

**Encadrement :**

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Nature du financement de la gratification / Grants:

acquis prévu

**Titre du stage/ Title :**

**Foraging behavior and et biodemographic parameters of cervids**

**Mots clés / Key words:**

Plant-plant association, browsing, body condition, large herbivore

**Résumé / Summary:**

The proposed traineeship is part of the Chair of NSERC industrial research in integrated development resources of Anticosti Island (<http://www.chaireanticosti.ulaval.ca>). The main objective of the Chair is to develop forestry and wildlife management methods adapted to the overabundant deer population.

The traineeship is part of a PhD project to assess how surrounding vegetation affects the susceptibility of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) to the browsing by white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in advanced regeneration.

Indeed, assembly plant around a plant may decrease its susceptibility to the browsing by its effects of repulsion on the herbivore [1]. In contrast, it can increase susceptibility by attracting deer [2]. To study how these plant-plant interaction influence the browsing on balsam fir, we will evaluate the selection of food by a series of feeding experiments where we will offer deer associations of tree species in January 2015. These tests of food in the wild will be filmed and the intern will analyze the behavior of deer on the collected videos. As we do not monitor the number of deer with access to our device, it will be possible to determine how the competition for the resource will affect the selection of it. The intern will establish a protocol for analysis of videos and analyze data.

**Deux références bibliographiques / Two references:**

1. Atsatt PR, Odowd DJ (1976). *Science* 193: 24-29.
2. Holt RD (1977). *Theor Popul Biol* 12: 197-229.

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