

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

## КРАТКИЕ СООБЩЕНИЯ

DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS OF *PTILIMUM CRISTA-CASTRENSIS* (BRYOPHYTA, HYPNACEAE) IN THE EAST EUROPEAN PLAIN AND EASTERN FENNOSCANDIA

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*Ptilium crista-castrensis* is one of the most common moss species in the forest zone. It is dominant in the moss layer of the blueberry and cowberry forests. At least with low abundance, it occurs almost in every forest type and mires. In addition, it is a component of the moss layer in tundra. We compiled the published annotated lists of regional bryophyte floras into a generalised dataset. We then created a map of the *P. crista-castrensis* model range using the kriging method. We included data from 179 locations, with data points in 39 Protected Areas. We determined climatic preferences of the species by comparing the species occurrence and climatic factors on locations. The comparison of the created model map with the map of vegetation zones allowed us to analyse the spatial distribution of *P. crista-castrensis*. We could demonstrate a sharp decrease of *P. crista-castrensis* abundance at the borders of the forest and steppe zones. By the range boundaries, this moss is a rarely occurring species, where it grows exclusively in limited pine forest patches. This species is completely lacking in the steppe zone. Its abundance has maximal values in the northern taiga subzone considered as the climatic optimum of *P. crista-castrensis*. In the forest zone, the occurrence of *P. crista-castrensis* varies from sporadically to commonly. At the northern and southern borders of the forest zone, the species occurrence is characterised as rare. A too low average temperature and precipitation are unfavourable for *P. crista-castrensis* in the north of the study area. At the same time, a too high temperature and too low precipitation and humidity have the same effect in the south of the study area.

**Key words:** biogeography, distribution range, geostatistical techniques, species' climatic optimum, species' occurrence

*Ptilium crista-castrensis* (Hedw.) De Not. is a feather moss. It is a widely distributed moss in boreal ecosystems. This species grows together with other bryophyte species of boreal spruce forests, like *Pleurozium schreberi* (Brid.) Mitt. and *Hypnum splendens* (Hedw.) Schimp. (Bonan & Shugart, 1989; Esseene et al., 1997). *Ptilium crista-castrensis* occurs predominantly in the forest zone, rarer in tundra. Spruce forests of the *Myrtillus*-type and forested mires of the taiga zone are the most typical plant communities with *P. crista-castrensis* participation. In Europe, it occurs predominantly in spruce forests and rarely in heathlands (association *Vaccinio-Callunetum vulgaris*) (Dierssen, 2001). This moss inhabits frequently the forest soil, along the tree trunk bases, on rock-covered cliffs and boulders, in meadows. To the south of the taiga zone this moss is considered as a rare species (Kurnaev, 1980; Ignatov & Ignatova, 2004; Belyaeva & Neshataeva, 2017). *Ptilium crista-castrensis* can easily be identified in the field. Its ecology is very well known.

The geographic distribution of *Ptilium crista-castrensis* is also well known. This species is dis-

tributed in Western and Central Europe, European Russia, Caucasus, Urals, and in the Far East (Ignatov & Ignatova, 2004). There are many recent publications on regional bryophyte floras. It allows us to generalise these data and identify the range zone of *P. crista-castrensis*. The development of GIS-based spatial analysis methods has enabled attaining this goal. Moreover, modern GIS approaches provide the tools for studying climatic and other biogeographic patterns of species distribution (Mateo et al., 2013).

