

1 Pre-print of:

2 **Pollinators, pests and soil properties interactively shape oilseed**
3 **rape yield.**

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10 **Summary**

11 1. Pollination, pest control, and soil properties are well known to affect
12 agricultural production. These factors might interactively shape crop yield, but
13 most studies focus on only one of these factors at a time.

14 2. We used 15 winter oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) fields in Sweden to study
15 how variation among fields in pollinator visitation rates, pollen beetle pest attack
16 rates and soil properties (soil texture, pH and organic carbon) interactively
17 determined crop yield. The fields were embedded in a landscape gradient with
18 contrasting proportions arable and semi-natural land.

19 3. Pollinator, pest and soil property variables formed bundles across the sites. In
20 general, pollinator visitation and pest levels were negatively correlated and
21 varied independently of soil properties. Because above- and below-ground
22 processes reacted at contrasting spatial scales, it was difficult to predict bundle
23 composition based on the surrounding landscape structure.

24 4. The above-ground biotic interactions and below-ground abiotic factors
25 interactively affected crop yield. Pollinator visitation was the strongest predictor
26 positively associated with yield. High soil pH also benefited yield, but only at
27 lower pest loads. Surprisingly, high pest loads increased the pollinator benefits
28 for yield.

29 5. *Synthesis and applications* Implementing management plans at different spatial
30 scales can create synergies among bundles of above- and below-ground
31 ecosystem processes, but both scales are needed given that different processes
32 react to different spatial scales.

- 33 **Keywords:** Ecosystem services, above- and below-ground processes, pollination,
34 pollen beetles, oilseed rape, soil organic carbon, pH.

35 **Introduction**

36 Future agriculture needs to be productive to sustain the increasing human
37 population, while conserving biodiversity and the environment. A suggested
38 solution is to stabilize or increase crop yields by maximizing the use of
39 ecosystem services provided by biodiversity, thereby decreasing the dependence
40 on external inputs of agrochemicals in agriculture (Bommarco et al. 2012).
41 However, we don't fully understand yet how different biotic and abiotic
42 processes interact to shape yield.

43 Crop pollination is a key ecosystem service that supports crop yield quantity
44 (Garibaldi et al. 2013) and quality (Bartomeus et al. 2014) in three quarters of all
45 crop species (Klein et al. 2007). Another important biotic interaction that
46 determines yield is herbivory by pest insects. They typically reduce yields in all
47 major crops by 5 to 15 percent on average (Oerke and Dehne 2004), and in
48 individual cases yield losses can be far higher (e.g., pollen beetle yield losses in
49 oilseed rape fields may reach up to 80%, Nilsson 1987). Moreover, several soil
50 properties also affect crop production. There is solid evidence from agronomic
51 trials showing that soil texture is associated to water retention (Rawls et al.
52 1991). Soil organic carbon (SOC) increases the stability of several soil properties
53 (Campbell 1978, Tiessen et al. 1994). Soil pH is closely linked to biological
54 activity in the soil and positively related to nutrient availability and soil fertility
55 (Foth and Ellis 1997), which may translate to higher crop yield (Dick 1992).

56 Despite the widely acknowledged importance of pollination, pest herbivory and
57 soil properties for shaping yield, the information we have on the joint effects of

58 these factors on yields is fragmentary at best, because they are generally studied
59 in isolation. Hence, processes above- and below-ground are most often implicitly
60 considered as additive in their contribution to crop yield (Bennett et al. 2009).

61 An important practical implication from this is that the management and
62 monitoring of each respective process is considered to be stacked in the
63 landscape. That above- and below-ground processes additively affect plant
64 growth has been challenged in small-scale experiments (Van der Putten et al.
65 2001, Bezemer et al. 2005). However, at larger spatial scales their interactions
66 remain unstudied (but see Barber et al. 2012) despite above- and below-ground
67 communities can be powerful mutual drivers, with both positive and negative
68 feedbacks (Wardle et al. 2004, Strauss and Irwin 2004).

69 Pollination has most often been studied as a context-independent process, but
70 recent studies suggest that pollination success and subsequent crop yield are
71 linked to other factors, either via common drivers or through direct interactions
72 between these factors in the yield formation process (Bos et al. 2007, Wielgoss et
73 al. 2013, Classen et al. 2014, Motzke et al. 2014). For example, Lundin et al.
74 (2013) experimentally show that pollinators and pest control of a seed predator
75 interact synergistically, and produce higher yield in combination than the sum of
76 the parts. Local crop management can also interact synergistically with
77 pollination. There is recent evidence that irrigation positively affects the net
78 benefit that plants can take from pollinators in two contrasting crops, coffee and
79 almond (Boreaux et al. 2013, Klein et al. 2014). More generally, it is expected that
80 below-ground soil properties, as well as related ecosystem services provided by
81 soil organisms (Wagg et al. 2014), enhance water retention and nutrient

82 assimilation, and hence should interact with biotic interactions such as
83 pollination and pest damage above-ground (e.g. Williams et al. 2014).

