

Chapter 5

The Use of Higher Plants in Biomonitoring and Environmental Bioremediation

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Abstract This chapter provides basic information on the use of higher plants for biomonitoring and bioremediation in the world. It contains a large amount of material of the authors' own research on the possibility of using woody plants for biomonitoring and phytoremediation of environment anthropogenic pollution with heavy metals. The species of woody plants are revealed, which are recommended for use in biomonitoring of anthropogenic pollution of the environment in temperate latitudes (the study of biogeochemical parameters of leaves): *Acer platanoides*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Betula pendula*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Populus nigra*, and *Salix fragilis*. The following species are recommended for phytoremediation of soils from heavy metals: *Betula pendula*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Philadelphus coronarius*, and *Larix sibirica*. The species of woody plants—bioindicators of air and soil pollution by heavy metals—are revealed. The chapter also shows the significance of the statistical analysis for the detection of the main element pollutants of the environment.

Keywords Biomonitoring • Bioremediation • Heavy metals • Woody plants • Bioaccumulation • Soil and air pollution • Statistical analysis

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5.1 The Use of Higher Plants for Biomonitoring (Basic Information)

Biomonitoring is a system of control and obtaining quantitative characteristics of biological objects (biomonitors) in time for the assessment of the environmental changes. The main objective of biomonitoring is to prevent the adverse effects of sequences of the environmental changes and forecasting of developments of events at the level of individual populations as well as of biogeocenosis and the biosphere as a whole.

Monitoring can be carried out at different levels: molecular, tissue, organ, organism, population, species, ecosystem, and biosphere. Depending on the venue, it can be local, regional, national, and international. It may also vary according to the objects of research and may define the parameters, being passive (carried out directly in the wild nature) or active (requires setting of the experiment by a researcher) [1–5].

To conduct biomonitoring, the major role belongs by the choice of the environmental monitors (markers) of the environmental state, the development of uniform methods of sampling, sample preparation, and the proper selection of analytical methods for different types of contaminants. Due to the fact that the spectrum of the environmental pollutants comprises more than 400,000 items, use of chemical methods of analysis only is too costly, and it does not allow to get the whole picture of their cumulative impacts on biota; so it is more cheaper to apply methods of bio-indication, biological testing, and biomonitoring. However, none of biological object may be a universal indicator or monitor sensitive to various substances to the same degree.

Basic requirements for plant biomonitors are summarized as follows [2, 3]:

1. Widespread and long vegetation period and high degree of bioaccumulation of elements of the environment (passive biomonitoring), the ability to good growth in standardized conditions (active biomonitoring)
2. A clearly marked and reproducible response to certain changes in the environment and bioaccumulation of toxic elements in an amount reflecting the situation in the environment
3. High sensitivity to pollutants (diagnosis effect at low levels of contamination)

There are no universal biomonitors that meet the requirements with respect to all possible contaminants; therefore, an important task for biomonitoring is the selection of species that can be used for biomonitoring of various parameters of the environment.

Markers for biomonitoring may be molecular mechanisms: the study of the structure of DNA changes, the genetic response, and synthesis of substances [6]. Biomonitoring can be carried out at a biochemical and physiological level: determination of the content of low molecular antioxidants, involved in detoxification mechanisms when the radicals produced under stress. Such antioxidants are ascorbic acid, glutathione and proline [7–13]. The stress level can be determined by the change of activity of antioxidant enzymes superoxide dismutase, peroxidases, catalase, and

glutathione reductase [14–18]. However, these plant reactions are not always specific to certain toxicants and depend on the species of the plant [19, 20].

The most commonly used is an identification sign of quantification of chlorophylls and carotenoids in plants [21–23], as well as their ratio and the response of the light phase of photosynthesis [24–26]. At the level of organelles, membrane structure, chloroplasts, and mitochondria (transmission electron microscopy, TEM) are known [27]. When studying the plants at the tissue level, histochemical methods are applied using dyes that are specific to a particular metal, which helps to determine the localization in the tissue and way of their movement and accumulation in the plant [28, 29]. As biomarkers in model experiments on determination of the effects of various concentrations of toxic substances in the environment on the plant, individual organs of plants can be used, where the biomass growth (shoots), parameters such as germination and vigor (seeds), the root test, and definition of tolerance index are studied [30–33]. In passive monitoring at the organ level, the development and percentage of leaf necrosis and chlorosis, development of deformation of shoots and leaves, and modifications of the leaf blade (the appearance of the blades in simple leaves, the absence of leaf share, threadlike leaves, etc.) are determined. Besides, one can determine the leaf square, the degree of xeromorphism, and determine the percentage of dead shoots and dry crown of trees [34, 35]. At the organism level, vitality of species in the altered environmental conditions is determined [21, 36, 37]. However, when it comes to polymetallic pollution of the environment with heavy metals and metalloids, most significant is determination of elemental (biogeochemical) composition of plants and plant organs, which may reflect the situation in the environment [36], if the plant is an *indicator* [37–40]: it adsorbs and bioaccumulates metals in the process of growth, develops mechanisms of resistance to toxic elements, and does not belong to *excluders* (which exclude) or bioaccumulators in accordance with the classification proposed by AJM Baker [41, 42].

From the plant physiology point of view, biomarker of the pollution stress effect at the level of phytocenosis, to some extent could be chlorophyll fluorescence [24, 25]. For biomonitoring of ecosystems, geobotanical methods are also applied: analysis of the number and types of species and their vitality, crown density, and density of herbaceous (or moss-lichen) cover and the analysis of the presence of anthropogenic weeds in phytocenosis, which makes it possible to conclude about the degree of digression of the community.

According to their response to the content of toxic components in the environment, bioindicators and biomonitors may be sensitive (respond to the impact of a significant deviation from the norm) or bioaccumulative (feedback manifests itself gradually, and pollutant accumulates in the body or individual organs and tissues) [1–3].

Most often to biomonitor atmospheric deposition the higher spore plants – mosses – are used. The idea of using terrestrial mosses for the analysis of atmospheric deposition of heavy metals has been proposed in the late 1960s of the twentieth century by Rühling and Tyler [43–45]. It is based on features of moss anatomic structure and physiology. The leaves of moss are composed of 1–3 layers of cells, they lack cuticles on the leaves preventing the penetration of pollutants, they have no roots, and they readily absorb water and nutrients from wet and dry deposition by rhizoids.

Mosses effectively accumulate heavy metals and other compounds due to the large specific surface area and slow growth. As a passive biomonitor in most cases, they help to identify the impact of pollutants at the ecosystem level. Ideas of moss monitoring in Europe have been developed by Rühling et al. [46, 47], Steinnes [48, 49], Steinnes and Andersson [50], Steinnes et al. [51], Steinnes and Frontasyeva [52], Rühling and Steinnes [53], Berg and Steines [54], Schröder et al. [55], and Harmens et al. [56–60].

Since the 1970s, in the Scandinavian countries, and in the last 20 years in the Eastern, Central, and Western Europe, passive biomonitoring receives support of targeted state grants and programs, and it is held regularly every 5 years in the framework of the UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) [53, 58, 60–64]. Coordination of moss biomonitoring in Europe, Russia, and Asia is carried out through the United Nations program (UNECE ICP Vegetation).

Based on the monitoring results, the atlases of atmospheric deposition of pollutants are edited and published, which allow estimating the cross-border transfer of elements, reveal sources of pollution and their impact on the environment, as well as trace the retrospective distribution of elements in the atmosphere [58, 60, 61, 65].

In Russia, conducting biomonitoring first started in the northwestern regions: Leningrad region [66, 67], Kola Peninsula, and Karelia [54, 68]. Since the late 1990s of the twentieth century, biomonitoring was carried out on the basis of the analytical complex of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research for a number of central regions of Russia: one-time study conducted in Tula region [69, 70], Tver, Kostroma, part of Moscow and Ivanovo regions [71–74], Ural [75, 76], Udmurtia [77], as well as Kaliningrad region [78–82].

In 2014 the coordination of the moss surveys in the UNECE ICP Vegetation has been transferred from the UK to Russia, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna, Moscow Region) to M. V. Frontasyeva, so far JINR has direct access to the member-states in which the UNECE ICP Vegetation is interested in the Caucasus region and Asia: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Moldova in the southern east. Currently, the study area of atmospheric deposition by passive biomonitoring greatly increased, and GIS mapping and transport models build on the data submitted by teams from different countries; it will be possible to make more global conclusions on the transboundary transport of substances (2015–2016 moss survey) and to create a database on the content of elements in mosses on a global scale, which can be replenished in the future [83]. In addition to atmospheric deposition of heavy metals, this method also allows evaluating the contamination of nitrogen, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and radionuclides [58, 59, 83–87].

Besides higher spore plants for biomonitoring, woody and herbaceous plants of genera *Gymnospermae* and *Angiospermae* can be used. They reflect the state of soil, air and water may due to change of their biochemical, physiological, and morphological parameters and their ability to bioaccumulate the toxic elements from the environment [21–23, 34, 35, 88–105].

Using the higher seed plants for biomonitoring purposes has advantages over the use of spore plants: they are easily identified (e.g., than mosses) and grow in urban ecosystems, and some of them have extensive habitat areals and can be used for the diagnostics of transboundary transport of elements between countries and continents.

Table 5.1 Higher plants for bioindication and biomonitoring of the environment (Applied Ecobiotechnology [106]; Gorelova [107]; Gorelova et al. [97, 104, 105])

Species	Used in bioindication, symptoms	Used in biomonitoring	Substance to which the given type reacts
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	+, necrosis and chlorosis of leaves, the change of physiological parameters (photosynthetic pigments content of low molecular weight antioxidants)	+, accumulation of heavy metals in the body depending on the degree of pollution	Heavy metals, ozone
<i>Gladiolus gandavensis</i> , <i>Tulipa gesneriana</i> , <i>Iris germanica</i> , <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	+, regional and apical necrosis, accumulation of fluorine in the dry matter	-	HF
<i>Urtica urens</i>	+, necrosis strips on the underside of leaves	-	Peroxyacetyl
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> , <i>Spinacia oleracea</i> , <i>Glycine max</i> , <i>Trifolium pratense</i> , <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i> and subsp.	+, necrotic changes in leaves (spots), pink spots on the leaves (reaction on pollution by ozone), interveinal necrosis (reaction on nitrogen oxides)	+	O ₃ , NO ₂
<i>Poa annua</i>	+, necrosis strips on the leaves	+	NO ₃ ⁻
<i>Medicago sativa</i> , <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> , <i>Plantago major</i> , <i>Pisum sativum</i> , <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> , <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , <i>Quercus</i> subsp., <i>Platanus</i> subsp., <i>Populus</i> subsp., <i>Acer</i> subsp., <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	+, interveinal point and extensive necrosis and chlorosis. Marginal necrosis and chlorosis, early death of needles and dry crown dieback (<i>Pinus</i>)	+	SO ₂
<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> , <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> , <i>Lactuca sativa</i>	+, chlorosis, change the structure of chloroplasts, photosynthesis violation		Cl ₂
<i>Lepidium sativum</i>	+, reduction of biomass, germination and growth energy, dying roots		NaCl, heavy metals
<i>PlEurozium schreberi</i> , <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> , <i>Polytrichum</i> sp., <i>Brachythecium</i> sp., <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> , <i>Sphagnum</i> subsp.		+, accumulation of atmospheric deposition	Radionuclides Sr ⁹⁰ , Cs ¹³⁷ , K ⁴⁰

Species	Used in bioindication, symptoms	Used in biomonitoring	Substance to which the given type reacts
<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> , <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> , <i>Polytrichum</i> subsp., <i>Brachythecium</i> subsp., <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> , <i>Sphagnum</i> subsp.	+ , necrosis at high concentrations of heavy metals in the environment	Used in biomonitoring + , accumulation in organs from atmospheric deposition	Heavy metals and metalloids
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Alnus</i> sp., <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Picea abies</i>	needle chlorosis, the appearance of dead branches in the crown	+ , accumulation of toxic elements in leaves	Heavy metal
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	+ , regional and interveinal necrosis	+ , accumulation of Cu, Ni, Pb. Reduction of amount of photosynthetic pigments, decrease of ascorbic acid content, increased synthesis of phenolic compounds	Heavy metals
<i>Betula pendula</i>	+ , asymmetry of leaves, necrosis	+ , Mn, Ni, Zn, Cd, Pb, reduction of the amount of photosynthetic pigments, decreased ascorbic acid content, synthesis of phenolic compounds	Heavy metals
<i>Populus nigra</i>	+ , decrease in vitality, necrosis of leaves, early defoliation, dry crowns	+ , Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, Pb, reduction of the amount of photosynthetic pigments, decrease of ascorbic acid content, synthesis of phenolic compounds	Heavy metal
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	+ , regional and focal necrosis	+ , reduction of photosynthetic pigments, reduction of ascorbic acid, increased synthesis of phenolic compounds	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , Na Cl, heavy metals
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	+ , regional and focal necrosis, damage by fungi	+ , accumulation of Fe, Mn reduction of photosynthetic pigments, reduction of ascorbic acid, increased synthesis of phenolic compounds	Heavy metals
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	+ , necrosis of leaves, reduced vitality, insect damage	+ , accumulation of heavy metals	Complex (SO ₂ , NO ₂ , heavy metals)
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	+ , death of needles, dying of shoots, reduced vitality, loss of landings	+ , accumulation of heavy metals V, Cr, Fe, Ni, As, and Mo	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , Na Cl, heavy metals
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> Skyrocket	+ , death of needles and shoots, reduced vitality	+ , accumulation V, Cr, Fe, Ni, and Sb	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , Na Cl, heavy metals
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	+ , dying of shoots, reduced vitality, loss of landings	+ , accumulation of Cr, Fe, Ni, Zn, As, and Cd in shoots	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , Na Cl, heavy metals

The list of species used for biomonitoring and bioindication purposes on a global scale is relatively large. Some of these species are shown in Table 5.1.

5.2 The Use of Higher Plants for Bioremediation (Basic Information)

5.2.1 Phytoremediation

Phytoremediation is the restoration of ecosystems, or their individual components, contaminated with heavy metals, radionuclides, NaCl, petroleum ore, and other toxic organic products by the use of herbaceous and woody plants. The advantage of phytoremediation over other methods of purifying ambient environment is its relatively low cost (50–100 times less), the ability of the implementation in situ, environmental safety, and the ability of further use of obtained biomass to extract valuable elements [108]. One of the drawbacks is the time required for full soil recovery.

Selection of plants for phytoremediation is determined by their ability to absorb toxic compounds from the soil or water systems or transfer them from the surface to volatile forms, the growth rate, and the volume of produced biomass during vegetation and depth of root system.

For phytoremediation, plant hyperaccumulators could be used which accumulate high concentrations of toxic compounds (heavy metals, nonmetals, radionuclides) in biomass [109, 110]. They have developed mechanisms to adapt to high concentrations of metals in organs: representatives of galmain flora (*Viola lutea* var. *calaminaria*, *Thlaspi* Zn), “tin flora” *Trietaris europea*, *Gnaphalium suaveolens*, accumulating Ni, *Alyssum bertolonii*, *Sebetaria*, copper acuminators *Cyanotis cupricola*, *Sopubia metallorum*, *Gypsophila patrinii*, and others.

