

1 **Female Sex Pheromone of the Cone Moth, *Dioryctria mendacella*: Investigation**  
2 **of Synergism between Type I and Type II Pheromone Components**

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16  
17 **Abstract** Polyunsaturated hydrocarbons (Type II pheromone components) have been reported to  
18 be synergists for unsaturated acetates, alcohols or aldehydes (Type I components) in the sex  
19 pheromones of several species of Lepidoptera. However, there is some debate over whether the  
20 active components are the hydrocarbons themselves or more volatile degradation products.  
21 Extracts of pheromone glands of adult females of the cone moth, *Dioryctria mendacella*  
22 (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), contain (*Z,E*)-9,11-tetradecadienyl acetate (*ZE*9,11-14:Ac) and at least  
23 ten times as much (*Z,Z,Z,Z,Z*)-3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene (*ZZZZZ*3,6,9,12,15-25:H). The  
24 former elicits a strong electroantennogram response from males while no response could be  
25 recorded to the latter. In field trapping tests, both compounds were individually unattractive to  
26 male *D. mendacella* moths, but blends of the two compounds containing at least a 10:1 ratio of  
27 *ZZZZZ*3,6,9,12,15-25:H : *ZE*9,11-14:Ac were highly attractive. The relatively involatile  
28 hydrocarbon was shown to be released from the dispensers used and no significant degradation  
29 could be detected. Furthermore, blends of *ZE*9,11-14:Ac and analogs of *ZZZZZ*3,6,9,12,15-25:H  
30 with fewer carbons and/or double bonds that might be expected to produce similar degradation  
31 products to *ZZZZZ*3,6,9,12,15-25:H were unattractive. This indicated a specific response to the

32 hydrocarbon itself, further substantiated by the observation that related hydrocarbons did not  
33 interfere with the activity of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H. Thus a three-step conversion of fish oil was  
34 used to produce a blend of unsaturated hydrocarbons containing ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H as the  
35 major component, albeit only 30% of the total, and a blend of this material with ZE9,11-14:Ac  
36 was as attractive to male *D. mendacella* moths as blends with an equivalent amount of the purified  
37 material. This mixture of unsaturated hydrocarbons is much cheaper to produce than the pure  
38 pentaene, and may be useful in lures for other species using these compounds. *Dioryctria*  
39 *mendacella* is a major constraint to production of edible pine kernels throughout the Mediterranean  
40 region. Pheromone traps will provide a means to improve monitoring of seasonal flight patterns  
41 and changes in population abundance of this pest.

42

43 **Key Words:** Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, trapping, (Z,E)-9,11-tetradecadienyl acetate, (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-  
44 3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene, *Pinus pinea*

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46

## 47 **Introduction**

48 The cone moth, *Dioryctria mendacella* (Staudinger, 1859) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae: Phycitinae),  
49 attacks the cones of several pine species, such as *Pinus pinea*, *P. halepensis*, *P. brutia* and *P.*  
50 *pinaster*, around the Mediterranean region (Karsholt and van Nieuwerkerken 2013; Knölke 2007). In  
51 particular, this pest is a major constraint on production of pine nuts, the edible kernel of the  
52 Mediterranean stone pine, *P. pinea*. Larvae bore galleries into the cones of all ages, reducing cone  
53 production and yield, e. g. up to 80 % loss of marketable nuts cones in Italy (Innocenti and Tiberi  
54 2002) or between 20% and 56% in Spain (Gordo et al. 1997; Mutke et al. 2013). The pest may  
55 also reduce tree reproductive success, impacting on the quality of seed supply for regeneration and  
56 reforestation, and affecting abundance, distribution and dynamics of tree populations (Boivin and  
57 Auger-Rozenberg 2016).

58 The cryptic feeding behavior of this species makes study of its biology and ecology  
59 difficult, and little can be done to protect pine cones from this pest at present. The level of  
60 infestation varies markedly from year to year and from site to site (e.g. Bracalini et al. 2013) and  
61 the reasons for this, beyond the spatial and temporal variability of fruiting structures, are not well

62 understood. Pheromone traps are efficient monitoring tools that could greatly help improve  
63 knowledge of the biology and population dynamics of this pest, necessary for a sound integrated  
64 pest management that includes silvicultural, mechanical and biological methods

65 Female-produced sex pheromones have been identified for ten *Dioryctria* species (El-  
66 Sayed 2016). These comprise unsaturated alcohols, acetates and aldehydes, typical Type I  
67 pheromone components (Ando et al. 2004). However, in three species the attractiveness of the  
68 Type I component is strongly synergized by (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene, a Type II  
69 pheromone component (Ando et al. 2004). These are the European species *D. abietella* Denis and  
70 Schiffermüller (Löfstedt et al. 2012) and the American species *D. abietivorella* Grote (Millar et al.  
71 2005; Strong et al. 2008) and *D. amatella* Hulst (Miller et al. 2010).

72 Here we describe identification of a similar blend of Type I and Type II components in the  
73 female-produced sex pheromone of *D. mendacella*, and further investigation of the role of the  
74 Type II component. We also report use of a cheaper substitute for the pure Type II component  
75 that may be useful in other species using such blends.

76

## 77 **Methods and Materials**

78

79 **Insect Material** *Dioryctria mendacella* were collected as late-instar larvae from stone pine cones  
80 in the province of Valladolid (Castile and León, Spain) and allowed to pupate within a plastic box  
81 (40 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm) containing a 4 cm deep layer of sand. Pupae were separated by sex  
82 according to the presence or absence of a genital slot characteristic of the female, and sent to UK.  
83 There they were maintained in individual plastic pots (30 mm high x 40 mm diameter; Talon  
84 Direct, London, UK) on a reversed light/dark cycle (12:12 h L:D) with temperatures at 25 °C and  
85 20 °C respectively. The sex of eclosed adults was confirmed by examining the abdominal tip for  
86 brushes in the male and a genital slot in the female.

87

88 **Pheromone Collection** Pheromone was extracted from batches of 1-3 virgin female moths aged  
89 2-4 d after emergence and at 2 h ( $N = 2$ ), 3 h ( $N = 2$ ), 4 h ( $N = 6$ ) or 6 h ( $N = 2$ ) into the dark cycle.  
90 Moths were lightly anaesthetized with carbon dioxide and the abdomen squeezed gently to extrude  
91 the ovipositor which was excised with dissection scissors directly into hexane (10 µl/female;  
92 Distol-Pesticide Residue Grade; Fisher Scientific, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK) in a conical

93 vial (1.1 ml; Chromacol, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., UK). After 15 min the hexane was  
94 transferred with a microsyringe to a clean vial and the abdominal tips were extracted with another  
95 aliquot of hexane (10 µl) which was also transferred to the second vial. Extracts were stored at -  
96 20°C until analysis.

97 For collection of volatiles, virgin female moths (1 d old) were housed individually in  
98 silanized glass vessels (12 cm x 4 cm) with a glass frit at the upwind end. Air (2 l/min) was drawn  
99 into the vessel through an activated charcoal filter (20 cm x 2 cm, 10-18 mesh; Fisher Scientific)  
100 and out through a collection filter consisting of a Pasteur pipette (4 mm i.d.) containing Porapak  
101 Q (200 mg, 50/80 mesh; Supelco, Gillingham, Dorset, UK) held between plugs of silanized glass  
102 wool. The Porapak Q was extracted with chloroform for 8 h in a Soxhlet apparatus and washed  
103 with dichloromethane (Distol Pesticide Residue Grade, Fisher Scientific) immediately before use.  
104 Volatiles were collected during the dark period and then desorbed from the Porapak with  
105 dichloromethane (1 ml) and stored at -20 °C until analysis (*N* = 4).

