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INFLUENCE OF BEAVER ACTIVITY ON THE FLORA OF THE KALUZHSKIYE ZASEKI NATURE RESERVE

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A sharp increase in the population of beavers in the mid-1990s allowed these animals to spread quickly throughout central Russia and, in particular, on the territory of the Kaluzhskiye Zaseki Nature Reserve. As a result of the activity of beavers, specific habitats are formed, where new plant species can settle, which contributes to the growth of biodiversity of the studied area. The species, first recorded in the reserve in the places where beavers live, are divided into three groups according to the degree of influence of the animals on their habitats. For each group, the number of new alien and native species, as well as those increasing their populations in the region, is given. Brief descriptions of unusual morphological forms of four species growing near beaver settlements are provided. A comparison of the influence of beavers and humans on the flora of the reserve is given.

Keywords: Castor fiber Linnaeus, flora, vascular plants, animal influence, plant habitats, Kaluzhskiye Zaseki Nature Reserve

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