

THE LIST OF PLANTS, FUNGI AND INVERTEBRATES OF NOBLE FIR (*ABIES PROCERA* REHDER) EXPERIMENTAL STANDS IN ROGÓW ARBORETUM (POLAND)

Marek Kasprowicz¹, Andrzej M. Jagodziński^{2,3}, Maciej Skorupski²,
Maria Wojterska¹, Tomasz Dobies², Izabela Kałużcka⁴,
Małgorzata Sławska⁵, Anna Wierzbicka², Andrzej Łabędzki²,
Mirosław Nowiński², Piotr Karolewski³, Jacek Oleksyn³,
Piotr Banaszczak⁶, Stanisław Małek⁷

¹Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

²Poznań University of Life Sciences

³Institute of Dendrology of Polish Academy of Sciences, Kórnik

⁴University of Lodz

⁵Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW

⁶Rogów Arboretum of Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW

⁷University of Agriculture in Krakow

Abstract. The paper gives a survey of biodiversity of noble fir (*Abies procera*) stands in Rogów Arboretum on the background of environmental data. Noble fir is native to the mountains of north-western United States. During the study in the Rogów Arboretum we have found 53 taxa of vascular plants and mosses, 51 taxa of macrofungi and 112 of invertebrates in *Abies procera* stands. The documented biodiversity of planted *Abies procera* stands has been commented with respective data from natural habitats.

Key words: *Abies procera*, noble fir, biodiversity, vascular plants, macrofungi, nematodes, mites, insects

INTRODUCTION

Noble fir (*Abies procera* Rehder) is an upper-elevation and long-lived conifer forest tree species. It is found in the western North America, i.e. in the mountains of northern

Oregon and Washington between the McKenzie River and Stevens Pass (44° to 48°N). Most of its distribution is within the Cascade Range, predominantly on the western slopes and along the crest [Franklin 1964]. In general, it is found at elevations between 1070 and 1680 m in the Cascade Range in Oregon and 910 and 1520 m in the Cascade Range in central Washington [Franklin 1982, Filip and Schmitt 1990]. However, noble fir is occasionally found at much lower elevations and shows excellent growth on such sites. Throughout its native range, its distribution exhibits the structure of one mainland consisting of 2 disjunct submainlands, and many islands which are scattered on isolated peaks in the Oregon Coast Ranges and in the Willapa Hills of southwestern Washington [Franklin 1990, Yeh and Hu 2005]. The natural range of this species lies within a maritime climate characterized by cool summers and mild, wet winters. Annual temperatures average 4.4 to 7.2°C, and the annual precipitation averages 1960 to 2650 mm. Most of the precipitation (ca. three-fourths) occurs between October and March [Franklin 1983, 1990, Grier and Lee 1983, Jagodziński and Banaszczak 2010].

Noble fir is considered a seral or pioneer tree species and one of the most shade intolerant of the American firs [Franklin 1990]. It grows well on a variety of sites; for example it inhabits rugged, steep slopes, on all landforms, from valley bottom to ridge top. However, it grows best on gentle slopes and warm southern aspects. In the northern part of its natural range, it shows a preference for warm and moist exposures. Water supply is more important for noble fir growth than soil quality [Fowells 1965, Tumiłowicz 1977, Gessel and Olivier 1982, Franklin 1983]. This species is associated with most other Pacific Northwest conifers at some point within its natural range.

Noble fir can regenerate abundantly after a severe disturbance (often with Douglas-fir), for example it is an early colonizer after stand-replacing fires, but under a dense closed canopy it cannot regenerate [Franklin et al. 1978, Franklin 1983, 1990]. It begins to produce seeds at age 25 to 30 years, however abundant crop of seeds is produced after age 50 at 3- to 6-year intervals. Noble fir seeds germinate in the spring; mineral seedbed in large gaps is favorable to seedling establishment and successful juvenile growth [Franklin et al. 1978]. Moreover, Franklin [1990] showed that the most common factors that inhibit regeneration of noble fir are competing vegetation and frosts. The initial juvenile growth of this species is slow as with other firs and it requires 5-12 years to reach breast height (depending on site condition) [Franklin 1982, 1983, Harrington and Murray 1982, Jagodziński and Banaszczak 2010]. Harrington and Murray [1982] and Stewart [1986] showed that growth from a sapling stage to maturity is rapid, allowing noble fir to attain site dominance, although as the tree ages, the growth slows. Noble fir grows more frequently in mixed stands with other species, such as Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*) [Franklin and Dyrness 1973, Brockway et al. 1985]. It is valuable tree species both for timber and greenery products [Betts 1945, Tumiłowicz 1977, Rasmussen et al. 2005]. Noble fir attains the largest dimensions of any of the true fir species and has a greater volume for a given diameter and height than any of its associates and dominates such stands, contributing volume out of proportion to the number of trees. It grows in nearly pure stands and is able to produce high standing timber volumes over a wide range of ages and site qualities [Fujimori et al. 1976, Franklin 1983, Maze and Parker 1983, Doede and Adams 1998, Jagodziński and Banaszczak 2010]. For example in a mixed stand of the Cascade Range in northern Oregon, the average size of noble fir trees grown under favorable conditions was as follows: 10 years – ca. 1.2 m tall, 20 years – ca. 3.6 m tall and 8 cm diameter at breast height, 50 years – ca. 16.1 m tall

