



# **Insect Decline: The Causes and the Role of Agriculture in Mitigation**

Wednesday 25 April 2012  
Rothamsted Research, Herts, UK

Organised by SCI's BioResources Group



## Programme

09.30 Registration and refreshments

### Morning session: Insect decline – the current situation

10.00 **Welcome and introduction from chair**

Richard Harrington, Rothamsted Research

10.10 **Keynote speaker: 40 years of insect monitoring on farmland: winners and losers in the cereal ecosystem**

Nick Sotherton, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

10.40 **Are the severity and drivers of decline in UK butterflies representative of other insects?**

Jeremy Thomas, University of Oxford

11.10 Refreshment break and posters

11.30 **Forest and woodland insects – down and out or on the up?**

Simon Leather, Imperial College

12.00 **Farming and the decline of bumblebees**

David Goulson, University of Stirling

12.30 **Falling into the trap: not all insects are declining**

Richard Harrington, Rothamsted Research

13.00 Lunch and posters

### Afternoon session: Progress in farming for insect biodiversity

14.15 **Introduction from chair**

Jon Cole, Consultant Ecologist

14.20 **Environmental stewardship, farmland biodiversity and the sustainable intensification of wildlife management**

Peter Sutton, Syngenta

14.50 **Improvements in targeting sprays on crops**

Paul Miller, Silsoe

15.20 **Land management measures for biodiversity**

Claire Robinson, Countryside Adviser from NFU

15.50 Debate and questions

16.10 Refreshments and poster prizes

## Organisers

Jon Cole, Consultant Ecologist

Graham Matthews, Imperial College

Alan Baylis, Nuvistix

Mark Burton, University of Nottingham

## Synopsis

This event will discuss to what degree modern agriculture is responsible for insect decline and determine how new technologies and initiatives within the industry can reduce the impact on insect populations.

Much publicity has been given to the decline in honey bee populations, but there is mounting evidence that insect populations in general are also in decline. There is controversy over how major the problem is, and if there is actually a problem at all. Insect dynamics are changing; once common species are becoming endangered and new and invasive species are being widely recorded. If numbers are declining as much as reported then threats to insect-eating birds and mammals, pollination and the agriculture industry in general, as well as to farmland and general biodiversity, are potentially serious. Decline in insects is frequently attributed to changes in agricultural practice.

This event will explore current theories regarding changes in insect diversity and range, and the consequences for plant and other animal species and agriculture.

## Attendees

This will be an essential event for all those concerned with insect decline and the effects on overall biodiversity and agriculture. BASIS points have been applied for.

## Partners



**Game & Wildlife**  
CONSERVATION TRUST

## Call for Posters

PhD students/post-docs (first position) are invited to submit A0 (portrait) posters on research progress in agricultural practices and technologies that relate to the reduction in the impact of agriculture on insect diversity. Please send a 300 word abstract to Mark Burton, email: [plxmb4@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:plxmb4@nottingham.ac.uk) by **30 March 2012**. Prizes will be awarded for the best posters. Presenters will receive a reduced registration fee.

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25 April 2012 @ Rothamsted Research, Herts, UK

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\*Partner members for this event: Butterfly conservation, The Royal Entomological Society, The Association of Applied Biologists and The Game and Wildlife Conservaton Trust

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