



Master thesis

How landscape structure affects pollination success in calcareous grasslands



Animal pollination is a key ecological function in natural and agricultural ecosystems. As most plant-pollinator relationships are not specialized, plant-pollinator interaction webs are supposed to be resilient to the loss of single species. **Pollination success** depends on both local management and **landscape structure**, but their relative importance for wild plants' reproduction and pollinator diversity is not well understood. In central Europe **calcareous grasslands** are considered the most species rich semi-natural habitats but they have undergone severe reduction, fragmentation and most recently abandonment.

In this project we work in a very unique set of 30 calcareous grasslands **in the surroundings of the city of Göttingen**. These grasslands encompass independent gradients of habitat size, isolation (at landscape level) and successional status allowing us to study these effects on ecological processes independently. The selected candidate will perform **pollination efficiency experiments** during the current field season **May-August 2018**. The successful candidate will be in possession of a driving license and will have excellent english communication abilities. Fieldwork and data management capabilities as well as experience in statistical methods (with R) are an advantage. Also good knowledge of pollinators will be appreciated.



If you are interested in this thesis, please contact as soon as possible:

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