

## The impact of pollutants on the antioxidant protection of species of the genus *Tilia* at different developmental stages

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The influence of transport fumes and industrial waste on the activity of catalase, benzidine-peroxidase and guaiacol-peroxidase was studied in the dormant buds, leaves and seeds of the following species of the genus *Tilia*: *T. platyphyllos* Scop., *T. europaea* L., *T. amurensis* Rupr. and *T. begoniifolia* Stev. We tested the hypothesis that the action of pollutants changes the state of antioxidant protection at different stages of tree development in contaminated phytocenoses. An increase in catalase activity was observed in leaves of all linden species, and the action of transport fumes caused excess over control level by 118, 118, 196, and 61% respectively for *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia*. The action of industrial waste was accompanied by a slight decrease in catalase activity in *T. europaea* leaves, and increase in activity in leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (143% and 115%). Benzidine-peroxidase activity increased due to the influence of transport fumes on leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (103% and 44%), but decreased due to the effect of industrial waste on leaves of *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (46%, 30%, and 44% respectively), and was suppressed in the seeds of *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* both under the influence of transport (42%, 47% and 33% below control) and industrial emissions (19%, 19% and 45%), and was reduced in buds of *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* and *T. amurensis* due to the effect of transport fumes (21%, 9% and 20% respectively). Guaiacol-peroxidase activity decreased due to the influence of transport fumes in buds of *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* and *T. amurensis* (41%, 14% and 47% below control), while it increased in the seeds of *T. platyphyllos* and *T. amurensis* (104% and 83%), as well as in leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* both due to the effect of transport (129% and 144%) and of industrial emissions (respectively, 34% and 40% above control). The substantial restructuring of the antioxidant system components in leaves, dormant buds and seeds confirms the hypothesis that metabolic processes in *Tilia* trees adapt throughout all stages of their development in response to the polluted conditions in urban phytocenoses

Key words: linden tree; bud; leaf; seed; contamination; catalase; benzidine-peroxidase; guaiacol-peroxidase

## Вплив поллютантів на антиоксидантний захист видів роду *Tilia* на різних стадіях розвитку

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Досліджено вплив транспортних вихлопів і промислових викидів та активність каталази, бензидин-пероксидази та гваякол-пероксидази у бруньках, листках і насінні *Tilia platyphyllos* Scop., *T. europaea* L., *T. amurensis* Rupr., *T. begoniifolia* Stev. Перевірено гіпотезу про те, що вплив поллютантів змінює стан антиоксидантного захисту на різних стадіях розвитку дерев у забруднених фітоценозах. Зростання активності каталази спостерігали у листках усіх видів лип. Вплив транспортних вихлопів спричинив збільшення контрольного рівня для *T. Platyphyllos* на 118% для *T. europaea* – на 118% для *T. amurensis* – на 196% і для *T. begoniifolia* – на 61%. Вплив промислових викидів супроводжувався незначним зниженням активності каталази у листках *T. europaea* та зростанням активності в листках *T. amurensis* і *T. begoniifolia* (на 143% і 115% відповідно). Активність бензидин-пероксидази зростала за дії транспортних вихлопів у листках *T. amurensis* і *T. begoniifolia* (відповідно, на 103% і 44%), проте знижувалась за дії промислових викидів у листках *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* і *T. begoniifolia* (на 46%, 30% і 44% відносно контролю відповідно), а також була пригнічена у насінні *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* і *T. begoniifolia* як за дії транспортних (відповідно, на 42%, 47% і 33% від контролю), так і промислових емісій (на 19%, 19% і 45% від контролю, відповідно), та знижена у бруньках *T. Platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* та *T. amurensis* за дії транспортних вихлопів (на 21%, 9% і 20% від контролю, відповідно). Активність гваякол-пероксидази за впливу транспортних вихлопів знижувалась у бруньках *T. Platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* і *T. amurensis* (відповідно, на 41%, 14% і 47% відносно контролю), але збільшувалась у насінні *T. Platyphyllos* і *T. amurensis* (на 104% і 83%, відповідно), а також зростала у листках *T. amurensis* і *T. begoniifolia* як за дії транспортних (відповідно, на 129% і 144%), так і промислових емісій (відповідно, на 34% і 40% відносно контролю). Суттєві перебудови компонентів антиоксидантної системи у листках, бруньках і насінні підтвердили припущення, що адаптація дерев роду *Tilia* до умов забруднених міських фітоценозів потребує змін метаболічних процесів упродовж усіх стадій розвитку.

