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Contribution to the Knowledge of the Association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967

Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Gesellschaft Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae
Martin-Bosse 1967

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Abstract

The article phytosociologically describes natural stands of black pine (*Pinus nigra* Arnold) in the area of Govci on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau (western Slovenia). The author classified them in the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967, and compared them with other forms of the same association and with the association Genisto januensis-Pinetum Tomažič 1940. He stated that these are, in spite of their floristic similarity, two well differentiated associations. He classified the *Pinus nigra* stands in the area of Govci as a new geographical variant Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* var. geogr. nova.

Key words: Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae, Genisto januensis-Pinetum, the Trnovski gozd plateau, Slovenia.

Zusammenfassung

Natürliche Bestände der Schwarzföhre (*Pinus nigra* Arnold) im Gebiet Govci oberhalb dem Trebuša-Tal (nordöstlicher Rand des Trnovski gozd, westliches Slowenien) wurden pflanzensoziologisch untersucht und in das Syntaxon Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967 var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* var. geogr. nova rhododendretosum hirsuti eingereiht.

Mit der multivariaten Statistik (hierarchische Gruppierung, PCoA - Ordination) haben wir die bis jetzt beschriebenen Formen der Assoziationen Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae und Genisto januensis-Pinetum Tomažič 1940 verglichen. Es wurde festgestellt, daß diese zwei Gesellschaften, trotz der floristischen und ökologischen Ähnlichkeit zwei verhältnismäßig gut getrennte Assoziationen darstellen. Die Assoziation Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae unterscheidet sich vom Genisto januensis-Pinetum hauptsächlich durch alpine und teilweise alpin-nordillyrische Arten wie z. B. *Euphrasia cuspidata*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* u. a., (in den Karnischen und westlichen Julischen Alpen auch durch die

Taxa *Euphorbia triflora* subsp. *kernerii* und *Bupleurum ranunculoides* subsp. *canalense*). Die Assoziation *Genista januensis*-Pinetum ist durch illyrische bzw. südosteuropäische Arten wie *Genista januensis*, *Daphne blagayana* und *Potentilla carniolica* gekennzeichnet.

1. Introduction and Methods

According to data, known as yet, the association *Fraxino orni*-Pinetum *nigrae* (= *Orno*-Pinetum *nigrae*) Martin-Bosse 1967 is distributed in the area of the South-eastern Alps: the Karawanken (the Karavanke range), the Gailtaler Alps, the Julian Alps, the Carnic Alps and the Venetian (Belluno) Alps (AICHINGER 1933, MARTIN-BOSSE 1967, POLDINI 1967, 1969, T. WRABER 1979, WALLNÖFER 1993).

In the Julian Alps the association *Fraxino orni*-Pinetum *nigrae* was thoroughly researched by POLDINI (1969) in the Italian part: in the valleys of the Dogna, the Raccolana and the Resia, and by T. WRABER (1979) in the Slovene part: in the Koritnica valley near Bovec. This association was partly studied also in the Trenta valley, on the peak Treska near the village of Srpencia and above the Tolminka valley (T. WRABER 1964, DAKSKOBLER 1997 mscr.)

The locality of black pine in the area of Govci, above the village Gorenja Trebuša on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau, has been known since a long time: SCHARNAGGL (1873: 5), POSPICAL (1897: 23-24), H. SCHMIED (1929:

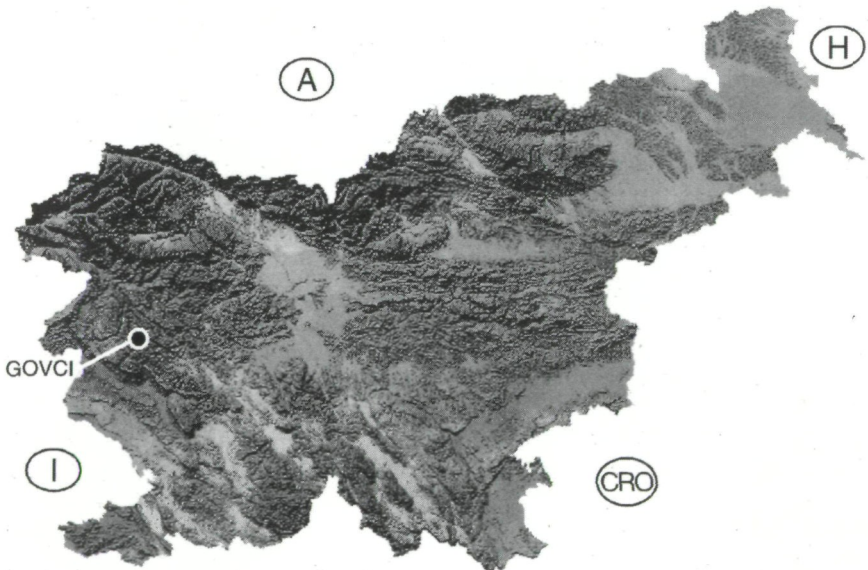


Fig. 1

300), AICHINGER (1933: 242), M. WRABER (1953: 16, 1960: 68), P. FUKAREK (1958: 53), B. JURHAR (1960), POLDINI (1969: 34), MLINŠEK at al. (1980: 63-64), BRUS (1995). The stands in the area of Govci have not been researched phytosociologically yet.

