

1 For *Austral Entomology*

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3 *Running header: Homoterpenes in arthropod-plant interactions*

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5 **Review of the chemical ecology of homoterpenes in arthropod-plant**
6 **interactions**

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 The homoterpenes 4,8-dimethylnona-1,3,7-triene (DMNT) and 4,8,12-trimethyltrideca-
16 1,3,7,11-tetraene (TMTT) are volatile products of plant metabolism reported from diverse
17 plant taxa and multiple plant tissues. As such, they have a range of potential ecological
18 functions. Here we review the key literature to assess evidence for roles in contrasting

19 plant-arthropod interactions. TMTT, and DMNT especially, have been reported as
20 sometimes dominant constituents of floral scents from angiosperm taxa ranging from
21 primitive Magnoliales to more advanced, taxonomic orders of economic significance such as
22 Fabales and Sapindales. Whilst all taxa producing TMTT and DMNT in floral scents are
23 entomophilous ('insect pollinated'), experimental evidence for an assumed role of these
24 homoterpenes in pollinator attraction is limited. Representing a trade-off, in some cases,
25 homoterpenes in floral scents have been shown to act as kairomones, attracting herbivores.
26 Additionally, both TMTT and DMNT are released by plant foliage in response to arthropod
27 feeding, mechanical damage simulating feeding, or even egg deposition. Evidence for a
28 functional role in herbivore induced plant volatile (HIPV) blends comes from a wide range of
29 angiosperm orders, including anemophilous ('wind pollinated') taxa, as well as from
30 gymnosperms. We conclude by considering how TMTT and DMNT function in community-
31 level interactions and highlighting research priorities that will reveal how plants avoid trade-
32 offs from contrasting ecological functions of DMNT and TMTT release, and how
33 homoterpene production might be exploited to develop improved crop varieties.

34 **Key words:** TMTT , DMNT, plant defence, pollination, HIPV, kairomone, synomones, pest
35 management

36 **INTRODUCTION**

37 Plants produce a wide range of secondary compounds, many of which are volatile (Dicke,
38 2009, Tholl et al., 2011). The functions of these include, and may have originally been solely
39 for, rapid signalling between differing parts of the same plant in order to systematically
40 activate defences against environmental factors such as herbivore attack (Frost et al., 2007).
41 Plant volatiles have also played an important role in the co-evolution between angiosperms

42 and insects, leading to intricate pollination mechanisms that depend – in part – on flower
43 volatiles to optimise pollination by flower visitors. Selection pressure acting on other
44 community members, such as herbivores and their natural enemies (parasitoids and
45 predators), has led these actors to exhibit responses to plant volatiles (Turlings et al., 1990).
46 Selection has led to a progression from natural enemies simply ‘eavesdropping’ on plant-
47 generated volatiles to coevolution such that plant-enemy communication can now result in
48 finely tuned herbivore-induced plant volatile blends (De Vos et al., 2005, D’Alessandro et al.,
49 2006, Tholl et al., 2011) that attract appropriate enemies, informing them which species of
50 herbivore is present on a given plant (de Boer et al. 2004). Each of the foregoing types of
51 plant-arthropod interaction has been well studied in simple bi- or tri-partite systems but the
52 last 15 years have seen a progressive broadening of attention to consider community-level,
53 multi-partite interactions. This is important in the context of a group of plant volatiles such
54 as homoterpenes because exaptations, the phenomenon of a feature taking on a new
55 function, have been demonstrated to intricately link differing plant-herbivore interactions. A
56 detailed phylogenetic study of the plant genus *Dalechampia* (Euphorbiaceae) (Armbruster,
57 1997), for example, provided a time-line for varying chemical and morphological
58 adaptations that were involved in plant defence and pollinator attraction. Triterpene resins
59 originally evolved to defend flowers but later allowed the evolution of terpenoid resin-
60 based systems to reward pollinators that use this material for nest construction. A second
61 example from the *Dalechampia* system is the evolution of bracts, that likely were involved in
62 pollinator attraction but later developed a herbivore defence role via nocturnal closure
63 around otherwise vulnerable flowers. Accordingly, plant features - whether chemical or
64 otherwise - are not ‘fixed’ in terms of function. Rather they are available to differing

65 selection pressures to take on new or multiple functions including pollinator attraction or
66 defence.

67 From a human perspective, it has never been more important, indeed urgent, to better
68 understand the interplay of the infochemical webs, of which plant volatiles are a key
69 component, and the trophic webs they affect. Agricultural production will need to expand
70 greatly in the next 50 years in order to support the burgeoning needs of humans (Tilman et
71 al., 2011, Godfray and Garnett, 2014). There is increasing recognition that relying on a
72 business-as-usual approach and entrenching reliance on non-renewable and often
73 hazardous inputs is unsustainable. Rather, an ecological intensification approach, in which
74 ecosystem services such as those provided by robust communities of pollinators and natural
75 enemies of pests, offers better scope to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience
76 (Gurr et al., 2016, Bommarco et al., 2013, Loos et al., 2014). Aside from agricultural
77 production, conservation of biodiversity, including that in terrestrial habitats where
78 angiosperms and insects are the dominant higher taxa for plants and animals, respectively,
79 is a priority (Vanbergen and Initiative, 2013, Losey and Vaughan, 2006). Atmospheric gas
80 regulation, provision of clean water and valuable bio-products such as pharmaceuticals are
81 among the ecosystem services provided by global biodiversity (Costanza et al., 1997) and
82 that currently are being eroded by habitat destruction and high extinction rates (Tollefson,
83 2019). Related to this, recent evidence suggests large declines in insect numbers and
84 diversity are occurring (Seibold et al., 2019); alarming given that the members of this
85 taxonomic class have been described as “the little things that run the world” (Wilson, 1987).

