

# European Network on New Sensing Technologies for Air Pollution Control and Environmental Sustainability - *EuNetAir*

COST Action TD1105

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop *EuNetAir* on**

***New Trends and Challenges for Air Quality Control***

**University of Latvia - Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences**

**Riga, Latvia, 26 - 27 March 2015**

## WHAT CAN BE DONE WHEN POLLUTANTS ARE IN THE AIR

**Gawroński S.W. MC Member**

[stanislaw\\_gawronski@sggw.pl](mailto:stanislaw_gawronski@sggw.pl)

Laboratory of Basic Research in Horticulture

Faculty of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape  
Architecture, Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW



# Pollutants in urban areas:

- ✓ **Particulate matters (10 $\mu$ m, 2.5 and 0.2 $\mu$ m)**
- ✓ Gases (NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, CO, O<sub>3</sub>)
- ✓ **Heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Mn, Zn)**
- ✓ **Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**
- ✓ Chlorinated biphenols (PCB)
- ✓ **Noble metals (Pt, Pd, Rd)**
- ✓ Salinity (de-icing salt, over 90 % NaCl)

# The London Smog (1952)

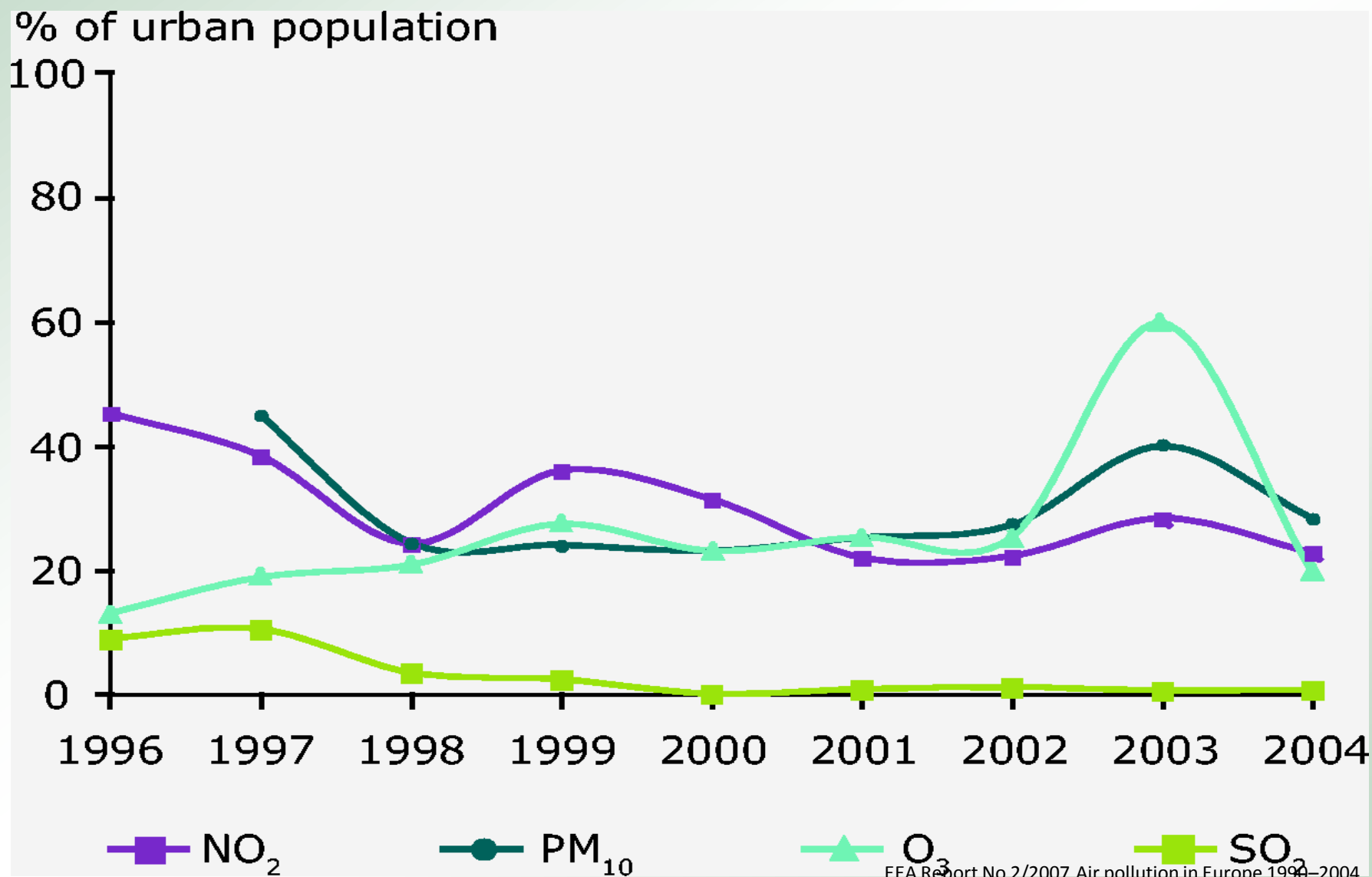


**Smog killed 4000 people, another 8000  
died in the weeks and month that followed**

# Smog over the city of Los Angeles (caused primarily by $O_3$ )



# Percentage of the urban population potentially exposed to pollutant concentrations over selected limit/target values





Some plant species tolerate air pollutants better than others

# Some plant species tolerate air pollutants better than others

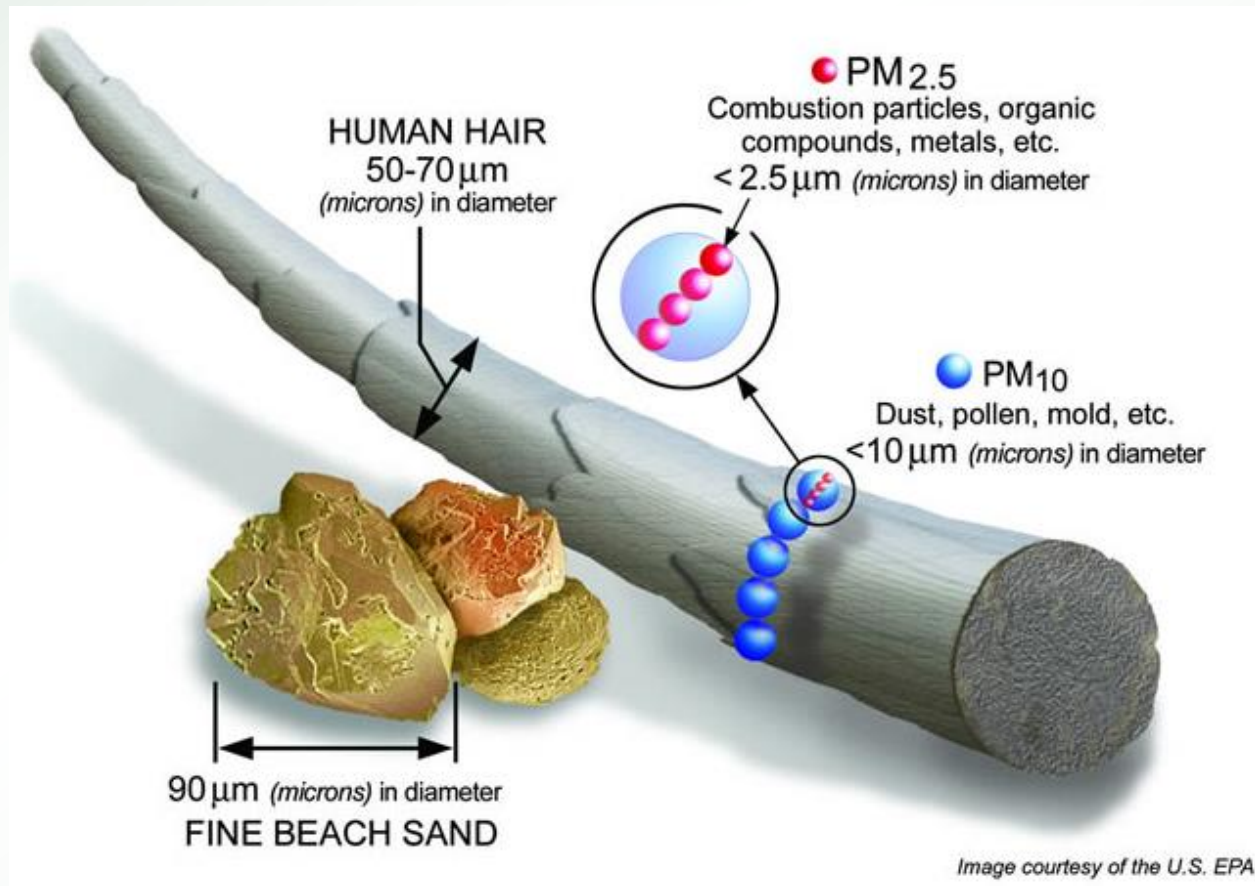
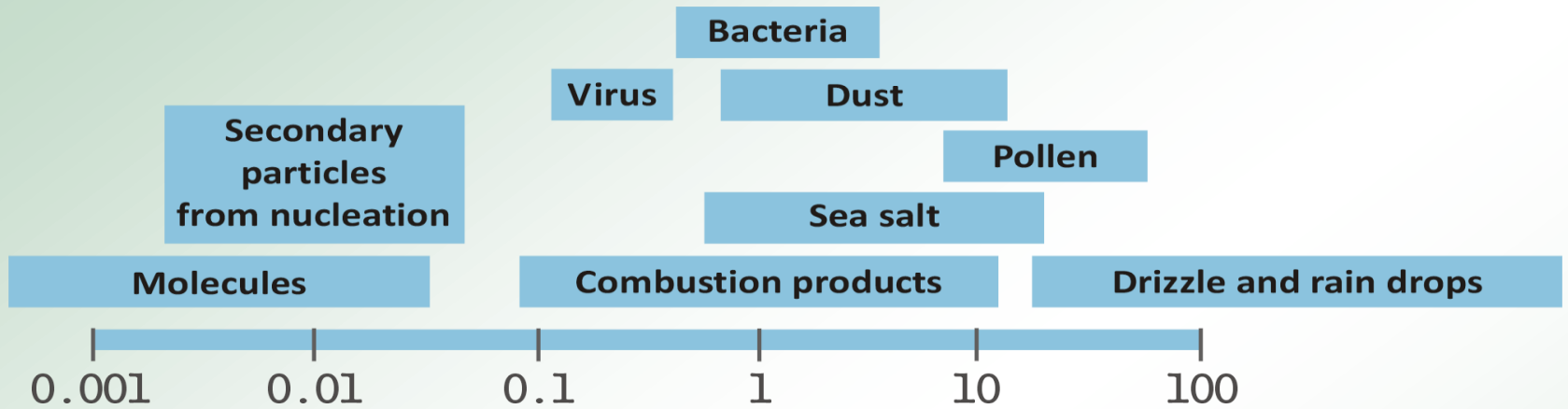




**Air pollution -**



# Particulate matter



10-100  $\mu\text{m}$   
 2.5-10  $\mu\text{m}$   
 0.2-2.5  $\mu\text{m}$

# Locations of plants cultivation, differing in level of air pollution, used for leaves sampling for PAHs content assay

A photograph of a busy city street with multi-story apartment buildings, cars, and a traffic light.

City center  
(high polluted)

A photograph of a university campus featuring a large green lawn, paved walkways, and a classical building in the background.

University campus  
(medium polluted)

A photograph of a nursery garden with rows of young plants, including red and yellow flowers, under a clear sky.

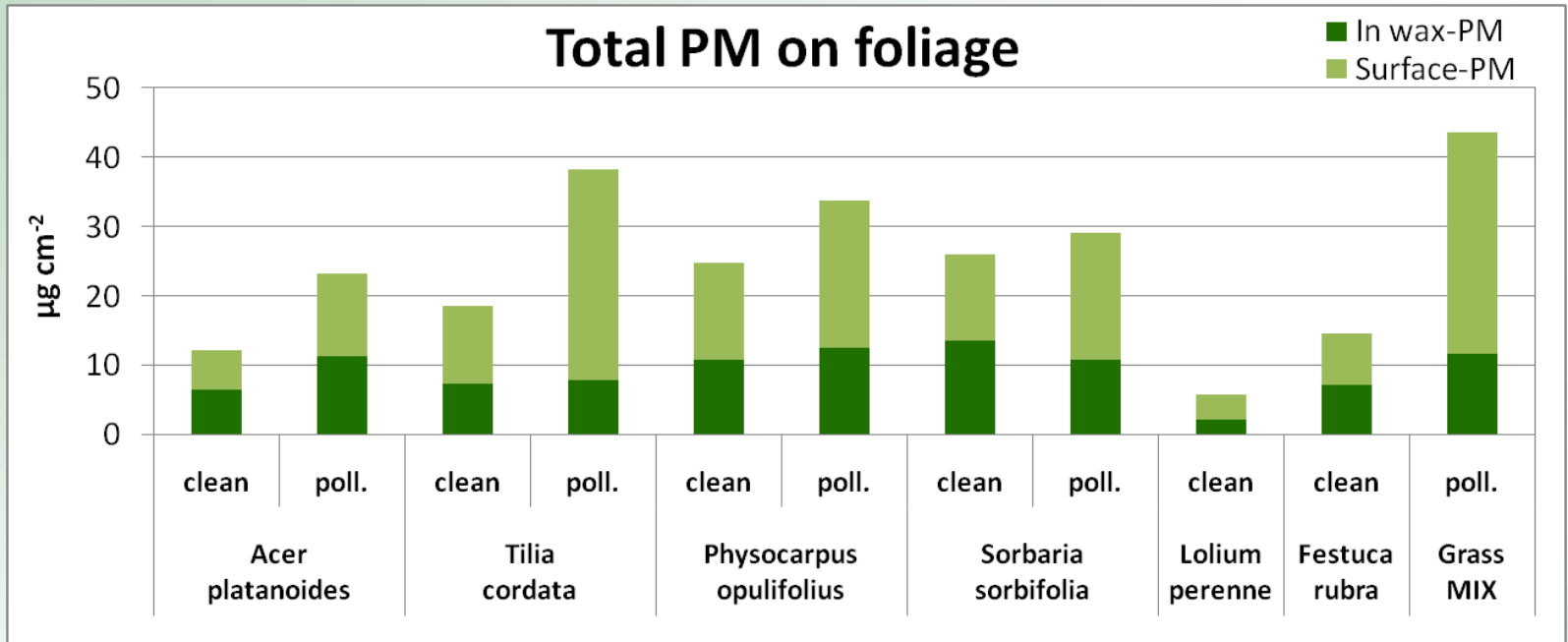
Nursery garden  
(clean)

Plant species used in studies:

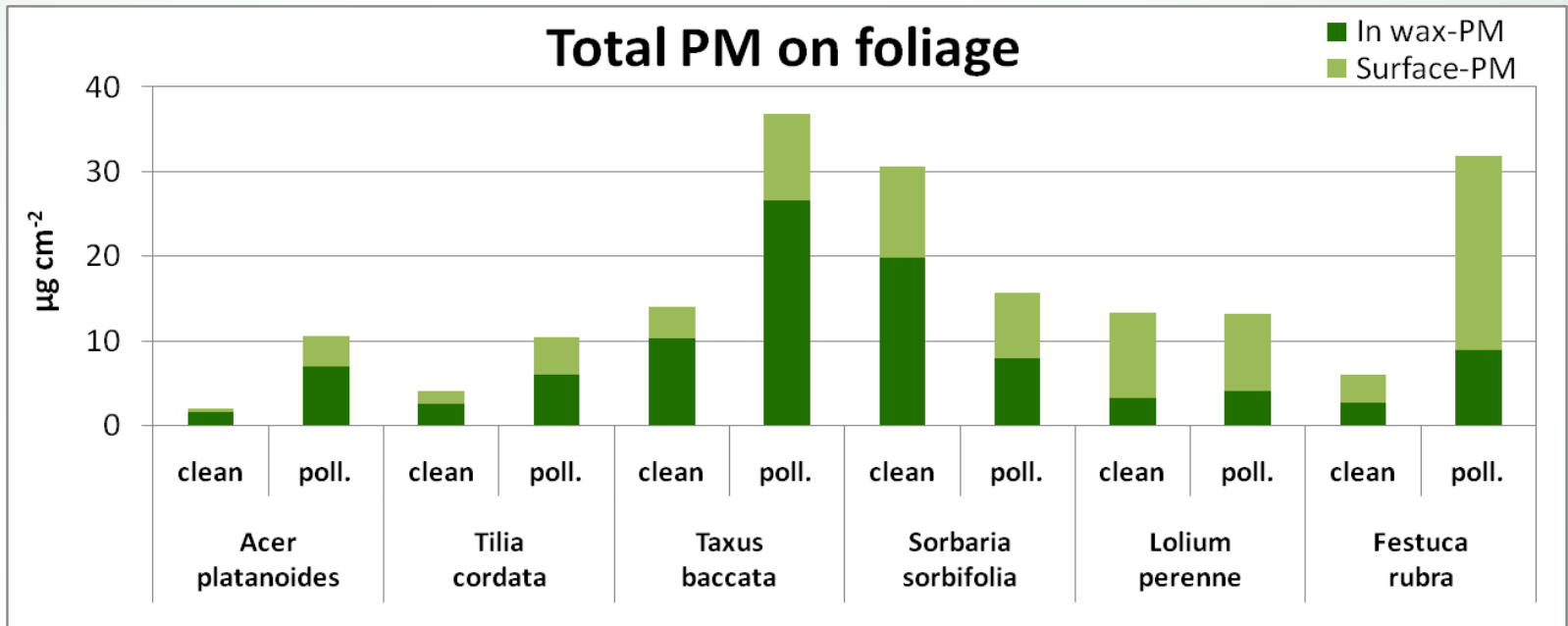
*Acer platanoides*, *Tilia cordata*, *Physocarpus opulifolius*,  
*Sorbaria sorbifolia*, *Lolium perenne*, *Festuca rubra* (Poland).

