Grasslands with black bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans* L.) on Mount Obruč (north-western Dinarides)

Sonja ŠIŠIĆ, Marko RANDIĆ

Priroda Public Institution, Grivica 4, 51000 Rijeka, Croatia
(e-mail: sonja.sisic@ju-priroda.hr)

Abstract

Priroda Public Institution has carried out surveys of grassland vegetation on Mount Obruč for several years. Mount Obruč is a botanically important area (IPA) included in the Natura 2000 network. Therefore, it is important to get to know the local vegetation in more detail, which is the main aim of this paper. Previous research, carried out mainly by Professor Ivo Horvat in the north-western Dinarides, recognised the complex of Mediterranean-mountain pasture communities exposed to the bura wind, in which narrow-leaved moor grass (Seslerietum juncifoliae s. lat.) predominates. Research was carried out in the period from 2016 to 2018 using standard phytosociological methods (the Braun-Blanquet approach) on the southern slopes of Mount Obruč (the Brgudac/Zala/Vršine area). The results show that at 500-600 metres above sea level, on mostly southern exposures and on different inclines, as well as on dolomite geological bedrock, grasslands from the same vegetation complex grow, though with black bog-rush (Schoenus nigricans L.) predominating. On the basis of the determined floral composition, grasslands with black bog-rush can also be broken down in more detail. Because of the reduced intensity of sheep grazing, Seslerietum juncifoliae complex pastures on Mount Obruč are exposed to secondary succession. The most common woody species that encroach on stands of black bog-rush are Amelanchier ovalis Medik., Juniperus communis L., Fraxinus ornus L., Ostrya carpinifolia Scop. and Pinus nigra J.F. Arnold. It has been noticed that tussocks of black bog-rush are occasionally grazed on by the horses that are kept in the open air in these areas all year around.

Key words: grassland vegetation, Seslerietum juncifoliae, Mount Obruč, Schoenus nigricans, secondary succession