

INVESTIGATIONS ON SPECIES RESOURCES OF BEES (Hymenoptera: Apiformes) IN POLAND DURING LAST CENTURY*

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S u m m a r y

This article reviews the results of last century investigations on local and regional biodiversity of bees in Poland. In the last century a mere 7.3% of the country's area was investigated. These were 239 UTM squares (10 x 10 km). The explored UTM squares can be used for monitoring the local or regional diversity of Apiformes in Poland. The most important studies have been conducted in the basin of Vistula river. It was found that 90% of the total number of bee species were those occurring in the middle and lower Vistula valley. Such species occurring emphasizes their importance as a refuge for native bee resources in the conception of European Network program (EECONET) and the Polish program of natural protection Natura 2000.

Keywords: Hymenoptera, Apiformes, bees, species resources, Poland.

INTRODUCTION

Bees are among highly active, or potentially highly active, efficient at flying, specialized phytophages pollinating flowering plants. They form multi-species communities of populations competing for environmental resources within the biocenosis, or, most frequently, in a complex of biocenoses within the landscape. They occur in nearly all terrestrial environments including those extremely transformed by man as long as they provide flowering food plants accessible to them (Matheson 1994, Matheson et al. 1996, Michener 2000, Seeley 1985). In the course of more than 100 years of faunistic studies on bees in Poland 468 species have been reported (Pawlikowski 2004). In the same time the species resources of bees in neigh-

bouring countries have been found to be by 22 – 94% greater than those in Poland (Table 1). In the second half of the 20th century the occurrence of 27 bee species, i.e. of nearly 6% of the home total, was not confirmed. Most of them were species disappearing from the area of central Europe (Głowaciński 1992, Warncke et al. 1984).

Studies of bee species resources in Poland have amounted mainly to investigating their local overall seasonal complexes. The first such assessment of local diversity of bees was presented for Kraków (Wierzejski 1868), and it concerned nearly the full range of the growing season (from spring till early autumn). Similar studies were continued in the first half of the last century, mostly in the regions of

* This study was prepared according to the database of "Apiformes of Poland" coordinated by A Biodiversity Collection Access Service for Europe (BioCASE) project.

Table 1

Number of bee species in countries of Central and East Europe recorded during the 20th century.

| Taxon | Germany ¹ | CZ+SL ² | Poland ³ | UA+BI+LI ⁴ |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Colletidae | 50 | 44 | 40 | 65 |
| Andrenidae | 130 | 162 | 95 | 199 |
| Halictidae | 127 | 133 | 104 | 159 |
| Melittidae | 11 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| Megachilidae | 99 | 132 | 90 | 163 |
| Anthophoridae | 105 | 179 | 87 | 231 |
| Apidae | 41 | 36 | 40 | 60 |
| Bee species in total | 563 | 699 | 468 | 890 |

¹⁾ according to Schwarz et al. (1996)

²⁾ Czechy and Slovakia according to Kocourek (1989)

³⁾ according to Banaszak (2000a), Dylewska (1997) and Pawlikowski (2004)

⁴⁾ Ukraine + Belorussia and Lithuania according to Osychniuk et al. (1978)