106  
107 **Analyses by Gas Chromatography coupled to Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)** Analyses were  
108 performed on a CP-3800 GC coupled directly to a Saturn 2200 MS (Varian, now Agilent, Cheadle,  
109 UK) using fused silica capillary GC columns (30 m x 0.25 mm i.d. x 0.25 µ film thickness) coated  
110 with non-polar VF5 (Varian) or polar DBWax (Supelco). Carrier gas was helium (1 ml/min) and  
111 the oven temperature was held at 40 °C for 2 min then programmed at 10 °C/min to 250 °C and  
112 held for 5 min. The NIST/NIH/EPA Mass Spectral Library v2.0d (2005) supplied and a custom-  
113 built library were used for initial identifications.

114  
115 **Analyses by Gas Chromatography with Flame Ionization Detection (GC-FID)** Analyses were  
116 carried out on a HP6850 GC (Agilent) with GC columns (30 m x 0.32 mm i.d. x 0.25 µ film)  
117 coated with non-polar HP5 (Agilent) or polar DB Wax (Supelco) with helium carrier gas (2.4  
118 ml/min), splitless injection (220°C), and flame ionization detection (FID) (250°C). The oven  
119 temperature was held at 50 °C for 2 min, then programmed at 10°C/min to 250°C and held for 5  
120 min.

121 Later analyses of synthetic compounds were carried out on the HP5 column with oven  
122 temperature held at 60 °C for 2 min then programmed at 10 °C/min to 300 °C as this gave more  
123 reproducible quantification of the unsaturated hydrocarbons.

124

## 125 **Analyses by Gas Chromatography coupled to Electroantennographic (GC-EAG) Recording**

126 For GC-EAG analyses, a HP6890 instrument (Agilent) was fitted with fused silica capillary  
127 columns (30 m x 0.32 mm i.d. x 0.25  $\mu$  film) coated with non-polar SPB1 (Supelco) and polar  
128 DBWax (Supelco). The ends of the two columns were connected to a short piece of deactivated  
129 fused silica tubing with a glass, push-fit Y-piece (Supelco). The effluent from this was then split  
130 by means of a similar Y-piece with half going to the flame ionization detector and half to a  
131 silanized, glass T-piece (arms 5 cm, i.d. 4 mm), using similar lengths of deactivated fused silica  
132 tubing. One arm of the T-piece was connected to a device delivering air (200 ml/min) in a 3-sec  
133 pulse at 17-sec intervals. The third arm of the T-piece passed through the GC oven wall to the  
134 insect EAG preparation (Cork et al. 1990). In this way, the GC column effluent was accumulated  
135 in the glass T-piece during 17 sec before being blown over the EAG preparation in a single pulse.

136 EAG recording was carried out with a portable device (INR-02; Syntech, Hilversum, The  
137 Netherlands, now Kirchzarten, Germany) consisting of integrated electrode holders,  
138 micromanipulators, and amplifier. Electrodes were silver wires fitted into glass electrodes pulled  
139 to a fine point with an electrode puller and containing saline solution (0.1 M potassium chloride  
140 with 1% polyvinylpyrrolidone to reduce evaporation). A male *D. mendacella* moth (0-2 d old)  
141 was lightly anesthetized with carbon dioxide and one antenna was excised at the base and  
142 suspended between the glass electrodes, which were cut so that they just accommodated the ends  
143 of the antenna. The signal was amplified x 10 and the amplifier was connected to the GC as a  
144 detector device. Data were processed with EZChrom Elite v3.0 (Agilent).

145

## 146 **Synthesis**

147

148 **(Z,E)-9,11-Tetradecadienyl acetate (ZE9,11-14:Ac)** This compound was synthesized as  
149 described by Hall et al. (1975). The resulting mixture of *Z,E* and *E,E* isomers (90:10) was treated  
150 with tetracyanoethylene in dichloromethane for 24 h at room temperature to react selectively with  
151 the *E,E* isomer. The reaction mixture was chromatographed on silica gel with 2% diethyl ether in  
152 petroleum spirit. The product was distilled in a kugelrohr oven at 150 °C and 0.02 mm Hg and  
153 had an isomeric composition by GC analysis on a polar column of ZE : EZ : ZZ : EE 98.4 : 0.3 :  
154 0.6 : 0.7.

155  
156 **(Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-Pentacosapentaene (ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H)** Syntheses of  
157 unsaturated hydrocarbons are summarized in Fig. 1 and described in detail in the Supplementary  
158 Material.

159 In initial work (Fig. 1), fish liver oil (Super EPA Fish Oil Concentrate, Holland and Barrett,  
160 Nuneaton, Warwickshire, UK) was dissolved in methanol with a catalytic amount of boron  
161 trifluoride etherate in ether and stirred for 6 d at room temperature. GC-MS analysis of the  
162 resulting mixture of methyl esters indicated that the single most abundant component (approx 34%  
163 of total) was methyl (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoate, with the second most abundant  
164 component methyl (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoate (20%). Other components  
165 were mainly saturated and unsaturated 18-, 20- and 22-carbon esters.

166 The mixture of methyl esters was chromatographed on silica gel impregnated with 10%  
167 silver nitrate (230 mesh; prepared in our laboratory or from SigmaAldrich, Gillingham, Dorset,  
168 UK) eluted with a gradient of increasing concentrations of diethyl ether in petroleum spirit (b.p.  
169 40-60 °C) to give methyl (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoate in 87% purity with 5% and  
170 8% respectively of the 21- and 22-carbon homologues.

171 The purified methyl (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoate was reduced to the  
172 corresponding alcohol with lithium aluminum hydride in diethyl ether. The alcohol was dissolved  
173 in dichloromethane containing pyridine and reacted with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride at -30  
174 °C. After removal of solvents, the residue was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran with a catalytic amount  
175 of lithium tetrachlorocuprate and reacted with pentylmagnesium bromide at -60 °C as described  
176 by Wang and Zhang (2007). After aqueous work-up, the reaction product was chromatographed  
177 on silica gel to give (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-25:H in 50% overall yield from the methyl ester with  
178 similar 87% purity (Fig. 2). The main component had GC retention times on polar and non-polar  
179 columns and a mass spectrum identical to those of a sample provided previously by Prof Jocelyn  
180 Millar (UC Riverside, CA). Spectral data are given in the Supplementary Material.

181 Subsequently it was shown that the fish oil could be reduced with lithium aluminum  
182 hydride in ether to give the mixture of alcohols directly. This could be chromatographed on silica  
183 gel impregnated with silver nitrate to isolate (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaen-1-ol which  
184 could be processed as above.

185 As an alternative route to the mixture of unsaturated hydrocarbons more suited to larger  
186 scale production, the mixture of alcohols was reacted with *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride in diethyl  
187 ether in the presence of powdered sodium hydroxide to give a mixture of the corresponding  
188 tosylates. This was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran containing a catalytic amount of lithium  
189 tetrachlorocuprate and reacted with pentylmagnesium bromide in ether at -60°C. The mixture of  
190 hydrocarbons was obtained in 90% overall yield from the alcohols and the (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-  
191 25:H was the major component at approximately 34% of the total (Fig. 2).

192  
193 **(Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-Tricosapentaene (ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H)** This compound was  
194 prepared from purified (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaen-1-ol via the tosylate and reaction  
195 with propyl magnesium bromide in the presence of lithium tetrachlorocuprate catalyst. Details  
196 and spectral data are given in the Supplementary Material.

197  
198 **(Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9-Pentacosatriene (ZZZ3,6,9-25:H)** This compound was prepared from methyl  
199 linolenate (methyl (Z,Z,Z)-9,12,15-octadecatrienoate; SigmaAldrich) by reduction with lithium  
200 aluminium hydride in ether and reaction of the crude product with trifluoromethanesulfonic  
201 anhydride and pyridine followed by heptyl magnesium bromide in the presence of lithium  
202 tetrachlorocuprate as described above (Wang and Zhang 2007) in 50% overall yield. Details and  
203 spectral data are given in the Supplementary Material.

204  
205 **(Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9-tricosatriene (ZZZ3,6,9-23:H)** This compound was provided by Dr. Bhanu  
206 (Biocontrol Research Laboratories, Bangalore, India) and was >95% pure by GC analysis.  
207 Spectral data are given in the Supplementary Material.

