

# Pollen transfer efficiency as a function of pollen deposition and removal

---

Švanda Petr

Jakub Štenc – supervisor

---

Czech republic

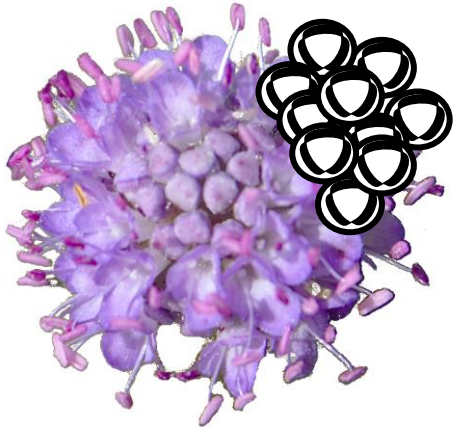
Charles University

Department of botany

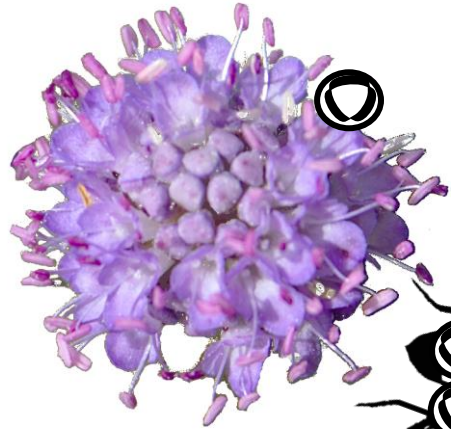


Succisa  
pratensis

**Pollen  
presentation**



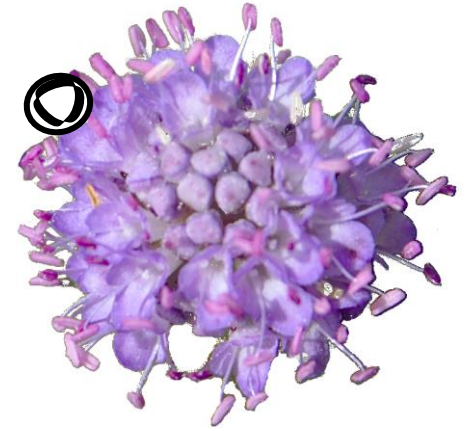
**Pollen  
removal**



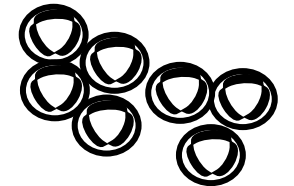
**Pollen  
transportation**



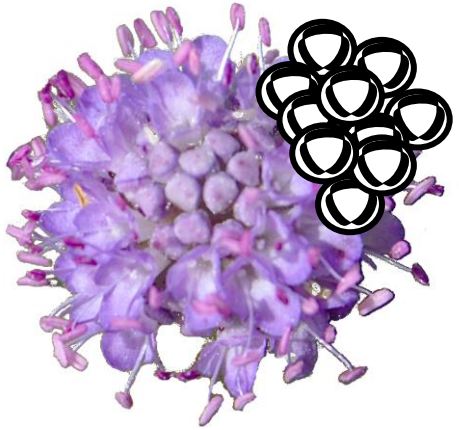
**Pollen  
deposition**



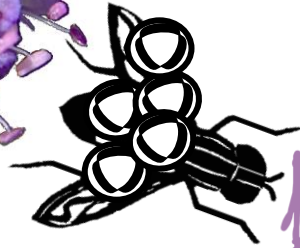
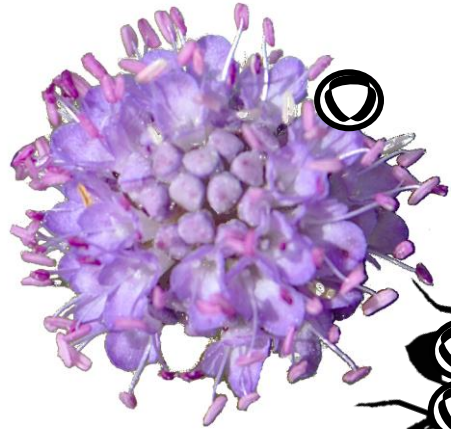
**Nearly all  
pollen is  
lost !**



**Pollen presentation**



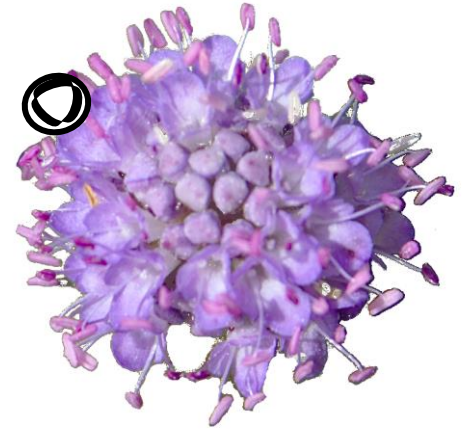
**Pollen removal**



**Pollen transportation**



**Pollen depotition**



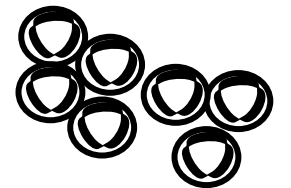
**by eating**



**during transport**



**Nearly all pollen got lost**



# What we want to know

---

- **How many pollen grains are present in every step of the pollination**  
(ie. pollen removal, transport, deposition)
- **How many pollen grains are lost inbetween these steps**
- **How are these pollen counts influenced by time and pollinators**





