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SPECIFICITY OF THE MOST COMMON SPECIES IN THE FLORA OF EXTREMELY CONTAMINATED SECTIONS OF THE RAILWAY TRACKS IN NORTH-EASTERN POLAND (WARMIAN–MASURIAN AND PODLASIE PROVINCES)

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Summary

In the present study the flora of the most contaminated habitats located between the rails (rail gauge) on stations in north-eastern Poland (Warmian-Masurian Province: Olsztyn Główny, Ełk, Nidzica; Podlasie Province: Białystok, Sokółka, Hajnówka and Kuźnica Białostocka) was analysed. A floristic list was established for 27 sites covering an area of 20 m 2. The group of 20 most frequent species (frequency >50%) was analysed in greater detail. Compared with the total flora investigated, the above group of species was characterized by a larger proportion of therophytes (especially of alien origin) and species with higher light requirements and associated with habitats with pH near neutral.