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Research Project

Ant diversity along an urban-rural gradient: a trait-based approach

Project funded by own resources

Project title Ant diversity along an urban-rural gradient: a trait-based approach

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Organisation / Research unit

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Naturschutzbiologie (Baur)

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Urbanisation is increasing worldwide. Within the city novel ecosystems like lawns and flower beds as well as more or less impacted remnants of natural ecosystem provide habitat for a variety of organisms. However, these habitat patches differ from more natural sites outside cities in many respects. Typically this leads to altered species composition and diversity. Novel conditions and a lack of some competitors or predators may allow species to expand their niches through altered behaviour or phenology and local adaptation. Native species establishing in urban habitats thus face conditions reminiscent of many introduced species in the early stages of invasion and similar mechanisms may play a role in whether they succeed. In this project I examine the effects of urbanisation on ants, a group that is frequently used as biodiversity or disturbance indicators and has an important role in ecosystem functioning.

Keywords biodiversity, myrmecology, ants, formicidae, urbanisation

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Other funds

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Published results

3611554, Braschler, Brigitte, Diversität im Stadtkanton: die Ameisenfauna von Riehen und Bettingen, 1420-4606, Mitteilungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaften beider Basel, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

4493387, Melliger, Ramona Leila; Braschler, Brigitte; Rusterholz, Hans-Peter; Baur, Bruno, Diverse effects of degree of urbanisation and forest size on species richness and functional diversity of plants, and ground surface-active ants and spiders, 1932-6203, PLoS ONE, Publication: JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

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