

1           **EFFECT OF WATER STRESS AND PLANT DEFENSE STIMULATION ON**  
2           **MONOTERPENE EMISSION FROM A HISTORICAL AND A NEW PINE HOST OF**  
3           **THE MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE**

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42 **Abstract** - The mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*, MPB) has killed millions of  
43 lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) trees in Western Canada and recent range expansion has resulted  
44 in attack of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) in Alberta. Establishment of MPB in the Boreal forest  
45 will require use of jack pine under a suite of different environmental conditions than it typically  
46 encounters in its native range. Lodgepole and jack pine seedlings were grown under controlled  
47 environment conditions and subjected to either water deficit or well watered conditions and  
48 inoculated with *Grosmannia clavigera*, a MPB fungal associate. Soil water content,  
49 photosynthesis, stomatal conductance and emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were  
50 monitored over the duration of the six-week study. Monoterpene content of bark and needle  
51 tissue was measured at the end of the experiment.  $\beta$ -Phellandrene, the major monoterpene in  
52 lodgepole pine, was almost completely lacking in the volatile emission profile of jack pine. The  
53 major compound in jack pine was  $\alpha$ -pinene. The emission of both compounds was positively  
54 correlated with stomatal conductance. 3-Carene was emitted at a high concentration from jack  
55 pine seedlings which is in contrast to monoterpene profiles of jack pine from more southern and  
56 eastern parts of its range. Fungal inoculation caused a significant increase in total monoterpene  
57 emission in water deficit lodgepole pine seedlings right after its application. By four weeks into  
58 the experiment, water deficit seedlings of both species released significantly lower levels of total  
59 monoterpenes than well-watered seedlings. Needle tissue contained lower total monoterpene  
60 content than bark. Generally, monoterpene tissue content increased over time independent from  
61 any treatment. The results suggest that monoterpenes that play a role in pine-MPB interactions  
62 differ between lodgepole and jack pine, and also that they are affected by water availability.

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64 **Key Words** - *Pinus contorta*, *Pinus banksiana*, VOCs, monoterpenes, tree defense, *Grosmannia*  
65 *clavigera*, mountain pine beetle.

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## INTRODUCTION

68  
69  
70 The mountain pine beetle (MPB), *Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins (Coleoptera:  
71 Curculionidae, Scolytinae) has destroyed 16.3 million ha of mainly lodgepole pine (*Pinus*  
72 *contorta* Dougl. ex Loud.) forests in British Columbia, Canada ([www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca)) during this  
73 current outbreak, which began over a decade ago. In the last five years, MPB has moved eastward  
74 into Alberta, where in the northern part of the province the ranges of lodgepole pine and jack pine  
75 (*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.) overlap, resulting in a zone of hybridization (Cullingham et al. 2011).  
76 Lodgepole pine is one of the historical hosts of MPB in Western Canada, however, as its range  
77 expands from its historical habitat to new areas in northern Alberta (Carroll et al. 2006), MPB has  
78 spread across the lodgepole × jack pine hybrid zone into stands of pure jack pine (Cullingham et  
79 al. 2011). Studies show that beetles can reproduce and develop in jack pine (Cerezke 1995), as do  
80 its fungal associates (Rice et al. 2007). Jack pine is the most abundant pine species in the boreal  
81 forest which could potentially lead to the spread of MPB across the boreal forest to eastern  
82 Canada.

83 Global climate change might allow MPB to expand its range into formerly unoccupied  
84 lodgepole pine habitat and also enable further eastward invasion of jack pine (Logan and Powell  
85 2001; Williams and Liebhold 2002). Climate change is expected to produce longer and more  
86 frequent droughts in many regions of the world (Breshears et al. 2009) which may influence the  
87 ability of trees to defend themselves against invading insects and diseases (reviewed in  
88 Franceschi et al. 2005). For plant species that are conservative water users, prolonged droughts  
89 will decrease carbon dioxide uptake and associated photosynthetic carbon assimilation due to  
90 stomata closure. Reduced carbon gain can result in the depletion of carbohydrate reserves for  
91 biosynthesis of defensive compounds, particularly carbon-based compounds such as terpenoids  
92 that could make trees more susceptible to biotic stress factors, such as bark beetles (McDowell et  
93 al. 2008; Breshears et al. 2009). Water deficit is one of the climatic variables used in climate-  
94 suitability models for MPB populations; in these models, it reduces the resistance of lodgepole  
95 pine to attack and subsequent development and survival of the beetle (Safranyik et al. 2010).

96 Increasing temperature predicted under a global climate change scenario could also alter  
97 volatile emission by potential host trees, since monoterpene emission is temperature dependent  
98 (Kesselmeier and Staudt 1999), and might influence host finding by MPB. Two mechanisms are

99 proposed to explain host finding by pioneering MPB. Beetles could visually orient towards and  
100 randomly land on potential host trees and then use gustatory cues to assess the suitability of the  
101 host (Raffa and Berryman 1982). Alternatively, recognition and direct flight towards a host could  
102 be based on orientation to volatile organic compounds (VOC) emitted from the host (Moeck and  
103 Simmons 1991) in combination with visual cues. MPB is able to detect and avoid non-hosts,  
104 which supports the hypothesis of direct flight as a host finding mechanism (Huber et al. 2000).  
105 Both mechanisms might act together; differences in VOC emission from different host trees  
106 grown under different conditions and with different levels of beetle infestation may be an  
107 indication of host suitability to orienting beetles. Successful attack and colonization of the host  
108 may be further influenced by the chemical composition of the bark of the host tree (Faccoli et al.  
109 2005; Raffa et al. 2005).

110         Once a suitable host is found by a female pioneer beetle,  $\alpha$ -pinene – one of the most  
111 abundant host monoterpenes in most pine species examined to date – is hydroxylated into the  
112 major aggregation pheromone *trans*-verbenol to attract both sexes of MPB to initiate a mass  
113 attack (Pitman et al. 1968; Pureswaran et al. 2000; Blomquist et al. 2010). As the colonization  
114 progresses, arriving males produce *exo*-brevicomin to attract additional females until the  
115 optimum attack density is achieved at which point both male and female beetles emit anti-  
116 aggregation pheromones to prevent further recruitment to the host tree (Rudinsky et al. 1974;  
117 Ryker and Libbey 1982).

118         At least two MPB associated blue stain fungi, *Grosmannia clavigera* and *Ophiostoma*  
119 *montium*, assist beetles in depleting tree defenses and killing their host (Reid et al. 1967; Solheim  
120 and Krokene 1998; Rice et al. 2007) during the host colonization process. *G. clavigera* is more  
121 virulent than *O. montium* (Yamaoka et al. 1990) and is often used experimentally to stimulate tree  
122 defenses (Reid et al. 1967; Lieutier et al. 2009).

123         Trees that are mass attacked by the bark beetle plus associated fungi defend themselves  
124 with resin, a mixture of monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, diterpenoid resin acids, and phenolic  
125 compounds characteristic of conifers (Gershenson and Croteau 1991; Keeling and Bohlmann  
126 2006) that act as physical and chemical defense mechanisms. Resin monoterpene composition  
127 differs between species, and the composition of individual trees in various pine species correlates  
128 with resistance to bark beetle attack (Sturgeon 1979; Gollob 1980).

129         In order to test the hypothesis that tree responses differ between lodgepole and jack pine

130 trees, and are also affected by environmental conditions, we conducted a controlled environment  
131 experiment on seedlings subjected to water deficit (simulating drought conditions) and used the  
132 MPB fungal associate *Grosmannia clavigera* in conjunction with wounding to stimulate tree  
133 defenses.

