



Département
santé des forêts

Benchafor Project

BENchmarking applied to FOREst cockCHAfer ecology to ensure regeneration in a context of forest health crises

Call for Speakers

Forest regeneration and cockchafer damage



We invite researchers and forest managers to submit a proposal for a 30-minute presentation during the Benchafor Workshop from 2 to 4 October, 2018.

The workshop will be hosted by the INRA Nancy-Champenoux and will include on-site visits in Eastern France.

The forest cockchafer is a beetle species well known for the damage it can inflict on forest ecosystems. Not only can adult insects cause spectacular defoliation, the larvae feed on the roots of young trees thus causing severe mortality in forest regenerations. Though Eastern European countries have faced recurrent infestations since the 1960's, in France, cockchafer populations have increased from endemic to epidemic proportions only in the last 10 years, with severe damage being recently reported in young forest stands in Picardie and Northern Alsace.

The Benchafor workshop on October 2 – 4, 2018, made possible through funding by Labex Arbre, will focus on the current scientific knowledge of the forest cockchafer and how management practices influence the pest.

Three objectives

- To share the latest scientific knowledge on forest cockchafer biology and ecology and, in particular, to discuss the most important biotic and abiotic factors to take into account as alternatives to chemical control solutions;
- To provide an overview of current practices and technical experience acquired in European countries where forest cockchafer outbreaks are frequent in both adult stands and regenerated areas (plantations and natural regeneration);
- To identify dead ends and the scientific and technical shortcomings currently limiting the success of forest management techniques as cockchafer control measures; to identify research questions and specify research needs; to explore the appropriateness of establishing a European partnership to deal with the problem.

Call for proposals

Contributions concerning the points listed below are particularly welcome, though the organizing committee will consider all proposals.

- Cockchafer population dynamics, in particular:
 - Population dynamics during the move from endemic to epidemic proportions; how to determine scales and threshold levels;
 - Techniques to directly or indirectly assess population densities for both larval and adult stages.

- Cockchafer biology and ecology, in particular:
 - Factors determining cockchafer presence and abundance in terms of microclimate (temperature, humidity, light availability), soil conditions and forest structure (understory structure);
 - Feeding preferences for larvae and adults;
 - Host tree defense mechanisms.

- Time spans and spatial descriptions of typical epidemic situations in different European countries.

- Stand management and renewal in epidemic situations (tree species mixtures, natural regeneration, plantations, choosing appropriate species, stand structure management, etc.).

- Role of ungulate populations on cockchafer outbreaks.

- Influence of climate on cockchafer population dynamics.

- Proposals for new research.

- How to finance new research projects?

All room and board for the speakers selected by the organizing committee will be provided through Labex Arbre funding and, whenever possible, travel expenses will also be reimbursed.

Submission procedure: proposals for 30-minute oral contributions should be summarized in 300 words or less and five key words should be provided. Abstracts may be submitted either in French or English. Supporting photos and internet links are welcome. Please indicate the speakers' first and last names, title or position, professional organization and email address.

Proposals should be emailed by June 30, 2018 to jeremy.cours@onf.fr. The selection process will take place during the first two weeks of July and responses will be sent to all submitters by July 31, 2018.