

Biotope at the highway in Helsingue (FR)

Situation:

Between the two roundabouts along the highway bypass road near Helsingue, there is a piece of land aside of the road, which has not been mowed since years, and is slowly turning into fallow land.

Parallel to the road, to have a boarder against the Airport Basel-Mulhouse, a ca. 5m deep ditch has been dug up. In this ditch, two streams unite: the Denschengraben and the Liesbach. Along the water, different meadows started to grow. The gravelly slopes that lead to the stream are being overgrown by small shrubs and ruderals. The area has the size of about 4-5 ha, and during the construction of the highway road, some local shrubs haven been planted in small parts of that area. A Mesobrometum has developed between these shrubs, which is home for different flowering plants of the regions, making the biotope important for a variety of animals and insects.

Perspective:

Samuel Sprunger and Rafael Schneider (Institute Natural Resource Science ZHAW Wädenswil) will try to add different orchid species to the Mesobrometum, and do the necessary yearly tending strategies.

Allowance:

The owner of the biotope is the Conseil Gönéral Haut-Rhin (Hôtel du Département 100 Avenue d'Alsace. Samuel Audinot, (Service de l'Environnement et de l'Agriculture UNité Nature et Patrimoine erboré) supports the fact, that the area is being made available to the Institute of Natural Resource Science ZHAW as a sampling area.

Procedure and practical measures:

On the 20th of September 2014, Jean-Baptiste Herlin, farmer in Buschwiler, treated three quarters of the area with a tractor and a machine for mulching, so that he can mow the area next September and use the hay for his animals.

Future sampling area:

The area will serve as a sampling area for the students of the Institute of Natural Resource Sciences, for experiments in the area of biodiversity, the introduction and cultivation of local orchid species, mycorrhiza-mushrooms and bacteria.