86 We approach this Gordian knot of challenges from the perspective of a particular pair of
87 plant homoterpenes. DMNT (4,8-dimethylnona-1,3,7-triene) and TMTT (4,8,12-

88 trimethyltrideca-1,3,7,11-tetraene, usually as the *E* isomers) (Figure 1). These are dominant
89 components of the scent produced by insect-pollinated flowers (Kaiser, 1994) and in some
90 cases are responded to by pollinators, yet are also present within the volatiles emitted by
91 plant foliage when attacked by herbivores, and attract their natural enemies (Tholl et al.,
92 2011). Further, herbivores also respond directly to plant release of these homoterpenes in
93 some systems (Bichão et al., 2005). Considering the potentially mixed messages sent by
94 DMNT and TMTT emissions from plants serves as a particular lens through which the wider
95 issue of arthropod-plant interactions and associated ecological interactions can be viewed.

96 **POLLINATOR ATTRACTION**

97 Pollination by animals, particularly insects, is required in approximately 90% of angiosperms
98 (Ollerton et al., 2011) while 75% of the most important crop species benefit from animal
99 pollination especially fruits, nuts and vegetables which are important for healthy diets (Klein
100 et al., 2007, Potts et al., 2016). Thus, pollination is a key insect-plant interaction for human
101 needs and for terrestrial ecosystems more fundamentally. Pollinators select flowers using a
102 variety of chemical and visual cues (odours, colour/pattern, flower shape) through learned or
103 innate preferences (Chittka, 2017, Daly and Smith, 2000, Goyret et al., 2008, Giurfa et al.,
104 1995, Dafni et al., 1997). Alternatively, flowers may filter out preferred pollinators through
105 specialist adaptations of floral morphology and chemistry that limit access to nectar (Brosi,
106 2016). One of the classic examples of co-adaptation of plants and pollinators is *Angraecum*
107 *sesquipedale* (Orchidaceae) which has an extraordinarily long nectar spur. This flower was
108 legendarily predicted by Charles Darwin in 1862 to be pollinated by a long-tongued flower
109 visitor and which was eventually discovered 40 years later as a sphinx moth species
110 *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae) (Arditti et al., 2012). Some flower

111 visitors have learned to rob nectar from inaccessible nectaries by chewing through corollas
112 so plant species may complement specialist morphology with selectively toxic plant
113 chemicals; the basis for other forms of co-adaptation. The nectaries of *Aconitum* spp.
114 (Ranunculaceae), for example, restrict access to long-tongued bumble bees (Thøstesen and
115 Olesen, 1996) while floral toxins protect nectar from robbers ensuring the reward is
116 conserved for the pollinator (Barlow et al., 2017). Plant chemicals also manipulate learning
117 in bees to augment pollination. Nectar caffeine, for example, enhances memory in honeybees
118 for floral traits associated with food rewards increasing revisitation to food rewards and
119 increased pollen transfer to caffeinated flowers (Wright et al., 2013, Couvillon et al., 2015,
120 Thomson et al., 2015).

121 Volatile organic compounds from flowers also mediate pollinator behaviour. When combined
122 with morphological adaptations, these provide some of the most remarkable examples of
123 behaviour manipulation to optimise pollination. *Drakaea thynniphila* (Orchidaceae), for
124 example, produces a suite of methylpyrazines that closely resemble the sex pheromone of
125 the female thynnid wasps (*Agriomyia* spp.) (Hymenoptera: Thynnidae) that attract sexually
126 active males to the thynnid wasp-shaped flowers (Bohman et al., 2014). During the
127 subsequent pseudo-copulation, a pollinia is deposited on the back of the wasp thorax which
128 is then transferred to a subsequent flower as the male continues to search for a mate.

129 Blood feeding invertebrate taxa also visit flowers for nectar with some, such as
130 ceratopogonid midges, providing critical pollination services (Billes, 1941, Posnette, 1944,
131 Bogarín et al., 2018). In doing so they must respond to different cues depending on their
132 requirements. For example, *Forcipomyia* and *Culicoides* spp. (Ceratopogonidae) are
133 attracted to 1-octen-3-ol, acetone and carbon dioxide when seeking an animal host for
134 blood meal (Blackwell et al., 1996, Liu et al., 2009, Isberg et al., 2017) and with the (*R*)-1-

