

GENERAL INFORMATION

author(s)	Samijn J
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data	in annex (soil analysis, vegetation inventory) Flora&Fauna.xls

MATERIALS & METHODS

study area	5b (transect + vegetation), 5n (2 transects), outside the Aelmoeseneie forest (transect + 2 vegetation plots)
time period	1997
goal	Investigate whether the presence of ditches (the ditch, the slopes, and the ridges) is translated in differences in soil conditions and vegetation patterns.
set-up	9 forests, 19 transects perpendicular on the ditches <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 m wide, variable length- ditch, slope, ridge- 5 soil samples (0–10 cm): mixed sample 3 vegetation plots Aelmoeseneie <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 m wide- 140 m², 100 m², 100 m²- subplots of 1 m x 0.5 m
data collection	19 transects: soil pH (KCl, H ₂ O), N content, Organic matter content, thickness litter layer, moisture content (TDR, 16 cm depth) 3 vegetation plots: species, cover (Londo) March/April 1997
remarks	

RESULTS

Two forest types were distinguished: (1) dry, acid, thick litter layer, (2) moist, less acid, thin litter layers. The presence of ditches and ridges affected the soil conditions spatially. Ditches were characterized by a thick litter layer, a high organic matter and total N content. In the moist forests, the ditches are moister and less acid than the ridges.

In the studied moist forests (Alno-Padion), the ditches also have an impact on the vegetation. However, there is a difference between draining and non-draining ditches. Species abundance was lower in the ditches; significantly lower in draining ditches. Some species occurred preferentially on the ridges or in the ditches.