



The effect of grazing on the plant cover in the north of Caspian lowland

Nina Novikova and Alexey Vyshivkin

Water Problems Institute of Russian academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation (nmnovikova@gmail.com)

Transect and key sites methods were used for investigation of solonetz complex vegetation changes under different impact of cattle herd (cows, sheep and goats) in Northern Caspian area, Russia. The groups of plant species differently responding to stocking pressure are revealed: avoiding, preferring, indifferent. Compiled list of plant species that grow only on the protected area of steppe Dzhanybek research station. Determined, that along a gradient of strengthening of cattle grazing decrease the plants height, numbers of species and projective cover within communities. It was shown, that optimum condition for vegetation is marked within the area of low grazing.