Beamer dark Themes

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Contents

1 Installation

1.1 TeX distribution package manager

Just download the package `darkbeamerthemes` with your TeX distribution (TeX Live, MiKTeX, MacTeX, proTeXt...). TeX Live users may use the graphical interface or write in a console

```
tlmgr install darkbeamerthemes
```

An introduction to MacTeX package manager can be found at `http://code.google.com/p/mactlmgr/wiki/GettingStarted`, a more complete documentation should be found in MacTeX help menu. MiKTeX manual is available online: `http://www.miktex.org/help`. As far as I understand, proTeXt uses MiKTeX package manager.

1.2 Manual download

Sometime you cannot use your TeX distribution packaging tools. You may just do not know what a TeX distribution is; maybe you don't have rights to use its admin tools; some GNU/linux (and *BSD?) distributions package TeX Live without its administration tools; etc.

Then download `beamercolorthemecormorant.sty`, `beamercolorthemefrigatebird.sty` and `beamercolorthememagpie.sty`. Under GNU/Linux, you'd better put them in a subdirectory of TeX Live personal directory, `$HOME/texmf` by defaults (`%USERPROFILE%\texmf` under Windows). Create the subdirectory `$HOME/texmf/tex/latex/` and move those three files there. They will now be found during compilation, whatever directory you are writing from.

An alternative is to download those files directly in your presentation file. This is much less convenient if you intend to use these themes in some other presentation, located in another directory. Do not forget then to copy/symlink those files or to point them using the `../` notation.

Then insert the following line in your preamble:

```
\usecolortheme{cormorant}
```

Cormorant should be of course replaced by `frigatebird` or `magpie` according to your theme choice. If you chose any global theme, you should mention the theme first, then your color theme.

2   Dark themes: what for?

Before choosing any dark theme, you should be aware of its side effects.

> Inverse video (bright text on dark background) can be a problem during presentations in bright environments since only a small percentage of the presentation area is light up by the beamer. Inverse video is harder to reproduce on printouts and on transparencies.
>
> *Beamer Class User Guide* 3.3, p. 38.

On the other hand, several years of hard experience with light backgrounds used in bright classroom convinced me that a really dark theme might be useful:

- when there is no screen but a not-so-white wall

- when there is a screen, but your classroom is quite sunny (on the other hand, students would be more likely to fall asleep in a dark classroom...)

- when your presentation includes lots of photos, images, paintings... Art Historians often use dark background to emphasize the paintings they are about to comment. Paintings and photos are more visible on a black background than on a white one.

These themes were tested with all beamer themes. In my opinion, mixing them with shadowed themes, such as the very popular Warsaw, should be avoided. White shadows do not look too fancy on black background IMHO. *De gustibus...*

3   Names

Cormorant A black and green theme, the first one I worked with. First named magpie, since the first black and green bird I could find on the web was an American magpie. Tested during one year, sadly without asking students for callback. Its items were hardly readable when projector darkened the output. I decided finally to mix green with white rather than black.

Magpie A black/blue theme. Named after European magpies.

Frigatebird A black/red theme. Inspired by frigate bird's male. Rather for those who do not associate to closely red with beamer's alert boxes.

4   Examples

Surprisingly, Euclid's presentation does not include any photography. I designed those themes to end up with describing photos students could hardly see. So let's take an example of my own, with a picture, last but not least in French: at least this won't be too awfully written. Some sentences are too long, though.

I intended to give a big sample of used colors. You will find those environments or macros:

