ABSTRACT

Pollinators play an important role in ecosystems. Their ties to plants are essential for the reproduction of many plant species and thus for the protection of species diversity. Pollinator species therefore need to be protected. But to protect them effectively, it is necessary to understand the relationships between pollinators. However, the interaction between pollinators is a complex topic that needs further research. One of the current threats to pollinator populations is commercial pollinator rearing. Commercially reared species, especially *Apis mellifera* and *Bombus terrestris*, have been introduced almost all over the planet due to their positive effects on crop yields and its by-products. Moreover, in their native ranges they are bred in much higher concentrations than would be possible without human intervention. But high concentrations of commercial pollinators do affect populations of wild ones. This thesis describes forms of pollinator competition and addresses the impact of commercially reared pollinators on wild pollinator populations.

KEY WORDS:

Honeybee – Bumblebee – Hoverfly – Nest usurpation – Pathogen transfer – Species protection – Invasive species