

The Influence of the Environment on the Content of Macro- and Microelements in the *Tanacetum vulgare*

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ABSTRACT

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) grows in moderate area of the northern hemisphere, in Poland – its range covers the whole country. It appears on the farm wastelands, by roadsides, on embankments, river banks, forest lips and in open spaces. The present paper has faced the challenge of defining the influence of the environmental conditions on the mineral composition of *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves. The plants were picked in the blooming period from May to September 2017 in 12 natural environments of their growth and at different contamination levels. The dried and minced plant material was submitted to chemical analyses of the bio elements content (K, P, Cu, Zn, Mo) of leaves. A great variety was observed when speaking in terms of particular elements content in dependence on the position. In all tests, significant quantities of K and P were found. The study results point at the very fact that the mineral composition of *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves is influenced by the environmental contamination, caused by the nearby “neighbourhood” of circulation areas of high traffic volume, factories or patrol stations.

Keywords: *Tanacetum vulgare* L., mineral components of plants, the anthropogenic areas, non-anthropogenic areas, environment.

INTRODUCTION

Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) is a multianual, aromatic plant which belongs to the *Asteraceae*. Family [Jakobs and Müller 2018, Goudarzi et al. 2015, Wolf et al. 2012, Qi et al. 2018], that incorporates about 200 species [Özbilgin et al. 2018]. This particular species originates from Eurasia from where it was introduced to North America, and subsequently naturalised [Mitich 1992]. At present, *Tanacetum vulgare* appears in moderate area of the northern hemisphere [Derda et al. 2012], in Poland – its range covers the whole country [Anna Ewa Wojciechowska 2008]. It grows on the farm wastelands, by roadsides, on embankments, river banks, forest lips and in open spaces. [Kęsik, Wojciechowska, Pi'tura 2008, Mehrparvar et al. 2018]. *Tanacetum vulgare* is commonly known under the “Tansy” name, coming from a Greek word “athanasia” that means

“immortality” which probably comes from the fact that its blooms do not wither [Arandelović et al. 2017].

The plants of of *Tanacetum* type are rich in essential oils (EO). Due to the presence of thujones, the oils from *Tanacetum* have been used in the traditional medicine dating from the ancient times [Moricz et al. 2015]. The content of thujones undergoes significant changes depending on the region where the plant grows as well as on the process of its drying [Arandelović et al. 2017, Blagojevic et al. 2015]. Some chemotypes *Tanacetum vulgare* do not contain any toxic β -thujone [Héthelyi et al. 1981]. The changes in the thujone content in the tansy herbs were causing numerous problems in the folk medicine, including mistakes in the choice of an appropriate dose for making extracts. Such mistakes lead to excessive thujone consumption, which then resulted in the occurrence of many afflictions, both

in case of children and adults [Halicioglu et al. 2011]. The present analytical technology allowed for the production techniques standardization, thanks to which the problem with thujone level in extracts was eliminated.

Nowadays, Tansy is commonly used as a component in lotions, cosmetics, dyes, ovicides, medicines and preservatives. Plant-based extracts are widely used in the present medicine in treating rheumatism, ulcers, fever and digestion disorders [Arandelović et al. 2017]. In the traditional Russian medicine, the infusion from *Tanacetum vulgare* blooms is used for such medical purposes as quickening the process of wounds healing, the appetite improvement and as a painkiller [Zaurov et al. 2013].

Plants play the role of carriers which transport the chemical elements coming from water, air and mainly from soil to the animal and human organisms. Some heavy metals are necessary microelements for all plants; nevertheless, their high concentration is dangerous for the life and correct functioning of plants [Marques et al. 2009, White and Brown 2010]. Plant species gather different amounts of heavy metals in the surface organs and roots [Kashin and Ubugunov 2012, Motuzova et al. 2014]. A magnificent role in the metals accumulation is played by the morphology of surface organs, namely the leaves. The quantity of the accumulated heavy metals on the leaf surface depends on its size, presence of pilus, resin and wax on the surface. Metals locked in a wax tarnish are not scoured by water [Chaplygin et al. 2018].

Morphologically, the tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) shows certain differences between particular geographical regions. Its height ranges

from 30 to 150 cm; the stem has an arboreal form, more or less branchy, the leaves are feathered and bracken-like [Goudarzi et al. 2015]. Yellow blooms of a button shape create umbelliferous inflorescences on the plant top.

