

# MEADOWS OF THE NORTHERN LEFT-BANK FOREST-STEPPE: THE CLASS PHRAGMITO-MAGNOCARICETEA (UKRAINE)

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This paper reviews the classification scheme of riparian vegetation (the class Phragmito-Magnocaricetea) of the northern Left-Bank Forest-Steppe. The physical geography peculiarities of the region are described. The northern part of the study area shares a border with Polissya. The eastern part borders on the western spurs of the Central Russian Upland. In the western part the flat relief of the study area contains marshes. Meadows are mainly in the floodplains of the Uday, Oster, Romen, Sula, Seim rivers. In the study area the following associations are identified: *Caricetum vesicariae* Br.-Bl. et Denis 1926, *Glycerietum fluitantis* Wilzek 1935, *Carici acutae-Glycerietum maximae* (Jilek et Valisek 1964) Shelyag, V. Sl. et Sipaylova 1985, *Poetum palustris* Resmerita et Ratius 1974, *Beckmannietum eruciformis* R. Jovanovic 1958. These associations depend on the alliances *Caricion gracilis* Neuhäusl 1959 em. Balátová-Tuláčkova 1963, *Sparganio-Glycerion fluitantis* Br.-Bl. et Siss. in Boer 1942, *Poion palustris* Shelyag, V. Sl. et Sipaylova 1985 and on the orders *Magnocaricetalia* Pignatti 1953, *Nasturtio-Glycerietalia* Pignatti 1953 em. Kopecký 1961 in Kopecký et Hejný 1965, *Galio palustre-Poetalia* palustris V. Sl. 1996. The floristic diversity of the class comprises 66 genera, 26 families, 104 species (100 %). *Equisetophyta* includes two species (1,92 %), *Magnoliopsida* – 60 species (57,69 %), *Liliopsida* – 42 species (40,39 %). The class contains 22 syntaxa: three orders, three alliances, five associations, two subassociations, nine variants. The diversity of taxa and syntaxa of the class Phragmito-Magnocaricetea depends on the wide diversity of habitats.

**Keywords:** grassland communities, syntaxonomy, species.

**Introduction.** The study area is similar to the northern left-bank geobotanical district of the Forest-steppe province (Didur & Shelyag-Sosonko, 2003), and covers about 5930 km<sup>2</sup> (180 km from north to south and 70 km from west to east). According to the physical geogra-

phy zoning of Ukraine the study area is located in the northern Near-Dnieper elevation of Forest-steppe zone (Marynich et al., 2003). Upland relief of the western part contains marshes and swamp saucer (Dmytryeva, 1969), the eastern part borders on the western spurs of the Central

Russian Upland. These peculiarities are caused by the influence of glacier and glacier-water flows (Grymalo, 1970).

Meadows of the study area cover narrow strips of the territory. Particularly these are the floodplains of the Uday, Oster, Romen, Sula, Seim rivers. According to our evaluation the natural and the semi-natural vegetation occupy about 181 thousand hectares (3,1 %) of the study area. Meadows cover about 53 thousand hectares of the region (0,9 %), forests – 119 (2 %), marches – 9 (0,2 %). Meadows had been sporadically researched earlier. The ecological conditions, geographical peculiarities and geobotanical description of the Left-Bank Forest Steppe vegetation were researched by Mrinskii (1971). The location of the flood plain meadows in the transverse and longitudinal profiles of the Seim river and their zonal specificity were investigated by Afanasyev (1976). The meadows of the southern districts of the Chernihiv region were studied by Mulyarchuk (1961, 1970). Solomakha (1982) described meadows of the Vorskla river basin. The vegetation of the Desna-Oster interfluve in the Chernihiv region was researched by Lukash in 1999. In Ukraine the mesic grassland vegetation (phytosociological class *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*) was studied by Kuzemko (2012, 2016). The structure of the *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea* class was created for the northern left-bank geobotanical district (Tertyshnyi, 2006). Nowadays it is important to identify the syntaxa of the meadow vegetation and its peculiarities.

