

1 **Effectiveness of agri-environmental management on pollinators is moderated more by**  
2 **ecological contrast than by landscape structure or land-use intensity**

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27  
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41 **Abstract**

42 Agri-environment management (AEM) started in the 1980s in Europe to mitigate biodiversity  
43 decline, but the effectiveness of AEM has been questioned. We hypothesize that this is caused  
44 by a lack of a large enough ecological contrast between AEM and non-treated control sites.  
45 The effectiveness of AEM may be moderated by landscape structure and land-use intensity.  
46 Here, we examined the influence of local ecological contrast, landscape structure and regional  
47 land-use intensity on AEM effectiveness in a meta-analysis of 62 European pollinator studies.  
48 We found that ecological contrast was most important in determining the effectiveness of  
49 AEM, but landscape structure and regional land-use intensity played also a role. In  
50 conclusion, the most successful way to enhance AEM effectiveness for pollinators is to  
51 implement measures that result in a large ecological improvement at a local scale, which  
52 exhibit a strong contrast to conventional practices in simple landscapes of intensive land-use  
53 regions.

54 **INTRODUCTION**

55 Modern agriculture with widespread agrochemical use, simplification of landscape structure,  
56 short crop rotations and high mechanization has impacted biodiversity significantly, leading  
57 to severe pollinator declines around the world during the late 20th and 21th century (Kovács-  
58 Hostyánszki *et al.* 2017). As a solution for negative agricultural impacts on pollinators and on  
59 overall biodiversity, the first agri-environmental schemes or management options (hereafter  
60 AEM) were created in the EU member states during the 1980s (Batáry *et al.* 2015). Since  
61 1992 AEM has become mandatory for all EU member states (European Commission 2005).

62 The different historical trajectories of European countries and regions led to large  
63 differences in heterogeneity between agricultural landscapes through different levels of  
64 agricultural intensification (Fuchs *et al.* 2015; van Vliet *et al.* 2015). Effectiveness of AEM  
65 for various taxa has been studied for almost three decades and generally has been related to  
66 landscape context and land-use intensity. Published results vary greatly. Birkhofer *et al.*  
67 (2014) did not find that regional land-use intensity moderates benefits of organic farming for  
68 biodiversity across Central and Northern Europe. Also AEMs effects on bumblebees species  
69 richness, abundance and species composition did not differ between two different land-use  
70 intensity regions in Estonia (Marja *et al.* 2014). However, Aviron *et al.* (2007) found  
71 significant AEM effect for grassland butterflies in intensive, but not in extensive management  
72 region. Thus effectiveness of different types of AEM is not straightforwardly related to land-  
73 use intensity.

74 AEM effectiveness can be moderated by landscape structure (Tschardtke *et al.* 2005,  
75 2012). In the meta-analysis of Batáry *et al.* (2011), the authors found that AEM in cropland  
76 was more effective in simple (less than 20% semi-natural habitats) than in complex  
77 landscapes. Similar results were found in two follow-up meta-analyses (Scheper *et al.* 2013;  
78 Tuck *et al.* 2014) in that positive effects of organic management or AEM on biodiversity

79 improved with an increasing amount of cropland in the landscape which is usually related to  
80 an increasing simplification of the landscape.

81 Kleijn *et al.* (2011) hypothesised that landscape structure and land-use intensity,  
82 together with the implemented management, are ultimately expressed in the ecological  
83 contrast that is created between fields with AEM and conventional control fields. For  
84 instance, the increase in floral resources produced by the establishment of wildflower strips  
85 on conventionally managed cereal field margins is relatively high (Scheper *et al.* 2015; Marja  
86 *et al.* 2018), resulting in large ecological contrasts between margins with and without such  
87 strips. On the other hand, delayed mowing of intensively managed grasslands only produces  
88 small ecological contrasts, because it results in negligible increases in floral resources  
89 compared to conventional management (Kleijn *et al.* 2011). Only a few studies have  
90 examined whether ecological contrast is indeed related to the effectiveness of AEM (Scheper  
91 *et al.* 2013; Hammers *et al.* 2015). Scheper *et al.* (2013) found that ecological contrast in  
92 floral resources created by AEM does indeed drive the response of pollinators to  
93 management. However, their data on testing contrast was limited to only one dataset (Kleijn  
94 *et al.* 2006). Hammers *et al.* (2015) tested the effect of contrast alone without considering  
95 other potential moderators.

