

ZONAL REGULARITIES OF VEGETATION COVER IN MIDDLE AND NORTH-EASTERN SIBERIA

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The Middle and North-Eastern Siberia include the area lying to the east of the river Yenisey (84° E). The predominant part of this territory is mountainous. Zonal regularities of vegetation cover are expressed on the plains. More than a third of Middle Siberia lies beyond the Arctic Circle and is characterized by the presence of continuous permafrost. Tundra and taiga zones are distinguished. There are isolated forest-steppe islands in the south-western part of Yakutia. The tundra zone occupies the islands of the Arctic Ocean (the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago, De Long Islands, etc.) and the Taimyr Peninsula. It is represented by 4 subzones. The taiga zone of Middle Siberia is divided into 5 subzones. Light-coniferous larch forests of *Larix gmelinii* predominate. North-Eastern Siberia is much smaller than Middle Siberia. About half of its territory lies north of the Arctic Circle. The continuous spread of permafrost is characteristic. More than 2/3 of the area is occupied by mountains. The zoning of vegetation is pronounced on the plains. There are three subzones of the tundra zone (there is no polar subzone). Most of the taiga zone in North-Eastern Siberia lies north of the Arctic Circle. There are 2 taiga subzones instead of 5 in Middle Siberia: the forest-tundra and the northern taiga subzones (there are no subzones of the middle, southern taiga and subtaiga).

Keywords: zonal regularities, vegetation, tundra zone, taiga zone, subzone, mires, Siberia

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