

Landscape floral resources provided by rapeseed correlate with next-year reproduction of cavity-nesting pollinators in a national participatory monitoring program

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- ¹ Landscape floral resources provided by rapeseed correlate
- ² with next-year reproduction of cavity-nesting pollinators
- ³ in a national participatory monitoring program
- ⁴ Victor Van der Meersch · Olivier
- ⁵ Billaud · Magali San Cristobal · Aude
- ⁶ Vialatte · Emmanuelle Porcher ·
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⁹ Abstract *Context* Wild pollinators depend on floral resources available

- ¹⁰ in the landscape, partly provided by mass flowering crops (MFCs), such as
- ¹¹ rapeseed or sunflower. MFCs are however often grown conventionally, implying
- $_{12}$ $\,$ insecticide use, with potential negative effects on $\,$ pollinators.
- ¹³ **Objectives** To understand whether and to what extent these crops could ¹⁴ contribute to the maintenance of pollinator populations, we investigated the
 - Grants or other notes about the article that should go on the front page should be placed here. General acknowledgments should be placed at the end of the article.
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¹⁵ inter-annual correlation between MFC resources and the reproduction of cavity-

 $_{16}$ $\,$ nesting pollinators (solitary bees and wasps) at a national scale.

 $_{17}$ *Methods* We studied a standardized citizen science dataset, in which farm-

 $_{18}\,$ ers collected data on the abundance of sealed tubes in trap nests, between

¹⁹ 2012 and 2017, in nearly 600 fields distributed across France. We modelled the ²⁰ relation between nesting and landscape resources of the current and previous

²¹ year, taking local farming practices into account.

Results Pollinator nesting was positively correlated with the quantity of rapeseed floral resources the year preceding observations, as well as with the area of permanent meadows. On the contrary, we found more variable relations with sunflower floral resources, depending on the type of sealing material, hence likely on the phenology of pollinators. Our models also confirm that local practices should be accounted for when assessing the influence of the landscape context, although their effects were difficult to interpret.

²⁹ Conclusions That solitary bee and wasp reproduction is likely to be pos-

itively and durably affected by rapeseed cover. Moderate areas of rapeseed
 may help maintaining pollinators, in combination with semi-natural habitats,

³² which provide more diverse and stable food and nesting sites.

33

 $_{34}$ Keywords agriculture; \cdot biodiversity; \cdot citizen science; \cdot Osmia; \cdot solitary

³⁵ bees; · pollination; · floral resources; · mass-flowering crops

36 1 Introduction

Agriculture and biodiversity are inter-linked. The observed trend toward the 37 intensification of farming practices and the homogenization of landscapes over 38 the past decades have triggered significant negative impacts on insect diversity 39 and abundance (Benton et al. 2002; Sánchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys 2019). In 40 particular, pollinators are known to decline because of several human-related 41 drivers, including habitat loss and use of agrochemicals (Potts et al. 2010; Van-42 bergen and the Insect Pollinators Initiative 2013). This major loss of insects 43 could have negative effects on ecosystem functioning, as insects play a central 44 role in a variety of processes, including pollination: 80% of wild plants are 45 estimated to depend on animals for pollination (Ollerton, Winfree, and Tar-46 47 rant 2011), and 35% of global agricultural production comes from crops that depend on pollinators (Klein et al. 2007). In turn, many pollinator species de-48 pend at least partially on floral resource availability and accessibility (Potts et 49 al. 2003). The spatial and temporal distribution of floral resources is therefore 50 essential for pollinators, especially for central place foragers such as wild bees, 51 which are not spared from human disturbance (Biesmeijer et al. 2006; Goul-52 son, Lye, and Darvill 2008; Potts et al. 2010; Burkle, Marlin, and Knight 2013; 53 Woodcock et al. 2016) and cannot follow the seasonality of flowering from one 54 area to another. They may be more efficient pollinators of wild plants and 55 crops than honeybees (Garibaldi et al. 2014; Mallinger and Gratton 2015), 56 and thus important for supporting pollinator-dependent crops and sustaining 57 pollination services in agricultural areas. 58 In agricultural landscapes, floral resources for pollinators are provided both 59

by wild plants and by mass flowering crops (MFCs): the former provide less 60 abundant but more constant resources than crops, while the latter provide 61 massive amounts of resources but during a restricted period of flowering. Al-62 though wild bees seem to depend more on wild floral resources than on MFCs 63 (Rollin et al. 2013), many of them, including solitary bees, are still known to 64 use MFCs (Jauker, Bondarenko, et al. 2012; Le Féon et al. 2013). Besides, the 65 balance between positive and negative effects of MFCs on wild bees remains 66 unclear. On the one hand, MFCs provide both pollen and nectar resources that 67 positively affect solitary bee species richness (Diekötter et al. 2014), abundance 68 (Le Féon et al. 2013; Riedinger et al. 2015) and reproduction (Holzschuh et al. 69 2012; Jauker, Peter, et al. 2012), even though some studies found a negative 70 effect (Holzschuh et al. 2016; Shaw et al. 2020). On the other hand, MFCs are 71 often associated with intensive agriculture, which comes with a simplification 72 of landscapes, including fewer semi-natural landscape elements providing cav-73 ities for nesting, as well as more frequent use of pesticides, which may have 74 lethal and sublethal effects on solitary bees (Biddinger 2013; Artz and Pitts-75 Singer 2015; Rundlöf et al. 2015; Sgolastra et al. 2017; Azpiazu et al. 2019). 76 Moreover, by favoring generalist pollinators, a high proportion of MFCs in 77 the landscape may disrupt local plant-pollinator interactions (Diekötter et al. 78 2010). 79

The observed contrasting relationships between MFCs and solitary bee 80 abundance or reproduction may be due in part to various sources of hetero-81 geneity in the aforementioned studies, which we aim to control in the current 82 study. First, these studies were performed in a variety of contexts, in terms of 83 landscape structure, farming practices or climate. In order to generalize the 84 actual role of MFCs, we here analyse a unique dataset obtained across a wide 85 range of agro-environmental contexts. Second, to characterize the effects of 86 MFCs, most researchers studied either (1) immediate impacts, wherein MFCs 87 generally attract bees or other pollinators, with sometimes a positive effect 88 on breeding (Holzschuh et al. 2012, Le Féon et al. 2013, and Diekötter et 89 al. 2014) or (2) year-to-year effects, wherein MFCs may influence bee abun-90 dance the following year (Jauker, Peter, et al. 2012 and Riedinger et al. 2015). 91 Only inter-annual effects of MFCs on the fitness of wild pollinators and their 92 population growth rate would promote their maintenance in the long term. 93 Understanding the balance between positive effects, through the delivery of 94 floral resources, and negative effects, through possible pesticide contamina-95 tion, according to agro-environmental contexts is necessary to inform future 96 agro-ecological management of these crops. 97