The research object of our investigation is the meadow vegetation of the northern Left-Bank Forest-Steppe.

The aim is to create the syntaxonomical scheme of the *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea* class for better understanding of the flora peculiarities.

### Materials and methods of research.

Latin names of species are given according to Sergei L. Mosyakin and Mykola M. Fedorochuk (Mosyakin & Fedorochuk, 1999). Field flora and geobotanical study (2002–2018 years) is provided by traditional methods (Field geobotany, 1959, 1976; Rabotnov, 1987; Ramenskii, 1937; Viktorov et al., 1959; Yunatov, 1964). The area of plots for meadow vegetation constitutes 4–100 square metres. During research it was collected 863 relevés, which were processed using standard methodic of phytocoenotic tables transformation (Kosman et al., 1991; Sirenko, 1996). For higher syntaxa it is used Mucina et al. (2016) and Solomaha et al. (2017) to compare our results with a comprehensive, hierarchical, syntaxonomic system of alliances, orders and classes of Braun-Blanquet syntaxonomy for vascular plants.

**Results and discussion.** On the base of own field researches (2002–2018 years) and literature sources (Gomlya, 2005; Goncharenko, 2003; Karpenko & Kovtun, 1996; Mulyarchuk, 1970; Potulnyczkyj, 1972) it is reviewed the main types of vegetation. As a result it is formed the syntaxonomical scheme of the class *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*.

*Syntaxonomical scheme of the class Phragmito-Magnocaricetea Klika in Klika et Novák 1941 of the northern Left-Bank Forest-Steppe*

*Magnocaricetalia* Pignatti 1953

*Caricion gracilis* Neuhäusl 1959  
em. Balátová-Tuláčkova 1963

*Caricetum vesicariae* Br.-Bl. et Denis 1926

*C.v. caricetosum acutae* subass.

*C.v. typicum* Br.-Bl. et Denis 1926

*Nasturtio-Glycerietalia* Pignatti 1953 em. Kopecký 1961 in Kopecký et Hejný 1965