208  
209 **Pheromone Dispensers and Measurement of Release Rates**

210  
211 **Pheromone Dispensers** Dispensers were white rubber septa (2 cm long x 1 cm dia cup;  
212 International Pheromone Systems Ltd., Wirral, UK) or low-density polyethylene vials (22 mm x  
213 8 mm x 1 mm thick; Just Plastics, London, UK). The pheromone blend, containing 10% butylated  
214 hydroxytoluene (BHT) as anti-oxidant, was applied in hexane (0.1 ml) and the solvent allowed to  
215 evaporate in a fume hood.

216

217 **Measurement of Release Rates by Extraction** For laboratory studies, dispensers were loaded  
218 with a blend of ZE9,11-14:Ac (0.1 mg) and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (1 mg) and maintained in a  
219 laboratory wind tunnel (120 cm x 40 cm x 40 cm; 27 °C; 8 km/h wind speed) illuminated by  
220 domestic fluorescent lights. Septa and vials from a field experiment had been exposed for 30 d (3  
221 September – 3 October 2013) in traps under field conditions and contained the same two-  
222 component blend.

223 Lures were extracted individually in hexane (5 ml) containing tetradecyl acetate (14:Ac; 1  
224 mg) as an internal standard overnight at room temperature before analysis by GC-FID on the non-  
225 polar HP5 column. Results are means of analyses of two dispensers.

226

227 **Measurement of Release Rates by Collection of Volatiles** For volatile collections, dispensers  
228 were maintained in a laboratory wind tunnel as above and collections were made in the same  
229 controlled-temperature room (27 °C). Individual dispensers were held in a glass vessel (8 cm x 3  
230 cm) and air drawn in at 2 l/min through a charcoal filter (20 cm x 2 cm; 10-18 mesh) and out  
231 through a collection filter (4 mm i.d.) containing Porapak Q (200 mg, 50-80 mesh) for 2-3 h.  
232 Volatiles were eluted with dichloromethane (Pesticide Residue Grade, 1ml). Dodecyl acetate  
233 (12:Ac 5 µg) was added as an internal standard and the solutions were analyzed by GC-MS and  
234 GC-FID after concentration approximately ten-fold under a gentle stream of nitrogen. Amounts  
235 of pheromone components were quantified by comparison of peak areas with that of the internal  
236 standard and results are the means of measurements on two dispensers.

237

238 **Field Trapping Tests** Field trapping tests were carried out in natural stands of Mediterranean  
239 stone pine near Nava del Rey (Valladolid, Castile and León, Spain), between 41° 27' 1.61" N 5°  
240 3' 40.50" W and 41° 26' 34.85" N 5° 2' 38.24" W, at 700 m altitude. The experimental stand  
241 consisted of mature pines over 80-100 years old with an understory of young regenerated pines.  
242 Pheromone dispensers were polyethylene vials or rubber septa as above and traps were sticky delta  
243 traps (21 cm x 20 cm x 11 cm high; ECONEX S.L., Murcia, Spain). The dispensers were  
244 positioned in the roof of the trap to minimize exposure to direct sunlight. Traps were hung at ca.  
245 2.5 m above ground from the ends of 60 cm long wire supports extending from the trunks of the  
246 pines. A replicate of each treatment was positioned within each of seven experimental blocks in a



247 randomized complete block design. Traps were at least 80 m apart and nearest blocks were 300 m  
248 apart. Trap catches were recorded every week.

249 In Experiment 1, traps were baited with ZE9,11-14:Ac (100 µg), ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H  
250 (1000 µg), or a combination of the two (100 µg + 1000 µg) dispensed from rubber septa, or were  
251 unbaited. The experiment was run from 11 July – 3 September 2013 without renewing the lures.

252 In Experiment 2, traps were baited with the binary blend of ZE9,11-14:Ac and  
253 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (100 µg + 1000 µg respectively) dispensed from both rubber septa and  
254 polyethylene vials or were unbaited. The experiment was run from 3 September – 3 October 2013  
255 without renewing the lures.

256 In Experiment 3, traps were baited with ZE9,11-14:Ac (100 µg) alone or in three binary  
257 blends with ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (100 µg + 100 µg, 100 µg + 300 µg, 100 µg + 1000 µg). The  
258 blends were tested in both rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers, and the experiment  
259 ran from 14 May – 2 July 2014 without renewing the lures.

260 In Experiment 4, the effects of increasing the proportion of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H  
261 further and increasing the overall loading were investigated by comparing catches in traps baited  
262 with blends of 100 µg + 1000 µg, 100 µg + 3000 µg and 300 µg + 3000 µg ZE9,11-14:Ac and  
263 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H respectively. Further treatments were included to determine the  
264 possibility of replacing the purified ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in the 100 µg + 1000 µg blend with  
265 material derived directly from fish oil containing an equivalent amount of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-  
266 25:H, or with the 23-carbon homolog ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H or analog ZZZ3,6,9-23:H. The  
267 blends were dispensed from rubber septa and the experiment ran from 4 July – 10 September 2014  
268 with lures renewed every four weeks.

269 Finally in Experiment 5, catches were compared in traps baited with the binary blend of  
270 ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (100 µg + 1000 µg) with the latter in purified or  
271 unpurified form, a blend of ZE9,11-14:Ac and the 25-carbon, tri-unsaturated hydrocarbon  
272 ZZZ3,6,9-25:H, and an unbaited trap. The blends were dispensed from both rubber septa and  
273 polyethylene vials and the experiment ran from 10 September – 8 October 2014 without renewing  
274 the lures.

275 Although catches were recorded and discarded weekly during the experiments, the data  
276 were analysed using the total number of insects caught during each of the experimental periods as  
277 the response variable. Mean total trap catches were fitted against treatment and block factors and

278 to a Poisson error distribution in a generalized linear model (GLM) with a loglink function. If  
279 significant treatment effects ( $P < 0.05$ ) were detected, Tukey's honestly significant difference test  
280 to the value of  $\alpha = 0.05$  was used for comparisons of means. All statistical computing was carried  
281 out using the R software package (The R Development Core Team, 2011).

282

## 283 **Results**

284 **Analyses of Pheromone Collections** In GC-EAG analyses of pheromone extracts from virgin  
285 female *D. mendacella* with a male moth EAG preparation, a single strong EAG response was  
286 observed on both polar and non-polar GC columns (Fig. 3). The retention time of the EAG  
287 response corresponded to a very small peak in the GC-FID trace ( $\ll 1$  ng/female). This was  
288 identified by GC-MS analyses and comparison of retention times with those of synthetic standards  
289 as ZE9,11-14:Ac (GC Retention Indices (RI) relative to retention times of *n*-alkanes for GC-EAG  
290 1821 on SPB1, 2283 on DBWax; GC-MS 1835 on VF5, 2272 on DBWax). Synthetic ZE9,11-  
291 14:Ac elicited a strong EAG response from the antenna of a male *D. mendacella* moth, as did (Z)-  
292 9-tetradecenyl acetate and (Z,E)-9,12-tetradecadienyl acetate (Supplementary Material Fig. S5).

293 With reference to the components of the pheromones of other *Dioryctria* species reported,  
294 re-examination of the GC-EAG and GC-MS analyses of pheromone extracts from female  
295 *D. mendacella* showed the presence of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (RI for GC-EAG 2426 on SPB1,  
296 2683 on DBWax; GC-MS 2441 on VF5, 2673 on DBWax), although no EAG response was  
297 recorded to this compound (Fig. 3). A clean peak for the pentaene was observed in GC-MS  
298 analyses of all the gland extracts ( $N = 12$ ). The relative amount of ZE9,11-14:Ac was difficult to  
299 measure because of the very small amount present and the presence of impurities at that level, but  
300 this was 1 : 9.5 ZE9,11-14:Ac : ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in the cleanest extract made 4 h into the  
301 dark period. No other polyunsaturated hydrocarbons could be detected in GC-MS analyses by  
302 single ion scanning at  $m/z$  79, characteristic of polyunsaturated hydrocarbons with at least three  
303 double bonds in the 3-, 6- and 9-positions, such as ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H, ZZZ3,6,9-25:H or  
304 ZZZ3,6,9-23:H.

