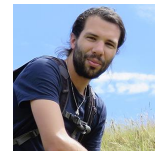


Cows exhibit feeding preferences between fodder trees species

Rethinking grasslands in 3D: feeding preferences of dairy cows between temperate fodder trees



Mesbahi G¹, Jawahir A¹, Berthet M¹, Ginane C², Delagarde R³, Chargelègue F¹, Novak S¹
geoffrey.mesbahi@gmail.com

1 : INRAE, FERLUS, 86600, Lusignan, France

2 : Université Clermont Auvergne, INRAE, VetAgro Sup, UMR Herbivores, 63122 Saint-Genès-Champanelle, France

3 : PEGASE, INRAE, Institut Agro, 35590 Saint Gilles, France

INTRODUCTION

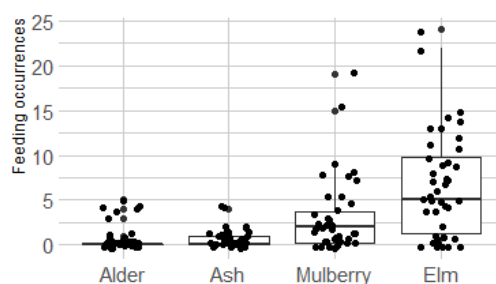
- The fodder production of grasslands is reduced in summer
- Temperate tree species have good nutritive value in summer
- However, little is known about the palatability of temperate trees for dairy cows

METHODS

- Lusignan (Poitiers), France
- 12 cows, 10 mornings
- 4 tree species:
 - Italian alder
 - Common ash
 - White mulberry
 - Lutèce elm
- 4 rows, 168 trees
- Scan sampling every 4 min
- GLMM to model the effect of tree species on the number of feeding occurrences

RESULTS

- Cows exhibited strong feeding preferences for elm and then for mulberry
- Alder and ash were weakly consumed



DISCUSSION

- Feeding preferences were not related to nutritive values from the literature
- The nutritive values measured on the trees studied will help to confirm these results
- Physical characteristics of leaves could also effect their palatability

