Vegetation dynamics under Castanea sativa stand grazed with Celtic pigs

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INTRODUCTION

Celtic pig is an autochthonous breed that has been recently promoted in extensive systems in Galicia under Quercus robur and chestnut 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 an old Castanea sativa stand.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

LOCALIZATION

SAMPLING

Periodic sampling (2010 and 2011) of chestnut 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 fern under 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.