- slide 2: `frametitle`, `block`, `exampleblock`, `description`

- slide 3: `framesubtitle`, `includegraphics`
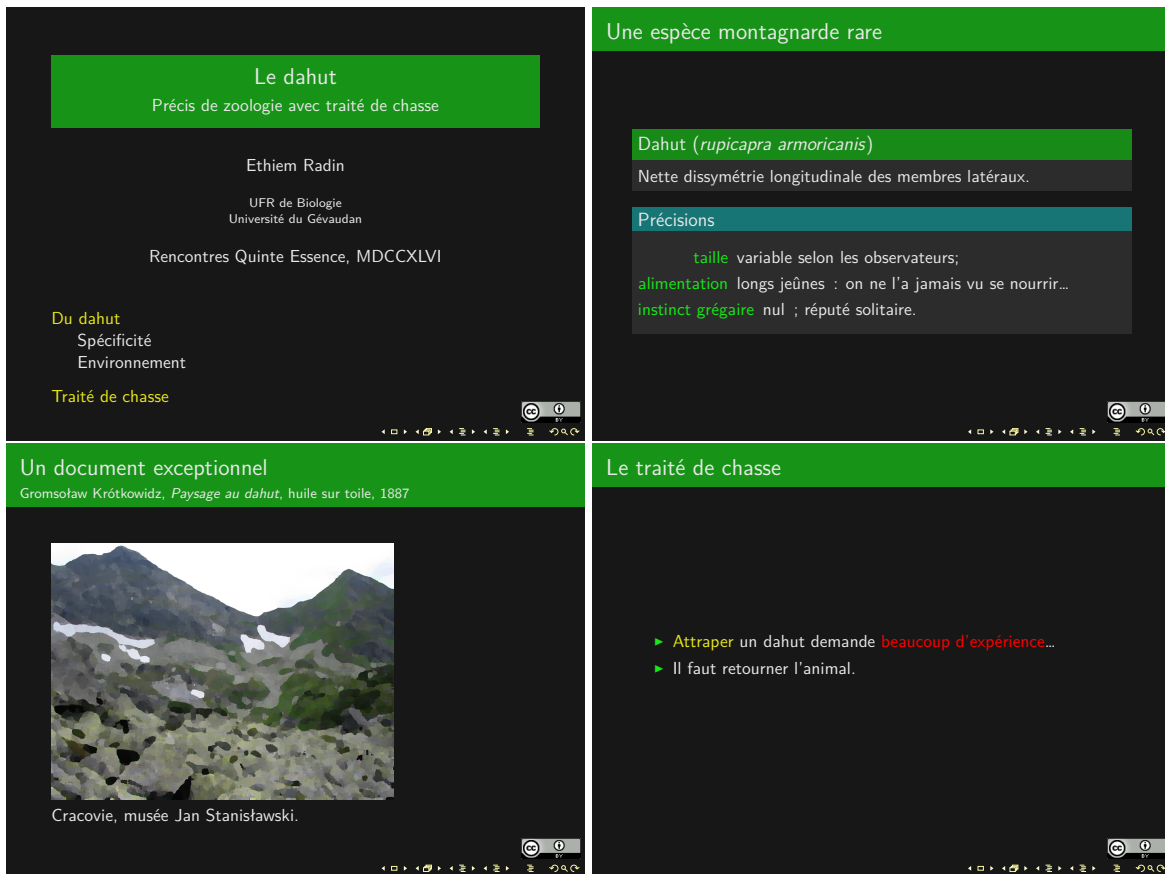
