Dear editors,

We enclose the manuscript “Bee visitation, pollination service, and crop yield in commodity and hybrid seed canola” to be considered for publication in *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*.

Agricultural pollination studies are typically conducted in greenhouses or pollination tents, or use proxies of insect visitation (such as distance from semi-natural land), both of which can obscure the actual value of pollination services to crop production. Our work instead examines the entire chain of pollination (i.e. visitation, pollen deposition, seed and fruit production), and does so within two real-world agricultural contexts. We use structural equation models to examine the relative importance of managed honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and alfalfa leafcutter bees (*Megachile rotundata*) to the production of commodity and hybrid seed canola (*Brassica napus*). Our findings reveal that while plant size was the most important factor for both types of canola crops, pollination only limits yield in seed canola crops. Furthermore, we found that honey bees had almost no effect on pollen deposition in either crop, and that the majority of the pollination in seed canola was done by leafcutter bees. This adds to a growing body of literature that contextualizes the value of pollination services alongside plant resources, and provides information on how pollination services can change over both small and large spatial scales (within field, as well as within crop strips).

We believe that this manuscript would be of great interest to your readers, as it demonstrates a valuable approach to estimating the importance of managed insect pollinators in crop systems. Our results provide both insight into the individual components of crop pollination, and suggest further research opportunities for the study of agronomy and pollinator management. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Samuel Robinson

Ralph Cartar

Stephen Pernal

Riley Waytes

Shelley Hoover