84 Most evidence about interactive effects on yield between above- and below-
85 ground processes comes from experimental studies. We lack detailed data on
86 how crop yield is affected by multiple processes in agricultural field and at the
87 scales at which crop cultivation takes place – in the arable field and in the
88 surrounding landscape (but see Boreaux et al. 2013). For example, pollinators
89 and natural enemies to crop pests are both affected by landscape composition at
90 scales up to several kilometers (Shackelford et al. 2013), whereas soil
91 properties are mostly affected locally by management of the individual arable
92 field. Hence, policy-relevant assessments of ecosystem services in agricultural
93 landscapes cannot rely on the simple assumption that a certain land-use results
94 in a given service supply, because not only local field management, but also the
95 composition of the surrounding landscape is an important determinant of
96 biodiversity and ecosystem services (Gabriel et al. 2010). Attempts to maximize
97 the production of a single ecosystem service can result in substantial declines in
98 the provision of other ecosystem services (Bennett et al. 2009, Raudsepp-Hearne
99 et al. 2010).

100 Here, we use fifteen winter oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) fields situated in a
101 landscape gradient with contrasting proportions of arable and semi-natural land
102 to study natural levels of variation in pollinator visitation rates, pest attack rates
103 and soil properties. We assess the relative importance of each factor for yield
104 formation in an important field crop, as well as potential interactions occurring
105 among them.

106 **Material and Methods:**

107 **Study sites:** Fifteen conventional winter oilseed rape (*B. napus*, varieties
108 Excalibur and Compass) fields were selected in 2013 in the Västergötland region,
109 Sweden, along a landscape gradient with contrasting proportions arable and
110 semi-natural land. All sites were located at least 3 km apart from each other.
111 Västergötland is dominated by arable land, mainly cereals, and woodlands, with
112 a small fraction of pastures and meadows. Percentage of arable land was used as
113 a proxy of agricultural intensification (Steffan-Dewenter et al. 2002, Thies et al.
114 2003, Fahrig 2013) and was measured on multiple scales (see below) using
115 information on land-use characteristics available from the Integrated
116 Administration and Control System (IACS), a data base developed by the Swedish
117 Board of Agriculture. The landscape gradient ranged from 20 to 80 % of arable
118 land in all radii considered. In each field we sampled a non-sprayed area of
119 40*70 m, situated 30 meters from the edge into the field to avoid edge effects.

120 **Sampling:** Pollinators were sampled twice during peak bloom. For each site and
121 round, we established three 0.5 m² quadrats randomly placed along a 50 m
122 transect centered in the non-sprayed area, parallel to its length. We observed
123 each quadrat for 5 minutes and recorded all pollinators. To record a flower
124 visitor as a pollinator, the insect had to have contact with the central parts of the
125 flower, i.e., the anthers or stigma. Insects were assigned to one of the following
126 categories by visual inspection: Honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.), bumble bees
127 (*Bombus* sp.), wild bees (diverse species, mostly in the genus *Andrena*), hoverflies
128 (Syrphidae) and other species (mostly Diptera, Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera).
129 All observations were done by a single observer. Pollinators were only sampled

130 on days with sun or scattered clouds and at wind speeds <15 km/h.

131 Pollen beetles (*Meligethes aeneus* F.), a major pest on oilseed rape (Alford et al.,
132 2003), were counted at four sampling plots 5m apart. Adult pollen beetles were
133 counted on ten plants at each sampling plot (i.e., on 40 plants per field in total).
134 Counts were done three times in the season between the pollen beetle
135 colonization in green bud stage and until flowering was over.

136 To measure soil properties, we collected five random 15 cm deep soil cores (6 cm
137 diameter) at each site. Cores were mixed and transported at 5°C and protected
138 from sunlight. We determined pH (SS-ISO 10390), proportion of soil organic
139 carbon (SOC) after dry combustion (SS-ISO 10694) and soil texture, measured by
140 determination of percent clay and percent sand particles in mineral soil material
141 after sieving and sedimentation (SS-ISO 11277). All soil analyses were done by
142 Agrilab, Uppsala (<http://www.agrilab.se>).

143

144 Yield was measured as total seed weight per plant just before harvesting.
145 Number of pods was counted on 5 plants per plot, using the same four plots as
146 used for pollen beetles counts (i.e., 20 plants per field). Number of seeds per pod
147 was counted on 20 pods randomly chosen from five plants at each sampling plot
148 (80 pods per field). Weight of 100 seeds from randomly selected pods was
149 measured three times per sampling plot. Yield was measured as total seed
150 weight per plant. It was calculated at the plot level as pods per plant * mean
151 seeds per pod * mean seed weight. We estimated total crop yield as weight of
152 seed obtained per plant, because it integrates fruit and seed set.

