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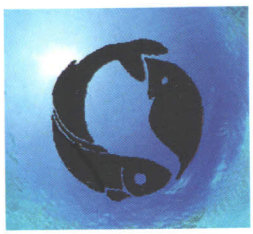

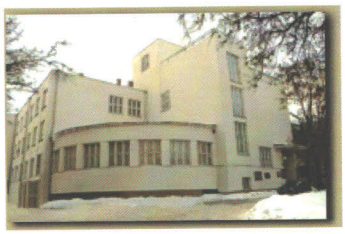

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PROGRAMME & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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ECOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE: THE EMERALD ASH BORER (*AGRILUS PLANIPENNIS*) IS DESTROYING ASHES IN NINE OBLASTS OF EUROPEAN RUSSIA

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The emerald ash borer *Agrilus planipennis* is the most dangerous invasive pest of ashes. It has killed millions of ash trees in North America. In 2003 the pest was firstly found in Europe in the city of Moscow. Then it was found in some localities of Moscow oblast and Smolensk oblast. Our examination of ash trees in 19 cities of European Russia has revealed, that the invasive area is much wider than it was previously believed. The pest has been found in Konakovo (Tver oblast), Michurinsk (Tambov oblast), Tula, Kaluga, Orel, Voronezh and Yaroslavl. We have found out, that *A. planipennis* damages not only *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (American species which is commonly planted in cities), but also the aborigenous European ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. The most of ashes in Moscow oblast are dying or already dead. Thousands of trees in other regions are seriously damaged. The pest is spreading rapidly. Obviously, it will cross the western border of Russia within the nearest few years. Ashes in cities, forests and protective forest belts both in Russia and other countries are in danger.

The range of *A. planipennis* in European Russia is shown in the map. Black dots – localities, where the pest has been found, white dots – localities, where the trees have been examined, but the pest has not been found. The assumed range is colored with gray.

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