Ключові слова: липа; бруньки; листки; насіння; забруднення; каталаза; бензидин-пероксидаза; гваякол-пероксидаза

## Introduction

Along with the unfavorable environmental conditions the action of pollutants is an additional factor complicating tree development in the urban phytocenoses of the Steppe zone. Anthropogenic impact on plant communities is an urgent problem for Dnipropetrovsk, where the volume of industrial emissions accounts for 17% of Ukraine's total emissions (Pakhomov and Brygadyrenko, 2005), currently reaching more than 1 million tons per year (Striletz, 2015; Tsvetkova et al., 2016). The adverse effect of pollutants can manifest itself in various functional changes in trees such as a decrease in the photosynthetic pigment content of leaves (Deniz and Duzenli, 2007), or failure of the physiological and biochemical mechanisms regulating vital functions (Ramel et al., 2012). As Jilka and Tuteja (2010) have found, the activation of plant protective mechanisms belonging to different levels of plant organization, has a crucial role in the formation of resistance to the action of abiotic stressors. Moreover, Chirkova (2004) emphasizes the necessity of simultaneous realization of detoxification of xenobiotics and the recovery processes of cellular homeostasis in plants. Therefore, understanding the metabolic adaptation of plants to polluted environments involves the study of the cellular defense mechanisms, including activation of antioxidant enzymes.

Many authors note the obvious importance of trees in urban phytocenoses as an indicator of local contamination (Madejon et al., 2004; Kardel et al., 2012), as well as an effective factor that can ameliorate a polluted environment (Matyssek et al., 2012). Trees are able to improve the microclimate and overall ecological conditions of industrial cities by regulating carbon dioxide content in the air, as well as by air oxygen saturation (Roy et al., 2012). In addition, plant organs accumulate trace elements (Madejon et al., 2004) together with heavy metals and the oxides of sulfur and nitrogen (Fisher et al., 2002). The highest ability of trees to retain dust is inherent in species with a large leaf area; for example, one *Tilia cordata* tree holds about 5.4 g/m<sup>3</sup> of dust transmitted from the air, as Divan et al. (2009) have shown. According to Sheykholslami et al. (2008), the leaf surface of *Tilia platyphyllos* can absorb more than 9 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per hour of sulfur oxide. In general, all species of the genus *Tilia* are able to accumulate a considerable amount of pollutants, including trace elements (Anicic et al., 2011), as well as compounds of lead, cadmium, nickel, chromium, and cobalt (Tomasevic et al., 2004). It was found that the impact of pollutants on the different species of the genus *Tilia* can affect the anatomical features of leaves (Koshiba, 2008). However, very little attention has been paid to the study of metabolic mechanisms determining adaptation of linden species to contaminated environments. The objectives of our work were to identify the patterns of antioxidant system response of *Tilia* species to the chronic effects of pollutants, and to determine whether the influence of pollutants is evident at different stages of development of the trees in urban phytocenoses.

