

## Evaluation of changes in the tree species composition of Czech forests

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**ABSTRACT:** The tree species composition of forests in the Czech Republic has changed due to the human impact over the time. Nowadays, the idea of reducing the area with spruce stands and of increasing the area with broadleaved stands is widely discussed. The paper compares the target species composition with the present one and creates four groups of areas with the largest and/or negligible differences between the target and the actual tree species composition using the Czech typology school.

**Keywords:** Forest Natural Regions; target management set of forest site types; coniferous trees; broadleaved trees; tree species composition; original tree species composition; target tree species composition

The paper employs the terminology of Czech typology school using the data from forest management records, and compares the target and present tree species composition in all existing Czech Forest Natural Regions.

The Czech typology system is based on the idea of “geobiocene”, which represents the unity of live and inanimate nature. The live nature is represented by altitudinal vegetation zones that are named after dominant tree species in the particular zone:

1. Oak
2. Beech-oak
3. Oak-beech
4. Beech
5. Fir-beech
6. Spruce-beech
7. Beech-spruce
8. Spruce
9. Carpathian pine.

The inanimate nature is divided into 8 ecological series in which the dominant attribute is the soil:

- Extreme
- Acid
- Fertile
- Horizon enriched with litter
- Horizon enriched with water
- Pseudogley
- Gley
- Peat.

These ecological series are subdivided into 24 edaphic categories describing the soil conditions in detail. Vegetation zones and edaphic categories form a net and their crossing points are called forest type groups. Management

sets of forest site types include several groups of forest type groups.

The following terms, common in Czech forestry, are used in the paper: Forest Natural Region, target species composition and natural tree species composition. According to Regional Plan of Forest Development (2000) Forest Natural Regions are territorial units demarcated according to the Czech forest typology – 41 Forest Natural Regions are determined in the Czech Republic on the basis of geomorphology, hydrography, climate, geology, pedology and genetic resources of trees (Fig. 1). Target tree species composition means economically, functionally and biologically optimised tree species composition at the rotation age corresponding to natural conditions (according to Decree No. 83/1996). Natural tree species composition is reconstructed by various authors and their methodology. On the basis of the above-mentioned comparison, the author divides Forest Natural Regions into four groups:

1. Forest Natural Regions with the largest differences between target and actual tree species composition
2. Forest Natural Regions with large differences between target and actual tree species composition
3. Forest Natural Regions with medium differences between target and actual tree species composition
4. Forest Natural Regions with negligible differences between target and actual tree species composition.

Nowadays it is often said (by environmentalists, and some foresters as well) that the spruce stands are ecologically unstable and prone to abiotic or biotic disasters and for this reason the yield of wood is insecure. This idea is reflected in Forest Act No. 289/1995, so called “new