and 52 cm diameter and 200 years – 44.3 m tall and 84.3 cm in diameter [Hanzlik 1925].

Noble fir is also cultivated as an exotic tree species in Europe and Canada, where numerous provenance experiments have been established in the Great Britain, Germany, and British Columbia [Fletcher and Samuel 1990, Ying 1992, Xie and Ying 1994, Ruetz et al. 1998]. For example, Jagodziński and Banaszczak [2010] studied stem volume and aboveground woody biomass in noble fir stands (39- and 43-years old) in the Rogów Arboretum (Poland). The cited study showed that the mean DBH of trees was 20.14 cm in the younger stand and 22.25 cm in the older stand. The basal area of the 39-year-old stand was 49.01 m²/ha and 43-year-old stand was 47.53 m²/ha. Based on the developed equation, stem volume over bark was 374.87 m³/ha and 356.24 m³/ha in the 39- and 43-year-old stands, respectively. Moreover, based on the developed site-specific allometric equations they found that total aboveground woody biomass in the 39-year-old stand was 189 Mg/ha whereas in the 43-year-old stand it was 184 Mg/ha.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in two noble fir (*Abies procera*) stands with ages of 42 and 38 years, situated in the Rogów Arboretum of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland (51°49'N, 19°53'E). The study plots (site A and B) were located in the central part of the Arboretum. The detailed information for both stands is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of *Abies procera* experimental plots (2009) [Hotała 2010]
Tabela 1. Charakterystyka powierzchni doświadczalnych z *Abies procera* (2009) [Hotała 2010]

Characteristics Charakterystyka	Study site A Powierzchnia doświadczalna A	Study site B Powierzchnia doświadczalna B
Year of stand establishment Rok założenia drzewostanu	1970	1975
Year of seed sprouting Rok skielkowania nasion	1967	1971
Area of experimental plot Powierzchnia poletek badawczych	0.04 ha	0.04 ha
Seed origin Pochodzenie nasion	Wirty Arboretum, Poland, 53°54'N, 18°23'E	(Washington USDA Forest Ser.) Oregon, Bear Spring Ranger Distr. of Mt. Hood Nat. Forest, USA
Stand density, trees·ha ⁻¹ Zagęszczenie, drzewa·ha ⁻¹	1 275	1 550
Stand age Wiek drzewostanu	42	38

According to long-term meteorological observations (55 years) from the closest meteorological station in Strzelna, mean annual temperature is 7.2°C (January: -3.2°C, July: 17.3°C), mean annual precipitation is 596 mm (404-832 mm, ca. 70% of annual

precipitation is in the growing season), and mean growing season length (calculated as the number of days with mean temperature $\geq 5^{\circ}\text{C}$) is 212 days [Bednarek 1993, Jagodziński and Banaszczyk 2010].

The study plots are located on a flat terrain ca. 189 m a.s.l. The soils were developed on a postglacial formation, in the region of a ground moraine. The soils are rich, mesic, with the groundwater level beyond the reach of tree roots [Czępińska-Kamińska et al. 1991, Jagodziński and Banaszczyk 2010]. Soil unit is haplic luvisol. Soil texture in the A horizon was sandy silt. The content of sand fraction was 47%, silt fraction 48.5%, clay fraction 4.5%. Soil reaction was strongly acidic, pH measured in M KCl in particular horizons was as followed: O1l 4.01, O1 4.68, Ofh 3.97 and A 3.58. Total acidity was respectively: O1l 37.45 cmol(+)/kg, O1 34.60 cmol(+)/kg, Ofh 61.03 cmol(+)/kg and A 11.59 cmol(+)/kg.