Our research was aimed primarily at supplementing the knowledge of the distribution, the structure and floristic composition of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* in the southern and southeastern part of its distribution area, in the contact area with the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum Tomažič 1940*. For this purpose we studied natural stands of black pine in the area of Govci, applying the standard Central European phytosociological method (BRAUN-BLANQUET 1964). We compared their floristic composition with other forms of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* (MARTIN-BOSSE 1967, POLDINI 1969, T. WRABER 1979, DAKSKOBLER 1997 mscr.), described so far, with various forms of the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* from the pre-Alpine and partly pre-Dinaric phytogeographical region of Slovenia (TOMAŽIČ 1940), and with two transitional communities from the western part of the pre-Alpine region of Slovenia (the Šentviška planota and the Cerkno regions) - DAKSKOBLER (1996 mscr.). We compared the syntaxa enumerated applying the methods of hierarchical classification and Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA). We used the program package SYN-TAX (PODANI 1993, 1994). In the synoptic table numbers mean frequencies of species from analytic tables. Some rare species with frequency less than 10% are not included in this table.

In the analysis of chorological groups and biological forms we made use of the Chorological Atlas of Vascular Plants in the region Friuli-Venezia Giulia (POLDINI 1991). We refer to TRPIN & VREŠ (1995) for the majority of vascular plant names, and to DÜLL (1991) for moss names. Annual Report of Meteorological Service for the Year 1957, PUČNIK (1980) and Climatology of Slovenia (1988, 1989) are the sources of climatic data, and BUSER (1986) is a reference for data on geological structure.

2. The Association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* in the Area of Govci on the Northeastern Edge of the Trnovski Gozd Plateau (western Slovenia)

In one of the largest natural localities in Slovenia, on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau above the Trebuša valley, black pine grows on rocky, steep slopes of the peaks Stanov rob, Poldanovec and Zeleni rob, ridged with numerous gorges. The whole area is called Govci (9948/4, 9949/3, UTM VL09 and VL19). *Pinus nigra* thrives there at an altitude of 500 to 1200 m. It grows also in the area of Mali Govci, at the roots of the peak Bukov vrh. Parent material is Triassic dolomite. The soil is shallow and very skeletal (Lithosols, rendzina), exposed to erosion. On the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau there is

a relatively cold and very humid climate (average annual temperature from 6 to 8° C, average annual precipitation about 2500 mm). Frequent weather phenomena in this area are glaze (see e. g. ŠIFRER 1977); and occasionally also windbreak. Verbal reports and chronicles often mention forest fires in this area.

Beech stands are the prevailing vegetation in the area of Govci. They are classified in the following associations: *Ostryo-Fagetum* M. Wraber ex Trinajstić 1972, *Arunco-Fagetum* Košir 1962 (submontane and montane belt), *Rhododendro hirsuti-Fagetum* Accetto 1996 var. geogr. *Anemone trifolia* Dakskobler 1998, *Homogy-no sylvestris-Fagetum* Marinček et al. 1993, *Ranunculo platanifolii-Fagetum* Marinček et al. 1993 (montane and upper montane belt). Among the contact communities we should mention also *Primulo carniolicae-Potentilletum caulescentis* Dakskobler 1998 nom. prov., *Potentillo clusianae-Campanuletum zoysii* Aichinger 1933 var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* Dakskobler 1998 and *Rhodothamno-Pinetum mugo* (Martinčič 1977) Zupančič & Žagar 1980 mscr. var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* Dakskobler 1998 prov. (in the rock faces of Poldanovec and Zeleni rob) – DAKSKOBLER 1998. Beech could not successively replace black pine on the most extreme sites - sheer rocky slopes, prominences, conical peaks, spires and crests. The black pine community of this place was characterized by names as *Erico-Pinetum nigrae* (M. WRABER 1953), *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (M. WRABER 1960) and *Pinetum austroalpinum* (MLINŠEK et al. 1980). Our analyses and comparisons, described in the following chapter, confirm that we can classify it in the southeast-Alpine association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* Martin-Bosse 1967. Open *Pinus nigra* stands are mosaicly scattered over the whole rock faces of Govci, on the most extreme sites. Trees are 15 (max. 20) m, at spots only 10 m high, measuring at breast height 30 to 45 cm. Black pine has spread as a pioneer to surrounding beech sites, to open areas, formed in consequence of glaze or windbreak. There black pine grows up to 30 meters high or more, reaching 50 (max. 80) cm diameter at breast height.

