

Supplementary Material

Insects – Special Issue: Semiochemicals and Insect Behavior

Queen recognition signals in two primitively eusocial halictid bees: evolutionary conservation and caste-specific perception

Iris Steitz*¹, Katharina Brandt¹, Felix Biefel¹, Ädem Minat¹, Manfred Ayasse¹

¹*Institute of Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, University of Ulm, 89069 Ulm, Germany*

*Correspondence: iris.steitz@gmx.net, (+49) 731-5022663

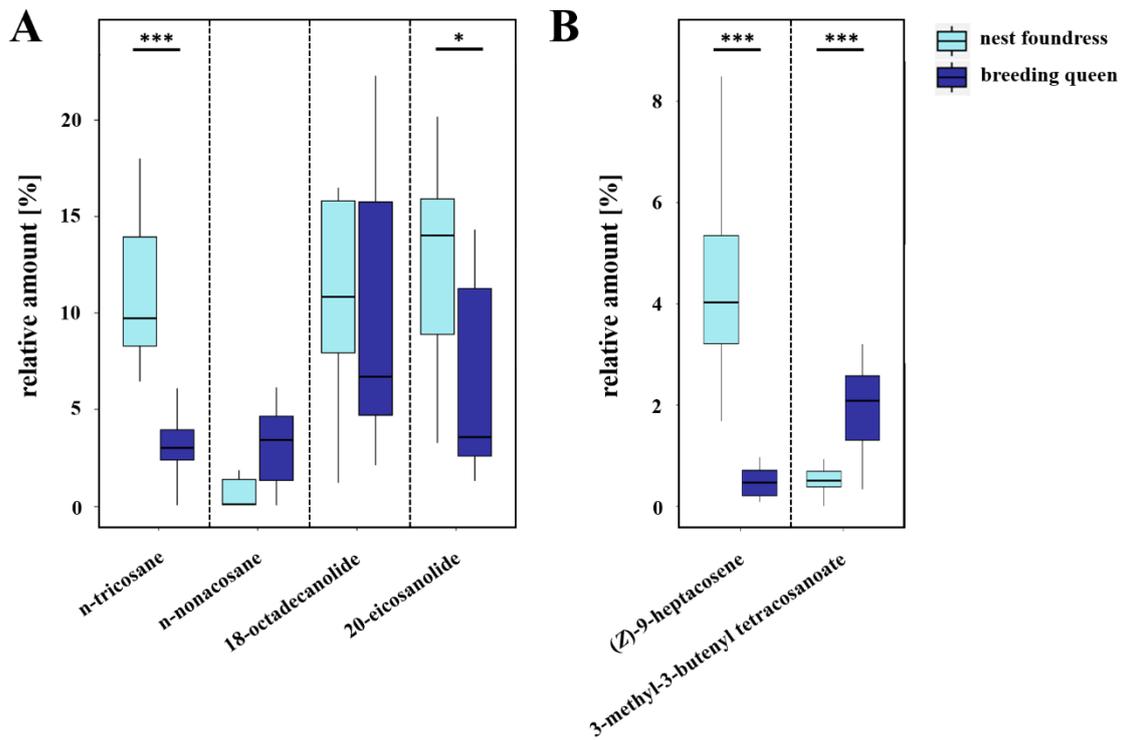


Figure S1: Comparison of relative amounts of (a) n-alkanes and macrocyclic lactones and (b) n-alkenes and isopentenyl esters on the cuticular surface which contributed more than 2.0 % to the Bray-Curtis dissimilarities between nest foundresses (cyan blue bars) and breeding queens (darkblue bars) of *L. pauxillum*. Bars represent the median as well as the 25th and 75th percentiles (asterisks indicate significant differences, Mann-Whitney-U tests: n-tricosane $P < 0.001$, 20-eicosanolide $P = 0.012$, (Z)-9-heptacosene $P < 0.001$, 3-methyl-3-butenyl tetracosanoate $P < 0.001$).

