

Abstract

In recent years, several studies reporting a severe decline of insect populations across several continents turned the spotlight on the problem of insect decline. However, the reported declining parameters may vary, and it is necessary to differentiate between declines in biomass, abundance, diversity, or geographical range reduction. This thesis aims to summarize how the conclusions about insect decline are shaped by the methods researchers use, especially by the variables they measure, emphasizing the potential methodological issues and limitations of the various facets of insect decline. Furthermore, we offer a brief digest of the most relevant potential biases and interpretative risks threatening population monitoring surveys. The review also provides concise insight into the state of knowledge on the matter of insect population trends.

Keywords: insects, insect decline, insect population trends, methodology, methodological issues