In Norway *Physocarpus opulifolius* was replaced by *Taxus baccata*








POLAND



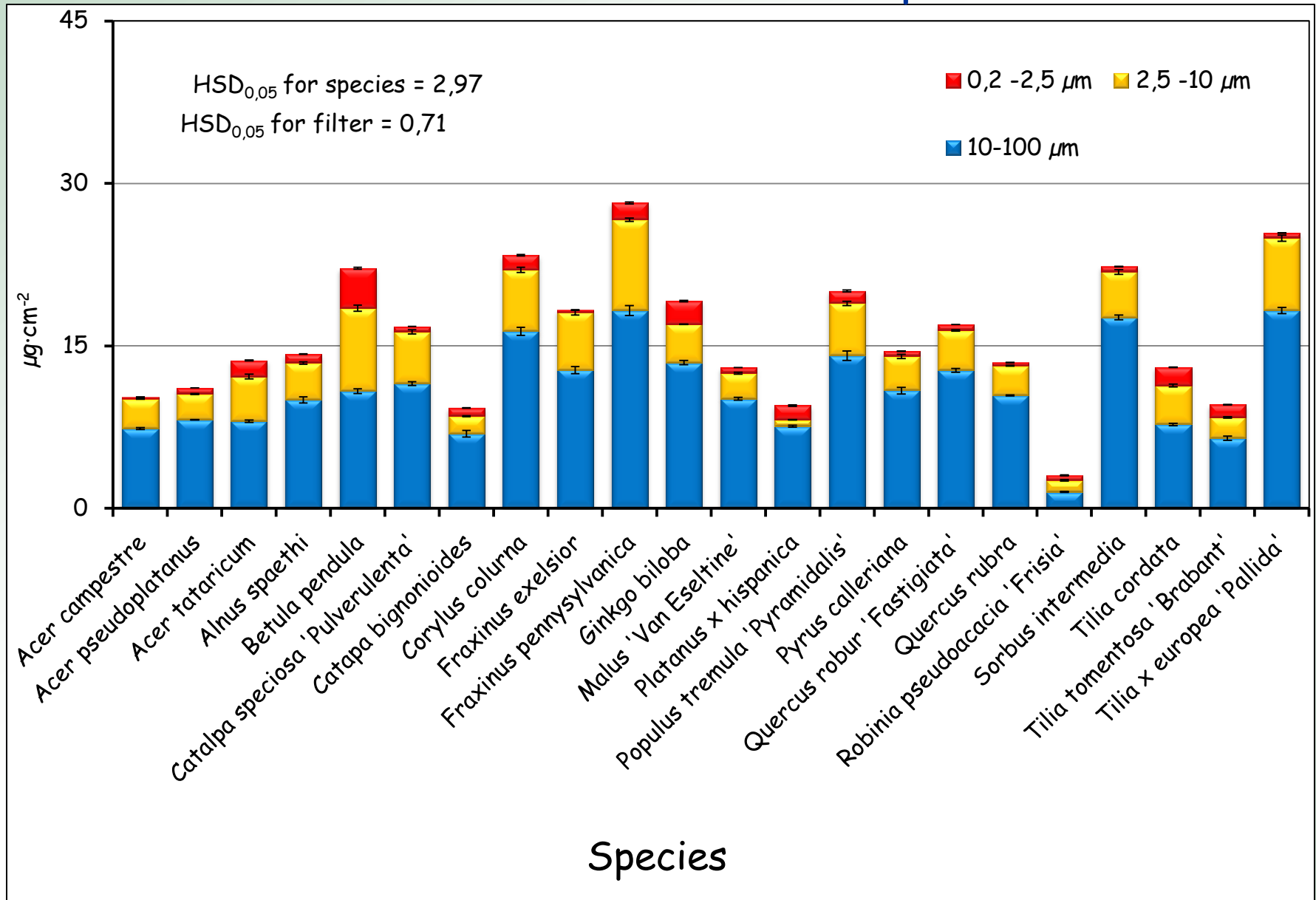
NORWAY



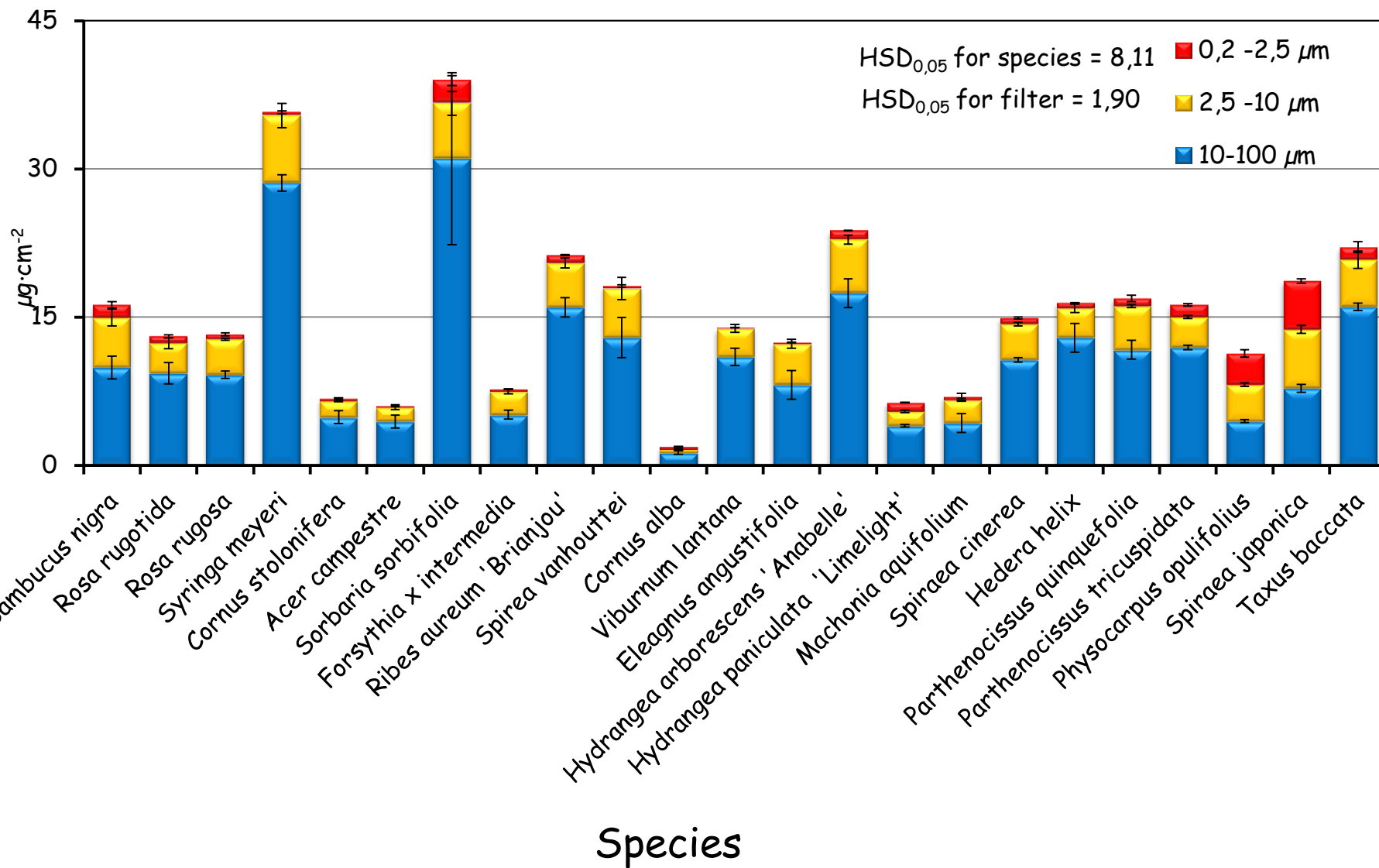
# Particulate matter and waxes deposited on trees leaf surface ( $\mu\text{g cm}^{-2}$ )

Species	PM			Waxes
	PM <sub>11</sub>	PM <sub>2,5</sub>	$\Sigma$	
 <i>Quercus rubra</i>	12,0	2,8	14,8	110,6
 <i>Populus simoni</i>	27,4	9,9	37,3	86,5
 <i>Betula pendula</i>	34,3	9,5	43,8	645,7
 <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	33,4	10,0	43,4	157,2
 <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	23,2	5,6	28,8	94,9
 <i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	31,0	11,4	42,4	91,0
 <i>Cornus alba</i>	15,5	5,3	20,8	122,3

# Amount of particulate matters deposited on leaf surface of 22 tree species

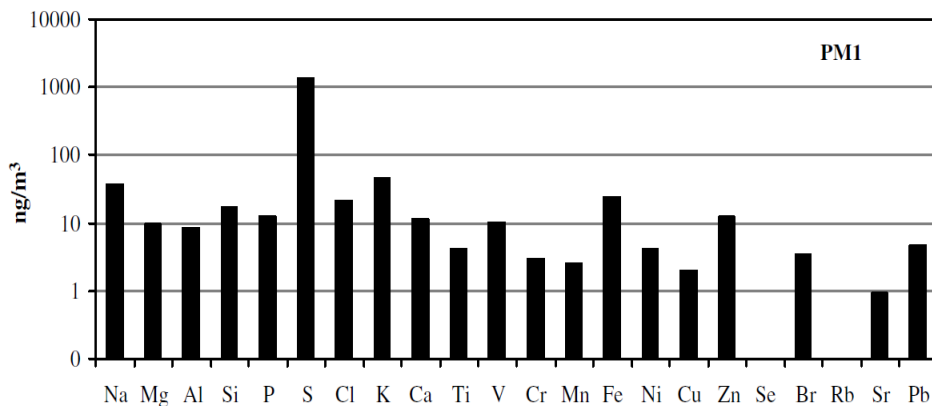
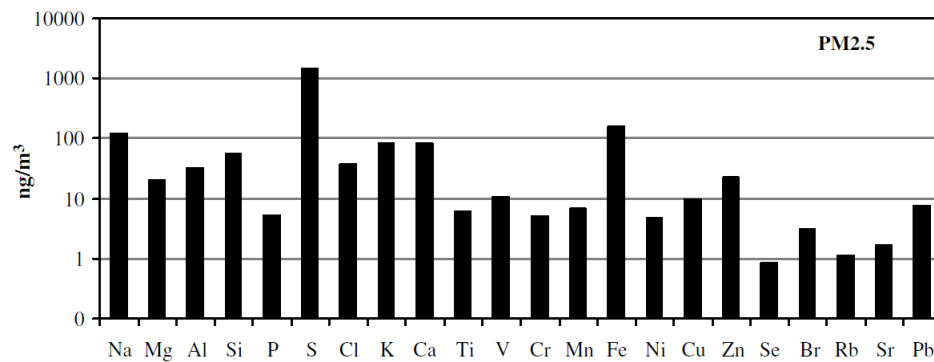
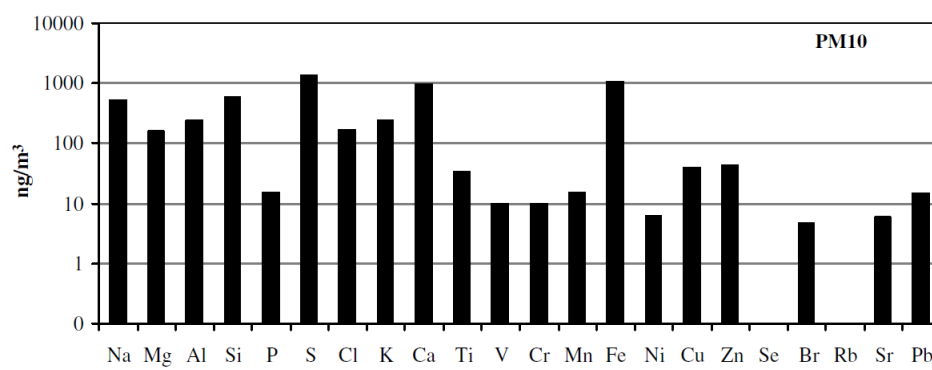


# Amount of particulate matters deposited on leaf surface and in waxes of 23 shrubs species





**Heavy metals**

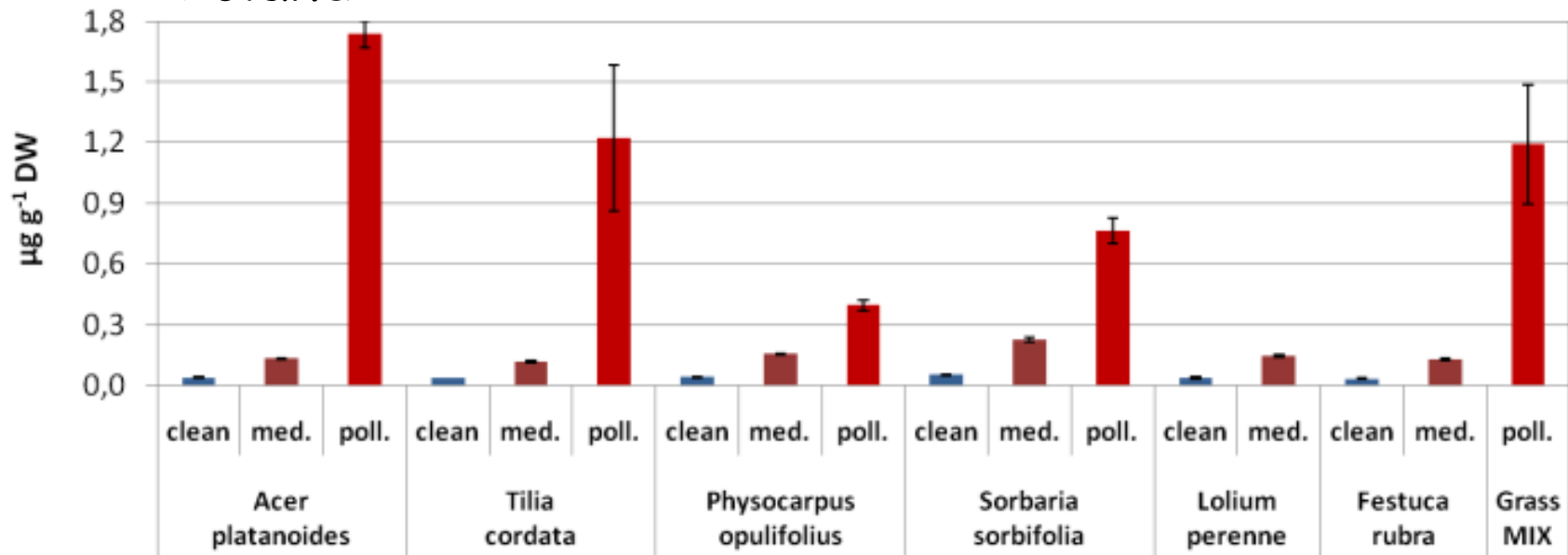


Elemental composition of PM10, PM2.5, PM1 deduced by PIXE and ED-XRF analysis of PARTISOL filters.



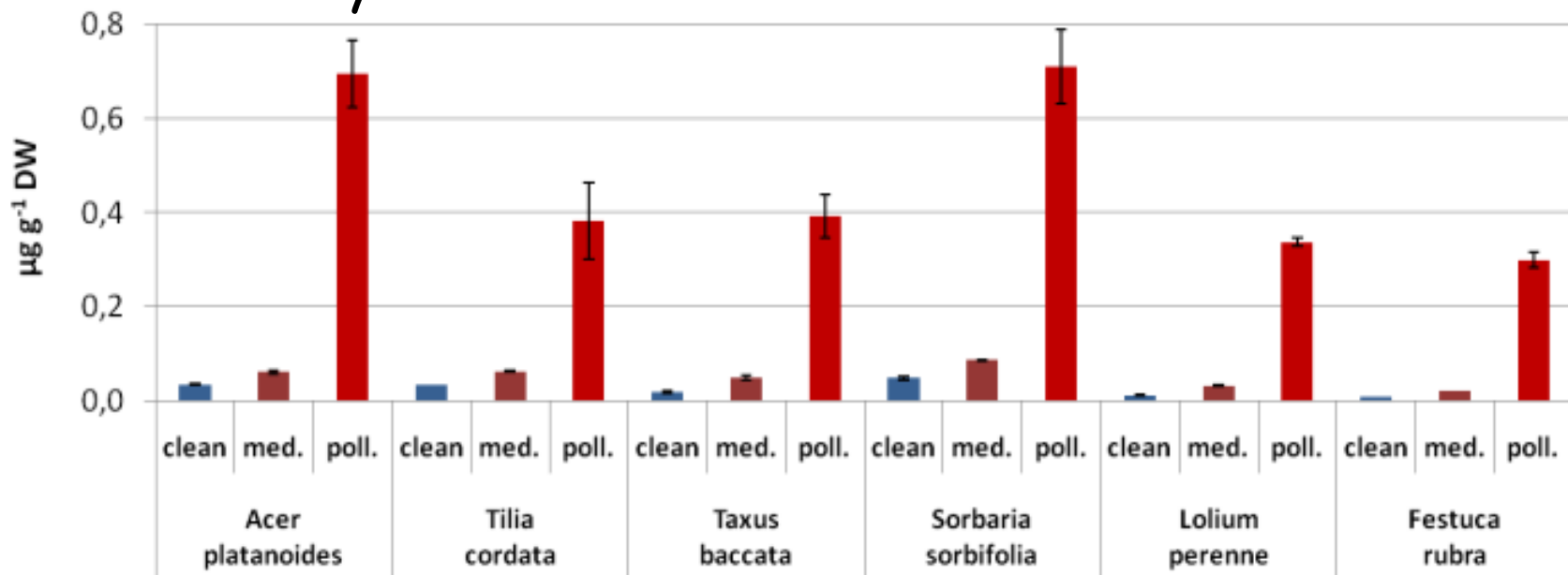
# Poland

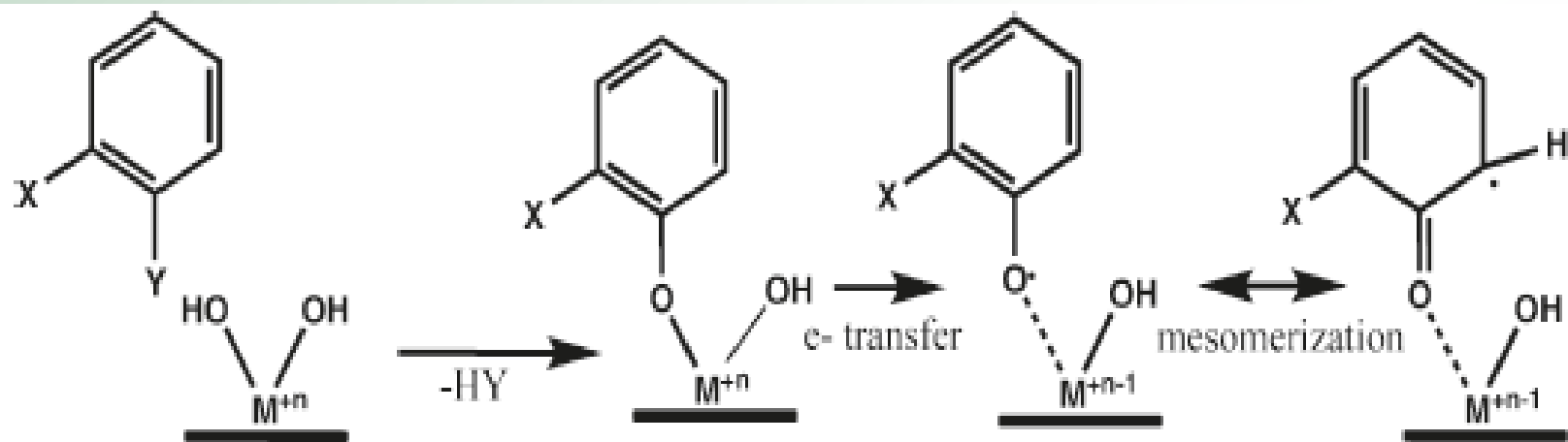
# Sb



# Norway

# Sb





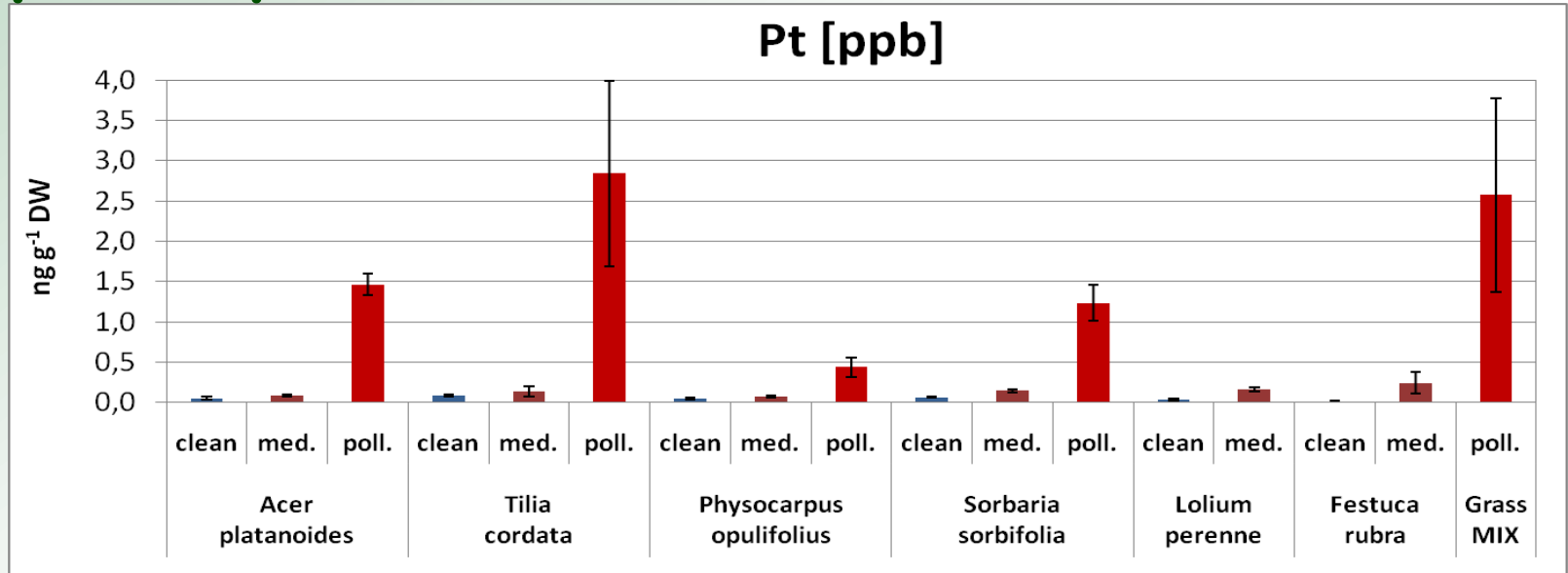
**Figure 1.** Simplified model of EPFR formation from a substituted aromatic on a metal oxide surface via chemisorption and electron transfer.