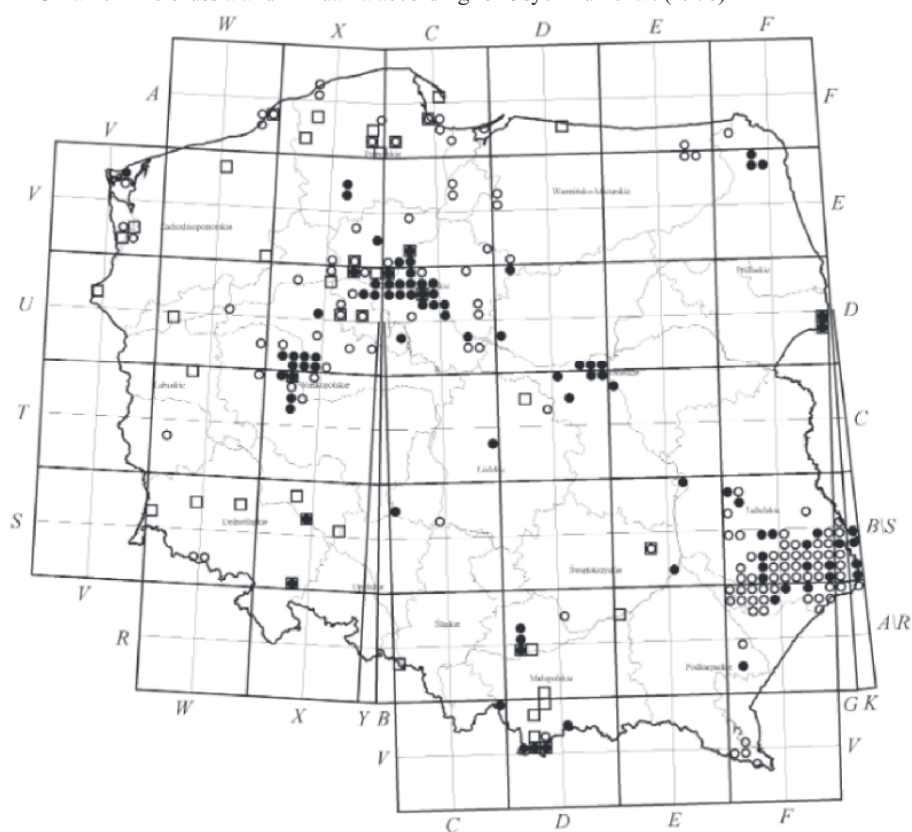


Fig. 1. Local bee species resources in Poland (according to UTM grid system) of the 20th century in vegetation season: pre-1950 (open square), post-1950 (black dot) and during a summer period only (open circle).

Table 2

Local areas in Polish regions (provinces) where bee resources were investigated.

| Region | Local resources |
|-------------------|--|
| Pomorze Zachodnie | Banaszak 1982, Blüthgen 1919, Engel 1938, Pawlikowski* |
| Pomorze | Alfken 1909, 1912, Banaszak 1980, 1973, Cierzniak 1996 |
| Warmia-Mazury | Móschler 1938, Pawlikowski* |
| Podlasie | Banaszak & Krzysztofiak 1996, Krzysztofiak 1994, 1995, Malcher 2001 |
| Mazowsze | Banaszak 1982a, 1989, 1990, 1994, Banaszak & Plewka 1981, Banaszak et al. 1978, Domagała-Lipińska 1961 |
| Kujawy-Pomorze | Alfken 1909, 1912, Banaszak 1980, 1982b, Banaszak & Cierzniak 1995, Barczak*, Hirsch*, Pawlikowski 1985, 1987, 1989, 1989a, 1992, Pawlikowski & Kowalewska 1997, Pawlikowski et al.*, Torcka 1913, Ziółkowski 1979, 1982 |
| Wielkopolska | Banaszak 1973a, 1977, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1994, 1997, Banaszak & Cierzniak 1998, Cierzniak 1994, 1997, Cierzniak & Ratyńska 1997, Szulczewski 1948, Torcka 1933, Wójtowski et al. 1973, 1980 |
| Lubuskie | Torka 1913, Wójtowski & Wilkaniec 1979 |
| Łódzkie | Drogoszewski 1932, 1934, Kowalczyk 1996, Stachowiak* |
| Świętokrzyskie | Banaszak 2003, Drogoszewski 1932, 1934, Niesiołowski 1949, Wierzejski 1868 |
| Lubelskie | Anasiewicz 1971, 1972, 1975, 1976, Biliński**, Miczulski 1967, Pawlikowski et al. 1993, Ruskowski** |
| Podkarpackie | Banaszak 1984, Wiśniowski 2000 |
| Małopolska | Banaszak et al. 1998, Celary 1988, 1991, 1998, 1998a, Dylewska 1962, 1966, 1988, 1991, Dylewska & Noskiewicz 1963, Łoziński 1920, Noskiewicz 1920, Śnieżek 1910, Wierzejski 1868 |
| Śląsk | no information |
| Opolskie | Dittrich 1903 |
| Dolny Śląsk | Dittrich 1903, Macko & Noskiewicz 1954, Noskiewicz 1960 |

*) computer database for A Biodiversity Collection Access Service for Europe (BioCASE) already prepared.