153

154 **Statistical analysis:** First, we identified bundles of above- and below-ground
155 variables potentially affecting yield (analogous to the approach by Raudsepp-
156 Hearne et al. 2010). We ran a K-means cluster analysis on the 15 fields, to
157 identify bundle types, and visualized the results using star plots. Visitation of
158 each pollinator guild, total pest abundance and the three soil properties
159 measured (pH, SOC, and soil texture measured as clay % and sand %) were
160 included in the analysis. We only used one data point per site and variable
161 measured by summing the total number of visits per pollinator guild, or total
162 number of pests across plots and sampling rounds per site. All variables were
163 scaled beforehand to allow meaningful comparisons among variables with
164 different units. The K-means algorithm identifies groupings of observations with
165 similar levels of the included variables. A four-cluster solution was selected to
166 perform the K-means algorithm following a visual assessment of within group
167 sums of squares by number of clusters extracted (**Fig. S1** in Supplementary
168 Information). To understand if the clusters of sites with similar levels of above-
169 and below-ground variables are correlated with the landscape structure, we
170 tested if cluster identity is explained by the percentage of agricultural land in the
171 surrounding landscape. We present results for an intermediate scale with a
172 1500m landscape buffer, but results were qualitatively equal at any radius
173 ranging from 250m to 3km.

174

175 Furthermore, we explored at which landscape scale each variable individually
176 responded to the percentage of arable land. Each variable was regressed against
177 percentage agricultural land at increasing radius ranging from 250m to 3km. The
178 most explanatory radius was selected based on maximized r^2 values.

179

180 In addition, we present in the supplementary information pairwise Pearson
181 correlations among all factors measured ([Text S1](#), [Table S1](#)) and a principal
182 component analysis (PCA; [Fig. S2](#)) which defines an orthogonal coordinate
183 system that optimally describes the variance in our data and that was used to
184 visually represent synergies and trade-offs among the variables.

185 Second, we assessed the influence of the above- and below-ground factors on
186 crop yield. We used general mixed effects models with crop yield per plant as the
187 response variable and total pollinator visits, pest levels and soil properties as
188 predictors. For each soil property investigated, we used one estimate per field.
189 We pooled all pollinator visits per site; pollinators move freely among plants, and
190 the total visitation abundance in a field is a relevant measure to relate to yield.
191 To avoid over-parametrization of the statistical models, we pooled all guilds and
192 analyzed total visitation because it is a good proxy of pollination ([Vazquez et al.](#)
193 [2005](#), [Garibaldi et al. 2013](#)). We used pollen beetle counts per plot because
194 pollen beetles are less mobile and can be patchily distributed ([Williams and](#)
195 [Ferguson 2010](#)). Finally, we measured the yield from five plants in each plot.
196 Hence, in all models, “plot” nested within “field” were included as random factor.
197 The full model included the total pollinator visits, the pest counts per plot, and
198 the three soil properties (pH, SOC and clay percent as a measure of texture). We
199 included all pairwise interactions and selected the best models based on AICc
200 ([Burnham and Anderson 2002](#)) using the *dredge* function in package MuMin
201 ([Barton 2013](#)). We averaged among models within 2 AICc points. All variables
202 were centered beforehand to enhance interpretability of the interactions

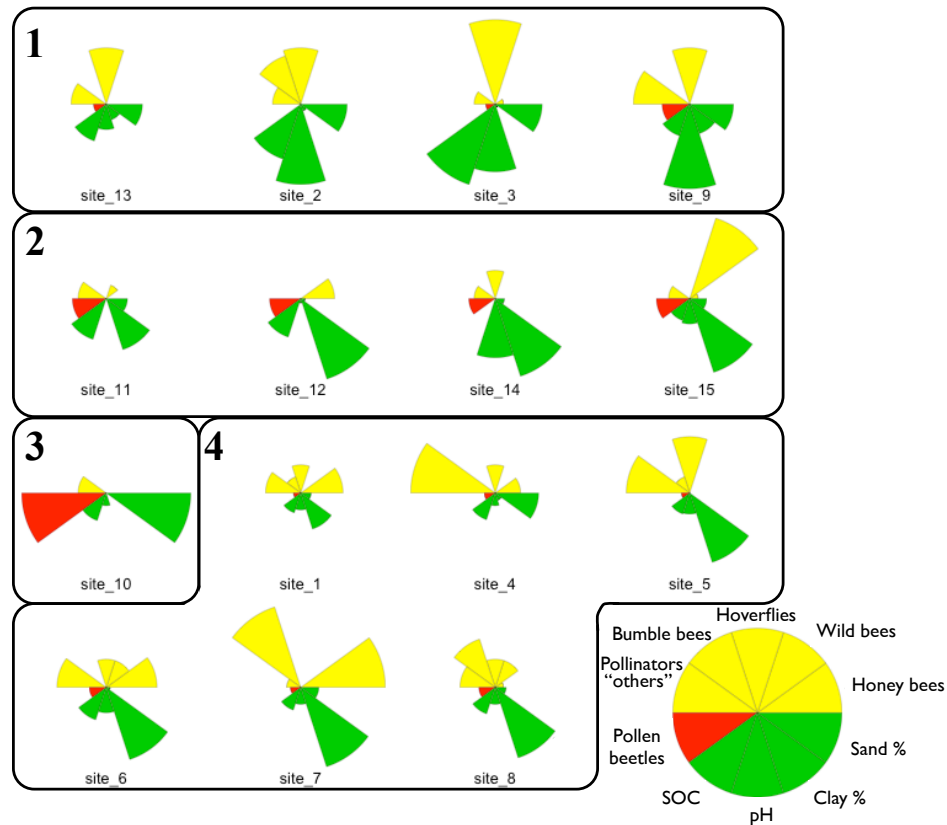
203 (Cleasby and Nakagawa 2011). All models were visually inspected for normality
204 of errors and heteroscedasticity. We checked for collinearity in the models by
205 estimating the variance inflation factors (VIF). All VIFs were below 3, hence,
206 there was no strong collinearity in the models. All analyses were done in R, using
207 the base package and nlme (Pinheiro 2014).