# How we want to find out

## sampled data

# of pollen grains presented



# of pollen remaining after one visit



# of pollen on pollinator's body



# of pollen grains deposited

Per visit

In total

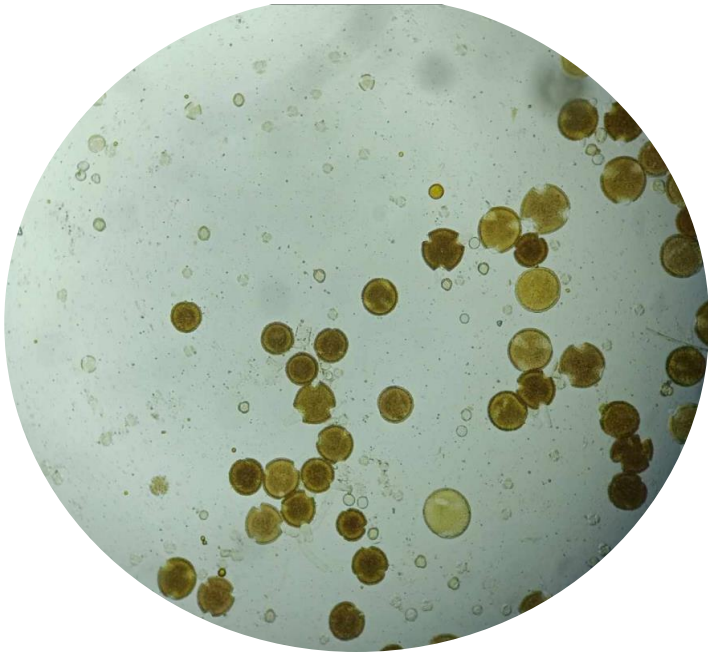


# How we want to find out

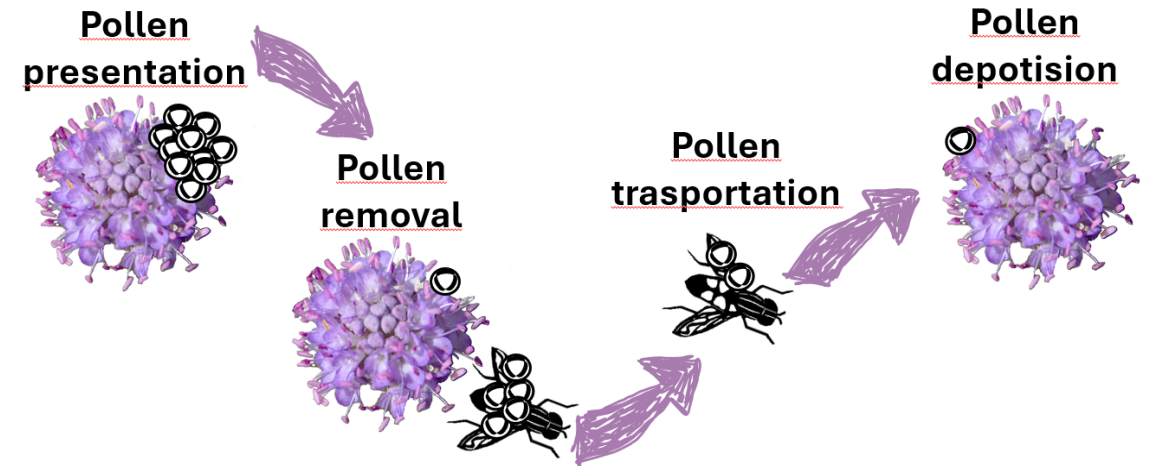
---

sampled data – **for losses**

