

THE PRODUCTIVITY ASSESSMENT OF THE VEGETATION OF THE SALINE GRASSLANDS IN ROMANIA

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Abstract. *The vegetation of the saline soils (Solonceacuri, Soloneturi and Solodii) in Romania is represented by permanent grasslands and occupies approximately 300,000 hectares from the Black Sea coast to some low plains with groundwater on the surface. Habitat 1310, Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand represented by the Salicornion prostratae alliance, has a pastoral value (PV) of 3.9 and green mass production (GMP) of barely 0.36 t/ha and Habitat 1410, Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) with 5.5 PV and 0.45 t/ha GMP, both are assessed as degraded from forage quality point of view. Habitat 1530, Pannonic salt-steppes and salt marshes comprises 5 alliances (Cypero-Spergularion, Puccinellion limosae, Junciongerardii, Beckmanione ruciformis and Festucion pseudovinae) with 30.9 PV and 3.85 t/ha GMP, which allows an optimal loading of 0.37 LU/ha in 160 days, 10 times higher than at H 1310 and H 1410. Respecting the optimal grazing capacity is necessary to preserve the biodiversity of these grasslands.*

Keywords: salty grasslands habitats, pastoral value, green mass production

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1. Introduction

The vegetation of the grasslands of the halomorph soils (soloneturi, solonceacuri, solodii) and the ones from the Black Sea of Romania covering an area of about 300,000 ha have been studied much more from a floristic and geobotanical point of view by numerous researchers.

There are just a few studies regarding the productivity of the halophilous grasslands and their grazing capacity and this is the reason why we set up to research this aspect and present the results in this paper.

2. Materials and Methods

In order to evaluate the pastoral value, the production of green fodder mass and the optimal grazing capacity, the synthetic geobotanical surveys from the work "Vegetation of saline soils in Romania", compiled by Ioan Pop and published in 2002 were used [7].

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