

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

3
4 Riho Marja^{1*}, David Kleijn², Teja Tschardt³, Alexandra-Maria Klein⁴, Thomas Frank⁵ &
5 Péter Batáry^{3,6}

6
7 **Affiliations:**

8 ¹Estonian Environment Agency, Rõõmu tee St. 6, Tartu 50605, Estonia. E-mail: rmarja@ut.ee

9 ²Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group, Wageningen University, Droevendaalsesteeg
10 3a, 6708 PB, Wageningen, The Netherlands. E-mail: david.kleijn@wur.nl

11 ³Agroecology, University of Göttingen, Grisebachstr. 6, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany. E-
12 mail: ttschar@gwdg.de, pbatary@gmail.com

13 ⁴Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology, University of Freiburg, Tennenbacher 4,
14 Freiburg D-79106, Germany. E-mail: alexandra.klein@nature.uni-freiburg.de

15 ⁵Institute of Zoology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Gregor-Mendel-
16 Straße 33, 1180 Vienna, Austria. E-mail: thomas.frank@boku.ac.at

17 ⁶"Lendület" Landscape and Conservation Ecology, Institute of Ecology and Botany, MTA
18 Centre for Ecological Research, Alkotmány u. 2-4, 2163 Vácrátót, Hungary, E-mail:
19 pbatary@gmail.com

20
21 ***Correspondence:** Tel.: +372-522-5725. Fax: +372-742-2180. E-mail: rmarja@ut.ee.

22
23 **Statement of authorship:** PB developed the conceptual foundations for this manuscript with
24 the support of RM and DK. RM and PB conducted literature search. RM conducted the
25 analyses with the support of PB. RM wrote the first draft of the manuscript. TT, AMK and TF
26 provided intellectual guidance, and all authors contributed substantially to revisions.

27
28 **Data accessibility statement:** Summary information for each data point included in our meta-
29 analyses are presented in Supplementary material (Table S1)

30
31 **Short running title:** Ecological contrast and pollinator diversity

32
33 **Keywords:** agri-environmental schemes, bees, biodiversity, butterflies, ecosystem services,
34 flower strips, hoverflies, land-use intensity, meta-analysis.

35
36 **Type of article:** Letters

37
38 **Abstract word count:** 149

Main text word count: 4155

39 **Number of references:** 52

Number of figures: 3

40 **Number of tables:** 1

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 (Winfrey *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

399 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

400 RM research was supported by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt and PB by the Austrian
401 Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, the German Research
402 Foundation (DFG BA 4438/2-1) and the Economic Development and Innovation Operational
403 Programme of Hungary (GINOP-2.3.2-15-2016-00019). We are grateful to James Phillips,
404 who re-checked all studies to confirm inclusion and exclusion criteria, Urs Kormann, for help
405 with Switzerland land-use intensity information and to Ott Pruilmann, for help with GIS
406 technique. We thank three anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments.
407

