

**The Occurrence of the Airborne Bacteria Genus *Staphylococcus* in the City of Olsztyn – Izabella Zmysłowska, Barbara Jackowska**

**Summary**

This paper presents the qualitative and quantitative results of the research into potential pathogens of genus *Staphylococcus* in the air in the centre and in the recreational areas of Olsztyn. The qualitative examinations were conducted for one year, from October 2002 to September 2003, with one-month intervals between measurements, which were done at testing sites with the use of sedimentation and impaction methods of sampling. When the samples were taken by the sedimentation method, the average count of this type of bacteria at various sites was higher than in those taken by the impaction method. The colonies of *Staphylococcus* bacteria, isolated from air samples taken four times during the test period in October 2002, January, April and July 2003, were further identified down to the species, based on biochemical tests. A wider species diversity of this type of bacteria was found in the samples taken by the sedimentation method (8 species) than by the impaction method (3 species). Among the *Staphylococcus* bacteria isolated from air the following species dominated: *S. xylosus* 61% and *S. lentus* 15% when the samples were taken by the sedimentation method and 31% and 62%, respectively, with the impaction method. When the samples were taken by the sedimentation method, 8% of *Staphylococcus aureus* and 2% *Staphylococcus epidermidis* were found among all the isolated bacteria (627 cfu/m<sup>3</sup>). These species were not found in the samples taken by the impaction method.