

1 **Toxicity and chemical analyses of airport runoff waters in Poland.**

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9 **Abstract**

10 The aim of this study was to assess the ecotoxicological effect of various compounds in  
11 complex airport effluents using a chemical and ecotoxicological integrated strategy. The  
12 present work deals with the determination of PCBs sum, PAHs, pesticides, cations, anions,  
13 phenols, anionic, cationic, non-ionic detergents, formaldehyde and metals– as well as TOC  
14 and conductivity in runoff water samples collected from 2009 to 2011 at several locations on  
15 two Polish international airports. Two microbiotests (*Vibrio fischeri* bacteria and the  
16 crustacean *Thamnocephalus platyurus*) have been used to determine the ecotoxicity of  
17 airport runoff waters. The levels of many compounds exceeded several or even several tens  
18 of times the maximum permissible levels. Analysis of the obtained data shows that samples  
19 that displayed maximum toxicity towards the bioindicators *Vibrio fischeri* were not toxic  
20 towards *Thamnocephalus platyurus*. Levels of toxicity towards *T. platyurus* are strongly  
21 correlated with pollutants that originate from the technological operations related to the  
22 maintenance of airport infrastructure. The integrated (chemical-ecotoxicological) approach  
23 to environmental contamination assessment in and around airports yields extensive  
24 information on quality of the environment. These methodologies can be then used as tools  
25 for tracking the environmental fate of these compounds and for assessing the environmental  
26 effect of airports. Subsequently, these data will provide a basis for airport infrastructure  
27 management.

28 **Key words: airport; runoff water; stormwater; pollutants; toxicity; *Vibrio fischeri*;**  
29 ***Thamnocephalus platyurus*;**

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## 32 **1. Introduction**

33 Despite the positive aspects of the intensive development of aviation, airports are large-scale  
34 polluters <sup>1-6</sup>, and various kinds of pressure on the environment are a consequence of the  
35 activities of airports and air traffic. In this regard runoff waters (stormwater), formed while  
36 precipitation or atmospheric deposits flush the airport surface during everyday activities e.g.:  
37 fuelling operations, cleaning of aircrafts, ground vehicles and airport aprons, de/anti-icing  
38 operations, combustion of aviation and engine fuels, aircraft and vehicle maintenance and  
39 repairs (including painting and metalwork), removing weeds, other vegetation and  
40 microorganisms from the airport apron and aircraft surface pose a serious problem <sup>1-20</sup>. The  
41 most toxic cancerogenic and mutagenic pollutants identified on airport premises include:  
42 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides  
43 phenols, formaldehyde, detergents, glycols, benzotriazoles and metals <sup>1, 6, 15, 16, 21-30</sup>. These  
44 contaminants penetrate into all components of the environment. In most cases airports do  
45 not possess their own waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) so all effluents carrying  
46 metals, petroleum compounds, surfactants, de-icing agents used in winter and other organic  
47 and inorganic pollutants run off together with rain water or melted snow into drainage  
48 ditches, from where they enter mainly to the soil and coastal water bodies <sup>31 32</sup>. The  
49 pollutants present in runoff water have different effects on humans and the environment <sup>2, 5-7,</sup>  
50 <sup>12, 33</sup>.

51 In order to assess the extent to which surface waters are endangered by these  
52 pollutants, it is crucial to identify and quantitatively determine the chemical compounds in  
53 airport stormwater <sup>2, 6, 17, 34-36</sup>. Determining all various harmful chemicals in such runoff  
54 water is a demanding task, because this kind of research is expensive and time-consuming.  
55 Although chemical analysis enables the identification and quantification of organic and  
56 inorganic pollutants, it does not provide sufficient information to assess environmental



57 hazards, since it is not possible to investigate all the possible substances and their  
58 interactions in ecosystems<sup>37</sup>. Effective risk assessment requires finding a relationship  
59 between water chemistry and toxicity endpoints. At the present state of the art one common  
60 approach is to link chemical concentrations to toxicity data<sup>38-43</sup>. However, it is difficult to  
61 extrapolate between chemical concentrations and potential biological effects for the purpose  
62 of risk assessment. Only a relatively small amount of data is currently available for the  
63 analysis and ecotoxicological assessment of airport runoff waters<sup>1, 15, 16, 28, 44-48</sup>.

64 The aim of this study was to assess the ecotoxicological effect of various compounds  
65 in complex airport effluents by means of an integrated chemical and ecotoxicological  
66 strategy. The present study focused on the determination of pH, conductivity, total organic  
67 carbon (TOC), metals, detergents and formaldehyde, the sum of phenols, PAHs, PCBs,  
68 pesticides, cations and anions found in airport stormwater, as well as measuring toxicity of  
69 samples using Microtox® and Thamnotoxkit F<sup>TM</sup> tests. Microtox® test which was employed  
70 in this paper is very popular whilst Thamnotoxkit F<sup>TM</sup> test for the airport runoff toxicity has  
71 been mentioned in the literature only once<sup>48</sup>. The relationship between water chemistry and  
72 toxicity data can be used to identify the potential toxic impact of airport storm water runoff  
73 discharges on recipient waters. Chemical and toxicity testing represents a relatively recent  
74 and powerful tool for the management of storm water pollution and protection of the aquatic  
75 ecosystem. The results of this type of study will provide essential information for assessing  
76 the threat to surface and groundwaters in the vicinity of airports.

## 77 **2. Experimental**

78 In view of the difficulties with toxicity in-situ testing, various chemical analyses  
79 were performed on samples brought to the laboratory. The procedures used for sample  
80 collection, handling, chemical and toxicity measurements in the laboratory are described in  
81 the following sections.

## 82 **2.1 Storm water sampling, collection and handling**

83 The samples of runoff water were collected during precipitation, defined as steady  
84 lasting for at least 5 h. Samples were collected usually within 30 min from the beginning of  
85 the precipitation event (first flush). During the research period the amount of the  
86 precipitation ranged from 2 to 10 mm and the events lasted from 3 to 5 h.

87 The samples of runoff water were collected at the international Polish airports with  
88 high and low capacity of passenger movement, in three seasons- winter, spring and summer-  
89 from 2009 to 2011. The runoff samples were collected from depressions in the terrain where  
90 rainwater accumulated and from the airport drainage system. The sampling locations at the  
91 airports were areas with the highest concentration of technical service operations, where the  
92 largest amounts of pollutants enter drainage ditches with runoff and may be released into the  
93 environment.

