

Urban intensity gradients shape community structure, life-history traits and performance in a multitrophic system

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- 3
- 4 **Running title:** Urban intensity effects on food webs
- 5

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47 Abstract:

- Urban ecosystems are formed by pronounced socio-ecological gradients, which are distinct
 from other ecosystems and can simultaneously filter and promote taxa, ultimately affecting
 their interactions. However, the strength of the effect of filtering and facilitation across the
 different trophic levels could vary among biotic and abiotic factors.
- 52 2. Here, we investigate the effects of habitat amount, temperature, and host-enemy biotic 53 interactions in shaping communities of cavity-nesting bees and wasps and their natural enemies. 54 We installed trap-nests in 80 sites distributed along urban intensity gradients in 5 European 55 cities (Antwerp, Paris, Poznan, Tartu and Zurich). We quantified the species richness and 56 abundance of hosts and their natural enemies, as well as two performance traits (survival and 57 parasitism) and two life-history traits (sex ratio and number of offspring per nest for the hosts). 58 We analysed the importance of the abiotic and biotic variables using generalized linear models 59 and multi-model inference.
- We found that habitat amount was the main driver of multiple host responses, with larger habitat
 amounts resulting in higher species richness and abundance for hosts and natural enemies, as
 well as a larger probability of survival and a larger number of broodcells for hosts.
- 4. Local resources proxies shaped both bees and wasps and indicate different use of existing
 vegetation between bees and wasps. Temperature proxies had a minor role in shaping host and
 natural enemies.
- 66 5. Biotic interactions were a main driver of host and enemy community structure, with natural
 67 enemies being strongly affected by host availability, that is, with direct density-dependence
 68 between hosts and their natural enemies.
- 6. Overall, our study highlights the importance of habitat amount and temperature in shaping
 70 urban food webs, as well as on biotic interactions through direct effects on hosts responses and
 71 the subsequent consequences for their natural enemies. As cities prepare to tackle the
 72 consequences of global change, strategies that make it possible to maintain habitat and mitigate
 73 urban overheating emerge as a key urban adaptation for biodiversity conservation.
- 74

75 Keywords: ecological rate, parasitism, survival, sex ratios, trap-nest, urbanization, cavity-nesting bees
76 and wasps

78 1. INTRODUCTION

79 Urbanization both filters and promotes biodiversity, providing challenges and opportunities for urban 80 wildlife management. Understanding the drivers of urban diversity patterns and ecological processes 81 across urban ecosystems has therefore become a central topic to promote biodiverse cities (Uchida et 82 al. 2021). Understanding the impact of urbanization on multitrophic biodiversity, specifically 83 performance traits (e.g., parasitism, mortality) and life-history traits (e.g., sex ratio, number of eggs), 84 can shed light on species fitness, survival, and occupancy responses. This knowledge is crucial for 85 implementing targeted management strategies. Species assemblages and the fitness of single species 86 are determined by environmental conditions, such as habitat amount (i.e. the total area of suitable 87 habitats at a defined space; sensu Fahrig 2013), food resource availability, and temperature, in 88 combination with biotic interactions, such as top-down control by higher trophic levels (Dainese et al. 89 2018), and bottom-up control by lower trophic levels (Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008). All these 90 drivers are expected to vary substantially along urban intensity gradients.

91 Habitat amount has been identified as a main driver of ecosystem biodiversity (Hutchinson 1957, Fahrig 92 2013), but the relationship between habitat amount and biodiversity might be more complex in cities 93 than in other ecosystems. At the community level, species richness generally increases when the amount 94 of habitat within an appropriately defined area is larger (Fahrig 2013). Moreover, habitat amount can 95 also influence life-history traits. For instance, habitat loss can result in male-biased sex ratios in several 96 Hymenoptera species (Fitch et al. 2019). In cities, as urban intensity increases, the habitat amount 97 becomes scarcer, particularly large patches. However, cities differ from other ecosystems as, rather than 98 being characterized by large habitat patches, habitat is typically distributed in small patches with 99 variable local features (Aronson et al. 2017). Thus, it is unclear what are the effects on the community 100 structure, life history traits and performance traits in urban taxa.

101 The landscape effects of urbanization through habitat amount on biodiversity might be counteracted by 102 the local habitat and resources present in existing patches within the cityscape (Diamond et al. 2023). 103 Greater plant diversity often results in more food resources (e.g. nectar), enhancing the abundance and 104 richness of consumers directly, and of higher trophic levels indirectly (Srivastava and Lawton 1998, 105 Fabian et al. 2014). For example, management activities can alter plant community structure within 106 urban habitats by adding or removing species, also affecting the properties of food webs (Burks and 107 Philpott 2017, da Rocha-Filho et al. 2020). How food resources influence the life-history traits, 108 performance traits and community structure of urban species is less known than in other ecosystems but 109 this is major importance for biodiversity management in urban areas.

110 Temperature gradients and their effects on biodiversity are well documented in communities outside

111 cities (Mayr et al. 2020, Orr et al. 2021). However, cities can also have pronounced local temperature

112 gradients (Zumwald et al. 2021). Different densities and impermeable materials and the presence of

113 blue-green spaces can form urban heat or cooling islands at the points of greatest or fewest accumulation 114 of heat and energy, respectively. High temperatures are expected to favour ectothermic taxa, by 115 increasing insect activity, enhancing interactions, and potentially boosting their diversity (Jamieson et 116 al. 2012, Banaszak-Cibicka 2014, Hamann et al. 2021, Geppert et al. 2022). However, excessively high 117 temperatures, above a species' physiological threshold at different life stages, could enhance desiccation 118 and reduce survival and reproduction success (Dale and Frank 2018), as well as creating a phenological 119 mismatch with the plant hosts (Papanikolaou et al. 2017). Further, because of the positive association 120 between temperature and grey surfaces, warmer areas can correspond to smaller amounts of green 121 habitat and less availability of food resources. The effects of broad temperature gradients on biodiversity 122 have been studied previously (Trøjelsgaard and Olesen 2013), yet local temperature effects, particularly 123 in cities, have been less investigated.

