

The forest owners' view on berry and mushroom picking on private land in Finland

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CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Everyman's rights
- Berry and mushroom harvesting

2. FOREST OWNER SURVEY

- Opinion on berry and mushroom picking

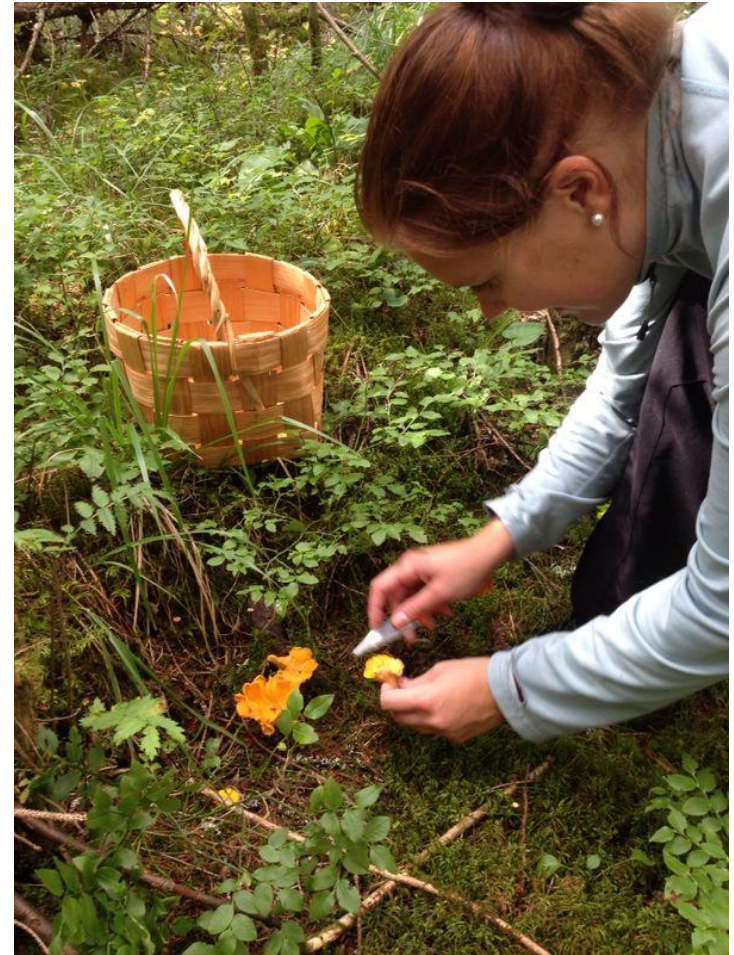
3. CONCLUSIONS

- Picking rules and conditions
- Attempts to improve acceptability of harvesting

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Everyman's rights:

- Enable picking berries and mushrooms from nature.
- Same right regardless of a background of a picker
- Not depending on the purpose of picking -> also commercial picking is allowed.
- Picking or recreation does not cause harm for people or property.
- Excluding strictly protected areas and species.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Berry and mushroom harvesting in Finland

- Finns picking berries: 58 %, mushrooms 40 %.
 - Commercial picking: berries <10 %, and mushrooms ~1 %.
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- 86 % of berries for sale were picked by foreign pickers in 2015.
 - 22 % of mushrooms are picked for sale by foreign pickers.
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- Most picked species: bilberry, cowberry, *Boletus edulis*, Chanterelle, Milk caps.



AIM OF THE FOREST OWNER SURVEY

To find out:

- forest owners' opinions on Everyman's rights in berry and mushroom picking
- forest owners' view on berry and mushroom maps
- socially acceptable terms for berry and mushroom picking on private land

FOREST OWNER SURVEY

Sample

- 2000 forest owners
- North-Karelia & Kainuu
- 50/50, berry/mushroom picking oriented questionnaires

Responses

- Response rate 48 %
- N=954
- 50/50 Kainuu/North Karelia
- 51/49 berry/mushroom oriented questionnaires

Survey

- Mail survey
- January–March 2015
- Non-response survey on May 2015 (N=60)