Such plants, as a rule, are usually characterized by low biomass. Lately more and more attention of scientists is directed to the use of plants with the medium potential for bioaccumulation of toxic elements, but creating more biomass in the process of vegetation (e.g., C4 plants and woody plants) [111–116]. So far the feasibility of using plants-accumulators of heavy metal is determined by the metal accumulation rate (mg/kg of biomass), multiplied by their biological productivity (kg/ha per year). Economically justifiable plants for phytoremediation are those in which the yield of biomass reaches at least 250 kg/ha per year and metal content in biomass of at least 1% (dry weight) [108].

There are several ways to plant uptake of toxic elements from the environment:

5.2.2 Phytoextraction

Phytoextraction is a process of conversion of heavy metals or metalloids by plants into the form of complex compounds (chelates) and their accumulation in tissues and organs (overground or root system) [117].

To increase the ability of plants to absorb heavy metals from soils, chelators (e.g., ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, citric acid and oxalic acid, malic acid, salicylate, succinate, tartrate, and other compounds) or inoculation of plants by symbiotrophic microflora (fungi and bacteria), are used [118–120]. Furthermore, the studies are known where the genes of bacterial cells are introduced to the organism of higher plants to increase their ability to absorb heavy metals from the substrate.

The effectiveness of phytoextraction is influenced by several factors: by the content of humus in the soil (the binding of toxic components into complexes increases; their availability for plants decreases), activity of soil microorganisms, introduction of sorbents (iron oxides, manganese, organics, clay, fly ash, coal, vermiculite sawdust, and others) into soil, the pH value of the soil solution (pH reduction leads to an increase in mobility of many heavy metals, Cd, Zn, Ni, etc., as well as binding them with organic soil components), liming (this leads to reduction of the solubility of Fe, Cu, Ni, Co, Zn, and Cd and their availability for plants), introduction of organic acids and complexing agents (enhances uptake of heavy metals by plants), application of plant growth stimulators (heteroauxsin, succinic acid, etc.), and interaction between the ions in the soil solution (formation of insoluble compounds) [106].

5.2.3 *Phytotransformation and Phytodegradation*

Phytotransformation is an ability of plants to convert toxic compounds (organic pollutants—xenobiotics) in the process of the plant fermentative enzymatic reactions to nontoxic form and their subsequent transfer to the vacuole or binding to lignin and other components of the cell.

5.2.4 *Rhizodegradation (Rhizosphere Biodegradation Ore Phytostimulation)*

Rhizodegradation (rhizosphere biodegradation ore phytostimulation) is decomposition of toxic organic compounds in the soil in the process of enzymatic degradation in the interaction of the rhizosphere of plants and microorganisms. Thus, the roots of plants affect xenobiotic root exudates, stimulate the increase of the number of microorganisms in the rhizosphere, and accelerate the transfer of toxic compounds in the root zone due to the difference in osmotic pressure between root cells and the soil solution [121, 122]. It is used for soil purification from oil products (not more than 2%): the PAH, PCBs, other hydrophobic aromatic compounds, and pesticides [106].

5.2.5 *Phytovolatilization*

Phytovolatilization is conversion of toxic components into nontoxic volatile compounds using enzymatic reactions in biochemical cycles of plants and their subsequent release (selenium, mercury) (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) [106].

5.2.6 *Phytostabilization*

Phytostabilization is transfer of metals into the insoluble stable compounds due to synthesis and release by plant compounds that reduce the spread of pollutants (binding to lignin or organic soil components) (conversion into insoluble forms) [123] and precipitation of heavy metals and metalloids (Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Pb, Zn, and As) in the root zone in the form of carbonates, phosphates, and hydroxides. It is used as a step in soil remediation together with the introduction of lime, organic fertilizers, and structurants (phosphates, synthetic resin, clay, bentonite, fly ash, zeolites, aluminosilicates, hydroxides of Fe, Al, and Mn) [106].

5.2.7 *Rhizofiltration*

Rhizofiltration is absorption, concentration, and precipitation of heavy metals and hazardous chemicals by plant roots. This is a most often used technology for water purification from toxic substances and radionuclides. For rhizofiltration rafts in ponds with terrestrial and aquatic plants (in situ) or special tanks for water treatment with platforms (gratings) for plants (ex situ) are used [124–126].

An example of the integrated use of living organisms for bioremediation of water is so called “living machines”: a system of tanks for anaerobic treatment, aerobic treatment using microorganisms and planktonic animals, containers with higher plant hydrophytes and hygrophytes (*Lemna minor*, *Eichornia crassipes*, *Phragmites australis*, *Typha latifolia*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Calla palustris*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Sagittaria* spp., and others), through which the contaminated water flows. As a result, the water is purified from organic and inorganic pollutants.

After rhizoextraction of rhizofiltration, the biomass of plants containing metals can be used for extraction of metals by chemical means (Ni, Cu, Au) or for energy generation [127–129].

At present, scientists intend to create greenbelts of the plant in the industrial zones, which serve as a barrier to heavy metal and serve as phytoremediation of the environment by absorbing heavy metals and radionuclides from the air and soil. The most promising for this are woody plants which possess a combination of features: a deep (or surface) root system of a large volume, a large volume tree crown (height 1.5–30 m), ability to accumulate a large biomass of leaves during the growing season, the possibility of absorption and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (mainly Pb and V) by leaves from atmospheric deposition, durability, and possibility to use wood.

See Table 5.2 for higher plants v.

Many woody plants meet all the requirements of biomonitors listed by Markert:

- High abundance
- Widespread

Table 5.2 Higher plants used for phytoremediation (Baker and Brooks [109]; Wenzel et al. [130]; Glass [131]; Palmer et al. [132]; Prasad [108, 133, 134]; Trace elements [135]; Applied Ecobiotechnology [106]; Favas and Pratas [136])

Species (genera)	Accumulated elements	Substrate
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Cu, Pb	Soil
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	Cu, Pb, Zn	Soil phytostabilization
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Cu, Pb, Zn	Soil phytostabilization
<i>Agrostis lanatus</i>	Fe, Cu, Zn, As, Pb	Soil
<i>Alyssum</i> sp.	Ni	Soil
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Cu, Pb	Soil
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> , <i>Amaranthus tricolor</i>	¹³⁷ Cs, Zn	Soil
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Pb	Soil
<i>Atemisia absinthium</i>	Zn, Cu, Cr	Soil
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Zn, Ni, Cu	Soil
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	NaCl	Soil
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> , <i>Calla palustris</i> , <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> , <i>Sagittaria</i> spp	HM, organic compounds	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Berberis</i>	Xenobiotics	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Ni, Cu, Zn, Cr	Soil
<i>Brassica canola</i>	¹³⁷ Cs	Soil
<i>Brassica juncea</i>	Pb, Zn, Cr, Cd, Ni, Cu, ⁹⁰ Sr, Se, U	Soil phytoextraction (U—only with organic acids), phytotransformation (Cr ⁺⁶ -Cr ⁺³); phytostabilization
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Zn, Pb	Soil
<i>Buxaceae</i>	Ni	Soil
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Pb, Zn, Cu	Soil
<i>Cardamonopsis hallerii</i>	Heavy metals (HM) (Zn, Cd)	Soil, hydroponics
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Xenobiotics	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp., <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Na, As, Cu, Pb	Soil
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Pb, Cu, Cd, Fe	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Xenobiotics	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Pb, Zn	Soil phytostabilisation (with CaCO ₃)
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Ni	Soil
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Zn, Cd, Pb	In the roots
<i>Haumaniastrum katangense</i>	Co	Soil
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Zn, Cu	Soil
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Cr, Mn, Cd, Ni, Zn, Cu	Soil, storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water (rhizofiltration)
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Pb, U, ¹³⁷ Cs, ⁹⁰ Sr, Cu (mutant forms)	Soil
<i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>	Pb, Cu, Cd, Fe	Soil
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Radionuclides (RN)	Soil

(continued)

Table 5.2 (continued)

Species (genera)	Accumulated elements	Substrate
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Pb, Cu, Cd, Zn	Storm water ditch, water
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Cu, Ni, Cd, Cr, Pb	Soil (phytoremediation + raw material for plant fiber)
<i>Lycopersicon lycopersicum</i>	Pb, Zn, Cu	Soil
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Radionuclides, xenobiotics	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Ni (HM), Pu, xenobiotics	Soil (symbiosis with bacteria)
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Zn, Ni, Cu	Soil
<i>Miscanthus giganteus</i>	Cu, Ni, Cd, Cr, Pb	Soil (phytoremediation + raw material for plant fiber)
<i>Morus</i> sp.	Xenobiotics, HM	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Cd, Cu, Zn, Pb	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Polygonum</i> sp., <i>P. sachalinense</i>	Cd, Pb, Zn, ¹³⁷ Cs, ⁹⁰ Sr, Cu	Soil
<i>Populus</i> sp.	Hg, Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, Pb, herbicides	Soil phytoextraction, soil rhizodegradation
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Fe, Zn, As, Pb, W	Soil
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Cd, Cu, Zn, Pb	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Quercus ilex</i> , <i>Quercus rotundifolia</i> , <i>Quercus suber</i>	Ni, As, W, Zn, Pb	Soil
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Salix</i> sp.	Ni, Zn, Cd, Pb, perchlorate	Waste water, filtrates
<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	Cd, Cu, Zn, Pb	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Zn, Pb	Soil (only with the introduction of bacteria <i>Rhodococcus equi</i>)
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	Zn, Cu	Soil
<i>Sorgo bicolor</i>	Zn, Cu, Pb	Soil
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	Xenobiotics	Soil rhizodegradation
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb	Storm water ditch, sewage wetlands, water
<i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>	Zn, Cd	Soil
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	V, Cr, Fe, Ni, As, Mo	Soil
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Cu, Ni, Cd, Cr, Pb	Soil
<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i>	Cr, Cu, Ni, Zn, As, Cd, Pb	Water, soil

- Easy to identify
- Easily available
- Analytically accessible and low detection and determination thresholds with current analytic technology
- Accumulation of pollutants

And features mentioned by Bargagli [3]:

- Long vegetation period
- Clearly marked and reproducible response to certain changes in the environment

In addition, they have a number of advantages for phytoremediation [136, 137]:

- A high yield of biomass (at a density of 10,000–20,000 per hectare) to 15 tonnes of dry matter/ha per year, which enables efficient phytoextraction with moderate amounts of accumulation of toxic elements [138]
- Famous cultivating agricultural technology (*Salix* and *Populus* trees grown on a short rotation system: the harvest in 3–5 years with a total duration of 30 years of cultivation), which can be adapted for use at contaminated lands
- Ability after bioremediation to be used as biofuels (direct combustion, anaerobic digestion processing, fermentation in liquid fuels), for the production of wood, ethanol, biogas, biofortified, biochar, chipboard, paper, constructions, and technical production [139–141]
- Ability to use in urban landscapes
- Creation of greenbelts and phytocenoses for remediation [142–144]
- The stabilization of the substrate under cultivation: soil protection from water and air erosion; prevent metal leaching to protect surface and groundwater

5.3 Possibilities of Woody Plant Use for Biomonitoring of Anthropogenic Pollution of Environment

Selection of species for environmental assessment is dictated by a number of necessary conditions: they must be sufficiently widespread in the study area and well reflect the state of the environment by changes of qualitative or quantitative characteristics (e.g., the development of necrosis and chlorosis, the change of physiological parameters, morphological or anatomical changes, changes at the molecular level, etc.). Based on these characteristics the assessment of the environment can be carried out which includes physiological and biogeochemical characteristics of species [19–23, 34, 35, 88–105].

An important issue is the expansion of the list of species of woody plants, which can be used for phytoremediation of environment in conditions of complex pollution of air and soil by heavy metals in industrial centers.

We carried out integrated monitoring of ecosystems with varying degree of anthropogenic load at the territory of a model region of the central zone of Russia—Tula region. The parameters of the woody plants growing in natural habitats (forests and forest-steppe ecosystems) and in polluted urban environment of the regional center of industry (protection zones of motorways, the territory of the metallurgical enterprises) were determined [103].

The parameters of bioaccumulation of toxic elements of trees growing in contaminated and clean areas of Tula region (Russia) were studied.

5.3.1 Study Area: Objects of Investigation

The model region of the study was Tula region and the city of Tula. In the study area, three natural territories are located: coniferous-deciduous forests in the north, deciduous forests in the center of the region, and forest steppe and steppe in the south. The region is characterized by a well-developed industry: mechanical engineering and metal working, chemical industry, defense industry, ferrous metallurgy, construction materials, light industry, and food industry. Districts of Tula region are characterized by a varying degree of anthropogenic impact. Tula industry (ferrous metallurgy and mechanical engineering) and Novomoskovsk (chemistry) account for more than 2/3 of the regional production. A great contribution to the pollution of the region is from the chemical industry centers Schekino, Efremov, and Aleksin and the center of the electricity Suvorov. The remaining 20 districts of the region account for 10% of industrial production. According to the concentration of industrial enterprises, the Tula region is the second after Moscow, and it is among the five most ecologically unfavorable regions of Russia, ten times exceeding the amount of emissions to the atmosphere of the surrounding Kaluga and Oryol regions. 94% of all emissions are due to the city of Tula and Aleksinskiy, Suvorovskiy, Efremovskiy, Novomoskovskiy, Uzlovskiy, and Schekinsky districts where the largest number of industrial enterprises is clustered. 52% of pollutants in the atmosphere fall to the share of industrial enterprises.

The regional center—the city of Tula—is located 180 km south of Moscow. This ecosystem includes the city area of 154 km² and a population more than 500,000; it represents an area with developed metallurgical, chemical, engineering, and defense industries with the city's infrastructure and network of roads with heavy traffic. The first stage of investigations was focused on revealing the geochemical anomalies of soil and the analysis of atmospheric air. The results of these investigations showed that more than 40% of the territory of the selected ecosystem was characterized by excess of maximum permissible levels (MPL) of the set of heavy metals in the environment (Fig. 5.1).

