

Key words: biodiversity, pasture preserved territories, botanical composition

INTRODUCTION

The natural ecosystems provide resources for our existence, as they supply us with food, water, oxygen, medicines, wood, as well as protect us from natural disasters, help us for our re-creation and many other benefits.

At present, the greatest threat to biodiversity is its loss.

In the past, it was mainly due to natural factors, mostly to climate changes, while nowadays the main threat is the human activity.

We take these goods for granted to such an extent that we would be able to realize their importance only when we lose them.

Every twenty minutes a plant or an animal species becomes extinct from the planet. Only in Bulgaria 30 plant and 16 animal species have become extinct over the last 50-60 years (quote).

Due to extremely various climatic, geological, topographic and hydrological conditions, there are rich flora and diversity of plant communities in Bulgaria.

There are 170 species and 100 subspecies of Bulgarian endemic species (Petrova, 2006) and 270

animals usually are accompanied by a herd – a shepherd, a goatherd or cowherd. They include natural and semi-natural grass vegetation, alpine grass communities, bushes, swampy and woody areas.

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72021.07 ha.,

1991 .

2012 .

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(DIR 5113325-12-109).

“

2007-2013 ."

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1.

animals usually are accompanied by a herd – a shepherd, a goatherd or cowherd. They include natural and semi-natural grass vegetation, alpine grass communities, bushes, swampy and woody areas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Central Balkan National Park is the second largest national park in Bulgaria with an area of 72021.07 ha, as it was declared for a preserved territory in 1991. It is situated in the central part of Bulgaria. It has been created with the aim to preserve biodiversity, local means of living and traditions in the Central Balkan Mountain. In 2012, the project "Central Balkan – Park for Everyone" (DIR 5113325-12-109) started. The project was financed by the European Regional Development Fund of Republic of Bulgaria, through Operational Programme "Environment 2007-2013".

The main aim of the project is to implement activities for organization and management of Central Balkan National Park and the natural reserves, which are managed by the Directorate of the park.

During project development 11 model territories (MT) for observation were chosen, as the following **criteria** were used:

- 1. Practicing of livestock

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(2013-2014 .);

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(2007)

92/43/EEC:

- (6520);
- - (62D0);
- (6150);
-

(6170);

grazing

- There are three conditions determined:

- The areas have to belong to Multifunctional zone of Central Balkan National Park;
- Grazing has to be implemented at these areas during the last years (2013-2014);
- • Territories have to be traditional (also used in the past) grazing areas for domestic animals.

2. Available places for watering domestic animals

3. Key natural habitats available

- Under key habitats should be understood natural habitats with high concentration of floristic biodiversity and treeless natural habitats in unfavorable condition.

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The condition for finding a model territory is the presence of one or some of the following natural habitats, which belong to appendix 1 of Biological Diversity Act (2007) and Directive 92/43/EEC:

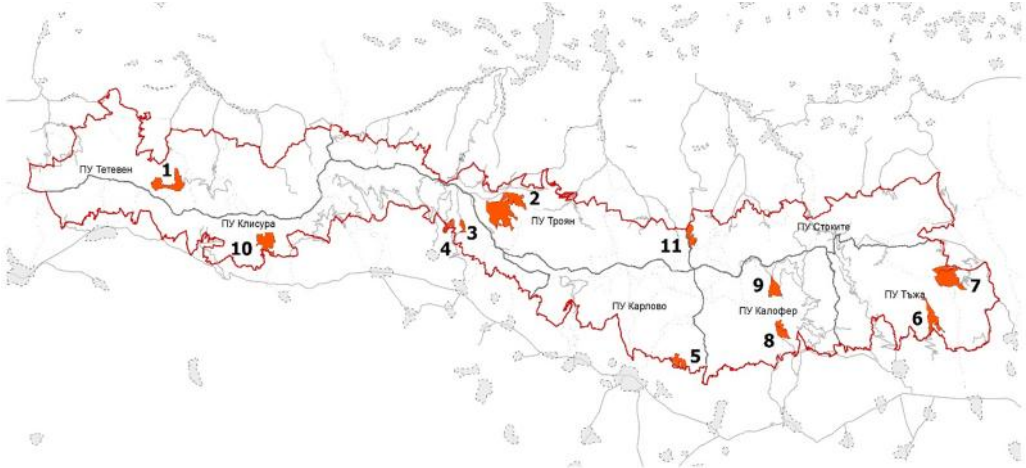
- • Mountain hay meadows (6520);
- • Oro-Moesian acidophilous grasslands (62D0);
- • Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands (6150);
- • Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands (6170);

• (6230);
 • (6210);
 ”
 ” ” (DIR 5113325-12-109).
 ” “,
 2014 .
 11-
 11
 17405.35 da,
 5100.33 da.
 10800.42 da.
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 1 3.
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- • Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas(6230);
 - • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate (6210);
 - The choice of model territories was made in some successive steps and it was based on primary information from the assignment of the public procurement "Selection of Natura consultant" on the project "Central Balkan – Park for everyone" (DIR 5113325-12-109). The first step was to make GIS analysis of the available information on the above criteria. Its aim was to identify the territories of the Central Balkan National Park, which covered the choice criteria at the most. After that the information was verified on a terrain in the period August-September 2014. The third step was the choice and contour of the borders of the 11 model territories.
 The total area of the chosen 11 model territories was 17405.35 da, as the separate territories varied from 311.14 da to 5100.33 da. The total area of the key habitats for preservation was 10800.42 da. Model territories included totally 15 grazing areas, as the pastures were from 1 to 3 in each of the model territories.
 - MT were the following: Paradzhika, Paradzhishki chal, Shopov egrek, Bolovanya, Gorni

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(. 1).

polenitsi, Poin dol, Sivriyata,
Dapkovo, Danovska polyana,
Sinanitsa and Arapska mandra
(Fig.1).



