

# Swiss Forest Vegetation Database

Thomas Wohlgemuth

**Abstract:** The Swiss Forest Vegetation Database (GIVD ID EU-CH-005) contains roughly 14,800 relevés located in all parts of Switzerland, and ranging from 200 to 2,480 m a.s.l. Relevés were assessed between 1904 and 1995 by 320 different activities with one or more persons involved. A majority of the relevés were published in papers, monographs or served for regional mapping projects. A first consistent classification into 71 Swiss forest communities derived from 2,533 of these relevés (17%) and equalled the starting point of this collection. During the 1980s and '90s, the database was largely extended in order to establish a basis for a revised classification. Meanwhile, many cantons of Switzerland commissioned local forest classifications, which also resulted in an evolution of local expertise on the one hand, and in the difficulty of synthesizing this expertise by means of formal analyses. Eventually, the revision of Ellenberg & Klötzli's old classification failed. To date, there is no new analysis-based classification of Swiss forests. In contrast, a pragmatic system was established that largely corresponds to the old Ellenberg & Klötzli numbers and may translate between the differing cantonal forest community systems.

**Keywords:** Switzerland.

GIVD Database ID: EU-CH-005		Last update: 2012-05-11
<b>Swiss Forest Vegetation Database</b>		
<b>Scope:</b> The Swiss Forest Vegetation database contains roughly 14,800 relevés located in all parts of Switzerland and ranging from 200 to 2,480 m a.s.l. Relevés were assessed between 1904 and 1998 from 320 different people. A majority of the relevés were published in papers, monographs or as regional mapping projects.		
<b>Status:</b> finished	<b>Period:</b> 1904-1995	
<b>Database manager(s):</b> Thomas Wohlgemuth (thomas.wohlgemuth@wsl.ch)		
<b>Owner:</b> Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research		
<b>Web address:</b> [NA]		
<b>Availability:</b> free upon request	<b>Online upload:</b> [NA]	<b>Online search:</b> [NA]
<b>Database format(s):</b> Oracle	<b>Export format(s):</b> Excel	
<b>Publication:</b> Wohlgemuth T. (1992) Die vegetationskundliche Datenbank. Schweiz. Z. Forstwes. 143/1: 22-36.		
<b>Plot type(s):</b> normal plots	<b>Plot-size range:</b> 20-1,000 m <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Non-overlapping plots:</b> 14,800	<b>Estimate of existing plots:</b> 14,750	<b>Completeness:</b> 100%
<b>Total plot observations:</b> 14,800	<b>Number of sources:</b> 320	<b>Valid taxa:</b> 1,785
<b>Countries:</b> AT: 0.1%; CH: 99.5%; DE: 0.1%; FR: 0.1%; IT: 0.1%; LI: 0.1%		
<b>Forest:</b> 100% — <b>Non-forest:</b> aquatic: 0%; semi-aquatic: 0%; arctic-alpine: 0%; natural: 0%; semi-natural: 0%; anthropogenic: 0%		
<b>Guilds:</b> only trees and shrubs: 100%		
<b>Environmental data:</b> altitude: 99%; slope aspect: 93%; slope inclination: 96%; microrelief: 70%		
<b>Performance measure(s):</b> presence/absence only: 2%; cover: 98%; number of individuals: 100%; measurements like diameter or height of trees: 67%		
<b>Geographic localisation:</b> GPS coordinates (precision 25 m or less): 50%; point coordinates less precise than GPS, up to 1 km: 50%		
<b>Sampling periods:</b> 1920-1929: 1.7%; 1930-1939: 3.2%; 1940-1949: 7.6%; 1950-1959: 9.3%; 1960-1969: 19.6%; 1970-1979: 17.6%; 1980-1989: 24.5%; 1990-1999: 16.4%; unknown: 0.2%		
<b>Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from <a href="http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-CH-005">http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-CH-005</a></b>		

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