The main element pollutants of urban (Tula city) soils were:

Mn (in sampling point 1 up to 50% of soil exceeded MPL)

Fe (high gross concentration all over)

Cu (24% soil exceeded MPL up to 3–6 times)

Zn (28% of soil showed excess of MPL by 15–62%)

As (38% of soil excess of MPL by 36–62%)

Pb (12% soil excess of MPL by 10–50%)

The total index for grading soil contamination identified 20 areas of moderately hazardous category (28% of soils) and 4 of extremely dangerous category (6% of soil) [145]. The map (Fig. 5.1) presents geochemical anomalies in soils of the city on the total pollution index. In the most polluted areas, the analysis of atmospheric air was carried out. The high content of Fe in the form of oxides and sulfates at all sampling points was revealed, which exceeded the MPL average concentrations of Fe by several hundreds of times. The copper concentration was higher than the

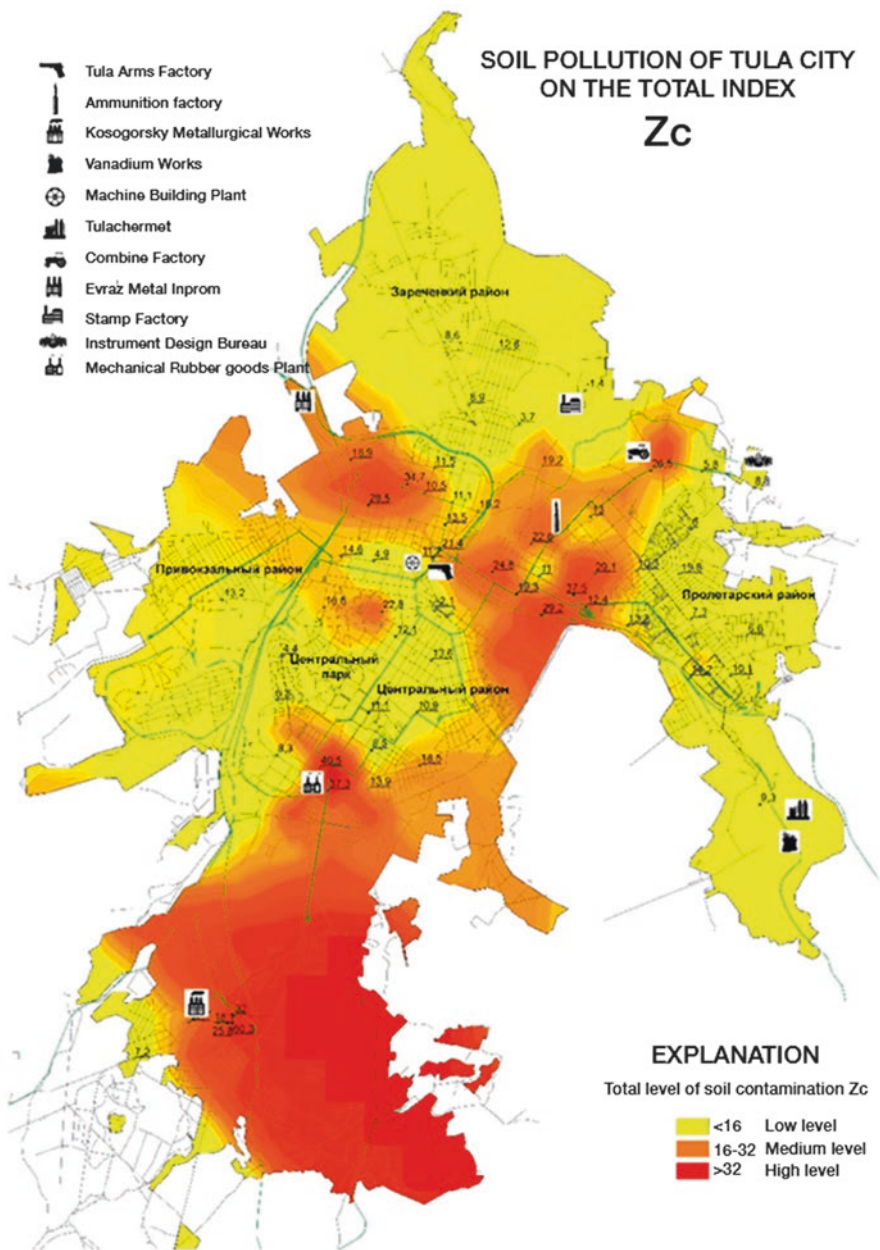


Fig. 5.1 Characterization of Tula city soil pollution

maximum single MPL by 56% of the surveyed zones and exceeded the daily average by 1.5–3.3 times and maximum single—in 3–9 times. Pb content exceeds the average daily rate of MPL sampling points close to Kosogorsky Metallurgical

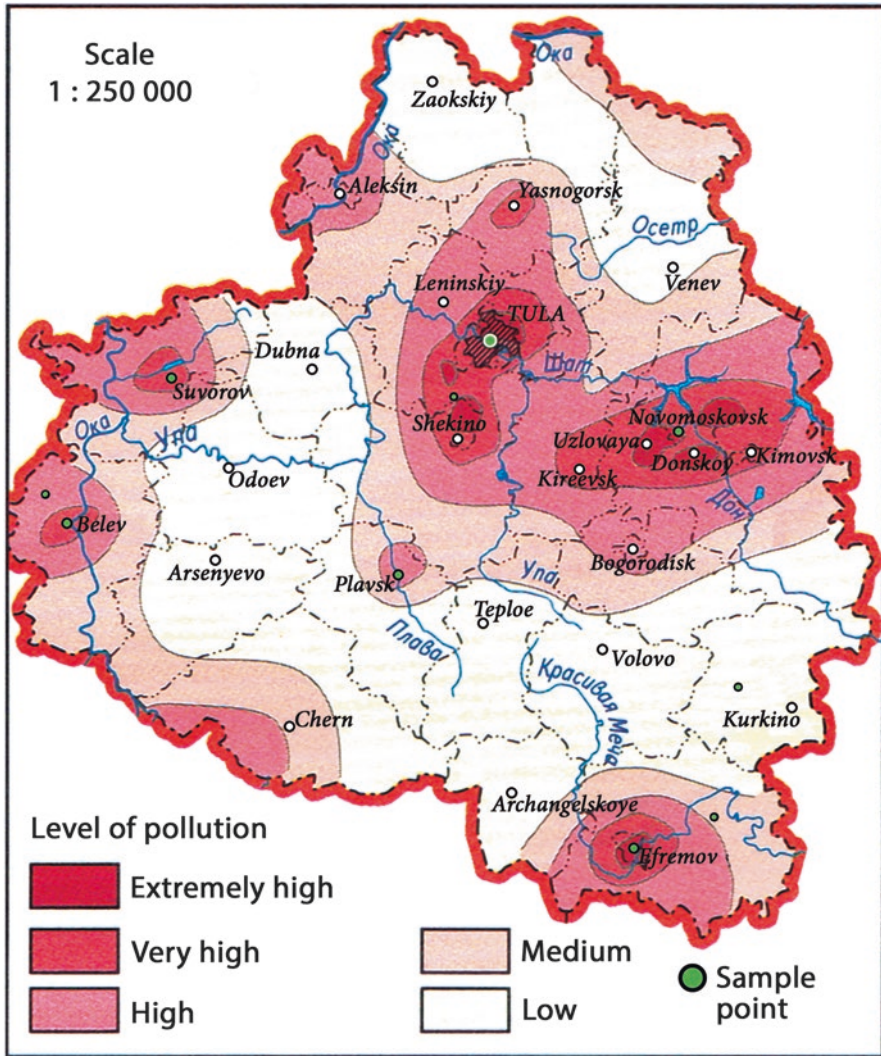


Fig. 5.2 Characterization of Tula region soil pollution and sampling points

Works (ferromanganese production), the Mogilev square (Pedagogical University), and at the intersection of two main roads of the city (Krasnoarmeyskiy Avenue) [104, 105, 145].

To investigate the possibility of using woody plants for biomonitoring the environmental situation, seven areas with different levels of anthropogenic pollution of the region and the regional center—the city of Tula—were chosen (Fig. 5.2, Table 5.3). The objects of biogeochemical parameters in the study (content of elements in the leaves) were native tree species: *Tilia cordata*, *Acer platanoides*, *Salix fragilis*, and *Picea abies*.

Table 5.3 Characterization of different areas of Tula region

Sampling point	Description of environmental conditions
City of Tula, sanitary-protective plantings along roads	Industrially developed urban ecosystem with a high level of technogenic pollution, exceedance of MPL of HM metals in soils by 40% of the territory, a high level of dust and exceedance of the MPL of HM in the air sampling points
Tula, sanitary-protective zone of metallurgical enterprises, KME and Tulachermet	In soil samples of the sanitary-protective plantings observed, an excess of MPL of HM on a number of elements, Mn (twofold), Pb (1.5 times), and Zn (2 times), was observed
Kulikovo Pole	The area is located in forest-steppe vegetation zone of Tula region and characterized by low level of human impact (a historical place reserve museum area). Agricultural using with fertilizers is the main form of anthropogenic activity for the soils
Yasnaya Polyana	The area of museum reserve “Yasnaya Polyana” is located in deciduous forests and influenced of metallurgical and chemical enterprises (Kosogorsky metallurgical plant, Shchekinoazot)
Plavsk town	The city is located in the forest-steppe part of the region. The state of ecology is affected by a distillery “Plavsky” emissions of which contaminate the river
Belev town	The city is located in coniferous-deciduous forest area and experiences recreational and vehicle load, and among the industrial enterprises is the plant Transmash
Belevskiy area (forest)	The region is located in a strip of coniferous-deciduous forests, and there are no large industrial enterprises
Novomoskovsk town	The city with high level of industrial pollution (Nitrogen, Procter & Gamble—Novomoskovsk, Knauf Gypsum Novomoskovsk, Orgsintez, Polyplast, Novomoskovskaya GRES)
Suvorov town	The industrial city is located in coniferous-deciduous forest area and influenced of Cherepetskaya hydropower station, Cherepetskaya precast concrete plant, Mitinskaya Iron Works and recreation
Suvorovskiy area (Varushizi)	The city is located in coniferous-deciduous forest area and influenced of Cherepetskaya hydropower station
Efremovskiy area (Shilovo)	The region is located in the forest-steppe part of the region. The enterprises have a negative impact on the environment and are the production of synthetic rubber and household chemicals (Novomoskovskbytkhim and Procter & Gamble) and Efremov thermal power station

The sampling sites to determine the suitability of species for phytoremediation of soils in sanitary-protective planting of metallurgical enterprises of Tula are: point I, JSC “Kosogorsky Metallurgical Works” (KME) (ferromanganese production), and point II, complex of enterprises of JSC JV “Tulachermet” and “Vanadium” (Tulachermet) (production of pig iron, vanadium, and chromium). For relatively pristine (background or control) zone, the area of the Central Park of Culture and Leisure was chosen. The distance between point I and control zone is 2–3 km and between point II and control zone is 5–6 km. Distance of sanitary-protective planting from aerosol emission sources is 30–400 m.

The objects of investigation of woody plant feasibility for bioremediation are seven tree species and eight shrubs dominating in the sanitary-protective zone of the metallurgical enterprises: *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Acer platanoides*, *Populus nigra*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Tilia cordata*, *Larix sibirica*, *Betula pendula*, *Crataegus sanguinea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Cornus alba*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Philadelphus coronarius*, and *Physocarpus opulifolius*.

5.3.2 *Sampling, Sample Preparation, and Methods of Research*

Sampling to determine the ability of wood to bioaccumulation of toxic elements was carried out in the third decade of July during the vegetation peak over the perimeter of the tree crowns at a height of 1.5–2 m in the plant communities of different districts of the region and urban ecosystems of the city of Tula. The minimum number of trees (shrubs) in each type of sampling points was ten. The minimum number of leaves from each tree (shrubs) was ten.

Leaves of woody plants were washed in running water, and then they were washed twice in distilled water. This way of sample preparation, as opposed to the use of unwashed samples, in our opinion, allows to avoid large errors in sample preparation that may occur due to loss of the dust particles in the course of operations, packaging, grinding, weighing, and pressing samples and eliminates dependence on climatic factors (washings by rains, the wind emission) during the sampling and before it. It allows to perform a comparative description of the research results.

Washed samples were dried at room temperature and brought to constant weight in an oven at a temperature of 60 °C. The samples were averaged and were packed in paper bags with a label. Sample preparation for instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) (grinding, weighing, pressing, and packing containers of samples) took place in a chemical laboratory sector neutron activation analysis LNP JINR.

Part of the elements in plant samples (Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb) was determined in the laboratory of chemical analysis of the Geological Institute (GIN RAS) by atomic absorption spectrometry using “QUANT-2A” (KORTEK, Moscow) equipped with deuterium corrector of nonselective absorption and relevant hollow-cathode lamps; determination of heavy metals in the samples was carried out in accordance with standardized methods [146]. Determination of Zn, Pb, Cu, and Cd was performed in “propane-air” flame and Fe, Mn, and Ni in “acetylene-air” flame. Quality control was provided by using certified reference materials IAEA-SOIL-7, IAEA-336 (lichen), SRM 1572 (*citrus* leaves), and SRM 1575 (*pine* needles).

INAA of plant samples was carried at the IBR-2 reactor at JINR LNP using activation with epithermal neutrons along with the full energy spectrum. To determine the long-lived isotopes, samples of leaves of about 0.3 g were packed in aluminum foil. The containers with samples were irradiated for 4–5 days in a cadmium-screened channel (epithermal neutron activation analysis). After exposure, the samples were repacked in clean plastic containers for measurement of induced activity.

Induced gamma activity of the samples was measured twice: after 4–5 days after irradiation (for determination of As, Br, K, La, Na, Mo, Sm, U, and W) and after 20 days (to determine Ba, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Fe, Hf, Ni, Rb, Sb, Sc, Sr, Ta, Tb, Th, Yb, and Zn). Measuring time was 40–50 min and 2.5–3 h, respectively.

To determine the short-lived isotopes of elements (Al, Ca, Cl, I, Mg, Mn, and V), samples of 0.3 g weight were packed in polyethylene packs and irradiated for 3–5 min. Induced gamma activity of the samples was measured after 5–7 min of cooling twice: for 3–5 and 10–5 min, successively.

Measurement of the induced gamma activity was carried out by gamma spectrometers with Ge (Li)—detectors with a resolution of 2.5–3 keV of the gamma line 1332 keV of ^{60}Co and HPGe detector with a resolution of 1.9 keV of the gamma line 1332 keV of ^{60}Co .

A software package developed in the Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics of JINR was used for processing gamma spectra of induced activity and calculating the elemental concentrations. The concentrations of elements were determined by relative methods (by comparison with the standards) [147]. Certified reference materials (pine needles, NIST) were irradiated and measured together with samples.

The uncertainties in elemental determinations of Na, K, Cl, As, Sr, Fe, and Pb are in the range of 5–10% and for V, Ni, Cu, Se, Mo, Cd, and Sb are 30%.

So far for vegetation there are no identified MPLs and the data on the elemental content in the different studies are very different in dependence on the used methods and sample preparation [21, 34, 90–95] (some studies are made using unwashed plant material), to assess the biochemical characteristics of the investigated samples, they were compared with the average data of the Reference plant (RP) [148].

5.3.3 Results and Discussion

The results carried out in seven districts of the Tula region showed that the leaves of woody native species can be used as bioindicators and biomonitors of biogeochemical parameters in determination of the degree of anthropogenic load on ecosystems.

The two studied species in the cities accumulate more chlorine in the leaves than in the steppe and forest communities. Thus, the chlorine content in the leaves of *Tilia cordata* and *Acer platanoides* in the towns of Plavsk, Novomoskovsk, and Tula varied in interval of 3270–6400 mg/kg, that is, 1.5–3 times higher than the critical concentrations and mean values for vegetation [148–150] and 2–17 times higher than the values for forest and steppe of the region (370–1520 mg/kg) (Fig. 5.3). The accumulation of high concentrations of chlorine in leaves of trees in urban areas may be due to the use of NaCl on the sidewalks followed by washing the salt melt water into the soil in winter and early spring as well as by deposition of the aerosol particles due to the impact of the chemical industry.

