



GREEN SURGE



People across Europe like urban biodiversity

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People like green – but what is this green about?

- People like green in general and the positive benefits of urban nature are widely acknowledged (e.g., Fuller et al. 2007, Shanahan et al. 2015)



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- People like green in general and the positive benefits of urban nature are widely acknowledged (e.g., Fuller et al. 2007, Shanahan et al. 2015)
- Botzat et al. (2016): Many interesting studies, but ...
 - diverging results that are hardly comparable
 - geographically biased
 - mainly no cross-country studies
 - some greenspace types are understudied
 - differences in sociocultural groups largely unexplored
 - mainly higher levels of biodiversity assessed (ecosystems, green vs. grey)

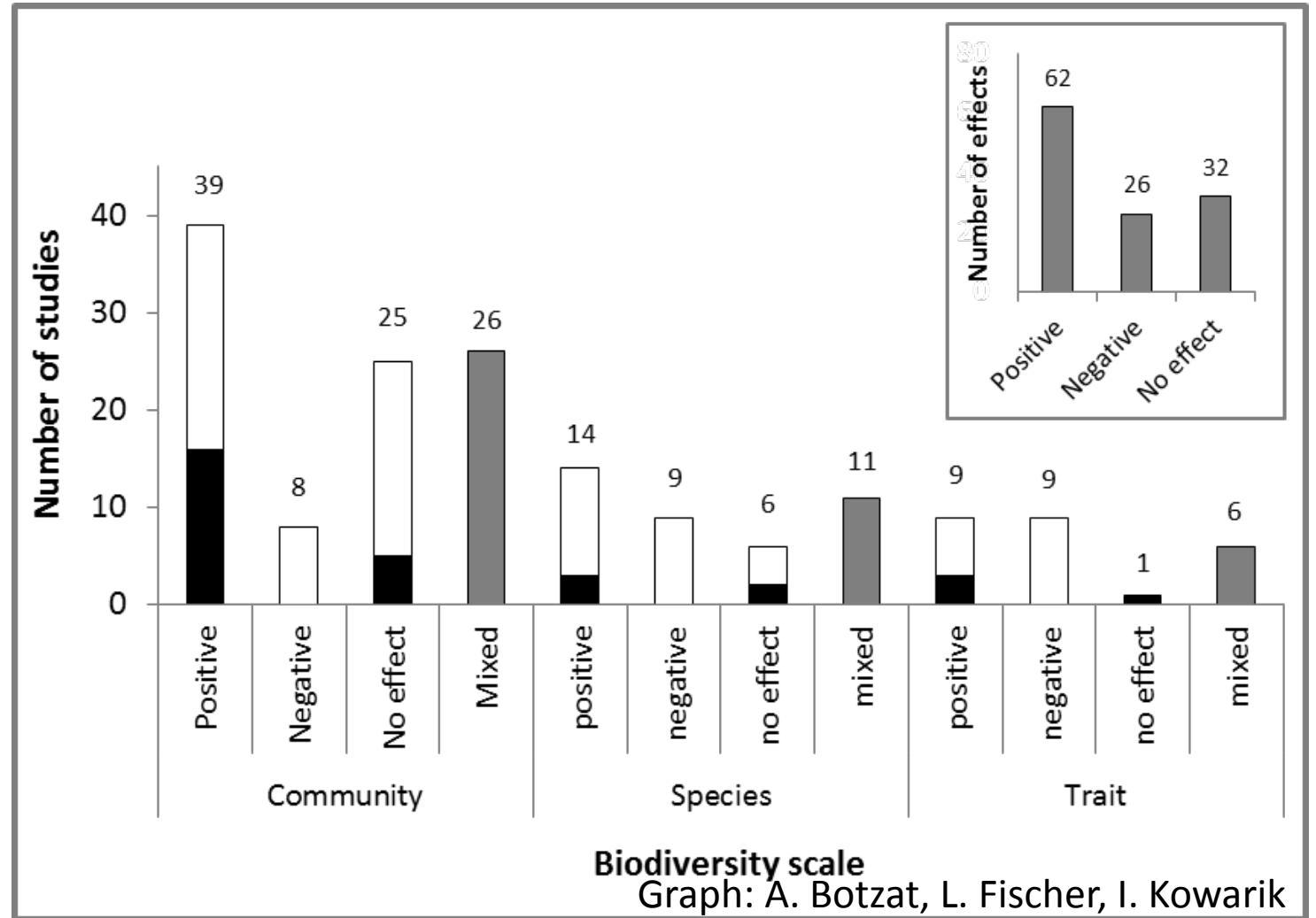


Photo: L. Fischer

Valuation and perception

The **effect of biodiversity** on different levels on the perception and valuation of urban greenspaces and their diversity.

