

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Geography of South-west Slovakia	2
	References	10
2	The Historical Vegetation of South-west Slovakia	13
2.1	The Last Glacial	13
2.2	Postglacial	15
2.2.1	Woodland	24
2.2.2	Steppe, Wood Steppe and Mesic Grasslands	52
2.2.3	Alluvia and Wetlands	91
2.2.4	Farmland, Settlements and Transport Networks	110
	References	139
3	Case Studies	153
3.1	Traditional Botanical Knowledge of Local Communities in the Nitra Region: Habitats in Local Geographical Names	153
3.2	Reconstruction of Forest Vegetation History According to Etymology of Geographical Names in Last 1000 Years	158
3.2.1	Historical Forest Management	161
3.2.2	Coppice “Erestvín” or “Sekanina”	163
3.2.3	Coppice “Chrastina”	170
3.2.4	Pasture Woodland and High Forests	174
3.2.5	Dense and Sparse Forest	182
3.2.6	Clear-Cutting “Rúbanisko”	183
3.2.7	Extirpation “Klčovisko”	185
3.2.8	Clearance “Laz”	186
3.2.9	Clearance “Nitváž”	186
3.2.10	Species Composition of Historical Forests	188
3.2.11	Alluvial Forests	197

3.3	Phytodiversity in Differently Used Forest Fragments in the Agricultural Landscape	206
3.3.1	Introduction	206
3.3.2	History of the Studied Forests	208
3.3.3	Changes in Biodiversity	211
3.4	Origin and Development of Salt Steppes in the Danube Lowland Region of Slovakia	215
3.4.1	Introduction	215
3.4.2	Paleopedological and Archeobotanical Findings	218
3.4.3	Interpretation of Geographical, Agrohistorical and Ethnobotanical Data	221
3.4.4	Vegetation Dynamics of Alkali Habitats	239
3.5	Historical Reconstruction of Expansion of Alien Plants in the Nitra River Basin	247
3.5.1	Introduction	247
3.5.2	Characteristics of the Studied Area	249
3.5.3	Reconstruction of the Expansion of Non-native Plant Species	250
3.6	A Future Challenge: Short Rotation Coppice in Farmlands of SW Slovakia	271
	References	279
	Conclusions	295
	Index	303