During the three-year study (2007-2010), vascular plants, mosses, macrofungi and soil invertebrates (nematodes, mites and insects) were determined on the experimental plots. The subject of mycological examination were mycorrhizal, saprotrophic and parasitic species, excluding corticioid taxa; traditionally, Myxomycetes were also considered. Observations were carried out in 2008-2010. Identification of sporocarps was based on standard methods used in mycological studies. The nomenclature follows Index Fungorum (indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp). Vouchers of dried fungal materials have been deposited in the Herbarium Universitatis Lodziensis (LOD).

The list of the taxa found in *Abies procera* plots were compared with the list of taxa found in the subcontinental oak-hornbeam forest *Tilio-Carpinetum* Traczyk 1962 *calamagrostietosum*, situated in the western part of the Arboretum. The oak-hornbeam forest was dominated by native tree species. The upper stand layer is formed by *Quercus petraea* and *Pinus sylvestris* as well as *Populus tremula*. The lower tree layer of the stand and undergrowth were dominated by *Carpinus betulus*.

RESULTS

During the study 216 taxa of plants, fungi and invertebrates were found. There are 53 taxa of vascular plants and mosses, 51 taxa of fungi and 112 of invertebrates. In the control sites (*Tilio-Carpinetum*) 281 taxa of the organisms studied were found. There are 52 taxa of vascular plants and mosses, 67 taxa of fungi and 162 taxa of invertebrates (Fig. 1). Below is the list of organisms recorded in the plots of *Abies procera*.

Vascular plants cultivated in the Arboretum, spontaneous in the investigated plots

Abies procera Rehder, *Acer tataricum* L., *Amelanchier spicata* (Lam.) K. Koch, *Castanea sativa* Mill., *Kalopanax septemlobus* (Thunb.) Koidz., *Thuja plicata* Donn ex D. Don in Lamb., *Acer* sp.

Spontaneous vascular plants

Acer platanoides L., *Acer pseudoplatanus* L., *Agrostis capillaris* L., *Anemone nemorosa* L., *Carex digitata* L., *Carex pilulifera* L., *Carpinus betulus* L., *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (L.) Scop., *Convallaria majalis* L., *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Vill.) H. P.

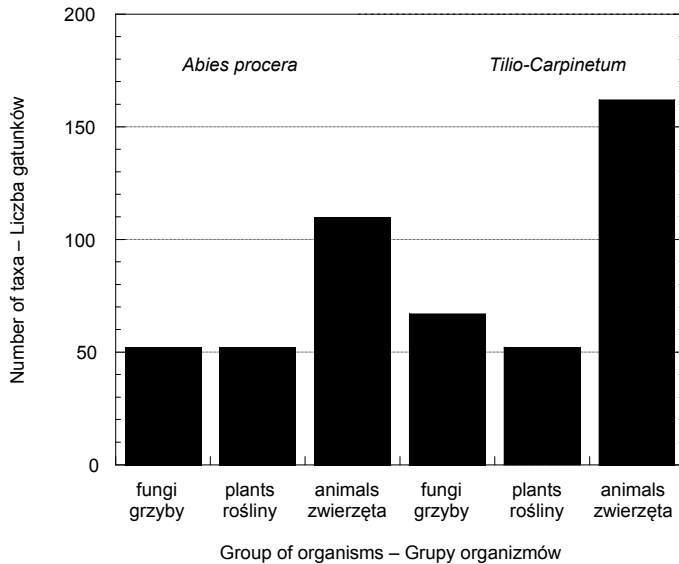


Fig. 1. Number of fungi, plants and animals taxa found in *Abies procera* stands and *Tilio-Carpinetum* sites (control)

Rys. 1. Liczba gatunków grzybów, roślin i zwierząt stwierdzonych w drzewostanach *Abies procera* i na powierzchni kontrolnej *Tilio-Carpinetum*

Fuchs, *Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott, *Euonymus europaea* L., *Euonymus verrucosa* Scop., *Fagus sylvatica* L., *Frangula alnus* Mill., *Galeopsis pubescens* Besser, *Galium schultesii* Vest, *Hieracium lachenalii* C. C. Gmel., *Hieracium murorum* L., *Hypochoeris radicata* L., *Luzula pilosa* (L.) Willd., *Maianthemum bifolium* (L.) F. W. Schmidt, *Melica nutans* L., *Moehringia trinervia* (L.) Clairv., *Mycelis muralis* (L.) Dumort., *Oxalis acetosella* L., *Padus serotina* (Ehrh.) Borkh., *Poa nemoralis* L., *Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl., *Quercus robur* L., *Rubus hirtus* Waldst. & Kit. Agg., *Rubus idaeus* L., *Sambucus nigra* L., *Sorbus aucuparia* L., *Taraxacum officinale* F. H. Wigg., *Vaccinium myrtillus* L., *Veronica officinalis* L., *Viola riviniana* Rehb.

