

Impact of management on diversity of species-rich grasslands

The thesis of Dobromil Galvnek is based on five scientific studies – in all of them, he is the first author, in one the only author. Of those, two papers have been already published in international scientific journals (Applied Vegetation Science, Biodiversity and Conservation), one has been just accepted by Plan Ecology, one was published as a book chapter by an international publisher, and one is in the form of manuscript. One paper (the book chapter) provides a good overview of the environmental and ecological context of the experimental site, then there are three chapters based on a four year management experiment, and the last chapter demonstrated on the basis of other experiment the differences between the small-scale experiment, and real large scale restoration project.

Dobromil Galvnek was not an „internal PhD student“, which means that he has worked for the whole time in practical nature conservation. Despite this, he was able to finish his work and also to publish the results of his scientific work in international journal. Nevertheless, thank to his continuous engagement in practical nature conservation and nature management for preservation of biological diversity, his results are directly connected and directly useable to practitioners of nature conservation. Not necessary to say, thanks to his permanent engagement and also thank to his physical distance, he worked very independently.

I am sure that there are some shortcomings and mistakes in the thesis, but I do not know about them and leave the task of finding them on the referees. From the supervisor’s point of view, I consider the results of his PhD to be a valuable contribution to the nature conservation science, demonstrating his ability of independent scientific work. Consequently, I recommend without any reservation the thesis to be accepted as a basis for awarding the PhD to the candidate.

Jan Lepš