Botzat, Fischer, Kowarik (2016)
Global Env. Change



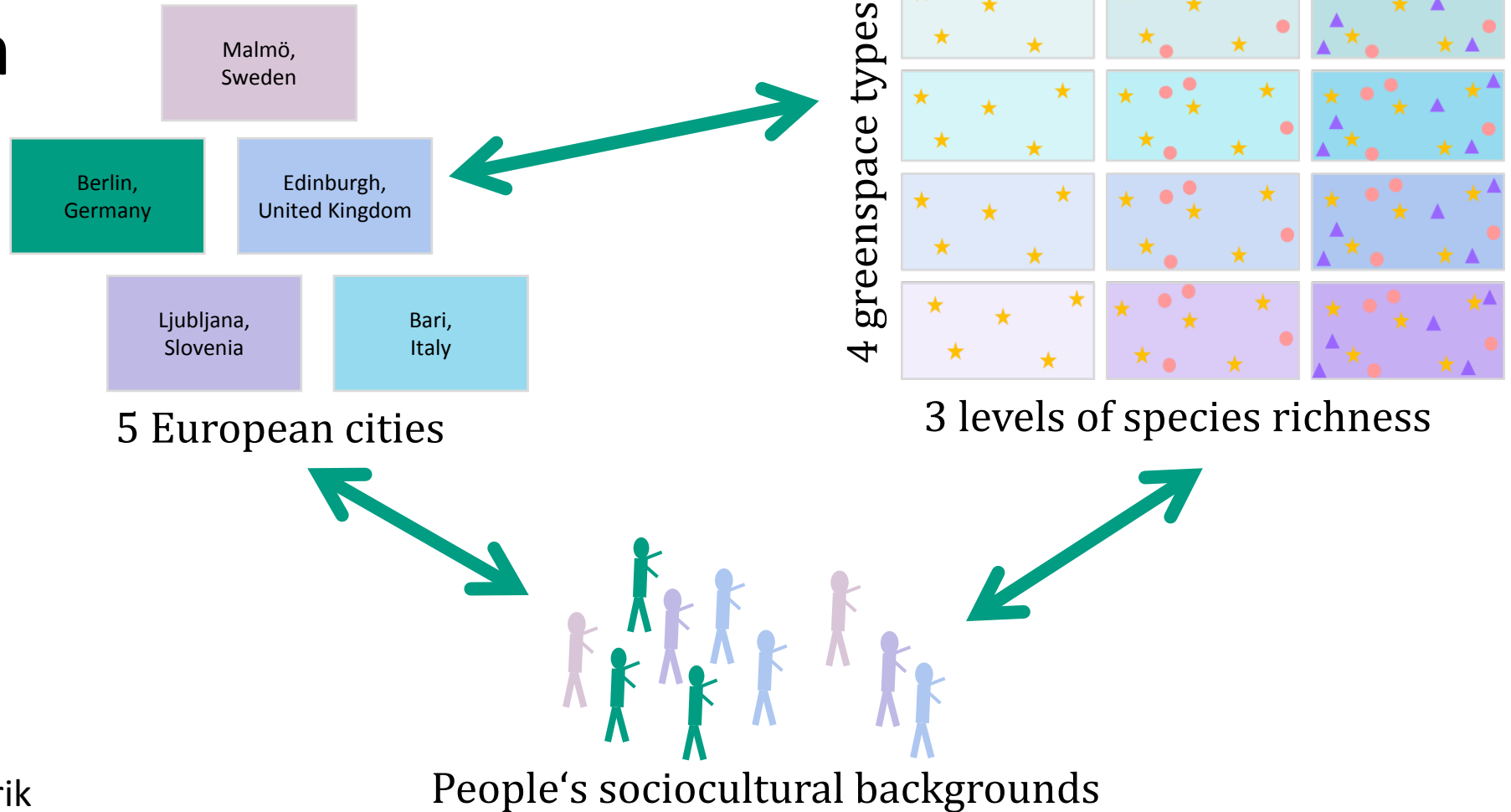
Research questions

Does varying **species richness** affect **human valuation** of greenspaces?