**) computer database for BioCASE already prepared and published in Journal of Apicultural Science.

Małopolska and Kujawy-Pomorze. In the second half of the 20th century intensive studies of local biodiversity of Apoidea were conducted in the regions of Lublin, Kujawy-Pomorze and Wielkopolska, and fragmentarily in the regions of Mazowsze, Małopolska and Podlasie. At the same time as the overall seasonal studies, including studies in selected seasons of the year, first of all in summer, were conducted, mainly

in the regions of Lublin, Kujawy-Pomorze, Pomorze, Warmia-Mazury and Wielkopolska. In the last century a mere 7.3% (239 UTM squares) of the country's area was investigated, 3.8% of which in overall seasonal studies and 3.5% in the summer season. About 90% of all the squares explored were investigated after World War II (Fig. 1). The reported areas of the explored UTM squares can be used for monitoring

Table 3

Database structure: Occurrence of bees in Poland.

| Field name | Field type | Field wide | Field description | Aims |
|------------|------------|------------|---|-------|
| SPECIES | N | 9 | computer number of species | A,E,P |
| NAME_SP | C | 7 | computer name of species | A,E,P |
| WORK_CODE | C | 10 | work codes | |
| UTML | C | 2 | letters of large UTM square | A,E,P |
| X | N | 1 | vertical figure of small UTM square | A,E,P |
| Y | N | 1 | horizontal figure of small UTM square | A,E,P |
| LOCALITY | C | 20 | name of locality | A |
| DISTRICT | C | 15 | district of locality | A |
| YEAR | N | 4 | collection year | A,E,P |
| DATA_COL | D | 8 | collection data | E,P |
| FQ | N | 3 | number of founder queens | E,P |
| F_W | N | 3 | number of females or workers | E,P |
| MA | N | 3 | number of males | E,P |
| Q | N | 3 | number of new queens | E,P |
| BIOCENOSE | C | 10 | type of biocenose (according to CORINE) | E |
| INTERACT | C | 25 | species interaction | E |
| INFORM | C | 25 | type of information | A,E,P |
| AUTHOR | C | 4 | author of information | A,E,P |
| REMARKS | C | 10-50 | | |

Explanation: C = text, D = data, N = numerical, A = distribution, E = ecology, P = phenology, CORINE = COoRdination of INformation on Environment biotopes programme.



Fig. 2. Habitats of marginal zones in the Vistula River valley are important refuges for native bees in Poland. There is a view of a marginal zone near Unisław Pomorski.

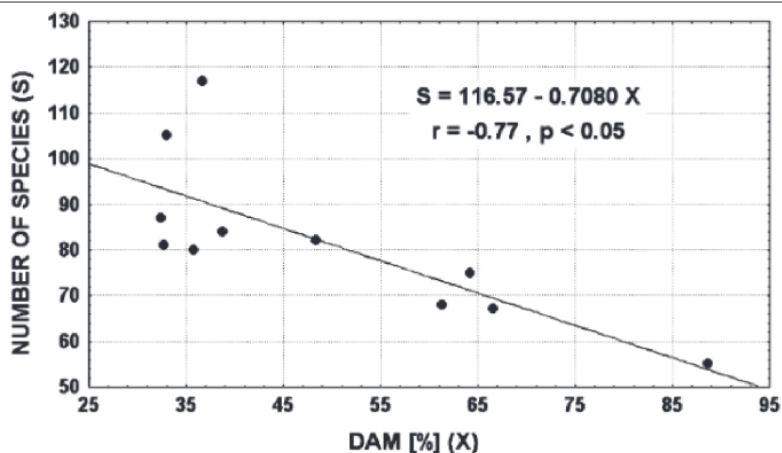


Fig. 3. Observed correlation of the domination of *Apis mellifera* (DAM) and the number of bee species (S) of local bee communities in lower Vistula River valley of North Poland (based on materials by Pawlikowski & Hirsch 2002).

