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## Herbivore-induced volatiles influence moth preference by increasing the $\beta$ -Ocimene emission of neighbouring tea plants

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### Title

Herbivore-induced volatiles influence moth preference by increasing the  $\beta$ -Ocimene emission of neighbouring tea plants

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### Abstract

Herbivore-induced plant volatiles prime neighboring plants to respond more strongly to subsequent attacks. However, the key volatiles that trigger this state and their priming mechanisms remain largely unknown. The tea geometrid *Ectropis obliqua* is one of the most devastating leaffeeding pests of tea plants. Here, plant-plant communication experiments demonstrated that volatiles emitted from tea plants infested by *E. obliqua* larvae triggered neighboring plants to release volatiles that repel *E. obliqua* adult, especially mated females. Volatile analyses revealed that the quantity of eight volatiles increased dramatically when plants were exposed to volatiles emitted by infested tea plants, including (Z)-3-hexenol, linalool,  $\alpha$ -farnesene,  $\beta$ -Ocimene, (E)-4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene (DMNT). The results of behavioral bioassays demonstrated that  $\beta$ -Ocimene strongly repelled mated *E. obliqua* females. Individual volatile compound exposure experiments revealed that (Z)-3-hexenol, linalool,  $\alpha$ -farnesene, and DMNT triggered the emission of  $\beta$ -Ocimene from tea plants. Chemical inhibition experiments demonstrated that the emission of  $\beta$ -Ocimene induced by (Z)-3-hexenol, linalool,  $\alpha$ -farnesene, and DMNT was dependent on  $Ca^{2+}$  and JA signaling. These findings help us to understand how *E. obliqua* moths respond to volatiles emitted from tea plants and provide new insight into volatile-mediated plant-plant interactions. They have potential significance for the development of novel insect and pest control strategies in crops