- 1. / Boluvanya
- 2. / Poin dol
- 3. / Sivriyata
- 4. / Danovska polyana
- 5. / Arapska mandra
- 6. / Shopov egrek
- 7. / Sinanitsa
- 8. / Paradzshika
- 9. / Paradzshiski chal
- 10. / Dapkovo
- 11. / Gorni polenitsi

- / Моделна територия
- / Граници на НП "Централен Балкан"
- / Граница парков участък
- / Пътища
- / Пътеки
- / Урбанизирани територии

- / Model territory
- / Borders of Central Balkan National Park
- / Border of park section
- / Roads
- / Paths
- / Urbanized territories

Within the borders of each
- MT were chosen transects, which
, were situated in the space in such
, a way to be suitable for collection
- of data for the various biological
- groups and to give opportunity for
common analysis of data and
interpretation of results. Transects
- were focused in one point and
- usually followed the main cardinal
- direction, but they also complied
with the specific conditions of the
- terrain and the location of the
pens. Along the axes of each
- transect were made 3

3 -
 100 m, 300 m , 500 m.
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 318
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 3 - ,
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 • - -
 16 7 -
Trifolium (12), *Anthylis* (2
), *Medicago*, *Lotus*, *Vicia*
Coronilla 1
 .
 • - -
 46 -
Poa (7
), *Carex* (6), *Festuca* (5),
Bromus *Luzula* - 3 ,
Agrostis, *Phleum*, *Cynosurus*
Koeleria - 2,
 (*Danthonia*, *Dichantium*,

phytocenotic descriptions,
 - relatively at 100 m, 300 m and 500
 m. One phytocenotic description
 - was also made (zero description)
 - in the center of each test area,
 evenly remote from the beginning
 of each transect.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the studies 318
 species of higher plants were
 identified. From an agronomic
 point of view, species in the
 composition of pastures within the
 borders of MT were divided in 3
 groups – grasses, legumes and
 species of motley grasses. It is a
 traditional accepted division, which
 is based on forage qualities and
 the role of these groups, as
 nutritional basics for the livestock.

In analyzing the established
 floristic composition of pastures the
 following results were gathered:

• Legumes – rpresented by
 16 species of 7 genera – *Trifolium*
 (12 species), *Anthylis* (2 species),
 and *Medicago*, *Lotus*, *Vicia* and
Coronilla were rpresented by 1
 species.

• Grasses – included 46
 species, the following genera had
 the greatest diversity of species –
Poa (7 species), *Carex* (6),
Festuca (5), *Bromus* and *Luzula* –
 with 3 species, *Agrostis*, *Phleum*,
Cynosurus and *Koeleria* – with 2,
 and the other genera (*Danthonia*,

Lolium, Brachypodium, Holcus, Anthoxanthum, Vulpia, Juncus, Chrysopogon, Dactylis, Nardus, Calamagrostis, Deschampsia Sesleria) 1 .

216 . -

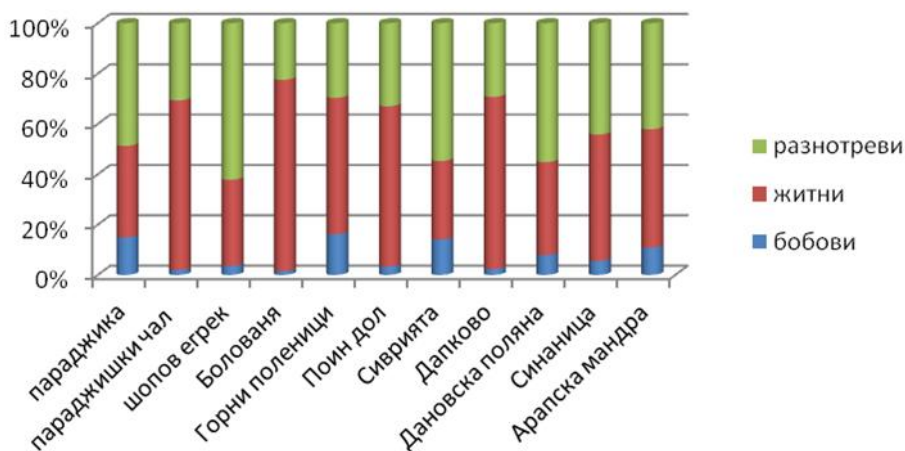
: *Potentilla* (9), *Centaurea* (7); *Viola, Veronica, Ranunculus* – 6; *Achillea, Galium, Stachys Thymus* – 5; *Alchemilla, Geranium, Hieracium, Rumex Verbascum* – 4 *Campanula, Cirsium, Euphorbia, Geum, Hypericum, Leontodon, Plantago, Potentilla, Sedum Silene* 3

1 2 .

Dichantium, Lolium, Brachypodium, Holcus, Anthoxanthum, Vulpia, Juncus, Chrysopogon, Dactylis, Nardus, Calamagrostis, Deschampsia and Sesleria) had 1 species.