124 Biotic interactions between hosts and their natural enemies are an additional driver of diversity. Natural 125 enemies include predators and parasites, which can indirectly favour species richness by alleviating 126 competitive pressure by dominant species (i.e. top-down regulation Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008, 127 Levi et al. 2019). Focusing on parasitism, interactions between hosts and their natural enemies can be 128 either directly density-dependent (Dainese et al. 2018), when larger numbers of hosts result in increased 129 parasitism (Hassell 2000), or inversely density-dependent, when larger numbers of hosts result in 130 decreased parasitism (Rosenheim 1990, Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008), ultimately affecting the 131 diversity of hosts and natural enemies. The dynamics between hosts and their natural enemies might be 132 altered in cities, as the urban environment can affect the behaviour, distribution, physiology and 133 community structure of both hosts and natural enemies, due to the combined action of multiple socio-134 ecological factors and processes (Classen-Rodríguez et al. 2021). However, studies on the effects of 135 biotic interactions in cities are still scarce (Theodorou 2022).

Here, we studied the effects of habitat amount, resources, temperature and biotic interactions between the hosts and their natural enemies on multitrophic diversity. In particular we considered effects on the community structure (i.e. species richness, abundance) of cavity-nesting bees and wasps (CNBW) and their natural enemies (e.g., parasites, parasitoids, cleptoparasites), as well as on the performance traits (i.e. parasitism, survival) and life-history traits (i.e. sex ratio, number of offspring cells per nest) of CNBW across urban ecosystems. We tested the following non-mutually exclusive hypotheses:

142 1: For hosts and natural enemies, habitat loss at the landscape (i.e. when urban intensity is high) reduces
species richness and abundance. This effect might be stronger in wasps than in bees, as loss of habitat
particularly affects arthropod prey diversity and abundance at higher trophic levels (Attwood et al. 2008,
Mayr et al. 2020). Moreover, for hosts, small amounts of habitat also reduce the number of offspring
per nest, the offspring survival, and reduce the number of females.

147 2: Higher local resources (inferred with plant richness and cover of specific habitat types) positively
148 influence community structure, life history traits and survival of hosts. Bees and wasps are central place
149 foragers and thus, the available resources in the vicinity of their nesting sites is critical for their
150 persistence (Rosenberg and McKelvey 1999, Kendall et al. 2022).

3: Increasing temperatures, below physiological thresholds where it becomes excessive, positively
affect the foraging activity of CNBW. This results in a higher number of eggs laid per nest, offspring
survival, number of females, and overall abundance hatched (Mayr et al. 2020, Geppert et al. 2022).
Alternatively, excessive temperatures above physiological thresholds will reduce survival (Ricklefs and
Wikelski 2002).

4: Biotic interactions (host-natural-enemy interactions) might positively shape both hosts and natural enemies. Regarding hosts, higher parasitism rates and a larger number of parasitized brood cells might increase host populations of bees and wasps by reducing competition among dominant species, thus increasing species richness. Regarding natural enemies, increased host availability (i.e. more nests and higher host species richness) increase natural enemy population sizes, resulting in enhanced species richness and the number of parasitized cells by providing more resources (Hassell 1982, Rosenheim 1990, Dainese et al. 2018).

163 5: Conversely, biotic interactions might negatively influence both hosts and natural enemies. Regarding 164 hosts, higher parasitism rates and a larger number of parasitized brood cells might reduce host 165 population sizes. Regarding natural enemies, increased host availability (i.e. more nests and higher host 166 species richness) might result in a greater probability of detection of natural enemies by the host, less 167 time for natural enemies to lay eggs, and enhanced collective defences by hosts, ultimately reducing 168 natural-enemy species richness and the number of parasitized cells (Rosenheim 1990).

169 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

170 2.1. Study cities and sites

Our study was set in five European cities: Antwerp (Belgium), Greater Paris (France, hereafter referred to as Paris), Poznan (Poland), Tartu (Estonia), and Zurich (Switzerland), covering a large part of the climatic variability in mainland Europe (Figure S1). Site selection was done using an orthogonal gradient of patch size and patch isolation (Text S1, see also Casanelles-Abella et al. 2022). Overall, the final selection included 80 sites, 32 in Zurich and 12 in each of the remaining four cities (Figure S1; Table S1). Sites were at least 500 m apart from each other, except for two sites in Zurich that were 260 m apart (see Text S1 for additional details).

178 2.2. Insect sampling

179 We sampled cavity-nesting bees and wasps (CNBW) and their natural enemies (parasites, parasitoids, 180 kleptoparasites, nest destroyers; see Text S2) using trap-nests, which were placed in the study sites. 181 This enabled us to study their individual- and community-level responses in standardized nesting 182 conditions (Figure 1b; Tscharntke et al. 1998, Staab et al. 2018). To avoid vandalism, we installed trap-183 nests at 2.5–3.5 m height in sun-exposed SE or SW expositions for the period of January to October 184 2018. In October, we collected the trap-nests and stored them at c. 5°C. Between November and 185 December 2018, we opened all reed internodes to detect brood cells. We counted the number of brood 186 cells in the bee and wasp nests and noted the occurrence of natural enemies (cleptoparasites, parasites, 187 parasitoids and predators). We then placed the reeds individually into glass tubes and closed the tubes 188 with cotton wadding to collect emerging insects. We stored the tubes at 5°C until February 2019, when 189 we transferred the tubes to a room at ambient temperature.