134 The objectives were to (1) develop a chemical profile of volatiles released from the two  
135 different host tree species; (2) evaluate if volatile chemical profiles vary within and between tree  
136 species when subjected to different environmental (water deficit vs. well watered) and biological  
137 (fungal inoculation, mechanical wounding, and control) treatments; and (3) determine if the  
138 monoterpene content of tissues is affected by the treatments and differs between tree species.

139

140

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

141

142 *Seedling Source and Treatments* Seedlings in their second growth cycle were used for all  
143 experiments. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* Engelm. ex Wats.) originated from  
144 west-central Alberta, while jack pine was from provenances in north-central Saskatchewan.  
145 Seedlings were grown through their first growth cycle under near-identical conditions at PRT  
146 Vernon, then packaged and placed in cold storage for approximately three months to satisfy  
147 dormancy requirements. Dormant seedlings were shipped overnight to Edmonton, where n=84  
148 seedlings per species were planted (pot size: 15×18 cm) in Sunshine Mix #4 (Sungro, Vancouver  
149 BC Canada) and maintained throughout the experiment in a walk-in growth chamber, with 16 h  
150 light/8 h dark, 200  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$  full spectrum light intensity, 20 °C constant temperature and  
151 approximately 50 % humidity. Fertilizer was applied with irrigation weekly (0.5 g/l 20N -20P -  
152 20K), with additional watering provided as necessary until one week before the start of the  
153 experiment at which point both species had completed shoot elongation with an average height of  
154 21.5 cm ( $\pm$  2.9 S.D) for lodgepole pine and 32.5 cm ( $\pm$  4.0 S.D) for jack pine seedlings. Once  
155 terminal bud formation had been initiated seedlings of each species were randomly divided into  
156 two groups and received one of the following two environmental treatments: water deficit or well  
157 watered. Seedlings in the water deficit group received only 50 ml of water and seedlings in the  
158 well watered group received 400 ml of water twice a week for the duration of the 6-week  
159 experiment. In order to ensure that the water deficit seedlings were experiencing mild water stress  
160 conditions at the onset of the 6-week experiment, water was withheld from these seedlings prior

161 to the application of biological treatments. Seedlings in both environmental treatment groups  
162 were randomly assigned to one of the following three biological treatments: (1) mechanical  
163 wounding plus inoculation with *G. clavigera*; (2) mechanical wounding alone; and (3) untreated  
164 control. The aim of the first treatment was to stimulate tree defenses with the MPB fungal  
165 associate and the last two treatments were positive and negative control treatments, respectively.  
166 Seedlings were inoculated with 5 $\mu$ l of a *G. clavigera* spore suspension injected into a pouch  
167 made with a 23G1Precision Glide needle. The spore suspension was prepared by using a sterile  
168 inoculation loop and transferring two loopfuls (20  $\mu$ l) of spores of *G. clavigera* from a well  
169 sporulating strain collected from Fox Creek Alberta (54°24'N, 116°48'W) into sterile saline.  
170 Seedlings were inoculated at three points, equally distributed along the whole length of the stem.  
171 Mechanical wounding was applied in a similar manner but without the fungal inocula (Fig.1).

172 For each tree species and environmental x biological treatment combination, four  
173 seedlings were randomly selected (total of 24 seedlings per species) and monitored for volatile  
174 emission, photosynthetic rate, stomatal conductance and soil water content the day before  
175 inoculation (t=0), and at five time points post inoculation (t= 1 day, t= 1 week, t= 2 weeks, t= 4  
176 weeks, and t= 6 weeks). Twelve of the remaining seedlings of each treatment combination per  
177 species were destructively harvested at each time point (n=2) for chemical analysis of the bark  
178 (primarily constituting phloem tissue) of the current year and previous growth of the stem  
179 (referred to as current year and previous year bark) and needles. After 6 weeks, we harvested the  
180 seedlings that were used for acquiring volatile emission and physiology data for tissue analyses  
181 (below).

182  
183 *Soil Water Content and Gas Exchange Parameters.* Soil water content was measured using time  
184 domain reflectometry (TDR) (Hillel 1998). We measured the apparent dielectric constant of the  
185 soil with a Tektronix 1502B (Beaverton, Oregon, USA) and used the empirical equation for  
186 organic soils in Robinson et al. (2003) to relate it to water content. Rate of photosynthesis and  
187 stomatal conductance were measured using a Li-Cor 6400 (LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln,  
188 Nebraska, USA). The instrument settings were: leaf area 1.5 cm<sup>2</sup>, flow 300  $\mu$ mol/sec, and  
189 Quantum flux lamp at 200  $\mu$ mol/m<sup>2</sup>sec (equivalent to light intensity in growth chamber).

190

191 *Volatile Collection.* Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released from seedlings were collected  
192 one day after the physiological data were recorded from the same plant. An oven bag (LOOK<sup>®</sup>,  
193 45×55cm) was imposed over the whole seedling and closed near the base of the stem with a cable  
194 tie. An absorbent tube (Porapak Q (OD 6mm, length 110mm; absorbent: front layer 150 mg, back  
195 up layer 75 mg; separated by glass wool) SKC Inc., Pennsylvania, USA) was inserted in the bag  
196 at the top of the seedling and affixed with Parafilm<sup>®</sup>. A small hole was placed on the other side of  
197 the oven bag to maintain constant air pressure inside the bag. Volatile emissions were collected  
198 for four hours at a constant flow rate of 200 ml/min. After collection, the sorbent tubes were  
199 capped and stored at -40°C until extraction. Air samples were collected at two locations of the  
200 growth chamber to control for possibility of contamination with chamber air.

201 Porapak Q tubes were extracted with 1 ml of dichloromethane (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis,  
202 Missouri, USA) spiked with 0.01% (v/v) tridecane (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA) as  
203 surrogate standard and subsequently stored at -40°C before GC analysis.

204  
205 *Tissue Extracts.* Seedling were harvested outside of the chamber in which VOCs were collected.  
206 During seedling harvest, bark and needle samples were rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen, and  
207 stored at -40°C prior to extraction. Tissue was ground in liquid nitrogen, and 100 mg of the tissue  
208 was transferred to a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube. The samples were extracted twice with 0.5 ml  
209 dichloromethane and 0.01% tridecane as surrogate standard. After adding the solvent the samples  
210 were vortexed for 30 sec, sonicated for 10 min, subsequently centrifuged at 13200 rpm and 0°C  
211 for 15 min, and placed in a freezer for at least two hours to let the pellet freeze. Extracts were  
212 transferred into an amber GC vial and stored at -40°C before GC analysis.

213  
214 *GC Analysis.* Samples (1µl) were injected in an Agilent 7890A Gas Chromatograph (Agilent  
215 Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA) with an HP Innowax (Agilent Technologies)  
216 column (I.D. 0.32 mm, length 30m), helium carrier gas flow at 1.8ml/min, temperature 50°C for  
217 2 min, increased to 160°C by 5°C per min and then to 250°C by 20°C.

218 Peaks were identified using the following standards: Borneol, pulegone,  $\alpha$ -terpinene,  $\gamma$ -  
219 terpinene,  $\alpha$ -terpineol (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA), camphor, 3-carene,  $\alpha$ -  
220 humulene, terpinolene,  $\alpha$ -thujone and  $\beta$ -thujone, (-)- $\alpha$ -pinene, (-)- $\beta$ -pinene, (S)-(-)-limonene,  
221 sabinene hydrate, myrcene, (-)-camphene, p-cymene (Fluka, Sigma-Aldrich, Buchs, Switzerland),



222 bornyl acetate, *cis*-ocimene (SAFC Supply Solutions, St. Louis, Missouri, USA),  $\beta$ -phellandrene  
223 (Glidco Inc., Jacksonville, Florida, USA).

224 Calibration with standards allowed for analysis of quantitative differences among samples  
225 of differently treated seedlings at different time points. For all samples, the peaks were integrated  
226 and peak area was compared for qualitative and quantitative differences among samples of  
227 differently treated seedlings at different time points.

