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1 **Changed host plant volatile emissions induced by chemical interaction between unattacked**  
2 **plants reduce aphid plant acceptance with intermorph variation**

3

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9

10

11 **Abstract**

12 Olfactory orientation by aphids is guided by specific volatile blends released from their  
13 hosts. Host plants that co-exist with other plants may be less attractive for aphids due to volatile  
14 interactions between neighboring plants which can lead to changes in their volatile emissions.  
15 These changes in host plant volatile profiles induced by interactions between undamaged plants  
16 could be used to manage aphid populations in crops. When potato plants are exposed to volatiles  
17 from onion plants, the volatile profile of potato changes in relation to that of unexposed plants  
18 with consistently greater quantities of two terpenoids released. We examined the host plant  
19 searching behavior of aphids and showed that induced changes in plant volatile emissions affect  
20 aphid behavior. We assessed olfactory responses of winged and wingless aphids, *Myzus persicae*  
21 Sulzer (Hemiptera: Aphididae) to the changed volatile emissions. Both morphs were  
22 significantly less attracted to odors of potato plants that had been exposed to volatiles from onion  
23 than to odors of unexposed potato plants. Further, both morphs were significantly less attracted  
24 to synthetic blends mimicking volatiles emitted by onion-exposed potato plants than to blends

25 mimicking non-exposed controls, and to single compounds emitted in greater quantities by  
26 exposed potato. Aphid morphs were repelled differently depending on the concentration of odor  
27 sources; winged aphids responded to higher doses than did wingless aphids. The aphid responses  
28 to changes in plant volatile profiles induced by neighboring plants may facilitate refinement of  
29 habitat manipulation strategies (e.g. intercropping) for integrated pest management to reduce  
30 aphid occurrence in crops.

### 31 **Keywords**

32 Alatae, apterae, *Myzus persicae*, olfactory response, plant interaction, volatile chemicals  
33  
34

### 35 **Key Message**

- 36 • Polyphagous aphids use plant odors in their host plant detection.
- 37 • Co-existence with other plant species may change volatile emission of aphid host plants.
- 38 • Green peach aphids are less attracted to hosts with changed volatile profiles.
- 39 • Winged and wingless aphids respond differently to those changes.
- 40 • Winged aphid responded to higher concentration of odour sources than wingless morphs.
- 41 • Habitat manipulation strategies within crop field (e.g. intercropping) can be developed to  
42 disrupt aphid orientation and prevent their establishment as a pest.

43

### 44 **Author Contribution Statement**

45 VN conceived and designed the experiments. ID and AV performed the experiments. VN  
46 analyzed the data. ID, VN and AV wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the  
47 manuscript.

48 **Introduction**

49 The green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae* Sulzer (Hemiptera: Aphididae), is a polyphagous aphid  
50 pest with high ecological and agronomical importance worldwide, mainly because it is a vector  
51 of viruses of many crops including potato (Solanaceae: *Solanum tuberosum* L.). *Myzus persicae*  
52 has developed resistance to at least 70 synthetic compounds and various insecticide resistance  
53 mechanisms have been reported worldwide (Silva et al. 2012). So far, there is no alternative to  
54 insecticides to control populations of these insects, thus alternative strategies are highly sought  
55 after. By understanding how aphids locate their host plants, it may become possible to develop  
56 alternatives of controlling populations by taking advantage of functional cues in their host  
57 location behavior. As an extremely polyphagous aphid it was previously considered that *M.*  
58 *persicae* does not use olfactory cues from plants in its searching behavior (Hori 1999; Vargas et  
59 al. 2005). However, in the last decade it has been shown that *M. persicae* may respond to plant  
60 volatiles released from healthy and damaged plants (Eigenbrode 2002; Ngumbi et al. 2007;  
61 Alvares et al. 2007; Boquel et al. 2011; Verheggen et al. 2013; Rajabaskar et al. 2013a; Ninkovic  
62 et al. 2013). Thus, its olfactory responses to volatile signals may be an important target for  
63 disrupting its host searching behavior.

64

65 Plants release a variety of different volatile compounds providing herbivore insects with  
66 information that allows them to discriminate between host and non-host plants. As well as using  
67 volatiles to determine taxonomic identity, aphids can also use plant volatiles to discriminate  
68 between the suitability of different plants within the same species (Webster 2012). The emission  
69 of volatiles from plants is significantly changed in plants under stress caused by abiotic factors  
70 (Gouinguene and Turlings 2002), mechanical damage (Piesik et al. 2010), pathogens (Rajabaskar  
71 et al. 2013b), herbivory (Arimura et al. 2009) or co-existence with other con- and heterospecific

72 plants (Ninkovic et al. 2002; Ninkovic 2003; Le Guigo et al. 2010; Glinwood et al. 2011) than in  
73 unstressed plants. These changes in their volatile profiles can play important roles in aphid  
74 behavior and host plant search. Recently, Ninkovic et al. (2013) found that winged *M. persicae*  
75 prefer the odor of unexposed potato plants to the odor of potato plants previously exposed to  
76 onion plants. The exposure resulted in greater production of two terpenoids, (*E*)-nerolidol and  
77 (*3E*, *7E*) - 4, 8, 12-trimethyl-1, 3, 7, 11-tridecatetraene (TMTT), both of which are involved in  
78 indirect defenses of plants against herbivorous insects (Degenhardt and Gershenzon 2000;  
79 Pophof et al. 2005; Arimura et al. 2009). The changes in volatile emissions of host plants  
80 induced by the exposure to volatiles from neighboring plants reduced plant acceptance of winged  
81 aphids. Further this can be one of explanations for the reduced abundance of winged *M. persicae*  
82 observed in the field where potatoes were intercropped with onion (Ninkovic et al. 2013).