• Species of the group of motley grasses, which includes 216 species. The following genera had the greatest number of species: *Potentilla* (9 species), *Centaurea* (7); *Viola, Veronica, Ranunculus* – with 6; *Achillea, Galium, Stachys and Thymus* – with 5; *Alchemilla, Geranium, Hieracium, Rumex and Verbascum* – with 4 and *Campanula, Cirsium, Euphorbia, Geum, Hypericum, Leontodon, Plantago, Potentilla, Sedum and Silene* with 3 species. The other genera were presented with 1 or 2 species.

Thirty-seven species were shrub-like and wood-like, and they were not a subject of the present study.



. 2.

Fig. 2. Botanical composition of model territories

31%
-
-
Hieracium pilosella, *Rumex acetosella*,
-
Trifolium repens
2%.
3. -
-
Hieracium pilosella, *Scabiosa columbaria*,
Euphorbia cyparissias, *Acinos alpinus*,
Rumex acetosella, *Galium verum*
-
34%,
Festuca valesiaca (15-35%)
Agrostis canina (8-15%).
(4%),
Trifolium.
4. -
76%.
Nardus stricta (15-65%),
Festuca

of the group of motley grasses had coverage averagely 31% of the species composition of the grass phytocenosis. Species of higher abundance and coverage were *Hieracium pilosella* and *Rumex acetosella*, which were favourable from grazing regime of use. Legumes had low coverage, as only *Trifolium repens* had coverage up to 2%. For the rest of the species of this group the coverage was under 1%.

3. Shopov egrek – In the composition of grass communities in this MT were predominant species from the group of motley grasses, as species with higher abundance and coverage were *Hieracium pilosella*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, *Euphorbia cyparissias*, *Acinos alpinus*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium verum* etc. These are species, which had low forage value and were not preferred by grazing animals. The group of grasses were presented with 34%, as predominant were *Festuca valesiaca* (15-35%) *Agrostis canina* (8-15%). These species have the basic nutritional basics for the livestock. Legumes were presented slightly (4%), as predominant were species of genera *Trifolium*.

4. Bolovanya - The group of grasses was predominant with 76%. Predominant species was *Nardus stricta* (15-65%), and *Festuca nigrescens*, *Agrostis*

nigrescens, *Agrostis capillaris*
Lerchenfeldia flexuosa. -
 ,
 -
Thymus longicaulis
Verbascum longifolium.
 (2%),
Trifolium repens *Genista*
tinctoria.
 5. -
 -
 54%. ,
 -
 ,
Agrostis capillaris, *Festuca*
valesiaca, *Festuca rubra* *Nardus*
stricta. -
 30%,
 -
Carduus kernerii s.
austro-orientalis, *Hieracium*
pilosella, *Alchemilla* sp., *Cirsium*
vulgare *Verbascum longifolium*.
 -
 16%. *Trifolium*
repens ,
 -
 6. -
 ,
 64%. ,
Agrostis
capillaris, *Festuca rubra*, *Festuca*
nigrescens, *Lerchenfeldia flexuosa*
Nardus stricta.
 ,
 -

capillaris and *Lerchenfeldia*
flexuosa were less presented. The
 group of motley grasses was the
 next according to representatives,
 as the species with higher
 abundance and coverage were
Thymus longicaulis and
Verbascum longifolium. Legumes
 had low coverage (about 2%), as
 they were represented by *Trifolium*
repens and *Genista tinctoria*.
 5. Gorni polenitsi -
 - Grasses were predominant in the
 species composition of the
 pasture. Species that had
 significant coverage and essential
 role, as forage basics were
Agrostis capillaris, *Festuca*
valesiaca, *Festuca rubra* and
Nardus stricta. Species of motley
 grasses had coverage of 30%, as
 these of higher abundance were
Carduus kernerii s. *austro-*
orientalis, *Hieracium pilosella*,
Alchemilla sp., *Cirsium vulgare*
 and *Verbascum longifolium*. The
 participation of legumes in this MT
 was 16%. *Trifolium repens* was
 subdominant, especially in grass
 communities subjected to more
 intensive grazing.
 6. Poin dol - Grasses
 were dominant, as their coverage
 was 64%. The dominant species
 were *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca*
rubra, *Festuca nigrescens*,
Lerchenfeldia flexuosa and *Nardus*
stricta. The first three species had
 very good forage and nutritional
 characteristics, while *Nardus* is
 more coarse grass and is not
 preferred by livestock. Species of

