



LUND UNIVERSITY

**Ramsvikslandets Naturreservat; en utvärdering av skötseln,
kopplat till hotade gentianaväxter.**



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Elinor Hansson
Handledare: Evastina Blomgren & Lars Sjögren

Abstract

With the gain of productivity in farming the last decades, there has been great loss in species richness. Many plant species that have evolved and adapted alongside to traditional farming and benefiting to the managed land use, are now disappearing in great numbers. Three thirds of Sweden's endangered plant species are those who thrive in managed grasslands like meadows and grazing areas. The traditional farming has during the years been substituted by fertilizers and high production management. In the west coast of Sweden, the nature reserve called "Ramsviks Naturresevat" aims to keep the beautiful cultivated landscape and the high values of biodiversity. A plan for management was made in 2006 together with a renewal of the old decision for the reserve.

One species group, highly tied to meadows and grazing areas, is the small purple gentian flowers of the genus *Gentianella*. Alongside with the traditional farming the gentianella has made adaptation to benefit and thrive in the old fashion European farming land. This ability leads them to act as a good indicator species for old natural grasslands. Therefor an investigation of the population growth of the different gentian species at Ramsvik was conducted, to indicate how well managed the land is.

The four taxa of *Gentianella* found at Ramsvik - *Gentianella campestris* ssp. *campestris* (L.) Börner, *G. campestris* ssp. *baltica* (Murb.) Löve & Löve, *G. amarella* (L.) Börner, and *G. uliginosa*. (Willd.) Börner have been well documented during the last ten years by Evastina Blomgren, member of the organization "Floraväktarna". The data that have been collected over the years were analyzed and the results showed some positive results for *G. campertris* ssp. *baltica* which is endangered. Some of the areas showed a decline of population growth, or a populations with numbers low enough to risk the future survival. The result may depend on different factors. *Gentianella* ssp. benefits from mowing in the summer and late grazing, and too intensive grazing result a decline in plant numbers. Many farmers let their cattle graze all through the summer, which tends to have a negative impact on the gentian species.