**# of pollen in  
pollinator's gut**

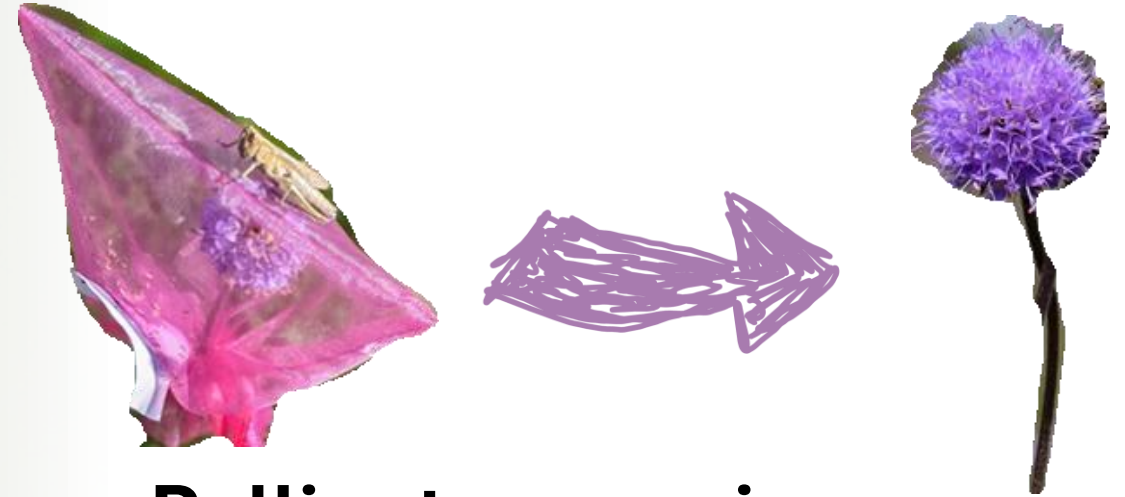


**Overall # of pollen  
missing inbetween steps**



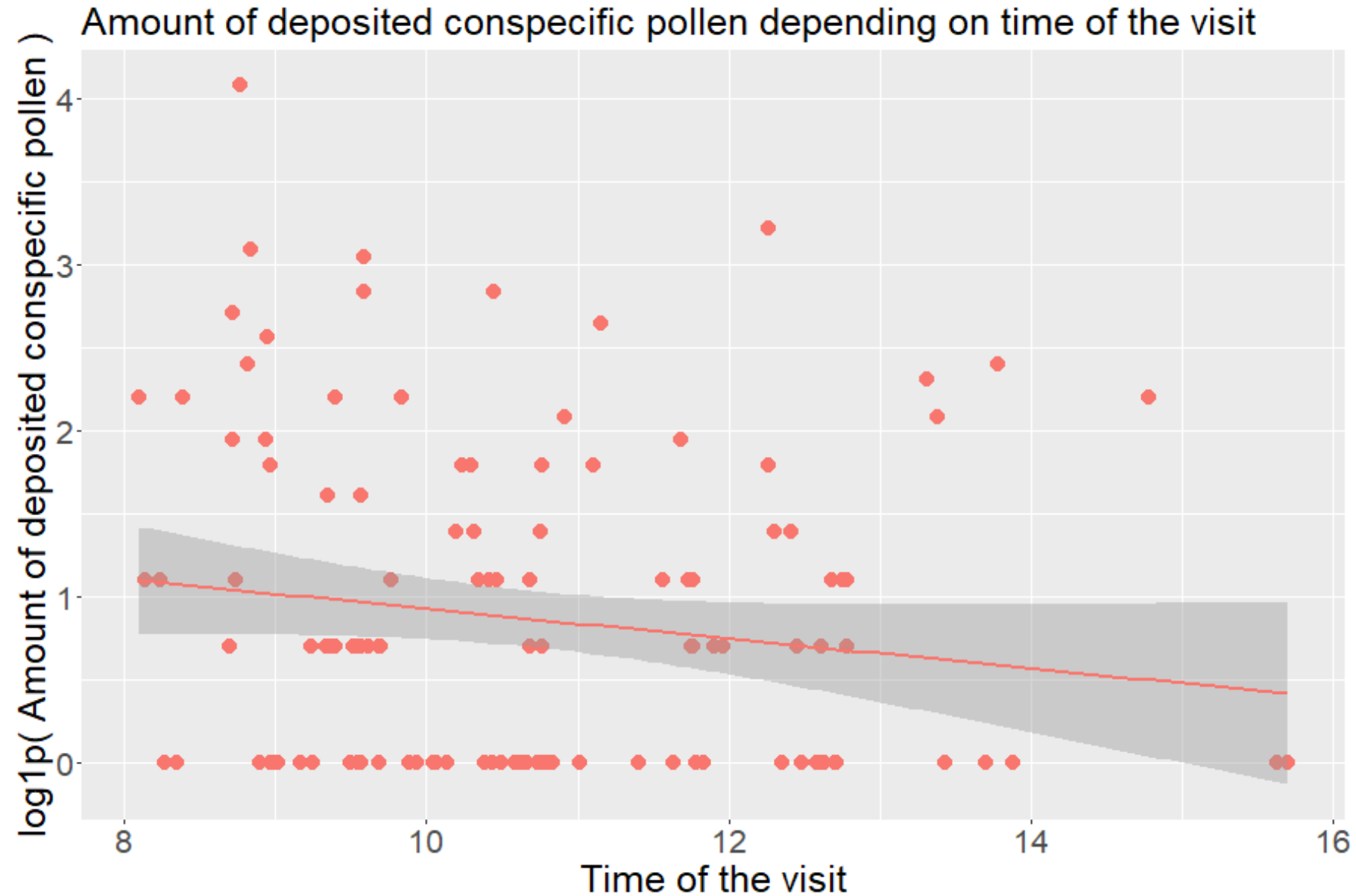
# Deposition

---



- **Pollinator species**
- **Pollinator's sex**
- **Behaviour (pollen x nectar)**
- **Duration of a visit**
- **Time of a visit**

