Two Master theses opportunity

Interacting effects of flower strips and landscape diversity on spiders and carabids at the landscape scale

Semi-natural habitats in agricultural landscapes, such as hedges and flower margins, can promote biodiversity. This includes beneficial organisms that can provide biological pest control in crop fields. However, the effectiveness of semi-natural habitats to support pest predators can depend also on the landscape context.

The aim of these two theses is to explore how recently installed flower strips and the landscape context influence the abundance and diversity of ground-dwelling arthropods in the county of Northeim.

We are particularly interested in spiders and carabids, two abundant and diverse predator groups in agroecosystems. In spring 2024, we will set up pitfall traps in three habitats (cereal fields, flower strips, and grass strips) and 39 landscapes.

We are looking for two Master students who are interested in conducting their Master theses on agrobiodiversity at the landscape scale.

Tasks: Your responsibilities will include the installation of pitfall traps, lab work to identify arthropods, managing and analyzing data using the statistical software R.

Requirements: You should be interested in fieldwork, have good data management skills with Excel, and be willing to write in English. Experience with the identification of arthropods and knowledge of R are not mandatory, but they are an asset. Having a driving license may be an advantage.

Period: Starting in March/April 2024.

Opportunities: You will be part of a cutting-edge interdisciplinary project (KOOPERATIV: www.uni-goettingen.de/kooperativ/project) and gain experience in fieldwork, lab work, and scientific analysis, as well as improve your scientific writing skills.

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