228 After all samples were analyzed with the GC, subsequent analysis with GC-mass  
229 spectrometry showed that our method was unable to separate myrcene and  $\alpha$ -phellandrene. From  
230 a different experiment we know that  $\alpha$ -phellandrene hardly occurs in jack pine seedlings and  
231 makes up to 35% of the peak in lodgepole pine seedlings.

232  
233 *Statistical Analyses.* The VOC emission data and the seedling physiology data collected from the  
234 same trees were analyzed using the R statistical language (R development core team, 2010). In  
235 order to address how volatile emission of the seedlings changed due to the environmental and  
236 biological treatments and their associated change in physiology we carried out a canonical  
237 redundancy analysis (RDA; Legendre and Legendre 1998) using the rdaTest package (Legendre  
238 and Durand 2010). RDA axes were tested for significance by permutations with the vegan  
239 package (Oksanen et al. 2010) also through the R statistical language. Explanatory variables  
240 included environmental and biological treatments, as well as soil water content, photosynthesis  
241 and stomatal conductance. Total and individual monoterpenes of all time points were the  
242 response variables. Due to technical difficulties during the extraction process, two time points  
243 (week 1 and 6) were discarded from the jack pine dataset. In order to evaluate whether the  
244 resulting lack of correlation between soil water content and physiological parameters in jack pine  
245 was due to the missing two time points, we also carried out an RDA for lodgepole pine with the  
246 same time points omitted, the results remained the same.

247 To assess the effect of environmental treatments on total monoterpene emission from both  
248 tree species over time, Mann-Whitney *U* tests were used. The effect of the biological treatments  
249 was assessed using repeated measures ANOVAs with subsequent pairwise comparison with  
250 Bonferroni correction on water deficit and well watered seedlings separately using SPSS  
251 Statistics 17.0. Soil water content and plant physiology results are presented using bar graphs

252 with error bars showing 95% confidence intervals, non-overlapping bars represent a significant  
253 difference (Field 2009).

254 All tissue extract data was analyzed using SPSS Statistics 17.0. Total monoterpenes were  
255 analyzed using repeated measure ANOVA. Individual monoterpene data was transformed with  
256  $\log(x+1)$  to meet the assumptions of normality and analyzed for all tissues separately using  
257 ANOVA. In cases in which the data violated the assumptions of an ANOVA, non parametric  
258 tests were conducted on non transformed data. Interspecific differences were analyzed using *t*-  
259 test.

260

261

## RESULTS

262

263 *Soil Water Content and Gas Exchange Parameters.* The water deficit seedlings were not watered  
264 the week before the experiment started; therefore there was a significant difference in soil water  
265 content between the well watered and water deficit seedlings on the first day of the experiment  
266 (Fig. 2). Through the duration of the experiment, the water content of the soil in the water deficit  
267 treatment decreased to almost 0%, whereas soil water content of well-watered seedlings stayed  
268 constant between 20-30%.

269 Independent of the biological treatments, the photosynthesis rate in lodgepole pine  
270 decreased over time in the water deficit group, but not in the well watered group (Fig. 3a). In jack  
271 pine, neither the biological nor the environmental treatments had an effect on photosynthesis rate.  
272 Stomatal conductance was generally higher in lodgepole than jack pine but it decreased sooner  
273 due to environmental treatment in lodgepole pine and reached 1/3 of the jack pine stomatal  
274 conductance by the end of the experiment (Fig. 3b).

275

276 *Chemical Profiles.* The main differences in the chemical profile emitted by seedlings of the two  
277 pine species are that lodgepole pine emits a higher percentage of  $\beta$ -phellandrene ( $27\% \pm 2.25$  SE)  
278 than jack pine ( $1\% \pm 0.26$  SE) and jack pine releases more  $\alpha$ -pinene ( $27\% \pm 3.25$  SE) than  
279 lodgepole pine ( $7\% \pm 0.80$  SE) (Fig. 4). 3-Carene makes up more of the volatile chemical profile  
280 in jack pine than lodgepole pine ( $21\% \pm 3.99$  SE in JP,  $7\% \pm 1.76$  SE in LP).

281

282 *Volatile Emission.* The first axis of the lodgepole pine RDA ( $p<0.001$ ) and of the jack pine RDA  
283 ( $p=0.006$ ) was significant. RDA triplots (Fig. 5) illustrate the relationship between the gas  
284 exchange parameters and volatile emission of the seedlings and environmental and biological  
285 treatments for each tree species.

286 In both species, 3-carene emission was correlated with fungal inoculation. Emission of the  
287 major compounds,  $\beta$ -phellandrene in lodgepole and  $\alpha$ -pinene in jack pine, is correlated with the  
288 physiological state (photosynthesis and stomatal conductance) of the seedling. The physiological  
289 parameters of stomatal conductance and photosynthesis were positively correlated with soil water  
290 content in lodgepole but not jack pine seedlings.

291 In both lodgepole pine and jack pine, water deficit seedlings released significantly less  
292 total monoterpenes starting at week 4 of the experiment (Mann-Whitney  $U$ , lodgepole pine:  
293  $U=21$ ,  $z=-2.94$ ,  $p=0.003$ ; jack pine:  $U=26$ ,  $z=-2.66$ ,  $p=0.008$ ) and thus, all further analyses were  
294 conducted on water deficit and well watered seedlings separately. Biological treatments had a  
295 significant effect on total monoterpene emission in water deficit lodgepole pine seedlings  
296 (repeated measures ANOVA,  $F(2,8)=6.329$ ,  $p=0.022$ ; Fig. 6). Subsequent pairwise comparison  
297 with Bonferroni correction of the timepoints revealed that one day after biological treatment  
298 application more VOCs were emitted from lodgepole pine than at any other timepoint ( $p=0.006$ ;  
299 Fig. 6). Further, pairwise comparison of the biological treatments showed that lodgepole pine  
300 seedlings that were inoculated with *G. clavigera* emitted significantly more monoterpenes than  
301 controls ( $p=0.029$ ). Mechanically wounded seedlings also emitted more volatiles than control  
302 seedlings but not at a significant level ( $p=0.066$ ). Well-watered lodgepole pine demonstrated the  
303 same trends but showed no significant differences. In jack pine, the biological treatments had no  
304 significant influence on VOC emission. Lodgepole pine seedlings emitted less VOC than jack  
305 pine but the difference was not significant.

306  
307 *Tissue Extracts.* The number of detectable monoterpenes in the tissue extracts of both species was  
308 higher than in the volatile profiles (Table 1). Sabinene hydrate, *cis*-ocimene,  $\alpha$ -thujone, and  
309 pulgoneone occurred only in lodgepole pine and were never detected in jack pine.

310 The overall needle monoterpene content in lodgepole pine seedlings is lower compared to  
311 previous year and current year growth bark (repeated measures ANOVA,  $F(1.80,127.70)=118.37$ ,  
312  $p<0.001$ ; Fig. 7). *cis*-Ocimene is the only terpenoid that did not follow this pattern and occurred

313 in higher concentration in the needles. All further analyses were conducted on the different  
314 tissues separately. The environmental treatment affected terpinolene, which occurred in higher  
315 concentrations in the current year and previous year bark of watered seedlings (ANOVA,  
316  $F(1,70)=3.999, p=0.028$  and  $F(1,70)=5.059, p=0.049$ , respectively) than the water deficit  
317 seedlings. Less bornyl acetate occurred in the previous year's bark of watered seedlings  
318 (ANOVA,  $F(1,70)=5.265, p=0.025$ ) compared to seedlings subjected to water deficit. The  
319 biological treatments had no effect on any of the measured terpenoids in the tissue extracts.