## Material and methods

The test objects were the dormant buds, leaves and seeds of *T. platyphyllos* Scop., *T. europaea* L., *T. amurensis* Rupr. and *T. begoniifolia* Stev. The samples of

the plant organs were collected in the Dnipropetrovsk Botanical Garden (plot 1, control; 48°26'09.6" N, 35°02'31.2" E) and in the urban phytocenoses: polluted with transport fumes containing sulfur dioxide and carbon oxides as well as volatile organic compounds (plot 2, 48°28'12.4" N, 35°02'20.3" E, and plot 3, 48°28'23.6" N, 35°00'27.6" E), and industrial waste containing much larger quantities of carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur oxides together with the solid contaminants (plot 4, 48°28'40.4" N, 34°59'03.5" E, and plot 5, 48°28'26.7" N, 34°57'29.1" E). The dormant buds were taken in March 2015, the leaves in August from 5-7 evenly-aged trees of each *Tilia* species, and the samples were stored in a frozen state; the seeds were collected in October 2015 and air dried to constant weight.

The activity of antioxidant enzymes was determined by the spectrophotometric method in the supernatants obtained by centrifugation (12,000 g for 20 min and 4 °C) of crude extracts (100 mg of tissue homogenized with 2.5 ml of Tris-HCl buffer contained 0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, pH 7.0). Enzyme activity measured in the buds and leaves was expressed in the respective units per g fresh weight, while activity in the seeds was expressed in the units per g dry weight.

Activity of catalase (CAT, EC 1.11.1.6) was measured according to Goth (1991) at 410 nm in a reactive mixture containing 1.2 ml of 0.1% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 1 ml of 4% ammonium molybdate, and 0.2 ml of sample. Enzyme activity was calculated by using a calibration graph and expressed in mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> min<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>. Determination of peroxidase (POD, EC 1.11.1.7) activity was based on the method of Gregory (1966) with benzidine as a proton donor, and on the method of Ranieri et al. (1997) with guaiacol. Activity of benzidine-peroxidase (BPOD) was measured at 490 nm in a reactive mixture (0.8 ml of acetate buffer, 1 ml of benzidine and 0.2 ml sample) after adding 1% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and the result was expressed in optical units min<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>. Guaiacol-peroxidase (GPOD) activity was determined by the change within 1 min of the reaction mixture (0.75 ml of acetate buffer, 0.25 ml of guaiacol, 0.25 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and 0.25 ml sample) absorbance at 470 nm, and expressed in mM guaiacol μTg<sup>-1</sup>.

All determinations were performed in three replicates. Data represent mean values and standard deviations (± SD). Significance of differences was estimated using Fisher's test (P < 0.05), and asterisk (\*) indicates significant difference from control.

## Results and discussion

In our study, changes of catalase activity were revealed in the organs of all *Tilia* species from polluted phytocenoses in comparison with the control level (Table 1). The most notable increase in CAT activity was observed in the leaves of lindens, and influence of transport fumes caused excess over control level by 118%, 118%, 196%, and 61% respectively for *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (P < 0.05 for each case). The effect of industrial waste was accompanied by insignificant decrease in catalase activity in *T. europaea* leaves, but activity increased in leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (143% and 115% above control respectively, P < 0.05).

**Effect of pollutants on catalase activity (mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> min<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>) of linden organs (Mean ± SD, n=12)**

Species	Plot	Buds	Leaves	Seeds
<i>T. platyphyllos</i>	1	230.7 ±3.46	22.4 ±3.70	134.4 ±3.00
	3	211.5 ±2.37*	48.9 ±6.36*	231.4 ±2.83*
<i>T. europaea</i>	1	282.3 ±3.12	35.7 ±3.36	236.2 ±4.56
	3	291.0 ±2.60	78.0 ±4.81*	417.7 ±3.12*
	4	299.7 ±3.22	34.7 ±1.99	204.8 ±3.70*
<i>T. amurensis</i>	1	231.6 ±1.44	30.3 ±1.47	318.6 ±1.16
	2	239.4 ±2.74	89.9 ±3.27*	322.4 ±5.11
	5	214.3 ±3.07*	73.7 ±2.24*	334.5 ±3.22*
<i>T. begoniifolia</i>	1	212.4 ±1.85	29.3 ±1.54	331.5 ±3.74
	2	229.8 ±3.25	47.3 ±2.61*	237.3 ±3.18*
	4	208.9 ±2.78	33.6 ±2.15*	189.4 ±3.12*

Significant differences in catalase activity between samples from control and polluted plots are indicated by \* - P < 0.05.

