One Master thesis opportunity

Interacting effects of flower strips and landscape diversity on spiders and carabids at the landscape scale

Semi-natural habitats in agricultural landscapes, such as hedges and flower margins, can promote biodiversity. This includes beneficial organisms that can provide biological pest control in crop fields. However, the effectiveness of semi-natural habitats to support pest predators can depend also on the landscape context. Diversified landscapes include more semi-natural habitats and may support larger animal populations than simplified landscapes.

The aim of this thesis is to explore how flower fields and the landscape context influence the abundance and diversity of **ground-dwelling arthropods** in the county of Northeim. We are particularly interested in **spiders** and **carabids**, two abundant and diverse predator groups in agroecosystems. In spring 2025, we will set up pitfall traps in three habitats (cereal fields, flower strips, and grass strips) and 37 landscapes.

We are looking for one Master student who is interested in conducting his/her thesis on agrobiodiversity at the landscape scale.

Tasks: Your responsibilities will include the installation of pitfall traps, lab work to identify arthropods, managing and analyzing data using the statistical software R.

Requirements: You should be interested in fieldwork, have good data management skills with Excel, and be willing to write in English. Experience with the identification of arthropods and knowledge of R are an asset. Having a driving license and willingness to drive may be an advantage.

Period: Starting in March/April 2025.

Opportunities: You will be part of a cutting-edge interdisciplinary project (KOOPERATIV: www.uni-goettingen.de/kooperativ/project) and gain experience in fieldwork, lab work, and scientific analysis, as well as improve your scientific writing skills.

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