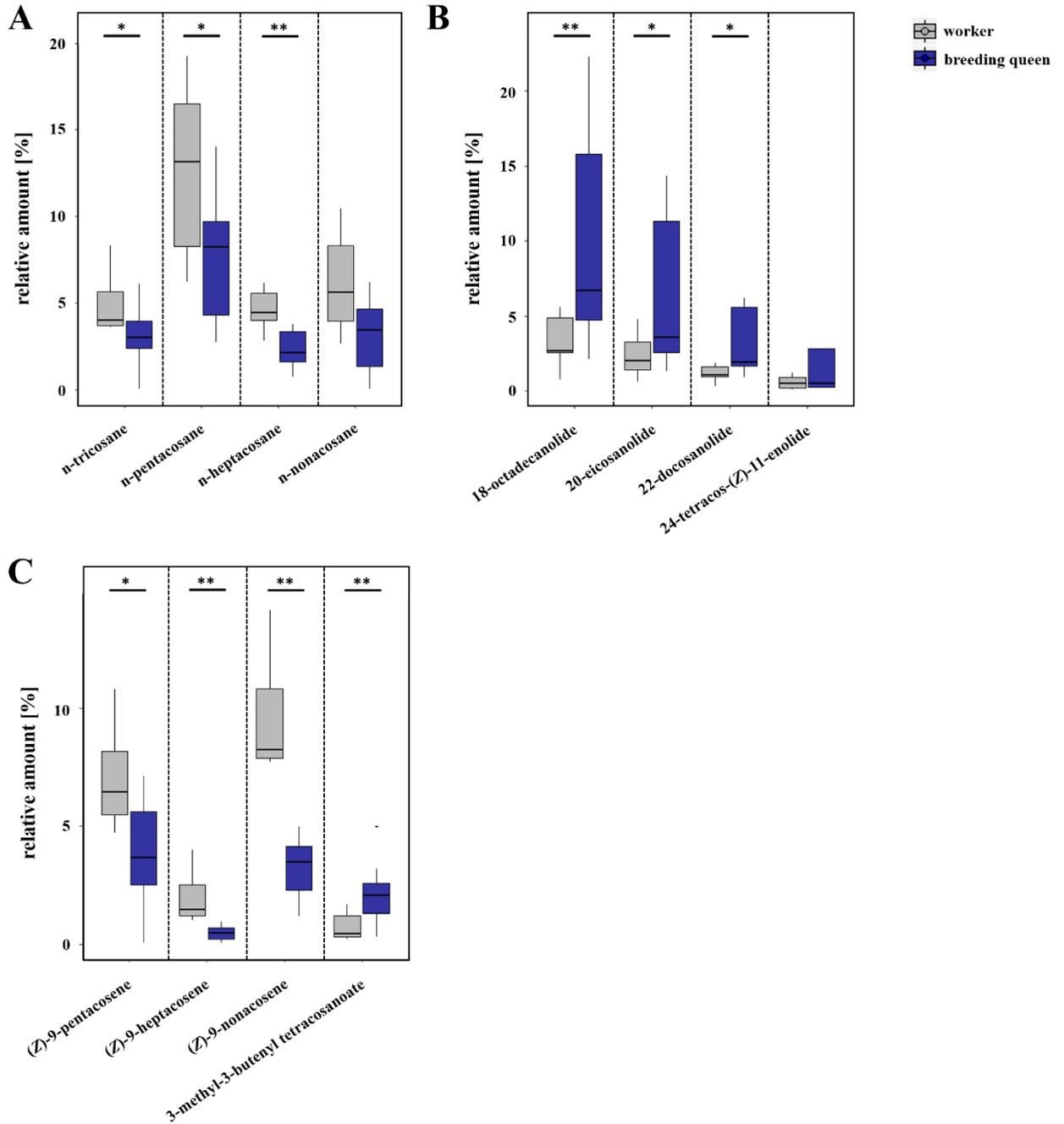


Figure S2: Comparison of relative amounts of (a) n-alkanes, (b) macrocyclic lactones and (c) n-alkenes and isopentenyl esters on the cuticular surface which contributed more than 2.0 % to the Bray-Curtis dissimilarities between workers (grey bars) and breeding queens (darkblue bars) of *L. pauxillum*. Bars represent the median as well as the 25th and 75th percentiles (asterisks indicate significant differences, Mann-Whitney-U tests: n-tricosane $P = 0.026$, n-pentacosane $P = 0.033$, n-heptacosane $P = 0.001$, 18-octadecanolide $P = 0.009$, 20-eicosanolide $P = 0.047$, 22-docosanolide $P = 0.021$, (Z)-9-pentacosene, (Z)-9-heptacosene $P = 0.002$, (Z)-9-nonacosene $P = 0.005$, 3-methyl-3-butenyl tetracosanoate $P = 0.007$).

