The contribution of edges of vegetation in fields of intensive agriculture to the conservation of wild bees

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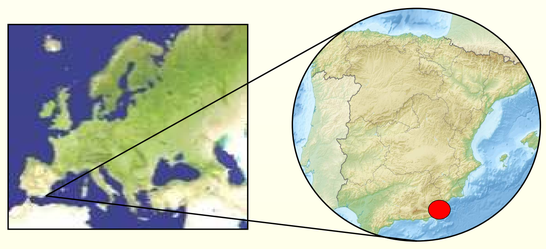
Introduction

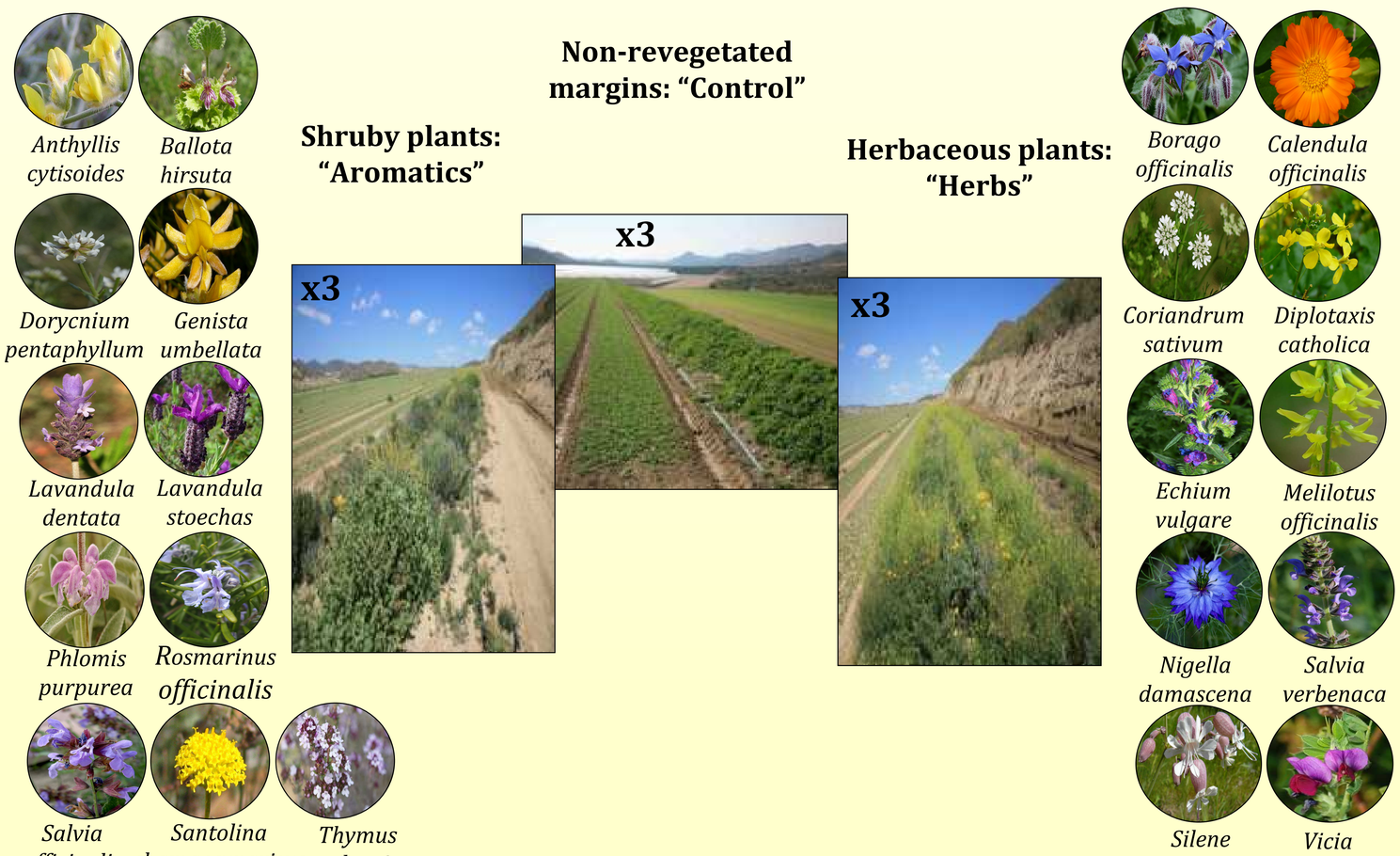
The intensification of agriculture has negative effects on bee communities: mortality due to pesticides, destruction of nesting sites, elimination of plants providing nectar and pollen, etc. **"Operation Pollinator"** aims to enhance habitats for wild bees in areas of intensive agriculture.



