

Naturalisation aronia Mitschurinii in the forests of european Russia

A. G. Kuklina – Main Botanical Garden named after N. V. Tsitsin Russian Academy of Sciences,
Senior Researcher, PhD, alla_gbsad@mail.ru

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The paper presents data on the background and taxonomic status of widely spread in plantations fruit shrub (Aronia mitschurinii Skvortsov & Maitulina, Rosaceae) that definitely differs from North American chokeberry (A. melanocarpa (Michx.) Elliott). It was found that in early XXI century A. mitschurinii began its active introduction in forest phytocenoses. Mass self seeding of this invasive species and availability of fruit bearing ones have been identified in North West Russia and some Mid-Russian regions that is a potential risk for natural biodiversity. Its naturalization process analysis in European Russia highlights invasions trend south-east bound from North West

Sufficient tolerance of A. mitschurinii to a wide range of abiotic factors enables this species growth and evolution in a vast area of the secondary areal including some countries of the former USSR as well as Finland, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Romania, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia even its ancestors motherland – The USA and Canada.

Long-term studies of A. Mitschurinii found that over the years list of this alien species pests and diseases grows proving its adaptation to a number of biotic factors. In the mean time there is an active inclusion of the pathogens probably representatives of pathogenic microflora of closely related native species of Maloideae subfamily into the «alien species – pathogen» arrangement that affects biocenosis resistance.