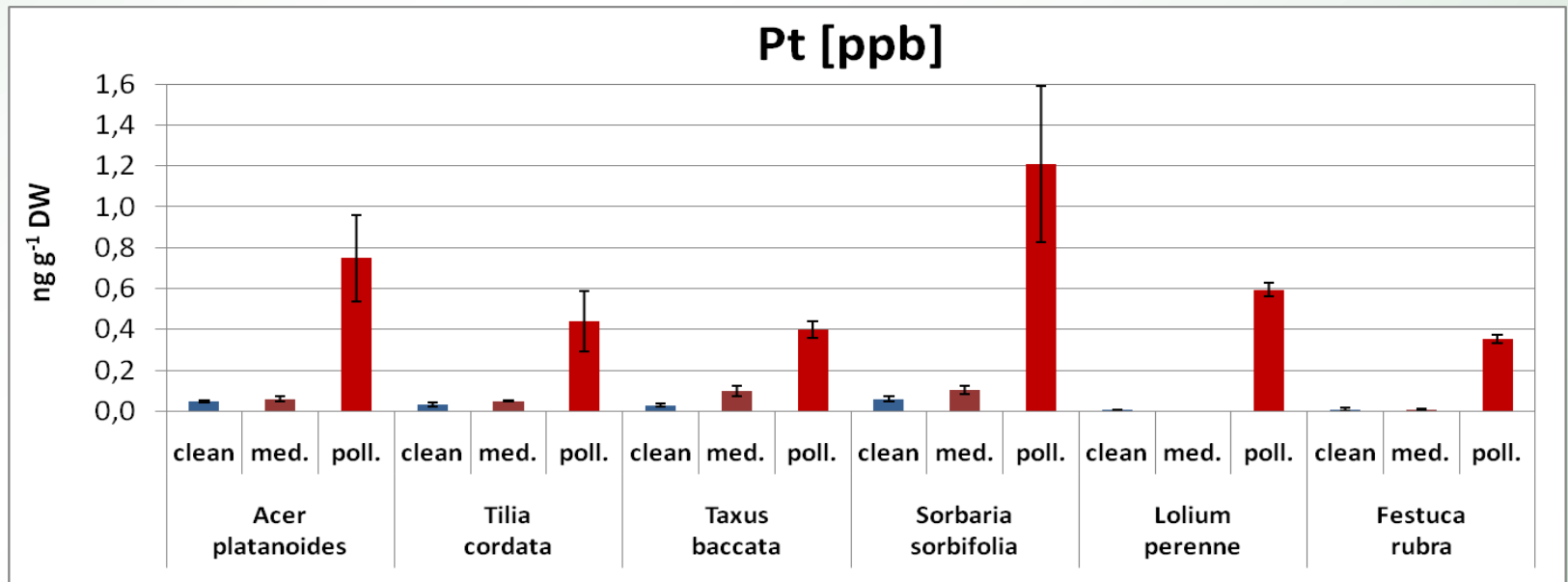
**Noble metal: Platinum (Pt)**

# Concentration of platinum in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations

POLAND

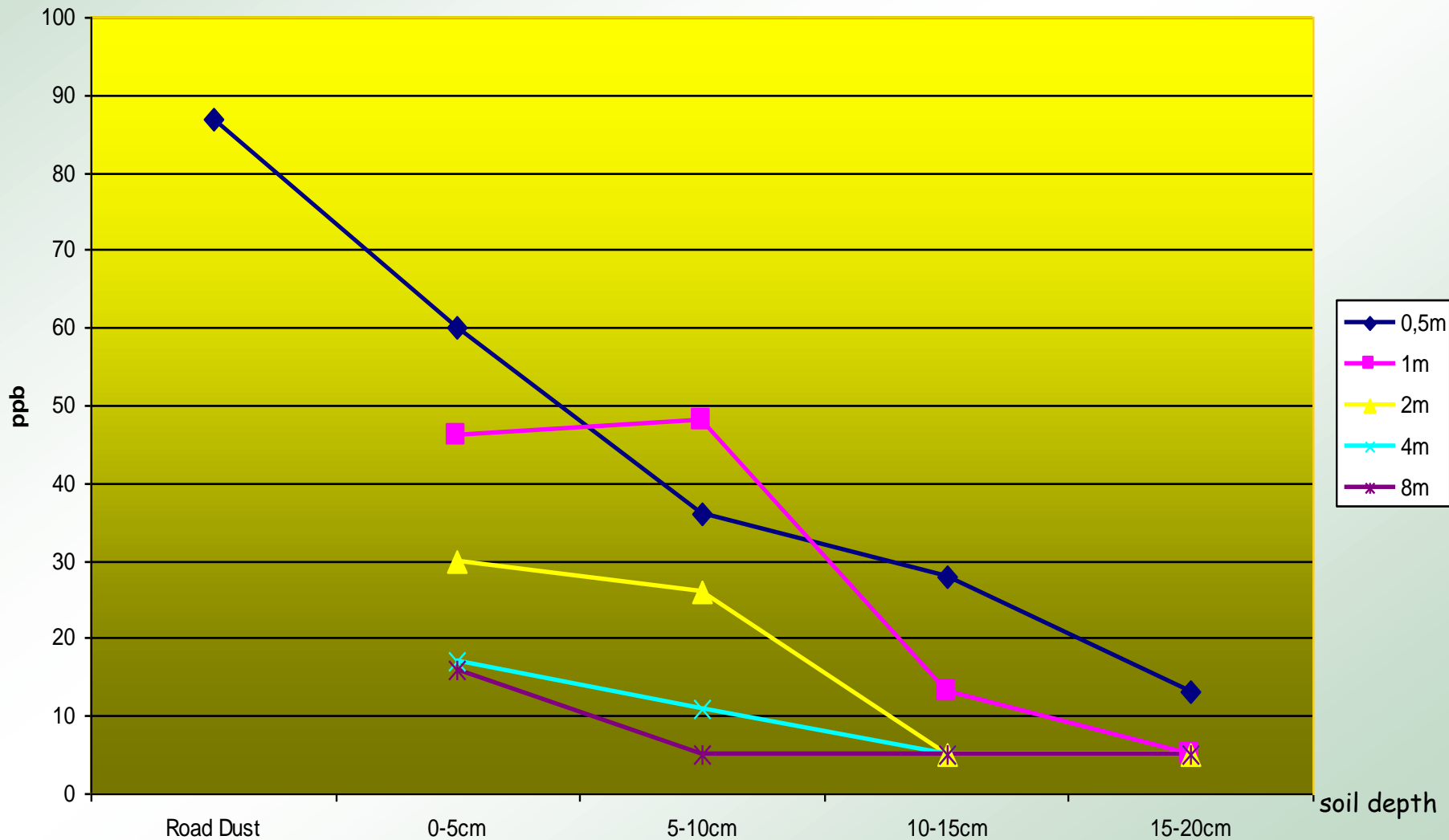


NORWAY



# The effect of distance from road edge and soil depth on platinum accumulation

*Platinum Concentration*



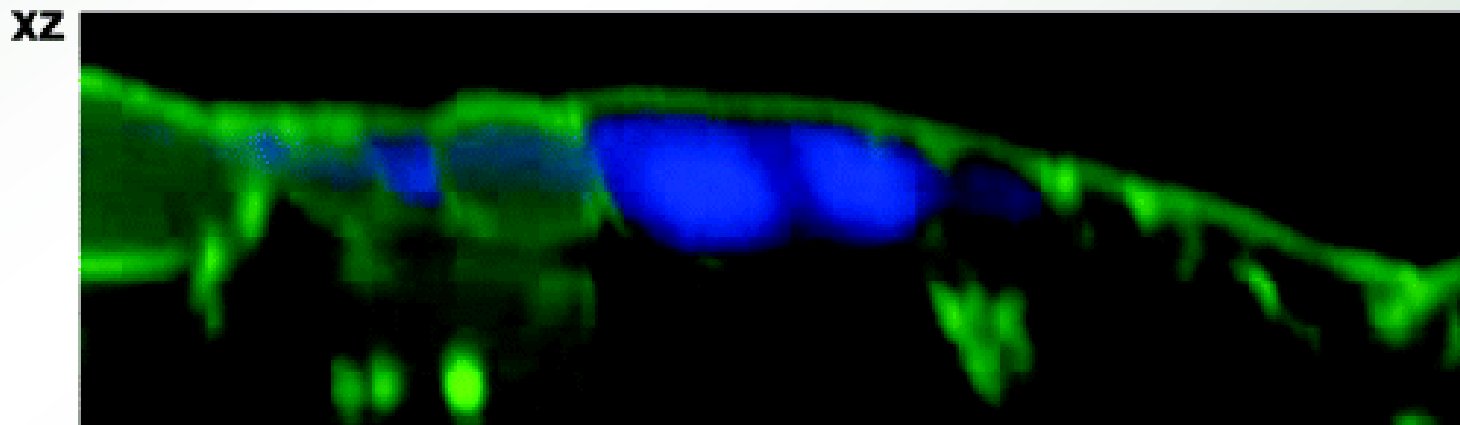
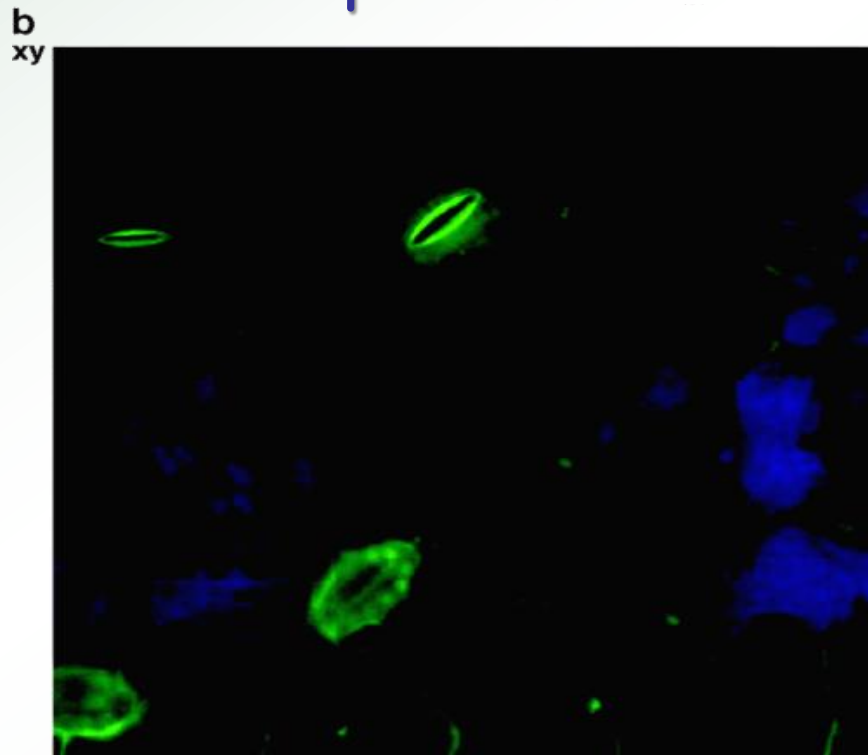
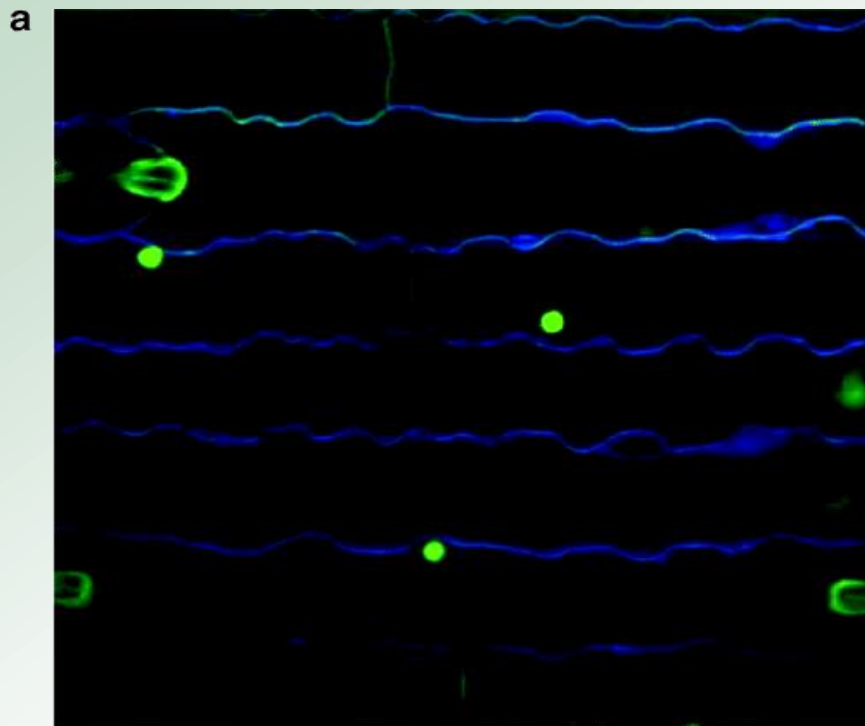


**Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**

Content of 17 PAHs in leaves of *Canna x generalis* plants assayed after washing with water or in waxes extracted with chloroform (  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  DM.)

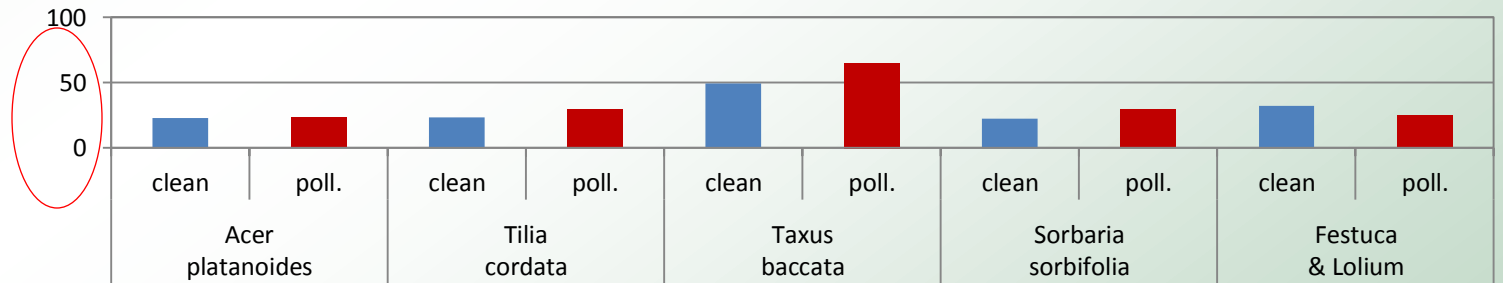
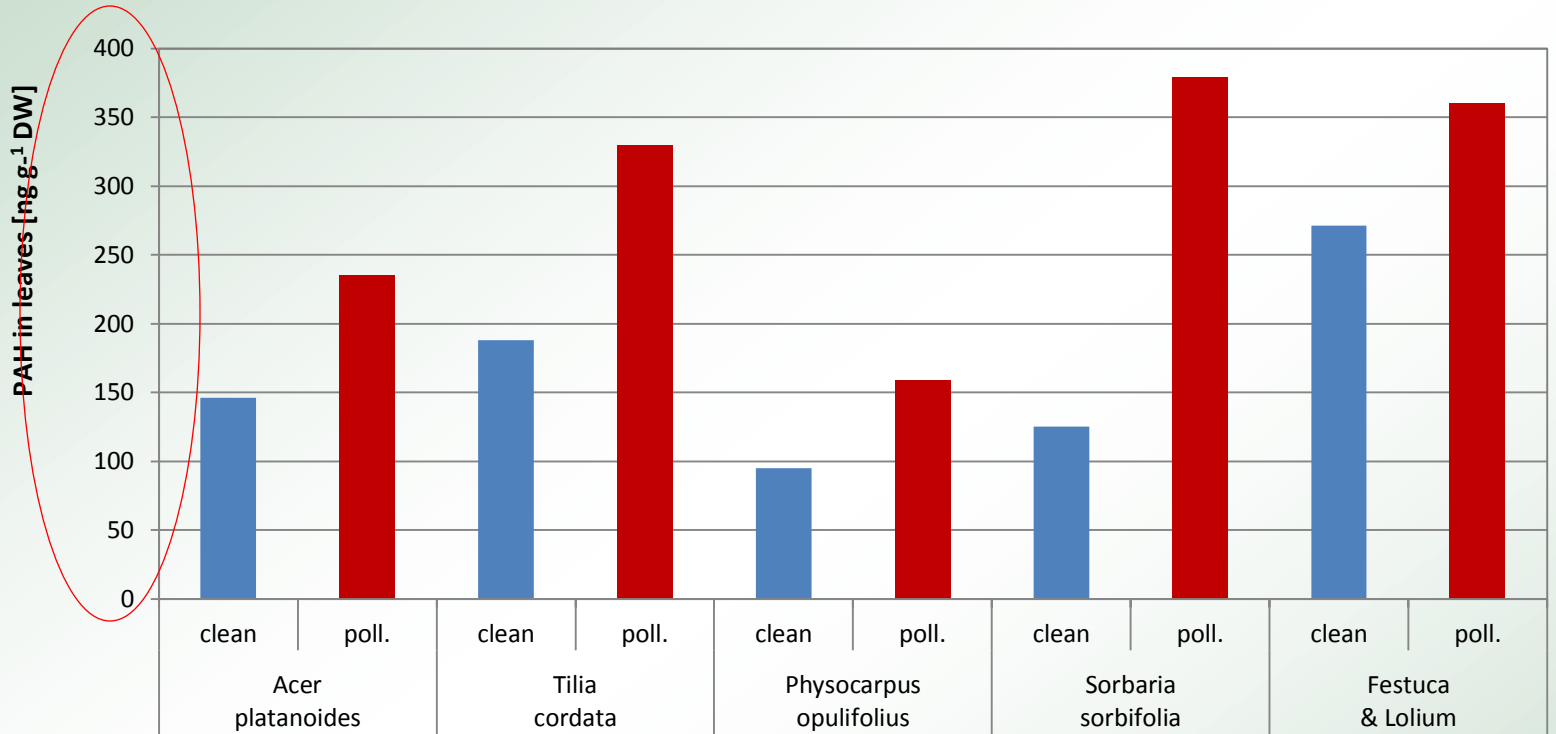
Compound	Ring number	Leaves not wased	Leaves washed with		average
			water	chloroform	
Acenaphtylene	3	6,0	5,5	7,5	6,3
Acenaphtene		20,0	15,5	14,5	16,6
Fluorene		37,0	34,3	34,3	35,2
Phenanthene		219,8	194,3	190,0	201,4
Anthracene		12,5	9,3	8,5	10,1
Fluoranthene	4	73,0	70,8	56,5	66,8
Pyrene		44,3	39,8	30,0	38,0
Benz[a]anthracene*		10,0	7,0	5,5	7,5
Chrysene*		18,5	18,5	8,8	15,3
Benzo[b]fluoranthene*		11,8	8,3	6,0	8,7
Benzo[k]fluoranthene*	5	5,8	4,8	3,8	4,8
Benzo[e]pyrene*		8,3	5,8	4,3	6,1
Benzo[a]pyrene*		7,5	3,8	4,3	6,1
Perylene		6,3	3,0	3,3	4,2
Dibenz[a,h]anthracene		5,0	5,0	5,0	5,6
Indeno[1,2,3c,d]pyrene*	6	6,3	5,0	5,8	5,7
Benzo[g,h,i]perylene		5,0	5,0	5,8	5,3
Total		497,1	435,7	395,7	442,8
<b>* Cancerigenic</b>		<b>85,7</b>	<b>76,5</b>	<b>53,8</b>	<b>72</b>

