

Relationship of the productivity of forest den-drocenoses with the geomorphological profile of soils and their influence on the ecology

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Abstract. It is well known that there is a relationship between the productivity of forest phytocenoses and soil fertility, which is largely determined by the terrain and soil geomorphology. An important element of assessing the productivity of forests is the substantiation of the methodology for modeling the age dynamics of the growth of forest stands, depending on soil and ground conditions. The solution of this methodological problem is possible only if there is data on forest objects, represented by permanent sample plots and data from a detailed soil survey.

1 Introduction

In our case, the object of the study was the Lesnaya Opytnaya Dacha (Forest experimental site) (FES), which is a scientific station and an educational training ground with an area of 232.3 hectares on the territory of Moscow. In the forest area, long-term periodic (after 10-15 years) observations of the growth, structure and productivity of forest stands are carried out, as well as their impact on the environment is assessed. The organization of the FES territory is associated with the name of the famous scientist-forester Count A.R. Vargas de Bedemar, which in 1863 carried out the first forest inventory [1]. The forest area was divided into 14 quarters with a description of plantings in them and the establishment of permanent sample plots. Later, scientists-foresters of the Petrovskaya and Timiryazevskaya academies V.T. Sobichevsky, M.K. Tursky, N.S. Nesterov, V.P. Timofeev, G.R. Eitingen, A.N. Polyakov and others continued to observe naturally forming forest stands and forest cultures of various mixing and density. In total, 156 test plots were laid in the plantings, on which regular observations have been carried out for more than 150 years. The forest growing conditions of FES are represented by meso-hygrophilic (C3) and hygrophilic (C4) complex subors - relatively rich soils. However, the accepted classification only in the first approximation characterizes the soil-typological conditions found in the forest area.

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S.V. Zonn [8], B.D. Zaicev [6], N.P. Remezov, P.S. Pogrebnyak [13], L.O. Karpachevsky [9] Yu.P. Demakov et al. [4] indicate that it is the soil that is the leading component of the biogeocenosis, which determines its structural organization, dynamics and productivity.

G.N. Vysotsky is a contemporary and student of K.A. Timiryazev and V.V. Dokuchaeva developed the doctrine of forest-vegetation zoning, developed a diagram of natural zones demonstrating the relationship between the distribution of forest vegetation, depending on climatic, soil and hydrological conditions. The scheme proposed by him has not lost its significance so far. He made a significant contribution to the study of the impact of forests on the environment, to the classification of types of water regime of soils and grounds [12].

Later N.V. Dylis, V. N. Sukachev [5] for the first time formulated the theory of the horizontal structure of forest biogeocenoses (BGC). Starting with the works of L.O. Karpachevsky [9, 10] the idea gradually developed that the soil cover in forest biogeocenoses resembles a honeycomb (parcell) structure. A parcel represents forest areas isolated in space (along a conventional radius), formed by a specific edifier and dominants of the vegetation cover. Within the parcel, along the radius from the edifier, the influx of litter, accumulation of litter, consumption of water and nutrients change.

Yu.P. Demakov, A.V. Isaev [3] indicate that at present, a lot of factual field material has been accumulated, various kinds of measurements for systematization and data processing. This requires only the correct formulation of problems in identifying conformities (relationships), the use of system analysis with elements of mathematical statistics and modeling methods.

In modern economic conditions, large-scale field surveys are very problematic, therefore, the use of field material already accumulated by predecessors, both on soils and on the growth, productivity of forest phytocenoses, should be considered a good basis for successfully solving the problem posed in the study.

V.D. Zelikov [7] it is shown that the granulometric composition of soils and the thickness of the soil profile has an important role in the ontogeny of forest stands. Using statistically reliable data, the author has shown that forest stands with a predominance of pine reach the highest bonitet ($I-I^a$) in those cases when they grow on deep sandy loamy-sandy deposits, as well as loamy soils up to 120 cm thick. D.A. Danilov and V.P. Tsarenko [2], studying the influence of the granulometric composition of soils on the productivity of naturally formed stands of spruce and pine in the conditions of the Northwest region. They noted that on loamy and sandy loamy soils, the pine element of the forest shows greater productivity and better marketable qualities of wood than spruce. The authors conclude that with age in these soil conditions, pine mixed with spruce covers most of the ecological niche, which affects the overall productivity of forest stands.