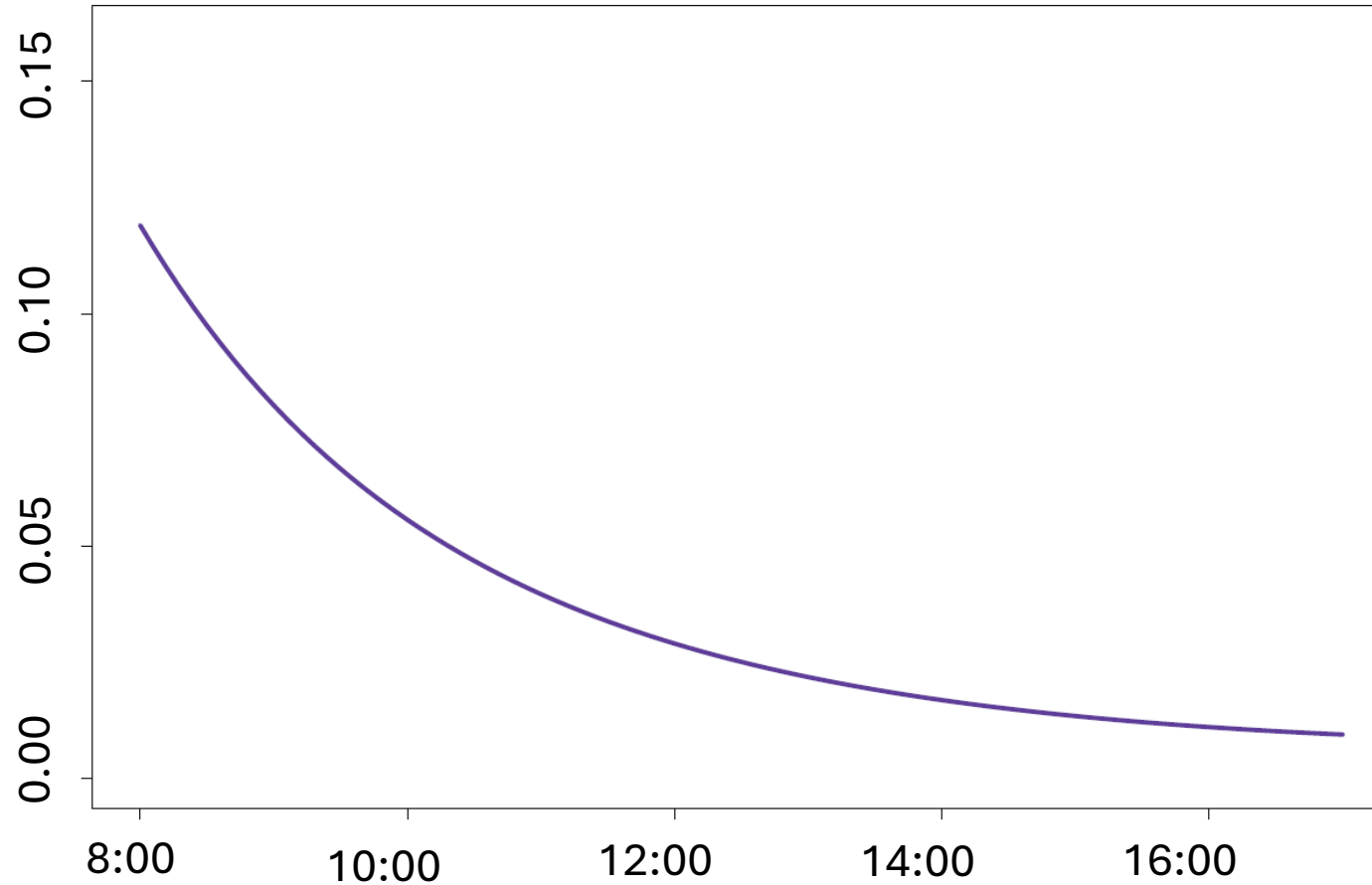
# Time matters: Deposited pollen





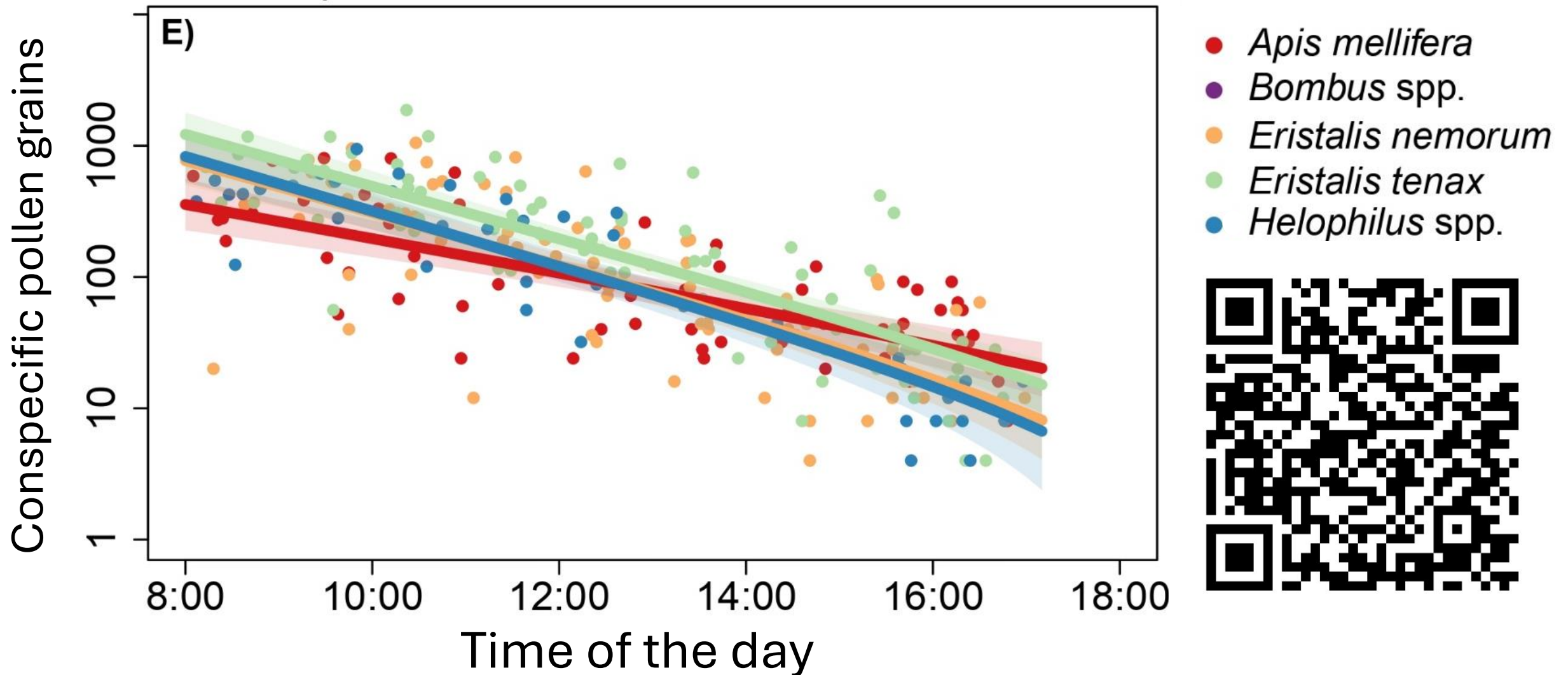
# Diurnal pollen availability on flowers

