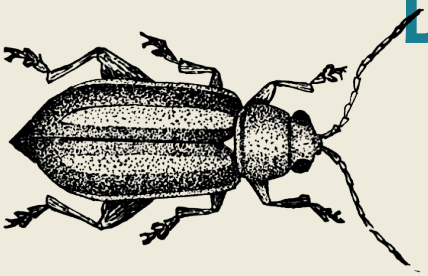
# DECLINE IN POLLINATORS AND THE FOOD SYSTEM



## Pollinating insects ensure:

**The reproduction of 90% of flowering plants**

Hymenoptera

Coleoptera

Diptera

Lepidoptera

**75% of the plant diversity on our plates**

Plants rich in nutrients, such as fruits, vegetables or nuts, need pollinators. Without them, the main foods on our plates would be plants pollinated by the wind, often rich in calories and poor in nutrients: wheat, rice, potatoes, etc.

Sometimes, plants which need pollinators are nevertheless able to self-fertilise. However, the harvests are then lower in quantity and poorer in quality, as for instance rape, where the presence of pollinators boosts the yield by around 30%. What's more, over several generations, self-fertilisation can lead to genetic problems.

**€15 billion/year**

That is the financial estimate of their contribution to European agriculture. Pollinators ensure the quantity AND quality of plant products. Pollination boosts the size of vegetables and also improves their flavour, their nutritional value and even their conservation!

## Ecology

Quite simply, pollinators guarantee our food security. Despite awareness of the fact that they are indispensable to our survival on Earth, few policies and initiatives are being implemented to preserve them, and their populations continue to decline dangerously...

## Quiz

**What percentage of insect species are threatened with extinction in the European Union?**

A total of 40%, and 5 to 10% have already disappeared since the 19th century. The species most affected are butterflies, bees and coleoptera. In Germany, a study has revealed a fall of 76% in the biomass of flying insects since 1990, even in protected areas - in other words, only 1/4 remain....