Project proposals Master thesis

Plant diversity effects on pollinators in different old plant communities

Background

In biodiversity experiments, effects of biodiversity on plant productivity and a number of other ecosystem functions have been shown to change and often strengthen over time. One possible reason for these changes is that feedbacks from soil biota between high and low diverse plant communities might differ, leading to differences in selection pressure and adaptation processes. Although strengthening diversity effects over time were repeatedly shown for plant productivity, available information on temporal changes in consumer communities and consumer related functions are very limited.

Research question

We established a plant diversity on experimental plots of different ages (with and without soil-and plant history). Here we ask the question, if consumers, i.e. pollinators, are affected by strengthened plant diversity effects over time found at the producer level.

Methods

- Field work at the Jena Experiment (May- August 2019)
- Data analyses

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