96 According to the hypothesis of Kleijn *et al.* (2011), biodiversity responses are primarily  
97 determined by the ecological contrast between AEM and non-AEM sites and landscape  
98 structure, land-use intensity and type of management are merely determining the strength of  
99 the ecological contrast. If we find general evidence for this hypothesis, ecological contrast  
100 should be more strongly related to AEM effectiveness than either landscape structure or land-  
101 use intensity. So far, this has never been tested. Therefore, this is the first meta-analysis that  
102 investigates the relative importance of these inter-related moderators of AEM effectiveness  
103 concurrently. Our expectations are graphically depicted in Fig. 1. Based on previous literature

104 we assume that all three examined factors (ecological contrast, landscape structure, land-use  
105 intensity) are not of equal importance for pollinator species richness and are not acting  
106 independently from each other. The effects of landscape structure include effects of land-use  
107 intensity and ecological contrast, and the effect of ecological contrast includes the effects of  
108 land-use intensity and landscape structure. However, in combination of these factors, we  
109 hypothesized the highest AEM effectiveness for pollinator species richness in case of large  
110 ecological contrast (vs. small contrast), simple landscape structure (vs. complex landscape)  
111 and intensive land-use (vs. extensive land-use) regions.

112

## 113 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### 114 **Data collection and exclusion/inclusion criteria**

115 We conducted literature searches using ISI Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) and  
116 Elsevier Scopus databases ranging 1945–2016 (last search date: 24 November 2016). We  
117 used the following keyword combinations according to the PICO (Population, Intervention,  
118 Comparator and Outcome) combination of search terms (Higgins & Green 2008), which were  
119 linked with logical operators to include the maximum number of relevant studies covering the  
120 effect of AEM on pollinator' richness. We used the following keywords combinations for  
121 literature search: TITLE-ABS-KEY (pollinat\* OR bee OR bumble\* OR hover\* OR syrph\*  
122 OR butterfly) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(agri-environment\* OR organic\* OR integrated OR  
123 hedge\* OR "field margin" OR fallow OR set-aside OR "set aside") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY  
124 (diversity OR richness) AND SUBJAREA(MULT OR AGRI OR ENVI) AND  
125 (EXCLUDE(DOCTYPE,"re")). Our literature searches confirm with the common review  
126 guidelines for a comprehensive literature review (Koricheva *et al.* 2013; Collaboration for  
127 Environmental Evidence 2018).

128 We combined two searches based on Web of Science and Scopus databases in  
129 Mendeley (Mendeley 2015) and removed duplicates. We found in a total of 653 potential  
130 studies. After screening those studies by title, 340 studies remained, and after reading the  
131 abstracts, 120 studies remained for full text screening. Additionally we used meta-analysis  
132 databases with similar topics (Batáry *et al.* 2011; Scheper *et al.* 2013; Tuck *et al.* 2014) and  
133 our unpublished datasets to locate further potential data. PRISMA flow diagram representing  
134 the detailed selection process (i.e. the number of studies identified, rejected and accepted) is  
135 presented in Fig. S1.

136 We used Europe for our study, since the majority of EU member countries have been  
137 under the same agri-environmental policies and most studies examining the effectiveness of  
138 AEM have been carried out here. In North America and Australia, agri-environmental policies  
139 are different, which complicates comparisons. We set up following criteria for inclusion and  
140 exclusion to filter out only European (EU28 + Switzerland + Norway) AEM pollinator  
141 species richness studies. Inclusion criteria were: study focusing on pollinator' absolute  
142 richness (hereafter species richness); including set-aside, but not abandoned grassland studies,  
143 which cannot be considered as a conservation action. Exclusion criteria were: not about agri-  
144 environment management; not a European AEM study; if the number of replicates (at field or  
145 farm level) was less than three in AEM or in control group; single field experiments (blocks  
146 within fields or within field margins), i.e. only taking studies at field level, since management  
147 actions are more relevant at those levels. Finally, we decided to exclude too broad scale  
148 studies covering too large area of given countries with different regions, because we were  
149 then unable to determine the regional land-use intensity effect. In total we found 62 studies  
150 with 156 data points (n=134 published, n=22 unpublished) for analysis, resulting in, on  
151 average, 2.5 data points per study, which is sufficient for meta-analyses. We provide studies  
152 with exclusion arguments in Appendix S1.

