

Vegetation of the Northern Korean Peninsula and its relation to Vegetation of Northeast Asia

While the long-term investigation of vegetation of the southern part of the Korean Peninsula is in progress (Song 1988, 1991a, b, 1992a, b, Song & Nakanishi 1985a, b, Song et al. 1990, Kim 1990, Kim & Kim 1988, Kong & Watts 1993), the knowledge of the vegetation surveys of all the peninsula has been relatively poor (Yim & Kira 1975, 1976, Yim 1977a, b, 1995). In general, various vegetation types have been investigated extensively in South Korea (see above) and other parts of Northeast Asia (e.g. Box et al. 1995, Kolbek et al. 2003), and comparative vegetation data and literature are available for our use. Forest and other vegetation types of North Korea were being studied in the field through several scientific expeditions of Czech and Slovak botanists during the 1990s which also form the fundamental base for our work (see Kolbek et al. 2003 and References).

Results of those expeditions were synthesized, and most of them were prepared for publication while, in 1992–1994 the project was being worked on (see References). Other publications concerning this area and the related topics are not known.

The syntaxonomy of the following vegetation types has been successfully worked out, partly or completely: (1) forests (incl. characteristics of woody forest plants, spatial structure, zonation; e.g. Neuhäusl & Neuhäuslová 1994, Kolbek 1995, Kolbek, Šrůtek & Box 2003, Kolbek et al. 2003); (2) the vegetation structure of tree stands and alpine grasslands near the timberline (Šrůtek & Kolbek 1994, Šrůtek & Lepš 1994; Šrůtek et al. 1994, Šrůtek, Kolbek & Box 2003, Šrůtek et al. 2003); (3) vegetation of rocks (Kolbek et al. 1997, 1998) and walls (Kolbek & Valachovič 1996); (4) vegetation of water bodies (Kolbek & Dostálek 1996); (5) nitrophilous ponds and river banks (Jarolímek et al. 1991); (6) salt marshes (Kolbek et al. 1989); (7) paddy (Kolbek et al. 1996) and soya bean fields (Dostálek et al. 1990); (8) grassland vegetation (Šrůtek & Kolbek 1992, Blažková 1993); (8) anthropogenic (ruderal) vegetation (Mucina et al. 1991, Kolbek & Sádlo 1996, Sádlo & Kolbek 1997).

Taxonomy, phytosociology, and ecology of some Korean *Rhododendron* species have been analysed (Dostálek et al. 1988). Dostálek et al. (1989) has published a few taxa new to the flora of North Korea.

Furthermore, an illustrated survey of the distribution of woody plants have also been finalized (Kolbek & Kučera 1989, 1999). These books summarizes our knowledge on coenological relationships among tree and other forest species, based on phytosociological studies. Kolbek et al. (2001) have also published on the distribution of 398 woody species.

Survey of forest vegetation units of North Korea has been published (Kolbek et al. 2003) in the book dedicated to forest vegetation of Northeast Asia (Kolbek, Šrůtek & Box 2003).

Preliminary survey of all determinated syntaxa is here proposed.