

1 **Effect of semiochemical exposure on flight propensity and flight capacity of *Dendroctonus***  
2 ***ponderosae* in laboratory bioassays**

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6 **Abstract**

7 Insect herbivores respond to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by host and non-host  
8 plants or conspecifics, during flight. *Dendroctonus ponderosae* uses chemical cues including  
9 host and non-host VOCs, as well as aggregation pheromones to navigate through the  
10 environment and find a suitable reproductive host. The dispersal flight distance of *D. ponderosae*  
11 from its natal host to its reproductive host varies widely, even within populations of beetles.  
12 Beetle energetics do not entirely explain this flight variation. In this study, we test the effect of  
13 beetle exposure to semiochemical cues before and during flight on subsequent flight propensity  
14 (the likelihood of flight initiation) and flight capacity (the distance and velocity of flight) using  
15 computer-linked flight mills. Exposure to host volatiles before flight interacts with beetle pre-  
16 flight weight to influence subsequent flight capacity of female but not male beetles. Female  
17 beetles flew further and faster following exposure to their aggregation pheromone, *trans*-  
18 verbenol. Flight of female beetles was reduced when they were exposed to volatiles from the  
19 non-host, *Populus tremuloides*, during flight. This study is the first to indicate that  
20 semiochemical cues not only influence beetle orientation during flight, but also flight capacity of  
21 *D. ponderosae*. These results provide baseline information on the effect of environmental cues  
22 on dispersal by flight of *D. ponderosae*.

23 **Key Words:** flight, bark beetle, volatile organic compounds, angiosperm, *Pinus*

24 **Declarations:** Not applicable

25 **Introduction**

26 Dispersal is a key life history component of many plants and animals. Insects disperse for  
27 a variety of reasons, including to find resources, escape competition and find mates (Matthysen

28 2012). Some bark beetles (Curculionidae: Scolytinae) deplete resources in the natal environment  
29 within a single generation (Raffa et al. 2015). For these insects to reproduce, they need to  
30 disperse to find mates and colonize new host trees. Flight is the main mode of dispersal in bark  
31 beetles. Many species exhibit extreme and unexplained interindividual variance in dispersal  
32 distance, ranging from short to long distance flights (Zumr 1992; Jackson et al., 2008).

33 Host tree colonization by bark beetles is mediated through response to plant-produced  
34 chemical signals. Plant volatile organic compounds (VOCs) help bark beetles discriminate  
35 between host and non-host trees and assess host quality (Kohnle 2004). Bark beetles may use  
36 host VOCs for long-range orientation towards a stand of suitable hosts, for short-range  
37 orientation and to discriminate between potential hosts within a stand (Jactel et al. 2001; Kohnle  
38 2004). In the absence of pheromone signals, several species of bark beetle are still attracted to  
39 host trees through host VOC orientation cues alone. Response to host VOCs in the absence of  
40 attractive pheromones, occurs in several species including *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (Erbilgin et  
41 al. 2014), *Monarthrum scutellare* (Noseworthy et al. 2012), *Hylastes ater*, and *Hylurgus*  
42 *ligniperda* (Kerr 2010).

43 After host location, pheromone-based communication initiated by pioneer bark beetles  
44 (those that are the first to reach and successfully enter a tree) dictates the host colonization  
45 process (Wyatt 2014; Raffa et al. 2015). Later-arriving beetles respond to conspecific  
46 aggregation pheromones that act in synergy with host VOCs (Byers et al. 1988). Trap catch of  
47 *Ips typographus* is greater in traps baited with high concentrations of the host compound (–)- $\alpha$ -  
48 pinene in combination with aggregation pheromone than in traps baited with pheromone alone.  
49 Low to intermediate concentrations of (–)- $\alpha$ -pinene, however, do not increase trap catch in  
50 pheromone-baited traps (Erbilgin et al. 2007). In contrast, *Ips pini* is mostly responsive to  
51 intermediate levels of (–)- $\alpha$ -pinene in combination with pheromone cues, and attraction  
52 decreases at low and high (–)- $\alpha$ -pinene concentrations (Erbilgin et al. 2003). Pheromone or host  
53 terpenes alone attract only a small number of *Dendroctonus rufipennis* to baited traps, but a  
54 combination of pheromone and host terpenes enhances attraction over pheromone alone (Ryall et  
55 al. 2013). Individual pheromone components of *Pityogenes chalcographus* attract few beetles to  
56 baited traps, but a blend of pheromone components is attractive and the combination of host  
57 monoterpenes and pheromone components attracts the most beetles (Byers et al. 1988).

58           Bark beetles are also sensitive to VOCs released by non-host trees and use this  
59 information to avoid colonization of unsuitable hosts. Non-host VOCs disrupt attractiveness of  
60 host VOCs and aggregation pheromones. Orientation of *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae* (Huber and  
61 Borden 2001a), *D. ponderosae* (Borden et al. 1998), and *Ips sexdentatus* (Jactel et al. 2001)  
62 toward aggregation pheromone signals is disrupted by the addition of non-host angiosperm  
63 VOCs. Non-host VOCs disrupt orientation to pheromone signals as effectively as anti-  
64 aggregation pheromones, which are signals that terminate the host colonization process (Huber  
65 and Borden 2001a, 2001b; Borden et al. 1998; Campbell and Borden 2006a, 2006b). The number  
66 of attacks by *Tomicus piniperda* within host stands decreases with addition of non-host  
67 angiosperm but not non-host conifer material to the stand (Kohnle 2004). Individual non-host  
68 VOCs are equally repellent as the complete non-host volatile profile to *I. typographus* (Zhang  
69 and Schlyter 2003) and *D. ponderosae* (Borden et al. 1998). Non-host volatiles have an additive  
70 disruptive effect (Jactel et al. 2001).

71           *Dendroctonus ponderosae* is a destructive bark beetle pest of mature pines in Western  
72 North America. Beetles spend most of their life in the sub-cortical environment of the host tree.  
73 Adult beetles undergo an obligatory dispersal phase during which they leave the natal host and  
74 fly in search of new reproductive hosts (Safranyik and Carroll 2006). The host finding behavior  
75 of *D. ponderosae* has been hotly debated in the literature. One hypothesis states that host  
76 selection occurs through a combination of visual orientation and random landing (Carroll and  
77 Safranyik 2003), followed by assessment of host suitability after landing (Pureswaran and  
78 Borden 2003). This hypothesis does not account for in-flight olfactory cues that play a role in  
79 host finding. Pioneer beetles likely orient to host VOCs and away from non-host VOCs to find  
80 suitable host stands. A second hypothesis suggests that once beetles are within a host stand, a  
81 combination of visual and close range, in-flight olfactory cues aid in finding a suitable host  
82 (Campbell and Borden 2006a).

83           In the most recent population outbreak, *D. ponderosae* expanded its native range and  
84 crossed the Rocky Mountains, establishing in North-Central Alberta (Safranyik et al. 2010).  
85 Movement across the Rocky Mountains resulted in colonization of hybrid trees between the  
86 historic host (*Pinus contorta*) and the novel host (*Pinus banksiana*), which aided continued  
87 eastward range expansion (Lusebrink et al. 2013). Range expansion by *D. ponderosae* was

88 facilitated by successful attack of and reproduction within *P. banksiana* hosts (Cullingham et al.  
89 2011), a tree that comprises much of the boreal forest and can potentially act as a pathway for the  
90 beetle across Canada (Safranyik et al. 2010).

91 The dispersal behavior of *D. ponderosae* is an understudied aspect of its ecology (Chen  
92 and Walton 2011). Evidence indicates that semiochemicals, including pheromones, and both host  
93 and non-host VOCs, are exploited by *D. ponderosae* during flight orientation to new hosts  
94 (Borden et al. 1987; Huber and Borden 2001b, Miller et al. 2005; Campbell and Borden 2006b).  
95 Although it is known that host and non-host VOCs stimulate receptors on the antennae of *D.*  
96 *ponderosae* (Borden et al. 1998; Huber et al. 2000; Pureswaran et al. 2004) and help mediate  
97 host colonization (Pitman 1971; Moeck and Simmons 1991; Huber and Borden 2001; Erbilgin et  
98 al. 2014; Erbilgin 2019), it is unclear if these compounds affect flight propensity (the likelihood  
99 of flight initiation) and capacity (the distance and velocity of flight) during dispersal.