94 Runoff waters at each location at the airport with low capacity of passenger  
95 movement were collected manually with a plastic scoop (100 ml) and tubing, while at the  
96 airport with high capacity of passenger movement, they were scooped from the drainage  
97 system with a bucket. The material for analysis was then poured into 500 ml water-tight  
98 plastic bottles (for the determination of inorganics) or into 1000 ml dark glass bottles  
99 (analysis of organics) and transported to the laboratory (usually within less than 1h after  
100 collection). Prior to use, the syringes, tubing and bucket were rinsed with MilliQ water and  
101 then with the water to be sampled. No chemicals were added to preserve the samples,  
102 therefore the determinations were typically initiated immediately after the samples arrived at  
103 the laboratory. Prepared extract of runoff water samples were stored at 4 °C in the dark until  
104 final determination <sup>49-53</sup>.

## 105 **2.2 Chemical analysis**



106 Chemical analysis of the samples included various instrumental methods compliant  
107 with different chemical and ecotoxicity variables. Technical specifications, reagents for  
108 determining selected parameters and analyte contents in samples and basic validation  
109 parameters of the proposed analytical procedures are summarized in Table 1.

110 Milli-Q deionized water was used during the determination of the various target  
111 analyte groups. The concentrations of organic and inorganic compounds, metals, cations and  
112 anions in water runoff samples were determined by ion chromatography (IC), gas  
113 chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (GC-MS), inductively conjugated plasma  
114 mass spectrometry (ICP/MS) and spectrophotometric methods.

### 115 **2.3 Test organisms and test methods**

116 For toxicity assessment small-scale aquatic tests known as microbiotests were used <sup>54</sup>.  
117 These bioassays do not require maintaining continuous culture of organisms and are based  
118 on immobilized or dormant (cryptobiotic) stages of selected aquatic species set free or  
119 hatched when needed <sup>41, 42</sup>. The following bioassays for freshwater were applied:

120 • Thamnotoxkit F<sup>TM</sup> is a test using the crustacean *Thamnocephalus platyurus*. The test  
121 reaction is the mortality of the organism. The test was carried out in accordance with the  
122 manufacturer's standard procedure (Tigret, Poland).

123 • Microtox® is a test using the luminescent bacteria *Vibrio fischeri*. The test reaction is  
124 the attenuation of the sample luminescence after 30 minutes' incubation. The test was  
125 carried out according to procedure PN-EN ISO 1138-3:2002 <sup>55</sup> using the Microtox model  
126 500 instrument (Strategic Diagnostic Inc., Newark, NJ, USA) for freeze-dried bacteria.

127 The results were calculated using the manufacturer's MicrotoxOmni programme.

128

## 129 **2.4 Quality assurance/ quality control (QA/QC)**

130 All data were subjected to strict quality control procedures. The analytical  
131 procedures applied for the determination of individual components in various environmental  
132 matrix compositions should be validated against certified reference materials. In this study  
133 Reference Material No. 409 (BCR-409, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements,  
134 Belgium); Inorganic ventures ANALITYK-CAL-8 (10 mg/L: Ag, Al., As, B, Ba, Ca, Cd,  
135 Co, Cr<sub>3</sub>, Cu, Fe, Mg, Na, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Sr, V, Zn) and Analytical Reference Material TM-  
136 DWS.2, Environment Canada Al: 58.3 µg/L, Sb: 3.20 µg/L, As: 4.20 µg/L, Ba: 146 µg/L,  
137 Be: 13.4 µg/L, Bi: 14 µg/L, B: 81.0 µg/L, Cd: 4.20 µg/L, Cr: 44.4 µg/L, Co: 64.2 µg/L, Cu:  
138 167 µg/L, Ga: 0.04 µg/L, Fe: 223 µg/L, Pb: 7.82 µg/L, Li: 20.1 µg/L, Mg: 47.2 µg/L, Mo:  
139 66.7 µg/L, Ni: 82.3 µg/L, Rb: 0.42 µg/L, Se: 8.69 µg/L, Ag: 9.91 µg/L, Sr: 243 µg/L, Tl:  
140 8.32 µg/L, Sn: 12.1 µg/L, Ti: 15.1 µg/L, U: 14.1 µg/L, V: 44.3 µg/L, Zn: 379 µg/L) were  
141 applied. The sensitivity of the applied methods was tested by injecting standard mixtures of  
142 the analytes in the measurement range concentration. Linear calibration curves obtained by  
143 plotting the peak area against concentration of the respective standards and the correlation  
144 coefficients ( $R^2$ ) were in the range of 0.898-0.999 for all standards. On the basis of the  
145 calibration curves, it was possible to determine concentration levels of certain substances in  
146 real samples. Each sample was analyzed in triplicate. During the samples analysis,  
147 procedural blanks were prepared for every six samples to check the instrumental  
148 background. Duplicate samples and calibration check standards were run after every five  
149 samples to assure the precision of each run. The limit of detection (LOD) was determined  
150 for the analytes in quality control samples based on three replicates of measurement. LOD  
151 was calculated using the equation  $LOD=3.3SD/b$  ( $b$  is the slope of the calibration curve;  $SD$   
152 is the standard deviation of the curve). The quantification limit (LOQ) was set to three times

153 the LOD<sup>56-58</sup>. The numerical values of the all mentioned validation parameters determined  
154 for researched analytes, using particular analytical methods, were presented in Table 1.

155 Quality control for biotests is a real challenge as the tests operate with a ‘living  
156 reagent’ and thus many factors may affect the results. Therefore, the laboratory which  
157 carries out the measurements is involved in the comparative and calibration tests for  
158 interlaboratory results check. Moreover, in the case of Microtox® test with *Vibrio fischeri*  
159 bacteria the laboratory ran the internal quality control with the reference toxicant ZnSO<sub>4</sub>  
160 7H<sub>2</sub>O to confirm the quality of bacteria guaranteed by producer. EC<sub>50</sub> values fell into the  
161 accepted range of 0.6-2.2 mg/L. Other parameters that interfere with the test results such as  
162 turbidity, colour, pH and temperature were also checked and controlled. In the laboratory the  
163 repeatability of the results is constantly checked, coefficient of variation (CV) falls in the  
164 range of ±10%.

### 165 **3. Results and discussion**

166 Table 2 lists the results of target analyte groups, physicochemical parameters  
167 determination as well as toxicity towards the *Vibrio fischeri* bacteria and the freshwater  
168 crustaceans *Thamnocephalus platyurus* in runoff water samples collected from 2009 to 2011  
169 at various characteristic sites of two Polish international airports (*airports with low and high*  
170 *capacity of passenger movement*).