This study investigates the relationship between the reproduction of cavity-98 nesting pollinators (solitary bees, but also wasps) and mass-flowering crop 99 cover over a whole country. Our goal is to complement previous studies, on 100 the one hand by examining year-to-year effects to assess the long term impact 101 of MFCs, and on the other hand by considering a broad area and a variety of 102 contexts. Our originality is to rely on a citizen science program with a large 103 number of sites (nearly 600 fields) all over France. We focus on immediate 104 and year-to-year landscape correlations with bee or wasp reproduction. We 105 aimed to assess whether the cover of two widespread MFCs (rapeseed and 106 sunflower) was correlated with solitary bee and wasp nesting both in the year 107 of monitoring and in the following year, and thus might be able to support 108 pollinator populations through time. 109

¹¹⁰ 2 Material and methods

111 2.1 Participatory monitoring of solitary bees in field edges

The study was conducted in fields monitored by farmers all over mainland 112 France between 2012 and 2017, within the framework of the Farmland Bio-113 diversity Observatory (FBO). The FBO targets several taxonomic groups to 114 identify farming practices and landscape elements that promote farmland bio-115 diversity (Billaud, Vermeersch, and Porcher 2020). To our knowledge, this is 116 one of the first national biodiversity monitoring programs to use a participa-117 tory approach involving farmers. Over a total of 1,501 sites, we selected 576 118 sites, including 416 field crops and 166 meadows, for which all required envi-119 ronmental variables (see below), including geographical coordinates, were well 120

reported. Some sites were monitored several years in a row (see below for more details).

 $\mathbf{5}$

¹²³ 2.2 Trap nests in field boundary

All farmers set up two standardized trap nests 5 meter away from each other 124 in each studied field boundary. A trap nest consisted of 32 cardboard tubes 125 that were fixed facing south, on a wooden post, 1 meter above the ground 126 (Billaud, Vermeersch, and Porcher 2020). Farmers monitored nest occupancy, 127 an indicator for reproductive performance, by counting sealed tubes. They also 128 reported a proxy for the diversity of nesting species by identifying the sealing 129 material (mud, chewed leaves, trichomes of woolly plants...). Theoretically, 130 trap nests were meant to be monitored once a month between March and 131 November, but some observers tended to forget some of the surveys. Within a 132 year, 91.8% of sites were sampled at least twice, and 49% at least five times. 133 Accordingly, we did not summarize data within a year, but chose to use all 134 3,345 observations, i.e. one count in a given month per trap nest. Note, how-135 ever, that other analysis choices, such as considering the maximum number of 136 sealed tubes within a year, did not modify the main results (not shown). 137 We focused our study on both total abundance (pooling all sealing ma-138 terials) and abundance of the most abundant category of sealing material, 139 i.e. mud, which represents 65% of observations. These mud-sealed tubes are 140 likely to be made in great part by Osmia bees (Linsley 1958), which are early 141 spring foragers. We therefore expect them to benefit more from the presence 142 of rapeseed than from that of sunflower. However, this prediction should be 143 considered with caution because other cavity-nesting, flower-visiting taxa such 144 as some Megachile (e.g. subgenus Chalicodoma, see Michener 2007), and soli-145 tary wasps such as Eumeninae, Sphecidae and Crabronidae (Steffan-Dewenter 146 and Leschke 2003; Pereira-Peixoto et al. 2014, MacIvor and Packer 2015), may 147 also use mud for nest building. 148

¹⁴⁹ 2.3 Environmental variables

Landscape variables We used the national cartographic field registry (*Registre* parcellaire graphique, RPG) to map each crop type within a buffer around each study site. We chose the size of the buffer *a priori* on the basis of ecological knowledge of solitary bees instead of testing multiple spatial extents and taking the one that best predicts the response, because the latter approach is sometimes biased (Jackson and Fahrig 2015). The area of each crop in the buffer was calculated using the R package *sf* (Pebesma 2018).

¹⁵⁷ We computed the area of the two main MFCs (rapeseed and sunflower) ¹⁵⁸ both in the sampling year and the previous year. For the sampling year cal-¹⁵⁹ culation, we used a 250m-radius buffer since the distance at which half of the ¹⁶⁰ population discontinues foraging (few hundred meters) is more relevant than

the species specific maximum foraging distance (Zurbuchen et al. 2010). For 161 the previous year calculation, we decided to use a 1000m-radius buffer because 162 the dispersal distance, from the emergence site to the nesting site, is larger 163 than the median foraging distance of solitary bees and wasps. We chose the 164 buffer sizes according to the measurements by Zurbuchen et al. (2010) for two 165 species of the Osmiini tribe with different sizes (Hylaeus punctulatissimus and 166 Hoplitis adunca), as a proxy for the foraging and dispersal distances of all pol-167 linators visiting the trap nests. However, the choice of the buffer radius (250m 168 or 1,000m) for the area of MFCs the year preceding the observation did not 169 influence the results (not shown). 170

In order to take into account all other floral resources beyond crops and 171 nesting opportunities, we also computed the area of temporary meadows for 172 both sampling year and previous year and the area of orchards and perma-173 nent meadows in the sampling year only (because these land uses change little 174 through time). We followed the definition of the Common Agricultural Policy 175 of the European Union to differentiate permanent (5 years or more) vs. tem-176 porary meadows (≤ 4 years). Finally, as forest margins are known to influence 177 wild bees (Bailey et al. 2014; Joshi et al. 2016; Odanaka and Rehan 2020). 178 we also computed the perimeter of forests in the buffer using the Corine Land 179 Cover database provided by the European Environmental Agency. 180

Local variables For each field, farmers reported the presence of surrounding 181 linear elements: hedgerows and their age (old vs. young, a qualitative assess-182 ment at the discretion of the observer), grass strips, roads, ditches, woody 183 margins. They were used in the models below to inform on potential food 184 sources next to the trap nests. We characterized farming practices with two 185 classes on the basis of farmers' reporting. For nesting observations located in 186 a meadow edge, we used the type of meadow (temporary vs. permanent). For 187 nesting observations located in a field crop edge, we used the farming system 188 (conventional vs. organic farming). 189

