Ruminal degradability of leaves of *Morus alba* or *Fraxinus excelsior* managed as pollards or high stem trees

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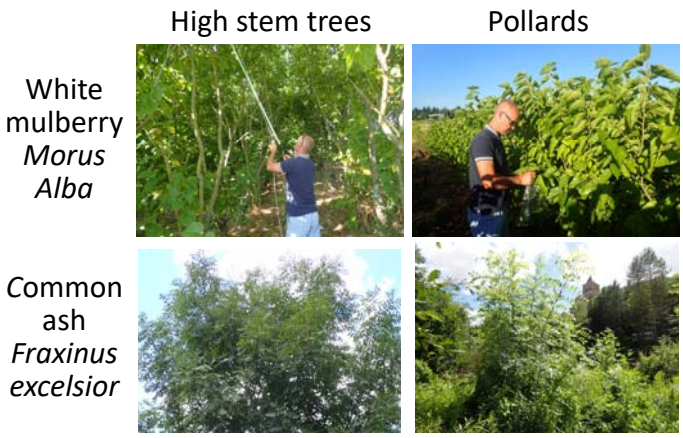
Objective

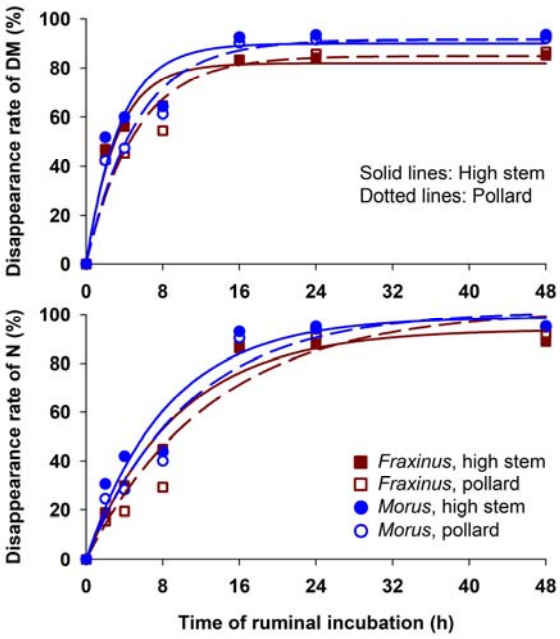
To determine the effect of **tree management** on ruminal effective **degradability** of dry matter (EDDM) and **nitrogen** (EDN) in **leaves** of two high-quality forage tree species.



Materials and methods

► **Collection of leaves:** August 2016, France, *Fraxinus* from Lusignan, *Morus* from Le Pradel. Trees pollarded since 2 years (*Fraxinus*) or 12 years (*Morus*).

► **Ruminal degradability:** November 2016, *in situ* leaves degradation in nylon bags, replicated on 3 dry Holstein cows, after 2, 4, 8, 16, 24 and 48 h of incubation.



Results

	Morus alba		*Fraxinus excelsior*	
	High stem	Pollard	High stem	Pollard
DM (g/kg)	321	326	439	395
CP (g/kg DM)	164	129	156	177
EDDM (%)	75.8	70.8	70.0	66.3
EDN (%)	66.1	61.5	59.2	55.4

DM: dry matter CP: crude protein

Conclusions

► **Good nutritive value** of the leaves of the two species whatever tree management.
► **No interaction** between species and management on effective degradability of leaves (P>0.10).
► **Greater** effective degradability on ***Morus alba*** than on *Fraxinus excelsior* leaves (P<0.001).
► **Greater** effective degradability of leaves on **high stem trees** than on pollards (P<0.01).

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