

GENERAL INFORMATION

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MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	5j, 5l, 5m, 5n (plot 204, see map below)
time period	August-November 1999
goal	inventory of the autochthonous tree and shrub species in Flanders, which are becoming rare
set-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 284 plots in the Flemish Valley (1 in the Aelmoeseneie forest)- potential growing spots of indigenous trees and shrubs (old forest, hedges, wooded banks) were determined based on the map of count de Ferraris (1775) 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, owner- management- trees and shrubs: Tansley, autochtonity, circumference, height, presence/absence of regeneration- data on the possibility of seed harvest: flowering, seed set, accessibility- sometimes: herbarium material collected
remarks	

RESULTS

Species such as sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) 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. For **grey poplar** (*Populus canescens*) and **aspen** (*Populus tremula*) it is not clear whether they are autochthonous; grey poplar has been planted widely and was probably one of the most frequent tree species in agricultural areas, but does also occur in old forests; aspen spreads readily and its planting history is unclear. 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 these are autochthonous or not.

There seem to be no autochthonous individuals of species such as Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), *Rosa dumalis* and *Rosa subcanina*, mezereon (*Daphne mezereum*), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), *Crataegus rhipidophylla*, and European cornel (*Cornus mas*). Large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) might still be autochthonous, i.e., the old trees in villages or as pollard tree. Other species have become extremely rare with only a few individuals or some very small populations: field maple (*Acer campestre*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), common medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), black poplar (*Populus nigra*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum*), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), gooseberry (*Ribes uva-crispa*), 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 en hedge fragments negatively affects the autochthonous relicts. Planting of individuals coming from non-indigenous sources further threatens the autochthonous gene pools of Flanders.