153

154 **Classifications of ecological contrast, landscape structure and land-use intensity**

155 We used three variables to test our hypotheses: ecological contrast, landscape structure and  
156 land-use intensity. We classified all studies in large vs. small ecological contrast, simple vs.  
157 complex landscape and intensive vs. extensive land-use intensity using the following  
158 procedures.

159 Ecological contrast was determined based on plant/flower richness or flower cover  
160 between AEM and control group given in the specific studies. We selected plant data, because  
161 it is a key driver predicting pollinator richness (Goulson 2003; Ebeling *et al.* 2008). We  
162 compared plant data results between AEM and control group (usually conventional farming)  
163 and determined ecological contrast (large or small). If plant data was not available  
164 (approximately 20% of the studies), we used the input amount of nitrogen between AEM and  
165 control group. High nitrogen applications are often the main negative driver of the richness of  
166 plant communities in agricultural landscapes (Kleijn *et al.* 2009; Soons *et al.* 2017; Midolo *et*  
167 *al.* 2019). We used the ecological contrast level of significance (statistical differences of  
168 plant/flower richness or cover data or nitrogen input between AEM and control group), or in  
169 cases this information was not available, also group means, provided in the studies. Finally, if  
170 neither plant data nor amount of nitrogen was available in a given study, we used our expert  
171 knowledge. RM and PB determined together case by case ecological contrast, based on  
172 information available on scheme descriptions in these studies (Table S1). We did not use any  
173 threshold or formula for ecological contrast determination.

174 We used the original GIS dataset from authors to determine study areas. If GIS data was  
175 not available, we identified the areas based on their description in the text (published  
176 coordinates) or map of study areas in original studies. If study area was poorly described and  
177 coordinates or maps of study areas were not provided, we visually examined the Google Earth

178 aerial photos and determined study areas similarly as in a previous meta-analysis (Tuck *et al.*  
179 2014). After a study area had been identified, we followed the approach of Tuck *et al.* (2014),  
180 and placed five random 1000 m transects per study area. The positions of the five transects  
181 were defined by sets of three randomly generated numbers. First, we generated the random  
182 number between zero (central study area measuring point) and the radius of the study area,  
183 denoted how many metres from the central point the starting point of each transect would be  
184 situated. Second, we randomly generated the angle degree defining the direction of the study  
185 area's central point for which the start point of the transect should be placed. With these two  
186 random numbers we were able to define the transect location. Third, we randomly selected  
187 numbers between 0, 45, 90 and 180 degrees to specify the angle at which the transect should  
188 be drawn, 500 m to each side of the start point. Transects were not allowed to cross or being  
189 closer to each other than 2000 m to avoid pseudoreplication in the landscape structure  
190 information. In each of the five random transects we collected landscape data in a buffer area  
191 of 1 km.

192 For landscape structure, we used the Coordination of Information on the Environment  
193 Land Cover databases from years 1990–2018 (hereafter CORINE database, Büttner *et al.*  
194 2004). Since our used case studies are from the last three decades, we used landscape  
195 structure information based on the version of CORINE that was closest to the year of study.  
196 The 17 categories starting with CORINE database codes three or four indicate semi-natural  
197 habitats and were used to calculate the proportion of these within a radius of 1000 m (Batáry  
198 *et al.* 2011). We classified landscape structure as simple and complex landscapes (Tschardtke  
199 *et al.* 2005). In simple landscape, the proportional area of semi-natural habitats was less than  
200 20%, in complex landscapes more than 20%. We did not consider the classification of a  
201 cleared landscape (<1%) since we had only 10 data points. We therefore added these points to  
202 the simple landscape classification.