Changes of catalase activity in the dormant buds were not substantial: increase in activity was observed in the buds of *T. europaea* under the influence of both transport and industrial emissions, while in the buds of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* - only under the influence of transport fumes. Enzyme activity was suppressed by the influence of transport fumes in the buds of *T. platyphyllos* (8% below control, P < 0.05), and by the influence of industrial waste in the buds of *T. amurensis* (7% below control, P < 0.05). Activity of catalase increased due to the influence of transport emissions in the seeds of *T. platyphyllos* and *T. europaea* (72% and 77% above control, P < 0.05), while it decreased (13% below control, P < 0.05) in *T. europaea* seeds due to the effect of industrial waste. Enzyme activity increased insignificantly in seeds of *T. amurensis*, but decreased drastically in seeds of *T. begoniifolia* under the influence of transport and industrial emissions (28% and 46% respectively, P < 0.05). In our study, notable benzidine-peroxidase activity was observed to increase basically only in the leaves of each linden species, while it was less expressed in the dormant buds (Table 2)/

Activity of benzidine-peroxidase increased due to the effect of transport fumes in leaves of *T. platyphyllos* (insignificantly), and leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (respectively, 103% and 44% above control, P < 0.05), but decreased in *T. europaea* leaves. The influence of industrial emissions caused a sharp decline in enzyme activity in leaves of *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* (respectively, 46%, 30% and 44% below control, P < 0.05).

Benzidine-peroxidase activity was reduced in buds of *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* and *T. amurensis* both due to the effect of transport fumes (respectively, 21%, 9% and 20% below control, P < 0.05) and industrial waste (insignificantly). By contrast, benzidine-peroxidase was activated in *T. begoniifolia* buds due to the effect of both transport and industrial emissions (respectively, 11% and 30% above control, P < 0.05 for plot 4). Benzidine-peroxidase activity of seeds was suppressed for *T. europaea*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* both under the influence of transport (respectively, 42%, 47% and 33% below control, P < 0.05) and industrial emissions (respectively, 19%, 19% and 45%, P < 0.05); decrease in

enzyme activity in *T. platyphyllos* seeds was insignificant. In our study, activity of guaiacol-peroxidase was reduced in leaves of *T. platyphyllos* (37%, P < 0.05) and *T. europaea* (24% and 44%, respectively due to the influence of transport and industrial emissions, P < 0.05), while it increased in leaves of other *Tilia* species (Table 3).

Table 2

**Effect of pollutants on benzidine-peroxidase activity (optical units min<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>) of linden organs (Mean ± SD, n =12)**

Species	Plot	Buds	Leaves	Seeds
<i>T. platyphyllos</i>	1	102.4 ±3.20	3.9 ±0.95	52.7 ±3.36
	3	81.2 ±1.99*	4.1 ±1.87	48.1 ±3.14
<i>T. europaea</i>	1	32.0 ±3.44	16.0 ±2.58	72.9 ±5.53
	3	29.2 ±3.33*	14.0 ±1.67	42.4 ±1.87*
	4	30.4 ±2.89	8.4 ±1.17*	58.8 ±2.29*
<i>T. amurensis</i>	1	44.8 ±3.99	8.1 ±1.13	57.4 ±6.07
	2	34.6 ±1.78*	16.5 ±2.20*	30.2 ±3.79*
	5	38.8 ±3.22	5.7 ±0.94*	46.4 ±4.86*
<i>T. begoniifolia</i>	1	14.8 ±1.56	33.2 ±1.52	112.5 ±2.48
	2	16.4 ±1.85	47.7 ±1.99*	86.8 ±2.14*
	4	19.2 ±2.20*	18.4 ±1.80*	61.9 ± 1.42*]

Significant differences in benzidine-peroxidase activity between samples from control and polluted plots are indicated by \* - P < 0.05.