Does valuation of urban species richness differ between people with varying **sociocultural backgrounds**?

Does valuation of urban species richness differ between **geographical-cultural regions** (i.e., five European cities)?

Our approach

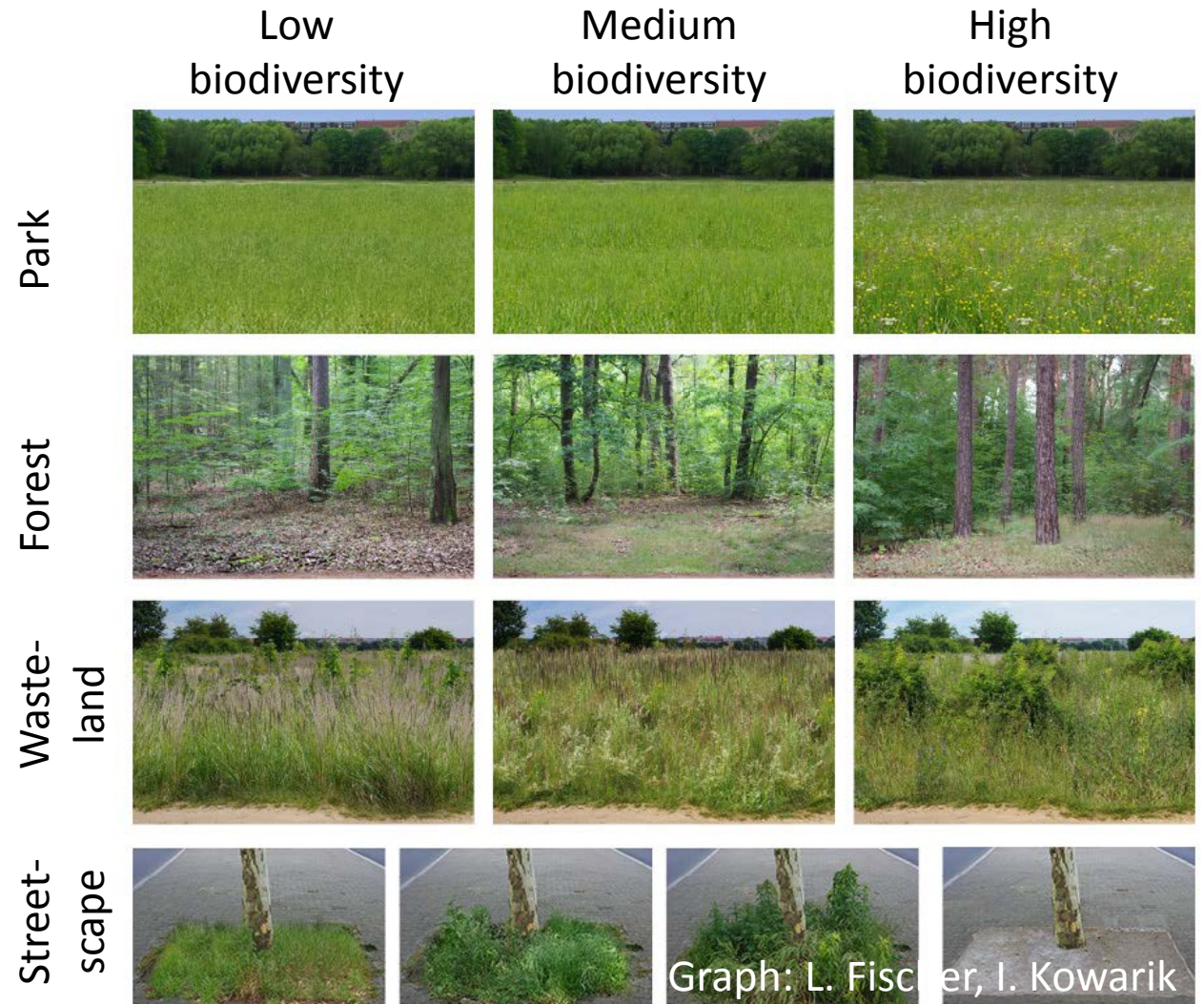


Graph: L. Fischer, I. Kowarik

3 levels of species richness, 4 greenspace types, 5 cities

Stimuli generated by photo retouches on the basis of

- vegetation data on species richness
- standardized photo material
