



Heavy metals in soils of the Russian North

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Results of soil cover studies in different regions of the Russian North from the Kola peninsula at the West and the Chuckchi peninsula at the East are presented. Heavy metals distribution in soils of both impact (technogenically disturbed) and background regions were studied. It was demonstrated that microelement soil content is closely connected with that of parent rocks which differ in different regions of the Arctic. Noticeable increase of heavy metals in the upper soil horizons are marked near large industrial sites, sometime exceeding background for more than 10–100 times. Each region and soil type has its own background concentration level. That is why no general subregional background concentration patterns may be revealed based on numerous soils sampling in different regions of the discussed territory.