

Loss of diversity and abundance in butterflies: facts and perspectives

Thomas Schmitt

University of Natural Sciences |
Martin Luther Universität Halle Wittenberg

Butterflies are valuable indicators of habitat quality and ecosystem health. As butterflies have long been the most studied group of invertebrates and still are, time series can be traced back into the past, in some cases even reaching back to the 19th century. Such data allow evaluating the losses having taken place since then. An analysis of the ecological groups of species vanishing at specific time windows is well mirroring the stepwise changes in the landscapes and, more recently, the climatic changes. Further studies of single species foster our understanding of why these species cannot survive in landscapes of intensive agriculture, but also allow postulating what could be done for maintaining butterfly diversity and hereby biodiversity in general. In this talk, examples of time series of butterflies in Central Europe are presented and perspectives in nature conservation are discussed.

Monday, January 30, 2017

Room 2.2.15 , 12h00

