

ASPEN (*POPULUS TREMULA*) FORESTS OF THE NORTH-WESTERN LADOGA REGION

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The studied territory is located in the selga-hollow landscape area of the North-Western Ladoga region. The main purposes of these studies were inventorization of phytocoenotic diversity of the territory and assessment of the present-day changes of vegetation cover. The key-plot is located in the area of the Baltic Crystalline Shield granite rock outcrops. Landscapes are represented by selga hills (granites and granite-gneiss compose them), limnetic clayey terraces and peatbogs in the selga depressions. Ladoga Lake renders smoothing influence on the climatic conditions near shores (cool rainy summer, warm autumn and winter). The most widespread vegetation type is pine forests. The mixed forests (birch¹, aspen, pine and spruce) replace coniferous forests after fires or fellings. The article contains information on the aspen forests of the North-Western Ladoga region. The typology of aspen forests is based on the ecological-phytocoenotic classification. 3 groups of associations (*Tremuleta myrtillosa*, *T. herbosa*, *T. polytrichosa*), 7 associations and 11 variants of associations were identified. Associations of the herbal group predominate: *Tremuletum calamagrostosum*, *T. oxalidosum*, *T. filicosum*, *T. nemoroso-herbosum* and *T. deshampsiosum*. Aspen nemoral herbal (*Pulmonaria obscura*, *Aegopodium podagraria*, *Hepatica nobilis*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Actaea spicata*) forests with maple (*Acer platanoides*) 2nd canopy were described on the limnetic terraces of the islands in the Ladoga Lake skerries. Post-pyrogenic and post-agrarian successions of aspen forests are typical of the studied territory.

Keywords: aspen forests, *Populus tremula*, southern taiga, Baltic Crystalline Shield

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¹ In the previous article ‘Spruce forests of the Northern-West Ladoga region’, 2019, № 2, the author made the spelling error: it should be read ‘birch’ instead of ‘beech’.

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