



## Bachelor/Master thesis opportunity in functional agrobiodiversity

### *Predation function 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.

#### Predation function in calcareous grasslands (Bachelor/Master thesis, approx. March – July 2023)

In 2023, we will conduct a **predation experiment** to study predation as an ecosystem function in calcareous grasslands. Therefore, we want to quantify arthropod predation in relation to the functional diversity of birds of calcareous grasslands using experimental exposure of artificial (plasticine), caterpillar-like prey to imitate natural prey (lepidopteran larvae) of avian predators.

We are seeking a motivated **bachelor or master student** to conduct the predation experiment including following tasks:

- Creating and setting up dummy caterpillars in 32 calcareous grasslands
- Count predation marks of each caterpillar after removal
- Analyse the effects of functional diversity of bird communities on arthropod predation

#### 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 give you more insights in the **design and implementation of ecological experiments and ecosystem functions**.

For more information on the project you can visit the website: [www.uni-goettingen.de/InterRest/project](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/InterRest/project)

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