

Rackham, O. (2008): Tansley review. Ancient woodlands: modern threats. New Phytologist 180: 571-586.

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Abstract

Tansley review

Ancient woodlands: modern threats

Oliver Rackham

Summary

This review discusses the following adverse influences on long-established forests, wood-pastures, and savannas in Europe and other continents: destruction and fragmentation, depletion; pollution and eutrophication; fire and lack of fire; excessive shade; excessive numbers of deer; invasive species and cultivars; infilling of savanna; climate change; and globalization of plant diseases. Human influences on the world's mainland forests and savannas have been pervasive throughout the Holocene, to the extent that recovering 'virgin forest' becomes a somewhat nebulous conservation objective. Present and future threats arise both from increasing human activities and from withdrawal of the human activities that have shaped forests in the past. The severity of different threats depends on so many factors, especially the properties of different plants and animals, that generalization is impossible; however, in the long term, spread of pathogens is probably the most serious threat.

forest diseases, pathogens, pests

forest ecology: game affect, browsing

climate: climate change

ecosystem: disturbance, pollution

ecosystem: invasion, invador species

Notes

Tansley review

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Tartalom:

Summary

I. Introduction

II. What is meant by threats?

III. Destruction and fragmentation

IV. Depletion

V. Pollution and eutrophication

VI. Fire and lack of fire

VII. Excessive shade

VIII. Excessive numbers of deer and other ungulates

IX. Invasive species

X. Infilling of savanna

XI. Climate change

XII. Globalization of plant diseases

XIII. Interactions

XIV. Importance of different threats

XV. Conclusions

Acknowledgements

References

ancient woodland, climate change, destruction and fragmentation, excessive shade and deer, fire, invasive species, plant disease, pollution and eutrophication

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