305 In GC-EAG analyses of volatiles collected from virgin female *D. mendacella* on the polar  
306 GC column, a response was observed corresponding to the retention time of ZE9,11-14:Ac.  
307 However, amounts present were too low for reliable detection in GC-MS analyses, and  
308 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H could not be detected.

309

310 **Release of Pheromone from Dispensers** Analyses of collection of volatiles from dispensers  
311 maintained in the laboratory windtunnel showed that ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H was released at  
312 measurable rates from both rubber septa and polyethylene vial dispensers, as verified by GC  
313 retention times on both polar and non-polar GC columns and by GC-MS analyses.

314 For the rubber septa, release of ZE9,11-14:Ac was relatively constant at approx. 0.6 µg/d  
315 over the period of measurement of 37 d at 27 °C. The release rate of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H  
316 increased from 0.01 to 0.05 µg/d (Fig. 4). Thus the ratio of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H : ZE9,11-  
317 14:Ac increased from 0.03 to 0.08. Given the ratio of material loaded in the septum was 10:1, this  
318 indicates the release rate of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H was approx. 0.003 that of ZE9,11-14:Ac.

319 For the polyethylene vials, release of ZE9,11-14:Ac was faster than from the septa and  
320 declined from approx. 2.5 µg/d to 0.9 µg/d over the period of measurement of 37 d at 27 °C. That  
321 of the ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H was also faster and increased from 0.03 µg/d to 0.23 µg/d (Fig. 4).  
322 The ratio of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H : ZE9,11-14:Ac increased from 0.014 to 0.26. Given the ratio  
323 of material loaded in the septum was 10:1, this indicates the release rate of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-  
324 25H was approx. 0.001 that of ZE9,11-14:Ac.

325 Analysis of the pheromone remaining in the lures exposed in the laboratory showed the  
326 percentage of ZE9,11-14:Ac remaining in the septa was higher than that in the vials, as expected  
327 from the lower release rate from septa than vials (Table 1). However, the percentage of  
328 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H remaining in the septa was lower than that in the vials which was  
329 unexpected, given the lower release rate from the septa. This indicated more degradation of the  
330 pentaene may have been occurring in the septa than in the vials. Analyses of the pheromone  
331 remaining in lures exposed in the field for 30 d were consistent with these results with more  
332 ZE9,11-14:Ac in the septa than the vials but less ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H (Table 1).

333

334 **Field Tests** In Experiment 1, traps baited with ZE9,11-14:Ac or ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H alone  
335 caught no more male *D. mendacella* moths than unbaited traps. However, a blend of the two  
336 compounds in a 1:10 ratio respectively was highly attractive (Fig. 5a;  $F = 62.24$ ,  $df = 3,27$ ,  $P$   
337  $<0.001$ ).

338 Catches with rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers for the 1:10 blend of  
339 ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in Experiment 2 were not significantly different from

340 each other over the 30-d period tested, and were both significantly higher than those in unbaited  
341 traps (mean catches  $46.7 \pm 25.5$  (SEM) with rubber septa,  $51.5 \pm 26.0$  with polyethylene vials and  
342  $0.0 \pm 0.0$  in unbaited traps;  $F = 1.75$ ,  $df = 2,20$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

343 Results in Experiment 3 were similar with rubber septa or polyethylene vials as dispensers  
344 ( $F = 1.22$ ,  $df = 1,13$ ,  $P = 0.29$ ) and these were combined for analysis. Catches in traps baited with  
345 a 1:1 or 1:3 blend of ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H were not significantly greater  
346 than those in unbaited traps and significantly greater catches were only obtained with the 1:10  
347 blend (Fig. 5b;  $F = 15.26$ ,  $df = 3,27$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

348 Increasing the proportion of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H relative to that of ZE9,11-14:Ac to  
349 1:30 ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H or increasing the amount of the 1:10 blend three-  
350 fold in Experiment 4 did not increase catches (Fig. 6a;  $F = 14.26$ ,  $df = 6,48$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). Replacing  
351 the purified ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in the blend with an equivalent amount of the unpurified  
352 material obtained directly from fish oil gave at least as high catches, but blends in which the 25-  
353 carbon pentaene was replaced with the 23-carbon homologue ZZZZZ3,6,9,12-23:H or the 23-  
354 carbon triene ZZZ3,6,9-23:H were unattractive (Fig. 6a).

355 In the final Experiment 5, results with rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers  
356 were similar and these were combined for analysis ( $F = 1.53$ ,  $df = 1,13$ ,  $P = 0.239$ ). It was  
357 confirmed that the purified ZZZZZ3,6,9,12-25:H could be replaced with the unpurified material  
358 in the 1:10 blend of ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15:H without loss of attractiveness, but  
359 replacing this with the 25-carbon triunsaturated analog ZZZ3,6,9-25:H gave an unattractive blend  
360 (Fig. 6b;  $F = 24.31$ ,  $df = 3,27$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

361

## 362 Discussion

363 In this study, ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H were identified as components of the  
364 sex pheromone of female *D. mendacella* moths. The former elicited a strong EAG response from  
365 male moths, but the latter did not. Neither was attractive to male moths in field trapping tests when  
366 used alone, but a 1:10 blend was highly attractive, showing quite remarkable synergy. The relative  
367 amount of the pentaene could not be reduced without reducing attractiveness, but an equivalent  
368 amount of the crude hydrocarbon mixture obtained directly from fish oil (approx. 30%  
369 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H) could be used without loss of attractiveness. This greatly reduces the  
370 cost of the lure.

371 A similar blend has been reported for the sex pheromones of female spruce moth, *D.*  
372 *abietella* Denis and Schiffermüller (Löfstedt et al. 2012) and *D. abietivorella* Grote (Millar et al.  
373 2005; Strong et al. 2008). The former is widely distributed across Eurasia, from UK to Japan (UK  
374 CAB International, 1991) and may overlap that of *D. mendacella* in some Mediterranean areas  
375 such as France, Croatia and Italy. Both species have similar feeding habits on cones but use  
376 different hosts: *D. abietella* thrives on *Picea*, *Abies*, *Cedrus*, *Larix* and also on some pine species  
377 in China, whereas *D. mendacella* is restricted to Mediterranean pines (Knölke 2007). *Dioryctria*  
378 *abietivorella* is a native of the USA. Attraction of *D. amatella* Hulst male moths to (Z)-11-  
379 hexadecenyl acetate was greatly increased by addition of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (Miller et al.  
380 2010).

381 There have been an increasing number of reports of Lepidopteran sex pheromones containing  
382 both Type I components (such as ZE9,11-14:Ac) and Type II components (such as  
383 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H) (Ando et al. 2004). In addition to the species of *Dioryctria* mentioned  
384 above, (E)-11-hexadecenol and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H are pheromone components of *Neoleucinodes*  
385 *elegantalis* Guenée (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Cabrera et al. 2001; Jaffe et al. 2007), (Z,Z)-11,13-  
386 hexadecadienal, ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25H are essential pheromone  
387 components of *Amyelois transitella* Walker and *Pyralis farinalis* L. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (Leal  
388 et al. 2005), (Z)-11-hexadecenal and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H are pheromone components of *Deanolis*  
389 *sublimbalis* Snellen (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Gibb et al. 2007), (E)-10-hexadecenal, (E,E)-  
390 10,12-hexadecadienal and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H are pheromone components of *Conogethes pluto* Butler  
391 (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (El-Sayed et al. 2013), (E)- and (Z)-10-hexadecenal and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H  
392 are pheromone components of *Conogethes punctiferalis* Guenée (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Xiao  
393 et al. 2012), (E,E)-10,14-hexadecadienal and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H are pheromone components of  
394 *Omphisa plagialis* Wileman (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Yan et al. 2014), while (E,Z)-10,12-  
395 hexadecenal, the corresponding acetate and ZZZ3,6,9-23:H are pheromone components of  
396 *Rehimena surusalis* Walker (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) (Honda et al. 2015).