Control variables We assessed local weather conditions with the E-OBS database 190 from the European Climate Assessment Dataset project (Cornes et al. 2018). 191 Spring weather conditions influence the phenology of early solitary bees and 192 wasps that can forage on rapeseed (Vicens and Bosch 2000), on the one hand, 193 and the flowering period of rapeseed and the sowing date of sunflower, on the 194 other hand. For each monitored field, we chose to compute the mean temper-195 ature and the sum of precipitation between the 20th of February and either 196 the 31st of May or the sampling date, whichever came first. Since we did not 197 know the exact nest installation date, we also included the number of days 198 between the beginning of the year and the observation date as a proxy for the 199 period of time during which a nest is installed. These three variables (mean 200 temperature, sum of precipitation and time) were included in the model be-201 low as control variables, i.e. we checked that their effect was consistent with 202 expectations. 203

7

204 2.4 Statistical analysis

The correlations between landscape resources and the presence/absence and 205 abundance of sealed tubes in trap nests were assessed using two hurdle mixed 206 models, one for each field edge type (field crop and meadow), in R (R Core 207 Team 2020) on RStudio (RStudio Team 2019) with the *glmmTMB* package 208 (Brooks et al. 2017). Hurdle models are two-stage models that provide a way 209 of modeling the excessive proportion of zero values and are known to perform 210 well for ecological data (Potts and Elith 2006). The first stage models the 211 presence/absence of sealed tubes with a probability of presence π , and the 212 second stage models their abundance, with mean μ , conditional on the pres-213 ence of mud-sealed tubes. Compared to zero-inflation models, a hurdle model 214 assumes that there is a single process by which a zero can be produced. 215

Let $Y_{i,j,k}$ be a random variable that represents the number of sealed tubes observed during the k^{th} observation in plot j of year i. The hurdle mixed model is the following:

$$\Pr\{Y_{i,j,k} = y | \pi_{i,j,k}, (\theta, \mu_{i,j,k})\} = \begin{cases} 1 - \pi_{i,j,k}, \ y = 0\\ \pi_{i,j,k} \frac{NegBin\{y,(\theta, \mu_{i,j,k})}{1 - NegBin\{0,(\theta, \mu_{i,j,k})}, \ y \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

$$logit(\Pi) = X_{zero} * B_{zero} + S_{zero} \quad logit(M) = X_{count} * B_{count} + S_{count}$$

with Π and M vectors of probabilities $\pi_{i,j,k}$ and means $\mu_{i,j,k}$, X_{zero} and X_{count} vectors of fixed effects listed in Appendix A with their related vectors of coefficients B_{zero} and B_{count} , S_{zero} (resp S_{count}) the vector of site random intercepts $s_j^{zero} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{zero}^2)$ (resp. $s_j^{count} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{count}^2)$), and θ the dispersion parameter of the negative binomial.

In our models, we included five types of variables with fixed effects, which 224 are listed in Appendix A: (1) four variables related to the quantity of floral re-225 sources provided by MFCs (area of rapeseed and sunflower in the current and 226 previous year), (2) seven variables related to the semi-natural elements likely to 227 provide additional floral resources and nesting opportunities in the surround-228 ing landscape, (3) eight variables describing either local practices in the field 229 neighbouring the monitoring site or local food/nesting sources and (4) their in-230 teractions with landscape resources, and finally (5) three control variables. We 231 also included a site random effect to take into account the non-independence 232 of repeated observations in some fields, within a year and between years (131 233 sites were monitored at least two consecutive years). All variables were stan-234 dardized and centered. Note that, to avoid multicollinearity issues, we did not 235 include the type of crop sown in the neighbouring field in the models because 236 it was indirectly taken into account in the landscape variables. 237

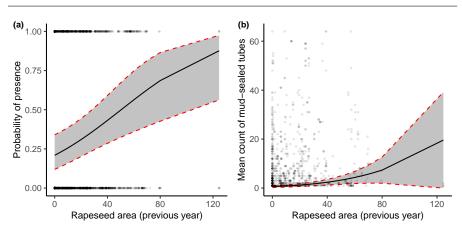


Fig. 1 Relationship between (a) probability of presence of a mud-sealed tube or (b) abundance of mud-sealed tubes, in trap nests set up in field crop edges, and rapeseed field area in the previous year. Continuous black lines are either (a) the predicted zero-inflation probability or (b) the mean model prediction conditioned on the fixed effects and the zero-inflation component. Grey ribbons are the confidence intervals. Each grey point represents one observation; multiple grey points on top of each other appear in darker grey.

We first analysed full models (see Appendix A). Then, we ran an auto-238 matic selection with the R package MuMIn (Barton 2020), using the corrected 239 Akaike information criteria (AICc) and fixing several variables of interest for 240 our main questions. Variables selected through this process are in italics in 241 Table 1. We also checked the variance inflation factor with the R package per-242 formance (Lüdecke et al. 2020) to ensure there was no multicollinearity (see 243 Appendix B). We used the DHARMa package (Hartig 2020) for residual diag-244 nostics. Residual overdispersion and zero-inflation were acceptable upon visual 245 inspection (see Appendix C). The Durbin-Watson test was not significant for 246 most of the residuals, we thus decided to ignore temporal autocorrelation (see 247 Appendix D). 248

Model outputs were formatted with the help of the *texreg* package (Leifeld 2013). Finally, we used the *ggeffects* package (Lüdecke 2018) to build output figures.

This workflow of data analysis was applied to two dependent variables : the number of mud-sealed tubes, representing the majority of observations, and the total number of sealed tubes. In the following, we present mostly results on mud-sealed tubes, because they are generally similar to results for all tubes and because they are likely to represent patterns for a more restricted taxonomic group. We nonetheless discuss dissimilarities between both analyses and provide full results on all tubes in Appendix E.

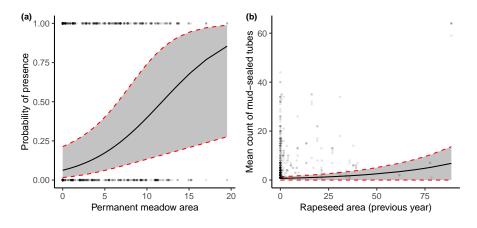


Fig. 2 Relationship between (a) probability of presence of a mud-sealed tube and permanent meadow area, or (b) abundance of mud-sealed tubes and rapeseed field area in the previous year, in trap nests set up in meadow edges. Continuous black lines are either (a) the predicted zero-inflation probability or (b) the mean model prediction conditioned on the fixed effects and the zero-inflation component. Grey ribbons are the confidence intervals. Each grey point represents one observation; multiple grey points on top of each other appear in darker grey.