O.V. Martynenko [11] provides information on the developed regression model of the productivity of pine forest stands of SCHUOLKh of the Moscow region. At the same time, it is indicated that information on bonitet classes, expressed by the average height of stands at 100 years of age, was taken as an independent variable. And as independent variables in the formation of the model, such variables as the level of groundwater, the content of humus in the root-accessible soil layer and the upper boundary of the appearance of signs of gleying in the mineral part of the profile are involved. At the same time, it is noted that bonitet is a dynamic indicator and not sufficiently reliable for long-term forecasting.

The presence of permanent sample plots of FES opens up great opportunities for conducting research that allows one to assess the role of various elements of dendrocenosis of artificial and natural origin on the soil-forming process and the structure of sod-podzolic soils. At the same time, the data of taxation indicators of forest stands on permanent sample plots make it possible to reveal the influence of soil characteristics on the dynamics of productivity of dendrocenosis elements [16].

The aim of the study was to develop a methodology for assessing the dynamics of growth by average height and productivity of closed stands located at different levels of geomorphological soil surfaces.

Study objectives:

1. Conduct modeling of age-related changes in the average height of the main forest elements based on data from permanent sample plots.

2. Reveal the relationship between the levels of productivity of forest stands located at different elevations of geomorphological surfaces.

2 Research methods

Experimental material is represented by a series of sample plots (Table 1), presented in different parts of the FES geomorphological profile (Fig. 1).

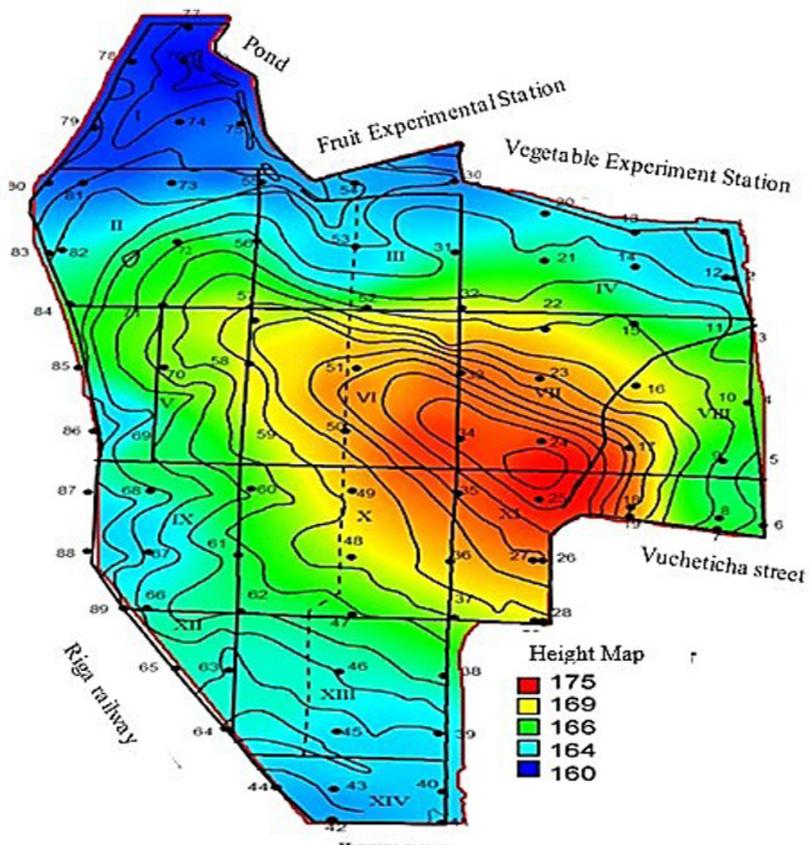


Fig.1. Altitude marks of the FES territory.

