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**TRIPARTITE ECOTONE: A NEW DIMENSION
IN THE STUDY OF TRANSITION ZONES BETWEEN
ECOSYSTEMS**

**ТРИЧЛЕННИЙ ЕКОТОН: НОВИЙ ВИМІР
У ВИВЧЕННІ ПЕРЕХІДНИХ ЗОН МІЖ ЕКОСИСТЕМАМИ**

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The concept of ecotone is defined as a transition zone between ecotopes. New or hybrid ecosystems can meet, interact and compete there. Ecotones are of different levels: global (forest-tundra, forest-steppe, savannah, etc.), regional (foothills, coastal zones, etc.) and local (borders along the mesoforms of the relief, coastal strips of water bodies, forest edges, etc.). All the listed examples are of natural origin. However, more and more often we have to face ecotones of anthropogenic origin. They are usually associated with the boundaries of lands of various purposes.

The specific location of ecotones between the main objects (of both natural and anthropogenic origin) causes a traditional attitude to such territories as less valuable. Thus, they do not appear often in research (especially geographically oriented). Among the Ukrainian scientists who

studied such territories, one can identify V. Bokov, H. Denisyk, and N. Maksymenko. A. Klesch, etc. In particular, there are a number of works on the study of landscape ecotones. Studies have shown that entropy increases sharply at the borders of geographic landscapes. It is caused by the combination of objects of contrasting nature in landscape structures. This is also manifested in new qualities that are absent in geosystems, which are by definition basic [1, p. 165]. Thus, it can be determined that such territories have a certain scientific significance and practical expediency. It is these characteristics that need to be studied.

Having analyzed a number of works related to ecotones [2, c. 16], we can come to the conclusion that these binary compounds are sufficiently studied (especially in the ecological and biological direction). Another thing is the "three-membered" ecotone. Such a phenomenon is absent in the literature, but very common in the natural environment. Its feature is the combination and correlation of two zonal units and one intrazonal unit.

To carry out this research, it is necessary to determine the territories of the three-member ecotone. For the studied territory, we choose a nature conservation area, namely the Homilsha Woods National Nature Park, which is located in the territory of the Kharkiv region. It is this object that has the necessary inpatient facilities, namely the educational and scientific geographical base "Gaidary" and is of great importance in the nature protection complex of the region. In addition, an intrazonal object – the river Seversky Donets and zonal landscape units – passes through the territory of the NNP. The definition of the three-membered ecotone is planned to be carried out by means of information and cartographic analysis of the territory and present in future publications.

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