



Floristic and ecological analysis of the Stipetum–Festucosum formation in the mountainous areas of Lerik region

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Abstract

The Stipetum transcaucasica–Festucosum ovina association was identified in the vegetation of the Stipetum–Festucosum formation. A total of 29 species were recorded in the floristic composition of the formation, of which 5 species (17.2%) are shrubs, 2 species (6.9%) are subshrubs, 17 species (58.7%) are perennial herbs, 2 species (6.9%) are biennial herbs, and 3 species (10.3%) are annual herbs. As a result of the analysis by ecological groups, 15 of the species (51.7%) were characterized as xerophytes, 6 (20.7%) as mesoxerophytes, and 8 (27.6%) as mesophytes. The dominant species in the formation was identified as *Festuca ovina* (abundance 3–4 points), and the subdominant was *Stipa transcaucasica* (2–3 points). There is no I-th tier in the structure of the phytocenosis, the main plants are concentrated in II and III tiers. In the II tier, the shrubs are mainly *Astracantha aurea*, in the subshrubs *Stachys inflata*, and in the perennial herbs *Stipa transcaucasica*, *Phleum pratense*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Alchemilla oxysepala*, *Nepeta sulphurea* and other species. In the III (lower) tier, *Festuca ovina*, *Poa pratensis*, *Teucrium orientalis*, *Trisetum rigidum*, *Euphorbia hyrcana* and other species are present. The total projected cover of the phytocenosis across floors is 60–80%, indicating that the formation is characterized by dense grass cover.

Key Words: phytocenosis, vegetation cover, floristic composition, ecological groups, dominant and subdominant species.