Methods

- Averages
- cross tabulations
- percentages
- χ^2

FOREST OWNER PROFILE AND PICKING ACTIVITY

Gender	%
Female	30
Male	70

Age	%
40 or younger	5
41–60	33
61 or older	62

Profession	%
Retired	52
Working	42
Something else	6

Picking	Household use	For sale
Berries	92 %	10 %
Mushrooms	70 %	4 %



EVERYMAN'S RIGHTS & BERRY AND MUSHROOM PICKING

Everyman's rights & picking	%
😊 good practice	64
😐 not good/not poor practice	24
😞 poor practice	12

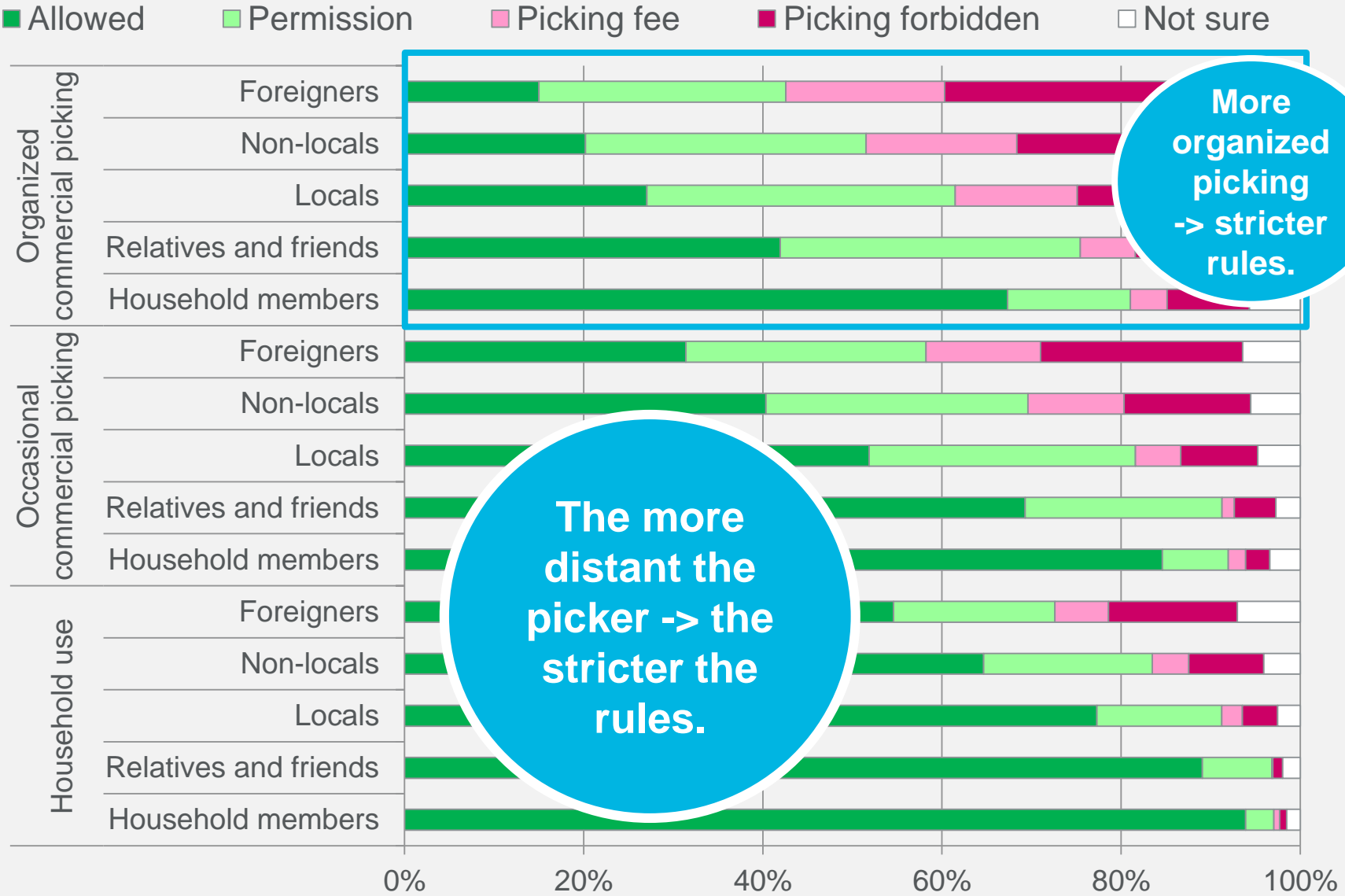
→ Mainly satisfied with the everyman's rights concerning picking.