203 We used the agricultural land-use intensity database (pixel 1×1 km) available for the EU  
204 to determine land-use intensity for each study area (Verburg 2016). For identifying regional  
205 scale land-use intensity data, we first used the previously digitized landscape scale transects,  
206 with which we created a new polygon with the minimum polygon method to get a more exact  
207 study area. We then classified land-use intensity in two groups: extensive or intensive  
208 agricultural region. The classification was based on the majority of pixels of the above GIS  
209 database in each study area. If majority of pixels represented extensive arable or extensive  
210 grassland or both, then it was classified as extensive region. Otherwise, we classified regional  
211 land-use intensity as intensive because the rest of the classification in the database represents  
212 intensive agriculture: moderately intensive arable, intensive grassland or very intensive  
213 arable. However, the Verburg (2016) database does not cover Switzerland, including fourteen  
214 different studies in our meta-analysis. Therefore for Switzerland, we used land-use  
215 information provided in the studies or if not, then we used online land-use database  
216 (Switzerland Federal Office of Topography 2016). We used a similar approach as with the  
217 previous database and determined land-use based on majority of cover either intensive or  
218 extensive land-use.

219

## 220 **Effect size calculation**

221 We used Hedges' *g* as a measure of effect size, which is the unbiased standardized mean  
222 difference (Hedges 1981; Borenstein *et al.* 2009). We calculated effect sizes and their non-  
223 parametric estimates of variance (formulas are presented in Appendix S2) for all data points  
224 based on the mean, standard deviation and sample size of pollinator species richness of AEM  
225 and control groups (Hedges & Olkin 1985). Effect size was positive if pollinator species  
226 richness was higher in the AEM than in the control group. To calculate Hedges' *g*, we

227 obtained (from tables, graphs or text) the mean values, sample sizes and some variability  
228 measure of AEM and control groups (variance, SD, SEM or 95% CI).

229

### 230 **Statistical analysis**

231 For performing the meta-analysis models, we used the "metafor" (Viechtbauer 2010) package  
232 of the statistical program R (R Core Team 2018). We used hierarchical models with country,  
233 study ID and region or habitat as nesting factors with restricted maximum likelihood  
234 (Appendix S3). If one study presented two different groups of pollinators (for instance  
235 bumblebees and butterflies), we treated them separately in statistical analysis. First, we fitted  
236 a model without moderators to test the general effect of AEM compared to control group.  
237 Second, we fitted a model with moderators (ecological contrast, landscape structure and land-  
238 use intensity) to test which of them moderate the relative effectiveness of AEM for pollinator  
239 species richness the most (hereafter additive model). Additive models compare the relative  
240 effects between used moderators. Third, we fitted a model with ecological contrast, landscape  
241 structure and land-use intensity, including their three-way interaction, to test whether and how  
242 they interact with each other (hereafter interaction model). In the final model, we were  
243 interested, which of the possible eight combination is the most or least effective (Fig. 1). The  
244 interaction model estimates the average effect for each factor level combination. We  
245 described effect sizes (small, medium, large) based on Cohan's benchmarks (Cohen 1988).  
246 We also calculated the variance inflation factor between moderators, and identified no values  
247 exceeding 1.4, which suggests that no collinearity between moderators occurred.

248 We also controlled outliers of effect sizes in our dataset. Based on the method of  
249 Habeck & Schultz (2015) we evaluated the sensitivity of our analyses by comparing fitted  
250 models with and without effect sizes that we defined as influential outliers. We defined  
251 influential outliers as effect sizes with hat values (i.e. diagonal elements of the hat matrix)

252 greater than two times the average hat value (i.e. influential) and standardized residual values  
253 exceeding 3.0 (i.e. outliers; from Habeck & Schultz 2015). Our analysis showed, that there  
254 were no outliers in additive or in interaction models.

255 A potential publication bias were detected by funnel plot (Fig. S2), the regression test  
256 for funnel plot and fail-safe numbers. The regression test for funnel plot asymmetry indicated  
257 no significant publication bias ( $z = 1.39$ ,  $p = 0.163$ ). Additionally, we examined publication  
258 bias using Rosenthal's method of fail-safe number (Rosenthal 1979), which estimates the  
259 number of unpublished or non-significant studies that need to be added to analysis in order to  
260 change the results from significant into non-significant (Rosenberg 2005). Thus, the higher  
261 the fail-safe number, the more credibility a significant result has (Langellotto & Denno 2004).  
262 The model without moderators was significant (see results) and Rosenthal's fail-safe numbers  
263 calculation indicated that 33319 studies might be needed that AEM positive effect became  
264 non-significant. Hence, there was no sign of publication bias in our dataset. However, there  
265 was a geographical bias in our dataset, as most studies originated from Western or Northern  
266 Europe (Fig. S3).