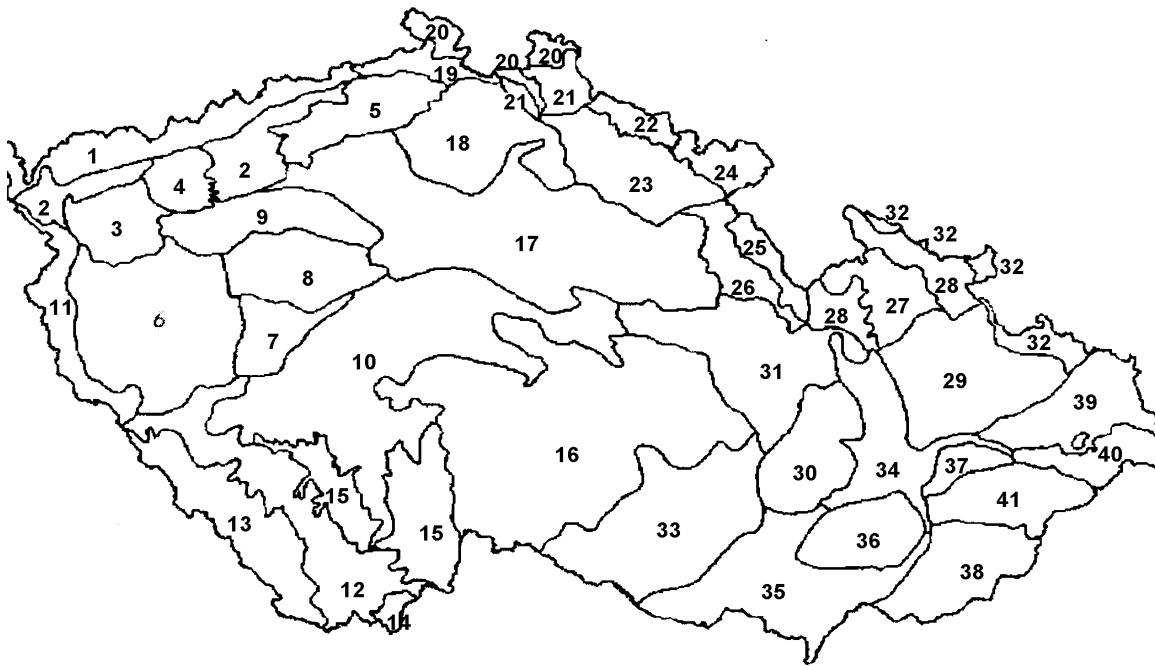


Fig. 1. Map of the Forest Natural Regions

1	Krušné hory	21	Jizerské hory a Ještěd
2a	Podkrušnohorské pánve Chebská a Sokolovská pánev	22	Krkonoše
2b	Podkrušnohorské pánve Mostecká a Žatecká pánev	23	Podkrkonoší
3	Karlovarská vrchovina	24	Sudetské mezihorí
4	Doupovské hory	25	Orlické hory
5	České středohoří	26	Předhoří Orlických hor
6	Západočeská pahorkatina	27	Hrubý Jeseník
7	Brdská vrchovina	28	Předhoří Hrubého Jeseníku
8	Křivoklátsko a Český les	29	Nízký Jeseník
9	Rakovnicko-kladenská pahorkatina	30	Drahanská vrchovina
10	Středočeská pahorkatina	31	Českomoravské mezihorí
11	Český les	32	Slezská nížina
12	Předhoří Šumavy a Novohradských hor	33	Předhoří Českomoravské vrchoviny
13	Šumava	34	Hornomoravský úval
14	Novohradské hory	35	Jihomoravské úvaly
15a	Jihočeské pánve Budějovická pánev	36	Středomoravské Karpaty
15b	Jihočeské pánve Třeboňská pánev	37	Kelečská pahorkatina
16	Českomoravská vrchovina	38	Bílé Karpaty a Vizovické vrchy
17	Polabí	39	Podbeskydská pahorkatina
18	Severočeská pískovcová plošina Český ráj	40	Moravskoslezské Beskydy
19	Lužická pískovcová vrchovina	41	Hostýnsko-Vsetínské vrchy
20	Lužická pahorkatina		

Forest Act”, which sets down, among other objectives, that every target management set of stands must have a defined proportion of soil improving tree species (mostly broadleaved trees). Sometimes the result of this regulation is that beech and other broadleaves are frequently used for reforestation in a schematic proportion without conception, even at places less suitable for beech.

Therefore, the crucial question is: Is it really necessary to reduce the area of spruce stands in all Forest Natural Regions?

At present, the proportion of Norway spruce as the main commercial tree species is 54% of the total forest area, and this proportion is planned to be reduced to 36% in about

100 years (MZe ČR 2000). In the same time period, the proportion of broadleaved trees in the total forest area should rise from 22% to 36% or 44%. (The percentage varies according to individual authors.) The necessity of changes in tree species composition is motivated by a risk of insect outbreaks and wind disasters; and/or by the global climate changes that presents jeopardy especially for existing young spruce plantations at lower regions. But this change in tree species composition sharply contrasts with requirements of the wood processing industry. This discrepancy could lead to problems in the forest sector in future when customers could search for appropriate wood assortments abroad and inland forestry would lose

the main source of income from selling wood, which is essential for financing and preserving the environmental functions of forests.

The aim of this paper is to compare the target tree species composition with the present one in all Forest Natural Regions, to evaluate the differences between them, and to calculate the present surplus or deficient area under the main tree species.

## MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

The data used in this paper originate from the database of forest management plans archived in the Forest Management Institute. The terms such as target tree species and proportion of soil-improving tree species, as defined in Forest Act No. 289/1995, are used in this paper. Target tree species composition and proportion of soil-improving tree species belong to the basic principles of Czech forest policy because they determine the fundamentals of forest management. The basic unit of forest management planning is Forest Natural Region. Its components are management sets of forest site types in which the target tree species compositions were prescribed by PLÍVA and ŽLÁBEK (1989) and which include optimal economic, biological and function properties at rotation age. Every Forest Natural Region has a certain number of target sets of stands of the known area. For every target set of forest site types there is a model of target tree species composition and actual tree species composition. The present relative surplus or deficiency of every tree species can be deduced (proportion in %).

Cluster Analysis, belonging to Multivariate Exploratory Techniques, was used for statistical processing. The target areas of all tree species in all Forest Natural Regions were compared with the actual areas. The Statistica software computed differences between the target and actual area of all tree species in all Forest Natural Regions, and subsequently I created four

groups of Natural Forest Areas according to hierarchical clustering which indicate the proximity of the actual tree species composition to the target tree species composition.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No Forest Natural Region actually shows a tree species composition as it should be according to the prescribed target tree species composition (Table 1). The most surplus tree species is Norway spruce – on the other hand, beech is the most deficient cut tree species. The necessity of reduction of coniferous trees is evident in the case of Norway spruce and Scots pine. Larch and other coniferous trees occupy a smaller acreage than they should according to the target tree species composition. In the Czech Republic, the area of the coniferous trees is about 330,000 ha larger than is appropriate for the prescribed target tree species composition, and this area should be replaced by beech. The graph also shows a deficiency of the area of oak, maple and linden (Fig. 2). On the contrary, the proportion of birch is larger than it should be. The reason is that birch and other broadleaves take the place of Norway spruce in air polluted areas. The shortage of other coniferous tree species is especially due to fir absence in forest stands and absence of linden can be caused by complications in plant production in forest nurseries.

Statistical measurements showed that the first group of Forest Natural Regions with the largest differences between the target and actual tree species composition includes Forest Natural Regions: 3, 11, 14, 16, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29. In these areas, broadleaved trees should replace the mature coniferous stands.

The second group with large differences between the target and actual tree species composition includes Forest Natural Regions: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 30, 31, 33, 37, 39, 40 and 41.

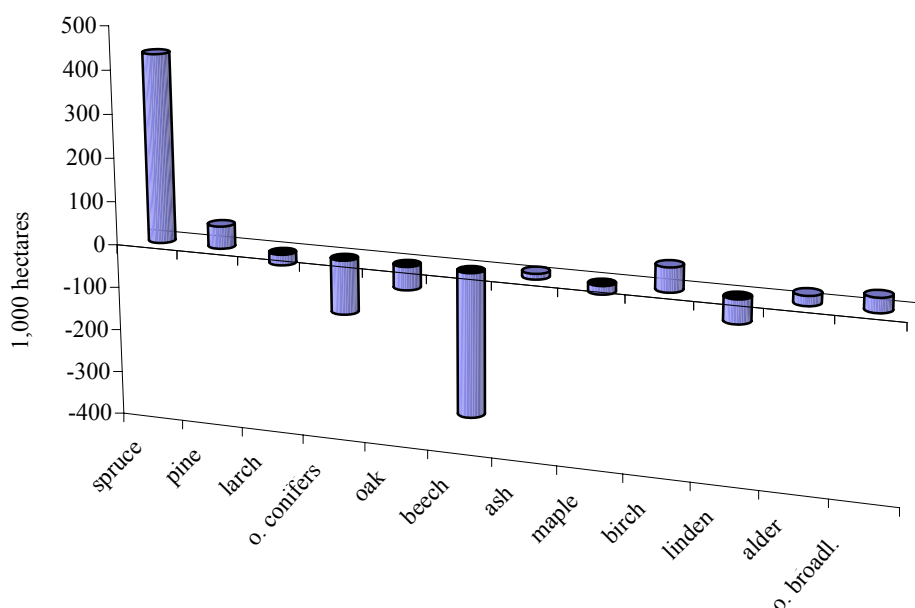


Fig. 2. Deficiency or surplus of tree species in the CR

Table 1. Surplus or deficiency of tree species in Forest Natural Regions in relation to target tree species composition (data in %)

