Ecological Diagnosis and Development of Ecological Management System of Urban Forest

- On Mt. Hwangryung in Pusan, Korea -

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도시림의 생태학적 진단과 생태적 관리시스템 개발 - 부산시 황령산을 중심으로 -

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ABSTRACT

The forest vegetation established on Mt. Hwangryung located in Pusan, southern Korea was analyzed through phytosociological procedure. Vegetation of the study area was categorized into 14 communities, 16 groups, and 13 subgroups. Vegetation units obtained from such an analysis were shown in a detailed vegetation map (scale 1:5,000). Ecological characteristics of each vegetation unit were discussed on the basis of the principle of restoration ecology. From those results, it was confirmed that some introduced vegetation under excessive artificial interference was in unstable state and then ecological restoration was needed. On the other hand, ecological information and management systems to maintain the urban forest as ecologically healthy state were developed using GIS.

Key words: Vegetation map, Vegetation landscape element, Ecological management, Landscape ecology, Restoration ecology

INTRODUCTION

Urban forest plays important roles in terms of protection of living environment of human and conservation of biodiversity as a basis of environment in urban area. But it can't play its ecological function in recent years due to quantitative reduction and qualitative degradation originated from severe environmental stresses and excessive artificial interference continued for a long time (Taoda 1979, Freedman

1986, Smith 1990, Miller 1997). The result leads to further aggravation of urban environment (Freedman 1986). Restoration to recover the diverse ecological functions of urban forest under such unfavorable circumstances is, therefore, needed urgently (Jordan III et al. 1987, Lee 1996, Lee et al. 1998a). In this viewpoint, it is necessary to classify and to map actual vegetation of urban forest on the bases of ecological information, which they hold as a basis for ecological restoration.

Actual vegetation reflects not only characteristics of

natural environment but also the past and present land-use patterns in a given area (Kamada and Nakagoshi 1996). Results of land-use are shown in distinct types, such as residential area, agricultural field, the area used for facilities, etc. and also in secondary effects induced from those uses as well (Lee et al. 1998a). That is, vegetation structure formed by characteristics of natural environment is changed by direct and indirect effects of human, and such changes are remarkable in urban area (Taoda 1979, Lee et al. 1998a).

Classifying vegetation and mapping the classified vegetation unit are indispensable subjects in clarifying the land-use pattern of the past and in preparing the plan to maintain vegetation as an ecologically healthy state in a given area. Landscape ecology, which plans to understand vegetation unit and manages it positively in a viewpoint different from classical plant sociology, is emerged as multidisciplinary science including the concepts of both natural and social sciences (Forman and Godron 1986, Golley 1987, Zonneveld and Forman 1990, Leser 1991, Naveh and Lieberman 1994, Zonneveld 1995). An ecological map including diverse ecological information is a fundamental tool for such study (Forman and Godron 1986, Küchler and Zonneveld 1988, Birks et al. 1988). Especially, classification and mapping of the actual vegetation are one of the fundamental requirements in landscape ecological approach, which is planning to create the ecologically healthy urban ecosystem (Hong and Lee 1997).

The aim of this study is (1) to classify the vegetation unit established on Mt. Hwangryung located at the center of Pusan, (2) to map the classified vegetation units, (3) to interpret each vegetation unit depicted as a map on the basis of restoration ecological principles, and (4) to develop the ecological information and management systems to maintain the urban forest as an ecologically healthy one.

STUDY AREA

The study area was chosen on Mt. Hwangryung located at the center of Pusan, southern Korea. Mt. Hwangryung is remained as a form of Green Island, in which ecological buffer zone is lost and its surrounding area is urbanized. It lies at longitude 129° 05′E and latitude 35°10′N and attains a height of 427.9m at elevation (Fig. 1). Dimension of the study area is about 950 ha. Its climate is oceanic type, with mean annual temperature of 14.1°C and mean annual precipitation of 1,472.7mm (Korea Meteorological Administration 1990).

Vegetation in this study area is mainly composed of plantations and secondary forests, which have been strongly influenced by human activities. Alnus firma, Pinus thunbergii, and Quercus serrata communities are representative vegetation types. Most of the understory vegetation is comprised of species appearing frequently at initial stages of succession. On the other hand, evergreen plants also rarely appeared because the study area is located within the boundary of warm temperate forest.

