Introduction
Oak have, like other broadleaves, often been considered as an obstacle in forestry during the 20th century. To combat broadleaves foresters have used herbicides, axes and saws. At the same period of time oak-shaded meadows and grazing areas have diminished. How have these changes affected the standing volume of oak?

Results

1: The volume of oak increased with 421% from the 1920s to 2002.

2: The number of stems in the lowest diameter class (0-9.9 cm) has decreased, while the diameter classes ≥ 35 cm have increased.

Discussion
The total volume of timber has increased substantially during the 20th century, but even more so the oak. Hence, there is no indication that the oak is being eliminated by modern land use management in Götaland.

During the last 50 years, it is larger oaks (≥35 cm) in particular that has increased. In contrast, small oaks seems to have decreased somewhat.

What the reasons for these changes are and their relative contribution, is yet to be investigated. The following might be suggested: change in forestry management; cessation of cattle grazing the forests; increased populations of browsers (roedeer, moose); climate change.

Methods
1: Estimated standing volumes in Götaland was compiled from published reports issued by the National Forest Inventory of Sweden (NFI).

2: The estimated density of oaks in Götaland (stems ha⁻¹), in different diameter classes, were calculated from annual data 1953-2002 collected by the NFI. In total, there were 199,859 sample plots, and only trees with a height ≥ 1.3 m were considered.

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