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INTERNATIONAL CROSS COMPARISON COURSE ON FOREST CONDITION (Mediterranean Europe) Follonica, ITALY September 27 – 30, 2009

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The International Cross Calibration Course on Crown Condition for Mediterranean Countries was held in the structure of the National forest Service School of "Marsiliana" (Follonica) in a National Reserve, also in part of the same plots as the previous Italian ICCC in 1999.

24 participants of 6 countries took part in the meeting (Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey).

Field exercise in 2 plots of Pinus pinaster stand and 3 Quercus ilex stand

In the field assessment, after detailed information on the stand and plot, all participants has been called to assess the field plots according the new rules of ICP Forest Manual

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Training Course Aims:

Data collecting about different definitions of Assessable Crown and field positions

Contents:

Definitions of assessable crown

Field position of assessment

It has to be checked if one of the main causes for differing results in defoliation estimations in various European countries is the different understanding of what constitutes assessable crown.

Three different definitions for assessable crown has been used in the European Crown Assessment (Expert Panel Crown Condition and Assessment Damage Causes - Tree Vitality (D1) - FutMon Field Protocol V 1.0; last update 15th May 2009)

The following definitions has been field-tested at the ICCs 2009 used concurrently with the nationally differing definitions.

Definitions of assessable crown:

A. **Assessment of the tree crown ranges from the tip of the tree to the _widest span_ of the crown or to where the distance between stem axis and living branches is greatest.**
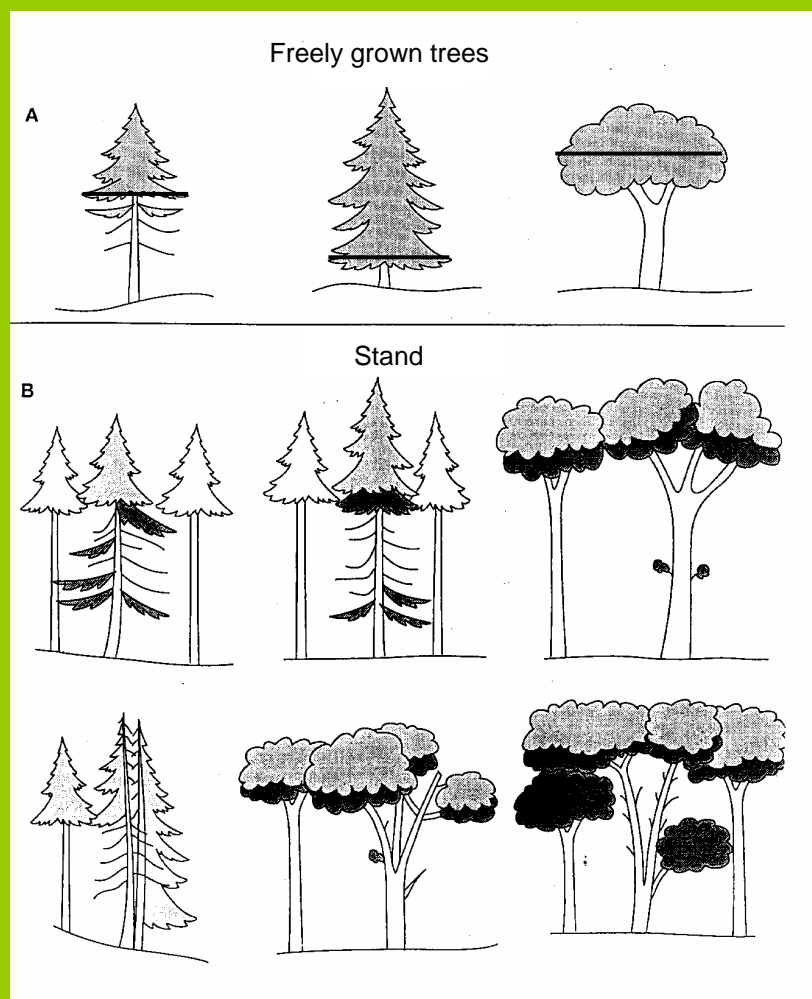
Freely grown trees

Stand

Fig. 1: Illustration of definition A:
Assessment of the tree crown ranges from the tip of the tree to the _widest horizontal span_ of the crown.
(stand (B): the lighter colour indicates assessable crown; freely grown trees (A): black line)

Definitions of assessable crown:

B. Assessment of a defined lower limit; the *upper third* of a trees living crown will be assessed.

C. Individual countries "*traditional*" procedure of the definition of assessable crown referring ICP Crown Manual (2006).

