

**AGE STAGES CRITERIA AND AGE STRUCTURE OF COENOPOPULATION
JURINEA ROEGNERI K. KOCH (*JURINEA SORDIDA* STEV.) IN
PHYTOCOENOSIS OF FOOTHILLS IN CRIMEA**

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The need for knowledge of the state of coenopopulations *Jurinea roegneri* K.Koch, as one of the most important components of tomillares communities, the true and petrophytes steppes of the Crimean foothills is grounded. The data on the projective cover (8-15 % of covering) and frequency-abundance of this species (1-2 class of frequency-abundance, index value from 74 -84 %), individual coenopopulation density ($9,0 \pm 0,6$ (1), $8,7 \pm 0,6$ (2) and $11,9 \pm 0,8$ (3) species per square meter) , which enable to estimate the phytocenotic role of *Jurinea roegneri* in the rank of assectator or subdominant are given. The confinement of the coenopopulation *Jurinea roegneri* to the growth in associations is noted *Stipetodasphodelinetum – jurineriosum; Jurinerito-helianthemetum-teucriosum*

There are represented the results of searching for morphological criteria, that differentiate age stages. Sufficient information of using such qualitative characteristics for highlighting the pregenerative age stages (plantula, juvenalis, immature, virginale) *Jurinea roegneri* as the shape of the leaf and the degree of the leaf blade dissection is related. As for quantitative criteria, the number of leaves in the rosette, the length and

width of the leaf blade, the diameter of the root neck should be taken into consideration. It takes 3-4 years for the pregenerative phase of development of *Jurinea roegneri* to go through. Morphological characteristics of each age stage are supported by schemes included in the text and original photos. In the generative period of *Jurinea roegneri* ontogenesis lives through age stages of young, mature and old species (g_1 , g_2 , g_3). Each age stage of the generative period is defined by the number of fertile and sterile heads, the size, number and the degree of the dissection of leaf blades. By the correlation coefficient the value of the association between individual morphological features, specifically appearing in different groups (g_1 , g_2 , g_3) of a generative age was established. The coefficient reliability of the correlation is proved with the help of Student's t-test. There are shown the schemes of age stages of the generative phase of development *Jurinea roegneri* as well as some tables of correlation links of the used features. According to the 2012-2013 researches, there is build the age spectrum of *Jurinea roegneri* K.Koch coenopopulation, which is normal and has obvious left-side tendency with the species of pregenerative age prevailing (88 and 86% correspondingly). The main way of self-support in coenopopulation of *Jurinea roegneri* is seminal. The conclusion of the efficiency of seminal reproduction of the researched species and the sufficient reserve of the younger part in the populations *Jurinea roegneri* for their further existence is made.

Keywords: *Jurinea roegneri* K.Koch, coenopopulation, morphological criteria, age stages, age spectrum.

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