eluvial level, light grey; silty dust, lamellar structure, medium-firm pattern, distinct-transition.

50–110 cm, illuvial level, dark brown, silty dust, prismatic structure, firm pattern, indistinct transition.

110–160 cm, illuvial level, alternately stratified, light and dark brown thin layers several cm thick; ordinary dust.

Profile 13

0–3 cm, the level of bryophyte raw humus and of not decomposed coniferous litter.

3–5 cm, humus level, grey; loose humus sand, rooted, indistinct, smudgy transition.

40–50 cm, illuvial level, rust-brown; loose, compressed sand, indistinct transition.

90–100 cm, matrix level; loose wet sand, light yellow.

RESULTS

The Phytosociological and Ecological Structure
and the State of Knowledge
of the Forest Phytocenoses Described

The forest phytocenoses investigated possess certain specific phytosociological and ecological properties. This is determined primarily by the original geomorphological, geological and hydrological terrain diversity. Moreover, these are private-owned forests and generally highly and diversely artificially deformed, especially in respect of the tree layer structure.

Altogether, in the studied area four principal ecological-phytosociological groups of forest communities developed: dry-ground forests, degraded dry-ground forests with *Rubus hirtus*, mixed coniferous forests and fresh coniferous forests. The spatially most widespread are forests of the alliance *Carpinion betuli* belonging to the association *Tilio-Carpinetum* formed in two subassociations and sixteen variants. One of the subassociations, *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae*, occurs mainly on the bottoms, less often on the slopes of dry valleys and ravines. The other, *T.-C. typicum*, develops almost exclusively on the slopes of the above erosional forms lying on loess.

The phytosociological rank and position of the two subassociations of the dry-ground forest is difficult to determine definitively. Above all, these are forests that have been anthropogenically transformed to a different degree, especially in respect of the density and floristic composition of the tree layer. Chiefly for that reason, apart from the natural-growing trees here (*Carpinus betulus*, *Tilia cordata*, *Quercus robur*), they also have a large percentage of self-seeding, light-seeded tree species (*Betula pendula*, *Populus tremula*), and of the artificially planted *Pinus sylvestris*. Moreover, in the tree stand of these forests worth noting is, on the one hand, a comparatively large percentage of *Ulmus glabra* and on the other — a sporadic participation, inter alia, of *Tilia cordata* and the total absence of, for example, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fagus sylvatica*. In the undergrowth layer of the dry-ground forest association, worth noting is above all a considerably lower percentage of plants regarded as characteristic species of phytocenoses of the alliance *Carpinion betuli* than of the alliance *Fagion sylvaticae*. This is especially conspicuous in the layer of herbaceous plant species. Another puzzling feature in these forests is the absence of several species characteristic of the forest associations of the alliance *Carpinion betuli*, for example *Carex pilosa*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Ranunculus cassubicus*. Moreover, in the investigated dry-ground forests, worth noting is the occurrence of stations of several plant species regarded as mountain elements. Among these plants *Aruncus sylvestris* has common occurrence while *Petasites albus* is found far

less frequently. The two species of mountain plants in the subassociation *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae* form separate variants. Another mountain plant species, *Polystichum lobatum*, was recorded in the form of a single tuft in one expanse of *T.-C. typicum*, in a variant with *Dryopteris filix-mas* and *Athyrium filix-femina*.

The former subassociation, *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae*, represents a community strongly related to the association *Aceri-Tilietum*. The latter, *T.-C. typicum*, in a way represents its floristically impoverished natural form. Generally, the two subassociations of the dry-ground forest can be also regarded as their regionally original 'ravine' varieties. Very similar 'ravine' varieties of the dry-ground forest subassociations, *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae* and *T.-C. typicum*, have been recorded earlier in several stations on the Lublin Upland (23, 24, 25). Within the two investigated dry-ground forest subassociations of the 'ravine' variety, most often were described their variants with *Galium odoratum*, with *Oxalis acetosella* and with *Anemone nemorosa*, far less often variants with *Aruncus sylvestris*, *Viola mirabilis* and with *Asarum europaeum* (7, 23, 24, 25 and literature quoted). However, the other variants distinguished in the subassociation *T.-C. stachyetosum sylvaticae* (with *Petasites albus*, with *Impatiens parviflora* and with *Equisetum sylvaticum*) and in the subassociation *T.-C. typicum* (with *Dryopteris filix-mas*, with *Polypodium vulgare*, with *Equisetum hyemale*) have probably not been described yet in Poland.

The forest community defined as *Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus* represents in turn a highly degraded natural form of the subassociation *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum*. It develops on flat or slightly inclined ridges of flattop hills, less often on the upper sections of the slopes of dry valleys with a low gradient. In the primary habitat of the local typical dry-ground forest, due to intensive stand thinning and the simultaneous artificial preference of *Pinus sylvestris* in that area, there was, among other things, a massive expansion of the nitrophilous species *Rubus hirtus*. With the poorer habitats of the degraded dry-ground forest, apart from *Rubus hirtus*, some plant species also settled that are regarded as characteristic of the coniferous forests of the class *Vaccinio-Piceetea*. In that case, the community of the degraded dry-ground forest (*Carpinus betulus* — *Rubus hirtus*) formed in a variant with *Vaccinium myrtillus* represents an intermediate community between the forests of fertile habitats (alliance *Carpinion betuli*) and oligotrophic ones (class *Vaccinio-Piceetea*). Quite similar communities of the degraded dry-ground forest association with *Rubus hirtus* have been described earlier from other stations, e.g. in the Lublin macro-region (7).