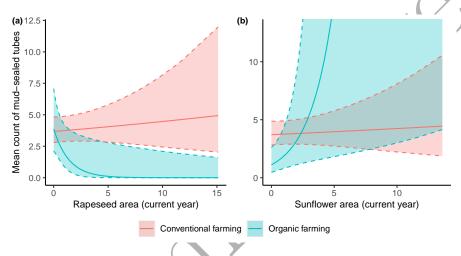


Fig. 3 Relationship between abundance of mud-sealed tubes and mass-flowering crop area ((a) rapeseed, or (b) sunflower), for trap nests set up in field crop edges across different farming systems. Lines are the mean model predictions, conditioned on the fixed effects and the zero-inflation component. Ribbons are the confidence intervals.



Table 1 Output of hurdle models examining the relationship between the presence of mudsealed tubes ("Zero model") or their abundance conditional on presence ("Count model") and environmental variables. The table shows the parameter estimates, with standard errors in parentheses, after automatic selection of variables. Non-italicized variables were fixed, while italicized variables are those that were retained during the automatic selection process. Parameters with a p-value<0.05 are highlighted in bold. All variables were standardized and centered.

	Zero	Zero model		Count model	
	Field crops	Meadows	Field crops	Meadows	
Intercept (conventional farming, no landscape elements nearby)	- 0.90 (0.30)**		1.32 (0.14)***		
Intercept (temporary meadow, no landscape elements nearby)		$-1.72 \ (0.59)^{**}$		1.63 (0.20)***	
Landscape variables					
Area of rapeseed (current year) Area of rapeseed (previous year) Area of sunflower (current year) Area of sunflower (previous year) Area of permanent meadows Area of temporary meadows (current year) Area of temporary meadows (previous year) Perimeter of forests	-0.14 (0.11) 0.50 (0.15)*** -0.07 (0.12) - 0.41 (0.17)* 0.69 (0.19)***	$\begin{array}{c} 0.31 \ (0.20) \\ 0.13 \ (0.29) \\ -0.35 \ (0.30) \\ -0.16 \ (0.38) \\ \textbf{1.03} \ (0.38)^{**} \\ \textbf{1.15} \ (0.46)^{*} \\ -\textbf{1.09} \ (0.49)^{*} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.04 \ (0.06) \\ \textbf{0.31} \ (0.09)^{***} \\ 0.03 \ (0.07) \\ -0.04 \ (0.09) \\ \textbf{0.27} \ (0.09)^{**} \end{array}$	-0.04 (0.06) 0.24 (0.09)** 0.10 (0.16) -0.10 (0.16) 0.11 (0.11) -0.40 (0.16)* 0.30 (0.15)*	
Local variables					
Organic farming Permanent meadow	0.48(0.57)	0.51 (0.40)	-0.75(0.43)	-0.01 (0.18)	
Road Young hedgerow Old hedgerow	$-0.68 (0.31)^*$ 0.59 (0.31)	$1.16 (0.66) \\ 0.41 (0.62)$	-0.14(0.18)	-0.50 (0.20)*	
Interactions					
Area of rapeseed (cur. year):Organic farming Area of rapeseed (prev. year):Organic farming Area of sunflower (cur. year):Organic farming Area of sunflower (prev. year):Organic farming Area of permanent meadows:Organic farming	$\begin{array}{c} -0.33 \; (0.82) \\ 0.72 \; (0.70) \\ -0.27 \; (0.41) \\ -0.79 \; (0.52) \\ -0.30 \; (0.59) \end{array}$	λ	$\begin{array}{c} -1.51 \ (0.70)^* \\ -0.31 \ (0.31) \\ 1.03 \ (0.46)^* \\ 0.19 \ (0.28) \\ -0.07 \ (0.28) \end{array}$		
Control variables					
Temperature Precipitation Number of days	1.32 (0.14)*** 0.66 (0.11)*** 0.60 (0.09)***	$\begin{array}{c} 1.79 \ (0.29)^{***} \\ 1.44 \ (0.26)^{***} \\ 1.07 \ (0.16)^{***} \end{array}$	0.40 (0.07)*** 0.37 (0.05)*** 0.02 (0.04)	0.24 (0.10)* 0.25 (0.09)** 0.18 (0.06)**	
Variance of site random effect	8.69	14.95	1.88	0.93	

Field crops : trap nests set up in field crop edges ; Meadows : trap nests set up in meadow edges

259 3 Results

- ²⁶⁰ 3.1 Relationship between area of mass-flowering crops and reproduction of
- 261 cavity-nesting pollinators
- 262 Nesting was generally positively correlated with the quantity of floral resources
- ²⁶³ provided by MFCs, but the relationships depended on the type of sealing mate-
- rial, the identity of crops and the timing of resource availability. For rapeseed,
- ²⁶⁵ only the area cultivated the year preceding observations was related to nesting
- ²⁶⁶ (Table 1, area of rapeseed (previous year)). Regardless of the dependent vari-
- ²⁶⁷ able, the area of rapeseed fields in the previous year was positively linked to

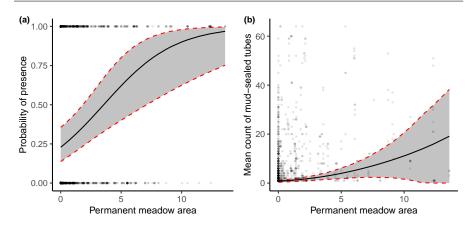


Fig. 4 Relationship between (a) probability of presence of a mud-sealed tube or (b) abundance of mud-sealed tubes, in trap nests set up in field crop edges, and permanent meadow area. Continuous black lines are either (a) the predicted zero-inflation probability or (b) the mean model prediction conditioned on the fixed effects and the zero-inflation component. Grey ribbons are the confidence intervals. Each grey point represents one observation; multiple grey points on top of each other appear in darker grey.

the abundance of occupied tubes in field crop edges (Fig. 1b) and in meadow 268 edges (Fig. 2b). The area of rapeseed fields in the previous year was also posi-269 tively related to the presence of mud-sealed tubes in field crop edges (Fig. 1a). 270 In contrast, the area of rapeseed fields in the current year did not correlate 271 significantly with pollinator nesting, regardless of the model (Table 1, area 272 of rapeseed (current year)). For sunflower, field area in the previous year was 273 negatively linked to the presence of mud-sealed tubes in field crop edges, but 274 the area of sunflower fields in the year of observations was positively related 275 to the presence of all types of sealing materials (Table 1, area of sunflower 276 (previous year) and Appendix E, Table 4, area of sunflower (current year)). 277 Similarly, in meadow edges sunflower area was positively related to the pres-278 ence of occupied tubes (Appendix E, Table 4). In all other cases, there was no 279 significant correlation of sunflower area with bee and wasp reproduction. 280

