Recruitment of predators and parasitoids by herbivore-injured plants

Ted C. J. Turlings

Institute of Zoology, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

Felix Wäckers Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Heteren, the Netherlands

Introduction

In recent years, induced plant defenses have received widespread attention from biologists in a variety of disciplines. The mechanisms underlying these defenses and the interactions that mediate them appeal not only to plant physiologists, ecologists, and evolutionary biologists but also to those scientists that search for novel strategies in plant protection. Several recent books (Karban and Baldwin, 1997; Agrawal *et al.*, 1999) and reviews (Baldwin, 1994; Karban *et al.*, 1997; Agrawal and Rutter, 1998; Agrawal and Karban, 1999; Baldwin and Preston, 1999; Dicke *et al.*, 2003) have been devoted entirely to the subject of induced plant defenses. Various forces, ranging from abiotic stresses to biotic factors such as pathogens, arthropods, or higher organisms, may trigger different plant defense responses. Yet, the biochemical pathways that are involved appear to show considerable similarities. This is also true for the so-called indirect defenses.

The term indirect defense refers to those adaptations that result in the recruitment and sustenance of organisms that protect the plants against herbivorous attackers. The early published examples of indirect defenses involved intimate plant–ant interactions, in which myrmecophilous plants were shown to have evolved a range of adaptations providing ants with shelter (domatia) and various food sources (Belt, 1874; Janzen, 1966). In return, these plants may obtain a range of benefits because ants can provide nutrition (Thomson, 1981) or more commonly, protection against herbivores, pathogens, and competing plants (e.g. Koptur, 1992; Oliveira, 1997). The well-documented fitness benefits of ant attendance in myrmecophilous plants (Rico-Gray and Thien, 1989; Oliveira, 1997), combined with the fact that domatia and food supplements are difficult to reconcile with other functions, are convincing arguments for the interpretation that these adaptations represent examples



Fig. 2.1. Extrafloral nectar droplets on Ricinus communis (castor bean).

of indirect defense. The above-mentioned studies have all focussed on intimate examples of plant–ant mutualisms. However, similar adaptations are also found in non-myrmecophilous plants. Acarodomatia have been recorded from so-called "mite plants." These preexisting structures facilitate symbiotic interactions with predatory or fungivorous mites (Bakker and Klein, 1992; Whitman, 1994).

Extrafloral nectaries (Fig. 2.1) are probably the most frequently described adaptations believed to serve as indirect defenses. They have been described in approximately 1000 species from 93 plant families including numerous dicotyledonous species, ferns, and such diverse monocotyledonous taxa as lilies, orchids, sedges, and grasses (Koptur, 1992). They are found in virtually all plant types including herbs, vines, shrubs and trees, annuals as well as perennials, and successional as well as climax species.

Often extrafloral nectaries show prominent colorations (primarily black and red), which set them off against the (green) background. In contrast to their floral counterparts, extrafloral nectaries are generally exposed (Zimmerman, 1932), giving insects easy access to the nectar. The nectaries are often situated on leaves or petioles (Fig. 2.1), where they are ideally situated for crawling insects or flying insects that land on the leaf surface (Fig. 2.2). In other plants, they are found on petioles or the (leaf) stem, which is an effective placement for ants and other natural enemies crawling up the plant.

Less evident is the primary function of plant odor emissions. Although it is clear that plant odors are used by parasitoids (Fig. 2.3) and predators to locate potential prey (Vinson *et al.*, 1987; Nordlund *et al.*, 1988; Whitman, 1988), they are likely to have other functions as well (Harrewijn *et al.*, 1995; Turlings and Benrey, 1998).



Fig. 2.2. A female of the parasitoid *Cotesia glomerata* feeding on extrafloral nectar of *Vicia faba*.

Yet, the notion that plant volatiles may serve as signals to recruit members of the third trophic level has been reinforced by the fact that they are inducible. So far, evidence for plant-produced signals has been limited to interactions between plants and arthropods, but a recent study showed that plants may also recruit nematodes that can infect beetle larvae feeding on the roots of these plants (van Tol *et al.*, 2001). The accumulating evidence strongly suggests that herbivore-induced plant signals play a very important role in the indirect protection of plants against herbivory.

The increasing number of studies on the interactions between plants and the natural enemies of herbivores attacking these plants is revealing an astonishing sophistication. This is most apparent in the specificity of the interactions; plants may respond differently to different herbivores and the natural enemies are able to distinguish among these differences (Sabelis and van de Baan, 1983; Takabayashi *et al.*,



Fig. 2.3. A female of the parasitoid *Cotesia marginiventris* attracted to the odor emitted by a maize leaf that has been damaged by a *Spodoptera exigua* larva.

1995; Powell *et al.*, 1998; De Moraes *et al.*, 1998). There is even evidence to suggest that plants selectively employ direct and indirect defenses depending on which herbivore feeds on them (Kahl *et al.*, 2000). An additional twist to the refinement of the interactions is that there is now clear evidence for information transfer among plants mediated by volatile signals (Arimura, *et al.*, 2000a; Dolch and Tscharntke, 2000; Karban *et al.*, 2000). These potent plant signals can be expected to affect multiple interactions within entire food webs (Janssen *et al.*, 1998; Sabelis *et al.*, 1999) and many more interchanges are likely to be discovered.

This chapter gives an overview of the developments in research on induced indirect defenses. We discuss both the ecological aspects as well as our knowledge of the mechanisms that are involved. This chapter differs from most other reviews in that it includes both attraction by means of induced volatiles and the plant's strategy to keep the natural enemies of the predator on the plant by increased nectar production in response to herbivory. We compare these two strategies, particularly in terms of timing and specificity of induction. We argue that there is a danger of overinterpreting results if we do not always recognize the fact that plants need to benefit from the proposed function of the induced responses. Hence, our discussion of how natural selection may have shaped the various interactions emphasizes the role of the plant and to what extent its interests are in tune with those of the third trophic level. Some recent studies provide evidence for the adaptiveness of inducible indirect defenses, but it is concluded that field experiments, preferentially with natural systems, are needed to establish truly if plants do benefit from these inducible responses. Field data are also still lacking for a conclusive appreciation of the full potential of exploiting indirect plant defenses in the protection of crop plants.

Inducible volatile signals

The role of plant volatiles as prey and host location cues

The evolutionary "cat-and-mouse game" between entomophagous insects and their prey has led to various refined adaptations on both sides. Potential prey may minimize the encounter rates with their natural enemies by being cryptic, visually as well as chemically. Although various natural enemies make use of prey-derived cues (for review see Tumlinson *et al.*, 1992), others have evolved to rely primarily on indirect cues that may be less efficient but are more readily available and detectable (Vet *et al.*, 1991; Vet and Dicke, 1992). For the many natural enemies of herbivores, the plants on which the herbivores feed play a key role in providing useful cues.

That predators and especially parasitoids of herbivores are attracted to plants has long been known. In their review of this topic, Nordlund *et al.* (1988) suggest that Picard and Rabaud (1914) were the first to realize the importance of plants for foraging entomophagous insects. In numerous studies since (e.g., Taylor, 1932; Zwölfer and Kraus, 1957; Salt, 1958; Harrington and Barbosa, 1978), predators and parasitoids were found more on one plant species than another. That plant volatiles may be responsible for such differential attractiveness was apparent from studies by, among others, Monteith (1955), Arthur (1962), Flint *et al.* (1979), and Elzen *et al.* (1984). These studies considered the importance of the plant only at the level of habitat locations, as defined by Vinson (1981). It was not until papers by Price *et al.* (1980), Vinson (1981), and Barbosa and Saunders (1985) that the more direct role of plants in mediating the step of host/prey location was considered. Initial studies suggested only that insect-derived attractants (kairomones) were affected by the plant diet of the host or prey (e.g., Roth *et al.*, 1978; Sauls *et al.*, 1979;

Loke *et al.*, 1983). For instance, parasitoid females tend to respond more strongly to feces from host larvae that have fed on their customary host plant than to feces from larvae fed on an artificial diet (Roth *et al.*, 1978; Sauls *et al.*, 1979; Mohyuddin *et al.*, 1981; Nordlund and Sauls, 1981).

The first series of studies to provide complete behavioral as well as chemical evidence for the ability of herbivore-injured plants actively to attract natural enemies of their predators was obtained with studies on plant-mite interactions (e.g., Sabelis and van de Baan, 1983; Dicke and Sabelis, 1988; Dicke et al., 1990a,b). First, it was found that plants infested with spider mites were far more attractive to predators than were uninfested plants (Sabelis and van de Baan, 1983). Subsequently, Dicke and Sabelis (1988) showed the presence of several unique volatile substances in the headspace collections of lima bean leaves infested with the spider mite *Tetranychus urticae*. These volatiles were not emitted by the spider mites but by the infested plant. Synthetic versions of some of these substances, which were not present in the collections from uninfested plants, were attractive to the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis*. These first studies and many since (e.g., Dicke et al., 1990a,b; Takabayashi et al., 1991a, 1994; Scutareanu et al., 1997) show that *P. persimilis* and various other predators that use phytophagous mites as prey make effective use of a specific blend of mite-induced compounds to locate plants with prey. This well-studied model system has proven very valuable in revealing the intricacies and complexity of a multitude of interactions that can be affected by the herbivore-induced plant volatiles (Janssen et al., 1998; Sabelis et al., 1999).

The majority of other studies that show conclusively that herbivory induces plants to emit volatiles that may serve as an indirect defense involving the attraction of parasitoids (Table 2.1). In particular, studies with caterpillars on cotton (McCall *et al.*, 1993, 1994; Loughrin *et al.*, 1994, 1995a; Röse *et al.*, 1996), *Brassica* spp. (Steinberg *et al.*, 1992; Agelopoulos and Keller, 1994; Mattiacci *et al.*, 1994; Geervliet *et al.*, 1994; Benrey *et al.*, 1997), and maize (Turlings *et al.*, 1990, 1991a,b, 1995; Takabayashi *et al.*, 1995; Potting *et al.*, 1995; Alborn *et al.*, 1997) have revealed that caterpillar damage results in the release of parasitoid attractants. In most cases, injury by caterpillars was found to cause a much stronger reaction in terms of odor emissions than mechanical damage. Relatively new is the finding that egg deposition by herbivores on plants can cause plants to release volatiles that are attractive to egg parasitoids (Meiners and Hilker, 1997, 2000; Meiners *et al.*, 2000). The plant response to egg deposition also appears to be systemic (Wegener *et al.*, 2001).