Pollen available per inflorescence

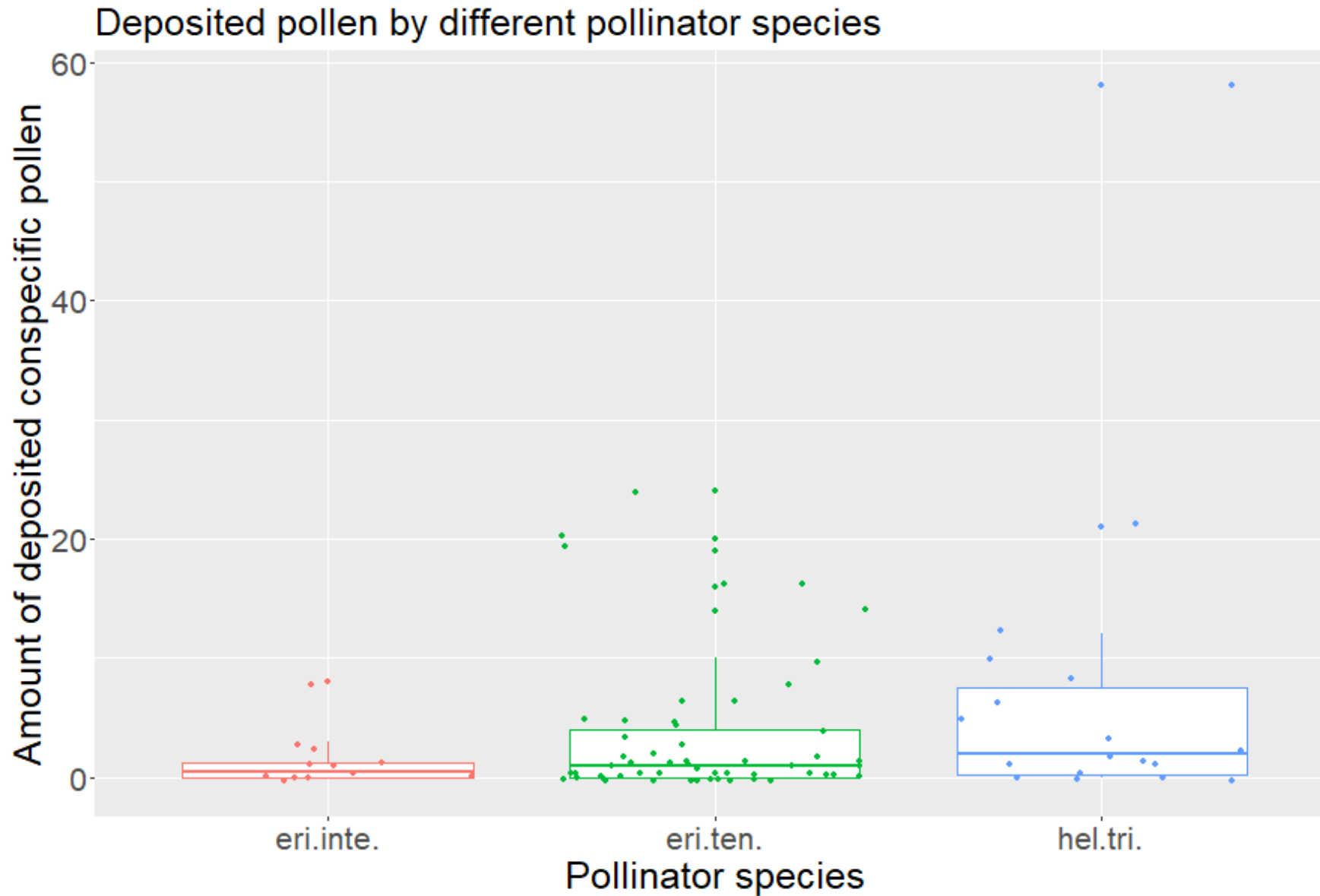


Štenc, J., L. Janošík, E. Matoušková, J. Hadrava, M. Mikát, and Z. Janovský. 2023. Pollinator visitation closely tracks diurnal patterns in pollen release. *American Journal of Botany*

