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Alpha and beta diversity of arthropods and plants in organically and conventionally managed wheat fields.

Clough Y, Holzschuh A, ..., Stefan-Dewenter I, Tscharnkte T
J Appl Ecol 2007 **44**:804-812 [[full text](#)]

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Evaluated 9 Jul 2007

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Faculty Member

Niklaus Ammann

Technical University of Delft,
 Netherlands
 PLANT BIOLOGY

New Finding

Comments

In this paper, the authors show that, in order to get the full picture about the impact on biodiversity when comparing various agricultural management systems, it is necessary to take into account all biodiversity components, measuring beta- and alpha-diversity to provide an overall picture of gamma-biodiversity as a combination of both. This kind of biodiversity-partitioning approach to species richness was derived from a comparison between recorded species richness of plants, bees, carabids, staphylinids and spiders found at the centre and edge of paired organic and conventional wheat fields in 21 sites from three regions in Germany. Surprisingly, while plants and bees showed an additional increase in total diversity, spiders showed a decrease. These findings suggest that level of total diversity resulting from the implementation of agri-environment scheme such as organic agriculture varies depending on the species involved; thus, a differential approach adapted to regional landscape structures is needed. For the abstract of this paper, please see:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2007.01306.x>

Competing interests: None declared

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