Structure and floristic composition of the community is presented in Phytosociological Table 1. The presence of phytosociological and chorological groups are shown in Tables 1 and 2, proportion of biological forms can be seen in Table 3. *Pinus nigra*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Sorbus aria* and *Fraxinus ornus* are frequent species in the tree layer. These species (and also *Amelanchier ovalis* and *Rhododendron hirsutum*) are most frequent in the shrub layer, which usually covers 20 to 40% of the surface area. Species of *Erico-Pinetea* (*Erica carnea*, *Polygala chamaebuxus*, *Buphthalmum salicifolium*), species of dry and subalpine grasslands (*Carex humilis*, *Sesleria albicans*, *Betonica alopecuroides*), some species of beech forests (*Cyclamen purpurascens*, *Mercurialis perennis*), species of rock fissures (*Paederota lutea*, *Potentilla caulescens*), and *Molinia arundinacea* have the greatest presence degree and (or) cover in the herb layer (usually it covers 40 to 70% of the

surface area). *Viscum album*, mostly living as parasite on *Sorbus aria*, is relatively frequent. Most frequent species of the moss layer are *Fissidens cristatus*, *Neckera crispa*, *Tortella tortuosa* and *Ctenidium molluscum*. The reasons for the relatively high proportion of Fagetalia species are, in our opinion, the following: black pine stands thrive in the direct contact with beech forest. Therefore some species of beech forest spread also to black pine stands. These are a relatively permanent (self-regenerating) stage on the most extreme sites, and a transitional community on less extreme ones. The latter will probably be successively replaced by beech stands. This tendency is partly revealed by the arrangement of the relevés in Phytosociological Table 1.

Table 1: Phytosociological groups of the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in the area of Govci above the Trebuša valley (relative frequencies).

Tabelle 1: Pflanzensoziologische Gruppen von Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in dem Gebiet Govci oberhalb dem Trebuša-Tal (relative Häufigkeiten).

Erico-Pinetea s. lat.	20,6
Quercetalia pubescentis s. lat.	7,2
Quercetalia roboris s. lat.	1,3
Fagetalia sylvaticae s. lat.	14,2
Querco-Fagetea s. lat.	2,8
Vaccinio-Piceetea s. lat.	8,5
Adenostyletalia s. lat.	1,5
Trifolio-Geranietea s. lat.	1,5
Festuco-Brometea s. lat.	6,0
Seslerietea albicantis s. lat.	8,8
Asplenieta trichomanis s. lat.	9,5
Thlaspietea rotundifolij s. lat.	3,8
Other species	4,2
Mosses and lichens	10,1

Table 2: Chorological groups of the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in the area of Govci - relative frequencies.

Tabelle 2: Chorologische Gruppen von Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in dem Gebiet Govci - relative Häufigkeiten.

Arctic-Alpine, Alpine and (south)east-Alpine species	10
Southeast-European and Alpine-Illyrian species	11
Illyrian and Illyrian-sub-Mediterranean species	5
Mediterranean-montane species	24,5

Mediterranean-Pontic and Pontic species	5
Sub-Atlantic and Mediterranean-Atlantic species	1
Eurimediterranean species	4
European species	12,5
Boreal species	8
Eurasiatic and Eurosiberian species	13
Paleotemperate and other species	6

Table 3: Plant life form spectrum of the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in the area of Govci - relative frequencies.

Tabelle 3: Lebensformspektrum des Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae in dem Gebiet Govci - relative Häufigkeiten.

Phanerophytes	P	24
	NP	5
	P caesp	11
	P ep	1
	P lian	0
	P scap	7
Chamaephytes	Ch	21
	B ch	8
	Ch frut	4
	Ch lich	0
	Ch pulv	0,5
	Ch rep	1,5
	Ch suffr	7
Hemicryptophytes	H	43
	H caesp	11
	H ros	7
	H scap	23
	H th	2
Geophytes	G	11
	G bulb	4
	G rhiz	7
Therophytes	T	1
	T scap	1