The aim of the paper was to compare the content of K, P Cu, Zn, Mo in the leaves of *Tanacetum vulgare* species belonging to the *Asteraceae* family that grows in spheres of different urbanization levels in the area of Poland.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The tests of tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) were conducted in the blooming period from May to September 2017 in 12 natural environments of their growth (Table 1). Four out of twelve locations were in the anthropogenic areas (A), namely in the nearby the circulation areas of high traffic volume or close to institutions dealing with aluminium wheels casting and next to petrol stations. The other eight locations concerned non-anthropogenic areas (N) – which means – grasslands in the distance of more than 200 m from not too busy roads, river banks, parks on the suburbs.

The collected leaves were dried for five days at room temperature, in a dark place, of increased air circulation. Secondly, the dried tansy was minced in a ball mill. The achieved material was later passed through a sieve of the mesh diameter 1 mm and it was stored in hermetically closed containers until the analysis time. The content of heavy metals was marked with the mass spectrometry method using ICP-MS apparatus after microwave wet mineralisation with aqua regia in the Mars-X apparatus.

Table 1. Locations of tansy samples collection (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.) in Poland with the division into anthropogenic (A) and non-anthropogenic (N)

Lp.	Location	Geographical coordinates		Type of area
		latitude (N)	longitude (E)	
1	Słubice	52.33226	14.62062	N
2	Szklarska Poręba	50.82014	15.43838	A
3	Kraśnik Dolny	51.31680	15.59713	N
4	Międzychód	52.61319	15.90543	N
5	Kudowa Zdrój	50.43530	16.22743	N
6	Żmigród	51.48086	16.91363	N
7	Pobiedziska	52.46613	17.28842	N
8	Łączki	50.23020	17.19177	N
9	Stanowice	50.13162	18.68082	A
10	Białka Tatrzańska	49.23208	20.06148	N
11	Starachowice	51.05880	21.06459	A
12	Stalowa Wola	50.54976	22.07053	A

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of chemical composition analysis of *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves points at high differentiation of K, P, Cu, Zn, Mo contents.

The potassium content in the tansy leaves was changing depending on its position and was from 2.07% d.m. in Słubice to 3.2% d.m. in Starachowice (Fig. 1). The studies of Grela and Dzida [2001] showed that in a dry mass of herbs *Tanacetum vulgare* the potassium content was from 0.65 to 0.71% d.m.; however, Wierzchowska-Renke and others [1997] provide higher contents of this element, namely from 2.54 to 3.77% d.m.

The phosphorus content in the leaves ranged from 0.26% d.m. in Łączki to 0.68% d.m. in Międzychódzie (Fig. 2). In the studies by Wojciechowska [2008], the phosphorus content was between 0.15–0.45% d.m. The fact of phosphorus content increase in a dry mass of *Tanacetum vulgare* herbs can be explained by the studies from the year 1982. There, Lityński and Jurkowska proved that in the soils with the pH smaller than 5.5 and higher than 7.0, phosphorus undergoes a kind of regress which makes it unavailable for plants.

In the case of the Cu content in *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves, the results can be divided into two groups, of high and low Cu concentration. In the first, group there were 7 locations in which the metal concentration was oscillating from 10.86 to 15 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. The second group was constituted by 5 locations of Cu concentration from 20.99 to 29.68 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. A “measurement gap” appeared between these two groups in the form of results lack from 15 to 20 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. (Fig. 3).

While analyzing the state of natural environment around the mine and power plant of

Bełchatów, Jasion and others [2013] showed that the content of Cu in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves was from 11.90 to 16.8 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. Adamcova and others [2017] obtained different results, while they were comparing the metal contents in *Tanacetum vulgare* on the positions around a landfill site, in a closed part of the landfill and in soil that had contact with wastes. The results achieved by them point at the changes in the Cu content in the *Tanacetum vulgare* biomass depending on their location. On an area of the landfill and its neighbourhood, the copper content was 17.91 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. in a closed part of the landfill and 62.86 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. on the area surrounding the landfill. All the results show the influence that the vicinity of landfills can have on the Cu content in the plants biomass.

The Zn content in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves was diversified in all the studied areas (Fig. 3). In 7 locations, the Zn concentration did not exceed 100 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m, the smallest concentration of this metal was observed in Łączki, where it reached 28,846 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. In the last group of five locations, even several hundred times greater percentage amount of Zn was stated in the leaves. The largest amount of Zn was found in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves in Starachowice, where in comparison to Łączki, the Zn content was 1084,22% higher and the Zn concentration in this area was 312,753 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m.