# Pollen grains on pollinator's body



# Pollinator species matters: but...



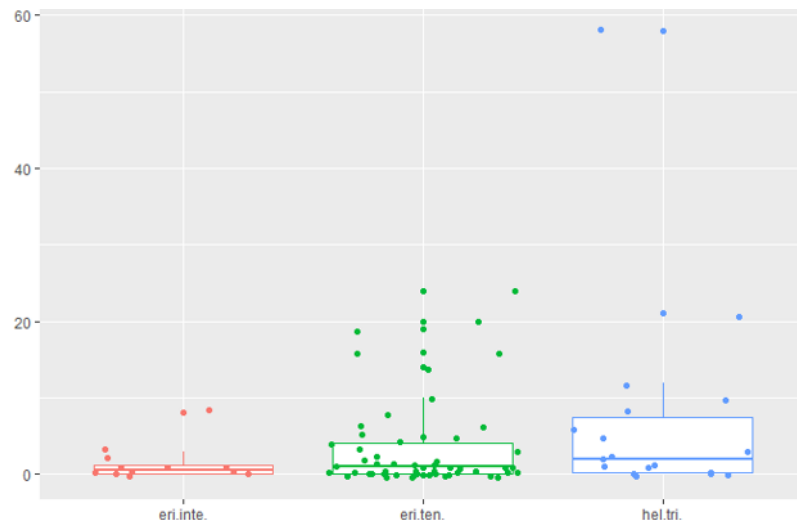
# But deposition success rate depends on time

Quantity of deposited pollen from zero is determined by pollinators

## Hurdle model

Count model coefficients (truncated poisson with log link)

	P-value
Eristalis interruptus-intercept	0.000426 ***
Eristalis tenax	0.004948 **
Helophilus trivittatus	2.57e-06 ***
time	0.055872 .

