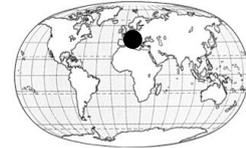


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PLANT AND FUNGI INVASIONS IN POLAND

The presented project, financed by the Polish Ministry of Science, engages dozens of specialists from all academic centres in Poland. It covers all most important issues related to plant and fungi invasions. Main aims of the project may be summarised as follows:

1) settling terminology and scope of the notions related to biological invasions (with special regard to the plant and fungi); 2) identification of invasive species in Poland – a critical analysis of invasiveness of all the alien plants and fungi reported from the country to date; 3) attempt to describe the mechanisms and routes of invasions and to assess the rate of the invasive species spreading; 4) characteristics of the present distribution and status as well as the degree of establishment of particular invasive species in the Polish territory; 5) creation of lists of biotopes and landscape units particularly endangered by invasive species (with special regard to the habitats listed in the annex to the Habitat Directive); 6) characterisation of the process of invasion (chiefly with regard to the “most invasive” species); 7) characterisation of the various consequences of the penetration of the alien invasive species into the natural environment of Poland: – specific and intra-specific diversity level (incl. role of hybridization); – biocenotic (habitat) level; – landscape level; 8) assessment of the scale of endangerment of the Polish national parks and other protected areas by invasive species; 9) overview of the economical effects of invasions; 10) proposal of the comprehensive solutions to prevent invasions (law regulations, monitoring and others).

Above mentioned issues will be addressed in a monograph dealing with plant and fungi invasions.

Another final result of the project, will be the “Book of invasive species in Poland”, comprising mini-monographs of about 170 species of plants and fungi established in the flora of Poland, and characterised according to the same, accepted scheme.

keywords: data bases, research, checklists, Poland