→ 29 % has experienced competition from berries and mushrooms in their forests.

→ 18 % has faced problems with everyman's rights and picking on their forest

FOREST OWNERS VIEW ON BERRY AND MUSHROOM PICKING

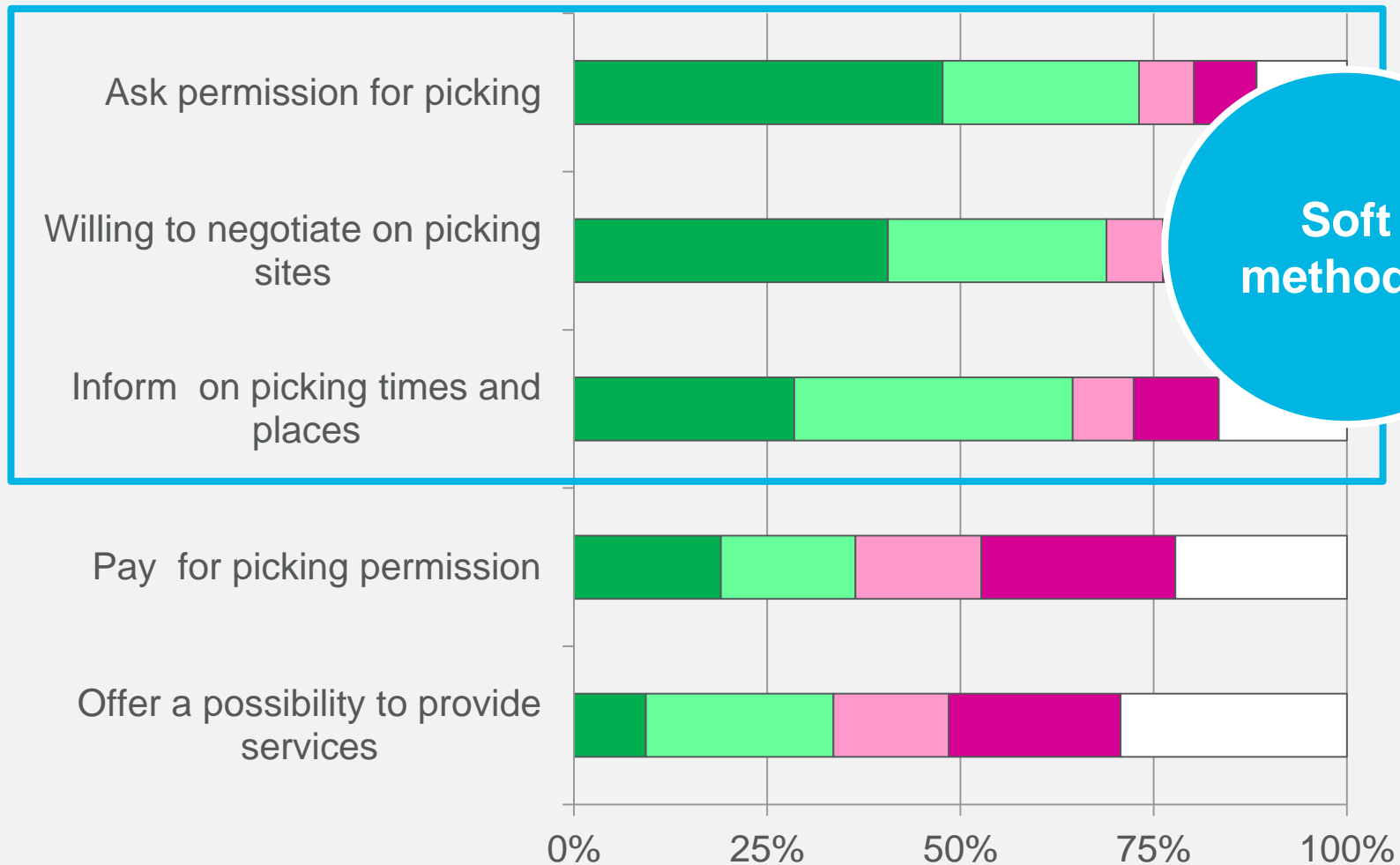


More organized picking -> stricter rules.

