

POA ANNUA – NEW INVASIVE SPECIES IN ANTARCTIC VASCULAR FLORA

Summary

Poa annua is one of the most ubiquitous plant species found around the World. It is already present at all continents and climatic zones. It is also established in maritime Antarctic in the vicinity of Polish Antarctic Station “Arctowski” (King George Island, South Shetland Islands), where it developed stable population, initially only in the anthropogenic, followed by natural habitats. The wide distribution of

P. annua resulted from its high diversity. This species is characterized by phenotypic high variability, which is response on diverse edaphic and climatic factors, as well as high genetic variability. Most recent studies shows high epigenetic diversity is resulted in that huge plasticity and rapid response to diverse environmental conditions of this species.