In addition to the simple effect of previous year MFC area on mud-sealed 281 tubes, we observed significant interactions of current-year MFC area with the 282 farming system, although the latter did not have a significant simple effect 283 (Table 1, area of rapeseed (cur. year):organic farming and area of sunflower 284 (cur. year):organic farming). These interactions differed between MFCs. With 285 rapeseed, the relationship between mud-sealed tube abundance and coexisting 286 crop area varied from slightly positive to negative in conventional vs. organic 287 fields (Fig. 3a). In contrast, with sunflower, the same relationship varied from 288 slightly positive to strongly positive in conventional vs. organic fields (Fig. 3b). 289 The significance of these interactions were however sensitive to the dependent 290 variable considered (Tables 4 and 5 in Appendix E). 291

3.2 Relationship between other landscape elements and reproduction of
 cavity-nesting pollinators

The presence and abundance of mud-sealed tubes also correlated significantly 294 with the area of semi-natural elements likely to provide food or nesting sources 295 (Table 1, area of permanent meadows). Both presence and abundance of oc-296 cupied tubes were positively correlated with the area of permanent meadows 297 in field crop edge (Fig. 4), regardless of the dependent variable. Similarly, in 298 meadow edges, the presence of occupied tubes, but not their abundance, was 299 positively linked to permanent meadow area (Fig. 2a). Temporary meadows 300 had more variable relationships with solitary bee and wasp reproduction. In 301 meadow edges, temporary meadow area in the current year was positively re-302 lated to the presence of mud-sealed tubes, but this area in the previous year was 303 negatively related to the presence of mud-sealed tubes (Zero model in Table 1, 304 area of temporary meadows). The pattern was opposite for abundance (Count 305 model in Table 1, area of temporary meadows). These relationships were not 306 significant in models considering the maximum number of mud-sealed tubes 307 or all occupied tubes (Table 4, Appendix E). The presence of occupied tubes 308 was generally positively related to perimeter of forests in field crop edge, but 309 the presence of hedgerows had no detectable correlation in any model. The 310 proximity of a road was negatively related to the abundance of occupied tubes 311 in meadow edges, and to the presence of occupied tubes in field crop edges. 312 Finally, the type of meadow was not significantly correlated with nesting mea-313

314 sured in meadow edges.

315 3.3 Control variables

 $_{316}$ In all models, the number of days since the beginning of the year was positively

³¹⁷ related to the presence of mud-sealed tubes. Similarly, when significant, mean

temperature and sum of precipitation correlated positively with both presence

³¹⁹ and abundance of mud-sealed tubes.

320 4 Discussion

While examining the landscape and local correlates of solitary bee and wasp 321 nest building across a whole country, we observed positive relationships with 322 the area of landscape elements that provide resources, i.e. rapeseed, sunflower 323 and permanent meadows. For rapeseed, this relationship was true only for 324 the area cultivated the year preceding observations, regardless of the tube-325 sealing material considered. For sunflower, nesting was positively linked with 326 crop area in the current year when all sealing materials were considered, but 327 negatively linked with crop area in the previous year when considering mud-328 sealed tubes only. In the following we discuss the implications of our findings 329 for the management of agricultural landscapes. 330

³³¹ 4.1 Inter-annual impacts of mass flowering crops on nest building in solitary

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332 bees and wasps

We focused our study on the inter-annual effects of landscape floral resources 333 334 on the reproduction of wild bees and wasps. We evidenced a positive correlation between rapeseed field area in the previous year and solitary bee and 335 wasp nesting, both in the zero model and the abundance model. Such correla-336 tion suggests that rapeseed may have a lasting year-to-year impact on bee and 337 wasp reproduction. Whereas solitary bee nest-building was previously shown 338 to increase during the period of mass-flowering (Jauker, Peter, et al. 2012), we 339 did not find any significant impact of the area of rapeseed of the current year. 340 Our results indicate that the previous year resources seem to benefit more 341 to nest-building and thus to support production of sexuals, a requirement to 342 carry over benefits into the next season. 343

The next-year positive effect of rapeseed floral resources may be related 344 to nest provisioning. Although both males and females feed on flowers, only 345 females invest in brood care. During spring, solitary bee and wasp females 346 collect building materials and food for the nest, where the eggs are lain in in-347 dividual cells. The larvae stay in the nest throughout the summer and winter, 348 using pollen reserves, and emerge the following spring. Reproductive success 349 thus depends on the female's ability to provision nests with enough pollen 350 mixture to ensure the emergence of enough offspring the following year. Trap 351 nests only provide information about the number of sealed tubes, and not 352 about the actual number of cells and larvae in each tube. We do not know 353 the actual number of viable offspring that will emerge the following spring: in 354 previous studies, it has been shown that sometimes no adults emerge from a 355 nest, notably because all cells can be parasitized (e.g. Steffan-Dewenter 2002). 356 Variation in offspring number within sealed tubes may explain the contrasting 357 correlations of bee and wasp reproduction with previous year and current year 358 rapeseed cover. Available floral resources during breeding season allow each 359 female to lay more eggs in each tube, and to provision more pollen mixture for 360 each larvae, which will result in a higher abundance in the next year, hence 361 in a positive correlation between nesting and previous year rapeseed cover. 362 However, females may not necessarily seal more tubes even when more pollen 363 resources are available because of the high cost of the nest plug (Rust 1993), 364 hence the non-significant effect of current rapeseed cover on bee reproduction. 365 Riedinger et al. (2015) showed that rapeseed has a year-to-year effect by pro-366 moting a higher solitary bee and wasp abundance the following year. Here we 367 show that this higher abundance of solitary bees and wasps, which we did not 368 measure directly, also translates into higher reproductive potential, an indirect 369 piece of evidence that rapeseed promotes solitary bee and wasp populations 370 (Fig. 5). This result was not completely expected, since the rapeseed blooming 371 period is limited, and since its pollen may be of minor importance for larvae 372 diet (Coudrain et al. 2016). Moreover, as a result of crop rotation, a high rape-373 seed cover one year may lead to a lack of floral resources in the landscape the 374 375

following year.

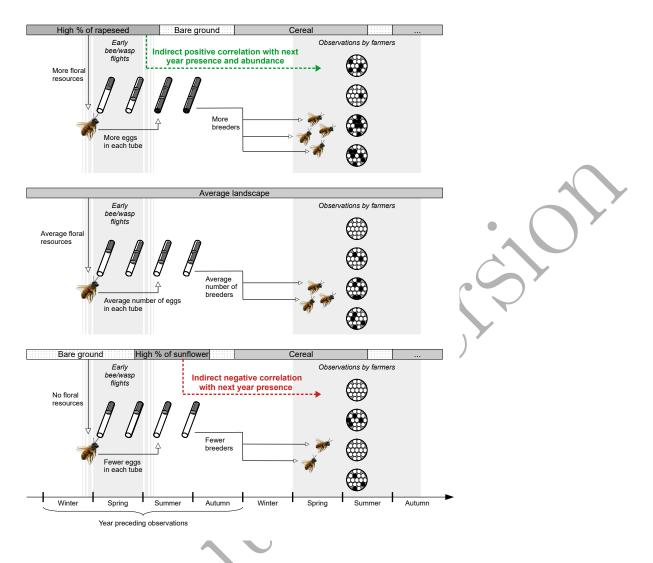


Fig. 5 Schematic summary of possible inter-annual effects of rapeseed (top) or sunflower (bottom) floral resources on solitary bee reproduction, as compared with an average land-scape (middle). Osmia rufa drawing by Valerie Littlewood, used with permission.