During spring and summer 2019, bees, wasps and their natural enemies emerged. We identified bees, wasps and enemies to the species level or to the lowest taxonomic rank possible (Table S2), using existing identification keys (Text S3). In addition, we identified the sex of all emerged bees and wasps and calculated the sex ratio at the nest level (i.e. for each reed tube). When no adult hosts emerged from a nest, we used the nest features (sealing material, diameter, larval food type) to identify the host genus or the family. Finally, some natural enemy species could only be identified to morphospecies (Table S3).

197 2.3. Community structure, performance traits, and life history traits

198 We calculated community structure, performance traits, and life-history traits (sensu Violle et al. 2007) 199 to study the effects of habitat amount, resources, temperature and biotic interactions between the hosts 200 and their natural enemies on multitrophic community diversity. Concerning the community structure, 201 at each site we calculated species richness, abundance of hatched hosts, and number of nests of the 202 hatched hosts separately for bees and wasps. We calculated the abundance of hatched hosts as the 203 number of brood cells where an individual emerged, i.e. the total number of brood cells minus the 204 number of parasitized cells and the number of cells with no emergence for reasons other than parasitism. 205 Abundance was calculated as the total community abundance. We calculated the number of nests as the 206 total number of colonized reeds. The abundance of hatched hosts and number of nests were highly 207 correlated (Pearson correlations from 0.81 to 0.92). Thus, we only included the abundance of hatched 208 hosts in the analyses, as it reflects the actual number of individuals that will constitute the next 209 generation. For natural enemies, we calculated the species richness and abundance. We estimated the 210 abundance of natural enemies as the number of parasitized brood cells rather than the total number of 211 emerging individual enemies, to account for differences in the number of eggs laid per cell across 212 different enemy species.

- 213 We assessed performance traits, i.e. survival and parasitism, at the individual cell level. Specifically,
- 214 for each cell within a nest, we noted whether the cell was alive or dead (survival; Figure 1c), and whether
- 215 it had a parasite or not (parasitism; Figure 1c). Further, we calculated the parasitism rate as the number
- of cells with a parasite divided by the total number of cells. However, the scales at which parasitism
- 217 operates can vary among natural enemies. For instance, some might attack the first or last cells in a nest,
- 218 whereas other might attack an entire sequence of cells in a nest. Therefore, to account for the variability
- 219 in the parasitism modes of the natural enemy community, we also calculated and studied parasitism at
- the nest level, as the number of cells parasitized.
- 221 Concerning life-history traits, we calculated the total number of brood cells per nest as the total number 222 of brood cells within a single nest, regardless of whether the larvae were dead, alive or parasitized 223 (Figure 1c). Finally, we used the probability that a female host emerged from a given cell as a proxy for 224 sex ratio. To do so, we first identified the sex of the individual hosts. Then, we noted it in a binary way 225 to indicate whether the host was a female or not (Figure 1c). We could identify the sex of all hatched 226 hosts. Further, because CNBW first lay females and then males, on some occasions we could also 227 identify the host sex in dead and parasitized cells, that is, when we had already identified the sex of the 228 preceding and the following cells.

229 2.4. Predictors

We used four sets of variables representing (1) habitat amount at the landscape scale, (2) local habitatand resources, (3) temperature and (4) biotic interactions (Figure S2).

232 We inferred habitat amount at the landscape scale using a combination of landcover data and remote-233 sensing-based indices. First, we estimated habitat amount using metrics based on land-cover data. Using 234 the European Urban Atlas (EEA 2012), we calculated the local patch size (total area of the study site) 235 and patch isolation (using the proximity index, which weights the contribution of the area of 236 neighbouring patches by the distance to the focal patch within a given search radius) (Gustafson and 237 Parker 1994). We considered as favourable habitat all patches with high probability of having trees (that 238 is, UGAs, urban forest and grey urban land-cover with less than 30% impervious surface, as defined in 239 EEA, 2012). Further, following the habitat amount hypothesis (Fahrig 2013), which defines habitat 240 amount as the total area of habitat at a defined distance from the nest, we used the European Land Cover 241 Map at 10 m resolution (Venter and Sydenham 2021), which enable accounting for small habitat 242 patches. We calculated the amount of green and gray covers using 50, 100, 200, 400 and 800 m buffers 243 from the focal trap-nests, to infer the habitat amount at each site. The selected buffer sizes are expected 244 to be relevant for the studied organisms (Gathmann and Tscharntke 2002). Due to the high correlations 245 between buffers, we used 100 and 800 m in our analyses. Additionally, we also used remote-sensing-246 based indices, calculated at the same buffers. In particular, we used the normalized difference vegetation

index (NDVI) and the Urban Index (UI) within the five buffers (Text S4). Due to the high correlations
with the amount of green surfaces, the amount gray surfaces, NDVI and UI (Figures S3-S4), we only
used the amount of green surfaces at 100 and 800 m in our analyses.

