

DOROTA DWUŹNIK, ANNA BAJER

Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Biology, University of Warsaw, Miecznikowa 1, 02-096 Warszawa,

E-mail: dorota.dwuznik@biol.uw.edu.pl

PARASITES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Summary

Urbanization is a process exerting high impact on many plant and animal species, causing mainly decrease of biodiversity. As a result of intensive human activity, there occur degradation and devastation of natural habitats. Constant sprawl of urban areas leads to expansion of these species into cities. This process, known as synurbization, consists of adjustment of a species to specific conditions of the urban environment. Cities also pose a challenge to parasites, which appear on the outskirts of cities, accompanying their hosts. The key factor determining occurrence of parasites in the urban environment is their tolerance to many kinds and high levels of pollution, as well as transmission efficiency and availability of both intermediate and final hosts. This paper concerns mainly urban areas of temperate climate.

Key words: biodiversity, parasites, synurbization, urban environment, urbanization