*Spargano-Glycerion fluitantis* Br.-Bl. et Siss. in Boer 1942

- Glycerietum fluitantis* Wilzek 1935  
*G.f.* var. *Poa palustris*  
*G.f.* var. *Agrostis stolonifera*  
*Carici acutae-Glycerietum maximae* (Jilek et Valisek 1964) Shelyag, VSl. et Sipaylova 1985  
*C.a.-G.m.* var. *Carex vesicaria*  
*C.a.-G.m.* var. *Agrostis stolonifera*  
*Galio palustre-Poetalia palustris* VSl. 1996  
*Poion palustris* Shelyag, VSl. et Sipaylova 1985  
*Poetum palustris* Resmerita et Ratiu 1974  
*P.p.* var. *Ptarmica vulgaris*  
*P.p.* var. *Agrostis capillaris*  
*P.p.* var. *Beckmannia eruciformis*  
*Beckmannietum eruciformis* R. Jovanovic 1958  
*B.e.* var. *Carex vulpina*  
*B.e.* var. *typicum*
- The characteristic of syntaxa.** The class ***Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*** comprises highly wetted habitats with communities of shallow water vegetation, bank of ponds, herbaceous marshlands, wet and marshland meadows (Yurkevich et al., 1975; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1965; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1983; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1985; Baryla, 1970; Ellenberg, 1952; Fagasiewicz, 1963).
- In the study area the flora diversity of the class ***Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*** contains 104 species: *Achillea submillefolium* Klokov et Krytzka, *Acorus calamus* L., *Agrostis canina* L., *A. capillaris* L., *A. stolonifera* L., *Alisma lanceolatum* With., *A. plantago-aquatica* L., *Allium angulosum* L., *Alopecurus aequalis* Sobol., *A. geniculatus* L., *A. pratensis* L., *Althaea officinalis* L., *Anchusa officinalis* L., *Beckmannia eruciformis* (L.) Host, *Bidens cernua* L., *B. tripartita* L., *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (L.) Palla, *Butomus umbellatus* L., *Calamagrostis canescens* (Weber) Roth,
- Calla palustris* L., *Caltha palustris* L., *Carex acuta* L., *C. cespitosa* L., *C. disticha* Huds., *C. hirta* L., *C. nigra* (L.) Reichard, *C. rostrata* Stokes, *C. vesicaria* L., *C. vulpina* L., *Centaurea jacea* L., *Cichorium intybus* L., *Cicuta virosa* L., *Coccyanthe flos-cuculi* (L.) Fourr., *Dactylorhiza majalis* (Rchb.) P.F.Hunt & Summerhayes, *Deschampsia cespitosa* (L.) P.Beauv., *Echinochloa crusgalli* (L.) P.Beauv., *Eleocharis palustris* (L.) Roem. et Schult., *Elytrigia repens* (L.) Roem. et Schult., *Equisetum palustre* L., *E. pratense* L., *Eryngium planum* L., *Festuca pratensis* Huds., *Filipendula denudata* (J.Presl & C.Presl) Fritsch, *F. ulmaria* (L.) Maxim., *Galium boreale* L., *G. palustre* L., *Geranium palustre* L., *G. pratense* L., *Glechoma hederacea* L., *Glyceria fluitans* (L.) R. Br., *G. maxima* (C. Hartm.) Holmberg., *Gratiola officinalis* L., *Hierochloë repens* (Host) Beauv., *Inula britannica* L., *Iris pseudacorus* L., *I. sibirica* L., *Juncus articulatus* L., *J. atratus* Krock., *J. inflexus* L., *Lathyrus palustris* L., *Leersia oryzoides* (L.) Sw., *Lycopus europaeus* L., *L. exaltatus* L. f., *Lysimachia nummularia* L., *L. vulgaris* L., *Lythrum salicaria* L., *L. virgatum* L., *Mentha aquatica* L., *M. arvensis* L., *Myosotis scorpioides* L., *Naumburgia thrysiflora* (L.) Rchb., *Phalacroloma annuum* (L.) Dumort., *Phalaroides arundinacea* (L.) Rausch., *Phleum pratense* L., *Plantago lanceolata* L., *P. major* L., *Poa palustris* L., *Potentilla anserina* L., *P. erecta* (L.) Raeusch., *Ptarmica salicifolia* (Besser) Serg., *P. vulgaris* Blackw. ex DC., *Pubicaria vulgaris* Gaertn., *Ranunculus acris* L., *R. flammula* L., *R. repens* L., *Rumex acetosa* L., *R. confertus* Willd., *R. crispus* L., *R. hydrolapathum* Huds., *R. thrysiflorus* Fingerh., *Scutellaria galericulata* L., *S. hastifolia* L., *Sium latifolium* L., *Stachys palustris* L., *Stel-*