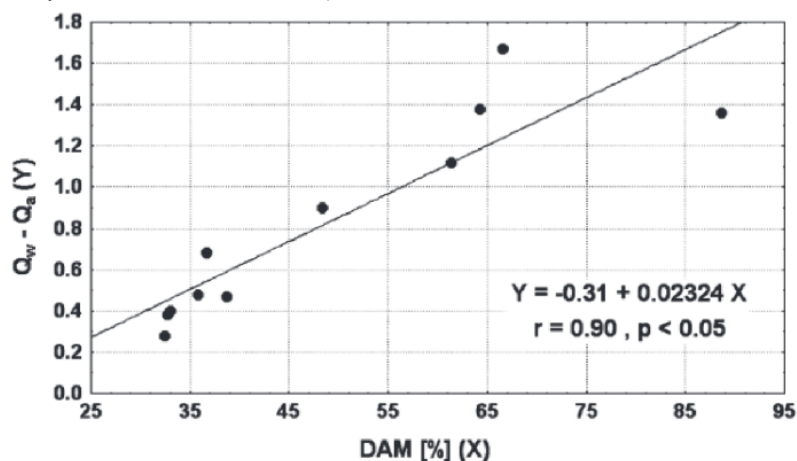


Fig. 4. Observed correlation of the domination of *Apis mellifera* (DAM) and species diversity index values (Liu 1995) of local bee communities in lower Vistula River valley calculated for the structure of wild bee species (Q_w) and all Apoidea species (Q_a) (based on materials by Pawlikowski & Hirsch 2002).

the local or regional diversity of Apoidea in Poland. In addition, it will be possible to use them for observation of the variability of structure of the local communities of pollinating bees in the cultural landscape.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All published literature information and unpublished materials from entomological collections (according to Table 2) on the distribution of bee species from Poland have been recorded. A structure of database founded on the ACCESS of MICROSOFT

OFFICE packet for WINDOWS computer systems (Table 3) and GNOMON programme have been used.

REFUGES OF BEE RESOURCES

The study of bee fauna as local or regional species resources in environments transformed by man generally serves the assessment of hygrization and at the same time of xerization degree of those environments (Haeseler 1972, 1985, Michelette and Camargo 2000, Pawlikowski 1989a, Pawlikowski

and Hirsch 2002, Stöckl 1998). That results from the xerothermophilic character of this group of insects, which prefer dry and warm habitats for nest building, associated with grass and herb or dwarf shrub flora with a low percentage of shrub and arboreal vegetation. It has been found that among all types of habitats occupied by bees the richest in species are areas with xerothermic habitats (Banaszak 1992, Linsley 1958). In Poland as well as in other European countries those habitats have developed and are still developing mainly as a result of all sorts of cultural activity (deforestation, draining waterlogged areas, settlement development, agriculture, grazing, urbanization etc), particularly along river valleys (Klemm 1996, Pawlikowski 1993). The most important studies of valley areas have been conducted in the basin of the largest Polish river, the Vistula. In the Vistula valley itself studies of bee resources have been conducted in the area of Kampinos Forest in the region of Mazowsze and on dunes and xerothermic slopes between Włocławek and Chełmno in the Kujawy-Pomorze region. Students of the problem have also been interested in the cultural-xeric and xerothermic environments of the regions of Podlasie, Wielkopolska, Lublin and Małopolska (Table 2).

By comparing the number of locally occurring species with the total number of species in the region it was possible to estimate the importance of those local areas as refuges for bees. In the second half of the 20th century it was found that 90% of the total number of bee species found in the region of Mazowsze occurred in the middle Vistula valley, and 87% of the total number of species in the Kujawy-Pomorze region – in the lower Vistula valley. Such a high percentage of species occurring in the Vistula valley environments emphasizes their importance as refuge for native bee resources (Fig. 2) in the conceptions of European net-

work of ecological corridors EECONET (Liro 1995, 1998) and the Polish program of natural protection Natura 2000 (Makomaska-Juchiewicz and Tworek 2003). A comparison of the percentage of local bee resources in the natural area of the Wielkopolska National Park with that of the definitely agricultural region of Wielkopolska shows only the real role as refuge of marginal environments in agricultural landscape.

