Hoverflies in EU policy: National Initiatives in Germany



Merodon rufus mating on *Anthercum* flowers, © Foto: A. Ssymank …

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Overview

- Introduction: Federal organization in Germany needs implementation at several levels
- National legal implementation and strategies
- National guidelines & Natura 2000
- Selected research projects
- Red list update and new Red list data portal for hoverflies and wild bees
- EU-Pollinator monitoring in Germany
- Outlook

Federal Stucture & implementation in Germany

Legal implementation

- Legal implementation – a two step procedure: Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG), “Länder” laws on Nature Conservation, Forestry, Agriculture, Pesticides, Waterways etc.
- Federal states (16 Länder) with own nature conservation and related laws
- Direct EU implementation; NRR with Art. 10 on pollinator protection and EUPoMs with its delegated acts on pollinator monitoring

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Organization structure

- National Ministry - > 16 Federal State Ministries (partially not with the same tasks) – Ministerial Working Groups (LANA).
- At each level State Agencies for implementation and consultation of Ministries – Scientific and technical working groups (e.g. for Natura 2000 implementation, for insect monitoring...)
- Implementation on the ground: NGO‘s, Biological stations, District level nature conservation authorities, Land users...





National legal implementation and strategies

- “Insektenschutzgesetz” (National Insect protection law) not a homogenous new law but changed articles in different legal acts and laws
- National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) including some provisions/ aims for pollinators, no specific national pollinator plan
- Some management guidlines or concepts for distinct types of protected areas exist
- Länder level activities are limited, at different levels of ambition, but public awareness on pollinators and nature conservation is generally quite high

National guidelines & Natura 2000

- Natura 2000 Sites in DE: ca. 4500 protected areas, 9.3 % of the terrestrial area
- Annex I Habitat Interpretation Manual: 93 habitat types with ca. 46600 identified typical species of which approx. 13900 from the EU key pollinator groups; with a constantly updated database beyond the printed 2 volume set
- Large database on flower visiting used to support EU projects such asTaxo-Fly and books/ papers on hoverflies
- No German KPA analyses yet, but direct support of the development of KPA & Buzzlines criteria (ETC-Working paper)





Deiss et al. (2026) DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.20133174



Selected research projects & scientific background

Older projects, but not fully analysed or published:

- Biodiversity Exploratories (3 model regions)
- Malaise-trap projects: DINA (transect study protected areas – arable fields)

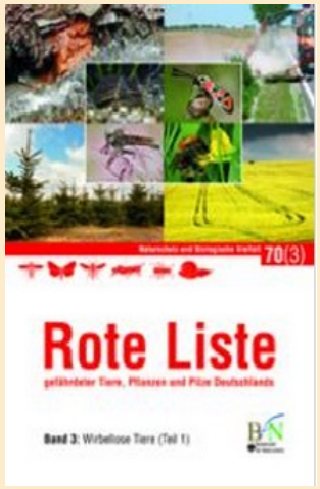
Currently: selected Malaise traps sampling with insect biomass, IMPEDIV und LTER, Bavarian Malaise trap program, 3 Länder projects

- German & Bavarian Barcoding projects of the museums
- 2 large Federal Reseach projects (BfN): Standardization of Metabarcoding, Design and need of buffer zones around PA‘s
- Multiple local implementation projects, often with federal co-funding (BPBV: Federal program on Biological Diversity, e.g. buzz lines in arable landscapes)



Red national red list of Syrphidae planned (2026-2029) & new Red list data portal

- Update of checklist update for the Fauna Germanica including bibliography and checklists at Länder-level (2026-2028)
- New data portal of the German Red list Centre for hoverflies and wild bees (currently in preparation, online this year)
- Revisions of several collections, databasing of selected papers with focus on rare species planned for 2027/2028
- Collection of hitherto difficult to access distributed data as much as possible
- In parallel: Update of the national red list of biotopes/habitats



2011(2008):
31% threatend,
7% NT





EU-Pollinator monitoring in Germany

- Habitat Directive monitoring (Art. 11 HD) without typical animals (few exceptions) based on plants
- Actually a standardized German Insect montoring exists, EUPoMs has to be integrated to cover all EU Pollinator groups according to Art. 10 NRR and the delgated act on monitoring.
- For Germany foreseen: 90 transects and presence/absence monitoring of a few rare and endangered pollinator species (minimum requirement 15 species).
- A nationally funded research project has been lauched (F+E-project) to install plots, test and do the EU-transects in the years 2027-2029



Outlook

- From 2029 onward the Federal States will be in charge of EUPoM
- Key Pollinator Areas: until now there is unfortunately no politcal intention to select additional protected areas
- National training „post-EPIC“ for continuous expert training facilities planned (Federal States Academies)
- Pesticide pollution urgently needs to be reduced, it is in many protected areas as high as outside in the crops
- Red list updates both for hoverflies and for biotopes /habitats should be available within the next three years
- HD Annex I habitat typical species will be continuously updated and expanded to other taxonomical groups -> better awareness & management of N2000



Wishes and to Do's

EUPoMS delivers statistics at EU level for wide-spread species, however national data are needed for implementation at site level (N2000)...

- Adapt German insect monitoring and expand number of plots ?
- Integrate a selection of typical pollinator species into Art. 11 HD monitoring/ habitat assessments & actively use EU Habitat condition guideline
- Future monitoring of rare species should cover a substantial part of nationally red-listed pollinator taxa
- Build up a reference system of in-detail monitoring stations with Malaise traps/Metabarcoding to allow for corrections of wheather conditions and fluctuations to complement the EUPoMs transects
- However at site level: Quality of habitats needs to be enhanced and number of threats & pressures to be effectively reduced

Many thanks !

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Helophilus trivittatus at sunrise on *Succisa pratensis*