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(Grove, 2001)

(Lamb et al ,1998)

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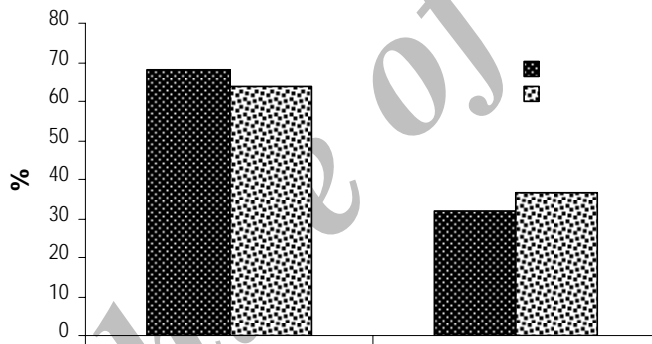
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Dead woods
Snags

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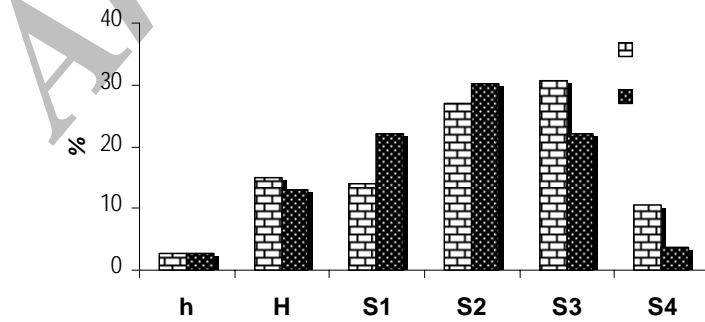
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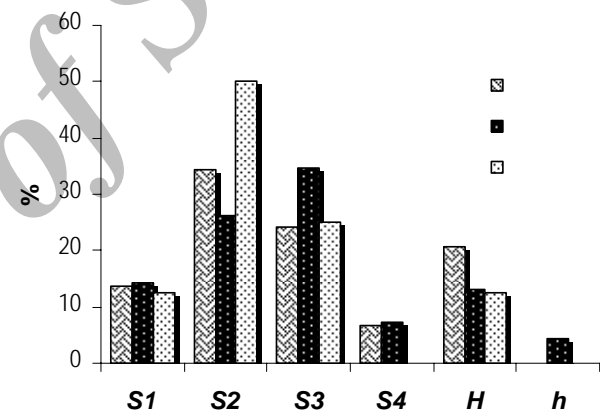
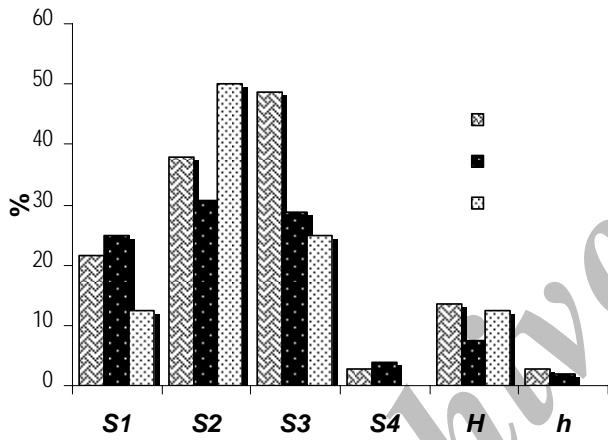
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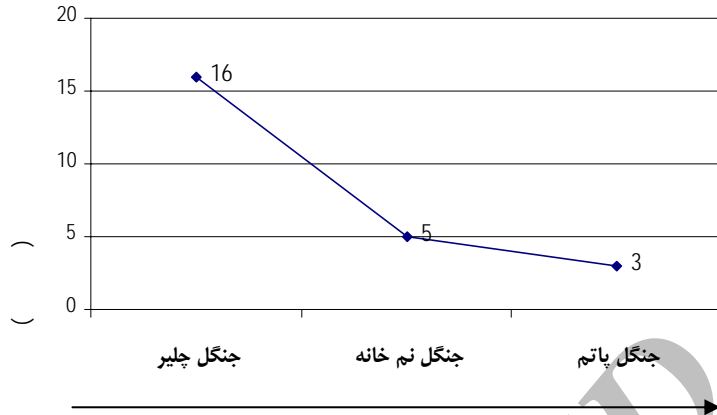
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Amount and quality of dead trees (snag and logs) in a mixed beech forest with different management histories

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Abstract

Dead wood (dead trees and snags) is regarded as an important ecological component of forests, yet its status in the Caspian forest has gone largely unreported. Composition of dead tree was studied in a series of sites in the Caspian forest in north of Iran. The aim was to compare the amounts of dead wood and snags in forests with historically different intensities of management: in a region with long term implication of management (Patom), short long term implication of management (Namkhaneh) which was compared with virgin forest data. 215 individual dead trees were recorded and measured at 79 sampling locations. The virgin Forest generally contained greater mass and volume of dead tree. The results showed that the stocking volume of alive and dead trees are 328 m³/ha and 3.2 m³/ha in Patom district and 517 m³/ha and 5.17 m³/ha in Namkhaneh district, respectively. Beech trees constituted the most alive trees, whereas most of dead trees were hornbeam. The results showed that composition of a live tree around dead wood was different from composition of dead wood. Comparing amount of dead wood in three sites showed that, dead wood volume related with management history. Reaching their highest amount in virgin site and their lowest in a region with long term implication of management, it was identified that forest management cause reduction of amount of dead wood on the study region and then affect the forest ability to generate dead wood specially in a large size. Thus managing this forest according to ecologically sustainable principles require a commitment to maintaining stand structure that allow, continued generation of dead wood in a full range of size.

Keywords: Dead wood, Close to nature silviculture, undisturbed forest, Beech and horn beam

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