Many additional studies show that herbivore-induced emissions of volatiles are very common and are found in a wide range of plant taxa, induced by numerous herbivorous arthropods, and affect many different natural enemies (Table 2.1). The list in Table 2.1 is not meant to be complete but rather to illustrate how common these

Table 2.1. Exam	ples of predators and parasitoid	ls that use induced pl	ant odors to	locate their prey or hosts
Natural enemy	Herbivore(s) ^a	Plant(s)	Evidence	Selected references
Predators Acari: Phytoseiidae Phytoseiulus persimilis	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> (Acari: Tetranychidae)	Apple, cucumber, gerbera, lima bean	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Dicke <i>et al.</i> , 1990a,b; Takabayashi <i>et al.</i> , 1991a,b; Shimoda <i>et al.</i> , 1997; Krips
Amblyseius andersoni	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> (Acari: Tetranvchidae)	Lima bean	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Dicke <i>et al.</i> , 1990a; Dicke and Groeneveld, 1986
Amblyseius finlandicus	Tetranychus urticae (Acari: Tetranychidae) Panonychus ulmi (Acari: Tetranychidae)	Apple	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Sabelis and van de Baan 1983; Takabayashi <i>et al.</i> , 1991a
Coleoptera: Cleridae Thanasimus dubius	Ips pini (Coleoptera: Scolytidae)	Pine	В	Aukema <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Thysanoptera: Thripidae Scolothrips takahasshi	Tetranychus urticae (Acari: Tetranychidae)	Lima bean	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Shimoda <i>et al.</i> , 1997
Hemiptera: Anthocoridae				
<i>Orius laevigatus</i> Hemiptera: Miridae	Frankliniella occidentalis (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) Tetranychus urticae (Acari: Tetranychidae)	Cucumber	В	Venzon <i>et al.</i> , 1999
Cyrthorinus lividipennis	Nilaparvata lugens (Homoptera: Delphacidae)	Rice	В	Rapusas et al., 1996
Hemiptera: Pentatomidae Perillus bioculatus	Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Coleoptera; Chrysomelidae)	Potato	B + C	van Loon <i>et al.</i> , 2000a; Weissbecker <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Parasitoids Hymenoptera: Braconidae				
Apanteles (Cotesia) sp. Apanteles (Cotesia) chilonis	Ectropis obliqia Chilo suppressalis	Tea Rice	B/C B	Xu and Chen, 1999 Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2002
Coeloides bostrichorum	<i>Ips typographus</i> (Coleoptera: Scolytidae)	Spruce	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Pettersson et al., 2001

(cont.)

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Natural enemy	Herbivore(s) ^a	Plant(s)	Evidence	Selected references
Cotesia glomerata, Cotesia rubecula	Pieris spp.	Cabbage and related subspecies	B + C	Steinberg <i>et al.</i> , 1993; Angelopoulos and Keller, 1994; Mattiacci <i>et al.</i> , 1994, 1995
Cotesia kariyai	Pseudaletia separata Mythimma separata	Maize, kidney bean, Japanese radish	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Takabayashi <i>et al.</i> , 1995; Fujiwara <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Diachasmimorpha longicaudata	Anastrepha spp. (Diptera: Tephritidae)	Mango, grapefruit	В	Eben <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Macrocentrus grandii	Ostrinia nubilalis	Maize	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Udayagiri and Jones, 1992a,b
Microplitis croceipes	Helicoverpa and Heliothis spp.	Cotton, cowpea, maize	B + C	McCall <i>et al.</i> , 1993; Turlings <i>et al.</i> , 1993a; Röse <i>et al.</i> , 1996
<i>Microplitis demolitor</i> Hymenoptera: Mymaridae	Pseudoplusia includens	Plant volatiles	C	Ramachandran and Norris, 1991
Anagrus nilaparvatae	Nilaparvata lugens (Homoptera: Delphacidae)	Rice	В	Lou and Cheng, 1996
Hymenoptera: Aphidiidae				
Aphidius ervi	Acyrthosiphon pisum (Homoptera: Aphididae)	Broad bean	B + C	Du et al., 1996; Powell et al., 1998
Hymenoptera: Eulophidae				
Diglyphus isaea	<i>Liriomyza trifolii</i> (Diptera: Agromyzidae)	Bean	B + C	Finidori-Logli <i>et al.</i> , 1996
Oomyzus gallerucae	Xanthogaleruca luteola (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)	Elm	B + C	Meiners and Hilker, 1997, 2000; Wegener <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae	•			1
Rhopalicus tutela	<i>Ips typographus</i> (Coleoptera: Scolytidae)	Pine	$\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$	Pettersson, 2001
Hymenoptera: Scelionidae				
Trissolcus basalis	<i>Nezara viridula</i> (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae)	Soybean	В	Loch and Walter, 1999

Table 2.1. (cont.)

"If not otherwise indicated the hosts or prey are lepidopteran larvae. B, behavioral evidence; C, chemical evidence.

tritrophic interactions are. The evidence is not equally conclusive in all cases, but behavioral observations and/or chemical analyses strongly indicate that induced plant volatiles play a key role in host or prey location. Current research in this area focusses on the mechanisms of induction and on questions concerning the ecological significance and evolutionary history of these interactions, as well as on the possibility of exploiting this indirect plant defense for crop protection. We attempt to give an overview of the most significant findings of these research efforts.

Elicitors and induction mechanisms

Mere mechanical damage of leaves may result in the temporary emission of some volatiles, but in most cases these emissions can be greatly enhanced and prolonged by eliciting factors that come directly from a feeding insect. These factors also elicit odor emissions when undamaged leaves take them up via the petiole, and the response to these factors has been shown to be systemic (Dicke *et al.*, 1990a; Turlings *et al.*, 1993a). After the isolation and identification of a β -glucosidase (Mattiacci *et al.*, 1995) and the fatty acid derivative volicitin (Alborn *et al.*, 1997) as elicitors from caterpillar oral secretion (regurgitant), a multitude of studies have revealed details about the mechanisms that may mediate the formation and action of these compounds. Notably the groups of Tumlinson (Gainesville, Florida) and Boland (Jena, Germany) have made considerable progress in these areas, as summarized below.

Beta-glucosidase

A β -glucosidase in the regurgitant of *Pieris brassicae* larvae causes a release of volatiles in brassica plants that is similar to the release observed after feeding by these larvae (Mattiaci et al., 1995). Beta-glucosidases are present in many organisms (e.g., Robinson et al., 1967; Sano et al., 1975; Wertz and Downing, 1989; Yu, 1989) and may function in catalyzing biochemical pathways that involve glycoside cleavage. The emissions by Brassicaceae are characterized by glucosinolate breakdown products, which have not been observed in other plant families that have been studied in this context (Agelopoulos and Keller, 1994; Mattiaci et al., 1994; Geervliet *et al.*, 1996). It is expected that enzymes like β -glucosidase facilitate this glucosinolate breakdown. This notion is reinforced by the fact that a systemic emission after caterpillar feeding is only observed if the distant leaves are mechanically damaged (L. Mattiaci, personal communication), suggesting that the substrate comes in contact with enzymes only when it is released from ruptured cells. The key enzyme involved in the hydrolysis of glucosinolates is myrosinase, which causes the release of volatile defensive compounds such as isothiocyanates (Bones and Rossiter, 1996). The bioactivity of enzymes in the oral secretions of insects as inducers of volatile emissions may be limited to specific plant taxa.

Volicitin

Incubation of young maize plants in the regurgitant of several lepidopteran larvae and a grasshopper was found to induce the release of a blend of terpenoids and indole that is typical for plants with caterpillar damage (Turlings *et al.*, 1993a). Similarly, Potting *et al.* (1995) found that stemborer regurgitant applied to mechanically damaged sites caused an increase in induced odor emissions in maize plants. In both cases, induced plants were more attractive to parasitoids than plants that were not induced.

Volicitin (N-(17-hydroxylinolenoyl)-L-glutamine) was identified by Alborn et al. (1997) as the active substance in the regurgitant of Spodoptera exigua larvae. Low concentrations of this elicitor alone cause the same reaction in maize plants as pure regurgitant and render the plants equally attractive to the parasitoids (Turlings *et al.*, 2000). So far, volicitin has only been shown to be active in maize (Turlings *et al.*, 2002) and does not induce a reaction in, for instance, lima bean (Koch et al., 1999). Studies of the source and biosynthesis of volicitin revealed that this fatty acid derivative is formed in the bucal cavity of the insect (Paré et al., 1998). Linolenic acid, the fatty acid part of volicitin, is ingested with plant material and is then 17-hydroxylated and conjugated with insect-derived glutamine (Paré et al., 1998). Spiteller et al. (2000) showed that bacteria isolated from caterpillar gut contents are able to synthesize volicitin and other *N*-acylglutamine conjugates from externally added precursors. Hence, it is not necessarily the plant or the insect that controls the biosynthesis of volicitin. It remains surprising, however, that the insects "allow" the synthesis of elicitors that trigger plant reactions with such negative consequences for the insect. It is, therefore, expected that these metabolites play an essential role in the insects' physiology. Perhaps they serve as surfactants that facilitate the transport and digestion of food, or they may neutralize the effects of plant toxins (Alborn et al., 2000; Spiteller et al., 2000). Numerous N-acylglutamates that may show elicitor activity (Halitschke et al., 2001) occur in the oral secretions of various insects (Pohnert et al., 1999; Spiteller et al., 2000).

Not surprisingly, some factors in the oral secretions of caterpillars may suppress induced plant defenses (Felton and Eichenseer, 2000). Musser *et al.* (2002) elegantly showed that the enzyme glucose oxidase in the saliva of *Helicoverpa zea* counteracts the induced production of nicotine. The presence of such suppressing agents would explain the fact that the isolated active fraction containing volicitin showed more activity than pure caterpillar regurgitant (Turlings *et al.*, 2000).

Elicitors from plants

Plant hormones with various functions have been identified over the years and an increasing number of studies show that they may also affect volatile emissions

(Farmer, 2001). Even nectar production may be effected by such hormones (Heil et al., 2001). The gaseous hormone ethylene plays an important role in plant development, but also in defense (Mattoo and Suttle, 1991). Upon perception of a pathogen, plants show enhanced ethylene production, which has been shown to be involved in the induction of defense reactions (Boller, 1991). Wild tobacco plants engineered with an Arabidopsis sp. ethylene-insensitive gene do not show typical leaf development arrestment in the presence of leaves of other tobacco plants, demonstrating the importance of ethylene in plant development (Knoester et al., 1998). The ethylene-insensitive plants also showed reduced defense protein synthesis and were susceptible to soil pathogens to which they were normally fully resistant. In connection with the third trophic level, Kahl et al. (2000) found that attack by Manduca caterpillars on wild tobacco plants causes an ethylene burst that suppressed induced nicotine production but stimulated volatile emissions. They argued that the plant "chooses" to employ an indirect defense (the attraction of natural enemies) rather than a direct defense to which the attacker could adapt (Kahl et al., 2000; Winz and Baldwin, 2001). This implies that the plant is capable of identifying its attacker. We discuss this possibility in more detail in the discussion of specificity.

