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Sheep wool as the indicator of environment pollution by heavy metals

S u m m a r y

The aim of the experiment was to assess sheep wool, on the basis of histological structure and degree of heavy metals accumulation, in order to estimate environment pollution by these elements. Wool samples collected from sheep kept in heavily polluted region (Legnicko-Głogowski Copper Region – LGOM) and the region of low degree of pollution (Baryczy Valley) were used as experimental material. On the basis of electron micrograf, defetcs of cuticule and cortex layer of sheep wool from heavily polluted region LGOM were detected. Sheep wool from this region were also characterized by the higher content of Pb, Cu, As and Hg than that collected from sheep maintained in less polluted region i.e. Baryczy Valley.