Local character species of the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae (according to POLDINI 1969) in the area of Govci are *Allium ochroleucum*, *Asperula aristata* and *Euphrasia cuspidata*. The differential species of the association (accor-

ding to WALLNÖFER 1993: 260), *Laserpitium peucedanoides*, is frequent. The association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau is phytogeographically characterized by *Primula carniolica* and *Omphalodes verna*. The endemic *Primula carniolica*, which the new geographical variant was named after, thrives only in the pre-Alpine, Dinaric and partly pre-Dinaric area of Slovenia. *Omphalodes verna* has southeast-Alpine-Illyrian distribution. We classified the black pine stands of Govci (Phytosociological Table 1) in the subassociation Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* rhododendretosum hirsuti. Its nomenclatural type (at the same time also the nomenclatural type of the newly described geographical variant) is relevé 6 in the Phytosociological Table 1. The differential species of the subassociation *Rhododendron hirsutum* indicates very steep, mostly shady dolomite slopes with cool local climate, and the vicinity of the Alps. Black pine stands on the coldest, the most rocky, and relatively humid sites are classified in the variant with *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*. Its differential species are also *Valeriana saxatilis* and *Salix glabra*. In the upper montane belt (1000 to 1150 m a. s. l.) we have found also a subvariant with *Larix decidua* (the southernmost natural locality of this tree species in Slovenia) and subvariant with *Pinus mugo*. The more thermophilous, typical variant which thrives on less extreme sites, indicates succession to beech forest.

3. Comparative Analysis of the Associations Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae and Genisto januensis-Pinetum (the Commentary to Phytosociological Table 2)

19 syntaxa from the area of the Southeastern Alps and their headland (the Carnic Alps, the Gailtaler Alps, the Karawanken chain, the Julian Alps, pre-Alpine region of Slovenia), which are classified in the associations Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae and Genisto januensis-Pinetum (List 1) were ranged in the Phytosociological Table 2.

We compared them applying the methods of hierarchical clustering: FNC (Farthest Neighbour Clustering= Complete Linkage Clustering) and MISSQ (minimization of the increase of error sum of squares = Increment Sum of Squares). Ordination was performed applying the Principal Coordinates Analysis = Metric Multidimensional Scaling (PCoA). The measure of dissimilarity was the complement of the „similarity ratio“ coefficient, and when solely binary data (presence/absence of species) were taken into consideration, the complement of Jaccard's coefficient.

In the Figure 2 there are two dendrograms, obtained with complete linkage clustering. The left one takes into consideration solely binary data (presence/absence of species), and the right one also quantitative values (frequency in percentage). Figure 3 presents two dendrograms, obtained with the method, based on opti-

mal homogeneity of clusters (MISSQ, Ward's method). Similarly, the left one takes into consideration only binary data and the right one also frequency of the species. The syntaxa of the association *Genisto januensis*-Pinetum (columns 16-19 in Phyt. Table 2) are united in a separate cluster in all dendrograms elaborated. This confirms that the associations *Genisto januensis*-Pinetum and *Fraxino orni*-Pinetum *nigrae* are relatively clearly differentiated and distinguished one from the other, in spite of similarities in their floristic composition and ecology. Three from five character species of the first association: *Genista januensis*, *Daphne blagayana*, and *Potentilla carniolica*, have not been found in the other association yet. In spite of this, we can make an assertion at least for one of them, *Daphne blagayana*, that its distribution area and the distribution area of the association *Fraxino orni*-Pinetum *nigrae* do not exclude. This is confirmed by the localities of *Daphne blagayana* in the Trebuša valley (T. WRABER & MIKULETIĆ 1965) and in the Carnic pre-Alps (MARTINI & POLDINI 1990: 303).

