



EARTH STRIKE

Plummeting Insect Numbers 'Threaten Collapse of Nature' by the End of the Century

- **More than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered, falling by a precipitous 2.5% a year, according to the best data available, suggesting they could vanish within a century**
- **The analysis, published in the journal Biological Conservation, says intensive agriculture is the main driver of the declines, particularly the heavy use of pesticides. Urbanisation and climate change are also significant factors.**
- **“If insect species losses cannot be halted, this will have catastrophic consequences for both the planet’s ecosystems and for the survival of mankind. It is very rapid. In 10 years you will have a quarter less, in 50 years only half left and in 100 years you will have none.” – Francisco Sánchez-Bayo, at the University of Sydney, Australia.**

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature?>