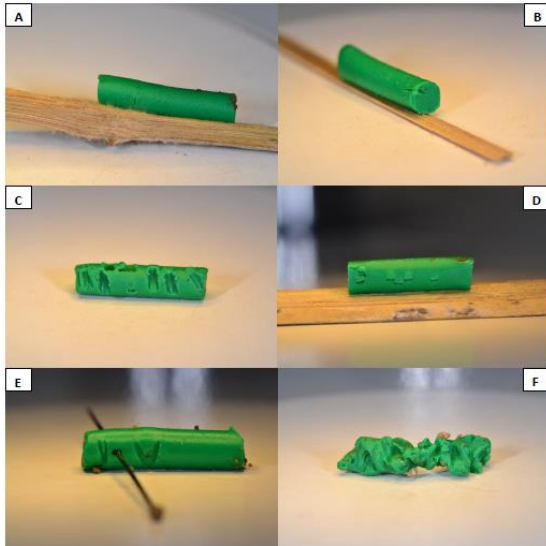# Vacancy for one student assistant

Predation rates assessments in maize fields and adjacent natural habitats

Arthropod bites (A, B), rodent bites (C, D), and bird marks (E, F).

In agricultural landscapes, the presence of non-crop habitats (e.g., hedgerows, wood patches, flower fields) can potentially increase the diversity and abundance of natural enemies, enhancing biological control of crop pests.

The activity of vertebrate and invertebrate predators can be quantified using sentinel prey made of plasticine (i.e., artificial caterpillars; Figure). This method consists of exposing artificial caterpillars in a habitat and monitoring how many have been attacked after a given exposure time (e.g., 24 hours).

Several predators attack artificial caterpillars, leaving diagnostic marks on the plasticine that allow identification (Figure).

We are looking for one student assistant to quantify predation rates in maize fields and adjacent natural habitats.

Your tasks:

- Select study sites.
- Quantify predation using artificial caterpillars.
- Handle data management.

Requirements: The candidate should be prepared to work under field conditions, have a valid driving license and good data management skills with Excel, and be proficient in English and German.

Time period: The start date should be as soon as possible.

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