

2 INTRODUCTION

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The present character of landscape ecology in Slovakia is greatly influenced by the long tradition of geography in the framework of central European context with its broadly elaborated theoretical basis and adequately developed methodical instrumentary. This also was the principal reason for publishing of this theoretically and metascientifically oriented theme in the geographical periodical with the aim to point to the contribution of geography as an older discipline to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia at its metascientific, theoretical-methodical, empirical, and applied levels. The accompanied effort was, beside other, also to point to the elements of geography, which have considerably influenced the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia, above all its applied part.

Landscape ecology represents a relatively young ecological science situated on the interface of ecology and geography. The main mission of landscape ecology in its narrow sense and broader conception is the study of relationships between humans as an important ecological factor and the landscape as the essential part of the living environment for humans. This circumstance has inevitably required the spatial-holistic approach proper to geography for the development of the landscape-ecological research in its two interpretations.

Aspiration of this study is not an exhausting overview about the contribution of geography to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia. It rather tries to point out the most important metascientific-theoretical aspects and bridging between geographic disciplines represented in our case by physical geography, metageography and learning about landscape use integrating to certain extent the physical, human and regional geography with the landscape ecology.

The selection of the above geographical disciplines has been made while taking into account those that have most contributed to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia. In case of physical geography, its geoecological part as the most efficient bridging with landscape ecology interpreted in its narrower, ecological sense, plays an important role. In turn, the learning about landscape use as the human-geographic sub-discipline found its application in the development of landscape ecology in its broadly conceived sense. Contribution of metageography to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia lies in its partner position with metascientific ecology what has facilitated outlining of the metascientific aspects of landscape ecology.

For the sake of broader access and impact, the text and captures to figures of the monograph is presented in the bilingual English-Slovak version. The conclusion of the monograph brings an extensive list of the most significant publications dealing with the contribution of geography to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia, which may provide easier orientation in this interdisciplinary issue to all involved or interested readers.