

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF SESSILE OAK AND EUROPEAN BEECH FORESTS FROM CODRU-MOMA MOUNTAINS

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Abstract

This work represents a phytocoenologic study of the *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* associations Resmeriță (1974) 1975 of Codru-Moma Mountains. The study of sessile oak and European beech forests from Codru-Moma Mountains was carried out in the period 2007-2011.

Querco petraeae-Fagetum associations Resmeriță (1974) 1975, was analyzed in terms of life forms spectrum, floristic elements spectrum, ecological indices and karyotype.

In the table of the association a number of 25 relevées have been recorded and analyzed, described from various localities administratively located in Bihor County and Arad County.

Key words: association, phytocoenoses, Codru-Moma Mountains, floristic elements, life forms, ecological indices, karyotype.

INTRODUCTION

Codru-Moma Mountains are a mountain group of the Apuseni Mountains, belonging to the Western Carpathians Mountain chain (Bleahu, 1978). The pair of valleys Moneasa-Briheni, separates the Codru Massif (in the North) with the highest points (Pleșu Peak and Arsura Peak) exceeding 1100 m, from the Moma (in the South), lower at Momuța Peak (930 m).

This mountain range records the greatest lithological complexity, including crystalline shale as well as intrusions of granitoides, sandstones, conglomerates, rhyolites, volcanic tuff, white limestone, redheads limestone, dolomites, andesites in a veritable mosaic distribution, due to an extremely dense network of faults and structures in an overlapped canvas (Codru canvas) (Buz, 1980).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this paper we have adopted as the basic syntaxonomical unit the association of plants, and the technique of relevées, the quantitative and qualitative feedback was done according to the indications provided by Cristea et al. (2004). The quantitative criteria in the phytocoenoses research was the abundance and dominance of individuals, according to the system developed by Braun-Blanquet (1928), with the establishment of classes of constancy ($K = I-V$).

Floristically and fizionomically homogeneous sample areas have been chosen in fragments characteristic of phytocoenoses, having the surface of 400 m². In the synthetic tables of the associations there was introduced some information on species falling in the floristic composition of the populations of plants that make up the association individual, life form, floristic element, ecological indices, the karyotype, the serial number of the phytocoenoses relevées, altitude (m.s.m.), exposition, consistency of tree layer, height of the trees (m), diameter of the trees (cm), slope (degree) (°), area (m²) and the grass layer (%) differentiated on vegetation layers.

The botanical nomenclature used is the one developed for the Romanian flora by Ciocârlan (2000).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our country the association is cited from Crișana (Burescu and Doniță, 2006; Groza, 2008), from Muntenia (Sanda et al., 2007), from Maramureș (Resmeriță, 1975) and from Moldova (Sârbu and Lupu, 1984).

The phytocoenoses of Dacian European beech and sessile oak forests live on terrains with a high inclination (15-40°), sunny hillsides with Southern, South-Western, South-Eastern expositions. The characteristic rocks are the acidic ones such as the silicate sandstones. The type of soils are brown acid, superficial to middle deep, skeletal, acidic, deficient in water.

In the tree layer the *Quercus petraea* is highlighted with a general coverage of 51.4% ADm, *Fagus sylvatica* appears with a coverage of only 18.22% ADm. Disseminatedly some megafanerofite are encountered such as: *Betula pendula*, *Quercus dalechampii*, *Quercus polycarpa*, *Populus tremula*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Picea abies*, *Pinus sylvestris*. The consistency of these stands is lower in some phytocoenoses (0.6-0.8), which leads to extra light and heat at the ground. This provides the opportunity of development, explosive in some places, of some xeromezophytes herbaceous acidophilous species. The diameters of trees differ, ranging between 30-120 cm and heights of 12-20 m. The grassy layer has a considerable coverage (40-100%), being dominated by the acidofile species, such as: *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Hieracium umbellatum* și *Luzula luzuloides*.