320 Like lodgepole pine, jack pine needles had a significantly less overall monoterpene  
321 content than current year or previous year bark (repeated measures ANOVA,  $F(2,142)=115.66$ ,  
322  $p<0.001$ ; Fig. 7). The environmental treatment had no effect on the monoterpene content of jack  
323 pine tissues. The bornyl acetate content in the previous year bark of fungal-inoculated seedlings  
324 was significantly higher than in wounded seedlings (Kruskal-Wallis,  $H(2)=16.467, p<0.001$ ; Fig.  
325 8).

326 The overall monoterpene content of all tissues increased in both species over time  
327 independent from any manipulation (Fig. 9). Both species exhibit similar terpenoid content in  
328 collected bark tissues, but jack pine needles contain significantly more terpenoids compared to  
329 those from lodgepole pine ( $t$ -test,  $t(117.664)=3.413, p=0.001$ ; Fig. 7).

## 331 DISCUSSION

332  
333 Water regime manipulation and stimulation of plant defenses affected the emission of VOCs  
334 differently in the two pine species. In general, jack pine emitted higher amounts of 3-carene  
335 (21%), compared to lodgepole pine (7%) while lodgepole pine released higher amounts of  $\beta$ -  
336 phellandrene (27%) than jack pine (1%) (Fig. 4).  $\beta$ -Phellandrene is the only monoterpene that  
337 attracts MPB in the absence of aggregation pheromones when released at high doses (Miller and  
338 Borden 1990), which could mean that pure jack pine stands might fail to attract pioneer beetles  
339 flying actively into the region compared to lodgepole pine stands.

340 The chemical profile of jack pine seedlings tested in the current study contained 21% of 3-  
341 carene on average, similar to previous reports of jack pine from central Saskatchewan, Canada  
342 (Pauly and von Rudolf 1971) and consistent with the profile of mature jack pine in the Smoky  
343 Lake region of Alberta (unpublished data). Within the wide range of jack pine in North America,

344 there are surprisingly few records available on chemical profiles of jack pine and almost all  
345 records are from the most southern extension of the jack pine forest in Wisconsin, USA. In those  
346 studies, the chemical profiles consist primarily of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -pinene; 3-carene was either not found  
347 or occurred only in trace amounts (Zavarin 1969; Wallin and Raffa 1999; Erbilgin et al. 2001;  
348 Aukema et al. 2010). An early study that directly compared resin monoterpene composition  
349 among lodgepole pine, jack pine and their hybrids found 3-carene to be a signature compound in  
350 lodgepole pine that could distinguish it from jack pine (Zavarin 1969). This large variability of 3-  
351 carene in jack pine monoterpene profiles suggests that there are two or more phytochemical  
352 phenotypes in jack pine, similar to lodgepole pine (Forrest 1980), or that there is a greater degree  
353 of introgression of lodgepole pine genes into jack pine in the western extent of the jack pine  
354 range than originally assumed. A similar variability of 3-carene content occurs in Scots pine  
355 seedlings from different provenances in Turkey and Finland (Semiz et al. 2007), suggesting that  
356 terpenoid synthesis is under genetic control and differs by geographical origin of the seeds.  
357 Clarification of the role, if any, of 3-carene in jack pine profiles is essential in order to predict the  
358 potential interaction between MPB and jack pine in the boreal forest.

359 The chemical profile measured from lodgepole pine seedlings in the current study is in  
360 agreement with existing published profiles (Zavarin 1969; Pauly and von Rudolf 1971;  
361 Pureswaran et al. 2004a). The consistency in monoterpene profiles of lodgepole pine resin  
362 enabled the use of chemosystematics across the geographic range of the species (Forrest 1980).  
363 Chemical profiles are used to distinguish subspecies/varieties of lodgepole pine, which are:  
364 subsp. *contorta*, *bolanderi*, *murrayana*, and *latifolia* (Critchfield 1957). Chemotyping only failed  
365 to distinguish the lodgepole pine subspecies *murrayana* and *latifolia* (Forrest 1980; Bohm 2009).  
366 Our results underscore the need for a similar thorough study to chemotype jack pine trees across  
367 its broad range.

368 Seedlings of both species emitted an overall lower quantity of VOCs under water deficit  
369 conditions which was evident at day one of the experiment but significant at week four (Fig. 6).  
370 Although emission of VOCs is not thought to be controlled by stomatal conductance (Sharkey  
371 1991; Kesselmeier and Staudt 1999; Blanch et al. 2007), in our study stomatal conductance may  
372 have indicated the general condition of seedlings and indirectly affected the efficiency of  
373 monoterpene synthesis in the plant to increase monoterpene emission rates. Similarly, VOC  
374 emission was strongly reduced by severe drought conditions and linked to stomatal closure in

375 common Mediterranean woody species including *Pinus halepensis* (Llusià and Peñuelas 1998).  
376 Although in a similar study, *Pinus halepensis* seedlings exposed to moderate drought conditions  
377 exhibited no change in VOC emission as a result of water deficit (Blanch et al. 2007). In the  
378 current study, stomatal conductance explained the release of some of the most abundant  
379 monoterpenes in lodgepole pine and jack pine. Likewise, Niinemets et al. (2002) concluded that  
380 stomatal conductance in *Pinus pinea* affected the emission of alcohols, aldehydes, carboxylic  
381 acids, and oxygenated monoterpenoids. This finding should be considered in monoterpene  
382 emission models that currently use a simple equation that relies mainly on temperature to  
383 describe the monoterpene efflux from foliage (Guenther et al. 1991) and does not consider any  
384 role of stomatal conductance in VOCs emission (Sharkey 1991; Kesselmeier and Staudt 1999).

385 Stomatal conductance and the resulting gas exchange that is essential for the carbon  
386 reactions of photosynthesis depend on the water transport from soil to leaf (Hubbard et al. 2001).  
387 Plant species categorized as isohydric exhibit tight control over stomatal aperture in response to  
388 soil water deficit as a means to regulate water loss; whereas species classified as anisohydric do  
389 not (Tardieu and Simonneau 1998; McDowell et al. 2008). Stomatal conductance in lodgepole  
390 pine seedlings in the current study was higher than that in jack pine and responded more quickly  
391 to a decrease in soil water content (Fig. 3). Jack pine appears to be better adapted to low water  
392 availability than lodgepole pine which is consistent with the success of jack pine in dry and  
393 nutrient poor soils across its natural range (Vidacović 1991). In the current study, soil moisture  
394 content influenced the physiological state of pine species differently. The RDA results (Fig. 5)  
395 support the findings that jack pine is better adapted to water deficit conditions as the  
396 physiological state of lodgepole pine but not that of jack pine was correlated with soil water  
397 content.

398 Fungal inoculation of seedlings with an MPB associated fungus also altered the VOC  
399 emissions in both pine species. 3-Carene emission increased and was correlated with fungal  
400 inoculation in both lodgepole and jack pine (Fig. 5). Mature jack pine trees inoculated with the  
401 pine engraver, *Ips pini*, associated fungus *Ophiostoma ips* had increased 3-carene phloem content  
402 (Raffa and Smalley 1995). Jost et al. (2008) inoculated mature lodgepole and jack pine trees as  
403 well as their hybrids with MPB associated fungi and collected bark volatiles after a 6- week  
404 inoculation period. Unfortunately, they did not measure 3-carene and the only significant  
405 difference they found was a strong reduction in  $\alpha$ -pinene emission in fungal inoculated lodgepole

406 pine. Direct comparison of the two studies is hard to make since they did not quantify their  
407 results but only compared ratios. During our experiment, the fungal inoculated lodgepole pine  
408 seedlings always released more  $\alpha$ -pinene than the control seedlings. Resin monoterpenes from  
409 ponderosa pine including  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -pinene, 3-carene, limonene, and terpinolene have anti-fungal  
410 properties (Himejima et al. 1992). Monoterpenes and other chemical compounds in the resin of  
411 host pine inhibit the growth of bark beetle-associated fungi in the southern US coniferous system  
412 (Bridges 1987; Klepzig et al. 1996). There is growing evidence that plants respond to microbial  
413 attack by releasing volatiles which initiates defense mechanisms by signaling within as well as  
414 possibly between plants (Kesselmeier and Staudt 1999). Volatile organic compounds released  
415 from inoculated plants induce the resistance to fungi in *Arabidopsis* (Kishimoto et al. 2006), but  
416 hardly anything is known about plant communication in conifers (Heil and Karban 2009). The  
417 increased emission of 3-carene after fungal inoculation in our study might be due to allocation of  
418 that compound towards the inoculation site by the plant to fight the fungus and the wound  
419 facilitating its release. In particular, damaged bark can be a major source for VOC emission in  
420 conifer seedlings (Heijari et al. 2011).