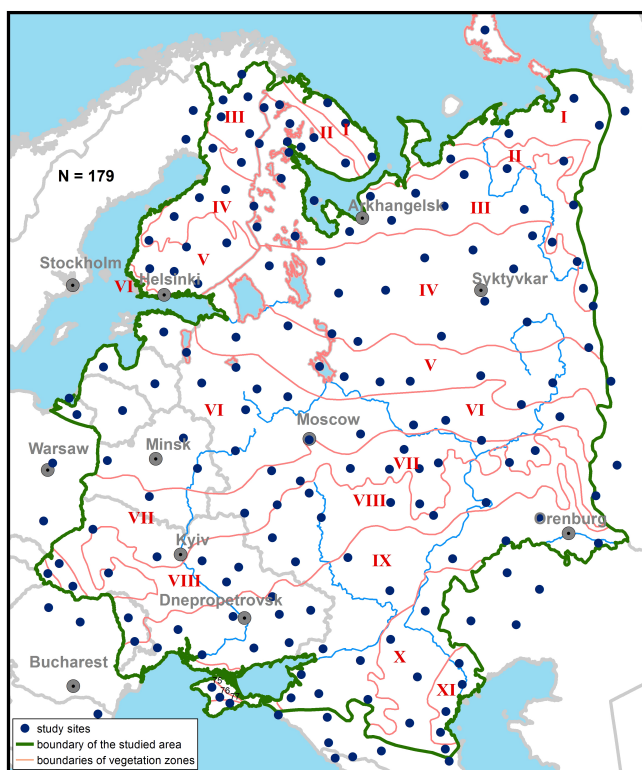
The approach to the current study of the *P. crista-castrensis* distribution is based on Geostatistical techniques. In this paper, we aimed 1) to close the gap in the *P. crista-castrensis* biogeography in the East European Plain and Eastern Fennoscandia (EEPEF); 2) to visualise its distribution range; 3) to elucidate the influence of climatic factors on the species spatial distribution.

**Material and Methods**

We have analysed the published annotated lists of bryophyte floras of different regions (European Russia, Baltic countries, Ukraine,

Belarus, Moldova) to study the distribution of *Ptilium crista-castrensis* (Fig. 1). Some dots have been chosen outside the area of interest (e.g. Romania, Poland, Kazakhstan, Caucasus, the eastern mountainside of the Urals) to correct possible errors of extrapolation at the area boundaries (Demyanov & Savelyeva, 2010; Popov, 2016). We applied the basic principles of area modelling, using geostatistics methods and analysing the distribution range of the moss species by using the kriging method published previously (Popov, 2017).

After generalisation of all available data, we evaluated the *Ptilium crista-castrensis* occurrence using the following six-point scale of species occurrence: 0 – absent (0 records), 1 – very rare (1–2 records), 2 – rare (3–7 records), 3 – sporadic (more than seven records, but not everywhere), 4 – frequent (common species, but sometimes not found in suitable phytocoenoses), 5 – common (common and coenotically active species within the study area). According to this scale, we created a continuous coverage map with a resolution of 10 km per 1 pixel using the kriging method according to Demyanov & Savelyeva (2010).



**Fig. 1.** Vegetation zones with indicated locations used in this study: I – tundra; II – forest-tundra; III – northern taiga; IV – middle taiga; V – southern taiga; VI – mixed forests; VII – broad-leaved forests; VIII – forest-steppe; IX – steppe; X – semi-desert; XI – desert. Boundaries of vegetation zones are given according to Ahti et al. (1968) and Kurnaev (1973).

In total, we used data from 179 locations to create a continuous coverage map (Fig. 1), Of which 39 are in the following Protected Areas: Shichengsky Landscape Sanctuary, Basegi State Nature Reserve, Bolshaya Kokshaga State Nature Reserve, Bryansky Les State Nature Reserve, Caucasian State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Central Forest State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Darwin State Nature Reserve, Denezhkin Kamen State Nature Reserve, Kandalakhsa State Nature Reserve, Kerzhensky State Nature Reserve, Kivach State Nature Reserve, Kologrivsky Les State Nature Reserve, Kostomuksha State Nature Reserve, Lapland State Nature Reserve, Mordovia State Nature Reserve, Niznesvirsky State Nature Reserve, Oksky State Nature Reserve, Orenburg State Nature Reserve, Pasvik State Reserve, Pechora-Ilych State Nature Reserve, Pinega State Nature Reserve, Prisursky State Nature Reserve, Privolzhskaya Lesostep' State Nature Reserve, Shulgan-Tash State Nature Reserve, Teberda State Nature Reserve, Vishersky State Nature Reserve, Visimsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Vitim State Nature Reserve, Volzhsko-Kamsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Voronezh State Nature Reserve, Zhiguli State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Iremel Nature Park, Kulikovo Pole Nature-Historical Reserve, Losiny Ostrov National Park, Narew National Park, Russky Sever National Park, National Park «Smolny», Vodlozersky National Park, Yugyd Va National Park. References to published sources with annotated species lists for 179 locations are listed in Popov (2018). In this paper, we could add two more locations (Silava et al., 2011; Chernyadyeva et al., 2017).

