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Data Article

Chorological maps for the main European woody species

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ABSTRACT

A novel chorological data compilation for the main European tree and shrub species is presented. This dataset was produced by combining numerous and heterogeneous data collected from 20th century atlas monographs providing complete species distribution maps, and from more recent national to regional atlases, occurrence geodatabases and scientific literature. The dataset is composed of numerous species distribution maps available in geographical information system (GIS) format, created by compiling, evaluating and synthesizing data of all collected sources. The geometry of the individual datasets describes contiguous large areas of occupancy of each species as polygons and fragmented or isolated occurrences as points. Since this geodatabase is intended to provide a synthetic continental-scale overview of the species ranges, the maps represent the species' general chorology and the presence/absence information should not be considered absolute in terms of geolocation. Errors and imprecisions arising from the interpretation and digitalization processes are likely to occur, especially in those areas where detailed information is scarce. As

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new information sources become available, these will be used to address current data gaps, implement corrections and updates of the chorology dataset as well as expanding it to comprise additional species.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	Botany
More specific subject area	Geobotany, Floristics, Chorology
Type of data	Vector ESRI shapefiles, text file
How data was acquired	Geographic information system (GIS)
Data format	Analysed
Experimental factors	Printed maps in published monographs were scanned/digitalized, then all images were geo-referenced with GIS software.
Experimental features	Geo-referenced partial and complete chorological maps and species occurrence geodatabases were overlaid, compared and merged to create new updated distribution range maps in geographic digital format.
Data source location	Worldwide
Data accessibility	On Mendeley Data repository: http://data.mendeley.com/datasets/hr5h2hcg4

Value of the data

- The data provides a set of distribution ranges of European tree and shrub species in a geographic digital format, which has been compiled by expert comparisons and analyses of numerous and heterogeneous sources.
- The data are stored in ESRI shapefile format and can be easily handled in GIS software for mapping the species distribution ranges, presenting and describing synthetically where the species generally occur.
- While currently limited in areas with scarce information, the data will be updated as soon as new sources become available.
- These new dataset can contribute significantly to research in the fields of ecology, forest genetics, biodiversity, phytosanitary and pest control activities, among others.

1. Data

The data are organized as a set of ESRI shapefiles (*.shp, *.shx, *.dbf, *.prj files) mapping the distribution ranges of the main European tree and shrub species. For each species and in some cases subspecies, one or more shapefiles have been created containing: a) polygon features (name suffix

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