

Permanent.Plot.ch – a database for Swiss permanent vegetation plots

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Abstract: The aim of the Permanent.Plot.ch project is the conservation of historical data about permanent plots in Switzerland and the monitoring of vegetation in a context of environmental changes (mainly climate and land use). Permanent plots are currently being recognized as valuable tools to monitor long-term effects of environmental changes on vegetation. Often used in short studies (3 to 5 years), they are generally abandoned at the end of projects. However, their full potential might only be revealed after 10 or more years, once the location is lost. For instance, some of the oldest permanent plots in Switzerland (first half of the 20th century) were nearly lost, although they are now very valuable data. The Permanent.Plot.ch national database (GIVD ID EU-CH-001), by storing historical and recent data, will allow to ensuring future access to data from permanent vegetation plots. As the database contains some private data, it is not directly available on internet but an overview of the data can be downloaded from internet (<http://www.unil.ch/ppch>) and precise data are available on request.

Keywords: climate change; land use; permanent plot; Switzerland; vegetation monitoring.

GIVD Database ID: EU-CH-001		Last update: 2012-05-06
Permanent.Plot.ch		
Scope: The aim of the project is the conservation of historical data about permanent plots in Switzerland and the monitoring of vegetation in a context of environmental changes. Data are stored with as many information as possible: location, date of inventories, complete relevés, etc. New relevés and new permanent plots are regularly added to the database. The efficiency of the database will depend of the number of plots that will be gathered. Hence, contact me if you know any Swiss permanent plots.		
Status: completed and continuing		Period: 1883-2011
Database manager(s): Pascal Vittoz (pascal.vittoz@unil.ch)		
Owner: Pascal Vittoz, University of Lausanne (private)		
Web address: http://www.unil.ch/ppch		
Availability: according to a specific agreement	Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): MS Access		Export format(s): MS Access, Excel, CSV file, plain text file
Publication: Vittoz, P. & A. Guisan (2003). Le projet PERMANENT.PLOT.CH demande votre collaboration. Das Projekt PERMANENT.PLOT.CH bittet um Ihre Mithilfe. <i>Botanica Helvetica</i> 113: 105-110.		
Plot type(s): time series		Plot-size range: 1-10,000 m ²
Non-overlapping plots: 919	Estimate of existing plots: 1,500	Completeness: 61%
Total plot observations: 3,757	Number of sources: 100	Valid taxa: [NA]
Countries: CH: 100.0%		
Forest: 9% — Non-forest: aquatic: <1%; semi-aquatic: 28%; arctic-alpine: 31%; natural: 0%; semi-natural: 30%; anthropogenic: 2%		
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%; bryophytes (terricolous or aquatic): 12%		
Environmental data: altitude: 100%; slope aspect: 50%; slope inclination: 67%; soil depth: 13%; other soil attributes: 28%		
Performance measure(s): presence/absence only: 8%; cover: 84%; measurements like diameter or height of trees: 6%; other: 9%		
Geographic localisation: GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 100%		
Sampling periods: < 1919: 1.1%; 1920-1929: 0.5%; 1930-1939: 3.6%; 1940-1949: 3.1%; 1950-1959: 0.1%; 1960-1969: 0.1%; 1970-1979: 8.0%; 1980-1989: 37.8%; 1990-1999: 30.1%; 2000-2009: 10.8%; 2010-2019: 0.5%		
<i>Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-CH-001</i>		

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