171 In the majority of the analysed runoff waters samples the levels of examined analytes  
172 did not exceed the maximum permissible levels of concentrations according to the available  
173 standard for conditions which should be met while discharging sewage to waters or ground  
174 and for substances particularly harmful for aquatic environment<sup>59</sup>. This standard is cited due  
175 to the fact that in case of a lack or inadequate work of a waste water treatment plant, a  
176 significant amount of airfield effluents get to the surface water or to the soil with runoff  
177 waters. However, the contents of some studied analytes and measured parameters exceeded

178 considerably permissible concentration levels of pollutants introduced into the environment.  
179 For example, the numerical value of the determined parameter of total organic carbon  
180 (TOC) exceeded extremely the permissible level of the total organic compound content  
181 introduced into surface waters and soil both in case of the airport with high capacity of  
182 passenger movement and the airport with low capacity of passenger movement. Such a high  
183 value of the TOC parameter in the airport runoff water samples can be associated with a  
184 serious ground and water pollution first of all with oil derivatives and substances from the  
185 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon group emitted in particular during combustion and  
186 uncontrolled aviation fuel overflows. Exceeding the permissible standard (0,1 mg/L) was  
187 also noticed for the determined total phenol content in the runoff water samples from the  
188 airport with both high and low capacity of passenger movement. It is acknowledged that  
189 phenolic compounds (at mg/L level) are extremely toxic for aquatic organisms<sup>60</sup>. Moreover  
190 damages following exposure to substantial doses of phenols affect the nervous and  
191 circulatory systems, with a reduction in the number and growth of blood cells (for example  
192 erythrocytes, total proteins and cholesterol)<sup>61</sup>. Precise assessment of phenolic compound  
193 sources of emission into runoff waters at the airport areas is relatively difficult; the  
194 detergents, containing phenolic compounds, used at the airports have been recognized as  
195 their main source. The detergents are employed at the airport areas in large amounts to keep  
196 airplanes, the airport platform and infrastructure clean. As a result, the increased content  
197 level of these types of analytes in the tested airport runoff water samples can be observed.



Table 1 Validation parameters, technical specifications, reagents used in the proposed analytical procedures.

Analytical techniques	Measurement range	LOD	LOQ	CV (%)	Measurement instrumentation	Reagents/Standards
Sum of phenols*	0.15-4.00	0.05	0.15	3.9	UV/VIS spectrophotometer 6300 (Jenway, Felsted, Essex, UK)	Sodium hydroxide solution 1mol/L, Sulphonic acid 0.5mol/L, Chloroform, Phenol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany);
Formaldehyde*	0.03-5.00	0.01	0.030	3.8		Formaldehyde solution min.37% (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany);
Cationic detergents*	0.01-2.00	0.003	0.010	4.5		Sodium hydroxide solution 1mol/L, Sulphonic acid 0.5mol/L, N-Cetyl-N,N,N-trimethylammonium bromide (CTBA), Hydrochloric acid 25%, Methanol (Merck,Darmstadt, Germany);
Anionic detergents*	0.05-15.00	0.017	0.050	4.0		Sodium hydroxide solution 1mol/L, Hydrochloric acid 1mol, Sodium 1-dodecanesulphonate, Hydrochloric acid 25%,Methanol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany);
Non-ionic detergents*	0.01-7.50	0.003	0.010	4.9		Sodium hydroxide solution 1mol/L, Sulphonic acid 0.5mol/L, Triton X-100, Hydrochloric acid 25%,Methanol (Merck,Sarmstadt,Germany);
Cations <sup>*a</sup>	0.03-500	0.01	0.030	0.9	DIONEX 3000 chromatograph (DIONEX, Sunnyvale, CA, USA)	Cation Standards (Na <sup>+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> ) 1000±5 mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ; (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany);
Anions <sup>*a</sup>	0.06-500	0.055-0.09	0.027-0.17	0.6		Anion Standards (F <sup>-</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ) 1003±5 mg/dm <sup>3</sup> ; (Merck, Darmstadt,Germany);
TOC <sup>*a</sup>	0.5-500	0.17	0.50	5.0	Total Organic Carbon Analyzer TOC-V <sub>CSH/CSN</sub> (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) Method of catalytic combustion (oxidation) with using of NDIR detector	Potassium Biphthalate, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> (COOH) FW204.23, purity 99,9%, (Kanto CO., INC, Tokyo, Japan)
PAHs**	0.15-9.00	0.05-1.40	0.15-4.20	1.5 – 5.5	Gas chromatograph 7890A (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) coupled with a mass spectrometer (5975C inert MSD – Agilent Technologies), detector (Agilent Technologies 5975C) with electron ionization (SIM mode), Autosampler (7683B – Agilent Technologies), column: ZB – 5MS (30 m;0.25mm;0.25µm); temperature program: 40-120 °C (40 °C/min),120-280 °C (5 °C/min), carried gas: helium, gas flow: 1 ml·min <sup>-1</sup> , injection volume: 2µl (splitless), inlet temperature 295°C,	Dichloromethane, Methanol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany); Naphthalene-d8, Benzo(a)anthracene-d12, Supelco, St. Louis, MO, USA; Mixtures of 16 PAHs (2000 µg/mL), Restek Corporation, Bellefonte, PA, USA;
PCBs**	0.05-2.00	0.017	0.050	2.0 – 6.0		Dichloromethane, Methanol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany); PCB standards, IUPAC Nos. 28,52,101,118,153,138,180 (10µg/mL in isooctane) Restek Corporation, Bellefonte, PA, USA;Certified standards of <sup>13</sup> C- labelled PCB 28 and PCB 180 (40µg/mL in nonane), Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Tewksbury, MA, USA;
Pesticides	0,05-2,00	0,022	0,066	0.5-6.0	Gas chromatograph 6000 Vega Series 2 (Carlo Erban,Milan, Italy) coupled with electron capture detector (Finnigan, Waltham, MA, USA); column: ZB-5MS, 30m;0,25mm;0,25µm, Phenomenex, Torrance, USA, temperature program: 80 °C -180 (15 °C/min), 180-300 °C (10 °C/min), 300 °C (3 min) carried gas: hydrogen, gas flow: 1 ml·min <sup>-1</sup> , injection volume: 2µl (splitless), inlet temperature 80°C,	Dichloromethane, Methanol, n-hexane MERCK, Germany; Pesticide standards, Hexachlorobenzene, γ-HCH, Acetochlor, Vinclozolin, Alachlor, Metolachlor ,Aldrin, captan, α-endosulfan, 4,4-DDE, Endrin, 4,4-DDT, Mirex (100 µg/mL in isooctane), LGC Standards, London, UK
Metals**	0.002-1000	0.0007	0.002	0.5 – 1.5	Elan DRC (PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA, USA) gas fed to the atomizer→ Ar:0,98 l/min, plasma gas→ Ar: 15 l/min	Mix of ICP standards, Analytk-Cal-8, Inorganic Ventures Christiansburg, VA, USA.