- context to each European city by local species assemblages and background features



Sample

3,716 valid questionnaires for the following analyses

For example, 15% of respondents had a personal migration background, additional 14% had a migration background in their family



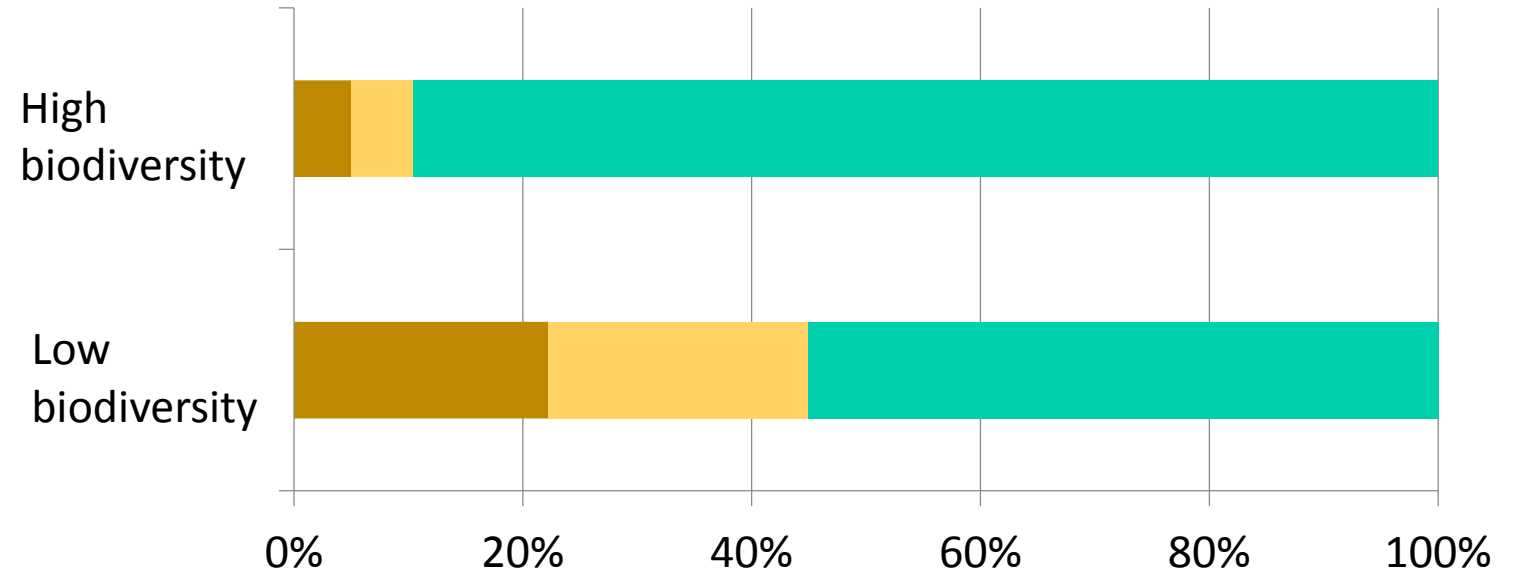
Graph: L. Fischer, I. Kowarik

First answer

Does varying **species richness affect human valuation** of greenspaces?

Yes. People like urban species richness.