Forest Natural Regions												
Tree species	1	2a	2b	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Spruce	<b>-7.8*</b>	7.4	<b>-0.1</b>	24.4	0.0	4.7	19.6	29.8	9.7	16.7	23.3	24.1
Pine	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>-15.8</b>	1.4	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-11.9</b>	8.6	<b>-3.3</b>	1.4	0.8	4.6	2.7
Larch	2.7	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	2.8	0.1	<b>-1.5</b>	1.5	1.1	2.7	<b>-2.5</b>	0.1
Other conifers	4.8	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-4.2</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
Oak	0.5	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	-1.5	7.0	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Beech	<b>-13.5</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-18.7</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>-16.2</b>	<b>-12.0</b>	<b>-14.5</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-11.0</b>	<b>-14.0</b>	<b>-14.8</b>
Ash	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	7.5	<b>-0.3</b>	7.4	7.6	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1
Maple	<b>-0.4</b>	0.2	6.0	<b>-1.1</b>	8.1	2.1	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	0.0	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Birch	11.2	15.6	10.8	3.0	1.5	8.3	<b>-0.1</b>	1.3	0.9	2.9	1.1	1.2
Linden	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Alder	1.4	4.7	3.5	0.8	1.5	1.0	0.3	0.7	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	0.5	1.1
Other broadleaves	2.7	1.3	15.3	<b>-0.1</b>	2.6	6.2	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	4.8	0.5	1.0	0.0
Forest Natural Regions												
Tree species	12	13	14	15a	15b	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Spruce	7.2	16.1	25.7	4.3	17.2	25.9	10.4	7.7	15.3	23.4	13.4	18.3
Pine	19.6	4.8	1.9	2.5	20.9	4.9	<b>-2.3</b>	8.5	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>-10.7</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Larch	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	3.8	0.8	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Other conifers	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-9.1</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	1.9	<b>-3.2</b>
Oak	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	4.7	<b>-14.0</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	1.0	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Beech	<b>-18.0</b>	<b>-13.3</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>-19.8</b>	<b>-5.8</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>-15.6</b>	<b>-9.1</b>	<b>-14.5</b>
Ash	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.0
Maple	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	0.2	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Birch	3.1	1.4	0.5	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	1.5	2.3	2.9	4.8	6.0	2.7	0.8
Linden	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Alder	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.5	<b>-0.4</b>	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.8	1.9	0.4	0.4
Other broadleaves	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	0.0	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	3.0	0.8	0.6	1.7	0.1	2.6
Forest Natural Regions												
Tree species	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Spruce	30.5	28.6	21.3	32.3	21.9	24.4	24.1	18.0	28.5	<b>-7.1</b>	16.2	5.5
Pine	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	0.0	1.2	0.3	10.4	4.2	<b>-3.0</b>
Larch	<b>-0.1</b>	0.8	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	1.0	<b>-1.0</b>	1.2	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	0.0
Other conifers	<b>-6.1</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Oak	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	10.9	0.2	<b>-19.4</b>
Beech	<b>-19.5</b>	<b>-19.3</b>	<b>-16.7</b>	<b>-16.2</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>-10.7</b>	<b>-15.3</b>	<b>-15.9</b>	<b>-15.8</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Ash	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.2	<b>-0.1</b>	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	<b>-0.5</b>	0.2	9.0
Maple	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Birch	3.6	3.7	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.4	1.1	<b>-0.4</b>	1.7	6.3	0.1	2.9
Linden	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	1.6	<b>-3.7</b>	8.9
Alder	1.6	0.9	1.9	1.5	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.5	2.0	0.9	3.1
Other broadleaves	0.9	0.9	3.5	0.5	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	0.4	1.3	0.2	1.1	3.6	<b>-3.5</b>

Table 1 to be continued

Tree species	Forest Natural Regions						
	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Spruce	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	2.2	<b>-0.2</b>	3.3	24.1	15.6
Pine	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	4.9	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	1.6
Larch	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	1.3	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-4.3</b>
Other conifers	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-5.8</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Oak	<b>-5.6</b>	2.0	<b>-2.4</b>	1.0	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Beech	<b>-5.3</b>	2.3	<b>-13.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>-8.1</b>
Ash	4.9	0.7	2.6	0.7	2.9	<b>-0.1</b>	0.1
Maple	0.0	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	1.7	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Birch	0.1	4.5	9.4	0.9	4.7	0.7	1.2
Linden	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	3.2	<b>-3.7</b>	5.4	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Alder	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.5	5.0	<b>-0.5</b>	0.3
Other broadleaves	14.6	9.9	5.7	4.3	1.8	0.2	1.9

\*minus before the number indicates a deficiency of the tree species in %

The third group with medium differences between the target and actual tree species composition includes Forest Natural Regions 2a, 4, 15a, 20, 36 and 38.

