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## **RESEARCH**

## **Open Access**



# Combined efects of landscape composition and pesticide use on herbivore and pollinator functions in smallholder farms

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** Landscape composition has the potential to foster regulating ecosystem services such as pollination and biocontrol in temperate regions. However, most landscape studies do not take pesticide use into account even though it is the main control strategy worldwide and has negative impacts on benefcial insects. Moreover, few studies have explored these combined effects in smallholder cropping system with diverse landscapes and small cultivated felds.

**Methods:** We assessed the efect of semi-natural cover and pesticide use on pollinator and herbivore abundances and functions in 9 felds in the Ecuadorian Andes through participatory experiments with smallholder farmers. We performed a path analysis to quantify the efects of landscape and pesticide use on herbivory, pollination and ultimately yield.

**Results:** Pesticide use signifcantly reduced pollinator abundance but had no signifcant efect on pest abundance. Similarly, we found non-signifcant efects of landscape composition on either herbivory and pollination. The study also provides new information on understudied Andean lupine's pests and pollinators, whose application for small farmers is discussed. Finally, we hypothesize that peculiarities of tropical smallholder cropping systems and landscapes could explain the non-significant landscape effects on insect-based processes, which calls for more research in places outside the well-studied temperate region.

**Conclusions:** Landscape composition did not show any signifcant efect on pest and pollinator while pesticide use decreased the abundance pollinators, but with no signifcant efect on yield. This study also provides information about Andean lupine reproduction and overcompensation mechanisms that could be of interest for local farmers and researchers of this understudied crop.

**Keywords:** Andean lupine, Biological control, Ecosystem services, Exclusion experiment, Insecticide use, Participatory research

## **Introduction**

Smallholder farmers in developing countries are heavily dependent on insecticides for herbivorous pest control (Schreinemachers and Tipraqsa 2012). Most of

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non-target organisms (Gill and Garg 2014). Even sublethal doses have detrimental efects such as disturbing foraging behaviour and memory abilities, reducing longevity and immunity (Desneux et al. 2007; Blacquière et al. 2012; Gill et al. 2012). Among the non-target insects, some are benefcial for crop production, such as natural enemies and pollinators. When natural enemies

these insecticides have a broad spectrum of action (e.g. organophosphates, carbamates) and can therefore harm



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(predators, parasitoids or entomopathogens) are killed by pesticides but a moderate number of pests survive, pest outbreaks may occur due to a decrease in biological pest control (Dutcher 2007). When pollinators are killed by pesticides, it reduces the pollination service for the crop and triggers a reduction in yield, if the crop is dependent on animal-mediated pollination. Therefore, pesticide use against a phytophagous insect can lead to undesired adverse consequences on both biocontrol and pollination.

Increasing the natural habitats surrounding crop felds has been proposed as an alternative solution to herbivore control while mitigating the negative impacts of pesticides (Landis et al. 2000; Bianchi et al. 2006). With a higher diversity of natural and cropped areas in the landscape, natural enemies are more likely to fnd suitable resources (host plant, nectar…) when compared to monocultures (Gurr et al. 2017). Natural habitats also provide resources for pollinators, thereby enhancing in-feld pollination and potentially crop production (Ricketts et al. 2008). Overall, increasing natural habitat in landscape surrounding the felds has been correlated in many cases with higher biocontrol and pollination services (Shackelford et al. 2013), even though few data exist from tropical regions (Poveda et al. 2012; Haan et al. 2020).

However, the majority of research studying the efect of surrounding landscape on agricultural ecosystem services (ES), such as pollination or biocontrol, have been carried out in felds where no pesticide was sprayed (see review in Veres et al. 2013), which may not be realistic. Indeed, both mechanisms (pesticide use and landscape provision of ecosystem services) occur and interact together, as it is the case in smallholder cropping systems. Therefore most of these agricultural landscapes encompass a mosaic of sprayed and unsprayed areas, combined with (semi-)natural and cropped areas. Recent studies have thus focused on understanding how the interaction between landscape and pesticide use impacts biological control (Ricci et al. 2009, 2019; Gagic et al. 2017, 2019). Nevertheless, few studies have included pollination in the analysis, even though it is also impacted by both landscape and pesticide use (but see Samnegård et al. 2016) and to our knowledge none in a tropical setting.