421 In the current study, we sampled both volatile and tissue chemistry of both pine species in  
422 response to environmental and biological treatments. There are fewer detectable monoterpenes in  
423 the seedling volatile profiles compared to monoterpene content in bark and needles. Monoterpene  
424 concentration in bark (phloem) and needles can also respond to drought stress (Hodges and Lorio  
425 1975; Kainulainen et al. 1992; Llusià and Peñuelas 1998). Monoterpenes and resin acids in the  
426 woody tissue of Scots pine and Norway spruce seedlings significantly increased as a result of  
427 drought exposure (Turtola et al. 2003). In our study, water deficit had no effect on overall  
428 monoterpene content in either tissue type. In fact, terpinolene concentration decreased in the bark  
429 as a result of water deficit in the lodgepole pine seedlings. The only compound that significantly  
430 increased due to water deficit treatment was bornyl acetate in the previous year's bark of  
431 lodgepole pine seedlings. The levels of bornyl acetate was also associated with fungal inoculation  
432 in jack pine previous year's bark (Fig. 8). Increased bornyl acetate concentrations in the resin of  
433 lodgepole pine are associated with *Armillaria* root disease (*Armillaria mellea*) (Nebeker et al.  
434 1995). Bornyl acetate levels also increase in root and stem tissue of Douglas-fir seedlings  
435 (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) treated with methyl jasmonate, a phytohormone implicated in mediating  
436 defense responses (Huber et al. 2005). In some areas MPB attack is linked to pines infested with

437 *A. mellea* (Tkacz and Schmitz 1986). Mountain pine beetle antennae do not respond to bornyl  
438 acetate (Pureswaran et al. 2004b), but it is possible that it can taste this compound since olfactory  
439 and gustatory information are processed in different areas of the insect brain (DeBruyne and  
440 Warr 2006). Gustatory assessment might be an important way for MPB to evaluate the health  
441 status of a host tree and to determine how well defended it is.

442 The primary goal of this study was to evaluate the chemical profiles of jack pine and  
443 lodgepole pine trees and to make reasonable assumptions about jack pine suitability as a potential  
444 host to MPB based on its chemistry. All volatile monoterpenes emitted by lodgepole and jack  
445 pine seedlings in the current study can be detected by the MPB (Huber et al. 2000; Pureswaran et  
446 al. 2004b). Some of these host monoterpenes synergize MPB response to the aggregation  
447 pheromones *trans*-verbenol and *exo*-brevicommin in trapping studies (Borden et al. 1986; Borden  
448 et al. 2008). There is strong evidence that myrcene, 3-carene, terpinolene and  $\alpha$ -pinene synergize  
449 MPB aggregation pheromone response (Seybold et al. 2006; Borden et al. 2008). In olfactometer  
450 tests, 3-carene was most attractive to MPB out of 20 tested compounds (Conn 1981). In our  
451 study, 3-carene emission increased with plant defense stimulation by *G. clavigera*. This  
452 compound might function as an indicator of a weakened tree and could support the aggregation of  
453 beetles on susceptible hosts. MPB is able to distinguish between host and non-host volatiles, and  
454 may also use host volatiles to identify weak hosts and avoid the risks associated with trying to  
455 overcome tree defenses of a healthy host (Keeling and Bohlmann 2006). Jack pine emits about  
456 three times more 3-carene than lodgepole pine, suggesting that it may be more prone to MPB  
457 attacks (Conn 1981; Borden et al. 2008). Further, jack pine bark contains higher concentrations of  
458  $\alpha$ -pinene than lodgepole pine, and  $\alpha$ -pinene can be a synergist for the MPB aggregation  
459 pheromone and it is also a precursor for production of *trans*-verbenol, the primary component of  
460 MPB aggregation pheromone (Borden et al. 2008).

461 This study enabled us to compare VOC emission and monoterpene content between  
462 lodgepole and jack pine exposed to various environmental and biological treatments under  
463 controlled and easy to manipulate conditions. The results from these studies suggest that  
464 monoterpenes that play a role in pine – MPB interactions differ between lodgepole and jack pine,  
465 and are also affected by water availability. Shrimpton and Watson (1971) recommended the use  
466 of lodgepole pine seedling for studying wound response, since seedlings and mature trees are  
467 identical in their resistant response. Nevertheless, inferences made from our study to MPB host



468 use are limited as beetles do not attack trees at the seedling stage. However, the results from this  
469 study are critical for developing the models that guide rational design of field studies, with their  
470 inherently greater degree of difficulty and experimental variance. Additional field experiments to  
471 understand chemically-mediated interactions among MPB, its associated fungus and its pine  
472 hosts under water deficit conditions are currently being conducted in mature lodgepole, jack and  
473 hybrid pine stands. Future studies will assess the behavioral importance of the host monoterpenes  
474 from the two species in host detection and acceptance by MPB.

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771 Figure 1: Methodology scheme showing the two different environmental treatments: water  
772 deficit and well watered, the three biological treatments: control, mechanical  
773 wounding and wounding plus inoculation with *G. clavigera*, and collection of  
774 VOCs.  
775

776 Figure 2: Soil water content over time measured for pots containing lodgepole and jack pine  
777 seedlings. For each time point, data for the two species were combined. Error bars  
778 represent the 95% confidence interval. Bars with non overlapping error bars are  
779 significantly different from each other.  
780

781 Figure 3: Changes in gas exchange parameters over time shown for both environmental  
782 treatments in lodgepole and jack pine seedlings **a)** rate of photosynthesis **b)**  
783 stomatal conductance. Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval. Bars with  
784 non overlapping error bars are significantly different from each other.  
785

786 Figure 4: Chemical profiles presented as percent of volatile organic compounds emitted  
787 from lodgepole pine and jack pine seedlings based on peak area in GC analysis.  
788 Error bars indicate standard errors.  
789

790 Figure 5: Canonical redundancy analysis (RDA) triplots (scaling 2) illustrating the effect of  
791 environmental and biological treatments as well as seedling physiology on volatile  
792 emission of individual and total monoterpenes in lodgepole and jack pine.  
793