*laria graminea* L., *S. palustris* Retz., *Sympyton officinale* L., *Taraxacum officinale* Wigg., *Thalictrum lucidum* L., *Trifolium fragiferum* L., *T. repens* L., *Valeriana officinalis* L., *Veronica longifolia* L., *Vicia cracca* L., 66 genera: *Achillea* L., *Acorus* L., *Agrostis* L., *Alisma* L., *Allium* L., *Alopecurus* L., *Althaea* L., *Anchusa* L., *Beckmannia* Host, *Bidens* L., *Bolboschoenus* (Asch.) Palla, *Butomus* L., *Calamagrostis* Adans., *Calla* L., *Caltha* L., *Carex* L., *Centaurea* L., *Cichorium* L., *Erodium* L'Her., *Coccyganthe* (Rchb.) Rchb., *Dactylorhiza* Neck. ex Nevska, *Deschampsia* P.Beauv., *Echinochloa* P.Beauv., *Eleocharis* R. Br., *Elytrigia* Desv., *Equisetum* L., *Eryngium* L., *Festuca* L., *Filipendula* Mill., *Galium* L., *Geranium* L., *Glechoma* L., *Glyceria* R. Br., *Gratiola* L., *Hierochloë* R. Br., *Inula* L., *Iris* L., *Juncus* L., *Lathyrus* L., *Leersia* Sw., *Lycopus* L., *Lysimachia* L., *Lythrum* L., *Mentha* L., *Myosotis* L., *Naumburgia* Moench, *Phalacroloma* Cass., *Phleum* L., *Plantago* L., *Poa* L., *Potentilla* L., *Ptarmica* Mill., *Pulicaria* Gaertn., *Ranunculus* L., *Rumex* L., *Scutellaria* L., *Sium* L., *Stachys* L., *Stellaria* L., *Sympyton* L., *Taraxacum* Weber, *Thalictrum* L., *Trifolium* L., *Valeriana* L., *Veronica* L., *Vicia* L. and 26 families: *Apiaceae* Lindl., *Araceae* Juss., *Asphodelaceae* Juss., *Asteraceae* Dumort., *Boraginaceae* Juss., *Butomaceae* Rich., *Caryophyllaceae* Juss., *Coccyganthe* (Rchb.) Rchb., *Cyperaceae* Juss., *Equisetaceae* Rich. ex DC., *Fabaceae* Lindl., *Geraniaceae* Juss., *Juncaceae* Juss., *Lamiaceae* Lindl., *Lythraceae* J.St.-Hil., *Plantaginaceae* Juss., *Poaceae* Barnhart., *Polygonaceae* Juss., *Ranunculaceae* Juss., *Rosaceae* Juss., *Rubiaceae* Juss., *Scrophulariaceae* Juss., *Tiliaceae* Juss., *Valerianaceae* Batsch, *Verbenaceae* J. St.-Hil.

The diagnostic species of the class are *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Carex nigra*, *Coccyganthe flos-cuculi*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Geranium palustre*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Juncus atratus*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Rumex hydrolapathum*, *Sium latifolium*, *Stachys palustris*. This class contains three orders: *Magnocaricetalia*, *Nasturtio-Glycerietalia* and *Galio palustre-Poetalia palustris*.

The order ***Magnocaricetalia*** comprises communities of the tall sedges on the herbaceous eutrophic marshlands and the floodplain marshy meadows of rivers (Balátová-Tuláčková, 1963; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1978; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1974; Balátová-Tuláčková, 1977; Blažková, 1973; Miljan, 1933; Špániková, 1971).

The diagnostic species are *Agrostis canina*, *Carex vesicaria*, *C. vulpina*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Myosotis scorpioides*, *Naumburgia thrysiflora*, *Rumex crispus*, *Stellaria palustris*, *Sympyton officinale*. In the study area, the order comprises one alliance.

The order ***Caricion gracilis*** contains communities of sedge marshlands and marshy meadows on the near-terrace depressions of floodplains and in the banks of ponds. The diagnostic species are *Carex acuta*, *C. cespitosa*, *C. vesicaria*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Peucedanum palustre*. The order contains one association.

The association ***Caricetum vesicariae*** is formed by communities of the near-terrace and central parts of floodplains, periphery of marshes and floodplain reservoirs with silt marsh gley soils. Communities of the association were also found on the western part of the study area near the headwaters of

the Uday and Oster rivers. The diagnostic species is *Carex vesicaria*. This association includes two subassociations found in Belarusia in the territory of Berezin's biosphere reservation (Stepanovich et al., 2005).

Communities of the subassociation *C.v. caricetosum acutae* spread in the banks and riparian shallow water of the floodplain reservoirs. The diagnostic species are *Carex acuta*, *C. cespitosa*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Phalaroides arundinacea*. The total cover is 90–100 %. The cover of *Carex vesicaria* is 5–65 %, *C. acuta* – 5–25 %. The number of species in relevés is 21–27.

The subassociation *C.v. typicum* includes communities of the flooded plots of the central and near-terrace parts of the floodplains. The diagnostic species is *Carex vesicaria*. The total cover is 90–95 %. The cover of *Carex vesicaria* is 15–45 %. The number of species in relevés is 15–29.

The order *Nasturtio-Glycerietalia* includes communities of the tall hygrophilous gramineous plants spread on the banks of the floodplain reservoir, in the relief depressions of the central and near-terrace parts of the floodplains and in the periphery of marshes (Kucharski, 1999; Tüxen, 1937; Vicherek, 1958; Vicherek et al., 1969).