Mosses

Atrichum undulatum (Hedw.) P. Beauv., *Dicranella heteromalla* (Hedw.) Schimp., *Plagiomnium affine* (Funck) T. Kop., *Plagiothecium curvifolium* Schlieph. ex Limpr., *Pleurozium schreberi* (Brid.) Mitt., *Pohlia nutans* (Hedw.) Lindb., *Polytrichastrum formosum* (Hedw.) G. L. Smith, *Sciuro-hypnum oedipodium* (Mitt.) Ignatov & Huttunen.

Mycorrhizal fungi

Amanita muscaria (L.) Lam., *Amanita rubescens* Pers., *Chalciporus piperatus* (Bull.) Bataille, *Cortinarius* sp. 3, *Cortinarius* sp. 4, *Hebeloma* sp. 2, *Inocybe* sp. 1, *Inocybe* sp. 2, *Lactarius quietus* (Fr.) Fr., *Lactarius rufus* (Scop.) Fr., *Lactarius tabidus* Fr., *Paxillus involutus* (Batsch) Fr., *Rhodocollybia butyracea* f. *asema* (Fr.) Antonin

Halling & Noordel., *Ramaria abietina* (Pers.) Quél. *Russula ochroleuca* (Pers.) Fr., *Russula puellaris* Fr., *Russula risigallina* Secr., *Russula vesca* Fr., *Russula* sp. 2, *Russula* sp. 4, *Xerocomus badius* (Fr.) E.-J. Gilbert, *Xerocomus chrysenteron* (Bull.) Quél.

Saprotrophic and parasitic fungi

Agaricus sp. 2, *Ampulloclitocybe clavipes* (Pers.) Redhead, Lutzoni, Moncalvo & Vilgalys, *Armillaria* sp., *Calocera viscosa* (Pers.) Fr., *Chlorophyllum rhacodes* (Vittad.) Vellinga, *Clitocybe* spp., *Cystoderma amianthinum* (Scop.) Fayod, *Dacrymyces stillatus* Nees, *Entoloma* spp., *Gymnopilus penetrans* (Fr.) Murrill, *Gymnopus dryophilus* (Bull.) Murrill, *Gymnopus peronatus* (Bolton) Antonín, Halling & Noordel., *Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca* (Wulfen) Maire, *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Huds.) P. Kumm., *Lepista flaccida* (Sowerby) Pat., *Lycoperdon nigrescens* Wahlenb., *Lycoperdon perlatum* Pers., *Lyophyllum connatum* (Schumach.) Singer, *Mycena epipterygia* (Scop.) Gray, *Mycena zephirus* (Fr.) P. Kumm., *Mycena* spp., *Postia caesia* (Schr.) P. Karst., *Ramaria* sp., *Rhodocollybia butyracea* f. *asema* (Fr.) Antonín, Halling & Noordel., *Rhodocollybia butyracea* f. *butyracea* (Bull.) Lennox, *Ripartites tricholoma* (Alb. & Schwein.) P. Karst., *Sparassis crispa* (Wulfen) Fr., *Stereum sanguinolentum* (Alb. & Schwein.) Fr., *Trametes versicolor* (L.) Lloyd, *Tricholomopsis rutilans* (Schaeff.) Singer.

Nematodes

Aphelenchoides spp., *Araeolaimida* spp., *Cephalenchus hexalineatus* (Geraert) Geraert et Goodey, *Ditylenchus anchilisposomus* (Tarjan) Fortuner, *Ditylenchus* spp., *Filenchus discrepans* (Andrássy) Raski et Geraert, *Filenchus misellus* (Andrássy) Raski et Geraert, *Lelenchus leptosoma* (de Man) Mezl, *Malenchus acarayensis* Andrassy, *Mesocriconema curvatum* (Raski) Loof et De Grisse., *Rhabditida* spp.