100 Here we test the effect of beetle exposure to VOCs from the historic host, *Pinus contorta*;  
101 the naïve host, *Pinus banksiana*; the non-host *Populus tremuloides*; and the female-produced  
102 aggregation pheromone, *trans*-verbenol, on flight propensity and capacity using a laboratory  
103 flight mill bioassay. We first tested the hypothesis that beetle exposure to host VOCs prior to  
104 flight would influence subsequent flight activity. We predicted that beetles would have reduced  
105 flight propensity and capacity following exposure to host tree VOCs, as chemical cues would  
106 indicate suitable hosts in the environment. The second experiment tested the hypothesis that  
107 beetle exposure to host and non-host VOCs during flight would influence beetle flight. We  
108 predicted that flight distance would be the greatest when beetles were exposed to non-host  
109 volatiles that indicate an unsuitable environment for host colonization. The third experiment  
110 tested the hypothesis that beetle flight would be modified by exposure to aggregation pheromone  
111 prior to flight. We predicted that beetles exposed to aggregation pheromone would have  
112 increased flight capacity, as aggregation pheromone indicates high beetle density in nearby trees  
113 during the early stages of host colonization.

## 114 **Methods**

115 *Collection of D. ponderosae*

116 In November 2017, *D. ponderosae* were collected from three sites in Hinton, Alberta, Canada  
117 (53.342167, -117.586800; 53.380417, -117.542683; 53.275450, -117.665267) and two sites in  
118 Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada (54.862517, -115.162517; 54.897367, -115.145133). In Hinton, five  
119 infested lodgepole pine trees were felled at each site. In Slave Lake, two infested lodgepole pine  
120 trees were felled at the first site and seven infested trees were felled at the second site. From the  
121 felled trees, bolts were cut one meter above the ground. Bolts were 50 cm in length and two bolts  
122 were taken from each tree. To reduce desiccation, cut ends of the bolts were sealed with Paraffin  
123 wax (parowax®). Bolts were stored for 2-7 months at 5°C until beetles were needed for  
124 bioassays.

125 Bolts were removed from cold storage when needed and placed in 121 L emergence bins  
126 fitted with a glass jar to collect emerging *D. ponderosae*. Emergence bins were housed at 21°C  
127 under a 16:8 hr light:dark cycle. As *D. ponderosae* emerged from bolts, they were collected  
128 daily, separated by sex, labelled, and placed in 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes with a small strip of  
129 paper (Evenden et al. 2014). *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were stored at 4°C for 2-5 days post  
130 emergence prior to use in the bioassay.

### 131 *Exposure material*

132 Phloem samples used as VOC exposure material were collected from four trees at a single site  
133 for each tree species in July 2017. Phloem samples of *P. contorta*, were obtained from a site near  
134 Grande Prairie, Alberta (54.464163, -118.635325). *Pinus banksiana*, phloem samples were  
135 collected at a site near Lac La Biche, Alberta (55.157817, -112.019033). Phloem samples from  
136 the non-host *P. tremuloides*, were collected at a site just west of Elk Island National Park,  
137 Alberta (53.635808, -112.927324). The bark was peeled away from four live, standing trees at  
138 each site to expose the phloem. Fifty phloem discs were collected from each tree using a 1.27 cm  
139 diameter leather punch. Cut discs were immediately wrapped in aluminum foil (Alcan Plus  
140 Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil, ITM/ART 50125, Canada) and submerged in liquid nitrogen for  
141 transport back to the laboratory where they were stored at -80°C. Release rate of VOCs from  
142 phloem discs are listed in Table 1.

### 143 *Flight bioassay*

144 Prior to use in the flight bioassay, *D. ponderosae* (2-5 days old) were weighed to the nearest 0.01  
145 mg (Mettler Toledo XPE205 Microbalance, Columbus, Ohio). *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were  
146 then randomly separated into two treatment groups, flown and control. Flown *D. ponderosae*  
147 were tethered to a 2 cm-long tether made from 32-gauge (0.02 mm) aluminum wire with a small  
148 loop at the end which was attached to the pronotum of each beetle using Press-Tite Contact  
149 Cement (LePage, Mississauga, Ontario) and placed on flight mills (Fig 1). Control *D.*  
150 *ponderosae* were placed in perforated 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes and kept in the flight mill  
151 room during the flight bioassay. Bioassays were conducted for 23 hr at 23°C with a 16:8 hr light  
152 to dark cycle. The flight assay was initiated 1 hr after the beginning of the photophase. Tethered  
153 beetles were attached to flight mills through insertion of the tether into a small piece of wire  
154 insulation at the distal end of each flight mill arm. The angle between the tether and wire  
155 insulation was ~100°. During the photophase, light was provided by high flicker frequency  
156 fluorescent bulbs (550 lux).

157 As flight propelled the flight mill arm, each rotation was detected by a small magnetic  
158 transmitter. A receiver attached to the mill directed the signal to the computer. The computer  
159 recorded each revolution of the flight mill arm (~94.4 cm) (LabView software, National  
160 Instruments Corporation, Austin, TX). Output included the duration and number of revolutions  
161 for each flight burst throughout the 23 hr bioassay.

162 After the flight bioassay, *D. ponderosae* and tethers were weighed to the nearest 0.01 mg.  
163 *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were stored at -20°C until body length and pronotum width  
164 measurements were taken using a dissecting microscope fitted with a micrometer (15 x  
165 magnification).

#### 166 *Experiment 1: Exposure to host VOCs prior to flight*

167 Experiment 1 tested the hypothesis that *D. ponderosae* pre-exposure to host VOCs before flight  
168 would influence subsequent flight propensity and capacity. *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were  
169 exposed to host VOCs in an apparatus (Fig. 2) (Mori, 2014) providing a constant stream of  
170 humidified air for 3 hr at 23°C in complete darkness prior to flight. Air pushed through a  
171 charcoal filter (Flow Activated Carbon Filter, #ADS-STD-C2F, Analytical Research Systems  
172 Inc., Florida), and was humidified in a 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask filled with 125 ml of distilled  
173 water. The air was channeled into each of three 250 ml flasks at 500 ml·min<sup>-1</sup>. Each flask

174 contained one 1.27 cm<sup>2</sup> piece of phloem of either *P. banksiana* or *P. contorta*, or no phloem, as a  
175 clean air control. The headspace surrounding the phloem was channeled into an exposure  
176 chamber housing ~15 *D. ponderosae* in individual perforated 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes. Air  
177 exiting the apparatus was vented through a fume hood. After the 3 hr exposure, beetles were  
178 weighed and prepared for flight as described above. This experiment was completed on both  
179 sexes (Flown treatment *D. ponderosae*, females: *clean air* n=76, *jack pine phloem* n=77,  
180 *lodgepole pine phloem* n=77; males *clean air* n=84, *jack pine phloem* n=82, *lodgepole pine*  
181 *phloem*=79).

### 182 *Experiment 2: Exposure to trans-verbenol prior to flight*

183 Experiment 2 tested the hypothesis that beetle pre-exposure to the female-produced aggregation  
184 pheromone, *trans-verbenol*, before flight would influence subsequent flight capacity.

185 *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were exposed to *trans-verbenol* for 5 min at 23°C in complete  
186 darkness prior to flight. Pre-exposure to *trans-verbenol* occurred in the apparatus (Fig. 2), as  
187 described previously. In this experiment, only two treatment chambers were used to expose *D.*  
188 *ponderosae* to either *trans-verbenol* or clean air. The *trans-verbenol* source was a single  
189 Mountain Pine Beetle Tree Bait (Contech Enterprises Inc., 300000228, Lot #13014, purchased in  
190 2015) without *exo-brevicomin* that released *trans-verbenol* at ~1 mg·day. The approximate  
191 content of the Mountain Pine Beetle Tree Bait included 90-95% pure *trans-verbenol* with 5-10%  
192 *cis-verbenol* with an optical purity of 50-60% (1*S*)-(-) *Verbenol EE*. Baits contained <0.5%  
193 *Verbenone* and 0.5% *Ethanox 705*, as a stabilizer. Post-exposure, *D. ponderosae* were weighed  
194 and prepared for flight as described above. In this experiment, 236 female *D. ponderosae* were  
195 placed on flight mills (n=118 for both clean air & *trans-verbenol*) and 176 male *D. ponderosae*  
196 were placed on flight mills (n=90 clean air and n=86 for *trans-verbenol*).