- 409 1. Aavik, T., Jõgar, Ü., Liira, J., Tulva, I. & Zobel, M. (2008). Plant diversity in a
410 calcareous wooded meadow -The significance of management continuity. *J. Veg. Sci.*,
411 19, 475–484
- 412 2. Attwood, S.J., Park, S.E., Maron, M., Collard, S.J., Robinson, D., Reardon-Smith, K.M.,
413 et al. (2009). Declining birds in Australian agricultural landscapes may benefit from
414 aspects of the European agri-environment model. *Biol. Conserv.*, 142, 1981–1991
- 415 3. Austin, Z., Penic, M., Raffaelli, D.G. & White, P.C.L. (2015). Stakeholder perceptions of
416 the effectiveness and efficiency of agri-environment schemes in enhancing pollinators on
417 farmland. *Land use policy*, 47, 156–162
- 418 4. Aviron, S., Jeanneret, P., Schüpbach, B. & Herzog, F. (2007). Effects of agri-
419 environmental measures, site and landscape conditions on butterfly diversity of Swiss
420 grassland. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.*, 122, 295–304
- 421 5. Báldi, A., Batáry, P. & Kleijn, D. (2013). Effects of grazing and biogeographic regions
422 on grassland biodiversity in Hungary - analysing assemblages of 1200 species. *Agric.*
423 *Ecosyst. Environ.*, 166, 28–34
- 424 6. Batáry, P., Báldi, A., Kleijn, D. & Tschardtke, T. (2011). Landscape-moderated
425 biodiversity effects of agri-environmental management: a meta-analysis. *Proc. R. Soc. B*,
426 278, 1894–1902
- 427 7. Batáry, P., Báldi, A., Sárospataki, M., Kohler, F., Verhulst, J., Knop, E., *et al.* (2010).
428 Effect of conservation management on bees and insect-pollinated grassland plant
429 communities in three European countries. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.*, 136, 35–39
- 430 8. Batáry, P., Dicks, L. V., Kleijn, D. & Sutherland, W.J. (2015). The role of agri-
431 environment schemes in conservation and environmental management. *Conserv. Biol.*,
432 29, 1006–1016
- 433 9. Batáry, P., Gallé, R., Riesch, F., Fischer, C., Dormann, C.F., Mußhoff, O., et al. (2017).
434 The former Iron Curtain still drives biodiversity-profit trade-offs in German agriculture.
435 *Nat. Ecol. Evol.*, 1, 1279–1284
- 436 10. Birkhofer, K., Ekroos, J., Corlett, E.B. & Smith, H.G. (2014). Winners and losers of
437 organic cereal farming in animal communities across Central and Northern Europe. *Biol.*
438 *Conserv.*, 175, 25–33
- 439 11. Borenstein, M., Hedges, L. V., Higgins, J.P.T. & Rothstein, H.R. (2009). Introduction to
440 meta-analysis (1st ed., p. 421). Chichester, UK: Wiley.
441 <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470743386>
- 442 12. Büttner, G., Feranec, J., Jaffrain, G., Mari, L., Maucha, G. & Soukup, T. (2004). The
443 Corine Land Cover 2000 Project. *EARSeL eProceedings*, 3, 331–346
- 444 13. Cohen, J. (1988). Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences. *Stat. Power Anal.*
445 *Behav. Sci.*
- 446 14. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence. (2018). Guidelines and Standards for
447 Evidence synthesis in Environmental Management. (A. Pullin, G. Frampton, B. Livoreil,
448 & G. Petrokofsky, Eds.). Bangor, Version 5.0.
- 449 15. Ebeling, A., Klein, A.M., Schumacher, J., Weisser, W.W. & Tschardtke, T. (2008). How
450 does plant richness affect pollinator richness and temporal stability of flower visits?
451 *Oikos*, 117, 1808–1815
- 452 16. European Commission. (2005). Agri-environment Measures Overview on General
453 Principles, Types of Measures, and Application. Directorate General for Agriculture and
454 Rural Development. Available at:

- 455 http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/agrienv/rep_en.pdf. Last accessed 21 Feb
456 2018
- 457 17. Fuchs, R., Herold, M., Verburg, P.H., Clevers, J.G.P.W. & Eberle, J. (2015). Gross
458 changes in reconstructions of historic land cover/use for Europe between 1900 and 2010.
459 *Glob. Chang. Biol.*, 21, 299–313
- 460 18. Goulson, D. (2003). *Bumblebees: their behaviour and ecology*. Oxford University Press
- 461 19. Habeck, C.W. & Schultz, A.K. (2015). Community-level impacts of white-tailed deer on
462 understory plants in North American forests: a meta-analysis. *AoB Plants*, 7, plv119
- 463 20. Hammers, M., Müskens, G.J.D.M., van Kats, R.J.M., Teunissen, W.A. & Kleijn, D.
464 (2015). Ecological contrasts drive responses of wintering farmland birds to conservation
465 management. *Ecography*, 38, 813–821
- 466 21. Hedges, L. V. (1981). Distribution theory for glass's estimator of effect size and related
467 estimators. *J. Educ. Behav. Stat.*, 6, 107–128
- 468 22. Hedges, L. V & Olkin, I. (1985). *Statistical methods for meta-analysis*. Academic Press
- 469 23. Higgins, J., & Green, S. (2008). *Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of*
470 *interventions*. Chichester, UK.
- 471 24. Kennedy, C.M., Lonsdorf, E., Neel, M.C., Williams, N.M., Ricketts, T.H., Winfree, R., *et*
472 *al.* (2013). A global quantitative synthesis of local and landscape effects on wild bee
473 pollinators in agroecosystems. *Ecol. Lett.*, 16, 584–599
- 474 25. Kleijn, D., Baquero, R.A., Clough, Y., Díaz, M., De Esteban, J., Fernández, F., *et al.*
475 (2006). Mixed biodiversity benefits of agri-environment schemes in five European
476 countries. *Ecol. Lett.*, 9, 243–254
- 477 26. Kleijn, D., Kohler, F., Baldi, A., Batáry, P., Concepcion, E., Clough, Y., *et al.* (2009).
478 On the relationship between farmland biodiversity and land-use intensity in Europe. *Proc.*
479 *R. Soc. B Biol. Sci.*, 276, 903–909
- 480 27. Kleijn, D., Rundlöf, M., Scheper, J., Smith, H.G. & Tscharntke, T. (2011). Does
481 conservation on farmland contribute to halting the biodiversity decline? *Trends Ecol.*
482 *Evol.*, 26, 474–481
- 483 28. Kleijn, D., Bommarco, R., Fijen, T.P.M., Garibaldi, L.A., Potts, S.G. & van der Putten,
484 W.H. (2019). Ecological intensification: bridging the gap between science and practice.
485 *Trends Ecol. Evol.*, 26, 154–166.
- 486 29. Koricheva, J., Gurevitch, J., Mengersen, K. (2013). *Handbook of Meta-analysis in*
487 *Ecology and Evolution*. Princeton University Press.
- 488 30. Kovács-Hostyánszki, A., Espíndola, A., Vanbergen, A.J., Settele, J., Kremen, C. &
489 Dicks, L. V. (2017). Ecological intensification to mitigate impacts of conventional
490 intensive land use on pollinators and pollination. *Ecol. Lett.*, 20, 673–689
- 491 31. Langelotto, G.A. & Denno, R.F. (2004). Responses of invertebrate natural enemies to
492 complex-structured habitats: A meta-analytical synthesis. *Oecologia*, 139, 1–10
- 493 32. Marja, R., Herzon, I., Viik, E., Elts, J., Mänd, M., Tscharntke, T., *et al.* (2014).
494 Environmentally friendly management as an intermediate strategy between organic and
495 conventional agriculture to support biodiversity. *Biol. Conserv.*, 178, 146–154
- 496 33. Marja, R., Viik, E., Mänd, M., Phillips, J., Klein, A.M. Batáry, P. (2018) Crop rotation
497 and agri-environment schemes determine bumblebee communities via flower resources. *J.*
498 *Appl. Ecol.*, 55, 1714–1724
- 499 34. Mendeley. (2015). Mendeley. Mendeley (2015). Mendeley Ref. Manag. Version 1.15.2.
500 London, UK Mendeley Ltd. Retrieved from <http://www.mendeley.com>