The verification of the continuous coverage was performed using a cross-validation method with SAGA GIS software. In geostatistics, the index of cross-validation quality is the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) (Demyanov & Savelyeva, 2010). In this study, this indicator value was 0.912.

In our study, we also used continuous coverage of climatic factors. We used the dataset proposed by the authors of the WORLDCLIM program (BIOCLIM, 2009). In total, we used 23 climatic variables, including monthly temperature (seven variables), annual temperature (one variable), annual precipitation (one variable), monthly precipitation (seven variables), and relative humidity (seven variables), extracted for April – October. For our study, we selected only months of the vegetation season. The coverage of climatic factors and species occurrence were combined into a single spatial database, which has been transformed into the table consisting of 24 variables (23 climatic factors and one species' occurrence) and 49 557 cases (number of pixels). A correlation analysis was per-

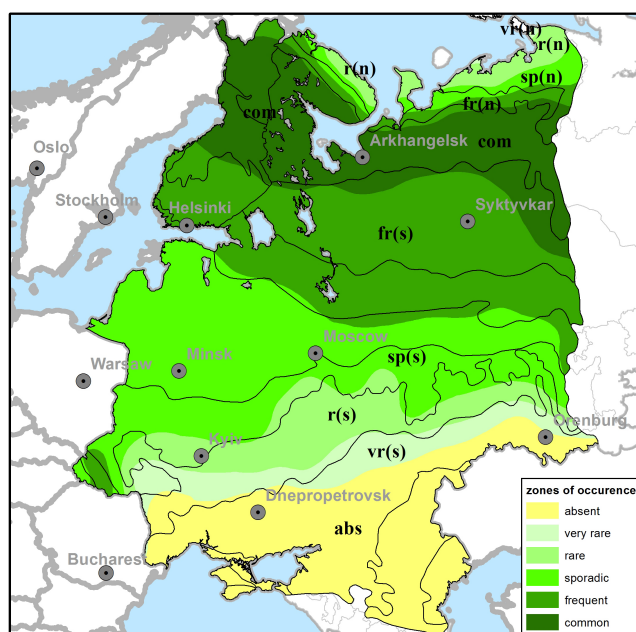
formed using the Statistica 6.0 software. The coverages were created and verified using SAGA software. The intersection of vector layers and areas' calculation were performed using the ArcGIS software. All these techniques were explained in Popov (2017).

### Results and Discussion

Fig. 2 shows the model map of the *P. crista-castrensis*' distribution range. Evidently, the area of the common species occurrence («com») coincides approximately with the northern taiga subzone. The occurrence level of *P. crista-castrensis* decreased to the south and to the north of this zone. In general, the frequent occurrence area coincides with the taiga zone. This is not surprising, because *P. crista-castrensis* is one of the dominant species in coniferous forests (Esseen et al., 1997; Ignatov & Ignatova, 2004). This species is rare in the tundra zone (e.g. in the Kola Peninsula). *Ptilium crista-castrensis* is also present in the mainland tundra, having, however, a low abundance. The species completely disappears by the northern limit of the study area. For example, there are only a few locations with *P. crista-castrensis* in the Yamal Peninsula, and it is completely absent on Novaya Zemlya (Afonina & Chernyadyeva, 1995; Chernyadyeva, 2001). Outside the study area, the distribution of spruce forests coincides with the *P. crista-castrensis* distribution in Scandinavia and in the mountains of continental Europe (Söderström, 1998; Dierssen, 2001; GBIF, 2018). This fact is in good agreement with its higher occurrence in the northern taiga of Russia (Fig. 2).

