

Evaluation of ecological and genetic condition of Rivne city for Micronucleus Test

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Abstract. Bioindication evaluation of air condition in the city of Rivne has been carried out using the micronucleus (MN) test on the oral mucous in under-school-age children. The highest maximum values of MN indices were determined for children who live in the studied test ranges, where the content of CO (carbon oxide) exceeds the maximum permissible concentration. Cytogenetic indicators vary in a wide range of numerical values; moreover, the level of cytogenetic damage is an informative bioindicational feature.

With the monitoring purpose, the researched urban area of Rivne was divided into 12 test ranges with different anthropogenic load; a number of large and small manufacturing firms are situated there. The analysis of statistical and analytical data on the traffic intensity in the city was conducted. The study was also based on the analysis of personal researches, obtained through a comprehensive survey carried out on 167 children in 12 test ranges in 12 preschools, the average age of children was 6-7 years. A total of 64,950 mucosal epithelial cells were explored.

It has been shown that the deterioration of ecological and genetic conditions of the urban environment in test ranges I, II, VI, VII, VIII, XI based on the cell damage level was “below average”, the condition of the children’s organism was “alarming” but the state of the environment has changed from “excellent” to “satisfactory”.

This kind of research can enable observations of the mutagenic background of regions, genetic health, and genetic threats to humans due to harmful factors.

Key words: epithelial cells, micronucleus test, cytogenetic damage, environment, bioindication, mucosa, epitheliocytes, CID.

1. Introduction

As a matter of fact, global pollution of the environment is caused by anthropogenic products, which are characterised by mutagenic activity, pollution influences people’s genetics and the immune system. The pollution of the biosphere components with harmful substances, the nascence of new chemicals, and increased radioactivity threaten the environmental condition, the health of the population and limit the further development of human society (Serdiuk,

1996; Tymchenko & Serdiuk, 1996; Ministerstvo Okhorony Zdorovia Ukrainy, 2007; Klymenko & Melikhova, 2001; Ballarian et al., 1992; Bender, 2002; Schlegel et al, 1986; Sladeczek, 1973; Shirasu et al., 1982).

As a result, there is a necessity of solving such problems as: 1) control of the process of air pollution with mutagens in Rivne; 2) prevention of the growth of mutagenic pollution; 3) learning the nature of the mutagens’ action; 4) searching the tools and methods of protecting living organisms from the negative impact.

Methods of bioindication are used as a way of detecting anthropogenic impact on biocenose. They are based on a research on the variable environmental factors' impact on different characteristics of biological systems. Bioindicators are the most sensitive organisms. Results (changes in the behaviour of the test-object) are estimated in the comparison with the control areas, accepted as a standard (Ministerstvo okhorony zdorovia Ukrainy, 2007; Cairns, 1975; Chakrabarty & Dutta, 1988; Goodnight & Whitley, 1961; Gunneberg, 1992).

The purpose of the work is a clarification of the Rivne ecosystem condition in terms of cytogenetic monitoring.

2. Materials and methods

With the purpose of the monitoring researched area of Rivne city was divided into 12 test ranges with different anthropogenic load, a number of large and small manufacturing firms are situated there. The analysis of statistical and analytical data on the intensity of the flow of vehicles in the city was made. Also, the study was based on the analysis of the personal researches, obtained through a comprehensive survey of 167 children on 12 test ranges in 12 pre-schools, an average age of children was 6-7 years old. 64950 mucosal epithelial cells were explored.

None of the children have concomitant somatic diseases. Clinical study included an assessment of the data history, which was conducted by questioning. An obligatory condition of the study was to research children, who have been living on the test sites at least 4 years. Oral cavity of the preschool children was an object of the cytogenetic studies. Sampling of cells of the oral mucous membrane of children was conducted according to the permits, which were officially granted by the Department of Education and Science of the Rivne Regional State Administration.