Studies into the effects and mechanisms of induced resistance against pathogens and insects have revealed the role of salicylic acid (SA) and jasmonic acid (JA). These compounds are seen as the key signals for defense gene expression (Reymond and Farmer, 1998). It was generally thought that SA regulates resistance to fungal, bacterial, and viral pathogens (Enyedi et al., 1992; Ryals et al., 1996), whereas JA induces the production of various proteins via the octadecanoid pathway that provides plants with resistance against insects (Broadway et al., 1986; Farmer et al., 1992). However, this distinction between the two pathways is not that clear and pathogens and arthropods may sometimes trigger both (Farmer et al., 1998; Reymond and Farmer, 1998; Walling, 2000). SA and JA, as well as synthetic mimics, can be applied exogenously to plants to induce the same metabolic changes that lead to resistance as induced by pathogens and insects (Ryals et al., 1992; Kessmann et al., 1994; Görlach et al., 1996; Thaler et al., 1996). The two different pathways that the elicitors stimulate can compromise each other (Doherty et al., 1988). Thaler (1999) demonstrated this in a field situation, where tomato plants stimulated with a SA mimic reduced resistance to S. exigua, while JA treatment rendered plants more vulnerable to the bacterial speck pathogen Pseudomonas syringae pv. tomato.

Treatment with SA, JA, or their mimics can also induce the release of volatiles in plants, but the blends produced are somewhat different for the two elicitors (Hopke *et al.*, 1994; Dicke *et al.*, 1993, 1999; Ozawa *et al.*, 2000; Wegener *et al.*, 2001; Rodriguez-Saona *et al.*, 2001). In a rare field experiment (see below), Thaler (1999) showed that treatment of tomato plants with JA increased the parasitism rate of

caterpillars on the plants, which was most likely the result of JA-induced increases in odor emissions. The overall evidence clearly indicates that these inducers of general defense reactions also play a role in volatile signaling.

Arimura *et al.* (2000a) found that several of the induced volatiles themselves can serve as elicitors by triggering gene activation in neighboring leaves that leads to further emissions. In this context, (*Z*)-jasmone was shown to be a potent plant-derived volatile elicitor that triggers the release of (E)- β -ocimene in the bean plant, *Vicia faba* (Birkett *et al.*, 2000). These examples of plant odours inducing plant defense pathways have important implications for plant–plant communication (see below).

Pathogen-derived elicitors

Cellulysin is a fungus-derived enzyme mixture of exo- and endoglucanases that is an extremely potent elicitor of plant volatile biosynthesis through the upregulation of the octadecanoid pathway (Piel et al., 1997). The low-molecular-weight phytotoxin coronatin, which is produced by certain bacteria (Bender *et al.*, 1996; Ichihara et al., 1977), is also a strong elicitor of volatile emissions and mimics specific compounds within the pathway (Weiler et al., 1994; Boland et al., 1995; Schüler et al., 2001). More recently, a mixture containing the ion channel-forming peptide of the peptaibol class (alamethicin), isolated from the plant parasitic fungus Tricoderma viride, has also been implicated in volatile induction via the octadecanoid-signaling pathway (Engelberth et al., 2000, 2001). It should be noted that the induced volatile blends show considerable differences for the different elicitors. In lima bean, alamethicin only induces the production of the two common homoterpenes (3E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT) and (3E,7E)-4,8, 12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene (TMTT), and of methyl salicilate. These compounds are barely induced after treatment with JA or cellulysin, which stimulate the production of other inducible volatiles (Engelberth et al., 2001). Coronatin and its synthetic mimic coronalon induce the production of a complete blend of all these compounds (Schüler et al., 2001). The common elicitation of volatile synthesis by pathogens is likely to affect insect induction if simultaneous infections occur and should be considered in future studies on variability and specificity of plant-provided signals (see below).

The genetic basis for induction

Common elicitors like JA and SA and knowledge about the biochemical pathways that they induce are used to identify the plant genes that are involved in the induction process (Reymond *et al.*, 2000). Various genes that are induced by JA and related compounds have been identified (Reymond and Farmer, 1998; Stinzi *et al.*, 2001) and several of these genes can also be activated by some of the induced

volatiles themselves (Arimura *et al.*, 2000a). However, very little is known about the genes that code for the enzymes involved in the direct synthesis of specific induced volatiles.

One of the main substances induced in maize by volicitin is indole, an intermediate in at least two biosynthetic pathways. Frey *et al.* (2000) identified a new enzyme, indole-3-glycerol phosphate lyase, which converts indole-3-glycerol phosphate to free indole. They found that the corresponding gene *igl* is selectively activated by volicitin. This differs from previously known enzymes like BX1, which catalyzes the conversion of indole-3-glycerol phosphate to indole to form the secondary defense compounds DIBOA (2,4-dihydroxy-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4*H*)one) and DIMBOA (2,4-dihydroxy-7-methoxy-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4*H*)-one), or tryptophan synthase, which produces the amino acid trytophan (Frey *et al.*, 1997). The selective activation of the evolutionarily similar genes *igl* and *bx1* strongly suggests that the plants are capable of selecting which induced defense to use depending on the attacking species.

Volicitin has also been shown to activate a specific maize sesquiterpene cyclase gene, *stc1*, which is also activated in response to caterpillar feeding or regurgitant treatment (Shen *et al.*, 2000). The transcription of *stc1* results in the production of a naphtalene-based sesquiterpenoid, which we have not yet detected from the many maize lines we have studied (e.g., Gouinguené *et al.*, 2001). It would be interesting to see if this volicitin-induced substance shows attractiveness to natural enemies of the caterpillars that induce its production.

One of the terpenoids that is almost always found in induced odor blends of many plants species is the acyclic C_{11} homoterpene DMNT (Boland *et al.*, 1992; Dicke, 1994). Biosynthesis of DMNT proceeds via (*E*)-nerolidol, a sesquiterpene alcohol (Boland and Gäbler, 1989; Donath and Boland, 1994; Degenhardt and Gershenzon, 2000). Degenhardt and Gershenzon (2000) demonstrated the activity of a (*E*)-nerolidol synthase that converts farnesyl bisphosphate, a common precursor of sesquiterpenes, to (3*S*)-(*E*)-nerolidol in maize leaves after the leaves had been damaged by *Spodoptera littoralis* larvae. Activity of (*E*)-nerolidol synthase has also been shown in lima bean and cucumber leaves in response to spider mite feeding on these leaves (Bouwmeester *et al.*, 1999). (*E*)-Nerolidol synthase appears to be specifically committed to the formation of DMNT and could play a key role in determining the attractiveness of herbivore-injured plants to natural enemies (Degenhardt and Gershenzon, 2000).

The apparent selective activation of genes responsible for induced odor production and the committed function of the resulting enzymes may allow for a precise fine tuning between insect-derived elicitors and the responses of the plant. Thus, plants have the potential to adapt their signals specifically to the insect that feeds on a plant. Several studies present evidence for such specificity.

Specificity

If plants respond differentially to different herbivores, producing a distinct blend of volatiles in each case, the signals may provide the natural enemies with specific information on the identity and perhaps even stage of the herbivores present on a plant. Evidence for and against such specificity is accumulating. Dicke (1999) has listed various examples that indicate specificity as well as those that suggest a lack of specificity. For instance, Takabayashi *et al.* (1995) found that only the 1st through the 4th instar larvae of *Pseudaletia separata* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) induced a significant production of volatiles in maize. In accordance, the parasitoid *Cotesia kariyi* is attracted primarily to maize plants eaten by early instar larvae, which are suitable for parasitization (Takabayashi *et al.*, 1995). However, no such specificity was found for the interaction between maize plants, larvae of *S. littoralis* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), and the parasitoid *Microplitis rufiventris*, which also attacks only the early stages of this preferred host (Gouinguené, 2000).

Other examples of specificity show that different herbivore species cause different reactions in a plant. These differences can be in the total quantity of volatiles released (Turlings *et al.*, 1998) or in actual differences in the composition of the odor blend (Turlings *et al.*, 1993a; Du *et al.*, 1998; De Moraes *et al.*, 1998). A very distinct difference occurs in the ratios among typical green leaf volatiles released by plants damaged by either *Spodoptera frugiperda* or *S. exigua* (Turlings *et al.*, 1993a). Maize damaged by *S. frugiperda* emitted far more (*E*)-2-hexenal than maize damaged by *S. exigua*. The parasitoid was able to learn to distinguish between the two types of damage (Turlings *et al.*, 1993a), but it remains unclear whether (*E*)-2-hexenal played a role in this. It should be noted that the release of green leaf volatiles in maize does not appear to be enhanced by elicitors; these volatiles "bleed" instantanuously from damaged sites.

Learning is not required for the aphid parasitoid *Aphidius ervi* to recognize pea plants that are damaged by its specific host, the pea aphid *Acyrthosiphon pisum* (Du *et al.*, 1998; Powell *et al.*, 1998). This parasitoid is far more attracted by pea plants infested by this host than by pea plants infested by a non-host, *Aphis fabae*. Implicated in the specificity of the signal is 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one, a substance that was only detected in the odor profile of plants infested by *A. pisum* (Wadhams *et al.*, 1999); the pure compound was found to be highly attractive to *A. ervi* (Du *et al.*, 1998).

Behavioral and chemical evidence for signal specificity was also obtained by De Moraes *et al.* (1998). They found that *Cardiochiles nigriceps*, a parasitoid that specializes on *Heliothis virescens*, is much more attracted to plants attacked by its host than by plants attacked by the closely related non-host *H. zea*. Volatile collections from maize and tobacco plants that had been subjected to feeding by these

noctuids showed differences in the relative ratios of some of the major compounds. It remains to be determined whether these observed differences allow *C. nigriceps* to recognize plants with hosts.

Two novel studies (Kahl et al., 2000; De Moraes et al., 2001) have reached some spectacular conclusions concerning specific responses to insect feeding. Kahl et al. (2000) showed that wild tobacco, Nicotiana attenuata, does not increase its production of nicotine after it has been damaged by nicotine-tolerant Manduca sexta caterpillars. Any other form of damage is known to result in the accumulation of nicotine in this plant, through stimulation of the JA signal cascade. It was subsequently confirmed that an ethylene burst resulting from M. sexta feeding suppressed nicotine production (Winz and Baldwin, 2001). The authors suggested that the plant chooses not to use its direct defense against this well-adapted adversary but instead mobilizes a strong indirect defense with the release of considerable amounts of volatiles that were shown to attract natural enemies (Kessler and Baldwin, 2001). They also point out that ingested nicotine probably has not much effect on *M. sexta* but may negatively affect its natural enemies. Equally interesting is the finding by De Moraes et al. (2001) that in Nicotiana tabacum the odor emitted after caterpillar feeding is different during the night than during the day. The day-time volatiles are known to attract parasitoids (De Moraes et al., 1998), whereas the night time volatiles repelled female *H. viresens* moths and kept them from laying eggs on the emitting plants (De Moraes et al., 2001). Again the plant appears to choose what and when to emit.