Field position of assessment

Another main cause of variation of defoliation scores is due to different positions of the participants during the assessment.
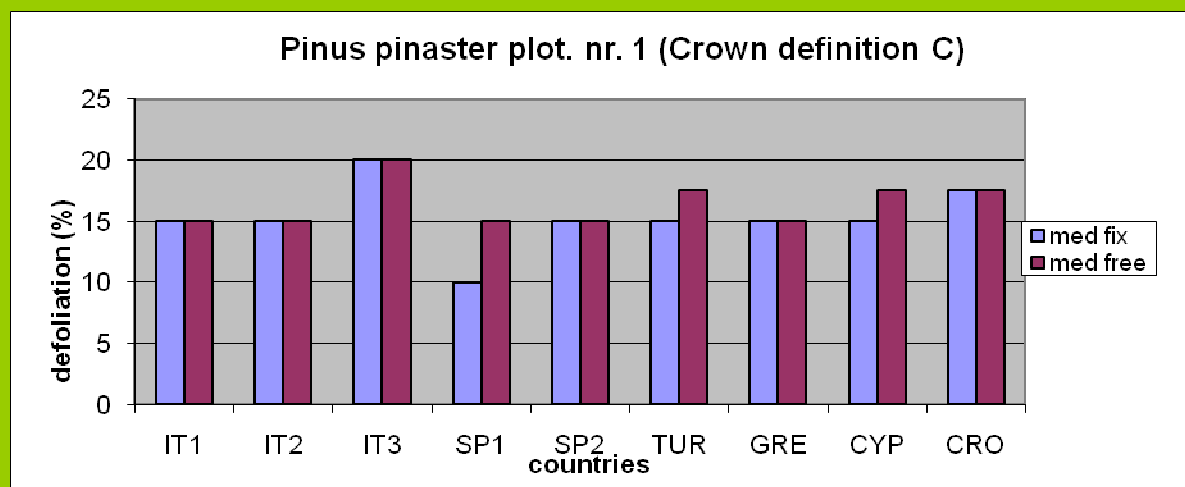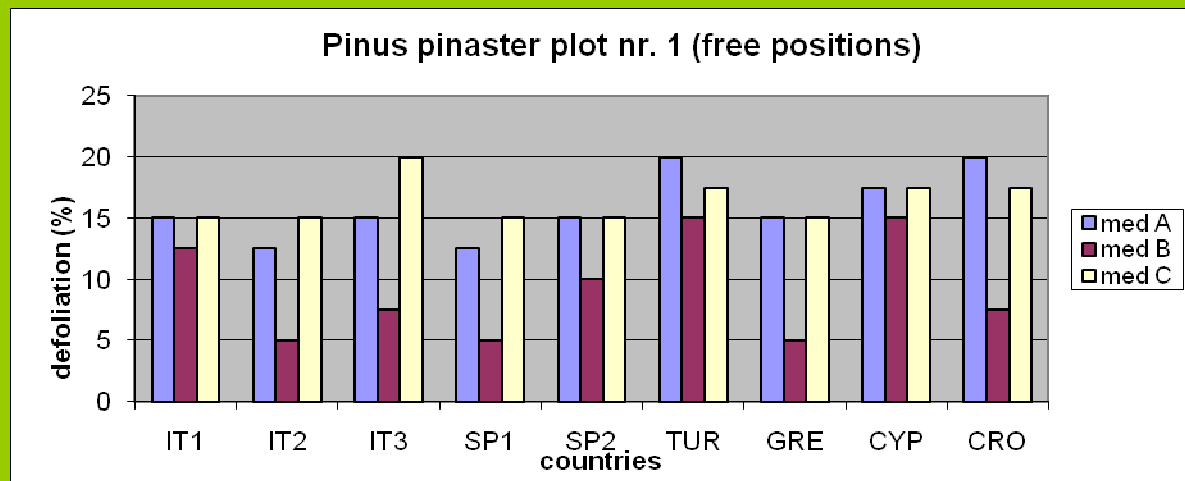
The participants made _the first assessments from a fixed position_ which has been prepared and marked in the field by the host country.

A _second group of assessments_ has been done following the position or assessment procedure which is used during the field assessments in the participating countries.