### 197 *Experiment 3: Exposure to host and non-host VOCs during flight*

198 Experiment 3 tested the hypothesis that beetle flight would be affected through exposure to host  
199 and non-host volatiles during flight. *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were weighed and prepared for  
200 flight as described above, but without any pre-exposure period. In the flight mill room, shelves  
201 containing flight mills were separated into four sections of equal volume (0.32 m<sup>3</sup>), each  
202 containing four mills. Three of the four open sides of the shelves were sealed with transparent  
203 oven bags (Poly Pan Liners, Elkay Plastics, PTL205285, California) and secured with foil tape

204 (Naushua®, 322 Multi-purpose HVAC foil tape). *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were then attached  
205 to mills, as described above. A 1.27 cm<sup>2</sup> piece of phloem was positioned above each of the four  
206 flight mills in each treated section. Phloem was attached to a paper clip that was tied to a  
207 transparent string (Beadalon SuppleMax™ Monofilament Illusion Cord, 0.25 mm), and  
208 suspended above the mill. Once phloem treatments were applied and *D. ponderosae* were  
209 positioned on the mills, the fourth side was enclosed with a cut oven bag and aluminum foil tape.  
210 This experiment was completed using female (Flown treatment *D. ponderosae*: n=86 beetles  
211 attached to mills for each treatment) and a small number of male (Flown treatment *D.*  
212 *ponderosae* attached to mills: *Aspen* n=46; *Clean* n=44; *Jack* n=42; *Lodgepole* n=48) beetles.

213 The location of each treatment in the flight mill room was randomized between days of  
214 flight. Oven bags were removed from shelves and disposed. The shelves and flight mills were  
215 cleaned with three washes of hexane followed by three washes of acetone. Paperclips securing  
216 phloem and the paper that lined the flight mill shelves were transported to the next similarly  
217 treated shelf to avoid treatment cross contamination.

#### 218 *Chemical analysis of exposure materials*

219 Materials that *D. ponderosae* were exposed to were aerated to determine the release rates of  
220 VOCs from host and non-host phloem discs and the synthetic aggregation pheromone bait. A  
221 250 ml glass jar with a screw top tin lid was modified to aerate materials. Two holes were cut  
222 into the lid of the jar, and brass hose connectors were fitted to the holes and sealed with a  
223 soldering iron. PTFE tubing (Cole-Parmer, 3/16" x 1/4", RK-06605-32) was connected to the jar,  
224 and subsequently connected to the laboratory bench vacuum. A split in the PTFE tubing allowed  
225 for the connection of a Porapak Q tube (6 x 110-mm, 2 sections: 75/150 mg sorbent, 20/40  
226 mesh). A single phloem disc or a single *trans*-verbenol bubble pack was placed into the glass jar,  
227 and the lid was sealed using PTFE Teflon tape with parafilm overtop. The laboratory bench  
228 vacuum was set to pull air at 100 ml·min<sup>-1</sup> for 5 min for the *trans*-verbenol bubble packs and 3 hr  
229 for the phloem discs.

230 Each Porapak Q tube from each aeration sample (n=3) was scored with a glass cutter to  
231 remove the adsorbent beads. The beads from the tube were placed into a 2 ml Axygen microtube  
232 that was placed onto dry ice. The stock solution of the extraction solvent contained 500 ml DCM  
233 (methyl chloride) (Fisher Scientific, HPLC Grade) with 5 µl of heptyl acetate (Fisher Scientific,



234 GC Grade) as an internal standard. One ml of the stock solution was dispensed (0.5-5 ml  
235 dispenser, Dispensette Organic) into each 2 ml microtube containing adsorbent material from  
236 each sample. Microtubes containing adsorbent material and stock solution were vortexed for 30  
237 sec at maximum speed (3000) (VWR Pulsing Vortex Mixer) and then placed into a sonicator  
238 (Symphony) for 10 min. Microtubes were centrifuged for 15 min at 0°C at 16100 rcf (Eppendorf  
239 AG 2231 Hamburg, Germany).

240 To filter the extract, the solvent solution was pipetted into a modified pipette (Fisher,  
241 borosilicate glass, 13-67-20A) containing a small amount of glass wool to act as a filter. The  
242 filtered extract was collected in 2 ml Autosampler vials (Fisher, 9 mm/Amber-ID, 03-391-9) that  
243 were capped (Autosampler caps, 9 mm screw thread/PTFE/Silicone, 03-391-14) and stored at -  
244 40°C until chemical analyses.

245 Quantification of monoterpenes (3-carene,  $\alpha$ -pinene and myrcene) released from phloem  
246 discs of the two pine species, *P. tremuloides* volatiles (1-hexanol, benzyl alcohol and nonanol)  
247 and the aggregation pheromone, *trans*-verbenol, were performed using a Gas  
248 Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS, Agilent 7890A/5975C, Agilent Tech., Santa Clara,  
249 CA, USA) with a DB-5MS UI (I.D. 0.25 mm, length 30 m) column. Helium was the carrier gas  
250 with a flow rate of 1 ml·min<sup>-1</sup>. Two  $\mu$ l samples of each extract (N=12) were injected in a Pulsed  
251 Splitless mode. The oven temperature started at 40°C and held for 2 min, it was then increased to  
252 70°C by 3°C·min<sup>-1</sup>, increased to 200°C by 10°C·min<sup>-1</sup>, and then increased to 250°C by  
253 25°C·min<sup>-1</sup> and held for 1 min. The data for the monoterpenes and *trans*-verbenol was acquired  
254 using SCAN mode. The data for the *P. tremuloides* volatiles was acquired using SIM mode. The  
255 quantified compounds were based on standards: monoterpenes (Sigma, 3-carene >98.5% purity,  
256  $\alpha$ -pinene >98.5% purity and myrcene >94% purity), *P. tremuloides* volatiles (Alpha-Scents,  
257 >97% purity), *trans*-verbenol (Contech Enterprises Inc., >99% purity).

258 To quantify the monoterpenes  $\beta$ -phellandrene and limonene, a HP-CHIRAL-20 $\beta$  column  
259 was installed. Helium was the carrier gas with a flow rate of 1 ml·min<sup>-1</sup>. Two  $\mu$ l samples of each  
260 extract (N=12) were injected in Pulsed Splitless mode. The oven temperature started from 40°C  
261 and held for 1 min, increased to 100°C by 10°C·min<sup>-1</sup> and held for 2 min, increased to 130°C by  
262 2°C·min<sup>-1</sup>, and then increased to 250°C by 25°C·min<sup>-1</sup> and held for 3 min. The data was acquired

263 using SIM mode. The quantified compounds were based on standards from Sigma ( $\beta$ -  
264 phellandrene >77.1% purity and limonene >99% purity).

## 265 *Data analyses*

266 *Dendroctonus ponderosae* were considered to have initiated flight when flight mill recording  
267 indicated the individual completed more than three rotations. Flight distance was calculated by  
268 multiplying the total rotation count over the 23 hr assay by 0.944 m. Velocity was calculated by  
269 dividing the total distance by the total duration of flight (flight mills stop recording time when  
270 the sensor stops being tripped).

271 All data analyses were performed in R version 3.4.1 (R Core Team, 2018). Lmer models  
272 were created with the lme4 package (Bates et al. 2015). Comparison of fixed factors was  
273 conducted using the Anova function in the car package which completes a Type II Wald  $\chi^2$  test as  
274 the test statistic (Fox and Weisberg 2011). Post-hoc comparison between treatments was made  
275 using pairwise comparisons with the emmeans package (Speed and Milliken 1980).

276 For all experiments, data were tested for normality and heteroscedasticity using visual  
277 techniques and the Shapiro-Wilks test. When assumptions were not met, the data was  
278 transformed for lmer models. For female data, distance flown was cube-root transformed in  
279 Experiments 1 and 3, and quarter-root transformed in Experiment 2. For male data, distance  
280 flown was cube-root transformed in all experiments. Velocity data from male *D. ponderosae*  
281 were quarter-root transformed in Experiments 1 and 2, and square-root transformed in  
282 Experiment 3. To avoid confounding factors, body measurements (pre-flight weight, body length  
283 and pronotum width) used as explanatory variables were analyzed in separate models. For each  
284 model, exposure treatment and a single body measurement (pre-flight weight, body length or  
285 pronotum width) were used as the explanatory variables. Natal host and individual flight mill  
286 were used as random factors in all models (Supplementary Material Tables 1-6).

287 Due to the high variation in *D. ponderosae* flight, as well as the high variation in VOCs  
288 released by the phloem and pheromone sources  $\alpha = 0.06$ .

