



Master thesis opportunity in Functional agrobiodiversity

Pollination services in calcareous grasslands

InterRest project

Background

Calcareous grasslands were created by traditional land use in European cultural landscapes and are one of the most species-rich habitat types. Nowadays, they are often threatened, mainly by abandonment and eutrophication. Hence, restoration measures are urgently needed. In the InterRest project, we aim to study the **effects of local and landscape restoration** on **functional diversity, species interactions and ecosystem functions** of different trophic levels.



Pollination services in calcareous grasslands (Master thesis, field work in summer 2023)

In order to study pollination services in calcareous grasslands, we will conduct a **pollinator exclusion experiment** for 1-3 insect-pollinated plant species. We want to analyse the treatment effect on seed and fruit set in relation to the diversity and abundance of flower visitors and local and landscape restoration measures.

We are seeking a motivated **master student** to conduct the pollinator exclusion experiment including the following tasks:

- Conducting the pollinator exclusion experiment in 32 calcareous grasslands
- Pollinator observations for control plants
- Assessing seed and fruit set as measures of pollination function
- Analyse the effects of flower visitor diversity and abundance and local and landscape restoration measures on pollination function

Requirements

For the field work, it is necessary to have a driver licence. Moreover, basic knowledge of R is beneficial for analyzing the data.

This thesis will allow you to **gain more experience in experimental design, pollinator diversity in protected habitats and the ecosystem function pollination.**

For more information on the project you can visit the website: www.uni-goettingen.de/InterRest/project

If you are interested, please contact:

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