250 We used the floristic inventories from Casanelles-Abella, Frey et al. (2021) to further characterize 251 habitat amount in terms of food resource availability, inferred as plant species richness. Additionally, 252 we computed plant Shannon diversity but due to the high correlations with species richness we did not 253 include it in the models. Briefly, we performed the floristic inventories in standardized plots, 254 documenting the occurrence of all entomophilous plants (excluding families Poaceae and Cyperaceae) 255 within a 100 m buffer of the trap-nests. Floristic inventories took place on four occasions between April 256 and July 2018. In addition, we used the local landcover map developed by Alós-Ortí et al. (2022). This 257 local landcover map distinguishes between vegetation and build-up types (grasslands, woody 258 vegetation, and impervious surfaces within 32 m) and can be used an indirect proxy for food resource 259 availability for bees and wasps as both taxa are central-place foragers and thus highly affected by the 260 vegetation composition and availability within the vicinity of their nesting sites (see also, Text S5). Due 261 to the high correlation between the proportion of woody vegetation and grasslands at 32 m, we only 262 used the proportion of grasslands in our models.

263 We measured temperature at the trap-nest level and within a 800 m buffer from the trap-nests. At the 264 trap-nest level, data loggers (1-Wire/Data Logger model DS1921G-F5, Analog Devices, Wilmington, 265 MA, USA) recorded temperature hourly between February and June 2018 overlapping with the nesting 266 activity of the majority of CNBW species, and we calculated the mean temperature per study site over 267 this period (local temperature). We expect this scale of measurement to reflect the local thermal nesting 268 conditions. However, because the studied cities followed a latitudinal gradient, we further transformed 269 the local temperature by computing temperature anomalies for each city, by substracting the 270 temperature measurement in a site by the average from all the sites in each city (hereinafter referred as 271 local temperature). Within the 800 m buffer (landscape temperature), we inferred temperature using 272 remote sensing indices of land surface temperature (LST; Text S4), from the USGS/Earth Explorer 273 website (https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/). We expect this scale of measurement to reflect the thermal 274 landscape surrounding our study sites. Additionally, we calculated LST for 50, 100, 200 and 400 m 275 buffers, but ultimately did not use these estimates due to high inter-correlations (Pearson r > 0.8). The 276 distribution of values of the used predictors can be found in Figure S2.

To assess the role of biotic interactions on the studied responses, we used both top-down and bottomup proxies. Specifically, we used the number of parasitized cells and the species richness of natural enemies as top-down proxies Moreover, as bottom-up proxies, we used the number of nests and the species richness of hosts.

- 281 Finally, we performed a principal component analysis (PCA) on the explanatory variables to define new
- 282 meaningful underlying variables while reducing the dimensionality of the data set. The first PCA axis
- explained ca. 40% of the variation in the data, and was largely influenced by landscape level variables,
- that is, the amount of green areas at 100 and 800 m, and LST at 800 m (Figure S5). Thus, we referred
- to this first PCA axis as "urban intensity", and used it for data visualisation, while we used the specific
- 286 proxies of habitat amount, local resources, temperature and biotic interactions for modelling...

287 2.5. Statistical analyses

- We used R version 4.0.2 (R Core Team 2022) and RStudio v.07.1 (RStudio Team 2020) for all analyses
 and statistical figures, using the packages glmmTMB v.1.1.3 (Brooks et al. 2017), MuMIn v.1.46.0
 (Barton and Šímová 2015), evaluate v.015 (H and Y 2022), performance v.0.9.2 (Lüdecke et al. 2021),
 DHARMa v.0.4.5 (Hartig 2022), and ggplot2 v.3.3.6 (Wickham 2016).
- 292 We used generalized linear mixed-effects models (GLMMs) to assess the influence of temperature, 293 habitat amount, and host-natural-enemy interactions (biotic interactions) on host and natural-enemy 294 responses. For hosts, we considered the response variables species richness, abundance hatched, 295 survival (probability that the host in a cell survived), parasitism at the cell level (probability that the 296 host in a cell was parasitized), parasitism at the nest level (number of parasitized cells in a nest), sex 297 ratio (probability that the host in a cell was female) and number of brood cells per nest. For natural 298 enemies, we considered the response variables species richness and number of parasitized cells (proxy 299 for enemy abundance). We modelled each response in hosts and natural enemies individually. One site 300 in Antwerp (An057) was not colonized and was excluded from the analyses, leading to a sample size 301 of 79 sites.
- 302 We ran models separately for bees and wasps and for the natural enemies of bees and wasps. We 303 modelled species richness and abundance responses with a Poisson error structure when there was no 304 overdispersion, and a negative binomial error structure and a log-link when we detected overdispersion. 305 In the end, all species richness models were modelled with a Possion error structure, and all abundance 306 models were run with a negative binomial error structure. We built the models using city as a random 307 term and a variable number of fixed effects (see below). For host parasitism, host survival, and host 308 sex-ratio, we used cell-level data, encoding each variable as a binary output (1 = non-309 parasitized/alive/female; 0 = parasitized/dead/male). We used a binomial distribution with a logit-link 310 (Zuur et al. 2010), using a nested random term (individual nest within site within city) and a variable 311 number of fixed effects. For the number of brood cells per nest and parasitism at the nest level, we used 312 a negative binomial error structure, as overdispersion was detected, using a nested random term (site 313 within city) and a variable number of fixed effects (see below).

