

# MEDICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS OF RUSSIA "NATURAL-FOCAL DISEASES"

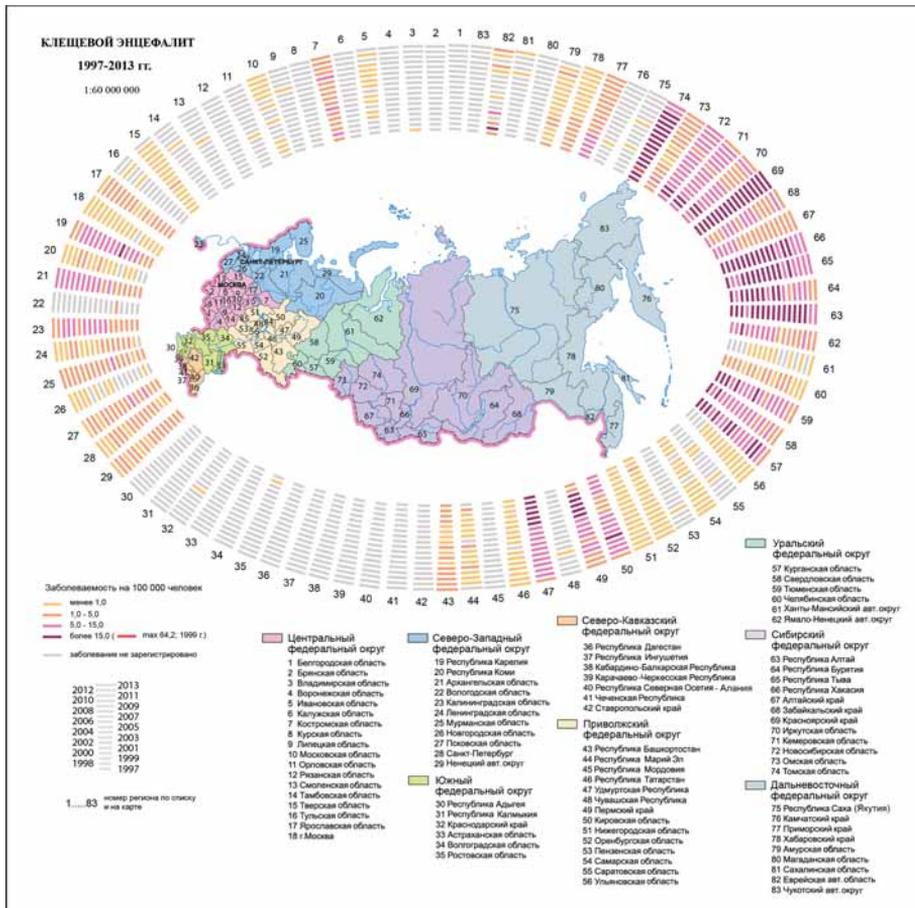
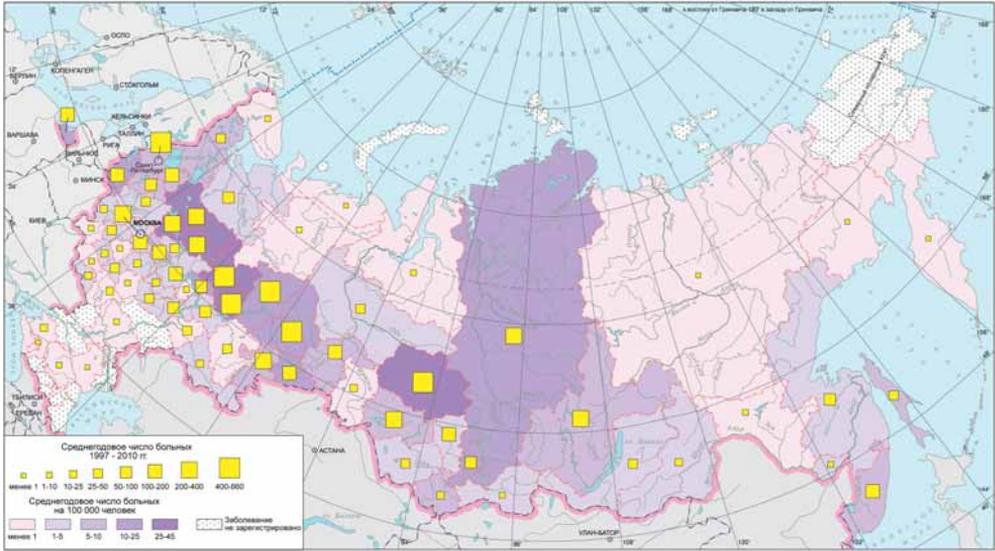
*(Edited by S.M. Malkhazova. – Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, 2015. – 208 p.)*