267

## 268 **RESULTS**

269 Sixty-two studies (total 156 individual data points) or unpublished datasets fulfilled our  
270 selection criteria. Most studies were conducted in Western or Northern Europe (see a map in  
271 Fig. S3). We found only few studies from Southern or Eastern Europe.

272 Pollinator species richness benefitted from AEM. The summary random-effects model  
273 without moderators showed a large positive effect of AEM (effect size 0.83, CIs 0.69– 0.96,  
274  $p < 0.001$ ). The additive model indicated that the moderation effect of ecological contrast was  
275 larger than that of landscape structure and that land-use intensity was not significant on  
276 pollinator species richness (Fig. 2).

277 Results of the interaction model showed of pollinator species richness related to the  
278 AEM with the highest effect size in case of the combination of large contrast, simple  
279 landscape and intensive land-use (Fig. 3). We also found large positive effects in studies with  
280 large contrast, complex landscape and intensive land-use. Medium effects appeared in studies  
281 with small contrast, simple landscape and intensive land-use studies. AEM was not effective  
282 for species richness in case of small contrast, complex landscape and intensive land-use.  
283 AEM was effective for species richness in case of large contrast, complex landscape and  
284 extensive land-use (Fig. 3). All other effect size values for extensive land-use indicated no  
285 significant AEM effect for pollinator species richness, but in some combinations had low  
286 sample sizes. General moderator trends were, that large contrast always had higher effect size  
287 than small contrast; simple landscape always had higher effect size than complex landscape  
288 (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

289 Comparison of additive and interaction models indicated no significant difference  
290 ( $p=0.35$ ; likelihood-ratio test=4.4, AICc presented in Table 1).

291

## 292 **DISCUSSION**

293 Our meta-analysis documents for the first time that the effectiveness of AEM for pollinator  
294 species richness is more strongly related to local ecological contrast than to landscape  
295 structure or regional land-use intensity. The results showed the highest AEM effectiveness in  
296 intensive land-use regions and simple landscapes with large ecological contrast. Lowest  
297 effectiveness of AEM was found in extensive land-use regions, in complex landscapes and at  
298 sites with small ecological contrast.

299

## 300 **Co-moderation of local, landscape and regional scale effects for pollinators**

301 The additive model indicated that the ecological contrast created by the AEM at the site of  
302 implementation had the largest effect on pollinator species richness and that the structure of  
303 the surrounding landscape had a medium effect in moderating the AEM effectiveness.  
304 Regional land-use intensity had the weakest and non-significant effect on pollinator species  
305 richness. Thus, based on our additive model results, the following scale-dependency pattern  
306 of AEM effectiveness for pollinators can be determined: local > landscape > regional scale  
307 effect. Our model variance inflation values showed additionally that the moderators are  
308 independent from each other.

309 Our interaction model results indicated that large ecological contrast had in all cases  
310 (except when sample size was too small) significant positive effects on pollinator species  
311 richness. We determined in most cases ecological contrast by the difference between AEM  
312 and control sites in the amount of suitable flower resources providing energy and food for  
313 pollinators (Wood *et al.* 2015; Marja *et al.* 2018). Therefore, effective AEM, which is  
314 targeted to enhance pollinator diversity, should be determined first of all by the availability of  
315 food resources. Thus, large contrast AEM are probably most sustainable solutions for  
316 enhancing pollinator diversity in countries like Germany, France, United Kingdom, which are  
317 dominated by intensive land-use regions and simple landscape structure (but such regions are  
318 also common in Central and Eastern European countries). Since ecological contrast is co-  
319 moderated by landscape structure and land-use intensity, effective AEM in Western-European  
320 countries should also include measures to protect or create ecologically valuable landscape  
321 elements and habitats (species rich grasslands, set-asides, hedgerows, un-cropped areas),  
322 because food resources for pollinators as well as wintering and nesting habitats are highly  
323 important to enhance pollinator diversity.

