

1 **Title**

2 Bumble bee parasite strains vary in resistance to phytochemicals

3 **Authors**

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15 **Abstract**

16 Nectar and pollen contain diverse phytochemicals that can reduce disease in pollinators.
17 However, prior studies showed variable effects of nectar chemicals on infection, which could
18 reflect variable phytochemical resistance among parasite strains. Inter-strain variation in
19 resistance could influence evolutionary interactions between plants, pollinators, and pollinator
20 disease, but testing direct effects of phytochemicals on parasites requires elimination of variation
21 between bees. Using cell cultures of the bumble bee parasite *Crithidia bombi*, we determined (1)
22 growth-inhibiting effects of nine floral phytochemicals and (2) variation in phytochemical
23 resistance among four parasite strains.

24 *C. bombi* growth was unaffected by naturally occurring concentrations of the known
25 antitrypanosomal phenolics gallic acid, caffeic acid, and chlorogenic acid. However, *C. bombi*
26 growth was inhibited by anabasine, eugenol, and thymol. Strains varied >3-fold in
27 phytochemical resistance, suggesting that selection for phytochemical resistance could drive
28 parasite evolution. Inhibitory concentrations of thymol (4.53-22.2 ppm) were similar to
29 concentrations in *Thymus vulgaris* nectar (mean 5.2 ppm). Exposure of *C. bombi* to naturally
30 occurring levels of phytochemicals—either within bees or during parasite transmission via
31 flowers—could influence infection in nature. Flowers that produce antiparasitic phytochemicals,
32 including thymol, could potentially reduce infection in *Bombus* populations, thereby
33 counteracting a possible contributor to pollinator decline.

34

35 Introduction

36 Flowers can act as intermediaries for the transmission of plant and animal diseases ¹.
37 These diseases include infections of economically and ecologically important pollinators, many
38 species of which are threatened by decline related to the interaction of several factors, including
39 parasites ²⁻⁴. For example, honey bee viruses have been found on pollen grains ^{5,6}, and bumble
40 bee and honey bee parasites, including the internationally distributed *Nosema* spp. and *Crithidia*
41 spp., can be spread between bee colonies and species that forage on the same plants ⁷. This
42 transmission can have devastating consequences for native pollinator populations ^{8,9}.

43 While flowers can act as sites of parasite transfer ¹⁰, they also provide food for
44 pollinators. Bee diets consist of floral nectar and pollen that provide carbohydrates and proteins
45 for bee growth and development ¹¹. In addition to macronutrients, floral rewards also contain
46 phytochemicals ^{12,13}, including the major secondary compound classes alkaloids, phenolics, and
47 terpenoids ¹⁴. Floral phytochemicals may have a variety of ecological functions, including acting
48 as antimicrobial agents in both plants and the animals that consume them ¹. For example, (*E*)- β -
49 caryophyllene can protect pollen and floral tissue from infection by plant pathogens ¹⁵. Likewise,
50 animals that consume antimicrobial phytochemicals may gain protection from their own
51 parasites, as shown in herbivores ¹⁶⁻¹⁸. In pollinators, ingestion of floral phytochemicals ¹⁹ and
52 certain types of honey ²⁰ were therapeutic for infected honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). Infection also
53 stimulated collection of phytochemical-rich resins ²¹ and preference for high-phytochemical
54 nectar ^{22,23}, indicating the potential for phytochemicals to improve pollinator health.

55 Many phytochemicals found in flowers have direct activity against trypanosomes^{24,25} .
56 For example, gallic acid was lethal to *Leishmania donovani*²⁶, and thymol and eugenol inhibited
57 growth of *Trypanosoma cruzi* and *Crithidia fasciculata*²⁷. It is therefore likely that some floral
58 phytochemicals may inhibit trypanosome parasites of bumble bees. *Crithidia bombi*²⁸ is an
59 intestinal trypanosome parasite of bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) that decreases queen survival and
60 colony fitness²⁹ and may exacerbate the negative effects of pesticides³⁰ and nutritional stress³¹.
61 *Crithidia bombi* encounters phytochemicals throughout its life cycle, making it a relevant system
62 for testing the effects of phytochemicals on pollinator infection^{22,23,32,33}. Parasites infect new
63 hosts via transmission at flowers¹⁰ and within bee hives³², which contain derivatives of nectar,
64 pollen, and other plant materials²¹. *Crithidia bombi* has not been detected in floral nectar³⁴.
65 However, within hosts, *C. bombi* inhabits the gut lumen, where cells have direct exposure to
66 host-ingested nectar and pollen phytochemicals in the crop, and possibly also in the mid- and
67 hindgut. In contrast to trypanosomes that infect the circulatory system or organs of their hosts,
68 intestinal *C. bombi* lacks a physical barrier to shield it from ingested compounds, and may be
69 exposed to phytochemical concentrations that approach those found in nectar and pollen. Hence,
70 oral consumption of phytochemicals by bees could have strong and direct effects on parasites,
71 and the phytochemical concentration that inhibits parasite growth *in vitro* may provide an
72 estimate of the oral dose that could ameliorate infection in hosts.

73 Several studies have demonstrated that phytochemical ingestion by *B. impatiens* and *B.*
74 *terrestris* reduces *C. bombi* infection. Five phytochemicals found in nectar—gelsemine³³,
75 nicotine^{22,23}, anabasine, thymol, and catalpol²² – reduced *C. bombi* infection intensities.
76 However, both the magnitude and direction of effects of phytochemicals on *C. bombi* varied

77 among studies. For example, other studies found that thymol³⁵ and anabasin³⁶ did not affect *C.*
78 *bombi* infection, and nicotine increased infection intensity³⁶. Taken together, these results
79 suggest that phytochemicals have variable effects on *C. bombi* infection, with effects dependent
80 on the unique combination of parasite strain, host genotype, and abiotic conditions used in each
81 experiment. Therefore, an approach that eliminates host-related variability would help to
82 determine the direct effects of phytochemicals on parasites, and allow comparisons of
83 phytochemical sensitivity among parasite strains.

84 Both *C. bombi* strains and floral phytochemical concentrations are variable. *Crithidia*
85 *bombi* populations are genetically³⁷ and phenotypically diverse³². Inter-strain variation could
86 determine resistance to phytochemicals—defined here as the ability to survive, grow, and
87 reproduce when exposed phytochemicals—as has been demonstrated within populations of other
88 pathogenic microbes, such as quinine- and artemisinin-resistant *Plasmodium falciparum*³⁸. Like
89 parasite strains, floral phytochemical concentrations are variable, and have dose-dependent
90 effects on both pathogens and hosts³⁹. For example, nectar nicotine and anabasin
91 concentrations spanned multiple orders of magnitude among related *Nicotiana* species⁴⁰. Within
92 a species, nectar nicotine varied between *Nicotiana attenuata* plant populations, within
93 populations, and across a six-fold range between flowers of a single inflorescence⁴¹. Similarly,
94 nectar concentrations of *Rhododendron ponticum* grayanotoxins varied between native and
95 invasive populations and within patches⁴². Testing a range of parasite strains, phytochemicals
96 and concentrations in a single study could identify candidate medicinal compounds and illustrate
97 the potential effects of phytochemicals on pollinator parasites in nature.