314 For all variables, we ran all possible combinations of models using the function *dredge* from the 315 MuMIN package. Then, we used the Akaike information criterion corrected for small sample sizes 316 (AICc; Burnham et al. 2011) and selected the model with the lowest score. While we concentrate our 317 inference on the best supported model, to account for model uncertainty all models with $\Delta AICc < 3$ 318 (following prior studies, Mayr et al., 2020) were also considered plausible and are presented in the 319 Supplementary Information. Furthermore, in the additional models, we performed model averaging, 320 computing the full-model averaged parameter estimates for each predicting variable in the candidate 321 model set, using zero when predictors were not included in a particular model (Symonds and Moussali, 322 2011). We checked collinearity among the predictors using the variance inflation factor (VIF) and the 323 Pearson correlation coefficient. We discarded variables with VIF > 3 and a Pearson correlation 324 coefficient > 0.7 (Zuur et al. 2010, Dormann et al. 2013, Text S6, Figure S2). Prior to the analyses, we 325 standardized all predictors by z-transformation (Schielzeth 2010). We calculated the pseudo-R² 326 following Nakagawa & Schielzeth (2013). We used diagnostic plots to estimate model performance and 327 test for spatial autocorrelation. All p-values were adjusted with the Holm correction (Holm 1979) to 328 correct for multiple comparisons.

329 **3. RESULTS**

330 Our trap-nests sampled a total of 4392 nests of cavity-nesting bees (1998 nests) and wasps (2394 nests), 331 containing 16,617 brood cells from 16 bee and 45 wasp species (Table S5), and 4 bee and 14 wasp 332 morphospecies (Figure S6). Four species (Chelostoma florisomne, Hylaeus communis, Osmia bicornis 333 and Osmia cornuta) accounted for about 80% of the total number of bee brood cells (Table S2), whereas 334 for wasps the total number of brood cells was more evenly distributed across species. Passaloecus 335 eremita was the only species representing more than the 10% of the total wasp brood cells, indicating a 336 greater dominance of certain species in cavity-nesting bees than in wasps (Table S2). All species were 337 native, with the exception of the sphecid wasp *Isodontia mexicana* (Saussure, 1867), which was 338 recorded in Antwerp, Paris and Zurich. Further, we identified a total of 47 natural enemy species or 339 morphospecies in 812 nests and 1500 brood cells (Table S3-S4), representing taxa from three insect 340 orders (Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera) and mites (Chaetodactylus spp.).

341 **3.1. Effect of urbanization**

A first exploration of the data revealed that several of the community structure metrics, performance traits and life history traits of CNBW and their natural enemies to be structured along urban intensity gradients (i.e., with increasing temperature and grey surfaces in the landscape Figure 2). Urban intensity tended to decrease the community structure (i.e., richness and abundance) of CNBW and their natural enemies, as well as reducing host survival rates and altering sex ratios to more male-biased (Figure 2). 347 Conversely, parasitism at the cell and nest level were relatively unaffected by urban intensity (Figure348 2)

- 349 3.2. Effect of habitat amount at the landscape scale
- 350

351 We found host community structure (species richness and abundance hatched) to be strongly associated 352 with proxies for habitat amount (i.e., amount of green spaces within a given buffer from the trap-nest) 353 for both bees and wasps (Table 1, Figure 3). In particular, sites surrounded by larger amounts of green 354 areas (i.e., with less urbanization) had higher host species richness and abundance of the hatched hosts 355 (Tables 1 and S6, Figure 3). Moreover, habitat amount proxies had the largest estimate for host species 356 richness, when compared with proxies for local resources or biotic interactions (Table 1). The influence 357 of habitat amount proxies was also supported by multimodel inference, where these proxies were 358 retained in most plausible models (Table S7, Data S1-S2). In addition, the amount of green areas also 359 influenced the species richness for natural enemies of bees and wasps and the abundance for the natural 360 enemies of wasps (Table 1 and S6, Figure 3), but the effect of habitat amount proxies were less clear 361 after averaging plausible models. Specifically, park size and the amount of green areas in 800 m were 362 retained in the vast majority of plausible models for the species richness of natural enemies of bees 363 (Table S7, Data S1-S2).

Habitat amount also shaped several of the performance traits and life-history traits of hosts. Habitat amount proxies (i.e., the amount of green areas at 100 and 800 m) were the main drivers of bee and wasp survival, having the highest estimates (Table 1 & S6, Figure 3). However, the spatial scales were different for bees (800 m) and wasps 100 m). Particularly, the probability of survival increased with higher amounts of green areas (Figure 3).

369 Moreover, we found habitat amount to have the largest effect (based on the estimate, Table 1) on both 370 parasitism at the nest level (i.e., number of parasitized cells per nest) and number of cells per nests in 371 bees), with a positive effect (Table 1 and S6, Figure 3). The influence of habitat amount on these 372 performance and life-history traits was confirmed with multimodel inference, with the proxies selected 373 in all plausible models and significant in the averaged model (Table S7, Data S2). Strikingly, while we 374 found habitat amount proxies to also have the largest effect on the sex ration of wasps, we found it 375 reduced the probability of a cell being a female (Tables 1 and S6). However, it's important to note that 376 effect of habitat amount was lost after averaging the other plausible models (Table S7, Data S1-S2).

