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DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS OF *RUBUS* SPECIES (ROSACEAE) IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE POLISH CARPATHIANS

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Abstract. This paper presents the results of biodiversity studies on the critical genus *Rubus* (Rosaceae) in the eastern part of the Polish Carpathians. In the study area, 35 *Rubus* species representing three subgenera and 15 series were found, including four newly described species (*R. ambrosius*, *R. flos-amygdalae*, *R. parthenocissus*, *R. pericrispatus*). For each species a distribution map using ATPOL 2 × 2 km cartogram squares is provided. For 32 species the information given includes detailed characteristics of the vertical distribution, phytocoenoses and habitats, including slope orientation, soil conditions (moisture, reaction, nitrogen content), insolation and temperature, some of them estimated using Ellenberg's bioindices. All of those parameters are presented in diagrams. The assessment of habitat conditions showed that *Rubus* species occur in somewhat different conditions in the study area than in areas west of Poland. The vertical distribution of most *Rubus* species in this area is limited by climatic conditions and is confined to lower elevations, mostly the submontane belt. Many species have a specific pattern of horizontal distribution. The results of numerical analysis indicate that the *Rubus* flora of the eastern part of the Carpathians is impoverished in comparison to the *Rubus* flora of the western part.

Key words: *Rubus*, distribution, ecology, phytosociological groups, anthropopressure, Carpathians, Poland

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