The diagnostic species are *Butomus umbellatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Phalaroides arundinacea*, *Ptarmica salicifolia*. The order comprises two alliances.

The alliance *Sparganio-Glycerion* includes phytocoenoses of the shallow water and meadow-marshland vegetation in the flat depressions of floodplains with silt gley marsh soils. The diagnostic species are *Alismaplantago-aquatica*, *Alopecurus aequalis*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *G. maxima*. The alliance comprises two associations.

The association *Glycerietum fluitantis* comprises communities spread in the relief depressions of floodplains with meadow-marsh and sod-gley soils. Communities of the association are mainly found in the western part of the study area near the headwaters of the Oster and Romen rivers. The diagnostic species is *Glyceria fluitans*. The association contains two variants.

The communities of the variant *G.f. var. Poa palustris* are located in the flat relief of the near-terrace depressions of floodplains with meadow-marsh soils. The diagnostic species is *Poa palustris*. The total cover is 80–95 %. The cover of *Glyceria fluitans* is 5–45 %, *Poa palustris* – 5–25 %. The number of species in relevés is 19–22.

Communities of the variant *G.f. var. Agrostis stolonifera* are spread in the flat areas of slightly increased near-terrace depressions of floodplains with sod-gley soils. The diagnostic species is *Agrostis stolonifera*. The total cover is 85–95 %. The cover of *Glyceria fluitans* is 15–65 %, *Agrostis stolonifera* – 5–25 %. The number of species in relevés is 17–25.

The association *Cariciacutae-Glycerietum maximae* comprises communities spread in the flat relief depressions with meadow-marsh and sod-gley loam soils. Communities of the association are mainly found in the western part of the study area near the headwaters of the Oster and Romen rivers. The diagnostic species are *Carex acuta*, *Glyceria maxima*. The association comprises two variants.

The variant *C.a.-G.m. var. Carex vesicaria* contains communities spread in near-terrace depressions of river floodplains with meadow-marsh soils. The diagnostic species is *Carex vesicaria*. The total cover is 95–100 %. The cover of *Carex acuta* is 15–45 %,

*Glyceria maxima* – 15–45 %, *Carex vesicaria* – 5–15 %. The number of species in relevés is 12–16.

The variant *C.a.-G.m. var. Agrostis stolonifera* includes communities spread in the slightly deep depressions of floodplains with sod-gley loam soils. The diagnostic species is *Agrostis stolonifera*. The total cover is 95–100 %. The cover of *Carex acuta* is 5 %, *Glyceria maxima* – 15–45 %, *Agrostis stolonifera* – 5–15 %. The number of species in relevés is 10–17.

The order *Galio palustre-Poetalia palustris* comprises the small gramineous plants of the meadows with sod-gley loam soils. The diagnostic species are *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Gratiola officinalis*. This order comprises one alliance.

The alliance *Poion palustris* contains communities spread in the flat relief depressions of the wet meadows of the central and near-terrace depressions of floodplains with sod gley loam soils. The diagnostic species of the alliance coincide with the same ones for the order. In the study area two associations of the alliance *Poion palustris* are found.

The association *Poetum palustris* comprises communities spread in the near-terrace and the central parts floodplains with meadow-marshy and meadow-loam soils. They are mainly located in the eastern part of the study area between outflows of the Romen river and the town of Konotop. The diagnostic species is *Poa palustris*.

Communities of the variant *P.p.var. Ptarmica vulgaris* are mainly found in the near-terrace part of floodplains with meadow-marsh soils. The diagnostic species is *Ptarmica vulgaris*. The total cover is 90 %. Cover of *Poa palustris* is 5–45 %, *Ptarmica vulgaris* – 15–35 %. The number of species in relevés is 16–18.

The variant *P.p. var. Agrostis capillaris* comprises communities of the central part of floodplains with meadow gley soils. The diagnostic species is *Agrostis capillaris*. The total cover is 95 %. The cover of *Poa palustris* is 25–45 %, *Agrostis capillaris* – 15 %. The number of species in relevés is 15–17.

