

MSc thesis opportunity:

Can flower fields enhance biological pest control in wheat fields?

In agricultural landscapes, semi-natural habitats such as flower fields can support populations of ecosystem service providers. Within the KOOPERATIV project (www.uni-goettingen.de/kooperativ/project), we established flower fields along a landscape diversity gradient. We want to investigate how the establishment of flower fields affect biodiversity and ecosystem services and what role the landscape context plays to optimize their application. **In June 2026**, we will use aphid cards and visual sampling to quantify predation rates and insect pest densities in wheat fields.



We are looking for one motivated student assistant or MSc student (f/m/d) to support us in these activities:

- visual surveys of insect pests in wheat fields
- exposing and collecting aphid cards for biocontrol quantifications

The fieldwork (6-8 hours per day) will take place in the district of Northeim, up to 1-hour drive from Göttingen. We will use company cars.

Opportunities: You will gain experiences in fieldwork with biocontrol quantification and pest assessment, work in a highly motivated team, and be part of an interdisciplinary cutting-edge project.

Requirements: A valid German driving license and willingness to drive. Ability to work almost every work day in June (the position is ideal for a student who does not have courses in June).

Time period: June 2026.

Contact: Dr. Marco Ferrante (marco.ferrante@uni-goettingen.de).



Fig. Aphid cards exposed onto the ground (left) and on wheat leaves (right).

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