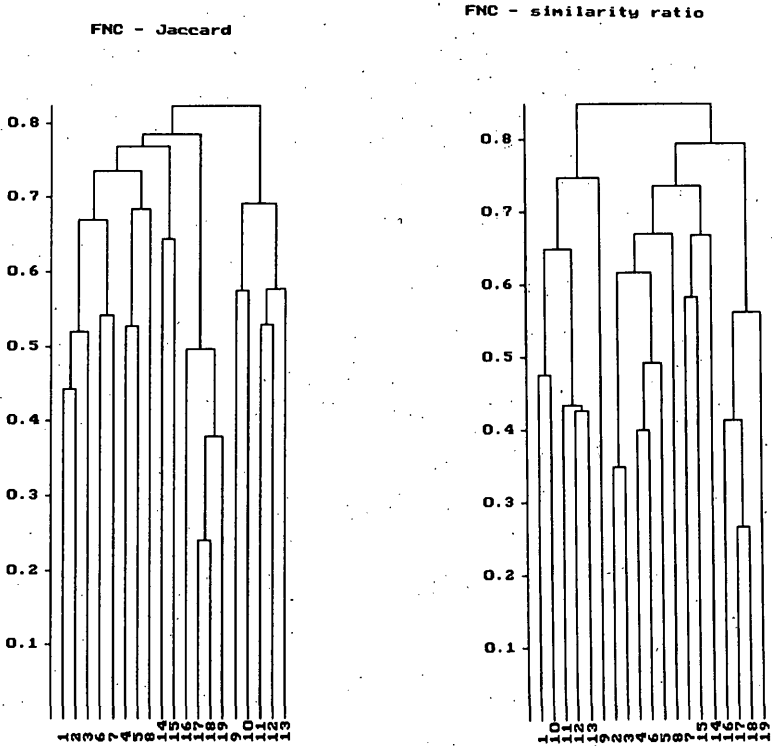


Fig. 2

Fig. 2: Dendrograms of various forms of associations Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae and Genisto januensis-Pinetum - Farthest Neighbour Clustering - FNC. The numbers refer to syntaxa in Phytosociological Table 2.

Abb. 2: Die Dendrogramme verschiedener Formen der Assoziationen Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae und Genisto januensis-Pinetum - FNC. Die Nummern beziehen sich auf die Syntaxa in der Vegetationstabelle 2.

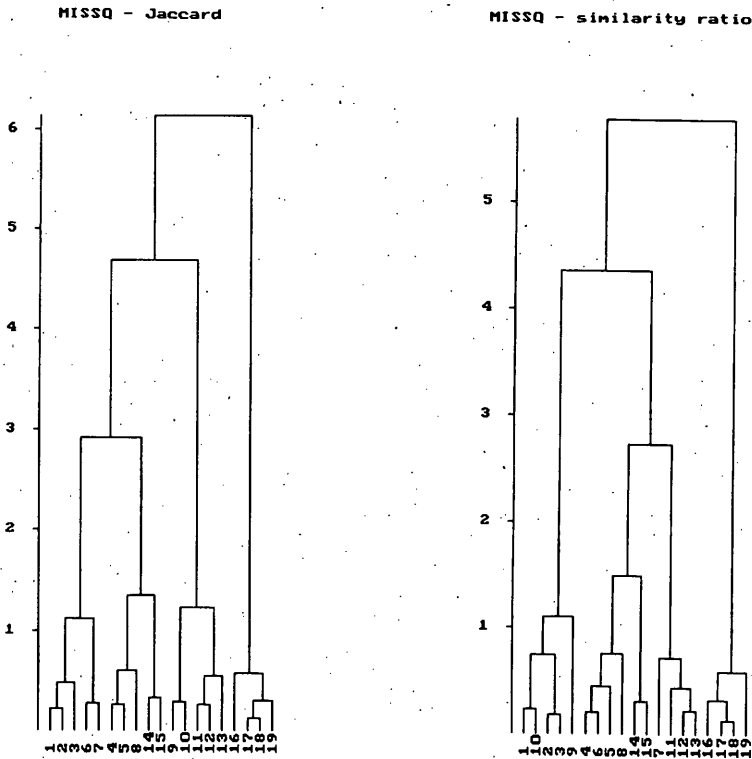


Fig. 3:

Fig. 3: Dendrograms of various forms of the associations Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae and Genisto januensis-Pinetum - MISSQ. The numbers refer to syntaxa in Phytosociological Table 2.

Abb. 3: Die Dendrogramme verschiedener Formen der Assoziationen Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae und Genisto januensis-Pinetum - MISSQ. Die Nummern beziehen sich auf die Syntaxa in der Vegetationstabelle 2

Syntaxon, treated in previous chapter (column 13 in the Phytosociological Table 2), is linked into class with more extreme forms of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* (described on the peak Treska and above the Tolminka valley – DAKSKOBLER 1997). Stands of this forms are floristically and ecologically similar with the stands classified in two variants of the subassociation *Rhodothamnno-Rhododendretum hirsuti pinetosum nigrae* (columns 9 and 10) by MARTIN-BOSSE (1967). In our opinion, those stands of the latter subassociation, where black pine grows in the tree layer with canopy density of at least about 0.5, could be classified in the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* as extreme forms with *Rhododendron hirsutum* and (or) *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*. Hierarchical clustering confirms that *Pinus nigra* stands in the area of Govci belong to the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae*. On the basis of a single relevé published (ACCETTO 1996) we could conclude to certain similarity of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau with the newly described association *Rhododendro hirsuti-Pinetum nigrae* Accetto 1996 from the Kolpa Valley (southern Slovenia), but detailed comparison (ACCETTO 1997, verbal information) reveals that these are two different associations.