The *Deschampsietosum flexuosae* subassociation, subas. nova (table 1 rel. 1-15) brings together the acidophilous phytocoenoses that develop in resorts with low humidity, having as differential species the *Luzula luzuloides* with an overall coverage of 4.28% ADm and a high constancy (K=V), as well as the *Hieracium umbellatum* with a constancy of K=IV. *Holotypus hoc loco*: table 1 rel. no. 5.

It is an association with a rich floristic composition, totaling a number of 65 species (table 1). In this phytocoenoses some species

characteristic of the *Genisto germanicae-Quercion* alliance, the *Quercetalia roboris* order can be found: *Betula pendula*, *Quercus dalechampii*, *Populus tremula*, *Genista ovata*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Calamagrostis arundinacea*, *Hieracium maculatum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Trifolium medium*, and of the *Querco-Fagetea* class: *Rubus hirtus*, *Carex pilosa*, *Hieracium murorum*.

In the floristic composition of this association some xero-mezophytes and mezophytes species characteristic of *Quercetea pubescenti-Petraeae*, *Vaccinio-Piceetea*, *Epilobietea angustifolii* and *Asplenietea trichomanis* classes are to be found.

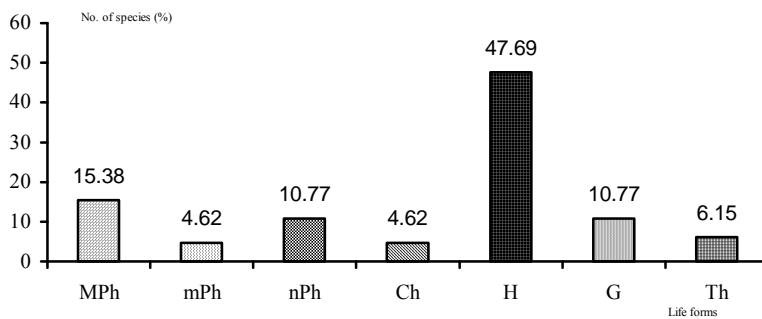


Fig. 1 The life forms spectrum of *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* association Resmeriță (1974) 1975

The life forms of the association (Fig. 1) are represented by a high percentage of hemicryptophytes (47.69%), followed by phanerophytes (30.77%) and geophytes (10.77%).

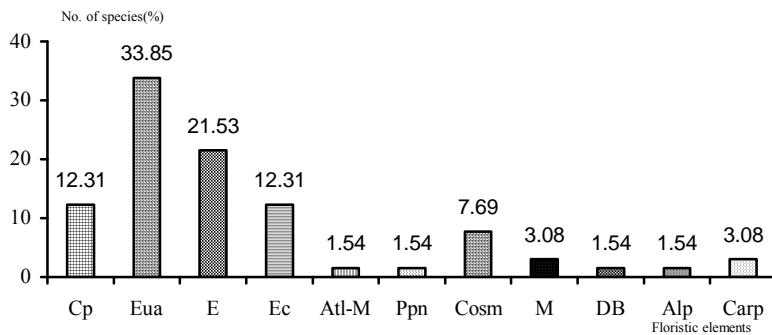


Fig. 2 Spectrum of floristic elements of the *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* association Resmeriță (1974) 1975

The floristic elements that dominate the association through their number are the Eurasian species (33.85%), followed by the European (21.53%), central European (12.31%), circumpolar (12.31%), cosmopolitan (7.69%) and south European (6.16%) ones (Fig. 2).

Table 1

Querco petraeae-Fagetum association Resmerița (1974) 1975
- deschampsietosum flexuosae subas. nova (rel. 1-15)