98 We used a standardized, high-throughput protocol to test the direct effects of different
99 phytochemicals against multiple parasite strains across a range of chemical concentrations. Cell

100 culture-based methods have been used to quantify the effects of phytochemicals on insect-
101 vectored trypanosome species such as *Leishmania donovani*²⁴, *Trypanosoma cruzi*^{27,43}, and
102 *Trypanosoma brucei*^{24,44,45} that cause disease in humans and are close phylogenetic relatives of
103 *C. bombi*⁴⁶. Here, we extend a previously described *C. bombi* cell culturing method⁴⁷ to assess
104 variation in the direct effects of nine floral phytochemicals—two alkaloids; one cyanogenic
105 glycoside; four hydroxybenzoic, hydroxycinnamic, and phenylpropenoid phenolics; and two
106 terpenoids—on four different *C. bombi* strains. We also searched published literature to compare
107 phytochemical sensitivity of *C. bombi* to that of other trypanosome species, animal cells, and
108 insects. To gauge the ecological relevance of each phytochemical's effects in culture, we
109 combined field sampling of five plant species with literature searches to quantify phytochemical
110 concentrations in nectar and pollen.

111

112 **Results**

113 **Cell culture experiments**

114 In comparison to other trypanosome species, *C. bombi* were remarkably resistant to
115 common phytochemicals, with no growth inhibition at concentrations previously found to lower
116 infection intensity in nectar fed to live bees (Table 1). Among the alkaloids, nicotine at doses of
117 up to 1000 ppm had no effect on growth, and over 1000 ppm anabasine was required for 50%
118 growth inhibition (EC50, Table 1, Fig. 1, Supplementary Fig. S1). None of the tested strains
119 were susceptible to the cyanogenic glycoside, amygdalin, nor to the antitrypanosomal phenolics
120 caffeic acid, chlorogenic acid, and gallic acid, even at concentrations that were several orders of
121 magnitude above the inhibitory thresholds of related pathogens (Table 1). The sesquiterpene β -

122 caryophyllene also did not inhibit growth of any strain at concentrations up to 50 ppb. Of the
123 nine phytochemicals tested, only three—anabasine, eugenol, and thymol—were sufficiently
124 inhibitory to estimate dose-response curves and EC50 values (Fig. 1, Table 1, Supplementary
125 Figs. S1-S3).

126 Strains varied in resistance to all three inhibitory compounds. Significant variation was
127 found in resistance to anabasine (Fig 1A). Each strain exhibited a distinct level of resistance,
128 which varied among strains by more than 1500 ppm. The most sensitive strain, VT1 (EC50 =
129 628 ppm, 95% Bayesian Credible Interval (CI): 601-659 ppm), was inhibited by one-third the
130 anabasine concentration of the most resistant strain, 12.6 (EC50 = 2160 ppm, 95% CI: 2110-
131 2220 ppm). The other two strains, IL13.2 (EC50 = 1030 ppm, 95% CI: 975-1080 ppm) and C1.1
132 (EC50 = 1440 ppm, 95% CI: 1410-1440 ppm), were intermediate in resistance.

133 Eugenol resistance (Fig 1B) was the most consistent across strains, with all EC50 values
134 between 19.7 and 23.5 ppm, yet the non-overlapping 95% credible intervals (CI) still indicated
135 statistically significant variation. The relative resistance ranks of the four strains were the same
136 as for anabasine and eugenol: Strain VT1 (EC50 = 19.7 ppm, 95% CI: 18.9-20.4 ppm) was again
137 the most sensitive, and strain 12.6 the most resistant (EC50 = 23.5 ppm, 95% CI: 22.1-26.2
138 ppm); intermediate resistance was observed in IL13.2 (EC50 = 20.5 ppm, 95% CI: 20.0- 21.1
139 ppm) and C1.1 (EC50 = 22.0 ppm, 95% CI: 20.5-24.7 ppm).

140 Resistance to thymol (Fig 1C) was also variable. As was the case for the other two
141 compounds, strain 12.6 (EC50 = 22.2 ppm, 95% CI: 22.3-21.0 ppm) was again the most
142 resistant, with more than three times the resistance of the other three strains, which were not
143 significantly different from one another (VT1, EC50 = 6.26 ppm, 95% CI: 4.27- 8.55 ppm; C1.1,
144 EC50 = 4.53 ppm, 95% CI: 2.93-6.42 ppm; IL13.2, EC50 = 7.33 ppm, 95% CI: 6.10- 8.62 ppm).

145 **Naturally occurring phytochemical concentrations**

146 Using published literature and field sampling, we surveyed ecologically relevant pollen,
147 nectar, and honey concentrations of the nine phytochemicals tested against *C. bombi* (Table 2).
148 In comparison to published values for honey, our own analyses indicated very high levels of
149 chlorogenic acids in the pollen of the crop species *Persea americana* (avocado), *Malus*
150 *domestica* (apple), and *Vaccinium corymbosum* (blueberry, both wild and cultivated; Table 2). In
151 the three plant taxa for which we analyzed both pollen and nectar, concentrations of the
152 chlorogenic acid 5-caffeoylquinic acid were 25- to 30-fold higher in pollen than in nectar
153 (Wilcoxon W-test, *M. domestica*: $W = 25$, $P < 0.001$; *V. corymbosum* (cultivated): $W = 18$, $P <$
154 0.001 ; *V. corymbosum* (wild): $W = 0$, $P < 0.001$). Although nectar chlorogenic acid
155 concentrations were lower than pollen concentrations, nectar concentrations were still several
156 orders of magnitude higher than those recorded in honey, with the exception of *Leptospermum*
157 *scoparium* honey (Table 2). Similarly, thymol concentrations in the nectar of *Thymus vulgaris*
158 were over 10-fold above the highest value recorded for natural honey (Table 2), despite air-
159 drying of samples prior to measurement (see Materials and Methods).