Thus, there is a need to understand how landscape composition and pesticide interact and afect pollination, herbivory and ultimately yield. We chose to focus on the two lower levels of the biocontrol tritrophic interactions (natural enemy-herbivore-yield) because the efect of landscape on natural enemies does not necessarily translate into an efect on herbivory or yield (Chaplin-Kramer et al. 2011). Moreover, yield is rarely considered in landscape-based biocontrol studies (Veres et al. 2013; in 14% of the responses included in the review by Karp et al. 2018), yet, this is an important metric for farmers. We therefore established a conceptual framework detailling the potential efect of landscape structure and pesticide use on yield, through their combined efects on herbivores and pollinators (Fig. 1). This framework relies on two main hypotheses. On the one hand, we reasoned that a more diverse surrounding landscape would result in a higher yield, through an increase in pollination and a decrease in herbivory. On the other hand, we predicted a more balanced efect of pesticide use on yield, through a decrease in both pollination and herbivory (Fig. 1). In this study, we tested these hypotheses using lupine grown in the tropical Andes as a study model. Our specifc objectives were (i) to assess the combined efect of landscape and pesticide on both pollination and herbivory, (ii) to measure both the abundances and functions of pollinators and herbivores, and (iii) to quantify the efect on yield. Smallholder agricultural landscapes are relevant and realistic models because they incorporate small felds with surrounding semi-natural habitats and a diversity of pesticide management strategies.



**Fig. 1** Theoretical path analysis depicting the expected interactions between pesticide use and landscape on yield. We reasoned that on the one hand pesticide use would reduce both herbivory and pollination by reducing both herbivore and pollinator populations, leading to a balanced effect on yield. On the other hand, landscape complexity would decrease herbivory by enhancing natural enemies' control of herbivores, and would increase pollination by providing resources for pollinators, leading to a gain in yield. Blue arrows correspond to positive efects and red arrows to negative efects. ES=ecosystem service

## **Materials and methods**

## **Study crop**

This study focuses on the Andean lupine (*Lupinus mutabilis* Sweet), a legume crop cultivated in the tropical Andes for its edible beans rich in proteins. This crop was once extensively cultivated by pre-Incan civilizations, then became supplanted mostly by fava beans during the Spanish colonization (Cowling et al. 1998). However, in the early 2000′s the Ecuadorian government promoted its cultivation, leading to a renewed interest by farmers and consumers (Nicklin et al. 2006). In this context, Andean lupine crops are now found over a gradient of agricultural intensifcation, refected in the surrounding landscape complexity and crop management. The expansion of Andean lupine cultivation in Ecuador went along with an increase in predation by herbivore invertebrates (Caicedo and Peralta 2000). Among these herbivores, the apex fy borer (Anthomyiidae, see below for taxonomic details) is ubiquitous in lupine crops and attacks the plant throughout its whole lifecycle (Mina et al. 2017). Pesticide application is the main option available for Ecuadorian farmers to control pest populations. Therefore, Andean lupine is a suitable crop to study the combined efect of pesticide use and landscape complexity in tropical latitudes, as it grows along a gradient of landscape complexity and pesticide use.

## **Study sites**

The study was carried on within 30 fields owned by local farmers between January and October 2017. Field selection was a compromise between the need to include diferent communities with diferent practices and landscape compositions, and farmers' willingness to participate to the study. We only selected felds sown with "Andino 450" variety of Andean lupine. To obtain the estimates of ecosystem (dis)services (pollination and herbivory) and crop management (pesticide use), we combined experimental and observational approaches with farmer surveys. The number of pesticide applications during the crop lifecycle was determined through interviews with the farmers. A diversity of pesticides was mentioned by the farmers: Acephate, Carbosulfan, Cartap, Deltamethrin and Chlorfenapyr.

## **Landscape‑scale analysis**

Orthophotos of the landscape surrounding each feld were obtained by fying a drone (DJI Phantom Pro 4, 20Mpx camera 4:3 ratio,  $4864 \times 3648$ px resolution, RGB channels; Fig. 2a). We used Pix4Dcapture software at 200 m altitude with 60% overlap between shots, covering a circle of 400 m radius around the feld (50 ha). In landscapes with large differences in altitude we flew the drone at 300 m to avoid any image distortion. An ortho-mosaic image was generated by Pix4D software that combined 81 shots for each feld (see Faye et al. 2016). We downscaled the images to a 40 cm/pixel resolution. Fields were selected at least 1 km away from each other to avoid any overlap between surrounding landscapes.