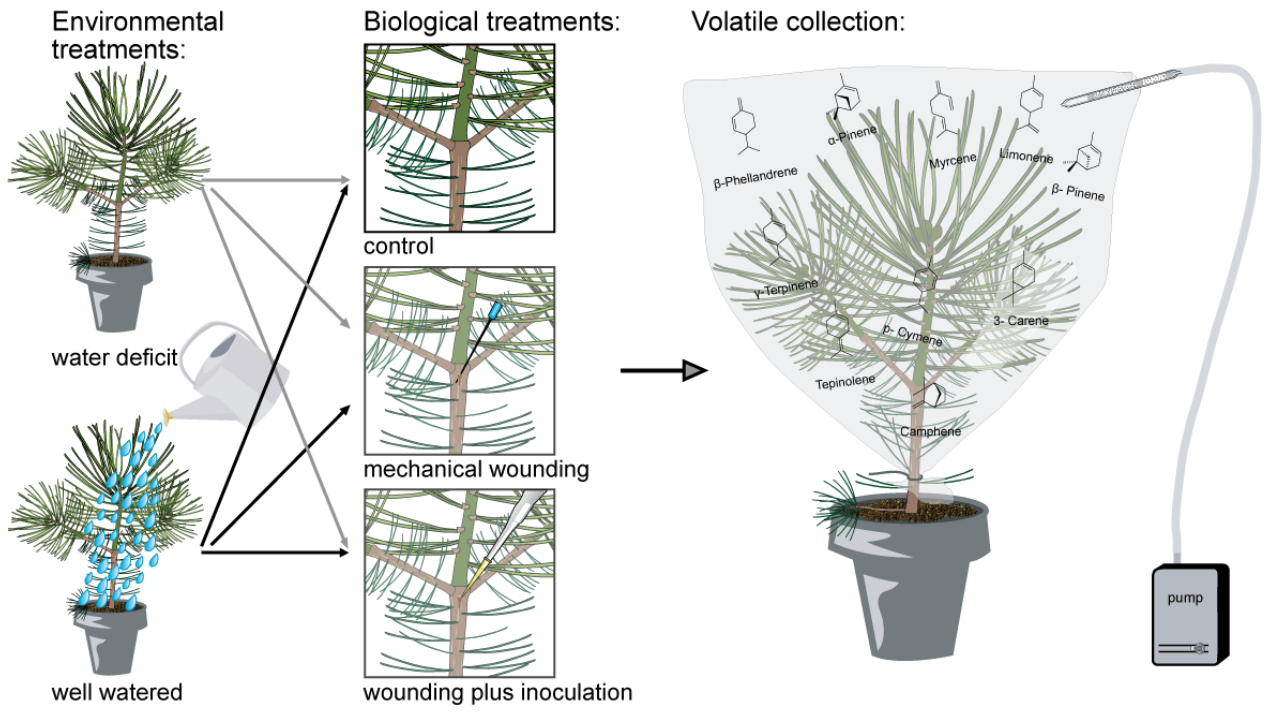
794 Figure 6: Effect of environmental and biological treatment on total monoterpene emission  
795 by lodgepole and jack pine seedlings over time. Error bars indicate standard errors.  
796 The asterisk indicates the significant difference of total monoterpene emission in  
797 fungal inoculated water deficit lodgepole pines compared to the control treatment  
798 ( $p=0.029$ ).  
799

800 Figure 7: Total monoterpene content in the three different tissues of lodgepole and jack pine  
801 seedlings. Error bars indicate standard error. The asterisk indicates the significant  
802 difference in monoterpene content between lodgepole and jack pine needles.

803  
804 Figure 8: Different bornyl acetate concentrations in previous year's bark of jack pine caused  
805 by the biological treatments. Kruskal-Wallis test was used followed up by Mann-  
806 Whitney U tests. A Bonferroni correction was applied and so all effects are  
807 reported at a 0.025 level of significance. Different lowercase letters indicate a  
808 statistically significant difference.

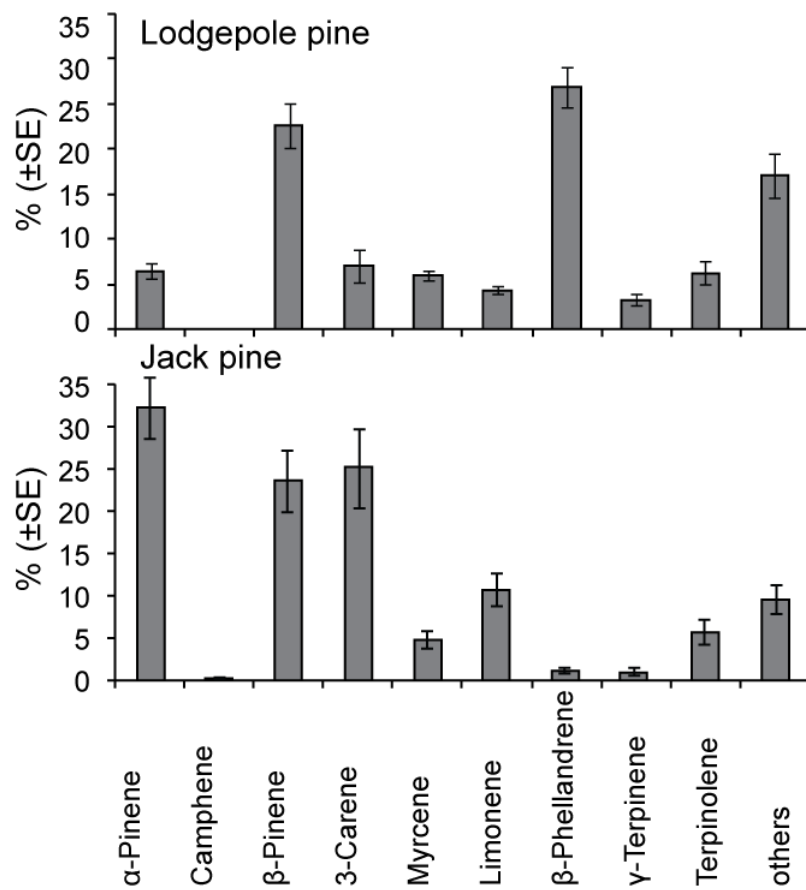
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810 Figure 9: Monoterpene increase over time in all tissues of lodgepole and jack pine seedlings  
811 across all treatments. Error bars represent the 95% confidence interval. Bars with  
812 non overlapping error bars are significantly different from each other.

813



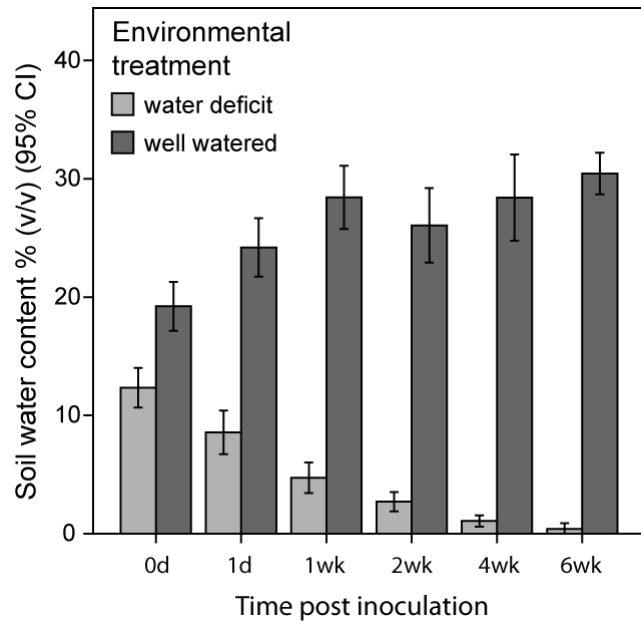
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815 Figure 1



