

## 2.1 Description of investigated localities

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The location of investigated localities is given in Fig. 2.1.1.

### Localities on natural substrata

*České Švýcarsko National Park (Bohemian Switzerland NP)*

(see Colour plates, Figs. 2.1.2 a, b)

The large sandstone area (Elbe Sandstone Mountains) situated in North Bohemia is characterized especially with rock ledges and plateaus, deep valleys and gorges. The biological soil crusts were investigated in five selected localities:

- CS1 – the valley of Vlčí potok brook, vertical rock cliff with green-coloured biological soil crust, 50°55'36"N, 14°25'43"E, alt. 360 m.
- CS2 – the valley of Malý Vlčí potok brook, wet vertical rock cliff with mucilaginous algal mat, 50°55'27"N, 14°25'54"E, alt. 360 m.
- CS3 – the valley of Kamenice river, brown-coloured algal mat in the surface of wet vertical cliff, alt. 200 m.
- CS4 – Borový důl, deep sandstone gorges – sandy slope under a rock cliff, 50°52'59"N, 14°18'24"E, alt. 400 m.
- CS5 – Babylon Nature Reserve, deep gorges and sun-exposed sandstone rocks covered by relic pine forests, 2.5 km northwest of Jetřichovice, alt. 300–380 m.

*The former military airport Ralsko*

(see Colour plates, Figs. 2.1.2 c, d)

(50°37'17.3"N, 14°42'51.4"E, alt. 273 m)

The military airport occurring 3.5 km southwards from Mimoň was vacated by army in 1991. The abandoned area around the landing runway has been gradually colonized by vegetation (pines, birches, etc.). Well developed biological soil crusts mainly cover the areas of naked soil among the tufts of grass and heather shrubs in the west part of the airport near Hradčany village.

*Střezovská rokle Nature Monument*

(see Colour plates, Figs. 2.1.2 e, f)

(50°24'8.3"N, 13°26'15.4"E, alt. 270–310 m)

The deep gorge in North-West Bohemia (1 km eastwards from Březno u Chomutova) was formed in Miocene sediments by water erosion. Sunny slopes and upper parts are covered by xerothermous vegetation, hygrophilous plants grow at the bottom of the gorge with periodical water coursing. Studied biological soil crusts were found especially in the central part of the gorge, in the rests of steppes on the steep slopes and small open sunny plateaux.

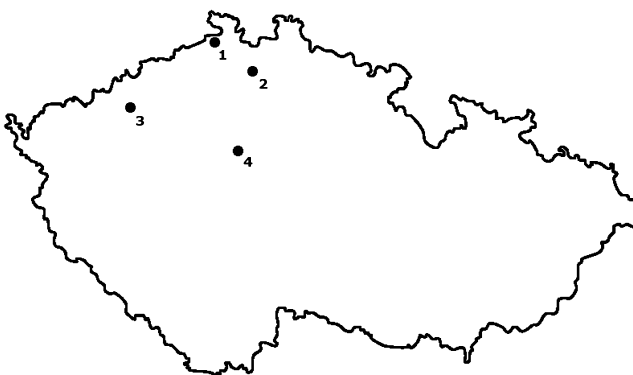
### Agricultural localities

*Netluky* (50°02'22.5"N, 14°36'56.2"E, alt. 393 m).

Grassy pasture in Netluky exploited for horses. Surface soil layer covered by bryophytes together with grasses.

*Uhříněves* (50°01'53.2"N, 14°36'48.2"E, alt. 391 m).

Stubble-field after lucerne, in Prague-Uhříněves. Surface soil layer covered by bryophytes together with remains of *Medicago sativa*.



**Fig. 2.1.1** Location of the study sites. 1 – České Švýcarsko National Park, 2 – former military airport Ralsko, 3 – Střezovská rokle Nature Monument, 4 – Netluky and Uhříněves.