

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND LANDSCAPE LEVEL FACTORS IN DETERMINING BUMBLEBEE ABUNDANCE AND RICHNESS*

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Wild bees are important contributors to the pollination ecosystem service, but they are especially vulnerable to agricultural intensification which causes the loss and fragmentation of natural habitats. We monitored bumblebee populations (*Bombus* spp.) in 14 grassland patches incorporated into the agricultural habitat mosaic in the Mezőföld region, Hungary. We asked how bumblebee populations were affected by local vegetation quality and the presence of various landscape elements, including fields in agri-environmental schemes, at various spatial scales. A stratified analysis revealed that vegetation quality, especially the lack of weeds, was the most important local factor that positively affected both bumblebee abundance and species number. We found no significant landscape scale effects between 50–250 m. Between 500–1000 m grassland area in the landscape had consistently significant positive effect on species richness. At the 2 km scale the extent of arable fields had a negative impact on both abundance and richness. A higher percentage area of arable fields in the landscape participating in agri-environmental schemes had no positive effect on bumblebee abundance or species richness. Considering all local and landscape effects and their possible interactions, model selection and variance partitioning revealed that local factors were the most important determinants of bumblebee richness and abundance. Local and landscape factors had high shared variance but did not interact with each other. The present study indicated that small scale landscape composition had the lowest importance, but larger scale landscape composition was significant, most likely because bumblebees can forage far from their nests. If we are able to provide good quality grassland patches incorporated into the agricultural habitat mosaic, then we can build on the strong spill over propensity of bumblebees and can expect their contribution to the pollination of various crops.

Key words: *Bombus*, pollination, landscape complexity, grassland, agri-environmental scheme

INTRODUCTION

From the second part of the 20th century, the intensification of agricultural production became higher than ever before. The intensive agricultural

* This paper is dedicated to Prof. László Papp, in honor of his 70th birthday and his outstanding contribution to the fields of dipteran taxonomy and ecology.

management resulted in general biodiversity decline in Europe (DE HEER *et al.* 2005), leading to a decrease in the level of ecosystem services including pollination (MURRAY *et al.* 2009). The landscape change and fragmentation of habitats through agricultural intensification created structurally poor landscapes (TILMAN *et al.* 2001), and these affected the diversity and abundance of pollinators, especially wild bees (BIESMEIJER *et al.* 2006, GOULSON *et al.* 2010, KREMEN *et al.* 2002, POTTS *et al.* 2010, STEFFAN-DEWENTER *et al.* 2005).

Pollination is an important ecosystem service, provided primarily by bees, which pollinate roughly two-third of the world's crop species (BIESMEIJER *et al.* 2006, KLEIN *et al.* 2007). It has been shown that wild bees are relevant for crop productivity even when honey bees are abundant. Wild insects often pollinate crops more effectively than honey bees, but the two groups of bees also synergistically interact with each other (BRITAIN *et al.* 2013, HOEHN *et al.* 2008). Increasing visitation rate by wild bees overall enhances fruit set (GARIBALDI *et al.* 2013). However, pollination service showed a very serious decline over the past two decades (KREMEN *et al.* 2002), with the winter colony loss in honey bees (VAN DER ZEE *et al.* 2012) leading to a pollination crisis (KEARNS *et al.* 1998, SÁROSPATAKI *et al.* 2005, STEFFAN-DEWENTER *et al.* 2005). The decline in wild bees, especially bumblebees, as compared to honeybees, can be regarded as even more serious, because these species are more specialised and their small families cannot buffer against adverse environmental effects (FITZPATRICK *et al.* 2007). Since 1980, wild bee diversity has declined in most landscapes (BIESMEIJER *et al.* 2006, NIETO *et al.* 2014). In the present study our study objects were bumblebee assemblages [*Bombus* (Latreille, 1802) spp., Apidae, Hymenoptera] of grassland patches incorporated in the agricultural habitat mosaic.

The loss of natural and semi-natural habitats can be identified as major drivers of wild bee declines. Particularly the loss of flower-rich, semi-natural landscape elements in farmland, such as field margins, diverse meadows and arable weeds in crops contribute to this process (KENNEDY *et al.* 2013, TSCHARNTKE *et al.* 2005). At field level, the increase in the amount of fertilizers applied to arable fields led to a strong decline in species diversity and flower richness within the managed fields (KLEIJN *et al.* 2009, KOVÁCS-HOSTYÁNSZKI *et al.* 2011) and in semi-natural habitats adjacent to fertilized fields (BAKKER & BERENDSE 1999). Thus, flower rich natural habitats are crucial for the preservation of bumblebee populations at various scales. Insecticide usage was also demonstrated to strongly negatively impact pollinators in and around intensively managed fields (CRESSWELL 2011, RORTAIS *et al.* 2005). Agri-environmental schemes (AES) are aimed to mitigate the above effects by subsidizing the maintenance of semi-natural landscape elements and also the implementation of less intensive management schemes (PRIMDAHL *et al.* 2003, SAMU *et al.* 2010).