L.f.	F.e.	U.	T.	R.	2n	Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	K	ADM	
						Altitude (m.s.m.)	400	880	650	550	780	850	650	1000	980	680	950	850	580	780	700	780	850	800	750	400	800	1000	600	480	780			
						Exposition	V	SV	E	SV	SV	V	SV	V	V	SE	S	S	SE	SE	SE	S	SV	S	SV	V	SV	V	S	SE				
						Consistency of tree layer	0,8	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,6	0,8	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,7	0,8			
						Height of the trees (m)	20	16	18	16	12	18	20	16	14	20	14	18	12	16	16	16	18	20	14	16	20	14	14	16	18			
						Diameter of the trees (cm)	30	50	50	50	40	54	52	100	80	80	40	48	30	56	60	36	32	120	60	42	60	80	38	30	50			
						The grass layer (%)	50	90	100	75	100	80	90	75	80	55	80	75	95	95	75	85	70	60	45	50	55	55	75	50	40			
						Slope (degree) (°)	30	30	30	25	30	40	15	20	20	25	35	25	30	30	35	30	30	35	25	30	20	20	25					
						Area (m²)	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400			
MPh	E	2,5	3	0	D	<i>As. Quercus petraea</i>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	4	V	51,4	
MPh	E	3	3	0	D	<i>As. Fagus sylvatica</i>	2	+	+	1	+	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	+	2	2	+	+	2	2	4	3	2	V	18,22	
H	Cp-A-a	2	0	1	P	<i>Subass. Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	+	2	3	2	1	1	+	1	1	+	+	1	+	+	+	2	1	.	3	3	2	3	+	2	1	V	11,06	
H	E	2,5	2,5	2	D	<i>Dif. Luzula luzuloides</i>	2	+	+	1	+	1	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	+	+	1	+	1	2	+	1	2	V	4,28		
H	Cp-Bo	2,5	3	2,5	D,P	<i>Dif. Hieracium umbellatum</i>	+	+	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	IV	0,36		
						<i>Genisto germanicae-Quercion, Quercetalia roboris</i>																												
H	Eua	2	3	0	P	<i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i>	+	+	2	.	1	+	+	1	1	1	1	+	+	+	+	1	.	+	1	+	+	.	+	+	+	1	V	2,38
MPh	Eua	3	2	2	P	<i>Betula pendula</i>	.	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	1	.	.	.	+	IV	0,9		
G	Cosm	3	3	0	P	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	+	1	+	+	1	+	2	+	.	1	+	.	1	+	.	1	+	III	1,66		
MPh	M	2,5	3	0	D	<i>Quercus dalechampii</i>	.	1	+	.	.	+	+	+	2	.	.	+	+	+	+	2	.	II	1,74	
nPh	Alp	2,5	3	3	-	<i>Genista ovata</i>	.	.	+	.	+	+	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	+	II	0,38		
H	Cp-Bo	0	0	0	P	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	+	+	.	.	+	+	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	+	+	.	.	.	.	.	II	0,14
H	Cp-Bo	2,5	3	3	D	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	+	.	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	II	0,2		
H	Eua	3	3	0	P	<i>Trifolium medium</i>	+	.	.	+	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	.	+	+	II	0,2		
H	E	2	3	2	P	<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	0,02
MPh	Eua	3	2	2	D,P	<i>Populus tremula</i>	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	+	.	.	I	0,1
						<i>Querco-Fagetea</i>																												
nPh	E	3	2,5	3	P	<i>Rubus hirtus</i>	.	.	.	.	+	+	+	1	1	1	1	+	1	.	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	.	+	III	0,8
H	Eua	2,5	3	3	P	<i>Carex pilosa</i>	2	+	+	2	1	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	+	+	+	+	+	.	+	+	III	1,78			
H	Eua	3	0	3	P	<i>Hieracium murorum</i>	+	+	+	.	.	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	III	0,24					
G-H	Carp	4	2	3	D	<i>Festuca drymeja</i>	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	II	0,16		
H	Eua	3	3	0	D	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	.	.	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	0,04	
H	E	3	3	3	P	<i>Carex digitata</i>	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	I	0,04		
H	Eua	3	2	2	D,P	<i>Cruciata glabra</i>	.	.	.	.	1	+	+	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	I	0,28		
G	Ec	3	3	4	P	<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i>	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	I	0,04		
H	Cosm	4	3	0	P	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	.	.	I	0,1			
Ch	E	3	3,5	4	D	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	+	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	+	.	.	.	I	0,04		

