SPREADING OF POLLUTANTS BY MIGRATING ANIMALS

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Different species of game animals demonstrated high variability of heavy metal content in different organs and tissues. Animals are often exposed to heavy metal pollution within their ranges and on migration pathways. Age-related patterns of heavy metal accumulation in the animal body may be significantly modified by environmental pollution and the trophic substrates consumed. Some young wild boar individuals contained more lead and cadmium than did old ones. Pollutant content in the organism of White-fronted Geese varied widely, irrespective of the age. Cadmium content in the blood of some birds returning from wintering areas was many times higher than max permissible concentrations for foodstuffs. A correlation is found between pollution levels in the body and heavy metal content in hair, bristles or plumage. Hence, the state of the environment and pollution of the animal organisms can be controlled using hair or plumage. A potential additional test object for waterfowl is fat covering their feathers.

HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT AND MODERN CONDITION OF BEAVER (*CASTOR FIBER*) POPULATION IN THE TADENKA RIVER BASIN (PRIOKSKO-TERRASNYI BIOSPHERE RESERVE)

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