We conducted our study in the Mezőföld region, where natural and semi-natural grassland patches of variable vegetation quality are embedded

in either smaller or larger semi-natural habitat complexes surrounded by arable fields. We have built four basic hypotheses concerning the effect of local and landscape level factors on bumblebee assemblages. (i) We hypothesised that bumblebee abundance and species richness would be affected by local vegetation quality, expecting higher bumblebee abundance and species richness where vegetation species richness is higher and disturbance is lower. (ii) Secondly, we hypothesised that the ratio of various landscape elements, including AES fields, would affect bumblebee populations. We expected that landscapes richer in grasslands could maintain more species and more abundant bumblebee assemblages. (iii) Thirdly, we hypothesised that landscape effects act differently at different ranges, expecting them to be stronger at shorter distances than at longer distances. (iv) Finally, we hypothesised that the overall contribution of local and landscape effects is roughly equal and that they also interact with each other. We expected a positive interaction, resulting in disproportionately more bumblebees if both local and landscape scale factors are favourable.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study area

Our research was conducted at 14 study sites, each consisting of a grassland patch, in the Mezőföld region, Hungary. The Mezőföld, laying west to the river Danube, is an elevated loess plateau of the average height of 150 m a.s.l. During ice age valleys eroded into the plateau. Nowadays, due to favourable soil conditions, the plateau is largely arable area, but the valleys can be less effectively managed, and these areas preserved natural, semi-natural habitat complexes, consisting of various grassy areas (pastures, hay meadows, unmanaged grasslands), forested patches, shrubby areas. The studied grassland patches were part of such smaller or larger natural, semi-natural habitat complexes, valleys. We selected grasslands either in larger (> 50 ha), or in small valleys (< 30 ha). The former made the grasslands to be part of a complex landscape situation, while latter meant that the grassland was in a more isolated situation, largely surrounded by arable fields. The studied grasslands were always at a peripheral position within the valleys and had a common border with an adjacent arable field. Bumblebees were collected in the interior of the grassland patches and along the edge to the field separately. Locality data about the sites is given in Table 1 and in Electronic Appendix.

Sampling methods and description of the environment

Bumblebees were collected using yellow funnel traps (SÖDERMAN *et al.* 1997) of the design described by SUBCHEV *et al.* (2004) (VarL type traps, CSALOMON®, Budapest, Hungary). Traps were baited by anethol-eugenol 9:1 lure to attract bumblebees (HAMILTON *et al.* 1970). Killing material in the traps was 70% ethylene-glycol. The traps were placed at 1.2 m height, either using natural support (e.g. lower branch of a tree) or wooden poles. Traps were operated for approximately two week periods in June 2011 and 2012 (21 June–5 July

Table 1. Locality data of studied grassland patches (sites). Grassland patches were part of larger natural, semi-natural habitat complexes, valleys. Grasslands being part of a large valley (>50 ha) were categorised as being in a complex landscape situation, those in small valleys (<30 ha) as being in an isolated landscape situation. Grasslands were loess steppe patches with various degree of xerophilic character.

Site code	Settlement	Land-scape situation	Loess steppe type	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Area of natural complex (ha)	Area of grassland patch (ha)
aszalvolgy_i	Székesfehérvár	isolated	mesophile	47°14'28.51"	18°26'16.95"	0.5	0.50
aszalvolgy_k	Székesfehérvár	complex	xeromesophile	47°14'40.38"	18°25'41.14"	136.0	0.22
bbarand_k	Aba	complex	xeromesophile	47°6'25.05"	18°32'16.22"	331.0	0.61
bbarandkazarl_i	Aba	isolated	mesophile	47°6'55.91"	18°31'13.86"	27.1	2.36
deg_i	Dég	complex	xeromesophile	46°50'35.37"	18°25'22.98"	50.4	0.27
eloszallas_k	Előszállás	complex	xerophile	46°49'18.85"	18°48'24.46"	143.6	1.28
igarbozotp_k	Igar	complex	mesophile	46°47'17.21"	18°30'19.14"	102.7	0.27
igarmezsgye_k	Igar	complex	mesophile	46°47'18.54"	18°32'2.29"	89.9	0.33
mezoszil_i	Mezőszilas	isolated	mesophile	46°47'16.00"	18°28'18.47"	35.4	0.38
sarbog_anna_i	Sárbogárd	isolated	xeromesophile	46°55'27.13"	18°39'0.12"	5.2	0.20
sarbog_foldv_k	Sárbogárd	complex	xeromesophile	46°54'54.89"	18°39'17.01"	64.8	0.36
seregelyes_i	Seregélyes	isolated	xeromesophile	47°7'40.25"	18°32'36.92"	27.3	0.29
vertesacsa_k	Vértessacsa	complex	xerophile	47°23'27.55"	18°33'48.88"	144.1	0.53
vertesboglar_i	Vértessogárd	isolated	xerophile	47°24'47.65"	18°31'48.19"	23.9	0.27

2011; 11–26 June 2012). We placed three traps in a transect with approximately 30 m between traps. There were two transects within a site, one in the interior of the grassland and one along the edge. In addition to trapping bees, in 2012 on three occasions (on the days of setting and collecting the traps and at an additional date between 18–20 July 2012) we performed 5 minutes long search walks in the vicinity of the traps, amounting to 6 walks per grassland patch per occasion, during which any spotted bumblebee was collected by insect net. All bees collected were conserved in ethanol (70%). Species identification took place in the laboratory.