Table 1. Soil and forest inventory characteristics of the sample plots.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
IV	M	9S1Lp	artificial	2	166,1	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine medium loam. Pd _{5.3/5} IsMs
IV	F	9C1E	artificial	2	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine light loam. Pd _{5.3/5} IsMIs
IV	L	9S1Lp	artificial	2	166,9	Sod-podzolic medium-sod strongly-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy on sandy loam moraine deposits. Pd ^{GI} _{4.3/4} IsMs
IV	R	8S1B1E	artificial	2	168,1	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic sandy loam on moraine light loam. Pd _{5.3/5} sMIs
IV	Z	6S2B1Lp1D	artificial	1	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy shallow-deep-podzolic deep-gley light loamy on moraine light loam. PD ^{GI} _{5.2/4} IsMIs
IV	-	8S2Lp	artificial	2	168,1	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic sandy loam on moraine light loam. Pd _{5.3/5} sMIs
IV	K	9S1Lp	artificial	2	167,8	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine medium loam. Pd _{5.3/5} IsMs
IV	V	9S1Lp	artificial	2	165,7	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy on moraine medium loam. Pd ^{GL1} _{6.3/5} IsMs

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
IV	S	7C2E1B	artificial	2	166,8	Sod-podzolic medium-sod strongly-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy on sandy loam moraine deposits. Pd^{GII}_{4-3/4} lsMs
IV	U	9C1E	artificial	2	165,8	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine medium loam Pd_{5-3/5} lsMs
IV	O	10C	artificial	2	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine light loam. Pd_{5-3/5} lsMs
IV	U	5S5Lp	artificial	2	165,7	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly-deep podzolic medium loamy on moraine light loam. P_{D5-3/4} sMls
VI	C	5O5Lp	artificial	1	170,7	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine sand. P_{D5-3/5} hpMP
V	D	5S5Lp	artificial	2	168,1	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{GIII}_{6-3/5} hpMP
V	V	6Lp4S	artificial	1	168,6	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{GIII}_{5-3/5} hpMP
VII	P	10L	artificial	1 b	172,8	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine light loam. P_{D5-2/4} hpMls

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
VII	R	10L	artificial	V	173,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy weakly-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine light loam. P_{D5-1/4} hpMIs
VII	K	8C2K1	natural	1 b	172,8	Sod-podzolic medium-soddy medium-deep podzolic profile-gley medium loamy, on a sandy loam moraine. P_{D^{G13} 5-2/4} lsMsp
VII	S	8L2Lp	artificial	1 a	172,8	Sod-podzolic medium sod medium - deep podzolic medium loamy on moraine medium loam. P_{D4-2/4} lsMIs
VII	E	6L2K1	artificial	1	173,9	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy, on moraine light loam. PD^{G11} 5-2/4 lsMIs
XI	B2	6Lp4S	artificial	2	175	Sod-podzolic medium-sod medium-deep podzolic sandy loam soil on moraine sand. P_{D4-2/4} spMP
XI	M	5Lp4D1B	natural	1	169,6	Sod-podzolic deep-sod medium-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy on moraine sand. P_{D^{G11} 6-2/4} lsMs
VIII	N	8D2Lp	natural	2	168,5	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine sandy loam. P_{D5-2/4} lsMsp
VIII	O	10D	natural	1	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-super-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{G13} 5-2/5 lsMP

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
VIII	Z	10Lp	natural	1 b	170,7	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-deep podzolic light loamy on moraine sand. P_{D6-2/4} lsMP
V	Zh	10L	artificial	1 b	167,5	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine light loam. P_D^{GI3}_{5-2/4} lsMls
V	U	6L3B1KI	artificial	1 b	167,5	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly super-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine sandy sediments. P_D^{GI3}_{6-3/5} lsMP
V	M4	6S4B	artificial	2	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly super-deep podzolic profile - gleyic light loamy on moraine medium loam. P_D^{GI3}_{5-3/5} lsMs

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
IV	NS	7S2D1B	artificial	2	165,4	Sod-podzolic deep-sod medium-super-deep podzolic profile-gley sandy loam on moraine sandy loam sediments. PD^{G3}_{6-3/5} lsMs
IV	Sh	6B4S	natural	1	168,3	Sod-podzolic, extremely shallow, deep-podzolic, profiled, gleyic, light loamy on moraine sand. P_D^{G3}_{1-3/4} lsMp.
IV	B	8S1Lp1D	natural	1	166,4	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly - super-deep podzolic medium loamy on medium moraine loam. P_{D6-3/5} sms
IV	E	10C	artificial	2	166,6	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly super-deep podzolic profile - gley sandy loam on moraine sandy loam. PD^{G3}_{5-3/5} spMsp.

