

One BSc/MSc thesis opportunity

Spider use of different habitat types in agricultural systems



As part of the HEAVEN project, we aim to investigate the habitat requirements of beneficial organisms, such as spiders, both during the cropping season and over winter. To this end, we will use pitfall traps to sample ground-active arthropods at the interfaces between crop fields and adjacent non-crop habitats, including flower fields, grasslands, hedgerows, and grass margins.

Sampling will take place from June to September 2025 and again from December 2025 to March 2026. All study sites are located in the district of Göttingen. Students with an interest in spiders or in this experimental setup are encouraged to contact Dr. Ferrante to discuss potential topics for BSc or MSc theses and explore how their work could be integrated into the HEAVEN project.

We are looking for one BSc/MSc student who is interested in conducting his/her thesis on spiders in agricultural landscapes.

Tasks: Your responsibilities will include the fieldwork (e.g., installation of pitfall traps, if possible spider identification, and data analyses using the statistical software R.

Requirements: You should be interested in fieldwork and spiders and be willing to write your thesis in English. Experience with the identification of spiders, knowledge of R, and having a driving license and willingness to drive are an asset.

Period: Starting in June 2025 or later.

Opportunities: You will have the opportunity to define your BSc/MSc thesis topic under guidance. You will gain experience in fieldwork, and scientific analysis, as well as improve your writing skills.

Contact: Dr. Marco Ferrante, marco.ferrante@uni-goettingen.de; Functional Agrobiodiversity & Agroecology – DNPW, Georg-August-University Göttingen

