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Cows exhibit feeding preferences between fodder trees

Rethinking grasslands in 3D: feeding preferences of dairy cows between temperate fodder trees

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INTRODUCTION

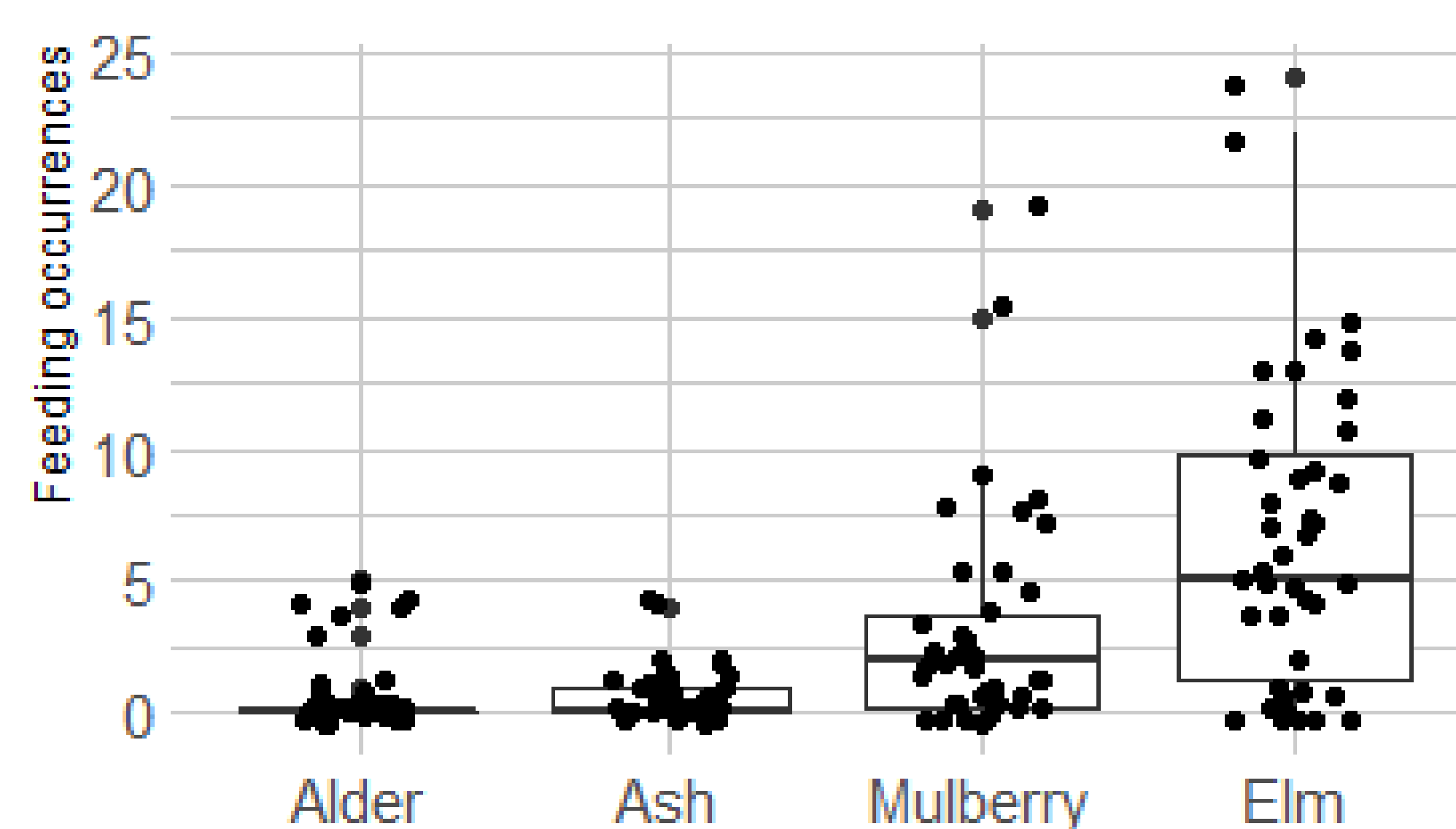
- Grasslands fodder production decrease during summer
- Recent studies highlighted the good nutritive value of temperate trees in summer
- However, little is known about the palatability of temperate trees for dairy cows

METHODS

- Lusignan, France
- 12 cows, 10 mornings
- 4 tree species :
 - Italian alder
 - Common ash
 - White mulberry
 - Lutèce elm
- Scan sampling
- GLMM

RESULTS

- Cows exhibit strong feeding preferences for elm and then for mulberry
- Alder and ash were weakly consumed



DISCUSSION

- Feeding preferences are not related to nutritive value
- More studies are required to confirm these results...
- and to better understand fodder tree yield and nutritive value