208 **Results:**

209 The solution with four clusters was selected as it maximized the variance
210 explained (Fig. S1). However, the other solutions provided qualitatively similar
211 results. The first cluster contained four sites, and was characterized by having
212 lots of hoverflies and high percent of SOC and pH. The second cluster comprised
213 four sites characterized by moderate levels of pests and honeybees, and also wild
214 bees and clay soils. The third cluster was formed by only one site with very high
215 levels of the pest and low pollinator levels. Last, the fourth cluster was comprised
216 by 6 sites, with abundant honey bees and bumble bees, and also dominated by
217 clay soils (Fig. 1).

218

219 **Fig 1.** Star diagrams of all 15 sites, showing the 4 clusters of
220 above- and below-ground process identified by the K-means
221 analysis.

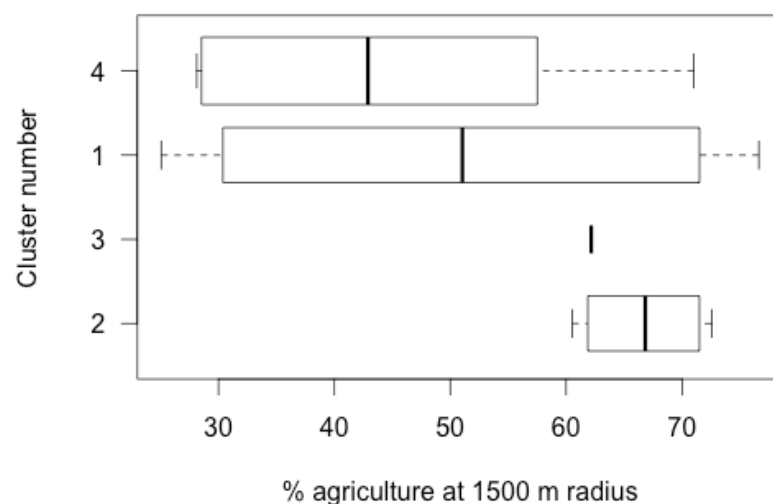


222

223 Clusters were not explained by landscape structure at any scale (for 1500m
224 radius: $F_{3,11} = 1.3$, $p = 0.3$), but cluster number two, comprising four sites, was
225 associated with landscapes with a large percentage of agriculture, while the
226 other two clusters with multiple fields were spread along the agricultural %
227 gradient (Fig. 2). To further explore this disconnection between the bundles
228 observed and the landscape structure, we investigated at which scale each
229 variable responded. As expected, pollinators in general responded negatively to
230 percent of agriculture in the landscape (estimate of total pollinator visits at 3000
231 m radius = -0.07 ± 0.03 , $p = 0.03$), but guilds responded at contrasting scales;

232 with wild bees responding at very small radius (250 m), while bumblebees and
233 honeybees responded at radii up to 2.5 - 3 km (Fig. 3a). Overall, total pollinator
234 visits response peaked at 3 km radius because honeybees and bumblebees are
235 more abundant than the wild bees. Pollen beetles responded positively to
236 percent agriculture at a scale of 2.5 km (Fig. 3b), but the trend is not significant
237 (estimate = 4.1 ± 2.29 , $p = 0.09$). None of the soil properties was significantly
238 affected by the percentage of arable land at any scale (Fig. 3c; all models $p > 0.2$).

239 **Fig 2.** Relationship between the 4 bundles identified by the
240 cluster analysis and the percentage of agriculture in the
241 landscape. Although cluster 2 is associated with more
242 agricultural areas, there is no overall pattern relating those
243 bundles to the underlying landscape structure.