Table 3

**Effect of pollutants on guaiacol-peroxidase activity (mM guaiacol min<sup>-1</sup>g<sup>-1</sup>) of linden organs (Mean ± SD, n=12)**

Species	Plot	Buds	Leaves	Seeds
<i>T. platyphyllos</i>	1	9.1 ±1.01	6.0 ±1.01	14.3 ±1.59
	3	5.4 ±0.86*	3.8 ±0.87*	29.1 ±6.22*
<i>T. europaea</i>	1	6.6 ±0.65	5.8 ±0.72	7.3 ±0.92
	3	5.7 ±0.50	4.4 ±1.31	4.0 ±0.14*
	4	4.8 ±0.57*	3.3 ±1.12*	6.1 ±0.87*
<i>T. amurensis</i>	1	15.3 ±1.82	4.3 ±0.96	3.5 ±0.70
	2	8.1 ±0.88*	9.9 ±1.69*	6.4 ±1.33*
	5	7.5 ±0.89*	5.4 ±1.00	9.8 ±1.62*
<i>T. begoniifolia</i>	1	6.9 ±0.93	3.8 ±0.72	10.8 ±2.26
	2	9.6 ±1.37*	9.3 ±2.42*	9.0 ±2.17*
	4	8.4 ±1.13*	5.4 ±0.51*	11.1 ±2.64

Significant differences in guaiacol-peroxidase activity between samples from control and polluted plots are indicated by \* - P < 0.05.

Higher enzyme activation was observed in leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* under the influence of both transport fumes (29% and 44% respectively, P < 0.05) and industrial waste (respectively, 24% and 40%), P < 0.05). The activity of guaiacol-peroxidase decreased in the buds of *T. platyphyllos*, *T. europaea* and *T. amurensis* under the influence of both transport fumes (respectively, 41%, 14% and 47%) below control, P < 0.05) and industrial waste (21% and 51%), respectively for the second and third species, P < 0.05). In contrast, increase in enzyme activity was observed in *T. begoniifolia* buds due to the influence of transport and industrial emissions as well (respectively, 39% and 22%) above control, P < 0.05).

Increase in guaiacol-peroxidase activity of

seeds was revealed for *T. platyphyllos* due to the influence of transport fumes (104% above control,  $P < 0.05$ ) and for *T. amurensis* due to the influence of both transport and industrial emissions (respectively 83% and 180%) above control,  $P < 0.05$ ). At the same time, enzyme activity was reduced under the influence of transport and industrial emissions in seeds of *T. europaea* (44% and 16% respectively,  $P < 0.05$ ), as well as in *T. begoniifolia* seeds due to the influence of transport fumes (17% below control,  $P < 0.05$ ).

Since Halliwell (2006) has shown that catalase and peroxidase functioning provides control of hydrogen peroxide, which can cause oxidative stress in the case of excessive accumulation, it is therefore apparent that changes of enzyme activity in the dormant buds, leaves and seeds from polluted plots suggest substantial shifts in the antioxidant processes. Differences of activation of antioxidant enzymes in the organs of linden species are consistent with the data obtained by Hammond-Kosack and Jones (1996) on the dependence of cells  $H_2O_2$  level on duration and type of stress. Taking into account the opinion of Polovnikova (2008) that the reduction of catalase activity is a diagnostic feature of plant sensitivity to anthropogenic factors, we concluded that catalase plays a decisive role in the resistance of each *Tilia* species to polluted environments. In addition, it should be noted that there is a steady high level of catalase activity in the buds of all *Tilia* species as well as catalase activation in seeds of all species except *T. begoniifolia*. The results obtained correlate with the data of Khromykh et al. (2014) on adaptive direction of a significant increase in catalase activity in leaves of *Acer negundo* influenced by transport and industrial emissions during the growing season.