To determine land use cover we defned a classifcation scheme (Additional fle 1: Table S1) with 15 classes based on the knowledge of the study areas and local crop rotations. Land use was determined by visual inspection of the orthophotos. We used Random Forest algorithm  $(ntree = 500)$  to classify the pixels based on RGB channels (Hayes et al. 2014). We manually drew a set of polygons for each land use on every image (ranging from 67 to 122 polygons per image; Additional file  $1$ : Table S2). These polygons were randomly separated into a calibration dataset (70%) used to calibrate the classifcation model and an evaluation dataset (30%) to evaluate the model classifcation ability (Additional fle 1: Table S3). We decided to use the fallow and grassland classes as a proxy of the semi-natural cover because this is where most of the non-crop flowering plants are naturally growing. Indeed, in the Andean inter-valleys, the tree rows surrounding the crops are mainly composed of eucalyptus and pines where few flowers grow (pers. obs). The area of semi-natural cover in the surrounding landscape of the 11 study felds ranged from 20% of up to 67% (Additional fle 1: Table S4).

## **Monitoring of insect populations**

Within each lupine feld, the abundance of pollinators and herbivores was estimated using three pitfall and three colour traps. We chose a participatory monitoring approach, meaning that the setup and gathering of the traps were carried out by the farmers themselves (and their relatives) after being thoroughly trained (Fig. 2b). The colour trap consisted of a yellow bowl (40 cm in diameter and 20 cm deep) and the pitfall trap of a plastic cup (8 cm in diameter and 15 cm deep) flled with water and a few drops of soap. All the trapped insects were preserved in 70% ethanol from collection to identifcation in the lab. The traps were set up in the fields from March to July 2017, and the time between set-up and collection varied between 6 and 64 days (mean  $=$  24 days) due to variations in farmers' availability. To account for this uneven sampling, we divided the observed abundances by the number of days corresponding to the trapping time. Then, the mean abundance of pollinators and apex borers were averaged across traps. Lupine apex borer fy abundance was considered as a good estimate of herbivore abundance because (i) it is a widespread herbivorous insect of concern for farmers, (ii) it feeds throughout the whole crop cycle, and (iii) its damage is easily visible through plant architecture changes. In order



with local farmers. **c** Insect exclusion experiments **d** Farmer spraying pesticides and Andean landscape in the background

to determine the taxonomic status of the lupine apex borer fy, we extracted DNA from on specimen and performed a DNA barcoding on COI gene following widely used protocols (Morgulis et al. 2008). We identifed the morphospecies as being a member of the Anthomyiidae family, potentially from the genus *Lasiomma*. We characterized pollinators by taking into account all hymenopterans belonging to the Apidae family as it is the only group for which the pollination role was ascertained (Roubik 1995; Ochoa-Zavala et al. 2016). We could not include natural enemies within our framework because of the lack of knowledge about the lupine apex borer's natural enemies. Overall, entomofauna in the Andean intervalley is largely unknown and has not been described (e.g. Mina et al. 2017), which makes insect identifcation difficult. Compared to extensive and long-term research in the Amazonian region (e.g. since Bates 1862), it is

surprising to witness that most of the less-diverse entomofauna in the Andes remains largely unknown.

## **Exclusion experiments**

We used in situ exclusion experiments to estimate herbivory and pollination in the focal crop within the landscape (Fig. 2c). Exclusion experiments allow to compare the sole efect of herbivory or pollination in felds scattered across a large geographical range, neutralizing the diferences in abiotic conditions between felds (climate, topography, soil texture, etc.; Chaplin-Kramer et al. 2011). To estimate herbivory, three cages were installed around randomly selected lupine plants in each feld to exclude all herbivores from germination to flowering. Several seeds per hole are traditionally sown, and the density of plants varied across cages depending on the farmer's practice. Cages consisted in a wooden frame of