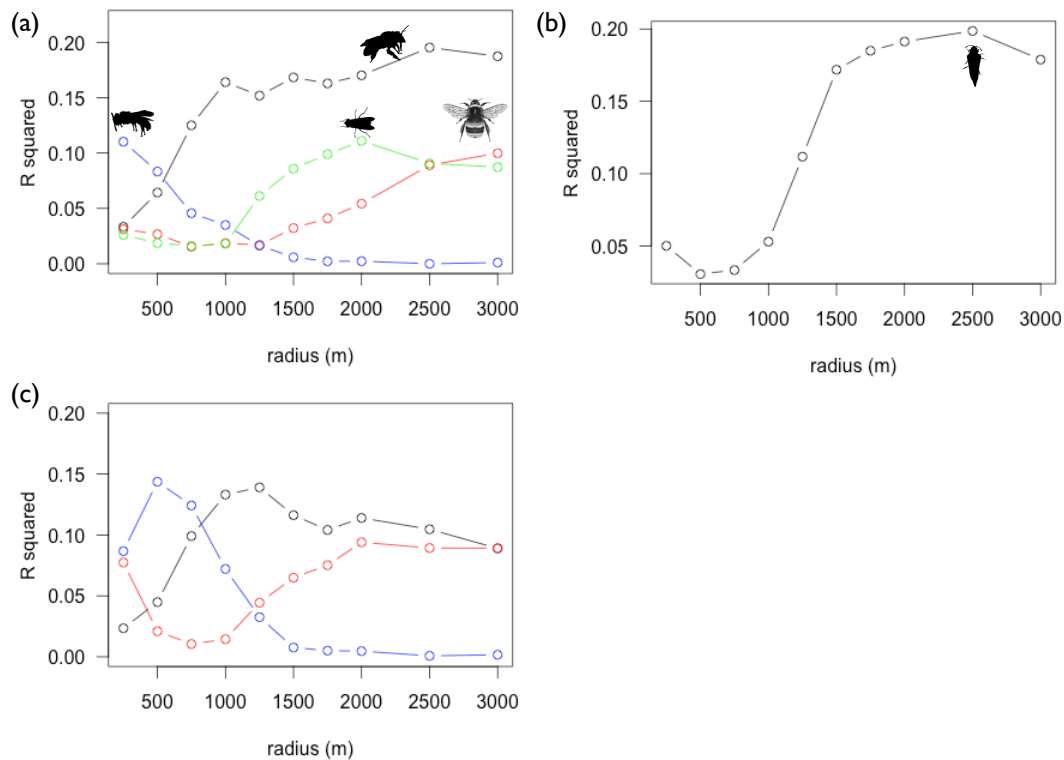


244

245 The PCA reflected the clustering pattern and showed that overall, sites with
246 lower pest levels tended to have more pollinators, and that those variables are

247 independent of soil properties (**Fig. S2**).

248 **Fig 3.** Explanatory power of percent of agriculture in the
249 landscape at different scales for A) Pollinators (honey bee in
250 black, wild bees in blue, bumble bees in red and hoverflies in
251 green), B) Pollen beetles and C) Soil properties (Total organic
252 carbon in Black, pH in red and % clay in blue).

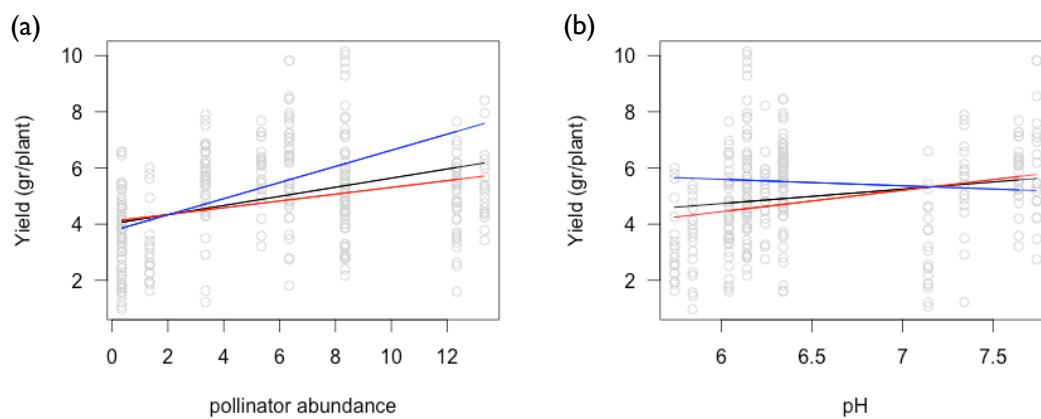


253

254 When analyzing the effect on yield, we found seven models within two AICc
255 points (**Table S2**) with pollinators, pH and pests retained in most models. The
256 averaged model (**Table 1**) shows that pollinators are positively correlated with
257 yield and that there is an interaction with the pest, such that at high pest
258 numbers, the relationship with pollinators is steeper (**Fig. 5a**). This interaction

259 should be interpreted with care, given that there are few data points with high
 260 levels of both, because they are weakly, but negatively correlated (VIF < 3).
 261 Interestingly, pH only had a positive effect on yield when pest levels were low,
 262 but at high pest levels, the relationship disappears (Fig. 5b). The best model
 263 marginal r^2 is 0.20, while the conditional r^2 is 0.55 (Nakagawa 2013).

264 **Fig4.** Relationship of A) pollinators and b) pH with yield. Black
 265 lines are estimate predictions for the average level of pests. Red
 266 lines are predictions for low and blue lines for high levels of
 267 pests respectively.