397 Where EAG studies have been carried out, the Type II hydrocarbon components have  
398 generally been found to elicit very weak responses from the male moths in contrast to the Type I  
399 components (e.g. Leal et al. 2005). In the work described here, no convincing EAG response was  
400 recorded from the antennae of male moths of *D. mendacella* to ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in GC-  
401 EAG analyses of extracts of the pheromone glands of female moths although a strong response

402 was recorded to ZE9,11-14:Ac, in spite of the fact that the amount of the former was at least ten  
403 times that of the latter. Furthermore, the GC-EAG system used here accumulated the column  
404 effluent in a reservoir in the GC oven before delivering it in a pulse of air to the EAG preparation  
405 (Cork et al. 1990). This would be anticipated to be much more effective at delivering relatively  
406 involatile compounds, such as ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H, than the alternative approach of passing  
407 the column effluent into a relatively slow flow of air at room temperature used in other studies  
408 above.

409 Even though ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H is present at over ten times the amount of ZE9,11-  
410 14:Ac in the pheromone gland extracts, the amount released will be very much lower than the  
411 amount of the latter, as indicated by the release rate studies here. Given the low  
412 electrophysiological activity of the pentaene, there has been some debate over whether the active  
413 pheromone component is actually the relatively involatile, long-chain, unsaturated hydrocarbon or  
414 some more volatile product of oxidative degradation, as has been reported for species of sawfly  
415 such as *Pikonema alaskensis* Rohwer (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinae) (Bartelt and Jones 1983). In  
416 this study we showed that ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H is released in detectable amounts from both  
417 polyethylene vial and rubber septa dispensers. Furthermore, the fact that analogs of  
418 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H cannot replace this compound in the blend without loss of attractiveness  
419 even though they could produce similar degradation products also suggests that the pentaene is  
420 indeed the active pheromone component. The latter result is in contrast to those obtained with *O.*  
421 *plagialis* by Yan et al. (2014) where the pheromone component ZZZ3,6,9-23:H could be replaced  
422 by the 21-carbon or 22-carbon analogous trienes or by ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H without loss of  
423 attractiveness.

424 Rubber septa and polyethylene vial dispensers gave similar results with the various blends  
425 tested here, despite rather different release characteristics. It would seem there is a certain  
426 threshold for the blend composition released to be attractive to male *D. mendacella* moths, perhaps  
427 somewhere in the region of 0.02 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H : ZE9,11-14:Ac that is achieved or  
428 exceeded with the 10:1 blend in the dispenser. Blends with a lower proportion of  
429 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in the dispenser and hence in the blend released were unattractive, and  
430 increasing the proportion of ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in the blend above this threshold did not  
431 increase attractiveness.

432 The crude blend of unsaturated hydrocarbons derived from fish oil contained  
433 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H as the most abundant component, albeit at only approximately 30% of  
434 the mixture. An equivalent amount of this mixture was just as effective as the purified  
435 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H at synergizing the attractiveness of ZE9,11-14:Ac to male *D. mendacella*  
436 moths, also suggesting that the male moths are responding very specifically to the 25-carbon  
437 pentaene. This observation also makes it possible to decrease the cost of the lure substantially.  
438 (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-5,8,11,14,17-Eicosapentaenoic acid costs \$750 for 100 mg from SigmaAldrich  
439 whereas 100 g of the fish oil is available for \$15. It will be interesting to see if this crude blend  
440 can be used in lures for other species using ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H or the 23-carbon analogue as  
441 pheromone components.

442 Thus lures containing ZE9,11-14:Ac (100 µg) and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (1000 µg) in  
443 purified or unpurified form, dispensed from either rubber septa or polyethylene vials can be used  
444 to bait traps for *D. mendacella*. There was a suggestion that some degradation of the  
445 ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H may occur in the rubber septa and we favor the latter in our work. Both  
446 types of dispenser remain effective for at least 30 d in the field in Spain and probably for at least  
447 two months. Further work is in progress using the pheromone traps to monitor populations of  
448 *D. mendacella* and gain a better understanding of its life cycle and population dynamics.  
449 Mediterranean forests are nowadays subjected to climate change which is expected to result in  
450 changes in the physiology, phenology and distribution of forest pests. Furthermore, tree species  
451 can also suffer changes in their phenology and vigor, becoming more susceptible to native and  
452 introduced organisms. At the same time, there is an increasing demand for ecosystem services and  
453 products. Development of management tools such as pheromone trapping will help forest  
454 managers to face these challenges.

455

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462

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542

543

544 **Table 1.** Percentages of original loadings of pheromone components remaining in dispensers  
 545 maintained in laboratory (27°C) and field experiment in Spain (*N* = 2).

546

	Exposure (d)	% Remaining	
		ZE9,11-14:Ac	ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H
Laboratory vial	37	24	86
Laboratory septum	37	45	58
Field vial	30	41	84
Field septum	30	66	77

547

548

549 **Fig. 1** Syntheses of (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene: (i) MeOH/BF<sub>3</sub> etherate; (ii)  
550 chromatography on silica gel impregnated with 10% silver nitrate; (iii) LiAlH<sub>4</sub>/ether; (iv) *p*-  
551 toluenesulfonyl chloride/NaOH/ether; (v) triflic anhydride/pyridine/dichloromethane; (vi)  
552 C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>MgBr/Li<sub>2</sub>CuCl<sub>4</sub>/THF

553

554 **Fig. 2.** GC-FID analyses of (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene crude direct from fish oil  
555 (upper) and from the methyl ester purified by chromatography on silica gel impregnated with silver  
556 nitrate (lower) on non-polar HP5 GC column.

557

558 **Fig. 3** GC-EAG analysis of pheromone extracts from virgin female *Dioryctria mendacella* with a  
559 male moth EAG preparation on non-polar GC column (lower panel is expansion of upper; in each  
560 lower trace is GC-FID, upper EAG responses to intermittent delivery of accumulated column  
561 effluent; (1) ZE9,11-14:Ac at 17.16 min, (2) ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H at 22.50 min)).

562

563 **Fig. 4** Release rates (µg/d) of pheromone components from rubber septum and polyethylene vial  
564 dispensers measured at 27°C with lures maintained at 27°C and 8 km/h windspeed between  
565 measurements (mean of two replicates, bars show spread).

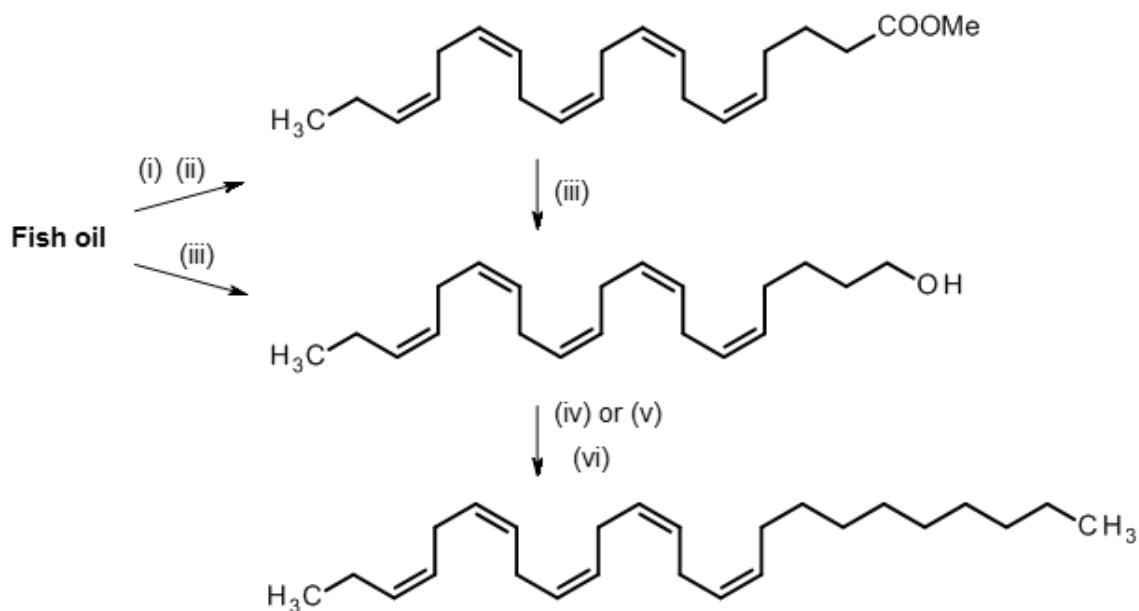
566

567 **Fig. 5** Means of total catches (+ standard error) of male *Dioryctria mendacella* moths in traps  
568 baited with (a) ZE9,11-14:Ac, ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H, a blend of the two or unbaited  
569 (Experiment 1; 11 July – 3 September 2013; rubber septa as dispensers; *N* = 7); (b) blends of  
570 ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (Experiment 3; 14 May – 2 July 2014; results with  
571 rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers combined, *N* = 14); means with different letters  
572 are significantly different at *P* < 0.05)