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
IV	B	9S1Lp	artificial	1	166,7	Sod-podzolic medium-sod strongly super-deep podzolic deep-gley light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{G11}_{4-3/5} IsMP.
IV	2*	5S3D2Lp	artificial	1	166,9	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly-deep podzolic profile - gley medium loamy on moraine light loam. PD^{G13}_{5-3/4} sMIs
VI	P	6S1B1D1Lp1V	artificial	1 a	170,2	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy strongly-super-deep podzolic profile-gleyic light loamy on moraine medium loam. PD^{G13}_{5-3/5} IsMs
VI	B	9B1D	artificial	1 a	171,2	Sod-podzolic deep-soddy medium-deep podzolic surface-gley light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{G12}_{5-2/4} IsMP

Table 1. Continued.

Quarter no.	Sample plot	Forest stand composition	Origin	Bonitet class	Height mark in the relief, m	Soil classification name
XI	E	9D1Lp	natural	1	171,2	Sod-podzolic medium-sod medium-shallow podzolic deep-gley sandy loam on moraine sand. PD^{GH}_{4-2/3} spMP
IV	G	9B1S	natural	1 a	165,4	Sod-podzolic slightly sod medium-super-deep podzolic profile-gley light loamy on moraine sand. PD^{GH}₃_{2/5} lsMP

Judging by the share of tree species in the composition of forest stands, they can be conditionally attributed to pine (57%), larch (14%), linden (14%), oak (8%) and birch (8%).

It should be noted that the generally accepted tool in forestry and forest inventory for assessing the productivity of plantations is the boniteration scales of Professor M.M. Orlov separately for seed and coppice stands, as well as the improved VNIILM quality class scale, which takes into account the growth energy of stands at average height for forest-forming species of slow, moderate and fast growth. Bonitet is mainly a classification characteristic of forest stands by productivity (stock) at the time of taxation. He only states the level of

productivity, not linking it with the geomorphology and forest vegetation properties of soils [17, 18].

By the decision of the silvicultural part of the work, it is envisaged to link the geomorphological surfaces of the Lesnaya Opytnaya Dacha with the productivity of forest phytocenoses. It is generally accepted to assess the productivity levels of forest stands either on a bonitet or on a forest typological basis according to the relationship between the average height of the forest stands with age [14]. Observing this condition for each of 38 permanent sample plots, we simulated the age-related change in the average height of the stand according to the growth function of Korsun-Bakman:

$$H = \exp(k_0 + k_1 \ln A + k_2 \ln^2 A)$$

In all cases, the smoothing of the empirical data of the sample plots is characterized by a very high closeness of the relationship, close to the functional one, with a coefficient of determination from 0.995 to 0.999.

Further, for each sample plot, using the indicated regression equations, the average height at 40, 70 and 100 years of age was determined. The obtained values of the average heights were included in the calculation of the numerical regression coefficients. Along with this, a matrix of binary variables was compiled, encoding conventionally given decades with a gradation of 30 years (Table 2) in accordance with the guidelines set out in the monograph [15].

Table 2. Coding of the levels of the average height of stands for three age groups with block fictitious variables (X_i).

Average height at age, years	Block fictitious variables	
	X_1	X_2
40	0	0
70	1	0
100	0	1

Multiple regression analysis made it possible to obtain an equation for the relationship between the average height of forest stands and the height of objects above sea level in accordance with the coordinates of the geolocation of test plots of the type:

$$H_{sr} = \exp(-25,8675 + 5,5899 \ln H_{UM} + 0,3704 X_1 + 0,5292 X_2) \quad (1)$$

$$R^2 = 0,771; ES = \pm 13,1\%; t = |3,3; 3,6; 7,2; 9,8| > t_{05} = 1,96; F = 39,27$$

$$\text{at } P < 0,05; \Delta = 0,81\%; O_\sigma = \pm 12,7\%; \lim H_{UM} = 160 - 175 \text{ m}$$

where:

H_{cp} - average height of the stand, m;

H_{yM} - height above sea level, m;

X_1, X_2 - block fictitious variables;

R^2 - coefficient of determination;

ES is the standard error of the regression equation;

t - Student's criterion;

F - Fisher's criterion;

P - the significance of the differences according to the F criterion;

Δ — systematic error of the equation, %;

About σ - random error of the equation, %.

The presented parameters of the model (1) indicate the presence of a close relationship between the average height of the forest stands with the independent variables included in the equation, covering 77% of the variance of the dependent variable. The statistical significance of the parameters of the equation, the absence of a systematic error ($\Delta = 0.81\%$) and the presence of a random error not exceeding $\pm 13\%$ indicate a sufficiently high accuracy of the model, which takes into account only one physical indicator - the height above sea level.