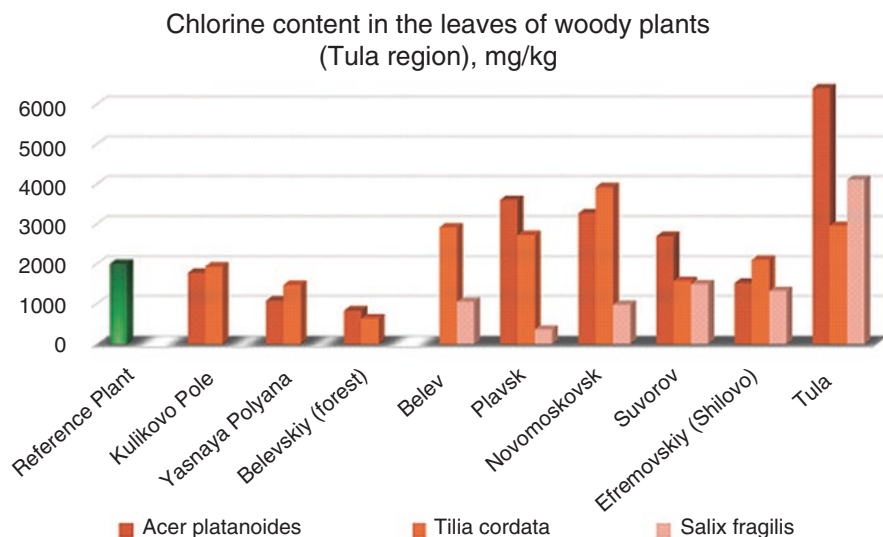


Fig. 5.3 The chlorine concentration in the leaves of woody plants from Tula region ecosystems with varying degrees of anthropogenic load

Acer platanoides, *Salix fragilis*, and *Picea abies* well reflect an increase in the concentration of vanadium in the environment. So, in Belev and in deciduous forest near the city, as well as in the city of Tula (sanitarian-protective zone of motorways), V content in the leaves and needles of the enlisted species ranged from 0.7 to 1.5 mg/kg of dry matter, that is, 1.3–3 times higher than in the reference plant (RP) (0.5 mg/kg). It could be connected with aerosol emissions from enterprises of “Vanadium,” Instrument Design Bureau, NGO “Fusion” (Tula), and JSC “Transmash” (Belev) (Figs. 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6).

The concentration of chromium in leaves of all investigated deciduous woody plants was 1.5–2.7 times higher than in RP (2.3–5.0 mg/kg dry weight) at all sampling points examined except Belevskiy area (Figs. 5.4, 5.5, and 5.7). This fact may be an evidence of air emission of this element, and it also confirms our previous assumption that woody plants concentrate more chromium in organs rather than herbaceous plants [38–40, 148, 149].

The given fact evidences that the woody plants are sensitive indicators to the content of the given element in the environment in time and they can reflect the spatial distribution of an air emission and absorb elements from deeper soil horizons.

Two deciduous species *Acer platanoides* and *Salix fragilis* react to high iron content in the soil and air (Figs. 5.4 and 5.5). The greatest sensitivity characterizes *Acer platanoides* (element content of the leaves increases up to 1250 mg/kg (Tula), that is, twofold higher than the concentrations of toxic element for vegetation [149, 150] and eight times higher than the RP). Such intense absorption of iron along with other heavy metals can lead to the development of necrotic changes in the leaf and to reduction of vitality of the species in terms of polymetallic soil pollution of industrial cities.

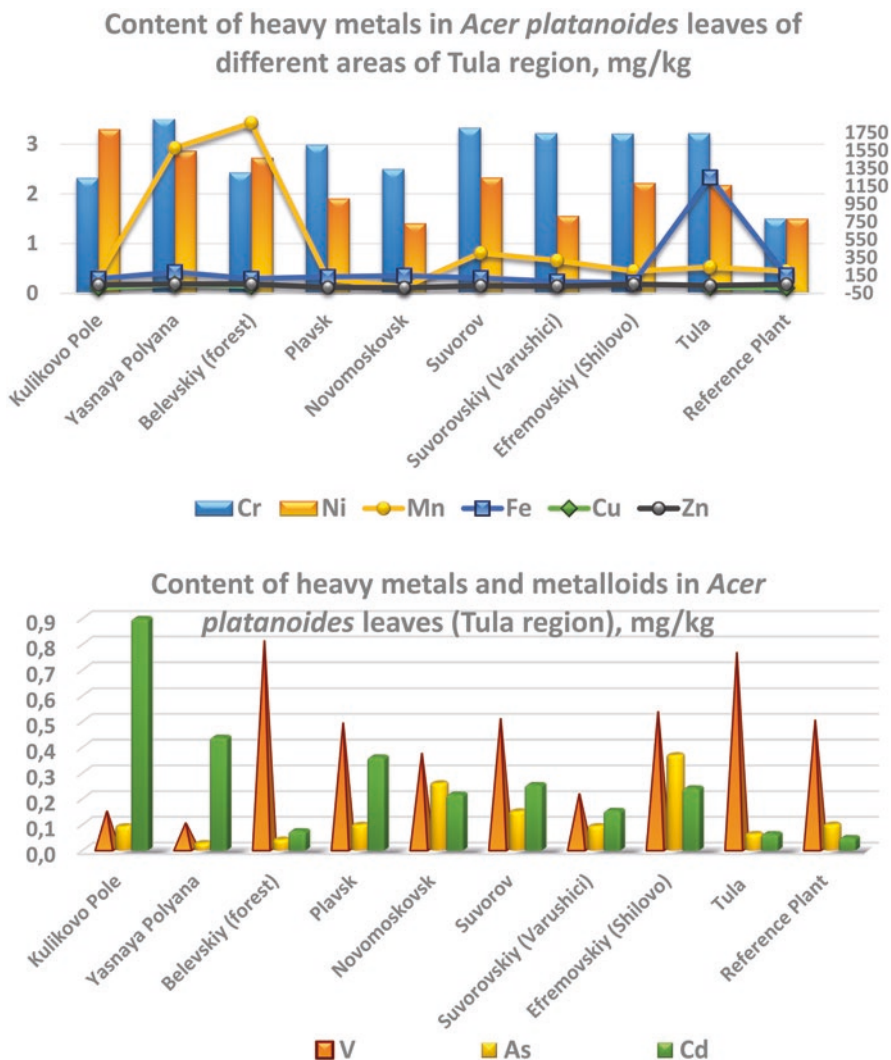


Fig. 5.4 The content of heavy metals and metalloids in *Acer platanoides* leaves grown in different areas of Tula region

Bioaccumulation of copper in leaves of woody plants in Belevskiy area (city and forest), Yasnaya Polyana, and the regional center—the city of Tula—reached 24–53 mg/kg of dry weight, that is, 2.5–5 times higher than the values of RP. The high concentration of the element in the wood plants is conditioned by its high content in the air and soil due to the impact of metallurgical industry and metalworking [104, 105, 145].

Accumulation of arsenic was noticed in the leaves of deciduous trees at the sampling points in Novomoskovsk and Efremovskiy area (Shilovo village) (Figs. 5.4 and 5.7). Its concentrations of 0.21–0.37 mg/kg of dry weight are 2–3.5 times higher than in the reference plant. *Picea abies* needles accumulate in two times less arsenic than RP regardless of the point of sampling (Fig. 5.6).

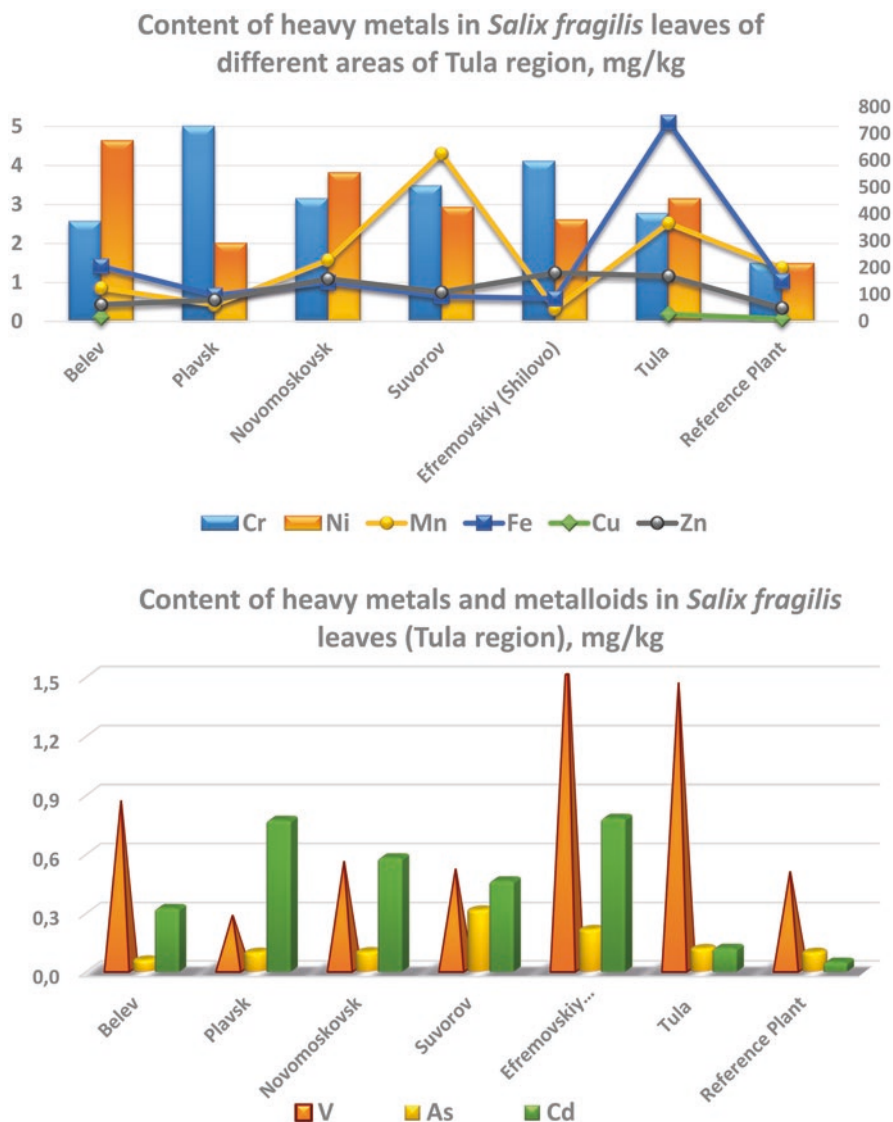


Fig. 5.5 The content of heavy metals and metalloids in the leaves of *Salix fragilis* (Tula region)

The trend in accumulation of cadmium is similar to the arsenic one: *Picea abies* does not accumulate element in the needles, while all deciduous woods are investigated at all points, except with sampling growing in sanitary-protective zone along Tula roads and in the forest area of Belevskiy, accumulated from 0.16 to 0.92 mg/kg of the element in the needles that exceeded by 3–18 times the average data for plants (Fig. 5.6). The highest concentration of the element was observed in *Acer platanoides* leaves growing in the Kulikovo Pole, as well as in the leaves of *Salix fragiles* (Figs. 5.4 and 5.5). The best biomarker for this element is *Salix fragilis*. The fact of high

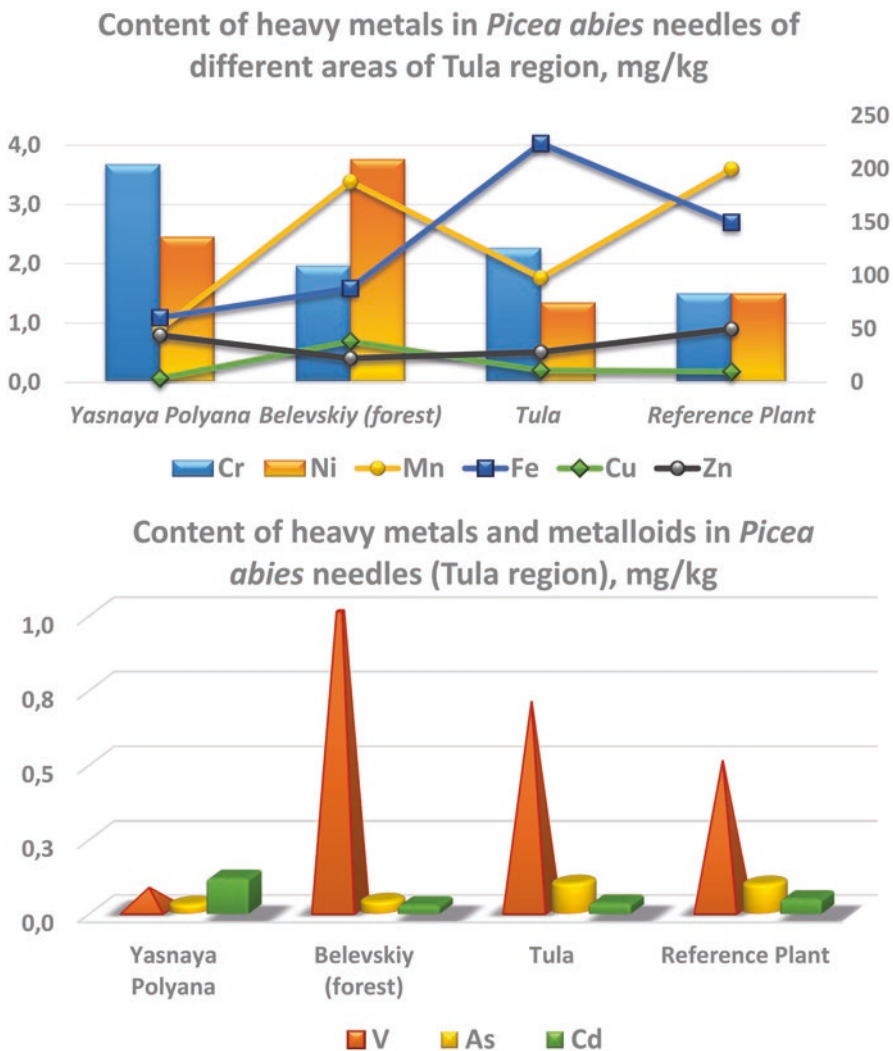


Fig. 5.6 The content of heavy metals and metalloids in the needles of *Picea abies* in different ecosystems of Tula region

accumulation of cadmium by leaves of woody plants can be explained by air emission of the element by motorway, as well as, apparently, by better degree of absorption of the elements at alkaline soils (Efremovskiy area (Shilovo), Kulikovo Pole). The trend of low bioaccumulation of cadmium in leaves of trees growing in Tula, in the soils of multi-element anomaly, can be explained by the antagonism of the ions when accumulated from the environment, as well as the low level of cadmium in the soil.