573

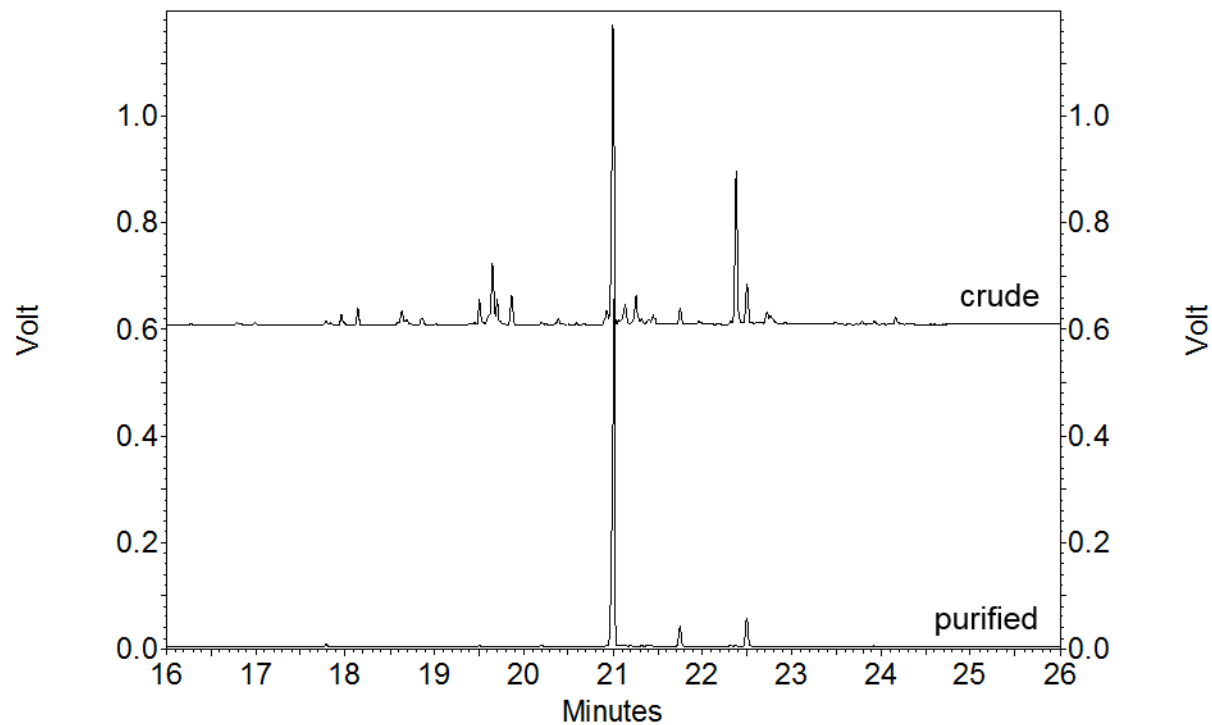
574 **Fig. 6** Means of total catches (+ standard error) of male *Dioryctria mendacella* moths in traps  
575 baited with (a) blends of ZE9,11-14:Ac with ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in pure or crude (c) form,  
576 ZZZ3,6,9-23:H or ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H (Experiment 4; 4 July – 10 September 2014; rubber  
577 septa as dispensers; *N* = 7); (b) blends of ZE9,11-14:Ac with ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in pure or  
578 crude (c) form, or ZZZ3,6,9-25:H (Experiment 5; 10 September – 8 October 2014; results with

579 rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers combined,  $N = 14$ ); means with different letters  
580 are significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ )  
581  
582



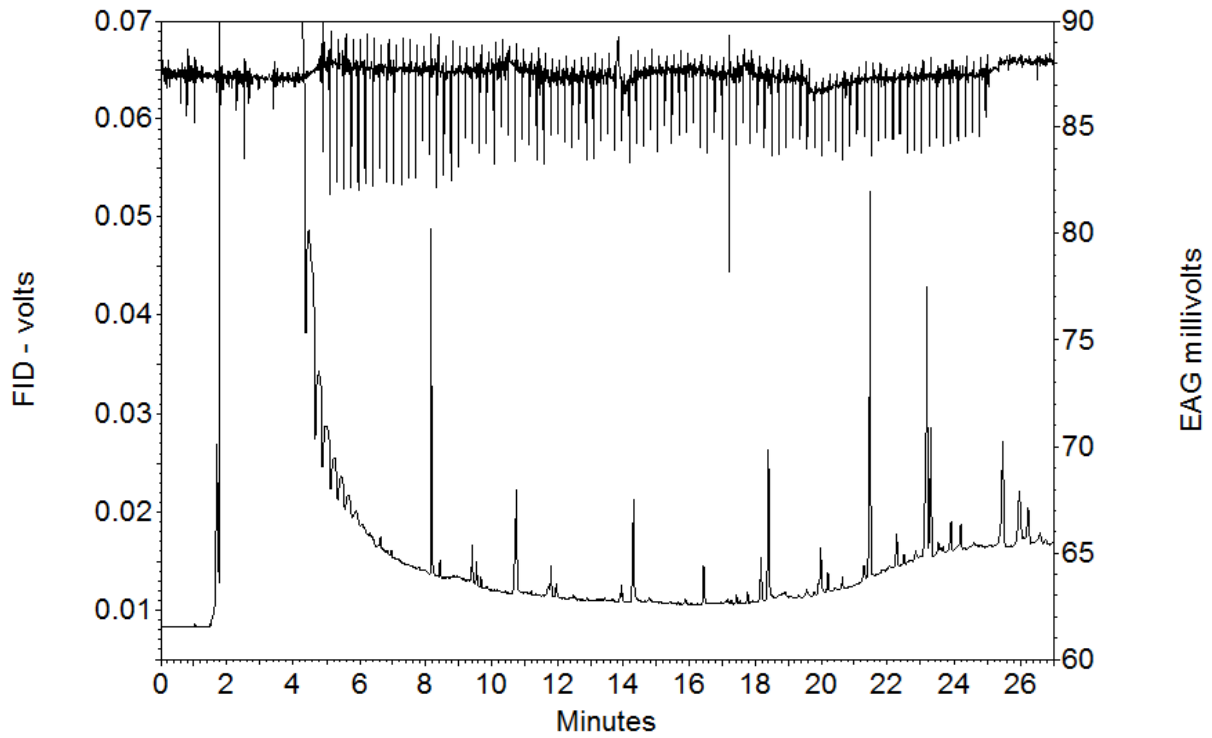
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 586 toluenesulfonyl chloride/NaOH/ether; (v) triflic anhydride/pyridine/dichloromethane; (vi)  
 587 C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>MgBr/Li<sub>2</sub>CuCl<sub>4</sub>/THF