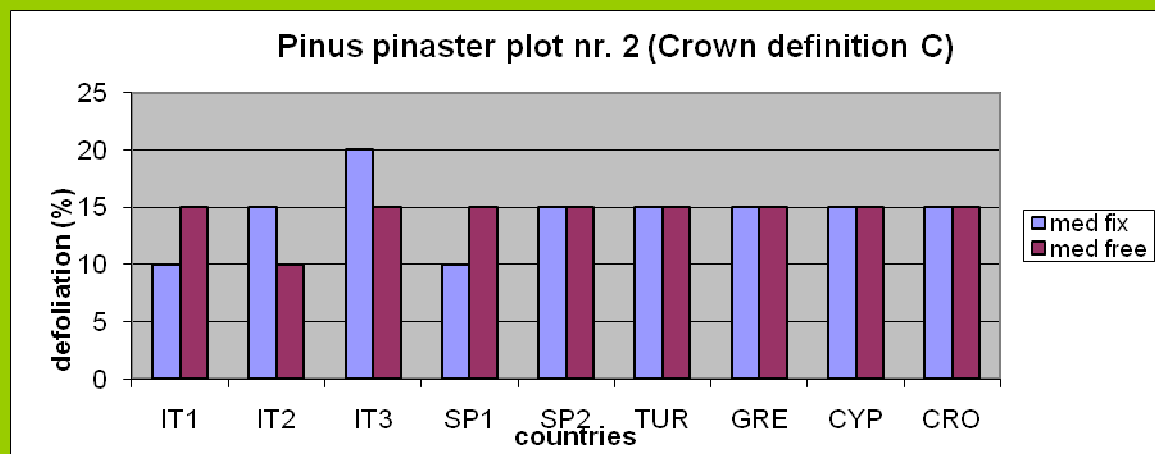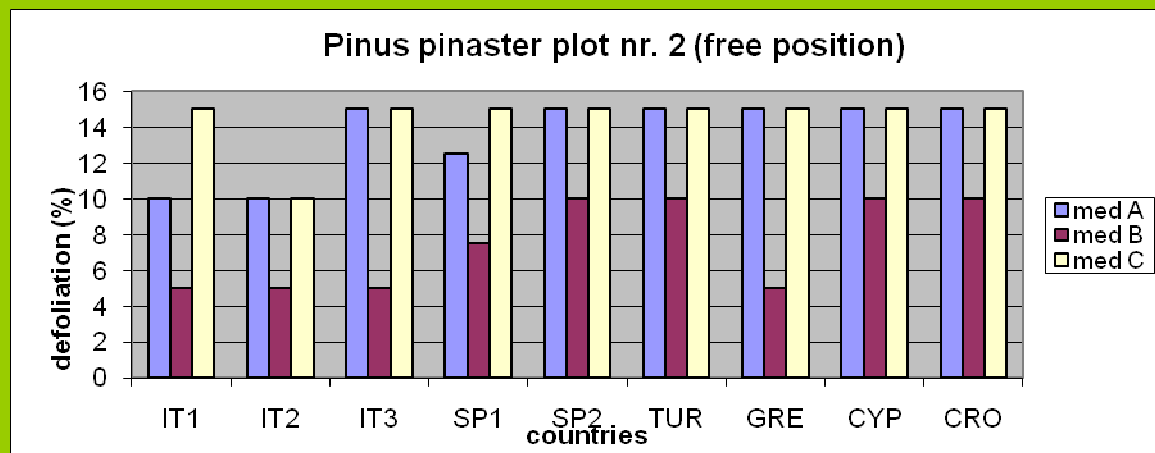**Combined FutMon/ICP Forests Expert Meeting, February 15th-19th 2010, Tampere, Finland**

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field assessment data form

Plot nr. [ ]   **Country** [ ]

Species [ ]   **Team** [ ]

Date [ ]

Tree n.	Defoliation fixed position %			Defoliation free position %			Discoloration class (0,1,2,3,4)	COMMENTS ON DAMAGE CAUSE
	A	B	C	A	B	C		
1								
2								

Pinus pinaster plot nr. 1 (free positions)

Pinus pinaster plot. nr. 1 (Crown definition C)

Some results: Pinus pinaster nr. 1 stand assessed in different way

Pinus pinaster plot nr. 2 (free position)

