

The 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting

28.- 31. May 2010

Smolenice Congress Centre, Slovak Republic

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Organizers: European Dry Grassland Group; DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Slovakia; Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia.

Main topic of the meeting:

Succession, restoration and management of dry grasslands

Subtopics: a) succession and restoration in dry grassland communities, b) detection of „favourable conditions“ of dry grassland habitats, c) management models for grassland habitats, d) species invasions and expansions in dry grasslands, e) classification of successional stages and degraded communities.

The meeting will be held in Smolenice near Trnava (Western Slovakia) located about 60 km from the capital city Bratislava in north-eastern direction on the eastern foothills of the Malé Karpaty Mts. The castle of Smolenice (figure right) shelters the Congress Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences where the meeting will take place. The participants can be accommodated directly at the place. In the Congress Centre 82 beds are available (in single-, double- and three-bed rooms). In the restaurant premises, 120 seats for catering are available. Adjacent English park, well included into mountain forest edge, offers numerous possibilities for walking to the visitors.



The castle in Smolenice, place of the 7th EDGG meeting in 2010.

Preliminary time schedule:

- 27.5. arrival and dinner possible
- 28.5. arrival and registration, lectures and business meetings
- 29.5. lectures and poster sections
- 30.5. excursion (Dry grasslands of Považský Inovec, Tematín)
- 31.5. excursion and departure (Species rich semidry grasslands of Biele Karpaty Mts., Vrbovce)
- 1.6. breakfast possible, departure, optional lift to Bratislava by bus and short excursion to Devínska Kobyla (3-4 hours) available

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Locality Bôrovište in the Area of European importance Tematínske vrchy - destination of Excursion 1. Photo: M. Janišová.

Excursion 1: Dry grasslands of Tematínske vrchy (Považský Inovec Mts.)

The Area of European importance Tematínske vrchy is built by calcareous bedrock, mostly triassic dolomites and has a very warm and dry climate with a distinct period of summer draughts limiting for distribution of living organisms. The area hosts a wide variety of dry grassland communities on calcareous bedrock (pannonian rupicolous grasslands, dealpine dry grasslands, etc.) as well as numerous rare and endangered plant and animal species (*Daphne cneorum*, *Onosma visianii*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Limonium abortivum*, *Tibicen plebejus*, etc.). At the same time the area is a suitable place for presenting the effects of succession, afforestation by non-native woody species (*Pinus nigra*, *Fraxinus ornus*) and overgrazing by introduced large herbivores (muoflons) on various grassland communities.



Tematínske vrchy, Festuco pallentis-Caricetum humilis association. Photo: M. Janišová.

Excursion 2: Species rich semi-dry grasslands of the White Carpathian Mts. (Biele Karpaty Mts.) in Vrbovce

Biele Karpaty Mts. (White Carpathian Mts) are situated along the border between Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Meso- and subxerophilous grasslands of this region are famous especially for their great species richness - up to 80 species of vascular



Tematínske vrchy, Minuartio setaceae-Seslerietum calcariae association with Phyteuma orbiculare. Photo: M. Janišová.



Biele Karpaty Mts., Vrbovce - destination of Excursion 2. Species rich meadows of Žalostiná. Photo: J. Košťál.

plants may occur in a plot of just 25 m². In the surroundings of the village Vrbovce there is a lot of lonely houses called “kopanice” with a mosaic of small arable fields, orchards and grasslands. Near such settlements beautiful species rich meadows occur belonging especially to the association *Brachypodio pinnati-Molinietum arundinaceae* from the alliance *Bromion erecti* (figure left). These stands are very valuable for the occurrence of many endangered and rare plant species, especially of the orchid family (*Orchideaceae*).

Excursion 3: Dry grasslands of Devínska Kobyla (Malé Karpaty Mts.)

The unique territory of the Devínska Kobyla (National Nature Reserve) is situated nearby capital city of Bratislava. It is well known paleontological and geological site with specific, rare and rich species steppic flora and fauna, which represents one of the Natura 2000 sites and Important Plant Areas. From the phytosociological point of view, the prevailing

vegetation types are natural and semi-natural communities of sub-mediterranean xero-thermophilous oak woods (*Corno-Quercetum*, *Pruno mahaleb-Quercetum pubescentis*), colline limestone grasslands (*Poo badensis-Festucetum pallentis*, *Festuco pallentis-Caricetum humilis*, *Festuco vallesiaca-Stipetum capillatae*, *Polygalo majoris-Brachypodietum pin-nati*) and Pannonian fringe vegetation (*Geranio sanguinei-Dictamnietum albae*).



Pulsatilla grandis and *Iris pumila* in The castle in Smolenice, the National Nature Reserve Devínska Kobyla. Photo: K. Hegedúšová.



Locality Sandberg in the National Nature Reserve Devínska Kobyla - destination of Excursion 3. Photo: K. Hegedúšová