
THE TRAJECTORY OF WETLANDS DEVELOPMENT IN THE UPPER PART OF THE VÝROVKA RIVER BASIN OVER THE LAST 180 YEARS

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The article is focused on analysis of the change of wetlands coverage and the representation of various types of wetlands in the upper part of the Výrovka river basin over the last 180 years. The historical maps of the Stable Cadastre, current orthophotographs and GIS layers of actual localization and classification of different types of land cover were used as data sources. Based on the available data four types of wetlands were distinguished: wet meadows, wet meadows with trees, swamps and waterlogged forests. However, waterlogged forests were found only in current map materials. The area of wetlands has dramatically decreased from 687.74 hectares in the years 1838–1841 (7.53% of the solved area) to 9.29 hectares in 2019 (0.1%). While most area of the historic wetlands were covered by wet meadows (98.82%), waterlogged forests and wet meadows (40.23%, respectively 42.10%) form the largest part of the current wetland. Half of the area of historic wetlands was transformed to arable land, therefore the changes are mainly attributable to increased agricultural production. The findings could be used in landscape planning with regard to the protection and management of wetlands.