

COENOTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MOSS COMPONENT OF ELFINWOOD AND SHRUB COMMUNITIES OF THE PROTECTED AND ANTHROPOGENICALLY DISTURBED TERRITORIES (NORTHERN KORYAKIA, KAMCHATKA TERRITORY)

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SUMMARY

Comparison of the species composition and coenotic structure has been made for the moss component of plant formations of the dwarf pine and alder elfin woods, dwarf birch shrubs of *Betula middendorffii* and willow-shrubs of *Salix alaxensis* and *S. pulchra* in the northern part of the Koryak area of Kamchatka Territory (Northern Koryakia). The studies were performed in a conservation area and in anthropogenically impacted territories. The resulting floristic list consists of 58 species, which reflects the widespread distribution of these plant formations in the study area. It has been established that the moss component of the study areas shows an impoverished species composition compared to the neighboring territories due to severe climate. Our analysis has shown that dwarf pine elfin woods, where the moss component plays a significant coenotic role and constitutes a part of the community structure, tend to have the richest floristic composition. Cedar elfin woods are very close to alder ones and to shrub birch of *Betula middendorffii*. However, bryocoenofloras of alder and shrub birch communities are much poorer and coenotic participation of mosses is lower in these formations, compared to that in dwarf pine elfin woods. Willow-shrubs are the most specific kind of formation moss component-wise, their bryocoenoflora shows very wide species diversity and their vegetation structure is the most specific among other formations, but mosses play an insignificant role in these coenoses. The core active species in all formations are *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Dicranum majus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Sanionia uncinata*, *Sciuro-hypnum starkei*. It has been established that low-active or inactive species predominate in all formations, reflecting the specificity of ecotopes, where the moss cover of community is being formed. During the study of the shrub and elfin wood formations some new and rare for Northern Koryakia and the Far East moss species were found. The comparison of moss component of communities in the anthropogenically impacted territories and in conservation areas has revealed that all impacted communities show a lower species richness of the moss component and the decrease of its contribution to coenotic structures. There is a moderate disturbance of moss cover in plant communities affected by anthropogenic pressure. Its recovery has good prospects, if anthropogenic load is reduced. The recovery will occur due to the species of the native communities.

Key words: mosses, moss component, bryocoenofloras, coenotic role, ecology, communities, formations, dwarf pine elfin wood, alder elfin wood, shrub birch of *Betula middendorffii*, *Salix alaxensis* and *S. pulchra* willow-shrubs, Koryak area, Northern Koryakia, Kamchatka Territory.