135 octen-3-ol enantiomer defined for *Culicoides* (Harrup et al., 2012). *Theobroma cacao*
136 (cocoa), which is pollinated by these biting midges, produce specific alkenes and dienes that
137 are unusual and distinctive floral volatiles attractive to the midges when locating flowers
138 where they harvest pollen and which they subsequently pollinate (Arnold et al., 2019).
139 The survey by Tholl et al. (2011) lists 29 angiosperm families in which one or both of TMTT
140 and DMNT have been reported, mostly in broad works by Kaiser (1991) and (Knudsen et al.,
141 2006) though there are species-specific studies by Azuma et al. (1997) (*Magnolia*
142 *grandiflora*), Svensson et al. (2005) (*Yucca filamentosa*) and Schultz et al. (1999) (*Cyclanthus*
143 *bipartus*). Recent functional genomics work on the terpene gene family of apple (*Malus*
144 *domestica* Borkh, cv Royal Gala), a plant reliant on cross-pollination by insects, found that
145 (*E*)-DMNT (along with linalool) was predominant among floral terpenes (Nieuwenhuizen et
146 al., 2013). Intriguingly, however, (*E*)-DMNT was also emitted by non-floral tissues, especially
147 stipules and young leaves. Production by these vegetative tissues is likely associated with
148 plant defence (explored in detail below) rather than attraction of pollinator attraction
149 (Arimura et al., 2004, Ghirardo et al., 2012). The response of western flower thrips (WFT)
150 (*Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande) to DMNT and TMTT was evaluated in studies on floral
151 volatiles of *Verbena* hybrids, but they were reported to be not attractive (Pow et al., 1998).
152 While this study was undertaken from the perspective of pest attraction to flowers, the role
153 of thrips as pollinators could be more common with pollen herbivory considering this recent
154 work and in the knowledge that thrips are one of the earliest recorded pollinators (Terry et
155 al., 2007, Scott-Brown et al., 2019, Peñalver et al., 2012).
156 Despite the foregoing evidence of widespread occurrence of DMNT and TMTT in flower
157 volatiles, and the well-established phenomenon of species-specific floral chemicals driving
158 pollinator interactions (Stevenson et al., 2017), there is little experimental evidence that

159 homoterpenes such as DMNT and TMTT function as synomones in influencing pollinator
160 behaviour and enhancing pollination. This may be because these homoterpenes occur so
161 widely and do not present a unique or sufficiently distinctive trait for a pollinator to
162 distinguish a preferred flower. Where they have been identified in pollination studies their
163 role in mediating pollinators was mostly not significant. For example, *Yucca* species which
164 are pollinated by moths (including *Tegeticula cassandra*, a pollinating seed-eater, and
165 *Prodoxus decipiens*, a herbivore) produce a range of branched alkenes along with several
166 homoterpenes including DMNT (Svensson et al., 2006). However, only the unbranched
167 alkenes (i.e., not homoterpenes) were reported to have any behaviour modifying effects.
168 One of these, (Z)-9-nonadecene, also elicited an electrophysiological response from
169 *Tegeticula* antennae so the moths seem likely to use these rather than homoterpenes to
170 locate flowers (Tröger et al., 2019). More recent work (Tröger et al., 2021) has
171 demonstrated a role for a set of novel tetranorsesquiterpenoids putatively derived from (E)-
172 4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene in attraction of the yucca moth to yucca flowers.
173 The most compelling example of a homoterpene mediating pollinator behaviour comes
174 from work on *Cyclopogon* (Schultz et al., 1999). DMNT was by far the major component in
175 the floral odour of *Cyclopogon elatus* (>99% DMNT) which is pollinated exclusively by
176 halictid bee species including *Augochlora nausicaa*. This bee species located enclosed (i.e.,
177 not visible) flowers in an upwind direction providing evidence that the odour is used as the
178 cue. The high relative amount of DMNT in the floral odour was unusual and homoterpenes
179 typically occur at lower relative concentrations typically alongside numerous other
180 compounds which may influence how insects respond to them in other interactions. Why
181 DMNT has potentially such an important role in pollinator orientation behaviour for halictid
182 bees may be because DMNT is easy to learn by bees searching for nectar when it is so

183 relatively abundant compared to other floral volatiles. Its attractiveness in other systems,
184 particularly where it is a relatively minor component of a complex mixture, might depend on
185 the contextual presence of other volatiles (e.g. (Raguso, 2004).

186 The role of monoterpenes and other alkenes in mediating pollinator behaviour is more widely
187 studied than for homoterpenes. This may be because the conjugated diene structure of the
188 specific homoterpenes, DMNT and TMTT, renders these compounds highly labile and readily
189 lost by oxidation on storage in contact with air allowing detection and study to be overlooked
190 . β -ocimene, which is structurally related to homoterpenes, and linalool occur widely in
191 angiosperm flower odours and are reported to mediate flower finding by pollinators,
192 particularly at night (Farré-Armengol et al., 2017). While some compounds may be attractive
193 to pollinators, few studies of the behavioural responses to monoterpenes unequivocally
194 demonstrate an enhancement of pollen transfer despite several reports where emissions
195 correlate with visits to flowers. For example, in the specialist system of a hawkmoth *Sphinx*
196 *pinastri* pollinating the orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* (*E*) and (*Z*) isomers of β -ocimene have
197 peak emissions coinciding with visitation by the moth so could be influencing moth
198 orientation although this was not demonstrated to influence pollen transfer (Steen et al.,
199 2019). A recent more convincing example reports (*E*)- β -ocimene and the terpene alcohol
200 linalool that are produced by flowers of *Paulinia cupana* were attractive to *Megalopta* bees
201 which were specialist pollinators of the plant and were already carrying *P. cupana* pollen
202 when trapped (Krug et al., 2018).

203 Monoterpenes, structurally related to homoterpenes, have helped to establish a chemical
204 basis of interaction for some non-bee pollinators including thrips. For example, β -myrcene
205 and (*E*)- β -ocimene which were emitted by cones of the cycad *Macrozamia lucida* elicited an
206 electrophysiological response in the pollinating thrips *Cycadothrips chadwicki*. The thrips

207 were attracted to (*E*)- β -ocimene and low concentrations of β -myrcene but deterred at high
208 concentrations of the latter and the variations in the emission of β -myrcene at different
209 stages of cone development explained the diel thrips pollination behaviour (Terry et al.,
210 2007). Interestingly, *C. chadwicki* did not respond to (*Z*)- β -ocimene, highlighting the
211 importance of stereochemistry in establishing ecological functions for plant chemicals. The
212 related monoterpene, linalool was also reported to mediate flower visitation by *Thrips major*
213 Uzel, which was also shown to be an effective pollinator of elder flowers (*Sambucus nigra* L.)
214 (Scott-Brown et al., 2019) while *Thrips obscuratus* (Crawford) was attracted to Japanese
215 honeysuckle flowers, *Lonicera japonica* (Thunberg) (Caprifoliaceae), which also emit high
216 levels of linalool at night, although it is not known whether this thrips species contributes to
217 pollen transfer between conspecific flowers (El-Sayed et al., 2009, Miyake et al., 1998).