Referring to the opinion of Ranieri et al. (2001) about the important role of peroxidase in plant metabolism, the divergent changes of peroxidase activity in the buds, leaves, and seeds indicated a transformation of various physiological processes of *Tilia* species from the plots contaminated by transport and industrial emissions. According to our results, the greatest activation of guaiacol-peroxidase was observed in leaves of *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia*, as well as in seeds of *T. platyphyllos* and *T. amurensis*; such trends can be related to the amplification of enzyme role in the metabolism of phenols and sugars, as was found by Allison and Schultz (2004), and Maksimovic et al. (2008) for various plant species. At the same time, guaiacol-peroxidase activity was reduced drastically in the buds of *Tilia* species, except *T. begoniifolia*. Activity of benzidine-peroxidase increased in leaves of *T. platyphyllos*, *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* due to transport fumes only, but decreased in the seeds of all linden species, as well as in the dormant buds (except *T. begoniifolia*). In general, it should be recognized that a substantial restructuring of the components of the antioxidant system in the buds, leaves and seeds was required for adaptation of each *Tilia* species to the chronic influence of pollutants. The results obtained suggest that the pollutant-induced decrease in the activity of antioxidant enzymes in the organs of *Tilia* species can be connected with the deterioration of physiological features, such as a reduction of pollen fertility (Jusypiva and Korostylova, 2015) and seed

production (Yerofeyeva, 2014). On the other hand, significant activation of enzymes in the seeds and buds could indicate an increase in the antioxidant adaptive capacity of the next generation of linden trees exposed to chronic contamination, which is similar to the assumption made earlier in studying the pollutant-induced activation of glutathione-dependent system of *Acer* dormant buds (Khromykh, 2014). The results of both studies results are consistent with the hypothesis of Walter et al. (2013) that severe conditions are able to induce the formation of ecological stress memory in plants, increasing resistance to adverse environments.

### Conclusion

In the present paper the influence of transport fumes and industrial waste on catalase, benzidine-peroxidase, and guaiacol-peroxidase activity in leaves, buds and seeds of various species of *Tilia* genus was studied. In the dormant buds, a high reference level of catalase activity changed slightly for any type of contamination, and notable enzyme activation was revealed in the buds of *T. europaea* and *T. begoniifolia*. On the contrary, activities of benzidine-peroxidase and guaiacol-peroxidase declined abruptly in the buds of all linden species, except *T. begoniifolia* where both enzyme activities increased essentially. In leaves, a relatively low reference level of catalase activity was exceeded by 2-3 times due to the action of pollutants for all species, especially for *T. amurensis*. Regarding peroxidase activity of leaves, this was the lowest among the examined linden organs. There was a notably sharp inhibition of benzidine-peroxidase activity in all species influenced by industrial emissions except *T. begoniifolia*, as well as a reduction in guaiacol-peroxidase activity in leaves of *T. platyphyllos* and *T. europaea*, but significant enzyme activation in *T. amurensis* and *T. begoniifolia* leaves.

In the seeds, the high reference level of catalase activity increased by 1.8 times for *T. platyphyllos* and *T. europaea*, and grew slightly for *T. amurensis*, while it was reduced abruptly in the seeds of *T. begoniifolia* due to the action both of transport and industrial emissions. A relatively high benzidine-peroxidase reference activity level was significantly reduced in the seeds of all *Tilia* species from contaminated plots. At the same time, guaiacol-peroxidase activity reduction was observed only in the seeds of *T. europaea* and *T. begoniifolia*, while an increase (2 and 2.8-fold) in the enzyme activity occurred in the seeds of *T. platyphyllos* and *T. amurensis*.

The study results have confirmed the hypothesis that a significant restructuring of the antioxidant system takes place in the dormant buds, leaves and seeds of *Tilia* trees during their developmental stages due to the effect of pollutants in contaminated urban phytocenoses.

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