9.	-	<i>Chamaespartium sagittale</i> .
	-	9. Danovska polyana –
55%.	-	The species of motley grasses had the leading role in the species composition, as they dominated with 55%. Dominant species were
<i>Carex caryophyllea, Euphorbia cyparissias, Plantago lanceolata, Hypericum maculatum, Achillea collina, Hieracium pilosella</i>	-	<i>Carex caryophyllea, Euphorbia cyparissias, Plantago lanceolata, Hypericum maculatum, Achillea collina, Hieracium pilosella</i> etc.
37%.	-	Grasses were next group according to representatives with 37%. Three species were dominant –
<i>Festuca nigrescens, Agrostis capillaris, Koeleria nitidula</i>	-	<i>Festuca nigrescens, Agrostis capillaris</i> and <i>Koeleria nitidula</i> . Legumes were most slightly represented (8%). Three species of genus <i>Trifolium</i> were found –
(8%).	3	<i>T. repens, T. alpestre</i> and <i>T. dubium</i> .
<i>Trifolium</i> – <i>T. repens, T. alpestre, T. dubium</i> .	-	10. Sinanitsa – Grasses dominated in species composition
10.	-	(<i>Agrostis capillaris, Festuca nigrescens</i> and <i>Nardus stricta</i>) with 50%. The next was the group of motley grasses with 44%. The species with greater abundance and coverage were
(<i>Agrostis capillaris, Festuca nigrescens, Nardus stricta</i>) 50%.	-	<i>Thymus longicaulis, Hieracium pilosella, Verbascum longifolium, Alchemilla</i> sp.
44%.	-	Legumes presented with 6%, as that coverage predominantly was formed by
<i>Thymus longicaulis, Hieracium pilosella, Verbascum longifolium, Alchemilla</i> sp.	-	<i>Trifolium repens</i> .
6 %,	-	11. Arapska mandra –
<i>Trifolium repens</i> .	-	There was almost equal participation of grasses (47%) and motley grasses (42%). The main species of grasses were
11.	-	<i>Festuca valesiaca</i> and <i>Agrostis canina</i> , and for motley grasses –
(47%)	-	<i>Thymus longicaulis, Carex caryophyllea, Scleranthus perennis</i> and <i>Achillea</i>
(42%).	-	
<i>Festuca valesiaca, Agrostis canina, Thymus longicaulis, Carex caryophyllea, Scleranthus</i>	-	

perennis *Achillea collina*.
11%
Trifolium repens *T. pratense*.

- *collina*. Legumes presented with 11% as this coverage was formed predominantly by *Trifolium repens* and *T. pratense*.

CONCLUSIONS

- The floristic diversity of Central Balkan National Park is extremely rich. 318 species were found in the grass level, of low and high bushes level, and from the low wood level.

- In the studied model territories (MT), **legumes** were 19 from 7 families, as predominant was genera *Trifolium*. They took 2% in the grassland in MT "Paradzhishki chal" and "Bolovanya", as they reached up to 16% in MT "Gorni polenitsi".

In the grass coverage, **grasses** species took from 31% in MT "Sivriyata" up to 68% in MT "Dapkovo". They were represented by 46 species, as the most numerous was genus *Poa* with 7 species.

Species of motley grasses were 216, representatives of a big number of genera. They took from 22% to 62% from the total projective cover in MT.

318
()
19 7
Trifolium.
2 %
" "
16% "
31%
" " " 68%
" "
Poa 7
216 ,
62% 22

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 2 , 5800 ,
 3 , 5600 ,
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PRODUCTIVITY OF BULGARIAN GRAZING ECOTYPES OF PERENNIAL LEGUMES

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SUMMARY

In order to preserve and develop the potential of Bulgarian grazing ecotypes of legumes as genetic resources for selection in grazing direction, the variability in seasonal productivity in grazing ripeness of Bulgarian legume populations, originated by semi-natural or sown pastures was studied in the period 2013-2015 in a field experiment conducted in ESS-Pavlikeni. Study included 10 populations of the following species: bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.) – 5 populations; red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.) – 3 and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) – 2. Two Bulgarian cultivars, such as bird's-foot-trefoil 'Turgovishte 1' and red clover 'Sofia 52', were also included as standards for the intraspecies comparison in the study. The species and populations in the three vegetations did not differ reliably according to productivity in spring growing. Significant differences were found in dry vegetative matter yield in

(Chourkova, 2009, 2012, 2013; Scheffer-Basso et al., 2011), (Ford and Barrett, 2011) (Sewell et al., 2011).

grazing ripeness stage, both on species and population level, for the conditions of second and third cut, as well as in the late summer cut (fourth cut) in third vegetation. The highest dry matter yield in summer regrowing was recorded for the grazing populations of alfalfa, as the differences in their favour were the greatest in the third vegetation under conditions of intensive summer drought. Populations of bird's-foot-trefoil and red clover were chosen with high summer and annual productivity with harvesting in grazing ripeness stage, as well as with good resistance and survival till the end of third vegetation.

Key words: alfalfa, red clover, bird's-foot-trefoil, seasonal productivity, selection

INTRODUCTION

The selection for suitability of grazing is a main tendency in the improvement work with perennial legume forage grasses, such as bird's-foot-trefoil (Chourkova, 2009, 2012, 2013; Scheffer-Basso et al., 2011), red clover (Ford and Barrett, 2011) and alfalfa (Sewell et al., 2011). As genetic resources for selection of grazing cultivars in these cultures are often used ecotypes, which are formed from populations with natural specific adaptation to the growing region and grazing regime of use.

By means of selection and hybridization of ecotypes were created a number of approved red clover cultivars in Europe, having important characteristics for the grazing usage of the species – early ripeness, permanence, even

(Boller et al., 2012).

Gates (2003), Bouton and Moutray (2000)

“ ”

(Hill, 1990).

Berdahl et al. (1986).

- seasonal productivity, better competitiveness in growing of grazing mixtures (Boller et al., 2012). For the species, such as red clover and alfalfa, which have low natural grazing sustainability, grazing use is a stress factor, which consolidates grazing ecotypes.

- Such ecotypes could originate also by cultivars with a wide area of spread. Bouton and Gates (2003), as well as Moutray (2000) describe procedures for selection of grazing cultivars of alfalfa by subjecting populations of adapted cultivars to continuous grazing.