Swabs of the oral mucous membrane were taken from the inside of the right and left cheeks, lower lip with the help of an individual spatula followed by putting on the glass slide. Condition of epithelial cells was evaluated by the method suggested by A. Gorovaya (Gorovaya et al., 1995; Gorovaya et al., 1996; Ministerstvo Okhorony Zdorovia Ukrainy, 2007; Feron et al., 2001; Gruter, 1971; Gunneberg, 1992; Grazuleviciene, 1995; Gluck & Gebbers, 2000; Haseman & Hailey, 1997; Horyna & Randa, 1988).

MN-index was calculated from the frequency of cells with micronuclei per one cell (Ministerstvo okhorony zdorovia Ukrainy, 2007; Kuper et al., 1997; Nair, 1991; Nair et al., 1991; Pantle & Buck, 1955; Rosin, 1992). The number of cells with secondary micronuclei characterises the degree of environmental pollution by mutagens

Table 1. MN-index of cells in oral mucous membrane of pre-school children of Rivne city

Researched area	Part of the city	Number of people in a group	Total number of cells	Maximum (x ± a)	Minimum (x ± a)	Average (x ± a)
I – Makarova St II – Verbova St	Northwest	12	4700	0.050±0.003	0.010±0.001	0.037±0.001
		14	4700	0.045±0.003	0.010±0.001	0.033±0.002
III – Konovaltsia St IV – Haharina St	Northeast	14	5700	0.048±0.003	0.010±0.001	0.024±0.001
		15	5850	0.040±0.002	0.010±0.001	0.025±0.002
V – Dubenska St	Southwest	14	6800	0.050±0.003	0.006±0.000	0.027±0.002
VI – Hoholia St	Southeast	19	8350	0.048±0.003	0.013±0.001	0.034±0.001
VII – Lutovska St	Centre	12	4650	0.050±0.003	0.011±0.001	0.028±0.002
VIII – Vidinska St	Southeast	14	5050	0.050±0.003	0.010±0.001	0.036±0.002
IX – Tynne Village X – Lypnia St	Southwest	12	5100	0.030±0.002	0.010±0.001	0.017±0.001
		11	2900	0.030±0.002	0.010±0.001	0.021±0.001
XI – Kn. Olhy St	Southeast	17	6050	0.050±0.003	0.014±0.001	0.029 ±0.001
XII – Drahanchuka St	Southeast	13	5100	0.048±0.003	0.010±0.001	0.024±0.001
Average (x±a)		167	64950	0.045±0.0028	0.01±0.001	0.028±0.001

(Ministerstvo Skhorony Zdorovia Ukrainy, 2007; Mohapatra & Mohanty, 1994; Nersessian, 1992; Rosin, 1992; Sarto et al., 1987), since micronuclei are formed as a result of abnormal mitosis (Gorovaya & Klimkina, 2002; Ajriyan, 1990; Schmid, 1975; Sladeczek, 1965; Spang, 1996; Stich et al., 1982; Sugimura, 1982; Titenko-Holland, 1994; Theman, 1992; Tolbert et al., 1992; Watanabe et al., 1986; Watanabe et al., 1988a, b). Also, the absolute scatter data indicator has been calculated based on the value of the relative error.

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3. Results and discussion

Rivne city is characterized by intense spills caused by stationary and especially removable sources, and their amount is greatly increased during the last decades (Klymenko & Melikhova, 2001). There is a growth of background contamination in Rivne because of the cross-border transfers of pollutants, and it badly influences the condition of the city's atmosphere and ecological state on the basis of mutagen background (Klymenko & Melikhova, 2001).

Results of genetic bioassay for MN-test in the cells of the oral mucosa of pre-schoolers, which was held on 12 test ranges in city kinder gardens, are given in the Table 1. Number of surveyed children (boys and girls) in groups were shifting from 11 to 19 (average 13), and the total number of analyzing cells was from 2,900 to 64,950. The data show that the maximum values of MN-

Table 2. Level of cells damage, state of children's organism, the ecological situation on the grounds for CID indicator (Gorovaya et al., 1995; Gorovaya et al., 1996)