## 289 **Results**

290 *Experiment 1: Exposure to host VOCs prior to flight*

291 Of the 230 female *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 1, 164 initiated flight. Pre-  
292 exposure to host VOCs before flight did not influence flight propensity of female *D. ponderosae*  
293 ( $\chi^2=0.009$ ,  $p=0.9957$ ). An interaction between pre-flight weight and pre-flight VOC pre-exposure  
294 treatment affected female flight distance ( $\chi^2=9.5565$ ,  $p=0.0588$ ). When exposed to clean air  
295 before flight, heavier female *D. ponderosae* flew further than lighter female *D. ponderosae*  
296 (Fig.3). There was no relationship between pre-flight weight and distance flown, however, in  
297 females exposed to host VOCs of either *P. banksiana* or *P. contorta* phloem before flight (Fig.  
298 3). Heavier beetles flew at higher velocities than lighter *D. ponderosae* ( $\chi^2=16.6214$ ,  
299  $p=4.563 \times 10^{-5}$ ). The other two measures of body size, pronotum width and body length, did not  
300 significantly affect flight distance or velocity (Supplementary Table 1).

301 Of the 248 male *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 1, 166 initiated  
302 flight. Flight propensity of male *D. ponderosae* did not differ with VOC pre-exposure treatments  
303 ( $\chi^2=0.2916$ ,  $p=0.8643$ ). Only body size (pre-flight weight, body length and pronotum width)  
304 impacted flight parameters of male *D. ponderosae* (Fig. 4). Larger males flew further and faster  
305 than smaller males (Supplementary Table 2).

#### 306 *Experiment 2: Exposure to trans-verbenol prior to flight*

307 Of the 236 female *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 2, 172 initiated flight.  
308 Female *D. ponderosae* showed no difference in flight propensity as a result of exposure to *trans*-  
309 verbenol before flight ( $\chi^2=0.343$ ,  $p=0.558$ ). Heavier females flew further than lighter females  
310 (PFW:  $\chi^2=10.6607$ ,  $p=0.0011$ ), however, there was no relationship between flight distance and  
311 pre-flight exposure treatment in the model with beetle weight as the body measurement factor  
312 ( $\chi^2=2.5565$ ,  $p=0.0865$ ). There was no relationship between flight distance and female pronotum  
313 width or body length, however, pre-flight exposure treatment did significantly affect flight  
314 distance in models in which pronotum width and body length were the body measurement  
315 factors. *Dendroctonus ponderosae* pre-exposed to *trans*-verbenol flew further than *D.*  
316 *ponderosae* maintained in clean air before flight (Fig. 5a, Pronotum width model:  $\chi^2=5.6578$ ,  
317  $p=0.0173$ ; Body length model:  $\chi^2=5.8636$ ,  $p=0.0553$ ). Body size measurements and pre-flight  
318 exposure treatment affected flight velocity. Heavy or large *D. ponderosae* flew faster than light  
319 or small *D. ponderosae*. Females pre-exposed to *trans*-verbenol flew faster than those

320 maintained in clean air flight (Fig. 5b, Pre-flight weight model: EXP:  $\chi^2=3.6461$ ,  $p=0.0562$ ,  
321 Supplementary Table 3).

322 Of the 176 male *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 2, 127 initiated  
323 flight. Male *D. ponderosae* showed no difference in flight propensity as a result of exposure to  
324 *trans*-verbenol before flight ( $\chi^2=0.126$ , 0.722). Pre-flight weight, pronotum width and body  
325 length did not influence flight distance or velocity. Pre-flight exposure to clean air or *trans*-  
326 verbenol did not influence flight distance or velocity (Supplementary Table 4).

### 327 *Experiment 3: Exposure to host and non-host VOCs during flight*

328 Of the 345 female *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 3, 252 initiated flight.  
329 Exposure to VOCs during flight did not influence the flight propensity of female *D. ponderosae*  
330 ( $\chi^2=0.009$ ,  $p=0.9998$ ). Flight distance, however, was affected by pre-flight weight, pronotum  
331 width, body length and exposure treatment during flight (Supplementary Table 5). *Dendroctonus*  
332 *ponderosae* exposed volatiles released from *P. tremuloides* phloem flew shorter distances as  
333 compared to the clean air control treatment (Fig. 6,  $t=2.989$ ,  $p=0.0162$ ). Flight velocity was  
334 affected by pre-flight weight, pronotum width and body length, but not exposure treatment  
335 (Supplementary Table 5).

336 Of the 180 male *D. ponderosae* placed on flight mills in Experiment 3, 115 initiated  
337 flight. Exposure to VOCs influenced the propensity to fly. Male *D. ponderosae* exposed to jack  
338 pine during the flight bioassay showed an increased propensity to initiate flight compared to the  
339 clean air control ( $\chi^2=14.0733$ ,  $p=0.0008$ ). Exposure of males to VOCs during flight did not  
340 influence flight distance or velocity (Pre-flight weight model:  $\chi^2=6.1699$   $p=0.1036$ ). Pre-flight  
341 weight, pronotum width and body length all influenced flight distance and velocity  
342 (Supplementary Table 6). It should be noted that due to limitations collecting male *D.*  
343 *ponderosae* these results are based on small sample sizes, increasing the chance of a Type II  
344 error.

### 345 *Chemical analysis of exposure material*

346 Quantities of antennally active volatile organic compounds released from *P. banksiana* and *P.*  
347 *contorta* phloem discs were variable (Table 1). *Populus tremuloides* released an average of  $0.17$   
348  $\pm 0.04 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  of 1-hexanol and  $0.52 \pm 0.10 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  of nonanol. Benzyl alcohol was not

349 released in detectable levels from *P. tremuloides* phloem. The *trans*-verbenol bubble pack used  
350 in Experiment 2 released  $2.44 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  during the 5 min aeration period.

## 351 **Discussion**

352 *Dendroctonus ponderosae* perceives and responds to a variety of compounds emitted by host  
353 trees, including but not limited to  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -phellandrene, limonene, 3-carene and myrcene  
354 (Whitehead 1986; Pureswaran et al. 2004). During flight, *D. ponderosae* exhibits positive  
355 orientation to host VOCs (Moeck and Simmons 1991), and experiences greater aggregation on  
356 trees with high levels of  $\alpha$ -pinene (Burke and Carroll 2016). Results from the current study  
357 indicate that in addition to oriented flight, host VOCs also influence the flight capacity of *D.*  
358 *ponderosae*.

359 When exposed to clean air prior to flight, heavier female *D. ponderosae* flew further than  
360 lighter *D. ponderosae*. This relationship is similar to that seen in other *D. ponderosae* flight mill  
361 studies (Evenden et al. 2014; Wijerathna and Evenden 2019). Interestingly, this relationship does  
362 not exist when female *D. ponderosae* are exposed to either *P. banksiana* or *P. contorta* phloem  
363 VOCs prior to flight. Large *D. ponderosae* may undergo shorter flights in the presence of  
364 potential hosts. Exposure to host VOCs could prime female *D. ponderosae* for host colonization  
365 instead of flight behaviors. Undergoing short dispersal flights is a safe strategy, as female *D.*  
366 *ponderosae* arrive at the host with high lipid stores (Chubaty et al. 2014) or expend less energy  
367 during flight (Jones et al. 2020), and are more likely to successfully colonize the host (Latty and  
368 Reid 2009, 2010).

369 Pre-exposure to host VOCs and exposure during flight does not influence male *D.*  
370 *ponderosae* flight capacity. Male *D. ponderosae* had similar flight capacity after pre-exposure to  
371 clean air, *P. banksiana* or *P. contorta* phloem VOCs prior to flight. Further, flight capacity of  
372 males did not vary with exposure treatment during flight. The difference in effect of exposure to  
373 host cues on the flight of male and female beetles could be due to the different roles each sex  
374 takes in the host colonization process. As pioneer female *D. ponderosae* need to initiate a mass  
375 attack, females may use host VOCs in long-range orientation to a stand and in close-range  
376 orientation to suitable host trees (Jactel et al. 2001; Kohnle 2004). Male *D. ponderosae* do not  
377 initiate colonization but join a mass attack in progress and likely rely more heavily on

378 aggregation pheromones than host VOCs for orientation during flight. Differential response to  
379 VOCs by male and female *D. ponderosae* also occurs in *Monarthrum scutellare* (Coleoptera:  
380 Scolytinae). Traps baited with host VOCs, capture more male than female *M. scutellare*  
381 suggesting that the pioneering males are more receptive to host VOCs than females (Noseworthy  
382 et al. 2012). In the current study, flight of male *D. ponderosae* was not affected by pre-exposure  
383 to *trans*-verbenol prior to flight. The lack of effect of body size on flight of male *D. ponderosae*  
384 exposed to clean air did not support previous findings on flight (Evenden et al. 2014; Wijerathna  
385 and Evenden 2019). There was no relationship between flight capacity and pre-flight weight or  
386 other body measurements on flight capacity of male *D. ponderosae* exposed to either clean air or  
387 *trans*-verbenol before flight.