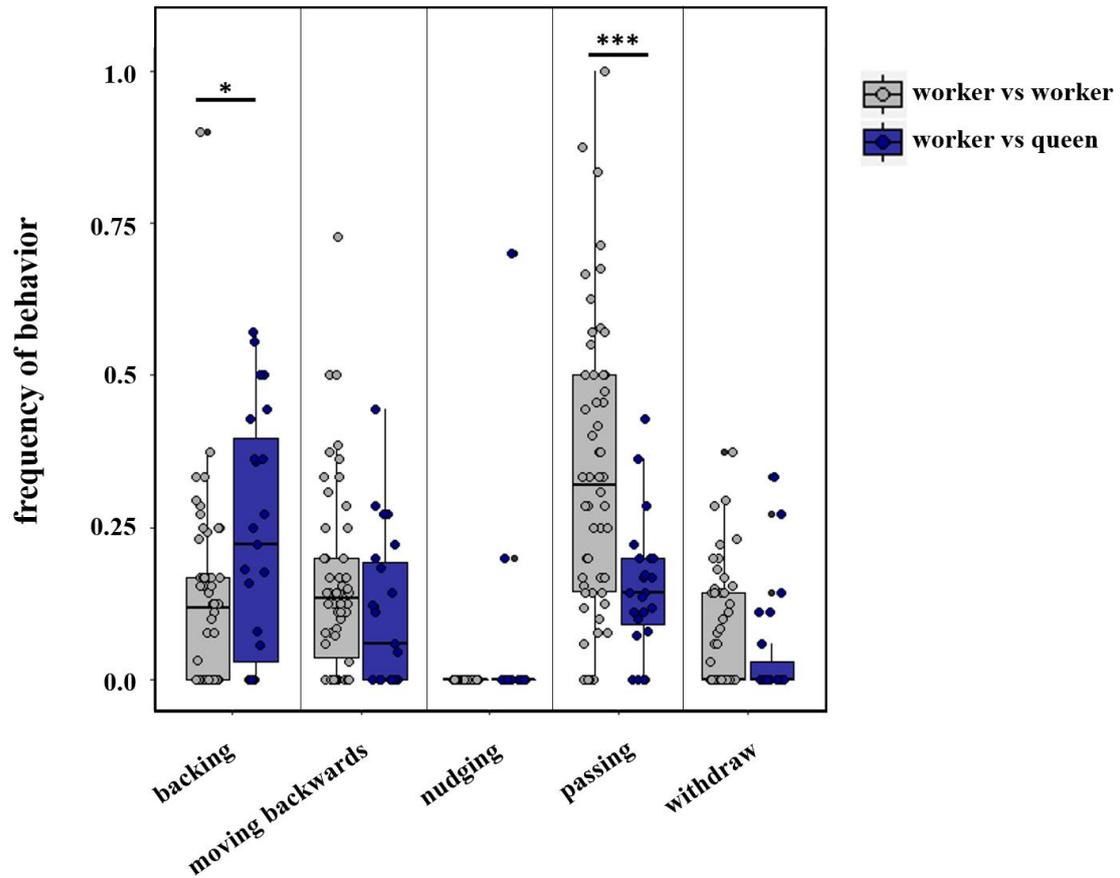


Figure S3: Comparison of worker behavior when interacting with another worker (grey bars) or with a queen (blue bars). Bars represent the median as well as the 25th and 75th percentiles. Workers showed a higher frequency of passing behavior (Mann-Whitney-U test, $P < 0.001$) and backing behavior when interacting with a queen (Mann-Whitney-U test, $P = 0.011$). There was no significant difference in the frequencies of the other observed behaviors (Mann-Whitney-U tests; $P > 0.05$). These results indicated that a high frequency of backing behavior is an indicator for queen recognition in *L. pauxillum* workers.