Taking into consideration the difference in bioaccumulation of toxic elements by leaves of plants growing in different districts of the region, one may conclude that the chosen plant for bioindication and biomonitoring reflects the environmental

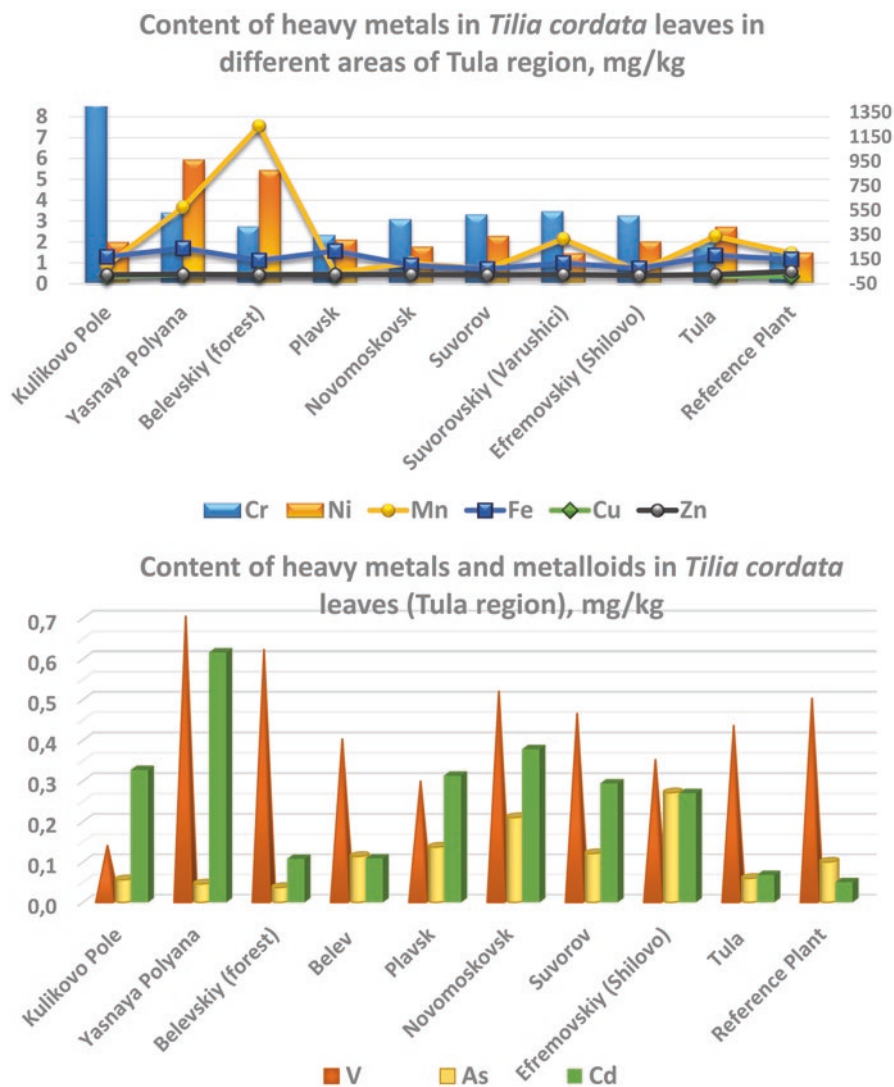


Fig. 5.7 Heavy metal bioaccumulation in leaves of *Tilia cordata* (Tula region)

situation in ecosystems with different levels of anthropogenic load and can be used as biomonitors.

At the same time the largest range of changes in biogeochemical activity is typical for species *Acer platanoides* and *Salix fragilis*, which are preferably used for biomonitoring based on biogeochemical parameters of variability options when changing of the main sources of environmental pollution occurs. Aboriginal species of Gymnospermae—*Picea abies*—is less favorable for the chosen purposes. Below are details of the biogeochemical activity of the studied species (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4 Biogeochemical activity of leaves of woody plants reflecting the anthropogenic load on ecosystems

Species	Elements which accumulated at elevated technogenic loads
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Cl, V, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, As, Cd
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Cl, Mn, Ni, Cd
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Cl, V, Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, As, Cd
<i>Picea abies</i>	V, Mn, Fe

Analysis of correlation bindings at bioaccumulation of elements by leaves of plants revealed strong correlation between accumulated elements. Al correlates with V, Zn, Sm, Hf, Th, and U (accumulation of elements of technogenic soil contamination); Mn with Cu; Cd with W; V with Th and U; and Zn with Th and U (impact factor of metallurgical defense and metal processing industries).

5.4 Accumulation of Heavy Metal in Conditions of Polymetallic Contamination of Industrial Areas (Metallurgical Plants) by Woody Plants of Moderate Climate: Possibilities of Their Application for Soil Phytoremediation

At present a lot of investigations on the use of woody plants for phytoremediation of soil from heavy metals were undertaken. The genera *Salicaceae*: *Populus* and *Salix* [113, 137, 151–158], *Pinus* [136, 159–161], *Acer* [162, 163], *Betula* [164–168], *Quercus* [136, 169, 170], *Morus alba* [115], *Acacia retinoides* and *Eucalyptus torquata* [171, 172] for soil of subtropical climate were investigated.

For phytoremediation of the environment from radionuclides the resistant to them *Juglans mandshurica* and characterized by high ecological plasticity *Phellodendron amurense* were used.

An important issue is the expansion of the list of species of woody plants, which can be used for phytoremediation of environment in conditions of complex air and soil heavy metal pollution in industrial centers (in a temperate continental climate).

Prior to the beginning of our biogeochemical studies, we have evaluated the vitality of species of sanitary-protective plantations of metallurgical enterprises and highways, the presence of necrotic and chlorotic leaf damage, as well as their ability to accumulate dust emissions on the leaf surface.

In assessing the vitality, the scale was proposed by T. V. Chernenkova [94]: 1 point, “healthy”; 2 points, “weakened”; 3, “severely weakened”; 4 points, “moribund”; and 5 points, “deadwood.” Assessment of the vitality showed that the most morphologically adapted species to the conditions of polymetallic contamination are *Larix sibirica*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Caragana aereorescens*, *Ligustrum vulgare* (vitality 1), *Philadelphus coronarius* (vitality of 1–2), *Sorbus aucuparia*, and *Acer platanoides* (vitality 2). All studied species in the sanitary-protective plantations showed necrotic and chlorotic leaf change (from 7 to 98%—the most in the genus *Populus*), expressed in the point and edge necrosis and interveinal chlorosis.



Fig. 5.8 Necrosis and chlorosis of tree leaves growing in the area of influence of metallurgical enterprises (*Sorbus aucuparia*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Tilia cordata*)

Manifestation of damage in the leaves of various species was different. For example, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Betula alba*, *Acer platanoides*, *Tilia cordata*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus* showed the appearance of the point of necrosis on the leaf blade (Figs. 5.8, 5.9, and 5.10). In *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Crataegus*, *Cornus alba*—edge and interveinal necrosis of leaves appear (Figs. 5.8 and 5.10).

All these symptoms may be indicative of the direct damage of leaf tissue by toxic concentrations of iron, manganese, nickel, and chromium [34]. The development of necrosis of leaves can be used for bioindication of the environment at affected areas by the polymetallic pollution with the help of the leaves of wood. Leaf chlorosis may be caused by an imbalance in the leaves with an excess of magnesium ions of other substituents. At the level of the leaf anatomy noted manifestation of was observed kseromorphism symptoms (reduction of the leaf square, Fig. 5.9), An increase in the number of stomata, sheet thickness and diameter of the stomata to compensate for exchange in dusty conditions and high concentrations of heavy metals in the environment of the sampling sites took place [35].

The ability to accumulate dust by leaves of woody plants is different for trees and shrubs and is ranging from 8 to 206 mg/dm² for trees and from 17 to 423 mg/dm² for shrubs.

The maximum ability to accumulate dust in sanitary-protective plantations belongs to:

- *Tilia cordata* (till 115 mg/dm²)
- *Populus nigra* (till 115 mg/dm²)
- *Salix caprea* (till 141 mg/dm²)

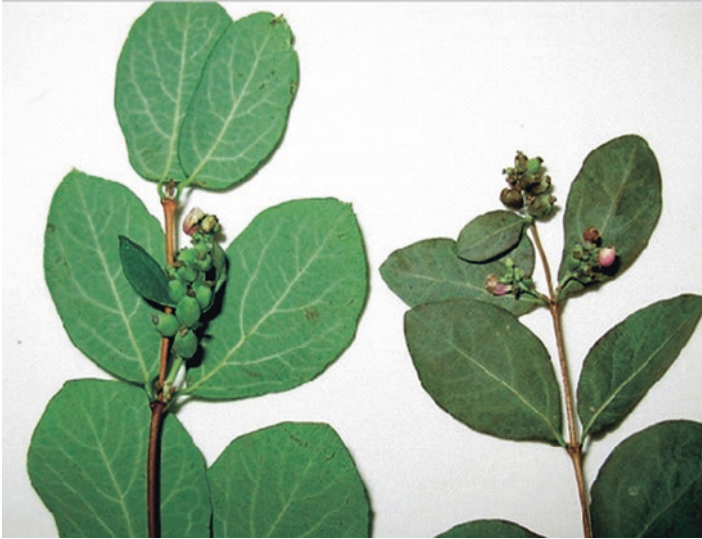


Fig. 5.9 Decrease of leaf area of the *Symphoricarpos albus*, which grows in the area of influence of metallurgical enterprises (*right*) in comparison with the control zone (*left*)



Fig. 5.10 Necrosis and chlorosis of shrub leaves growing in the area of influence of metallurgical enterprises (*Cornus alba*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Crataegus monogyna*)

- *Sorbus aucuparia* (till 206 mg/dm²)
- *Crataegus sanguinea* (till 107 mg/dm²)
- *Philadelphus coronarius* (till 149 mg/dm²)
- *Symphoricarpos albus* (till 153 mg/dm²)
- *Syringa vulgaris* (till 189 mg/dm²)
- *Cornus alba* (till 296 mg/dm²)
- *Ligustrum vulgare* (till 423 mg/dm²)

We have determined the dust particle content on the surface of leaves using the method of electron scanning microscopy in the laboratory of geochemistry and mineralogy of soil of Federal State Institute of physical, chemical, and biological problems of pedology of RAS (operator E. I. Elfimov).

The distribution of elements on the leaves surface is random, but the greatest number of dust particles concentrates at the bottom, along the edge of the leaf surface and along the main veins of leaves (Fig. 5.11). Analysis of the spectra showed

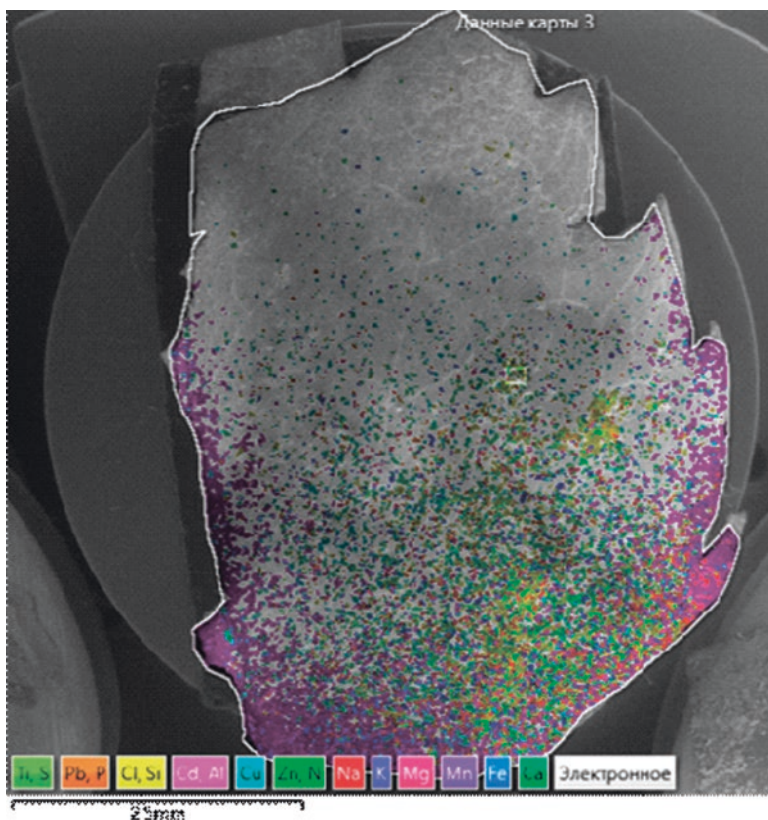


Fig. 5.11 Distribution of dust emissions on a fragment of leaf surface of *Crataegus sanguinea* which grows in the area of metallurgical production (scanning electron microscope)

that most of the adsorbed particles are those compounds of organic nature, and about 1–3% accounted for by soil components, the proportion of heavy metals Fe, Cu, Mn, Cd, Zn, and Pb on the leaf surface may vary from 0.02 to 5% for each element. The method might be the qualitative for analysis of components of aerosol emissions and allows one to establish the presence and ratio of the components on the surface of the leaf that reflects the air pollution of the studied zone.

5.4.1 *Bioaccumulation of Heavy Metals by the Trees and Shrub Leaves*

5.4.1.1 Manganese

Analysis of the Mn content in leaves of woody plants showed that its concentration ranges from 23 to 385 mg/kg (Table 5.5, Fig. 5.12). That is a rather strong variation of the element probably depending on the species features, growing conditions, and the element concentrations in the environment. Low concentrations of the element (23–150 mg/kg) are characteristic for species such as *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Tilia cordata*, *Betula pendula*, *Cornus alba*, *Physocarpus opulifolius*, and *Philadelphus coronarius* growing in urban conditions in relatively pristine areas. However, the impact of emissions from the steel industry resulted in increase of the content of elements by two times in *Philadelphus coronarius* and *Tilia cordata* (sample point KME), four times in *Aesculus hippocastanum*, and eight times in *Betula pendula* and reached a value of 340 mg/kg, that is, on average, 1.5 times higher than in the reference plant [148]. However, for *Larix sibirica* in excess of the concentration of the element in the environment overrelatively permissible concentrations, increase of its content in the leaves was not noticed. This may serve as evidence for inclusion of protective mechanisms in the absorption and transport of this element by plant root system, and it also can be caused by antagonism with Fe ions in the process of element uptake by root system.

The role of *Betula pendula*, *Pinus sylvestris*, and *Larix sukaczewii* in the absorption of Mn from heaps of mining enterprises has been described [34]. The maximum element concentration in the leaves of the studied species of woody plants was characteristic for *Acer platanoides*, *Betula pendula*, *Tilia cordata* (180–340 mg/kg), and *Cotoneaster lucidus* (336 mg/kg dry weight). When the concentration of elements in soil exceeds maximum permissible level (MPL) by a factor of 4.7 (site affected by metallurgical enterprises), the contents of the element in the leaves of *Acer platanoides*, *Tilia cordata*, and *Betula pendula* increased by 2–7 times, but not as significantly as in *Aesculus hippocastanum*.

Thus, among the studied species, the maximum accumulation of Mn in the leaves is characteristic of *Acer platanoides*, *Betula pendula*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus*, which is a peculiarity of species.