In the research on and around the landfill site, the Zn content in tansy leaves was from 58.30 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. to 721.90 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. in the area where plants and soil had contact with wastes. In the areas isolated from the landfill and in the ones surrounding the landfill, the content of Zn in tansy leaves was from 82.71 to 131.60 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. [Adamcova et

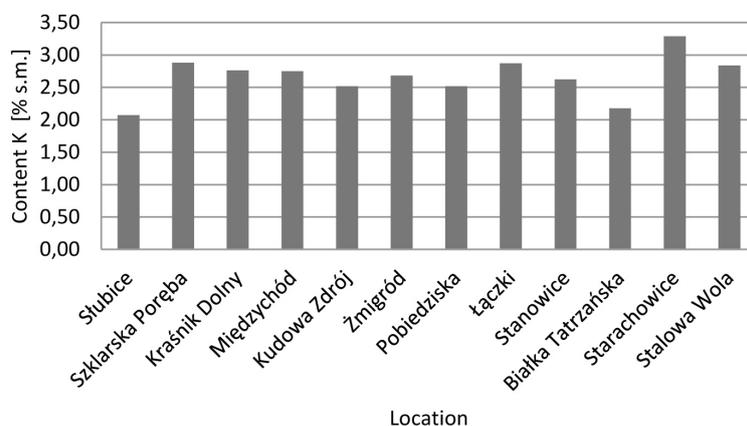


Figure 1. Content of K percentage in the tansy leaves (*Tanacetum vulgare*) from different positions.

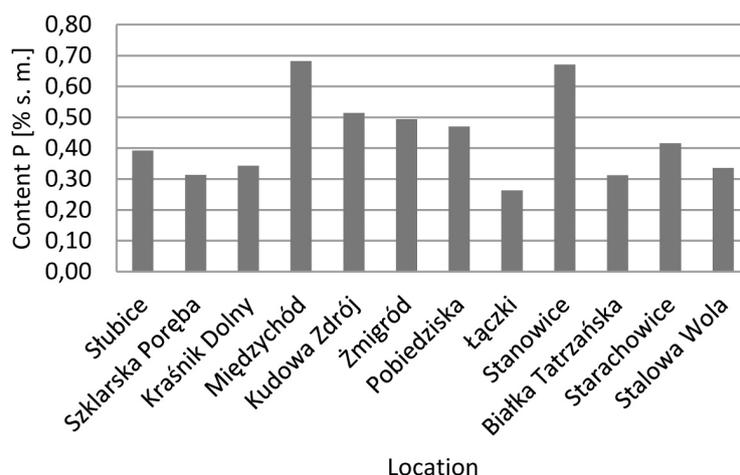


Figure 2. The content of P percentage in the tansy leaves (*Tanacetum vulgare*) from different positions

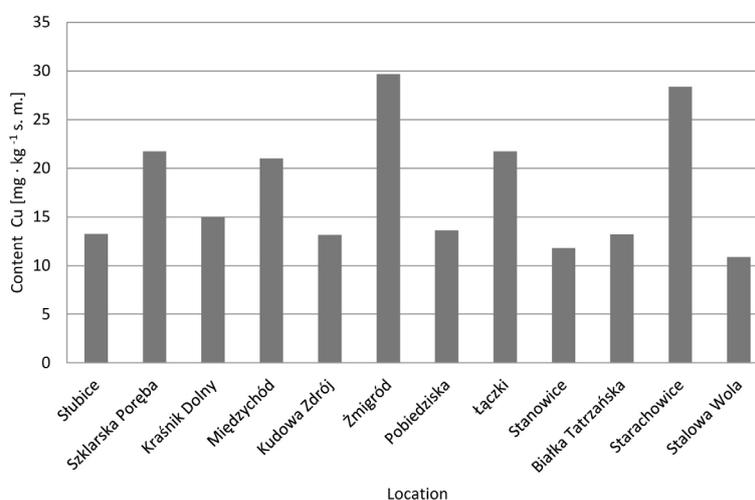


Figure 3. The content of Cu mg·kg d.m in the tansy leaves (*Tanacetum vulgare*) from different positions

al. 2017]. In the studies carried out close to the opencast mine in Bełchatów, the Zn content in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves was from 125 to 178 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. [Jasion et al. 2013]. The studies by Adamcova and Jasion both suggest a theory telling that the Zn concentration in tansy on the area used industrially undergoes significant changes, generated by the zinc access under various soil conditions [Adamcova et al. 2017].

In the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves, a relatively small content of molybdenum was found, which in the case of seven positions was oscillating within the limits from 0.407 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. in Łączki to 0.999 [mg·kg⁻¹ d.m.] in Pobiedziska. In the other five locations, a significant increase in the amount of molybdenum was observed and the highest Mo concentration – 2,015 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. – was noted in Kraśnik Dolny (Fig. 4).