Local botanical and relief characteristics of the grasslands both in the interior and at the edge were surveyed. Botanical survey was conducted in 2×2 m botanical quadrates at six locations at each site, each quadrate being in the few meter vicinity to actual trapping locations, selected as being representative of the vegetation around the trap. All derived botanical variables were originated from species percentage cover estimation within the quadrates. In assessing weediness we considered as weeds the following species: *Agropyron repens*, *Apera spica-venti*, *Ballota nigra*, *Calamagrostis epigeios*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Carduus acanthoides*, *Chenopodium* spp., *Consolida regalis*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Marrubium peregrinum*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Urtica dioica*.

We also determined the landscape composition by digitising it from aerial photographs within a circle of 2000 m in radius from the middle of the grassland patch. The percentage areas of three main habitat types (grasslands, wooded areas and arable land) was documented at seven spatial scales, in circles of the following radii (m): 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 2000. At the same scales we also documented the percentage area of arable fields taking part in basic AES programmes (reduced input fields), organic arable fields and orchards taking part in AES programmes.

Statistical analyses

We conducted statistical analyses to discover local and landscape level factors that affect bumblebee species number and abundance. In spite of our sampling efforts, only relatively low numbers of bumblebees were collected. Therefore, we summarised our data at each study site (keeping edge and interior positions separate), across the two years, the three traps in the transect and collection methods. The two response variables, number of bumblebee species and total number of bumblebee individuals, were \log_{10} transformed to achieve normality. Analyses were performed employing three approaches.

Basic approach. In the first approach we considered landscape situation of the grasslands (levels: complex or isolated) and position within grassland (levels: interior or edge) in a General Linear Mixed Model (GLMM), which included study site as random variable.

Stratified approach. In a second approach a stratified, more detailed, GLMM analysis was applied, to discover the concrete factors that potentially influence bumblebee abundance and richness at local and at landscape level. Similarly to the previous approach, dependency among samples from the same study site was taken into account by including site as random factor into the models. To find the best models we applied backward variable elimination. Starting from a full model at each step we excluded the variable that had the highest P value, and then assessed whether the reduced model resulted in a drop in BIC (Bayes Information Criterion). We repeated variable elimination until a decrease in BIC was possible. The choice of BIC (as opposed to Akaike's information criterion or F statistics) as a criterion for comparing models is regarded more parsimonious in terms of

the number of final variables, however, in real-life ecological data this choice rarely makes significant difference (MURTAUGH 2009).

To make a stratified analysis, variables were classified according to their scope as being either local, or describing spatiality, or giving landscape level habitat composition. A complete list of variables and their description is given in Table 2. Local variables were separately established for the interior part and the edges of the grassland patches.

During the stratified model selection we first built a model from local variables. Prior to defining the full model, we studied the correlation structure among the local variables, and found that four variables: naturalness, weediness, plant species richness and distur-

Table 2. Description of local, spatial and landscape variables used in the analyses.

type	variable	description
local	xerophile	degree of xerophily: xerophile, xero-mesophile, mesophile
	naturalness	naturalness of vegetation, 5 levels
	physiognomy	degree of stratification of the vegetation, 4 levels
	vegetation height	mean height of vegetation (cm)
	grassland cover	% area covered
	shrub dominance	dominance of shrubs, 7 levels
	species richness	plant species richness, 8 levels
	weediness	cover by weed species, 7 levels
	disturbance	intensity of disturbance, e.g. mowing, 3 levels
	slope	slope in degrees
southern	degree of southern exposition	
spatial	x	longitude, according to Hungarian coordinate system, EOV
	y	latitude, EOV
	x ²	x ²
	y ²	y ²
	xy	xy
land- scape	arable	% area of arable land, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii
	grassland	% area of grassland, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii
	wooded	% area of wooded areas, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii
	arable AES	% area of arable land in AES scheme, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii
	arable organic	% area of organic arable land, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii
	orchard AES	% area of orchard in AES scheme, within circles of 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000 and 2000 m of radii

bance were highly correlated (see Appendix 1), constituting the “naturalness variable group”. Correlations with the response variables were the highest for weediness, plus this had the most acceptable distribution after logarithm transformation, therefore out of the naturalness variable group we entered only weediness into the full model. Grassland cover was also excluded, because it was 100% at 13 grasslands and 95% at one grassland. When the best local model was reached, its significant variables were included in all models in the next stages of the stratified model selection.