No. of test ground	Number of children	MN-index $\bar{x} \pm a$	CID	Level of cells damage*	State of children's organism according to the cytogenetic status*	Ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background*
I	12	0.037±0.001	0.203	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
II	14	0.033±0.002	0.185	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
III	14	0.024±0.001	0.136	Low	Safe	Satisfactory
IV	15	0.025±0.002	0.138	Low	Safe	Excellent
V	14	0.027±0.002	0.152	Low	Safe	Excellent
VI	19	0.034±0.001	0.200	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
VII	12	0.028±0.002	0.153	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
VIII	14	0.036±0.002	0.199	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
IX	12	0.017±0.001	0.094	Low	Safe	Excellent
X	11	0.021±0.001	0.117	Low	Safe	Excellent
XI	17	0.029 ±0.001	0.163	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
XII	13	0.024±0.001	0.134	Low	Safe	Excellent
In all	167	0.098±0.001	0.156.	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory

Annotation: $P_{\text{comfort}=0}$, $P_{\text{crisis}=0.180}$. * Scale of evaluation of the condition of the bio systems and ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background by methods suggested by Gorovaya (Gorovaya et al., 1995; Gorovaya et al., 1996).

index on the test grounds reached 0,050 points, and their range of changes occurred between 0.03 and 0.05 (average 0.045 ± 0.0023). The highest maximum values of MN-indices were found on I, V, VII, VIII, XI test grounds. Minimum MN-indices (X, IX, XII) did not exceed the values from 0.006 to 0.014 (average 0.01 ± 0.001). At the same time average values of the MN – index were changing from the low 0.017 to the highest 0.037 (aver-

age 0.028 ± 0.001). It is important to point out that the highest figures for average values of cytogenetic indices in the cells of the oral mucosa of children are inherent in the test grounds where there are fabrics and heavy traffic of vehicles, and where the CO content in the air exceeds MPC (Figs 1 and 2), and the lowest values were set for test grounds with one-story buildings (IX) and low intensity traffic.

Table 3. Scale of evaluation of condition of the bio systems and ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background

Value of indicator for MN-test	Indicator of genetic damage	Level of genetic damage	Condition of the bio systems	Ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background
0 – 0.027	0 – 0,150	Low	Safe	Excellent
0.028 – 0.054	0.151 – 0.300	Below average	Alarming	Satisfactory
0.055 – 0.081	0.301 – 0.450	Average	Conflict	Unsatisfactory
0.082 – 0.108	0.451 – 0.600	Above average	Threatening	Unsatisfactory
0.109 – 0.135	0.601 – 0.750	High	Critical	Disastrous
0.136 – 0.180	0.751 – 1.000	Maximum	Dangerous	Disastrous

