

„INVASIONAL MELTDOWN” – COICIDENT OR A RULE?

Summary

Non-indigenous species are one of the most important threats to biodiversity. The paper presents four hypotheses regarding possible establishment of alien species in the newly occupied ecosystems: “biotic resistance”, „intermediate disturbance hypothesis”, „enemy release hypothesis” and „invasional meltdown. Particular attention is given to the „invasional meltdown” hypothesis, which suggests that positive interactions between non-indigenous spe-

cies may influence their invasion success. Examples supporting “invasional meltdown” hypothesis (i. a. positive interactions between pontocaspian species in the Great Lakes) as well as these rejecting this hypothesis (negative impact of alien Asian shore crab on non-indigenous green crab) are shown. Furthermore, relationships between alien species in Polish freshwaters, which may confirm „invasional meltdown” are also presented.