These examples suggest great sophistication in how the plants "choose" to respond to herbivore attack. However, the ability of natural enemies to take advantage of this specificity may be hampered by the great variability that can be observed among different genotypes of a plant species in the release of the major volatile compounds. Possibly, subtle differences in some of the minor compounds play an important role in determining signal specificity. Below we discuss this genotypic variation and its implication for the reliability and specificity of herbivore-induced signals.

Variability

It seems that plant-provided signals are limited in the specific information that they can provide because of the high variability that is found among plant genotypes (Takabayashi *et al.*, 1991b; Loughrin *et al.*, 1995a; Gouinguené *et al.*, 2001, Krips *et al.*, 2001). Variation can also be found between plant parts (Turlings *et al.*, 1993b) and between different growth stages of a plant (Gouinguené, 2000). Moreover, many parasitoids and predators, whether they are generalists or not, can find their hosts or

prey on a variety of plant species and each of these has its own characteristic basic odor blend. Therefore, natural enemies that use plant odors to locate their prey will need to determine which odors are most reliably associated with a certain prey at a certain time.

The variation in odor emissions that can be found among plant species is illustrated in Fig. 2.4. The chromatograms depict the volatile blends released by four crop plant species (maize, cotton, cowpea, and alfalfa) at different times after an attack by the common lepidopteran pest S. littoralis. For this experiment, 2- to 4week-old plants that had been grown in pots in a climate chamber were transplanted into a glass vessel (a cylinder 10 cm in diameter and 45 cm high) the day before odor collections started. Pure humidified air was pumped into each vessel just above soil level, while close to the open top of the vessel most of the air was pulled out through a collection trap. With this technique, which is similar to the one described by Turlings et al. (1998), the volatiles emitted by each plant were collected for periods of 3 h. The volatiles were extracted from the traps, two internal standards were added, and each sample was analyzed on a gas chromatograph coupled to a mass spectrometer. The top chromatograms in Fig. 2.4 show the odor emissions before caterpillar attack. Most plants are virtually odorless when undamaged, but some, like the maize line used here, constitutively release a few substances (e.g., linalool and (E,E)- α -farnesene).

After the first 3 h collection, 20 starved 3-day-old S. littoralis larvae were placed on each plant. A new 3 h collection was started immediately after. As can be seen in the second chromatogram for each plant, there was considerable variation in the types of substance that were released by each plant, but all of them released the highly volatile green leaf odors (e.g., (E)-2-hexenal, (Z)-3-hexenol, and (Z)-3hexenyl acetate). These volatiles are characteristic for fresh damage and may play a common role in the initial attraction of nave natural enemies to damaged plants (Fritzsche Hoballah et al., 2002) as well as in the location of recently damaged sites on a plant. Of the plants tested, cotton was the only one that showed an immediate release of significant amounts of several of terpenoids (e.g., α -pinene, β -pinene, and caryophyllene). These terpenoids are stored in glands located near the surface of cotton leaves and are released when the glands are ruptured (Elzen et al., 1985; Loughrin et al., 1994). In maize, only small amounts of induced terpenoids were collected during the first hours of attack. We had previously shown (Turlings et al., 1998) that these are compounds induced after caterpillar damage and that the reaction in this plant can be observed within hours.

That maize is faster in the production of induced substances than the other plants is clear from the remaining chromatograms. On the second day of the experiment, the maize plants showed a full release of all induced substances, while for the other plants the release takes more time. After 2 days, cotton plants also released induced



 α -farnesene; 12, nerolidol; 13, (*E,E*)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene; 14, α -pinene; 15, β -pinene; 16, β -myrcene; 17, Fig. 2.4. Chromatographic profiles of volatiles emitted by four plant species at different time periods after an attack by Spodoptera *littoralis* larvae. The labeled peaks are: 1, (Z)-3-hexenal; 2, (E)-2-hexenal; 3, (Z)-3-hexenol; 4, (Z)-3-hexenyl acetate; 5, linalool; 6, (E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; 7, indole; 8, (E)- β -caryophyllene; 9, (E)- α -bergamotene; 10, (E)- β -farnesene; 11, (E,E)-D-limonene; 18, (E)- β -ocimene; 19, β -sesquiphellandrene; 20, germacrene D. Two internal standards, n-octane and nonyl acetate, are labeled with **IS1** and **IS2**, respectively.

terpenoids (e.g., (E)- β -ocimene, DMNT, (E)- β -farnesene) alongside the ones that are released constitutively from the glands (see also McCall *et al.*, 1993; Loughrin *et al.*, 1994; Röse *et al.*, 1996). The late reaction in this plant may be a strategy in which it first relies on its stored defenses and then, when an attack continues, switches to an induced defense.

The cowpea and especially alfalfa plants released relatively few substances and in lesser amounts. Parasitoids and predators that can find their victims on all of these plants will have to deal with all this variability and are likely to show differences in their preferences for these odors based on their interactions with certain plant species over evolutionary time. One behavioral characteristic that has been frequently shown for parasitoids, and which may help them to deal with this tremendous variation, is the ability to learn by association. This ability allows parasitoid females to change their responses in accordance with the odor cues that they experience to be most reliably associated with the presence of hosts (Turlings et al., 1993b; Vet et al., 1995). This associative learning is expected to be important for generalist parasitoids, which are unlikely to rely on innate preferences for specific cues but rather need to establish what cues are most reliably associated with the presences of suitable hosts at a given time. This may be different for highly specialized parasitoids such as C. nigriceps, which only attacks H. virescens (De Moraes *et al.*, 1998). It too relies on plant volatiles for host location but apparently has adapted to respond to subtle differences in the plants' responses to damage by different insects. It still has to be determined what these differences are. Studies on the host-locating behavior of the aphid parasitoid A. ervi suggest that it distinguishes between plants that carry host and non-host aphids with the use of a single compound, 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one. So far, this compound has only been found in the odor blend emitted by host-infested plants (Du et al., 1998; Powell et al., 1998). Further studies with additional plant genotypes and plant species will reveal if such specific indicators are indeed provided by the plants.

Benefits

Among others, Faeth (1994), van der Meijden and Klinkhamer (2000), and Hare (2002) have stressed the need for ecological evidence that plants benefit from recruiting natural enemies of herbivores. Van der Meijden and Klinkhamer (2000), who focus on parasitoids, criticized the studies that imply mutualistic interactions between the first and third trophic level. They cite several papers on parasitoids that may not reduce herbivory in their hosts. Indeed, there are examples where plants do not benefit from the action of parasitoids (e.g. Coleman *et al.*, 1999), but the authors overlooked most of the papers that found such a reduction in herbivory after parasitization (see Beckage, 1985). In fact, van Loon *et al.* (2000b) pointed out that all studied solitary parasitoids cause their hosts to feed less, whereas for

gregarious parasitoids this can vary. However, a reduction of herbivory does not necessarily imply a fitness gain for the plant. That plant fitness can indeed increase as a result of parasitization was convincingly demonstrated by Gómez and Zamora (1994). They studied the effects of chalcid parasitoids that attack a seed weevil (*Ceutorhynchus* sp.) on the fitness of a woody crucifer, *Hormathophylla spinosa*. With exclusion experiments in the field, they were able to show that, in the presence of the parasitoids, plants that were attacked by the weevil produced more seeds per fruit than weevil-infested plants without parasitoids. The parasitoids reduced weevil-inflicted seed damage to such an extent that the plants produced almost three times as much seed (Gómez and Zamora, 1994).

For leaf-feeding insects, which have been most studied in the context of induced odors that are attractive to parasitoids, such evidence was missing until recently. In a first study, van Loon *et al.* (2000b) showed that *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants attacked by larvae of *Pieris rapae* (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) produced considerably more seed when the larvae were parasitized by the solitary endoparasitoid *Cotesia rubecula*. We obtained similar results with the maize–*Spodoptera* system and found that plants infested with larvae parasitized by *Cotesia marginiventris* yielded more seed than those attacked by healthy *Spodoptera* larvae (Fritzsche Hoballah and Turlings, 2001). This evidence clearly shows the potential of plant signals indirectly to reduce herbivory and enhance plant fitness, but it remains to be seen what the consequences of these interactions are for wild plants in their natural environment.

Other ecological consequences of induced odor emissions

Attraction or repellence of herbivores by induced plant odors

A limited number of studies have looked at how induced plant volatiles affect the attractiveness of herbivores. It was found that different herbivores are affected differently. Landolt (1993) showed that adult females of the cabbage looper, *Trichoplusia ni* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), may be more attracted to cotton plants that have already been damaged by its larvae, but they prefer to oviposit on healthy plants rather than damaged plants. In the case of cabbage plants, cabbage looper females avoided previously damaged plants altogether (Landolt, 1993). Repellence of plants that emit herbivore-induced volatiles was also observed for the corn-leaf aphid *Rhopalosiphum maidis*. This was demonstrated under laboratory as well as field conditions (Bernasconi *et al.*, 1998).

Interestingly, Lepidoptera and aphids seem to avoid already infested plants, whereas Coleoptera are in general attracted to volatiles emitted by plants that are under attack by conspecifics. This has been shown for scarabaeid (Domek and Johnson, 1988; Harari *et al.*, 1994; Loughrin *et al.*, 1995b) and chrysomelid beetles (Peng and Weiss, 1992; Bolter *et al.*, 1997; Kalberer *et al.*, 2001). The Colorado

potato beetle, a chrysomelid, is more attracted not only to potato plants damaged by conspecifics rather than undamaged plants (Bolter *et al.*, 1997; Landolt *et al.*, 1999) but also to plants treated with insect regurgitant or the synthetic elicitors of odor emissions volicitin and methyl jasmonate (Landolt *et al.*, 1999), as well as to plants exposed to damaging ozone levels (Schutz *et al.*, 1995). These beetles specialize on specific host plants and are well adapted to, and may even exploit, their hosts' chemical defenses. Increases in these defensive chemicals in response to damage or elicitors may not be harmful to these insects. Moreover, beetles may be less vulnerable to natural enemies, especially if they rely on plant-derived chemicals for their defense. They may, therefore, be under less or no pressure to avoid plants that emit attractants for natural enemies. It has been proposed that the beetles visiting already attacked plants increase their chances of finding a suitable mate (Loughrin *et al.*, 1995b; Kalberer *et al.*, 2001) and a mass attack may weaken the plants' chemical defense potential.

