

# Floristic Features of Types of Birch Forests in the Northern Forest-Steppe of Western Siberia

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*The article presents the results of studying the floristic composition of the living ground cover of native birch forests in the conditions of the northern forest-steppe of Western Siberia.*

*Despite the fact that the vegetation of birch forests of Western Siberia is given great attention [1-6], the flora of birch forests of different typological affiliations in the subzone of the northern forest-steppe remains insufficiently studied.*

*The investigations were carried out on the territory of the Abatsky leskhoz of the Tyumen region in the middle-aged birch forests, unbroken by felling, with a density of 0.5-0.8.*

*It is shown that in placher conditions, the largest proportion of birch forest formations occurs in the types of the mixed-herb group. Four types of birch forests have been identified, which, as the moisture content and soil wealth of ecotopes increase, can be arranged in the following range: wood-reed-berry, wood-reed-grass, cereal – grass and dropwort-cereal.*

*Complete lists of species of grass cover are given, indicating their abundance on the Drude scale for each of the types of birch forests studied. It is shown that the floristic composition of the herbaceous tier of birch forests ranges from 56 names in dropwort-cereal, up to 88 species in cereal – grass type of forest.*

*In all types of forests, the species of the mesophilic group predominate (76.6-80.8%), but with an increase in the dryness of the ecotope, the proportion of xeromesophytes increases (from 8.9% in the dropwort-cereal to 20.3% in the wood-reed-berry forest type) and with the increase in the humidity of the habitat, the share of hygromesophytes (up to 19.6% in the dropwort-cereal type of forest), which leads to a reduction in the participation of mesophytes in the composition of the live soil cover of birch forests.*

*The grass cover in the types of forests studied is characterized by a rather high abundance of useful species, representing a potential resource for economic use. Among the economically valuable species of ground cover of birch forests, the following groups of useful plants can be distinguished: fodder, medicinal, food, honey, technical (dyeing, tanning, ethereal), decorative. In the wood-reed-berry type forest there are rare species listed in the Red Book of the Tyumen region – a *Cypripedium macranthon* and a *Cypripedium calceolus*.*

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