- slide 4: `structure`, `alert`
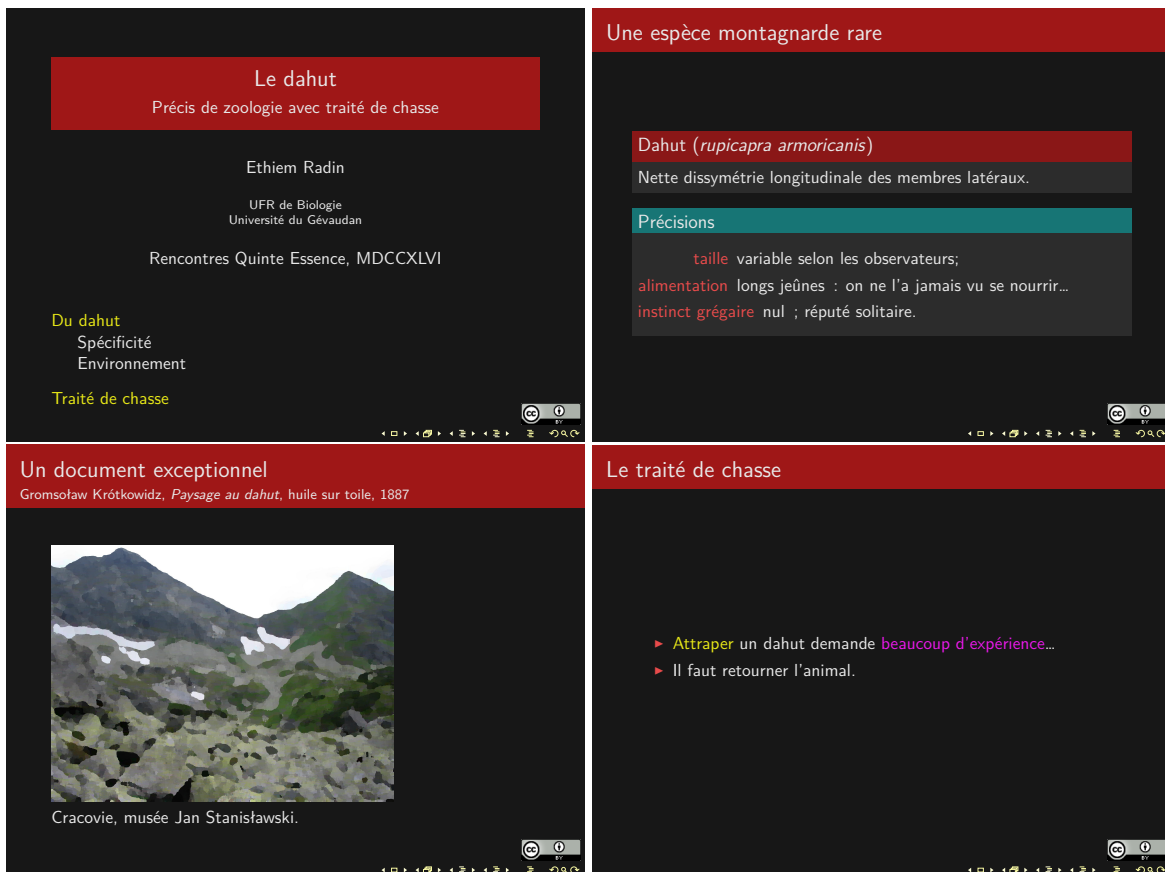
Figure 1: Cormorant color theme
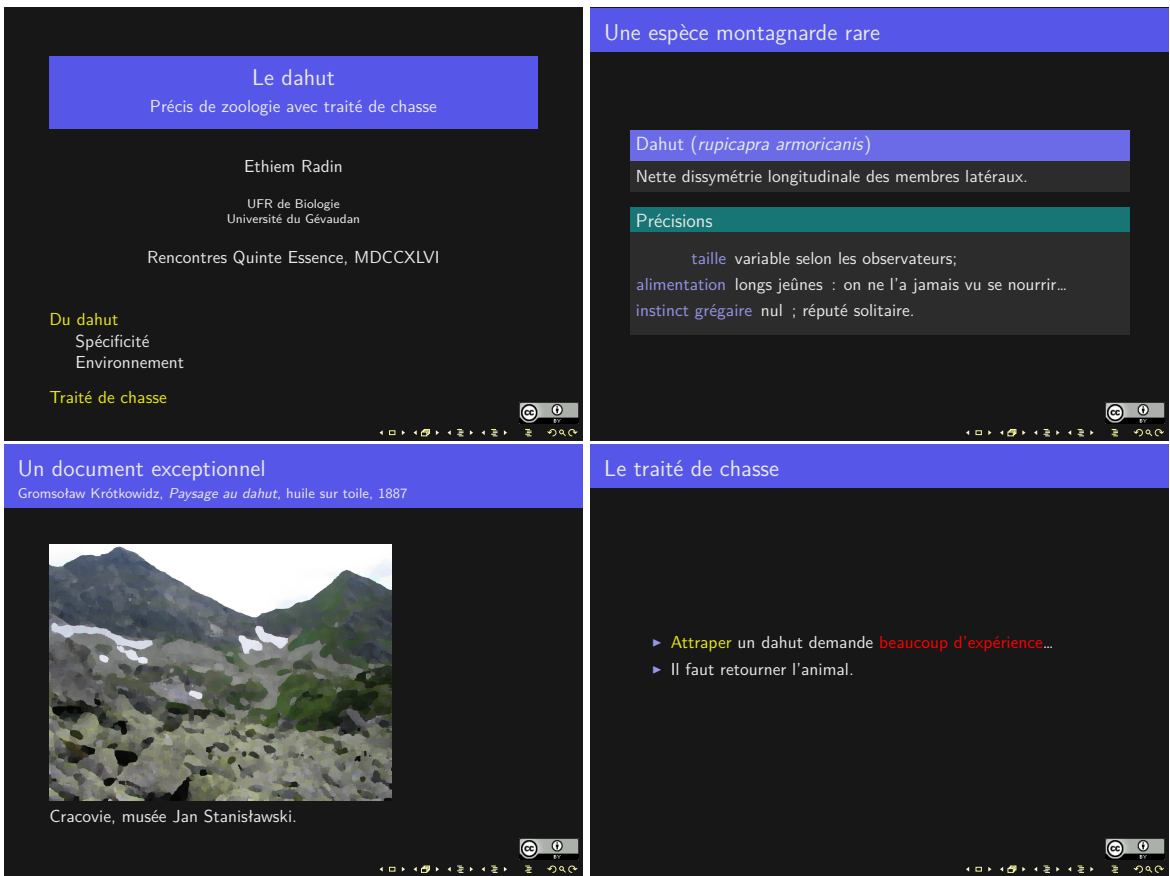

