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## DIANTHUS CALLIZONUS HABITAT TRAITS AND GROWTH STRATEGIES - STAGES IN CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

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### Abstract

The paper presents a brief historical development of some *Dianthus* species research emphasizing the scarcity of ecological studies and their necessity for any conservation and management strategies; the importance of *Dianthus* species for humans' health benefits is presented as well. The assessment of habitat characteristics and growth strategies of *Dianthus callizonus* from Piatra Craiului Massif is presented as the first step of ecological studies for conservation and adaptive management. The changing growth strategies of *D. callizonus* individuals according to habitat characteristics and limitations and resource availability at micro- and regional sites, allow the individuals of the species to use resources intensively and to compete with other species. The dormancy of the buds on under-ground stolons in unsuitable environmental conditions and the development of above-ground shoots in favourable condition should make the managers and conservationists adapt their strategies according to the species development.

*Key words:* adaptive management, *Dianthus callizonus*, growth strategies, habitat characteristics, Piatra Craiului Massif

*Received:* July, 2010; *Revised:* December, 2010; *Accepted:* December, 2010

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