1 m high, a top cross of 0.5  $\times$  0.5 m, wrapped with a 0.36 mm mesh-size tulle covering  $1 \times 1$  m surface at the ground level. To estimate herbivore damage we measured for every plant within the cage the Apical Dominance Index  $(ADI)$  = number of ramifications / stem height. This index reflects the dominance of the apical meristem compared to lateral meristems and the resulting plant architecture (Pérez-Harguindeguy et al. 2013). The ADI of each excluded plant was compared with the ADI of one non-excluded plant randomly selected within a 2 m radius from the excluded plant to compute the  $\Delta ADI = ADI_{\text{excluded}} - ADI_{\text{non-excluded}}$ , reflecting the estimated herbivory for each feld. All plants were selected at least 5 m away from the feld limits to avoid any border effect. The exclusion of phytophagous insects from plant germination until flowering (four to fve months) represented a major challenge because the cages were vulnerable to several adverse conditions (strong winds, destruction by wildlife…). Nevertheless, this exclusion time is long compared with most studies in the literature that generally focus on short generation-time insects (e.g. aphids; see list in Karp et al. 2018). Even though the sample size may seem low, it is similar with other studies on this topic (e.g. Chaplin-Kramer et al. 2011; Thies et al. 2011). Temperatures outside and inside the cage were recorded during one week which resulted in a mean temperature inside the cage  $1.12$  °C higher than outside. This difference in temperature is lower than the natural thermal variability measured within one feld (Faye et al. 2016).

Within the same felds, we randomly selected two plants not included in the herbivore exclusion experiment, for which two inforescences were excluded from pollinators. The cage was made with a tulle with mesh size of 0.36 mm, with a height of 50 cm and a width of 30 cm. The pollinators were excluded from pre-flowering to harvest. To estimate pollination we counted the number of developed and aborted ovules per pod and computed a Developed Seed Index (DSI)=number of developed ovules/(number of developed ovules  $+$  number of aborted ovules). The DSI of non-pollinated inforescence were compared with the opposite inforescence from the same plant where pollinators were allowed, in order to compute the  $\Delta\text{DSI} = \text{DSI}_{\text{pollinated}}$  $– DSI<sub>unpollinated</sub>$ .

Field yield was estimated by harvesting all the seeds from three randomly selected plant groups covering  $1\ \text{m}^2$  surface (plants emerging from the same seed hole). The seeds were dried for 48 h at 80  $\rm{^oC}$  and their dry biomass was weighted (precision of 0.1 g) (Pérez-Harguindeguy et al. 2013). We computed the yield (kg/ ha) = plant group dry biomass (kg)  $\times$  1 (m<sup>2</sup>)  $\times$  10 000  $(m<sup>2</sup>)$ .

## **Statistical analyses**

From the 35 initial felds selected, 9 were left with a complete set of data at the end of the experiment, refecting the difficulties associated with participatory research. Indeed, 18 farmers lost interest in the participatory monitoring of insects. Exclusion experiments were carried out within the 17 felds left but in 6 felds the cages were damaged or disappeared. We therefore few the drone in the 11 felds where the cages were not damaged and where insects were still monitored by the farmers. Finally, pesticide use information was missing for 2 felds where farmers were unreachable.

We constructed a path analysis to explore the relationships of landscape and pesticide use on herbivory, pollination and ultimately yield (Fig. 1). Path analysis is a particular case of structural equation model with inner model only, that estimates direct, indirect, and total efects of explanatory variables on dependent variables to describe correlations among them (Sanchez 2013). Path analysis is used to explore theoretically designed hypothesis. In path analysis variables are either exogenous (e.g. drivers) or endogenous (e.g. ecosystem service indicators) depending on hypothesized pathways. The exogenous variables included were the proportion of semi-natural cover and the number of pesticide applications while the endogenous variables were the feld yield, the abundance of apex borer, the abundance of pollinators, the ADI and the DSI. R-squared values for endogenous variables show the amount of variation explained. The path coeffcients depict the correlation between two variables. We assessed the diferences in mean ADI and DSI between excluded and non-excluded plants using two Generalized Linear Mixed Models (GLMM) with feld as random efect. For ADI, we used a Gamma error distribution to account for the long tail distribution. For DSI we used a Binomial error distribution with a logit link function to account for the proportional nature of this index, and we also used the total number of seeds to weight the GLMM.

Statistical analyses were performed using R v3.5.1 (R Core Team 2018), the path analysis was performed using the plspm R package (Sanchez 2013) and the GLMM using glmer function from the lme4 package.