METHODS

Vegetation survey was carried out from April 1996 to July 1997 by phytosociological method (Braun-Blanquet 1964, Mueller-Dombois 1974). 483 plots were selected subjectively for vegetation survey. Classification of vegetation units was accomplished by phytosociological procedures (Braun-Blanquet 1964, Mueller-Dombois 1974). Community, upper unit, was classified by physiognomic characteristics of dominant species, and group or subgroup, lower units, were by species composition. By analyzing aerial photograph accompanied with field survey was made a detailed vegetation map at a scale of 1:5,000. In the vegetation map, boundaries of upper vegetation units at community level were identified by analyzing aerial photographs and those of lower units by dominant or differential species of each unit.

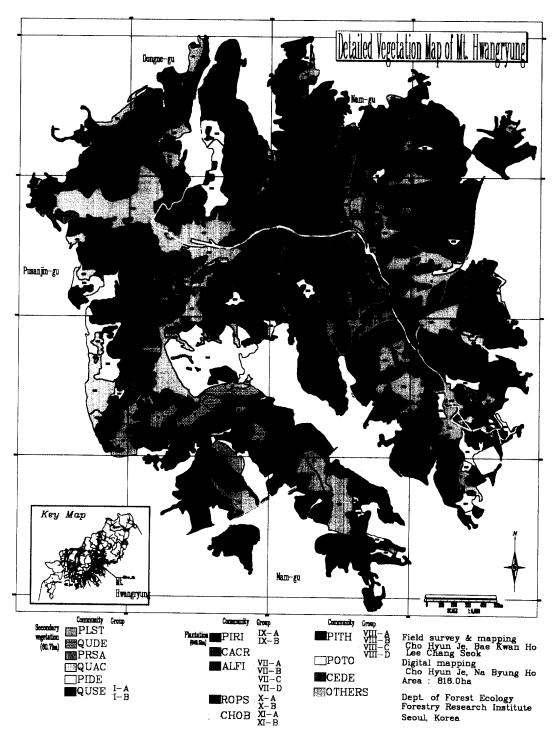


Fig. 1. A detailed vegetation map of Mt. Hwangryung in Pusan city, Korea. (PLST Platycarya strobilacea, QUDE Quercus dentata, PRSA Prunus sargentii, QUAC Quercus acutissima, PIDE Pinus densiflora, QUSE Quercus serrata, PIRI Pinus rigida, CACR Castanea crenata, ALFI Almus firma, ROPS Robinia pseudoacacia, CHOB Chamaecyparis obtusa, PITH P. thunbergii, POTO Populus tomentiglandulosa, CEDE Cedrus deodara, OTHERS facilities, road, etc.; I-A, I-B, VII-A, VII-B, VII-C, VIII-B, VIII-B, VIII-C, VIII-D, IX-A, IX-B, X-A, X-B, XI-A and XI-B refer to table 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Classification of vegetation units

Vegetation data collected in this study area were shown in Table 1. Forest vegetation of Mt. Hwangryung was divided into secondary forest and plantation. The former is composed of Quercus serrata, Q. dentata, Platycarya strobilacea, Q. acutissima, Prunus sargentii, and Pinus densiflora communities and the latter include Alnus firma, P. thunbergii, P. rigida, Robinia pseudoacacia, Chamaecyparis obtusa, Castanea crenata, Populus tomentiglandulosa, and Cedrus deodara communities.