Variae syntaxa											
H	Ec	4	2	4	P	<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	.	.	.	.	+
mPh	E	3	3	3	D	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	.	.	.	.	+
Ch	Ec	3	3	3	D	<i>Gaulium rotundifolium</i>	.	.	+	+	+
H	Ppn	1,5	3,5	4	D	<i>Inula ensifolia</i>	.	.	.	.	+
H-Ch	Eua	3	0	0	P	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	.	.	.	.	+
Ch	Eua	2	2	2	D,P	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	.	.	.	.	+
<i>Bryophyta</i>											
-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	.	.	.	1	.
-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	1	.	.	1	1

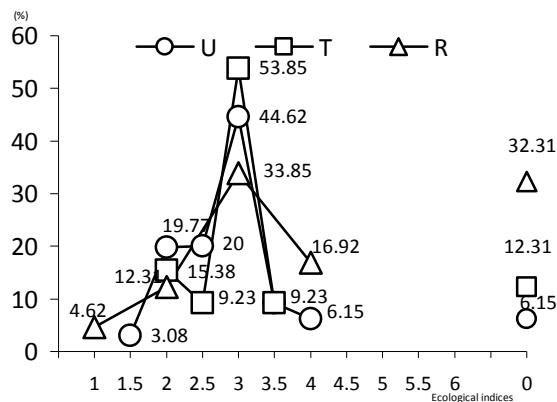


Fig. 3 Diagram of ecological indices for *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* association Resmeriță (1974) 1975

The diagram of ecological indices (Fig. 3), highlights the proportion of mesophilous species (53.85%), followed by xero-mesophilous (30.77%). In terms of temperature, the micro-mesothermophilous species are high (63.08%), followed by the microthermophilous ones (24.61%). On the other hand the chemical reaction of the soil highlights the dominance of acid-neutrophyle (33.85%) and euryionic species (32.31).

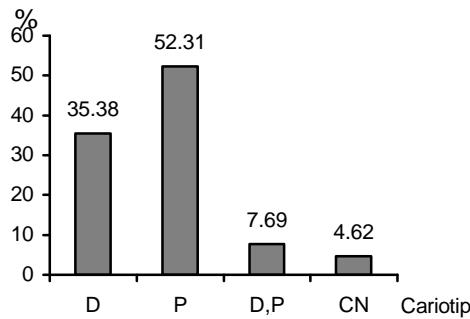


Fig. 4 The karyotype spectrum of *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* association Resmeriță (1974) 1975

The karyotype spectrum (Fig. 4), indicates a high percentage of the poliploide species in the association (52.31%), followed by the diploid (35.38%), diplo-poliploid ones (7.69%), a low percentage being represented by species of unknown cariotype (4.62%).

CONCLUSIONS

I have proposed a new subassociation in the association, the *Querco petraeae-Fagetum* Resmeriță (1974) 1975 *deschampsietosum flexuosae* subas. nova, which lives on acid rocks and superficial skeletal soils.

The study of life forms spectrum illustrates the high percentage of hemicryptophytes species (47.69%), the main components of the layer of grassy woodlands, followed by phanerophytes (30.77%) that make up the layer of trees and shrubs. Analysis of the floristic elements shows the high number of Eurasian species (33.85%), which in different stages were intercalated with European (21.53%), central European (12.31%) and circumpolar elements (12.31%). The high share of mezophyle species (53.85%) shows the existence of favorable conditions of moisture on the entire surface of the territory. Considering temperature, the species that are significant to the general appearance of the association are the micro-mosethermophilous (63.08%), which denotes a flora specific of hills and mountain area. In terms of preferences of the chemical soil reaction, the most numerous species are the acid-neutrophyles (33.85%) found on brown acid type soils.

The sessile oak and European beech forests give a great mass production, the timber being used in carpentry, furniture manufacturing, construction. These stands have varied production classes (II, III, IV), depending on forest site conditions. There are also some species with feeding value (*Poa nemoralis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Luzula luzuloides*, *Festuca drymeja*), with medicinal value (*Polypodium vulgare*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*) and nutritional value (*Corylus avellana*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*). These stands being located on lands with steep slopes and superficial soils, generally satisfy the role of soil protection.

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