## **Results**

Our results revealed only two signifcant relationships from our hypothesized path analysis (Fig. 3). First, we found significant negative effect  $(p=0.021;$  path $coefficient = -0.892$ ) of the number of pesticide applications on pollinator abundance (Fig.  $3$ ), suggesting a high pollinator mortality due to tested pesticide use. Second, a positive significant effect  $(p=0.014;$  path $coefficient = 0.776$ ; Fig. 3) arose between apex borer



abundance and ADI, refecting the capacity of apex borer to modify plant architecture. This hypothesis was also supported by the signifcantly lower herbivory for plants excluded from insects (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 4a, Additional fle 1: Fig. S3, Table S4) with a mean ADI 25.7% higher compared to excluded plants. We also found a signifcant efect of pollinator exclusion on pollination ( $p = 0.017$ , Fig. 4b, Additional file 1: Fig. S4, Table S5), with non-excluded flowers exhibiting a mean DSI higher by 10.5% compared to excluded flowers. All the other relationships depicted in the path analysis showed non-signifcant efects (Fig. 3).

## **Discussion**

Natural habitat conservation at the landscape scale has been proposed as another pest management strategy that can be integrated with pesticide use, with synergistic benefts for pollination (Ricketts et al. 2008; Gurr et al. 2017). Therefore, sprayed crops and semi-natural areas are embedded within the same landscape, interacting together. Our study documents a case of the combined efect of these two drivers in a smallholder farming system in the Ecuadorian Andes, with small size felds (< 1-2 ha) and diversifed crops.

From our initial sample of 30 farms, we were able to obtain complete data for only 9 farms due to issues during our participatory monitoring of insects, and to the long time-scale of the exclusion experiments (during the whole crop cycle, see also Dangles et al. 2010 for a discussion on benefts and drawbacks of crop pest participatory monitoring). Therefore, most of our nonsignifcant results could be due to the low sample size we ended with. We nevertheless discuss our signifcant results and explore alternative hypothesis for non-signifcant efects with potential biological mechanisms at work.



## **Pesticide efect on pollinators and pests**

Our study showed a signifcant negative efect of pesticide applications on pollinator abundance (Fig. 3). While similar results have been reported in intensifed cropping systems (e.g. Johnson et al. 2010; de Oliveira et al. 2019), there are fewer support of this process in smallholder farms where application occurs at a reduced scale, with weaker farmer's knowledge of the products and their hazards (e.g. Mengistie et al. 2017). Pollinators play a key role because 35% of the global food production is dependent on animal pollination (Klein et al. 2007). However major crop production in the Andes may be more resistant to pollinator disappearance than other regions because some of the major crops grown here are not dependent on animal pollination (e.g. maize, potato, quinoa; Appendix 1 and 2 in Klein et al. 2007). While pesticide use signifcantly decreased pollinator abundance, no signifcant efect of pesticide could be found on pest abundance. We hypothesize that this result could be linked with the ecology of the pest as only a small amount of pesticide can reach it within its protective refuge inside the stem.

## **Efects of landscape composition on pollinators and pests**

While pesticide had a signifcant efect on pollinators, our results showed only non-signifcant efects of the proportion of semi-natural cover surrounding the feld on abundance of both pests and pollinators (Fig. 3). The underlying biological mechanism behind our initial hypothesis was that more floral resources (e.g., shelter and nectar) were present in semi-natural habitat than cultivated crops, which would be benefcial to both natural enemies (Gurr et al. 2017) and pollinators (Ricketts et al. 2008). However, this hypothesis was not supported by our results. This finding could be related with the small feld size and the crop heterogeneity within the landscape compared to temperate areas. Indeed, Sirami et al. (2019) showed that reducing feld size and increasing crop diversity lead to similar benefts for biodiversity and related ecosystem services than increasing seminatural habitat cover. Moreover, the proportion of seminatural habitat in our landscapes were high (20–60%) compared to ranges commonly found in the literature (Sirami et al.  $2019$ ). Thus, we suggest that these farming systems may not beneft from an additional increase in semi-natural habitat because the current traditionnal farming practices already foster a relatively high heterogeneity of crop and conservation of semi natural habitats within the landscape. Furthermore, in the tropical region, crop spatial heterogeneity is even higher because of an additional phenological heterogeneity (i.e. crops at diferent lifecycle stages) allowed by the absence of seasonality.

We believe that these aspects should be further explored in smallholder farm systems to verify this hypothesis.