268

269 **Table 1:** Model-averaged coefficients of the model predicting
 270 oilseed rape yield. The relative importance indicates the
 271 proportion of models containing each predictor, being
 272 “Pollinators” the only variables retained in all models.

Relative variable importance	Estimates	Std. Error	z-value	p-value
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Pests	0.34	0.01	0.01	1.2	0.23
pH	0.79	0.65	0.39	1.53	0.13
Pollinators	1	0.16	0.06	2.33	0.02
Pests*pH	0.23	-0.02	0.02	2.09	0.04
Pests*Pollinators	0.23	0.004	0.002	2.09	0.04
SOC	0.23	0.46	0.39	1.05	0.29
pH*Pollinators	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.72	0.47

273

274 **Discussion:**

275 Crop yield is shaped by combinations of biotic and abiotic factors. Identifying the
276 main above- and below-ground factors for assuring high yield requires an
277 examination of how they naturally co-vary in the landscape, as well as a
278 simultaneous estimation of several potential drivers. We show that pollination,
279 pest levels and soil properties (mainly soil pH) are key factors for winter oilseed
280 rape yield formation. Although these have been independently identified as
281 important for yield formation in a number of crops (Garibaldi et al. 2013, Oerke
282 et al. 2006, Dick 1992), their individual correlations with yield are usually low.
283 For instance, even if there is a robust general trend of increasing yield with
284 increasing pollinator visitation there is a great deal of unexplained variation
285 (Garibaldi et al. 2013), and sites with similar pollinator levels often differ
286 substantially in yield. Studies addressing several ecosystem services and abiotic
287 factors simultaneously have the potential to explain more of this variation.
288 Importantly, we show that such factors can interact, thereby modifying the

289 outcome of the main effects. Hence, our study adds to recent experimental
290 evidence that the response of yield to one factor or resource such as pollination
291 depend on other variables such as pest control levels, and that their effects are
292 not additively contributing to yield (Lundin et al. 2013). However, in our dataset,
293 even after accounting for pollinator visits, pest attack rates and several soil
294 properties, the fixed factors predicts only a 20 % of the variance, while the
295 random factors associated with unmeasured field variables explain up to 55%.

296 We identified four bundle types among our explanatory variables, indicating that
297 certain variables tend to occur together (e.g., honey bees, bumble bees and clay
298 soils in cluster 4). However, these are not predicted from the landscape
299 characteristics in which the target fields were embedded. More generally, pollen
300 beetles and the most abundant pollinators (i.e., honey bees and bumble bees)
301 naturally co-varied negatively with each other. This negative correlation
302 between pollen beetles and pollinators is partially explained by the landscape
303 analysis, as both respond to percent of arable land at similar large scales, but in
304 opposite directions. One explanation for this pattern is that pollinators respond
305 positively to an increased amount of feeding and nesting resources in complex
306 landscapes (Kennedy et al. 2013), and that pollen beetle abundances are lowered
307 by natural enemies that also are benefited by such landscapes (Chaplin-Kramer
308 et al. 2011). However, given that pollen beetles feed on flower buds and are still
309 active on flowers during the pollination period, they can also have a direct effect
310 by deterring pollinators from heavily infested fields. Interestingly, we show an
311 interaction between pollen beetles and pollinators. Contrary to expected, at the
312 same pollinator visits level, the pollinators' positive effect on yield is higher

313 when abundances of pollen beetles are high. Hence, rather than pollen beetles
314 lowering the visitation efficiency (e.g., by reducing pollen availability) or directly
315 damage the plant (e.g., increasing fruit abortion rates; Alford et al. 2003), it
316 seems that the observed pollen beetle damage to buds may result in considerable
317 compensatory growth by oilseed rape. For example, it has been reported that
318 moderate feeding damage to the terminal raceme leads to increased production
319 of new side racemes (Williams and Free 1979, Tatchell 1983, Lerin 1987, Axelsen
320 and Nielsen 1990). It is interesting that this compensatory growth is only
321 beneficial under high pollination, and may indicate that the benefit may only
322 arise if this newly produced branches are well pollinated.

323 We also show that soil properties vary across sites, independently to the
324 proportion arable land in the landscape. Soil pH seems to be the most important
325 soil factor explaining yield in our analyses. Interestingly, the positive effect of soil
326 pH on yield is only detectable at low pest levels. This implies that at high pest
327 levels, the benefits from increasing pH and thereby soil fertility are not
328 translated into increased yield, but may instead be lost to pest damage or
329 invested into plant defenses. In fact, soil fertility can increase plant defenses
330 (Coley et al. 1985) and we found that fields with a high pH tended to have rather
331 low pest levels. This pattern was weak, but was found both in the cluster analysis
332 and in the PCA ([Fig. S2](#)).

333 Surprisingly, soil texture (i.e., proportion clay), which is positively related to
334 water retention and nutrient exchange capacity, was not retained in any of the
335 best models explaining yield. This indicates that water was probably not a
336 limiting factor in this year and region. However, clay contents variable may be

337 important in years with low precipitation, and for other climatic regions or crops
338 (see Boreaux et al. 2013, Klein et al. 2014).