Similar results were achieved by applying two-dimensional ordination (Figure 4). The forms of the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (columns 16-19 in Phyt. Table 2) are clearly differentiated from syntaxa of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae*. Noticable grouping of more extreme forms of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* (with *Rhododendron hirsutum* and *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*) can be seen.

Analysis of phytosociological groups (Table 4) shows, that species of the class *Erico-Pinetea* s. lat. prevail in both communities compared by proportion (between 20 and 30%, and in some forms of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* even more). Also the proportion of *Quercetalia pubescentis* species (between 10 and 20%, in the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* usually more) and the proportion of *Festuco-Brometea* species (mostly between 10 and 20%) are rather large. It is possible (see e. g. POLDINI 1967) that many of the species which are today classified in this class originally grew in open pine forests. The proportion of *Fagetalia sylvaticae* species varies, in some forms it reaches up to 20%, but usually it is lower than 10%. Phytosociological groups of the subalpine belt (*Adenostyletalia*, *Seslerietea albicantis*, *Thlaspietea rotundifolii*) are characterized by having rather high proportion in the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae*, but they have very low proportions in the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum*. The proportion of chasmophytes (*Asplenetea trichomanis*) is the highest in extreme forms of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae*, on steep rugged rocks (between 5 and 10%).

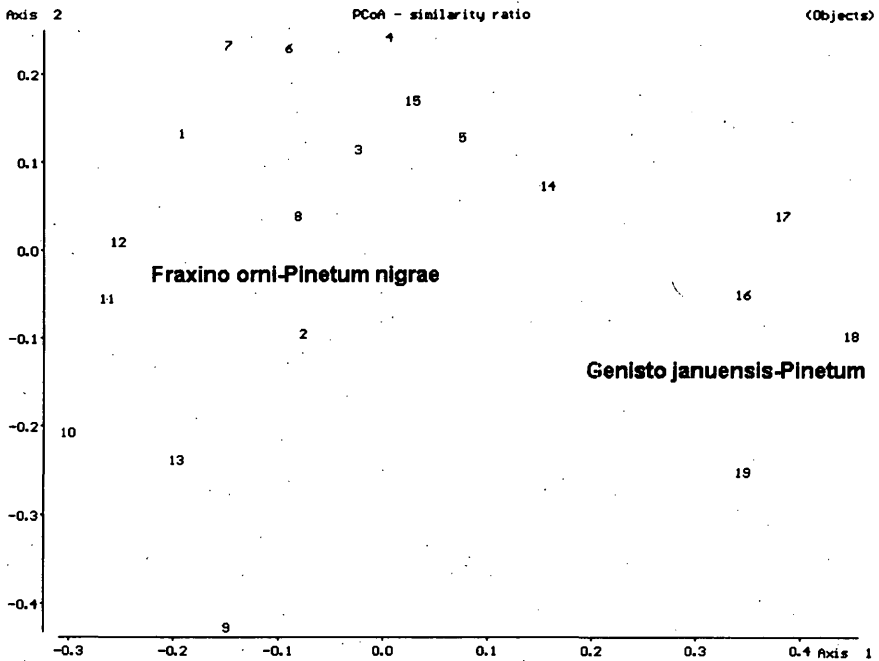


Fig. 4: Two-dimensional scatter diagram of various forms of the associations *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* and *Genisto januensis-Pinetum*. The numbers refer to syntaxa in Phytosociological Table 2.

Abb. 4: Zwei-dimensionales Ordinationsdiagramm verschiedener Formen der Assoziationen *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* und *Genisto januensis-Pinetum*. Die Nummern beziehen sich auf die Syntaxa in der Vegetationstabelle 2.

We can notice some species in the synthetic table which can be, in a wider sense, characterized as the differential species of the association *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae*, in contrast to the association *Genisto januensis-Pinetum*. Species, widespread in the Alpine (or Alpine-Illyrian) region, e. g. *Euphrasia cuspidata*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*, *Salix glabra*, *Valeriana saxatilis* and *Campanula cespitosa* mainly prevail among them. We could add also *Laserpitium peucedanoides*, which, however, thrives in the subassociation *Genisto januensis-Pinetum pinetosum nigrae* (column 16 in Phyt. Table 2), as well. Other differential species are *Allium ochroleucum*, *Asperula aristata*, *Asperula purpurea*, *Cotoneaster tomentosus* and *Hieracium porrifolium*.

Table 4: Phytosociological groups in the associations *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* and *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (relative frequencies).
The numbers refer to syntaxa of Phytosociological Table 2.

