BayCEER Kolloquium

Lectures in Ecology and Environmental Research

winter 2025/26

UNIVERSITÄT BAYREUTH

Donnerstag/Thursday
13.11.2025
12:30 in H6, GEO

Prof. Dr. Lena Wilfert

University of Regensburg

Pollinators in the Anthropocene: evolution and ecology of bees and their microbes in the face of global change

Global change, such as land use intensification, invasive species and of course of climate change, can disrupt biotic interactions, for example leading to emerging diseases or declines in population health. We combine studies of wild assemblages of bees and other pollinators with omics approaches and experimental studies to understand how global change affects biotic interactions in these beneficial insects, crucial for the maintenance of biodiversity and human food security. For example, we study how the anthropogenic de-novo acquisition of vector-borne transmission has led to disease emergence and changes in pathogen ecology in wild and managed bees and how land-use intensification affects pollinator health. This sheds light on fundamental evolutionary ecology, such as what drives the evolution of virulence, but at the same time identifies conservation strategies that can mitigate the effects of climate change on pollinator communities.

Bayreuth Center of Ecology and Environmental Research

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