339 As expected, soil properties were not affected by the percent of arable land in the
340 surrounding landscape (Williams et al. 2013), and hence they co-vary
341 independently with pollination and pests. This implies that management
342 practices to sustain yield are needed both at the field as well as in the wider
343 surrounding landscape. Few studies have simultaneously considered effects of
344 local (on field) and landscape scale land use on multiple ecosystem functions
345 (Bianchi et al. 2006).

346 Our results support recent claims that interactions among ecosystem services
347 are to be expected, but the importance of the key above- and below-ground
348 variables affecting yield and their interactive effects are likely to be crop specific
349 and to vary between sites and years. For example, the degree of plant
350 dependency on pollinators will determine the potential benefit that can be
351 achieved by pollinators. However, even in plants with high rates of self-
352 pollination, yield quality is enhanced with insect pollination (Bartomeus et al.
353 2014). Herbivores that affect the reproductive parts of the plant, such as seed
354 weevils (Lundin et al. 2013) or pollen beetles (this study) are more likely to
355 directly interact with the benefits from pollination. Herbivore plant suckers or
356 defoliators can be nutrient sinks that affect fruit formation, even when sufficient
357 pollination is achieved (Bos et al. 2007). Plant species-specific pathways to
358 absorb, assimilate and mobilize nutrients will determine how above- and below-
359 ground factors interact. For example, coffee plantations can trigger one or two
360 flowering peaks a year clearly affecting pollinator responses, and this depends

361 on nutrient and water availability (Boreaux et al. 2013). More studies on a
362 variety of cropping systems and ecosystems including abiotic and biotic
363 variables are needed in order to reach any generality.

364 The strength and shape of the relationships between different above- and below-
365 ground processes is poorly known. This is partly because we lack information
366 about synergies and trade-offs in the management of multiple processes. We
367 show that interactions between biotic and abiotic factors can give rise to scale-
368 dependent synergies when managing multiple ecosystem services. Hence, both
369 above-ground biotic interactions regulated at large scales and below-ground
370 abiotic factors managed at local scales interact to form crop yield.

371 Data analyzed: uploaded as online supporting information

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534 conventional and organic arable fields along a gradient of landscape
535 heterogeneity in southern Sweden. *Applied Soil Ecology*, **65**, 1–7.

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538 **Supplementary Information**

539 **Text S1: Correlation among variables.**

540 Pearson correlations among the pairwise variables studied are usually low with some exceptions.

541 Among the pollinators, honey bees and bumble bees were positively correlated ($r = 0.47$, $p = 0.07$).

542 Similarly, some belowground properties are correlated. As expected, sand and clay percent are

543 negatively correlated ($r = -0.85$, $p < 0.001$) and SOC is negatively correlated with clay percent ($r = -$

544 0.54 , $p = 0.04$). Moreover, hoverflies are correlated with several soil properties (SOC $r = 0.50$, $p =$

545 0.06 ; pH $r = 0.69$, $p = 0.004$; Clay $= -0.47$, $p = 0.08$) and with pest levels ($r = 0.54$, $p = 0.04$). Finally,

546 pests are correlated with sand percent ($r = 0.48$, $p = 0.06$).

547 The first two axes of the PCA explained together 55% of the variance (31% and 24% respectively; Fig.

548 S2), with subsequent axes explaining less than 15% each. We found a trade-off between pests and

549 pollinators, with sites with lower pest levels (loadings on second axes = -0.76), having more pollinators

550 (loadings in second axes honeybees = 0.63 and bumblebees = 0.62). The less abundant wild bees and

551 hoverflies are independent of honeybee and bumblebee visits, and co-vary in opposite directions among

552 them (loadings in first axes = -0.49 and 0.93 , respectively). This uncoupled responses among

553 pollinators is the base for a possible biodiversity insurance against environmental fluctuations. Along

554 the first axes, total organic carbon and pH correlate well (loadings on first axes = 0.61 and 0.72

555 respectively) and partially sand content (loading in first axes = 0.34 , but also -0.79 in second axes). As

556 expected, clay content follows an opposite trend as sand content (loading in first axes = -0.64 , but 0.63

557 in second axes).

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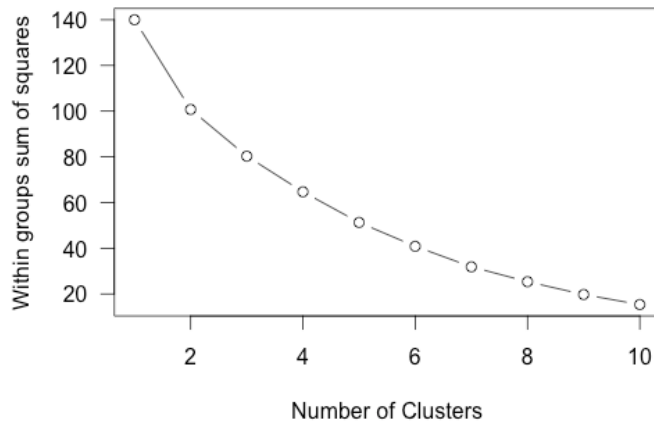
560 **Table S1.** Full correlation table, upper triangle has the p-values, lower triangle the Pearson r correlation
 561 values.