6 communities of Quercus serrata, Alnus firma, P. thunbergii, P. rigida, Robinia pseudoacacia, and Chamaecvparis obtusa communities among those 14 communities were subdivided into group and/or subgroup as the followings: Quercus serrata community {Disporum smilacinum and typical groups}, Alnus firma community {Stephanandra incisa (Athyrium yokoscence-Fraxinus sieboldiana, Athyrium yokoscence-Lespedeza maximowiczii, and Typical subgroups), Phytolacea americana (O. dentata and typical subgroups), D. smilacinum-Q. mongolica, and typical groups}, P. thunbergii community {Stephanandra incisa (Styrax japonica and typical subgroups) Robinia pseudoacacia, Rhododendron schlippenbachii (R. mucronulatum and Typical subgroups) and typical groups, and P. rigida community {O. dentata (Spodiopogon sibiricus and typical subgroups) and typical groups}, Robinia pseudoacacia community {Stephanandra incisa (Styrax japonica-Q. serrata, Ambrosia artemisiifolia var. elatior subgroup) and Typical groups}, Chamaecyparis obtusa community $\{R.\ yedoense\ var.\ poukhanense-Lindera\ erythro$ carpa and Typical groups).

Above mentioned vegetation units were depicted in the vegetation map by identifying their boundaries from distribution range of differential and dominant species classifying them (Fig. 1).

Ecological characteristics of vegetation units

Ecological characteristics of each vegetation unit identified in the present study area are as the followings.

Quercus serrata community (QUSE, 22plots)

This community is partially distributed throughout the study area but is concentrated around the Maha temple being conserved as temple forest. In terms of topography, it is developed on the lower to middle parts of the gentle slope of northern aspect. Dimensions of this community are 22.2ha (2.7%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 85 and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 17. Stratification this community is composed of 4 layers and mean height and DBH of trees consisting this community were $11 \pm 3m$ and $26 \pm 7cm$, respectively. 3 exotic plants appeared but no evergreen plants appeared in this community.

On the other hand, any species, which will be successors of this community, were not found in this community. We, therefore, deduced that this community could be maintained continuously in the present location, in fact, this is recognized as potential natural vegetation in this area (Kim 1993).

Quercus dentata community (QUDE, 7plots)

This community is distributed on the relatively steep slope of southern aspect, especially on burned area. Dimensions of this community are 7.1 ha (0.9%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 43 and the number of species per unit area (100m^2) was 14. Stratification of this community is very simple as 2 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees consisting this community were 4 ± 2 m and $9\pm4\text{cm}$, respectively. 2 exotic plants appeared but no evergreen plants appeared in this community. In terms of succession, this is a pioneer community, which was established after the previous vegetation was lost by fire. A number of Q. serrata seedlings and/or saplings were established on the forest floor

of this community. From those results, we could expect that succession will lead to Q. serrata community.

Platycarya strobilacea community (PLST, 5plots)

This community is developed on the lower parts of the gentle slope on the northern aspect or on the stony sites near the valley. Dimension of this community is 9.6ha (1.2%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 87 and the number of species per unit area (100m²) was 20. Stratification this community is consisted of 3 or 4 layers depending on sites. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 10 ± 3 m and 16 ± 3 cm, respectively. 2 exotic and 1 evergreen plants appeared in this community. In terms of succession, this community seems to be maintained by itself for the time being because competition with the other species is mild owing to habitat characteristics of stony site. But eventually, iN would be replaced by O. serrata community, which appears frequently below the subtree layer.

Quercus acutissima community (QUAC, 12plots)

This community is developed on the gentle slope of the southern aspect. Dimension of this community is 17.3ha (2.1%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 65 and the number of species per unit area (100m²) was 16. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 9 ± 3 m and 11±2 cm, respectively. 2 exotic and 4 evergreen plants appeared in this community. In terms of succession, this community is not in severe competitive relationship with other species. But seedlings and/or saplings of Q. acutissima were hardly found, while frequency of those of Q. serrata was high in the forest floor of this community. From this result, it could be expected that Q. serrata community would replace this community.

This community is mainly distributed around the human settlement, forest edge, and hiking trails as a typical secondary forest, which is closely related to artificial interference. That is, this community occurs as an important landscape element in landscape pattern native to Korea by developing in a form of village forest in many regions of the Korean peninsula (Lee et al. 1998a).