160

161 **Discussion**

162 *Crithidia bombi* was far less susceptible to the tested trihydroxybenzoic and
163 hydroxycinnamic phenolic phytochemicals than were other, previously studied bloodstream
164 trypanosomes. *L. donovani* and *T. brucei*, for example, were inhibited by <10 ppm of gallic acid
165 ^{26,48}, whereas concentrations up to 250 ppm had minimal effects on any tested strains of *C.*
166 *bombi*. Similarly, caffeic acid, which inhibited *L. donovani* and *T. brucei* at <10 ppm ²⁴, had no

167 effect on *C. bombi* strains at concentrations up to 250 ppm. Furthermore, the EC50 for
168 chlorogenic acid against *C. bombi* was >2500 ppm, which was 100 times higher than the EC50
169 for *L. donovani* (EC50 7-17 ppm^{49,50}) and *T. brucei* (18.9 ppm⁴⁹). Although some variation in
170 EC50 estimates could reflect methodological differences between our study and previous
171 investigations, a difference of such magnitude for multiple phytochemicals provides strong
172 evidence of comparatively high phytochemical resistance in *C. bombi*. This exceptional level of
173 resistance may reflect the evolutionary history of *C. bombi*. In contrast to *L. donovani* and *T.*
174 *brucei*, which are transmitted by blood-feeding insects and would be expected to have
175 comparatively little direct exposure to phytochemicals, *C. bombi* may be adapted to chronic
176 phytochemical exposure in the intestine of nectar- and pollen-consuming bumble bees. Bumble
177 bees are generalist pollinators that consume nectar and pollen from a wide range of plant species
178 ¹¹. Both nectar ⁵¹ and pollen ¹⁴ contain diverse compound mixtures, to which *C. bombi* in the gut
179 lumen would be directly exposed ⁵², particularly in the proximal parts of the gut, before
180 phytochemicals are absorbed or metabolized by hosts or commensalists. Study of the
181 mechanisms by which *C. bombi* withstands such high phytochemical concentrations could offer
182 insight into the evolution of chemical resistance in medically important trypanosomes.

183 In addition to being less susceptible to phytochemicals than were other trypanosomes, *C.*
184 *bombi* showed no growth inhibition at phytochemical concentrations exceeding those
185 documented in honey (Table 1, Table 2). For example, for the known antitrypanosomal
186 compound caffeic acid, *C. bombi* was not inhibited by 250 ppm (Table 1), over 9 times the
187 maximum honey value of 26.8 ppm (Table 2, range 0.76-26.8 ppm for 14 honey types)⁵³; for
188 gallic acid, *C. bombi* was again robust to 250 ppm (Table 1), or 3 times the maximum reported

189 honey value of 82.5 ppm (Table 2; among 14 honey types, only oak honey exceeded 1 ppm
190 gallic acid)⁵³.

191 There are a number of nonexclusive explanations for the insensitivity of *C. bombi* to
192 phytochemicals above their natural concentration range. First, the phytochemical concentrations
193 found in honey samples may underestimate naturally occurring concentrations. Fanning of nectar
194 to produce honey¹¹, as well as prolonged storage, may evaporate volatile nectar components
195 such as thymol, eugenol, and β -caryophyllene and could promote oxidation of phenolic
196 compounds⁵⁴. The thymol and chlorogenic concentrations measured in our field samples (Table
197 1), which were orders of magnitude higher than the values for honey found in the literature,
198 illustrate this point. Second, in natural settings, phytochemicals are encountered in complex
199 combinations, such that total phytochemical concentrations of biologically active compounds
200 may far exceed the concentration of any one chemical component. Pollen comprises a mixture of
201 phytochemicals, with the sum concentration of all phenolic constituents reaching 1.3-8.2%
202 phenolics by weight (13,000–82,000 ppm)⁵⁵. Even honey may contain up to 12,000 ppm total
203 phenolics (range 1,600-12,000 ppm)⁵³. Third, in their hosts, parasites are subject to additional
204 antimicrobial chemicals produced by the host immune system and competing gut microbiota.
205 Multiple antimicrobial peptides produced by bees have synergistic effects with one another⁵⁶,
206 and should be tested for synergy with floral phytochemicals as well. The *Bombus* gut
207 microbiome includes species that produce ethanol and organic acids⁵⁷, which also inhibit
208 microbial growth^{58,59}. Hence, the high resistance of *C. bombi* that we observed to single
209 phytochemicals may be necessary to tolerate the effects of multiple phytochemicals,
210 antimicrobial peptides, and microbiome-derived toxins acting in concert. Future experiments
211 should explicitly address the interactive effects of multiple phytochemicals in combination.

212 In addition to explaining why *C. bombi* has such high resistance to individual
213 phytochemicals under optimal conditions, the interactive effects of multiple factors may explain
214 why low concentrations of phytochemicals were sufficient to decrease parasitism in live bees²².
215 All tested strains of *C. bombi* were resistant to phytochemicals at concentrations 100 times those
216 previously shown to be medicinal in *B. impatiens* and *B. terrestris*. Our strains were not inhibited
217 by up to 1000 ppm nicotine, or 500 times the 2 ppm previously found to ameliorate infection in
218 bees^{22,23}. Our lowest EC50 value for anabasine (628 ppm) was still over 100-fold higher than the
219 5 ppm previously shown to reduce infection levels²². Inhibitory concentrations of thymol, where
220 the minimum EC50 of the four strains was 4.5 ppm, were likewise more than 20-fold the 0.2
221 ppm medicinal concentration in *B. impatiens*²². These discrepancies far exceed the ~3-fold
222 variation found among strains in our study, indicating that differences between *in vitro* and *in*
223 *vivo* inhibitory concentrations do not merely reflect the use of different strains in our study
224 versus previous live-bee experiments. We suggest that the low phytochemical concentrations
225 necessary to ameliorate host infection may reflect phytochemical-induced changes in hosts,
226 which could complement the direct effects of phytochemicals on parasites. For example,
227 phytochemical ingestion may act indirectly on parasites by modulating the host immune
228 response, as shown in humans⁶⁰ and in honey bees, where a honey constituent increased
229 expression of genes that encode antimicrobial peptides⁶¹. Phytochemicals could also act as
230 antioxidants that scavenge free radicals⁶² and reduce the deleterious effects of pathogens³⁹.
231 Studies of live bees are needed to define how phytochemicals exert indirect effects on parasite
232 infection via modulation of host immunity or behavior, such as induction of antimicrobial
233 peptides or stimulation of intestinal motility that expels parasites from the gut⁶³.