The obtained Mo concentrations (Fig. 5) do not deviate from the element content in other plants (for example in the corn leaves (*Zea mays*) it is 1.17 mg·kg⁻¹ d.m. and allows for an appropriate plant growth [Fialho et al. 2013].

On the basis of the analysis concerning the average content of bio elements in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves, the influence of an environment type on the concentration of particular microelements was proven (Table 2). Along with the industrialisation increase, the average contents of Cu, Zn, and Mo rise as well. In the case of the studied metals, a positive correlation of zinc and copper was observed, which is additionally confirmed by other authors' results (Bednarek et al. 2008). As far as the studied macroelements and copper contents are concerned, no significant correlations were noted; however, in the case of zinc, a negative correlation with potassium was noted,

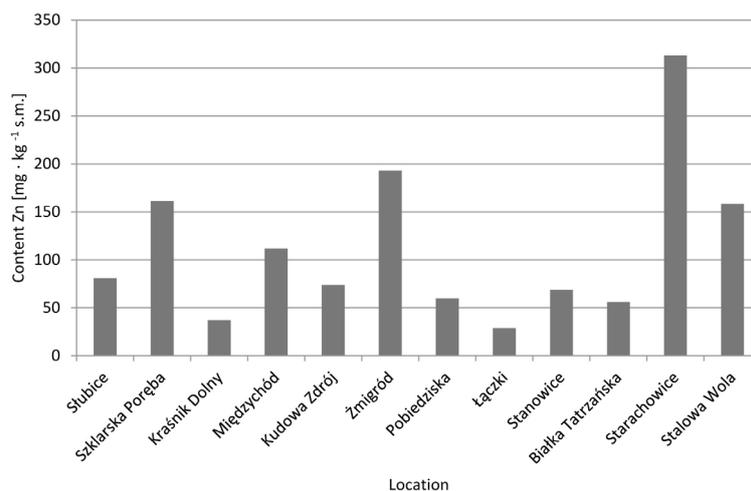


Figure 4. The Zn content [mg · kg d.m.] in the tansy leaves *Tanacetum vulgare* from different positions

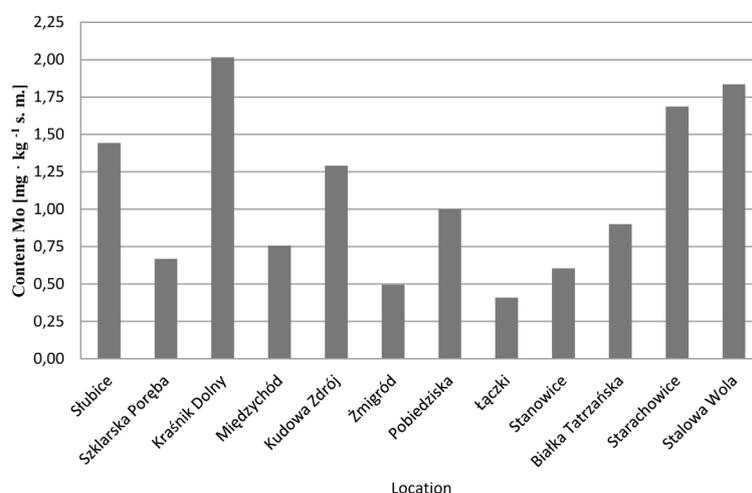


Figure 5. The Mo [mg · kg⁻¹ d.m.] content in the tansy leaves *Tanacetum vulgare* from different positions

a negative one for molybdenum with phosphorus, which may determine the process of incepting metallic elements from soil. Nevertheless, both the P and K contents were not influenced on the analysed area type (N or A).

CONCLUSION

The quantitative analysis shows the presence of different amounts of K, P, Cu, Zn and Mo in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves on the anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic positions. High

concentration of Cu, Zn, and Mo in the industrial sphere was strictly connected with the pollution caused by traffic and an industrial activity. The tansy that was picked up on both the anthropogenic as well as non-anthropogenic areas, was characterised by similar contents of K and P in its leaves, which indicates the lack of influence of the environment contamination level on the content of the metals in leaves.

The acquired and presented results included in the present study point at the usefulness of *Tanacetum vulgare* in monitoring the environment contamination with metals.

Table 2. The average content of bio elements in the *Tanacetum vulgare* leaves on the areas of anthropogenic (A) and non-anthropogenic (N) [mg · kg⁻¹ d.m.]

Type of area	P	K	Cu	Zn	Mo
A	4338(1639)	26165(3676)	18.17(8.38)	175.2(101.2)	1.20(0.65)
N	4338(1345)	26895(3247)	17.58(6.04)	80.08(52.44)	1.04(0.53)

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