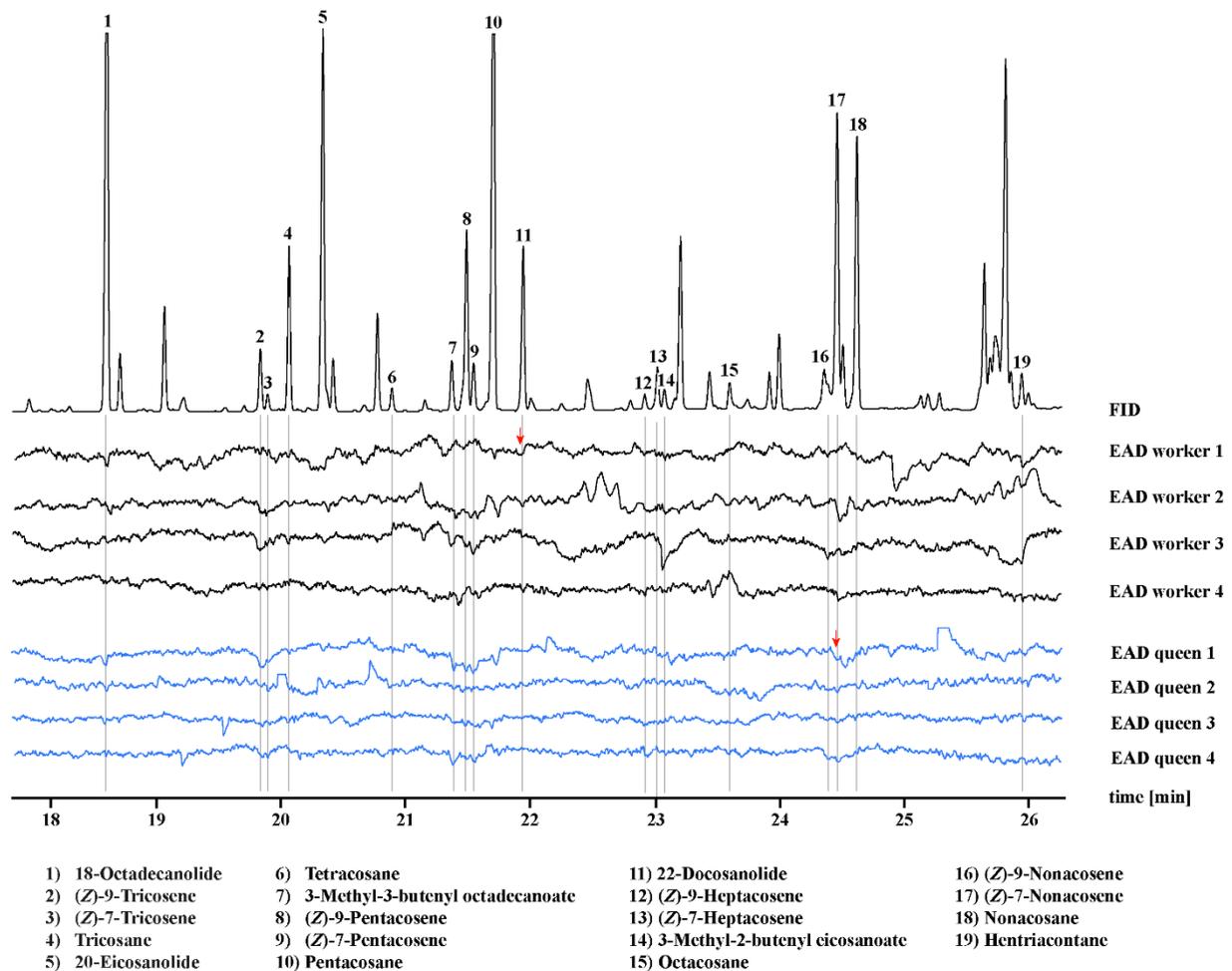


Figure S4: Examples of coupled gas chromatographic and electroantennographic detection (GC-EAD) in cuticle surface extracts of *L. pauxillum* queens by using four different antennae of *L. pauxillum* workers (black) and queens (blue). Numbers and grey lines indicate compounds that were electrophysiologically active (EAD-active) in at least 4 runs of workers or queens. Red arrows indicate those compounds that were perceived only by either workers or queens.