234

235 Our four *C. bombi* strains varied in resistance to the three phytochemicals that inhibited
236 growth, spanning a five-fold range for thymol and a three-fold range for anabasine. Overall,
237 strain “12.6” exhibited both the fastest growth (Supplementary Figures S1-S4) and the highest
238 phytochemical resistance (Figure 1). Strains with a high rate of growth might be able to form
239 biofilms that provide protection from growth-inhibiting chemicals, or metabolize the chemicals
240 before deleterious effects are realized. Studies that use a greater number of strains are needed to
241 test for positive correlations between phytochemical resistance and growth rate, both in cell
242 cultures and in live bees, where *C. bombi* exists within a diverse microbial community⁶⁴.
243 Alternatively, negative correlations could reflect trade-offs between resistance and growth or
244 infectivity. Variation in phytochemical resistance among parasites could be a target and possibly
245 a result of natural selection. At the landscape scale, regional parasite and plant sampling,
246 combined with cell culture experiments, could establish whether parasites show evidence of
247 adaptation to phytochemicals characteristic of their local plant community. These correlative
248 studies could be complemented by experiments that test how parasites respond to chronic
249 phytochemical exposure, and whether resistance can evolve over time.

250
251 Our sampling data show that thymol inhibited *C. bombi* at concentrations found in *T.*
252 *vulgaris* nectar. The range of EC50 values for *C. bombi* (4.5 to 22 ppm) spanned the natural
253 range of thymol concentrations in *T. vulgaris* nectar (5.2-8.2 ppm). Although nectar
254 concentrations did not completely inhibit growth, 50% growth inhibition could meaningfully
255 decrease the intensity of infection and its negative effects on bees. Also, because it is likely that
256 some thymol was lost during sample processing, our measurements may provide a conservative
257 estimate of thymol-mediated inhibition by *Thymus* nectar. Thymol is used prophylactically to

258 combat *Varroa* mite infestations⁶⁵, and inhibited *Nosema* infection in *A. mellifera*¹⁹ and
259 *Crithidia* infection in *B. impatiens*²². Although it is possible that nectar thymol is absorbed or
260 metabolized by bees or their gut commensalists, or diluted through combination with nectar of
261 other species, phytochemicals are detectable in the lumen post-ingestion⁵², and even very low
262 nectar concentrations (0.2 ppm) can reduce *C. bombi* infection intensity in *B. impatiens*²².
263 Because individual bumble bees generally forage from only one or several floral species⁶⁶,
264 consumption of medicinally relevant amounts of thymol would seem plausible in the wild. Our
265 study builds on prior results by reporting concentrations of thymol in floral nectar for the first
266 time, and documenting the direct activity of this phytochemical against multiple parasite strains
267 at naturally occurring concentrations.

268 Thymol and eugenol have been shown to possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity
269 against bacteria³⁹, fungi^{67,68}, and trypanosomes²⁵. These hydrophobic compounds readily
270 penetrate and disrupt cell and mitochondrial membranes, thereby disrupting ionic gradients and
271 causing leakage of reactive oxygen species⁶⁹. Reactive oxygen species can oxidize
272 monoterpenes and phenylpropenes like thymol and eugenol, which both contain double bonds
273 and free hydroxyl groups. Oxidized phytochemicals can then initiate a free radical cascade that
274 damages cell lipids and proteins⁶⁹, leading to disruptions of organelle function and energy
275 production in trypanosomes²⁵. Rapidly dividing cells are especially susceptible, because they
276 are easily penetrated during cell division⁶⁹. Although high phytochemical concentrations are
277 toxic to animal intestinal cells as well as to microbes, with 25 ppm thymol and 80 ppm eugenol
278 inducing apoptosis and necrosis within 24 h³⁹, the intestinal cells with direct phytochemical
279 exposure may provide a renewable barrier between the gut lumen and the systemic circulation of
280 multicellular animal hosts.

281 Phytochemicals such as thymol and eugenol, which display strong antimicrobial activity
282 but are relatively benign to bees ⁷⁰, could have high medicinal value for both wild and managed
283 bees that have access to plants containing these compounds. In general, bees are less susceptible
284 than are microbes to toxic effects of essential oils ⁷⁰, and can be attracted to relevant
285 antimicrobial concentrations ⁷¹, which would increase the likelihood of voluntarily ingesting
286 medicinally significant amounts of these phytochemicals under natural conditions. Eugenol,
287 which has been found in over 400 plant species from 80 families ⁷², has been shown to stimulate
288 bee foraging and pollen collection in bumble bees ⁷³; 50 ppm eugenol in sugar water was
289 attractive to honey bees ⁷⁴, whereas only 19.7-23.5 ppm inhibited *C. bombi* growth in our study.
290 Similarly, the *A. mellifera* 14-day LD50 for thymol exceeded 1000 ppm ⁷⁰, far higher than the
291 4.5-22.3 ppm thymol that inhibited our *C. bombi*. Future studies should test whether availability
292 of flowers containing thymol (such as *T. vulgaris*) or eugenol is sufficient to reduce bee
293 parasitism in the field; such plant species could be recommended to gardeners and as hedgerow
294 species in agricultural areas. Additional studies that examine correlations between plot- and
295 landscape-level plant species composition and pollinator parasite loads will yield additional
296 ecological insights.

297
298 Our field sampling revealed higher levels of phytochemicals in nectar and pollen
299 compared to previous reports of the same phytochemicals in honey. For example, the 5.2-8.2
300 ppm nectar thymol measured in this study is more than ten times the highest reported
301 concentration in natural honey (Table 2). For chlorogenic acid, we identified three species with
302 pollen concentrations >400 ppm, which is 50 times the highest value previously reported for
303 honey (Table 2). Our findings highlight large differences between the phytochemical

304 composition of nectar and honey, and indicate the need for more comprehensive sampling of
305 nectar and pollen, including volatile compounds such as eugenol, to establish the types and
306 concentrations of phytochemicals to which parasites might be naturally exposed. Sampling
307 bumble bee honey in addition to honey bee honey may also reveal differences in chemical
308 composition due to variation in foraging preferences or post-collection processes. Future
309 sampling efforts will identify candidate antimicrobial phytochemicals for future testing in bees
310 and other pollinators, and also document which floral species are sources of known antiparasitic
311 compounds. Given the relatively unexplored nature of nectar and pollen relative to leaf
312 phytochemistry, further sampling has significant potential to uncover new compounds of
313 ecological and potentially medical significance.

314

315 Collectively, our experiments demonstrate the ecological and evolutionary relevance of
316 direct effects of phytochemicals on a pollinator parasite. We show that the bumble bee parasite
317 *C. bombi* is less susceptible to phytochemicals than are bloodstream trypanosomes, is inhibited
318 by some nectar and pollen phytochemicals at naturally occurring concentrations, and exhibits
319 inter-strain variation in resistance. Our results emphasize the importance of inter-strain variation
320 and concentration-dependent responses in explaining the effects of phytochemicals on pollinator
321 diseases, and highlight the need for additional analysis of nectar and pollen to profile the full
322 range of phytochemicals and concentrations that occur in nature.