The fourth group with negligible differences between the target and actual tree species composition includes Forest Natural Regions: 1, 2b, 5, 12, 15b, 32, 34 and 35. Generally, no considerable modifications of tree species composition are necessary in these areas (Fig. 3).

## CONCLUSION

The first two groups have the higher proportion of spruce instead of beech and the changes in them are urgent. The most numerous group is the second one characterised by large differences between the target and present tree species composition and it needs changes as well. Generally it is true that there is a surplus of spruce in

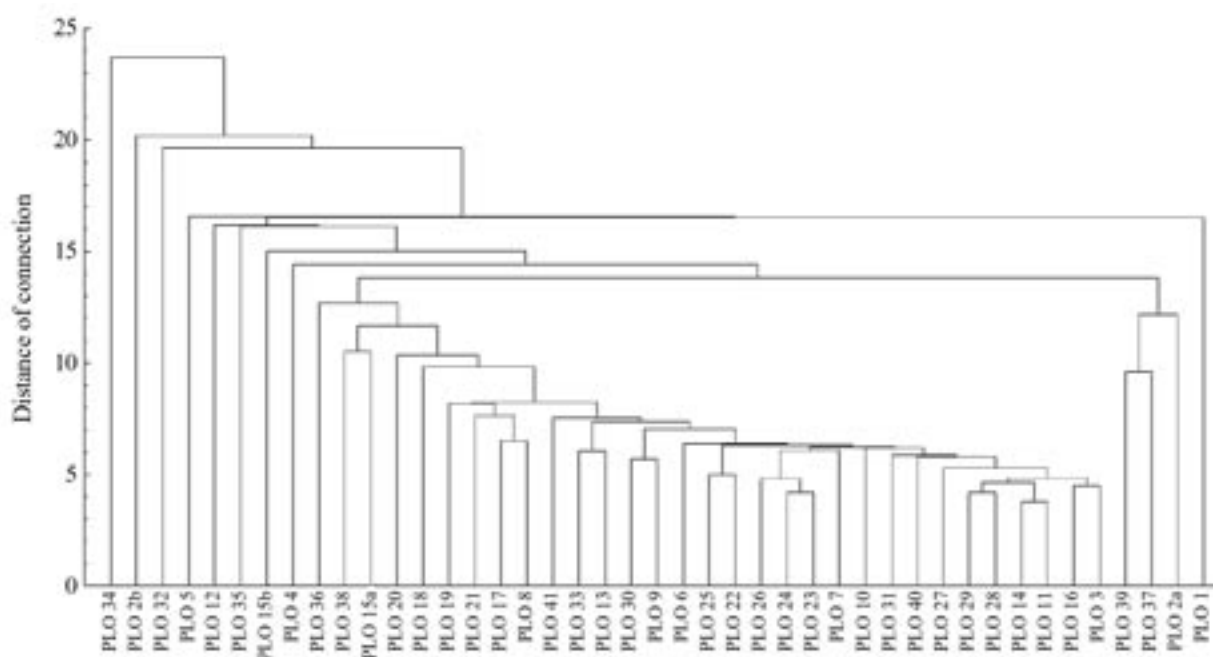


Fig. 3. Cluster analysis evaluates distance or closeness on the basis of differences between target and actual composition

the Czech Republic and a deficiency of beech. The second "shortage" group is "other conifers" with fir and Douglas fir. With respect to this fact it is hard to say that there is a surplus of conifers in the Czech Republic.

But it is possible to interpret the result as a demonstration of high heterogeneity not only in the framework of the Czech Republic but also on the local level. Research in this field showed that universal recommendations, such as increase in beech or decrease in spruce are not valid in the whole Czech Republic. Forest types and site requirements of trees must be an operative background for reforestation. However, the economic effect of tree species composition cannot be omitted at the same time. The mission of the target tree species composition is not

to achieve the natural tree species composition (referring to the 6<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century), but to create ecologically stable and economically viable forests.