\*[mg/L] \*\* [µg/L] <sup>a</sup> the measurement range can be expanded towards the greater range of concentrations

200 Table 2 Minimum, maximum and median concentrations of different compounds determined in airport runoff water.

Target analytes	Units	n	C <sub>min</sub>	C <sub>max</sub>	Median	C <sub>min</sub>	C <sub>max</sub>	Median
			Airport with low capacity of passenger movement			Airport with high capacity of passenger movement		
∑PCB	[µg/L]	79	ND <sup>a</sup>	1.49	0.04	NT <sup>b</sup>		
∑PAH	[µg/L]	111	0.01	5.69	0.25	0.05	8.55	0.31
∑Pesticides	[µg/L]	50	0.02	8.29	0.26	NT		
Conductivity	[µS]	107	0.01	40.5	0.33	0.12	1.52	0.65
∑Anions	[mg/L]	100	0.15	10527	5.59	0.56	47.0	9.43
∑Cations	[mg/L]	81	8.38	15339	114	26.6	49.5	36,5
∑ Anionic detergents	[mg/L]	107	0.20	14.9	0.55	0.23	1.08	0.42
∑Cationic detergents	[mg/L]	107	0.03	0.90	0.29	0.29	0.78	0.34
∑Non-ionic detergents	[mg/L]	105	0.07	7.50	0.83	0.28	7.50	2.49
Formaldehyde	[mg/L]	106	0.01	2.90	0.25	0.28	1.63	0.39
∑Phenols	[mg/L]	106	ND	1.59	0.14	0.16	3.33	0.26
TOC	[mg/L]	106	0.96	5510	141	3.89	21999	46.7
Metals	[µg/L]							
Li		33	0.50	10.4	2.31	3.00	363	7.60
Be		1	ND			0.06	0.06	0.06
B		33	2.86	48.8	12.0	16.0	165	128
Al		45	12.0	938	32.5	5.30	289	25.0
V		45	3.50	120	24.8	8.30	171	16.0
Cr		45	1.40	42.7	18.8	7.40	50.2	8.50
Mn		45	1.40	94.1	12.4	0.60	680	12.9
Co		36	0.07	1.88	0.24	0.28	0.81	0.59
Ni		44	0.50	6.95	2.03	0.60	2.80	1.60
Cu		45	3.20	67.6	12,3	1.10	25.8	4.35
Zn		45	10.2	106	38.2	23.2	162	46.3
As		45	0.30	5.70	2.12	1.20	4.20	1.80
Se		33	0.01	1.09	0.28	0.46	1.39	1.03
Rb		45	1.92	287	40.6	6.86	684	12.0
Sr		45	3.80	105	25.6	5.20	1953	373
Mo		45	0.18	16.1	2.09	0.91	41.4	1.51
Ag		24	0.01	1.37	0.07	ND		
Cd		37	0.04	0.42	0.14	0.08	5.28	0.40
Sn		31	0.10	1.00	0.42	0.30	0.50	0.40
Sb		45	0.19	2.82	0.87	0.50	4.17	1.14
Cs		43	0.01	0.59	0.16	0.03	5.64	0.05
Ba		45	2.90	90.9	12,1	4.20	285	61.1
Tl		0	ND			ND		
b		135	0.02	7.86	0.67	ND	13.1	0.19
		135	0.02	0.61	0.25	0.04	2.81	1.87
toxicity	[%]							
<i>Vibrio fischeri</i>	↓Luminescence	108	4.90	50.8	20.0	20.0	96.0	20.0
<i>Chamnocephalus platyurus</i>	Mortality	68	0.00	100	25.0	NT		

<sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup> ND- not detected; <sup>b</sup> NT- not tested; ∑Anions: PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, HCOO<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>; ∑Cations: Na<sup>+</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>

2

203 In the case of PCBs and pesticide compound determination, the concentration levels of these  
204 analytes which were found in runoff waters from the airport with low capacity of passenger  
205 movement were also too high, according to the standard mentioned above. The concentration  
206 values of PCBs, pesticides in effluents discharged into water or ground should be zero <sup>59</sup>.  
207 Compounds from the PCB group can be emitted to airport runoff waters during aircraft  
208 maintenance operations (heat exchanger fluids, chemical stabilizers and from hydraulic  
209 systems) and overflows of lubricants, paints, and oil varnishes at airports. Pesticides can be  
210 emitted to runoff water from airport infrastructure during daily washing and maintenance of the  
211 crop spraying aircrafts. They can also originate from combustion of fuel process and leakage of  
212 fuel, lubricants, oils which contain an addition of biocides which are applied to reduce the  
213 growth of microorganisms in fuels and lubricating oils. The content of particular metals in the  
214 analyzed samples did not exceed permissible concentration levels according to the standard.  
215 However, some high metal concentrations, in particular of strontium, boron, barium and zinc,  
216 whose median numerical values were 373, 128, 61.1 and 46.3 µg/L respectively, were observed  
217 in the runoff water samples collected from the area of the airport with high capacity of  
218 passenger movement. The metal content, especially heavy metals, in the airport runoff water  
219 samples can be connected mostly with the combustion of the large amount of aviation fuel (the  
220 emission may be a result of releasing analytes contained in the fuel) and the corrosion of  
221 different protective coatings (e.g. galvanized) of the fuselage and other parts of the aircraft. The  
222 analytes from the metal group can be also emitted to the airport runoff waters during the take-  
223 off and landing abrasion of the aircraft tyres, varnishing or painting of aircrafts and the airport  
224 platform, also after welding waste or lead batteries and accumulators. Heavy metals from these  
5 sources can be dispersed into the environment and pollute water, soil and air or get directly or  
6 through the plants into animal and human organisms <sup>62</sup>.