In the next stage of the stratified model selection, in order to control for any broad pattern arising from spatiality (e.g. regional gradients), we applied a simple trend-surface analysis. This was done by including x , y geographical coordinates up to their quadratic polynomials into the full model (BORCARD *et al.* 2011) besides any local variables inherited from the previous stage. Applying model selection, if the final model included significant spatial variable, then that was included in the third stage models.

In the third stage of the stratified procedure we included landscape level variables additionally to variables inherited from previous stages. This was done separately for each spatial scale, thus we were able to select a model for each spatial scale at the landscape level. Details, including selected variables, parameter estimates, test statistics and their significance along with model goodness of fit are listed for each model, identified by model number in square brackets, in Appendix 2.

Partitioning approach. In the third approach we wanted to reveal what was the relative contribution of local and landscape variables in shaping bumblebee communities and whether there was any interaction between them. Since we had a high number of variables both at the local and at the landscape level, we ran Principal Component Analyses (PCA) separately on local and landscape level variables. In the former we included all local variables, including all four variables of the naturalness variable group, while in the latter we considered all spatial scales in a single PCA analysis. For both response variables (species richness and abundance) we included the first two PCA axes for the local and for the landscape level PCAs and the interaction term between local PCA axis 1 and landscape level PCA axis 1 and the random term site into the full model (GLMM). To arrive to the final models we applied the above described backward variable elimination model selection procedure. By eliminating either both local PCA variables or both landscape PCA variables or the single interaction term, we have also performed a variation partitioning. In variation partitioning we applied the method of MAC NALLY (1996), whereby the unique proportion of a variable was assessed by the change in R^2 when that variable was removed from the full model, overall contribution is assessed by entering only the variable of interest, and shared contribution is derived by subtraction of the unique from overall contribution.

Significance is mentioned in the Results if $P < 0.05$, whereas exact P values are given in Appendix 2. Statistical analyses were carried out using the statistical software JMP version 6.0 (SAS INSTITUTE 2005).

RESULTS

Over the two years' study at the 14 sites we collected 419 bumblebee individuals, which represented 7 species, with *Bombus terrestris* (Linnaeus, 1758) accounting for nearly 3/4 of all individuals. The list of species and their relative dominance is given in Table 3.

Table 3. List of bumblebee species caught during the study, indicating their relative dominance (%).

Bumblebee species	Dominance (%)
<i>Bombus terrestris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	73.5
<i>Bombus lapidarius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	10.2
<i>Bombus ruderarius</i> (Müller, 1776)	8.4
<i>Bombus hortorum</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	5.8
<i>Bombus sylvarum</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	1.3
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	0.4
<i>Bombus pratorum</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	0.4

Basic approach. Position within grassland significantly affected both bumblebee abundance (Appendix 2 [1]; Fig. 1a) and species number (Appendix 2 [2]; Fig. 1b), as the interior of the grasslands had higher species richness and abundance. However, landscape situation had no significant effect on either

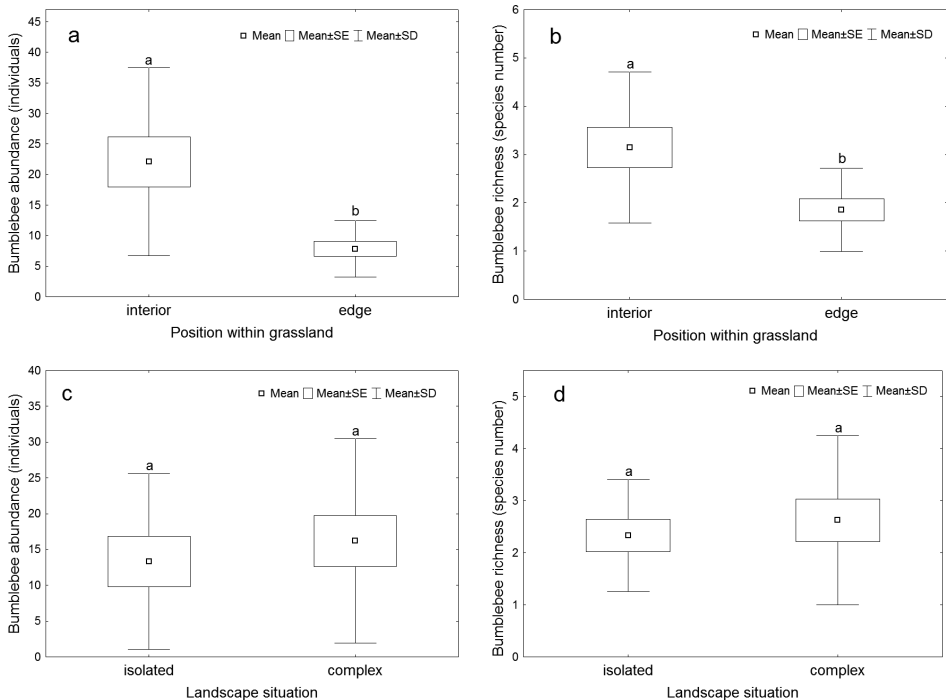


Fig. 1. Mean number (\pm SE, SD) of bumblebee individuals according to within grassland position (a); landscape situation (c); and mean number of species (\pm SE, SD) according to within grassland position (b); and landscape situation (d).

bumblebee numbers or species richness, in complex landscape situation there was a trend of higher values (Appendix 2 [1–2]; Fig. 1c-d). In both abundance and species number models the random factor of site represented a very high percentage of variance (66.5% and 82.1%, respectively).