83  
84 Many aphid species have several distinct morphs during their life cycle, which may  
85 specialize on different ranges of host plants and have differing behavioral responses to these  
86 plants (Powell and Hardie 2001). Numerous studies have confirmed that volatiles strongly  
87 influence the searching behavior of aphids (Beyaert et al. 2010; Webster 2012), but most have  
88 focused on only one morph, thus there is little information on between-morph differences in  
89 responses to volatiles. The behavior and ecological functions of winged and wingless aphids  
90 differ because of their morphological divergence. Aphids perceive plant odors with olfactory  
91 sensilla (rhinaria) on their antennae. Secondary rhinaria are much more abundant in winged  
92 aphids than in wingless insects, suggesting that these structures might be involved in host  
93 location and mate selection (Blackman and Eastop 2000; Sun et al. 2012). Given that winged  
94 virginoparae are mostly responsible for finding and colonizing new secondary hosts (Klingauf

95 1987; Blackman 1990), we hypothesize that winged morphs will show different behavioral  
96 responses to plant volatiles than wingless morphs.

97

98       The aim of the study presented here was to investigate whether winged and wingless *M.*  
99 *persicae* respond differently to changes in volatile emissions of their hosts. Through their higher  
100 mobility, winged aphids have the ability for the establishment of new colonies, while wingless  
101 aphids have greater impact in their population development due to their higher reproduction rate  
102 (Dixon 1985). If both respond negatively, changes in volatile emissions of plants would be an  
103 effective target in pest control. We studied aphid olfactory responses to volatile interactions of  
104 onion and potato plants in laboratory experiments using living plants, synthetic blends of plant  
105 volatiles and single volatile compounds. The synthetic blends were designed to emulate natural  
106 odors from host plants with and without modification by exposure to volatiles from neighboring  
107 onion plants.

108

109

## 110 **Materials and Methods**

### 111 *Plants and insects*

112 We obtained potato tubers (Solanaceae: *Solanum tuberosum*, L.cv. Sava) from Lantmännen,  
113 Sweden, and onion bulbs (Amaryllidaceae: *Allium cepa*, L.cv. Stuttgarter Riesen) from Weibulls  
114 Horto, Sweden. We placed them individually in potting soil (Special Hasselfors garden,  
115 Hasselfors, Sweden) in plastic pots (8 x 8 x 8 cm) and grew plants in a greenhouse maintained at  
116 18-22°C with 16 h:8 h light:dark cycles, using HQIE lamps to extend the natural photoperiod as  
117 required. To prevent interaction among plants during the pre-experimental period, onion and

118 potato plants were grown in separate greenhouse chambers, and to avoid emissions of  
119 mechanically damage-related volatiles, only visibly undamaged plants (aged three weeks) were  
120 used in the experiments.

121  
122 Adult winged and wingless individuals of *M. persicae* derived from a stock culture were  
123 grown on potted rapeseed plants (Brassicaceae: *Brassica napus* L.) under similar conditions to  
124 the test plants, but in different climate chambers. Production of winged aphids was induced by  
125 crowding under long-day conditions. Winged aphids after first take-off were used for behavioral  
126 experiments.

127  
128 Potato plants were exposed to volatiles from onion plants in a series of ‘two-chamber cage’  
129 experiments (Ninkovic et al. 2002), as follows. We placed a series of clear perspex cages in a  
130 greenhouse maintained at 18-22°C with 16 h:8 h dark cycles (as above). The cages were divided  
131 into two 10 x 10 x 40 cm chambers (inducing and responding) connected by a 7 cm diameter  
132 opening in the dividing wall. Air was introduced into the system through the inducing chamber  
133 with an onion plant, passed through the hole in the dividing wall into the responding chamber  
134 with a potato plant. From the responding chambers air was extracted through a tube attached to a  
135 vacuum tank and then vented outside the room by an electric fan preventing that the plants  
136 volatiles contaminate the greenhouse. The inducing chamber was left empty for the control  
137 treatment. Airflow through the system was adjusted to 1.3 l min<sup>-1</sup>. Individual pots were watered  
138 using an automated drop system (DGT Volmatic) and placed in separate Petri dishes in the  
139 chambers to prevent root exudates affecting other plants. Exposure time was set to five days,

140 based on previous studies of volatile interactions between plants (Ninkovic et al. 2013). The  
141 plants were used for olfactometer studies immediately after exposure.

142

143

#### 144 *Olfactory bioassays with plants*

145 Olfactory responses of aphids were measured using a two-way airflow olfactometer consisting of  
146 two stimulus zones, arms (length 4cm) directly opposite each other connected by a neutral  
147 central zone (2.5 x 2.5 cm) separating them (Ninkovic et al. 2013). Airflow in the olfactometer  
148 was set to 180 ml/min, which established discrete air currents in the side zones. Test aphids were  
149 randomly collected from the cultures using a fine paintbrush and placed in Petri dishes with  
150 moistened filter paper to prevent dehydration. The aphids were then left in the bioassay room for  
151 at least 2 h to acclimatize prior to the experiments. A single aphid was then introduced into the  
152 central zone of the olfactometer through a hole in the top and after an adaptation period of 10  
153 min, the position of the aphid in the arms, defined as a visit, was recorded at three minute  
154 intervals over a 30 min period. The accumulated number of visits of a single aphid in a single  
155 arm after ten recordings was regarded as one replicate. Observations of individual aphids in the  
156 central zone cannot conclusively be related to one of the arm zones and are therefore excluded  
157 from the analysis. Data were expressed as mean of individual aphid visits per olfactometer arm  
158 during observation period. To avoid pseudoreplication, each aphid was only tested once and a  
159 clean olfactometer was used for each aphid. The test was terminated if an aphid did not move for  
160 longer than 10 minutes and these individuals were not included in the analysis. The  
161 olfactometers were washed with 10% Teepol L (TEEPOL, Kent, UK) and rinsed with 80%  
162 ethanol solution and distilled water and left to air dry. If an aphid did not move for more than 10



163 min the test was terminated and data for these individuals were not included in the analysis.  
164 Before introducing each test insect the olfactometer was rotated 180° to avoid positional bias.  
165 The number of replicates, individual aphids tested, varied between 15 and 21 per experiment.  
166

