

A brief evaluation of the PhD thesis *Variability of spontaneous vegetation succession in disused gravel-sand pits: importance of environmental factors and surrounding vegetation* submitted by Klára Řehouňková

There are not many works dealing with vegetation succession over a broader geographical scale. Klára investigated altogether 36 abandoned sand-gravel pits spread over the whole Czech Republic, including 224 particular successional stages. This large set of records and its elaboration by modern methods of vegetation analysis provided novel findings concerning succession itself, species colonization ability, and also practical outputs into restoration ecology. The results were published in good international scientific journals or have recently been submitted. A detailed evaluation is a matter of reviewers, I only include some general comments:

I enjoyed the collaboration with Klára on this interesting topic, including the work on the joint papers. She was able to write first drafts of the papers herself, thus my engagement was easy and pleasant in the interactive finalization of the publications. I appreciate, the results have, besides theoretical value, also potential practical implications though their implementation is not easy under the present conditions in this country. But Klára made attempts to encourage the using spontaneous succession instead technical reclamation, organizing meetings with practitioners and writing popular leaflets and brochures about the topic, naturally not included into the thesis.

Finally, I am please to say, I consider the submitted thesis as very good, above the usual standard. I wish Klára success in here carrier as well as in here personal affairs.



Karel Prach

supervisor

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