218

219 **HERBIVORE ATTRACTION**

220 Reflective of earlier discussion of exaptations that link differing plant features with
221 contrasting insect-plant interactions, hypotheses on the evolutionary origin of flower odour
222 suggests that damage-associated volatiles were used originally as kairomonal attractants by
223 some florivores whose activities resulted in pollination (Pellmyr and Thien, 1986, Knudsen et
224 al., 2006). Indeed, floral volatiles can attract flower feeders as well as pollinators. For
225 example, 1,2,4-trimethoxybenzene a volatile produced by the flowers of Cucurbitaceae is
226 attractive to the striped cucumber beetle, *Acalymma vittatum* Fabricius, (herbivore) and the
227 squash bee, *Peponapis pruinosa* Say, (a specialist pollinator of Cucurbitaceae). In such a
228 system, a selective advantage would accrue if a plant were able to produce a chemical signal
229 with more specific effects: attracting a pollinator, yet with a weaker trade-off of attracting a
230 herbivore. Indeed, indole was found to be attractive only to the herbivore in this system whilst

231 (*E*)-cinnamaldehyde was attractive to the pollinator (Andrews et al., 2007). Thus, compounds
232 may have contrasting selection pressure (i.e., favouring and disfavouring production) caused
233 by the different responses by mutualists and antagonists.

234 Relatively few studies are available that provide insight into the possibility that
235 homoterpenes serve as kairomones by constituting chemical cues by which herbivores
236 locate host plants. A clear opportunity for this to occur is in the case of flower-feeding
237 insects because these are most likely to benefit from responding to flower volatiles
238 intended for pollinator attraction. An example is the pollen-feeding pest of oilseed rape,
239 bronzed blossom beetle (*Meligethes aeneus*). This was the subject of study of the flower
240 volatiles released by the non-host brassica plant *Iberis amara* L. and DMNT was found to be
241 one of seven volatiles that elicited an antennal response (Bartlett et al., 2004). Further, field
242 attraction of this pest to DMNT was demonstrated in a study of traps baited with single
243 compounds including this homoterpene though the effect was confined to traps baited with
244 a high rate of DMNT and it was less attractive than some other compounds such as linalool
245 and 1,8-cineole hexanoic acid (Smart and Blight, 2000). In a contrasting system, the volatiles
246 emitted by green grape berries contained DMNT as one of the major constituents and the
247 blend was highly attractive to a potentially serious herbivore pest, European grapevine
248 moth, *Lobesia botrana* (Denis & Schiffermüller) (Tasin et al., 2006). Attraction was also high
249 to a synthetic blend containing DMNT with (*E*)- β -farnesene and (*E*)- β -caryophyllene.

250 Importantly, a functional role of DMNT was confirmed by its omission from the synthetic
251 blend leading to levels of attraction of female moths no greater than the blank control.

252 A broadly similar study detected DMNT in the headspace of hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
253 fruits (Nojima et al., 2003). In that work, electroantennographic detection (GC-EAD) was
254 used to confirm that this homoterpene was one of six compounds eliciting a response by the

255 fruit pest, apple maggot fly (*Rhagoletis pomonella* (Walsh)). Again, confirming a functional
256 role of DMNT, its omission from four- or six-compound synthetic blends resulted in
257 significantly decreased numbers of upwind flights by the insect. Finally, evidence of effects
258 of flower volatiles comes from studies of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*
259 Herbst). Head space volatiles from strawberry flowers contained DMNT and the antenna of
260 adult *A. rubi* was found to have an olfactory receptor neurone tuned to be particularly
261 receptive to DMNT (Bichão et al., 2005). Moreover, strawberry plant production of DMNT,
262 and the four other volatiles for which tuned receptor neurones were identified, was found
263 to be induced by *A. rubi* feeding on the flowers. Accordingly, adults are adapted for
264 detection of host plants upon which conspecifics are already feeding rather than being
265 attracted to a pollinator-attracting semiochemical.

266 Having established that DMNT release by plants can have effects on herbivorous insects,
267 and that these herbivores can be exquisitely co-adapted for the detection of DMNT, we
268 consider in the next section a further complication in the community-level effects of
269 homoterpenes: effects on natural enemies. This builds on the finding by (Bichão et al., 2005)
270 of herbivore response to induced production of DMNT.

271

272 **NATURAL ENEMY ATTRACTION**

273 The production of herbivore induced plant volatiles (HIPVs) has been recognised as an
274 important induced plant defence strategy against herbivores that operates by recruiting
275 natural enemy “bodyguards” to plants under attack. Homoterpenes are common
276 components of HIPVs in many plant species (Tholl et al., 2011) including lima bean

277 *Phaseolus lunatus* L. (Zhang et al., 2009), maize *Zea mays* L. (Signoretti et al., 2012), and
278 Malabar spinach *Basella alba* L. (Aboshi et al., 2019) when under attack by herbivores.

