

GENERAL INFORMATION

author(s)	Maes N, Rövekamp C
year	1998
English title	Autochtonous trees and shrubs in Flanders: an inventory of autochtonous gene pools in the zones in which ecological functions are stimulated (EIG)
original title	Oorspronkelijk inheemse bomen en struiken in Vlaanderen. Een onderzoek naar autochtone genenbronnen in de Ecologische Impulsgebieden
reference	Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Bos & Groen, Brussel
pages	163
type	report
ecosystem service	supporting - biodiversity
keywords	
taxa	plants
project	
supervisor	
institution	Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Bos & Groen; Ekologisch Adviesburo Maes; Bronnen
document	pdf, hardcopy
data	ABS_subset_GoLa_19971999.xls Flora&Fauna.xls

MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	5j, 5k, 5l, 5m, 5n (plot 86, see map below)
time period	May-November 1997
goal	inventory of the autochtonous tree and shrub species in Flanders, which are becoming rare
set-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 185 plots in the EIG zones and neighbouring zones with potential for nature development and in forest and nature reserves- potential growing spots of indigenous trees and shrubs (old forest, hedges, wooded banks) were determined based on the topographical map of 1860 and the most recent topographical maps, and were then investigated on the terrain based on a list of criteria- the occurring shrubs and trees are also investigated based on a list of criteria
data collection	inventory form: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- growing station: topography, soil, geomorphology, vegetation, species typical of old forests- management- trees and shrubs: Tansley, autochtonity, circumference, height, presence/absence of regeneration- data on the possibility of seed harvest: flowering, seed set, accessibility (for some plots: photo growing station and species, ownership, herbarium material)
remarks	some species have not been identified rigorously, and errors can occur for the species of the genus <i>Betula</i> , <i>Crataegus</i> , <i>Prunus</i> , <i>Salix</i> , <i>Rosa</i> , <i>Malus</i> , <i>Pyrus</i> , <i>Tilia</i> , <i>Ulmus</i>

RESULTS

The Aelmoeseneie forest shows old coppice of sycamore maple (possibly autochtonous), hornbeam and ash. In the shrub layer hazel, red currant, blackthorn and possibly *Crataegus x macrocarpa* were found. The herb layer is rich, with species such as moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), hairy wood rush (*Luzula pilosa*), oxlip (*Primula elatior*).

Species such as European pear (*Pyrus communis*), sycamore maple, and grey alder (*Alnus incana*) have been found, but it is difficult to say whether they are autochthonous as these species have been cultivated and occur at the border of their natural area. Species such as pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and field elm (*Ulmus minor*) have been transported a lot during the past centuries. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether they are autochthonous or not.

In Flanders, there seem to be no autochthonous individuals of species such as Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), *Rosa dumalis* and *Rosa subcanina*, and European cornel (*Cornus mas*). Other species have become extremely rare with only a few individuals or some very small populations: *Rosa tomentosa*, *Rosa pseudoscabriuscula*, buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), European wild apple (*Malus sylvestris*), wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*), sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*), and some *Salix* species.

The remaining autochthonous individuals and populations are threatened by the large pressure on the land for housing, industry, and agriculture. In addition, disturbance and pollution of remaining old forest and hedge fragments negatively affects the autochthonous relicts.

