

Master thesis opportunity

Nesting opportunities of ground-nesting wild bees in perennial flower fields

Wildflower fields are increasingly implemented as an agri-environmental measure. The establishment in agricultural landscapes can be beneficial for wild bees because they can offer a continuous supply of floral resources. However, wild bees are not only in need of foraging sites but also of suitable nesting sites. The **aim of the master thesis** is therefore to analyze nesting opportunities of ground-nesting wild bees in perennial flower fields. In spring 2024, we will visually locate and quantify nests of ground-nesting bees and set up mini-emergence traps in recently established flower fields (autumn sowing period 2022 and spring sowing period 2023).



Methods to be applied in the thesis: Your tasks will include the search for nests built by ground-nesting wild bees in perennial flower fields and the installation of mini-emergence traps over the nests, lab work to pin and identify the caught bees, data entry and statistical analysis with R.

Requirements: We are looking for a highly motivated MSc student who is interested in conducting field work. A driving license is needed, as is the willingness to work independently. Good data management skills with Excel are required as well. Experience with the identification of bees and knowledge of R are not mandatory but would be beneficial.

Period: Starting in March/April 2024.

If you are interested, please contact us for further details:

Ricarda Koch
ricarda.koch@uni-goettingen.de
Functional Agrobiodiversity – DNPW, Georg-August-University Göttingen

