

Abstract

This work highlights the importance of green spaces in an urban environment not only for human and his activities, but especially for the biotic element of environment. To these artificial ecosystems, despite their non-productive function, people provide deluxe services such as irrigation and fertilization. This is also reflected in the change of biogeochemical cycles, especially the carbon and nitrogen cycle. The work focuses on the issue of expansion of non-native plant and animal species and extrusion of native species from their natural habitat. By this process the native species are highly threatened in urban environments.

The questionnaire survey examined the ability of the respondents, how they can detect semi-natural ecosystems from artificial ecosystems, which have been divided into several categories (choices for artificial ecosystems were: ornamental, romantic and close to nature parks and gardens and choices for natural ecosystems were: forest ecosystems, forest steppe, grassland and aquatic ecosystems). There were examined also emotions, which were invoked by different types of landscapes at respondents, and their preference for self-relaxation in different types of landscapes.

Keywords: natural ecosystems, urban ecosystems, biodiversity