388 Pre-exposure to a synthetic copy of the female-produced aggregation pheromone, *trans*-  
389 verbenol, prior to flight increases flight speed and enhances the distance flown by female *D.*  
390 *ponderosae*. Female *D. ponderosae* pre-exposed to *trans*-verbenol prior to flight fly an average  
391 of  $7.32 \pm 0.72$  km compared to female *D. ponderosae* maintained in clean air before flight that  
392 fly an average of  $5.56 \pm 0.64$  km. *trans*-Verbenol is highly attractive to *D. ponderosae*, as it  
393 mediates the initial mass attack in the host colonization process (Miller et al. 2005). Attraction of  
394 *Ips grandicollis* to aggregation pheromone, ipsendiol, is greater than to the host monoterpene ( $\alpha$ -  
395 pinene). Similarly, *Scolytus multistriatus* aggregate to a greater degree in response to  
396 aggregation pheromones than host volatiles alone (Lee et al. 2010). Increased flight distance and  
397 velocity could be a behavioral indication of a stronger effect of pheromone exposure on the  
398 beetle nervous system processing compared to the host VOCs. Exposure to aggregation  
399 pheromone post-emergence but prior to flight could indicate to *D. ponderosae* that they are  
400 already in a densely populated area and that further flight is needed to avoid offspring  
401 competition.

402 Female *D. ponderosae* fly shorter distances when exposed to the non-host *P. tremuloides*  
403 volatiles during flight than in clean air. On average, females exposed to non-host volatiles fly  
404  $4.64 \pm 0.70$  km during the 23 h flight bioassay compared to  $6.80 \pm 0.69$  km in clean air. From  
405 other work, it is clear that *D. ponderosae* exhibits avoidance behaviour to non-host VOCs (Huber  
406 et al. 2021). In the current study, we were not testing for a behavioral response to the  
407 semiochemicals, as orientation and avoidance are not measured using flight mill bioassays. It is

408 unclear why females completed shorter flights when exposed to *P. tremuloides* volatiles, as  
409 longer flights would be expected for *D. ponderosae* to move beyond non-host stands. Under  
410 different experimental conditions of mixed exposure to host and non-host VOCs, we might  
411 expect to see different flight responses. If decreased flight occurs in a natural setting of non-host  
412 VOC exposure, it could have implications for *D. ponderosae* range expansion into the boreal  
413 forest. With this range expansion, *D. ponderosae* will encounter more *P. tremuloides* stands  
414 intermixed with stands of *P. banksiana* in the central boreal forest (Cavard et al. 2010). Non-host  
415 VOCs from *P. tremuloides* elicit antennal activity (Huber et al. 2000) and behavioral repellence  
416 in bark beetles (Borden et al. 1998; Huber and Borden 2001a, 2001b). Exposure to non-host  
417 VOCs from *P. tremuloides* appears to decrease flight capacity or alter the motivation for *D.*  
418 *ponderosae* to fly. Non-host VOCs also interrupt oriented flight in bark beetles. For example,  
419 non-host VOCs applied to the host trees of *D. pseudotsugae* and *D. ponderosae* cause beetles to  
420 avoid normally attractive hosts (Borden et al. 1998; Huber and Borden 2001a, 2001b). Non-host  
421 volatiles are as repellent to *D. ponderosae* as the anti-aggregation pheromone, verbenone  
422 (Borden et al. 1998). Similarly, non-host angiosperm material positioned in host stands decreases  
423 the number of host attacks by *I. typographus* within the stand (Kohnle 2004). Future exploration  
424 on how non-host volatiles influence *D. ponderosae* flight could help to protect entire stands of  
425 host trees (Huber et al. 2020).

426 Exposure to host and non-host VOCs during flight is unlikely to affect flight of male *D.*  
427 *ponderosae* because males do not initiate the host colonization process. Sex differences in  
428 response to non-host cues occurs in other bark beetles. For example, traps that both visually and  
429 chemically resemble non-hosts repel female *D. pseudotsugae* and *D. ponderosae* in an additive  
430 manner and result in reduced trap capture (Campbell and Borden 2006a, 2006b). Male *D.*  
431 *pseudotsugae* and *D. ponderosae* respond negatively only to the visual non-host cue, and  
432 addition of non-host VOCs to the trap does not further affect trap capture (Campbell and Borden  
433 2006b). Similarly, non-host volatiles interrupt oriented flight by pioneering male *I. typographus*,  
434 to a greater extent than females (Zhang and Schlyter 2003). The effect of non-host VOCs or  
435 visual cues likely impacts the pioneering sex to a greater extent, as colonization costs are higher  
436 for pioneers (Zhang and Schlyter 2003).

437 Here we provide evidence that exposure to host VOCs, non-host VOCs and aggregation  
438 pheromones differentially influence *D. ponderosae* flight capacity. Host VOCs interrupt the  
439 positive influence of body size on flight distance in female *D. ponderosae*. Pre-exposure to host  
440 VOCs, however, does not influence male *D. ponderosae* flight capacity. This differential effect  
441 of semiochemical cues on flight between the sexes could be due to variable importance of these  
442 cues between the sexes during host colonization. Exposure to the volatiles of phloem of the non-  
443 host, *P. tremuloides*, during flight decreases the distance flown by female *D. ponderosae*,  
444 indicating that these repellent compounds not only influence oriented flight but also dispersal in  
445 general. Pre-exposure to *trans*-verbenol, on the other hand, increases flight capacity of *D.*  
446 *ponderosae* females. This is the first study to assess the impact of pheromone, host and non-host  
447 VOCs on flight capacity in bark beetles. These findings add to previous work on the attractant  
448 and repellent response during oriented flight to these VOCs (Huber and Borden 2001b; Miller et  
449 al. 2005). Further understanding the impact of semiochemicals on flight dispersal of *D.*  
450 *ponderosae* will add to our understanding of beetle movement in the environment.

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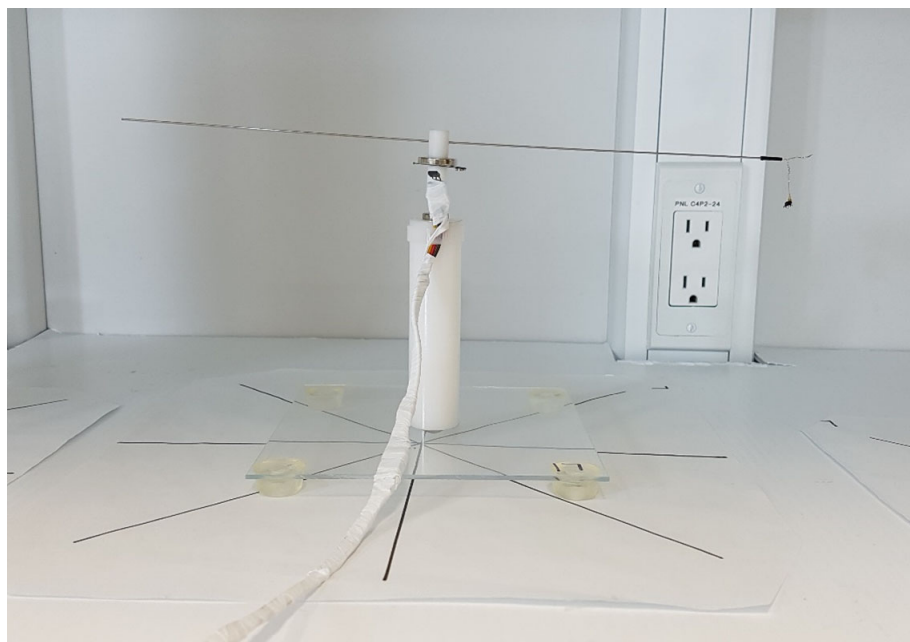
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## 613 **Figures & Tables**