- Good ecological adaptation of grazing ecotypes includes also an adaptation to accompanying grass species in the grazing grass communities. Since grazing types develop in natural plant communities, then their genotype is a result also of coevolution of species.

- The choice of components of coexisting populations of forage grasses, having high "common ecological combinative ability", is crucial for selection of grazing cultivars and respectively for productive grazing mixtures, which maintain dynamic stability of grassland (Hill, 1990). Such results in selection of grazing alfalfa presented Berdahl et al. (1986).

According to them the highest

- value for selection of grazing cultivars has the populations with
- natural adaptation both to grazing and to species and genotype of
- grass components in the mixture.

- In order to preserve and develop the potential of Bulgarian grazing ecotypes of legumes as
- genetic resources for selection of grazing cultivars in the present
- study is studied the natural variability in seasonal productivity
- in grazing ripeness stage of Bulgarian legume populations,
- originating from semi-natural or sown pastures.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

10
 (Lotus corniculatus L.) – 5
 ;
 (Trifolium pratense L.) – 3
 (Medicago sativa L.) – 2.
 „ 1”
 „ 52”,
 (Vasilev, 2011;
 , 2015).
 2012
 2013-
 2015 .

The study included 10 populations of the following species: bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.) – 5 populations; red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.) -3 and alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) – 2. As standards for intraspecies comparison in the study are included two Bulgarian cultivars: bird's-foot-trefoil 'Targovishte 1' and red clover 'Sofia 52', which are distinguished with good grazing suitability (Vasilev et al., 2011; Naydenova and Mitev, 2015). Seeds for reproduction of populations were obtained from our botanical expedition, conducted in 2012 in several regions of the Central Northern Bulgaria. The experiment was conducted in the period of 2013-2015 in the experimental field of

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The species and populations in the three vegetations did not differ reliably according to productivity in spring growing (Table 2). Reliable differences were found in dry vegetative matter yield, both on species and population level, under the conditions of second and third cut, as well as in the late summer regrowing (fourth cut) in third vegetation. The observed differences are relevant for the selection assessment of the studied material, since the high summer productivity and the even distribution of annual yield in seasons are main criteria for choice in creation of grazing cultivars. The highest dry matter yield in summer regrowing was recorded for alfalfa populations – figures 1-3. Population 2 of this species is distinguished by productivity with the most identical cuts.

2.
(2013-2015 .)
Table 2. Variance in dry matter yield for cuts in three experimental years (2013-2015)

		First vegetation	Second vegetation	Third vegetation
I	/ cut	0,0020 ^{NS}	0.030 ^{NS}	0.008 ^{NS}
II	/ cut	0.0050*	0.042*	0.037 ^{P<0.10}
III	/ cut	-	0.033***	0.0019*
IV	/ cut	-	0.011 ^{NS}	0.00063**

The greatest differences in favour of grazing populations of alfalfa are found in the third

(Li et al., 2008; Bouton, 2012).

1, 2 5
(1)

(Blumenthal and McGraw, 1999).

(2).
2

- vegetation under conditions of intensive summer drought. Alfalfa is also mentioned in other studies as economical alternative of bird's-foot-trefoil and clover for grazing namely due to their highly sustainable productivity (Li et al., 2008; Bouton, 2012).

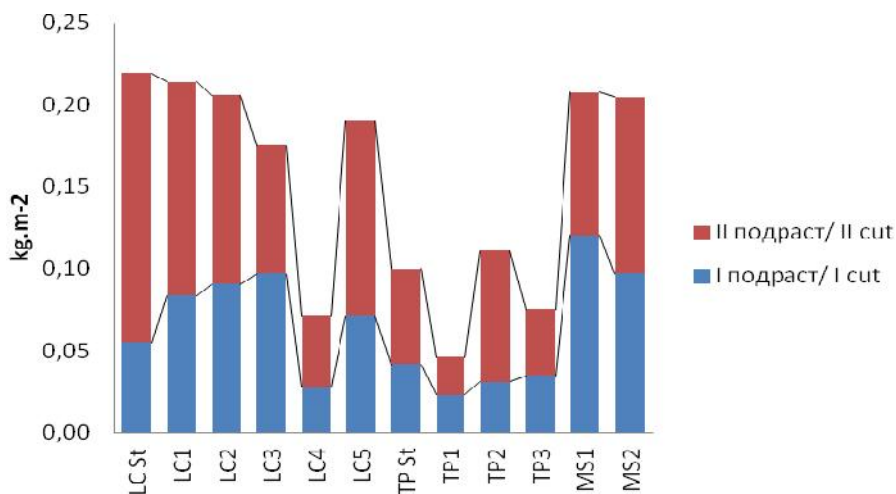
- Bird's-foot-trefoil is a species with slower growth in the year of sowing and the reported high net yields for populations 1, 2 and 5 in the first vegetation (Figure 1) could be accepted as an indicator for the high competitiveness of those genotypes, which aligns with this of 'Targovishte 1' cultivar.

1.

- In comparison with the other perennial legumes, bird's-foot-trefoil has got lower content of nonstructural carbohydrates in roots, and regrowing rate depends on carbohydrate metabolism, and respectively on the system of use (Blumenthal and McGraw, 1999).