Figure 2: Frigatebird color theme

Le dahut
Précis de zoologie avec traité de chasse

Ethiem Radin

UFR de Biologie
Université du Gévaudan

Rencontres Quinte Essence, MDCCXLVI

Du dahut
  Spécificité
  Environnement

Traité de chasse

Une espèce montagnarde rare

Dahut (*rupicapra armoricanis*)
Nette dissymétrie longitudinale des membres latéraux.

Précisions

taille variable selon les observateurs;
alimentation longs jeûnes : on ne l'a jamais vu se nourrir…
instinct grégaire nul ; réputé solitaire.

Un document exceptionnel
Gromsoław Krótkowidz, *Paysage au dahut*, huile sur toile, 1887

Cracovie, musée Jan Stanisławski.

Le traité de chasse

▶ **Attraper** un dahut demande beaucoup d'expérience…
▶ Il faut retourner l'animal.

Figure 3: Magpie color theme

Une espèce montagnarde rare

Le dahut
Radin

Du dahut
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Figure 4: Cormorant color theme, sidebar outer theme

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Figure 5: Cormorant color theme, infolines outer theme

4

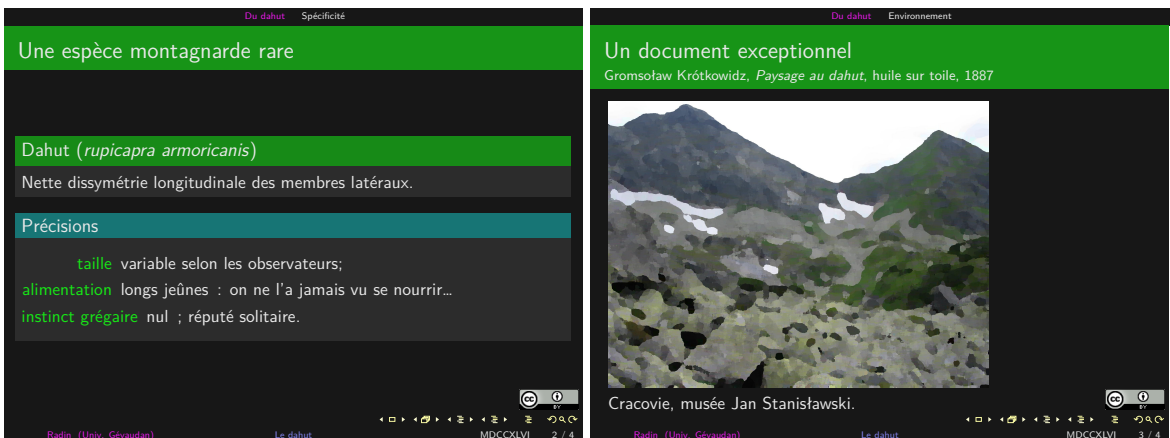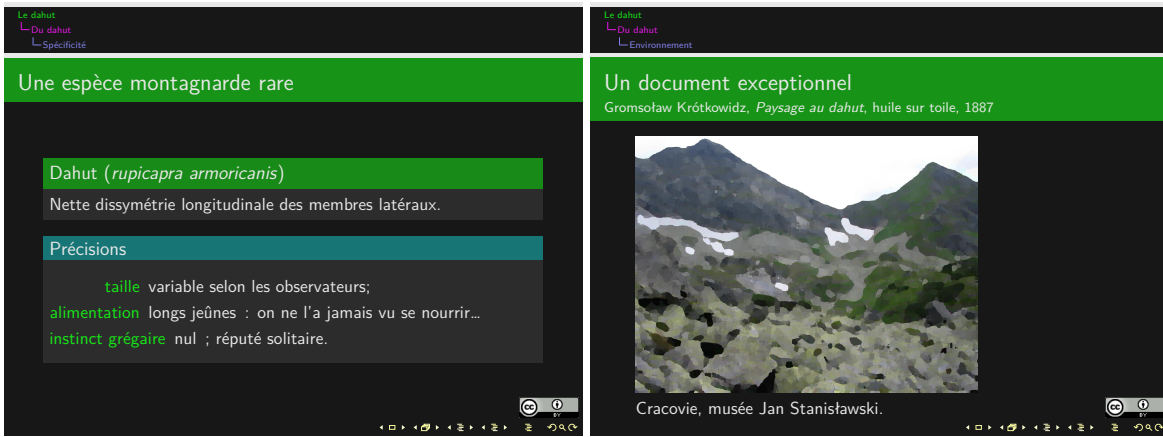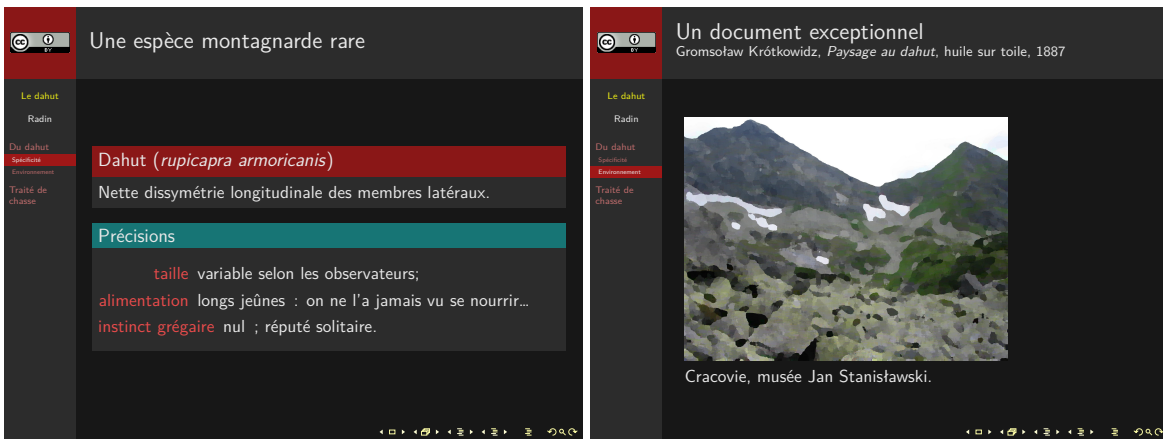Figure 6: Cormorant color theme, tree outer theme

