

Institute of Botany CAS, v. v. i.

Department of Vegetation Ecology

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**BOTANICKÝ
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Overview

The Department of Vegetation Ecology of the Institute of Botany, CAS, is focused on basic and applied research in the field of diversity and vegetation dynamics of temperate and tropical regions. The focus is on three areas: paleoecology, historical ecology and recent vegetation ecology. Paleoecology is the traditional field of work at the department that has been successfully developed for five decades. The aim is knowledge of the vegetation development in the last few millennia, from the Czech Republic to polar regions of northern Russia. Historical ecology, linking the work of specialists in history, archeology and botany is, in contrast, a relatively new field of study. It brings important insights into the historical influence of humans on nature and helps in strategic decisions about ecosystem management. Ecology of recent vegetation completes and further develops the long-term effort to study the diversity of our vegetation. Using the latest approaches, it examines the mechanisms governing the composition and dynamics of local and tropical vegetation.

Organizational structure

Organization-wise, the Department of Vegetation Ecology falls under the scientific research section I headquartered in Průhonice. The institute includes a palynological laboratory providing service to paleo-ecological research, while the analytical laboratory enables basic analysis of soil and plant material.

Projects and grants

In 2012, ten grant projects were investigated at the institute. For current and completed projects, go to

<http://ekolbrno.ibot.cas.cz/index.php/cs/projekty.html>

The most important current project is the ERC grant no. 278065 - Long-term Dynamics of Forests in Central Europe: from estimates to a realistic model, investigated between 2012 and 2016.

International cooperation

International cooperation is an essential part of most projects undertaken in the institute. In addition to formal and informal cooperations with a number of European scientific institutions (Slovakia, Austria, Germany) there is an active collaboration with colleagues from partner institutions in countries outside Europe (USA, Brunei).

Cooperation with universities

There exists a contract on joint work between the Department of Vegetation Ecology and the Institute of Botany and Zoology, Faculty of Science, MU. This agreement facilitates research synergy involving the common use of material and immaterial equipment and strengthening cooperation on research projects. In addition, there is an informal collaboration between the department and the majority of similarly oriented university centers in the Czech Republic. Expert investigators of the Botanical Institute also act as external trainers and lecturers at universities.

Public services

Public services consist mainly in popularization of scientific knowledge in the form of journal articles (Živa, Vesmír, Ochrana přírody) and lectures. The long-term close cooperation with government conservation agencies, currently represented by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape and management of national parks, can also be considered a public service.



Part of the archives of the profiles used for paleo-ecological research.