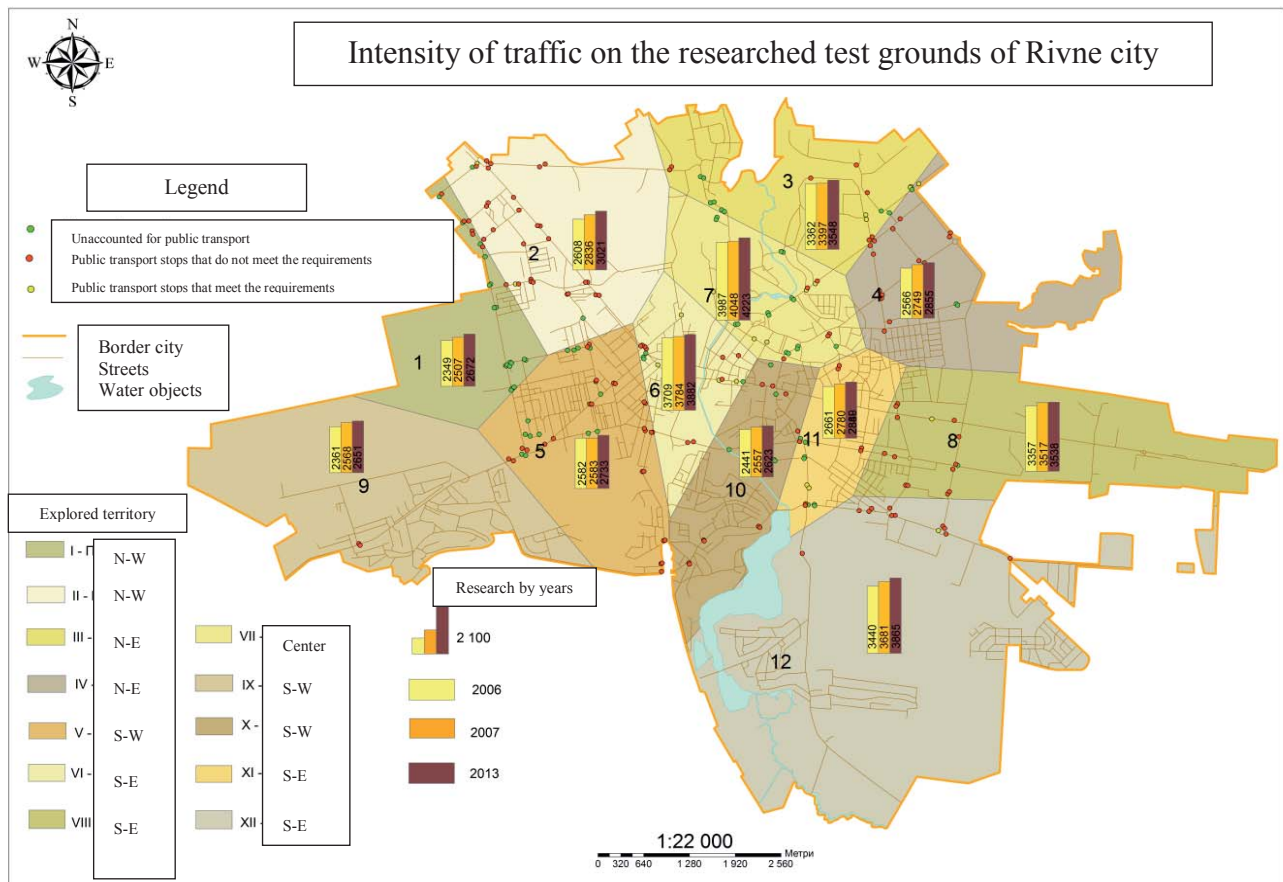


Figure 1. Intensity of traffic on the researched test grounds of Rivne city

The basis of cytogenetic examination of the children of the city conditional indicators of damage (CID) were calculated with the purpose of defining the status of children, the level of cell damage and evaluation of the ecological situation on the test grounds.

In addition, on the basis of cytogenetic examination of the children of the city conditional indicators of damage (CID) were calculated with the purpose of defining the status of children, the level of cell damage and evaluation of the ecological situation on the test grounds (Table 2). Information presented in the Table 2 shows that the maximum values of CID set for I, VI i VIII test grounds (0.203, 0.20, 0.199 accordingly), and the lowest for IX (0.094) та X (0.117). CID values for other test grounds do not differ a lot and are shifting from 0.134 to 0.163.

However, according to the scale of evaluation of the level of genetic damage (Table 3), condition of the bio-systems and evaluation of the ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background, the state of I, II, VI, VIII, XI test grounds was estimated as: «below average» for the level of cell damage; «alarming» for the state of children’s organisms according to the cytogenetic status; «satisfac-

tory» – ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background. At the same time on the test grounds IX, III, XII, X the level of cell damage was estimated as «low», the state of children’s organisms according to the cytogenetic status as «safe», and ecological situation on the basis of mutagenic background as «excellent» (Fig. 3).

The results of the researches show that according to the values of the MN – index of cells in the oral mucous membrane of pre-school children, the ecological situation on the basis of the mutagenic background of the area has changed from “excellent” to “satisfactory” (Fig. 4). Mutagenic background of the area, which got “satisfactory” status, is characterized by the growing anthropogenic load that is formed by total emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere.