# Penetration of fenatrene in epiderm cells

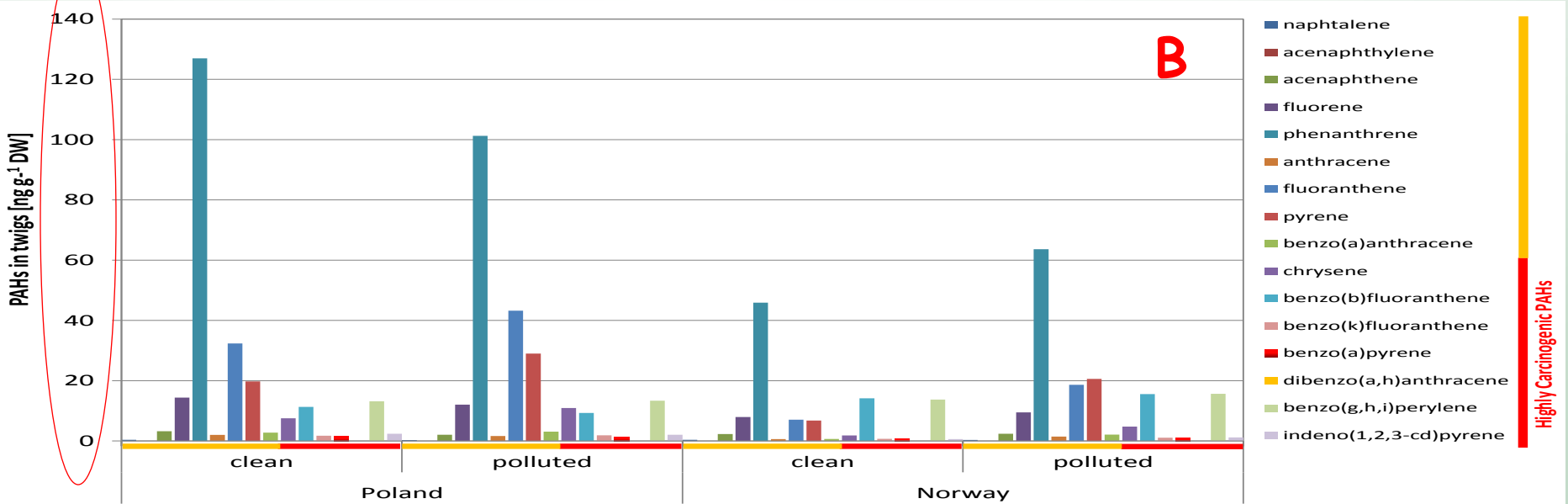
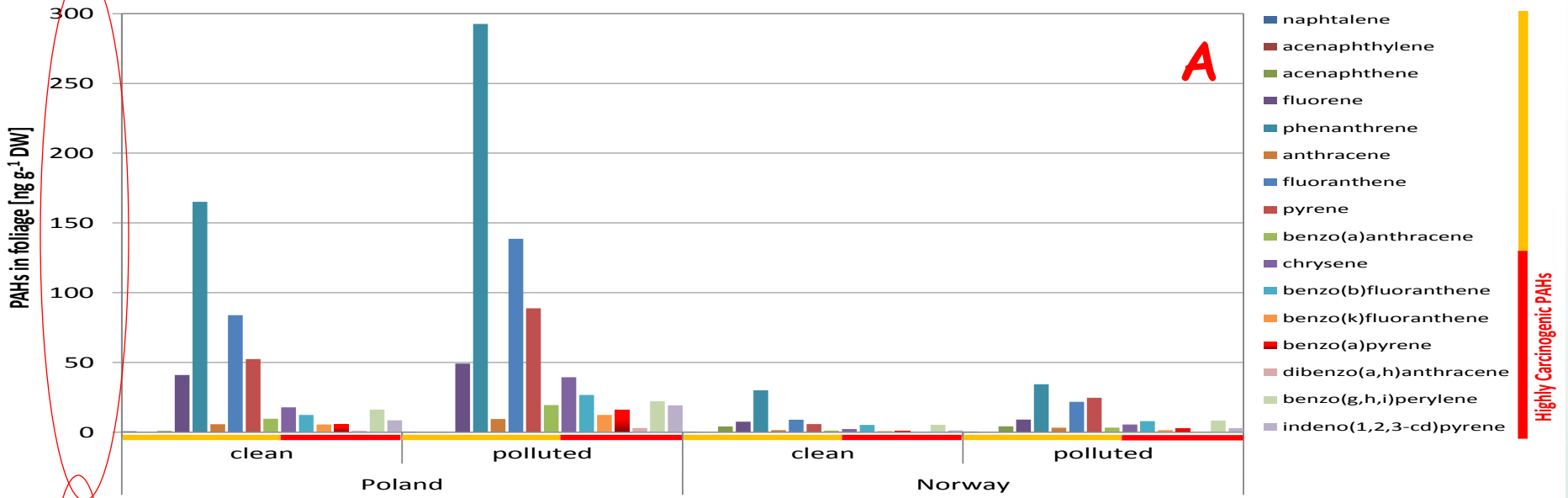




# Concentration of phenantrene in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations (data are mean for 2009 and 2010).

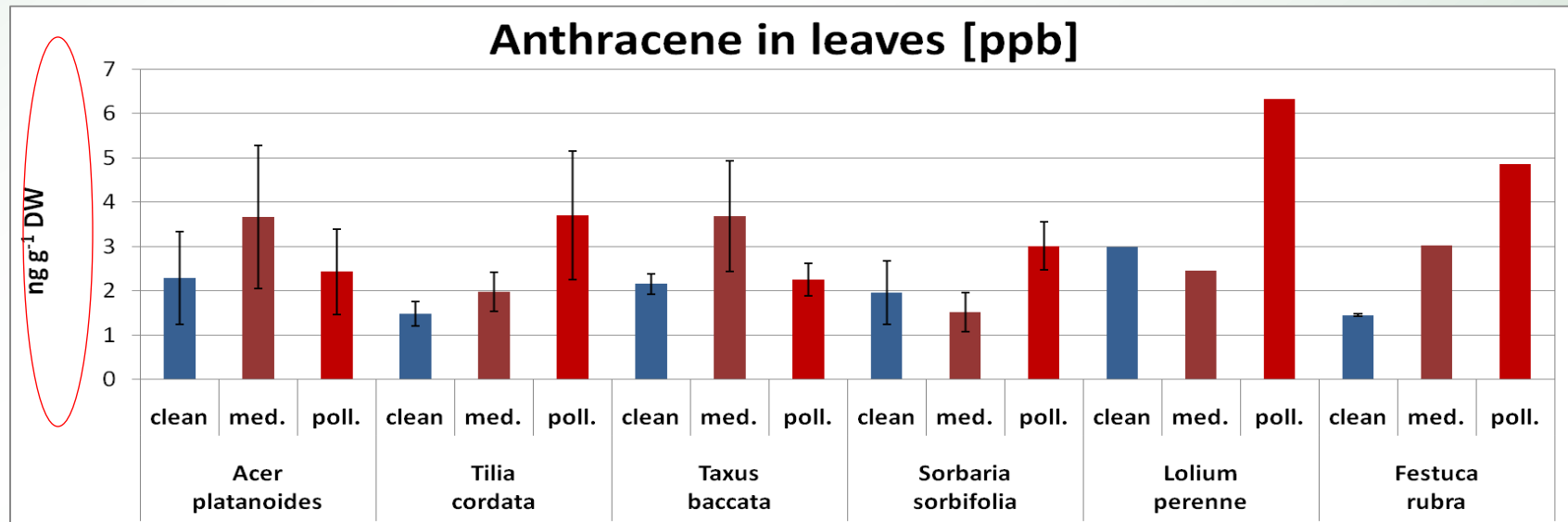
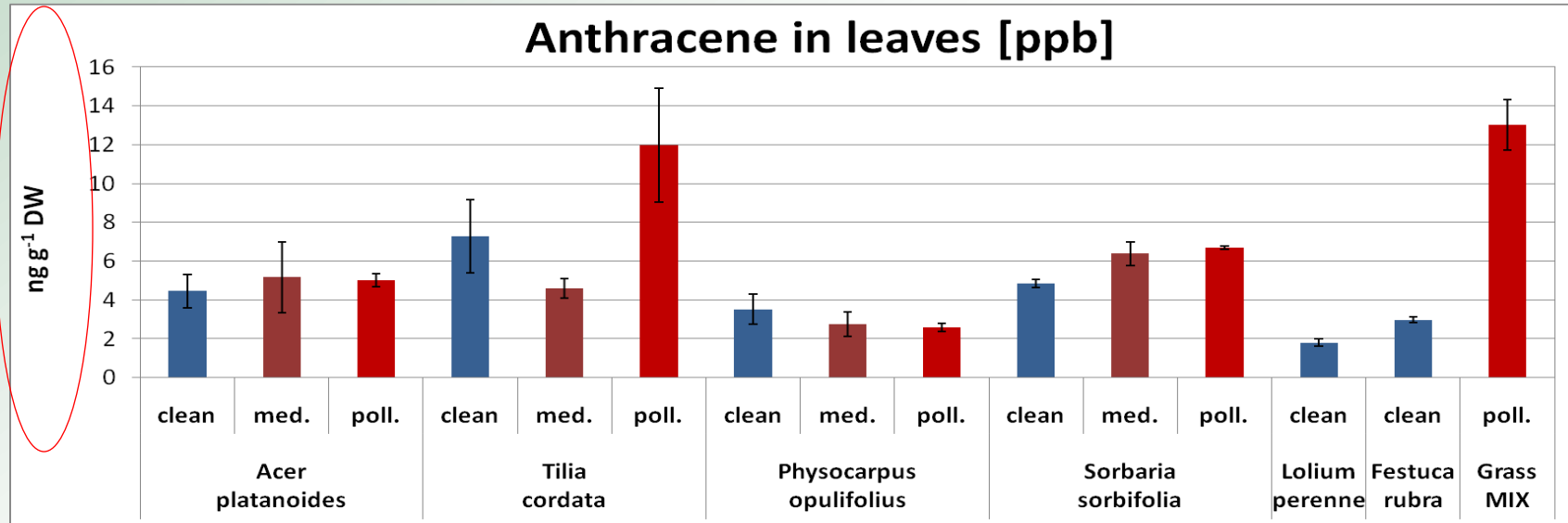


# Concentration of 16 PAHs in (A) leaves and (B) twigs of six plant species cultivated in polluted and clean sites. Data are for 2009 and 2010

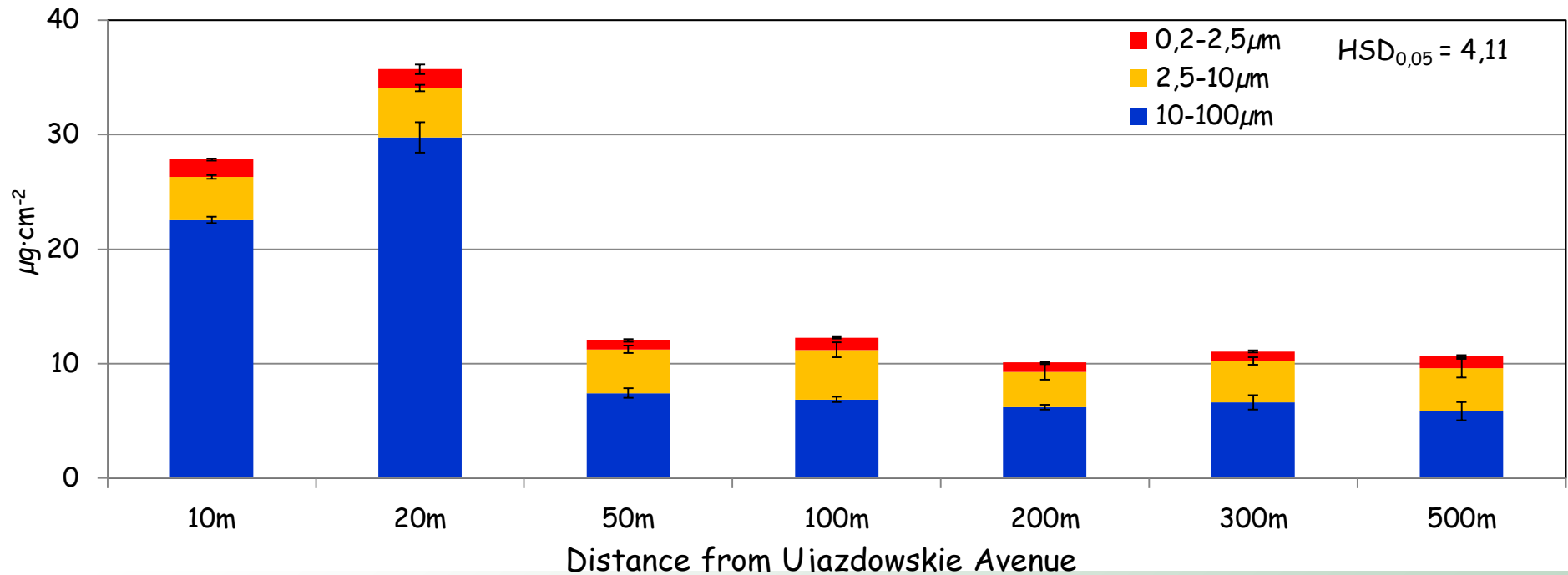




# Concentration of anthracene in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations. Data are mean for 2009 and 2010



# Particulate matter content on leaves of linden trees as affected by distance from emission



# Amount of particulate matters deposited on leaves in regard to side of source emission

PM flow from vehicle exhaust

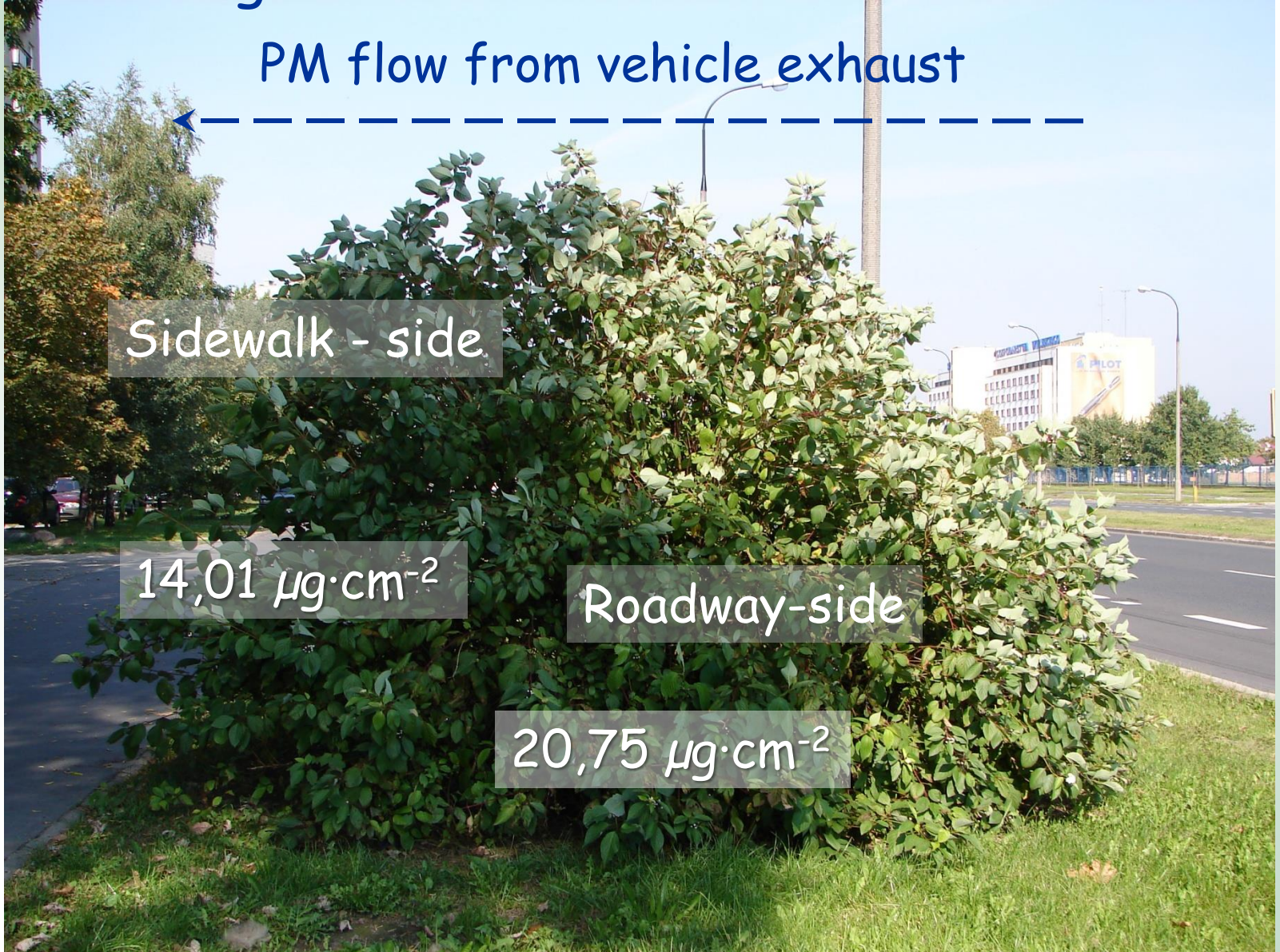


Sidewalk - side

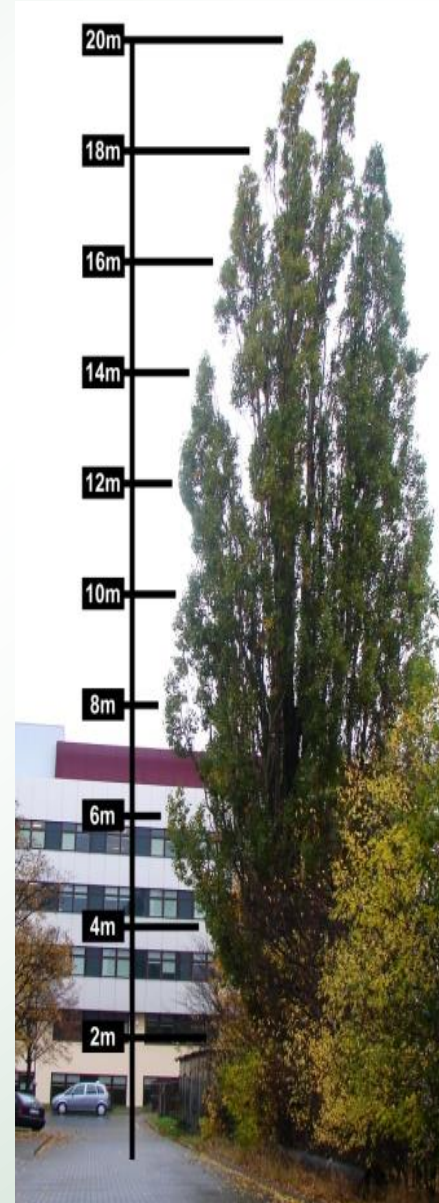
14,01  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$

