Available Master’s Thesis

Parasitism and breeding success of cavity-nesting wild bees in urban community gardens

Wild bees are not only extremely fascinating organisms, which are able to survive solely of nectar and pollen as food resource; they are also essential for pollination and manage to survive in harsh environments like cities. In our project Forschen für Wildbienen we want to learn more about wild bee communities in urban community gardens in Munich and Berlin and find ways to support them in these ecosystems. For this thesis, you will work with nest traps, artificial nesting aids for cavity-nesting bees. You will ask how the environmental features within gardens and in their surroundings affect parasitism, breeding success and species composition of cavity-nesting bees. To do so, you will learn about wild bee communities in cities, the breeding ecology and life history of single wild bee species, and how to handle and identify wild bee samples. You will have the opportunity to analyse a dataset of two years and you will answer research questions that can help to better understand how wild bee communities are formed in an urban garden setting. The results will inform recommendations in gardens to support wild bees in urban environments.

We are looking for motivated master students who want to learn more about this great insect group!

Requirements
- Accurate, reliable and independent working style
- Interest in working with insects (esp. wild bees)
- German language skills (for identification literature)
- Previous experience with insects is advantageous

Tasks & Hard Facts
- Identification and analysis of nest traps in the lab starting November 2023
- Primary data collection in the field is already completed
- Applications until: 20.10.2023

Are you interested? Please contact Prof. Dr. Monika Egerer (monika.egerer@tum.de) and Astrid Neumann (astrid.neumann@tum.de)!

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