Prunus sargentii community (PRSA, plots)

This community is distributed at the lower part on the gentle slope of western aspect and at forest edge. Dimension of this community is 4.0ha (0.5%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 51 and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 23. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 or 4 layers depending on sites. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 10 ± 3 m and 14 ± 1 cm, respectively. 1 exotic and 2 evergreen plants appeared in this community. In a viewpoint of succession, it was expected that Q. serrata community, which showed high frequency in layers below sub-tree, would replace this community. Considering that Prunus sargentii community is hardly found in ecologically healthy sites, it can be interpreted that occurrence of this community is related to the excessive artificial interferences. In fact, Lee et al. (1988b) interpreted that occurrence of this community in Mt. Nam, Seoul was originated from environmental stress related to excessive artificial interference.

Pinus densiflora community (PIDE, plots)

This community is mainly distributed on the ridge part of southeastern slope and around the bare rock of upper part of the slope. Dimension of this community is 0.6 ha (0.1%). The number of species that appeared in this community was 12. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 8 ± 1 m and 8 ± 2 cm, respectively. No evergreen or

Table 1. Floristic composition of forest vegetation in Mt. Hwangryung, Pusan

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exotic plants appeared in this community. *P. densi-flora* established on the outcrop of the ridge part is recognized as an edaphic climax (Lee 1995a, b) but *P. densiflora* community of this area would be succeed by *Q. serrata* rather than be maintained as edaphic climax considering the characteristics of habitat with comparatively deep soil and the species composition.

Alnus firma community (ALFI, 121 plots)

This community is distributed evenly on the slope of all aspects but distribution area was larger on the northern slope than that on the other slopes. Slope degree of distribution area was relatively gentle as 24° on the average. Dimension of this community is 268. 8ha (32.9%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 169 and the number of species per unit area (100m²) was 19. Stratification of this community is consisted of 4 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 11 ± 3 m and 25 ± 5 cm, respectively. 2 evergreen and 4 exotic plants appeared in this community. A. firma is an early successional species origin ated from Japan introduced in 1960's when tree-planting project of the national land had proceeded actively as the representative afforested tree in the southern region of Korea. Many dead trees were found in this community because most trees, which had planted in 1960's, have done their ecological longevity and then this community is in degenerating phase at present. A number of plant species comprising Q. serrata and/or Q. mongolica community recognized as potential natural vegetation of this area were established in the lower layer and forest floor of non-disturbed stands as well as in gap occurred by death of trees. As it were, this community maintains species composition similar to natural vegetation. Especially stands classified as Disporum smilacinum-Q. mongolica group seem to be succeeded by Q. mongolica community in the near future (refer to Table 1).

Pinus thunbergii community (PITH, 115 plots)

This community is distributed on the gentle slope of southern aspect facing the sea. Most trees were planted, but large trees, which were naturally established in the past, often appeared. Dimension of this community is 255.9ha (31.4%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 111 and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 20. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 or 4 layers depending on sites. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 9 ± 2 m and 13 ± 4 cm, respectively. 6 evergreen and 4 exotic plants appeared in this community. O. dentata, Miscanthus sinensis var. purpurascens, Smilax china, Rhododendron vedoense var. poukhanense, Rosa wichuraia, etc. are frequently found in the understory of this community. Such results reflect that it is in the initial stage of recovery after disturbance by fire.

Pinus rigida community (PIRI, 14 plots)

This community is distributed on the relatively steep slope of southern aspect. Dimension of this community is 20.6ha (2.5%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 85 and the number of species per unit area (100m²) was 8. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 6 ± 1 m and 11 ± 3 cm, respectively. 4 evergreen and 5 exotic plants appeared in this community. This community, as an introduced vegetation in fire-disturbed area, has Miscanthus sinensis var. purpurascens with particularly high coverage in forest floor. Because this community is at an early stage of establishment after introduction, it is difficult to predict the succession tendency. But succession by Q. serreta community could be expected considering that it is located below mid-slope and has O. serrata seedlings and/or saplings of a relatively high frequency in forest floor.