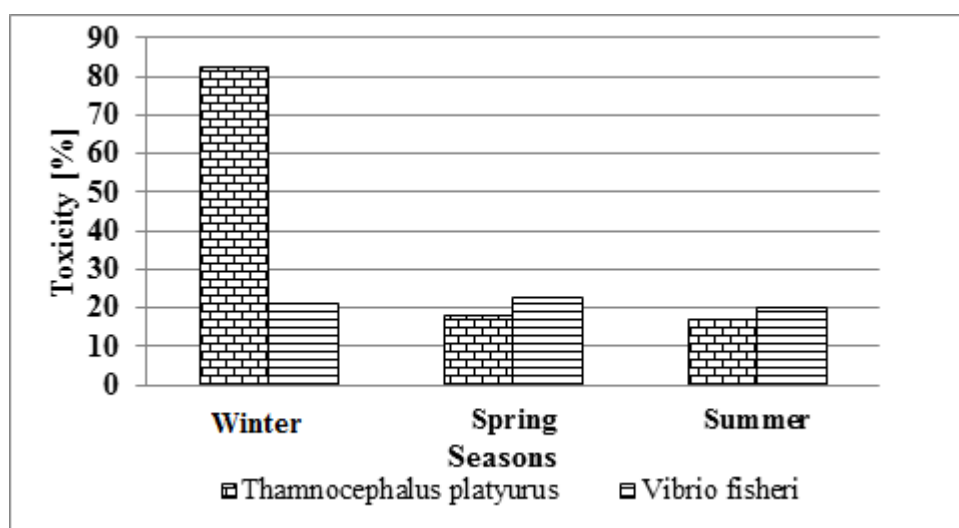
227 While analyzing available measurement data the surprising differences in analytes  
228 determined in the samples collected from the airports which differ in capacity of passenger  
229 movement significantly content can be observed. The airports with high capacity of passenger  
230 movement do not always emit considerable amount of pollutants because in most cases huge  
231 international airports have larger budgets to create a reliable infrastructure management system  
232 (own waste water pre-treatment and treatment plants, the system of waste recirculation,  
233 ecological detergents and de-icing agents etc.) which enables to reduce considerably the  
234 sources of pollutants emission. To illustrate this, the maximum TOC level in runoff waters  
235 from Newark International Airport (one of the busiest international airports in the United  
236 States, 33.8 million passengers/year), was 1120 mg/L, whereas the equivalent level at *Polish*  
237 *airport with high capacity of passenger movement* (9.4 million passengers/year) was twice as  
238 high. This difference is significant since the Polish airport serves a three times smaller number  
239 of passengers than Newark (USA) <sup>6</sup>. Again, the mean phenol content in samples from Kansas  
240 City International Airport, USA (10 million passengers/year) was 93 mg/L, but at Bradley (ca  
241 5.6 million passengers/year) it was three times higher <sup>6</sup>. For instance, the runoff water collected  
242 from monitored *airport with high capacity of passenger movement* showed the ca. 1,8 times  
243 higher contents of total metals (501 µg/L) in comparison with the monitored *airport with low*  
244 *capacity of passenger movement*. These examples show that the level of environmental  
245 pollution at an airport is not always directly correlated with either its size or its capacity.

246 Assessing the contamination level of runoff waters from airports requires monitoring of  
247 many parameters, which is time-consuming and expensive. Moreover, the results of chemical  
248 analyses do not take into account interactions between the compounds present (synergism and  
9 antagonism). Therefore it is essential to set up a system integrating selected chemical  
0 parameters and ecotoxicological tests <sup>1, 16, 22, 25</sup>.

251 Table 3 lists the sites at the Polish airports, with high and low capacity of passenger  
252 movement, with the most toxic runoff waters. It also points the chemical parameters and the  
253 target analyte groups with the highest concentrations in accordance with the Polish law 169/27  
254 <sup>59</sup>. Two microbiotests (*Vibrio fischeri* bacteria and the crustacean *Thamnocephalus platyurus*)  
255 have been used to determine the ecotoxicity of airport runoff waters. The sample taken at the  
256 aircraft refuelling point of *the airport with high capacity of passenger movement* was most  
257 toxic towards *Vibrio fischeri* bacteria. This sample contained high levels of the following  
258 parameters and target analyte groups: TOC, metals, anions, phenols, detergents, formaldehyde.  
259 More than a dozen of samples were highly toxic towards *Thamnocephalus platyurus*: all of  
260 them had high concentrations of sodium ions and formate ions. *Thamnocephalus platyurus* is  
261 mentioned by Kiss <sup>63</sup>, to show a real specificity to some substances and may be used for  
262 detection of high Na and Cd concentrations. A considerable effect of sodium, chloride and  
263 formate ions on aquatic invertebrates was mentioned by Corsi et al. <sup>16</sup>. Sodium formate is  
264 included in pavement de-icer materials while sodium itself is a constituent of road salt which is  
265 used to clear snow and ice from paved airport surfaces such as roads, parking lots and  
266 sidewalks. Both compounds have a potential to impact aquatic toxicity. In the study no  
267 correlation between toxicity tests results and pesticide content/concentration was observed.  
268 From conducted research it was also noticed that runoff water samples collected during the  
269 winter and early spring season were of the highest toxicity (Table 3). During these seasons the  
270 highest number of operations such as de-icing of both aircrafts and the airport area is made, the  
271 biggest amount of aviation fuel is burnt (especially during take-offs when the aircraft engines  
272 require more energy and time to warm up and start the vehicle because of the reduced ambient  
3 temperature) in comparison with the other seasons, which may account for the above  
4 characteristic relation. Figure 1 shows the additional exemplary graph presenting the  
5 correlation between the season of the sample collection (from the airport with low capacity of



276 passangen movement in 2009) and determined toxicity towards indicator organisms  
277 *Thamnocephalus platyurus* and *Vibrio fischeri*. The presented graph confirms the thesis that  
278 especially during the winter season the determined toxicity (connected directly with quantity  
279 and the specific character of emitted pollutants) of samples is significantly higher in  
280 comparison with the toxicity determined for the samples collected in the other seasons of the  
281 year when intensity of everyday operations referred to the airport maintenance is much lower  
282 than the amount of operations carried out during the winter season.



283 **Figure 1** Toxicity determined in runoff water samples collected in airport area in different  
284 season in year 2009.  
285

286 Principal components analysis (PCA) was used to explore the data and explain the relationships  
287 between the analysed parameters. The results the PCA analysis of are presented in Table 4 and  
288 Figure 2. Pesticides were not included in the PCA analysis due to gaps in the database.  
289 Principal component 1 (PC1) included 47.2% of the overall variance and was influenced by  
290 eight variables: TOC, anions, cations, EC, toxicity towards *Thamnocephalus platyurus*, the sum  
291 of detergents, anionic and non-ionic detergents. These parameters are clustered in the plane  
2 PC1 and PC2 at the area II (Figure 2). PC1 represents pollutants associated with technological  
3 processes carried out during airport operations and related to the maintenance of airport  
4 infrastructure, such as cleaning and washing aircraft and airport aprons. The results show that  
5 toxicity towards *Thamnocephalus platyurus* is correlated with the other variables forming

296 cluster II, and that this organism can be successfully used as a screening parameter. The  
297 number of necessary chemical determinations could be reduced by measurement of toxicity  
298 towards *Thamnocephalus platyurus* instead.

299 PC2 explained 15.0% of the total variance in the data, and was determined primarily by  
300 phenols, formaldehyde, PCBs and PAHs. These variables created the cluster denoted as I with  
301 positive values of PC2 (Fig.2). They may be referred to as environmental pollutants included in  
302 the airport runoff water samples commonly occurring as a result of combustion processes,  
303 transportation, etc. The variation of parameters included in the cluster I differs from the  
304 variation of toxicity towards *Vibrio fischeri* and *Thamnocephalus platyurus*. This may suggest the  
305 presence in the samples of compounds that were not determined during the research. Many  
306 compounds which are not determined in this study are mentioned in the literature as capable of  
307 influencing aquatic toxicity of airport runoff waters: urea, glycols, benzotriazole, tolyltriazole,  
308 alkylphenols ethoxylates, de-icer and anti-icer additives and other constituents<sup>1, 15, 47 22, 23, 45</sup>.