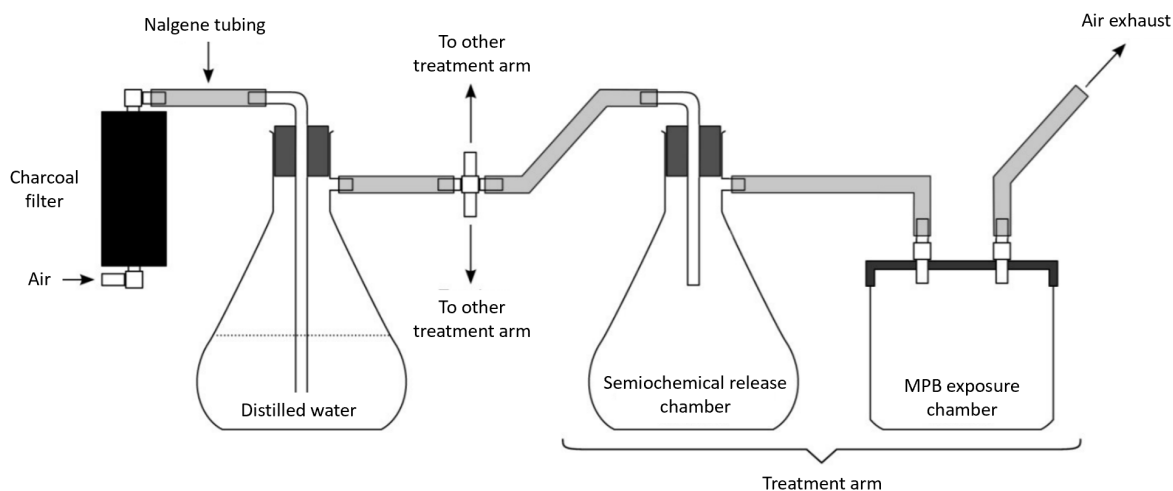


614

615 **Fig 1** Computer-linked flight mill. A beetle is tethered using a small diameter wire and contact  
616 cement. The beetle is then placed on the distal end of the flight mill. The flight mill arm is slightly

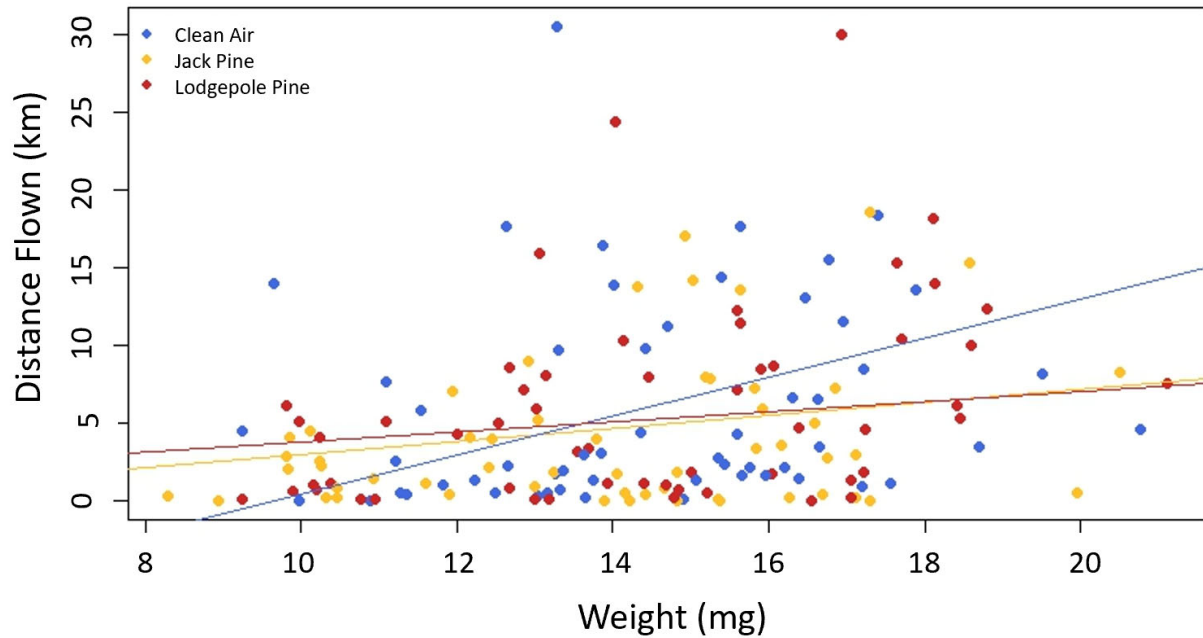
617 raised off of the centre column using the propelling force of two similarly charged magnets. As  
618 the beetle flies, the arm of the flight mill is propelled in a circular motion. One full rotation of the  
619 flight mill is  $\sim 94.4$  cm. With every full rotation, a magnetic sensor is tripped. This sensor sends  
620 flight distance and duration to the computer.

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623 **Fig 2** Apparatus and diagram modified from Mori (2014). The apparatus sits in a fume hood,  
624 connected to the air input, air is pushed through a charcoal filter, and humidified in a 250 ml  
625 Erlenmeyer flask filled with 125 ml of distilled water. From the humidifying flask, air is  
626 channeled into three directions, with equal airflow at  $500 \text{ ml} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ . Air in each arm enters a 250  
627 ml Erlenmeyer flask containing the exposure material. The headspace air of these flasks  
628 containing VOCs is channeled into an exposure chamber. The exposure chamber contained  
629 beetles in perforated 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes. Air from the exposure chambers is directed  
630 to the fume hood exhaust vent.

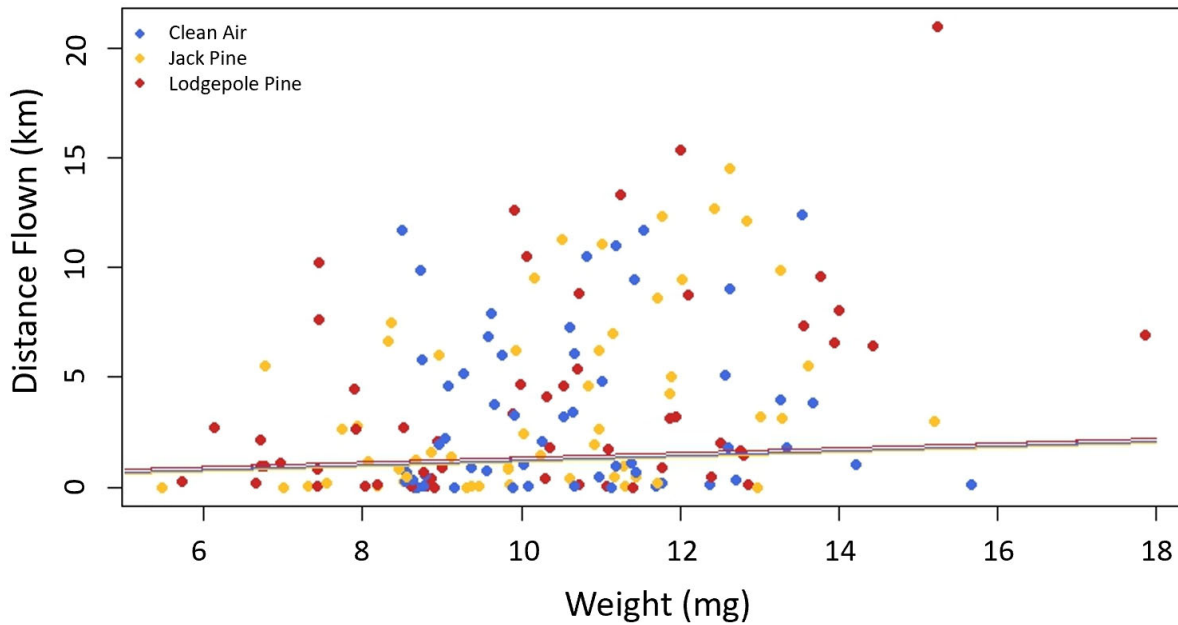


631

632 **Fig 3** Interaction of pre-exposure treatment prior to flight and pre-flight weight for flight distance  
 633 of female beetles ( $\chi^2=9.5565$ ,  $p=0.0588$ ). Flight distance for beetles pre-exposed to *Pinus*  
 634 *banksiana* (jack pine) or *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine) phloem prior to flight did not vary with  
 635 pre-flight weight. Flight distance for beetles pre-exposed to clean air prior to flight increased  
 636 with pre-flight weight.

