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Abstract

Old-growth forests: An ecosystem approach
Ecological portrayal of old-growth forests and persistent woodlands in the Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park (southern Italy)
M. Marchetti, R. Tognetti, F. Lombardi, U. Chiavetta, G. Palumbo, M. Sellitto, C. Colombo, P. Iovieno, A. Alfani, D. Baldantoni, A. Barbati, B. Ferrari, S. Bonacquisti, G. Capotorti, R. Copiz, & C. Blasi

Abstract:
The maintenance of certain levels of old forest represents a cornerstone of the EU's biodiversity management strategy. A consensus on a single general ecological definition of old-growth is particularly difficult in Mediterranean Europe. The present paper deals with old-growth forests and persistent woodlands in the Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park (PNCVD) to give an ecological understanding of forest complexity and dynamics under a multiscale and multidisciplinary perspective. The multiscale approach ranged from the identification and mapping of potential old-growth stands at landscape scale to a two-level field review of forest stand features. Field sampling involved a multidisciplinary team of researchers in forest structure, pedologic environment, soil microbial activity, flora and vegetation and deadwood components. The research provided sound knowledge about old-growthness features in the PNCVD that constitutes a unique case study in the whole Mediterranean basin. The integration of results allowed to: identify main ecosystem functions and the related services of the old-growth forests in the study area; distinguish persistent

woodlands, multi-aged stands with old trees deriving from nineteenth-century management pactices, from old-growth forests sensu strictu; recognize indicators of direct and indirect impacts of human activities; suggest effective practices for sustainable management in the Mediterranean context.

biodiversity
forest dynamic, gap dynamic, succession
forest structure: stand
deadwood
soil - site
Notes

Old-growth forests, persistent woodlands, managed stands, Mediterranean region, ecological characterization, soil, biodiversity

Címszavazva - VA

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