Vegetation dynamics under Castanea sativa stand grazed with Celtic pigs

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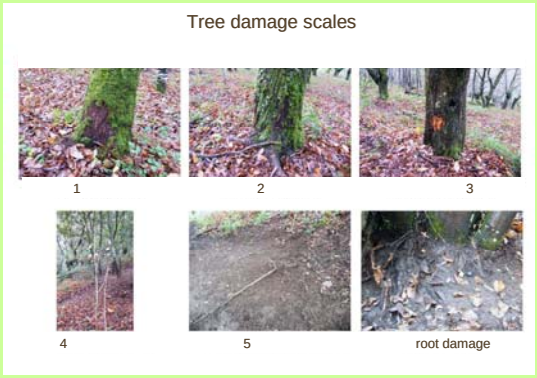
INTRODUCTION

Celtic pig is an authocthonous breed that has been recently promoted in extensive systems in Galicia under Quercus robur and chesnut stands due to the high quality meat when they grow up in extensive systems

OBJECTIVE: to evaluate the effects of celtic pig on vegetation evolution and on tree damage in a old Castanea sativa stand

MATERIALS AND METHODS

LOCALIZATION



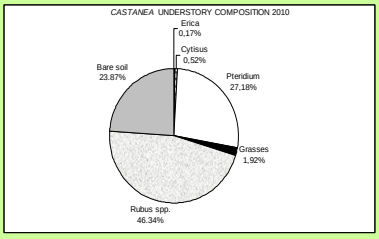
SAMPLING Periodic sampling (2010 and 2011) of chesnut production, vegetation evolution (1 x 1 m) and transects

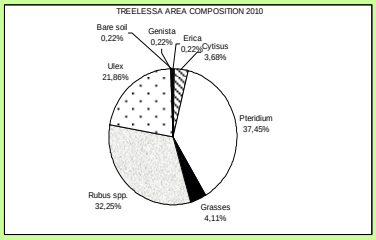
SAMPLE COLLECTION: Samples (trees and transects) where annually collected with the exception of vegetation evolution that were monthly sampled

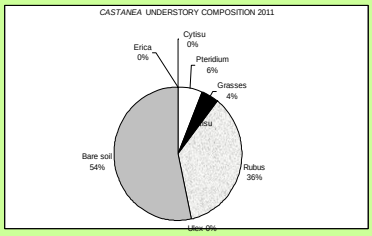
ANALYSIS IN THE LABORATORY: dry matter production

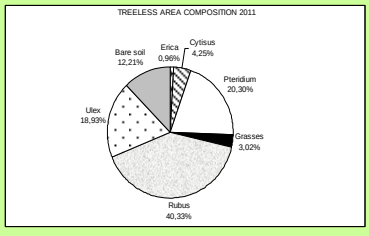
RESULTS

VEGETATION EVOLUTION

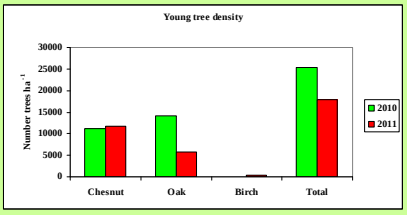


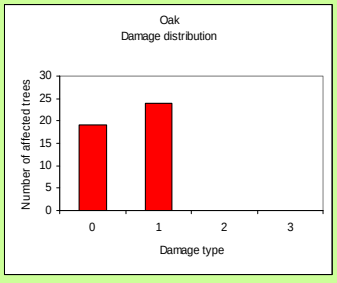


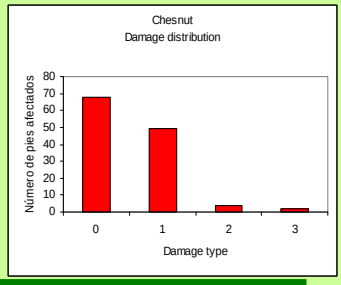




TREE EVOLUTION







CONCLUSIONS:

An increase in the percentage of bare ground was found in both areas, being the effect more important in the wooded area. The dominant vegetation in each area was different, with species such as fernunder the *Castanea* stand and in leafy bush and gorse in the treeless area.

Especially important was the control of fern species under the *Castanea* canopy of low forage value, and costly eradication. Pigs had affected more young trees of oak than chestnut saplings.