Sunflower area had a more contrasting correlation with wild bee/wasp reproduction, depending on the type of sealing material analyzed. For mudsealed tubes the relation with previous-year resources was on the whole more negative than for rapeseed, whereas when counting all tubes the relation with current-year resources was positive. Unlike rapeseed that blooms in spring, sunflower is a summer crop. The different relationships with bee reproduction may confirm that mud-sealed tubes are mainly produced by solitary bees active

in early spring, such as Osmia, which are known to pollinate spring-blooming 383 crops (Bosch, Sgolastra, and Kemp 2008). Sunflower area was negatively cor-384 related with next-year reproduction of pollinators using mud in the presence 385 model in field crop edges. This negative correlation between sunflower field 386 area in the previous year and the presence of mud-sealed nests may be un-387 derstood according to the same logic of interpretation as the one adopted in 388 the case of the effects of rapeseed. Since sunflower is a summer crop sown in 389 April, a high cover leads to a lack of floral resources during the spring and 390 may therefore reduce the number of breeders in the next year (Fig. 5). How-391 ever, according to this hypothesis, the abundance, not only the presence, of 392 mud-sealed tubes should also have been negatively correlated with sunflower 393 field area in the previous year. Finally the dissimilarities between the effect 394 of sunflower when all tubes vs. mud-sealed tubes only are considered suggest 395 that on average species using sealing materials other than mud have later phe-396 nologies than species using mud and are positively affected by the resources 397 provided by sunflower. Differences were observed on zero models only probably 398 because mud-sealed tubes represent the majority of observations and drive the 399 abundance data. 400

We found little correlation of bee and wasp reproduction with the area of 401 MFCs growing simultaneously but the interactions between MFC cover in the 402 current year and farming system were sometimes significant, in a surprising 403 way. We expected local pesticide use intensity to have negative effects on nest-404 ing, and even to counteract the positive effects of MFC floral resources and 405 semi-natural habitats as demonstrated for pest biological control (Ricci et al. 406 2019). Our analyses did not confirm these predictions, since farming system 407 alone did not have any significant effect and conventional practices interacted 408 positively with rapeseed resources (Fig. 3). Besides, some of these significant 409 interactions tended to vanish when studying the total number of occupied 410 nests instead of mud-sealed tubes. Again, these differences are consistent with 411 the hypothesis of partly different spring and summer communities. One reason 412 why we did not observe general negative effects of conventional farming may 413 be related to our data not measuring the number of offspring directly: pesticide 414 exposure might not reduce nesting, but only reduce offspring production and 415 alter the sex-ratio (Stuligross and Williams 2020). However, these results are 416 difficult to interpret because we lack information on practices at the landscape 417 level, while some authors emphasize the need to combine both local and land-418 scape levels when assessing the impacts of the intensity of farming practices 419 (Carrié et al 2017). 420

421 4.2 Importance of semi-natural elements and other permanent landscap 422 features

Both for the probability of presence and abundance of sealed tubes, the area of permanent meadows in the buffer strongly promoted solitary bee and wasp

⁴²⁵ reproduction. This is consistent with previous studies which showed that loss

of semi-natural habitats, i.e. land uses that are minimally managed and not 426 cultivated for arable crops, is one of the main drivers of pollinator decline 427 (Ricketts et al. 2008; Tscharntke et al. 2012). As the dynamics of wild bee 428 populations are mainly driven by the amount of nesting and floral resources 429 (Lonsdorf et al. 2009), semi-natural areas help maintain bee populations (Carré 430 et al. 2009; Tscharntke et al. 2012) by providing both nesting and food oppor-431 tunities. Remaining permanent meadows may also be important to offset bee 432 decline caused by meadow-to-crop conversion that occurred long ago (Provost 433 et al. 2020). Moreover, these semi-natural habitats may decrease the negative 434 effect of warmer temperature on bee populations (Papanikolaou et al. 2017) 435 and buffer the harmful impacts of pesticides (Park et al. 2015). 436

In both our models however, there was no evidence of a positive effect of 437 the proximity of hedgerows, except for the probability of nesting, regardless of 438 sealing material, in field crops. This observation goes against our expectations, 439 since it has been shown that abundance and diversity of wild bees are enhanced 440 in field edges by hedgerows (Morandin and Kremen 2013). This result may be 441 due to the fact that this parameter is reported by farmers, whose definition of a 442 hedgerow may differ and may include different types of vegetation and different 443 stages of the hedgerows (recently planted or older, more or less diversified). 444 By contrast, our models evidenced a negative impact of the presence of a road. 445 The amount of roads has already been shown to decrease bumblebee density 446 (Kallioniemi et al. 2017), but road verges could also provide floral resources 447 for wild bees (Henriksen and Langer 2013). 448

Semi-natural areas and mass-flowering crops do not have the same rela-449 tive importance. In both zero models, the area of permanent meadows had a 450 stronger positive effect than the area of rapeseed in the previous year. On the 451 contrary, in both count models, the impact of rapeseed was slightly to sub-452 stantially stronger. The presence of sealed tubes thus seems to depend more 453 on semi-natural areas while their abundance seems to depend more on the re-454 sources provided by rapeseed. Nevertheless, the permanent meadow area does 455 not condition the positive effect of rapeseed: we tested the interaction between 456 the two variables and we did not find any significant correlation (not shown). 457 The presence of permanent meadows may be a important factor when a wild 458 bee chooses where to build its nest, because some wild flowers in meadows are 459 in bloom before rapeseed fields and thus are more attractive. Once the nest is 460 built, rapeseed will provide a massive amount of pollen and nectar to pollina-461 tors active during its flowering period (such as Osmia), allowing each female 462 to lay more eggs in each tube and thus increasing the number of breeders the 463 following year. 464

⁴⁶⁵ 5 Conclusion: implications for pollinator conservation in ⁴⁶⁶ agricultural landscapes

⁴⁶⁷ Defining how agriculturally dominated landscapes can be optimized for wild ⁴⁶⁸ bees remains a complex subject. Our study shows that solitary bee and wasp