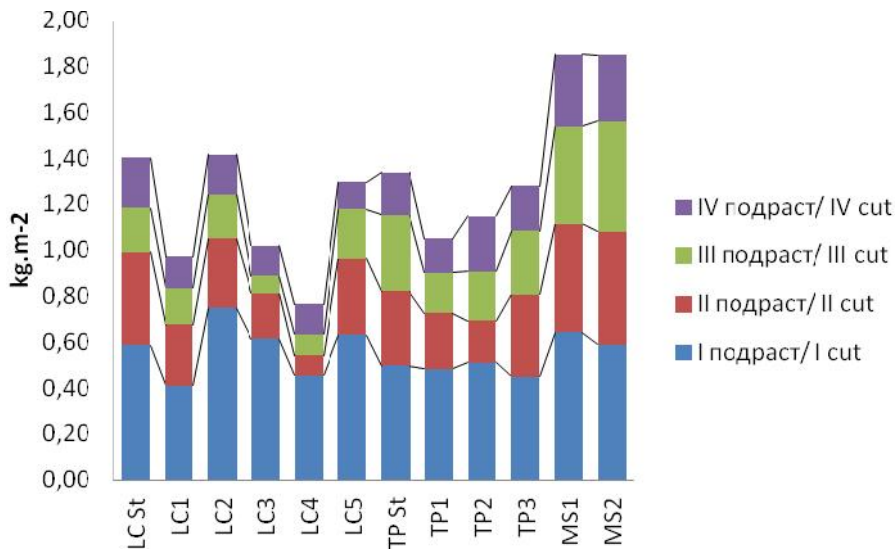
The higher frequency of mowing/harvesting in grazing ripeness stage applied in the present experiment could be related to the lower summer yields of bird's-foot trefoil in comparison with alfalfa and red clover, in spite of the excellent moisture degree in summer months and the maximal development of the culture in the second vegetation (Figure 2). This biological limitation is least manifested in population 2 and the standard cultivar of 'Turgovishte 1'.

1. - In the third vegetation these two genotypes are the only species, which regrow after intensive drought in July (Figure 3).
 (3).



1. , kg.m⁻²
Fig. 1. Seasonal dry matter yields by cuts, in the first vegetation kg.m⁻²

LC - *Lotus corniculatus*; TP - *Trifolium pretense*; MS - *Medicago sativa*



2. , kg.m⁻²
Fig. 2. Seasonal dry matter yields by cuts in the second vegetation, kg.m⁻²

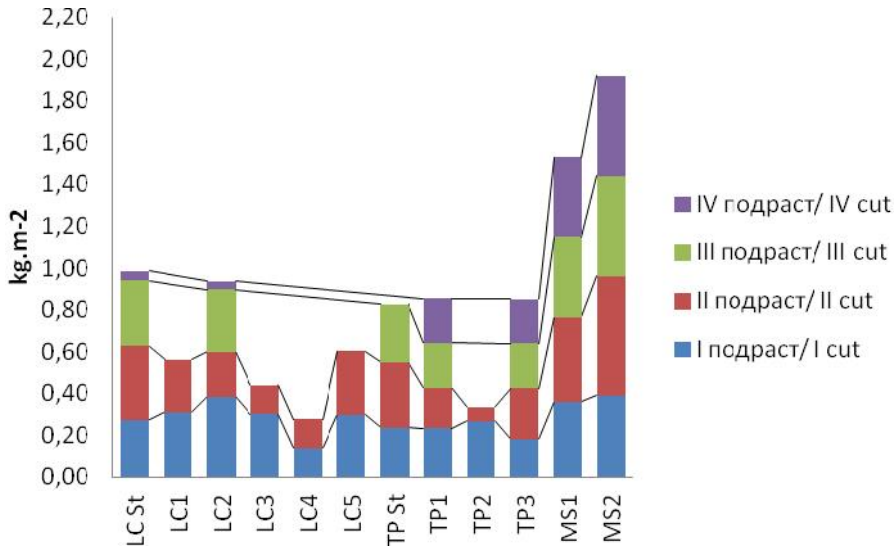


Fig. 3. Seasonal dry matter yields by cuts in the third vegetation, kg.m⁻²

Differences among studied grazing populations of red clover are important for the first and third vegetation, as they are due to differences in biological and morphological type of populations. Population 1, with shooting growing habitus, has slower growth and respectively productivity in the first and second vegetation, but according to yield results in the third year it could be characterized as more permanent and sustainable. Population 3 did not distinguish from the standard cultivar 'Sofia 52' according to annual and seasonal yield, and according to growth rate and morphology, but it shows better sustainability in the intensive summer drought in the third vegetation (Figure 3).

Differences among studied grazing populations of red clover are important for the first and third vegetation, as they are due to differences in biological and morphological type of populations. Population 1, with shooting growing habitus, has slower growth and respectively productivity in the first and second vegetation, but according to yield results in the third year it could be characterized as more permanent and sustainable. Population 3 did not distinguish from the standard cultivar 'Sofia 52' according to annual and seasonal yield, and according to growth rate and morphology, but it shows better sustainability in the intensive summer drought in the third vegetation (Figure 3).

CONCLUSION

- Significant differences were observed in dry vegetative matter yield in grazing ripeness stage, both on species and population level, under conditions of the summer cuts. The highest dry matter yield in summer regrowing was recorded for the grazing populations of alfalfa, as the differences in their favour were the greatest in the third vegetation under conditions of intensive summer drought. Populations of bird's-foot-trefoil and red clover were chosen with high summer and annual productivity with harvesting in grazing ripeness stage, as well as with good resistance and survival till the end of third vegetation.