In the southern part of the study area, *P. crista-castrensis* has a sporadic occurrence in the vegetation zones of mixed forests and broad-leaved forests. The species is rare in the forest-steppe zone. Further, *P. crista-castrensis* disappears in the vegetation cover in the northern steppe subzone (Fig. 2). The species inhabits sporadically distributed and limited pine plantations in the steppe and in forest-steppe vegetation zones (Gapon, 1997; Popova, 2002).

The occurrence of *P. crista-castrensis* depends upon the autumn – summer precipitation and the relative air humidity (Table 1). Annual precipitation produces a moderate effect. The temperature factor looks to be the most important for *P. crista-castrensis*. It includes both the annual temperature and the monthly temperature during the vegetation season (Table 1). We could state that *P. crista-castrensis*'s optimum is in the northern taiga (Fig. 2), taking into account that according to biogeographic principles (Grinnell, 1917), the climatic optimum of a species is in the area where it has the maximal occurrence.



**Fig. 2.** Model range of *Ptilium crista-castrensis*. Black lines indicate the boundaries of vegetation zones. Occurrence zones: **abs** – species is absent; **vr** – species is very rare; **r** – species is rare; **sp** – species is sporadic; **fr** – species is frequent; **com** – species is common. The letters (n) and (s) placed after the abbreviation of the occurrence zones indicate respectively the relative north and south of the study area.

**Table 1.** The Spearman correlation coefficient between values of climatic factors and species occurrence. Values of  $r > 0.5$  in absolute value are highlighted in bold. All values are statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ )

№	Climatic factor	Correlation coefficient
1	amt	<b>-0.82</b>
2	pr04	-0.02
3	pr05	0.06
4	pr06	0.36
5	pr07	0.13
6	pr08	<b>0.72</b>
7	pr09	<b>0.79</b>
8	pr10	<b>0.75</b>
9	pr_a	0.40
10	reh04	0.38
11	reh05	0.45
12	reh06	0.36
13	reh07	<b>0.53</b>
14	reh08	<b>0.75</b>
15	reh09	<b>0.80</b>
16	reh10	<b>0.84</b>
17	tm04	<b>-0.86</b>
18	tm05	<b>-0.87</b>
19	tm06	<b>-0.86</b>
20	tm07	<b>-0.82</b>
21	tm08	<b>-0.87</b>
22	tm09	<b>-0.87</b>
23	tm10	<b>-0.79</b>

Note: Climatic factors: **amt** – annual amount of precipitation; **pr01** – **pr12** – monthly amount of precipitation in January – December; **pr\_a** – average of annual precipitation; **reh4** – **reh10** – relative humidity in April – October; **tm04** – **tm10** – monthly average temperature in April – October.

Table 2 shows the climatic optimum and pessimum values for *P. crista-castrensis* in the study area. According to Table 2 (column «com»), the species requires an average annual temperature of about -1°C and a monthly temperature of +11°C to +15°C during the summer period. In other words, apparently *P. crista-castrensis* is better adapted to areas with cool summers. However, this species requires a relatively high humidity (ca. 80%) in the summer period (Table 2). The climatic conditions of the northern taiga meet these requirements to the greatest extent (Kurnaev, 1973).