323

324 **Methods**

325

326 **Parasite culturing**

327 Parasite strains, each derived from a single *C. bombi* cell, were isolated from wild
328 bumble bees collected near West Haven, CT, United States in 2012 (“12.6”, from *B. impatiens*,
329 courtesy Hauke Koch); Hanover, NH, United States in 2014 (“VT1”, from *B. impatiens*, courtesy
330 lab of Rebecca Irwin); Corsica, France in 2012 (“C1.1”, from *B. terrestris*, collected by Ben
331 Sadd); and Normal, IL, United States in 2013 (“IL13.2”, from *B. impatiens*, collected by Ben
332 Sadd). Strain 12.6 was isolated by diluting homogenized intestinal tracts of infected *B. impatiens*
333 to 1 cell μL^{-1} , then adding 1 μL of the cell suspension to wells of a 96-well plate containing
334 *Crithidia* growth medium⁴⁷ with the addition of 2% antibiotic cocktail to combat bacterial and
335 fungal contaminants (penicillin 6 mg mL^{-1} , kanamycin 10 mg mL^{-1} , fluorcytosin 5 mg mL^{-1} ,
336 chloramphenicol 1 mg mL^{-1} as described⁴⁷). The remaining strains were isolated by flow
337 cytometry-based single cell sorting of homogenized intestinal tracts (strain VT1) or bee feces
338 (C1.1 and IL13.2) as described previously⁴⁷. All strains were isolated directly from wild bees
339 with the exception of VT1, which was first used to infect laboratory colonies of *B. impatiens*
340 (provided by Biobest, Leamington, ON, Canada). The cell used to initiate the parasite culture
341 was obtained from an infected worker of one of the commercial colonies. Cultures were
342 microscopically screened to identify samples with strong *Crithidia* growth and absence of
343 bacterial or fungal contaminants, then stored at -80°C in a 2:1 ratio of cell culture:50% glycerol
344 until several weeks before the experiments began. Thereafter, strains were incubated at 27°C and
345 propagated weekly in 5 mL tissue culture flasks (300-500 μL cultured cells in 5 mL fresh culture
346 medium)⁴⁷.

347 **Phytochemicals for cell culture assays**

348 Phytochemicals were chosen to facilitate comparison with published work assessing *C.*
349 *bombi* inhibition in *B. impatiens*^{22,36}. Additional compounds were selected based on widespread
350 presence in flowers, nectar, honey, or pollen and documented anti-trypanosomal activities
351 (Tables 1 and 2). We tested the effects of nine compounds: the pyridine alkaloids nicotine
352 (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) and anabasine (Sigma-Aldrich), the cyanogenic glycoside
353 amygdalin (Research Products International, Mt. Prospect, IL), the cinnamic acid caffeic acid
354 (Indofine, Hillsborough, NJ), the cinnamic acid ester 3-caffeoylquinic acid (“chlorogenic acid”,
355 Biosynth International, Itasca, IL), the phenylpropanoid phenolic alcohol eugenol (Acros,
356 Thermo Fisher, Franklin, MA), the trihydroxybenzoic phenolic gallic acid (Acros), the
357 sesquiterpene β -caryophyllene (SAFC, Milwaukee, WI), and the monoterpene alcohol thymol
358 (Fisher Scientific, Franklin, MA).

359 Phytochemical treatment media were prepared by dissolving stock chemicals either
360 directly in medium followed by sterile filtration (for the more soluble nicotine, anabasine,
361 amygdalin, chlorogenic acid, and eugenol) or by pre-dissolving compounds in ethanol (for the
362 less soluble caffeic acid, gallic acid, β -caryophyllene, thymol). Treatment concentrations were
363 chosen to span the range of concentrations known to occur in plant nectar and pollen (Table 1)
364 and/or inhibit trypanosomes (Table 2), with maximal concentrations limited by compound
365 solubility. For experiments using dilutions prepared from an ethanol-based stock, we equalized
366 the ethanol concentration in each treatment by adding ethanol (up to 1% by volume, depending
367 on the phytochemical) to the treatments of lesser concentrations.

368 **Experimental design**

369 We conducted 9 experiments, each testing all 4 parasite strains in parallel against a single
370 phytochemical. Cell cultures (1 mL) were transferred to fresh medium (5 mL) and allowed to
371 grow for 48 h in tissue culture flasks. Immediately before the assay, cultures were transferred to
372 50 mL centrifuge tubes and centrifuged for 10 min at 10,000 g. The supernatant was removed
373 and the cells were resuspended in 3 mL fresh medium. Cell density of the resulting suspension
374 was calculated by counting parasite cells at 400x magnification using a Neubauer
375 hemocytometer. Each strain was adjusted to a cell density of 1,000 cells μL^{-1} .

376 A separate 96-well plate was prepared for each strain, i.e., 4 plates per experiment, one
377 for each of the four strains. Each plate contained eight replicate wells at each of six
378 phytochemical concentrations, with each concentration assigned to columns 3-10 of a given row
379 to minimize edge effects. To each well, 100 μL of 1,000 cells μL^{-1} cell suspension was added to
380 100 μL of the phytochemical-enriched treatment medium using a multichannel pipette, resulting
381 in a starting cell density of 500 cells μL^{-1} . The outer wells of the plate (columns 1, 2, 11, and 12,
382 plus the remaining wells in rows A and B) were filled with 100 μL treatment medium (8 wells
383 per concentration) and 100 μL control medium; these wells were used to control for changes in
384 optical density (OD) unrelated to cell growth. Plates were incubated for 5 d at 27°C on a
385 microplate shaker (250 rpm, 3 mm orbit). OD readings (630 nm) were taken at 24 h intervals, as
386 described previously⁷⁵, immediately after resuspending the cells (40s, 1000 rpm, 3mm orbit)
387 using the microplate shaker. We calculated net OD (i.e., the amount of OD resulting from
388 parasite growth) by subtracting the average OD reading of cell-free control wells of the

389 corresponding concentration, plate, and timepoint. For analysis of assays using the volatile
390 phytochemicals eugenol and thymol, we excluded the replicates closest to the control wells that
391 contained highest phytochemical concentrations (2 per treatment for eugenol, 3 per treatment for
392 thymol). These replicates had markedly reduced growth compared to other samples in the same
393 treatments; we attributed this growth reduction to exposure to phytochemicals that volatilized
394 from the neighboring control wells.

