



ARKADIUSZ NOWAK (born 1971 in Bolesławiec) is a professor of ecology, botanist, and environmentalist. He has authored approximately 310 scientific papers and a dozen books. His research focuses on vegetation conservation, belowground biodiversity, general botany, phytosociology, impact of climate change on vegetation, the distribution and ecology of vascular plants, the biogeography of endemic species in Middle Asia, restoration ecology, and paddy field weed syntaxonomy. Since 2006, he has been actively exploring the vegetation diversity of Middle Asia. Currently, he serves as a professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences and Director General of the Botanical Garden – Center for Biological Diversity Conservation in Powsin.

MARCIN NOBIS (born 1977 in Pionki) is a professor of botany at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, specializing in taxonomy and ecology of plants. He has authored over 280 scientific papers, with his research focusing on taxonomy, phylogeny, phyto- and phylogeography of vascular plants, endemism and conservation of mountain flora as well as ecology of vegetation. Since 2007, he has been actively exploring the flora and vegetation of Middle Asia. Currently, he serves as Curator of the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany, Jagiellonian University (KRA).

MIDDLE ASIA, encompassing countries such as Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, is one of the world's richest floristic regions. The extraordinary interplay of climatic influences, phytogeographical divisions, and diverse geomorphology has shaped an exceptional diversity of plant life and vegetation. More than 10,000 species of vascular plants can be found in this region, which also boasts a remarkable variety of habitats and vegetation types. Despite its botanical richness, Middle Asia remained largely overlooked by geobotanists in the second half of the 20th century.

In 2006, a team of Polish researchers launched a long-term geobotanical exploration program in Tajikistan and its neighboring countries. Over the course of 56 expeditions, they collected approximately 6,000 vegetation records, covering nearly all major vegetation types. The results of this extensive research are now presented in the first comprehensive catalogue of plant communities for the region, organized within a hierarchical system. A total of 552 vegetation types were identified, including 297 associations, 16 sub-associations, and 239 communities, classified into 45 vegetation classes, 51 orders, and 87 alliances. Additionally, a schematic geobotanical map was developed, depicting 29 major zonal vegetation types for Tajikistan.

This work serves as a foundation for future research in vegetation ecology and syntaxonomy in Middle Asia and lays the groundwork for the conservation planning of the region's unique phytocoenotic diversity.

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Part I

Introduction 14
Floristics and biogeography of Middle Asian vegetation on the example of Tajikistan 16
Phytogeographic composition of the flora of Tajikistan 19
Geology and soils of Middle Asia 21
Climate of Middle Asia 23
Development and current status of phytosociological research in Middle Asia and neighbouring territories 24
Methods 26
Geographic extent of the survey and the dataset 26
Verbal diagnosis of the syntaxon 28
Ordering and grouping of classes 28
The hierarchy of the system of plant communities 29
Conservation 30
Outlook 31
Acknowledgements 32

Part II

Conspectus of the syntaxa dominated by vascular plants in Middle Asia 35
Vegetation map of Tajikistan 38
Holarctic coniferous forests on oligotrophic soils at high altitudes 43
Zonal, mesophilous, temperate broad-leaved forests 47
Oak, mixed deciduous and conifer open forests of Hindu Kush 53
Xeric shrublands of the Irano-Turanian Region 55
Irano-Turanian open woodlands in warm, semi-arid to sub-humid climate 69
Thermophilous Zeravshan juniper stands in the montane belt of Middle Asia 77
Cryophilous juniper stands in the upper montane belt of Middle and Central Asia 81
Krummholz vegetation in the subalpine belt of Middle Asia and the Himalayas 87
Irano-Turanian subalpine forb steppes 91

Mountain steppes of semi-arid to subhumid areas of Central Asia 115
Dry, thermophilous steppes of the montane and subalpine belts of Middle Asia 125
High altitude desert steppes and cold semi-deserts of Central Asia 141
Thermophilous secondary grasslands on deep soils of the colline and montane belts with long dry summer period in Middle Asia 159
High altitude arid halophytic graminoid vegetation 175
Tragacanthic, wind-swept vegetation of the alpine and subnival belts of the Irano-Turanian Region 183
Mesic grasslands of the alpine belt of Middle and Central Asia 189
Chionophilous summit graminoid and dwarf-scrub mountain tundra in the alpine and subnival belts 215
Irano-Turanian thermophilous, mesic tall-forb vegetation 223
Hot semi-deserts of the Irano-Turanian Region 237
Semi-desert shrublands of the Irano-Turanian Region 241
Halophytic thermophilous scrub vegetation on dry solonetz and solonchak soils in arid zones of southern Middle Asia 253
Sclerophyllous and thermophilous scrub vegetation of arid habitats on large rock ledges, screes and badlands of the Irano-Turanian Region 261
Riparian forests of continental Central Asia with strong influences of temperate climate 273
Riparian gallery forests and thickets of the Irano-Turanian Region 283
Riparian open wood vegetation of saline and subsaline alluvial habitats along mainly intermittent rivers and oases 299
Riparian scrub communities of saline and subsaline alluvial habitats along mainly lowland rivers 303
Hypersaline alluvial temporary flooded swards in the semi-desert and desert zones on solonchak soils in the Irano-Turanian Region 311
Pioneer ephemeral dwarf-grass vegetation in periodically flooded saline habitats of Eurasia 317
Shrubby vegetation on mobile screes and rock ledges in continental and temperate Central Asia 321
Relict chomophytic and chasmophytic vegetation in the shaded and water-splashed habitats of Middle Asia 323
Chasmophytic vegetation of montane and alpine rock faces of Middle and Central Asia 327
High altitude subnival rupicolous and snow-bed vegetation 383
Scree vegetation of montane and subalpine belts of the Irano-Turanian Region 395
Thermophilous chasmophytic vegetation of walls and road verges in subcontinental regions of Middle Asia 435
Vegetation of rooted floating or submerged macrophytes of stagnant mesotrophic, eutrophic and brackish freshwater bodies and slowly flowing shallow streams 441
Spring and fen vegetation of the montane and alpine belts of Middle Asia 457
Vegetation of free floating aquatic plants 465
Reed swamp, sedge bed and herbland vegetation of freshwater or brackish water bodies and streams of Eurasia 469
Fen and mire vegetation of boreal and hemiboreal Eurasia 491
Annual weed vegetation of arable crops, gardens and vineyards in the cool-temperate and boreal zones of Eurasia 509

Weed vegetation of the rice fields of Eurasia 527
Subcosmopolitan therophyte-rich dwarf-herb vegetation of trampled habitats 535
Thermophilous grass-rich anthropogenic vegetation rich in summer-annual C4 species 539
Perennial xerophytic ruderal vegetation 553
Therophyte-rich zoogenic vegetation of mammal lairs under stone overhangs in the mountains of Europe, Middle East, Central Asia and southern Africa 561
Summer-annual pioneer vegetation of seasonally flooded nutrient-rich river alluvia, lacustrine banks and heavily nutrient loaded anthropogenic habitats of Eurasia 563

Glossary of geobotanical terms 567
Bibliography 577
Appendix 595