



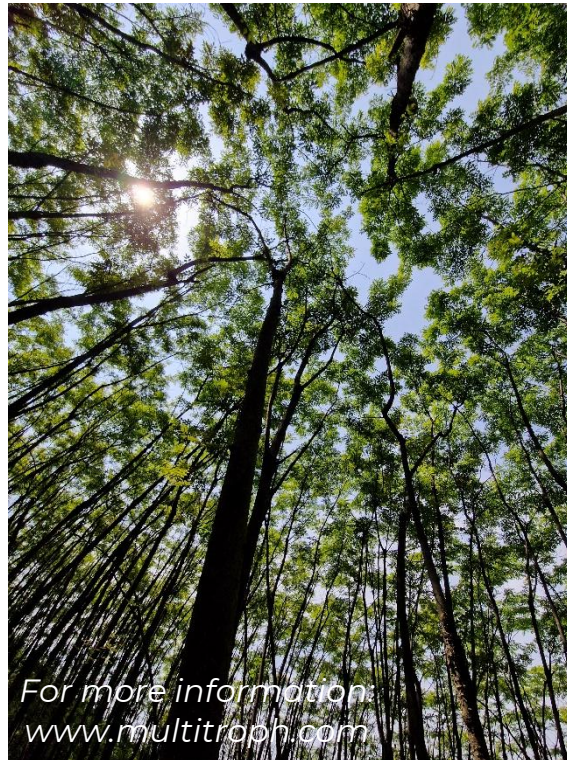
The layer nest: a new method to trap wild bees and wasps

We place stackable wooden blocks with pre-drilled holes in the forest. The holes have a diameter of 2 to 15 mm and are suited to host various wasp species. Once the nests are occupied, we can open the layer nests to monitor the nesting success, food resources and parasitoids of wasps and bees without damaging the nests.



BEF China

Spanning 50 ha with over 300,000 planted trees, BEF-China is the world's largest biodiversity-ecosystem functioning (BEF) experiment. It is located near Xingangshan, Dexing, Jiangxi Province in southeast China. MultiTroph is a collaborative project uniting researchers from China and Germany to explore how, why and when species loss impacts ecosystem stability across trophic levels.



For more information:
www.multitroph.com

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The great diversity of Xingangshan



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The Asian honeybee



The Asian honeybee is a highly adaptable species native to Asia. Known for its important role in pollination, it



supports both wild and cultivated plants. It is a social bee that creates large hives made of wax, and has been domesticated for thousands of years.

The yellow-legged hornet

Vespa velutina is a social wasp species that builds large nests made of paper, housing thousands of individuals. It hunts for individually flying honeybee next to hives. It was accidentally introduced to Europe, where it is now invasive and threatens the European honey bee.



The leafcutter bee

Unlike the Asian honey bee, *Megachile rixator* is a solitary species. Using its powerful mandibles, it cuts leaves to build nests, where it stores nectar and pollen to nourish its developing larvae.



Megachile rixator

Bees and wasps of Xingangshan



Pareumenes quadrispinosus is a solitary wasp specialized in hunting caterpillars. Despite the intimidating appearance, it is not aggressive to humans.

Spider-hunting wasps



Sceliphron deforme is a formidable spider hunter. The wasp stings each spider with a paralyzing venom, and leaves them to be eaten alive by its developing offspring.