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TO THE ISSUE OF DURABILITY OF SOME ARTIFICIAL MEADOW SWARDS UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF THE CENTRAL BALKAN MOUNTAIN - BULGARIA

1. Productivity

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SUMMARY

- The survey includes a number of
- researches on the behaviour and
- durability of some meadow grasses with a
- local origin. They were grown individually
or in a mixture between them, along the
slopes of the Central Balkan Mountain,
with a different exposure towards the four
cardinal points and diversity in soil
gleying.

- In the beginning of the experiments,
the yields from swards at a low degree of
soil gleying, high part of the mountain
slope, exceeded significantly these from
higher levels of gleying, low part of slope.

- In the end of the studied period (11th-13th
year) was found a relative balancing in

(11 -13 .)

productivity in the variants, at high and slight gleying, especially at east and south-easterly exposure of the slope. At a low degree of soil gleying, the productivity gradually decreased with the increase of number of years of growing.

Diversity in the behaviour of swards was found in the high degree of soil gleying, the low part of slope. Under these habitat conditions, the different variants increased their productivity in the end of the reported period (9th-13th year).

The conclusion was drawn, that "each structural unit" (... , species, population, cultivar, ...) represents a peculiar energy-informational system of a different order, with the corresponding "projection in Time", with all consequences in individual and evolutionary plan that arise out of that. "The level of energy saturation" that has been reached is in a direct connection with the formative process. In accord with the developed hypothesis we consider that a part of the environmental factors could remain inaccessible for plants conditionally forever. That determines the productivity, durability and etc.

Key words: Balkan Mountain, meadow grasses, slopes, hypothesis

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Key words: Balkan Mountain, meadow grasses, slopes, hypothesis

INTRODUCTION

(Mitev and Petrov, 1999)
(Hector, 1998)

(Darwin, 1872).

(Sanderson et al., 2004).

The issue about the advantages (Mitev and Petrov, 1999) and disadvantages (Hector, 1998) of the simple and complex mixed swards and their comparison with those independently established, has got a very long history (Darwin, 1872). It has manifested during the years with incessant power (Sanderson et al., 2004). Global climate changes require a selection of specific combinations of species,

(Ives et al., 2000).

al., 1998).

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(Shumway, 2000),

(, 1984; , 1997

- which should establish such diversity in swards that the latter
- could resist the extreme environmental conditions of the habitat (Ives et al., 2000). Pasture established areas cover a significant share in production of harsh forage, which in turn forms a positive norm of profitability in agriculture (Frank et al., 1998).
- The specificity in the regulation of water consumption in the species increases soil humidity and decreases its temperature. The change in its thermoregulation leads to decrease of air temperature over it (Shumway, 2000), which increases their significance in ecological terms.

- A number of studies
- conducted in the country showed the impossibility to be established high-quality and long lasting meadow swards through imported seeds (Totev, 1984; Mitev, 1997; etc.). It necessitated the setting of a wide range selection programme for establishment of meadow grasses cultivars with a local origin that corresponded to the habitat conditions.

- The aim of the present study
- was to find the durability of some mixed meadow swards, situated on the slopes of the Central Balkan Mountain in Bulgaria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The methods of setting and
- conduction of the experiments are

(Mitev and Belperchinov 1996; Mitev and Yasheva 1998; Mitev and Belperchinov, 2000; Mitev and Naydenova 2012).

- described more comprehensively in previous publications (Mitev and Belperchinov 1996; Mitev and Yasheva 1998; Mitev and Belperchinov, 2000; Mitev and Naydenova 2012) An essential feature of them is the situating of sward along the mountain slopes, with different exposure in relation to four cardinal points and the difference in soil gleying. The habitat conditions are described exactly for each of them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(2000),

In productive terms the different grass combinations, which are a subject of a great scheme for environmental testing (Mitev and Belperchinov 2000), when situated on soils with a lower level of gleying, at high part of slope, especially in the initial period of the experiment, exceeded significantly those with a higher level of gleying, at low part of slope. In the end of studied period (11th – 13th year) was found a relative balancing in productivity in the variants, at high and slight gleying, especially at the east and south-easterly exposure of the slope.

(11 -13 .)

(. . 12 .)

2010a),

- In comparing the data was found that in 2005 (i.e. 12 years after sowing) the independently grown red fescue (Naydenova and Mitev, 2010a), at a north slope, slightly gleyed soils, there was the highest productivity, in comparison with all other types of swards, a

, (, 2000), (, 2008a), (, 2008a), (, 2008b) .. (, , 2008a), " " , 1995 .; 1999 .; 2002 .; 2004 .; 2006 .. 13 (2006 .) , , , . (, 2008a). 1995 ., 1999 ., 2002 ., 2004 ., 2006 ., , , , , .

subject of the common scheme of study (Mitev and Belperchinov, 2000), such as red and tall fescue (Mitev and Naydenova, 2008a), red fescue and Kentucky bluegrass (Naydenova and Mitev, 2008a), red fescue and bird's foot trefoil (Mitev and Naydenova, 2008b) etc.

In situating the mixed swards of red fescue and tall fescue, on slopes of the mountain (Mitev and Naydenova, 2008a) was found a presence of peculiar "peaks" in the productivity, independent of their level of gleying, in 1995; 1999; 2002; 2004; 2006.

In the 13th year (2006) since the experiment had been set, the productivity of this type of sward, at east exposure, highly gleyed soils, was the highest for the overall period of study.