324 We used semi-natural habitats to determine landscape complexity and our results  
325 indicated that landscape complexity enhances pollinator species richness probably via key

326 resources such as availability of nesting and wintering habitats as well food resources  
327 (Kennedy *et al.* 2013). Comparing landscape structure effects on pollinator species richness  
328 (simple vs complex landscape) under the same ecological contrast and in the same land-use  
329 intensity regions, based on the interaction model, the AEM effectiveness was always stronger  
330 in simple than in complex landscape. Particularly, this was confirmed in intensive land-use  
331 regions. We found similar tendency also in extensive land-use regions, where AEM was more  
332 effective in simple than in complex landscapes, but in some cases, sample size was too small  
333 to confirm this pattern. Hence, especially ecological contrast, but also landscape structure, are  
334 important factors that need to be considered in agri-environment planning for enhancing  
335 pollinators diversity. However, current evidence suggests effect size is linearly related to  
336 ecological contrast (Scheper *et al.* 2013; Hammers *et al.* 2015). Dividing studies into groups  
337 with either high or low ecological contrast may, if anything, result in conservative estimates  
338 of the moderating effects of this factor.

339

#### 340 **Effectiveness of small ecological contrast**

341 Based on our results, it is evident to conclude that AEM for pollinators should primarily  
342 consider local scale activities such as providing high quality and sufficient food resources  
343 (large ecological contrast conditions). In species-rich landscapes, small contrast AEM can  
344 also play an important role in conserving biodiversity, albeit indirectly. For instance,  
345 extensively used Hungarian puszta grasslands with complex landscape structure, alvar  
346 grasslands around Baltic Sea or alpine grasslands are currently often preserved largely  
347 because of support from agri-environmental subsidies despite the fact that species richness is  
348 rarely enhanced (e.g. Aavik *et al.* 2008; Batáry *et al.* 2015). Cessation of such small contrast  
349 AEM may lead to agricultural abandonment and enhance extinction probability of rare species  
350 with small populations (Batáry *et al.* 2010; Báldi *et al.* 2013). Thus, the value of small

351 contrast AEM effectiveness comes only indirectly from its contribution to maintain high  
352 biodiversity systems.

353 AEM with small contrast in simple landscape and under intensive land-use conditions  
354 can also promote pollinator diversity, although only to a smaller extent. In those conditions,  
355 threatened or vulnerable species are often already lost or close to extinction and might  
356 disappear soon when intensive agricultural practice continues (Batáry *et al.* 2010). For that  
357 reason it is likely that small contrast AEM is not a viable option supporting pollinators under  
358 intensive land-use and simple landscape structure conditions, for instance in countries like  
359 Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom, where the species pool is already much  
360 impoverished.

361

### 362 **Pollinator-related trade-offs with agricultural production**

363 Since pollinators are important for ecosystems and humans, it is essential to protect pollinator  
364 diversity for sustainable crop production (Winfree *et al.*, 2018). One solution for this  
365 objective is to develop new AEM that focus on large ecological contrast. However, this will  
366 be challenging because large ecological contrast AEM may be costly and unattractive for  
367 producers (Austin *et al.* 2015). For instance, creating and maintaining species-rich wildflower  
368 field margins needs costly investments in productive, but also in non-productive land.

369 Therefore, economic-ecological trade-offs of AEM need to be identified in future research  
370 (Batáry *et al.* 2017; Kleijn *et al.*, 2019). All AEM used in this study have been voluntary  
371 options for producers. Growers generally prefer AEM that can easily be incorporated into  
372 their daily farming practices. Small contrast AEM might be more popular and acceptable for  
373 producers, since they need fewer investments and are less expensive (Austin *et al.* 2015).

374

### 375 **AEM beyond Europe**

376 Previous research from Australia showed that, for instance, birds may benefit from AEM also  
377 used in Europe (Attwood *et al.* 2009). Furthermore, our results indicated that large contrast  
378 AEM in simple landscape supported much higher pollinator species richness than the control  
379 sites. Such open and wide areas are common in the intensive agricultural areas of North  
380 America and Australia. Therefore also in outside European regions, large ecological contrast  
381 AEM should be most effective to enhancing pollinator diversity.