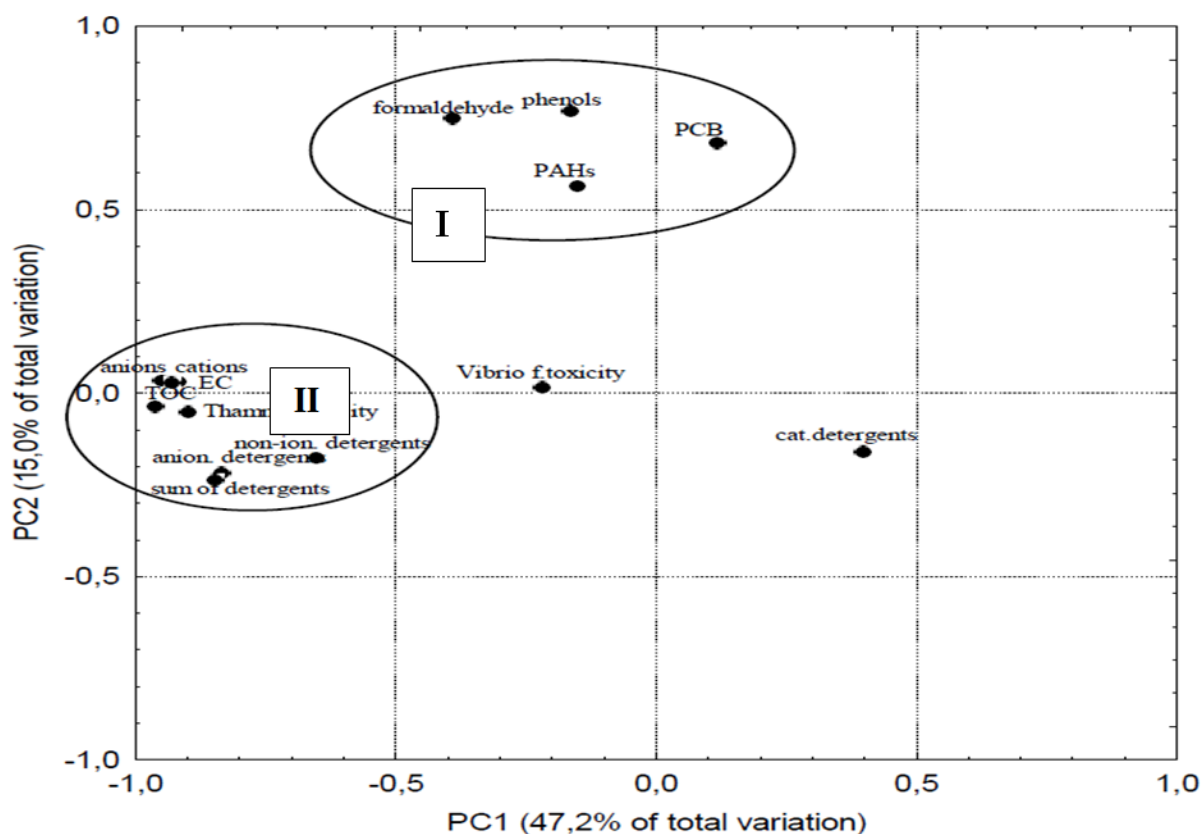
309 The toxicity towards *Vibrio fischeri* appears in third and fourth principal components  
310 (PC3 and PC4). The variation of the toxicity towards the *Vibrio fischeri* parameter is positively  
311 correlated with the variation of non-ionic (PC3) and cationic detergents (PC4) and negatively  
312 correlated with cationic detergents in PC3 (Table 4).

313 Anionic detergents and the sum of detergents data show the similar variation on the first  
314 five PCs, which may indicate that these detergents occur mainly in anionic form (Table 4).

315 In contrast, the cationic detergent loadings suggest that the variation of the cationic  
316 detergents data differs from the variation of the data for all other parameters in the PC1 (Figure  
317 2). This could be attributed to the fact that these compounds are used occasionally.

8 The results of the PCA of the measurement data revealed that the crustacean  
9 *Thamnocephalus platyurus* and bacteria *Vibrio fischeri*, two organisms from different trophic  
0 levels, respond differently to the target analytes. This study revealed that *Thamnocephalus*

321 *platyurus* is more sensitive to some of the pollutants (cluster II) determined in the samples than  
 322 *Vibrio fischeri* bacteria. However, toxicity to *Vibrio fischeri* bacteria may be important to  
 323 indicate other parameters which were either not determined at all or not included in the  
 324 monitoring study. For example Pillard et al. in studies on toxicity of benzotriazole and  
 325 benzotriazole derivatives mentioned that Microtox® test is more sensitive than tests on  
 326 invertebrates (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and vertebrates (*P. Promelas*)<sup>64</sup>.



327 **Figure 2** Loadings of the parameters in the plane defined by PC1 and PC2.  
 328

329 Figure 3 features the research results (covering the research period from 2009 to 2011)  
 330 referring to determined concentrations of particular organic analytes from detergent and phenol  
 331 groups, formaldehyde and TOC in the samples of runoff waters collected from the area of the  
 2 monitored airport with low capacity of passenger movement. On the graph the clear increasing  
 3 tendency of the content level of analytes in airport effluents was observed, beginning with the  
 4 year 2009. The successive increase of the pollutant concentration levels in the airport runoff  
 5 waters from 2008 to 2011 can be associated with the increased aviation activity at this airport



336 during the research period, which was also presented in Figure 4. Figure 4 shows the  
 337 concentration level of the total amount of emitted pollutants while taking into account the  
 338 number of passengers handled at the monitored airport with low capacity of passenger  
 339 movement from 2009 to 2011. The amount of pollutants present in runoff waters is influenced  
 340 mainly by two parameters: aircraft traffic intensity (connected with the increased number of  
 341 passengers) and the effort, undertaken by managers of this airport, to reduce the sources of  
 342 pollutants emission related to the airport exploitation started in 2010. The documented  
 343 fundamental increase of aviation activity at the monitored airports seems to confirm the  
 344 prediction of the global growth in the air transport, which is likely to be doubled within the next  
 345 15-20 years, and expected therefore considerable growth of the environment pollution being the  
 346 result of the airport operations <sup>1</sup>. The results from this study show that it is important to carry  
 347 out both chemical analyses and toxicity tests to be able to correctly evaluate the potential  
 348 impact of airport stormwater on the environment.