395 **Statistical analysis of cell culture experiments**

396 Dose-response curves for each strain and phytochemical were computed for the three
397 phytochemicals for which the highest tested concentration resulted in complete inhibition of
398 growth—near-complete inhibition is necessary for accurate estimation of the concentration that
399 inhibits growth by 50% (EC50). All statistical analysis was carried out using the open source
400 software R v3.2.1⁷⁶ following methods used for antimicrobial peptides⁵⁶. For each sample, the
401 growth integral (i.e., area under the curve of net OD vs. time) was calculated by fitting a model-
402 free spline to the observed OD measurements using `grofit`⁷⁷. The relationship between
403 phytochemical concentration and growth integral was modeled with a Markov chain Monte
404 Carlo algorithm using Just Another Gibbs Sampler⁷⁸ in combination with the R-package `rjags`⁷⁹.
405 We used the following model to describe the relationship between phytochemical concentration
406 (c) and growth integral (g):

$$407 \quad g = r - \frac{Emax c^h}{((C_{50})^h + c^h)} \quad (1)$$

408 where r denotes growth in the absence of the phytochemical, E_{max} represents the maximum effect
409 at high concentrations, and C_{50} is the phytochemical concentration at which 50% of the
410 maximum effect is reached. The parameter h , the Hill coefficient, indicates how steeply the
411 effect increases around the concentration C_{50} . From this model, we derived parameter estimates
412 and 95% highest posterior density credible intervals (CI) of the EC50 for each phytochemical.
413 We defined strains as having significant differences in resistance when their 95% CI's did not
414 overlap. Each strain's dose-response curve and EC50 were calculated independently of the other
415 strains; in other words, the EC50 represents the phytochemical concentration resulting in 50% of
416 maximal inhibition for a particular strain.

417

418 **Field sampling**

419 **Nectar and pollen collection**

420 Nectar and pollen were collected from agricultural and wild species in Massachusetts and
421 California in 2014 and 2015 (see Supplementary Table S1 for sampling locations, dates, and
422 cultivars). We quantified thymol in *Thymus vulgaris* nectar and chlorogenic acids in *Malus*
423 *domestica* (domestic apple), wild and cultivated *Vaccinium corymbosum* (blueberry), *Prunus*
424 *dulcis* (almond), and *Persea americana* (avocado). Up to 10 samples of each tissue were
425 collected, typically from each of three cultivars for agricultural species. For *Thymus vulgaris* cv.
426 Silver, few plants were in flower at the time of collection, so it was only possible to collect
427 enough nectar for a single nectar sample.

428 Pollen samples were collected using clean forceps by pinching off anthers, avoiding as
429 much filament as possible. We collected at least 5 mg per sample, consisting of pollen, the pollen
430 sac, and a small amount of filament. We collected from mature, undehisced or newly dehiscing
431 anthers only. In most species, pollen was pooled across flowers within plants, but not across
432 plants. Nectar samples were collected using separate glass microcentrifuge tubes. Care was taken
433 to avoid contaminating samples with pollen. Depending on the plant species, we collected nectar
434 through the corolla opening, or by removing and gently pressing the corolla to produce nectar at
435 the flower base. Each nectar sample contained at least 5 μ L but typically 20 μ L nectar, added to
436 80 μ L EtOH to prevent spoilage. Nectar was often pooled across individual plants to obtain
437 sufficient volumes per sample. Samples were kept on ice in the field and then stored at -20°C
438 until lyophilization. Alcohol from *Thymus* nectar samples was evaporated at room temperature.
439 We acknowledge that some thymol, which is volatile, may have been lost from the samples
440 during evaporation, which we deemed necessary to prevent spoilage during shipping. As a result,
441 our results may underestimate true nectar concentrations of this phytochemical.

442 **Analysis of chlorogenic acids**

443 Pollen samples were extracted in methanol following previously published methods⁸⁰.
444 Unground pollen (5-50 mg) was sonicated for 10 min with 1 mL methanol in a 2 mL
445 microcentrifuge tube, then incubated without shaking for an additional 24 h at room temperature.
446 Samples were centrifuged for 5 min at 12,000 rpm, and the supernatants analyzed by liquid
447 chromatography (LC) using High Resolution Electrospray Ionisation Mass Spectroscopy
448 (HRESIMS). Chlorogenic acids were identified based on spectral comparisons with authentic
449 standards in the library at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. HRESIMS data were recorded

450 using a Thermo LTQ-Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer coupled to a Thermo Accela LC system
451 performing chromatographic separation of 5 μL injections on a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) column
452 (150 mm \times 3.0 mm i.d., 3 μm particle size) with a linear mobile phase gradient of 10–100%
453 aqueous MeOH containing 0.1% formic acid over 20 min. The column temperature was
454 maintained at 30°C with a flow rate of 0.5 ml min⁻¹. Spectra were recorded in positive and
455 negative modes at high resolution (30,000 FWHM (full width at half maximum)) and compared
456 to authentic standards from the laboratory's compound library including the three chlorogenic
457 acid isomers: 3-caffeoylquinic acid, 4-caffeoylquinic acid and 5-caffeoylquinic acid.

458 Lyophilized nectar (original volume \sim 10 μL) was extracted in 50 μL methanol and
459 injected directly onto an LC-MS system with a ZQ LC-MS detector on a Phenomenex Luna
460 C18(2) column (150 \times 4.0 mm i.d., 5 μm particle size) operating under gradient conditions, with
461 A = MeOH, B = H₂O, C = 1% HCO₂H in MeCN; A = 0%, B = 90% at t = 0 min; A = 90%, B =
462 0% at t = 20 min; A = 90%, B = 0% at t = 30 min; A = 0%, B = 90% at t = 31 min; column
463 temperature 30°C and flow rate of 0.5 mL min⁻¹. Aliquots (10 μL) were injected directly on to
464 the column and components identified by comparison with pollen extracts analyzed as described
465 above under HRESIMS. All chlorogenic acids were quantified against calibration curves of an
466 authentic standard of 5-caffeoylquinic acid.

467 **Identification of chlorogenic acids**

468 All three chlorogenic acids have a molecular ion $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ with $m/z = 355.1020$ (calculated
469 for C₁₆H₁₉O₉⁺ = 355.1024) and a major diagnostic fragment $m/z = 163.04$ (calculated for
470 C₉H₇O₃⁺ = 163.039) from $[\text{M}-\text{quinic acid}]^+$. The chlorogenic acids elute in the order 3-caffeoyl-

471 5-caffeoyl- and 4-caffeoylquinic acids at 4.0 min, 5.6 min and 7.0 min respectively with the
472 following diagnostic MS2 fragments in negative mode: 3-caffeoylquinic acid fragment $m/z = 163$,
473 4-caffeoylquinic acid fragment $m/z = 173$ and 5-caffeoylquinic acid fragment $m/z = 191$.

474 **Statistical comparison between pollen and nectar**

475 Within each of the three plant types for which we measured chlorogenic acids in both
476 pollen and nectar—*M. domestica*, wild *V. corymbosum*, and cultivated *V. corymbosum*—we
477 compared pollen and nectar 5-caffeoylquinic acid concentrations using an unpaired, two-sided
478 Wilcoxon signed-rank test.