Taking into consideration all above mentioned it has become clear that the deterioration of the ecological and genetic condition of the urban environment on the I, II, VI, VII, VIII, XI test grounds by the level of cell damage was “below average”, the condition of the child’s organism was “alarming” but the state of the environment has changed from “excellent” to “satisfactory”. Doing such kind of researches can make it possible to observe the mu-

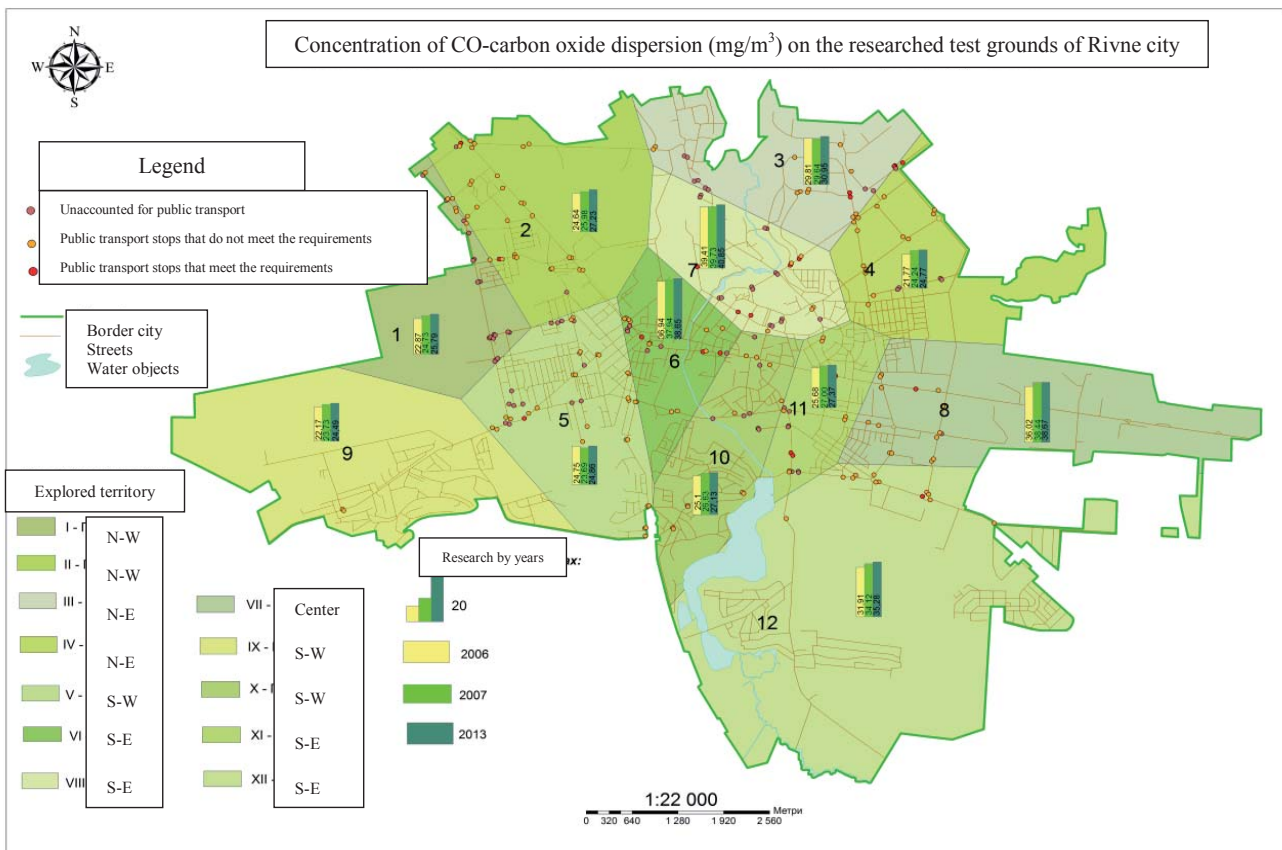


Figure 2. Concentration of CO-carbon oxide dispersion (mg/m³) on the researched test grounds of Rivne city