Periodicity with the same succession was found in the mixed sward of red fescue and Kentucky bluegrass (Naydenova and Mitev, 2008a).

The increase in productivity in 1995, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, as is the case in the above-mentioned combination, could not be related directly neither with fertilizing, nor with the amount of rainfall.

At north-easterly exposure, on highly gleyed soils was registered a considerable evenness in productive terms, especially during

(1994-1999 .).
 2004, . . 11
 , 2008b),
 (2001-2006 .)
 2000 .).
 12
 (1994-2000 .).
 , 2010b), (11
 (. . 2004)
 , 2014)
 9 (. . 2002 .).

the first half of the reported period (1994-1999).

For a mixed sward of red fescue and birdsfoot trefoil, in case of high level of soil gleying, easterly exposure in 2004, i. e. in the 11th year since the beginning of the experiment (Mitev and Naydenova, 2008b), was found the highest yield for the period of study. Besides, the productivity in that variant in the second part of the experiment (2001-2006) was higher in comparison with the first one (1994-2000). At south-easterly exposure, with a high level of exposure, this type of sward was the most productive in the 12th year since the beginning of the experiment. At north-easterly exposure, with a high level of soil gleying, the sward productivity was higher in the first part of the reporting period (1994-2000).

At highly gleying soils, with south-easterly exposure, mixed sward of red fescue, tall fescue and bird's foot trefoil (Naydenova and Mitev, 2010b), in the 11th year since the beginning of the trial (i.e. 2004) was obtained the highest yield for this variant.

The mixed sward of red fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and bird's foot trefoil (Mitev and Naydenova, 2014) at south-easterly exposure, highly gleyed soils, formed the most forage mass in the 9th vegetation (i.e. 2002).

At north exposure, low

for each individual variant, with all the resulting consequences.

The frequency of vibration in Nature is related to species diversity, with the direction in development of the genetic material. And if this defines the status, behaviour and so on, then in this case everything happens "now". In this sense there is a (theoretical) chance the Evolution to "go over again". Each concrete "structural unit" (... , species, population, cultivar, ...) probably represents a peculiar "projection" in Time, which defines its ability "to situate in it".

This forms the specificity in expression means (Mitev 2004; itev and Naydenova, 2012).

(Mitev and Belperchinov, 1996; Mitev and Yasheva, 1998; Mitev, unpublished)

" (... , ...) (itev, 2004; itev and Naydenova, 2012).

" (Mitev and Belperchinov, 1996)

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In previous publications was developed the idea for a relation between the energy essence of Nature (Mitev and Belperchinov, 1996; Mitev and Yasheva, 1998; Mitev, unpublished) and the status of the concrete "structural units" (... , species, population, ...) (itev, 2004; itev and Naydenova, 2012). The opinion has been expressed, that their behaviour in the environment is defined by the reached "level of energy saturation" (Mitev and Belperchinov, 1996). Its change leads to shrinking and widening, i.e. to shape forming.

Besides, there is a mutual interdependence between the reached energy level and the created hereditary information

and Yasheva, 1998).
 ” (...)
 ” (itev, 2004; itev and
 Naydenova, 2012),
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 , 1989)
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 (, 1996).
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 Gorjaev 1997 (Gorjaev, 1994;
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 Gorjaev, (1994;
 1997)

(Mitev and Yasheva, 1998). If each
 "structural unit" (... , species,
 population, ...) represents a
 peculiar "projection in Time"
 (itev, 2004; itev and
 Naydenova, 2012), it is not difficult
 to suppose that the component
 combination (in this case grass
 species, including with these of the
 soil and etc.) leads to interaction at
 "a time level".

The principles of symmetry of Time
 (equivalent to directions "future" –
 "past" for each moment) lead
 directly to the law on preserving
 the energy (Mitrani, 1989) and to
 durability of swards in the cases
 that we discuss.

It is considered that the power of
 energy-informational fields
 exceeds that of the genetic code
 (Lazarev, 1996). There is a feeling
 that something imperceptible for
 now has an influence over the
 manifestation of swards?! In the
 results of the authors, which are
 discussed here, has been come to
 the supposition that the concrete
 genetic material interacts at
 energy-informational level. The
 thesis of energy-informative
 influence of DNA over the status of
 supreme organisms is known
 (Gorjaev, 1994; Gorjaev 1997
 etc.). A number of experiments,
 including those cited by Gorjaev
 (1994; 1997) results of other
 authors find that impact, but not
 the possible interaction.

(Mitev and
Naydenova 2008a,b; Naydenova
and Mitev, 2008;2010a,b

- Our studies on durability (Mitev
and Naydenova 2008 a;b;
Naydenova and Mitev,
2008;2010a,b, etc.) show that one
and the same combination of
meadow species manifests itself in
different way depending on habitat,
i.e. the understanding is reached
for occurrence of peculiar "energy-
information systems" of a different
order.

- Each similar system probably has
the ability to have on its disposal a
certain "Time span", which
determines the durability both in
individual and evolutionary plan.

CONCLUSIONS

- In the beginning of the
experiments, the yields from
swards at a low degree of soil
gleying, high part of the mountain
slope, exceeded significantly these
from higher levels of gleying, low
part of slope. In the end of studied
period (11th-13th year) was found a
relative balancing in productivity in
the variants, at high and slight
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swards is found in the high degree
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slope. Under these conditions of
the habitat, the different variants
increased their productivity in the
end of the reported period (9th-13th

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