279 The blends of HIPVs produced by plants can be remarkably consistent under circumstances
280 of attack by contrasting herbivore taxa. For example, a study of lima bean compared
281 volatiles produced by damage from the insect pest, *Spodoptera littoralis* (Boisduval), and
282 the snail *Cepaea hortensis* Muller and found these to be similar, both including relatively
283 large amounts of DMNT and TMTT . More widely, there is evidence in the form of gene
284 expression profiles of arabidopsis (*Arabidopsis thaliana* L.), that plant responses to
285 herbivory can be general rather than specific (Reymond et al., 2004). In broad agreement,
286 the parasitoid *Cotesia rubecula* Marshall did not discriminate between volatiles of
287 arabidopsis fed upon by *Pieris rapae* L. (a host) or by *Spodoptera exigua* Hübner, (a non-
288 host), despite the clear fitness advantage that would have been gained from a capacity to
289 discriminate (Van Poecke et al., 2003).

290 In contrast, HIPV blends in other systems can differ qualitatively and quantitatively
291 according to identity of the attacking herbivore, providing cues that lead to attraction of
292 appropriate natural enemy taxa (De Moraes et al., 1998). Simultaneous attack by more than
293 one taxon of herbivore can also change the HIPV blend. In a study of lima bean, the HIPV
294 blend produced when attacked by spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae* Koch) included both
295 DMNT and TMTT among the dominant compounds (Zhang et al., 2009). Earlier work
296 demonstrated that TMTT production in concert with other HIPVs from spider mite-infested
297 lima bean leaves, influenced the foraging behaviour of the predatory mite, *Phytoseiulus*
298 *persimilis* Athias-Henriot) (De Boer et al., 2004). When the plants in Zhang et al.'s study
299 were simultaneously attacked by whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius), the HIPV blend was

300 altered to the extent that attraction of *P. persimilis* was compromised. Treatment of mite-
301 infested plants with exogenous salicylic acid (to mimic the effect of phloem feeding by the
302 whitefly) resulted in reduced production of multiple compounds, including homoterpenes,
303 with significant effects on (*Z*)- β -ocimene, (*E*)- β -ocimene and an unresolved C₁₀H₁₆O
304 compound.

305 Direct evidence for a role of homoterpenes in HIPV-based plant defense was obtained in
306 work treating lima bean with the fosmidomycin (a terpenoid pathway inhibitor). This led to
307 markedly reduced emission of homoterpenes and reduced attraction of predatory mites
308 (Mumm et al., 2008). Similarly, in more recent work using transgenic rice studies of
309 defences against the lepidopteran pest, *Chilo suppressalis* Walker, homoterpenes were
310 present in HIPVs and led to attraction of the parasitoid *Cotesia chilonis* (Matsumura) (Li et
311 al., 2018). Expression of the terpene synthase gene *Pltps3* increased emission of DMNT (and
312 (*S*)-linalool) in volatile blends compared with wild-type rice, whilst expression of *Pltps4*
313 increased emission of DMNT and TMTT (and (*S*)-linalool) in HIPV blends. Both transgenic rice
314 lines produced HIPV blends that were more attractive to the parasitoids than were volatiles
315 from wild-type rice. Further work (Li et al., 2020) has demonstrated that over expression of
316 the rice cytochrome P450 gene, *OsCYP92C21* (responsible for the oxidation of terpene
317 tertiary alcohols to the homoterpenes in rice), in a background of a genetically increased
318 precursor pool produces enhanced homoterpene levels in rice thereby raising the
319 performance in the laboratory of biological control parasitoids against a rice pest.

320

321 **NON-NATURAL ENEMY-MEDIATED NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON HERBIVORES**

322 The preceding sections considered the phenomenon of chemically-mediated attraction of
323 arthropods to plants, whether pollinators, herbivores and natural enemies. Repellency can
324 also result from plant volatiles and a functional role of DMNT in volatile defences was
325 evident in a study of sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas* L.) var. TN57 HIPVs whereby plant
326 defence was directly operating on the herbivore rather than being mediated by natural
327 enemies. Production of DMNT was increased when attacked by a mechanical caterpillar
328 ('MecWorm') or by *S. littoralis* larvae. Remarkably, airborne DMNT led to systemically
329 induced direct anti-herbivore defences in neighbouring sweetpotato plants. This potent
330 trigger of plant defences led to reduced *S. littoralis* larval weight gain after 7 or 10 days, an
331 effect shown not to be attributable to toxicity of DMNT to larvae but to higher sporamin
332 protease inhibitor (SPI) in the neighbouring undamaged plant (Meents et al., 2019). A
333 further example of a direct effect of DMNT comes from studies of the responses of adult *S.*
334 *littoralis* to the HIPVs of cotton plants (Hatano et al., 2015). DMNT was demonstrated to
335 suppress the plant odour- and pheromone-induced behaviours, reducing attraction of
336 induced plant sites by female moths and to pheromone-releasing females by male moths.

337 The direct effects of homoterpenes on herbivores have been exploited for practical pest
338 management in the successful 'push-pull' system developed for protecting maize crops from
339 stemborer pests such as *Busseola fusca* (Füller) and *Chilo partellus* Swinhoe (Khan et al.,
340 2016). In this system, molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora* P.Beauv.) is intercropped as a
341 groundcover below the taller maize plants and it constitutively produces DMNT in its volatile
342 blend. This emission has the dual effect of repelling female stemborer moths and attracting
343 parasitoids such as *Cotesia sesamiae* Cameron. The 'pushing' effect on moths is thought to
344 occur because it is perceived by the pest as a signal of heavily infested maize plants that are

345 already heavily utilised by conspecifics and likely to be harbouring high densities of
346 parasitoids that have responded to these volatiles. *Desmodium uncinatum* Jacq., an
347 alternative intercrop species, also produces large amounts of DMNT that repels stemborers
348 though appears not to attract parasitoids to the extent of increasing field parasitism levels
349 (Khan et al., 2000). More recent work has shown how this push-pull system can be adapted
350 to provide effective control of the highly invasive lepidopteran pest, fall army worm
351 *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J E Smith) (Midega et al., 2018) that is currently a new threat to
352 production in Asia and Oceania.