The variant *P.p.var. Beckmannia eruciformis* comprises communities of the flat relief depressions of floodplains with meadow-marsh soils. The diagnostic species is *Beckmannia eruciformis*. The total cover is 90–95 %. The cover of *Poa palustris* is 15–25 %, *Beckmannia eruciformis* – 15–25 %. The number of species in relevés is 15–21.

Communities of the association *Beckmannietum eruciformis* are located in the excessively wet depressions of meadow plots with low salinity, sod-gley and silt-gley soils. They are mainly spread on the eastern part of the study area between the outflows of the Romen river and the town of Konotop. The diagnostic species is *Beckmannia eruciformis*.

The variant *B.e. var. Carex vulpina* contains communities with the total cover of 90–100 %, the cover of *Beckmannia eruciformis* is 45–65 %, *Carex vulpina* – 15–25 %. The diagnostic species are *Carex acuta*, *C. nigra*, *C. vulpina*. The number of species in relevés is 18–27.

The variant *B.e. var. typicum* includes communities with the total cover of 90–95 %, the cover of *Beckmannia eruciformis* is 45–65 %. The diagnostic species is *Beckmannia eruciformis*. The number of species in relevés is 19–24.

**Conclusions and opportunities.** The floristic diversity of the class Phragmito-Magnocaricetea comprises 66 genera, 26 families, 104 species (100 %). Equisetophyta includes two species (1,92 %), Magnoliopsida – 60 species (57,69 %), Liliopsida – 42 species (40,39 %). The

class contains 22 syntaxa: three orders, three alliances, five associations, two subassociations, nine variants. The diversity of taxa and syntaxa of the class Phragmito-Magnocaricetea depends on the wide diversity of habitats.

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**А. П. Тертишний, Б. Е. Якубенко (2019). Луки північної частини лівобережного Лісостепу України: клас *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*.**

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У статті наведено класифікаційну схему прибережно-водної рослинності (Клас *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*) північної частини лівобережного Лісостепу України. Подано фізико-географічні особливості вказаного регіону. Східна частина території дослідження межує на півночі з західними відрогами Середньоросійської височини. На рівнинному рельєфі західної частини регіону трапляються болота. Луки збереглися переважно в заплавах річок Удай, Остер, Ромен, Сула, Сейм.

На території регіону виявлені такі асоціації класу *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea*: *Caricetum vesicariae* Br.-Bl. et Denis 1926, *Glycerietum fluitantis* Wilzek 1935, *Carici acutae-Glycerietum maximaе* (Jilek et Valisek 1964) Shelyag, V.Sl. et Sipaylova 1985, *Poetum palustris* Resmerita et Ratius 1974, *Beckmannietum eruciformis* R. Jovanovic 1958. Вказані асоціації входять до наступних союзів: *Caricion gracilis* Neuhäusl 1959 em. *Balátová-Tuláčkova* 1963, *Sparganio-Glycerion fluitantis* Br.-Bl. et Siss. in Boer 1942, *Poion palustris* Shelyag, V.Sl. et Sipaylova 1985 and on the orders – *Magnocaricetalia Pignatti* 1953, *Nasturtio-Glycerietalia Pignatti* 1953 em. Kopecký 1961 in Kopecký et Hejný 1965, *Galio palustre-Poetalia palustris* V.Sl. 1996. Флористичну різноманітність класу *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea* формує 104 види, 66 родів, 26 родин. *Equisetophyta* містить два види (1,92 %), *Magnoliopsida* – 60 видів (57,69 %), *Liliopsida* – 42 види (40,39 %). До класу входить 22 синтаксономічні асоціації, три порядки, три союзи, п'ять асоціацій, деякі субасоціації та дев'ять варіантів. Таксономічна та синтаксономічна різноманітність класу *Phragmito-Magnocaricetea* залежить від різноманітності природних оселищ.

**Ключові слова:** рослинні угруповання, синтаксономія, види рослин.

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