

Diversity of Wild Bees and Butterflies in Restored Grasslands

background:

Species-rich grassland is severely endangered due to both intensification and abandonment of use. Restoration efforts are therefore gaining in importance. However, evidence-based evaluations comparing the success of different concepts are largely lacking. The transdisciplinary GRASSWORKS project uses existing restoration projects to study which ecological and socio-economic factors lead to successful grassland restoration.

The aim of the advertised thesis is to investigate the diversity of wild bees and / or butterflies on the project sites.

approach:

Within the framework of the research project, restored grassland sites in Lower Bavaria are studied and compared with positive (original species-rich meadows) and negative reference sites (intensive grassland). In spring and summer 2023 we are planning to sample wild bees (net catches, sorting and determination of specimen in the lab) and butterflies (life observation), as well as vegetation on the study sites.

possible research questions:

- factors influencing diversity of the pollinator groups
- relationships with plant species composition
- influence of flower resources in a grassland

timeframe:

field work May to August 2023; lab work (sorting and determination of wild bee samples) also possible during winter semester 2022/23

requirements:

Basic knowledge of wild bee or butterfly species and knowledge of grassland ecosystems is an advantage, as well as skills in statistics with R.



contact:

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