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reproduction can be positively and durably affected by rapeseed cover. This 469 crop provides a massive amount of floral resources at a period favorable for 470 early wild bees. Moreover, our study confirms that permanent meadows are 471 essential to promote solitary bee and wasp populations. The positive effect of 472 rapeseed cover may hold only if enough food and nesting sites are available 473 in adjacent natural habitats. Ricketts et al. (2008) showed that flower-visitor 474 richness and visitation rate in croplands decline with distance from natural ar-475 eas, and a lack of natural habitats can directly impact on crop yield (Garibaldi 476 et al. 2011; Holzschuh et al. 2012). Protecting natural habitats near crop fields 477 seems to be a key solution to secure natural supply of pollination service, and 478 moderate covers of rapeseed may help to maintain solitary bee populations. 479 However, rapeseed flowering period is short, thus pollinators still need floral 480 resources from other crops and other semi-natural habitats (Martins et al. 481 2018), especially as we studied a small part of the solitary bee and wasp com-482 munity. The use of rapeseed for promoting wild pollinators needs also to be 483 viewed bearing in mind the heavy pesticide application on this crop. 484

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- 496 Conflicts of interest All authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.
- ⁴⁹⁷ *Ethics approval* Not applicable.
- ⁴⁹⁸ Consent to participate Not applicable.
- 499 Consent for publication Not applicable.
- Availability of data The data associated with this study will be available on Zenodo upon acceptance of the manuscript.

⁵⁰² *Code availability* The R code used for statistical analyses will be made avail-⁵⁰³ able on GitHub upon acceptance of the manuscript. Authors' contributions All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Data collection and analysis were performed by Victor Van der Meersch and Olivier Billaud. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Victor Van der Meersch and Emmanuelle Porcher, and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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802 Appendix A : variables included in full models

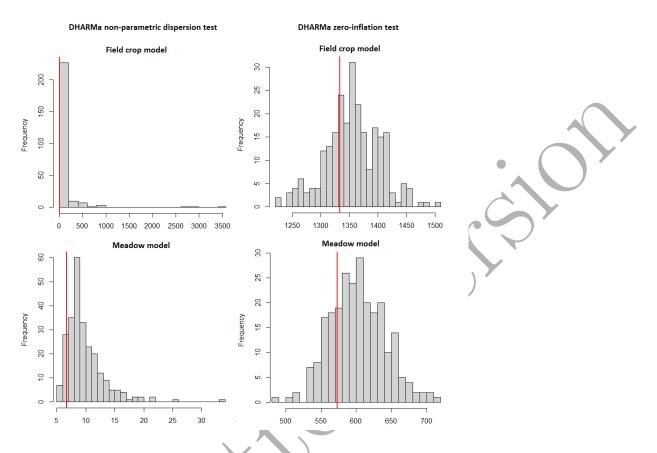
 Table 2
 Variables included in full models.

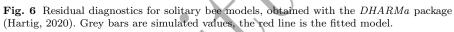
Local Farming system (in field crop model) Type of meadow (in meadow model) Young hedgerow Old hedgerow Grassy strip Road Woody margin Ditch FBO Landscape Rapeseed cover (current and previous year) Sunflower cover (current and previous year) Temporary meadow cover (current and previous year) Permanent meadow cover (current and previous year) Orchard cover (current and previous year) Perimeter of forests RPG
Landscape Sunflower cover (current and previous year) Temporary meadow cover (current and previous year) Permanent meadow cover (current and previous year) Orchard cover (current and previous year)
Termiter of forests CLC
Interactions Rapeseed cover x Farming system Sunflower cover x Farming system Permanent meadow cover x Farming system
ControlTemperature Precipitation Number of days until the observation dateE-OBS FBO

803 Appendix B : variance inflation factors

Table 3 Variance inflation factors for solitary bee models, obtained with the *performance*package (Lüdecke, Makowski, Waggoner, & Patil, 2020).

⁸⁰⁴ Appendix C : residual diagnostics







⁸⁰⁵ Appendix D : Durbin-Watson tests

To detect the presence of temporal autocorrelation in the residuals, we applied the Durbin Watson test to the sites that were monitored at least three times in the year. Thus, we could test 393 site/year couples in our field crop edge model and 174 site/year couples in

809 our meadow edge model.

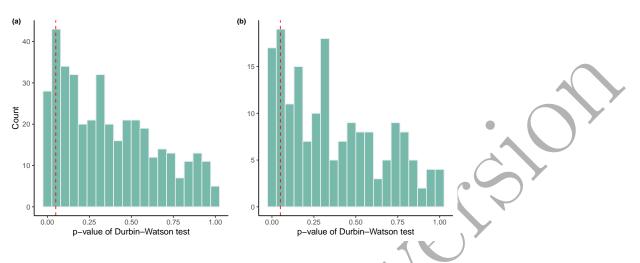


Fig. 7 Distribution of Durbin-Watson test p-values, for residuals of (a) field crop edge model or (b) meadow edge model. Red dashed line is the 0.05 threshold.

In our field crop edge model, a total of 51 site/year couples (13%) have a p-value lower than 0.05. In our meadow edge model, a total of 27 site/year couples (15.5%) have a p-value lower than 0.05.

813 Appendix E : alternative models

Table 4 Comparison of hurdle model outputs examining the relationship between the presence of tubes ("Zero model") or their abundance conditional on presence ("Count model") and environmental variables, for trap nests set up in **field crop edges**. The table shows the parameter estimates, with standard errors in parentheses. Parameters with a p-value<0.05 are reported in bold. All variables were standardized and centered.