588  
 589

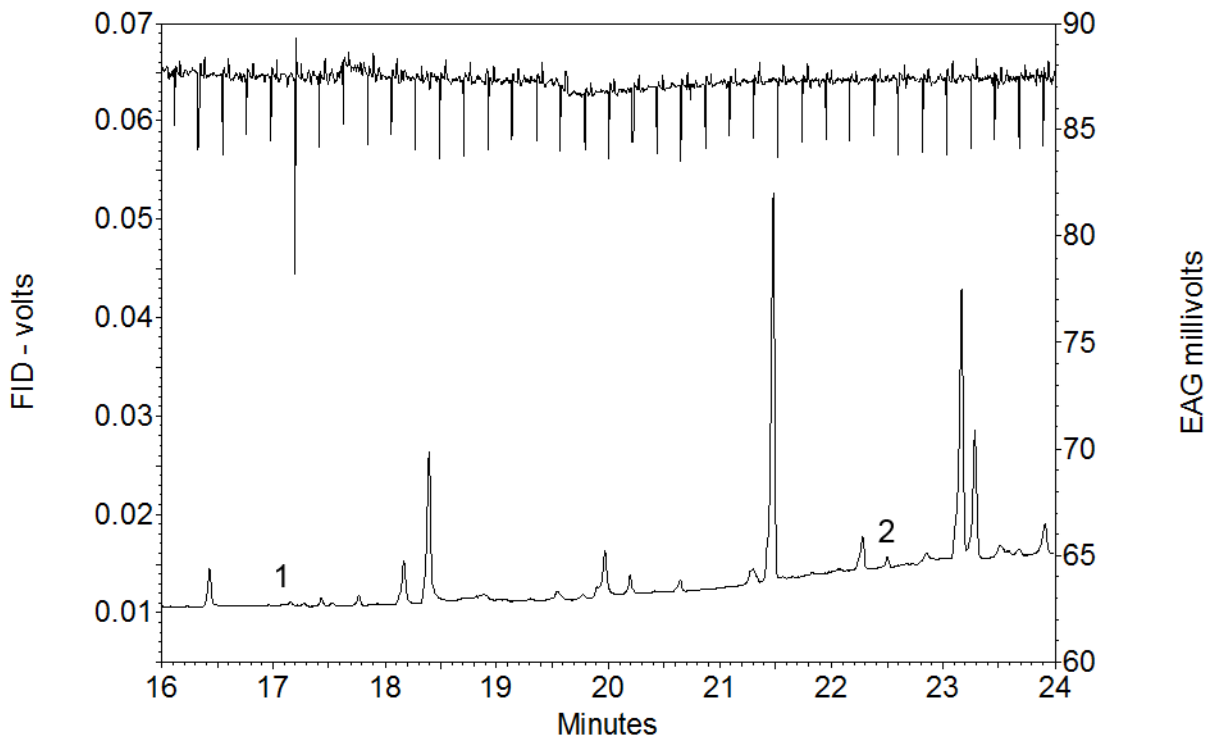


590  
591 **Fig. 2.** GC-FID analyses of (Z,Z,Z,Z,Z)-3,6,9,12,15-pentacosapentaene crude direct from fish oil  
592 (upper) and from the methyl ester purified by chromatography on silica gel impregnated with silver  
593 nitrate (lower) on non-polar HP5 GC column.

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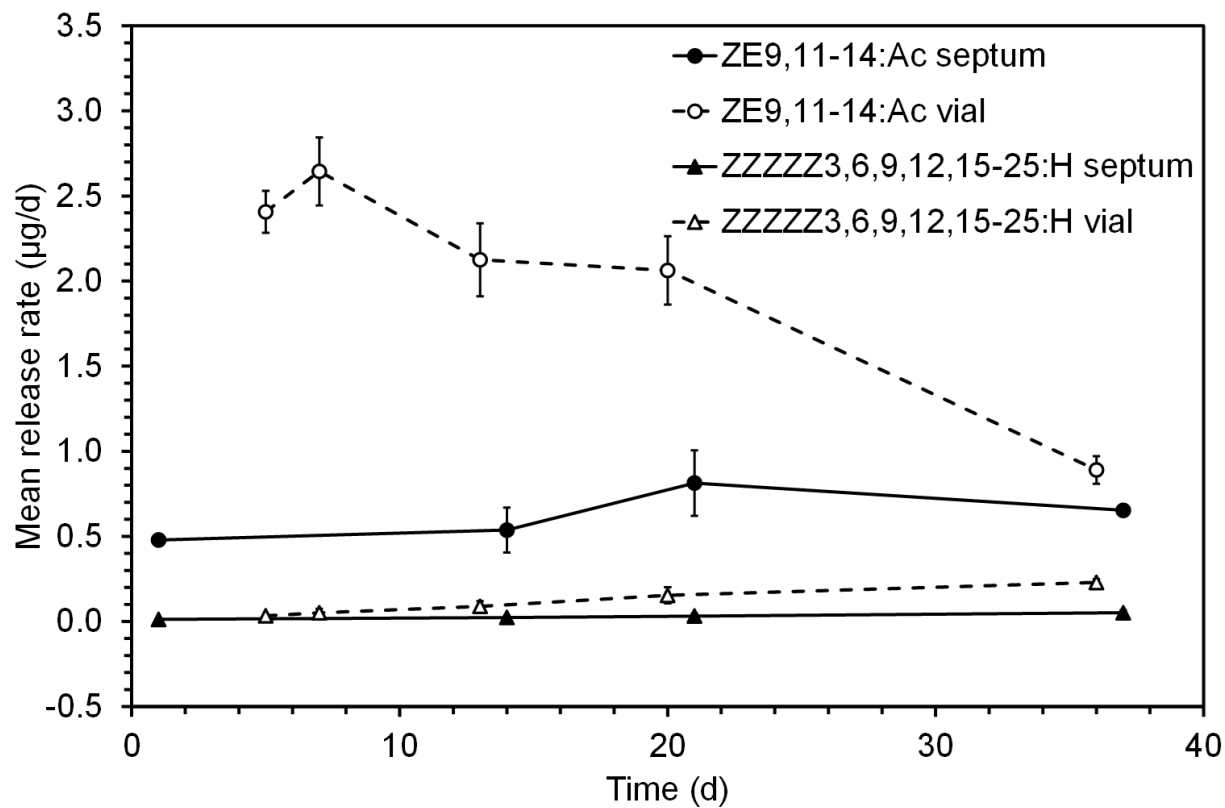