479 **Analysis of thymol in *Thymus vulgaris* nectar**

480 For analysis of thymol, dried nectar from a sample of known volume (~10 μL) was
481 extracted in 250 μL of chloroform to which was added 500 ng of decyl acetate (50 μL of a 10 ng
482 μL^{-1} solution) as an internal standard. The extract was injected directly onto an Agilent 6890 gas
483 chromatograph coupled to an Agilent 5973 mass spectrometer with a DB-5 fused silica capillary
484 column (30 m length, 0.25 mm diameter, 0.25 μm film thickness) (Agilent). The column
485 temperature was held at 50°C for 2 min, then heated to 240°C at 6°C min^{-1} . The ion source was
486 held at 150°C, and the transfer line was held at 250°C. Thymol was identified by comparison to
487 a thymol standard (Sigma Ltd) and quantified using the fragment ion $m/z=135$ relative to the
488 Total Ion Chromatogram (TIC) for the decyl acetate internal standard. This ratio was corrected
489 using a response factor, which was obtained by analyzing a standard sample containing equal
490 concentrations of thymol and decyl acetate.

491

492

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798

799

800 **Authors' contributions**

801 ECPY, BMS, PCS, REI and LSA conceived the study. ECPY conducted the cell culture
802 experiments; LSA conducted the field sampling experiments. ECPY and BMS analyzed the cell
803 culture data; PCS analyzed the field sampling data. ECPY wrote the first draft of the manuscript
804 with contributions from BMS, PCS, and LSA. All authors revised the manuscript and agreed to
805 submission.

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807

808 **Additional information**

809 **Competing financial interests**

810 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

811

812 **Availability of data and materials**

813 The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are available in the Zenodo repository,
814 <https://zenodo.org/record/50349>. The data currently have restricted access. Data will be made
815 freely available on Zenodo upon acceptance.

816

817 **Competing interests**

818 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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824 **Figure Legends**

825 **Fig. 1. Inhibitory effects of (A) anabasine, (B) eugenol, and (C) thymol against 4 strains of**
826 ***C. bombi*.** Points indicate EC50 values in ppm phytochemical. Error bars show 95% credible
827 intervals derived from Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo model fit (see Materials and
828 Methods). For each strain (x axis) and phytochemical (vertically arranged panels), model fit was
829 derived from growth on a 96-well plate at 6 phytochemical concentrations (n=8 (anabasine), 6
830 (eugenol), or 7 (thymol) replicate samples per concentration). See Supplementary Figures S1-S3
831 for complete dose-response curves and confidence bands from the fitted models, and
832 Supplementary Figure S4 for representative growth curves of OD over time.

833

834 **Table 1. Comparison of phytochemical resistance in *Crithidia bombi*, other trypanosomes**
 835 **and parasites, animal cells, and insects.**

Phytochemical	EC50 (ppm)	Species or cell type	Reference
Anabasine	628-2160	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	>100	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (epimastigote)	81
	>100	<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> (Sf9) cells	81
	>100	CHO cells (hamster ovary)	81
	5-20	<i>Crithidia</i> (reduced infection in <i>Bombus impatiens</i>)	22
	20	<i>Crithidia</i> (reduced infection in <i>Bombus impatiens</i>)	82
	5	<i>Nectarinea osea</i> (sunbird feeding deterrent)	63
Nicotine	>1000	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	>1000	<i>Trypanosoma brucei</i>	45
	2	<i>Crithidia</i> (reduced infection in <i>Bombus impatiens</i> , <i>B. terrestris</i>)	22,23
	2000	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (2 d LD50)	14
Amygdalin	>10,000	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	>10,000	<i>Herpetomonas culicidarum</i> carbon source	83
	>2000	<i>Leishmania tropica</i>	84
	30	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (2 d LD50)	14
	2100	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (6 d LD50)	85
Caffeic acid	>250	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	5.6	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> (amastigote)	24
	1.1	<i>Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense</i> (bloodstream form)	24
	>30	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (trypomastigote)	24
	56	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (trypomastigote)	86
	53.3	L6 rat muscle cells	24
	109.1	Human lymphocytes	87
	>128	<i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> (American foulbrood-- MIC)	88

	>300	<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> Say (mosquito) larvae	89
	>500 µg fly ⁻¹	<i>Musca domestica</i> (housefly) adults	89
Chlorogenic acid[#]	>2500	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	7	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> (unknown strain)	49
	>17.7	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> MHOMET- 67/L82	50
	18.9	<i>Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense</i> (STIB 900)	49
	>10.6	<i>Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense</i> (STIB 900)	50
	61	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (trypomastigote)	86
	>90	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (amastigote)	49
	>50	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	49
	>3.5	<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> K1 resistant strain	50
	>90	L6 rat muscle cells	49
	8149.13	Rat hepatocytes	90
	111.5	Human lymphocytes	87
	>12760	<i>Spodoptera eridania</i> larvae	91
Eugenol	19.7-23.5	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	93.7	<i>Crithidia fasciculata</i>	27
	80	<i>Leishmania amazonensis</i>	92
	37.2	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> TC221 (bloodstream form)	44
	246	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>	27
	93	HL-60 (human leukemia)	44
	13	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> mites (permethrin-sensitive)	93
	40	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> mites (permethrin-resistant)	93
(clove oil*)	7800	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (8 d LD50)	70
(clove oil*)	240	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (14 d LD50)	70
Gallic acid	>250	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	>30	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> (extracellular)	24
	>25.0	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> (extracellular)	26
	4.4	<i>Leishmania donovani</i> (intracellular)	26

	8.0	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> (bloodstream form)	48
	5.1	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> (procyclic form)	48
	1.6	<i>Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense</i> (bloodstream form)	24
	67	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>	24
	14.4	L6 rat muscle cells	24
	15.6	Mouse macrophages	26
	>300	<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> Say (mosquito) larvae	89
	>500 µg fly ⁻¹	<i>Musca domestica</i> (housefly) adults	89
β-caryophyllene	>0.050	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	13.78	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> TC221 (bloodstream form)	44
	41.2	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> Lister 427 (bloodstream form)	94
	>100	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i> Lister 427 (procyclic form)	94
	0.002-0.004	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>	15
	221	<i>Heliothis virescens</i> (cell cultures)	95
	19.31	HL-60 (human leukemia)	44
	>300	<i>A. mellifera</i> (<300 ppm attractive)	14
Thymol	4.53-22.2	<i>Crithidia bombi</i>	This study
	32.5	<i>Crithidia fasciculata</i>	27
	22.9	<i>Trypanosoma brucei brucei</i>	44
	62	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (epimastigote)	25
	53	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (trypomastigote)	25
	64-128	<i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> (MIC)	88
	40.7	HL-60 (human leukemia)	44
	>1000	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (8 d LD50)	70
	30	<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> Say (mosquito) larvae	89
	53 µg fly ⁻¹	<i>Musca domestica</i> (housefly) adults	89
(thyme oil)**	>10,000	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (2 d LD50)	14

836 Concentrations are from this study (**bold**) and the sources cited in the table. Values are in EC50

837 in ppm of pure compound unless otherwise noted. Within each compound, observations are

838 arranged (if applicable) beginning with trypanosomes, then other pathogens, followed by animal
839 cells and insects. Trypanosome EC50 values all refer to *in vitro* assays of cell cultures. See
840 specific references for methodological details.