353 Remarkably, recent work on volatile release of DMNT has shown a distinct additional mode
354 of action by which herbivores may be adversely affected in a physiological manner rather
355 than via affecting insect behaviour and this suggests entirely new possibilities for pest
356 management (Chen *et al.* 2021). Studies with transgenic *A. thaliana* revealed that resistance
357 to larvae of the major lepidopteran pest, diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella* L.) could be
358 conferred by overexpression of the gene responsible for DMNT synthesis. To elucidate the
359 mechanism for this effect, larvae were fed a diet containing a blue dye (erioglaucine
360 disodium salt) that cannot pass through the intact gut wall. Larvae exposed to DMNT turned
361 blue in this 'Smurf test' indicating lesions in the gut whilst control larvae that were not
362 exposed to DMNT defecated the dye. Exogenous application of DMNT to larval diet altered
363 the gut microbiota and this was found to be linked to damage to the peritrophic matrix, a
364 barrier protecting the midgut, resulting in larval mortality. Reflecting the adverse effects of
365 DMNT on *P. xylostella*, other studies showed that larvae orientated away from the odour of
366 this compound.

367

368 **COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERACTIONS**

369 Given the evidence that herbivores induce DMNT and TMTT production by plant foliage as
370 defence against those herbivores by attracting natural enemies, and these same compounds
371 attract pollinators when produced by the flowers of the same plant (Azuma et al, 1997a,b),
372 this presents potential trade-offs. Thus, herbivory, pollination and the attraction of natural
373 enemies of pests present a potentially complex interaction web (Figure 2). This web includes
374 direct negative consequences for pollinators and a trade-off for the plant in balancing the
375 effects of its volatile emissions on survival and growth (defences) and reproduction
376 (pollination).

377

378 DMNT is produced in response to herbivory, so its role as a behaviour modifying compound
379 for flower visitors that pollinate may be more complex in flowers where it is not the primary
380 constitutive component but where it is also important to attract natural enemies of
381 herbivorous antagonists. Similarly, some but not all floral volatiles can attract both a flower
382 feeder and a pollinator. For example, in the previously mentioned system where 1,2,4-
383 trimethoxybenzene is produced by the flowers of Cucurbitaceae and is attractive to a
384 serious pest and a pollinator whilst indole is attractive only to the herbivore and (*E*)-
385 cinnamaldehyde attractive to the pollinator (Andrews et al., 2007). Thus, some compounds
386 may have dual effects with conflicting selection pressures imposed by mutualists and
387 antagonists whilst other compounds avoid this by having specific effects on either
388 pollinators or on herbivores. Accordingly, in a case of herbivores inducing homoterpene
389 production in HIPVs and these compounds also attracting pollinators, this presents a conflict
390 where - for example - the pollinator may be at greater risk of predation from the plant's

391 recruited bodyguards. Thus, herbivory, pollination and the attraction of natural enemies of
392 pests presents an enigma with complex and potential negative consequences for pollinators
393 and plants.

394 How might a plant manipulate homoterpene signals in response to environmental cues in
395 order to reduce possible trade-offs and maximise fitness? The release of homoterpenes as
396 HIPVs from the foliage of attacked plants prior to anthesis is straightforward because
397 pollinator attraction is irrelevant at this early stage of plant development. Signalling can
398 focus on attraction of natural enemies and suppression of herbivores. After anthesis,
399 however, there is scope for mixed messages leading to trade-offs in plant fitness arising
400 from homoterpenes produced to attract pollinators and those induced as part of a HIPV
401 blend. Potentially, the stereochemistry of the homoterpene produced under differing
402 selection pressures differs in order to avoid confusing signals but there is little published
403 information available to support this speculation. Alternatively, the homoterpene signals
404 may be identical and it is down to the receiver (pollinator and natural enemy) to determine
405 appropriate responses from the context of the wider blend of volatile cues. These decisions
406 are potentially important because a natural enemy responding to homoterpenes in floral
407 scents that are intended to attract pollinators would waste effort because this cue was not a
408 signal of herbivore presence and the availability of a host or prey. This scenario seems likely
409 because studies of the responses of natural enemies to HIPV blends suggest that attraction
410 can operate by virtue of the ratios of volatile constituents in HIPV blends rather than a
411 binary presence/absence of a single compound (Liu et al., 2017). Further, learning is likely
412 to be important in mediating responses by insects. In the case of pollinators, honeybees
413 especially are well known to employ learning to optimise foraging (Wright et al., 2013,