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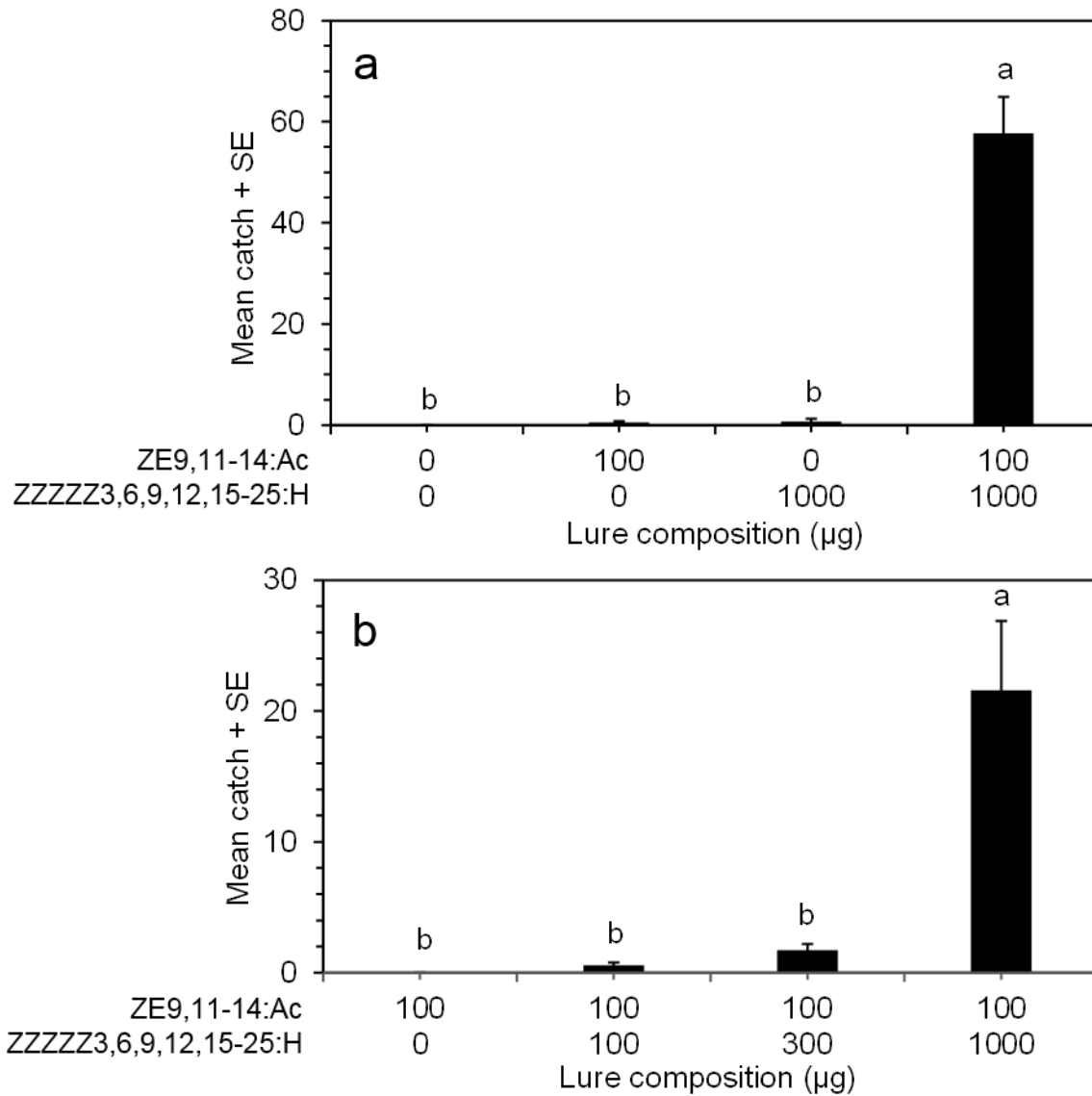
598 **Fig. 3.** GC-EAG analysis of pheromone extracts from virgin female *Dioryctria mendacella* with  
 599 a male moth EAG preparation on non-polar GC column (lower panel is expansion of upper; in



600 each lower trace is GC-FID, upper EAG responses to intermittent delivery of accumulated column  
601 effluent; (1) ZE9,11-14:Ac at 17.16 min, (2) ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H at 22.50 min)).  
602



603  
 604 **Fig. 4** Release rates ( $\mu\text{g/d}$ ) of pheromone components from rubber septum and polyethylene vial  
 605 dispensers measured at 27 °C with lures maintained at 27 °C and 8 km/h windspeed between  
 606 measurements (mean of two replicates; bars show spread).  
 607

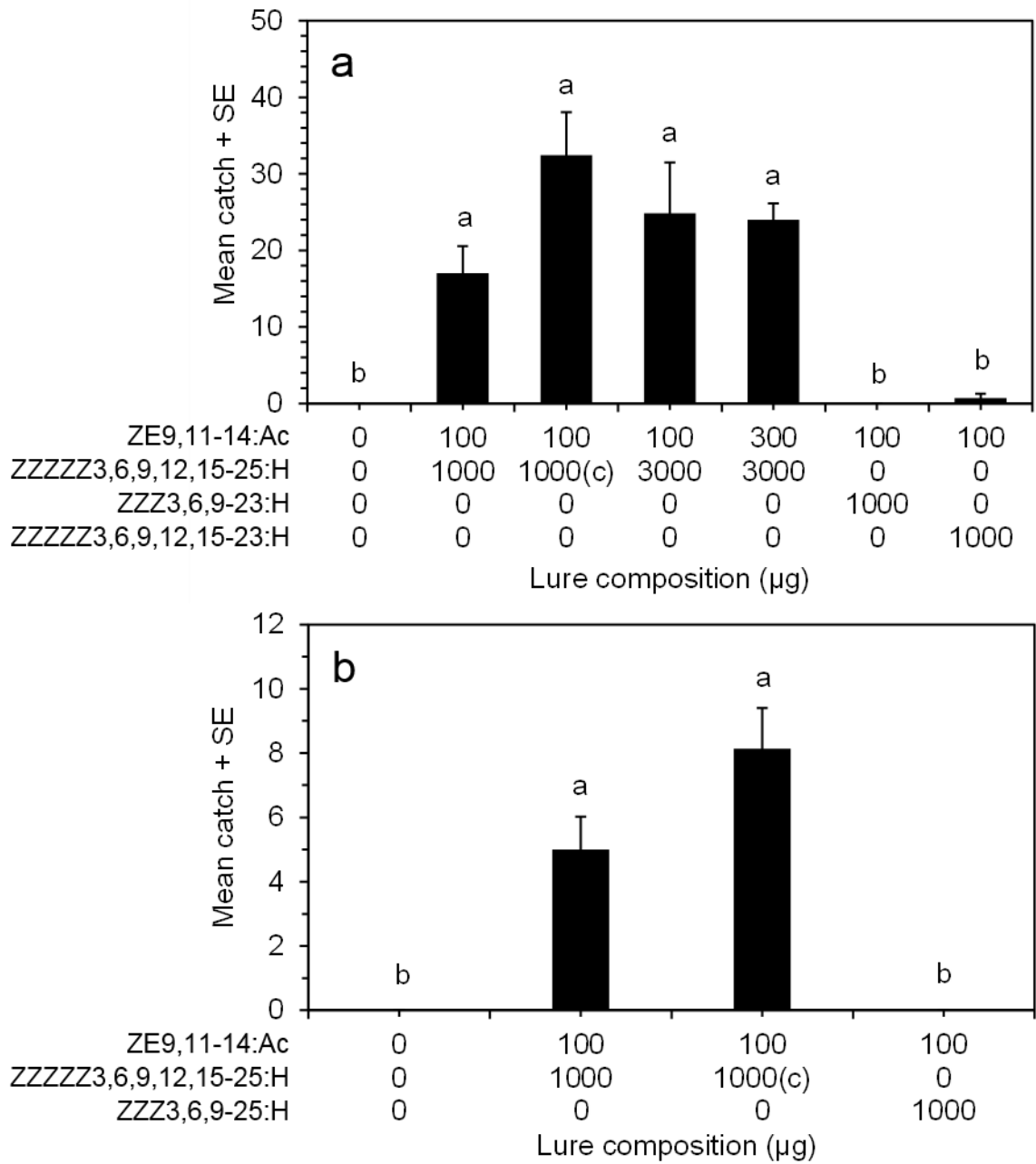


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609

610 **Fig. 5** Means of total catches (+ standard error) of male *Dioryctria mendacella* moths in traps  
 611 baited with (a) ZE9,11-14:Ac, ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H, a blend of the two or unbaited  
 612 (Experiment 1; 11 July – 3 September 2013; rubber septa as dispensers;  $N = 7$ ); (b) blends of  
 613 ZE9,11-14:Ac and ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H (Experiment 3; 14 May – 2 July 2014; results with  
 614 rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers combined,  $N = 14$ ); means with different letters  
 615 are significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ )

616



617  
 618 **Fig. 6** Means of total catches (+ standard error) of male *Dioryctria mendacella* moths in traps  
 619 baited with (a) blends of ZE9,11-14:Ac with ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in pure or crude (c) form,  
 620 ZZZ3,6,9-23:H or ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-23:H (Experiment 4; 4 July – 10 September 2014; rubber  
 621 septa as dispensers;  $N = 7$ ); (b) blends of ZE9,11-14:Ac with ZZZZZ3,6,9,12,15-25:H in pure or  
 622 crude (c) form, or ZZZ3,6,9-25:H (Experiment 5; 10 September – 8 October 2014; results with  
 623 rubber septa and polyethylene vials as dispensers combined,  $N = 14$ ); means with different letters  
 624 are significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ )