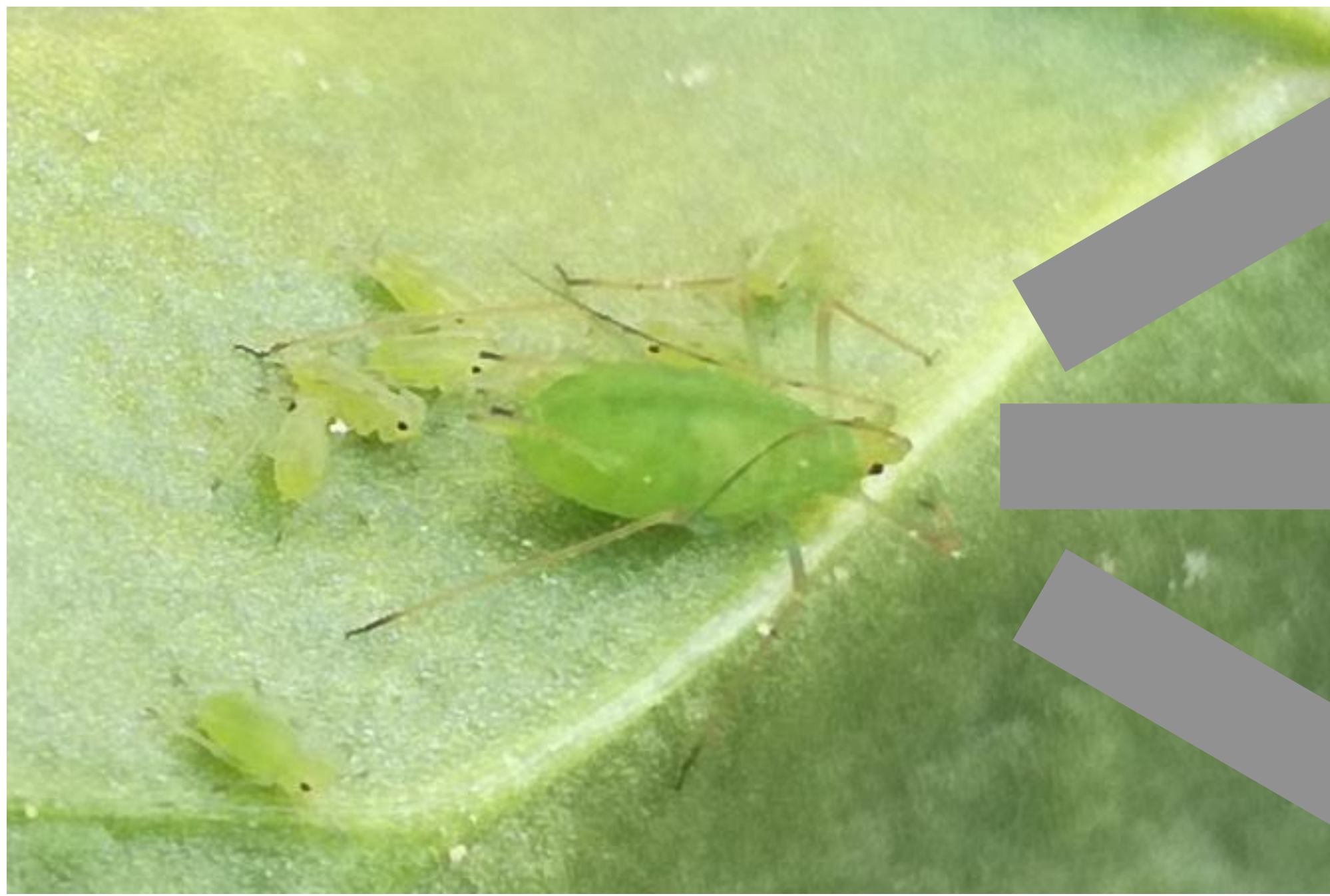


Companion crops in sugar beet cultivation

BetaCompP: Pesticide reduction & biodiversity promotion

B. Wieters, H. Koch, N. Stockfisch. Institut für Zuckerrübenforschung, Göttingen

Introduction



Green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae*

Insecticides

Predators/
Distraction

Virus
transmission



Biodiversity promotion
Erosion protection
Weed suppression

Methods



2024: Pre-trial near Göttingen, 15 companion plants
2025 & 2026: 5 companion plants, 4 replicates/site
Tested Companion plants: Fabaceae, Brassicaceae, Poaceae, Plantaginaceae, Asteraceae



Measurements:
Sugar beet development & yield, aphids & predators...

Results (preliminary)

Good establishment
high management effort
Partially strong competition
Potential beneficial promotion
2024 only few aphids
Previous trials: aphid reduction



Beneficial promotion?



Conclusions

(Potential) Benefits

Higher habitat diversity
Less pesticide use
Flexible (other pests, no resistances)

(Potential) Problems

Complicated & high effort
Risk of failure
Yield loss through competition

Funding and Project partners



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