

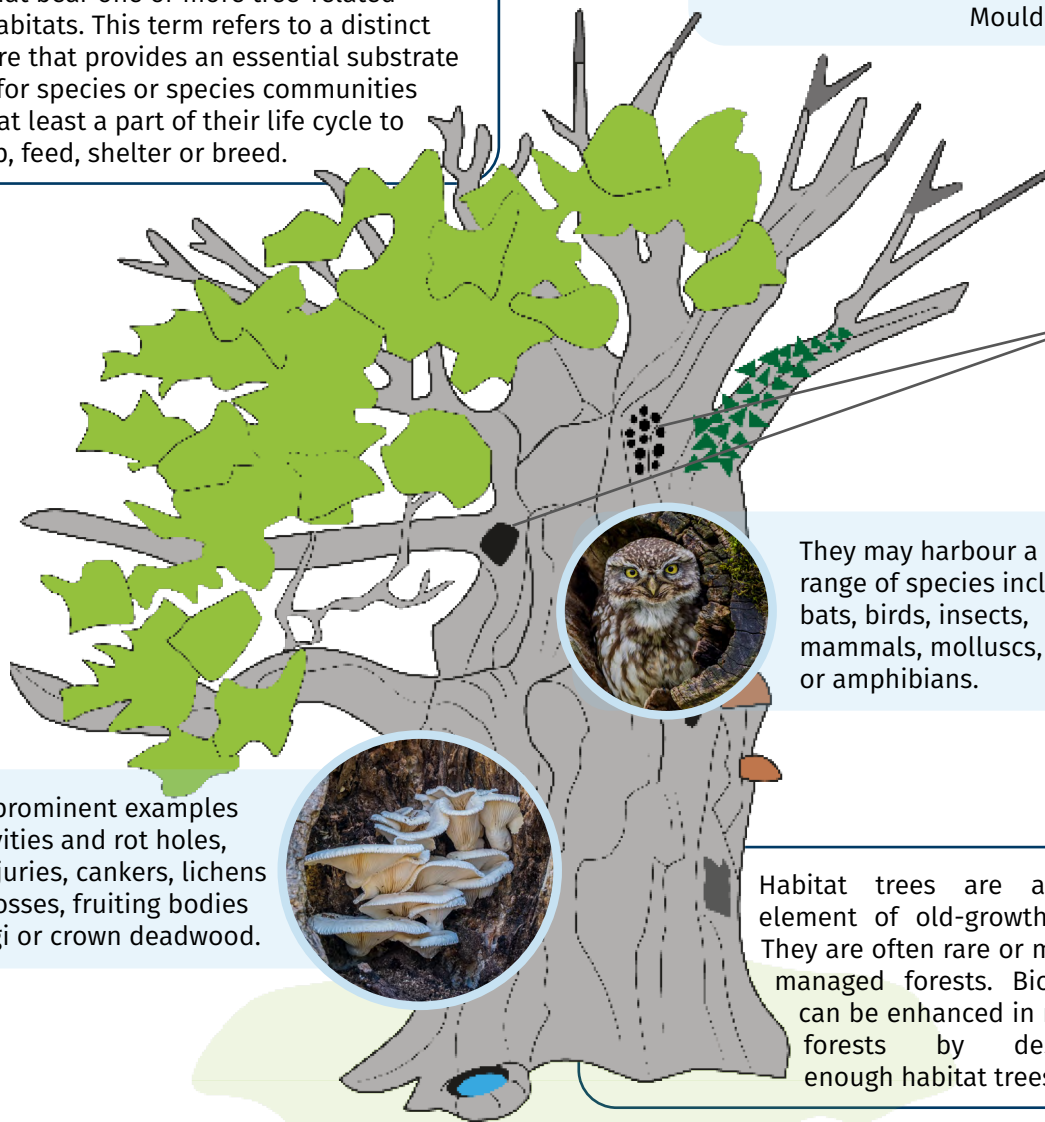


# What is a HABITAT TREE ?

Habitat trees are either living or dead standing trees that bear one or more tree-related microhabitats. This term refers to a distinct structure that provides an essential substrate or site for species or species communities during at least a part of their life cycle to develop, feed, shelter or breed.



Mould cavity



Some prominent examples are cavities and rot holes, tree injuries, cankers, lichens and mosses, fruiting bodies of fungi or crown deadwood.



They may harbour a broad range of species including bats, birds, insects, mammals, molluscs, spiders or amphibians.

Habitat trees are a typical element of old-growth forests. They are often rare or missing in managed forests. Biodiversity can be enhanced in managed forests by designating enough habitat trees.

## Further reading:

Muys et al. 2022. Forest Biodiversity in Europe. From Science to Policy 13. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/fs13>

Larrieu et al. 2018. Tree related microhabitats in temperate and Mediterranean European forests: A hierarchical typology for inventory standardization. Ecological Indicators 84: 194–207. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2017.08.051>



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