A low temperature and precipitation are the main unfavourable conditions for *Ptilium crista-castrensis* in the north. On the contrary, a high temperature, low precipitation and low humidity restrict its spread to the south (Table 2). If the average annual temperature exceeds +7°C and the annual rainfall is less than 500 mm, *P. crista-castrensis* is disappearing. Thus, the distribution pattern of *P. crista-castrensis* corresponds

to Shelford’s rule (Tolmachev, 1974; Vtorov & Drozdov, 2001). The conducted analysis showed the maximal and minimal values of the limiting factors (Table 2). These are considered to be of the greatest impact on the distribution of *P. crista-castrensis*. In Table 1, these factors have correlation coefficients over 0.5 (absolute values).

The model distribution map clearly showed that the major part of the EEPEF area is located in the southern parts of the frequent and sporadic occurrence zones (Table 3). The zone of common occurrence occupies only 15.3% of the total area (Table 3). The zones of rare and very rare occurrence (both in the north and in south parts of the study area) have very small percentage values of the study area (Table 3). Accordingly, the species is quite widespread in the central part of the study area. Then, it gradually disappears at the borders both in the north and in the south. The absence zone covers 17.3% of the EEPEF area (Table 3).

**Table 2.** Average values of climatic factors in the occurrence zones of *Ptilium crista-castrensis*

Climatic factor	Occurrence zones										Average
	abs	vr(s)	r(s)	sp(s)	fr(s)	com	fr(n)	sp(n)	r(n)	vr(n)	
amt	8.7	6.3	5.6	4.9	2.0	-0.9	-2.3	-3.7	-4.2	-6.2	3.7
pr04	31.7	35.7	38.5	38.6	37.3	31.9	26.4	24.9	22.8	19.9	35.1
pr05	40.7	44.0	48.3	50.1	48.4	41.8	35.0	33.8	30.7	28.4	45.3
pr06	50.5	59.6	65.3	69.0	64.8	57.4	48.6	46.2	41.6	36.3	60.9
pr07	46.2	62.8	75.0	79.9	78.5	68.0	59.3	55.6	50.6	46.4	69.1
pr08	37.4	48.9	59.0	68.6	74.2	71.7	63.8	61.6	58.2	54.0	62.6
pr09	33.9	42.0	48.8	58.5	64.5	62.2	57.6	56.3	54.7	54.2	54.3
pr10	28.7	38.2	43.9	51.9	60.7	54.9	50.4	47.6	46.1	41.7	48.7
pr_a	436.6	529.9	577.6	612.3	626.4	561.7	485.1	453.7	421.1	357.6	560.5
reh04	64.8	65.8	67.9	70.7	71.8	76.2	83.2	87.2	89.9	94.8	71.2
reh05	57.6	56.6	58.9	64.0	63.7	68.7	75.5	78.2	80.6	83.4	63.5
reh06	58.8	60.8	64.2	68.6	66.9	67.5	71.9	73.2	75.2	76.2	65.8
reh07	57.8	62.3	66.9	72.0	71.8	71.8	74.5	74.8	76.1	75.8	68.7
reh08	57.6	61.6	66.6	73.7	76.9	78.7	80.7	81.3	82.4	82.8	71.6
reh09	62.7	65.7	70.6	77.7	81.8	83.6	84.5	84.9	85.9	86.5	76.1
reh10	73.7	76.0	79.3	83.5	87.2	89.4	90.6	92.5	93.5	96.7	83.3
tm04	9.8	8.0	7.0	5.5	2.2	-2.1	-5.0	-7.2	-8.3	-11.2	3.9
tm05	16.6	15.2	14.4	12.8	9.5	4.8	1.6	-0.2	-1.2	-3.3	11.0
tm06	20.5	18.7	17.8	16.4	14.5	11.4	8.6	7.4	6.5	5.4	15.6
tm07	22.8	20.5	19.3	18.0	17.0	14.8	13.1	12.5	11.8	11.3	18.0
tm08	21.6	19.3	18.1	16.6	14.6	12.1	10.6	9.9	9.4	8.6	16.2
tm09	16.3	14.0	12.8	11.6	9.1	6.8	5.8	5.2	4.9	4.0	11.0
tm10	8.8	6.6	5.9	5.4	2.4	-0.2	-1.4	-2.6	-2.9	-5.0	4.1

Note: see Fig. 2 for abbreviations of the occurrence zones.