The more distant the picker -> the stricter the rules.

HOW COULD PICKER COMPANY INCREASE THE ACCEPTABILITY OF COMMERCIAL PICKING?

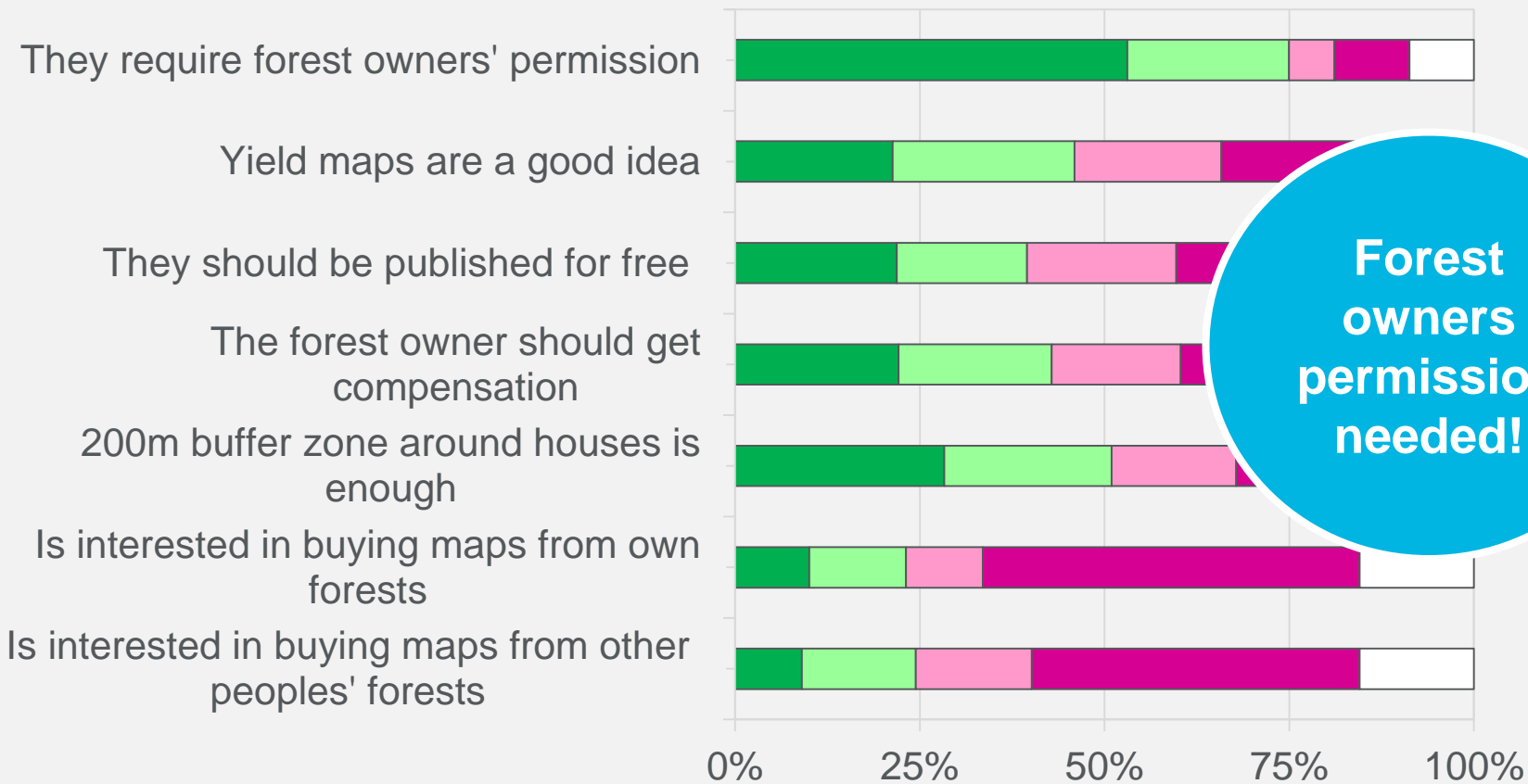
■ Strongly agree ■ Slightly agree ■ Slightly disagree ■ Strongly disagree □ No sure