For some herbivores, the responses to herbivore-induced plant odors differ under different circumstances. For instance, the spider mite *T. urticae* is more attracted to healthy lima bean leaves than leaves that emit volatiles induced by spider mite infestation (Dicke, 1986; Dicke and Dijkman, 1992). However, Pallini *et al.* (1997) found that the same mite is attracted to cucumber plants that are already infested by conspecifics. In contrast, *T. urticae* avoids the odor of cucumber plants under attack by the western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis*, which is a herbivore but also feeds on spider mites. Bark beetles can cause strong reactions in their host trees, resulting in the emission of a blend of volatile terpenoids that, in combination with aggregation pheromenes, is used in mass attacks. These same substances may attract predators (Byers, 1989) and parasitoids (Sullivan *et al.*, 2000; Pettersson, 2001; Pettersson *et al.*, 2001) to infested trees.

As yet, there is no specific pattern in how induced volatiles affect the attractiveness of plants to herbivores. Obviously, the responses will be correlated with fitness consequences. Insects vulnerable to natural enemies and induced plant toxins are, therefore, expected to avoid induced plants, whereas those that are adapted to plant defenses and/or benefit from aggregating are likely to be attracted. Comparative studies could test such hypotheses.

Plant-plant "communication"

Evidence for interactions among plants mediated by airborne chemicals was first obtained some twenty years ago (Baldwin and Schultz, 1983; Haukioja *et al.*, 1985; Rhoades, 1983, 1985), but skepticism and criticism of methodology and statistical procedures (Fowler and Lawton, 1985) initially prevented general acceptance by biologists. Evidence obtained since then has changed this. Ethylene was shown to activate defense genes (Ecker and Davis, 1987) and, in the seminal paper by Farmer

and Ryan (1990), it was shown that methyl jasmonate induced the synthesis of proteinase inhibitors in tomato plants.

In the spider mite–lima bean system, it has now been shown that mite infestation activates defense genes in the plants and, in addition, several of these genes can also be activated when a lima bean plant is exposed to some of the induced volatiles of neighboring conspecifics (Arimura *et al.*, 2000a,b). Clearly, the genetic basis for plant–plant communication is in place. That it can actually take place in the field has now also been confirmed.

Dolch and Tscharntke (2000) studied the effects of artificial defoliation of alder trees on subsequent herbivory by alder leaf beetle (*Agelastica alni*). After defoliation, herbivory by *A. alni* was significantly lower in the defoliated trees and its neighbors compared with trees distant from the manipulated trees. Laboratory studies confirmed that resistance was induced not only in defoliated alders but also in their undamaged neighbors (Dolch and Tscharntke, 2000). Follow-up work showed that alder leaves respond to herbivory by *A. alni* with the release of ethylene and of a blend of volatile mono-, sesqui-, and homoterpenes. This herbivory also increased the activity of oxidative enzymes and proteinase inhibitors (Tscharntke *et al.*, 2001).

Additional convincing evidence for odor-mediated interactions between plants comes from a field study by Karban *et al.* (2000). They showed, over several years, that clipping sagebrush caused neighboring wild tobacco plants to become more resistant to herbivores. Preventing root contact between the plants did not change this effect, but preventing the exchange of volatiles between the plants by enclosing the clipped shoots in plastic bags did mitigate the effect. The explanation is that the release of methyl jasmonate by the damaged sagebrush caused an increase in phenol oxidase in the tobacco plants, rendering them more toxic to herbivores (Karban *et al.*, 2000). The relevance of such interactions in natural interactions remains to be elucidated for odor emissions resulting from natural herbivory.

In the context of tritrophic interactions, plant–plant communication has been subject to only few studies (Bruin *et al.*, 1995). In one such study, Bruin *et al.* (1992) demonstrated that healthy cotton plants that were exposed to spider mite-induced volatiles from conspecific plants increased in their attractiveness to predatory mites. This increased attraction was probably not simply the result of adsorbence and re-release of these volatiles from the healthy plants, because there is now clear evidence that volatiles from spider mite-infested plants can induce odor releases in neighboring plants (Arimura *et al.*, 2000a).

Inducible nutrition

Although insect predators and parasitoids are carnivorous by definition, they often also feed on plant-derived foods. This vegetarian side to their diet includes various plant substrates, such as nectar, food bodies, and pollen. In addition, they often utilize foods indirectly derived from plants (e.g. honeydew, or pycnial fluid of fungi). In some cases, predators may also feed on plant productive tissue, in which case they have to be classified as potential herbivores. The level in which predators or parasitoids depend on primary consumption varies.

Nutritional requirements of natural enemies

Ants display a broad variation in lifestyles, which is reflected in an equally broad dietary diversity, ranging from species that are primarily predators to species that rely almost entirely on honeydew and extrafloral nectar. Although it has long been held that the majority of ant species are predominantly carnivorous (Hölldobler and Wilson, 1990; Sudd and Franks, 1987), Tobin (1994) argued that the dominant species are largely primary consumers, for which the bulk of their diet consists of plant-derived carbohydrates. An important dichotomy might occur between the nutrition of immature and mature stages. Ants tend to feed protein-rich food preferentially to their larvae, whereas the adults survive mostly on a diet of plant-derived carbohydrates (Haskins and Haskins, 1950; Vinson, 1968). Further differentiation takes place among the adult castes, as it is believed that certain activities such as foraging, killing, and dismembering of prey, as well as the transporting of food items or building material, require most energy (Beattie, 1985). Foraging workers retain the majority of sugar-rich foods, while passing the bulk of protein-rich food to castes remaining in the nest (Markin, 1970; Schneider, 1972). The important role of carbohydrates to ant nutrition was also demonstrated by Porter (1989). He showed that fire ant colonies kept on insect prev only had a retarded growth and reproduction rate in comparison with colonies fed both prey and sugar water. It has been argued that displacement of the native fire ant Solenopsis geminata by the imported fire ant *Solenopsis invicta* is partly based on the latter species' higher efficacy in collecting liquids such as nectar (Tennant and Porter, 1991). The main carbohydrate sources exploited by ants are extrafloral nectar (Fisher et al., 1990) and honeydew, the sugar-rich excretions from sap-feeding insects (Retana et al., 1987). Interestingly, the use of floral nectar appears to be relatively uncommon (Tobin, 1994).

While sugar solutions can be a significant item in the diet of ants, parasitoids are often entirely dependent on carbohydrates as an adult food source (Jervis *et al.*, 1993). The parasitoids' longevity and fecundity are usually subject to energetic constraints (Leatemia *et al.*, 1995; Stapel *et al.* 1997; Wäckers *et al.*, 2001), whereas the parasitoids' behavior can also be strongly affected by their nutritional state (Takasu and Lewis, 1995; Wäckers, 1994). There is strong evidence that the availability of suitable sugar sources can play a key role in parasitoid host dynamics (Krivan and Sirot, 1997; F. L. Wäckers unpublished data).

Plant-provided nutrition and its functions

Plants employ nutritional supplements in a range of mutualistic interactions. Best known are the floral rewards targeted at pollinators (Faegri and van der Pijl, 1971), and the fleshy fruit tissue promoting seed dispersal by vertebrates. Ants as well can play an important role in the dissemination of seeds. Their tendency to harvest seeds and to transport them to their (underground) nests makes ants efficient seed dispersers (Horvitz and Schemske, 1986; Jolivet, 1998). Some plant species stimulate this interaction by producing protein- and lipid-rich seed appendages, the so-called elaiosomes (Milewski and Bond, 1982). Ants collect these seeds preferentially, consume the nutrient-rich elaiosomes and may subsequently discard the hard seeds in underground waste dumps. The scarring of the seeds, the moist and nutrient-rich surroundings, as well as the clustering of seeds, might be factors benefiting germination and seedling growth (Beattie, 1985).

Defense is a further category in which plants employ food rewards to acquire protection by arthropod mutualists. The provision of food sources allows plants to recruit or sustain predators or parasitoids, which, in turn, can provide protection against herbivory. The plant-derived food structures involved in indirect defensive interaction can be divided in two main groups: food bodies and extrafloral nectaries.

Food bodies are protein- and/or lipid-rich epidermal structures, including Beltian bodies, Müllerian bodies and pearl bodies (Rickson, 1980). Food bodies can be harvested by ants for consumption by either larvae or adults. However, in some of the examples that have been described as "food bodies," actual collecting by ants has not yet be observed (Beattie, 1985). Unlike extrafloral nectar, food bodies can serve as an alternative to insect protein. However, it incurs the risk that ants become protein satiated, which may hamper carnivory. This facilitates intimate interactions with ants, as it allows ants to remain on the plant (nesting) during times in which the availability of insect protein is low. Some ant species rely entirely on food bodies of their particular host plant for their protein supply (Carroll and Janzen, 1973). Even though food bodies are collected by some non-mutualists (Letourneau, 1990), the range of potential consumers is not as broad as in the case of the easily accessible and digestible extrafloral nectar (Whitman, 1994). This makes food bodies less vulnerable to consumption by unintended consumers.

Extrafloral nectaries include a wide range of nectar-excreting structures, which are distinguished from their floral counterparts by the fact that they are not involved in pollination. Extrafloral nectar is typically dominated by sucrose and its hexose components glucose and fructose. The fact that these common sugars are acceptable to the majority of insects, combined with the exposed nature of extrafloral nectaries, makes them suitable food sources for a broad range of insects. Compared with floral nectar, extrafloral nectar often has increased fructose and glucose levels (Tanowitz

and Koehler, 1986; Koptur, 1994), as well as a higher overall sugar concentration (Koptur, 1994; Wäckers *et al.*, 2001). These characteristics can be explained by the exposed nature of most extrafloral nectaries, which result in faster microbial breakdown of sucrose and increased evaporation. The high sugar concentration may also serve an ecological function, as high sugar concentrations reduce intake by visiting ants and increase durations of ant visits (Josens *et al.*, 1998). A further benefit of highly concentrated extrafloral nectar may lie in the fact that it prevents nectar use by a range of non-intended visitors (Wäckers *et al.*, 2001). This applies especially to Lepidoptera, whose mouthpart morphologies restrict them to feeding on nectar with relatively low sugar concentrations.

In addition to carbohydrates, extrafloral nectar may contain variable amounts of proteins, amino acids, and lipids (Baker *et al.*, 1978; Smith *et al.*, 1990). The particular amino acid composition can increase the attractiveness of extrafloral nectar as a food source (Lanza, 1988). Nevertheless, extrafloral nectar by itself falls short from providing a well-balanced diet. Low amino acid levels or the absence of certain essential amino acids forces nectar consumers to seek out supplementary protein sources, thereby stimulating predation.