### **Efects of pollination on Andean lupine**

Our results also showed that fower visitation by insects increased the mean seed set by  $10.5\%$  (Fig. 4b). This is consistent with what has been found for other species of lupine, which display a combination of allogamous (through cross-pollination) and autogamous reproductions (Cowling et al. 1998). However, the cross-pollination rate has been shown to be highly variable among species and individuals, depending on genetic and environmental factors such as plant variety and distance to conspecifcs (Cowling et al. 1998). For *Lupinus mutabilis*, Cowling et al. (1998) reported a cross-pollination rate of 4 to 11%, while experiments conducted by Caligari et al. (2000) found an outcrossing rate reaching up to 58.8%. Our results add up to the literature, suggesting that allogamous reproduction in *L. mutabilis* has a signifcant impact on increasing fruit production. We also provide the frst evidence that seed production of the variety "450-Andino" of Andean lupine, the dominant variety used as a crop in Ecuador, is increased by pollination. Although pollination increased seed production, the abundance of pollinators had almost no efect on pollination (Fig.  $3$ ). This surprising result could be due to the fact that Apidae family may not be the main pollinator of Andean's lupine in our study area compared to study carried out in Peru (Ochoa-Zavala et al. 2016). Another explanation could be linked with the "flower tripping" pollination mechanism occurring in other lupine species (Williams 1987). Flower tripping is a self-pollination triggered by the movements (landing, take-of) of large insect within the flower, resulting in a very generalist pollination mechanism. If this mechanism takes place in Andean lupine, it could explain why the abundance of Apidae only had no efect on fruit production, because any large generalist insect could pollinate the fowers inadvertently. It is yet unknown whether this mechanism takes place in Andean lupine reproduction, and additional studies should focus on this aspect to shed light on this understudied part of its ecology, for example by manually simulating flower tripping events.

## **Efect of pest on Andean lupine architecture and yied**

A positive signifcant efect was observed between apex borer abundance and the apical dominance index, indicating that this pest is able to transform Andean lupine's architecture (Fig. 3). Indeed, the fy's larvae feed on the internal tissues of the plant and frequently damages apical meristems. In response, the Andean lupine plant

stimulates its lateral meristems growth, resulting in a signifcant change in plant architecture to compensate the loss induced by the pest (Fig. 4a). When the compensation exceeds the loss, a mechanism called overcompensation takes place, leading to a higher growth than if the plant was left undamaged. Overcompensation can be either reproductive (increased fruit production) or vegetative (increased vegetative growth). Even though reproductive overcompensation seems widespread for species in the Fabaceae family (Garcia and Eubanks 2018), our results do not support this hypothesis as herbivory did not signifcantly increase yield. Nevertheless, a case of reproductive overcompensation for *L. mutabilis* was previously reported in the literature (Porter 1982), where overcompensation was induced in an opposite manner (cutting lateral branches increased pod set in apical flowers). Overall, our study shows that the apex borer does not signifcantly increase nor decrease Andean lupine's yield, which suggests that the plant is able to compensate for the damage taken. Therefore, even though the apex borer's damage is very conspicuous due to the plant's architecture modifcations, our results suggest that this species may not be as detrimental to crop production as farmers currently perceive.

## **Limitations of the study**

Several factors that we did not account for, such as tillage, crop rotation, use of fertilizers or timing and modes of action of pesticide could infuence the biology of pests and the vulnerability of lupine to pests, and should therefore be further studied. Additionally, our analysis would have benefciated from a multiyear experiment because climatic conditions also infuence the biology of pests and pollinators. Finally, we believe that more knowledge needs to be gathered about the biology of pests and pollinators associated with Andean lupine because knowing the functional relationships between habitats and insects would help to defne functionally meaningful semi-natural habitat to be measured within the landscape.

## **Conclusions**

This study shows that pesticide use had an overall greater impact on the entomofauna associated with Andean lupine felds than the presence of semi natural habitats nearby. We propose that further studies should explore the role of crop spatial and temporal diversities within the landscape to explain this absence of efect, as the Ecuadorian Andes are very diverse landscapes, both spatially and temporally. Our results also provide information about Andean lupine reproduction and overcompensation mechanisms that could be of interest for local farmers and researchers of this understudied crop.

## **Supplementary Information**

The online version contains supplementary material available at [https://doi.](https://doi.org/10.1186/s43170-021-00027-w) [org/10.1186/s43170-021-00027-w.](https://doi.org/10.1186/s43170-021-00027-w)

Additional file 1. Additional tables and figures.

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#### **Authors' contributions**

QS and OD designed research; QS and DM performed research and collected data; QS and OD analysed data; QS led the writing with contributions from DM and OD. All authors read and approved the fnal manuscript.

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#### **Availability of data and materials**

All data necessary to compute the fgures are available as supplementary material.

#### **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

Not applicable.

## **Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

#### **Competing interests**

Authors declare no confict of interests.

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