Acari (Oribatida)

Achipteria coleoprata (L.), *Acrotritia duplicata* (Grandjean), *Adoristes ovatus* (C.L. Koch), *Banksinoma lanceolata* (Michael), *Camisia spinifer* (C.L. Koch), *Carabodes coriaceus* C.L. Koch, *Carabodes subarcticus* Trägårdh, *Chamobates voigtsi* (Oudemans), *Damaeus verticillipes* (Nicolet), *Eueremaeus oblongus* (C.L. Koch), *Galumna lanceata* (Oudemans), *Lauroppia falcata* (Paoli), *Licneremaeus licnophorus* (Michael), *Liochthonius tuxeni* (Forsslund), *Metabelba pulverulenta* (C.L. Koch), *Micreremus gracilior* Willmann, *Minunthozetes semirufus* (C.L. Koch), *Moritzoppia keilbachi* (Moritz), *Neobrachychthonius marginatus* (Forsslund), *Neolichthonius occultus* (Niedbała), *Nothrus silvestris* Nicolet, *Oppiella nova* (Oudemans), *Oribatula tibialis* (Nicolet), *Phauloppia rauschenensis* (Sellnick), *Phthiracarus longulus* (C.L. Koch), *Porobelba spinosa* (Sellnick), *Quadroppia quadricarinata* (Michael), *Ramusella insculpta* (Paoli), *Scheloribates latipes* (C.L. Koch), *Scheloribates pallidulus* (C.L. Koch), *Sellnickochthonius jacoti* (Evans), *Steganacarus carinatus* (C.L. Koch), *Suctobelbella acutidens* (Forsslund), *Suctobelbella sarekensis* (Forsslund), *Suctobelbella subcornigera* (Forsslund), *Suctobelbella subtrigona* (Oudemans),

Tectocepheus velatus (Michael), *Trichoribates berlese* (Jacot), *Xenillus tegeocranus* (Hermann).

Acari (Mesostigmata)

Arctoseius brevichelis Karg, *Arctoseius semiscisus* (Berlese), *Heteroparasitus* sp., *Hypoaspis lasiomyrmecophilus* Hirschamann, *Leptogamasus suecicus* Trägårdh, *Prozercon kochi* Sellnick, *Rhodacarus coronatus* Berlese, *Rhodacarus reconditus* Athias-Henriot, *Trachyuropoda poppi* Hirschmann et Zirngiebl-Nicol, *Urodiaspis tecta* (Kramer), *Uropoda minima* Kramer, *Zercon peltatus* C.L. Koch, *Zercon* sp. 1, *Zercon triangularis* C.L. Koch.

Insects (Collembola)

Anurida granulata Agrell, *Anurophorus septentrionalis* (Pallisa), *Ceratophysella denticulata* (Bagnall), *Ceratophysella* sp. juv., *Desoria germanica* (Huther & Winter), *Desoria* sp. juv., *Dicyrtoma fusca* (Lucas), *Entomobrya nivalis* (L.), *Entomobyidae* spp. juv., *Folsomia manolachei* Bagnall, *Folsomia penicula* Bagnall, *Friesea truncata* Cassagnau, *Isotomiella minor* (Schaffer), *Lepidocyrtus lanuginosus* (Gmelin), *Lepidocyrtus lignorum* gr juv., *Lipotrix lubbocki* (Tullberg), *Megalothorax minimus* Willem, *Mesaphorura hylophila* Rusek, *Mesaphorura macrochaeta* Rusek, *Micraphorura absoloni* (Borner), *Neanura muscorum* (Templeton), *Parisotoma notabilis* (Schaffer), *Pogonognatellus flavescens* (Tullberg), *Proisotoma minima* (Tullberg), *Protaphorura* sp. juv., *Pseudachorutes corticicolus* (Schaffer), *Pseudachorutes parvulus* Borner, *Pseudachorutes* sp. juv., *Pseudosinella alba* (Packard), *Pseudosinella horaki* Rusek, *Schoetella ununguiculata* (Tullberg), *Sminthurinus* sp. juv., *Spatulosminthurus flaviceps* (Tullberg), *Sphaeridia pumilis* (Krausbauer), *Symphyleona* juv., *Tomoceridae* spp. juv., *Willowsia buski* (Lubbock), *Xenylla* sp. juv.