Extrafloral nectar can make a significant contribution to the diet of ant species visiting these food sources. Fisher *et al.* (1990) reported that the six ant species investigated in their study derive between 11 and 48% of their diet from extrafloral nectar. Retana *et al.* (1987) found (extrafloral) nectar to be the main food source for *Camponotus foreli*. Extrafloral nectar can also be extensively used by other predators (Bakker and Klein, 1992; Ruhren and Handel, 1999), as well as parasitoids (Bugg *et al.*, 1989). In some instances, these carnivores, rather than ants, might represent the primary force protecting the plant (Ruhren and Handel, 1999; V. Rico Gray, personal communication).

Constitutive versus induced extrafloral nectar

Constitutive nectar production

Most plants excrete some extrafloral nectar irrespective of whether herbivores are present. Such constitutive nectar production may be synchronized with the most susceptible stages of plant growth (Bentley, 1977) or with the times during which damaging herbivores are usually active (Tilman, 1978). Furthermore, nectar production may coincide with the daily activity pattern of ants (Pascal and Belin-Depoux, 1991). Further synchronization is achieved through the ability of the plants to increase nectar secretion in response to herbivore presence (Koptur, 1989; Wäckers and Wunderlin, 1999; Heil *et al.*, 2001).

In general, constitutive nectar production may provide a degree of prophylactic protection, because it allows plants to accommodate some natural enemies before

herbivores arrive (Wäckers *et al.*, 2001). Prophylactic protection by natural enemies may include, for example, the prevention of herbivore oviposition or removal of herbivore eggs. Maintaining some baseline nectar production in undamaged plants is also likely to assure some level of ant visitation, which expedites the defense response to herbivore attack.

Induction of food provision

In addition to the constitutive production of food supplements, some plants can actively adjust their food provision in response to their biotic environment (Table 2.2). Unlike other defense mechanisms, this induction can be elicited by two distinct mechanisms. Food provision can be raised both by food removal (Risch and Rickson, 1981; Koptur, 1992; Heil *et al.*, 2000) and by tissue damage (Koptur, 1989; Wäckers and Wunderlin, 1999; Wäckers *et al.*, 2001; Heil *et al.*, 2001). These mechanisms represent active responses by the plants to both ant attendance and herbivore feeding. This receptiveness toward the presence of both the second and the third trophic level represents a unique and highly dynamic type of plant response.

In the case of food bodies, the primary mechanism of induction might be food body removal. Risch and Rickson (1981) showed that the production of unicellular food bodies by *Piper cenocladum* is stimulated by the presence of the mutualist ant *Pheidole bicornis*. When ants are present, the plant produces 30 times as many food bodies as control plants. Similar effects had previously been reported for other types of food body (Carroll and Janzen, 1973). In *P. cenocladum*, a clerid beetle exploits this relationship. Their larvae are also able to stimulate food body production in the absence of the ants (Letourneau, 1990).

Extrafloral nectar production can be raised in response to both nectar removal (Koptur, 1992; Heil *et al.*, 2000) and tissue damage. Stephenson (1982), using *Catalpa speciosa*, was the first to investigate the latter mechanism. He diluted the nectar of individual nectaries with water and demonstrated that the diluted nectar collected from sphingid-damaged leaves was richer in solutes compared with nectar collected from undamaged leaves. Smith *et al.* (1990) point out that this does not resolve whether *C. speciosa* actually increased its nectar volume or whether it produced the same volume with an increased solute concentration.

Koptur (1989) reported that mechanical damage of *Vicia sativa* leaves increased the volume of extrafloral nectar production by a factor of 2.5. Heil *et al.* (2001) reported a two- to five-fold increase in volume of nectar secretion in *Macaranga tanarius* following leaf damage. In *Ricinus communis* and *Gossypium herbaceum*, the increase in extrafloral nectar production following *S. littoralis* herbivory was three-fold and ten-fold, respectively (Wäckers *et al.*, 2001). Through parallel high pressure liquid chromatographic analysis of sugars in the collected nectar, the

		5	Quantitative chang	jes	Qualitativ	e changes	
Plant species	Damage type	Nectar volume	Carbohydrates	Amino acids	Carbohydrates	Amino acids	Reference
Catalpa speciosa	Herbivory	ż	Increase in solutes	Increase in solutes	ć	ė	Stephenson, 1982
Ipomoea carnea	Mechanical	No	ż	ż	ż	ż	Koptur, 1989
Inga spp.	Mechanical	No	ż	ż	ż	ż	Koptur, 1989
Vicia sativa	Mechanical	2.5-fold increase ^{a}	ż	ż	ć	ć	Koptur, 1989
Impatiens sultani	Mechanical	No	No	5.6-fold increase	No	No	Smith <i>et al.</i> , 1990
Passiflora spp.	Mechanical	Yes	ż	ż	ż	ż	Swift and Lanza. 1993
Gossypium	Herbivory	10-fold	No	ż	No	ż	Wäckers and
herbaceum	(caterpullar) and mechanical	Increase					Wunderlin, 1999; Wäckers
Macaranga tanarius	Herbivory and mechanical	Yes	ż	ż	ċ	ć	<i>et al.</i> , 2001 Heil <i>et al.</i> , 2000, 2001
Ricinus communis	Herbivory (caterpillar)	2.5-fold increase	No	ż	No	ć	Wäckers <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Vicia faba	Herbivory (aphids)	No	No	ż	No	ć	Engel <i>et al.</i> , 2001

Table 2.2. The effect of leaf damage on extrafloral nectar production

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^{*a*} In one of the four defoliation levels tested.

latter study was the first to demonstrate that the increased nectar secretion actually represents a proportionate increase in carbohydrate secretion.

All these examples focus on the temporal aspect of nectar induction. In addition, extrafloral nectaries are also especially suited for the study of spatial dynamics following induction. This aspect can be easily assessed because of the discrete distribution of nectaries, the possibility of non-destructive sampling, as well as the ease of nectar collection. With respect to the spatial pattern of induction, Wäckers *et al.* (2001) showed that the impact of herbivory on extrafloral nectar induction is primarily localized (i.e., restricted to the damaged leaf). This local increase in nectar production can help in actively guiding ants to the site of attack. In addition, a weaker systemic response was found. This systemic induction was restricted to the younger leaves.

These examples show that several plants possess the ability to raise extrafloral nectar production in response to herbivory, but this induction is not necessarily universal and might vary depending on both plant and herbivore species (Table 2.2). Koptur (1989) could not demonstrate an effect of mechanical defoliation on extrafloral nectar production in *Ipomoea carnea, Inga brenesii* and *Inga punctata.* In *V. faba*, aphid feeding had no effect on the quantity of extrafloral nectar secretion (Engel *et al.*, 2001). A similar lack of induction was found following feeding by *S. littoralis* larvae (F. L. Wäckers, unpublished data).

Specificity of induction: elicitors and mechanisms

The few studies that have addressed the induction of extrafloral nectar production have examined either actual herbivory or mechanical damage. The fact that mechanical damage failed to elicited nectar induction in several plant systems (Koptur, 1989) could be interpreted as indicating that the method of mechanical damage is not a suitable mimic of herbivory.

Induction of nectar secretion could require a herbivory-specific elicitor, similar to the induction of plant volatiles. To investigate this Wäckers and Wunderlin (1999) conducted a set of experiments analogous to those conducted by Turlings *et al.* (1990), in which cotton plants were subjected either to herbivory or to mechanical damage with and without caterpillar regurgitant. In contrast to the mechanism of herbivore-induced volatile emission, the induction of extrafloral nectar secretion was found to be elicited by tissue damage, irrespective of whether this damage was mechanical or caused by actual herbivory. The addition of *S. littoralis* regurgitant had no significant effect on the level, the timing, or the distribution of nectar secretion. These findings indicate that the induction of extrafloral nectar secretion constitutes a general response by the plant to tissue damage, rather than representing a herbivory-specific mechanism.

This rather unspecific induction of nectar secretion in cotton was surprising in light of the fact that the induction of volatile emission by this plant had been demonstrated to be specific. Herbivore-damaged plants show a higher rate of volatile emission compared with mechanically damaged plants (McCall *et al.*, 1994), and herbivore feeding induced *de novo* synthesis of various terpenoids (Paré and Tumlinson, 1997), which resulted in a quantitative as well as a qualitative response to herbivory. The specificity of the plant response is not restricted to the differentiation between mechanical damage and herbivory. The composition of the induced volatile blend also varies between (even closely related) herbivore species (De Moraes *et al.*, 1998).

The difference in induction specificity between the two categories of indirect defense indicates that the induction pathways involved are not entirely identical. It may also reflect differences in the costs and benefits of such specificity (Wäckers and Wunderlin, 1999). The use of volatiles as a signal to recruit natural enemies is dependent on induction, as this communication between plants and the third trophic level breaks down when the volatile signal is not reliably associated with herbivore presence. Extrafloral nectar, by comparison, constitutes a reward in itself rather than serving as a signal to indicate the location of a reward. The response by the third trophic level, as a result, is not dependent on the degree in which nectar secretion correlates with herbivore presence. Therefore, an increase in nectar production but has no negative implications for the efficacy of this indirect defense mechanism.

Working with *M. tanarius*, Heil *et al.* (2001) also reported that mechanical damage is sufficient to induce nectar secretion. They were also able to achieve a similar response through exogenous application of JA to undamaged plants. This fact, combined with the finding that the response in damaged plants could be suppressed by phenidone, an inhibitor of JA synthesis, indicates that the induction of extrafloral nectar production is elicited via the octadecanoid signal cascade (Heil *et al.*, 2001), which is also involved in the production of various inducible plant volatiles (see above).

Costs and benefits

The benefit of extrafloral nectar production to plant fitness has been well established (Bentley, 1977; Inouye and Taylor, 1979; O'Dowd, 1979; Wagner, 1997; Koptur *et al.*, 1998). Whether induction further enhances plant fitness over constitutive nectar production remains an open issue. The fact that both inducible and constitutive nectar production occurs (Table 2.2) indicates that the costs and benefits of nectar induction vary among plants.

It is often believed that the primary benefit of induction is economical, as it restricts defensive investments to those periods in which plants are actually under attack (Rhoades, 1979; Zangerl and Rutledge, 1996). In addition to these economic benefits, induction of extrafloral nectar production may also enhance the effectiveness of natural enemy recruitment, because it results in an accumulation of natural enemies on the site of attack (F. L. Wäckers and F. Frei, unpublished data). However, these benefits of induction come at the price of increased vulnerability during the plant's non-induced state. To understand the pattern in which extrafloral nectar is produced, we need to identify and quantify the particular costs involved in the use of this indirect defense.