167 In tests with plants we compared the aphids' preferences for odors from: (a) a potato plant  
168 previously exposed to an onion plant versus an unexposed potato plant, (b) a combination of an  
169 unexposed potato and an onion plant versus two unexposed potato plants, (c) an unexposed  
170 potato plant versus an onion plant, (d) an unexposed potato plant versus soil with no plants, and  
171 (e) an onion plant versus soil with no plants. The two-chamber cages containing plants used as  
172 odor sources were connected directly to the arms of the olfactometer (Markovic et al. 2014). For  
173 (b), the two plants on each side of the olfactometer were in separate cages and connected to the  
174 inlet of the olfactometer by y-connectors to prevent interaction. The airflow in all olfactometer  
175 tests was set to 180 ml/min driven by a sucking pump. The pots with soil but no plants were used  
176 to account for variations in moisture levels between the chambers with and without plants.  
177

### 178 *Olfactory bioassays with chemicals*

179 We also investigated whether winged and wingless aphids respond differently to the odors of  
180 plants and to synthetic blends mimicking volatile profiles of onion-exposed and unexposed  
181 potato plants. For the latter, we used serial dilutions of synthetic blends based on previous  
182 chemical analyses of the volatile profiles of potato plants (Ninkovic et al. 2013). The blend  
183 mimicking volatiles of onion-exposed potato plants consisted of 0.05 ng/μl (*E*)-2-hexenal; 0.04  
184 ng/μl (*Z*)-3-hexen-1-ol; 0.48 ng/μl myrcene; 0.03 ng/μl limonene; 0.225 ng/μl linalool; 0.25  
185 ng/μl (*Z*)- 4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; 1.24 ng/μl (*E*)- 4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; 0.95

186 ng/ $\mu$ l  $\alpha$ -copaene; 0.03 ng/ $\mu$ l  $\alpha$ -cedrene; 0.2 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)-caryophyllene; 0.09 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene;  
187 0.2 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)-nerolidol; 0.5 ng/ $\mu$ l (3*E*,7*E*)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene. The blend  
188 mimicking unexposed plants consisted of 0.056 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)-2-hexenal; 0.05 ng/ $\mu$ l (*Z*)-3-hexen-1-  
189 ol; 0.54 ng/ $\mu$ l myrcene; 0.03 ng/ $\mu$ l limonene; 0.085 ng/ $\mu$ l linalool; 0.3 ng/ $\mu$ l (*Z*)- 4,8-dimethyl-  
190 1,3,7-nonatriene; 0.67 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)- 4,8-dimethyl-1,3,7-nonatriene; 0.7 ng/ $\mu$ l  $\alpha$ -copaene; 0.03 ng/ $\mu$ l  
191  $\alpha$ -cedrene; 0.155 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)-caryophyllene; 0.1 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene; 0.03 ng/ $\mu$ l (*E*)-nerolidol;  
192 0.125 ng/ $\mu$ l (3*E*,7*E*)-4,8,12-trimethyl-1,3,7,11-tridecatetraene. We compared aphid olfactory  
193 responses to these synthetic blends by adding them in 10  $\mu$ l micro caps to small pieces of filter  
194 paper, allowing them to evaporate for 30 s, and placing the pieces into 2.5 mm diameter glass  
195 tubes connected to holes in the sides of the olfactometer arms. Test concentrations in the  
196 olfactometer were 1/100, 1/10, 1, 10 and 100 times the reported amount of volatiles emitted from  
197 the plants during a period of 24 hours.

198

199         Since onion-exposed potatoes emit significantly more (*E*)-nerolidol and TMTT than  
200 unexposed potatoes, according to Ninkovic et al. (2013), we also investigated responses of  
201 winged and wingless aphids to these compounds, individually, at five concentrations (0.01, 0.1,  
202 1, 10, and 100 ng  $\mu$ l<sup>-1</sup>) in a series of dose-response olfactometer experiments with redistilled n-  
203 hexane as a control.

204

### 205 *Statistical analyses*

206 Wilcoxon matched pairs tests were used to compare the number of aphid visits to each  
207 olfactometer arm in the olfactory bioassays using Statistica version 10 software (StatSoft Inc.,  
208 2011), setting a significance level of  $p = 0.05$ .

209

210

## 211 **Results**

212 The main achievements of the study are summarized graphically in Figure 1.

213

### 214 *Olfactory responses of the aphids to odors from plants*

215 According to numbers of recorded visits to the olfactometer arms both winged and wingless *M.*  
216 *persicae* aphids significantly preferred the odor of unexposed potato plants to the odor of onion-  
217 exposed potato plants ( $Z = 3.57, p = 0.0004, n = 18$  and  $Z = 2.012, p = 0.04, n = 17$ , respectively)  
218 (Fig. 2). The *p*-values indicate that winged *M. persicae* were more sensitive to the difference in  
219 volatile emissions from their host plant than the wingless morphs. In addition, neither winged nor  
220 wingless *M. persicae* preferred the odor of unexposed potato plants to those of associated potato  
221 and onion plants ( $Z = 1.85, p = 0.06, n = 18$  and  $Z = 1.136, p = 0.3, n = 15$ , respectively).

222 However, while winged *M. persicae* preferred the odor of unexposed potato plants to the odor of  
223 onion plants ( $Z = 3.42, p = 0.0006, n = 19$ ), wingless morphs showed no preference for these  
224 options ( $Z = 1.704, p = 0.09, n = 17$ ). Both winged and wingless morphs significantly preferred  
225 the odor of unexposed potato plants, their secondary host, to the odor of soil with no plants ( $Z =$   
226  $3.51, p = 0.0005, n = 20$ ; and  $Z = 2.09, p = 0.036, n = 20$ , respectively). The odor of onion plants  
227 did not repel the aphids; neither winged nor wingless *M. persicae* showed a preference between  
228 onion plants and soil with no plants ( $Z = 0.852, p = 0.4, n = 21$ ; and  $Z = 0.327, p = 0.7, n = 18$ ,  
229 respectively).

230

### 231 *Olfactory responses of the aphids to plant volatiles*

232 Winged *M. persicae* only showed statistically significant responses to the mixture of synthetic  
233 volatiles at high doses: 10 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.97$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ,  $n = 19$ ) and 100 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.43$ ,  $p =$   
234 0.015,  $n = 21$ ) (Fig. 3a), while wingless morphs reacted only to the lowest test doses: 0.01 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$   
235 ( $Z = 2.68$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ,  $n = 21$ ) and 1 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.52$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ,  $n = 21$ ) (Fig. 3b). However, both  
236 winged and wingless *M. persicae* showed a clear ability to discriminate between the synthetic  
237 blends of onion-exposed and unexposed potato plants.

238

239 As shown in Fig. 4, winged morphs visited the olfactometer arm containing the highest  
240 doses of (*E*)-nerolidol significantly less than the control: 100 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.56$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ,  $n = 17$ )  
241 and 10 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.46$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ,  $n = 18$ ), while wingless morphs showed this preferential  
242 response to four of five used concentrations: 100 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.72$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ,  $n = 18$ ), 10 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$   
243 ( $Z = 3.18$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ,  $n = 18$ ), 1 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$ , ( $Z = 2.11$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ,  $n = 18$ ) and 0.1 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.11$ ,  $p$   
244 = 0.04,  $n = 19$ ).

245

246 When TMTT was used as the test volatile, winged morphs visited the arm offering it at the  
247 highest tested concentration, 100 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  ( $Z = 2.63$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ,  $n = 17$ ), significantly less often  
248 than the control, while wingless morphs significantly responded in this manner to 10, 0.1, and  
249 0.01 ng  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  doses of TMTT ( $Z = 1.99$ ,  $p = 0.046$ ,  $n = 19$ ;  $Z = 2.46$ ,  $p = 0.01$ ,  $n = 20$ ; and  $Z =$   
250 2.64,  $p = 0.008$ ,  $n = 18$ , respectively) (Fig. 5).

251

252

253 **Discussion**

254 The importance of plant volatiles in searching behavior of extremely polyphagous aphids such as  
255 *M. persicae* for a host plant is still unclear. Some studies have shown the unimportance of  
256 olfactory cues for this aphid (e.g. 1959; Hori, 1999; Vargas et al., 2005). However our results  
257 and some others have clearly shown that *M. persicae* responds to olfactory cues released from  
258 one of its secondary hosts (Eigenbrode et al. 2002; Ngumbi et al. 2007; Amarawardana et al.  
259 2007; Ninkovic et al. 2013). The presented results also show that both winged and wingless *M.*  
260 *persicae* morphs can detect slight changes in concentrations and profiles of host plant's volatiles,  
261 including changes induced by exposure to volatiles from another plant. These findings  
262 demonstrate that volatile signals may be stimulants in the process of plant acceptance even for  
263 polyphagous aphids, confirming that aphids are heavily dependent on olfactory cues when  
264 searching for a suitable host in complex habitats (Pettersson et al. 2007; Webster 2012).

265

266

### 267 ***Olfactory responses of aphids to odors from plants***

268 Host plants that co-exist with other plants may be less attractive and suitable for aphids due to  
269 induced resistance from their association with neighboring plants (Dahlin and Ninkovic 2013).  
270 Ninkovic et al. (2013) found that the migration of *M. persicae* into a potato field was  
271 significantly reduced when potato plants were sown together with onion plants due to the change  
272 in volatile emissions from potato plants making them less attractive for winged aphids. Our  
273 results confirm this interactive effect of volatiles from different plants for both winged and  
274 wingless *M. persicae*. Similar effects have been observed for the response of the wingless  
275 oligophagous aphid *Rhopalosiphum padi* L. (Hemiptera: Aphididae) to barley plants exposed to  
276 volatiles from weeds (Glinwood et al. 2004; Ninkovic et al. 2009; Dahlin and Ninkovic 2013) or

277 other barley cultivars (Ninkovic et al. 2002; Kellner et al. 2010). These volatile interactions can  
278 reduce the attraction of potential host plants for wingless aphids as well as for flying, host-  
279 seeking aphids, which may have profound consequences for the establishment of new colonies  
280 by wingless aphids and hence aphid numbers (Wiktelius 1989; Ninkovic and Åhman 2009).

281

282 In other studies it has been speculated that intercropped plants may mask olfactory cues  
283 used by herbivores to find their hosts (Randlkofer et al. 2010; Finch and Collier 2012). However,  
284 we found that onion plants did not mask the odor of potato plants for *M. persicae*; a mixture of  
285 odors from onion and potato plants was as attractive as the odor of only potato plants. This  
286 suggests a mechanism based on volatile exchange between plants rather than odor masking. The  
287 ability to locate and recognize host plants is essential for the survival of aphids; they can detect  
288 slight changes in volatile emissions of their secondary hosts, even changes induced by interaction  
289 with neighboring plants. The changes in volatile emission have informative value for the aphids  
290 in terms of the host plant quality (Pickett and Glinwood 2007). The ability of onion to induce  
291 changes in potato volatile emission, reducing their attraction for *M. persicae*, can have a great  
292 potential as aphid control agent. Thus, intercropping with onion plants or plants that emit similar  
293 volatiles may substantially improve integrated pest management in potato fields. Volatile  
294 compounds released from living plants could also be used in integrated pest management  
295 strategies against other pests such as thrips (Egger and Koschier 2014).

296

### 297 ***Olfactory responses of aphids to odors from synthetic blends and single volatile compounds***

298 Aphids perceive plant odors through highly specialized olfactory receptor neurons. The  
299 similarity of the responses of both winged and wingless *M. persicae* to the synthetic blends of

300 volatiles and living plants we observed suggests that blends of chemicals can adequately  
301 represent the fragrances of onion-exposed and unexposed potato plants. For both aphid morphs  
302 the synthetic blend of exposed plants was significantly less attractive than the blend from  
303 unexposed potato plants, but winged and wingless morphs were sensitive to different doses of  
304 the blends. Flying aphids should be able to discriminate different plant odors from greater  
305 distance than wingless morphs that tend to migrate locally within a reduced range of host  
306 (Wikteliu 1989). Alate aphids possess more olfactory sensilla than apterous forms, thus alate  
307 aphid forms of *Sitobion avenae* have higher sensitivities and selectivity to leaf odor components  
308 than apterous (Yan and Visser 1982).

309

310         Aphids recognize and locate their hosts by detecting emissions of characteristic blends of  
311 volatile compounds, and respond more strongly to blends than to individual components (as  
312 reviewed in Bruce and Pickett 2011). However, concentrations of single compounds in blends  
313 can play a critical role in aphids' acceptance of host plants. We found that winged and wingless  
314 aphids responded negatively to both the single compounds (*E*)-nerolidol and TMTT, which are  
315 released in higher amounts by potato plants that have been exposed to onion plants (Ninkovic et  
316 al. 2013), and to synthetic blends made of these compounds together with other compounds  
317 released by potatoes. Thus, TMTT and (*E*)-nerolidol might act as signals for the location of  
318 aphid host plants, but as repellents if the emission of these chemicals is increased in fields by  
319 diverse plant associations (Hedge et al. 2011; Kos et al. 2013; Markovic et al. 2014).

320

321         Our finding that winged aphids responded to relatively high concentrations of single  
322 volatile compounds released by plants, is in accordance with previous reports (Webster et al.

2010; Hori 1998), while wingless individuals responded to low concentrations of the synthetic blend of volatiles, and TMTT. A possible explanation for this is that small changes in odor emissions of host plants are more important for wingless aphids than huge deviations. Wingless aphids are usually in closer contact with plants and their odors. Huge concentrations of odors from exposed plants are overwhelming and unrecognizable for them, and thus these odors are meaningless and without benefit for wingless aphids that usually have low intention to leave a host plant. However, (*E*)-nerolidol was effective at a wide range of doses, repelling wingless aphids across the range of test concentrations. Morphs of other aphid species such as *Sitobion avenae* (F.) and *R. padi* also reportedly have differing capacities to detect volatile semiochemicals (Yan and Visser 1982; Quiroz and Niemeyer 1998). An important difference between winged and wingless aphids is the greater abundance of secondary rhinaria on the antennae of winged morphs (Pickett et al. 1992), but the function of these organs is still unknown. Pickett and colleagues (1992) suggested that they might play a role in host searching behavior and mate selection, but they have no proven role in the detection of plant odors (Hardie et al. 1994; Park et al. 2000; Park and Hardie 2004).

Integrated pest management based on plant-insect relationships is a promising method as alternative strategy to decrease the excessive reliance on insecticides. By understanding how different aphid morphs locate their host plants, it is possible to control populations by taking advantage of functional cues in their host location behavior. Through manipulation of botanical composition in crop fields (e.g. by intercropping), aphid orientation may be disrupted reducing their abundance and prevent their establishment as a pest. Based on our findings about the volatile interactions between plants and between plants and insects, functional biodiversity in



346 agro-ecosystems can be exploited as a component of integrated pest management. Application of  
347 volatile chemicals in the field might be difficult; the effects depend on correct concentration and  
348 emission rate and applications might have to be repeated. We recommend rather using living  
349 plants that emit permanently the “right dose”.

