

Asociación Latino Americana de Ecología Química Associação Latino Americana de Ecologia Química Latin American Association of Chemical Ecology



5th Congress of the Latin American Association of Chemical Ecology (ALAEQ)

Book of Abstracts

October 23-26, 2018, Valparaíso, Chile

P-78 Attacked Citrus Plants Release Synomones that Attract an Egg Parasitoid, Cosmocomoidea annulicornis (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae)

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It is known that hymenopteran parasitoids generally use a combination of host kairomones and plant induced synomones to locate their hosts. Cosmocomoidea annulicornis (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae) is an egg parasitoid frequently found attacking eggs masses of Tapajosa rubromarginata (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), a xylem-feeding sharpshooter vector of Xylella fastidiosa, the bacteria that causes Variegated Citrus Chlorosis. In the present study, we evaluated the volatile attraction capacity of citrus plants induced solely by feeding damage of T. rubromarginata, without egg masses, to investigate whether plant volatiles alone could act as cues for host finding. Newly emerged G. annulicornis (< 12 h), naïve females were used for behavioral assays with Y tube olfactometer dual choice tests (n=40). For the induced treatment, Citrus plants (2 years plants, Citrus aurantium var. 75AB, a variety used for grafting lemon trees) were kept in voile fabric bags along with 15 males of T. rubromarginata (to avoid oviposition of females) for 24 h before measurements. Non-induced treatment consisted of healthy citrus plants. Females were offered: (a) Air (control) versus Non-induced plants and (b) Non-induced plants versus Induced plants. Wasps had no preferences between the choices offered in the first experiment (a) (p>0.05), however, when wasps were offered Noninduced plants versus Induced plants, 67.5% parasitoids chose plants attacked by T. rubromarginata. Plant volatiles were isolated and analyzed according to the procedure described by Braccini et al (2015). Non-induced plants produced almost exclusively limonene, whereas induced plants produced a more complex monoterpene mixture.

Based on these results, *T. rubromarginata* feeding damage induces plant synomones, that would be important in *C. annulicornis* host searching behavior.

Braccini, C. L., Vega, A. S., Coll Aráoz, M.V., Teal P. E., Cerrillo, T., Zavala, J. A. & Fernández, P.C. (2015). *J chemecol*, 41(11), 985-996.

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