- 501 35. Midolo, G., Alkemade, R., Schipper, A.M., Benítez-López, A., Perring, M.P. & De Vries,
502 W. (2019). Impacts of nitrogen addition on plant species richness and abundance: A
503 global meta-analysis. *Glob. Ecol. Biogeogr.*, 28, 398–413
- 504 36. R Core Team. (2018). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R
505 Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria.
- 506 37. Rosenberg, M.S. (2005). The file-drawer problem revisited: a general weighted method
507 for calculating fail-safe numbers in meta-analysis. *Evolution.*, 59, 464–468
- 508 38. Rosenthal, R. (1979). The file drawer problem and tolerance for null results. *Psychol.*
509 *Bull.*, 86, 638–641
- 510 39. Scheper, J., Bommarco, R., Holzschuh, A., Potts, S.G., Riedinger, V., Roberts, S.P.M., *et al.*
511 (2015). Local and landscape-level floral resources explain effects of wildflower strips
512 on wild bees across four European countries. *J. Appl. Ecol.*, 52, 1165–1175
- 513 40. Scheper, J., Holzschuh, A., Kuussaari, M., Potts, S.G., Rundlöf, M., Smith, H.G., *et al.*
514 (2013). Environmental factors driving the effectiveness of European agri-environmental
515 measures in mitigating pollinator loss - a meta-analysis. *Ecol. Lett.*, 16, 912–920
- 516 41. Senapathi, D., Biesmeijer, J.C., Breeze, T.D., Kleijn, D., Potts, S.G. & Carvalheiro, L.G.
517 (2015). Pollinator conservation - the difference between managing for pollination
518 services and preserving pollinator diversity. *Curr. Opin. Insect Sci.*, 12, 93–101
- 519 42. Soons, M.B., Hefting, M.M., Dorland, E., Lamers, L.P.M., Versteeg, C. & Bobbink, R.
520 (2017). Nitrogen effects on plant species richness in herbaceous communities are more
521 widespread and stronger than those of phosphorus. *Biol. Conserv.*, 212, 390–397
- 522 43. Switzerland Federal Office of Topography. (2016). Online land use database. Available
523 at: <https://map.geo.admin.ch>. Last accessed 12 Feb 2017
- 524 44. Tscharntke, T., Klein, A.M., Kruess, A., Steffan-Dewenter, I. & Thies, C. (2005).
525 Landscape perspectives on agricultural intensification and biodiversity - ecosystem
526 service management. *Ecol. Lett.*, 8, 857–874
- 527 45. Tscharntke, T., Tylianakis, J.M., Rand, T.A., Didham, R.K., Fahrig, L., Batáry, P., *et al.*
528 (2012). Landscape moderation of biodiversity patterns and processes - eight hypotheses.
529 *Biol. Rev.*, 87, 661–685
- 530 46. Tuck, S.L., Winqvist, C., Mota, F., Ahnström, J., Turnbull, L.A. & Bengtsson, J. (2014).
531 Land-use intensity and the effects of organic farming on biodiversity: a hierarchical meta-
532 analysis. *J. Appl. Ecol.*, 51, 746–755
- 533 47. Verburg, P. (2016). Agricultural Land Use Intensity Database. Available at:
534 [http://www.ivm.vu.nl/en/Organisation/departments/spatial-analysis-decision-support/ag-](http://www.ivm.vu.nl/en/Organisation/departments/spatial-analysis-decision-support/ag-intensity/index.aspx)
535 [intensity/index.aspx](http://www.ivm.vu.nl/en/Organisation/departments/spatial-analysis-decision-support/ag-intensity/index.aspx). Last accessed 21 Feb 2018
- 536 48. Viechtbauer, W. (2010). Conducting meta-analyses in R with the metafor package. *J.*
537 *Stat. Softw.*, 36, 1–48
- 538 49. van Vliet, J., de Groot, H.L.F., Rietveld, P. & Verburg, P.H. (2015). Manifestations and
539 underlying drivers of agricultural land use change in Europe. *Landsc. Urban Plan.*, 133,
540 24–36
- 541 50. Winfree *et al.*, (2018) Species turnover promotes the importance of bee diversity for crop
542 pollination at regional scales. *Science* 359, 791–793
- 543 51. Wood, T.J., Holland, J.M., Hughes, W.O.H. & Goulson, D. (2015). Targeted agri-
544 environment schemes significantly improve the population size of common farmland
545 bumblebee species. *Mol. Ecol.*, 24, 1668–1680

546

547 **Table captions**

548

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

550 and models AICc.

Model	Moderators	<i>d.f.</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>p</i>	AICc
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.