Table 5.5 Content of heavy metals in the leaves of woody plants, mg/kg of dry weight

Element	Mn	Fe	Ni	Cu	Zn	Cd	Pb
RP (Markert [148])/terrestrial vegetation (Kabata-Pendias [149])	200 15–500	150 18–1700	1.5 0.1–3.7	10 5–30	50 1.2–73	0.05 0.08–0.28	1 0.1–10
Woody plants (zone of metallurgical enterprises and ore dumps) <i>Acer rubrum</i> , <i>Betula pendula</i> , <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , <i>Picea</i> , Lukina, Nikonov [90] Chernenkova [94], Kulagin, Shagieva [34]	197–1055; 157–1050; 195–1130	88–698; 2140–4790; 1630–3680	14–98; 4.5–16; 0.9–11	16–37; 5.1–57; 9.3–26	19–54; 5.6–56; 93	0.14–0.64; 0.42–0.97	1.2–16.3
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	I (KME) 180±22	810±7	0.7±0.3	5.7±0.4	31±6	0.09±0.01	2.6±0.2
	II (Tulachermet) 260±28	1250±41	3.2±0.1	10.1±0.9	44±8	0.16±0.02	0.6±0.1
	Control zone 120±17	310±16	2.2±0.2	8.2±0.7	38±7	0.11±0.02	0.6±0.1
<i>Asculus hippocastanum</i>	I 53±16	1065±54	4.5±0.7	15.4±1.3	41±9	<0.04	5.6±0.2
	II 91±11	1388±78	1.5±0.2	12.8±0.8	33±8	<0.04	0.6±0.1
	Control zone 83±14	230±12	1.1±0.2	10.7±0.8	32±5	<0.04	0.6±0.1
<i>Betula pendula</i>	I 240±19	800±28	4.3±0.2	6.3±0.5	156±24	0.15±0.02	5.6±0.2
	II 340±7	940±85	6.1±0.4	6.8±0.4	99±12	0.14±0.03	0.5±0.1
	Control zone 45±8	180±24	3.1±0.2	4.3±0.2	53±8	<0.04	0.5±0.1
<i>Populus</i>	I 190±21	1580±62	5.0±0.3	6.8±0.5	171±19	0.58±0.03	8.1±0.2
	II 92±17	500±27	7.2±0.4	10.9±0.9	127±16	0.66±0.04	<0.5
	Control zone 27±5	195±14	1.5±0.1	4.6±0.2	124±18	0.27±0.02	<0.5
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	I 110±16	1780±54	1.2±0.1	6.2±0.4	29±4	0.08±0.01	6.9±0.2
	II 120±14	2570±78	1.8±0.2	6.0±0.3	29±4	0.04±0.01	<0.5
	Control zone 51±7	550±24	1.5±0.1	8.4±0.7	29±3	0.10±0.01	0.9±0.1
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	I 306±54	5082±72	3.5±0.2	7.6±0.6	35±3	0.09±0.01	1.1±0.1
	II 130±14	970±35	1.8±0.1	8.0±0.5	41±3	0.08±0.01	<0.5
	Control zone 130±15	220±25	2.3±0.3	9.0±0.6	41±4	0.10±0.01	0.7±0.1
<i>Larix sibirica</i>	I 110±17	1210±64	0.9±0.1	6.0±0.4	33±2	0.09±0.01	15.2±0.3
	II 120±32	3640±126	4.2±0.4	5.1±0.4	42±4	<0.04	1.6±0.1
	Control zone 410±38	840±32	3.1±0.4	6.5±0.5	41±3	0.06±0.01	1.9±0.2
Excess concentration (toxic concentration) (Cabata-Pendias, 1989)	≥500	≥500; >1000	10–100	20–40	≥300		≥60
Normal concentration (range of normal regulation) (Cabata-Pendias, 1989)	20–60	19–250	0.1–2.1	3–12	20–60		

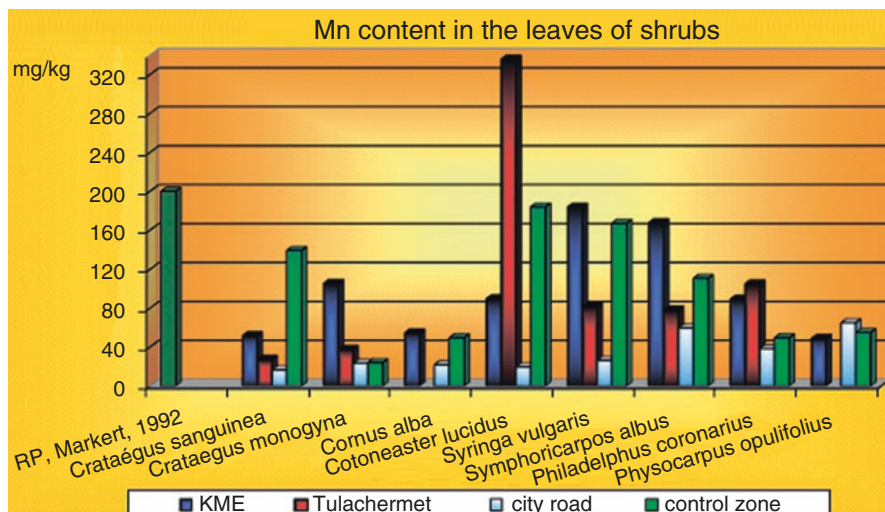


Fig. 5.12 Comparison of Mn content in the leaves of shrubs growing near metallurgical enterprises and city road with RP

5.4.1.2 Iron

The results of investigations showed that the Fe content in leaves of woody plants in urban conditions, in the absence of additional sources of pollution (emissions of enterprises), varies from 48 to 2062 mg/kg of dry weight. In the absence of additional pollution from industries, the minimum iron content is characteristic for leaves of *Populus nigra* (48–195 mg/kg of dry weight) (Table 5.5). The maximum from trees was observed in *Larix sibirica* needles (840 mg/kg) and *Cotoneaster lucidus* leaves (687 mg/kg of dry weight). The content of Fe in the leaves of *Aesculus hippocastanum* and *Tilia cordata* is characterized as close to the average of 142–290 mg/kg, which exceeds the average values for the reference plant [148]. The leaves of *Betula pendula* are characterized by a minimum range of Fe concentrations (154–180 mg/kg).

Moreover, the maximum content of Fe was observed in leaves of *Larix sibirica*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Tilia cordata*, *Cornus alba*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus* (Table 5.5, Fig. 5.13).

In general, *Larix sibirica*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Tilia cordata*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Acer platanoides*, *Populus nigra*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Cornus alba*, and *Crataegus sanguinea* can be considered the best bioaccumulators of Fe when its content in soil is high. The content of Fe in the leaves of these woody species growing in industrial areas is 1250–8930 mg/kg, that is, 10–60 times higher than the values for the reference plant (Table 5.5).

According to some authors, organ concentrators of iron are the roots and bark of trees growing in dumps of polymetallic deposits [94]. The content of Fe in the organs

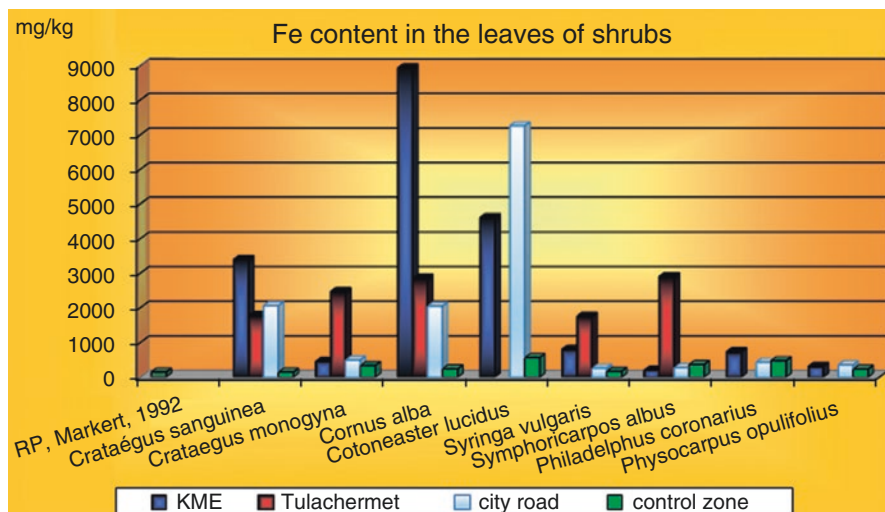


Fig. 5.13 Comparison of Fe content in the leaves of shrubs growing near metallurgical enterprises and city road with RP

(*Betula*, *Pinus*) amounts to some thousand ppm [34, 90, 94]. Thus, one should expect that the total accumulative ability of trees in the industrial site in relation to iron would be even higher due to accumulation of iron in the perennial organs.

The ratio of Fe/Mn, apparently, is a decisive factor of plant resistance to toxic elements [149]. In this connection, the establishment of relationships in the intake of a given pair of elements in different plant species is of interest. The results obtained show that the ratio of pairs of elements in the accumulation of leaves of woody plants has species peculiarities. Thus, the lowest ratio of Fe/Mn is characteristic for leaves of *A. platanoides*, 0.5–2.5; *Populus nigra* in the Balkan countries, 1–1.4 [98, 99]; *Betula pendula*, 1–4; and *Syringa vulgaris* and *Crataegus sanguinea*, 1–1.1 (in buffer zone conditions). A high content of iron relative to manganese is specific for *Aesculus hippocastanum*, 2.5–7; *Tilia cordata*, 2–12; and all other species of investigated shrubs, 3–14. Under the impact of polymetallic contamination, the ratio increases by up to 5 in *Acer platanoides*, 7–16 in *Tilia cordata*, 8 in *Populus nigra*, 16–21 in *Sorbus aucuparia*, 11–30 in *Larix sibirica*, 65 in *Crataegus sanguinea*, 9–165 in *Cornus alba*, and 52 in *Cotoneaster lucidus* leaves. These species should be preferably used for phytoremediation of soils from an excess of Fe.

5.4.1.3 Zinc

The concentration of Zn in leaves of woody plants in urban ecosystems is ranging from 16 to 175 mg/kg (Table 5.5, Fig. 5.14). The minimum content of the element in the leaves is characteristic for *Aesculus hippocastanum*, 16–32 mg/kg; *Tilia*

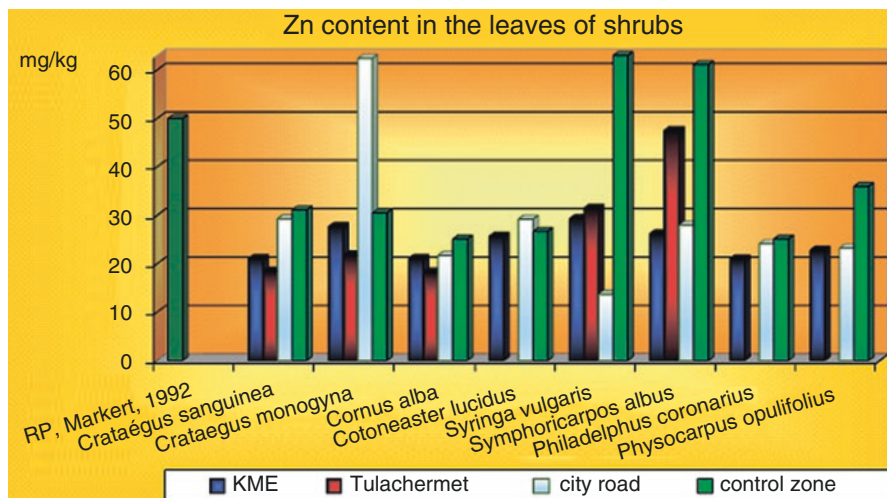


Fig. 5.14 Comparison of Zn content in the leaves of shrubs growing near metallurgical enterprises and city road with RP

cordata, 19–41 mg/kg; and *Crataegus sanguinea*, *Cornus alba*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus*, 18–31 mg/kg. Close values of element contents in the leaves are also characteristic for *A. platanoides*. All seven species exhibit a relative resistance with increasing content of Zn in the environment (site of emissions of metallurgical enterprises) that may be due to the known antagonism between the Fe and Zn ions. Data on the antagonism intake of Fe and Zn in the plant organisms [149] are not confirmed for all types of woody plants.

For example, in *A. platanoides*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, and *Tilia cordata*, increase in accumulation of iron in the leaves takes place along with even a slight accumulation of zinc, i.e., iron absorption dominates over the absorption of zinc.

However, for the species accumulators of Zn, *Betula pendula* and *Populus nigra*, an increased concentration of all three element antagonists Fe, Mn, and Zn—in the site of polymetallic pollution—was revealed. The concentration of Zn increased up to 153–176 mg/kg that exceeds the average for terrestrial plants by a factor of 3–3.5. Such indiscriminating absorption of three elements at their high concentrations in the soil by the given species may be due to the absence of barrier function of the root system to absorption of Fe, Mn, and Zn that is a characteristic peculiarity of hyper-accumulators [29].

5.4.1.4 Nickel

Accumulation of Ni by leaves of woody plants was low and ranged from 0.1 to 4.5 mg/kg of dry weight within urban ecosystems (Table 5.5, Fig. 5.15). The values of Ni content in the leaves of trees exceeds average values for the reference plants by a factor of 1.5–2 of the species *Acer platanoides*, *Betula pendula*, *Tilia cordata*, and *Larix sibirica*. However, in the site affected by the metallurgical

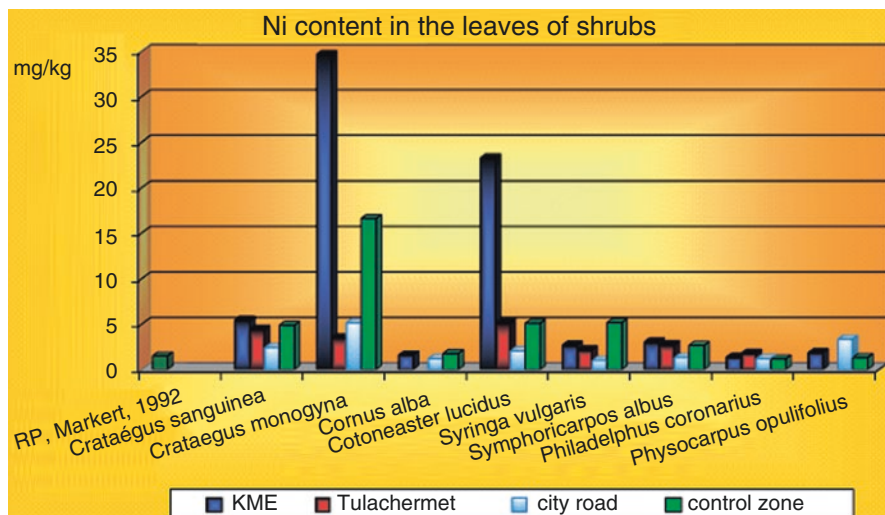


Fig. 5.15 Comparison of Ni content in the leaves of shrubs growing near metallurgical enterprises and city road with RP

industry, the content of the element in the leaves of trees increased by a factor of 1.5–2 for the species *Acer platanoides*, *Tilia cordata*, and *Betula pendula* and more than a factor of 4–4.5 for *Aesculus hippocastanum* and *Populus nigra* (up to 4.3–7.2 mg/kg), exceeding the values for the reference plants by 3–5 times. High concentrations of nickel were found for shrubs *Crataegus*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, and *Syringa vulgaris* in control zone with 4.9–16.6 mg/kg of dry weight. In the sampling sites affected by the metallurgical industry, the content of the element in the leaves of shrubs increased by a factor of 2–5 for such shrubs as *Crataegus monogyna* (KME) and *Cotoneaster lucidus*. However, the total concentration of nickel in the tree leaves did not exceed the threshold of phytotoxicity of the element and was located in the middle of toxic concentrations for species of shrubs such as *Crataegus monogyna* and *Cotoneaster lucidus*. High concentration of heavy metals (nickel in particular) can cause necrosis of *Crataegus* leaves in case of low activity of antioxidant system [149].