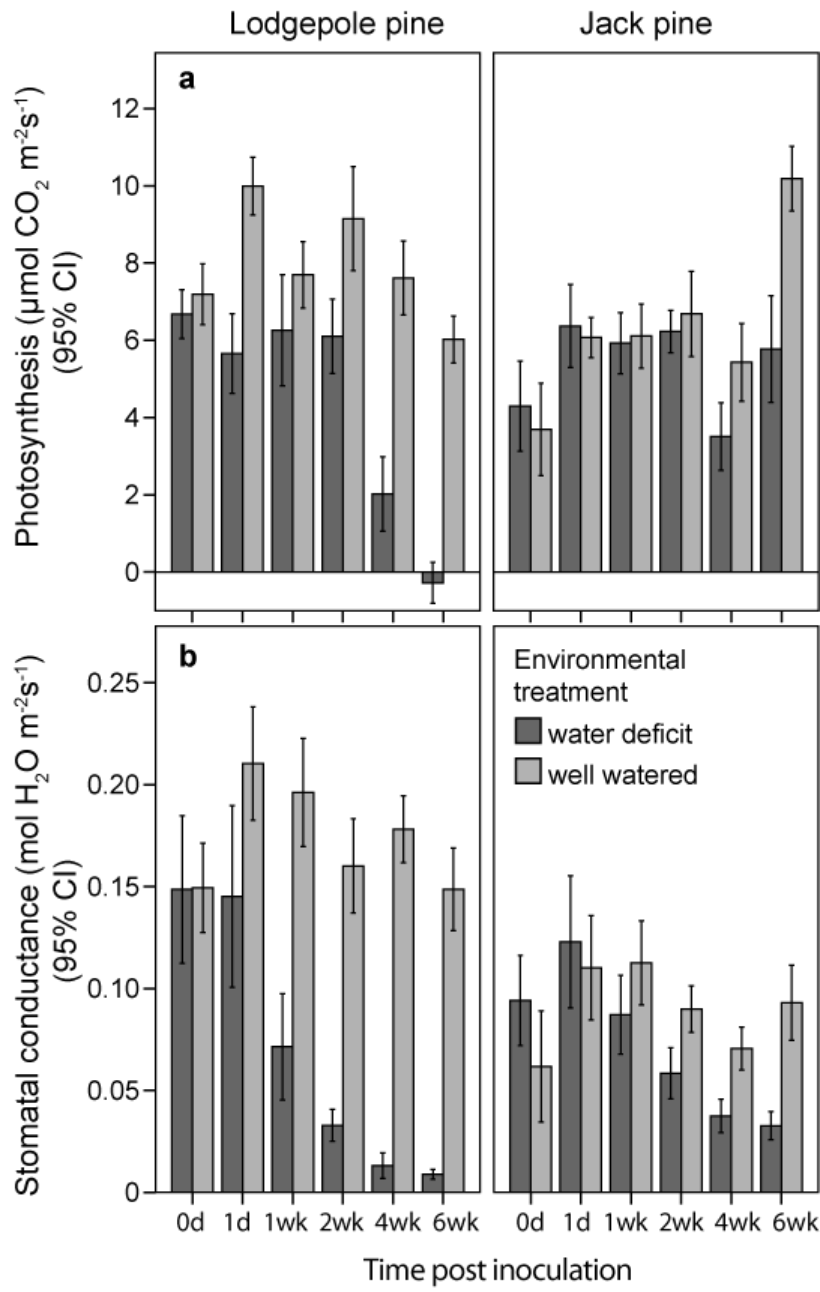
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817 Figure 2:



818

819 Figure 3

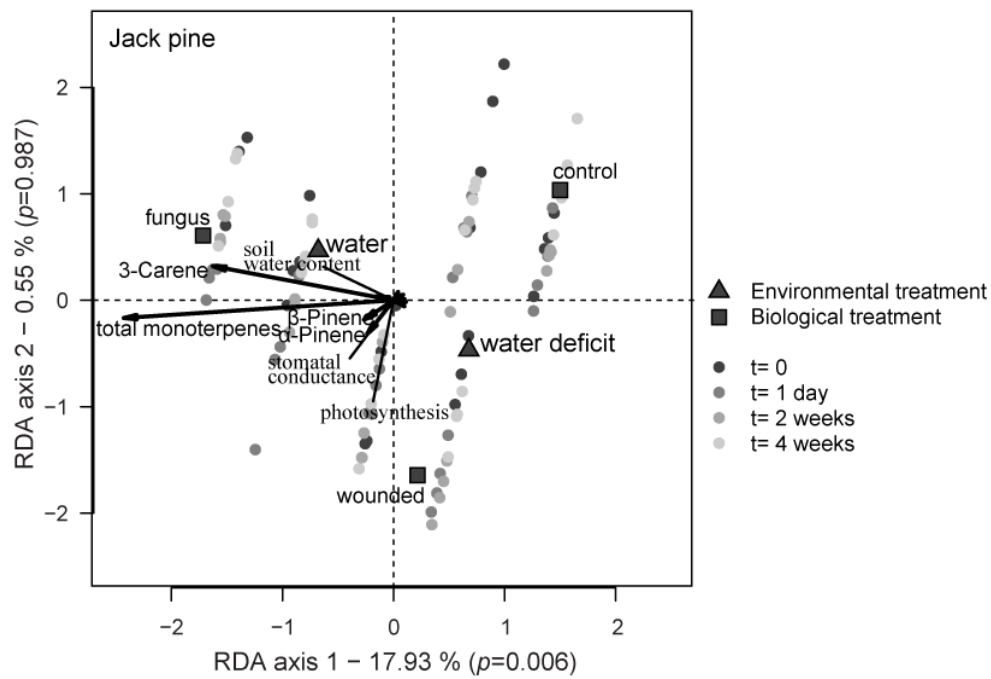
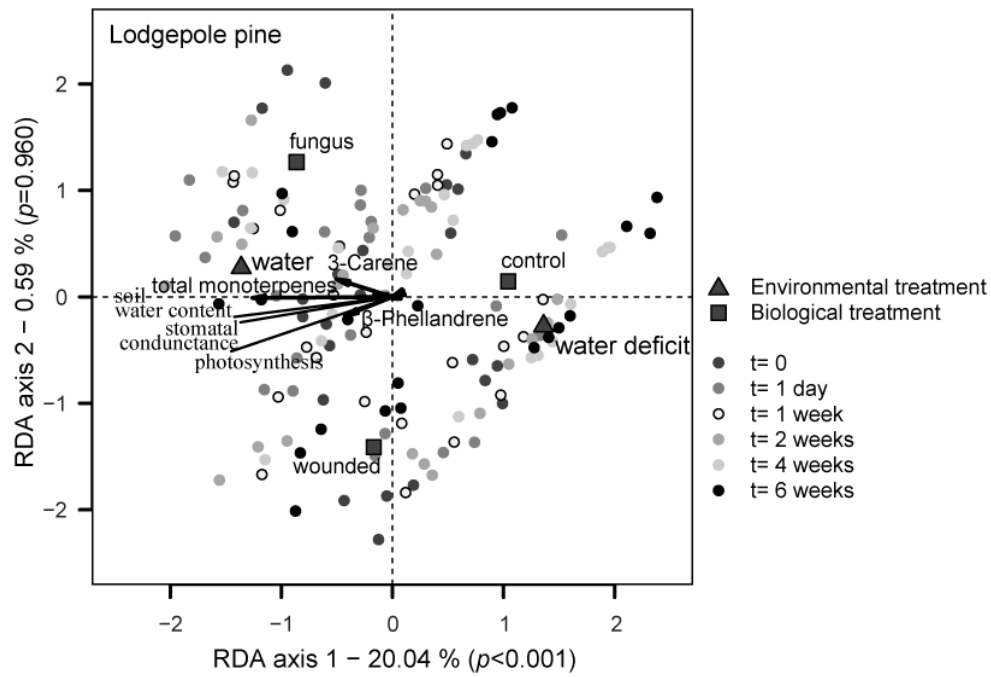


