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**Journal of Forest Science**

The effect of shelterwood silvicultural method on the plant species diversity in a beech (*Fagus orientalis* Lipsky) forest in the north of Iran

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To clarify the effect of shelterwood silvicultural method on the diversity of plant species in a beech (*Fagus orientalis*) forest in the north of Iran, we compared the plant species diversity in three compartments (treatments) where regeneration cuttings were performed with that in a primary compartment. The sampling procedure was a systematic random method and the tree, tree regeneration, shrub and herbaceous species were identified and measured within sampling plots. Results indicated that the mean tree richness in compartment No. 1 (only with one seed cutting) was higher than in the other compartments. The mean richness of understorey species in compartment No. 4 (with all regeneration cuttings) was higher than in the other compartments. The mean evenness ( $E_{Var}$ ) of tree species in compartment No. 4 was higher than in the other compartments. The mean evenness of understorey species in compartment No. 1 was higher than in the

other compartments. The mean tree diversities (i.e.  $1-D$ ,  $N_2$ ,  $H'$  and  $N_1$ ) in compartment No. 1 were higher than in the other compartments. In addition, the mean diversities of understorey species in compartment No. 1 were higher than in the other compartments.

**Keywords:**

beech forest; shelterwood method; plant diversity; systematic random method

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