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Received for publication July 9, 2003  
Accepted after corrections December 10, 2003

## Hodnocení změn v druhové skladbě lesů v ČR

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**ABSTRAKT:** Druhová skladba lesů v České republice se vlivem působení člověka značně změnila, a proto se současná dřevinná skladba liší od původní. Příspěvek hodnotí na základě české typologické školy cílovou a současnou dřevinnou skladbu v jednotlivých hospodářských souborech v přírodních lesních oblastech. Využitím statistické metody shlukové analýzy vytváří čtyři skupiny přírodních lesních oblastí podle míry odlišnosti cílové a současné dřevinné skladby. V České republice existují jak přírodní lesní oblasti, ve kterých se současná dřevinná skladba téměř shoduje s cílovou, tak oblasti vyžadující výrazné úpravy.

**Klíčová slova:** přírodní lesní oblast; cílový hospodářský soubor; jehličnaté dřeviny; listnaté dřeviny; druhová skladba; původní druhová skladba; cílová druhová skladba

Přírodní lesní oblasti (dále jen PLO) mají různou dřevinnou skladbu v závislosti na přírodních podmínkách. Smrk jako hlavní hospodářská dřevina má v současné době zastoupení 54 %, které by se mělo snížit během následujících 100 let na 36 %. Množství listnatých porostů by se naopak mělo zvýšit na 36 %, resp. na 44 %. Nutnost druhových změn ve prospěch listnáčů vyvolaná opakujícími se kalamitami a globálními klimatickými jevy, které ohrožují smrkové porosty v nižších polohách, je v ostrém rozporu s požadavky dřevozpracujícího průmyslu. Ten byl až dosud zvyklý zpracovávat převážně smrk a borovici a dodávky jiných dřevin jsou zejména pro celulózopapírenský průmysl komplikované. Vyšší zastoupení jehličnanů je z hlediska stability a vlivů na půdu nežádoucí, ale z hlediska samofinancování lesního hospodářství je nadále nepostradatelné.

PLO představuje jednotku členění lesa. Její součástí jsou hospodářské soubory (dále jen HS) zastoupené v dané oblasti, pro které PLÍVA a ŽLÁBEK (1989) stanovili tzv. cílovou druhovou skladbu, což je ekonomicky, biologicky a funkčně optimalizované zastoupení dřevin v mýtním věku.

Data k analýze byla převzata z Oblastních plánů rozvoje lesů (OPRL). Tento materiál je zakotven legislativně v zákoně 289/95 Sb. a je to nástroj lesnické politiky, neboť doporučuje zásady hospodaření. Tvorba lesních hospodářských osnov (LHO) a lesních hospodářských plánů (LHP) rovněž vychází z OPRL. Základní jednotkou plánů je PLO. Každá PLO má několik HS s dřevinami, jejichž rozloha je známa. Jejich plocha byla konfrontována s cílovou skladbou a procentuální zastoupení přepočteno podle výměry dané PLO.

Vytvořila jsem si pracovní hypotézu o rozdělení PLO do několika skupin z hlediska blízkosti jejich současné dřevinné skladby s cílovou. Shluková analýza potvrdila čtyři skupiny, které se liší navzájem svým odklonem od cílové, event. od přirozené skladby. Nejvíce se cílové skladbě přibližují PLO 15a, 18 a 38. Nejčastěji přebývá smrk, nejvíce nedostatkovou dřevinou je buk. Nutnost snížení podílu jehličnatých dřevin při výsadbě je oprávněná pouze v případě smrku a borovice, neboť druhou nedostatkovou dřevinou po buku je kategorie „ostatní jehličnany“ – tedy jedle a douglaska. Z listnatých dřevin je požadavek především na vyšší zastoupení buku

– chybí na ploše odpovídající 329 954 ha, v menší míře chybí v porostech dub, javor a lípa. Zastoupení břízy je dokonce na ploše, která přesahuje téměř o 60 000 ha plochu v cílové skladbě. Je to dané suplováním smrku nebo jiných dřevin na imisních holinách, čímž se vysvětluje

i vyšší zastoupení ostatních listnatých dřevin oproti cílové skladbě. Postupné snižování podílu smrku v obnovních cílech a zvyšování podílu buku povede ke stabilizaci lesních porostů a druhovou skladbu v ČR bude možné považovat za vyhovující.

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