

SPECIES COMPOSITION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF PASTURE PHYTOCOENOSES OF THE TEREK-KUMA LOWLAND (THE DAGHESTAN REPUBLIC)

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SUMMARY

The species composition and productivity of grassland plant communities of the Terek-Kuma lowland is studied. The plant material for phytomass yield and species composition has been sampled eight times: in the first decade of each month from April to November. The description of the vegetation cover was carried out in accordance with standard geobotanical methods. Stock of the aboveground phytomass was evaluated using A. A. Titlyanova method. The species composition of the pastures in the protected areas of the Terek-Kuma lowland comprised 35 species; the richest in species were the following families: Poaceae (14), Chenopodiaceae (8), Asteraceae (4), Fabaceae (3). The maximum productivity of sagebrush-Russian thistle phytocenoses was 2.11–6.95 t/ha in August 2012 (with precipitation of 102 mm, t^0 of air – 25.8°C, relative humidity of air – 52 %, evaporativity – 275 mm), dominant – *Salsola iberica* (Sennen et Pau) Botsch. All plants species accumulated significant values of Ca^{2+} , K^+ , Na^+ и SO_4^{2-} , Cl^- .

Key words: species composition, productivity, potassium, calcium, sodium, ions of chlorine and sulfates.