377 **3.3 Local resources**

We found local resources to influence host and natural enemy responses. Regarding bees, plant species
richness had a positive effect on bee species richness in both GLMMs (Tables 1 and S6, Figure S7) and
after model averaging (Table S6), with a similar effect size to habitat amount proxies (i.e., similar

estimate, Table 1 and S6). In contrast, we found the abundance of natural enemies of bees were negatively influenced by plant species richness (Table 1). Regarding wasps, local resources proxies had a negative effect on wasp responses. Higher plant species richness led to male-biased sex ratios and to a reduced number of cells per nests (Tables 1 and S6). However, these effects were lost after model averaging (Table S7, Data S2). Furthermore, we found the amount of grasslands within 32 m to negatively influence wasp abundance, whereas positively boosting parasitism at the nest level (Table 1 and S6, Figure S7) in both GLMMs and after model averaging (Table S7, Data S2).

388 3.4. Effect of temperature

Temperature was an important driver of some of the host and enemy responses (Figure 4). First, we found local temperature negatively influenced the number of cells per nests for wasps in the GLMMs (Table 1 and S6, Figure 4), but the effect was lost after model averaging. Second, temperature at the landscape scale increased the number of parasitised cells per nests for bees (Table 1 and S6, Figure 4). Regarding natural enemies, temperatures at the local scale reduced the abundance of the natural enemies of wasps, and at the landscape scale (LST at 800 m), increased the richness of bee natural enemies (Table 1 and S6, Figure 4), both for GLMMs and after model averaging (Table S6).

396 3.5. Effect of biotic interactions

397 Biotic interactions shaped host and enemy community structure both in GLMMs and after model 398 averaging (Table 1, S6 and S7, Figure 5). Furthermore, proxies of biotic interactions had the largest 399 effect on bee and wasp abundances (Table 1). Specifically, larger parasitism rate negatively impacted 400 the abundance of both bees and wasps (Table 1 and S6, Figure 5). Conversely, a larger number of 401 parasites was positively associated with host species richness and abundance (Table 1 and S6, Figure 402 5). Finally, both the abundance and the species richness of natural enemies of both bees and wasps 403 increased with a larger number of nests per site and with a higher host species richness (Table 1 and S6, Figure 5). 404

405 4. DISCUSSION

406 Our results stress the importance of habitat amount, temperature, resources, and biotic interactions in 407 enhancing multitrophic biodiversity in urban ecosystems. However, the size of the effect of the different 408 drivers varied depending on the response. Habitat amount turned to have a larger effect on several 409 responses of cavity-nesting bees and wasps (CNBW) than temperature, local resources and biotic 410 interactions. For example, sites covered by larger amounts of green surfaces, and thus, with higher 411 vegetation cover and heterogeneity, had more CNBW species and individuals, with higher survival 412 rates. Greater vegetation cover has been found to be linked with higher abundances and richer 413 communities of insect pollinators (Albrecht et al. 2007) and predators (Fabian et al. 2014). Moreover, 414 our study supports the relevance of focusing on overall habitat amount, as proposed by Fahrig (Fahrig

415 2013), rather than on specific, more classical metrics of patch size and isolation (e.g., the proximity 416 index), which in our study had a much minor role in shaping the CNBW and their natural enemies. The 417 habitat amount hypothesis (Fahrig 2013) is very useful for understanding urban biodiversity patterns, 418 as cities are characterized by a large number of relatively small, diverse, not necessarily adjacent patches 419 (Aronson et al. 2017), explaining why certain cityscapes can still harbour relatively high diversity levels 420 (Fournier et al. 2020, Vega and Küffer 2021). Our research reinforces the notion that, particularly in 421 cities with a long urban history like ours, the entirety of urban habitats—rather than just natural ones— 422 plays a vital role in preserving diverse species assemblages across various trophic levels. This occurs 423 through habitat supplementation and complementation, as discussed by Colding in 2007. This contrasts 424 with what has been observed in regions or cities with shorter land-use-change histories (e.g., Brazil; da 425 Rocha-Filho et al. 2017, 2020), where the amount of natural habitat, rather than overall urban habitats, 426 has been found to strongly shape bee and wasp diversities.

427 The effects of habitat amount are complex and often indirect, and can vary across trophic levels 428 (Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008, Mayr et al. 2020). In our study, habitat affected the richness of 429 bee and wasp enemies and the abundance of bee enemies. However, the magnitude of the effects was 430 always smaller than the ones for proxies for biotic interactions with their hosts, assessed using metrics 431 representing the availability of hosts (i.e. number of nests, host species richness) as observed in other 432 studies (Fabian et al. 2014, Dainese et al. 2018). Nonetheless, the effects of habitat amount cannot be 433 disregarded, as host communities depended strongly on the amount of habitat, hence indirectly affecting 434 higher trophic levels. Indirect effects of habitat loss have been documented across food webs 435 (Bascompte et al. 2003, Ryser et al. 2019), with negative effects occurring particularly for taxa from 436 higher trophic levels (Melian and Bascompte 2002).

437 Our metrics of plant diversity and vegetation composition, which we used as local resources, shaped 438 several wasp responses and strikingly, only bee species richness. In the case of wasps, higher amounts 439 of grasslands and plant species richness had a negative effect on wasp community structure, life history 440 traits and performance traits. Larger amounts of grasslands imply lower amounts of woodlands (i.e., 441 shrubs and trees). Similarly, larger plant species richness might be occurring in local landscapes with 442 larger cover of grasslands. Cavity-nesting wasp prey on several insects to feed their larvae and often 443 require certain compounds to build their nest (e.g., resin; Requier and Leonhardt 2020) that are found 444 in woodlands (Beyer et al. 2023), which might explain our results. In any case, local food resource 445 availability has been found to have a variable effect on the structure of CNBW communities in non-446 urban ecosystems, with studies finding positive effects of plant species richness on CNBW (Tscharntke 447 et al. 1998, Albrecht et al. 2007, Mayr et al. 2020) and no effects (Ebeling et al. 2012, Fabian et al. 448 2014). In that regard, the quantity and quality of the food resource (e.g., in terms of nutritional values) 449 might mediate the effects of plant diversity on higher trophic levels (Raubenheimer et al. 2009, Lihoreau 450 et al. 2015, Vaudo et al. 2015, Parreño et al. 2022).