**Table 3.** Occurrence zones of *Ptilium crista-castrensis* by vegetation zones, km<sup>2</sup>

Vegetation zone	abs	vr	r	sp	fr	com	Total
Tundra	–	3418.4	92822.8	65335.1	16161.8	14020.1	191758.2
Forest-tundra	–	–	126.1	28440.5	59630.6	13894.7	102091.9
Northern taiga	–	–	–	–	31146.4	519581.3	550727.7
Middle taiga	–	–	–	–	545491.0	202528.6	748019.6
Southern taiga	–	–	–	31060.0	502545.3	6368.5	539973.8
Mixed forests	–	–	–	742694.8	71629.5	–	814324.3
Deciduous forests	8027.5	27955.9	92921.4	382382.4	5863.3	–	517150.5
Forest-steppe	39467.3	103734.0	307901.5	71600.1	–	–	522702.9
Steppe	549057.8	145742.1	11809.6	1973.2	–	–	708582.7
Semi-desert	204708.3	51.7	–	–	–	–	204760
Desert	54863.8	–	–	–	–	–	54863.8
Total, km <sup>2</sup>	856124.7	280902.2	505581.5	1323486.0	1232468.1	756393.1	4954955.4
Total, %	17.3	5.7	10.2	26.7	24.9	15.3	100

### Conclusions

The abundance of *Ptilium crista-castrensis* is correlated with the occurrence of coniferous forests (taiga zone) in such a large area as EEPEF, where 11 vegetation zones occur (Fig. 1). The species' occurrence is maximal in the northern taiga. This region is characterised by a specific climatic optimum for *P. crista-castrensis*, considered as an average annual temperature of about -1°C and an average monthly humidity of about 80%. In the forest zone, the *P. crista-castrensis* occurrence varied from sporadically to commonly. This species is rare both to the north and to the south of the forest zone.

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## РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЕ *PTILIMUM CRISTA-CASTRENSIS* НА ТЕРРИТОРИИ ВОСТОЧНО-ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЙ РАВНИНЫ И ВОСТОЧНОЙ ФЕННОСКАНДИИ

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*Ptilium crista-castrensis* является одним из наиболее распространенных видов в лесной зоне. Он является обычным видом мохового яруса в черничных лесах. В небольших количествах он может произрастать почти во всех типах леса, даже на болотах и лугах. Он также является компонентом мохового яруса в сообществах тундры. На основе сведения литературных источников с аннотированными списками локальных бриофлор в единую географическую базу данных, построена карта модельного ареала *P. crista-castrensis* методом кригинга. Всего было использовано 179 точек, среди которых 39 относится к заповедникам и национальным паркам. На основании наложения непрерывных покрытий встречаемости вида и климатических факторов установлены климатические предпочтения вида. Наложение модельной карты на карту растительных зон позволило провести анализ его пространственного распространения. На границе между лесной и степной зонами встречаемость *P. crista-castrensis* резко падает. На юге он становится довольно редким видом, растущим преимущественно в небольших массивах сосновых насаждений. В открытой степи этот вид исчезает. Максимум его встречаемости приходится на подзону Северной тайги. Здесь находится климатический оптимум вида. В численных значениях климатический оптимум соответствует годовой температуре около  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$  и влажности воздуха около 80%. В лесной зоне *P. crista-castrensis* имеет встречаемость от спорадической до широкой. Наихудшими климатическими условиями для *P. crista-castrensis* на севере являются низкие температуры и низкое количество осадков, несмотря на высокую влажность воздуха. На юге он перестает расти из-за высоких летних температур и низкого количества осадков.

**Ключевые слова:** ареал, биогеография, встречаемость вида, климатический оптимум вида, методы геостатистики