Costs of extrafloral nectar production

Pyke (1991) demonstrated a trade-off between floral nectar secretion and seed production in hand-pollinated *Brandfordia nobilis*. Comparable studies on fitness consequences of extrafloral nectar production have yet to be conducted. However, strong indirect evidence for the high cost of extrafloral nectar production is provided by the finding that some plant species have lost extrafloral nectaries in ecosystems void of mutualist ant species. Rickson (1977) was able to track the gradual regression of *Cecropia peltata* extrafloral nectaries from *Azteca* ant-inhabited mainland Central America over a range of Caribbean islands lacking the mutualist ant species. Bentley (1977) described a decline in sepal nectaries of *Bixa orellana* from ant-rich lowlands to higher altitudes where ant populations are scarce.

Direct costs

To the plant, the direct cost of producing extrafloral nectar can be relatively low. O'Dowd (1979) estimated that the energy invested in the lifetime petiolar nectar production of an individual *Ochroma pyramidale* leaf constitutes about 1% of the leaf's energy content. However, since leaf tissue makes up only part of the total plant mass, this figure does not reveal which fraction of the total assimilated energy is diverted to extrafloral nectar. A more accurate way to estimate allocational costs is to express the quantity of excreted sugars as a fraction of the daily production of assimilates. Wäckers *et al.* (2001) calculated that castor (*Ricinus communis*) diverts 0.9% of its daily assimilates to the production of extrafloral nectar. Even though this cost may seem unsubstantial, its cumulative nature could lead to rapid cost increments over the total period of plant growth. In addition to the loss of carbohydrates, nectar secretion also entails a loss of other compounds, in particular amino acids and water. Depending on the growth conditions of the plant, loss of these compounds may represent considerable additional cost factors.

Direct costs also include the costs involved in active nectar sequestration, as well as the cost involved in producing the nectary. This latter cost is probably low, as nectaries are often simple and small, showing little differentiation. In other types of defense, costs relating to biosynthesis, transport, and storage (i.e., autotoxicity) can be considerable (Karban and Baldwin, 1997). However, these costs do not apply in the case of extrafloral nectar as nectaries are usually vascularized and obtain non-toxic primary metabolites directly from the phloem or xylem (Frey-Wyssling, 1955; Beattie, 1985).

Ecological costs

In addition to the direct costs, the production of extrafloral nectar can also entail substantial indirect (ecological) costs. In insect-pollinated plants, extrafloral nectaries can have adverse effects on pollination efficacy. Interference with the pollination process can occur when extrafloral nectaries distract the pollinators away from the floral nectar (Koptur, 1989) or when nectary-attending ants attack flower visitors (F.L. Wäckers personal observation). Considerable ecological costs may arise when extrafloral nectaries are exploited by herbivores. Adult herbivores such as moths are often entirely or partly dependent on sugar solutions as an energy source. Nectar feeding frequently increases herbivore longevity as well as the number and size of matured eggs (Leahy and Andow, 1994; Binder and Robbins, 1996; Romeis and Wäckers, 2000, 2002). When herbivores are attracted or retained by extrafloral nectaries, this can severely increase herbivory levels on nectar-producing plants (Adjei-Maafo and Wilson, 1983; Rogers, 1985; McEwen and Liber, 1995). To reduce these ecological costs, plants may have adapted the extrafloral nectar composition to exclude unintended visitors and to cater selectively to those insects from which they benefit (Wäckers et al., 2001).

How heavily these direct and indirect cost factors weigh on plant fitness depends on the plant species and its growing conditions. Induction of extrafloral nectar production, however, allows plants to minimize almost all of these cost factors simultaneously. In the absence of herbivory, nectar production and its associated costs may be all but eliminated, with the full costs only being assumed during periods of herbivory.

The cost-saving benefit of inducible defense is counterbalanced by the loss of preventative protection (Zangerl and Bazzaz, 1992). Any damage inflicted during the lag period between herbivore attack and the onset of the induced defense should be included in the costs of induction. It is our experience that the induced production of nectar takes about 24 h (Wäckers *et al.*, 2001). In the economic terms of the optimal defense theory, inducible defenses have a selective advantage over constitutive defenses when the savings in defensive costs during herbivore-free periods outweigh the loss in preventative protection during the lag time of induction. In comparison with direct defenses, lag time of indirect defense is extended because of the inherent delay in natural enemy response. In the case of ants responding to extrafloral nectaries, this delay includes the time for ant scouts to encounter the nectary, as well as the time required for nestmate recruitment (Wäckers *et al.*,

2001). This additional lag time likely reduces the economic benefits of induction of indirect defenses relative to those of direct defense. Plants may have developed various strategies to minimize the lag time of indirect defense induction. Maintaining some baseline nectar production in undamaged plants could be such a strategy. By accommodating at least a few natural enemies, the indirect defense can begin to operate quickly once the plant is attacked.

The need for more field data

To demonstrate that a plant trait has a defensive function, it is necessary to show that it has a negative effect on plant antagonists, reduces the damage done to the plants, and increases plant fitness under natural conditions (Hare, 2002). Attraction of natural enemies to herbivore-induced volatiles has mainly been demonstrated in laboratory studies, and the role of these volatiles for interactions in the field is still poorly understood (Sabelis et al., 1999). Initial evidence comes from studies in which caged plants out in a field were found to attract more parasitoids or predators when damaged by herbivores than when undamaged. Drukker et al. (1995) showed that psyllid-infested pear trees attracted more predatory anthocorid bugs than trees without psyllids. In the laboratory, Scutareanu et al. (1997) demonstrated that infested trees release more and different volatiles than uninfested pear trees, and that the production of these volatiles was positively correlated with the density of the psyllids on the trees. Similar results were obtained by Shimoda et al. (1997), who found in a field experiment that the predator Scolothrips takahashii was attracted to cages that contained a lima bean plant infested with spider mites. Spider mite infestation is known to cause lima bean to emit a blend of specific terpenoids and methyl salicylate (Dicke and Sabelis, 1988; Dicke et al., 1990a,b). However, as for the study with the psyllid-infested pear trees, it could not be excluded that the predators were directly attracted by the herbivores on the plants rather than the induced plant odor.

Conclusive field evidence has been obtained with the manipulation of odor emissions of free-standing plants. Thaler (1999), for example, observed an increase in parasitism of *S. exigua* larvae on tomato after the plants had been treated with JA. This treatment induces the octadecanoid pathway, which results in the production of various defense compounds, including volatiles. In an earlier study in a tobacco field, De Moraes *et al.* (1998) had already found that the specialist parasitoid *C. nigriceps* could distinguish between the odor of plants that have been damaged by its specific host *H. virescens* and the odor of plants damaged by a closely related non-host. In a natural, non-agricultural environment, Kessler and Baldwin (2001) supplemented the odor of wild tobacco plants with synthetic volatiles and found that (Z)-3-hexenol, linalool and (Z)- α -bergamotene all increased the predation rate

of *M. sexta* eggs and neonate larvae by a generalist predator. Similar increases of predation were obtained by treating wild tobacco plants with methyl jasmonate (Kessler and Baldwin, 2001). In one of our own studies, we trapped considerably more parasitoids on sticky traps downwind from maize plants treated with caterpillar regurgitant than upwind from these plants or near untreated plants (Bernasconi Ockroy *et al.*, 2001). These studies provide good evidence for a role of induced plant volatiles in host and prey location. What is still missing, however, is field evidence from unmanipulated studies showing that plants actually benefit from these interactions.

The sophisticated equipment required for volatile identification has long confined the topic of herbivore-induced volatiles to the laboratory, but extrafloral nectaries have traditionally been studied in the field. Moreover, the work on extrafloral nectaries has mainly addressed wild plant species within their natural habitat, whereas the study of plant volatiles has long focussed on agricultural crops. As a result, we have a relative wealth of field evidence for the defensive function of extrafloral nectaries.

It has been well established that extrafloral nectaries are visited by a range of predators and parasitoids (Janzen, 1966; Bugg *et al.*, 1989; Koptur, 1992). Ants are by far the most common visitors to extrafloral nectaries. The facts that ants are social, show recruitment behavior, and have a strong tendency to defend lucrative sugar sources against competitors make them especially suitable as defensive agents. Nevertheless, not all ants are equally effective. Their aggressiveness ranges from species that attack large mammals (Bennett and Breed, 1985) to species that are passive or even tend to drop from the nectary when disturbed (O'Dowd, 1979).

In a number of cases, it has been demonstrated that increased levels of nectar production translates to higher levels of ant attendance (Passera *et al.*, 1994). The fact that the most aggressive ants monopolize the most productive nectar sources (Del-Claro and Oliveira, 1993) constitutes a further benefit to high levels of nectar production.

Using exclusion experiments, several studies were able to demonstrate that ants effectively protect the plant against herbivory (O'Dowd and Catchpole, 1983; Wagner, 1997; but see O'Dowd and Catchpole, 1983; Rico-Gray and Thien, 1989). In the same way, reduction of herbivory has recently been demonstrated in mutualisms between extrafloral nectaries and spiders (Ruhren and Handel, 1999), as well as predatory wasps (V. Rico-Gray, personal communication).

A number of studies have provided the ultimate proof for the defensive function of extrafloral nectaries by demonstrating that herbivory reduction by ants actually translates to an increased reproductive fitness of nectar-providing plants (Koptur, 1979; Rico-Gray and Thien, 1989; Oliveira, 1997; Wagner, 1997). In the most extreme cases, unattended plants die as result of herbivory in the absence of ants (Janzen, 1966).

In addition to these empirical studies, there is indirect ecological evidence for the defensive function of extrafloral nectaries. Several studies have reported correlations between the abundance of plants with extrafloral nectaries and ant abundance (Pemberton, 1998; Rico-Gray *et al.*, 1998). Bentley (1977) and Rickson (1977) showed that plants may lose extrafloral nectaries in ecosystems void of mutualist ant species.

Even though this evidence supports the defensive function of extrafloral nectaries, the evidence is largely based on myrmecophilous plants. In other plant species, the benefit of ant attendance is not always as clear (O'Dowd and Catchpole, 1983; Koptur and Lawton, 1988). In these species, the provision of extrafloral nectar may serve to enhance the effectiveness of other plant–predator (Ruhren and Handel, 1999) or plant–parasitoid interactions (Lingren and Lukefahr, 1977; Bugg *et al.*, 1989; Koptur, 1994), or serve other (non-defensive) functions.

Future directions

Although much is known about various intricacies of the active role of plants in tritrophic interactions, it is evident from the above review that numerous questions remain and several areas are virtually unexplored. We identify three areas that appear to us as particularly interesting and they can be expected to receive special attention in future research programs.