414 Couvillon et al., 2015, Thomson et al., 2015) and interpretation of homoterpene detection
415 may involve integration with visual cues. This is important because a pollinator attracted to
416 a plant by homoterpenes within HIPV blends (rather than as floral synomones) will
417 encounter a plant under herbivore attack and this may reduce the plant's capacity to
418 produce nectar and pollen so rendering it less rewarding than an uninfested plant which
419 was not releasing homoterpene-containing HIPVs. Indeed, studies have shown that
420 pollinators can exhibit a preference for herbivore free plants over those signalling herbivore
421 attack (Kessler and Halitschke, 2009) though a series of experiments with white mustard
422 (*Sinapis alba* L.) (Pereja et al. 2012) illustrate that idiosyncratic responses at multiple trophic
423 levels make it difficult to make sweeping generalisations. In that work, herbivory by a
424 specialist brassica phloem feeder (*Lipaphis erysimi* (Kaltenbach)) inhibited the emission of
425 floral volatiles, especially the production of benzaldehyde and methyl salicylate in the 48-72
426 and the 72-96-hour periods after commencement of herbivory and the extent of
427 suppression was positively correlated with the numbers of those aphids per plant. In
428 contrast, there was a weaker effect from feeding by the generalist herbivore *Myzus persicae*
429 (Sulzer,) and a slight elevation in floral volatile production caused by the chewing feeder *P.*
430 *xylostella*, including the production of 6-methyl-5-heptene-2-one which is biosynthetically
431 related to homoterpenes. A further point of contrast is with volatile production from the
432 foliage of the same plants. Composition discriminant analysis revealed that 6-methyl-5-
433 heptene-2-one production was elevated by feeding of either aphid species compared with
434 uninfested plants whilst TMTT was released only from *M. persicae*-infested foliage. These
435 results indicate that feeding mechanism of the herbivore (chewing vs sucking) and the
436 degree of specialisation (monophagy vs polyphagy) can profoundly affect plant response.
437 Considering the trophic effects of these contrasting volatile patterns, reductions in floral

438 volatile production did not translate to a reduced level of field visitation by pollinator insects
439 but the experimental conditions led to only low levels of visitations to plants (13.9-14.5 per
440 day) so real-world effects remain possible. Importantly, natural enemies (a predatory
441 ladybird , *Coccinella septempunctata* L., and a parasitoid, *Diaeritriella rapae* (McIntosh))
442 responded in olfactometer assays in ways that did demonstrate recognition of the
443 contrasting volatile profiles. For both natural enemies, most responses to infested versus
444 uninfested or versus clean air choices reflected an adaptive advantage for the natural
445 enemies' capacity to locate prey/hosts. However, the ladybird exhibited a significant
446 preference for volatiles from uninfested flowers than for flowers infested by its prey, *L.*
447 *erysimi*. Reasons for this seemingly maladaptive response are not clear but may reflect an
448 artefact of the experimental conditions because attraction to the volatiles from whole
449 infested plants was greater than that to uninfested whole plants and these clearly reflect
450 more biologically realistic cues. Notwithstanding this, the negative responses of ladybirds to
451 floral volatiles in isolation from the whole plant volatile indicate that contrasting plant parts
452 can produce functionally contrasting signals to insects. More generally, plants could
453 potentially up- or down-regulate production of functional volatiles under circumstances
454 where fitness would be maximised by the attraction of a given guild of insect. For example,
455 in circumstances such as early plant growth and development, or of a species that flowers in
456 an indeterminate (extended) manner, natural enemy attraction might take precedence.
457 Foregoing pollinator attraction in the short term may allow herbivore infestation to be
458 checked by recruiting natural enemies with HIPVs. At a later phenological stage, however, or
459 in cases where the plant blooms for only a short period and is short-lived, emphasising
460 pollinator attraction is likely to optimise fitness even at the cost of failure to check herbivore
461 attack. Such hypotheses are attractive targets for relatively simple future studies.

462 A further possible mechanism for reducing mixed messaging is the diurnal separation of
463 ecological functions as suggested by the fact that homoterpenes are characteristic
464 constituents of the 'white floral image' of night-scented plants such as Orchidaceae and
465 Liliaceae (Donath and Boland, 1994). For example, Kaiser (1991) described TMTT as the
466 main floral volatile of the highly fragrant, moth-pollinated African orchid *Aerangis*
467 *friesiorum* and of floral scent emitted from *Selenicereus hamatus* (known as "queen of the
468 night"). Though parasitoid activity is not strictly diurnal (Marchiori et al., 2007), they are
469 generally assumed to be chiefly day active (Marchiori et al., 2007) and plants need light for
470 de novo synthesis of HIPVs (Signoretti et al., 2012, Paré and Tumlinson, 1997). Thus at least
471 some plants that produce homoterpenes as floral blends are pollinated nocturnally whilst
472 HIPV-based effects on natural enemies occur chiefly during the day. The well-studied case of
473 (*E*)- α -bergamotene emission in *Nicotiana attenuata* illustrates the significance of temporal
474 kinetics in resolving the dilemma of attracting adult *Manduca sexta* as pollinators whilst
475 defending foliage from damage by that insect's herbivorous larvae (Zhou et al., 2017).
476 Synthesis of (*E*)- α -bergamotene in that plant is mediated by a single monoterpene-
477 synthase-derived sesquiterpene synthase gene but with tissue specific expression such that
478 floral production is mainly nocturnal (corresponding with moth activity) whilst production in
479 foliage is slight unless induced by herbivory and then peaks during daytime. Such diurnal
480 separation of ecological functions by plants seems likely to be significant in minimising the
481 maladaptive trade-offs by homoterpene production from flowers and foliage (Figure 2).
482 Notably, though, herbivores, natural enemies and pollinators are not passive actors in these
483 interaction webs. Each of these insect guilds will be subject to natural selection to sensory
484 and behavioural traits to optimise advantage from available DMNT and TMTT cues. For
485 example, studies of naive adult *C. flavicincta* parasitoids to the volatiles produced by maize

486 when treated with regurgitate of the fall armyworm revealed attraction only if the plants
487 had been induced (i.e. treated with fall armyworm larval regurgitant) during scotophase,
488 5-6 hr beforehand (Signoretti et al., 2012). The HIPV blend produced at that time had
489 higher amounts of DMNT than did blends produced by plants induced during photophase
490 and those authors speculated that the parasitoid may have evolved to respond to volatiles
491 produced nocturnally because this herbivore feeds most actively at night.