Almería, southern Spain 2011-2012

Materials and Methods

Treatments: Three types of margins were assayed in intensively managed vegetable fields.

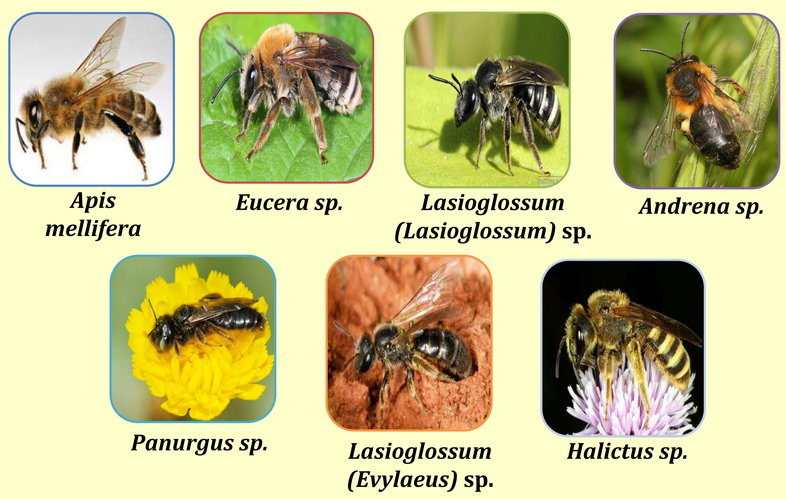


Sampling of vegetation

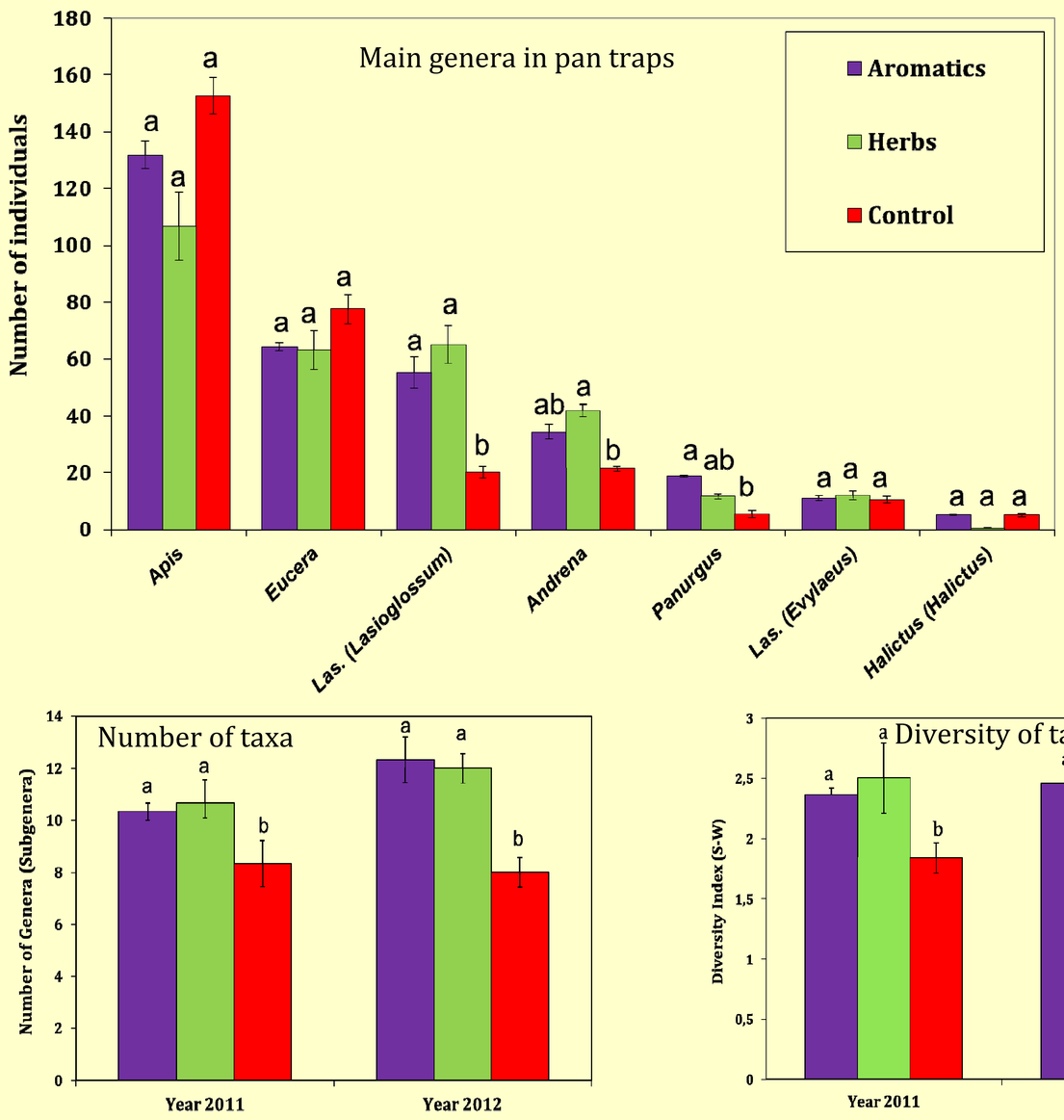
- % Plant cover & % Blossoming.
- 3 replicates per plot