	Current model	Alternative mo	dels
	All counts of mud-sealed tubes	Highest count of mud-sealed tubes	All counts of all tubes
count model			
Intercept (conventional farming, no landscape elements nearby)	1.32 (0.14)***	1.93 (0.19)***	$1.73 \ (0.10)^{***}$
Area of rapeseed (current year)	0.04(0.06)	-0.12 (0.10)	-0.03(0.04)
Area of rapeseed (previous year)	0.31 (0.09)***	$0.25(0.12)^{*}$	0.31 (0.06)***
Area of sunflower (current year)	0.03(0.07)	-0.12(0.10)	0.01 (0.04)
Area of sunflower (previous year)	-0.04(0.09)	0.19 (0.13)	-0.01(0.06)
Area of permanent meadows	0.27 (0.09)**	0.34 (0.10)***	0.25 (0.07)***
Organic farming	-0.75(0.43)	$-1.58(0.56)^{**}$	-0.63 (0.29)*
Old hedgerow	-0.14(0.18)	-0.13(0.19)	-0.12(0.13)
Area of rapeseed (cur. year):Organic farming	$-1.51 (0.70)^*$	-2.19(1.14)	$-1.04 (0.48)^*$
Area of rapeseed (prev., year):Organic farming	-0.31 (0.31)	-0.60(0.39)	-0.20(0.24)
Area of sunflower (cur. year):Organic farming	$1.03(0.46)^*$	-0.21(0.69)	-0.03(0.11)
Area of sunflower (prev. year):Organic farming	0.19(0.28)	0.13 (0.30)	0.10(0.17)
Area of permanent meadows:Organic farming	-0.07(0.28)	-0.19 (0.33)	-0.15(0.21)
Temperature	0.40 (0.07)***	0.08(0.11)	0.36 (0.05)***
Precipitation	0.37 (0.05)***	0.20(0.11)	0.24 (0.04)***
Number of days	0.02 (0.04)	-0.07(0.11)	0.23 (0.03)***
ero model			
Intercept (conventional farming,			
no landscape elements nearby)	- 0.90 (0.30)**	1.01 (0.30)***	0.38(0.24)
Area of rapeseed (current year)	-0.14(0.11)	-0.03(0.15)	-0.01(0.11)
Area of rapeseed (previous year)	0.50 (0.15)***	0.31 (0.17)	0.07 (0.13)
Area of sunflower (current year)	-0.07(0.12)	0.04 (0.14)	0.29 (0.12)*
Area of sunflower (previous year)	-0.41 (0.17)*	$-0.37(0.18)^*$	-0.26(0.15)
Area of permanent meadows	0.69 (0.19)***	0.51 (0.16)**	0.43 (0.16)**
Perimeter of forests	0.37 (0.19)*	-0.02(0.15)	0.47 (0.15)**
Organic farming	0.48(0.57)	0.27(0.64)	-0.06(0.44)
Road	$-0.68(0.31)^*$	$-0.71(0.31)^*$	$-0.97(0.27)^{***}$
Old hedgerow	0.59(0.31)	0.48(0.29)	0.93 (0.27)***
Area of rapeseed (cur. year):Organic farming	-0.33(0.82)	0.22(1.01)	-0.83(0.68)
Area of rapeseed (prev., year):Organic farming	0.72 (0.70)	1.47 (0.96)	0.64 (0.56)
Area of sunflower (cur. year):Organic farming	-0.27(0.41)	-0.80(0.76)	-0.52(0.30)
Area of sunflower (prev. year):Organic farming	-0.79(0.52)	-0.03(0.63)	-0.44(0.42)
Area of permanent meadows:Organic farming	-0.30(0.59)	-0.12(0.77)	-0.16(0.48)
Temperature	1.32 (0.14)***	1.40 (0.20)***	0.95 (0.12)***
Precipitation	0.66 (0.11)***	0.29(0.19)	0.55 (0.10)***
Number of days	0.60 (0.09)***	2.42 (0.29)***	1.29 (0.10)***

Table 5 Comparison of hurdle model outputs examining the relationship between the presence of tubes ("Zero model") or their abundance conditional on presence ("Count model") and environmental variables, for trap nests set up in **meadows edges**. The table shows the parameter estimates, with standard errors in parentheses. Parameters with a p-value<0.05 are reported in bold. All variables were standardized and centered.

ount model	Current model	Alternative models		
ount model	All counts of mud-sealed tubes	Highest count of mud-sealed tubes	All counts of all tubes	
Intercept (temporary meadow,	1.63 (0.20)***	1.93 (0.29)***	1.91 (0.18)***	
no landscape elements nearby)	1.00 (0.20)	1.35 (0.23)	1.31 (0.10)	
Area of rapeseed (current year)	-0.04(0.06)	-0.15(0.13)	0.03 (0.06)	
Area of rapeseed (previous year)	$0.24 \ (0.09)^{**}$	0.27 (0.12)*	0.16 (0.08)*	
Area of sunflower (current year)	0.10 (0.16)	0.19 (0.27)	0.17 (0.09)*	
Area of sunflower (previous year)	-0.10(0.16)	-0.16(0.22)	-0.15(0.10)	
Area of permanent meadows	0.11 (0.11)	0.12 (0.13)	0.10 (0.10)	
Area of temporary meadows (current year)	$-0.40(0.16)^*$	-0.35(0.20)	-0.25(0.14)	
Area of temporary meadows (previous year)	0.30 (0.15)*	0.33 (0.18)	0.12 (0.14)	
	× ,			
Permanent meadow	-0.01 (0.18)	0.18 (0.25)	-0.06(0.16)	
Road	$-0.50 (0.20)^*$	-0.37(0.25)	$-0.51 (0.19)^{**}$	
Temperature	0.24 (0.10)*	0.29 (0.17)	0.12(0.09)	
Precipitation	0.25 (0.09)**	0.22 (0.16)	0.26 (0.08)**	
Number of days	0.18 (0.06)**	0.16 (0.18)	0.24 (0.05)***	
ero model				
Intercept (temporary meadow,	$-1.72 (0.59)^{**}$	0.86 (0.40)*	-0.24(0.45)	
no landscape elements nearby)	-1.12 (0.55)	0.00 (0.40)	-0.24 (0.45)	
Area of rapeseed (current year)	0.31(0.20)	0.19(0.30)	0.18(0.17)	
Area of rapeseed (current year)	0.13 (0.29)	0.13(0.30) 0.06(0.25)	0.04(0.24)	
Area of sunflower (current year)	-0.35(0.23)	-0.32(0.35)	0.04(0.24) 0.02(0.21)	
Area of sunflower (previous year)	-0.16(0.38)	-0.15(0.30)	-0.33(0.29)	
Area of permanent meadows	1.03 (0.38)**	$0.64(0.25)^*$	0.75 (0.29)**	
Area of temporary meadows (current year)	1.15 (0.46)*	0.37 (0.32)	0.50 (0.38)	
Area of temporary meadows (previous year)	$-1.09(0.49)^*$	-0.22(0.32)	-0.56(0.40)	
Permanent meadow	0.51 (0.40)	0.21 (0.42)	0.48 (0.36)	
Young hedgerow	1.16(0.66)	$-0.31 (0.42) \\ 0.08 (0.59)$	0.48(0.50) 0.43(0.53)	
Old hedgerow			()	
Ola neagerow	0.41(0.62)	0.48 (0.42)	0.59(0.49)	
Temperature	1.79 (0.29)***	0.97 (0.28)***	1.81 (0.27)***	
Precipitation	1.44 (0.26)***	0.04(0.28)	1.10 (0.23)***	
Number of days	1.07 (0.16)***	2.10 (0.35)***	1.38 (0.16)***	