Cross-effects

Almost all studies on induced indirect defenses have looked at the effects of an attack by a single herbivore or pathogen species. In a natural situation, however, plants often suffer from simultaneous attacks by multiple adversaries. Many plants carry several herbivores and they can be infested by pathogens at the same time that they are eaten by herbivores. This should again contribute to the variability of reactions that plants exhibit. Plant infestations by multiple species and their cross-effects have been studied for direct defenses (Hatcher, 1995; Agrawal *et al.*, 1999; Rostàs *et al.*, 2003), but not yet in the context of indirect defenses.

Studies on the cross-effects of herbivore and pathogen infestation on direct defenses have yielded results that can be quite different for different systems (Karban and Kuc, 1999; Stout and Bostock, 1999; Rostàs *et al.*, 2003). The cucumber plant has been studied in detail with several pathogens and herbivores (Apriyanto and Potter, 1990; Ajlan and Potter, 1991; Moran, 1998). In most cases, infection with one pathogen caused a systemic resistance to other pathogens but had no

systemic effect on insect herbivores, except for a positive effect on the striped cucumber beetle (Apriyanto and Potter, 1990). Moran (1998) reported that locally, at the site of pathogen infestation, both positive and negative effects on insects may occur. The most extensively studied system is that of *Rumex* spp. attacked by the leaf beetle *Gastrophysa viridula* and the biotrophic rust fungus *Uromyces rumicis*. Hatcher and co-workers (Hatcher *et al.*, 1994a,b, 1995; Hatcher and Paul, 2000) found that fungus infection made *Rumex* plants less preferred for oviposition and consumption by the beetle and, vice versa, that plants subjected to leaf beetle damage were less prone to rust infection. The studies reviewed by Rostàs *et al.* (2003) showed a general tendency of adverse effects of plant antagonists on each other. Very little information is available on how such cross-effects affect tritrophic interactions.

How does pathogen infestation affect odor emissions and does it interfere with emissions induced by insect herbivores? So far, only one study has specifically looked at this cross-effect (Cardoza *et al.*, 2002). It showed that insect feed-ing (beet armyworm, *S. exigua*) and fungus infection (white mold, *Sclerotium rolfsii*) resulted in distinctly different odor blends in peanut plants, whereas plants that were simultaneously infested by these two antagonists released a mix of both blends.

Shiojiri *et al.* (2001, 2002) revealed a fascinating cross-effect resulting from simultaneous feeding by larvae of two lepidopteran species. They showed that *Plutella xylostella* and *P. rapae* caused cabbage plants to release different odor blends that could be distinguished by *Cotesia plutella. Costesia glomerata* females were only attracted by plants damaged by *P. xylostella* and not by those damaged by *P. rapae*, which it cannot parasitize. Interestingly, the parasitoid is also less attracted to plants infested by both herbivores. This could explain why adult *P. xylostella* females show a preference to oviposit on plants that have already been infested by *P. rapae* (Shiojiri *et al.*, 2002),

How can multiple infestations affect each other? JA has typically been assumed to be involved in induced responses to herbivory and SA was assumed to be involved in most responses to pathogen infection. The interactions are not as straightforward and various insects and pathogens differ in the defense genes they activate (Walling, 2000). Ozawa *et al.* (2000) compared the induction of volatiles in lima bean leaves by caterpillars and spider mites with induction with JA and methyl salicylate. Their results suggest that response to caterpillar feeding involves the JA-related signaling pathway and that spider mite feeding triggers both the SA- and JA-related signaling pathways. Dicke *et al.* (1999) had already shown that JA-triggered emissions in lima bean showed some differences from mite-induced emissions and concluded that the induction involves more than just JA. This might indicate that the reaction to spider mite feeding is more similar to the reaction triggered by sucking insects

such as whiteflies and aphids (Walling, 2000). A crucial issue in these types of study is how elicitors are applied (Schmelz *et al.*, 2001); ideally, the treatment should reflect natural conditions. The involvement of various pathways that can be triggered differently by different plant antagonists implies that infestation by multiple organisms will add to the variability in plant responses. In light of the likelihood that plants are subject to attack by more than one adversary, it seems pertinent to study further this so-called cross-talk and its ecological implications.

Exploitation of induced defenses for biological control

The above examples illustrate how plant attributes may contribute to successful prey location by natural enemies and it has been suggested that these attributes may be exploitable in pest control (Bottrell *et al.*, 1998; Lewis *et al.*, 1998; Cortesero *et al.*, 2000). It has been long recognized that efficacy of adult natural enemies as biological agents against insect pests may be increased by supplying them with food sources. Reviews on how plant-provided nutrition may aid in biological control are presented by Hagen (1986), Whitman (1994), Jervis and Kidd (1996), and Cortesero *et al.* (2000). Several examples show that predation and parasitism are higher on plants with extrafloral nectar than on plants without extrafloral nectar (Treacy, *et al.*, 1986; Pemberton and Lee, 1996). Clearly, there is the potential that the production of extrafloral nectar could be optimized to increase the efficiency of biological control agents. Such selection or manipulation programs should also account for the risk that the nectar can be exploited by phytophagous insects (Rogers, 1985; Schuster and Calderon, 1986).

After it was recognized that plant volatiles play an essential role in host location by various parasitoids, it has been suggested that emission of these cues could be manipulated to facilitate prey finding and thus improve biological control (e.g., Nordlund *et al.*, 1988; Dicke *et al.*, 1990a; Turlings and Benrey, 1998; Cortesero *et al.*, 2000). The potential of such an approach remains unexplored, but two of the above mentioned field studies suggest that it is feasible. Thaler's (1999) treatment of tomato plants with JA increased parasitism of an important pest. Equally promising is the increased predation of *M. sexta* eggs and neonate larvae that Kessler and Baldwin (2001) observed after supplementing the odor of wild tobacco plants with synthetic volatiles or by treating wild tobacco plants with methyl jasmonate. The possibilities offered by biotechnology will certainly make it possible to tailor the odor production of crop plants. The challenge will be to determine which odor blends are most effective in attracting the right control agents and again to avoid attracting herbivores at the same time.

Genetic transformation of plants for the purpose of enhancing biological control will still be some time away. These traits, however, could be well suited for the development of methods for the evaluation of other transgenic crops, as discussed in the next section.

Evaluation of transgenic crops

Current controversy over the use of transgenic crops places much emphasis on their potential effects on non-target insects. Various direct and indirect effects on natural enemies that are important in pest control are possible (Schüler *et al.*, 1999a) and a number of studies have addressed these potential effects. Most of these studies have involved *Bt* maize (maize plants producing a *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxin) and have shown little or no negative effect of *Bt* maize (e.g., Orr and Landis, 1997; Pilcher *et al.*, 1997). A notable exception is the reduced development and increased mortality of the predatory lacewing *Chrysoperla carnae* when it consumes *Bt* maize-fed prey (Hilbeck *et al.*, 1998).

We are aware of only one study that has looked at the attractiveness of transgenic plants to natural enemies. Schüler *et al.* (1999b) studied the attractiveness of *Bt* oilseed rape to the parasitoid *Cotesia plutellae*, which attacks the diamondback moth (*P. xylostella*), an important pest. As expected, feeding by the susceptible *P. xylostella* larvae was much reduced, resulting in fewer odors being emitted and a reduced attractiveness to the parasitoids. However, the outcome of this study was favorable in the sense that caterpillar-induced emissions of attractive volatiles was highest when *Bt*-resistant *P. xylostella* larvae were feeding on the plants. The authors argue that this could reduce the development of resistance to transgenic plants in field situations (Schüler *et al.*, 1999b).

For the evaluation of possible pleiotropic effects (side-effects resulting from genes effecting more than one phenotypic trait) in transgenic crops, the analyses of plant-produced odors and exudates (such as extrafloral nectar) may be ideal. Significant changes in biochemical pathways would likely result in alterations in the production of these secondary plant metabolites. Careful analyses of a large range of conventional varieties of a particular crop would also reveal the existing natural variation and would allow for a more realistic comparison than is commonly made. The significance in any observed changes for the interactions between the crop and beneficial insects could then be tested in appropriate bioassays. In such assays, conventional crops that exhibit clear differences in the trait under investigation (e.g., attractiveness to parasitoids or nutritional value of extrafloral nectar) could serve as realistic controls. For maize, we already have ample information on the considerable variation among genotypes in the emissions of volatiles (Gouinguené et al., 2001 and unpublished data). In most cases, it is not to be expected that transgenesis has a major effect on the composition of odor blends or extrafloral nectar, as the production of, for instance, Bt involves entirely different biochemical pathways. Herbicide resistance in maize, however, does involve the shikimate pathway (Shah et al., 1986; Padgette et al., 1994), which is responsible for the production of several aromatic volatiles that are induced after insect attack (Paré and Tumlinson, 1999). It would be interesting to investigate if transgenic plants with herbicide resistance produce more or less of these substances and if this has any consequences for the attraction of parasitoids and predators. It would be equally interesting to study potential changes in the carbohydrate and amino acid composition of plant nectar and honeydew resulting from transgenesis. In all cases, it will be pertinent to compare such changes with the full spectrum of existing variability and to determine the ecological relevance of the changes.

Conclusions

Extrafloral nectar and plant odors play essential roles in the protection of plants from herbivores by natural enemies. Both these traits can be inducible, but plants without insect damage may have nectaries that produce significant amounts of nectar, whereas most undamaged plants are virtually odorless compared with damaged plants. The induction of plant odor emissions is relatively specific for insect feeding, and in some cases plants respond differentially to different herbivores. So far, studies into specificity have not addressed the considerable variation in signals emitted by different plant genotypes. There appears to be a danger of overinterpreting results from experiments conducted with just one insect–plant combination. Not only can different plant genotypes differ considerably in their induced responses (e.g., Gouinguené *et al.*, 2001; Krips *et al.*, 2001), but, in addition, the arthropods that make use of plant signals and food may show variation and rapid genetic changes in their responses (Margolies *et al.*, 1997; Maeda *et al.*, 1999; Dicke *et al.*, 2000). This variation needs to be considered and included in studies on specificity.

Both indirect defenses have now been shown to function in field situations, but further field studies are needed to confirm that plants do indeed benefit from emitting induced odors in natural settings. Moreover, nothing is yet known about the crosseffects of multiple infestations on plant indirect defenses. Also still lacking are appropriate field tests for the evaluation of plant-odor manipulation to enhance the effectiveness of biological control agents. However, various studies have indicated the potential of such approaches. Current biotechnology techniques offer ample opportunities for the manipulation of indirect plant defenses, which should largely facilitate the design of experiments that can help to answer the remaining questions on their function and exploitability.

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