5.4.1.5 Lead

Accumulation of Pb by leaves of studied trees and shrubs was low and ranged within 0.5–2.7 mg/kg (Table 5.5, Fig. 5.16). In the areas affected by emissions of metallurgical enterprises, when the concentration of the element in soil exceeds the maximum permissible level, *Tilia cordata* showed the greatest resistance, the concentration of elements in the leaves of which increased slightly compared with the relatively clean area. Possible low bioaccumulation of lead by *Tilia* leaves is due to the peculiarities of leaf surface. However, in the leaves of *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Betula pendula*, *Populus nigra*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Larix sibirica* (sample point KME), *Philadelphus coronarius*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus* (sample point Tulachermet), the

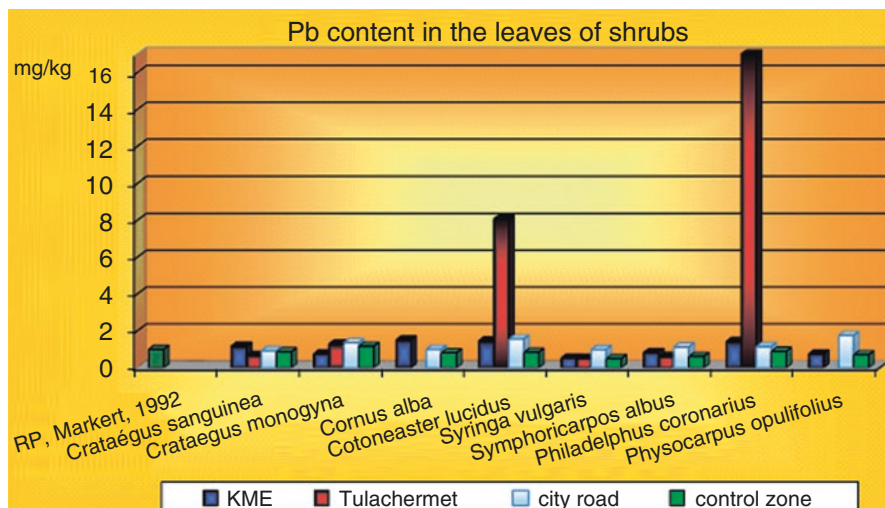


Fig. 5.16 Comparison of Pb content in the leaves of shrubs growing near metallurgical enterprises and city road with RP

concentration of element in the leaves in the impact site of metallurgical enterprises increased by a factor of 9–16 and reached the values of 5.6–17 mg/kg, which is higher than in the “reference plant” by a factor of 5–17. However, in our case, the general element concentrations in leaves of most woody plants do not exceed the values for herbaceous terrestrial plants growing in nonmetallic areas (1–10 mg/kg) [149]. Only for *Larix sibirica* and *Philadelphus coronarius* grown under conditions of metallurgical enterprises, the value of lead concentrations in the leaves is above the average values (15–17 mg/kg). It is known that the transport of lead in the roots is passive, and the major part of the element is kept at a certain level in roots and in the tissue accumulators (inner and outer cortex) [29], but in its sufficient quantity, it can be absorbed by leaves from the air [149]. This is probably the main way of absorption and accumulation of lead by leaves of woody plants [173]. This confirms the fact of the higher lead content in the tree leaves of the cities of the Balkan countries, where sampling is performed in urban heavy traffic areas in comparison with the parks in Russia. For example, high concentration of many metals and toxic elements in dust in Sofia was observed, e.g., up to 192 mg/kg of Pb, 8 mg/kg of As, 123 mg/kg of Cu, 710 mg/kg of Zn, etc. [98].

It was established that leaves of woody plants are suitable for biomonitoring of elements in urban environments, and in the Mediterranean for that purpose such species as *Quercus ilex* was used [2, 3, 88, 174]. However, as it was demonstrated in our study, most of the examined species of trees and shrubs react to the polymetallic pollution accumulating some of these elements.

Of all studied species, only in *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Betula pendula*, *Tilia cordata*, *Populus nigra*, *Crataegus sanguinea* and *monogyna*, and *Cornus alba*, combined effect of polymetallic contamination with Mn, Fe, Ni, Pb, and Zn causes stable morphological changes, namely, decrease of vitality, appearance of necrosis, and chlorosis of leaves (Figs. 5.8 and 5.10; Table 5.6).

Table 5.6 The possibility of using the studied species of woody plants for bioremediation of soils contaminated with heavy metals (Gorelova et al. [98, 99, 101, 102, 145, 175])

Species	Vitality/ steadiness to polymetallic pollution	Morphological changes	Ability to bioaccumulate heavy metals under the influence of polymetallic contamination, mg/kg/concentration factor in relation to the reference plants
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	2–3/–, the death of up to 30% of trees at planting	Regional and interveinal necrosis of leaves	Fe—970–1388/6.5–9 Ni—4.5/3 Cu—12.8–15.4/1.3–1.5 Pb—5.6/5
<i>Betula pendula</i>	1–2/+	Point necrosis of leaves	Mn—240–340/1.2–1.7 Fe—800–940/5–6 Ni—4.3–6.1/3–4 Zn—99–156/2–3 Pb—5.6/5
<i>Populus nigra</i>	3/–	Necrosis of leaves, dry branches in the crown, dieback	Fe—500–1580/3–11 Ni—5–7.2/3–5 Zn—127–171/2.5–3.4 Cd—0.58–0.66/11–13 Pb—8.1/8
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	2/+	Necrosis of the the leaf margin, chloroses	Fe—1780–2570/11–17 Pb—6.9/7
<i>Larix sibirica</i>	1/+	–	Fe—1210–3640/8–24
<i>Crataegus sanguinea</i>	2/+ in the absence of pruning	25–28% necrotic spots on the leaves	Cl—1720–2560/2 V—2.9–5.5/6–11 Fe—1780–3400/12–23 Ni—4.5–5.5/3–3.7 Cu—26/2.5
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	2/+ in the absence of pruning	10–37% regional and interveinal necrosis and chloroses of leaves	V—4.7/9 Fe—457–2470/3–16 Ni—16.6–34.7/11–23 Cu—14/1.4
<i>Cornus alba</i>	2/+ depends on the emissions components	24–28% necrosis of the the leaf margin, chloroses, pest insect damage (aphid)	Cr—6.5/4 Fe—2050–8930/14–59
<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	1–2/+	9% regional and interveinal necrosis of leaves, chloroses	Mn—336/1.5 Fe—2860–7260/19–48 Ni—5–23/3–15 Cd—0.123/2.5 Pb—1.4–8.1/1.4–8
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	1–2/+	4–5% point necrosis of leaves	V—4.4/9 Cr—4.2–5.6/3–3.5
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	1/+	4–5% necrosis of the the leaf margin	Cl—4460/22 V—3/6 Cr—5.2/3.4 Fe—810–2310/5–15
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	1/+	7%—necrosis of the the leaf margin, chloroses	Cl—4830/24 V—5.3/10 Fe—430–735/3–5 Pb—1.4–17/1.4–17

This fact demonstrates preference of using the given species for bioindication. It is known that the meaning of bioindicator and biomonitor is not identical [148]. Due to this fact, the choice of biomonitors should be based on the whole set of features. The recommended biomonitors in heavy metal pollution areas are *Populus nigra*, *Betula pendula*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus* as concentrations of all studied elements in polymetallic pollution increase sharply in these species (Table 5.6). The other species can be used for biomonitoring selectively, given the species specificity of the absorption of elements.

On the contrary, for phytoremediation it is more reasonable to use species which have directed adaptive changes and which preserve normal vitality in the conditions of polymetallic contamination.

The number of accumulating elements in this case diminishes, but duration of detoxication of the environment increases. According to the results obtained, *Betula pendula*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Tilia cordata* and *Larix sibirica*, and *Cotoneaster lucidus* belong to such species.

5.4.2 Transfer Factor of Elements in Trees and Shrub Leaves from the Soil

Heavy metals enter plants in two ways: by absorbing root system and by uptake through the aboveground organs. An objective criterion, which characterizes the efficiency of accumulation of chemical elements, is the factor of biological accumulation or transfer factor (TF) [176]. To identify possible sources of contamination, it is also important to know the level of air pollution [177]. Part of pollutants are rather hygroscopic and can penetrate the epidermis and stomata in the form of tiny particles as well as a concentrated solution, causing water shortages and promoting early defoliation [178].

The results of the calculation of transfer factor (TF) for woody plants in the buffer site of metallurgical enterprises are shown in Tables 5.7 and 5.8. For most heavy metals, the values of TF are within 0.01–0.2. However, for some species, specificity of accumulation of elements in leaves relatively their concentration in the soil was observed. For example, for *Populus* leaves known as accumulator of heavy metals, the TF for Cd > 1 and it is 5–15 times higher than for other species. These values of TF may be associated with foliar absorption. Poplar leaves secrete sticky substances that promote the transition of insoluble compounds of aerosol particles in the soluble forms of active transport in the leaves cells [94]. However, under the increase of Cd content in the soil, we observed decrease of TF in five times (sampling point I), which is clearly associated with increased barrier function of the root system. Because of bioaccumulation from the soil, the content of Zn in the *Populus* species was higher than its total content in the soil. However, when Zn concentration exceeded the maximal permissible level in the soil by two times, as well as in the case of cadmium, the TF decreased due to barrier function of the roots.

Table 5.7 TF of woody plant leaves in buffer site of metallurgical enterprises (Tula, Russia)

Species	Sampling point	Mn	Fe	Ni	Zn	Cd	Pb
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	I	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.13	0.08	0.03
	II	0.29	0.03	0.08	0.35	0.62	0.02
	Control point	0.16	0.03	0.08	0.58	0.65	0.02
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	I	0.01	0.06	0.10	0.17	0.03	0.06
	II	0.10	0.02	0.04	0.26	0.15	0.02
	Control point	0.11	0.02	0.04	0.49	0.24	0.02
<i>Betula pendula</i>	I	0.03	0.05	0.09	0.66	0.13	0.06
	II	0.37	0.03	0.16	0.79	0.54	0.02
	Control point	0.06	0.02	0.11	0.82	0.24	0.02
<i>Populus nigra</i>	I	0.03	0.11	0.11	0.73	0.50	0.09
	II	0.10	0.01	0.19	1.01	2.54	0.02
	Control point	0.03	0.02	0.05	1.91	1.59	0.02
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	I	0.01	0.07	0.07	0.15	0.08	0.01
	II	0.14	0.03	0.05	0.33	0.31	0.02
	Control point	0.17	0.02	0.08	0.63	0.59	0.02

Table 5.8 TF of shrub leaves in buffer site of metallurgical enterprises (Tula, Russia)

Species	Samling point	Mn	Fe	Ni	Zn	Cu	Cd	Pb
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Control point	0.14	0.04	0.09	0.94	0.22	0.0013	0.019
	I	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.0002	0.009
	II	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.38	0.11	0.0002	0.024
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Control point	0.22	0.02	0.18	0.98	0.37	0.0018	0.015
	I	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.12	0.15	0.0007	0.006
	II	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.25	0.19	0.0004	0.020
<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	Control point	0.24	0.06	0.18	0.41	0.31	0.0013	0.026
	I	0.01	0.32	0.65	0.06	0.10	0.0003	0.016
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Control point	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.39	0.27	0.0003	0.028
	I	0.01	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.10	0.0002	0.015
	II	0.12	0.07	0.05	0.11	0.28	0.0003	0.652
<i>Crataegus monogina</i>	Control point	0.03	0.04	0.59	0.47	0.21	0.0012	0.037
	I	0.01	0.23	0.97	0.09	0.30	0.0005	0.008
	II	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.17	0.12	0.0005	0.049
<i>Crataegus sanguinea</i>	Control point	0.18	0.02	0.17	0.48	0.25	0.0014	0.027
	I	0.01	0.01	0.15	0.21	0.17	0.0004	0.013
	II	0.03	0.05	0.12	0.15	0.68	0.0001	0.026
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Control point	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.39	0.20	0.0003	0.025
	I	0.01	0.61	0.04	0.09	0.11	0.0002	0.016
	II	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.15	0.09	0.0002	0.016
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Control point	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.55	0.30	0.0014	0.022
	I	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.0015	0.008

A reduction of the TF, while excess of the maximal permissible levels (MPL) in the soil of the total content of Ni, Zn, and Cd for *A. platanoides*; of Mn, Zn, and Cd for *Aesculus hippocastanum*; and of Mn, Zn, Cd, and Pb for *Tilia cordata*, is also observed (Table 5.7). For phytoextraction of heavy metals from soils, most advisable species are those in which the barrier mechanisms are not working at high concentrations of elements in the environment; however, the mechanism of physiological adaptation and TF increases compared to the background site. When selecting plants for phytoremediation, it is important to consider also species specificity in the accumulation of individual elements. The results obtained showed that with increasing Fe concentration in the medium in all species studied increased the value of TF for the transport from soil to leaves (Tables 5.5 and 5.6). For the sampling site (I), an increase in the value of TF for Fe may be due to foliar absorption element from aerosol particles (the concentration of elements in the air increases). However, due to the fact that iron is an element, concentrated mainly in the roots [108], for all kinds of woody plants, TF values for Fe would be considered low compared with the values for Cd and Zn, due to the barrier function of endoderm and low transport capacity of elements in the acropetal direction.

The average TF for investigated woody plants is as follows:

Mn—0.01...0.37 and maximal for *Betula pendula*
 Fe—0.01...0.61, maximal for *Cornus alba*
 Ni—0.04...0.18, but for *Crataegus monogyna* 0.97
 Zn—0.06...0.48, maximally for *Cornus alba*
 Cu—0.09...0.68, maximally for *Crataegus sanguinea*
 Cd—0.0002...0.0018
 Pb—0.009...0.049 but for *Phyladelphus coronarius* 0.65

For the species which TF of elements is greater than 0.2 (Tab. 5.7, 5.8) the bioremediation of soils from heavy metals will last for 2–10 years (depending on leaves biomass formed during the growing season, water content in leaves, nutrition areas, and the species values of TF) in the absence of additional receipt of heavy metals from the environment.

5.5 Statistical Analysis of the Results

One of the methods to identify the main trends in the intake of elements from the environment is multivariate statistical analysis. We carried out correlation, cluster, and factor analyses of the results of the study, which allowed to identify the main elements—environmental pollutants and their groups. Figure 5.17 shows the dendrogram of groups of elements, which woody plants bioaccumulated from the environment.

Results of cluster analysis clearly distinguished group of elements, which can be divided into several categories:

Group 1: Ca-K are elements-antagonists which play an important role in creating an osmotic pressure in plant cells and the regulation of processes in the plant.