Tabelle 4: Pflanzensoziologische Gruppen von *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* und *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (relative Häufigkeiten).
Die Nummern beziehen sich auf die Syntaxa in der Vegetationstabelle 2.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Erico-Pinetea</i> s. lat.	38,3	32,4	35,3	27,3	25,9	38	27,6	28	24,6	35	25,4	26	20,6	15,4	22	29,3	28,9	26,3	24,9
<i>Quercetalia pubescentis</i> s. lat.	8,53	14,5	16,2	7,51	20,4	8,78	10,6	7,87	12,3	7,36	6,3	8,4	7,2	8,2	10,1	17,9	15	17,7	18,4
<i>Quercetalia roboris</i> s. lat.	0,56	3,94	4,05	4,78	4,03	2,39	0	2,62	4,34	0,95	0,4	2,1	1,3	2,1	0,9	2,47	0,6	1,79	1,63
<i>Fagetalia sylvaticae</i> s. lat.	3,39	7,94	5,2	5,4	7,19	6,18	3,9	11,4	21,2	6,78	8,8	8,2	14,2	10,7	3,2	8,33	7,62	11,2	20,4
<i>Quercio-Fagetea</i> s. lat.	0,78	2,02	3,47	4,4	6,63	1,88	0	1,31	1,05	0,99	0,4	0,8	2,8	6,8	4,7	6,79	4,26	7,78	5,31
<i>Vaccinio-Piceetea</i> s. lat.	1,93	5,16	1,73	2,39	2,27	2,37	3,2	3,5	17,1	6,27	4,6	1,9	8,5	2,1	3,5	2,78	2,14	5,34	7,95
<i>Adenostyletalia</i> s. lat.	0,44	1,14	0,58	2,06	1,04	1,91	1,1	3,5	1,8	1,43	2,9	2,7	1,5	0,4	1,3	0	0,45	0,12	1,22
<i>Trifolio-Ceranietea</i> s. lat.	4,58	4,43	3,47	7,65	6,33	6,18	8,8	4,81	1,05	1,94	5	5,8	1,5	7,5	5	3,4	3,21	3,97	3,67
<i>Festuco-Brometea</i> s. lat.	21,6	13,4	19,1	20,8	14,9	16,4	17	10,3	0,7	7,26	10,4	8,1	6	23,9	15,4	16,7	26,5	15	9,8
<i>Seslenietea albicans</i> s. lat.	5,58	5,06	1,73	4,41	3	5,96	6	6,55	2,5	11,6	17,9	8,6	8,8	2,5	2,5	3,09	2,91	1,65	1,63
<i>Asplenietea trichomanis</i> s. lat.	1,96	1,26	0	1,02	0,17	0,71	3,5	3,5	1,78	5,83	5,4	6,5	9,5	2,5	3,1	0,93	1,82	0,89	0
<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> s. lat.	7,16	2,76	1,73	5,51	2,47	5,01	12	7,99	5,06	5,86	6,3	6,5	3,8	1,1	10,7	0,62	1,99	1,03	0,41
Other species	2,71	4,67	6,94	4,82	3,66	4,22	1,4	6,56	4,34	1,91	0,8	5,2	4,2	7,2	12,2	2,16	2,14	2,54	2,45
Mosses and lichens	2,46	1,27	0,58	2,01	0	0	4,9	2,19	2,12	6,79	5,4	9,2	10,1	9,6	5,4	5,56	2,42	4,59	2,86

Table 4: Phytosociological groups of the associations *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* and *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (relative frequencies). The numbers refer to syntaxa of Phytosociological Table 2.

Tabelle 4: Pflanzensoziologische Gruppen von *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* und *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* (relative Häufigkeiten). Die Nummern beziehen sich auf die Syntaxa in der Vegetationstabelle 2.

4. Conclusions

We classified natural stands of *Pinus nigra* in the area of Govci on the northeastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau in the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967. We described them as a new geographical variant and subassociation Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae var. geogr. *Primula carniolica* var. geogr. nova rhododendretosum hirsuti (with variant *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* and subvariants with *Larix decidua* and *Pinus mugo*).

We ranged the association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967 in alliance Fraxino orni-Ostryion carpinifoliae Tomažič 1940 (=Orno-Ericion Horvat 1959), in order Erico-Pinetalia Horvat 1959 and class Erico-Pinetea Horvat 1959, according to WALLNÖFER (1993: 244) and POLDINI & VIDALI (1995: 169).

