

Distribution of plant at Mer Bleue

BIO1130 Section A4

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Hypothesis:

As seen in the graph, *Alnus incana* is the most adapted to a moist, low land habitat such as the forest and ecotone where it has the most incidence.

Predictions:

- a) In the case of partial water drainage of the Mer Bleue marsh, the preferred habitat of *Alnus incana*, ecotone and lower forest, would be the most affected. This is because these habitats depend on water from both marsh and rain whereas the higher forest and the field depend only on rainwater and would not be as badly affected by the partial water drainage. As a result, the ecotone and lower forest will have decreased vegetation as the plants are not receiving the proper growth conditions.
- b) If the partial drainage of the Mer Bleue marsh were to occur, the abundance of *Alnus incana* will decrease. This is because the plant is most abundant in the ecotone and lower forest, the habitats which will be most affected by the partial drainage. In other areas, such as the field or higher forest, the abundance of *Alnus incana*, will either stay the same or decrease only slightly because these habitats will still be receiving rain water.