Bookreviews

JIM LUNDQUIST et GUNNAR WISTRAND

STRANDFLORA INOM ÖVRE OCH MELLERSTA SKELLEFTEÄLVENS
VATTENSYSTEM

Riverside vascular flora in the upper and middle catchment area of the River Skellefteälven, northern Sweden

Växtekologiska studier 9. — Svenska Växtgeografiska Sällskapet, Uppsala 1976, 175 pp.

Using water energy for producing electric power has many advantages—compared with other means, especially with the exploitation of fossil fuels for this purpose but none the less, it often brings with it damage to some landscape components, especially to riverside vegetation, due to more or less regular oscillations of the water level. Lundquist and Wistrand present, in their study, a thorough investigation of the riverside flora of the river Skellefteälven in N. Sweden, where 13 power stations have been built. Skellefteälven is 410 km long and the altitudinal range between its spring area and its lowest point is 747 m; its mean water discharge is 160 m³ per second. The influence of power stations on vegetation is most conspicuous in the lowlands, where water regulation amplitude is 13.5 m and where many vegetation complexes have disappeared due to the oscillation of the water level. The distribution of more than 400 species of vascular flora along the Skellefteälven, its tributaries and lakes, and changes in their occurrence due to the anthropic influence were noted.

The extensive material collected in this paper will help in nature protection of endangered ecosystems.

The book is written in Swedish, with only a short summary in English (1 page); 19 photos illustrate the text. It is pity that the authors noted only the distribution of particular species, leaving aside the plant communities, where changes due to water oscillation would be very interesting.

The problem of landscape change due to hydroelectric stations also occurs in Czechoslovakia and relevant comparison of changes in both countries would be certainly of interest for botanists as well as those concerned with Nature conservation.

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