562		A.mellifera	Wild bees	Syrphids	Bombus	Other	M.aeneus
563	A.mellifera	1.00	0.88	0.16	0.07	0.59	0.34
564	Wild bees	-0.04	1.00	0.19	0.72	0.66	0.65
565	Syrphids	-0.37	-0.35	1.00	0.75	0.20	0.03
566	Bombus	0.47	-0.10	-0.08	1.00	0.47	0.15
567	Other	-0.15	-0.12	0.34	-0.20	1.00	0.41
568	M.aeneus	-0.26	0.12	-0.54	-0.38	-0.22	1.00
569	SOC	-0.14	-0.15	0.49	-0.04	-0.16	-0.19
570	pH	-0.34	-0.17	0.69	0.01	0.03	-0.26
571	Clay percent	0.38	0.39	-0.47	0.21	-0.29	-0.09
572	Sand percent	-0.35	-0.26	0.15	-0.13	0.09	0.48
573		SOC	pH	Clay percent	Sand percent		
574	A.mellifera	0.60	0.20	0.16	0.20		
575	Wild bees	0.58	0.54	0.14	0.34		
576	Syrphids	0.05	0.00	0.07	0.57		
577	Bombus	0.86	0.96	0.43	0.61		
578	Other	0.55	0.90	0.27	0.73		
579	M.aeneus	0.48	0.33	0.73	0.06		
580	SOC	1.00	0.24	0.03	0.16		
581	pH	0.32	1.00	0.22	0.31		
582	Clay percent	-0.53	-0.33	1.00	0.01		
583	Sand percent	0.38	0.28	-0.85	1.00		
584							

585 **Table S2.** Complete list of models within 2 AICc points

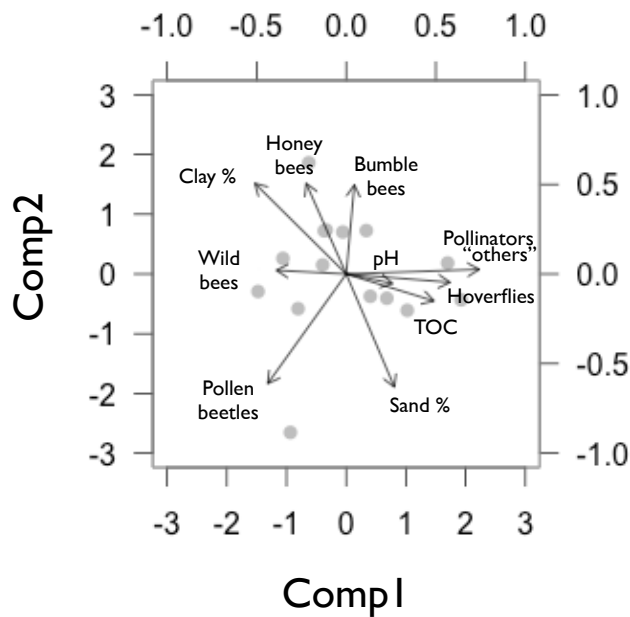
586	(Int)	pest	pH	pollinators	SOC	pest:pH	pest:pol	pH:pol	df	logLik	AICc	delta	weight
587	1551	5.12	0.013	0.48	0.22	-0.022	0.004		9	-543.199	1105.0	0.00	0.230
588	13	4.95		0.69	0.14				6	-546.411	1105.1	0.09	0.219
589	29	4.95		0.59	0.15	0.37			7	-545.928	1106.2	1.23	0.125
590	15	4.95	0.004	0.77	0.16				7	-546.063	1106.5	1.49	0.109
591	9	4.93			0.13				5	-548.163	1106.5	1.52	0.108
592	4109	4.99		0.87	0.17			0.11	7	-546.086	1106.5	1.54	0.107
593	25	4.94			0.14	0.56			6	-547.172	1106.6	1.62	0.102
594													

595 **Fig. S1:** Scree plot showing the within groups sum of squares as a function of the number of clusters
596 selected.



597

598 **Fig. S2.** First two axes of the principal component analysis. PCA loadings: Honey bee (PC1 = -0.28,
599 PC2 = 0.63), Wild bees (PC1 = -0.49 , PC2 = 0.03), Hoverflies (PC1 = 0.93 , PC2 = 0.03), Bumble
600 bees (PC1 = 0.06 , PC2 = 0.62), Other pollinators (PC1 = 0.32 , PC2 = -0.07), Pollen beetles (PC1 = -
601 0.55 , PC2 = -0.76), SOC (PC1 = 0.61 , PC2 = -0.19), pH (PC1 = 0.72 , PC2 = -0.06), Clay percent
602 (PC1 = -0.64 , PC2 = 0.63), Sand percent (PC1 = 0.34 , PC2 = -0.79).



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