**Bachelor / Master Thesis project in summer 2025 (UFZ – Community Ecology //MLU – General Zoology and UFZ)**

**The project**

**RestPoll: Rest**oring **poll**inator habitats across European agricultural landscapes is based on multi-actor participatory approaches: Validate context-dependence and synergistic effects of multiple restoration measures.

Agricultural land, the most extensively altered by human activity, is essential for food production but significantly affects biodiversity. Pollinators, which support 80% of wild plants, are vital for agriculture and play a key role in ecosystem restoration. The RestPoll project integrates traditional knowledge, innovative participatory approaches, and collaborative efforts to restore pollinators and promote sustainable transformation of European farmlands.

Within the project aims we aim to explore pollinator restoration measures in agricultural landscapes across Saxony-Anhalt, focusing on their ecological benefits. Our research will target pollinator populations (bees, butterflies, hoverflies), plant-pollinator networks, and ant communities at 15 study sites. Each site will be visited three times during the summer season for sampling and observation. Insects and their interactions with plants will be assessed using transect walks, while ant communities will be studied through a bait experiment, known as the "cafeteria study."

You will be responsible for planning and conducting fieldwork related to ant communities (or optionally others insects) and collaborating with us to analyze and interpret the results.

**Your tasks**

Conduct a comprehensive literature review on ant role in agricultural landscape and its role in restoration of ecosystems

Planning and conducting field work on ants/optionally pollinators communities

Compiling data for further statistical analysis/ data analysis and interpretation of results

**We offer**

Great insights into work of leading research institute (UFZ)

Individual supervision with the possibility to work independently

A topic with high chances of future scientific outcomes

Hands-on experience in ecological research, species monitoring, plant-pollinators samplings and statistical modeling

Work in international teams in well-equipped institutes (UFZ, MLU)

**Your profile**

Study background in biology, zoology, environmental sciences, or related disciplines

Strong interest in ecological questions

Motivation to work independently and develop own ideas

Basic knowledge of biology, ecology, statistics and R

**Contact**

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