841 #Refers to 3-O-caffeoylquinic acid

842 *Clove (*Syzygium aromaticum*) oil: 86.7% eugenol ⁹⁶

843 ** Thyme (*Thymus*) oil: 65.3% thymol ⁹⁷

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845

846 Table 2. Phytochemical concentrations in floral tissues, pollen, nectar, and honey.

Compound	Sample type	Plant species	Concentration (ppm)*	Reference
Pyridine alkaloids				
Anabasine				
	flowers	<i>N. noctiflora</i>	2351	⁴⁰
	flowers	<i>N. petunioides</i>	1482	⁴⁰
	nectar	<i>N. glauca</i>	5	⁶³
	nectar	32 <i>Nicotiana</i> spp	0-1.52	⁴⁰
	nectar	<i>N. tabacum</i>	0-1.0	⁹⁸
Nicotine				
	nectar	32 <i>Nicotiana</i> spp.	0-5.38	⁴⁰
	nectar	<i>N. attenuata</i>	4	⁴¹
	nectar	<i>N. glauca</i>	0.5	⁶³
Cyanogenic glycosides				
Amygdalin				
	pollen	<i>Amygdalus communis</i>	1889	⁹⁹
	nectar	<i>Amygdalus communis</i>	4-10	⁹⁹
Phenolics				
<i>Hydroxycinnamic acids</i>				
Caffeic acid				
	honey	<i>Quercus robur</i>	26.8	⁵³
	honey	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	8.8	⁵³
	honey	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	7.07	¹⁰⁰
	honey	<i>Phlomis armeniaca</i>	6.6	⁵³

	honey	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	6.18	⁵³
	honey	<i>Astragalus microcephalus</i>	5.14	⁵³
	honey	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	4.83	⁵³
Chlorogenic acids				
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	pollen	<i>Persea americana</i>	1525 ± 486 SD (n=30)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	pollen	<i>Malus domestica</i>	475 ± 862 SD (n=30)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	pollen	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (cult.)	430 ± 404 SD (n=53)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	pollen	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (wild)	192 ± 204 SD (n=30)	This study
3-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	25.0 ± 14.9 SD (n=15)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Malus domestica</i>	15.6 ± 15.2 SD (n=30)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (cult.)	14.6 ± 28.2 SD (n=52)	This study
5-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (wild)	7.52 ± 4.23 SD (n=29)	This study
4-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (wild)	6.66 ± 5.11 SD (n=30)	This study
4-O-caffeoylquinic acid	nectar	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (cult.)	3.77 ± 7.62 SD (n=55)	This study
3-O-caffeoylquinic acid	honey	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	8.2	¹⁰¹
3-O-caffeoylquinic acid	honey	<i>Tilia</i> spp	0.21	¹⁰⁰
3-O-caffeoylquinic acid	honey	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	0.17	¹⁰⁰
Phenylpropenes				
Eugenol				
	bud essential oil	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i>	86.70%	⁹⁶
	floral essential oil	<i>Ocimum selloi</i>	66.20%	¹⁰²
(methyl eugenol)	floral essential oil	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	6.88%	¹⁰³
	floral volatiles	<i>Rhizophora stylosa</i>	27.20%	¹⁰⁴
	pollen volatiles	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	>2%	⁷³
(eugenol+methyl eugenol)	stamens	<i>Rosa x hybrida</i>	49.9	¹⁰⁵
	petals (male)	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> cv. Tosca	1.2	¹⁰⁶
	petals (female)	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> cv. Tosca	0.99	¹⁰⁶
	anther	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> cv. Tosca	0.57	¹⁰⁶

	Nectar (male and female)	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> cv. Tosca	trace	¹⁰⁶
	stigma	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> cv. Tosca	ND	¹⁰⁶
	honey	<i>Rosmarinus</i> spp	0.02-0.03	¹⁰⁷
	honey	<i>Thymus</i> spp	0.016	¹⁰⁸
Trihydroxybenzoic acids				
Gallic acid				
	honey	<i>Quercus robur</i>	82.5	⁵³
	honey	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	70.5	¹⁰¹
	honey	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	12.3	¹⁰¹
	honey	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	9.1	¹⁰⁰
	honey	<i>Tilia</i> spp	3.26	¹⁰⁰
	honey	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	1.27	¹⁰⁰
	honey	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	0.91	⁵³
	honey	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	0.61	⁵³
Terpenoids				
β-caryophyllene				
	floral volatiles	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	40%	¹⁰⁹
	floral volatiles	<i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>	35%	¹¹⁰
	floral volatiles	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	23%	¹¹¹
	floral volatiles	<i>Citrus limon</i>	9.50%	¹¹²
	pollen volatiles	<i>Citrus limon</i>	14.50%	¹¹²
	pollen volatiles	<i>Papaver rhoas</i>	>5%	¹¹³
	pollen volatiles	<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	>5%	¹¹³
	pollen volatiles	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	3.40%	¹¹⁴
	stamen volatiles	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	15.40%	¹¹⁴
	flower bud volatiles	<i>Citrus limon</i>	11.90%	¹¹²
	petal volatiles	<i>Citrus limon</i>	2.50%	¹¹²

Thymol				
	nectar	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> cv. Silver	8.2 (n=1)	This study
	nectar	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> cv. German	5.2 ± 2.98 SD (n=11)	This study
	honey	Apigard™-treated hives	0.5-2.65	¹¹⁵
	honey	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	0.346	¹¹⁶
	honey	<i>Thymus</i> spp.	0.27	¹¹⁵
	honey	<i>Tilia</i> spp	0.16	¹¹⁷
	honey	<i>Erica</i> spp.)	0.142	¹¹⁶
	honey	<i>Erica</i> spp.	0.12	¹¹⁵

847 Concentration measurements for chlorogenic acid and thymol (**bold**) are from this study's field
848 sampling of nectar and pollen. Sample sizes are in parentheses. Concentrations of other
849 phytochemicals were compiled through literature searches. Data are arranged in order of
850 decreasing maximum concentration, first for sample types within compounds, and then by
851 observations within a given sample type. SD: Standard Deviation.

852 *Units are mean concentration by mass in ppm, except for values followed by a “%” sign, which
853 indicates % of total volatiles (for compounds where ppm concentrations were unavailable).

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