

The population of green hairstreak in the Alpinum

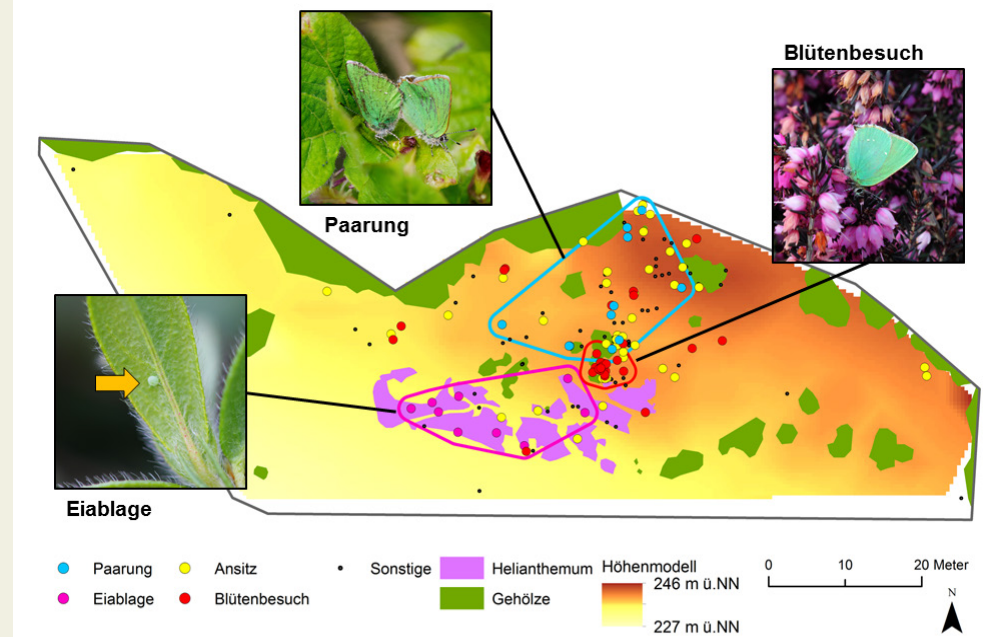


Green hairstreak

The green hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) is a butterfly about 2.5 cm in size, belonging to the family of the Lycaenidae (blues). The intensification of agriculture and the loss of natural habitat has caused its populations to decline in many areas and its regional extinction in others.

Photos:

- 1 A study carried out by the Agroecology group of the University of Göttingen has shown that the Alpinum is home to a large population of the green hairstreak, which is easy to recognise by the green underside of its wings. Photo: T. Kasiske
- 2 The high population density of this butterfly species in the Alpinum is linked to the rich supply of resources here. While the flowers of the winter heath (*Erica herbacea*) are its most important source of nectar, it usually lays its eggs on leaves of the rockrose (*Helianthemum nummularium*). Also important is the presence of shrubs and other woody plants that the green hairstreak uses as mating habitat. Illustration: D. Singer, T. Kasiske
- 3 The large population of the green hairstreak in the Alpinum is important for their colonisation of similar natural habitats in the surroundings (e.g., semi-dry grasslands and open woodlands). The Alpinum thus not only supports rare plant species, but is also highly important for the regional populations of this insect species. Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

