



Freezing - thawing of mires in the Krkonose Mts

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Summit plateaux of the Krkonose/ Karkonosze Mts (Czech – Polish border, 50° 46'N, 15° 33'E, 1340 and 1420 m ASL) represents the southernmost localities of relict subarctic mires type in Europe. Because of MAT +1,5 °C , MAP > 1200 mm, mean snow cover depths 180 cm, lengths of snow cover 6 – 7 months - length and depth of seasonal freezing is very good indicator of climate fluctuation. Since 1993 we are interested in observation and monitoring of freezing/thawing some of micro – mezofoms of mires. It concerns pounikos, strings, marginal parts of pools. Continuous monitoring is provided by temperature datalogers, occassional validation using thin steel soil probe - in the bottom of snow profile during winter, till the complete thawing in the spring and beggining of summer. It is evident: freezing is not equal over all mires - it depends on type of vegetation and peat properties. Maximum freezing depth reaches about 40 cm, thawing finishes in June. No model of freezing/thawing was used to this time.