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The Swiss agri-environment scheme enhances pollinator diversity and plant reproductive success in nearby intensively managed farmland.

Albrecht M, Duelli P, ..., Kleijn D, Schmid B

J Appl Ecol 2007 **44**:813-822 [[full text](#)]

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Evaluated 20 Jul 2007

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PLANT BIOLOGY



Comments

Ecological compensation areas (ECAs) in managing meadows attempt to counteract the loss of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services such as pollination and natural pest control in agro-ecosystems; however, this has only been tested in a few studies against nearby intensively managed meadow (IM) areas. In this study, the authors test this with the following parameters: species richness and abundance, and the reproductive success of selected plants. They find that hoverflies, solitary bees and large-sized pollinators, such as social bees and butterflies had a significantly higher species richness and abundance in ECA than in adjacent IM areas, and that they were not significantly affected by increasing distance from the from ECA, unlike small-sized pollinators, whose species richness and abundance declined significantly with increased distance. Of the plants studied, seeds of both *Raphanus sativus* and *Campanula glomerata* were shown to be heavier and produced in greater numbers in ECA than in IM, data that were positively correlated with species richness and abundance of bees; however, individual plants of *Hypochaeris radicata* showed no such effect.

Competing interests: None declared

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