Stratified approach. We ran a stratified analysis including more detailed variables both about local vegetation and relief, about spatiality and about landscape composition, keeping site as random factor in each model. At local scale both abundance and species numbers were highly significantly negatively influenced by weediness (Appendix 2 [3–4]), which can also be viewed as a negative measure of naturalness ($r = -0.87$) and plant species richness ($r = -0.89$). Edges had on average twice as high weediness score than interiors ($F = 66.31$; d.f. = 1,26; $P < 0.0001$). The degree of southern exposure had a marginal effect on the number of bumblebees (Appendix 2 [3]). We kept weediness for further levels of modelling. Analysing spatiality for the response variables (Appendix 2 [5–6]) we found the significance of y^2 term for species richness, which was included in all further models.

Landscape level analysis was conducted separately for increasing spatial scales. Bumblebee abundance was not affected significantly by landscape variables at small scales (Appendix 2 [7–12]), although wooded habitats appeared at medium scales as positive, albeit not significant factors. At the 2 km scale the amount of grasslands in the landscape was positively correlated with bumblebee abundance and the area of organic arable fields had a negative effect (Appendix 2 [13]). Somewhat similarly, species richness was not influenced significantly by landscape level factors at smaller scales. As the scale increased the area of arable fields had a growing negative impact, reaching marginally significant level at the 250 m radius (Appendix 2 [14–16]). At larger scales grassland area in the landscape had consistently significant positive effect between 500–1000 m (Appendix 2 [17–19]). At the 2 km scale arable and organic arable fields had negative effect on species richness (Appendix 2 [20]).

Partitioning approach. We applied PCA to both local and landscape level factors. The first axes of the PCA on the local variables explained 51.4% of the variance, the second axis representing an additional 17.8% (axis 1: Eigenvalue = 4.62, $\chi^2 = 190.14$, d.f. = 44, $P < 0.001$; axis 2: Eigenvalue = 1.6, $\chi^2 = 101.22$, d.f. = 35, $P < 0.001$). The first axes of the PCA on the landscape variables explained 48.3% of the variance, the second axis representing an additional 4.1% (axis 1: Eigenvalue = 10.15, $\chi^2 = 4286$, d.f. = 230, $P < 0.001$; axis 2: Eigenvalue = 4.06, $\chi^2 = 4019$, d.f. = 209, $P < 0.001$). Especially the first axes in both cases, explained a considerable amount of variation in the data and revealed associations between the variables (Fig. 2). To assess the significance of interaction between local and landscape level factors, we have built GLMM models both for species richness and abundance, including the first two PCA axes for the

Table 4. R² values in the variance partitioning of abundance and species richness representing the unique, overall and shared contributions of local landscape variables. The full model contained local PCA axes 1 and 2 (together “Local”), landscape PCA axes 1 and 2 (together “Landscape”) and the interaction term between local and landscape PCA axes 1 (“Local × Landscape”).

	log ₁₀ (N)	log ₁₀ (S)
Total variance	1.000	1.000
Full model	0.780	0.830
Local × Landscape unique	0.008	0.010
Local overall	0.778	0.818
Local unique	0.250	0.266
Landscape overall	0.538	0.554
Landscape unique	0.010	0.002
Local-Landscape shared	0.528	0.552

local and landscape level factors and the interaction term between the first axes. The final models (Appendix 2 [21–22]) included only the local variables PCA axis 1, and did not include the interaction term, which dropped out, as not being significant.

Variance partitioning shed light on the background of the above findings. Similarly for both richness and abundance, the unique contribution of local variables was much higher, while the unique contribution of landscape variables was negligible, such as that of the interaction term (Table 4). However, if we consider the overall effects, then the contributions are closer together (Table 4). The reason for the discrepancy between overall and unique variance

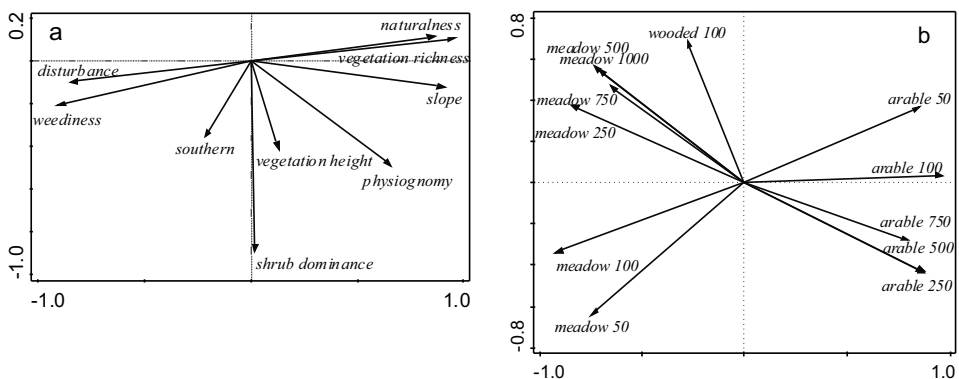


Fig. 2. Principal Component Analysis ordination plots of (a) local and (b) influential landscape scale variables.