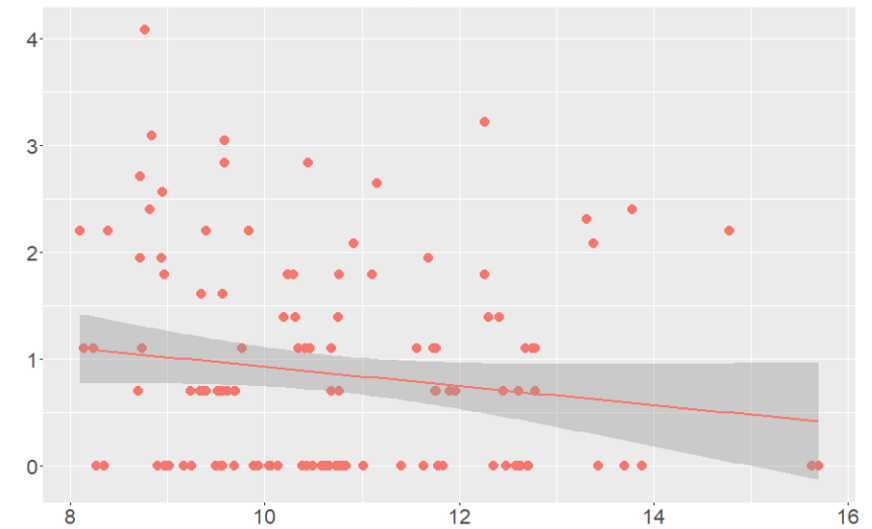


Non-zero deposition success rate is determined by time

## Hurdle model

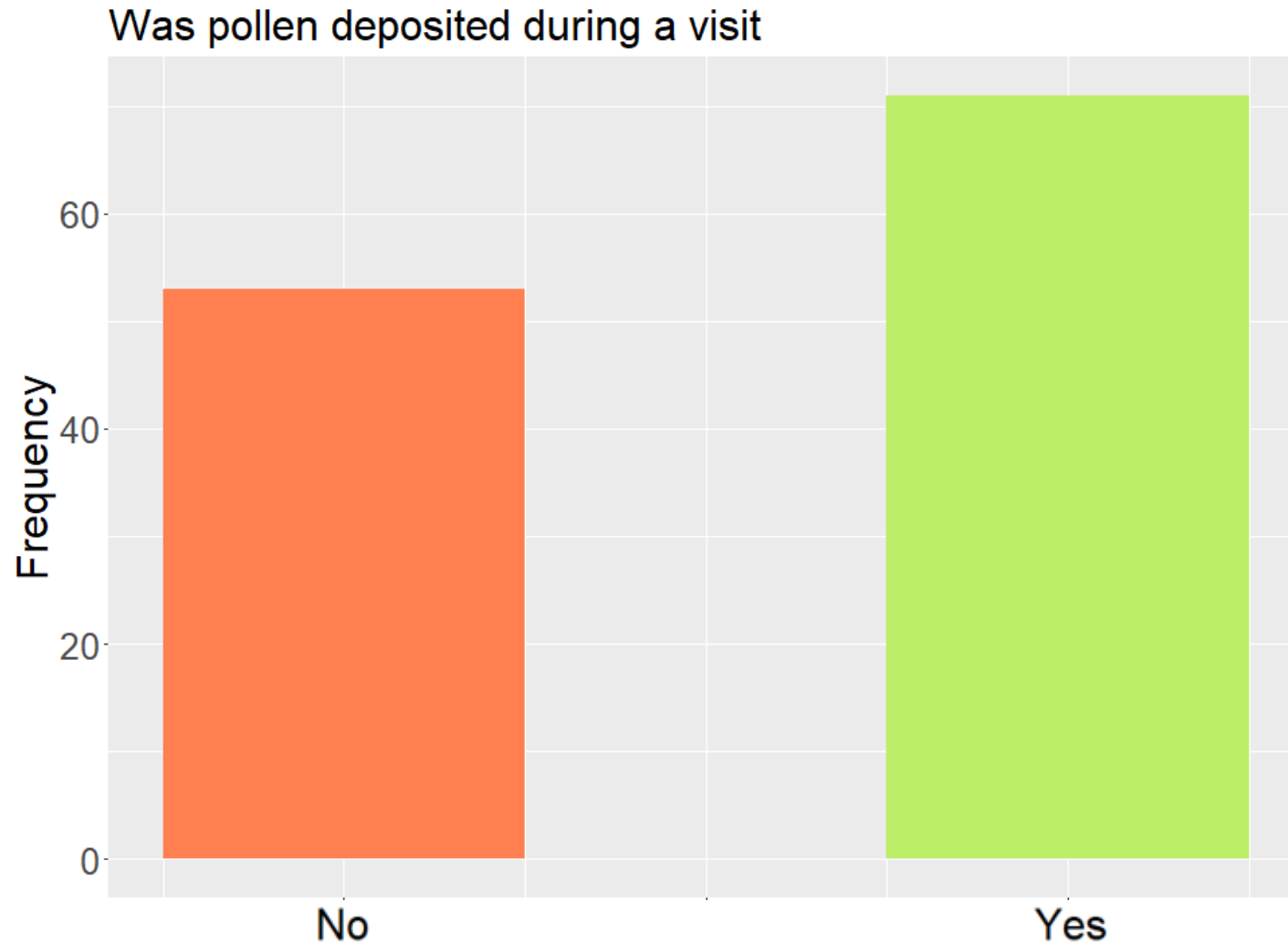
Zero hurdle model coefficients (binomial with logit link)

	P-value
Eristalis interruptus-intercept	0.0286 *
Eristalis tenax	0.5701
Helophilus trivittatus	0.4688
time	0.0234 *