451 Temperature can directly influence insect metabolism (Zuo et al. 2012) and can further regulate species 452 richness and abundance, yet we only found evidence of temperature effects in a handful of responses 453 and with complex and contrasting effects. Moreover, the magnitude of the effect was always smaller 454 than habitat amount, local resources and biotic interaction drivers. Warmer environments have been 455 found to enhance wild bee diversity in cities (e.g., in Rome; Geppert et al. 2022), while less is known 456 about wasps. However, temperatures in cities are highly influenced by the amount and distribution of 457 impervious surfaces, the density of buildings and the type of artificial materials. Therefore, higher 458 temperatures, can be also indicative of smaller habitat amounts and likely of lower food resource 459 availability, which ultimately negatively impact biodiversity responses across ecological levels, as we 460 observed. Finally, while our results provide new evidence on the effects of local temperature, there are 461 some limitations. Particularly, we did not measure the temperature during the months when the larval 462 or pupal stages of many species are developing, i.e. from late summer to the following spring. 463 Temperature sensitivity can vary during ontogeny (Rombough 2003), and thermal conditions during 464 the larval and pupal stages can therefore be critical for later CNBW development and emergence (Rombough 2003, Ostap-Chec et al. 2021). Hence, future studies should extend temperature 465 466 measurements to also include all developmental stages of CNBW.

How biotic interactions influence the properties of host communities in cities remains poorly 467 468 understood. In our study, biotic interactions had the largest effect onseveral host community 469 structure responses. This contrasts with findings from prior studies on cavity-nesting wasps in 470 non-urban ecosystems, where resource availability (Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008) 471 together with temperature (Mayr et al. 2020) were stronger drivers of CNBW diversity. In 472 addition, our results showed that wasp richness is positively regulated by their natural enemies, 473 which could indicate a possible top-down regulation from natural enemies for wasps through 474 reduced competition (Levi et al. 2019). However, it is worth noticing that the effect size was 475 much smaller than other drivers, limiting the importance of the top-down regulation of wasp 476 diversity. Regarding bees, our finding of a lack of influence of top-down controls on bee 477 richness should be interpreted with caution, as other top-down factors, such as predation, were not assessed and could be more important (Vidal and Murphy 2018). It is also possible that 478 479 habitat, and subsequently resource availability, represent a greater limitation than parasitism 480 pressure on bee hosts. In this regard, we only find evidence of the effets of habitat amount and 481 local resources on bee species richness, which had a similar estimate. For example, our results 482 agree with a study on populations of the cavity-nesting bee Osmia bicornis in agricultural areas 483 in Germany showed that resource availability was the primary driver, rather than regulation 484 from natural enemies (Steffan-Dewenter and Schiele 2008).

Biotic interactions exerted also the largest pressure in the species richness and abundance of naturalenemies, with a direct density-dependence on their hosts. Previous studies have also reported direct

487 density-dependence (Krewenka et al. 2011, Mayr et al. 2020). Thus, this suggests that the factors 488 thought to promote inversely density-dependent parasitism, like limited handling time by natural 489 enemies or improved defense and guarding capacities of aggregated hosts (Rosenheim 1990), do not 490 apply to the organisms studied. Moreover, our findings underpin the dependence of natural enemies on 491 their resources (hosts), supporting the idea that higher trophic levels are severely limited by their food 492 resources (Mayr et al. 2020). In that regard, natural enemies are vulnerable to the decline in host 493 availability and to the drivers responsible for these declines, such as habitat reduction, loss of key 494 resources, and the spread of novel pathogens or diseases, which are well-known drivers of insect decline 495 and are becoming more severe worldwide (Wagner et al. 2021).

496 Finally, our study opens some questions regarding other dimensions and scales of diversity that could 497 not be developed here. First, regarding scale, studying how community restructuring (i.e., beta diversity 498 metrics) occurs along urban socio-ecological gradients could help assess the degree of filtering of the 499 communities of hosts and enemies across the studied cities, as shown in other studies (Fournier et al. 500 2020). Second, because biodiversity conservation and management requires information on all its 501 complexity (Villalta et al. 2022), adding additional dimensions, such as functional and phylogenetic 502 diversity, could provide complementary information on how diversity is structured within and among 503 cities.

504 5. CONCLUSIONS

505 Our study shows how urban intensity shapes multitrophic diversity through different drivers. 506 Particularly, our study highlights the importance of habitat amount and temperature in urban food webs, 507 through the direct effects on hosts responses and the subsequent consequences on their natural enemies. 508 Ongoing climate change and its interaction with the urban fabric (Müller et al. 2014), together with 509 urban intensification scenarios in the face of a growing urban population (Liu et al. 2020), therefore 510 represent two main challenges for the survival of urban CNBW communities, as well as the interacting 511 species in higher or lower trophic levels. Ongoing adaptation plans to reduce overheating through 512 targeted greening and the expansion of novel and restored habitats represent an opportunity to maintain 513 urban biodiversity (Butt et al. 2018), including the studied food webs. Overall, the study of multitrophic 514 diversity improves our understanding of the contributions of different drivers to multiple dimensions of 515 biodiversity, which in turn helps us to monitor ecological conditions and anticipate future challenges 516 for biodiversity conservation.