contribution lies in the high amount of variance explained together (approximately 50 %) by local and landscape effects (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

Our results showed that overall both local and landscape level factors affected bumblebee numbers and species richness in the studied grassland patches. Grassland interior was far more preferable for the bees than field edges neighbouring agricultural fields. The diameter of the studied grassland patches was in the 100–200 m diameter range, which is well within the foraging distance of bumblebees (KNIGHT *et al.* 2005, OSBORNE *et al.* 2008). Thus, the abundance and richness differences found clearly mean that bee distribution and not population sizes were affected. That is, we found more bees in the interior, because bees preferred to forage there. It has been demonstrated in other studies that the spatial distribution and quality of resources affected the duration of foraging trips of bumblebees (WESTPHAL *et al.* 2006), because patch residence time is adjusted to patch profitability (LEFEBVRE *et al.* 2007).

While we found difference between grassland edges and interiors, in our basic approach of analysis landscape situation had no significant effect on the bumblebee populations. Even though, there was a noticeable trend that in grasslands being part of larger valleys (natural, semi-natural habitat complex) there was higher abundance and species richness. Thus, primary analysis gave indication that both local and landscape level factors may play a role in bumblebee distribution, but much of the variance was represented by the random factor “site”.

To explain in detail the high variance absorbed by site identity, we applied a stratified analysis including local and landscape level variables. The most important factor affecting local distribution of bumblebees was weediness. This variable was in connection with position within grassland patch, because edges were significantly more weedy. Since weediness was in negative correlation with naturalness and plant species richness, it also meant that bumblebees preferred more diverse parts of the grassland patch, which is in agreement with direct observations in foraging studies (LEFEBVRE *et al.* 2007, WESTPHAL *et al.* 2006). We found no direct significant relationship between variables describing grassland vegetation structure (vegetation height, stratification, amount of bushes), whereas CARVELL (2002) found that apart from plant species richness vegetation structure and height also had a significant effect on the species richness and foraging activity of bumblebees. Since our grasslands represented the same loess steppe type, it is possible that, apart from weediness and plant diversity, basic vegetation structure was not varied enough to make noticeable effect on bumblebees.

When analysing the effect of the main habitat types found at different distances around the grassland patches, our most general finding was that closer habitats had less or no influence. This may seem a contra-intuitive finding, however, we think it is explainable by the high foraging ranges of bumblebees. KOVÁCS-HOSTYÁNSZKI *et al.* (2011), also in Hungary, found that the percentage of semi-natural habitats in a 500 m radius did not influence bee species richness and abundance of bumblebees. According to HEARD *et al.* (2007) bumblebee densities were higher locally if the patch was more profitable, but, controlling for that, densities did not vary with patch size, i.e. total forager numbers were proportional to patch area. Thus, if we are well within the foraging range, then neighbouring habitats or habitat extent matter relatively little. Indeed, in an individual level harmonic radar study it was established that bumblebees do not necessarily forage close to their nest, they often visit destinations beyond the nearest available forage (OSBORNE *et al.* 1999).

Due to bumblebees' large foraging range, landscape level effects start to matter over *ca* 500 m. These insects very effectively utilise resources within 500 m of colonies, and that can extend to at least 1.5 km, but less than 4 km (KNIGHT *et al.* 2005, OSBORNE *et al.* 2008). From favourable habitats bumblebee populations can spill over at least 1 km into surrounding farmland (GOULSON *et al.* 2010). Bee species richness and bumblebee density correlated most strongly with organic cropping in landscape sectors with 500 m radius (HOLZSCHUH *et al.* 2008). In the present study we found significant relationship to landscape characteristics for bumblebee abundance only at the 2 km scale and between 0.5–2 km for bumblebee richness.

Likewise DIAZ-FORERO *et al.* (2012), we also found that the presence of grasslands in the landscape increases bumblebee abundance. We had this effect within a 2 km radius. At the same radius the amount of organic arable fields had a negative impact, presumably because their area competed with the area of grasslands. Species richness was influenced already at medium scales in our study. At 250 m arable area had a marginally significant negative impact, from 500–1000 m grasslands had positive effects. Similarly to abundance, at the largest scale of the investigation, at 2 km, the extent of arable fields (including organic fields) had negative effect. This is in agreement with the findings of PYWELL *et al.* (2006), that the richness of the bumblebee assemblage at a 10 × 10 km square scale was positively correlated with land use heterogeneity and the proportion of grasslands.