492

493 **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

494 The homoterpenes DMNT and TMTT are produced in relatively large amounts in the volatile
495 blends of a wide variety of plant taxa, especially entomophilous angiosperms. They are
496 responsible in some studies of a functional role in the attraction of pollinators, pests, and –
497 especially – of natural enemies. Other studies have shown them to repel pests. Among
498 these effects, the strongest and most taxonomically ubiquitous evidence is for
499 homoterpenes to be functionally active in HIPV blends. Overall, however, there is relatively
500 less experimental evidence for ecological functions of TMTT in comparison to DMNT.

501 The key opportunity for future research programs is to harness the biological functions of
502 this group of compounds to suppress pests (via natural enemy effects or more directly) to
503 support ecological intensification of agriculture. Consistent with this broad aim, Li et al.
504 (2018, 2021) demonstrate in studies of terpene synthase genes in transgenic rice lines,
505 especially OsCYP92C21, that the transformation of crop varieties has the potential to
506 enhance plant emission of defence volatiles though this effect is dependent on pools of
507 precursor compounds. Introgressed GM rice plants emitted elevated levels of

508 homoterpenes, and this translated to greater attractiveness to a parasitoid (*C. chiloni*). Such
509 studies demonstrate the functional role of homoterpenes and associated scope for
510 exploitation by increasing precursor pools and overexpression of relevant genes by genetic
511 transformation. Indications of the more general scope for genetically enhancing
512 homoterpene production in both monocots and dicots comes from the fact that
513 homoterpene biosynthetic pathways have been elucidated for a range of economically
514 important crop plants including rice, maize and cotton (in addition to arabidopsis) (Richter
515 et al., 2016, Tholl et al., 2011). Ultimately this could confer varieties with ‘built-in’
516 protection that will lessen subsequent need for insecticide use to protect the crop. Broadly
517 consistent with this, Khan *et al.* (2000) consider that plants such as *M. minutiflora* and
518 *Desmodium* spp. that produce homoterpenes constitutively could be used in development
519 of crop protection strategies that extend the success of the use of these plants in ‘push-pull’
520 plant protection systems. Such approaches will, however, depend on biological control
521 either directly or indirectly. Any ‘built in’ protection system that exerted direct negative
522 effects on herbivores, such as that suggested by the work of Chen *et al.* (2021) will benefit
523 from being complemented by strong levels of biological control in order to protect the plant
524 traits from adaptation by pest populations resulting in resistance. And in systems based on
525 attraction of natural enemies, there is direct dependency on local natural enemy availability.
526 Unless these biological control agents are made available via costly mass-rearing and release
527 programs, there is a need for agroecological approaches to ensure the presence of donor
528 habitat and ecological resources such as nectar and pollen by conservation biological control
529 approaches (Gurr et al., 2017).

530 Ultimately, interest in engineering crop plants to increase production of homoterpenes in
531 pursuit of more effective plant protection reinforces the need to better understand the
532 complexities of homoterpene production in the context of DMNT and TMTT also being
533 emitted in flower scents for the attraction of pollinators. Globally, populations of pollinators
534 face mounting threats from factors that include insecticide use and habitat destruction.
535 Accordingly, habitat manipulation measures taken to promote natural enemy availability to
536 respond to HIPV cues will not only alleviate pressure on pollinators via reduced insecticide
537 use (as in rice work by Gurr et al., 2016) but also provide food resources and shelter for
538 pollinators (Arnold et al. 2021b).

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544

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769 **LIST OF FIGURES**

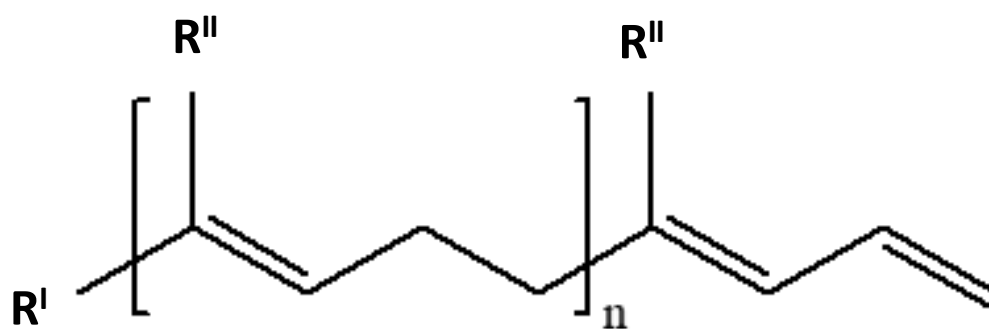
770

771 Figure 1. Chemical structures of homoterpenes central to arthropod-plant interactions: n =
772 1, (*E*)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT); n = 2, (*E,E*) 4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-
773 tridecatetraene (TMTT); R', R'', R''' = methyl.

774

775 Figure 2. Major ecological functions of DMNT and TMTT production by foliage and flowers in
776 insect-plant interactions. Effect on plant fitness indicated by + and – symbol for each
777 interaction. Weight of arrows indicates the relative importance of each interaction in terms
778 of reported cases. Dashed arrows indicate the potential mal-adaptive interactions of
779 production by flowers on natural enemies and by foliage on pollinators.

780 FIG 1



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