

## **Alarm over decline in flying insects** 飞虫数量锐减值得警惕

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德国 63 个自然保护区内的飞行类昆虫数量在过去 27 年中减少了四分之三以上。研究人员认为这一现象值得警惕，因为飞虫是自然生态系统中的重要组成部分。它既是植物的授粉者，也是扮演食物链的关键角色。请听报道。

Since 1989, scientists have been **monitoring** flying insect populations in 63 **nature reserves** across Germany. The decline of some species, like butterflies, has long been suspected but this research included lesser studied insects, like **wasps**, flies and **moths**. The drop in numbers of more than three quarters over 27 years turned out to be more **severe** than previously thought.

The insects play a vital role in **pollination** and as a food source for birds. No one factor alone could explain their disappearance, but researchers said modern agriculture creates a **hostile** environment - a desert for insects.

While, **anecdotally**, in recent years, drivers have reported fewer insects being **squashed** on their **windcreens** - another signal with the decline in bugs across all **landscapes**, experts said.

## 词汇表

<b>monitoring</b>	监控，监测，密切注视
<b>nature reserves</b>	自然保护区
<b>wasps</b>	黄蜂，胡蜂
<b>moths</b>	飞蛾
<b>severe</b>	非常严重的
<b>pollination</b>	（植物的）授粉
<b>hostile</b>	不利的，恶劣的
<b>anecdotally</b>	有趣地，趣闻轶事地
<b>squashed</b>	压扁，挤扁
<b>windcreens</b>	（汽车等的）挡风玻璃
<b>landscapes</b>	乡间，野外

## 测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. True or false: *The research monitored flying insects, including wasps, flies and moths.*
2. According to the article, why are insects important to nature?
3. True or false: *Researchers said modern agriculture creates a heaven for insects.*
4. What is another signal that shows the decline in bugs?

## 答案

1. True or false: *The research monitored flying insects, including wasps, flies and moths.*  
**True. According to the article, the research included lesser studied insects, like wasps, flies and moths.**
2. According to the article, why are insects important to nature?  
**Because the insects play a vital role in pollination and they are food source for birds.**
3. True or false: *Researchers said modern agriculture creates a heaven for insects.*  
**False. According to the article, researchers said modern agriculture creates a hostile environment - a desert for insects.**
4. What is another signal that shows the decline in bugs?  
**In recent years drivers have reported fewer insects being squashed on their windscreens.**