Pinus pinaster plot nr. 2 (Crown definition C)

Some results: Pinus pinaster nr. 2 stand assessed in different way

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Quercus ilex plot. nr. 1 (free position)

Quercus ilex plot nr. 1 (Crown definition C)

Some results: Quercus ilex nr. 1 stand assessed in different way

Quercus ilex plot nr. 2 (free position)

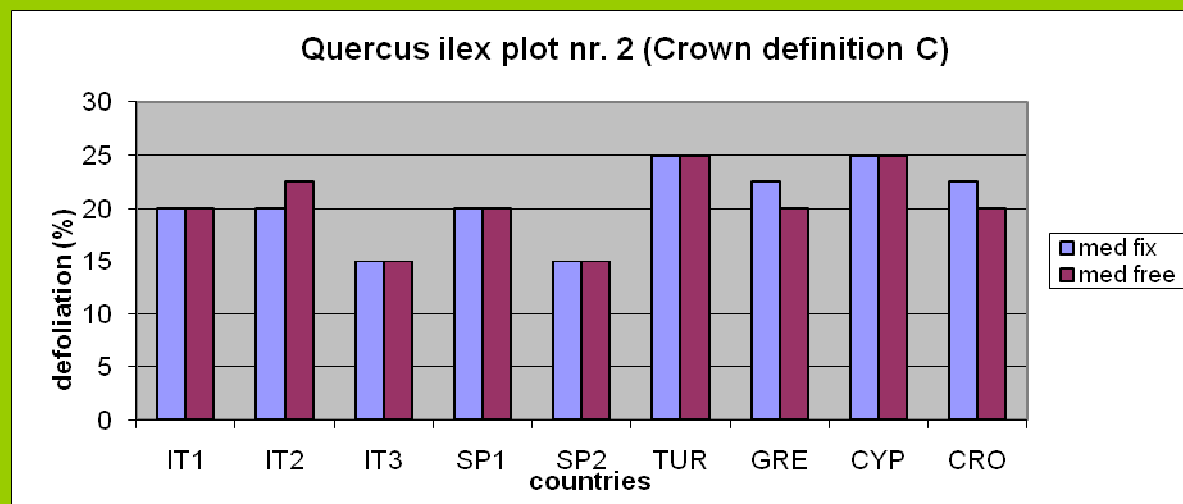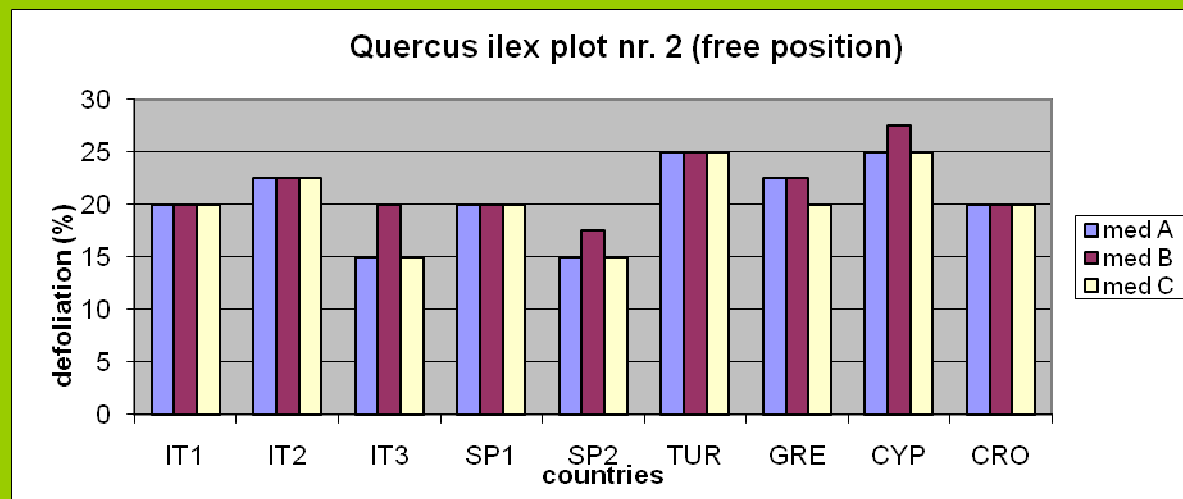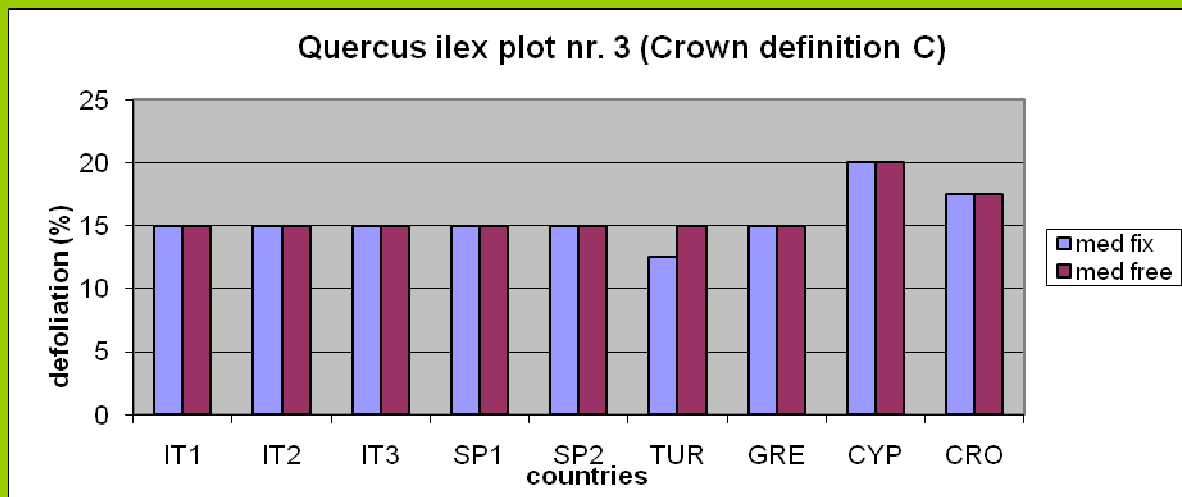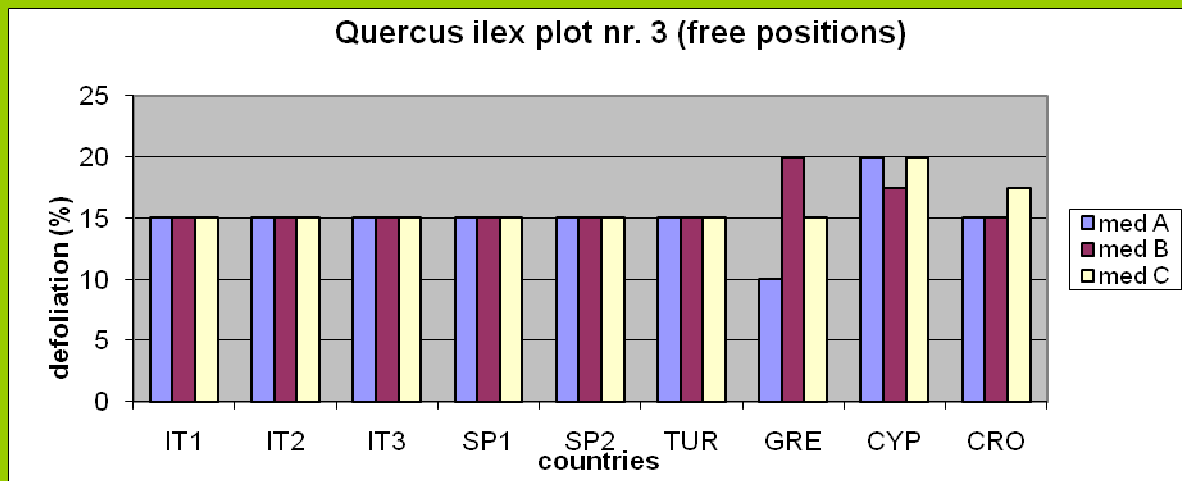Quercus ilex plot nr. 2 (Crown definition C)

Some results: Quercus ilex nr. 2 stand assessed in different way

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Quercus ilex plot nr. 3 (free positions)

Quercus ilex plot nr. 3 (Crown definition C)

Some results: Quercus ilex nr. 3 stand assessed in different way

Conclusion:

1) The results of Cross Calibration Course show a good intercalibration between the different Countries

2) The new assessment methods applied during the last Italian CCCourse seems, in preliminary way, have not increase the quality of intercalibration process.

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Thank you for your attention!