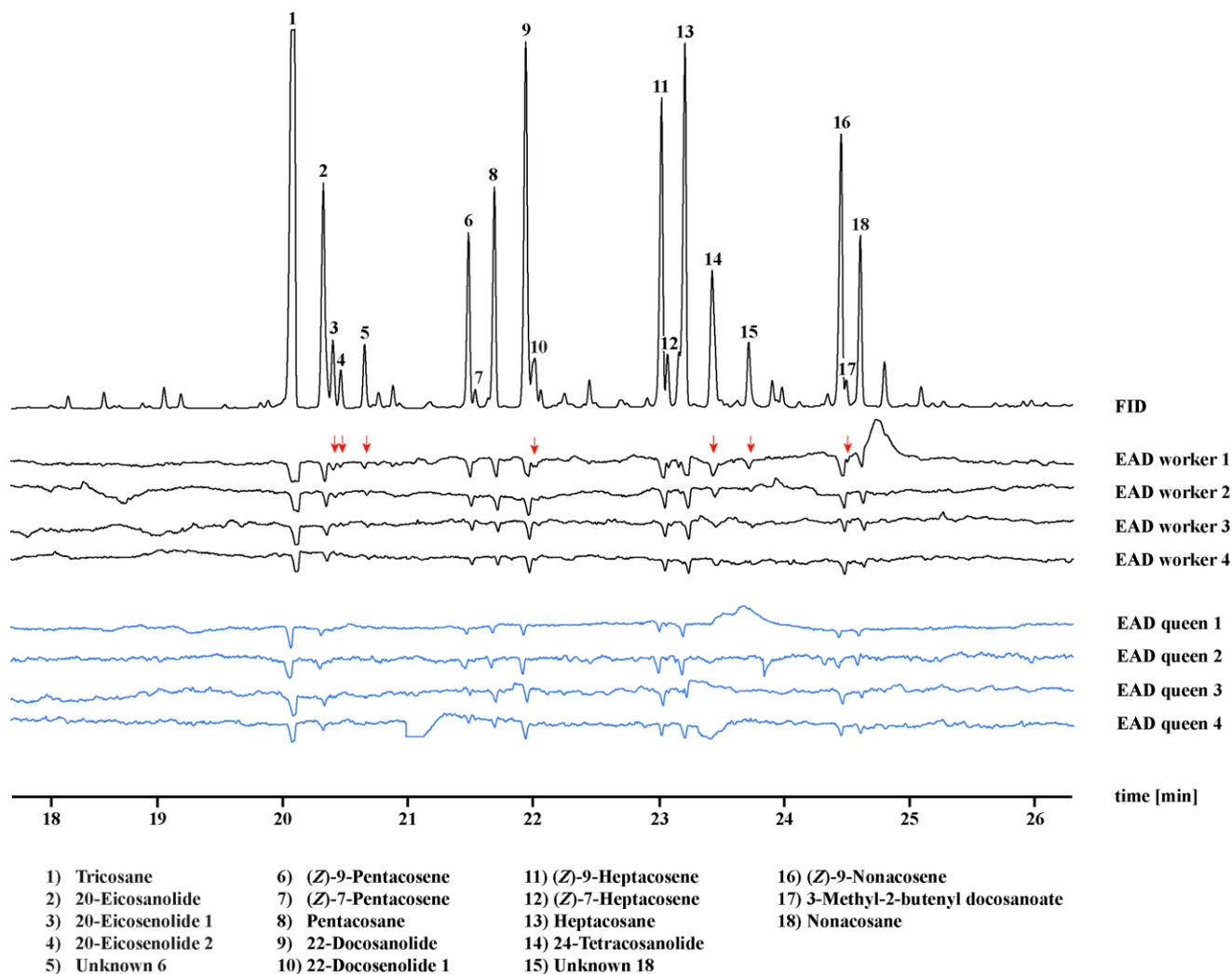


Figure S5: Examples of coupled gas chromatographic and electroantennographic detection (GC-EAD) in cuticle surface extracts of *L. malachurum* queens by using four different antennae of *L. malachurum* workers (black) and queens (blue). Numbers indicate compounds that were electrophysiologically active (EAD-active) in at least 4 runs of workers or queens. Red arrows indicate those compounds that were perceived only by workers.