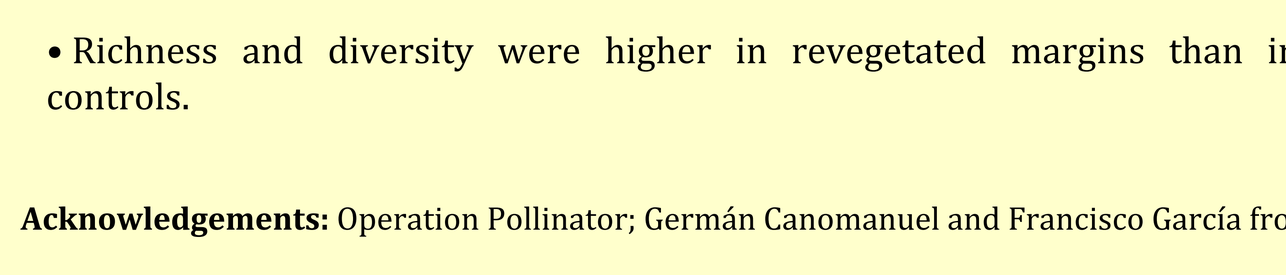
Sampling of insects

- 3 pan traps per plot collected every two weeks from March to July.
- The specimens were identified to genera/subgenera.

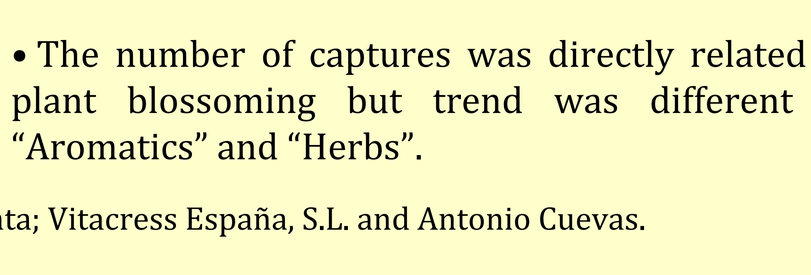


Results and conclusions





- No significant differences among treatments were found for most genera.
- *Lasioglossum* and *Panurgus* were more abundant in plots of aromatic plants than in controls.
- *Lasioglossum* and *Andrena* were more abundant in plots of herbaceous plants than in controls.



- Richness and diversity were higher in revegetated margins than in controls.
- The number of captures was directly related to plant blossoming but trend was different in "Aromatics" and "Herbs".

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