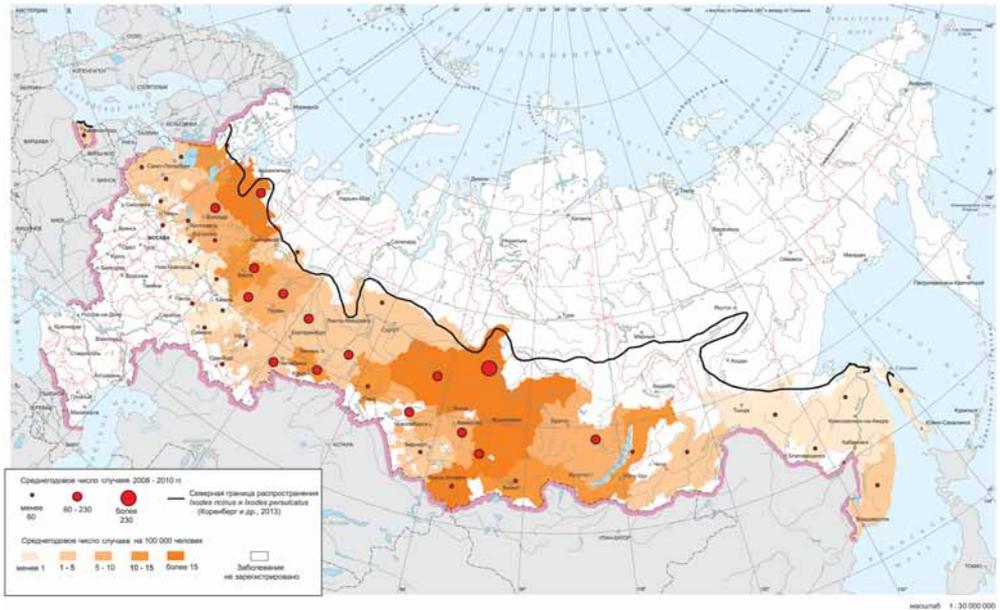
Natural-focal disease prevention is one of the most important problems of public health. The agents and vectors of these diseases are part of natural landscapes and the spread of these diseases, which may be a serious hazard for the population, is determined by natural factors. Therefore, medical geography has an important task: evaluating the risk of epidemic hazard of natural ecosystems and providing public health authorities with recommendations necessary to prevent disease outbreaks and conduct epidemiological surveillance. Considering the importance of the problem, a team of researchers at the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State

University (Russia) has published a Medico-geographical Atlas of Russia "Natural-Focal Diseases" – a first cartographic generalization of diverse and multifaceted information about diseases caused by agents circulating in natural environment independently from humans. The spatial distribution of natural-focal diseases is considered at different hierarchic levels. In the readily understandable way the Atlas informs about their historical and current distribution in Russia, epidemiological aspects, natural and socio-economic determinants conducting natural foci. The series of maps depicts population morbidity rates in the particular regions as well as countrywide in 21st



БОЛЕЗНЬ ЛАЙМА





century. The publication features numerous color illustrations and oriented toward mainstream audience.

The Atlas has five thematic blocks and more than 100 maps. The Introductory section covers the theory of natural-focal infections and invasions as a complex set of interdependent populations of pathogens, animal hosts and arthropod vectors that represent a biological component organically bound with natural territorial complexes. Also, this block consists of the comprehensive information on the scientific-methodological and practical experience of the national medico-geographical mapping and on the cartographic coverage of natural focal diseases in Russia. The Natural and Socio-economic Conditions block comprehensively describes the characteristics and current conditions of the natural environment that influence the formation and functioning of the parasitogenic disease systems (agent–

vector–host) in the territory of the Russian Federation and also includes maps on the patterns of the population distribution within the Russian territory and on its demographic indices. The Natural Hosts and Vectors of Natural-Focal Diseases block contains the maps of geographic ranges of animals - potential hosts of infections. The Spread of Primary Natural Focal Diseases block contains the description of 23 primary natural focal diseases of Russia along with maps based on the official statistics, showing the average long-term incidence of certain natural-focal infections and their multi-annual dynamics. The Organization of Public Health System block reflects the spatial structure of public health service in Russia.

The Atlas can be of interest for geographers, environmental workers, epidemiologists and other specialists invested in environmental and public health issues.

**Tatiana A. Trifonova**