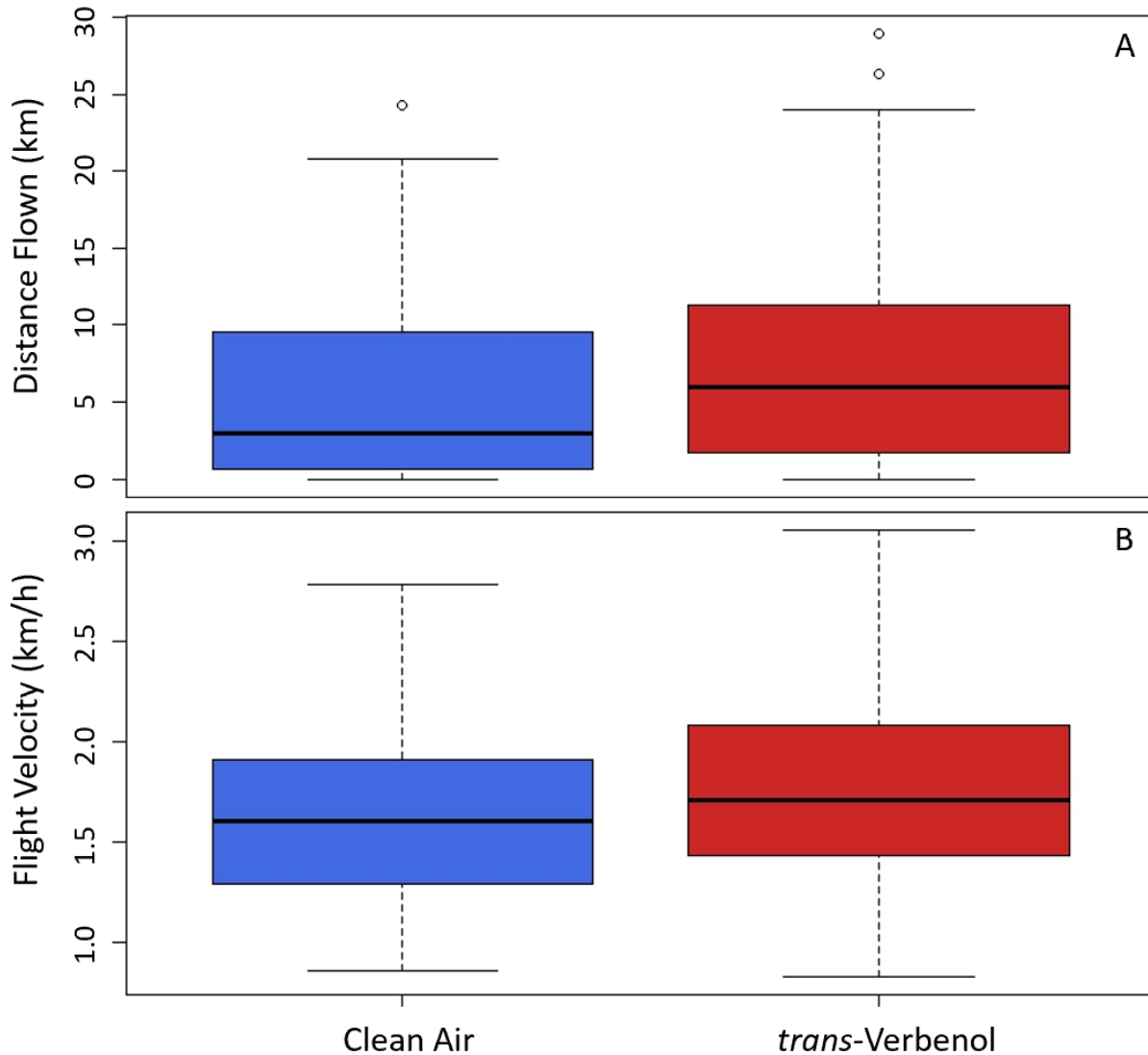
637





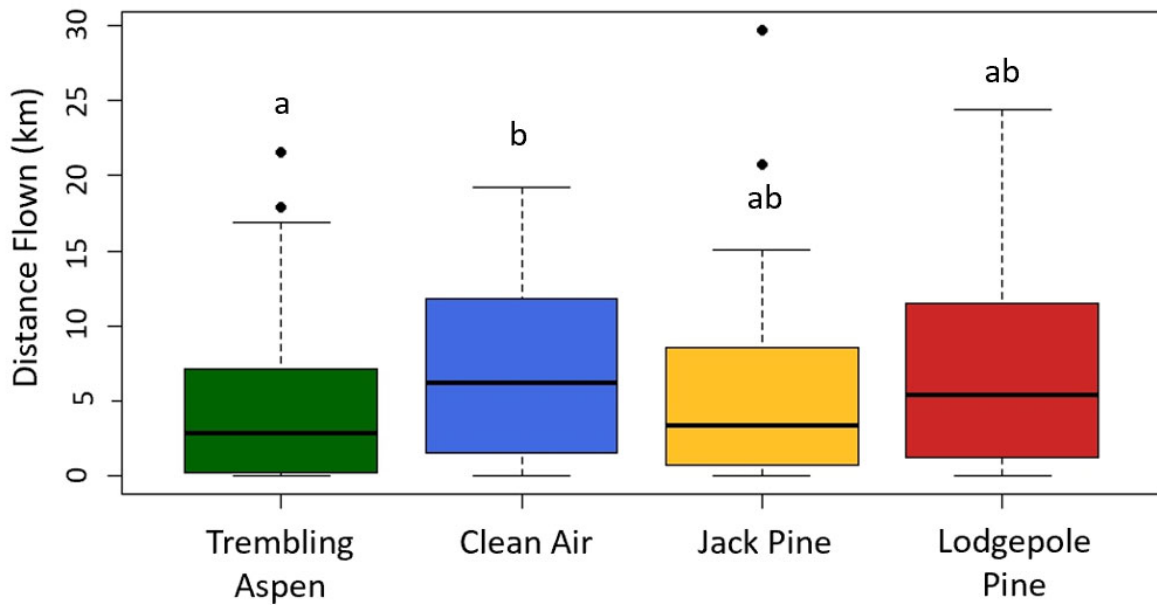
638

639 **Fig 4** Flight distances (km) of male beetles pre-exposed to clean air, *Pinus banksiana* (jack pine)  
 640 or *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine) prior to flight. Flight distance increased with increasing pre-  
 641 flight weight ( $\chi^2=14.8453$ ,  $p=0.0001$ ) for all exposure treatments. Flight distance did not vary  
 642 with pre-exposure treatments ( $\chi^2=0.5609$ ,  $p=0.7555$ ).



643

644 **Fig 5** Box plots of (A) flight distance (km) and (B) flight velocity ( $\text{km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) of female beetles pre-  
 645 exposed to clean air or *trans*-verbenol prior to flight. The midline indicates the median and the  
 646 bottom and top of the box represent the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles, respectively. Vertical lines  
 647 extending from the box (whiskers) represent the maximum and minimum values and circles  
 648 represent outliers. Female beetles pre-exposed to *trans*-verbenol prior to flight flew further than  
 649 those pre-exposed to clean air ( $\chi^2=5.6578$ ,  $p=0.0173$ ). Beetles pre-exposed to *trans*-verbenol  
 650 prior to flight flew at higher velocities than those exposed to clean air ( $\chi^2=4.0895$ ,  $p=0.0431$ ).



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652 **Fig 6** Box plots of flight distance (km) of female beetles exposed to *Populus tremuloides*  
 653 (trembling aspen), clean air, *Pinus banksiana* (jack pine) or *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine)  
 654 during flight. The midline indicates the median and the bottom and top of the box represent the  
 655 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles, respectively. Vertical lines extending from the box (whiskers) represent  
 656 the maximum and minimum values and circles represent outliers. Beetles exposed to *Populus*  
 657 *tremuloides* phloem during flight flew shorter distances than those exposed to clean air ( $t=2.686$ ,  
 658  $p=0.0385$ ).

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**Table 1** Volatile organic compounds collected from *Pinus banksiana* and *Pinus contorta* over a 3 h aeration period. A single phloem sample from each of the four trees was aerated, averages ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) with standard error reported.

	3-Carene	$\alpha$ -pinene	$\beta$ -phellandrene	Limonene	Myrcene
<i>P. banksiana</i>	2.06 $\pm$ 1.65	5.35 $\pm$ 3.91	3.80 $\pm$ 2.52	0.29 $\pm$ 0.23	0.20 $\pm$ 0.12
<i>P. contorta</i>	3.85 $\pm$ 3.04	2.82 $\pm$ 1.00	22.39 $\pm$ 15.21	0.39 $\pm$ 0.24	0.89 $\pm$ 0.52

### Supplementary Information

**Supplementary Table 1** Statistical models and results for exposure of female beetles to host VOCs prior to flight. EXP: exposure prior to flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill.

