

PRESSURE OF ALIEN ORGANISMS ON TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS OF MARITIME ANTARCTIC

Summary

Due to geographic and historical isolation of the Antarctic continent, there are currently very few alien species introduced to the terrestrial ecosystems. However, due to increased man-made pressure and amelioration of climate in this region, the threat of the establishment of non-native species will grow markedly. Many diaspores can be quite easily, unintentionally transported in good condition to the

Antarctic with research stations supplies. Flexible species are characterized by a very wide ecological amplitude, high adaptation capabilities and diverse ways of reproduction. They may thrive under harsh environmental conditions and colonize recipient ecosystems. The impact of those organisms will be unpredictable.