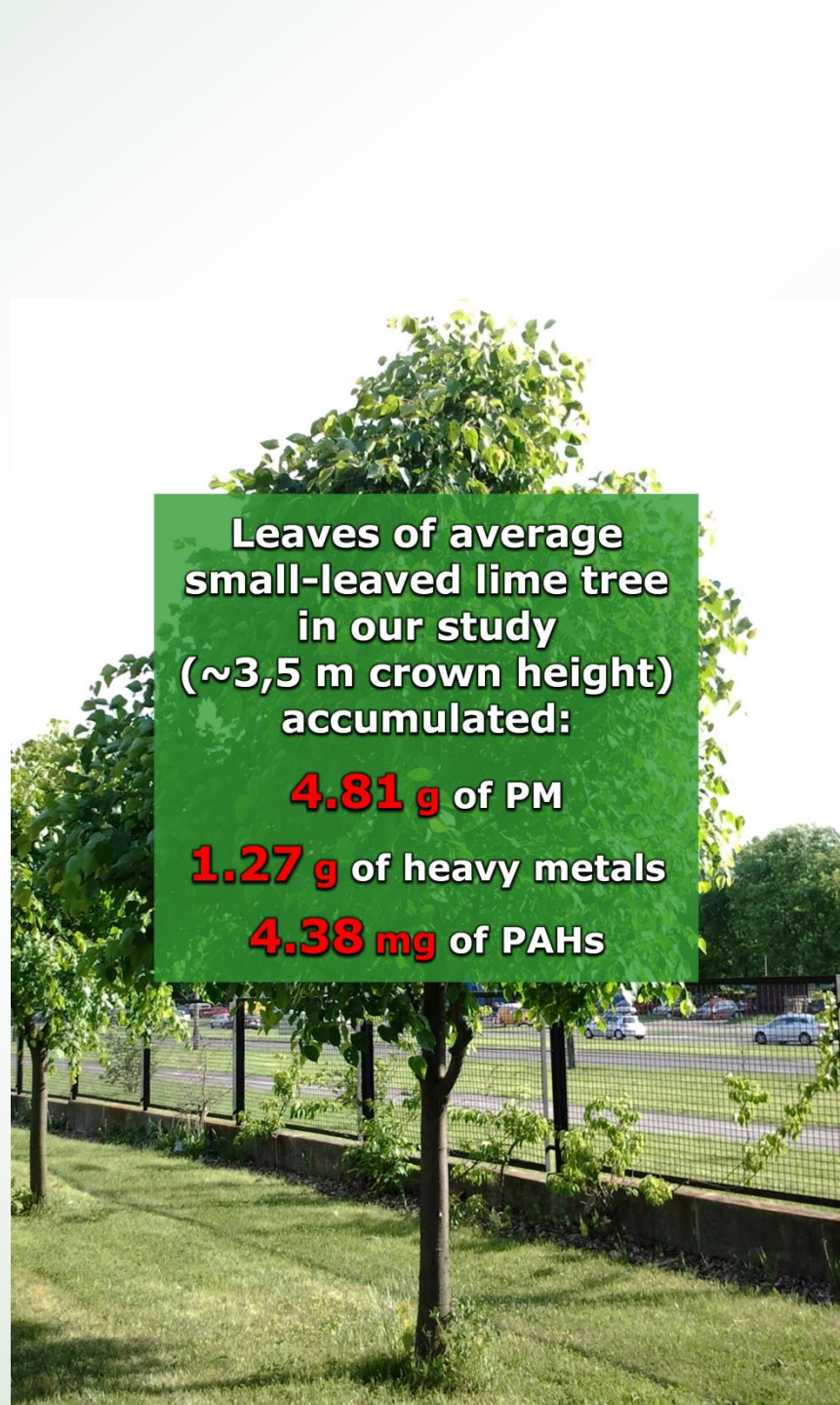
Roadway-side

20,75  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$



# Leaves sample collecting for PM measurements regarding high form source of emission





Leaves of average  
small-leaved lime tree  
in our study  
(~3,5 m crown height)  
accumulated:

**4.81 g** of PM

**1.27 g** of heavy metals

**4.38 mg** of PAHs





Barcelona 2013,  
COST ActionTD 1105





Beijing, China 19 10 2008

Trees in urban areas may form a green tunnels and accumulate air pollutants



# Indoor phytoremediation Botanical biofiltration



# Ability to absorb formaldehyde by the spider plant

- ❖ during 5 h concentration can be lowered ~20-35 X( from 4-7 to 0,2  $\mu\text{l/l}$ )
- ❖ No damage to plant is seen at 10  $\mu\text{l/l}$ , permissible level= = 0,1  $\mu\text{l/l}$

Formaldehyde enter plants via stomata and i epidermis



Plants also degrade formaldehyde using it as a carbon source for biochemical synthesis of carbohydrates, amino acids and other even more complex molecules. Formaldehyde decomposition occurs with the participation of glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase.

Work with *Arabidopsis* and *Nicotiana* for metabolic and genetic modification is advanced ( $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ , Cys-synthese activity)

## Ability to absorb formaldehyde by the *Ficus benjaminae*

Plants of 70 cm in height (~1,5 m<sup>2</sup> leaves)

Absorbs: 40 µg/h during day

8 µg/h during night

For 16/8 d/n= 704µg

If so, out of the apartment with an area of 40 m<sup>2</sup> and capacity of ~ 100m<sup>3</sup> formaldehyde at a concentration of 0.012 mg/m<sup>3</sup> will be removed completely in about 41 hours

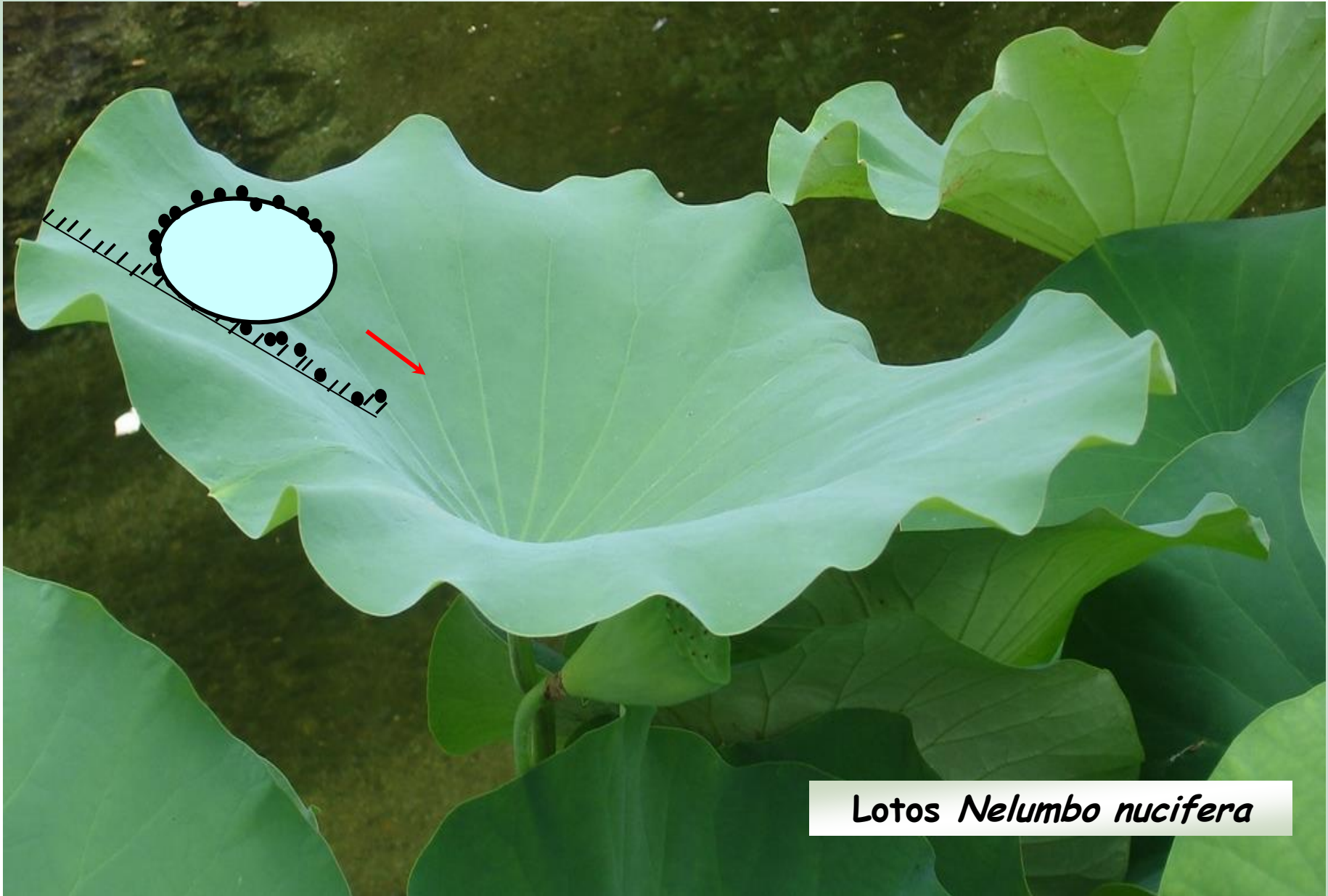
A large, dense, green Ficus benjaminae plant is shown in a room. The plant is tall and bushy, with many small, dark green leaves. It is positioned in front of a light-colored wall and a wooden cabinet. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The plant is the central focus of the image.

*Ficus benjaminae*





# Self „cleaning“ of pollutants by leaves of lotus plants



*Lotos Nelumbo nucifera*

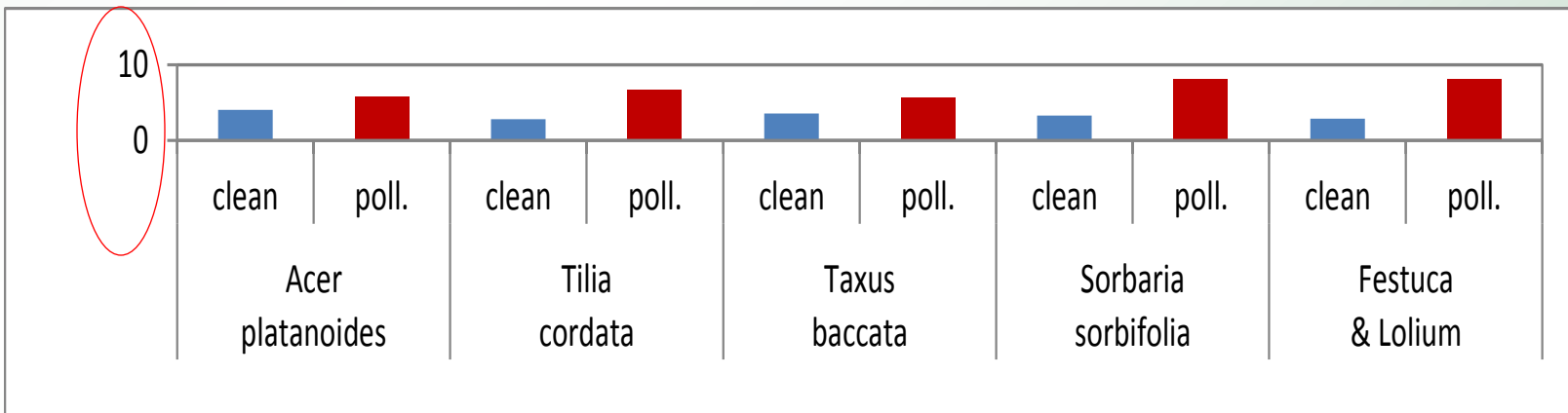
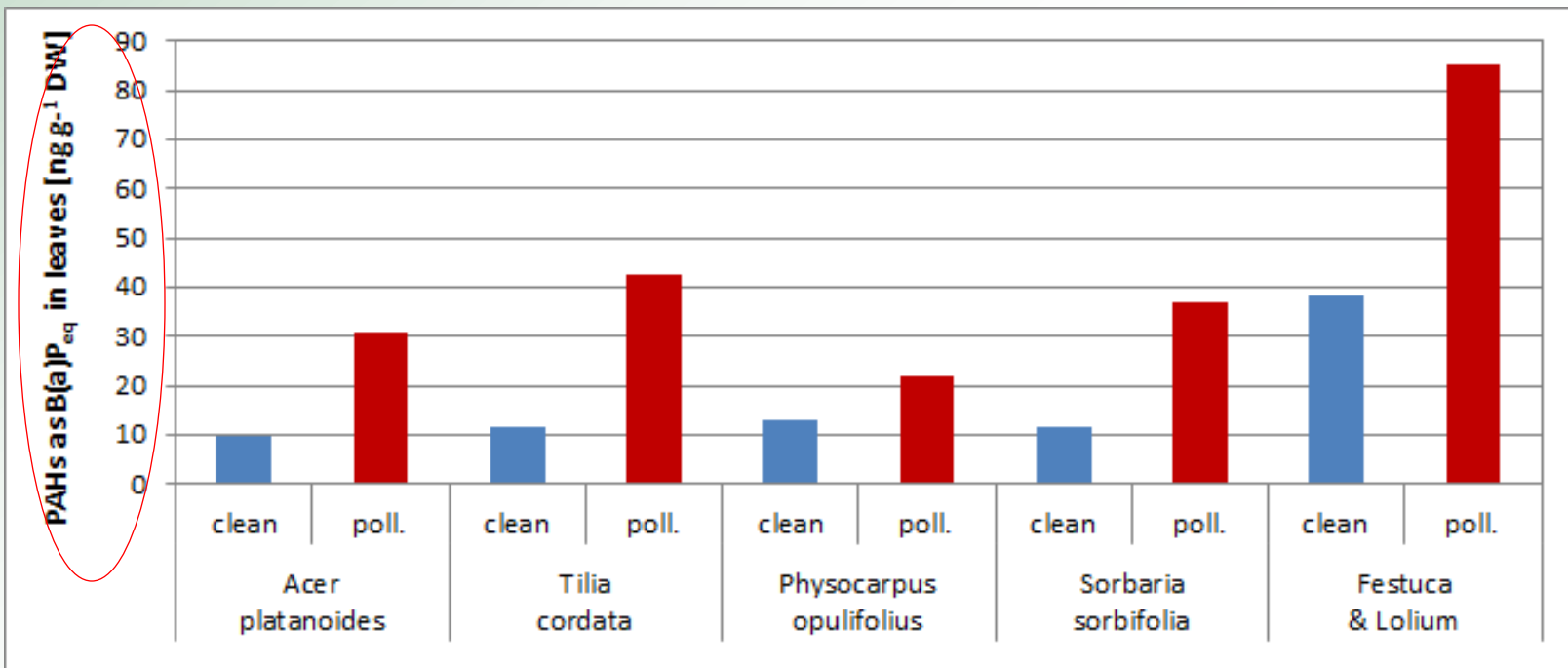
This study was supported by a grant from Norway through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, # PNRF-193-AI-1/07 granted to S.W. Gawronski and A. Sæbø and using equipment funded by Warsaw Plant Health Initiative of REGPOT Project within 7th FP #286093.



Thank you for your attention  
GREETINGS from and  
WELCOME to Warsaw !!!

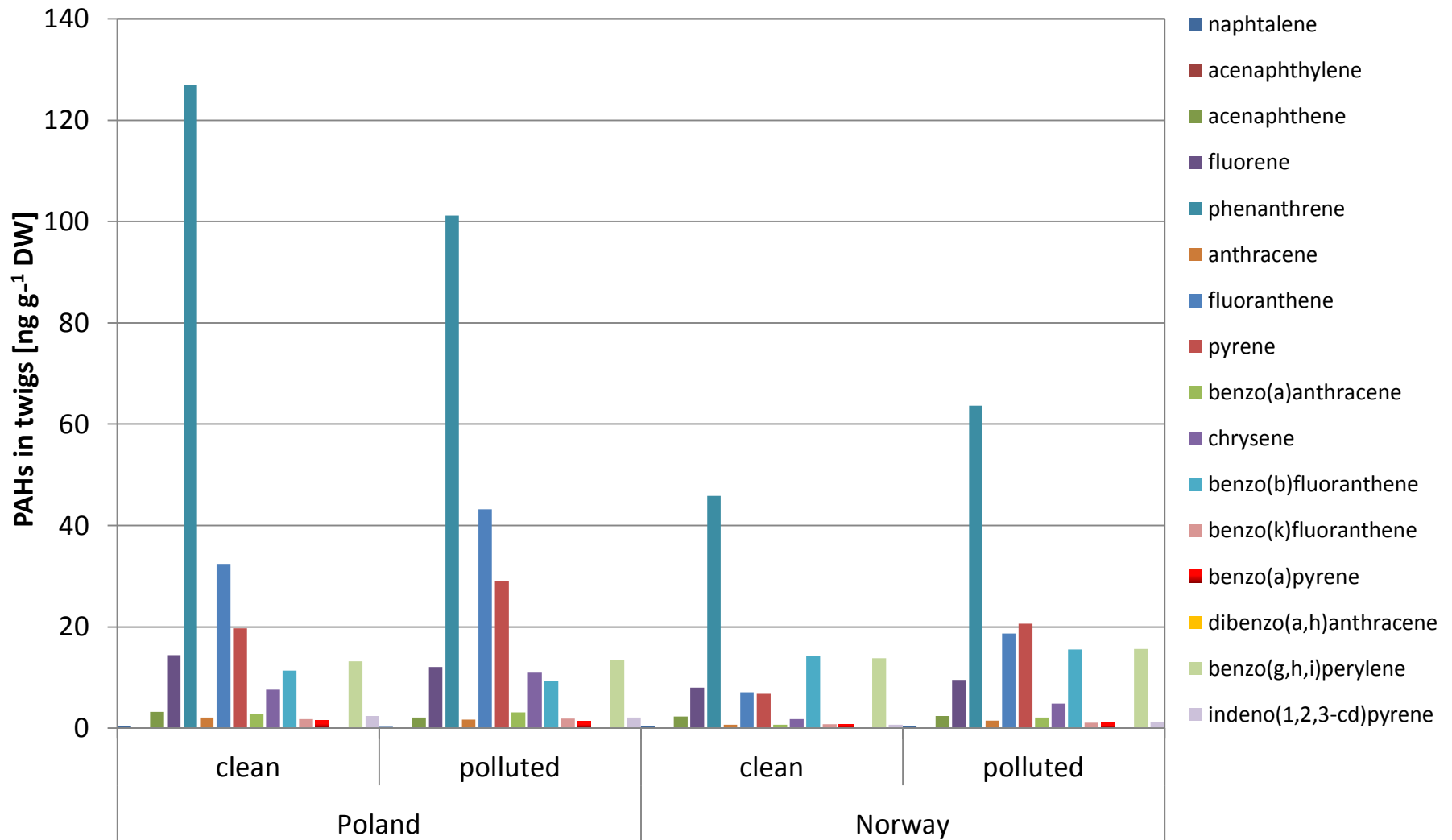
**EXTRA SLIDES**

# Concentration of 16 PAS as equivalent of B(a)P in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations

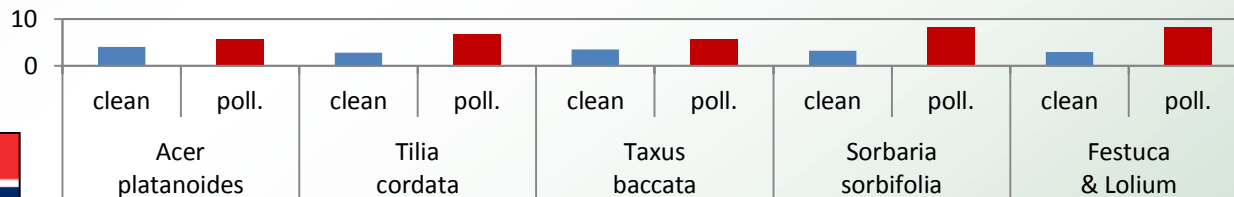
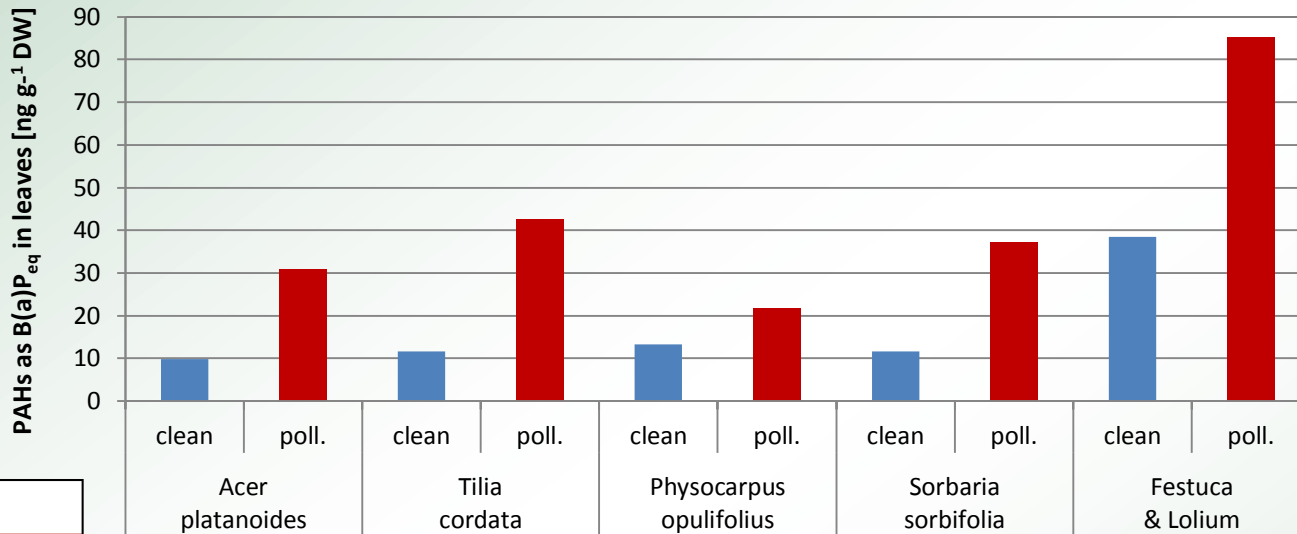