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351

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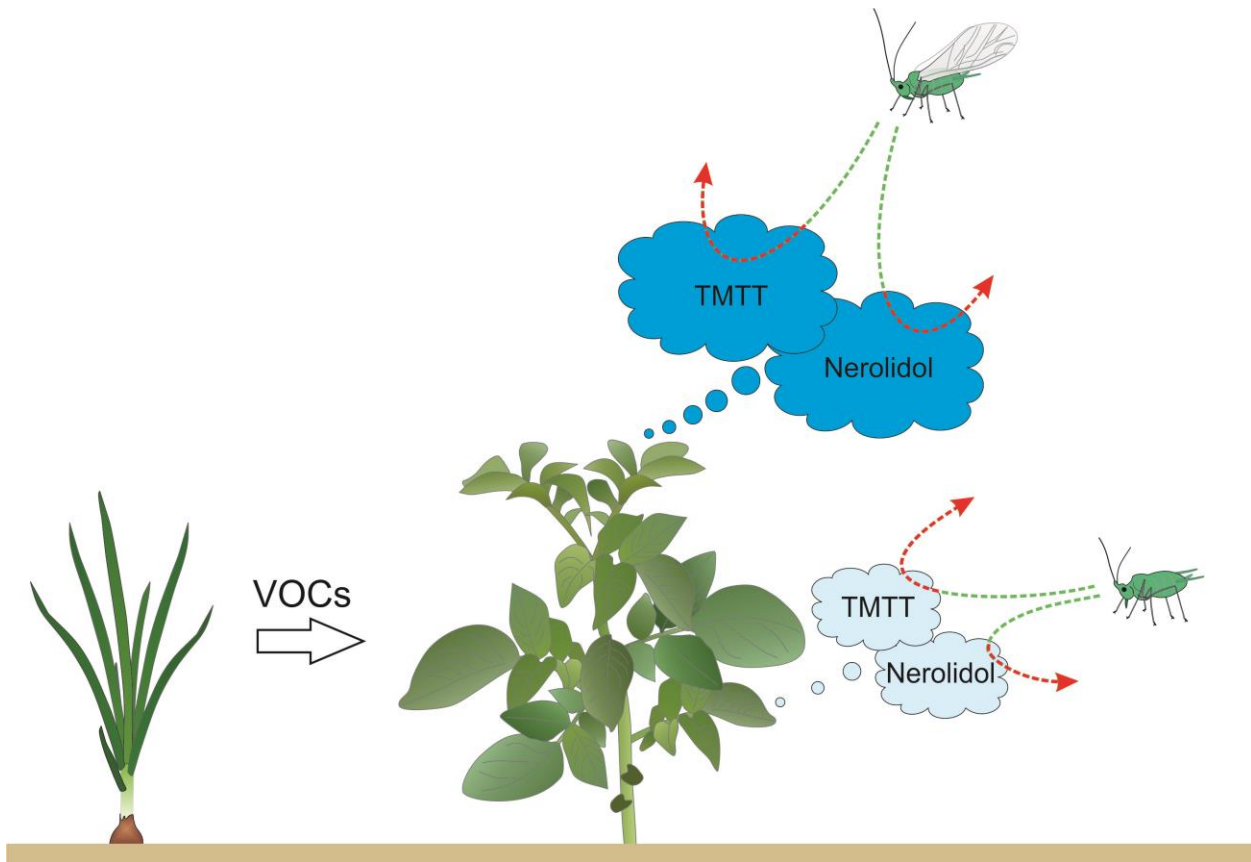
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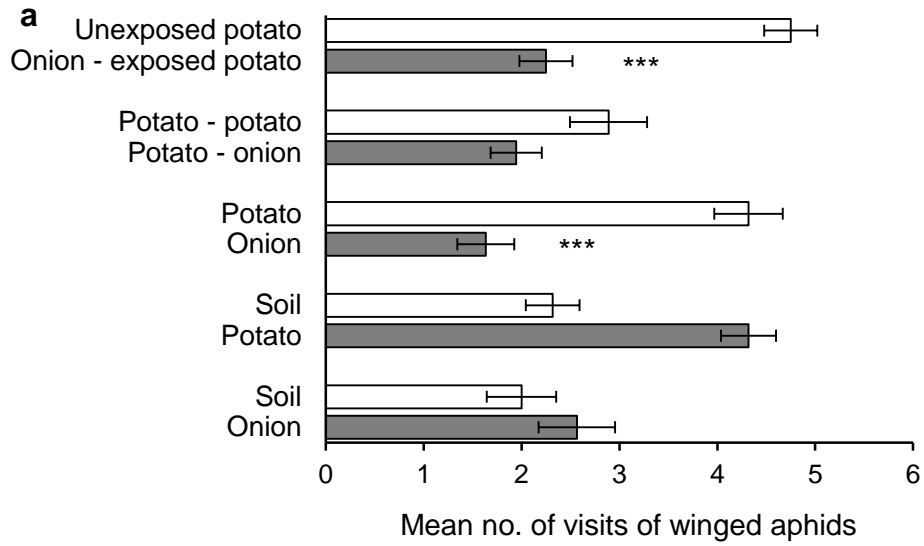
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505 **Fig. 1** Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from onion plants induce changes in the volatile  
 506 emission of neighboring potato plants with a higher release of the terpenoids TMTT and  
 507 nerolidol. High doses of these compounds repelled winged aphids, while wingless aphids were  