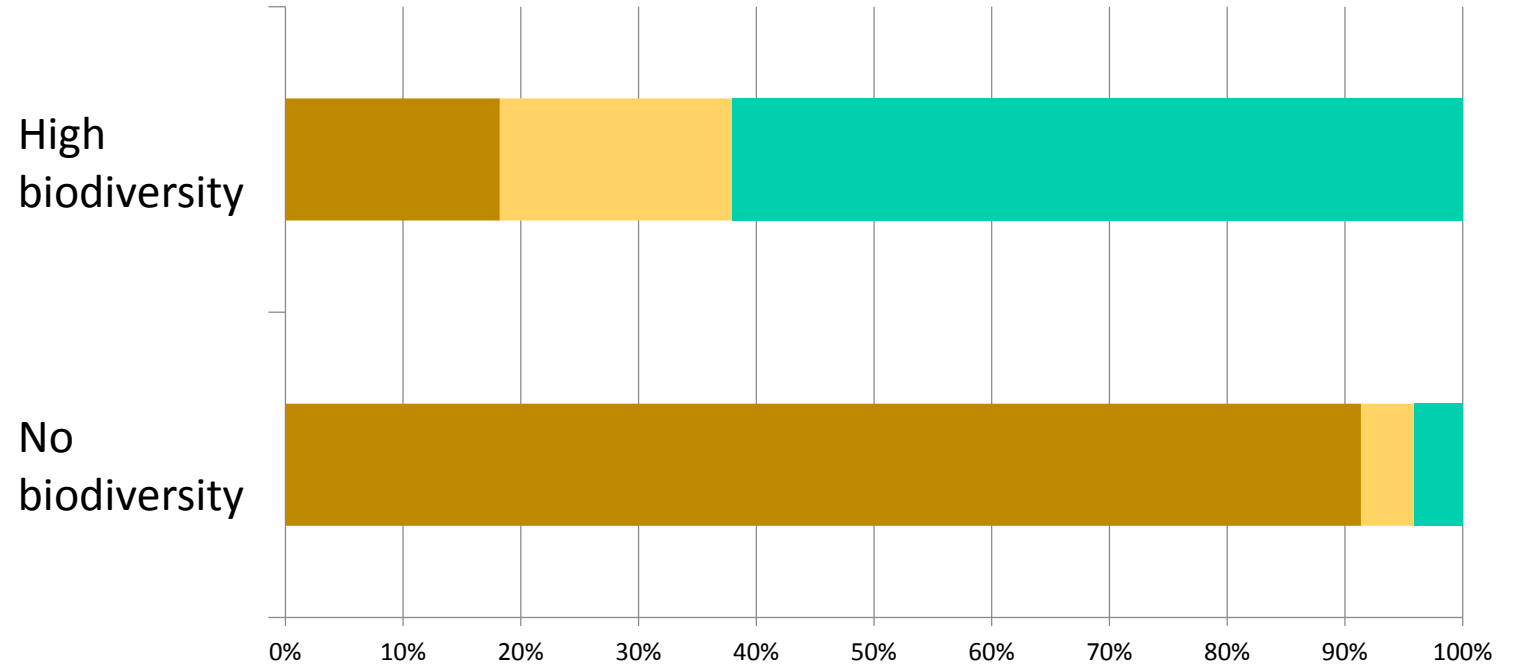
The high level of species richness was valued most in parks, wastelands and streetscapes.



Valuation of urban biodiversity in **urban parks**; sample for Berlin, N=1,337

Kowarik et al. 2016, Natural Capital Germany TEEB DE

Valuation of stimuli: ■ negative ■ neutral ■ positive



Valuation of urban biodiversity in **streetscapes**; sample for Berlin, N=431

Kowarik et al. 2016, Natural Capital Germany TEEB DE

Valuation of stimuli: ■ negative ■ neutral ■ positive

Second answer

Does valuation of urban species richness differ between people with varying **sociocultural backgrounds**?

Yes. But less than expected.

Third answer

Does valuation of urban species richness differ between **geographical-cultural regions** (i.e., five European cities)?

Yes. People across Europe like species richness, with some variation between European cities.

Conclusion

- Urban people differentiate between levels of species richness.
- People value high species richness in general and across social-cultural groups.
- This is true for formal greenspaces (parks) as well as informal greenspaces (wastelands, streetscapes).
- The regional context needs to be considered as the general pattern differs on a geographical basis.



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Thank you