



Insect hotels

Technical sheet #2

Insects are at the origin of most of the food chains and the reproduction of most of the plants on our planet. Whether it's pollination, the provision of prey they provide for many animal species, or their role as recyclers, **insects are present "at every level"**.

Alongside climate change, the extinction of biodiversity is one of the major challenges facing humankind. And **insects are not spared from this extinction** :

- **Over a million species threatened** with extinction in the near future;
- Insect populations have **fallen by 70-80%** in Europe's mixed agro-industrial landscapes.

Often misunderstood or perceived as undesirable, insects do not attract the same interest as large mammals or trees.

DID YOU KNOW ?



8 out of 10 animal
species are insects

Data : UICN



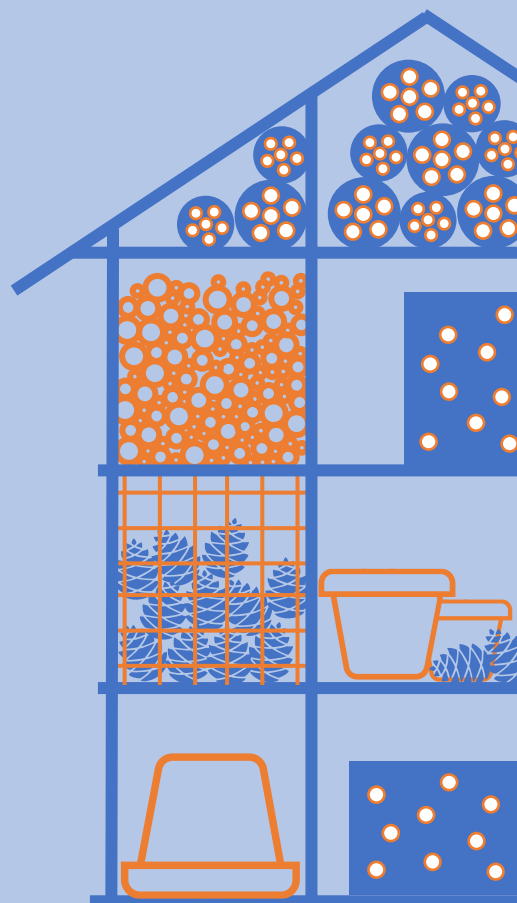
In recent years, however, there have been a growing number of initiatives to install insect hotels, including around airports, with the dual aim of educating and creating favorable habitats for insects.

CHALLENGES FOR BIODIVERSITY

Large insect hotels bring together species that are normally solitary. The **concentration of these individuals in the same place** is likely to :

- provoke the emergence and **spread of diseases and parasites**;
- attract and facilitate the work of **predators**.

To illustrate this, these hotels have possibly encouraged the arrival and spread of a species of exotic bee in France and Europe since 2008. This species hunts down any potential nest competitors close to its territory and greatly reduces the reproductive success of wild bees. In summer, it empties the contents (larvae and resources) of the nests of other species and take their place.



REMEMBER



Recreate natural micro-habitats by making more flexible the management of some areas : leave low walls, trunks standing or on the ground, large branches, heap of soil, etc.



If an insect hotel is retained for educational purposes, give preference to small insect hotels and provide small holes (maximum diameter 6 to 8 mm).



MNHN file (National Museum of Nature History), « Le déclin des insectes met en péril le vivant »



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MOOC Pollinators, Tela Botanica, 2023



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Warning : this English version for non-French readers has been automatically generated using a translation software. Moreover, the recommendations given are adapted to French aerodromes, their climate and their management resources, and are therefore not all compatible with airports located elsewhere in the world.