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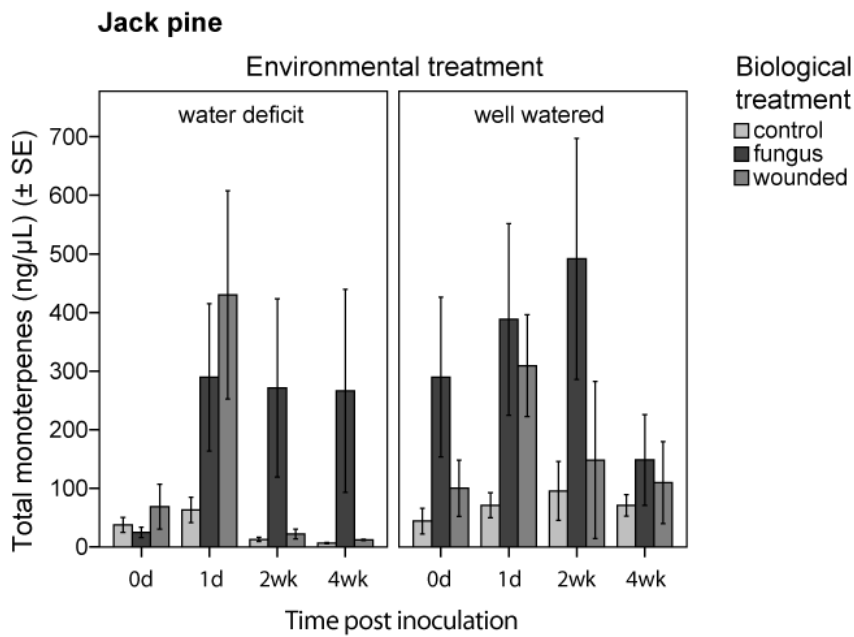
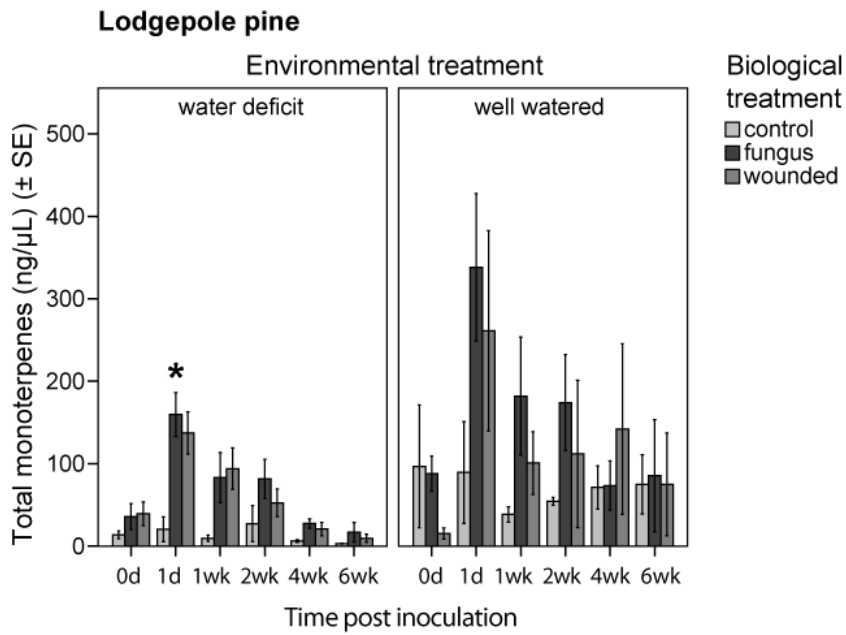
822 Figure 4





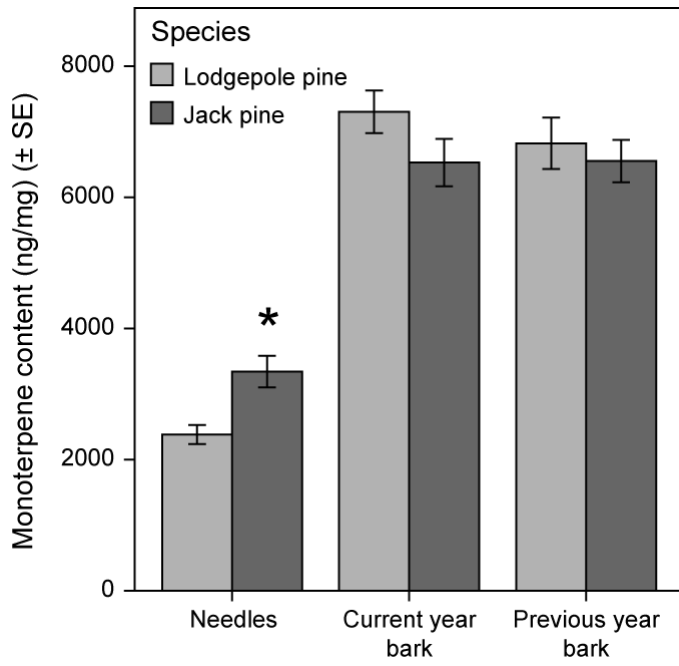
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824 Figure 5:



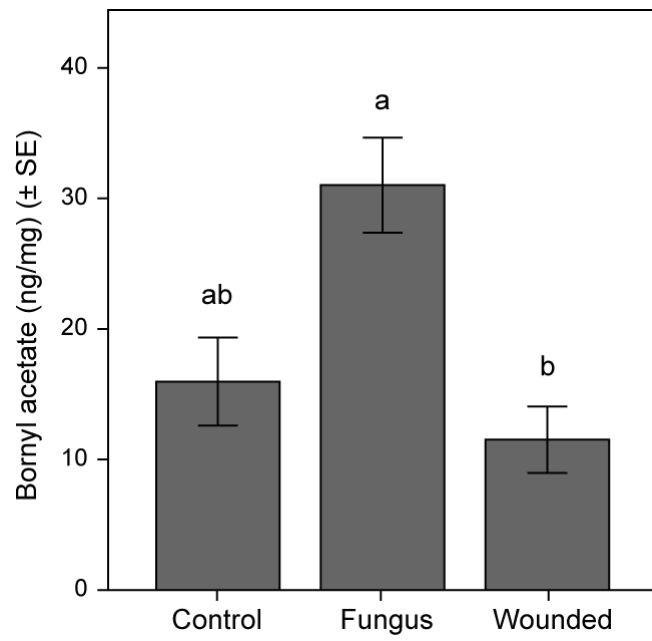
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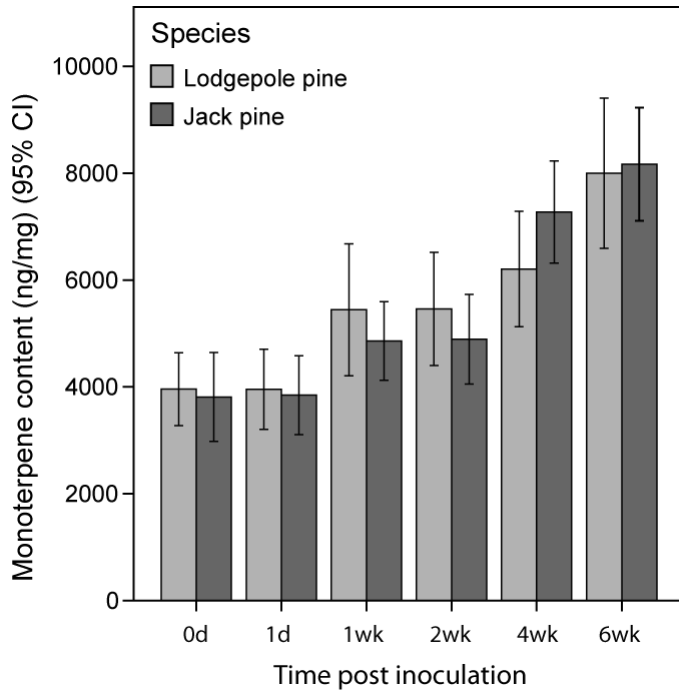
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828 Figure 7



829

830 Figure 8



831

832 Figure 9