382

### 383 **CONCLUSIONS**

384 We quantify for the first time how the effectiveness of AEM for enhancing pollinator richness  
385 depends on local ecological contrast, which is moderated by landscape structure and regional  
386 land-use intensity. Based on our results, maintaining or restoring pollinator diversity in a  
387 sustainable way with effective AEM needs to focus on landscape planning prioritizing mostly  
388 at local, but also at landscape and regional scales to effectively restore biodiversity and to  
389 safeguard ecosystem service functioning for the future (see Senapathi *et al.* 2015, Winfree *et*  
390 *al.* 2018). This means in practice that AEMs must increase first of all local plant and/or  
391 flowers diversity and density. In addition, maintaining natural vegetation species-rich areas as  
392 well as complex landscapes is also important to maintain large populations and high diversity  
393 of pollinators and other species. Only the combination of such different approaches can make  
394 up a comprehensive strategy to keep and promote pollinators across Europe. Future research  
395 should investigate how much ecological contrast is needed to predict that a target AEM is  
396 effective for biodiversity conservation.

397

398



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407

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546

547 **Table captions**

548

549 **Table 1** Summary table of meta-analyses showing tests of moderator, residual heterogeneities

550 and models AICc.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Moderators</b>	<b><i>d.f.</i></b>	<b><i>Q</i></b>	<b><i>p</i></b>	<b>AICc</b>
Model without moderators		155	638.8	<0.001	414.5
Additive model	Residuals	152	537.6	<0.001	377.84
	Moderators	3	25.4	<0.001	
Interaction model	Residuals	148	528.5	<0.001	382.56
	Moderators	8	130.1	<0.001	

551

552 **Figure captions**

553

554 **Figure 1** Graphical hypotheses of agri-environment management (AEM) effectiveness

555 relation with ecological contrast, landscape structure and land-use intensity. In combination of  
556 those factors, darkest green indicates the strongest additive effect, and effectiveness decreases  
557 lightening of the green colour. White box indicate expected lowest effect based on hypotheses  
558 generated from Kleijn *et al.* (2011). Land-use intensity information is based on GIS data by  
559 Verburg (2016). On the left map, green colour represents extensive, whereas on the right map,  
560 brown colour represents intensive land use. The four photos on the left are an illustrative and  
561 actual examples of ecological contrast implementation. Photo credits for ecological contrast  
562 photos: Sinja Zieger and RM; for landscape structure photos: Estonian Land Board WMS  
563 service; for pollinator photos: RM.

564

565 **Figure 2** The mean effect size (Hedges'  $g$ ) of pollinator species richness in response to land-  
566 use intensity, landscape structure and ecological contrast as results of an additive model with  
567 95% CIs range and significance values are presented. Explanatory variables indicate between  
568 group comparisons for land-use intensity (intensive vs. extensive; "Land-use"), landscape  
569 structure (simple vs. complex; "Landscape") and ecological contrast (large vs. small;  
570 "Contrast"). Asterisk symbols represent statistically significant p-values below 0.05, and  
571 0.001 (\* and \*\*\* respectively).

572

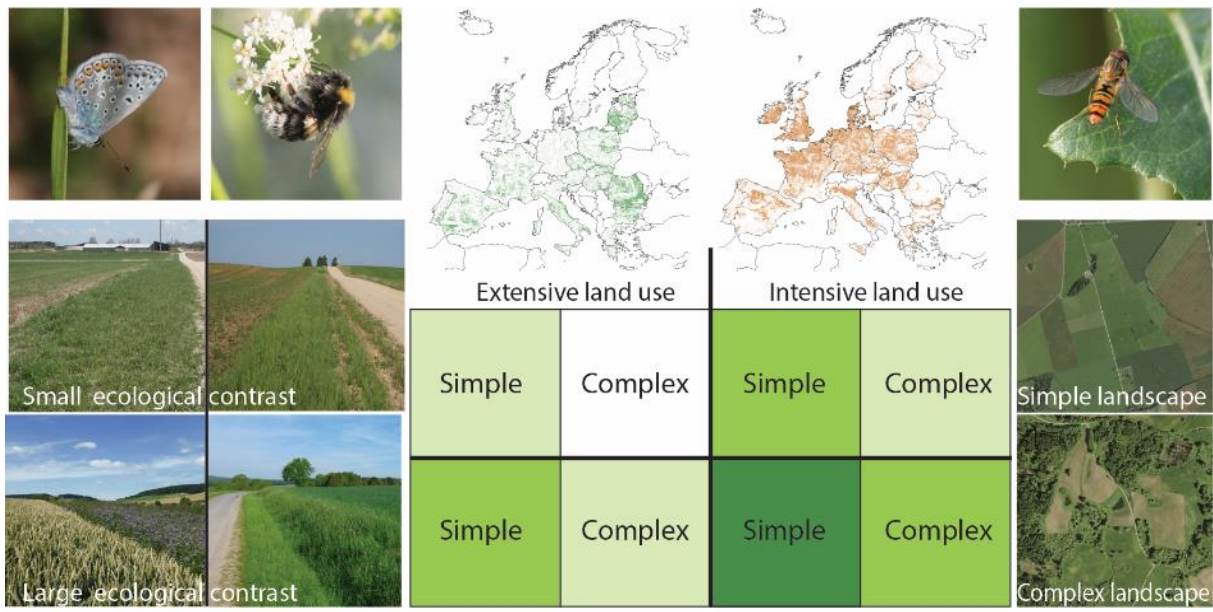
573 **Figure 3** Mean effect size (Hedges'  $g$ ) of pollinator species richness in response to the land-  
574 use intensity ("Extensive land-use, Intensive land-use"), landscape structure ("simple,  
575 complex") and ecological contrast ("Small, Large") on the effectiveness of agri-environment  
576 management (interaction model) with 95% CIs range and significance values are presented.  
577 Asterisk symbols represent statistically significant p-values below 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 (\*, \*\*

