

Observation of the effects caused by cutting branches on the growth of trees – Version 2

Introduction

In this document I will briefly illustrate how cutting branches, often carried out even with the belief that their removal does not have particular consequences on the health of the tree, actually has scientifically observable non-positive consequences on the growth of trees.

Case 1 : Oak



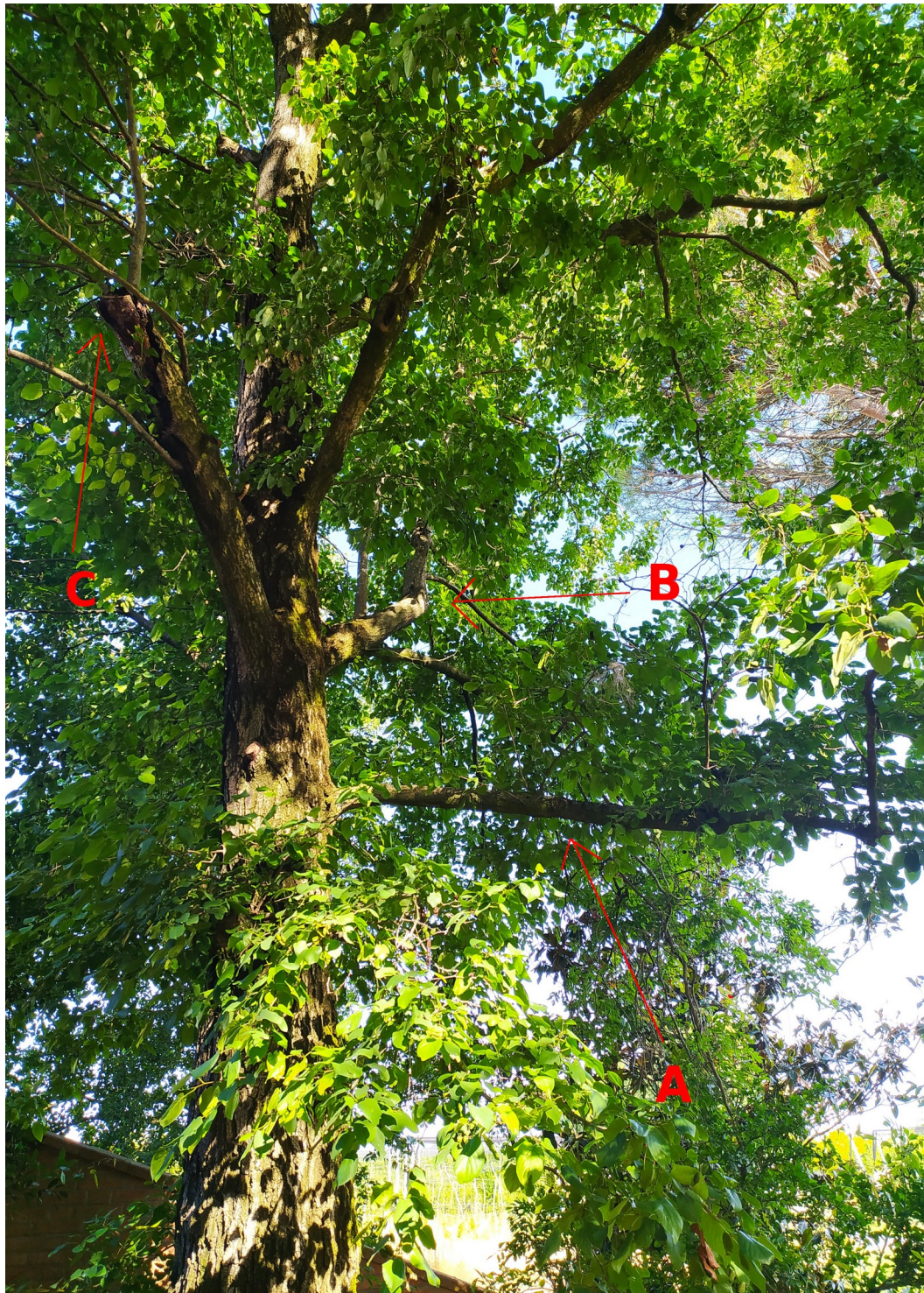
In the photo on the previous page you can see how the cuts made in the positions indicated by the letters 'A' and 'C' then had consequences on the growth of the branches indicated by the letters 'B' and 'D'. It is clearly noted how these branches, compared to all the others which have had a harmonious upward growth, have instead grown in anomalous directions and in the case of the branch indicated by the letter 'D' have even collided with other existing branches.

Case 2 : Holm oak



In the photo on the previous page you can see how, due to cuts made also in areas marked by the letters 'C' and 'D', the branches indicated by the letters 'A', 'E' and 'B' have grown in a disharmonious way and not like the others which have a harmonious upward trend.

Case 3 : Alder



In this photo you can see how also due to cuts made in the positions indicated by the letters 'C' and 'B', the branch indicated by the letter 'A' has grown in an anomalous direction. In reality, in this tree it is also difficult to understand which branches are in a harmonious position, as cuts were made precisely in position 'B' and 'C'.

Beside this, in Italian also words related to branch cutting were weird in some way. One was similar to the word that is used to indicate “clean water”, the other instead was sounding like “beat up governors”.

It seems as a first translation of the Italian word “capitozzare” that the English translated word is “topping”. As far as I know “topping” also means “putting yummy sauce on top of a dish”, so maybe the same problem of overlapping a word meaning of a bad action with a word of a good action is present in English too. Anyway I translated the word “capitozzare” again, using Google Translate, and now it translates to “pollard”. Anyway, if I try to do the reverse operation (translate “pollard” into Italian, the word is not translated and remains “pollard”).

If a branch falls spontaneously from the tree, no one has the right to complain. Trees are also living beings, therefore thinking of "cutting branches" or “removing the top part of a tree” to prevent the potential fall of a branch, for example on a passing car, is a completely wrong reasoning. If lightning strikes someone in an unpredictable way, no one is going to complain to the government. If you think you can achieve a small benefit, but you do colossal damage to the health of a tree, the overall balance remains a lot negative.

Document realized by Marco Bagnaresi - MBCRAFT