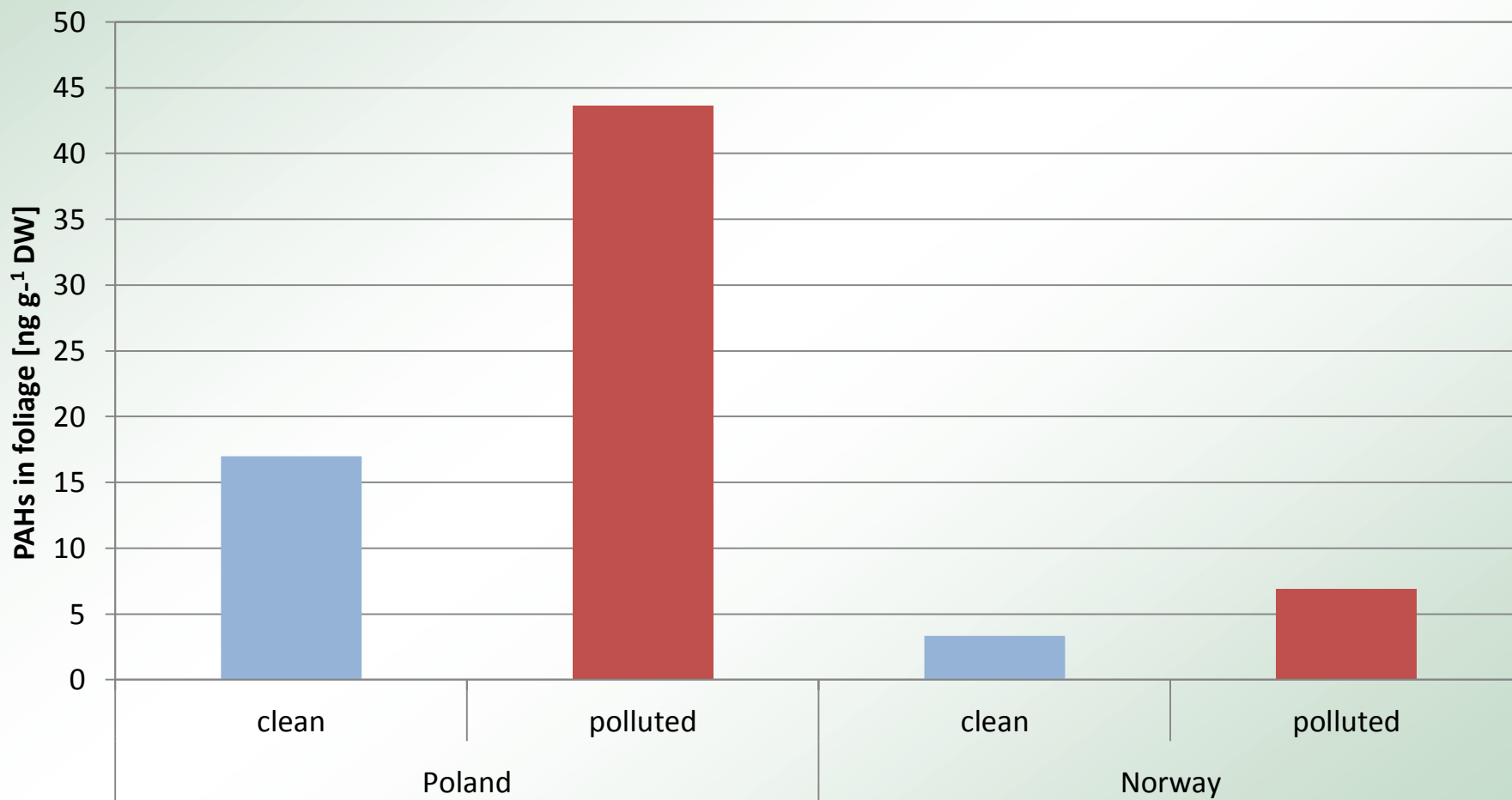
# Średnia zawartość związków WWA w **PĘDACH** badanych roślin



Zawartość 16 WWA jako **B(a)P<sub>eq</sub>** (ekwiwalent benzopirenu)  
w **LIŚCIACH** badanych roślin

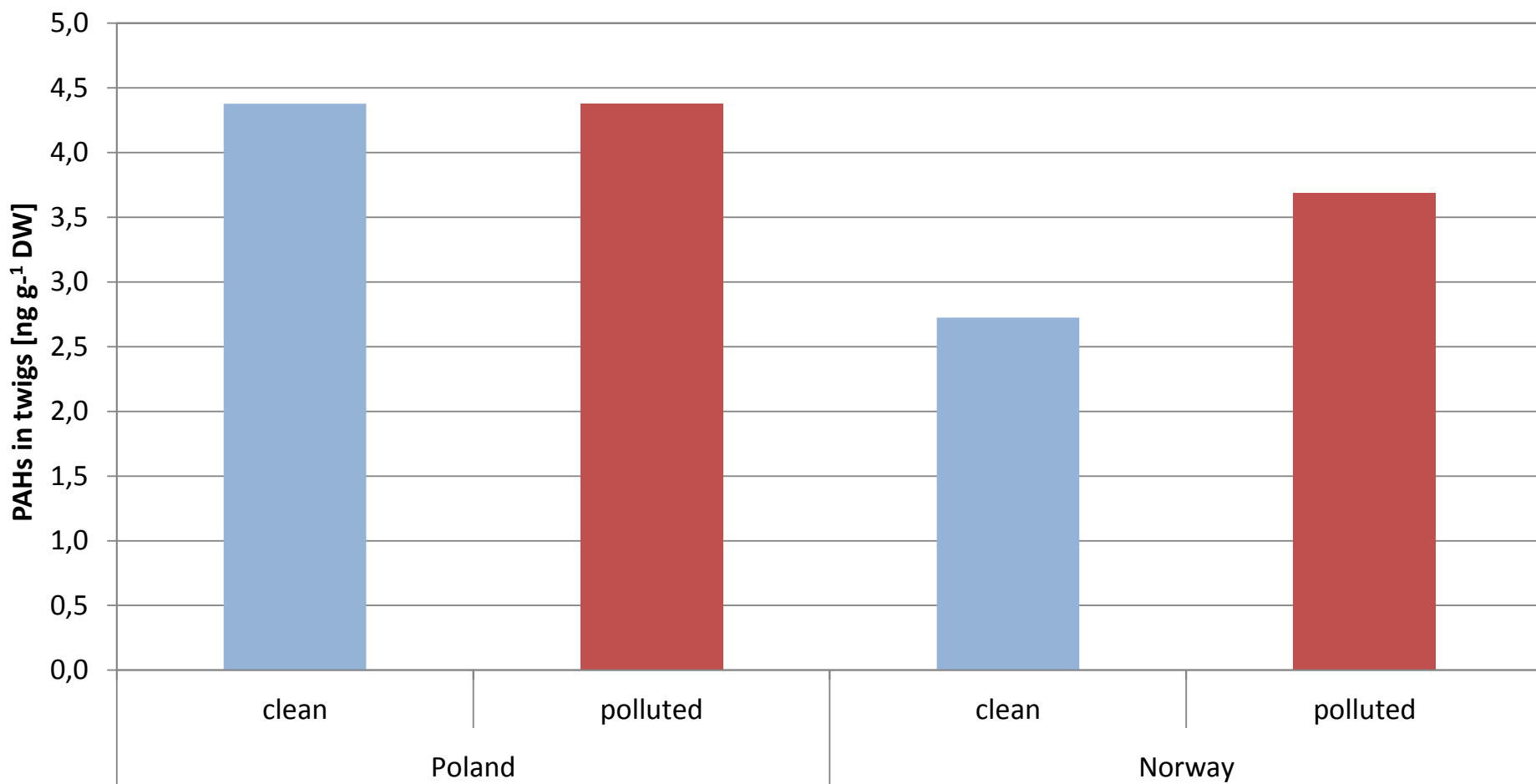


Zawartość 16 WWA jako **B(a)P<sub>eq</sub>** (ekwiwalent benzopirenu)  
w **LIŚCIACH** badanych roślin

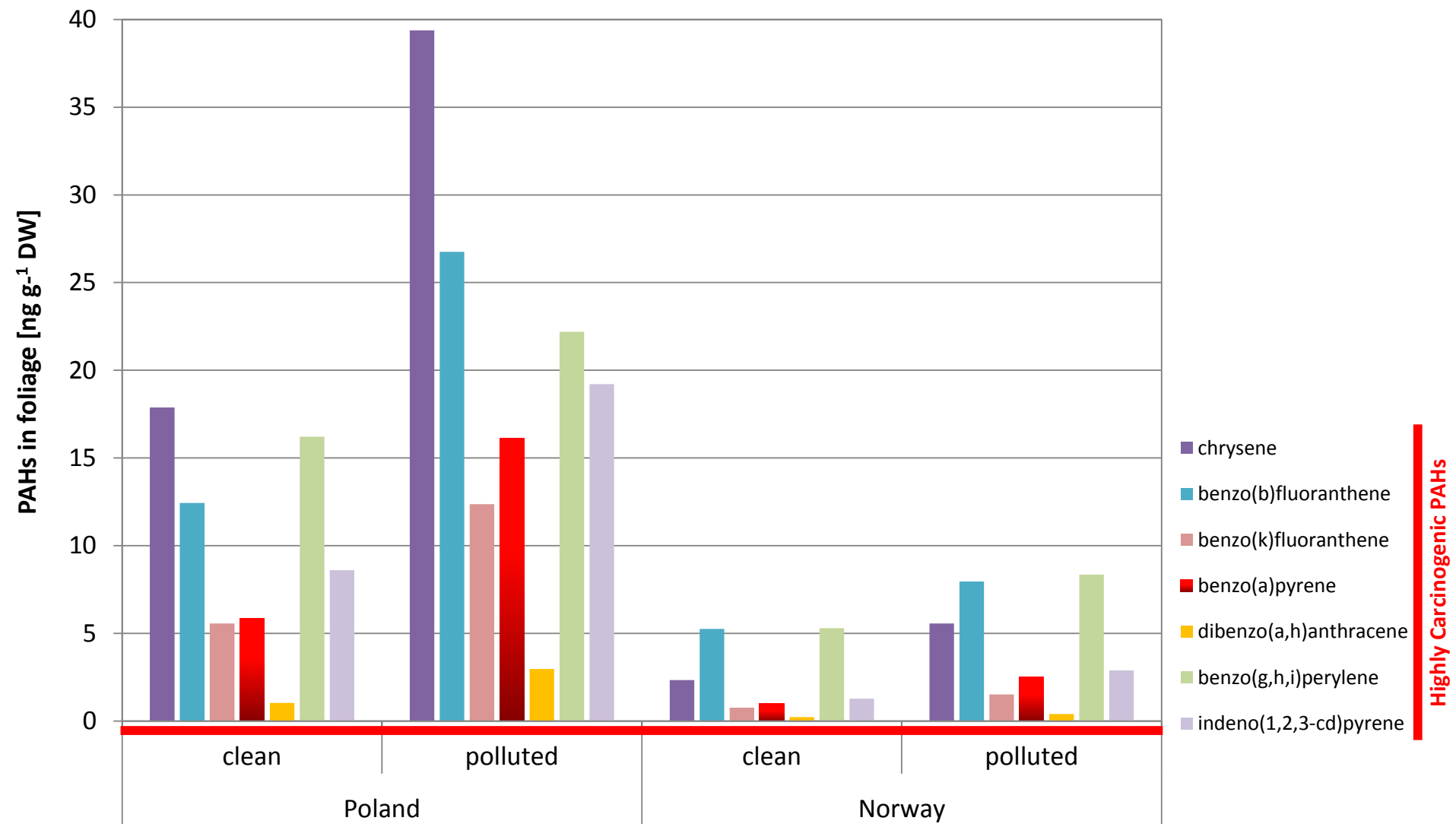




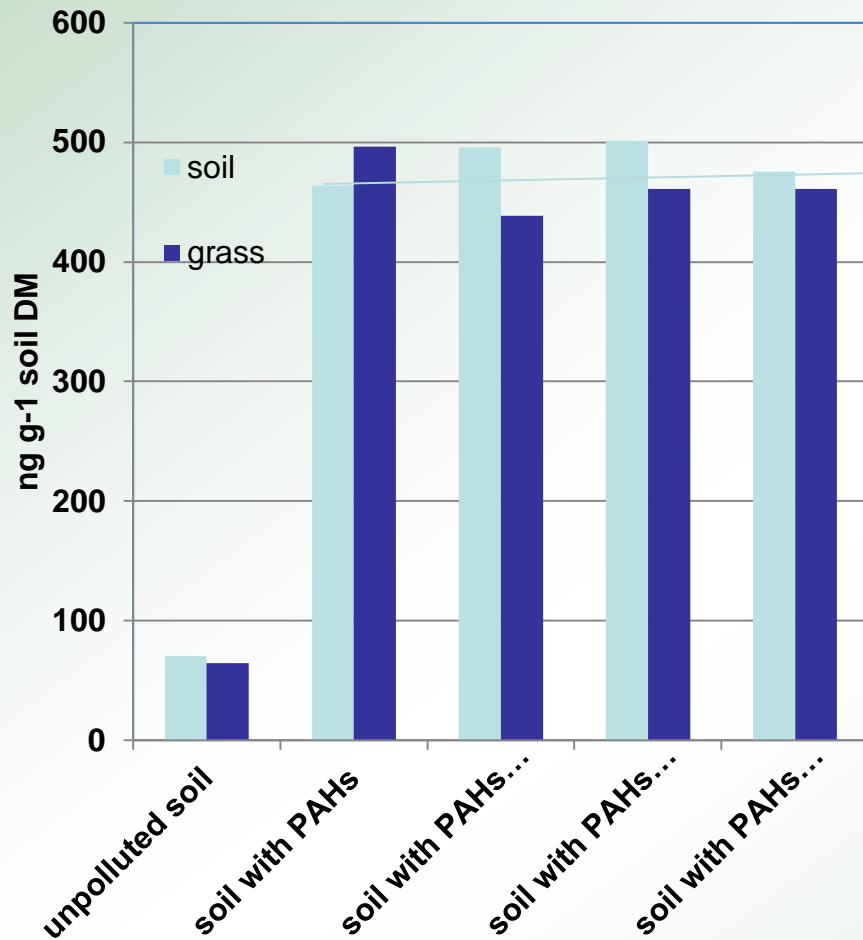
Zawartość 16 WWA jako **B(a)P<sub>eq</sub>** (ekwiwalent benzopirenu)  
w **PĘDACH** badanych roślin



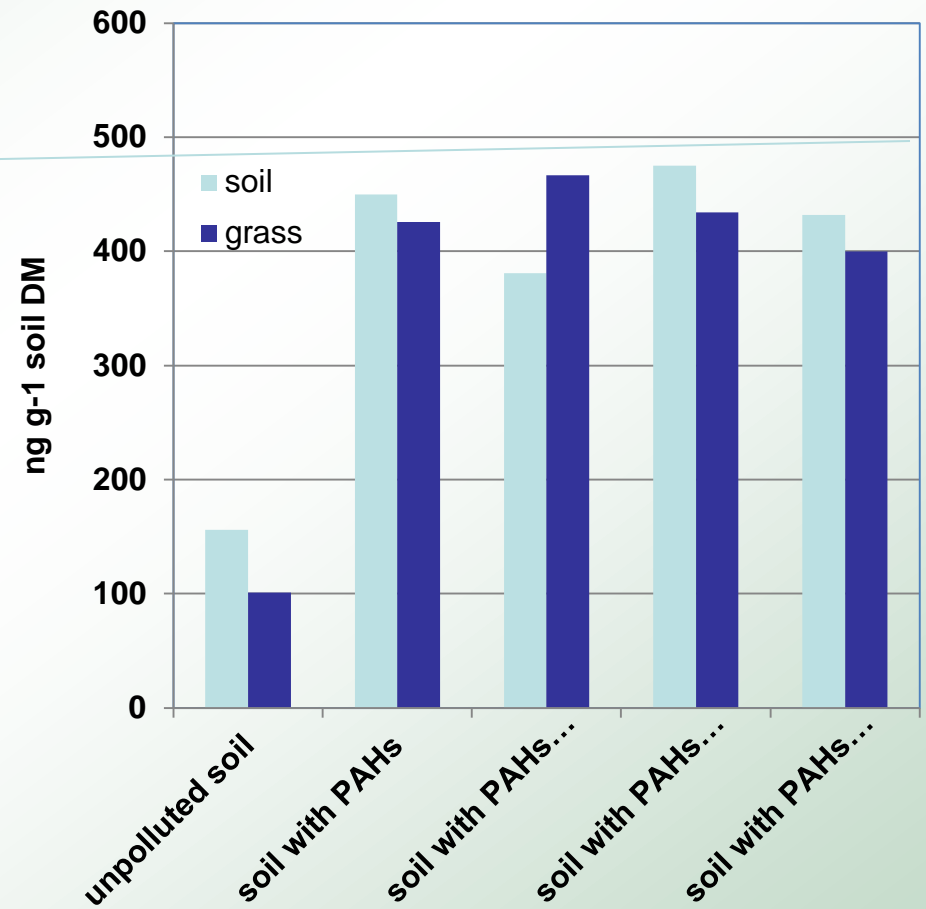
Średnia zawartość związków WWA w **LIŚCIACH** badanych roślin  
(same najbardziej kancerogenne WWA)



**Total amount of added PAHs  
after 3 months**



**Total amount of added PAHs  
after 12 months**



Unpolluted soil = no added PAH

# Locations of plants cultivation, differing in level of air pollution, used for leaves sampling for PAHs content assay

A photograph of a busy city street with multi-story apartment buildings, cars, and a traffic light.

City center  
(high polluted)

A photograph of a university campus featuring a large green lawn, trees, and a building in the background.

University campus  
(medium polluted)

A photograph of a nursery garden with rows of colorful plants, including red and yellow flowers.

