

## ABSTRACT

During the last decade, starlings have built up considerable urban populations in the city of Liege, causing much trouble to inhabitants in the vicinity of roosting sites. This success might be attributed to the sheltered situation of the city in a deep valley, abundance of large trees in green spaces along banks of the river Meuse and in public parks, good situation amid pastures in the countryside, and on important migration routes.

Before any attempt to reduce this undesirable population, the city's authorities have promoted a research on the localisation, evaluation, evolution of roosting groups, as well as on pre-roosting routes and diurnal dispersion. It is clear that fluctuations in the attendance at one peculiar roosting site is understandable only in being replaced in the context of breeding cycle, migration influx, weather conditions, food disponibilities, and man-made disturbance. Understanding starlings' population success and evolution needs long-term and large-scale coordinated researches at regional and continental level.