

What ultrasound can tell us about the forest

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Forests are being challenged by the impact of the climate crisis. How do beech and spruce trees cope with the increasing severity and frequency of droughts? Barbara Beikircher, biologist at the University of Innsbruck, is using ultrasound to find out, and she has discovered that, at some point, even water could no longer help a dehydrated spruce. Her research is part of the Kranzberg Roof Experiment (KROOF) - a broad-based research project initiated by scientists at Helmholtz Zentrum München and Technische Universität München in 2010. International researchers are investigating how forests are coping with drought stress. The Austrian Science Fund FWF funded Barbara Beikircher's sub-project "Drought acclimation and recovery of beech and Norway spruce", which she is conducting with her project partners Rainer Matyssek and Thorsten Grams from the Technische Universität München.

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