

Abstract. An international group of scientists is building a 'trait base', an open internet database of life-history traits of the Northwest European flora (LEDA) that can be used as a tool in planning, in nature conservation and restoration, and in other applied research. The species-trait matrix will comprise referenced information under control of an editorial board, for species of the Northwest European flora, combining existing

Table 1. Traits of the LEDA database for each of the three functional types (persistence, regeneration, and dispersability) with an indication of the amount of data currently available of the species in the species-trait matrix ('% Data present' column), information on how the data are acquired (data type: M = measurement/observation; D = derivation from morphological traits; P = modelling prediction), and their ecological function.

Request for data

At present 35% of the species-trait matrix has been filled (Table 1). The LEDA database consortium aims to deliver a database as complete as possible, and needs the help of the scientific community. Therefore, we would like to ask you to *contribute your data* to the LEDA database.

Scientists that contribute considerable amounts of data to the LEDA database will be put on the author list of the Database version they have contributed to. In the future the database will be updated on a regular basis. To make LEDA a success, we ask potential contributors and other interested parties (e.g. those interested in a provisional species list) to contact us at the LEDA database secretariat, via the corresponding author or our web site: www.leda-database.org

Acknowledgements.