Robinia pseudoacacia community (ROPS, 57 plots)

This community is distributed on the lower part of southern slope. Dimension of this community is 52.3ha (6.4%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 106 and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 15. Stratification of this community is consisted of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 12 ± 3 m and 21 ± 5 cm, respectively. 2 evergreen and 6 exotic plants appeared in this community. There were many trees, which have done their ecological longevity in this community as the same as the case of A. firma community. This community is under excessive artificial interference because habitat is located closely to the residential area. Therefore, Stephanadra incisa, Oplismenus undulatifolius, Paederia scandens, Ambrosia artemisiifolia, Phytolacca americana, and so on, which frequently appear at the sites disturbed by excessive artificial interference, are flourishing in the forest floor of this community, and they inhibit the establishment of native vegetation. R. pseudoacacia community under the relatively mild artificial interference, however, showed a possibility to be restored to the native vegetation (Lee et al. 1998a). As a restoration plan to recover the naturalness of this site, mitigation of artificial interference is, therefore, preferentially required.

Chamaecyparis obtusa community (CHOB, 22plots)

This community is planted on the middle and upper parts of southern slope. Dimensions of this community are 41.7ha (5.1%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 42 and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 13. Stratification of this community showed simple structure of 2 or 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 7 ± 2 m and 10 ± 3 cm, respectively. 2 evergreen and 1 exotic plants appeared in this community. Succession tendency of this

community could not be predicted because undergrowth has been removed periodically for protection of fire.

Castanea crenata community (CACR, 3 plots)

This community is planted on the gentle slope nearby residential area or small temple. Dimension of this community is 2.1ha (0.3%). Total number of species appeared in this community was 54 and the number of species per unit area (100 m^2) was 25. Stratification of this community showed simple structure of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 11 ± 4 m and 13 ± 2 cm, respectively. Evergreen plant did not appear and only 1 exotic plant appeared in this community. In terms of succession, this community would be replaced by Q. serrata with high frequency in strata below sub-tree.

Populus tomentiglandulosa community (POTO, 5 plots)

This community was planted on the lower parts of the slope near by valley. Dimension of this community is 3.7ha (0.5%). 43 species were found in this community and the number of species per unit area (100 m²) was 20. Stratification of this community is composed of 3 layers. Mean height and DBH of trees composing this community were 9 ± 1 m and 14 ± 3 cm, respectively. 4 evergreen and 2 exotic plants appeared in this community. Dead trees, which have done their ecological longevity, were often found in this community. From this fact, it was expected that this community would be replaced by the other community in the near future but any species capable of replacing this community could not be found owing to the excessive artificial interference.

Cedrus deodara community (CEDE, 1 plot)

This community is planted around the road on the lower parts of the slope and its area is 1.4ha (0.2%).

10 species appeared in this community. Stratification of this community showed simple structure of 2 layers. Height and DBH of trees composing this community were 11 ± 2 m and 15 ± 5 cm, respectively. Only 1 exotic plant appeared but no evergreen plants were found in this community.

Ecological management system of urban forest

Ecological information and management system of urban forest was developed using GIS. It is divided into integrated ecological inventories, ecological management units, and information and management systems.

The integrated ecological inventories include elevation, slope, aspect, geology, vegetation, etc. The ecological management units were developed by integrating topography, microclimate, soil, and vegetation. A vegetation map was developed by classifying communities and sub-communities. The ecological management system is consisted of data query, data print, data management, data analysis, and other modules. In the data query module, we can query graphic and attribute data with simple or compound conditions from the database established. In the data printing modules, we can print maps and attribute data after office report forms on a paper. In the data management module, we can add, delete, and change graphic and attribute data. In this module we can classify and control users for data security. In the data analysis module, we can measure distance and area, set buffers, and perform suitability analysis, and topographic analysis such as slope, aspect, elevation, etc.

적 요

부산시 황령산의 삼림식생을 식물사회학적 방법으로 분석하였다. 이 지역의 식생은 14개 군락, 16개 군 및 13개 아군으로 구분되었다. 그러한 분석으로부터 얻은 식생단위를 축척 1:5,000의 식생도로 나타내었다. 각 식 생단위의 생태적 특성이 복원생태학적 원리를 바탕으로 검토되었다. 그러한 결과로부터 과도한 인간간섭의 영향 을 받고 있는 몇몇 도입식생이 생태적으로 불안정하여 그 복원이 필요한 것으로 판단되었다. 한편, 도시림을 생태적으로 건전하게 유지하기 위한 생태정보 및 생태적 관리시스템이 GIS기법을 이용하여 개발되었다.

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