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} * \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=16.6214$ , $p=4.563 \times 10^{-5}$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.5831$ , $p=0.7471$ PFW*EXP: $\chi^2=9.5565$ , $p=0.0588$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=2.7016$ , $p=0.1002$ EXP: $\chi^2=1.2798$ , $p=0.5273$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=2.7074$ , $p=0.0999$ EXP: $\chi^2=1.4138$ , $p=0.4932$
Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} * \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=16.6214$ , $p=0.0588$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.5831$ , $p=0.7471$ PFW*EXP: $\chi^2=5.6658$ , $p=0.0588$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=2.7016$ , $p=0.1002$ EXP: $\chi^2=1.2798$ , $p=0.5273$

Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=2.7074$ , $p=0.0999$ EXP: $\chi^2=1.4138$ , $p=0.4932$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=6.8077$ , $p=0.0091$ EXP: $\chi^2=1.2421$ , $p=0.5374$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=3.0074$ , $p=0.0829$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.3460$ , $p=0.1138$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=3.1235$ , $p=0.0772$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.5043$ , $p=0.1052$

**Supplementary Table 2** Statistical models and results for exposure of male beetles to host VOCs prior to flight. EXP: exposure prior to flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill.

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=14.8453$ , $p=0.0001$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.5609$ , $p=0.7555$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=7.4333$ , $p=0.0064$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.2455$ , $p=0.8845$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=7.9440$ , $p=0.0048$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1705$ , $p=0.9183$
Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=10.783$ , $p=0.0010$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.495$ , $p=0.7808$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=4.3133$ , $p=0.0378$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1623$ , $p=0.92205$

Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=4.5148$ , $p=0.0336$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1138$ , $p=0.9447$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=4.6565$ , $p=0.0309$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1223$ , $p=0.9407$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=6.4124$ , $p=0.0113$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0945$ , $p=0.9539$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=7.3081$ , $p=0.0069$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0709$ , $p=0.9652$

**Supplementary Table 3** Statistical models and results for exposure of female beetles to *trans*-verbenol prior to flight. EXP: exposure prior to flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill.

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=10.6607$ , $p=0.0011$ EXP: $\chi^2=2.5565$ , $p=0.0865$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=1.6040$ , $p=0.2053$ EXP: $\chi^2=5.6578$ , $p=0.0173$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=1.2373$ , $p=0.2660$ EXP: $\chi^2=5.8636$ , $p=0.0553$
	Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$
$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$		PW: $\chi^2=0.5730$ , $p=0.4491$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.4669$ , $p=0.0346$

Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=0.2638$ , $p=0.6075$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.6045$ , $p=0.020$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=15.5429$ , $p=8.066 \times 10^{-5}$ EXP: $\chi^2=3.6461$ , $p=0.0562$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=7.4452$ , $p=0.0006$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.0895$ , $p=0.0431$
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=10.9373$ , $p=0.0009$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.3053$ , $p=0.0380$

**Supplementary Table 4** Statistical models and results for exposure of male beetles to *trans*-verbenol prior to flight. EXP: exposure prior to flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill.

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2= 2.0272$ , $p=0.7072$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1410$ , $p=0.1545$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=0.2493$ , $p=0.6176$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1098$ , $p=0.7404$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=0.0010$ , $p=0.9753$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.1032$ , $p=0.7480$
Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=1.1362$ , $p=0.2865$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0986$ , $p=0.7535$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=0.0324$ , $p=0.8572$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0495$ , $p=0.8240$

Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=0.1201, p=0.7289$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0315, p=0.8592$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=0.9182, p=0.3379$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0014, p=0.9701$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=1.6760, p=0.1955$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0178, p=0.8938$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[4]{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=2.0311, p=0.1541$ EXP: $\chi^2=0.0882, p=0.7665$

**Supplementary Table 5** Statistical models and results for female beetles exposed to clean air, host and non-host VOCs during flight.

EXP: exposure during flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill, A: *Populous tremuloides*, C: clean air, J: *Pinus banksiana*, L: *Pinus contorta*

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results	Post-Hoc Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=31.0295, p=2.541 \times 10^{-8}$	A-C: $t=2.989, p=0.0162$ A-J: $t=1.598, p=0.3819$ A-L: $t=2.089, p=0.1595$ C-J: $t=1.356, p=0.5281$ C-L: $t=0.881, p=0.8149$ J-L: $t=0.462, p=0.9672$
		EXP: $\chi^2=9.5565, p=0.0227$	
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=10.3523, p=0.0001$ EXP: $\chi^2=9.2082, p=0.0266$	A-C: $t=2.686, p=0.0385$ A-J: $t=0.670, p=0.9084$ A-L: $t=1.954, p=0.2086$ C-J: $t=2.057, p=0.1705$



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			C-L: $t=0.721$ , $p=0.8887$
			J-L: $t=1.311$ , $p=0.5570$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{Distance} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=7.8949$ , $p=0.0050$	A-C: $t=2.596$ , $p=0.0489$
		EXP: $\chi^2=8.7058$ , $p=0.0334$	A-J: $t=0.650$ , $p=0.9155$
			A-L: $t=1.935$ , $p=0.2164$
			C-J: $t=1.982$ , $p=0.1976$
			C-L: $t=0.647$ , $p=0.9166$
			J-L: $t=1.311$ , $p=0.5570$
Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{Duration} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=19.7717$ , $p=8.726 \times 10^{-6}$	A-C: $t=2.560$ , $p=0.0536$
		EXP: $\chi^2=7.5893$ , $p=0.0553$	A-J: $t=1.686$ , $p=0.3331$
			A-L: $t=2.120$ , $p=0.1498$
			C-J: $t=0.830$ , $p=0.8392$
			C-L: $t=0.419$ , $p=0.9752$
			J-L: $t=0.402$ , $p=0.9779$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{Duration} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=6.3148$ , $p=0.0120$	
		EXP: $\chi^2=6.9588$ , $p=0.0732$	
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{Duration} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=5.3745$ , $p=0.0204$	
		EXP: $\chi^2=6.6533$ , $p=0.0838$	
Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=24.3269$ , $p=8.129 \times 10^{-7}$	
		EXP: $\chi^2=0.7734$ , $p=0.8558$	
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=8.3488$ , $p=0.0039$	
		EXP: $\chi^2=0.4200$ , $p=0.9361$	
	$\text{lmer}(\text{velocity} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=5.2436$ , $p=0.0220$	

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EXP:  $\chi^2=0.2817$ ,  $p=0.9643$

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**Supplementary Table 6** Statistical models and results for male beetles exposed to clean air, host and non-host VOCs during flight.

EXP: exposure during flight, PFW: pre-flight weight, PW: pronotum width, BL: body length, bolt: natal host tree, mill: flight mill, A: *Populous tremuloides*, C: clean air, J: *Pinus banksiana*, L: *Pinus contorta*

Response Variable	Model	Statistical Results
Distance	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=17.4288$ , $p=2.9830 \times 10^{-5}$ EXP: $\chi^2=6.1699$ , $p=0.1036$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=5.5246$ , $p=0.0188$ EXP: $\chi^2=3.7455$ , $p=0.2903$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Distance}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=4.0108$ , $p=0.04521$ EXP: $\chi^2=3.5927$ , $p=0.3089$
Duration	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=11.6503$ , $p=0.0006$ EXP: $\chi^2=5.3148$ , $p=0.1501$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PW: $\chi^2=3.6418$ , $p=0.0563$ EXP: $\chi^2=2.9849$ , $p=0.3940$
	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt[3]{\text{Duration}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	BL: $\chi^2=2.4006$ , $p=0.1213$ EXP: $\chi^2=2.8699$ , $p=0.4121$
Velocity	$\text{lmer}(\sqrt{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PFW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$	PFW: $\chi^2=6.9804$ , $p=0.0082$ EXP: $\chi^2=4.0297$ , $p=0.2583$

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$\text{lmer}(\sqrt{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{PW}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$

PW:  $\chi^2=5.5225$ ,  $p=0.0188$

EXP:  $\chi^2=0.13946$ ,  $p=0.7068$

$\text{lmer}(\sqrt{\text{velocity}} \sim \text{EXP} + \text{BL}, \text{random} = \text{bolt} + \text{mill})$

BL:  $\chi^2=7.7517$ ,  $p=0.0054$

EXP:  $\chi^2=1.5682$ ,  $p=0.6666$

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