



Master thesis



Start: Mid/End of March

Flower-visiting wild bees in perennial flower strips of different age

Background

Perennial flower strips are a popular and state-aided measure for restoring biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. They are characterized by a high variability of functional traits, such as flower types, flowering duration, plant height or ground cover degree. We are conducting a replicated field experiment on crop farms close to Freiburg to study ground-nesting wild bee communities in perennial flower strips. For this, we establish perennial flower strips with a regularly used seed mix (FAKT-E8). In addition, we study existing flower strips that are one to three years old.

Aim of this work

We want to analyse the effect of age on wild bee communities in perennial flower strips. For this, plant communities as well as flower-visiting wild bees are assessed and sampled using standardized methods (Quadrat / transect method, targeted netting). Field data is subsequently analysed, focussing on patterns and relationships of selected functional traits of bee groups (e.g. nesting behaviour, level of specialization, rarity) and / or plant species (e.g. flower types, flowering duration, plant density).

Requirements

The thesis includes field work on farms around Freiburg (Opfingen/Riegel) that can be reached by bike, as well as lab work to identify species and statistical analysis of the data sampled.

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You are also welcome to develop additional own research questions within this experimental context