Nursery garden  
(clean)

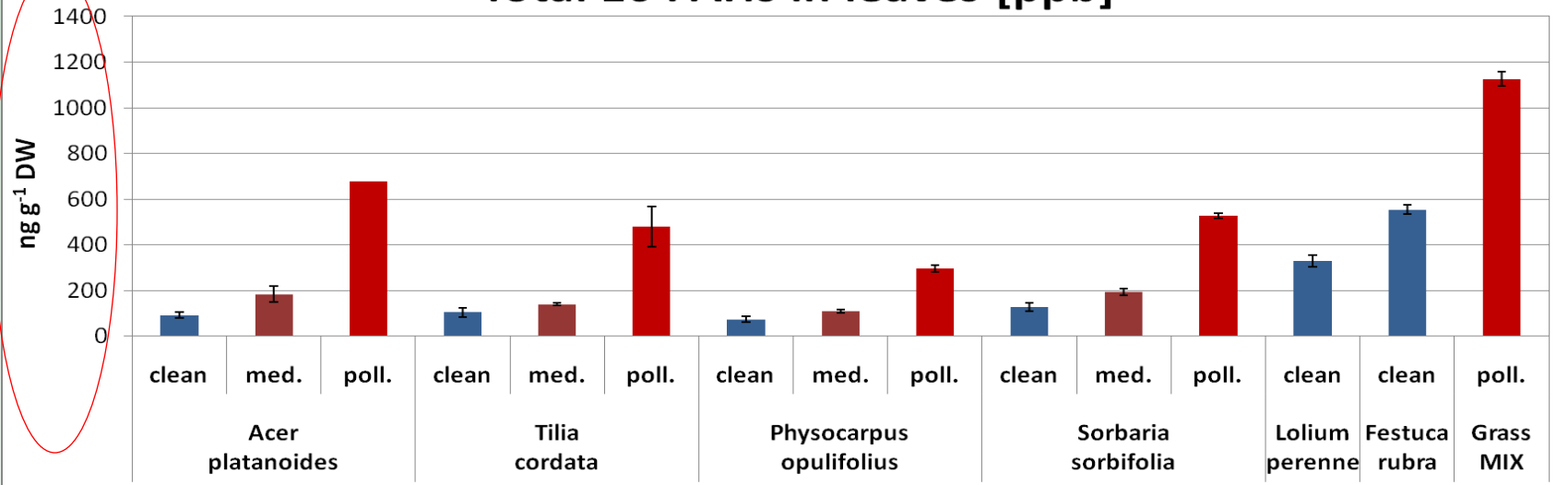
Plant species used in studies:

*Acer platanoides*, *Tilia cordata*, *Physocarpus opulifolius*,  
*Sorbaria sorbifolia*, *Lolium perenne*, *Festuca rubra* (Poland).

In Norway *Physocarpus opulifolius* was replaced by *Taxus baccata*

# Concentration of PAHs in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations

## Total 16 PAHs in leaves [ppb]



## Total 16 PAHs in leaves [ppb]

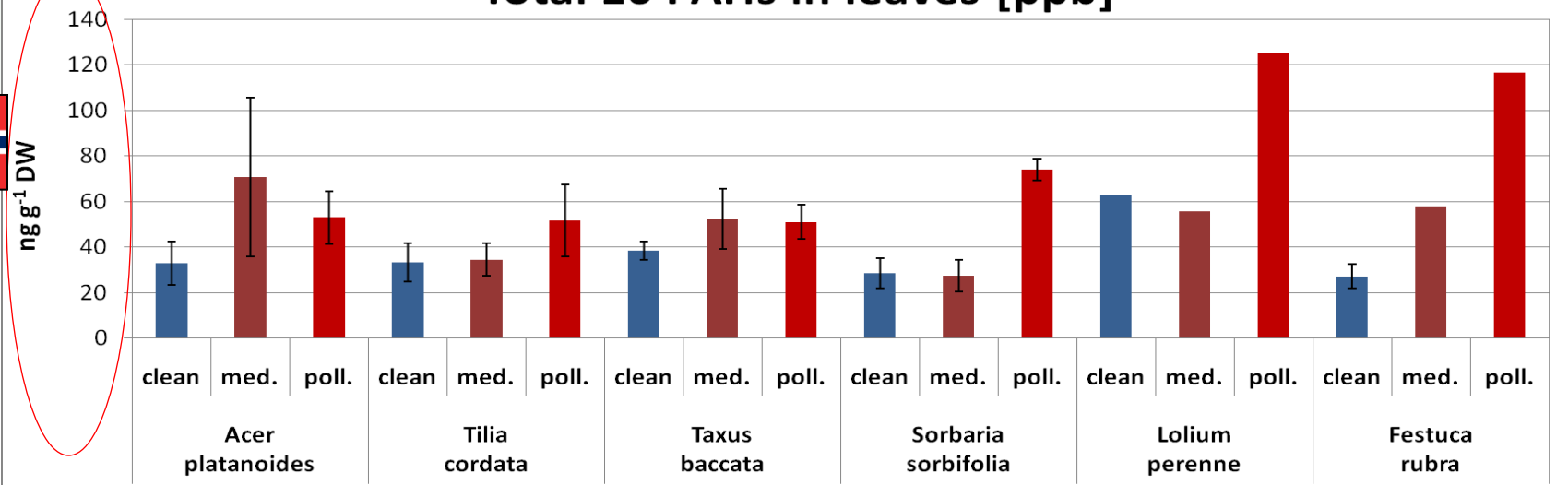


Table 1: Proposed Toxic Equivalency Factors (TEFs) for individual PAHs

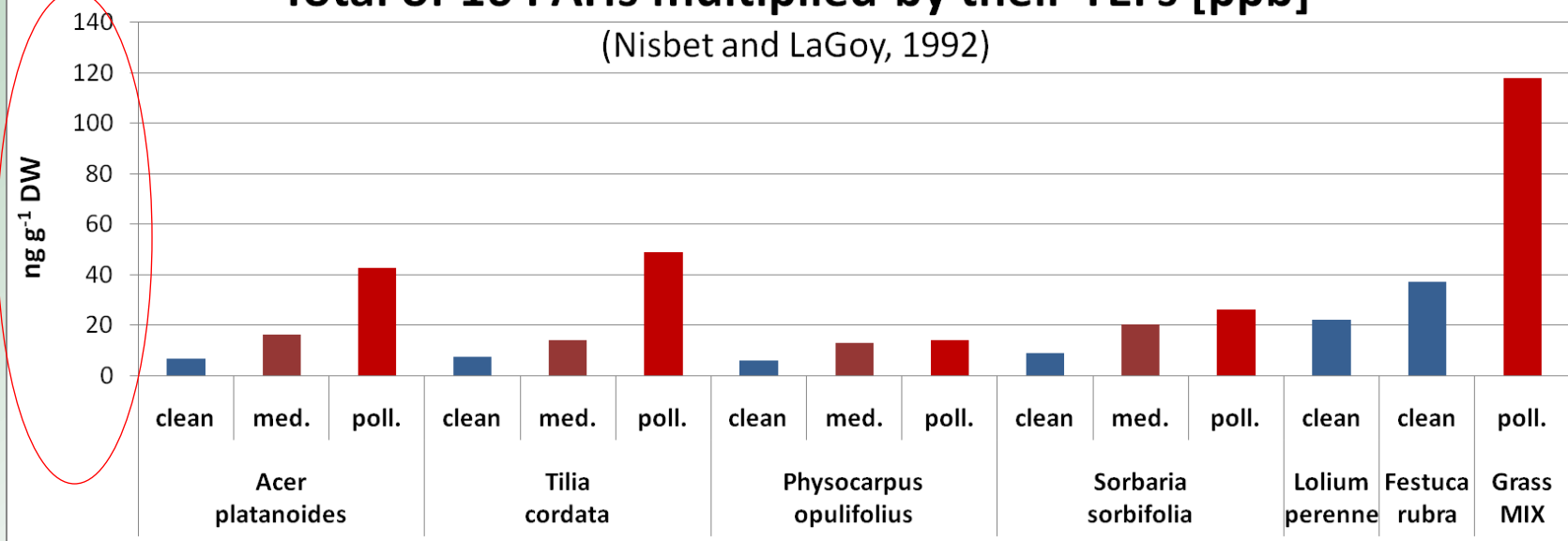
Compound (Abbreviation)	CAS-Nr.	EPA (1984)	Chu and Chen (1984)	Clemens (1986)	Thorslund (1990)	Nisbet and LaGoy (1992)
Naphthalene (Naph)	91-20-3	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Acenaphthylene (Aceny)	208-96-8	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Acenaphthene (Ace)	83-32-9	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Fluorene (Flu)	86-73-7	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Phenanthrene (Phen)	8501-8	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Anthracene (Ant)	120-12-7	0	ND	0.32	ND	0.01
Fluoranthene (Fluor)	206-44-0	0	ND	ND	ND	0.001
Pyrene (Pyr)	129-00-0	0	ND	0.081	ND	0.001
Benzo(a)anthracene (BaA)	56-55-3	1	0.013	0.145	0.145	0.1
Chrysene (Chr)	219-01-9	1	0.001	0.0044	0.0044	0.01
Benzo(j+b)fluoranthene (BjbF)	205-99-2	1	0.08	0.14	0.12	0.1
Benzo(k)fluoranthene (BkF)	207-08-9	1	0.004	0.066	0.052	0.1
Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP)	50-32-8	1	1	1	1	1
Indeno(1.2.3-cd)pyrene (IND)	193-39-5	1	0.017	0.232	0.278	0.1
Dibenzo(ah)anthracene (DahA)	53-70-3	1	0.69	1.1	1.11	1
Benzo(ghi)perylene (BgP)	191-24-2	0	ND	0.022	0.021	0.01

ND: No Data

**Source:** Petry T., Schmid P., Schlatter C., 1996. The use of toxic equivalency factors in assessing occupational and environmental health risk associated with exposure to airborne mixtures of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). *Chemosphere* 32(4): 639-648.

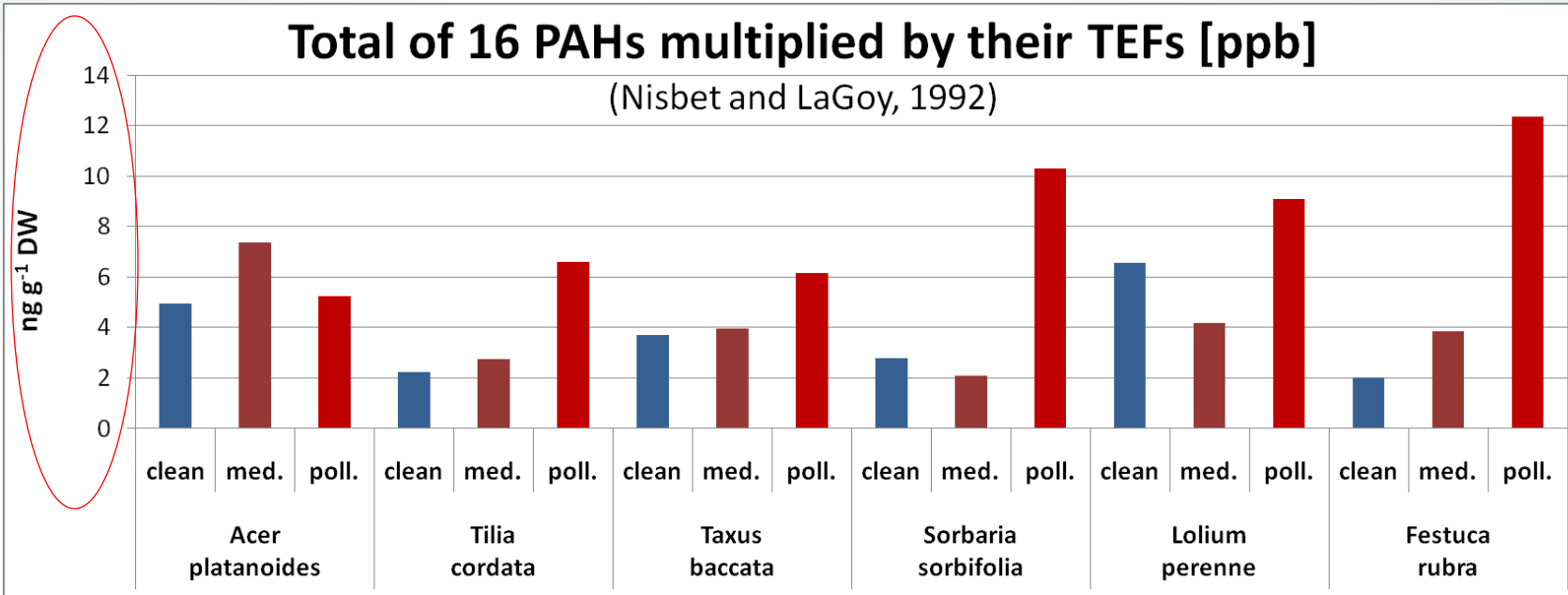
## Total of 16 PAHs multiplied by their TEFs [ppb]

(Nisbet and LaGoy, 1992)

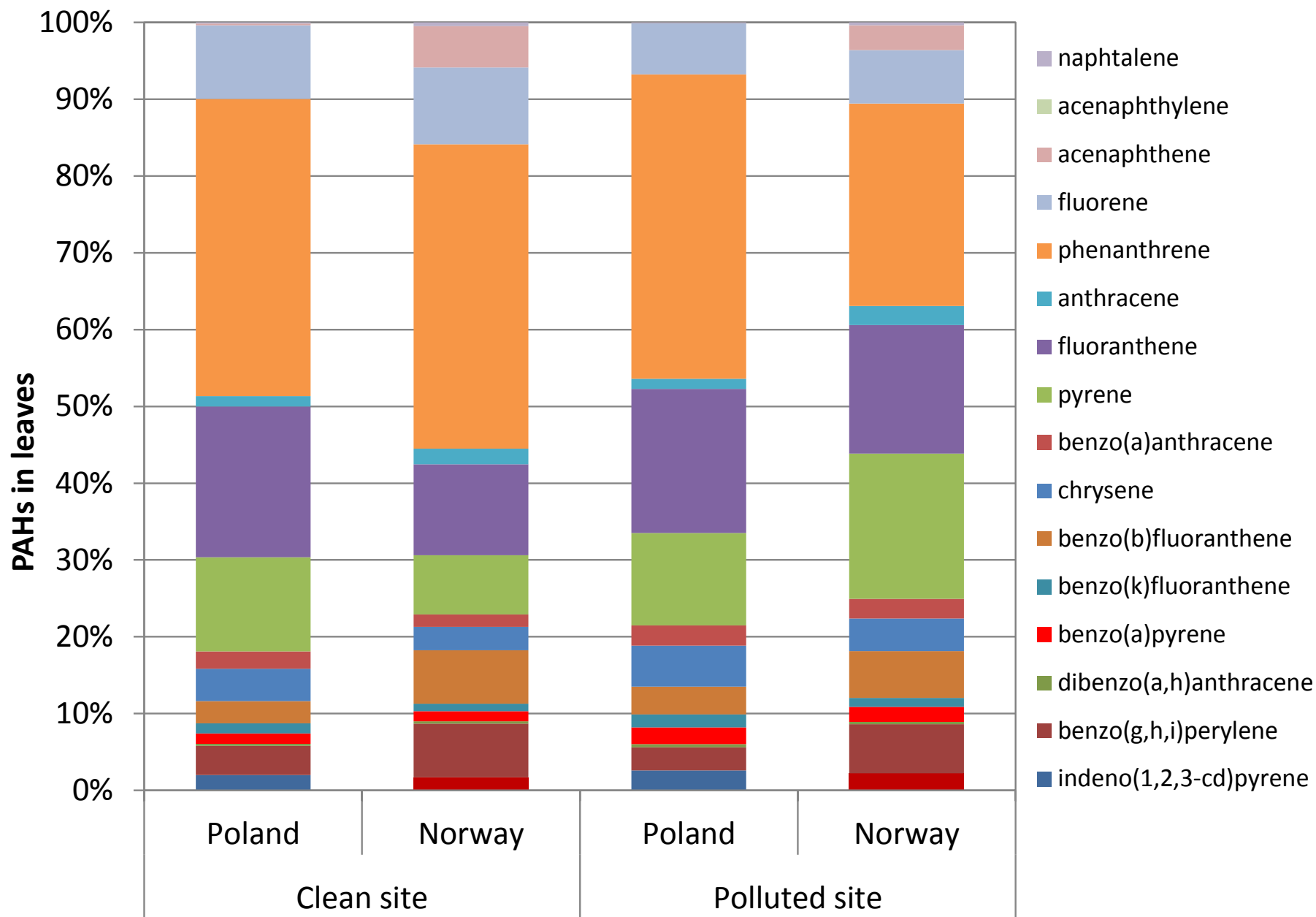


## Total of 16 PAHs multiplied by their TEFs [ppb]

(Nisbet and LaGoy, 1992)

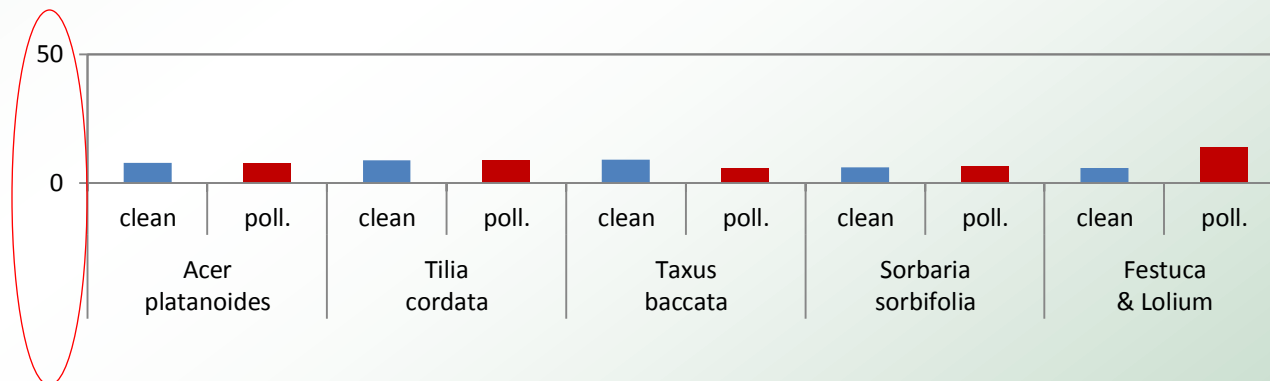
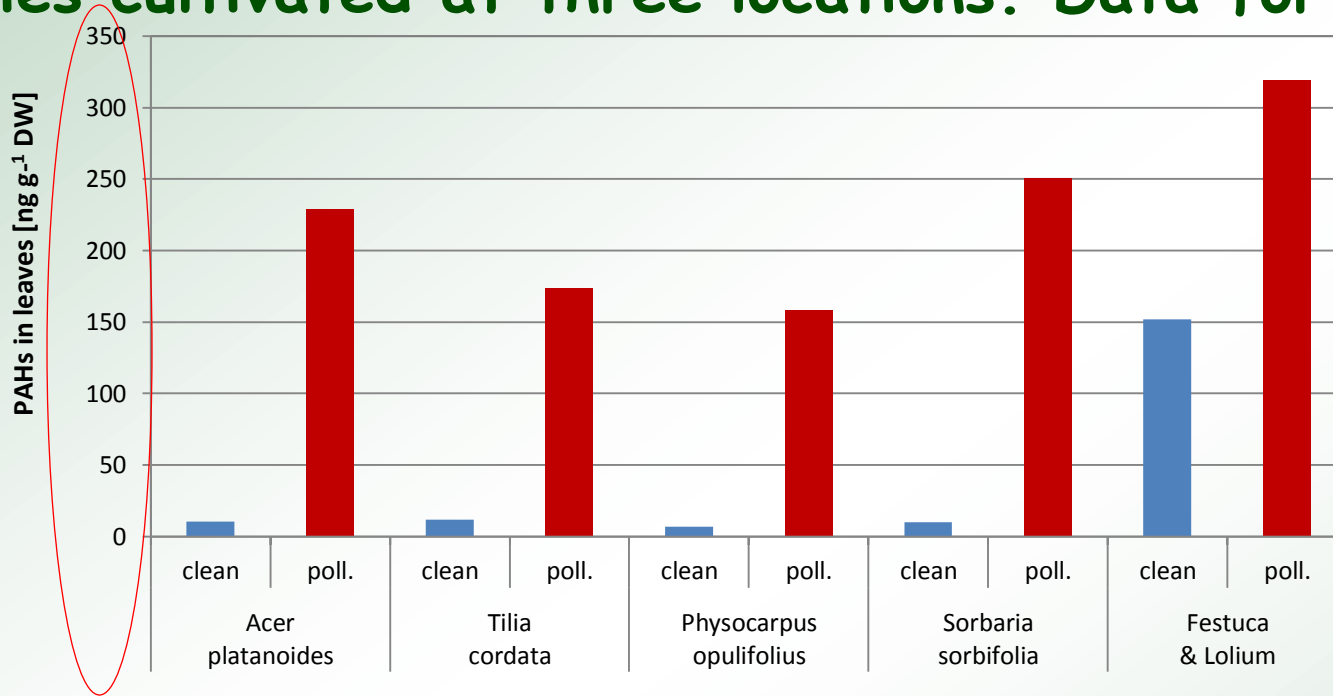