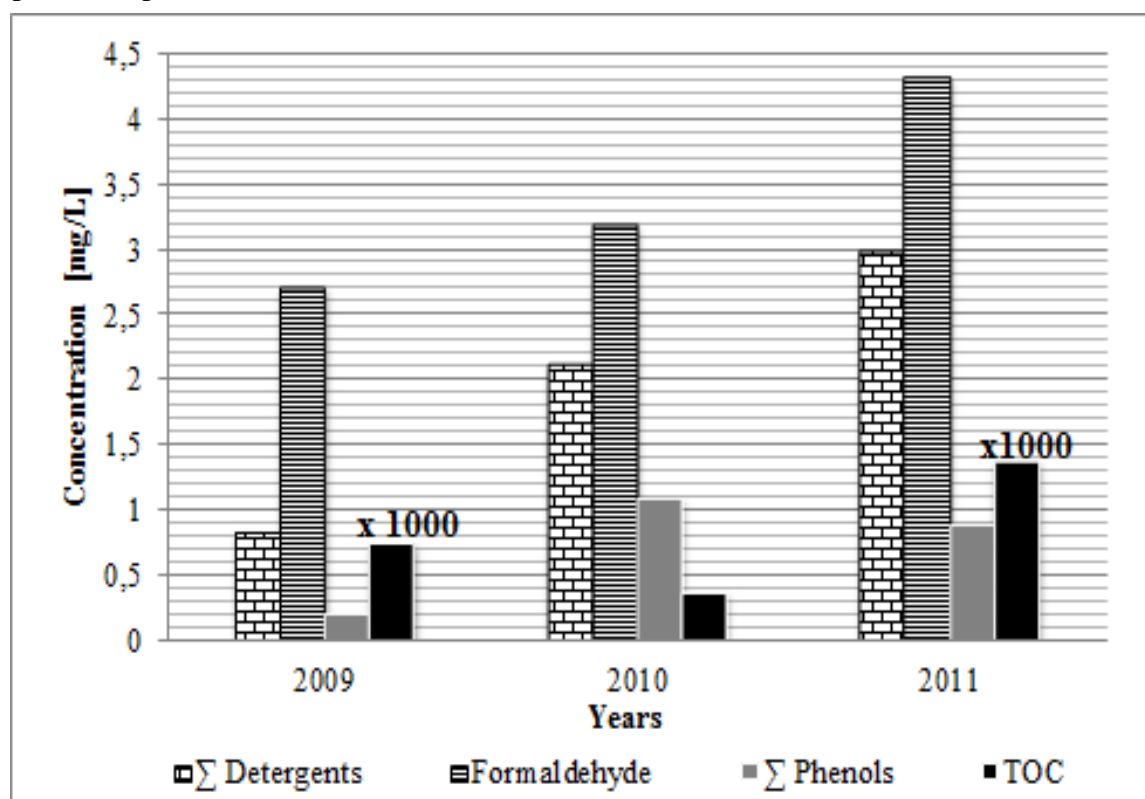


Figure 3 Concentration levels of some selected organic pollutants and TOC parameter in airport runoff water samples.

Table 3. The sites at airports with high/low capacity of passenger movement with the most toxic runoff waters.

Site / Date		Analysis of results	Number of times permissible norms exceeded	Toxicity %	
<i>Vibrio fischeri</i>					
Airport with high capacity of passenger movement	Municipal water catchment area 14.01.11 *	Naphthalene= 0.125 [µg/L]; $G_{Naph}^{**} = 0.015$ $F = 0.278$ [mg/L]; $G_F = 33.1$ $\sum$ metals= 1817 [µg/L]; $G_{\sum metals} = 216$ $Zn = 162$ [µg/L]; $Al = 209$ [µg/L]; $G_{Zn} = 19.3$ ; $G_{Al} = 24.9$ $TOC = 21999$ [mg/L]; $G_{TOC} = 2.61 \cdot 10^6$ $Formaldehyde = 1.63$ [mg/L]; $G_{Formaldehyde} = 194$ $\sum$ Phenols= 3.33 [mg/L]; $G_{\sum Phenols} = 396$ $Non\text{-}ionic\ detergents = 7.50$ [mg/L]; $G_{Non\text{-}ionic\ d.} = 893$ $Cationic\ detergents = 0.78$ [mg/L]; $G_{Cationic\ d.} = 92.8$	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 733 times $\sum$ Phenols - permissible norm exceeded 33.3 times	96	
	Airport with low capacity of passenger movement	Vicinity of an airport passenger terminal 24.03.2009	$PO_4^{3-} = 4.99$ [mg/L] $\sum$ Phenols= 0.302 [mg/L] $Non\text{-}ionic\ detergents = 2.01$ [mg/L] $TOC = 289$ [mg/L] $\sum$ PCB= 0.13 [µg/L] $\gamma\text{-HCH} = 0.149$ [µg/L] $Aldrin = 0.131$ [µg/L] $Endrin = 0.123$ [µg/L] $DDT = 0.00076$ [µg/L]	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 9.6 times $\sum$ Phenols- permissible norm exceeded 3 times $PCB$ exceeded by 0.13 µg/L $\gamma\text{-HCH}$ , Aldrin, Endrin, DDT permissible norm exceeded by 0.149 µg/L, 0.131 µg/L, 0.123 µg/L, 0.00076 µg/L respectively.	51
		Vicinity of an airport passenger terminal 07.01.11	$\sum$ Phenols= 0.45 [mg/L] $\sum$ PCB= 0.14 [µg/l] $\sum$ PAH= 5.70 [µg/l]	$\sum$ Phenols- permissible norm exceeded 4.5 times $PCB$ - permissible norm exceeded by 0.14 [µg/L]	44
Parking places 24.03.2009		$TOC = 231$ [mg/L] $\sum$ Phenols= 0.29 [mg/L] $\sum$ PCB= 1.02 [µg/L] $\gamma\text{-HCH} = 0.039$ [µg/L] $Aldrin = 0.0018$ [µg/L] $Endrin = 0.0017$ [µg/L] $DDT = 0.0028$ [µg/L]	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 7.7 times $\sum$ Phenols - permissible norm exceeded 2.9 times $PCB$ - permissible norm exceeded by 1.02 [µg/L] $\gamma\text{-HCH}$ , Aldrin, Endrin, DDT permissible norm exceeded by 0.039 µg/L, 0.0018 µg/L, 0.0017 µg/L, 0.0028 µg/L respectively.	42	
<i>Thamnocephalus platyurus</i>					
Airport with low capacity of passenger movement	Vicinity of an airport passenger terminal 19.01.2009	$HCOO^- = 8701$ [mg/L]; $Na^+ = 4765$ [mg/L] $Anionic\ detergents = 13.5$ [mg/L] $Non\text{-}ionic\ detergents = 1.85$ [mg/L] $TOC = 3260$ [mg/L]	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 109 times $Anionic\ detergents$ permissible norm exceeded 2.7 times	100	
	Machinery park 19.01.2011	$HCOO^- = 10505$ [mg/L] $Na^+ = 5031$ [mg/L] $TOC = 3435$ [mg/L]	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 115 times	100	
	The periphery of an airport 19.01.2011	$\sum$ WWA= 2.01 [µg/l] $Na^+ = 56501$ [mg/L]; $HCOO^- = 9415$ [mg/L] $TOC = 5510$ [mg/L]	TOC- permissible norm exceeded 184 times	100	

