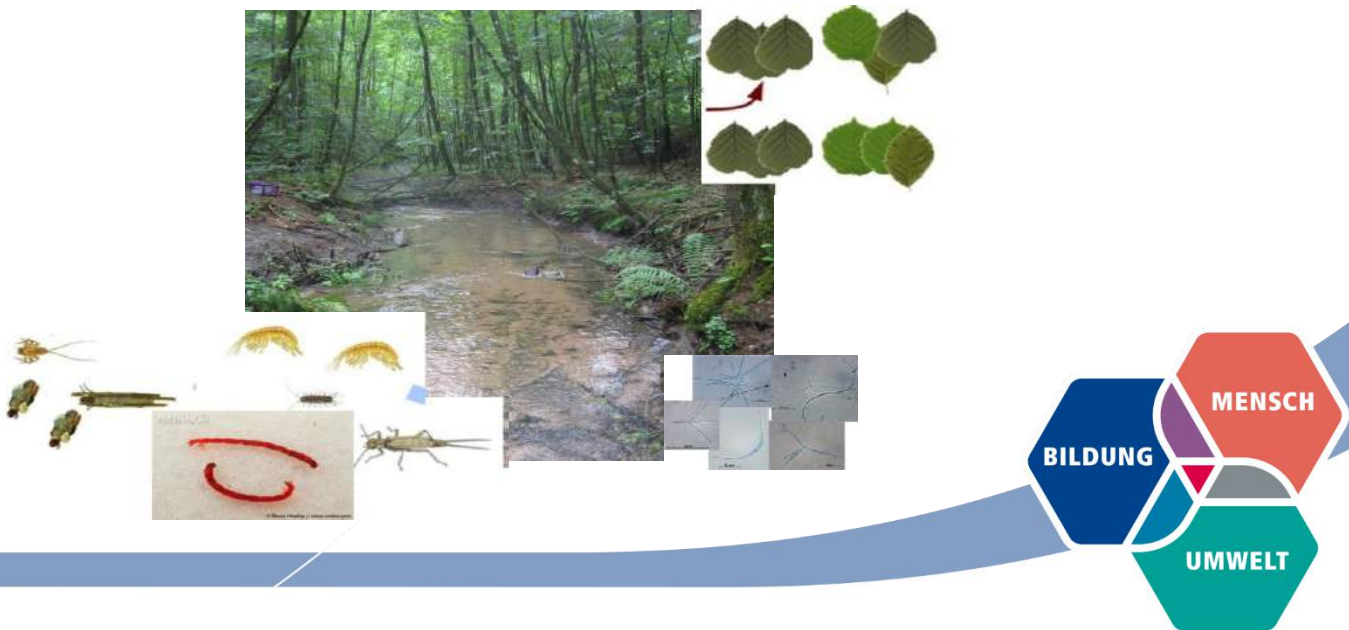


BSc or MSc thesis/ RPC

“Food chain effects of imidacloprid exposure”



Leaf litter decomposition is a very important ecosystem process in streams as leaf litter is food source for many aquatic organisms (shredders). The widely used neonicotinoid insecticides contaminate waterbodies through runoff from agricultural fields but they also can be present in the leaves that enter the streams, if the plants have been previously contaminated. While it is known that neonicotinoids negatively affect leaf decomposition and aquatic organisms (particularly insects) it is much less known whether these effects can propagate along the food chains. Here we will focus on a shredder-collector food chain.

Possible research topics

- Does imidacloprid affect leaf decomposition and leaf consumption by an invertebrate shredder?
- Are invertebrate shredders able to recover from effects of imidacloprid contamination?
- Do imidacloprid effects propagate along a shredder-collector food chain?

Start date: mid-March/beginning of April

Contact: Eva Fernandes (fernandes-eva@uni-landau.de)