# Contribution of particular PAHs in leaves of six plant species cultivated in polluted and clean sites. Data are mean for 2009 and 2010

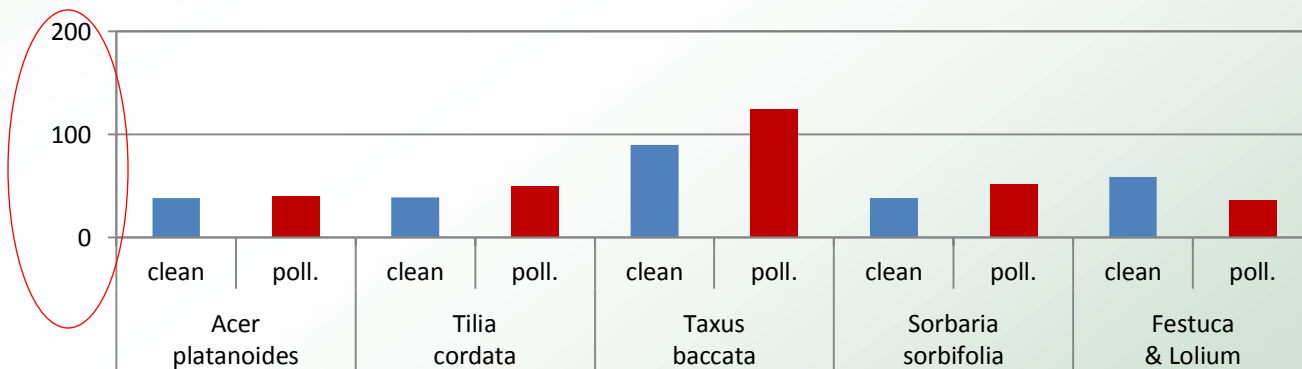
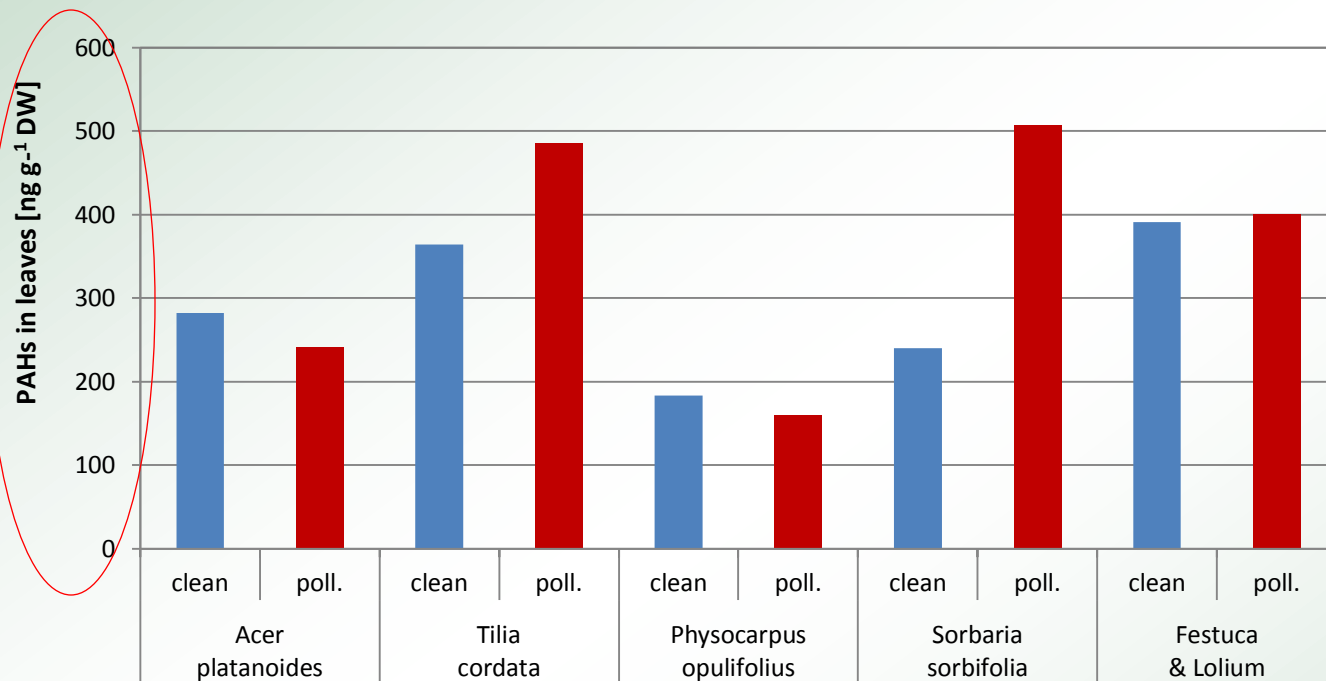




# Concentration of phenantrene in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations. Data for 2009.



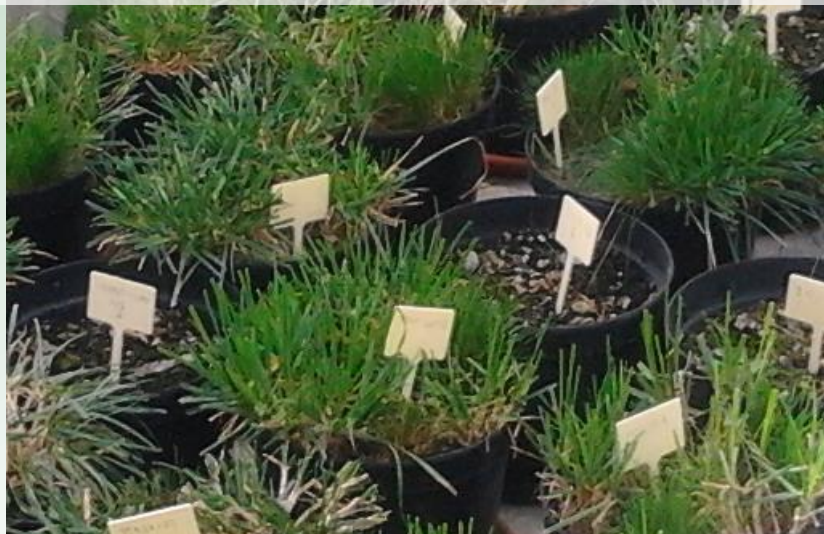
# Concentration of phenantrene in leaves of six plant species cultivated at three locations. Data for 2010.



# Effect of various combinations of soil treatment on amount of 4 PAHs added to soil determined 12 months later

## Plants species:

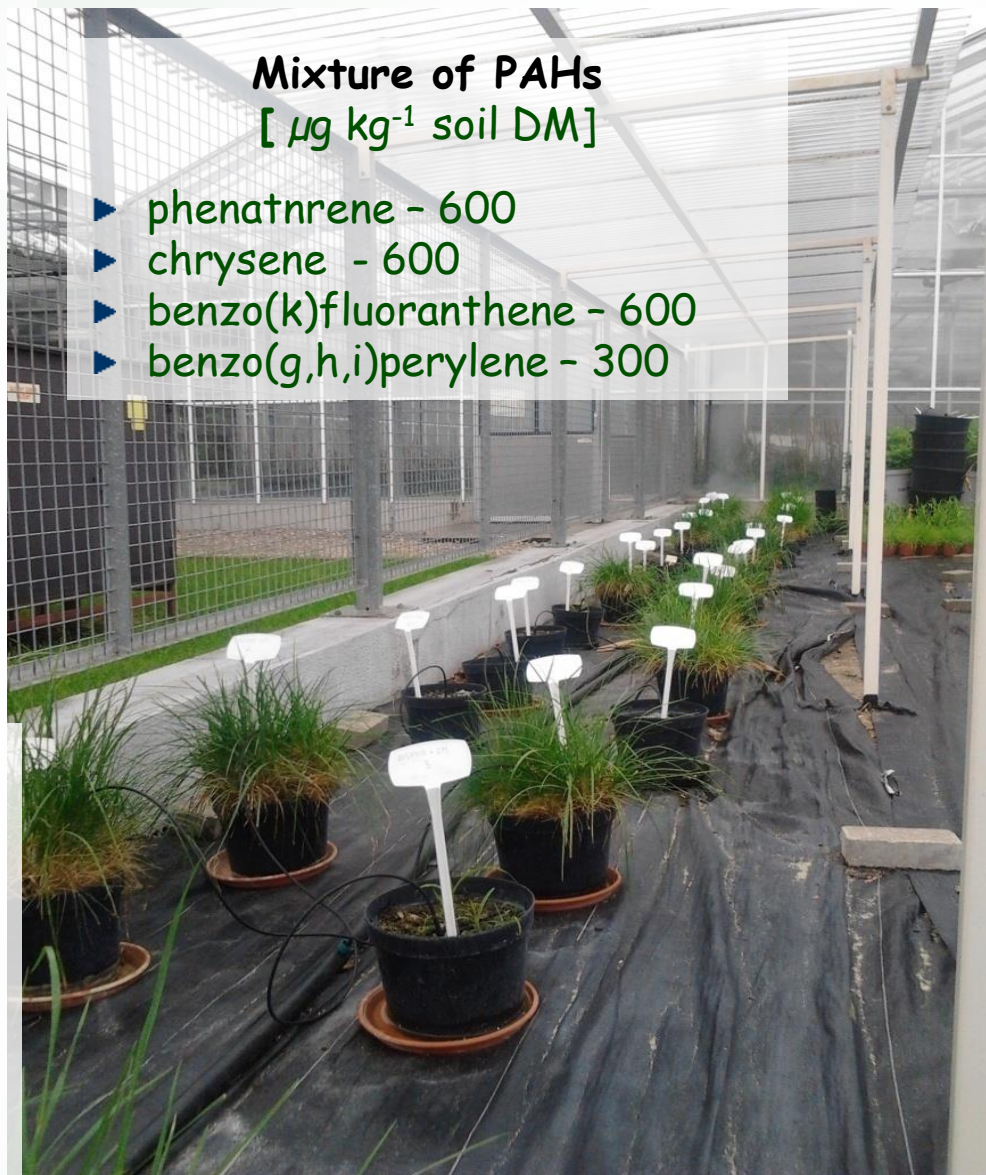
- ▶ perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* 'Solen')
- ▶ red fescue (*Festuca rubra* Nimba')



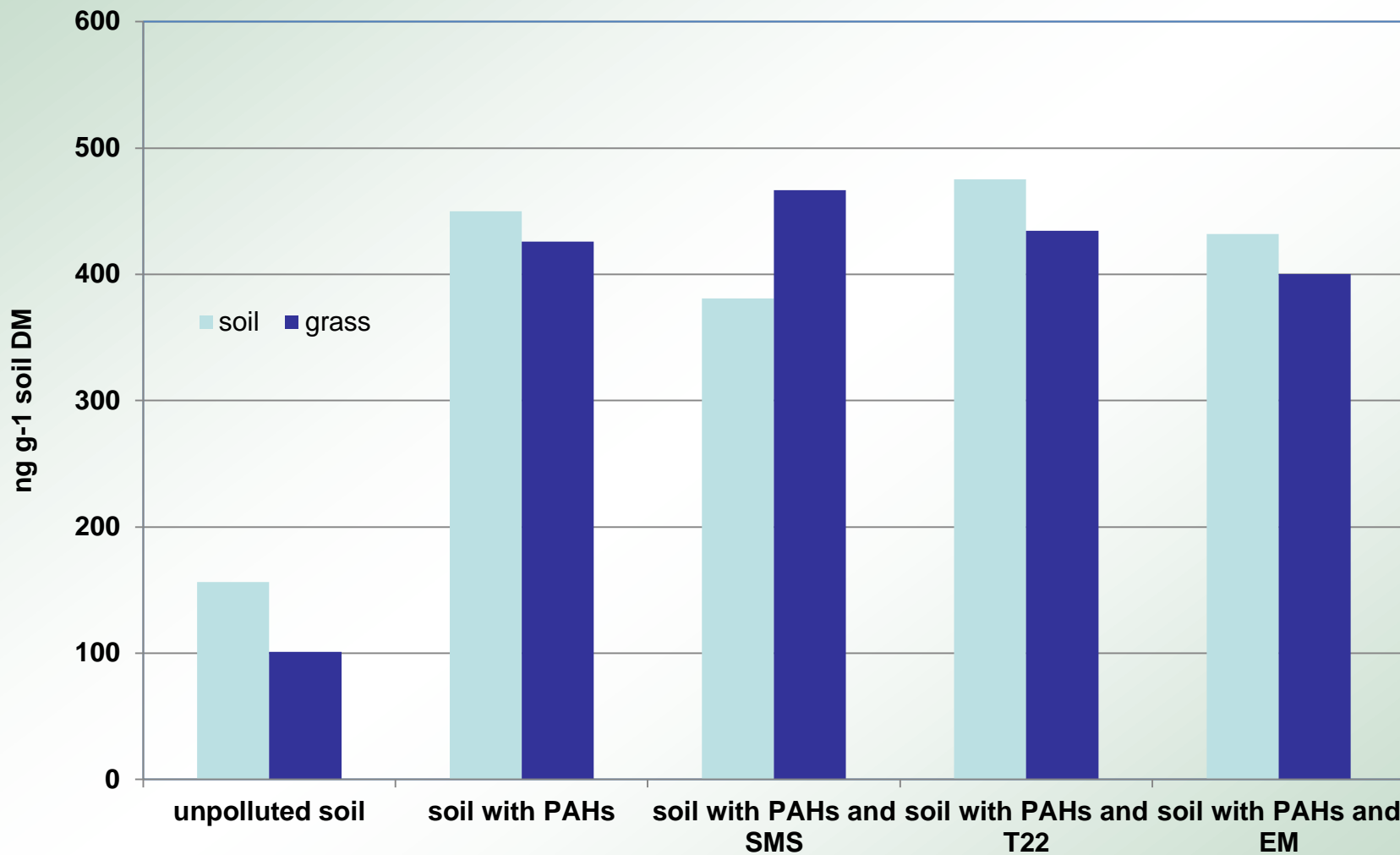
- Soil with or without grass (six plants per pot)
- Inoculation with
  - Spent mushroom substrate (SMS) - rye straw used to produce fruiting bodies of oyster mushroom
  - *Tirhoderma harzianum* T22 (T22)
  - Effective microorganisms (EM)

## Mixture of PAHs [ $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ soil DM ]

- ▶ phenatnrene - 600
- ▶ chrysene - 600
- ▶ benzo(k)fluoranthene - 600
- ▶ benzo(g,h,i)perylene - 300



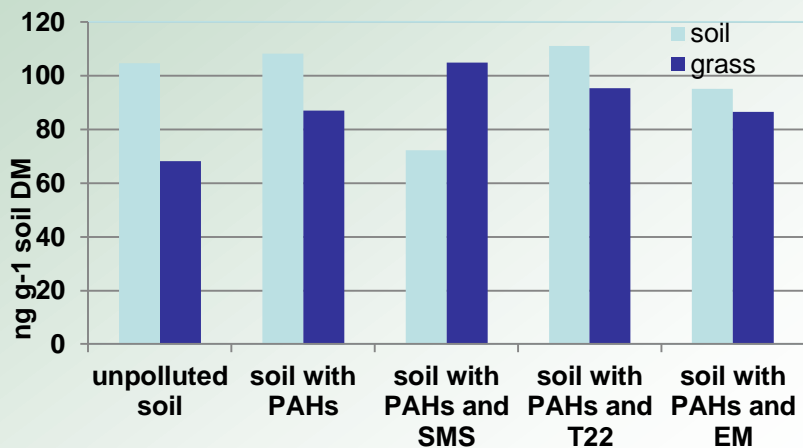
# Effect of various soil treatments on amount of 4 PAHs added to soil determined 12 months later



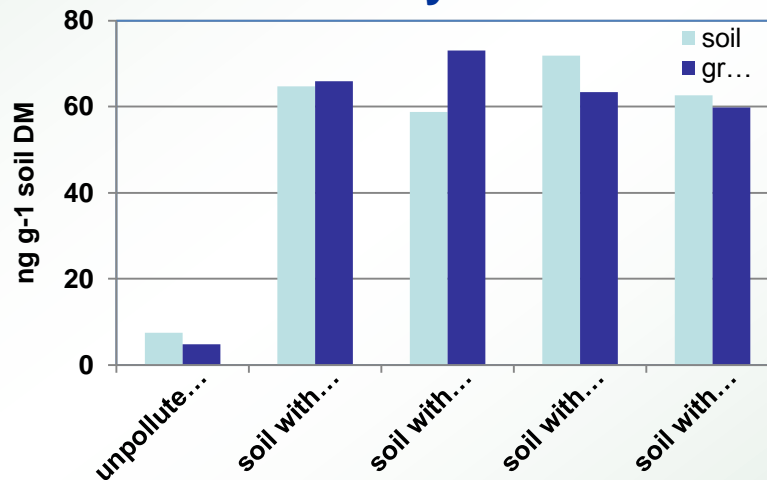
Unpolluted soil = no added PAH

# Effect of various soil treatments on amount of 4 PAHs added to soil determined 12 months later

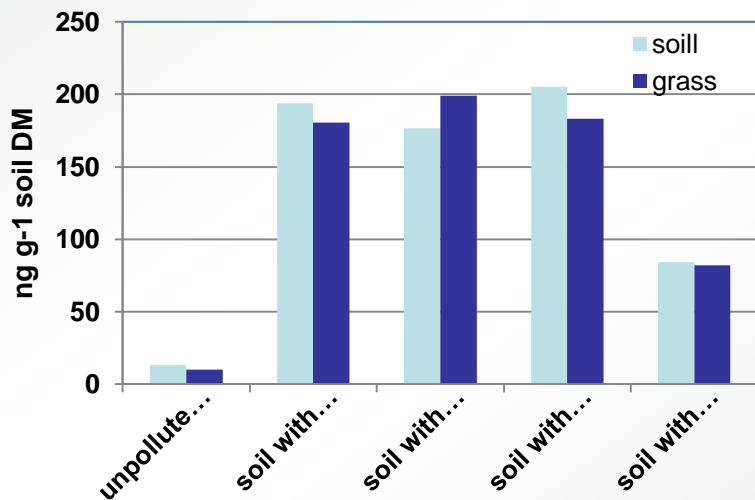
## Phenatrene



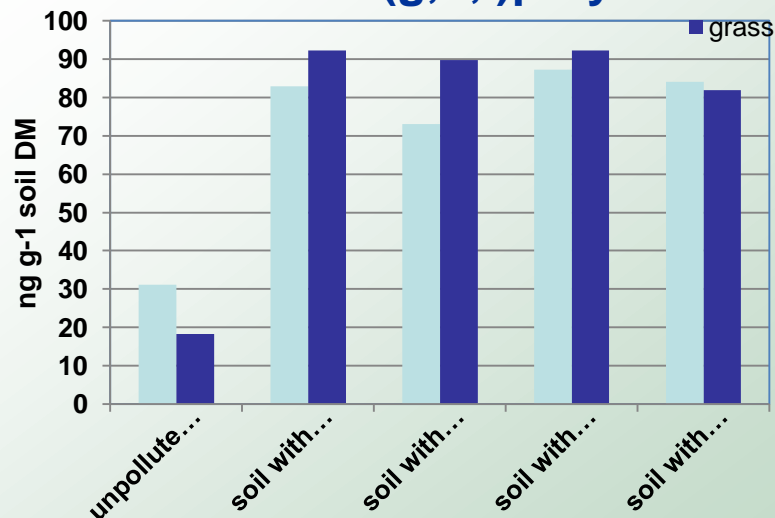
## Chrysene



## Benzo(k)fluoranthene



## Benzo(g,h,i)perylene



## CONCLUDING REMARKS:

- Amount of PAHs accumulated in plant leaves is greater in locations of higher level of air pollution
- Leaves accumulate more PAHs than twigs
- Plant species differ in amount of accumulated PAHs
- In urban areas phenanthrene is major component of all 16 analyzed PAHs
- PAHs deposited in soil are degraded slowly and its improvement is very challenging

