

ARE ALLELOPATHIC INTERACTION A „NOVEL WEAPON” OF ALIEN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES ?
CONTROVERSIAL REPORTS ON THE ROLE OF CATECHIN IN *CENTAUREA MACULOSA*
INVASION

Summary

Catechin, a putative allelochemical of *Centaurea maculosa*, has been proposed to mediate invasion of this species in the prairie of USA. It was earlier reported that catechin was present in high concentration in the soil, and may be lethal to neighboring plants. More detailed experiments carried out on soil samples taken from long-term knapweed infest-

ed sites in USA shaded doubt on the importance of this chemical in *C. maculosa* invasion success. The paper presents a comparison of the results obtained by the two opposite research groups investigating the hypothesis concerning possible involvement of catechin as a “novel weapon” in “allelopathic advantage against resident species”.