The degree of correspondence of the theoretical values of heights to the actual ones is clearly shown in Figure 2. The location of the theoretical values of the height along the diagonal of the square of the adequacy assessment confirms the conclusion made.

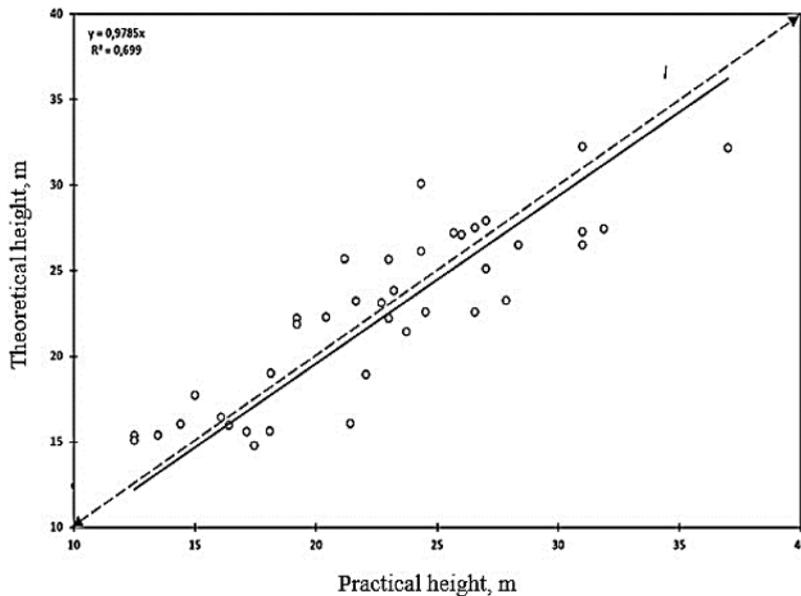


Fig. 2. Visualization of the correspondence of theoretically obtained values of average heights according to model (I) to actual data.

Further, to represent the conformities of change in the average height of forest stands (A , years), taking into account the elevation marks of the geomorphological profile (H_{YM}) model (1) was transformed into a functional regression equation of the form:

$$H = \exp(-32,01974 + 2,54107 \ln A - 0,23674 \ln^2 A + 5,58992 \ln H_{YM}) \quad (2)$$

$$R^2=1,0; t>t_{05}=1,96$$

The age-related change in the average heights of forest stands growing at different heights of the geomorphological profile of the FES is shown in Figure 3

A graphical interpretation of the new model is shown in Figure 4. The theoretically obtained tabular data, as well as the three-dimensional graph of changes in the average heights of forest stands in terms of age and height above sea level, clearly indicate a high degree of mutual influence of the variables included in the model.

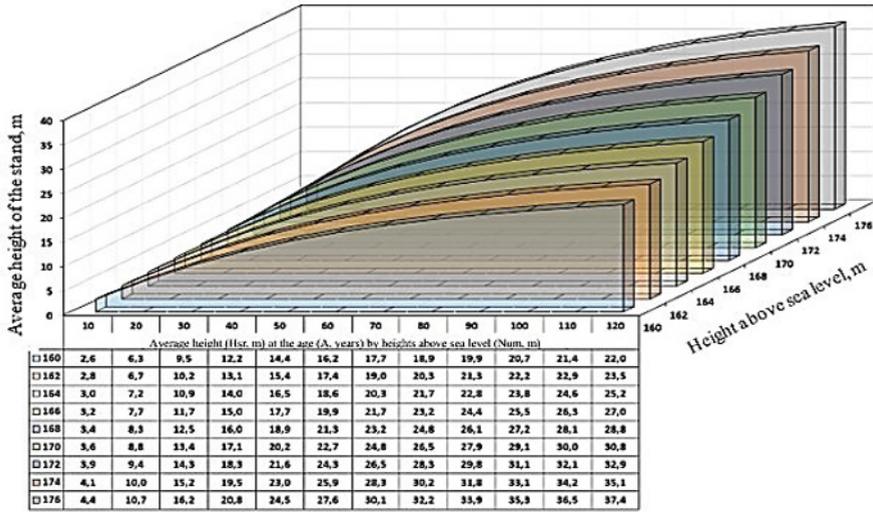


Fig. 3. Age-related change in the average heights of forest stands growing at different heights of the geomorphological profile of the FES.

