

GENERAL INFORMATION

author(s)	Hermy M
year	1985
English title	Ecology and phytosociologie of old and young forests in Flanders
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institution	Laboratory of Plant Biology
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MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	3a, 5j, 5n (scientific zone)
time period	1977-1983
goal	Inventory of the vegetation of forests in Flanders <ul style="list-style-type: none">- differences between old and young forests- importance of ecological data (soil texture, drainage, and amount of litter)- phenology of several species in valley forests in relation to pH, light availability, amount of litter
set-up	6 plots in the Aelmoeseneie forest (nr 249-254, see map below)
data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- soil texture, depth water table, amount of litter- land use on the maps of Ferraris (1777)/ Vandermaelen (1850) / first topographic map (ca. 1900)/ topographic map (ca. 1960)- species and abundance
remarks	4 plots of the Aelmoeseneie forest (valley forests – 3a, 5n): new inventory in 2008 (VanDaele_2009_th)

RESULTS

The flora of young and old forests differs quantitatively and qualitatively. The presence of several 'old forest species' is typical of old forests. Former land use seems to determine which species are present, but not the number of species. The tree and shrub layer are more species-rich in old forests. Young and old forests also show differences in physical characteristics (earthen ridges), chemical characteristics, forest structure, and age structure.

The autecology of forest herbs is discussed.

The studied forest plots are used to develop a classification of forest types.