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531 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

532 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

533 DATA AVAILABILITY

534 Data will be made available from the repository ENVIDAT (<u>www.envidat.ch</u>) if the article is accepted.

Tables and Figures

TABLE 1. Summary of the significant effects (p < 0.05) of the proxies for temperature, habitat amount, resource availability and biotic controls from the GLMMs on the responses of cavity-nesting bees and wasps and their natural enemies. Plus signs indicate a positive estimate whereas minus signs indicate a negative estimate. For each model, the delta corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc) between the best and the second best performing model, and the marginal R² and conditional R² are provided. Model estimates are provided in Table S5. For the results on multimodel inference, see Table S6 and Data S1 and S2.

			Temperature				Habitat	amount		Local resources			Biotic interactions					
			Local	mperature	o Parka	rea Prot.	nde ²	areas 100	areas 800	Imperi	101832	Pat. rat	e A. Par	deites Hostri	thest Host hest	ΔAICc	R ² _m	R ² _c
Hosts	Bees	Richness					0.234				0.210					0.153	0.207	0.207
		Abundance			-0.294			0.374				-0.659	0.911			0.046	0.520	0.573
		Survival	0.223			0.234		0.717								0.099	0.052	0.676
		Parasitism cell														1.291	0.000	0.956
		Parasitism nest		0.356	0.079		-0.205	0.409		-0.196						1.067	0.020	0.792
		Sex ratio			-0.145											0.015	0.021	0.443
		N. cells						0.11		-0.054						0.426	0.038	0.452
	Wasps	Richness				-0.210	0.341		-0.116				0.013			0.754	0.449	0.548
		Abundance	-0.175				0.422		-0.298			-0.705	1.004			0.304	0.718	0.722
		Survival					0.532		-0.389	-0.324						0.576	0.062	0.592
		Parasitism cell		0.119						0.029						0.080	0.002	0.258
		Parasitism nest	-0.184		-0.201				0.318		-0.211					1.134	0.070	0.269
		Sex ratio	•	-0.155				-0.203			-0.170					0.214	0.015	0.217
		N. cells	-0.072	-0.095	-0.076						-0.107					0.027	0.053	0.519
Enemies	Bees	Richness		0.338				0.352						0.473	0.330	0.414	0.469	0.469
		Abundance			-0.498			0.258			-0.36				1.79	0.099	0.658	0.658
	Wasps	Richness						0.197						0.397	0.141	0.625	0.459	0.459
		Abundance	-0.303	0.214					0.301					0.503	0.49	1.186	0.622	0.627

LST 800 = 1 and surface temperature within 800 m; Prox. index = proximity index; Grasslands 32 = proportion of grasslands within a <math>32 m buffer; Impervious 32 = proportion of impervious surfaces within a <math>32 m buffer; S = plant species richness; N. parasites = number of parasitized brood cells; Par. Rate = parasitism rate; Host richness = host species richness; Host nest = Number of host nests.



2 FIGURE 1. Summary of the study design and calculation of the performance traits (survival rate and

- 3 parasitism rate) and life-history traits (sex ratio and number of cells per nest) using a nest from Osmia
- 4 *leaiana* (Kirby, 1802) in Zurich as an example. Each rectangle represents an individual cell in the nest.





6 FIGURE 2. Changes in the community structure (a, b, h, i), performance traits (c, e, f) and life-history 7 traits (d, g) of cavity-nesting bees and wasps and their natural enemies, along urban intensity gradients. 8 Points represent the observed data and solid lines represent the predicted values obtained using the best 9 generalised linear mixed effects models ; coloured bands indicate 95% confidence intervals. (j) Loess 10 smoothing between urban intensity and the predictor variables depicting environmental changes at the 11 landscape scale. Urban intensity is inferred through the first PCA axis (see Figure S5) performed on the 12 explanatory variables, which explained ca. 40% of the variability in the data. The influence of specific 13 drivers used to model the responses is shown in Figures 3-6.



14

FIGURE 3. Generalised linear mixed effects models (GLMMs) depicting the relationship between proxies of habitat amount (amount of green areas at 100 and 800 m, and park area) and (a-b) host community structure, (c & h) enemy community structure, (d-f) host performance traits, and (g) lifehistory traits. Note that habitat amount proxies did not affect natural enemies. Points represent the observed data and solid lines represent the predicted values obtained using the best GLMMs; coloured bands indicate 95% confidence intervals. Model results are shown in Table S6. Additional relationships can be found in Figures S8-S10.



FIGURE 4. Generalised linear mixed effects models (GLMMs) depicting the relationship between
proxies of temperature (local temperature and LST at 800 m) and (a-c) host performance traits, (d-e)
natural enemy community structure. Points represent the observed data and solid lines represent the
predicted values obtained using the best GLMMs; coloured bands indicate 95% confidence intervals.
Model results are shown in Table S6. Additional relationships can be found in Figures S8-S10. LST =

- 29 Land Surface Temperature; Local temperature depicts the anomalies of the local temperature, (see
- 30 methods section).
- 31



FIGURE 5. Generalised linear mixed effects models (GLMMs) depicting the relationship between
proxies of biotic interactions for hosts (a-c) and natural enemies (d-f). Points represent the observed
data and solid lines represent the predicted values obtained using the best GLMMs; coloured bands
indicate 95% confidence intervals. Model results are shown in Table S6. Additional relationships can
be found in Figures S8-S10.

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