Insects (Coleoptera)

Apion sp., *Coccinella septempunctata* L., *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata* L., *Selatosomus aeneus* L., *Carabus violaceus* L., *Nebria brevicollis* (Fabr.), *Pterostichus cupreus* (L.), *Pterostichus niger* (Schall.), *Calathus erratus* (Sahlb.), *Staphylinidae* spp.

DISCUSSION

Noble fir is within its natural range a component of five forest cover types [Forest... 1980], but it is significant only within Coastal True Fir-Hemlock type. In the understory occur ericaceous shrubs represented by several species from the genus *Vaccinium* and *Rhododendron* as well as currants (*Ribes* spp.) and among herbs most often *Xerophyllum tenax* [Franklin 1990].

There is hardly any information about fungi associated with *Abies procera*, neither within its natural occurrence limits nor in the plantations in novel places. In an extensive review of works on the taxonomy and ecology of fungi claiming mycorrhizal fun-

gus-host associations published by Trappe [1962] only one species – *Russula delica* (the species known also from Poland, not found in the present study) – was reported for that tree [Trappe 1961]. In a contemporary review of all available publications published since 1961 and providing 1244 descriptions of ectomycorrhizas no single record concerning *Abies procera* is mentioned [De Roman et al. 2005].

Most of the fungal species recorded in the present study in the examined stands of noble fir are typical of mixed and coniferous forests and are rather widespread in Poland and Central Europe [Ławrynowicz et al. 2004]. Majority of them are also cosmopolitan species of holarctic distribution. None of the species recorded is alien for Europe.

In the course of the present study no sporocarps of *Heterobasidion annosum* were found in the noble fir plots; however, the species has been reported from *Abies procera* in Poland [Dominik and Grzywacz 1998 and the literature cited therein]. High susceptibility of that tree species to *H. annosum* was also reported from experimental stands in northern Denmark [Ronnerberg et al. 1999]. The presence of another severe fungal parasite – *Armillaria* sp. was observed. Species of that genus were reported on this tree by Grzywacz as well [Dominik and Grzywacz 1998 and the literature cited therein].

The presence of weak parasite *Sparassia crispa* is worth mentioning as this species is strictly protected by law in Poland. The species is also red-listed as rare in the country [Wojewoda and Ławrynowicz 2006].

The studied noble fir (*Abies procera*) plots in the Rogów Arboretum had the lowest number of plants in comparison with other two fir species (*A. cephalonica*, *A. grandis*) plots. On the other hand the noble fir plots were much more diverse as concerns invertebrates. Halaj et al. [1998] in their research on habitat structure and prey availability of spiders in different forests found that the highest numbers of spiders were collected in tree stands with noble fir and Douglas fir. This tree species had also the highest species richness. But there are not many papers on other aspects of biodiversity of noble fir tree stands. The data already published are focused on records of particular species of invertebrates or are connected with research in the field of plant protection [Pratt et al. 2002].

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**WYKAZ GATUNKÓW ROŚLIN, GRZYBÓW I BEZKRĘGOWCÓW
NA POWIERZCHNIACH DOŚWIADCZALNYCH
Z JODŁĄ SZLACHETNĄ (*ABIES PROCERA* REHDER)
W ARBORETUM SGGW W ROGOWIE (POLSKA)**

Streszczenie. W pracy przedstawiono różnorodność gatunkową stwierdzoną na powierzchniach doświadczalnych jodły szlachetnej (*Abies procera*), założonych na terenie Arboretum SGGW w Rogowie. Jodła szlachetna jest gatunkiem rodzimym dla obszarów górskich północno-zachodnich Stanów Zjednoczonych. W wyniku badań wykonanych

w Arboretum SGGW w Rogowie na powierzchniach doświadczalnych z jodłą szlachetną wykazano obecność 53 gatunków roślin naczyniowych i mchów, 51 gatunków grzybów wielkoowocnikowych oraz 112 gatunków bezkręgowców. Dane te porównano z wynikami innych autorów dotyczącymi jodły szlachetnej rosnącej w granicach naturalnego zasięgu występowania oraz z bogactwem gatunkowym stwierdzonym w rodzimym zbiorowisku leśnym (*Tilio-Carpinetum*), występującym w bliskim sąsiedztwie powierzchni doświadczalnych.

Słowa kluczowe: *Abies procera*, jodła szlachetna, różnorodność biologiczna, rośliny naczyniowe, grzyby wielkoowocnikowe, nicienie, roztocze, owady

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