While we were able to reveal the specific factors and their effective range that contributed to the landscape scale effects, the unique contribution of the surrounding landscape was minimal, because much of this effect overlapped with the effect of local scale variables. This is in agreement with a recent synthesis that highlighted the importance of bee-friendly habitats and manage-

ment practices in the preservation of wild bee populations (KENNEDY *et al.* 2013). In our case this constituted of the naturalness state of the grasslands in overlap with the positive effect of grassland areas at middle-range distances in the landscape.

Our study revealed that in a predominantly agricultural landscape the quality of grassland remnants is important in keeping up wild bee populations. Bumblebees have high dispersal power and they forage far from their nests. This is a very important trait, which lowers the importance of small scale landscape composition, but makes larger scale composition significant. This way a structurally complex landscape may enhance local abundance and diversity in agroecosystems. Organisms with high dispersal abilities appear to have strong influence on biodiversity patterns and ecosystem services, because of their recolonization ability and ability to utilise resources at larger scales (TSCHARNTKE *et al.* 2005). Arable fields participating in AES, that were present in the studied landscapes of the concrete study, had no positive effect. However, the significant impact of grassland quality draws the attention to the importance of grassland management, which at the landscape scale is also connected to arable management intensity. If we are able to provide sufficient and good quality grassland patches incorporated into the agricultural habitat mosaic, then we can build on the strong spill over propensity of bumblebees and can expect their contribution to pollination.

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Electronic Appendix. Polygons of the study sites using the site codes of Table 1. Google kml file format.

Appendix 1. Correlation matrix among local variables, measured at the 14 sites (two locations in each), N = 28. Correlation coefficients and below their significance is given.

	naturalness	physiognomy	vegetation height	shrub cover	weediness	vegetation richness	disturbance	slope	southern exposition
naturalness	1	0.5311 P = 0.004	0.0282 P = 0.887	-0.0031 P = 0.987	-0.8765 P = 0.000	0.9013 P = 0.000	-0.7251 P = 0.000	0.6520 P = 0.000	-0.0988 P = 0.617
physiognomy	0.5311 P = 0.004	1	0.3827 P = 0.044	0.2903 P = 0.134	-0.5038 P = 0.006	0.5859 P = 0.001	-0.5253 P = 0.004	0.5499 P = 0.002	-0.1123 P = 0.569
vegetation height	0.0282 P = 0.887	0.3827 P = 0.044	1	0.1884 P = 0.337	0.0268 P = 0.892	0.1014 P = 0.608	-0.0208 P = 0.916	0.1737 P = 0.377	0.1245 P = 0.528
shrub cover	-0.0031 P = 0.987	0.2903 P = 0.134	0.1884 P = 0.337	1	0.0954 P = 0.629	-0.0439 P = 0.824	0.0278 P = 0.888	0.0767 P = 0.698	0.3303 P = 0.086
weediness	-0.8765 P = 0.000	-0.5038 P = 0.006	0.0268 P = 0.892	0.0954 P = 0.629	1	-0.8941 P = 0.000	0.7612 P = 0.000	-0.7521 P = 0.000	0.2763 P = 0.155
vegetation richness	0.9013 P = 0.000	0.5859 P = 0.001	0.1014 P = 0.608	-0.0439 P = 0.824	-0.8941 P = 0.000	1	-0.7917 P = 0.000	0.8106 P = 0.000	-0.2016 P = 0.304
disturbance	-0.7251 P = 0.000	-0.5253 P = 0.004	-0.0208 P = 0.916	0.0278 P = 0.888	0.7612 P = 0.000	-0.7917 P = 0.000	1	-0.6884 P = 0.000	0.1446 P = 0.463
slope	0.6520 P = 0.000	0.5499 P = 0.002	0.1737 P = 0.377	0.0767 P = 0.698	-0.7521 P = 0.000	0.8106 P = 0.000	-0.6884 P = 0.000	1	-0.1895 P = 0.334
southern exposition	-0.0988 P = 0.617	-0.1123 P = 0.569	0.1245 P = 0.528	0.3303 P = 0.086	0.2763 P = 0.155	-0.2016 P = 0.304	0.1446 P = 0.463	-0.1895 P = 0.334	1 P = -

Appendix 2. Parameter estimates of final GLMM models after the model selection procedure. Each model contains site as random factor. Models considering landscape situation and within grassland position [1–2]; models of local scope [3–4], of spatial scope [5–6]; and of landscape scope by increasing spatial scale [7–20].

