

# **Ecological Questions**

The fundamental task set by the editors of the journal is to bring together and present a diversity of research connected with ecology. Apart from the traditional ecological research areas, the scope of the journal will embrace more peripheral ecological issues connected with other disciplines of biology. Recognising the increasing importance of the humanities in ecological research, the editors will strive to give such issues due representation in the journal. We hope to encourage the researchers contributing to the journal to adopt an unconventional approach to solving ecological problems, to go beyond classical, well-established conceptions, and to include methodological and anthropological issues. Such an approach is validated by the intensive development of the sciences bordering on both biology and the humanities that has been observed over recent years.

As suggested by the title of the journal – *Ecological Questions* – we would like it to become a forum for an interdisciplinary debate which would raise difficult and controversial questions. As modern ecology abounds in such sensitive for issues, we offer publication opportunities to those who feel ready to respond to such challenges.

The following types of papers are accepted:

**Regular research papers** are presenting the results of basic research and are limited usually to 30 normalised, typed pages including illustrations and references (see *Instructions and Information for Authors*). **Short research contributions or research notes** (limited to 8–10 and 4–6 pages respectively) are presenting brief or specific research results, new methods, models, etc. **Comments** – short papers (up to 6 pages) containing the opinions and responses to already published articles in EQ or the contributions to current scientific discussion. They are published (if necessary) together with reply of the respective author(s).

Ghostwriting and guest authorship are not acceptable.

All types of papers are reviewed by two anonymous reviewers.

All papers are published only in English.

The journal is published in up to four issues per year.

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# Ecological Questions

An International Journal  
on Controversial Problems  
of Ecology

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## Foreword

At present, more than two-thirds of the European population live in urban areas. In many countries, people continually migrate from villages to cities, which contributes to a continuous increase in the urbanization index of these countries. Cities have turned into centres where more and more people not only live and work, but also spend their leisure time and enjoy various types of services, the implementation of which enhances the entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. Further development of cities and towns must continue in a sustainable way, i.e. – in accordance with UNESCO recommendations – in a manner intended to satisfy the aspirations of the present generation, and at the same time allowing the implementation of the same aspirations of the future generations. Because of the increasing urbanization, eco-cities have recently become very popular. Measures undertaken to create such urban systems are primarily designed not only for the welfare of their residents, but also of the environment. This means that they aim at building a harmony between human activity and the structure and functioning of nature. A city should become a better place to live, and actions defined above should be inspired by the motto: “life is possible in green cities”.

Problems related to environmental conditions in towns and cities were partly dealt with in Issue 18 of *Ecological Questions*. Issue 19 with 11 papers continues the aforementioned problems, though with much greater emphasis put on the concept of eco-cities. The first paper of the current issue presents the biota of lichens occurring on the larch bark in different towns of the Podlasie region. The second paper describes five species from the genus *Thelidium*, with many sites located in industrial and urban areas of the Kujawy region.

The next two papers concern vascular vegetation. The first of them presents spatial changes in the green biomass of the vegetation along the streets. The second paper presents how experimental drilling, expansion and reconstruction of gas pipelines, as well as the accompanying intensification of transport between industrial centres of exploration and production of natural gas cause changes in the distribution and resources of *Lagochilus acutilobus* populations – a rare and interesting species – in the Ustyurt plateau in Uzbekistan.

The three other papers deal with animal ecology. The first paper of this group presents research on effectiveness of nematodes derived from natural environments in the control of insect pests which destroy plant cultivations established also in urban areas. The second paper presents an assessment of water quality in small water bodies in Kraków. The assessment was performed in terms of amphibian population protection in this town. The third paper relates to application of GIS technology in the analysis of wolf pack migration in the Bydgoszcz Forest located in the vicinity of three cities and included in the designed metropolitan area of Bydgoszcz and Toruń.

Three further papers are dedicated to the most important issues, i.e. the use of ecosystem services in urban areas and the theoretical and methodological basis of the functioning and creation of eco-cities in Poland and other countries of Europe and North America.

The last (eleventh) paper, written by ecologists from Brasil, introduces analysis of biophysical and economical processes from the perspective of emergy methodology, proposed by Howard T. Odum, while clarifying the relationship between cities and their supporting areas.

We believe that the research results presented in Issue 19 of EQ, as well as numerical data included in each paper will serve as good reference points to make further comparisons of urban systems in time and space.

Editorial Board