

Vegetation Database of the Shahdag Region, Azerbaijan

Jonathan Etzold, F. Münzner, J. Peters, J. Limberg, M. Wenzel, T. Dahms & M. Manthey

Abstract: The outstanding phytodiversity of the Caucasus region is partly threatened by livestock grazing. In the study "Proper Utilisation of Grasslands in Azerbaijan's Steppe and Mountains: an Ecological and Socio-Economic Assessment to Avoid Overgrazing and to Ensure Sustainable Rural Development" funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, we assessed on 222 plots in the years 2007 and 2008 the effects of grazing on high mountain grassland vegetation, species composition and the productivity. The relevés have been assigned to 13 unranked communities in four main groups: five xerophytic subalpine communities (mainly innermontane/ southern slopes), three mesophytic subalpine communities (mainly northern slopes), one community of nitrophilous camp site lawns and four alpine communities (publication in prep.). This report describes the available content in the Vegetation Database of the Shahdag Region, Azerbaijan (GIVD ID EU-AZ-001).

Keywords: Greater Caucasus; steppe; mountain grassland.

GIVD Database ID: EU-AZ-001		Last update: 2012-07-08	
Vegetation Database of the Shahdag Region, Azerbaijan			
Scope: Data capture in frame of project "Proper Utilisation of Grasslands in Azerbaijan's Steppe and Mountains: an Ecological and Socio-Economic Assessment to Avoid Overgrazing and to Ensure Sustainable Rural Development" funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. Grasslands (summer pastures and hay meadows) in the subalpine and alpine zone of the Shahdag region in the Greater Caucasus			
Status: completed and continuing		Period: 2007-2008	
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Owner: [NA]			
Web address: [NA]			
Availability: not yet available		Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): TURBOVEG		Export format(s): TURBOVEG	
Publication: not finalized yet			
Plot type(s): nested plots; time series		Plot-size range: 0.01-100 m ²	
Non-overlapping plots: 222	Estimate of existing plots: 222	Completeness: 100%	
Total plot observations: 1,094	Number of sources: [NA]	Valid taxa: 563	
Countries: AZ: 100.0%			
Forest: 0% — Non-forest: aquatic: 0%; semi-aquatic: 0%; arctic-alpine: 493%; natural: 0%; semi-natural: 0%; anthropogenic: 0%			
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%			
Environmental data: altitude: 100%; slope aspect: 100%; slope inclination: 100%; microrelief: 100%; soil depth: 100%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 100%; soil pH: 100%; other soil attributes: 100%; land use categories: 100%			
Performance measure(s): cover: 100%; biomass: 100%			
Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 100%			
Sampling periods: 2000-2009: 100.0%			
Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-AZ-001			

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