Figure 7: Frigatebird color theme, sidebar outer theme
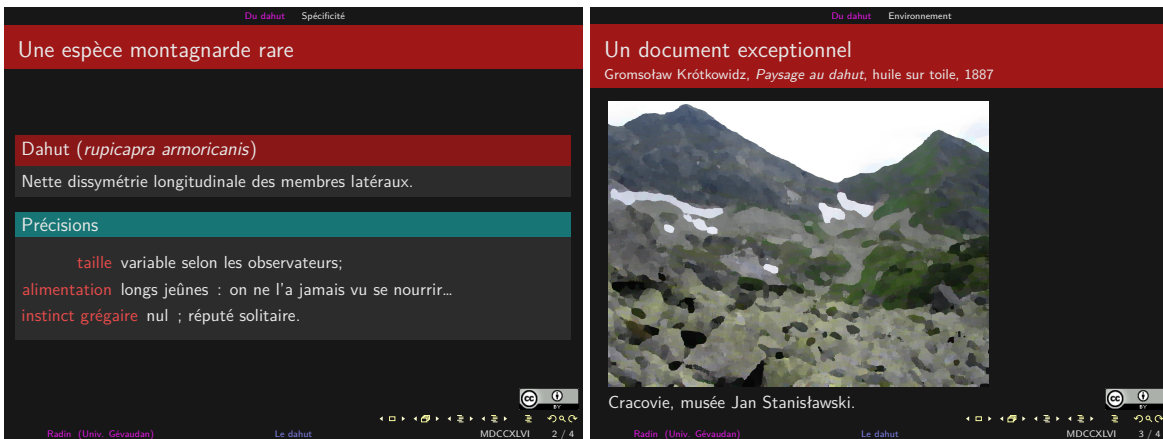

Figure 8: Frigatebird color theme, infolines outer theme
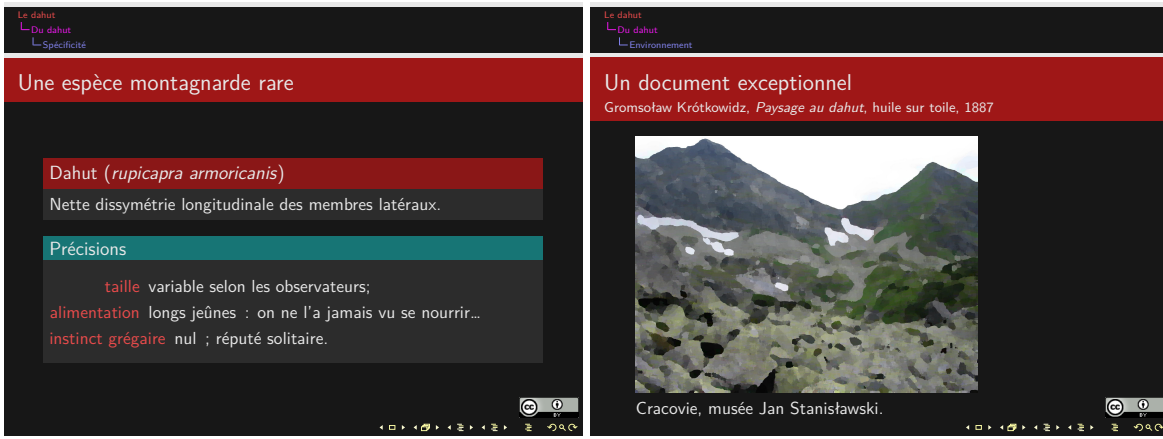
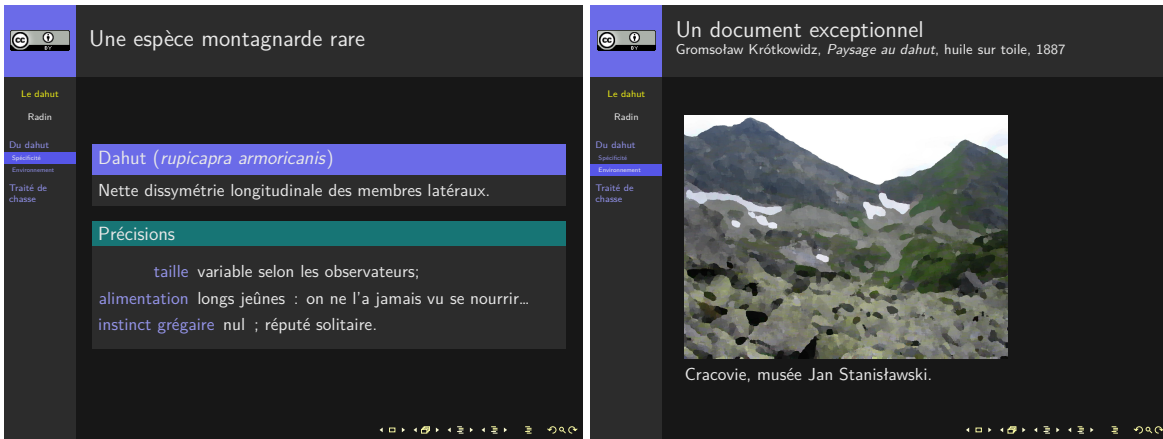Figure 9: Frigatebird color theme, tree outer theme

