

Sosnowski's hogweed, spotted hemlock, and other invasive **ALIEN PLANTS** crowd out native species and can cause **ALLERGY** in humans and **POISONING** in animals. **P. 6**

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CLOSER TO NATURE

06 *A. N. Kupriyanov, S. A. Sheremetova*
The Black Book of flora: ALIENS

The **GREAT VASYUGAN MIRE** is the largest swamp system in the Northern Hemisphere, comparable in its **SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE BIOSPHERE** to the world-famous Amazon basin. **P. 22**

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NATURAL PHENOMENA

22 *S. N. Kirpotin*
Wetlands – the climate control system of the planet

38 Vasyganskiy nature reserve: between land and water

54 The Kurilskiy nature reserve: at the crossroads of three elements

The only known nesting site of the **SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW** – one of the world's **RAREST BIRDS** – was registered at the Great Vasyugan Mire at the beginning of the last century. **P. 38**

Many **BROWNS BEARS** on the **KURILS** are pale-colored due to the presence of **POLAR-BEAR GENES** in their genotype. **P. 54**

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