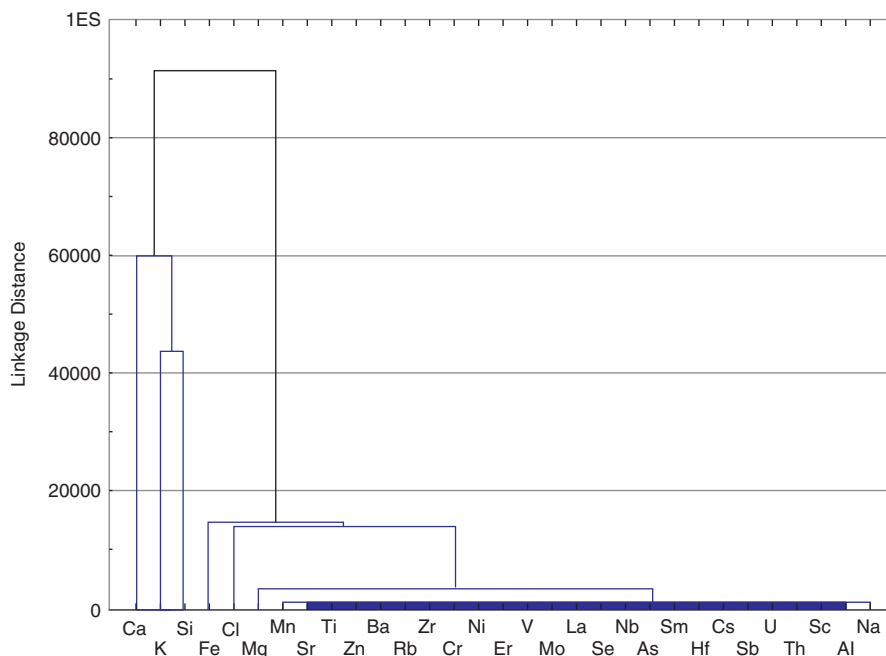


Fig. 5.17 Cluster analysis of bioaccumulation of the elements from the polluted environment by woody plants

Group 2: K-Si are biologically essential elements. Si can be included in the composition of cell walls of plants.

Group 3: Combined elements are organogenic (essential elements) Ca, K, Si, Fe, Cl, and Mg.

Group 4: Combined elements—environmental contaminants of the region Fe, Cl, Mn, Sr, and Ti, associated with soil and ferrous metallurgy.

Group 5: Soil elements and pollutants associated with the processing of ores.

Group 6: The components of the metallurgical and defense industry that can be combined into a conglomerate entering the plant, including root uptake from soil resuspension and atmospheric deposition.

Correlation analysis (Table 5.9) of bioaccumulation of elements by woody plants growing along highways of industrially contaminated city reflects the bioaccumulation characteristics of plants and components of the environmental pollution from the activity of enterprises, highlighting element group and links between them.

Ca-Mg are divalent essential elements with the same way of transport play an important role in the life of plants (Mg is a component of chlorophyll, the regulator of photosynthesis processes, Ca is a regulator of cellular immunity, enzymatic processes in the cell, component of microtubules and is a cell wall component).

Elements that can substitute each other in the biochemical processes in plants are K-Rb and Ca-Sr.

Elements associated with the soil particles are Na-Mg, Na-Al, and Ca-Al.

Table 5.9 Correlation analysis of the element bioaccumulation in woody plants growing near highways

	Nb	Mg	Al	K	Ca	Sc	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Ni	Co	Cu	Zn	As	Se	Rb	Sr	Zr	Mo	Ag	Cd	Nd	Sm	Eu	Tb	Yb	Hf	Ta	W	Hg	Th	U					
Nb	1.00																																					
Mg	0.56	1.00																																				
Al	0.74	0.63	1.00																																			
K	0.47	0.46	0.37	1.00																																		
Ca	0.48	0.74	0.57	0.35	1.00																																	
Sc	0.16	0.05	0.30	0.31	0.13	1.00																																
V	0.42	0.34	0.72	0.05	0.34	0.14	1.00																															
Cr	-0.15	-0.16	0.08	-0.04	-0.24	0.26	0.17	1.00																														
Mn	0.09	0.34	0.32	0.02	0.32	0.12	0.52	-0.07	1.00																													
Fe	0.45	0.52	0.82	0.29	0.44	0.31	0.78	0.23	0.53	1.00																												
Ni	-0.21	-0.23	-0.02	-0.07	-0.28	0.04	0.17	0.86	-0.06	0.17	1.00																											
Co	0.17	0.11	0.31	0.05	0.06	0.49	0.27	0.62	0.08	0.30	0.28	1.00																										
Cu	0.19	0.13	0.12	0.21	0.24	-0.01	0.01	-0.23	0.16	0.00	-0.27	0.09	1.00																									
Zn	0.36	0.14	0.14	0.09	0.11	-0.14	0.00	-0.42	0.14	0.01	-0.40	-0.22	0.25	1.00																								
As	0.36	0.37	0.26	0.27	0.38	-0.08	0.07	-0.68	0.12	0.13	-0.58	-0.44	0.11	0.35	1.00																							
Se	0.09	0.12	0.27	0.19	0.07	0.62	0.17	0.54	0.03	0.31	0.28	0.59	-0.08	-0.14	-0.23	1.00																						
Rb	0.26	0.29	0.17	0.65	0.19	0.17	-0.08	-0.12	-0.12	0.12	-0.11	-0.08	0.19	-0.01	0.30	0.13	1.00																					
Sr	0.49	0.45	0.51	0.29	0.68	0.14	0.31	-0.32	0.13	0.36	-0.33	-0.12	0.07	0.16	0.54	0.17	0.44	1.00																				
Zr	0.01	0.01	0.19	0.17	-0.06	0.54	0.12	0.74	-0.05	0.25	0.35	0.84	0.06	-0.34	-0.50	0.68	0.04	-0.17	1.00																			
Mo	0.06	0.01	0.03	-0.06	0.07	-0.11	-0.06	-0.16	0.15	-0.03	-0.14	-0.13	0.02	0.00	0.03	-0.11	-0.06	0.05	-0.15	1.00																		
Ag	-0.06	-0.03	0.12	0.07	-0.14	0.47	0.09	0.76	-0.04	0.20	0.40	0.78	-0.01	-0.20	-0.56	0.72	-0.06	-0.24	0.92	-0.18	1.00																	
Cd	0.11	0.24	0.28	0.34	0.18	0.37	0.22	0.54	0.10	0.29	0.28	0.61	0.07	-0.16	-0.43	0.55	0.09	-0.05	0.72	-0.11	0.76	1.00																
Nd	-0.04	0.19	0.16	0.13	0.06	0.39	0.06	0.36	0.14	0.21	0.08	0.46	0.03	0.20	-0.19	0.66	0.01	-0.03	0.57	-0.14	0.74	0.65	1.00															
Sm	0.36	0.44	0.68	0.44	0.47	0.37	0.64	-0.08	0.57	0.77	-0.13	0.13	0.07	-0.08	0.27	0.17	0.14	0.46	0.07	-0.02	-0.02	0.19	0.10	1.00														
Eu	-0.23	-0.10	0.10	0.18	0.01	0.58	-0.06	0.17	-0.01	-0.02	0.10	0.20	-0.12	-0.32	-0.01	0.57	0.25	0.20	0.32	-0.17	0.34	0.33	0.40	0.22	1.00													
Tb	-0.06	0.10	0.15	0.02	0.11	0.30	0.11	0.04	0.29	0.23	-0.09	0.24	0.02	0.33	-0.04	0.42	-0.08	0.03	0.20	-0.12	0.43	0.39	0.76	0.19	0.30	1.00												
Yb	-0.23	-0.13	-0.03	0.02	-0.22	0.31	0.04	0.75	-0.07	0.09	0.64	0.46	-0.21	-0.14	-0.48	0.64	-0.08	-0.27	0.60	-0.22	0.78	0.62	0.66	-0.13	0.49	0.46	1.00											
Hf	-0.06	0.00	0.14	0.04	-0.11	0.44	0.09	0.76	-0.05	0.21	0.39	0.79	-0.02	-0.21	-0.57	0.67	-0.12	-0.28	0.94	-0.15	0.98	0.75	0.72	-0.04	0.25	0.38	0.73	1.00										
Ta	-0.18	0.00	-0.10	0.06	-0.07	0.19	-0.06	0.15	0.03	-0.04	0.03	0.23	-0.02	0.21	-0.17	0.43	-0.06	-0.15	0.33	-0.17	0.55	0.51	0.77	-0.09	0.45	0.71	0.68	0.50	1.00									
W	0.24	0.25	0.42	0.22	0.32	0.24	0.34	0.18	0.20	0.39	0.07	0.33	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.48	0.19	0.40	0.31	0.00	0.35	0.46	0.49	0.41	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.29	0.35	1.00								
Hg	-0.02	0.07	0.11	0.23	0.10	0.53	0.01	0.22	-0.08	0.14	0.03	0.32	-0.05	-0.29	0.11	0.54	0.27	0.29	0.51	-0.31	0.42	0.30	0.35	0.26	0.69	0.13	0.38	0.39	0.31	0.34	1.00							
Th	0.55	0.50	0.80	0.34	0.39	0.47	0.57	0.34	0.31	0.78	0.14	0.46	-0.09	0.08	0.06	0.54	0.14	0.35	0.44	-0.04	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.60	0.08	0.32	0.25	0.43	0.09	0.51	0.20	1.00						
U	0.65	0.50	0.81	0.30	0.38	0.36	0.65	0.11	0.24	0.63	0.00	0.36	0.08	0.05	0.24	0.33	0.15	0.41	0.23	-0.02	0.18	0.31	0.19	0.53	0.03	0.11	0.03	0.18	-0.04	0.39	0.18	0.72	1.00					

Contaminants of city soil and particulate emissions into the atmosphere from components of metallurgical production and processing of ore are Fe-V, Fe-Mn, Cr-Ni, Cr-Co, and Sr-As.

Groups with a high correlation between heavy metals and rare earth element-pollutants of the atmosphere and soil of the city, originate from the sources of plant pollution—enterprises of the defense industry, instrumentation, and metallurgy.

Multivariate statistical analysis revealed three factors (Table 5.10):

Factor 1 is associated with ores used for production of steel and alloys.

Factor 2 can be attributed to technogenic pollution (metallurgical production) and soil particles.

Factor 3 is associated with physiological activity of plants.

Table 5.10 Factor analysis of elements bioaccumulation by woody plants

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
Na	-0.14	0.73	0.11
Mg	-0.08	0.72	0.30
Al	0.11	0.92	0.05
S	-0.13	0.17	0.04
Cl	0.15	0.29	0.32
K	0.05	0.35	0.54
Ca	-0.16	0.67	0.34
Sc	0.53	0.22	0.34
Ti	-0.12	0.44	0.00
V	0.13	0.77	-0.21
Cr	0.83	0.00	-0.37
Mn	-0.03	0.56	-0.01
Fe	0.23	0.85	-0.05
Ni	0.53	-0.07	-0.44
Co	0.78	0.27	-0.11
Cu	-0.13	0.14	0.25
Zn	-0.31	0.20	0.13
As	-0.60	0.29	0.49
Se	0.77	0.17	0.27
Br	-0.03	0.30	0.62
Rb	-0.07	0.12	0.60
Sr	-0.24	0.51	0.47
Zr	0.90	0.10	0.03
Mo	-0.21	0.05	-0.14
Ag	0.96	0.03	0.02
Cd	0.76	0.23	0.21
In	-0.28	0.16	0.16
Sb	-0.14	0.56	0.21
I	-0.09	0.64	0.04

(continued)

Table 5.10 (continued)

	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
Ba	0.23	0.39	-0.04
Cs	0.54	0.38	0.16
Nd	0.72	0.11	0.34
Sm	0.04	0.72	0.23
Eu	0.46	-0.20	0.62
Tb	0.43	0.13	0.28
Dy	0.08	0.25	0.43
Yb	0.84	-0.15	0.06
Hf	0.94	0.04	-0.04
Ta	0.54	-0.17	0.38
W	0.38	0.38	0.38
Au	-0.04	0.20	0.14
Hg	0.46	-0.02	0.59
Th	0.43	0.77	0.06
U	0.18	0.77	0.07
Expl. var	9.35	8.25	4.12
Prp. totl	0.21	0.19	0.09

5.6 Conclusion

- Woody plants can be good bioindicators of the environmental pollution with heavy metals (air and soil) affecting the morphological parameters: the development of necrosis and leaf chlorosis between 25 and 98% for unresisting species to pollution. For the purposes of bioindication, species of woody plants such as *Populus nigra*, *Tilia cordata*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Cornus alba*, *Crataegus monogina*, and *Crataegus sanguinea* can be used.
- Analysis of the dust particles on the surface of woody plant leaves using method of electron scanning microscopy can be used as the qualitative method for analysis of components of aerosol emissions and allows one to establish the presence and ratio of the components on the leaf surface that reflects the air pollution.
- Woody plant species can be used as biomonitor of technogenic emissions due to their ability to bioaccumulate Cl, V, Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Cu, As, Cd, and Pb which characterize the anthropogenic pollution of soil and air (compared to background values or control zone):
 - *Acer platanoides*—Cl, V, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, As, and Cd
 - *Aesculus hippocastanum*—Ni, Cu, As, and Pb
 - *Betula pendula*—Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, and Pb
 - *Cotoneaster lucidus*—Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Cd, and Pb
 - *Crataegus monogyna*—Fe and Ni
 - *Larix sibirica*—Fe and Pb
 - *Philadelphus coronarius*—Pb and Sb
 - *Populus nigra*—Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, and Pb
 - *Salix fragilis*—Cl, V, Mn, Ni, Zn, As, and Cd
 - *Tilia cordata*—Cl, Mn, Ni, and Cd

Most of the studied species are good biomonitors to study contamination of soil and air with iron.

- Woody plants which form a large biomass of leaves per season are able to absorb heavy metals to the extent exceeding several times the values characteristic for the reference plants. This allows to recommend them for phytoremediation of the environment from heavy metals:
- *Aesculus hippocastanum*—Ni, Cu, As, and Pb
- *Betula pendula*—Mn, Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, and Pb
- *Crataegus sanguinea* and *C. monogina*—Cl, V, Fe, Ni, and Cu
- *Cornus alba*—Cr and Fe
- *Cotoneaster lucidus*—Mn, Fe, Ni, Cd, and Pb
- *Syringa vulgaris*—Cl, V, Cr, Fe, and Cu
- *Sorbus aucuparia*—Fe and Pb
- *Philadelphus coronarius*—Pb and Sb
- *Populus nigra*—Fe, Ni, Zn, Cd, and Pb
- *Larix sibirica*—Fe and Pb
- Analysis of element transfer from the soil into the leaf biomass of woody plants (TF) has shown that for a number of elements (Ni, Cd, Zn), increase of their content in the soil leads to decreased transfer of these elements in the leaves of woody plants. That fact could be a sign of the barrier function of the root system.

Relatively high values of TF (0.2–1) for the elements Fe (species *Crataegus sanguinea* and *C. monogina*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Cornus alba*), Cu (species *Crataegus sanguinea* and *C. monogina*, *Philadelphus coronarius*), Zn (species *Acer platanoides*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Betula pendula*, *Crataegus sanguinea*, *Betula pendula*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Populus nigra*), Cd (species *Acer platanoides*, *Betula pendula*, *Populus nigra*, *Tilia cordata*), and Pb (*Philadelphus coronarius*) in woody plants confirm the possibility of their use for phytoremediation from the enlisted elements.

- When selecting plants for phytoremediation, it is important to consider that species of *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Crataegus* sp., *Cornus alba*, and *Populus nigra* are not resistant to the integrated pollution with heavy metals. Species *Betula pendula*, *Cotoneaster lucidus*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Philadelphus coronarius*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, and *Larix sibirica* are resistant to high level of pollution (have normal vitality) and can be used in the creation of sanitary-protective zones of metallurgical enterprises and greenbelts.
- Methods of statistical analysis (correlation and factor analysis) in the processing of the biogeochemical composition of leaves of woody plants allow to clearly reveal group of elements polluting the study area.

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