578 and, \*\*\* respectively). Numbers indicate sample size. Darkest green indicates the strongest

579 effect, and effectiveness decreases with lightening of the green colour.

580

581 **Fig. 1.**

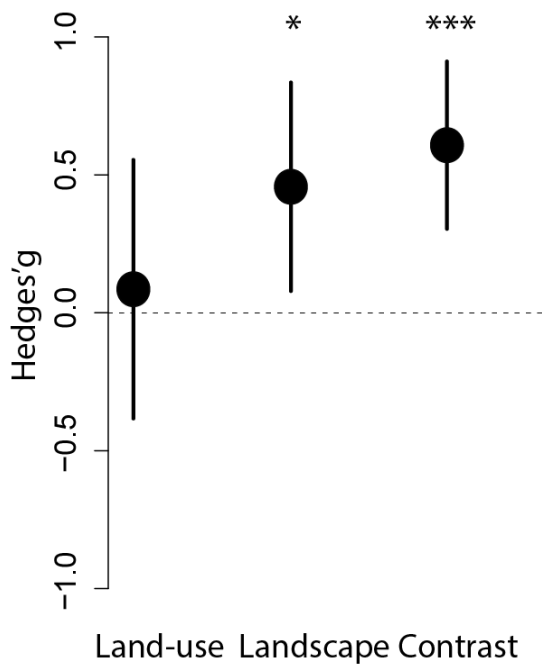


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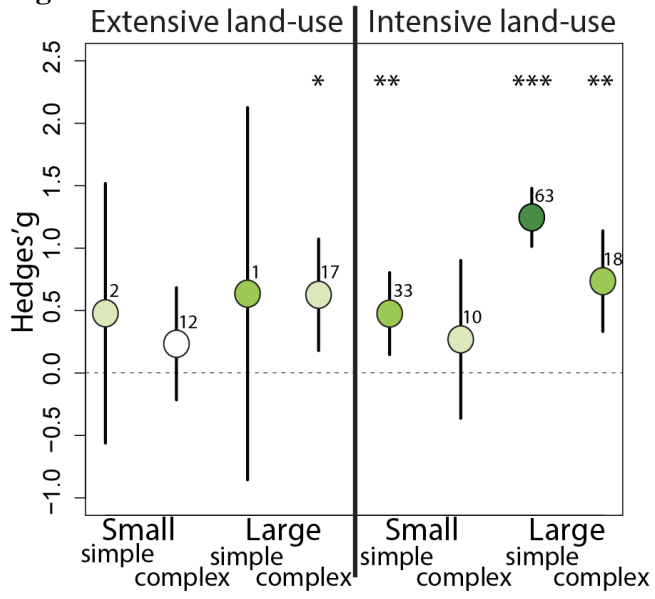


584 **Fig. 2.**



585

586 **Fig. 3.**



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