Bachelorarbeit

Die Ausbreitung des Dänischen Löffelkrauts (*Cochlearia danica)* entlang von Autobahnen in Deutschland

(Dispersal of Danish Scurvey-Grass (*Cochlearia danica*) along motorways in Germany)

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Titelbild: *Cochlearia danica* – binnenländischer Standort (Foto: Dr. A. Vogel)

Abstract

The migration of halophilic Danish Scurvey-Grass (*Cochlearia danica*) into the inland along motorways started in the early eighties of the 20th century. In Germany the species has been recorded in the interior since 1986. By now, finding reports from all federal states have been published. The occurrences on motorways are primarily related to the use of de-icing-salt in winter since the early sixties. Indeed, *Cochlearia danica* is an optional halophyte, in competitive conditions it is solely able to

establish in a salted environment. Between establishment on motorways and presence of suitable conditions is a lapse of about 20 years. This is linked to increasing passenger-kilometers and density of the motorway network in this period. Therefore, the importance of motorways as a habitat and the probability of synanthropic dispersal mechanisms have been increasing. Material contaminated with seeds was used for construction or maintenance of motorways. Additionally, seeds were directly transported by motor vehicles or indirectly with their airstream. The area limitation evidently is a result of the presence of competing species, so that a further migration along salt-treated roadsides is to be expected.

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