The associations described — with *Quercus robur*-*Pinetum* and *Peucedano-Pinetum* of the alliance *Dicrano-Pinion*, belong to those most commonly described at home and abroad (e.g. 5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 27, 30, 31). In the area investigated these are semi-natural phytocenoses of coniferous forests, mainly on account

of the artificial preference of *Pinus sylvestris* and *Quercus robur*. These associations are exceptionally poor in index species of the characteristic and distinctive ones. Locally, the two phytocenoses are distinguished primarily for a comparatively quite percentage of the naturally self-seeding *Carpinus betulus*. Both the associations of the coniferous forests occur outside erosional forms lying on loess. This takes place mainly on the flat ridges and footholds of the flattop hill surfaces on the typically formed sandy podzolic soils. One of the two associations, *Peucedano-Pinetum*, develops only in the south-westernmost part of the area studied, on the substratum of old, Quaternary, washed-out sand-dunes, with the most typical, developed podzolic soils.

Floristic Peculiarities

In the forests of the investigated area the stands of ca. 270 plant species of pteridophytes and flower plants were recorded (26). Most of these plant stations were earlier described and published from this area, yet usually from indeterminate sites (4, 6). Worth noting are the stations of a dozen-odd rare species of the mountain and non-mountain plant group that are partly under legal protection. A great majority of these plant species grow exclusively or most often in the stations of the appended phytosociological records in Tables 1–7. These include, out of the non-mountain plant species, *Equisetum hyemale* L. (rec. 95, 96 and between them), *Digitalis grandiflora* Mill. (rec. 16) and *Brachypodium pinnatum* (L.) Beauv. (rec. 13, 33), and of the mountain ones: *Huperzia selago* (L.) Benh. Schrank et Mart. (rec. 82), *Polystichum aculeatum* (L.) Roth. (rec. 101) and *Petasites albus* (L.) Gaertn. (rec. 36, 37, 38, 77). Moreover, the mountain plant group also includes *Aruncus sylvestris* Kostel. In the studied area this is one of the most common plant species that occurs on the slopes of ravines and dry valleys within *Tilio-Carpinetum stachyetosum* and *T.-C. typicum*.

Several more interesting plant species were recorded mainly outside the stations of the appended phytosociological records in Tables 1–7. This applies above all to the following plant species:

1. *Equisetum variegatum* Scheich. Wandalin, SW part. On a ravine slope with E exposure, *T.-C. typicum*, an impoverished form of the variant with *Oxalis acetosella*. One tuft. FE53, below the bridge on the Wandalin-Widły road and phytosociological [phytosoc.] rec. 106.

2. *Cimifuga europaea* Schipcz. In two sites: Chruślina, N part. On a ravine slope with N exposure, *Tilio-Carpinetum*, high-growing herbaceous plant stage. A dozen-odd specimens. FE53, near the station of phytosoc. rec. 23; Chruślina, NW part. On the slope of a side ravine with NE exposure. Several specimens. FE53, on the station of phytosoc. rec. 16 and near phytosoc. rec. 67.

3. *Veratrum lobelianum* Bernh. Chruślina, NW part. On the bottom and slopes of a dry valley and side ravines, *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum*, a depleted form of variant with *Oxalis acetosella*. In two sites, a dozen-odd specimens each. FE54, near the stations of phytosoc. rec. 37 and 73.

4. *Cephalanthera longifolia* (L.) Fritsch. Chruślina, NW-most part. On the rim of the bottom of dry valley, *Tilio-Carpinetum typicum*, with weakly dense tree stand. Several specimens. FE53, 300 m E of phytosoc. rec. station no. 98.

Moreover, worth noting in the studied forests are numerous and scattered stations also of other more interesting plant species, such as *Daphne mezereum* L., *Neotia nidus-avis* (L.) Rich., *Platanthera bifolia* (L.) Rich., *Lycopodium annotinum* L., *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh., *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (L.) Newman, *Phegopteris connectilis* (Michx) Watt., *Dryopteris dilatata* (Hoffm.) A. Gray and *Isopyrum thalictroides* L. They were also recorded in the stations of the appended phytosociological records in Tables 1–7 and outside them.

Out of the above mentioned twenty plant species, special attention should be drawn to the small part of them that represents the mountain flora. These are: *Huperzia selago*, *Polystichum lobatum*, *Petasites albus* and *Veratrum lobelianum*. The stations of those and other mountain plant species are known from many other forests growing in the similarly formed dry valleys and ravines on the loess terrain of the Lublin Upland (4, 6, 7, 24, 25). These plants, almost in all the stations known so far — in the uplands, dry valleys and ravines, with specific micro-climatic and humidity conditions, represent interesting relict elements, which, however, are successively disappearing at the same time (23, 24, 25)

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