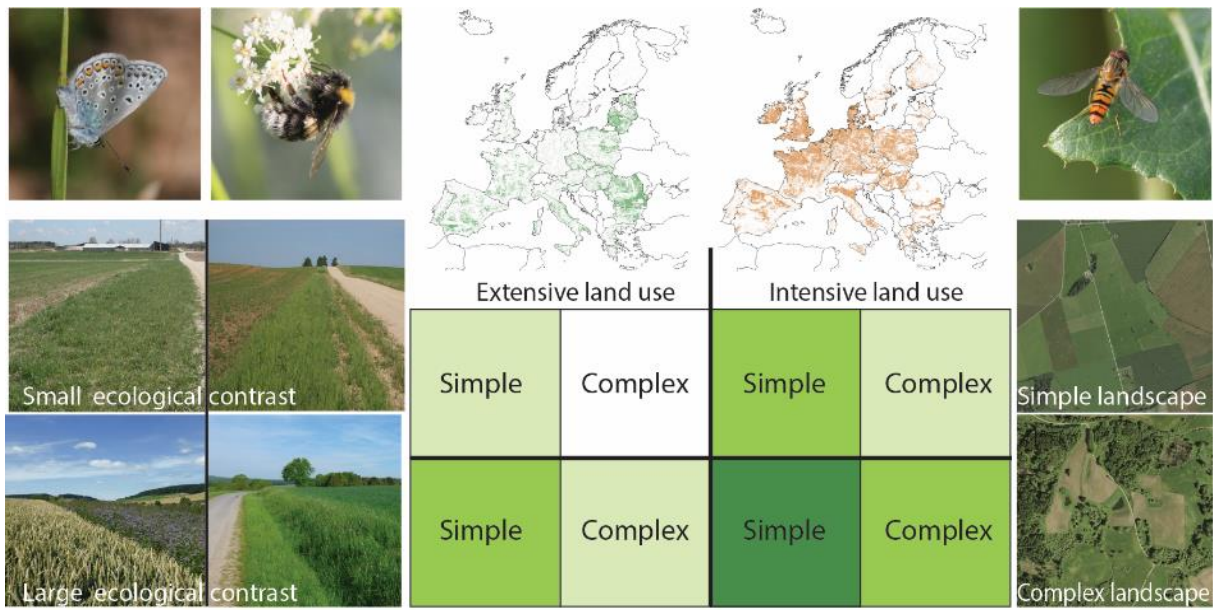
577 Asterisk symbols represent statistically significant p-values below 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 (*, **

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

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

580

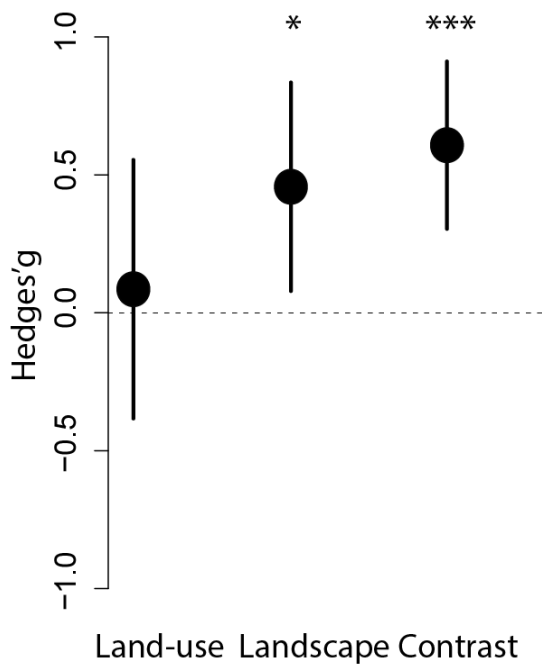
581 **Fig. 1.**



582

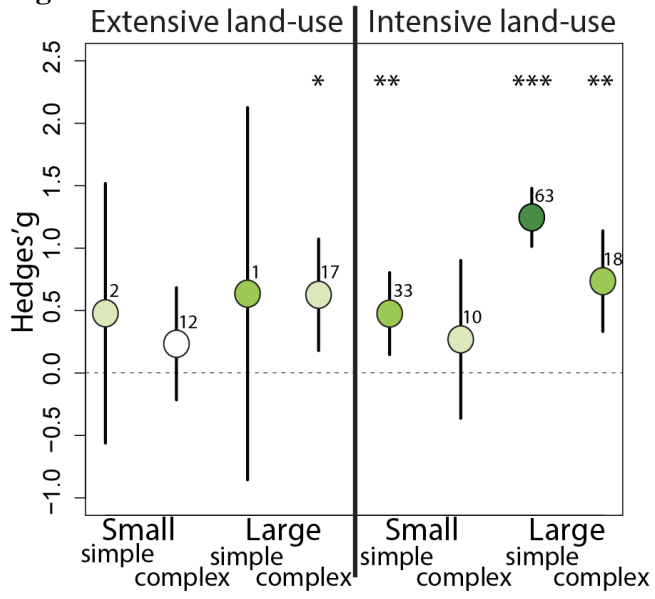
583

584 **Fig. 2.**



585

586 **Fig. 3.**



587
588
589