Comparing the forms of the associations Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae and Genisto januensis-Pinetum, described as yet, we ascertained that these are - in spite of similar floristic composition and ecology - in fact two relatively clearly differentiated communities. The first is differentiated from the other mainly by species distributed in the Alpine (and partly north-Illyrian) region, e. g. *Euphrasia cuspidata*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*, *Salix glabra*, *Valeriana saxatilis* and *Campanula cespitosa* (in the Carnic Alps and western Julian Alps also *Euphorbia triflora* subsp. *kernerii* and *Bupleurum ranunculoides* subsp. *canalense*), while the latter is differentiated from the former by the Illyrian and southeast-European species *Genista januensis*, *Daphne blagayana* and *Potentilla carniolica*.

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Phytosociological Table 1: The Association Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967 in the area of Govci above the Trebuša valley (western Slovenia).

Vegetationstabelle 1: Die Assoziation Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae Martin-Bosse 1967 in dem Gebiet Govci oberhalb dem Trebuša-Tal (westliches Slowenien).

List 1: List of the syntaxa in the Synoptic Table of the associations *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* Martin-Bosse 1967 and *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* TOMAŽIČ 1940 (Phytosoc. Table 2)

Liste 1: Liste der Syntaxa in der synthetischen Tabelle der Assoziationen *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* Martin-Bosse 1967 und *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* TOMAŽIČ 1940.

- 1 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae caricetosum humilis* - southern Carinthia (A) - MARTIN-BOSSE (1967, Phyt. Tab. 1);
- 2 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae calamagrostidetosum variae* - southern Carinthia (A) - MARTIN-BOSSE (1967, Phyt. Tab. 3);
- 3 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae molinietosum arundinaceae* - southern Carinthia (A) - MARTIN-BOSSE (1967, Phyt. Tab. 6);
- 4 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* - the Carnic and the Julian Alps (I) - POLDINI (1969, Phyt. Tab. 1);
- 5 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae ostryetosum* - the Carnic Alps (I) - POLDINI (1982, Phyt. Tab. 1);
- 6 *Pinetum austroalpinum pinetosum nigrae (=Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae)* - the Julian Alps - the Koritnica valley (SLO) - T. WRABER (1979, Phyt. Tab. 1, relevés 1-12);
- 7 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* - the Julian Alps - the Trenta valley (SLO) - DAKSKOBLER 1997 (mscr.);
- 8 *Rhodothamno-Rhododendretum hirsuti pinetosum nigrae* - the Carnic and the Julian Alps (I) - POLDINI (1969, Phyt. Tab. 2);
- 9 *Rhodothamno-Rhododendretum hirsuti pinetosum nigrae var. Rhododendron hirsutum* - southern Carinthia (A) - MARTIN-BOSSE (1967, Phyt. Tab. 9);
- 10 *Rhodothamno-Rhododendretum hirsuti pinetosum nigrae var. Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* - southern Carinthia (A) - MARTIN-BOSSE (1967, Phyt. Tab. 8, relevés 5 - 11);
- 11 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* - the Julian Alps, the Tolminka valley (SLO) - DAKSKOBLER 1997 (mscr.);
- 12 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* - the Julian Alps, the peak Treska near the village of Srpenica (SLO) - DAKSKOBLER 1997 (mscr.);
- 13 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae var. geogr. Primula carniolica* - the area of Govci on the north-eastern edge of the Trnovski gozd plateau (SLO) - Phyt. Tab. 1;
- 14 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* - western Slovenia, the Šentviška planota (Lopata, Špik) - SLO - DAKSKOBLER 1996 (mscr.);
- 15 *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae pinetosum sylvestris (?)* - western Slovenia, the peak Drnová near the town of Cerkno (SLO) - DAKSKOBLER 1996 (mscr.);
- 16 *Genisto januensis-Pinetum pinetosum nigrae* - the gorge Iški Vintgar, the Polhov Gradec Hills (SLO) - TOMAŽIČ (1940, Phyt. Tab. 2);
- 17 *Genisto januensis-Pinetum*, initial form from the Polhov Gradec Hills (SLO) - TOMAŽIČ (1940, Phyt. Tab. 1, column III);
- 18 *Genisto januensis-Pinetum typicum* - the Polhov Gradec Hills, Šmarna gora, Dolenjska (Turjak, Želumlje) - SLO - TOMAŽIČ (1940, Phyt. Tab. 1, column IV);
- 19 *Genisto januensis-Pinetum daphnetosum blagayanae* - the Polhov Gradec Hills (SLO) - TOMAŽIČ (1940, Phyt. Tab. 1, column V).

Phytosociological Table 2: Synoptic table of the associations *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* Martin-Bosse 1967 and *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* TOMAŽIČ 1940.

Vegetationstabelle 2: Synthetische Tabelle der Assoziationen *Fraxino orni-Pinetum nigrae* Martin-Bosse 1967 und *Genisto januensis-Pinetum* TOMAŽIČ 1940.

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