**Soft
methods!**

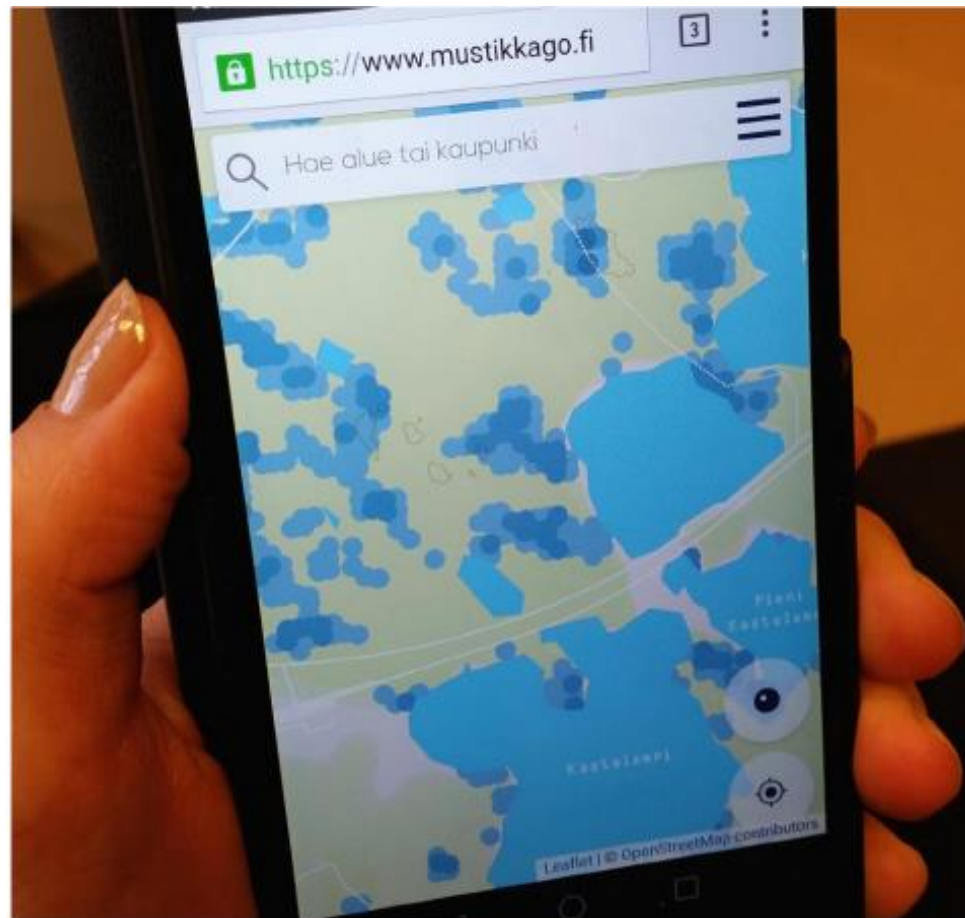
BERRY AND MUSHROOM YIELD MAPS

■ Strongly agree
 ■ Slightly agree
 ■ Slightly disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 □ Not sure



Forest owners permission needed!

Mustikka Go – Bilberry map covers the whole country. It was developed by 3 IT-dudes!



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CONCLUSIONS

The rules and conditions for picking

- Some restrictions to commercial picking
- Asking permission for organised picking considered important
- Informing forest owners on companies picking plans

Towards a more acceptable raw material procurement

- Commonly formulated instructions for pickers.
- Communication with forest owners and picker companies
- Minimum: Info on companies picking plans: local news papers, companies web-pages, other local medias.
- Picking oriented to less populated areas.



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Turtiainen, M., Saastamoinen, O., Kangas, K. & Vaara, M. 2012. Picking of wild edible mushrooms in Finland in 1997– 1999 and 2011. *Silva Fennica* 46(4): 569–581.