The regression surface, supplemented by arrows indicating the value of the systematic elevation excess, allows judging the level of excess of the average heights of forest stands at different heights above sea level from the lowest ($H_{YM} = 160\text{ m}$) to the highest ($H_{YM} = 175\text{ m}$). Thus, the maximum excess is observed in mature stands and is 15 m, which corresponds to four bonitet classes.

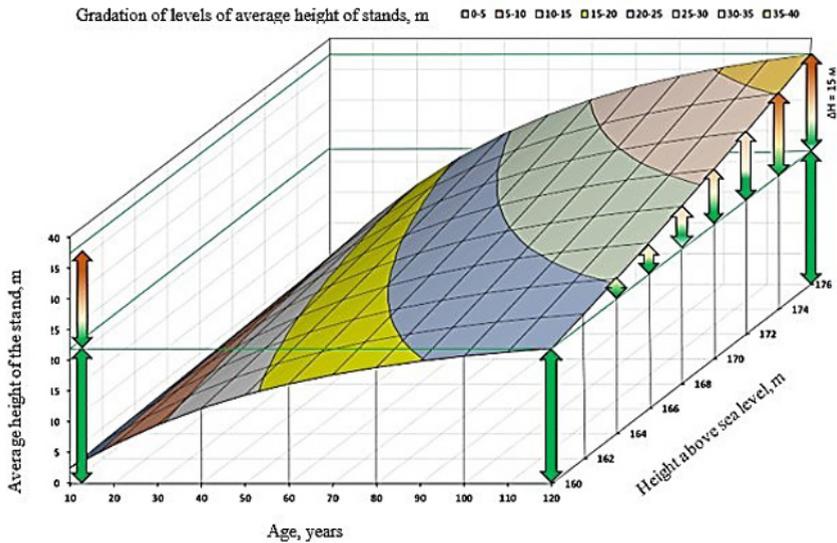


Fig. 4. Graphical representation of the excess of the average height of forest stands at different elevations of the geomorphological profile.

Legend: the top of the moraine hill, the slopes of the moraine hill, the surface of the water-glacial plain, the surface of the valley-like depressions

All the features of the revealed conformities are clearly visible in the upper part of the figure, bounded by a green outline. The proposed statistical model of average height (2) is the basis for assessing the tree stock and biological productivity of forest elements both with age and in statics with a known completeness and proportion of the species in the composition of the forest stand. So, in accordance with the normative and reference materials for assessing productivity, it is only necessary to calculate the potential reserve of individual elements of the dendrocnosis (tree species), provided that they have formed pure in composition (10 units) and maximally closed forest stands with the completeness taken as 1.0. To do this, it is enough to use the standard tables compiled for forest-forming species, in which the functional relationship of the stock with the average height of the forest stands is presented. So, the stock in 100-year-old pine stands with $H_{UM} = 160$ m is from 330 to 400 m³ / ha, with $H_{UM} = 175$ m, respectively 730-844 m³ / ha; in larch crops with $H_{UM} = 160$ m - 350-380 m³ / ha, with $H_{UM} = 175$ m - 680-770 m³ / ha; in birch stands with $H_{UM} = 160$ m - 220-240 m³ / ha, with $H_{UM} = 175$ m - 550 m³ / ha; in oak stands with $H_{UM} = 160$ m - 300 m³ / ha, with $H_{UM} = 175$ m - 530 m³ / ha. A decrease in the completeness of forest stands and the share of wood species in the composition of the forest stand directly proportionally reduces the productivity of a particular forest element.

Thus, the demonstrated method of collecting and analyzing data located at different elevations with the corresponding structure of soil geomorphology allows us to come close to identifying the conformities of formation of forest phytocenoses in the context of soil types and soil differences.

3 Conclusions

1. The productivity of forest stands is influenced by the location of the stands on the geomorphological profile of the FES territory.
2. In the range of elevations from 160 to 173 m above sea level, the excess of average heights at the age of mature forest stands (120 years) is 15 m, which corresponds to four bonitet classes.
3. The proposed statistical model of average height is the basis for modeling the course of growth of forest stands both in height and in terms of productivity at a given completeness and proportion of tree species in the composition of forest stands.

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