DIVERSITY OF LOCAL BEE COMMUNITIES

If a local bee community is assumed to be a multispecies system in which all species compete for environmental resources (Diamond and Case 1986, Krebs 1994), then the species diversity of that community will be shaped by mainly three factors: 1) the species diversity of the food vegetation resources (Teräs 1985), 2) habitat diversity and 3) the competitive influence of the dominant honey bee (Buchmann 1996, Sugden et al. 1996).

The effect of the first factor on the number of species in bee communities has been evidenced proved in relation to the number of flowering plant species visited by them. A statistically significant close positive correlation between them has been found in valley environments of the lower Vistula (Pawlikowski and Hirsch 2002) and in marginal environments in the agricultural areas of the regions of Wielkopolska (Matheson et al. 1996) and of Kujawy-Pomorze (Pawlikowski 1989). If it is assumed that the diversity of the plant species visited was directly proportional to the diversity of the biocenoses of the environments under study, then the richness of species of the bee communities was subordinated to the factor of space heterogenization in the local scale. This is one of the essential principles accounting for the phenomenon of differentiation of the structure of the biocenotic system (Mac Artur

and Mac Artur 1961). However, it must be stressed that in the case under study the heterogenization of environments resulted mainly from the historical and contemporary human activity.

The effect of the diversity of habitats was studied in the agricultural areas of the Chełmno Land (Pawlikowski 1989) in the region of Kujawy-Pomorze. It was found that the density and number of species of the communities under study increased significantly with the increase in diversity of fields with their marginal habitats. Considering the effect of that factor, various marginal environments of the cultural landscape can be assumed to have a well documented positive effect on the development of bee species resources (Banaszak 2000).

The third factor is related to the density of the honey bee in the selected local areas. However, it is commonly known that the present-day occurrence of the honey bee all over Europe does not depend on the natural properties of the habitats but only on the distribution, size and sanitary condition of apiaries (Seeley 1985). In the bee communities in the valley environments of the lower Vistula (Pawlikowski and Hirsch 2002) a strong negative correlation has been found between the number of species and the dominant percentage of honey bee (Fig. 3). A similar result was reported by Witkowski (1989). Moreover, it was found that the competitive activities of the honey bee workers significantly reduced the values of the modified index of species diversity H' (Liu 1995, Shannon and Weaver 1963) of bee communities (Fig. 4).

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BADANIA GATUNKOWYCH ZASOBÓW PSZCZÓŁ (Hymenoptera: Apiformes) POLSKI W CIĄGU OSTATNIEGO STULECIA

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S t r e s z c z e n i e

Praca przedstawia zestawienie wyników badań nad lokalnymi i regionalnymi zasobami gatunkowymi pszczół Polski w ciągu minionego stulecia. Rozpatrywano tylko te badania, które obejmowały lokalną waloryzację stanu gatunków przypisaną dla powierzchni kwadratu jednostkowego 10 x 10 km systemu UTM, w aspekcie sezonu wegetacyjnego (od wiosny do wczesnej jesieni lub od wiosny do lata). Stwierdzono, że w minionym stuleciu zbadano zaledwie 7,3% powierzchni kraju (239 kwadratów jednostkowych). Określenie zasobów w obrębie kwadratów można wykorzystać do monitorowania zmian lokalnej i regionalnej różnorodności pszczół na obszarze Polski.

Najważniejsze badania były przeprowadzone na obszarze dorzecza Wisły. Szczególnie bogate zasoby gatunkowe pszczół wykazano na stanowiskach środkowej i dolnej doliny Wisły. Obejmowały one 90% ogólnej liczby gatunków wykazanych w Polsce. Zasobność środowisk dolinnych Wisły ustala ich znaczenie jako ważnych ostoi dla rodzimych zasobów pszczół w koncepcji Europejskiej Sieci Ekologicznej (EECONET) i polskiego programu ochrony przyrody Natura 2000.

Słowa kluczowe: Hymenoptera, Apiformes, pszczoły, gatunkowe zasoby, Polska.