# And a lot of visits are not succesfull



**Only 57 % of visits  
resulted into  
pollen deposition**

# Succisa needs many visits to obtain pollen

**Single visit**

**3.355**

pollen grains deposited

**Total per floret**

**20.54**

pollen grains deposited

**Inflorescence with  
100 florets**

**2054**

pollen grains deposited



**6.12 visits**



**612 visits**



# Presented and Removed pollen

---



pollen grains  
presented



pollen remaining  
after one visit



Pollen  
removed



# Presented pollen and Pollen after visit does not differ enough



pollen grains  
presented

Presented	
median	mean
230	305



pollen remaining  
after one visit

After visit	
median	mean
180	242

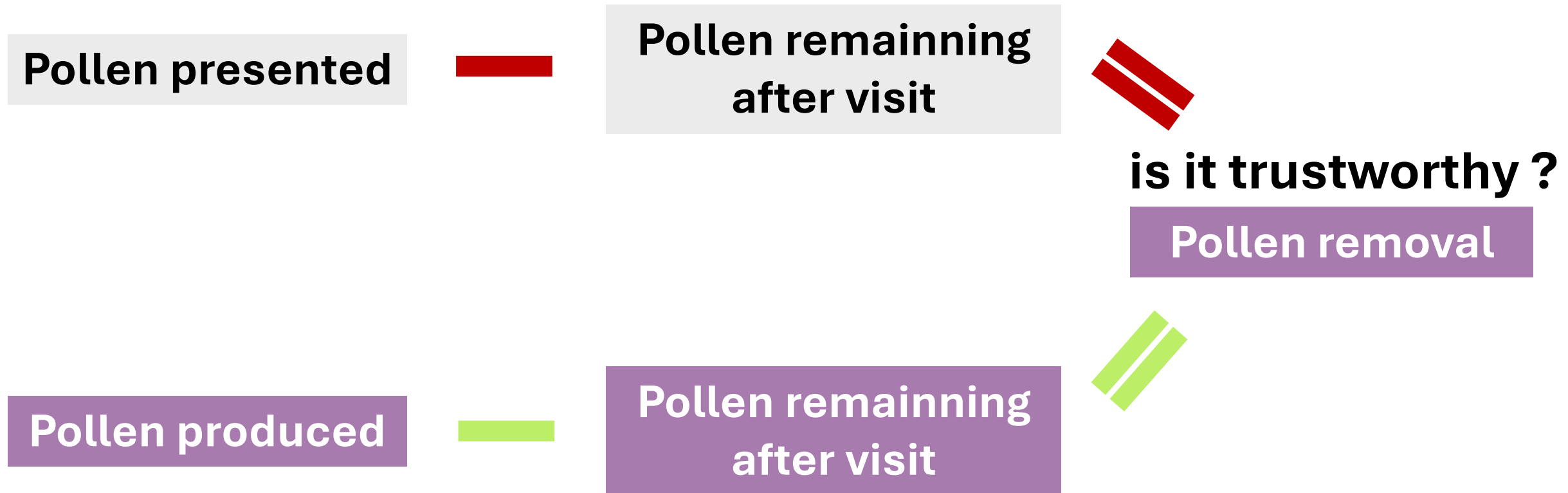
Wilcoxon rank sum test

P-value = 0.201

Calculating pollen  
removal is problem now



# We can also calculate Removed pollen from production



# The interpretation changes dramatically

Pollinators remove nearly nothing  
Pollen presented – after visit

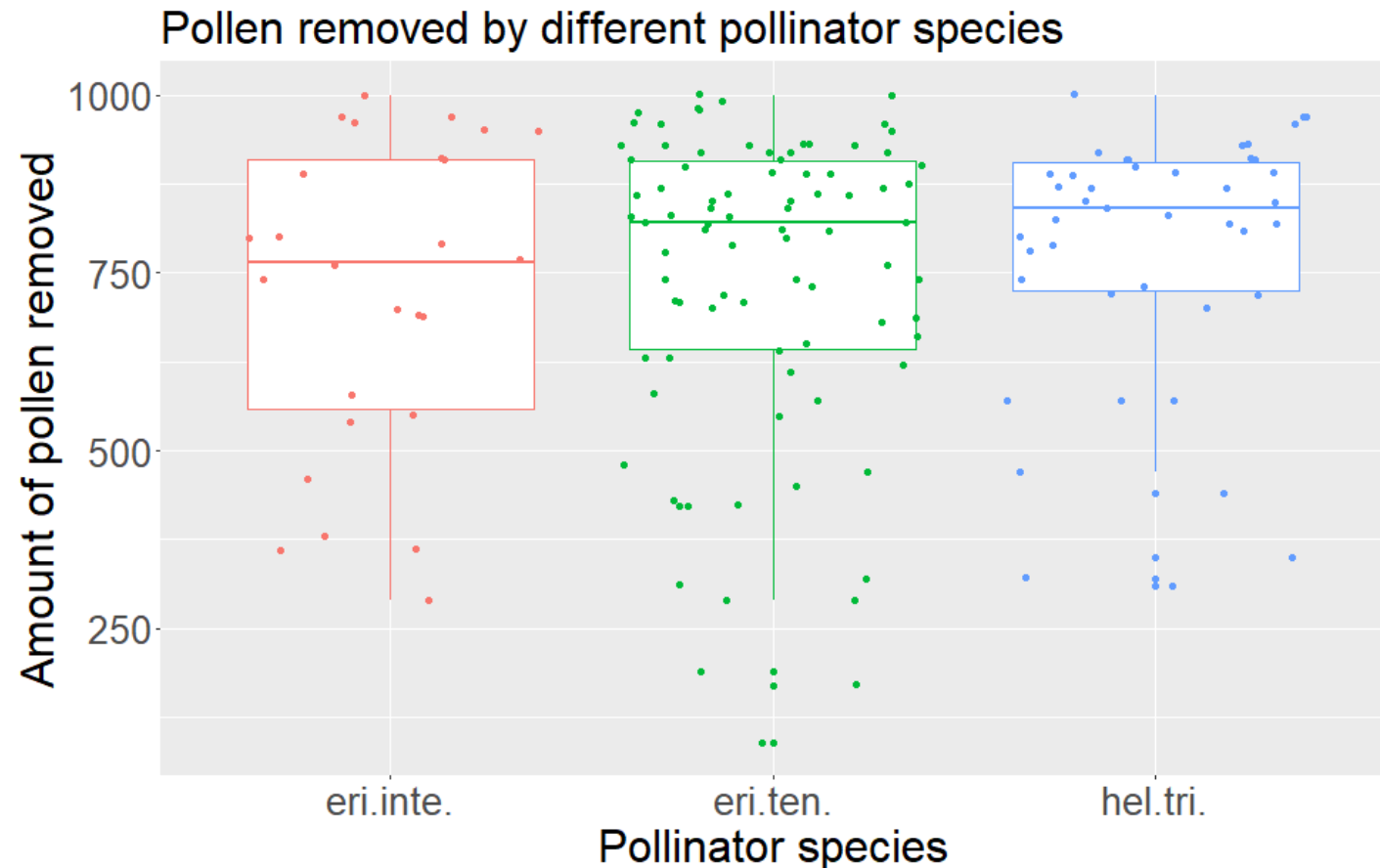
**pollen grains  
presented**

Presented	
median	mean
230	305

**pollen remaining  
after one visit**

After visit	
median	mean
180	242

Pollinators remove nearly everything  
Pollen production – after visit





# What is the correct approach To deal with „the removal dilemma“?



**Pollinators remove nearly nothing**  
Pollen presented – after visit

**Pollinators remove nearly everything**  
Pollen production – after visit

## Why pollen counts are similar before and after visit

- Pollinators mostly remove pollen from floret in front of the visited one
- Mistakes during methodology were done
- Pollinators really remove small quantity of pollen and inflorescence variability in pollen presented is greater

**Pollen  
presentation**



**Pollen  
removal**



**Pollen  
transportation**

**To do:**

**Pollen  
deposition**



**To do:**

**Pollen lost by  
eating**





# Thank you for your attention!

---

Švanda Petr

E-mail: [svandapetr@natur.cuni.cz](mailto:svandapetr@natur.cuni.cz)

Jakub Štenc – supervisor (thank you so much!)

E-mail: [jakubstenc@gmail.com](mailto:jakubstenc@gmail.com)

---

Charles University  
Department of botany



Presentation

A hand-drawn white arrow pointing from the word 'Presentation' towards the QR code.