Pollen of plane in the air of selected cities of Poland in 2018

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Abstract:
The course of plane pollen season in Bialystok, Bydgoszcz, Drawsko Pomorskie, Olsztyn, Opole, Szczecin, Warsaw and in Zielona Gora in the year 2018 was presented. Measurements were performed by the volumetric method (Lanzoni or Burkard pollen sampler). Pollen season was defined as the period in which 98% of the annual total catch occurred. In most of the cities, the plane pollen season in 2018 started in the second decade of April. The highest airborne concentration of 87 pollen grains/m³ was noted in Zielona Gora on the April 28th and in Opole (85 pollen grains/m³) on the April 29th. The high pollen count of plane has a local character resulting from the number of trees in cities. The highest risk of pollen allergy associated with the presence of airborne plane pollen was found in Zielona Gora, Opole, Warsaw and Szczecin.

Key words: pollen count, plane tree, allergens, 2018

In Poland, plane tree pollen allergens are rarely the cause of allergic diseases, while in the eastern part of the Mediterranean area they show high allergenicity. In Europe, plane trees are often planted in cities because they tolerate air pollution well; many are filled in parks as well as along streets and alleys [1, 2].

Aim

The aim of the study was to compare the plane tree pollen concentrations in the air of Bialystok, Bydgoszcz, Drawsko Pomorskie, Olsztyn, Opole, Szczecin, Warsaw, and Zielona Gora in 2018.

Material and method

The measurements of the pollen concentration in the study sites were performed with the volumetric method using Lanzoni and Burkard pollen samplers. Microscopic observations were performed on preparations obtained in a 7-day cycle with assessment of 24-hour periods [3]. The results were expressed as the

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number of pollen grains in 1 m³ of air per day (P/m³) [3]. The total pollen count over this period was expressed by the symbol SPI (Seasonal Pollen Index).

**Results and discussion**

The first pollen grains were observed in the air of Szczecin and Zielona Gora on April 10th, and the last ones in Opole on May 19th. The course of the pollen seasons in each city is shown in the graphs (figs 1–4).

The highest airborne concentration of 87 pollen grains/m³ was noted in Zielona Gora on April 28th, in Opole (85 pollen grains/m³) on April 29th, in Szczecin (61 grains/m³) on May 3rd and in Warsaw (43 grains/m³) on May 3rd.

**Table 1. Characteristics of plane tree pollen season in 2018.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Duration of pollen season (days)</th>
<th>Peak value [P/m³] and peak date</th>
<th>Annual pollen sum (SPI)</th>
<th>Number of days concentration above threshold 15 P/m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Białystok</td>
<td>16.05.–15.05</td>
<td>4 (15.05)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bydgoszcz</td>
<td>14.04–10.05</td>
<td>21 (4.05)</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawsko Pomorskie</td>
<td>19.04–10.05</td>
<td>8 (7.06)</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olsztyn</td>
<td>19.04–12.05</td>
<td>12 (1.05)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opole</td>
<td>17.04–12.05</td>
<td>85 (29.04)</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Szczecin</td>
<td>10.04–12.05</td>
<td>61 (3.05)</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>23.04–13.05</td>
<td>43 (3.05)</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zielona Gora</td>
<td>13.04–8.05</td>
<td>87 (28.04)</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Plane pollen count in Białystok and Bydgoszcz.**

**Figure 2. Plane pollen count in Drawsko Pomorskie and Olsztyn.**
Norris-Hill and Emberlin publish Platanus in London as a highly sensitizing taxon of local importance [4]. Research in Poland confirms that plane pollen can reach high concentrations [5, 6].

Conclusions

In most of the cities, the plane pollen season in 2018 started in the second decade of April.

The highest daily plane pollen concentrations were recorded in Opole and Zielona Gora. The highest risk of pollen allergy associated with the presence of airborne plane pollen was found in Zielona Gora, Opole, Warsaw and Szczecin.

References


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