\* Only data about flow of this site was available, Runoff water flow=119 [L/s] \*\* Mass yield (G)= flow\*concentration [mg/s]

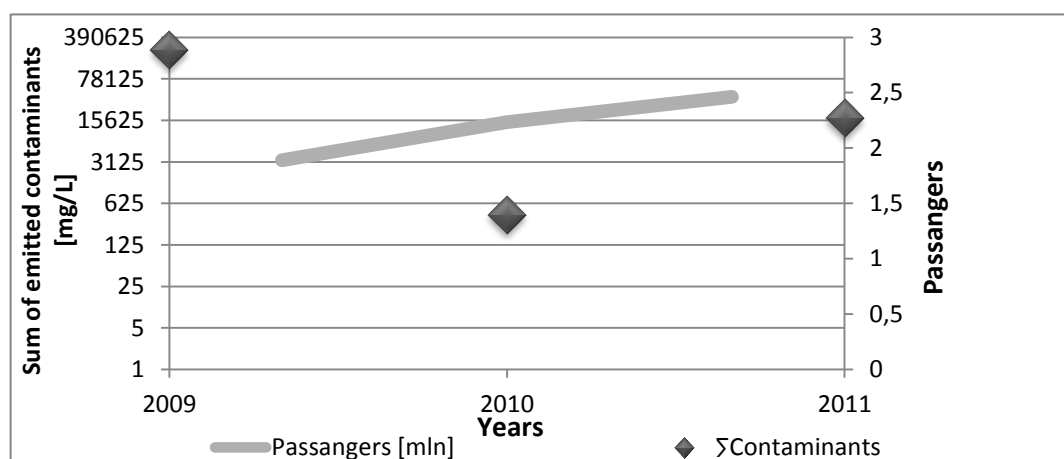


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**Table 4.** PCA results obtained for airport runoff water. The table lists variable loadings, eigenvalues and the proportion of the variance explained for the first five PCs. Boldfaced values represent parameters with significant loadings ( $p=0.05$ ).

Variables	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5
PCB	0.12	<b>0.68</b>	0.35	-0.19	-0.20
PAHs	-0.15	<b>0.56</b>	-0.49	0.33	-0.09
EC	<b>-0.92</b>	0.03	-0.25	-0.07	-0.23
ANIONS	<b>-0.95</b>	0.03	-0.19	-0.07	-0.07
CATIONS	<b>-0.93</b>	0.03	-0.21	-0.06	-0.21
ANIONIC DETERGENTS	<b>-0.83</b>	-0.22	0.13	0.15	0.26
CATIONIC DETERGENTS	0.40	-0.16	<b>-0.50</b>	<b>0.55</b>	0.12
NON-IONIC DETERGENTS	<b>-0.65</b>	-0.18	<b>0.52</b>	0.08	0.18
SUM OF DETERGENTS	<b>-0.85</b>	-0.24	0.18	0.19	0.28
FORMALDEHYDE	-0.39	<b>0.75</b>	-0.11	0.11	0.11
$\Sigma$ PHENOLS	-0.17	<b>0.77</b>	0.26	0.04	0.39
TOC	<b>-0.96</b>	-0.04	-0.12	-0.03	-0.15
<i>VIBRIO FISCHERI</i> TOXICITY	-0.22	0.02	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.51</b>	-0.45
<i>THAMNOCEPHALUS PLATYURUS</i> TOXICITY	<b>-0.90</b>	-0.05	-0.12	-0.16	0.09
Eigenvalues	6.6	2.1	1.6	0.8	0.7
% of variance explained	47.2	15.0	11.8	6.0	5.3
% of cumul. variance	47.2	62.2	74.0	80.0	85.3

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**Figure 4** Concentration levels of summary amount of emitted contaminants determined in airport stormwater in correlation with passengers movement during period 2009-2011.

## 395 5. Conclusions

396 Contaminants generated from different sources of airport infrastructure; including  
 397 leakage of fuel, paint materials, tire debris, use the brakes at high speeds especially during of  
 398 sharp turns, small fragments of road surfaces and metals, peeled off rust and varnish, vehicle  
 399 components, dissolved agents against glazed frost and detergent remains; are washed off the  
 400 airport platform into drainage system by rain water, sometimes retained in the drainage  
 401 system for a while, and finally transported mainly to the receiving water. Airport runoff

402 water is considered to be an important source of environmental contamination, because  
403 runoff not only gets into surface waters, but also to soil, and even to ground water sources of  
404 drinking water, and organisms living in this soil and waters as final receptors.

405 The results of this airport runoff waters analysis confirmed that this type of  
406 environmental samples has a complex chemical composition. Commonly occurring  
407 environmental pollutants emitted from fuel combustion processes, leakage of fuel and the  
408 maintenance operations were detected and determined in the samples: PAHs, PCBs,  
409 pesticides, formaldehyde, metals; parameters such as TOC, conductivity; pollutants  
410 principally associated with the technological operations related to the cleaning of airport  
411 infrastructure (washing of aircraft and airport aprons) like detergents, cations, anions,  
412 phenols. The levels of some compounds exceeded several or even several tens of times the  
413 maximum permissible levels stipulated by Polish legislation for treated effluents, which can  
414 be discharged into surface waters. In the light of these figures, it is imperative that  
415 monitoring of airport runoff waters is implemented as soon as possible.

416 Analysis of the measurement data obtained shows that *Vibrio fischeri* and  
417 *Thamnocephalus platyurus*, the two organisms from different trophic levels respond  
418 differently to the studied parameters. Levels of toxicity towards *T. platyurus* are correlated  
419 with like anionic and non-ionic detergents, anions and cations, pollutants originating from  
420 the technological operations related to the maintenance of airport infrastructure (such as  
421 cleaning and washing of aircraft and airport aprons).

422 The results presented here point the usefulness of biotests in assessing the quality of  
423 the runoff waters. The integrated chemical-ecotoxicological approach to assessing  
424 environmental contamination in and around airports yields more complete information on  
425 environmental quality, thereby enabling the better management of runoff waters and to  
426 limiting their effects on the environment.



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