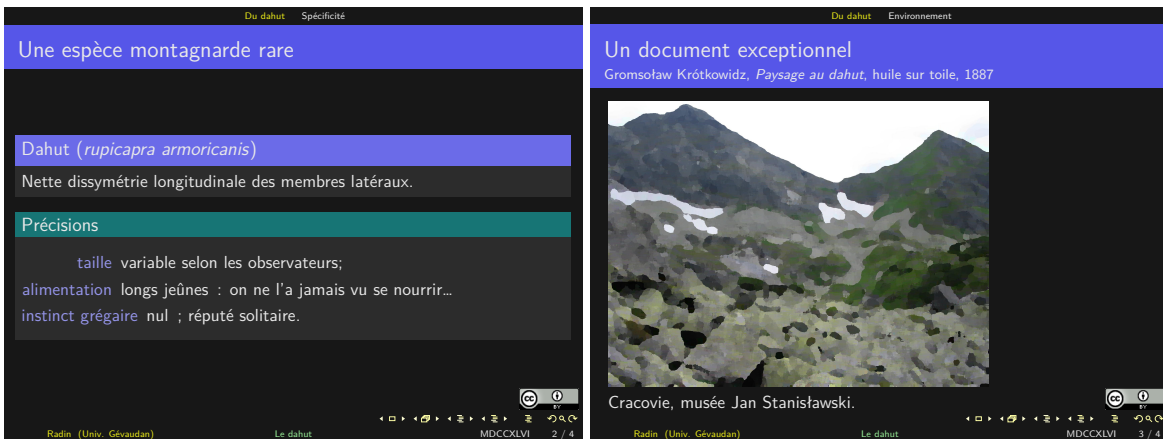Figure 10: Magpie color theme with sidebar outer theme

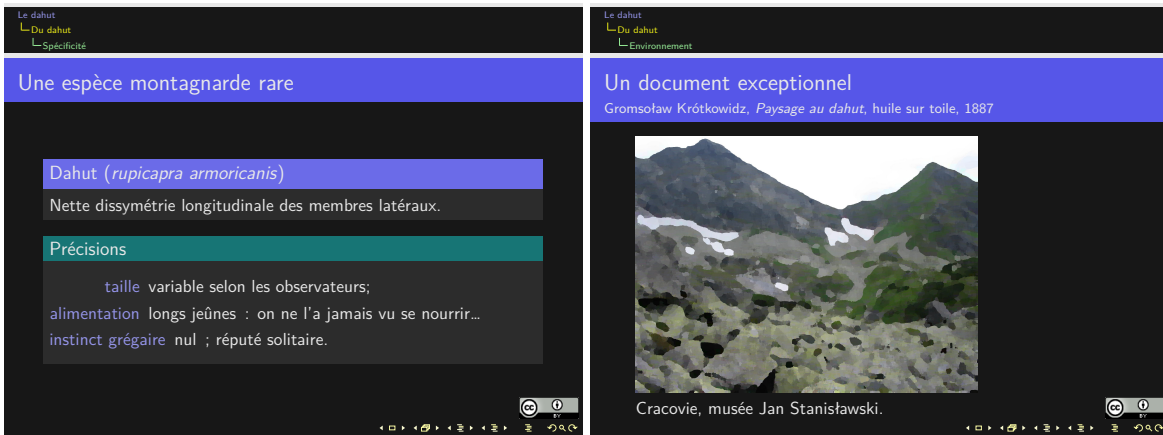

Figure 11: Magpie color theme with infolines outer theme

Figure 12: Magpie color theme with tree outer theme