

BOOK REVIEW

Fanta J., Siepel H.[Eds.]: INLAND DRIFT SAND LANDSCAPES - KNNV Publishing, Zeist, The Netherlands, 2010, Hardback, 384 p., ISBN-978-90-5011-350-2.

European maps of aeolian drift sand patches and landscape patches of sandstones (Kovář 2008) are not identical. They create a kind of belt across Europe in the west – east axis, however, this is of a different nature than actually existing „green belt“ (Romportl 2009). Despite of similar geological origin of both types of underground substrates, the first one represents much younger genesis (period of transition from the last ice age to the Holocene) and recently even deep secondary impacts of human civilization through various land uses in sand areas. Drift sands don't mean the same as cover sands in periglacial areas or loess sediments at the opposite pole of the material gradient. They consist mainly of wind-blown particles in territories where vegetation at least periodically came back after periods of higher disturbance dynamics. This was related to the climate changes but also to human exploitation of landscapes during modern ages. Surprisingly, the last mentioned fact doesn't correspond with many adequate references - literature sources are scarce starting from geology and finishing in landscape ecology.

The Netherlands as a country with some percentual cover by drift sands is a typical country oriented logically on the geology of Quaternary with high emphasis. This interest is expressed also by reviewed book of two editors, prof. Josef Fanta and prof. Henk Siepel. They collected knowledge of wide team of co-authors consisting of a team of 21 people in this book . They present different views on inland drift sands landscapes through time and threat ecological processes, historical aspects of spatiotemporal changes, conservation and/or restoration of this special ecotope. The book is divided into five parts. The first one concentrates its attention on the origin and geological development of drift sands, but extends the attention on the vegetation and man's interactions with the subject. Subdivisions of the second part search the habitat variables from microclimate of drift sand areas, their soils and humus development or nutrient cycling, fauna communities and mycoflora. Part three is devoted to the other groups of organisms such as lichens, bryophytes and fauna, but mainly in the context of vegetation succession. Summarizing, we can say that above mentioned chapters plastically show multidisciplinary in the approach to a very special environment. The fourth part presents the results connected with forestation of inland drift sands. Natural processes such as spontaneous succession are confronted with behaviour of woody species and lead into modelling of vegetation development. Logical conclusion is manifested in assessment of differentiation of forest site types. Small, but important chapter within Part five deals with practical implications of the all previous items, namely with the landscape development, protection and management of the studied ecosystems.

The book is composed of understandable structural components, written with clear style and illustrated by numerous full-color photographs printed on high-quality paper. An index should be added into the future re-editions. Some minor formal shortages such as orthographical or nomenclatorial ones don't reduce the significance and general value of the book treating an exclusively rare subject. European value in the book impact is emphasized by explicit relationships to the Natura 2000 programme (Preface written by L. Miko, the officer in European Commission). Chapters associated

with restoring practices or with problems of nature protection in this special context should be recommended for transfer of that knowledge into educational curricula of ecologically oriented schools or faculties.

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- ROMPORTL D. (2009):** Wrbka, T., Zmelik, K. & Grünweiss, F.M. [Eds.]: *The European Green Belt – Borders. Wilderness. Future*. – Publisher: Verlag Bibliothek der Provinz, 2009, 343 p. – *Journal of Landscape Ecology*, 2: 78.

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