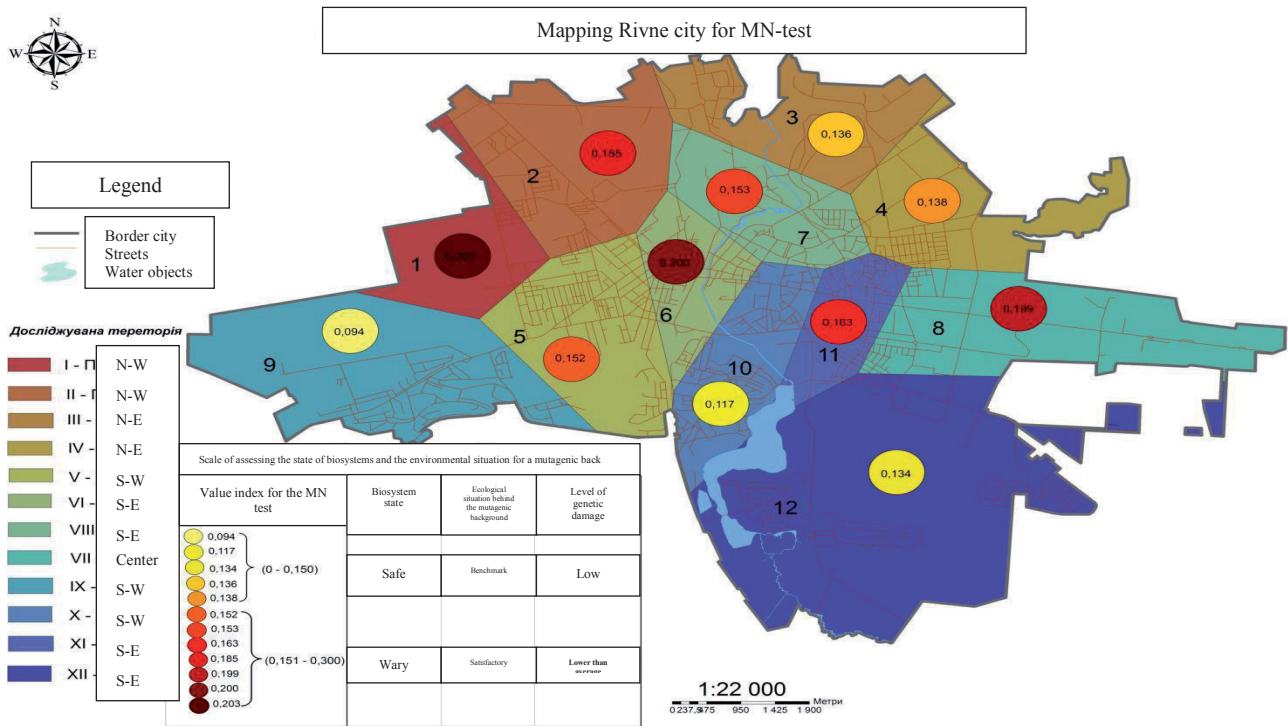


Figure 3. Mapping Rivne city for MN-test

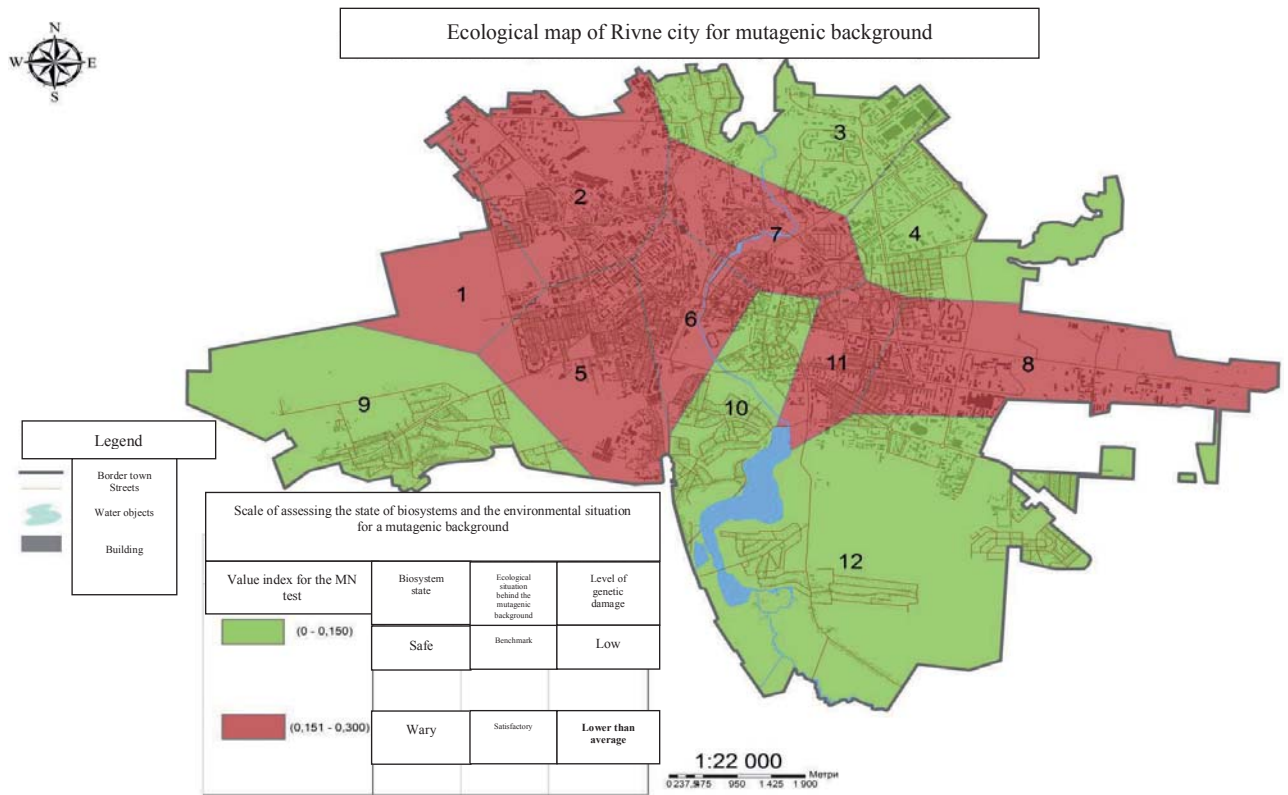


Figure 4. Ecological map of Rivne city for mutagenic background

tagenic background of areas, genetic health, and genetic danger for humans because of harmful factors.

4. Conclusions

In this article there were described the laws of the nascence of micronuclei in cells of the oral mucosa of preschool children, who live on the test ranges with various technogenic loads, and according to the results of research such conclusions can be formulated:

1. The analysis of objects of harmful emissions from stationary and mobile sources in the city during the 1996-2013 years were made, and it showed their incessant growth. The volume of total emissions in 1996 was 13702 tons, and in 2011 it increased to 17,900 tonnes. The dynamics of harmful emissions into the atmosphere (from stationary and mobile sources and their amounts) is described by the progressive models that are the type of polynomial of 5th degree with a coefficient of determination over 0.75. Average concentrations of pollutants are: phenol in 3.3; hydrogen fluoride 2.6; formaldehyde 3.3 MAC.
2. It was established that the concentrations of other pollutants (including heavy metals) were ranged from 0.1 to 0.7 MAC. The health status of population in recent decades has been deteriorating as a result of the growth of anthropogenic pressure and stress because of socio – economic crisis.
3. It was proved that the growth of spreading most diseases in the population of Rivne city is influenced by the growing volume of revenues of pollutants to the city's air from mobile sources.
4. It was found that using the micronucleus test in somatic cells of preschool children is appropriate for evaluating the overall environmental mutagenic background as a screening method.
5. It was proved that the maximum values of MN-index on the test grounds reached 0.050 points, and their range of changes occurred between 0.03 and 0.05 (average 0.045 ± 0.0023). The highest maximum values of MN-indices were found on I, V, VII, VIII, XI test grounds. Minimum MN-indices (X, IX, XII) did not exceed the values from 0.006 to 0.014 (average 0.01 ± 0.001). Average values of the MN – index were changing from the low 0.017 to the highest 0.037 (average 0.028 ± 0.001). The maximum values of MN-index on the basis of average value were found in the ranges I – (0.037); VI – (0.034); VIII – (0.036).

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