

Neuhäuslová, Z. *et al.*: **Mapa potenciální přirozené vegetace České republiky**. [Map of Potential Natural Vegetation of the Czech Republic.] - Academia, Praha 1998. ISBN 80-200-0687-7. 342 pp., vegetation map in colour. In Czech, 195.- Kč.

This map represents a further important result of the Czech botanists' effort in vegetation mapping which, based on a long tradition, nowadays contributes to the "Map of Natural Vegetation of Europe" international project. Authored by Zdenka Neuhäuslová and a team of 14 collaborators from several Czech botanical laboratories, the map provides a picture of the present Czech Republic's potential natural vegetation cover. This is defined as a set of plant communities which would presumably occupy the territory of the country if the present land use and management by humans, strongly altering or modifying the natural conditions, should come to an end. The explanatory text briefly describes the geology, geomorphology, soils and climate in individual regions of the Czech Republic. An outline is also given of the country's phytogeographical divisions, and of the postglacial development of its vegetation, including a survey of the principal human impacts that have affected this development. The map itself depicts the equilibrium between present-day habitat conditions and the potential vegetation. With the support of the Czech Republic's Grant Agency, the map was compiled in 1994-96, making use of field work and of the evaluation of all pertinent previous vegetation maps and phytosociological studies. The potential natural vegetation of the Czech Republic is classified into and mapped according to altogether 51 mapping units grouped, by colour, into 17 complexes of ecologically similar community types. Their species composition is illustrated in special tables. The mapping units are based on the Braun-Blanquet floristic-phytocenological differentiation of the vegetation. The use of this methodology is traditional and has yielded valuable results in Central European countries.

The map and the book which accompanies it, are, first of all, of general interest to anyone interested in the vegetation of Central Europe. The map also represents a useful tool for the extrapolation to larger areas, of point or small-scale data on the productivity of the plant cover under various environmental conditions in temperate Europe.

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