

**POPULATION VARIABILITY OF *PULSATILLA PATENS* s. l. (RANUNCULACEAE)
IN THE VYATKA RIVER BASIN**

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SUMMARY

The study presents information on ecological phytocoenotic confindness and population structure of *Pulsatilla patens* (L.) Mill. s. l. in 10 coenopopulations in Kirov region. The species is characterized by wide ecological range and morphological variability. We have identified three types of coenopopulations: 1. formed exclusively by *P. patens* s. str.; 2. with small presence of *P. uralensis* (Zamels) Tzvel.; 3. formed by of *P. uralensis* with significant presence of *P. patens* s. str. There were no populations formed exclusively by *P. uralensis*. The studied populations are assigned predominantly to pine coenoses. The investigation revealed the differences in ecological preferences of the defined groups of coenopopulations: plants in populations formed exclusively by *P. patens* s. str. inhabit less illuminated areas on soils with higher moisture, higher acidity and lower nitrogen availability compared to the individuals in coenopopulations of hybridogenic origin.

Key words: *Pulsatilla patens*, *P. uralensis*, hybridization, coenopopulation, ecological phytocoenotic confindness, Kirov region.