Mod- el No.	Response variable	Analysis scope	Spatial scale (m)	Term	Estimate	SE	d.f.	t	Prob> t	adj. R ²
[1]	log(N)	overall		landscape [isolated]	-0.05	0.100	12	-0.50	0.6242	0.845
				position [interior]	0.18	0.045	12	4.07	0.0016*	
				landscape x position	-0.06	0.045	12	-1.32	0.2118	
[2]	log(S)	overall		landscape [isolated]	-0.01	0.056	12	-0.25	0.8090	0.928
				position [interior]	0.11	0.017	12	6.12	<.0001*	
				landscape x position	-0.05	0.017	12	-2.65	0.0212*	
[3]	log(N)	local		log(weediness)	-3.41	0.838	13.0	-4.07	0.0013*	0.776
				southern	2.31	1.083	20.6	2.13	0.0453*	
				southern x log(weediness)	-19.26	13.136	16.9	-1.47	0.1609	
[4]	log(S)	local		log(weediness)	-1.65	0.430	14.5	-3.83	0.0017*	0.805
[5]	log(N)	spatial		log(weediness)	-2.84	0.832	14.8	-3.41	0.0039*	0.775
				y	1.32	0.872	12.0	1.52	0.1556	
[6]	log(S)	spatial		log(weediness)	-1.58	0.427	15.3	-3.71	0.0020*	0.786
				y ²	0.71	0.233	11.9	3.04	0.0103*	
[7]	log(N)	landscape	50	log(weediness)	-2.98	0.833	14.5	-3.58	0.0029*	0.778
				arable	-0.71	0.558	12.2	-1.27	0.2262	
[8]	log(N)	landscape	100	log(weediness)	-2.93	0.831	14.8	-3.52	0.0032*	0.777
				wooded	-1.78	1.264	12.0	-1.41	0.1848	
[9]	log(N)	landscape	250	log(weediness)	-2.89	0.835	14.3	-3.46	0.0037*	0.783

Appendix 2 (continued)

Mod- el No.	Response variable	Analysis scope	Spatial scale (m)	Term	Estimate	SE	d.f.	t	Prob> t	adj. R ²
[10]	log(N)	landscape	500	grassland log(weediness)	-0.08 -2.93	0.623 0.834	12.2 14.4	-0.12 -3.51	0.9041 0.0034*	0.782
[11]	log(N)	landscape	750	wooded log(weediness)	0.60 -2.98	1.338 0.835	12.2 14.3	0.45 -3.57	0.6615 0.0030*	0.780
[12]	log(N)	landscape	1000	wooded log(weediness)	1.38 -3.00	1.391 0.834	12.3 14.4	0.99 -3.59	0.3411 0.0028*	0.778
[13]	log(N)	landscape	2000	wooded log(weediness)	1.76 -2.92	1.459 0.816	12.3 16.7	1.2 -3.58	0.2512 0.0024*	0.733
[14]	log(S)	landscape	50	grassland arable organic log(weediness)	6.81 -1212.57 -1.65	2.378 298.567 0.427	11.0 11.0 15.4	2.87 -4.06 -3.87	0.0153* 0.0019* 0.0015*	0.792
[15]	log(S)	landscape	100	y ² arable log(weediness)	0.72 -0.38 -1.63	0.218 0.228 0.428	11.0 11.2 15.0	3.29 -1.67 -3.8	0.0071* 0.1221 0.0017*	0.765
[16]	log(S)	landscape	250	y ² arable log(weediness)	0.74 -0.19 -1.66	0.236 0.193 0.426	11.0 11.2 15.5	3.14 -0.99 -3.89	0.0094* 0.3412 0.0014*	0.749
				arable y ² log(weediness)	0.93 -0.53 -0.92	0.242 0.244 0.627	10.0 10.2 10.0	3.86 -2.16 -1.47	0.0032* 0.0552 0.1719	

Appendix 2 (continued)

Mod- el No.	Response variable	Analysis scope	Spatial scale (m)	Term	Estimate	SE	d.f.	t	Prob> t	adj. R ²
[17]	log(S)	landscape	500	log(weediness)	-1.65	0.424	16.0	-3.88	0.0013*	0.744
				y ²	0.81	0.202	11.0	3.98	0.0022*	
				grassland	0.78	0.330	11.2	2.37	0.0370*	
[18]	log(S)	landscape	750	log(weediness)	-1.66	0.422	16.4	-3.92	0.0012*	0.733
				y ²	0.77	0.187	11.0	4.1	0.0018*	
				grassland	1.41	0.502	11.2	2.81	0.0166*	
[19]	log(S)	landscape	1000	log(weediness)	-1.65	0.425	15.8	-3.89	0.0013*	0.748
				y ²	0.68	0.204	11.0	3.35	0.0064*	
				grassland	1.87	0.852	11.2	2.19	0.0504	
[20]	log(S)	landscape	2000	log(weediness)	-1.60	0.422	16.6	-3.78	0.0015*	0.700
				y ²	0.76	0.158	10.0	4.79	0.0007*	
				arable organic	-270.02	67.565	10.1	-4	0.0025*	
				arable	-0.47	0.358	10.7	-1.3	0.2203	
[21]	log(N)	overall		local PCA axis 1	0.08	0.025	13.6	3.2	0.0001*	0.773
[22]	log(S)	overall		local PCA axis 1	0.04	0.013	13.6	3.52	0.003*	0.800