 508 repelled by low doses.

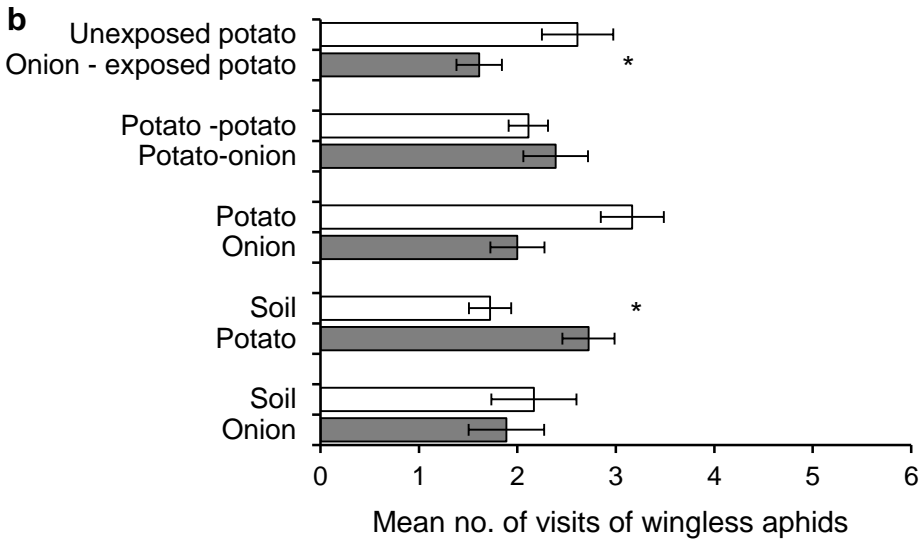
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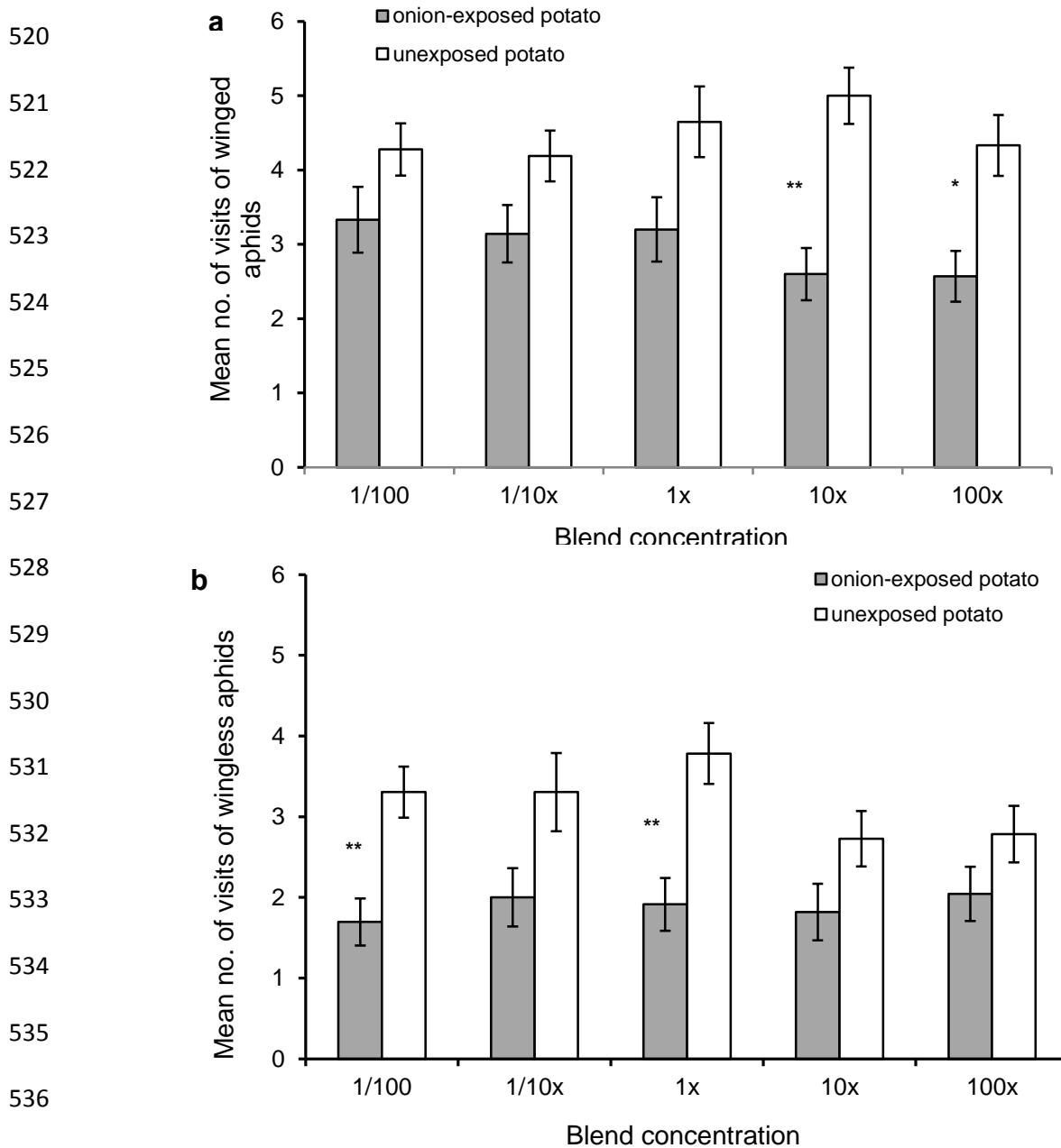
513 **Fig. 2** Behavioral responses of winged (a) and wingless (b) *Myzus persicae* to indicated choices  
 514 of volatiles from plants. Error bars indicate  $\pm$  SE. Asterisks indicate preferences at significance  
 515 levels of \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , and \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$  (Wilcoxon matched pairs test).

