Floristic structure of two *Batrachium* rich plant communities in relation to habitat conditions in rivers of Lithuania

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**INTRODUCTION**

In the most recent publications, the group of *Batrachium* (Ranunculaceae) is classified at the rank of section within the genus *Ranunculus* (Hörandl and Emadzade 2012, Balitsberger and Hörandl 2016). Taxa of *Ranunculus* section *Batrachium* are almost worldwide distributed, however, having the largest diversity in Europe (Cook 1963, 1993). In a last taxonomic account of *Ranunculus* section *Batrachium* 30 species are recognized, of which 19 are distributed in Europe (Wiegleb et al. 2017). They inhabit very different water bodies such as lakes, ponds, rivers, swamps, streams and springs, ranging from completely still to a wide range of flowing waters (Cook 1966, Lumbreras et al. 2009). *Ranunculus fluitans*, *R. penicillatus*, *R. pseudofluitans* and *R. kauffmannii* are treated as taxa mainly restricted to fast-flowing waters (Cook 1966, 1993, Holmes 1980, Wiegleb and Herr 1983, Webster 1988, Bobrov 2003, Tsvelev 2012, Bobrov and Movergoz 2014). However, fluvial environment facilitates the process of hybridization therefore many naturally formed hybrids, defined and undetermined, can occur in running water (Cook 1975, Wiegleb and...