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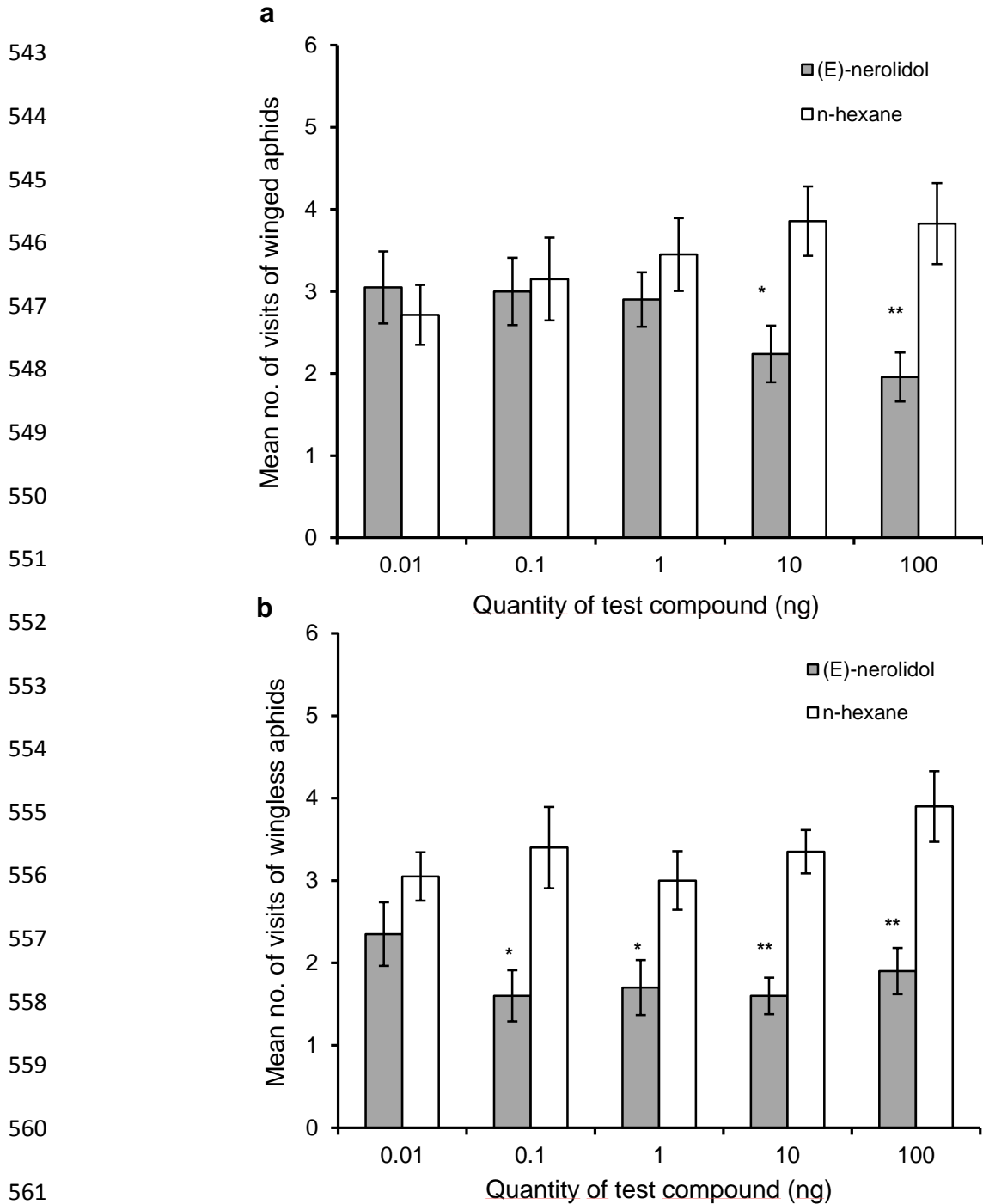
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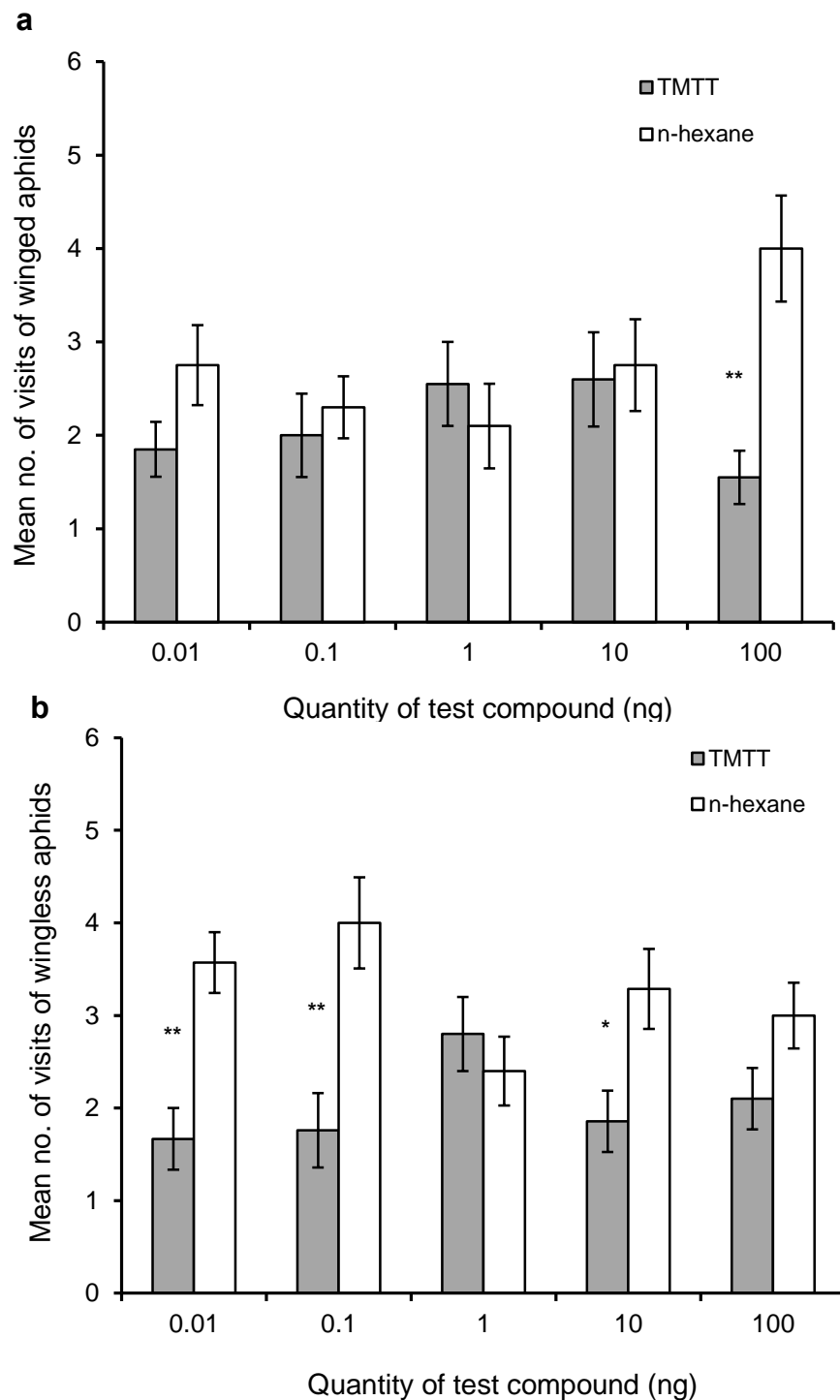
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537 **Fig. 3** Preferential responses of winged (a) and wingless (b) *Myzus persicae* to synthetic blends  
 538 of volatile organic compounds of potato plants that had been exposed (treatment) and unexposed  
 539 (control) to onion plants. Synthetic blends were at 1/100, 1/10, 1, 10 and 100 times the original  
 540 concentration of volatiles identified in potato headspace. Error bars indicate  $\pm$  SE. Asterisks  
 541 indicate preferences at significance levels of \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , and \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$  (Wilcoxon matched  
 542 pairs test).



562 **Fig. 4** Preferential responses of winged (a) and wingless (b) *Myzus persicae* to indicated amounts  
 563 of (*E*)-nerolidol, a terpenoid released more strongly from potato plants when exposed to onion  
 564 plants, vs. n-hexane controls. Error bars indicate  $\pm$  SE. Asterisks indicate preferences at  
 565 significance levels of \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , and \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$  (Wilcoxon matched pairs test).



585 **Fig. 5** Preferential responses of winged (a) and wingless (b) *Myzus persicae* to indicated amounts  
 586 of (3E, 7E) 4, 8, 12-trimethyl-1, 3, 7, 11-tridecatetraene (TMTT), a terpenoid released more  
 587 strongly from potato plants when exposed to onion plants, vs. n-hexane controls. Error bars

588 indicate  $\pm$  SE. Asterisks indicate preferences at significance levels of \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , and \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.$

589 001 (Wilcoxon matched pairs test).

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